

## New Zealand Pacific Island Dependencies

The Cook Islands, Niue and Samoa are located in the Pacific. In 1935 they were New Zealand dependencies. The decision to produce a special issue of the New Zealand Dependencies was only taken in January 1935. Because of the very short time left to the date of issue for the stamps, all were reprinted from plates of previous issues. This followed a recommendation from the Prime Minister's Office to the Director-General of the New Zealand Post Office and was formally approved on March 15, 1935. The stamps were to be in circulation for a three-month period only (May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1935 to August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1935). The Post Office grossly underestimated the demand for the stamps with the result that multiple printings were undertaken. All stamps were printed by the Government Printing Office in Wellington, New Zealand with the NZ & Star watermark. An overprint reading "Silver Jubilee of King George V. 1910 - 1935" was applied to all these stamps. Each value was printed three times, once each for the vignette, frame and overprint. The same set of fonts was used for the Cook Islands and Niue overprints. The printers, on some issues, used fonts for the Samoa overprints. This resulted in "narrow" overprints.

Below is a listing of the known varieties of the New Zealand Dependencies.

| Country      | Value | B | K | E | N | R | I |  | VI | HI |  | No. Printed |
|--------------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|----|----|--|-------------|
| Cook Islands | 1d    | ● | ● |   |   |   |   |  |    |    |  | 136,400     |
|              | 2½d   |   |   | ● |   |   |   |  |    |    |  | 98,080      |
|              | 6d    |   |   |   | ● | ● |   |  |    |    |  | 107,520     |
| Niue         | 1d    | ● | ● |   |   |   |   |  |    |    |  | 155,600     |
|              | 2½d   |   |   | ● |   |   |   |  | ●  | ●  |  | 77,600      |
|              | 6d    |   |   |   | ● | ● |   |  | ●  |    |  | 76,560      |
| Samoa        | 1d    |   |   |   |   |   | ● |  |    |    |  | 134,160     |
|              | 2½d   |   |   |   |   |   | ● |  |    |    |  | 67,560      |
|              | 6d    |   |   | ● |   |   |   |  |    |    |  | 59,640      |

- B** = Narrow "B" in Jubilee
- K** = Narrow "K" in King.
- E** = Narrow "E" in Geo
- N** = Narrow "N" in King
- R** = Narrow "R" in George
- I** = Short "I" in Jubilee
- VI** = Imperf vertically in left margin
- HI** = Imperf horizontally

NB: One 1d Niue sheet known to have been issued with double perfs in right selvedge.

### Cook Islands and Niue

Three of the 7 stamps from the 1932 issues from both the Cook Islands and Niue were reissued using new colours so that the overprints could be clearly seen. The original 1932 issue stamps were perforated 13 and had no watermark. A second 1932 issue was perforated 14 and was watermarked (NZ & star). The 1935 issue was perforated 14 and watermarked NZ & star.

Collins notes the press used was old and the paper had to be dampened prior to printing. Because of the multiple printings and the washing up of the press required between printings of the different values, colour variations (shades) occurred between printings and values. The main shades are shown below (It is not possible to identify which colours occurred with which printings).

| Value      | Cook Island Shades  | Niue Shades  |
|------------|---|--|
| <b>1d</b>  | Deep red-brown and lake<br>Deep red-brown and carmine-lake                                      | Deep red-brown and deep carmine<br>Deep red-brown and red<br>Red-brown and carmine red   |
| <b>2½d</b> | Deep steel-blue and deep dull-blue<br>Deep steel-blue and grey-blue<br>Steel-blue and grey-blue | Deep steel-blue and deep slate-blue<br>Deep steel-blue and slate-blue<br>Steel-blue and slate-blue                                       |
| <b>6d</b>  | Deep blue-green and dull yellow<br>Blue-green and yellow  | Deep blue-green and aniline-orange<br>Blue-green and aniline-orange<br>Deep blue-green and yellow-orange<br>Green and deep yellow-orange |

### Dates of Printing

A significant number of the sheets printed were rejected and the stamps not placed on sale. The figures listed below include only stamps that were available for sale.

