

# PRETTY AND TEMPTING.



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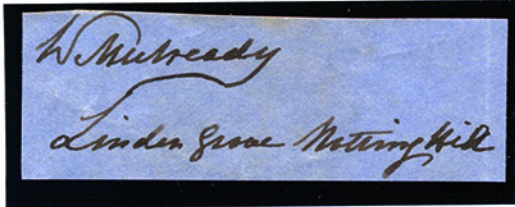
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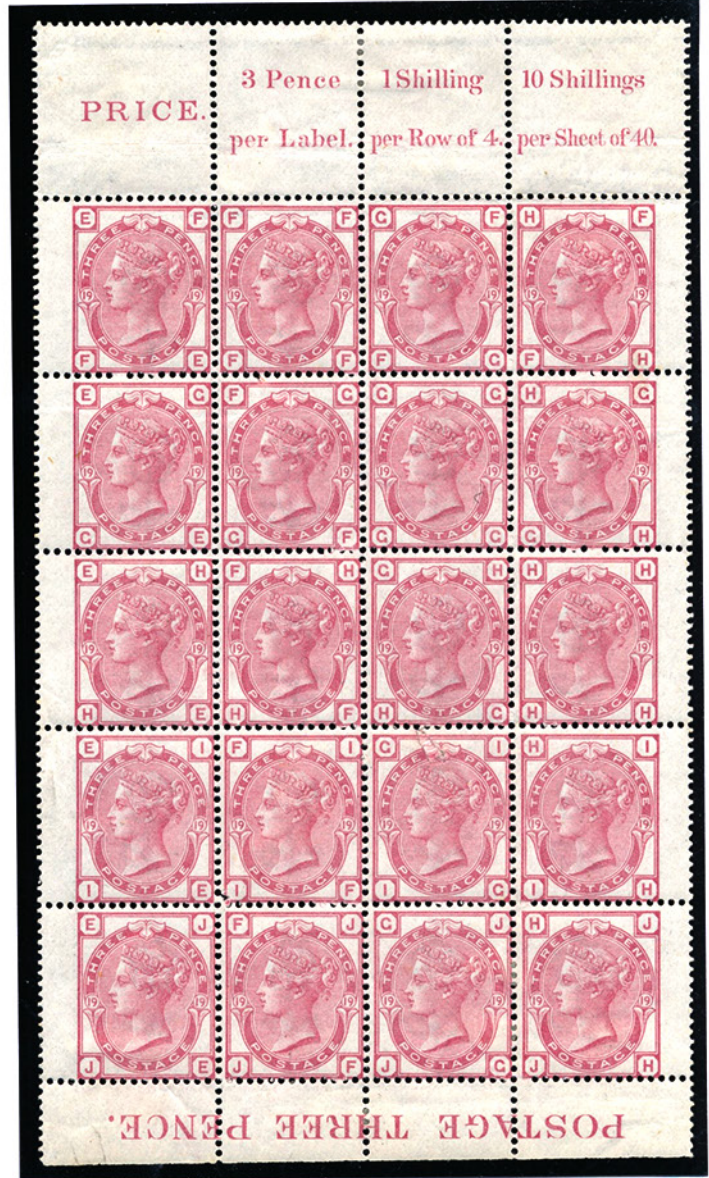
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## A FINE AND VARIED SELECTION.



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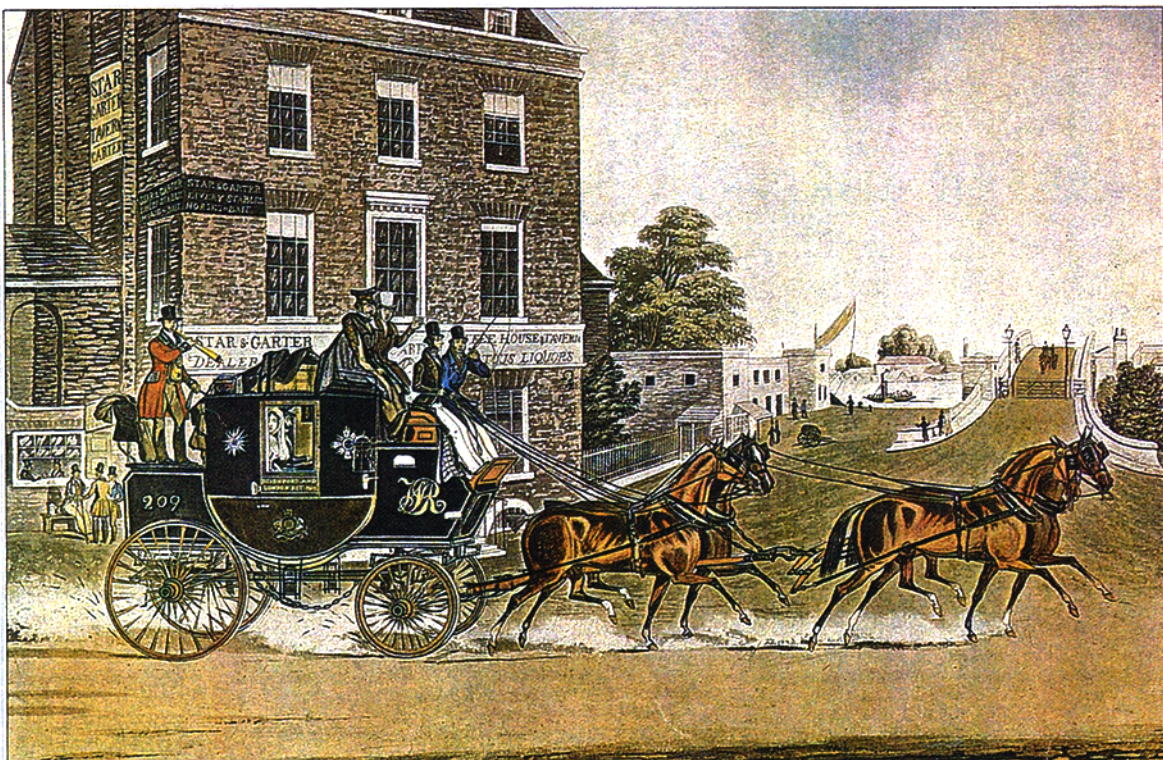


