

## PAPER TYPES

The Types of paper can make a world of difference to the complexity and value of any collection. The different types of paper are often very difficult to determine with the naked eye and explanations in catalogues are often insufficient on their own to determine exactly which paper type you might have.

Paper types are normally associated with the earlier issues as modern day printing has eliminated the majority of the many different types of paper used for the early stamps.

One of the purposes of having different types of paper or ink was to help prevent the re-use of stamps by removing cancellations capable of being removed. The first precaution was the use of 'fugitive ink'. The best example of a stamp that has used fugitive ink was the British 1887 Jubilee Issue. The 1/- in particular has the Queen's Head surrounded by Dark Green ink. Put one of these in water and the Dark Green turns to a light lime green colour in seconds. Never immerse a stamp that has fugitive ink in liquid. If the stamp is on piece the keep it that way.

### Ordinary Paper

You will often come across this paper type when the issue also has 'Chalky Paper'. The default is ordinary paper unless otherwise specified.

### Chalky Paper

Chalky paper is a stamp that is covered in a chalk or china clay and was introduced onto stamps in 1905. There are a few methods of identifying chalky paper, one of which is regarded as the standard method yet is shunned by many collectors. Rubbing a small area of the stamp or margin with a piece of silver produces a black line which is why some collectors will not use this method of identification. It is however, in my opinion, perfectly acceptable if the stamp is a marginal copy as the rub would be on the margin and thus not part of the stamp. For stamps without margins, which is the norm, a strong magnifier will reveal that the surface has small black pitted marks. Chalk surfaced paper also has a sheen when light is reflected off the surface and it is less rough to the touch. This is only truly evident to some of you have a selection of the same issues to compare the look and feel.

The Gibbons catalogue will specify that a set was on Chalky paper as the default and will then annotate the issues that are on Ordinary paper. Issue dates for the Ordinary and Chalky paper types will be different which can be a great help for those who collect used stamps if the date on the stamp is clearly visible. A date will eliminate what the stamp is not and thus narrows it down to what it could be. A First day of Issue cancellation will leave the collector in no doubt assuming it is not a forged cancel!

### Glazed Papers

First used in 1969 this paper type, as the name suggests, has a glossy and thus shiny surface. The Montserrat 1970-74 Bird issues used both glazed and chalky papers. Some were on glazed paper only, others on both. The glossy appearance helps to identify the 2 x types of paper very easily. For this set where there is both glazed paper and chalky paper used for the same denomination i.e. the 2c, then the catalogue value of the glazed paper is just over 8 times more than the chalky paper. However, the chalky paper 5c has a higher catalogue value than the glazed paper. When buying a complete set the chances are that you will have the cheapest paper types and thus a combination of both papers. With this set the glazed paper issues were a year later than the chalky. Some of the values from this set were re-issued using both paper types in 1973-74 although not for every value.

The watermark is the main determinant of this stamp but although the watermark is the same it is upright on vertical designs and sideways on horizontal designs. It is the exact opposite for the earlier issue. There are some other bird sets that used both paper types.

### Coloured Papers

Coloured papers were used during WWI to early 20's. These were green and yellow papers which gave way to stamps with coloured paper throughout, coloured on front only or coloured on back only and many coloured backs

exist for KGV stamps. I am not aware of any bird stamps that appear on coloured papers but there are many countries who issued stamps with coloured backs, GB, West Indian countries, Malayan states to name just a few.

### Phosphorised Papers

Some may be familiar with Phosphor issues as some of the 1997-onwards Irish bird definitives came on phosphorised paper. Phosphor can be applied all over or as bands. The bands are easy to detect by tilting the stamp towards the light. All over phosphor may require a phosphor lamp which will produce a glow where phosphor is present. The phosphor tends to remain present when stamps are soaked off paper but care must be taken when doing so.

### Other Papers

There are several other types of paper which I will merely list.

Indian States – Indian States use a variety of different papers; these are some that I am aware of:

1. Horizontal Mesh – stamps will curl top to bottom when placed on the palm of your hand.
2. Vertical Mesh – stamps will curl side to side when placed on the palm of your hand.
3. Laid Paper – stamps with this paper are much thinner and you can see the frontal design from the gum side.
4. Very Thick, Medium Wove, Thin Wove or Pelure paper. What is the difference between 'laid & wove'? Wove paper is a paper with a uniform surface, not ribbed or watermarked. The papermaking mould's wires run parallel to each other to produce laid paper, but they are woven together into a fine wire mesh for wove paper.
5. Printers paper. I am aware of at least one printer who used their printer's name as a watermark but apologies as I cannot remember which printer and which of the Indian States.

### New Zealand

I am way out of my comfort zone with New Zealand papers and have resisted the temptation to obtain a Campbell Paterson specialised catalogue. Hopefully someone out there may be able to explain how to identify the various printers and the papers they used for the bird issues we are all familiar with. That said there are the odd unique stamps that may assist and I have highlighted this in italicised print. I have excluded 'imperf in pairs', 'double printing' copies; anyone who is that specialised will know more about these stamps than I can ever tell them. Remember that Gibbons may well have missed out issues or have shades that results in a variance with Campbell Paterson.

