

NEW ZEALAND POSTAGE STAMPS ERRORS AND VARIETIES

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

2½c Magpie Moth; 4c on 2½c Provisionals.

By Terry Hancox



2½c Magpie Moth



4c on 2½c Provisional

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



The New Zealand Society of Great Britain

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Three different First Day Covers featuring the 2½c Magpie Moth, issued at part of the low value 1970 definitive issue, 2nd September 1970.

* * * * *

INTRODUCTION

Some years have passed since the 4c on 2½c Magpie Moth surcharged stamp was current, June 1971, and also since the publication of a number of well-known reviews of the many varieties found on these stamps. I offer here an update to those reviews, adding new information that was not available until sometime after the withdrawal of the stamp.

For me, collecting postage stamps is a visual opportunity. Therefore this review uses technology, not available at the time of the early reviews, to illustrate the detail of the flaws and varieties found in this stamp. No matter how good the illustrators of the early reviews were, I find it better to see the actual image they are attempting to illustrate. Therefore, I offer this review as an update to the information previously available, and to illustrate the detail, with the aid of scans and microscope images.

Of course, the illustration of any review is dependent upon the material to hand and research done to date. Collecting is always a 'moving feast' that changes as new material comes to hand or when different theories are accepted. So, by way of a summary, this is a straw man, as are all reviews, and will be superseded in time to come when new discoveries are made.

For me, the 2½c Magpie Moth and its surcharge variations offer a good area of research, at a point where material is still relatively available, albeit much of the unique material is 'locked away' in collections. It is still possible to build a worthy display of the varieties found on the stamp. Given that there is a 'history' behind the printings: the original stamp; the three surcharge types; value blocks; the formes used within those surcharges; let alone the errors to be found, there is much variation to collect on what is, to those non-collectors, 'a single stamp'.

In mentioning 'errors' I have broken an unwritten rule to include 'prices' for error stamps in this review. By doing so, I firmly place this document in a timeslot, where future generations of stamp collectors will gasp and say 'that was cheap'. I have pondered (a short while) and decided that to omit pricing, or some measure that will mimic prices without mentioning currencies, will be to lose value of the relative scarcity of one error against another. Therefore I have included prices for errors that have appeared in the marketplace, on the dates seen. I leave it to the 'future generations' of stamp collectors to sample these prices against ones that apply to their time, and judge the relative scale of things.

All illustrations are from my collection and what I have owned over time. There are references to some errors and varieties that are not illustrated and I have inserted them to give a rounded view of 'what I know', not 'what I have'. Prices are from the many vendors of postage stamps past and present (and the future) and my thanks go out to all of these for balancing scarcity, demand, condition against a price. It is not an easy task.

By way of explanation of the error and variety tables, they are written so that a collector can use this research as a checklist. There are 'squares' and 'circles' that can be used to 'tick' if a certain error or variety is in their collection. The makeup of the remainder of those tables is self-evident. There is ample space in the margins for new discoveries to be written and I urge collectors to tell others about them, via the pages of the local or national clubs and societies.

My indebtedness goes out to those who have published work on the 2½c Magpie Moth and Provisionals. I do not seek to tarnish the great value of these publications, but offer this as an 'update', 40 years on.

I hope you find this research useful.

Amend what is wrong and add what is new, for the benefit of collectors to come.

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

Terry

* * * * *

THE 2½c MAGPIE MOTH



Issued 2nd September 1970 the 2½c Magpie Moth definitive catered for the postal rate for second class letters and printed papers, send inland, surface and was a stamp where there was a high demand. This rate was applicable since 10 July 1967.

The increase in postal rates on 15 February 1971 saw the demise of this definitive, where the equivalent rate increased from 2½c to 3c. There was no longer a need for such a unique valued stamp, when no other postal rate was set at this value. Demand for it reduced to zero.

Rather than destroy stocks of this stamp, the Post Office had other ideas.....

The 2½c Magpie Moth Printing

The original 2½c Magpie Moth was printed by Harrison and Sons Ltd. London using the photogravure process from a design by Eileen Mayo. It was printed on a web fed rotary press using four tandem cylinders (one for each colour) labelled 1A1A1A1A and 1B1B1B1B, with the 1A plate being above the 1B plate.

The tandem pane was perforated vertically, top to bottom, using a double comb head gauging 13½ x 13, resulting in the top of the 'A' pane having no perforations through it, whilst the 'B' pane was perforated through. The double pane was then guillotined into individual sheets prior to being issued.

Harrison and Sons appeared to have some difficulty printing the 2½c Magpie Moth, with the red colour not printing correctly, causing some stamps to have the red colour completely or partially omitted. The effect was not constant. Harrisons attempted to correct this.



Red colour partly omitted in a vertical band, missing the large '2'.



Red colour faint, affecting the word 'MAGPIE'.

Plate Markings – Pane A

Exploring the sheet markings found on the A pane of the master sheet. This pane was the higher of the two panes with pane B, prior to guillotining, attached to the lower selvage of this pane.

Cross hairs appear in the left and right selvage alongside rows 1 and 2.

The perf guide is found on both sides of the A pane only, adjacent to the top of row 7.

Sheet value in the top right corner. On the surcharged sheets this is obliterated and new sheet value inserted to the left of the original.

VALUE \$8.00 VALUE \$5.00

VALUE \$8.00

PRINTED BY HARRISON & SONS LTD., LONDON.
DESIGNED BY MISS EILEEN MARD, CHRISTCHURCH, N.Z.

IA IA IA IA IA

074040

The plate and imprint block appears in the lower selvage below the first 5 stamps in row 10 in its traditional position.

The traffic light block appears in the lower selvage below row 10/17 and 10/18. Look to plate B to see the bisected traffic light, separated when pane A and B were guillotined.

The sheet number is found on the outer edge of the right and left selvages near the bottom of the sheet. It has been seen anywhere between row 8 and the bottom selvage. The corresponding number is also found on the master sheet on the B panes.

Plate Markings – Pane B

Exploring the sheet markings found on the B pane of the master sheet. This pane was the lower of the two panes with pane A, prior to guillotining, attached to the upper selvedge of this pane. The sheet markings of the B pane are fewer in comparison to A.

Cross hairs appear in the left and right selvages of the 'B' pane opposite rows 9 and 10. These are normally cut off when the sheet is trimmed and only appear if there are wide selvages.



The lower part of the traffic lights appear in the top selvedge above stamps 17 and 18.



Sheet value in the top right corner. On the surcharged sheets this is obliterated and new sheet value inserted to the left of the original.

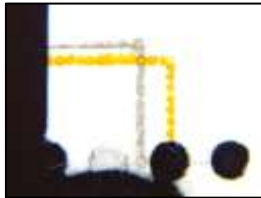


The plate and imprint block appears in the lower selvedge below the first 5 stamps in row 10 in its traditional position.



The sheet number is found on the outer edge of the right and left selvage near the top of the sheet. It has been found anywhere between the top selvedge and row 4. If found in the left selvage, the number is rarely full and readable. The corresponding number at the top of the master sheet is found on the A panes. This number is affected by guillotining of the master sheet.

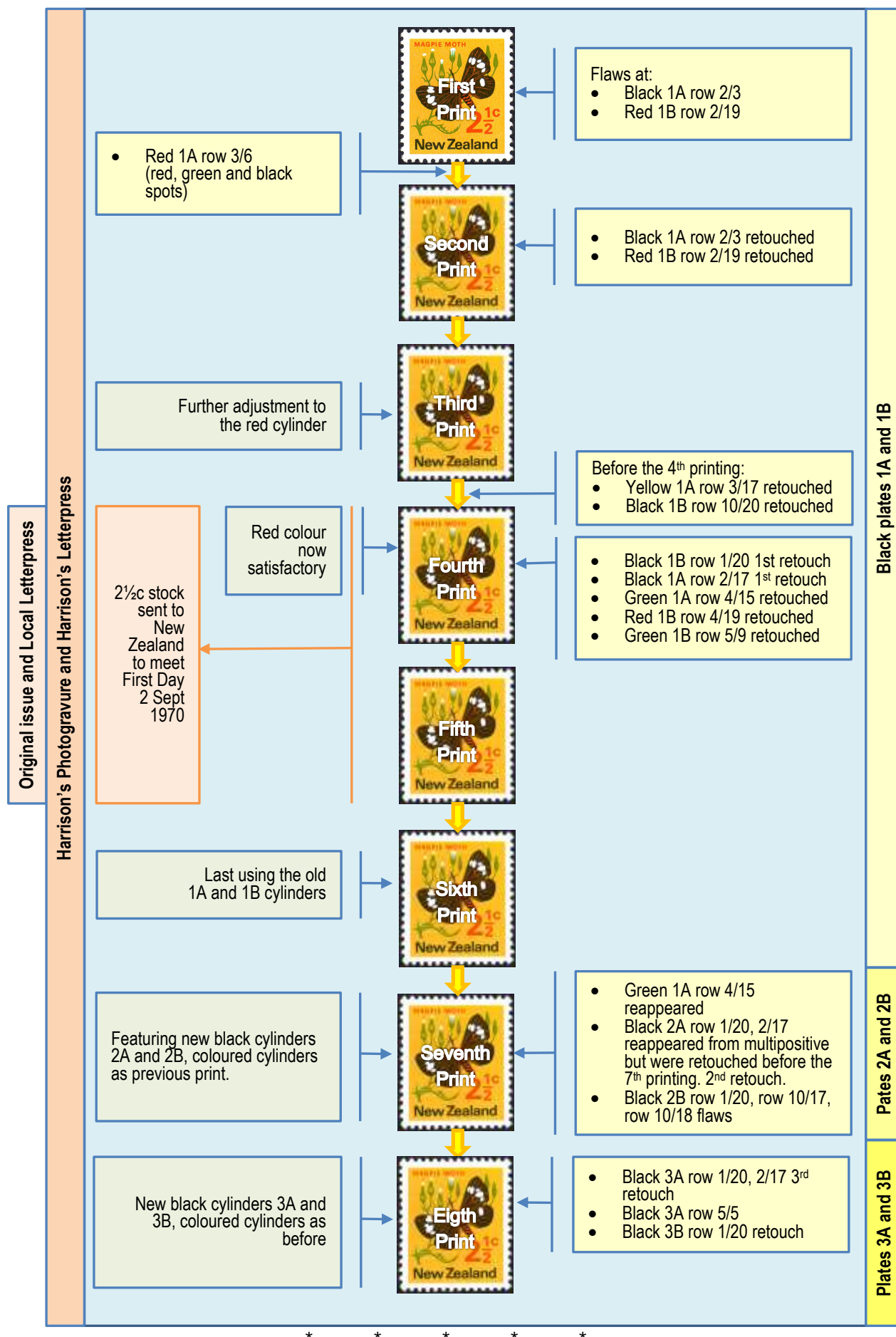
Normally the sheets are trimmed so that there are narrow selvages. If the guillotining is done such that the stamps are offset on the trimmed pane, causing wide/narrow selvages, other sheet markings become visible.

	Extra wide side selvages on the 'A' pane shows the perf guide hole in its complete form - normally this is cut in half when sheets are trimmed. This demonstrates the size of the printed 'guide' that is used for placement of the hole itself. This guide is in the colour of the stamp background, yellow, and has short top and bottom lines, with a long vertical line joining them at their right or left end.   Shown here are two guide marks, normal on the left and an example from plate 1A (print 4 or 5) with additional black guide mark, only found in the left selvage, the right selvage being 'normal'.
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 Cross hairs plate 1A in top left selvage.	 Cross hairs 1B in bottom left selvage.	Cross hairs (used to gauge centring of each colour) can be found in some sheets that have extra wide selvages. The example on the left is from a sheet 1A1A1A1A, that has wide left selvage and narrow right selvage. On other examples, traces of these cross hairs can also be found in similar positions on the right side of the sheet, via presence of a small horizontal line as the point of the cross hair. From examples seen, the cross hairs can be found at: 1A, left selvage opposite stamps at row 1/1, 2/1. 1A, right selvage opposite stamps at row 1/20, 2/20. 1B, left selvage opposite stamps at row 9/1, 10/1. 1B, right selvage opposite stamps at row 9/20, 10/20.
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Order of Printing



1971-1973 4c on 2½c PROVISIONALS

The postal rate increase of 15th February 1971 resulted in the 2½c Magpie Moth stamp being unnecessary and finally being withdrawn from sale on 30th June 1971. A large stock of the 2½c Moth stamp still existed (37m stamps in various holdings), and rather than destroy this valuable resource, a decision was made to surcharge the stamps, to bolster the supplies of the 4c stamp, the new rate for first class letters.

The format of the surcharge, agreed with the New Zealand Post Office, would be to obliterate the old stamp value and show the new value on the convenient background space at top left of the stamp. The old, red, value '2½c' was not too prominent and would be covered by two short black bars, allowing sufficient leeway for centring. A new '4c' value in black would be prominent enough to show it readily, and its placement would not hide any significant part of the design.

Accumulating stock of the Magpie Moth stamp was not that straightforward. Stocks were split into three distinct categories; those stamps already in New Zealand; and two states of stock held at the printers Harrison's and Sons Ltd; finished sheets; and sheets printed but not yet perforated or guillotined. The process of surcharging the 2½c Moth stamp followed these three categories.



Instructions were given to Harrison's and Sons Ltd to overprint stock that they held. Efficiency suggested that it was appropriate to 'print another colour' for that stock that had just come off the press but not yet guillotined or perforated and for this Harrison's prepared another photogravure cylinder for the surcharge. For the finished stock held in sheet form, Harrison's prepared a forme large enough to overprint a single sheet via the letterpress process. Similarly, the Government Printer also prepared a letterpress forme for stock of finished sheets held in New Zealand, albeit distributed to local post offices.

Although the postal rates increased with effect from February 1971, it was not until June 1971 when the first of the overprinted stamps was made available to post offices in New Zealand. The photogravure printed stamps from Harrison's was issued first, followed by their letterpress printed stamps over a year later in July 1972. The locally produced letterpress followed those, first appearing in May 1973.

Thus there are three different types of surcharge stamp to be found, each having their own individual characteristics that offer collectors a wealth of opportunities to specialise.

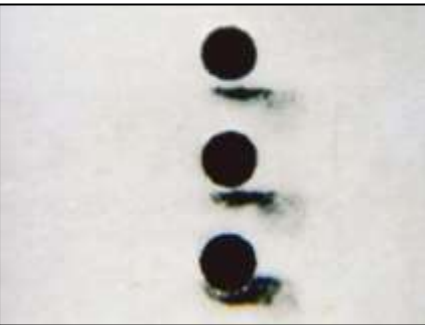
* * * * *

How to differentiate between the three surcharge types

The ability to differentiate between the three surcharge types is relatively straightforward under low magnification. Look to the two horizontal bars that attempts to obliterate the old stamp value '2½c' and note its form from the table below.

		
Harrison's Photogravure surcharge The horizontal bars are uniform, thin, 5mm in length by 1.5mm wide. There is a gap between them of 2mm. Look to the 'serrated' edges to the bars, and the 'screen dot' like composition of the bars themselves. There are few surcharge varieties found in stamps printed by Photogravure and they are relatively uniform as they are printed by a technique the same as the original stamp itself.	Harrison's London Letterpress surcharge The bars are fatter with a smaller gap between them and have a distinct 'solidness'. The bars are still 5mm in length but are now 2mm thick, with a 1mm gap between them. The edges are straight, without the 'saw tooth' form. Those stamps printed by letterpress show a solidness, quite different to the photogravure printed variant. The printing is via a forme made up of clichés and spacing blocks, on which ink was spread before being pressed onto the sheet. This produced a wide spectrum of varieties based upon how much pressure was applied, ink used, and how well the paper was aligned. This type of printing produced many holes, bulges and wavy edges to the characters that were transient between sheets.	Local Letterpress surcharge The bars are thin with a wide gap similar to the type used in the first Photogravure printing. They are solid and most times uneven. The horizontal bars are 5mm in length by 1.5mm wide. There is a gap between them of 2mm. The edges are straight, without the 'saw tooth' form.

* * * * *



For the Letterpress surcharges, the overprint is applied to stock after printing and perforating had completed. It is therefore possible for the new sheet value obliterator bars to pass through the perforation holes in the top selvage, leaving black ink that can be picked up on the reverse of the next sheet printed. This example shows such an offset from the Harrison's Letterpress printing.

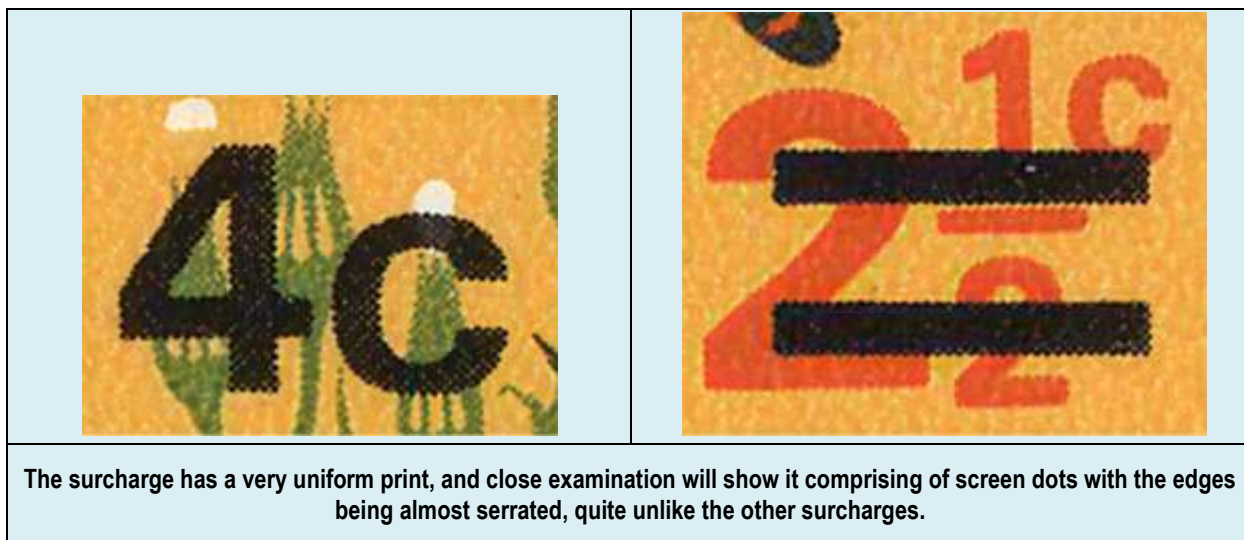
* * * * *

HARRISON'S PHOTOGRAVURE SURCHARGE

Printing

When a decision was made to use up surplus stock of the 2½c Magpie Moth and overprint it with a new 4c value, stock existed at the printers, Harrison and Sons Ltd., in two forms: stock in sheet form that had already been perforated and trimmed ready for shipment when called for by the NZ Post Office; and that which was still in tandem panes, imperforate and untrimmed that had just come off the printing press.

For the latter given the high number in stock, rather than continue the process to perforate and guillotine these 'unfinished' sheets it was appropriate to make two new photogravure cylinders, each comprising two panes and print what is essentially a 'new' part of the design. These two cylinders each comprised two panes, resulting in the 1A plates having two overprint formes, and similarly, the 1B plates also having two formes. It is possible to distinguish between these four formes with reference to the new sheet value. This method of identification appears to be the accepted way to differentiate between them.



Initial stocks of the 2½c Magpie Moth sent to New Zealand were from plates 1A and 1B, prints 4 and 5 only. The stock held at Harrisons in unfinished form covered all stages of printing, included the original printings, and as such these are only seen in surcharged form.

As can be expected, flaws occurred and developed on the surcharge formes as printing progressed. There does not appear to have been any attempt to correct the surcharge formes, even when some of the flaws were quite significant.

The direction of printing was from left to right across the double pane, 'A' pane above the 'B' pane. There were a significant number of doctor blade flaws to substantiate this. Once the surcharge had been applied, the tandem panes were perforated and guillotined into two sheets 1A and 1B as issued.

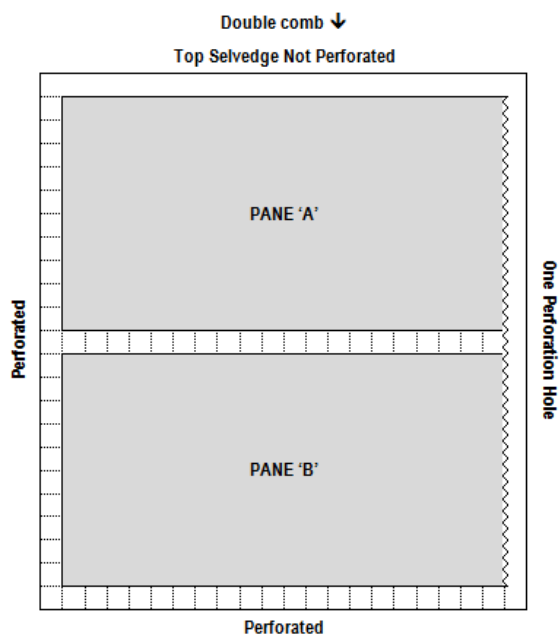


Example showing doctor blade lines in the top selvage.

Perforations

Normal

It was usual for the tandem panes to be fed into the perforating machine so that the top of the 'A' pane and right sides of both 'A' and 'B' panes were not perforated through.



'A' pane showing left selvedge perforated, top selvedge not perforated through and right selvedge with one perf hole.

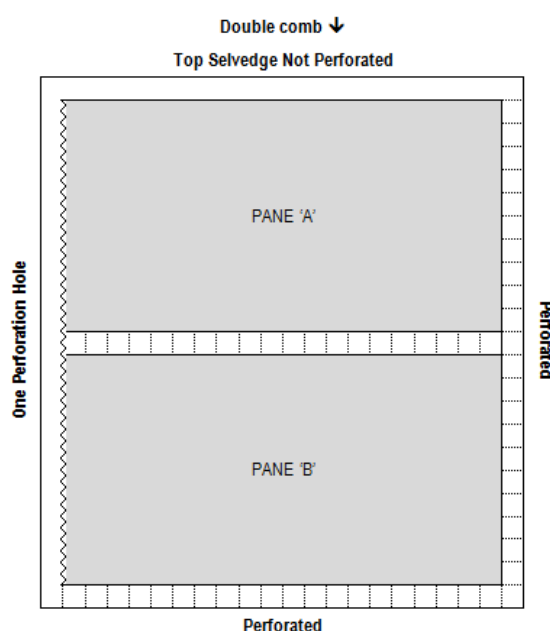


'B' pane has the right selvedge with one perf hole, bottom and left selvedge perforated..

This is the most common perforating characteristic for the majority of the supply. Only a small proportion of sheets display the 'mirror image effect' and are at a premium.

Variant

A small number of sheets were incorrectly inserted into the perforating machine so that the top of the 'A' pane and left of the 'A' and 'B' panes were not perforated through.



'A' pane showing left selvedge with one perf hole, top selvedge with no perforations, and the right selvedge perforated through.



'B' pane showing left selvedge with one perf hole, bottom and right selvedge perforated through.

The error sheets are not inserted upside down, as the impression of the holes show an indent in to the paper from the hole being made from the front of the sheet.

Comb Perforation Varieties

The comb head worked from the top of the sheet to the bottom, perforating one complete row of stamps, and three sides of the row below (but not the lower horizontal row). The perforating machine would then step down two rows and strike the next two rows, completing the horizontal row of perfs from the rows above.



The vertical perfs of row 9 almost overlap the horizontal perfs at the top of row 10.

Sometimes the 'step' down would not be exactly two stamps height, and the next row would not perforate exactly in the right place, to create either a close or a wide gap between the previous and next strike of the perf head. The Magpie Moth is not exempt from this and varieties exist to show these different gaps.



There is a distinct gap between the vertical perforations of row 9 and the horizontal line of perfs at the top of row 10, where the comb perfs have stepped slightly too far.

Blind Perforations



Columns 3 and 4 shows blind perf hole near the horizontal perfs.

A small number of blind perforations have been noted affecting the London Photogravure stamps. During the perforating process two pins broke away from the double comb head: between columns 3 and 4, appearing on odd rows (1, 3, 5, 7 and 9); and a second missing pin between columns 8 and 9 on even rows (2, 4, 6 and 8). These were soon noticed and repaired. To date, they have only been seen affecting the 'A' panes on plates 2A and 3A. No examples of this variety have been reported affecting the 'B' panes.

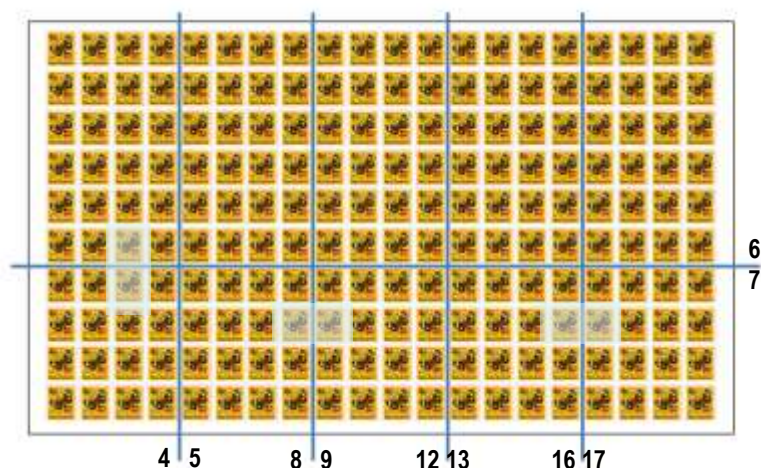
The absence of the blind perforation hole on the 'B' panes is perhaps evidence against the understood method of perforating these sheets (double perf comb from top to bottom through 'A' pane at top and 'B' pane below), suggesting they were perforated singularly. The normal perforating method would see both 'A' and 'B' panes similarly affected.



Columns 8 and 9 with blind perf hole just below centre.

Make-up of the forme for the Photogravure printings

From examples seen, it appears that the Harrison's Photogravure forme is composed of 'blocks' of surcharges. The sheet displays characteristics where the positioning of the surcharge moves or is displaced between certain rows and columns. As shown in the diagram below. There is a visible displacement along the horizontal between rows 6 and 7, and similar displacements vertically between columns 4 and 5; columns 8 and 9; columns 12 and 13; and columns 16 and 17.



Looking closely at the placement of the individual surcharges it appears that the forme is slightly wider than the width of the stamp, perhaps only by a few tenths of a millimetre. The effect is that over the width of the sheet there is a progressive shift of the surcharge to the right. If that is not corrected, the surcharge would be wide of the mark and miss covering the old stamp value.

To rectify the width, every fourth column the form is narrowed by 1mm, to bring the placement of the overprint back in line. This could have created a regular pattern across the sheet had it not been for the horizontal step between rows 6 and 7, that creates a block of 24 at the top, and 16 below. It would have made for better symmetry if the horizontal step was between rows 5 and 6, as it is in the local letterpress surcharge.

This pattern appears to be consistent between all four formes of the Harrison's Photogravure surcharge.



Transition between rows 6 and 7, where the lower surcharge is moved 1mm upwards.



Transition between columns 8 and 9, where there is an upward shift of the surcharge (best seen in the bars). More importantly, the surcharge is moved slightly left, to allow for 'drift' in the next four stamps.



Transition between columns 16 and 17 where there is a slight upward shift of the surcharge on the stamp on the right, and once again, a small but necessary shift left.

Original Issue

.....1971, June 23

Errors

				
Normal	Overprint misplaced	Overprint misplaced (used)		

		
Complete double perfs top row	Partial double perfs at top	Surcharge misplaced


Overprint angled across the sheet



☐	Red colour partially omitted	There are numerous examples with the red colour partly omitted from the wording 'MAGPIE MOTH' and the value '2½c'. In places there are letters missing in bands across the stamp. This error is important in that it is not found in the unsurcharged stamp. Because of the transient nature of the error, the price varies in relation to the extent of the colour omission.	£15 to £100	2005
☐	Surcharge misplaced (1)	Small number of stamps found with the surcharge misplaced some 10mm high. The new value (4c) appears in the bottom left of the stamp, whilst the two horizontal bars appear on the upper wing of the moth.	£120 £16 (used)	2009
☐	Surcharge misplaced (2)	[20] in a strip [10*2] from the right of the sheet showing the surcharge angled, normal on the right, but displaced some 5mm by stamp 10 in the middle of the sheet.	£60	2005
☐	Surcharge misplaced (3)	One sheet found at Dunedin had the surcharge misplaced 26mm high, so that stamps in the last row are without surcharge and an additional surcharge appears in the top selvedge. Se-tenant pairs, surcharged and 'normal' are available.	£50 top margin, £200 bottom pair se-tenant.	1999
☐	Surcharge misplaced (4)	Upward shift of the surcharge by 4mm, so that the '4' just touches the top margin, with the horizontal lines above the top of the large '2'.	£40	TAH
☐	Partial double perforations (1)	Examples from the top of the sheet show an additional strike of the perforating head in the top selvedge giving partial double perforations. Row 1 is affected by some 4 perforation holes. From plate 1A2A.	£30	2006
☐	Partial double perforations (2)	Major double perforation error, with additional strike of the perforating head affecting the top two rows. Vertical perforations are doubled in row 1 and half row 2, whilst the horizontal perforations appear mid-way through stamps in row 1.	£84	2006

☐	Partial triple perforations	One sheet was found with triple perforations in the top of the sheet affecting the first two rows of stamps.			RPSNZ6
☐	Double perfs in top selvage	Additional strike of the perf head in the top selvage, not affecting the stamps.		£40	2006
☐	Perforations misplaced	Examples show slight displacement of the perforations affecting the position of the last row of perforations. This causes wide and narrow gaps between row 9 and 10.		£20	2005
☐	Blind perforations	During perforating, two perf pins broke, leaving blind perforation holes between columns 3 and 4 on the odd rows, and between columns 8 and 9 on even rows.		£20	RPSNZ6
☐	Surcharge bars missing	Likely due to a paper fold prior to surcharging.			RPSNZ8
☐	Overprint smudged	R5/1 and R5/2 show transient smudging of the '4c' horizontally. Plate 1B3B.		£12	2006
☐	Green smudges	A few examples have been found with green ink blobs (4 to 6mm round) on the face of the stamp.		£15 to £125	1996
☐	Doctor blade flaws	Black	Examples show a faint doctor blade flaw 18 mm wide vertically through the stamps in columns 1 and 2. Similar in column 1 only.	£10 £15	2006
☐			Black vivid tramline doctor blade flaw appears horizontally through the lower selvage.	£10 £15	2006
☐			Horizontally in the top selvage.	£10	2006
☐			Two black doctor blade lines 1mm each run horizontally between the stamps.	£16	2006
☐	Minor colour shifts	Yellow	The yellow colour is misplaced upwards 2mm moving the white spots of the wing onto the background above it. Black appears partly into the lower margin.	£8	2006

* * * * *

Placement of the Surcharge



Although the surcharge was applied using double paned cylinders, the placement of the surcharge often went astray, with the 'bars' and '4c' value appearing in or around the required position. There are examples that show extreme misplacements and are correctly classified as errors rather than just being misplaced.

Sheet Value blocks and Surcharge Varieties

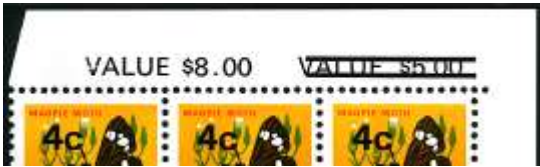
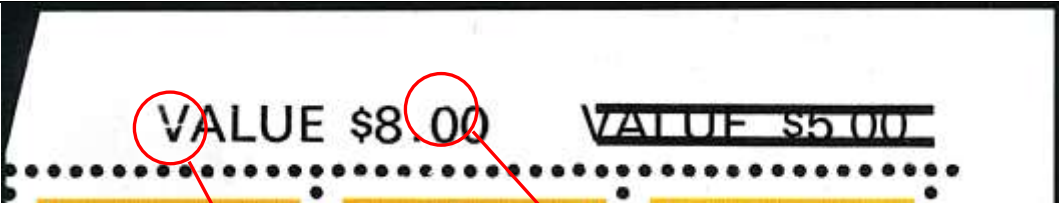
The four types of sheet value blocks can be distinguished by means of small flaws affecting the overprint value. 'A' plates have no perforations in the top selvage. 'B' plates have the top selvage perforated through and also show colour blocks.

Harrison's Photogravure

Type 1, A plates Surcharge Varieties

Value block Type 1, 'A' plates.
Each arm of the 'V' is broken.

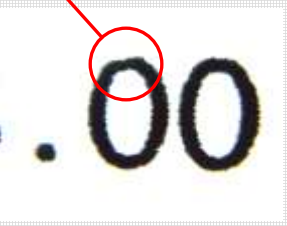
The break is about 1/3rd up from the bottom, with the upper arm fainter than normal. The top of the 'L' also appears broken. The top of the first '0' of 8.00' is flat.



Sheet value identification.

Both arms of the 'V' are broken about a third of the way up. The left arm is faint at the top.



The top of the first '0' is flat at the top.

○	R1/4	Type 1, plate A	Vertical lines are seen down the left hand side of each of the bars.	✓
○	R2/5	Type 1, plate A	There is a thin black line that joins the '4' to the 'c' just below centre.	
○	R4/13	Type 1, plate A	Both bars are cut in what looks like a curved scratch, top bar in the arch at the top of the large '2' and the lower bar to the left of the small '2'.	✓
○	R5/3	Type 1, plate A	Transient flaw affecting the top of the '4' appearing as a small bite out of the top right edge.	
○	R5/20	Type 1, plate A	Tiny black spur from the top of the '4'.	
○	R7/2	Type 1, plate A	The tail of the 'c' is shaved at bottom right.	✓
○	R7/19	Type 1, plate A	A black spot is seen below the '4'.	✓
○	R9/6	Type 1, plate A	The tail of the 'c' is shaved at bottom right.	✓
○	R9/11	Type 1, plate A	Lower bar has a spur left of centre on the lower edge.	
○	R10/11	Type 1, plate A	There is a white spot at the apex of the '4', and the top bar has the left end slanting at top.	
○	R10/12	Type 1, plate A	The top bar has an angled edge at top left.	

○	R10/13	Type 1, plate A	The tail of the 'c' is shaved at bottom right	✓
---	--------	-----------------	---	---

			
Left end of the bar has a small vertical scratch, starting.	R1/4 The vertical scratches at the end of the bars are extending.	The vertical scratches at the end of the bars now meet but are faint.	

			
R4/13 A curved scratch travels through both bars of the surcharge.	R5/3 The top right edge of the '4' has a small indent. Transient.	R5/20 Small spur from the top of the '4' in two states. Minor but constant.	

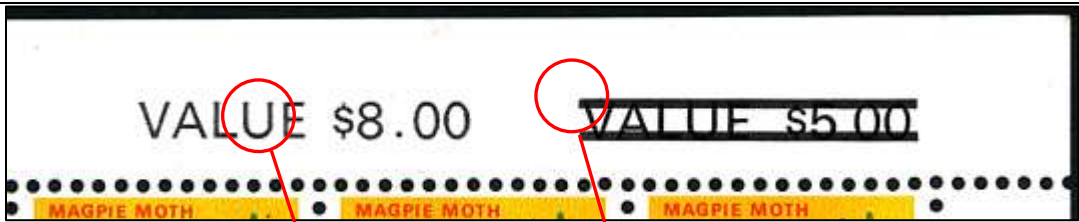
			
R7/2 The bottom right corner of the 'c' is shaved.	R7/19 There is a black spot under the '4' of the surcharge.	R9/6 The bottom right corner of the 'c' is shaved.	R9/11 There is a tiny spur from the lower bar, slightly left of centre.

