



## L13: 2/- CAPTAIN COOK LANDING, TYPE L13 (Recess) PLATE 1, The 2/- Pictorial of 1935-1942 by R.J.G. Collins, 1951

### The Printings, Papers, Perforations, and Shades

The first printing was made by Messrs. De La Rue and Co. at their London works in 1934.

All the papers for the 2/- were made by Messrs. Wiggins, Teape, and Alex. Pirie, Ltd., and were gummed and sized by Messrs. Samuel Jones and Co. (Export), Ltd. All printings of the 2/- stamps were made by the dry printing process, consequently the paper was dry and gummed when fed into the machine.

The first paper had a basis of esparto fibres and the mesh was vertical in relation to the watermark.

In each sheet of the 2/- stamps there were 240 NZ and star watermarks in 10 horizontal rows of 24, so that in correctly printed sheets there should be two watermarks on each stamp. In the case of the smaller-sized stamps one watermark would appear on each stamp when printed in the correct register, and hence this paper was officially described as having "registered watermark." It is also known among stamp collectors as having "single watermark," or is referred to as "watermarked NZ and star." The inscription NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE in double-lined capitals was watermarked in the selvedge at the top and bottom of the sheets and the inscription NEW ZEALAND at the sides. In some sheets of these stamps, printed out of correct register, portion of the marginal watermarks appeared on the stamps.



L13a

The first supplies, which were placed on sale on May 1, 1935, had been perforated by means of

a comb machine. The sheets were run through the machine sideways. The head contained 163 pins in the long row, while in each short row there were 26 pins. The short rows were in alignment with every 16th hole in the long row and there was one hole outside the short rows at each end. The spacing of the pins in the long row was fairly regular and the gauge varied from  $13 \frac{1}{4}$  to  $13 \frac{1}{2}$  the spacing of the pins in the short rows was very irregular, but the irregularity was constant throughout the short rows.

The first 10 holes in the short rows, counting from the hole nearest the long row, gauged 14, the next 8 gauged  $13 \frac{1}{2}$  and the last 8, 13. Most of the sheets were run through from the right-hand side so that on the stamps the perforations gauged  $13-14 \times 13 \frac{1}{2}$  but in sheets run through from the left-hand side the perforations gauged  $14-13 \times 13 \frac{1}{2}$ .

A small number of sheets of the first printing had the watermark inverted.

The ink used for this printing was described by the makers as cypress green. It was a deep olive-green and there was a variation in the intensity. The printers complained that the surface of the paper with registered watermark was not suitable for dry printing and that they found difficulty in bringing out the finer lines of the design. In copies with poor detail, the sky appeared to be much whiter and the shade of the ink paler.

In 1935 sheets also appeared on sale on paper with the registered watermark but with a new perforation. The head contained 167 pins in the long row, while in each short row there were 26 pins and there were two holes outside the short rows at each end. The alignment of the short rows in relation to the holes in the long row was very irregular and consequently the holes in the corners of the stamps were different in appearance from those usually found when a comb machine is employed. The gauge of the long rows varied from  $13 \frac{3}{4}$  to 14, and of the short



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rows from 13  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 13  $\frac{1}{2}$  but the stamps are usually described as having perforations 13  $\frac{1}{2}$  x 14. The sheets were run sideways through this machine.



L13b

The deep olive-green ink was used and again there were variations in intensity. Some stamps appeared to have a greater percentage of yellow in the ink. There was no fixed date for the release of this printing.

There were 8000 sheets on the paper with registered watermark but there is no record of the respective figures for the two perforations. Fifty-seven sheets were damaged so that the actual number stamps issued was 953,160.

Because of the difficulty experienced by the printers in obtaining the correct registration of the watermark they recommended that paper with an "all-over" watermark should be introduced. In this paper the N Z and star watermark is arranged in multiple throughout the whole reel of paper and there are no marginal inscriptions.



L13c

The specification of the paper required that it should contain 70 per cent esparto and 30 per cent wood sulphite. The mesh was coarser than that in the paper with registered watermark and it was horizontal in relation to the watermark.

