

2d blue
Late 1863 - mid 1864

Watermark star
Imperforate

Stamps showing moderate plate wear



bright blue



blue
unused

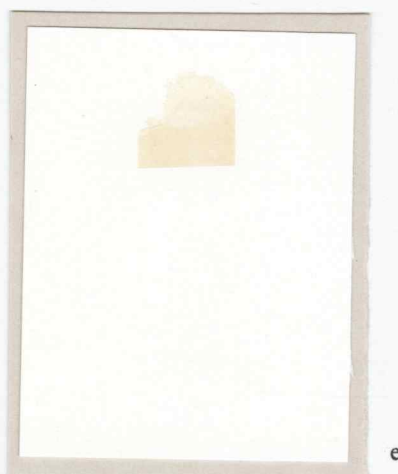


indigo-blue



deep steel-blue

Stamps showing advanced plate wear



e

R. 7-8/4-5

only known unused block of the Davies 2d imperforate on large star paper.



blue
unused



blue



deep blue

Because of the progressive wear over this three year period, a new plate was ordered from Perkins, Bacon & Co. on 20 January 1865.

2d blue
1863

Watermark star
Imperforate

Stamps showing early plate wear - early 1863



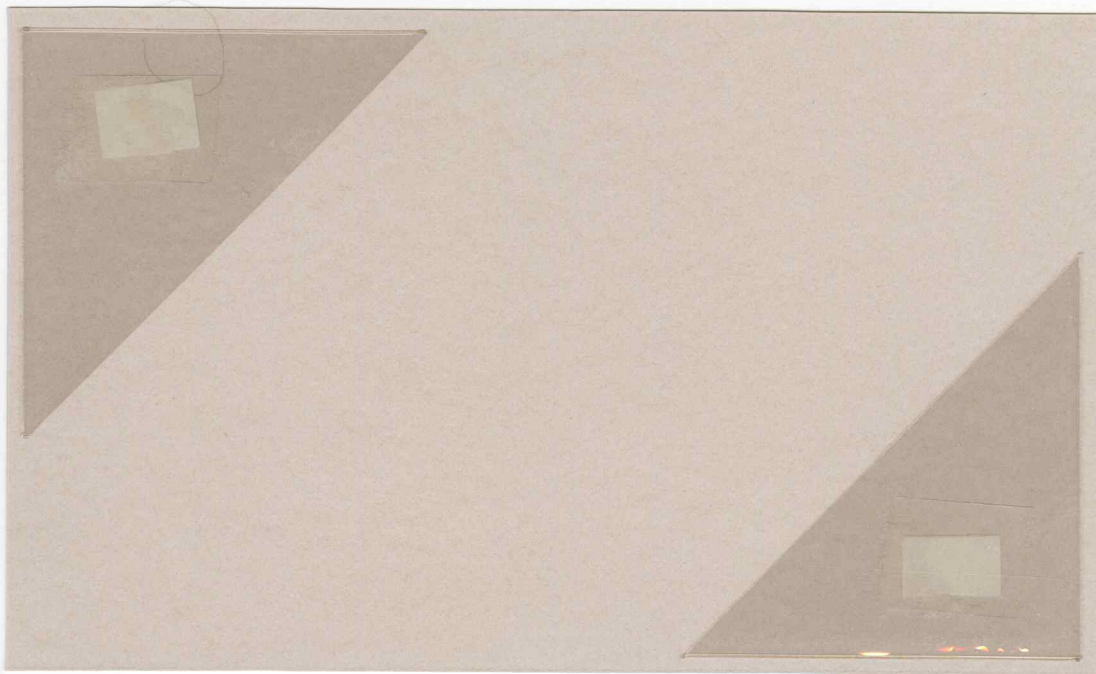
milky blue



pale blue R. 1/3-4



deep steel blue



1864 (April 27):
Waipukurau to Napier
2d milky blue paying the
inland rate for a letter of up
to 1/2 oz.



on reverse

Stamps showing intermediate plate wear - mid 1863



pale blue



greenish blue



blue
unused



dull deep blue

The earliest stages of plate wear are seen as weakness in the design to the right of the Queen's head. Over the next year, the wear extended evenly over the entire design.