

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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NEWSLETTER

TO FOLLOW

Volume VII

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N. Z. NOTES AND COMMENT by Campbell Paterson

Edward VII H7a (S.G. 468) As many may have read elsewhere, there is an active discussion going on in leading N. Z. circles as to whether this stamp ever existed. As Editor of the only current N. Z. Specialist Catalogue, I am naturally interested in the discussions. Should it be the eventual majority opinion - among those in a position to judge on all the evidence - that the stamp does not exist, then obviously it must be removed from the Catalogue.

Still, it is not a trifling matter to eliminate a stamp which has been universally accepted as existing for over sixty years. So I had better make my own contribution to the discussions and while withholding definite action for the moment I can at least do my best to help all to reach a firm decision. The deciding is not going to be easy - to "prove a negative" is generally accepted as being impossible!

If readers will turn to our Loose-leaf Catalogue (Permanent Page H1) they will see there that I was very cautious in what I said, although I did imply (as I then had no reason to doubt) that the 8d rarity did exist. Permanent Page H1 has not been revised since 1960 and in that time much has been published on the subject of the Edward VII perfs. Such information as appeared in Volume 1 of the Handbook has been greatly added to in Volume 4, and the use of no less than four comb heads and six line heads is now revealed. Also stated is the fact, proved by a 4d illustration on page 75, that one of the comb heads (called "9/111") was used in conjunction with another (called "6/No. 3") to form what are in fact "two perf" sheets - that is, sheets perforated, for unknown reasons, by the use of two "heads", one for the top four (or five) rows and another for the lower six (or five) rows. According to Volume 4 the "perf heads" known as "6/3" and "9/111" both had some "short rows" (i. e. the rows that perforated the sides of the stamps), gauging 14 or as low as 13.8. (I here ignore the "heads" known as "X/111" and "AA", the former having no short rows gauging lower than 14.15 and the latter with the gauge of the short rows uniformly below 13.5. These last two heads are not relevant to our study of the problem of the rare 8d, since that (if it exists) must gauge between 13.8 and 14 on the sides of the stamps.)

Now the really important fact is that there seems to have been no intensive study of the Edward VII perfs prior to that revealed in Volume 4. In fact, I myself recorded in the Newsletter a block of the 3d on which two different comb heads (neither the head AA) had obviously been used, years before Volume 4 appeared. This reference by me may have been a factor in setting going the study of the subject that (see Volume 4) had such striking results. The latter point

(of my own early involvement) is of little importance, though it may as well be recorded.

All the above shows (or is meant to show!) that the fact that an 8d Edward has sides perf 14, or even as low as 13.8, is no proof that it is the rarity. At one time, in common with everyone else, I thought it did prove the point, but it doesn't, and that is a fact of life we have to live with.

How then to prove that one has the rarity? Short of finding a block which clearly demonstrates a crossing point of two line perfs (and I know of no such block), the only apparent solution would be to photograph the perfs on both sides of a stamp and by close comparison of the two sides prove that they result from the use of the same line of pins. (For the sake of newcomers I may perhaps best explain that in a comb perf the short rows of pins are never exactly the same in any two rows, but a stamp perforated by a single "line" of pins must reveal identical holes on both sides of a stamp perforated by that "line". I hope that is clear.)

To sum up, I can say that I am now rather reluctantly of the opinion that the famous "8d 14 line" (S. G. 468) does not exist. This leaves unanswered the point that the late R. J. G. Collins was apparently satisfied that the stamp did exist - his method of identification was, he told me himself, to compare a possible example, hole by hole, with a full "strike" of a line-perf head which he had in his possession. We now know that line heads called "9/1," "9/11," "9/4," "9/5," "C1" and "C11" existed: I do not know which of these Ray Collins may have had a strike from.

As a footnote, I may say that with good reason the "8d Edward, perf 14 line" has been called "the rarest N. Z. stamp that almost every N. Z. collector has." This sardonic remark merely indicates what is very true, that it is extremely easy to deceive oneself that one has found the rarity!

