

# THE GB JOURNAL

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THE SOCIETY DOES NOT NECESSARILY AGREE WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS

## *KGV — The 'PENCF' Error*

*Allan Jones FRICS*

### *The Flaw*

Probably the best known and most frequently seen of all the KGV varieties is the 'PENCF' flaw on the 1½d value printed under the 1912 Harrison contract. It occurs on stamp R15/12 where, in a few printings, the word 'HALFPENCE' has the final letter as an 'F' instead of an 'E' (*Figs 1 and 2*). The error was corrected, and stamps with the correction can be found (*Fig. 3*).

Hitherto, two plates containing the error and subsequent correction have been identified, namely Philatelic Plates 12 and 29. Because the stamp with the error came from the extreme right-hand side of the sheet, an example with the right margin containing the marginal rule attached can be allocated to one or other of these two



Fig. 1 — Plate 12



Fig. 2 — Plate 29



Fig. 3 — corrected

plates by the characteristics and shape of the marginal rule. With Plate 12, the rule is clean and bulges somewhat at the top (*Fig. 1*), whereas with Plate 29, the rule is thicker and irregular down its right side which also sometimes possesses wisps of colour (*Fig. 2*). Commonly, the Plate 12 rule is known as the 'thin rule', and the Plate 29 one the 'thick rule'. Very many (ten times or so) more examples are to be found from Plate 29 than exist from Plate 12.

### *More than Two Plates?*

Over a long period of time, many authoritative writers have claimed that the 'PENCF' flaw must have existed on more than two plates. In *The Postage Stamps of Great Britain*, Part four, published in 1957, Beaumont and Stanton identified Plate 29, but stated that the variety '*must have occurred also on at least two other plates*'. Brigadier Viner (see *The GB Journal* of May 1958 and May 1959) felt that two further plates, in addition to 12 and 29 had existed, whilst in the 1970s Roy Richmond considered that there had been six plates in total based on minor variations to the marginal rule then thought to be attributed only to Plate 29.

In his article in the GBJ of September 1981, Leslie Wilkinson admirably summarised the then state of knowledge on the subject, and I reproduce relevant extracts from this as follows:

*Flaw recorded on Controls L 18, M 19, O 19 and Q 21.*

*Correction recorded on L 18, O 19, Q 21 and T 22.*

*Probably exists on four plates, two of which are definitely identified as Plates 12 and 29.*

**PLATE 12**    *L 18 with flaw*  
                   *O 19 with flaw and repair*  
                   *Q 21 with repair*  
                   *T 22 with repair*

**PLATE 29**    *Q 21 with flaw and repair. This plate was not put to press until 1921 and cannot therefore be confused with any of the earlier 'PENCF' plates.*

*(Missing) PLATE 'A'. L 18 with flaw and repair. This cannot be Plate 12 as that still had the flaw on O 19. The obvious candidate would be Plate 16a as this was first put to press with this control but Brig. Viner has shown me a right hand marginal block from Plate 16b under Control M 19 which shows no sign of the flaw or repair.*

*(Missing) PLATE 'B'. M 19 with flaw. Cannot be Plate 12 as this was not put to press with this control and cannot be Plate 'A' as that had the repair on L 18. The obvious candidate is Plate 28 which was only put to press under this control and no other known plate appears to fit the bill. So far I have only seen a control block of six from Plate 28.*

Leslie has, however, told me that in writing his 1981 article he had simply drawn together the information contained in earlier papers by others, and had not researched official records at that time.

Later, in *Irish Philately* of March 1990 (p. 19), L. N. Williams, too, is quoted by the editor as suggesting that four plates show the flaw.

