

# KING GEORGE VI VARIETIES

## Part 24—New Zealand Peace Issue

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Continued

Part 23 (*GSM* February 1992) described the varieties to be found on the ½d. and 3d. values of the 1946 New Zealand Peace Issue printed by Waterlow and Sons Ltd. This section in the series will be concerned with the 4d., 5d. and 6d. values printed by the same security printer.

### Four Pence

**Shades.** Bronze-green and orange was the NZPO description. *Commonwealth* favours olive and deep orange. 'Part 1' agrees with the NZPO and Robson Lowe keeps to green and orange. The RPSNZ account in *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* mentions that early consideration was given by the selection committee to old gold or khaki for the frame colour, but having seen a proof the post office reverted to the original choice, bronze-green and orange. It also notes that there is a considerable variation of the frame colour with a portion of the printing in orange and another in a distinctive orange-vermilion. In addition, where the inking was inefficient sheets appeared in pale orange with patches of white where the colour was normally solid. The centre for the bulk of the printing was bronze-green and did vary in intensity, while it is not unusual to find stamps showing peculiar toning of the bottom of the tank and tractor in the vignette, caused by surplus ink not being removed properly. Campbell Patterson lists the shades as grey-green and orange and grey-green and vermilion.

**Plate Numbers and Markings.** Two centre plates were made, numbered 42788 and 42789, and two frame plates, 42787 and 42795. Sheets show the conventionally positioned centre plate horizontal guide lines between the seventh and eighth rows at the lower right corner of the first stamp and the lower left on the eighth, sometimes similar faint lines appear between the sixth and seventh rows. Frame plate lines and dots occur between the sixth and seventh rows. In addition, sheets from FP 42795 show lines at each end of the seventh and eighth rows. Vertical frame plate lines show between the middle stamps in the top and bottom rows. Sheets printed from FP 42795 show a cross between the seventh and eighth rows and the fourth and fifth stamps. On the other plate a vertical line replaces the cross.

**T-Marks.** A sideways 'T'-mark can be found on R12/5 from CP 42788. The mark is on the hill to the right of the hay-stack (*Fig 1*). Others sometimes occur in the centre of the left edge of the vignette. They are small and well hidden, as the vertical line of the sideways 'T' usually runs up the inner right frame line. Nevertheless, they can be picked out with the naked eye because of the contrast in colour. The horizontal line is in line with the line of shading that passes



*The 5d. Peace stamp (SG 673) depicts the cruiser HMS Achilles and the liner Dominion Monarch. The 4d. and 6d. values (SG 672 & 674) are illustrated on our front cover*

under the barrel of the tank's gun, with a dotted line of shading immediately above level with the muzzle (*Fig 2*). I have examples from the second, fourth and fifth vertical columns of a sheet. The difference in size between the two 'T'-marks is noteworthy, as is the constant break in the horizontal on R12/5.

**Centre Plate Varieties.** On R10/3 from CP 42788 the front of the tractor, the thatch on the stack, the stubble to the right of the tractor and the ploughed furrows in the foreground together with the shading lines of the hill and the sky all show doubling, thus indicating a re-entry (*Fig 3*). A similar instance of doubling also affects R14/5 on sheets from CP 42789, but is more difficult to identify. R2/2 from the same plate has signs of doubling in front of the tank and the inside of the left front track is darker than normal. Further along the row on the seventh stamp, the vertical lines on the side and the sloping lines at the top of the two haystacks show doubling, as well as the furrows and stubble under and near the tractor which has a darker appearance without the signs of definite doubling already noted on R12/5 from CP 42788.

**Other Varieties.** Some sheets had double perforations on the top row and these are listed by Campbell Patterson, the 'Blurred Centre' and 'Watermark Inverted' are also listed—all are highly rated.

### Five Pence

**Shades.** The NZPO called the colours green and ultramarine. *Commonwealth* and 'Part 1' accept green, but prefer bright ultramarine for the vignette. Robson Lowe lists green and blue and Campbell Patterson selects three shades of green to go with ultramarine. They are: green, pale green and emerald green. The RPSNZ notes that the selected colour for the centre was bluish green, but on issued sheets this varies from blue-green to deep green. The account also notes that, 'in one sheet the centre appeared to have more yellow ink, but in addition the whole of the design was

blurred and it has been suggested that this was a double print, one impression being albino'.

