

GREAT BRITAIN 1840 - 1841

INTRODUCTION

The exhibit shows imprimaturs, unused and used singles and multiples and on covers of the first issues from Great Britain:

One Penny Black issued 1840-1841

Two Pence Blue issued 1840

Two Pence Blue (white lines added) issued 1841-1849

All plates of One Penny Black are represented as well as all four plates from the Two Pence Blue issues.



Unused marginal copy of "VR" Official Stamp

The stamp was prepared for use in April 1840 but was not issued. The majority of the printed sheets was destroyed and only 21 sheets survived. 13 were used for distribution with the Postmasters' Notice.

EXHIBIT PLAN AND HIGHLIGHTS

Frames 1-3:

1d. Black - "VR" official stamp:

- *Unused marginal block of four*
- *Cancellation removal trial*

1d. Black - Imprimaturs

1d. Black - plates 1 - 11:

- *Unused block of eight and strip of five*
- *Covers used first and second day of issue*
- *Block and strip of four on covers*
- *Used on Mulready and pictorial envelopes*
- *Covers with coloured (magenta and blue) cancellations*
- *Cover with Wotton-under-Edge cancellation*
- *On cover with unofficial experimental separation*
- *Two pairs and strip of six on cover*
- *Plate 11 with red Maltese cross cancellation*
- *Plate 11 together with One Penny black plate 4 on cover*

Frame 3:

2d. Blue:

- **Plates 1-2:** *Strip of five on cover*
- *Blocks of four, and strip of five*
- *Blue Maltese Cross cancellations on cover*
- **Plates 3-4:** *Corner copies with plate numbers on covers*
- **Plate 4:** *Block of seven of violet blue on cover*

1840
One Penny Black

"VR" Official Stamp



Unused copy (e)



Unused marginal block of four



Cancellation removal trial from
Sir Rowland Hill's official trials in June 1840 (e)

The stamp was prepared for use in April 1840 but was not issued. The majority of the printed sheets was destroyed and only 21 sheets survived. 13 were used for distribution with the Postmasters' Notice. Rowland Hill used examples from one sheet for experiments with trial obliterations.

1840
One Penny Black

Imprimaturs



Plate 1



Plate 2

The imprimatur sheet was imperforated and not gummed. It was a proof sheet preserved to register standard of colour and to compare with suspected forgeries. Imprimaturs from One Penny Black are known from plates 1, 2, 3, 5 and 8.

1840
One Penny Black

Unused copies



Plate 1a



Plate 2
Pair with original gum



Plate 4
Marginal strip of five with original gum (e)



Plate 4

1840
One Penny Black

Unused copies
Block of eight



Plate 2

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 1a



Cover from London to Darlington on 6 May 1840 -
Official first day of issue ! (e)

71 genuine covers are registered with the date of 6 May 1840.
10 covers are registered with dates prior to the official first date of issue.

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 1a



Stamp lettered "HB" with re-entry on local cover with London paid postmark dated 7 May 1840 - Second day of issue! (e)

68 covers are registered with the date of 7 May 1840.

