

# KING GEORGE VI VARIETIES

## Part 25—New Zealand Peace Issue

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continued

Part 25 will conclude the account of varieties to be found on the 1946 New Zealand Peace issue printed by Waterlow and Sons. Parts 23 (*GSM* February 1992) and 24 (*GSM* May 1992) were devoted to the 3d., 3d., 4d., 5d. and 6d. values.

### Eight Pence

**Shades.** The description of the colours by official sources, listed in *GSM* in February 1946, was black and crimson. 'Part 1', Robson Lowe and Campbell Paterson all favour black and carmine. The Commonwealth catalogue and the RPSNZ note black and lake.

**Plate Numbers and Markings.** Unlike the other values printed by Waterlow for the Peace issue, the 8d. has a vertical design, sheets have eight horizontal rows of 15 stamps. A single centre plate was used and numbered 42763. However, P L Evans reported in *Stamp Collecting* (11 March 1976) that a second centre plate had been made and numbered 42753, but that it had been 'noted in the Transfer Department Register as "Rejected" and the copper as "returned to stores"'. Guide lines and dots show between the third and fourth rows at the right-hand end of the first stamps and the left end of the 15th. Two frame plates were made—42752 and 42855. There are guide lines between R1/8–9 and 8/8–9. 'Bull's-eyes' appear in the four margins with T-marks on the two sides. On some sheets very faint almost horizontal lines show either side of the 'Bull's-eye' (Fig 1), these could be stress marks or possibly done deliberately.

**Plate Varieties.** The 8d. is remarkable for its lack of plate varieties. There is one that is discernible on sheets from FP 42752. It occurs on R8/15 where there is minor doubling of the veins of the five uppermost leaves on the left side of the design (Fig 2). Similar examples have been reported elsewhere, but I have been unable to detect them. The centre plate is slightly more exciting and, although very many imprint blocks are free from flaws, on some sheets R8/8 and 9 each have an easily seen carmine mark affecting the central figure. When the coloured Cross of St George is properly centred in the banner by the knight the carmine flaw on R8/8 is located on the knight's left leg (Fig 3) and on R8/9 it occurs by the fold in the cloak (Fig 4). Campbell Paterson also lists blocks with a mark only appearing on R8/9. Unfortunately, I have yet to see an example. However, it is worth noting that the marks by the 'Bull's-eye' mentioned in the preceding paragraph are, in my experience, only present when the two marks appear. It would be interesting to discover if they occur on blocks bearing the single mark on R8/9 and more so if they were found on an unflawed imprint block. I have examined over 1650 such blocks without success.

### Nine Pence

**Shades.** Ultramarine and black was the official description. However, 'Part 1' lists blue and black. Commonwealth prefers light blue and black and Robson Lowe uses pale blue and black. Campbell Paterson is far more detailed and notes pale blue and deep black, pale blue and black and pale blue and grey. In support, the RPSNZ account states that in the first supplies the frame shade was grey-black, but in later supplies it was black with some stamps having the frame over-inked. The centre is described as pale ultramarine, varying in intensity. Campbell Paterson gives a high rating to the grey-black shade, with deep black a good second and black as the common one. P L Evans advised caution when considering the shades of either the frame or centre as there had been much variation in the strength of the impressions. Whatever the shades, the design, featuring the Southern Alps and Franz Josef glacier through the chapel window at Waiho Gorge, and representing a spirit of thankfulness at the saving of the New Zealand way of life, must be one of the most inspiring and beautiful stamps ever printed.

**Plate Numbers and Markings.** Two frame plates (42723 and 42878) and two centre plates (42722) and (42877) were used. FP 42723 has horizontal guide lines between the seventh and eighth rows at the start and end of the rows. The usual vertical guide lines occur between R1/4–5 and 15/4–5. A cross appears between R7 and 8 and the fourth and fifth columns. FP 42878 has the same marks, plus a line and dot between R6 and 7 in the south-east corner of the first stamp and the south-west of the last. 'Bull's-eyes' show in the margins at the top, bottom and sides of a sheet accompanied by large sideways 'T' marks in the side margin.