**Plate Numbers and Markings.** There were two centre plates—42792 and 42849, and two frame plates—42794 and 42850. Sheets show the usual plate markings.

**T-Marks.** On some sheets from FP 42794 a short horizontal line shows adjacent to the 'V' and 'E' of 'REVENUE' (*Fig 4*). These are most probably the remains of a sideways 'T' with the vertical well hidden in the wide frame lines. Indeed, I have an example on R10/7 where the sideways 'T' shows clearly (*Fig 5*). On the other frame plate there are similar lines to the right of the 'S' and 'T' of 'POSTAGE' on R9/6 and 10/6 (*Fig 6*).

**Centre Plate Varieties.** What was most probably a deep scratch, affecting R8/1 from CP 42849, shows as a strong line of colour slanting to the left from the top of the mast of the SS *Dominion Monarch* into the sea (*Fig 7*). *Commonwealth* lists the flaw and calls it 'The Trailing Aerial'. In addition, close scrutiny with a strong glass will reveal that the vertical lines of the HMNZS *Achilles* are slightly doubled, causing the area to appear darker than normal. The same plate was re-entered at R4/3 and doubling shows in the lines of the sky, which have a fuzzy appearance, and in the waves to the left of the *Dominion Monarch*. There is evidence of a very strong re-entry on R14/1 from CP 42792 where the bow, mast, superstructure, funnels and smoke all show clear doubling. The most prominent identifying feature is the double bow (*Fig 8*). It is always worth looking at a lower left corner block of four or more...

**Frame Plate Varieties.** Examples of retouching the horizontal lines above 'NEW ZEALAND' can be found on sheets printed from FP 42850. The clearest occurs on R2/7 where there is a solid blob of colour over 'NE' of 'NEW' (*Fig 9*). The bottom lines on R9/2 have been recut and are reminiscent of the Malta 1d. mentioned in Part 7 of this series (*GSM* February 1988). It is very difficult to illustrate a well executed, but identifiable, re-entry. Most of those that follow affect either the left or right side of the design of the 5d. and *Fig 10* and *Fig 11* show the normal state. The strengthening and doubling of the letters and frame lines in the other illustrations can thus be identified by comparison. R10/7 shows strong doubling on the right side of the inner right frame line, which is the identifying feature (*Fig 12*), while the letters 'REVENUE' are darker than normal and the right hemisphere shows slight doubling. Slight doubling also affects the inner frame line to the right of 'REVENUE' on R14/6.

FP 42794 was also subject to retouching or recutting and the shading lines above 'NEW ZEALAND' are evidence of this with

R8/1 a good example (Fig 13). Similar repair work affects all the impressions in the tenth row, particularly the third (Fig 14) and sixth stamps (Fig 15), as well as R14/5 and 15/5 where an extra inside frame line appears for a short distance in the corner adjacent and to the right of the left hemisphere. The last two are likely to be found without much difficulty as they occur in an imprint block of four. It must be emphasised that a good glass is essential for easy identification of what are skillful, but detectable examples of an engraver's work. On a personal note I stress the excellent characteristics of the self-illuminating Ultra Lens. They were on sale in the early 1950s and, these days, occasionally turn-up in mixed auction lots. The lenses are of very high quality and the heavily chromed barrel holding two batteries, together with a custom made velvet lined black oblong box looking as if it should contain some sort of medical equipment, makes it reasonably easy to spot. But to return to FP 42794, on R7/3 the frame lines on the right and left are doubled (Fig 16 and 17) and on R8/2 the lines of shading in the right hemisphere are similarly affected. R8/3 shows doubling on both sides, on the right both affect 'REVENUE' and the innermost frame line (Fig 18), however, on the left the doubling is more pronounced (Fig 19). The whole of the right side is doubled on R87 (Fig 20) and underneath at R97 'POSTAGE' shows clear doubling (Fig 21). Finally on R104 'REVENUE' is affected in the same manner (Fig 22).

