

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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JUST ANOTHER STAMP.....?

by Colin Hamilton

You'll find it, mounted with stamp-edging or, worse still, glue, on the NEW ZEALAND page of every junior album. You'll find it by the half-dozen in every junior-album owner's dog-eared packet of swops, too. You'll find it by the shoebox-ful in the most modest of auctions (more than likely in bundles of 100, each over-tightly tied, parcel fashion, with black thread). Yet you'll also find it gracing the transparent-faced, linen-hinged leaves of the most luxurious leather bound album, heavily insured and only brought out of the strongroom for special occasions, or for the proud owner to marvel at. "It", of course, is the Penny Universal.

The Penny Universal. Now there's a stamp to conjure with! At one end of the philatelic scale, the humblest of spacefillers; at the other, the stuff of a lifetime's pleasure; between the two extremes, a stamp the very thought of tackling which fills some with awe, and turns others a good deal paler than the palest of worn Dot Plate stamps.

In many ways the "Universal" represents, in miniature, the whole spectrum of the hobby we call philately. It is a stamp that has everything (with the exception of missing colours - and who knows, perhaps someone will turn one of these up some day, too!). Varieties of paper, watermark, perforation, plates and plate markings, shades, re-entries, retouches, flaws - the Penny Universal has all of these in great profusion.

With the possible exception of the Full-Face Queens, it is probably the most extensively, and intensively, studied of all New Zealand stamps. Yet 70 years after it was first issued, it can still produce a fresh discovery of major proportions. As recently as March this year Warwick Paterson reported in the columns of the Auckland Newsletter a copy on Pirie paper perforated 11 x 14, a variety never before recorded, and one which will be accorded full listing in the C. P. Catalogue at the earliest opportunity. One cannot but wonder whether further copies of this variety are lying unrecognised for what they are in those junior albums or thread-bound bundles. And everyone who has taken any semblance of an interest in the Penny Universal knows that the possibility of new finds doesn't end there. For example, select at random any copy from an unsorted bundle of Universals. On present knowledge, it is possible for that single stamp to belong to any one of no less than 41 separate major listings in the Catalogue. Of course it's more likely to be a perf. 14 Royle than a perf 11 from the "Local" plates, but it COULD be the rarity, or perhaps yet another previously unrecorded variety. With the use of 16 different printing plates each of 240 impressions (except the Booklet Plate, which had 144), coupled with varieties of paper, perf. and watermark, the possibilities are endless.

Yet for all its apparent complexities, the 1d Universal is in reality a simple stamp to classify. As in the case of paper mesh (see the April 1971 Bulletin) a little foreknowledge of what to look for is all that is required. Next month I hope to deal with this aspect in detail, again using as a framework the excellent notes on identification already incorporated in the C. P. Catalogue.