**Plate Varieties.** Over the years nothing of significance has been reported concerning the centre plates. However, it is a very different story for the frame plates: at least 50 re-entries and a single re-touch have been detected. The more prominent are reasonably easy to pick out and will be described. It should be noted that, for the sake of clarity, the illustrations of the left and right side of the designs do not include the many semi-horizontal lines of shading. Once again a good glass is essential for easy identification of the varieties.

**Frame Plate 42723.** On R2/6 doubling affects the right outer frame line throughout its entire length, 'REVENUE', '9d.' and some leaves and the stem in the top right corner (Fig 5). In addition, the right side of the cross at the top and base, the flame and the top of the right candle stick show similar traces of doubling (Figs 6a and 6b). The doubled flame, although a small feature is easy to spot as it shows well against the

light background of the centre plate. Campbell Paterson when describing R3/3 uses the term 're-entry' followed by a question mark. This is a well merited qualification. The easily discernible horizontal line to the left of the cross seems more likely to be some kind of printer's mark. Indeed, with a strong glass it is possible to see what could be the remnants of a vertical, thus forming a sideways 'T' mark (Fig 7). This particular variety is very hard to find and it does seem probable that it came into being during printing. The doubling on R3/5 resembles R2/6, except that the right frame line is only doubled at the top and bottom and not in the mid-section (Fig 8). Additional identifying features are doubling of the vertical lines above and below 'ZEALAND' (Fig 9) and the right side of the right candle stick (Fig 10). The vertical lines in the right panel on R6/6 as well as 'REVE' show distinct doubling, so much so that the background appears darker than normal. The veins in the leaves in the top right corner also show doubling (Fig 11). On the adjacent stamp at R6/7 the right outer frame line is doubled at the top (Fig 12a) and minutely, but clearly, at the foot (Fig 12b). There are also traces of doubling in 'ENUE'. The seventh row has three instances of doubling. On the third stamp the vertical lines in the right panel are doubled, similar to R6/6, however, those in the top right corner are also affected as well as the nearby leaves (Fig 13). Several leaves show doubling on the fourth stamp (Fig 14). The doubling of the long vertical lines of shading on the fifth closely resembles R7/3, but 'REVENUE' does not show any doubling. However, the doubled veins in the leaves are very clear with just a trace in the vertical lines (Fig 15). Three more examples can be found in the eighth row. Those on the second and third stamps are minor, but on R8/7 the veins in the three leaves in the top right corner are doubled in a similar fashion to R7/5, but in addition, the outer right frame line shows very close evidence of strengthening and the 'tram-line' affect can be detected, together with doubling of the adjacent design particularly by the right-hand 9d. (Fig 16). The right frame line is doubled on R9/7 (Figs 17a and 17b), while the doubling on R10/5 is similar to R7/5 with the addition that the vertical line by 9d. is doubled (Fig 18). The appearance of R12/5 is much like R6/6. The re-entry on R14/1 affects the vertical lines and 'REVENUE' in the right panel, the distinguishing feature is that the outer frame line is doubled from the right lower corner to a point by the letters 'UE', or even higher on some lightly printed copies. R15/4 is similar, except that the doubled outer frame line runs up to the leaves in the top right corner. In addition, the right candle stick and flame also show doubling. As R15/4 is in an imprint block it is reasonably easy to find and identify. Campbell Paterson lists R3/3, 6/6 and 7/5.

