

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN



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CLASSIFYING THE 1d UNIVERSAL (2)

Readers will recall that the first part of this article dealt with all the issues of Group 1 in the C. P. Catalogue (that is, stamps without wmk and those with wmk double-lined NZ and Star), and the Surface-Printed issue of Group 2. Now we turn our attention to the remaining Group 2 issues, all of which have the single-lined NZ and Star wmk. If the suggested sorting plan has been followed, these will already be divided into two categories, which were labelled (b) and (f).

Category (b) - stamps with the four o'clock flaw - consists of prints from:

- The Booklet Plate (G7 in the Catalogue)
- The Dot Plates (G8)
- The Waterlow Trial Plates (G9)
- The Royle Plates (G10)

Category (f) - stamps without the four o'clock flaw - consists only of stamps from:

- The original Local Plates (G5)
- The Reserve Plate (G6)

Dealing first with (f), separating the majority of these into their two classifications should present no difficulty, if the relevant Catalogue notes are carefully followed. Any pale prints, in which much of the finer detail of the design is very faint or absent altogether, are "Locals", any richly-coloured copies, with full background shading behind Zealandia (See the illustration on Permanent Page G4) are "Reserves".

However, there will remain some stamps which do not readily fit either of these descriptions, and my own experience is that if any 1d Universals are likely to cause a little difficulty, these are they. The explanation lies in the history of the plates.

The "Local" Plates had previously been used in the printing of the "Pirie", "Basted Mills" and "Cowan Unwatermarked" stamps of Group 1, and by the time the first printings on Cowan Watermarked Paper (that is, the G5's) were made in 1902, the plates were already beginning to wear. This wear was progressive, and later printings produced the immediately recognisable very pale impressions mentioned above. The Reserve Plate, on the other hand, was in use only for temporary periods in 1902, 1905 and 1908, and the 1908 printings lacked the definition and distinctively rich colour of earlier Reserve Plate stamps. As a result, late Reserve Plate stamps tend to resemble early "Locals".

It follows, therefore, that dated postmarks are a very useful aid to identification - an early date on such a stamp would indicate a G5, while a postmark of 1908 or later would suggest a G6. Leaving postmarks aside, experience is the only sure guide, the experience which comes from handling and studying the stamps concerned.

Finally we come to (b), the last of our original categories and, in my opinion anyway, the easiest of all to sort. The Booklet, Dot, Waterlow Trial and Royle Plates stamps all have their own quite definite characteristics (again refer to the Catalogue notes and illustrations). However, it is a good principle - not only with Penny Universals, but in all stamp identification - never to rely on one piece of evidence only, when other factors exist which may either confirm or refute it. As an example of the latter I would mention the 3d Air Stamp in the 1931 Lake Scene design. Too often one sees a copy of the usual perf 14 x 14½ issue misidentified as the scarce perf 14 x 15 simply because the vertical perfs gauge something approaching, but never quite, 15 (as they sometimes do in the commoner issue) - all this in spite of a postmark showing, crystal clear, a date prior to April 1935, which is the earliest known usage of the scarce perf stamp!

So, reverting to the stamps in hand, it may be especially useful to the tyro to bear the following points in mind, in addition to the hints already given in the Catalogue.

Booklet Plate stamps. (G7) The pearl at the top left as well as being outstandingly large, is sometimes slightly misplaced (the result of its being added to each impression on the plate individually). Remember, too, that while Booklet Plate stamps are often found with one side, or two adjacent sides, imperf., it does not follow that any Penny Universal with one or two sides "imperf" is necessarily a "Booklet" stamp - it could be any issue with the perfs trimmed off. To most this may seem absurdly obvious, but it is the kind of "blind spot" which afflicts some, particularly in cases where a stamp with a higher catalogue value is the end result of the misidentification!

Dot Plate stamps. (G8) Often, but not always, showing plate wear, in any degree from slight to advanced (very like the G5's in this respect, but "Dots" always have the four o'clock flaw, and the more advanced the plate wear, the more clearly this flaw is visible). Remember that a coloured dot at the centre of the vertical gutter between stamps does not necessarily indicate a Dot Plate stamp (similarly sited dots are also found on some Booklet and Royle Plates stamps).

