



L12: 1/- TUI, TYPE (Recess)

Notes from Vol 2, The Postage Stamps of New Zealand

The design originally selected for this value did not prove satisfactory for reproduction. Mr. L. C. Mitchell was therefore asked to make a line drawing of a design he had submitted in wash depicting the Tui, or parson bird.

One plate containing 240 impressions (10 rows of 24) was laid down for this value, the plate marking A1 appearing under the second stamp in the bottom row, and this plate served for all printings.

Supplies on the good quality esparto paper and with multiple watermark were placed on sale in April, 1936, and a few sheets had the watermark inverted.

This plate, like plate 1 for the 2/- value, also provided material for intensive study by specialists.

Before it was put to press several of the impressions were strengthened and a rather interesting feature of the work done to the plate at this stage is the evidence of the doubling of the impressions became more apparent as the printing proceeded. In the proof sheet and in the printings on the paper with registered watermark the doubling is neither extensive nor easily seen and while some of the varieties are relatively minor in the sheets on the good quality esparto paper and with multiple watermark, others are quite obvious.

The impressions affected included:

R1/9	Doubling of the bottom frame-line, particularly towards the left
R4/4	Doubling of the bottom frame-line, particularly towards the right also of the frame-line on the right.
R5/2	Doubling of the bottom frame-line, showing most clearly under ONE SHILLING.
R5/7	Doubling of the frame-line at the top from above the top acorn in the left top corner to above the S of POSTAGE.
R7/4	Doubling of the bottom frame-line and of the top frame-line in the top left corner. This variety is easily recognised by the fact that there is a solid band of colour between the first and second frame-lines under the LI of SHILLING.
R8/12	Doubling of the bottom frame-line and also of the top frame-line.
R9/11	A thickening of the bottom frame-line and of the top frame-line over POSTAGE.



Shortly before De La Rue & Co. handed the plate over to Waterlow & Sons numerous impressions in the plate were re-entered, the lower right quarter of the sheet being particularly affected. Some impressions in the sheet which are darker in appearance than the surrounding stamps may also have been re-entered but do not show any doubling.

In general appearance many of these re-entries appear similar and it is impossible to give means of identification in a verbal description. Only by greatly enlarged drawings could the differences be satisfactorily indicated but collectors who are sufficiently interested should not find it difficult to draw up for themselves a guide to the differing characteristics of the varieties.

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Continued

Doubling of the bottom frame-line is found in:

R3	21.
R7	13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19
R8	16, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24
R9	13, 19, 20, 23, and 24

The doubling is prominent in R8/21 and 22 and in R9/20 while it is quite clear in R7/ 14, 15, 16, 18, and in R9/19 and 23. R8/22 shows evidence of damage to the frame lines to the left of the value tablet on the left-hand side.

R10/11 The top frame-line is completely doubled. The outline of the oak leaves and the top acorn are doubled in the top left-hand corner.

In the top right-hand corner all the lines are thicker than on a normal stamp.

Doubling of the frame-line on the right is found in: R2/4; R3/4; R5/4; R8/3; R9/4; and R10/4.

All the printings made by De La Rue & Co. on the better quality esparto paper were perforated by means of comb heads gauging 14 x 13 ½. This value is similar to the 1 ½.d. in that stamps are found which appear to have perforations which gauge 13 ½ due to an irregularity in the spacing of the pins in the long row of a comb head. The colour was grey-green varying in intensity and in the case of the re-entries and heavily printed impressions the shade tended towards deep green.

Late in 1940 the plate was handed over to Messrs. Waterlow & Sons who made a printing of 6,300 sheets. In April, 1941, 6,296 sheets were sent by De La Rue & Co. to Waterlow & Sons for perforating, and although Waterlow & Sons' records show these stamps as not having been printed by them, the evidence is to the effect that they were in fact printed by Waterlow and were being held by De La Rue & Co. at the time of the second fire and were salvaged.

These sheets were printed on a paper containing less esparto than the earlier issues and the shade was a grey-green, paler than any of the stamps with perf. 14 x 13 ½. They were perforated 12 ½ and a considerable portion of the consignment was overprinted for official use.

The plate was returned to De La Rue & Co. on November 20, 1941, and subsequent printings were made by this firm on the Royal Cypher grade paper and the perforations were again 14 x 13 ½. The shade was deep green and the stamps were issued in March, 1942. In sheets with wide margins at the bottom, the serial plate number, 1297-1 is found inverted and reversed. This value was withdrawn from sale on April 30, 1947.