



Penny Red Stars Used Abroad

A Plating Record

Mike Batty

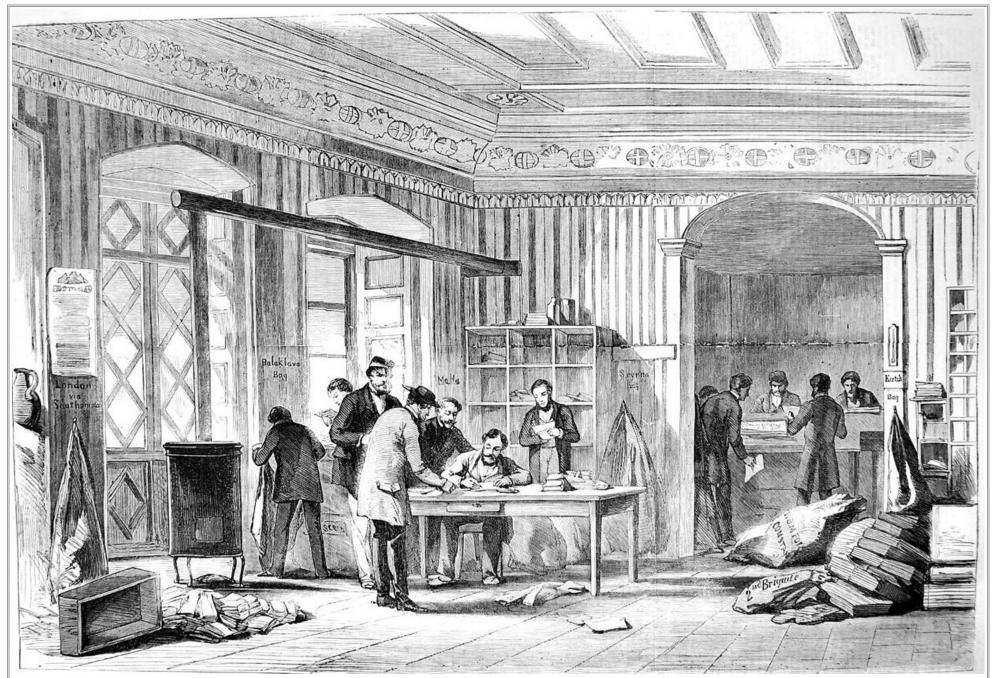




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THE BRITISH ARMY POST-OFFICE, CONSTANTINOPLE (From: *The Illustrated London News*, Jan. 19. 1856, p60)

Introduction

The catalogue listings in *Gibbons* or *Stoneham* of Penny Red Stars used abroad are incomplete, referring to 1d red, 1d red-brown or 1d rose-red by year, with incomplete identification, and with no reference to the printing plates. The *Stoneham* editors are to be commended for the inclusion within their 2006 catalogue of a Used Abroad section, so ably compiled by Paul Dauwalder. Such an addition would also be welcomed within the *Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue*. This illustrated record of the groups and printing plates of Penny Red Stars used abroad attempts to fill some of this information deficit, to which further new information will be continually added, as and when it emerges.

Penny Red Stars were used abroad from 1842 to 1864 and later, after which they were superseded by the 'plate number' series of stamps, with letters in all four corners and plate numbers on the individual stamps. The groups of Penny Red Stars are those listed in Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Volume 1 Queen Victoria Stamp Catalogue (Ref. 1). For assistance, these are described in Appendix 3. The data below, noted up to September 2008, were drawn from many references and sources, including: The Essential Guide to the Line Engraved 1^d and 2^d Stars by Dr Ken Statham (Ref. 2), Stanley Gibbons Catalogue of Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1952, (Ref. 3), GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings by John Parmenter (Ref. 4), auction catalogues, philatelic journals, dealers' pricelists, other collectors and the author's collection. For reasons of security, no reference is made which may identify the individuals who have furnished scans from their collections.

As further material is constantly added, this may never to be a complete and correct record of the information so presented. Research continues into Penny Red Stars on ship letters and overseas mail from soldiers and sailors. Any omissions and errors are entirely the author's, who welcomes corrections, amendments, additions and other information, sent by email to: mikebatty1947@yahoo.co.uk

Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire, UK, October 2008

Mike Batty

The amount of information has greatly increased since commencing this project, which had first appeared as an extended article in the American journal: *The GBCC Chronicle* during

2007–2008, later emerging as a 26 page A5 book. By mid–2009 this necessitated an increase to page size A4, together with modifications to

the size of font and illustrations. Further revisions in 2010 included a separate section for mail from the Crimean War, with a major resetting of text and illustrations during January 2011. In late 2011 an additional section was added, *Concession Mail for British Soldiers and Sailors*, (*Excluding the Crimean War*), to incorporate data emerging from the auction of Gerald Ellott's collection.

Up until February 2012, Penny Red Stars of all the SG Specialised groups, with the exceptions of SG Spec. A2 (imperforates from the 'Penny Black' plates) and SG Spec. CE1 (the Archer roulettes) have been reported from 51 countries, 3 mailboat lines and 4 locations in the Crimean War (Turkey, Bulgaria, Russia and the Baltic Naval Expedition); a total of 59. These areas in turn yielded 209 cancellations and / or back-stamps, which resulted in 315 combinations of cancellations seen with differing SG Specialised groups, giving a current a total of 839 combinations of stamps from each printing plate, from each SG Spec. group, with each obliterator, from all countries, Crimean War areas, shipping lines and moveable boxes. The above totals do not include the fakes and forgeries. Any items recorded under more than one category are only counted once.

February 2012 Mike Batty

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British Post Offices Abroad

Penny Red Stars were officially distributed abroad to various agencies mainly in the Americas, Mediterranean, North Africa and The Ottoman Empire, usually through British Consulate appointments, the Military campaign to Russia, and mail distributed via British Packet Mail-boat lines. On various occasions, soldiers and sailors would have concessionary rates for posting their mail; many would have brought postage stamps with them.

The origins of the network of Post Offices, Postal Agencies and Packet Agents can be recognised from the 18th century, but the system did not become established until the expansion of trade, following the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815. Many offices were provided in newly acquired dependent territories within the Commonwealth and the British Empire and were then, eventually, transferred

Great Britain Postage Stamps Used Abroad

Distribution of British postage stamps for use abroad was accompanied with identifiable obliterators. The design of the first cancellations of these countries was similar to the British numeral cancellations of England and Wales – horizontal lines in an oval shape. Dates quoted for an obliterator are those on which the hand-stamp appears in the GPO Record Books, but it seems to have been normal for the hand-stamps to be sent to the office concerned immediately following this

registration. The large initials 'C', 'G' and 'M' substituted for the numerals in the early cancellations of Constantinople, Gibraltar and Malta. Two distinctive types of cancellations, crown between stars *** **, and star between ciphers O**O, are well-known on mail during the Crimean War; others were also used during this conflict. Soldiers and sailors also used their own supplies of postage stamps when sending mail back home from their overseas barracks, naval bases and ships.

In addition to the postal services, private ships transported mail between England and France: some late mail and mail posted on board in the 'Movable Box' were cancelled on arrival at the destination port, such perforate Penny Red Stars receiving French lozenge cancellations. Perforate Penny Red Stars have also been noted with other French cancellations or with French mail-boat cancellations.

from the control of the British Post Office to the evolving local administrations. Those in foreign countries, nearly always based on existing British Consular appointments, were mostly connected to the network of British Packet lines which had been re-established in 1814. They tended to survive until the country in which they were situated established its own efficient postal service or joined the UPU. The term 'Post Office Agent' was employed by the British GPO and 'Packet Agent' by the shipping lines to describe similar functions.

During the pre-adhesive period and from 1842, letters and packets forwarded through these offices to the United Kingdom, to any of its territories, to a foreign country, or between two foreign ports, had a crowned-circle handstamp applied, with the postage, paid in advance, noted alongside in manuscript.

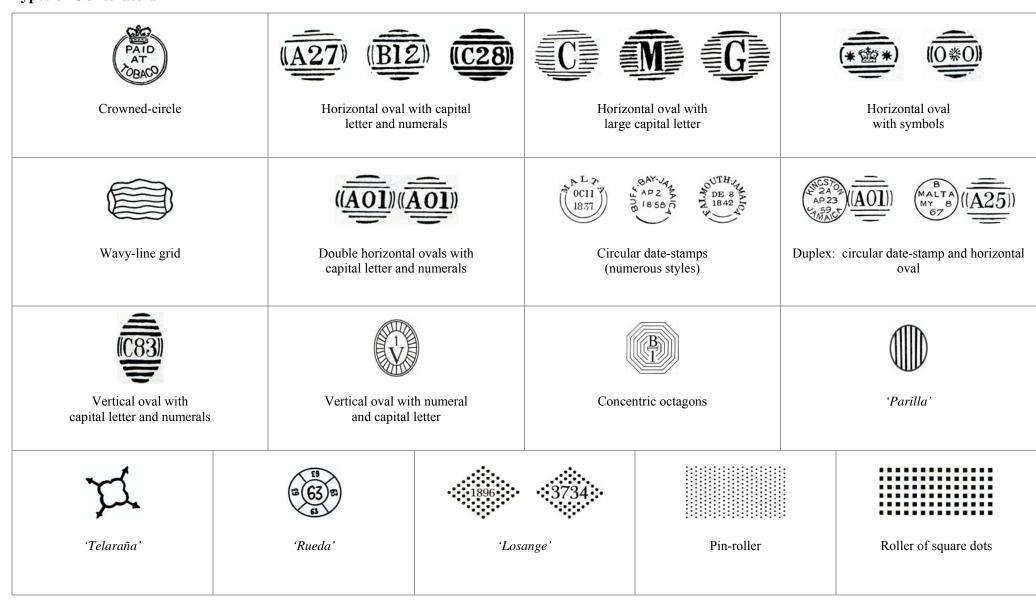
During 1857, Penny Red Stars and obliterators were distributed to British Post Offices in Constantinople, Gibraltar, Malta, the Caribbean and Central America, and in 1858-1859 to Egypt. From July 1860 to June 1862, British stamps could be used at Fernando-Po and Lagos on the West African coast, but examples have not been displayed since the 1980's. The early colonial horizontal oval numeral cancellers were followed by duplex versions linked to a circular date-stamp.

Sadly, forgeries of obliterators are known, including Antigua A02, Constantinople C, Gibraltar A26 (vertical oval), Kingston, Jamaica A01, Malta M, Malta cds-A25 duplex, St Lucia A11, St. Vincent A10, Crimean War *** and O**O, and Cunard Mailboats A91 and B62. Fakes are also known, where alterations have been made to existing cancellations on stamps, eg 806 altered to fake the B01 obliterator of Alexandria, Egypt, 803 altered to fake the P & O Mailboat B03, and 159 altered to fake the A59 obliterator of Morant Bay, Jamaica. Others examples almost certainly exist.

Between 1st March and 2nd April 1864 in Great Britain, the last of the Penny Red Star printing plates were withdrawn and replaced by the 'plate number' series, with checkletters in all four corners of the design. Consequently, Penny Red Stars disappeared from the system of distribution by the Post Office, as the supplies of them were exhausted during and after 1864.

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Types of Obliterators



ote: Relevant British obliterators and other cancellers are shown in Appendix 1, with foreign obliterators in Appendix 2. The above illustrations, together with those throughout the text and in the two appendices, are purely representative.

Cancellations and Stamps Recorded

Tote: In the right-hand column, 'SG Spec.' is the abbreviation for 'Stanley Gibbons Specialised', referring to recognised stamp groups in Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue, (Ref. 1) which are tabulated, together with some additional sub-groups, in Appendix 2.

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Antigua	English Harbour	(<u>A18</u>)	14 June 1858	1858 – 1860	1858 – 1860	Not recorded on	C10	56
		TATO!				cover		
Antigua	St John's	(<u>A02</u>))	14 April 1858	1858 - 1860	1858 – 1860		C10	34, 44, 47, 48, 52, 56, 59
		(IAOZII					C10	FORGED obliterator on Plate 59
		$(\underline{\overline{A02}})$	28 April 1858					



Antigua
A02 of St John's
SG Spec. C10, plate 47
[ex – Author's collection]



Antigua FORGED A02 of St John's SG Spec. C10, plate 59

Argentina	Buenos Ayres		7 May 1860	1860 – end–June 1873	1860 – end–June 1873	1860	C10	41, 42, 48, 60
		$(\overline{\overline{\mathbf{B32}}})$	7 May 1860					
		WMR 17# (B32)	8 October 1863					
Ascension	Post Office established on the island in 1860. Circular date-stamp applied to envelope and stamp(s) cancelled after UK arrival.	CENSO CO A O Z CO E 4 Z	Supplied 1858 for use at the Royal Navy Establishment	1858 – 1930	1867		C6	Unplated "1855 red-brown" listed in SG Part 1

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Australia	Melbourne						B1	125
	Victoria State						B2	143



Australia

 $\frac{1}{V}$ of Melbourne, Victoria State, applied on arrival

SG Spec. B1, plate 125 (HG)



Australia

 $\stackrel{1}{\mathrm{V}}$ of Melbourne, Victoria State, applied on arrival

SG Spec. B2, plate 143 (LL)

Australia	Victoria State			B1	39
		V			



Australia

 $\frac{2}{V}$ of Victoria State, applied on arrival

SG Spec. B1, plate 39 (QJ)

Bahamas	Nassau	((A05))	14 April 1858	1858 – 1860	1858 – 1860	14 Dec 1858 17 Mar 1860	C10	52, 56



Bahamas

A05 of Nassau

SG Spec. C10, plate 52 [ex – Author's collection]

Belgium	_	_		1852 – 1854?	B2	Exists but plate not recorded.

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Brazil	Rio de Janeiro	(83)	sent June – October 1866	1866 – 1874	1866 – 1875	1870	C10	27
		((83)	sent June – October 1866					
		<u>C83</u> 1	8 January 1868					
		((C83))	8 January 1868					
		(C83) (C83)	8 January 1868					
		(C83)						



Brazil
C83 of Rio de Janeiro (c 1870)
SG Spec. C10, plate 27
Hand-stamp
RDE J INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID
with manuscript 11d postage due

British	Demerara	$(\overline{\overline{A03}})$	14 Apr 1858	1858 – 1860	1858 – 1860	7 Feb 1860	C1	Unplated
Guiana	(Georgetown)	AUSU					C10	34, 42, 43, 55, 56, 57, 59
		$(\overline{(A03)})$						
		<u>===</u>						

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



British Guiana A03 of Demerara (Georgetown) SG Spec. C10, plate 43 Circular dated back-stamp DEMERARA FE 7 60



British Guiana A03 of Demerara (Georgetown) SG Spec. C1, unplated Black and white scan (Ref. 5)

British Guiana	Berbice (New Amsterdam)	(<u>A04</u>))	14 Apr 1858	1858 – 1860	1858 – 1860	25 Jul 1858	C10	56; other plates not yet recorded
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Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



British Guiana
A04 of Berbice (New Amsterdam)
SG Spec. C10, plate 56
Circular dated back-stamp
BERBICE JY 25 58

British Honduras	Belize	$(\overline{\underline{A06!}})$	14 Apr 1858	1858 – 1860	May 1858 – end–Apr 1860	17 Mar 1860	C10	56; others exist but unplated.
		$(\underline{\widehat{(A06)}})$	28 Apr 1858					



British Honduras
A06 of Belize
SG Spec. C10, plate 56

British	Constantinople	=	2 May 1857	Jul 1857 or	22 Sep 1857 –	7 Dec 1859	C1	R5
Levant	Civilian Post Office	C	(Ref. 6) and not	earlier - 1891	1900		C3	4
	opened 1 or 2 July	FORGERIES	15 Oct 1857 as in Parmenter				C4	Exist but unplated.
	1857 (Ref. 6) and not September 1857, as in	are known.	(Ref. 7)				C6	Exist but unplated.
	Parmenter (Ref. 7)	Back-stamps	2 May 1857	1 Jul 1857 –	(unstamped mail before this date		C10	27, 34, 36, 39, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 62, 63, 66, 68
		EN POST OF SEE PAID OF SEE PAI	2 Way 1037	1866	received the PAID back-		C12	Exist but unplated.
		SHPOST OF THE PROPERTY OF THE	2 May 1857	5 Sep 1857 – 13 Aug 1875	stamp)			

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



British Levant C of Constantinople Spec. C1, plate R5



British Levant C of Constantinople Spec. C3, plate 4 [ex – Author's collection]





British Levant
C of Constantinople
SG Spec. C10, plate 58
Circular dated back-stamp
BRITISH POST OFFICE
CONSTANTINOPLE DE 7 1859

[ex – Author's collection]

British Levant	Smyrna	S™S		9 Feb 1943	B1	30
Levant	(cancelled after UK arrival)					

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



British Levant

Smyrna

SG Spec. B1, plate 30 (DF)

Folded letter dated 9 February 1843 from Smyrna to London, stamp tied on arrival by a black Maltese Cross cancellation repeated below, with a handstruck T.P/G^t Russell S^t B^o alongside in black; London arrival date-stamp MR 2 1843 on the reverse.

British Virgin	Road Town, Tortola	$(\overline{\overline{(A13)}})$	14 Apr 1858	1858 – 1860	1858 – 1860	Not recorded on cover	C10	46, 52
Islands		$(\underbrace{\overline{(A13)}}_{})$	28 Apr 1858					



British Virgin Islands A13 of Tortola SG Spec. C10, plate 52

Canada	Montreal			3 Apr 1856	C4 or C5	12; watermark unchecked.

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Canada

Concentric circle obliterator

SG Spec. C4 or C5, plate 12 (watermark unchecked)

Folded letter with double-arc circular date-stamp MONTREAL AP 4 1856

Chile	Coquimbo	(C40)	26 Jan 1865	1865 – 1874	1865 – 1881		C10	Exist but unplated.
Colombia	Carthagena	(C56)	1865	1865 – 1872	Aug 1865 – 1881	31 Jan 1869	C10	Unplated cover to Le Havre seen.
Danish West Indies	St Thomas	(C51)	16 Jun 1865	Aug 1865 – 6 Dec 1872	1865 – 1877		C10	Exist but unplated.
Dominica	Roseau	$(\overline{(A07)})$ $(\overline{(A07)})$	14 Apr 1858	May 1858 – May 1860	1858 – 1860		C10	36, 44, 47, 48, 56

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Dominica A07 of Roseau SG Spec. C10, plate 47

Ecuador	Guayadil	(C41)	26 Jan 1865	1865 – 1880	1865 – 1880	C10	Exist but unplated.



Ecuador C41 of Guayadil SG Spec. C10, unplated

Egypt (Ottoman Empire)	Alexandria The British Packet Agency in Alexandria was converted to a Post Office in March 1858. Mail from Cairo was, at first, forwarded	8 Aug 1859	1859 – 1878	Mar 1858 – 1879	5 Nov 1861 11 Nov 1860	C10	44, 60; others exist but unplated.
	to and cancelled at Alexandria.						

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Egypt
B01 of Alexandria
Circular dated back-stamp:
ALEXANDRIA 5 NO 61
SG Spec. C10, plate 44

Egypt (Ottoman	Cairo - use of a similar B01 obliterator	26 Sep 1859	1859 – 1873	1859 – 30 Jun 1873	26 Mar 1861	C10	60; others exist but unplated.
Empire)	at Cairo						



Egypt
B01 of Cairo
Circular date-stamp:
CAIRO 26 MR 61
SG Spec. C10, plate 60

Egypt	Alexandria or Cairo		1859 – 1878	Mar 1858 –	B1	FAKED obliterator on Plate 109.
(Ottoman	[1]	(DOI)		1879	C8	45
Empire)	[loose stamps, off-cover]	FAKED			C10	44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 55, 56, 60, 62, R17
	off covery	obliterators			C12	50, 51
		known.				

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Egypt B01 of Alexandria or Cairo SG Spec. C8, plate 45



Egypt FAKED B01 of Alexandria or Cairo, (altered from 806 or 808)



Egypt B01 of Alexandria or Cairo SG Spec. C12, plate 51 [ex – Author's collection]

Egypt	Suez	(<u>B02</u>)	8 Aug 1859 10 Aug 1859	1859 – 1878	1859 – 30 Mar 1878	19 May 1860 11 Sep 1863 10 Apr 1864	C10	27, 44, 46, 47, 48, 52, 55, 59, 60
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Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Egypt

B02 of Suez

Circular date-stamp: SUEZ AP 10 64

SG Spec. C10, plate 60



Egypt
B02 of Suez ?

