

PENNY RED STARS USED ABROAD



MIKE BATTY
11TH EDITION, 2024

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**BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES
ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL
CRIMEAN WAR MAIL
MAILBOATS
MOVEABLE BOX**

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INTRODUCTION

The catalogue listings in Gibbons or Stoneham of Penny Red Stars used abroad were incomplete, referring to one penny red, red-brown or rose-red by year, without complete identification, and with no reference to the printing plates. The Stoneham Editors were to be commended for the inclusion within their 2006 catalogue of a 'Used Abroad' section, compiled by Paul Dauwalder, although the section was removed from recent editions for lack of space. Such an addition would also be welcomed within the Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue. This illustrated record of the groups and printing plates of Penny Red Stars used abroad attempts to fill some of this information deficit, to which further new information will be continually added, as and when it emerges. "Used" includes items cancelled on arrival in or from Great Britain.

Penny Red Stars were used abroad from 1842 to 1864 and later, after which they were superseded by the plate number series of stamps, with letters in all four corners and plate numbers in the side framework of the individual stamps. The groups of Penny Red Stars are those listed in Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Volume 1, Queen Victoria*, (Ref. 1). For assistance, these are described in Appendix 3. The data below, noted up to September 2008, were drawn from many sources and references, including: *The Essential Guide to the Line Engraved 1d and 2d Stars*, by Dr Ken Statham (Ref. 2), Stanley Gibbons *Catalogue of Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1952*, (Ref. 3), *GB Used Abroad: Cancellations and Postal Markings*, by John Parmenter, (Ref. 4), auction catalogues, philatelic journals, dealers' pricelists, other collectors and the author's collection. For reasons of security, no reference is made which may identify those individuals who have furnished scans from their collections or inventory, unless such acknowledgement was requested.

The amount of information has greatly increased since commencing the project. Following a request from Tim Burgess, I wrote an extended article for an American journal: *The GBCC Chronicle* during 2007-2008; this later emerged as an A5 book of some 26 pages. By mid-2009 this required an increase to page size A4, together with some modification to the size of font and illustrations. Further revisions in 2010 included a separate section for mail from the Crimean War, with a major resetting of text and illustrations during January 2011. In 2011 an additional section was added: Concession Mail for British Soldiers and Sailors, (excluding the Crimean War) and summary articles appeared in the *GB Journal* of July/August 2011 and March/April 2012. Catalogue references for the groups of Penny Red Stars are based upon Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue, Volume 1 Part 1 Queen Victoria*. (Ref. 31).

From late-2012 until mid-2015, a reappraisal of all known examples of SG Spec. B1 and B2 imperforate stamps with 'M' or 'A25' cancellations of Malta led to their total exclusion from these tables and lists, as no genuine examples had been seen to date, (including items with old RPSL certificates). Therefore all other reported but unexamined stamps were transferred to the lists of forgeries, until proven otherwise. Listings for Fernando Po, Nigeria and Tangier were considered doubtful and were amended accordingly. Previously 'B62' was listed in error under Cunard mailboats, instead of Hong Kong.

The January 2024 totals for imperforate and perforate Penny Red Stars used abroad were 70 for countries, war zones and mailboat lines, with 208 cancellation locations. From these were recorded 293 cancellations and/or backstamps, resulting in 445 combinations of SG Specialised groups, in turn giving a current overall total of 1385 for each printing plate from each group, with each obliterator, from all sending locations and countries. Any items classified under more than one category were only counted once. The totals exclude fakes and forgeries.

I continue to welcome any additions to my records, including colour scans either to improve on existing images or to replace black and white images, sent via email to: mikebatty1947@yahoo.co.uk and apologise for any remaining omissions or errors. The 11th Edition is the final publication of *Penny Red Stars Used Abroad* in its present form and future updates or additions will be appear in the GB Journal.

January 2024

Mike Batty
Bishop's Waltham, Hampshire, UK

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EXAMPLES OF OBLITERATORS, CANCELLERS AND DATESTAMPS



Horizontal barred oval obliterations



Circular datestamps



Duplex cancellers



Wavy-line grid

Concentric obliterations

Vertical oval obliterations

Crowned circle



London Inland obliterations, cancelled after UK arrival



Telaraña or *araña negra*



Rueda



Parilla



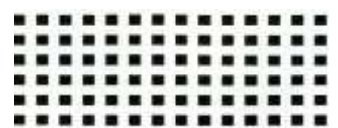
Cogwheel or millwheel



Diamond obliterations



Dotted rollers



Foreign datestamps



The above illustrations, together with those throughout the text, are purely representative.

BRITISH POST OFFICES ABROAD

Penny Red Stars were officially distributed abroad to various agencies mainly in the Americas, Mediterranean, North Africa and the Ottoman Empire, usually through British Consulate appointments, the Military campaign to Russia and mail carried on British Packet or Mailboat lines. On various occasions, soldiers and sailors would have concessionary rates for posting their mail; many would have brought postage stamps with them. The origins of the network of Post Offices, Postal Agencies and Packet Agents can be recognised from the 18th century, but the system did not become established until the expansion of trade, following the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815. Many offices were provided in newly acquired dependent territories within the Commonwealth and the British Empire and were then, eventually, transferred from the control of the British Post Office to the evolving local administrations. Those in foreign countries, nearly always based on the existing British Consular appointments, were mostly connected to the network of British Packet lines which had been re-established in 1814. These overseas British Post Offices tended to survive until the country, in which they were situated, established its own efficient postal service or joined the UPU. The term 'Post Office Agent' was employed by the British GPO and 'Packet Agent' by the shipping lines to describe similar functions. During the pre-adhesive period and from 1842, letters and packets forwarded through these offices to the United Kingdom, to any of its territories, to a foreign country, or between two foreign ports, had a crowned-circle handstamp applied, with the postage, paid in advance, noted alongside in manuscript.

BRITISH POSTAGE STAMPS USED ABROAD

Distribution of Great Britain postage stamps for use abroad was accompanied with identifiable obliterators. The design of the first obliterators of these countries followed that of the horizontal barred oval obliterators of England and Wales. Dates quoted for these were those on which the handstamp appeared in the GPO Proof Record Books but it seemed to have been normal for the handstamps to be sent to the Post Office concerned immediately following this registration. The large initials 'G', 'M' and 'C' substituted for numerals in the early obliterators of Gibraltar, Malta and Constantinople. Two other distinctive obliterators, a crown between stars and a star between cyphers, were used on mail from the Crimean War; others were also used during this conflict. Soldiers and sailors also used their own supplies of postage stamps when sending mail back home from their overseas camps, barracks, naval bases and ships. In addition to the recognised postal services, private ships carried some mail between England and France: late mail and mail posted aboard in the 'Movable Box' was cancelled on arrival at the destination port, where British stamps were cancelled by French obliterators. Penny Red Stars have also been noted with other French cancellations and with French mailboat cancellations. During 1857, Penny Red Stars and obliterators were distributed to British Post Offices in Constantinople, Gibraltar, Malta, the Caribbean and Central America and in 1858-1859 to Egypt. Some of the early colonial obliterators were superseded by duplex versions linked to a circular datestamp.

Sadly, forgeries of many obliterators are known. Additionally, many faked items exist, either by alteration of existing cancellations or by the addition to or the replacement of stamps on genuine covers. In 1952 Robson Lowe commented: "*Forgeries of all the used abroad cancellations are known*", (Ref. 34). In line with the comments in the Introduction, the previous listings for Fernando Po, Mauritius, Nigeria and Tangier have been amended. Between 1 March and 2 April 1864 in Great Britain, the last of the Penny Red Star printing plates were withdrawn and replaced by the 'plate number' series, with check-letters in all four corners of the design. Consequently, Penny Red Stars disappeared from the system of distribution by the Post Office, as the supplies of them were exhausted during and after 1864.

Note

Data in the column headed 'SGZ' of the tables refer to the catalogue numbers listed in the *Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1970*, (Ref. 3), for GB stamps used in the Post Offices and Agencies situated in foreign countries. 'SG Spec.' is the abbreviation for *Stanley Gibbons Specialised*, referring to the recognised stamp groups in the *Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue Queen Victoria Volume 1 Part 1*, (Ref. 31). These are summarised in Appendix 3, together with some additional sub-groups. 'U' represents 'unplated'. The listings are restricted to those places where Penny Red Stars were recorded and not the full range of overseas British Post Offices.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Aden

The first post office was opened in the Crater district in 1839 but from 1854 was part of the Bombay Postal Circle. This was later renamed on two occasions, firstly to Aden Cantonment and later to Aden Camp. Aden Steamer Point sub-post office was opened in January 1858. Only Indian stamps were on sale: Great Britain stamps were probably carried by travellers or servicemen.

Aden	Crater (later, Aden Cantonment)			C10	27				




Aden: Crater '124', SG Spec. C10 Plate 27

Aden	Steamer Point Sub-Office				Not recorded but seen on 1857 2d blue SG Spec. F7 Plate 6				
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Antigua

In 1850, St John's was made a branch office of the British GPO, with a second office at English Harbour opening in 1857. Great Britain stamps were used from May 1858 until the end of April 1860.

Antigua	St John's		Z1	C10	34	36	44	46	47
					48	52	56	57	59
					60				
				C10	forged 'A02'		59		

Used 1858 to 1860




Antigua: St John's 'A02', SG Spec. C10 Plate 56 with 'watery' appearance to the cancellation ink



Antigua: St John's forged 'A02', SG Spec. C10 Plate 59

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Antigua	English Harbour	 Used 1858 to 1860	Z6a	C10	U					
					Listed in Stanley Gibbons catalogue but not seen by this author.					

Argentina

Great Britain stamps were in use at the British Post Office in Buenos Ayres from 1860 until June 1873.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	36	41	42	43	48
Argentina	Buenos Ayres	 Used 1860 to end-June 1873	Z1	C10	57	59	60	61	66
					faked 'B32'		66		



Argentina: Buenos Ayres 'B32', SG Spec. C10 Plate 59, backstamped 'BUENOS AYRES OC 27 65'



'332' of Todmorton on SG Spec. C10 Plate 66


Australia

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	42				
Australia	Bungendore, New South Wales			C10					




Australia: Bungadore '37' on SG Spec. C8 Plate 42

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Australia	Sydney, New South Wales			C8	23			

Australia: Sydney 'NSW' obliterator. Seen on SG Spec. C8 Plate 23 but no image supplied.

During the early period of the half-length stamps of Victoria, it was reported Great Britain stamps were also accepted for use. The vertical oval obliterators were introduced in August 1851.


Australia	Melbourne, Victoria			B1	125			
				B2	143			
		Used 1852 to 1856						



Australia: Melbourne '1' / V on SG Spec. B1 Plate 125



Australia: Melbourne '1' / V on SG Spec. B2 Plate 143

Australia	Geelong, Victoria			B1	39			
		Used 1852 to 1856						



Australia: Geelong '2' / V on SG Spec. B1 Plate 39

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
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Austria


Austria	Vienna			C8	42				



Austria: Vienna 'VON WIEN RETOUR' (returned mail) 28mm c.d.s. 29 May on SG Spec. C8 Plate 42. From the Robson Lowe auction catalogue of the G R A Spence collection in Basle on 3 November 1981.

Bahamas

The British Post Office at Nassau was opened before 1733. Great Britain stamps were used during 1858 and up to the end of April 1860. Dated covers recorded 1858-1860.

Bahamas	Nassau	 Used 1858 to 1860	Z1	C10	41	43	48	52	55
					56	57			
				C10	forged 'A05'		57		
				C10	faked 'A05'		U		



Bahamas Nassau 'A05' C10 Plate 52, backstamped 'BAHAMAS DE14 1858'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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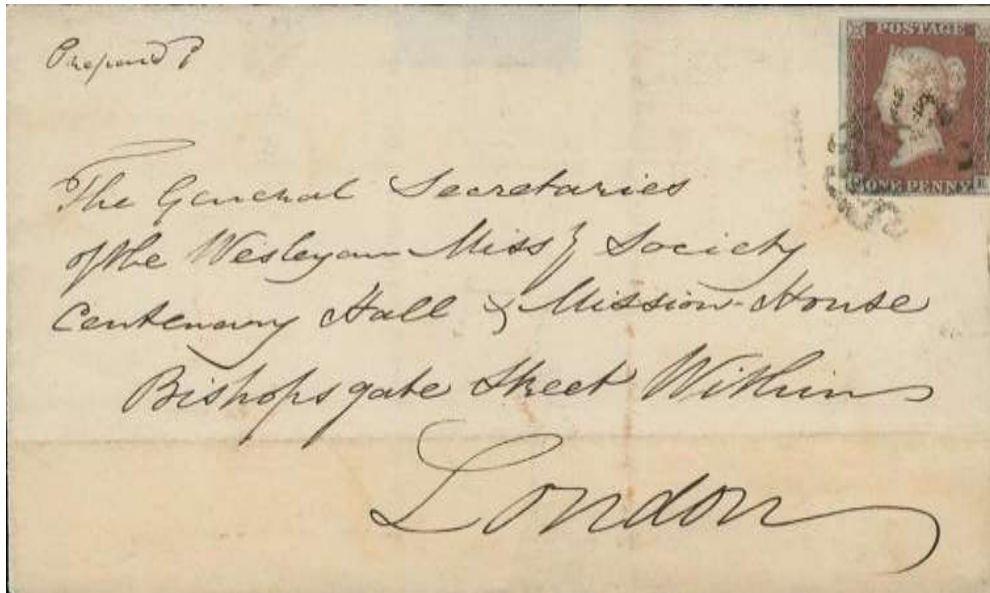
Bahamas: Nassau, forged 'A05', SG Spec. C10 Plate 57



Bahamas: Nassau, forged/faked 'A05', SG Spec. C10 Plate 68, 'A' over '4' of Ipswich '405'

Barbados

Barbados	Bridgetown	Cancelled after UK arrival		B1	30				
					Not counted				



Barbados: Prepaid, missionary mail endorsed *Prepaid 1d* sent by missionary William Fidler with the manuscript endorsement Barbados 12 May 1843 and carried privately to England. Sent from Wolverhampton, where the SG Spec. B1 Plate 30 was franked by a black Maltese Cross, with double-arc c.d.s. 'WOLVERHAMPTON JY 3 1843' and London red receiving c.d.s. 'O 3 JY 3 1843' on the reverse. Although recorded as the earliest known letter from Barbados bearing a postage stamp, there is no confirmation where the stamp was added to the envelope.

Belgium

Belgium	—			B2	U				

Recorded in the literature but not seen by this author

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Bermuda

Stamps of Great Britain were not used by the Bermuda Post Office. Letters bearing such stamps were either packet letters carried by a crew member to the UK where they were stamped and cancelled or were letters handed directly to the ship's master already bearing British stamps to the correct packet rate.

Bermuda	Hamilton	Packet letter, stamps cancelled after UK arrival		B1	45			
				C1	198	U		
				C4	4			



Bermuda, Hamilton packet letter from the Mission at St George's: 1849 entire with an SG Spec. B1 Plate 45 cancelled by a Southampton '723' barred oval obliterator. Carried privately during the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, 1842-50 Second Contract, Route 5, the Mexican Packet of 2 November 1847 to 1 August 1850. This 1849 'bootleg' entire to London was cancelled on arrival at Southampton, having been carried by a crew member, thus avoiding the full charge of 6d.



Bermuda: Hamilton, Naval Officer's 6d rate ship letter, written June 1 1856 and mailed 2 June per *Merlin* to Halifax, Nova Scotia. *America* from Boston collected Halifax mail on 3 July, continuing to Liverpool. 'SHIP LETTER' handstamp on back. SG Spec. C1 Plate 198 stamps cancelled '41' at Chief Office, London July 12, reached Canterbury on the same day and delivered on 13 July 1856.

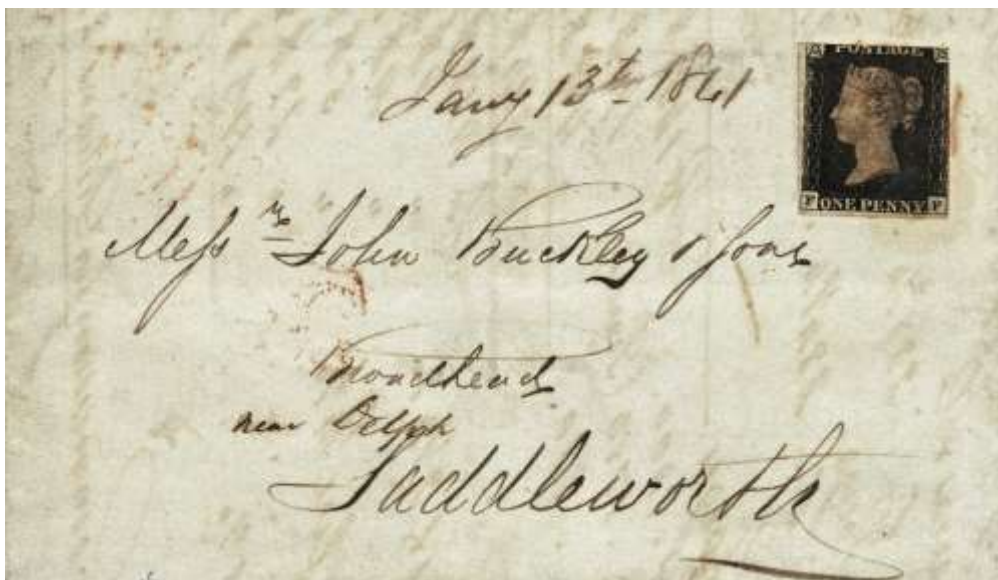
A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Brazil

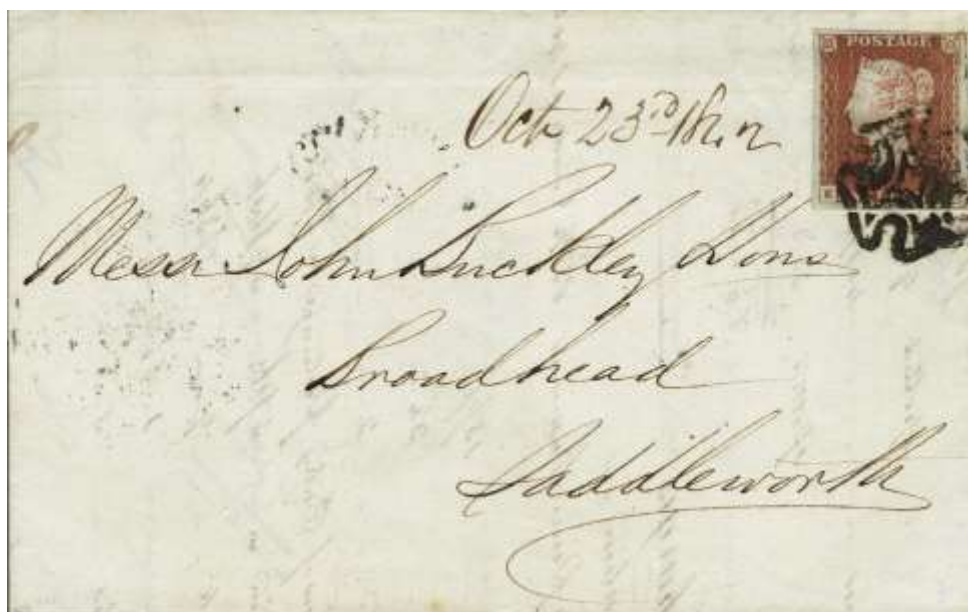
The British Postal Agency at Rio de Janeiro opened in 1808 and that at Pernambuco opened in 1851. Great Britain stamps were not supplied and used until 1866.

Brazil	Bahia	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival	A1	6				
					Not counted			



A stamped letter written 31 October 1840 from Bahia, Brazil and carried by hand as a Consignee's letter on a British ship. On arrival the SG Spec. A1 Plate 6 was cancelled by a red Maltese Cross obliterator and backstamped 'LIVERPOOL JA 11 1841' in red. The backstamp was over-struck by the accountancy mark '5' (cents) credit marking in red. Included here as part of the history of Penny Stars used abroad.

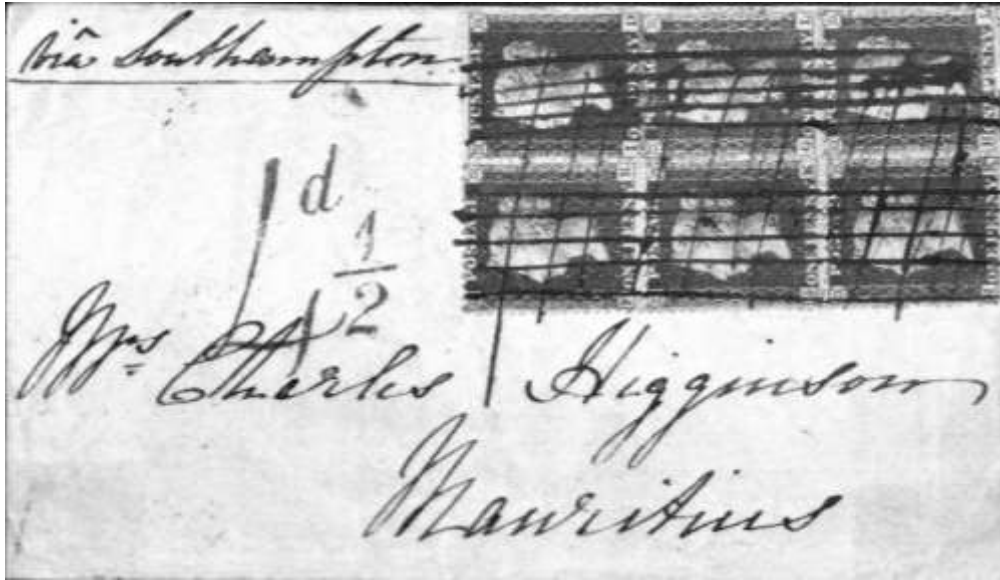
Brazil	Pernambuco	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival	B1	25				
					Not counted			



A stamped letter written 16 August 1842 from Pernambuco, Brazil was carried by hand as a Consignee's letter on a British ship. Stamped and mailed on arrival in Liverpool. SG Spec. B1 Plate 25 tied by a black Maltese Cross obliterator, with backstamp 'LIVERPOOL OC22 1842'. No credit marks: unable to confirm the stamp was applied in Brazil.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Brazil	Rio de Janeiro	Manuscript cancellation		C10	42	44		



Brazil: Rio de Janeiro cover with a manuscript cancellation on six SG Spec. C10 stamps. The upper left stamp ID was Plate 42 and the other five stamps were Plate 44. The May 1862 letter passed through Southampton and London en route for Mauritius, where the 4½d accountancy mark was applied.

Brazil	Rio de Janeiro	 <p>Used 1866-1874</p>	Z1	C10	27				




Brazil: Rio de Janeiro 'C83', SG Spec. C10 Plate 27, circa-1870 cover with manuscript '11d' postage due and handstamped 'R DE J INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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British Guiana

Great Britain stamps were used for overseas mail from 11 May 1858 until the end of April 1860.

British Guiana	Berbice (New Amsterdam)	 <p>Used 1858 to 1860</p>	Z5	C10	56	60	U		
					4 dated covers noted. Five items in the Glasco auction catalogue were not				



British Guiana: Berbice (New Amsterdam) 'A04', SG Spec. C10 Plate 56, struck with watery-ink; dated backstamp 'BERBICE 25 58'.

British Guiana	Demerara (Georgetown)	 <p>Used 1858 to 1860</p>		C1	U				
			Z1	C10	34	36	42	43	47
					49	52	55	56	57
					58	59	60	62	



British Guiana: Demerara (Georgetown) 'A03', SG Spec. C1 unplated. (Ref. 5).

(ex-Richard Arundel list 13, February 1991, lot 791)

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES


Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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British Guiana: Demerara (Georgetown) 'A03', SG Spec. C10 Plate 43, backstamped 'DEMERARA FE 7 60'

British Honduras

The Post Office in Belize used Great Britain stamps for overseas mail from May 1858 until the end of April 1860. A single dated cover was reported, dated 17 March 1860.

British Honduras	Belize	 Used 1858 to 1860	Z1	C10	56	U			
					1 dated cover seen				




British Honduras: Belize 'A06', SG Spec. C10 Plate 56

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
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Canada

Canada	Montreal, Quebec			C4	12				
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Canada: Montreal, concentric-ring obliterator, SG Spec. C4 Plate 12, double-arc datestamp 'MONTREAL AP 4 1856'; a Canadian internal letter from Montreal to Cobourg, Ontario. Despite the Canadian Government taking over the Posts in 1851, it appeared that the Post was still casual about the use of Great Britain adhesives.

Canada	Montreal, Quebec	Cancelled after UK arrival		C6	5	6			
				C8	30	31	32		

32 32 30 31 5
32



Canada: Montreal, cancelled on arrival with a London barred numeral '42' obliterator, SG Spec. C6 Plates 5 and 6, and SG Spec. C8 Plates 30, 31 and 32. Double-arc datestamp 'MONTREAL NO 3 1856' and a London backstamp of 17 November 1856. The packet rate was 8d but one stamp was detached from the cover.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Canada	St George, New Brunswick	Manuscript cancellation		B1	57			



Canada: St George, New Brunswick. A folded letter bearing a imperf. 1d red SG B1 Plate 57, sent on 12 May 1846. Despatch backstamp 'ST GEORGE N B MY 12 1846', a transit mark 'ST JOHN-NEW BRUNSWICK MY 13 1846' and a London c.d.s. 'MAY 13 1846' on back. After British arrival, treated as unpaid, stamp struck out by a pen stroke and letter charged 1s 2d as postage due for payment upon delivery. Possibly the first stamped letter from Canada.

Chile

The British Postal Agency opened in 1865 and was supplied with Great Britain stamps in 1865.

Chile	Coquimbo	 Used from 1865	Z27	C10	U			

Chile: Coquimbo, 'C40'. Listed in *Stanley Gibbons* catalogue but not seen by author.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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China: Hong Kong

The Post Office was established in October 1841, placed under the control of the British GPO in 1843 but reverted to local control in 1860. 'B62' was entered in the Proof Book and a single obliterator despatched from London to Hong Kong but Great Britain stamps were not supplied. One obliterator was insufficient for the postal clerks and more copies were hand-made locally. Webb identified, described and illustrated 31 types. Due to a Government order only Hong Kong stamps could be used and the 'SG' catalogue no longer lists GB stamps with the 'B62' obliterator.

China	Hong Kong	 Used from 1862		C10	forged 'B62'	39	
					Not counted		



China: Hong Kong, forged 'B62', SG Spec. C10 Plate 39.

Colombia


The British postal agency at Carthagena opened in 1825. The 'C56' obliterator and Great Britain stamps were supplied in 1865.

Colombia	Carthagena	 Used 1865 to 1872		C10	62			



Colombia: Carthagena, 'C56', SG Spec. C10 Plate 62. Letter dated 31 Jan 1869 and sent during February 1869. The total amount of 8d does not reconcile with the postal rates: 5d for ¼oz and 10d for ½oz. Le Havre backstamp for 3 March 1869. The 1d stamps were not from the local office.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates		
Colombia	Colon	 Forged obliterator		B1	forged 'E88'	81	
					Not counted		



Colombia: Colon, forged 'E88', SG Spec. B1 Plate 81, Sold on Ebay in 2015 as GB used abroad in Colombia. The stamp was cancelled by a forged obliterator and passed off as a GB 1d red star used abroad. E88 was not allocated to Colon until after 1874.


Cyprus

Cyprus	Larnaca	Cancelled after UK arrival		B1	25				
					Not counted				



Cyprus: Larnaca May 29th 1842 to London. Letter from a member of the British Consulate staff at Larnaca. Disinfected through two chisel slits and carried in the diplomatic bag. Redirected to Chichester, SG Spec. B1 Plate 25 added and cancelled by a Maltese Cross obliterator. Although described in the Cyprus Handbook (page 18) as the earliest stamped cover from Cyprus, the stamp was added after arrival in UK, when redirected.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Cyprus	Nicosia			C10	57			



Cyprus: Nicosia c.d.s. on SG Spec. C10 Plate 57, 'NIKOSIA CYPRUS A JA 11 81'

Cyprus	Nicosia	 Forged obliterator		B1	forged '969'	75	Not counted	
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Cyprus: Nicosia, forged '969', SG Spec. B1 Plate 75. Sold on Ebay in 2015 as GB used abroad in Cyprus. A used stamp was cancelled by a forged obliterator and passed off as a GB 1d red star used abroad. '969' was not allocated to Nicosia until 1878.

Danish West Indies

The British Packet Agency opened at St Thomas in 1825. Great Britain stamps and the 'C51' obliterator were supplied in 1865 and recorded in use from 3 July 1865.

Danish West Indies	St Thomas	 Used 1865 to 1872	Z2	C10	U			
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Danish West Indies: St Thomas 'C51'. Listed in *Stanley Gibbons* catalogue but not seen by author.

Denmark

Denmark	Copenhagen				Not recorded on Penny Red Stars			
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One example recorded on SG G1 Plate 162

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Denmark	Helsingor			C2	R,1					



Denmark: Helsingor '24', SG Spec. C2 Plate R,1 with inverted watermark


Denmark	Horsholm			C10	62					
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Denmark: Horsholm '25', SG Spec. C10 Plate 62, (a small town 20 miles north of Copenhagen).

Dominica

A branch of the British Post Office opened at Roseau on 5 May 1858, using Great Britain stamps and the 'A07' obliterator until 1 May 1860. Subsequently a crowned circle handstamp was used until the introduction of Dominican postage stamps.

Dominica	Roseau	 Used 1858 to 1860	Z1	C10	36	44	46	47	48
					49	56			
					2 dated covers noted				



Dominica: Roseau 'A07', SG Spec. C10 Plate 47, backstamped with 'DOMINICA JU12 1859' double-arc c.d.s.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
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Ecuador

A British Postal Agency opened at Guayaquil in 1809. The 'C41' obliterator and Great Britain stamps were supplied in 1865.

Ecuador	Guayadil	 Used 1865 to 1880	Z2	C10	36	U			



Ecuador: Guayadil 'C41', SG Spec. C10 unplated

Ecuador	Guayadil	 Forged obliterator	Z2	C10	forged 'C41'	58			
					Not counted				





Ecuador: Guayadil forged 'C41', SG Spec. C10 Plate 58. This forged obliterator is almost 25% larger.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
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Egypt

The British Postal Agency at Alexandria became the British Post Office in March 1858, accompanied with the delivery of the 'B01' obliterator, datestamps and Great Britain postage stamps. Cairo became a Post Office in March 1859 but datestamped mail was forwarded to Alexandria for cancellation of the stamps. Later a 'B01' obliterator was sent to Cairo in August 1859. The Packet Agency at Suez received postage stamps and the 'B02' obliterator in August/September 1859 and was replaced with a Post Office in 1861. Five Alexandria covers are recorded from November 1860 to May 1862, four Cairo covers from March 1861 to May 1862 and four Suez covers from May 1860 to April 1864.

Egypt	Alexandria	 Used 1860 to 1874		Z2	C10	34	36	46	48	55
						60	U			
						Three other unplated C10 covers seen.				




Egypt: Alexandria 'B01', SG Spec. C10 Plate 46, dated backstamp 'ALEXANDRIA 5 NO 61'

Egypt	Cairo	 Used 1860 to 1874		Z2	C10	38	48	60	63	U
						Four other unplated C10 covers seen.				



Egypt: Cairo 'B01', SG Spec. C10 Plate 60, datestamp: 'C CAIRO 26 MR 61'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
					faked B01		109		
Egypt	Alexandria or Cairo	 Used 1860 to 1874		B1			109		
				C8	45				
			Z2	C10	42	44	46	47	48
					49	52	55	60	62
				R,17					
			Z3	C12	50	51			
	C13	R16							

Loose stamps with 'B01' obliterator could be from either location, Alexandria or Cairo.



Egypt: Faked Alexandria or Cairo 'B01', altered from '801', SG Spec. B1 Plate 109



Egypt: Alexandria or Cairo 'B01', SG Spec. C8 Plate 45



Egypt: Alexandria or Cairo B01, SG Spec. C10 Plate 52




Egypt: Alexandria or Cairo 'B01', SG Spec. C12 Plate 51



Egypt: Alexandria or Cairo 'B01', SG Spec. C13 Plate R16

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Egypt	Suez	 Used 1860 to 1878	Z3	C10	27	38	41	43	44
					46	47	48	52	55
			Z3	C10	misdescribed			68	




Egypt: Suez 'B02', SG Spec. C10 Plate 60, datestamp 'A SUEZ AP 10 64'



Offered for sale on a 2013 dealer's list described in error as 'B02' of Suez but was '802', SG Spec. C10 Plate 68

France


Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
France	Aix en Provence	 Used 1852 to 1862		C2	196				



France: Aix en Provence '33' *petits chiffres*, SG Spec. C2 Plate 196. Aix en Provence is a small town north of Marseille and had been the location of a small French military transit camp in 1854 for soldiers going to the Crimea.

The above is the first C2 example recorded with Simpson and Sargent broken pin variety 9, State 2.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
France	Calais	5 		B1	19			



France: Calais, SG Spec. B1 Plate 19, entire from Calais to London, the stamp tied by manuscript '5' (decimes) applied in France, datestamped 'CALAIS 6 MARS 1842'. Not accepted for postage upon arrival in England and charged 1/3 (10d English rate and 5d for the 5 decimes).

France	Calais		C6	8				
			C10	52	2 dated examples noted			

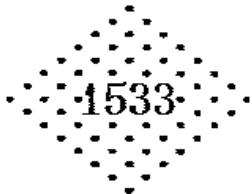


France: Calais entry c.d.s. on SG Spec. C6 Plate 8 'ANGL AMB. CALAIS A 18 AOUT 55', applied to an item of uncanceled British mail found on arrival at Calais.



France: Calais entry c.d.s. on SG Spec. C10 Plate 52 'ANGL AMB. CALAIS 10 GEN. 60', applied to an item of uncanceled British mail found on arrival at Calais.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
France	Hyeres	 Used 1852 to 1863		B2	136				




France: Hyeres '1533' *petits chiffres losange* , SG Spec. B2 Plate 136

France	Le Havre			B1	18				
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France: Le Havre, SG Spec. B1 Plate 18 tied by a circular datestamp 'LE HAVRE 4 AVRIL 1842' and French manuscript '9' (decimes); UK manuscript 1/7 was the correct charge of 10d English rate plus 9d for the French 9 decimes charge; 1842 backstamps of Paris, London & North Shields.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
France	Marseille	 <p>Used 1849 to 1879</p>		C9	45				Use of the Marseille '1896' <i>petit chiffres losange</i> is included under 'Crimean War'.




