

THE KIWI



Vol.1. No.4

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THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN

A New N.Z. Variety

The 8d pictorial, "Tuatara", in multiple watermark perf $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$, is a very scarce stamp; about 9 to 12 copies are known and all are postmarked WHANGAREI.

Mr. Paterson of Auckland has been sent a mint copy, from a London dealer, of the 8d value, $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ in the sepia shade overprinted official, but in this case it is on the single watermark paper, a stamp hitherto not known to exist; of course, this may prove to be a forged overprint, although the overprint on this stamp measures exactly with the official overprint. Our N.Z. "Royal" Society have now organized a panel of judges to pass an opinion on the genuineness of any N.Z. stamp and it will be interesting to hear their verdict, if it is submitted to them.

There is a possibility this stamp could be genuine: an office stocking 8d. Pics single wmk. could be closed down and the stamps returned to Head Office and one or more sheets overprinted official from this returned stock. This occurred when some military post offices were closed during the war, and they may have had some early stock of pictorials, although the time lag is rather large: the single wmk. 8d. was just issued in 1935 but it was on issue for some years; the 8d Tuatara mult.wmk. overprints official $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ was first issued March 1938; but it is not impossible that some post offices still had some single wmk. stamps in stock after the issue of multiple wmk. stamps. It would be as well if collectors looked through their 8d. official to see if another copy can be found.

I have seen and owned forged official overprints on N.Z. stamps, but in every case the letters did not exactly resemble the official "form", being more cramped and rougher. I have a 5/- Mt. Cook overprinted official in the 10 perf, a stamp that does not exist; the printing of official is cramped and shorter than the genuine overprint, easily recognised as a forgery.

The 2d. Edward is known overprinted official by the official "form" but not considered a genuine issue.



Edited and produced by R.W. Lees,
113, Buckland Way,
Worcester Park,
SURREY.



The New Zealand "Penny Universal"

Many stamp collectors, when confronted with the various perforations and papers found in the 1d. Universal stamps, are somewhat dismayed at the thought of identifying them all. Some people used to think that even in those days, there may have been a ramp somewhere to cause the rapid changes which took place in this stamp. This was not the case; it was the result of experiments to find the most suitable paper and perforation. It is amusing, however, to read the comments in the "London Philatelist" of fifty years ago.

"1901, Issue of a new design of penny and halfpenny stamps ... with the introduction of a new perforating machine gauging 14, used in conjunction with the old one gauging 11 in charming variety, in the course of a few months no less than four distinct papers...a combination of varieties has been made that must disgust anyone but their speculative owners".

PLATES 1, 2 & 3. Paper made by ALEX.PIRIE & CO.

Plates 1, 2 and 3 were made by Waterlow & Co., and sent out to New Zealand, where the stamps were printed at the Government Printing Office, Wellington.

First, it is best to identify the paper used for the printings from these Plates, and then to consider the Plates themselves. The first paper used in New Zealand for the Penny Universal stamps was made by Alex.Pirie & Co., though for many years this paper was believed to have been made by Waterlow, and is so named in the N.Z.Handbook, Vol.1. Some catalogues still give the name Waterlow, but I think this might well be changed to the correct name. The Pirie paper is normally thick and soft, there was one small supply which was slightly thinner but still had the soft, felt-like feel characteristic of the main supply. The watermark consists of the double-lined N.Z. and star, very occasionally found inverted or reversed, but this is of little help in identification of the paper as it is not easily seen. One valuable trait, however, is that this Pirie paper always has a vertical mesh which is clearly shown when the stamp is examined either by transmitted light, or when light shines at an angle across the back of the stamp. If anyone is in doubt about this paper the best thing to do is to buy a stamp from a reliable source. Keep it clearly marked as a sample, handle it frequently, sometimes with eyes shut, and before long one will be in no doubt about its origin. The soft, warm, supple feel will be known at once by one's fingers.

Plates 1, 2 and 3 were used for the printings on Pirie paper. I do not know the date on which each Plate was brought into use; I have a copy of Plate 3 dated 19th Feb. 1901, so it would appear that all three Plates were used at about the same time. Perhaps one of our Members could give this information. For convenience I have numbered the impressions on the transfer roller. (1) Showing the minute dot above the left-hand corner of the value tablet. (2) With the very small dot just below the three central pearls on the left. (3) and (4). Have no special distinguishing marks.

PLATE 1.