			
R10/11 The left end of the top bar is rounded at the top.	R10/11 There is a tiny hole at the top of the '4'.	R10/12 The left end of the top bar is angled.	R10/13 The bottom right corner of the 'c' is shaved.

Harrison's Photogravure**Type 2, A plates Surcharge Varieties**

Value block Type 2, 'A' plates.
Base of the 'U' is distorted.

The base of the 'U' has flat sides. The lower horizontal line of the 'E' is pointed, not vertical like normal. The left edge of the top obliterating line is notably slanting.

Sheet value identification.

	
The lower corners of the 'U' appear straight, with the outer screen dots missing.	The left edge of the top bar notably slants.

○	R1/10	Type 2, plate A	Top of the '4' is malformed with apex slanting. Various states of this exist.	
○	R2/3	Type 2, plate A	(Transient) The '4c' is malformed, and is extra thick on the left side. (No other stamp on the sheet is affected and therefore is not a dragged print).	
○	R2/5	Type 2, plate A	The left end of the top bar is slanted, as though cut off, and the surrounding area becomes smudged.	✓
○	R5/3	Type 2, plate A	Top of the '4' is ragged. With stamps from R5/3, R5/4 and R5/5, the top of the '4' is affected similarly. The '4' becomes shorter, wearing from the top, leaving it ragged.	✓
○	R5/4	Type 2, plate A	Top of the '4' is shortened and ragged. Various states exist. This stamp is affected most by the similar variety affecting the three stamps on row 5.	✓
○	R5/5	Type 2, plate A	Top of the '4' is shortened and ragged, as R5/4.	✓
○	R8/17-18	Type 2, plate A	(Transient). There is a series of black spots in the top margin of these two stamps. The spots are evenly spaced and in a line rising diagonally to the right.	
○	R9/17	Type 2, plate A	(Transient). Thin blackline is seen at the top of the stamp in the margin. This is seen next to the constant black line above the 'OTH' of 'MOTH'. That is a variety in the black printing plate not the surcharge, from black plate 2A.	
○	R10/20	Type 2, plate A	(Transient). Wavy black line from the upper edge of the top left wing towards the margin.	

			
R1/10 The top of the '4' is wearing, and is curved rather than straight.	R2/3 The '4' of the surcharge has a dragged effect, other stamps around it are normal. Transient.	R2/5 The left end of the top bar is slanting, as though cut off.	

			
Normal	R5/3 The top of the '4' is wearing and is becoming ragged.	The top of the '4' is wearing further and is reducing in height.	

			
Normal	R5/4 The top of the '4' is wearing, with spikes showing.	The '4' continues to wear, the spikes now become detached spots.	The top of the '4' is ragged and reduced in height considerably.

			
Normal	R5/5 The top of the '4' is wearing and becomes broken.	The top of the '4' continues to wear and is now slanting.	The '4' continues to wear becoming ragged and reduced in height.

			
R8/17 There are a series of black spots at the top of the stamp in the margin. Transient.	R8/18 The spots from R8/17 continue into the top of R8/18. Transient.	R9/17 Thin blackline is seen at the top of the stamp in the margin. (Transient). Shown here against the constant black line above 'OTH', on black plate 2A.	R10/20 There is a wavy black line protruding from the edge of the top left wing, towards the margin.

* * * * *

Harrison's Photogravure**Type 3, B plates Surcharge Varieties**

Value block Type 3, 'B' plates.
Left arm of the 'V' is shortened.

There is also a minute dot midway between the 'VALUE' and the horizontal bars.

Sheet value identification.

The top of the right arm of the 'V' is short.	The base of the uprights of the 'U' appear to have white spots.	There is a tiny black spot above the end of the middle arm of the 'E'.	There is a joined pair of spots to the right of the '00' of the new sheet value.
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○	R1/17	Type 3, plate B	Transient variety, top bar is crinkled on the left end by drying ink.	
○	R1/20	Type 3, plate B	A black flaw is seen under the 'c' of the surcharge. The additional black spot is 2mm below the 'c', close to the leading edge of the top left wing and in some cases, dependent upon the positioning of the surcharge, may be found on the wing.	✓
○	R1/20	Type 3, plate B	Top bar of the surcharge begins to wear. This is especially noticeable at the right end of the line, where the black is thinned and yellow spots appear through the surcharge. Appears in various states.	✓
○	R4/5-6	Type 3, plate B	A black scratch appears from under the 'c' of the surcharge on R4/5 and extends to stamp R4/6.	
○	R5/17	Type 3, plate B	Top bar of the surcharge has a slanting edge at top left.	

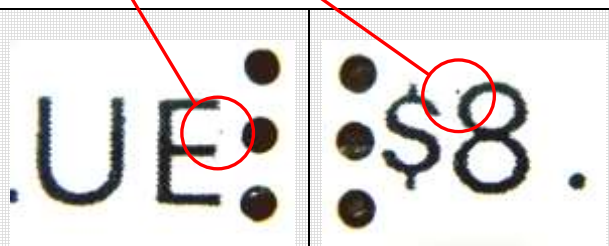
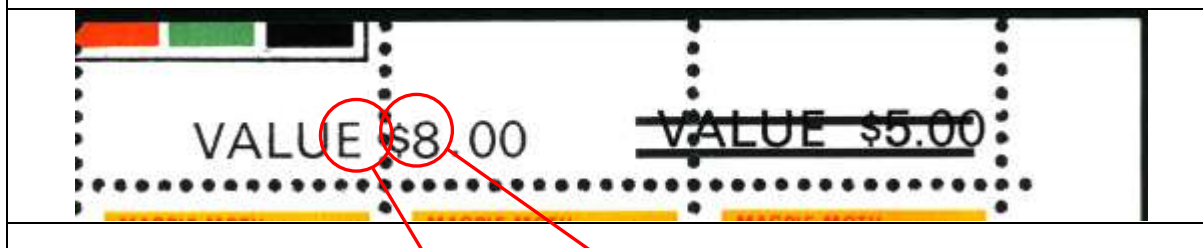
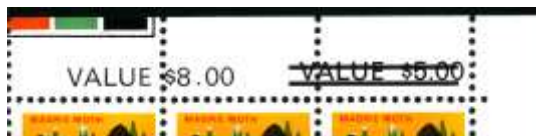
R1/17 The top bar of the surcharge is crinkled, caused by drying of the ink. Transient.	R1/20 Spot below 'c' early, with spot being crescent shaped.	R1/20 Spot below 'c' later, spot now full.	
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Bars normal.	R1/20 Top bar wearing on the right end.	The end of the top bar is broken, ragged and at an angle.	R5/17 Top bar of the surcharge has a slanting edge at top left.

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Harrison's Photogravure**Type 4, B plates Surcharge Varieties**

Value block Type 4, 'B' plates.
Normal, but with minute dot to the top left of the '8'.
 These features are normally present, but can be faint should the printing appear light. The upright strokes of the 'U' also show small distortion.



Sheet value identification.

There is a spot above the end of the middle arm of the 'E', similar to type 3.

There is a black spot to the top left of the '8' of the new value.

○	R1/4	Type 4, plate B	The top bar of the surcharge is ragged at its right end. It appears that the bar has a small protrusion at the lower right, whereas the top part of the right end is shortened.	
○	R2/13	Type 4, plate B	The lower bar has a slanting edge at lower left corner. This is a small variety but constant.	
○	R5/1-2	Type 4, plate B	The '4c' surcharge is grossly smudged, as if dragged to the right.	
○	R5/4	Type 4, plate B	A black horizontal line stretches across the stamp from the top left side of the '4'. This stamp is also found in a pre-flaw state.	✓
○	R6/5	Type 4, plate B	The top of the '4' is shortened by approximately 0.3mm. Not an extensive difference but quite noticeable when compared to normal surcharge. There is a small protrusion at the top left showing where part of the surcharge still remains.	
○	R8/15	Type 4, plate B	Top bar has a slanted end at top left. The variety is only small but gives the top bar a rounded top left edge.	
○	R9/14	Type 4, plate B	A black bulge is seen on the top bar of the surcharge. This is a correction of a flaw that affects the top bar. The top bar has its upper edge quite ragged, with spikes and indents present. Towards the left end, there appears to be a break in the forme, where the background colour shows through a crack.	
○	R9/16	Type 4, plate B	Small hole in the right end of the horizontal line of the '4' of the new value, allowing the background colour to show through. This appears to be a constant variety.	
○	R10/13-14	Type 4, plate B	A 'smudge' like flaw developed between the stamps at R10/13 and R10/14 by the horizontal bars on R10/13. Initial states did not show this smudge that developed during the surcharge printing. Could be caused by the frame holding the surcharge forme bulging and coming into contact with the paper.	✓
○	R10/17	Type 4, plate B	Top bar has a ragged left end. The top bar appears to have the left end thinned in comparison to normal, with the top and left edge relatively smooth. The left edge also slants a few degrees right of vertical.	

			
R1/4 Top bar has ragged right end.	R2/13 The lower bar has a slanting left end.	R5/1 R5/2 Transient varieties showing dragged print of the '4c'. On the same sheet the stamp at R5/3 is normal.	

			
R5/4 There is a horizontal scratch left of the top of the '4'.	R6/5 The top of the '4' is shorter than normal.	R9/14 Indent in the top bar on the upper edge at left.	R9/16 There is a hole at the right end of the horizontal bar of the '4' where it is broken.

			
R10/13-14 'Smudge' early state.	There is a black 'smudge' into the margin between R10/13 and R10/14.	R10/17 The left end of the top bar is slanting.	

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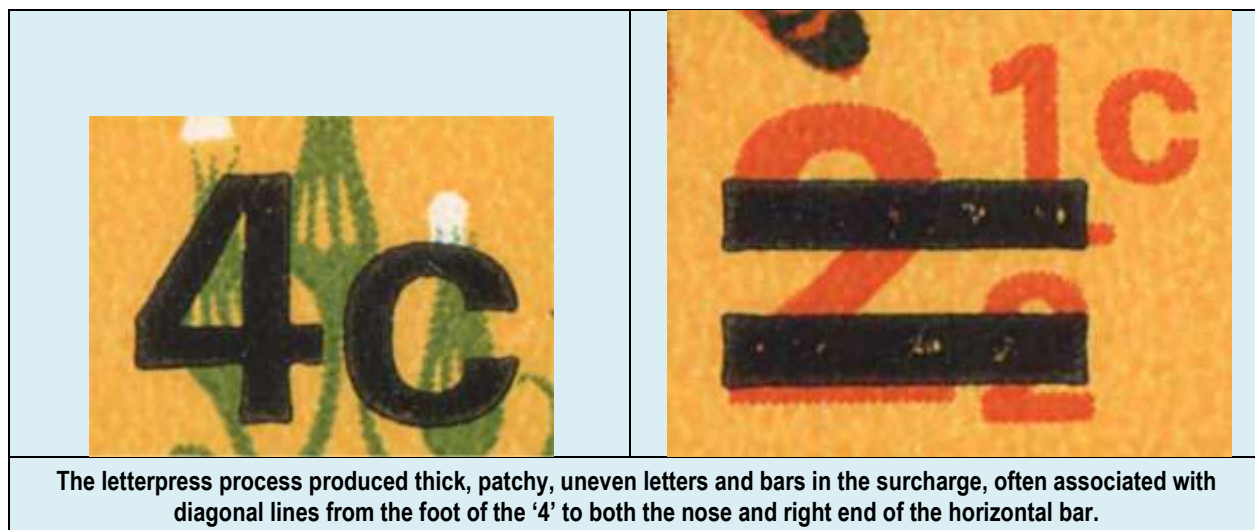
First Day Cover with Christchurch datestamp, '23 JE 71'.

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HARRISON'S LONDON LETTERPRESS SURCHARGE

Printing

The full, imperforate, untrimmed sheets in possession of Harrison and Sons were surcharged by a double forme using photogravure. It was impractical to perform the same operation on those sheets that had already been trimmed and perforated. For this stock of sheets, Harrisons constructed a forme that could be applied using the letterpress process.



The letterpress forme was made to the size of the issued sheet. Into this frame was placed a set of clichés to the design of the new sheet value, old sheet value obliterating lines, and the 120 '4c' (that represented the new stamp value) and 120 'bars' (to obliterate the old stamp value 2½c). Between these clichés, spacing blocks were added to position the overprint in the correct place on the face of the stamp.

The frame was then locked up to become the printing forme. For each sheet to be printed, the forme was inked so that the raised surface of the clichés would be covered in ink (not into the recesses) via a roller, and the sheet of stamps positioned on it under pressure, so that the ink would be taken up by the paper. At points in the printing cycle, the frame would be loosened and damaged clichés replaced where necessary.

Letterpress printing requires skilled craftsmen to create the forme and supervise the process to continuously adjust pressure applied by the press to ensure even results were obtained, and to replace the lead alloy clichés as old ones wore.

An initial (trial) printing of perhaps 6 sheets is known from plate 1A only. The trial print did not have the major flaws in the surcharge at R1/12 (bars), R7/2 ('4'), R7/6 ('c') and R10/11 (bars), but did show the flaw at R9/20 (bars). After the trial printing, the forme was 'ground down' to correct the many examples of faulty printing of the '4c' and bars found in the trial print.

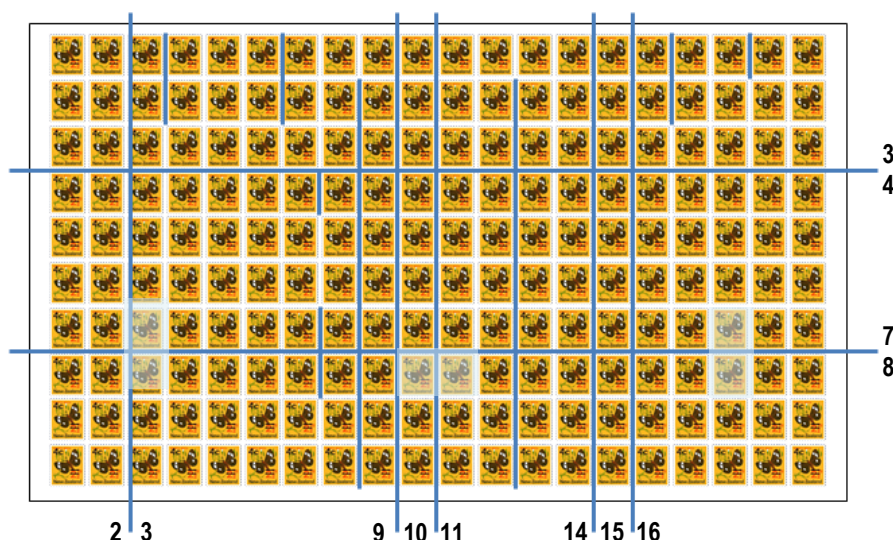
At various stages in full production the forme was maintained and small adjustments made to worn clichés and to improve the appearance of the finished stamps. These include adjustments to the new sheet value and obliterating lines. The different states of the forme can be associated with changes to the new sheet value, rather than by any significant change to the composition of the forme itself. Altogether eight variations of the forme can be found, identified by subtle changes to the value block.

These states have come to be recognised as states 1A to 1G, and collected as such. After state 1G, the forme received significant attention, perhaps to replace all the old clichés. Because this was not just an incremental change, this state is referred to as forme 2.

It was common for collectors to acquire sheet value blocks for each of these states to build a small collection representing the lifecycle of the Harrison Letterpress printings. Some of these value blocks are scarce, as are examples of changes made during those stages. The modern collector may find it difficult to find examples of them.

Make-up of the forme in state 1

From examples seen, it appears that the Harrison's Letterpress forme is composed of 'blocks' of surcharges. The sheet displays characteristics where the positioning of the surcharge moves or is displaced between certain rows and columns. As shown in the diagram below, there is a visible displacement along the horizontal between rows 3 and 4, and similar displacement between rows 7 and 8. The displacements vertically are complex, but the major ones being between columns 2 and 3; columns 9, 10 and 11; and again at 14, 15 and 16.



Columns 10 and 15 have their own positioning of surcharges. A discussion on the placement of surcharges for column 15 follows, as this is quite noticeable.

The large block (of 50 stamps) that forms the area between stamps R1/16 and row 10/20 has the surcharge angled, as if the surcharge block were pivoted at the bottom left corner of stamp at row 10/16 and turned slightly clockwise. This results in the stamp at row 1/20 being out of position greater than any other example.

This pattern appears to be consistent between all states of forme 1 of the Harrison's Photogravure surcharge.

Transition between columns 10 and 11 where the stamp on the right has the surcharge moved 1.5mm left.



Transition between rows 7 and 8, on the left of the sheet where the lower surcharge is moved 1mm downwards.



Transition between rows 7 and 8, on the right side of the sheet where the lower surcharge is moved 1mm downwards.

Positioning of surcharge in Column 15



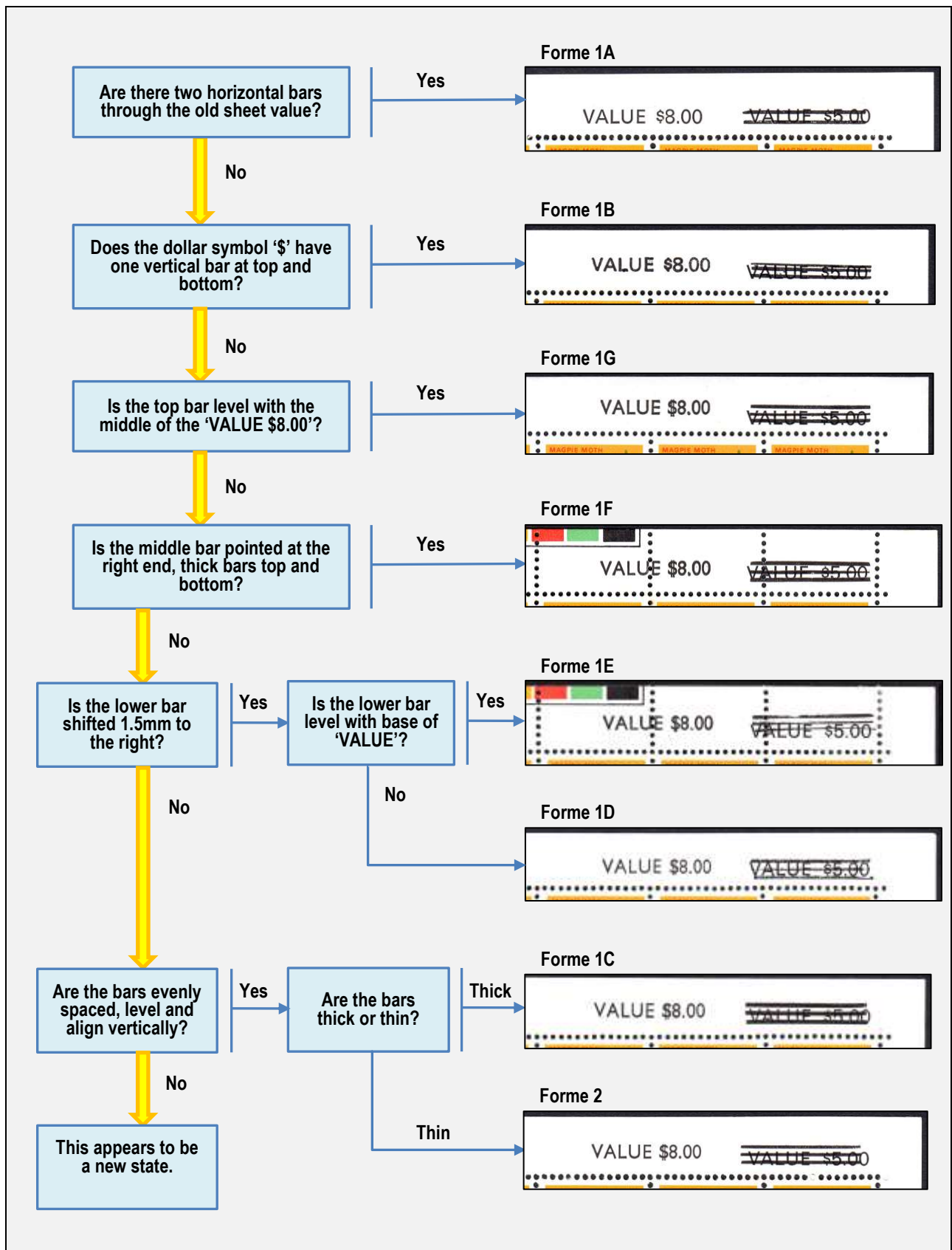
This block shows stamps at row 3/14 to 4/16, including column 15 (centre). The positioning of the surcharge in this column is interesting in that the top three stamps have the surcharge upwards by 0.5mm in relation to its neighbours, whilst the stamps four to 10 have the surcharge misplaced 0.5mm downwards. This is consistent across all forme 1 states.

Development of the standard surcharge between states

State 1A In the initial printings from state 1A, the clichés were regular and tended to be free from wear. This was the first printing and as expected from a new forme, the images were crisp and clean.	State 1C, 1D By the latter part of the printing (with state 1B being the bulk of it), the forme began to wear badly and experiments with changing pressure during state 1C (stamp at row 1/15) and later produced an extraneous line from nose to foot of the '4'. The bars became thick and curved.	State 1G The pressure in state 1G is at its highest in an attempt to produce clean, wear free surcharges. The '4c' has thick lines often with extraneous bars joining the nose to foot of the '4', sometimes affecting then tail of the '4' also. The bars are thick, typically showing a curved middle, with bowed ends.	Forme 2 Typical state of clichés in Forme 2. The '4' invariably shows a ragged inside edge of the diagonal face. The bars are even but mostly weakened and prone to holes and patches. Surcharges from forme 2 are quite unlike that of forme 1.

How to distinguish the states of the two formes in the London Letterpress Surcharge.

This flowchart can be used to determine the forme and state of an 'unidentified' sheet value from the London Letterpress surcharge. Start at the question at top left and follow through with appropriate answers. The questions will lead the reader through the unique characteristics for each separate state.



Formes

There were difficulties surcharging the perforated and trimmed sheets held by Harrison's, and there were many halts to the process whilst changes to the forme were undertaken, typically to repair broken bars in the overprint. It appears that each halt in the printing resulted in some change to the overprint that obliterated the old sheet value, and it is possible to identify each of these printings by means of variation in the new sheet value alone. There are eight different variations of the sheet value overprint that occurred during the life of the issue and reference to this sheet value block is the recognised means of identifying each print.

Harrison's Letterpress Formes

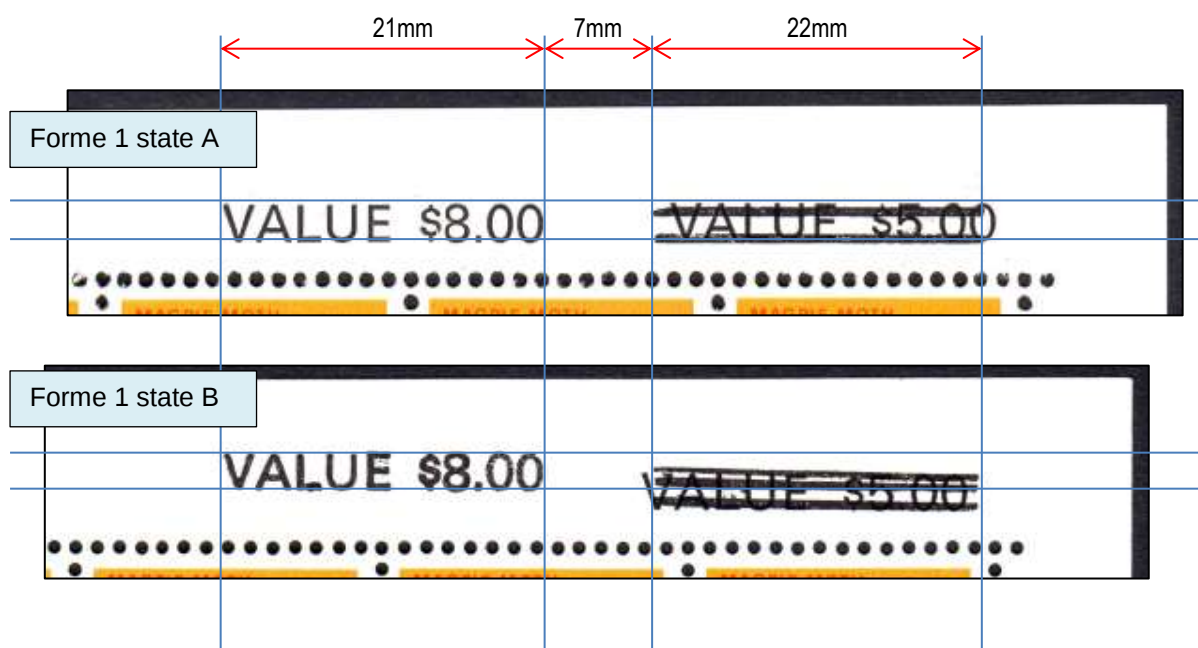
Forme Types, Black plate cross-reference

		Forme states							
		1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	1G	2
Black Plate	1A	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
	1B	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	2A		✓	✓	✓				✓
	2B		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
	3A		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
	3B		✓	✓	✓				✓
Scarcity		2	1	3	2	5	3	3	2

Scarcity: 1 = common; 5 = scarce.

Formes 1A and 1B

Value Block Layout



The layout of the forme types 1A and 1B are readily distinguishable from types 1C to 1G and 2. Look to the dollar symbol where there is a single down-stroke, and then look to see if there are two or three obliterating lines covering the old sheet value. Forme type 1A has two bars, type 1B has three. The vertical positions of the first two are quite consistent with the new value 'VALUE \$8.00' the same length; the gap between the value and start of the bars is the same; as is length of the obliterating bars.

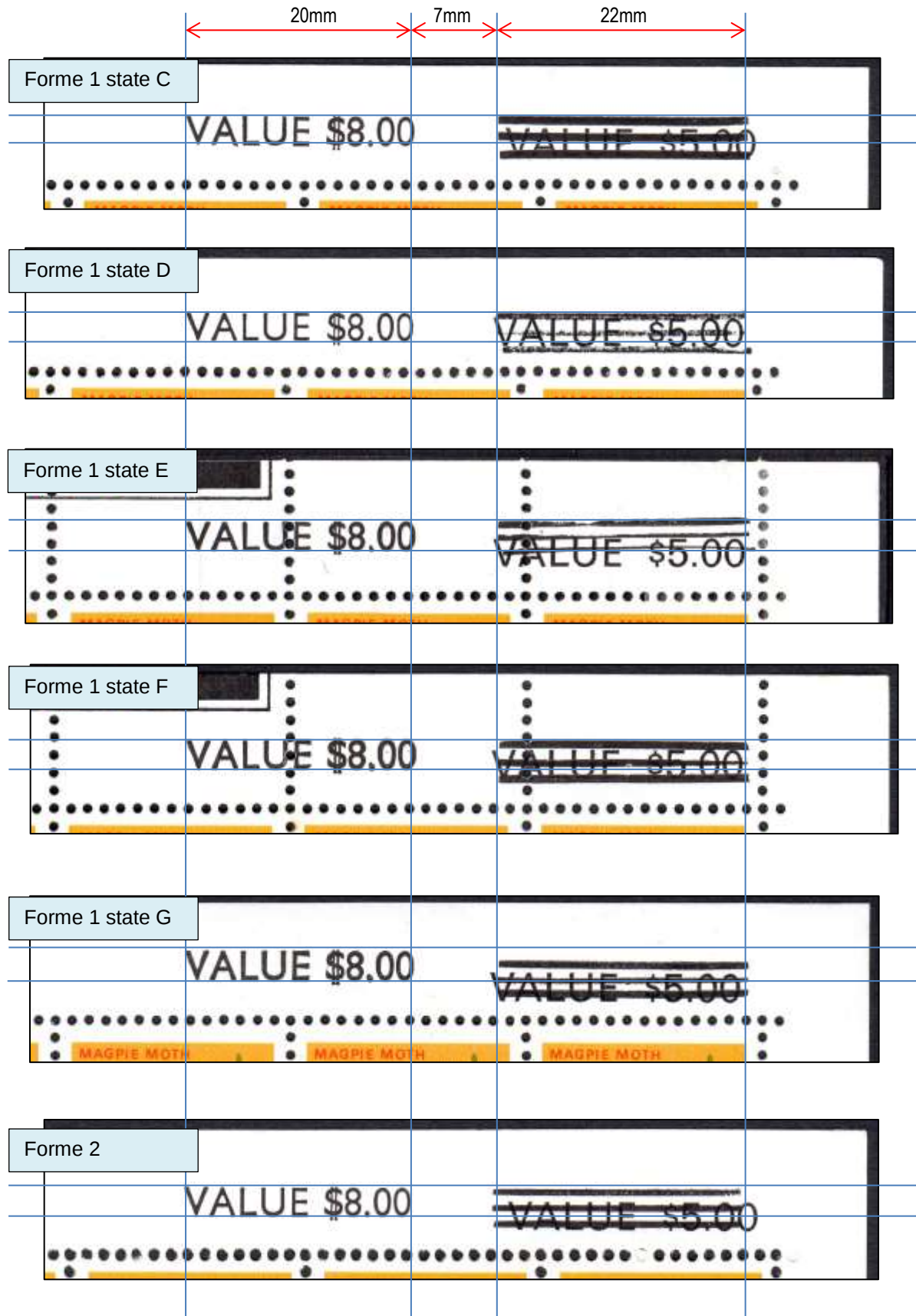
It is interesting to see that on forme type 1B the 'VALUE' is much higher than the obliterating bars. Perhaps this is in response to the problem that occurred in the first forme, where the bars often did not cover the old sheet value.

The layout for forme types 1C to 1G and forme 2 were very similar to 1A and 1B, although the lengths of the 'VALUE' and bars have changed, but only by 1mm. It is possible to differentiate between these latter forme types, with reference to the position and shape of the obliterating bars.

Formes 1C to 1F and 2

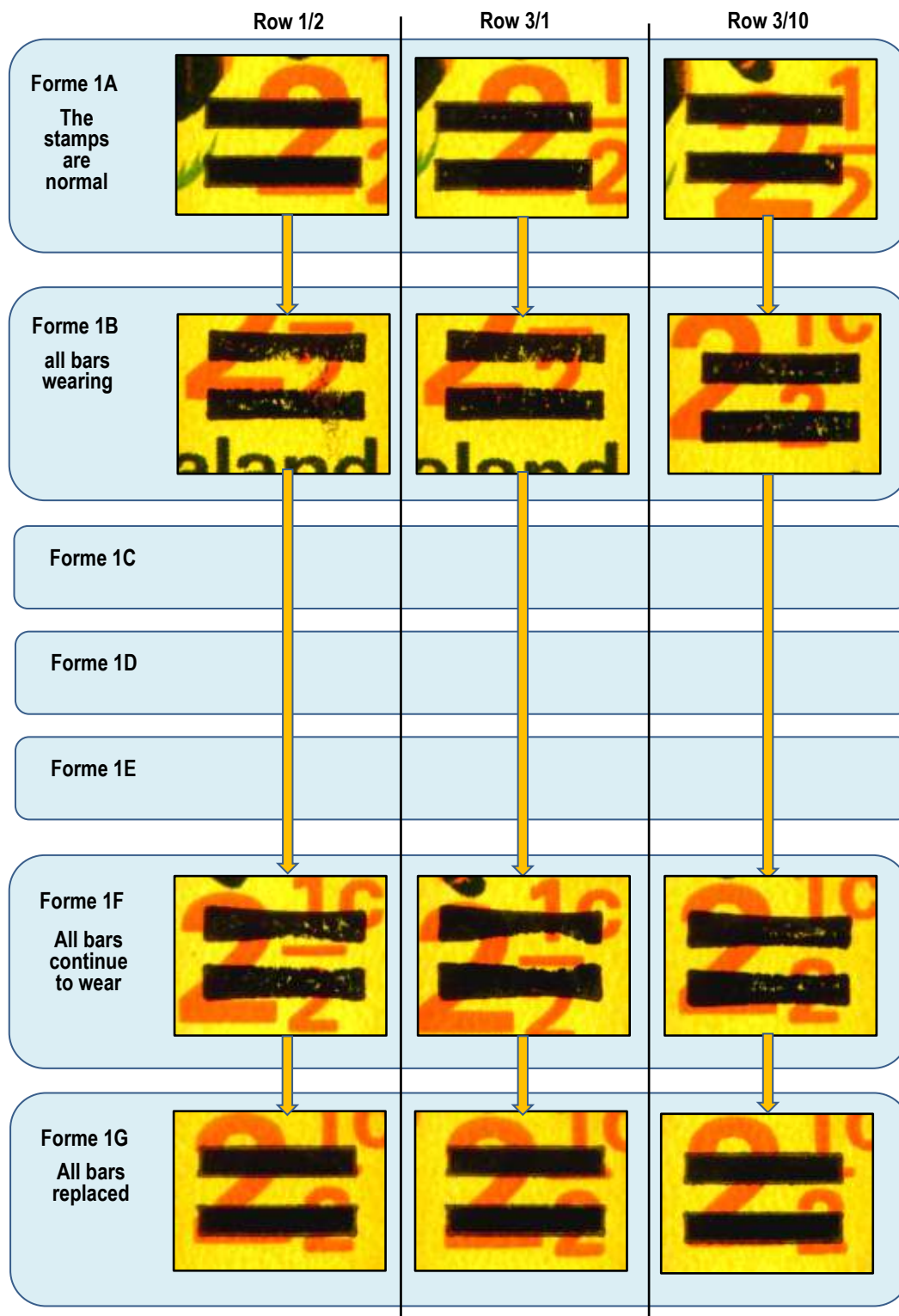
Value Block Layout

The position of the new value layout for states 1C, 1D, 1E, 1F, 1G and 2 are roughly similar. The grid lines below show relative positions of the new value and obliterated, and similar grid for the relationship between the new value and position of the obliterating bars.