France: Marseille datestamp '25 AVRIL 57' on SG Spec. C9 Plate 45. Letter posted from Marseille to Ireland but unaccepted for British Post and charged 8d postage due. Back has a sequence of datestamps: Marseille to Paris railway '27 AVRIL 57', Paris to Calais railway '28 AVRIL 57', London transit '29AP29 1857', Irish transit 'AP30 1857' and 'CELBRIDGE AP30 1857' arrival marks.

France	Meaux	 <p>Used 1852 to 1863</p>		C8	27				
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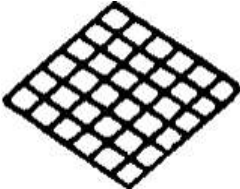
France: Meaux '1947' *petits chiffres losange* , SG Spec. C8 Plate 27

France	Morlaix	 <p>Used in 1860s</p>		C10	48	U			
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France: Morlaix c.d.s., C10 Plate 48, with evidence of broken perforator-pins.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
France	Paris: Central Bureau	 Used 1849 to 1853		B1	113			



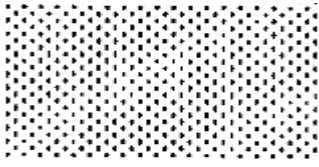
France: Paris Central Bureau, diamond grill on SG Spec. B1 Plate 113 and four 40 centime French stamps, with a 10 July 1851 Paris Central Bureau c.d.s. in red on the front of the letter to Hartlepool. Treated as paid when reaching England.

France	Paris: Central Bureau	 Used 1852 to 1863		C3	4			
				C10	55			



France: Paris Central Bureau 20mm datestamp, 'PARIS 4 NOV. 56', SG Spec. C3 Plate 4

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

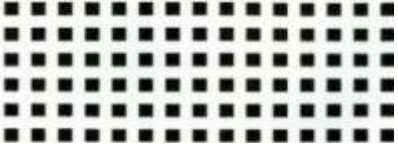
Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
France	Paris: Central Bureau			B1	75				
				C10	37				
		Used 1852 to 1873			Used on registered post or on mail to foreign destinations.				



France: Pin roller in red, Spec. B1 Plate 75



France: SG Spec. C10 Plate 37, Paris Central Bureau datestamp 'PARIS 24 OCT. 57', with 8d postage due in manuscript and London '11', en-route to Ireland. backstamped with Paris-Calais dated railway transit mark, 'PARIS-CALAIS 24 OCT 57', London dated transit mark 'LONDON OC25 57' and Dublin dated arrival mark 'OC 26 1857'.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
France	Paris: Central Bureau			B2	136				
				C10	55				
		Used 1849 to 1875			Used on registered post or on mail to foreign destinations.				



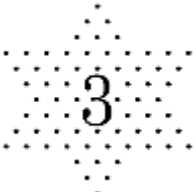
France: Paris, square-pin roller on SG Spec. B2 Plate 157

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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France: A roller-oblierator of large, square pins, rouleau de gros points which was used on registered and foreign-destination mail. Spec. C10 Plate 55, Paris Central Bureau datestamp 'PARIS 11 SEPT. 58', 8d postage due in manuscript and backstamped with dated arrival mark 'LONDON SP13 58'.

France	Paris: Pl. De La Madeleine	 <p>Used from 1863</p>	C10	62				



France: A folded letter with a 6-point, dotted-star obliterator, number 3 on SG Spec. C10 plate 62 with datestamp 'PARIS PL. DE LA MADELAINE 30 OCT. 63', the office where posted. The 6-pointed dotted-star obliterations were used exclusively at the Bureau Central, with numbers added in 1863. No markings on reverse and, although the obliterator was crossed through, the letter was apparently treated as a 'PAID' item on arrival in London next day. Such items would routinely be charged 8d postage due, double the 4d rate between England and France.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
France	Quintin (13 miles inland from Plerin)	 Used 1852 to 1863		C10	U			



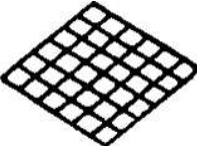
France: Quintin '2616' *petits chiffres lozange* , SG Spec. C10 unprinted

France	St Malo	Stamp cancelled after UK arrival		A1	9			
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A folded letter bearing a Penny Black, plate 9, sent from St Malo on 9 April 1841 and carried via Jersey where the stamp was cancelled by a Maltese Cross in black. The reverse had a transit datestamp 'JERSEY AP12 1841'. Although there was an absence of any French manuscript endorsements, the stamp was most likely attached by the writer at St Malo, since the Jersey Post Office was using 1d reds by this date. (Included here as part of the history of 1d stars used abroad but not part of the counted record.)

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
France	Strasbourg	 Used 1849 to 1852		B1	114			




France: Diamond grill of Strasbourg, SG Spec. B1 Plate 114, datestamp: 'STRASBOURG 16 OCT. 51'

France	Unidentified (not Paris)			B1	66	94	121	
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France: Diamond grill, SG Spec. B1 Plate 66

France	Unidentified	 Used 1852 to 1863		C10	47			
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France: Unidentified *petits chiffres losange* '238-?' on C10 Plate 47. Absence of the fourth numeral of the obliterator prevents identification (pc '2388' would be Pau, not a coastal town).

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
France	Unknown office (not Paris)			C1	193			
				C2	R,5			
				C8	29			
				C10	55			



France: unidentified 20mm datestamp (not Paris), SG Spec. C1 Plate 193

Germany

Germany	Baden	BADEN 1 Sep 46		B1	62			
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Germany: Baden, SG Spec. B1 Plate 62, datestamp 'BADEN 1 Sep 46'; red transit mark 'BADEN 2 Sep 46 STRASBOURG'; boxed 'R.F.B.' handstamp in black (Rayon Frontalier Badois) was the border crossing mark into France; backstamped with UK arrival mark 'NT 6 SP 1846' in red and receiving office mark 'REIGATE SE 7 1846' in black.

Germany	Bavaria Nurnberg to Wurtemberg	K.B. BAHNPOST 12 AUG 1847 NRNB-WRTB		B1	35			
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Germany: Königliche Bayerische Staats-Eisenbahnen (Royal Bavarian State Railways), Nurnberg to Wurtzberg line, SG Spec. B1 Plate 35, datestamp: 'K.B. BAHNPOST 12 AUG--'.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Germany	Berlin: Stettin Railway Station	 <p>Used up to 1862</p>		C10	56				




Germany, Berliner Stadtpost-Expeditionen (Berlin City Post), 'IV' signifying the office at Stettiner Eisenbahnhof (Stettin Railway Station): Boxed cancel 'Berlin. Stadtpost-Exp: IV' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 56, six single stamps on piece. In 1862 the numbers were altered from Roman to Arabic, 'IV' to '4'.

Germany	Cologne (Köln)	 <p>Used 1849 to 1858</p>		C10	42				
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Germany: Cologne (Köln) 24mm circular datestamp, SG Spec. C10 Plate 42, (20 July unknown year).

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Germany	Frankfurt			B1	62			



Germany: Frankfurt, SG Spec. B1 Plate 62, datestamp 'FRANKFURT 5—6 24. AUG. 1846', German rate mark, despatch datestamp '25 8', framed 'P.D.' in red, and French transit mark '27 AOUT 46'. London Paid datestamp 'AU29 1846' and Reigate arrival datestamp 'AU 29 1846' on the reverse.

Germany	Gross-Umstadt (Thurn and Taxis Postal Network)			C8	37			
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Germany, (The House of Thurn and Taxis Postal System): Gross-Umstadt '157' obliterator, SG Spec. C8 Plate 37. Gross-Umstadt is 40 miles southeast of Frankfurt.

Germany	Kissingen, Bavaria	 Used 1850 to 1869		B1	104			
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Germany: Kissingen (Bavaria), 159 'cogwheel' or 'millwheel' obliterator, SG Spec. B1 Plate 104

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Gibraltar


The Packet Agency had premises at Turnbull's Lane and the Overland Post Office operated from the office of the Colonial Secretary in Secretary's Lane. The Gibraltar Post Office was created on 1 January 1857, when the Packet Agency and the Overland Post Office were amalgamated under the control of the Postmaster General of Great Britain and Ireland. In September 1857 this became the first Colonial Post Office to use stamps supplied from Great Britain. The Post-Master Edmund Creswell secured funding from London for building a new Post Office; work on the building commenced at 104 Main Street and it was inaugurated on 3 September 1858 with the arrival of British stamps that same day. (Ref. 8).

Gibraltar	British Packet Agency	<p>GIBRALTAR SHIP LETTER Used at Gibraltar 1843 to 1879</p> <p>SHIP LETTER Used at London from 1760s to 1840s</p>	B1	76				



Gibraltar: SG Spec. B1 Plate 76 cancelled by a 'SHIP LETTER' handstamp in London on 7 December 1848 and manuscript '8' added, an 8d charge made to the addressee to cover the incoming ship letter rate. The local Gibraltar office did not cancel the stamp but applied the 'GIBRALTAR SHIP LETTER' mark and datestamp as the letter came off a ship. Having mislaid their '1' type pieces, the Gibraltar office substituted an inverted '10' for the day, the datestamp reading 'GIBRALTAR DEOI 848'.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

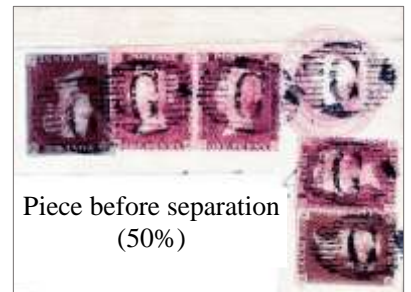
Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates						
Gibraltar	British Post Office	 Used 1857 to February 1869	Z1	B1	12	27	42				
			Z1	B2	148						
			Z1a	C1	172	U					
				C2	U						
			Z3	C3	U						
			Z2	C4	1	2	7				
			Z2	C5	U						
			Z4	C6	U						
				C8	U						
			Z5	C9	34						
			Z5	C10	27	34	37	42	43		
					44	46	47	49	52		
					55	56	57	61	U		
				C11	U						
								9 dated covers noted			



Gibraltar: 'G', SG Spec. C1 Plate 172



Gibraltar: 'G', SG Spec. C4 Plate 7



Piece before separation
(50%)

Gibraltar 'G' on split piece. Left portion with SG Spec. B1 Plate 12 and SG Spec. C10 Plate 42, with arrival mark 'OC 8 1858' on back-flap. Right portion with SG Spec. C10 Plate 42 and SG Spec. B1 Plate 27.


A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Gibraltar: 'G', SG Spec. C9 Plate 34, dated 'GIBRALTAR 14JA 1858'

SG Spec. C11 cancelled by 'G' obliterator confirmed in the collection of Geoffrey Osborn. (Ref. 8)

Gibraltar	British Post Office	 <p>Used February 1859 to December 1885</p>	Z16	B2	U					
				C1	169					
				C4	2	7				
			Z17	C6	U					
				C8	U					
			Z18	C10	27	34	36	38	37	
					39	40	42	43	44	
					46	47	49	52	55	
					56	57	58	59	60	
					63	66	67	68	R,17	
Z18	C12	50	51							
Z18	C13	R,15	R16							
		11 covers noted								



Gibraltar: 'A26', SG Spec. C10 Plate 47, dated 'GIBRALTAR A JY 11 65 (inverted '59)'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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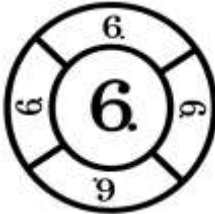
Gibraltar: 'A26', SG Spec. C4 Plate 2. A long stamp but not a missing pin variety. The sheet was perforated by top feed and the left and right edges had half-holes which were elliptical. The lower part of these holes was from the second perforation pass and hence no sign of the primary pass at the top of the stamp.



Gibraltar: 'A26', SG Spec. C12 Plate 51





Gibraltar: 'A26', SG Spec. C13d Plate R,15

Gibraltar	British Post Office and Spanish Post Office, Malaga	 Used February 1859 to December 1885	 Used 1858 to 1873	Z18	C10	36				
						Counted as Malta A26				



Gibraltar, 'A26'. A pair of Great Britain stamps SG Spec. C10 Plate 36 together with a Spanish 4c stamp. The British stamps were cancelled 'A26' at Gibraltar and the Spanish stamp by the '6.' *rueda de carreta* obliterator of the Spanish Post Office at Malaga, also tying one of the 1d stamps.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Gibraltar	British Post Office	  Used February 1859 to December 1885	Z18	C10	40	47	59	61
					2 covers noted			



Gibraltar: 'A26' duplex 'GIBRALTAR A JY20 59', SG Spec. C10 Plate 47

Greece

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Greece	Athens			B1	55			
				B2	U			




Greece: Athens, SG Spec. B1 Plate 55 cancelled by blue datestamp for 18 May 1846 and tied by a red London 'PAID 12JU12 1846' in a broken-circle arrival datestamp. The front of the folded entire also carries a Greek mark 'I.E.A.' (= Maritime Fee Paid), a 'GRECE-MARSEILLE' entry datestamp and a boxed 'PD', all in orange-red ink.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Grenada

After the British Packet Office at St George's transformed into a Post Office, a supply of Great Britain stamps and 'A15' obliterator were received in April 1858. These were used until the end of April 1860, when the colony took over the control of the postal service. The use of the crowned circle handstamp resumed until Grenada stamps were issued in 1861. Four dated covers recorded from November 1858 to February 1859.

Grenada	St George's	 Used 1858 to 1860		C8	32	38				
				Z1	C10	36	44	48	56	58
						60				



Grenada: St George's 'A15', SG Spec. C8 Plate 32



Grenada: St George's 'A15', SG Spec. C10 Plate 56, dated backstamp 'GRENADA 8 FE 1859'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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India

India	Benares	 Used 1858 to 1862		C8	30				
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FRONT


India: Benares barred '52' obliterator, SG Spec. C8 plate 31. Front of the letter showing datestamps: despatch 'PLYMOUTH B AP25 58' and transit marks 'BOMBAY PAID MY27 1858' in red and 'LUCKNOW 10 JUNE 1858' in brown. The final manuscript mark Calcutta was possibly for anticipated further forwarding of the letter.



BACK

India: Benares barred '52' obliterator, SG Spec. C8 plate 31. A private letter sent from Plymouth via Marseilles and Bombay to Lieut. Colonel Radcliffe of the 20th Expeditionary Force in Bengal, forwarded to Lucknow, where it arrived 10 June 1858, a few days before the rebellion ended and then back to Benares. The 1d reds on the back were uncanceled in England but cancelled after arrival in India by the '52' diamond obliterator of Benares Post Office. The back-datestamps struck in transit were 'LONDON AP26 58' in red, 'BOMBAY MY26 1858' in black, 'LUCKNOW 10 JUNE 1858' in brown and three strikes of a Benares datestamp in green. The absence of a Calcutta backstamp suggested the letter may have been finally received by the recipient at Benares.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
India	Bombay			C10	55			



India: Bombay, SG Spec. C10 Plate 55 on an 1865 letter to Madras. Endorsed via Alexandria stamped and the stamps all tied by the sender's double horizontal manuscript lines and also tied when cancelled in transit at Bombay by two strikes of the '1' diagonal-barred, diamond duplex for 28 May 1855; no other postal markings. Possibly posted from a ship in the Mediterranean but escaped cancellation at Alexandria, then handed directly to a vessel at Suez, bound for Bombay. 1s 5d was not a postal rate from GB, Gibraltar or Malta at this date.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Ionian Islands

There was local control of the postal services by the Ionian Islands authorities. Crowned circle handstamps were used on overseas mail until the introduction of their own stamps in 1859.


Ionian Islands	Corfu	Corfu handstamp		A1	4				
					Not counted				



Used 1825 to 1841

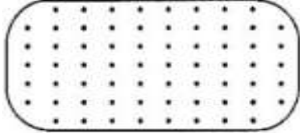
13 October 1840 entire sent from Corfu to Cambridge. On the reverse, used as a seal, SG Spec. AS22 Penny black Plate 4 cancelled at Corfu with disinfection slits cutting through the stamp. Straight line 'IONIA' handstamp applied at Trieste. Included here as part of the history of One Penny Stars used abroad.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Ionian Islands	Corfu	 <p>Used 1829 to 1848</p>		B1	32				
					Not counted				



A letter written on 21 April and posted 23 April 1843 from Corfu via Malta to Romsey. Redirected to London with the addition of an SG Spec. B1 Plate 32, cancelled by the Romsey Maltese Cross.

Ionian Islands	Corfu			C10	57				
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Ionian Islands: Corfu local cancellation SG Spec. C10 Plate 57



Ionian Islands 2d lake and 1d blue with Corfu local cancellation



Although this local handstamp was not recorded in the standard text for this area of collecting: *Postal History of the Ionian Islands 1386 -1864* by D P Zaphiriou, this omission may not be significant, as his work did not include the use of British stamps. Both above items received Holcombe certificates.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Ionian Islands	Corfu via French Post Office Alexandria	 	Z27	C10	49				Counted under Malta
Used February 1859 to December 1884									



Ionian Islands: Corfu. A letter to a Royal Navy officer on HMS *Foxhound* at Malta, sent from Corfu via the French Post Office at Alexandria, Egypt and thence to Malta. 'A25' duplex 'MALTA B JA 16 62' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 49.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Ionian Islands	Zakynthos (Zante)	 	Z27	C10	49				Counted under Malta
Used February 1859 to December 1884									




1860 prepaid letter from Zakynthos to Messina, datestamped 15 ΜΑΙΟΣ 1860. Carried via Corfu, where the 'PAID AT CORFU' crowned circle was applied and via Malta, where the stamps were applied and cancelled. 'A25' duplex 'MALTA A MY 25 60' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 49.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Italy

Italy	Florence (Firenze)		C10	42				
		 <p>Used 1857 to 1860s</p>						






Italy: Florence c.d.s. for 11 January 1860 on SG Spec. C10 Plate 42, together with Tuscany 1860 40c rose-carmine and 80c pale red-brown. Two strikes of the 'FIRENZE 11 Gen. 60' datestamps cancel all three stamps. Black boxed 'PD' and red transit datestamp 'LONDON JA 16 60' on front, with a Salisbury arrival mark for 17 January on reverse. Image courtesy Michael Chipperfield

Italy	Italian Port	Arrival cachet from French Paquebot	C10	36				
		 <p>Used 1860s</p>						



Italy: PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI, SG Spec. C10 Plate 36; cachet applied to mail arriving by French Paquebot.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Italy	Messina	   <p>Used February 1859 to December 1884</p> <p>Used 1860s</p>		C10	55				Counted under Malta



Italy, Messina: 'PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI' boxed cachet over a partially franked SG Spec.C10 Plate 55. Sent from Malta on 21 November 1863 and carried on a French paquebot.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Italy	Italian Port	<p>Arrival cachet from a foreign Post Office</p> <p>VIA DI MARE (E)</p> <p>Used 1860s</p>		C10	57				E = Estero: 'Abroad'

Italian red cachet 'VIA DI MARE (E)' applied to incoming arriving at Italian ports from a foreign Post Office.



Italy: 'VIA DI MARE (E)', SG Spec. C10 Plate 57.


It is possible that the 'PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI' and 'VIA DI MARE (E)' handstamps were manufactured and used by an officer on a merchant ship and used to enhance covers for passengers and/or collectors, similar to those linked with Captain Peterdi of the Adria Line. Further research continues into this subject.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Jamaica

Great Britain postage stamps, 'A01' handstamp and ink were sent to the Head Post Office at Kingston, Jamaica in April 1858, for use from May 1858 on overseas mail and for inland use after February 1858. From 1858 to March 1859, mail from the District Post Offices was datestamped and carried via the Kingston Head Office, where the stamps were cancelled 'A01'. These local offices received their own numbered obliterators in March 1859 for use on Great Britain stamps. The supply of Great Britain stamps ceased in August 1860 and in November 1860 their use was declared invalid for postage. Forgeries of the 'A01' obliterator are known. (Ref.32, #217).

Jamaica	Kingston Head Post Office	 Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	27	34	36	38	41
					42	43	44	46	47
					48	49	52	56	57
					58	59	60		
			Z1	C11	U	Listed in SG			
				B1	forged 'A01'		20		
			Z2	C12	forged 'A01'		51		
		20 dated covers noted							



Jamaica: Kingston 'A01', SG Spec. C10 Plate 59, datestamp 'KINGSTON- JAMAICA JY 11 59'




Jamaica: Kingston forged 'A01', SG Spec. B1 Plate 20



Jamaica: Kingston forged 'A01', SG Spec. C12 Plate 51, black & white scan

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES


Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Jamaica	Kingston Head Post Office	 Used May 1858 to 1860	Z12	C10	52	U		
				C10	forged 'A01-A01'		42	



Jamaica: Kingston 'A01·A01' twin, C10 Plate 52, ex-Glassco




Jamaica: Kingston forged 'A01·A01' twin, C10 Plate 42, ex-Charles Winand

Jamaica	Kingston Head Post Office	 Used May 1858 to 1860	Z7	C10	27	43		
					2 dated covers noted			



Jamaica: Kingston 'A01' duplex, SG Spec. C10 Plate 27, datestamp 'KINGSTON JAMAICA 2B JA23 59'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	Alexandria District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z17	C10	48	49	55	56	





Jamaica: Alexandria 'A27', C10 Plate 49. Folded letter at the single letter rate of 4d direct to Montego Bay, without going via Kingston. datestamp 'ALEXANDRIA-JAMAICA 1860 FE27' on front.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	Annotto Bay District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z20	C10	37	41	42	45	47
					48	59			




Jamaica: Annotto Bay 'A28' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 37 to Kingston. backstamped: 'ANNOTTO-BAY JAMAICA MR18 1859' receiving mark 'KINGSTON JAMAICA MR19 1859'.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	Bath District Post Office	  Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	U				
					Before delivery of 'A29', local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.				

Jamaica: Bath c.d.s. and 'A01' obliterator. Cover inspected but no image provided.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	Bath District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z23	C10	U				

Jamaica: Bath 'A29' obliterator. Cover inspected but no image provided.

Jamaica	Black River District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z26	C10	42	57	U		
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Jamaica: Black River 'A30', SG Spec. C10 Plate 57, backstamp 'BLACK RIVER JAMAICA DE 12 59'

Jamaica	Brown's Town District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z29	C10	48				
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Jamaica: Brown's Town 'A31', SG Spec. C10 Plate 48. Image courtesy Stanley Gibbons

Jamaica	Buff Bay District Post Office	  Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	48				
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Before delivery of 'A01', local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.

Jamaica: Buff Bay c.d.s. and 'A01' obliterator. Cover inspected but no image permitted.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES


Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	Buff Bay District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z32	C10	43	46	49		



Jamaica: Buff Bay 'A32', SG Spec. C10 Plate 49, (two stamps removed), with datestamps 'BUFF BAY JAMAICA JU12 1860' and 'KINGSTON JAMAICA JU13 1860' on front.

Jamaica	Chapelton District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z35	C10	U				
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Jamaica: Chapelton 'A33'. Listed in *Stanley Gibbons* catalogue but not seen by author.

Jamaica	Claremont District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z38	C10	48				
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Jamaica: Claremont 'A34', SG Spec. C10 Plate 48. Stamp image courtesy *Stanley Gibbons*

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	Clarendon District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z41	C10	42	48			
				C10	forged 'A35'		34		



Jamaica: Clarendon 'A35', SG Spec. C10 Plate 48. Cover from Halse Hall to Kingston paying the single rate for a letter carried under 60 miles, with a dated despatch backstamp 'CLARENDON-JAMAICA SP25 1859' and arrival datestamp on front 'KINGSTON-JAMAICA SP 28 59'.



Jamaica: Clarendon forged 'A35', SG Spec. C10 Plate 34


Jamaica	Dry Harbour District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z44	C10	U				
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Jamaica: Dry Harbour 'A36'. Listed by Stanley Gibbons but not seen by this author.



Jamaica	Duncans District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z47	C10	58				
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Jamaica: Duncans 'A37'. Listed by *Stanley Gibbons* catalogue and by *Satham* but not seen by this author.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
Jamaica	Ewarton District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861			No examples exist


Jamaica: Ewarton 'A38'. The District Post Office was closed in late 1858 before the 'A38' obliterator was delivered.

Jamaica	Falmouth District Post Office	Manuscript date on stamps	Z2	C10	59				
		  Used May 1858 to 1860				Before delivery of 'A39', local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston. 2 dated covers noted.			




Jamaica: Falmouth, before delivery of 'A39' obliterator, SG Spec. C10 Plate 59. Stamps affixed to cover at Falmouth and date '22nd Oct'r 1858' added by Postmaster. District Post Office datestamp on front 'FALMOUTH JAMAICA OC 20 58' and cancelled 'A01' at Kingston Head Post Office.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	Falmouth District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z53	C10	27	34	55	57	58
					59	60	U		
					7 dated covers noted.				



Jamaica: Falmouth 'A39', SG Spec. C10 Plate 57, datestamp 'FALMOUTH JAMAICA SP 9 59'

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	56	59	U		
Jamaica	Flint River District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z57	C10					
				C10		forged 'A40'	43		




Jamaica: Flint River 'A40', SG Spec. C10 Plate 59 with left stamp showing evidence of broken perforator-pins.



Jamaica: Flint River forged 'A40', SG Spec. C10 Plate 43

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Jamaica	Gayle District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z61	C10	36	44	57			
					3 dated covers noted					



Jamaica Gayle 'A41' C10 Plate 57. A folded letter from Gayle via Kingston to Mandeville with the dates on all three backstamps advanced by one day in manuscript from 'GAYLE JAMAICA AP21 1859', 'KINGSTON JAMAICA AP22 1859' and 'MANDEVILLE JAMAICA AP23 1859'.



Jamaica	Golden Spring District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z65	C10	U					
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Jamaica: Golden Spring 'A42'. Listed in *Stanley Gibbons* catalogue but not seen by author.

Jamaica	Gordon Town District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z69	C10	U					
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Jamaica: Gordon Town 'A43'. Listed in *Stanley Gibbons* catalogue but not seen by author.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Jamaica	Goshen District Post Office	  Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	44	U				
					Before delivery of 'A44', local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston. 3 dated covers noted					



Jamaica: Goshen, before delivery of 'A44' obliterator, SG Spec. C10 Plate 44, datestamp 'GOSHEN C22 1858'; stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston Head Post Office. A packet rate cover to Liverpool.



Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Jamaica	Goshen District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z72	C10	34	41	42	44	48	
					56	57	59	U		
					8 dated covers noted					

The Goshen Postmaster continued to put a datestamp on the front.




Jamaica: Goshen, 'A44' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 56 (MF) and Plate 41 (HC). Despatch datestamp 'GOSHEN JAMAICA DE 20 59' and arrival mark 'KINGSTON-JAMAICA DE 21 59'.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES


Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Jamaica	Grange Hill District Post Office	  Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	U			
					Before delivery of 'A45', local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.			

Jamaica: Grange Hill c.d.s. and A01 obliterator. Cover inspected but no image provided.

Jamaica	Grange Hill District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z75	C10	42	46	49	58
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Jamaica: Grange Hill 'A45', SG Spec. C10 Plate 46, with datestamp 'GRANGE HILL JAMAICA MY23 1859'


Jamaica	Green Island District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z78	C10	U			
					C10	forged 'A46'	42	

Jamaica: Green Island A46, C10 1d Star listed in Stanley Gibbons catalogue but not seen by author.



Jamaica; Green Island forged 'A46', SG Spec. C10 Plate 42

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Jamaica	Highgate District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z82	C10	57	58		
					2 dated covers noted			





Jamaica, Highgate 'A47', SG Spec. C10 Plate 58, backstamped 'KINGSTON JAMAICA MR16 60'

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	47	48	59	
Jamaica	Hope Bay District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z85	C10				



Jamaica: Hope Bay, 'A48' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 59. Although a 45-50 mile journey, the two backstamps 'HOPE-BAY JAMAICA AP 15 59' and 'KINGSTON JAMAICA AP 15 59' would suggest same day arrival!

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Jamaica	Lilliput District Post Office	  Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	42	44				
					Before delivery of 'A49', local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.					




Jamaica: Lilliput, before delivery of 'A49' obliterator, SG Spec. C10 Plate 44, datestamp with the month inverted: 'LILLIPUT JAMAICA V125 58' tying the stamp. Stamps cancelled by 'A01' obliterator at Kingston.

Jamaica	Lilliput District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z88	C10	34	47	49	56	59
					61				
					5 dated covers noted.				




Jamaica: Lilliput 'A49', SG Spec. C10 Plate 61, datestamp 'LILLIPUT JAMAICA O SP27 59'


A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
Jamaica	Little River District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861			No examples exist

Jamaica: Little River A50. District Post Office closed in late 1858 before obliterator was delivered.

Jamaica	Lucea District Post Office	 Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	U				
					Prior to delivery of 'A51', manuscript name on the stamps and cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.				

Jamaica: Lucea manuscript *P.O.Lucea* across stamps and 'A01' applied at Kingston; not seen by this author.

Jamaica	Lucea District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z91	C10	59	U			





Jamaica: Lucea 'A51', SG Spec. C10 Plate 59

Jamaica	Manchioneal District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z94	C10	U				

Jamaica: Manchioneal 'A52'. Listed in *Stanley Gibbons* catalogue but not seen by this author.


A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Jamaica	Mandeville District Post Office	  Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	34	49	56	
					Before delivery of 'A53', local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.			

49 49
56 34





Jamaica: Mandeville circular datestamp 'MANDEVILLE JAMAICA JY 8 1859' and Kingston 'A01' obliterator, SG Spec. C10 Plates 49, 56 and 34 with a 'KINGSTON JAMAICA JY 9 1859' backstamp.

Jamaica	Mandeville District Post Office		Z97	C10	34	58	59	
		 Used 1859 to 1861			2 dated covers noted			




Jamaica: Mandeville 'A53', SG Spec. C10 Plate 59, backstamp 'MANDEVILLE JAMAICA JU 17 59'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	May Hill District Post Office	 	Z2	C10	56				Before delivery of 'A54', local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.




Jamaica; May Hill, backstamped 'MAYHILL JAMAICA JA25 1859', with Kingston 'A01' obliterator on SG Spec. C10 Plate 49

Jamaica	May Hill District Post Office		Z100	C10	36	59	U			4 dated covers noted
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Jamaica: May Hill 'A54' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 59 with 'MAY HILL-JAMAICA JU14 1859' backstamp

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	Mile Gully District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z103	C10	42	44	58	59	U
					2 dated covers noted				



Jamaica: Mile Gully 'A55', SG Spec. C10 Plate 44, backstamped 'MILE GULLY JAMAICA AP 5 59'

Jamaica	Moneague District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z106	C10	38	49				
				C10	forged 'A56'		43	56		




Jamaica: Moneague 'A56', SG Spec. C10 Plate 49 and Plate 38



Jamaica: Moneague forged A56 over another cancellation, SG Spec. C10 Plate 43

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	Montego Bay District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z109	C10	27	37	48	49	57
					60				
				C10	forged 'A57'		49		
					3 dated covers noted				




Jamaica: Montego Bay, 'A57' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 27. Letter to Spanish Town at the single letter rate of 8d for a distance over 100 miles, with the letter passing through Kingston from the Northside Road to the Leeward Road, a distance of 129 miles. The left-hand 1d cancelled 'A76' on arrival at Spanish Town, possibly as the stamp was barely touched by the 'A57'. Dated backstamps 'MONTEGO BAY-JAMAICA MR 3 1859 1859' and 'SPANISH TOWN-JAMAICA MR 5 1859', just five days after the receipt of these cancellations.



Jamaica: Montego Bay forged 'A57', SG Spec. C10 Plate 49


Jamaica	Montpelier District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z113	C10	U				

Jamaica: Montpelier 'A58'. Listed in *Stanley Gibbons* catalogue but not seen by this author.

Jamaica	Morant Bay District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z116	C10	U				

Jamaica: Morant Bay 'A59'. Listed in *Stanley Gibbons* catalogue but not seen by this author. Forged 'A59' recorded on other GB stamps but not 1d red stars.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Jamaica	Ocho Rios District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z119	C10	57	U				



Jamaica: Ocho Rios 'A60', SG Spec. C10 Plate 57

Jamaica	Old Harbour District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z122	C10	36	56	57	58	61	
					3 dated covers noted					



Jamaica: Old Harbour 'A61', SG Spec. C10 Plate 56, backstamped 'OLD HARBOUR JAMAICA JU 6 59', with a Clarendon transit mark.

Jamaica	Plantain Garden River District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z125	C10	56	58	59	61	U	
				C10	forged 'A62'		46			



Jamaica: Plantain Garden River 'A62', SG Spec. C10 Plate 58

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Jamaica: Plantain Garden River forged 'A62', SG Spec. C10 Plate 46


Jamaica	Pear Tree Grove District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861		C10	forged 'A63'	U	

Jamaica: Pear Tree Grove 'A63'. No genuine examples recorded on stamps of Great Britain.

Jamaica	Port Antonio District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z131	C10	34	43	44	47	48
					49	56	57	58	




Jamaica: Port Antonio 'A64' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 57. backstamped 'PORT ANTONIO-JAMAICA OC 4 59' with arrival mark on front 'KINGSTON-JAMAICA OC 59'. A 4d single rate cover for a distance under 60 miles.

Jamaica	Port Morant District Post Office	<i>Port Morant</i>  Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	U				
					Before delivery of 'A65', manuscript 'Port Morant' on stamps, local c.d.s. on front and the stamps were cancelled 'A01' at				

Jamaica: Port Morant. Manuscript endorsement and Kingston 'A01'. Cover inspected but no image available.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	Port Morant District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z134	C10	49	56	U		




Jamaica: Port Morant 'A65', SG Spec. C10 Plate 56

Jamaica	Port Maria District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z137	C10	52	56	U		
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Jamaica: Port Maria 'A66', SG Spec. C10 Plate 52, datestamp 'PORT MARIA DE27 1859'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Jamaica	Port Royal District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z140	C10	38	55		



Jamaica, Port Royal 'A67', SG Spec. C10 Plate 38, backstamped 'PORT ROYAL JAMAICA AU 29 64' & endorsed 'no good 2d to Pay', since the use of British stamps in Jamaica had been invalidated after 1st August 1860.

