



L2: 1d KIWI TYPE (Recess)

Notes from Vol 2, The Postage Stamps of NZ

The principal feature of this denomination was the Kiwi, with typical New Zealand scenery in the background. The side panels were based on carvings on the wooden slabs in the model meeting-house at Rotorua. The stamp was designed by Miss C. H. and Mr. R. J. G. Collins, of Christchurch.

The plates for the printings on the paper with multiple watermark were laid down from a third die, the other two dies having been used for the plates for printings on paper with registered watermark. Two plates were laid down, each containing 480 impressions divided into two groups of 240 (10 rows of 24). The markings on one plate were A3 and B3, while those on the other plate were A4 and B4. As considerable quantities were required of this value the two plates were used together in the larger printing machine. The sheets were divided before issue, those on sale at the post office containing 240 stamps.

Sheets with the markings A3 and B3, under the second stamp in the bottom row, were first issued in April, 1936, and those with A4 and B4, also under the second stamp in the bottom row, were issued four months later. Approximately 1,000 sheets with the watermark inverted and printed from the two plates were issued coincident with the appearance of the stamps with the markings A4 and B4.

An interesting problem is presented in connection with the plate with the markings A4 and B4. In sheets with the marking A4, from the 14th to the 24th stamp in the top row the design is normal but all other stamps in the sheet show traces of a horizontal line running from the lower frame line of the label under D of ZEALAND towards the lower left-hand point of the left-hand star of the Southern Cross on the right. The extent of the line varies; in some



cases, it touches the point of the star. In sheets with the marking B4 traces of this line are found in some of the stamps of the sheet but it is not as prominent or as extensive as in the sheets with the A4 marking. Because of the wide variation in the extent of the line and the fact that it appears in colour, it is improbable that it was due to any fault in the impression on the transfer roller. It resembles breaks found in plate 3 of the 2/-, and was due either to faults in the chrome facing or in the steel plate itself.

All sheets that were printed from the ordinary plates or from the booklet plate were perforated by means of a comb head gauging 14 x 13 1/2.

The 1d. was withdrawn from sale on June 30, 1938, and remainders were destroyed.



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Campbell Paterson NZ Bulletin, NZ STAMPS AS I HAVE KNOWN THEM September 1964

1d Kiwi, 1935-1938

This is a more interesting stamp than the general catalogues would suggest. SG list and illustrate two Dies, these differing in the depth of colour in the sky above the kiwi. In fact there are three Dies, SG557 and 557b being Die 1 with light sky; 557c is Die 2 with deep sky, while 578 is Die 3 with medium deep sky and an extra horizontal line between the tree and the left frame. As Die 3 is never found other than with the Multiple Watermark, the matter of a third Die may seem academic but one needs to know the Dies thoroughly if one is to recognize the unlisted rarity "Die 1 with Multiple Wmk". That such Die 1 stamps do exist is shown in our Catalogue. They are prizes to look for, each worth a good £4 to £5 [\$475]. They are in fact all reentries made at a late date to the Booklet plate that was used with the Multiple Wmk. Not all show doubling but all are easily recognizable in that the roller-die used for the reentering was the old Die 1 roller, not the newer Die 3. As only one or two stamps were reentered on a few of the panes, many panes being untouched, it follows that one finds booklet panes with the variety" Die 1 se-tenant with Die 3". These are good property but even scarcer are used copies of the Multiple Wmk Die 1 stamps; I have never found one in all my sorting.

Returning to the more general consideration of the 1d Kiwi. There are three issues on the Single watermark paper and one (plus the Die 1 reentries) on the multiple watermark paper. The three Singles are: Die 1 perf 14x13½; Die 1 perf 13½x14; and Die 2 perf 14x13½. (Die 2 stamps always had the heavy sky shading and they

appeared only in booklet panes with Parisian Ties advertisements. These Single watermark booklets must not be confused with the multiple watermark booklets that produced the Die 1 reentries discussed above. The Multiple watermark booklets had no advertisements.) Finally, there was the Die 3 issue with multiple watermark.

The first step is to eliminate the multiple watermark stamps, putting them aside for the moment. Of the remainder, all Single watermark, sort out the Die 2 stamps. This is simple as they stand out boldly when their heavy sky is compared with the weak Die 1 sky of the other Singles.

We now have stamps p.14x13½ or p.13½x14. A helpful point is that the p.13½x14 stamps always have oddly shaped corners at left top and bottom. We will meet this perforation again so it will be best to explain here that the p.13½x14 sheets were perfed in vertical columns from the right of the sheet. As the short "legs" of the comb head were too long for the width of the stamps, each succeeding strike of the comb overlapped the last hole made by the previous strike – hence the oddly shaped corners were caused by the overlapping holes. If using the perf-gauge, as is advisable at first, it is useful to know that the tops of the stamps of the two issues are similar, so concentrate on the sides. The drill here is to separate stamps with side perfs that gauge near to 13 from those with side perfs near 14. Neither is exact but the "near 13" are the ones known as 14x13½, i.e. L2a. The others are L2b. They are worth looking for.

I should have said earlier that in separating the Single watermark stamps from the Multiples it is well to remember that the Singles