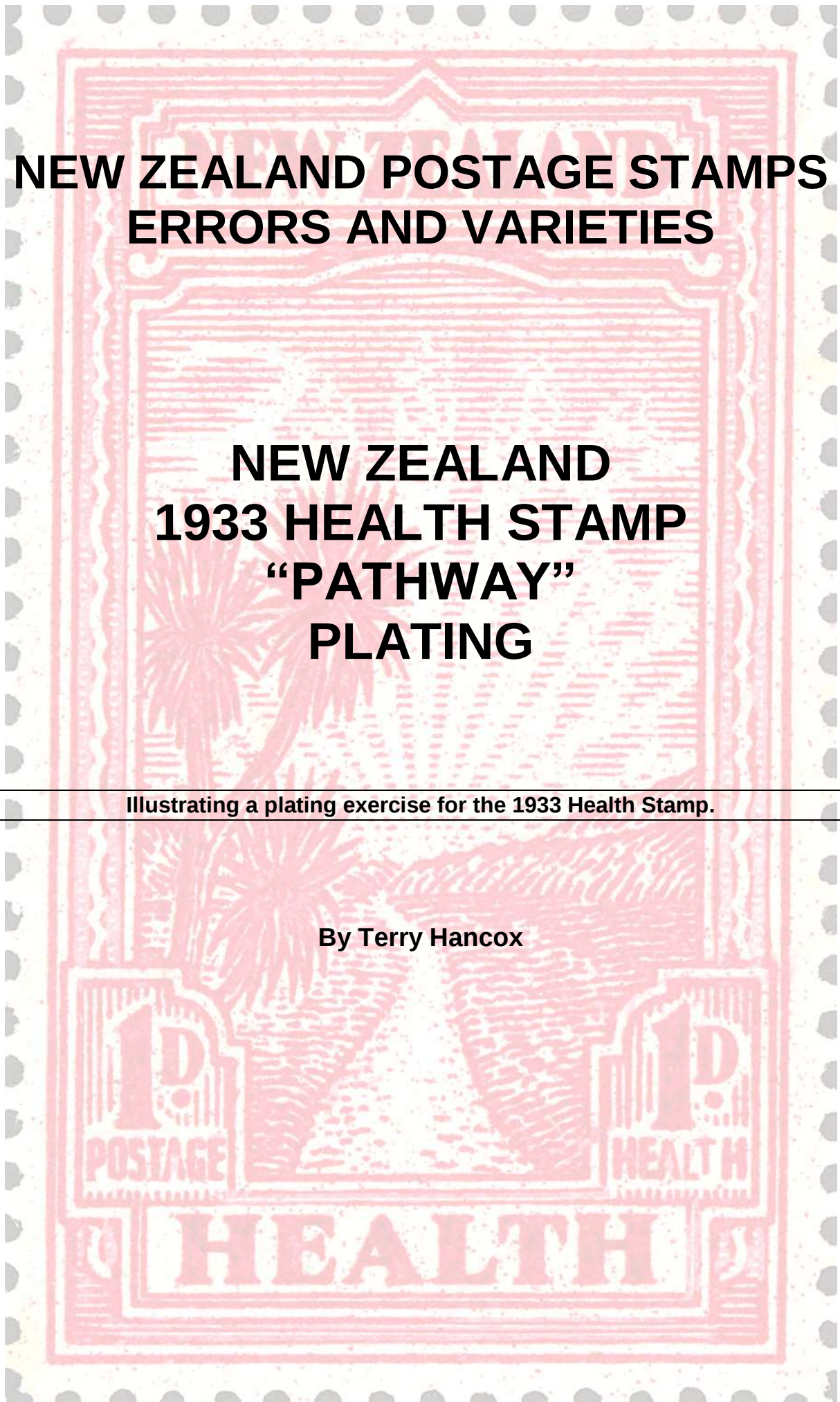


NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE STAMPS ERRORS AND VARIETIES

NEW ZEALAND 1933 HEALTH STAMP “PATHWAY” PLATING

Illustrating a plating exercise for the 1933 Health Stamp.

By Terry Hancox



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NEW ZEALAND 1933 HEALTH STAMP “PATHWAY” PLATING

Illustrating a plating exercise for the 1933 Health Stamp.



This work is supported by The New Zealand Society of Great Britain



The New Zealand Society of Great Britain

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Also available in the 'New Zealand Postage Stamps Errors and Varieties' series, by the same author:

1959 Centenary of the Red Cross, Plating

1933 Health Stamp "Pathway", Plating

1925 Dunedin Exhibition, Plating

1975 Pictorials

1970 2½c Magpie Moth and 1971 4c on 2½c Provisionals

1957 Health Beach Scenes, Plating

1958 Health Brigade Children, Plating

1959 Health Tete and Poaka, Plating

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PREFACE

I have always been fascinated by statements in catalogues and handbooks that state 'examples of this stamp can be plated by reference to minor varieties found on each stamp', then proceed to list some of the more significant varieties, but not all of them.

Obviously someone has done their homework and found a method of plating stamps to each position on the sheet, but time and space prohibits the publication of their identification. Therefore the stamp collector has an insight into the nature of the stamp issue and is left with a wondering of the varieties that exist on the stamps that are not mentioned.

Where there is a level of special philatelic interest, a number of monographs have been published that does give a complete plating of the subject stamp issue.

It is perhaps the word 'special philatelic interest' that pushes someone to undertake the mission of finding and describing many hundreds of varieties on the 'same stamp'. The subject stamp must have some quality that intrinsically makes it interesting to the author, and to the philatelic word.

The 1933 Health stamp 'Pathway to Health' is the subject of this plating. It fulfils the criteria of 'interesting' in that the stamps displays a number of characteristics unique to this issue; illustrates to a very good degree the state of stamp production at the time of issue; and the collector is left with 'real' varieties to look out for, in the form of re-entries, recutting, flaws, and not small dots and specks that differentiate modern stamps. As the published philatelic articles say about this stamp, it really is possible to plate the sheet from single stamps.

Perhaps this stamp has been overlooked for so long as the subject of a plating study, because it may be too easy. Certainly the varieties on most stamps *are* easy to differentiate, and in certain stamps there may be similarities to others on the sheet, but there is always a means to differentiate between them if you have a reasonable magnifying glass.

Perhaps it has been overlooked because there is no in-depth study available to specialists. Once you have plated, and understood the retouches the sheet contains, there is nothing more to do. There is no paper or watermark variation, there is no perforation change, something that you may find in abundance on the definitive issues of the time. Therefore the excitement is purely in plating.

The cost of plating this stamp is becoming more expensive, but the material is out there to make this achievable and a realistic target for most people, and will be a rewarding exercise.

For comment and feedback, email the author at TAHNZstamps@gmail.com

Good luck and good stamp hunting.

Terry

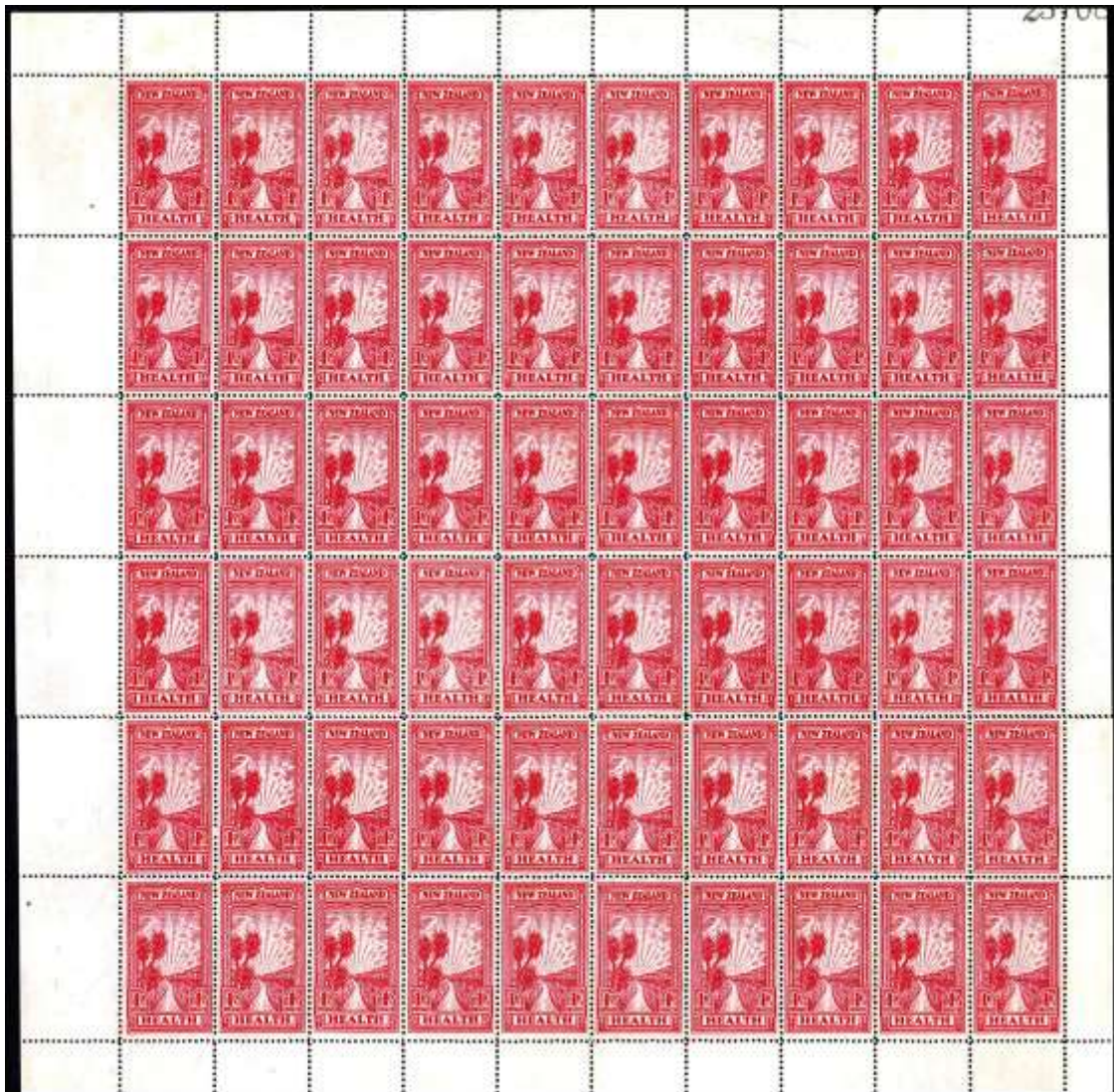
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The 1933 Health Sheet of Stamps



INTRODUCTION

1933 Pathway to Health is a classic stamp. It is one of a number of those stamps that illustrates very nicely the stamp production processes used at that time, where quality and workmanship relied much on the efforts of humans, rather than automation and computers used today. It is not unique in doing so, as there are other stamps that offer similar philatelic interest when searching for plating varieties.