Jamaica	Porus District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z143	C10	55	56	U	
					2 dated covers noted			
				C10	forged 'A68'		38	



Jamaica: Porus 'A68' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 56 with 'PORUS-JAMAICA DE23 1859' backstamp. Arrival datestamp on front 'KINGSTON-JAMAICA DE24 1859'.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Jamaica: Porus forged 'A68', SG Spec. C10 Plate 38

Jamaica	Ramble District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z146	C10	47	57	U		




Jamaica: Ramble 'A69', SG Spec. C10 Plate 47, datestamp 'RAMBLE JAMAICA MY25 59'

Jamaica	Rio Bueno District Post Office		 Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	59	U		
						Before delivery of 'A70', local c.d.s. on front with manuscript month and day; stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.			




Jamaica: Rio Bueno, SG Spec. C10 Plate 59, envelope datestamped 'RIO BUENO JAMAICA Feb 25 1859' with manuscript month and day. Stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Jamaica	Rio Bueno District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z150	C10	48	58	59	U
					4 dated covers noted.			




Jamaica, Rio Bueno 'A70', SG Spec. C10 Plate 59, circular datestamp 'RIO BUENO JAMAICA FE 25 60'

Jamaica	Rodney Hall District Post Office			C10	57			
					Between 2 February and mid-June 1859 both date lines were inverted.			



Jamaica: Rodney Hall c.d.s., SG Spec. C10 Plate 57, 'RODNEY-HALL-JAMAICA FE10 1859 9' with date and year inverted.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Jamaica	Rodney Hall District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z153	C10	36	44	47	48	60
					3 dated covers noted				





Jamaica: Rodney Hall 'A71' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 36. Letter to Spanish Town with datestamp 'RODNEY-HALL JAMAICA JUL17 1859' with dates inverted.

Jamaica	St David District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z156	C10	59				

Jamaica: Saint David 'A72'. Seen by author but no scan available.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Jamaica	St Ann's Bay District Post Office	 	Z2	C10	59					
					Before delivery of 'A73', local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.					





Jamaica: St Ann's Bay to Bremen, Germany, before delivery of 'A73' obliterator, C10 Plate 59 cancelled 'A01' at Kingston Head Post Office; red London framed 'P.' on front; backstamped 'ST ANNS BAY JY25 1858' and 'KINGSTON JAMAICA JY26 1858', with 'LONDON AU15 58' transit backstamp in red and arrival backstamp 'BREMEN 18 8'.

Jamaica	St Ann's Bay District Post Office	 <p>Used 1859 to 1861</p>	Z159	C10	36	49	55	59	60
					U				
					3 dated covers noted				



Jamaica: St. Ann's Bay 'A73' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 59. Letter to Kingston at the single letter rate of 6d for a distance between 60 and 100 miles. Faint despatch datestamp on reverse 'ST ANNS BAY-JAMAICA JY 19 59'.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES



Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Jamaica	Salt Gut District Post Office	  Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	U			
					Before delivery of 'A74', local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.			

Jamaica: Salt Gut c.d.s. and Kingston A01 obliterator. Cover seen by the author but no scan available.

Jamaica	Salt Gut District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z162	C10	49			
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Jamaica: Salt Gut 'A74' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 49. Image courtesy *Stanley Gibbons*.

Jamaica	Savannah la Mar District Post Office	  Used May 1858 to 1860	Z2	C10	44	59	U	
					Before delivery of 'A75', local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston. 2 dated covers noted.			



Jamaica: Savanna La Mar, SG Spec. C10 Plate 59, datestamped 'SAVANNAH-LA-MAR JAMAICA AU 5 1858' and stamps cancelled 'A01' at the Kingston Head Post Office.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Jamaica	Savannah la Mar District Post Office	  Used May 1858 to 1860		C6	9					
			Z165	C10	34	43	44	49	55	
					56	57	59	U		
					5 dated covers noted					





Jamaica: Savannah La Mar 'A75' on SG Spec. C6 Plate 9




Jamaica: Savannah La Mar 'A75' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 34. Despatch mark 'SAVANNAH-LA-MAR-JAMAICA SP 9 1859' and arrival mark 'KINGSTON-JAMAICA SP 10 59'.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Jamaica	Spanish Town District Post Office	  <p>Used May 1858 to 1860</p>	Z2	C10	42	U		
					Before delivery of 'A76', hand-struck '1/2' on stamps, local c.d.s. on front and stamps cancelled 'A01' at Kingston.			




Jamaica: Spanish Town '1/2' and Kingston 'A01' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 42, with circular datestamp 'SPANISH-TOWN JAMAICA FE 1 1859'. Prior to the issue of its 'A76' obliterator, Spanish Town District Post Office used its hand-struck '1/2' to prevent pilfering of the stamps, which were otherwise uncanceled until the 'A01' obliterator was applied at Kingston.

Jamaica	Spanish Town District Post Office			C6	9				
		 <p>Used 1859 to 1861</p>	Z169	C10	34	42	46	47	49
					52	57	59	61	
					6 dated covers noted				




Jamaica: Spanish Town 'A76', SG Spec. C10 Plate 57, datestamped 'SPANISH TOWN JAMAICA AU 25 59'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Jamaica	Stewart Town District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861	Z173	C10	59	U		



Jamaica: Stewart Town 'A77' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 59. Despatch date stamp 'STEWART TOWN JAMAICA JU 24 59' with UK arrival datestamp 'PAID BY JY 19 59 LONDON' in red. Redirected to Stafford with an additional C10 1d. cancelled by a 'LONDON-E.C. JY19 59-71' duplex.

Jamaica	Vere District Post Office	 Used 1859 to 1861		C6	10			
			Z176	C10	59	61	U	



Jamaica: Vere 'A78', SG Spec. C6 Plate 10. Image courtesy *Stanley Gibbons*.

Identified by the author in November 2021 and now accepted for inclusion in the *Stanley Gibbons 2025 Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps Catalogue 1840-1970*.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Jamaica: Vere 'A78', SG Spec. C10 Plate 59, backstamped: 'VERE JAMAICA MY 24 1859'

Malta

British Packet Agency, Valletta


The British Packet Agency operated at Valletta from 1806. During 1854-56 sacks of mail from the Crimean War were sorted and cancelled here.

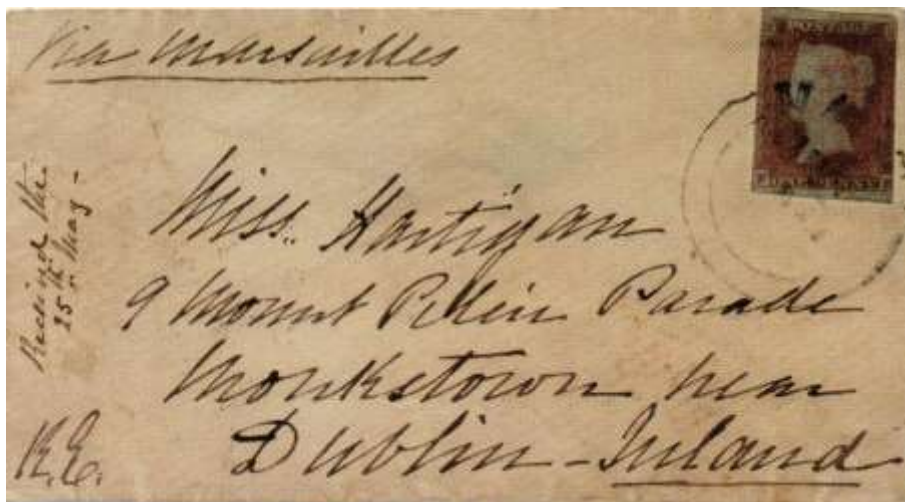
Malta	British Packet Agency, Valletta	 Used 1843 to 1879	C10	U				
				2 dated covers noted				

Letters to be carried from Malta by non-packet ships, (vessels not under contract to the Post Office), were struck with a 'MALTA SHIP LETTER' handstamp at the Malta Packet Office, or later at the the Malta Post Office. (Ref. 10). Two unplated covers to Corfu, dated 19 and 28 August 1863, were recorded by the Malta Study Circle, (Ref. 9) but have not been seen by this author.

The 1854 to early-1855 British Packet Agency items below are also included in the Concessory Mail section.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Malta	British Packet Agency, Valletta	 <p>Used 1838 to 1858</p>		B2	158	168		
					2 dated covers noted			



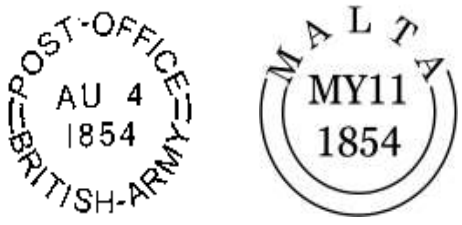
Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: twin-arc c.d.s. 'MALTA MY 11 1854', SG Spec. B2 Plate 168. Cover from Malta during the Crimean War to Dublin, Ireland endorsed via Marseilles, with the reverse showing London (May 24) and Dublin transit marks in red and Kingstown arrival backstamp (May 25) in black. Cover endorsed at lower left 'R.E.', the sender being Lieutenant Richard Fitzrichard Eyre, grandson of Baron Eyre of Ireland. He was in the 44th Regiment and later died of Cholera in the Crimea. The cover was most probably accepted as a Soldier's letter at the concessionary 1d rate and is reportedly "...the earliest GB 'Used Abroad' cover where the Office came under the direct control of the GPO in London". (Ref. 39, p 1/14).

Malta	British Packet Agency, Valletta	Also cancelled after UK arrival		C1	176	179	U	
		 <p>Used 1838 to 1858</p>	Counted under Malta					



Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: twin-arc c.d.s. 'MALTA AU 4 1854' on front. All three stamps SG Spec. C1 left-hand unprinted, centre Plate 179 and right-hand Plate 176 cancelled on UK arrival by London Inland Office '42'. Sailor's letter written aboard HMS *Himalaya* off Portugal 30 July 1854 whilst en route to the Crimea.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Malta and Russia	British Army Field Post Office Balaclava and sorted at the British Packet Agency, Valletta	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival Two backstamps		C1	187				
					Counted as cancelled after UK arrival.				

FRONT




BACK




Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C1 Plate 187, cancelled on arrival by the London Inland Office '20' obliterator. One of the very few registered items recorded from the Crimean War, this money letter was charged 1s 5d. Letters containing coins were not permitted under the Concession Rates system, so it was charged the full civilian rate of 11d postage and 6d registration fee, made up of five stamps on the front of the envelope and twelve on the back. A backstamp 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY NO13 1854' tied some of the stamps on the back, together with a 'MALTA NO20 1854' circular backstamp struck on four stamps, when sorted at the British Packet Agency in Valletta. After UK arrival, all stamps were cancelled by the '20' obliterator of the London Inland Office. Some five stamps were detached from the back of the envelope, probably torn away when opened.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Malta	British Packet Agency, Valletta	backstamped at Malta but stamps uncanceled.  Used 1838 to 1858		C1	171				Counted under Malta



A letter from the Black Sea Fleet during the Crimean War carried privately to Malta, where it was placed in the post and treated as wholly unpaid, (ie not a Concessionary Rate letter).. SG Spec. C1 Plate 171 with broad ink band or blot on the stamps before they were stuck on the envelope. Circular backstamp 'MALTA JA24 1855' at the British Packet Agency, Valletta. London transit backstamp, and 'PORTSMOUTH FE 9 1855 A' arrival backstamp in blue.

Malta	British Packet Agency, Valletta	 Used at Packet Agency 1855 -1857 (No Malta backstamp)		C1	R,3				
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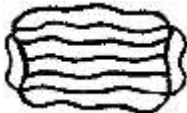



Malta, British Packet Agency: Malta 'P.' in oval, ('Paid' handstamp), SG Spec. C1 R,3. Soldier's concessionary rate letter from a Lance-Corporal of the 93rd Highlanders, aboard a ship off Malta, with manuscript 'Off Malta 7.2.55'. backstamps for London 'FE21 1855' and 'ERROL FE22 1855'. (Prior to the arrival of the wavy-line obliterator.)

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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The 'wavy-lines' obliterator was supplied to the British Packet Agency, Valletta for use on unfranked Crimean War and other mail sorted at Malta and to cancel Army and Navy concessionary mail.

Malta	British Packet Agency, Valletta	 Used April 1855 to September 1856  backstamp used 1855 to 1858		B1	U				
				B2	U				
			Z1	C1	188	R,5	U		
				C2	U				
			Z2	C3	5	11	12		
				C4	1	4	5	9	12
			Z3	C5	1	4	12		
			Z3a	C6	1	4	7	8	11
					13				
				C8	23	27	31		
		10 dated covers noted							



Malta, British Packet Agency: Wavy-line grid, SG Spec. C1 Plate R,5 on a letter to General Sir Robert Gardiner, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar. backstamped: MALTA JU13 1855. The letter originally enclosed in this envelope was written by Colonel Arthur Taylor on 29 May 1855 'before Sevastopol' and carried to Malta. Endorsed '5', representing the 5d rate for a ½ oz letter from Malta to Gibraltar, whereas 6d was the officers' rate from the Crimea to the UK via Marseille: not treated as a Concessionary Rate letter.



Malta, British Packet Agency: Wavy-line grid, SG Spec. C4 Plate 9

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: A Crimean War letter from Scutari Hospital, Constantinople. SG Spec. C3 Plate 5, sorted and cancelled at Malta by a wavy-line grid. Letter written 29 April 1855 and carried via Malta and Alexandria, Egypt to Calcutta, India. 5d to Malta and 6d to Alexandria. Malta double-arc backstamp, double-arc c.d.s. 'ALEXANDRIA JU 3 1855', handstamp 'CALCUTTA STEAM LETTER 1855 June 30' and manuscript 'Rec'd July 8/55 Nongong'. (Not a Concessionary Rate letter).



Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: Wavy-line grid, SG Spec. C4 Plate 4; backstamped: 'MALTA OC 7 1855'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES


Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: Wavy-line grid, SG Spec. C6 Plate 13, backstamped 'MALTA OC 6 1855'. Sailor's letter written February 1856 from HMS Viper, (1854-56 Mediterranean Fleet) at Malta.



Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: Wavy-line grid, SG Spec. C8 Plate 23

Malta	British Packet Agency, Valletta	Manuscript cancellation on stamps and backstamped at		C4	4				
				C6	10				
					2 dated covers noted				
			Used 1855 to 1858						



Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: SG Spec. C4 Plate 4 cancelled by manuscript wavy line, on a 3d rate letter from Malta to Worcester. Reverse has a 30mm double-arc c.d.s. 'MALTA SP19 1855' and an arrival backstamp: 'WORCESTER SP25 1855'.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES


Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: SG Spec. C6 Plate 10 and SG Spec. F2 2d blue Plate 4 cancelled by a manuscript wavy line and backstamped 'MALTA JA10 1856' at the British Packet Agency, Valletta, with a London arrival backstamp 'JA24 1856'. The letter possibly started from Constantinople, 5d to Malta and 6d to London making the total postage rate of 11d. For some years there had been questions raised about this cover as the recorded backstamp was dated January 1855 in the T V Roberts 1988 auction catalogue and in later displays and exhibitions. This would have predated the issue of the stamps. Recent expert examination by Karl Louis FRPSL and Greg Todd FRPSL in March 2021 finally provided vital information regarding date and watermark. The backstamps were 1856 and not 1855 as previously recorded and the 1d stamp had a large crown watermark, thus SG Spec. C6 instead of the previously listed SG Spec. C3.

Malta: British Post Office, Valletta

The British Post Office, Valletta opened in September 1857 and Great Britain stamps were used on overseas mail. From 18 September 1857, the year in the datestamp was noted with the '5' and the '7' reversed, reading as '1875', the error persisting for some days. Some 1857 backstamps were recorded with the '5' omitted in error. Between 30 September and 3 December 1859, the '9' of the year part of the date was inverted, forming the date '56' instead of '59'. (Ref. 28).

Country	Location	Watermark	SGZ	SG Spec.	Value	Color	Other		
Malta	British Post Office, Valletta		Z 8	C1	178	R,4			
				C3	14	U			
			Z9	C4	7	U			
				C5	7	U			
			Z10	C6	2	4	5	6	7
					9	10	13	14	15
					16	17			
				C8	26	27	29	31	32
					33	34	35	36	37
					38	42	44		
				C9	35	38	44	52	55
			Z11	C10	27	34	36	37	38
					39	41	42	43	44
					45	46	47	48	49
					52	55	56	57	58
		59	60	61					
Z11	C10	Navy letter			60				
Z11	C10	Army letter			59				
Z11a	C11	44							
		39 dated covers noted							

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Malta: Valletta 'M', SG Spec. C1 R,4



Malta: Valletta 'M' in red, SG Spec. C1 R,4; 'M' struck in red



Malta: Valletta 'M', SG Spec. C6 Plate 17; partial flap backstamped 'MALTA AP 21 58' in red



Malta: Valletta 'M', SG Spec. C8 Plate 35, backstamped 'MALTA JU 26 58' in red. 9d was the rate for letters under ¼oz via Marseille.



Malta: Valletta 'M', SG Spec. C9 Plate 35, ex-cover dated 23 October 1858

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Malta: Valletta 'M', SG Spec. C10 Plate 55, backstamped 'MALTA MR27 1858'



Malta: Valletta 'M', SG Spec. C10 Plate 44, backstamped 'MALTA SP20 1875' due to reversal of '57'



Malta: Valletta M, SG Spec. C11 Plate 44

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Forgeries of the Malta 'M' obliterator are known. On a genuine cancellation the central 'V' of the letter descends to the base of the letter, in line with the feet of the upright strokes. On a forged cancellation, this central 'V' is above the baseline.



Malta		 forged	Z7	B1	75	94	125	U		
			Z7	B2	139	144	U			
			Z11	C10	59					
					Not counted					

No genuine 'M' obliterations have been seen by this author on SG Spec. B1 or SG Spec. B2 stamps. A reported Plate 144 has not been seen and must remain suspect. Since the SG Part 1 Catalogue now includes the correct illustration, forgeries of the Malta 'M' are relatively easy to spot. The bottom of the 'V' in the centre of a genuine 'M' extends to the base of the letter, level with the feet of the two uprights. (Ref. 11).



Malta: Valletta forged 'M', SG Spec. B1 Plate 75




Malta: Valletta forged 'M', SG Spec. B2 Plate 139



Malta: Valletta forged 'M', SG Spec. C10 Plate 59

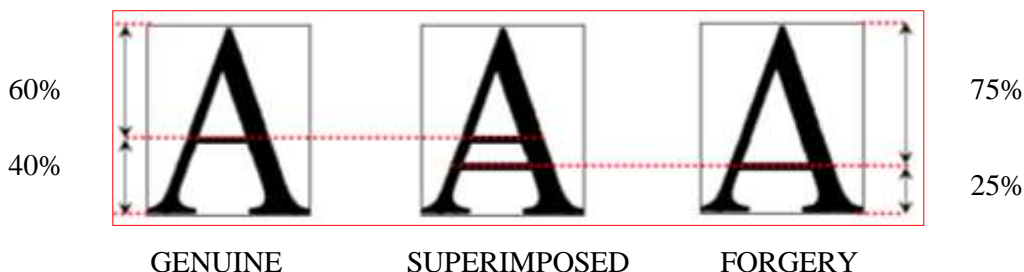
A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates						
Malta	British Post Office, Valletta		Z25	C1	U						
				C4	1	8	U				
				C5	U						
			Z26	C6	13	20	U				
				C8	27	31	33	34	42		
					43	46	U				
			Z27	C10	27	36	39	57	59		
	63	U									
Used 1859 to 1884											



Malta: Valletta 'A25', SG Spec. C10 Plate 39

Forgeries of the Malta 'A25' obliterator are known: To date, no genuine 'A25' barred oval cancellations on the imperforate issues have been seen by this author. Measurement along the vertical axis of the letter 'A' of a genuine 'A25' showed the horizontal bar divided the letter approximately 60% above to 40% below. The 'A' of a forged A25 obliterator was divided approximately 75% above to 25% below. Unseen B2 reported with 'A25' will remain as 'suspect' unless confirmed genuine. Forgeries of the duplex obliterator are known, dated 1873, (Ref. 32, # 246) but none noted with Penny Red Stars.

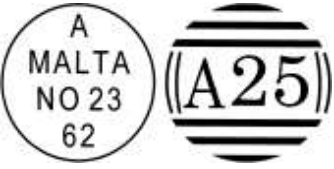


Malta			Z24	B1	25	41				
			Z24	B2	141	151	158	168		



Malta: Valletta forged 'A25', SG Spec. B1 Plate 25

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Malta	British Post Office, Valletta	 <p>Used February 1859 to September 1881</p>	Z24	B1	130					
			Z24	B2	158					
				C4	1					
				C5	1					
				C8	27	34	43			
			Z27	C10	27	34	36	37	38	
					39	41	42	43	44	
					45	46	47	48	49	
					52	55	56	57	58	
					59	60	61	62	63	
					64	65	66	67	68	
					R,17					
					Navy letter		60			
					Corfu letter		U			
		Army letter		61						
Z28	C12	50	51							
	C13	R,15	R16							
		52 dated covers noted								



Malta: 'A25' duplex, SG Spec. B1 Plate 130



Malta: 'A25' duplex, SG Spec. B2 Plate 158

These two imperforate stamps may be *'philatelic'*.



Malta: Valletta 'A25' duplex, SG Spec. C8 Plate 43, datestamp 'MALTA DE 19 62'



Malta: A25 duplex 'MALTA A MR 2 60', SG Spec. C10, Plate 34 (LF), plate 62 (LD), oval PD and transit marks on front and backstamped with black transit mark 'PARIS 6 MARS 60' and red receiving mark 'AMSTERDAM 7 / 3 1860'.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Malta 'A25' duplex on SG Spec. C10 Plate 46 'A MALTA FE14 62': 1d printed paper rate



Malta: Valletta 'A25' duplex, SG Spec. C10 Plate 55, dated 'MALTA NO 5 56' (inverted '9')






Malta Valletta A25 duplex on SG Spec. C12 Plate 50 dated 'MALTA AP 6--'



Malta Valletta A25 duplex on SG Spec. C13 Plate R,15 dated 'MALTA NO 23 62'




A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Malta	British Post Office, Valletta	   Used February 1859 to December 1884 Used 1860s	Z27	C10	49				Counted under Malta

The boxed cachet 'PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI' (French Postal Steamer) was either struck on incoming mail carried by a French paquebot at an Italian port or added unofficially by a ship's officer.





Malta, Valletta 'A25' duplex 'B MALTA NO21 63' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 49. At Messina the boxed 'PIROSCAFI POSTALI FRANCESI' cachet was applied to mail arriving from a French Paquebot but here was positioned over an inadequately cancelled stamp.

Malta	British Post Office, Valletta	   Used 1855 to 1884 Used February 1859 to December 1884	Z27	C10	42	55			Counted as a Malta 'A25' duplex.
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Malta: 'P.' in framed oval, over-struck by 'A25' duplex, SG Spec. C10 Plate 42, dated 'A MALTA AU 25 60'. Letter to Italy with a manuscript '10' tax marking, backstamped 'MESSINA 26 8 60'.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Malta	British Post Office, Valletta	  <p>Used January 1881 to December 1884</p>	Z24	B1	U			

One unprinted example recorded on a philatelic cover, (Ref. 11), but not seen by this author.

Malta		 <p>faked</p>	Z27	C10	faked A25	66	
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Malta: Crudely faked A25 vertical oval, SG Spec. C10 Plate 66. Sold on eBay in 2012 as GB used abroad!

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Mauritius

The 'B53' handstamp was delivered to Mauritius but there is no evidence that Great Britain stamps were supplied or used. Mauritius had its own postage stamps printed locally from 1847 and stamps printed in Great Britain from 1849. There was no reason for Penny Red Stars or other British stamps to be used in Mauritius and any such items should be treated with suspicion. *Stanley Gibbons* no longer list Great Britain stamps cancelled 'B53' in their catalogues.

Mauritius	Port Louis	 <p>B53</p> <p>forged</p>		C10	forged 'B53'	42



Mauritius, Port Louis forged 'B53', SG Spec. C10 Plate 42, 1863 faked cover to Alencon, Normandy, France. Ex-Glassco

The author is of the opinion that the above cancellations were clever forgeries on GB stamps which replaced those on a genuine cover. Areas of concern include size of the '3' and the shape and thickness of the bars. Another example of forgery/faking is shown on a 1d plate number stamp with alteration from the '353' barred oval obliterator of Hemel Hempstead.



Genuine B53 cancellations


B53 faked from '353'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
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Montserrat

The British Post Office branch was established in 1852. In 1858 the 'A58' handstamp and a supply of Great Britain stamps was delivered and used for overseas mail up to 1 April 1860. The island reverted to the use of the crowned circle handstamp until the introduction of its own stamps in 1876.

Montserrat	Plymouth	 Used 1858 to 1860	Z1	C10	42	43	47	48	56
					60	U			
				B1	forged 'A08'		55		



Montserrat: Plymouth 'A08', SG Spec. C10 Plate 60



Montserrat: Plymouth forged 'A08', SG Spec. B1 Plate 55


Morocco

Gibraltar. Without the evidence of a backstamp or the contents of a letter, the sending location cannot be confirmed.

Morocco	Tangier				No Penny Red Stars recorded.				
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Nevis

A British Postal Agency was established in 1857. Mail from Tangier, pre-paid in Great Britain stamps, was cancelled in after which the crowned circle handstamp was used, up until the introduction of Nevis stamps in 1862.

Nevis	Charlestown	 Used 1858 to 1860	Z1	C10	41	45	46	47	48
					59	56	62		
			Z1	C10	forged 'A09'		55		



Nevis: Charlestown 'A09', SG Spec. C10 Plate 46

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Nevis: Charlestown forged 'A09', SG Spec. C10 Plate 55

New Zealand

New Zealand	Auckland			C12	51		




New Zealand: Auckland '1', SG Spec. C12 Plate 51 with New Zealand 1864 6d red-brown imperf. and 2d pale blue perf. 12½. Underpaid wrapper with a 'MORE TO PAY' mark and manuscript '8' for deficient postage 2d and 6d fine. backstamps: 'AUCKLAND JU 8 1864' and London arrival 'AU15 1864'.

New Zealand	Napier			C10	U			

New Zealand: Napier c.d.s. seen on unplated SG Spec. C10; no scan available.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
New Zealand	Wairoa			C10	52	55		



New Zealand, Wairoa: c.d.s. on SG Spec. C10 Plate 52 DH and SG Spec. C10 Plate 55 ED, 'N.Z WAIROA 20SP99 1'.

Nigeria

A crowned circle handstamp and datestamp were supplied in 1859 but there was no evidence of Penny Red Stars were used there.

Norway


Norway	Christiania (Oslo)	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
				C13(4)	R16			



A letter from Grimsby carried on the vessel Scandinavian to Norway. On arrival at the port of Christiania, (now Oslo) the SG Spec. C13(4) Plate R16 stamps were cancelled by a c.d.s. 'CHRISTIANIA 18. 8. 1863' and the letter backstamped 'CHRISTIANIA 19. 8. 1863' Toft and Skaffte were Grimsby ship brokers, (partnership was dissolved in November 1864).

Image courtesy Michael Chipperfield

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
Norway	Christianssund				No examples recorded

Example recorded on SG Spec. G3, Plate 135

Peru

Peru	Callao			B1	forged 'C38'	17	

Forged



Peru: Callao forged 'C38', SG Spec. B1 Plate 17. Offered for sale on Ebay in 2015 as GB used abroad in Colombia. Used stamp cancelled by a forged obliterator over other markings; the vertical oval 'C38' was not sent to Peru until late 1867.

Porto Rico

Great Britain stamps and handstamps 'C61', 'F83', 'F84', 'F85', 'F88' and '582' were sent to Porto Rico in 1865.

Porto Rico	San Juan		Z83	C10	U			

Used February 1865 to February 1877


Porto Rico: San Juan C61. Listed in Stanley Gibbons catalogue but not seen by this author.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
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St Kitts or St Christopher

Stamps of Great Britain were used for overseas mail from April 1858 until the end of March 1860. The Post Office at Basseterre then reverted to the use of a crowned circle handstamp until the introduction of St Christopher stamps in 1870.

St Kitts or St Christopher	Basseterre	 Used 1858 to 1860	Z1	C10	27	40	43	49	56		
					3 dated covers noted						
				C10	forged 'A12'		44	62			



St Kitts, Basseterre: 'A12', SG Spec. C10 Plate 27, backstamped 'ST KITTs SP13 1858'




St Kitts, Basseterre: forged/faked 'A12' obliterator on SG Spec. C10 Plate 44. The felt tip enhancement was not over an existing 'A12' obliterator when examined using 'RetroReveal' technology.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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St Lucia

Stamps of Great Britain were used for overseas mail from May 1858 until the end of April 1860. The Post Office at Castries then reverted to the use of a crowned circle handstamp until the introduction of St Lucia stamps in December 1860. Forgeries of the 'A11' obliterator have been reported reported. (Ref. 32, # 354)

St Lucia	Castries	 Used 1858 to 1860	Z1	C10	36	41	44	48	49
					52	55	57	58	59
							C10	forged 'A11'	




St Lucia: Castries 'A11', SG Spec. C10 Plate 36, backstamped 'ST LUCIA JY27 1858'

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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St Vincent

Stamps of Great Britain were used for overseas mail from May 1858 until the end of April 1860. The Post Office at Kingstown then reverted to the use of a crowned circle handstamp from 1 May 1858 until the introduction of St Vincent stamps in May 1861. At least five different forgeries of 'A10' have been recorded.

St Vincent	Kingstown		Z1	C10	44	47	48	49	55
					27	36	37	41	43
					56	57	59		
					5 dated covers noted				
			Z1	C10	forged or faked				
					42	43	48		
		Used 1858 to 1860	Z1	C12	faked cover			51	



St Vincent: Kingstown 'A10', SG Spec. C10 Plate 55, backstamped 'KINGSTOWN ST VINCENT JU 23 58'





A faked and forged item: A genuine folded letter posted 26-27 January 1861 from St Vincent to Paris, with the crowned circle 'PAID AT ST VINCENT' handstamp. The faking was the later addition of the stamps and the forgery was the 'A10' on the SG Spec. C10 Plate 42. Ex-Glassco.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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A faked and forged item: A genuine folded letter from St Vincent to Paris with the crowned circle 'PAID AT ST VINCENT' and backstamped 'ST VINCENT AP 9 61'. The deception was only spotted in 2021 due to the unfortunate choice of 1d red, SG Spec. C12 Plate 51, which did not go to press until May 1861 with an earliest recorded UK date of 28 August 1861.

St Vincent	Kingstown			Z1	C10	49				
		Used 1852 to 1866	Used 1858 to 1860							



St Vincent: Kingstown. Crowned circle in black was the first obliterator cancelling SG Spec. C10 Plate 49 on a letter posted on 10 August 1858 and then over-struck with the 'A10' obliterator. Letter carried on Royal Mail steam packet arriving London 1 September 1858 and sent on same date via a cross-Channel packet to France.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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South Africa

South Africa	Graaff-Reinet, Cape Province			B2	152				
					Bank cachet struck on incoming mail.				



SG Spec. B2 Plate 152 bearing an example of the framed-oval 'GRAAFF REINET BANK' cachet, struck on incoming bank mail from England; not 'Used Abroad'.


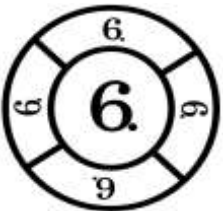
Spain

Spain	Cadiz	Stamped and cancelled after UK arrival		B1	106				
					Not used abroad				



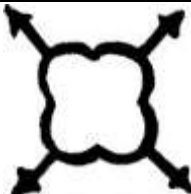
An 1851 folded letter carried from Cadiz, Spain and placed in the post in London. The SG Spec. B1 Plate 106 stamp was applied in London at the carrier's office. Not counted as used abroad.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
Spain	Malaga (on mail from Gibraltar)	  <p>Used February 1859 to December 1885</p> <p>Used 1858 to 1873</p>		C10	U
					<p>'Rueda de carreta' obliterator translates as <i>cartwheel</i>.</p> <p>Counted under Malta</p>




Gibraltar, 'A26'. A pair of Great Britain stamps SG Spec. C10 Plate 36 together with a Spanish 4c stamp. The British stamps were cancelled 'A26' at Gibraltar and the Spanish stamp by the '6.' *rueda de carreta* obliterator of the Spanish Post Office at Malaga, also tying one of the 1d stamps.


Spain	San Roque (on mail from Gibraltar)	 <p>Used 1851 to 1857</p>		B1	99				
					<p><i>Telaraña</i> or <i>araña negra</i> obliterator translates as <i>spider's-web</i> or <i>black spider</i>.</p>				



Spain, San Roque *telaraña* or *araña negra* SG Spec. B1 Plate 99


Spain	San Roque (on mail from Gibraltar)	 <p>Used 1852 to 1862</p>		B1	U				
				B2	151	U			
				C1	U				
					<p><i>Parilla</i> obliterator, translates as <i>grill</i>.</p>				

Stamps seen by author but no scans available.

Spain	San Roque (on mail from Gibraltar)	 <p>Used 1852 to 1866</p>		B1	U				
				B2	U				
				C1	U				
					<p><i>Rueda de carreta</i> obliterator, translates as <i>cartwheel</i>.</p>				

Stamps seen by author but no scans available.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Spain	Valencia (on mail from Gibraltar)	 Used 1852 to 1862		C6	1					
					<i>Parilla</i> obliterator, translates as <i>grill</i> .					

A cover dated 26 ENE 56 was inspected by the author but no scan permitted, (=26 Jan 56).

Sweden

Sweden	Uleaborg	Stamped and cancelled after UK arrival		B1	87				
					Not used abroad				



A folded letter written on 10 November 1849 at Uleaborg, Sweden and consigned by a forwarding agent to London where the SG Spec. B1 Plate 87 stamp was added. Recorded as the first stamped letter from Sweden, which did not introduce its own postage stamps until 1855. Not counted as used abroad.