Waterlow Trial Plates stamps. (G9) Again dots are found on some copies, but in this case they appear close to the outer corners of the design (sometimes at the top left only, sometimes at both top corners, sometimes at the bottom left only). Notable for some very prominent re-entries, particularly affecting the top half of the design. In one or two cases the doubling can be clearly seen without a glass. Some other copies show retouching to the circumference of the rosette at the top left, often with an extraneous line running at a tangent into the pearl.

Royle Plates stamps. (G10) I think all the salient points of identification are already mentioned in the Catalogue.

In every one of the issues discussed here, (with the exception of the Booklet Plate Stamps) it is well worth while checking for the numerous perforation varieties which exist. Many of these are scarce, some are very rare.

G. C. H.

(For anyone who missed the first part of this article, and who may be interested, we still have available a limited number of copies. Please send s.a.e.)

REFERENCE SET - 1967 LIFE INSURANCE PROVISIONALS

Many collectors apparently have difficulty in differentiating between the various papers which exist in these issues. They need not any longer! We have made up a Reference Set which will dispel any doubts once and for all. It consists of three mint blocks of four, all of the 1c on 1d value, showing:

1. The Coarse Thin Paper.
2. The Cream or Tinted Paper.
3. The White Paper.

The blocks are individually identified, and we suggest that, for ready reference purposes, they be mounted face downwards.

901 Reference Set of 3 blocks as described (the white paper block alone cat. £1!). . . . 75p

KING EDWARD VII USED.

Complementing last months outstanding mint offers, we now list some equally desirable used material. The prices again reflect the keen demand for Edwards (indeed for all good N. Z.), and all the signs are that this demand will become even greater. So our advice is, snap up the opportunity NOW.

All items are used.

- 902 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Green (H1a) Deep green, green and yellow green. Three attractive shade singles 8p
- 903 2d Mauve (H2a). Never a common stamp, this, but here are three widely contrasting shades of deep mauve, mauve and rosy mauve. £1.10
- 904 3d Chestnut, perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H3a). No less than four super shades in chestnut and bistre-brown. 30p
- 905 4d Yellow (H4c). Singles in yellow and bright yellow. The two shades 75p
- 906 (a) 5d Brown, perf 14 line (H5a). Deep brown and deep red-brown. Two rich shades £1
- (b) As Above, two similar shades, but in the commoner perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H5b), plus a single perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H5c). Three stamps 35p
- 907 6d Carmine. A single copy perf 14 line (scarce), and two good shades perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H6b). The three 80p
- 908 8d Indigo. Two shades each of the perf. 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H7b) and 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H7c). Nice! 40p
- 909 1/- Orange-vermilion, perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (H8b). The two catalogued shades, orange-vermilion and vermilion. A fine contrasting pair £1.75p
- 910 Simplified Set. A one-of-each representation, without regard to perf. or shade. $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d, 3d, 4d red-orange, 4d yellow, 5d, 6d, 8d, 1/-. Set of nine used. £3.40