This plating attempts to illustrate the varieties that are found on every stamp on the sheet. The narrative that accompanies each stamp directs the reader to look for those characteristics that best identify the stamp in question. The small 'cut-out' diagrams illustrate other lesser varieties that are to be found, some of which need to be used to make that important confirmation of the exact plate position.

The 1933 Health stamp is not subject to many reprints, therefore there is no watermark, perforation or paper differences to identify. The stamp printing was however stopped after the first 2000 sheets to allow a few stamps to be recut, to correct a small number of varieties noted at an early stage (the stamps at row 1/4, row 2/1 and row 3/3 have an important and notable variety of missing lines of shading to the clouds at top left). These variants are discussed in more detail in a section discussing the flaws found.

Every 1933 Health stamp can be plated to its correct position in the sheet based upon:

- graver slips and additional graver lines,
- scratches,
- spur lines,
- recutting of the design (especially the left and right frames),
- coloured dots or bands of dots across the stamp,
- missing or faint lines of shading.

Often the identification of individual stamps can confuse, but it is possible to differentiate between them if you have a reasonable magnifying glass.

Background material has been included here to provide a rounded guide to the 1933 Health stamp, but the main part of the guide is used to illustrate plate varieties on each stamp so that the collector may identify the stamp plate position.

The guide has been laid out in stamp order, starting from stamp at Row 1/1 finishing with stamp at Row 6/10. It is possible to search through the pages until you match the characteristics of the stamp you are looking for. However, included at the end of the guide is a 'map' of the positions of major varieties of the stamp. Initially, it is useful to visit the 'map', to compare the specimen stamp against the main varieties shown, then to make a positive confirmation, go to the page illustrating the stamp in detail to look for and compare the minor varieties present.

The large illustration on each detail page is of the stamp from that position in the sheet. Although the 'cut-out' varieties illustrated show the main differences between it and its neighbours, the collector can use the main illustration to make other comparisons. All stamps show some form of unique variation of faint lines, spots and blurred areas over and above those identified. All these slight variations appear to be constant from one sheet to the next.

* * * * *

THE 1933 HEALTH STAMP

“Pathway to Health”

The “Pathway” Health stamp was issued on 8th November 1933, 5th in a series of stamps (commencing in 1929) that carried a surcharge above the normal rate of postage that acted as a donation to support New Zealand Children’s Health Camps.

The stamp was based upon a design by Mr J Berry. Mr H.T. Peat, engraver from Wellington prepared an etched steel die but the result was not approved by the Postal Department. A second die was prepared from a slightly altered design but again, the results were not as hoped, but a decision was made to continue with the production.

A steel plate was produced for this stamp using the etching process. Many of the images were retouched at this stage using a graver tool by Mr Peat, to correct incomplete etching, to deepen the frame lines and recut lines of shading. It is this action that enables these retouched areas to be identified and the stamps plated.

After 2,000 sheets had been printed, it was noted that two stamps had lines of shading omitted from the cloud above the cabbage tree. Mr Peat corrected these two stamps by recutting the missing lines and the printing recommenced. The first print run comprised 5,000 sheets. Subsequent prints were taken as the need arose.

The stamps were printed by the Government Printing Office, Wellington, in sheets of 60 stamps (6 rows of 10 stamps) using Cowan unsurfaced esparto paper, watermarked NZ and Star, and perforated by a line machine with gauge 14.

The stamps were withdrawn from sale on 28 February 1934.



Figure 2 – First Day Cover

Illustrated First Day Covers were not introduced until 1935. The ‘Kiwi Exchange Club’ produced souvenir First Day Covers, that are extremely scarce, as are any examples of covers bearing the first day date stamp.

1933 HEALTH STAMP DESIGN

The design of the 1933 Health Stamp is one of symbolism, featuring a 'Pathway to Health', taking the viewer along a winding path through sand dunes towards a hidden beach, highlighted by the rays of a rising sun. Symbolism featured repeatedly on stamps, especially Health stamps, in that period of history.

This was James Berry's first successful submission for a design in the annual 'Health' stamps series.



Figure 3 – stamp as issued

Some of the original artwork is still in existence, dated March 1933, that shows a simpler and clearer version of the design than that issued, as in Figure 4a. In this original artwork the sun's rays do not extend to the top of the design; the cabbage trees do not appear as prominent; there are many small clouds in the sky and the pathway is shown winding its way through a relatively flat landscape. The drawing had white lettering on a dark background with a chequered background to the value panels at the foot, either side of the stamp. Although the idea was to not so much provide charity, as to promote health, the right panel still retained the word 'CHARITY' even though the word was replaced by 'HEALTH' in 1932. In this original artwork there is a pencil inscription below the foot of the stamp dating it to 'March 1933' and signed by "RANGATIRA", the 'Chief', James Berry's nom-de-plume. On the reverse it is signed "J. B. Khyber Road, Seatoun Heights, Wellington.

Further designs were prepared, again showing white lettering against a coloured background, with the rays of the early morning sun extending to the top of the design, initially through cloud, then with cloud removed. The style of this design matched very much with the style of the issued stamp (Figure 3).



Figure 4a
Original design



Figure 4b
Revised design
clouds highlighted



Figure 4c
Revised design
clouds mostly removed, lines
of shading lightened.

Figure 4, photo essays of revised design

An etched steel die was made from this design, but was not favoured by both the designer and the Postal Department. James Berry produced a further variation of the design, where the wording was in colour against a white background. From this Mr Peat prepared a further etched steel die, but did not follow the design exactly.

This design would have been quite invigorating if it were not for the stamp production. The execution of transferring the original design to the finished product lost much of that symbolism, transforming a 'nice day and pleasant walk' into a 'cloudy day and a long way from home'. The final stamp had the rays of sunshine shortened and the clouds emphasised, making the scene resemble a sunset rather than a pleasant sunrise.

Figure 4a shows the original stamp design. The lines are crisp and clear. The rays of the sun are well pronounced and the whole design is fresh. The stamp as issued, figure 3, has lost much of the clarity. The lines of shading are blurred, especially in the frames, and the sun's rays merge with the sky forming clouds.

It was good to note that this did little to affect the enthusiasm and tenacity of James Berry and his successful association with the early Health stamp design. Nor did it affect the popularity of the stamp issue that resulted in 260,883 stamps being sold.



Figure 5 - Photoproof piece showing three designs of the 'Pathway' stamp together with a smaller version of the first stamp reduced.