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 1a



On piece



Marginal copy on cover from Gosport to Portsmouth dated 17 July 1840

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 1a



Strip of four



Block of four on fragment of cover dated 13 May 1840

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 1a



Strip of four on cover from Ipswich to Hants dated 9 June 1840

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 1b



Block of four



Strip of four on cover from Cheltenham dated 20 August 1840

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 2
Pictorial envelope

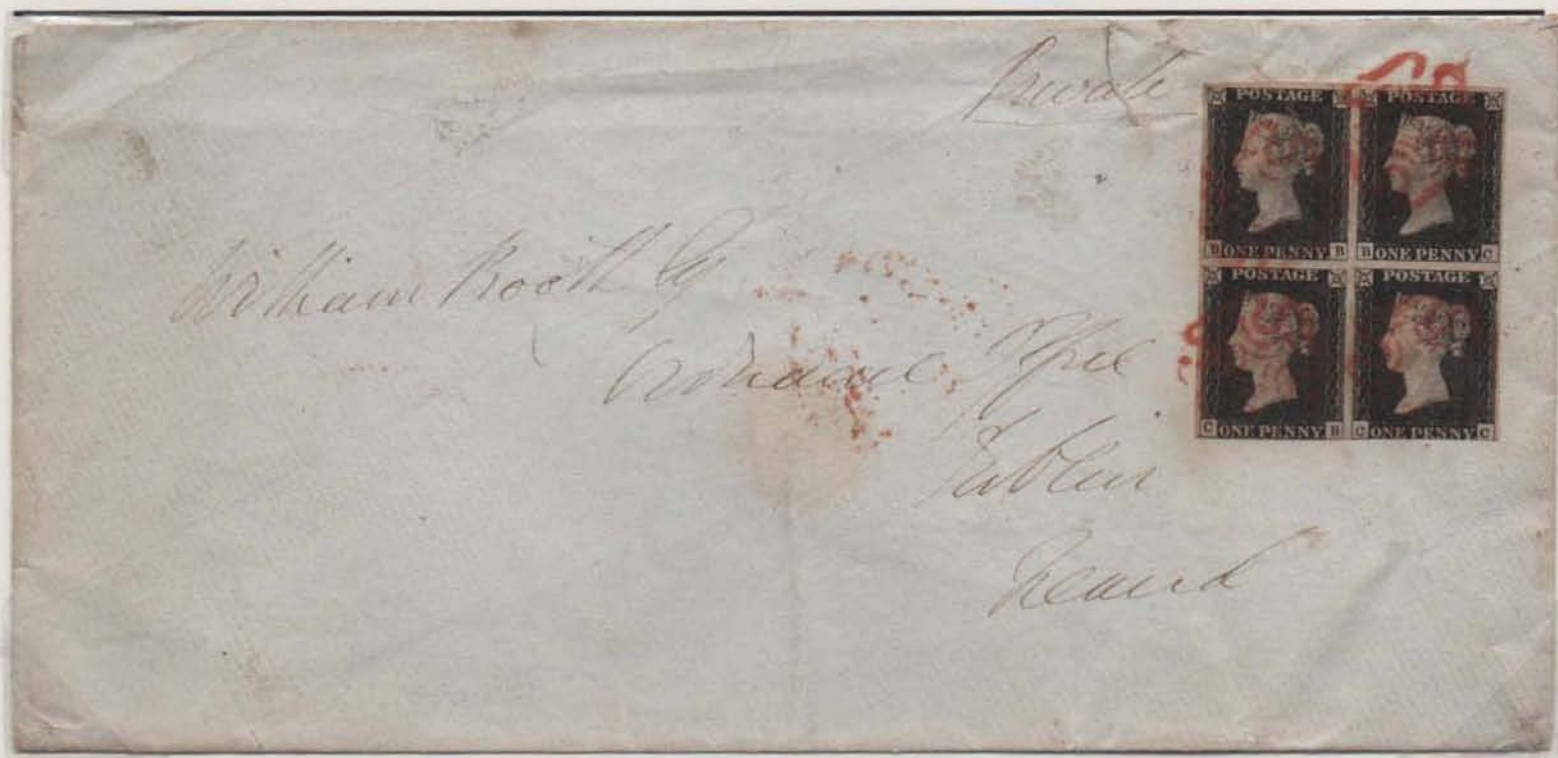


On pictorial envelope (published by W. Spooner) from Swindon to
Elcomb dated 10 January 1841 (e)

Caricatures of the Mulready stationary became popular very soon after the introduction. Among the more famous caricatures are the ones prepared by William Spooner of 377 Strand

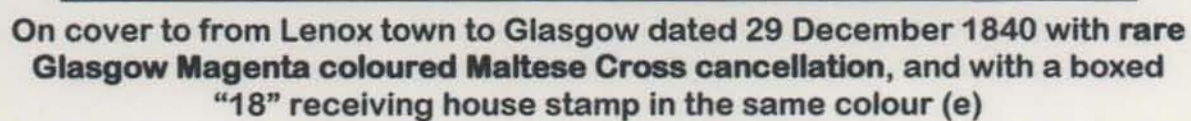
1840
One Penny Black

Plate 2
Block of four on cover



Block of four on cover dated 19 August 1840 (e)

Plate 2



1840
One Penny Black

Plate 3



Black Maltese Cross
cancellation



Stamp from upper left corner of sheet - lettered "AA" - on cover from Southwark to London dated 5 June 1840 with "T.P. Borough" postmark

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 4



Cover from Burslem to Newcastle-under-Line dated 22 July 1840.
Upon receipt the letter was treated as unpaid and received a black postage due postmark "2" on the place where the adhesive should have been affixed. Noticing the adhesive on the reverse of the letter the postmark "2" was cancelled, and an endorsement reading "Stamp'd at back" has been written! (e)

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 4
Pictorial envelope



On pictorial envelope (published by A. Lesage) from Edinburgh to Dumfries
dated 18 June 1840

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 5



Pair on cover to London with rare black Wotton-under-Edge Maltese Cross
cancellation dated 19 March 1841

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 5



Block of four



On cover from London to Wexford dated 18 October 1840

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 5



On cover from Hawes to Settle dated 23 February 1841 cancelled with the very rare blue Maltese Cross of Hawes (undated blue Hawes circular postmark on reverse). Upon arrival cancelled with black "West Burton Penny Post" postmark (e)

