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N. Z. NOTES & COMMENT

by CAMPBELL PATERSON

4d Violet (or purple) George V - another problem piece.

The 4d George in its violet or purple colours must be one of the most remarkable stamps in N. Z. history. One has no sooner settled one knotty problem, calling as likely as not for years of research, than another problem turns up. Holders of Volumes 1 and 2 of the "Hand-book" can check for themselves the number of statements made in Volume 1 which had to be corrected in Volume 2 - in the light of later research.

I was myself responsible for the correction (in Vol. 2, page 312) of the statement made in Vol. 1 (top of page 312) that only the lower half of sheets from Plate 44 ever appeared perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. It was the finding of the re-entry Row 3, No. 8 with perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ that started that particular hare. That there are in existence plate blocks (of Plate 44) perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ is a further proof of the fact that the top half of some sheets must have been 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$. Yet the implications were not apparently seen even as late as 1944 which was about the time I wrote to the late Ray Collins on the subject. But this is only one of several puzzles that have been posed by the 4d George V.

The latest again concerns Plate 44. To make things clear I had better explain that for all 4d George printings only two plates were ever used - the first, Plate 20, in yellow from 1915 and in bright, almost mauve, shades of violet from 1916 to 1926. The second plate, 44, came into use in 1926 and is notable on several counts. It was the most generally (and generously) retouched plate of all the Georges; it appeared mostly perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ (only rarely perf 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$) and it is generally held that it appeared only in shades of deep purple as opposed to the violets found in Plate 20. (The latter never appeared in the deep purple.) Plate 20 showed clear signs of plate wear in the last 2 or 3 years of its life - 1923 to 1926.

So when one finds an unworn 4d stamp showing many signs of retouching, in a shade of deep purple and perf 14 x 14 $\frac{1}{2}$, dated 1926, one can be absolutely certain that one is looking at a stamp from Plate 44. With all these facts well known to me - and as fresh in my memory as when I first studied this fascinating stamp - I was astonished recently to pick up a pair, postmarked 1926, which answers to all the above criteria except that it is clearly in mauve-violet and certainly not in deep purple. This points unmistakably to the reasoning that an early printing of Plate 44 was made in the same old ink previously used on Plate 20 and never before reported used for Plate 44 - at least not to my knowledge.

The questions arise then - is this pair certainly from Plate 44? And is there any record previously overlooked by me of any printing in violet from Plate 44?

Dealing first with the pair: in very evident retouching, in the perf ($14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$), in the lack of plate wear, and in the date (1926). I have no doubt that this pair is from Plate 44. And the shade is certainly violet, not deep purple.

So we come to the searching of the records. In volumes 1 and 2 of the Handbook there are clear statements that all the 1926 printings from Plate 44 were in the deep purple. (Ref. Vol. 2, page 312, paragraph 6; which paragraph starts "In referring to the first printings of the 4d from Plate 44" and in Vol. 1, page 312, paragraph 2, the statement: "From 1926 to 1933. . . . The colour of the ink was a deep purple."

So it would seem clear that at least up to the date of the issue of Volume 2, no record existed of a violet printing from Plate 44. I have a feeling that my violet pair perf $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$, clearly indicating that an early (1926) printing from Plate 44 did appear in violet, may be merely the forerunner of many others. The point is that without the clear date and its encouragement to look for Plate 44 characteristics I would have accepted the pair as simply an early print (1915, say, to 1920) from Plate 20 in its unworn state and before the practice started in 1922 of perforating all Plate 20 printings with the $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ machine. In short, "Violets" from Plate 44 may not be rare. I wonder.

Altogether a fascinating stamp is the 4d George V. I note with some amusement that by pure coincidence my references regarding this stamp appear on pages numbered 312 in both Volumes 1 and 2. That is almost typical of the gremlin-like confusion that has attended the studying of the 4d George!

FOOTNOTE by Colin Hamilton

Since the above was written, I have had the opportunity of examining the pair, and have compared them against a complete sheet of 4d's printed from Plate 44. It came as no surprise to find that they matched in every respect a pair in that sheet, the positions being Row 4, Numbers 4 and 5.