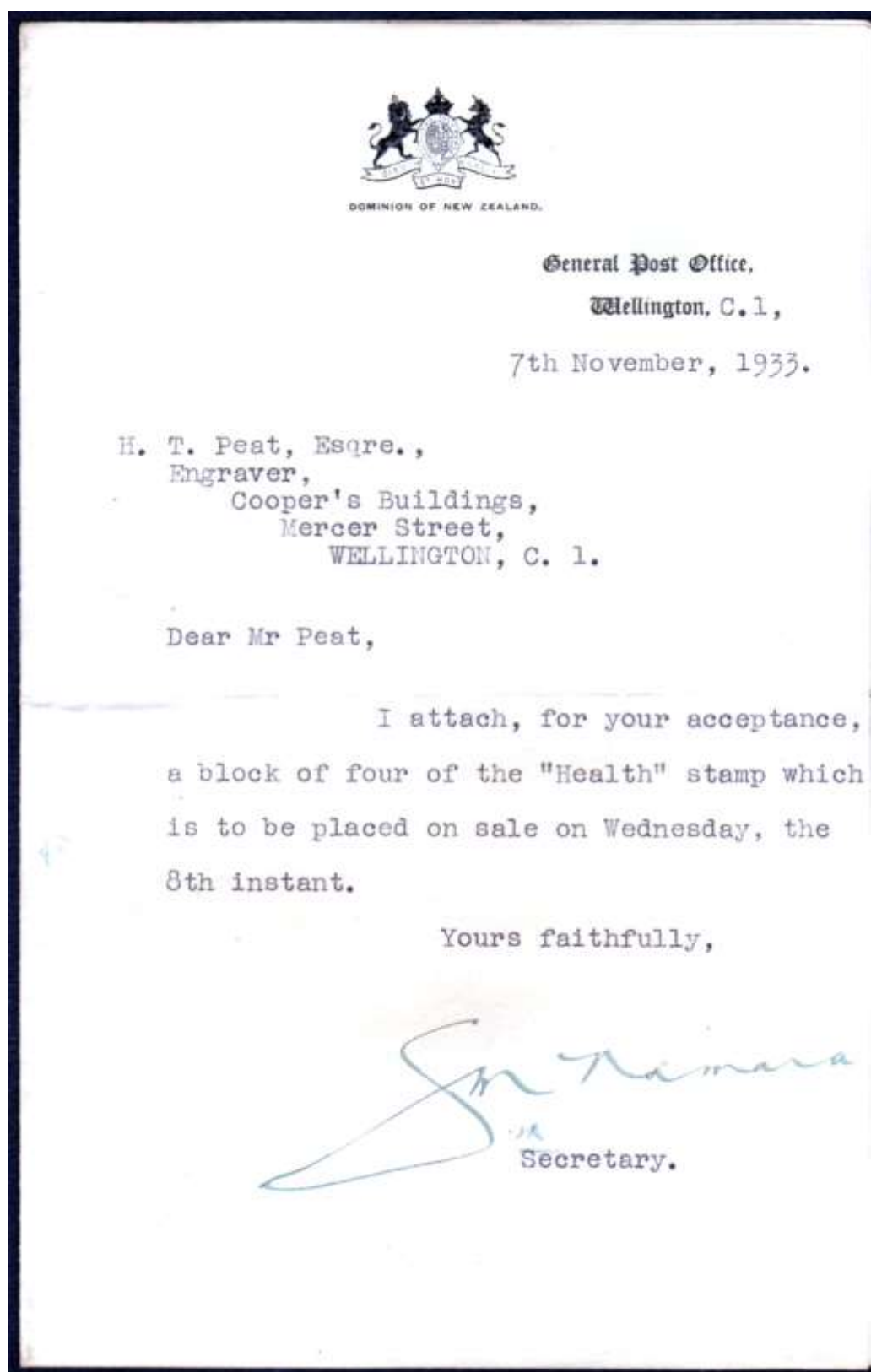


Figure 6 – Letter of thanks from the Post Office dated 7 November 1932, to the engraver H.T. Peat, includes block of four complimentary stamps.

THE FLAWS

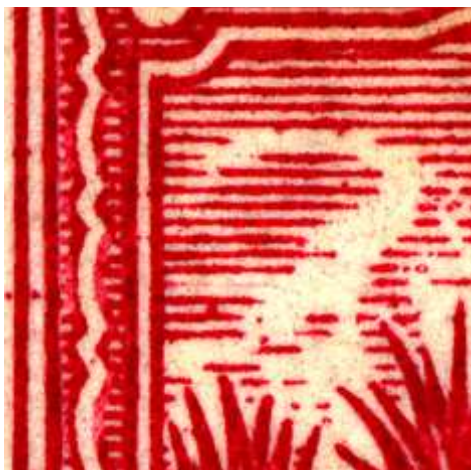
1933 Health, Pathway Cloud Varieties

There is a well-known variety that occurs on the 1933 Health stamp 'Pathway to Health' appearing as missing or incomplete lines of shading in the clouds above the cabbage tree at top left. These are especially sought after by collectors, appearing in many catalogues.

What is not so well publicised is that this variety appeared on three different stamps on the sheet, at Row 1/4, Row 2/1 and Row 3/3. Each variety looked very similar in appearance, given that it affected the cloud at the top left of the design, and it is quite possible to confuse the plating of single stamps.

These varieties occurred in the first 2000 sheets printed after which Row 2/1 and Row 3/3 were touched up. For some reason, the variety at Row 1/4 was never retouched. Each stamp had its own characteristic and it is possible to differentiate between them based upon the position of the missing lines in the cloud.

Row 1/4 Flaw

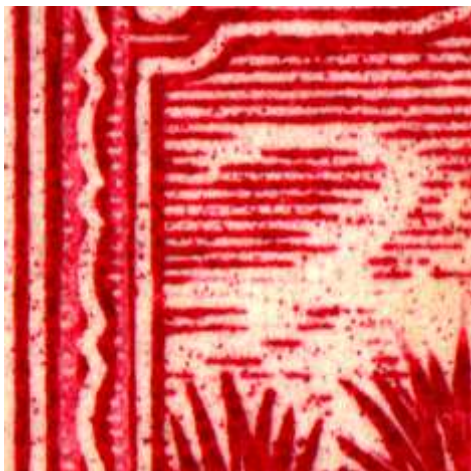


The 4th horizontal line of shading (from the bottom of the cloud) is thinned and faint for most of its length.

The 2nd and 3rd horizontal lines are joined by a spot of colour near the middle.

This stamp is only found in flawed state, where proving positional blocks can be found with Row 1/4 flawed on combination with flaws and retouches to Row 2/1 and Row 3/3.

Row 2/1 Flaw



The 3rd horizontal line of shading (from the bottom of the cloud) is thinned and faint for the entire length.

The 4th horizontal line is thinned and almost omitted on the right for almost half of its length.

Row 2/1 Retouch



Both the 3rd and 4th horizontal lines are uniformly retouched. The 4th line is slightly shorter than normal examples, whilst the 3rd line is slightly higher than normal, leaving a gap between itself and the line below. No other part of the stamp appears to have been retouched.

Row 3/3 Flaw

The 7th and 8th lines of shading (from the bottom of the cloud) are thinned and faint for most of their length. They can be seen as lines of small dots, becoming more faint towards the right.

Row 3/3 Retouch

The 7th and 8th horizontal lines of shading are recut, correcting the original omission, but are quite roughly done. The recut lines are thinner than normals, especially where they meet the left frame and are slightly longer than normals, causing the cloud to have an almost rounded side. The upper of the two new lines is closer to its neighbour above than normal.

Row 4 Weak Entry

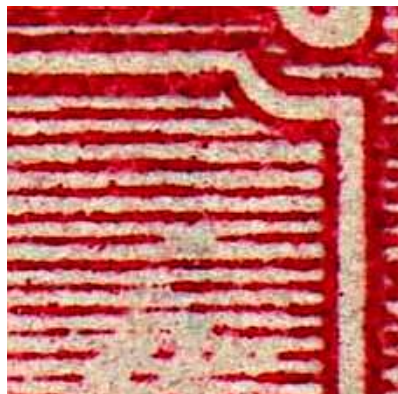
Stamps at Row 4, numbers 2, 3 and 4 appear faint in comparison to the remainder of the sheet. This is illustrated below. The shallowness of the impression can best be seen in the shading of the horizontal lines below the work 'HEALTH' at the foot of the stamp. On Row 4/1, these horizontal lines of shading are thick and almost solid. Row 4/2, Row 4/3 and Row 4/4 have these lines thinned and have an overall 'washed out' appearance, with many of the smaller lines throughout the design (especially in the clouds and rays of sunlight) are short and indistinct. Row 4/5 returns to normal.



The stamp at Row 4/9 also shows a weak entry, being paler than most, with indistinct lines of shading.

Broken Sky Flaw (top right of design)

A similar example to the 'Cloud' variety exists on a number of stamps, taking the appearance of a broken line of shading in the sky in the top right corner of the design. The broken line affects the 6th line of shading (counting from the top). There are several stamps that show this flaw, varying in extent of the gap produced. Some show the end of the broken line becoming faint, then disappearing.



Row 4/2 Flaw

Many stamps show the line of shading broken. Examples from row 4, where the impressions of the design are faint, show the break to their fullest extent.



Row 2/3 Flaw

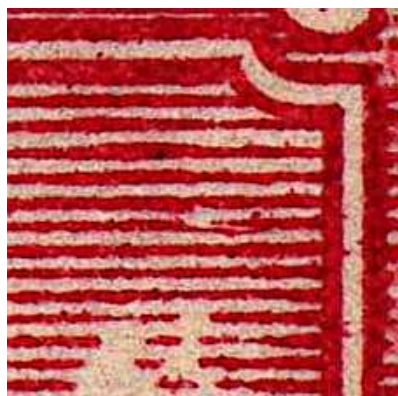
Many examples, especially those from row 2, have the gap relatively small, with the ends tapering.



Row 6/8 Flaw

Even deeply impressed stamps show the line broken. This example shows how the ends of the lines become faint.

Examples towards the bottom of the sheet show this flaw retouched, although this was poorly done. The retouches appear to have been done at an early stage and there does not appear to be a flawed version and a retouched version of the same stamp. Flaws are found on the following stamps: Row 1/3; Row 1/7; Row 2 (most stamps show small gap); Row 3/8; Row 3/10; Row 4/2; Row 4/3; Row 4/4; Row 4/5 (with a small line appearing in the gap); Row 4/6; Row 4/9; Row 5/3; Row 5/4; Row 6/1; Row 6/8; Row 6/10.



Row 5/2 Retouch

The retouch to correct the broken lines is poorly executed. Retouches show the break repaired by placement of a curved line underneath the break.



Row 5/5 Retouch

Although a different stamp, the correction again shows a curved line beneath the gap, joining the line on the right midway along its length.



Row 6/9 Additional retouch

The stamp at row 6/9 shows a similar flaw in the form of a broken line on the 5th and 6th lines of shading. The 5th line is corrected by a thin diagonal line attached to the left of the break to finish in the gap between the lines of shading. The 6th line is corrected by a thick repair, but the ends do not line up.

Only the stamps at Row 5/2; Row 5/5 and Row 6/9 show any demonstrable retouch.

