

DOMINICA

1874 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 12½

The first issue of postage stamps was approved by the Dominica Assembly in 1873. De La Rue suggested using the keyplate type previously used for St Christopher and this was accepted. Three values were produced, 1d for local letters and a 6d and 1s for overseas mail.



Plate proofs overprinted Cancelled



1d Lilac
69,540 Printed



6d Green
33,540 Printed



1s Magenta
33,900 Printed



Largest used block known

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1877 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 14

From 1877 supplies of the three values were made using the newer perf 14 machine.



**1d Lilac
69,540 Printed**



**6d Green
33,540 Printed**



**1s Magenta
33,900 Printed**



1d left marginal block of six



1s right marginal block of six

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1877 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 14

1d bisect on 1877 cover to make up the 1s 1½d rate to France, one of five known.



Taken on the RMSP Arno to Barbados (arr: 30 Nov) and then on RMSP Para (dep: 30 Nov) to Plymouth (arr: 13 Dec), then by train to London, handstamped and accounted for and then on, via Calais to Bordeaux (arr: 14 Dec).

1s on 1878 cover to UK showing the earliest use of the large Dominica Paid handstamp.



Taken on the RMSP Eden to St Thomas (arr: 13 Nov) and then on RMSP Medway (dep: 14 Nov) to Plymouth (arr: 30 Nov), then by train to London, (arr: 2 Dec – datestamp on reverse).

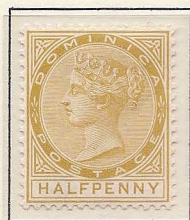
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1879 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 14

Dominica joined the UPU on 1 July 1879 and this necessitated three new values. 4d for the reduced rate to the UK and a ½d stamp for printed matter and a 2½d stamp for a commercial packet up to 4oz weight.



Plate proofs



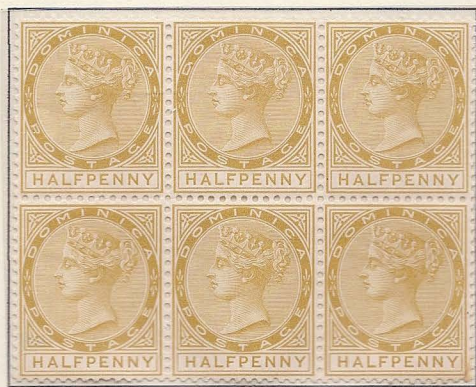
1/2d Ochre
27,420 Printed



2 ½ d Chestnut
12,780 Printed



4d Blue
61,840 Printed



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1879 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 14

4d used on only recorded double rate 1882 cover to Liverpool.



10 September 1882 envelope to Liverpool (arr: 28 Sept), forwarded in the UK, manuscript "looked through".

Unusual combination of a 2½d and three ½d stamps paying postage to USA



18 November 1882 envelope from Bishop's House, Roseau to New York (arr: 28 Nov), circular "paid all" handstamp on reverse.

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1882-83 Halfpenny overprinted on 1d



Largest known used block.



12 March 1883



12 March 1883 envelope to the Essex stamp dealer, A Churchill, with twelve examples of the 1/2d red surcharge making up the 6d rate for registered mail (4d postage, 2d registration fee).

The final attempt to solve the problem was to use a small Halfpenny overprint which was applied in black on remaining sheets in March 1883.



Reading Up

**31 Mar 1883
Earliest known date**



31 May 1884

Reading Down



Equal largest known block

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1882-83 Halfpenny overprinted on 1d

To overcome shortages of the halfpenny different measures were adopted. In November 1882 sheets of the 1d stamp were overprinted with a locally made black $\frac{1}{2}$ handstamp, folded vertically and then cut roughly so as to separate the sheet into columns of stamps whereby each appears to be a bisect. All unsevered pairs contain the right half of one stamp and the left half of another.



The small black $\frac{1}{2}$ was not thought to be clear enough and so in March 1883 a much larger $\frac{1}{2}$ handstamp was produced and struck in red using the same procedure as in November.