### *A Recent Development*

In February of this year, the Society received a letter from Mr W. P. (Bill) Fletcher, which was passed to me. Bill is a collector of GB overprinted for use in Ireland. He knew that some writers thought that more than two plates existed with the 'PENCF' error. He had overprinted examples from both Plates 12 and 29, but also had a further one comprising a vertical pair (*Fig. 4*) where the marginal rule was quite different from either. Was this one of the 'missing' plates? Leslie and I met Bill at Spring Stampex 2001 and he showed us the item. Neither of us could see any evidence that the stamp was not genuine or that it had been tampered with. However, as neither of us had ever seen the error with anything other than a Plate 12 or 29 marginal rule, we both felt that an inking flaw could have been responsible. Moreover, the overprinting of stamps for use in Ireland took place in 1922 whereas the 'missing' plates 'A' and 'B' were, as mentioned above, at press in 1918 and 1919. As I had recently taken early retirement, and have a particular interest in the 1½d value, I resolved to research the matter from original sources in an effort to end speculation and to ascertain the true story. The following is what I found:



Fig. 4

*Examples Known*

My own collection includes:

- Plate 12** (a) The lower seven rows of a sheet with Plate 12b marginal markings and control O 19, showing the error on R15/12.  
 (b) Two marginal blocks, showing the corrected error. (Without control.)
- Plate 29** (a) A complete sheet with control Q 21, showing the error on R15/12.  
 (b) The lower six rows of a sheet with control Q 21, showing the error on R15/12.  
 (c) A right-hand corner marginal block with Plate 29 markings in the marginal rule at R20/12, showing the corrected error.

I have a number of other small blocks or singles, and from all of these and other examples I have seen, the error (as opposed to the correction) is on Plate 12 normally found in a red-brown shade, whilst on Plate 29 it exists predominantly in chestnut, but in several other shades also. This suggests, on the face of it, that Plate 29 was used in a number of different printing periods, whereas the use of Plate 12 was more restricted.

I also have a note that one lot in a David Feldman Geneva auction in the early 1970s was of a Plate 12 corrected error in a T 22 control piece overprinted for use in Ireland. I have never seen either directly, or by way of a photograph, any pieces containing either the error, or the error corrected with any other controls apart from those mentioned above. However, it should be emphasised that stamp R15/12 is on the opposite



Fig. 5 — Control block showing the markings for Plate 12: two cuts 20th left, 5·5, 7 mm.

side of the sheet to the control, and I do have control blocks showing Plate 12 markings with controls L 18, O 19, Q 21 and T 22 (*Fig. 5*). It seems quite reasonable, though, that part sheets large enough to take in stamp R15/12 would not survive. Similarly, as the Plate 29 markings are remote from the control (on the 20th right side), large blocks or strips would be required to identify that plate with controls other than the known one of Q 21.

### *Contemporary Publications*

My first external source of reference was to reports in philatelic publications produced at the time that the error appeared, e.g. 1918–22. *The British Philatelist* of December 1919 stated: 'Our publishers have shown us the current 1½d. red-brown, with an error of lettering "PENCF" for "PENCE". It is the end stamp of the 15th row, and was first noticed on sheets with control "M 19". It also exists with "O 19".' In the June 1920 issue, the publication states that it had now seen the variety on L 18, and a further example on the same control 'showing the "F" patched up into a not very satisfactory "E".' The editor claimed to be satisfied that the two impressions were from the same plate, but gave no further details.

*The Stamps of Great Britain (1911–21)*, 3rd edition, by Stanley Phillips (December 1921), reads: 'The most important plate variety is the error "PENCF" (controls L 18, M 19 and O 19), which occurs on the last stamp in the fifteenth row. With the first of these controls, sheets have been seen in which the "F" has been roughly patched into a rough "E".' This last statement and the similar one in *The British Philatelist* is significant, and I will return to it later. Brigadier Viner refers to Mr Phillips' book and in his 1958 article describes this rough 'E' as a 'repair', 'confirmed by the late Mr. Charles Nissen.'

*The Postage Stamps of Great Britain 1840–1922* by Oliver and Vallency (1923) says 'Another variety is a flawed plate, in which the last letter 'E' of 'PENCE' appears as 'F' — thus 'PENCF'. This is to be found on the twelfth stamp in the third row of the lower pane. [This is a mistake, they must have meant the fifth row] So far this error has only been noted on some sheets with control L 18. It was again issued in 1919, with controls M 19, O 19 and Q 21. This has now been corrected. It can still be found, however, as the bottom stroke of the 'E' is rather long.'

There were no photographs or mention of plate markings in any of the above contemporaneous references.

