

# Co-Evolution of Form and Function of the One-Shilling Stamp in 19th-Century Great Britain

BRITISH POSTAGE STAMPS IN THE VALUE OF ONE SHILLING took two basic forms during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901)—embossed and surface-printed. The denomination fulfilled a broad range of roles: postage (adhesives and stationery), telegraphs, revenues, officials, registration, late fees, colonial use, and finally, parcel post and express mail fees. This exhibit traces how the two forms of the stamp, both derived from revenues, were employed, sometimes interchangeably, each evolving as its uses progressed throughout the century.

The one-shilling denomination as a foundation of Britain's monetary system dates to Anglo-Saxon times. In the Victorian era, pounds, shillings and pence were the basic units of currency in gold, silver and copper coinage, respectively. A shilling (written "1/-") was 1/20th of a pound, equal to 12 pence.

## EXHIBIT ORGANISATION

The story is divided into chapters chronologically by issue, with each section sub-divided into archival material, mint and used examples, cancel studies and postal history. There are brief diversions into e.g. revenues or private telegraph issues where appropriate for background and context.

**Frame 1** With Rowland Hill's reforms, inland letter rates dropped to a penny. Though overseas rates remained complex until the advent of the Universal Postal Union, a shilling was a **typical overseas letter rate** during the first half of Victoria's reign. The use of stamps eventually became mandatory. The **embossed** one-shilling stamp of 1847, derived from revenue patterns, was commonly used. In 1855, the embossing method was dropped for adhesives but the embossed die remained in use for stationery.

**Frame 2** De La Rue proved the quality of the letterpress process (a.k.a. typography or surface-printing) for Draft and Receipt stamps. In 1856, the first **surface-printed** postage stamps were introduced, closely following the format of the Penny Black (though initially without corner letters).

The design was modified in 1862 and again in 1865 to add and then enlarge corner check-letters. In 1867, the watermark was changed from heraldic emblems to **spray of rose**.

Britain set up a network of **post offices abroad**, mainly in South America, using British stamps. These lasted until the U.P.U. made them obsolete; in their heyday, use of the shilling stamp was common.

**Frame 3** Private telegraphs had grown rapidly but chaotically across Britain, with haphazard rates. In 1870, the General Post Office took over Britain's **telegraph** networks, and postage stamps became valid for telegrams. A shilling was the basic rate for the first 20 words, leading to a fresh surge in demand for that value. The embossed die was used to stamp telegraph forms and cards, though many preferred adhesives. Poor controls led to the infamous **Stock Exchange forgery** of 1872-73.



Victorian coinage portraits, as seen on these shillings, allowed the Queen to age. Not so postage stamps.



The medal bust of a teenage Queen by William Wyon, used on all postage stamps throughout her reign.

In 1873, the need for faster production led to a design change from white to **colored corner letters**.

**Frame 4** By 1876, a need for transparency led to the issuing of separate **telegraph stamps**, including a circular one-shilling embossed.

In 1878, Britain took over **Cyprus**, issuing a small quantity of overprinted stamps for the island.

Postal use of one-shilling stamps by this time was minimal. In 1880, the one-shilling stamp color was changed to **brown-orange** (a.k.a. salmon). Plates were reconfigured and the watermark changed again, to an **Imperial crown**.

**Overprints and perfins for official mail** sent by various government departments came into use in 1881. In the same year, telegraph stamps were abandoned and use of postage stamps resumed.

Experiments with doubly-fugitive **lilac and green** inks led to a unified series of stamps for postage and revenue purposes in 1883-84. Postage stamps could thereafter be used for revenue (fiscal) purposes and vice versa.

**Frame 5** Unpopularity of the lilac and green series led to the so-called **'Jubilee'** series of 1887.

Parcel delivery, long outside the Post Office monopoly, was lucrative for Britain's railroads. The Post Office sought to get in the action in the 1890s.

Colonial usage continued with **Niger Coast (Oil Rivers), Bechuanaland and Zululand** overprints.

Use of **stamped-to-order** envelopes and parcel labels grew in popularity during the 1890s, and a new **Sunday-delivery express** service costing a shilling in addition to postage was introduced in 1899.

The 'Jubilee' shilling was reissued as a **bi-colour** stamp in **carmine and green** in 1900. Like the dull green version, the final shilling adhesive of Victoria's reign received official overprints and saw use abroad during the **Boer War**. Victoria died on Jan. 22, 1901, and her son ascended as **King Edward VII**. Many 'Jubilee' and postal stationery designs were retained, just changing the portrait. The 20th century would bring new uses for stamps, such as **telephone** charges.

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5. Huggins, Alan: *British Postal Stationery*
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13. Wright & Creeke: *Stamps of the British Isles*

Some items omitted for space reasons e.g. invt'd wmk. **Especially rare or important items are boxed in red.** Items with expertising certificates indicated with **E**

## TIMELINE

1840—First postage stamps and stationery

1847—First embossed adhesives

1855—1/- stationery

1856—First surface-printed issue

1862—Corner letters added

1865—Corner letters enlarged

1870—Telegraphs nationalized

1873—Corner letters changed to colored

1876-81—Telegraph stamps issued

1880—Color change

1881—First officials

1884—Unified postage and revenue series

1887—'Jubilee' series

1890s—Use of colonial overprints grows

1894—Date slugs removed from stamped-to-order stationery

1899—Sunday express

1900—Bi-color 'Jubilee'



## One-shilling postage rates date back centuries

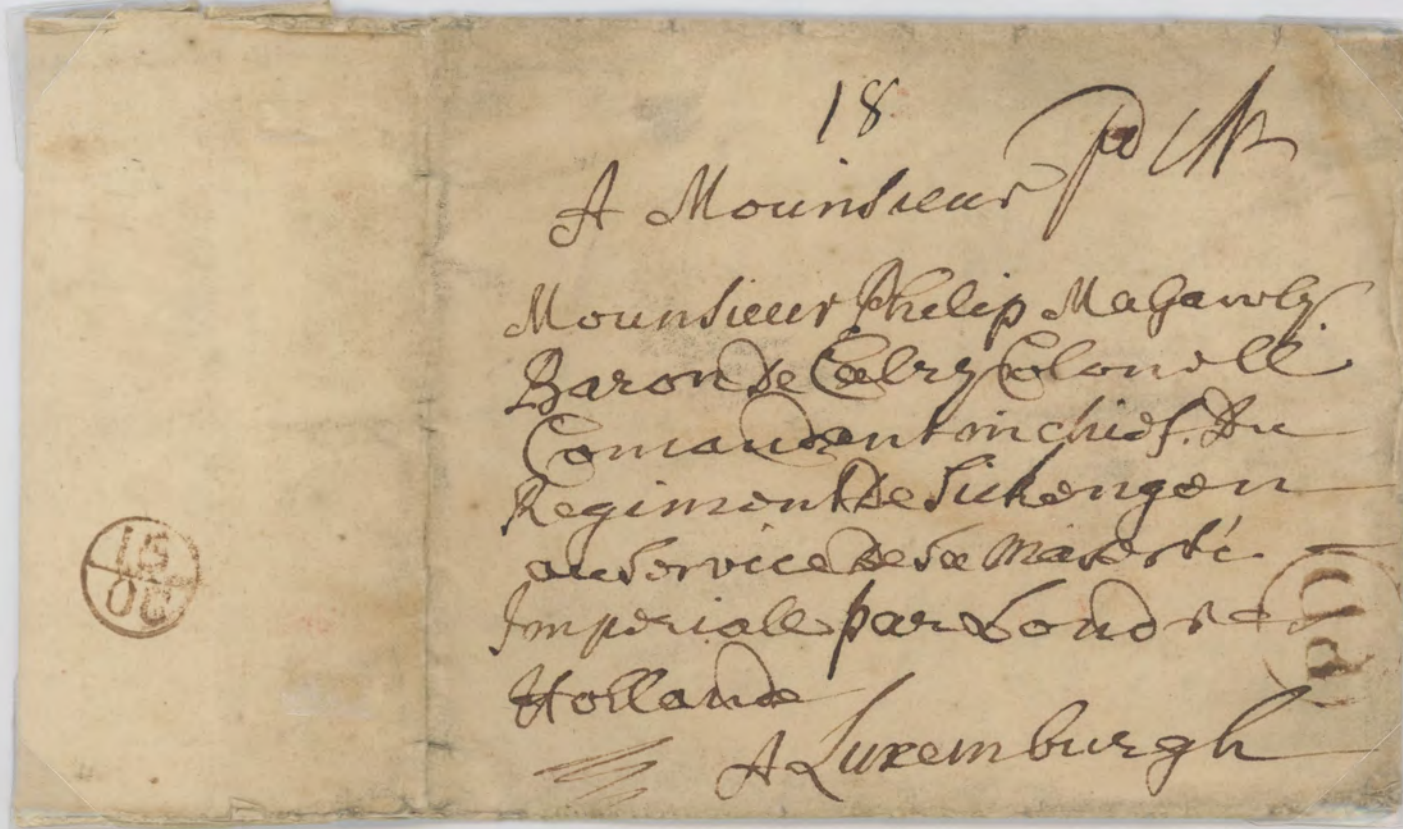
King Charles I authorised a private letter post in 1635, with Thomas Witherings as postmaster general. Inland rates ranged from 2 pence for distances up to 80 miles, to 8d from London to Scotland and 9d to Ireland.

Letters to Europe were generally charged 1 shilling to get across the channel, with the remainder paid by the recipient. Letters sent beyond Europe could incur charges of many shillings.

Postal charges were often marked in manuscript, with a shilling notated as **1/s** or **1/-**.

From 1755 to 1828, Britain offered monthly packet service from Falmouth to New York for one shilling plus inland postage; the recipient paid the American postal charges.

18th-century letter from Dublin to Luxembourg marked 'Pd 1/s'



1731 : LETTER VIA LONDON AND HOLLAND TO LUXEMBOURG, PREPAID 1 SHILLING, TAXED 18 SOLS IN TRANSIT

Manuscript "Pd 1/s" in upper right corner shows cash pre-payment of one shilling. Bishop mark on reverse (folded out for display) gives date of 15 OC. Letter traveled via Dover and Ostende, was taxed "18" in Brussels (manuscript notation at middle top) and marked with circular "PD" (*payé au destination*) at far right.

Recipient was a nobleman and military commander. Per Wikipedia, "In 1731, Philip Magawly was conferred the title 'Baron Calry' (Freiherr von und zu Calry) from Charles VI, Holy Roman Emperor."

### Stamps used since 1694 for fiscal and revenue purposes

Embossing was considered the most secure form of stamping in the early 1800s, and the Board of Inland Revenue—responsible for producing all stamps—had extensive experience with making and distributing embossed stamps for legal documents and engraved stamps for taxable items like hair powder and medicine.

#### Pre-Victorian engraved and embossed revenue stamps

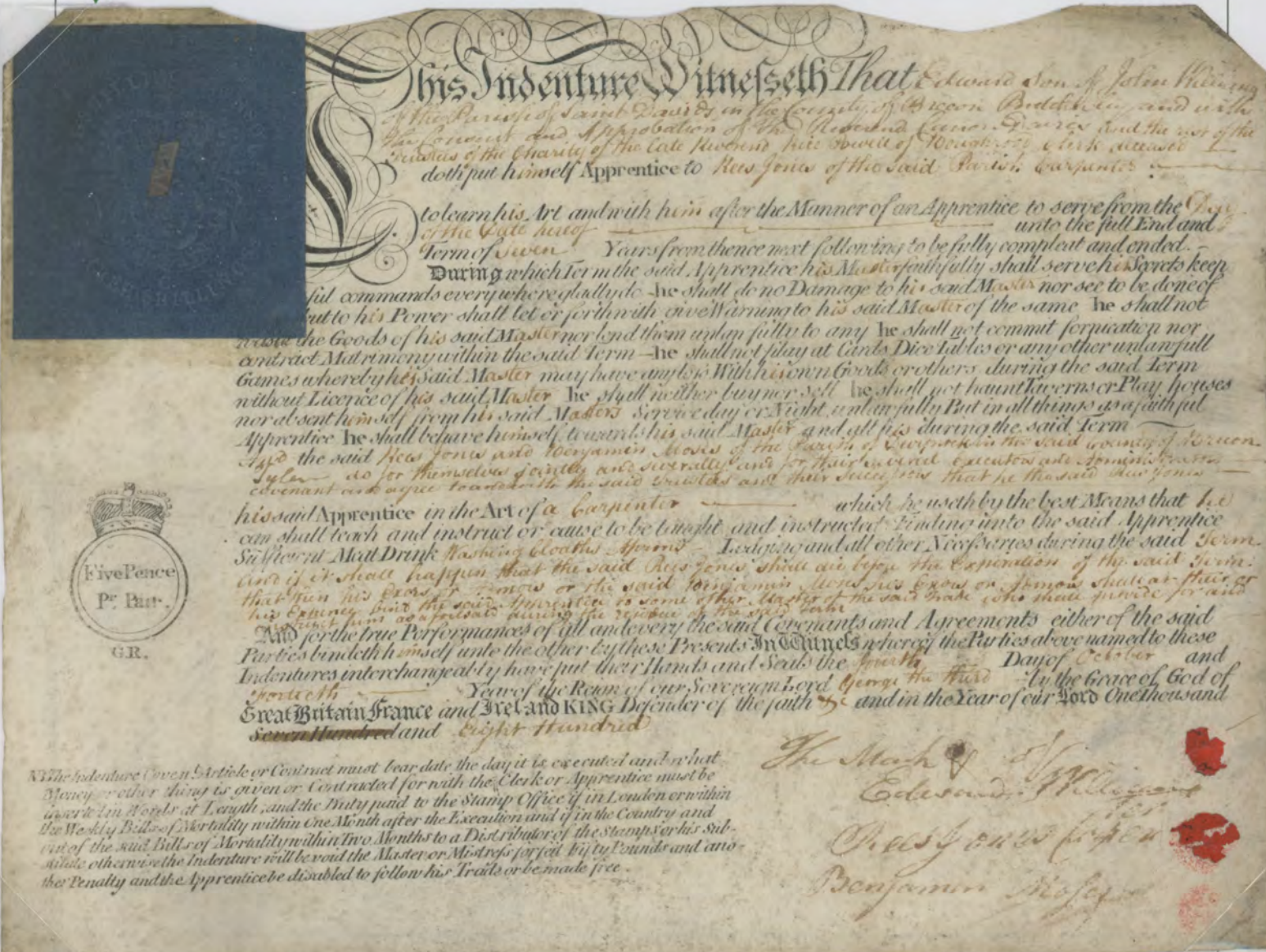


One-shilling Medicine Duty stamp was affixed to a container valued between 4 and 10 shillings.



Five-shilling stamp on vermilion paper. Die dated 1804

Ten-shilling blue duty stamp affixed to an indenture dated 1800.



*As the Indenture Covenant Article or Contract must bear date, the day it is executed and a hot Mency or other thing is given or Contracted for with the Clerk or Apprentice must be inserted in Hoyle at Length and the Duty paid to the Stamp Office if in London or within the Weekly Bills of Mortality within one Month after the Execution and if in the Country and out of the said Bills of Mortality within Two Months to a Distributor of the Stamps or his Substitute otherwise the Indenture will be void the Master or Masters forfeit by Lawes and also the Penalty and the Apprentice be disabled to follow his Trade or be made free.*

**Concept development : methods of pre-paying postage**

Rowland Hill, in proposing his reforms during 1837-40, hedged his bets and advocated three means of prepayment for letters: printed letter sheets and envelopes; envelopes with embossed indicia; and adhesive labels or “flies” that could be applied to any item.

Hill expected that the letter sheets, designed by William Mulready, would be the most popular; the adhesives were almost an afterthought. Hill was mistaken.

**Prepaid postal stationery : letterpress and embossed**

1D MULREADY LETTERSHEET  
USED MAY 9TH, 1840  
and  
2D EMBOSSED ENVELOPE,  
UNUSED, WITH SILK THREADS



Hill's first proposal for a one-penny adhesive (*below left*) underwent some changes, such as the addition of corner letters, before it became the Penny Black, but the central feature, a bust of the Queen by the sculptor William Wyon, was retained. This became the iconic representation of the queen on all 19th century G.B. postage stamps.

**REJECTED ESSAY FOR ENGRAVED ADHESIVE**

Featuring bust by Wyon and engine-turned background. Reprint in green



**Line-engraved adhesive labels to show pre-payment of postage**



**PENNY BLACK and PENNY RED**

Note marginal inscription on the Black:

"1s/- Per Row" (of 12)

**Clear need for a one-shilling stamp to prepay overseas letters.**

Rowland Hill did not initially envision the use of adhesive stamps on overseas mail, but the demand grew.

Stampless letter pre-paid in cash



1843: LETTER POSTED AT DERRY, IRELAND, POSTAGE PAID IN CASH

Manuscript "1/-" in red shows cash prepayment. Red boxed 'Paid at Derry' and Liverpool boxed 'Paid.' 'Boston Ship' receiving CDS, red circular '20 3/4'.

Trans-Atlantic letters could be prepaid either in cash or with stamps.

1844 letter prepaid with minimum of SIX 2d stamps for first weight step



1844: TWO-PENCE BLUE, PLATE 3, STRIP OF SIX PAYING 1/- POSTAGE ON FOLDED LETTER, EDINBURGH TO NEW YORK. Sender's endorsement "Per Steam Packet from Liverpool" at lower left. Stamps hand-canceled Edinburgh "131" rectangular barred numeral. U.S. manuscript 20 3/4-cent domestic postage due mark below two rightmost stamps. Prior to the issuance of 1s and 10d stamps in 1847, covers bearing six 2d blues or even twelve 1d reds are not uncommon.

**Transatlantic postage-due notice for one shilling**

Even in the early 1840s, a system was already in place for chasing down unpaid postage due from across the Atlantic, as the form below shows. This dunning letter states that the addressee, Capt. Cropper, will not receive his mail until his agent pays the 1/- the postage due.

*Her Majesty's  
vice  
1843*

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON,

*30 Mar 1843*

THERE is a Letter N<sup>o</sup>. 12392

at this Office, directed to you, which cannot be forwarded until the Postage of *1/-* is paid; if therefore you will desire one of your Correspondents in London, to call at the Inland Post-Office, St. Martin's-le-grand, between the hours of Ten and Four o'Clock, and pay the above Postage, it will be immediately sent according to the address.

By Command of the Postmaster General,

W. L. MABERLY,

Secretary.

*Please deliver the letter  
to the water  
Capt. Cropper*

Your Correspondent must be particularly instructed to inquire for the Letter by its Number.

*L20 M24*  
MAR 31  
On Her Majesty's Service.



*Mr. Cropper  
Packet Ship "New York"  
New York  
W.L.M.*

Maberly.