When Waterlow were laying down this Plate, they must have used two or three of the impressions on the transfer roller. No.1 appears to have been used for Rows 1,2,3,4 and 5 Nos.16 to 24, as these stamps on the printed sheet show the characteristic dot. The other stamps on the sheet show no special mark, so this portion of the Plate must have been laid down from either one or both impressions (3) and (4).

It would be interesting to know why Waterlow laid the Plate down in this manner. A large number of stamps show vertical guide-lines; only a few show horizontal ones.

There are nine re-entries shown in certain letters of the words "NEW ZEALAND" "UNIVERSAL POSTAGE" and "ONE PENNY". The Handbook Vol.1, gives their positions. Row 1/ Nos.16 and 24. Row 2/ No.17. Row 4/ No.24. Row 7/ No.17. Row 9/ Nos.18 and 24. Row 10/ Nos. 8 and 9.

PLATE 2.

Stamps on the sheet printed from this Plate show no identification marks and it is presumed the Plate must have been laid down from either one or both impressions (3) and (4). I should like to know why, if the dots on impressions (1) and (2) are guide dots, Waterlow considered them necessary in one position and not in another. I have written to Waterlow on this subject and hope for elucidation.

Vertical guide-lines are frequent, on only three stamps are horizontal guide-lines found. The Handbook gives the following re-entries: Row 1/ No.1. Row 5/ No.20. Row 6/No.2. Row 6/No.21. Row 7/No.12. Row 8/No.4. Row 9/No.11. Row 10/No.16.

PLATE 3.

This Plate was laid down from impression (2), so the stamps from this Plate are usually easy to identify, except when the Plate was worn, and the dot was very faintly seen. There are many vertical guide-lines, but only traces of the horizontal lines are found. There are no re-touches and only six cases of re-entries. The Handbook gives these: Row 3/No.1. Row 4/No.19. Row 5/No.24. Row 6/No.14. Row 7/No.16. Row 8/No.24.

The ink used for the Pirie stamps was carmine in colour, a rich warm tone without the cherry-red brilliance so often found in the later stamps. Stamps printed with aniline coloured ink are not common in the Pirie printings, but those which there are usually have the back of the stamp strongly dyed. For the rare deep carmine-lake stamp ink from the bottom of the tin, containing some black, was used. Some stamps have a dull, paler look; these are under-inked copies.

As can be seen in the extract from the London Philatelist, two perforating machines were used, one gauging 11, the other 14. The machine gauging 11 was used in February 1901; in November of that year the new machine gauging 14 was brought into use. Some sheets of stamps badly perforated by the gauge 14 machine, had strips of paper gummed along the back of the faulty perforations and then they were re-perfed by the gauge 11 machine. These stamps are referred to as having mixed perforations. Double perforations are found in stamps printed on this paper, also stamps imperforate vertically but perforated either 11 or 14 horizontally.

The gum used for most of the stamps was thick, shiny yellow with a smooth surface; there was one lot used which had a dull appearance and rough surface due to air bubbles. In some cases this was so poor that the sheets had to be re-coated, with the result that the gum was very thick and cracked badly. Later a poor quality gum with a dull smooth surface was used.

E.C.M. MOORE.

Last month a mistake occurred in paragraph 7; the words "PENNY UNIVERSAL" were used. It should, of course, have been "UNIVERSAL POSTAGE".

PHILATELIC QUIZ ON THE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND

Set by S. W. SALMON

1. London is represented on these three New Zealand stamps.
2. This land feature sounds as if the inhabitants were "Hard Up".
3. It sounds as if the Roundheads might have settled here.
4. It was misspelt but afterwards corrected in the same issue.
5. A bird which cannot fly turns its back to a darkened sky.
6. This full stop is desirable when missing.
7. It is hoped you will endeavour to find this ship.
8. Five regal personages on this stamp.
9. Was a British aircraft named after the occupant of this stamp.
10. It is featured on a New Zealand stamp; It is a South Coast Landmark.
11. The King of the jungle is shown on four stamps of this issue.
12. Did a Bishop place his headdress on the feature shown on this stamp?

CHALON HEADS

BY F. STACEY HOOKER

The 2d. plate 2 of the full face issue is a stamp which is one of the most interesting studies of this issue, and as it is a cheap stamp it does not absorb much money to make a specialized collection. I have an entire proof sheet in black, 240 stamps, being one of those given by the Postal Authorities to Mr. Hausburg when he was in New Zealand in 1905, and it enables one to see the exact stage of the plate after it had been retouched. The plate was sent out to the Colony by Perkins Bacon & Co., being taken from the original die made by them in 1855 due to the first plate being worn out.