| Date                        | Cook Islands   |               |                | Niue           |               |               |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
|                             | 1d             | 2½d           | 6d             | 1d             | 2½d           | 6d            |
| <b>March 18</b>             |                |               | 40,000         | 40,000         | 24,000        | 28,240        |
| <b>March 26</b>             | 40,000         | 40,000        |                |                |               | 3,760         |
| <b>April 4</b>              |                |               |                | 40,000         |               |               |
| <b>May 3</b>                | 32,000         |               |                | 20,720         | 8,000         | 12,000        |
| <b>May 5</b>                |                | 19,920        | 15,040         |                |               |               |
| <b>May 8</b>                | 5,920          |               |                | 5,520          | 3,920         | 23,440        |
| <b>May 14</b>               | 12,000         | 10,000        | 10,160         | 24,000         | 16,000        |               |
| <b>May 30</b>               | 17,600         | 17,280        | 18,800         | 2,640          |               |               |
| <b>June 25</b>              | 28,880         |               |                | 22,720         | 11,440        |               |
| <b>June 26</b>              |                |               |                |                |               | 9,120         |
| <b>July 17</b>              |                | 10,880        |                |                |               |               |
| <b>July 27</b>              |                |               | 23,520         |                | 41,240        |               |
| <b>Total available</b>      | <b>136,400</b> | <b>98,080</b> | <b>107,520</b> | <b>155,600</b> | <b>77,600</b> | <b>76,560</b> |
| <b>Unsold and destroyed</b> | 21,602         | 4,034         | 12,432         | 26,711         | 15,780        | 7,297         |
| <b>Total issued</b>         | <b>114,798</b> | <b>94,046</b> | <b>95,088</b>  | <b>128,899</b> | <b>61,280</b> | <b>69,263</b> |

## The Cook Islands and Niue Varieties

### The 1d Values

|   |  |   |  |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| B |  | K |  | B |  | K |   |
| B |  | K |  | B |  | K |   |
| B |  | K |  | B |  | K |   |
| B |  | K |  | B |  | K |   |
| B |  | K |  | B |  | B | B |
| B |  | K |  | K |  | B |   |
| B |  | K |  | K |  | K |   |
| B |  | K |  | K |  | B |   |

The printed sheet was 10x8 (Rows/Columns). The original process involved making up one row of handset type that covered 5 horizontal places. This was dipped into a molten metal mould to make 16 duplicates ("stereos") which were then mounted onto the frame to give the 80 images. As the "B" and the "K" fonts from the Samoa overprint were used i.e. the narrower fonts, the mistake was thus repeated 16 times. The positions are noted in the table on the left. However this arrangement does not hold true for the bottom right quarter of the frame. For reasons unknown, some of the stereos were cut up and re-mounted in a different order.

### The 2½d Values

|  |  |  |   |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
|  |  |  | E |  |  |  | E |
|  |  |  | E |  |  |  | E |
|  |  |  | E |  |  |  | E |
|  |  |  | E |  |  |  | E |
|  |  |  | E |  |  |  | E |
|  |  |  | E |  |  |  | E |
|  |  |  | E |  |  |  | E |
|  |  |  | E |  |  |  | E |
|  |  |  | E |  |  |  | E |
|  |  |  | E |  |  |  | E |

The 2½d values were done the same way. However the sheet was printed as an 8x10 image and the original typesetting covered only 4 images. At least 20 stereos were made. The Narrow "E" in GEORGE occurs in the last or 4<sup>th</sup> typesetting. Thus the narrow "E" is found in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> columns.

