



L13: 2/- CAPTAIN COOK LANDING, TYPE L13 (Recess) Notes from Vol 2, The Postage Stamps of New Zealand

This design depicted the landing of Captain James Cook at Poverty Bay on October 8, 1769, during his first voyage in the Pacific. The artist was Mr. T. H. Jenkins, of Invercargill.

The original plate contained 120 impressions (10 rows of 12) and the plate number 1 appeared on the bottom selvedge under the second stamp of the bottom row.

Printings was on the good quality esparto paper with multiple watermark were placed on sale in August, 1936, and the first supplies were perforated 13-14 x 13 ¹/₂. The shade was a deep olive-green, varying in intensity and more yellow was mixed with the green ink thus lightening the tone.

Before the plate had been put to press an engraver had done much "touching up", and it is therefore possible to identify each of the 120 impressions. This value provides excellent material for "a specialised study of one stamp". Here, as with the 1/-, a verbal description would be inadequate and only by enlarged drawings could the identification marks be clearly shown. In Volume 1 the possibility of study of the retouches of the 1d Universal from plate W2 was indicated, and this policy also applies in this case.

A flaw occurred in **R1/4** of all printings from plate 1. This flaw consisted of a coloured mark which caused the second O in COOK to appear like a Q. A reference to this flaw as an "error" of inscription and the publicity given to the so-called error in the newspapers, resulted in a rush for the variety by collectors and non-collectors alike.

An extra mark, corresponding with the left-hand side of the peaked hat of the officer immediately behind Cook, was found in **R1/6**. Extra marks were also evident on **R8/2** under the lower leaves of the cabbage-tree on the right-hand side. The flaw on row 8, No. 2 is found on paper with registered watermark but the flaw on R1/6 appeared only on the stamps multiple watermark and perforated 13-14 x 13 ¹/₂.

In March 1939, supplies on the good quality

esparto paper were issued with perforations gauging 13 ¹/₂ x 14. Possibly because of the fact that this particular supply was on sale for only a relatively short period before the distractions of war, both dealers and collectors neglected it with a result in mint condition it is the scarcest of all the issues of the Pictorials, with the exception of the 3/- value with registered watermark inverted and reversed. Because of the interest being taken at that time in the stamp with the flaw COOK, this variety with perforation 13 ¹/₂ x 14 in mint condition is easier to acquire than the normal stamp.

The colour again varied in intensity but was generally in a deep shade of olive-green. The reason for the change in the perforation was that difficulty had been experienced by the printers in the drying of the ink during cold and wet weather. In an endeavour to accelerate the drying the printed sheets were placed in heated chambers and this caused a certain amount of paper distortion. Experiments showed that better registration of the perforations was obtained by the use of the 13 ¹/₂ x 14 head than with the head gauging 13-14 x 13 ¹/₂.

A flaw developed in **R9/2**, and showed as two coloured dots immediately above the bow of the boat.

During the production of the supplies which were perforated 13 ¹/₂ x 14, Messrs. De La Rue & Co. retouched the impressions on **R1/6**, **R8/2**, and **R9/2**. The flaw in **R1/4**, however, persisted throughout the life of the plate.

In explanation of this De La Rue & Co. stated that the flaw converting the O into a Q was "discovered neither during the preliminary printing nor whilst the plate was on the machine. The varieties in **R1/6**, **R8/2**, and **R9/2**, showed as a 'dig' and were thus more obvious faults which were noticed and removed."

R10/5 developed a fault which was corrected by re-entry and there was some re-touching of the lines of the sky in **R1/11**.



L13: 2/- CAPTAIN COOK LANDING, TYPE L13 (Recess) Notes from Vol 2, The Postage Stamps of New Zealand

Continued

Late in 1940 plate 1 was sent to Messrs. Waterlow & Sons. The first printing by this firm comprised 2100 sheets which were delivered to De La Rue & Co. to be perforated and these sheets were lost in the fire.