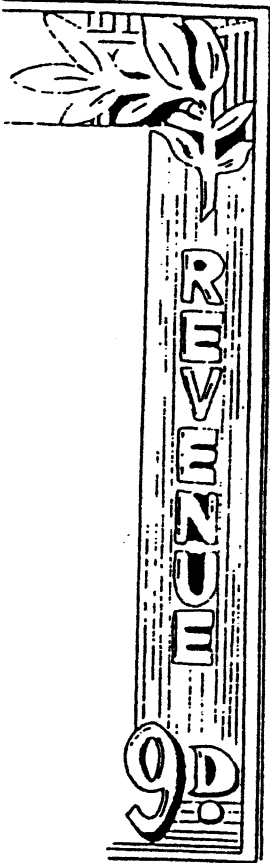


Fig. 5

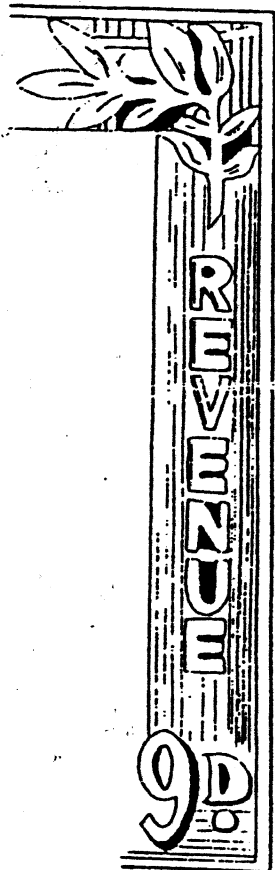


Fig. 11

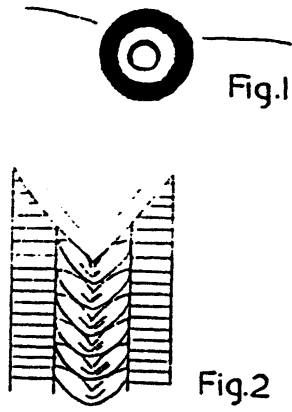


Fig. 1

Fig. 2

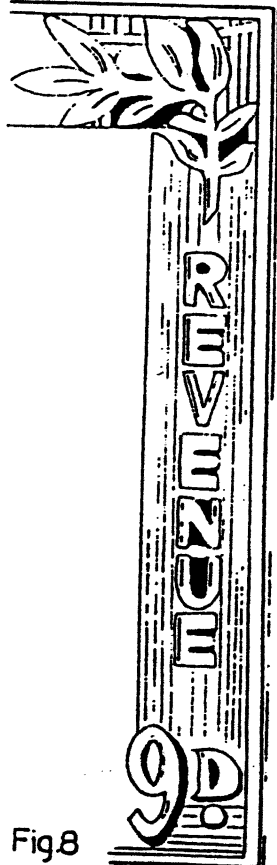


Fig. 8

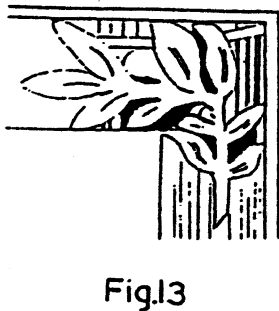


Fig. 13



Fig. 16

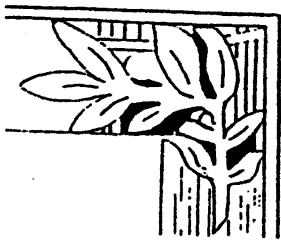


Fig. 17a

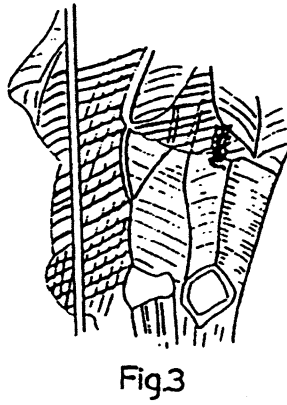


Fig. 3

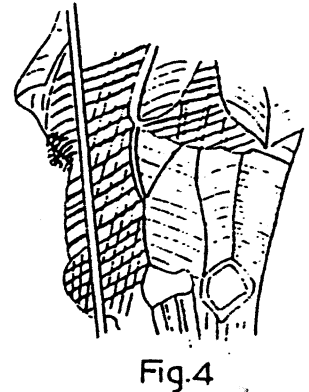


Fig. 4

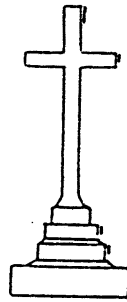


Fig. 6a



Fig. 6b

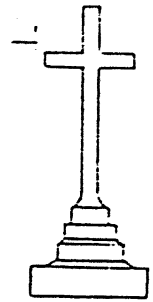


Fig. 7



Fig. 9

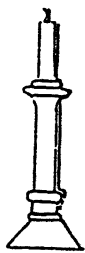


Fig. 10

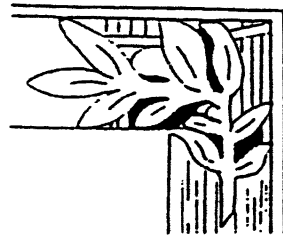


Fig. 12a

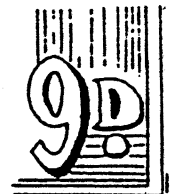


Fig. 12b



Fig. 14



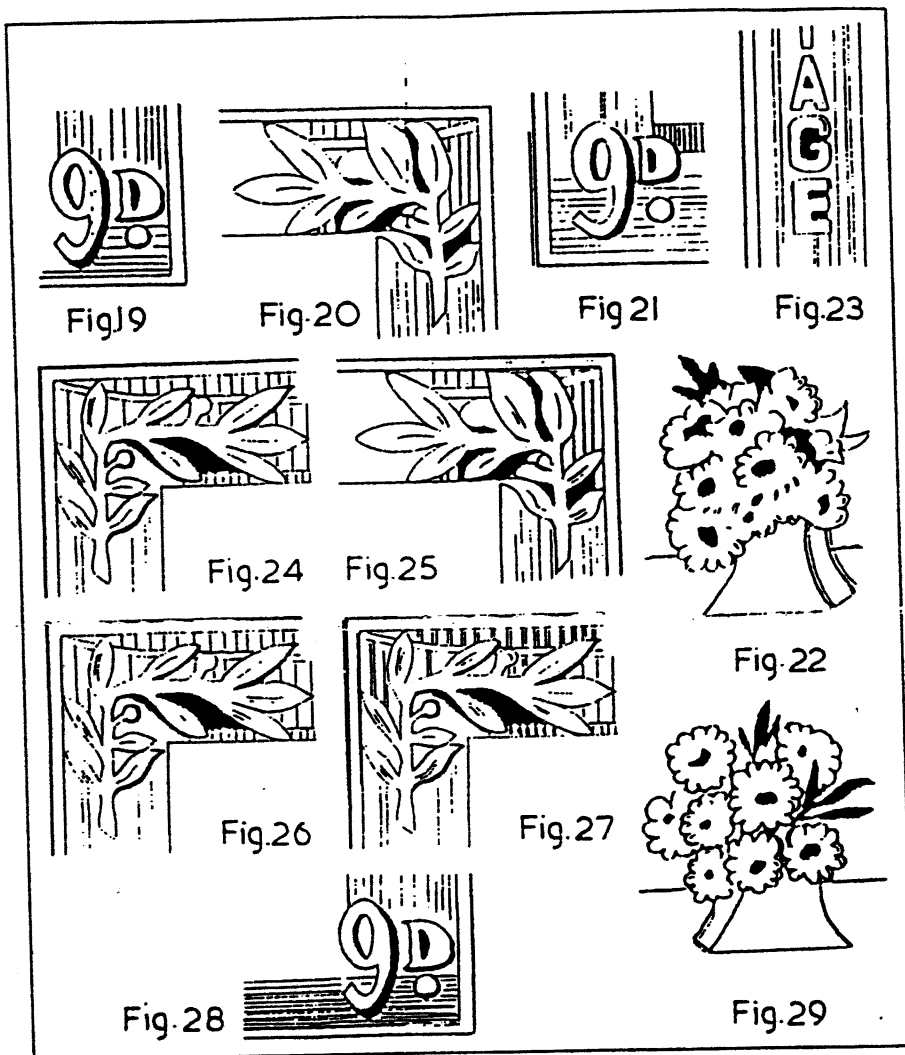
Fig. 15



Fig. 17b



Fig. 18



Frame Plate 42878. Two unusual varieties occur. The first affects R1/3 where a vertical pecked black line runs down the right side of the right-hand figure 9 (Fig 19). The line also shows in the margin above the stamp and a trace shows in the top right corner (Fig 20). The second is a retouch on R3/6—the outer frame line and inner line in the south-east corner show evidence of repair work. Some 26 stamps show signs of a re-entry, the bulk are minor and very difficult to detect. However, seven deserve attention. The first, on R2/5, features a doubled outer frame line at the bottom left (Fig 21). The next, on R4/8, shows doubled lines affecting the flowers in the left vase and the right side of the vase (Fig 22), with further doubling of the shading lines adjacent to the 'AGE' of 'POSTAGE' (Fig 23). The seventh row has three examples of doubling. The veins in the three leaves in the top left corner are affected on the fourth stamp (Fig 24). There is doubling on the right side of the fifth affecting the veins in the leaves, the top inner and outer frame lines (Fig 25) and the semi-horizontal lines of shading to the right of 'ENUE'. On the seventh stamp more leaves in the top left corner are doubled (Fig 26). The stamp immediately below at R8/7 also has very strong signs of doubling in the same area (Fig 27). Finally, very strong doubling affects R9/8 in the lower right corner where all the horizontal lines in the design are clearly doubled from the inner frame line to a point under the left side of the right-hand candle stick (Fig 28). Doubling also affects the near-