SG Spec. C10, plate 68 (KE) sold as B02, but the obliterator is 802.

Fernando-Po	_	APADO PATO PATO PATO PATO PATO PATO PATO PAT	19 Feb 1859 19 Feb 1859	1859 – 1874	Jul 1860 – Jun 1862, and again in 1875			Exist but unplated. Some covers were last displayed in the 1980's and their current whereabouts are unknown.
France	Calais	manuscript				7 Mar 1842	B1	19
Trance	Catais	5				/ Wiai 1642	DI	

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



France

Calais

SG Spec. B1, plate 19

Entire from Calais to London, the stamp tied by manuscript '5' applied in France, with a CALAIS 6 MARS 1842 circular date-stamp. Not accepted for postage upon arrival in England and charged 1/3.

France	_	1849 – 1852	16 Oct 1851	B1	114, 121



France (black and white scan)

Diamond grill

SG Spec. B1, plate 114 (SC, SD)

Circular date-stamp

STRASBOURG 16 OCT 1851

France	_	1852 – 1863	В	1 //3

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



France

Continuous dots in red, over a faint circular date-stamp

SG Spec. B1, plate 75 [ex – Author's collection]

France	Paris –	QARIS	_	4 Nov 1856	C1	Exist but unplated.
	Central Bureau	(NOV)W)			C3	4
		(60)			C10	42, 55



France

20mm circular date-stamp of the Paris Central Bureau PARIS 4 NOV 56

SG Spec. C3, plate 4 [ex – Author's collection]



France

 $20mm\;cds$

SG Spec. C10, plate 55

France	Marseille	1806	1852 – 1862	C8	
		1090			

SG Spec. C8 Plate 35 stamps are known used from the Crimean War, as is mail carried from there by French boat and cancelled at Marseille; off-cover, such use or the route of this stamp cannot be confirmed.



France

'Petit chiffre losange' 1896 of Marseille

SG Spec. C8, plate 35 (KC)

[ex – Author's collection]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
France	Paris – Central Bureau			1852 – 1863		24 Oct 1857	C10	37



France

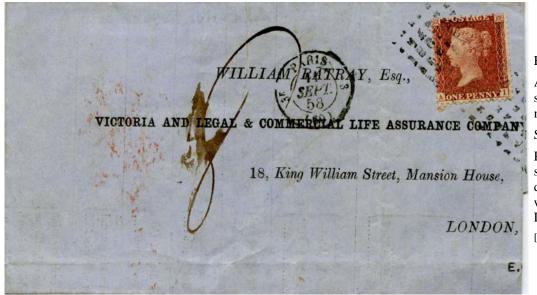
A pin (roller?) obliterator was used on registered mail and on mail to foreign destinations.

SG Spec. C10, plate 37

Paris Central Bureau circular date-stamp PARIS 24 OCT 57, with 8d postage due in manuscript and London barred oval, 11 in diamond, en-route to Ireland. Back-stamped with Calais dated transit mark, PARIS – CALAIS 24 OCT 57, London dated transit mark LONDON OC25 57, and Dublin dated arrival mark OC 26 1857.

[ex – Author's collection]

France	Paris – Central Bureau	1849 – 1875 (and later?)	11 Sep 1858	C10 55	



France

A roller-obliterator of large continuous squares, which was used on registered mail and mail to foreign destinations.

SG Spec. C10, plate 55

Paris Central Bureau circular datestamp PARIS 11 SEPT. 58, 8d postage due in manuscript, and back-stamped with dated arrival mark LONDON SP13 58

[ex - Author's collection]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Germany	Baden	(BADEN 1 Sep 46		1846		1 Sep 1846	B1	65



Germany

Date-stamp BADEN 1 Sep 46

SG Spec. B1, plate 65

R.F.B. handstamp in black (Rayon Frontalier Badois) is the border crossing mark, into France; back-stamped with UK arrival mark NT 6 SP 1846 in red and receiving office mark REIGATE SE 7 1846 in black.

[From the Pearson correspondence]

Germa	ny Bavaria – Railway Post	8 8 A H W P D C 12 A U G 1847		12 Aug	B1	32
		WANB-WRIS				



Germany

Royal Bavarian State Railways, (Königliche Bayerische Staats-Eisenbahnen)

Circular date-stamp: K.B. BAHNPOST 12 AUG - -

SG Spec. B1, plate 32

Germany	Frankfurt	NKFC 24.		24 Aug 1846	B1	65
		AUG. H 1846 D 5-6				

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Germany

Circular date-stamp: FRANKFURT 24 AUG 1846

SG Spec. B1, plate 65(LH, LI)

German rate mark, despatch date-stamp 25 8, framed 'P.D.' in red, and French transit mark 27 August. London Paid date-stamp of AU29 1846 and Reigate arrival date-stamp AU29 1846 on the reverse.

[From the Pearson correspondence]

Gibraltar	The Packet Agency had	SHIP LETTER		21 Dec 1848	B1	76
	premises at Turnbull's	(upon arrival in				
	Lane and the Overland	UK)				
	Post Office operated from	,				
	the office of the Colonial					
	Secretary in Secretary's					
	Lane. (Ref. 8)					



Gibraltar

London SHIP LETTER hand-stamp struck on arrival

SG Spec. B1, plate 76

Sender departed for India, overland from Gibraltar. The cover carried a GIBRALTAR SHIP LETTER mark and circular date-stamp GIBRALTAR DE21 1848 on the front, but the stamp was cancelled at the port of arrival by the SHIP LETTER (London) handstamp. On reverse are the London arrival mark for 7th December 1848, and a green Gerrards Cross circular date-stamp for 8th December 1848

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Gibraltar	The Gibraltar Post Office	=n=	25 Aug 1857	1857 –	3 Sep 1857 –	10SP 1857	B2	Exist but unplated.
	was created on 1 st January	G		19 Feb 1859	end-1885	1 Oct 1857	C1	Exist but unplated.
	1857, when the Packet Agency and the Overland					14 Oct 1857 22 Oct 1857	C2	Exist but unplated.
	Post Office were					24 Mar 1858	C3	Exist but unplated.
	amalgamated under the					25 Feb 1863	C4	Exist but unplated.
	control of the Postmaster General of Great Britain						C5	Exist but unplated.
	and Ireland. The						C6	Exist but unplated.
	Postmaster Edmund						C8	Exist but unplated.
	Creswell secured funding						C10	27, 34, 42, 44, 47, 55, 56, 57
	from London for building a new post office, work on							
	the building commenced							
	at 104 Main Street and it							
	was inaugurated on 1 st September 1858.							
	(Ref. 8)							



Gibraltar

G

SG Spec. C10, plate 34

Circular date-stamp GIBRALTAR 10SP 1857

Red cachet VIA DE MARE (E) added to mail arriving by sea at Genoa.

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Gibraltar	104 Main Street	$(\underline{\overline{\mathbf{A26}}})$	2 Feb 1859	end-Feb 1859 – Dec 1885	3 Sep 1857 – end-1885	11 Jul 1859 JU20 59		Note: combined record for A26 and cds – A26 duplex:
			2 E-1 1950				B2	Exist but unplated.
		(A26)	2 Feb 1859				C1	169
		59					C6	Exist but unplated.
							C8	Exist but unplated.
							C10	27, 44, 46, 47, 49, 52, 55, 56, 66, 68, R17
							C12	50, 51
							C13	R15



Gibraltar

A26

SG Spec. C10, plate 47

Circular date-stamp, applied separately: GIBRALTAR JY20 59



Gibraltar,

A26

SG Spec. C13d, plate R15

[ex – Author's collection]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Greece	_	_		1852 – 1854?			B2	Exist but unplated.
Grenada	St George's	$(\underbrace{\overline{(A15)}}_{(\underbrace{(A15)})}$	14 Apr 1858	1858 – 1860	1858 – 1860	8 Feb 1858 9 Dec 1858 20 Dec 1858	C8 C10	38 44, 56, 58, 60





Grenada

A15 of St George's

SG Spec. C10, plate 56

Circular dated back-stamp GRENADA 8 FE 1859

Italy	Genoa	VIA	1851 – 1863		57
		DI MARE			
		(E)			

The mark was probably applied as the stamp was uncancelled upon arrival. The mail could have originated from Gibraltar, Malta or elsewhere, either carried by a British packet boat or carried by the French Malta to Marseille paquebot, which sailed via Messina, Naples, Civita Vecchia, Livorno and Genoa.



Italy

 $Genoa-red\ VIA\ DI\ MARE\ (E)\ mark.$

SG Spec. C10, plate 57

The mark was applied to mail arriving by ship at Genoa.

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Jamaica	Kingston	(AOI)	14 Apr 1858	8 May 1858 –	8 May 1858	MR 31 59	C10	42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 49, 52, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60
	Head Post Office	$(\underline{\widehat{\overline{A01}}})$		1864		SP 10 59	C11	Exist but plates not yet recorded.
		$(\underbrace{\overline{(AO1)}})$	28 Apr 1859			MR 13 60 AP 24 60 MY 7 60 JY 11 60	C12	51; see Footnote 2.
		$(\underbrace{\overline{(A01)}})$	28 Apr 1859			31 11 00		
		$(\underbrace{\overline{(A01)}})$	28 Apr 1859					



A01 of Kingston

SG Spec. C10, plate 59

Circular date-stamp KINGSTON JAMAICA JY 11 60

Jamaica	Kingston Head Post Office	(A01)	30 Apr 1858	May 1859 – 1870	May 1858 – 1860	C10	Exist but unplated.
		(AOI)	30 Apr 1858				
		FORGERIES are known.					

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Jamaica	Kingston Head Post Office		30 Apr 1859	30 May 1858 – 19 Jul 1859	May 1858 – 1860		C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Alexandria District Post Office	(<u>A27</u>)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	55
Jamaica	Annotto Bay District Post Office	(<u>A28</u>)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	37, 41



Jamaica A28 of Annotto Bay SG Spec. C10, plate 41

Jamaica	Bath District Post Office	((MR29)) (1839) MAIG		1858 – 1859	May 1858 – 1860			Exist but unplated. Before delivery of A29 obliterator, circular date-stamp on front and stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston.
Jamaica	Bath District Post Office	(<u>A29</u>)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Black River District Post Office		delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	12 Dec 1859	C10	57; others exist but unplated.





A30 of Black River

SG Spec. C10, plate 57

Circular back-stamp

BLACK RIVER JAMAICA DE 12 59

[ex – Author's collection]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Jamaica	Brown's Town District Post Office	$(\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A31}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Buff Bay District Post Office	8050 8 45 50 C		1858 – 1859	May 1858 – 1860		C10	Exist but unplated. Before delivery of A32 obliterator, circular date-stamp on front and stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head PO
Jamaica	Buff Bay District Post Office	$(\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A32}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	JU 12 60	C10	43, 49



Jamaica	Chapelton District Post Office	$(\underline{\overline{\mathbf{A33}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	Exist but unplated including the example in the Joseph Mahfood collection.
Jamaica	Claremont District Post Office	(<u>A34</u>))	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	(C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Clarendon District Post Office	$(\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A35}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	(C10	48
Jamaica	Dry Harbour District Post Office	$(\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A36}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	(C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Duncans District Post Office	$(\overline{\mathbf{A37}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1858 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	(C10	58

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Jamaica	Ewarton District Post Office	$(\overline{\mathbf{A38}})$						Post Office closed before A38 obliterator delivered.
Jamaica	Falmouth District Post Office	OUTH: 1. A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A		1858 – 1859	May 1858 – 1860	20 Oct 1858 25 Jan 1859	C10	59 Before delivery of A39 obliterator, circular date-stamp on front and stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head Office.



Falmouth (before delivery of A39 obliterator)

SG Spec. C10, plate 59

Stamps affixed to cover at Falmouth and circular date-stamp FALMOUTH JAMAICA OC 20 58 on front. Stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head Office, with manuscript date **22**nd **Oct'r 1858** added by Postmaster.

Jamaica Falmouth District Post Office delivered Mar 1859 1859 – 1861 May 1858 – 1860 20 Dec 1859 C10 55, 57, 59, 60 Unplated pair on partia Mahfood collection.	tial cover in the Joseph
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Jamaica
A39 of Falmouth

SG Spec. C10, plate 57 [ex – Author's collection]

Jamaica	Flint River District Post Office	$(\underline{\widehat{A40}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1858	May 1858 – 1860	C10	56
Jamaica	Gayle District Post Office	$(\underbrace{\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A41}}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	C10	36

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Jamaica	Golden Spring District Post Office	$(\underline{\overline{A42}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Gordon Town District Post Office	$(\underline{\overline{\mathbf{A43}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Goshen (Santa Cruz) District Post Office	0 S H F Z ((1839)) MAICT		1858	May 1858 – 1860	FE – – 1859	C10	Unplateable cover; others seen remain unplated. Before delivery of A44 obliterator, circular datestamp on front and stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head Office.



Goshen circular date-stamp FE - - 1859, (before delivery of A44), with Kingston Head Post Office A01

SG Spec. C10, unplateable

Jamaica	Goshen (Santa Cruz) District Post Office	(<u>A44</u>)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	JY 5 1859 2 Sep 1859 19 Dec 1859	C10	34, 48, 57, 59
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Jamaica

A44 of Goshen

SG Spec. C10, plate 59

Circular date-stamp GOSHEN JY 5 1859

[ex – Joseph Mahfood collection]

Jamaica	Grange Hill District Post Office	5 MR29 7 MAYO		1858	May 1858 – 1860		Exist but unplated. Before delivery of A45 obliterator, circular date-stamp on front and stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head Office.
Jamaica	Grange Hill District Post Office	$(\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A45}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1858	May 1858 – 1860	C10	49

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Jamaica	Green Island District Post Office	$(\underline{\overline{A46}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Highgate District Post Office	(<u>A47</u>)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	27 Dec 1859	C10	57, 58
Jamaica	Hope Bay District Post Office	$(\underline{\widehat{\overline{A48}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	AP15 1859	C10	48; others seen but unplated.



A48 of Hope Bay

SG Spec. C10, plate 48 (TG-TH-TI-TJ)

Circular dated back-stamp HOPE - BAY AP15 1859

[ex – Joseph Mahfood collection]

Jamaica	Lilliput	cds		JA25 58	C10	42
	District Post Office					

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Circular date-stamp LILLIPUT JA25 58 and stamps cancelled by A01 obliterator of Kingston, date-stamp showing inverted month slug. Usage before the arrival of the A49 obliterator for Lilliput.

SG Spec. C10, plate 42 (II-IJ,HI-HJ-HK-IK)

Circular dated back-stamp HOPE - BAY AP15 1859

[ex – Joseph Mahfood collection]

Jamaica	Lilliput District Post Office	$(\overline{\overline{A49}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	JY 10 59 SP 27 59	C10	34, 47, 59, 61 and an unplated pair on partial cover in the Joseph Mahfood collection.
						OC 11 59		



Jamaica

A49 of Lilliput

SG Spec. C10, plate 61

Circular date-stamp

LILLIPUT JAMAICA SP27 59

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



		A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	AND AND PARTY OF				
Jamaica	Little River District Post Office	(<u>A50</u>)					Post Office closed before A50 obliterator delivered.
Jamaica	Lucea District Post Office	manuscript PO Lucea		1858	May 1858 – 1860	C10	Exist but unplated. Before delivery of A51 obliterator, District Office in manuscript on front, and stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head Office.
Jamaica	Lucea District Post Office	$(\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A51}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	C10	59



Jamaica
A51 of Lucea
SG Spec. C10, plate 59(RF)

Jamaica	Manchioneal District Post Office	$(\underline{\underline{\widehat{\mathbf{A52}}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Mandeville District Post Office	$(\overline{A53})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	AU23 1859 JU17 1859	C10	59; others seen but unplated.

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



A53 of Mandeville

SG Spec. C10, plate 59

Circular back-stamp
MANDEVILLE JAMAICA JU17 59

Jamaica	May Hill (Spur Tree) District Post Office	ESH 11/ (1 (1839 1) 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		1858 – 1859	May 1858 – 1860	JA25 1859		Covers seen but unplated. Before A54 delivered, circular date-stamp on front of cover and stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head Office.
Jamaica	May Hill (Spur Tree) District Post Office	$(\underline{\widehat{A54}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	SP 20 59 OC 7 1959 OC 15 59	C10	36, 59



Jamaica

A54 of May Hill (Spur Tree)

SG Spec. C10, plate 59

Stamps cancelled A54 at May Hill, with circular dated back-stamp MAY HILL SP27 1859.

Circular date-stamp SP28 59 applied to front at Kingston.

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Jamaica	Mile Gulley District Post Office	$(\underline{\overline{\mathbf{A55}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	42, 59; others seen but unplated.



A55 of Mile Gulley

SG Spec. C10, plate 59 (QF)

[ex – Author's collection]

Jamaica	Moneague District Post Office	$(\underline{\overline{\mathbf{A56}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Montego Bay District Post Office	$(\underline{\widehat{\mathbf{A57}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	MR 3 1859 AP18 1859		37, 48, 49, 57, 60; others seen but unplated. MR 3 1859 cover has A57, sending office, and A76, receiving office, obliterators on an unplated pair.



Jamaica

A57 of Montego Bay

SG Spec. C10, plate 49 (JC-KC)

Circular date-stamp MONTEGO BAY AP18 1859

[ex – Joseph Mahfood collection]

Jamaica	Montpelier District Post Office	$(\overline{\mathbf{A58}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Morant Bay District Post Office	$(\overline{\overline{A59}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	C10	Exist but unplated.
		FAKED obliterator known.					

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Jamaica	Ocho Rios District Post Office	$(\underline{\widehat{A60}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	57; others unplated.



A60 of Ocho Rios

SG Spec. C10, plate 57 (OE-OF)

[ex – Joseph Mahfood collection]

Jamaica	Old Harbour District Post Office	(<u>A61</u>)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	C10	36, 58
Jamaica	Plantain Garden River District Post Office	$(\widehat{\underline{\mathbf{A62}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	C10	56, 59 Unplated single on partial cover in the Joseph Mahfood collection.
Jamaica	Pear Tree Grove District Post Office	(<u>A63</u>)		1858		_	No genuine examples known.
Jamaica	Port Antonio District Post Office	$(\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A64}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	C10	34, 47, 48, 58



Jamaica

A64 of Port Antonio

SG Spec. C10, plate 47 (RE)

[ex – Joseph Mahfood collection]

Jamaica	Port Morant District Post Office	manuscript Port Morant		1858	May 1858 – 1860	C10	Exist but unplated. Before A65 delivered, District Office written on front of cover and stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head Office.
Jamaica	Port Morant District Post Office	$(\underline{\overline{\mathbf{A65}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	C10	49, 56



Jamaica

A65 of Port Morant SG Spec. C10, plate 56

[ex – Author's collection]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Jamaica	Port Maria District Post Office	$(\widehat{\underline{\mathbf{A66}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	52, 56; others seen but unplated.



A66 of Port Maria

SG Spec. C10, plate 52 (KI, KJ, KK, KL)

Circular date-stamp PORT MARIA DE27 1859

[ex – Joseph Mahfood collection]

Jamaica	Port Royal District Post Office	$(\overline{\underline{\mathbf{A67}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	29 Aug 1864	C10	Exist but unplated. 1864 cover marked " no good 2d to Pay"
Jamaica	Porus District Post Office	$(\underline{\widehat{\mathbf{A68}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	JU17 1859	C10	55; and unplated cover.

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



A68 of Porus

SG Spec. C10, plate 55 on unfolded piece showing circular dated back-stamp: PORUS JU17 1859

Jamaica	Ramble District Post Office	(A69)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	47, 57
Jamaica	Rio Bueno District Post Office	OBUE MR29 0 () 1839 //		1858	May 1858 – 1860	25 Feb 1859	C10	Before delivery of A70 obliterator, circular datestamp with day and month in manuscript on front, and stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head Office.

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Rio Bueno (before delivery of A70 obliterator)

SG Spec. C10, plate 60

Stamps placed on cover at Rio Bueno with circular date-stamp on front RIO BUENO JAMAICA *Feb 25* 1859 and stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head Office.

