



L5: Notes from Vol 2 Postage Stamps of New Zealand

Designed by Mr. L. C. Mitchell, this denomination featured Mt. Cook with the mountain lily introduced into the border.

The original plate made for the frame was numbered 1 under the second stamp in the bottom row, while the centre plate was unnumbered. Printings from these plates with multiple watermark were issued in April, 1936 and were perforated 13-14 x 13 1/2. The sheets comprised 60 stamps in 10 rows of 6.

The first supplies had the centre in chocolate and the frame in indigo-slate but the plates began to wear and as the deterioration progressed the stamps became paler in colour. In some sheets issued towards the end of 1936 the frame was in a pale bluish slate with an absence of detail in the lilies. A few sheets had the multiple watermark inverted.

Three minor varieties are found in all sheets from plate 1. Coloured dots appeared on the larger 2 in R1/1 and in R3/3. In R5/3 the shading in the panel in the bottom left-hand corner was paler than in other impressions, due to the incised lines in the plate becoming shallower.

Late in the life of the border plate, fairly serious damage occurred to the 5th stamp in each of the 5th and 6th rows. The top right-hand corner of the upper stamp had the border lines shorn away, giving a ragged blurred impression. In the right-hand vertical gutter of the upper stamp, a group of heavy scratches appeared, evidently a continuation of the damage apparent in the stamp. The lower stamp, R6/5, was damaged on the lower right-hand corner in a manner similar to that evident in the upper one, but not so extensively. The same scoring, too, to a lesser degree, shows in the border lines above the letters AN of ZEALAND in the 5th stamp of the 7th row. The panel shading evident in R5/3, also appears in R6/6, but not

quite so prominently. Because of the wearing of the first plate a new frame plate numbered 2 was laid down, but only 21 1/2 sheets were printed and as these were not satisfactory they were not issued and the plate was discarded.

A third plate for the frame had the plate No. 3 in reverse under the fifth stamp in the bottom row. Before the plate was laid down there was a little recutting of some of the lines, particularly in the outer border.



Before the new centre plate was made an impression was taken from the original transfer roller and a subsidiary die made which was considerably retouched. The shading lines in the sky were deepened, thus resulting in the mountain being better defined. The shading lines at the bottom of the mountain were heavily recut.

Printings from plate 3 were first placed on sale in November, 1936, and 40 sheets had the watermark inverted. Because of the inefficient operation of the mechanical wiper, sheets were found with a very distinct greyish toning over the whole surface of the sheet.



Two line heads were used for perforating the stamp. One head was short, just fitting the length or depth of the impression; the other head was longer; running through the selvedge of the sheets as issued. In the bulk of the early supplies the short head was used horizontally. These heads were superseded by a new line head which was used for both the horizontal and the vertical rows of



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Certain of the Pictorial plates had an engine-turned design on the border of the plates to assist the printer in the adjustment of the pressure to bring out the detail. Generally, this design is cut off when the sheets are trimmed. The centre plate of the 2 ½ d used in conjunction with the frame plate 4 had the engine-turned design at the bottom of the plate and much closer to the design than usual. In the first supplies the engine turned design appeared on the sheets on the bottom selvedge covering the lower part of the figure 4 and in the middle under the third and fourth stamps the number **1653-2** appeared in reverse. In subsequent supplies the engine-turned design did not appear.

Printings from the frame plate 4 were made on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper and the perforations were effected by means of a comb machine gauging 14 x 13 ½. The colour of the centre was reddish-chocolate and the frame bluish-slate. These were issued in November, 1942.

All printings of the 2 ½ d. were made by De La Rue & Co. This value was withdrawn on April 30, 1947, and because of the increase of postal rates there was so little use for it that no stamp of this denomination was issued with portrait of King George VI.





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perforations and subsequently was itself superseded in 1938 by a new comb head. The perforations in each instance gauged 14.

The colour of the frame in printings from plate 3 normally ranged from indigo-slate to bluish-slate but the stamps with the toned surface appear to be bluer. The centre is found in deep red-brown, deep reddish-chocolate and reddish-chocolate.