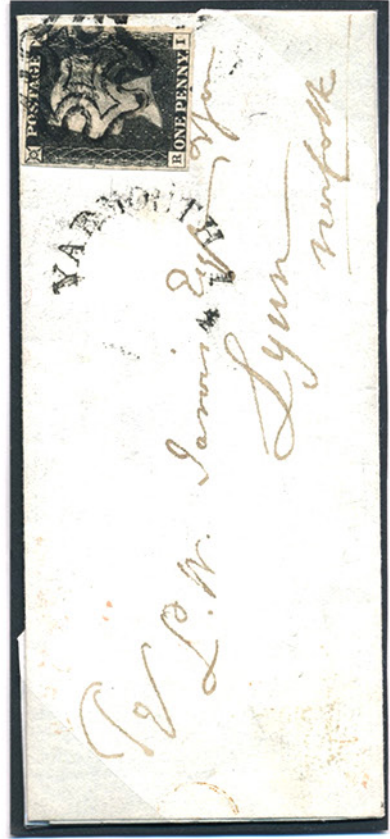
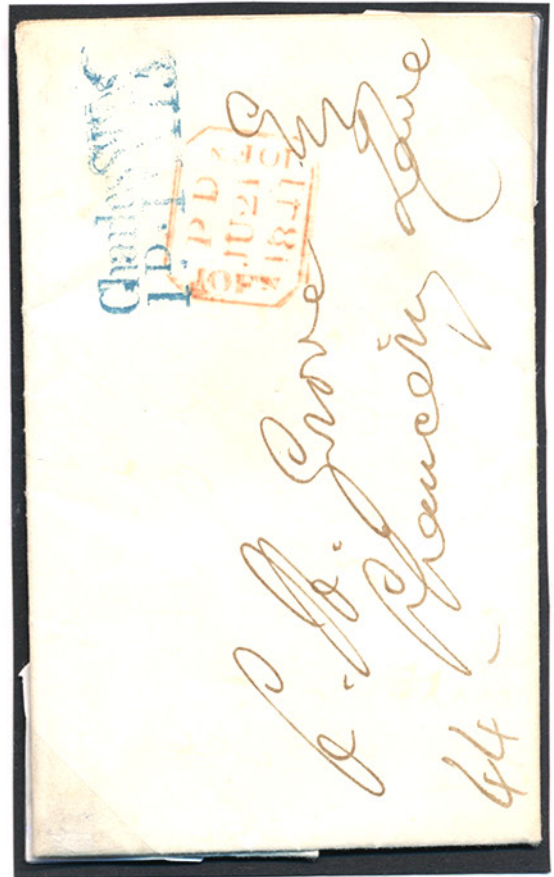
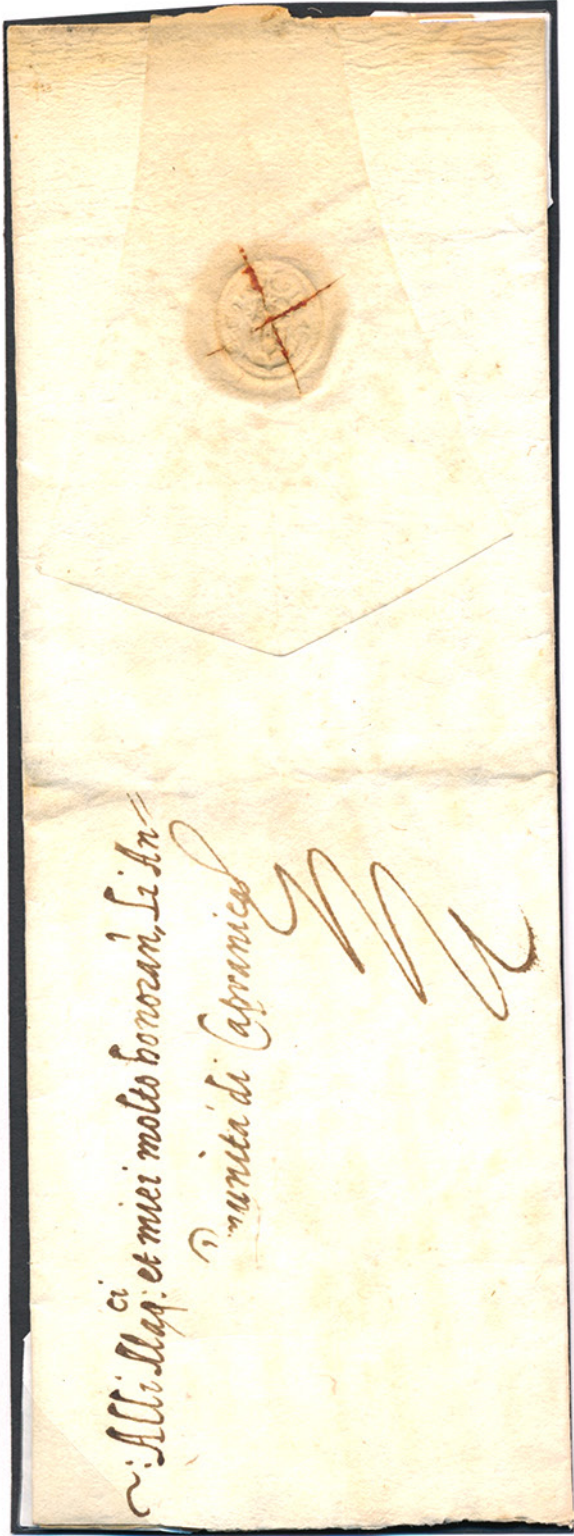
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POSTBOY TO AIRMAIL. Jackson.