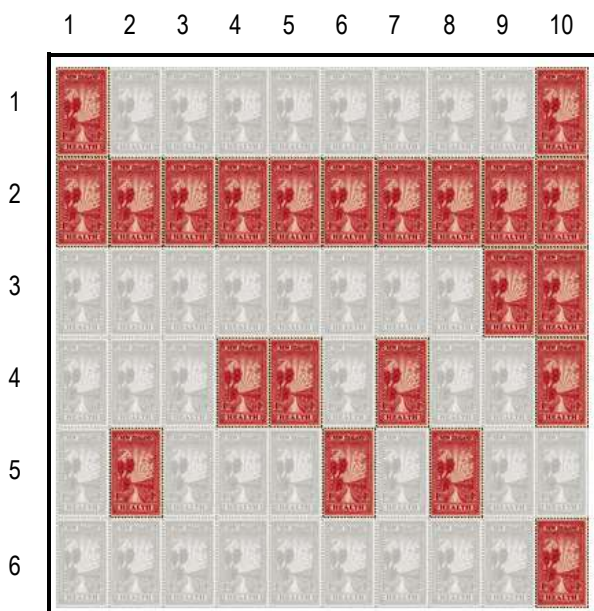
PLATING INFORMATION

General Observations



Many of the stamps have a multitude of small red spots across the face of the stamp. Whilst in many other issues these will be transitory, with the Pathway stamp the small red spots appear to be constant. There are many examples here where the presence of spots help characterise the stamp.

Horizontal frame lines either side of the sculptured frame lines are retouched on the following stamps.



- R1/1 RH frame, both L and R.
- R1/10 LH frame at L and R.
- R2/1 LH frame at TR, RH frame at TL.
- R2/2 LH frame at L, RH frame at R.
- R2/3 LH frame at L, RH frame at L and R.
- R2/4 RH frame at L and R.
- R2/5 RH frame at R.
- R2/6 RH frame at TR.
- R2/7 LH frame at BR, RH frame at L and R.
- R2/8 LH frame at L and R, RH frame at L and R.
- R2/9 LH frame at BL and BR.
- R2/10 LH frame at L and R, RH frame at L and R.
- R3/9 LH frame at BR, RH frame at BR.
- R3/10 LH frame at L and R.
- R4/4 LH frame at L.
- R4/5 LH frame at L and R, RH frame at L.
- R4/7 LH frame at TR.
- R4/10 LH frame BL.
- R5/2 RH frame at TL and TR.
- R5/6 RH frame at TL.
- R5/8 RH frame at TR.
- R6/10 LH frame at TL and BR.

Examples of Frame line recutting.

Many examples of this stamp can be found with recutting of the horizontal lines either side of the sculptured frame. Below are four examples of the type of recutting found.

These four examples have been selected to illustrate the variation of frame characteristics that are to be found, ranging from 'near normal', faint, recut and reshaped.

Row 4/3 RH frame appears normal.



Row 1/4 RH frame shows extensive washout of the detail. All lines are faint.



Row 2/7 RH frame lines recut. Most of the horizontal lines appear to have been recut.



Row 1/1 RH frame recut. Extreme evidence of recutting, with arcs clearly visible.



PLATING

Row 1/1

This stamp is covered with tiny spots of colour especially at the bottom of the pathway and on the right side. This stamp can be differentiated by the unique characteristics of the right frame, having been extensively recut. This is the only stamp where the curves or arcs of the right frame are recut in such a distinctive manner (there is lesser recutting on stamp at Rows 2/4 and 6/3 that affects the right side also). This is a very eye noticeable variety and there is no need to look for presence of other minor varieties to confirm.



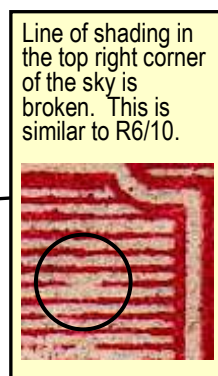
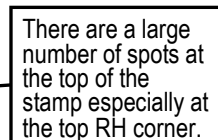
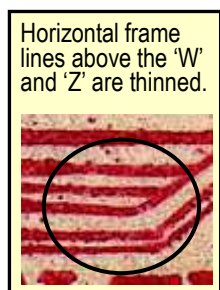
Row 1/2

The thinned foot of the 'N' of 'NEW' characterises this stamp. It looks as though there is a weakness around this area that also affects the neighbouring border below the letter, that leaves the left and lower lines notably thinned. Like many of the stamps, this example is extremely spotty, with a unique diagonal band of spots across the middle of the stamp. Further eye-notable varieties are the missing lines of shading on the hill on the right and in the vertical line of the right value panel.



Row 1/3

Overall, this stamp has a shallower appearance – especially on the left side where the thickness of the lines are markedly thinner as seen in the cabbage leaves and trunk. There is nothing really extraordinary about the stamp other than the weakness to the top centre above the 'Z' of 'ZEALAND' which can be used as an eye-notable variety. The broken line of shading in the sky at top right is very similar to that found on stamp Row 1/3 and 6/10 (this broken line is also found on other stamps, especially those with weak impressions), with a lesser gap, as found on stamps in row 2.



Row 1/4

The stamp at Row 1/4 contains a variety 'flaw in the clouds' at the top left of the design. This variety is similar to, and can be easily confused with, those varieties found on Row 2/1 and Row 3/3, but not so pronounced. It only affects one horizontal line and was not retouched. See the section on Flaws earlier in the guide. To confirm, look for the graver lines in the frame adjacent to the head of the cabbage tree and the curved line in the frame just below and to the left.

Multiple spots affect the top left corner of this stamp.



Row 1/5

To identify this stamp, look for the hole in the cabbage tree, where there is a leaf missing. Other than this there is little extraordinary about this stamp, with only a few distinguishing minor varieties. The poor finish and faintness of the bottom of both left and right frames also can be used to confirm this stamp



Row 1/6

There are numerous minor varieties found on this stamp. Obvious varieties to look for are the scratch top left of the design, the additional pathway to the left, near the hills and the thinned frame left of the 'N' of the country name.



Row 1/7

There is little to differentiate this stamp from the rest on the sheet. The collector will need to look hard to see the minor varieties, perhaps the most significant of which is the scratch through the scroll at top left corner.



Row 1/8

Look to the bottom of the stamp to differentiate this example from others, to find the graver slip on the bottom horizontal rows. Look also to the faint areas in the left and right frames and red spots that are common.



Horizontal line of shading does not join the inner curved border.



Horizontal lines of shading below 'HEALTH' are recut. The lower line (immediately above the frame line) is doubled and an additional line appears protruding downwards. Could be a graver slip.



Row 1/9

This is another example where there are a number of minor varieties to look out for, but none that is significant enough to readily distinguish this example using the naked eye. 'Coconuts' in the leftmost tree and the malformed foot of the 'A' of 'HEALTH' are sufficient identify this example.

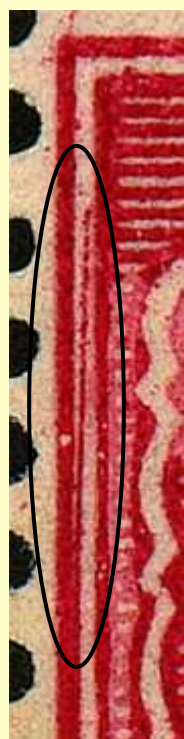


Row 1/10

Look for the grave slip at the top of the left frame and a similar example that bows inwards from the lower part of the next line to the right, lower down in the same frame, to identify this stamp. There is extensive recutting of the small horizontal lines of shading in the lower part of the left frame, that are likely to have warranted the vertical frame line to be strengthened also.

Again, look for the faint areas and spots to add evidence to identify this stamp from others.

Graver line in the left frame. Longer than a similar line on R3/9.

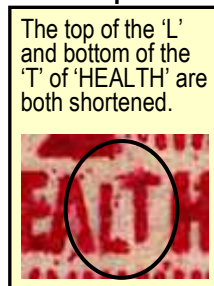
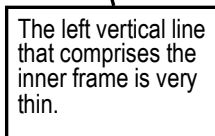
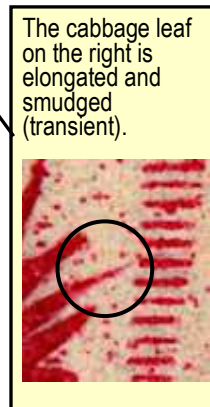
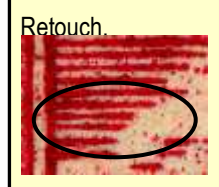
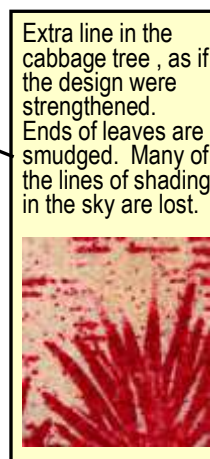
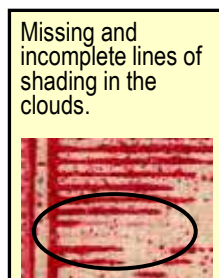


The outline of the curved frame line is doubled. The lower half of the inner left frame line is doubled and bulges inwards alongside the left cabbage tree



Row 2/1

The stamp at Row 2/1 is renowned for the flaw in the clouds at top right, that affects the 3rd and 4th horizontal lines from the bottom of the cloud. This is similar to Row 1/4 and R3/3 but be careful to confirm which line is affected, as the three examples have different lines omitted. This stamp also appears retouched, but the other minor flaws remain.



To confirm that this is fact Row 2/1 at first glance, look to the letters 'LT' that appear in the small 'HEALTH' at the right value panel. These letters are malformed at the foot.

The stamp is exceptionally spotty for most of its surface.

Row 2/2

This stamp is placed at a slight angle on the sheet, leaning a few degrees clockwise from true. The recut horizontal lines in the left and right frames reduce the number of choices this stamp could be, to confirm, look for the malformed line under the 'EA' of the large 'HEALTH' at the bottom.

Many of the short horizontal lines of shading in the L frame appear recut, with some extending through the sculptured frame.



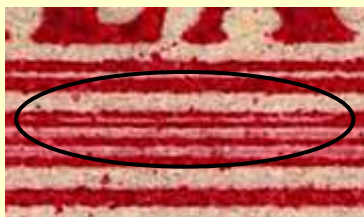
Similar cutting appears in the R of the sculptured frame (as it is in the L of the stamp).



Scratches appear in the field to the R of the path, where lines of shading are shortened or omitted.