Plate 3 Re-entries

R7/5	Doubling of the three outer frame-lines above POSTAGE, of the cross-hatching in the top left corner, of the radial lines of the flowers on the left, of the inside fine frame-line below NEW and to the right of the flowers. This variety occurs only in sheets with the line perforation 14 (short head) and the comb perforation 14.
R8/5	Doubling of the outer vertical frame-line in the bottom left corner. This variety occurs only in sheets with the line perforation 14 (long and short heads).
R10/1	Doubling of the short horizontal portion of the outer frame-line in bottom left corner and of the outer frame-line above the E of POSTAGE.
R10/2	Doubling of the outer frame-line down the left side and above the P of POSTAGE, of the cross-hatching in the top left corner and of the radial lines of the flowers on the left.

It is to be noted that the latter two varieties occur only in sheets with the comb perforation 14.

After the impression had been re-entered in R10/1, the plate developed a crack which showed as an irregular coloured line on the selvedge under R10/1, and extending from the bottom left-hand flower to the figure of value.

The following re-entries are to be found in printings from plate 3:

In 1942 new plates were again made. The frame plate was, numbered 4, the number appearing under the second stamp in the bottom row. Apparently considerable care was taken to ensure the strength of the impressions and no less than 27 of the stamps in the sheet show evidence of doubling. This doubling is found in the proof sheet and hence the strengthening in this case was made before the plate was put to press. In the majority of instances, the doubling is rather faint and shows in the outer vertical frame line on the left. The more prominent examples of the doubling are as follows:-



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Re-entries

R2/3 Doubling of the outer horizontal frame-line along the bottom of the stamp and most evident on the right; doubling of the radial lines of the lower flowers on the right and of the cross-hatching in the bottom right-hand corner.

R2/4 Doubling of the outer vertical frame-line on the left, of the radial lines of the outermost flowers on the left and of the cross-hatching in the left top and bottom corners.

R4/6 Doubling of the outer vertical frame-line on the left, of the cross-hatching in the left top and bottom corners and of the radial lines of the outermost flowers in these corners.

R5/5 Doubling of the outer vertical frame-line on the left, most noticeable at the bottom corner, of the cross-hatching in the left top and bottom corners, of the radial lines of the left-hand flowers in these corners and of the veins of the flower leaf on the left.

R5/6 Doubling of the outer vertical frame-line on the left, most noticeable at the top corner and of the cross-hatching in the top left corner.

R6/5 Doubling of the frame-line on the left and of the cross-hatching in the top left corner.

R7/3 Doubling of the outer vertical frame-line on the left, of the cross-hatching in the left top and bottom corners and of the radial lines of the left-hand flower in the top left corner.

R8/3 Doubling of the outer vertical frame-line on the left, of the cross-hatching in the left top and bottom corners, of the radial lines of the left-hand flower in the top left corner and of the two left-hand flowers in the bottom left corner.

R9/5 Doubling of the vertical frame-lines on the left, of the top of the cross-hatching in the left top and bottom corners and of the radial lines of the left-hand flower in the top left corner and of the left three flowers in the bottom left corner.

R9/6 Doubling of the vertical and horizontal frame-lines at the top left corner, of the cross-hatching in the top left corner and of the radial lines of the left-hand flower in the top left corner.

R10/4 Doubling of the outer horizontal frame-lines at the bottom, especially in right half, of the cross-hatching in the right top and bottom corners, of the radial lines and outlines of petals of all the flowers on the right and of the lines of the leaves on the right.

R10/5 Doubling of the outer vertical frame-lines at the left bottom corner, of the outer horizontal frame-lines at the right top and bottom corners, of the cross-hatching in the right top and bottom and left top corners, of the radial lines and outlines of petals of all the flowers on the right and of the lines of the leaves on the right.

R1/1 A break developed in R1/1 and took the form of a curved line to the right of the right-hand flower in the bottom left-hand corner. This variety is known as "**stalk to flower**".