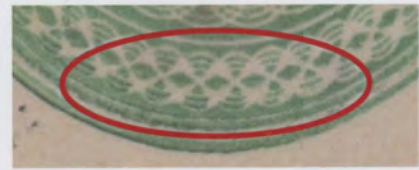
*685*

1843: PRE-PRINTED OFFICIAL FOLDED-LETTER FORM REQUESTING PAYMENT OF 1 SHILLING POSTAGE DUE.

Official mail from London, Mar 30, 1843 (red crowned circle), transiting Liverpool the next day (black octagon) reaching Boston Apr. 19. Presumably returned, with payment in some form, as the addressee has written "Please deliver the letter to the Water."

### 1840 Treasury competition essays presaged 1847 design elements

Several of the designs for embossed postal stationery, proposed in early 1840 by Charles F. Whiting, Arthur Deacon and William Wyon, incorporated elements that would reappear on the embossed adhesives in 1847. The most obvious was Wyon's bust of the Queen, based on his 1837 City Medal, but another element that was "recycled" was the six-threaded braid, which can be found on both of the 1840 stationery essays (shown below). This is not widely noted in the literature.



Detail of six-threaded braid found on 1840 essays as well as the 1847 adhesive shilling.

#### Whiting essays for stationery, 1840



1840 essay for embossed stationery by Charles F. Whiting and Arthur Deacon with right-facing profile including pendant curl from the bun.

Scratches on neck indicate this is a later reprint, probably cca. 1904



1840 essay for embossed stationery by William Wyon and Charles F. Whiting using the left profile, minus the pendant curl.

Braid appears in both designs

### Essay of preliminary design for adhesives

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue at last consented to issuing postage stamps of 10 pence and 1 shilling, chiefly for letters to France and North America, respectively. Like the line-engraved issue, these embossed stamps, designed by Ormond Hill, adopted the City Medal bust of Queen Victoria by William Wyon, who personally engraved the master die at the Royal Mint.

These essays lack the pendant curl below the bun. The filigree at bottom also differs from the issued design.



Essay in brown  
This colour was adopted for the 10d stamp (1848)



Essay in yellow-green  
This is close to the adopted 1s colour

#### Wyon essays for one-shilling adhesive, 1847

No pendant curl below bun



Detail of ESSAYS at left



Detail of ISSUED STAMP (following pages) with braid from Whiting's 1840 essays

## Embossed adhesive postage stamps

Wyon's master die omitted the pendant curl, so it was added by hand when the filigree border was added to the "original" (second-stage) dies. The pendant curl therefore differs slightly on each denomination of the embossed issue.

The original dies were transferred to working dies via a punch. Lettering was by Thomas Moss at Somerset House. Lastly, working dies were cut with "w.w." and a die number, 1 or 2, at base of bust. The registration sheet, held in the Postal Museum, consists of just two impressions, so there are no imprimaturs in private hands.

### Specimens

These were produced for postal notices. The black overprint is scarcer than the red.



Die 1, 'SPECIMEN' overprint in red  
 Note addition of pendant curl and alteration to filigree at bottom

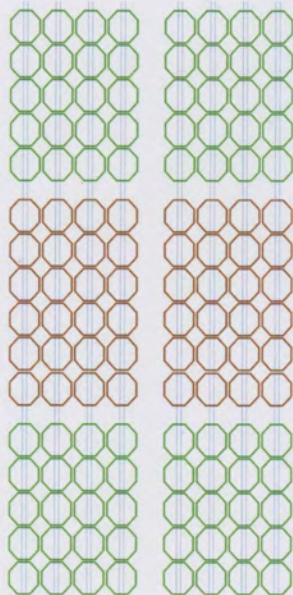


Die 1, 'SPECIMEN' overprint type 1 in black, block of eight from top of sheet with original gum  
 Note the uneven spacing and smudging at side margins.

### The issued stamp

Issued Sep. 11, 1847 on special paper made by Dickinson, incorporating pairs of "silk" threads (in actual fact, blue cotton) spaced 5 mm apart, for added security.

Sheet arrangement is believed to have consisted of six panes: two 4 x 5 panes of one-shilling stamps (£1/pane) at top, two 4 x 6 panes of 10d stamps (also £1) in the middle and two more 15 panes at bottom.



Die 2 (1854)  
 Mint with original gum  
 S.G. 54  
 Ex Royal Philatelic Collection

#### SHEET LAYOUT

Probable arrangement for embossed issues: the 1s and 10d stamps were printed on the same paper, with pairs of "silk" threads running from top to bottom.

The panes all had an equal value of £1. Sheets were separated before distribution.



### Varieties of shade and alignment with silk threads

Printing took place at the Stamping Office at Somerset House continually from 1847 to 1854; naturally, the ink colour varied somewhat over the course of this period. The alignment of the impressions with the silk threads could also vary, hitting just one thread or straddling the pair yielding a stamp with widely separated (20-21 mm apart) threads.



Pale green  
S.G. 54



Green  
S.G. 55



Deep green  
S.G. 56



Single  
thread



Silk threads 21 mm apart  
(instead of 5 mm)



### Manual stamping led to errors and freaks

Each stamp impression was done one-at-a-time in a manual process that was laborious and led to a high rate of spoilage. It is no surprise that the quality of work was inconsistent; overlapping and doubled impressions are seen.

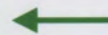


Double impression

Examples of this error range from slight (as this) to dramatic



Used block of six showing wildly inconsistent spacing between impressions. Note the overlap between left-hand upper and middle stamps.



### Typical cancellations

Barred-numeral obliterators, such as this 11-bar London district '20' cancel, are very typical. Regional numerals are also common.

The vast majority of embossed issues are encountered used in this manner.

### Less typical cancellations on the one-shilling embossed

The most commonly found cancellation on the one-shilling embossed is a barred-numeral obliterator, but other types are encountered from time to time. Initially, due to fear of theft, the embossed stamps were only available at selected head post offices and stamp offices in London and larger towns, though gradually their availability expanded in response to public demand. Dated cancels struck on embossed adhesives are uncommon.

Struck across pair, England/Wales

London C.D.S.

1844-style barred oval numeral 852 of Welshpool, Montgomeryshire  
Postal regulations clearly stated that each stamp had to be struck individually



1853 circular date stamp in duplex  
Though common twenty years later, c.d.s. cancels are scarce on the embossed issues

Red Liverpool numeral

Green Irish numeral

Red barred "466", Liverpool Floating Receiving House  
Used only on letters posted dockside incurring a late fee



Green "spoon" duplex 186 of Dublin with part of diamond-shaped dater  
Green cancels were used in Ireland and a few other places.

Scottish local types and Glasgow experimental "Madeleine Smith" cancel.



Charlotte Place (Edinburgh)

Gordon Street (Edinburgh)

Sandport Street (Leith)

Scots local cancels are uncommon on the embossed issue

Experimental Glasgow 159 boxed numeral



This short-lived cancel gained notoriety as evidence in Madeleine Smith's sensational murder trial (the verdict was "not proven").

It is very scarce on the embossed issue.

### One shilling embossed : scarce and anomalous cancels

There were few overseas uses of British stamps until the mid-1850s, with usage in the various Crimean War theatres being among the first. Embossed stamps are also sometimes found incidentally struck with transit or instructional markings of other nations.

#### Used abroad in the Crimean War, 1854-56

Two types of special obliterator were sent to the British Army post offices in Constantinople during the war.

(\*☉\*)

Only known example of this Crimean War postmark on a sound, full-margined 1s embossed.

In use Aug. 1854–  
Apr. 1855



(O\*O)

Fewer than five known of this cancel on the 1s

In use Apr. 1855–  
Sep. 1856



#### Pen cancel

Pen cancels, being more readily removable, were against regulations



E

#### Folded over

Deliberately (?) folded over by sender  
This may have been an effort to evade cancellation or a protest against the monarchy i.e. by a republican sympathizer or an Irish nationalist



#### Foreign markings incidentally struck on stamps

Many types of transit, credit and instructional markings can be found on postal history; sometimes these accidentally hit the adhesives as well.



Red double-ring Aachen (Prussia) transit, normally found struck alongside.



Large red "7" and "12" are thought to have been struck in New York.

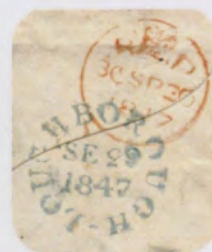


Blue "NE" is likely Spanish Caribbean in origin.

### One Shilling embossed : postal history

As intended, the embossed shilling postage stamp issued on Sep. 11, 1847 was used exclusively to prepay overseas rates. It would not be authorised for inland (domestic) use until 1855, the final year before its surface-printed replacement.

First month of use : September, 1847



Loughborough CDS, London transit and Sydney receiver on reverse

ONE SHILLING EMBOSSED, CUT-TO-SHAPE AS TYPICAL, POSTED 29 SEP. 1847

Loughborough C.D.S. and London 30 Sep. transits on reverse. One shilling was cheapest rate for long sea route via Cape of Good Hope. Backstamped Sydney, Jan. 31 1848. Black pen indicates 3d due in Australia for local delivery. Embossed 1s stamp was issued on Sep. 11, 1847. Most were used to North America, Asia or Australia. As was quite normal, the adhesive was cut to shape and obliterated by barred numeral.

Sextuple rate Belgium-USA, entered mails in London

Pair lifted to reveal Belgian handstamp



CARRIED OUTSIDE THE MAILS TO LONDON, POSTED 10 MAR. 1854 TO N.Y.

Strip of three, pair and single 1s embossed applied in London and canceled with '17' barred numerals. Marked 'PAID' and 30c credit in red pen, probably on arrival in Boston. Sender opted for British packet service over continental, so this heavy letter, from a zinc foundry near Liege, was taken to London for posting.

Retaliatory rate period : G.B. postage disregarded by United States



1848 POSTAL HOSTILITIES BETWEEN BRITAIN AND U.S.

CDS (on reverse): Huddersfield, June 29; Liverpool, June 30. Addressed to Louisville, Ky. Manuscript notation '34' in red indicates full postage due.

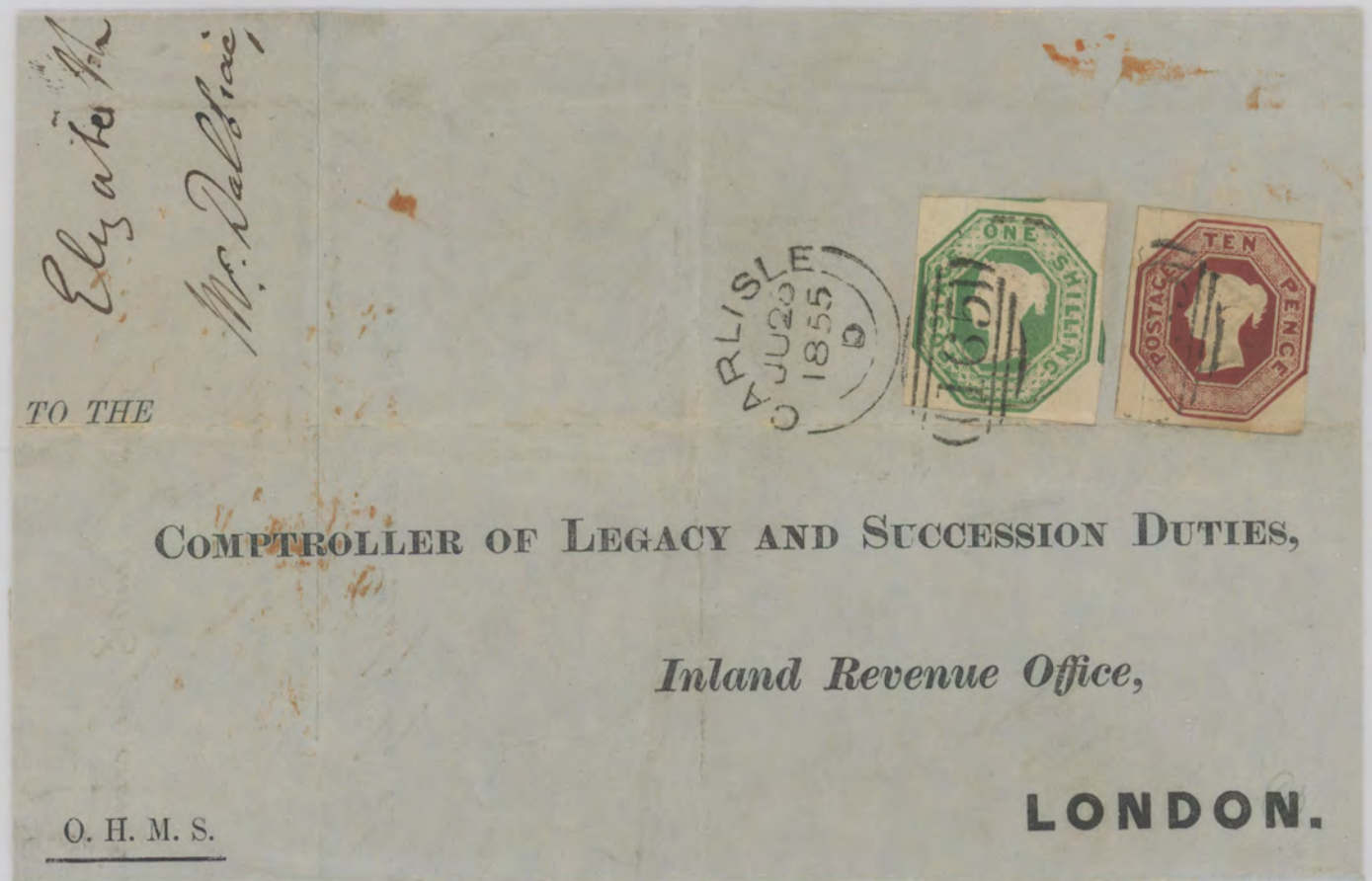
A dispute over protectionism of shipping lines during the latter half of 1848 resulted in trans-Atlantic letters being treated as unpaid. Boston post office ignored the 1s stamp, charged recipient equivalent 24c ocean postage plus 10c domestic (over 300 miles) = 34c.



Liverpool CDS on flap

Scarce inland use : heavy official mail

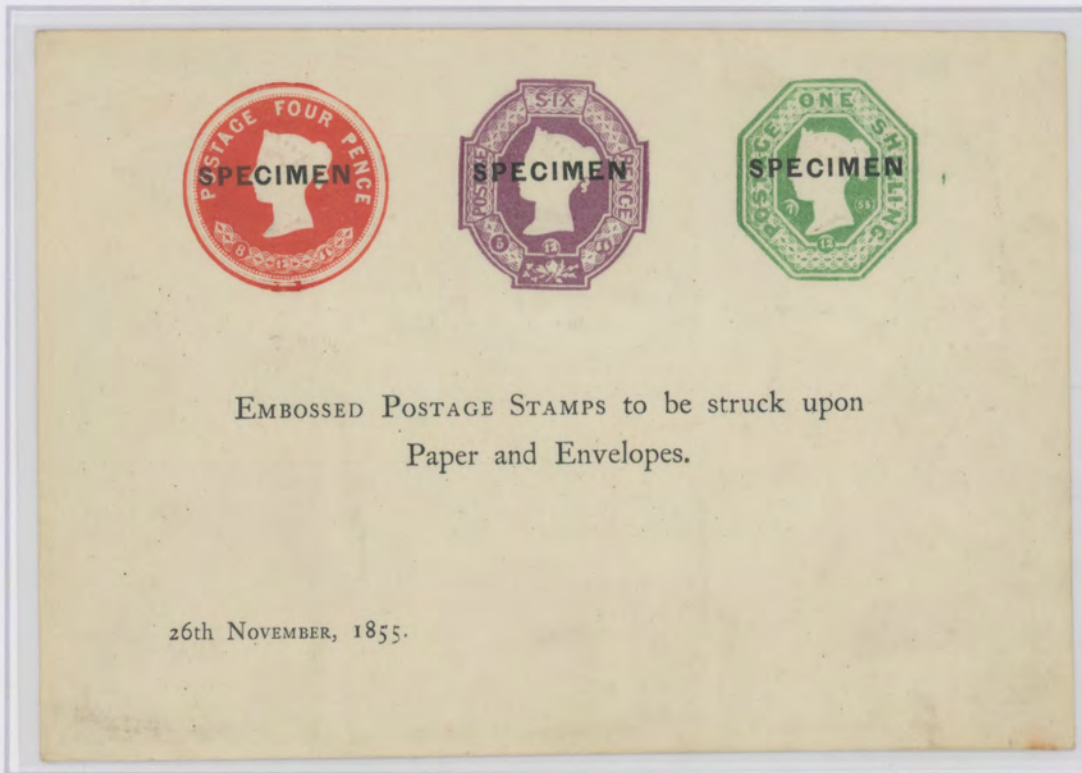
ONE SHILLING EMBOSSED ON OVERSIZED OFFICIAL WRAPPER (11 OZS AT 2D PER OUNCE) TO INLAND REVENUE OFFICE, POSTED 26 JUNE 1855. With 10d embossed, tied by Carlisle sideways duplex. High values were seldom needed within U.K. and these stamps were not authorised for such use until 1855.



### Repurposing the one-shilling embossed stamp for postal stationery

Around the time De La Rue persuaded the Treasury to switch from embossing to surface-printing for high-value adhesives, the embossed series found new life on postal stationery, offered as either pre-stamped envelopes and wrappers, or stamped to order on blank stationery provided by the customer. Holes were drilled in the dies for date slugs. For the one shilling, dies 3 to 6 were used. Unlike the adhesives, there were no silk threads in the paper.

1855 postal notice with specimens of the new embossed stationery stamps



Addition of  
 (7) (12) (55)  
 date slugs to  
 the stamp die  
 (7th Dec. 1855)



*Tiny "W.W.3" lettering on the base of the Queen's bust shows that die 3 was the first adopted for stationery, dies 1 and 2 having been retired with the adhesives.*

Unused example of small envelope with one-shilling embossed stamp



Although it remained in use for decades, one shilling embossed stationery is scarce, especially used.

The date slugs show this envelope was stamped on

(12) (6) (65)

(12th June, 1865).

### Advertising rings used from about 1860 to at least 1880s

Private firms could apply to have their stationery embellished with a collar around the stamp advertising their name and address. While such advertising rings are quite common on lower-denomination postal stationery, the 1/- value was little used and is considered scarce.

The Stamping Department applied “official” advertising rings at the time of stamping, while some firms decided to apply “unofficial” rings after the stationery had been stamped.

#### “Official” advertising rings applied at the time of stamping

E.K.U.

SMITH ELDER & CO, publishers

This stamp, dated 1860, is believed to be the earliest recorded is embossed with an advertising ring.



Dated 18 - 12 - 60



Dated 27 - 7 - 63

W. H. SMITH, newsagent  
(Not connected with Smith Elder)



Dated 30 - 12 - 75



Dated 9 - 3 - 61

Sliver of a second ring at left indicates possible 2-shilling wrapper.

