

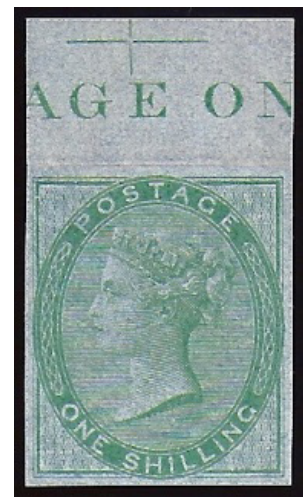
# Sir Daniel Cooper Lecture 2014

The Royal Philatelic Society London

Presented by

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## The First Low Value Surface Printed Postage Stamps of Great Britain 1855–1880



8<sup>th</sup> May 2014

## Sir Daniel Cooper



### **Sculpture of Sir Daniel Cooper (1865) by J Durham. The Royal Philatelic Society London.**

1 July 1821: Born Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire. Son of Thomas Cooper. Left for Sydney, NSW with parents.

1835: Returned to England to attend junior school of University College, London.

1839–1841: Legal training, abandoned due to ill health.

1843: Returned to Sydney and joined a business partnership with his brother-in-law James Holt and his elder brother.

1849: Elected to Legislative Council of NSW.

1852: Became sole owner of business which developed into 'about the most extensive mercantile house in the Australian Colonies'.

1856: Elected Speaker to the Legislative Council of NSW.

1857: Knighted for public service including promoting a fund in Australia to provide relief for dependants of those killed or injured in the Crimean War and for those suffering from the Lancashire Cotton Famine.

1860: Retired from Legislative Council.

1861: Returned to England.

1862: Began collecting stamps.

1863: Created baronet (of Woollahra, NSW).

April 1869: Elected First President of The Philatelic Society, London. (The Royal Assent was granted by King Edward VII in December 1906).

1878: Retired from Presidency and sold his collection of stamps for £3000 to his successor as President, Judge Philbrick.

He continued in public life, often deputising for the Agent-General of NSW and being a member of the Royal Commission for the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886 (a fore runner of the Jubilee celebrations for Queen Victoria).

1902: Died, in his 81<sup>st</sup> year.

The Sir Daniel Cooper Lecture should relate to material which he collected or with which he would have been familiar. He was an active collector (1862–1878) and made the following statement:

*My collection was very complete in the Australasian Colonies, **Great Britain**, France, Spain, Finland, United States, India and Mauritius. I kept the various countries like Great Britain, France and Colonies, Spain and Colonies, Mauritius in one or more volumes, other Countries or Colonies I had to mix in a Volume. Altogether I had 32 Volumes.*

The subject of this lecture and display would appear to satisfy the concept.

## The First Low Value Surface Printed Postage Stamps of Great Britain 1855–1880

Low value postage stamps were produced by three methods during the Victorian era; line-engraved from 1840 to 1879, embossed from 1847 to 1854 and surface printed from 1855 to 1901. The decision to replace embossed stamps, which were cumbersome and expensive to produce and were unsuited for perforating, was made in January 1855. There were two main reasons why surface printing (typography, letter press) was chosen over the line-engraved process. Firstly, De La Rue claimed that their special fugitive inks would reduce the risk of cancellations being removed from used stamps allowing them to be re-used. The second reason relates to problems experienced in perforating line-engraved stamps. These difficulties were largely due to the fact that paper was dampened for line-engraved printing. Following dampening variation in degrees of shrinking resulted in difficulty in perforating the sheets. De La Rue did not need to dampen the paper before surface printing.

These were the first postage stamps produced by De La Rue.

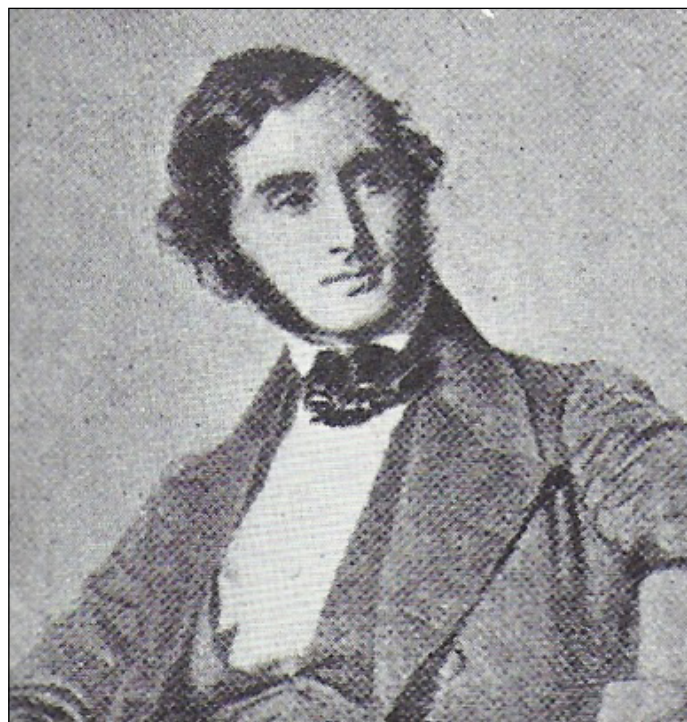
This display shows essays, proofs, colour trials, specimen and issued stamps to demonstrate the evolution of low value stamps (2½d–2s) from No Corner Letters until introduction of the Provisional and Temporary Unified stamps on Crown watermarked paper.

### Evolution

From the relative simplicity of the first values introduced (4d, 6d and 1s) over the next twenty five years a complex series of stamps evolved. Changes were those affecting stamp design (mainly security features but also strengthening of lines and producing a lighter background for the head) and those affecting the series as a whole (introduction and removal of values as postal rates altered, colour changes and use of different types of paper).

### *Design and Design Changes*

Stamps were designed, engraved and printed by Thomas De La Rue and Company. The Board of the Inland Revenue instructed and supervised De La Rue and paid Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté (Figure 1) 100 guineas for engraving the Queen's head used for surface printed stamps. The engraving was based on a drawing by Henry Corbould.



