

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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N.Z. NOTES & COMMENT BY

BY CAMPBELL PATERSON

1/2d Fantail of 1935: "Clematis" flaw.

My attention was drawn recently to an error in Handbook Vol. 1 which was most curiously perpetuated in Volume 2.

I presume that most of our readers are aware of the form of the "Clematis" flaw. It occurred on Row 8 No. 1 of Plate 1A - which plate was one of the two that were used for the very first (i.e. "Single Watermark") printings of 1935. The flaw takes the form of a large green blob of colour which by chance occurred square in the centre of the flower immediately above the fantail's back. Anyone who has the C. P. Loose-leaf Catalogue only has to look up Permanent page L6 where will be seen an illustration of the flaw.

Now the error I refer to is the statement in the third paragraph of page 346, Volume 1 of "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand", that the flaw "occurred in all printings from Plate 1A". It didn't. The clematis flaw is found so rarely on used stamps of the "Single Watermark" issue that one might say that they are very rare indeed. As for mint, I cannot recall that I have ever seen one. But a few copies of the first issue have been found (used) with the flaw, and so it can be deduced that the flaw developed late in the 1935 Single Watermark printings. The statement that it occurred on all printings is just not fact.

Volume 1 was written in the early years of the "1935" Pictorials so it is understandable that at the time of publication an error might have been made; what is not understandable is that the same error should be repeated, as it is, in the last paragraph on page 4 of Volume 2. It may well be argued that the statement in Vol. 2 is meant to refer solely to printings on the "Multiple Watermark" paper but the fact remains that no correction appears to have been made of the erroneous statement in Vol. 1.

While it is true that we are here discussing a rather minor matter, philatelically speaking, (inasmuch as a small flaw is only that, and not too important I suppose), it is, I think, worthwhile to correct the error since by it people may be led to pay high prices where they are not justified. I am here thinking in particular of a collection recently seen where a perfectly normal block of L1a (SG556) was given a page to itself and referred to as something nearly unique - simply because it did not show the Clematis flaw. The authority for the statement that it was a great rarity was of course the Handbook error.

As the C. P. Catalogue shows, the flaw is unknown mint, (and very scarce used) on Single Watermark paper, but on Multiple Watermark paper it is relatively common - it did occur on all Plate 1A printings made on the "Multiple" paper.

1d Kiwi, Multiple Wmk, Booklet plate re-entries.

While on the subject of the 1935/36 Pictorials I would like to say a word about the curious occurrence of stamps apparently "Die 1" among all the normal "Die 3" impressions on booklet panes of the 1936 issue. In Volume 4 of the Handbook these are discussed at length and our C. P. Catalogue is mentioned as the source of an erroneous statement that the Die 1 roller had been used to effect re-entries on the normally Die 3 Booklet plate. The statement appears at the foot of our C. P. Catalogue Temporary page L1. It is refuted in the Handbook on the grounds that the official records state that the Die 1 roller had been destroyed and therefore could not have been used to effect the re-entries. Here the Handbook writer is leaning heavily on a statement that a certain roller die had been destroyed. Maybe it had, but that does not alter the fact that the stamps clearly show (on the closest examination) that a roller die with all the characteristics of Die 1 was used. Perhaps there had been more than one impression taken up from the original Master Die? We will probably never know, but for myself I would rather believe my own eyes than accept as final any statement that does not seem to cover the facts.

As an aside here I should mention a certain line which appears clearly behind the cabbage tree on 1d Kiwi, Die 3, stamps. This line's absence on Die 1 stamps is sometimes quoted as a means of distinguishing between Die 1 and Die 3. It is not a reliable guide for the line can be found on some Die 1 stamps. On the evidence of the stamps one would say that it was present, but weakly drawn, on the original Master Die. During the re-drawing that resulted in the appearance of Die 3, this line was strengthened.

PERSONAL. I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to my many friends in England for my failure to look them up and say farewell before I flew off to N. Z. I make it my excuse that events (namely my wife's ill health) left me no time for many things I would have liked to do. We had to leave the cold of the English winter as soon as we could and no delay was possible. But I will certainly be back in the United Kingdom not once but many times, if I have my hopes fulfilled. My ten years in Britain were very happy ones and were only too short to allow me to enjoy to the fullest extent what for me will always remain "my native land."