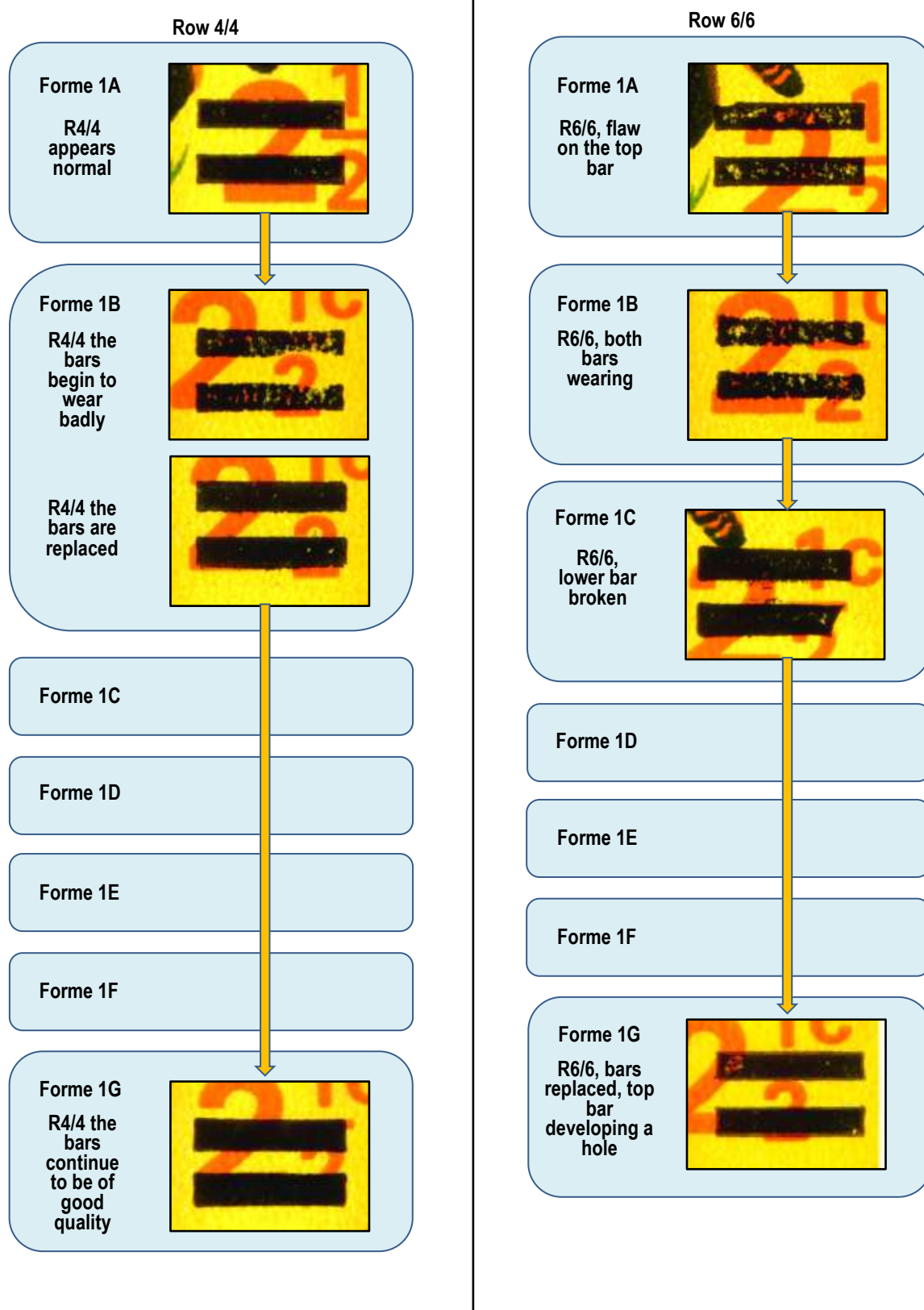
Progression of stamps whose bars were replaced (1)

It is relevant to treat the stamps at row 1/2, row 3/1 and row 3/10 in the same group as their history is identical. Progression through states 1A to 1F saw the surcharges on these stamps gradually wear, to be replaced in state 1G with new bars.



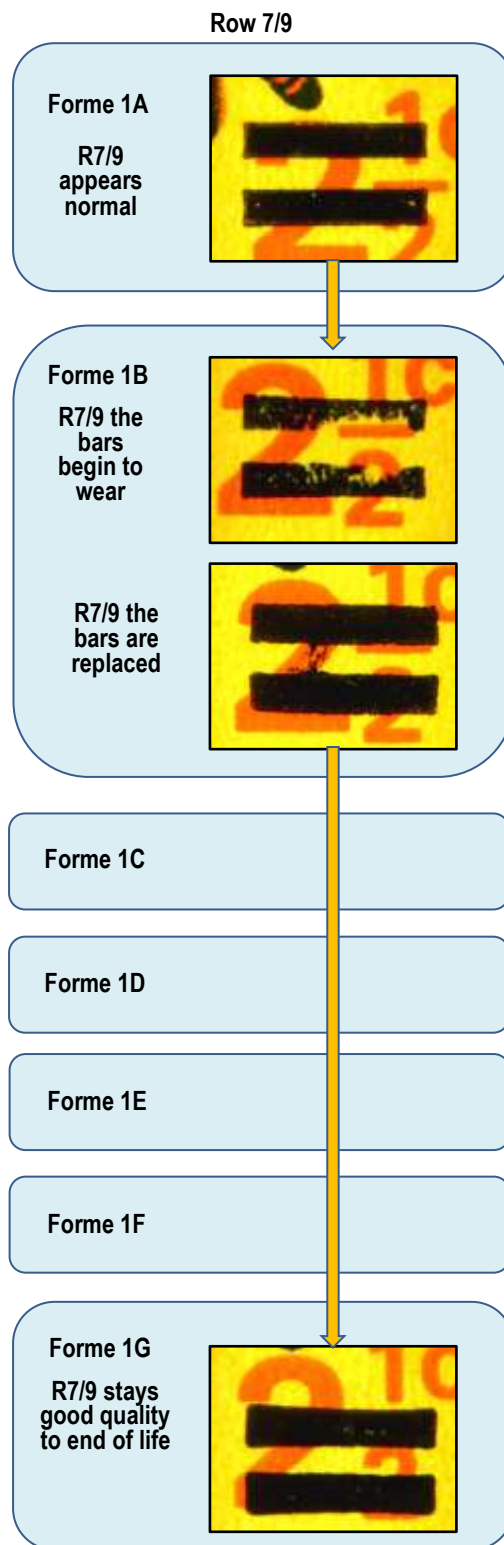
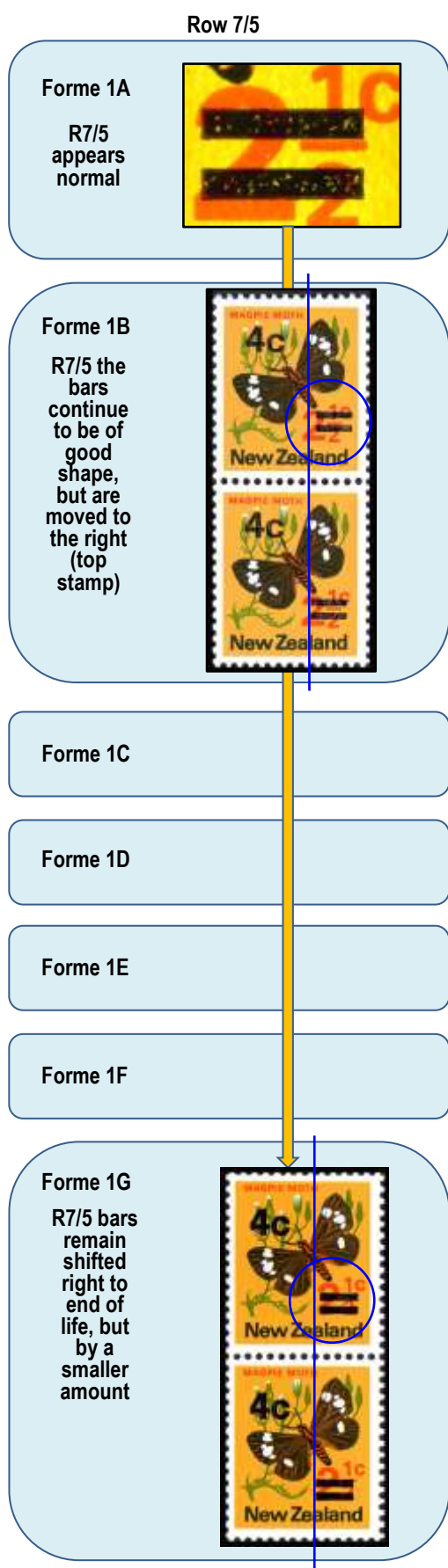
Progression of stamps whose bars were replaced (2)

The bars on stamps at row 4/4 and row 6/6 both showed early signs of wear, row 6/6 before row 4/4. The bars at row 4/4 were replaced because of considerable wear during state 1B, whereas the bars on row 6/6 were not replaced until state 1G, even though the lower bar broke away by state 1C. The bars on stamp at row 6/6 continued to wear and by the final state 1G had developed a small hole in the left end of the top bar.



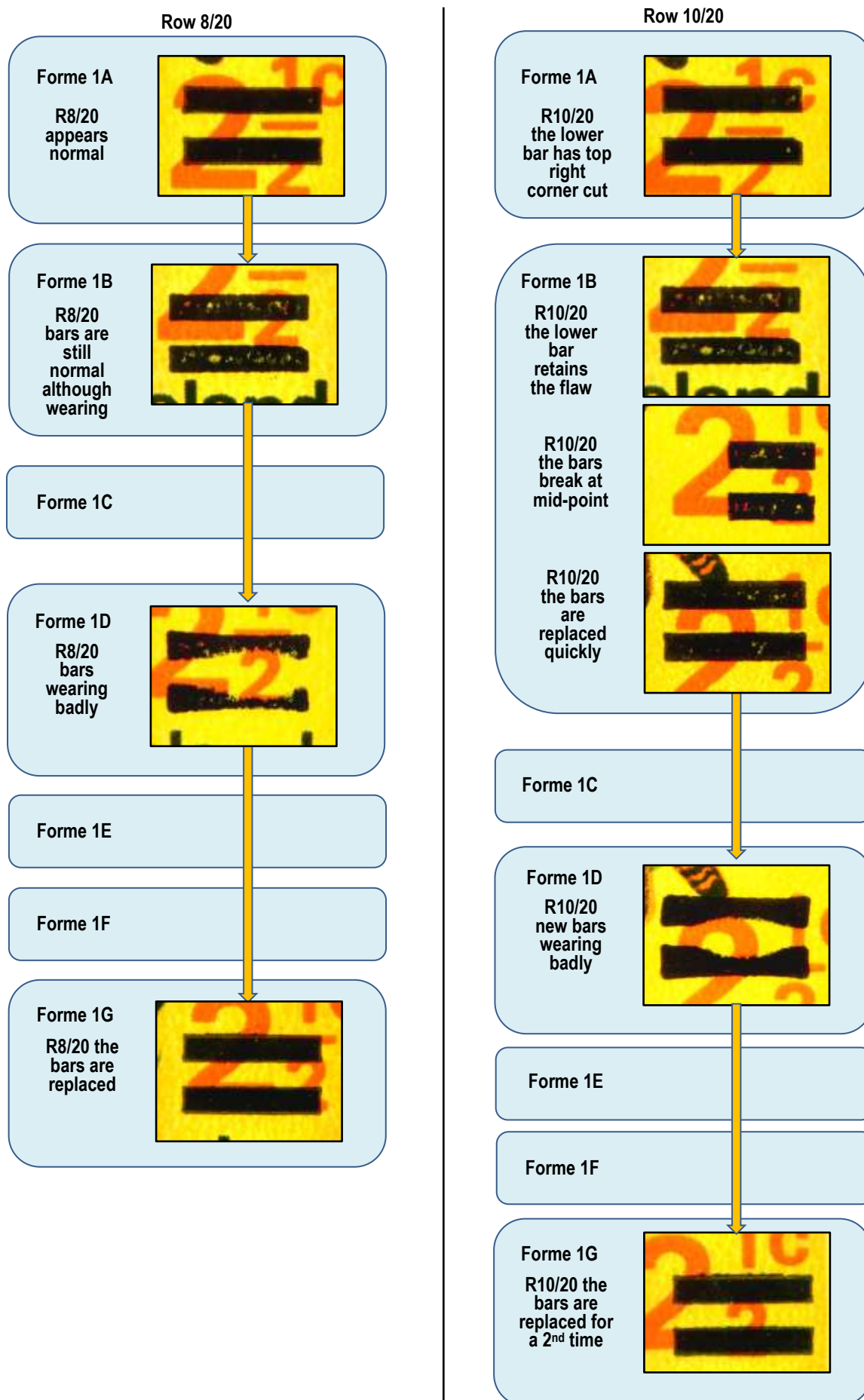
Progression of stamps whose bars were replaced (3)

The states of row 7/5 and 7/9 are listed together as they are normally collected in a large block that contains both varieties, even though those varieties are different. For row 7/5, where the bars are shifted right, it is necessary to acquire adjacent stamps to show the displacement appropriately.



Progression of stamps whose bars were replaced (4)

Row 8/20 and 10/20 are both characterised by their bars being replaced, row 10/20, twice.



Progression of stamps whose bars were replaced (5)

Row 10/11

Forme 1A

R10/11
appears
normal,
but soon
bars
begins to
wear and
are almost
omitted.



The bars are
replaced but
shifted
1.5mm left.



Forme 1B

The bars are
moved once
again, but
1mm to the
right



Forme 1C

Forme 1D

R10/11
then bars
are now
moved
back to
the left



Forme 1E

Forme 1F

Forme 1G

R10/11
bars
normal to
end of life



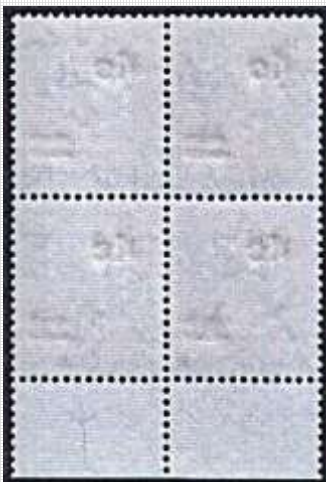
Original Issue

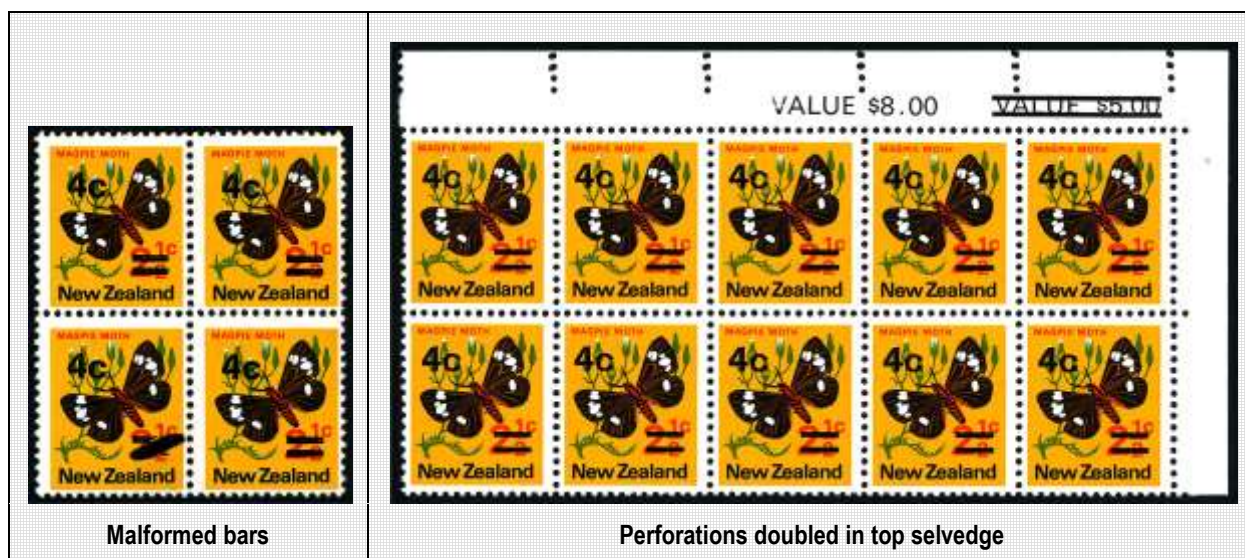
..... (earliest date known) 1972, July 13

Errors

				
Normal	Surcharge doubled (full)	Surcharge offset on reverse (full)	Bars partly omitted (row 5/1) extreme state	

	Partial red omitted. In this instance, column 19 shows most of 'MOTH' omitted, whilst column 20 omits 'MAGPIE MOTH' and the large '2' of the value entirely.
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Double surcharge one partial	Double print one albino	Double print one albino (reverse)



☐	Red colour omitted	The red colour is omitted in bands across the sheet, with many examples having red partly omitted. Examples from early printings of plate 1A/1B.	£90	2003
☐	Partial Double Perfs	[15] with an additional strike of the perforating head through the top selvedge and into the vertical perfs of the stamps from row 1, by some 5 perf holes. The second perfs are misplaced slightly left from the originals.	£50	2006
☐	Double surcharge one partial	Stamps show the full impression of the surcharge, with a partial surcharge displaced slightly to the right of the original and less well formed.	£50	2006
☐	Double surcharge both full	A small number of examples have been seen with two full impressions of the overprint. These examples must have passed through the surcharge printing process twice for such strong and well-formed impressions to have occurred. The second surcharge is displaced 3mm to the right. Only one half sheet was found.	£400 [4] £1000 [4]	2003 2010

☐	Albino overprint	Example shows the albino overprint only (not a double surcharge one albino). At first sight, the stamps appear un-overprinted (as a normal 2.5c stamp). the albino overprint is noticed from the reverse of the stamp, where impressions of the '4c' and bars can be seen clearly.	£120	2008	
☐	Double impression one albino	Small number of sheets with two surcharges, one normal and the second albino. This is quite noticeable when viewed from the back of the stamp, with the second surcharge displaced slightly to the right of the original and leaves quite a heavy impression.	£70	2010	
☐	Surcharge offset on the back	The offset surcharge is quite full and clear. Appears on stamps from column 20 se-tenant with normal, and from a sheet with 10 examples from the bottom right corner.	£100	2006	
☐	Surcharge omitted	This variety exists se-tenant with normal, most likely resulting from a paper fold.		RPSNZ8	
☐	Missing bars	The stamp at row 5/1 shows the surcharge bars almost entirely omitted apart from a small portion at the bottom left.	£30	1996	
☐	Surcharged misplaced	Examples show the overprint appearing at the lower left.	£100	1999	
☐	Overprinted with albino stars	Three sheets are known to exist which are entirely overprinted by regular spaced inverted five pointed stars. The stars are colourless and most noticeable from the reverse of the sheet, having an almost embossed appearance. They are 'printed' from the front of the stamps showing the embossing raised on the reverse. It has been suggested that the application of this overprint is to signify a waste sheet to be discarded.	£120 [4]	2006	
☐	'4' missing	The '4' of the surcharge is omitted, in pair with normal. The stamp shows albino marking on the reverse.		RPSNZ8	
☐	'c' omitted	R3/1 and R3/2 show transient variety, the 'c' of '4c' of the overprint largely omitted, with outline only. Se-tenant with normals	£25	2006	
☐	Surcharge misplaced (Row 10/20)	The surcharge overprint on stamps at row 20/10, with bars on row 19/10 and 20/9 misplaced due to a paper fold.	£120	2006	
☐	Transient flaw – malformed bars	Stamp shows a large thick black 'blob' over the horizontal surcharge bars causing the bars to be incomplete. This is an extreme example of a common variety where the surcharge '4c' or bars has a foreign object, under-inked, or full of dried ink.	£12	2006	
☐	Doctor blade flaws	Green	Vertical green doctor blade 4mm wide through stamps in column 17.	£5	2006
☐		Green	Similar to the above, also vertically through column 17 on plate 1B.	£10	2006

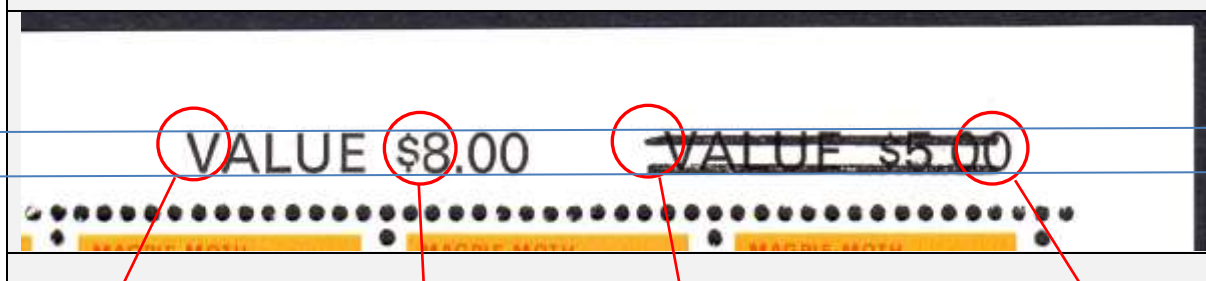
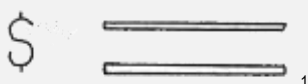
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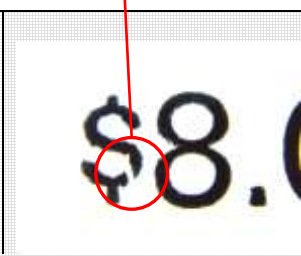
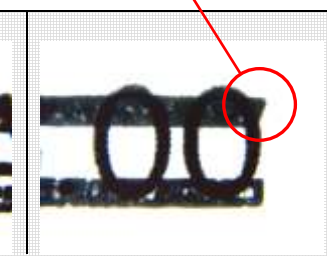
Harrison's Letterpress Surcharge Surcharge Varieties

Forme 1 State A

Value block Forme 1 State A

This is the only value block, from those overprinted using the Harrison's Letterpress surcharge, that has two obliterating bars covering the old sheet value and is readily recognisable because of this.



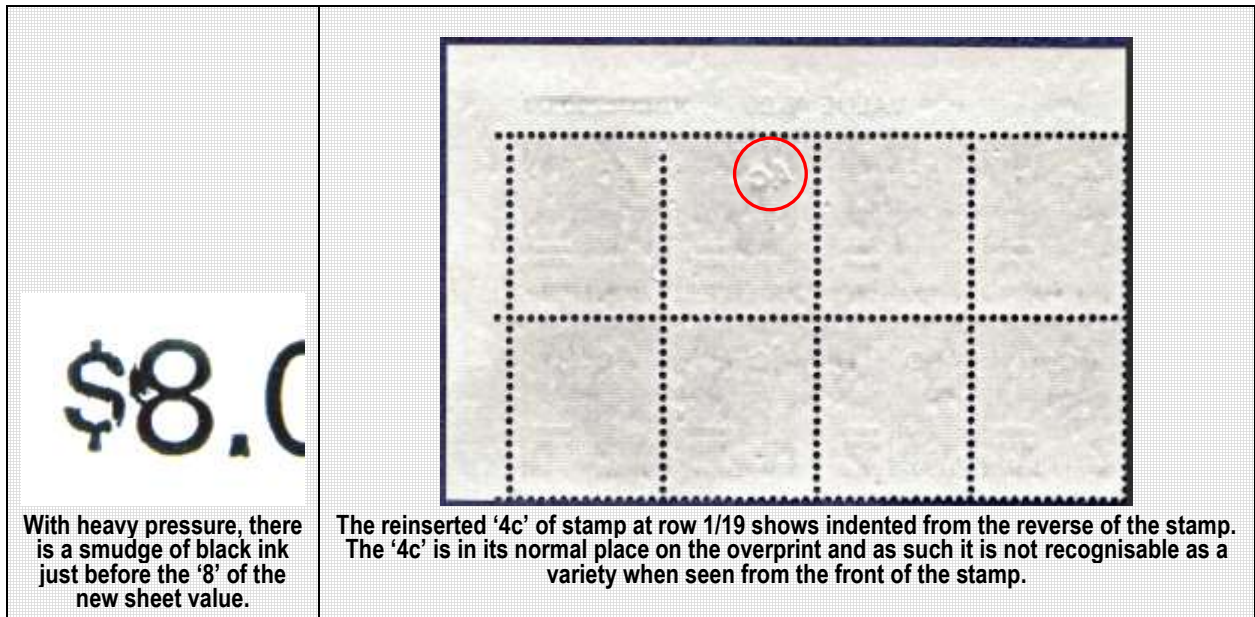
			
In later sheets the top left arm of the 'V' is rounded.	There is a break in the lower arc of the dollar sign. On some sheets, especially those from the 'B' panes, this break is fine or even closed.	The left end of the top bar is slanted, almost pointed.	The right end of the top bar is also slanted diagonally.



New sheet value in some cases did not obliterate the old sheet value correctly. This example has the obliterating bars low.

The initial trial printing was clean and even across the sheet, although many of the overprints did show minor imperfections in the '4c' and bars. Because of this, prior to undertaking a full print run, the forme was ground and polished. In turn, this caused faults on stamps at row 1/12 (lower bar broken), row 7/2 (fault on '4') and row 7/6 (break in the 'c'). It was noted that the two horizontal bars did not always obliterate the old sheet value, and an additional (third) line was added to all subsequent formes.

¹ The visual representation of the '\$' and bars' is taken from articles published in the Campbell Paterson Newsletter, courtesy of Auckland City Stamps Campbell Paterson, PO Box 99988, Newmarket, Auckland 1149, New Zealand, and included here to enable the reader to match the descriptions to the scanned image of the actual value block.



During this state, the bars at row 10/11 began to wear considerably and almost disappeared. They were replaced but were out of alignment, shifted 1.5mm to the left. In this print the bars at row 7/5, row 4/4 and row 7/9 were normal (these received attention during the printing in state 1B).

Row 10/11



Row 10/11 surcharge moved 1.5mm to the left.

1.5mm

The bars of the stamp at row 10/11 almost disappear with wear and were replaced. The position of the new bars was not accurate and were placed 1.5mm further to the left than normal. This block shows row 10/11 in relation to its neighbouring stamps to illustrate the extraneous position of the new bars.

Missing 'c'.

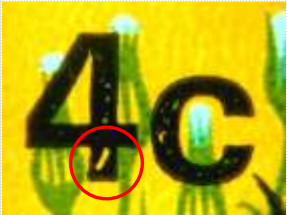
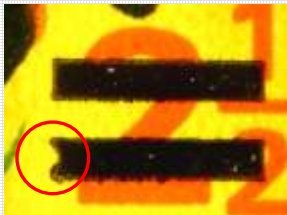
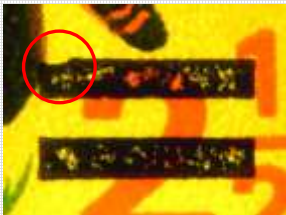
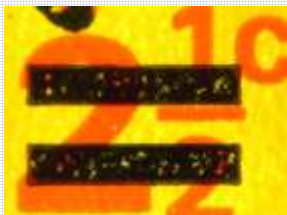
On some sheets the first two stamps from column 3 have the 'c' almost omitted.

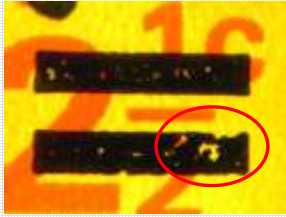
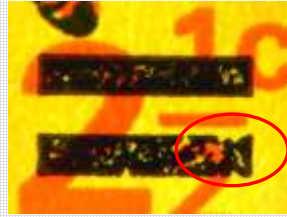
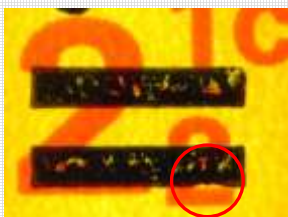
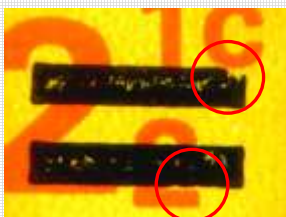
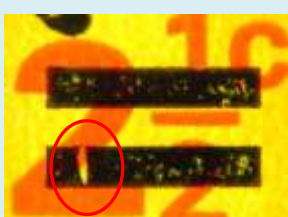
R10/11 Bars almost completely omitted

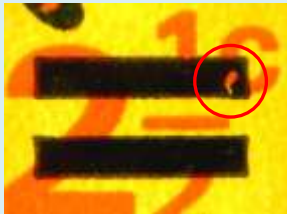
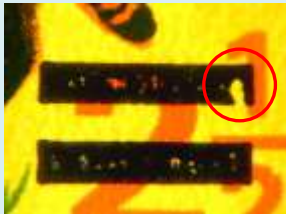
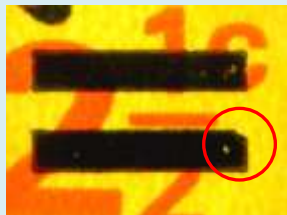


Surcharge varieties

○	R1/1	Flaw	Bite out of the lower left end of the lower surcharge bar.	
○	R1/12	Flaw	Lower surcharge bar has a bite out of the lower right end.	✓
○	R1/13	Flaw	Hole at the foot of the '4'.	
○	R1/19	Flaw	The '4' appears normal.	
○	R1/19	Flaw	The '4c' is reinserted in its normal place. However it is proud and appears indented into the paper when viewed from the reverse (see above).	✓
○	R2/7	Flaw	Tiny black spot appears left of the lower bar.	
○	R3/4	Flaw	The crossbar of the '4' is pitted.	
○	R3/5	Flaw	The nose of the '4' is malformed.	
○	R3/11	Flaw	The foot of the '4' has a diagonal band missing.	
○	R3/17	Flaw	The right ends of the bars are cracked.	
○	R4/16	Flaw	There is a large hole in the right end of the lower bar.	✓
○	R5/7	Flaw	The left end of the lower bar is indented.	
○	R6/6	Flaw	The left end of the top bar has a slice missing.	
○	R6/12	Flaw	The right side of the '4' is wavy.	
○	R7/2	Flaw	The right end of the horizontal bar of the '4' is almost entirely omitted.	✓
○	R7/5	Normal	The bars are normal. They will require attention later.	
○	R7/6	Flaw	Break in the top right of the 'c' of '4c'. Various states exist.	✓
○	R7/8	Flaw	The inside edge of the 'c' is ragged.	
○	R7/8	Flaw	The lower bar is pitted mainly on the right side.	
○	R7/9	Normal	This stamp is normal, it will require attention later.	
○	R8/3	Flaw	The top right corner of the top bar is worn.	
○	R8/6	Flaw	Indent to the lower edge of the lower bar.	
○	R8/15	Flaw	The left edge of the upright of the '4' is pitted.	
○	R9/6	Flaw	The nose of the '4' is malformed. A number of states exist.	
○	R9/8	Flaw	The left end of the lower bar is broken.	✓
○	R9/9	Flaw	The bars are wearing, especially seen in the lower bar.	
○	R9/17	Flaw	The lower edge of the lower bar has a large indent near the right end.	✓
○	R9/20	Flaw	Major flaw affecting the top bar of the surcharge. There are only six sheets from the initial printing with this flaw	✓
○	R9/20	Retouch	In later printings the forme was reworked to reduce the flaw on the bar to a small 'hole'.	
○	R10/2	Flaw	The right end of the crossbar of the '4' is cropped.	✓
○	R10/9	Flaw	Indent into the foot of the '4'.	
○	R10/11	Normal	The bars of this stamp are normal, but soon begin to wear.	
○	R10/11	Flaw	The horizontal bars continue to wear and are almost omitted.	✓
○	R10/11	Repair	The bars are replaced but are inserted 1.5mm to the left of their normal position. (See illustration earlier).	✓
○	R10/20	Flaw	The top right corner of the lower bar is slanting.	✓

 R1/1 The bottom left end of the lower bar is shaved.	 R1/12 The right end of the lower bar is extensively shaved.	 R1/13 There is a hole in the foot of the '4'.	
 Normal	 R1/19 Reinserted '4c'. The '4' has a spot at inner apex.	 R2/7 Black spot to the left of the lower bar.	 R3/4 The inner horizontal line of the '4' is pitted.
 R3/5 The inner nose of the '4' is pitted.	 R3/11 The foot of the '4' has a large diagonal hole.	 R3/17 There is a hairline crack through both bars near the right end.	 R4/16 There is a large hole at the right end of the lower bar.
 R5/7 The left end of the lower bar has an indent.	 R6/6 The bars are wearing, and the top bar is slanting on the upper left end.	 R6/12 The right side of the upright of the '4' is wavy.	 R7/2 The right bar of the '4' is thinned on the top edge.
 R7/5 The bars are normal. They will require attention as printing progresses.	 The 'c' has a large indent at top right.	 R7/6 The indent in the 'c' almost cuts through the letter.	 The top right end of the 'c' has now broken away.

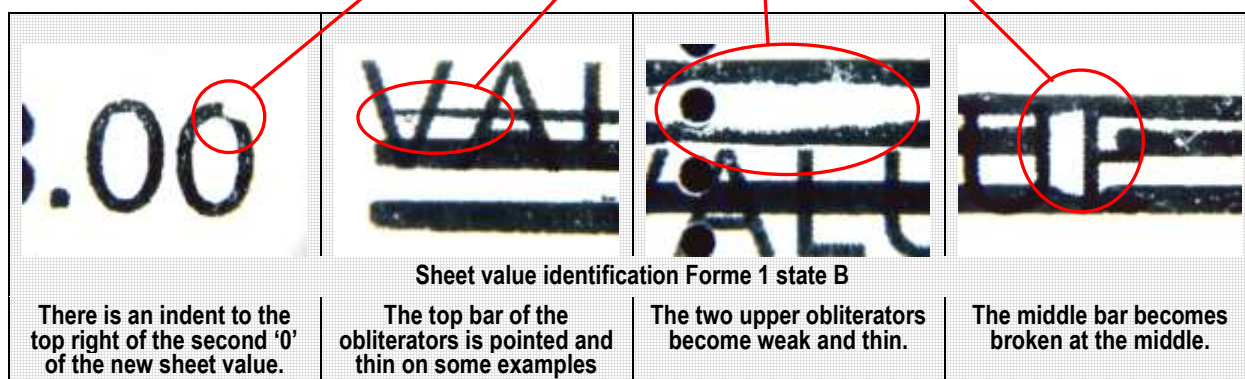
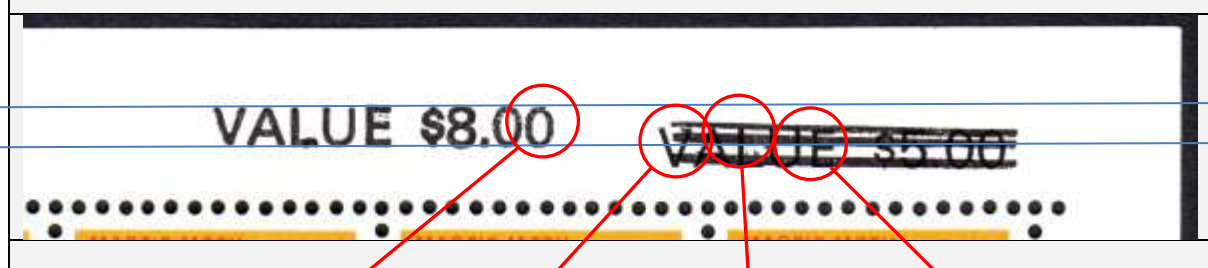
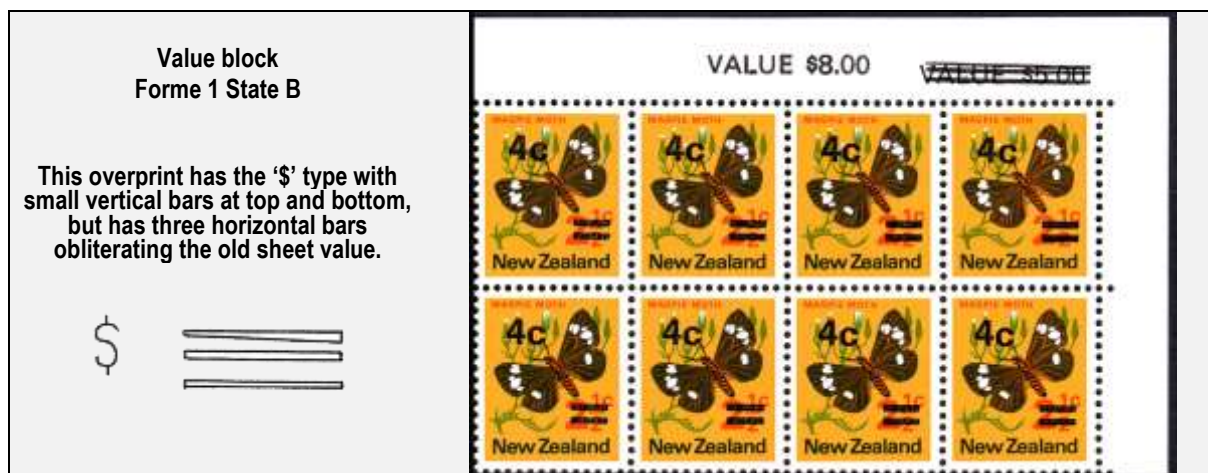
 R7/8 The lower inside edge of the 'c' is ragged.	 R7/8 The 'c' is wearing with many holes.	 R7/8 The right end of the lower bar is pitted.	 R7/8 The lower bar is wearing, with many holes.
 R7/9 This stamp is normal. Will require attention later.	 R8/3 The bars are wearing, with an indent in the lower bar at the lower right end.	 R8/3 The bars are wearing further. The top bar now has an indent into the top right corner.	 R8/6 There is an indent into the lower edge of the lower bar, just left of centre.
 R8/15 The inner edge of the upright of the '4' is pitted.	 R8/15 The lower edge of the horizontal bar of the '4' is wavy.	 R9/6 The '4' is wearing, with a broken nose and holes.	 R9/6 The nose of the '4' is now pitted and short.
 R9/8 There is a break in the lower bar near the left end.	 R9/8 The break in the lower bar is bigger and bars are now wearing.	 R9/9 The bars are wearing with many holes.	 R9/17 The lower edge of the lower bar has a large indent on the right end.