**Other Varieties.** The RPSNZ noted that 'In a few sheets the centre was offset on the back and one stamp has been found with an offset of the *Dominion Monarch* on the front.' Campbell Patterson lists the former as well as 'Double Perforations' and 'Blurred Centre (bright blue)'.

## Six Pence

**Shades.** Chocolate and scarlet-vermilion was the official description, however, 'Part 1', Robson Lowe and *Commonwealth* all prefer chocolate and vermilion. Campbell Patterson offers two variations—chocolate and vermilion and chocolate-brown and vermilion. It is surprising that none of the catalogue editors has mentioned a frame shade that can best be described as pale vermilion.

**Plate Numbers and Markings.** Two centre plates—42851 and 42852, and two frame plates—42853 and 42854, were used, but yet again do not show on printed sheets. The usual guide lines and marks help to plate multiples and singles.

**Transfer Roller Defects.** Defects or damage to a transfer roller and their effect on printing has already been mentioned when describing the Fiji ½d. (*GSM* February 1987). The New Zealand 6d. Peace issue provides another example. Waterlow and Sons told the RPSNZ that, although two impressions in the transfer roller were laid down, they believed that only one was used for making the two frame plates. Furthermore, examination of the transfer roller had shown flaws on one impression where lines forming part of the design had flaked off leaving insufficient depth to impress a deep enough cut in the plate to print properly. The affected areas, where small frame

breaks or very weak impressions occur (Fig 23) are in the top right and bottom left corners. Three states can be found. FP 42853 was the first to be laid down and work commenced with R8/8 and when that row was completed, continued with rows below and above. Rows 6,7,8,9,10 and R11/5-8 do not have any flaws and this has been classified as State A (Fig 24). State B (Fig 25) exists on R11/1-4 and all stamps in the remaining nine rows (R1-5 and 12-15), except that the RPSNZ noted in *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* that State A was found on some sheets from FP 42854 at R2/8, 3/7-8, 4/7-8 and 5/7-8 and it was suggested that as R5/8 showed evidence of a re-entry, it was likely that others had also been re-entered using the unflawed impression on the roller. All stamps from FP 42854 show State B, but with the exception of R8/7-8 they also show additional damage to the frame line in the top right corner. This is State C (Fig 26), the damage or flaking to the roller did, of course, occur just before R8/6 was laid down. Vertical pairs from the relevant rows show States A and B and B and C. A very few horizontal pairs show the same combinations.

**Genre Plate Varieties.** The vertical lines on the right are doubled on R5/1 from CP 42851 and this is most noticeable in the outline of the tree trunk which, with some artistic licence, appears as if the sun is shining from the right side (Fig 27). R5,2-3 also show very slight doubling of the tree. CP 42852 has two varieties. The first, at R8/1, is much like the doubling on R5/1 already described. The second is R8/5 where there is slight doubling of the vertical lines on the stamp. The easiest to detect are the lines of shading depicting the glow from the furnace, just to the right of the large hook holding the chain (Fig 28). With care it is reasonably easy to pick out singles using a glass, however, the possession of a marginal and positional block does simplify matters.

**Frame Plate Varieties.** A very strong glass is needed to identify the four examples of doubling that follow. They resemble the minor instances occurring on the Ascension ½d. (65M August 1986) and are equally difficult to pick out as single copies. There are two on each frame plate. The most prominent occurs on R5/8 from FP 42853 where the outer horizontal frame line in the bottom left corner is doubled (Fig 29). The outer top frame line in the upper right corner of R15/1 from the same plate is slightly doubled with the inner line below the dove much thicker than normal. On sheets from the other plate the top outer frame line is considerably stronger than normal on R6/1 and a trace of doubling can be seen at the far right. The lines of horizontal shading behind the dove also show strengthening. At R11/8 slight doubling of the outer frame line occurs on the right side throughout its length and a trace affects the inner line in the top right corner.