The first sheets printed on the new paper were issued in August, 1936, and the perforations had been effected by means of the comb machine with the 13-14 x 13  $\frac{1}{2}$  gauge. All the sheets were run through from the right-hand side.

Large quantities were printed on the new paper and with the 13-14 x 13  $\frac{1}{2}$  perfs. For the bulk of this issue the ink was again deep olive-green in colour but with a greater intensity variation. Some of these stamps again appeared to have a larger percentage of yellow in the ink, while in others the green was brighter.

In 1938 the printers experienced difficulty in drying the ink during cold and wet weather. In an endeavour to accelerate the drying the sheets were placed in heated chambers and this caused some distortion of the paper. Experiments were carried out and it was found that better registration of the perforations resulted from the use of the comb head with the 13  $\frac{1}{2}$  x 14 gauge.

Supplies with this perforation were placed on sale in March, 1939. Notwithstanding the interest that collectors were showing for varieties of the pictorial issue, this particular stamp seems to have been generally neglected. It was not on sale at all offices and it had been on issue for a relatively short period before the outbreak of war provided a distraction. In mint condition it is certainly one of the scarcest of the pictorial stamps.

From the evidence of flaws and their development it is apparent that the ink used for the early sheets of this printing contained a greater percentage of yellow than did the ink for the later sheets, which were therefore deeper in shade and more distinctly olive.





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There were 18,850 sheets on the esparto paper with multiple watermark but no record is available of the exact numbers with perf. 13-14 x 13 ½ and with perf 13 ½ x 14. Deducting 149 sheets that were damaged and destroyed, 2,244,120 stamps were issued. Two thousand six hundred and twenty-eight half sheets were overprinted "Official."



L13d

In September, 1940, the printing works of Messrs. De La Rue and Co. suffered damage as a result of a bombing raid by the Germans. The main works and the principal offices were destroyed on the night of December 29/30. After the raid in September the plate for the 2/- was sent to Messrs. Waterlow and Sons, who had generously offered their assistance to enable De La Rue and Co. to fulfil their contract. Before the plate was despatched it received careful attention two impressions being re-entered and others retouched.



Waterlow and Sons printed 2,100 sheets which they delivered to De La Rue and Co. to be perforated, but these sheets were lost in the fire which followed the raid in December.



L13e

The 2/- value was in considerable demand to cover the postage on parcels and on air mail correspondence and in addition quantities were required for use on legal documents. Early in 1941 stocks on hand in New Zealand were running short and on February 19, 1941, chief postmasters were instructed to use the 1/- value of the Centennial issue wherever possible to conserve the 2/- stamp. Two days later a cable was sent requesting that 10,500 sheets of the 2/- should be printed and despatched urgently.

This order was printed by Waterlow and Sons and as De La Rue and Co.'s perforating machines had been damaged, Waterlow and Sons also perforated these sheets.

Of the total printing some sheets were not considered satisfactory and only half sheets were despatched. The number issued was 9000 sheets (1,080,000 stamps). Two hundred half sheets were overprinted "Official."

The furnish of the paper used by "Waterlow and Sons was 45 % esparto, 20-25 % wood sulphite, and the balance rag, and it showed differences due to variations in the percentage of wood sulphite. It was still of good quality.

The ink used for the Waterlow printing was paler in tone than those used by De La Rue and Co. It varied in shade as well as in intensity and



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again some of it contained a greater percentage of yellow.

One sheet printed by Waterlow and Sons had a treble impression, two albinos and one coloured. One of the albino impressions was very much to the right while the other was to the left of the coloured impression. The albino impression to the left showed clearly in the vertical gutters between the stamps. In this sheet the coloured impression was not in any way blurred, the details of the design being clear and distinct.

The perforations were effected by means of a line machine gauging 12 ½ and one sheet had an extra line of perfs through the top of the top row of stamps, thus resulting in the 12 stamps having double perfs.

The line machine had a single row of pins and the one machine was used for both the horizontal and vertical perforations.

Sheets printed by Waterlow and Sons were first issued in. July, 1941.

In September, 1941, the plate was returned to De La Rue and Co. and they made subsequent printings until the plate was superseded by a new one.

