

N.Z. NOTES AND COMMENTS BY C.P.

Understanding the Second Sidefaces 1882-1897. That many of our readers do not take their collecting back to the Queen Victoria Sidefaces — either "first" or "second" issues, is to me no reason for ignoring them as a subject on which guidance can be given. Even those collectors who do not collect them will be none the worse for having knowledge which they can maybe turn to their profit. For those who do not include these issues in their albums the following facts will probably be new and unless already known will make life a lot easier for them.

I hope it is generally understood that the Notes in our Bulletin are meant to be helpful. There is much in N.Z. philately to puzzle the beginner and when one knows of short cuts to understanding — as one must do who handles them almost daily — one ought to pass that knowledge on. There are very few N.Z. stamps that pose any serious problems to the specialist and in passing on helpful information one popularizes issues that tend otherwise to be ignored.

At first glance the Second Sidefaces appear to be too formidable for a beginner; with numerous perforations (12 x 11½, 10, 10 x 11 and 11, to name only the common ones); with three different N.Z. and Star watermarks, with 6mm, 7mm and 4mm between "NZ" and the top of the "star," and with three different papers, and (in 1d and 2d) three different dies, this looks like a thorough-going headache and quite beyond the scope of ordinary mortals. Yet nothing is further from the truth — the dies, watermarks and papers are all "amenable to reason" and the perforations present no difficulty at all.

The keynote to mastery of the Second Sidefaces lies in the fact that of the common perms. **only the 12 x 11½ perf. contains any variations of watermark.** This is the salient point and if it is kept clearly in mind life takes on a rosier hue! It means firstly that all other common perms. — 10, 10 x 11 and 11 — can be segregated as our first move and once identified as to perf. can go straight to their final home without any consideration or bother about their dies, papers or watermarks. There is one small exception in the 6d and this I will deal with later.

So — we now have 2nd Sidefaces before us that are all perf. 12 x 11½. (If any rare perms. like 12½, and 10 x 12½ have been found you are lucky — put them aside for gloating over later). Of the 12 x 11½'s some will be of the original issue with 6mm wmk. Ignore the watermark — these are the only 2nd Sidefaces on horizontal mesh paper and that's all you need for identification. All stamps with horizontal mesh can go into safe keeping as fully identified as the earliest issue — but have another look at the faces of the 1d, 2d and 6d. In these, if the background around the head is "muddy" and blurred they are "Die I" — but if the background is clean and clear, giving a pleasant "cameo" effect they are "Die II." For further data on the features of Dies I and II in the 1d, 2d, and 6d see our Catalogue.

We now have left stamps **all perf. 12 x 11½** all with vertical mesh but some will have a tall watermark with 7mm between "NZ" and the top point of the Star, while others have a more squat wmk. with only 4mm between "NZ" and Star. The difference here is very obvious and with a watermark detector is easily seen (the watermarks show up well) but a further guide is that in the squat, "4mm" wmk. the N and the Z are usually widely spaced. This "4mm" paper is the one known loosely as the "Life Insurance" paper, (being first used for those stamps), — it has a rather greasy hard appearance and has pronounced vertical mesh. Note well — the ½d, 4d, 5d and 8d values never appeared on the 4mm paper so do not waste time looking for them. The 1d and 2d on 4mm paper are always each "Die III," but on the 7. paper issues of these values we find Dies II and III (never Die I, which is always on the original paper). The differences between Dies II and III are simply enough understood and are clearly described and illustrated in our Catalogue. All other values (2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 1/-) come on both 4mm and 7mm paper and are worth the effort of distinguishing as the 4mm stamps are the scarcer. In mint and especially in mint blocks all the 12 x 11½ 2nd Sidefaces with the 6mm watermark (horizontal mesh) or the 4mm watermark are excellent property.

At first reading it may seem that I have done little to make the 2nd Sidefaces any easier, but I ask readers to remember the injunction to restrict their main activities — variety wise — to stamps perf. 12 x 11½. If they do, they will find that they have no great quantity to deal with and that is something gained straight away. If they then go mathematically over what I have written they will see that what looked an impossibly difficult job is in fact not so difficult after all. And the rewards are quite considerable at times. "If you aren't in you can't win," so give it a go!

I said I would deal with the 6d separately. As far as the perf. 12 x 11½ stamps go I have already dealt with them but a further point remains. Look through your 6d's perf. 10. Some (very few) may turn out to be Die I, the majority being Die II. Any Die I, perf. 10, are rarities and so are Die II perf. 12 x 11½, so the hunt is well worth the effort.

APPROVAL BOOKS

Our customers' response has been so great that there is a waiting list for the general books. Thus encouraged, we have prepared the following

CHALON HEADS

When we offer our "simplified sets" of Full Face Queens, customers complain that they already have half the stamps. Here is the opportunity to see the earlier issues in sets with each stamp individually priced.