The poor impression of the collar at top and bottom is due to wear and a bad fit with the stamp die. Later dates show this “fading” of the ring getting progressively worse.



Dated 20 - 1 - 65

Full-colour offsets on the reverse are not unusual.

#### “Unofficial” philatelic advertising rings applied privately after stamping

Young & Stockall were stamp dealers whose staff included a young Thomas Ridpath (onetime buyer of the British Guiana One-cent Magenta).

Alignment of the collar with the stamp die was imperfect.



Dated 28 - 3 - 65

William Lincoln was a prominent 19th century stamp dealer.

This collar was substantially larger in diameter and its hue did not match that of the stamp. Pinpricks around the die suggest it may have been a proof.



Dated 25 - 10 - 87

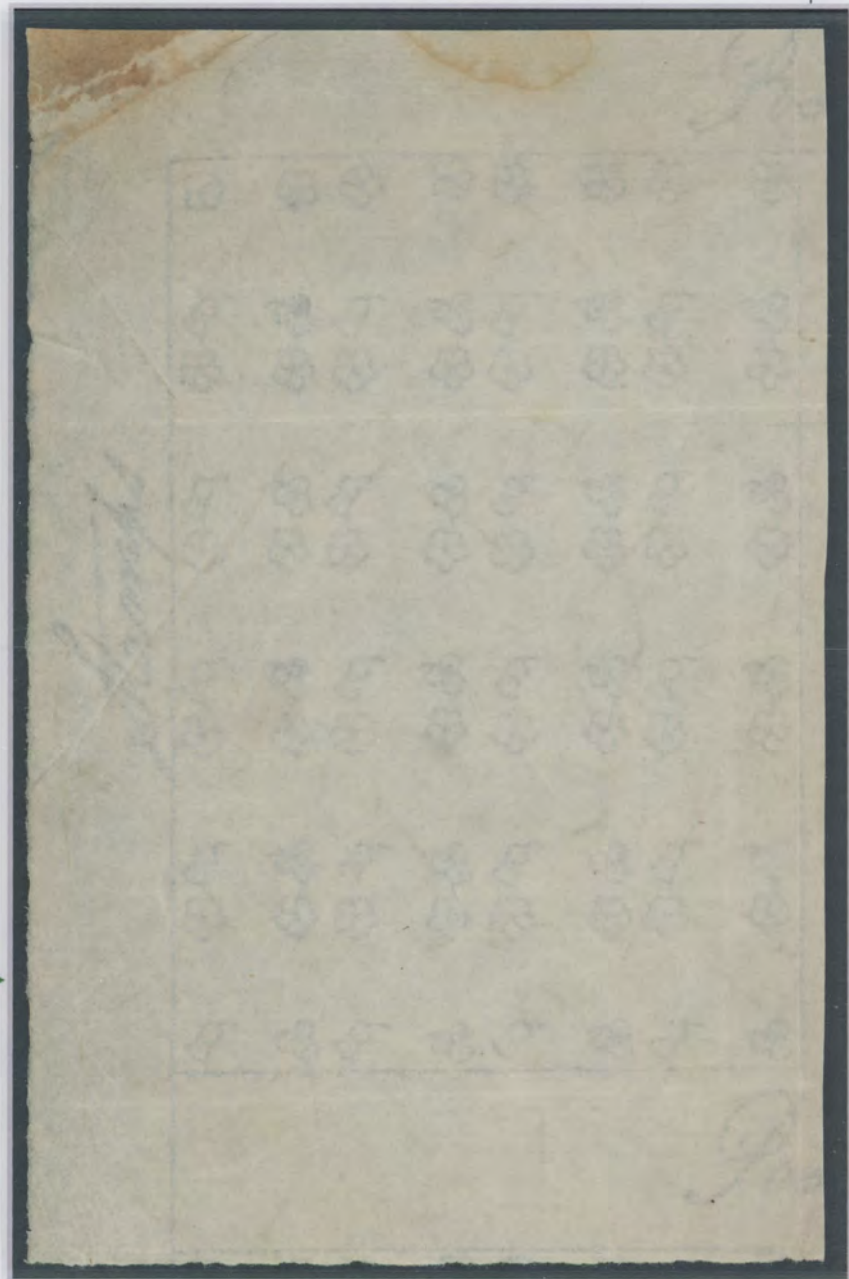
## Transition to Surface Printing

The printing firm of De La Rue had successfully demonstrated with the one-penny Draft and Receipt stamps of 1853 and the four-penny postage issue of 1855 that letterpress (a.k.a. typography or surface-printing) was a viable method of stamp production from the point of view of quality, cost and security. They were awarded a contract to produce six-pence and one-shilling stamps in similar fashion.

One-penny draft stamps, 1853



Stamp paper with 20 'Emblems' watermarks, corresponding to one P.O. pane



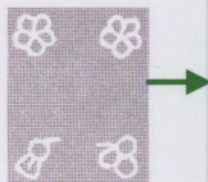
### Plate 1 : no corner letters

Virtually all sketches and essays for this stamp are now held institutionally and are therefore unavailable to collectors.

Though it mimicked the format of the Penny Black, the first surface-printed issue had no corner letters, nor any indication of the plate number except for marginal markings at the outer corners of the press sheet.

The plate of 240 subjects was arranged in twelve panes of 20, each pane equalling £1.

The watermark consisted of four heraldic floral **emblems**: two roses, a thistle and a shamrock.



'Emblems' watermark

Sample of un gummed, thin white paper equal to one pane (20 impressions) of the 'Emblems' watermark. Includes frame line and marginal "Stamps" and "Pos(tage)" in script.



### Plate 1 : imprimatur, proof, specimen and mint inscriptions

Plate 1 was registered in June, 1856 on thick, glazed, blued paper, but that paper was not used in production. An initial printing of 500 sheets was made on blued, uncoated stock that philatelists call “azure” paper. Printings on white paper began on Oct. 12 of that year and show a range of shades from dark to pale green. Post Office circulars announced the issue for Nov. 1. There was also an experimental printing on thicker paper.

The remaining print run (through Aug. 1862) was 50,000 press sheets of 240 or exactly 12,000,000 stamps. These were divided into panes or post-office sheets of 20 prior to distribution.

All surface-printed postage stamps were comb-perforated gauge 14. The gutters between the panes were perforated down the middle, resulting in a stamp with a “wing margin” on either side. There were four wing margins (two left and two right) per row; therefore, one-third of all stamps until 1881 had one.

Plate 1 imprimatur

Plate proof

Specimen

Mint

Registered 27 June 1856  
 Plate 1 single cut from registration sheet on stout, coated, deeply blued paper (never issued thus).  
 Position: top row.  
 Exact placement uncertain due to lack of corner letters



Pen cancelled  
 Described by some sources as a colour trial



Overprint  
 S.G. type 4

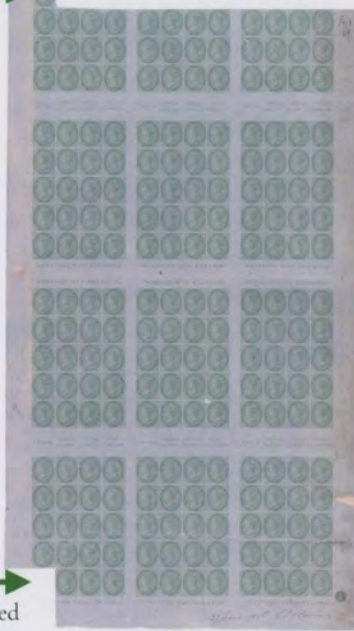


White paper  
 S.G. 72

Row A: →  
 Row B: →



(all 12 removed)  
 (11 removed)



Row T: →  
 one removed

Reduced-size image of the registration sheet for **Plate 1** at the Postal Museum in London. Note its arrangement into 12 panes of 20, and the subsequent removal of 24 stamps.

Used strips of four with marginal inscriptions from top and bottom rows of a post-office pane of 20



Top row identifies the issue. Note the wing margins at left and right.



Bottom row gives price information. Note the positioning of these marginal inscriptions does not match the illustration of the registration sheet at left; these were presumably re-set at some point, though this fact is not recorded in any literature.

**Plate 1 : cancellation types**

Overseas mail was the typical use for a one-shilling stamp in 1856-62. Most cancels are barred numerals and duplexes.

**London duplexes and obliterators**



London district duplexes—W 13



CDS  
Perf shift captures part of '1 Shilling'



Inland office—1

**England & Wales duplex (oval)**



Fence Houses—092

**Ireland duplex (diamond)**



Dublin—186

**Scotland:  
local,  
numeral and  
experimental  
types**



Sauchihall local type



Greenock—163



"Madeleine Smith" type

**Used abroad : Foreign and colonial**

Britain opened post offices in Constantinople in 1857, Egypt in 1859, and at Buenos Aires in 1860. The G.P.O. was responsible for overseas mails from the colonies, so G.B. stamps were used. Rates were 4d or 6d; the shilling is scarce.



Constantinople



Alexandria —B01



Buenos Aires—B32 pair



Malta—M



St. Kitts—A12



Tobago—A14

**High seas mailboat usage**

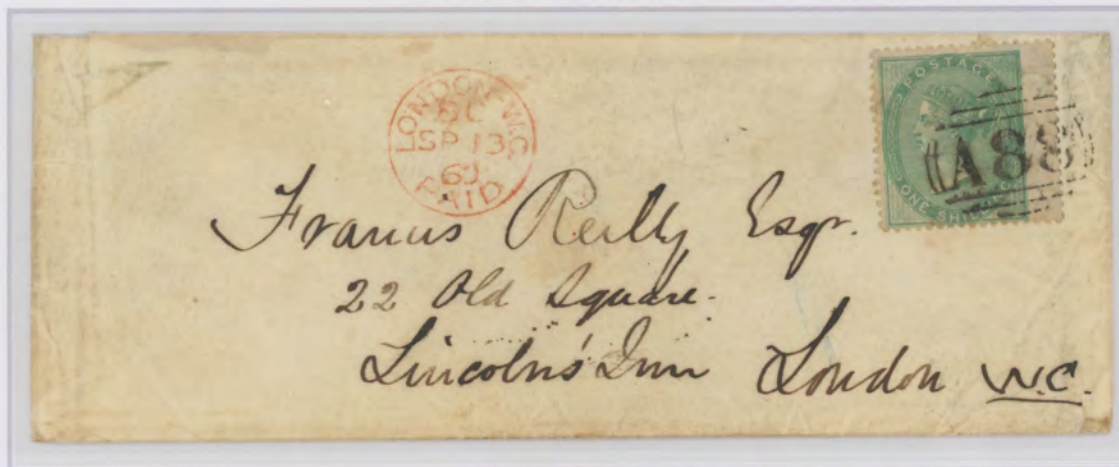


PLATE 1 POSTED AT SEA, REC'D LONDON 13 SEP. 1860. The 'A88' numeral is from a series issued to P&O mail steamers.



French accountancy



P. ("Payé") in oval

**Plate 1 : postal history**

All three values of the first G.B. surface-printed issue together on cover to Rome



Rome 'Via di Mare'  
maritime receiver  
on reverse

ONE SHILLING PLATE 1 WITH 1855-56 4D AND 6D, POSTED IN MANCHESTER 27 JUNE 1861

Franking of 1s 10d equals double-rate (½ oz to 1 oz) to Papal States. Red circle 'PD' and pen slash indicate nothing due.

Plate 1 on "azure" (blued) security paper on cover to America



Hampstead UDC and  
London originating  
postmark on reverse

PLATE 1 ON AZURE PAPER (EARLY PRINTING—S.G. 73a) POSTED IN LONDON 12 MAR. 1858

Single rate of one shilling per ½ ounce to North America. Addressed to Springfield, Ohio.

Stamp is from the limited initial printing of 500 sheets on azure paper.

Pale green shade on registered letter to India, prepaying express fee from Bombay to Calcutta

PLATE 1, PALE GREEN STRIP OF THREE POSTED 17 DEC. 1860

With 2d and 1d, prepaying the 9d postage, 6d registration and 2s express fee from Bombay to Calcutta.

ONLY FOUR EXAMPLES of this short-lived (less than 2 years) express service are recorded.

Ex Holyoake



Very deep green shade on two-ounce registered letter to New York



PLATE 1, VERY DEEP GREEN (HEAVY PLATE WEAR) STRIP OF FOUR POSTED LONDON 16 MAY 1862

Paying the third weight step (1 to 2 oz) 4s rate for a registered transatlantic letter to New York. Carried on the 'Europa.'

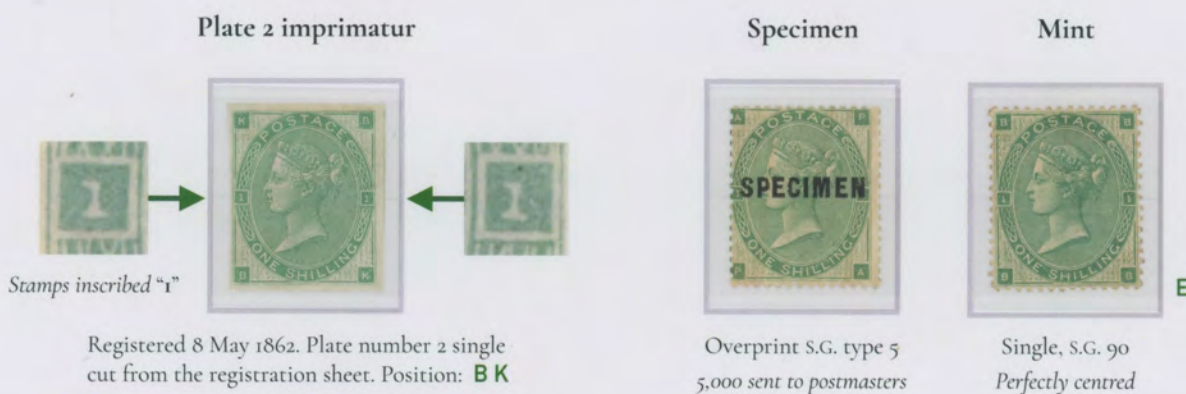
The 6d registration fee is paid by the lilac stamp. The red m/s '108' represents conversion of 4s 6d to U.S. cents (\$1.08).

## Corner letters and plate numbers added

To provide additional security, De La Rue was asked to incorporate the same system of positional corner letters used on the line-engraved 1d and 2d stamps. As on the Penny Black, the lower left letter indicated the row (A to T) and the lower right letter indicated the column (A to L). The same pair was reversed in the upper corners.

However, although this was the *second* plate produced for the one shilling, the numerals engraved on each stamp were 1's. When a third plate was made, the numbers were changed to 2's. This incongruity would finally be corrected on Plate 4.

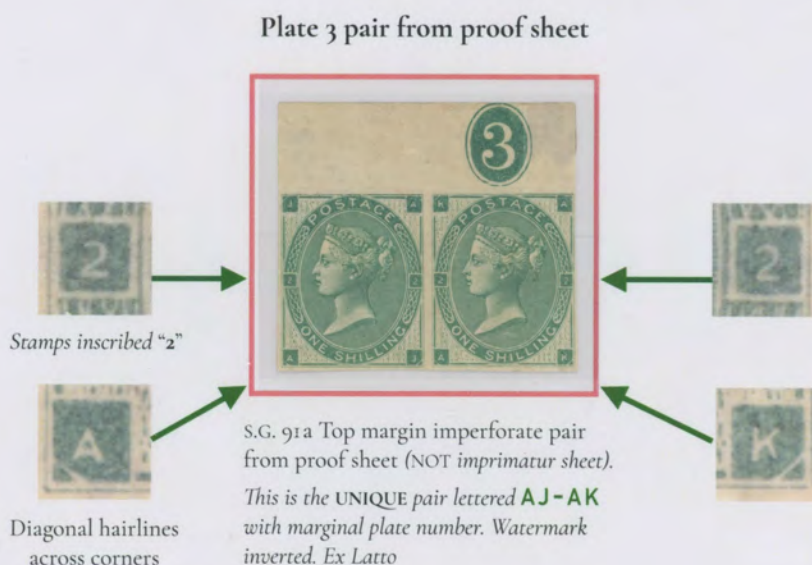
It is believed that 26,000 sheets (6,240,000 stamps) were printed from Plate 2.



## Plate 3 : prepared but never issued

For Plate 3, the discrepancy in the stamps' inscriptions continued: they were marked '2', even though the marginal plate number was the correct '3'. Diagonal **hairlines** were also added to the corners, as was the practice on other values in the series. The plate was registered on 16 June 1862.

This plate was never put to press. Only five sheets (1,200 stamps) were printed for registration purposes. There are no used examples and no postal history from this plate. The reason it was abandoned is unclear, but it may simply have been that a design change was decided upon before it came into use.



### Plate 2 : varieties and cancellation types

This plate was put to press on 8 Oct. 1862 and remained in use for about two years. Its primary use was postal, for letters to North America, India, Australia and the Far East.



Deep green  
S.G. 89



Pale green  
S.G. 90



Thick paper  
S.G. 90a



'K' in circle  
at lower left



Pre-printing  
paper fold

#### England/Wales



York—930  
With red U.S. transit

#### Scotland



Aberdeen—1

#### Ireland



Belfast—62

#### Used abroad



Constantinople—C



Boulogne-sur-Mer,  
France—549

#### Single-rate cover to Peru

PLATE 2 PAIR  
POSTED GLASGOW  
16 SEPT. 1864  
Half-ounce letter  
canceled by two  
strikes of Glasgow '159'  
duplex. Transited  
London Sep. 17,  
Panama Oct. 9.  
Backstamped Lima  
receiver Oct. 18.



Plate 2 : postal history

Single-rate cover to Massachusetts, forwarded to Maine



PLATE 2 POSTED LONDON, 22 (?) JUNE, 1863 (ORIGINAL POSTMARK COVERED BY U.S. STAMP). Single rate (½ oz.) transatlantic letter, marked 21¢ U.S. rate. Received Boston July 16 (red packet CDS). U.S. 3¢ added for forwarding to Nahant, Me. on July 19 (black Cambridge CDS).

Colonial use in Gibraltar



PLATE 2 USED WITH 2D FROM GIBRALTAR VIA ENGLAND TO NEW YORK. Letter posted May 31, 1864 (CDS and 'A26' obliterations), transited Liverpool June 9 (red tombstone postmark) arrived via American packet ship June 24 (lower CDS). The 2d paid the Gibraltar-U.K. rate; the shilling should have paid the transatlantic portion. Blue pencil deletes the '16' credit and indicates U.S. 5¢ due.