### *The Working Plates*

In 1974, Mr R. W. Richmond began to write a series of articles on the letterpress printed stamps of KGV in the GBJ. In the May 1974 issue, he reproduced a list from official

records of all the working plates for the 1½d value. Forty-two plates were 'grown' from 10/9/1912 to 21/2/1919, following which there was an interval of 13 months before the next one. I need mention here only Plate 14/585 'grown' on 26/11/1917, and Plate 15/586, 'grown' on the 27/11/1917. The latter was passed to Harrison on 4/6/1918, and put to press on 17/7/1918. It was returned to the Mint on 12/10/1922. Plate 14/585's career is similar.

*The British Library*

My next enquiry was of the British Library, where I made two visits. On the first, I was accompanied by Bill Fletcher and Alan Moorcroft, and on the second by Leslie Wilkinson. These proved most fruitful, and, I think, enabled the full story to be seen. Of the first 42 1½d plates, proof sheets in black of all but eight were present, and were examined. It was immediately possible to identify Plate 14/585 as being Philatelic Plate 29, and Plate 15/586 as being Philatelic Plate 12. The first proof sheet of 14/585 (Plate 29) turned out to be the most important. It is dated 4/3/1918, this being, presumably, the date the proof was taken at the Mint but there is no control. The lower bar of the 'E' in



Fig. 6

By permission of the British Library. List 5, Vol. 23, p. 46.

'PENCE' on stamp R15/12 is distorted and contains a black area in the centre of this bar (Fig. 6). There is nothing on the proof to indicate that the distorted 'E' had been noticed. Four further proofs of Plate 14/585 were seen, following it being returned for repair. The first has Control M 18, the second Control M 19 and the third N 19. All show the normal 'PENCF' flaw, and identified required repairs to stamps other than R15/12. When the fourth proof of 14/585 was examined, (Control Q 21), it was seen that, at long last, the error had been spotted and was marked in red on R15/12 for correction. The notation on

the proof states that the error was found on 3/3/21 and was repaired by Mr T. Storey on 18/3/21. Finally, there is only one proof sheet showing the corrected error in the Library. This is without a control and has the notation '*Rough Proof No 1*' on it. It is dated 22/3/21 and identified yet more repairs to other stamps.

Only one proof sheet of 15/586 (Plate 12) was seen. This is dated 22/3/18, i.e. 18 days after the first Plate 14/585 proof. The stamp at R15/12 shows the lower bar of the 'E' to be distorted and having black areas (*Fig. 7*), similar to the first proof of 14/585. The proof has pinned to it the following note:



Fig. 7

By permission of the British Library. List 5, Vol. 23, p. 48.

*THE DIRECTOR OF STAMPING,  
INLAND REVENUE  
SOMERSET HOUSE  
LONDON, W.C.2.*

*Memo*

*Attention was called to the error in the 1st stamp from right in fifth row of lower pane, the letter appearing as F instead of as E in the word 'halfpence'. The plate No. 15/586 was withdrawn from factory and sent for repair after 192,000 sheets had been printed under Control Mark M 18 and 61,000 under O 19.*

[Signature – J. Musto ?]

31/12/19

All the remaining 1½d proof sheets in the Library were inspected, but none showed any evidence of either the flaw or a correction on the twelfth stamps in any of the rows.

### *Findings*

From the examination of these proof sheets, I think it is now possible to tell the full story and to identify where earlier researchers went astray, for it is clear that there were only ever two plates which contained the error

Firstly, earlier writers were mistaken in their belief that Philatelic Plate 29 was not put to press until 1921, when it is clear that it was passed to the printers in 1918. Whilst the proofs in the British Library cannot be a guarantee that the plate was then put into service, the presence of several with controls is a pointer that it was. Moreover, why was it returned for repair (to stamps other than R15/12) in 1918 and 1919 if it were not in use? Further, being at press prior to the hitherto one known control period of Q 21 (when demand for 1½d stamps was lower due to the increase in postal rates) would provide some explanation as to why so many more examples from Plate 29 are known compared with those from Plate 12.