*A Clergyman complained to the local postmaster that the postman rang too loudly upon his street bell. The bell was of the old fashioned pull-out type with a long wire attached running the whole length of the hall. The men were all cautioned to use extra care. The very next morning Postman Jones stepped gingerly up the recently washed doorsteps, took hold of the bell pull, and prepared to give a gentle tug. At the critical moment he slipped and fell down the steps, still holding the knob. Instead of staying behind to explain his misfortune he bolted and the quiet street saw the irate Clergyman, in carpet slippers, pelting a poor Jones, convinced that this was a direct off-set of his complaint of the previous day – nor could he ever be convinced to the contrary.*

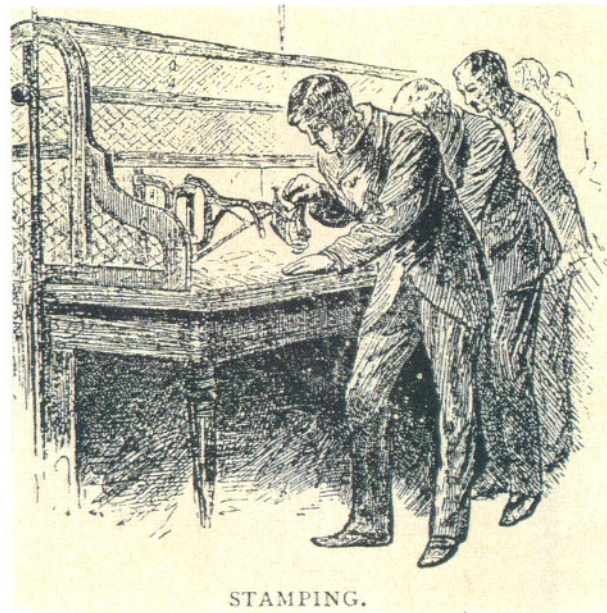
1. 28 APRIL 1556. Very early letter written in Italian from Berno Agatonio in Rome to the elders of Capranica:- 'Received news of how his brother in lay is getting on and has been away for three years and would do better with a wife'. The letter finishes with the date 'Roma 28 April 1556'. An outstanding paper seal, defaced (used) in red ink. Wonderful condition for 470 years old and certainly rare and with such a fine sea. **£120**
2. WILLIAM MUKREADY, RA (1786-1863) Artist and designer of the Mulready envelope, original signature on piece 'W. Mulready, Linden Grove, Notting Hill' (his home from 1828-1863). A lovely clear piece and a rarely seen signature. **£275**
3. PLATE 1a VERY WORN IMPRESSION. Lettered TF with 4 outstanding margins and a featherlight Maltese cross in red. This really is a magnificent example. **£450**
4. PLATE 1a. VERY WORN PLATE. A superb example of the latest printing showing excellent plate wear. Lettered NI with a crisp, complete Maltese cross in red and with margins wonderfully cut. OUTSTANDING QUALITY. **£525**
5. 1d Black plate two. A magnificent single lettered IG with good-large-huge margins and a featherlight but clear Maltese cross in red. OUTSTANDING. **£385**
6. 1d Black plate 2. Lettered GI with perfectly cut and balanced margins and a crisp, complete Maltese cross in black. Scarce on this plate. **£325**
7. 1d Black pate 2. An outstanding single lettered IK. With good-ENORMOUS margins and a featherlight Maltese cross in orange-red. Very choice. **£385**







NAVVIES AT A POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.



STAMPING.