EARLY TO MODERN POT-POURRI

- 911 Second Sideface 3d Yellow. The scarce original issue on 6 mm wmk paper (D5a, immediately recognisable by the horizontal mesh paper), in a lovely, never hinged (!) mint block of four. £8.50
- 912 2½d Wakitipu. (E7a). The only variety of any note on this stamp, excepting the spelling error of course, is the re-entry on R11/9. This re-entry is included here in a corner block of nine complete with sheet serial no. A few splitting perfs have been unobtrusively reinforced, otherwise the block is in very fresh mint condition £4.25
- 913 1d Universal Proof. An imperf block of four printed in red on thick card. With just a trace of a crease, but attractive at £8.50
- 914 KGV Official "No Stop". Examples of this good variety on the 1d (KO15a) and the 2d (KO18c), both in used blocks of four. Seldom seen thus. The two variety blocks £1.85
- 915 1935-47 Pictorials, all mint
- (a) ½d Fantail. Two marginal blocks of four, one being on Single Wmk paper (L1a), the other on Multiple Wmk paper (L1b) 20p
 - (b) As above, three fine shades, green and deep green in blocks of four and a single in an outstandingly pale shade (scarce). All on Mult. Wmk paper 40p
 - (c) 1d Kiwi. Blocks with Single Wmk (L2a) and Mult. Wmk (L2d), with additional singles of L2d in contrasting shades (one being the scarcer carmine-pink) and finally a block with Mult. Wmk inverted. A lovely pageful in the making 60p
 - (d) 1½d Maori Cooking. A miniature reference set in itself, with singles of all four issues (Single Wmk perf 14 x 13½, 13½ x 14, ditto with wmk inverted and reversed, and Mult. Wmk perf 14 x 13½). Four stamps. 75p
 - (e) 2d Whare. Again a complete representation, in singles, of all the issues of this stamp. 6 different 2d's 50p
 - (f) As above. All four catalogued shades of the first Mult. Wmk issue (L4b), including the very scarce brown-orange £1.50
 - (g) 2½d Mt Cook and Lilies. Mult. Wmk, perf 13¾ x 13½ (L5f). Two good shades of the chocolate centre in blocks of 4. 35p
- 916 Q. E. 2½d on 3d Provisional. Se-tenant pairs showing the wide and narrow settings of the surcharge (SG 808b) are becoming increasingly difficult to find. We can offer the variety in two forms.
- (i) Vertical Se-tenant pair £3
 - (ii) Horizontal Se-tenant pair £4
- 917 1960 1d Karaka. The green plate in this value was retouched more than once during its printing life. As proof of this we offer two plate blocks of 8 (both on chalk-surfaced paper). In the first, R19/3 shows retouching to the top right leaf; all other stamps are normal. In the other, the retouching on R19/3 is present, but weaker, and there is now extensive treatment to R20/2, 20/3 and 20/4. The two plate blocks 75p

KING GEORGE V - ENGRAVED ISSUES, MINT

The following offers present an opportunity that we can all too seldom hope to give our readers. For anyone wishing to start on "George V" or to fill out an existing collection, the lots below are very desirable.

- 918 1½d Grey - normal watermark. A superb set of three blocks, being C. P. K1a, K1b and K1c, that is to say, blocks of perf. 14 x 13½, perf. 14 x 14½ and a block made up of two "two-perf." pairs. Condition tops £2.80

- 919 1½d Grey - on "Pictorial" Paper. A very fine set of five blocks on the paper with more widely-spaced watermarks, giving the varieties "No Watermark" in some cases. The lot includes two blocks of K1d (perf. 14 x 13½) one block including two stamps with no watermark; also two blocks of K1e (perf. 14 x 14½) - again one block has two stamps with no watermark; finally a block of four (K1f) made up of two "two-perf." pairs, one pair having no watermarks. The fine set of five blocks - a little foxing, nothing serious..... £2.50
- 920 (a) 2d Violet. A set of three blocks on the same lines as the first lot of 1½d s above, being blocks of K2a, K2b and K2c, the latter being the "two-perfs". All blocks are very fine, clean, well centred and of gloriously brilliant colour. The three blocks..... £4
- (b) As above. A pair, mint, perf 14 x 13½, with upper selvedge showing plate number '15'. Scarce £2.50
- 921 2d Yellow. C. P. K2d (14 x 13½), K2e (14 x 14½), and K2f (two-perfs) in blocks, mint. Centering not perfect in K2d, but this is allowed for in our price. Finally a super block of four of K2g, the 2d on "Pictorial" Paper, perf 14. The four blocks..... £3.50
- 922 2½d Deep Blue. Three blocks (K3a, b and c), giving the two standard perforations in blocks and the combined perfs in the third block. All these are very fine and all in the earlier deep blue colour. Finally a block (perf 14 x 13½) in the later slate blue shade - a fine contrast. The four blocks £4.60
- 923 3d Chocolate. Three blocks, K4a, K4b and K4c, giving the same range as usual - the third block (of combined perfs) is from the plate in its worn state. Also included are two blocks, in notably different shades, of the issue on "Pictorial" Paper (K4d). Shade differences are not often seen in K4d. The set of five blocks..... £5
- 924 4d Yellow. Three blocks (K6a, b and c) as usual in the above lots - condition splendid, and some shade range noticeable. The three blocks..... £3
- 925 (a) 4d Violet. Three blocks (K6d, e and f) all from Plate 20 and all in the characteristic deep violet shade. Also in this lot is a mint single of the superb "club-foot" re-entry - seen in the top left hand value square where traces of "2½" can be clearly seen as well as the normal "4". The fine mint lot of three blocks and the re-entry single..... £10
- (b) 4d Deep Purple. Two blocks and a pair, (K5e) all perf 14 x 14½ as is usual in Plate 44, and a single of the very scarce K5d (14 x 13½) in very deep purple. Of the blocks one is identical with the 14 x 13½ single, and both pieces may well therefore be from one of the rare two perf sheets (though the block itself doesn't have the combined perfs). The other slightly lighter, block (with selvedge) is of the more usual purple shade, while the pair are on Esparto Paper with glassy gum. The specialists' lot from Plate 44 - two blocks, a pair and a rare single £6
- 926 4½d Myrtle-Green. Three blocks (K6a, b and c), being one block of each of the two usual perfs and a combined-perf block. The 4½d is becoming strangely scarce these days. The three blocks £10

