

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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NOTES AND COMMENTS BY C.P.

N.Z. STAMPS AS I HAVE COME TO KNOW THEM.

Id. Kiwi, 1935-1938. This is a more interesting stamp than the general catalogues would suggest. S.G. list and illustrate two Dies, these differing in the depth of colour in the sky above the kiwi. In fact there are three Dies, S.G. 557 and 557a being Die 1, with light sky; 557b is Die 2 with very deep sky, while 578 is Die 3 with medium deep sky and an extra horizontal line between the tree and the left frame. As Die 3 is never found other than with the Multiple Watermark, the matter of a third Die may seem academic but one needs to know the Dies thoroughly if one is to recognise the unlisted rarity "Die 1 with Multiple Wmk." That such Die 1 stamps do exist is shown in our Catalogue. They are prizes to look for, each worth a good £4 to £5. They are in fact all re-entries made at a late date to the Booklet plate that was used with the Multiple Wmk. Not all show doubling but all are easily recognisable in that the roller-die used for the re-entering was the old Die 1 roller, not the newer Die 3. As only one or two stamps were re-entered on a few of the panes, many panes being untouched, it follows that one finds Booklet panes with the variety "Die 1, se tenant with Die 3." These are very good property but even more scarce are used copies of the Multiple Wmk. Die 1 stamps; I have never found one in all my sorting.

Returning to the more general consideration of the Id. Kiwi:

There are three issues on the Single watermark paper and one (plus the Die 1 re-entries) on the Multiple watermark paper. The three Singles are: Die 1 perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$; Die 1, perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$; and Die 2, perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. (Die 2 stamps always had the very heavy sky shading and they appeared only in Booklet panes with Parisian Ties advertisements. These **Single watermark** Booklets must not be confused with the Multiple watermark Booklets that produced the Die 1 re-entries discussed above. The **Multiple watermark** Booklets had no advertisements.) Finally there was the Die 3 issue with Multiple watermark.

The first step is to eliminate the Multiple watermark stamps, putting them aside for the moment. Of the remainder, all Single watermark, sort out the Die 2 stamps. This is simple as they stand out boldly when their heavy sky is compared with the weak Die 1 sky of the other Singles. We now have stamps $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ or $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. A helpful point is that the $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ copies always have oddly shaped corners at left top and bottom. We will meet this perforation again so it will be best to explain here that the $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ sheets were perforated in vertical columns from the right of the sheet. As the short "legs" of the comb head were too long for the width of the stamps, each succeeding strike of the comb overlapped the last hole made by the previous strike—hence the oddly shaped corners were caused by the overlapping holes. If using the perf. gauge, as is advisable at first, it is useful to know that the tops of the stamps of the two issues are very similar, so concentrate on the sides. The drill here is to separate stamps with side perfs. that gauge near to 13 from those with side perfs. near 14. Neither is exact but the "near 13" are the ones known as $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, i.e. S.G. 557. The others are 557a. They are worth looking for. In mint or used they are scarcer than the S.G. prices would convey.

I should have said earlier that in separating the Single watermark stamps from the Multiples it is well to remember that the Singles are always with vertical mesh and when heated curl around a vertical axis: the Multiples have horizontal mesh and curl accordingly. The curling is a good guide but is not infallible. Seeing the mesh is much better; as a test it is infallible. Looking for the watermarks is only for those who cannot master the mesh and is admittedly a tedious job.

Varieties are not many in 557, being restricted to a rather good and prominent plate crack best seen in a mint block with attendant neat little variety

"cap on Kiwi." Other varieties are inverted watermarks, not scarce, and the rather freakish "no watermark" or "Letters watermark" stamps, these being from sheets where by accident the printing has been allowed to stray on to the lettered or blank selvage. Some very pretty shades are found in 557, the best being a deep carmine or a pale soft pink. All shades other than those close to the normal are quite scarce.

Turning to the Multiples: I have already spoken of the desirable and rare Die 1 on Multiple watermark paper. Other re-entries about which little has ever been published are known on Die 3 stamps. These must be from a very late repair to one of the four "big" plates used for this issue. They are exceedingly scarce, even rare, and often quite spectacular. We illustrate a typical example in our Catalogue. Vol. 4 of the Handbook when it appears, is likely to reveal more about these late re-entries.

Shades are numerous in the Multiples and again quite scarce in those cases which differ widely from the normal. Inverted watermarks are relatively common. Some small but neat little flaws, "Kiwi with worm," "Frog on log" and so on used to be popular but are seldom seen today. Which perhaps tells a tale. Such small varieties are not important but are collectable and in after years become more so. Discretion has to be exercised however if the collecting of small flaws is not to become a meaningless diversion. It is better to keep them to their place, concentrating more on varieties like retouches or re-entries which are evidence of importance in illustrating the progressive history of an issue. Where a flaw, no matter how small, leads later to a retouch or re-entry it immediately becomes more important in its own right.

1960/64 PICTORIALS.

Why not start now making a specialised collection of this colourful and highly interesting issue? The lists below will give a hint of the varieties to be found and the generally wide scope of the issue. Remembering that it is likely to be current for a long time yet, it is obvious that now is not too late to start.