PENNY UNIVERSAL

Books have been made up to provide a representative showing of all printings together with re-entries and some varieties.

1935 PICTORIALS

Re-entries, retouches and varieties are available on the following values: 1d, 2½d, 4d, 5d, 1/-, 2/- and 3/-.

Ask to see any of these series. No obligation is incurred.

NEW ZEALAND OFFERS.

KING GEORGE V.

Recently our lists have neglected the modest and dignified King's Heads issues for more glamorous covers and modern stamps. Devotees of the 1915-26 period have a treat this month, and many collectors who are reaching completion with modern issues could take opportunity from these offers of unusual K.G.V. material of making a flying start on this earlier section.

- 901 The ½d surface printed King's Head stamp produced experimentally on Cowan surfaced paper, December 1915, C.P. K13b, S.G. 499a. A stamp that is seldom seen, but we make a special offer. Mint..... 10/-
Block of four 4C

902 THE 4d YELLOW GEORGE V. C.P. K5a, S.G. 483a.

- (a) Sheets of these stamps were normally perforated 14 x 13½ on the top four rows, 14 x 14½ on the lower six. A few sheets from an early printing were perforated 14 x 13½ throughout. These are very scarce. We have some blocks of four perforated 14 x 13½ from the bottom of the sheet with the selvedge attached. These are pieces of considerable importance and philatelic interest, proving that the whole sheet was perforated with the 14 x 13½ comb head. They are of such scarcity that K.G.V. specialists should not overlook this unique offer of the Mint block of four perf. 14 x 13½ with bottom of selvedge at 22/6
- (b) This is a desirable companion piece to lot (a). A matching block of four of the 4d value C.P. K5b, S.G. 483, perf. 14 x 14½ with bottom selvedge. Immaculate mint and well centred. A stamp with a short life. The Block 17/6

- 903 THE 4d YELLOW RE-ENTRY IN TWO PERF. PAIR. The major re-entry on stamp 4/10 perf. 14 x 13½ in vertical pair with 5/10 perf. 14 x 14½. A highly desirable mint pair £5

TWO PERF. PAIRS. The use of the two comb heads in perforating the sheets produced stamps in vertical pairs, the top one from row 4 having perf. 14 x 13½, the lower from row 5 perf. 14 x 14½. From stock, we can offer in "two perf. pair."

	C.P.	S.G.	Mint	Used
1½d Grey	K1c	479b	10/-	—
1½d "Pictorial" paper	K1f	492b	6/-	—
2d Violet	K2c	480b	10/-	15/-
2d Yellow	K2f	489b	5/-	15/-
2½d Blue	K3c	481b	12/6	—
3d Chocolate	K4c	482b	15/-	20/-
4d Yellow	K5c	483b	10/-	35/-
4½d Green	K6c	484b	25/-	—
6d Carmine	K8c	485b	60/-	70j
7½d Red-brown	K9c	486b	25/-	—
8d Indigo	K10c	515b	15/-	30/-
9d Sage green	K11c	487b	55/-	50/-
1/- Vermilion	K12c	488c	80/-	60/-

We need not dwell on the scarcity of these pairs in used condition. The 9d and 1/- values are not quite as fine as we would wish them to be. This is reflected in their price, but all the used stamps in this section are genuine postally used and not cancelled to order.

904 THE 1d FIELD MARSHAL C.P. K15c, S.G. 539a.

- (a) In 1927 a small quantity of paper for the 1d stamp was surfaced on the wrong side. Stamps printed on this have their watermark reversed. They are met with very infrequently. At the time of this printing an **experimental shade in scarlet** was produced. Here are two superlative rarities guaranteed to be missing from almost every K.G.V. specialist collection. Take this opportunity to buy now, they will not readily be on the market again at these attractive prices. Either stamp mint with watermark reversed. Scarlet 95/-
Rose-carmine 50/-
- (b) Re-entry on the 1d Field Marshal. In laying down the plate for the booklet pane, one impression was out of alignment. A re-entry was made, and the stamp shows doubling in the chevrons on the left hand side, the V pattern at the top, and in the words NEW ZEALAND. We offer used copies of the re-entry stamp each 25/-

905 OFFICIAL OVERPRINTS.

- (a) The surface printed stamps over printed between 1929 and 1934 for official use have a variety (No stop after "official") on stamp 5/24. The ½d, 1d, 1½d brown, 2d and 3d all with variety "No stop" can be supplied in set of five. Mint 70/-
- (b) The set of official overprints on the surface printed King's Head issue without the variety. Eight stamps including values as in (a) plus the 1½d black from both the local and the London plates and the 2/- Mint and all overprinted OFFICIAL 20/-

