

NEW ZEALAND BULLETIN

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SMILING BOY, UNRECORDED DIE PROOFS.

BY P. E. COLLINS.

Volume I of the Handbook illustrates on page 405 a proof of the Smiling Boy stamp submitted by the Royal Mint in 1930, incorporating in the design the date 1930. Recently we have seen a series of progress proofs of the 1d + 1d value bearing in pencil various dates in August 1930 and showing considerably more detail than the proof illustrated in the Handbook.

The most striking differences lie in the fact that the leaves and trunks of the palms show details of leaves and bark, there is vertical shading to the left of "New Zealand" and behind the stars, the mountains are shaded, and in the sky, a cloud effect is achieved by horizontal shading introduced above the mountain, though not extending across the whole sky as in the issued stamp. The boy's hair, face and shirt have more detailed shading, and a more attractive frame has been introduced around the date and the word "Health". The series shows how shading came to be added to the design and the boy's features more clearly delineated, it shows in fact a stage by stage development towards the design which, with the date changed to 1931, was finally used for the 1d stamp.

Printing is in black on light card and on paper both surfaced and unsurfaced, suggesting that experimentation was being made to achieve the best possible effect.

One interesting point emerging from this unique series of proofs is that work apparently continued on the die between the time the proof illustrated in the Handbook was sent to New Zealand and October 24th, 1930 when the order to prepare the plate was given to the Mint. The most remarkable aspect of these proofs is that they should come to light over 35 years after being produced.

Readers who are interested in die proofs and the less rare plate proofs are invited to contact us. Some material is advertised elsewhere in this Bulletin, and from time to time we do handle some really outstanding items of this type.

Had you heard that to buy the new N.Z. 2½c stamp, it is necessary to pay 3 cents and, as there is no ½cent coin, accept ½c stamp as "change". Will the post office accept two cents and a ½c stamp in payment for a 2½c stamp? If not, have they any right to give the customer a stamp as "change" in the first place? or if so, does the ½c stamp automatically become legal tender?

BRITISH PHILATELIC EXHIBITION. Mr. Paterson, Mr. Collins and Miss Tutt will be at the British Philatelic Exhibition with material from our fine N.Z. stock. We look forward to meeting old friends and making new ones - November 1st to 4th, Seymour Hall, London.W.1. (Nearest underground Baker St, Marylebone, Edgware Road.)

PLATE PROOFS.

- 410 (a) Chalon Head. 6d Proof in black from the original 1859 plate. Lovely. . . 70/-
- (b) Second Sides. The official "proofs" of the 1882 series 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d (both dies) 8d and 1/- . Set of eight £5
- (c) Redrawn Pictorials. Plate proofs by Perkins Bacon of the 1907 issues in black on watermarked paper. 6d 7/6d... 1/-... 20/-.
- (d) Penny Dominion. Plate proofs in black on thin card (blocks of four available). Each 7/6d
- (e) Edward VII. 1d Kings Head. Plate proofs in black on surfaced or unsurfaced paper. (Blocks of four available). Each 7/6d
- (f) King George V. Surface printed. Plate proofs in black.
 1d on thin card. . .10/- 2d on watermarked paper imperf12/6d
 2d " " " . .10/- 2d " " " " perf15/-
- (g) As above. Recess printed. Plate proofs in black on thin unwatermarked paper.
 3d . . . 7/6d. 4d. . . 7/6d. 1/- . . . 10/-.
- (h) As above. On watermarked paper. 5d12/6d

LIFE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

- 411 (a) 1st August 1947. "Pictorial" Lighthouses. The set as originally issued, 1d. 1d. 2d. 3d. 4d. 6d. 1/- . One used copy and a plate block of each value mounted with full write-up from the official pamphlet on the issue. Attractive and seldom seen - plates of this issue are scarce £5
- (b) 10th July, 1967. The decimal surcharges on the lighthouse series 1c/1d, 2c/2d, 2c/3d, 3c/4d, 5c/6d and 10c/1/- . A special printing was apparently made of the 6d and 1/- for the surcharging, as they appear on fine white Esparto paper which was not used for unsurcharged stamps. The set of six mint 3/3d

MARINE POST OFFICE.