8. 1840 1d Grey Black plate 3. An exquisite adhesive lettered DL. Choice margins good-huge and a stunning orange-red Maltese cross. Crisp and full. **MAGNIFICENT. £625**
9. 1d grey-Black plate 3. A perfect shade. Lettered CE. Lovely margins and a featherlight and upright Maltese cross in orange-red. **£375**
10. PLATE 4 USED IN MAY. A full margined example lettered HK tied to wrapper to OXFORD CDS in red and London CDS in black for MAY 29 1840. A VERY EARLY DATE FOR PLATE 4. File crease strengthened with hinges. FEW PLATE 4 1d Black used in May are known. RARE AND IMPRESSIVE. A Royal certificate accompanies. **£725**
11. 1d Black pl 4. Very fine used good to large four margin example lettered RI tied to a small wrapper by a crisp black MC, sent from Yarmouth, Isle of Wight to Lynn, Norfolk with a matching "Yarmouth I W" udc alongside adhesive. Backstamped by Lymington and London transit datestamps for MY.8.1841 and a Lynn arrival datestamp for the following day. 2011 BPA cert. Of unusually small size. Very fine indeed. **£725**
12. 1d Black plate 8. Lettered SL. Part side of sheet marginal. Maltese cross in Black plated to give a clear profile. **£425**
13. PLATE 10. 1d Black lettered LL. With good-large-ENORMOUS margins and a crisp, upright and complete Maltese cross in black. Exceptional. **£485**
14. 1840 2d Blue plate 1. Lettered AG. Perfectly cut with a crisp, light and upright Maltese cross in orange-red. Superb appearance. **£450**
15. 1840 2d PALE BLUE plate 1. A lovely example lettered BA. Very well cut margins and a particularly lightly placed Maltese cross in red. **£450**
16. 1840 2d DEEP BLUE plate 1. With four choice margins. Lettered KH. A complete Maltese cross in black. The colour is exceptional. **£325**

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17. 1840 "D BLUE PLATE 2 CANCELLED IN RED ON ENTIRE TO PETWORTH. Lettered DK with margins cut good to huge. Very lightly cancelled and tied by a red Maltese cross. On reverse a CDS in the same ink for NOV 28 1840. A lovely black wax seal with intricate motif. At front to left a superb TRURO CDS in blue for NOV 26. Content of the letter written by a teacher and refers to the running of his school. Two fold faults repaired with hinges. MOST RARE TO FIND PLATE TWO CANCELLED IN RED ON COVER. Superb uncreased. **£1800**
18. 1840 2d DEEP BLUE PLATE 2. THE 'QL' RE-ENTRY. Superbly cut. Exceptional colour. A crisp Maltese cross in black. One of only two re-entries on this plate. **£725**
19. 1841 ENTIRE to Chancery Lane. A good CHARLES ST 1d PAID in blue and a very good PD for June 21 in red. Very fine, clean and uncreased. **£45**
20. YORK. A fabulous strike of this most distinctive Maltese cross on 1841 1d plate 26. Lettered MB with outstanding margins. The cross is perfect and complete. Exceptional and a Royal certificate accompanies. **£425**
21. A DOUBLE STRIKE OF THE MALTESE cross on 1841 1d Red-Brown plate 24. Lettered AK. Very well cut. 2 lovely strikes over each other. **£60**
22. Number 1 in Maltese cross. A lovely crisp strike on 1841 1d with 4 fine margins. **£70**
23. NUMBER 2 IN MALTESE CROSS. 1841 1d lettered NK with margins cut good-large-huge. A crisp upright strike. **£75**
24. Number 3 in Maltese cross. 1841 1d plate 35 and lettered IA. Wonderfully cut margins and a perfect strike. **£120**
25. NUMBER 4 IN MALTESE CROSS. The very best strike on 1841 1d Red-Brown. Lettered GH with full margins. The hardest of the numbered crosses. **£265**

The Philatelists Companion. Gunston.

*Chalky stamps ought to be obvious to anyone really familiar with stamp printings. The surface is denser, smoother and white, the printing brighter and sharper quality and the stamp often feels heavier and stiffer. In the case of used stamps, most early normal (IE not chalky) issues curls – sometimes almost into a drum – if damped and left to dry, the curl having the printed design outwards. Chalky stamps, on the other hand, arch strongly the other way (concave seen from the front) because as it dries the chalky coating contracts even more than the paper. The coated surface looks shiny, feels quite different, and must be treated with care. Heavily coated paper often gives a fugitive impression, and will invariably be irreparably damaged by being creased. If you have a really doubtful stamp with sheet margin attached, you are welcome to see if a piece of silver (the precious metal) will leave a black line, indicating chalk. I Strongly dislike leaving black lines on the surface of good stamps, even on the margin. In any case, there are several kinds of coating not based on chalk or china clay that do not react visibly to silver.*



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Pet Mail

During the storm of agitation for franchise for women, two leading suffragettes posted themselves to 10 Downing Street. In this instance however, the Post Office was thwarted in achieving delivery as the 'Packets' were refused by the Prime Ministers butler! Living animals can also be accepted by express delivery, if confined to suitable receptacles and special arrangements may be made for the conveyance of dogs. Cats and even pet rabbits have at times been expressed by parcel post over long distances. But although living creatures are accepted for express handling they cannot be conveyed to ordinary parcel post unless they happen to be bees, leeches or silkworms, for whose convenience special facilities are provided.