The 4th frame line under the 'EA' of 'HEALTH' is split into two thinner horizontal lines.



The '1' on the right is broken at its centre, bulging outwards.



Row 2/3

Again use the recut horizontal lines of the left and (especially) right frames to reduce the number of possibilities for this stamp when plating it. Confirm using the thinned line under the 'EW' of 'NEW' and perhaps the thinned line in the clouds.

The short horizontal lines of shading at the L of the sculptured frame appear recut.



Frame line below 'EW' is thinned.



End of the 4th line in the clouds is thinned.



Vertical scratch through the cabbage leaf at the top of the tree on the right.

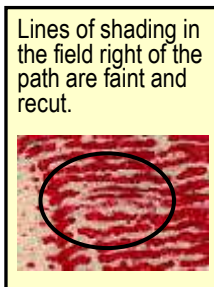


Many of the short horizontal lines of shading appear to be recut on both sides of the sculptured frame.



Row 2/4

The recutting of the small horizontal lines of shading in the right frame can be used to help differentiate this stamp, especially where the arcs on the left side of the sculptured frame are also recut (somewhat similar to Row 1/1, but not so extensive). Note that there are a number of small horizontal lines going through this sculptured frame line, perhaps caused by grave slips when recutting lines to the left of it.



Inside of the arcs of the sculptured frame are recut. Some of the horizontal lines on the left of the arcs also recur with some extending through the inner frame.



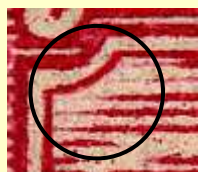
There are few minor varieties that aid plating of this stamp, the collector must rely on the recutting on the right hand side to differentiate this stamp.

Row 2/5

The most notable variation of this stamp is the loss of shading at the top left of the sky, where the lines of shading become faint at their left end where they meet the curved frame. The curved frame appears to have been recut as it is thick and does not match its normal line, nor does it follow the inner curved line. Must conclude that this left corner was damaged, the curved line recut but not the horizontal lines of shading.

Many of the short horizontal lines of shading to the R of the sculptured frame appear recut.

The horizontal lines of shading at the top left of the sky are thinned as they meet the frame. The curved frame line appears to have been recut.



The horizontal line of shading in the cloud is broken.



Lower frame lines by L value panel are joined. Shading lines are faint.



Row 2/6

There is little to differentiate this stamp and the collector must look for small differences and minor varieties. Use the recutting of the small horizontal lines at top right frame on the right of the sculptured vertical lines as a start, but then a magnifying glass will be needed to spot the minor varieties that exist elsewhere on the stamp



Row 2/7

The recut frames on left (at the bottom) and on the right can be used to identify this stamp. The centre of the design (sun) shows an eye-visible band of spots that rise diagonally from the end of the pathway. This is the extremity of a greater band of larger spots that run from the bottom right corner of the stamp. Therefore this stamp can be readily identified without the aid of a magnifying glass.

Inner frame line at the top right-hand side is thinned.



There is an extra ray of sunshine in the sky diagonally towards the end of the path.



Horizontal lines at the bottom left are recut.



Horizontal lines of shading are recut on both sides of the sculptured frame.



Band or red spots diagonally from the centre of the path to the bottom right corner. Also extends to the top left of stamp at Row 3/8.

Row 2/8

Once again, the recut horizontal lines in the left and right margins can be used to identify this stamp. There are no other obvious minor varieties affecting this stamp that could be used to confirm the plate position.

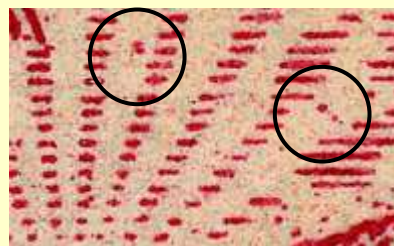
Short horizontal lines of shading are recut.



The top of the 'W' of 'NEW' is rounded.



Two extraneous red spots in the sky.



Short lines either side of the sculptured frame are recut.



Row 2/9

Recutting of the horizontal lines in the fight frame on the bottom left is a good way to differentiate this stamp. The horizontal lines are recut in a haphazard fashion, of various lengths and at different vertical distances from each other. To confirm the plate position look for the small circle that is appended to the right of the 'A' of 'ZEA' at the top.



Row 2/10

All of the stamps from Row 2 show evidence of some form of recutting of the horizontal frame lines. This stamp shows recutting on both sides of the stamp. On the right hand side, most of the lines are recut giving the stamp a heavy bold appearance. Whilst on the left, horizontal lines are also recut on both sides of the sculptured line, with those on the left, nearest the margin, appearing short and thin, very much out of step with the other recutting.

Horizontal lines of shading on both sides of the sculptured frame are recut. There are spots in the top of the inner frame line and in the curl of the horizontal frame above.



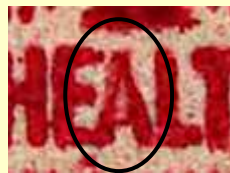
All horizontal lines of shading are recut.



Lines of shading above the hill on the right are thinned and faint.



The 'A' of 'HEALTH' on value panel on the right is malformed.



Row 3/1

There are no significant varieties found on this stamp. There are however a number of lesser varieties that will appear with the aid of a magnifying glass. The most obvious is the weakness to the right leg of the last 'H' of 'HEALTH' at the bottom of the stamp, adjacent to the weak vertical lines of the frame. Look for confirming minor varieties such as the scratch in the cloud at top left, and line before the 'Z' of 'ZEALAND'.



Row 3/2

There are two unique characteristics to this stamp that will aid plating. There is a fine scratch starting below the 'T' of 'HEALTH' at the base of the stamp, extending upwards through the top of the 'H', through the edge of the right value block, finishing lost in the lines of shading of the field on the right. This scratch is constant, but does take some effort to see due to its thinness.

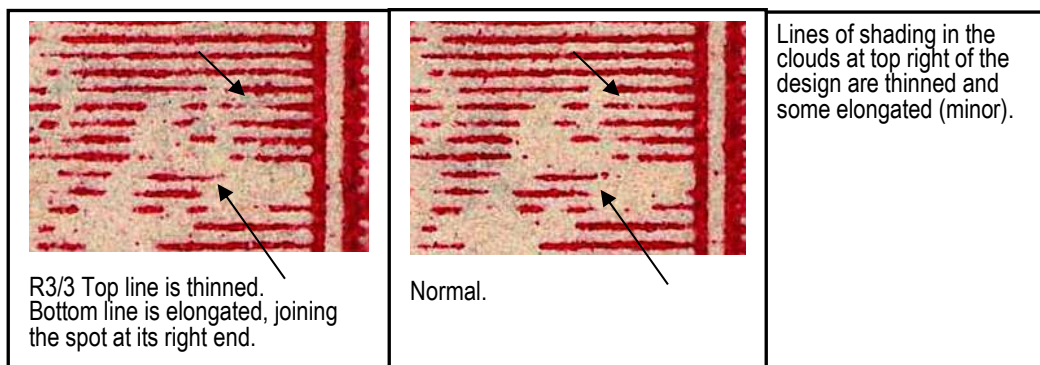
The second characteristic is the omission of a line of shading at the foot of the pathway on the left hand side. The right end of the second shading line from the bottom is missing and the third line is completely omitted, as if erased.



There looks to be a graver line from the 3rd line (including the outer frame line) in the bottom right corner, as if there was a slip made when recutting the line of shading. This elongated line goes through the frame and into the right margin. There is a smaller spur at the end of line 5 (from the lowest line), but travels only half way through the gap in the frame.

Row 3/3

This stamp shows one of the predominant cloud flaws as illustrated earlier, and can be differentiated by this alone. Be careful, this stamp appears in retouched form, with the missing lines of the cloud restored. There is little else to confirm this stamp, other than a minor flaw and patches of red spots.



Row 3/4

This stamp is characterised by a few unique features. There is a heavy scratch running diagonally through the centre of the design from beneath the head of the cabbage tree top right, ending in the right margin half way up the stamp (and continues into stamp Row 3/5). Where the scratch travels through the right frame the line buckles, distorting both itself and the frame lines. The scratch at this point is quite visible. There is also fine scratch along the path at the bottom of the stamp, but is quite difficult to see unaided.

To confirm this stamp (if the scratches required this) is the near omission of the right line of the trunk of the cabbage tree on the left – gives the impression of the sun shining onto the tree.



Row 3/5

The scratch that commenced on stamp Row 3/4 continues here, travelling through the left margin (where it becomes distorted as in Row 3/4), to finally curve towards the top of the design. Where the line finishes, it becomes quite thick and can be seen with the naked eye. This characteristic alone can identify this stamp. All other varieties are of a minor nature, and used to confirm this stamp (but is not needed).



Row 3/6

There are few varieties on this stamp to aid plating. The use of a magnifying glass will show minor differences that takes the form of short lines, predominant red spots and faintness of lettering. The small near vertical line to the left of the left cabbage tree can aid identification, being unique to this stamp.



Row 3/7

There are no significant varieties on this stamp. Careful examination will show minor varieties and the addition of red spots at various places on the stamp. Perhaps the most notable of these is the shortening of the top bar of the 'T' of 'POSTAGE' on the left, and a short vertical line that appears in the grass to the right of the pathway about half way up.



Row 3/8

The most notable variant of this stamp is the large number of spots that appear in the top left hand corner. This is a continuation of a band of spots that also affect bottom left of Row 2/7. There are also a small number of breaks in lines near the top of the stamp that are readily seen.

The top left corner of this stamp shows an unusual large number of small dots in a diagonal band. These red spots are a continuation of those seen on stamp at Row 2/7.

There is also a significant number of red spots elsewhere on the stamp, especially in the sky.



Inner border below 'EW' of 'NEW' is broken.



Horizontal line of shading at top right is broken.