NEW ZEALAND NEW ISSUES, JAN.-APRIL 1971

- 20 Jan 1971 Maori Artefacts Definitive issue, printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd., London, by photogravure in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) on paper wmk'd NZ and Star. In the 15c and 20c (horizontal format), details of printer and designer appear in the bottom selvedge below R10/1 and 10/2; plate numbers appear below R10/3. In the 18c (vertical format) printer/designer details appear in the bottom selvedge below R10/1, 2 and 3; plate numbers are in the left selvedge, printed sideways reading downwards, alongside R10/1. Sheet value markings are printed in the top selvedge above R1/9 (18c) or R1/10 (15c and 18c).
- 15c Maori Fish Hook. Designed by M. Cleverley. Plate No. 1A1A1A. Sheet value marking "VALUE 15.00". Wmk sideways inverted (W8b). Perf. $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$.
- 18c Maori Club. Designed by Miss E. Hunter. Plate No. 1A1A1A. Sheet value marking "VALUE 18.00". Wmk upright (W8). Perf. $13\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$.
- 20c Maori Tattoo Pattern. Details as for 15c, except Plate No. 1A1A and Sheet value marking "VALUE 20.00."
- 10 Feb 1971 50th Anniversaries Commemorative issue, printed by the Government Printing Bureau, Tokyo, by photogravure, in sheets of 50 (ten rows of 5) on unwatermarked paper. In both values, details of the designer appear in 3 lines in the bottom selvedge below R10/1; details of printer in one line below R10/2. Plate numbers are printed in the left selvedge, sideways reading downwards, alongside R10/1, and sheet value markings in the top selvedge, above R1/5. All these details, including the plate numbers, are printed in blue.
- 4c Country Women's Institutes. Designed by L. C. Mitchell. Plate No. T203. Sheet value marking "Value \$2.00". Perf. $13 \times 13\frac{1}{4}$.
- 10c Rotary International. Details as 4c, except Plate No. T204 and Sheet value marking "Value \$5.00".
- 3 Mar 1971 One Ton Cup Commemorative issue, printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co., Ltd, by lithography, in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) on unwatermarked paper. In both values, details of printer and designer appear in 2 lines in the bottom selvedge below R10/1 and 10/2, while the plate numbers appear below R10/2 and 10/3. The sheet value markings are in the top selvedge, above R1/10.
- 5c Ocean Racing Yacht. Designed by J. Berry, O. B. E. Plate Nos. 1111 and 1a1a1a. Sheet value marking "VALUE \$5". Perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13\frac{1}{4}$.
- 8c Cup and Grid Pattern. Details as 5c, except Designer G. F. Fuller and sheet value marking "VALUE \$8".
- 14 Apr 1971 Advanced Technology Definitive issue, printed by Courvoisier S. A., Switzerland, by photogravure in sheets of 100 (10 x 10) on unwatermarked security paper. In both values, details of designer and printer appear in the right selvedge, sideways

- 607 Second Sideface 2½d Blue. The perf. 11 issue (S.G. 203) in mint block. Any of the Second Sidefaces in mint multiples are good buying. This one, in mint block of 4 £2.25
- 608 1898-1907 Pictorial 2/- and 5/-. (1906 printings perf 14). Conspicuous by their absence from most collections. The two high values, fine used... £7
- 609 1d Dominion. The rare variety on Jones unsurfaced paper, (S.G. 520a), which resulted from the use of an imperfectly finished sheet of paper, part chalk-surfaced and part unsurfaced. Copies from the unsurfaced part of the sheet are easily recognisable by their distinctive pale "washed-out" carmine shade and, of course, by their non-reaction to the silver test. This one needless to say, carries our unconditional guarantee. Mint £25
- 610 1d Dominion Plate Proofs. Three blocks of four, all different. (1) printed in grey-black on thick cream card; (2) in black on thick white paper; (3) in grey-black on medium-thick cream paper (this block has a crease). Representation of proof material will always lift a collection out of the ordinary. To complete a fine page, we have included a mint block of four of the issued stamp. The four blocks £12.50
(Let us know if you would be interested in singles (at £3.50 the set) or pairs (£7) of the above. If unsold as blocks, we will consider breaking them).
- 611 KGV 4d Recess-Printed. Three glorious blocks of four from rows 4 and 5 in the sheet, each showing the outstanding "Club-foot" re-entry at R4/10, yet all different. First, a block in yellow with all four stamps perf 14 x 13½ (from a sheet perf 14 x 13½ throughout). Next another block in yellow, but with the upper stamps perf 14 x 13½, and the lower ones 14 x 14½. Finally, a similar block in violet. By way of a bonus, the yellow blocks are in contrasting shades. The yellow blocks are in contrasting shades. The yellow "two-perf" block has horizontal crease (not affecting the variety stamp). Truly a lot for the KGV. specialist. The set of 3 variety blocks £18.50
- 612 KGV. 5d Blue, variety "Pair completely imperf." (S.G. 4876) Yet another item to give your Georges a fillip? Scarce and spectacular. The imperforate pair, unused £17.50
- 613 KGV. 3d Surface Printed. A superb lot of this seldom offered stamp (we usually have waiting lists!). Included are a block and a pair (shades) on De la Rue paper; a range of three shades in pairs of the singularly scarce Jones paper issue, one pair being on the thicker paper; two pairs, in startling shades of deep chocolate and pale red chocolate, on Cowan paper perf 14 x 15; and finally the catalogued "Flaw on face" variety in pair with normal on Cowan paper perf 14. In all, 18 stamps, finest mint, £15
- 614 KGVI 1/3d Plate 3A-2. In the 1/3d with sideways watermark this plate number is quite unexceptional. But with upright watermark it is a real plum - no more than a handful of such blocks can exist. We offer both - the common one and the rarity. Two plate blocks of four, perfect mint. Cat. over £33, a bargain for someone at £17.50

reading upwards, alongside R9/10, printed in black (\$1) or olive-brown (\$2). Very small plate numbers appear in the right selvedge alongside R9/10.