**Figure 1. Photograph of Joubert taken from a chalk portrait drawn in 1850.**

Joubert studied engraving in Paris and received many awards between 1840 and 1878. He arrived in London sometime around 1840 to continue his career as an engraver. It is not known when he started to work for De La Rue but he was certainly there for the start of the Surface Printed series in 1855. There is a strong French influence on the original 4d design as shown by comparing it with French stamps of 1849 (Figure 2). Similarities exist with these stamps and those of Sardinia, Norway, Belgium, Holland, Romania, Serbia and Greece of the same era.



**Figure 2. French stamp of 1849 compared with 4d stamp. The French influence on design of the 4d stamp is apparent.**

### *Corner Letters*

It is not clear why corner letters were absent from the first stamps issued as line-engraved stamps had them from their introduction in 1840. Joubert's influence may have been important in this context. However, presumably at the insistence of the Board of the Inland Revenue, Small White Corner Letters were introduced in 1862. They were so small as to be almost illegible. They also had a tendency to break (Figure 3). Accordingly, this series of stamps was in use for a relatively short time before being replaced by the Large White Corner Letters series in 1865. This more or less coincided with Joubert leaving De La Rue. The change to Large Coloured Corner Letters in 1873 was as a result of attempts to increase the rate at which printing plates could be made.



**Figure 3. Progressive states of defective lower letter A in 1s Plate 2 stamp AL. Damage is also recorded in the following stamps: 4d Plate 3 lower K in stamp CK and upper B in stamp BA, and 1s Plate 2 lower K in stamp KD (a white circle is recorded around the K in later printings presumably due to a damaged letter being replaced). Damaged letters are not recorded with the larger corner letters.**

### *Insertion of Plate Numbers*

The Small White Corner Letter series also saw attempts being made to identify stamps produced from each plate. Hair lines were engraved in the corner letter boxes of 4d Plate 4 (Figure 4 shows hair lines in corners indicating that the die was made for Plate 4), 6d Plate 4, 9d Plate 3 and 1s Plate 3 to differentiate them from their predecessors. In addition for the 4d stamp Roman numerals were introduced to the lower border: I for Plate 3 and II for Plate 4. In the British Library there is a proof for Plate 5 which was never issued due to the change to Large White Corner Letters. This design has hair lines and Roman numeral III. For the 3d value Plate 3 a small white (secret) dot was inserted either side above each end of POSTAGE (Figure 5).

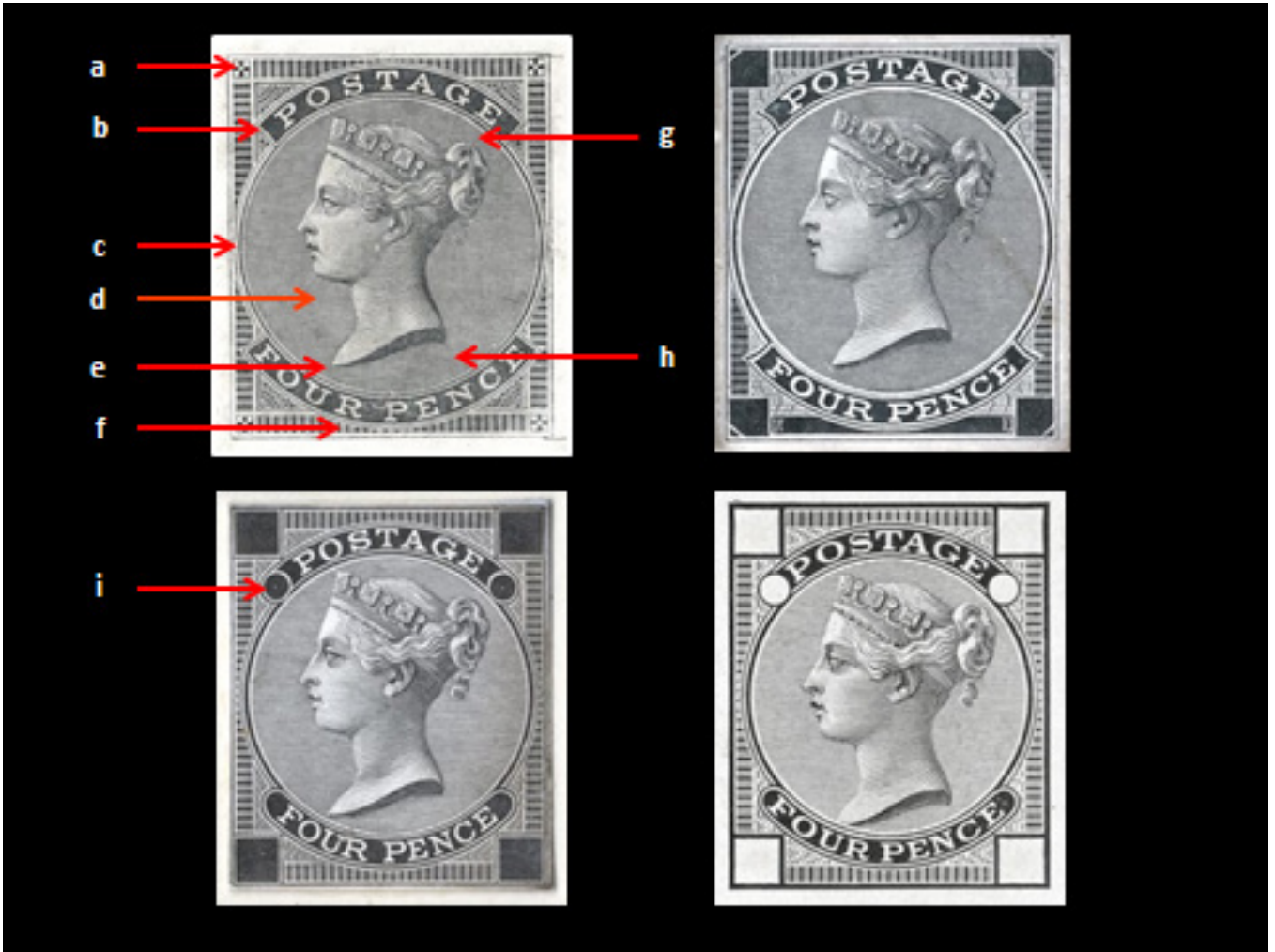


Figure 4. 'Cropped' die proofs showing changes to the 4d design. No Corner Letters, Small White Corner Letters (showing hair lines in corners), Large White Corner Letters and Large Coloured Corner Letters.