N. B. We will continue with offers of the Recess-Printed values from 5d upwards, and with the Surface-Printed issues, in our next Bulletin.

1970 - 71 DEFINITIVES

$\frac{1}{2}$ c - 4c	Butterflies and Moths (6 values), mint.	10p
Do.	Set of 12 Imprint/Plate blocks (10 stamps in each block), mint.	£1.95
4c on $2\frac{1}{2}$ c	Provisional, mint.	3p
Do.	Set of 4 Imprint/Plate blocks (10 stamps in each)	£1.30
5c - 8c	Fish (5 values), mint	23p
Do.	Set of 10 Imprint/Plate blocks (10 stamps in each), mint.	£4.70
10c	Queen's Head & N. Z. Coat of Arms, mint	7p
Do.	Imprint/Plate block (6 stamps), mint	48p
15c, 18c, 20c	Maori Artifacts (3 values), mint	35p
Do.	Set of 3 Imprint/Plate blocks (6 stamps in each), mint	£2.35
\$1	Geothermal Power, mint.	63p
Do.	Imprint/Plate block (6 stamps), mint	£3.85
\$2	Agricultural Technology, mint	£1.20
Do.	Imprint/Plate block (6 stamps), mint	£7.25

VARIETIES (Thirkell Position Finder references in brackets)

$\frac{1}{2}$ c -	R6/20 Blue flaw in selvage at right; R8/20 Background retouch (Th. C2-3); R9/20 Background retouch (Th. B3). Multiple variety block of 10 stamps.	7p
$\frac{1}{5}$ c -	R3/14 Retouch to fraction bar of $\frac{1}{2}$ (Th. B-C5). Block of 6.	6p
$\frac{1}{2}$ c -	R10/5 Background retouch (Th. C4); R10/8 Orange line at right wing tip (Th. D6). Both in one block of 8.	6p
1c -	Background retouches on R7/3 (Th. B5), R9/1 (Th. A2) and R9/4 (Th. A4). Three varieties in one block of 12 stamps.	12p
	R3/10 Retouch (Th. C1) and R5/9 Retouch (Th. C2-3). Block of 10.	11p
2c -	Retouches on R8/17 (Th. A4-5), R9/17 (Th. B5) and R9/18 (Th. B3). Another multi-variety block of 12 stamps.	20p
3c -	R8/13 Background retouch (Th. B2). Block of 10.	23p
4c -	Retouches on R9/16 (Th. G5) and R10/18 (Th. C2) Block of 6.	25p
7c -	R10/20 White flaw above "ZEAL" (Th. F3-4). In "traffic lights" block of 10 stamps.	53p
8c -	R1/14 Massive retouch (Th. A4). Again in "traffic lights" block of 10.	63p

RECENT ISSUES

14/7/71	Satellite Earth Station Opening 8c, 10c. Set of 2, mint.	13p
	Do. Illustrated F.D.C., Auckland F.D. postmark.	16p
	As above, but with special Warkworth pictorial cancellation.	18p
4/8/71	Health Stamps 3c + 1c, 4c + 1c, 5c + 1c. Set of 3, mint.	10p
	Do. Illustrated F.D.C., Auckland F.D. Postmark.	16p
	Do. Set of six F.D.C., each postmarked at a different Health Camp.	£1.25
	Do. Mini/Sheets of 6 (3c + 1c and 4c + 1c only). Mint.	35p

Special Pictorial Cancellation. Commemorating the opening of the Post Office HQ Building, Wellington, 6th July 1971. 10p