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(Because of these welcome words from Mr Paterson in far-off New Zealand, the second and final part of "Classifying the 1d Universal" is held over. G. C. H.)

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EDWARD VII

Anyone who has pounded the streets of London S. W. 1 (or anywhere else) knows just how difficult it is becoming to find decent stocks of Edward VII. Accordingly all such should recognize the offers below for what they are - an opportunity to be snapped up. It is in the lap of the gods when we will have a similar lot again, or what prices we will be forced to ask when we get them!

Special Mint Offers 1d green

- 801 (a) Three pristine blocks of four of H1a showing three fine shades. This is not a common stamp. To gild the lily, one block includes the catalogued R3/18 flaw. The three blocks £6.50
- (b) A fine complete Booklet Pane of the issue with heavily blurred impressions and with the selvage bars. This pane has come from the top right of the plate as evidenced by the black serial number. The scarce pane £15.00

- (c) Four shades, mint in singles. V.fine 45p

2d Mauve

- 802 (a) Two widely contrasting shades of this pretty stamp in blocks of four, deep mauve and a pale rosy mauve. A slight gum crease on one of the pale stamps. Very striking shades. The two blocks. £6.00
 (b) A superb horizontal block of 8 (2x4) of the mauve shade - (markedly different from either of the two blocks in above lot) - quite lovely. £4.75
 (c) Three shades, in mint singles, of the 2d - the range is very wide, from pale to deep. The three. £2.20

3d Chestnut

- 803 (a) Perf 14 x 14½ (H3a). A really lovely block of nine (3x3) in bistre-brown. Centring near perfect. £5.75
 (b) ditto. A block of six in deep chestnut, a block of four in deep bistre and a corner pair, with serial number, in pale chestnut. Three pieces for a specialist. £7.75
 (c) ditto. A block of 4 in deep chestnut (a trifle o/c downwards) and a very fine strip of four bistre. The two pieces £3.85
 (d) Three delightful shades in mint singles - a handsome trio £1.75
 (e) Perf 14 line (H3b) Scarce today. A pair of singles, mint - one deep chestnut, one bistre. A striking pair. £3.25
 (f) As above - not quite so pristine a pair - one has slight crease - but accompanied by a fine used single - the set of 3 £3.25
 (g) Perf 14 x 13½ (H3c) Two magnificent blocks, different shades, of this scarce stamp. The two blocks. £17.50
 (h) as above Two fine mint pairs, one a trifle o/c, but handsome and scarce, shades. Two pairs. £8.50
 (i) as above A single, mint, with side selvage, a trifle off centre £1.75

4d Orange

- 804 (a) 14 x 14½ (H4a) A magnificent red-orange block of six and equally fine orange block of 4. £6.40
 (b) as above. Two shades of red - orange, in singles. £1.30
 (c) Perf 14 line (H4b) a superb block of 9 and an equally fine block of four, shades £8.50
 (d) as above. The two shades in mint singles £1.30

4d Yellow

- 805 (a) Perf 14 x 14½ (H4c) A superb selvage block of six £3.75
 (b) as above. A block of 4, a vertical strip of 3 and two singles, all mint, contrasting shades £4.50
 (c) as above. Two mint singles, shades £1.00

5d Brown

- 806 (a) 14 x 14½ (H5b) Truly superb blocks - of six (deep brown); of six, (red brown with offset on back); of four (deep red brown); and of four (lighter brown). The lovely quartet of blocks £11.50
 (b) as above. Three mint pairs, lovely shades, one being a particularly deep chocolate brown £3.75
 (c) as above. Deep brown, chocolate, and deep red-brown, in singles mint. The three £1.95
 (d) Perf 14 line (H5a) Two fine differing shades in pairs, mint £3.00