Figure 5. Small white (secret) dots used to differentiate 3d Plate 3 from Plate 2.

In addition to hair lines the 1s value was the first to have plate numbers inserted into the design. Figures 6–8 show proofs for numbers. However, as Figure 9 shows Plate 2 stamps incorrectly had the figure '1' inserted! Plate 3 stamps were similarly marked '2' and it was not until Plate 4 that plate numbers on sheet margins and those on stamps were the same.

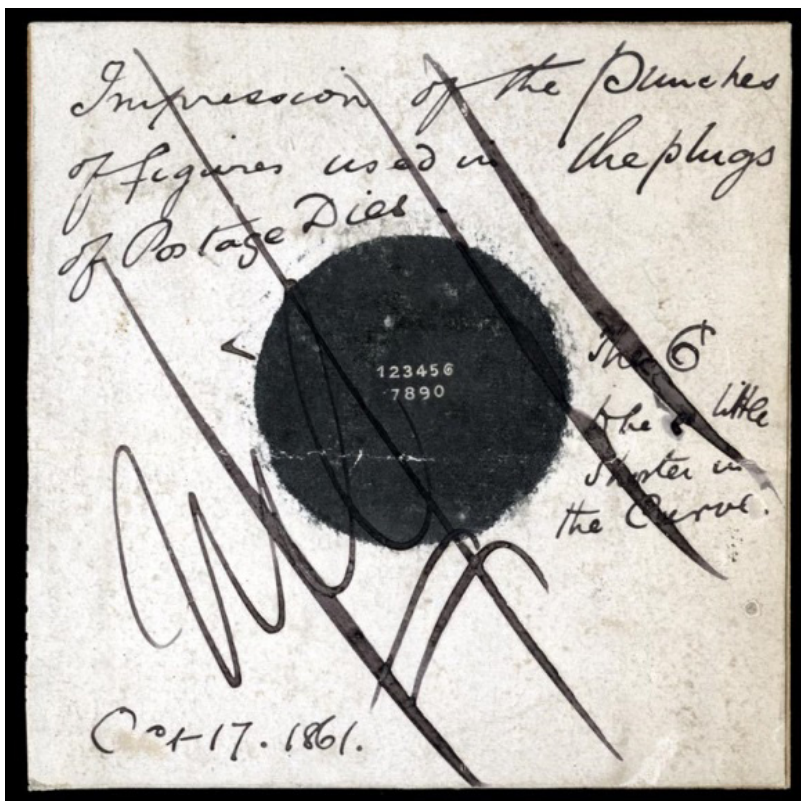


Figure 6. Proof for plate numbers inscribed by Ormond Hill, who was nephew of Rowland Hill, and ultimately became Comptroller of the Stamping Department at Somerset House. Figures 7 and 8 are also endorsed by him. Alterations suggested for the 6.



Figure 7. Proof which is inscribed on reverse by Ormond Hill: *I think some of the Figs are too slender and had better be faced down until as strong as the new '6'.*

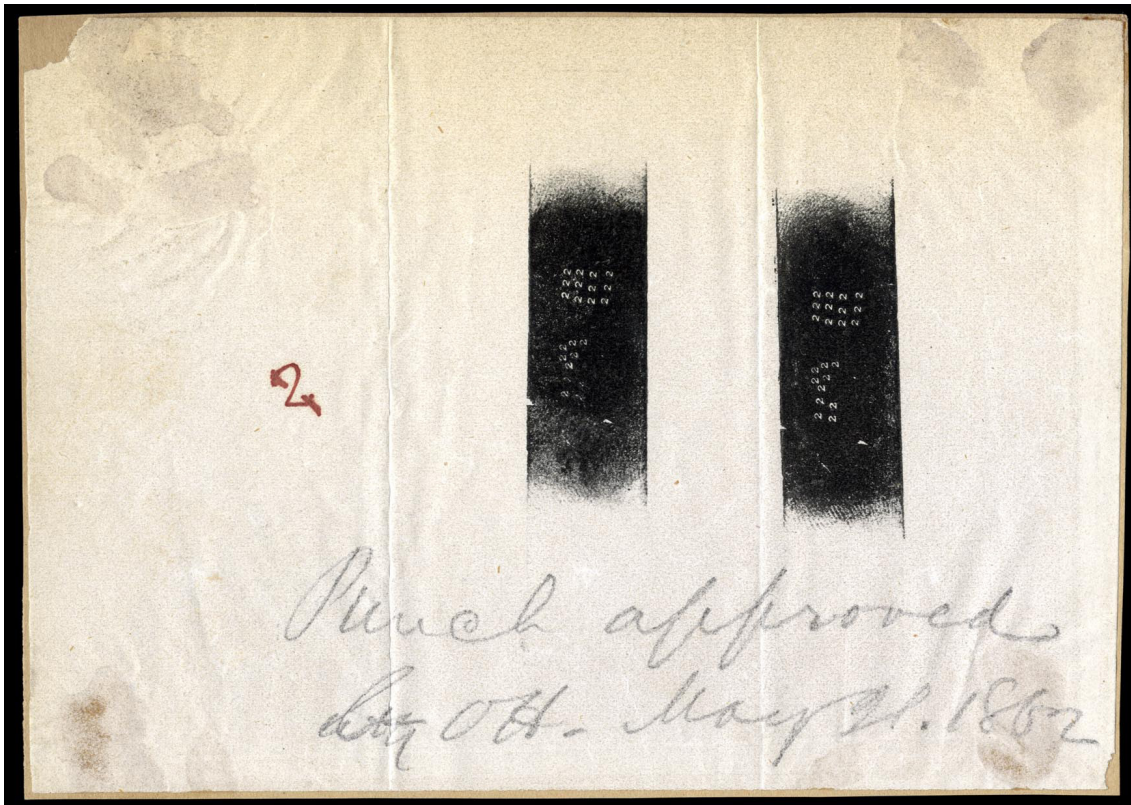


Figure 8. Proof suggesting alterations to the 2 which would seem to fit with the one eventually used.



Figure 9. The 1s Plate 1 overprinted Specimen Type 4 (mainly used for PO circulars) has no plate number on the stamp. Plate number 1 in the margin is correct. The other example shows a part numeral cancellation on 1s Plate 2. The plate number in the sheet margin is correct, that on the stamp is incorrect.

