

TWO BLUE: OVERSEAS MAILS WITH THE 1841 TWO PENNY BLUE PLATES 3 and 4

The Great Britain Two Penny (2d) Blue issue of 1841 was issued with an updated design featuring a white line both below "Postage" and above "Two Pence" and a more fugitive ink to prevent the removal of cancels and fraudulent reuse. Between 1841 and 1847 it was the highest denomination in use, and saw use until the mid-1850s. As the use of postage stamps on overseas mails increased, it was a critical component of many postal rates and routes. In this overview, only covers utilizing stamps of Two Pence and under are shown.



DECEMBER 7,
1843: Dungarvon.
Ireland to Hoppers
Mills, Illinois. 8d
Ship Letter Rate via
Liverpool and New
York, due 27 Cents.
Franked with 1841
2d Blue Plate 3 'RE-
RH' strip of four
canceled with Irish
Maltese Cross
obliterators.

This cover is the only recorded Ship Letter from Great Britain that was sent in the Maltese Cross era and franked with 2d Blues to the United States. Ex-Slemons.

The destination in Henderson County, IL is near the Iowa Territory border and does not appear to exist anymore.



1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 3
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: 1844
ONE SHILLING RATE – Via Cunard Packet



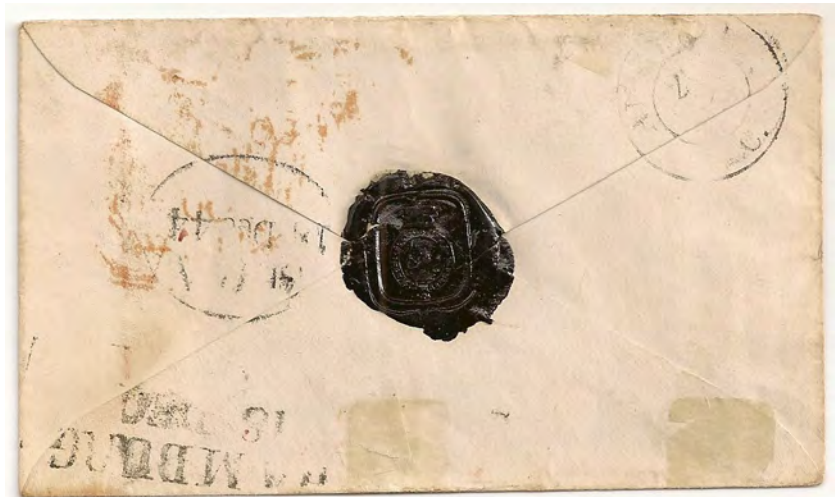
NOVEMBER 16, 1844: Edinburgh, Scotland to Lexington, Virginia per Cunard "Caledonia" via Liverpool, Halifax Nova Scotia, and Boston. Cover prepays the One Shilling packet rate with 1841 2d Blue Plate 3 'BG-BL' strip of six. Due 27 Cents in Lexington for 25 Cents US Inland plus 2 Cents Ship. The cover was bagged and was not handled in Boston as it lacks Boston arrival markings. The Blue '27' tends to point to it having been included in the New York bag.