906 THE ½d SURFACE PRINTED

- (a) This is the stamp printed on Cowan paper and perforated 14 C.P. K13f, S.G. 530a. The variety we offer is imperf. horizontally at the top with full marginal selvage. Scarce, and an item to attract attention on a page of Georges! MINT £4
- (b) A similar variety on the ½d stamp C.P. K13e, S.G. 530. Printed on Cowan paper, perforated 14 x 15, again imperf. at top with marginal selvage. MINT 70/-

907 JUNE 1926. The Provisional Printing. The 2d value perf. 14 x 15 printed on Wiggins Teape paper, C.P. K18g, S.G. 535c. A stamp with a short life and by no means common for a 2d stamp. We offer the variety with watermark inverted, which is even more unusual. (One block of four available pro rata). MINT singles each 15/-

909

- (a) Another variety on the 2d surface printed stamp. The very pleasing lemon shade on Wiggins Teape paper perforated 14 C.P. K18h, S.G. 535d, imperf. at top with marginal selvage. MINT 50/-
- (b) A fine contrasting shade to the above stamp. The 2d perf. 14 on Cowan paper in the rich orange yellow shade. This stamp too is imperforate at top margin. The variety on C.P. K18e, S.G. 533a, seldom seen and a choice item. MINT 50/-

The varieties listed under lots 906 a/b and lots 909 a/b, four outstanding items to make a striking addition to any collection will be supplied at. The four MINT £11 10/-

PLATE PROOFS OF KING GEORGE V.

A quickening interest is evident amongst our customers in these items. A display greatly enhances any issue, proclaims the owner a collector of discernment, and raises the collection above the ordinary.

911 K.G.V. ½d BOOKLET PANE PROOFS.

- (a) A complete block of six with selvedge bars on Single N.Z. Star watermarked paper. Imperf. printed in grey 75/-
- (b) A similar item but printed on card. Block of six imperf. 65/-
- (c) A rather similar piece with selvedge bars on three sides, but two stamps have been removed, leaving it as a block of four 45/-

912 K.G.V. SURFACE PRINTED PLATE PROOFS IN BLOCKS OF FOUR.

- (a) The ½d, 1½d and 2d values from the Perkins Bacon plates printed in black on card imperf. The three blocks of four 90/-
 - (b) Similar plate proofs, but this time the 1½d and 3d values printed in grey-black. The two blocks 60/-
 - (c) The four values ½d, 1½d, 2d and 3d printed in black on N.Z. Star watermarked paper. All the surface printed values from Perkins Bacon plates are represented here in blocks of four £8
 - (d) An interesting curio. The plate proof of the ½d value printed on both sides in grey on gummed watermarked paper. This is not an off-set, but was evidently printed in the first instance on the wrong side. It is also attractive in being the only copy of this value we have seen printed in blue-grey. Block of four 70/-
- 913 1915 Recess plate proofs in black on Cowan unsurfaced paper wmk. N.Z. Star, imperf., gummed, ½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 4½d, 6d, 7½d, 9d and 1/- Ten values £9 10

SOMETHING UNUSUAL FOR THE COLLECTION ?

CONSULT C.P. LTD.

- 908 The 2d on Wiggins Teape paper again. As listed in lot 907, but this stamp has the letter watermark misplaced from the sheet selvedge. Where does C.P. Ltd., find these items!! MINT 12/6

910 THE ADMIRAL 2/- BLUE.

- (a) We cannot over emphasise how difficult this stamp is to find in decent used condition. This elusive high value printed on "Jones" paper. USED 12/6
 - (b) Volume 1 of the Handbook states about one sheet in four had the watermark inverted. A pretty good item! We have some nicely used pairs with inverted watermark. THE PAIR 30/-
 - (c) The 2/- value printed on "Cowan" paper. USED 6/-
- A few pairs and blocks of four are available pro rata.

914 RETOUCH ON THE 1959 HEALTH STAMP.

It is surprising how many varieties are to be found on the 3d + 1d stamp of this issue. On stamp 2/9 there is a prominent white patch to the right of the bird's legs where the background has been re-touched. We offer this in a corner block of four which also shows the sheet value in the margin. A prominent and constant variety at a reasonable price. Block of four. MINT 7/6

- 917 COVERS. We couldn't resist putting these in. They are just what is needed to bring real pep to a display of the 1898 series. Our offer includes ½d Mount Cooks, 1d Universals, 1d Terraces, shades of the 2d Pembroke Peak, four copies in different shades of the 3d Huia's, two fine copies of the 4d Lake Taupo, the 5d Otira George, and a beautiful 6d kiwi. All these are on commercially used covers with a fine range of postal markings. Gladly sent on approval. A total of 25 stamps on 14 covers £5

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Woking, Surrey. Telephone Woking 5887.

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