### Consequences

The effect of added security on stamp development is illustrated by examining black and white die proofs of the 4d value (Figure 4). The principles apply to the other values. The Table summarises changes which occurred. The size of stamp and Queen's head are constant while nearly everything else changes.

4d	1 <sup>st</sup> registered	c: Diameter of head circle, thickness of surrounding line (mm)	Distance between head circle and outer edge of frame (mm)	e: Distance from neck/chest to edge of head circle (mm)	g: Distance from chignon to edge of head circle (mm)	h: Distance from shoulder to edge of head circle (mm)
<b>NCL</b>	13 July 1855	17.3 0.6	Touches  No pattern between surround and edge	1	1	2
<b>SWCL</b>	29 November 1861	17.1 0.9	Touches  No pattern between surround and edge	1	1	2
<b>LWCL</b>	3 June 1865	16.4 0.9	0.4  0.2 mm of pattern between surround and edge	0.3	0.6	1.5
<b>LCCL</b>	10 June 1874	15.7 0.9	0.6  0.2 mm of pattern between surround and edge	The circle now crosses the neck/chest	0.3	0.8

**NCL:** No Corner Letters; **SWCL:** Small White Corner Letters; **LWCL:** Large White Corner Letters; **LCCL:** Large Coloured Corner Letters. Sizes are approximate.

*Border of stamp.* Comparing first with second dies symmetry of the border (a) is lost due to insertion of corner letter boxes. The pattern is removed from the lower frame which allows insertion of Roman numerals. This pattern was re-instated when larger corner letters were introduced as by then plate numbers had been introduced and Roman numerals were no longer needed. Corner letter boxes for Large Coloured Corner Letters are made very prominent.

Change to larger corner letters significantly altered the appearance of the 3d value which saw the trefoil surround for the corner letter circle being replaced by a simple square (Figure 10).



**Figure 10. Change of design of 3d corners as a result of converting from Small to Large White Corner Letters.**

*The head circle.* Size of the head circle (c) remains more or less the same comparing first with second design; it cuts completely through the border to touch the frame at the sides. The gap between frame at top or bottom and edge of the letter bands (f) is 0.4 mm. The effect of using larger corner letters has a more dramatic impact. The design for Large White Corner Letters and Large Coloured Corner Letters sees a reduction in size of the head circle to 16.4 mm and 15.7 mm respectively. As a result of the larger corner letter boxes there is now a gap of 0.2 mm between the head circle surround and the side frames where a pattern has been introduced. The gap between the frame at top or bottom and edge of the letter bands (f) is 0.8 mm.

Reduction in size of the head circle inevitably results in the head (which remains constant in size) becoming cramped. This can be seen in a progressive reduction in the distances indicated by e, g and h. For the design with Large Coloured Corner Letters the surround cuts across the neck/chest (e).

*Head circle surround.* This comprises five alternating black and white lines, the inner and outer lines being white. Individual lines have different emphasis for different designs. For example, the middle white line is the most prominent in the No Corner Letters design while for the Large Coloured Corner Letters design the innermost black line is the most prominent. The surround stands out even more in the final design due to the background (d) being made lighter.

*Bands for letters (b).* These are shortened comparing first with second design and the ends change from flat to concave. By the time of the larger corner letters circles for plate number have been introduced. The upper letter band had circles placed at each end for plate numbers (i). Thus the ends of the upper band are convex with similar changes to the lower band to maintain symmetry. Shape of the letters alters through the series and they become more prominent.

### **The Series**

The original three stamps were registered and issued on blue paper. It was thought that this paper would prevent removal of cancellations from used stamps. This proved not to be the case and in addition the original paper used for the 4d value was thick with a highly glazed surface so that ink penetrated poorly and tended to peel off. From then white paper was generally used. There were one or two exceptions which were printed on blue paper. These include some stamps with Small White Corner Letters, stamps printed on Perkins experimental paper and the 2½d stamps printed on Small Anchor watermarked paper. The latter was used for the 1d Inland Revenue stamps which were intended to be cancelled in pen and ink. There was always a degree of 'blueing' on these stamps. This is most noticeable on stamps from Plate 1.

Small and Medium Garter and Emblems watermarked paper were all hand-made. Large Garter paper was originally hand-made and subsequently machine-made. Spray of Rose, Small Anchor and Orb watermarked papers were all machine-made. A number of watermark errors are recorded. These include inverted, inverted and reversed and bits falling off the dandy roller and thus being absent or being replaced by the wrong bit. With hand-made paper the thickness was variable producing thick paper varieties.

Not all colour changes can easily be explained. Some are due to a preference for fugitive inks, for example introduction of 4d value with rose ink. Others were because stamps of different value had similar colours; this applies to 4d with Small White Corner Letters where the colour was changed to red to avoid confusion with the 3d stamp. Finally some colour changes were due to adoption of the GPU/UPU colour scheme; the colour of the 2½d stamp was changed from rosy mauve to blue because of this. In turn this resulted in the 2s value being changed from blue to brown.

Several stamps were registered, never issued, but are known officially perforated used and/or unused. These are the abnormal; 3d Plate 3, 4d vermilion Plate 16, 4d sage green Plate 17, 6d mauve Plate 10, 6d chestnut Plate 12, 6d pale buff Plate 13, 9d Plate 3, 10d Plate 2, 1s Plate 3, 1s green Plate 14 and 2s blue Plate 3.

Perforation errors (including imperforate, comb slips and missing pins), frame breaks and printing flaws are all known. Forgeries are recorded of 1s Plates 5 and 6 (Stock Exchange forgeries), 10d Plate 1 and 2s brown.

Presence or absence and type of corner letters allow stamps to be considered in groups shown below. Dates show main years of usage.

### **No Corner Letters 1855–1862**

*The first stamps:* As already stated the 4d, 6d and 1s values were the first stamps introduced. The 4d value was issued 31 July 1855; it was introduced to pre-pay letters mainly to Europe. The 6d value was issued 21 October 1856 and the 1s value 1 November 1856. Both replaced stamps of the embossed issue.

*Changes to the stamps:* The 4d value was printed on three different watermarked papers (Small, Medium and Large Garter) and the colour was changed from carmine to rose. Large Garter and early Medium Garter watermarked paper was blue. Paper for the rest of the 4d stamps was white (Figures 11–14). The 6d and 1s values (Figures 15–21) were printed on both blue and white paper with Emblems watermark.