1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 3

GERMANY – Kingdom of Prussia: 1844

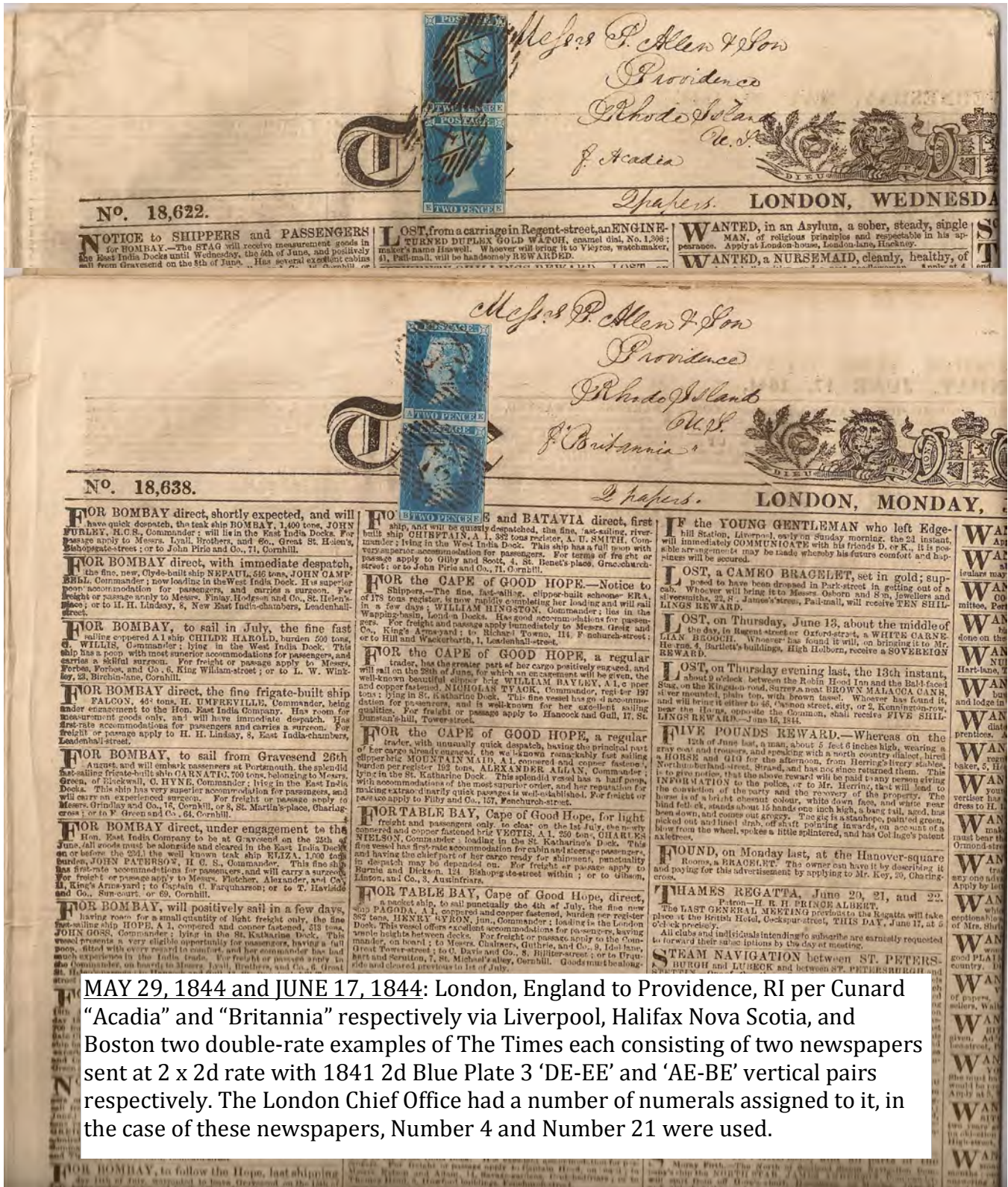
One Shilling and Eight Pence plus 2d Blue “T-A”

Late Usage of “Maltese Cross” Obliterator on a stamp



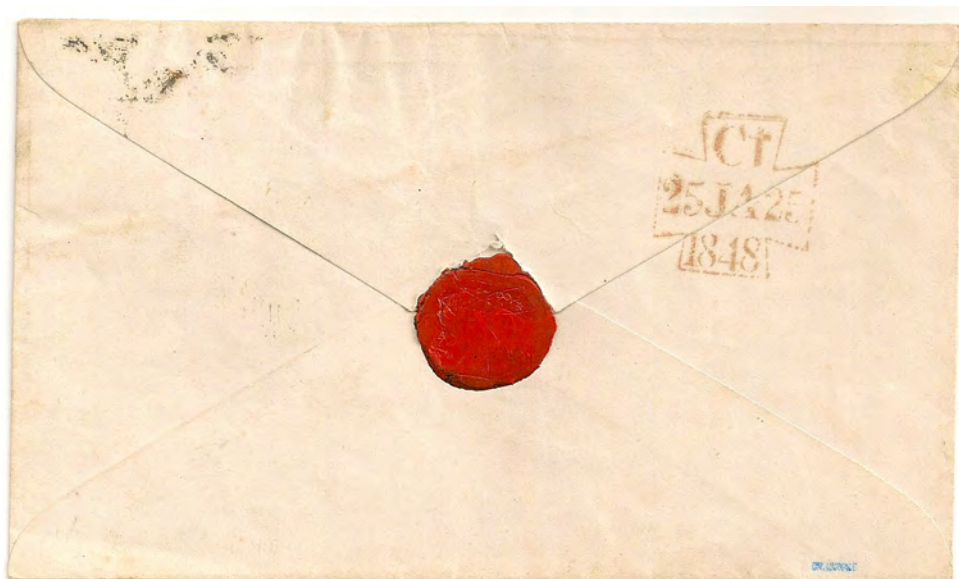
DECEMBER 9, 1844: London, England to the Countess of Westmoreland in Berlin, Kingdom of Prussia per Thames Packet via Hamburg. The rate to Prussia via Hamburg, via Belgium, or via Holland differed by 2d depending upon the origin of the letter, being 1s 8d within London and 1s 10d outside London. Cover franked with 1841 2d Blue Plate 3 'HG' plus 1s 8d in cash. The use of 1844-type numeral obliterators commenced on May 1, 1844 however the use of existing “Maltese Cross” type obliterators is occasionally seen. The placement of the stamp to the middle-left of the envelope may have led to it being missed and subsequently canceled at the London Chief Office by a clerk or inspector. Cover bears a royal seal on the reverse.