13 March 1883

Almost inevitably some errors were made and the handstamp can be found inverted



Inverted

This period also saw the introduction of the use of a datestamp to cancel the stamp in place of the A07 killer canceller. Stamps with legible datestamps are comparatively rare.

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1883 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14

A further order of stamps placed in March 1883 for 500 sheets of each of ½d, 1d and 2½d, these were supplied on watermark crown CA paper.



**1/2d Ochre
30,000 Printed**



**1d Lilac
30,000 Printed**



**2 1/2d Chestnut
30,000 Printed**



**6 Feb 1886
Early dated copy**

Under UPU regulations these stamps should have been produced in regulation colours, green for the ½d, red for the 1d and blue for the 2½d but the need was clearly more urgent. De la Rue proposed a scheme of colours in July 1883 which suggested the UPU colours for the lower values, a grey for the 4d and orange for the 6d, with the remark that the colour for the 1s “cannot be improved on”.



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1886 Provisionals

In 1886 the postal system was re-organised and sub-postmasters were appointed in a number of villages and issued with a stock of ½d and 1d stamps leading to a shortage at GPO in Roseau. To resolve this 300 sheets of the 1877 6d and 250 sheets of the 1s were overprinted in Roseau, using a rule bar.



Famously one, or possibly two, sheets of the 6d green were overprinted "One Penny". In the top row the rule bar was inserted the wrong way up and so the value tablet is cancelled by a "thick bar", this was corrected in the remaining rows – the "thin bar".

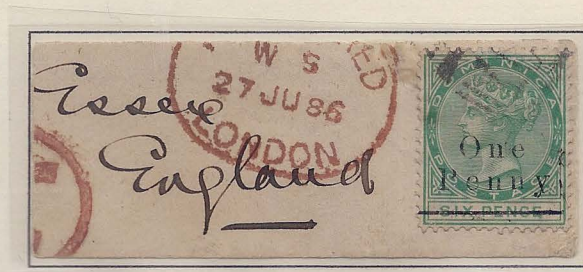
It is remarkably that all six of the "thick bar" stamps survive as they were placed on a cover with two "thin bar" stamps to pay double rate postage to a stamp dealer in Essex. Two of the stamps from this cover are shown below, 21 "thin bar" stamps are known.

Thick bar



Position 6

Thin bar



A number of varieties in the surcharge setting occur.

Constant



Broken tail of "e"
Row 1 stamp 3



Dropped "y"
Row 1 stamp 6



Wide space between
"n" and "e"

Not constant



Left shift

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1886 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14

UPU Colour scheme

In 1886 the De la Rue's suggested UPU colour scheme was finally adopted and was used for all printings to October 1890 when stamps for use in all the Leeward Island presidencies were brought into use, and the stamps of Dominica were no longer valid.