 R9/20 There is a hole at the right end of the top bar.	 R10/2 The hole in the top bar is bigger and bars are wearing.	 R10/2 The right horizontal bar of the '4' is thinned on the top edge.	
 R10/9 The '4' is wearing and holes forming.	 R10/9 There is an indent into the foot of the '4'.	 R10/11 The surcharge bars are almost omitted.	 R10/20 The lower bar has a slice taken from the top right corner.

* * * * *

Harrison's Letterpress Surcharge Surcharge Varieties

Forme 1 State B



The '\$' symbol with one vertical bar remains as 1A, but a third horizontal bar is added to help obliterate the old sheet value, where previously the obliterators often did not cover it completely. The 1B state is by far the most common of all the forme 1 states and is the one that received the most attention. There is a sequence of corrections made to the form as follows:

- Very early into this state the bars on row 10/20 broke and appeared at half-length and were replaced.
- Later the bars on row 4/4, row 4/5 and row 7/9 showed signs of wearing. Row 4/4 bars replaced.
- The bars on row 7/9 were replaced.
- Experiments were made on the pressure used during printing process to achieve a clear, consistent overprint. This may have made clearer prints in the short term, but advanced the rate of wear.
- The bars on row 10/11 are shifted 1mm to the right.
- The bars on row 7/5 are shifted 1.5mm to the right.

It is therefore possible to find blocks of stamps with the following characteristics (collected in this manner as they appear close enough for a reasonable size piece):

1	R7/5 bars normal	R4/4 bars worn	R7/9 bars worn
2	R7/5 bars normal	R4/4 bars worn	R7/9 bars replaced
3	R7/5 bars moved right	R4/4 bars worn	R7/9 bars replaced
4	R7/5 bars moved right	R4/4 bars replaced	R7/9 bars replaced



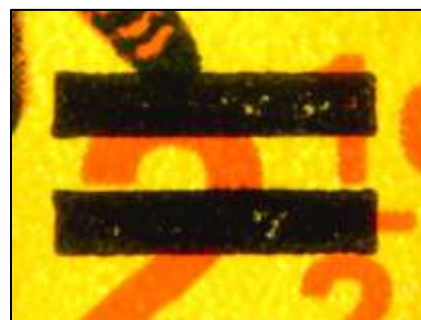
At some point the centre bar of the sheet value oblitors broke leaving a short 2mm gap at its centre.



To counter the patchy prints on some stamps, the printing pressure was increased, producing heavy prints, especially on the '4's where extra lines are seen at the bottom. Also there are seen additional lines in and around the 'VALUE \$8.00' and thickening of the top bar of the new sheet value block.

Row 10/20

The bars on stamp at row 10/20 are broken at the left end and become short. This error is soon corrected with the bars being replaced.



Row 10/20 bars replaced. The new bars are placed well and are not readily distinguished from the originals.

Row 7/9



R7/8 and R7/9 bars are wearing, with the right sides becoming broken and pitted.



R7/8 appears worn, but the bars of R7/9 are replaced and appear thickened.

The bars of stamp at row 7/9 became worn and pitted and were replaced into their correct position. This is quite noticeable when compared to the state of row 7/8 that did not receive the same attention.

Row 7/5



R7/5 bars normal and align with others



R7/5 bars shifted to the right, the '4c' is unaffected

At some stage during the life of the 1B state the bars of stamp at row 7/5 were replaced, but the new bars were displaced approximately 1.5mm to the right.



R10/11

→ ←
1mm
Row 10/11 surcharge
moved 1mm to the
right.

Row 10/11

During state 1A the bars at row 10/11 wore and were replaced, albeit they were inserted 1.5mm to the left of normal. During state 1B further attention to this stamp resulted in the bars being moved 1mm right of normal, most likely to correct the positioning of the earlier repair. This block shows row 10/11 in relation to its neighbouring stamps to illustrate the extraneous position of the new bars.

Printing Pressure

There were experiments on the effect of increasing the pressure on the forme when printing to overcome the wear and pitted effect of the surcharge. Whilst in the short term there was an improvement of the look of the printed surcharge, by using greater pressure to 'fill in' the gaps and holes caused by the wearing, it also accelerated the wear on the clichés to a point where a number of bars had to be replaced.

As stated previously, forme 1 state B is by far the most commonly found state of examples of the Harrison's letterpress surcharged stamp in the marketplace. It is likely therefore, that there was a long print run of surcharged sheets using this state of the forme. This is corroborated by the large number of surcharge varieties to be found, and where a variety is evident, it is also likely to be found in a number of states of wear. Forme 1B has also received the most attention, with no less than 5 examples of bars being replaced or moved. A change of state is marked by a change in the sheet value markings, not on the number of manual changes to the forme.

Surcharge varieties

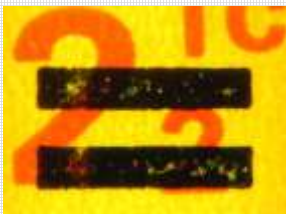
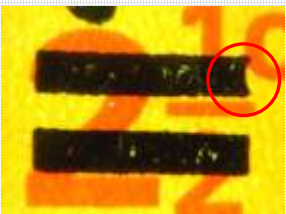
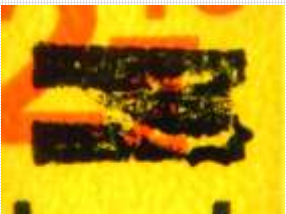
○	R1/2	Flaw	Wearing of the inner lines of the bars.	
○	R1/3	Flaw	Black smudge at right end of the bars.	
○	R1/10	Flaw	Wearing to the inner lines of the bars.	
○	R1/11	Flaw	Bars are worn extensively.	
○	R1/12	Flaw	Lower surcharge bar has a bite out of the lower right end. (as forme 1A).	✓
○	R1/14	Flaw	There are smudges in and around the bars, even under normal pressure.	
○	R1/15	Flaw	Smudge at the centre of the 'c'.	
○	R1/15	Flaw	Bars show signs of wear.	
○	R1/16	Flaw	There is a black spot at the centre of the 'c'.	
○	R1/17	Flaw	The inner area of the 'c' is filled in.	
○	R1/20	Flaw	The lower bar is smudged.	
○	R2/9	Flaw	Both bars are weak.	
○	R2/11	Flaw	The '4c' is heavily smudged.	
○	R2/14	Flaw	There is a black smudge at top right, being a continuation of the smudge at R1/14.	
○	R2/15	Flaw	The right end of the top bar is curved.	
○	R3/1	Flaw	The top bar shows signs of wear.	
○	R3/4	Flaw	The inner edge of the crossbar of the '4' is pitted.	
○	R3/6	Flaw	The bars are beginning to wear, heavy pressure smudges both bars.	
○	R3/19	Flaw	Small black spot in the 'c'.	
○	R4/2	Flaw	There is a smudge between the bars.	
○	R4/4	Flaw	The bars show signs of wear and are later replaced.	✓
○	R4/4	Correction	The bars are replaced.	✓
○	R4/5	Flaw	Bars show sign of wear.	✓
○	R4/9	Flaw	Small black line between the bars at the left end.	
○	R4/10	Flaw	Small black line between the bars at the right end.	
○	R4/16	Flaw	There is a hole in the lower bar at the right end.	✓
○	R5/2	Flaw	The right ends of both bars are pitted.	
○	R5/16	Flaw	There are thin black smudges between the bars.	
○	R5/17	Flaw	There are thin black smudges between the bars.	
○	R5/19	Flaw	There are thin black smudges between the bars.	
○	R5/20	Flaw	There is a black smudge between the bars.	
○	R6/6	Flaw	The right end of the lower bar is worn, and becomes truncated.	✓
○	R6/18	Flaw	The lower right corner of the bottom bar is shaved.	
○	R7/2	Flaw	The right end of the crossbar of the '4' is shaved.	✓
○	R7/5	Correction	Bars shifted 1.5 mm to the right.	✓
○	R7/6	Flaw	There is a nick out of the top right of the 'c'. Various states exist.	✓
○	R7/8	Flaw	Bars are becoming worn.	
○	R7/9	Flaw	Wear on bars	✓

○	R7/9	Correction	Bars replaced.	✓
○	R8/6	Flaw	The top of the '4' is short.	
○	R8/6	Flaw	The lower bar has indents at top and bottom lines.	✓
○	R8/9	Flaw	There is a nick out of the top inner edge of the 'c'.	
○	R8/15	Flaw	Bars worn, lowest edge curved.	
○	R8/20	Flaw	Bars worn, will be replaced in state 1G.	
○	R9/2	Flaw	The inner edges of the bars are wearing.	
○	R9/3	Flaw	There is a short black line between the bars, with heavy pressure on the forme, the gap between the bars is filled in.	
○	R9/6	Flaw	The nose of the '4' deteriorates over time.	
○	R9/7	Flaw	The right end of the bars becomes worn and pitted.	
○	R9/17	Flaw	Two indents develop on the lower bar towards the right end.	
○	R9/18	Flaw	There is an indent to the top left edge of the top bar.	
○	R10/9	Flaw	The foot of the '4' develops a small nick into the left side.	
○	R10/11	Correction	Bars shifted 1mm to the right.	✓
○	R10/20	Flaw	The bars become worn over time.	✓
○	R10/20	Flaw	Bars are half-length due to a break in the forme.	✓
○	R10/20	Correction	The bars are replaced to correct the original variety.	✓

			
R1/2	R1/3	R1/10	
The bars are wearing, lower bar is curved on its lower edge.	The bars are wearing further. Additional pressure shows as a smudge of black.	The right end of the bars show a black smudge from the overprint cliché.	Both bars are wearing at the inner right end.

			
R1/11	R1/12	R1/13	
The bars are wearing. The top bar is thinned at its right end and slopes towards the right.	The right end of the lower bar is broken, with a crack near the lower right end.	Further wearing sees the lower right corner of the lower bar break off.	This stamp does not show the break in the bars that affects other stamps from column 13.

			
R1/14			
The stamp at row 1/14 shows various examples of the smudge from the overprint bars. Even when printing pressure is normal, the smudge is visible but varies as the pressure applied during printing varies.			

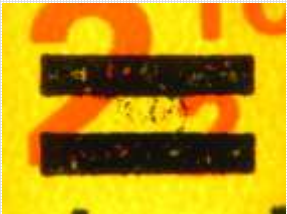
			
	R1/15		R1/15
There is a spot at the centre of the 'c' of the surcharge.	As additional pressure is applied to the printing forme, the spot at the centre of the 'c' grows.	Additional pressure is applied to this stamp (see bars) causing an additional diagonal line at the base of the '4'.	Both bars show signs of wear. Later, additional pressure is applied to this stamp and the bars become normal.
			
R1/16	R1/17	R1/20	R2/9
There is a spot at the centre of the 'c' of the surcharge. Most likely caused by additional pressure being applied to R1/15.	There is an extensive black smudge at the centre of the 'c', caused by additional pressure applied to the forme when printing.	The lower bar is smudged. This occurs even when pressure on the forme is light.	Both bars are wearing towards their right ends.
			
R2/11	R2/13	R2/14	R2/15
The '4c' is extensively smudged when additional pressure is applied to R1/15.	The break in the bars that affects stamps in column 13 is starting.	The black smudge in the top margin is a continuation of the smudge that affects the bars of R1/14.	The top bar has a curved right end.
			
R3/1	R3/4	R3/6	
The top bar shows signs of wear	The crossbar of the '4' is wearing on the inside upper edge.	Both bars are wearing, the lower inside edge more so than the upper bar.	Heavy pressure on the forme whilst printing causes the bar to buckle and smudge badly.

			
R3/13 There is a break in the bars on this stamp and others in column 13.	R3/19 There is a small spot on the inside of the 'c'. Appears constant.	R4/2 Heavy pressure in the printing forme causes the bars to join near the left end.	

			
	R4/4		
Bars wearing from the inner edges on the right hand side.	The bars continue to wear with the bars thinning extensively.	The bars are eventually replaced and look strong.	The bars continue to wear after replacement, with the lower edge of the lower bar thinned towards the right.

			
	R4/5		R4/9
The bars of the stamp at row 4/5 continued to wear throughout this state, but were not replaced.			There is a small black mark between the bars, near the left end.

			
R4/10	R4/13	R4/16	R5/2
There is a small black mark between the bars near the right end.	The vertical break in the bars continues and affects this stamp.	There is a round hole near the right end of the lower bar allowing the background colour to show through.	The right ends of the bars are pitted and worn.

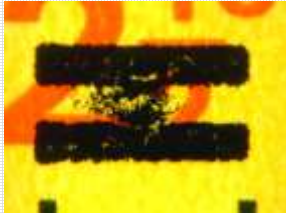
			
R5/13 The vertical break in the bars in column 13 continues here.	R5/16 There are black wavy lines between the bars caused by heavy pressure on the forme.	Additional blacklines are seen as pressure on the forme varies.	R5/17 The continued pressure on the forme also affects the stamp at row 5/17, with a smudge between the bars.

			
R5/19 The black smudge between bars on row 5 continues on this stamp.	R5/20 The pressure on the printing forme is evidenced by the smudge between bars, seen here in two states on row 5/20.		

			
The bars are worn, particularly on the right side.	R6/6 The bars continue to wear and become thin and pitted.	In advanced wear, the lower bar breaks and forms a small black circle at the right end.	Further wear and increased pressure on the forme breaks the lower bar completely.

			
R6/13 The break in the bars in column 13 continues to row 6 and beyond.	R6/18 The lower right corner of the lower bar is shaved at an angle.	R7/2 The break at the right end of the crossbar of the '4' seen in state 1A is also seen here in state 1B.	

			
R7/6			
The 'c' has an extensive break (as seen in state 1A), where there is minimal pressure in the printing forme.	Further example of the nick out of the 'c'. The edges of the surcharge are becoming blurred.	The smudge over the '4c' lessens and the nick out of the 'c' grows as pressure is increased. The nose of the '4' is becoming broken.	The nick out of the 'c' at top right is small, but there is an extensive black smudge caused by heavy printing pressure. The '4' continues to deteriorate.

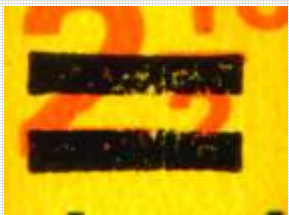
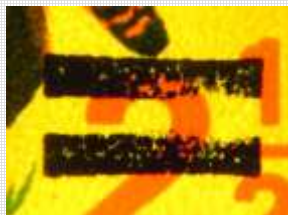
			
R7/6			
The bars are worn and pitted.	Further increase in pressure on the forme causes a small black line to appear between the bars.	Continued increases in pressure on the printing forme causes a large smudge to appear between the bars.	

			
R7/8			
The bars in this stamp show a number of different states to the wear of the surcharge bars. The right end of the lower bar is affected most.			

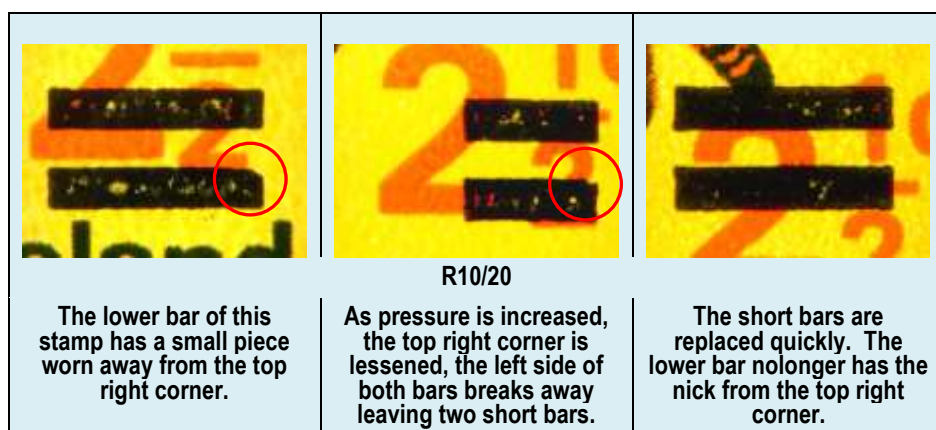
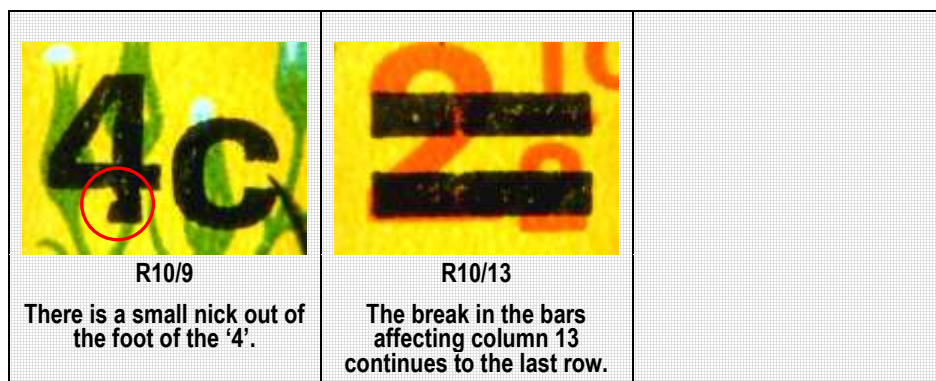
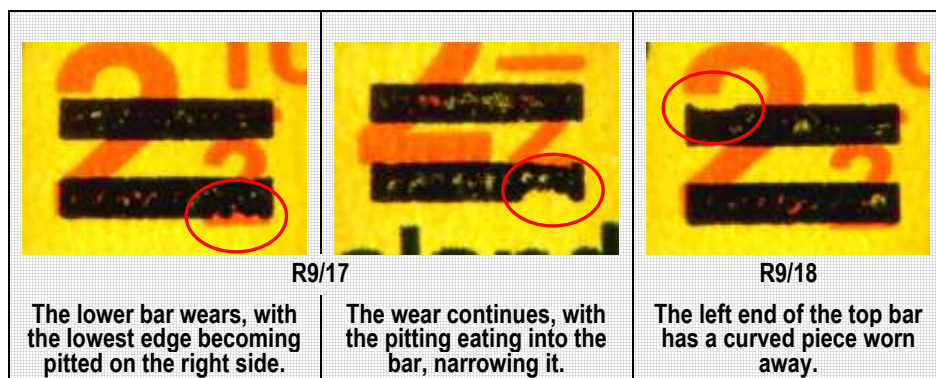
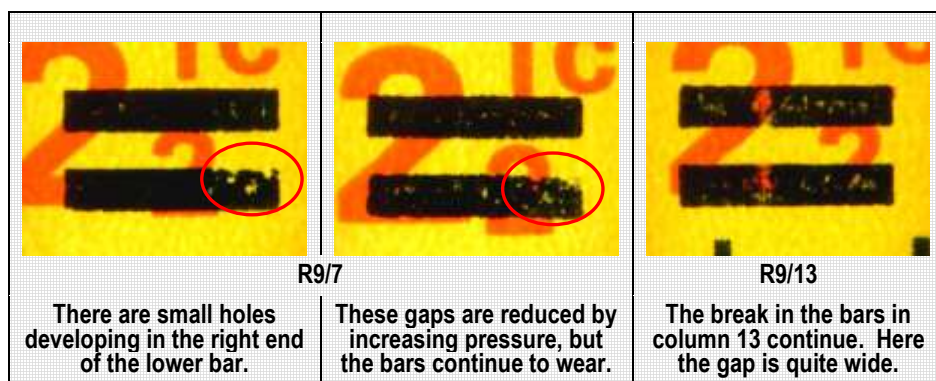
			
R7/9			
The bars of stamp at row 7/9 undergo a number of different forms as they continue to wear over time. The experiments with changes to the printing pressure may have helped the look of the surcharge but also helped to accelerate the wear. Soon the bars would be replaced.			

			
R7/9 Towards the end of the 1B state the bars were replaced. They were full and strong.	Continued use with heavy pressure saw the new bars continue to wear.	R7/13 The break in the bars of stamps in column 13, continues.	R8/6 The top of the '4' is bent and a thin gap appear at the apex.

			
R8/6 The lower bar becomes worn, with indents to the top right and left of centre on the lower edge.	R8/9 There is a nick out of the inner edge of the 'c' at the top.	R8/13 The break in the bars in column 13 continues.	R8/15 The bars of this stamp wear, with the lower edge of the lower bar becoming curved.

			
R8/20 The inner edges of the bars become worn.	Further wearing of the bars sees the inner edges become pitted and lost. It would not be until state 1G when the bars are replaced.	R9/2 The inner edge of the bars are wearing.	

			
R9/3 There is a small black smudge between the bars.	With increased pressure the bars wear and the cliché breaks down.	R9/6 There is a small gap at the apex of the '4'	The gap is corrected by increasing the pressure, but the '4' continues to deteriorate.



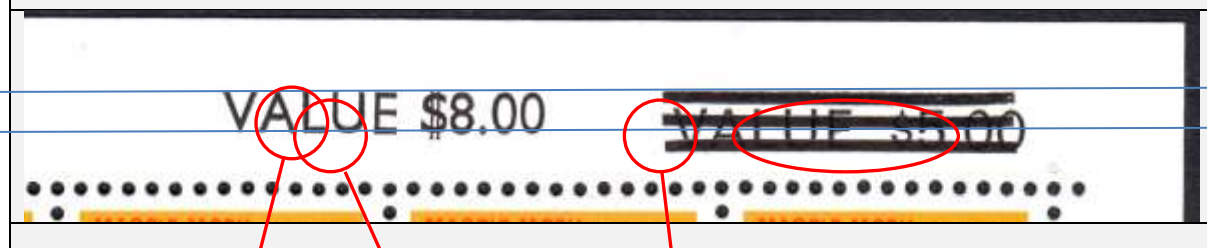
Column 13 shows an interesting variety that affects the surcharge bars. From row 1/13 and below, the bars are broken by what is likely to be a near vertical scratch through the clichés, causing a gap to appear once printed. The scratch starts in row 1/13 at the left end of the bars, finishing at R10/13 near the middle. The stamp at row 10/13 is much bolder than others (as additional pressure is exerted on the forme in the bottom row), but still shows the gap, albeit narrowed.



Bars from column 13 showing break towards the left end.

Harrison's Letterpress Surcharge Surcharge Varieties

Forme 1 State C



Sheet value identification Forme 1 state C			
'A' of 'VALUE' has an extension on the right foot. When there is heavy pressure the top of the 'A' is filled in.	The foot of the 'L' is angled to the left.	The lower bar is slightly displaced to the right, but not as significant as state 1D.	The new dollar sign has two vertical lines through it.

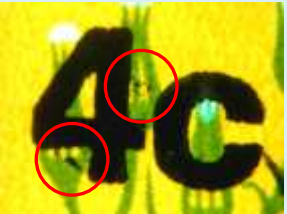
The '\$' symbol (with one down-stroke) was replaced with '\$' (with two vertical lines). This state of the forme is noticeable by the thick, evenly spaced bars obliterating the old sheet value. The top bar aligns to the top of the 'VALUE \$8.00', whilst the middle bar aligns closely to the bottom of the 'VALUE'. The lower bar is stepped evenly below that.

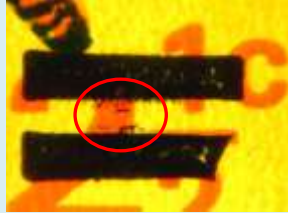
- Further increases in pressure produced more extraneous lines around the value block and '4'. (See row 1/14, 15, 19 and 20). This also caused the lower bar of the sheet value obliterators to bend.
- The bars on row 6/6 became worn and the lower bar broke. It was not until state 1G that both bars were replaced.

Surcharge varieties

○	R1/11	Flaw	Top bar weak in early sheets from this print.	
○	R1/12	Flaw	Lower bar is truncated at the right.	✓
○	R1/14	Flaw	Early sheets continue to show the smudge in and around the bars. This is corrected in this print.	

○	R1/14	Flaw	Increasing pressure creates a diagonal line joining the nose to foot of the '4'. This also causes a series of black spots to be seen between the '4' and the 'c'.	✓
○	R1/15	Flaw	Increasing pressure creates a diagonal line joining the nose to foot of the '4'.	✓
○	R1/19	Flaw	Increasing pressure creates a diagonal line joining the nose to foot of the '4'.	✓
○	R1/20	Flaw	Increasing pressure creates a diagonal line joining the nose to foot of the '4', but to a lesser extent	
○	R1/20	Flaw	Early sheets still show the black smudge in and below the bars. This is corrected in this print.	
○	R6/6	Flaw	Part of the bottom bar is missing, broken off at the right end.	✓
○	R7/2	Flaw	The nick out of the right end of the crossbar of the '4' is still present.	
○	R7/6	Flaw	The notch out of the top right edge of the 'c' is partially corrected by pressure being increased. A small spot is all that remains.	

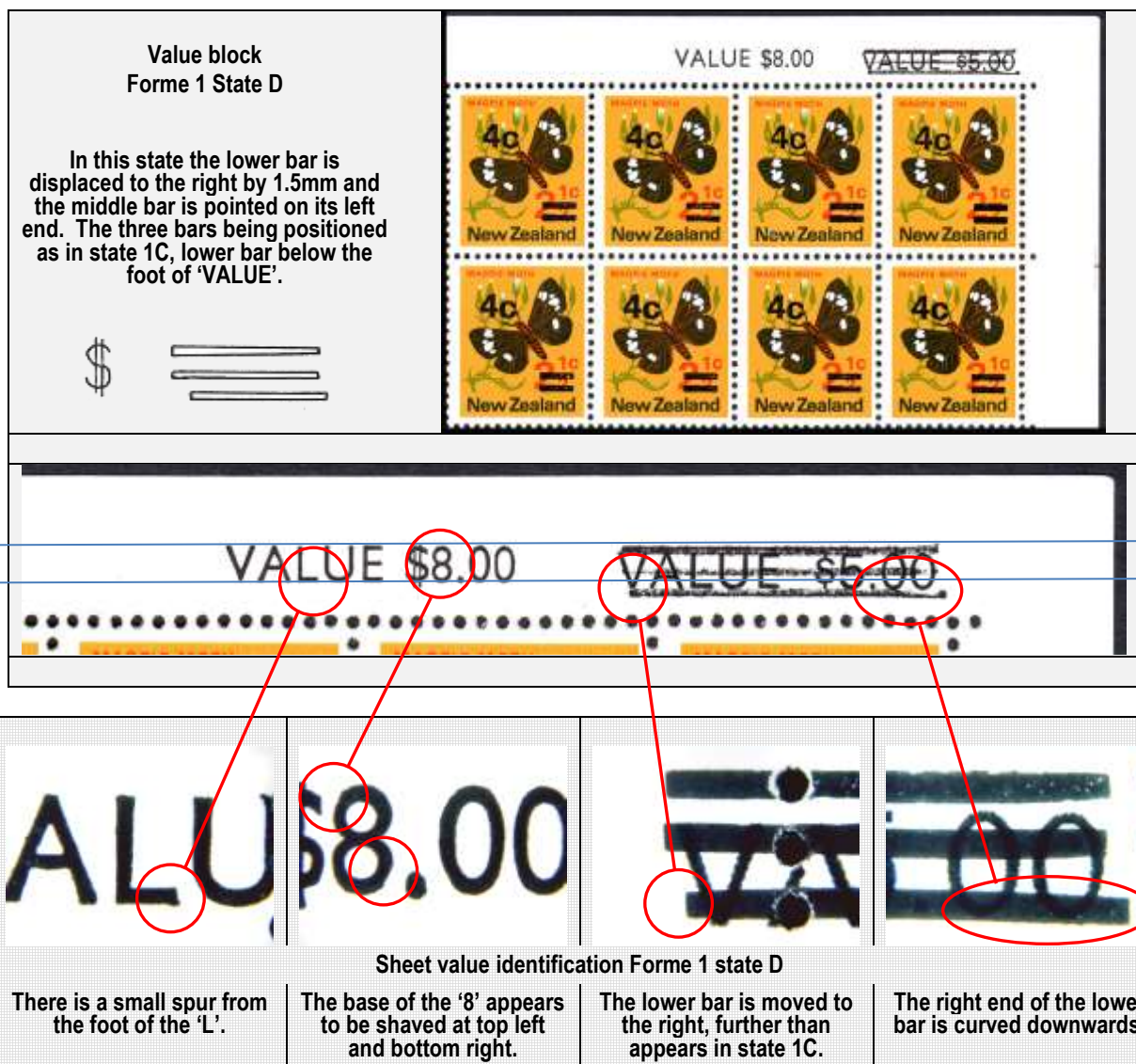
 R1/11 In early sheets the bars are still weak with the inner edges towards the right pitted.	 R1/12 With the pressure normal, the bottom right corner of the lower bar is still cut at an angle.	 R1/12 Increasing pressure during this print, reinserts part of the lower bar.	 R1/12 The end of the lower bar is thickened as pressure is increased further.
 R1/14 Early sheets still show the smudge in and around the lower bar.	 R1/14 Heavy pressure introduces a small diagonal line below the crossbar of the '4'.	 R1/14 The extra diagonal line below the crossbar of the '4' thickens.	 R1/14 During print, a small patch of black spots is seen between the '4' and 'c'.
 R1/15 There is a diagonal line joining the nose to foot of the '4' when pressure is increased.	 R1/19 The same diagonal line by the '4' is seen here when pressure is increased. Starts as a small dot.	 R1/20 The heavy pressure creates a small dot below the crossbar of the '4'.	 R1/20 The heavy pressure creates a small dot below the crossbar of the '4'.

 R1/20 Early sheet still show the smudge in and around the bars.	 R6/6 The lower bar is cut off at an angle and shortened. This is a clean cut and likely caused by the bar breaking rather than wearing. Pressure introduces a small black smudge between the bars.	 R7/2 The right end of the crossbar of the '4' still shows the nick out of the top edge.	 R7/6 The notch out of the top right edge of the 'c' is almost repaired by an increase in pressure, with a consequence of causing the black smudge in that area.

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Harrison's Letterpress Surcharge Surcharge Varieties

Forme 1 State D

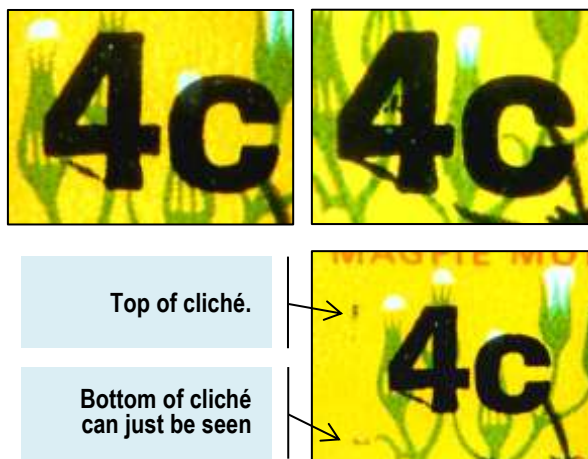


The unique characteristics of this print is a combination of the bottom bar of the three that obliterates the old value moved 1.5mm to the right; coupled with the middle bar being pointed at its left end. The other bars, above and below, are thick and blunt. On lightly pressured printings the middle bar may even be truncated at its left end, where the tip is lost.

Alignment is similar to state 1C, the top bar aligns to the top of the new 'VALUE \$8.00'; the lower bar is some 2.5mm below the level of 'VALUE'.

Printing pressure was again adjusted to produce heavier surcharges and additional lines around the '4' at various parts of the forme, especially at the bottom. The diagrams on the right show the typical form of the '4c' surcharge on the sheet, and in row 10, where additional pressure is applied to the forme.

- On row 6/20 a black 'block' appeared in front of the '4' where it is likely that the front outline of the cliché protruded more than others taking up ink and applying it to the sheet. There are other examples of this in states 1F and 1G.



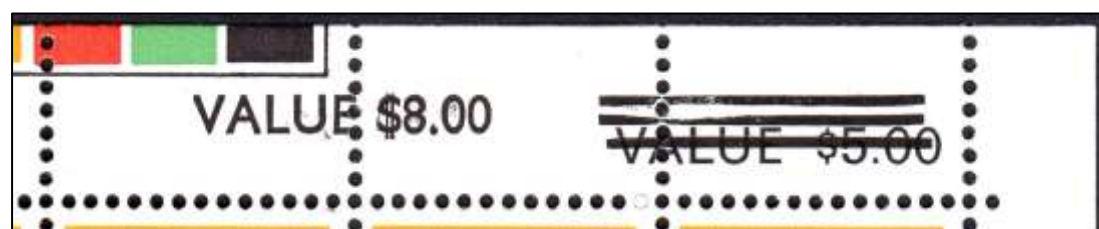
Adjustments to the pressure saw changes in appearance of the sheet value.



Under normal pressure the 'VALUE \$8.00' appears normal and quite readable. However the bars are thin and broken, especially the centre bar that becomes very faint at the left end.



When the pressure on the forme is increased, the wording is still quite readable, but the bars become prominent and tend to bow.



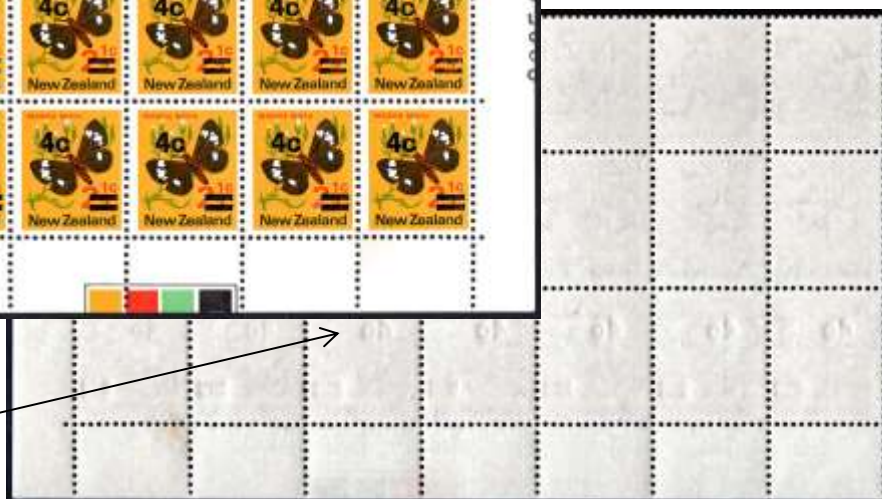
When the pressure is increased further, the wording gains additional smudge lines in and around the characters, especially that of the value '\$8.00'. The obliterating bars tend to buckle and cause the upper two bars to thin towards the left end.

Handling of Row 10

Almost throughout this print the pressure on the forme was increased to produce heavy prints avoiding the symptoms of wearing of the clichés (as shown above). The clichés on row 10 were packed to improve the appearance of these stamps that resulted in thick lines in the surcharge and bars. The extra pressure is noticeable on the reverse of the sheet, where the paper is indented.



The '4c' and bars have heavy impressions on row 10, no impressions on rows above.