Jamaica	Rio Bueno District Post Office	$(\overline{\overline{A70}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	48, 58, 59
Jamaica	Rodney Hall (Linstead) District Post Office	$(\underline{\overline{A71}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	16 Sep 1859	C10	36, 44, 47, 48
Jamaica	Saint David (Yallaha) District Post Office	(<u>A72</u>)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	59
Jamaica	St Ann's Bay District Post Office		delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	25 Mar 1859	C10	36, 49, 55, 59



Jamaica

A73 of St Anne's Bay

SG Spec. C10, plate 55 (SH-SI)

Circular dated back-stamp: ST ANN'S BAY 25 MR 59

[ex-Joseph Mahfood collection]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Jamaica	Salt Gut District Post Office	FE27		1859	May 1858 – 1860	FE18 1859	C10	Cover seen but unplated. Before delivery of A74 obliterator, circular date-stamp with day and month in manuscript on front and stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head Office.
Jamaica	Salt Gut District Post Office	$(\underline{\overline{\overline{A74}}})$	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Savanna-La-Mar District Post Office	EMAHUN MR 25 MR 25 MA ACC		1858	May 1858 – 1860	AU 5 1858	C10	Cover seen but unplated. Before delivery of A75 obliterator, circular date-stamp on cover with stamps cancelled A01 at Kingston Head Office.
Jamaica	Savanna-La-Mar District Post Office	(<u>A75</u>)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	MR 59 JU 2 59 MR 10 60	C10	34, 56, 57 Unplated strip of 4 on partial cover front in the Joseph Mahfood collection.



A75 of Savanna-La-Mar

SG Spec. C10, plate 34 [ex – Author's collection]

Jamaica	Spanish Town District Post Office	1/2		1858 – 1859	May 1858 – 1860			Exist but unplated. Before delivery of A76 obliterator, ½ handstamp used as a canceller.
Jamaica	Spanish Town District Post Office	(<u>A76</u>)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	8 Sep 1859	C10	34, 42, 59, 61



Jamaica

A76 of Spanish Town

SG Spec. C10, pPlate 59 [ex – Author's collection]

Jamaica	Stewart Town District Post Office	(<u>A77</u>)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860	24 June 1859	C10	Exist but unplated.
Jamaica	Vere (Alley) District Post Office	(A78)	delivered Mar 1859	1859 – 1861	May 1858 – 1860		C10	59

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Malta	Valetta	MALTA SHIP LETTER	1841	1841 – 1 Feb 1880		19 Aug 1863 28 Aug 1863		Two unplated covers to Corfu are recorded by the Malta Study Circle. (Ref. 9)

Letters which were to be carried by non-packet ships, (vessels not under contract to the Post Office), were struck with the 'MALTA SHIP LETTER' hand-stamp at the Malta Packet Office or, later, at the Malta Post Office. (Ref. 10)

Malta	Valetta	0011 7 1837	Data concerning	mail sorted and ca	ncelled at Malta	with these postma	rks are l	isted under Crimean War Mail.
Malta	Valetta British Post Office opened September 1857	The bottom of the 'V' in the centre of a genuine 'M', touches the base of the letter, level with the feet of the two uprights. (Ref. 11). FORGED obliterator		12 Sep 1857 – 13 Feb 1859 (Some later use recorded in 1861)	Sep 1857 – 31 Dec 1884	27 Nov 1857 9 Jan 1858 1 Feb 1858 6 Feb 1858 20 Mar 1858 27 Mar 1858 19 Apr 1858 21 Apr 1858 24 Apr 1858 17 Jul 1858 15 May 1858 23 Oct 1858	B1 B2 B2 C1 C3 C4 C5 C6 C8 C9 C10	No genuine examples seen FORGED obliterator 75(QG), 94(AI), 125(EI) 144 reported but not seen FORGED obliterator 139(TB) R4 Exist but unplated. 7 7 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 15, 16, 17 26, 27, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 44 27, 34, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64 44



Malta
FORGED 'M'

SG Spec. B1, plate 75(QG)



Malta FORGED 'M'

SG Spec. B1, plate 94(AI)

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Malta

M

SG Spec. C6, plate 17

Piece opened out to show circular dated back-stamp MALTA AP 21 58 in red

[ex – Author's collection]



Malta

M

SG Spec. C10, plate 55

Circular dated back-stamp MALTA MR27 1858 in red

[ex – Author's collection]

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Malta M

SG Spec. C11, plate 44

Malta	Valetta	(A O F)	2 Feb 1859	1859 – 1884	1857 – 1884	B1	25
		$(\underline{\widehat{A25}})$				B2	141, 151, 158, 168
			2 Feb 1859			C1	Exist but unplated.
		$(\underline{\overline{A25}})$	21001007			C4	1, 8
			2 Feb 1859			C5	Exist but unplated.
		$(\overline{A25})$				C6	13, 20
						C8	27, 31, 33, 34, 43, 46
						C10	27, 39, 63



Malta A25

SG Spec. B1, plate 25



Malta

A25

SG Spec. C10, plate 39

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Malta	Valetta	(AZ5) MALTA JA 26 59	2 Feb 1859	1859 – 1884	1857 – 1884	MR 19 59	B2	158
		MY 7 59 MY 25 59	MY 7 59	C4	1			
						MY 25 59 JU 4 59	C8	27, 34, 43,
		(A25)	11 Oct 1861 18 Nov 1861			JY 59 OC 22 "56" NO 5 "56"	C10	27, 34, 36, 37, 38, 39, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 66, 67, 68, R17
		(A25)	10 100 1001			NO 21 "56"	C10	59, Greece – Athens sailor's letter
		61				DE 16 59 DE 5 59	C12	50, 51
						DE 19 59	C13	R15, R16
						MR 2 60		
						MR 20 60		
						MR 23 60 MY 25 60		
						OC 8 61		
						AP 27 61		
						MY 17 61		
						MY 18 61 JU 8 61		
						OC 30 63		
						JA 62		
						MR 23 63		
						MR 2 64		

Between 30th September 1859 and 3rd December 1859, the '9' in the year part of the date was accidentally inverted, forming the date '56' instead of '59'. (Ref. 28).



Malta

cds-A25 duplex MALTA DE 19 62

SG Spec. C8, plate 43



Malta

A25 duplex MALTA NO 5 56 [inverted '9']

SG Spec. C10, plate 55 (HJ-HK-HL)

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Malta

A25 duplex MALTA MR 2 60

SG Spec. C10, plate 34 (LF) and Plate 62 (LD)

Oval PD and transit marks on front.

Back-stamped with black transit mark PARIS 6

MARS 60 and red receiving mark

AMSTERDAM 7 / 3 1860

Malta	Valetta	OE 15 NAZ5	17 Dec 1880	8 Jan 1881 – 22 Dec 1884; also used on military mail up to 15 Jan 1897		B1	The one unplated example is philatelic. (Ref. 11)
Montserrat	Plymouth	(<u>A08</u>))	14 Apr 1858	1858 – 1860	1858 – 1860	C10	42, 43, 47, 48, 56, 60
		$(\underline{\widehat{A08}})$	28 Apr 1858				



Montserrat
A08 of Plymouth
SG Spec. C10, plate 60

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Nevis	Charlestown	(<u>(AO9</u>))	14 Apr 1858	1858 – 1860	1858 – 1860		C10	41, 46, 47, 48, 55, 56
		$(\underbrace{\overline{A09}})$	28 Apr 1858					



Nevis
A09 of Charlestown
SG Spec. C10, plate 46
[ex – Author's collection]

New Zealand	Auckland					1862 – 1863	C12	On cover with circular date-stamp, possibly cancelled on arrival.
Nigeria	Lagos	PAID AT ACOS	19 Feb 1859	1859 – 1874	Jul 1860 – Jun 1862		C10	Exist but unplated. Covers were last displayed in the 1980's and their current whereabouts are unknown.
		C LAGOS DE 31	16 Feb 1859					
		22 NOV 6)	made locally					
Morocco	Tangier	Cancelled at Gibraltar			Mar 1858 – Dec 1885		C10	Exist but unplated. Mail from Tangier, pre-paid in British stamps, was later cancelled in Gibraltar.
Porto Rico	San Juan	(C61)	14 Aug 1865	1865 – 1877	1865 – 1877		C10	Exist but unplated.
St Christopher (St Kitts)	Basseterre	(<u>A12</u>)	14 Apr 1858	1858 – 1860	1858 – 1860	13 Sep 1858	C10	27, 49
		(<u>(A12)</u>)	28 April 1858					

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



St Christopher

A12 of Basseterre

SG Spec. C10, plate 27

Dated back-stamp BASSETERRE ST CHRISTOPHER

St Lucia Castries	((A11))	14 Apr 1858	1858 – 1860	1858 – 1860	C10:	36, 44, 48, 52, 55, 57, 59
	$(\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline{\underline$	28 Apr 1858				FORGERIES of obliterator are known.



St Lucia

A11 of Castries

SG Spec. C10, plate 55

St Vincent	Kingstown	$(\underbrace{\overline{(A10)}}_{((\overline{A10}))}$	14 Apr 1858 28 Apr 1858	1858 – 1860	1858 – 1860	11 Jun 1859 11 Jul 1859 9 Apr 1861	C10 27, 41, 43, 47, 48, 55, 57 FORGERIES of the A10 obliterator are know but are usually on the issues of the late-1800s

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



St Vincent

A10 of Kingstown

SG Spec. C10, plate 57

Back-stamped KINGSTOWN ST VINCENT JU23 58

Spain	San Roque		1852 – 1862 and	B1	Exist but unplated.
	'parilla' on mail from		later	B2	151; others exist but unplated.
	Gibraltar	W		C1	Exist but unplated.
Spain	_		1852 – 1857	B1	123
	'telaraña' on mail	73			
	from Gibraltar	,			



Spain (black and white scan)

telaraña' or 'spider-web'

SG Spec. B1, plate 123

Spain	San Roque	(19)		1852 – 1862 and		B1	Exist but unplated.
	'rueda' on mail from	(2 63 x)		later		B2	Exist but unplated.
	Gibraltar	B				C1	Exist but unplated.
Tobago	Scarborough	$(\underbrace{\overline{\overline{A14}}})$	14 Apr 1858	1858 – 1860	May 1858	C10	43, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 56, 59
		$(\underbrace{\overline{(\mathbf{A}14)}})$	28 Apr 1858				

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Tobago A14 of Scarborough SG Spec. C10, plate 48

United	Cancelled upon			1841 – 1854?		B1	Exist but unplated.
States	arrival?					B2	Exist but unplated.
Uruguay	Montevideo	SHOT DE COMMA 2 MARZO 1864 MONTEVIDEO			1864 – 1872		No examples of penny red stars recorded, but 4d rose seen on cover dated 2 March 1864.
Uruguay	Montevideo	(C28)	8 Oct 1864	1864 – 1872	1864 – 1872		No examples of penny red stars recorded.

Concession Mail for British Soldiers and Sailors, (Excluding the Crimean War)

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Ascension	Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK arrival					C10	61



Ascension sailor's letter

SG Spec. C10, plate 61, cancelled after UK arrival by '37'-in-diamond cancel of London Foreign Branch.

1861 sailor's letter from HMS Arrowgant at Ascension. Carried per Union SS "Norman", departed Ascension 5th July 1861, arrived Plymouth 31st July 1861.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot151]

Australia	New South Wales	Cancelled after UK			C10	52
	Sailor's letter	arrival				



Australia sailor's letter

SG Spec. C10, plate 52, cancelled after UK arrival by '50'-in-diamond of the London Foreign Branch.

1864 sailor's letter from HMS Salamander, surveying along the east coast of the continent.

Carried per P&O "Bombay", departed Sydney 22/10/1864; "Simla", departed Galle 17/11/1864; "Delhi", departed Alexandria 4/12/1864, arrived Southampton 21/12/1864.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 245]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Bermuda	Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK				Jan 1856	C6	7
		arrival				Feb 1862 Jun 1864	C10	60 & one unplated (misperf) cover



Bermuda sailor's letter

SG Spec. C6, plate 7, cancelled after UK arrival by 43-in-diamond of the London Inland Branch.

January 1856 cover from a seaman on HMS *Boscawen*, Bermuda with a London back-stamp and CHATHAM MR 6 1856 arrival back—stamp in blue. Carried per SS *Curlew*, departed Nassau 23rd January 1856, arrived St Thomas 29th January 1856; RMS *Parana*, departed St Thomas 18th February 1856: arrived Southampton 5th March 1856.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 312]

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Bermuda sailor's letter

SG Spec. C10, plate 60, cancelled after UK arrival by 302 of Plymouth.

Sailor's letter from HMS *Rinaldo* at Bermuda. Carried by HMS *Cleopatra* to England, with dated arrival backstamp: PLYMOUTH MR 5 1862.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 313]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Brazil	Rio de Janeiro Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK arrival				Jun 1864	C10	61, 62



Brazil sailor's letter

SG Spec. C10, plate 62, cancelled after UK arrival by a London duplex.

Sailor's letter from HMS Bombay at Rio de Janeiro. Carried by PSNC Magdelena, departed Rio de Janeiro 9th June 1864; arrived Southampton 4th August 1864.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 293]

British	Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK		Sep 1860	C10	57
Honduras		arrival				



British Honduras sailor's letter

SG Spec. C10, plate 57, cancelled after UK arrival by a LONDON OC 13 60 / 88 in diamond duplex Pearson Hill machine cancellation.

1860 cover from a marine on HMS Icarus, Belize Bay, Honduras. Carried per RMSP Wye, departed Belize 17th September 1860; Conway, departed Kingston 24th September 1860; Atrato, departed St Thomas 30th September 1860; arrived Southampton 13th October 1860.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 301]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Canada	Esquimalt British Columbia Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK arrival				Apr 1862	C10	52



Canada sailor's letter

Esqimalt Naval Base, British Columbia

SG Spec. C10, plate 52, cancelled after UK arrival by LONDON EC JU 12 62 – 82 duplex.

Sailor's letter from HMS *Bacchante* carried per PSNC to Panama; across the isthmus; RMSP *Solent*, departed Colon 8th May 1862, arrived St Thomas 14th May 1862; *Atrato* departed St Thomas 29th May 1862; arrived Southampton 12th June 1862.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 282]

Canada	Halifax, Nova Scotia Sailors' letters	Cunard mailboat A92				One unplated cover, (primary listing under <i>Mailboats</i>). Royal Navy mail was put aboard the Cunard Line mailboat at Halifax, Nova Scotia.
Canada	Quebec Soldier's letter	PATD CATE OF THE PARTY OF THE P	13 Jan 1842		B2	Unplated
Chile	Valparaiso	Cancelled after UK		Apr 1853	B2	One unplated cover
	Sailors' letters	arrival		Feb 1864	C10	60

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Chile sailor's letter

Valparaiso

SG Spec. B2, unplated, cancelled after UK arrival 35-in-diamond cancel of the London Foreign Branch.

Sailor's letter from HMS *Amphitrite*, carried per PSNC *Santiago*, departed Valparaiso 15th April 1853 for Panama; carried across the isthmus; RMSP *Avon* departed Chargres 10th May 1853; *Plato* departed St Thomas and arrived Southampton 30th May 1853.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 295]



Chile sailor's letter

Valparaiso

SG Spec. C10, plate 60, cancelled after UK arrival 24-in-diamond cancel of the London Foreign Branch.

1864 cover from HMS Columbine, Valparaiso. 6d hand-stamp and a segmented inspector's hand-stamp in red on front; FM LONDON MR29 64 back-stamp in blue; YARMOUTH NORFOLK MR30 64 arrival Back-stamp in red. Carried per PSNC?, departed Valparaiso 15th February 1864 for Panama; carried across the isthmus; RMSP Tyne, departed Colon 7th March 1864; Atrato, departed St Thomas 15th March 1864; arrived Southampton 29th March 1864.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 296]

China	Hong Kong	Cancelled after UK		Oct/Nov 1857	C8	31
	Sailors' letters	arrival		Apr/May 1859 Jun 1859	C10	43, 46, 55

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



China, Hong-Kong sailor's letter SG Spec. C8, plate 31 (LD-LC, KC) and SG Spec. C10, Plate 55 (QC-QD-RC-RD, PD), cancelled after UK arrival by 44-in-diamond cancel of the London Inland Branch.

June 1859 sailor's letter from HMS Retribution. Arrival back-stamp PLYMOUTH AU 7 59

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 209]

China	Hong Kong	P&O mailboat		JU11 64	C10	One unplated cover, (primary listing under
	Sailors' letters	A81				Mailboats).

Heamon H.In Gun Boat Cochehafer Bleedayrell Commanding Officer, The Richards Bongalva St. Germans Cornwall

China, Hong Kong sailor's letter

A81 of P & O Line, used aboard SS *Baroda*

SG Spec. C10, faded and unplated

Sailor's letter of 1864 from HMS Cockchafer (Gunboat). HONG-KONG C JU11 64 back-stamp in blue; carried per P&O *Orissa*, departed Hong Kong 13th June 1864; *Mooltan*, departed Galle 23rd July 1864; *Baroda*, departed Alexandria ?; *Delhi*, departed Malta 28th July 1864; arrived Southampton 6th August 1864; ST GERMANS AU 7 64 arrival back-stamp.

[ex-Gerald Ellott collection lot 218]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
China	Hong Kong	P&O mailboat				1860	C10	44, 59, & one unplated (primary listing under
	Sailors' letters	A83				Dec 1860		Mailboats).
						AP 13 63		

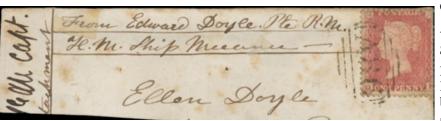


China, Hong Kong sailor's letter A83 of P&O Line used aboard SS *Euxine* SG Spec. C10, plate 59

1860 Royal Marine's letter from HMS *Adventure* with GLASGOW FE18 61 arrival back-stamp. Carried per P&O *Ottawa*, departed Hong Kong 31st December 1860; *Nemesis*, departed Galle 18th January 1861; *Euxine*, departed Alexandria 4th February 1861; *Ceylon*, departed Malta 8th February 1861 and arrived Southampton 16th February 1861.

[ex-Gerald Ellott collection lot 217]

China	Hong Kong	P&O mailboat		Mar1863	C10	R17, (primary listing under <i>Mailboats</i>).
	Sailors' letters	A86				



China, Hong Kong Royal Marine's letter A86 of P&O *Ripon*

SG Spec. C10, plate R17

Large piece of a March 1863 letter from HMS *Meeanee*th with CARLOW AP27 63 arrival back-stamp.

[ex-Gerald Ellott collection lot]

China	Hong Kong	P&O mailboat		Apr 1860	C10	36, (primary listing under <i>Mailboats</i>).
	Sailors' letters	A99				

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



China, Hong Kong sailor's letter A99 of P&O Line SG Spec. C10, plate 36

Sailor's letter from HMS *Esk*, in an April 1860 Naval mailbag from Hong Kong.

HMS *Esk* was part of the East Indies Station of the Royal Navy, and departed Hong Kong in the summer of 1860, as part of the action to seal the Bohai Gulf.

China	Huangpu	Cancelled after UK		Oct 26 1858	C10	48
	("Whampoa")	arrival				
	Sailors' letters					



China, Huangpu [Whampoa] sailor's letter

SG Spec. C10, plate 48, cancelled after UK arrival 44-in-diamond cancel of the London Foreign Branch.

Sailor's letter, dated October 26th 58, from HMS *Cambrian*, Wampoa. Transit back-stamp 58 DE22 LONDON.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 208]

China	Shanghai	Cancelled after UK		Sep 1856	C6	12
	Sailors' letters	arrival				

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



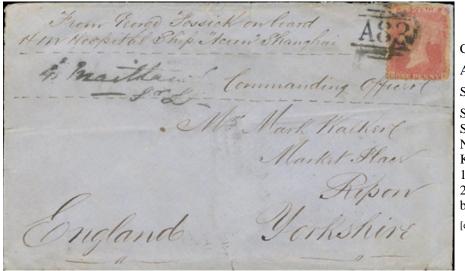
China, Shanghai sailor's letter

SG Spec. C6, plate 12, cancelled after UK arrival by 29-in-diamond cancel of the London Foreign Branch.

1856 sailor's letter from HMS Sybille. Carried per P&O *Erin*, departed Shanghai 6th September 1856; *Ganges*, departed Hong Kong 13th September 1856; *Hindoostan*, departed Galle 1st October 1856; *Pera*, departed Alexandria 21st October 1856; arrived Southampton 2nd November 1856. London transit back-stamp of 3NO3 1856 and Cork arrival back-stamp in blue.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 207]

China	Shanghai Sailors' letters	P&O mailboat A83		Nov 1861	C10	37, (primary listing under <i>Mailboats</i>).
	Sanois letters	1105				



China, Shanghai sailor's letter

A83 of P&O Line used aboard SS Euxine.