Besides the use of the 2/- value to cover the postal rates on parcels and air mail correspondence, considerable quantities were required for use on legal documents and early in 1941 it was reported that stocks on hand in New Zealand were being seriously depleted. On February 19, 1941, instructions were issued to chief postmasters that, until further consignments could be received from England, two 1/-. Centennials should be used wherever possible.

An urgent order was lodged on February 21st for 10,500 sheets. These were printed by Waterlow & Sons and were perforated by them by means of the line machine gauging 12 1/2. The paper contained less esparto than that used for the earlier printings and this particular paper showed differences due to variations in the quantity of esparto in the content. The shade of the stamps printed by Waterlow & Sons was an olive-green but generally paler in tone than the earlier printings.

During the time when plate 1 was being used by Waterlow & Sons a crack developed in the plate which affected **R10/10, 11 and 12**. This crack showed as a line of colour running through the lower part of the value tablet of **R10/10**, and as a wavy line through **REVENUE** on the right. In **R10/11** there was evidence of the crack as a diagonal line through the figure 2. **R10/12** had a patch of colour in the lower left corner of the value tablet.

Prior to the plate being handed over to Waterlow & Sons, De La Rue & Co had re-entered the impressions in **R2/12** and **R8/12**

One sheet printed by Waterlow & Sons had a treble impression, two albino and one coloured. One of the albino impressions was very much to the right, while the other was partly to the left. In the stamps there was evidence of the albino impression partly to the left in the vertical gutter between the stamps. One sheet of the Waterlow printing

was issued with double perforations horizontally through the top of the top row.

In September, 1941, the plate was returned to De La Rue & Co. and they proceeded to print the stamps using the "Royal Cypher" grade paper. After the first printing had been made the damage to R10 Nos. 10, 11, and 12 was noticed and in addition it was considered that some of the impressions on the plate were unsatisfactory and a further sixteen impressions were re-entered.

-The re-entries on plate 1 were:-

R2/11 *Evidence of doubling in the left-hand portion of the design, particularly the lines of the lower leaves of the tree-fern, of the shading lines on the lower sails, of some of the lines of the rigging and of the left side of the left-hand mast. There was a general thickening of the lines of the whole design.*

R2/12 *A thickening of the lines of the design*

R3/8 *A doubling of the vertical frame-line on the left, of the central ribs of the leaves of the tree-fern, of the left-hand end of the scroll containing NEW ZEALAND, of the letters NEW, of some of the lines of the rigging and of the lines forming the left-hand side of the value panel.*

R4/12 *Traces of doubling of the vertical rib-lines of the leaf of the tree-fern which overlaps the left-hand end of the scroll.*

R5/5 *Doubling of the top frame-line, particularly evident towards the left, of the ribs of the leaves of the tree-fern, of the bottom horizontal frame-line below the value panel and of some of the lines at the upper left corner of the value panel.*

R5/12 *Evidence of slight doubling of the fine horizontal lines of the back-ground, particularly towards the top of the stamp*



L13: 2/- CAPTAIN COOK LANDING, TYPE L13 (Recess) Notes from Vol 2, The Postage Stamps of New Zealand

Continued

R6/4 Doubling of the vertical frame-lines on the right and on the left also of the top frame-line in the right-hand corner. Doubling of the leaves of the cabbage tree, of some of the ribs of the leaves of the tree-fern, of both ends and the bottom line of the scroll containing NEW ZEALAND, of the cross bar of the N and the curve of the D, of some of the letters of the inscription CAPTAIN COOK AT POVERTY BAY OCTOBER 8TH 1769, of some of the letters in the panel in the bottom right corner and of the lines forming the left side of the value panel.

R8/10 Thickening of the lines of the design.

R8/12 Thickening of the lines of the design.

R9/7 Doubling of the top frame-line, especially evident in the right half and of the bottom frame-line below the value panel. Doubling of the leaves of the cabbage tree, of the cross bar of the N, of the top of the D and of the upper serifs of the L and N in ZEALAND. Doubling of the lines of shading of the 2 and in the bottom corners of the value panel.