A final footnote. As I have said above, cases are known (actually only in the 3d, 4d and 6d values) of sheets perforated partly by one comb machine perf about 14, and partly by another similar. (The 3d, 5d, 6d and 8d are also known "two perfed" where one of the machines was the "14 x 13½" known as "AA" - but there is no mystery about these and I therefore here ignore them). But the real mystery is why this awkward and time-wasting policy of using two machines on one sheet was ever used. I have never seen an explanation that took account of the fact that (as shown by more normal sheets) one machine could be used to do the job quite satisfactorily. The curious custom as we know, continued well into the life of the later George V set, where nearly every value appeared both "two-perfed" or normally perfed - all without apparent reason!

Volume 4 of the Handbook is in stock with us at the moment, price £10/10/-. It contains not only the wealth of information of the Edwards but also the magnificent chapters on the stamps of the George VI and Q. E. definitive sets which result from the incalculable years of work done on these sections by Frank Mohr. This, as well as voluminous new information on all other N. Z. issue the book is cheap at the price!

A TEMPORARY FAREWELL

On 5th February I sail with my wife and daughter aboard the "Orcades," from Southampton on the start of what should be a very happy trip round the world, taking in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand (two months there!), Canada and the U. S. A.

I should have much to talk about on my return!

- Feb 1 Edward VII The "two perf pair" set complete. As collectors know, certain values in the Edward issues appeared with the upper four rows perf 14 x 13½, the lower six rows 14 x 14½. Thus a vertical pair of stamps from rows 4 and 5 has the upper stamp in one perf, the lower in the other. Now extremely scarce, the set of five "two perf pairs" mint.
3d, 5d, 6d and 8d in two distinct shades £18
- Feb 2 George V The K. G. V issues were also perforated in the manner described above. This set is of 14 "two perf pairs", all glowing mint and offering a wonderful page of colour. The complete set is becoming scarce and is a worthwhile addition to your collection. 1½d, 2d mauve, 2d yellow, 2½d, 3d, 4d yellow, 4d mauve, 4½d, 5d, 6d, 7½d, 8d, 9d and 1/-.
All in mint "two perf pairs" £25
- Feb 3 K. G. V Collection Keen collectors of these issues know the pleasure given by a representative run from these stamps. The colours of the stamps produce a riot of colour besides the shades produced within each value, and philatelically we have the two varieties of perforation, and the use of "Pictorial" paper, with its "no watermark" varieties. A great selection is now available. Note well what a fine addition this lot would make to your collection: Recess printed in perf 14 x 13½-1½d, 2d violet, 2d yellow, 2½d, 3d, 4d yellow, 4d violet, 5d in two shades, 6d, 7½d, 8d brown, 9d and 1/-.
In perf 14 x 14½-1½d, 2d violet, 2d yellow, 2½d, 3d, 4d yellow, 4d violet, 5d, 6d, 7½d, 8d blue, 9d, 1/- vermilion and 1/- salmon.
In two perf pairs - 1½d, 2d violet, 2d yellow, 2½d, 3d, 4d yellow, 4d violet, 5d, 8d and 9d.
On "Pictorial Paper" - 1½d both perfs and a "no watermark" variety.
All mint, a splendid run through catalogued about £19 and good buying at £12/10/-
- Feb 4 K. G. V Surface Printed A useful reference set of the various papers, and look closely - some scarce varieties are included. ½d De La Rue Paper; ½d Jones; ½d "litho" (3) one normal, one very pale and one with double gum (the double gum was for strength on stamps intended for stamp machine coils.); ½d Cowan; ½d Cowan reversed wmk; 1d Field Marshal perf 14; 1d paper surfaced on the wrong side (a scarce one!); 1½d local plate; 1½d London plate (remember the difference: one has the shading lines diagonal, the other, horizontal); 2d litho; 2d Cowan reversed wmk; 2d Wiggins Teape and 3d De La Rue. A splendid lot for reference and a good display. Catalogued over £6.
Fifteen stamps all mint 95/-
- Feb 5a) Q. E. Heads ½d to 8d. The original issue C. P. N1a to N8a, S. G. 723 to 730. Plate blocks complete. C. P. catalogue £14/9/-. Thirty-three plate numbers in blocks of four mint. A fine show £6/10/-
- b) Provisionals 2d on 1½d. C. P. N40a, S. G. 763, "Large dot". Plate blocks, plates 7, 8, 9 and 10 complete 22/6
- c) As above 2d on 1½d. C. P. N40a, S. G. 763a. "Small dot". Again, the complete set of plate blocks - 7, 8, 9 and 10 20/-
- d) Provisional 2½d on 3d. C. P. N42a, S. G. 808/808a. The four plates - 17, 18, 19 and 20 25/-

