

A VERY SHORT HISTORY OF THE NEW ZEALAND CHALON ISSUES

Introduction:

This exhibit demonstrates some of the various Chalon issues which were printed between 1855 and 1873. The exhibit majors on the 1d, 2d and the 6d stamps, one page each. Some of the 3d, 4d and 1s issues are displayed on this page.

Design:

William Humphrys designed these stamps by adapting a portrait of Queen Victoria painted by Mr. A. E. Chalon

Printers, Papers and Watermarks:

1. The plates of the first issue were engraved and printed in London by Perkins, Bacon & Co. The stamps and plates were then sent to New Zealand. The paper was watermarked with a large star. Earliest use is 20th July 1855 at Auckland.
2. From November 1855 to 1861 J Richardson printed the stamps in Auckland. He did not like the quality of the large star watermarked paper supplied so use a variety of "better" papers. His first prints were on deep blue paper without watermark. Then, from 1858, he used a variety of white papers, some thick and others relatively thin.
3. Probably because of Richardson's refusal to use the star watermarked paper Davies was awarded the contract to print from 1862. He printed initially in Auckland but was transferred to Wellington 1867. He used the large star watermarked paper and when that was in short supply a very thin "Pelure" paper and an "NZ" watermarked paper.

Perforations:

Originally stamps were separated from each other using scissors. Initially there were numerous separation methods. The most common was roulette 7. The gold rush in Otago and associated increase in mail necessitated a quicker way of separating stamps. Dunedin used a private company which had a perforator gauged 13. The first official comb perforator (gauge 12½) was used in Auckland. In 1866 the comb perforator segments were removed turning it into a line perforator. 1871 saw the introduction of a gauge 10 perforator.

3d 1864 – 1871 Watermarked large star:

Imperf Variety



Cover with Invercargill obliterator (21) and postmark (? Duplex)



4d Watermarked large star:

1865



Colour change

1865-73



1s Green Watermarked large star perf 12½:

1871 Cover with ? Kumara obliterator.



1s Green

Richardson
1858 – 1861



Davies
1862 – 1864



Pelure paper
1862



NZ Watermark
1864



Large Star Watermark
Perf 12



New Zealand 1d Red and Brown Chalon Issues

The Red and Brown Colours

The 1d red Chalon issue comes in various shades of red ranging from bright red, dull orange, vermillion, carmine and a mixture of these shades. The brown shades are brown, reddish-brown and deep brown.

Richardson Print
Blue paper 1856



Richardson Print 1858 to 1861
Thick white paper



Thin white paper



Davies Prints 1862 to 1864

Watermark large star



NZ Watermark



Perforated 13
at Dunedin
Large Star Watermark



Perforated 12 ½ at Auckland Large Star Watermark

This block shows clear evidence of the original comb perforating machine which perforates a whole row of stamp, the bottom and both sides at the same time. Then it moved to the next row of stamps. The next vertical perforations may not necessarily line up as is seen in this block.



Change of colour 1871 and introduction of the rotary 10 perforator.

Perforation 10 x 10
Watermark Large Star



Perforation 10 x 12 ½
Watermark large star



Perforation 12 ½
Watermark large star



New Zealand 2d Blue and Orange Chalon Issues

The Blue Colours

The 2d Blue Chalon issue comes in various shades of blue ranging from dark blue, blue and pale blue as well as bright and dull blue. There are other blues such as Ultramarine, greenish blue, slate blue or milky blue. The orange colours were either orange, vermillion or a combination of these two.

London Print
Perkins Bacon & Co. 1855



Richardson Print
Blue paper 1856



Richardson Print 1858 to 1861
White paper – Cover Dunedin 18 obliterator



Davies Prints 1862 to 1864

Watermark large star



Pelure Paper
No watermark



NZ Watermark



Roulette 7
NZ Watermark



Perforated 13
at Dunedin
Large Star Watermark



Perforated 12 ½ Very Misaligned
at Auckland
Large Star Watermark



Change of colour 1871 and introduction of the rotary 10 perforator.

Perforation 10 x 12 ½
Watermark Large Star



Perforation 12 ½
Watermark NZ



Damaged plate

By the time of the colour change to orange or vermillion the 2d plate, which had 20 rows and 12 columns of stamps, had become damaged in many parts possibly due to spilt acid. Because of the damage seen on this mint block it can be identified as being from rows 16 & 17 and columns 1 & 2.

1873 Provisional paper no watermark



New Zealand 6d Brown and Blue Chalon Issues

The Brown Colours

The 6d Brown Chalon issue comes in various shades of brown ranging from dark brown, brown and pale brown to red browns, bistre browns and black browns.

Richardson Print 1858 to 1861

The first printing of the 6d Chalon was by Richardson in 1858. He used white paper which was either thick or thin and there was no watermark. The stamps were imperforate.

Thick paper



Thin paper



Davies Prints 1862 to 1864

Watermark large star



Pelure paper no watermark

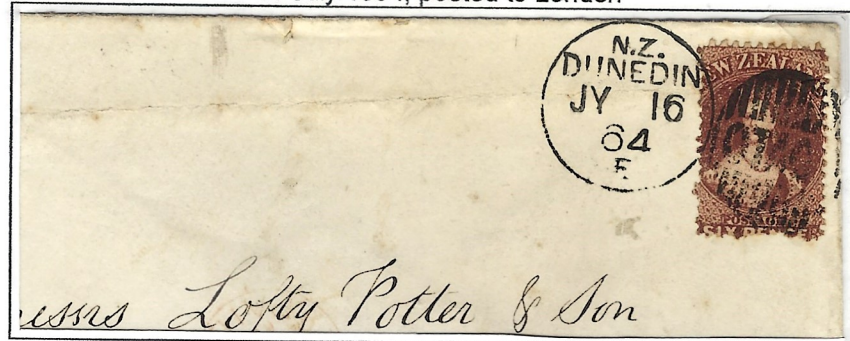


Roulette 7

Watermark large star



Perforation 13 at Dunedin on cover Duplex Otago cancellation
16 July 1864, posted to London



Perforation 12.5 at Auckland

Watermark NZ



Watermark large star



Pale blue



Deep blue



Change of colour 1871

Because of the high sulphur content in the atmosphere of various places within New Zealand and its reaction with the various pigments within the inks used to print the stamps it was found that stamps were oxidising. In order to preserve the revenue stream of the higher value stamps the colours were changed so that if oxidation occurred then the oxidised colour would resemble a lower denomination stamp. Large star watermark paper was used.