Row 10/11

The stamp at row 10/11 was replaced in state 1A to correct the wear that had occurred very early in the life of this provisional. The bars were moved 1.5mm to the left during this early state. The misplacement must have been noticed, and the bars were moved 1mm to the right (of normal) in state 1B to compensate.

In this state (1D) the bars of row 10/11 were moved left so that they were now back in line with the other surcharges in column 11.



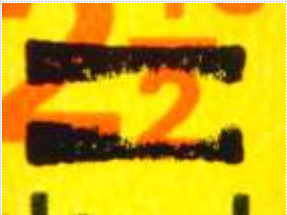
It is unfortunate that in this example the surcharges on the stamps in column 11 are placed at a slight angle to normal, so that the displacement of row 10/11 is not proved when looking at a pair of stamps. In all examples seen, there is a slight movement of the surcharges to the right on consecutive stamps below. This small movement does not amount to any significance, but appears on the majority of examples seen.

The bars on stamp at row 10/11 were replaced early and then moved out of position. In this state, the positioning is returned to normal.

Surcharge varieties

○	R1/12	Flaw	The bottom right corner of the lower bar is shaved, but continued heavy pressure of the forme on this stamp almost corrects the flaw, albeit a small nick can still be seen.	✓
○	R1/15	Flaw	This '4c' cliché is packed to ensure that additional pressure is applied to it, to create a clean print. This causes the '4' to have additional diagonal lines from the foot to both ends of the crossbar.	
○	R6/20	Flaw	A block of colour appears in front of the '4' where the left edge of the cliché takes up ink.	✓
○	R8/15	Flaw	The bars in this stamp show signs of wear when pressure is light.	
○	R8/20	Flaw	The bars also show signs of wear. Additional pressure on the forme as a whole is used to correct these issues.	
○	R9/20	Flaw	Similar wear on the bars.	
○	R10/11	Flaw	The bars are now moved back to normal position.	✓
○	R10/20	Flaw	The bars were replaced in state 1B and produced well-formed images. Continued heavy pressure on this cliché and row 10 in general continued to produce heavy wear and soon the original bowed shape of the bars was reintroduced. On sheets that did not have the pressure applied so heavily, the 'worn bars' return.	✓

			
	R1/12		R1/15
The bottom right corner of the lower bar has a 'hook' where the end of the bar is now showing.	Additional pressure closes most of the bottom right corner that was once cut off.	Further pressure being applied nearly corrects the missing bottom right corner.	Heavy impression of the forme at this point causes the '4' to gain extra lines from the foot to both left and right ends of the crossbar.

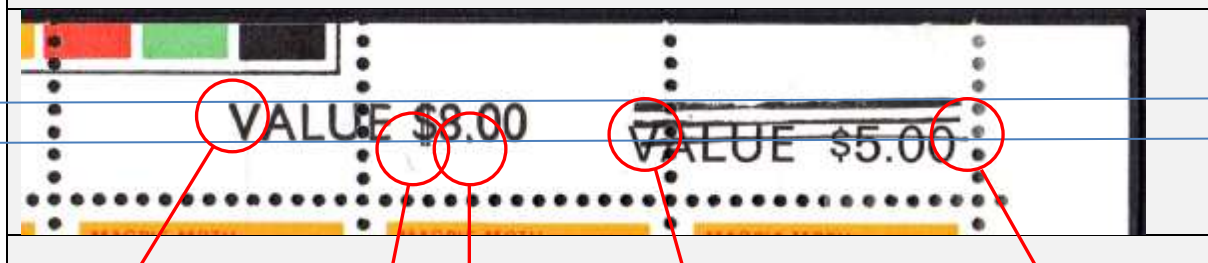
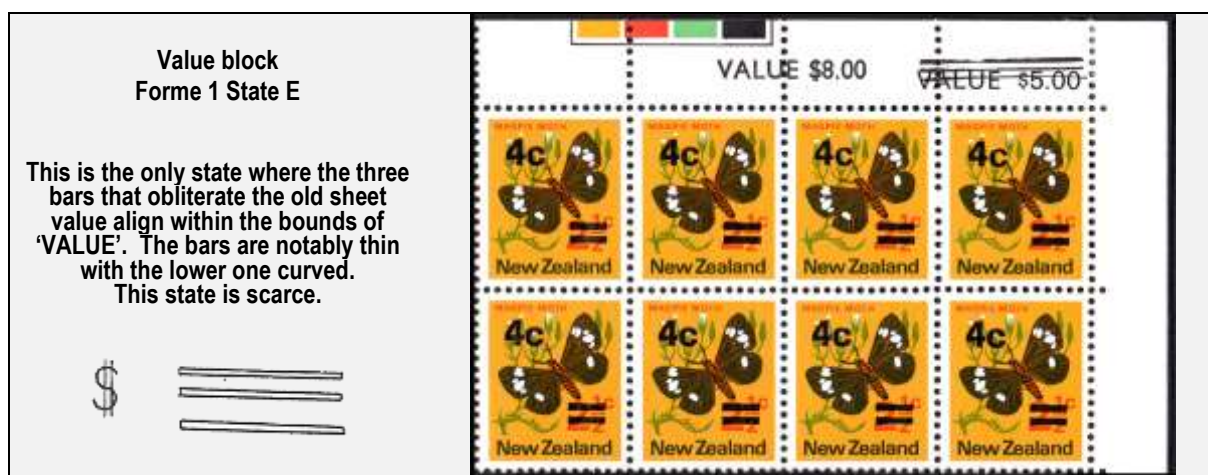
			
R6/20	R8/15	R8/20	R9/20
Heavy pressure exposes the left edge of the cliché that can just be seen left of the '4c'.	The bars are wearing, although stamps around it are normal.	The inner edges of the bars are wearing, similar to R8/15.	The bars on row 9/20 begin to wear also.

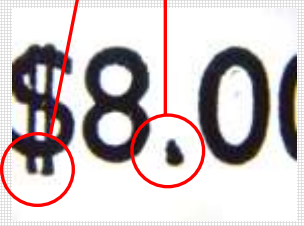
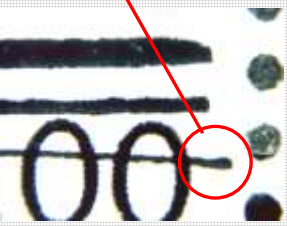
			
	R10/20		
The bars are replaced with even and crisp edges to the bars.	Continued heavy pressure begins to wear the new bars along the centre edges.	Reduced pressure in some sheets exaggerates the wear on the new bars.	

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Harrison's Letterpress Surcharge Surcharge Varieties

Forme 1 State E



			
Sheet value identification Forme 1 state E			
The top of the left arm of the 'V' is pitted and shaved.	The first down stroke of the dollar sign is short. The decimal point has a spur from the top.	The lower bar is moved 1mm to the right (as in state 1D), but all bars are closer together.	The lower bar is extended by 1.5mm and is extremely thin.

By far, this is the scarcest of all the surcharge forme states, and only seen from plate 1B. There are so few examples of this state that it is identified because it does not show characteristics of the other states.

The horizontal bars that obliterate the old sheet value were changed again. This state is a progression from 1D, in that the bottom bar is also shifted 1.5mm to the right, but is placed higher than in all other states, being only fractionally lower than the level of the foot of the 'VALUE \$8.00' wording. The top two bars were closer together than previous. All bars are progressively thinner, the lower bar being exceptionally thin. Because of the vertical compactness of the bars, there is a tendency for the overprint to only partially obliterate the old sheet value.

The pressure was heavy over the whole forms, apart from row 1/19 and 1/20 that started weak. This resulted in pressure being taken off the sheet value (directly above these stamps) which then in turn showed weaknesses. Later examples of forme 1E had the pressure on stamps row 1/19 and 1/20 increased to correct this weak surcharge.

- The surcharges on stamps row 8/20 and 10/20 started to wear badly.

There are no flaws or varieties that readily identify this state of forme 1. The 'normal' bars continue to wear, perhaps broken down by the continued high pressure used on the forme during printing. There is evidence that the pressure is relaxed here for a time, allowing some of the old flaws to re-emerge.

Surcharge varieties

○	R1/19	Flaw	The '4c' surcharge appeared weak.	
○	R1/20	Flaw	The '4c' surcharge appeared weak.	
○	R8/20	Flaw	Surcharge bars continue to wear badly.	
○	R10/20	Flaw	Surcharge bars continue to wear badly and crack.	

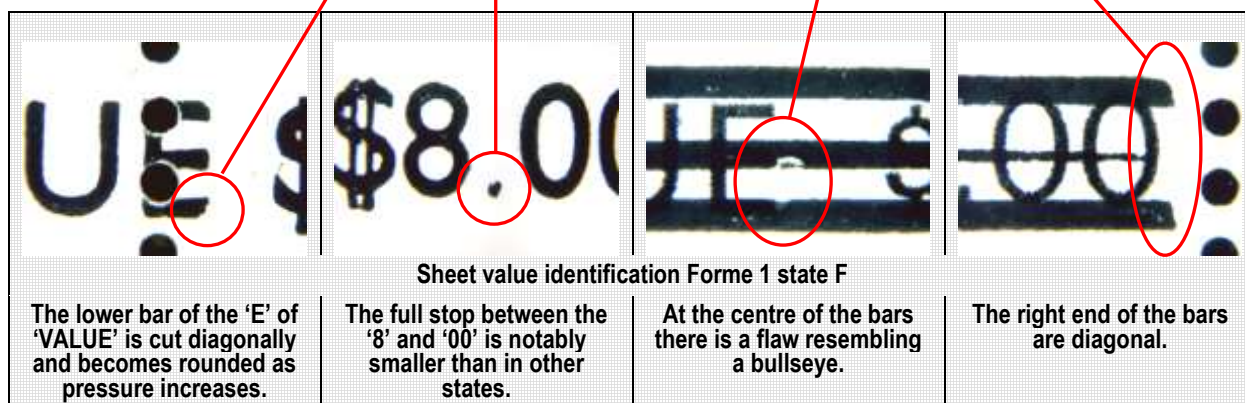
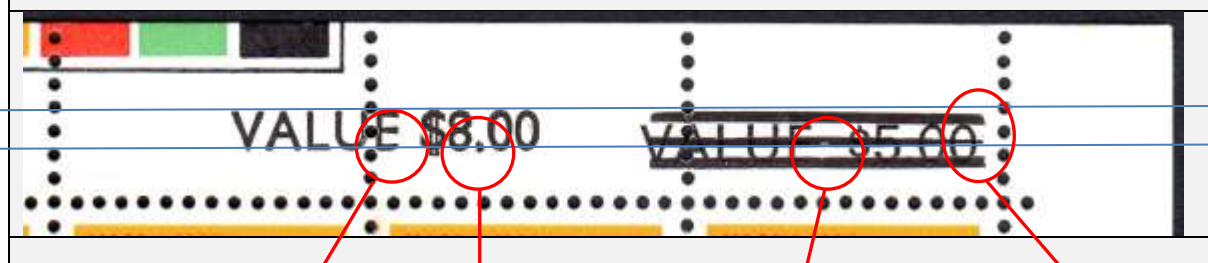
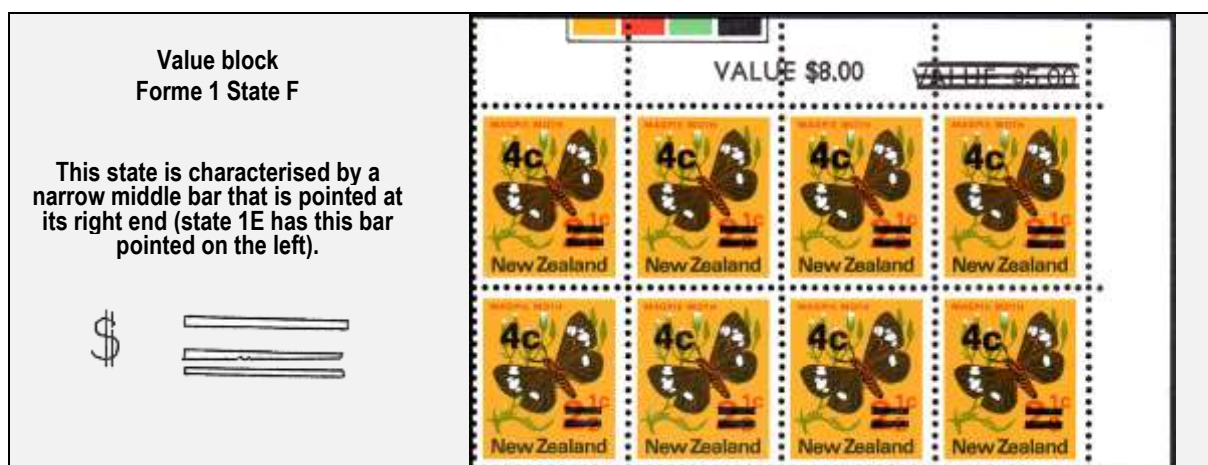
 R1/12 The bottom right corner of the lower bar continues to show a flaw when pressure on the forme is reduced.	 R1/19 The '4c' is weak with the edges indistinct.	 R1/20 The '4c' is also weak, readable but fuzzy edges.	 R8/20 The centre edges of the bars are notably weak. This continues from state 1D when pressure is relaxed.
 R10/20 The bars continue to wear, both upper and lower bars have their inside edges curved, and the lower bar now developing a crack near the left end.			

Forme 1E only exists because of a change in the bars that obliterate the old sheet value, not because of any major intervention required in the surcharge forme. This new sheet value state has the semblance of that used in 1D, with the lower bar shifted 1.5mm to the right, but in state 1E, all three bars are grouped closer together and are exceptionally thin. This state is only found in conjunction with black plate 1B.

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Harrison's Letterpress Surcharge Surcharge Varieties

Forme 1 State F



The unique feature of this state is the middle bar of the new obliterating bars. It is thinned at its right end, to a point, and is notched at its centre. It may be shorter than others examples with light pressure over the forme. Overall, the bars tend to narrow towards the right end, wide at the left. The bars were replaced, with the centre bar now closer to the lower than it is to the higher. The centre bar is wedge shaped. The pressure on the surcharge plate was uniformly heavy and all '4's showed additional lines.

This state is only found in conjunction with black plates 1B and 2B.

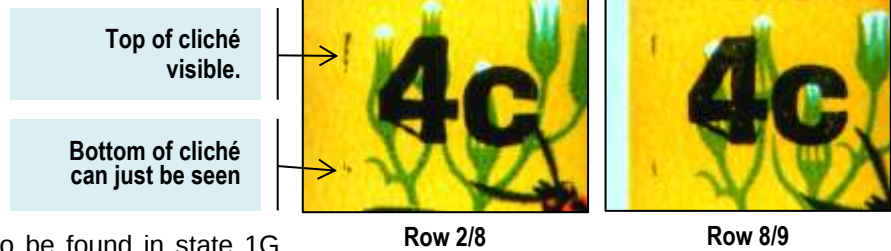
- Stamps at row 2/8 and 8/9 both show a black outline in front of the '4', likely due to raised clichés. This is similar to row 6/20 of state 1D.
- At row 1/2 and row 3/1 the bars began to wear; and at row 9/7 the '4c' developed a weakness.



Looking at the state of the dollar sign, it would appear that during this state the top of the dollar sign (and perhaps the '8' also) becomes broken with holes and uneven edges showing.

Row 2/8 and row 8/9

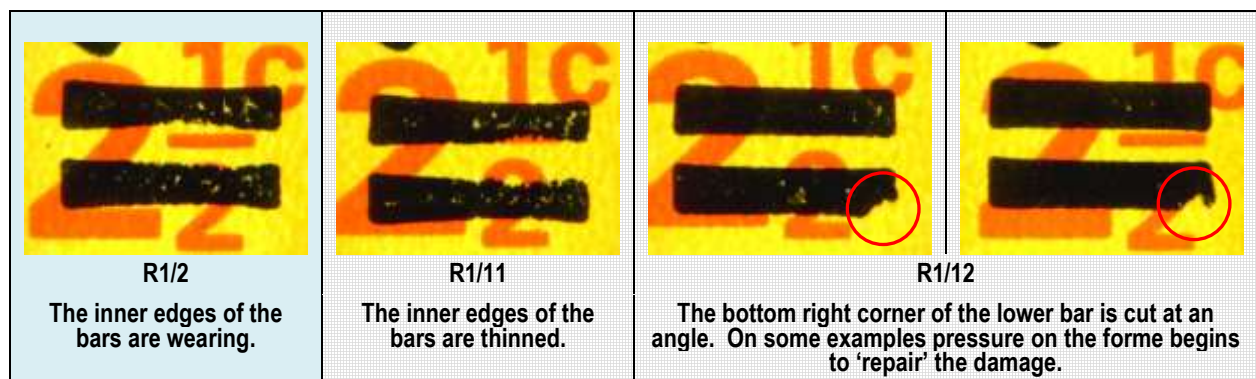
Two stamps on this forme show partial outline of the front of the cliché in the background to the left of the '4' of the surcharge. This is similar to row 6/20 of the 1D state. A further example is to be found in state 1G that is quite visible (row 1/7).

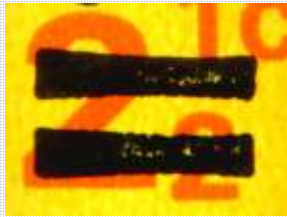
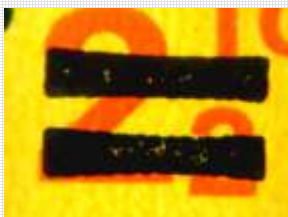
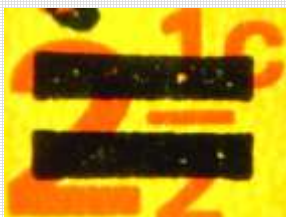


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Surcharge varieties

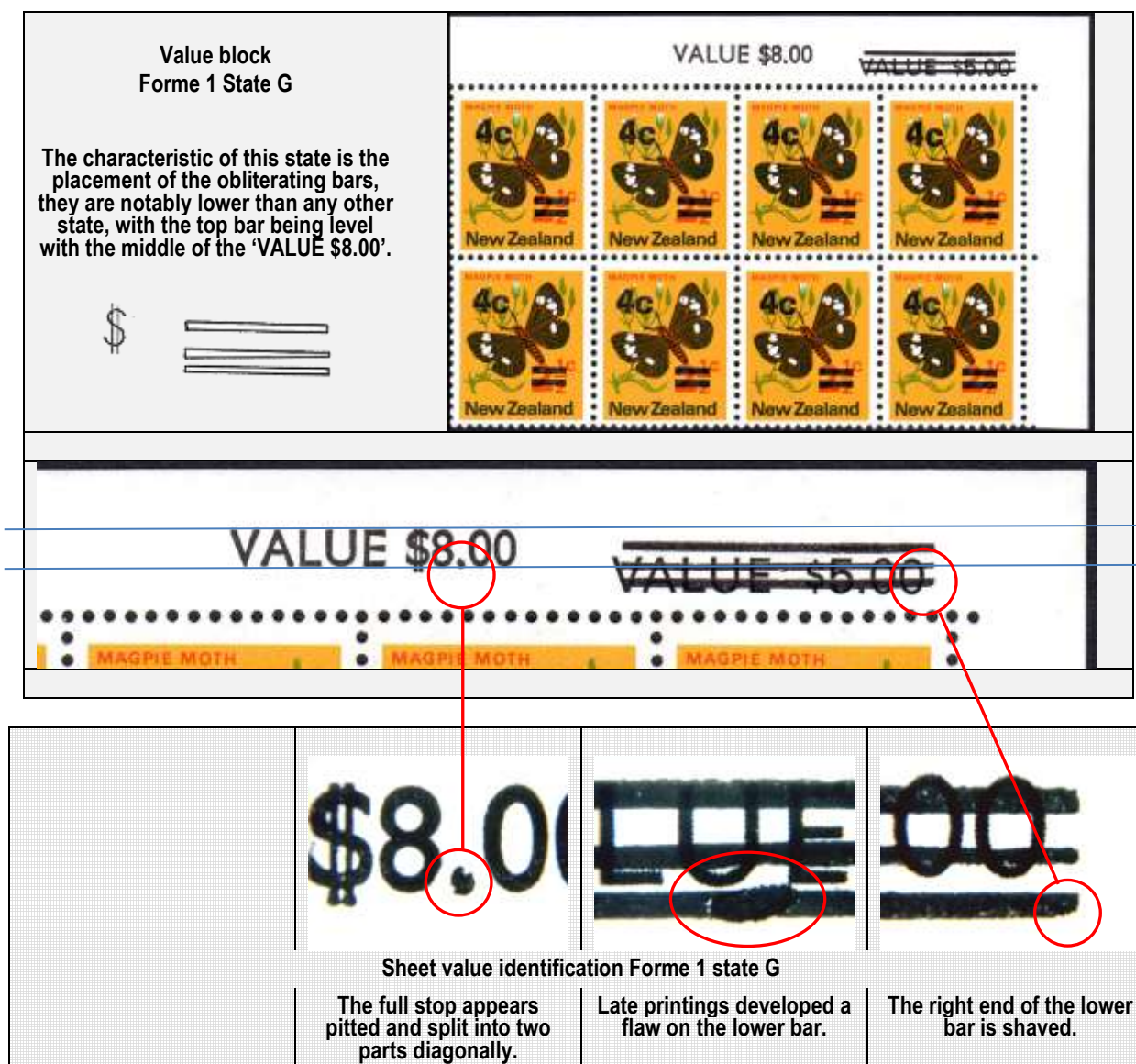
○	R1/2	Flaw	Surcharge bars started to wear badly.	✓
○	R1/11	Flaw	Bars are wearing along the inside edges.	
○	R1/12	Flaw	The bottom right corner of the lower bar has broken off, seen here partially repaired by increasing pressure on the forme.	
○	R1/15	Flaw	The bars are wearing and becoming thin. Normally this stamp has heavy pressure applied to produce a bold print.	
○	R1/19	Flaw	There is a small black spot seen on the upper inside edge of the 'c'.	✓
○	R2/8	Flaw	The front of the cliché is seen as two short black lines in the background to the left of the '4'.	✓
○	R2/19	Flaw	The inside edges of the bars are wearing thin.	
○	R3/1	Flaw	Surcharge bars started to wear badly.	✓
○	R4/19	Flaw	The centre lines of the bars are showing signs of wear.	
○	R5/1	Normal	The bars are of a normal state. This stamp will have the bars broken during state 1G.	
○	R6/6	Flaw	The right end of the lower bar has broken off (in state 1B, but not replaced yet).	
○	R6/7	Flaw	There is a black smudge in and around the right side of the bars.	✓
○	R8/9	Flaw	The front of the cliché is seen as two short black lines in the background to the left of the '4'.	✓
○	R9/7	Flaw	The '4' developed a weakness at the top.	
○	R9/20	Flaw	The bars are showing signs of wearing, with the lower bar thin.	
○	R10/20	Flaw	The bars that were replaced during state 1B are wearing badly. The lower bar has large bites out of the upper edge.	✓



 R1/15 Normally for stamp R1/15 the bars are full and strong, here they appear weak.	 R1/19 There is a small black spot on the top inside edge of the 'c'.	 R2/8 Outline of the front of the cliché is seen just before the '4' of the surcharge. Similar to row 8/9.	 R2/19 The bars are wearing, becoming thin at the centre.
 R3/1 The inside edges of the bars are wearing thin at the centre.	 R4/19 The bars are becoming thin at the centre.	 R5/1 The bars are normal (will break during state 1G).	 R6/6 The right end of the lower bar has broken away in state 1B.
 R6/7 There is a black smudge seen between the bars on their right.	 R8/9 Outline of the front of the cliché is seen just before the '4' of the surcharge. Similar to row 2/8.	 R9/7 The top of the '4' developed a hole and ragged top.	 R9/20 The centre of the bars are becoming thin.
			

Harrison's Letterpress Surcharge Surcharge Varieties

Forme 1 State G



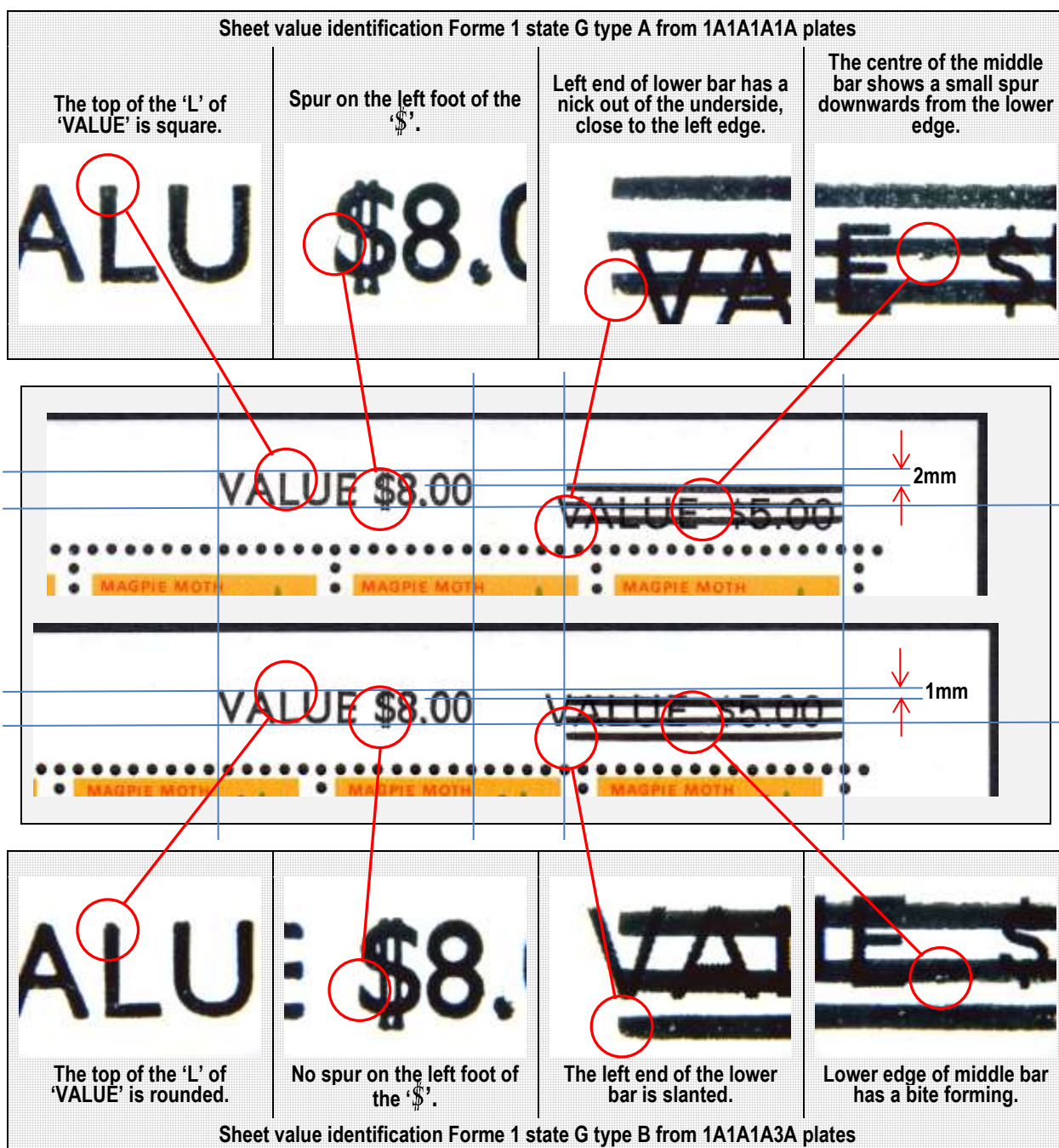
On this state, the obliterating bars on the new sheet value are set much lower than on any other state, lower by some 2mm. The top bar is in line with the middle of the 'VALUE \$8.00' and because of this it is readily identifiable. The centre bar is uniformly thin when compared to the top and bottom bars that are notably thick.

This state looks similar to the 1F variant, albeit has received significant attention to clear up worn clichés and improve the appearance of others that had become worn.

- The bars at row 1/2 and row 3/1 (that were weak on the 1F state) were replaced.
- Similarly the bars were also replaced at row 3/10, row 8/20 and row 10/20 (that were wearing since the 1E state).
- The bars were also replaced on row 6/6 (that was damaged just before state 1C). The top bar began to wear almost immediately at its left end.
- Both bars on the stamp at row 5/1 broke and examples show them almost missing.
- Row 1/7 shows a block of colour in front of the '4', making the surcharge look like '14c'.
- Amongst others, row 9/7 has the pressure increased to resolve a weakness at that point.

Differences in new sheet value markings

It is apparent that there are two types of the new sheet value from forme state 1G. Both have the same overall characteristics but differ in minor variation. The differences are illustrated below. From examples seen, the differences can be placed into two types based upon whether the forme is applied to sheets from plate 1A1A1A1A or 1A1A1A3A.



With the aid of a small magnifying glass it is possible to differentiate between the two types quickly. Look to the lower end of the dollar sign. If there is a small spur, then it belongs to the first type Plate 1A, if there is no spur, then it belongs to the second type, plate 3A.

The major differentiator cannot be seen readily, but it is important. Examples from sheets with type A (plate 1A), has the obliterator bars lower by 1mm than the bars from type B (plate 3A). This is not a significant amount, but the positioning of the sheet value obliterator bars is used to determine the state of the forme at any point in time. The vertical alignment is the same on both types. It appears that at some time during the print with the forme in state G, the forme as adjusted, perhaps tidied up in and around the new sheet value.

Row 5/1



At the start of printing in state 1G, the bars of row 5/1 were normal, albeit showing signs of wear as would be expected for the forme that had been in use for some time, with the wear in line with other stamps from the sheet. There was no forewarning that the cliché would become damaged at this point, and there is no intermediary state between 'normal' and 'bars mostly omitted'. Once noticed, the cliché for the bars was replaced, producing an even print with no sign of the previous wear.

Replacement of bars on row 8/20 and 10/20



The bars at row 8/20 and 10/20 wore as printing continued, until a point was reached where it was deemed necessary to replace them.



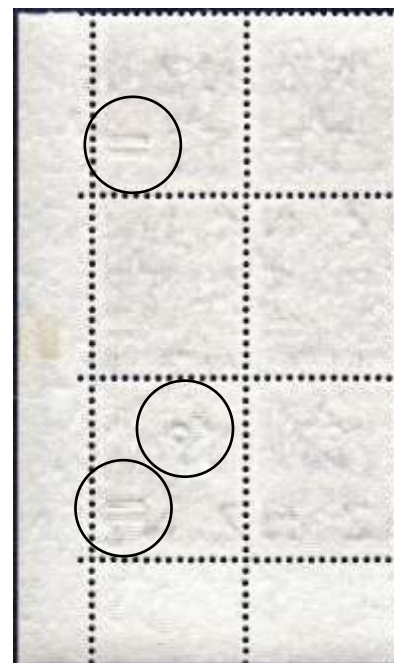
Row 8/20, bars replaced



Row 10/20, bars replaced

The new bars were well-formed with straight edges. A hole in the lower bar of row 8/20 soon appeared but was not of any significance.

To achieve the evenness of printing, the clichés used were either packed or raised, so that the result would be a heavier impression on the paper when printed. This effect can be seen on the reverse of the sheets, where the paper is indented by the bars on row 8/20 and 10/20, but are only faint on other examples. On stamp at row 10/20, the 'c' is also prominent.



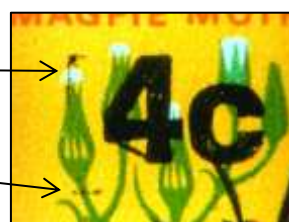
Later state with outline of the cliché showing fully.

Row 1/7

On row 1/7 a black 'block' appeared in front of the '4' where it is likely that the front outline of the cliché protruded more than others taking up ink and applying it to the sheet. This appears in an early and later state, with the latter forming what can best be described as an extra letter in front of the '4'.

Early state of row 1/7. Top of cliché.

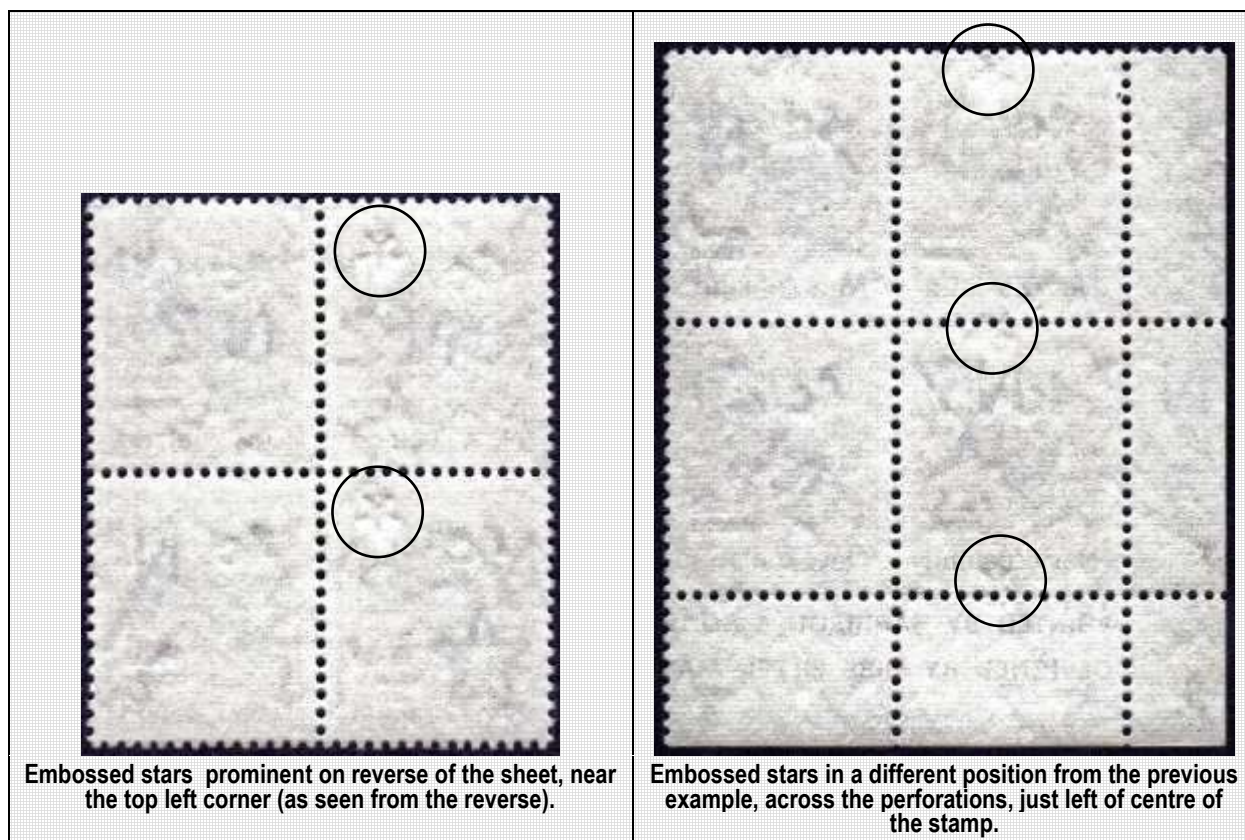
Bottom of cliché can just be seen



This is similar to another examples found in state 1D and 1F.

Embossed stars

It is understood that around 10 sheets from state 1G were identified that each displayed embossed stars visible on the reverse of the sheet. Of these 10 sheets, only 3 were saved presumably acquired by collectors, the others were discovered by the Post Office and destroyed not because of the 'stars' but because of an extreme state of the 'missing bars' error at row 5/1 (see earlier).



The embossed, inverted, five pointed stars are impressed from the front of the sheet and appear raised in the reverse (similar to the surcharge itself). They are invisible from the front. They are placed regularly on the sheet, slightly shorter than the height of the stamp, and appear in every other column across the sheet.

