

New Zealand Two pence

By Howard Grenzebach

In 1905 a collector named Hansberg was writing a book about the first stamps of New Zealand. He convinced authorities in the postal administration that sales of his book would popularize their stamps and including reprints in black could help meet that end.

They still had plates (probably from 1871) of the two pence Chalon issue so printing them was no problem. A large number of sheets were printed in black and sent to him. Unfortunately, the book was never published, and the hoard of stamps were sold to the Globe Stamp Company in London. About half of those were purchased by Bela Sekula, a stamp dealer and forger living in Monaco who peddled them extensively.

Globe sold another large portion to Cohn McNeil, a dealer from Wellington, NZ., who paid about a nickel a stamp.

In the early 1950s these proof-like items sold for a dime and were used as giveaways to attract approval customers.

Reference: *Linn's Stamp News* forum response to a question concerning this stamp.



Stamp from the author's collection.

Editor: Information on the New Zealand Two Pence stamp using Microsoft Copilot (AI).

"The postage stamp you've shared is a **New Zealand Two Pence** stamp. Here are the details:

- **Production Date:** 1855 (with more printing in subsequent years).
- **Description:** New Zealand Postage, Queen Victoria, Denomination: 2d (New Zealand penny).
- **Watermark:** Large star
- **Perforation:** Imperf
- **Color:** Blue (subsequent printings in orange and vermillion)

Scott catalogue image New Zealand A1.

This stamp is a historical artifact from New Zealand's postal history and represents the value of two pence during that period. The intricate design and color variations make it a fascinating piece for collectors and enthusiasts."

The subject stamp was probably printed from the 1871 printing plates.



Image from the collection at Canterbury Museum.