Tobago

Stamps of Great Britain were used for overseas mail from May 1858 until the end of April 1860. The Post Office at Scarborough then reverted to the use of a crowned circle handstamp from 1 May 1858 until the introduction of Tobago stamps in August 1879.

Tobago	Scarborough	 Used 1858 to 1860	Z1	C10	41	43	44	46	47
					48	49	52	56	59
			Z1	C10	forged A14		48		



Tobago: Scarborough A14, SG Spec. C10 Plate 47

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES


Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Tobago: Scarborough forged A14, SG Spec. C10 Plate 48

Turkey (British Levant)

Following the closure of the British Army Post Office at Constantinople, a British Post Office for civilian use opened 1 July 1857 (Ref.7). Unstamped mail before September 1857 received a 'PAID' backstamp; the 'C' obliterator was used with stamps of Great Britain from September 1857 onwards. Forgeries of the 'C' obliterator have been reported. Mail also went via other British and French Post Offices.

Turkey (British Levant)	Constantinople British Post Office	 Used September 1857 to 1891	Z69	C1	R,5				
			Z70	C3	4				
			Z70	C4	U				
			Z71	C6	U				
			Z72	C10	27	34	36	39	42
					43	44	46	47	48
					49	55	56	57	58
					59	60	62	63	66
		68							
Z73	C12	U							



Turkey (British Levant): Constantinople C, SG Spec. C1 Plate R,5




Turkey (British Levant): Constantinople C, SG Spec. C3 Plate 4

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Turkey (British Levant): Constantinople 'C', SG Spec. C10 Plate 58, backstamp 'BRITISH POST OFFICE CONSTANTINOPLE DE 7 1859'

Turkey (British Levant)	Constantinople British Post Office	 Forged: flat-sided oval	Z72	B1	forged 'C'	105



Turkey (British Levant): Constantinople, forged 'C' with flat-sided oval, SG Spec. B1 Plate 105

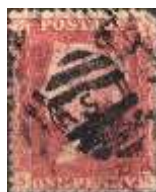
A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Turkey (British Levant)	Smyrna	Cancelled after UK arrival		B1	30			




Turkey (British Levant): Smyrna, SG Spec. B1 Plate 30. Folded letter of 9 February 1843 from Smyrna. Stamp cancelled upon UK arrival by a black 'Maltese Cross'.

Turkey (British Levant)	Stamboul		Z73	C12	faked 'S'	51		
		faked						




Turkey (British Levant): Faked Stamboul 'S' vertical oval, SG Spec. C12 Plate 51. This crudely drawn item was sold on Ebay in 2014, described as GB used abroad.

Turkey (British Levant)	Alexandretta French Post Office			C10	36			
		Used 1852 to 1862						



Turkey, Alexandretta (Iskenderun): '3766' losange petits chiffres of the French Post Office, SG Spec. C10 plate 36

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Turkey (British Levant)	Constantinople French Post Office	 Used 1852 to 1863		C6	12			



Turkey: Constantinople French Post Office, '3707' petits chiffre losange on SG Spec. C6 Plate 12 and three French 20c stamps and c.d.s. on front 'CONSTANTINOPLE TURQUIE 23 AVRIL 57', with backstamps for Paris and Calais.

United States of America

United States	Baltimore	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		A1	2			
					Not counted			



A folded letter written 23 June 1840 at Baltimore and carried to England bearing an SG Spec. A1, 1d Black Plate 2 which was cancelled on arrival by a red 'Maltese Cross' obliterator and backstamped Manchester JY17 1840. Included as part of the history of line-engraved Penny Stars used abroad but not counted.

A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
United States				B1	U			
				B2	U			

Reported in the literature but not seen by author

'United States'	Liverpool, UK (not USA)	 Used 1850 to 1867		C10	37			
					Added to trans-Atlantic mail at Liverpool and not in the United States			



The '76 CENTS' mark was applied at Liverpool: used on mail sent from GB to USA between 1850 and 1867. The letter was carried on a British contract packet-most likely a Cunard ship. The mark was applied at the Liverpool exchange office (London did not have a 'large' 76 cents mark). The mark is a claim for 76 cents from the US Post Office which indicates that the letter was judged to be unpaid and of 4 rates weight between 1 and 2 oz. Thus the 3d GB stamps were either ignored as a partial payment of the 4 x 1s rate or were a late fee payment of the unpaid letter. The latter is possible: a 3d late fee but without access to 1s stamps at that time in the evening.


Uruguay

Great Britain stamps were in use from 1864 at the British Postal Agency, Montevideo.

Uruguay	Montevideo				No examples recorded.			
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Uruguay: Montevideo c.d.s.. No examples recorded on 1d red stars but seen with a 4d rose on cover dated 2 March 1864.

Uruguay	Montevideo	 Used 1864 to 1872			No examples recorded.			
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Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates		
Uruguay	Montevideo	 '628' mis-described as 'C28'		C10	Misdescribe	36	



SG Spec. C10 Plate 36 with '628' obliterator of Preston but mistaken for Uruguay: Montevideo 'C28'. This was offered for sale at Stampex in 2013 as Great Britain used abroad.

Virgin Islands

Stamps of Great Britain were used for overseas mail from May 1858 until the end of April 1860. The Post Office at Road Town on the island of Tortola then reverted to the use of a crowned circle handstamp from 1 May 1858 until the introduction of Virgin Islands stamps in August 1879.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	46	52	60	63
Virgin Islands	Road Town, Tortola	 Used 1858 to 1860	Z1	C10	Not recorded on cover.			



Virgin Islands: Tortola 'A13', SG Spec. C10 Plate 52


BRITISH ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL, EXCLUDING THE CRIMEAN WAR

An Act of Parliament in May 1795 created a concession rate of one penny to soldiers and sailors below warrant rank. The concession rate only applied to mail carried by Post Office packets. In 1850, prepayment by postage stamps was authorised. Until the late-1850s to early-1860s, Concession Rate mail for seamen of the Royal Navy was placed in the ship's bag which was sealed prior to handing it to the Packet Agent of an appropriate vessel. In a similar fashion, soldiers' mail was sealed in an Army bag. These sealed bags were opened after arrival in Liverpool or Plymouth and the majority of such mail forwarded to London for sorting and cancelling at the Circulation Department. Use of Navy and Army sealed bags accounted for the large number of Crimean War letters with a dated backstamp applied in the war-zone and the stamps cancelled upon UK arrival. Later, Postal Agents either aboard P&O mailboats crossing the Mediterranean or on Cunard vessels crossing the North Atlantic would open the bags in order to sort and cancel such mail when at sea. A British GPO Notice of 4 June 1859 confirmed that under the usual conditions: "Letters sent by soldiers....may be forwarded for payment of a British rate of 1d, to any part beyond the sea with which there is a direct communication by British Packets and letters addressed to a soldier...brought to the United Kingdom by a British Packet without passing through a foreign country are, in a like manner subject to no higher charge than 1d if prepaid."

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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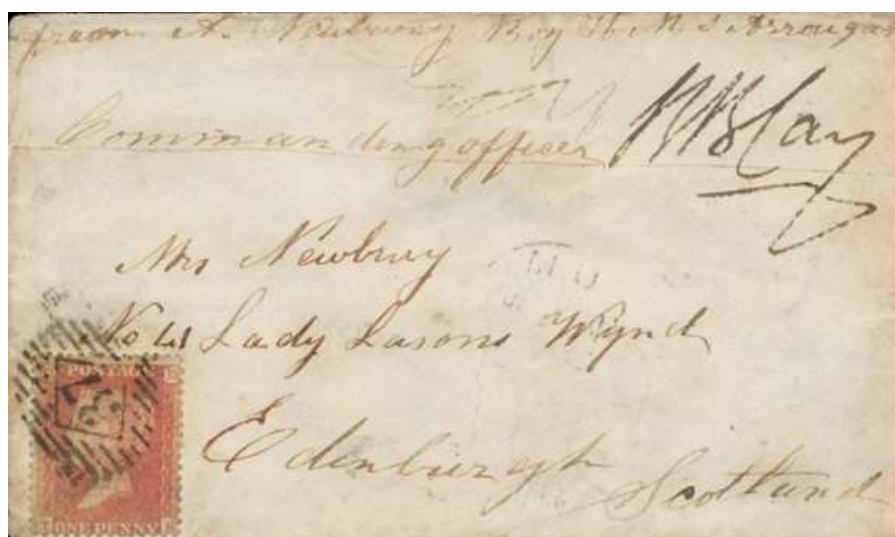
Ascension

A circular datestamp was supplied in 1858 and a Post Office was established at the Royal Navy Establishment in 1860.

Ascension	Georgetown Royal Navy Establishment		Z1	C6	U				
		Used from 1858			Forgeries of the c.d.s. are known.				

1855 red-brown was listed in both Stanley Gibbons catalogue and the Robson Lowe Encyclopædia, Volume II but not seen by this author.

Ascension	Georgetown Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	52	61			
					3 dated covers noted.				



Ascension sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 61, cancelled after UK arrival by Inland Branch 37-in-diamond obliterator of the Circulation Department. Sailor's letter from HMS *Arrowgant* at Ascension. Carried per Union SS *Norman*, departed Ascension 5 July 1861, arrived Plymouth 31 July 1861.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Australia

Australia	Sydney, New South Wales, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	52				



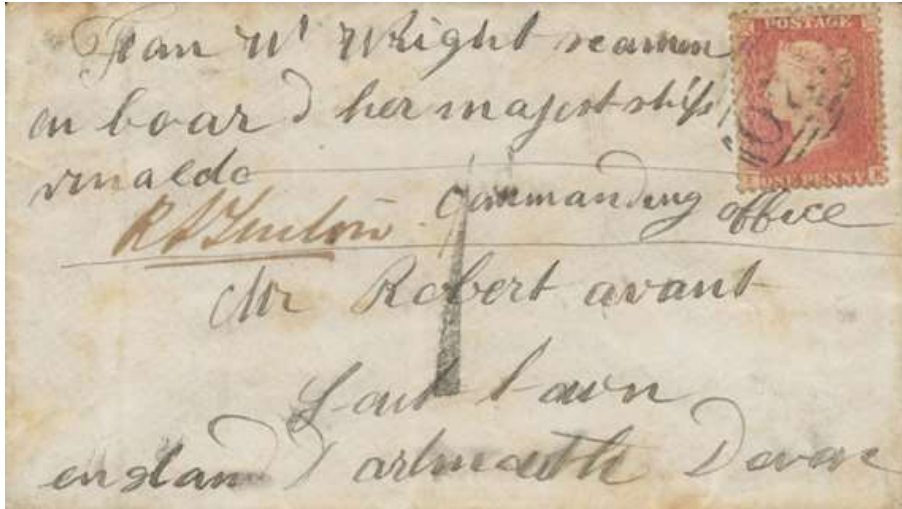
Sailor's letter from Sydney, New South Wales with SG Spec. C10 Plate 52, cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Branch '50' obliterator of the Circulation Department. Letter written aboard HMS *Salamander*, which was surveying the east coast of the continent. Carried per P&O *Bombay*, departed Sydney 22 October 1864; *Simla*, departed Galle 17 November 1864; *Delhi* departed Alexandria 4 December 1864 and arrived Southampton on 21 December 1864.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
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Bahamas

Bahamas	Nassau, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	60	U			
					2 dated covers noted				



Bahamas: Nassau sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 60, cancelled after UK arrival by '620' of Plymouth. A sailor's letter from HMS *Rinaldo* at the Bahamas. Bag carried by HMS *Cleopatra* to England, with dated arrival backstamp: 'PLYMOUTH MR 5 1862'.

Barbados

Barbados	Bridgetown, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		A1	2				
				C10	56				



Barbados: HMS *Illustrious* officer's letter dated March 9 1842, SG Spec. A1 Plate 2, 1d Black cancelled on arrival at Portsmouth by a Maltese cross obliterator. The lower two Penny Reds were added when the letter was redirected. Included here as part of the history of One Penny Stars used abroad but not counted in the totals.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Barbados: HMS *Duncan* sailor's letter of late-April/early-May 1864 March 9 1842, SG Spec. C10 Plate 56. The letter was cancelled by a London '87' May 13 64 duplex. Commissioned in January 1864, HMS *Duncan* was the flagship of the North America and West Indies station.

Bermuda

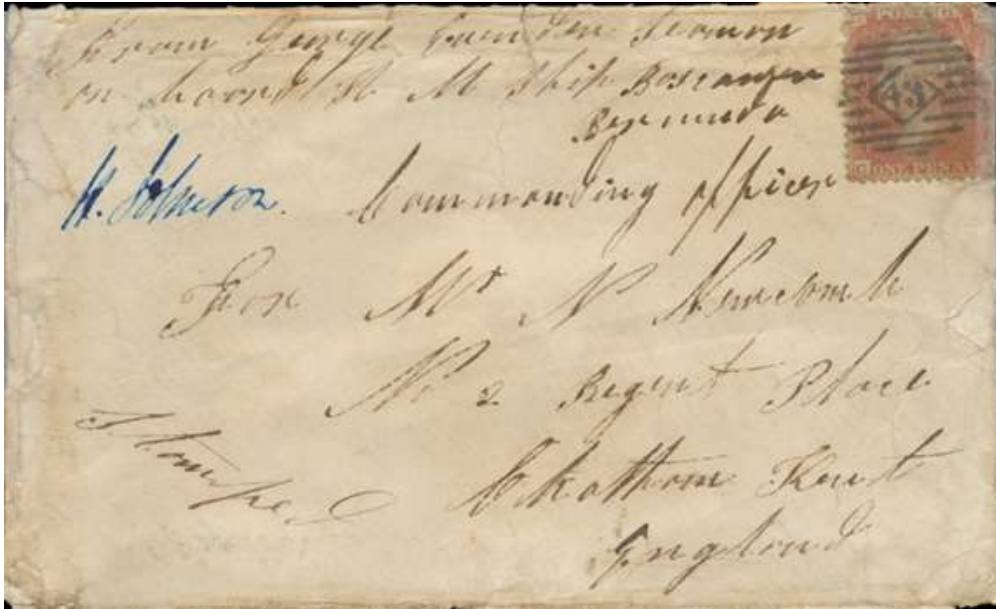
Bermuda	Hamilton, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		A1	2				
				C6	7				
				C10	60	U			



Bermuda: HMS *Illustrious* officer's letter dated February 4 1842, SG Spec. A1 Plate 2, Penny Black, cancelled on arrival at Portsmouth by a Maltese Cross obliterator. Transit mark 'PORTSMOUTH FE21 1842 D' and London arrival 'FE22 1842' in red. Included here as part of the history of One Penny Stars used abroad but not counted.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Bermuda: Hamilton sailor's letter, SG Spec. C6 Plate 7, cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Office '43' obliterator of the London District Post. January 1856 cover from a seaman on HMS Boscawen at Bermuda with a London backstamp and 'CHATHAM MR 6 1856' arrival backstamp in blue. Carried per SS Curlew, departed Nassau 23 January 1856, arrived St Thomas 29 January 1856; arrived Southampton 5th March 1856.



Bermuda: Hamilton sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10 unplated, cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Office '50' obliterator. Early July 1864 (or end-June) cover from HMS Phaeton, with London arrival mark 'JY 18 64'.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Bermuda	Hamilton, Navy letters via Cunard mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1868	Z151	C10	48				
					Counted under Cunard mailboats				



Bermuda: Hamilton sailor's letter, Cunard mailboat 'A94', SG Spec. C10 Plate 48 on an 1862 letter from HMS *Hero* , with an arrival datestamp 'HELMINSTER A FE12 62'.

Bermuda	Hamilton, Navy letters via Cunard mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1868	Z173	C10	R,17				
					Counted under Cunard mailboats				



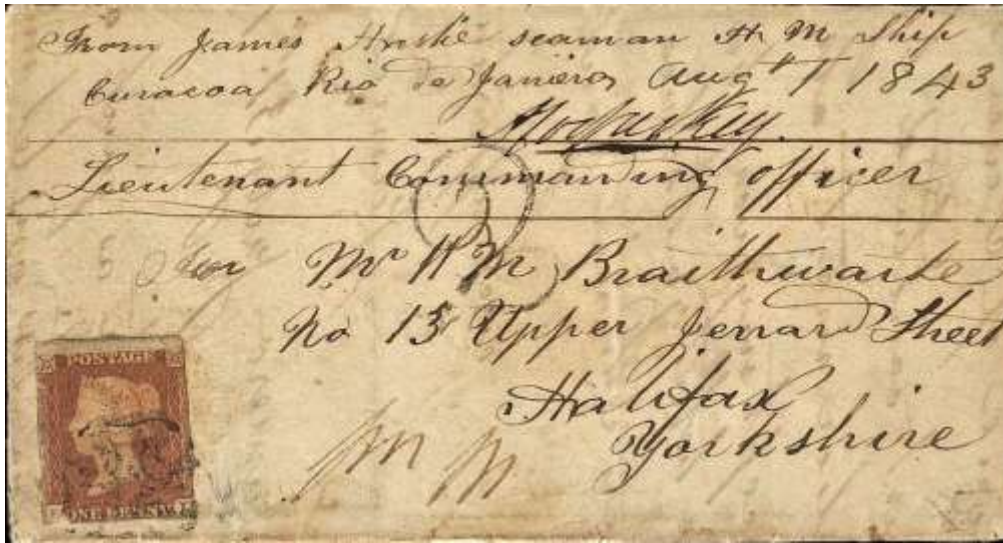
Bermuda: Hamilton sailor's letter, Cunard mailboat 'A98', SG Spec. C10 Plate R,17 on a letter of 19 March 1864 from HMS *Terror*, cancelled aboard Cunard mailboat SS *Arabia* between Halifax and Ireland.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Brazil

Brazil	Rio de Janeiro, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		B1	14	30			
				C10	58	61	62		
						5 dated covers noted			



Brazil: Rio de Janeiro, sailor's letter dated 7 August 1843 from HMS *Curacoa* , SG Spec. B1 Plate 30, cancelled after UK arrival by a 'Maltese Cross' obliterator.

Another letter with a pair of SG Spec. B1 Plate 14 Penny Reds SK-SL was carried on a Naval vessel and cancelled at Lombard Street on 31 August 1841, *The Philatelist-PJGB* , February 1981.



Brazil: Rio de Janeiro, sailor's letter from HMS *Bombay* , SG Spec. C10 Plate 62, cancelled after UK arrival by a London duplex. Carried by PSNC *Magdalena* , departed Rio de Janeiro 9 June 1864; arrived Southampton 4 August 1864.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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British Honduras

British Honduras	Belize, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	57				



British Honduras: Belize sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 57, cancelled after UK arrival by a LONDON OC 13 60 / 88-in-diamond duplex Pearson Hill machine cancellation. 1860 cover from a marine on HMS *Icarus*, Belize Bay, Honduras. Carried per RMSP *Wye*, departed Belize 17 September 1860; *Conway*, departed Kingston 24 September 1860; *Atrato*, departed St Thomas 30 September 1860; arrived Southampton 13 October 1860.


Burma

Burma	Rangoon, (Yangon) Army letters	 <p>Used 1856 to 1860</p>		C10	41				



Burma: Rangoon B/156, SG Spec. C10 Plate 41. Soldier's letter with boxed 'INDIA PAID' handstamp; reverse shows a boxed 'RANGOON SHIP LETTER PAID' datestamp, a Calcutta transit datestamp 'DE 8 1859' and a Leeds arrival datestamp 'JA22 1860'.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Burma	Thayetmyo, (Thyet) Army letters	 Used 1856 to 1860		C10	46	57			



Burma: Thayetmyo B/179, SG Spec. C10 Plate 57

Canada

Canada	Esquimalt, British Columbia, letters in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	52				
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Canada: Sailor's letter from HMS *Bacchante* at Esquimalt Naval Base, British Columbia, SG Spec. C10 Plate 52, cancelled after UK arrival by 'LONDON EC JU 12 62-82' duplex. Carried per PSNC to Panama; across the isthmus; RMSP *Solent*, departed Colon 8 May 1862, arrived St Thomas 14 May 1862; *Atrato* departed St Thomas 29 May 1862; arrived Southampton 12 June 1862.

Canada	Halifax, Nova Scotia, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	U				
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One unplatd officer's letter with a strip of six 1d reds seen by author. No scan available.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Canada	Halifax, Nova Scotia, Navy letters via Cunard mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1868	Z141	C10	46	U			
					Counted under Cunard mailboats				
					2 dated covers noted				




Canada: Halifax, Nova Scotia. 1863 Navy letter from a seaman on HMS *Phaeton*. SG Spec. C10 Plate 46 cancelled 'A92' aboard an eastbound Cunard Atlantic mailboat. Arrival mark in red 'LONDON-W.C. DE-- 63 PAID'. Royal Navy mail was put on Cunard Line mailboats at Halifax.

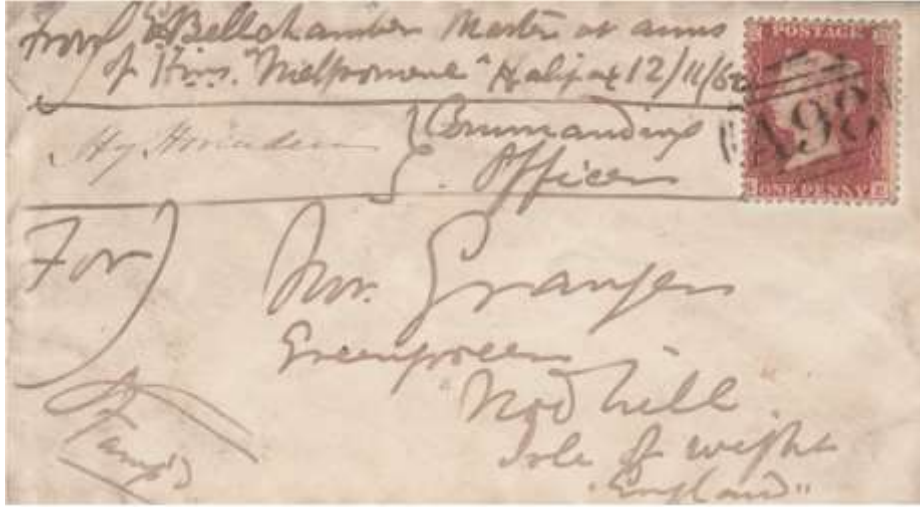
Canada	Halifax, Nova Scotia, Navy letters via Cunard mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1868	Z170	C10	59				
					Counted under Cunard mailboats				



Canada: Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1862 Navy Letter from a seaman on HMS *Phaeton* at Halifax. SG Spec. C10 Plate 59 cancelled 'A97' aboard eastbound Cunard Atlantic mailboat.

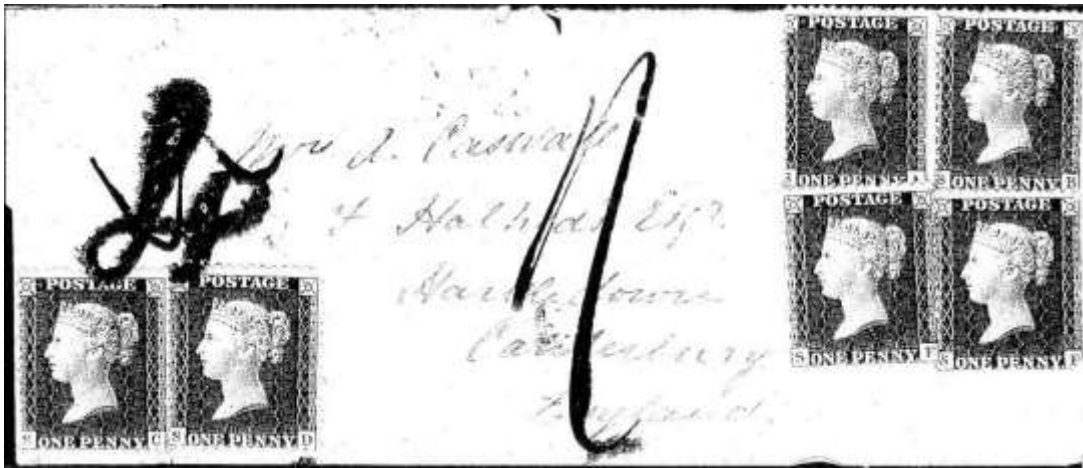
B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Canada	Halifax, Nova Scotia, Navy letters via Cunard mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1868	Z173	C10	43	56		
					Counted under Cunard mailboats			
					3 dated covers noted			




Canada: Letter written by the Master of Arms aboard HMS *Melpomene* at Halifax, Nova Scotia on 12 November 1862. SG Spec. C10 Plate 43 was cancelled 'A98' on the east-bound Cunard Atlantic mailboat *Arabia* which departed Boston USA on 12 November 1862, calling at Halifax to collect passengers and mail. The mail was sorted and cancelled on board during the crossing before arriving at Queenstown, Ireland on 22 November 1862, where the cancelled mail was off-loaded.

Canada	Halifax, Nova Scotia, in Navy bag			C10	59			
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Canada: Officer's letter probably from Bermuda via Halifax, Nova Scotia to England, SG Spec. C10 Plate 59; 6d Officers Rate but stamps left uncanceled; dated backstamp: 'HALIFAX NOVA SCOTIA MY 15 1862'. A Halifax hand-struck '4', tying two of the stamps, signified 4d Sterling due on letters sent by British packet (under ½ ounce weight) between Halifax and North Sydney (Nova Scotia), St John's Newfoundland), St Pierre and Miquelon, or Bermuda. Upon arrival in England, the '4' was struck out and the full Transatlantic Packet Rate of 1/- was raised.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Canada	Quebec, in Army bag	 Used 1842 to 1850		B2	U			

Reported in the literature but not seen by author.

Ceylon

Ceylon	Trincomalee	Navy letters						
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No 1d star covers reported but 1864 1d plate number cover seen and reported.

Cape Verde

Cape Verde (Portugese West Africa)	St Vincent Island, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	27	48		
				C13	R16			

SH R16 GI 48 AE 27



Cape Verde: A Naval letter with a mixed franking posted from St Vincent Island in August 1866 and cancelled on arrival, with backstamps London 'AU31 1866' and Pittenweem 'SP 1 1866'. Six Penny Red stamps from five different plates: SG Spec.C10 Plate 27 and Plate 48; SG Spec.C13 Plate R16; SG Spec. G1 Plate 80 and Plate 81. The vessel HMS Leopard was returning from China and called in at Mindelo Bay, St Vincent Island for fuel and stores. The letter was collected by the RMS Rhone which reached Southampton on 30 August 1866. Leopard departed Cape Verde on 12 August 1866 en-route to Plymouth, arriving 7 September, where she was due to be decommissioned.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Chile

Chile	Valparaiso, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		B2	U				
				C10	60				
						2 dated covers noted			



Chile: Valparaiso sailor's letter, SG Spec. B2 unplated, cancelled after UK arrival by a London Inland Branch '35' obliterator. Sailor's letter from HMS *Amphitrite*, carried per PSNC *Santiago*, departed Valparaiso 15 April 1853 for Panama; carried across the isthmus; RMSP *Avon* departed Chargres 10 May 1853; *Plato* departed St Thomas and arrived Southampton 30 May 1853.



Chile: Valparaiso sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 60, cancelled after UK arrival by a London Inland Branch '24' obliterator of the Circulation Department. 1864 cover from HMS *Columbine* at Valparaiso, with 6d handstamp and a segmented inspector's handstamp in red on front, 'FM LONDON MR29 64' backstamp in blue and 'YARMOUTH NORFOLK MR30 64' arrival backstamp in red. Carried per PSNC mailboat, departed Valparaiso 15 February 1864 for Panama; carried across the isthmus; RMSP *Tyne* departed Colon 7 March 1864; *Atrato*, departed St Thomas 15 March 1864; arrived Southampton 29 March 1864.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
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China

China	Amoy (Xiamen), in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	49				




China: Amoy sailor's letter from HMS *Sampson* during the Second Opium War with SG Spec. C10 Plate 49. Despatched 27 February 1858 from Amoy and cancelled on arrival by London Inland '50'.

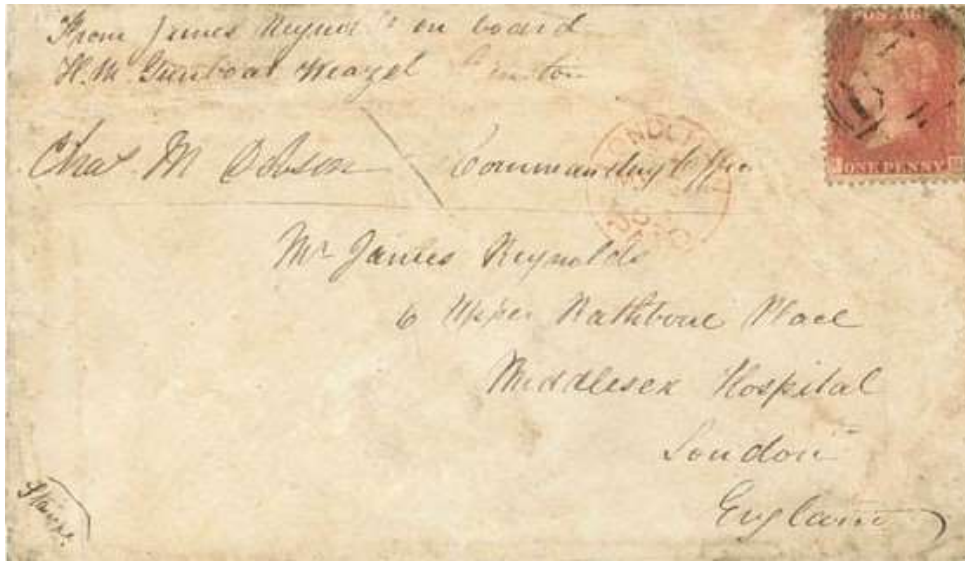
China	Canton River, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	43	57	58		
					3 dated covers noted				



China: Canton River, Royal Navy officer's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 43, cancelled after UK arrival by a London Inland Branch '40' obliterator when the Navy Bag was opened. July 1858 letter from HMS *Amethyst*, on the Canton River, went down river and then by a P&O steamer from Hong Kong.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
China	Canton River, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1861 to 1870	Z110	C10	57			
				C13	R16			
					Counted under P&O mailboats			



P&O: B57, SG Spec. C13 Plate R16, sailor's letter from Canton River gunboat HMS Weasel, with a London arrival c.d.s. 21 May 1863 and backstamped with a Hong Kong c.d.s. for 32 March 1863. Stamp cancelled aboard a P&O mailboat after departing Alexandria.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	27	57	61	62
China	Gulf of Chili, Po Hai Sea, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z59	C10				
					Counted under P&O mailboats			
					2 covers noted			

61 61 57 61 62 61



China: HMS Reynard officer's letter from Gulf of Chili, Po Hai Sea during the 2nd Opium War, SG Spec. C10 Plates 57, 61 and 62 cancelled 'A88' on a P&O Mediterranean mailboat, with 'SHEERNESS MY28 1862' arrival backstamp.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
China	Hong Kong, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C8	31					
				C9	48					
				C10	34	43	46	55	58	
					60					
					7 dated covers noted					



China: Hong Kong officer's letter of September 1857 with SG Spec. C9 Plate 48, cancelled after UK arrival by London Inland Branch '50' obliterator of the Circulation Department.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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55 55

55 55


31 31

31 37




China: Hong Kong sailor's letter. SG Spec. C8 Plate 31 and SG Spec. C10 Plates 37 and 55, cancelled after UK arrival by Inland Branch '44' obliterator of the Circulation Department. June 1859 sailor's letter from HMS Retribution, with 'PLYMOUTH AU 7 59' arrival backstamp.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
China	Hong Kong, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z3	C10	U				
					Counted under P&O mailboats				




China: Hong Kong sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10, faded and unplated, cancelled by A81 obliterator of P&O Line, used aboard SS Baroda. Sailor's letter of 1864 from HM Gunboat Cockchafer. 'HONG KONG JU11 64' backstamp in blue; carried per P&O Orissa, departed Hong Kong 13 June 1864; Mooltan, departed Galle 23 July 1864; Baroda, departed Alexandria date uncertain; Delhi, departed Malta 28 July 1864; arrived Southampton 6 August 1864; 'ST GERMAN'S AU 7 64' arrival backstamp.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	44	59	U		
China	Hong Kong, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z21	C10					
					Counted under P&O mailboats				
					3 dated covers noted				



China: Hong Kong sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 59, cancelled by 'A83' obliterator of P&O Line used aboard SS Euxine. 1860 Royal Marine's letter from HMS Adventure with 'GLASGOW FE18 61' arrival backstamp. Carried per P&O Ottawa, departed Hong Kong 31 December 1860; Nemesis, departed Galle 18 January 1861; Euxine, departed Alexandria 4 February 1861; Ceylon, departed Malta 8 February 1861 and arrived Southampton 16 February 1861.

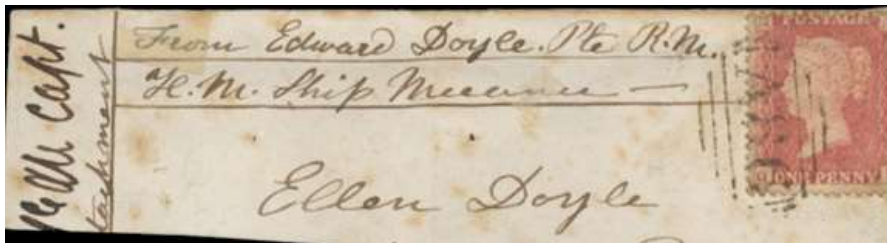
B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
China	Hong Kong, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z34	C10	36	48	60	
				C12	50			
					Counted under P&O mailboats 3 dated covers noted			




China: Hong Kong, Naval Officer's letter, P&O 'A85' on SG Spec.C10 Plates 48 & 60, with manuscript *Hong Kong Febry 14 1863*, HMS *Racehorse* on back.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
China	Hong Kong, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z43	C10	R,17			
					Counted under P&O mailboats			



China: Hong Kong Royal Marine's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate R,17 cancelled by 'A86' obliterator of P&O Ripon. Part of a March 1863 letter from HMS *Meeanee* with 'CARLOW AP27 63' arrival backstamp.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
China	Hong Kong, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z59	C10	57				Counted under P&O mailboats



Pacific Naval Station: Officer's letter from Gulf of Chili, Po Hai Sea, China. 'A88' on SG Spec. C10 Plates 57, 61 & 62. HMS Reynard, Second Opium War, cancelled on P&O Mediterranean mailboat, with 'SHEERNESS MY28 1862' arrival backstamp.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
China	Hong Kong, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1869	Z78	C10	36				Counted under P&O mailboats



China: Hong Kong sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 36, cancelled by 'A99' obliterator of P&O Line. Sailor's letter from HMS *Esk*, in an April 1860 Naval mailbag from Hong Kong. HMS *Esk* was part of the East Indies Station of the Royal Navy and departed Hong Kong in the summer of 1860, as part of the action to seal the Bohai Gulf.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
China	Huangpu ('Wampoa'), Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	48			




China: 1858 Huangpu ('Wampoa') sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 48, cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Branch '44' obliterator of the Circulation Department. sailor's letter from HMS Cambrian at Wampoa dated October 26 / 58. Transit backstamp '58 DE 22 LONDON'.