\$1 Geothermal Power. Designed by M. Cleverley. Plate no. 1111. Perf. 11½.

\$2 Agricultural Technology. Details as \$1.

(Sheet value markings on \$1 and \$2 sheets have not been seen at the time of going to press).

SIMPLIFIED SETS - EARLIER ISSUES

A wonderful opportunity to fill some of those "unfillable" gaps in your collection. In most cases we can do excellent alternative lots, so order with confidence!

- 601 Full-Face Queens, Imperf. 2d blue, 6d black-brown, 6d red-brown, 1/- green. All very nice collectable copies. The 6d's aren't mere shades-they're completely different colours! Also included is a copy of the 3d brown-lilac - this is a first class example of the forger's "art" which we have marked (and priced!) as such, having four huge margins, three of which have been grafted on, and three of the frame lines of the design have been drawn in. An education! The short set of 4 imperfs, plus the forgery £15
- 602 (a) Full-Face Queens, Perf. Complete in all values and colours. 1d red, 1d brown, 2d blue Pl. 1 (worn) 2d blue Pl. 2 (unworn), 2d orange, 3d lilac, 4d yellow, 4d rose, 6d brown, 6d blue, 1/- green. Condition throughout is well above average - the 4d rose is a very good copy. A beautiful page of 11 Chalon Heads, used (min. Cat. £41). £25
- (b) As above. A similar lot, without the 4d rose but including two shades of the 6d brown. Again 11 classics at a most attractive price. £12.50
- 603 First Sidefaces. A most elusive set, complete to 5/-. The scarce top values are lightly cancelled copies (the 2/- has a minor thin at one corner, not affecting the appearance, which is very fine). The set of 7, 1d-5/-, used £13.50
- 604 Second Sidefaces. Again one of each value, ½d-1/-, without regard to wmk or perf. Ten stamps, used £2.50
- 605 K. E. VII Heads. ½d green, 2d mauve, 3d chestnut, 4d orange, 4d yellow, 5d brown, 6d carmine, 8d indigo, 1/- orange-vermilion. A really glowing pageful of 9 stamps, mint £4.50

SELECTED ITEMS FROM STOCK

- 606 ½d Newspaper Stamp. "NZ" wmk, perf 10 x 12½. Not a common stamp this but here we offer a vertical block of six. And that isn't all. The upper two stamps show the marginal watermark line, the middle two have wmk NZ, and the lower two are without wmk! The block is in beautifully fresh unused condition (as usual, without gum - don't ask us why, but unused examples of the earlier ½d Newspaper issues almost invariably come with no gum). A piece for the connoisseur. £32.50

Q. E. "Blurred Centre". This striking variety - to give it its proper title, double print of the centre plate, one albino - is known in all four of the Q. E. Middle Values, though seldom seen in any. Sorry, no examples available in the 1/6d or 1/9d, but we can supply (each with a normal for comparison, and with full write up): 9d Blurred Centre, used £5
1/- Blurred Centre, used £5

616

Q. E. 2½d on 3d Provisional. (S. G. 808/a/b). A complete sheet of 240 An absolute goldmine for the student or researcher. How many se-tenant pairs of the wide and narrow settings of the surcharge? We won't spoil the purchaser's fun by detailing them, but we promise he won't be disappointed with the total! The sheet, complete with all selvages and selvedge markings, including the plate no. 20 £45

617

1933 Pathway to Health. The spectacular "Flaw in clouds" variety in pair with normal. Mint £3.25

618

"Adson". 20 different examples of these perennially popular advertisements on the backs of Second Sideface issues, including at least one pair, and a copy with a "Truebridge, Miller and Reich" advertisement (this was the agency which handled the contract for the advertisements for the N. Z. Post Office).
A fascinating lot of 20, used £3.50

COUNTER COIL ISSUES

All items listed are mint pairs, with coil number on the gutter between the stamps.