1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: 1844 DOUBLE PRINTED MATTER/NEWSPAPER RATE (2 x 2d)



MAY 29, 1844 and JUNE 17, 1844: London, England to Providence, RI per Cunard
"Acadia" and "Britannia" respectively via Liverpool, Halifax Nova Scotia, and Boston two double-rate examples of The Times each consisting of two newspapers sent at 2 x 2d rate with 1841 2d Blue Plate 3 'DE-EE' and 'AE-BE' vertical pairs respectively. The London Chief Office had a number of numerals assigned to it, in the case of these newspapers, Number 4 and Number 21 were used.

**1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 3
DUCHY OF OLDENBURG: 1848
SIX PENNY RATE – BRITISH PORTION ONLY**



JANUARY 25, 1848: Charing Cross, London to Duchy of Oldenburg paying 6d British Rate only with 1841 2d Blue Plate 3 'TA', 'TC' and 'TE' singles.

1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 3
FREE CITY OF HAMBURG(H): 1848
EIGHT PENCE RATE (8d)



MARCH 12, 1848: London, England to Hamburg via Hamburg Steamer paying 8d rate with 1841 2d Blue Plate 3 "SA-SC" strip of three and "ND" single.

1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 4
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE: 1850
EIGHT PENCE SHIP LETTER RATE (8d)



JULY 9, 1850: Kelso, Scotland to Cape Town, Cape of Good Hope paying 8d rate via Private Ship "Agincourt" with 1841 2d Blue Plate 4 'QG-QJ' strip of four. Letter is contained in an unusual "scalloped" envelope.

1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 4
NOVA SCOTIA: 1851
ONE SHILLING RATE VIA DIRECT PACKET plus LATE FEE



JULY 16, 1851: Manchester, England to Halifax, Nova Scotia per Cunard "Europa" paying One Shilling Direct Packet Rate plus One Penny Late Fee with 1841 2d Blue Plate 4 "DD-DI" and 1841 1d Red "AE". Arrived in Halifax on August 4, 1851.

**1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 4
VALPARAISO, CHILE: 1851
TWO SHILLING RATE VIA CHAGRES**



JULY 14, 1851: Liverpool, England to Valparaiso, Chile per West Indies Packet via Southampton and Chagres paying Two Shilling rate with 1841 2d Blue 'PA-PB' pair, 'PC-PH' strip of six, and 'PI-PJ' pair and 1841 1d Red 'RE-RH' strip of four. An unusual franking so large that it uses both sides of the letter.

1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 4

FRANCE: 1851

TEN PENNY RATE – LETTERS UNDER 15g or ¼ OUNCE



DECEMBER 16, 1851:

Innerleithen, Scotland to Bordeaux, France prepaying 10d rate via direct packet (under 15g, under ¼ ounce) with 1841 2d Blue Plate 4 'TA-TE' strip of five.



DECEMBER 22, 1851:

London, England to Paris, France prepaying 10d rate via direct packet (under 15g, under ¼ ounce) with 1841 2d Blue Plate 4 five singles 'DG', 'GA', 'IA', 'HA', and 'AG' and 1841 1d Red Late Fee 'MF'.

1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 4
BELGIUM: 1852 and 1853
SIX PENNY RATE VIA OSTENDE



OCTOBER 21, 1852:
 London, England to
 Brussels, Belgium paying
 6d rate via Ostende with
 1841 2d Blue Plate 4 'GF-
 GH' strip of three.