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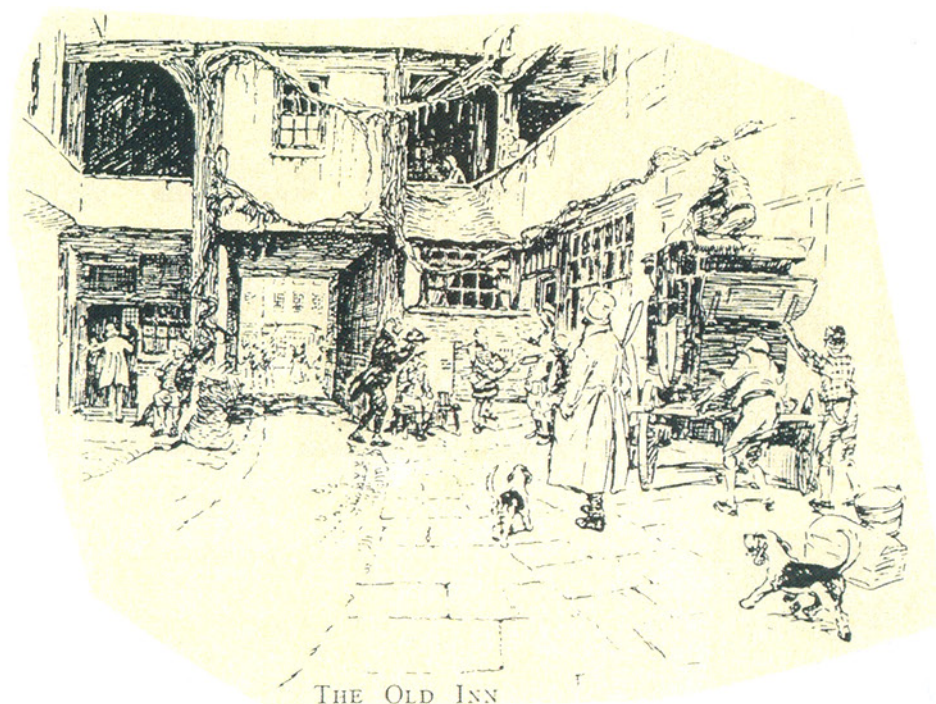
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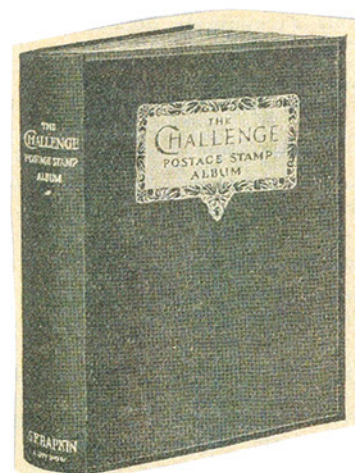
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26. NUMBER 4 IN MALTESE CROSS on 1841 1d lettered DF. With 4 perfect margins and a lovely clear strike. Reverse shows a wonderful IVORY HEAD. **£210**
27. Number 8 in Maltese cross on 1841 1d lettered KD. Perfect margins and a lovely strike. **£75**
28. Number 9 in Maltese cross on 1841 1d lettered JJ. Lovely balanced margins and a light crisp strike. **£110**
29. Number 10 in Maltese cross on 1841 1d lettered KD. Fine, full margins and a crisp, upright strike. **£160**
30. 1841 2d Blue plate 3. Lettered BD. Lovely balanced margins. A light, crisp Maltese cross. Very fine. **£110**
31. SG 17 1d plate 32. With a lovely crisp steel CDS. **£75**
32. 1841 2d DEEP BLUE plate 4. Lettered LJ. With large-GIGANTIC margins and a lightly placed numeral cancel. **£65**
33. 1841 2d BLUE plate 4. A FABULOUS PAIR. With large-GIGANTIC margins showing portions of SIX ADJOINING ADHESIVES. Cancelled by crisp 383 numerals of Hull. A glorious multiple. **£425**

The post office on D-DAY.

*A serving officer said the other day that the phrase with the highest tonic value for overseas troops in 'the mail is here' and it is not surprising that the army post office authorities were intimately concerned in Second Front Plans. Said an RE (postal section) Officer to me two days after D DAY; 'Once again Britain is writing to its fighting men in France' and a huge new burden has thus fallen on the Army Postal Service. The service is already doing a fine job. It kept up delivery to the troops before they went across; and then its men went to Normandy on D DAY itself with the beach groups and by parachutes and glider with the airbourne troops. Mail was shipped over the channel on D Day itself and four days later the first Army mail from France, dispatched on D 2 was received in this country. On the way to embarkation; second front men were permitted to post their last minute mail in special boxes, and they were deliveries of re-directed letters and parcels to out troops in France on D Day within a few hours of the first landing. Three days later permanent postal station were established on the beach-heads, nearly every boat to and from the invasion coast was carrying letters.*





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The New Postmarks of 1844

The Maltese Cross postmark was superseded in 1844 by an obliteration consisting of a number surrounded by lines. Every chief post office used a specially numbered obliteration, of which there were four series, for London, England, Scotland and Ireland. The lines surrounding the number were arranged in a different manner in each series - London, circular, England, oval, Scotland, Oblong and Ireland, diamond-shape. The numbers of the London series ran from 1 to 49; to those of the English series from 1 to 936; of the Scottish from 1 to 342; and of the Irish from 1 to 450. Numbers consisting entirely of the figures 0, 1, 6, 8 or 9 and commencing with 1, 8, 9, were generally omitted from the list, owing to their similarity in an inverted position with other numbers. Thus if 189 was used in the list, 681 was omitted; if 6 was used, 9 would be omitted.

