



## L11: 9d MAORI PANEL, TYPE (Surface-printed) Notes from Vol 2, The Postage Stamps of New Zealand

The subject of this stamp is a modification of a design adopted by the Maori for the ornamentation of the sliding panel which he used as a door. The design was drawn by Mr. I. F. Calder of Wellington. The original plates for this value were produced by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons and the printing was done by what is known as the offset process.

In June, 1936, the printings were placed on sale with the multiple watermark sideways (with the star to the right of NZ) and perforated 14 x 15. These were printed at the Government Printing Office, Wellington, from the Waterlow plates. The paper contained esparto but was medium-thin and hard. The printer had great difficulty in maintaining regularity in colour and there was considerable variation in both the centre and border, the centre being printed in red, bright red, dull red and scarlet and the frame in slate-grey, deep slate-grey and black. The sheets contained 240 stamps.

After the first supply had been printed it was realised that the sheets had wide margins and that it might be possible to use the watermarked paper from the margins for an illegal or irregular purpose. To prevent this a border approximately 4.25 mm. wide was printed in the colour of the frame on all four margins.

On March 1, 1938, printings were placed on sale from new plates made by Messrs. Coulls Somerville Wilkie Ltd., of Dunedin. These were Litho offset plates containing 120 images and were produced from the negatives prepared by Waterlow & Sons. The printing was done at the Government Printing Office and the paper, which was relatively thick, had the watermark upright and the stamps were perforated 14 x 14 1/2. The colour of the centre again varied, being found in brick red, dull red and bright red, while the frame was in slate-grey or deep slate-grey.

The paper for this issue had a wide margin at the bottom only and to prevent the margin being used illegally two bars were printed in

the colour of the frame. Later the margin was smaller and had one bar of colour. Some sheets of this issue had the watermark inverted. In 1941 printings appeared from a new set of plates made by Messrs. Coulls Somerville Wilkie Ltd. for use by the surface-printing process. On these new plates the design was smaller in size and the sheets contained 240 stamps in 10 rows of 24.

The first printing, which was placed on sale in May, was made on Wiggins Teape chalk-surfaced paper with the single or registered watermark, but in September a new supply was placed on issue printed on Wiggins Teape chalk-surfaced paper with multiple watermark and this remained on sale until April 30, 1947.

In the surface-printed sheets the printer was able to maintain a standard for the colours. The centre was in scarlet and the frame in black.

Buffer bars to prevent damage to the top row of stamps were placed at the top of the frame plate. They show on the sheets as black bars above twenty-three vertical rows. The space above the last vertical row was occupied by the sheet number printed in black. The sheets with registered watermark had the letters WT over U before the sheet number while the sheets with multiple watermark had the number only. Arrows were printed on the top selvedge between the 4th and 5th; 8th and 9th; 12th and 13th; 16th and 17th and 20th and 21st vertical rows. These were intended to assist the stamp clerks in the checking of the value of broken sheets.

In the sheets, both with registered and multiple watermarks, there was a wide margin at the bottom. The sheets with registered watermark and approximately the first 200 sheets with the multiple watermark had plain selvedges. To prevent the illegal use of a margin with the multiple watermark, the first supplies after the original 200 sheets, had two bars, the upper one narrower than the lower, printed in the colour of the frame and there

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was a narrow bar printed vertically on the left-hand selvedge. In later supplies there was one wider bar on the bottom selvedge and a narrow bar printed vertically on the right-hand selvedge.

In addition to the difficulty of maintaining regularity of colours in the stamps printed by the offset process, much trouble was experienced in the registration of the centre and the frame and stamps are found in which the centre was not printed in the correct position, with the result that the white bordering of the centre varies in thickness.

This value was superseded on May 1, 1947.

*Block of 21 showing Bar Lines*