By February, 1941, the papermakers were no longer able to obtain supplies of esparto fibres. An officer of the staff of the New Zealand High Commissioner had consultations with officials of the British Post Office and, as a result, it was agreed that the New Zealand stamps should be printed on a paper made to the specification of the paper then being used for the stamps of Great Britain. This paper is known as "Royal Cypher" grade and the furnish was: Not less than 50 % cotton rag, nor more than 40 % wood sulphite and/or esparto, not less than 10 % nor more than 15 % mineral matter. It is probable that the first mix contained little if any esparto and it is certain that later supplies contained none. The paper was poor in quality with a very distinct mesh and it resembles newsprint in appearance.



L13f

The dandy roll with multiple NZ and star used for the pre-war paper was again employed for both the 45 % and the "Royal Cypher" grade papers and the mesh was therefore horizontal in relation to the watermark.

For the first printing made by De La Rue and Co. in 1941 the plate was in the same state as it had been when used by Waterlow and Sons, but before the last printing from plate 1 flaws were retouched and sixteen impressions were re-entered.

For the first sheets printed by De La Rue on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper the ink was olive-green in colour with a distinct yellow tint. Subsequently the ink varied from deep olive-green to dark olive-green and the stamps printed from the re-entered portions of the plate appeared to be deeper in intensity than the other stamps in the sheet.

Twenty thousand sheets printed by De La Rue and Co. were sent in December, 1941, to Waterlow and Sons, who perforated them by means of the line machine gauging 12 ½. These included printings from the plate both before and after the extensive re-entries.

The remaining supplies printed by De La Rue and Co on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper, comprising 9000 sheets, and again including printings from the two states of the plate, were perforated by De La Rue and Co. by means of a new comb machine.





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The long row contained 339 pins while in each of the 13 short rows there were 15 pins. The short rows were in alignment with every 28th hole in the long row and there was one hole outside the long rows at each end. The spacing of the pins in the long row was fairly regular and the gauge varied from  $13 \frac{3}{4}$  to 14. The short rows gauged  $13 \frac{1}{2}$ . The sheets were run through from the bottom and the perforations on the stamps are  $14 \times 13 \frac{1}{2}$ . The plate had become slightly warped with the result that the impressions in the printed sheets were lower at the ends than they were in the middle. Consequently, as the long row in the perforating head was straight, the perforations if correctly placed for the stamps in the 1st and 12th vertical rows would be too low for the 6th and 7th rows. Indifferently centred copies are therefore not uncommon with both the line perf.  $12 \frac{1}{2}$  and with the comb perf  $14 \times 13 \frac{1}{2}$ .



Of the total supplies from plate 1 on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper, 10,000 sheets were lost when the ship, on which they were being carried, was torpedoed. Of the remaining 19,000 sheets there is no record of the sheets that were perf  $12 \frac{1}{2}$  or of those with perf  $14 \times 13 \frac{1}{2}$  nor is it now possible to ascertain how many there were of the two perforations printed before and after the plate was re-entered. Three thousand half sheets perf  $12 \frac{1}{2}$  were overprinted "**Official.**"

One sheet printed by De La Rue and Co. in deep olive-green and perforated  $12 \frac{1}{2}$  by Waterlow and Sons had double print, one albino. The coloured impression was blurred, probably due to the albino impression closing the pores of the paper and thus rendering it less absorbent of the ink in the coloured impression.

Some sheets of the De La Rue printings on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper had unusually wide margins at the bottom and the serial plate number 1298-1 therefore may be found inverted and reversed on the selvage under the 6th and 7th stamps of the bottom row.

The De La Rue printing on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper, perf  $12 \frac{1}{2}$  appeared early in 1942, but there was no fixed date for the release of this supply. The printing from plate 1 with perf  $14 \times 13 \frac{1}{2}$  was on sale in October, 1942.

(Note: where figures are quoted here of the numbers of the stamps issued, these represent the quantities received by the Custodian of Stamps. Half sheets to be overprinted "**official**" were taken from his stock and should therefore be deducted. For example, there were 9000 sheets on the esparto paper, perf  $12 \frac{1}{2}$ , and two hundred half sheets were overprinted "official" so that, of the total supply of 1,080,000 stamps, 1,068,000 were available for ordinary use.)