1/2d Green
87,660 Printed



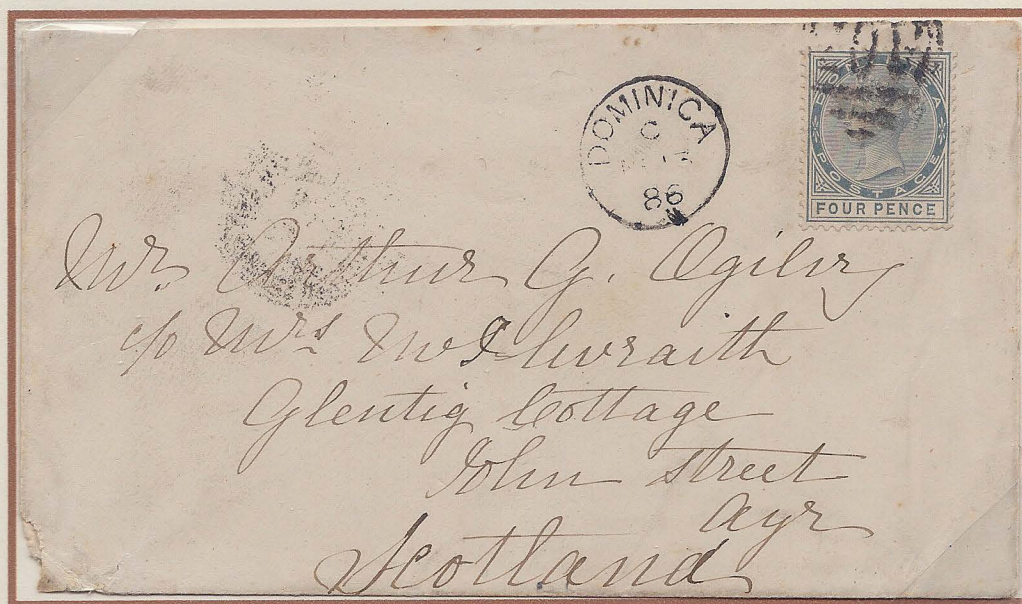
1d Red
71,000 Printed



4d Grey
39,920 Printed



The first stamps ordered were 4d ones, which were invoiced in March 1886, the cover below shows an early use of the first printing. 1/2d green stamps were introduced in July 1886 with a further shipment in March 1887 along with the first shipment of 1d red stamps in a rose shade.



Cover dated 11 November 1886 to Ayr, franked with the 4d grey for the 1/2 oz rate.

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1888 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14

Specimen stamps

One UPU requirement was for the provision of specimen stamps to enable other member countries to know what stamps were valid.



New colours and values

The 2 ½ d blue and 6d orange were introduced in June 1888 but the 1s not until April 1890. Late printings of the 1d are in a deeper carmine shade of red.



