

L14: 3/- Mount Egmont, TYPE L14 (Recess) Notes from Vol 2, The Postage Stamps of New Zealand

The central feature of this denomination was

Mt. Egmont and the stamp was designed by Mr. L. C. Mitchell.

One plate for the centre and one for the frame were laid down and served for all printings. The sheets contained 60 stamps in 10 rows of 6. The printing on the good quality esparto paper with multiple water-mark appeared in August, 1936. The comb machine gauging 13-14 x 13 1/2 was used for the perforations.

The centre was printed in sepia and the colour of the frame ranged from deep yellow-brown to deep brown. In some of the sheets of this printing the left-hand border of the ornament to the right of the D of ZEALAND appears as a double line and it is probable that there was some touching up of impressions on the plate before it was put to press. Messrs. De La Rue & Co., have stated that they did not cut any extra lines on the plate during the period when the printings were being made. Some sheets, with the border in deep brown had the watermark inverted. In this value as in some others there appears to have been a strengthening of some of the shading lines. R5/3 shows a thickening of the horizontal sky lines to the right of the mountain.

The stamps affected were:

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						

In January, 1940, Messrs. De La Rue & Co. submitted fresh plate proofs as they were experiencing difficulty in effecting a match of the colours due to the hardness of the glaze on the paper. This difficulty was particularly apparent with the centre and some of the fine lines of shading of the mountain did not show up. A run of 10,500 sheets was passed as it was considered that the shade was sufficiently near to those of earlier issues. Stamps from this supply are found with the face of the stamp having a pale yellowish tint and with the frame a pronounced yellow brown.

Late in 1940 the plates were handed over to Messrs. Waterlow & Sons; but before this was done a number of the impressions of the centre plate had been re-entered. In the majority of instances doubling appears only at the extreme left of the impression, particularly in connection with the vertical lines of shading of the large tree trunk and of the lines of shading of the foreground immediately below the trunk. In other instances, the doubling appears in the lines of shading of the hill in the bottom right hand corner.

In most of these the doubling is so slight as not to warrant detailed description. The most prominent varieties are:

R3/6 *Doubling of the horizontal lines of shading of the tree trunk on the left, of the lines of shading of the sky, of the left slope of the mountain peak, of the top of the bushes in the centre background and of all horizontal lines in the centre foreground.*

R4/2 *Doubling of the vertical lines of shading of the tree trunk on the left, of the lines of shading of the foreground on the left and of the central lines of shading on the peak of the mountain.*

R4/4 *Doubling of all the vertical lines on the left-hand side similar to R4/2.*

R10/5 *Doubling of the horizontal line of shading of the lower half of the tree trunk on the left and of the lines of shading of the sky on the left.*

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Continued

The first printing made by Waterlow & Sons comprised 4,320 sheets and these were returned to De La Rue & Co. for perforating but were lost in the fire.

On February 21, 1941, an order was lodged for a further 4,320 sheets. These were printed on a rather soft paper containing less esparto than formerly. The centre was in deep sepia and the frame in a chestnut, a shade quite distinct from that of any of the other printings. The sheets were perforated by Waterlow & Sons by means of the line machine gauging 12 $\frac{1}{2}$.

On November 20, 1941, the plates were returned to De La Rue & Co. and subsequent printings were made by this firm on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper and with comb perfs. 14 x 13 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Centre plates

Two distinct states of the centre plate may be recognised in the printings on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper. In sheets from state A curved lines are found on the bottom selvedge and in R2/3, there is a marked flaw consisting of a large spot in the colour of the frame, immediately above the stroke in the left-hand value tablet.

In sheets from state B the curved lines on the bottom selvedge have almost disappeared and there is no trace of the flaw on R2/3. Three additional impressions had been re-entered

	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1							R1/1 <i>Doubling of the lines of shading of the hill in the bottom right corner. (It is to be noted that in state A this impression showed re-entering on the left side of the design).</i>
2							R2/3 <i>Doubling of the vertical lines of shading of the lower part of the tree trunk on the left and of the lines of shading of the foreground on the extreme left.</i>
3							R9/4 <i>Doubling of the lines of shading of the hill in the bottom right corner, of the lines of shading of the right face of the mountain and of the lines of shading of the sky to the right of the mountain. This was a very prominent re-entry.</i>
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10							

In the sheets from state B the re-entries in R3/6 and R10/5, were not as prominent as they had been in state A.

In addition to the perforation guide marks sheets of this value had a T shaped mark on the selvedge above and below the fourth vertical row. There was a vertical line in the colour of the centre on the top and bottom selvedge in line with the gutter between the fourth and fifth vertical rows. In the gutter between rows 2 and 3, Nos. 4 and 5, short vertical marks appeared, the one on the left being in the colour of the centre and the one on the right in the colour of the frame.

The printings on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper were issued in September, 1942. The centre was in sepia-black and the frame in deep bistre-brown, varying in the amount of yellow content.

In some of the sheets with wide margins at the bottom the serial plate numbers are found inverted and reversed, the number **1299-1** appearing in the colour of the frame and **1300-1** in the colour of the centre. This value remained on sale until superseded by the stamp with portrait of King George VI on May 1, 1947.