SG Spec. C10, plate 37

Sailor's letter from HMS *Acorn*, hospital ship at Shanghai. Arrival back-stamp HONG KONG C NO13 61; carried per P&O *Emeu*, departed Hong Kong 15th November 1861; *Simla*, departed Galle 1st December 1861; *Euxine*, departed Alexandria 20th December 1861; arrived England? Arrival back-stamp RIPON JA 3 62.

[ex-Gerald Ellott collection lot 212]

Gibraltar	Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK		1842	B1	One unplated cover
		arrival		Mar 1860	C10	47

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City			in Use	Available		Spec.	



Gibraltar sailor's letter

SG Spec. B1, plate 24 (SI), cancelled by a Maltese Cross after UK arrival.

1842 seaman's letter from HMS *Malabar*; probably carried privately to England; light 'TP Deptford' handstamp; with London transit and boxed PORTGLASGOW arrival back-stamps.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 33]

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Mauxoh & Commanding There is

you His Grace

Suke of Norfolk

N=21 St. James Lynael

Linsland =

Gibraltar sailor's letter

SG Spec. C10, plate 47, cancelled after UK arrival 30-in-diamond cancel of the London Foreign Branch.

Seaman's letter from HMS *James Watt.*, carried per P&O *Ceylon*; departed Gibraltar 14th March 1860; arrived Southampton 19th March 1860; BO LONDON MR20 60 arrival back-stamp in red.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 35]

1							
	Greece	Athens	Malta		7 Nov 1861	C10	[59, [primary listing under <i>Malta</i>]
		0.11 1.14	1 425				, 11
		Sailors' letters	cds-A25				

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Greece sailor's letter

SG Spec. C10, plate 59, cancelled in transit at Malta by cds- A25 duplex MALTA NO18 61.

1861 seaman's letter from HMS *Caeser*, Athens, dated inside 7th November 1861.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 43]

Greece	Piraeus	Cancelled after UK		8 Apr 1863	C10	Unplated
	Sailors' letters	arrival				



Greece sailor's letter

SG Spec. C1, unplated, cancelled after UK arrival by 30-in-diamond cancel of the London Foreign Branch.

Seaman's letter from HMS Foxhound, [at Piraeus 8th April 1863], carried by French Packet. Boxed PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERANEE handstamp in red, and rated 6 in black for the unpaid 3d per ½oz for transitting France. Back-stamps for Marseilles (10 AVRIL), Paris, London and Carlisle.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection]

India	Bombay [Mumbai]	<u>B</u>	1856 – 1860?		В2	One unplated cover from Bombay [Mumbai] to UK, stamp tied by concentric octagons cancel, seen by author.
					C8	35 [removed from soldier's letter]

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



India

Octagonal B/1 of Bombay [Mumbai]

SG Spec. C8, plate 35, [sadly, removed from soldier's letter] [ex – Author's collection]

India	Kedgeree PO	P	1856 – 1860?	10 NOV 1857	C10	44, 59
	Sailors' letters	(<u>B</u>)				



India sailor's letter

Octagonal B / 102 of Kedgeree Post Office

SG Spec. C10, plate 44

Seaman's letter from HMS *Sans Pareil*, Kedgeree, East India, with KEDGEREE P.O. 10 NOV 1857 cds, MADRAS 1857 14NO cds [Chennai], and INDIA UNPAID handstamp; transit back-stamp LONDON DE19 57, and BATH arrival back-stamp. Carried to Ceylon; per P&O *Bengal*, departed Galle 18th November 1857; *Nemesis*, departed Alexandria 5th December 1857; arrived Southampton 18th December 1857.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collectionlot 195]

India	_	B 48	1856 – 1860?		C10	60, 64
India	Skevan PO [Siwan?] Sailors' letters	(B)	1856 – 1860?	18 NOV 1857	C10	58

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	

The writer was in the Medical Staff Corps, an Army unit, assigned to the Naval Brigade aboard HMS *Pearl*.

Forces from HMS *Pearl* and HMS *Shannon* were engaged in inland operations during the Indian Mutiny, in the campaign that led to the relief of Lucknow.



India sailor's letter

Octagonal B / 58 of Skevan Post Office, beneath 28-indiamond of the London Foreign Branch

SG Spec. C10, plate 58

Letter from Medical Staff Corps / Naval Brigade, HMS *Pearl*, with INDIA UNPAID handstamp. SKEVAN P.O. 18 NOV 1857 (Siwan?) back-stamp in red; PATNA P.O. back-stamp in red; KM LONDON JA 6 58 arrival back-stamp in blue. Carried to Ceylon; per P&O *Alma*, departed Galle 2nd December 1857; transferred at sea to the *Adjaha*; *Indus*, departed Alexandria 23rd December 1857; arrived London 5th January 1858.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 196]

India	_	B 179		1856 – 1860?		C10	68
Ionian Islands	Corfu Soldiers' letters	PAIO ORFS	19 Apr 1844	1844 – 1864		C6	Seen on soldier's letter but unplated.
Ionian Islands	Corfu Soldiers' letters	APR OBJ	19 Apr 1844		9 Oct 1863	C10	27, 61



Ionian Islands soldier's letter

Circular date-stamp CORFU SE25 63

SG Spec. C10, plate 61

Soldier's letter with dated arrival mark in red LONDON OC 9 63

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Ionian Islands	Corfu Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK arrival					C10	43

[Regulations required that soldiers' letters be sent to London in a locked bag, even if the destination was in the opposite direction, as here, to India.]



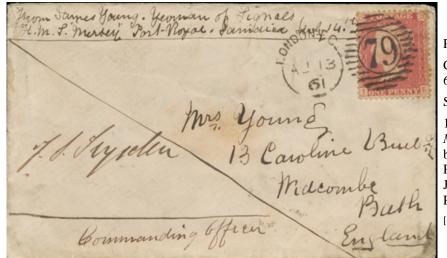
Corfu, Ionian Islands sailor's letter Cancelled after UK arrival by

LONDON EC JA30 61 – 77 duplex. SG Spec. C10, plate 43

1861 seaman's letter from HMS Marlborough Corfu to a soldier in India', but sent via London. Indian back-stamps of Bombay transit, Calcutta transit, and Allahabad arrival, all in red.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 49]

Ionian Islands	Zante (Zakinthos) Soldiers' letters	PAID AT 4	19 Apr 1844	1844 – 1864		C10	Exist but unplated, on soldiers' letters.
Jamaica	Port Royal Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK arrival			May 1860 14 July 1861 March 1863	C10	34, 49, 52



Port Royal, Jamaica sailor's letter

Cancelled after UK arrival by LONDON EC AU13 61-79 duplex.

SG Spec. C10, plate 34

1861 seaman's letter dated July 14th from HMS *Mersey*, Port Royal, Jamaica, with 'BATH arrival back-stamp. Carried per RMS *Trent*, departed Port Royal 24th July 1861; *Atrato*, departed St Thomas 29th July 1861; arrived Southampton 13th August 1861. Port Royal is Kingston's harbour

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 317]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Japan	Yokohama Sailors' letters	P&O mailboat A83				Oct 1864	C10	62, (primary listing under <i>Mailboats</i>).



Yokohama, Japan sailor's letter

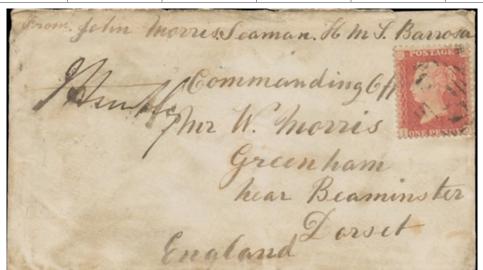
A83 of P&O Euxine

SG Spec. C10, plate 62

1864 cover from a Royal Marine at the British Legation, Japan, cancelled by mailboat A83 used aboard the *Euxine*, with back-stamps: HONG-KONG C OC29 64 transit in blue, and PLYMOUTH DE22 64 arrival. Carried per P&O *Cadiz* from Shanghai; *Benares*, departed Hong Kong 1st November 1864; *Simla*, departed Galle ?; "Euxine", departed Alexandria ?; *Delhi*, departed Malta 8th December 1864; arrived Southampton 21st December 1864.

[ex-Gerald Ellott collection lot 234]

Japan	Yokohama	P&O mailboat		August 1864	C10	62, (primary listing under <i>Mailboats</i>).
	Sailors' letters	B57				



Yokohama, Japan sailor's letter

B57 of P&O Baroda

SG Spec. C10, plate 62

Sailor's letter from HMS *Barrosa*, Yokohama, Japan. Carried per P&O *Ganges*, departed Yokohama 26th August 1864; *Orissa*, departed Shanghai 4th September 1864; *Mooltan*, departed Galle?; *Baroda*, departed Alexandria?; *Ripon*, departed Malta 23rd October 1864; arrived Southampton 3rd November 1864.

[ex-Gerald Ellott collection lot 233]

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Madeira	Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK arrival				Apr 1864	C13	R15



Madeira sailor's letter

Cancelled after UK arrival by London vertical oval EC/9.

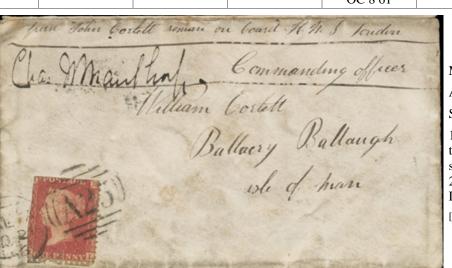
SG Spec. C13, plate R15

Sailor's letter from HMS *Princess Royal*, Madeira. London transit cds AP21 64 in red. Carried per *Hawthorne*, departed Madeira 16th April 1864 and arrived London 21st April 1864.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 160]

Malta	Sailors' letters	(A25) MALTA JA 26 59		NO 21 "56" MR 20 60 OC 8 61	C10	58, 60, 66, (primary listing under <i>Malta cds-A25 duplex</i>).
				00 8 01		

Between 30th September 1859 and 3rd December 1859, the '9' in the year part of the date was accidentally inverted, forming the date '56' instead of '59'. (Ref. 28).



Malta sailor's letter

A25 duplex MALTA NO 21 56 [inverted '9']

SG Spec. C10, plate 58(KL)

1859 sailor's letter from HMS *London*. Liverpool transit and RAMSEY DE 9 59 arrival backstamps. Carried per P&O *Indus*, departed Malta 25th November 1859; arrived Southampton 5th December 1859.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection, lot 57]

Malta	Sailors' letters	P&O mailboat		29 Nov 1860	C10	49, (primary listing under <i>Mailboats</i>).
		A81				

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Malta sailor's letter

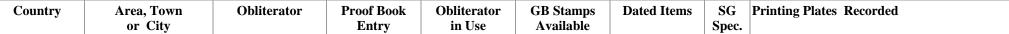
A81 of P&O Line cancelled aboard SS Vectis.

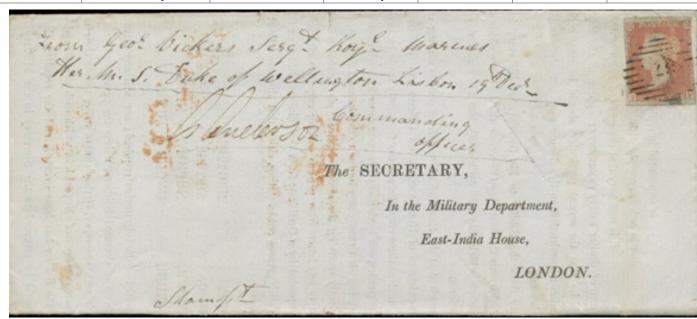
SG Spec. C10, plate 49 (DH-EH-FH)

1860 sailor's letter from HMS *Caeser*, Malta Novr 29th, to London, with London arrival cds of DE15 60 in red on the face. *Vectis* departed Malta 9th December 1860; arrived Marseilles 13th December 1860.

[ex-Gerald Ellott collection lot 59]

Mauritius	Port Louis	(DE2)	1857 – 1862	not available		C10	42, 48
	Sailors' letters	(<u>B53)</u>					Loose stamps off-cover were probably from seamen's letters, as British stamps were not available from the Mauritius Post Office.
Portugal	Lisbon Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK arrival			19 Dec 1853	B2	148





Portugal sailor's letter

SG Spec. B2, plate 148 (JF), cancelled after UK arrival by London Foreign Branch 37-in-diamond cancel.

19th December 1853 seaman's letter from HMS *Duke of Wellington*, Lisbon. Carried per P&O *Tagus* from Lisbon 19th December 1853; arrived Southampton 24th December 1853.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 29]

St Helena	James Town	Cancelled after UK	Apr 1862	C10	57
	Sailors' letters	arrival	1864		R15



St Helena sailor's letter

SG Spec. C10, plate 57, cancelled after UK arrival by London Foreign Branch 50-in-diamond cancel.

April 1862 seaman's letter from HMS *Philomel*, St Helena. London transit back-stamp MY 2 62 and Edinburgh arrival back-stamp. [Ship's log records vessel at anchor off James Town, St Helena on 1st April 1862]. Carried per Union SS *Dane*, departed for Ascension 4th April 1862 and arrived Plymouth 1st May 1862.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 164]

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



St Helena sailor's letter

SG Spec. C13, plate R15, cancelled after UK arrival by 466 of Liverpool.

1864 seaman's letter from HMS *Philomel*, St Helena with PAID LIVERPOOL BR PACKET 11 MY 64 2A arrival circular date-stamp in red. Carried per Union SS *Athenian* via Jellah Coffee (Gold Coast); arrived Liverpool 11th May 1864. The notation *shut* / [initials] to the left of the stamp may refer it being accepted as a late letter, after the naval bag had been locked.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 165]

Seychelles	Victoria, Mahe Island Sailors' letters?	(<u>B64</u>)	1858	_	Not on sale		C10	No examples recorded, but possible on mail from a British warship.
Singapore	Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK arrival				1 Sep 1857 Sep 1862	C10	52, 66



Singapore sailor's letter

SG Spec. C10, plate 52, cancelled after UK arrival by a blue London Foreign Branch 44-in-diamond cancel.

Sailor's letter dated 1st September 1857, from HMS *Sans Pareil*, Singapore, [East India]. London transit back-stamp 3NO3 1857 and Bath arrival back-stamp in blue. Carried per P&O *Formosa*, departed Singapore 5th September 1857; *Colombo*, departed Malta (?) and arrived Southampton 3rd November 1857.

[ex - Gerald Ellott collection lot 240]

Singapore	Sailors' letters	P&O mailboat		Aug 1862	C10	57, (primary listing under <i>Mailboats</i>).
		A88				

Country	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
			40	Come of	anife as	POSTAGE E		
			found	High. Sh	p sout		Singa	pore sailor's letter
						THE RESERVE THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE		

From George Fossielo on Found Hill. Ship Scouls Ship Shark Hallis Ship on Workshirt Haus Ship on Short Shirt England.

SG Spec. C10, plate 57

1862 sailor's letter from HMS *Scout* at Singapore, carried per P&O *Orissa*, departed Singapore 5th August 1862; *Colombo*, departed Galle 19th August 1862; *Euxine*, departed Alexandria 5th September 1862; *Pera*, departed Malta 8th September 1862; arrived Southampton 18th September 1862; arrival back-stamp RIPON SP18 62.

[ex-Gerald Ellott collection lot 241]



Hong Kong sailor's letter

A99 of P&O Line, Far East Mailboat

SG Spec. C10, plate 36

1860 sailor's letter from HMS Esk, Hong Kong, when part of the East Indies and China Station of the Royal Navy. In an April 1860 Naval mail bag from Hong Kong, (prior to the departure of HMS Esk in the summer of 1860, as part of the action to seal the Bohai Gulf).

Syria	Beyrout	P&O mailboat		1863 May 3 rd	C10	60, (primary listing under <i>Mailboats</i>).
[now Lebanon]	Sailors' letters	A83				

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Syria sailor's letter

A83 of P&O Line, used aboard the Euxine.

SG Spec. C10, plate 60

Sailor's letter from HMS *Chanticler*, Beyrout 1863 May 3rd, with Manchester arrival back-stamp JU 3 63. The mail bag was taken to Egypt; per P&O *Euxine*, departed Alexandria 19th May 1863; per *Ceylon*, departed Malta 22nd May 1863; arrived Southampton 2nd June 1863.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 79]

Uruguay	Montevideo	Cancelled after UK		Aug 1864	C12	50
	Sailors' letters	arrival		mid-Nov 1864		
				28 Nov 1864		



Uruguay sailor's letter

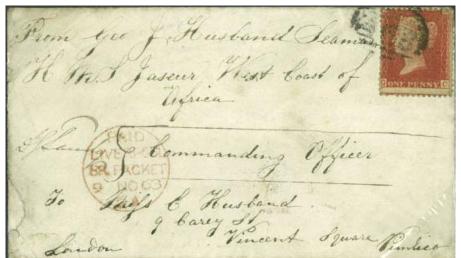
SG Spec. C12, plate 50, cancelled after UK arrival by 10-in-diamond, vertical oval of the London Foreign Branch.

August 1864 sailor's letter from HMS *Bombay*, [Montevideo], South America. Arrival back-stamp LONDON - W MC OC 1 64. Carried per RMSP Packet, departed Montevideo 29th August 1864, arrived Southampton 1st October 1864.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 307]

West	Sailors' letters	Cancelled after UK		1863	C10	43, 61
African		arrival				
Coast						

Country	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



HMS Jaseur, West Coast of Africa

SG Spec. C10, plate 43, cancelled 466 after arrival at Liverpool.

1863 sailor's letter with circular date-stamp PAID LIVERPOOL BR PACKET 9 NO 63.

Crimean War Mail

Most of the conflict would eventually take place on or around the Crimean Peninsula, but there were smaller campaigns in the Baltic Sea, the White Sea, the Pacific Ocean, and western Turkey. The two main theatres of operations in the war with Russia were the Crimea and the Baltic. Britain and France had declared war on Russia on 28th March 1854. The British force travelled via Malta, where cholera and dysentery were contracted en-route, and began to reach Turkey at the end of April 1854, the Allied forces making a base near Gallipoli. They then moved to the Selimiye barracks at Scutari (Úsküdar), opposite the city of Constantinople, where an Allied base and a Field Post Office were to be located. Thousands of sick were transferred to field hospitals here. The Allied expeditionary force transferred by sea and landed at the Bulgarian port of Varna in June 1854, where a base was established, together with a Field Post Office, but little advance was made from there. London, Paris, Constantinople and Varna were connected by telegraph. The Black Sea naval campaign was conducted from Varna, from where the Crimean landings of 14th September 1854 and other actions were planned. During mid-to late--September the Allied force at Varna moved on to the invasion of the Crimea, and headquarters were established near Balaclava, together with a Field Post Office. An undersea telegraph cable linked Varna with Balaclava.

During 1854, in-transit mail from the Army Field Post Offices in the Crimea, from the Black Sea Fleet and from Constantinople was sorted and cancelled at Valetta, Malta. 1854 mail has been recorded either with the Malta circular date-stamp cancellation on the stamp(s), or with a manuscript cancellation across the stamp(s) and back-stamped with the Malta circular date-stamp.

Copies of the crown between stars obliterator, together with the POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY circular dated back-stamp, were sent from London on May 27th 1854 to the Army Field Post Offices at Constantinople, Varna and the Crimea, with different code letters inserted in the back-stamps at each location. Dated mail is recorded from July 9th 1854 to beyond July 1855, although any mail prior to 14th September 1854 was **not** from the Crimea. Mail from the Crimea, from the Black Sea Fleet and from Constantinople would be carried by British and French vessels to Marseille. A British GPO official was sent out as Postmaster-General to the forces and a British Army Post Office opened in Constantinople on 1st January 1855, for the sorting and cancelling of in-transit Crimean War mail, using the existing cancellers supplied from London. The star between ciphers obliterators followed in March 1855. They are recorded in use from March 24th 1855, with the POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY circular dated back-stamp. The wavy-line grid obliterator was sent to Malta in March 1855 for franking stamps on uncancelled mail enroute

from the Crimean War, with mail receiving a Malta dated back-stamp.

Much 1854 – 1856 mail is also recorded with the POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY circular dated back-stamp but the stamps not cancelled *★ or O*O; regulations at one time required that soldiers' and sailors' mail be sent to London in a locked bag; such mail was then cancelled upon UK arrival, by a variety of London Inland, number-in-diamond obliterators and others. The Postmaster-General's report for 1856 records that one and a half million letters were received in the UK from the Army and Navy from April 1854 to 31st December 1855. British stamps from the Crimea are also noted with dotted lozenge cancellations of the French Army Corp, and mail from Selimiye Army Barracks and Hospital at Scutari, Constantinople has been recorded carried by French paquebot to Marseille, where it was cancelled by the 1896 petits chiffre losange of Marseille. Anglo-French forces were not involved in the Siege of Kars in western Turkey from June to 28th November 1855.