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 6
Experimental perforation



Unique copy from top of sheet with unofficial experimental separation on three sides in the form of a wavy roulette, similar to the so called "Archer roulette" of the 1850's. Used on fragment of cover with London Lombard Street (LS) date stamp (12 September 1840) on reverse tied by red Maltese Cross cancellation (e)

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 7



Black Maltese
Cross
cancellation



On London local cover dated 1 October 1840

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 8
10 pence on cover



Two pairs and strip of six = 10 pence on cover from Hayes to Pontefract
dated 9 January 1841. Town postmark "T.P. Hayes K" (e)

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 8



Photocopy of cancellations on reverse

One Penny Black on Mulready One Penny Envelope (stereo A 178) = 2 pence
from Dover to London dated 8 December 1840

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 9



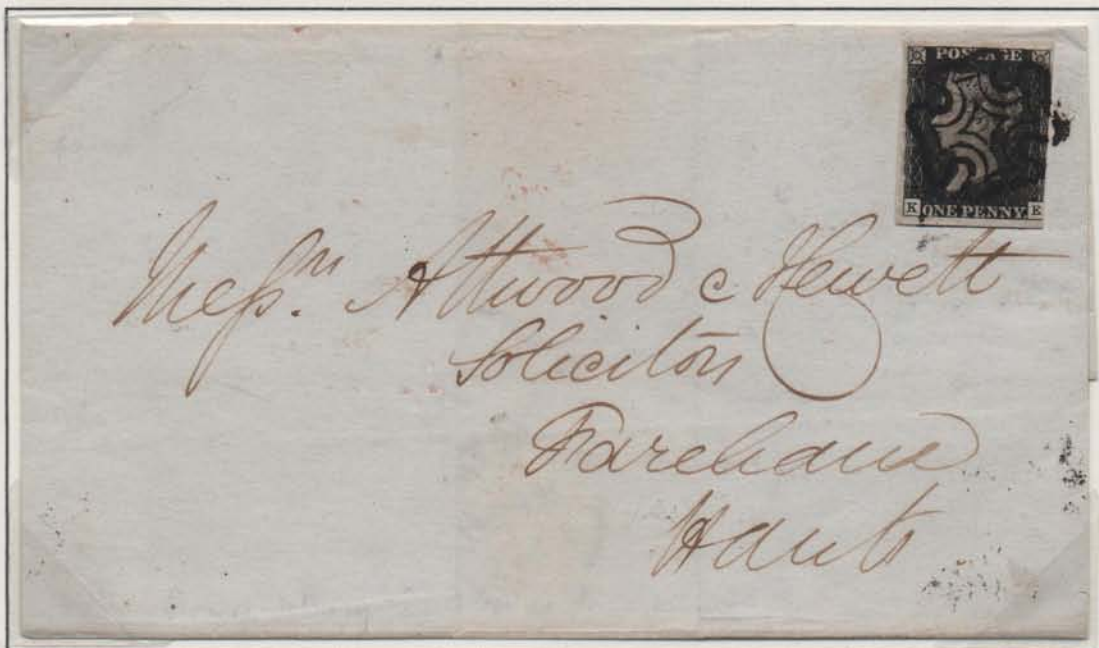
Red Maltese
Cross
cancellation



On cover from Sherborne to London dated 6 May 1841

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 10



On cover from Newbury to Haunts dated 29 March 1841

1840
One Penny Black

Plate 11



**Red Maltese Cross cancellation
is very rare on plate 11 (e)**



**On cover from Norwich dated 19 March 1841 with "Heringham Penny Post"
cancellation**

**Plate 11 was used for printing of black stamps during 1 and 2 February 1841
only. A total of 700 sheets were printed**

1840
One Penny Black

Plates 4 and 11



One Penny Black plate 4 (QJ) and plate 11 (OG) = 2 pence on cover from
Cambridge to York dated 25 March 1841 (e)

Only known example of plate 11 used in conjunction with a single
One Penny Black from another plate!