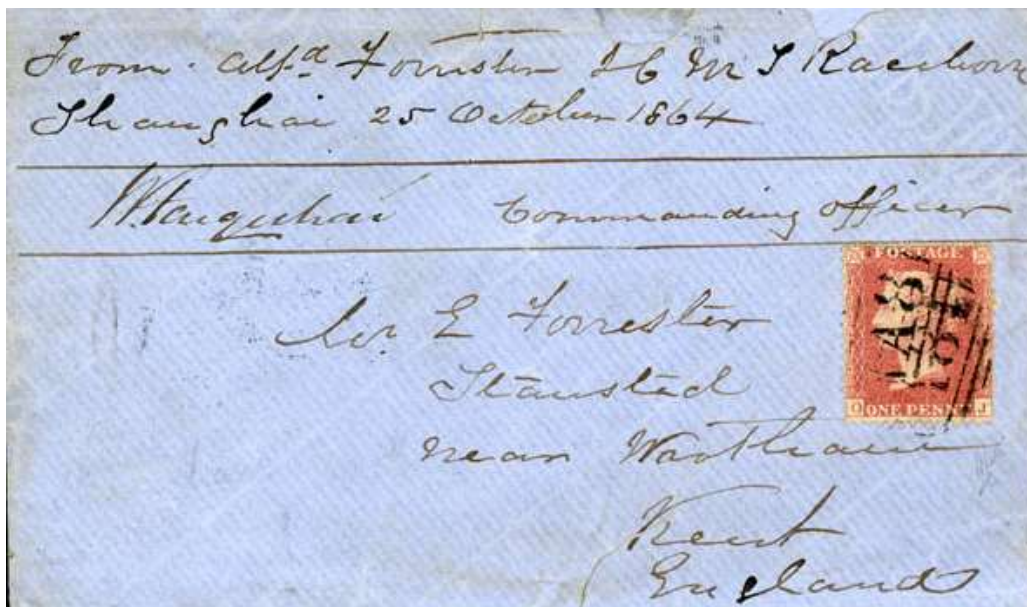
China	Shanghai, letters in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C6	12			
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China: Shanghai sailor's letter, SG Spec. C6 Plate 12, cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Branch '29' obliterator of the Circulation Department. 1856 sailor's letter from HMS Sybille. Carried per P&O Erin, departed Shanghai 6 September 1856; Ganges departed Hong Kong 13 September 1856; Hindustan, departed Galle 1 October 1856; Pera, departed Alexandria 21 October 1856; arrived Southampton 2 November 1856. London transit backstamp of 3NO3 1856 and Cork arrival backstamp in blue.

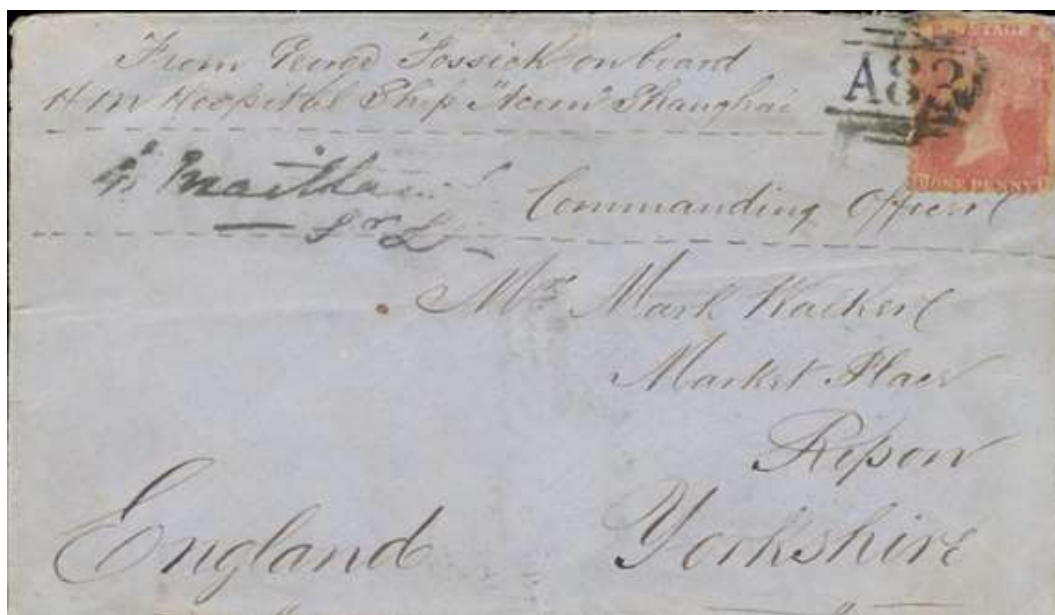
B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
China	Shanghai, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z3	C10	43	U		
					Counted under P&O mailboats			
					2 dated covers noted			




China: Shanghai sailor's letter, P&O 'A81', SG Spec. C10 Plate 43, letter dated 25 October 1864 from HMS Racehorse and backstamped 'HONG KONG OC27 1864'; cancelled aboard P&O Delhi en-route from Egypt to Southampton.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
China	Shanghai, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z21	C10	37	56		
					Counted under P&O mailboats			



China: Shanghai sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 37, cancelled by 'A83' obliterator of P&O Line used aboard SS Euxine. Sailor's letter from HMS Acorn, hospital ship at Shanghai. Arrival backstamp HONG KONG C NO13 61; carried per P&O Emeu, departed Hong Kong 15 November 1861; Simla, departed Galle 1 December 1861; Euxine, departed Alexandria 20 December 1861; arrived England date uncertain. Arrival backstamp 'RIPON JA 3 62'.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
China	Shanghai, Navy letters via P&O mailboat			C10	56			



China, Second Opium War: Shanghai Naval cover with five SG Spec. C10 Plate 56 and 4d rose-carmine cancelled by a bagseal: 'OFFICER IN CHARGE OF COMMUNICATIONS' with Crown, the 9d rate via Marseille from the Far East, with a London backstamp 'SP 27 59'. Carried on the P&O ships Formosa, Cadiz, Candia and Valletta, reaching Marseille on 25 September 1859. Posted at either Shanghai, August 2 or at Hong Kong, 7 August. Bottom left initialled 'G.J.A.', the addressee's son, at the time serving as a Midshipman on the 17-gun sloop HMS Cruiser which was known to be at or near Shanghai / Peking from April to September 1859. The canceller was presumably used in error for a Mailboat Numeral; the Officer in Charge of Communications was the Naval Officer in charge of a Post Office Company.

China	Shanghai, Army or Navy letter			C10	52	U		
					2 dated items noted			



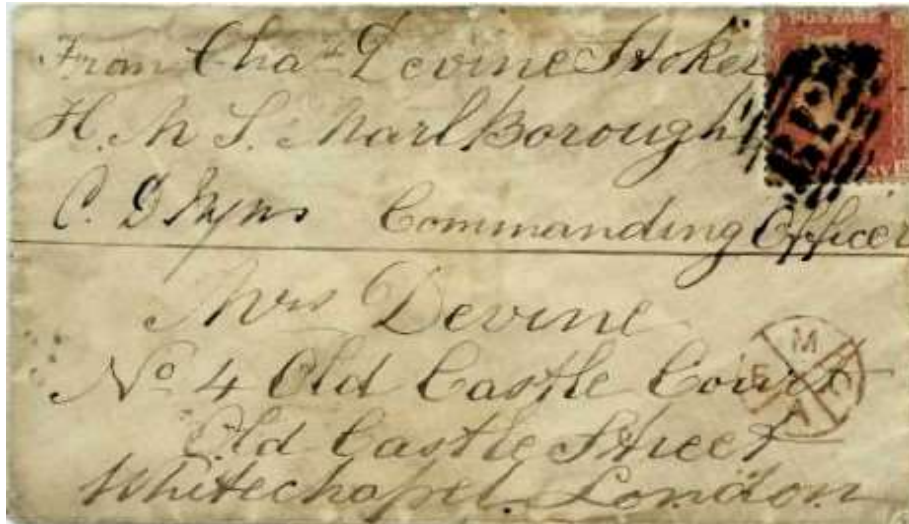
China: Shanghai, SG Spec. C10 Plate 52, circular datestamp 'SHANGHAE AP 22 6-' of the British Post Office. Shanghai was a major Treaty Port in China, with a British military presence there at that time. One penny was the Soldiers' Concessionary Postal Rate.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Egypt


Egypt	Alexandria, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1869	Z94	C10	U				
					Counted under P&O mailboats				



Egypt, Alexandria. Sailor's letter from Charles Devine, a stoker on *HMS Marlborough*, carried from Alexandria on 5 June 1864, probably on P&O *Ceylon*, with unplatd SG Spec. C10 cancelled by 'B12' obliterator. Vessel arrived Southampton 23 June 1864; front shows an inspector's mark with a London missent mark for 27 June 1864 on the back.

Eritrea

A British Expeditionary Force of December 1867 to May 1868 disembarked from Zula for the Abbyssinian campaign against Tewedros II (Theodore II), Emperor of Ethiopia.

Eritrea	Zula (Zoulla), Army letters	 1867 to 1868		C10	46				



Eritrea: Zula, 'F.F.' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 46, ex-soldier's letter. 'F.F.' = (Abbyssinian) Field Force.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

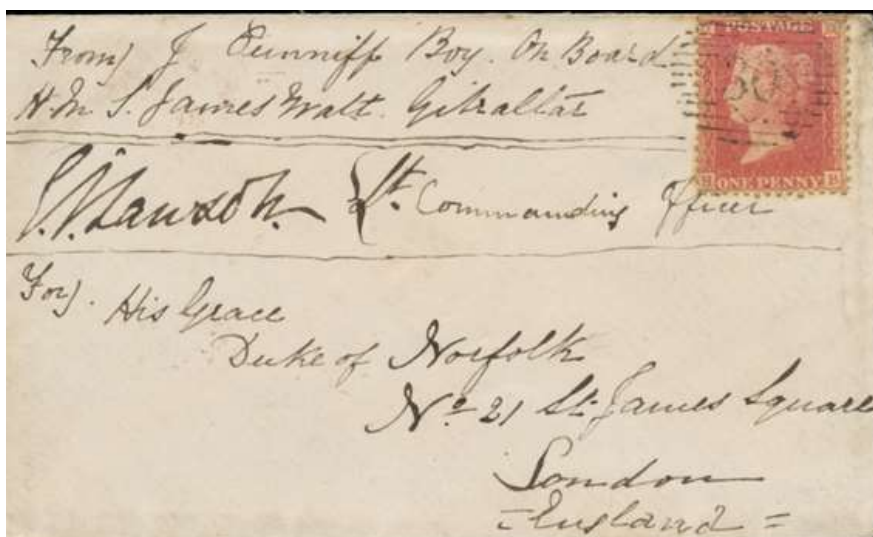
Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Fernando Po


Prior to 1860, any letters from the West African Naval Station were cancelled on arrival in London. No covers from Fernando Po have been identified.

Gibraltar

Gibraltar	Letters via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	47	U			
					2 dated covers noted				





Gibraltar: sailors's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 47, cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Branch '30' cancel of the Circulation Department. Seaman's letter from HMS James Watt, carried per P&O Ceylon; departed Gibraltar 14 March 1860; arrived Southampton 19 March 1860; London arrival backstamp in red 'MR 20 60'.

Gibraltar	Army letters via British Post Office		Z18	C10	27	36	38	42	57
					58	59	60	61	
			Counted as Gibraltar						
Used September 1859 to December 1855					8 dated covers noted				



Gibraltar: Soldier's letter. 'A26' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 27, with 'GIBRALTAR A DE 4 60' c.d.s. on front in blue.

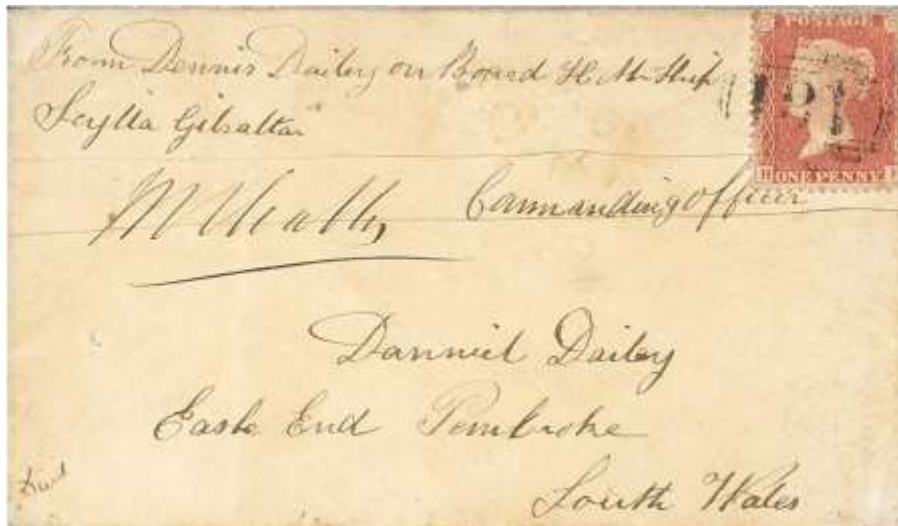
B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Gibraltar	Army letters via British Post Office	  Used February 1859 to December 1885	Z18	C10	40				
					Counted as Gibraltar				




Gibraltar: Canadian soldier's letter. 'A26' duplex on C10 Plate 40, dated 'GIBRALTAR A MR 14 61', with backstamp 'Y BRISTOL MR 21 61'. Countersigned by Major Alexander Dunn VC of the 100th Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Gibraltar	Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z3	C10	49				
					Counted under P&O mailboats				



P&O Mailboat 'A81' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 49. Sailor's letter from HMS *Scylla* at Gibraltar, 1862, arrived 'MR 7 1862'.


B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Gibraltar	Army letters via P&O Mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z43	C10	42	60	U	
					Counted under P&O mailboats 3 letters noted, 1 dated			



Gibraltar: Soldier's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 42, cancelled 'A86' aboard P&O mailboat; Rotherham arrival backstamp 'MY 2 1862'

Greece

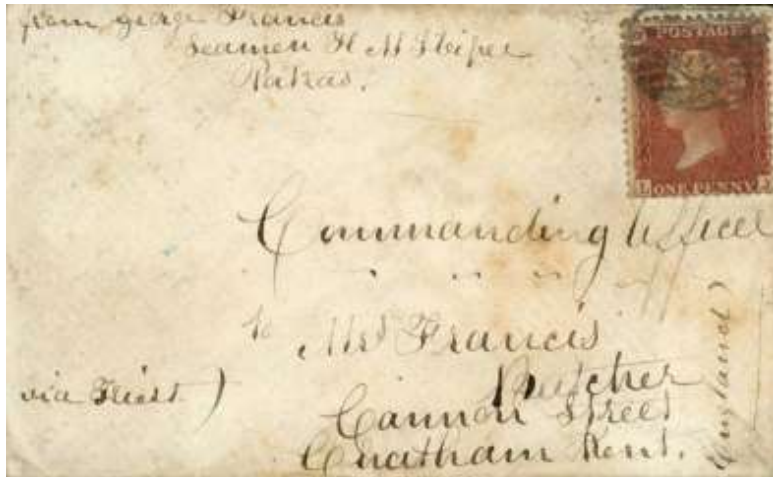
Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Greece	Athens, Navy bag via Malta	 Used February 1859 to September 1881	Z27	C10	60			
					Counted under Malta			



Greece: Athens sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 60, cancelled in transit at Malta by 'A25' duplex 'MALTA A NO 13 61' seaman's letter from HMS *Caesar* at Athens; dated inside 7 November 1861.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Greece	Patras, letters via Navy Bag from post-Crimean War Naval patrols	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C6	21				
				C8	27				
						Counted under Crimean War 2 covers noted			



Crimean War, Greece, Patras: Royal Navy sailor's letter from HMS *Viper* on post-war patrol. Some British forces were retained in the East for a short period to ensure the Russian forces complied with the Treaty arrangements. SG Spec. C6 plate 21 on a letter dated 8 October 1856; cancelled after arrival of the Navy Bag.

Greece	Piraeus, letters in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	U				




Greece: Piraeus sailor's letter, SG Spec. C10, unplate, cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Branch '30' obliterator of the Circulation Department. Seaman's letter from HMS *Foxhound*, (at Piraeus 8 April 1863), carried by French Packet, with handstamp 'PAQUEBOTS DE LA MEDITERRANEE' in red and rated 6(d) in black for the unpaid 3d per quarter ounce for transitting France. backstamps for Marseille (10 AVRIL), Paris, London and Carlisle.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

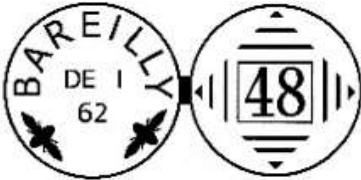
Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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India

India	Agra, Army letters	 Used 1857 and later	C10	34				



India: Agra soldier's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 34, cancelled by the '1' obliterator of the Indian Post Office at Agra. Endorsed: 'From 718 Pvt. G Burkin 3BRB', (3rd Battalion Rifle Brigade, which arrived in India during November 1857). The reverse carries a transit datestamp 'BOMBAY MY30 1859', an 'INDIA PAID' handstamp applied in India and an indistinct Marseille transit mark.

India	Bareilly, Army letters	 Used 1861 to 1862 and later	C10	44	64	66		


66

44




India: Bareilly '48' duplex, SG Spec. C10 Plate 66 with c.d.s. and Plate 44 with '48'; two scans joined.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
India	Barrackpore, Army letters			C10	49				



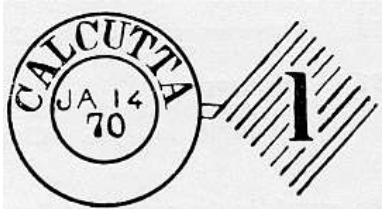
India: Barrackpore soldier's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 49, cancelled by two strikes, and an Indian 1 anna stamp with one strike of the '213' obliterator of the Indian Post Office at Barrackpore. The front also carries a red 2-line, boxed INDIA PAID handstamp, applied in India. The reverse carries the despatch office red datestamp: 'SAUGORVI 16 1860', (month inverted), a red transit mark: 'BOMBAY JA23 1860' and arrival mark: 'TROWBRIDGE MR 3 60'. The GB stamp paid the sea postage by private ship (the 'Ship Commander's Gratuity') of 1d, which was paid in addition to the Soldiers' 1d privilege rate of postage.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
India	Calcutta, (Kolkata), Army letters	 <p>Used 1855 to 1862</p>		B2 C8 C10	U 35 U	Cover to UK			
					Two dated but unplated covers in Chartwell sale.				



India: Calcutta 'B/1' in concentric octagons, SG Spec. C8 Plate 35, ex-soldier's letter.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
India	Calcutta, (Kolkata), Army letters			C10	57				




India: Calcutta '1', part of duplex obliterator, SG Spec. C10 Plate 57, ex-soldier's letter

India	Cawnpore, Army letters			C10	37				
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India: Cawnpore soldier's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 37, cancelled by the '56' obliterator of the Indian Post Office at Cawnpore and over-struck after UK arrival with the '11' obliterator of the London Inland Branch.

India	Dewan Serai Army letters	 Used 1855 to 1862		C10	39				
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India: Dewan Serai 'B/32' concentric octagons, SG Spec. C10 Plate 39, ex-soldier's letter

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
India	Dum Dum Army letters	 Used 1855 to 1862		C10	49			



India: Dum Dum soldier's letter, 'B/76' concentric octagons, SG Spec. C10 Plate 49; transit backstamp 'CALCUTTA DE 8 1858'

India	Governor-General's Camp Army letters				58			
					'G.G.' obliterator followed the camps (mobile).			




India: Governor General's Camp 'G.G.', SG Spec. C10 Plate 58, ex-soldier's letter.

India	Head Quarters Camp Army letters			C10	47			
					'H.Q.' obliterator followed the camps (mobile).			



India: Head Quarters Camp 'H.Q.', SG Spec. C10 Plate 47, overstruck by a London 'WC 5' obliterator

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
India	Kedgerree, Army letters	 Used 1856 to 1860		C6	15					
				C10	39	44	55	56	59	




India: Kedgerree 'B/102' concentric octagons, SG Spec. C6 Plate 15




India: Kedgerree sailor's letter, 'B/102' concentric octagons, SG Spec. C10 Plate 44. Seaman's letter from HMS Sans Pareil, Kedgerree, East India, with 'KEDGERREE P.O. 10 NOV 1857' datestamp, 'MADRAS 1857 14NO' datestamp and a boxed 'INDIA UNPAID' handstamp; transit backstamp 'LONDON DE19 57' and Bath arrival backstamp. Carried to Ceylon; per P&O Bengal, departed Galle 18 November 1857; Nemesis, departed Alexandria 5 December 1857; arrived Southampton 18 December 1857. Untaxed despite being underpaid and not countersigned by his commanding officer.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
India	Lucknow, Army letters			C10	58			



India: Lucknow soldier's letter, '176' obliterator on SG Spec. C10 plate 58, sent from India on 4 January 1859, with red backstamps 'LUCKNOW P.O. JAN 4 1859' and a transit mark 'CALCUTTA G.P.O. JA 12 1859'. Two strikes of arrival backstamp in blue 'LONDON MR-7 59'.

India	Seewan, Army letter via Navy bag			C10	44	58		
Used 1856 to 1860								




India: Seewan Army letter from a Naval Unit, B/58 on SG Spec. C10 Plate 58, obscured by a '28' obliterator of the London Inland Branch. Letter from Medical Staff Corps/Naval Brigade, HMS Pearl, with boxed 'INDIA UNPAID' handstamp. Red backstamp 'SEEWAN P.O. 18 NOV 1857' (Siwan?); red 'PATNA P.O.' backstamp; blue 'KM LONDON JA 6 58' arrival backstamp. Carried to Ceylon; per P&O Alma, departed Galle 2nd December 1857 and transferred at sea to the Adjaha. The Indus departed Alexandria 23 December 1857 and arrived London 5 January 1858. The writer was in the Medical Staff Corps, an Army unit, assigned to the Naval Brigade aboard HMS Pearl, which was engaged along with HMS Shannon on inland operations during the Indian Mutiny.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Ionian Islands

Ionian Islands	Corfu (ex-Zante), Army letters	 Used 1844 to 1864	C10	59				



Ionian Islands: 1 August 1861 soldier's letter sent from Zante, where it received a Zante crowned circle and datestamp. SG Spec. C10 Plate 59 added at Corfu over the Zante markings and cancelled by Corfu crowned circle.

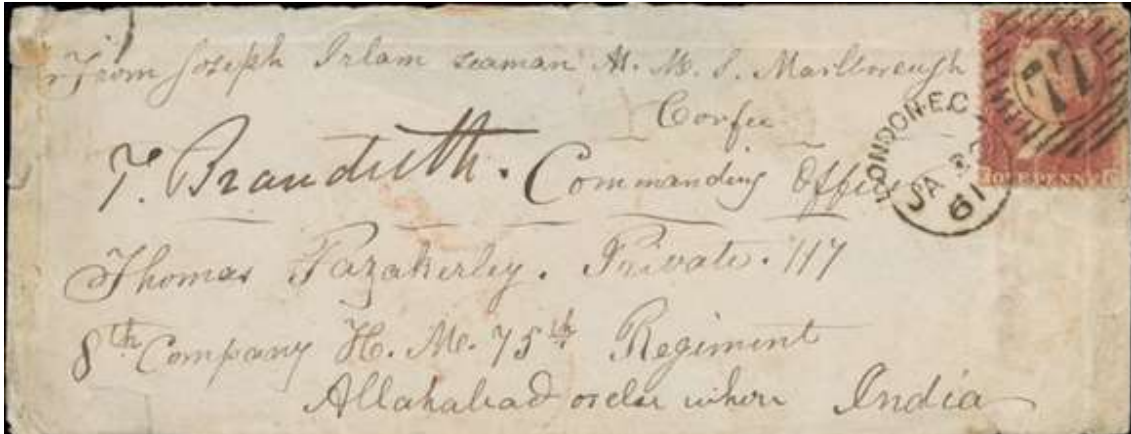
Ionian Islands	Corfu, Army letters		C10	27	39	43	55	
				2 dated covers noted				



Ionian Islands: Corfu soldier's letter, circular datestamp on SG Spec. C10 Plate 43, 'CORFU SE25 63' with dated arrival mark in red 'LONDON OC 9 63'.

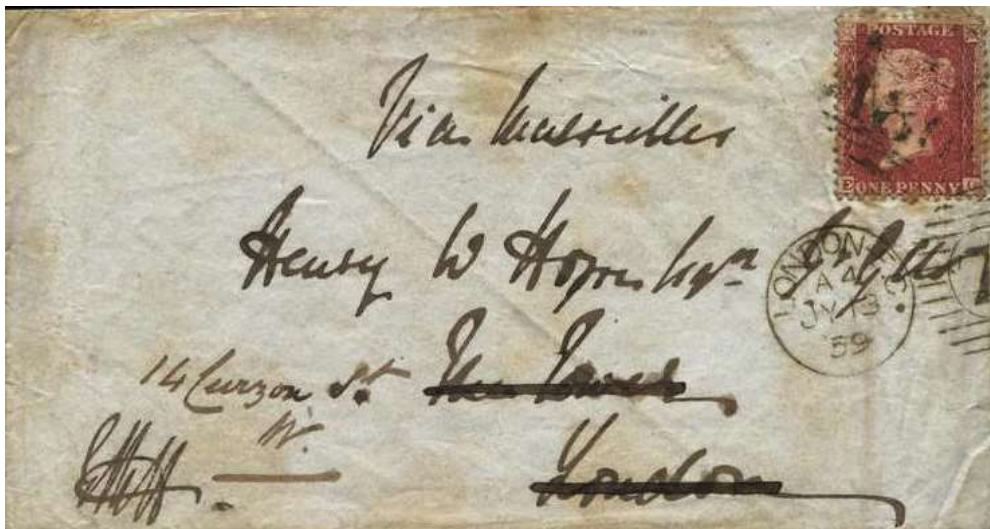
B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Ionian Islands	Corfu, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	43			




Ionian Islands: Corfu sailors's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 43 cancelled after UK arrival by 'LONDON EC JA30 61 – 77' duplex. 1861 seaman's letter from HMS Marlborough at Corfu to a soldier in India but sent via London. Indian backstamps of Bombay transit, Calcutta transit and Allahabad arrival, all in red. Regulations required that soldiers' letters be sent to London in a locked bag, even if the destination was in the opposite direction, as here, to India. Part of the Fazackerly correspondence.

Ionian Islands	Corfu, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z1	C10	58			
					Counted under P&O mailboats			




Ionian Islands: Corfu sailor's letter written aboard HMS *Euralus* 25 June 1859. P&O mailboat 'A80', SG Spec. C10 Plate 58

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Ionian Islands	Corfu, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z43	C10	36				Counted under P&O mailboats



Ionian Islands: Corfu Navy letter from HMS *Trident*, P&O 'A86' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 36

Ionian Islands	Corfu, Navy letters via Malta	 Used February 1859 to September 1881	Z27	C10	55				Counted under Malta



Ionian Islands, 'PAID AT CORFU' crowned circle, SG Spec. C10 Plate 55, on a July 1859 letter from Corfu, via Malta to Sicily. Stamps added and cancelled by the Malta duplex 'A25 C JY 21 59' at the British Post Office, Valletta, Malta, thus avoiding additional charges on arrival in Sicily.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Ionian Islands	Lefkada, Army letter	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	52			



Ionian Islands, Lefkada. Army letter franked at the 1d soldiers rate by SG Spec. C10 Plate EI cancelled upon arrival in London. Blue oval datestamp 'STA MAURA 1860 14 DECEMBER' at left and endorsed by the writer 'From 646 Pte Chas Hoade, 1st Battn 9th Foot ', serving with the British Garrison at Santa Maura Castle.

Jamaica	Port Royal, in Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	34	49	52	57
					4 dated covers noted			



Jamaica: Port Royal sailors's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 34, cancelled after UK arrival by 'LONDON EC AU13 61-79' duplex. 1861 seaman's letter dated July 14th from HMS Mersey, Port Royal, (Kingston's harbour), with Bath arrival backstamp. Carried per RMS Trent, departed Port Royal 24 July 1861; Atrato, departed St Thomas 2 July 1861; arrived Southampton 13 August 1861.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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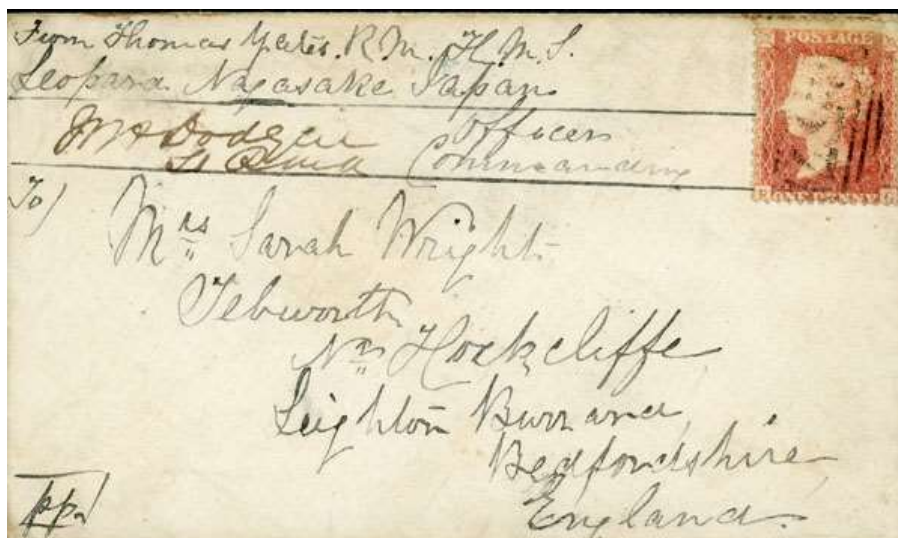
Japan

Japan	Hyogo, British Consulate letter		C10	67				




Japan: Hyogo. Mourning envelope without datestamp from the British Consulate, addressed to Foochow Customs House in China. SG Spec. C10 Plate 67 cancelled by the British Consulate handstamp in red. The Consulate was in use by 1868 and this was possibly an unofficial, 'philatelic' cover, prepared as a favour. Unless carried in a Diplomatic Bag, there was no evidence it passed through the postal system.

Japan	Nagasaki, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 <p>Used 1861 to 1870</p>	Z110	C10	41				
									Counted under P&O mailboats



Japan: Nagasaki sailors's letter, P&O 'B57' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 41, November 1863 from HMS Leopard, cancelled aboard P&O Poonah en-route from Egypt to Southampton; backstamped 'HONG KONG NO30 1863'.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Japan	Yokohama, British Consulate, via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z21	C10	46				
					Counted under P&O mailboats				




Japan: Yokohama British Consulate, SG Spec. C10 Plate 46, cancelled 'A83' on P&O Ceylon en route from Alexandria to Southampton. 12 July 1861 letter from a translator at the British Consulate, Yokohama; backstamped 'HONG KONG AU 8 1861'. Charged 11d on delivery, as it was from a civilian and not a Concession Rate letter from the Royal Navy.

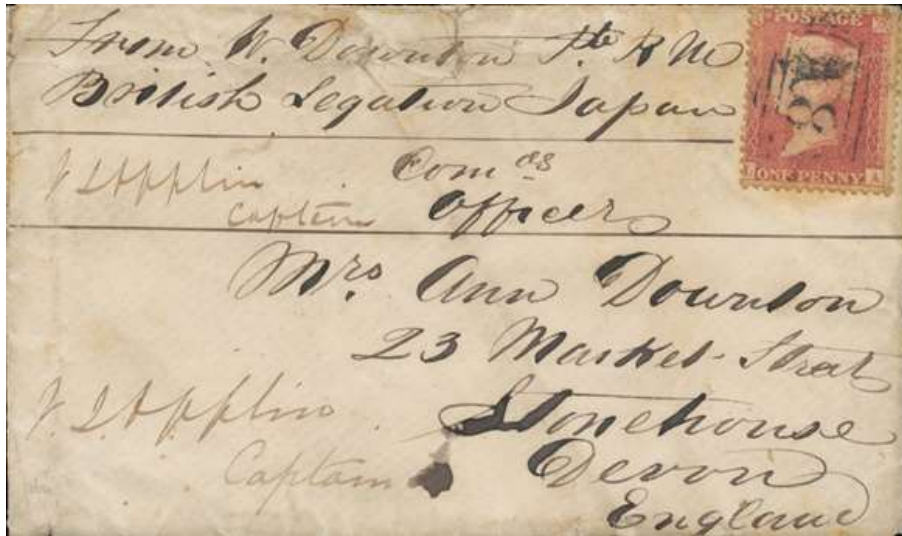
Japan	Yokohama, via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	56	U			
					3 dated letters noted				



Japan: Yokohama officer's letter cancelled on arrival in London by Foreign Branch '61' obliterator, SG Spec. C10 Plate 56; HMS *Leopard*, August 1864.