- 412 A registered cover of 1900 from Samoa to Vancouver British Columbia carried on the R.M.S. "Alameda" and backstamped with a clear strike of the "N.Z. MARINE P.O. 26 JAN OO R.M.S. ALAMEDA" handstamp, type 12, page 265, Vol.III. A lovely item for the specialist £22.10s.

1959 RED CROSS MINT.

- 413 C.P. S84a, S.G. 775. A complete mint sheet (20 x 6) of this stamp which of course includes all the varieties, flaws and retouches listed in Vol IV of the Hand-book. R 13/6 is the retouch. 120 stamps mint £6.10s.

Q. E. C O M M E M O R A T I V E S.

S.G.		Mint	Used	S.G.		Mint	Used
714-718	Coronation	8/-	7/-	810-811	Telegraph	4/6d	4/6d
721-722	Royal Visit	1/-	10d	818-819	Railways	5/6d	5/-
739-741	Postal Cent.....	1/6d	1/-	820	Compac	3/-	3/-
745-747	Southland	4/6d	3/9d	821	Road Safety	6d	3d
758-759	Lamb	5/6d	5/6d	826-27	Anzac	2/-	2/-
760	Plunket	6d	3d	828	I.T.U.	1/6d	1/6d
766	Tasman	1/6d	1/6d	829	Churchill	10d	1/-
767	Nelson	5d	4d	830	Wellington	6d	5d
768-770	Hawkes Bay	5/-	5/-	833	I.C.Y.	6d	4d
771	Jamboree	6d	3d	835-37	Parliamentary	12/6d	12/-
772 774	Marlborough	5/-	5/-	838	Scout	6d	4d
775	Red Cross	8d	4d	843-844	P.O.S.B.	1/6d	1/6d
778-780	Westland	6/-	6/-				

N10b. S.G. 732a. The rare 1/- Q.E. Centre Die 1b. Un-noticed when it was on sale,
easily overlooked, elusive and always in demand. MINT.....130/- FINE USED.....40/-
NOT QUITE SO FINE20/-

MODERN VARIETIES

In photogravure printing, many varieties arise through the retouching of small flaws on the plate. Distinctive flaws are found on retouched stamps - they usually need a glass to spot them, but they are of real philatelic interest and comparable with the "plating" characteristics to be found on classic issues. Do not deride them as "fly-speck philately" - these are the varieties which lift a collection out of the ordinary and mark the owner as a student of his hobby.

1959 MARLBOROUGH 2d VARIETIES (All used)

R2/2	Extra dots and lines in the sky under the W of NEW	4/6d
R7/3	Extra lines in the sky under the D of ZEALAND	4/6d
R9/6	Extra dots of shading between the 2nd and 3rd puffs of smoke from the fire counting from the left	4/6d
R14/3	Extra dots in sea to right of the bow, and in the sky below D	7/6d

ANZAC 4d VARIETIES. (All used)

Flaw on 5 of 1915. (position unidentified but apparently constant)	3/6d
R6/2 "Volcano" variety - the left hand mountain is clearly erupting	5/-

1959 RED CROSS VARIETIES. (All used)

R1/1	A small circle on the tip of Greenland	3/6d
R3/2	Six islands in the Falklands Group	3/6d
R4/3	Retouch to shading at top left of flag	3/6d
R11/6	Touching up around the South Pole	3/6d
R15/1	Five islands in the Falklands Group	3/6d
R13/6	Major retouch to shading, lower right corner of flag	8/6d

Q. E. II - Issues from 1953.

DEFINITIVES.

Q. E. PLATE RETOUCHES.

C.P. NV5j. The splendidly executed retouch to the background lines of the 3d (S.G.727) Plate 21, R6/8. The retouching is to the area to left of the Queen's right eye, as illustrated in C.P. Catalogue and in the Handbook, Vol IV. The effect is clearly visible to the naked eye. In block of 4 very scarce, mint. . . 50/-

C.P. NV5p. Similarly fine retouching, this time to the shading in the 'bay' formed by the chin, throat and shoulder. 3d Row 1/14 of Plate 26. Another very fine and scarce variety, mint in block. 50/-

2d Large Figures (S.G.751). A smaller repair - 2d Plate 3, Row 1/21 in top selvage block of four with clear doubling (recutting) of top frame line ---The Block. . . 10/-

Middle Values Centre Plate 2B, Row 6/10 series. Plate 2b was notable for the series of five stages in which Row 6/10 can be found. These are (1) normal, (2) with big flaw on sleeve at right, (3) flaw retouched, (4) a second flaw develops; and (5) a second retouch is effected.

