

The Line Engraved Stamps of Queen Victoria

by



a
v
i
d

u
n
t

The major types of line-engraved stamps 1840 - 1870



Imperforate Stamps (all have Small Crown (SC) watermark)

| | | |
|------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| 1840 | 1d Black | plates 1a, 1b, 2-11 |
| 1840 | 2d Blue | plates 1 & 2 |
| 1841 | 1d Red, Die I | plates 1b, 2, 5, 8-11, 12-177 |
| 1841 | 2d Blue | plates 3 & 4 |

Perforated Stamps

| | | | |
|------|----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1854 | 1d Red, Die I | plates 155-204 and R1-R6 | SC 16 / SC 14 |
| 1855 | 1d Red, Die II | plates 1-68 | SC 14 / SC 16 / LC 14 / LC 16 |
| 1854 | 2d Blue | plates 4 – 6 | SC 14 / SC 16 / LC 14 / LC 16 |

Perforated Stamps with Four Corner Letters (all LC 14 except 1/2 d)

| | | |
|------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1864 | 1d Red | plates 71-225 |
| 1858 | 2d Blue | plates 7-9, 12-15 |
| 1870 | 1/2 d Red | plates 1-20 |
| 1860 | 1 1/2 d Red | plates 1 and 3 |

1840 The First Stamp
(From plate 1a, the first plate put to press)



1840 1d Black
with two shades of red Maltese Cross cancel



Brownish Red MX
pl 2



Bright Red MX
pl 6

1840 1d Black Plate 1b PL
Matched pair of an early and late (worn) printing



Plate 1b

Matched pair of stamps lettered DH
printed in black and red



Plate 8 BI

Black, Red state 1, Red state 2



Plate 10 BI

Red printing states 1 and 2

“O” flaw repaired in state 2



1840 2d Blue



1840 2d Blue lettered DH
Plates 1 and 2



1841 1d Red

The six shades per Stanley Gibbons

red brown

red brown on very blue paper

pale red brown

deep red brown

lake

orange brown



1841 1d Red Plate 14 SB



1841 1d Red Plate 14

SI with doubled I
and vgl NE and SE



SD showing re-entry



1841 1d Red Plate 19
C dbl; J flaw; hgl through value; vgl NE



1841 1d Red Plate 20 SJ
triple S



1841 1d Red Plate 21 SD
double S; SE weak



1841 1d Red Plate 26 EA/FA
mark in gutter between stamps



1841 1d Red Plate 158 OF/OG
mark in gutter between stamps



1841 1d Red Plate 27 AJ
vgl J flaw weak NE



1841 1d Red Plate 27 DJ
vgl weak NE



1841 1d Red Plate 27 DI
vgl and hgl SE



1841 1d Red
block of four



1841 1d Red Ivory Head

The blueing is due to the formation of insoluble Prussian Blue precipitated into the pores of the paper resulting from the introduction of prussiate of potash as a protective agent.



1841 1d Red Ivory Head



1841 1d Red Ivory Head



1841 1d Red
Examples of Maltese Cross cancels



1841 1d Red
Distinctive Maltese Cross cancels



Brighton
Maltese Cross



Norwich
Maltese Cross

1841 1d Red Unusual Maltese Cross Cancels

L. dot in center C. dot in loop R. small 1 in center of Norwich Cross



1841 1d Red Number 8 in Maltese Cross Cancel



1841 1d Red Number 12 in Maltese Cross



12 in Maltese Cross

18 AU 1843

"Number 12 is particularly difficult to find on cover when cancelling a single usage. This number is more frequently seen cancelling multiples of stamps and seems to have been used for overweight mail."

1841 1d Red

Nos. 1 and 4 in Maltese Cross used on multiples



No. 6 in Maltese Cross

1841 1d Red



1841 2d Blue



1d Red Plate 155 PB Matched Pair

1841 Imperf 1854 Perf. 16

Stamps from plate 155 were the first to be officially perforated



1841 2d Blue DG-DH
Plate 3 central dot missing NE



1841 2d Blue

Matched pairs of SK-SL from plate 3 (top) and plate 4



1841 2d Blue Plate 3
strip of six HC-HH



1841 2d Blue Plate 3
strip of 5 + 1 on cover to USA



Matched Set of 2d Blues Lettered FD



SG14 plate 3 / SG14 plate 4 / SG19 plate 4 (SC16) / SG34 plate 5 (LC14) / SG35 plate 6 (LC14)