Figure 11. Cover from Salisbury to Paris dated 9 November 1855. Quadruple rate paid by block of four Small Garter watermark stamps in deep carmine on blue paper.



Figure 12. Registered cover to Kendal with Liverpool Registered datestamp for 10 November 1855. The inland registration fee between 1 March 1848 and 1 August 1862 was 6d. Two Small Garter watermark stamps pay for registration and double inland postage rate of 2d. Stamps on Medium Garter paper were not issued until February 1856. The stamps were taken from different sheets and show dramatically different colour of both ink and paper.



Figure 13. Registered cover to London dated 19 March 1858. The same rates as in Figure 12 are paid by one 4d stamp in deep carmine on blue Medium Garter watermarked paper and another in rose on white Large Garter paper. The latter stamp was issued in January 1857. The reason for changing from Small Garter paper is uncertain. It has been suggested that it was so that the Queen's head would be clear of the watermark.



Figure 14. Earliest known cover with 4d on Large Garter watermarked paper dated 12 January 1857. Single rate by direct packet.



Figure 15. Registered wrapper from Manchester. Registration fee paid by 6d lilac stamp on blue paper. The single rate inland postage is paid by 1d red Plate 43.



Figure 16. Envelope showing 6d lilac on white paper used in Gibraltar. The 3 HOS A26 cancellation was used between 31 March 1859 and 22 December 1885. Blue Gibraltar datestamp for 4 April 1860. PAID / LIVERPOOL / SHIP 'tombstone' datestamp for 11 April.



Figure 17. Colour trials for fugitive ink experiments (sometimes described as plate proofs). Known in mauve on Emblems (inverted) watermarked paper and in green on unwatermarked paper. One perforated example is recorded the remainder being imperforate. Some are uncanceled, others have various cancels including this pair with an almost complete Helmsley Crown cancellation.

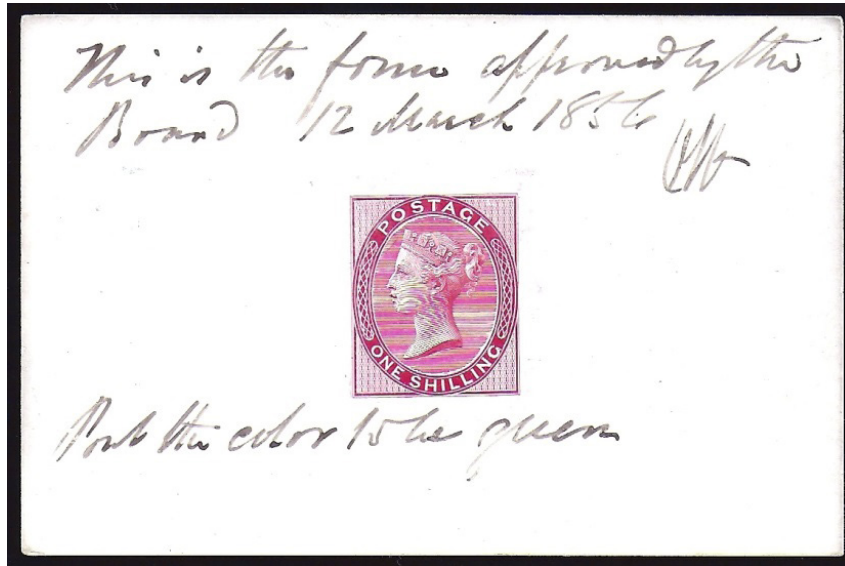


Figure 18. Essay endorsed by Ormond Hill who was at this time Assistant Supervisor of the Stamping Department at Somerset House.



Figure 19. Envelope from Ireland to New York. Coleraine and Garvagh datestamps for 13 May 1858 on reverse, the latter in green. The ½ oz rate paid by 1s green on blue paper.



Figure 20. Registered rate to Philadelphia paid by strip of four 1s green on white paper and 6d pale lilac on white paper. London '24' numeral cancellations. LOMBARD STREET / D / REGISTERED LETTER, Crown REGISTERED and REGISTERED / LONDON handstamps, the latter dated 27 October 1860. Carried by Cunard ship *Persia*.



Figure 21. Printed in red (shades), green or blue with evidence of plate damage before printing by crosses having been made. They are known uncanceled or cancelled by trial cancellations. Variously described as plate proofs or colour trials. However they often show punched out circles in the corners as shown in the enlarged image. It is possible that they were used for experiments for the insertion of corner letters.

### Small White Corner Letters 1862–1865

*Changes to the series:* The 3d value was introduced to pre-pay letters mainly to Europe (Figures 22–24). The 9d value was introduced to pay the single letter rate to India, New South Wales, Tasmania, Western Australia and New Zealand, all via Marseilles. Attempts were made to identify stamps from different plates. The 1s stamp was the first to have plate numbers.



Figure 22. Artist's essays of the 3d value in Indian ink and Chinese white on card. First recorded in *The British Philatelist* in 1935. They probably originated from the archives at Somerset House. Prepared by De La Rue they show original suggestions for the tri-lobed frame which was inverted in the accepted design. It is interesting to note that the first one does not have corner letters.



Figure 23. Plate 3 imperforate strip AJ–AL. These are all from the upper three panes ie rows A–E. At least three sheets or part sheets are involved. They represent proofs from the unfinished plate before inscriptions in the gutter margins between E and F rows were added. This strip was illustrated in *A History of the Adhesive Stamps of Great Britain* by Wright and Creek in 1899.



Figure 24. Matched imprimatur: imperforate pair, AC. The imperforate stamps are paler in colour and often have grease spots. In total 24 stamps have been removed from the registration sheet.

*Changes to the stamps:* Plate 2 of the 3d value is known with shaded spandrels which was registered but never issued and clear spandrels, States 1 and 2 respectively. Colour of the 4d stamp was changed to red (Figure 25). The 9d stamp was issued in bistre and in straw (Figures 26, 27). The 3d Plate 2, State 2 overprinted Specimen Type 5, 6d Plate 3, 9d Plate 2 and 1s Plate 2 are all recorded on blue paper. Large Garter watermarked paper was retained for the 4d value and was used for this value until the change to Crown watermarked paper in 1880. Emblems watermarked paper was used for the other values.