A study of this second plate reveals some interesting varieties, as follows:-

A guide line placed vertically at the top and bottom of the sheet appears between the 6th and 7th stamp; also at the top another line is just above the frame of the 6th stamp.

At the bottom a line appears at the foot of the 7th stamp, also a cross under the guide line between the 6th and 7th stamp.

I have specimens of these stamps with the guide lines and collectors should look for them.

I also have stamps from row 19 No.11 which give to the Queen a very bulbous nose. It is quite a prominent variety and, of course, occurs once in every 240 stamps (S.G.133), which is priced at 12/6, so that if arithmetic means anything in philately, the variety should be £150! I wonder!

A graver slip extending from the 4th blob of colour on the ermine of the Queen's bodice in No.5 of row 3.

A strong line of colour crosses the Queen's forehead in No.5 of row 5.

A diagonal scratch is on the plate extending from the top of the stamp across the Queen down to the ermine of the bust. This is No.4 of row 14.

In addition to the above varieties there are some 35 or more stamps which have been retouched - many very heavily. This was due to the plate having been nickel-plated, and the deposit of nickel flaking off. Actually it would be better if the plate had been left alone as the retouching, which was very badly done, made matters worse. The retouched stamps are S.G.115A, 133A and 134A, etc.

The shades in which the 2d blue exist are many owing to the large quantity of printings.

I have examples of the following varieties:-

Perf.10 x 12½; Perf.12½ x imperf; Double perforation; Double print; Double frame at top; Vertical line from Crown to chin; Watermark frame lines (not star); Accidental imperforate.

There are a number of collectors who only collect this stamp (blue and orange) mostly in New Zealand itself. One man has some thousands which include the many interesting post marks which are to be found.

This plate was first used about December 1865, having been sent away from England in April; the delay in putting it into use was probably caused by Davies deciding to nickel plate it. Some 10,000,000 of the blue 2d. were printed and the paper varied in thickness and from soft to hard.

Letters to the Editor

Sir,

1936/43 ½d. FANTAIL

Answering Mr. Lees' question in No. 3 of "THE KIWI", I have three copies of this stamp, each showing traces of this flaw. Two of them show spots of light which are apparently related to the flaw; they have no definable shape, but are clearly visible to the naked eye. The third has the flaw that Mr. Lees illustrates, but with the addition of three further flaws. These are:-

1. A spot of white (in the same block of colour) directly below the illustrated flaw but to the right of and below the tip of the bird's wing.
2. In the dark green below the extended petal of the top left flower, i.e., below the 'R' in REVENUE. This looks like a nebulous spot of light. Evidence of this flaw is seen in the other two stamps.
3. In the dark green space at the top right corner of the stamp a series of faint white lines resembling the "doodle". This may be related to error No. 6 noted in Hugh Bramsdon's article in No. 1 of "THE KIWI".

This flaw would appear to offer Mr. Lees a fine field of study, the results of which would be appreciated by all readers of our journal.

H. H. BANBURY.

* * *

Dear Sir,

I recently acquired a mint block of the 8d. Ed. VII, perf. 14/14½. It is a top marginal block with double perforations in the selvedge and along the top of the stamps. Although quite clear, the holes overlap. Any information on this will be very welcome. Another mystery which I would like cleared up, is a mint block of six of the ½d. newspaper stamp S.G. 150, perf. nearly 12, with an inverted off-set on the back of each stamp. Although faint, the off-set is quite clear.

RUSSELL R. WRIGHT.

* * *

WANTED

N.Z. 253 or 254 with 255 or 256 used on one cover ("Wakitiyu" and "Wakatipu") also early Health Souvenir covers.

G. B. ERSKINE.

EXTRACTS FROM PHILATELIC BULLETIN OF THE NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE

No. 1 - 5th MAY, 1952

"KING GEORGE VI" STAMPS: New printings of the 2d. value were released as follows:- Plate 142: 14th January, 1952; Plate 143: 1st April, 1952. The colour of these printings is much paler than that of the recent printings and more like the yellow-orange of the first releases.

In the latest printing of the 1s. denomination, a new centre plate, 4, has been used in conjunction with frame plate 2. Printed on paper with upright watermark, this stamp was issued on the 14th January, 1952. There is no change in the colour of the frame but the centre is now a dark, almost sepia, brown.