The top of the 'S' of 'POSTAGE' is shortened and loses its arc at the top right. Also looks as though the top bar of the 'T' has been recut as it is lower than normal.



Row 3/9

This stamp shows a prominent graver line in the top part of the left frame, looking to have been caused by an attempt to recut the outer left frame line. This example is eye noticeable, but the recutting of the small horizontal lines of shading can be used to confirm this stamp.

The grave line on this stamp is similar, but much shorter than, a similar graver line that appears on Row 1/10



Row 3/10

There are a few unique minor varieties that can be used to identify this stamp. Look for the light patch on the head of the cabbage tree bottom right, where the lines of shading are indistinct. The faint area of the foot of the 'L' of 'LAND' is also prominent for the naked eye. The left frame shows many of the horizontal lines both sides of the sculptured frame recut – the right frame shows has had no attention.

Horizontal lines are recut in the left frame.



Break in the foot of the 'L' of 'LAND'.



The right foot of the 'A' of 'HEALTH' is malformed.



A line joins the left inner frame to the value tablet.



Vertical line in the left value tablet is broken as it meets the frame.



Leaves in the lower tree are indistinct at the centre.



Row 4/1

This stamp appears the heaviest cut of all the stamps on the sheet. The lines of shading are thick and heavy, especially those horizontal lines at the foot of the stamp which are quite notable. It is interesting to note that this heavy cut stamp is adjacent to a row of four of the most lightly impressed stamps.

Other than this, the only notable feature is the state of the inner frame line on the left, that appears split at the bottom and has a graver line through the horizontal lines of shading about half way up.



Horizontal lines of shading at the foot of the stamp are thick and bold.



Row 4/2

Stamps at Row 4/2, 4/3, 4/4, and 4/9 are distinctly paler than other stamps on the sheet (especially when compared with Row 4/1 that is the heaviest cut).

Perhaps due to the shallowness of the impression of this stamp, there are many lines that are either faint, broken, short or omitted. Of these, the lines in the centre of the cabbage tree trunk are the most apparent. In the central rays of the sun many of the short horizontal lines are doubled.



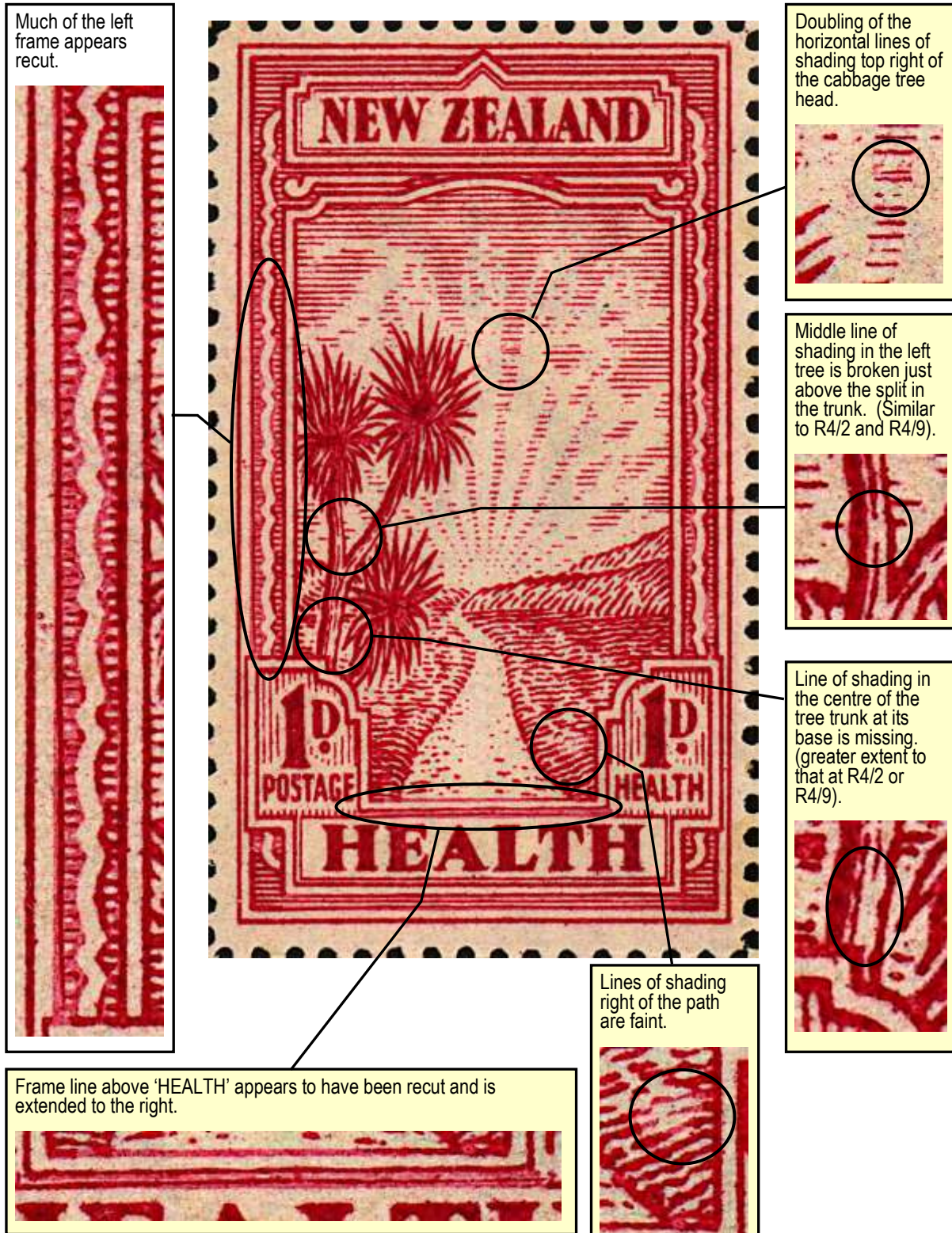
Row 4/3

This stamp has a shallower impression than most, but not as pale and thin as the impressions at Row 4/2 and Row 4/4. Other than this paleness, there is little to differentiate this from the other pale stamps on Row 4. Although only minor, look for the broken line of shading in the base of the cloud at top left. This break is relatively obvious, but does require the use of a magnifying glass to see clearly.



Row 4/4

This stamp by far has the shallowest impression of any stamp on the sheet, making it look extremely pale. Because of this, some of the thinner lines of shading in the sky appear broken, faint or omitted. This stamp is very similar to that at Row 4/2, with similar lines of the trunk of the tree shortened or omitted and some lines of shading of the central sun's rays doubled. However this stamp can be differentiated from Row 4/2 due to the recutting of the horizontal lines in the left frame (that are full and clear on Row 4/2 requiring no recutting).



Row 4/5

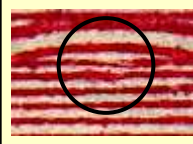
There is an eye notable graver line running diagonally across the face of the stamp, from the top of the cabbage tree upper left, through to the gap between the 'W' and 'Z' of 'NEW ZEALAND' at the top of the stamp. There is no need for any other confirmatory evidence for this stamp as the graver line is very prominent. However, look for the recutting of the horizontal lines of the frames on both left (both sides) and right (at the foot).

Horizontal lines of shading in frame are recut for most of the length.



Prominent graver line diagonally from below the 'W' Z' at the top, to the cabbage tree head at left.

Top line of shading in the sky is distorted.



Small horizontal lines of shading in the inner frame appear recut, with some extending through the sculptured frame.



Bulge in the frame line below 'LT' of 'HEALTH'.



Line of shading right of path is faint.



Row 4/6

There are two distinct varieties on this stamp. Look for the broken corner of the top right hand frame that surrounds the county name. The corner is malformed and omits a good part of the frame line. Also look to the word 'POSTAGE' at the foot of the stamp on the left. The 'O' is very malformed as if broken horizontally half way down the letter, where the lower half is distorted to the left, joining the 'P'. Both of these are eye notable.



Row 4/7

This stamp shows one unique feature. The left frame line (of the frame that surrounds 'NEW ZEALAND') is joined by what looks like a continuation of the frame, to join with the left frame surrounding the inner design. On many stamps, the gap between these frames is faint and indistinct, and it is perhaps likely that when the horizontal lines were recut in this area, the vertical line was also strengthened for the length of the stamp, crossing the gap between the frames.

Other than this there is little to differentiate this stamp. Even the recutting of the horizontal lines of the frame at top left is relatively minor. Look for at least two instances where the sculptured frame is broken and open to the gaps between the horizontal lines on the left.

The inner short horizontal lines of shading to the right of the sculptured frame appear recut. There is a distinct vertical line that joins the lower frame to the upper frame containing 'NEW ZEALAND'.



Parts of the 'H' and 'A' of 'HEALTH' appear broken.



Row 4/8

There is a band of small dots appearing in the sky above the hills on the right lessening towards the centre of the stamp. One could imagine a fire on the beach, with smoke rising from it, drifting in the breeze. Other than these, this stamp is not adversely affected by the small spots that appear on most stamps.

A second eye notable variety shows in the frame lines on the right of the 'HEALTH' panel, that are thick and almost merge together to form a single broad line.



Row 4/9

Overall, this stamp is paler than most others, similar, but not as faint as stamps at Row 4/2, Row 4/3 and Row 4/4. There are many small spots across the face of the stamp, making it look dirty. As with Row 4/2 and Row 4/4, the inner lines of the trunk of the tree are shortened or omitted. Again, the sky has shallow shading, with some lines shortened or doubled. To confirm this stamp look for the doubling of the lines in the cloud and sun's rays right of centre.



Row 4/10

To differentiate this stamp look to the 'V' between the boughs of the cabbage tree. There is a disturbance caused by a small patch of dots, 'bees in the tree'. The horizontal lines of shading bottom left and top right can also be used to aid identification.