**Figure 25. Colour trials, imperforate, overprinted Specimen Type 2 are known in deep red, orange and yellow.**



**Figure 26. The 9d value in bistre. Envelope to India with Rugby duplex for 15 June 1862. Single letter rate via Marseilles.**



**Figure 27. The 9d value in straw. Registered envelope from Aberdeen to California. Experimental Aberdeen duplex for 9 January 1865. On reverse Liverpool datestamp for 10 January 1865. Single letter rate of 1s plus 6d registration fee. 21 cents was pre-paid by United States packet.**

### Large White Corner Letters 1865–1872

*Changes to the series:* The same five values were used as in the Small White Corner Letters series. Progressive die proofs are known for each (Figure 28). In addition, die proofs of the 6d and 9d designs show variations with presence or absence of stars in the upper circles (Figure 29). A ½d value was proposed and though essays were made it was never completed (Figures 30, 31). The contract for this value was ultimately given to Perkins Bacon.



Figure 28. Progressive die proof. The only other progressive die proofs known (head, 3d, 4d, 6d, 9d and 1s values) are in the Phillips Collection. These proofs were sent to Italy by Warren De La Rue in 1865. At that time De La Rue were training the Italian engraver Bigola in postage stamp production. The Stamp Printing Works were established in Turin in 1867. Proofs in the Phillips Collection were bought from the collection of King Emmanuel II in 1958.

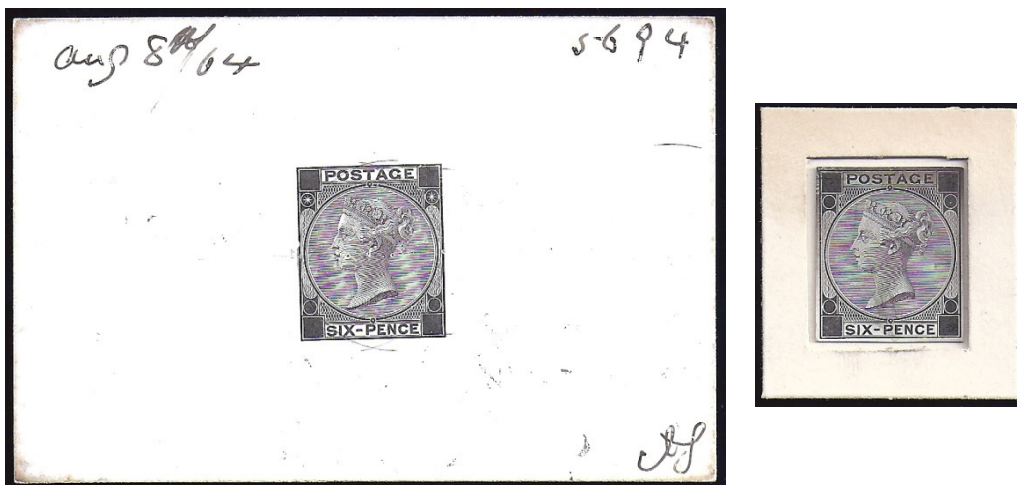
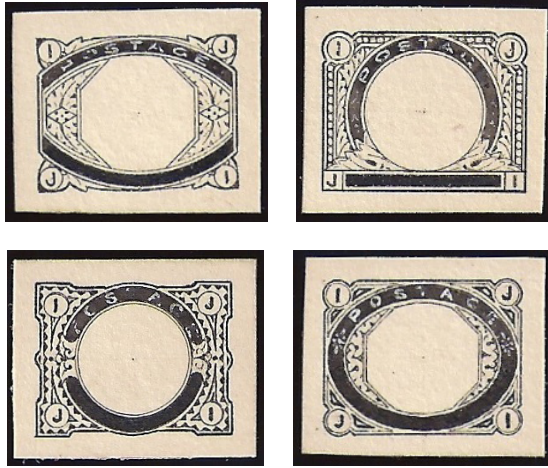


Figure 29. Die proofs showing presence or absence of stars in upper circles. Die proofs of the 9d value have similar features. Hyphens are present. The full sized proof shows pencil alterations around the head circle.



Figure 30. In August 1865 the Inland Revenue sent a warrant to De La Rue asking them to prepare a ½d stamp. On 5 October Ormond Hill wrote to Warren De La Rue asking that the Postmaster General should see and approve the design before the plate was prepared. Essays of five designs are known.



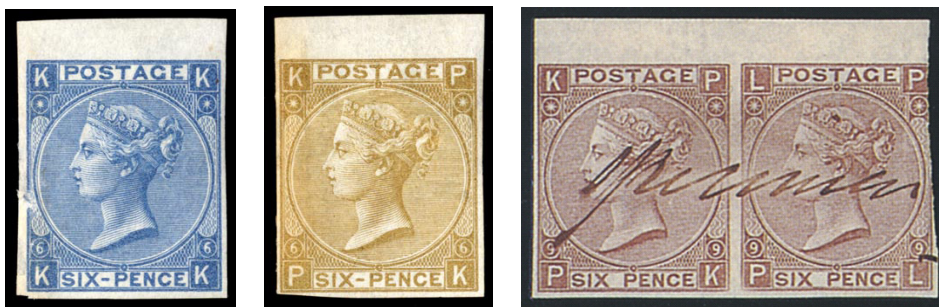
**Figure 31. Nothing happened until 1870 when Ormond Hill again wrote to De La Rue with further specifications including the stamps to be two thirds of the height of previous stamps and to be green in colour. More essays were produced.**

*Changes to the stamps:* Colour of the 4d stamp was changed to vermilion. A hyphen, which was sometimes present between SIX and PENCE, was a peculiarity of the 6d value. It was absent from Plate 1, though it was in some of the essays, it re-appeared on Plate 2 (never issued but present on a die proof), and Plates 3–6. Plate 7 was defective and was never issued but the striking book proof (Figure 32) shows that the hyphen was absent. It never appeared again.



**Figure 32. Striking book proof from 6d Plate 7. Annotated No 7 (plate number) and 291 (current number). Being defective this plate was never issued.**

Concern that the 6d stamp resembled too closely the 1d Revenue stamp led to a number of changes. Plates 8 and 9 of the original 6d design were printed in various shades (lilac, mauve, purple and violet). Colour trials for Plate 6 (possibly) and Plate 9 (definitely) were an attempt to find a more suitable colour (Figure 33). Finally, the design of the 6d stamp was altered (Figures 34, 35). Colour of this new design was changed from chestnut to buff (Figures 36, 37) and then to grey.