310 1960 Sets, Simplified, Mint.

(a) Set of 9 "Flowers" values, ½d. to 8d. mint	4/-
(b) As (a), but finest blocks of four, mint	15/-
(c) Set of original Pictorial middle values (two are obsolete), 9d. to 3/-, plus the new multi-colour 1/9 and 3/-, ten stamps, mint ...	30/-
(d) As (c), but finest blocks of four, mint	115/-
(e) Set of three top values, 5/-, 10/-, £1, mint	45/-
(f) As (e), but finest blocks of four, mint	£9
(g) The 1d. and 3d. new perf. and Sideways Watermark, in strips of four	2/5

311 1960 Sets, Simplified, Used.

(a) Set of 9 "Flowers," ½d. to 8d., superb used	1/9
(b) Set of 8 middle values, 9d. to 3/-, but not including the new multi-colours, finest used	6/-
(c) Set of three top values, 5/-, 10/-, £1 — the three fine used (which means very fine indeed)	22/-
(d) 1d. and 3d. new perf. and Sideways Watermarks, in pairs, the two used	1/-

NOTE. Our used Pictorials are really superb. Do not think to compare them in price with scruffy copies advertised elsewhere at low rates. To buy rubbish is false economy.

312 1960/64 Flower Values — Plate Blocks. None of the "1960" Plates is yet really scarce, so even if we cannot supply all at this moment, we feel safe in promising that we will have them all again from time to time. The important thing is to get those offered now! They make a grand show of colour and interest. Plates are of eight stamps unless stated otherwise.

(a) ½d. Manuka. Just the one plate so far, Plate 111	2/-
(b) 1d. Karaka. One plate only, as yet, Plate 1111	1/9
(c) 2d. Kowhai-Ngutu-Kaka. Plate 1111, 4/6. Plates 2251 and 3263, each	3/-
(d) 2½d. Titoki. Plates (of twelve stamps), 1A, 4A3A, 4B3B, each 6/-; Plate 2A	7/6
(e) 3d. Kowhai. Plate 2111, 5/-; 2113 and 2125, each	3/3
(f) 4d. Puerangi. Plate 1111 (the only one so far)	4/6
(g) 5d. Daisy. Plate 1A (the only one so far) (twelve stamps)	8/-
(h) 6d. Clematis. Plate 111 (the only one so far)	6/6
(i) 8d. Rata. Plate 1111 (now obsolescent)	8/6

N.B. We can often do Plate Blocks in different shades — let us know if you are interested. Want lists of other plates in 2d., 2½d., 3d. invited.

313 **1960 Higher Values (9d. to £1).** Plates and Imprints, etc. (Blocks are of size indicated in brackets).

(a)	9d. Flag. Plate "14A-14" (4), 5/3; Imprint (6)	7/6
(b)	1/- Timber. Plate "9B9C" (4), 6/6; Imprint (6)	9/-
(c)	1/3 Trout. Plate "1A1B1C" (4), deep blue Ditto Plate (4) in "shocking" blue shade, 20/-; Imprint (6) in scarce ultramarine shade	8/3 65/-
(d)	1/6 Tiki. Plate "6D6E" (4), 9/6; Imprint (6)	14/-
(e)	1/9 Top-Dressing. Original brown, Value block (4) Ditto Imprint (4), Multi-colour	16/- 9/-
(f)	2/- Rock-Drawing. Plate "1A1C" (4), 12/6; Imprint (4), each	12/6
(g)	2/6 Butter. Plate "2A2B" (4), Imprint (4), each	15/-
(h)	5/- Falls. Plate 3/Imprint (6)	40/-
(i)	10/- Glacier. Plate 13/Imprint (6)	£4
(j)	£1 Geyser. Plate 12/Imprint (6)	£8

314 **1960 Pictorials, Shades, Mint.** This set has produced some magnificent shade variations. Except in the dearer and rarer shades, we offer in blocks. These give the shades full play.

(a)	3d., two shades in blocks of four	1/-
(b)	1d., two shades, blocks of four	1/6
(c)	2d., two "cherry" shades, blocks of four	2/8
(d)	2d., the remarkable and scarce "pale red," in single, 2/6; in block	10/-
N.B. The above is a splendid shade, quite different from the "cherry" colours.		
(e)	2½d., three different shades, in blocks	4/-
(f)	2½d., the scarce "very pale green," a few singles only, each	15/-
(g)	3d., three decided shades, in blocks	4/6
(h)	3d., the scarce "lemon" flower, each	5/-
(i)	3d., the remarkable "Westport" find, with dull blue back- ground and orange flowers, each	15/-
N.B. A very few blocks of (h) and (i) are available at pro rata rates.		
(j)	4d., two shades of each main colour, two blocks	4/-
(k)	5d., two shades, very attractive, blocks	5/-
(l)	6d., two shades, deep and dull green, blocks	6/-
(m)	1/-, two shades of the deep green, two blocks	12/-