There is a disturbance of dots in the 'V' between the two cabbage trees.



The horizontal lines of shading of the frame to the left of the sculptured frame appear recut.



Small horizontal line from the centre of the 'E' of 'HEALTH'.



Horizontal lines of shading in the frame on the right on the top are recut.



The two vertical lines to the right of the right value panel are thickened, and there is a diagonal line that joins them for most of their length.

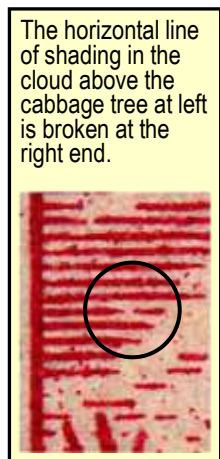
Short horizontal line across right frame just above the right value tablet.



There is also a constant red line crossing the outer frame line just above the right value panel. The line is made up of two red spots uniquely placed, and is not the result of recutting of the frame at this point. The right hand frame is indeed recut below this horizontal line, strengthening the two vertical lines to the right of the value panel. These lines are joined by a long vertical graver line.

Row 5/1

Look to the right hand frame line to see a long graver line that curves from the left side of the outer frame line for most of the length of the stamp. This is likely to have been caused by strengthening of the outer frame lines, that appear bold and well formed. The horizontal lines of shading at the inner side of the sculptured lines top right corner have been recut and extend slightly into the gap left of the inner frame. This stamp can be recognised quickly.



There is a long curved line on the left side of the outer frame line of right, for most of its length.



The base of the stamp, especially around the word 'HEALTH', below the pathway, and towards the left margin, shows a significant number of small red spots. These spots carry to the top of the stamp below.

Row 5/2

This stamp has a markedly heavier impression, with thick lines of shading especially in the lines in the sky that are much thicker than normal. Similar to the state of the stamp at Row 4/1. This stamp shows a retouch to the break in the 6th horizontal line in the sky at the top right of the stamp (see description earlier).

Some of the horizontal lines on the right side are recut. This appears to have been done in a haphazard manner, with many being short, tapered and not horizontal. There is similar recutting of the horizontal lines at top left corner, again, not well executed.



Row 5/3

This stamp shows a thin scratch along the pathway. This runs diagonally from the top of the 'L' of 'HEALTH' to the leaves in the cabbage tree head upper right. Although this is a long line, it really needs the aid of a magnifying glass to see.

An eye viewable variety can be seen to the lower left of the cabbage tree also at lower left. This variety takes the form of a faint patch extending through the leaves, through the frame line adjacent and into the horizontal lines.



Row 5/4

There are no major varieties present on this stamp. Differentiation must rely upon the small number of minor varieties found. Look to the first horizontal line of shading in the sky at top left of the stamp. This line is broken near its left end, vertically below the right leg of the 'N' of 'NEW'.

Red spots and thinned lines must be used to uniquely identify this stamp. The most prominent of these is a faint area through the middle of the 'A' of 'HEALTH' in the value panel on the right.



Row 5/5

Row 5/5 is well known for the 'Campsite' variety. This is in fact caused by a single line of shading to the right of the path near its end becoming faint. 'Campsite' because the variety resembles a detour from the path. This is a naked eye variety and can be used to uniquely identify this stamp.

This stamp also shows a retouch to the broken line of shading at the top right corner of the design.



Row 5/6

This stamp can be readily identified by the elongated leaf that appears to the right of the upper cabbage tree head. This line is most likely caused by a graver slip whilst recutting the leaves. The leaf is extended by about 2.5mm.

If there were need to verify this stamp, look to the recutting of the horizontal lines at the top of the right frame.



Row 5/7

There is a long graver line extending from the horizontal lines of shading at the bottom of the stamp on the right hand side. This is similar to the spur on stamp at Row 6/5 that affects the end of the third line of shading, whereas this affects the second line from the bottom.

There is a second graver line to be seen at the bottom of the inner right frame cutting through the horizontal lines of shading. This indicates that the inner frame line required recutting to deepen the impression. There are a significant number of spots at the top of this stamp.



Row 5/8

The lines of shading above the large 'HEALTH' at the bottom of the stamp are extremely faint. This loss of colour extends to affect part of the word 'POSTAGE' in the bottom left value panel. This is an extreme example of faint lines that appear on other stamps in the sheet.

To the top of the right frame line, the horizontal lines of shading to the right of the sculptured line are recut, commencing almost at the top of the design. What makes this interesting is that there are 'shadow' impressions of the horizontal lines appearing in the gap between the two outer frame lines, as if seen and then 'rubbed out'.



Row 5/9

Look to the top left of the design, where three lines of shading of the sky are broken, forming a small ray of sunshine above the cloud. The middle of the three broken lines has a much larger break than the other two surrounding it.

Break in the top three horizontal line of shading in the sky at top left of the design.



White line in what appears to be a break in the frame of the left value panel, top right of the 'E' of 'POSTAGE'.

Also shows a break at the top of the two vertical lines above the 'GE' of 'POSTAGE'.



Row 5/10

There are a number of minor varieties on this stamp to aid identification. The horizontal lines of shading at the centre of the left frame are recut, whilst those at the foot of the right are not recut but appear malformed, as if partly erased. The centre right leaf of the upper cabbage tree (that on Row 5/6 is elongated) is short and thickened.



Row 6/1

Top of the stamp, margin and into the sky, are heavily spotted. Given that the stamp is faint overall, the spots make the stamp appear dirty.

There is nothing special to note that will give immediate eye notable evidence to differentiate this stamp from others. Look to the thinned frame line at top right and weakness of the grass to the left of the path as minor varieties to identify this stamp from others. Rely on matching spots and weak areas in lines for confirmation.



Row 6/2

There are no eye notable varieties on this stamp and the collector will need to look for the faint leaf at the top of the cabbage tree at top right as a distinguishing feature. Note the near vertical lines of spots that appear at the foot of the stamp in the left margin (to the left of 'POSTAGE') and on the right (below 'HEALTH' in the right value panel). These may help identify this stamp. It is interesting to note the unique characteristics of the left frame. It is usual for stamps to have faint patches at various points in its surface. On the left frame, these faint areas appear in diagonal bands for the whole length of the frame.



Row 6/3

There is a significant amount of recutting of the frame lines at the foot of this stamp. The faint area at the bottom right corner will alert the collector, but close view of the recutting of the base of the left and right frames will clearly show the two graver lines that will differentiate this stamp. The bottom left corner is worthy of mention, as this appears to have received some attention to correct a weakness in the corner, but is not corrected well.



Row 6/4

The most prominent feature of this stamp is the long diagonal line that begins to the bottom right of the last 'H' of 'HEALTH', extends through the pathway, to finish in the grass on the left. This is difficult to see on first examination as it is quite fine, requires the use of a magnifying glass.



Row 6/5

The prominent feature is the heavy line that extends from the right margin near the bottom. This line is thick and unlike thin graver lines that appears elsewhere on stamps in the sheet. This variety is similar to the variety of stamp at Row 5/7, that affects the second line of shading from the bottom of the design, whereas this affects the third line. Potentially indicates that the bottom right hand corner required recutting, but there is no evidence of any fault here. Other varieties are minor.



Row 6/6

This stamp is identified by the graver line that appears in the right frame just above the right value panel. It clearly connects the first two frame lines. Other than this, there is little to differentiate this stamp from others.



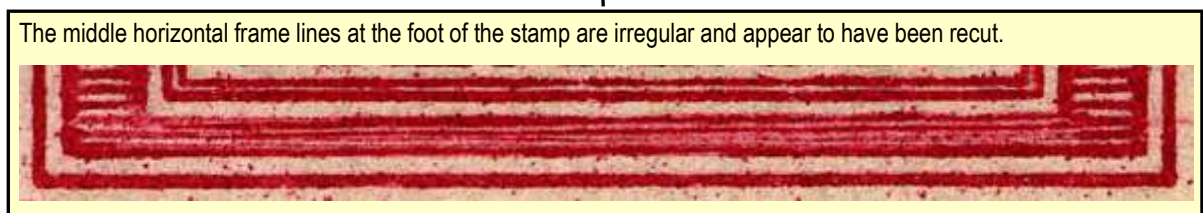
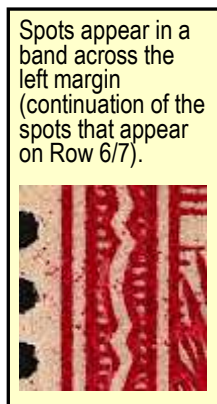
Row 6/7

To distinguish this stamp look for the broken lines of shading left of the leftmost cabbage tree. The broken lines of shading appear in a band almost vertically, as if they have been manually erased. The evidence of red spots on the right side of the stamp can be used to confirm the plating position.



Row 6/8

There are only a few minor varieties appearing on this stamp. The small break in the horizontal line above the 'LA' of 'LAND' at the top of the stamp is perhaps the most notable variety that could help identify this stamp. The lower group of lines at the foot of the stamp are malformed, but this evidence alone cannot be relied on as there are many similar examples such as this in other stamps on the sheet, albeit to a lesser extent.



Row 6/9

All the lines on this stamp appear tired and worn, giving them a fuzzy appearance, especially seen with the wording and lines at the top of the stamp. The graver line in the sky at top right is the best example of this variety although similar retouches exist on other stamps (to correct the gap in the line). Look for the light patch in the head of the cabbage tree at upper right, this is an eye notable variety, to confirm this stamp.