It is conjecture why the stars appear, and for what purpose. It has been suggested that they were made by the printers as a means to identify 'printers waste', but in examples seen, the face of the stamps are 'normal' and do not show any printed stars. It is not unknown for albino overprints to occur when printing the surcharge, where two sheets are picked up together, the top one receiving the surcharge, the attached sheet below receiving the blank impression. Perhaps the same occurred here, with the 'printed stars' sheet being removed leaving the 'embossed stars' sheet to be sold. Given that the missing bars of row 5/1 is significant, it is understandable for the sheet to be deemed 'waste'. No sheets with 'printed stars' on the front has been found.

Each sheet identified shows the row 5/1 variety. The reverse is not true, that all sheets with row 5/1 variety show embossed stars.

Surcharge varieties

Given that this is the last state of forme 1, it is appropriate to include those stamps that have, and still show, flaws or wearing of the clichés. Those stamp positions that display significant variety are highlighted.

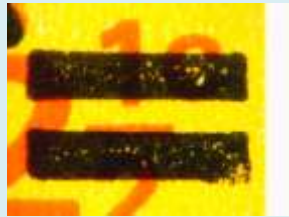
○	R1/2	Flaw	Surcharge bars were replaced.	✓
○	R1/7	Flaw	Black line in front of the '4' became solid black (making it look like '14').	✓
○	R1/11	Flaw	The bars are wearing, especially along its centre edges.	

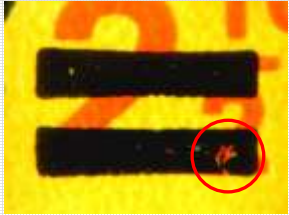
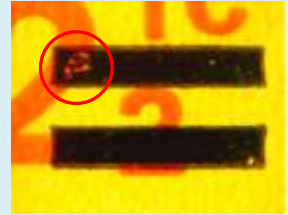
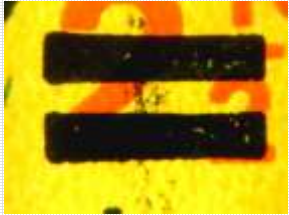
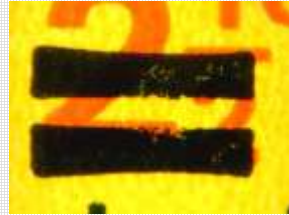
○	R1/12	Flaw	The lower bar still has the bottom right corner missing, attempts to correct it by varying pressure not as successful as previous prints.	✓
○	R1/15	Flaw	This stamp is normally heavy, but in this example the ink is ribbed diagonally.	
○	R1/16	Flaw	The centre lines of the bars are wearing considerably.	
○	R2/12	Flaw	The bars are thinned, with the top bar developing a hole near the right end.	
○	R2/16	Flaw	The top of the '4' is developing a hole.	
○	R2/17	Flaw	The bars are weak.	
○	R2/19	Flaw	The bars are clean but the centre lines are wearing and becoming curved.	
○	R3/1	Flaw	Surcharge bars are replaced.	✓
○	R3/6	Flaw	The bars are wearing, particularly in the right hand side.	
○	R3/9	Flaw	The bars are wearing, noticeable on the right of the top bar.	✓
○	R3/10	Flaw	Surcharge bars were replaced. Bar shorter.	
○	R3/14	Flaw	The top bar is wearing, holes showing through. The lower bar is also wearing on the bottom right corner.	
○	R3/15	Flaw	The bars are worn.	
○	R3/17	Flaw	The left of the 'c' is thinned next to the '4', where it is worn away.	✓
○	R4/5	Flaw	The inner edges of both bars are wearing.	
○	R4/15	Flaw	There is a diagonal crack through the lower bar ending at a small bite into the lower edge.	✓
○	R5/1	Flaw	The surcharge bars are almost omitted, with only the ends remaining.	✓
○	R5/1	Repair	The missing bars are repaired quickly.	✓
○	R5/7	Flaw	The lower bar is developing a hole at its right end.	
○	R5/19	Flaw	The '4c' is wearing. This example shows a thin diagonal scratch from the foot of the '4' through into the 'c'.	
○	R5/20	Flaw	The bars are crisp, but wearing on the inner edges.	
○	R6/6	Flaw	The bars had become worn and were replaced. A small hole developed at the left end of the top bar soon after.	✓
○	R6/7	Flaw	There is a black smudge in and around the bars.	
○	R6/16	Flaw	The inner edges of the bars are wearing and becoming curved.	
○	R8/15	Flaw	The bars are wearing, especially on the inner edges.	
○	R8/20	Flaw	Surcharge bars are replaced. Both bars appear shorter.	✓
○	R9/7	Flaw	The '4' was weak and developed a hole at its apex. The pressure increased to this cliché to improve the impression of the '4'.	✓
○	R9/19	Flaw	The inner edges of the bars are wearing and becoming curved.	
○	R10/20	Flaw	Because of continued wear on this stamp, the bars were replaced for a second time. Both bars appear shorter than the originals.	✓

Looking to the reverse of the 1G sheet, the following stamp positions have heavy impressions either due to replacement clichés or packing to improve the strength of the impression:

Bars at: R1/2; R3/1; R3/9; R5/20; R6/6; R6/16; R8/20; R9/7; R9/19. Bars and 4c: R10/20.

			
R1/2 Bars are now replaced and remain in good condition.	R1/7 The front edge of the '4c' cliché is proud and is just picking up ink.	R1/7 The cliché is proud of the surface and is bold.	R1/11 The lower bar especially, is becoming thinned at its centre.

			
R1/12 The lower bar of row 1/12 still shows the bottom right corner missing in various states dependent upon the pressure used on the forme. The greater the pressure, the more complete is the impression.			R1/15 This stamp is normally bold, it is bold here also, but shows diagonal lines where the ink is smudged.
			
R1/16 The centre lines of the bars are wearing badly.	R2/12 The bars are becoming thin, with the top bar developing a hole near the right end.	R2/16 The top of the '4' is developing a hole.	R2/17 The bars are weak and thinned, bowing on the lower edge of the lower bar.
			
R2/19 The bars are clear, but the centre lines are wearing.	R3/1 The bars are now replaced and are crisp and clear.	R3/6 The bars are wearing, particularly in the right hand side.	R3/9 The bars are wearing, especially the right of the top bar, with the cliché packed to increase pressure when printing.
			
R3/10 The bars are replaced, and are crisp and clean. It appears that the bars are slightly shorter than previous.	R3/14 The top bar is wearing, holes showing through. The lower bar is also wearing on the bottom right corner.	R3/15 Both bars show signs of wear.	R3/17 The left side of the 'c' is thinned.

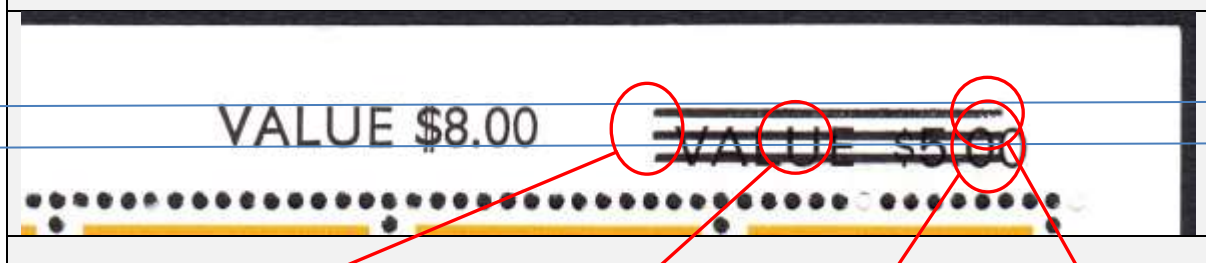
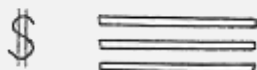
 R4/5 The inner edges of both bars are wearing.	 R4/15 There is a diagonal crack through the lower bar ending at a small bite into the lower edge.	 R5/1 The bars broke, leaving almost no obliterator over the old sheet value.	 The problem with the bars was noticed and repaired quickly.
 R5/7 The lower bar develops a hole at the right end.	 R5/19 The '4c' is wearing, with small holes forming.	 R5/20 The bars are crisp, but wearing on the inner edges.	 R6/6 The bars are replaced, but now shows a hole in the top bar on the left.
 R6/7 There is a black smudge in and around the bars (could be as a result of work in row 6/6).	 R6/16 The inner edges of the bars are wearing.	 R8/15 The inner edges of the bars are wearing.	 R8/20 The bars are replaced and are crisp and clean.
 R9/7 The diagonal of the '4' is taking wear, and developing a hole at the apex.	 R9/19 The bars are weak and wearing in the inner edges.	 R10/20 The bars are replaced becoming crisp and clean.	

Harrison's Letterpress Surcharge Surcharge Varieties

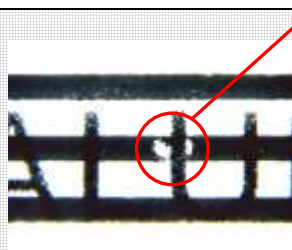
Forme 2

Value block Forme 2

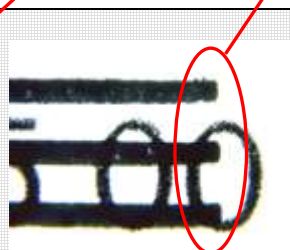
The bars and new sheet value are evenly spaced, regular and level. This is similar to state 1C but the bars are thinner.



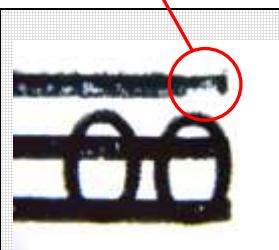
The left ends of the obliterating bars are slanting, and not straight.



There is a small hole developing at the centre of the middle bar.

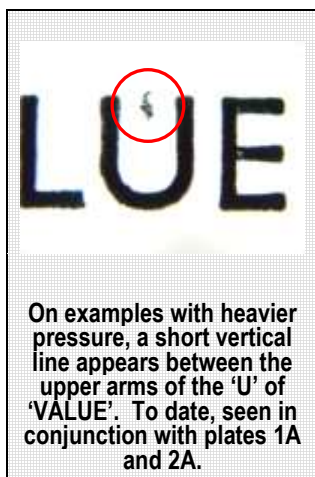


The right end of the bars are not in line, but each extends by a small amount from the line above.



The right end of the top bar begins to deteriorate and thins, as is the lower part of it has broken off. Seen in conjunction with plate 1A.

Sheet value identification Forme 2



On examples with heavier pressure, a short vertical line appears between the upper arms of the 'U' of 'VALUE'. To date, seen in conjunction with plates 1A and 2A.

A new forme was created possibly to overcome the deterioration of forme 1. It is understood that all overprint cliché including the value block were replaced at this time. Sheet value overprint lines were evenly spaced and stamp surcharges were well formed. The top bar of those that obliterate the old sheet value is slightly lower (by 0.5mm) than the level of the top of the 'VALUE \$8.00'. It is much the same as state 1C, and perhaps could be mistaken for it.

Given that the new sheet value resembles that of state 1C, it is still possible to differentiate between them by reference to the thickness of the bars used to obliterate the old sheet value. Forme 2 has thinner bars and therefore a larger gap between the bars. To the eye, it is the wider gap between the sheet value bars that will identify state 2.

Even though the clichés were replaced by the introduction of forme 2, it still shows characteristics that were seen in forme 1, regarding the placement of those clichés.

- The position of the bars on row 7/5 continue to be displaced slightly to the right.
- Column 15 continues to show the same characteristics as forme 1.

Overall, this is a clean and even print. It was not necessary to vary the pressure considerably on this forme and therefore there is no noticeable variation to be found on surcharges across the forme. Reviewing the reverse of the sheets printed in forme 2, there are few notable indentations other than row 10, and those whose bars were replaced in forme 2.

- Row 5/12 had a flaw on the bottom bar, with small pieces shaved off both top and bottom edges.
- The bars on row 6/15 wore badly.
- Row 10/2 had its bars wear considerably and were replaced.

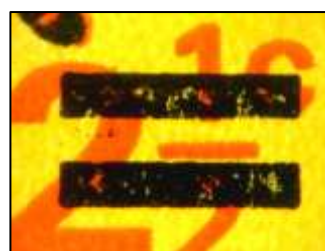
Row 7/5



The stamp at row 7/5 as seen from state 1B, has a small 1.5mm shift to the right. Even though it was understood that the clichés were replaced in state 2, the bars at row 7/5 continued to show the 1.5mm shift to the right. The position of the '4c' is unaffected.

The idea that the clichés were replaced, but not the spacers between them, is corroborated by the displacement to the surcharges seen in column 15. Forme 2 continues to show surcharges on stamps at row 1/15, 2/15 and 3/15 having a small shift up; whilst from row 4/15 downwards, the surcharges show a small displacement down. This is in line with all state of forme 1.

The Forme 2 standard surcharge '4c' and bars



Typically the impression left by the surcharge in forme 2 was light. Because of this, the figures are

often weak, patchy and allow the background colours to show through.

On the '4c' the inside edge of the diagonal is often weak and broken, with the figure itself thin. This is unlike its immediate predecessors whose figures were thick and bold. The bars fared worse, often so broken that it was difficult to identify recurring faults, of which there were many in forme 2.

Doubling of bars in Row 10

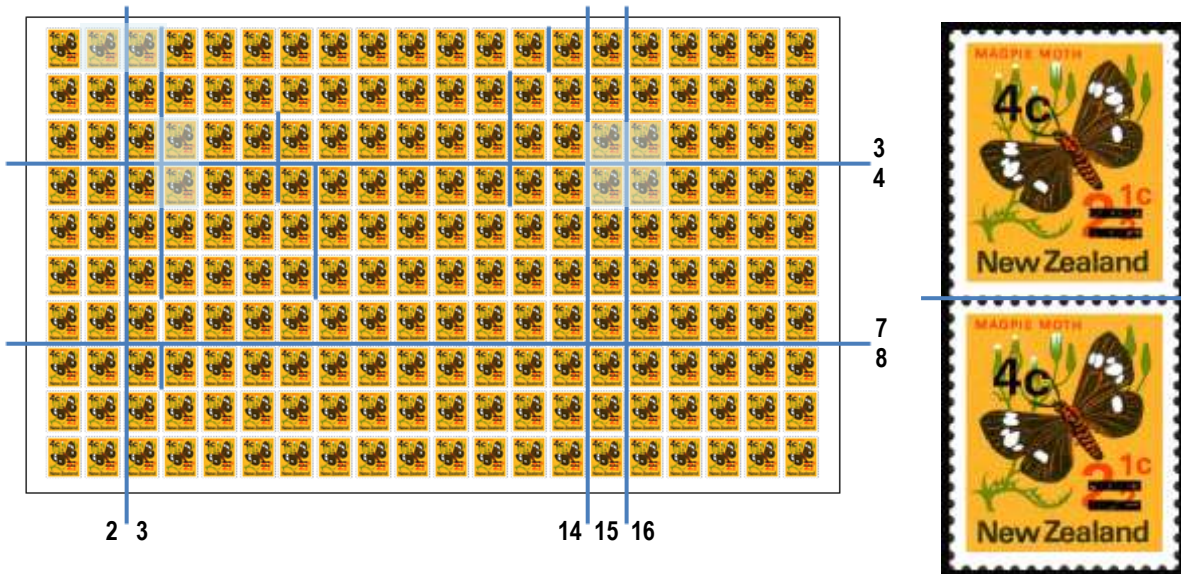
As with the previous states of the forme, the clichés for the surcharge bars on row 10 were adjusted so that they received additional pressure to improve their appearance. This can be seen by the heavier impression to the bars when viewed from the reverse of the sheet. Most likely this was to adjust and correct the wearing on the stamp at row 10/2. This caused some of the bars to show minor doubling of the lower bar.



Slight doubling of the lower bars in row 10.

Make-up of the forme in state 2

In state 1, the make-up of the sheet into surcharged blocks was quite complex, with many changes of position for the overprint both horizontally and vertically. In state 2, the displacements are few, and less complex. The sheet continues to display characteristics where the positioning of the surcharge moves or is displaced between certain rows and columns, as shown in the diagram below. As with forme 1, there is a visible displacement along the horizontal between rows 3 and 4, and similar displacements between rows 7 and 8. The displacements vertically are less complex, with the major ones being between columns 2 and 3; and again at 14, 15 and 16.



As with state 1, the large block (of 50 stamps) that forms the area between stamps R1/16 and row 10/20 has the surcharge angled, as if the surcharge block were pivoted at the bottom left corner of stamp at row 10/16 and turned slightly clockwise. This results in the stamp at row 1/20 being out of position greater than any other example.

Transition between rows 3 and 4, on the left of the sheet where the lower surcharge is moved 1mm downwards.



Transition between rows 3 and 4, and columns 15 and 16.

Column 15 has its own positioning of surcharges. A discussion on the placement of surcharges for column 15 appeared earlier under state 1, and also applies here.

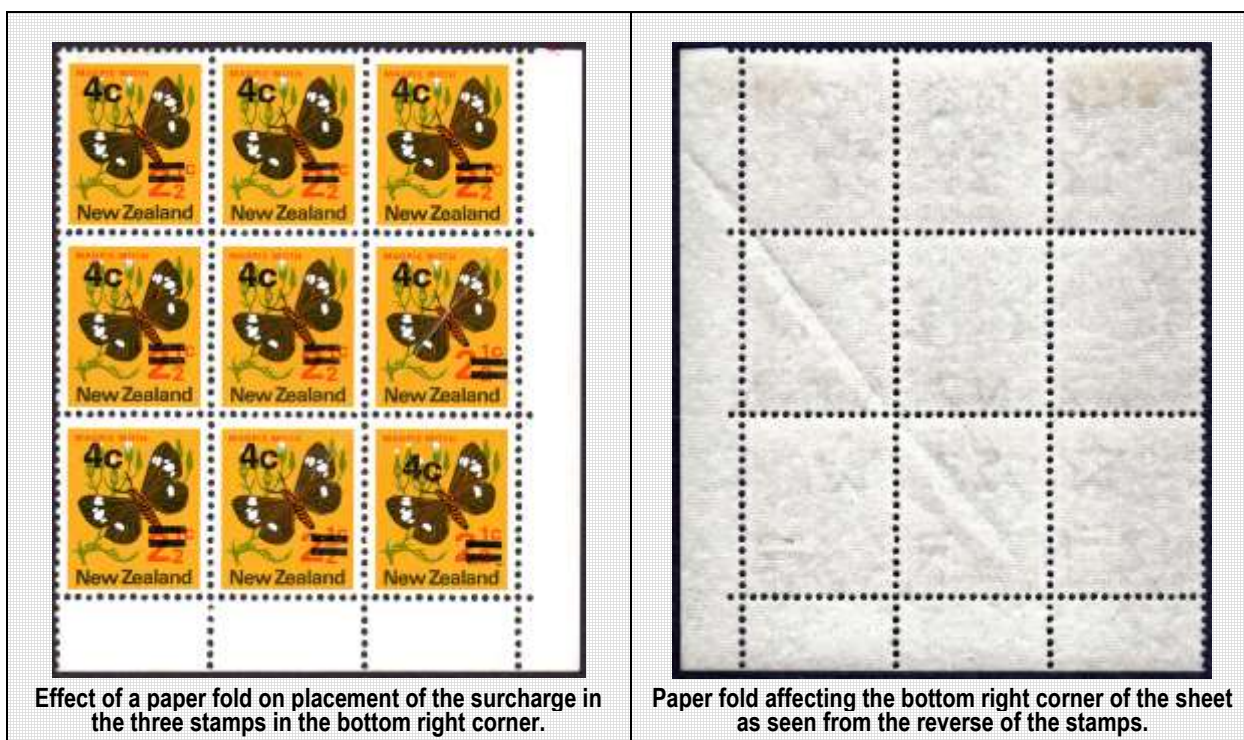
The illustration opposite shows that transition, where the bars can be seen at different heights up the large '2' of the value, especially in column 15.



Transition between row 1/2 and row 1/3 where a displacement of the bars can be seen readily.

Surcharge misplaced on row 9/20, 10/19 and 10/20

A potentially unique block from the bottom right corner of the sheet is a proving piece demonstrating that the overprint surcharge is applied after printing and perforating the sheets in the Harrison's letterpress process.



This piece has the bars on row 9/20 and row 10/19 shifted downwards; whilst both the '4c' and bars on row 10/20 are shifted down even further. All other printing characteristics are normal.



In this example, the paper in the bottom right corner has developed a small fan-fold, as can be seen by the paper creases on the reverse of the sheet (shown in the black lines opposite). The fold is done after printing and perforating, otherwise those would be affected also.

Applying the surcharge to the fan-folded sheet would print the '4c' and bars in their normal position. Unfolding the fan would then move those parts of the surcharge below the fold, downwards diagonally, as can be seen here.

This proves that the surcharge was indeed applied after the sheet printed and perforated.

Surcharge varieties

There are a considerable number of transient varieties that affect this printing, many that take the form of small black spots in the 'c' of the surcharge, or black smudges. These are relatively unique to this printing, although small black spots have been seen in the Harrison's Photogravure printing that appear constant. In this printing from forme 2, many of these smudges are transient, occurring when pressure is applied slightly heavier than normal. These could be a sign that the forme is not cleaned, allowing ink to accumulate in pockets, like that in the 'c' and '4'; or that the clichés themselves are shallow, perhaps ground down between forme 1G to forme 2.

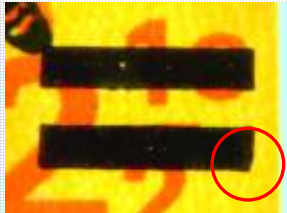
These transient spots and smudges are described here, and the reader should note that not all these will be seen on the same sheet. There is one group of 'spots in the 'c' generated from work done to correct a flaw at row 6/15 (where the bars were weak), but this is the only example recognised.

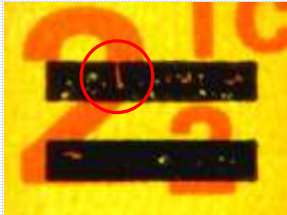
○	R1/1	Flaw	The lower bar is partly missing. This is likely due to a break in the forme as there is a puncture hole in the paper at this point.	✓
○	R1/1	Correction	The pressure of the surcharge on this stamp is increased to reinstate the missing part of the bars. At the same time, a black smudge is seen in the 'c' of '4c'.	✓
○	R1/1	Flaw	There is a transient black smudge at the centre of the 'c' of the new value, where increased pressure has been used to correct the fault in the lower bar.	✓
○	R1/12	Flaw	Large flaw in the bars of the overprint, likely to be foreign matter that has adhered to the forme during printing.	✓
○	R1/14	Flaw	There are two small indents into the lower bar, one on the top edge near the right end; the second is on the diagonal left end near the top.	
○	R1/17	Flaw	There is a constant hole in the 'c' of the value at top left. This will vary with pressure applied to the forme when printing. This is constant.	
○	R1/20	Flaw	The lower right corner of the lower bar is cut at an angle.	
○	R2/5	Flaw	The top bar is almost cut into two by a vertical line about one third of the way along the bar from the left.	
○	R2/7	Flaw	The lower jaw of the 'c' is indented into two fingers.	
○	R2/16	Flaw	The top edge of the crossbar of the '4' is indented twice, one either side of the upright.	
○	R3/1	Flaw	With heavier pressure the centre of the '4' is filled with a black smudge. Normally the '4' is open and similar to other surcharges.	✓
○	R3/4	Flaw	With wear, both bars become cut into two parts by a crack from the top edge of the top bar downwards.	✓
○	R3/7	Flaw	There is a small spot at the centre of the 'c' and another at the top inner edge of the 'c'.	
○	R3/13	Flaw	With wear, the top edge of the lower bar develops a flaw that detached a semi-circular patch from the left side of the bar.	✓
○	R3/15	Flaw	A black spot develops at the centre of the 'c'.	
○	R3/20	Flaw	The lower bar develops a small spur from its top edge, just right of centre. This is small and needs a magnifying glass to see it, but constant.	
○	R4/3	Flaw	The lower bar has a tiny indent at its left end.	
○	R4/4	Flaw	The centres of both bars are deformed by a large smudge. The top bar is cut into two parts left of the smudge, whilst the smudge itself is formed of two black blobs on the bars, merging at the centre.	✓
○	R4/5	Flaw	There are multiple spots in the 'c', where a larger spot may be forming.	
○	R4/7	Flaw	Tiny black spot is seen at the centre of the 'c'.	
○	R4/17	Flaw	There is a small black curved line at the centre of the 'c'. This is perhaps the start of a spot at this point.	
○	R5/7	Flaw	There is a black smudge in the inside of the '4' of the surcharge, almost joining the upright to the front diagonal line.	
○	R5/8	Flaw	There is a small indent into the top edge of the lower bar, just right of centre.	

○	R5/12	Flaw	The lower bar has two indents; one on the lower edge just right of centre; the second more significant indent is on the top edge near the right end that shows a small black spot developing within it.	✓
○	R5/13	Flaw	There is a black spot seen in the centre of the 'c' of the new value. (*See also R5/15, R6/14, R6/15, R6/17 and R6/18 that occurred at the same time).	
○	R5/14	Flaw	The lower bar has a small indent on its top edge, right of centre.	
○	R5/15	Flaw	There is a black dot at the centre of the 'c'.	
○	R5/15	Flaw	The top edge of the lower bar has an indent towards the right end.	
○	R5/20	Flaw	A small black spot develops at the centre of the 'c'.	
○	R6/2	Flaw	The top jaw of the 'c' has a black smudge attached to it, with the inside of the 'c' showing small black lines. This is corrected perhaps by cleaning the forme.	
○	R6/2	Flaw	This stamp also shows a black spot at the centre of the 'c' as printing continues.	
○	R6/10	Flaw	There is a black spur from the inside edge of the upright of the '4'.	
○	R6/12	Flaw	The inside edge of the crossbar of the '4' has a small indent. This appears constant.	
○	R6/14	Flaw	A black spot develops at the centre of the 'c'.	
○	R6/15	Flaw	Bars hollowed at centre, partially printed.	✓
○	R6/15	Correction	Heavy pressure to correct the wear on R6/15 resulted in spots in the 'c' of R5/13, R5/15, R6/14, R6/17 and R6/18. The heavy pressure can be demonstrated by the ends of the bars bowing. This was only partially successful.	✓
○	R6/16	Flaw	The top left corner of the top bar is cut at an angle. Small but constant.	
○	R6/17	Flaw	A black spot develops at the centre of the 'c'.	
○	R6/18	Flaw	A small black spot is developing at the centre of the 'c'.	
○	R6/19	Flaw	The black surcharge '4c' is smudged from left to right. In this example the bars are normal. This is transient. See also R7/16, that also shows a transient smudge on the same sheet.	
○	R7/10	Flaw	There is a black smudge in the top margin between this stamp and R6/10 above. This is likely to be a transient variety where ink from the forme has just touched the paper, lightly. On some sheets the bars of row 6/10 also show a small smudge.	
○	R7/12	Flaw	A smudged spot is seen in the 'c' of the surcharge.	
○	R7/13	Flaw	There is a nick out of the top edge of the lower bar, near the right end.	
○	R7/15	Flaw	There is a small black spot developing at the centre of the 'c'.	
○	R7/16	Flaw	The 'c' of the surcharge is smudged. See also R6/19 seen on the same sheet.	
○	R7/18	Flaw	The upper bar is worn, with a small nick out of the lower edge near the right end.	
○	R8/7	Flaw	A spot is forming at the centre of the 'c'.	
○	R8/14	Flaw	The lower bar is worn, with nicks out of both the top edge and lower edge near the centre.	
○	R8/15	Flaw	The top left corner of the lower bar is cut at an angle.	
○	R8/18	Flaw	There is an indent into the left end of the lower bar.	
○	R8/20	Flaw	A black smudge appears between the bars.	
○	R9/4	Flaw	There is a significant black smudge developing between the two bars near their left end.	✓
○	R9/14	Flaw	The lower bar has a tiny nick out of the top edge towards the right end.	
○	R9/16	Flaw	There is a shallow indent into the lower edge of the lower bar near the left end. This is a small variety but constant.	
○	R9/18	Flaw	There is a black spot developing in the 'c' of the surcharge.	
○	R9/19	Flaw	The 'c' has a small nick out of the outer edge at top right.	
○	R9/20	Flaw	The 'c' has a small black smudge that protrudes from its lower right edge. This is likely to be a problem introduced by over-inking.	
○	R9/20	Flaw	There is a small diagonal black 'feather' protruding from the bottom right corner of the lower bar. This is seen on the same stamp as that above.	

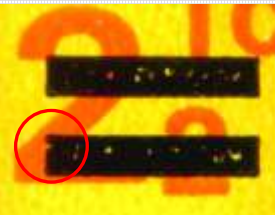
○	R10/1	Flaw	The lower bar is doubled on its lower edge. The upper bar and '4c' are not affected. Various states of this doubling exist based upon the strength of the pressure applied during printing. Other stamps in row 10 also show slight doubling, and is likely to be caused by heavy pressure placed upon the forme and stamps from row 10, to help correct the flaw at row 10/2. (see 'Doubling of bars in row 10' earlier).	✓
○	R10/2	Flaw	The bars at row 10/2 were wearing badly, with a large hole developing at their centre. Pressure was increased in an attempt to correct the flaw with limited success. This can be seen by the heavy impression on the reverse of the stamps, and slight doubling seen on other stamps in row 10.	✓
○	R10/2	Correction	The bars were replaced to correct the worn state.	✓
○	R10/4	Flaw	The lower bar is slightly doubled.	
○	R10/5	Flaw	Similar, slight doubling is seen on the lower bar.	
○	R10/16	Flaw	There is a black spot developing in the 'c' of the surcharge.	
○	R10/16	Flaw	There is a curved indent into the lower edge of the lower bar.	
○	R10/19	Flaw	The 'c' shows a small 'tail' from the bottom right edge below the mouth.	
○	R10/19	Flaw	The lower bar is slightly doubled.	
○	R10/20	Flaw	The crossbar of the '4' has two small indents, one either side of the crossbar as it meets the vertical line.	
○	R10/20	Flaw	The '4c' is also doubled, as seen in the extreme state of the lower bar doubled.	✓
○	R10/20	Flaw	Lower bar is doubled. This has a number of states based upon the extent of that doubling, some are extreme.	✓

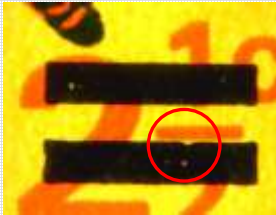
			
R1/1	R1/1	R1/1	R1/12
The lower bar is broken and has a major portion missing.	The pressure at row 1/1 is increased to reinstate the missing portion of the bar.	There is a black smudge at the centre of the 'c' of the new value.	Large flaw in the bars.

			
R1/14	R1/17	R1/17	R1/20
Indents into the lower bar.	Small hole in the 'c' at top left.	Small hole in the 'c' at top left.	The right end of the lower bar is slanted.

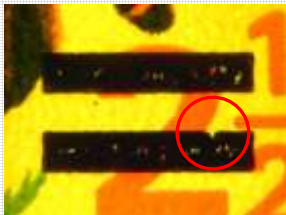
			
R2/5 There is a vertical cut almost through the top bar.	R2/7 The lower jaw of the 'c' is indented.	R2/16 The crossbar of the '4' is indented twice.	R3/1 There is a transient smudge that fills the middle of the '4'.

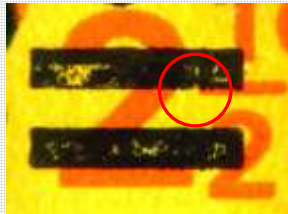
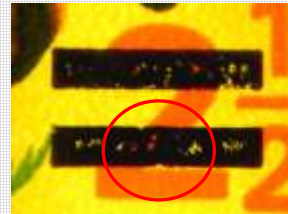
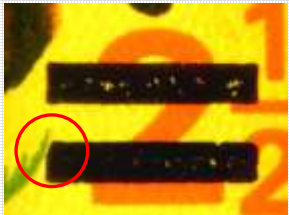
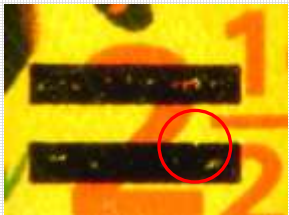
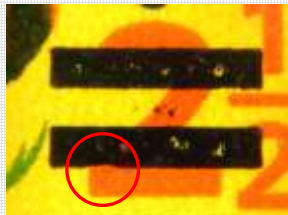
			
R3/4 Both bars are cut through.	R3/7 Tiny black spot in the 'c'.	R3/13 With wear, the lower bar develops a flaw on the top edge.	R3/15 A black spot develops at the centre of the 'c'.

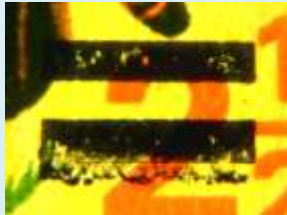
			
R3/20 The lower bar develops a spur just right of centre.	R4/3 Lower bar is indented at left end.	R4/4 The bars are deformed by a large smudge.	R4/5 There are multiple spots in the 'c'.

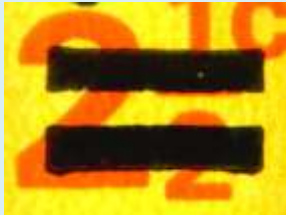
			
R4/7 Tiny spot in the 'c'.	R4/17 There is a transient line (spot) at the centre of the 'c'.	R5/7 There is a small black smudge in the '4'.	R5/8 There is a small indent into the lower bar, just right of centre.

			
R5/12 The top edge of the lower bar has a bite and spot developing.		R5/13 There is a black spot in the 'c'.	R5/14 The lower bar has a small indent right of centre.

 R5/15 Spot at the centre of the 'c'.	 R5/15 The lower bar has an indent along its top edge towards the right end.	 R5/20 There is a small spot at the centre of the 'c'.	 R6/2 The top jaw of the 'c' has a black smudge attached to it.
 R6/2 A black spot develops at the centre of the 'c'.	 R6/10 There is a black spur from the inside edge of the upright of the '4'.	 R6/12 The upper edge of the crossbar of the '4' has a small indent.	 R6/14 A spot develops at the centre of the 'c'.
			
R6/15 The centre of both bars begins to wear, with a large part of the bars becoming missing.			
 R6/16 The left end of the top bar is cut at an angle.	 R6/17 A black spot develops at the centre of the 'c'.	 R6/18 There is a small black spot at the centre of the 'c'.	 R6/19 The black colour over the '4c' is smudged. Transient.
 R7/10 Black smudge in the top margin.	 R7/12 A smudged spot is seen in the 'c'.	 R7/13 Nick out of the upper edge of the lower bar.	 R7/15 Spot in the 'c' of the surcharge.

 R7/16 The 'c' of '4c' is smudged. Transient.	 R7/18 The upper bar is worn with nick out of lower edge.	 R8/7 Spot beginning at the centre of the 'c'.	 R8/14 The lower bar is worn with nicks out of the top and lower edge.
 R8/15 The top left corner of the lower bar is cut at an angle.	 R8/18 The left end of the lower bar has an indent.	 R8/20 There is a black smudge appearing between the bars.	 R9/4 There is a significant smudge between the bars near the left end.
 R9/14 The lower bar has a tiny indent towards the right end.	 R9/16 Curved indent into the underside of the lower bar.	 R9/18 Black spot in the 'c'.	 R9/19 Small nick out of the outer edge of the 'c' at top right.
 R9/20 The 'c' has a small protrusion from its lower right edge.	 The bottom right corner of the lower bar has a 'feather-like' protrusion.		