Furthermore, on similar close comparison with a complete sheet printed from Plate 20, I was able to satisfy myself that there was no pair in that sheet which had the same characteristics. As the shade of the pair is unquestionably violet (the possible alternative, deep purple, is so distinctive that there is no room for doubt), I think it can now be stated with certainty that Mr. Paterson's contention is proved correct.

I am inclined to the view that C.P.'s astonishing bit of philatelic detection has uncovered what will prove to be a rare bird indeed. While he reasons that "plate 44 violets" may be common enough, but simply unrecognised for what they are, I base my belief on the fact that, to my knowledge, no plate number block in violet from plate 44 has ever been recorded. Such a piece would, of course, be instantly recognisable as "abnormal" by anyone who was reasonably familiar with his 4d's.

In the light of this new information, however, it is at least possible that one or more, perf $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$, could still exist. Have you checked yours yet?

(I am indebted to our good friend John Bradford of Leamington Spa, who readily agreed to raid his fine K. G. V. collection and lend me the two 4d sheets for the above research.)

K. G. V. RECESS-PRINTS, MINT

Continuing last month's offers of scarce material from these beautiful issues.

- 1001 (a) 5d Blue. Four blocks - including a splendid block of the "light blue" in the scarcer perf 14 x 14½. This block shows no trace of plate wear and has brownish gum so is obviously a very early print. Also included are a later block in "light blue" with whiter gum and perf 14 x 13½; a matching block in "deep steel-blue" 14 x 13½ and a "two-perf" block in "ultramarine". The set of four blocks thus provides all three listed shades, worn plate as well as early prints and both standard perfs as well as the two-perf block. The comprehensive set of 4 blocks..... £13.50
- 1001 (b) 5d Blue. A rather similar lot to the above with a slightly o/c block of the early print perf 14 x 14½, a fine deep steel-blue block perf 14 x 13½ and a pair of the ultramarine perf 14 x 14½. This is again a comprehensive coverage of perfs, shades and late or early prints. The 2 blocks and pair £7.50
- 1002 6d Carmine. A comprehensive lot of blocks showing both standard perfs and a block of the very scarce two-perfs. Also a block, very attractive, of the "Pictorial" paper issue with sideways wmk and perf 14, plus a single of the same with no watermark. The four blocks and single, mint £14.00
- 1003 7½d Red-brown. Again both perfs in blocks and the "2-perfs" in a block, plus an extra block in the scarcer 14 x 14½ perf showing a shade variation. Very handsome. The four blocks £6.80
- 1004 8d Blue. The three blocks, all different perfs including a "two-perf" block. Beautiful condition £4.50
- 1005 8d Brown. This stamp is becoming decidedly difficult. We can however offer a superb mint block in the scarcer red-chocolate shade £1.60
- 1006 9d Sage-green. The usual three blocks including the "two-perfs". The latter is very scarce in blocks, as everyone knows: not so well known is the fact that the 14 x 14½ is also extremely difficult to find in block form. All blocks are in the early deep sage shade but we also add a strip of three in the later pale sage green. The three blocks, and strip £13.50
- 1007 1/- Orange Vermilion. We are at a loss for words - and for stocks! - of the 1/- George. However, here we can offer two beautiful blocks, one being on Esparto paper and both perf 14 x 14½. Also included is a block of the scarce salmon shade - also 14 x 14½ and scarce in block form. This one is a little o/c. The set of 3 blocks£8.50