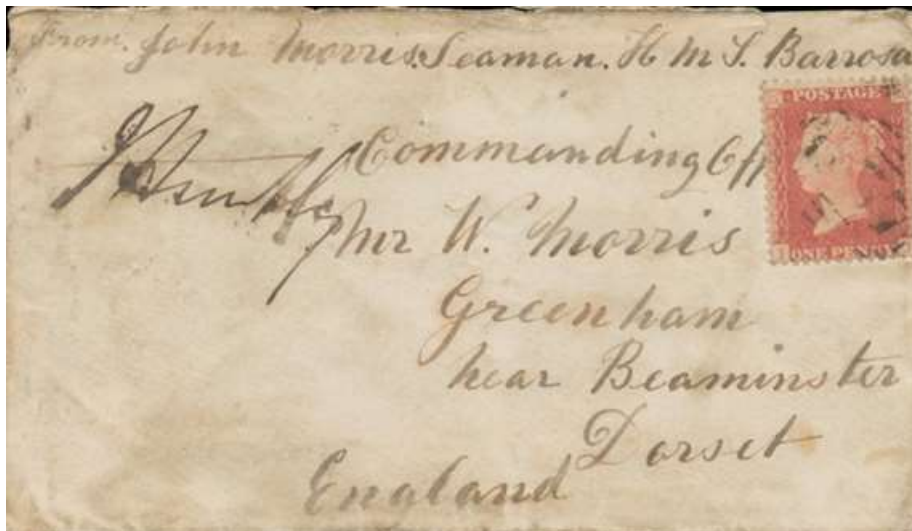
B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Japan	Yokohama, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z21	C10	62				Counted under P&O mailboats



Japan: Yokohama Navy letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 62 cancelled 'A83' aboard P&O Euxine. 1864 cover from a Royal Marine at the British Legation, Japan, with backstamps: 'HONG-KONG OC29 64' transit in blue, and 'PLYMOUTH DE22 64' arrival. Carried per P&O Cadiz from Shanghai; Benares departed Hong Kong 1 November 1864; Simla departed Galle date uncertain; Euxine departed Alexandria date uncertain; Delhi departed Malta 8 December 1864; arrived Southampton 21 December 1864.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Japan	Yokohama, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1861 to 1870	Z110	C10	62				Counted under P&O mailboats



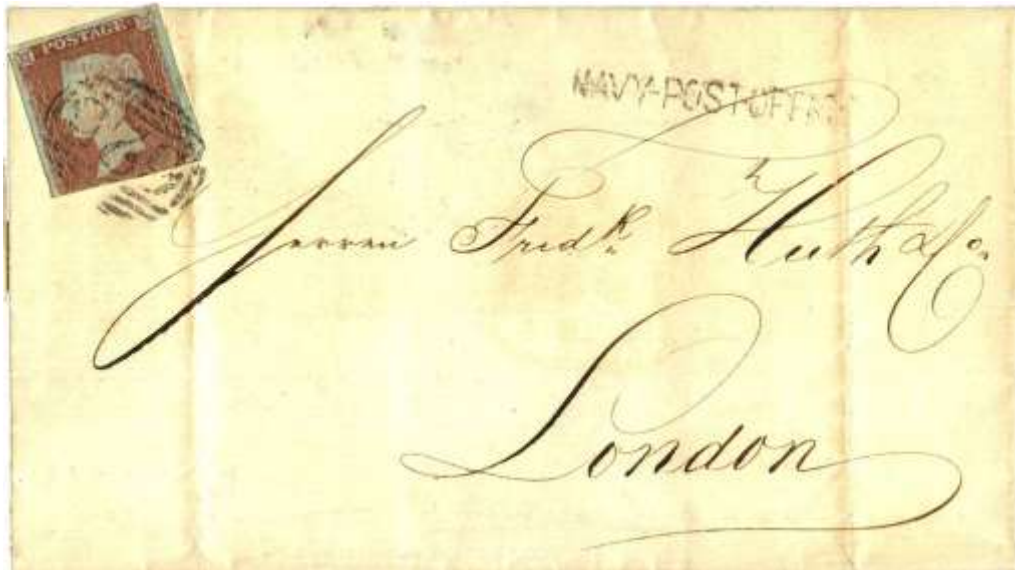
Japan: Yokohama sailors's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 62 cancelled by 'B57' obliterator of P&O Baroda . From HMS Barrosa at Yokohama. Carried per P&O Ganges , departed Yokohama 26 August 1864; Orissa , departed Shanghai 4 September 1864; Mooltan , departed Galle date uncertain; Baroda , departed Alexandria date uncertain; Ripon , departed Malta 23 October 1864; arrived Southampton 3 November 1864.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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LATVIA

Latvia	Riga, via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		B1	U				



1848 Naval letter from HMS *Annette* at Riga. After Naval Bag opened at the Naval Post Office, Portsmouth the letter was transferred to the Portsmouth Post Office where the SG Spec B1 stamp was cancelled '623'.



Lebanon

Lebanon	Beirut, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z21	C10	60				



Lebanon: Beirut sailor's letter from HMS *Chanticleer*, Beirut 1863 May 3, SG Spec. C10 Plate 60 cancelled 'A83' aboard the P&O *Euxine*, with Manchester arrival backstamp JU 3 63. The mail bag was taken to Egypt, per P&O *Euxine*, departed Alexandria 19th May 1863; per *Ceylon*, departed Malta 22 May 1863; arrived Southampton 2 June 1863. In 1863, Lebanon was in Syria, part of the Ottoman Empire.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

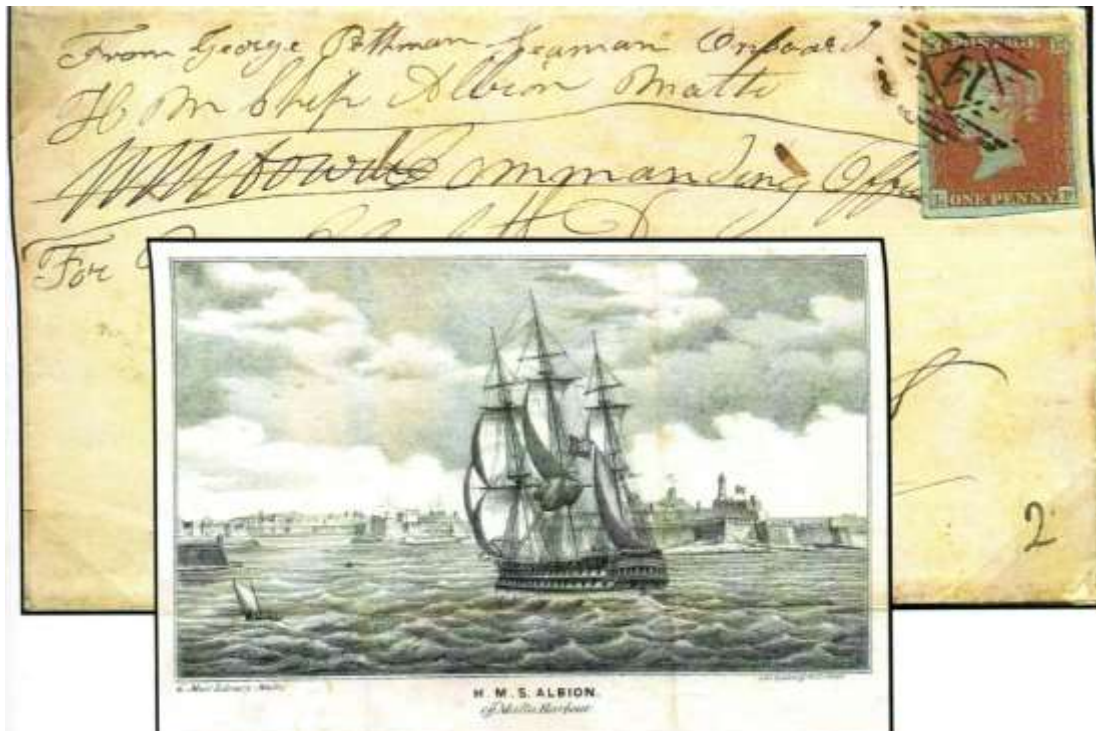
Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Lebanon	Beirut, Navy letters via Malta	  Used February 1859 to September 1881	Z27	C10	60				
					Counted under Malta				



Lebanon: Beirut Navy letter from HMS *Victor Emanuel*, Beirut. 'A25-MALTA A SP 24 60' duplex struck at Valletta on SG C10 Plate 60. The crowned circle 'R.' is as yet unidentified.

Malta

Malta	Letters via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		B1	105				
				B2	136				
				C1	U				
					3 dated covers noted				




Malta: Navy letter from HMS *Albion*, Malta. SG Spec. B1 Plate 105 cancelled on arrival by the London Inland Office '14' obliterator. Letter written by Seaman George Pethman on 11 June 1851. Image courtesy *Malta Study Circle*.

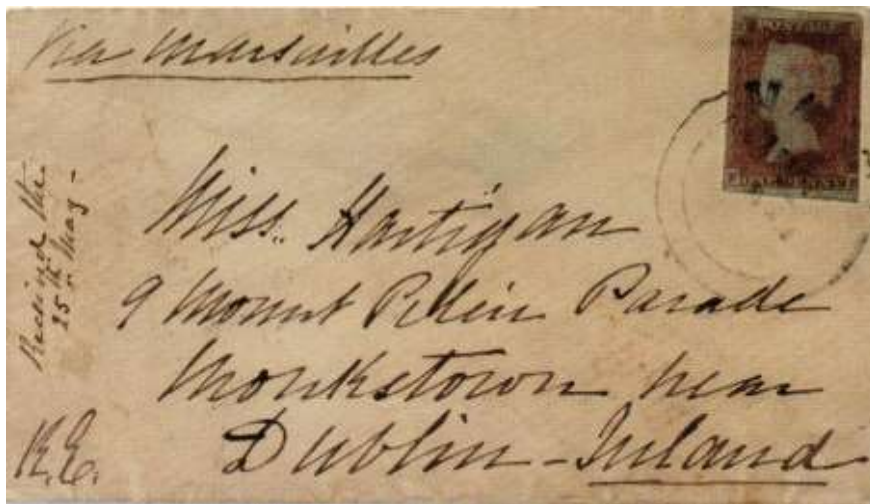
B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Malta. Navy letter from HMS Rodney, off Malta en route to the Crimean War, written 15 April 1854. Carried in the Navy bag from Malta to London. SG Spec. B2 Plate 136 cancelled on arrival by London Inland Office '31', with London backstamp 'MY 3 1854' in red.

Malta	Army letters via British Packet Agency, Valletta	 Used 1838 to 1858	B2	158	168			
			C1	176	179	U		
			3 dated covers noted					




Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: twin-arc c.d.s. 'MALTA MY 11 1854', SG Spec. B2 Plate 168. Cover from Malta during the Crimean War to Dublin, Ireland endorsed via Marseilles, with the reverse showing London (May 24) and Dublin transit marks in red and Kingstown arrival backstamp (May 25) in black. Cover endorsed at lower left 'R.E.', the sender being Lieutenant Richard Fitzrichard Eyre, grandson of Baron Eyre of Ireland. He was in the 44th Regiment and later died of Cholera in the Crimea. The cover was most probably accepted as a Soldier's letter at the concessionary 1d rate and is reportedly "...the earliest GB 'Used Abroad' cover where the Office came under the direct control of the GPO in London". (Ref. 39, p 1/14).

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Malta	Navy letters via British Packet Agency, Valletta	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		B1	105				
				C1	U				



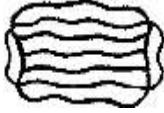

Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: twin-arc c.d.s 'MALTA AU 4 1854' on front. All three stamps SG Spec. C1 left-hand unplated, centre Plate 179 and right-hand Plate 176 cancelled on UK arrival by London Inland Office '42'. Sailor's letter written aboard HMS *Himalaya* off Portugal 30 July 1854 whilst en route to the Crimea.

Malta	Army letters via British Packet Agency, Valletta	(No Malta backstamp)		C1	R,3				
			 <p>Used 1855 to 1884</p>						



Malta, British Packet Agency: Malta 'P.' in oval, ('Paid' handstamp), SG Spec. C1 R,3. Soldier's concessionary rate letter from a Lance-Corporal of the 93rd Highlanders, aboard a ship off Malta, with manuscript 'Off Malta 7.2.55'. backstamps for London 'FE21 1855' and 'ERROL FE22 1855'. (Prior to the arrival of the wavy-line obliterator.)

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Malta	British Packet Agency, Valletta	 Used April 1855 to September 1856	Z3a	C6	13			
		 backstamp used 1855 to 1858						





Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: Wavy-line grid, SG Spec. C6 Plate 13, backstamped 'MALTA OC 6 1855'. Sailor's letter written February 1856 from HMS Viper, (1854-56 Mediterranean Fleet) at Malta.

Malta	Navy letters via British Post Office, Valletta	 Used September 1857 to February 1859	Z11a	C10	59			
					Counted under Malta			





Malta: Soldier's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 59, cancelled by Malta 'M' and backstamped 'MALTA AP19 1858'. Sent via England to Australia, arriving at Sydney, New South Wales on 9 June 1863.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
Malta	Navy letters via British Post Office, Valletta	  Used February 1859 to September 1881	Z27	C10	58	60	66			
					Counted under Malta					
					3 dated covers noted					




Malta: Sailors's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 58 cancelled by duplex obliterator 'A25-MALTA NO 21 56' with inverted '9'. 1859 letter from HMS London with Liverpool transit and 'RAMSEY DE 9 59' arrival backstamps. Carried per P&O, departed Malta 25 November 1859; arrived Southampton 5 December 1859.

Malta	Army letters via British Post Office, Valletta	  Used February 1859 to September 1881	Z27	C10	46	55	57			
					Counted under Malta					



Malta: Soldier's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 55, cancelled by 'A25-MALTA A DE 5 59' duplex, to England, endorsed: 'John Keefe 827 No.10 Company, 4th Battn. Rifle Brigade', based at Fort Tigne and countersigned by the Commanding Officer.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Malta	Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z3	C10	57				Counted under P&O mailboats




Malta: Sailors's letter, P&O Line mailboat 'A81' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 57 cancelled aboard SS *Vectis* . 1860 letter from HMS *Caesar* at Malta November 29, to London, with arrival datestamp 'DE15 60' in red on the front. *Vectis* departed Malta 9 December 1860 and arrived Marseille 13th December 1860.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Malta	Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z43	C10	48				Counted under P&O mailboats



Malta: Sailors's letter, P&O Line mailboat 'A86' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 48. 1863 mourning envelope to Ireland. Manuscript '*H.M. Ship Meeanee*' on front with 'CLONAKILTY DE 19 1863' arrival c.d.s. on reverse.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Malta	Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1861 to 1870	Z103	C10	52				
					Counted under P&O mailboats				



Malta: Sailors's letter, P&O mailboat 'B56' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 52. 26 June 1862 from a Marine on board HMS *Exmouth* part of the Mediterranean Fleet out of Malta. Blackburn arrival backstamp 'JY15 1862'.

Mexico

Mexico	Vera Cruz, via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	56				




Mexico: Vera Cruz Naval officer's letter, SG Spec. C10 plate 56, from a midshipman aboard HMS *Phaeton*, at anchor on 1 or 2 March 1862. Royal Mail steamer left Vera Cruz on March 2 for Havana and St Thomas. Carried on RMS *Plato* to Southampton, arriving 30 March. Bag opened and mail cancelled by London Inland Office '33' on 31 March 1862.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Pakistan

Pakistan (formerly India)	Golah, Army letters	 Used 1855 to 1862		C12	51			




Pakistan: Golah 'B/56' concentric octagons, SG Spec. C12 Plate 51

Pakistan (formerly India)	Karachi, Army letters			C9	43			



Pakistan (when India): Karachi Army letter posted 21 December 1857, SG Spec.C9 plate 43 cancelled by '95' obliterator of the Karachi Post Office with oval-framed 'INDIA' in red. The reverse showed 'KURRACHEE/PAID' mark, Bombay datestamp for 28 December 1857, London transit and Nottingham arrival datestamp for 7 February 1858. The soldier had arrived from the UK at Karachi aboard HMS *Ramilles* on 23 November 1857.

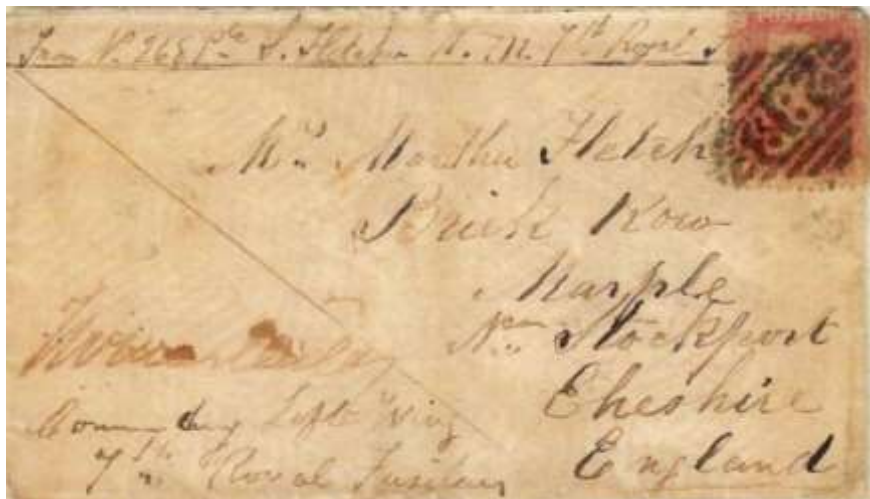
B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Pakistan (formerly India)	Peshawar, Army letters			C10	52	59		
					2 dated letters noted			



Pakistan (when India): Peshawar soldier's letter of January 1860, part of the *Fletcher* correspondence. SG Spec. C10 Plate 59 cancelled by '228' of Peshawar Post Office; boxed 'INDIA PAID' stamped in red on UK arrival. Reverse with circular datestamps of the India Post Office at Peshawar, Bombay transit and Stockport transit. An almost identical, stamped letter dated 25 May 1860 received a boxed 'INDIA UNPAID' handstamp. The 7th Royal Fusiliers were based at Peshawar between 25 October 1859 and February 1862.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Pakistan (formerly India)	Rawalpindi, Army letters			C10	44			



Pakistan (when India): Rawalpindi soldier's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 44, cancelled by the '233' obliterator of the Indian Post Office at Rawalpindi, during late-September to early-October 1859. The reverse has a transit mark: 'BOMBAY OC12 1859' and a delivery office mark: 'STOCKPORT NO11 1859'.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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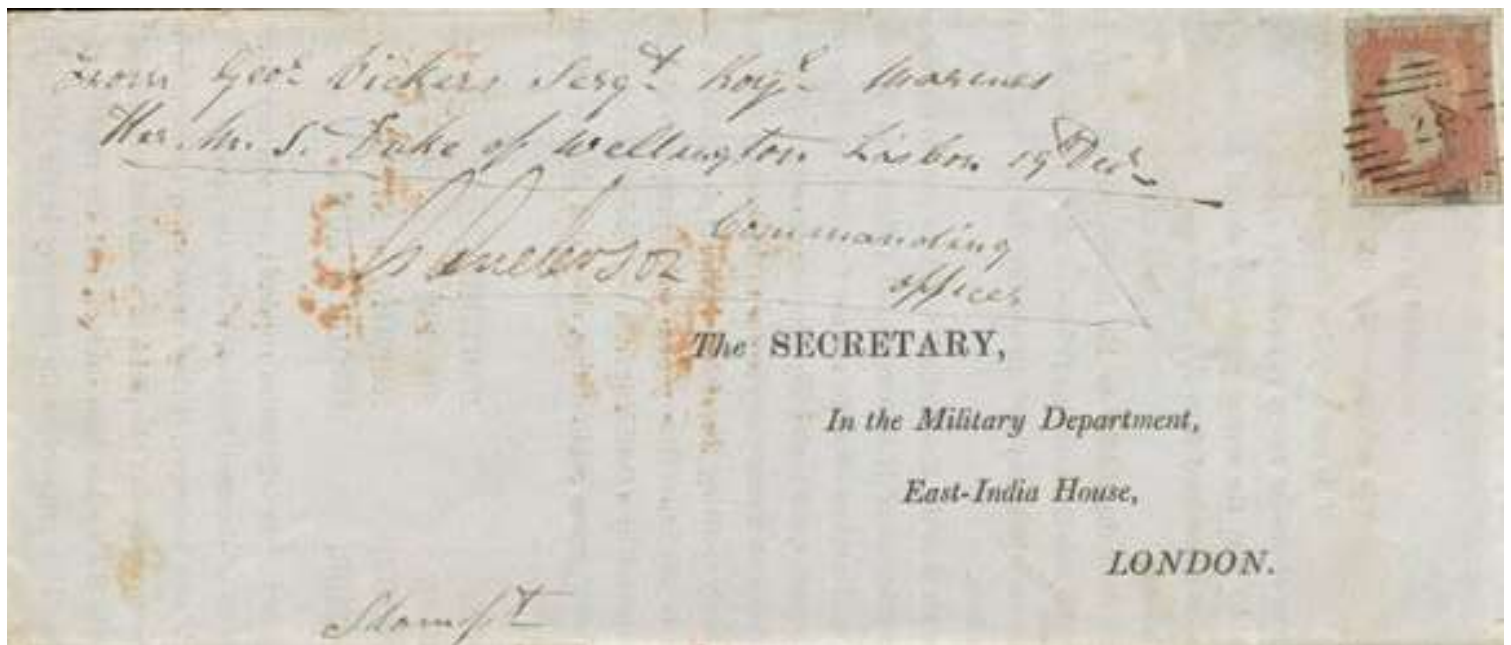
Portugal

Portugal	Funchal, Madeira via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C13	R,15		



Madeira: Sailor's letter, SG Spec. C13 Plate R,15 cancelled after UK arrival by London vertical oval EC / 9. From HMS Princess Royal at Madeira. Carried per Hawthorne, departed Madeira 16 April 1864 and arrived London 21 April 1864. London transit datestamp 'AP21 64' in red.

Portugal	Lisbon, via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		B2	148			



Portugal: Lisbon sailor's letter, SG Spec. B2 Plate 148, cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Office '37' obliterator of the London District Post. 19 December 1853 letter from a Royal Marine on HMS Duke of Wellington at Lisbon. Carried per P&O Tagus from Lisbon; arrived Southampton 24 December 1853.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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St Helena

St Helena	Jamestown, via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C4	6			
				C10	57			
				C13	R,15			



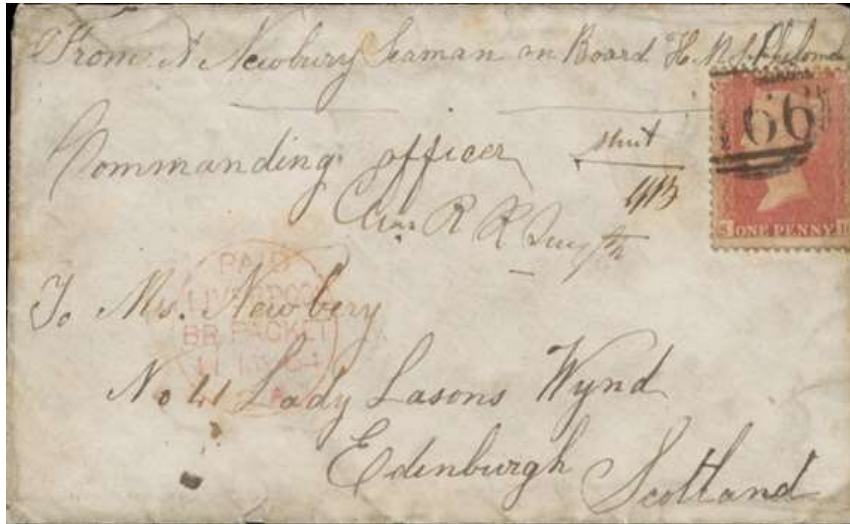
St Helena: Sailor's letter written 29 June 1855, SG Spec. C4 Plate 6, cancelled 'AU 9 55' after UK arrival.



St Helena: Sailors's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 57, cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Branch '50' obliterator of the Circulation Department. April 1862 seaman's letter from HMS Philomel, St Helena. London transit backstamp 'MY 2 62' and Edinburgh arrival arrival backstamp. (Ship's log records vessel at anchor off Jamestown, St Helena on 1 April 1862). Carried per Union SS Dane, departed for Ascension 4 April 1862 and arrived Plymouth 1 May 1862.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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St Helena: Sailors's letter, SG Spec. C13 Plate R,15 cancelled after UK arrival by Liverpool '466'. 1864 seaman's letter from HMS *Philomel* , St Helena with 'PAID 2A LIVERPOOL BR PACKET 11 MY 64' arrival circular datestamp in red. Carried per Union SS *Athenian* via Jellah Coffee (Gold Coast); arrived Liverpool 11 May 1864. The manuscript shut/initials to the left of the stamp may refer it being accepted as a late letter, after the Naval Bag had been locked.

Seychelles

Seychelles	Victoria, Mahé Island, Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1857 to 1862				
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Seychelles: Victoria, Mahé Island 'B64'. No examples recorded on mail from here or on Navy letters.

Singapore

Singapore	Navy letters	 Used 1856 to 1860?	C10	48	U		

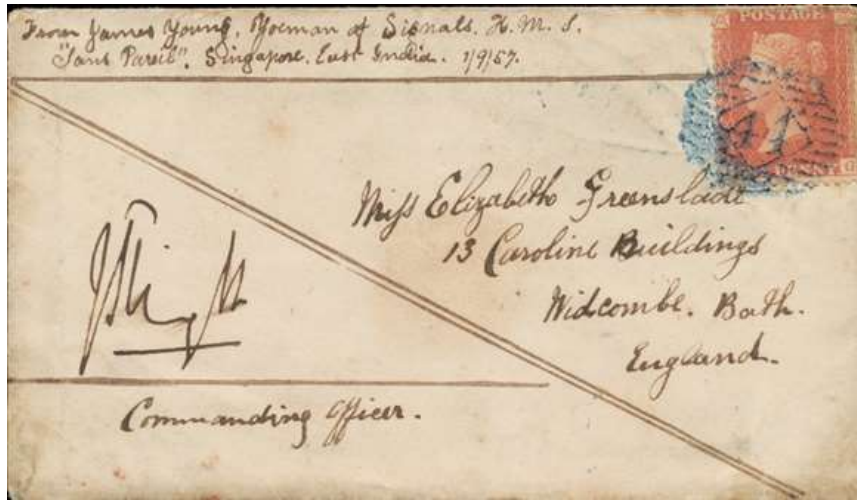


Singapore 'B 172' ex-Navy letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 48

There was a Singapore 'B 172' cover in the Gerald Sattin collection

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Singapore	Via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	52	56	66	




Singapore: Navy letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 52, cancelled after UK arrival by a blue Inland Branch '44' obliterator of the Circulation Department. Sailors's letter dated 1 September 1857, from HMS Sans Pareil, Singapore, East India. London transit backstamp '3NO3 1857' and Bath arrival backstamp in blue. Carried per P&O Formosa, departed Singapore 5 September 1857; Colombo, departed Malta date unknown, and arrived Southampton 3rd November 1857.

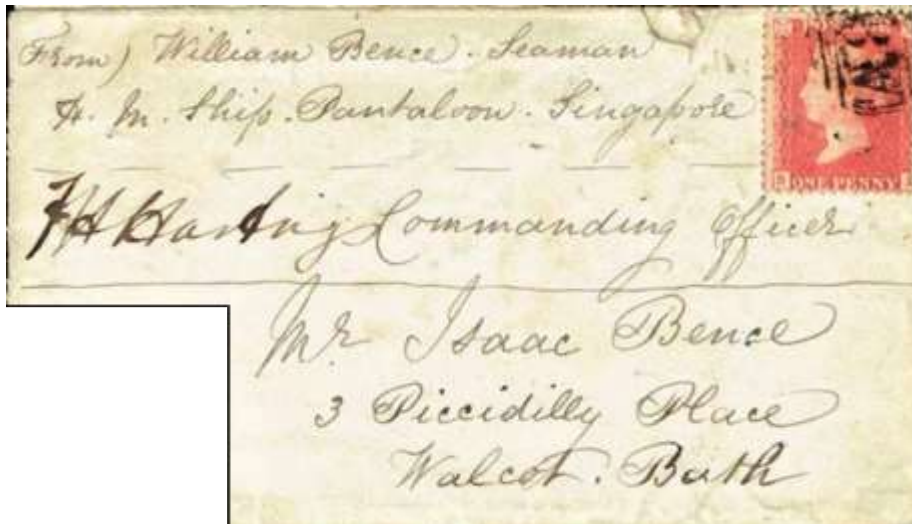
Singapore	Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z59	C10	57				
					Counted under P&O mailboats				



Singapore: Navy letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 57 cancelled by 'A88' obliterator of P&O Line, used aboard the Euxine. 1862 sailor's letter from HMS Scout at Singapore, carried per P&O Orissa, departed Singapore 5 August 1862; Colombo, departed Galle 19 August 1862; Euxine, departed Alexandria 5 September 1862; Pera, departed Malta 8 September 1862; arrived Southampton 18 September 1862; arrival backstamp 'RIPON SP18 62'.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Singapore	Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1859 to 1870		C12	50				



Singapore: Navy letter, SG Spec. C12 Plate 50 cancelled by partial 'A8-' obliterator of P&O Line. Sailor's letter from *HMS Pantaloon*, which departed for the East Indies in the autumn of 1861.

Country	Location	Cancellation	Z110	C10	68				
Singapore	Navy letters via P&O mailboat	 Used 1861 to 1870				Counted under P&O mailboats			




Singapore: Naval officer's letter, SG Spec. C10 Plate 68 cancelled by 'B57' obliterator aboard P&O Mediterranean mailboat *SS Poonah* en-route from Alexandria to Marseilles. Front of envelope marked 'Singapore 5 Sept 64'.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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South Africa

South Africa	Boer War, British Army Field Post Office	 Used 1899 to 1901		B1	U					
				C10	59					
					2 dated <i>philatelic</i> covers noted					



South Africa: Second South African War, British Army Field Post Office, SG Spec. C10 Plate 59 and SG Spec. G1 Plate 124. A combination of a Penny Red Star with a 'Plate Number' Penny Red, cancelled by the large, double-ring obliterator: 'FIELD POST-OFFICE BRITISH ARMY. S.AFRICA 11 / MY 19 00', with code 11 and date. London receiving mark on back dated 'JU 8 00'.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
South Africa	Cape Town, Army letters via the Devonport Packet	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival and envelope backstamped  Used 1858 to 1857		C10	36				



South Africa: Cape Town, SG Spec. C10 Plate 36. Army officer's rate of six pence. Front has manuscript 'Stamped', with stamps cancelled after arrival with Devonport '250' obliterator and 'LONDON-PAID-NO29 62' circular datestamp in red. Ship arrival backstamp: "CAPE-PACKET-DEVONPORT-NO28 1862" and Harwich receiving mark.

United States of America

United States of America	Hampton Roads off Norfolk, Virginia via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	62				
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United States of America: 1864 sailor's letter from HMS *Phaeton* in the Hampton Roads off Norfolk, Virginia. SG Spec. C10 Plate 62 cancelled on arrival in UK .

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Unknown origin

Unknown origin	West Indies and Pacific Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	37				
									Plate counted as not on other West Indies concession rate covers.



Naval officer's letter from an unidentified location, in the West Indies & Pacific mail bags reaching Southampton 18 March 1858; SG Spec. C10 Plate 37, cancelled after arrival by London Inland '50' obliterator and backstamped 'MR 8 1858'.

Unknown origin	West Indies and Brazil Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	46				
								Plate counted as not on other West Indies concession rate covers.	



Naval officer's letter from an unidentified location arrived in the West Indies & Brazil mail bags aboard P&O *Tasmanian* docked at Southampton 29 September 1862. SG Spec. C10 Plate 46 cancelled after arrival 'LONDON E C SP 29 62' duplex.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

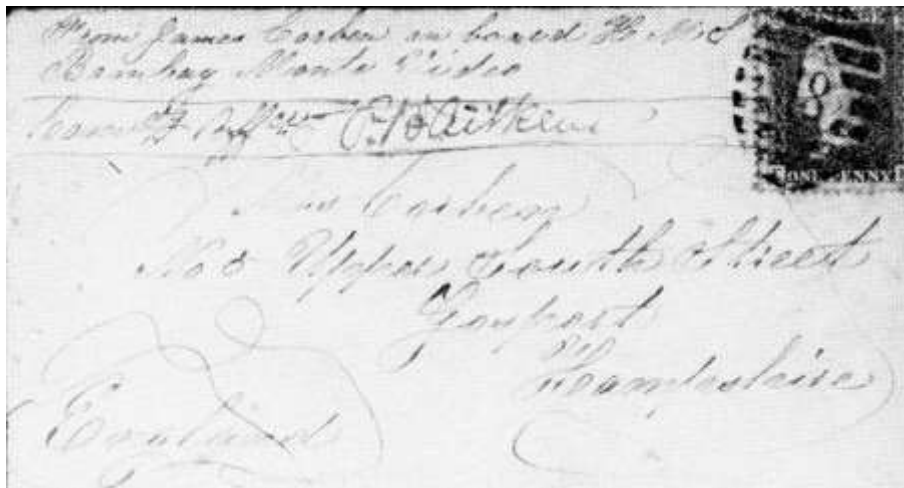
Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Uruguay

Uruguay	Montevideo via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	27				
				C12	50				
						3 dated covers noted			



Uruguay: Montevideo, Navy letter from HMS Bombay, SG Spec. C10 Plate 27 cancelled after UK arrival. Letter written late-November was in the Navy bag carried on the RMPS packet which departed Montevideo on 29 November 1864 to Southampton. Navy bag opened and sorted in London, receiving a backstamp 'LONDON-W CP JA 2 65'.



Uruguay: 1864 Montevideo sailor's letter from James Corben on HMS *Bombay*. SG Spec. C12 Plate 50, cancelled after UK arrival by '18' obliterator of the London Foreign Branch. Carried on RMSP packet from Montevideo in 1864 to Southampton. Navy bag opened and sorted in London, then letter delivered to Gosport.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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West African Coast

West African coast, off Congo River	Anti-Slavery Patrol via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	43	62			



West Coast of Africa: Officer's letter written 11 October 1863 aboard HMS Zebra off Luango (Longano / Loango), 60 miles north of the mouth of the Congo River. SG Spec. C10 Plate 62 cancelled '466' after arrival at Liverpool. Although the Liverpool Packet datestamp was '10 DEC 63' and the contents were both clearly dated 1863, the manuscript mark on the front recorded in error as 'recd Dec 13/64'.