### Plate 2 : unusual postal history

U.S. official mail carried by diplomatic pouch to England, mailed to St. Helena



London and Devonport transits on reverse

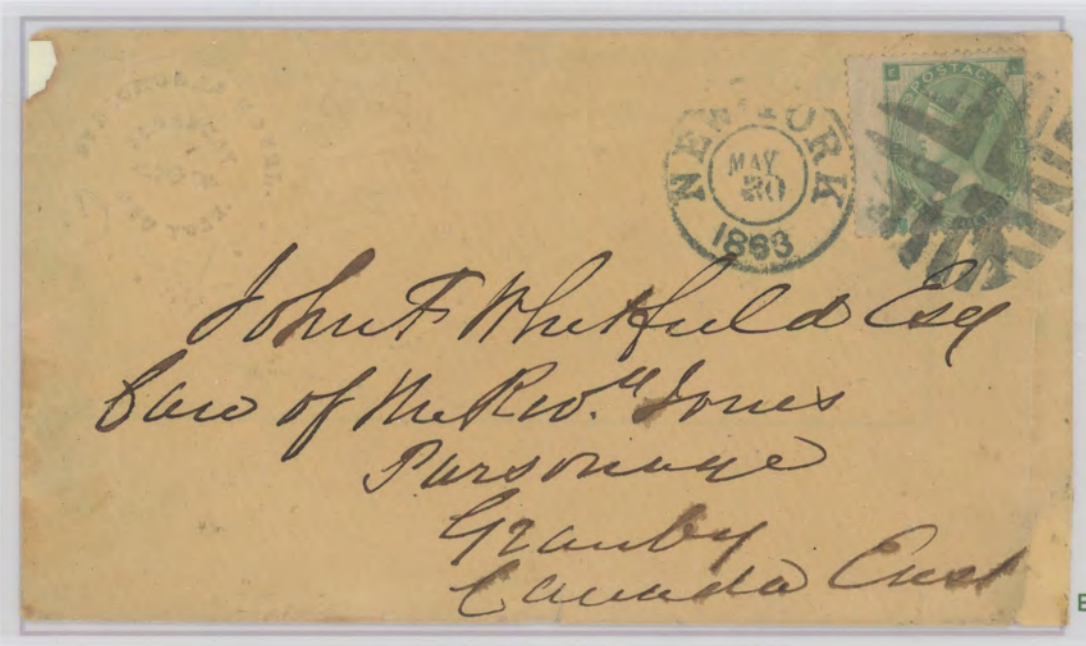


PLATE 2 PAIR ON U.S. DIPLOMATIC MAIL POSTED LONDON 12 DEC. 1864

Letter was carried outside the mails to London where it was stamped 2s and placed in the Cape Line mail via Devonport to the remote Atlantic outpost on the way to South Africa. Moubray records this as the last sailing until Jan. 1868!

### Anomalous (unauthorised) use from U.S. to Canada

PLATE 2 USED  
ILLEGITIMATELY FROM N.Y.  
TO QUEBEC, 20 MAY 1863  
Envelope with St. Nicholas Hotel/Broadway embossed corner card. May 21 Montreal transit CDS on reverse with very faint, partial Granby receiver. No postage due. Certified as "genuine use" by the PF. Similarity of the 1s to the U.S. 10c stamp may explain how it got through.





## Innovation and chaos : Private telegraph companies, 1846-1869



Presaging the arrival of the internet 150 years later, the early days of the electric telegraph saw rapid innovation, great successes and wild flame-outs. And stamps.



**The Electric Telegraph Co.**  
 Founded 1846—first telegraph co. in the U.K.  
 Left: 1s, second series (1857), unused.  
 Printed by Perkins Bacon. Hiscocks 6  
 Above: 1s, third series (1861), imperf proof.  
 Printed by Waterlow & Sons. Hiscocks 24c

**The English & Irish Magnetic Telegraph Co.**  
 Formed 1857.  
 1s proof (date unk.)  
 Printed by Mawdesley & Co., Liverpool  
 Hiscocks no. 1



**British & Irish Magnetic Telegraph Co.**  
 Formed 1857  
 6d, 1s, 1/6, 2s, 2/6 stamps used (1860)  
 Printed by Mawdesley & Co.  
 Note cancel of concentric circles  
 Hiscocks 10-14

### Universal Private Telegraph Co.

Formed 1857  
 1s block of four with red control nos. (1864).  
 Printed by Waterlow & Sons  
 Hiscocks 7



**London District Telegraph Co.**  
 Formed 1857  
 3d, 6d (1865), used. Printed by Truscott & Sons,  
 London. Hiscocks 6, 7



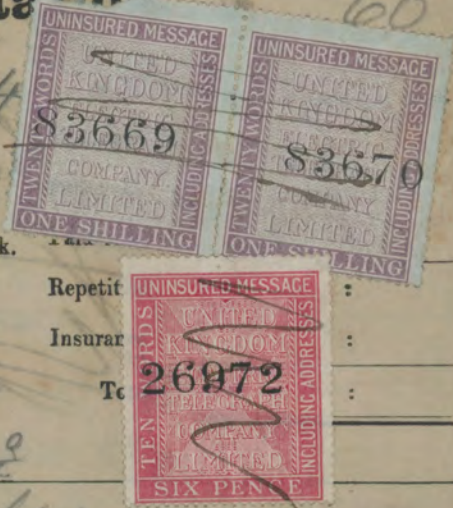
(No. 1.)

# UNITED KINGDOM ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

## LONDON STATIONS.

CENTRAL—Gresham House, Entrance, 103, Bishopsgate Street.  
 7, Mining Lane. Stock Exchange, Hercules Passage, Old Broad Street.  
 200, Fleet Street (Temple Bar). 20, Cockspur Street, Charing Cross (Waterloo Chambers).  
 40, Gresham Street, E.C.

No. 1130  
 Received 11 30 m.  
 Commenced 11 42 m.  
 Finished 11 45 m.  
 Station NY  
 Code DP  
 To Station } DP By me Wolby Clerk.



Repetition  
 Insurance  
 To

Repetition :  
 Insurance :  
 To :  
 26872

Message according to the conditions printed hereon, and I agree to abide by the same:—

FROM  
 Name Robert Crossley & Co  
 Address Malifax

TO  
 Name Mr John Colville  
 Address 40 Cheapside London

### United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Co.

Formed 1857

Above: Form dated 24 Mar. 1864 bearing two 1s and one 6d stamps of 1861 (Hiscocks 2, 4), for 48-word message.

A rare surviving used private telegraph firm

Right: Three stamps of the 1865 series—6d, 1s, 2s (Hiscocks 6, 7, 10).

All printed by De La Rue and perforated at Somerset House.



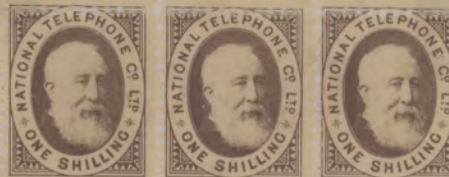
### 's Electric h Co. Ltd.

Est. 1861

(circa 1861)

whether used  
sporadically  
by Waterlow  
& Sons.

Hiscocks 3, 4



### National Telephone Co. Formed 1881

is strip of three (1884), unused.

Printed by Maclure, Macdonald & Co., Glasgow

Hiscocks 5

## Telegraphic use of postage stamps prior to the 1869 nationalisation

Private telegraph company message forwarded to South America by post

PLATE 1 PAIR POSTED 1 FEB. 1861 FROM SOUTHAMPTON.

Electric Telegraph Company envelope with 2s paying ½-oz. rate to Chile, canceled by Southampton '723' duplexes. Transited London 2 Feb. Not known where the telegraph message originated or when it reached Valparaiso. Ex John O. Griffiths.



London transit on reverse

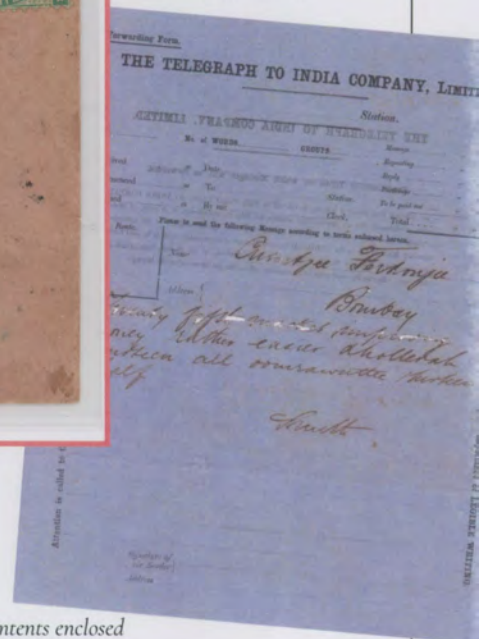
Rare G.B. used in Aden on telegram forwarded to India



Aden transit

PLATE 2 CANCELED WITH ADEN '124' NUMERAL ON 5 DEC. 1864.

Reuter's Agency envelope with transcribed message (included) posted at Suez and transiting Aden, where adhesive canceled and envelope backstamped Aden Steamer Point. G.B. used in Aden is rare (normally stamps of India were used); Parmenter & Gordon record just four such usages. Ex Glassco, Bollen.



Contents enclosed

## Enlargement of corner letters

The corner letters were enlarged on subsequent plates of the one-shilling stamp, presumably to improve legibility. Plate 4 was registered late in 1864 and put to press shortly thereafter.

Plate 5 was registered in 1866 on the same 'Emblems' watermark, but not put to press until 1871. In the interim, the watermark was changed to 'Spray of Rose.' Plate 5 imprimaturs are therefore like "abnormals," in that they differ from the regularly issued examples of that plate; however, no example of plate 5 on 'emblems' paper has ever been found perforated or used.

The marginal plate number occurs twice on each sheet: above 'AK' and below 'TB'. Only 'AK' are in private hands. (The current numbers over 'AB' are unique as the ones below 'TK' remain on the museum's sheets.) The shade of the plate 5 registration sheet is slightly deeper than that of plate 4.



The 'emblems' watermark

### Plate 4 imprimatur

Registered  
28 Nov. 1864  
Plate number 4  
single cut from the  
registration sheet.  
Position: **A K.**  
**UNIQUE**  
*Ex Earl of Crawford,  
Bates, Latto et al.*



*Tiny plate numbers were  
added to the design of each  
new 1s stamp until 1884.  
They appeared at the left  
and right of the oval.*



### Plate 5 imprimatur

Registered  
28 Mar. 1866  
Plate number 5  
single cut from the  
registration sheet.  
Position: **A K.**  
**UNIQUE**



*This plate did not come  
into use until 1871, so it  
was never issued with  
this watermark.*

Row A: all 12 removed  
Row B: 11 removed

Row A: all 12 removed  
Row B: nine removed

### Plate 4

Twenty-five labels  
have been removed  
from the registration  
sheet.



### Plate 5

Twenty-three labels  
have been removed  
from the registration  
sheet.



Row T: pair removed  
(incl. the other plate no.,  
position TB; now in the  
Royal Philatelic Coll.)

Row T: pair removed  
(incl. the other plate no.,  
position TB; now in the  
Royal Philatelic Coll.)

Reduced-size images of the registration sheets for **Plates 4 and 5**, which reside in the Postal Museum in London, showing the removal of about two dozen positions from each.

### Plate 4 with 'Emblems' watermark

The first plate with enlarged corner letters was put to press on 8 Dec. 1864 and issued in Feb. 1865. Just over 39,000 sheets (9.36 million stamps) were printed on this paper. The primary use for Plate 4 with 'Emblems' watermark was still postal, on letters going abroad, so the vast majority of used examples are singles or pairs; larger multiples are scarce to rare.

#### Largest known used multiple

#### Issued stamps



Mint  
S.G. 101



Used  
S.G. 101



Edinburgh—\*131\*  
numeral cancel



Pane of 20 (positions **PE-TH**) with Lombard St. (L.S./E.C) obliterators  
*Printed sheets were divided into panes of 20 prior to distribution, so it is impossible for any larger block to exist.*

#### Watermark error



Three roses and a  
shamrock  
(position  
**TA**)



Lynn, Norfolk—488  
numeral cancel

#### Colonial cancels



Malta—A25



Gibraltar—A26



Cairo—B01  
(fragment of forwarded Austrian mail)

#### Overseas cancels



Buenos Aires—B32



San Juan, PR—C61

Plate 4 with 'Emblems' watermark : postal history

"Perfect Safety in Sheep Dipping" illustrated advertising cover

PLATE 4, SOLO ON  
½-OUNCE LETTER  
POSTED IN  
MANCHESTER  
24 MAY 1865  
Tied by standard  
Manchester—498  
duplex paying  
single rate to U.S.  
Red '21 cents' rate  
mark and 'Boston  
Am. Pkt/Paid' CDS  
on front.



Seal on flap

Official letter sent stampless to Bath, 1 shilling added for third weight step to France



Seal on flap



Transit and receipt marks for Bath, London, Marseille & Nice

PLATE 4 ADDED TO O.H.M.S. COVER 19 FEB. 1866 TO FORWARD IT OVERSEAS  
Official letter originally posted unstamped from Somerset House to Bath on Feb. 16, 1866 (red 'Official Paid/  
London CDS). Shilling stamp added to pay ¼-oz. triple rate to Nice (4d per quarter ounce).  
Letter traveled via London, Calais, Marseille (CDS's on reverse).

## Change of watermark to 'Spray of Rose'

Stamp paper was manufactured primarily by Turner & Co. at Chafford Mill near Tunbridge Wells. The exact reason for the change in watermark is unclear, but it coincided with a change from handmade to machine-made paper, and may have been related to the tendency of the small 'bits' in the 'Emblems' watermark to fall off the dandy roll, resulting in errors when they were incorrectly replaced.

The same sheet layout was used for both 'Emblems' and 'Spray' paper, allowing Plate 4 to stay on press without alteration. Marginal inscriptions remained unchanged. Plates 4 and 5 were **not** re-registered on the new watermark. Plate 4 was put to press on 'Spray' paper in August 1867 and records show that 77,000 sheets (nearly 18.5 million stamps) were printed, for a total of 116,000 sheets, more than any other shilling plate. Some wear is seen on later printings.



Watermark  
'Spray of Rose'

### Imperforate Specimen pair



Overprint S.G. type 6a with broken 'P'

*From sheet retained by De La Rue as colour standard*

### Issued stamps



Mint S.G. 117  
with marginal  
plate no. 4



Mint block of four *Ex Lord Steinberg*

### Plate 4 imperforate

Imperforate stamps from plate 4 on 'Spray' paper cannot be from the registration sheet, as that was on 'Emblems' paper. It is thought more likely to have been a proof print than an error.



Plate 4 imperf, wmk. Spray, normal paper  
*One of seven singles in private hands*

### Experimental printing on Dr. Perkins' blued paper

Seeking innovative ways to combat the cleaning of stamps, Inland Revenue gave a few proof sheets of various stamps to a Dr. Perkins to impregnate with prussiate of potash. The bluing proved to be ugly and inconsistent, and the experiment was abandoned. No stamps were issued thus.



Plate 4 imperf, wmk. Spray, on Dr. Perkins' blued paper  
S.G. Spec. J104b

### Private security underprints

As stamps could always be traded in for cash at any post office, employee theft was a perpetual worry. Companies experimented with various ways of fighting it, including paying De La Rue to print "endorsements" on the backs of stamps, like this one for Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co. This method was not widely adopted and soon gave way to perforated initials.



Plate 4 with Copestake, Moore security underprint

## Exhibition die proofs



Venue of the 1867  
Paris Exhibition

# 1867

Following the success of the 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition, international exhibitions grew in popularity. For the 1867 Paris Exhibition and again for the 1871 London Exhibition, De La Rue obtained permission to make die proofs in various colours of current postage and revenue stamps, including the one shilling.



Proof in mauve



Proof in brown

Only two or three examples survive of each colour.

These die proofs illustrate how the plate numbers and corner letters were left blank until after the clichés were made up into a 240-subject forme for the printing plate. The labor-intensive process of engraving the 960 letters and 480 numbers by hand onto each position took several weeks and eventually led to a change in design (*page 11, this frame*).



Proof in green  
(cut down)

Thought to be unique  
in private hands

## Colour trial in blue

A proof sheet of Plate 5 was taken in deep blue on unwatermarked white wove paper, but its exact date and purpose are unclear. Only two panes of 20 survive. **Four singles and two blocks of four** from pane AI-EL are in public hands.



Plate 5, position **B J**

Only one example  
of each position is  
known.  
No other colours  
are recorded.



# The Post Office Takes over the Telegraphs

The Telegraphs Acts of 1868 and 1869 paved the way for the Post Office to take over the operations of all private telegraph companies which happened early in 1870. The new G.P.O. service claimed 1,058 telegraph offices in cities and towns and 1,874 at railway stations.

## A. 1. POST OFFICE TELEGRAM

The Blank spaces below are for use by the Officers of the Post Office only, and the Public are requested not to write in or over them.

Prefix .....	Words to be signalled	<b>CHARGE.</b>		Number.....
Code Time .....		In Address (Free).....	Telegram.....	
Received at .....	In Telegram (Charged)	Repeating .....	<b>HOW PAID.</b>	
Sent at .....	In Instructions .....	Reply .....	In Stamps .....	
To .....	.....	Extra Copies .....	In Money.....	
By me .....	.....	Porterage.....	Total .....	
Counter Clerk to sign here.	Total.....	Special Charges	Total .....	
		Total .....		

### FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS ONLY.

Name and Address of the Sender of the Telegram. } *From*

Name and Full Address of the Person to whom the Telegram is to be delivered. } *To*

In each of the spaces in must be

## AL<sup>S</sup><sub>E</sub> POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

Form for Inland Telegrams forwarded from Stock Exchange Offices only.

Words	Charge
20	1/-
25	1/3
30	1/6
35	1/9
40	2/-
45	2/3
50	2/6

Prefix .....	WORDS.		CHARGES.	
	Add <sup>s</sup> .	Text	s.	d.
Code } Time }	.....	.....	Telegram .....	.....
Sent at .....	.....	.....	Reply ...	.....
To .....	Inst <sup>ns</sup> .	.....	Extra } Copies }	.....
By .....	Total	.....	Porterage	.....
	Total	.....	Total	.....

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>

When the Message is in excess of fifty words, the additional words may be written on ordinary paper, attached to the Message.

### Pre-stamped telegraph forms

The basic rate was set at a shilling for the first 20 words and 3d each additional five words. Postal telegraph forms were provided both pre-stamped, with the 1s stationery die, and unstamped. Unstamped forms soon proved the more popular owing to their flexibility, in spite of the need to attach adhesive stamps.

Forms were issued in a number of formats, ranging from a 10-by-13-inch sheet holding 50 words to a special form for the London Stock Exchange to a handy, 20-word postcard size (shown below).



As with other stationery, dies for telegraph forms had date slugs inserted—in the case of this specimen, 22-11-69 for 22 Nov. 1869, the earliest date known on a telegraph form.

Used stamp cut out

### Forms large and small

Both sides of a postal telegraph card, which could be dropped in any pillar-box for transmittal upon collection. The embossing on stout card is especially strong.

*Though the address and message have been erased, this is one of only two used examples recorded—all should have been officially destroyed after use.*

#### POSTAL TELEGRAPH CARD.

FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS ONLY.

##### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

- 1.—This Card is intended for use by persons who either cannot, or do not desire to, send a Message to the nearest Telegraph Office proper (i.e. to an Office which has the means of transmission by wire), and who are content to deposit it where it will be carried for them, free of expense, to an Office from which it can be sent by wire. If it be deposited in a Pillar Box, Wall Box, or ordinary Post Office Letter Box, it will be carried to a Telegraph Office on the next ensuing clearance of the Box in which it is deposited. The person who wishes to deposit one of these Cards in such a Box may ascertain from the Table of Rates published in the Post Office Guide, what will remain in the Box before it is taken to a Telegraph Office.
- 2.—Most of the Telegraph Offices in the Kingdom are open for transmission between Office and Office, it must be deposited at such a time that it cannot reach a Telegraph Office before 8 a.m. on the following day.
- 3.—The Shilling stamp on this card covers the cost of TWENTY WORDS, within the United Kingdom (excepted), the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man, by foot messenger, within the limit of one mile of the Telegraph Office. Should the Message be addressed to a person who is not the usual means, the cost of delivery will be charged with portage.
- 4.—Persons depositing these Cards in Letter Boxes will be charged with the cost of delivery.



From

To

One word only should be written in each space, from left to right across the card.

If the sender wishes other than the usual means to be employed in the delivery of the Message the means must be described here. } By.....

Far left: a special form, "A1 S/E," customised for the London Stock Exchange. Fragments of this form (or its variants) are often found bearing forgeries!

**Plate 5 : shades and cancels**

This plate, registered 1866 on 'Emblems' paper, finally went on press replacing Plate 4 in 1871. In the interim, the watermark had been changed to 'Spray of Rose.' Some 55,495 sheets (over 13 million stamps) were printed from this plate. During the year it was current, from May 1871 to May 1872, the primary usage of one-shilling stamps shifted from postage to telegraphs.



'Spray' watermark

**Plate 5 rejoined used pane of 20**

**Shades**



Deep green  
S.G. 115



Green  
S.G. 117 (plate 5)



Full post-office pane of 20. Used as two halves, presumably on consecutive forms.



The four positions with marginal plate no. and current no.: A B, A K, T B, T K.

**Telegraphic usages : no barred numerals**



Seething Lane, London



Manchester Royal Exchange



Liverpool Exchange



Birmingham Telegraph Office

## The Stock Exchange Forgeries

### “The Fraud of the Century”

The use of adhesives to frank telegraph forms, which were subsequently stored and recycled with no further controls, left an accountability gap that was ruthlessly exploited by some person or persons at the telegraph counter of the London Stock Exchange during 1872-73, and possibly longer. The fraud was not discovered until 1898.

Fred Melville estimated the total scope of the fraud to be £50,000—equivalent to £6-8 million today. The perpetrators were never identified or caught.



Plate 5 forgeries



Earliest known use of a Stock Exchange forgery: June 3, 1872

Large piece of Stock Exchange telegraph form with Plate 5 'FK' forgery



Impossible lettering 'BS' used with genuine 3d stamp



Impossible lettering 'EM' used with genuine 9d stamp



Combination with genuine 6d and 2s stamps

Plate 6 forgeries

Plate 6 'RL' forgery on large piece



UNIQUE piece with two examples of the Plate 6 forgery. One has impossible lettering, 'AP'. All other known examples of the Stock Exchange forgeries are solo uses or used with other (genuine) denominations.

Detail comparisons



Genuine Lozenge small



Genuine Corner square



Forgery Lozenge large



Forgery Corner wobbly

### Plates 6 and 7 necessitated by boom in P.O. telegraphs

After the Post Office consolidated the telegraphs in 1870 and set the basic rate at one shilling, there was a great surge in demand for this denomination. Around this time, De La Rue cut a deal with the Board of Inland Revenue whereby they were permitted to make a new plate automatically every 35,000 sheets, and in return billed the Inland Revenue half the previous charge for plate making.

Plate 6, registered 20 Feb. 1869 on 'Spray' paper, was put to press 20 Mar. 1872. A few examples used before that date probably come from the five extra sheets printed at time of registration. Plate 7 was registered 30 Sep. 1872 and put to press a few weeks later on 11 November.

#### Plate 6 imprimatur



Current number single cut from the registration sheet.  
Position: **A B. UNIQUE**



Current number single cut from the registration sheet.  
Position: **A B. UNIQUE**

#### Plate 7 imprimatur



Singles cut from the registration sheet.  
Positions: **A I, A J, A K, A L. ALL UNIQUE**  
*This is believed to be the first time this strip has been reunited since its removal from the sheet. Ex Earl of Crawford et al.*

Row A: all 12 removed  
Row B: 8 removed

Row A (all 12 removed)  
Row B (eight removed)  
Row C (one removed)

#### Plate 6

Twenty-two labels have been removed from the imprimatur (registration) sheet.

#### Plate 7

Twenty-three labels have been removed from the imprimatur (registration) sheet.

Row T: pair removed (incl. the other plate no., position TB, now in the Royal Philatelic Coll.)

Row T (two removed)

Reduced-size images of the registration sheets for Plates 6 and 7, showing the removal of nearly two dozen positions from each. The sheets reside in the Postal Museum in London.

**Plate 6 : specimen, mint and used examples**

Stamps did not have “official” issue dates in Victorian times. We know when Plate 6 was registered and put to press (see preceding page); beyond that, it is a matter of searching for dated postmarks to deduce the issue window. Fortunately, the prevalence of clear, telegraphic CDS cancels provides a lot of data.

The earliest known uses for plate 6, according to Gibbons, are covers dated March and April 1869, just after registration but three years before the plate was put to press. Those examples must be from spare sheets made at time of registration. An off-cover example (shown below) is dated Sep. 30 1870 and likely has a similar origin. The earliest example post-putting-to-press this exhibitor has found is 14 May 1872.



The four positions with marginal plate no. or current no.: **A B, A K, T B, T K.**

**Specimen**



Overprint  
S.G. type 8

**Plate 6 mint block**



S.G. 117 (plate 6)

Mint multiples are scarce.

**Catalog-listed plate 6 varieties...**



Doubled plate number at right  
Position **K B.**



Doubled plate number at left  
Position **J C.**



**...and an unlisted variety**



Constant flaw—appears on the imprimatur sheet

Damaged frameline

**Foreign and unusual cancels**



Red postmark



Newspaper branch



Dumb postmark  
Possibly S. African



Le Havre—1769  
Cross-channel mail

**Plate 6 E.K.U.'s**



Bottom left corner margin single showing the blue “mark”: **T A.**



30 Sep. 1870  
This cancel predates the put-to-press date by 18 months, suggesting it came from an extra registration sheet.



14 May 1872  
This is the earliest known use of Plate 6 after it was put to press in March 1872.

### Cancellations on Plates 4 to 7

Plate 4 was the last one-shilling stamp until Plate 13 whose primary usage was postal; subsequent plates would be used mainly on telegrams, with lesser use for parcels, express mail, revenue, and so on. Off-cover used examples of Plate 4 therefore typically show a barred-numeral duplex obliterator, whereas Plates 5, 6 and 7 are commonly found with CDS cancels signifying telegraphic use. In some cases, "legacy" devices from the private telcos were also used.

After the nationalisation of the telegraphs, railways were obliged to accept telegrams from the public. In lieu of a CDS, they used a plain numeral in a circle (England/Wales), rectangle (Scotland) or (rarely) a diamond (Ireland).

#### Telegraphic cancels : CDS and otherwise



Southampton

Coal Exchange

Parliament

Legacy 'PP12 Paid'

Legacy 'No. 11'

#### Railway telegraph numerals



British & Irish Magnetic Telegraph Co. Ltd.  
This "legacy" cancel of concentric circles remained in use by the P.O. after nationalisation.

Plymouth—1082  
Uncommon with CDS

Nottingham—1010  
Unusual in blue

Leith, Scotland—172  
Rectangle

Strabane, Ireland—26  
Irish numerals are rare

#### Used Abroad

This issue was current during the apex of British post offices abroad. Forty-five offices are recorded as using S.G. 117.



Arica, Peru—C36

Caldera, Chile—C37 Strip of four

Bahia, Brazil—C81

Pernambuco—C82



St. Thomas, DWI—C51

Valparaiso, Chile—C30

Suez, Egypt—B02

Grid of dots  
Origin uncertain

### Postal History of Plates 4 to 7

Off-cover, postally used examples of stamps current in the 1860s and 70s typically show the barred-numeral portion of duplex cancels, and the following covers demonstrate why: the barred oval obliterated the stamp, while the CDS generally fell alongside, remaining easily legible.

#### Second month of use, to Demerara

PLATE 4, WMK. SPRAY ON 31 AUG. 1867 WRAPPER  
London E.C. Inland Section duplex with 94 in barred oval (signifying the device rather than the office).

Used in the second month after issue on the new 'Spray' watermarked paper.

Single rate of 1s per half ounce was in effect until 1877 when it dropped to 6d.



#### To Rio de Janeiro, taxed (not postage due) on arrival

PLATE 4, WMK. SPRAY USED 8 MAY, 1869 ON FOLDED LETTER TO BRAZIL.

London S.E. district duplex with 'S.E./7'. Letter carried by Royal Mail Steamer from Southampton and taxed on arrival with 'Imperio do Brasil' 200 reis fiscal stamp.

The one shilling per ½ oz. rate is properly prepaid; the Brazil stamp on the reverse (shown opened out) represents a short-lived tax on incoming letters, rather than postage due.







Plate 5 to Costa Rica

16 MAY 1871 WRAPPER  
TO SAN JOSE

London Inland Section duplex with 106 in barred oval (a device number, not an office number). One-penny late fee evidently paid in cash (red boxed 'L1' marking).

One of the earliest documented uses of Plate 5.

Rate was 1s per ½ oz, so this was a double-weight letter.

90

Plate 6 used in Peru —  
dual franking

14 APR. 1873 LETTER FROM  
CALLAO VIA PANAMA

Peru 10 c. stamp paid local postage to the harbor. G.B. 1s and 6d stamps prepaid ½-oz. packet rate; all cancelled with barred numeral C38. Scarce red "Insufficiently Prepaid," presumably because overweight.



Plate 7 to Mexico

1 AUG. 1873 LETTER  
TO SAN LUIS POTOSI

Red 'Manchester/Paid' double-circle; black outline '2' is a Mexican due mark for local delivery. Vera Cruz transit on reverse.

A scarce plate on cover.



## Change to coloured corner letters

As stamp volume increased, the time and expense required to laboriously hand-punch plate numbers and four corner letters onto all 240 positions of the sheet (1,440 letters and numbers in all) eventually led to a change in the design of all surface-printed postage stamps, carried out in 1872-73.

By switching to coloured plate numbers and corner letters, it became possible to drill holes in each die and drop in plugs, a much faster process that enabled De La Rue to drop the cost of plate-making.

Die proofs cut from the De La Rue striking books : each unique



**Plate 8** (current no. 405),  
struck 31 July (1872)

35,000 sheets were printed from each of these plates.

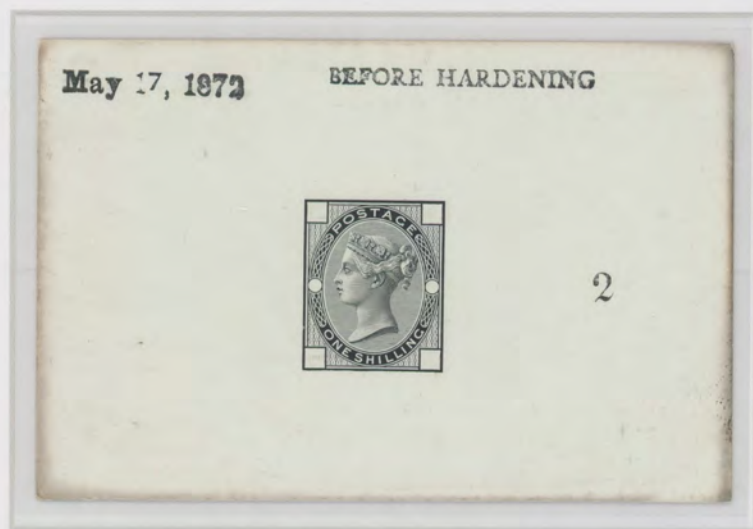


**Plate 9** (current no. 425),  
struck 17 June (1873)



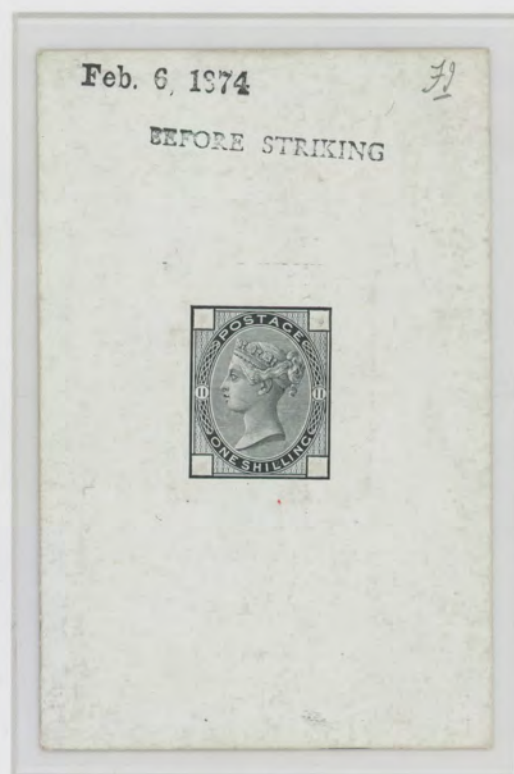
**Plate 14** (current no. 493), 25 Nov. 1875  
Reg'd 5 Jan. 1876, not put to press in green.  
An 'abnormal' in green and on 'Spray' wmk.

### Production die proofs



**Master die** (no plate number) 17 May 1872  
Endorsed 'Before hardening' and numbered '2.'

The white corner squares and white circles at the sides of the oval  
would receive slugs for coloured letters and plate numbers



**Plate 11** 6 Feb 1874  
Endorsed 'Before striking' and initialled 'FI.'

**Imprimaturs : Plates 8 to 14**

These examples are cut from the registration sheets for Plates 8 through 14—the last was registered in green but only printed and issued in orange-brown. Each is **UNIQUE**.

The registration dates make clear the rapid pace of consumption of its stamps. This was halted abruptly with the introduction of a special series of telegraphs stamps early in 1876 (see next frame).



**Plate 8** Reassembled strip of three.

Positions: **A J, A K, A L.**

Registered 30 Sep., 1872.

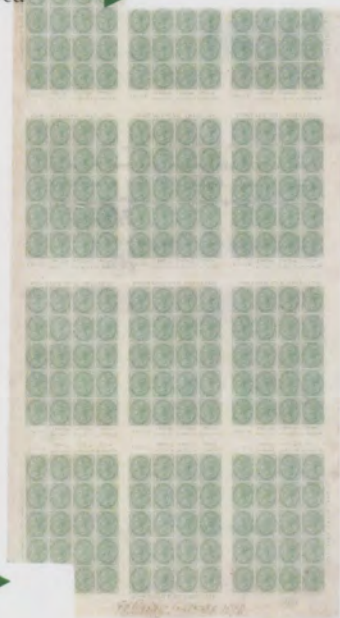
*This is believed to be the first time this trio has been reunited since its removal from the sheet.*

Row A: 12 removed →  
Row B: 8 removed →

**Plate 8**

Twenty-two labels have been removed from the imprimatur (registration) sheet.

Row T: →  
pair removed



**Plate 9**

Position: **A B**,  
showing current  
no. 425.

Reg'd 10 July 1873



**Plate 10**

Position: **A J.**

Reg'd 25 Nov. 1873

*Note the addition of marginal inscriptions compared to same position on previous plates.*



**Plate 11**

Position: **A J.**

Reg'd 23 Apr. 1874



**Plate 12**

Position: **T E.**

Reg'd 30 Sep. 1874



**Plate 13**

Position: **T C.**

Reg'd 22 Apr. 1875



**Plate 14**

Position: **T A.**

Reg'd 20 Dec. 1875

"Abnormal"

(not issued in green)

**Plate proof in black on wove paper**



**Plate 13** block of four

*The purpose and status of this proof is unclear, but only six other singles exist in addition to this block.*

**Plate 13**  
specimen



Overprint  
S.G. type 9

**Plates 8 to 13 : mint and used**

The seven plates, 8 to 14, were all registered between 20 Sep. 1872 and 20 Dec. 1875 and (except 14) put to press within a few months; but then the printed stamps languished in stock, not being used up until 1880. These plates each

had a print run of 35,000 sheets (8.4 million stamps) except plate 13, which had a press run of 25,000 sheets (6 million stamps) in green. Plate 14 was not put to press in green and only five used examples, from the extra sheets printed at the time of registration, have been discovered.

Survival rates for this issue are comparatively low.



**Plate 8** Mint single  
Put to press 10 Jun. 1873



**Plate 13** Mint single  
Put to press 17 Jan. 1876



**Plate 12** Mint block of 6  
Put to press 24 June 1875



**Plate 9** Used block of four  
Put to press 21 Nov. 1873  
Both blocks are telegraphic usages: the Glasgow duplex, though postal, is found on telegraphs.



**Cancellations**

The variety of cancellations found on this issue is more limited than on prior or subsequent issues, due to the issuance of separate telegraphs stamps in 1876 (see next frame) and further reduction of postage rates under the U.P.U.



Edinburgh CDS  
Postal type, not telegraphic



CDS in blue  
Possibly Aran, Ireland



Precancel of Smith, Elder Co.  
Likely for newspapers sent overseas



Railway telegraph numeral  
266 = Cambridge

**Commemorative cancel**



1890 Penny Post Jubilee

### Plates 8 to 13 : used abroad

With telegraphic use of postage stamps on hiatus from 1876-81, overseas mail, especially to and from remote locales, again became the normal use. The U.P.U.'s objection to numeral cancels led to their phase-out, most visibly in Latin American countries like Nicaragua and Venezuela whose British postal agencies were among the last to close.



Gibraltar  
(A26)

Savanilla (F69),  
Colombia

Grey-Town,  
Nicaragua

La Guayra,  
Venezuela

Bombay  
Sea Post Office

Madrid  
transit (red)



Plate 9 on piece with 4d used in Mayagüez, P.R. (F85)



Red 'PD' in oval  
(exact origin unknown)



Plate 10 used in St. Thomas, D.W.I. (C51)

### Postage stamps overprinted for use in Cyprus

After Britain took control of the island's administration from the Ottoman Empire, G.B. stamps including 12 sheets (2,880 stamps) of the 1 shilling, Plate 13, were overprinted 'CYPRUS' in 1878 for use there. This was the first G.B. colonial overprint. Not many were used, and Stanley Gibbons are said to have purchased most of the mint remainders.