In March 1854 the Anglo-French fleet, containing 15 British ships, commenced their Baltic campaign to blockade Russian ports in the Gulf of Finland, attacking Russian Baltic fortresses: bombarded Sveaborg, which guards Helsinki; bombarded Kronstadt, which guards St Petersburg; and destroyed Bomarsund in the Åland Islands. They maintained a blockade for the remainder of the war. A weekly mail service via Danzig was established, whereby mail from the British Baltic Fleet was landed at Danzig and a Danzig circular date-stamp applied to the front, carried by the Prussian Postal Service, and cancelled upon UK arrival. British mail from Sveaborg received a French cachet in red if carried aboard ships of the French Baltic Squadron, and was cancelled in London after arrival in UK. Similar naval action also took place in the White Sea in June 1854, and Archangel was bombarded in June 1855.

In the Pacific, a Russian force on Sakhalin Island was blockaded in 1854. The Siege of Petropavlovsk on the Kamchatka peninsular on 30th and 31st August 4 was the main operation on the Pacific Theatre of the Crimean War, during Allied naval actions between August 18 and 4th September 1854. In early 1855 Anglo-French naval squadrons returned to the region, patrolled the Seas of Okhotsk and Japan, searching for Russian warships and merchantmen. During August and September 1855 Anglo-French forces seized Urup, in the Kuril Islands. To date, no specific mail has been identified from these Pacific actions.

The following tables summarise the course of the war and some of the associated postal events:

Crimean War Mail — Timeline Linking Events and Postal Service Pre-War

May 1853	The Mediterranean Fleet was ordered to join the French Fleet at Besika Bay, in anticipation of hostilities erupting between Russia and the Ottoman Empire, arriving June. Sailors were responsible for providing their own stamps when writing home to the UK.	Cancelled after UK arrival
December 1853:	British troops sent to the east to Malta. Sacks of soldiers' mail sorted and cancelled at the British Packet Agency, Valetta, and/or sacks sent directly to UK.	0011 0011
December 1853:	Allied Fleet enters Black Sea. Sacks of sailors' mail sorted and cancelled at the British Packet Agency, Valetta, and/or sacks sent directly to UK.	0011 y
Naval mail prior to March 1854	It was usual for Naval mail to be carried from Constantinople by French packet to Marseilles. The standard concession rates for sailors of 1d paid and 2d unpaid, officers 6d, applied, unless sent by private ship, in which case the 2d additional fee applied.	Cancelled after UK arrival
1854 to 1855:	Circular date-stamp of the Malta Packet Agency used as an obliterator or a back-stamp. Pen-cancellation of stamps also noted with the dated back-stamp.	0C11 0C11 1837

Declaration of War

28 March 1854:	Great Britain & France declared war on Russia. Sacks of soldiers' and sailors' mail was sorted and cancelled at the British Packet Agency, Valetta, and/or sent directly to UK.	0C11 0C11 V L &
End of April 1854:	British Army force began to reach Constantinople and was quartered at the Selimiye barracks at Scutari. Mail sent from British Army HQ Constantinople, via Malta and Marseille.	0C11 1831
12 th May 1854:	3d postal rate introduced for the British Armed Forces. British Army HQ based at Scutari, Constantinople, where a Field Post Office would later be established.	
May 27 th 1854:	* obliterators and circular, dated back-stamps sent from London initially to Constantinople, secondly to Varna, and thirdly to Balaclava. Recorded in use from July 1854 to beyond July 1855 at Field Post Offices, with sacks of mail sent via Malta.	(*鹽*) gost OFFICE 13 13 4 4 5 18 18 5 4 5 77 5 H R
May 1854:	Black Sea Fleet moves up to the port of Varna, Bulgaria. Naval mail came ashore at Varna, Bulgaria, and a second Field Post Office opened, where mail was cancelled and backstamped.	(*鹽*) 1350年 1317年 1318年
May to June 1854:	Army sails to Varna, arriving 31 st May. Edward Smith, of the Post Office Inland Letter Section London, was appointed as the Army Postmaster General, and left London in June 1854 with an Assistant Army Postmaster, Thomas Angell. On their arrival they set up a Base Army Post Office at Scutari. An Army Field Post Office was next established at Varna with Mr W Angell as Postmaster. Mail cancelled and back-stamped at Varna. Constantinople Field Office continues to operate, so mail now from both Varna and Constantinople.	**************************************
July 1854:	The Assistant Army Postmaster, Thomas Angell set up an Army Post Office in Varna in support of the Army Headquarters. A regular seaborne mail service was established between Varna and Constantinople.	(*鹽*) (\$10F(b) 1854 b) 1854 b

August 1854:	Black Sea Fleet operating off Sevastopol. Naval post cancelled and back-stamped at Varna.	(*鹽*) g570Ffg (3 JY 4 5) 1854 5 775H 8
September 1854:	Angell transfers the Army Post Office aboard HMS Sovereign, moored at Varna harbour.	(* 鹽*) ost OFFICE 19 JY 4 5 19 J854 8
14 September 1854:	Allies land in Crimea, some 30 miles from Sevastopol. British Army HQ eventually established at Balaclava, with a third Field Post Office; Smith and Angell switch places, Edward Smith to Balaclava, and Thomas Angell to Constantinople. Any mail prior to this date, with these cancellations, was not from the Crimea.	(* 鹽*) g 15 4 5 5 17 5 1 4 5 5 7 7 5 1 4 6 5 6 7 7 5 1 4 6 5 6 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 7 5 1 4 6 6 7 7 7 5 1 4 6 7 7 7 5 1 4 6 7 7 7 5 1 4 6 7 7 7 5 1 4 6 7 7 7 5 1 4 6 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7 7
December 1854	GPO Notice 76 stated that Naval letters would be charged 1d for seaman & 6d for officers if sent per British packet, and 3d for both seamen & officers if sent per French packet via Marseilles.	
January to February 1855:	Two more Assistant Army Postmasters, Mr Sissons and Henry Mellersh, plus seven sorters were despatched from London, arriving at Constantinople on 5 February 1855, to establish the British Army Post Office, Constantinople, for the sorting and cancelling of in-transit Crimean War mail. Existing obliterators and back-stamps used.	(***) 0050 FROM 1854 E
March 1855:	New $0 \% 0$ obliterators dispatched from London and used from March 24^{th} 1855, together with the circular dated back-stamp, between March 1855 and 1856 at Constantinople, Varna and Balaclava. Both obliterators in use for many months, although the $0 \% 0$ obliterators gradually superseded the * * obliterators. Mr W Angell is recorded as Postmaster to the Forces, Crimea, located at the Field Post Office, Balaclava.	(***) ((0**0))
March – April 1855:	A further Army Post Office was established at Scutari Hospital, to provide postal services to the Barrack Hospital staff and patients.	
31 March 1855:	Wavy-line grid obliterators sent from London to Malta, and recorded in use from 23 rd April 1855 to 1856 together with the Malta circular dated back-stamp. Supplied for use on any unfranked mail from the Crimean War, sorted and cancelled at Malta.	0C11 8 0C
1854 to 1856:	Throughout the entire period, much mail from the Crimean War was only back-stamped and the bulk sacks sent directly to England, although the stamps were uncancelled. The stamps were then cancelled at London with various Inland Branch numeral obliterators.	Q5510FRF 13 17 4 5 18 1854 5 17 5 H K

Back-stamps

Sending offices were indicated by four variations of code letter inserted below the date on the circular dated back-stamp, but it is uncertain when the use of such code letters was first adopted. The Balaclava "B" back-stamp has been recorded on 28 December 1854, and the Constantinople "A" on 18 December 1854. Earlier post from these locations may have have had no code letter, as with Varna.



French Obliterators

British Crimean War mail was carried by the French Postal Service on many occasions, occasionally with British stamps cancelled by French dotted lozenge obliterators.





Allied Baltic Naval Expedition of 1854 and 1855

March 1854:	In March 1854, Britain dispatched a fleet of 15 ships to blockade Russian ports in the Gulf of Finland. A weekly mail service via Danzig was established.	
May to 31st October	The rate for seamen was 5d and for officers 8d.	
1854:		
End of October 1854	The fleet moved to Kiel and mail went via Hamburg.	
3 rd April 1855:	The mail service via Danzig was reinstated, with the introduction of a new rate of 3d per ½oz for both sailors and officers. A Danzig circular	N 15 C
	date-stamp was applied to the front. and the mail was then carried by the Prussian Postal Service, ferried from Belgium across the English	
	Channel, and the stamps were cancelled after UK arrival.	5-A
1855:	If carried aboard ships of the French Baltic Squadron, British mail received a French cachet in red, and the stamps were cancelled in London	ESCADDE DE LA DALTIQUE
	upon arrival.	ESCADRE DE LA BALTIQUE

End of the War

	With the evacuation of British forces from the Crimea, the Balaclava Field Post Office closed. The former Field Post Office at Varna remained temporarily as a British-run telegraph station.
12 th September 1856:	Concession postal rates were withdrawn for soldiers, sailors and their families.
Late-1856:	The British Army Post Office in Constantinople was closed.
23 rd February 1857:	The British-run telegraph station at Varna was taken over by Turkey.

Cancellations and Stamps Recorded

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	
Pre-war	Besika Bay,	cancelled after				July 1853	B2	152, 158, 172
	Turkey	UK arrival				Aug 1853		
	-					Oct 1853		
						Nov 1853		

HMS *Rodney* arrived at Besika Bay on the west coast of Asia Minor on 13th June 1853, and in late-October 1853 sailed into the Black Sea.



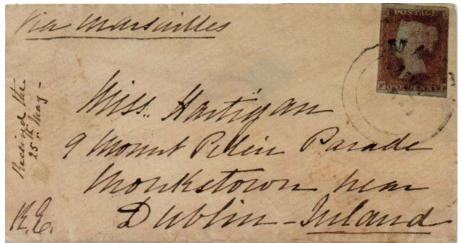
Turkey, pre-Crimean War,

SG Spec. B2, plate 158, cancelled after UK arrival by 37-in-diamond obliterator of the London Inland Office

August 1853 letter from a seaman aboard *HMS Rodney*, at Besika Bay, Turkey; two hand-stamps on front: large 2 for the master's gratuity and red MNB – in-circle from the sorting tender of the Midland and Northern Railway; London 19SP19 1853 back-stamp in red; boxed GLASGOW SEP 19 1853 arrival back-stamp in red. Carried per French packet to Malta; private ship *Sarah* from Malta, (thus attracting the 2d gratuity), which arrived Gravesend 18th September 1853.

[ex-Gerald Ellott Collection, lot 88]

Malta	British Packet Agency,	ALA	11 Oct 1837	1837 – 1878	_	2 May 1854	B2	158, 168, 177
	Valetta	((1837))					C1	Unplated

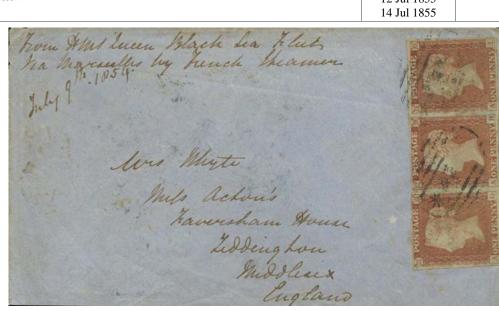


Malta

Double-arc circular date-stamp MALTA MY 2 1854

SG Spec. B2, plate 177

Crimean War	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Turkey,	Field Post	=	27 May 1854	July 1854 –	Jan 1855 – 1856		B1	123, 125
Bulgaria and Russia	Offices in Constantinople, Varna	(*鹽*)		April 1855		29 Jul 1854 AU 9 1854 [V] 10 Aug 1854	CE2	Unplated, used in 1854, in the McGowan collection. (Ref. 13)
	or the Crimean Peninsular, and the British Army Post Office,	FORGERIES of this obliterator noted.				3 Sep 1854 8 Sep 1854 OC20 1854	B2	142, 149, 154, 155, 156, 160, 162, 165, 168, 169, 171, 174, 176
	Constantinople.		Code Letters in	Back-Stamps		27 Oct 1854 5 Nov 1854	B2	FORGED obliterator on Plate 155
	From January 1855, mail sorted at the	none Varna Con	A stantinople B	B alaclava Scut	O tari Hospital	NO 7 1854 B 14 Nov 1854	C1	155, 163, 164, 166, 167, 170, 171, 174, 175, 176, 177, 179, 180, 181, 186, 187, 188, 189,
	British Army Post		•		•	7 Dec 1854 10 Dec 1854		190, 191, 192, 194, 197, 198, 199, 203, R2, R6
	Office.	ST-OFFIC	OST-OFFICE	OST-OFA	O AP23 CM	28 Dec 1854	C2	196, 200, R1, R2, R3, R5
			1856 III A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	(1855 1)	11 1855 II DA 75H-RA	16 Mar 1855	C3	1; others exist but unplated.
		1854 A	MINSH-ARE	(1 1855 []) BANNSH-RA	MINSH-ARE	MR20 1855 A 22 Mar 1855	C4	1, 2; others exist but unplated.
		051-044 1854 11 9 11 9 11 7/5H-44				AP 5 1855 19 Apr 1855 26 Apr 1855 12 Jul 1855	C6	FORGED obliterator on 1, 16
						14 Jul 1855		



Crimean War, Varna From HMS Queen, Black Sea Fleet

SG Spec. B2, plate 168

Dated back-stamp:

1854 JY 9 (no code letter)

Year above date

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	





Crimean War, Varna



SG Spec. C1, plate 176

Dated back-stamp: POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JY14 1855 (no code letter)



Crimean War, Constantinople

SG Spec. C4, plate 1

Dated back-stamp in blue:

POST-OFFICE BRITISH ARMY MR20 1855 A

Naval officer's letter from HMS Sidon, 20th Mar 55 at Kazatch Bay. London arrival back-stamp AP 2 1855.



Crimean War
FORGED * * * obliterator
SG Spec. B2, plate 155

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	

The stamp is noted as C6 by its owner, but the use of this obliterator had ceased prior to the supply of such stamps. [If watermark large crown is confirmed, then the obliterator is a forgery, but this item has not been examined by the author.]



Crimean War

FORGED * * obliterator

SG Spec. C6, plate 1

Turkey,	Field Post Offices in	((O*O))	Mar 1855		5 – Jan 1855 – 1856	1855 12 Mar 1855	B1	75, 101, 102, 126
Bulgaria and Russia				1856		22 Mar 1855	B2	135, 139, 147, 148, 149, 156, 162, 169, 171
Kussia	Constantinople, Varna or the Crimean	FORGERIES of the				10 Apr 1855	C1	155, 157, 166, 174, 175, 176, 179, 180, 183,
	Peninsular, and the	obliterator known				30 Apr 1855 May 1855		189, 194, 198, 200, 202, 203, 204, R1, R2, R3,
	British Army Post					11 Jun 1855	G2	R4, R5
	Office,					16 Jul 1855	C2	194, 196, 200, 202, 204, R1, R2, R3, R4
	Constantinople.					9 Aug 1855	~~	
	From January 1855,		Code Letters i	n Back-Stamps		SP 6 1855 B	C3	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14
	mail sorted at the	none	Α	В	Э	NO26 1855 A 3 Dec 1855	C4	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 15
	British Army Post	Varna Co	onstantinople	Balaclava S	cutari Hospital	14 Jan 1856	C5	4, 6, 8
	Office.				•	21 Jan 1856 11 Feb 1856	C6	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14,
			OST-OFF	O JA 8 5 11 1 1855 11 1 BANNSH-PAR	ST-OFF	27 Mar 1856	C7	Plate unknown, was reported by Seymour pre-
		AU 4 (1) 1854 7/SH-AR	1 1856 1 A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	[] 1855 [] B. B.	1855 II DA/7/SH-ARM	28 Mar 1856		1939 but destroyed in the Second World War.
			MSH-AR	MSH-P&	MSH-AK	24 Apr 1856		(Ref. 14)
		8 1854 Ti				MY 5 1856 A JY 9 1856 B	C8	24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36
		1854 TI				24 Jul 1856	C10	44 — FORGED obliterator
		JY 9						



Crimean War

O ※O

SG Spec. B1, plate 102



Crimean War

0%0

SG Spec. B2, plate 148

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Crimean War, from Constantinople

0 % 0

SG Spec. C1, plate 196, strip of three

Dated back-stamp: AP30 1855 A



Crimean War, from Constantinople

0 % 0

SG Spec. C3, plate 13

Dated back-stamp:

POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY AP10 1855 A



Crimean War 〇業〇 SG Spec. C2, plate 196

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Crimean War, from Scutari, Constantinople

O ※O

SG Spec. C4, plate 3

Dated back-stamp: POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JA21 1856 (code letter not recorded)



Crimean War

0 % 0

SG Spec. C5, plate 4 Author's collection



Crimean War, from the Black Sea Fleet

OOO

SG Spec. C6, plate 9

Dated back-stamp:

POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY FE11 1856 (code letter not recorded)

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Crimean War

0 % 0

SG Spec. C8, plate 28

Dated back-stamp:

POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JU12 1856 (code letter not recorded)



Crimean War

FORGED O業O

SG Spec. C10, plate 44

Recorded	Printing Plates Recorded	SG Spec.	Dated Items		k Obliterat in Use	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator	Area, Town or City	Crimean War
not recorded.	Exist but plates not recorded	B2	AU 4 1854	War mail arrived in the	of Crimean War	Field Post Offices	Turkey,		
73, 177, 179, 180, 181, 182, 91, 194, 195, 197, 198, 199,	164, 167, 171, 173, 177, 17	C1	AU19 1854 OC 8 1854 OC12 1854	at the stamps were uded various number-in-	k-stamps, but the lations included Inland Section	in Constantinople, Varna, Balaclava and possibly from the	Bulgaria and Russia		
thers exist but unplated.	198, 204, R2; others exist b	C2	NO 9 1854 DE 8 1854	.	ingle 9-44, 52-75)			British Army	
1	6, 13	C3	Jan 27 55)	9-44, 32-73)	(1-37, 39-4		Post Office, Constantinople.	
	2, 7	C4	MR16 1855 B		117			Constantinopic.	
er but watermark unchecked.	<u> </u>	C4 or C5	MR20 1855 MR23 1855	1854]	d 30 th June 1854	double [issued 3			
others exist but unplated.	6, 7, 11, 14, 15; others exist	C6	MR30 1855 MR31 1855		$46, \underline{47}$	(45, 46)			
-	24, 25, 28, 34	C8	AP10 1855			= 70			
	21, 23, 20, 31		AP14 1855		46/=	=40			
			AP21 1855		th				
			MY28 1855	855]	1 29 th June 1855]				
			JU 1 1855		8, 49)	- $(48, -$			
			JU 8 1855	<u></u>	49				
			JU11 1855 AU14 1855	<i>*=</i>		49			
			AU15 1855						
			AU18 1855						
			SE 1 1855	tamps	s in Back-Stam	Code Letters in			
			SE25 1855	Э	В	Α	none		
			OC 5 1855 B						
			OC22 1855	•	Balaclava	Constantinople I	Varna Co		
			OC 1855	AND 051-0FA/C	OST-OFF	OST-OFA	OST-OFFIC		
			NO27 1855	1 1855	1 1855	(1856 1)	Q AU 4 11		
				REAL SHARM	A TISH-ARE	A A ARE	A TISH-ARM		
							-1-0FA		
							8 1854		
			JA26 1855 B				B JY 9 K		
			MR 1856				NSH-PK		
			MR31 1856						
			JU28 1856						
			DE 4 1855 DE21 1855 DE23 1855 DE25 1855 B JA26 1855 B MR 1856	OF 1855 THE PROPERTY OF THE PR	O JA 8 S S JA B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B	0 1856 1856 A H- A	AU 4 1854 AU 1		

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



year above date no code letter



Crimean War, from Balaclava or Varna

Dated back-stamp in green, year above date: POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY 1854 OC 8, no code letter.

SG Spec. C1, plate 181

Stamps cancelled after UK arrival by the London Inland double-46-in-diamond obliterator.

[Ex - author's collection]

Camp Highland Brigade





Crimean War, from Balaclava

Letter written from the Highland Brigade Camp on 15th May 1855. Dated back-stamp: POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY MY19 1855, no code letter.