West Indies

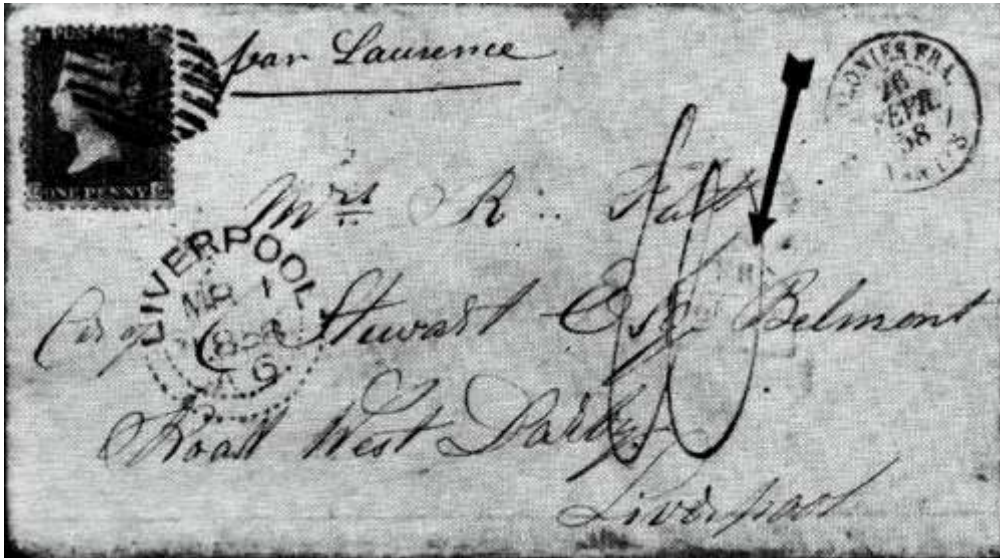
West Indies	West Indies Station via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C8	29				



West Indies: Naval Officer's letter from HMS Indus, serving on the West Indies station. SG Spec. C8 Plate 29, cancelled '466' in transit at Liverpool, sent to HMS Niger stationed at Canton. Carried in a closed Naval bag per Cunard steamer Niagra departing Boston on 2 December 1857, arriving in Liverpool on 14 December 1857. Cancelled upon arrival in Liverpool by black '466' obliterator, with two Liverpool Packet letter tombstone datestamps below for 14 December 1857. backstamped in London on 15 December 1857, then carried by P&O steamers via Alexandria, Suez, Aden, Galle, Penang, Singapore and Hong Kong, arriving at Canton during the Second Opium War.


B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
West Indies	Navy letter French Atlantic mailboat	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	56			



Sailor's letter carried by French Atlantic mailboat Laurence from the West Indies. SG Spec. C10 Plate 56 cancelled on arrival in London. Front shows a French arrival datestamp 'COLONIES FRA. NANTES 26 FEVR 58', a French accountancy handstamp '2F 16c' applied in Paris, postage due '10' marked in London and arrival datestamp 'LIVERPOOL MR 1 1858 A 6'.

Zanzibar

Zanzibar	East African Coast Anti-Slavery Patrol, Navy Bag via Malta		Z27	C10	52			
		Used February 1859 to September 1881	Counted under Malta					



Zanzibar: Sailor's letter from HMS *London* on the East African anti-slavery patrol, SG Spec. C10 Plate 52 cancelled by at Malta by a duplex 'A25-MALTA NO 21 56' ('9' inverted) after the Naval bag was carried via Egypt and the Mediterranean. HMS *London* remained at Zanzibar Bay and later was flagship of the East Indies Squadron, 1874 to 1884.

B: ARMY AND NAVY CONCESSION RATE MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Zanzibar	East African Coast Anti-Slavery Patrol, via Navy Bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C10	61			



1862 sailor's letter from HMS *Gorgon* of the East Africa anti-slavery patrol around Pemba and Zanzibar. SG Spec. C10 Plate 61 cancelled by '26' obliterator after ship's bag from Mauritius was opened in London.

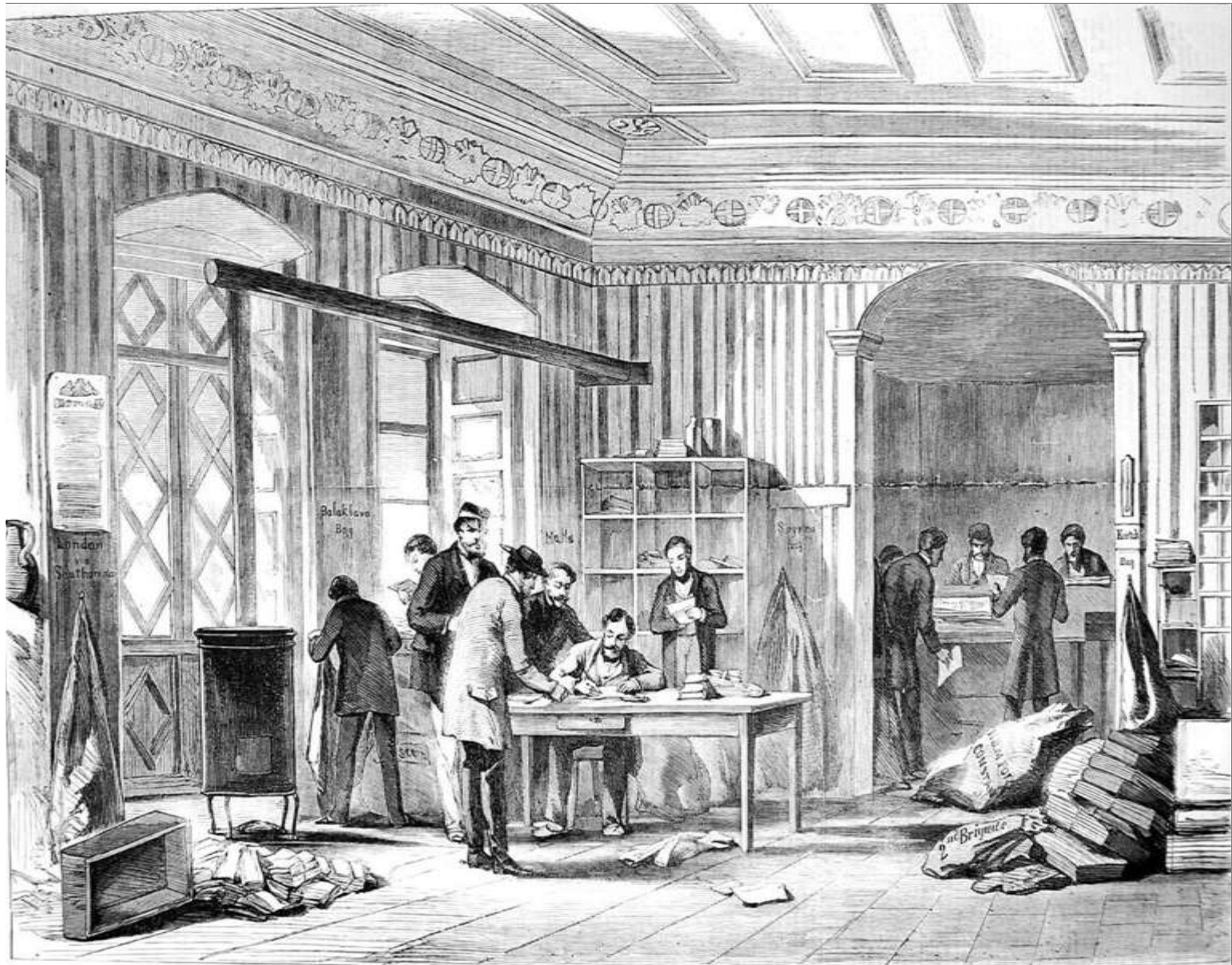
CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Most of the conflict would eventually take place on or around the Crimean Peninsula but there were smaller campaigns in the Crimea and the Baltic. Britain and France had declared war on Russia on 28th March 1854. The British force travelled via Malta, Baltic Sea, White Sea, Pacific Ocean, and parts of Turkey. The two main theatres of operations in the war with Russia were the Crimea and the Baltic. Britain and France had declared war on Russia on 28th March 1854. The British force travelled via Malta, where cholera and dysentery were contracted en-route, beginning to reach Turkey at the end of April 1854, the Allied forces making a base near Gallipoli. They then moved to the Selimiye barracks at Scutari (Úsküdar), opposite the city of Constantinople, where an Allied base and a Field Post Office were to be located. Thousands of sick were transferred to Field Hospitals here. The Allied Expeditionary Force was carried by sea and landed to the Bulgarian Black Sea port of Varna in June 1854, where a base and a Field Post Office were established but little immediate progress was made from there. London, Paris, Constantinople and Varna were connected by telegraph. The Black Sea naval campaign was conducted from Varna, from where the Crimean landings of 14 September 1854 and other actions were planned. During mid- to late-September the Allied force at Varna moved on to the invasion of the Crimea and headquarters were established near near Balaclava, together with a Field Post Office. An undersea telegraph cable would later connect Varna with Balaclava.

Mail from the Crimea, from the Black Sea Fleet and from Constantinople was initially carried by French vessels and, later, by British and some French vessels to Marseille. Prior to the outbreak of the War letters passing between the United Kingdom and Constantinople were normally carried overland through France, transferring to French Packet Boats for the journey across the Mediterranean. The postage rate over this route was 1s 6d per half ounce, reduced to 1d on 3 April 1854, when the arrangements were only carried the letters between Constantinople and Malta from where British vessels took them on to Southampton. On 18 May it had changed so that the French been announced that closed mails for the British Army would be carried six times a month by the French Post Office over the original route for the equivalent of 3d for a letter weighing less than a quarter of an ounce. Almost immediately the War Department was informed the Postmaster General would be sending an Officer of his Department to act as Army Postmaster.

Edward James Smith was sent out on 27 May 1854 with the expectation the military authorities would allow him some assistance at Constantinople. Smith carried with him to Constantinople £400 in 1d stamps and £100 in 6d stamps (the latter for use on letters weighing between a quarter and a half an ounce). Copies of the 'Crown between Stars' obliterator, together with the 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY' circular dated backstamp, were also carried by Smith for use at Army Field Post Offices. Shortly afterwards Thomas Angell was appointed Assistant Army Postmaster and departed for the East, later to be followed by a second Assistant, Henry Mellersh. Dated mail with the first dated backstamp was recorded from July 9 1854 to July 1855, although any mail prior to 14 September 1854 was not from the Crimea. From late-December 1854 modified backstamps had different code letters inserted to identify the sending locations. The Crown between Stars obliterator was gradually superseded from March 1855 by the 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO' obliterator. By January 1856, the establishment of the service had grown to three Assistant Postmasters with eight clerks and two local interpreters. Two Postmasters and three clerks, assisted by two Army NCOs were based in the Post Office in the Crimea. A British Army Post Office opened in Constantinople on 1 January 1855, for sorting and cancelling in-transit Crimean War mail, using the existing designs of obliterators and backstamps.

Much 1854-1856 mail was backstamped with the 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY' datestamp prior to dispatch in locked sacks and subsequently the stamps cancelled on arrival in London. Regulations at one time required the soldiers' and sailors' mail be sent to London in a locked sack or bag which was opened upon UK arrival and then cancelled by a variety of obliterators, mainly the London Inland Office. During 1854 some in-transit mail from the Army Field Post Offices in the Crimea, from the Black Sea Fleet and from Constantinople was sorted and cancelled at Valletta, Malta. 1854 mail has been recorded either with the Malta circular datestamp cancellation on the stamp(s), or with a manuscript cancellation across the stamp(s) and backstamped with the Malta circular datestamp. A wavy-line grid obliterator was sent to Malta in March 1855 for franking either uncanceled Army and Navy mail from the Crimea or franking mail from Army and Navy personnel in transit to or from the Crimea, with mail receiving a Malta dated backstamp. British stamps from the Crimea were occasionally noted with dotted lozenge cancellations of the French Army Corp and mail from Selimiye Army Barracks ('Hyde Park Barracks') and the Hospital at Scutari, has been recorded carried by French paquebot to Marseille, where it was cancelled by the '1896' petits chiffres of Marseille.



THE BRITISH ARMY POST-OFFICE, CONSTANTINOPLE
(From: *The Illustrated London News*, Jan. 19. 1856, p60)

There were often delays in the service caused by a lack of transport to get the mail bags from the Post Office to the quayside and a shortage of steamers to carry the mail to Constantinople, thus missing the departure of the French packets. These difficulties did not discourage its use by both those serving in the Crimea and their correspondents at home. The Postmaster-General's report for 1856 recorded that one and a half million letters were received in the UK from the Army and Navy between April 1854 and 31 December 1855. Mail took about 36 hours between Marseilles to London, a fraction of total eleven and sixteen days to travel the complete distance to and from London. The soldiers and sailors had a choice: either 3d to use of the faster service across France, or the concessionary 1d rate on naval vessels and transports, despite the even greater irregularity of this service. Unstamped mail from the front was not charged double on delivery. Anglo-French forces were not involved in the Siege of Kars in western Turkey from June to 28 November 1855.

In March 1854 the Anglo-French fleet, containing 15 British ships, commenced their Baltic campaign to blockade Russian ports in the Gulf of Finland, attacking Russian Baltic fortresses. They bombarded Sveaborg, which guards Helsinki; bombarded Kronstadt, which guards St Petersburg; and destroyed Bomarsund in the Åland Islands. They maintained a blockade for the remainder of the war. A weekly mail service via Danzig was established, whereby mail from the British Baltic Fleet was landed at Danzig and a datestamp applied to the front. It was carried onwards by the Prussian Postal Service and the stamps cancelled upon UK arrival. British mail from Sveaborg received a French cachet in red if carried aboard ships of the French Baltic Squadron and was cancelled in London after arrival in UK. Similar naval action also took place in the White Sea in June 1854 and Archangel was bombarded in June 1855. The only item of mail associated with the White Sea action was a prepaid letter from the UK.

Allied naval actions in the Pacific Theatre of the Crimean War were between August 18 and 4 September 1854. A Russian force on Sakhalin Island was blockaded but the main operation was the Siege of Petropavlovsk on the Kamchatka peninsular, from 30 to 31 August. In early 1855 Anglo-French Naval squadrons returned to the searching for Russian ships and merchantmen. During August and September 1855 Anglo-French forces seized Urup, in the Kuril Islands. No stamped mail was known from these Pacific actions.

TIMELINE LINKING EVENTS DURING THE CRIMEAN WAR

The following tables attempt to clarify links between the course of the war and some of the associated postal events, parts of which may conflict with variations or different dates in the British Army and Post Office records.

PRE-WAR

May 1853	The Mediterranean Fleet was ordered to join the French Fleet at Besika Bay, in anticipation of hostilities erupting between Russia and the Ottoman Empire, arriving June. Sailors were responsible for providing their own stamps when writing home to the UK.
June 8 1853	British fleet approaches the Dardanelles.
Oct 30 1853	British fleet enters the Bosphorus.
December 1853	British troops sent to the east to Malta. Some sacks of soldiers' mail sorted at the British Packet Agency, Valletta, and/or sacks sent directly to UK.
January 4 1854	Allied Fleet enters Black Sea. Some sacks of sailors' mail sorted and cancelled at the British Packet Agency, Valletta, and/or sacks sent directly to UK.
Naval mail prior to March 1854	It was usual for Naval mail to be carried from Constantinople by French packet to Marseilles. The standard concession rates applied: for sailors 1d paid and 2d unpaid; for officers 6d; if sent by private ship the 2d additional fee applied.
February 23 1854	British troops set sail from Malta for Turkey.
March 27 1854	France declared war on Russia.
March 28 1854	The announcement of Great Britain's declaration of war on Russia was posted in the <i>London Gazette</i> .

FOLLOWING THE DECLARATION OF WAR

April 1854 onwards	Sacks of soldiers' and sailors' mail was sorted and some cancelled at the British Packet Agency, Valletta; majority sorted and/or sent directly to UK and stamps cancelled after arrival.
April 5 1854	British Army force began to reach Turkey, some coming ashore at the Allied base set up at Gallipoli, where there was no British Army Post Office. Navy sacks on the French postal service arrival. The Army proceeded to Constantinople and was quartered at the Selimiye barracks at Scutari, with the many already sick or ill transferring directly to the makeshift military hospital. Mail from Constantinople sent via the French paquebot service via Malta and/or Marseille.
May 12 1854	3d postal rate agreed for the British Armed Forces, and the Anglo-French Postal Agreement was published 22 May 1854. British Army HQ based at Scutari, Constantinople, (where a separate Army Field Post Office would later be established at the hospital).
May 27 1854	Edward Smith of the Post Office Inland Letter Section London was appointed as the Army Postmaster. 'Crown between Stars' obliterations and circular dated backstamps ('first type') registered. Mail sent via later be established.
May 28 1854	Allied Armies embarked for the port of Varna, Bulgaria, disembarking on 31 May.
June 4 1854	Edward Smith left London on June 4 1854, together with an Assistant Army Postmaster, Thomas Angell. Bringing a supply of 1d and 6d stamps and cancellation handstamps, they sailed via Malta to Constantinople in order to set up a Base Army Field Post Office.
June 20 1854	Mr Smith opened the Army Field Post Office in Constantinople and Thomas Angell, the Postmaster, set up and opened an Army Field Post Office in Varna, Bulgaria, in support of the Army Headquarters, where mail was cancelled and backstamped. A seaborne service was maintained between the two.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

September 2 1854	When the move from Bulgaria was imminent, the Assistant Army Postmaster Mr Angell requested permission to transfer the Army Field Post Office to a ship.
September 5-7 1854	Allies embarked from Baltjik Bay for the Crimean Peninsular.
September 4-6 1854	Last mail left Varna on 4th; Mr Angell moved the Army Field Post Office on board Commissariat Steam Transport <i>Sovereign</i> on 5th and vessel departed on 6th. Varna Field Post office closed although an Army NCO was left behind with some stamps and money.
September 7 1854	Lord Raglan advised Mr Smith should relocate from Constantinople to Army Headquarters, (ie to Varna and beyond).
September 14 1854	After some initial landing sorties on 10 September, the main British force landed on 14 September at Old Fort, Kalamita Bay, (near Eupatoria), 30 miles north of Sevastopol on the Crimean Peninsular. Any Crimean War mail prior to this date was not from the Crimea. Mr Smith arrived at Kalamita Bay.
September 15 1854	Mr Smith joined Mr Angell at the Army Field Post Office aboard <i>Sovereign</i> in Kalamita Bay
September 17 1854	Thomas Angell returned to Constantinople.
September 19 1854	British forces win the Battle of Alma River and the interim HQ was set up at Alma. The Army Field Post Office was moved from <i>Sovereign</i> to No. 3 Transport <i>Her Majesty</i> . Items from the Crimea backstamped 6 to 19 September were from the temporary Field Post Office aboard Commissariat Steam Transport <i>Sovereign</i> .
September 20 to 21 1854	No. 3 Transport <i>Her Majesty</i> sailed to the Alma River on 20 September and landed on September 21.
September 24 to 28 1854	Items from the Crimea backstamped 24 to 28 September were from the temporary Field Post Office aboard No. 3 Transport <i>Her Majesty</i> , moored near the Alma River.
September 26 1854	The British Army entered Balaclava, where its HQ would first be established.
September 29 1854	The Army Field Post Office transferred ashore to a house by the Army HQ in Balaclava and would remain there for the rest of the campaign, closing in July 1856.
October to November 1854	Lord Raglan's Headquarters were moved from near the supply port of Balaclava to a point closer to Sebastopol. Although the Army Postmaster had been previously instructed in September 1854 to locate his Post Office as near as possible to Army Headquarters, it remained at Balaclava.
December 1854	The French extended the telegraph from Bucharest to Varna. GPO Notice 76 stated that Naval letters would be charged either 1d for seaman and 6d for officers if sent per British packet or 3d for both seamen and officers if sent per French packet via Marseille.
Late-December 1854	Code letter inserted into new circular dated backstamp to denote sending location ('second-type' circular dated backstamp): 'A' Constantinople and 'B' Balaclava, although the older handstamps with no code slot, were retained in use at Balaclava, (possibly by the Postmaster), usually struck in green. Due to Mr Smith's ill-health, he switched roles with Mr Angell. British Army HQ moved to midway between Balaclava and Sebastopol. Some reports claim a Post Office reportedly opened by this HQ but no evidence has been uncovered.
January 1 1855	A British Army Post Office opened in Constantinople.
March 1855	Mr Angell now recorded as Postmaster to the Forces, Crimea, located at the Field Post Office, Balaclava. A further Army Post Office was established at Scutari Hospital, to provide postal services to the Barrack Hospital staff and patients. 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO' obliterator sent from London and used with the circular dated backstamp from 24 March 1855 to 1856 at Constantinople, Scutari Hospital and Balaclava. Both obliterators in use for many months, although the 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO' obliterator gradually superseded the 'Crown between Stars.'
March 31 1855	Wavy-line grid obliterators sent from London to Malta Packet Agency and recorded in use from 23 April 1855 to 1856, together with the Malta circular dated backstamp. Supplied for use on any unfranked mail from the Crimean War, sorted and cancelled at Malta and also for Army and Navy originating from Malta. (Now listed under the 'Malta' section).
April 1855	The British laid an underwater cable from Varna across the Black Sea to their supply port on the southern coast of the Crimean peninsular.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

1854 to 1856	Throughout the entire period, much mail from the Crimean War was only backstamped, with the stamps uncanceled and the bulk sacks (sealed ships' bags) sent directly to England. The stamps were then cancelled at London with various Inland Branch numeral obliterators. Mail was routinely carried by British vessels. Rare examples were known with British stamps cancelled by French dotted lozenge obliterators, with 4mm letters or numerals.
1856	The annual report of the Postmaster General records that the Post Office had dealt with 1½ million items of mail from the Crimean War up to the end of December 1855.

ALLIED BALTIC NAVAL EXPEDITIONS OF 1854 AND 1855

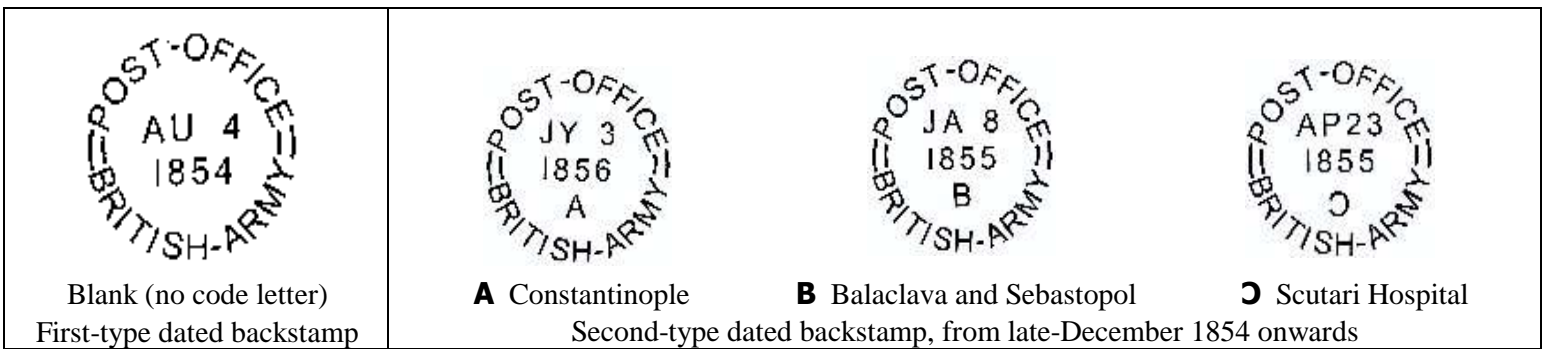
January 21 1854	Reports published that Great Britain and France are preparing a fleet to take control of the Baltic.
March 11 1854	In March 1854, Britain dispatched the first Baltic Fleet of 15 ships to blockade Russian ports in the Gulf of Finland. A weekly mail service for Danzig was later established.
22 May to 31 October 1854	The concession postal rates via Danzig were set at 5d for seamen and 8d for officers, per ¼oz.
End-October 1854	The Baltic Fleet moved to Kiel and mail went via Hamburg.
April 3 1855	The Second Baltic Fleet assembled at Portsmouth during March, departing 3 April from Spithead.
3 April to 17 December 1855	The mail service via Danzig was reinstated, with the introduction of a new rate of 3d per ¼oz for both sailors and officers. A Danzig circular datestamp was struck on the front and the mail then carried by the Prussian Postal Service to Belgium. It was ferried across the English Channel and the stamps were cancelled in London upon the opening of the Naval sacks. 3d extra for a ½oz letter.
1855	If carried aboard ships of the French Baltic Squadron, British mail received a French cachet and the stamps were cancelled in London upon arrival.

END OF THE WAR

March 1856	Peace Conference held in Paris.
March 30 1856	Paris Peace Treaty signed.
April 2 1856	Proclamation of Peace made to the Allied armies at Balaclava and to the naval forces at Kamiesch and Kazatch.
April-July 1856	With the evacuation of British forces from the Crimea, the Balaclava Field Post Office closed in July 1856.
July 4 1856	The last French soldiers leave the Crimea.
July 12 1856	The last of the British Army leave the Crimea in HMS Algiers, aboard which were the Commanding Officer, General Sir William John Codrington KCB and his personal staff, sailing from Balaclava that evening. (Ref. 33).
1856, after the end of the war	The former Field Post Office at Varna remained temporarily as a British-run telegraph station. Some British forces were retained in the East for a short period, to ensure the Russian forces complied with the Treaty arrangements. ie Naval patrols at Patras.
September 13 1856	Concessionary postal rates were withdrawn for soldiers, sailors and their families.
Late-1856	The British Army Post Office in Constantinople was closed.
February 23 1857	Turkey assumed full control of the British-run telegraph station at Varna.

POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY CIRCULAR DATED BACKSTAMPS

The first type of dated backstamp used at Constantinople, Varna and the Crimea was 25mm in diameter, with the year below the month and day. There was no indication of the sending office. Rare examples are known with the year inserted above the month and day. From early-December 1854, the second type of dated backstamp was introduced, 27mm in diameter, with sending offices identified by three variations of code letter inserted below the date. Examples of the Balaclava 'B' backstamp were first recorded with date DE28 1854 B and the Constantinople 'A' with date DE18 1854 A. Two sizes of the second type of datestamps were also noted, 25mm and 27mm in diameter. The first-type datestamp continued in occasional use.







Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Turkey, Pre-war	Besika Bay	Stamp cancelled after UK arrival		B2	151	157	168	172	
					5 dated covers noted				



Turkey: pre-Crimean War, SG Spec. B2 Plate 168, cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Office '37' obliterator. August 1853 letter from a seaman aboard HMS Rodney at Besika Bay, Turkey; two handstamps on front: large '2' for the master's gratuity and a red 'MNB' from the sorting tender of the Midland & Northern Railway; a London '19SP19 1853' backstamp in red; boxed 'GLASGOW SEP 19 1853' arrival backstamp in red. Carried per French packet to Malta; private ship Sarah from Malta, (the 2d gratuity), which arrived Gravesend 18th September 1853. HMS Rodney arrived at Besika Bay on the west coast of Asia Minor on 13 June 1853 and in late-October 1853 sailed into the Black Sea.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
					98	104	123	125	128	
Turkey, Bulgaria and Russia	British Army Field Post Offices in Constantinople, Varna, aboard <i>Sovereign</i> and <i>Her Majesty</i> off the Alma River and, Balaclava, and the British Army Post Office Constantinople	 Used July 1854 to July 1855 Backstamps  Type 1, JY 9 1854 to DE28 1854 and later; (latest JY14 1855).  Type 2, code 'B' noted from DE28 1854 to JY14 1855  Type 2, code 'A' noted from DE18 1854 to JY14 1855.	Z1	B1	98	104	123	125	128	
			Z1	B1	forged			97	116	
				CE2	U					
			Z1	B2	142	148	149	154	155	
					156	157	158	159	160	
					162	163	164	165	166	
					168	169	171	174	176	
			Z1	B2	forged			136	152	
					155	157				
			Z2	C1	155	162	163	164	165	
					166	167	169	170	171	
					172	173	174	175	176	
					177	178	179	180	181	
					183	184	186	187	188	
					189	190	191	192	193	
					194	195	197	198	199	
					200	202	203	204	R,1	
					R,2	R,3	R,4	R,6		
			Z4	C2	196	200	R,1	R,2	R,3	
					R,4	R,5	R,6			
Z5	C3	1	3	11	12					
Z3	C4	1	2	U						
	C6	forged cancel			1	16				
		17								
		59 dated covers noted								

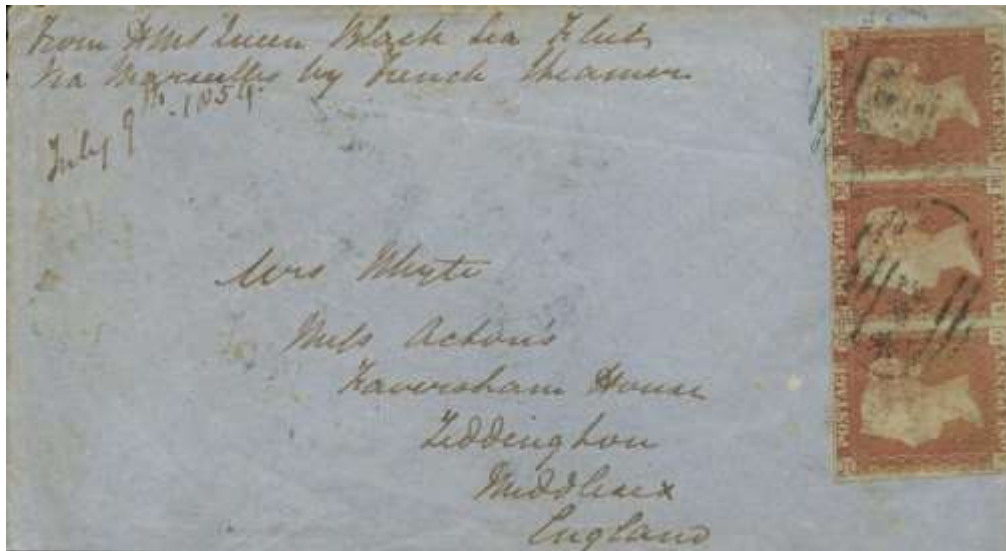


Crimean War: 'Crown between Stars' SG Spec. B1 Plate 98. Written September 3 1854 from Baltjik Bay, north of Varna and endorsed Via Marsiells. Reverse has a lightly struck Post Office British Army datestamp, with London and Canterbury datestamps 'SP21 1854'.

An example of Archer perf. 16, used in 1854, was in the McGowan collection. (Ref. 14) and listed in the the Robson Lowe Encyclopædia. Not seen by author but reported to him by Dr Wiggins.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: 'Crown between Stars', SG Spec. B2 Plate 163, letter from HMS Queen , backstamped 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY 1854 JY 9', with year above date. Earliest date for the obliterator.



SP 4



SP 5

A Crimean War envelope with SG Spec. C1 Plate 184 cancelled by 'Crown between Stars'; two different backstamps 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY 1854 SP 4' (year above date) and 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY SP 5 1854' (year below date). Steam Transport Cormorant was not a Royal Navy ship and did not qualify for the Concessionary Rates.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Balaclava, 'Crown between Stars', SG Spec. C1 Plate 176. First-type backstamp: 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JY14 1855' without code; latest recorded date of use for the obliterator and the type 1 backstamp. London receiving mark '26JY26 1855'



Crimean War: Alma, 'Crown between Stars', SG Spec. C1 Plate 180; backstamped 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY SP22 1854' by Mr Smith at the Alma River temporary Field Post Office aboard Her Majesty.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Cancellation anomaly with 'Crown and Stars' obliterator and cancelled on arrival. Crimean War: Constantinople 'Crown between Stars' on SG Spec. C1 Plate 155 State 3, backstamped 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY FE 7 1855 A'. Upper pair also cancelled on arrival.



Crimean War: Varna, 'Crown between Stars', SG Spec. C2 Plate 194, backstamped 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JY17 1854'



Crimean War: 'Crown between Stars' on SG Spec. C3 Plate 12

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Constantinople, 'Crown between Stars', SG Spec. C4 Plate 1; naval officer's letter, HMS Sidon at Kazatch Bay; backstamped 'POST-OFFICE BRITISH ARMY MR20 1855 A' in blue, with London arrival backstamp 'AP 2 1855'.



