

New Zealand Express Delivery

1903 Express Delivery

At the beginning of 1901, delivery service by special messenger was established. Any mail using the service would be delivered by special messenger as soon as the item arrived in the destination office. The 6d fee covered by this stamp was in addition to the regular postage rate. A special stamp based on an American design was issued in 1903 to promote the service which was not compulsory. The design was suitably adapted with the inclusion of Maori carvings and a large black tree fern - *Cyathea medullaris*. Although it was expected the service (and stamp) would prove popular the initial print run of 117,840 stamps was enough to last for the next 23 years. Later reprints occurring during 1927 - 36. [Virtual NZ Stamps Express Delivery](#)



Date of Issue	9 th February 1903
Catalogue No	CPU1a – U1e
Designer:	Government Printer Wellington
Printer:	Government Printing Office Wellington
Stamps size:	40mm x 25mm
Sheet Size:	60 Stamps per sheet
Paper	Cowan & Wiggins Teape
Process:	Surface Printed -Typography
Watermark	NZ and star watermark
Perforation	11, 14 x 14.5 & 14 x 15

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1936 6d Perf 14x15 CP U1c Carmine & Purple



1936 6d Perf 14x15 CP U1c Carmine & Purple



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1939 Express Delivery

By 1938 the original stamp had been in use for 35 years and it was thought that the time had come to introduce a new one. In 1939 a new stamp was designed for express delivery featuring a Chrysler Coupe - which was then in use in the major centres for delivering express mail. The stamp was designed by James Berry and engraved by the Australian Commonwealth Note and Stamp Printer. Of the 240 thousand copies of the stamp printed, over half were printed for collectors after the service was cancelled in December 1941 due to wartime considerations. This explains why the stamp is rarer in used than mint condition.

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Date of Issue	16 th August 1939
Catalogue No:	CP U2A
Designer:	J Berry, Wellington
Printer:	Government Printing Office Wellington
Stamps size:	40mm x 24mm
Sheet Size:	60 Stamps per sheet
Paper	Cowan "Esparto"
Process:	Recess Printed - Intaglio
Watermark	NZ and star watermark
Perforation	14

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1939 Express Delivery

1936 6d Perf 14

CP U2a(2)

Violet



1936 6d Perf 14

CP U2a(3)

Pale Violet