SG Spec. C2, plate 198

Stamps cancelled after UK arrival by the London Inland double-47-in-diamond obliterator.

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



year below date no code letter



Crimean War, from Varna

Dated back-stamp: POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY SP25 1855, without code letter.

SG Spec. C3, plate 13

Stamps cancelled after UK arrival by the London Inland double-46-in-diamond obliterator.

[Ex - author's collection]



Crimean War, from Varna

Dated back-stamp: POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY SP29 1855 without code letter

SG Spec. C4, plate 2 (II-IJ-JI-JJ-KI-KJ)

Stamps cancelled after UK arrival by the London Inland triple-48-in-diamond obliterator.

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Crimean War

Dated back-stamp: POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY MR- - 1856, [code letter not recorded].

SG Spec. C6, plate 6

Stamps cancelled after UK arrival by the London Inland double-47-in-diamond obliterator.





Crimean War, from Balaclava

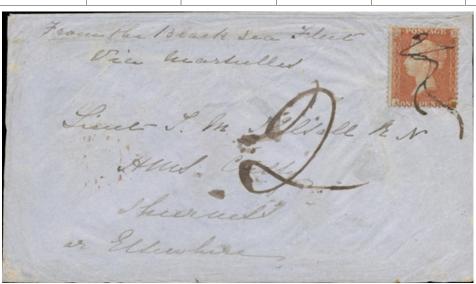
Dated back-stamp: POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY MY 7 1856 B

SG Spec. C8, plate 25

Stamps cancelled after UK arrival by the London Inland single-44-in-diamond obliterator.

[Ex author's collection]

Crim Wa		Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Turk Bulgari Rus	tey, ia and	Field Post Offices in Constantinople, Varna, Balaclava and possibly from the British Army Post Office, Constantinople.	pen-cancelled	Entry	m ese	TYdhabic	JU 6 1856	C6	12
		Constantinopie.							



Crimean War, from Varna

SG Spec. C6, plate 12 (AB)

Pen cancellation and dated back-stamp in red: POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JU 6 1856

Sailor's letter written May 20th from HMS Queen of the Black Sea Fleet. Rated 2 for the deficiency. London transit back-stamp JU 17 1856 in red, and SHEERNESS arrival back-stamp in blue.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 103]

Malta	British Packet Agency,	pen-cancelled		1854 – 1855	JA24 1855	C1	171
	Valetta	Back-stamp	11 Oct 1837		JA10 1855	C2	R2

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Malta dated back-stamp





Crimean War, Black Sea Fleet — via Malta

Broad ink band on the stamps, not extending to the envelope of a naval officer's letter in transit from the Crimean War.

SG Spec. C1, plate 171 (GA-GB-GC)

Circular back-stamp MALTA JA24 1855 at the British Packet Agency, Malta.

Endorsed *Black Sea Fleet Letter*, and *Via Marseilles*,(across the stamps), rated 6 in black, carried privately to Malta where it was placed in the post, and treated as wholly unpaid. London transit back-stamp, and PORTSMOUTH FE 9 1855 A arrival back-stamp in blue.

[ex – Gerald Ellott collection, lot 96]

Crimean War, Malta

Pen cancellation at the British Packet Agency of mail in transit from the Crimean War.

SG Spec. C2, plate R2

Circular back-stamp MALTA JA 10 1855

Crimean War	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Malta	British Packet Agency,		31 Mar 1855	23 Apr 1855 –		29 Apr 1855	B1	Exist but unplated.
	Valetta			1856		3 Jul 1855	B2	Exist but unplated.
	Obliterator supplied					6 Oct 1855 7 Oct 1855	C1	R5; others exist but unplated.
	for use on unfranked	D 1 4				Feb 1856	C2	Exist but unplated.
	mail from the Crimean	Back-stamp					C3	5
	War	((0011))					C4	1, 4, 5, 9, 12
		1837					C5	1, 4, 12
							C6	4, 7, 13; others exist but unplated.
							C8	23; others exist but unplated.



Malta



SG Spec. C3, plate 5

Obliterator applied to uncancelled mail en-route from Selimiye Army Hospital, Scutari, Constantinople to India, with circular back-stamp MALTA AP 29 1855.

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Malta



SG Spec. C4, plate 4

Circular back-stamp MALTA OC 7 1855



Malta



SG Spec. C6, unplated misperf



Malta



SG Spec. C8, plate 23(NL)

France	Post Office of the French Army Corps in	-:::AOM-:::-	Sep 1854 – Feb 1856		C4	8
	the Crimea					



Crimean War

AOM dotted lozenge of the French Army Corps in the Crimea

SG Spec. C4, plate 8(OC)

Crimean War	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
France	Marseille: mail			1852 – 1862		28 Jan 1855	C1	AJ unplated
	carried by French paquebot from Constantinople	1896						35 (KC) shown in the main France section is most probably Crimean War usage, but cannot be confirmed off-cover.



France (Crimean War mail)

'Petits chiffre losange' 1896 of Marseille

SG Spec. C1 (AJ); (unplateable: 21 position AJ examples are missing from the registration sheets).

Entire sent from Selimiye Army Barracks Hospital, Scutari, Constantinople, on 28 January 1855, via French postal service to Marseille, overland to Pisa and redirected to Livorno. French circular date-stamp CADRE D - - 5 FEVR 55 and Italian circular date-stamp LIVORNO 19 FEV 1855 on front; backstamped with French circular date-stamp MARSEILLE 16 FEVR 1855.

SG Spec. C8 Plate 35 stamps are known used from the Crimean War, as is mail carried from there by French boat and cancelled at Marseille; another possibility could be the Malta Moveable Box; off—cover, such use or the route of this stamp cannot be confirmed.



France

'Petit chiffre losange' 1896 of Marseille

SG Spec. C8, plate 35 (KC)

[Ex- author's collection]

Crimean War	Area, Town or City	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
The Baltic Fleet	from the British Baltic		ed after UK arriva	l by the use of var	rious London	19 / 8 [1854] 25 / 5 [1855]	C1	166, 171, 172, 175, 191, 202 and others unplated.
	Fleet was landed at Danzig, carried by the Prussian Postal	Inland Office number	er-in-diamond obli single (1-37, 39	* I	es below:	1 / 6 [1855] 6 / 7 [1855] 15 / 6 [1855]	C2	R4
	Service, and cancelled upon UK arrival					22 / 6 [1855] 20 / 7 [1855]	СЗ	5
			double (45,	46, 47)		21 / 7 [1855]		
			triple (48	8, 49)				
			Date-st	amp				



Crimean War, Baltic Fleet 19
1854 circular date-stamp DANZIG 8

SG Spec. C1, unplated, cancelled after UK arrival by the London Inland Branch 35-in-diamond obliterator Sailor's letter from *HMS Imperieuse* with a red L-incircle hand-stamp and black 4, being the amount due to Prussia; two London back-stamps AU22 1854 in red. [ex – Gerald Ellott collection lot 83]

Crimean	Area, Town	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
War	or City		Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Crimean War, Baltic Fleet
1855 circular date-stamp DANZIG

SG Spec. C2, plate R4 cancelled after UK arrival by London Inland 51-in-diamond obliterator (unlisted in *Collect British Postmarks*, but listed in Brumell's *British Post Office Numbers*).

[ex- Gerald Ellott Collection lot 85]



Crimean War, Baltic Fleet
1855 circular date-stamp DANZIG
6

SG Spec. C3, plate 5, cancelled after UK arrival by 49-in-diamond triple obliterator of the London Inland Branch.

1855 officer's cover from HMS Orion, off Kronstadt, home of the Russian Baltic Fleet at Kotlin Island. Apparently overweight and rated 3 in black; London back-stamp in red. Redirected to Wragby, with a WRAGBY back-stamp and charged 1; this crossed-out as concession rate letters were exempt from redirection fees.

The Baltic Fleet	Mail from the British	French cachet applied to cover		11 Jul 1855	C3	Unplated, on an envelope from Sveaborg,
	Baltic Fleet sent via	ESCADRE DE LA BALTIOUE				Finland
	the French Baltic	ESCADREDE LA BALTIQUE				
	Naval Squadron	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival.				

Mailboats — British

The system of sorting some of the steamship contract mail en route began experimentally in 1858 on the P & O mail packets to Australia. In 1859 the Postmaster General in his fifth report stated:

'The arrangements for sorting letters on board ship, hitherto confined to the Australian Mails, having been found to work well, and greatly to expedite the delivery of the letters, have been extended within the present month to the Indian Mails; and I am in communication with the Postmasters General of the United States and Canada, with a view to the adoption of the same plan in the packets between this country and North America.'

Barred oval numeral handstamps were distributed to postal officers in charge of mails carried by certain steamship companies. These sorters operated on ships holding mail contracts from the British GPO. The handstamps were for use on mail posted on board, but most examples occur on letters from soldiers and sailors serving overseas which were forwarded to the mailboats without postmarks. An impression of each handstamp and the date of its issue were recorded in the dispatch books of 1859, 1860 and 1861 at Post Office Records.

Each of these entries names a person to whom the handstamp was originally sent, and it was assumed for a long time that these were the names of the officers in charge of mails on board the steamships. Examination of the Post Office Establishment records shows that the names were those of the clerical officers in the GPO Circulation Office, (R Casson, A R Douglas, T Mounsey, R Perkins, W Roberts, U Romayne, G Gilpin, D Fisher, E H S

Fisher, W B Nash, C W Cook, R Corlett, W P White and F D White), who were responsible for the issue of particular handstamps to those who were specifically entitled to use them. In the case of mailboat officials the numeral obliterating handstamp was usually one of a set of eight different handstamps issued to each officer for his specific use during the whole of his term of duty, irrespective of the different ships on which he served over a period of time. These sets of handstamps also contained different kinds of handstruck rate and postage due marks according to the mail-contract routes on which they were used.

Letters bearing adhesive stamps uncancelled at the place of origin and, later, letters posted on board were struck with the mailboat handstamp. The letter of the alphabet and the number on the handstamp had no reference to any specific ship. A mail officer served terms of duty on different vessels, but he retained for his exclusive use the set of handstamps issued to him. The system was in use between 1858 and 1870 on vessels of the P & O Line, and between 1859 and 1868 on vessels of the Cunard Line. British GPO sorters worked on Atlantic mailboats of the Canadian-owned Allen Line between November 1859 and April 1860. Six cancellations B17, B18 and B27 to B30 were issued to the Allen Line by the British GPO, but these have not been reported used on Great Britain stamps during this brief period, and it is therefore most unlikely that any Penny Red Stars were used on mail from these vessels. All the obliterators were subsequently reallocated to British post offices.

Cancellations and Stamps Recorded

oncession Mail for British Soldiers and Sailors, (excluding the Crimean War), cancelled by various mailboat obliterators, is dealt with in an earlier section, but details are also noted below; the concession mail cover with P&O A99 obliterator is repeated in the this section, as no alternative is available.

Shipping Line	Route	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Cunard Line Mailboats	North Atlantic	FORGERIES of this obliterator	14 June 1859				C10	43, 46, 57, 58
Manodas		FORGERIES of this						

Shipping	Route	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
Line			Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Cunard Line mailboat A91 SG Spec. C10, Plate 58 [ex – Author's collection]

Cunard Line North Atlantic Mailboats North Atlantic	14 June 1859	23 Jan 1864 - 6 Feb 1864	C10	27, 43, 62 Royal Navy mail was put aboard mailboat at Halifax. Nova Scotia.
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Cunard Line mailboat

A92

SG Spec. C10, plate 27

Envelope originated in London where the paid datestamp was applied, but the adhesives were not cancelled, although an inspector's mark was applied. Cunard Line "Arabia" left Liverpool, January 23rd, mail sorted on board, where the A92 obliterator was applied and the letter bagged for Chicago. Arrived Boston, February 6th 1864. At Chicago a CHICAGO. AM. PK. 24 FEB 7 cds was used, and a 35 U.S. NOTES depreciated currency stamp was also applied.

Cunard Line Mailboats	North Atlantic	((A93))	14 June 1859		C10	34, 62
1.14110 0440						



Cunard Line mailboat
A93

SG Spec. C10, plate 34

Cunard Line Mailboats	North Atlantic	$(\underline{\overline{A94}})$	14 June 1859		C10	41

Shipping Line	Route	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Cunard Line	North Atlantic	(AOF)	14 June 1859			Mar 1862	C10	44, 59, 62, 66
Mailboats		(<u>A95</u>)					C12	50



Cunard Line mailboat

A95

SG Spec. C10, plate 62

MR—1862, with Brecon arrival circular datestamp AP16 1862 on reverse



Cunard Line mailboat A95

SG Spec. C12, plate 50

Cunard Line Mailboats	North Atlantic	$(\underline{\overline{A96}})$	14 June 1859			C10	Exist but unplated.
Cunard Line	North Atlantic	(14 June 1859		13 Jun	C10	59
Mailboats		$(\underline{\underline{A97}})$			21 Jun 1862	C13	R16

Shipping	Route	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
Line			Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Mailboat

A97 of Cunard Line, used aboard "Europa"

SG Spec. C10, plate 59

Ship left Halifax, Nova Scotia 13th June 1862, arriving at Queenstown 21st June 1862.

Arrival back-stamp: TUNBRIDGE WELLS JU 23 1862

Cunard Line	North Atlantic	(AQQ)	14 June 1859		C10	38, 41, 47, 60
Mailboats		(ASO)			C12	50



Mailboat A98 of Cunard Line SG Spec. C10, plate 38

Cunard Line Mailboats	North Atlantic	(<u>B17</u>))	13 Mar 1862			No examples are known
Cunard Line Mailboats	North Atlantic	$(\underline{\overline{B18}})$	12 Dec 1859			No examples are known
Cunard Line Mailboats	North Atlantic	(<u>B27</u>) (<u>B61</u>)	19 Dec 1859			No examples are known
Cunard Line Mailboats	North Atlantic	(<u>B61</u>)	13 Mar 1862		C10	Exist but unplated. No covers known.
Cunard Line Mailboats	North Atlantic	$(\underline{\overline{B62}})$	Mar 1862		C10	The only example seen, on Plate 39, failed to receive a RPSL certificate in 2011, as the B62 obliterator was not considered genuine.
		FORGERY reported				

Shipping	Route	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
Line			Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Mailboat

FORGED B62 (of Cunard Line)

SG Spec. C10, plate 39, inverted watermark large crown type 1

P&O Line Mailboats	Southampton to Alexandria packet	(<u>A17</u>))	24 Apr 1858				No examples are known.
P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	$(\underline{\underline{\underline{\overline{\mathbf{A}}}}\underline{\underline{\mathbf{B}}}\underline{\underline{\mathbf{O}}}})$	11 Mar 1859			C10	68
P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	$(\underline{\overline{\mathbf{A81}}})$	17 Mar 1859, handed over		18 Apr 1859 7 Aug 1868	C10	27, 34, 37, 49, 55, 56, 59, 60, 61, 66
			18 Mar 1859		Jun 1864	C10	unplated Hong-Kong sailor's letter
					29 Nov 1860	C10	49, Malta sailor's letter



Mailboat
A81 of P & O Line
SG Spec. C10, plate 60 [FG]

[ex – Author's collection]

Thin out at Last		P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	$(\overline{\overline{A82}})$	24 Mar 1859			28 Sep 1859	C10	47, 55
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Mailboat A82 of P & O Line SG Spec. C10, plate 55

P&O Line	Mediterranean, Africa		31 Mar 1859		15 Dec 1859	C8	Exist but unplated.
Mailboats	& Far East	$(\overline{\underline{\mathbf{A83}}})$				C10	36, 49, 56, 57, 58, 59, R17
					1860		44, 59, one unplated, Hong-Kong sailors' letters
					Dec 1861		
					AP 13 63		
					Nov 1861	C10	37, Shanghai sailor's letter
					3 May 1863	C10	60, Syria sailor's letter
					Oct 1864	C10	62, Yokohama sailor's letter

Shipping Line	Route	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded			
Mailboat											

SG Spec. C10, plate 58

P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	$(\underline{\overline{\mathbf{A84}}})$	8 Apr 1859			C10	Exist but unplated.
P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	$(\underline{\overline{A85}})$	8 Apr 1859		9 Aug 1863 25 Dec 1864	C10 C12	52, 56, 59, 66 50



Mailboat
A85 of P & O Line
SG Spec. C10, plate 66
backstamped: TRURO DE 26 64

P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	$(\overline{\overline{A86}})$	18 Apr 1859		Nov 1859	C10	49, 52, 58, 60, 61
					Mar 1863	C10	R17, Hong-Kong sailor's letter

Shipping Line	Route	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
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Mailboat

A86 of P & O Line Mediteranean Packet "Pera"

SG Spec. C10, plate 61

Vessel left Alexandria 3rd November 1859, to Marseilles for overland passage to England, arriving London 16th November 1859.

P&O Line	Mediterranean, Africa	(AQ7)	18 Apr 1859	May 1860	C10	43, 44, 52, 67
Mailboats	& Far East	(A87)				



Mailboat

A87 of P & O Line Mediterranean Packet "Valetta"

SG Spec. C10, plate 43

Carried from Alexandria, May 1860, sorted at Malta and continued to Marseilles for overland passage to England.

P&O Line	Mediterranean, Africa	((A Q Q))	26 Apr 1859			C10	27, 36, 59, 62, 68
Mailboats	& Far East	(<u>A88)</u>				C12	51
					Aug 1862	C10	57, Singapore sailor's letter

Shipping Line	Route	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
			Mailboat A88 of P&O Line SG Spec. C10, plate 59 [ex – Author's collection]					
P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	(<u>A89</u>))	26 Apr 1859				C10	34, 44



Mailboat A89 of p & O Line SG Spec. C10, Plate 34

P&O Line Mediterranean, Africa Mailboats & Far East	date not in Proof Book	28 Sep 1864 C10 (arrival)	58 and one unplated cover recorded, 6d rate via Mediterranean Packet to Bombay.
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Mailboat A90 of P & O Line Spec. C10, plate 58

P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	$(\underline{\overline{A99}})$	26 Jun 1859			Apr 1860	C10	36, Hong Kong sailor's letter
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Shipping	Route	Obliterator	Proof Book	Obliterator	GB Stamps	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
Line			Entry	in Use	Available		Spec.	



Mailboat / Hong Kong sailor's letter A99 of P&O Line, Far East Mailboat SG Spec. C10, plate 36

1860 sailor's letter from HMS Esk, Hong Kong, when part of the East Indies and China Station of the Royal Navy. In an April 1860 Naval mail bag from Hong Kong, (prior to the departure of HMS Esk in the summer of 1860, as part of the action to

seal the Bohai Gulf).

P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa	(BO3)	18 Aug 1859	no covers recorded	C10	47
Wantodats	& Par East			recorded	C10	48, FAKED from 803



Mailboat
FAKED B03 of P & O Line
(altered from 803 of Dulverton, Somerset)
SG Spec. C10, plate 48

[ex – Author's collection]

P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	((B12))	10 Oct 1859		C10	44, 47, 52, 59
Wanoodts	& Tar East					



Mailboat
B12 of P & O Line
SG Spec. C10, plate 59
[ex – Author's collection]

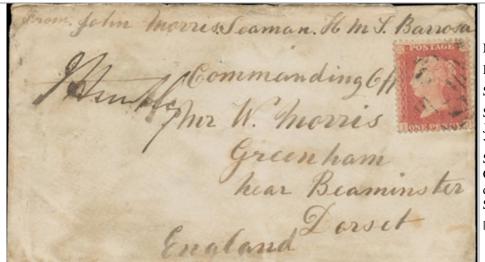
Shipping Line	Route	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	$(\underline{\underline{\overline{B16}}})$	24 Nov 1859			1861	C10	60; others exist but unplated.



Mailboat
B16 of P & O Line
Mediterranean Packet "China"
SG Spec. C10, plate 60

Mourning envelope dated 1861

P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	$(\underline{\underline{\widetilde{B56}}})$	17 Jul 1861			C10	Exist but unplated.
P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	(<u>B57</u>))	24 Jul 1861			C10	41, 57, 58, 59; others exist but unplated.
Wallboats	& Fai East				Aug 1864	C10	62, Yokohama sailor's letter



Mailboat [Japan sailor's letter]

B57 of P&O Baroda

SG Spec. C10, plate 62

Sailor's letter from HMS *Barrosa*, Yokohama, Japan. Carried per P&O *Ganges*, departed Yokohama 26th August 1864; *Orissa*, departed Shanghai 4th September 1864; *Mooltan*, departed Galle?; *Baroda*, departed Alexandria?; *Ripon*, departed Malta 23rd October 1864; arrived Southampton 3rd November 1864.