highly rated by Campbell Paterson. To complete the record other very minor instances of doubling can be found on R1/3, 5/4, 6/5 and 8, 7/2-3 and 8, 9/4 and 6-7, 10/1-2, 4 and 6— and lastly 11/5 and 8. I expect others exist.

### New Zealand Dependencies

The 1d., 2d., 6d. and 8d. values from the New Zealand Peace issue were overprinted in New Zealand for use in the three dependencies of Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa. It is as well to look for copies of the 6d. and 8d. as some of the plate varieties already described can be found on these overprinted values. In addition, Robson Lowe in Volume IV of his *Encyclopaedia* notes a 'Double overprint, one albino' on the 6d. Niue.

**Inserted Stamps.** A well-known dealer mentioned to me recently that one stamp had always been 'inserted' on every sheet of the Western Samoa 1d., 6d. and 8d. values he had seen. The location of the replacement stamp being constant for each value i.e. 1d. R4/3, 6d. R7/3 and 8d. R1/11 with thin brownish paper, 2mm wide, on the gum side of the sheet attaching the stamp firmly and neatly to its neighbours. This had caused him difficulty as prospective purchasers returned the material as defective. This intrigued me. I obtained some examples and began to investigate. The first port of call was *Stamp Collecting Weekly* published on 20 July 1946 where a news item states: 'The supplies of mint NZ

by Mr D R Pope (Stourbridge) had one stamp extracted from the sheet of both the 2d. Cook Islands and the 6d. Western Samoa, and a loose specimen attached to make up the total. By the application of deductive reasoning he found among his used copies two poor pieces of printing that might account for this and has sent them along for us to look at. The 2d. Cook Islands has an extra thick line after 'COOK' making it look like 'COOKI', and the 6d. is a thickening to the top bar of the 'T' of 'WESTERN', which