#### Un-overprinted



Great Britain 1-shilling, plate 13 used in Cyprus prior to the issuing of overprinted stamps. Numeral 942 of Larnaca. Rare.



ONE OF TWO KNOWN used blocks of four of the one shilling, plate 13 overprinted for Cyprus.

#### Mint



One shilling, plate 13 overprinted for use in Cyprus. Only 2,880 issued.

### Postal History of Plates 8 to 13

Not long after this group of plates came into use, the Post Office was instructed by Parliament in 1875 to improve the cost transparency of Telegraph operations by issuing separate stamps for telegraphs (see Frame 4).

As a result, from 1876 until 1881, the primary use of one-shilling postage stamps reverted to overseas mail, rather than telegraphs. However, overseas postal rates were about to be slashed by the advent of the Universal Postal Union, with a 2½d basic letter rate becoming the norm by the end of the 1870s.

Plate 8 on London-Bombay via Brindisi cover, prior to India/Australia rate reduction

PLATE 8 USED  
COMMERCIALY  
23 JAN. 1874  
TO BOMBAY.  
A typical usage of  
the 1-shilling green  
for the Brindisi  
route to the East  
Indies prior to the  
reduction in rate  
to 9d and later 8d.  
Sea Post transit of  
30 Jan. on reverse;  
receiver indistinct.

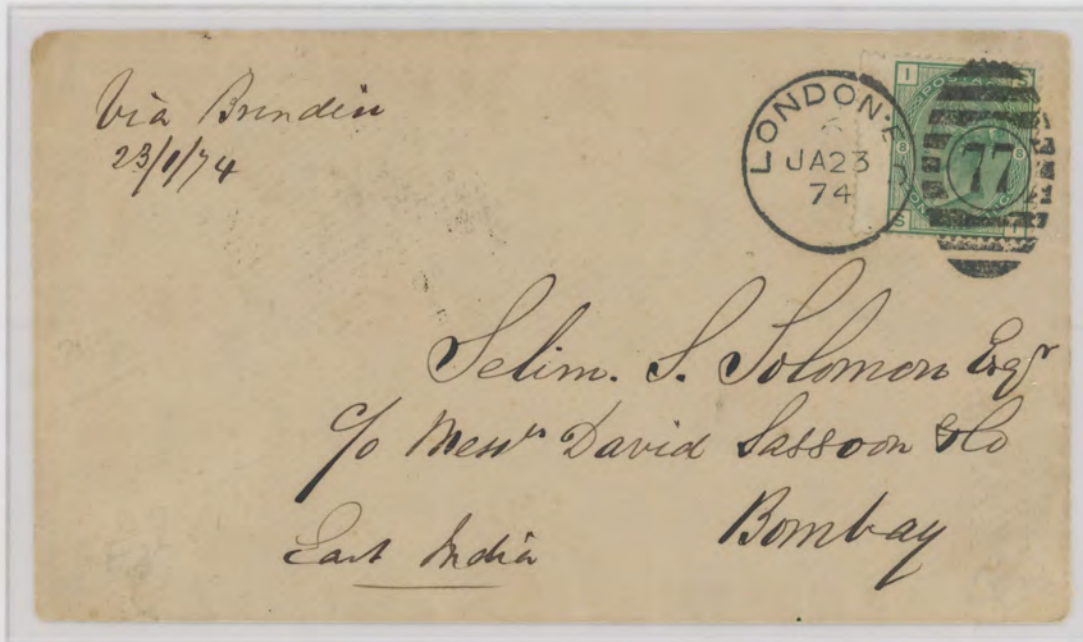


Plate 9 used abroad on combination cover from Valparaiso via London to Milan



PLATE 9, USED WITH  
4D PAIR AND 2D ON  
16 DEC. 1874  
TO ITALY.

The Chile 1867 5 c. pays domestic postage; overseas postage of 1sh 10d paid by G.B. stamps cancelled 'C30'. Italian credit of 20 centesimi is shown in red pencil. Rec'd Jan. 30, 1875 Pre-U.P.U., absent bilateral treaties, the components of a letter's journey had to be paid separately.

E

**Plate 12 used abroad  
from Havana via  
St. Thomas to Lima**

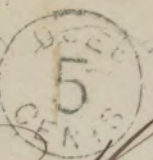
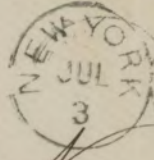
USED 7 SEP. 1876 IN  
CUBA ON COMMERCIAL  
COVER TO PERU

One shilling cancelled  
'C58'. Went via Danish  
West Indies (12 Sep.) to  
Peru; docketed receipt  
Oct. 1. Not one of these  
territories was British!



fr. Sp. via Panama

Learn N. Michaelis  
343 Broadway  
New York



**Plate 13  
used in Peru**

COMBINED  
FRANKING SENT  
JUNE 1878 TO N.Y.

With Peru 20 c  
paying local post,  
both cancelled  
'C38' of Callao.  
Panama transit  
June 20. Assessed  
5c postage due  
on arrival in  
New York.

Peru joined the  
U.P.U. the following  
year, 1 Apr. 1879.



**Largest known used  
multiple of Plate 13**

BLOCK OF 16 ON PIECE WITH  
2½D PLATE 19 PAIR, USED 24  
JUNE 1880

Cancelled Lynedoch Place  
B.O. (Branch Office)  
in Edinburgh.

As the destination is unknown, it  
is impossible to know the rate this  
16s 5d franking corresponded to,  
although the blue pencil indicates  
that it was probably an overseas  
registered parcel.

## Post Office Telegraphs Stamps

Parliament in 1875 demanded that the Post Office do a better job of accounting for income from its telegraph operations. The easiest way of doing that was to issue a new series of dedicated stamps for the exclusive use of the Post Office Telegraphs.

It was decided that the Telegraphs adhesives should be the same size and colour as the current postage series, but horizontal in format. Dies were engraved with a new, smaller head.

Production began in mid-1875 and the first Post Office Telegraphs stamps were issued Feb. 1, 1876 (earliest documented use Feb. 4). From May 1 of that year, use of postage stamps on telegrams was prohibited.

Like the contemporary one-shilling postage stamps, these were printed in green on (sideways) "spray" watermarked paper. This was changed to orange-brown in 1880 and the watermark changed to "Imperial Crown" in 1881, echoing the changes in postage stamps.

Unadopted essay for adhesive telegraph stamp



Master die proof pulled on July 6, 1875



Die proof cut from De La Rue striking books  
Used for making plates 1, 2 and 3.

### Die proofs of the one-shilling Telegraphs stamp

Plate numbers were added to the blank squares in the upper corners of the design, and positional letters in the lower corners.

Plate 1  
Die proof pulled July 14, 1875  
Endorsed in manuscript  
"after striking 15 leads"





### Telegraphs imprimaturs, plate proof and specimens

'Spray' wmk. sideways



Twelve plates were made for the one-shilling Telegraphs stamp between 1875 and 1881—indicative of the enormous volume of telegrams being sent. In 1880, the colour was changed to orange-brown and in 1881 watermark was changed to crown.

The registration (imprimatur) sheets were all destroyed in the 1930s, so the 17 examples removed from each sheet are the only ones surviving. Of those, eight of each plate are in institutional collections, with only nine of each remaining in private hands.

#### Imprimaturs



Plate 2  
Reg'd. 30 Aug., 1875



Plate 3  
Reg'd. 2 Sep., 1875



Plate 4  
Reg'd. 11 Sep., 1876



Plate 7  
Reg'd. 30 Apr., 1878



Plate 8  
Reg'd. 26 Sep., 1878



Plate 9  
Reg'd. 15 Nov., 1878



Plate 11  
Reg'd. 13 May, 1880



Plate 12  
Reg'd. 15 July, 1880

*These two plates were never issued in green.*

#### Plate 8 plate proof on unwatermarked wove paper



Purpose and date of printing unknown.  
*One of eight examples known  
(five of which are in private hands).*



Plate 12 org.-brn.  
Re-reg'd. 12 Feb. 1881



Plate 11 crown wmk.  
Re-reg'd. 10 Feb. 1881



Plate 12 crown wmk.  
Re-reg'd. 13 Aug. 1881

*Plate 10 was not re-registered in orange-brown.*

*Imprimaturs also exist for plates 1, 5, 6, and 10 (in green).*

#### Perforated stamps with 'Specimen' overprint



Plate 3  
*From one of only 3  
panes of 20 known.*



Plate 6  
*From one of only 4  
panes of 20 known.*



Plate 8  
*From one of only 4  
panes of 20 known.*



Plate 10, block of four with wing margins  
*From one of only 4 panes of 20 known.*

### Telegraphs colour standards

Imperforate proof sheets with each stamp overprinted "Specimen" exist for plates 1 and 4. These were made as colour standards for the workmen at De La Rue to follow. The ink was reformulated prior to the printing of plate 4, so the shade of that plate is slightly paler. This change can also be seen on the imprimaturs.

As with postage, lettering ran from AA to TL, but the arrangement in the sheet was switched—rows went left-to-right rather than top-to-bottom.

Only one full sheet of each plate was printed for this purpose.



Plate 1 colour standard. *Half pane.*



Plate 4 colour standard. *Full pane.*

### Telegraphs : used examples

As had been the practice when postage stamps were employed prior to 1876, the used, stamped telegraph forms were retained by the Post Office and destroyed, so stamps were canceled only with a CDS or a railway numeral, without barred obliterator. Occasionally the boxed "T.M.B./G.P.O" cancel is found, presumably from internal use.

As with postage stamps, "wing" margins are possible.

Mint and used telegraphs stamps should not, as a rule, have reached the public.

[Mint examples are omitted here for space reasons.]



Plate 1.

Put to press 28 July 1875



Plate 2.

Put to press 22 Feb. 1876



Plate 3.

Put to press 11 Oct. 1876



Plate 4, block of four with wing margins

Put to press 1 May 1877



Plate 5, scarce on piece.

Put to press 23 Aug. 1877



Plate 6.

Put to press 1 Mar. 1878



Plate 7.

Put to press 20 Aug. 1878



Plate 8.

Put to press 9 Dec. 1878



Plate 9.

Put to press 19 Sep. 1879



Plate 10.

Put to press 2 Feb. 1880

### Change of colour

One-shilling telegraphs stamps were changed from green to orange-brown in 1880, echoing the change in postage stamps.



Plate 10 org.-brn.

Put to press 21 Sep. 1880



Plate 12 org.-brn.

Put to press 14 Feb. 1881

Plate 11 is thought to have been put to press in orange-brown on 'Spray' paper on 6 Dec. 1880, but no example has ever been discovered.

### Change of watermark

The watermark was changed from 'Spray' to 'Imperial Crown' in 1881, likewise following the change in postage stamps. Plates 11 and 12 were reconfigured for this.

'Crown' wmk. sideways



Plate 11 on crown wmk.

Note FI and GI without wing margins.

Issued 2 Feb. 1881



Plate 12 on crown wmk.

Issued 10 Sep. 1881

### Telegraphs : embossed stationery

The practice of pre-stamping telegraph forms with an embossed one-shilling die continued, but instead of the octagonal "Postage" die, a new design inscribed "Telegraphs" was introduced. One shilling was the only denomination in this embossed series. Like the adhesives, it was phased out abruptly in Nov. 1881 when the used of postage stamps for telegraphs resumed.



Unused cutout



Variety : freak offset on reverse



Used with 6d  
Telegraphs adhesive

#### Telegraphic usage



Early use:  
June 12, 1876



Late use:  
Nov. 14, 1881

#### Anomalous postal usage



#### POSTAL USE OF EMBOSSED TELEGRAPHS CUTOUT

Staplehurst (Kent), posted on 9 Aug. 1884

Telegraphs stamps were not explicitly authorised for postal use after their validity ended in Nov. 1881. A shilling would have in any case vastly overpaid an inland letter, so this is certainly philatelic.



## Postage stamps' change of colour

In 1878, the Universal Postal Union agreed that stamps for basic international rates should adhere to a simple colour scheme: blue for single-weight letters, red for postcards and green for printed matter. Although this scheme did not become mandatory until 1897, Great Britain followed it from 1880.

The 2½d rosy mauve was changed to blue and the new ½d surface-printed stamp was made green (the 1d was already red). The one-shilling stamp accordingly could no longer be green, so De La Rue proposed brown-orange. The new colour was issued on Oct. 14, 1880. Plate 13 was not re-registered.

Mint



S.G. 151

Used



Registry oval cancel



London squared circle



Inspector's mark

Specimen



Overprint  
S.G. type 9

Largest known used multiple of Pl. 13 org.-brown on 'Spray'



Louis and Galland have recorded one other used block of eight.

Used abroad on the Mosquito Coast



PLATE 13,  
BROWN-ORANGE  
WMK. 'SPRAY' USED  
IN NICARAGUA  
6 JAN. 1882

Single franking of  
one shilling from  
Grey Town to  
London, 6 Jan. 1882.

Use of barred-numeral  
obliterators in overseas  
bureaus ceased in the  
late 1870s after  
objections from the  
U.P.U. Nicaragua joined  
the U.P.U. on 1 May,  
1882, after which the  
British post office there  
closed.

## Change of watermark : Imperial crown

With the switch to Imperial Crown watermarked paper, plates 13 and 14 had to be altered to fit the new layout format. This involved physically cutting them up and rearranging the 12 panes of 20 stamps into two large panes of 120, each 12 stamps across by ten rows deep. This resulted in the disappearance of the gutters and wing margins.

Plates 13 and 14 were re-registered in the new layout.

### Specimen



Plate 14  
Overprint  
S.G. type 9



Sample of Imperial Crown watermarked paper showing eight "bits" and corner rule.

### 'Crown' watermark



### Imprimaturs

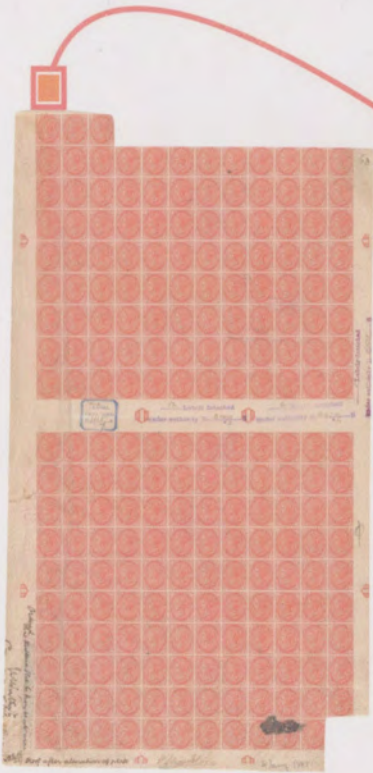


Plate 13  
Re-registered 4 Jan. 1881  
and put to press in May.



Plate 14  
Re-registered 21 Oct. 1881 and  
put to press the same day.  
Thought to be the only multiple from  
any Victorian surface-printed  
imprimatur sheet in private hands.

### Mint stamps



S.G. 163 (Plate 13)



S.G. 163 (Plate 14)

Both the above positions,  
**KH** and **JI**, would have had  
wing margins on 'Spray' wmk.

### Cancellations and varieties on Plates 13 and 14

As the need of a one-shilling stamp on ordinary letter mail was by this time diminishing, it is possible to find cancels denoting a range of alternative usages, from registry to parcels to telegraphs. (*Top row S.G. 151; others S.G. 163.*)

**Packet office**



Liverpool P.L.O.

**Panama transit**



*This marking was not normally struck on stamps.*

**Used abroad**



Valparaiso, Chile—C30

**Registered mail**



Edinburgh double circle

**Postal telegraph use**

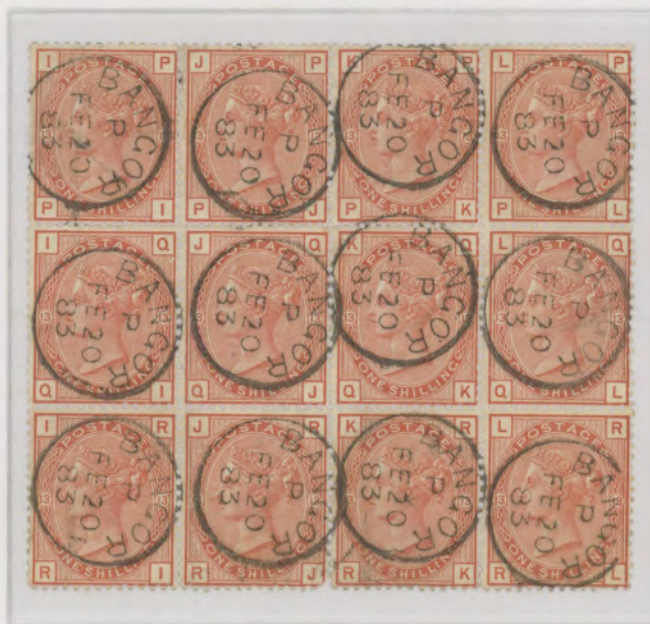


Plate 13 block of 12  
Bangor, Wales

**Newspapers**



'NPB' = newspaper,  
parcel & book post

**Royal Household**



'V.R.' code in  
hooded circle

**Parcels Post**



London Bridge  
depot

**Railway telegraphs**



Rectangular 260  
Scotland



Rectangular 185  
Scotland—violet



114, alternating in strip of four with Gordon Street/Cal. Rwy. CDS  
Scotland



Circular 668  
England triple cancel

### Perfins offered companies protection against theft

Great Britain pioneered the use of perforated initials (perfins) to prevent stamp theft in 1868, and by 1880 their use by companies, and even government departments, had become widespread. All stamp issues from the 1870s onward can be found with them.



S . S & Co



GLYN *unused*



COX



B & L / M



E . L . / & Co



HSB



N & P *unused*



D . B



I.H.S. / & Co



L / C & S



R . B



ID in large circle  
*Dawson & Sons precancel*

### Overprinted for use on Government Parcels

Unlike official overprints designated for a specific government department, "Govt. Parcels" overprints were for the joint use of all offices. The first issue, in 1883, utilized the 9d of the "Lilac and Green" series; the one-shilling value of that set did not appear until 1884, so the one-shilling stamps of the prior series were used.

Specimen



Mint



Plate 13  
S.G. O64



Plate 14  
S.G. O64c

E



Plate 13  
CDS

Used



Plate 13  
*Killer*



Plate 14



### Postal History of Plates 13 and 14 in orange-brown on Crown paper

Following the advent of the U.P.U., there was no longer practically any need for a one-shilling stamp for overseas postage: the first-weight-step overseas letter rate was set a just 2½d, or 4d for more remote destinations. Additionally, most British postal agencies abroad were shuttered.

Covers bearing Plates 13 and 14 on 'Crown' watermark are therefore elusive.