[ex-Gerald Ellott collection lot 233]

Shipping Line	Route	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Obliterator in Use	GB Stamps Available	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East		25 Aug 1860			none recorded		No stamps recorded. Proof book note: "Lent temporarily to Mr White (our Avoca official) for use on the P & O steamer Ellora."
P&O Line Mailboats	Mediterranean, Africa & Far East	(29)	11 June 1866					Unlikely to have been used on Penny Red Stars, due to date of issue of obliterator.

Mailboats — French (Paquebot)

ail agents on board vessels of the French passenger–freight–mail packet boat company *Compagnie des Messageries Nationale* (so-named 1853 – 1871) were issued with a dotted lozenge obliterator, with an anchor in place of the usual numerals. This was to be used to cancel stamps on letters either posted on board or posted at the docks. Circular date-stamps, recognised by their double concentric circles with a

flower petal shape in the lower annulus, were to be struck on the face or on the back of the cover. Stamps of countries other than France, either alone or in combination with French stamps, were sometimes cancelled with the anchor, particularly on the New York line and on the Orient runs. (Ref. 15)

Cancellations and Stamps Recorded

Shipping Line	Route	Obliterator	Obliterator in Use	Date-stamp	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
CMN	_		1857 – 1876	(10 / 10 / 10 / 10 / 10 / 10 / 10 / 10 /		C10	67



France:

CMN Line 'losange' with anchor

SG Spec. C10, plate 67 [ex – Author's collection]

Moveable Box — Mail from English Ports and the Channel Islands to France

Regular Post Office Packet vessels carried the bulk of the mail between Great Britain and France, via the Dover to Calais route. The Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1843 allowed the transport of mail between British and French ports by private ships sailing between certain French and English ports. The system of maritime 'Movable Boxes' did not commence until early-1844, with such lockable boxes provided either at the quayside or on steamships sailing to Le Havre and later, to Boulogne-Sur-Mer, from the ports of Southampton, London, Dover or Brighton, and in 1855 from Folkestone. Margate, Plymouth and Weymouth were possibly included, although they remain unrecorded. (Ref. 16)

A new Anglo-French Postal Convention was drawn up in 1856 and commenced on 1st January 1857. This now included the English port of Newhaven, ports on the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, and in 1858 Weymouth. In addition to Le Havre, octagonal, English Moveable Box date-stamps were issued to the French ports of Bordeaux, Boulogne-Sur-Mer, Cherbourg, Dieppe, Granville and St Malo, (Ref. 16). A French source does not include Dieppe and queries the issue of date-stamps to Calais and Morlaix; it does record that circular date-stamps were issued to Plerin and Port Bail, and the Moveable Box to Bordeaux was carried on the English Packet Boat. (Ref. 29). No British stamps have so far been noted by this author as cancelled at Bordeaux, Plerin, Calais, Dieppe or Dunkerque, (the last three were arrival ports for sacks of mail to and from the British Post Office, although examples of French mails in the 'Boite Mobile' from these ports have been

recorded arriving in England). The captains of such ships were to be paid 1d per letter and on arrival of the vessel, the moveable box was carried to the local postmaster, who opened it, took out the letters, and returned it to the ship.

This mail received an octagonal 'Angl. BM' date-stamp in red, with the stamps obliterated by a diamond-shaped lozenge of dots. The earlier obliterators with small 4mm numerals, 'petits chiffres losange', were replaced from 1st January 1863 by a different series with larger 7mm numerals, 'gros chiffres losange', with large, 7mm numerals, used together with a circular 'Angl. BM' datestamp, (Ref. 17). This apparent change from octagonal to circular is not recorded in another book, which also illustrates an 1870 Le Havre cover with a red octagonal 'Angl. BM' datestamp, (Ref. 18). Before the receipt of the larger format cancellers at certain Post Offices, the newly allocated number was incorporated in a canceller of the old 4mm format, possibly manufactured locally.

Three British letterpress (surface printed) stamps are recorded cancelled by the 2896 'gros chiffre losange' of Port-Bail on the coast of Normandy. These were from letters carried by summer excursion steamers between Gorey and Port-Bail and that service was by no means regular. The port silted-up in 1885 and the steamer service ceased, (Ref. 19). This service commenced well after the period of use of Penny Red Stars; likewise, the introduction of circular date-stamps at Port Bail, Plerin and St Malo was long after the period of use of Penny Red Stars.

Cancellations and Printing Plates Recorded

France	Town / Port	Small (4mm) Numerals	Large (7mm) Numerals	Obliterator in Use	Date-stamp	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
France	Bordeaux (English Packet Boat)	441		1852 – 1862	NOGLATOR NOG			No stamps recorded, although Paq. Angl. BM date-stamp recorded for the English packet calling at Bordeaux, (Ref. 34).
France	Bordeaux (English Packet Boat)		∴ 532 ∴	1863 – 1876	NGL AF			No stamps recorded, although Paq. Angl. BM date-stamp recorded for the English packet calling at Bordeaux, (Ref. 34).
France	Boulogne-Sur-Mer	455		1852 – 1862	viol B. A. 17 FEVR 64 E. A. OULOG		C10	SG Spec. C10: 43, 60; others exist but are unplated.

France	Town / Port	Small (4mm)	Large (7mm)	Obliterator	Date-stamp	Dated Items	SG	Printing Plates Recorded
		Numerals	Numerals	in Use			Spec.	



France — Moveable Box

'Petits chiffres losange' 455 of Boulogne

SG Spec. C10, plate 43 [ex – Author's collection]

France	Boulogne-Sur-Mer		∷ 549	1863 – 1876	FEVR 400 ULOG	C	Exist but unplated.
France	Calais	583		1852 – 1862			No stamps recorded
France	Calais		·: 698 :·	1863 – 1876			No stamps recorded
France	Cherbourg	842		1852 – 1862	GL dy 222 FEVR 63 CHERBOUTS		No stamps recorded, although BM date-stamp recorded for Cherbourg, (Ref. 34).
France	Cherbourg		::1002::	1863 – 1876	GL dy FEVR GS GS		No stamps recorded, although BM date-stamp recorded for Cherbourg, (Ref. 34).
France	Dieppe	1096		1852 – 1862			No stamps recorded.
France	Dieppe		:1299	1863 – 1876			No stamps recorded.
France	Dunkerque	1152		1852 – 1862	SGL HAT CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT		No stamps recorded, although BM date-stamp recorded for Dunquerke, (Ref. 34).
France	Dunkerque		::1364:·	1863 – 1876	SGL AN SERVICE STATE OF THE SE		No stamps recorded, although BM date-stamp recorded for Dunquerke, (Ref. 34).
France	Granville	1706		1852 – 1862	CA 64 NY 1 LA	C	10 56; others exist but unplated.

France	Town / Port	Small (4mm) Numerals	Large (7mm) Numerals	Obliterator in Use	Date-stamp	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
France	Granville		:1706:	1863 – 1876	PEVR FEVR CHANVILLE		C10	Exist but not yet recorded.
France	Granville			After 1863	THEL B. 4		C10	60
		1441			FEVR CANANA		C13	R15



France — Moveable Box

'Petits chiffres losange' 1441 of Granville

SG Spec. C10, plate 60



France — Moveable Box

'Petits chiffres losange' 1441 of Granville

SG Spec. C13, plate R15

France	Le Havre	1495	1860	FEVR	23 60	C10 34, 47, 56, 60, R17; others exist but unplated.
		****		LE HANDE		



France — Moveable Box

'Petits chiffres losange' 1495 of Le Havre

SG Spec. C10, plate 60

Red octagonal arrival mark: LE HAVRE 23 - - - 60

France	Town / Port	Small (4mm) Numerals	Large (7mm) Numerals	Obliterator in Use	Date-stamp	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
France	Le Havre		∴1495 : •	1863 – 1876	SGL BAY 22 FEVR 63		C10	34, 44, 52, 55, 56, 57, 59, 60
			.1435.		63 KERUSE		C12	51
France	Le Havre	1769		1852 – 1862	PEVR 17 FEVR 64 HAVE		C10	36
France	Le Havre		::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	1863	vall Bay		C10	55



France — Moveable Box

'Gros chiffres losange' 1769 of Le Havre

SG Spec. C10, plate 55

France	St Malo		1852 – 1862	SuGL RA	C8	46
		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •			C10	27, 34, 36, 43, 46, 47, 48, 58, 61, 66, 68
				WEROS	C12	50



France — Moveable Box

'Petits chiffres losange' 3176 of St Malo

SG Spec. C8, plate 46 (AG, AH-AJ rejoined scans)

[AG ex-Author's collection]



France — Moveable Box

'Petits chiffres losange' 3176 of St Malo

SG Spec. C10, plate 43 [ex – Author's collection]

France	Town / Port	Small (4mm) Numerals	Large (7mm) Numerals	Obliterator in Use	Date-stamp	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
France	St Malo			1863 – 1876	HGL B.	28 Mar 1863	C9	27
			3734		FEVR 64 57 MALO	15 Feb 1864	C10	27, 39, 43, 60, 67, R17
			*****		ST MAL	17 Feb 1864	C12	50
							C13	R15, R16



France — Moveable Box

'Gros chiffres losange' 3734 of St Malo

SG Spec. C9, plate 27 [ex-Author's collection]



France — Moveable Box

'Gros chiffres losange' 3734 of St. Malo

SG Spec. C13, plate R15

Red octagonal arrival mark: ST MALO 17 FEVR 1864

Moveable Box — England

Inder the terms of the Anglo-French Postal Conventions of 1843 and 1856 the principal French ports, where moveable boxes from England were landed, applied a special mark to identify the origin of such letters bearing British stamps, whilst, mail

from France bearing French stamps received corresponding cancellations on arrival at English ports. Occasionally mail bearing British stamps would be placed in the Moveable Box departing a French port, bound for England.

Country	Town / Port	Obliterator	Proof Book Entry	Hand-stamp in Use	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
England	English	MB	1843	1843 – 1856		B1	70



Great Britain

MB English Moveable Box mark; mail posted at the dockside of a French port or when aboard a vessel bound for England.

SG Spec. B1, plate 70(TK)

England	London	MB	14 JU 1844 B1 43	
		1836 CONDO		



Moveable Box / Ship Letter

SG Spec. B1, plate 43

Letter posted in the Movable Box on the quayside in Boulogne on the evening of Thursday 13th June 1844. Stamp cancelled on arrival with a boxed MB and a circular date-stamp LONDON SHIP LETTER 14 JU 14 1844, both in red.

[The RM Phillips Collection]

Moveable Box — Mediterranean

Inder the terms of The Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1856, the principal ports where moveable boxes were landed applied a special mark to identify the origin of such letters. Moveable box date-stamps were issued to many ports, including, in the Mediterranean, Malta and Alexandria. The Malta Moveable Box date-stamp has been noted on mail from Alexandria via Malta to Marseille, including two items with Penny Red Stars, (Ref. 20). The Moveable Box was taken ashore at Valetta, the contents sorted and the MB

mark was applied; stamps on mail for Malta would be cancelled with a Maltese obliterator, whilst onward mail was returned to a Packet Boat bound for Marseille, where the French stamps were cancelled with strikes of the either a '1895 petit chiffres losange' or a '2240 gros chiffres losange' together with a paquebot date-stamp. Mail arriving at Alexandria in a Moveable Box aboard vessels from such places as Southampton, Marseille, Messina, Malta and Syria would be cancelled with the Alexandria Moveable Box date-stamp.

Country	Town / Port	MB Date-stamp	Proof Book Entry	Date-stamp in Use	Destination Obliterator	Date-stamp	Dated Items	SG Spec.	Printing Plates Recorded
Malta	Valetta	MALTA MB FE 21 63	15 Oct 1857	1857 – 1 Feb 1880	_	_		C10	No covers recorded to date (2011)
France	Marseille	MALTA MB FE 21 63	15 Oct 1857	1857 – 1 Feb 1880	1896	ON ANC OF EVR OF ASSIVE	10 Oct 1862		Unplated cover recorded by The Malta Study Circle, (Ref. 21).
France	Marseille	MALTA MB FE 21 63	15 Oct 1857	1857 – 1 Feb 1880	∷ 2240 :·	OSUL AND CONTROL OF THE SELLOW	2 Mar 1864	C10	Unplated cover recorded by The Malta Study Circle, (Ref. 21).
Egypt	Alexandria	MB OC 15	1857		_			C10	No covers recorded to date (June 2011)

${\bf Appendix} \ {\bf 1-Representations} \ {\bf of} \ {\bf British} \ {\bf Barred} \ {\bf Oval} \ {\bf Obliterators} \ {\bf and} \ {\bf Other} \ {\bf Cancellations}$

Postmark	Allocation	Postmark	Allocation
$(\underbrace{\overline{\overline{A01}}})$	Kingston, Jamaica – Head Post Office	(<u>A01</u>)(<u>A01</u>)	Kingston, Jamaica – Head Post Office
(<u>AP23</u>)	Kingston, Jamaica – Head Post Office	$(\underbrace{\overline{(A02)}})$	St John's, Antigua
$(\overline{\overline{A03}})$	Georgetown (Demerara), British Guiana	$(\underline{\overline{(A04)}})$	New Amsterdam (Berbice), British Guiana
$(\underbrace{\overline{(AO5)}})$	Nassau, Bahamas	(<u>A06</u>)	Belize, British Honduras
$(\underbrace{\overline{(A07)}}_{})$	Roseau, Dominica	$(\underline{\widehat{(A08)}})$	Plymouth, Montserrat
(<u>(A091)</u>	Charlestown, Nevis	$(\underbrace{\widehat{(A10)}})$	Kingstown, St Vincent
$(\overline{\underline{A05}})$ $(\overline{\underline{A07}})$ $(\overline{\underline{A09}})$ $(\overline{\underline{A11}})$ $(\overline{\overline{\underline{A13}}})$	Castries, St Lucia	$(\underbrace{\overline{\overline{A12}}})$	Basseterre, St Christopher
(<u>A13)</u>)	Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Isles	$(\underbrace{\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A}}14}})$	Scarborough, Tobago
	St George's, Grenada	(<u>A17</u>))	P&O Line Mailboat
(<u>A18</u>))	English Harbour, Antigua	$(\underline{\widehat{A25}})$	Valetta, Malta
$(\underline{\underline{\underline{A25}}})$	Valetta, Malta	OE 15 NAZ5	Valetta, Malta
	Valetta, Malta	0C11 1837	British Packet Agency, Valetta, Malta – on Crimean War Mail
	British Packet Agency, Valetta, Malta – on Crimean War Mail	(<u>A26</u>))	Gibraltar

Postmark	Allocation	Postmark	Allocation
DE 31 (A26)	Gibraltar	G	Gibraltar
(<u>A27</u>)	Alexandria, Jamaica – District Post Office	$(\overline{\underline{A28}})$	Annotto Bay, Jamaica – District Post Office
(<u>A29</u>)	Bath, Jamaica – District Post Office	((MR29)) (1839)) (MANGE	Bath, Jamaica – District Post Office
	Black River, Jamaica – District Post Office	$(\underline{\overline{A31}})$	Brown's Town, Jamaica – District Post Office
(<u>A32</u>))	Buff Bay, Jamaica – District Post Office	3 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	Buff Bay, Jamaica – District Post Office
$(\underline{\overline{\mathbf{A33}}})$	Chapelton, Jamaica – District Post Office	(<u>A34</u>))	Claremont, Jamaica – District Post Office
(<u>A35</u>)	Clarendon, Jamaica – District Post Office	$(\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A36}}})$	Dry Harbour, Jamaica – District Post Office
$(\overline{\mathbf{A37}})$	Duncans, Jamaica – District Post Office	(<u>A38</u>))	Ewarton, Jamaica – District Post Office (closed before obliterator delivered)
OUTH: 100 DE 8 BA A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	Falmouth, Jamaica – District Post Office	$(\underbrace{\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A39}}}})$	Falmouth, Jamaica – District Post Office
$(\underline{\underline{\widehat{A40}}})$	Flint River, Jamaica – District Post Office	$(\underbrace{\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A41}}}})$	Gayle, Jamaica – District Post Office
$(\underline{\underline{\widehat{A42}}})$	Golden Spring, Jamaica – District Post Office	$(\underline{\overline{A43}})$	Gordon Town, Jamaica – District Post Office
OSH A ((1839)) MAIO	Goshen, Jamaica – District Post Office	(<u>A44</u>)	Goshen, Jamaica – District Post Office
S MR29 S 1839 MAIO	Grange Hill, Jamaica – District Post Office	$(\underline{\widehat{\mathbf{A45}}})$	Grange Hill, Jamaica – District Post Office
$(\underline{\overline{A67}})$	Port Royal, Jamaica – District Post Office	$(\underline{\widehat{\mathbf{A68}}})$	Porus, Jamaica – District Post Office

Postmark	Allocation	Postmark	Allocation
(<u>A69</u>)	Ramble, Jamaica – District Post Office	S MR 29 5 1 1839 // MAIO	Rio Bueno, Jamaica – District Post Office
(<u>A70</u>)	Rio Bueno, Jamaica – District Post Office	$(\underline{\underline{\widehat{A71}}})$	Rodney Hall (Linstead), Jamaica – District Post Office
(<u>A72</u>)	Saint David (Yallaha), Jamaica – District Post Office	(<u>A73</u>))	St Anne's Bay, Jamaica – District Post Office
FE27 FE27 MAIOT	Salt Gut, Jamaica – District Post Office	(<u>A74</u>)	Salt Gut, Jamaica – District Post Office
MR 25 MR 25 MR 25 MR 25 MR 26 MR 26 MR 26 MR 20	Savanna La Mar, Jamaica – District Post Office	(<u>A75</u>))	Savanna La Mar, Jamaica – District Post Office
$\frac{1}{2}$	Spanish Town, Jamaica – District Post Office	(<u>A76</u>))	Spanish Town, Jamaica – District Post Office
(<u>Ā77</u>))	Stewart Town, Jamaica – District Post Office	(A78)	Vere (Alley), Jamaica – District Post Office
(<u>A80</u>))	P&O Line Mailboat	$(\underline{\overline{\overline{\mathbf{A81}}}})$	P&O Line Mailboat
(<u>A82</u>)	P&O Line Mailboat	$(\underline{\overline{A83}})$	P&O Line Mailboat
(<u>A84</u>))	P&O Line Mailboat	(<u>A85</u>))	P&O Line Mailboat
(<u>A86</u>)	P&O Line Mailboat	(<u>A87</u>)	P&O Line Mailboat
(<u>A88</u>))	P&O Line Mailboat	(<u>A89</u>))	P&O Line Mailboat

Postmark	Allocation	Postmark	Allocation
$(\underline{\overline{A90}})$	P&O Line Mailboat	$(\underline{\overline{A91}})$	Cunard Line Mailboat
$(\underline{\overline{A92}})$	Cunard Line Mailboat	$(\underbrace{\overline{\mathbf{A93}}}_{\mathbf{A93}}))$	Cunard Line Mailboat
$(\underline{\underline{\overline{A94}}})$	Cunard Line Mailboat	(<u>A95</u>))	Cunard Line Mailboat
$(\underline{\overline{A96}})$	Cunard Line Mailboat	(<u>A97</u>))	Cunard Line Mailboat
$((\underline{\overline{\mathbf{A98}}}))$	Cunard Line Mailboat	(<u>A99</u>))	P&O Line Mailboat
	Alexandria, Egypt		Cairo, Egypt
	Suez, Egypt		P&O Line Mailboat
(<u>B12</u>))	P&O Line Mailboat	$(\underline{\overline{B16}})$	P&O Line Mailboat
(<u>B17</u>))	Allen Line Mailboat	(<u>B18)</u>)	Allen Line Mailboat
(<u>B27</u>))	Allen Line Mailboat	(<u>B28</u>)	Allen Line Mailboat
(<u>B29</u>)	Allen Line Mailboat	(<u>B30</u>))	Allen Line Mailboat
(<u>B32</u>)	Buenos Ayres, Argentina	WMR 177 (B32)	Buenos Ayres, Argentina