Secondly, Stanley Phillips and Charles Nissen erred in their belief that L 18 examples which had been 'roughly patched' into an 'E' resulted from a 'repair'. It is now clear to me that the very first few 1918 printings from both Plates 14/585 and 15/586 displayed this 'rough E' at the outset, which quickly developed into the error proper. All subsequent ones until the error was noticed and corrected in 1921 and 1920 respectively displayed the normal error. It was, after all, the very first proof sheet of 14/585 dated 4/3/18 together with the first of 15/586 dated 22/3/18 that showed the distorted 'E', with the later ones showing the familiar error.

Further, Leslie Wilkinson drew my attention to the fact that all the Plate 14/585 proofs displaying the error (but not the correction) have a constant characteristic showing on stamp R20/2. This consists of a small indentation on the inside of the outer frame line on the right opposite the fraction bar of '½' (*Fig. 8*). Ten examples of the issued stamps with Control L 18 have now been found, which proves beyond doubt that the plate was at press in 1918.



Fig. 8

Given the above findings, the rationale behind the alleged existence of a 'Plate A' and a 'Plate B' disappears, and Leslie Wilkinson's 1981 summary of earlier research can be rewritten as follows:

*Flaw recorded as seen on Controls L 18, M 19, O 19 and Q 21.*

*Correction recorded as seen on Controls O 19(?), Q 21 and T 22.*

**PLATE 12** *L 18 with flaw (early printings with distorted 'E').  
M 18 with flaw is referred to in the British Library, but is not recorded as seen.  
O 19 with flaw and repair (it is unclear as to whether or not the repair has been recorded as seen with O 19).  
Q 21 with repair.  
T 22 with repair.*

**PLATE 29** *L 18 with flaw (early printings with distorted 'E')  
M18 and N 19 with flaw (in British Library, but not recorded as seen otherwise).  
M 19 with flaw.  
Q 21 with flaw and repair.*

So there were only ever two plates with the error, but what of Bill Fletcher's piece? Again, the examination of the British Library proofs was helpful. From Fig. 4 it will be seen that the marginal rule next to the stamp below the error has a slight right-side indentation near its mid-point. About 35% of the proof sheets had a similar indentation adjoining the 12th stamp in the 2nd row, and this seemed to relate to a screw hole for fixing the plate. Thus, Bill's 'error' is, almost certainly, from stamp R1/12, rather than R15/12. As no evidence of a flaw or correction was seen in this position on any of the proofs, my own and Leslie's view that Bill's piece is due to an inking flaw is reinforced.

### *Conclusion*

I hope this detailed article now puts the debate to rest. As a final thought, I find it worthy of note that the two plates containing the error, 14/585 and 15/586, were next to each other in the manufacturing sequence and probably have a common derivation of the error from a fault on the master plate. Surprisingly though, the errors were detected and corrected separately, some 15 months or so apart. ☒

## Threatening Letters

Mike Jackson FRPSL

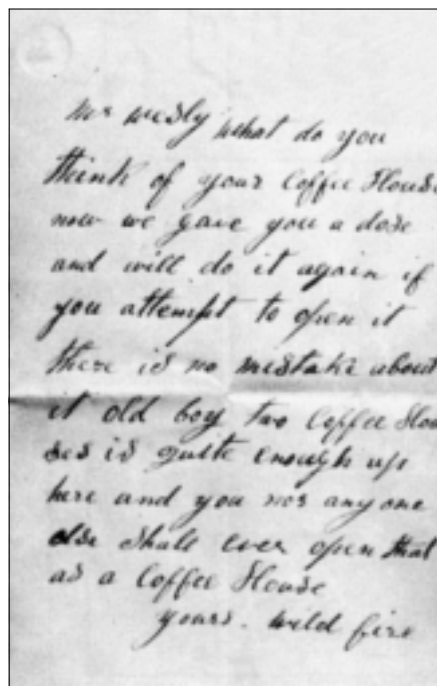
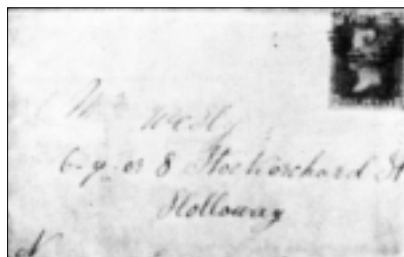
### *Early Printed Reproductions of Postmarks*

For some time I have been collecting issues of *The London Gazette* which contain Post Office notices, or as in this example, something of interest to postal historians. The illustration opposite is of page 2 of a three-page issue dated 'Saturday July 30, to Tuesday August 2, 1768' and numbered 10855. The article of interest begins with the third paragraph and concerns three threatening letters sent to the Duchess of Northumberland. I do not know what the outcome of this episode was.

