



L2 Booklets

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Two different booklets were issued. The first, issued in 1935, was on single watermarked paper and had adverts in the margin. The stamps are from die 2 and the lines in the clouds are much stronger than before. The second booklet was issued in 1936 and were from Die 3.

The first booklet

A special plate containing 144 impressions was produced to make booklets and the stamps were issued on 18 November 1935. The stamps are from die 2 and the lines in the clouds are much stronger.

The plate was laid out so that there were 3 rows each of 8 booklet panes. The middle row was inverted and so one third of the issued stamps have an inverted watermark.

The booklet panes had Parisian Tie adverts in the margins.

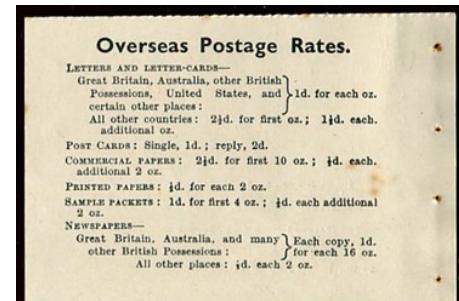
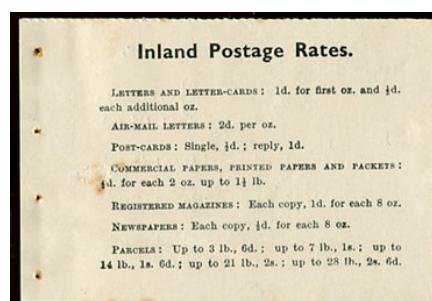
The number of booklets produced was 214,800. Each booklet had 24 stamps.

The second booklet

New booklets were issued in November 1936 with the impressions from die 3.

The new booklet plate had 180 impressions. The 30 panes in the plate were organised in 6 columns of 5 panes. There were gaps between the columns that were used to produce the binding selvedge in the booklets.

Each booklet had 24 stamps. The booklets had pages, printed on both sides, of adverts for the Government State Fire and Accident Insurance Office and for the Government Life Insurance Department interleaving the four panes of stamps together with two sides describing the current postal rates. The postal rates pages are reproduced here.



W5b 1936 (Nov) 2/- Booklet: four panes of L2d (1d Kiwi, Die 3) with no advertisements, Watermark normally W.8 .

Perf	Paper	Colour	UHM	LHM	FU
14 x 13 ½	Esparto	Booklet			\$500

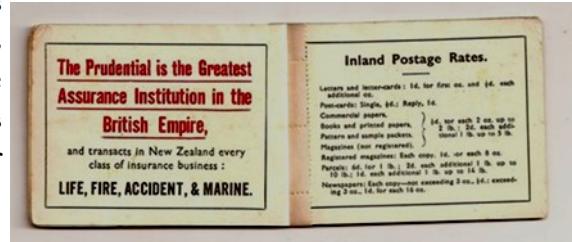
Panes (with binding selvedge)

W5b	Variety	Mint	Used
(Z)	With upright watermark (normal)(W.8)	\$85.00	
(Y)	With inverted watermark (variety)(W.8c)	\$350	
(X)	With one "Die 1" re-entry	\$350	
(W)	With two "Die 1" re-entries	\$700	
(V)	With three "Die 1" re-entries	\$1,000	
(U)	With two re-entries, one "Die 1", one "Die 3".	****	

The above booklet was the first to have the stamps in the form of "horizontal" panes of six i.e. two rows of three stamps with binding selvedge at the left end of the pane. Hitherto all booklets had had "vertical" panes, i.e. three rows of two stamps with binding selvedge at top or bottom of the pane and with side selvedges intact. The new booklets (W5b) had no selvedge other than for binding and accordingly they had no advertisements. This lay-out of horizontal panes of six units with binding selvedge only and without advertising continued to be the invariable form until the appearance of booklets with a single pane (of 10 stamps) in 1977.

Differences of opinion are held as to whether the re-entries (which appeared after the plate had been in use for some time) were laid down by a "Die 1" or a "Die 3" transfer roller.

The colour showed considerable variation from deep carmine to pale carmine and from rose-carmine to pale carmine-pink. In some of the sheets the mechanical wiper had not removed all the ink from the surface of the plate, with the result that the stamps had a pink toning. In instances where the inking of the plate was not efficient, pale prints with an absence of shading resulted. A cleaner, similar to a petroleum liquid, was used to remove clogged ink from the engraved lines in the plate and when printing was resumed before all the cleaning agent had been removed, the stamps had an oily appearance and the colour was darker than usual with a black tinge in parts of the design.



A new issue of booklets was placed on sale in November, 1936. The plate was laid down from die 3 and contained 180 impressions arranged in six groups of thirty (10 horizontal rows of 3). There was a space equivalent to the width of a stamp running vertically between each of the groups. The sheets were guillotined vertically to leave a piece of selvedge on the left-hand side of each group, and the groups of thirty were then guillotined into blocks of six (two horizontal rows of 3). In cases where the guillotine cut did not run through the perforations, blocks: were issued with a side imperf, but as these could be simulated they are not recognisable varieties.

In some of the booklets from the first supply the first two blocks had the watermark inverted.

The horizontal line mentioned in connection with the sheets with the markings A4 and B4 is also to be found in stamps from the booklet but in this case there is definite evidence that the line developed. A sheet in the reference collection of the G.P.O., Wellington, and, bearing the date July, 1936, does not show the line while in a sheet dated August, 1937, the line is found in a number of the stamps. In stamps printed from the booklet plate for the last supplies the line had become even more prominent and more extensive than it was in the A4 sheet.

Three major varieties may be found among these booklet stamps in the form of strong re-entries. In the fourth stamp in one block of six the bottom frame-line was completely doubled as well as the letters of POSTAGE & REVENUE.



In another block the fourth stamp was doubled at the top, in respect of the frame-line, the fern and the letters of NEW ZEALAND. This was not unlike panel A4, R5/9. In the fifth stamp of another block the whole of the frame-line at the bottom was doubled as well as the letters of POSTAGE & REVENUE. This resembled the first mentioned re-entry of the booklets but the doubling of the letters was more prominent. In these blocks the stamps adjacent to those containing the doubling were relatively weak in detail as though the impressions had not been rolled in deeply enough.

There are at least three other instances of re-entries from the booklet plate. These show

doubling of the top or side frame lines. It should be noted that the proof sheets from the booklet plate do not show the re-entries. One stamp on the proof sheets corresponding with the fourth stamp in a block has a cross marked against it. It is probable that this was an indication that the impression was not considered satisfactory and that this, as well as others, was subsequently strengthened by re-entry.

Instances are found in the booklet stamps of retouching, particularly of the vertical frame-line on the right near the bottom of the stamp. Numerous dots and minor flaws occurred and although some were constant they are generally of minor interest only. In the most prominent a coloured patch obliterated the lower half of the figure 1 in the left-hand bottom corner. The blocks from the booklet plate were printed in carmine and rose-carmine.