GEORGE V. SURFACE PRINTS, MINT

- 1008 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Green A wonderful display of this stamp. The set, all in mint blocks of four, comprises: De La Rue paper K13a four blocks from very deep green through green to yellowish green; Experimental printing of 1915 - K13b a very thick "Cowan" type paper, clear colourless gum (possibly double) and De La Rue type wmk - a block of four with bottom selvage; "Jones" paper K13c one block of each of the thick and the thin papers; K13d Litho wmk - a great range of blocks including green, blue, colourless and double-gum variations; K13e Cowan 14 x 15, four lovely shades, two being worn plate with top detail largely obliterated; K13f one block plus a pair with notable plate wear: finally two blocks of the Cowan paper K13g with surfacing on the wrong side - good shades and reversed wmk. The big lot of $\frac{1}{2}$ d's, thirteen blocks and a pair £18.75
- 1009 $\frac{1}{2}$ d Green - Worn Plate We have a fine selection of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d (Cowan 14 x 15) showing the extreme plate wear that occurred in the top row of the sheet. We offer either as:-
Mint pair 20p
Mint strip of 3 30p
- 1010 (a) 1d Field Marshal. A choice and relatively inexpensive page, yet one containing a real rarity in block form, is here offered: The lot of 3 blocks of the 1d perf 14, all different shades, one being a block of 9; also 3 blocks of the 14 x 15 in lovely shades - one block being of the scarce rose-pink; also a selvage block of the rare 1d rose-carmine with watermark reversed as a result of the paper being surfaced on the wrong side; plus a corner selvage block of 4 with serial number 'T150903' - this last being on the scarce Wiggins Teape paper. The set of 8 blocks, including one rare and two definitely scarce, the whole covering every major perf and wmk form of the 1d Field Marshal £12.50
- 1010 (b) 1d Field Marshal. For those who only lack the rarity we offer the block of four in rose-carmine with reversed watermark. Beautifully clean - a selvage block...£10.00
- 1010 (c) 1d Field Marshal. Again the rare reversed watermark issue, this time in three stupendous shades of rose-carmine, scarlet and deep claret (all catalogued by C. P., incidentally). The three shade singles £11.50
- 1011 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d Black George V. This lot contains 2 blocks of both the "Local" (K16a) and the "London" (K17a) $1\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps - each in shades of grey and blackish-grey. The four blocks £3.00
- 1012 $1\frac{1}{2}$ d Orange-brown George V. A neat selection comprising a block of the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d on De La Rue paper; a block, perf 14, on Cowan paper; and pairs of the scarcer issues on Cowan perf 14 x 15 and on Wiggins Teape paper. These last two are really difficult to find today. The two blocks and two pairs, mint £14.00
- 1013 2d Yellow George V. A fine display of all the major variations of this very diverse stamp - in pairs or blocks. Includes: De La Rue (K18a) two pairs (shades); Jones Paper (K18b) two blocks, yellow and very pale yellow; "Litho wmk" (K18c) two blocks, yellow and very pale yellow; Cowan perf 14 x 15 (K18d) a block; Cowan perf 14 (K18e) a pair; Cowan Reversed (K18f) a block; Wiggins Teape perf 14 x 15 (K18g) a pale yellow block; W. T. perf 14 (K18h) two blocks, lemon yellow and orange yellow. The remarkable mint range of nine blocks and three pairs (all identified)..... £13.50

- 1014 3d Chocolate George V. Yet another complete representation of papers and perfs, with a block on De La Rue paper (K19a); two blocks on Jones paper (K19b), one being the deep chocolate shade on the thinner paper, the other chocolate on the thicker paper (wonderful representation of what is a scarce stamp!); a marginal pair on Cowan paper, perf 14 x 15 (K19c) and finally just a single on Cowan, perf 14 (K19d) - but this is the fine R6/8 "Flaw on face" variety.
The three blocks of 4, pair and variety single, all mint £14.00

MORE MARVELLOUS MATERIAL!

A selection from 1898 to moderns with something to suit every interest - specialised, not so specialised, and simplified. Lots marked * are from a very fine large collection, and are neatly mounted in Hawid strips on album leaves.