			
R10/1			
The lower bar has its lower edge slightly doubled. This is seen in a number of states based upon the strength of that doubling.			

			
Row 10/2			
The bars are wearing badly.	Bars are very weak, with a large gap at centre	The bars are replaced.	R10/4 Slight doubling of the lower bar.

			
R10/5 The lower bar is slightly doubled.	R10/16 There is a small dot seen in the 'c'.	R10/16 The lower edge of the lower bar has a curved indent.	R10/19 The 'c' has a small 'tail' from the bottom right edge.

			
R10/19 The lower bar is slightly doubled.	R10/20 The crossbar of the '4' is indented.	R10/20 The '4c' is doubled.	

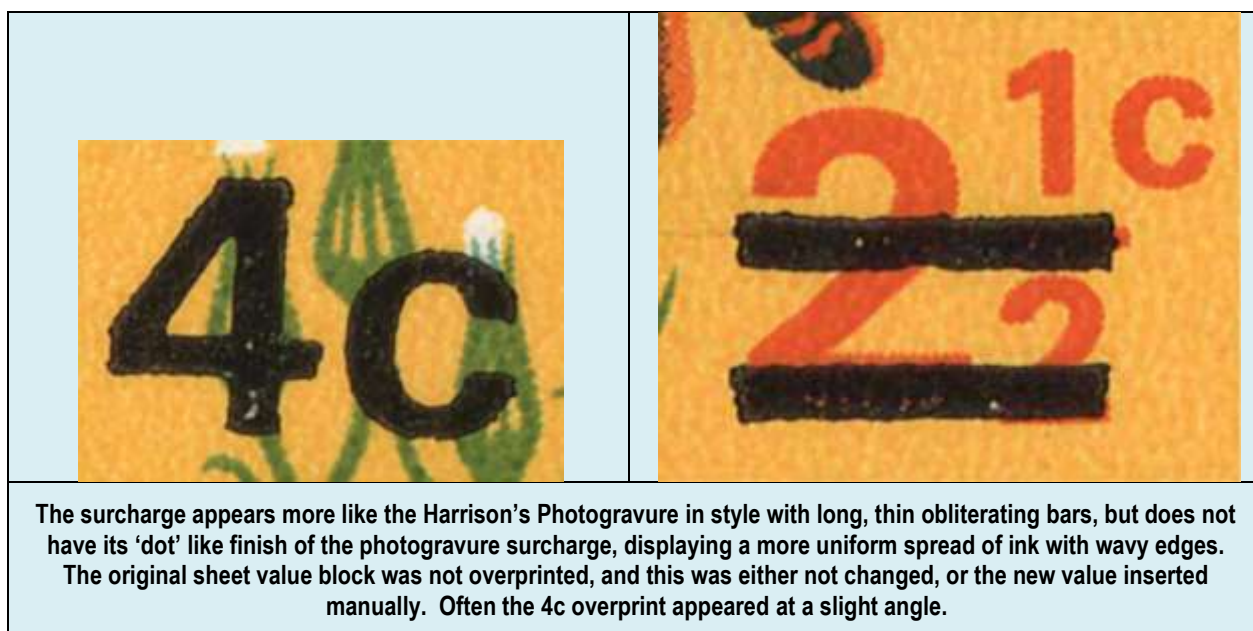
			
R10/20			
The lower bar is doubled. This is seen in a number of states based upon the extent of the doubling.			

'LOCAL' LETTERPRESS SURCHARGE

Printing

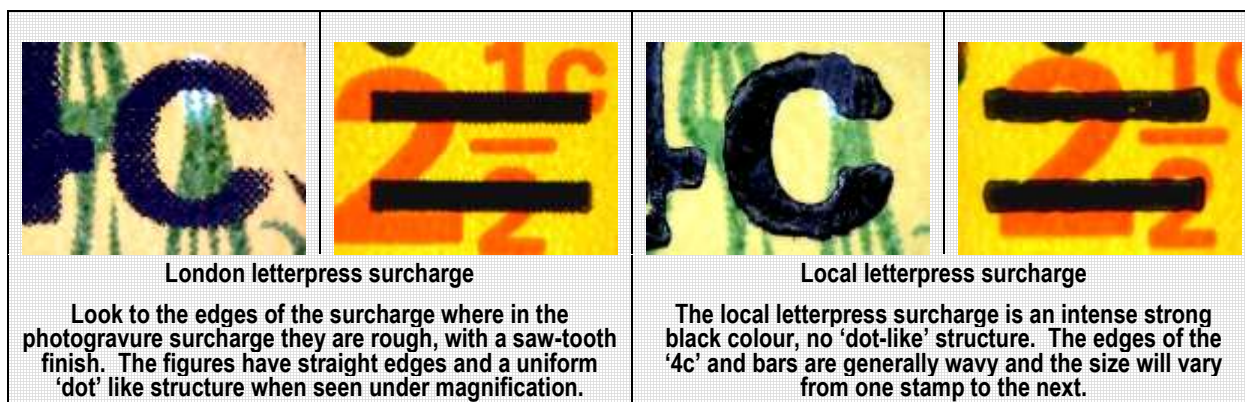
Stock of the 2½c Magpie Moth, from the fourth and fifth printing (plates 1A and 1B) that existed in New Zealand at the time that this value was withdrawn, was collated and this too, was surcharged to '4c'. The Government Printer in Wellington produced a letterpress forme, similar in style to that used by Harrison in their photogravure surcharge, albeit the bars were narrower and '4c' wider. This forme proved quite reliable and produced good, even results, lasting for the entire production. There were variations in the intensity of the ink, through over or under inking of the surcharge forme, and some errors caused by the semi-manual process itself: confetti flaws; misplaced surcharge; poor alignment; but little to affect the operation of the forme itself.

It was not until May 1973 when supplies of the local letterpress surcharged stamp were issued.



Compare and contrast Local Letterpress and Harrison's Photogravure surcharge

The local letterpress surcharge was based upon the Harrison's Photogravure surcharge, with much the same characteristics in terms of style and format. The Harrison's Letterpress formes can be readily distinguished (as shown earlier) as they display thick, strong printing especially seen in the format of the bars.



Local Letterpress Sheet Value blocks

Unlike its predecessors that relied heavily on the appearance of the new surcharge sheet value to differentiate between various states of the forme, this locally produced forme did not alter the original sheet value. Individual Post Offices were instructed to alter the old sheet value locally, prior to issue. This gave rise to a number of different methods employed to achieve this end. Some Post Offices used biro to obliterate the old sheet value and hand-write the revised '\$8.00', whilst some made small rubber stamps. A large number of sheets were used without the old sheet value being altered.



Rather than use the sheet values to determine the state of the forme at various stages of production, the local letterpress surcharge used only one forme, in one state. The 'collector's interest' here is to examine the methods used by the Post Offices to alter the old sheet value.

Sheet Value obliterations

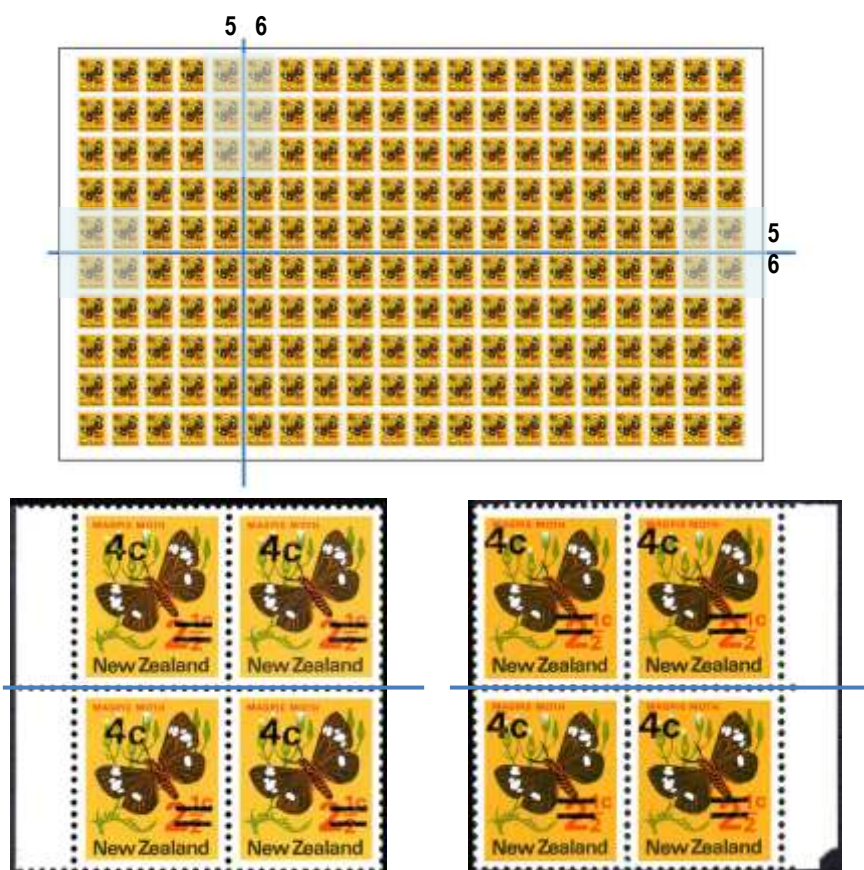
Various methods were used to alter the original sheet value. Some of the methods employed were:

- (No alterations).
- Biro, usually in red or blue ink.
- Rubber stamps, similar in form to the Harrison obliteration, 'VALUE \$8.00' and three horizontal bars overlaying the old sheet value. Two such rubber stamps were made by the Auckland CPO for sheets issued to local Post Offices in the Auckland area through this centre. The rubber stamp was applied carefully using blue ink.
- As above; one of the Auckland rubber stamps was loaned to Auckland East PO that used purple ink.
- Rubber stamp that comprised '\$8.00' in large letters, a thick rectangular block to obliterate the old sheet value. This was applied using blue ink.
- Rubber stamp with '\$8.00' on top of two horizontal bars that overlaid the old sheet value. Applied with black ink.

* * * * *

Make-up of the forme for the Local Letterpress printings

From examples seen, it appears that the local letterpress forme is composed of 'blocks' of surcharges. The sheet displays characteristics where the positioning of the surcharge moves or is displaced between certain rows and columns. As shown in the diagram below. There is a visible displacement along the horizontal between rows 5 and 6, and a similar displacement between columns 5 and 6.



Block shows rows 5 and 6 where there is a small vertical shift of the surcharge, best seen in the position of the bars.

Block also shows rows 5 and 6 where there is a small vertical shift of the surcharge, as seen at the top of the '4' between the top and bottom rows.



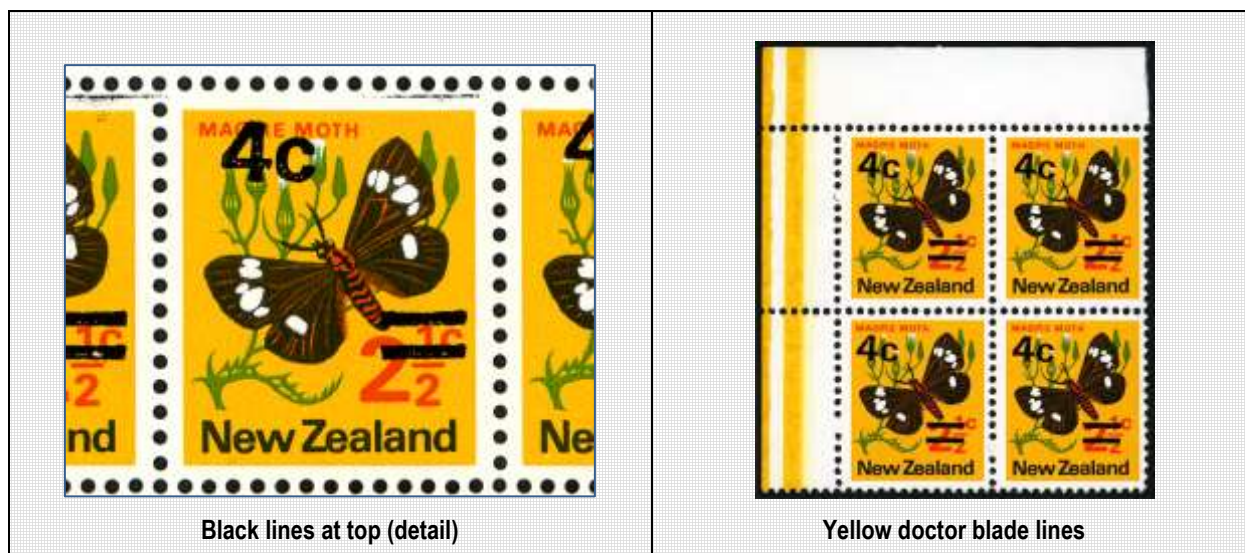
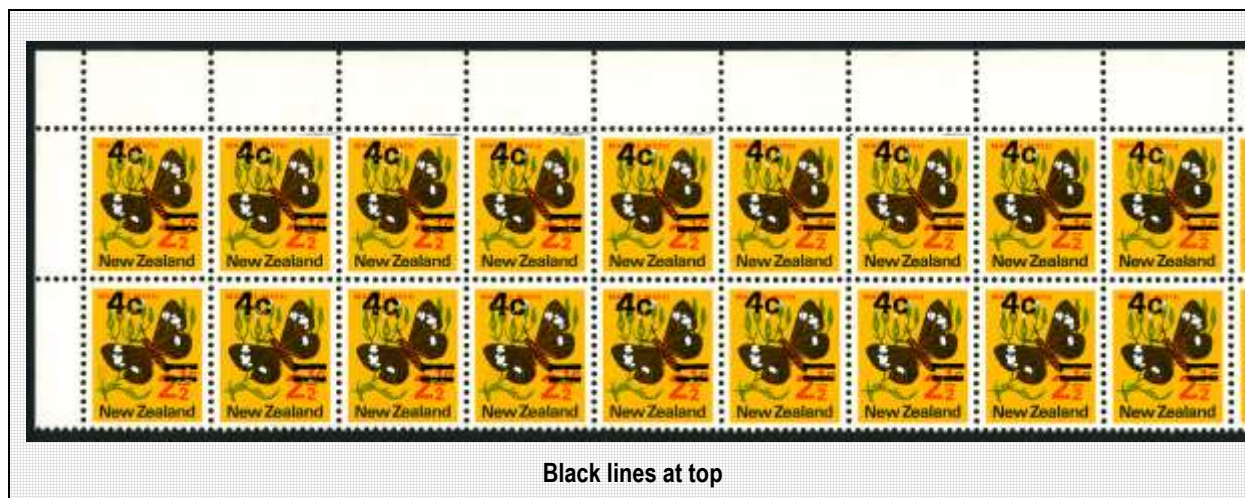
Block shows columns 5 and 6, where the surcharge on the right is notably higher than that on the left.

There does not appear to be any significant displacement between columns 10 and 11, nor 15 and 16, that could show the sheet being broken down into regular blocks of 25 surcharges.

Original Issue

..... 1973, May

Errors



☐	Surcharge offset	A full offset seen on the reverse of the stamp.		RPSNZ8
☐	Surcharge weak	The surcharge shows weakness due to under-inking.		RPSNZ6
☐	Surcharge doubled	There are a few examples with the overprint slightly doubled.		RPSNZ6
☐	Surcharge omitted	One sheet was reported to have been overprinted whilst another sheet lay diagonally across it, causing a large number of stamps to omit the overprint.		RPSNZ6
☐		A strip of three stamps from the right of the sheet has been seen with total omission of the surcharge from stamp 1, partial bars only on stamp 2 and stamp 3 normal. Where there is omission, an albino surcharge can be seen.	£300	1999
☐	Parts of the surcharge omitted	This error is from a few sheets where small pieces of paper were found attached to the sheet prior to overprinting.		RPSNZ6
☐	Surcharge misplaced	A number of sheets were found with the surcharge badly misplaced.		RPSNZ6
☐	Black lines top margin	There are a series of 10 short horizontal black lines in the top margin above row 1 (below the perforations in the top selvage) each around 8mm in length. These appear above stamps 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 and 15. These are likely to have been caused by the surcharged forme.	£30	2009

☐	Partial double perforations	Examples noted with an additional strike of the perforating head in the top selvage, extending one perf hole into the stamps from row 1.	£25	2006
☐	Doctor blade flaws	Yellow Two extremely vivid vertical doctor blade lines 2.5mm thick found in the left-hand selvage.	£20	2005

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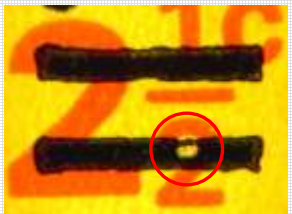
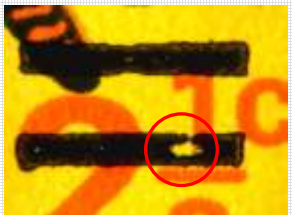
Surcharge Varieties

There were a number of constant flaws that affected stamps that did not develop extensively during the print run, unlike the other surcharge types where flaws are found in multiple states because of the quantities printed.

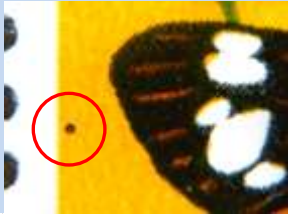
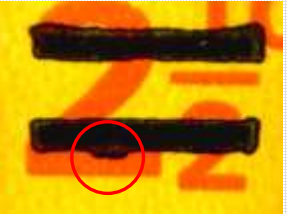
☐	R1/1	Surcharge	Top bar is uneven.	
☐	R1/1	Surcharge	The right end of the crossbar of the '4' is becoming detached.	
☐	R1/6	Surcharge	Black spot near the top right corner.	✓
☐	R1/13	Surcharge	Black dot under the 'c'.	✓
☐	R1/16	Surcharge	Dot under the '4'.	✓
☐	R1/20	Surcharge	Dot in the lower right wing. The actual placement of the black flaw is dependent upon the position of the surcharge.	✓
☐	R2/1	Surcharge	There is a bulge on the underside of the lower bar.	
☐	R2/2	Surcharge	There is a hole in the lower bar right of centre.	
☐	R2/3	Surcharge	Black dot under the 'c'. Hole at the intersection of the lines in the '4'. Also lower bar has a smudge at the left end.	✓
☐	R2/3	Surcharge	There is a bulge on the underside of the lower bar at the left end.	
☐	R2/10	Surcharge	There are holes developing in the 'c'.	
☐	R2/20	Surcharge	The lower bar has a hole right of centre.	
☐	R3/1	Surcharge	The '4' is malformed with many holes.	
☐	R3/2	Surcharge	The 'c' has bite out of centre left.	
☐	R3/4	Surcharge	The crossbar of the '4' is hollow.	
☐	R3/5	Surcharge	Lower bar at right is broken and has a blob underneath.	
☐	R3/18	Surcharge	There is a bite out of the inside edge of the 'c'.	
☐	R3/19	Surcharge	The '4' is pitted with many holes.	
☐	R4/1	Surcharge	The lower bar has a bulge on the lower edge on the right.	
☐	R4/1	Surcharge	'4' is malformed.	
☐	R4/2	Surcharge	The 'c' has bite out of the outer edge on the left.	
☐	R4/16	Surcharge	The vertical bar of the '4' is hollow.	
☐	R4/19	Surcharge	The nose of the '4' is hollow.	
☐	R4/20	Surcharge	Extra horizontal bar is seen under the word 'Zealand', slightly longer than the overprint bars and about half the thickness. The extra line becomes noticeable as the pressure of the surcharge increases. Also a small black spot appears to the left of the leftmost wing, depending upon the position of the surcharge, it may appear in the selvage. Plate 1A1A1A1A.	✓
☐	R4/20	Surcharge	The nose of the '4' is weak.	
☐	R4/20	Surcharge	The lower bar has a bulge on the lower edge.	
☐	R5/1	Surcharge	Holes appear in the '4' and 'c'.	
☐	R5/2	Surcharge	The crossbar of the '4' is broken.	
☐	R5/2	Surcharge	The lower bar has a bulge below centre.	
☐	R5/4	Surcharge	The '4c' is very blurred.	
☐	R5/4	Surcharge	Break in the lower bar at the centre.	

○	R5/5	Surcharge	Break in the lower bar at the centre.	
○	R5/9	Surcharge	There are black lines around the '4' and partially around the 'c'.	✓
○	R5/10	Surcharge	There are holes at the nose of the '4'.	
○	R5/16	Surcharge	The '4' has holes on the crossbar.	
○	R5/17	Surcharge	The '4c' is distinctly blurred.	
○	R5/19	Surcharge	The '4' is weak with thinned crossbar and nose.	
○	R6/1	Surcharge	Break in the centre of the '4'.	
○	R6/1	Surcharge	Break in the '4' 'corrected' by round blob.	
○	R6/4	Surcharge	White circle at the centre of the '4'.	
○	R6/5	Surcharge	There is a hole at the centre of the '4'.	
○	R6/6	Surcharge	Dot under the '4'.	✓
○	R6/8	Surcharge	Dot appears under the 'c'.	✓
○	R6/16	Surcharge	The nose of the '4' is thinned.	
○	R7/1	Surcharge	Lower bar has a two black blobs underneath.	
○	R7/2	Surcharge	The 'c' has a smudge on the lower arc.	
○	R8/3	Surcharge	The crossbar of the '4' is thinned at centre.	
○	R8/17	Surcharge	The crossbar of the '4' is thinned and broken.	
○	R9/1	Surcharge	The top bar is thinned.	
○	R9/1	Surcharge	There are holes forming in the '4'.	
○	R9/2	Surcharge	The '4' has a hole at its centre.	
○	R9/2	Surcharge	Both bars are thinned and wavy.	
○	R9/3	Surcharge	The lower edge of the top bar is thinned near the right end.	
○	R9/4	Surcharge	Nose of the form is thin and malformed.	
○	R9/5	Surcharge	The crossbar of the '4' is thinned.	
○	R9/9	Surcharge	A hole is developing near the top of the '4'.	
○	R10/1	Surcharge	The '4c' is weak and pitted.	
○	R10/1	Surcharge	The left end of the top bar is bulbous.	
○	R10/3	Surcharge	There is a shadow line below the lower bar, possibly slight doubling.	
○	R10/5	Surcharge	There is a shadow line below the lower bar, possibly slight doubling.	
○	R10/12	Surcharge	The '4' has a bulge on the inner edge of its diagonal line.	
○	R10/20	Surcharge	Bite out of left edge of the '4'.	

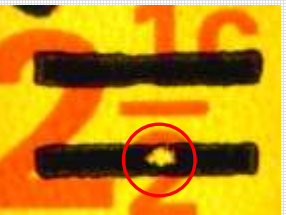
 R1/1 Top bar is becoming uneven.	 R1/2 Small tail of the '4' is developing a hole.	 R1/2 The tail of the '4' is now detached.	 R1/6 There is a small black dash in the top right corner.
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 R1/13 'Full stop' after the 'c' of the surcharge	 R1/16 There is a small black spot below the horizontal bar of the '4'.	 R1/20 Black spot on the lower right wing - in the white area on this example, but will vary based upon placement of the surcharge.	 R2/1 The upper bar has a bulge on the left end, the lower bar has a hole and bulge at the centre.
 R2/2 Lower bar has a hole right of centre.	 R2/3 There is a black spot after the 'c', and a hole at the intersection of the '4'.	 R2/3 The lower bar has a bulge at the left end.	 R2/10 Two holes developing on the 'c'.
 R2/20 The lower bar has a hole near the right end.	 R3/1 The '4' has multiple holes, separating the vertical bar.	 R3/2 Bite out of the left edge of the 'c' developing. Early.	 R3/2 Bite out of the 'c' is larger. Late printing.
 R3/4 The vertical bar of the '4' is nearly hollow.	 R3/18 Bite out of the inside lower edge of the 'c'.	 R3/19 The '4' is pitted, with a hole developing at the nose.	 R4/1 The lower bar has a bulge on the right end.

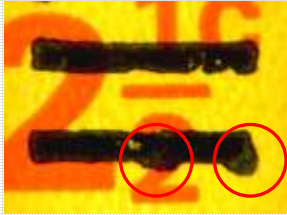
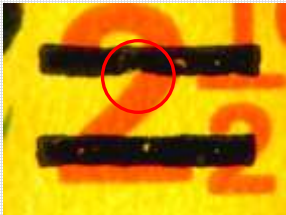
			
R4/1 The lines of the '4' are narrowing.	R4/2 Bite out of the left edge of the 'c'.	R4/16 The vertical bar of the '4' is becoming hollow.	R4/19 The nose of the '4' is developing a hole.

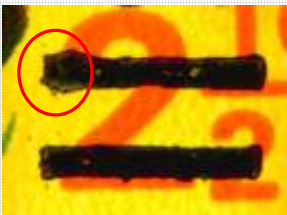
			
R4/20			
There is a 'bar' below 'land' slightly longer than the overprint bar, likely caused by 'spacer' high.	Black spot left of the leftmost wing.	The lines around the nose of the '4' are thinned late in printing.	The lower bar has a bulge left of centre.

			
R5/1 Both '4' and 'c' are developing holes.	The middle of the crossbar of the '4' is thinned.	The crossbar of the '4' is now broken. Late printing.	Lower bar has a large bulge at centre.

			
R5/4 The lower bar has a hole at the centre.	R5/4 The outer edges of the '4c' are blurred.	R5/5 There is a hole at the centre of the lower bar.	R5/9 Outline to the tops of the '4' and 'c'.

			
R5/10 Holes, mainly at the nose of the '4'.	R5/16 Hole at the intersection of the '4'.	R5/17 Holes in the '4' and edges of the figures are blurred.	R5/19 The '4' is malformed and has a sloping foot.

 R6/1 The intersection of lines on the '4' look repaired.	 R6/1 Holes are enlarged in later printings.	 R6/4 Hole at the intersection of lines on the '4' is forming.	 R6/4 Hole at the intersection is larger in later printings.
 R6/5 There is a hole at the intersection of lines on the '4'.	 R6/6 There is a small black spot below the horizontal bar of the '4'.	 R6/8 There is a 'full stop' after the 'c'.	 R6/16 The lines around the nose of the '4' are thinned.
 R7/1 The underside of the lower bar has a bulge on the right end and at the centre.	 R7/2 The 'c' has a bulge at bottom right.	 R8/3 The horizontal line of the '4' is thinned.	 R8/17 The horizontal line of the '4' is thinned, with a hole developing.
 R9/1 There are holes forming on the '4'.	 R9/1 The upper bar has a hollow at the centre of the lower edge.	 R9/2 There is a hole at the intersection of lines on the '4'.	 R9/2 The bars have wavy edges and holes developing.

 R9/3 There is a bite out of the lower edge of the top bar, near the right end.	 R9/4 The lines around the nose of the '4' are thinned.	 R9/5 The crossbar of the '4' is thinned near the right end.	 R9/9 A hole is developing near the top of the '4'.
 R10/1 The diagonal line of the '4' is pitted, and a hole developing in the 'c'.	 R10/1 The left end of the top bar is bulbous.	 R10/3 There is a shadow line below the lower bar.	 R10/5 There is a shadow line below the lower bar, similar to R10/3.
 R10/12 Small bulge on the inner edge of the diagonal line of the '4'.	 R10/20 The nose of the '4' is broken in later printings.		

As with all overprints using the letterpress process, much of the strength of the overprint depends upon the pressure applied to the forme. Variations in pressure will change the characteristics of the overprint, sometimes heaving holes, or sometimes leaving the characters bold. Making the pressure heavier will usually increase the boldness and correct small flaws by pressing out the holes, but at the cost of increasing the wear on the forme. Some degree of variance will always be found between copies illustrated here, and those in other collections.

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2½c MAGPIE MOTH ERRORS AND PLATE VARIETIES

Errors

Watermarked Paper1970, September 2

☐	Albino Surcharge	Although this is truly a provisional issue with error of surcharge, it is appropriate to list this error here to help identify its existence.	£120	2006
☐	Paper fold	The paper fold causes extraneous perforations in the top left corner of the sheet. This causes the stamps to be partially imperforate.		2008

Varieties

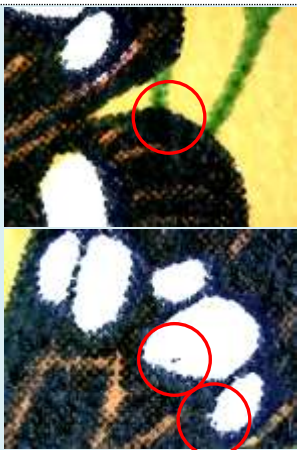
A significant amount of research is available on this specialist area, and a number of reliable publications are available for reference.

This listing identifies those varieties, flaws and retouches to be found on the stamp plates (rather than the surcharge) in simplified form. Where applicable it also lists the varieties against the original (without surcharge) and three types of surcharging. To note, the varieties found on the stamps may appear on some or all of the surcharge types, dependent upon the availability of printed sheets, and the point in time when the sheets were taken for surcharge which varieties had been noticed by the printers and retouched at that time.

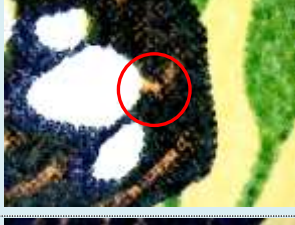
Cylinder	Original no surcharge	Plates 1A, 1B (4th and 5th printing)
	Harrison's Photogravure Surcharge	Plates 1A, 1B; 2A, 2B; 3A, 3B
	Harrison's Letterpress Surcharge	Plates 1A, 1B; 2A, 2B; 3A, 3B
	Local Letterpress Surcharge	Plates 1A, 1B (4th and 5th printing)

Black, 1A					Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
Flaws at R1/20 and R2/17 appeared on the master multipositive used in the production of all the Black A plates and therefore appear on plates 2A and 3A and had to be retouched again prior to issue.								
○	R1/9	Flaw	There is a horizontal scratch through the top row white spots on the top right wing, from the leading edge of the wing, finishing just short of the third spot. Plate 1A only.		✓ 1A	X	X	✓ 1A
○	R1/16	Flaw	Spike in the middle of the leading edge of the top right wing. This has a black spot just in front of the wing with a yellow spot just behind. Plate 1A only.		✓	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓
○	R1/20	Flaw	Flaw in the upper right wing appearing as a large bite out of the leading edge just below the white spots. Plate 1A only (retouched during 3 rd printing).		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X

○	R1/20	Retouch	The flaw at row 1/20 was retouched quite successfully prior to the 4 th printing. The only visible sign that the retouch has been done is the lack of screen dots on the edge of the wing where the retouch used to be. Plate 1A only. First R1/20 retouch.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R2/3	Flaw	Two large red patches appear in the lower left wing below the white spot, where the black has been omitted. The red (from the colour of the veins) shows through to form two red spots. Plate 1A only, 1 st printing.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X
○	R2/3	Retouch	Retouch to above, with small disturbance still to be seen. This appears as small lines parallel to the edge of the lower left wing, with the red colour showing through. Plate 1A only.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R2/4	Flaw	A red spot appears in the lower right wing close to the trailing edge, on the end of the longest wing vein. This appears as a spur on the wing vein, allowing the red colour to show through the missing black.		✓ 1A	X	X	✓ 1A
○	R2/4	Flaw	Bite out of the inside of the left leg of the 'n' of 'land'. This is a small variety. Appears in all 1A black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R2/5	Flaw	There is a small break in the top edge of the lower right wing, just where the stem of the rightmost bud disappears behind the wing. This is only a small flaw and was not retouched. With black plate 1A only.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X
○	R2/17	Flaw	The flaw as a bite out of the top edge of the lower right wing is significant. It was not corrected until prior to the 4 th printing, stock that was not sent to New Zealand, therefore examples without the flaw only appear in surcharged form. This should not be confused with the retouch in plate 1A, that was done successfully. Also black spot in the 5 th spot in the upper left wing. The flawed state is seen on plate 1A only.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X

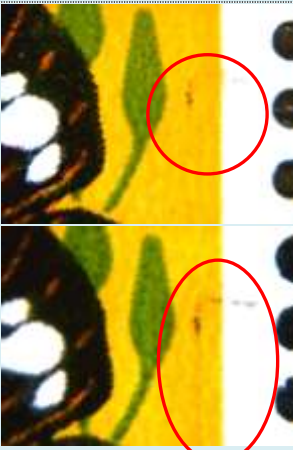
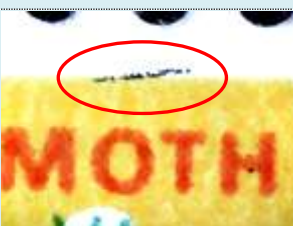
○	R2/17	Retouch	The 'bite' out of the edge of the lower right wing is corrected well. The area where the flaw used to be is solid black, whereas the rest of the wing shows red and black screen dots. This flaw and retouch also shows small black spots in the 4th and 5th white patch on the upper right wing. Plate 1A only, retouched prior to the 4th printing. First R2/17 retouch.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R3/6	Pre-flaw	Early sheets from plate 1A show no coloured spots around the 'M' of 'MAGPIE'. These formed prior to the second printing. Plate 1A only.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X
○	R3/6	Flaw	Small black dot below the 'M' of 'MAGPIE'. See also R3/6 Red 1A and R3/6 Green 1A plates. It is interesting to see that the three coloured spots are equidistant, in a near vertical line. There is no evidence of a yellow spot (that would complete the sequence of the four print colours). Plate 1A only.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R3/12	Pre-flaw	There are no extraneous spots of colour seen around the nose of the small '2'. Plate 1A only.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X
○	R3/12	Flaw	Two small black dots appear to the left of the small '2' of the value. See also Green 1A R3/12 and Red 1A R3/12. This black flaw is very similar in shape as the green flaw seen just above. Also, at R3/12 there is a red flaw under the fraction bar. These are mirrors of each other, as also seen in the flaws at R3/6 affecting the three colours. Plate 1A only.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R3/14	Flaw	A black smudge is found on the inner circle of the 'a' of 'land'. This may be the effects of a correction to a flaw at this spot. Otherwise the letter is normal. Plate 1A only.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X

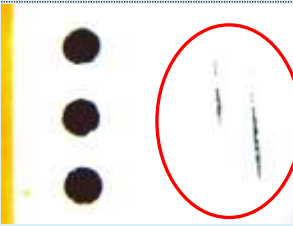
○	R4/19	Flaw	Break in the foot of the 'e' of 'New', where there is a thin hair like scratch cutting off the top right tip of the lower jaw of the 'e'. Plate 1A only.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X
○	R8/16	Flaw	Black smudge to the top stroke of the 'a' of 'land'. This is a similar affect as the flaw at R3/14, and may be the result of correcting a flaw at this spot. Plate 1A only.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X

Black, 1B					Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
○	R1/17	Flaw	Smudge on the middle of the leading edge of the upper right wing, just below that of R1/20 of Black 1A. Plate 1B only.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B
○	R1/19	Flaw	Black blob on the left of the round part of the 'd' of 'land'. There are similar varieties of this nature seen, most likely as attempts to correct an underlying fault. Plate 1B only.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B
○	R2/9	Flaw	A small circular red flaw appears near the centre of the left end of the right wings. This is where the black screen dots are partially omitted, allowing the red underlying colour to show through. Plate 1B only.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B
○	R9/12	Flaw	There is a small red spur from the right of the large spot in the top right wing into the wing itself. This is where the black screen dots are missing, allowing the background red to show through. Plate 1B only.		✓ 1B	X	X	✓ 1B
○	R9/18	Flaw	There is a small black line projecting from the bottom of the lower left wing into the yellow background. This line consists of a series of small black spots running on the diagonal. Plate 1B only.		✓ 1B	X	X	✓ 1B