I would suggest that Campbell Paterson is a must for the serious New Zealand collector.

**3d Huia (Design Type 28 as per Gibbons).** These are those stamps listed by Stanley Gibbons:

***1898 - SG251 comes as Yellow-brown, No Wmk, Perf 12-16.***

***1900 – SG261 comes as Yellow-brown on soft Pirie Paper, No Wmk, Perf 11.***

***1900 – As SG261 but in Deep Brown SG261c.***

1902 – SG309 comes as Yellow-brown on thin, hard Cowan paper, W43 (single NZ & Star)  
Sideways, Perf 11

1902 – As SG309 but in Bistre-brown

1902 – As SG309 but in Pale Bistre

***1906 – SG321 – As SG309 but P14 & in Bistre Brown***

1906 – SG321b As SG321 but in Bistre

1906 - SG321c – As SG321 but in Pale Yellow-bistre

1906 – SG332 – As SG321 Bistre-brown but compound Perf 11 & 14 (good luck to anyone who has a copy of this stamp – rare stamp)

1906 – SG341 – As SG332 but mixed perfs (another rare stamp)

1907 – SGO63 – stamps of 1902-06 with OFFICIAL Vertically Upwards, comes as ***Bistre-brown, can only be on thin hard Cowan paper, Wmk 43, P14.*** This stamp also comes with mixed perfs SGO63a but Gibbons only gives a catalogue value for used @ £1600!

### **6d Brown Kiwi (Design Type 31 as per Gibbons).**

1898 – SG254 – comes as Green, No Wmk, Perf 12-16

1898 – SG254a - As SG254 but in Grass-green

1899 – SG264 – comes as Deep green on soft Pirie paper, No Wmk, P11

1899 – SG264a – As SG264 but in Yellow-brown

1900 – SG265 – As SG264 but in Pale Rose

1900 – SG265c – As SG265 but in Red-rose

1900 – SG265d – As SG265 but in Scarlet

1902 – SG312 comes as Rose on thin, hard Cowan paper, W43 (single NZ & Star) Sideways, Perf 11

1902 – SG312a – As SG312 but in Rose-red

1903 – SG312ab – As SG312a but with Wmk Upright (Scarce – Cat £2750 for MM, £2000 for Used)

1903 – SG312b – As SG312 but in Rose-carmine

1903 – SG312c – As SG312 but in Bright carmine-pink

1901 – SG312d – As SG312 but in Scarlet

1906 – SG324 – As SG312c but Perf 14

1906 – SG324b – As SG324 but in Rose-carmine

1907 – SG335 – As SG324b but compound Perf 11 & 14

1907 – SG344 – As SG324b but mixed perfs

1907 – SG344a – As SG344 but in Bright carmine-pink

1907 – SGO64 stamps of 1902-06 with OFFICIAL Vertically Upwards, comes as Bright carmine-pink & with mixed perfs (SGO64b) **can only be on thin hard Cowan paper, Wmk 43, P14**. This stamp also comes with the Opt inverted ie Vertically Downwards SGO64c (Catalogued as £4250 for used).

### **1/- Kaka & Kea (Design Type 34 as per Gibbons).**

1898 - SG257 – comes as Vermilion, No Wmk, Perf 12-16

1898 – SG257a - As SG257 but in Dull red

1900 - SG268 – comes as Red on soft Pirie paper, No Wmk, P11

1900 – SG268a – As SG268 but in Dull orange-red

1900 – SG268b – As SG268 but in Dull brown-red

1900 – SG268ac – As SG268 but in Scarlet

1902 – SG315 comes as Brown-red on thin, hard Cowan paper, W43 (single NZ & Star) Sideways, Perf 11

1902 – SG315a – As SG315 but in Bright red

1902 – SG315b – As SG315 but in Orange-red – if you have this stamp with an Inverted Wmk 12b then hang on to it!!

1902 – SG315c – As SG315 but in Orange-brown

1906 – SG327 – As SG315c but Perf 14

1906 – SG327a – As SG315b but Perf 14

1906 – SG327b – As SG327 but in Pale red

1907 - SGO65 - stamp of 1902-06 with OFFICIAL Vertically Upwards, comes as Orange-red - **can only be on thin hard Cowan paper, Wmk 43, P14**. If you have a copy of this stamp and the same shade without 'Official' then you probably have SG315b.

### **3d Huia (Reduced Size), (Design Type 47 as per Gibbons).**

1907 – SG375 – comes as Brown on thin hard, Cowan paper, Wmk 43, Perf 14 line

1908 – SG378 – As SG375 but Perf 14 x 13 comb & Perf 13½ comb

1908 – SG378a – As SG378 but in Yellow-brown

1908 – SG383 – As SG375 but Perf 14 x 15 comb

1908 – SG383a – As SG383 but in Yellow-brown

**6d Brown Kiwi (Design Type 48 as per Gibbons).** This is the only Reduced size bird issue that was used for 'Official' purposes.

