



L6: 3d Campbell Paterson's Notes

Extracted from Campbell Paterson , NZ Stamps as I know them,
NZ Bulletin, March 1965

Our subject this month is a relatively small one -- L6a and L6b. In company with the ½d Fantail, 1d Kiwi and 1½d Maori Cooking this stamp was withdrawn in 1938, years before the rest of the set was replaced by the George VI Head types. At the time the 3d mint was a popular 'buy' and prices rose quickly. It is still not easy to find.

Because of its withdrawal before the war, this stamp underwent no variations of perforation though it did appear on both the 'single' and 'multiple' watermark papers. To distinguish between the two papers, one follows the usual rule – the mesh of the paper is vertical in the 'single', horizontal in the 'multiple'. The curling test is not as good a guide as is the mesh. In general, the shades of the 'single' issue are colder and darker than in the 'multiple'. Inverted watermarks are found in both issues, being rarer in the 'single' than in the 'multiple'.

The most interesting varieties are reentries showing doubling of the two small figureheads at the top corners of the design and in the crosshatching around the head. These reentries must have been effected for reasons unknown some time shortly before the withdrawal of the issue. Only one plate, numbered '2', ever saw use and there are no reentries on early sheets. I recall that about 1946 I was the first to give these reentries any publicity and was required to produce blocks showing them in order to convince NZ's leading specialists that they did in fact exist! They are always on the 'multiple' paper and well worth finding in either mint or used.