- (e) as above, a vertical pair, a horizontal pair and three singles, all differing shades. Seven stamps. £5.25
- (f) Perf 14 x 13½ (H5c). Two blocks of four (one is corner selvedge with sheet number) - superbly different shades. £7.00
- (g) as above. A pair and two singles, mint, all striking shades. £3.00

6d Carmine

- 807 (a) Perf 14 x 14½ (H6b) A block of four, mint, with "official" patching joining the upper and lower pairs that make up the block. Interesting and very handsome. £6.00
- (b) as above. Three pairs - magnificent shades of this most colourful stamp. £9.50
- (c) as above. Two mint singles. £3.00
- (d) as above. A mint pair. £3.00
- (e) Perf 14 line (H6a) A magnificently rich deep shade - one of the finest we have seen - in block of four. A gem indeed. £7.50
- (f) as above. Three fine shades in singles, mint, £5.25
- (g) as above. Two fine shades, singles, mint, £3.50
- (h) Perf 14 x 13½ (H6c) A fine mint block of four, beautifully centred and handsome. £11.00
- (i) as above. Another block, top selvedge, not perfectly centred but this is a scarce stamp. £8.00
- (j) as above. Two fine shades, mint singles. £4.50
- (k) as above. Singles, one mint, one used; both very fine. £4.50

8d Blue

- 808 (a) Perf 14 x 14½ (H7b) A lovely page in the making! This lot comprises two blocks of four and three pairs - a wonderful array of colour with all - different shades of blue and indigo. The lot. £9.00
- (b) as above. Three shades in mint singles including the deepest of deep blues. Also, a deep blue single used. The four. £2.00
- (c) Perf 14 x 13½ (H7c) Three magnificent blocks of four, one (with top selvedge) being the scarcer indigo-blue, a very dark shade. The three blocks. £12.50
- (d) as above. Matching pairs of the deep bright blue and the indigo. £3.25
- (e) as above. Two striking shades in mint singles. £2.00
- (f) Sideways Wmk. perf 14 Two blocks, differing in shade but also in one's having white gum, the other a deep brown gum. A very interesting pair of blocks. £3.00
- (g) as above. The same variation but in pairs. The two pairs. £1.50

1/- Orange-vermilion

- 809 (a) Perf 14 x 14½ (H8b) A magnificent block of four and three singles - all shade variations. The block has a slight crease, not visible from the front but to offset this, one of the singles is a brilliant shade, apparently an aniline ink and new to us. The lot, (seven stamps). £15.75
- (b) as above. Two singles, mint, a good shade difference. £4.50
- (c) Perf 14 line (H8a) Another magnificent block, lovely condition, plus two shades in singles. The lot of 6 (this stamp is scarce today). £13.50
- (d) as above. The single stamp, mint. £2.25

EDWARD VII VERTICAL PAIRS

The Edward vertical pairs are becoming exceedingly difficult to obtain. With the re-writing of our Section H in our next Catalogue Supplement they will become even more sought after. Whoever gets this lot will not regret the deal!

- 810 Set of Vertical pairs (top stamps 14 x 13½, lower 14 x 14½). A superb set comprising one pair of the 3d, two shade pairs of the 5d, ditto two lovely pairs of the 6d and no less than three magnificent pairs (in different shades) of the 8d. This is a lot that we cannot expect ever to repeat - 8 pairs £42.50

EDWARD VII OFFICIALS

- 811 (a) The set of mint Ed VII Officials - including ½d, 3d, 6d (2 shades), 8d (both perfs) and 1/- . The set of seven £4.90
(b) Similar but shorter set than the above - includes ½d, 3d, 6d, 8d and 1/- £3.90

ADSON

Some further interesting offers of the Second Sideface issues of 1893- 94 with advertisements on the backs.