2 ½d Blue
30,300 Printed



6d Orange
6,000 Printed



1s Magenta
1,200 Printed

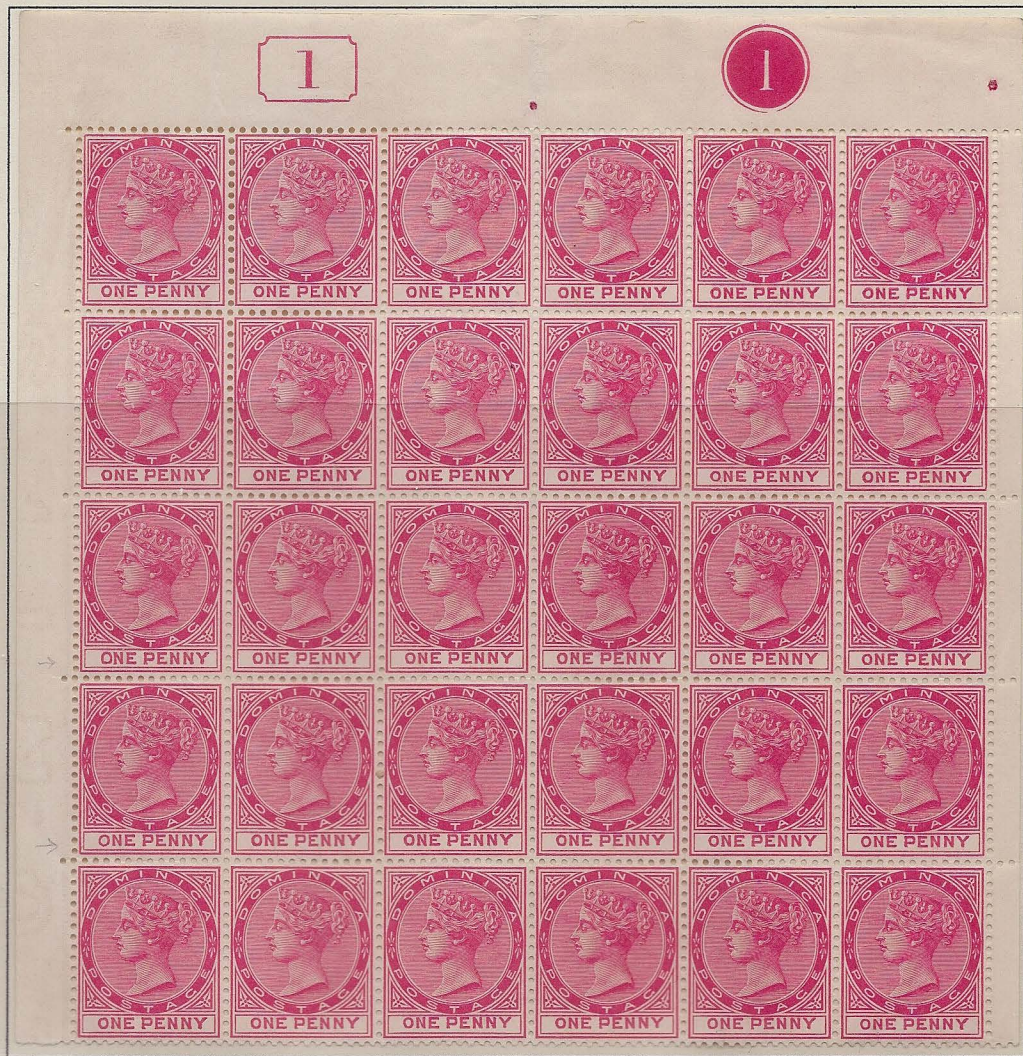


Used multiples of these stamps are extremely scarce, below is one of the two known blocks of four of the 6d and the only known used multiple of the 1s.

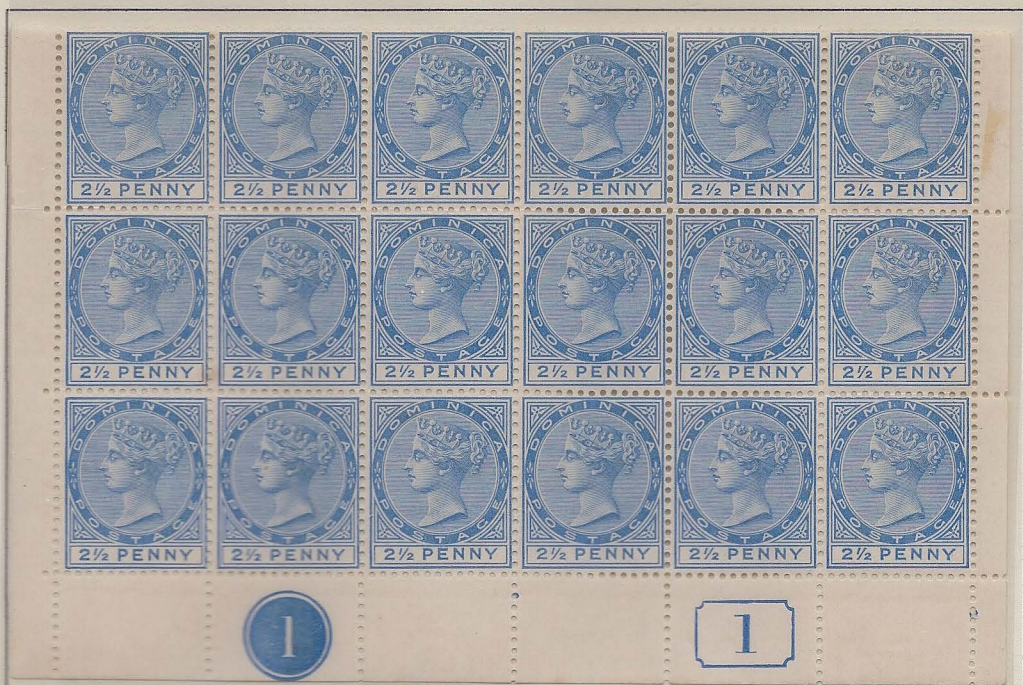


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1888 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14



1d carmine – top five rows of left hand pane



2 ½ d blue – bottom three rows of left hand pane