



L9: 6d HARVESTING, TYPE (Recess)

Fifty Years Ago From the CP NZ Bulletin – September 1965 “New Zealand Stamps” by Campbell Paterson

This value of the 1935 set poses few real problems of identification. Presuming as is our custom that a collector has before him a huge pile of 6d stamps, how should he go about identifying them with maximum speed and minimum mental stress? First it is essential to know that only the original issue on the Single watermark paper has a vertical mesh. As all issues had upright watermarks there is no confusion caused by sideways watermarks and the first move is to turn the stamps face downwards and eliminate all that show a vertical mesh – with its concomitant factor of vertical curling when the stamps are warm and dry.

The mesh is easy to see and after a while it becomes evident to the student that the paper has a quite different appearance and tone from any later paper. The difference is impossible to convey in words – only experience and the presence of the vertical mesh can show what I mean. So we eliminate the first or single watermark issue L9a; while we have them before us it is as well to look for inverted watermarks, they exist but are scarce – in mint they are rare. We now have only multiple watermark stamps left but some of these are seen to be of the coarse, thinnish, rather yellowish paper of the War years and later. These are perf 14½x14 and are L9e. These too we eliminate.

Other stamps are seen to have the readily rec-

ognized large perfs gauging 12½; these are L9c. It helps to know that all are on medium thick, rather soft white paper and the colour of the stamps is considerably paler than the brighter carmine shades of the other issues. I should not be too hard to learn to eliminate these 12½s without recourse to a perf gauge. So we finally find ourselves with a pile of stamps all much alike in colour and all multiple watermark with horizontal mesh. A perf gauge is here necessary for among them some will have the top and bottoms perf 13½ while others have the same 14½ top and bottom perfs which we have already seen in the coarse paper stamps.

Those with 13½ top and bottom are the 1936 issue L9b while those perf 14½ top and bottom are the first wartime issue printed before the paper deteriorated in quality. These are L9d and in mint are quite a rarity. Some traces of re-entries, a slight doubling of side panels existed in Plate 2 on R10/1 and many other stamps from this plate showed clear re-entries after a renovation undertaken during the War. Plate 1 was likewise subjected to re-entering after extensive use. It is worthwhile to study all these stamps as some of the re-entries are excellent examples and quite rare. Some flaws of rather less interest are also to be found and the L9e issue exists with inverted watermark. This is rare. L9b with inverted watermark is quite common.