1908 – SG376 – comes as Carmine-pink on thin hard, Cowan paper, Wmk 43, Perf 14 line  
1908 – SG380 – As SG376 in Pink & Perf 14 x 13 comb & Perf 13½ comb  
1908 – SG384 – As SG376 but Perf 14 x 15 comb  
1908 – SGO71 – As SG380 with OFFICIAL Vertically Upwards  
1909 – SGO72 – As SGO71 but Perf 14 x 15 comb

**1/- Kaka & Kea (Design Type 49 as per Gibbons).**

1907 – SG381 – comes as Orange-red on thin hard, Cowan paper, Wmk 43, Perf 14 x 13 & Perf 13½ comb  
1908 – SG385 – As SG381 but Perf 14 x 15 comb  
1908 – SG385a – As SG385 but in Deep orange-brown

**½d Collared Grey Fantail (Design Type 81 as per Gibbons).**

1935-36 – SG556 – comes as Bright green, Wmk 43, Perf 14 x 13½  
1935 – SG556w – As SG556 but with Wmk Inverted  
1936-42 – SG577 – As SG556 – comes as but Wmk 98, (multiple star & NZ)  
1936-42 – SG577w – As SG556 but with Wmk Inverted  
1937 – SGO120 - As SG557 with Official horizontally *this stamp can only be Wmk 43*

**1d Brown Kiwi (Design Type 82 as per Gibbons).**

1935-36 – SG557 – comes as Scarlet, Die I (The clouds to the left for Die I are lighter in colour & do not come as far down as the Die II – with Die II the clouds reach down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> frond of the tree, Die I the clouds reach down to halfway between the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> fronds)  
1936 – SG557aw – As SG557 with Wmk Inverted  
1936 – SG557b – As SG557 but Perf 13½ x 14  
1935 – SG557c – As SG557 but Die II  
1935 – SG557cw – As SG557c but with Wmk Inverted  
1935 – SG557ca – As SG557b but in Booklet Pane of 6. *This is unique to the Die II, Wmk 43 stamp*  
1936-42 – SG578 – As SG557 but Die II & Wmk 98, (multiple star & NZ)  
1936-42 – SG578w – As SG578 but Wmk Inverted  
1936-61 – SGO115 – As SG557 with Official (Type O4) horizontally. The are 2 x types for the Official Opt – the Type O4 is less bold than Type O5; - hard to tell the difference from the examples in Gibbons howere Type O4 was only used for the bird issues  
1936-61 – SGO115a – As SG557b – Perf 13½ x 14  
1936 – SGO121 – As SG578  
1937 – SGO121w – As SG578w

**1/- Parson Bird (Design Type 92 as per Gibbons).**

1935-36 – SG567 – comes as Deep green. Wmk 43, Perf 14 x 13½ (catalogued @ £24 for MM- see notes below).  
1935-36 – SG567w – As SG567 but Wmk Inverted – only listed as used by Gibbons  
1936-42 – SG588 – As SG567 but Wmk 98 (catalogued @ £2.50 for MM – see notes below)  
1936-42 – SG588aw – As SG588 but Wmk Inverted  
1941 – SG588b – As SG588 but Perf 12½  
1936 – SGO118 – As SG567 with Official (Type O4) horizontally  
1936 – SGO118w – As SGO118 but Wmk Inverted  
1937 – SGO131 – AS SG588 but Wmk 98  
1937 – SGO131aw – As SGO131 but Wmk Inverted  
1942 – SGO131b – As SG131 but Perf 12½ (lowest catalogue value for all the 1/- Officials)

Notes – Types 81, 82 and 92 are small stamps and the watermarks are extremely difficult to see even with a decent detector. It is usually the case that only a small portion of the watermark will ever be visible on a single stamp. Both Wmks 43 (single star and NZ) & 98 (multiple star and NZ) both have the star directly below NZ however the horizontal spacing between the NZ and star is much wider on Wmk 43. The chances of getting more than one NZ and star visible on one of the stamps is almost nil. The Mint catalogue values of the ½d & 1d stamps is not that

different, the ½d are both Cat £3.50, the 1d Die II Wmk 43 is £14 whereas the 1d Die II Wmk 98 is only £4.50. The 1/- Wmk 43 is Cat £24 whereas the Wmk 98 is only £2.50. With the Officials the 1/-Perf 12½ is Cat £40, the other 2 x 1/- values with Upright Wmks are both cat £50. I always work on the basis that you are more likely to have the cheapest unless you can prove conclusively that it is not.

**Solutions:** Wmks are not confined to the stamp, so given that the Wmks are so difficult to determine you will stand a far better chance if you can obtain a horizontal marginal pair, block of 4 or a corner marginal. The Die II Booklet pane is Cat £60 but should you be fortunate enough to obtain a pane then you can only have SG557ca. For used copies the Wmk 98 stamps are catalogued at 10p, 10p and £1.25 so finding pairs/blocks may be easier. Gibbons is somewhat vague as to the first issue date of these stamps however any of these 3 x stamps with a pre-1936 date in the cancel will be Wmk 43. Due to the size of the stamps a full circular date stamps (cds) is unlikely. Stamps on cover are more likely to have a visible date.

I welcome comments especially if there are errors and I hope that this may be of some use.