### The 6d Values

|   |  |   |   |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| N |  | R | N |   |  | R | N |
| N |  |   | N |   |  | R | N |
| N |  |   | N |   |  | R | N |
| N |  |   | N |   |  | R | N |
| N |  |   | N |   |  | R |   |
| R |  | R |   | N |  | R |   |
| R |  | R |   | N |  | R |   |
|   |  | R |   | N |  | R |   |
| R |  | R |   | N |  | R | N |
| R |  | R |   | N |  | R |   |

The overprint of the 6d value has an interesting history. The sheets were printed as 8x10 rows/columns and the typesetting was in images of 4. Once the 20 stereos were mounted it was found that there was poor horizontal alignment between the stereos. They were subsequently cut up as vertical strips and remounted in a different order. It appears that at least one vertical strip was totally cut up which accounts for the placement of the stray "R" and "N"

Information on process used provided by Paul den Ouden.

## Samoa

Three of the 12 stamps of the 1921 Samoa issue were reprinted using the same colours and overprinted. Some of the original 1921 stock was overprinted. However, because of demand, later new stamps were printed. The information is detailed below. None of the original issue stamps were watermarked.

| Value       | Printed    |            | Destroyed | Sold    |
|-------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------|
|             | 1921 issue | 1935 issue |           |         |
| 1d (14x14½) | 6,360      |            | 5,400     | 960     |
| 1d (14x13½) |            | 127,800    | 16,877    | 110,923 |
| 2½d         | 27,240     | 46,260     | 6,576     | 66,924  |
| 6d          | 48,360     | 11,280     | 8,762     | 50,878  |

### Dates and Numbers of Stamps Printed

(1921 = 1921 Issue; 1935 = 1935 Issue)

| Date    | 1d    |         | 2½d    |        | 6d     |        |
|---------|-------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
|         | 1921  | 1935    | 1921   | 1935   | 1921   | 1935   |
| April 4 |       | 48,000  | 21,480 |        | 21,480 |        |
| May 3   | 6,360 | 9,240   | 5,760  | 5,880  | 10,080 |        |
| May 13  |       |         |        |        | 15,000 |        |
| May 14  |       | 36,000  |        | 24,000 |        |        |
| June 10 |       | 30,720  |        | 10,440 |        | 11,280 |
| July 19 |       | 3,840   |        |        | 1,800  |        |
| Total   | 6,360 | 127,800 | 27,240 | 40,320 | 48,360 | 11,280 |

### Differences between the 1921 and 1935 (definitive) issues

|                  | 1921 Issue   | 1935 Issue                                     |
|------------------|--|--|
| <b>Watermark</b> | 1d (14x14½)<br>2½d and 6d (14x13½)<br>All watermarked NZ & Star  | All 14x13½<br>All watermarked NZ & Star        |
| <b>Paper</b>     | Medium thick unsurfaced Cowan paper. Brownish gum  | Thin, hard Cowan Esparto paper. Colourless gum |
| <b>Plates</b>    | Plate numbers can be found in top left corner of sheet.<br>Sheet numbers located in top right corner of sheet.<br>1d = Plate 44<br>2½d = Plate 47<br>6d = Plate 51 |  |

**Notes:**

The "I" of King

The "I" in King is thicker than the "I" in Silver and Jubilee

The "F" of OF

The lower horizontal stroke of "F" in OF slopes

1d Varieties

R/C 12/5. Downward slant on middle arm of first 'E' of Jubilee

A number of varieties to the second 'E' of Jubilee have been noted, but none appear to be constant. Further clarification is awaited.

Patching

Because of the frequent printings a number of stamps became damaged. In an attempt to salvage some of the stamps, the Printers removed the damaged portions of the stamp (mostly confined to the upper right corner of the sheet), patched in other sheets and then overprinted the stamps. The patches can be seen as thin horizontal strips on the top and bottom of the obverse side of the stamp.

**Sources**

Collins, R.J.G. The Postage Stamps of New Zealand Vol V. The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, Wellington. 1967 (Major source of most of the above information)

The Flagstaff 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> editions quoting the following sources

1. Lowe, Robson. The Encyclopedia of the British Empire Stamps 1788-1952. Vol IV. The Empire in Australasia. Robson Lowe. London 1962
2. Verne, Collins & Co. Catalogue of the Stamps of the Dependencies of New Zealand. Verne, Collins & Co. Ltd. Christchurch 1954

Neil Donen  
September 7, 2003