**Figure 33. Colour trials probably associated with change of 6d stamp. The Post Office thought that the 6d stamp resembled too closely the 1d Inland Revenue stamp.**

**Plate 6 (with hyphen), known in rose, orange-red, green, blue and straw on thin unwatermarked wove paper. In the Tapling Collection there is a set in these five colours overprinted Specimen Type 2.**

**Plate 9 (no hyphen), on Spray watermarked paper. In a letter to De La Rue, November 1870, Ormond Hill suggested changing the colour to raw sienna or ochre brown. However it was felt that these colours would not be satisfactory in fugitive inks. De La Rue started trials with inks of a similar colour. Four distinct shades of brown can be identified.**



Figure 34. 6d Plate 9 and Inland Revenue 1d plate proofs. NK has a circular border excised from around the queen's head, being an essay involved in changing the 6d design. Inscribed 'Present Postage Stamp', 'Present I.R. Stamp' and 'postage stamp altered as proposed'.



Figure 35. Essay showing alterations in Indian ink which have been made to a die proof. The annotations are in Ormond Hill's handwriting.



Figure 36. Mourning envelope to France. On reverse is a Privy Purse seal in black wax, a red London datestamp for 23 April 1872 and a Paris arrival datestamp for 24 April. Single rate paid by 6d Plate 11 in deep chestnut cancelled by Foreign Branch obliterator. This stamp was issued in April 1872.



**Figure 37. Wrapper to Spain, single rate paid by 6d Plate 11 in pale buff.  
This stamp was issued in October 1872.**

Blue or brown, rather than black, Specimen overprints are recorded (Figure 38). Blue paper, developed by Dr Perkins, a Brixton chemist, was used experimentally on the 3d, 4d, 6d and 1s values. Again it was hoped that its use would prevent cancellations from being removed. These experiments were unsuccessful and in addition the blue paper largely obscured the design (Figure 39). Other than the 4d value stamps were initially printed on Emblems watermarked paper which was changed to the machine-made Spray watermarked paper in 1867.



**Figure 38. Specimen Type 2 overprints are known in blue on 3d Plate 4 Emblems watermark, 6d Plate 5 Emblems watermark, 1s Plate 4 Emblems watermark, 10d and 2s (perforated and imperforate) and in brown on 6d Plate 6 Spray watermark. It is thought that Specimen overprints struck in blue or brown were used by De La Rue as examples of their work. The 3d, 6d and 1s examples with blue overprints came from a small book entitled *Specimens of Stamps Manufactured by Thos De La Rue & Co, London*.**



**Figure 39. 3d value on Dr Perkins' paper. Imperforate: all known examples originate from two panes of 20, PA-TD and PI-TL. Perforated: overprinted Specimen Type Group 10 (21½ x 3 mm). Recorded examples are from the pane PI-TL. The 4d, 6d and 1s values are known in a similar format. The 6d specimen stamps are known perforated and imperforate. The 1s specimen stamp has the overprint over two stamps.**

**Large White Corner Letters 1867–1883**

*Additions:* The Postmaster General proposed higher value stamps on 13 July 1866. Approval was given for 2s and 5s values but not 4s and 10s. In addition a 10d value was required to pay the single letter rate to India and to Australia both via Marseilles and to Mauritius via Marseilles and Suez. All three stamps were designed by Owen Jones and issued 1 July 1867.

*Changes to the stamps:* Colour of the 2s value was changed from blue to brown (Figure 40). Only 1000 sheets (240,000 stamps) were printed in brown. Approximately two thirds of these were destroyed following a PO circular stating that the stamp was to be discontinued. Several forgeries are known (Figures 41, 42). Spray watermarked paper was used, but the 10d value is recorded printed on Emblems watermarked paper in error. Blue Specimen overprints are known.



**Figure 40. Envelope from Swansea to Valparaiso dated 15 June 1880. The 2s brown pays the double rate via Panama.**



**Figure 41. Sperati forgery die proof. Sperati produced forgeries of this stamp between 1930 and 1953. He removed the ink from genuine used stamps and then printed the forgery on top of the cancellation. Letterings used are JL, KJ, LK and PI. Die proofs are known in black either signed or signed with REPRODUCTION INTERDITE handstamps and in colour either signed or unsigned.**



**Figure 42. Several other forgeries are known. This pair have oil-impressed Spray 'watermarks' which can be clearly seen. The configuration of the pair is incorrect. A horizontal pair should be GK–GL; GK–HK should be a vertical pair.**

### Change from Large White to Large Coloured Corner Letters

Engraving corner letters and plate numbers onto a plate of 240 multiples took over four weeks. Use of plugs inserted into holes machined through the die for letters and numbers was introduced in attempt to speed up stamp production. It resulted in letters and numbers being printed in colour rather than white. Proofs and essays associated with this process are shown in Figures 43–45. Position of plate numbers was subsequently raised for the 6d, 9d, 10d and 2s values (Figure 46).



Figure 43. 3d die proofs with pencilled numbers. Some die proofs of the 3d and 6d values have pencilled numbers around the design. Numbers occur adjacent to corner letters and sometimes plate numbers. Different arrangements of numbers are known. The numbers probably relate to the plugs used and were interchanged as part of the experiments changing to Large Coloured Corner Letters. Each configuration of numbers is unique.



Figure 44. 6d essays designated OLD and NEW. On 23 February 1872, De La Rue submitted to the Board of the Inland Revenue, three sets of coloured proofs of the new and existing designs for the 3d, 4d, 6d, 9d, 10d, 1s and 2s values. A further set was retained by the printers.



Figure 45. 'Old' design but pulled in bistre rather than vermilion.