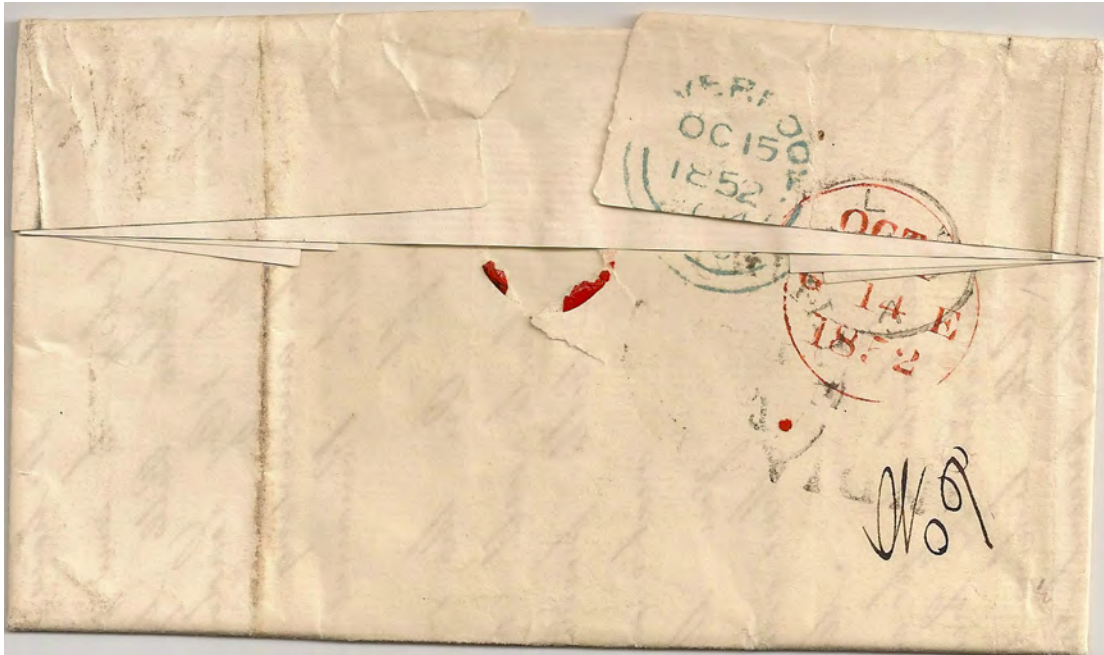
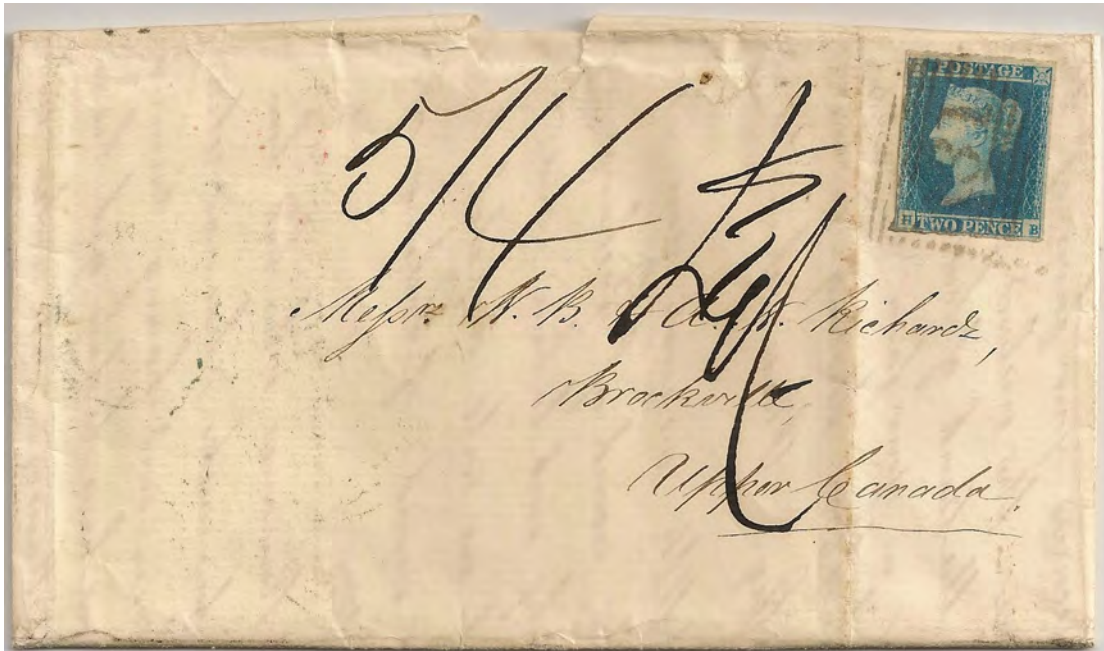
JUNE 3, 1853: Wimbourne, England
 to Brussels, Belgium paying 6d rate
 via Ostende with 1841 2d Blue Plate
 4 'BK-BL' pair and 'CL' single.