VARIETIES

- Feb 6 Queen Elizabeth 1/- A series of frame plate varieties from Pane B. Row 1/10, 2/10, 3/10 and 4/10. The fresh entries showing in all instances a doubling of the right hand frame line.
R 5/2 Flaws on W of NEW.
R 6/5 Retouching around the stars.
R 8/2 Flaws or retouching above the 1 of 1s.
R 8/10 Retouching of the spray and inner frame lines in the top right corner. All the eye straining has been done for you. Here are eight good, constant varieties, ready to mount in your collection. Used and seldom seen in this condition 17/6
- Feb 7 1948 Otago Centennial A fine specialist collection of this issue much in demand as a companion to the recent issue for Otago University (which appears on the 6d of this set). Included are six plate blocks, all values represented, plus an additional one in the 1d with a striking pre-printing paper crease. Varieties include re-entries (9 on the 1d, 7 on the 2d), a block of the scarce 1d inverted watermark, another 1d block with a spectacular red "rainbow" affecting two stamps (this is mentioned in the Handbook, Vol. 2), and the 6d R 6/6 "Machine gun on turret" variety. 83 stamps, all mint. £8
- Feb 8 1956 Southland 3d Plate Crack The 3d Southland plate developed a crack in the top right selvage (the Value Block). Set of three blocks showing the development of this plate flaw. (1) Plate crack $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm long. (2) $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm long and a third block with no plate crack at all. Impress 'em at the Society Display! The three blocks mint. £1
- Feb 9 Photographs 1943 Health Triangulars. An unadopted design 1d+1d showing Princess Elizabeth, the Crown, the frame and the lettering all in totally different type to the adopted design. Also a 1d+ $\frac{1}{2}$ d Princess Margaret, apparently a progress proof with much detail of shading, etc. differing from the issued stamp. Not actually stamps, but a really interesting addition to a collection of Healths, the like of which you won't find elsewhere.
The two pictures 15/-
- Feb 10 Postmarks A fine accumulation put aside probably thirty years ago. A few are of the K. G. V and Second Pictorial issues, but mainly Q. V., Mt. Cook, and Penny Universals. Somebody's gone to a lot of trouble sorting out interesting marks. Fifty postmarks as they come, some on block or piece.
You can't go wrong at 70/-
- Feb 11 Long Fiscals and others. Values to £5. Mainly fiscally used and including a number of seldom seen values and types (45). £5
- Feb 12 Penny Dominion J5a used. A selection of five shades of the "litho" N. Z. star on art paper, including green, blue green, blackish green and very pale. An unusual lot of used stamps 10/-
- Feb 13 Auckland Exhibition A magnificent used block of six with Exhibition postmark. They didn't Cancel To Order in those days; this is a fine rare item; truly an Exhibition Piece! The fine Used Block of Six £7/10/-