○	R10/20	Flaw	A white patch appears at the top of the white area on the lower right wing. Depending upon the centring of the red colour, this patch of missing black screen dots, may show as white or red. Plate 1B only.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B
○	R10/20	Retouch	The white area is retouched leaving a square appearance to the top left corner of the white patch, unlike the normal stamp. Plate 1B only (retouched prior to the 5th printing).		✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B

Black, 2A					Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
As seen on the 1A plates, there were two retouches to stamps at R1/20 and R2/17 that were multi-positive flaws appearing on all black A plates. Prior to issue of this print, the stamps at R1/20 and 2/17 were retouched again, producing different results from the original retouch.								
○	R1/1	Flaw	There is a wavy black line in the small white spot (3 rd from top) of the top left wing. Black plate 2A only		X	✓ 2A	✓ 2A	X
○	R1/17	Flaw	A black smudge appears in the bottom right corner of the large white area of the lower right wing. This appears to be where a cluster of black screen dots appeared and an unsuccessful attempt has been made to remove them Plate 2A only.		X	✓ 2A	✓ 2A	X
○	R1/20	Retouch (a)	Retouch to correct the bite out of the leading edge of the top right wing. (See Black 1A). This retouch was ineffective, leaving only the centre of the bite corrected and a white ring around. (Early 7 th printing). The flawed state of R1/20 is not seen on plate 2A.		X	✓ 2A	✓ 2A	X
○	R1/20	Retouch (b)	The bite on the leading edge of the top right wing is further retouched, leaving a thinner circle surrounding the disturbance. There are a number of forms of this variety as it became worn during the print run. This is the 2 nd R1/20 retouch.		X	✓ 2A	✓ 2A	X
○	R2/17	Retouch (a)	The retouch to the bite out of the lower right wing is rough and shows a spur protruding near the stem of the bud. (Early 7 th printing). The flawed state of R2/17 is not seen on plate 2A.		X	✓ 2A	✓ 2A	X

○	R2/17	Retouch (b)	Further attention reduces the protruding spur so that it is not so noticeable than in the previous retouch. (Late 7 th printing). This is the 2 nd R2/17 retouch.		X	✓ 2A	✓ 2A	X
○	R8/20	Flaw	'Right angle' flaw, as two long black lines appear at right angles to each other adjacent to the right margin. Two states of this flaw exist based upon the strength of the impression. In some examples there is only a small part of the upright to be seen, whereas in others, the horizontal and vertical lines are visible. In the latter state, the long 'tail' extends for most of the length of the stamp. Seen on black plate 2A only on surcharged stamps. This flaw may be mistaken for a flaw in the surcharge forme, but its positioning does not vary with changes to position of the black surcharge.		X	✓ 2A	✓ 2A	X
○	R9/17	Flaw	An acute black line appears above the 'OTH' of 'MOTH' at the top of the stamp. Once again, like the stamp at R8/20, this may be mistaken for a fault in the surcharge forme, but is actually associated with the black print colour.		X	✓ 2A	✓ 2A	X

Black, 2B					Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
○	R1/20	Flaw	A red patch appears in the right side of the lower left wing by the body, where the background colour shows through the missing black. RPSNZ6 has this described as a red flaw. It appears red due to the absence of the black colour that would otherwise hide the red. (7 th printing). With black 2B plate only.		X	✓ 2B	✓ 2B	X
○	R1/20	Flaw	There are two short diagonal lines in the right selvedge opposite the stamp at R1/20. The strength of these diagonal scratches varies in intensity. These may well be mistaken for flaws caused by the surcharge forme, but their positioning does not change when there are variances in the surcharge. Plate 2B only.		X	✓ 2B	✓ 2B	X

○	R2/7	Flaw	There is a short black spur from the right side of the right antennae, about half way along its length. It comprises only two screen dots, but is a small but noticeable variety. Black plate 2B only.		X	✓ 2B	✓ 2B	X
○	R10/17	Flaw	This variety takes the form of a heavy smudge on the 'd' of 'land'. This is similar to other smudges found on both the 1A and 1B plates, but this example is much stronger. (7th printing).		X	✓ 2B	✓ 2B	X
○	R10/18	Flaw	There is a bite out of the trailing edge of the upper right wing, next to the bud. This is similar to the variety seen in R2/17 on plate 1A, but has not received attention perhaps as it is hidden by the edge of the green bud. . (7th printing).		X	✓ 2B	✓ 2B	X

Black, 3A					Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
As seen, there were two retouches to stamps at 1/20 and R2/17. (Multi-positive flaw on all black A plates)								
○	R1/16	Flaw	An additional vertical vein is seen on the upper right wing next to the moth's body. This joins the first two wing veins by a series of small red spots where the black colour is missing. With black plate 3A only.		X	✓ 3A	✓ 3A	X
○	R1/20	Retouch	The original flaw is completely covered by a thick black oblong repair that extends beyond the leading edge and into the first white area. This retouch is solid, lacking any black and red screen dots seen elsewhere in the wing. It can be distinguished from the 1 st retouch by the presence of the black spur into the white spot. This is the 3 rd R1/20 retouch.		X	✓ 3A	✓ 3A	X
○	R2/17	Retouch	This retouch to correct the bite out of the top of the lower right wing is quite successful. It lacks the spur seen on the 2A printing and goes some way to mimicking the screen dots by the use of small wavy lines to fill the gap. (8 th printing). This is the 3 rd R2/17 retouch.		X	✓ 3A	✓ 3A	X
○	R5/5	Flaw	A small white spot is seen to the left of the three white areas of the left wing. (8 th printing). With black plate 3A only.		X	✓ 3A	✓ 3A	X

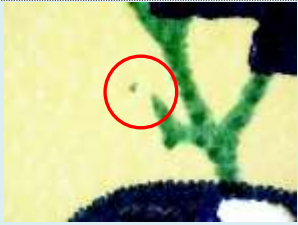
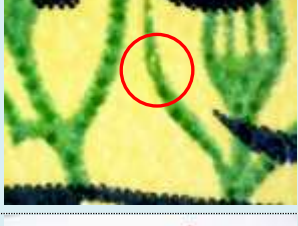
Black, 3B				Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
○	R1/20	Retouch	The red patch at the right side of the body of the moth is retouched. (Described in RPSNZ6 as a red flaw/retouch). See R1/20 plate 2B for the original flaw. With black 3B plate only.	X	✓ 3B	✓ 3B	X

Green, 1A				Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
○	R1/4	Flaw	Appears as a small bite out of the right side of the bud on the far right. Found with all black plates.	✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R1/15	Flaw	Bite out of the left side of the bud below the 'T' of 'MOTH', left of the top of the top right wing. Missing only two screen dots. Found with all black plates.	✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R2/15	Flaw	A small green spot appears between the two buds on the far right. In itself the appearance of the spot is innocuous enough, but of the many such small spots, this one received attention in black plates 2A and 3A, to remove it. With black plate 1A.	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R2/15	Retouch	Shows no flaw. The green spot that appeared between the top of the two buds is removed. Other than there were corrections made to neighbouring stamps, this example is not really significant enough to receive attention. With black plates 2A and 3A only.	X	✓ 2A 3A	✓ 2A 3A	X
○	R2/16	Flaw	There is a tiny green spot top right of the rightmost bud. This is the opposite side of the bud from the spot in R2/15. Appears with all black plates.	✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A

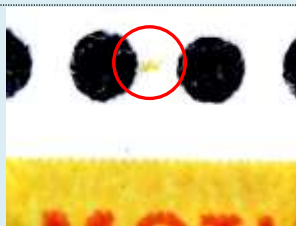
○	R2/18	Flaw	Small green extension is seen to the spike at the bottom right above the 'N' of 'New'. This is comprised of three screen dots, interestingly placed. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R3/6(1)	Pre-Flaw	There are no spots in and around the 'M' of 'MAGPIE'. With black 1A plate only, 1 st printing.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X
○	R3/6(1)	Flaw	Further spots developed by the 'M' of 'MAGPIE'. A red spot is seen above the 'M', with a green and black spot below the 'M'. With black 1A plate only, developed prior to the second printing. See R3/6 Black 1A.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R3/6(1)	Retouch	The black and green spots below the 'M' are removed, leaving a weak area in the background where the green spot used to be. The red spot above the 'M' still remains. With black plates 2A and 3A only.		X	✓ 2A 3A	✓ 2A 3A	X
○	R3/6(2)	Flaw	There is a prominent green spot to the right of the bud on the far right. This is quite thick and eye-visible. With black 1A plate only.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R3/6(2)	Retouch	The second green spot is not entirely removed but rather defused into the surrounding yellow background, so that its position can still be seen. Appears with black plates 2A and 3A only.		X	✓ 2A 3A	✓ 2A 3A	X
○	R3/12	Pre-Flaw	There are no spots in and around the nose of the small '2' of the value. With black 1A plate only, 1 st printing.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X
○	R3/12	Flaw	A small green line appears to the left of the small '2' of the original value. See Black 1A R3/12, to note the conjunction with black and red spots in the same area. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A

○	R4/15	Flaw	The left leaf of the central flower has a large bulbous growth. The stem can still be seen, but is surrounded by lighter green screen dots. From initial printing and with Black 2A, 7 th printing. Surcharged form only.		X	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	X
○	R4/15	Retouch (1)	The retouch was done well, and gives the appearance of the original design. The end of the leaf does show some small holes, especially on the right side. With black plate 1A only during 3 rd printing.		✓ 1A	X	X	✓ 1A
○	R4/15	Retouch (2)	The second retouch thickens the leaf at the point where the bulbous growth appeared previously. Perhaps done to strengthen the original retouch. With black 1A plate only.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X
○	R9/2	Flaw	The green spur near the central bud (of the five) has an additional spur at the top. With all black A plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R10/14	Flaw	A green spot is seen to the left of the upright of the 'T' of 'MOTH' (with normal centring of the colours). With all black A plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A

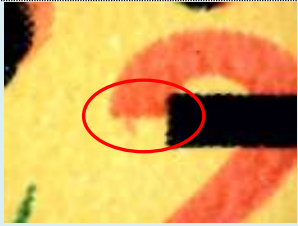
Green, 1B					Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
○	R1/7	Flaw	The top of the second bud from the left is shortened, with the tips progressing in height from left to right, normally they appear level. Appears with all black B plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R1/11	Flaw	The spur to the left of the stem (at bottom left of the stamp) is blunted, with a rounded end. Similar to R1/12. Found with all black B plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B

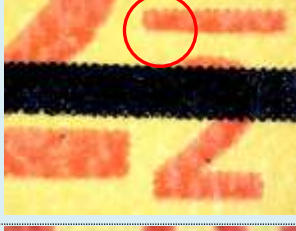
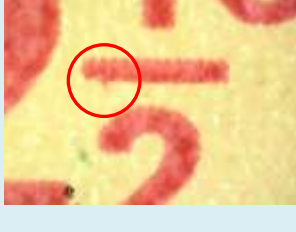
○	R1/12	Flaw	The spur on the left of the stem is shortened as if cut off diagonally. Similar to the flaw on stamp R1/11. Found with all black B plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R2/14	Flaw	The spur below the bud on the far left is broken. The centre of that spur is missing, leaving a green spot at the end of original spur. This was not corrected until print 8, with black plate 3B. With black plates 1B, 2B only.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B	✓ 1B 2B	✓ 1B
○	R2/14	Retouch	The spur is redrawn and appears thicker than the original. With black plate 3B only.		X	✓ 3B	✓ 3B	X
○	R5/9	Flaw	The left leaf of the central flower is broken at its centre, stranding the top part of the leaf. (This leaf is also affected in green plate 1A R4/15). With black plate 1B only.		X	✓ 1B	X	X
○	R5/9	Retouch (1)	The middle of the leaf is redrawn and is a little thicker than normal. Found with all black plates. (Retouched during the 3 rd printing).		X	✓ 1B	X	X
○	R5/9	Retouch (2)	The break and leaf is back to almost normal. The stem is slightly thinner than normal, constricted at the lower end of where the break originally appeared. With black plate 1B only.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B
○	R6/14	Flaw	A green spot is seen near the top right in the yellow background. (A red flaw also appears above this green spot, in the top margin). Only seen with Black plate 3B.		X	✓ 3B	✓ 3B	X
○	R8/1	Flaw	A green spot is seen to the left of the horizontal bar of the 'A' of 'MAGPIE'. Appears with all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B

○	R8/10	Pre-flaw	The flaw, two green dots below the 'A' of 'MAGPIE' is not seen on the 1B printing. No dots, with black plate 1B only.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B
○	R8/10	Flaw	There are two dots appearing below the 'A' of 'MAGPIE' and above the top of the bud below. This flaw is not found in the 1B printing. With black plates 2B, 3B.		X	✓ 2B 3B	✓ 2B 3B	X
○	R9/6	Flaw	A green spot is seen below and close to the leaves above 'NE' of 'NEW'. Under magnification it appears that the leaves above have a faint, near vertical scratch through then that ends with this spot. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R9/16	Flaw	A green spot is placed between the top of the lower right wing and the right margin. It is significant because it received attention and was removed with the 2B,m 3B printing. With black plate 1B only.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B
○	R9/16	Retouch	The spot between the top of the lower right wing and the margin is removed successfully. There is no residue in removing this spot, unlike attempts elsewhere in the sheet. With black plates 2B, 3B only.		X	✓ 2B 3B	✓ 2B 3B	X
○	R10/7	Flaw	Significant green spot is seen between the bud and the leading edge of the top right wing. This is constant and received no attention. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R10/12	Flaw	There is a spur from the right side of the central bud pointing towards the leading edge of the upper right wing. In some examples seen, this spur is faint and becomes a single spot. . Found with all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B

Yellow, 1A					Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
○	R2/14	Flaw	A yellow spot appears in the border above the stamp, above the 'MO' of 'MOTH'. Almost cut out by the perforations.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R3/9	Flaw	Bite is taken out of the bottom margin under the 'w' of 'New'. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R3/13	Flaw	Yellow spot appears in the lower margin under the 'a' of 'Zeal'. This may be cut off by the perforations. With left black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R3/17	Flaw	The flaw is a white patch in the background that closely follows the stem of the bud immediately left of the wing and because of this is not too easy to see unless the green colours is shifted slightly. With black plate 1A only.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X
○	R3/17	Retouch	The (yellow) flaw around the bud is retouched. It is apparent that the green stem shows irregularities of strength and thickness at the point of the yellow retouch, although there was no need to adjust the green colour here. It may be that the green colour is strengthened. Found with black plate 1A only. Retouched prior to the 4 th printing.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R3/17	Retouch	The yellow flaw persisted into the 2A and 3A printings and had to be retouched again. In this retouch there are a few white spots seen around the site of the white patch. The kinks in the stem of the green bud are also present. With black plates 2A, 3A only.		X	✓ 2A 3A	✓ 2A 3A	X

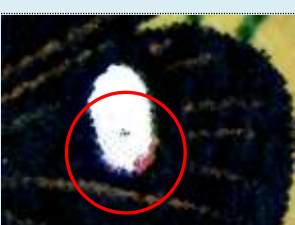
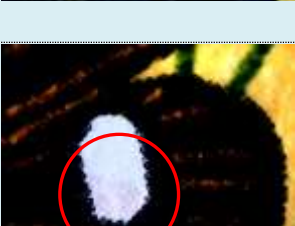
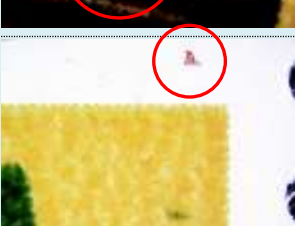
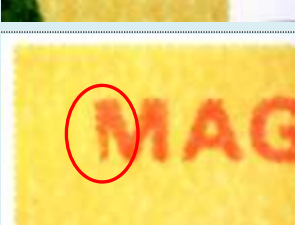
Yellow, 1B				Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
○	R2/4	Flaw	A white spot is seen midway between the lower leaf and wing above, below the lowest point of the wing itself. With black 1B plate only.	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B
○	R2/4	Retouch	The white patch is retouched but the lighter shade of the yellow marks where the spot used to be. It was not corrected during the 1B printing. With black plates 2B and 3B only.	X	✓ 2B 3B	✓ 2B 3B	X
○	R2/7	Flaw	White spot is seen to the left of the '1' of '1½c', midway to the top of the large '2'. Depending upon the centring of the surcharge, this spot and retouch may be covered by the surcharge bars. Found only with the 1B plate.	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B
○	R2/7	Retouch	Once again the retouch is done well, with no sign of the white spot. Retouch on plates 2B and 3B.	X	✓ 2B 3B	✓ 2B 3B	X
○	R6/19	Flaw	A white spot appears top right of the large '2', top left of the '1', below the lower right wing. With black 1B plate only.	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B
○	R6/19	Retouch	The white spot is retouched well, but does leave the spot a slightly lighter shade of yellow than the surrounding and can be seen if you know what to look for. With black plates 2B and 3B only.	X	✓ 2B 3B	✓ 2B 3B	X

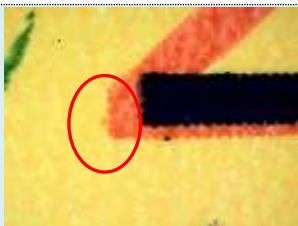
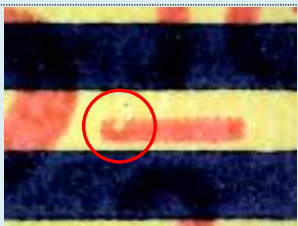
Red, 1A				Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
○	R2/10	Flaw	The large '2' has an indent at its mouth leaving a 'crinkled' lower edge. Only found with the black 1A plate.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R2/10	Retouch	The indent at the mouth of the large '2' is repaired leaving a red spur from the centre of the lower edge. With black plates 2A and 3A only.		X	✓ 2A 3A	✓ 2A 3A
○	R2/14	Flaw	Red line through the white spot in the upper left wing, 3 rd spot from the top.		X	✓ 2A 3A	✓ 2A 3A
○	R3/2	Flaw	'L' shaped flaw above the 'a' of 'Zeal' and bottom left of the foot of the large '2' of the value. This variety is faint, with the red flaw merging with the yellow background. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R3/5	Flaw	Red spot appears in the lower part of the 'c' of '2½c'. Small but significant by its placement in the value. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R3/6	Pre-flaw	There is no red flaw above the 'M' of 'MAGPIE'. Appears only on the early 1A sheets.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A
○	R3/6	Flaw	Red spot just above the 'M' of 'MAGPIE' and a black and green spot just below. (See description of the Black 1A R3/6). With black 1A plate only. (Appeared during the 1 st and 2 nd printings).		✓ 1A	✓ 1A	✓ 1A

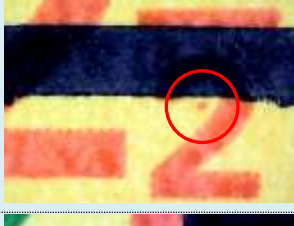
○	R3/6	Flaw	Red spot above the 'M' of 'MAGPIE'. No black or green spots or retouches. Found with black plates 2A and 3A only.		X	✓ 2A 3A	✓ 2A 3A	X
○	R3/12	Pre-flaw	The horizontal bar of the old sheet value is uniform and regular, with no small red spot on the underside. (See Black 1A R3/12). With black 1A plate only.		X	✓ 1A	✓ 1A	X
○	R3/12	Flaw	Red spot under the fraction bar of the original value. This is highly likely to be the same shared group of two spots as seen on the green and black plates. This red flaw is partly covered by the red fraction bar and is therefore partly hidden, with only the lower spot being seen. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R5/1	Flaw	Two red spots appear to the right of the central bud and left of the leading edge of the top right wing. This flaw did not occur on the 1A plates. Found with Black 2A, 3A plates.		X	✓ 2A 3A	✓ 2A 3A	X
○	R5/5	Flaw	A vertical red line appears on the 'nose' of the large '2' of the original value. This is faint and the colour tends to merge with the background yellow. Appears with all black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R5/16	Flaw	The right side of the 'c' of the original value is shaved. The top of the mouth has a small indent, whilst the lower part of the mouth is flattened on the right side. This is similar to the flaw at R7/12. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R6/18	Flaw	A curved red line appears vertically above the 'G' of 'MAGPIE', starting in the top margin, touching the top of the 'G' and curving to finish at the top of the 'P'. This is faint, but constant. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R7/12	Flaw	The right side of the 'c' of the original value is shaved on the right, with both top and lower parts of the mouth being flattened and thinned. This is similar to the flaw on R5/16, but less pronounced. Appears with all black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A

○	R10/10	Flaw	A significant red spot appears to the top right of the 'E' of 'MAGPIE' and below the top margin. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A 2A 3A	✓ 1A
○	R10/13	Flaw	A significant red spot appears above the 'M' of 'MOTH', close to the top edge of the stamp. With black plates 2A and 3A only.		X	✓ 2A 3A	✓ 2A 3A	X

Red, 1B					Original no surcharge	Harrison's Photogravure	Harrison's Letterpress	Local Letterpress
This plate saw many flaws and subsequent retouches during its life.								
○	R2/19	Pre-flaw	No red flaw or any residual red dots are seen between the body and the lower left wing. Care must be taken not to confuse this with the retouch. With black 1B plate only. (1st printing).		✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B
○	R2/19	Flaw	A red patch of screen dots appears between the body and the lower left wing. They are lighter in shade to the neighbouring red background colour of the abdomen. This flaw was seen after the first printing and was retouched. With black plate 1B only.		X	✓ 1B	X	X
○	R2/19	Retouch	The red bob was retouched, but a few small red spots remain. With black plates 2B and 3B only. Small number of examples found from the Photogravure printing from black plate 1B.		X	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 2B 3B	X
○	R3/4	Flaw	A series of red dots appear in an arc over the top left of the 'l' of 'Zealand'. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R3/17	Flaw	Two tiny red spots appear over the 'PI' of 'MAGPIE'. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B

○	R4/19	Pre-flaw	No trace of the red flaw that partly fills the white spot on the lower right wing. With black plate 1B only.		X	X	✓ 1B	X
○	R4/19	Flaw	Red patch at the bottom of the white area in the lower right wing, composed of pale red screen dots, spread further than the close groups spots of the underlying red colour behind the black wing (as seen in the arc at the bottom of the spot). With black plate 1B only.		X	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	X
○	R4/19	Retouch (1)	The retouch removes most of the extraneous red area, but much of it still remains, and this is very faint. In some examples seen there is a small number of screen dots still visible towards the bottom of the old shaded area. With black plate 1B only. Retouched during the 3 rd printing.		X	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	X
○	R4/19	Retouch (2)	The 2A and 3A retouch does not clear the red patch in the white spot on the wing, merely reducing its effect. The screen dots can still be seen, although these are really faint. The scan opposite is dark, so that the red screen dots can be seen. With black plate 2B only.		X	✓ 2B 3B	✓ 2B 3B	X
○	R4/19	Retouch (3)	The red screen dots are more prominent in this version of the retouch. . With black plate 3B only.		X	✓ 3B	✓ 3B	X
○	R6/14	Flaw	There is a red spot in the top margin at the right end, between the edge of the stamp and the horizontal perforations. It comprises of a series of clustered screen dots. With Black plate 3B.		X	✓ 3B	✓ 3B	X
○	R6/19	Flaw	The left leg of the 'M' of 'MAGPIE' is thinned at the base, losing the red screen dots on the outer edge. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R6/20	Pre-flaw	The left end of the foot of the large '2' is normal, no extraneous red colour can be seen. With black 1B plate only.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B	✓ 1B

○	R6/20	Flaw (1)	There is a small sport in front of the foot of the large '2' of the value. This is the start of a more significant flaw that evolves through the 2B and 3B printings.		X	✓ 2B	✓ 2B	X
○	R6/20	Flaw (2)	A blob of red colour is found at the foot of the large '2' at the left. This flaw varied in size as printing progressed. On 2B it is short, longer on plate 3B. With black plates 2B and 3B only.		X	✓ 2B 3B	✓ 2B 3B	X
○	R7/2	Flaw (1)	The 'I' of 'MAGPIE' has a pointed base and a small red spot about 1cm below, close to the top of the bud below. In this state the vertical line between the two is missing. With all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R7/2	Flaw (2)	Progressive flaw taking the form of red dots vertically below the 'I' of 'MAGPIE', for about 1cm. Depending upon the strength of the red colour, the line may appear complete or as a series of tiny red dots. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R7/5	Flaw	Small circular flaw affects the left end of the fraction bar of the original value. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R7/7	Flaw	Two lines of red spots cross in the margin over the 'MA' of 'MAGPIE'. These give the appearance of red biro, and can vary in strength, omitting some of the red spots, leaving only the ones at the 'cross point' of the lines. Found with all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R7/14	Pre-flaw	The 'M' of 'MAGPIE' does not show any obvious flaw. In other examples with an apparent 'flawless' state, look to the left foot of the 'M' for a small spur. If none is present then this is a true 'pre-flaw' stamp, otherwise it is a flawed stamp without the vertical line, flaw(2). With black plate 1B only.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B	X	X

○	R7/14	Flaw	Progressive flaw taking the form of a vertical line down from the left leg of the 'M' of 'MAGPIE' for about 1cm in length. This is similar to the flaw on R7/2 that affects the 'I' of 'MAGPIE'. Found on all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R7/14	Flaw (2)	The vertical line is retouched but leaves a small part remaining at the foot of the 'M'. Found with all black B plates.		X	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	X
○	R9/12	Flaw	A small red spot is seen to the left of the upper left wing. The spot appears constant albeit does vary in intensity (1B is faint; 2B average; 3B prominent), and received no attention. Found with all black B plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R9/18	Flaw	A red line appears between the leaf and the lower left wing. It appears smudged, as if infused with the yellow background colour, showing no screen dot effect. Seen with black plates 2B and 3B.		X	✓ 2B 3B	✓ 2B 3B	X
○	R10/8	Flaw	Red dot appears in the upper curl of the small '2' of the original value. (Does not show the spot below the large '2'). With all black plates.		✓ 1B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B 2B 3B	✓ 1B
○	R10/8	Flaw	Additional red spot below the left end of the large '2' of the original value. (The red spot by the small '2' is still present). With black plates 2B and 3B.		X	✓ 2B 3B	✓ 2B 3B	X

Observations

1A Row 3/6 and 3/12

	
R3/6 1A plates Three spots	R3/12 1A plates Three 'semi-colons'

The stamps at row 3/6 and 3/12 show the same type of flaw; a single spots or two spots resembling 'semi-colons' in three colours arranged red, green and black, in regular vertical alignment. Those on stamp row 3/6 were noticed and attempts made to remove them, whereas those on row 3/12 were not. On row 3/6 the red spot is almost coincident with the top of the 'M' of 'MAGPIE', whereas on row 3/12 the 'semi-colon' is partly hidden by the crossbar of the stamp value.

The similarities between these two stamps suggests that they were flawed by the same cause.

1A Red Row 4/19

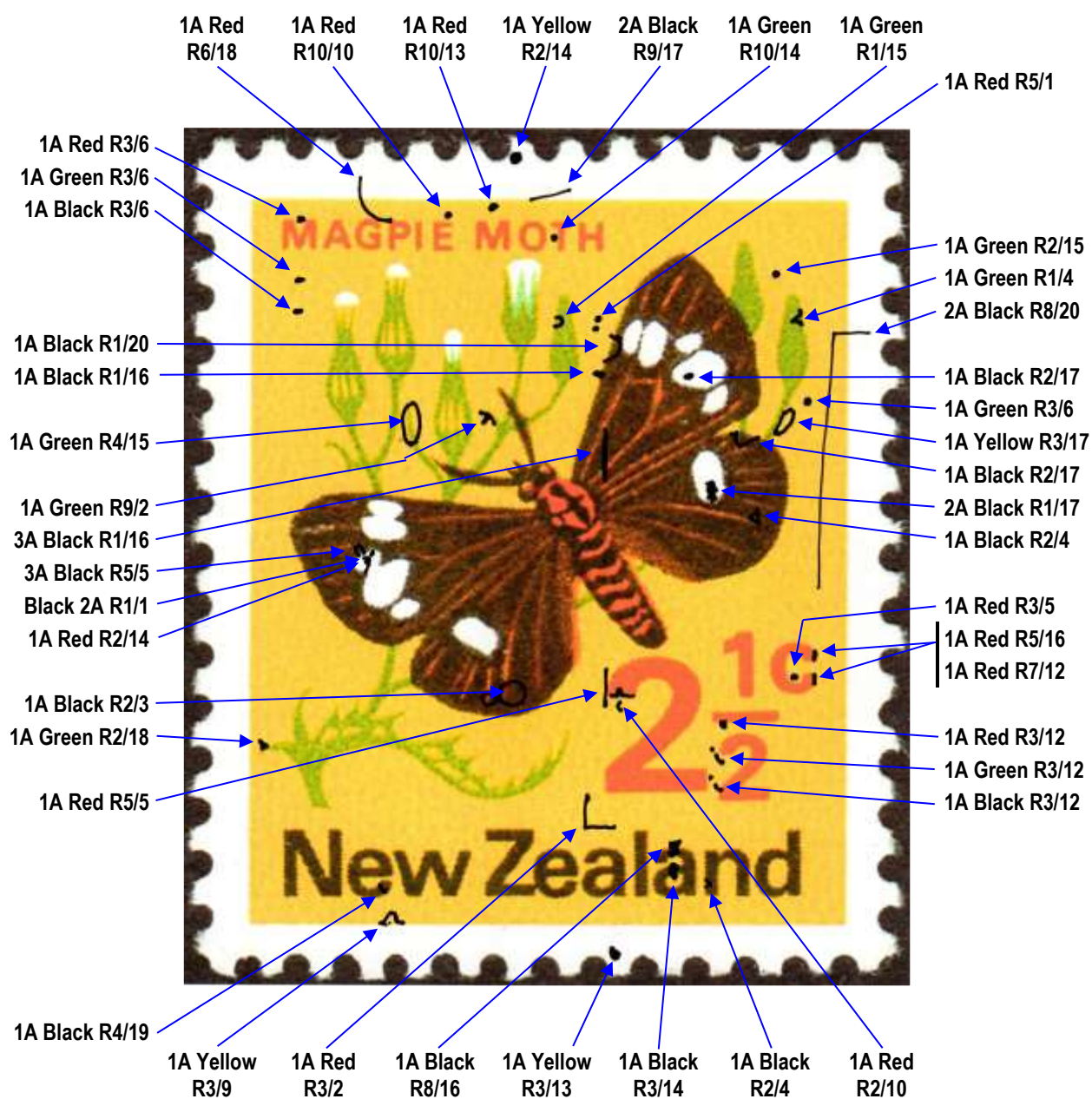


The stamp at row 4/19 shows a significant flaw affecting the large red spot on the lower right wing. In the flawed state, the spot is more than half filled by a patch of red screen dots in a lighter shade to the background colour that underlies the wing (shown here in the image on the left). The darker red background colour is shown in an example with a small upward red shift, to illustrate the two different shades.

1B Retouched state with flaw 'invisible' A small number of screen dots are just visible at the bottom of the white spot alongside the lower right edge. This is the most effective retouch.	1B Retouched state In the later 1B retouched state the screen dots of the previous flaw are still visible albeit very faint. In this example the top line of screen dots appears roughly half way up the white wing spot.	3B Retouched state In the 2B and 3B retouches the red screen dots are more visible than previously, 3B being the most prominent. The example here shows a small displacement of the red colour, as seen as the dark red patch at the bottom of the white spot. Note the diagonal edge to that red patch.	Normal In a normal stamp (that also has a similar red shift), the edge of the red screen dots that underlie the wing, has the edge curving at the bottom left, whereas in the retouched state this is straight. Losing some of the dots at the lower left side.
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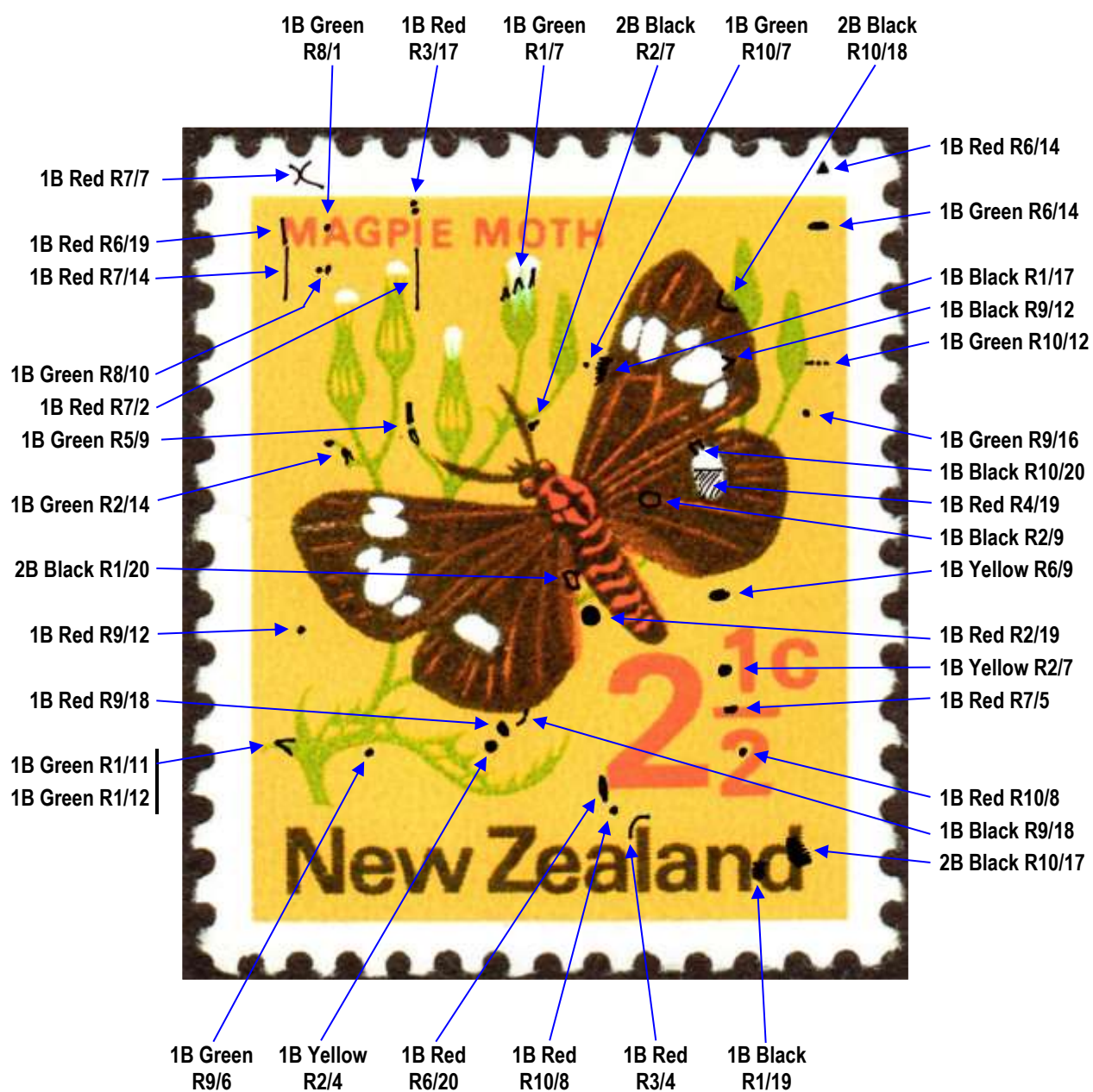
In the four images above, the large white spot is shown magnified and the optical contrast reduced to show evidence that the screen dots, even after retouching, are still present. Reducing the contrast effectively highlights any faint image in the white wing spot at the cost of losing the detail on the wing itself, making it look black. Under normal viewing with the naked eye, the extraneous screen dots are very hard to see and may give the impression of being removed completely.

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2½c Magpie Moth Variety Map**Location of the main varieties plates A**

2½c Magpie Moth Variety Map

Location of the main varieties plates B



References

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