1840
Two Pence Blue
Imperforate

Plate 1



Unused



Block of four



Strip of three

1840
Two Pence Blue
Imperforate

Plate 1



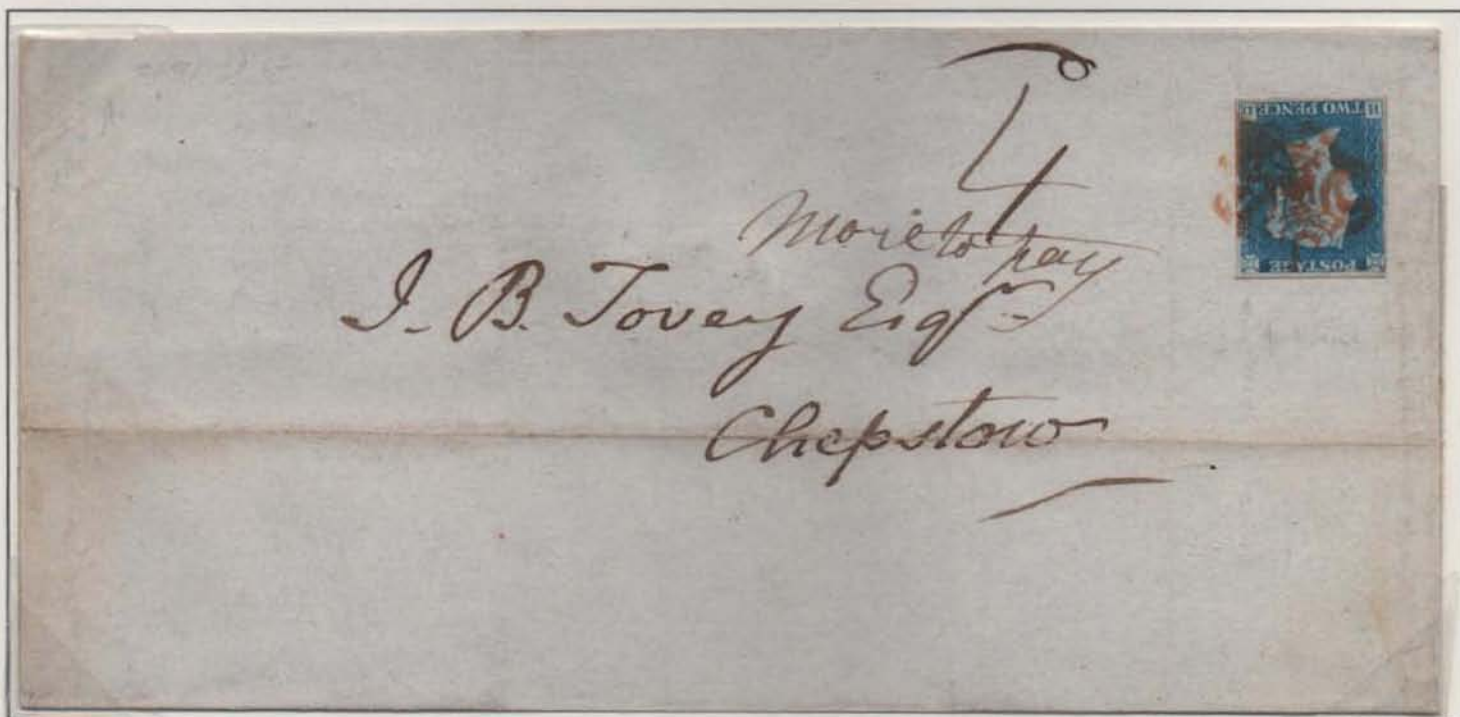
Blue with part of
adjacent stamp



Pale blue with
1844-type
postmark



Pair of full blue



On insufficiently paid cover from Newham to Chepstow dated 21 December 1840. As the cover weighted more than 1 oz the correct rate was 4d. Postage due remarks "4d" and "More to pay"

1840
Two Pence Blue
Imperforate

Plate 1



Strip of five with black Maltese Cross cancellation



Pair on cover to London dated 24 November 1841

1840
Two Pence Blue
Imperforate

Plate 2



Block of four



Red Maltese
Cross
cancellation



Rare vertical
strip of four

1840
Two Pence Blue
Imperforate

Plate 2



On insufficiently paid cover used locally in London dated 13 March 1841.
Postage due postmark "MORE TO PAY" in double rim circle



Strip of five on insufficiently paid fragment of cover from London to France
via Calais dated 29 July 1841. Ordinary rate was 10 pence, but evidently the
cover was charged 1d extra for being delivered too late. British "1d."
postage due postmark and French postage due remark "14" decimes.

1840
Two Pence Blue
Imperforate

Plates 1 and 2
Blue Maltese Cross cancellations



Plate 1. On cover with rare blue Truro Maltese Cross cancellation dated
1 September 1842 (e)



Plate 2. On cover with rare blue Preston Maltese Cross cancellation dated
3 March 1842. The digits "18" in date stamp are inverted. (e)

1841
Two Pence Blue
Imperforate

Plates 3 and 4
Corner copies on covers



Two covers with "TA" lower left corner copies of plate 3 and 4 respectively with full selvedge showing plate numbers and "PRICE 2d Per Lab..". Plate 4 cover is possibly the only known cover with corner copy. (e) and (e)

1841
Two Pence Blue
Imperforate

Plate 4
Violet blue



Strip of three (e)



Block of seven from upper left corner in rare violet blue shade on thicker lavender tinted paper from 1851, together with 1d red plate 126, also on lavender tinted paper, on cover from Liverpool to New York, USA, dated 8 May 1852. US hand struck postmarks "5 CENTS" and "PAID" in red (e)