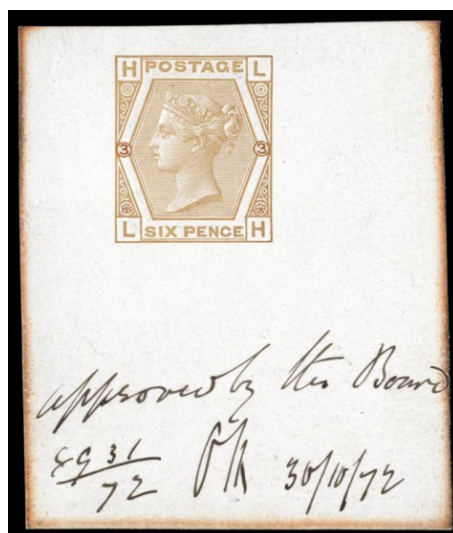


Figure 46. 6d essay, modified design. From endorsements written on one set of 'New' designs, it seems that the Board approved all seven on 11 March 1872. However, further modifications were carried out on the 6d, 9d, 10d and 2s values. Modifications mainly consisted of moving the number plugs to a higher position. Coloured proofs were submitted and were approved on 30 October 1872.

**Large Coloured Corner Letters 1873–1881**

*Changes to the series:* The 2½d value was needed to pay the GPU single letter rate to Europe and to Egypt (Figure 47). The 8d value was introduced to pre-pay the single letter rate to Aden and India and to Australia all via Brindisi (Figure 48).



**Figure 47. Essays for 2½d value. In October and November 1874 a total of 10 essays were prepared, Plate 5, lettered JI. Each is unique.**

**Figure 48. Essay for 8d value. Five essays were submitted by De La Rue 29 April 1876.**

**Ormond Hill wrote to De La Rue 4 January 1875 confirming that the essay shown on the right was the approved design.**

The final stamps comprised 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 8d and 1s values. From 1855 changing postal rates had resulted in 2½d, 3d, 8d, 9d, 10d and 2s values being added to the original 4d, 6d and 1s stamps. The 9d, 10d and 2s values were withdrawn, due to changes in letter rates making them redundant, after dies had already been made and proofed.

*Changes to the stamps:* The following colour changes were made; 2½d from rosy mauve to blue (Figures 49, 50), 4d from vermilion to sage green (Figure 51) and then to grey-brown, 6d from buff to grey, 8d from purple-brown (never issued) to orange (Figure 52) and 1s from green to orange-brown.



**Figure 49. Single letter rate to Paris paid by 2½d Plate 17 in rosy mauve. Only 5000 sheets of this plate in this colour were produced before the colour was changed to blue. Plate 17 in rosy mauve was put to press 23 December 1879. It was issued in blue early February 1880.**



Figure 50. Plate 17 in blue used in Gibraltar, cancelled with A26 duplex for 16 April 1880. This datestamp was in use from 31 January 1878 to 25 September 1885. The year date is inverted. Two ring French entry mark in blue.



Figure 51. 4d Plate 15. Imprimaturs AK. Registered in vermillion 10 June 1874, re-registered in sage green 1 November 1876. There is no other example of a stamp being re-registered for a change of colour. Some 23 stamps have been removed from each registration sheet.



Figure 52. 8d Plate 1 was registered in purple-brown 7 July 1876. It was not issued in that colour as it was thought to resemble too closely the rosy mauve of the 2½d value. Most of the 10,000 sheets produced were destroyed. All existing stamps, apart from imprimaturs, come from the top left panes, AA–JF, of four sheets. They are known perforated unused and with specimen overprints. The stamp was issued in orange 11 September 1876.

The 4d Plate 17 grey-brown and 1s Plate 13 orange-brown on Large Garter and Spray watermarked papers respectively had a small print run. Only about 5000 sheets of each were printed, by this time the normal print run was 35000 sheets. The 4d Large Garter watermark stamp was issued 15 August 1880 and that on Crown watermark paper was issued 8 December 1880. Corresponding dates for the 1s are 14 October 1880 and the end of May 1881. Accordingly, they are uncommon stamps, particularly on cover (Figure 53).



Figure 53. 4d grey-brown Plate 17 on Large Garter watermarked paper paying the single letter rate to Venezuela. This stamp was quickly superseded by the version on Crown watermarked paper. The Manchester datestamp is for 16 November 1880, the Crown watermark stamp was put to press and issued 8 December 1880.

There were no wing margins on Crown watermarked stamps. MG on Large Garter paper should have had a left wing margin. The reason for its absence on the stamp shown is that De La Rue took over stamp perforation from the Inland Revenue from 1 September 1880 and changed the layout of the plates to correspond with the newly introduced stamps on Crown watermarked paper. MG without a wing margin represents a transitional stage.

The 2½d value is known printed on blue and on white Small Anchor watermarked paper and white Orb watermarked paper. The 4d continued to be printed on Large Garter watermarked paper as was the 8d value. The remaining stamps were printed on Spray watermarked paper.

#### 1880 and beyond

Until now most sheets had consisted of 240 printed stamps which were divided into panes. The 4d and 8d values were printed as four panes of 60 and the 3d, 6d, 9d, 10d, 1s and 2s values as 12 panes of 20. The 2½d stamp was printed as two panes of 96. With the introduction of Crown watermarked paper for the Provisional and Temporary Unified Issues plates were printed in pairs as four panes of 120, for example Plate 22 for the 2½d value was printed as the right hand sheet and Plate 23 as the left. This large sheet was then guillotined vertically to produce a sheet of two panes of 120 stamps for each plate. Plate and current numbers were no longer included on the sheet margin.

The Provisional Issue of 1880 retained the 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 1s designs. Colour trials are known for all except the 2½d value (Figure 54). In addition, new ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2d designs were introduced to replace the line-engraved issues together with a completely new value, the 5d.



Figure 54. Colour trials, probably made for the Unified Issue, involved 3d, 4d, 6d and 1s designs from the Large Coloured Letters series. They are lettered AA, AB or AC. Those lettered AA are all on white paper while the majority of those lettered AB or AC are on coloured paper. The colour of the paper used includes pink, yellow, green, blue, lilac, buff and brown. Ink colours used were purple, orange, red, blue, green, yellow, grey and black. No duplicate of the same colours with the same letters exists. These trials may have been made from single small sheets or part sheets.

The Temporary Unified Issue of 1883 saw 3d and 6d designs in purple-lilac overprinted with their own value in red. An incomplete 1s stamp (there was no overprint), was registered but never issued (Plates 13 and 14). Stamps from Plate 14 are known perforated (from the registration sheet) and with Type 9 Specimen overprints. The other values (½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 4d and 5d) are only known as essays.

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