### *Victorian Threatening Letter*

Coming more up to date (well, 1862 to be precise), in the 1970s I found a Victorian threatening letter in a box of covers, and subsequently illustrated it in *The Philatelic Review*, Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 8 (January 1978). A few years later John Forbes-Nixon persuaded me to sell it and he told me recently (at the York meeting) that he still has it. The letter was sent on 8 March 1862 and speaks for itself, in no uncertain terms:

Mr Wesly  
What do you  
think of your Coffee House  
now we gave you a dose  
and will do it again if  
you attempt to open it  
there is no mistake about  
it old boy two Coffee Hou  
ses is quite enough up  
here and you nor anyone  
else shall ever open that  
as a Coffee House  
yours wild fire



St. James's, July 28, 1768.

Whereas it has been humbly represented to the King, That the Workshop of William Payne, Carpenter, of Bell Yard near Temple Bar, London, was, on Saturday the 25th of June last, about Eleven o'Clock at Night, set on Fire, by some Persons unknown; but that the same, having been soon afterwards discovered by a Neighbour, was extinguished without doing much Damage; and that, on Saturday last the 27th Instant, an Attempt was again made to set the said Workshop on Fire: His Majesty, for the better discovering and bringing to Justice the Persons concerned in these wicked Crimes, or either of them, is hereby pleased to promise His most gracious Pardon, and also a Reward of FIFTY Pounds, to any one of them, (except the Person who actually set Fire to the said Workshop) who shall discover, or Accomplish or Discover to others, so that he, she, or they, may be apprehended and convicted thereof; the said Reward of FIFTY Pounds to be paid by the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury, on the Conviction of any one or more of the Offenders.

WEYMOUTH.

And, as a further Encouragement, the said William Payne does hereby promise a Reward of Twenty Guineas to any Person or Persons making such Discovery as aforesaid, (except as above excepted;) to be paid by him upon the Conviction of any one of the said Offenders. Wm. Payne.

Whitehall, July 30, 1768.

Whereas it has been humbly represented to the King, That her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland received, on Friday the 11th of March last, at her Grace's House at Charing-Cross, in a Cover, directed as hereunder, and which had the Marks of the General Post Offices both of Dublin and London upon it, a threatening Letter, containing the Words, Letters, and Figures following, viz.

Post-Mark. " To Her Grace the Duchs. of Northumber " land " Northumberland House " London



IN MS

" Dublin March 1<sup>st</sup>. 1768

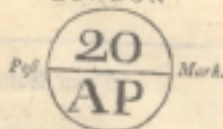
" May it please Your Grace " If you do not leave me Hundred Guineas in a Bank Note at the Bar of the Bedford Coffee House directed for M<sup>r</sup>. P. D. you may expect to hear of it in a dreadful Manner I hope my Poverty will excuse this. Though I dare this from Dublin, Yet will I be ever along with it and give you warning not to tifle with me for " I shall find means to come very near y<sup>e</sup>. Person " And shall know whether you deal Candidly with me or not. Please to leave the Above as directed on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April next, otherwise abide " the Consequences " Yours P. D."

And whereas it has also been represented to the King, that her said Grace the Duchess of Northumberland has, since the Time of receiving the aforesaid threatening Letter, received two other threatening Let-

ters, each having the said respective Marks of the several Post Offices of Dublin and London upon it, and containing respectively the Words, Letters, and Figures following, viz.

" To her Grace the Duchess of Northumberland " Northumberland House

" London LONDON



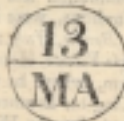
" You had better leave the Note at the Ear of the " Bedford, P. D. in London, he will receive " the Money. Your Advertisment in the Publick " Paper will do You but little good, farewell " Commend me to his Majesty, A Dagger May " find the way to Your bowels, and you may re- " pent when its too late your not sending the Cash " for the Use of Your sincere friend"



" Dublin Calle April 21<sup>st</sup>. 1768"

" To

" Her Grace the " Duchess of Northumberland " At Northumberland house



" I am a going over and Will be over in " a few days and tak Care of your " Person if you don't leave what I have told " You before and so tak Care if You " do not have a Not to haveing No more " Madam I Am your Most Obedient " humb P. D.