- 1015* 1898 London Print Pictorials. Two pages of glorious glowing colour. All values $\frac{1}{2}$ d - 5/- complete as issued, with shades of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d (3), 1d (2), 2d (2), $2\frac{1}{2}$ d Wakatipu (2), $2\frac{1}{2}$ d Wakatipu (2), 3d (2), 4d (3, including a pair in the lake shade), 5d (2, one of which is a magnificent copy of the very scarce sepia), 6d (2), 8d (2) and 1/- (2). A total of 28 stamps, all mint except one 6d and one 1/- £22.50
- 1016* 1902 - 07 Pictorials, perf 14, issues. Again a fine thorough lot, with shades, on three pages. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d (block of 4), 2d (2 pairs and a single), $2\frac{1}{2}$ d (block and single), 3d (2), 4d (4, including a pair), 5d (2), 8d, 9d (corner block and a single), 1/- (2), 2/- (2) and 5/-. All mint £20.00
- 1017* K. G. V. Surface Prints. A collection based on S. G. Part 1 (and therefore including the contemporary 1d Dominion, 1d Map and 1920 Victory issues). Complete from S. G. 501 and 535c (including "small type" nos. and some additional shades), except 532a and the rarities 520a and 531a. A fine lot of 54 stamps on five pages, all mint except two used (S. G. Cat. £30+) £16.25
- 1018 (a) Air Stamps. A complete collection, in singles, of all N. Z. Air Mail stamps, including the very scarce 1935 3d perf 14 x 15 (S. G. 548a). Nine stamps, every one looking as fresh as the day it was issued. £12.00
- (b) 1931-34 Air Stamps. 3d, 4d, 7d Orange, Fivepence on 3d and 7d Blue Trans-Tasman overprint, all in marginal blocks of 4 (all except the 7d Orange are in fact corner blocks). Faint age-marks affect some of the stamps, but are so slight as to be virtually negligible. Blocks of these issues are seldom seen. The five blocks of four (see them on approval, with pleasure!) £20.00
- (c) 1935 Air Stamps. Something very special. Two outstanding shades of each value, each shade represented in a plate block of four! The six plate blocks (each block shows the sheet serial number as well as the plate no.), condition brilliant....£10.00

N. B. While we will obviously give to an order for the above lot as it stands - it would be a shame to separate them - we will consider orders for one plate block of each value, at £5.25 per set of three plate blocks.

- (d) As above. The 3d value alone, in a similarly fine plate block of 4 £2.25
- (e) As above. 1d value, no less than five vivid shades in blocks of 4. The five super shade blocks. £2.00
- 1019 (a)* Arms Types. The surcharged values 3/6 on 3/6 - 35/- on 35/- on the scarcer Registered Watermark paper (S. G. 545-545d). All five are beautifully fresh mint copies. C. P. Cat. £61.50. A real snip at £32.50
- (b) As above. The 22/- on 22/- value only. Mint £12.50
- (c) As above. The same values on Multiple Watermark paper (excepting of course the 35/- on 35/-, which does not exist thus). This set includes both types I and II of the 3/6 on 3/6. Five stamps, mint, min. cat. £33.25. Our bargain price £17.50
- 1020 (a) 1935 3/- Mt Egmont. This is one of New Zealand's most beautiful stamps, but many collectors do not know that the S. G. listing "14 x 13½" (S. G. 590b) covers two entirely different perf. issues easily identifiable since one gauges 14 x 13¾, and the other 14 x 14¼. We offer a copy with each perf., lovely used. The two. 40p
- (b) As above. 3/- Mt Egmont, again both perfs, but in this extraordinary offer both stamps show the magnificent re-entry of Row 9, No. 4. This is among N.Z.'s finest-ever re-entries, the whole of the sky to the right of the mountain being clearly doubled. The scarce two re-entries, used. £1.50
- 1021* K. G. VI Definitives. A lovely array of shade singles (without regard to differences of paper) in all values to 3/-, including the provisional surcharged values, with some extra blocks of four, and a comprehensive showing of the issues overprinted "Official". In addition there are four pages of variety blocks, all delightfully written up. The collection of 95 ordinary issues, 19 "Officials" and 7 variety blocks, all mint £10.50
- 1022 (a)* Healthis. 1929-37 complete. Includes all the scarce ones, represented by gaps in most collections! The 1931 Smiling Boys are a particularly fine pair. 10 stamps. all mint. £29.50
- (b) As above. 1938-71 complete in mint singles with, in addition, 12 variety blocks. These include the 1949 2d + 1d "No stop", the 1958 3d + 1d "Design partly printed in selvage" and the 1963 3d + 1d "Finger flaw" in both states. A total of 169 stamps, all mint. £12.00

(The above two lots would together make the ideal base on which to build a specialised collection of the Health issues.)

RECENT ISSUES

75c Booklet. Contains 9 x 1c (pane of 6 and pane comprising 3 stamps and 3 advertisement labels), pane of 6 x 3c and two panes of 6 x 4c, plus a pane of Air Mail Labels. Unlike the stamps from large sheets, the booklet stamps have the multiple NZ and Star watermark sideways (all we have seen to date have in fact had the wmk sideways inverted). The complete booklet 50p

1st September, 1971.

25c Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park, mint 16p
 30c Mt Cook National Park, mint 21p
 50c Abel Tasman National Park, mint 34p