We are fortunate in being able to offer a series of corner plate blocks of 6, all including R6/10 'sleeve' variations, from all four values for which this centre plate was used.

- (a) Plate 1B2B. Block of 6, prior to flaw: 9d value...15/-, 1/9d value 60/-
(b) Plate Block of 6 with original flaw: 1/9d value only 68/-
(c) Plate Block of 6 with first retouch: 1/9d value only 80/-
(d) Plate Block of 6 with second flaw: 1/- value....25/-, 1/6d value 45/-
(e) Plate Block of 6 with second retouch: 1/- value ...40/-, 1/6d value.....40/-,
1/9d value.....60/-
(f) Similar to (e) but 1/9d value only, on thick opaque paper 60/-

1/9d Value Plate 1A Row 5/10 series (Blocks of 8).

In this value on R 5/10 of Plate 1A a prominent flaw developed, affecting the figures '1/9' and the 'NE' of NEW. Later it worsened and finally it was removed - apparently by re-entry or retouch. We can supply the early state on thin paper, the developed state on the thick paper and finally the "clean" state, on the thick paper. A fine series of blocks all with plate numbers "1A 2A" in this scarce stamp ---- Three plate blocks (24 stamps). £8

THE ELIZABETHANS.

HEALTH STAMPS.

	Mint	Used		Mint	Used
1952 Prince Charles, Princess Anne, .	11d	7d.	1959 Poaka and Tete.....	1/-	9d
1953 Scout and Guide	10d	7d.	1963 Prince Andrew	1/4d	1/-
1954 Mt. Aspiring	1/-	7d.	1964 Gull and penguin	1/4d	1/-
1955 Medallion	1/8d	1/6d.	1965 Kaka and fantail	1/2d	1/-
1956 Apple tree	1/8d	1/6d.	1966 Bellbird and weka	1/2d	1/-
1957 Beach scenes.....	1/-	11d.	1967 "All blacks"	1/2d	1/-
1958 Brigade Children	1/-	11d.			

N. Z. NOTES. BY CAMPBELL PATERSON.

An unusual "Harrison" printing.

Not very long before the issue of the Decimals a new plate of the 1/- "Timber" stamp appeared from Harrison & Sons. The Plate numbers were "10B 10C" and Varieties occurring were mentioned in Geoff Perkins note in the August (NZ) Newsletter. What Mr. Perkins did not mention was that the stamps have all the appearance of being printed by a different process from any previous 1/-. The difference is persistent - that is, it prevails throughout the whole of the "10B 10C" stamps. Equally interesting is the fact that in no other Harrison printing is the same effect seen.

The difference between this one issue and anything else from Harrisons is that the effect of clear screen dots, so typical of all Harrison photogravure, is lost and that is achieved (deliberately or by accident), is an almost solid background with nearly total absence of screen dots such as one has always associated with the superb "Courvoisier" photogravure productions of Switzerland. Many collectors will know the effect I mean. It is not easy to describe but, making a shot at it, I would say that instead of a mass of ink, broken up into dots by the lines of the "screen", one gets a sort of "froth" of colour, not exactly solid but certainly not in the form of dots - except perhaps at the extreme edges. Be that as it may, I suspect that this late issue of the 1/- (which is not on chalky paper), was missed by most collectors.

Seeking to solve the problem of this unusual effect emanating from printers who have a distinctive style of their own, I asked someone who has to be nameless but who certainly is in a position to know. I received the impression that the occurrence was news to him but he had no hesitation in stating that the effect (so similar to that on Swiss stamps) was the result of the use of an ink more "fluid" than usual. The extra fluidity meant that under the great pressures used in photogravure the ink overflowed the tiny 'cups' which hold the ink prior to the moment of pressure by the paper. This seems a very likely explanation and I was unable to elicit any suggestion that in anything except the ink this printing had been different from earlier printings. Nevertheless, since the shades are distinct - a brighter, softer green and a paler brown in the later issue - and since we have here a Harrison product quite unlike anything else from them, (though similar to the work of another printer), I think the incidence of this issue is well worthy of mention. It will be given a special footnote in our Catalogue.