K. G. VI - Rubber - stamped coil numbers

MC1b 1d green (purple number) 7p	MC1g 4d magenta 87p
1d green (red number) 7p	MC1h 5d grey 37p
MC1d 2d orange (VM paper) 22p	MC1j 6d carmine 37p
MC1e 2d orange (HM paper) 17p	

K. G. VI - Machine-printed coil numbers, first type.

MC2a 2d orange (VM paper) 10p	MC2e 4d magenta (fine paper) 25p
Variety: VM and HM paper combined 40p	Variety: Fine and Coarse paper combined 50p
MC2c 3d blue (fine paper) 12p	MC2h 6d carmine 15p
MC2d 3d blue (coarse paper) 37p	MC2k 8d violet 40p
	MC2m 9d sepia 37p

K. G. VI - Machine-printed coil numbers, second type (scarce)

MC3a 2d orange £1.50p	MC3b 3d blue £1
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Q. E. II Issues - First type coil numbers

C. P.	S. G.		C. P.	S. G.	
NC1a	726Ea	2d green 17p	NC5a	731Ea	9d horiz. pair £1.50p
NC1c	-	3d verm., no. downwards.. 35p	NC5b	732Eb	1/- " " £2.00p
NC1g	-	3d Die 1a & 1b, no. " ... £1.50	NC6a	731Eb	9d vert. pair 50p
NC1h	728Ea	4d blue 25p	NC6b	732Ec	1/- " " no. upr.... 75p
NC1j	729Ea	6d purple 30p	NC6c	-	1/- " " no s/ways £1.25p
	Do.	Complete set, nos. 1-19 £5.50		Do.	Compl. set, nos. 1-19.. £23.00p
NC1k	730Ea	8d carmine 30p	NC6d	733Ec	1/6 vert. pair 75p
NC2a	754Ea	6d purple (large figure)... 50p			

Q. E. II Issues - Second type coil numbers

NC3a	727Ea	3d verm 20p	NC4d	750Ea	6d large figure 40p
NC3d	728Ea	4d blue 37p	NC7b	732Ec	1/- vert. coil. no. inv 50p
NC3e	730Ea	8d carmine 37p	NC7c	733Ec	1/6 " " " " 50p
NC4a	747Ea	2d large figure 30p	NC8b	748Eoa	3d white paper 60p
NC4c	749Ea	4d large figure 37p	NC8d	751Ea	8d " " £.

1960 Pictorial Issues

C. P.	S. G.		C. P.	S. G.	
OC1a	783Eb	2d Black Nos £1.00p	OC2f	789Eb	8d Red Nos 35p
OC1c	791Ea	1/- Black Nos £2.25p		Do.	Complete set nos 1-23 £7.50p
	Do.	Complete set nos 1-19 £40.00p	OC2g	791Ea	1/- Red Nos £1.50p
OC2a	783Eb	2d Red Nos 50p	OC2h	792Eb	1/3 " " 60p
OC2b	784Eb	2½d " " 25p	OC2i	793Eb	1/6 " " 70p
OC2c	785Eb	3d " " 15p		Do.	complete set nos 1-19 £12.50p
	Do.	complete set nos 1-23 £1.23p	OC2j	794Ea	1/9 Bistre, red nos ... £2.50p
OC2d	786Eb	4d Red Nos 15p		Do.	complete set nos. 1-19... £42.50p
OC2c	788Eb	6d " " 30p	OC2k	795Ea	1/9 Multicolour, red nos £1

1967 - 70 Decimal Pictorial Issues

Nine values were issued in counter coil form - the 2½c, 3c, 4c, 6c, 8c Flag, 10c Forest, 15c Green/Carmine, 20c Taniwha and 20c Beef Industry.

We can offer:

- (a) One of each of the above, all with the same coil number. The set of 9 matched coil pairs £5
- (b) One of each, but with coil numbers as they come. Set of 9 pairs £4.50p

RECENT F. D. C.

20/1/71	15c, 18c, 20c Definitives, on one illustrated cover 40p
14/4/71	\$1 and \$2 Definitives, again on one illustrated cover £2.05p