R9/8 Doubling of the top frame-line, especially evident towards the right and of the bottom, frame-line below the value panel. Doubling of the leaves of the cabbage tree, of the lines of shading and lower border of the right-hand portion of the scroll containing NEW ZEALAND and of the cross-bar of the N, the curve of the D and the upper serifs of the L and N. Doubling of all the lines of the ship's rigging, of the shading and border lines of the value panel and of some of the letters in the inscription CAPTAIN COOK AT POVERTY BAY OCTOBER 8TH 1769.

R9/10 Doubling of the top frame-line most noticeable in the right half, of the leaves of the cabbage tree, of the lines of shading of the right-hand end of the scroll containing NEW ZEALAND and of the background shading lines in the upper right portion of the stamp. Doubling of the shading lines in the left half of the value panel and of all lines of the ship's rigging.

R9/12 Thickening of the lines of the design.

R10/3 Traces of doubling of the lines of the ship's rigging just to the right of the foremast. General thickening of the lines of the design.

R10/5 Doubling of the lines of shading of the trunk of the tree-fern, of some of the ribs of the leaves of the tree-fern, of the lines of the rigging to the left of the left-hand mast, of the left border and the lines of shading of the top left corner of the value panel.

R10/9 Doubling of the top frame-line, especially evident in the right half, of the leaves of the cabbage tree, of the lines of shading of the right-hand end of the scroll containing NEW ZEALAND, of the cross-bar of the N and the curve of the D and the upper serifs of the L and N. Doubling of all the border lines and lines of shading of the value panel, of all the lines of the ship's rigging and of some of the ribs of the leaves of the tree-fern.

R10/10 Doubling of the left vertical frame-line and of the top frame-line at the upper right corner. Doubling of some of the leaves of the cabbage-tree and of the ribs of some of the leaves of the tree-fern.



L13: 2/- CAPTAIN COOK LANDING, TYPE L13 (Recess) Notes from Vol 2, The Postage Stamps of New Zealand

Continued

R10/11 *Doubling of the left vertical frame-line in the lower portion and of the bottom frame-line below the value panel. Doubling of the ribs of the lower leaves of the tree-fern, of the left side of the left-hand mast, of some of the lines of the ship's rigging and of the curved left frame-line of the value panel and the lines in the upper left carrier of his*

R10/12 *Doubling of portion of the left vertical frame-line, of the ribs of the lower leaves of the tree-fern and of the inner curved line of the left-hand side of the value panel.*

Twenty thousand sheets printed by De La Rue & Co. were sent in December, 1941, to Waterlow & Sons who perforated them by means of the line machine gauging 12 ¹/₂. The balance of the printing was perforated by De La Rue & Co. by means of the comb machine gauging 14x 13 ¹/₂.

Some of the first sheets printed by De La Rue & Co. were perforated by them with the result that these sheets show the re-entries in **R2/12**; **R8/12** and **R10/5** only.

The stamps on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper printed from plate 1 were in dark olive-green, varying in intensity. The stamps-printed from the re-entered portions of the plate, generally appeared darker than the other stamps in the sheet. One sheet perf. 12 ¹/₂ was issued with double print, one being albino.

Some of the sheets, printed by De La Rue & Co. on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper had a wide margin at the bottom, and the serial plate number **1298-1** appeared inverted and reversed on the lower selvedge under the 6th and 7th stamps of the bottom row.

Printings by Waterlow & Sons on the esparto paper perf. 12 ¹/₂ were issued in July, 1941, while the De La Rue printings on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper perf. 12 ¹/₂ appeared in 1942.

Because of the demand for a 2/- stamp, two new plates were laid down. The number in plate 2 was in much larger type than the 1 but still appeared under the second stamp in the bottom row. The number in plate 3 was the same sized type as the 1 and appeared in the same position.