Oversize banker's letter, probably charged a late fee



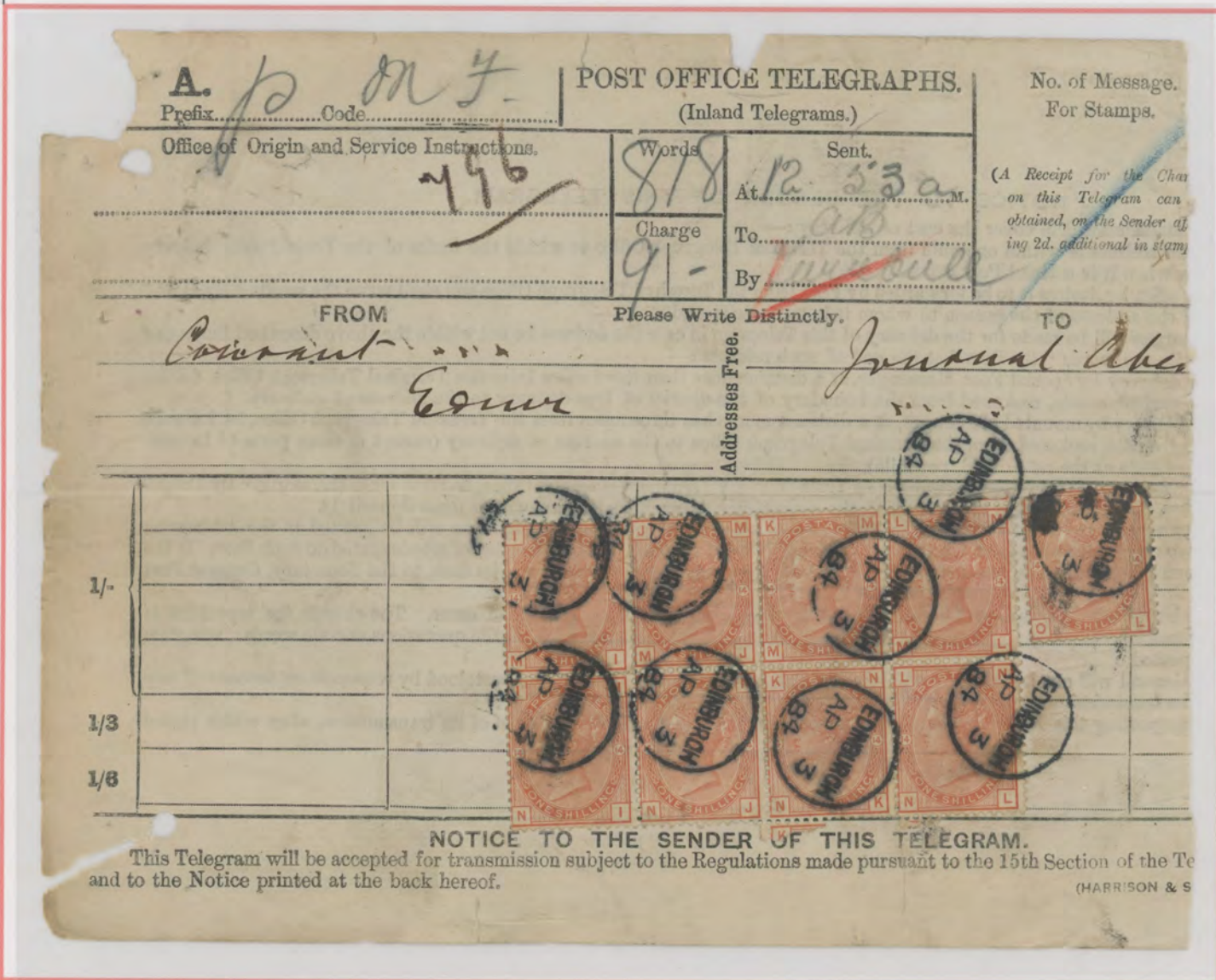
PLATE 14, BROWN-ORANGE WMK. 'CROWN' USED TO PARIS

Two examples on an oversize banker's cover sent from Lombard Street in London on June 9, 1882. Hexagonal 'Lr' duplex (code: 6) indicates likely payment of a late fee. A Calais-to-Paris T.P.O. cancel of the following day is struck below the adhesives. Paris receiver on the reverse.

## Resumption of postage stamp use on telegraphs

In November 1881, use of special Telegraphs stamps (including embossed) was discontinued, and use of ordinary postage stamps resumed. Telegraphs once more becoming the primary use for high-value stamps.

### Rare surviving used, stamped telegraph form



**PLATE 14, BROWN-ORANGE WMK. 'CROWN,' USED TELEGRAPHICALLY**

Nine examples on telegraph form used in Edinburgh on April 3, 1884. Used forms were invariably retained by the Post Office and later pulped. This example may have survived because its long message was on a separate sheet. The sender and addressee are both newspapers so the message was likely a news report.



**EMBOSSED ONE-SHILLING POSTAGE STAMPS USED TELEGRAPHICALLY.**

Telegraph form cutouts, used at Liverpool Exchange (l.) and London Stock Exchange (r.). Adhesives and embossed stamps continued to be used interchangeably on telegraph forms.

### Revenue usages of Plates 13 and 14.

The Act of 1881 allowed members of the public to begin using postage stamps up to a value of 2sh 6d for revenue (fiscal) purposes, and vice versa. Although existing postage stamp designs weren't inscribed "...and Revenue," they could be legitimately used that way, as these examples demonstrate. Despite the revenue uses of postage stamps traditionally having been overlooked, this was *de facto* the first one-shilling postage-and-revenue stamp.



Plate 13 used fiscally



Plate 14 used fiscally

### Used as a revenue stamp on large church document

said the following Prayer: "O most Blessed Saviour, &c.," then the said Reverend *William Augustus Fenwick* went on with the Morning Service to the Prayer of St. Chrysostom and the Grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ, when a Hymn was sung and the Communion was begun by his Lordship, who, after the Collect for the Queen, said the following Prayer: "O most Glorious God, &c." The Epistle, taken from the Sixth Chapter of St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians, beginning at Verse 14th to the end, was then read by his Lordship's said Chaplain, after which <sup>the said Archdeacon of Middlesex</sup> his Lordship read the Gospel taken from the Second Chapter of St. John, beginning with the 13th and ending with the 18th Verse. Then his Lordship read the Nicene Creed, and Notice was given of the Celebration of the Holy Communion on the following Sunday, after which another Hymn was sung, then <sup>the said Archdeacon of Middlesex</sup> his Lordship preached a Sermon suitable to the occasion which was followed by the Offertory, after which his Lordship said the Prayer for the Church Militant, and the following Prayer: "Blessed be Thy Name, O Lord, &c.," and concluded by giving the Blessing.

All which I attest,

*Wm Augustus Fenwick*  


PLATE 14, BROWN-ORANGE WMK. 'CROWN' USED AS A REVENUE STAMP

Cancelled by signing across the stamp on an episcopal document dated (on front) 25th July, 1883. Folded and letterboxed.

## Surface-printed revenues evolve, overlap with postage and telegraphs

The “Unified Series” of postage and revenue stamps was intended for all fiscal purposes for which a specific stamp did not already exist. However, a great many did exist, either purpose-designed or using a generic die appropriated via a specific overprint. For later revenues as well as the generic series, De La Rue chose a more mature portrait of Queen Victoria by William Theed, on values from 1d to £20. With rare exceptions, these were almost always printed in lilac or green, the two doubly-fugitive security inks.

Although the vast majority were used for revenue/fiscal purposes, some saw postal use, often philatelically inspired. The unappropriated die was also put to use for colonial postage stamps e.g. Bechuanaland, and for Army/Military Telegraphs.

1855



Foreign Bill

1860



Customs

1867



Companies Registration

1876



Judicature Fees

## Unappropriated die series (1872) : one shilling

Plate proof



Pair of unappropriated one-shilling revenue stamps overprinted 'Specimen'. Possibly a colour standard.

Issued revenues



Bankruptcy is green & black used on piece



Judicature Ireland is lilac & red—mint

Army Telegraphs



Block of four on piece of the one-shilling revenue die appropriated for Army Telegraphs.

Used at Suakin, Sudan ("S N" code around date).

## The Unified Series, or, the “Lilac and Greens”

To save money, the Board of Inland Revenue and the Post Office agreed that a single series of stamps be produced for both postal and revenue purposes.

To lessen the risk that canceled stamps might be cleaned and reused, De La Rue proposed printing all of them in doubly-fugitive inks, that is, inks that would run in either solvent (used to remove postmarks) or water (used to remove pen cancels).

The drawback was that De La Rue could only obtain doubly fugitive inks in two colours: lilac and dull green (*see previous page*). After experiments printing the existing designs (1873-1881) in lilac, new, boldly geometrical designs were proposed. The new series was issued in 1883 (9d) and 1884 (other values). Despite their inscription, few of the 1s were actually used postally; as before, telegraphic and other uses predominated.

Imprimaturs of 1873-80 design in lilac

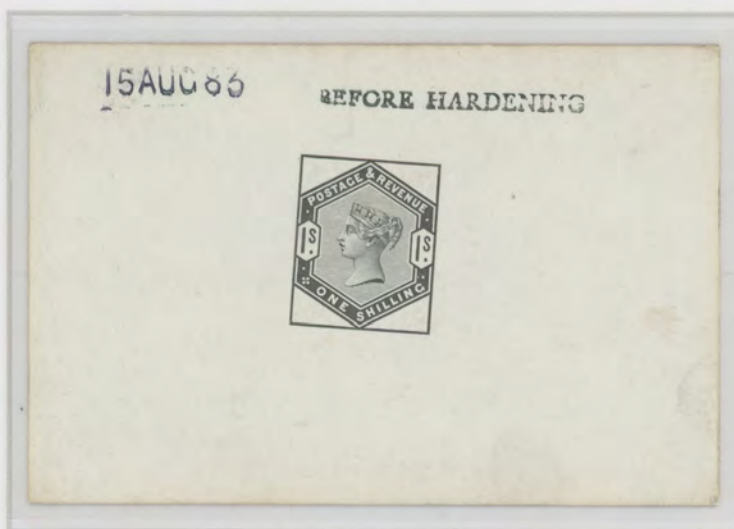


Plate 13

Plate 14

The two plates were re-registered in this color in 1883, with a view to issuing the stamp with a “1s.” surcharge, similarly to the issued 3d and 6d, but the idea was abandoned.

Die proof of the new, geometric design



Proof pulled 15 Aug. 1883, prior to the addition of corner check letters.

Imprimatur



Two plates were registered, and examples were taken from both. They are indistinguishable.

Specimen



Specimen perf. 12

Mint



S.G. 196  
Lettering as on prior issues

Colour trial



Purple on orange, no corner letters  
This is the only trial using the 1s denomination in this series. Its exact purpose is unclear, but it may have been for the 'jubilee' series.

### Usage patterns continued those of the prior issue

Telegraphs, valuable registered letters, and revenue remained the primary uses for the 1884 shilling. Many of these uses had low survival rates. Coupled with the fact that the ink ran easily (by design) leaving many examples faded, this is a hard-to-find issue in good, used condition.

#### Telegraphic usages



England/Wales railway numeral : Rowlands Castle, Sussex—1165



Scotland railway numeral : Creetown, Kirkcudbright—65



Block of 12 with CDS's of Salen, Scotland

#### Railway telegraph triple cancel



The above block of four has three layers of cancellation:

1. Each stamp individually struck with railway-telegraph numeral '73' in a circle of Bailey Gate, Dorset
2. Large, boxed "T.C.B./G.P.O." (Telegraph Clearing Branch/General Post Office) applied at headquarters in London
3. Red crayon marking each stamp in a final tally when settling accounts.

This triple cancellation indicates the stamps were used to transfer funds and balance accounts internally. They were likely affixed to a bill or docket, rather than a piece of mail or telegram.

#### Revenue usages



Pen cancel



Embossed cancel



Notarial cancel

### Overprinted for Inland Revenue use

The first "I.R. Official" overprints for the Board of Inland Revenue appeared in 1882; the one-shilling value received this overprint in 1885. It was soon superseded by the one-shilling of the 'Jubilee' series and is therefore very scarce.

#### Specimen



#### Used



### Postal usage and postal history of the Unified Issue

Postal use of the one-shilling value during the mid-1880s continued to be very limited, and covers bearing this issue are scarce.

Registered mail



Registry ovals, Eastcheap (London), Oct. 21, 1885

Late fee



"L.I." duplex cancels, Eastcheap (London), July 25, 1886

### Mail between famous stamp dealers in London and Vienna



ONE SHILLING DULL GREEN USED WITH ½D DEEP BLUE OF 1883 TO AUSTRIA  
 Posted at Charing Cross on 22 Jan. 1887, received Vienna 24 Jan.  
 The 2d embossed stamp on reverse paid registration fee (scan at right)  
 One shilling and halfpenny equaled 5 x the U.P.U. overseas rate. Both the sender, Morris Giwelb, and the addressee, Sigmund Friedl, were well-known professional philatelists and the letter probably contained a wants list or price list. There is no indication of insurance, as would be expected if the letter contained any rare stamps.



Embossed 2d registration stamp on reverse flap

## 'Jubilee' Issue : essays and die proofs

Following the debacle of the 1883 "Unified" Issue (colloquially the "Lilac & Greens"), lengthy experiments with coloured papers and bi-colour printing proved that stamps could be both secure and visually distinctive. The new series was coincidentally issued in the 50th year of Victoria's reign.

The one-shilling stamp remained monochromatic, printed in doubly-fugitive dull green on white paper. This ink ran in both solvent and water, safeguarding the stamp against fraudulent re-use.

Several artists worked on hand-painted, stamp-sized essays for the various denominations. Many of these miniature works of art were brought to market for the first time by Robson Lowe in the 1970s.



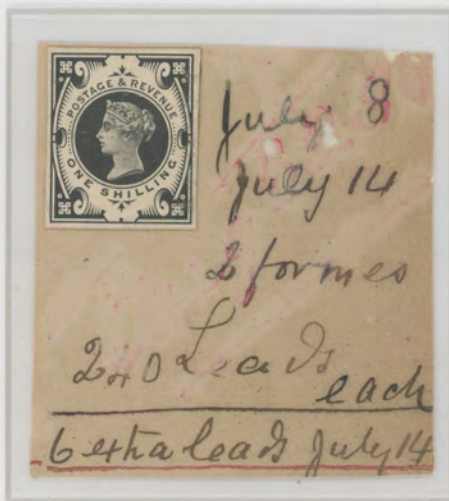
Enlargement shows brush work

### Hand-painted essays



Two proposed designs by G.R. Smith for the one-shilling denomination. A total of seven different designs exist for this value. EACH UNIQUE

### Die proofs cut from the De La Rue striking books



Plates 3 and 4



Plate 5

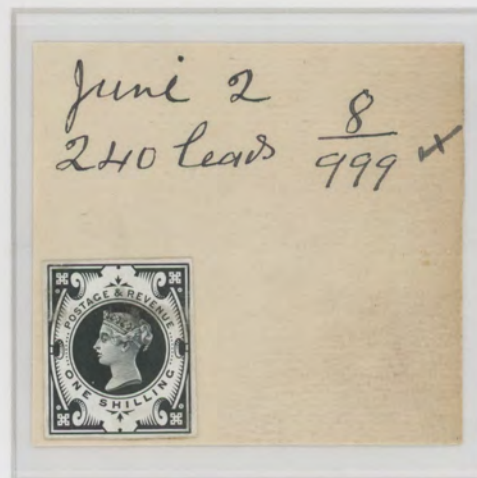


Plate 8  
(Never put to press)



### 'Jubilee' imprimaturs and issued stamps

The first two plates (3 and 4, un-numbered) were put to press for 12 different printings; in the 12th printing, plate 5 was brought in as a substitute for one of them. Commencing with the 13th printing, plates 6 and 7 were used and marginal rules were added to reduce wear.

These marginal rules are known as "Jubilee lines." Aside from their presence or absence, the various printings are virtually indistinguishable.

A total of six plates were made for the 'Jubilee' one-shilling, numbered 3 to 8. Only 3 and 4 were registered. Those imprimatur sheets are in the Postal Museum; 23 units were cut from each.

#### Imprimaturs



Plates 3 and 4 both registered on 18 Aug. 1886

Singles cut from the two registration sheets are virtually indistinguishable except by shade. The example on the left bears a pencil notation '3' on the back.

#### Specimen



Overprint  
S.G. type 9

#### Mint blocks of the first and second settings



Setting 1 (Plates 3-5) without Jubilee lines



Setting 2 (Plates 6-7) with Jubilee lines added



#### Experimental printing

Corner margin single on vertically-laid "Repp" paper. The normal issue is on wove paper.

E

### Usages and cancellations of the one-shilling 'Jubilee'

By the late 1880s, there were few ways to use a one-shilling stamp postally. An overseas letter had to weigh five times the basic ½-ounce weight (1s 0½d) before a one-shilling stamp was necessary. Although the weight limit for inland parcels was raised to 11 lbs, the charge for that weight was just 1s 6d.

The primary usages for one shilling stamps therefore remained telegraphs, along with some overseas and revenue use. Overprints were applied for colonial and departmental use.

T.P.O.

Late fee

Parcel post

Commemorative cancel



Continental  
Night Mail



1890 Penny Postage Jubilee

Registry

Newspapers

Parcel (CDS)

Parcel (roller)

M.O & S.B

Inspector's mark



Money Order &  
Savings Branch

### Revenue usages

Although the stamps are inscribed "Postage & Revenue," explicitly placing the two areas of usage on equal footing, philatelists have traditionally tended to disregard the latter, despite its potential for fascinating study.



Purple cancel  
Notarial use



Pen cancel  
Exact purpose unknown



Black circular "Cancelled C.S.C."  
Used to pay fees for Civil Service exams

### Telegraphic usage

The greatest consumption of one-shilling stamps in the 1890s was still telegraphic, not postal. Despite availability of stamps up to £5, large used multiples of the shilling are not infrequently encountered.

At post offices, the CDS dominated; at railways stations, numerals were replaced about 1892 by a new style, a large oval giving the name of the station and the railway line (though not the date).



Queenstown (now Cobh, Cork Harbour)



Queens Square Branch Office, Belfast



Edrom (Berwickshire, Scotland) / North British Railway



Rectangular 73 of Coldingham (Berwickshire, Scotland)

### Postal history of the "Jubilee" issue

Though there were relatively few opportunities to use a one-shilling stamp on letter mail during the 1890s, covers do exist. Generally they paid multiple rates or some additional service such as express mail.

#### Quintuple rate to Turks Islands

ONE SHILLING AND HALFPENNY 'JUBILEES' SENT 26 JAN. 1895  
 Five times the 2½d rate (12½d or 1s 0½d) for a 2-to-2½ oz. registered letter; registration separately paid by 2d embossed stamp on flap. Halifax, Nova Scotia 5 Feb. transit on reverse and Turks Isl. 23 Feb. receiver on front. A scarce destination.