1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 4

CANADA: 1852

UNDERPAID QUADRUPLE RATE (under 2 ounces)



OCTOBER 14, 1852: India Street, Edinburgh, Scotland to Brockville, Upper Canada per Cunard "Niagara" via Liverpool and Halifax, Nova Scotia as unpaid quadruple rate via Direct British Packet (under 2 ounces) with only 1841 2d Blue Plate 4 'HB'. Cover rated Four Shillings Sterling due which converts to Five Shillings and Four Pence in Canadian Currency.

**1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 4
AUSTRIAN EMPIRE – TRIESTE 1852 & 1853
EIGHT PENCE RATE VIA PRUSSIA**



NOVEMBER 5, 1852:
Folkestone, England to
Trieste, Austrian Empire
paying 8d rate via Ostende
and Prussia with 1841 2d
Blue Plate 4 'II-IL' strip of
four.



OCTOBER 20, 1853: London, England to Trieste, Austrian Empire paying 8d rate via Ostende and Prussia with 1841 2d Blue Plate 4 'NA-ND' strip of four.

1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 4
KINGDOM OF HANNOVER: 1853
UNDERPAID ONE SHILLING AND FIVE PENCE RATE
HOLLAND: 1853
UNDERPAID ONE SHILLING RATE



APRIL 21, 1853: London, England to Hannover underpaying the 1s 5d rate via Holland as it is prepaid only for the cheaper routing via Ostende and Prussia, thus marked "PART-PAID // MORE TO PAY" at lower right. Franked with 1841 2d Blue Plate 4 'RG-RH' strip of four.



AUGUST 17, 1853: Redditch, England to Rotterdam, Holland underpaying One Shilling rate by 4d with 1841 2d Blue Plate 4 strip of four 'JA-JD'. Cover treated as unpaid with "Insufficiently Stamped" hand stamp and rated '60' Dutch Cents due, equivalent to the One Shilling rate.

1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 4
NEW ZEALAND:1853
EIGHT PENNY SHIP LETTER RATE
AUSTRALIA – NEW SOUTH WALES: 1854
SIX PENCE “EMPIRE” RATES



JULY 14, 1853:
 Halifax, England to
 Wellington, New
 Zealand per
 Private Ship via
 Sydney, New South
 Wales. Pays 8d
 Ship Letter rate
 with 1841 2d Blue
 Plate 4 'CA-CD'
 strip of four. From
 posting to
 delivery, 154 days
 in transit. 5d due
 in Wellington.

OCTOBER 6, 1854:
 London, England to
 Melbourne at 6d rate
 with 1841 2d Blue Plate
 4 'DA-DC' strip of three.
 Mailed 3 days after the
 cover below, it arrived
 over a month later.



OCTOBER 3, 1854:
 London, England to
 Melbourne per
 Steamer 'Argo' at
 new 6d 'Empire
 Rate' with 1841 2d
 Blue Plate 4 'CD-CF'
 strip of three. 1d
 credit to Colonial
 Postal System.

1841 TWO PENNY BLUE: PLATE 4
KINGDOM OF WURTTEMBERG: 1854
UNDERPAYMENT OF ELEVEN PENCE RATE VIA FRANCE
INDIA: 1854
ONE SHILLING AND TEN PENCE RATE VIA MARSEILLES



APRIL 10, 1854: London, England to Kirchberg, Kingdom of Wurttemberg via France. The cover is franked with 1841 2d Blue Plate 4 'GH-GK' strip of four which underpays the 11d rate via France by 3d. Sender likely was confused with the numerous 8d rates via Ostende and Prussia to other German States, including Wurttemberg, but that required endorsement.



MARCH 6, 1854: Gravesend, England to Bombay, India via Marseilles paying the premium One Shilling and Ten Pence rate with 1841 2d Blue Plate 4 'NA-NF' strip of six, 'DC-DE' strip of three, and 'CC-CD' pair. Ex-Wheat.