



L2: 1d KIWI TYPE (Recess) Notes from Campbell Paterson

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



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1d Kiwi, 1935-1938 Continued

are always with Vertical Mesh and when warmed curl around a vertical axis; the Multiples have Horizontal Mesh and curl accordingly. The curling is a good guide but is not infallible. Seeing the mesh is much better; as a test it is infallible. Looking for the watermarks is only for those who cannot master the mesh and is admittedly a tedious job.

Varieties are not many in L2a being restricted to a rather good and prominent plate crack best seen in a mint block with attendant neat little variety "cap on Kiwi". Other varieties are inverted watermarks, not scarce, and the rather freakish "no watermark" or "Letters watermark" stamps, these being from sheets where by accident the printing has been allowed to stray on to the blank or lettered selvedge. Some pretty shades are found in L2a, the best being a deep carmine or a pale soft pink. All shades other than those close to the normal are quite scarce.

Turning to the Multiples, I have already spoken of the desirable and rare Die 1 on multi-

ple watermark paper. Other reentries about which little has ever been published are known on Die 3 stamps. These must be from a late repair to one of the four "big" plates used for this issue. They are exceedingly scarce, even rare, and often quite spectacular. We illustrate a typical example in our Catalogue. Shades are numerous in the Multiples and quite scarce in those cases which differ widely from the normal. Inverted watermarks are relatively common. Some small but neat little flaws, "Kiwi with worm", "Frog on log" and so on used to be popular but are seldom seen today. Which perhaps tells a tale. Such small varieties are not important but are collectable and in after years become more so.

Discretion has to be exercised however if the collecting of small flaws is not to become a meaningless diversion. It is better to keep them to their place, concentrating more on varieties like retouches or reentries which are evidence of importance in illustrating the progressive history of an issue. Where a flaw, no matter how small, leads later to a retouch or reentry it immediately becomes more important in its own right.

A master die and two subsidiary dies were prepared. These had easily identified differences, and for convenience are known as dies I, 2 and 3.



Die 1.
Cloud pointed at A.
Shading faint at B.



Die 2.
Cloud bulbus at A.
Shading heavy at B.



Die 3.
Cloud pointed at A.
Shading clear at B.
Extra line at C.