Postmark	Allocation	Postmark	Allocation
	Port Louis, Mauritius	$(\underline{\underline{\widehat{B56}}})$	P&O Line Mailboat
(<u>B57</u>)	P&O Line Mailboat	(<u>B61</u>)	Cunard Line Mailboat
	Cunard Line Mailboat	(<u>B64</u>)	Victoria, Mahé Island, Seychelles
(C28)	Montevideo, Uruguay	(C40)	Coquimbo, Chile
(C41)	Guayadil, Ecuador	(C51)	St Thomas, Danish West Indies
(C56)	Carthagena, Colombia	(C61))	San Juan, Porto Rico
(C79)	P&O Line Mailboat	(C83)	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
	Temporarily loaned to P&O Line Mailboat	C	Constantinople (British Levant)
(<u>***</u>)	Crimean War – Field Post Offices and the British Army Post Office, Constantinople		Crimean War – Field Post Offices and the British Army Post Office, Constantinople
PAID AT CORFS	Corfu, Ionian Islands	APR	Corfu, Ionian Islands
F PAID O	Fernando-Po, West African Coast	LDE310	Fernando-Po, West African Coast
PAID AT AT AAT	Zante, Ionian Islands	B	India, Bombay [Mumbai]

Postmark	Allocation	Postmark	Allocation
B 48	India, —	B 58	India, Skevan [Siwan?]
B	India, Kedgeree	B	India, B-179
PAD	Lagos, Nigeria	C LACOS DE 31 59	Lagos, Nigeria
22 NOV 6)	Lagos, Nigeria	ONTRE AP 4 1856	Montreal, Canada
	Montreal, Canada	PAND RAT S	Quebec, Canada
	Auckland, New Zealand		Victoria State, Australia
	Victoria State, Australia		Maltese cross
	Single London Inland number in diamond $(1-37, 39-44, 52-75)$	46 46	Double London Inland number in diamond (45, 46, 47)
49 49 49	Triple London Inland number in diamond (48, 49)	SHIP LETTER	Ship Letter
GIBRALTAR SHIP LETTER	Gibraltar ship letter	MALTA SHIP LETTER	Malta Ship Letter
MB	Moveable Box, England	CENSO COE 4 2	Ascension
M	Malta FORGED M		

Date-stamp	Allocation	Date-stamp	Allocation
MALTA MB FE 21 63	Malta Moveable Box	MB OC 15 57	Alexandria Moveable Box
AUCKLAND N 17	Auckland, New Zealand	1836 CONDO	London Ship Letter
Back-stamp	Allocation	Back-stamp	Allocation
ST-OFFICE AU 4 FII 1854 775H-186	Crimean War Field Post Office, Varna	0 1854 11 1 1854 11 1 17 9	Crimean War Field Post Office, Varna, but year slug inserted above month and day.
05 1 7 3 6 11 1856 11 A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	Crimean War Field Post Office, Scutari and, (later), British Army Post Office, Constantinople	051-08-CC JA 8 11 B 1855 11 B 1855 11	Crimean War Field Post Office, Balaclava
051-04-7 051	Crimean War Field Post Office, Scutari Hospital	0C11 Y 1837	British Packet Agency and British Post Office, Valetta, Malta
SMY POST OF SEM PAID 2 SEM PAID 2 SEM PAID 2 SEM PAID 2 SEM PAID 1	British Post Office, Constantinople with 'PAID' above date	18 57 4	British Post Office, Constantinople without 'PAID' above date

Appendix 2 – Representations of Foreign Obliterators and Cancellations

Postmark	Allocation	Postmark	Allocation
	Diamond grill, France	::1002::·	1002 (7mm) Cherbourg, France
	Pin roller used on registered and foreign mail (usually black, but occasionally red), France	1096	1096 (4mm) Dieppe, France
	Roller of square dots used on registered and foreign mail, France	1152	1152 (4mm) Dunkerque, France
****	Paris – dotted star, France	∷1299 ∷∷	1129 (7mm) Dieppe, France
441	441 (4mm) Bordeaux, France	∷1364:•	1364 (7mm) Dunkerque, France
455	455 (4mm) Boulogne, France	1341	1441 (4mm) Granville, France
• 532 • •	532 (7mm) Bordeaux, France	495	1495 (4mm) Le Havre, France
₹ 549 ;	549 (7mm) Boulogne, France	∷1495 :•	1495 (7mm) Le Havre, France
583	583 (4mm) Calais, France	1706	1706 (4mm) Granville, France
·::698::·	698 (7mm) Calais, France	::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	1706 (7mm) Granville, France
842	842 (4mm) Cherbourg, France	1769	1769 (4mm) Le Havre, France

Postmark	Allocation	Postmark	Allocation		
::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	1769 (7mm) Le Havre, France	1896	1896 (4mm) Marseille, France		
::2240 :::	2240 (4mm) Marseille, France	2445	2445 (4mm) Port-Bail, France		
∷ 2984∷	2984 (7mm) Port-Bail, France	3176	3176 (4mm) St Malo, France		
₹3734	3734 (7mm) St Malo, France	AOM	AOM, French Crimean Army Corps [Armee D'Orient Bureau M]		
	Anchor, French Paquebot		Spain – 'parilla'		
ゴ	Spain – 'telaraña'	2 63 x	San Roque, Spain – 'rueda 63'		
(BADEN 1 Sep 46	Baden, Germany	24. P AUG. 1846 D 1846 D	Frankfurt, Germany		
BAHWO 12 AUG 1847 Mayarwath	Railway Post, Germany				
Date-stamp	Allocation	Date-stamp	Allocation		
(20 NOV	Paris, France	(30) (30) (3ANI) 62 &	Paquebot – France		
MARZO 1864	Montevideo, Uruguay	LIBS P (NOV) 055 01MEE	Kamiesch, Crimea (French Crimean Army Corp)		
15 C 15 C 5 - A	Danzig, Prussia	ESCADRE DE LA BALTIQUE	Cachet of the French Baltic Naval Squadron		

Date-stamp	Allocation	Date-stamp	Allocation
#6L B 4 17 17 17 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	Boulogne, France – ANGL. B.M. (Moveable Box from England)	FEVR	Granville, France – ANGLETERRE BOITE MOBILE (Moveable Box from England)
FEVR (FEVR (FEVR)	Le Havre, France – ANGL. B.M. (Moveable Box from England)	(0.4 A) -(FEVR) -(FEVR)	Marseille, France – ANGLETERRE PAQUEBOT (English Packet Boat)
FOL B. T.	France – ST MALO ANGL. B.M. (Moveable Box from England)	FETR GRABOUS	France – ANGL. B.M. CHERBOURG (Moveable Box from England)
FEVR 63	France – ANGL. B.M. DUNKERQUE (Moveable Box from England)	NNGL OF FEVER 63	France – PAQ. ANGL. B.M. BORDEAUX (Moveable Box from English Packet Boat)

Appendix 3 – Specialised Groups of the Penny Red Stars

A lthough the normally accepted range for Penny Red Stars is SG Spec. groups A2, B1, CE1, CE2, B2, and C1 to C13, the table below is expanded to include further subgroups, following a chronological order.

Note: In the second column, 'var' denotes a variety, group or sub-group which may not have a reference number in the Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue, 2008, (Ref. 1).

Year	SG Spec.	SG	Watermark	Die	Separation	Alphabet	Shade or hue of printing ink	Shade or hue of paper	Printing plates and notes
1841	A2	7	small crown	1	imperf	1	red-brown	blued	1, 2, 5, 8 to 11 Printed from 'Penny Black' plates
1841	DP22	16	_	1	imperf	1	red-brown	very blued	11 Dickinson 'thread paper'
1841	A2	7	small crown	1	private roulette	1	red-brown	blued	Various plates Unofficial or unauthorised roulette
1841 – 1852	B1	8 – 12	small crown	1	imperf	1	red-brown	blued	12 to 131
1841 – 1848	B1	8 – 12	small crown	1	private roulette	1	red-brown	blued	115 131 and other plates Unofficial or unauthorised roulette
1848	CE1	16a	small crown	1	11½ roulette	1	red-brown	blued	70 and 71 Rouletted by Henry Archer
1850	DP71 <i>b</i>	_	_	_	imperf	_	red-brown	white	Archer's letterpress, (<i>surface printed</i>), Prince Consort essays, included as part of the history of the Penny Red Stars
1850	DP71 <i>c</i>	_	_	_	Archer perf 16	_	red-brown	white	Archer's letterpress, (<i>surface printed</i>), Prince Consort essays, included as part of the history of the Penny Red Stars
1850	CE2	16b	small crown	1	Archer perf 16	1	red-brown	blued	90 to 101 Perforated by Henry Archer
1851 – 1852	CE2	16	small crown	1	Archer perf 16	1	red-brown	blued	105, 107, 108, 111, 116 Probably perforated at Somerset House on Archer's machine.
Jan – Mar 1851	B1 <i>l</i> var		small crown	1	imperf	2	red-brown	lavender tinted	98 A few examples are reported from printings a year earlier than the accepted date period
Jan-Mar 1852	B1 <i>l</i>	_	small crown	1	imperf	2	red-brown	lavender tinted	118, 119, 121 to 131 Early–January to mid–/late –March 1852

Year	SG Spec.	SG	Watermark	Die	Separation	Alphabet	Shade or hue of printing ink	Shade or hue of paper	Printing plates and notes
1852 – 1854	B2	_	small crown	1	imperf	2	red-brown	blued	132 to 177
1852 – 1854	B2	_	small crown	1	private roulette	2	red-brown	blued	151 (10 APR 53 cover) and other plates
Jan-Mar 1852	B2k	_	small crown	1	imperf	2	red-brown	lavender tinted	132 to 136 Early–January to mid–/late –March 1852
Nov 1852 – 1853	B2a & B2aa	_	small crown	1	serpentine roulette	2	red-brown	blued	133, 138, 141, 146 to 154, 156 to 158, 160 to 165, 167, 168, 170, 171, 173. (Ref. 30) Unauthorised serpentine roulette. [The so-called ' <i>Treasury</i> ' roulette]
1852 – 1854	B2 var		small crown	1	imperf	2	red-brown	blued	R7 to R14 Unissued reserve plates
1853	CE3	16c	small crown	1	perf 16	2	red-brown	blued	140, 164 So-called 'Government trial perforation' on dated covers which, if genuine, may possibly have been made on Archer's machine.
1854 – 1855	C1	17 – 18	small crown	1	perf 16	2	red-brown	blued	155, 157, 162 to 204, R1 to R6 First official perforation
1855	C2	22	small crown	1	perf 14	2	red-brown	blued	194 to 198, 200 to 204, R1 to R6 Second official perforation
1855	C3	24 – 25	small crown	2	perf 14	2	red-brown	blued	1 to 21
1855	C4	21	small crown	2	perf 16	2	red-brown	blued	1 to 15
1855	C5	26	large crown type	2	perf 16	2	red-brown	blued	1 to 15
1855 – 1856	C6	_	large crown type	2	perf 14	2	red-brown	blued	1 to 21
1855	C7	_	small crown	2	perf 14	3	red-brown	blued	22 to 27, and 31. Plate 30 was reported at a GBPS meeting in October 2007 and a possible 28 in the Fletcher Collection remains unexamined.

Year	SG Spec.	SG	Watermark	Die	Separation	Alphabet	Shade or hue of printing ink	Shade or hue of paper	Printing plates and notes
1855	C6 var	_	large crown type	2	imperf	2	red-brown	blued	16 to 18 Neale's steam–press trial
1855 – 1857	C8	29 – 33	large crown type	2	perf 14	3	red-brown	blued	22 to 38, 40, 42 to 48
1855 –1856	C8 var	_	large crown type	2	imperf	3	red-brown	blued	22, 25, 39, 41 and, possibly, 43 and 44 Neale's steam–press trial
1855	C8 var	_	large crown type	2	imperf	3	red-brown	blued	R18 and R19 Unissued reserve plates
1855	C7 var	_	small crown	2	imperf	3	red-brown	blued	R20 Unissued reserve plate
Early – 1856	C6 var	_	large crown type	2	perf 14	2	deep rose or orange-brown	unblued	16 to 18 Neale's steam–press trial: deep rose and orange shades were probably within the normal range of shades, (Ref. 22).
1856 – 1857	C8A	37	large crown type	2	perf 14	3	red-brown	unblued	23 to 38, 40, 42 to 48
Early-1857	"Former" C9	_	large crown type	2	perf 14	3	orange-brown	unblued	27, 31, 33 to 38, 40, 42 to 48 Deep and orange shades of early-1857 were within the normal range of shades, (Ref. 22).
March – May 1857	"Revised" C9	_	large crown type	2	perf 14	3	pale rose	white	27, 31, 34, 36, 37, 38, 40, 43, 44, 47, 49, 52, 53, 55 Savoy Street printings, (Ref. 22).
June 1857	C10 var	_	large crown type	2	perf 14	3	rose-red	white	27, 34, 36, 37, 38, 43, 44, 47, 49, 52, 55 Savoy Street printings, (Ref. 22).
1857 – 1862	C10	38 – 41	large crown type	2	perf 14	3	rose-red	white	27, 33 to 34, 36 to 39, 41 to 49, 52, 55 to 68, R17
1857 – 1858	C11	36	large crown type	2	perf 16	3	rose-red	white	27, 34, 36 to 38, 42 to 49, 52, 55 to 60
1861 – 1864	C10c	_	large crown type 2	2	perf 14	3	rose–red	white	27, 34, 36, 39, 41 to 44, 46 to 49, 52, 55 to 68, R17 Single copy of 64(TB re-entry) and two from 65 (IA; LG in a mixed watermark pair LG-LH)

Year	SG Spec.	SG	Watermark	Die	Separation	Alphabet	Shade or hue of printing ink	Shade or hue of paper	Printing plates and notes
1861 –1862	C10 var	_	large crown type 1 and large crown type 2	2	perf 14	3	rose–red	white	27, 34, 36, 39, 46, 55, 57, 58, 59, 60, 65, 67, R17 Mixed watermarks – both large crown type 1 and type 2 watermarks are present on adjacent stamps of pairs, strips or blocks
1861 – 1862	C12 <i>c</i> C12 <i>d</i>	42	large crown type	2	perf 14	4	rose-red	white	50 51
1861 – 1864	C12		large crown type 2	2	perf 14	4	rose-red	white	50, 51
1862	C13 <i>d</i> C13 <i>e</i>		large crown type	2	perf 14	2	rose-red	white	R15 R16
1862 – 1864	C13	_	large crown type 2	2	perf 14	2	rose-red	white	R15, R16
1865	DP35b	_	large crown 2	2	imperf	3	rose-red	white	66 No records authorising or requesting a printing in red
1890?	A2 var	_	small crown	1	perf 11½	1	red-brown	blued	Unofficial 11·38 line perforation by Perkins, Bacon; matches the Mauritius 5s stamps overprinted ' <i>L.P.E.</i> 1890' at the London Philatelic Exhibition, perforated on Perkins, Bacon machine A, (Ref. 23).

Footnote 1 – SG Catalogue Listings for 'Army Field Offices in Russia - the Crimea' (Ref. 24).

For many years I have believed that there were some misleading inaccuracies in the 'GB Used Abroad' section of the *Stanley Gibbons Catalogue of Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1952*, (Ref. 3), concerning the listings: *Russia – Field Offices in the Crimea, 1854-57*. This catalogue listing, which still endures into the 2011 edition, may benefit from being described as Crimean War Mail, 1854 – 1856, and the SG editors have been so informed.

Copies of the *** and 0**0 obliterators and circular back-stamps were sent not only to the Army Field Post Office(s) in the Crimea, but also to other Army Field Offices established to serve the forces based at the Selimiye Barracks in Constantinople from April 1854, from May 1854 at the Black Sea port of Varna, (now in Bulgaria), and to the British Army Post Office which opened in Constantinople in January 1855. As noted earlier, the Allied force landed in the Crimea on 14th September 1854. Mail from the British Army Barracks and Hospital at Selimiye is recorded with the appropriate cancellations. The dates summarised below, from the Imperial War Museum and the National Archives, indicate that the war finished and Allied forces started to leave the Crimea during 1856:

25th February 1856: The Paris Peace Conference opened.

29th February 1856: The Armistice was signed.
30th March 1856: The Treaty of Paris was signed.

27th April 1856: Ratification of the Treaty of Paris in London, which

formally ended Britain's participation in the war.

9th July 1856: The Allied forces commenced their evacuation from

The evacuation of British & French forces was completed by September / October of 1856, with some British forces remaining at Constantinople. Other, non-British, forces remained as a buffer between Moldavia and Bessarabia.

After the Crimean War, a British Postal system lingered at Varna (Bulgaria), as the telegraph service from there to Constantinople remained under British control (Lieut. Biddulph) until Turkey took it over on 23rd February 1857, with a small staff of British officers, (Ref. 25). Prior to, and following, the closure of the British Army Post Office at Constantinople at the end of 1856, there were representations from British commercial and diplomatic interests to the British government, and a British Post Office was eventually opened at Constantinople in July 1857.

The final SG listing of Penny Red Stars from the Crimean War is 'Z15 1d red-brown

(1855), die II, wmk Large Crown, perf 14', which corresponds with SG Spec. C6, on blued paper. Alphabet 3 stamps were also recorded from the Crimean War but have not been added to Gibbons listings: SG Spec. C7, reported by Seymour pre-1939 with 0 * 0 cancellation, plate unknown, (Ref. 14), and SG Spec. C8, Plates 24 to 36. Stamps from Plate 36, which was put to press on 20^{th} February 1856, were last recorded with 0 * 0 cancellations.





SG Spec. C8, plate 34 [ex – Author's collection]

SG Spec. C8, plate 36

Although the 1d value is by far the most common stamp to be encountered in use during the period of the Crimean War, no stamps have so far been seen from later printing plates of group SG Spec. C8, or from the subsequent groups SG Spec C8A and C9, printed in mid- to late- 1856 or early- 1857.

The listing by Stanley Gibbons of '4d rose (1857)' must be doubtful, as the date would indicate by Special Sparticipation in the Watermark, (issued in January 1857). Either it was installed for the medium garter watermark, although neither SG Spec. J48 4d rose, (first issued 25th February 1856 with medium garter watermark) nor the earlier SG Spec. J47 4d rose, (issued July 31st 1855, with small garter watermark), appear under their catalogue listings for the Crimean War, or it may have been cancelled with a forged obliterator.

Between 1907 and 1909 a series of articles entitled 'British Stamps used Abroad' by I J Bernstein and Chas. Nissen appeared in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, (Ref. 26), which later became the basis for much information in the first catalogue listings of these stamps. In Group VI of their articles, when discussing the Crimea 1854-6, the authors wrote:

"Peace was declared in April, 1856, but the Crimea was not finally evacuated by the Allies till 12 July, 1857; consequently we can assume British stamps were used there from about November, 1854, till 12 July, 1857."

"The varieties known are:- Cyphers and Star ... 4d Large Garter"

The above article included a few minor errors, and the Field Post Office(s) in the Crimea closed in 1856, as a consequence of the Allied forces evacuation. The Record of Penny Red Stars used in the Crimean War supports this assumption, with no dated covers so far reported after July 1856. Further supporting evidence is the deeply sad fact that soldiers who had survived the Crimean campaign were later killed, in July 1857, during the Siege of Lucknow, India, which started on 2nd July 1857. The current

description and date listing in the Gibbons catalogue is a continuation of the factual errors in the 1907 to 1909 articles by Bernstein and Nissen, which the SG editors may choose to amend in the future. Unless, of course, a 4d rose with large garter watermark and 0 *0 cancellation is confirmed?

SG 2012 Catalogue Amendment

In the 2012 edition, the editors have not only altered the dates to 1854 - 1856, but also removed the 4d with large garter watermark.

Footnote 2 – SG Spec. C12 Plate 51 'Used in Jamaica'

There may possibly be a minor error concerning Plate 51 in Volume 16 of *The Essential Guide to the Line Engraved 1d and 2d Stars 1840–1864* by the late Dr Ken Statham. On page 3162 he recorded SG Spec. C12 Plate 51 used abroad with the A01 cancellation of Kingston, Jamaica, (Ref. 27).

The use of British stamps in Jamaica ceased on 1st August 1860, when the island assumed responsibility for its postal service. Plate 51 did not go to press until 10½ months later, in mid- to late-June 1861 with the earliest recorded date of use 28 July 1861 in Great Britain. It would be most unlikely that such stamps were used in Jamaica. This usage could only be

correct if on a cover with a Kingston, Jamaica datestamp. Stamps from Plate 51 cancelled A01, but off cover, may possibly have been used at the London Foreign Branch Office, where this obliterator was later used.

Late use of a now-invalidated British stamp would have been contrary to regulations, and any cover endorsed with the amount to be paid by the recipient. The author has seen and inspected an 1864 cover from Port Royal, Jamaica which is endorsed: "No good" and "2d to Pay", and for this reason, continues to list SG Spec. Plate 51 in the Kingston, Jamaica section of this book.

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