His Majesty, for the better discovering and bringing to Justice the Person or Persons principally concerned in the Writing and Sending any one or all of the aforesaid three threatening Letters to the said Duchess of Northumberland, as above-mentioned, is hereby pleased to promise His most gracious Pardon to any one, (except the Person principally concerned in actually carrying, writing, or causing to be wrote, any of the aforesaid Letters) who shall discover his or her Accomplice or Discover to any of the said Facts, so that he, she, or they, may be apprehended and convicted thereof.

WEYMOUTH.

And, as a further Encouragement, the Duke of Northumberland does hereby promise a Reward of FIVE HUNDRED Pounds to the first Person making such Discovery as aforesaid, (except as above excepted;) to be paid upon the Conviction of any one or more of the Offenders.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

July 20, 1768.

## The 'Cawardine' Collection

SPINK 20 SEPTEMBER 2001

This collection of Great Britain Queen Victoria issues, sold by Spink in London on 20 September 2001, was formed over several decades and included many items from well-known 'named' collections. What struck me was the overall quality; the owner obviously had an eye for attractive items, and the realisations indicate that high-quality material is as much in demand as ever.

MJ



Lot 1036 — 1d Mulready envelope  
A140 uprated with a marginal Penny Black  
Plate 1a, ex. 'Durham' (1994).

Estimate £4,000–5,000, realised £10,925



Lot 1074 — Block of six Penny  
Black Plate 1a used on 9 May  
1840. This cover was in the  
'Victoria' sale (1975) and  
illustrated in Litchfield's *Guide  
Lines to the Penny Black* (1949)  
— see *May Dates*, p. 113.

Estimate £15,000–20,000,  
realised £25,300



Lot 1042 — 2d Mulready lettersheet a105 uprated with a pair of  
Penny Reds, ex. Grunin (1998).

Estimate £4,000–5,000, realised £8,050

THE 'CAWARDINE' COLLECTION



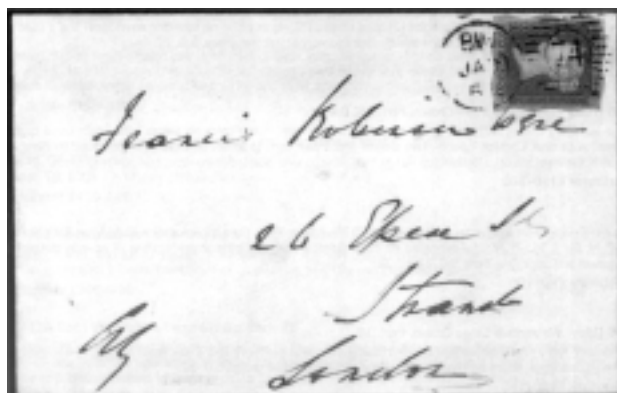
Lot 1270 — Block of ten of the Penny Black Plate 3, ex. 'Victoria' (1975).

Estimate £15,000–18,000, realised £26,450



Lot 1630 — 2d violet-blue, unused.

Estimate  
£2,000–2,500,  
realised £5,520



Lot 1633 — 1854 Treasury Roulette on cover.

Estimate £2,500–3,000, realised £7,475



Lot 1707 — 1½d rosy-mauve block of six.

Estimate £6,000–8,000, realised £6,325



Lot 1905 — £1 brown-lilac watermark Anchor on blued paper, SG 132.

Estimate £1,500–1,800, realised £6,900



Lot 1906 — £5 orange watermark Anchor on blued paper, SG 133.

Estimate £2,000–2,500, realised £6,670

## *Focus on GB*

### Re-use of Line-Engraved plates — correction

I would like to make two corrections to my article ‘Re-use of Line-Engraved Plate?’ (Vol. 38, No. 1, pp. 18–19).

1. One penny stars were printed from a total of 292 plates (not 290), comprising 280 plates from which stamps were issued, the ‘VR’ plate and 11 unissued reserve plates. I overlooked R15 and R16 in my total.
2. Plate 157 was not one of the unhardened plates — I thank Ken Statham for this particular piece of information.