## Stag at bay

Thrilling things can happen to a postman on his travels. The driver of a mail van was the victim of an unusual accident when driving through Lowther Park, on his way to Lowther Castle, the residence of Lord Lonsdale in Westmoreland. The park is well stocked with sheep ponies and red deer so the postman was driving with care especially as it was a dark morning in November. The vans headlights were on and the driver slowed down as they lit up a herd of deer. For some reason a big stag grew enraged at the sight of the red mail van and charged straight at it. The driver tried to swerve but the stag hit the van with such a crash that the vehicle was thrown completely round, and both its back tyres burst, while the stag antlers snapped off. Having displayed its temper the stag wheeled round and galloped into the darkness leaving the astonished postman to scramble out of the wreckage as best he could.



34. SG 13. 2d PALE BLUE plate 4. A PAIR with large-huge-ENORMOUS margins and featherlight numeral cancels. £120
35. 1841 2d Blue plate 4. A SPLENDID BLOCK OF 4. QA-RB. Lightly used with 4 choice margins. Very fine. Rarely seen this nice. £450
36. LATE USE of the MALTESE CROSS SG 33 1d plate 44. A stunning strike complete and upright. MAGNIFICENT QUALITY. £525
37. RESERVE PLATE 16. 1d. With a very choice SOUTHAMPTON steel CDS. Finest quality. £60
38. PEARSON HILL Type 2 cancel. A wonderful strike on SG 39 1d plate 36. £115
39. SG 43 1d plate 83. A VFU PAIR tied to clean uncreased envelope to ASHBURTON by light numeral cancels and NEWTON ABBOT CDS for OCT 1 1864. £30
40. SG 43 1d plate 156. A very choice, perfectly centred MINT UNMOUNTED BLOCK OF NINE. Without any blemish. £375
41. SG 43 1d plate 162 and SG 94 4d plate 14. Together on piece with crisp GAINSBOROUGH steel CDSs. £70
42. SG 43 1d plate 179. A vertical CORNER BLOCK OF 4 showing plate number in circle. Pristine UNMOUNTED and clearly showing BROKEN PERF PIN on each adhesive. Pretty fresh. £250
43. SG 43 1d plate 220. A very choice side of sheet marginal MINT UNMOUNTED BLOCK OF SIX. Showing inscriptional detail and full marginal ornament which marks the centre of the sheet. £375
44. PLATE 225. SG 43 1d. A lightly used example with a partial upright numeral cancel. Both plate numbers are perfectly clear. A fine example. £385
45. SG 45 2d plate 7. A featherlight MALTA CDS. Superb. £65
46. SG 47 2d plate 14. Very well centred. A lightly placed steel CDS. £40
47. SG 52 1 1/2d plate 1. With parts of two steel CDSs. Very fine indeed. £80

## The Stamp Collector 1901. 'Not lost but disappeared'

The contention that nothing is ever lost is upheld by the postal authorities. Excluding stolen letters, they declare that the agency for the collection and distribution of letters is so perfect that to lose a letter altogether is an impossibility. In support of this they cited some years ago the following curious case: A gentleman of London betrothed to a young lady living in Sheffield had, in conformity with an arrangement previously arrived at, secured lodging at Great Yarmouth for his lady love and her parents. He was at the station when the train he expected them to travel by arrived, but they were not there. He spent the whole of the day at the station and wired twice as to whether they had left Sheffield or not. Receiving no reply he started next for Sheffield, only to find on reaching the house that they had gone to Blackpool. After he had cooled down he went to Blackpool, where he received a hearty welcome from the lady's family, who were greatly astonished on learning that he had never received the letter in which they announced their change of plans, with the inclosure from the lady begging her lover to leave Great Yarmouth without a moments delay. Years elapsed before this missing letter - which might have led to the separation of two loving hearts - turned up. As the post office put it; "Although the letter temporarily disappeared, it was not lost". Fifteen years after her marriage the letter was delivered. It had somehow got into a niche in a mail cart and remained there till the vehicle, having got past service, was condemned to be broken up.