**Confetti Flaws.** It is noted in the RPSNZ account of the 1946 Peace Issue that in several values instances were found where a piece of paper had been on the surface of the sheet when it was printed and when this paper subsequently fell off a white patch would appear on the stamps. These white patches are generally circular or crescent shaped. I have not seen an



*Cayman Islands stamp showing a 'confetti flaw' over the 'YM' of 'CAYMAN'. Several values of the Peace issue have been noted with this printing defect*

example from the Peace Issue, but others can be found on stamps printed by Brabury Wilkinson. It seems probable, therefore, that those mentioned by the RPSNZ were either the 1d. or 2d. values as both were printed by that security printer. The accompanying photograph of a 1950 Cayman Islands 2s. illustrates this random occurrence. C P Rang believed that these defects resulted from a specific Brabury Wilkinson working practice whereby several holes were punched in the margin of the paper before printing to help correct registration. These holes were five millimetres in diameter and the discs of paper were usually swept away.

Occasionally, a disc would remain and adhere to the sheet, thereby receiving the impression. If only one plate was used a disc eventually fell off the sheet. On the other hand, if the disc was present when the frame was printed, but absent at the time of printing the centre then a semi-circular or half-moon shaped white patch would be the result as happened to the 2s. value. In every instance there is a circular depression on the stamp due to the thickness of the disc as it was pressed into the sheet by the plate during printing. Examples make an interesting addition to a collection—when they can be found.

## Postmarks

As a concluding aside to Part 24 it is worth noting that many New Zealand servicemen were on duty in Japan when the Peace Issue was placed on sale at military post offices coincidentally with its release in New Zealand on 1 April 1946. Consequently any used copies bearing postmarks from army or air force post offices deserve special attention.

*Part 25 (GSM August 1992) will describe the varieties occurring on the 8d. and 9d. values of the Peace issue. Part 26 (November 1992) will begin survey of the overprint varieties on the 1946 Bahamas Landfall stamps.*

Collectors interested in the KGV1 era may wish to join the King George VI Collectors' Society, c/o 24 Stourwood Road, Bournemouth, BH6 3QP. Over half of the total membership of 290 live outside the United Kingdom.

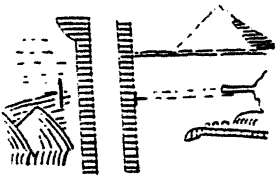


Fig.1



Fig.2



Fig.3

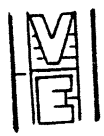


Fig.4



Fig.5



Fig.6

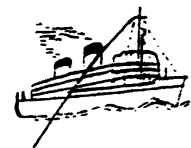


Fig.7



Fig.8



Fig.9

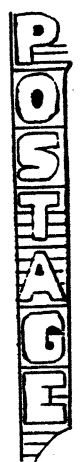


Fig.10



Fig.11



Fig.12

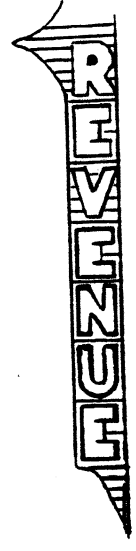


Fig.16



Fig.17



Fig.13



Fig.15



Fig.14

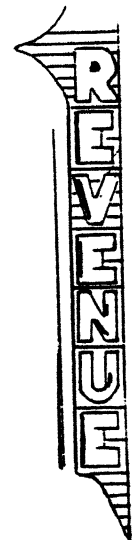


Fig.18



Fig.19

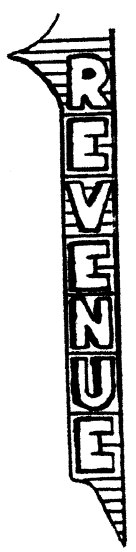


Fig.20



Fig.21

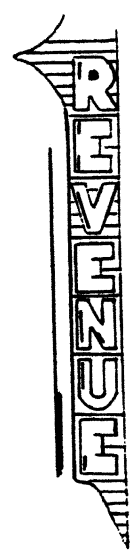


Fig.22



Fig.24



Fig.25



Fig.26

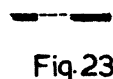


Fig.23



Fig.27

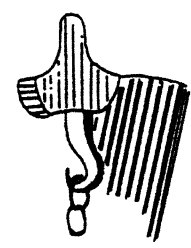


Fig.28



Fig.29