MIKE BATTY

### Early Use of Penny Black Plate 1b

In response to the article ‘Early Use of Penny Black Plate 1b’ in the last issue (Vol. 39, pp. 90–91) I can offer two other examples of early use. The first, from my own collection, is a large piece dated by a London Chief Office evening duty c.d.s. for 11 June 1840 (*Fig. 1*); and the second, from the Robson Lowe ‘Minimus’ sale in Zurich on 5 June 1980, is another large piece dated again by an evening duty c.d.s. for 6 June 1840 (*Fig. 2*).

Whilst both these support the view that the plate was in use before 12 June 1840, neither is

conclusive because the use of turned envelopes and redirected mail mean that the datestamp may bear no relation to the adhesive on a piece: only an entire gives a full picture. It is possible that the 8 June date recorded by some authors is similarly inconclusive.

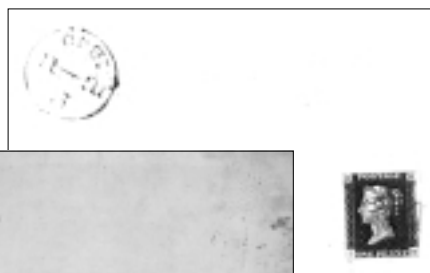


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

HOWARD HUGHES

### 1883 Ninepence Green on Cover

Regarding Theo Brauer's article in the last issue (Vol. 39, No. 5, pp. 87–89) the reason why the 9d green is so rare on cover is that it was issued for the **Parcels Post**. This started on 1 August 1883 and the 9d stamp was issued by itself on that day to pay for parcels weighing between 3 and 5 lb. It was not intended for letters but could be used for that purpose, and a very few were. No doubt some were also used fiscally.

I should point out that the ½d stamp accompanying the 9d on the cover to the United States (next to bottom of the 'Recorded Examples') is the green ½d not the slate-blue. The letter was posted on 25 January 1884 before the slate-blue ½d appeared, together with the 'Lilac & Greens' on 1 April.

I very much agree with the last Paragraph of Theo's article which I hope will have helped to highlight the rarity of the 9d green on cover, and may lead to some other examples being revealed.

GILBERT WHEAT FRPSL

In response to Theo Brauer's article '1883 Ninepence Green on Cover' I know of one other cover to add to the list of recorded examples: A cover to Canada franked by 9d plus 1d lilac paying for the 10d (4x basic rate) was sold by Western Auctions at Reading on 3 December 1977 for £90 (Lot 540). The cover was rather soiled and stained but this is a **very, very rare** stamp on cover in its original colour. No photograph or greater detail regarding cancellation etc. was given.

Also of importance is the fact that the 9d was issued on the same date as the introduction of the Inland Parcels Post service (1 August 1883) to pay for the 5 lb Inland Parcel rate. The small size of the Parcels Post label demanded one stamp, so the 9d was issued.

According to Rikki Hyde's *Numbers Issued*, the 3d and 6d (of the same series) saw one-third used on telegrams and for revenue purposes, and the 1s saw four-fifths so used. No mention is made of the fiscal and telegraphic use of the 9d, the main demand for revenue purposes being 1d, 3d, 6d, 1s and 2s 6d stamps. However the 9d would have had some fiscal and telegraphic use. Remember that only 27,000 sheets were issued of the 9d compared with 225,000 sheets of the 1s.

I had the cover to Melbourne, Victoria (illustrated in Theo's article) in my collection at one time, it was very ugly and costly. The whole issue was rather unfortunate regarding its colour and the large amount of unprinted white in the design but made way to the highly successful 'Jubilee' series.

AUSTIN DAVIS

## More on College Covers

*Daniel C. Warren MD*

As one of the few (?) American collectors of the issues of Oxford and Cambridge, I found Vincent West's recent article<sup>1</sup> on the College stamp covers presently in the Royal Philatelic Collection extremely interesting. A. J. A. Deal's listing of entires<sup>2</sup>, while often extremely helpful in tracing the provenance and authenticity of such covers, at times has a rather brief description, and Revd Cummings<sup>3</sup> and Raymond Lister<sup>4</sup>, while mentioning the stamps used on cover, emphasize the adhesives and stationery. Actual illustrations of the covers themselves are scarce to non-existent. It seemed appropriate, therefore, to include some of the material presently in my own collection in a journal of record, in the hope that it would stimulate further publication and enhance the information which we have about these fascinating issues.