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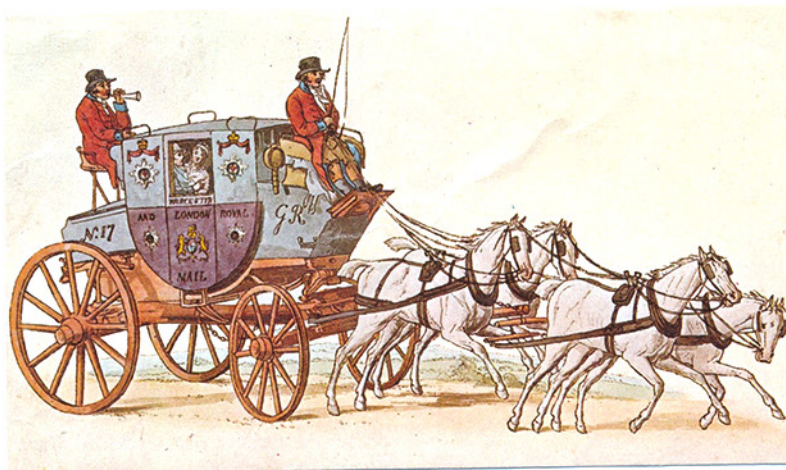
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48. SG 66 4d Rose-Carmine. With a crisp and complete DUNDEE steel CDS and part numeral cancel. **£50**
49. SG 69 6d Deep lilac. SUPERB MINT. A wonderfully fresh example of this scarce shade with full original gum and faintest hinge trace. Rare to find. **£725**
50. SG 72 1/- Green on envelope to New York. Perfectly centred on very lightly used with a 888 numeral and Winchester CDS alongside. Top left 'per ARABIA' Liverpool date mark for April 8. '5 CENTS' in red. A London CDS in red for April 8 1859 on reverse flap. The adhesive is unusually fine. **£185**
51. SG 94 4d plate 9. With a pristine upright MALTA steel CDS. **£80**
52. SG 95 4d plate 11. USED IN ALEXANDRIA. A lovely full BO1 cancel with a vivid red LONDON 'PAID' CDS. **£45**
53. SG 103 3d plate 7. With a wonderfully struck KINCARDINE thimble CDS. **£60**
54. SG 102 3d Deep Rose plate 8. A very fine NEWRY steel CDS for 20 June 1872. **£45**
55. SG 102 3d Deep Rose plate 8 with a wonderful 1352 telegraphic circle of London Victoria. **£60**
56. SG 113 10d Pale Red-Brown SUPERB MINT. Flawlessly centred MM with full original gum. Very choice and a perfect shade. A Sorani certificate accompanies. **£2200**
57. SG 117 1/- plate 6. Very choice with a superbly placed BOLTON steel CDS. **£55**
58. SG 123 6d Pale buff plate 11. With a pristine SPILSBY steel CDS. **£125**
59. SG 128 10/- GREENISH-GREY. An exceptionally placed LONDON S.W steel CDS. The colour is outstanding. A lovely example. **£1100**
60. USED IN ST MALO. SG 141 2 1/2d plate 6. A lovely crisp and upright CDS. **£70**
61. SG 141 2 1/2d plate 8. Very well centred. A NEWCASTLE quayside steel CDS. **£55**
62. SG 143 3d ROSE PLATE 19. A FULL PANE OF 20. Showing descriptive text within top and bottom margins. Lettered FE-JH. Adhesive IG with fault at top. Reverse shows several hinge remains and creasing affecting top margin and 4 adhesives. A TRULY FABULOUS MULTIPLE OF EXQUISITE APPEARANCE. The colour and freshness are wonderful. Ex Dr Douglas Latta collection (lot 405). A SHOW PIECE. **£4850**
63. SG 144 3d Pale Rose plate 20. With a crisp CURREN open town steel CDS. **£90**

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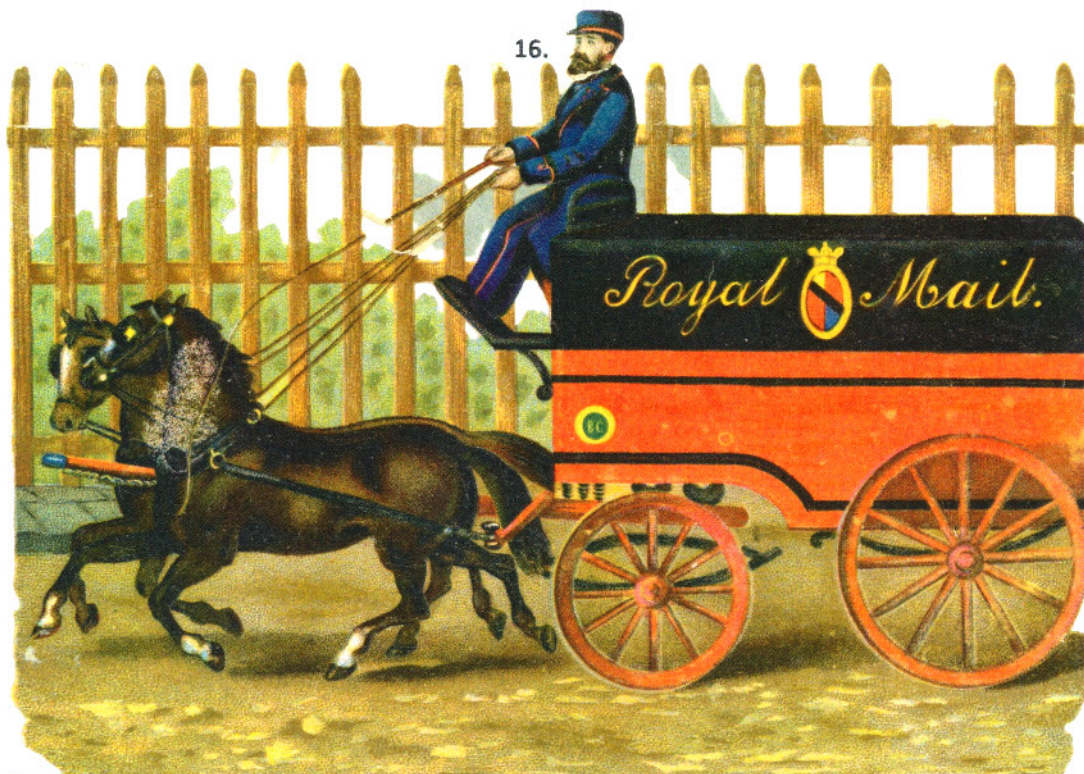
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64. SG 153 4d Sage-Green plate 15. With wonderful depth of colour and a crisp corner CDS. Lovely quality. £240
65. SG 160 4d plate 17. VFU indeed. A pristine WOODCHESTER steel CDS at £65
66. SG 163 1/- plate 13. With a crisp ABERDEEN steel CDS. A lovely strike. £75
67. SG 167 1 1/2d with a crisp BURNLEY steel CDS. **£35**
68. SG 175 2/6d LILAC. BLUED PAPER. A SUPERB IMPRIMATUR. Lettered CH with large-huge margins and single hinge remain. Very fine indeed and a Brandon certificate accompanies. **£1650**
69. SG 175 2/6d LILAC blued paper. Very well centred and VFU a crisp GUILDFORD steel CDS for AUG 11 1884. The delicate blue tinge to the paper is clear to see. A faint crease but very finely cancelled and A RARE ADHESIVE. **£625**
70. SG 178 2/6d with a wonderful ST. NOETS steel CDS. Clear and complete. Very fine. **£110**
71. SG 180 5/- Rose. A crisp CAHIR CDS for July 25 1885. Cahir is in County Tipperary. **£80**
72. SG 181 5/- CRIMSON. Extra deep colour. A wonderful, upright LIVERPOOL EXCHANGE CDS. Quite a strike. **£130**
73. SG 183 10/- Ultramarine. A lightly placed and complete REGENT STREET steel CDS. Wonderful quality. **£375**
74. SG 183 10/- Ultramarine. With a lovely crisp and complete WEST STRAND steel CDS. A superb example. **£375**
75. SG 191 3d Lilac. A fabulous LIVERPOOL CDS. A gem of a stamp. **£175**
76. SG 193 5d Dull Green. A lovely fresh single with a corner steel CDS. **£110**
77. SG 194 6d. Superb colour. Perfect centring. A light GUERNSEY steel CDS. **£140**
78. SG 214 1/- with a crisp WORCESTER steel CDS. Vibrant colours. **£55**
79. FIRST DAY OF ISSUE. SG 215 1/2d a pair and SG 219 1d. Tied to piece by GRIMSBY CDSs for JAN 1<sup>st</sup> 1902. These were applied at 7.45am so are some of the FIRST DAY CANCELS. Lovely piece. **£165**
80. LA ROCHE LAPALICE French CDSs on SG 216 1/2d A PAIR. Most unusual cancels on British adhesives. Very fine strikes. **£75**
81. SG 232 M19(1). 3d Dull Purple/Orange-Yellow. A crisp and complete steel CDS. **£25**
82. SG 251a. 9d. With a crisp MAIDSTONE steel CDS. Perfectly struck. **£25**
83. SG 257 1/- Dull Green and Carmine. A fine block of 4 with light steel CDSs. **£65**
84. SG 260 2/6d. With a crisp complete UCKFIELD steel CDS. **£80**
85. SG 262 2/6d. Dull Purple. With a crisp BERNERS ST steel CDS. **£90**
86. SG 279a. 1/2d Deep Dull Green (very blotchy print) M4 (3). A really outstanding example of this difficult shade. A superb WELLINGTON SOMERSET steel CD's crisp and upright. With certificate. **£285**
87. 1/2d DEEP BRIGHT GREEN. M3 (7). A particularly deep shade with a superb PORT ERIN steel CDS. Exceptional for this. **£120**