1/- Timber - late printing.

(See notes above)

1/- Timber in new lighter green and paler brown than earlier issues and from Plate 10B 10C, with unusual features. Per stamp, mint or used 4/6d

As above the Plate Block 10B 10C 25/-

As above; Variety R7/7 (see Aug. Newsletter) in block of four 30/-

Note: Clients on our New Variety service lists who regularly take such items will receive an offer of the variety block at a special price. Plate blocks have already been distributed at normal "new plates" prices, some time ago, to those whose names are on our "Plates" lists.

M I N T A R M S.

Cowan Paper. Single Watermark.

544b	1/3d lemon	10/-	544t	40/- purple	£75
544c	1/3d orange	15/-	544u	50/- red	£50
544f	5/- green	30/-	544w	70/- rose	£200
544h	7/- blue	40/-	544y	90/- grey	£120
544l	9/- orange	60/-	545d	35/- on 35/-	£12
544q	25/- blue	£40			

Wiggins Teape Paper. Multiple Upright Wmk.

634	1/3d yellow	6/-	648	30/- brown	£30
635	2/6d brown	6/-	650	£2 violet	£8
636	4/- red	8/6d	652	£3 green	£16
637	5/- green	10/-	654	£5 blue	£45
638	6/- rose	12/6d	657	3/6d on 3/6d	£1
641	8/- slate	20/-	657a	3/6d on 3/6d	£5
642	9/- orange	20/-	659	11/- on 11/-	£6
643	10/- pink	20/-			

Wiggins Teape Paper. Multiple Inverted Wmk.

634Ea	1/3d yel.& blk.	6/-	652Ei	£3 green	80/-
634Ec	1/3d yel.& blue	20/-	653a	£4 blue	120/-
640	7/6d grey	60/-	654Ei	£5 indigo	130/-
648Ei	30/- brown	£30	657Ei	3/6d on 3/6d	£8
650Ei	£2 purple	55/-			

Unsurfaced Paper. Perf 14 x 13½.

634d	1/3d wmk. uprt.	5/-
634Ei	1/3d wmk. inv.	30/-
646a	£1 (scarce)	£8

4d PUARANGI

C.P. 06b. S.G. 786a. The 4d on chalky paper. A major New Zealand rarity - about 50 are believed to exist. We have a few mint copies - very few. A gap you will want to fill - do not miss it - unrepeatable.

Price on application.

*** STOP PRESS ***** A FEW USED COPIES AVAILABLE *****

In 1963 our old friend and client Mr. A. B. Johnstone of Edinburgh had a series of notes on the 1946 Peace Issue published in Stamp Collecting. Of particular interest, and I think unknown to most collectors of N.Z., were some facts about the 1d value that Mr. Johnstone had himself uncovered, the confirmation of his findings, given by the printer, was quite a triumph. The result of his studies was that it became established that a new roller (transfer) die had been used after the laying down of the first five plates; as this is recognisable Mr. Johnstone's work fully warrants repetition. With due acknowledgement to Stamp Collecting (of which publication our firm are N.Z. Agents), the relevant notes appear below. In parenthesis I may say that although attention is called to several points of interest the best and easiest seen is the point of the figure "1".....

1946 Peace 1d Roller Dies.
by A.B.Johnstone.

The 1d value was recess-printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. Ltd. and shows Parliament House, Wellington, with a portrait of King George VI inset on the left-hand side. The stamps were perforated $13\frac{1}{2} \times 13$ and had the multiple NZ and Star watermark upright. Again, copies may be found with the watermark inverted and they are very scarce indeed. The shade throughout was bright green and variations were slight.

Plates numbering 1 to 11 were prepared and the plate numbers together with the printer's imprint, appear in the bottom margin below stamps Nos 1 and 2. No printings were made from plate No. 6 which was destroyed and a recent study of stamps from the other plates has revealed some interesting features.