The first (*Fig. 1*) bears a Keble College adhesive of the seventh issue, with a manuscript notation '15 Nov 82'. It is presumably cover No. 5 in Deal's listing, then in the possession of L. J. Wressell; the addressee is not identified, but a number of other Keble covers in the listing are addressed to the same recipients: (Messrs.) F. & H. Bacon (Accountants). There is a red gothic 'Keble College, Oxford' imprint on the envelope flap.

Merton College is represented by Figure 2. It is different from Deal's Nos 3 and 4, but is clearly part of the same correspondence, and like No. 3, bears the initials of the sender E. L. (Edward Lamb, according to Deal) in the southwest corner. The cover is undated and without contents.

Figure 3 shows an Exeter College cover which may be Deal No. 14, or one of those listed as having been in a Robson Lowe sale. The initials in the corner of the cover appear to be 'G. H. T.' and it bears a colourless embossed 'Exeter College Oxford' imprint on the reverse.

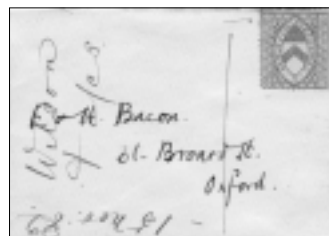


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

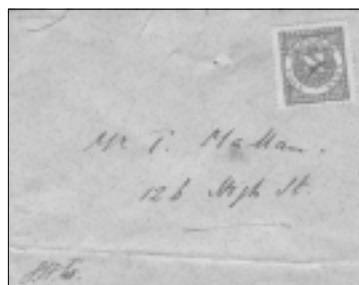


Fig. 3

### References


1. West, Vincent. 'The College Stamp Covers in the Royal Collection', *The GB Journal*, Vol. 39, No. 2, , pp. 36–40, March/April 2001.
2. Deal, A. J. A. 'Oxford and Cambridge College Stamps: A Descriptive Record of Entires Bearing the Adhesive Stamps', *London Philatelist*, Vol. 66, pp. 50–53 & 67–72, 1957.
3. Cummings, Revd Hayman. *The College Stamps of Oxford and Cambridge*. Oxford: Slatter & Rose, 1904.
4. Lister, Raymond. *College Stamps of Oxford and Cambridge*. Yorkshire: Harry Hayes, 1974.

## Watts Underprints

*John Phillips*

Further to previous articles in the GBJ (Vol. 39, No. 4, p. 75; No. 5, pp. 82–83), Stanley Gibbons list these in Appendix 5 of the *Specialised Catalogue* (Vol. 2, 11th edn). In addition, I have the following examples:

Year	Value	Issue	SG No.	Size of u/p	Colour	Reading	Postmark
1904	1d	KEVIII	SG Spec. PP238	18 mm	Blue	Up	Parcel
"	3d	"	SG Spec. PP239	"	Blue and Green	"	"
"	6d	"	SG 298	14 mm	Black	Down	Mint
1911	1d	Die 1b Crown	SG 329	"	"	"	Parcel
1912	½d	Royal Cypher	SG 351	"	"	"	Wavy line
"	4d	"	SG 379	"	"	Up	"
1924	½d	Block Cypher	SG 418	"	"	Down	"
"	"	"	"	"	Red-brown	"	Mint
"	1d	"	SG 419	"	Black	"	Wavy line
"	1½d	"	SG 420	"	"	"	"
"	9d	"	SG 427	"	"	"	Parcel
"	1s	"	SG 429	"	"	"	"
1929	½d	UPU	SG 434	"	"	"	Wavy line
1937	1½d	Coronation	SG 461	"	Scarlet (twice)	Up	"
1952	2½d	Tudor Crown	SG 519	12 mm	Black	Horizontal	"

Can Members in Manchester help? Is the firm of S. & J. Watts still trading? And if not, when did it stop? 

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