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3

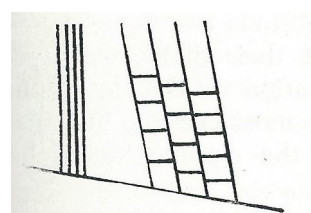


Plate 1

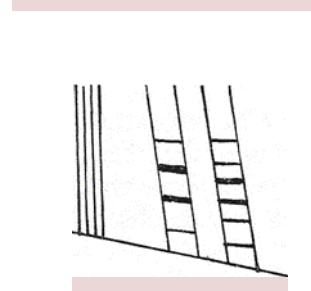


Plate 2

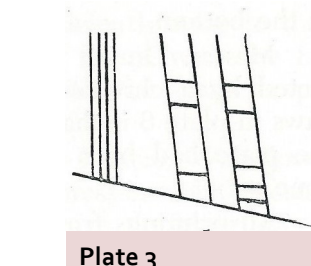


Plate 3

A particularity of this value is that marked differences in the horizontal lines in the rigging to the right of the mast are found in the impressions from the three plates.

A further point of difference is that in the impressions on plates 2 and 3 there was a small dot to the right of Cook's arm the 43rd horizontal line of shading in the background.

Messrs. De La Rue & Co. have stated that only one die was cut for the value and that the transfer roller contained two impressions taken from the die.



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Continued

The dot in the shading opposite Cook's arm appears in the original die but De La Rue & Co. state that in laying down plate 1 the flaw was noted and the engraver succeeded in removing it. The original die also shows damage to the rigging to the right of the masts.

During the laying down the plate some of these lines became weakened and, though the impressions on the plate itself were touched up, the lines on the transfer roller had become weakened to such an extent that when the second plate was laid down some did not reproduce at all, particularly those between the second and third rigging lines. The damage to the other impression on the was noticed and the roller itself was touched up, leaving odd blanks in the shading and weakening some of the lines. This impression was used both for laying down plate 3 and for effecting re-entries on plate 1. The re-entries on plate 1 may all be recognised by the minute dot to the right of Cook's arm.

Many of the impressions on plate 2 had not been rolled in deeply enough with the result that this plate early showed signs of wearing, particularly in the horizontal lines of shading in the sky. **R10/9** in the sheet was noticeably darker than the other stamps, and this was probably a case of re-entry although there is no evidence of doubling.

There was a progressive development of flaws in the printings from plate 3. Horizontal lines of colour appeared in various portions of the design, being particularly evident as extensions to the right of the upper horizontal frame-line of the design, and of the two upper horizontal frame-lines of the panel in the bottom right-hand corner. There were also short horizontal

lines running from the central portion of the cabbage tree on the right, from the right-hand end of the horizontal line immediately below 2/- and from the point of Captain Cook's chin. The ornaments forming the lower border of the design appeared to run together and in some extreme instances there was almost a solid band of colour at the bottom.

Messrs. De La Rue & Co. have stated that their plates were protected by a chrome facing and that the explanation of the developing flaws in plate 3 is that the facing wore and, in the most extreme instances, the plate had been run on the machine "after the chrome facing had gone".

All printings from plates 2 and 3 were made by Messrs. De La Rue & Co. on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper and were perforated by means of the comb machine gauging 14 x 13 ¹/₂. Sheets printed from plate 2 were in olive-green and dark olive-green while those printed from plate 3 ranged in shade from dark olive-green to dull olive-green.

The printings from plate 2 were issued in July, 1942, followed in October by the printings from plate 1 perfs. 14 x 13 ¹/₂ and in November 1943, by the sheets from plate 3.

One sheet from plate 2 had double print, one albino. In one sheet the inking of the plate had been uneven and the stamps in the 7th and 8th horizontal rows had uncoloured patches. This particular sheet also differed from the others from plate 2 in that the colour appeared as dull olive-green. Some sheets from this plate had the watermark inverted.

This value remained on sale until April 30, 1947.