In plates 1 to 5 there is a progressive weakening of the design down the left-hand side of the stamps, particularly in the shading lines of the hair and forehead above the ear, the outline of the jaw level with the mouth, the right-hand end of the horizontal shading lines immediately below the ear, and the extreme left tip of the top of the figure 1. However, in plates 7 to 11 none of these weaknesses are apparent which suggested that the damage had progressed sufficiently by plate 6 as to warrant its destruction and that a new impression on the transfer roller had been taken up to lay down the later plates, 7 to 11.

An enquiry to the printers confirmed that this weakness did exist, that plate 6 was defective and that plates 7 to 11 were subsequently laid down after a new transfer roll had been taken up.

The sheets were of 240 stamps in 12 horizontal rows of 20 and nearly 108 million were overprinted for use in the New Zealand dependencies.



PHILATELIC FAUX PAS.

The number plate of the truck on the 1st Chamber of Commerce issue, 1936 is of a type used for cars - not heavy vehicles.

The Traffic Policeman scratched his head,
The driver said "I'm sorry,
This number plate should be on my car,
And not the - - - -lorry".

A.B.J.

Some scarce old "Slogans" - on covers.

414

A really attractive and very unusual lot of seven old and scarce slogans on complete covers dating from 1912 to 1926. Included are slogans for the Auckland (1913) and Dunedin (1925) International Exhibitions - also one for a "New Zealand" Exhibition in Christchurch in 1922. Others are "Send a Plunket Nurse" (see this month's comment); a Christchurch, N.Z. "Visit the British Empire Exhibition 1924" (Wembley, that was!) and two other none-too-common slogans of Christchurch and Auckland in 1925/26. The nostalgic lot of seven £7.10s.0d

COMMENT. by CAMPBELL PATERSON.

Unusual Slogan. We have - as one of a series of old "slogans" offered above in this Bulletin - a curious Auckland example reading "Send a Plunket Nurse to Palestine/ Visit Eastern Garden Fair Town Aug 16-17". I am aware that this slogan is duly recorded in the Handbook, Vol III, but history does not relate why anyone should have been so anxious to send a Plunket Nurse (i.e. a baby's nurse) all the way from N.Z. to Palestine in 1921! One can't help wondering how many were "sent" (did they volunteer or were they shanghaied?) and how many of the poor girls ever saw home again! Probably it was no subject for joking - there was distress no doubt (as now!) in Palestine after World War I in the early days of the British Mandate; there would be a great need of nurses - but can anyone supply fuller details? The slogan must surely be rare as it was in use for four weeks only, in 1921. It probably reflects the good old family co-operation, the friendship and mutual respect that made the old Commonwealth so pleasant and worth while. This is straying from philately but I hope I may be forgiven for saying that the deterioration of what was a unique association of peoples reflects no credit on British politicians. No doubt "togetherness" with former enemies is splendid - but must it necessarily mean the throwing over of old friends? A pretty poor exchange, I'd say!

MODERN VARIETIES.

S.G.			
5163Ea	Q.E. 4d Blue Official printed on the gummed side. Mint (S.G.£50).	..	£30
787	"Crazy Daisy". 5d Enormous colour shift of the yellow centre	..	7/6d
699a	1949 Health 2d + 1d. No stop below "D"	..	25/-
758Ea	1957 Lamb Export. Inverted watermark	..	20/-
759 V2	1957 Lamb Export 8d. Date Flaw. R8/11 or R10/1	..	30/-
777Eb	1959 Health. Poaka with four legs. Pink printing shifted	..	£5
816 V9	1963 Health. 3d + 1d Flaw on hand	..	70/-
	ditto ditto Flaw touched out	..	17/6d
817 V10	1963 Christmas. "Nosebag" variety R3/8	..	12/6d
821 V12	1964 Road Safety. "Apostrophe" flaw R3/2 in block of six	..	12/-
826 V15	1965 Anzac. "Sail on beach" R9/4 in block of four	..	10/-
833E4	1965 I.C.Y. Inverted watermark	..	50/-
838	1966 Scout. Retouch of top corner design on Row 2. Block of 12	..	15/-
843	1967 P.O.S.B.4d. Retouch on neck. R1/1 in block of four	..	3/6d
	ditto Retouches R4/20 and R5/19. Block of four	..	3/6d
844	ditto 9d Retouched background R3/7 in block of six	..	10/-