



L11: 9d MAORI PANEL, TYPE (Surface-printed)

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“New Zealand Stamps” by Campbell Paterson

The 9d "Maori Panel" is usually regarded as one of the more difficult to identify in its various forms and printings, but given an ability to recognize mesh and to distinguish grey from black, there should be little difficulty in sorting an accumulation of these stamps.

First separate those with grey frames from those with black frames. Put the greys aside for a moment. Of the blacks, sort all that are a dull black from those that are a shiny jet-black. The dull blacks will all be larger than the shiny blacks and all will be the original issue with single watermark, L11a.

The "shiny" blacks (which are all in the smaller type and are the war-time printings) must now be separated by their watermarks. For this the detector tray is necessary. Mesh is no help here as both those on "Single" and those on multiple watermark paper have vertical mesh in this instance. Generally, the "single" watermarks show up more easily. The "single" watermark stamps are L11d while the "multiples" are L11e. Now turn to the grey stamps previously put aside. Knowledge of mesh is useful here. The stamps with (apparently) vertical mesh have their watermark sideways and are L11b; those with horizontal mesh are 11c. And that is that!

Another value in the series has been mastered and what looked to be a real headache has proved to be no more than a pleasurable challenge much easier to cope with than had seemed possible.

Consecutive Serial Numbers