- Feb 14 1961 2½d Titoki The scarce inverted wmk variety (not known to us mint).
Used 70/-
- Feb 15 1962 5d Mountain Daisy Substantial shift of the yellow. A real "crazy daisy."
This is a striking, inexpensive variety to enliven your album page 7/6
- Feb 16a) 1966 6d Pikiarero Chambon perfs on Chalky Paper. This is rare, rare, rare!!
Block of six showing the "Chambon Gap" in two positions. Mint 40/-
- b) 1d Chalky paper None of these "chalkies" with Chambons are commonly
seen. Blocks of six showing the Chambon gap in two places. Mint 25/-
- c) 3d Kowhai Not so scarce - still a useful item. Not on chalky paper.
Showing good examples of wide or narrow spacing. Mint 7/6
- Feb 17 1960 8d Rata R 1/9. The skilful and attractive leaf retouch, in mint
corner block of four 12/6
- Feb 18 1960 1/- Timber R 5/11 and 5/12. Brown line joining the two stamps. A
constant flaw clearly seen in block of four with two "normals". Mint 12/6
- Feb 19 As above The attractive catalogued variety "partial double perfs." Marginal
block of four showing doubling of perfs in the top stamps 25/-
- Feb 20 1958 Kingsford-Smith The constant graver slips on R 10/9 and 10/10. Clear
lines through the stars. Easily seen varieties making an attractive addition to
your display of this popular stamp. In mint block of four 10/-
- Feb 21a) 1959 Marlborough A series of constant flaws making a fine display of varieties
on this one issue. All in mint blocks.
- 2d Block of six with R 1/3. Extra dots and lines of shading in the sea above
the man on the left.
In the same block R 2/2. Extra dots and lines in the sky under the W of NEW.
- 2d Block of six with R 14/3. The prominent retouch showing like a thumb print.
- 2d Block of four with R 16/1. Retouch below W.
- 3d Corner block showing a good example of double perfs.
- 9d Block of four with R 9/2 sky retouch below NEW.
- The six mint blocks as a collection 62/6
- b) As above Marlborough 2d. Block of four with R 13/6. Retouch below NEW.
- 3d Block of four with R 9/1 retouch in water by bullock's head.
- 3d Block of six with R 16/4 retouch on boat and in the same block R 17/5
broken horn.
- 3d A single with Doctor Blade flaw.
- 8d Block of four with R 11/6 retouch by bucket.
- Attractive additional material to lot (a), but we can supply this series once
only 52/6
- Feb 22 1950 1½d Arms C.P. M17a, S.G. 700. An unusual and inexpensive little dis-
play. Blocks of four in two good shades with watermark inverted, and another
block with watermark upright 5/-

Decimal Definitives

Feb 23	<u>2½ cent</u>	plate 2A1A1A1A	R 16/2	Stroke on leg of E. Positional block of six. Mint	3/6
Feb 24	<u>5 cent</u>	R 4/9	Retouch between Z and E of Zealand. Positional block of eight. Mint	7/-	
Feb 25	<u>5 cent</u>	R 6/1	Background flaw above "Pikiarero." Positional block of 8. Mint.	7/-	
Feb 26	<u>7 cent</u>	R 15/5 and R 16/5	in the same block. Short stamens.(10). Mint	10/-	
Feb 27	<u>7 cent</u>	R 9/1 and R 10/3	retouches in the same block. Retouches between leaves, above the left hand flower and above E of Zealand. (6) Mint	7/-	
Feb 28	<u>1969 Xmas</u>	R 3/8.	Extra line in the C of Christmas.  In mint block of 6...	3/6	
Feb 29	<u>Unwatermarked Xmas</u>	At last! Here it is mint.	5d each. Blocks available pro rata.		

COVERS COVERS COVERS

15 Feb	1957.	Totara Homestead special postmark on Lamb Export Pair	10/-
14 May	1957.	Karitane Pictorial postmark on Plunket	2/6
3 Nov	1958.	Ahuriri. Hawkes Bay Centennial Pictorial postmark	3/6
30 May	1959.	Auckland Harbour Bridge opening. Backstamped Northcote	3/6
19 Sep	1963.	R. P. S. N. Z. 75th Anniversary on 1963 Health 3d+1d.....	2/-
25 Nov	1963.	Christchurch Rly. Centenary on Railway 3d.....	3/6
19 Apr	1967.	National Stamp Exhibition on Whakatane cover	6/-
1 Aug	1967.	Goldfields Centenary on Whakatane cover	6/-
		1969 Postal Stationery. 4 cent air-mail envelope. Mint	9d

Feb 30	<u>ROSS DEPENDENCY</u>	15 cent with watermark inverted. Mint	25/-
Feb 31	<u>NORFOLK ISLAND</u>	The original 1947 set ½d to 2/- (12). Now catalogued £6. Fine Used	80/-
Feb 32	<u>WESTERN SAMOA</u>	The popular and attractive 1939 set of four. 25th Anniv. Catalogued 51/6. Mint	25/-
Feb 33	<u>N. Z. GENERAL</u>	All earlies, all different. 38 stamps (sorry we couldn't quite get it up to 40!) giving a nice run up to Edward VII and 1d Universals. Every lot includes a Chalon Head, and the catalogue value is over £5/10/-. Good value for the newcomer to earlier N. Z. issues, with Sidefaces, First Pictorials, Mt. Cooks, Penny Universals. All different and a good selection for	25/-