88. SG 295 6d. A lovely light steel CDS. Exceptional colour. **£55**
89. SG 311. M44 (6). 10d Dull Reddish Purple and Carmine. With a fine CHATHAM CDS. **£50**
90. SG 318 5/-. A light, crisp KILBURN steel CDS. A lovely fresh example. **£110**
91. SG 409 5/- Bright Carmine with a featherlight steel CDS. The colour is strong and vivid. **£240**
92. SG 412 10/- BLUE. A superb example. Crist FLEET STREET steel CDSs. Lovely quality. **£425**
93. SG 417 10/-. Perfectly centred. A featherlight CDS. Crisp and complete. **£75**
94. SG 451 5/-. Half a crisp YORKSHIRE CDS. **£65**
95. SG 012 £1 IR OFFICIAL. SUPERB MINT AND OVPTD SPECIMEN. Wonderfully rich colour and freshness. Hinge remains. A sparkling adhesive (as normal CAT £85,000). ONE OF THE GREAT OFFICIAL RARITIES. **£5500**
96. SG 043. 1d ARMY OFFICIAL. A COMPLETE SHEET OF 240 ADHESIVES. Comprising two panes of 120 with interpane row between. With just 2 hinge remains within margin. All 240 stamps are mint unmounted. The gum shows a very light degree of toning in no way detracting, some minor creasing affecting a very small number of stamps. A few tone spots but in amazing condition for a piece of this size. Showing the 'U' control at lower right (CAT £300). The variety 'OFFICIALS For OFFICIAL (CAT £240 and several other varieties listed by SG and marked in pencil in the margin. PROBABLY UNIQUE IN PRIVATE HANDS. An incredible survivor. **£1850**
97. SG 044 2 1/2d ARMY OFFICIAL. A post office fresh MINT UNMOUNTED BLOCK OF 4. **£160**
98. SG 045. 6d ARMY OFFICIAL. A pristine untouched MINT UNMOUNTED CORNER OF SHEET BLOCK OF 4. **£375**
99. SG 038 2d OW OFFICIAL. With a super upright strike on a PARLIAMENT STREET CDS. Very choice and a BPA certificate accompanies. **£325**
100. SG 025 5/- IR OFFICIAL. SUPERB MINT AND OVPTD SPECIMEN. With lightest hinge trace. A GREAT OFFICIAL RARITY. (As normal cat £38,000). With certificate. A fabulous adhesive. **£3750**