



L9: 6d HARVESTING, TYPE (Recess) Notes from Vol 2, The Postage Stamps of New Zealand.

The design for this denomination was the only one among those selected that was not the work of a New Zealander. It was submitted by Mr. T.I.Archer, an officer attached to the Stamp Printing Office, Nasik, India. The scene depicted is a familiar one with New Zealanders, showing as it does the harvesting of a cereal crop.

The issue with multiple watermark was placed on sale in August, 1936, and in March, 1937, 82 sheets were issued with the multiple watermark inverted. A plate numbered 1 under the second stamp in the bottom row had been laid down with 160 impressions in 10 rows of 16 and this plate was used for all printings until late in 1940.

Numerous plate scratches developed at various periods on this plate but none was permanent. A crack in the plate developed in the selvedge near the plate number and became progressively larger.

All printings from plate 1 were on the good quality esparto paper and were perforated $13 \frac{1}{2} \times 14$ by means of a comb machine. The colour ranged from scarlet to carmine-scarlet and some of this ink had a tendency to run when stamps were soaked in water.

In 1940 a second plate was made numbered 2 and this plate was handed over to Waterlow & Sons. According to the records 42,000 sheets were ordered on August 19, 1940, and were printed by Waterlow & Sons.

When De La Rue & Co.'s London works were burnt in December, 42,000 sheets of the 6d were awaiting perforation and there is no mention of these sheets having been lost. In April, 1941, 41,997 sheets were forwarded by De La Rue & Co. to Waterlow & Sons to be perforated and Waterlow & Sons record that these were not printed by them but were perforated and warehoused only. In this instance, however, there is reason to question the accuracy of the records and to believe that the sheets forwarded in April were in fact the sheets that had been printed by Waterlow & Sons and were being held at the time of the fire. In the case of the 6d only three sheets less than the number printed by Waterlow were forwarded in April. In the case of the 8d and 1/- values, which were included in the consignment perforated in April and also shown as not printed by Waterlow & Sons, the quantities were three and four respectively short of the numbers being held at the time of the fire and printed by Waterlow & Sons. The 6d stamps with the Waterlow perforation $12 \frac{1}{2}$ were in a shade different from any printed by De La Rue & Co. and portion of the supplies showed two dots on the right-hand selvedge near the perforation guide mark. These dots are similar to those found on other values and were apparently shift markings of the Waterlow Bank Note Department.

In all sheets printed from plate 2 and perforated $12 \frac{1}{2}$, R3/1, shows a flaw in the form of a coloured scratch running diagonally through the top half of the border on the right-hand side. One instance of re-entry is found:

R10/1: The whole of the border on the left-hand side is doubled. This is particularly obvious in the vertical lines of the shaft of the tai aha.

The paper upon which the stamps perf $12 \frac{1}{2}$ were printed was good quality esparto. The ink used was red in colour. These stamps were placed on sale in October, 1941.

When De La Rue & Co. resumed the printing of the 6d, they used plate 2 and portion of the first supply was on esparto paper but for the balance the "Royal Cypher" paper was used. The perfora-

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tions were effected by means of a comb machine with gauge $14 \frac{1}{2} \times 14$. The re-entry in R10/1 persisted though the doubling was less prominent than on the stamps with perf $12 \frac{1}{2}$. The flaw in R3/1 was corrected and is not found in any of the sheets perf $14 \frac{1}{2} \times 14$. Printings from plate 2, perf $14 \frac{1}{2} \times 14$ were issued in June, 1942, on esparto paper and in February, 1943, on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper.

Supplies placed on sale in March, 1945, were printed from a new plate numbered 3. All printings from this plate were on the "Royal Cypher" grade paper and were perf. $14 \frac{1}{2} \times 14$. The colour again ranged from scarlet to carmine-scarlet. This value was withdrawn from sale on April 30, 1947.