Halifax transit

#### Quadruple rate plus 2d late fee to France

ONE SHILLING USED SOLO 16 MAR. 1897  
 Quadruple rate (1½ to 2 ozs) London to Nice franked 4 x 2½d = 10d postage plus 2d late fee = 1 shilling, all paid by the solo adhesive with 2d embossed stamp paying registration. Nice receiver on back.



"Arrivee / Nice"

### Express Sunday delivery and military concession rate

Express mail was expanded to include optional Sunday delivery for a surcharge of one shilling on top of the postage and regular express fee.

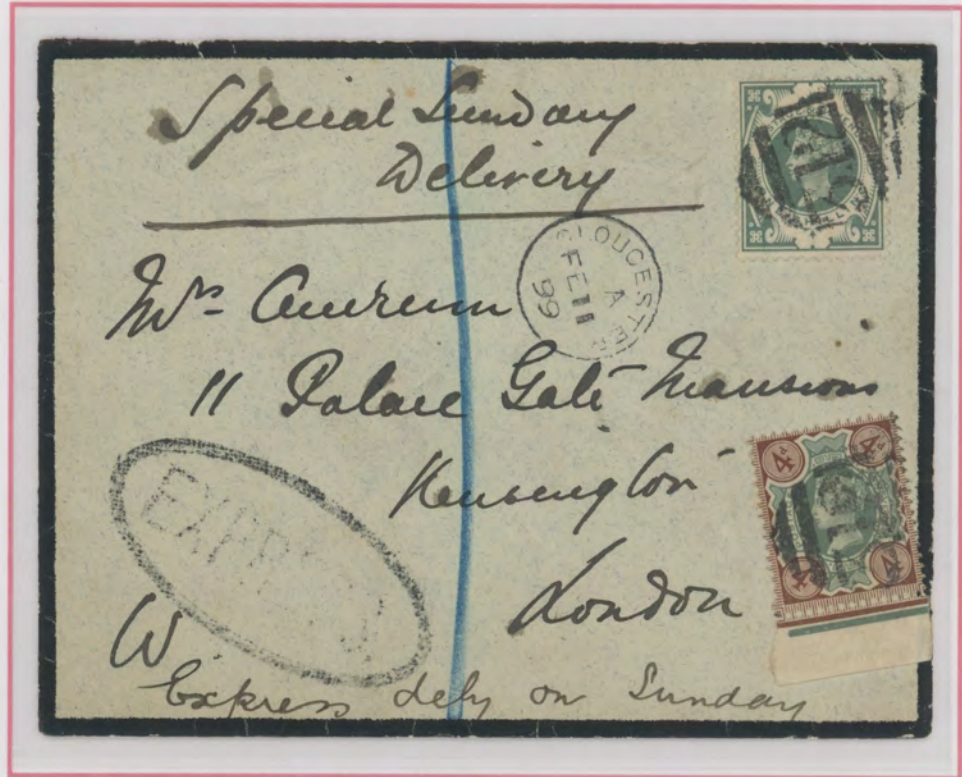
First day of new Sunday express service

ONE SHILLING AND  
4D 'JUBILEES' POSTED  
FOR DELIVERY SUN.  
12 FEB. 1899

Mourning envelope  
posted Sat. Feb. 11 from  
Gloucester to  
Kensington, London  
franked with 1s 4d = 1d  
basic postage, 3d express  
fee and one shilling for  
the new Sunday delivery  
surcharge.

Both stamps of the  
"Jubilee" series canceled  
with '312' numeral  
obliterator of Gloucester  
(CDS and 'Express' oval  
alongside).

A rare first-day cover for  
the Sunday express service.



Letter to an Army officer serving in South Africa



ONE SHILLING  
'JUBILEE' PAYING  
½-OUNCE RATE SENT  
13 AUG. 1888

Incoming officer's  
letter to a corporal  
serving in South  
Africa, franking  
with 'Jubilee'  
paying the ½-oz rate  
to the Cape effective  
1870.

By long tradition, mail  
to and from British  
forces serving overseas  
were entitled to  
concessionary rates.  
From 1870 this rate  
was the same as that  
available to the  
general public.

### Official overprints—and an official perfin

As with previous issues, stamps of the 'Jubilee' series including the one-shilling were overprinted "I.R. Official" for use by the Board of Inland Revenue and "Govt. Parcels" for use by all departments. The Board of Trade opted for perfins.

#### Board of Trade



Crown over B.T. (some blind pins)  
with scan of reverse.  
The first G.B. Official stamp issue was  
this perfin, first adopted in Jan. 1881



'I.R. Official' ovpt. used on piece of registered mail

#### I. R. Official



Mint block of four



Specimen ovpt. type 9, block of four



Specimen ovpt. type 15



'Cancelled' ovpt. type 14

#### Government Parcels



Mint



Specimen ovpt. type 9



Specimen ovpt. type 15



'Cancelled' ovpt. type 14



Used on fragment of parcel wrapper to Australia (with two 9d stamps)

### Colonial overprints

Some colonial administrations found it easier to overprint stamps of the home country than produce their own. These included the Oil Rivers (later Niger Coast) Protectorate, British Bechuanaland and Zululand.

#### Oil Rivers Protectorate—1892



Mint

Used

#### British Bechuanaland—1894



Specimen

Mint

Used

Mafeking Besieged  
Provisional sans-serif  
two-shilling surcharge

#### Zululand—1892



Specimen

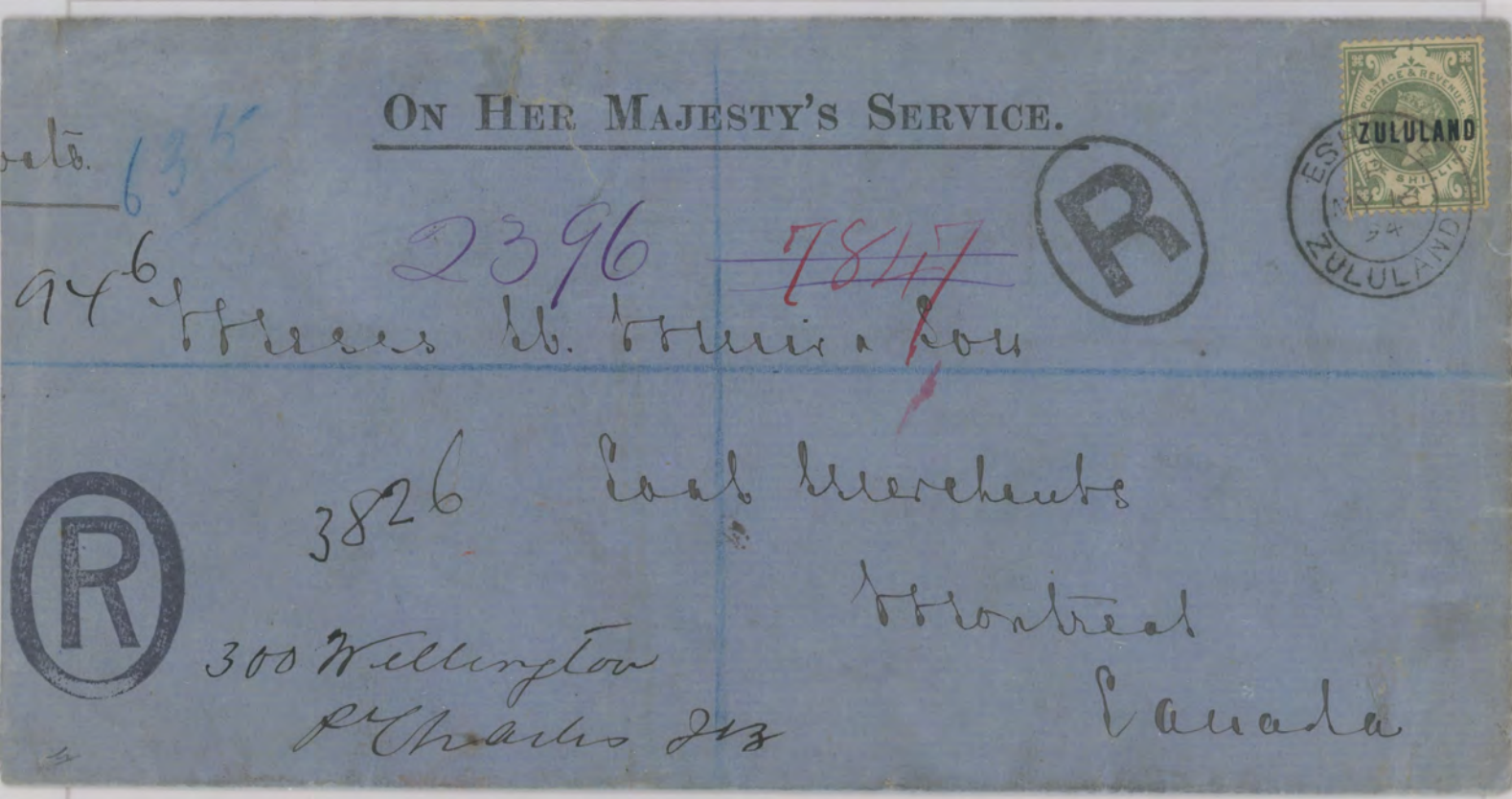
Mint

REGISTERED OFFICIAL LETTER TO  
CANADA, POSTED 16 MAY, 1894  
FRANKED WITH OVERPRINTED 1S

Posted at Eshowe, commercially  
addressed to Coal Merchants in  
Montreal. Durban, Liverpool,  
Quebec transits on reverse.



Durban and Liverpool transits on reverse



## Railway parcel carriers pressure the Post Office

As parcel transport (including newspapers) was outside the Post Office monopoly, Britain's railway companies were free to be as enterprising as they wanted. Many railways issued stamps and labels for newspapers and parcels, and these were sometimes applied to letters—as long as the letter had a piece of string around it, it qualified as a parcel! Some railroad companies skirted the law by printing postal stationery that could only be honestly described as letter mail.

### Privately issued railway parcels stamps



Midland Railway  
One shilling newspaper parcel stamp  
Specimen ovpr. in red



Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland  
One shilling under 21 lbs.



London & Northwestern  
Railway Co.  
One shilling parcel stamp

### Die proof for contemplated P.O. Parcel Post issue



Designs were engraved for 6d and 1s stamps for an  
Inland Parcel Post service.

*Proofs exist in lilac and other colours. These stamps were never issued.*



### Embossed stamped-to-order dies' date slugs replaced with florets

Stamped-to-order stationery continued to use the one-shilling green embossed die first seen in 1847. Denominations could be freely combined; true commercial uses are scarce. Use of date slugs was discontinued in the 1890s and the holes already drilled into the dies were filled with tiny florets of either nine or five dots.

Postally used embossed is stamp

REGISTERED LETTER TO BERLIN WITH DATED DIE  
 Posted 11 June 1889 (date slugs 24. 5. 89 in die). Embossed stamp paid four times 2½d = 10d postage plus 2d registration.



CDSs on reverse



### Overseas parcel label

COMMERCIAL PARCEL LABEL WITH TWO 1S AND 2D EMBOSSED, ALL WITH NINE-DOT FLORETS



The label has been pre-stamped with two 1s and 2d; the red lilac adhesive has the 'TPMC' perfin. Cancelled by undated rubber parcel cancels of Altrincham.

Date of posting uncertain but most likely sometime in the 1890s.



## Change to a bi-colour design

With the renewed adherence to U.P.U. colours requiring the ½d stamp to be changed from vermilion to green, the decision was taken to alter the one-shilling stamp to a bi-coloured version.

By way of a mock-up, an example of the issued stamp in dull green was carefully overpainted to turn the frame purple. When this method proved painstakingly slow, the stamp was reprinted in over a dozen colours which were cut up and pasted together to give the intended effect.

Stanley Gibbons formerly listed 17 colours for these trials but, "after substantial research and a lot of cross referencing between other denominations and their colour trials throughout institutional, private collections, previous stock and historical auction lots," (per S.G.) have consolidated the list in the forthcoming edition of the *Specialised* to 13. All are on gummed, Crown-watermarked paper.

Paste-ups were prepared with centres in purple and dull green, each with frames in one of the dozen other trial colours.

# 1900

Hand-overpainted essay



Enlargement shows brush work

UNIQUE

Colour trials



Dull purple



Bright purple



Violet

E



Slate



Grey



Pale blue



Bright blue



Emerald



Olive



Yellow



Deep brown

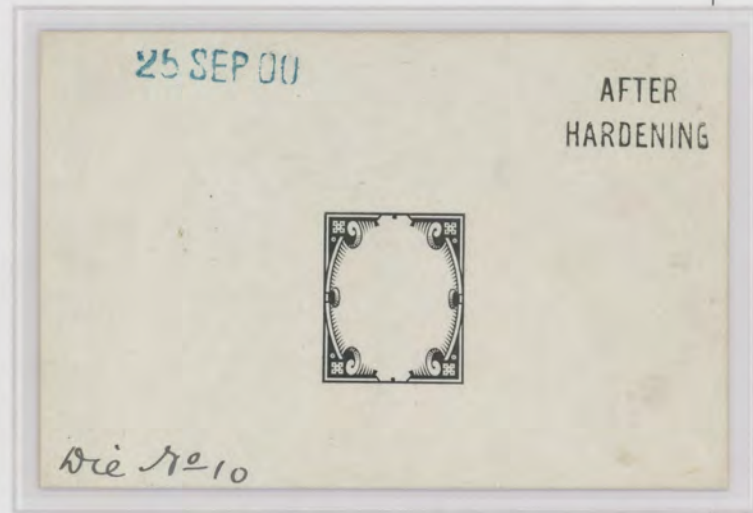


Orange-brown



Carmine-red

Production die proofs



The die was split, yielding a "head" or "duty" die with the portrait and inscriptions and a "frame" die with the rest. It was decided to retain the dull green colour for the centre and print the frame in carmine-red.

Imprimatur

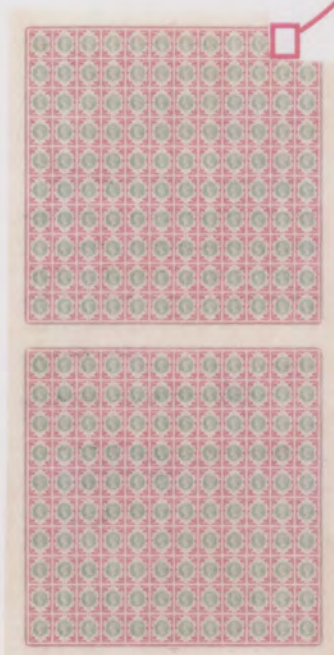
Registered  
10 April 1900  
ONLY TWO STAMPS  
REMOVED  
from the registration  
sheet—the rarest of all  
Victorian imprimaturs  
in private hands.



Mint block of 20



Four plates were made of the head die, numbered 9-12 following the prior issue. Five frame plates were made (one was defective) but it is not known exactly how they were combined on press. Only one sheet was registered. The stamp was issued on 11 July.



### Usages and overprints of the bi-colour 'Jubilee'

Primary usages were telegraphs and heavy parcels, plus some overseas and revenue use. Three government departments made use of official overprints.



Telegraphic usage at Royal Exchange, Manchester



Gracechurch St. parcel cancels



Isle of Man



Baltsound bag seal



Posted at sea with 'Paquebor' cancel



Newspaper parcel



Used abroad at British P.O. in Smyrna



Notarial fee (item letterboxed)

#### Government Parcels



Specimen ovpt.  
S.G. type 9



Mint



Used  
Reg'd oval



Inverted  
overprint

Only 12 known,  
all used.  
Ex Astley

E

#### I.R. Official



Specimen type 15



Mint



Used

#### Board of Education



Specimen type 15



Mint

### There and back again : Boer War postal history of the bi-colour 'Jubilee'

Besides telegraphs, overseas parcels were one of the few remaining ways to use one-shilling multiples by the turn of the new century. These examples show the same stamps paying postage to and from South Africa.



Parcel tags to and from the British Army in South Africa (Second Boer War)

FIVE BI-COLOUR 'JUBILEES' ON PARCEL TAG (with additional 3d on reverse) Sent from London to Cape Colony. Total of 5sh 3d paid for a parcel weighing between 6lb and 7lbs.



USED ABROAD: 11 BI-COLOUR 'JUBILEES' ON PARCEL FROM FIELD POST OFFICE IN SOUTH AFRICA (with additional 8d postage) Parcel appears to have been redirected in the U.K. from Hampshire to London.

## What Came After

Queen Victoria died on Jan. 22, 1901 and her son, Albert Edward, ascended to the throne as King Edward VII. It was decided to retain many of the designs of the previous reign, including the one-shilling, simply changing the head and making other modifications as necessary. The King opted for a bare-headed profile by the Austrian artist Emil Fuchs and a new die was prepared. The new 1s stamps were issued on 24 March, 1902.

A



Essay and die proof for the 1902 Edwardian issue



Approved proof of the 'head' die with Fuchs profile of the King

Paste-up essay with rejected three-quarter profile

E

### Late postal use of the Victorian one shilling

VICTORIAN BI-COLOUR 'JUBILEE' ON 1910 REGISTERED ENVELOPE

Sent from Margate to Stuttgart. The adhesive overpays the 2½d postage plus 9d insurance by a halfpenny (2d registration paid by the embossed stamp).

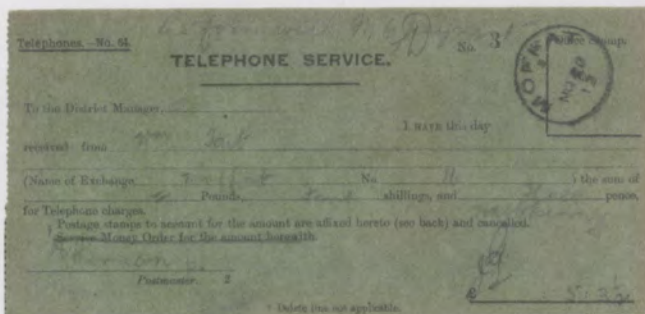
Victorian issues remained in use until they were demonetized in 1915.



### Novel uses for postage stamps in the 20th century

**FIVE EDWARDIAN 1S STAMPS USED ON RECEIPT 20 NOV. 1913**

The Post Office kept up with technological developments in the private sector. Telephone service in its infancy, especially outside of large cities, was often available to the public only from booths located in post offices. Per-call charges could be paid with stamps, as on this example used at Moffat, in Scotland.



Reverse

Item letterboxed

### Receipt for telephone service



### Philately goes mainstream



Postage Stamp Exhibition cancel  
Manchester, 1909

### Embossed stamps retained the colours and shapes of Victorian issues



### Foreign-currency overprint



Offices in Turkey  
5 piastres

**UNUSED EDWARDIAN ONE-SHILLING GREEN EMBOSSED, ISSUED 9 MARCH, 1902**

This scarce example illustrates the continuity in embossed issues as well as adhesives. The octagonal one-shilling would persist through the reign of King George VI. (Letterboxed)