The 1s. 3d. value has appeared for the first time with upright watermark. The new centre plate, 4, as used for the 1s. denomination, was used with frame 2 in this printing. The colour of the centre is the same as that in the latest printing of the 1s. value, but the frame colour is a much brighter blue than previously, giving sharper definition of the design. The date of issue was the 14th January, 1952.

The 2d. denomination from plate 140 and overprinted "Official" was released on the 13th February, 1952.

EXTRACTS FROM PHILATELIC BULLETIN OF THE N.Z. POST OFFICE (contd.)

HEALTH STAMPS: The 1951 Health Stamps were withdrawn from sale on the 31st January, 1952. The numbers sold were:-
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + $\frac{1}{2}$ d.: 5,100,013; 2d. + 1d.: 6,122,628.

The 1952 Health Stamps, which are to be released early in October, will portray Prince Charles on the higher value and Princess Anne on the lower. Only on one previous occasion - in 1943 - has a separate subject been used for each value.

The denominations will be the same as last year, i.e., 2d. postage plus 1d. Health and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. postage plus $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Health, the colours being Chocolate and pale claret, respectively.

SOUVENIR HEALTH COVERS: The special Souvenir Health covers provided annually by the Federation of Health Camps will not in future be distributed free through post offices. Instead they will be obtainable only through retail stationers and stores and purchasers will be charged 1d. for each envelope. The making of a small charge for these covers has often been advocated as a means of effecting a more equitable distribution. The new covers should be available from stationers and storekeepers several weeks before the stamps are placed on sale, but to ensure that supplies are available persons or firms requiring large numbers of covers should place their orders with their stationer or storekeeper as early as possible.

Overseas collectors and dealers, when ordering "Health" first-day covers to be supplied and serviced by the Stamps Division should include in their remittance the cost of the covers (1d. each) in addition to the servicing fee ($\frac{1}{2}$ d. each cover).

Apart from those covers which the Stamps Division will obtain for the satisfaction of orders from overseas clients, souvenir envelopes will not be held at post offices for purchase by the public.

WELLINGTON SHOW AND INDUSTRIAL FAIR: A special post office will be opened at the Wellington Show and Industrial Fair for the period 8th-31st May, inclusive. The special date-stamp provided for use at the "Fair" post office will read "Show & Industrial Fair" in the top arc, "Wellington" in the lower portion with "N.Z." immediately above, and the date line across the centre.

Persons who desire covers to be impressed with the special date-stamp should send stamped-addressed envelopes to the Chief Postmaster, Wellington, with a suitable request.

CAMPBELL ISLAND: It is proposed to establish a post office at Campbell Island when the next ship visits the island, probably about the end of May.

IDENTIFICATION OF PAPER VARIETIES IN NEW ZEALAND PICTORIAL STAMPS
1935 to 1947 - K.J. McNAUGHT

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To date for the Pictorial Issue which appeared in 1935 the following papers have been used:-

- (1) Wiggins Teape single or "registered" watermarked Esparto paper.
- (2) Wiggins Teape single watermarked rag paper used for certain printings of the 5d. and 9d. values.
- (3) Jones Esparto paper with multiple watermarks or "All-over" watermark.
 - (a) Early paper with pronounced mesh.
 - (b) Later smooth paper with less distinct mesh.
 - (c) Thicker paper used for the 9d. printed by the lithographic offset process from plates made by Messrs. Coulls Somerville Wilkie Ltd., Dunedin.
 - (d) Wartime Esparto-rag (mixtures of rag and Esparto sometimes with some wood-pulp).

- (4) Jones wartime half wood-pulp - half rag paper ("Woodpulp" paper).
- (5) Wiggins Teape single watermarked chalk-surfaced paper used for the latest plates of the 9d. value.
- (6) Wiggins Teape multiple watermarked chalk-surfaced paper as used for the latest printings of the 9d. stamp.

First separate all stamps which must fall into one category only and can be identified by other methods than paper differences.