- 812 (a) Partial Reconstruction. The complete sheet consisted of 240 advertisements, arranged in four panes of 60. The Second Setting reconstruction we offer here is more than 80% complete, there being a mere 45 spaces left to fill. As is usual in reconstruction attempts, the condition of the stamps is mixed, but a marvellous opportunity for someone at £27.50

For those who would be content with one pane of 60, we will consider orders for such, as follows:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| Top left pane (49 stamps, 11 spaces) | £7.25 |
| Top right pane (43 stamps, 17 spaces) | £7.00 |
| Bottom left pane (52 stamps, 8 spaces) | £7.50 |
| Bottom right pane (52 stamps, 8 spaces) | £7.50 |
- (b) 1d Perf 10 Second Setting in mauve. A mint block of 7 from the bottom right pane. Multiples of this size are very scarce. £2.50
(c) 36 all different. Includes only better values (to 1/-), colours and settings. Min. cat. £15+. Used. £10.50
(d) As above, but this time 34 different, mainly the commoner values and colours. A grand starter lot £3.75

- 813 (a) First Trans-Tasman Air Mail. Feb. 1934 cover franked with the 7d blue overprint (C. P. V5a, S. G. 554), and with circular first flight cachet in purple. Offered for the price of the stamp alone! The historic first flight cover £2
(b) First Official Air Mail, Australia - New Zealand. Companion cover to the above. Again with official cachet dated Apr. 1934, and each cover bears a copy of SG139 of Australia (cat £1.50). A bargain at £1.25
(c) SPECIAL OFFER. One each of the above. The two first flight covers ... £3

- 814 K. G. V. 4d Yellow Recess Print. A complete mint sheet of 120, with the upper four rows of stamps perf 14 x 13½, and the lower six perf. 14 x 14½. The sheet therefore includes 12 "two-perf. vertical pairs," and demonstrates that this variety occurred in pairs from the fourth and fifth horizontal rows. In addition, the plate number 20 and the major "wrong value" re-entries at R1/6 and R4/10 are present. An exhibition item, in remarkably fresh condition. The complete "two-perf" sheet £40
- 815 The Jeffery Forgery. The perpetrator of this well known imitation of the 1/- green Full-Face Queen seems to have been a wily customer. On paper with a forged large-star watermark, he recess - printed one impression of his handiwork, cunningly surrounded by the frame lines of the four adjoining "stamps" (no doubt so that he could later cut out a huge margined copy showing part of an adjoining stamp wherever he pleased!). The whole design as printed, however, was topped by an added crest, probably so that he could claim, if "caught in possession", that this wasn't a stamp forgery, but an ornamental design of some kind. The crest featured a hand holding a crook - very apt! The genuine forgery. £6.50
- 816 Crash Cover. A cover from New Zealand to England carried on the ill-fated BOAC-Qantas "Constellation" which crashed at Singapore in 1954. As usual, the cover has some charring. This one shows a fine clear strike in red of the cachet SALVAGED MAIL/AIRCRAFT CRASH/SINGAPORE 13.3.1954 in a rectangular frame£6.00
- 817 1d Map Stamp. The scarce Cowan Unsurfaced paper issue of 1925, in mint block of four. A little gum disturbance (probably caused by slight adhesion of protection inter-leaving), but otherwise lovely. The mint block of four £1.25
- 818 (a) 1925 Dunedin Exhibition. It isn't widely realised that of the 4d value only 67,296 were issued (compare this with the 80,000 issue of the Christchurch Exhibition 6d of 1906). Yet here we offer the complete set of "Dunedins" in blocks of four at a good deal less than the price of one Christchurch 6d! The set of three blocks, mint..... £7.25
- (b) Sets in singles also available at, mint £1.80
- 819 (a) 1899 Postage Dues. The first designs (C. P. Y1a - Y14a, S. G. D1 - D16) complete mint, 14 values. The 2/- stamp has one short corner, unfortunately but the overall condition is good for this issue, seldom seen in complete set £7.50
- (b) As above. A used run of values to 1/- (no 10d). 11 stamps, all sound copies, cancellations rather heavy on one or two, but a good average lot £4.00

BULLETIN SUBSCRIPTIONS - REMINDER

Perhaps due to annual holidays, or simple oversight, a few subscribers have not yet returned to us the renewal form which was included with last month's issue.

We would remind those who have not yet replied that they should renew their subscriptions NOW if they wish to continue receiving the Bulletin/Newsletter.

P.S. If you do not intend to renew, a note to this effect would greatly assist our Miss Tutt with her record-keeping.