1841 2d blue

Matched set of FD

1841 2d Blue Ivory Head



1d Red Perforated
1854 Die I 1855 Die II



1854 1d Red Die I SG 17 and 18

Plate 173 PH state 2 matched pair in
red brown and yellow brown



1855-57 1d Red Die II

Matched set of plate 27 SI

SG29 P14 (blued paper) SG36 P16 SG40 P14 (white paper)



1855 1d Red Plate 5 SG (SG24)
inverted S



1857 1d Red Die II (SG40)
Broken perforating pins

Plate 49



SG40 (C10) plate 49
ED-EE Broken Pins
UR and LR on ED and
another between ED and EE

Plate 59



1d Red

short, normal, and tall stamps

(F20 is postmark for Woodford Green, Essex,
so small it wasn't listed in the 1881 census



1844 Numeral Cancels

999 = Paulton, Somerset Pop. 2122 (1881)



1844 Numeral Cancels

025 = Bletchley Station, Bucks Pop. 514 (1881)

C44 = Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, Wales Pop. 1595 (1881)

A French invasion force landed at Fishguard in 1797



1844 Numeral Cancels

“Used Abroad”

B01 = Alexandria, Egypt

F87 = Smyrna, Turkey

M = Malta 1852-59 (later used A25)

A47 = Highgate, Jamaica



Used Abroad cancels – The Crimean War



British Army F.P.O.

Russia – the Crimea

The 'O X O' cancel

Used 1854-56

Die I, Wmk: SC, Perf 16

*Vert pair showing **Broken**
Perf pins lower left on both*

SG: Z10

Scott #8

The Crimean War 1854-56



Line Engraved Stamps with Letters in all Four Corners and with Plate Numbers incorporated in the Design



1864 1d Red Plate 80 SJ

The first transfer roller was made in 1858, but the stamps did not appear until 1864.

Plates 69 to 225 were prepared, but 69, 70, 75, 77, 126 and 128 were rejected.



1864 1d Red Plate 80 AK

Showing constant variety: marks below EN of PENNY



A Special Stamp



1864 1d Red Plate 154 BI Imprimatur

When each plate was completed a sheet was printed and submitted for approval, then placed in the archives. They remain in the archives today, but over time some stamps (up to 21) were removed from the sheets to grace the Royal collection and private collections.



Protective Overprints or Underprints

These were made to defeat petty pilfering of postage stamps. At the time it was common practice for the public to pay small amounts by means of stamps and the Post Office co-operated as they would redeem such stamps over the counter.

The Oxford Union Society had in 1858 adopted the practice of printing their initials on the face of stamps they provided free to their members. This was unofficially done but was permitted until 1869 when they were informed they must conform to the practice of having the initials officially printed on the backs of their stamps, this practice having commenced in 1867.

Including the OUS only five firms availed themselves of the official co-operation and the privilege was withdrawn in 1882 (and replaced by perfins). The official underprints were done by Perkins, Bacon & Co. and were printed *under* the gum.

Some sixty firms privately underprinted their stamps, but these were done *over* the gum.

Protective Overprints or Underprints

O.U.S. overprint
Period 1858-1869



O.U.S. underprint
Period from 1869



Protective Underprints 1867



Protective Underprints 1867

Great Eastern Railway



Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co.
On 1858 2d blue



1858 2d Blue

These 2d stamps were the companions to the similar 1d stamps. The fact that the 2d preceded the 1d by some six years was the result of delays in producing the 1d plates.

Two rollers were produced for the 2d stamp. One with thicker white lines was used to lay down plates 7, 8, 9 and 12 (plates 10 and 11 were rejected); one with thinner white lines was used for plates 13-15.

Plate 9 (Thick white lines)



Plate 15 (Thin white lines)



1870 Halfpenny Plate 15

Plates 1, 3-6, 8-15, 19 and 20 were used



1870 Halfpenny

Imperforate margins

‘A’ column – plate 12 ‘X’ column – plate 19



1870 Halfpenny Plate 5 KA on Cover
Stamp is from 'A' column and is imperforate at left.



1870 Halfpenny
with protective underprint



1870 Half Penny Plate 12
Used in Callao, Peru



1870 Three Halfpence

This is from plate 1, which does not show the plate number



1870 Three Halfpence

10,000 sheets of the Rosy Mauve color (left) were printed in 1860 in anticipation of a rate change that never happened. In 1867 8,962 sheets were destroyed. Many of the remaining stamps were overprinted 'Specimen' and only a few mint stamps exist.

The Rose-Red example (right) is from plate 3 which was put to press in 1874.



THE END

of the one penny engraved stamps



In 1878 the Post office decided to change the printing of lower values from intaglio to surface printed (typography) as it was thought to be better suited to detect washed cancels. In 1880 the 1d Venetian Brown was issued, ending 40 years of one penny line engraved stamps.