looks very ugly. I suppose this is the reason for the deletion of the two stamps, but confess that to me both are of very minor importance, and show great sensitiveness on the part of the NZ overprinters.' I gleaned more evidence from the 'Stamp News in Brief' section of the September 1946 edition of *GSM* where the staff noted that, 'We had occasion some time ago to draw attention to the receipt direct from the NZ Post Office of sheets from which single stamps had been removed and replaced by others held in position by strips of thin paper gummed over the perforations. We have now noticed the same occurring in the 'Peace' issues of all three Dependencies, Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa, but in this case the cause for the removal must lie with the overprints as we have not seen any substitution on the unoverprinted issues. There is no consistency in the positions of the substitutions and we can only surmise that their cause is probably only minor blemishes about which the authorities are perhaps a little over-sensitive. Collectors who find themselves in possession of such specimens should not blame the dealer for botching, but on the contrary congratulate themselves on having a very collectable curiosity.'

Unfortunately, my search has failed to reveal any other contemporary comment. However, I can confirm that sheets of Western Samoa exist without an inserted stamp at the positions mentioned in the preceding paragraph. This supports the view that the removal and replacement of the stamps did not follow a set pattern and conjures up a mental picture of someone examining overprinted sheets stamp by stamp. For the future it is always worth turning over large multiples just in case one of these 'very collectable curiosities' has come your way.

*Part 26 (GSM November 1992) will begin an examination of the varieties to be found on the Bahamas 1942 Landfall issue.*

Collectors interested in the King George VI era may wish to join the King George VI Collectors' Society c/o 24 Stourwood Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth, BH6 3QP.

by flowers and vase (Fig 29) is listed and