Row 6/10

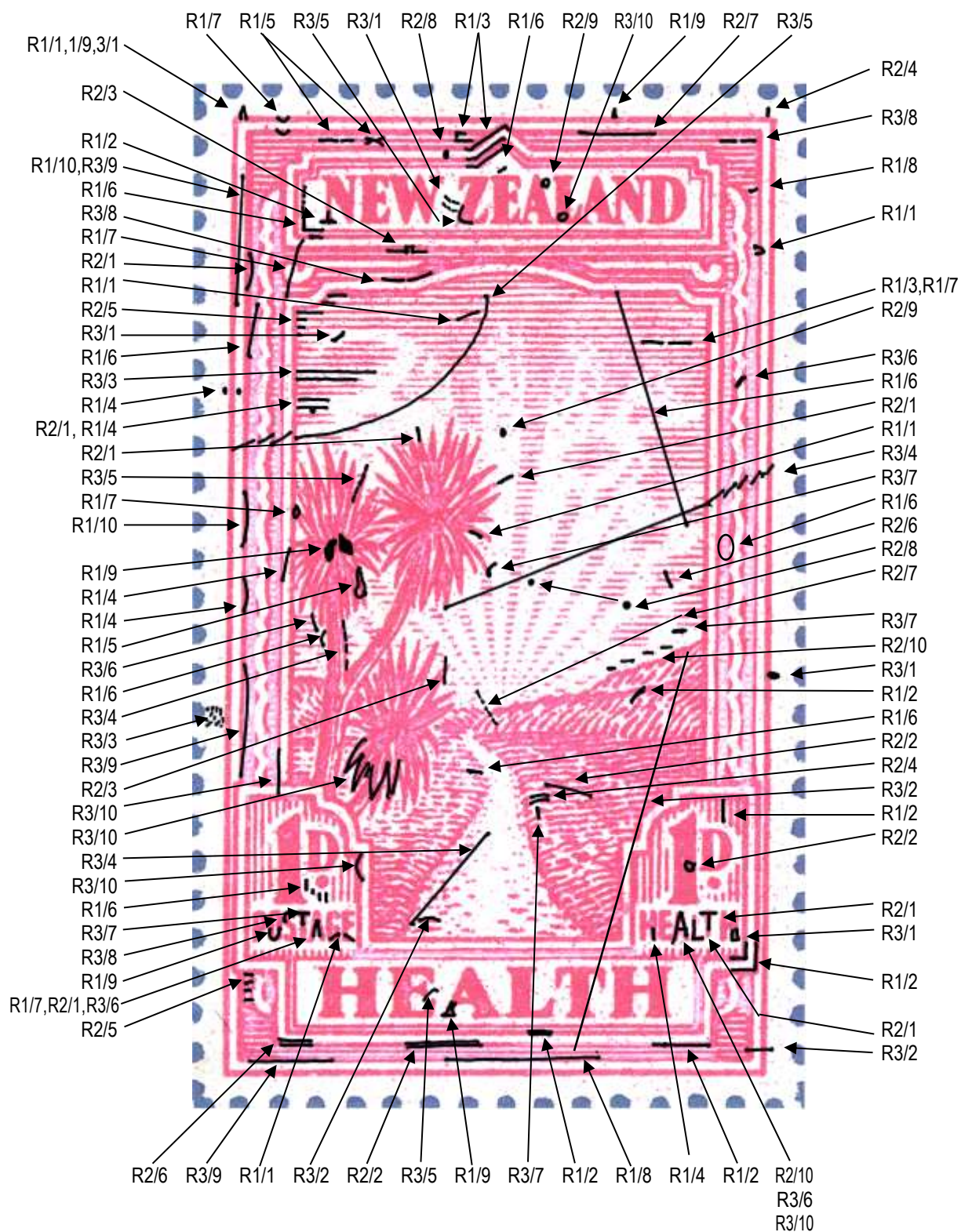
Look for the recutting of the lines of shading in the left frame, at the top the recut lines are on the left, whilst at the bottom the recut lines are on the right. There are several instances of this type of recutting, so look for the broken line in the sky at top right for other evidence. This latter broken line occurs elsewhere on stamps from the sheet, but this is the best example.

There is also an indication of the lines under 'NEW' at the top of the stamp, and the three horizontal lines at the foot of the stamp having been recut. They appear too straight and regular, when compared with the overall fuzziness of the lines generally.



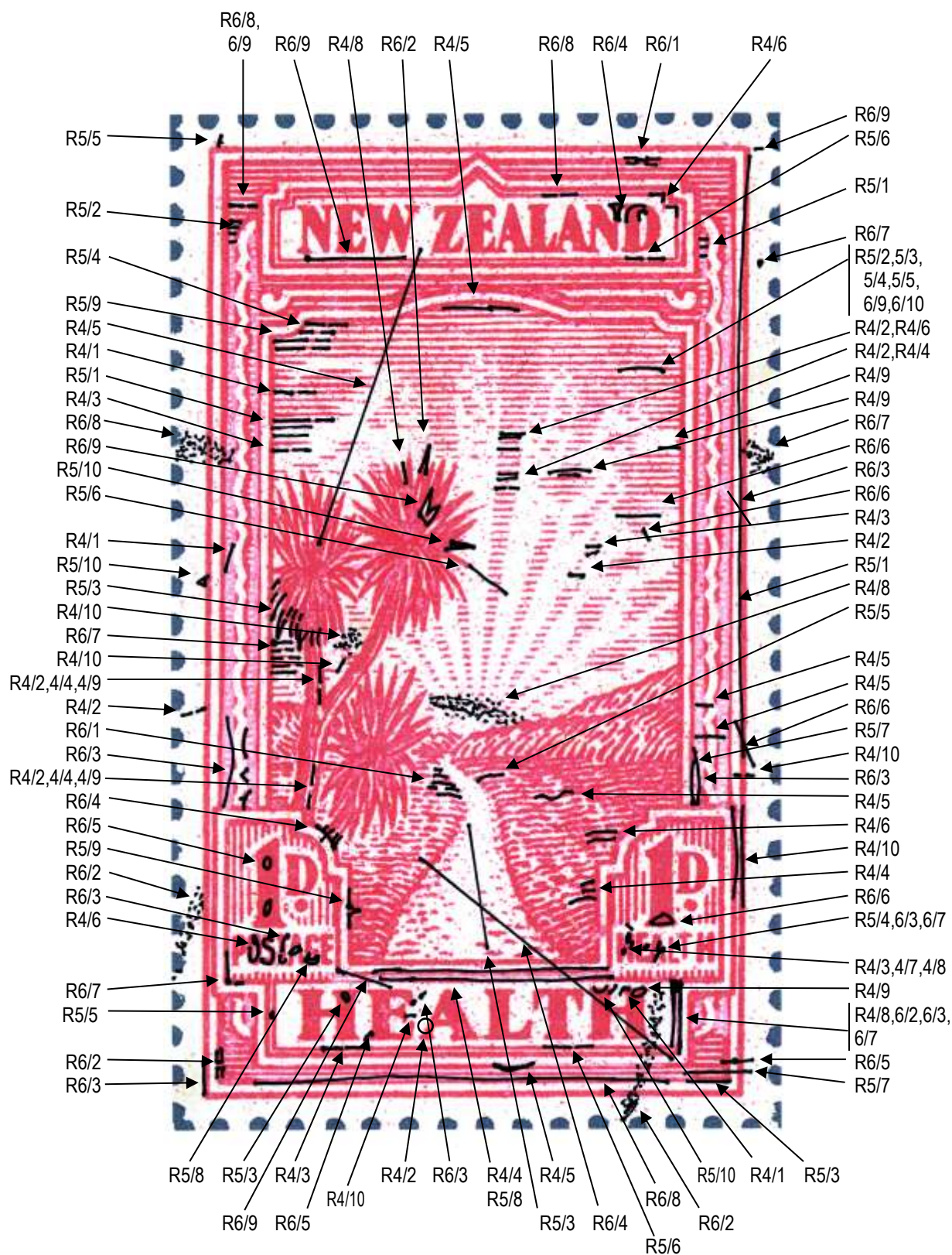
THE VARIETY 'MAP'

Row 1/1 to Row 3/10



THE VARIETY 'MAP'

Row 4/1 to Row 6/10



‘POSTAGE’ and ‘HEALTH’

There are a significant number of varieties found affecting the letters ‘POSTAGE’ and ‘HEALTH’ that appear in the value panels near the foot of the stamp. These are illustrated here as an aid to the ‘Variety Map’ that follows.

‘POSTAGE’		
Row 1/1		Letters ‘GE’ are curved at the base.
Row 1/7		The ‘A’ is faint at the centre.
Row 1/9		The ‘O’ is shortened and is not as deep as the other letters.
Row 2/1		The ‘A’ is faint at the centre, the ‘T’ is also shortened at top left.
Row 3/6		The left stroke of the ‘A’ is faint at the centre.
Row 3/7		The top left of the ‘T’ is short. The ‘A’ has a spot at the top.
Row 3/8		The ‘S’ is shortened at top right. The ‘P’ and ‘T’ are lengthened.
Row 4/6		The ‘P’ and ‘O’ are malformed.
Row 5/8		The lower part of the ‘TAGE’ is faint.
Row 6/3		The ‘T’ and ‘A’ are joined by a diagonal line

‘HEALTH’		
Row 1/4		The right leg of the first ‘H’ is thinned.
Row 2/1		There is a weakness in the ‘A’ and ‘LT’ are malformed.
Row 2/10		The ‘A’ is thinned and slants towards the left.
Row 3/6		The top of the ‘A’ is faint.
Row 3/10		The right foot of the ‘A’ is curved.
Row 4/3		The ‘H’ and ‘E’ are joined together by a red spot.
Row 4/7		There are faint lines through the ‘H’ and ‘A’.
Row 4/8		There are faint spots in the ‘H’, ‘A’ and last ‘H’.
Row 5/4		The centre of the ‘A’ is faint.
Row 6/3		The centre of the ‘E’ and ‘A’ are faint.
Row 6/7		The ‘A’ is malformed and shortened.

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