- (1) All $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 3d. Official stamps can only be the one paper, multiple watermark, esparto.
- (2) Sort out all the remaining stamps into perforation varieties as follows: (R = registered or "single" watermark, M = multiple; E = esparto; W = woodpulp).
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Perforation does not assist.
 - 1d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. Comb. perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ (looks like a line perf.) (Not $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$) must be R.
 - 2d. P. $12\frac{1}{2}$; 14 or 14×15 (Line perfs.) Must be M.E.
 - $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. Comb. perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ (like a line perf.) must be R. Line or Comb. p.14 are ME; comb. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ are M.W (see note under 5d. value). All Officials are ME.
 - 3d. Perforation does not assist.
 - 4d. In single watermark stamps the perforation resembles a line perf. 14 but the perforation is not a certain guide and confirmatory evidence is required. True line perf. 14 and all perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ stamps are ME; All p. $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ are MW; all official stamps p. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ are ME.
 - 5d. All p. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ are R (registered watermark, esparto); all p. $12\frac{1}{2}$ are multiple but in this case both E & W papers are found; all p. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ are MW. (Note the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d, 5d, 2/-, and 3/- p. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ should not be confused with the irregular 13 to $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ perforation).
 - 6d. All p. $12\frac{1}{2}$ are ME; all p. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ are M (both E & W occur); all official stamps p. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ are ME.
 - 8d. All p. $12\frac{1}{2}$ are ME; all $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ MW; any official stamps p. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ can only be the rare ME variety.
 - 9d. Official stamps p. $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ (green overprint) are ME; p. 14×15 (black overprint) are on Wiggins Teape Chalk-surfaced multiple watermarked paper.
 - 1/- . All p. $12\frac{1}{2}$ are ME.
 - 2/- . P. $12\frac{1}{2}$ are M (both E & W occur); All p. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ (see note after 5d.) are MW. Officials irregular perf. 13 to $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ and p. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ are ME.
 - 3/- . All $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$ are R; all $12\frac{1}{2}$ are ME; all $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ (see note after 5d.) are MW.
- (3) Among the remaining stamps separate the following:-
 - (a) All 8d. P. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ with upright watermark are ME. (usually, however, the watermark is very difficult to see on the 8d. p. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$ and confirmatory evidence may be needed).
 - (b) All 9d. p. 14×15 on unsurfaced paper are ME. These are also the only 9d. stamps with sideways watermark.
 - (c) All 9d. p. $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$ with pale coloured frame (not black) are ME.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

It has been decided to put the back page of THE KIWI at the disposal of any member who wishes to advertise anything he may wish to sell. Rates will be 20/- per page or pro rata per inch. Advertisements will be kept to back page only, so that any member wishing to file his copies without advertisements will need only to remove the page.

All articles, letters, etc., intended for inclusion in the next issue of THE KIWI must be sent to reach the Editor by July 23rd.

SECRETARY'S NOTES

MEMBERSHIP is now 93. If all members who belong to their local clubs will make an effort to bring the Society to their notice, it should be possible to reach the 100 mark before KIWI 5 appears.

A. G. M. NOVEMBER 15. A postal auction will be held in conjunction with the A.G.M. Full details will be given later; this brief note is to give all members time to look out some lots. Lots donated to the Society will be very welcome.

CLUB PACKET: This is now beginning to speed up. It is hoped that all members will endeavour to pass it on as quickly as possible. More books are urgently required by Mr. Hard, if we are to maintain a monthly packet.

STUDY GROUPS: It is hoped that now the Society is under way, study groups will be formed. I am interested in the formation of a group to cover the 35/43 pictorials; if any members are interested will they write me. If members wishing to form groups covering other stamps or interest will also write, I will see that each member is put in touch with others wishing to study those stamps.

GENERAL MEETINGS: A successful general meeting was held on the 21st June. Mr. Hopkins gave a fine display, mostly of the first pictorials. Although attendance was small all members present found it a most pleasant and informative afternoon.

GENERAL MEETING, JULY 23rd, will be held at 151, City Road, E.C.1, at 6.30 p.m. A reminder and details will be sent a few days prior to meeting.

B. P. A. The Committee has applied for affiliation to the B.P.A. If successful, it will be of great usefulness both to the Society and to individual members.

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NEW MEMBERS TO 25th JUNE

F. Course Esq., Box 219, Hamilton, N.Z.

Miss P.A. Winchester, Withington, Manchester, 20.

ADVERTISEMENTS

I have separate specialized collections of Tasmania, N.S.W., S.Australia, Victoria and Queensland, which I desire to sell or exchange for full face N.Z. stamps.

Anyone interested write:

F. Stacey Hooker,
21, Vineyard Hill Road,
WIMBLEDON, S.W.19.

FOR SALE - Set of mint Blocks with Plate Nos. of Centennial Issue including 7d. value. Offers to:

R.W. Lees,
113, Buckland Way,
WORCESTER PARK, SURREY.