315 **1960 Pictorials — Varieties.**

(a)	3d. Block of 6 with pronounced "Chambon perf." peculiarities	2/6
N.B. The Chambon perf. machine sometimes gave eccentric perfs at the middle of the stamps on each second row. Ours are chosen for notable eccentricity.		
(b)	1d. Block of 6, including R12/3, pronounced weak area at top of stamp	5/-
(c)	1d. Block of 8, including R10/9 flaw under RAK	5/-
(ca)	1d. Block of 6, Chambon perfs.	6/-
(d)	2d. White spur in 2 (C.W.14/6), used single	5/-
(e)	2d. Shaved D in LAND, constant on Plate 2251, R14/4. Used single	6/-
(f)	2d. R6/3. Second state (big white patch), retouch under E of ZEAL — mint, in positional block of 6	7/6
(g)	2d. R9/12. One of the best — previously broken U of NGUTU now clearly redrawn. In positional block	20/-
(h)	2d. Plate 2. R3/1. The major variety with retouch making ZEAL clearly ZFAL. This is the prime variety of the issue. Now at £8 mint — this is a special offer of a positional block at the old price, mint	£5
(i)	2d. R3/1. As above ZFAL, fine used single	£2
(j)	2d. Block of 6, Chambon perfs.	6/-
(k)	3d. Block of 6, Chambon perfs.	6/-
(l)	4d. Block of 6, Chambon perfs.	7/6
(m)	5d. The delightful "Crazy Daisy," with centre of daisy, white — a gross misplacement variety	7/6
(n)	6d. Block of 6, Chambon perfs.	12/-
(o)	8d. R1/9 and R1/1 — the two big, white, leaf flaws, each in positional strip of three or four with top selvage. These flaws were both later touched up, before the plate was finally with- drawn. The two strips	9/6
(p)	8d. R1/9, as above, but in block of eight with top selvage and sheet value figures "£8"	8/-
(q)	8d. Block of 6, Chambon perfs.	12/6

C.P. Ltd. for ALL N.Z. Stamps.

We hope that this and last month's Bulletins, with their concentration on the very old (Lots 317-322) and the very new (1960-64 Pictorials), will persuade any doubters that C.P. Ltd. is the firm for ALL New Zealand stamps. Why go elsewhere?

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME.

I know that many of our readers are collectors of other countries as well as N.Z. Quite a high proportion will be subscribing to some new issue service covering all or a substantial portion of the Commonwealth. It will be no news to them that the flood of new issues is assuming dimensions quite frightening to the man who is trying to keep pace.

I believe that saturation point — perhaps it would be more correct to call it breaking point — is rapidly approaching. More and more collectors must be thinking hard about turning to "one country" collecting. Any such swing or, a large scale must bring many new recruits to the "N.Z." ranks for there are few countries so well suited to specialisation (of all kinds) as is N.Z. The advantages of N.Z. over most other countries are obvious enough:

(1) N.Z. is a "big" country, philatelically, so that there is a wide choice of issues within which the would-be specialist can choose as large or as small a field of endeavour as suits his fancy and his pocket.

(2) N.Z. has always maintained a reasonable flow of new issues so that there are neither so many as to be a burden nor so few as to be a bore.

(3) N.Z. has an unsurpassed literature for collectors. The celebrated "Hand-books" may be too expensive for many but they are readily available in Society Libraries. They are not all; for many years they have been supplemented by periodicals and news sheets such as our Newsletters and Bulletins. These will continue to provide reading devoted to the N.Z. collector's one chosen subject. Compare this with the lot of the man who must rely on occasional paragraphs gleaned from half a dozen varied sources.

(4) The indispensable aid to any "one country" collector, a specialised Catalogue devoted to his chosen country only, is something of a rarity in the philatelic world as yet. N.Z. is fortunate in that it already has such a Catalogue and in a form that is uniquely suitable for the "shape of things to come." Like all first-class Catalogues it is a big book since it must cover in detail a very large subject; yet its unique loose-leaf form means that once bought it need never be bought again. It is indeed a life-long friend and provided the Supplements are added to it yearly (at a few shillings cost), it never goes out of date.

(5) Another essential for the specialist is the existence of a soundly established firm of expert dealers devoting their time and capital to the one country alone. This again is a rare thing as yet, but once again N.Z. is most favourably placed in that it has such a firm (that's us!). Furthermore, and uniquely, this firm is established as the leading authority in both the "home" market (N.Z.) and in the world centre (G.B.).

(6) Finally, the specialist in a restricted field wants to have a Society of like-minded people with whom he can share his interests. N.Z. collectors in G.B. have just such a Society. It is the "N.Z. Society of Great Britain," devoted solely to N.Z. philately. Its Secretary is Mr. G. E. C. Pratt, 32a, The Ridgeway, Sutton, Surrey. Enquiries re membership should be made direct to Mr. Pratt.

To sum up: it is hard to imagine any country better placed to take advantage of a swing to "one country" collecting than is N.Z. Nor any country likely to be more suitable for those who look for a haven of quiet, away from the hectic rush that is today's (philatelic) mad, mad world.

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