Crimean War: forged 'Crown between Stars' obliterator, SG Spec. B1 Plate 116



Crimean War: forged Crown between Stars obliterator, SG Spec. B2 Plate 155







Crimean War: Varna 'Crown between Stars' obliterator, SG Spec. C1, Plate 183. This is a genuine cover with a heavily overinked obliterator. There were faint traces of the original cancellation seen on the upper two stamps and possibly the clerk added an excess of ink to his pad and re-stamped the envelope. Type 1 backstamp 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY AU16 1854'.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: forged 'Crown between Stars' obliterator, SG Spec. C6 Plate 1

Turkey and Russia	British Army Field Post Offices in Balaclava, Scutari Hospital and the British Army Post Office in Constantinople.	 Used March 1855 to July 1856 Backstamps  Type 2, code 'B' noted from MY 3 1855 to JY 9 1856  Type 2, code 'A' noted from AP10 1855 to JY31 1856  Type 2, code 'O' noted from AP30 1855 to JY12 1856	Z9	B1	46	73	75	93	102	
					107	126	130			
			Z9	B1	forged OXO			101		
			Z9	B2	135	139	147	148	149	
					156	162	166	169	171	
			Z9	B2	forged OXO			166		
			Z9	B2	faked cover			168		
			Z10	C1	155	157	165	166	169	
					174	175	176	179	180	
					182	183	185	186	187	
					188	189	194	197	198	
					200	201	202	203	204	
					R,1	R,2	R,3	R,4	R,5	
					R,6					
			Z12	C2	194	196	197	198	200	
					201	202	203	204	R,1	
					R,2	R,3	R,4	R,5	R,6	
			Z13	C3	1	2	3	4	5	
					6	8	9	10	11	
					12	13	14	17	20	
21										
Z11	C4	1	2	3	4	5				
		6	7	8	10	12				
		13	15							
Z14	C5	4	6	7	8	9				
		12	13							
Z15	C6	1	2	3	4	5				
		6	7	9	10	11				
		13	14	15	16	17				
		18	19	20	21					
Z15	C6	faked cover			9					
	C7	U								
	C8	22	23	24	26	27				
28		29	30	31	32					
33		34	35	36						
	C10	forged OXO			33	44				
		78 dated covers seen								



Crimean War: 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', SG Spec. B1, Plate 102

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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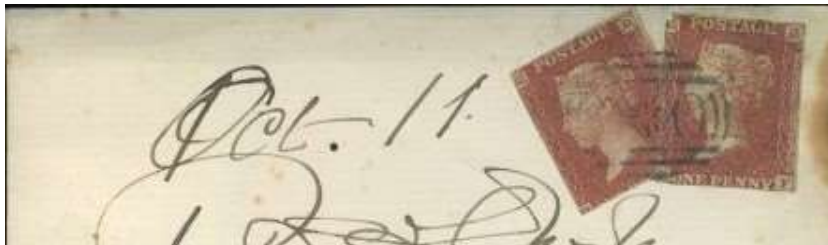
Crimean War: Forged 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', SG Spec. B1 Plate 101



Crimean War: 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', SG Spec. B2, Plate 148



Crimean War: Constantinople. Faked cover, 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', imperforate SG Spec. B2 Plate 168 and perforate SG Spec. C6 Plate 9, 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY NO 5 1855 A' backstamp; the stamps did not belong to this cover.



Faked piece offered for sale March 2017 as 1855 Crimean War: 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', on imperf. SG8 (= SG Spec. B1 or B2). Both were trimmed die 2 stamps, SG Spec. C3 or C6, (right stamp Plate 9), showing traces of perf. 16 visible at top right vertical of the left stamp. Dated Oct 11 (1855).

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Balaclava, 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', SG Spec. C1 Plate 198, HMS Queen sailor's letter, 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY MY14 1855 B'



Crimean War: Constantinople, 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', C3 Plate 11, backstamped 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY AP30 1855 A'. Letter written aboard steamship Alma 27 April 1855

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Balaclava, 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', SG Spec. C2 Plate 196, 1855 registered wrapper with 42 stamps. Reduced to 92% of full size.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Scutari Hospital, 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', SG Spec. C4 Plate 3, backstamped: 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JA21 1856 O'



Crimean War: Scutari Hospital, 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', SG Spec. C5 Plate 9, backstamped: 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY NO19 1855 O'

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', SG Spec. C6 Plate 13: largest block with this cancellation, 38 of the original 42 stamps remaining.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Constantinople, 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', SG Spec. C8, Plate 28, backstamped 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JU12 1856 A'



Crimean War: Forged 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO', SG Spec. C10 Plate 44. Plate 44 was put to press on 19 July 1856 and not printed in rose-red on white paper until June 1857, almost a year after the war.

Turkey	British Army Post Office Constantinople			C6	17				
		Genuine	Forged						

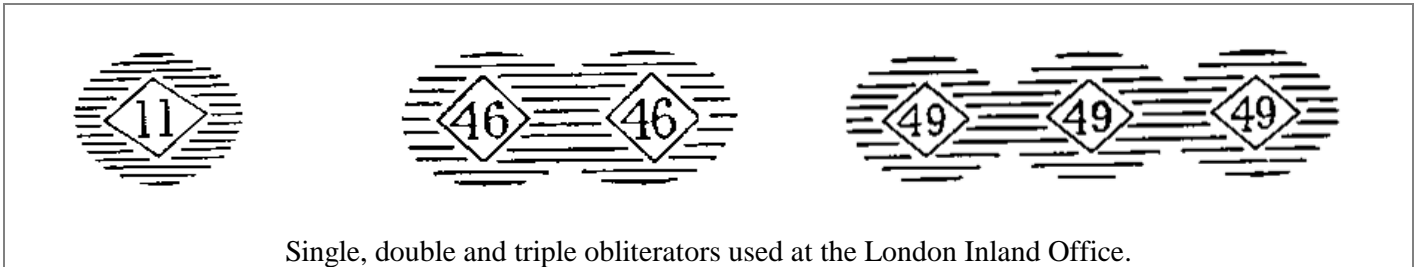


Crimean War: Constantinople, two strikes of a forged 'Crown and Stars' obliterator over a 'Star between Cyphers' or 'OXO' obliterator, SG Spec. C6, Plate 17. Originally a genuine envelope from the 1856 Thelwell correspondence, others of which also have an incorrect manuscript year and a single strike of the 'OXO'.




Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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CRIMEAN WAR MAIL CANCELLED AFTER ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND

Between 1854 and 1856, many locked sacks (ships' bags) of backstamped but uncanceled Crimean War mail arrived in England. They were sorted and cancelled after UK arrival, the majority of such cancellations being number-in-diamond obliterations of the Inland Office of the London District Post, (renamed in 1856 as the Inland Branch of the Circulation Department). Occasionally sacks were opened at the entry port and the mail cancelled.



Single numbers 1 to 37 and 39 to 44 were issued between 1844 and 1853; 50 to 75 were issued from mid-1855. Double numbers were issued June 1854 and triple numbers issued mid-1855.

Turkey, Bulgaria and Russia	British Army Field Post Offices at Balaclava, Constantinople, Scutari Hospital and Varna, and at the British Army Post Office, Constantinople	<p>Stamps cancelled after UK arrival.</p> <p>Three backstamps:</p>  <p>Type 1 noted from JY14 1854 to MY19 1855. Late use also noted SP25 1855, JU 7 1856, JU28 1856 and JY 5 1856.</p>  <p>Type 2, code 'B' noted from JA28 1855 to JU24 1856</p>  <p>Type 2, code 'A' noted on five covers: AP10 1855; MY 7 1856, MY14 1856, JY12 1856 and JY14 1856.</p>		B1	faked cover					114	
				B2	155	157	166	168	173		
				C1	155	162	163	164	165		
					166	167	170	171	173		
					174	175	176	177	178		
					179	180	181	182	183		
					184	185	186	187	188		
					189	190	191	192	193		
					194	195	197	198	199		
					R,3	R,4	R,5	R,6			
	C1	Carried privately					191				
	C2	196	197	198	203	204					
		R,2	R,3	R,4							
	C3	5	6	11	12	13					
		16									
	C4	1	2	3	4	5					
		6	7	9	10	11					
		12									
	C5	1	7								
	C6	1	4	5	6	7					
		8	9	10	11	13					
		14	15	16	20						
	C8	23	24	25	26	27					
		29	30	31	33	34					
								139 dated covers examined			

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. B1 Plate 114 and C6 Plate 9, backstamped 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY OC20 1855 B' and C6 cancelled on UK arrival by London Inland Office '13' obliterator. A genuine cover faked by replacing a third perforated stamp with an imperforate stamp which did not belong on the cover.



Crimean War: Varna, SG Spec. B2 Plate 165, first-type backstamp 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JU28 1854'. Stamps cancelled upon UK arrival by the Inland Office '44' obliterator.



Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C1 Plate 181, first-type backstamp in green, year above the date: 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY 1854 OC 8', (see inset). Letter cancelled after UK arrival by the Inland Office '46' obliterator.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Soldier's letter from the Crimean War, written May 18 1855 and carried privately by a British Navy vessel. Placed in the post at Sheerness on UK arrival. SG Spec. C1 plate 191 cancelled by '699' barred oval obliterator and backstamped 'JU 1 1855'.



Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C2 Plate 198, second-type backstamp: 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY MY19 1855 B', with stamps cancelled after UK arrival by the Inland Office '47'.



Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C3 Plate 13, first-type backstamp: 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY SP25 1855' with no code letter. Letter cancelled after UK arrival by the Inland Office '46' obliterator.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C4 Plate 7, first-type backstamp without code letter: 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY SP25 1855'. Letter cancelled after UK arrival by the Inland Office '46' obliterator.



Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C5 Plate 1, second-type backstamp: 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JA 9 1856 B'. Letter 1855'. Letter cancelled after UK arrival by the Inland Office '46' obliterator.

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C6 Plate 7, backstamped 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY DE21 1855 B', cancelled on UK arrival by London Inland '45'. A 1/2oz letter from Camp Sebastopol to Canada.

CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C6 Plate 15, registered letter with Type 1 backstamp 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY NO 5 1855', cancelled on UK arrival by London Inland '48'.



Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C8 Plate 25, Type 2 backstamp: 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY MY 7 1856 B' in green. Letter cancelled after UK arrival by the Inland Office '44' obliterator.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C8 Plate 34, Type 1 backstamp, no code: 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JU 7 1856.'

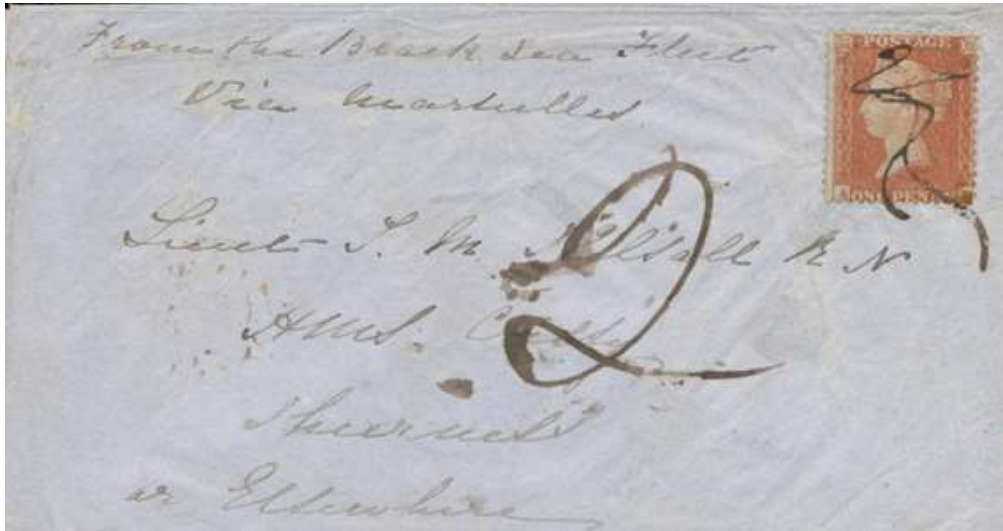
Russia and Turkey	British Army Field Post Offices at Balaclava and Constantinople	Manuscript cancellation with backstamp		B2	165				
				C1	202				
				C6	12				
						3 covers noted (2)			



Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C1 Plate 202. An envelope sent from Balaclava to Gibraltar with a pen strike across the strip of five stamps, with three strikes of the backstamp 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JY31 1855 B' in green. 5d was the rate from Constantinople to Gibraltar.



C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Constantinople, SG Spec. C6, Plate 12 with pen cancellation and second-type backstamp: 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY JU 6 1856 A' in red. sailors's letter written May 20 from HMS Queen, Black Sea Fleet. Rated '2' for the deficiency, on the stamp and on the letter. London transit backstamp 'JU 17 1856' in red and a Sheerness arrival backstamp in


French Postal Service

Turkey	British Army Field Post Office Constantinople via French Postal Service	 Used July 1854 to July 1855		C1	171				



Crimean War: Constantinople, SG Spec.C1 Plate171, cancelled by the crown between stars obliterator. The middle stamp also shows part of a Constantinople French Post Office c.d.s. Image courtesy of *Mulready Philatelics*

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL


Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Russia	Kamiesch, French Army Postal Bureau M	 Used September 1854 to February 1856		B2	152			
				C4	8			
					AOM = Armée d'Orient (Bureau) M			



Crimean War: French Postal Service, 'AOM' *petits chiffres losange* of the French Army Corps at Kamiesch, SG Spec. B2 Plate 152.



Crimean War: French Postal Service, 'AOM' *petits chiffres losange* of the French Army Corps at Kamiesch, SG Spec. C4 Plate 8.

Turkey	Constantinople, French Postal Service via Marseille			C1	201			
				C8	35			
					Used 1852 to 1862			






Crimean War: Constantinople, French Postal Service, SG Spec. C1 Plate 201, cancelled by the '1896' *petits chiffres losange* of Marseille, with manuscript endorsement 'French Post' and a French Mediterranean Squadron datestamp 'ESCADRE DE LA MÉDITERRANÉE 5 FEVR 55'. Letter sent from Selimiye Army Barracks Hospital, Scutari, Constantinople on 28 January 1855, carried by a French Navy vessel to Marseille, overland via Paris to Pisa and redirected to Livorno. Paris transit backstamp: '16 FEVR. 1855' and an Italian backstamp: 'LIVORNO 19 FEV 1855'. Contained a letter written in the presence of Florence Nightingale by her uncle, C H Bracebridge, to relatives in Italy, describing the conditions at the hospital during his visit. (Possibly requested a returning Frenchman carry the letter to Marseille as no British packet due?).

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: Constantinople, French Postal Service, SG Spec. C8 Plate 35, cancelled by 1896 *petits chiffres losange* of Marseille.

Turkey	Gallipoli, French Post Office	 Used 1852 to 1862	 Used 1855 to 1856	C1	R,1				
									



Crimean War: Gallipoli, Turkey, SG Spec. C1 Plate R1, cancelled by '3767' *petits chiffres losange* of the French Post Office (Bureaux de Distribution). 3d rate letter sent via the French Postal Service, with datestamp: 'GALLIPOLI TURQUIE 17 JUIL. 55' and a red paquebot mark.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
France	Aix en Provence	 Used 1852 to 1862		C2	196				



France: Aix en Provence '33' *petits chiffres losange*, (first used during 1852), SG Spec. C2 Plate 196. Only C2 example with Simpson and Sargent broken pin Variety 9, State 2. Aix en Provence is a small town north of Marseille and was the location of small French military transit camp in 1854 for soldiers going to the Crimean War.

Crimean War correspondence via The British Packet Service, Malta


During 1854-1856 some Crimean War mail was sorted and cancelled here. Many of the items below, in date order, are repeated from the earlier sections on Malta and Concessionary Mail.

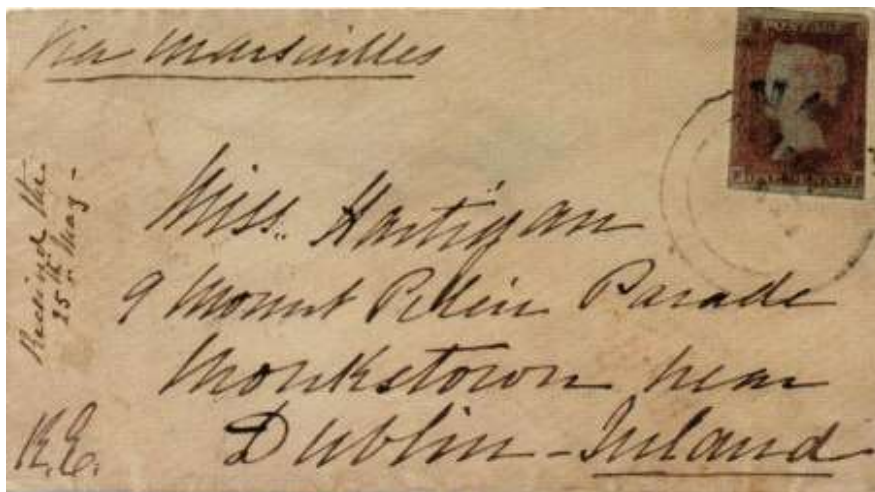
Malta	Letters via Navy bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		B2	136				



Malta. Navy letter from HMS *Rodney*, off Malta en route to the Crimean War, written 15 April 1854. Carried in the Navy bag from Malta to London. SG Spec. B2 Plate 136 cancelled on arrival by London Inland Office '31', with London backstamp 'MY 3 1854' in red.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Malta	Army letters via British Packet Agency, Valletta	 Used 1838 to 1858		B2	158	168		
				C1	176	179	U	
					Counted under Malta			




Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: twin-arc c.d.s. 'MALTA MY 11 1854', SG Spec. B2 Plate 168. Cover from Malta during the Crimean War to Dublin, Ireland endorsed via Marseilles, with the reverse showing London (May 24) and Dublin transit marks in red and Kingstown arrival backstamp (May 25) in black. Cover endorsed at lower left 'R.E.', the sender being Lieutenant Richard Fitzrichard Eyre, grandson of Baron Eyre of Ireland. He was in the 44th Regiment and later died of Cholera in the Crimea. The cover was most probably accepted as a Soldier's letter at the concessionary 1d rate and is reportedly "...the earliest GB 'Used Abroad' cover where the Office came under the direct control of the GPO in London". (Ref. 39, p 1/14).



Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: twin-arc c.d.s. 'MALTA AU 4 1854' on front, cancelling two of the three stamps. SG Spec. C1 left-hand unprinted, centre Plate 179 and right-hand Plate 176 were also cancelled on UK arrival by London Inland Office '42'. Soldier's letter written aboard HMS *Himalaya* off Portugal 30 July 1854 whilst en route to the Crimea.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Russia and Malta	British Army Field Post Office, Balaclava and sorted at the British Packet Agency, Valletta	Two backstamps and stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C1	187				
					Counted as cancelled after UK arrival.				

FRONT




Crimean War: Balaclava, SG Spec. C1 Plate 187, cancelled on arrival by the London Inland Office '20' obliterator. One of the very few registered items recorded from the Crimean War, this money letter was charged 1s 5d. Letters containing coins were not permitted under the Concession Rates system, so it was charged the full civilian rate of 11d postage and 6d registration fee, made up of five stamps on the front of the envelope and twelve on the back. A backstamp 'POST OFFICE BRITISH ARMY NO13 1854' tied some of the stamps on the back, together with a 'MALTA NO20 1854' circular backstamp struck on four stamps, when sorted at the British Packet Agency in Valletta. After UK arrival, all stamps were cancelled by the '20' obliterator of the London Inland Office. Some five stamps were detached from the back of the envelope, probably torn away when opened.

BACK





C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Malta	Army letters via British Packet Agency, Valletta	 Used 1855 to 1884 (No Malta backstamp)		C1	R,3				
					Counted under Malta				



Malta, British Packet Agency: Malta 'P.' in oval, ('Paid' handstamp), SG Spec. C1 R,3. Soldier's concessionary rate letter from a Lance-Corporal of the 93rd Highlanders, aboard a ship off Malta, with manuscript 'Off Malta 7.2.55'. backstamps for London 'FE21 1855' and 'ERROL FE22 1855'. (Prior to the arrival of the wavy-line obliterator.)

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Malta	British Packet Agency, Valletta	 Used April 1855 to September 1856		Z3a	C6	13			
		 Backstamp used 1855 to 1858	The 'wavy-lines' obliterator was supplied to the British Packet Agency, Valletta for use on unfranked Crimean War and other mail sorted at Malta.						



Malta, British Packet Agency: Wavy-line grid, SG Spec. C1 Plate R,5 on a letter to General Sir Robert Gardiner, Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Gibraltar. backstamped: MALTA JUL 13 1855. The letter originally enclosed in this envelope was written by Colonel Arthur Taylor on 29 May 1855 'before Sevastopol' and carried to Malta. Endorsed '5', representing the 5d rate for a ½ oz letter from Malta to Gibraltar, whereas 6d was the officers' rate from the Crimea to the UK via Marseille: not treated as a Concessionary Rate letter.


A: BRITISH AND FOREIGN POST OFFICES

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: A Crimean War letter from Scutari Hospital, Constantinople. SG Spec. C3 Plate 5, sorted and cancelled at Malta by a wavy-line grid. Letter written 29 April 1855 and carried via Malta and Alexandria, Egypt to Calcutta, India. 5d to Malta and 6d to Alexandria. Malta double-arc backstamp, double-arc c.d.s. 'ALEXANDRIA JU 3 1855', handstamp 'CALCUTTA STEAM LETTER 1855 June 30' and manuscript 'Rec'd July 8/55 Nongong'. (Not a Concessionary Rate letter).

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Malta	British Packet Agency, Valletta	Manuscript cancellation on stamps and backstamped  Used 1855 to 1858		C6	10			



Malta, British Packet Agency, Valletta: SG Spec. C6 Plate 10 and SG Spec. F2 2d blue Plate 4 cancelled by a manuscript wavy line and backstamped 'MALTA JA10 1856' at the British Packet Agency, Valletta, with a London arrival backstamp 'JA24 1856'. The letter possibly started from Constantinople, 5d to Malta and 6d to London making the total postage rate of 11d. For some years there had been questions raised about this cover as the recorded backstamp was dated January 1855 in the T V Roberts 1988 auction catalogue and in later displays and exhibitions. This would have predated the issue of the stamps. Recent expert examination by Karl Louis FRPSL and Greg Todd FRPSL in March 2021, together with illustration of the back, finally provided vital information regarding date and watermark. The backstamps were 1856 and not 1855 as previously recorded and the 1d stamp had a large crown watermark, thus SG Spec. C6 instead of the previously listed SG Spec. C3.



Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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THE 1854 BALTIC FLEET

In March 1854, England sent a fleet of 15 ships to blockade Russian ports in the Gulf of Finland. A weekly mail service via Danzig was established. Between May & 31 October 1854 only, the rates were 5d for seamen and 8d for officers. At the end of October 1854 the fleet moved to Kiel and mail went via Hamburg.

Germany	Wismar, Mecklenburg	Not cancelled after UK arrival		B2	133				




Crimean War: 1854 Baltic Fleet, uncanceled SG Spec. B2 Plate 133. Sailor's letter posted AP 4 1854 at the civilian Post Office at Wismar, Mecklenburg State, endorsed *Via Copenhagen* and carried on the German States route. Reverse shows a 'HAGENOW-ROSTOCK' railway TPO datestamp for 5 April 1854 and London arrival mark for 8 April 1854. Charged 11½d: sent before the special arrangements to send mail via Danzig. This was the earliest recorded date for mail from the Baltic Fleet.

1854 Baltic Fleet	Carried in the Navy Bag	Stamp cancelled after UK arrival		C1	175				



Crimean War: 1854 Baltic Fleet, SG Spec. C1 Plate 175 cancelled on arrival by London Inland '40'. Endorsed 'on board HMS Duke of Wellington' and 'Sept 10th /54'. A marine's 1d concession rate letter with a London arrival backstamp 'OC10 1854'

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Prussia (now Poland)	Danzig	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival.		B2	153				
				C1	179	U			
					4 dated covers noted				



Crimean War: 1854 Baltic Fleet, SG Spec. B2, Plate 153 and SG Spec. C1 Plate 179, 'DANZIG 2/9'. Letter cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Office '42' obliterator, with London transit backstamp 'SE 5 1854' and Sydney, Australia ship-letter arrival backstamp '22 Jan 1855'.




Crimean War: 1854 Baltic Fleet, SG Spec. C1, unplatd, datestamp 'DANZIG 19/8'. Letter cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Office '35' obliterator. Sailor's letter from HMS Imperieuse with the amount due to Prussia signified by the manuscript '4'. Front struck with a red 'L' handstamp; red London backstamp: 'AU22 1854'.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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1855 BALTIC FLEET

The service via Danzig was reinstated from 3 April 1855. A new rate of 3d per ¼oz for both sailors & officers was introduced. British mail landed at Danzig, carried by the Prussian and Belgian Postal Services and cancelled after UK arrival.

Prussia (now Poland)	Danzig	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival						
			B2	159				
			C1	164	165	166	169	170
				171	172	174	175	179
				181	191	198	201	202
				204	R,1	R,2	R,4	R,5
			C2	197	198	201	204	R,3
				R,4	R,6			
			C3	2	4	5	9	
			C4	1	3	5		
						20 dated covers noted		



Crimean War: 1855 Baltic Fleet, SG Spec. B2 Plate 159, datestamp: 'DANZIG 11/5' and cancelled after UK arrival an Inland Office '43' obliterator.



Crimean War: 1855 Baltic Fleet, SG Spec. C2 Plate R,4; datestamp 'DANZIG 6/7' tying stamps and cancelled after UK arrival by a London Inland Office '51' obliterator. Overweight and rated '3'.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Crimean War: 1855 Baltic Fleet, SG Spec. C3 Plate 5, datestamp 'DANZIG 22/6' cancelled after UK arrival by '49' obliterator. 1855 officer's cover from HMS Orion off Kronstadt, home of the Russian Baltic Fleet at Kotlin Island. Overweight and rated '3'. Charged '1' for redirection but crossed out, as concession rate letters were exempt from redirection fees.



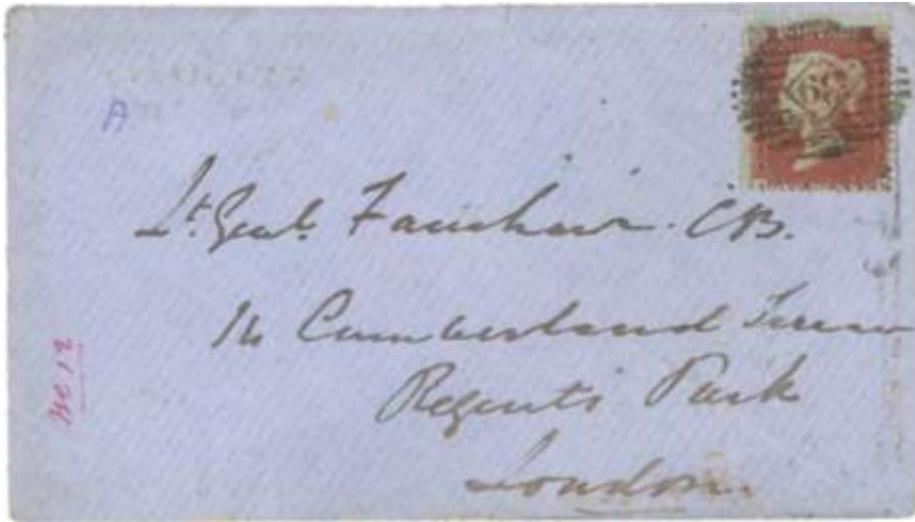
Crimean War: 1855 Baltic Fleet, SG Spec. C3 Plate 4, datestamp 'DANZIG 28/10', cancelled at the UK arrival port by the vertical duplex 'DOVER OC30 1855 / 258' with two 'OC31 1855' destination backstamps



Crimean War: 1855 Baltic Fleet, SG Spec. C4 Plate 3, datestamp: 'DANZIG 6/7', cancelled after UK arrival by an Inland Office '47' obliterator. London and Sheerness dated backstamps 'JY 10 1855'.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
1855 Baltic Fleet	En route to Danzig, via Navy Bag	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival		C1	182			



Crimean War: 1855 Baltic Fleet, SG Spec. C1 Plate 182, cancelled on UK arrival by London Inland Office '39' obliterator. Letter written June 16 1855 aboard HMS *Cossack* en-route to Danzig and carried back in the Navy bag

Estonia	Nargen, via French Military Post	Stamp cancelled after UK arrival		C3	13			



Crimean War: 1855 Baltic Fleet, SG Spec. C3 Plate 13 cancelled on UK arrival by London District duplex '12 AUG 55 / 72'. Sailor's letter written 31 July 1855 at Nargen, Estonia and carried via French Military Post.

C: CRIMEAN WAR MAIL

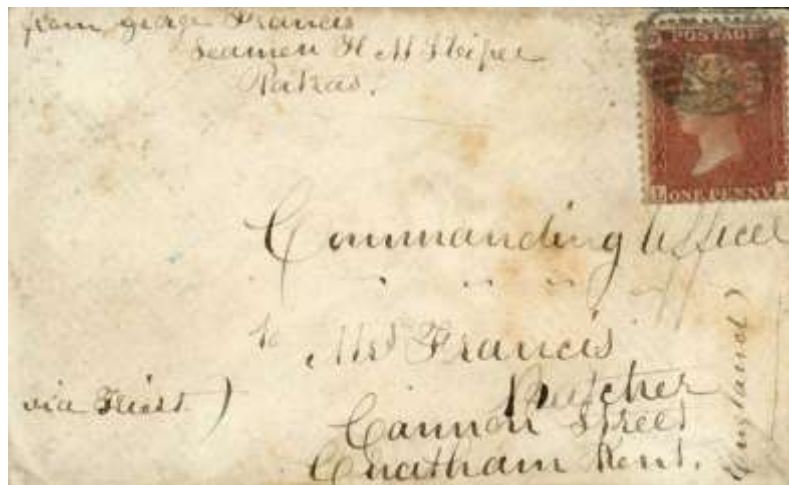
Country	Location	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Finland	Sveaborg, via French Baltic Naval Squadron	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block; color: red; font-weight: bold;">ESCADRE DE LA BALTIQUE</div> French Naval cachet		C3	12				



A sailor's letter dated 11 July 1855, with London Inland '10' on SG Spec. C3 Plate 12. Carried by a ship of the French Baltic Squadron to Sveaborg, Finland and thence overland via Paris and Calais. Front bearing the French handstamp 'ESCADRE DE LA BALTIQUE' in red and arrival c.d.s. 'BUNGAY AU18 1855 B'. backstamped 'PARIS 17 AOUT 55', 'PARIS A CALAIS 17 AOUT 55' and London c.d.s. 'C.O. 18AU18 1855'.

Greece

Greece	Patras, post- Crimean War Naval Patrol	Stamps cancelled after UK arrival.		C6	21				
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Crimean War, Greece, Patras: Royal Navy sailor's letter from HMS *Viper* on post-war patrol. Some British forces were retained in the East for a short period to ensure the Russian forces complied with the Treaty arrangements. SG Spec. C6 Plate 21 on a letter dated 8 October 1856; cancelled after arrival of the Navy Bag.

MAILBOATS — BRITISH


The system of sorting some of the steamship contract mail en route began experimentally in 1858 on the P&O mail packets to Australia. In 1859 the Postmaster General in his fifth report stated: "*The arrangements for sorting letters on board ship, hitherto confined to the Australian Mails, having been found to work well and greatly to expedite the delivery of the letters, have been extended within the present month to the Indian Mails; and I am in communication with the Postmasters General of the United States and Canada, with a view to the adoption of the same plan in the packets between this country and North America.*"

Barred oval numeral handstamps were distributed to postal officers in charge of mails carried by certain steamship companies. These sorters operated on ships holding mail contracts from the British GPO. The handstamps were for use on mail posted on board but most examples occur on letters from soldiers and sailors serving overseas which were forwarded to the mailboats without postmarks. An impression of each handstamp and the date of its issue were recorded in the dispatch books of 1859, 1860 and 1861 at Post Office Records. Each of these entries names a person to whom the handstamp was originally sent and it was assumed for a long time that these were the names of the officers in charge of mails on board the steamships. Examination of the Post Office Establishment records shows that the names were those of the clerical officers in the GPO Circulation Office, (R Casson, A R Douglas, T Mounsey, R Perkins, W Roberts, U Romaine, G Gilpin, D Fisher, E H S Fisher, W B Nash, C W Cook, R Corlett, W P White and F D White), who were responsible for the issue of particular handstamps to those who were specifically entitled to use them. In the case of mailboat officials the numeral obliterating handstamp was usually one of a set of eight different handstamps issued to each officer for his specific use during the whole of his term of duty, irrespective of the different ships on which he served over a period of time. These sets of handstamps also contained different kinds of handstruck rate and postage due marks according to the mail-contract routes on which they were used.

Letters bearing adhesive stamps uncanceled at the place of origin and, later, letters posted on board were struck with the mailboat handstamp. The letter of the alphabet and the number on the handstamp had no reference to any specific ship. A mail officer served terms of duty on different vessels but he retained for his exclusive use the set of handstamps issued to him. The P&O obliterators were usually struck on mail during the Mediterranean leg of the voyage. The system was in use between 1858 and 1870 on vessels of the P&O Line, until the P&O contract was terminated on 28 May 1870, and between 1859 and 1868 on vessels of the Cunard Line. Eastbound Cunard vessels sailing from Boston to Liverpool called at Halifax, Nova Scotia to transfer passengers and UK mail.


Concession Mail for British Soldiers and Sailors, cancelled by various mailboat obliterators, was covered in an earlier section. Where no alternative example was available, details were also noted below, together with illustrations of certain covers.

Cunard Line

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Cunard	North Atlantic	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z130	C10	43	46	57	58
					forged 'A91' reported (Ref. 32, # 80)			



Cunard: 'A91', SG Spec. C10 Plate 58

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Cunard	North Atlantic	 Used 1859 to 1868	Z141	C10	27	43	46	59	62
					63				
					Royal Navy mail put aboard at Halifax, Nova Scotia. 3 dated covers noted.				




Cunard: 'A92', Eastbound to UK, SG Spec. C10 Plate 62. A cover to Dover, cancelled on the SS Asia; left Halifax on August 7, 1862, arriving at Queenstown August 16, with mail from there reaching London two days later. London arrival mark 'AU18 62' on the front; charged '2' for redirection to Deal; backstamped at Tunbridge Wells, Walmer, Dover and Deal.




Cunard 'A92': Westbound from UK, SG Spec. C10 Plate 27. Envelope from London, where the PAID datestamp was applied but the adhesives were not cancelled, although an inspector's mark was applied. Cunard Line Arabia left Liverpool, January 23 1864, mail sorted on board, when the 'A92' obliterator was applied and the letter bagged for Chicago. Arrived Boston, February 6 1864. At Chicago the letter received a datestamp: 'CHICAGO. AM. PK. FEB 7 /24' and a '35/U.S. NOTES' depreciated currency handstamp was also applied. '24' and '35' were the charges in cents.

D: MAILBOATS

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Cunard	North Atlantic	 Used 1859 to 1868	Z146	C10	34	62		



Cunard: 'A93', SG Spec. C10 Plate 34

Cunard	North Atlantic	Cancellation	Z151	C10	41	42	48	66
		 Used 1859 to 1868						

66

42


66

42



Cunard 'A94': SG Spec. C10 Plates 42 and 66, with London arrival datestamp FE 11 62. Letter written on board *Arabia* which New York on 30 January 1862, not stopping at Halifax.

D: MAILBOATS

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Cunard	North Atlantic	 Used 1859 to 1868	Z157	C10	44	59	62	66
			Z157	C12	50			

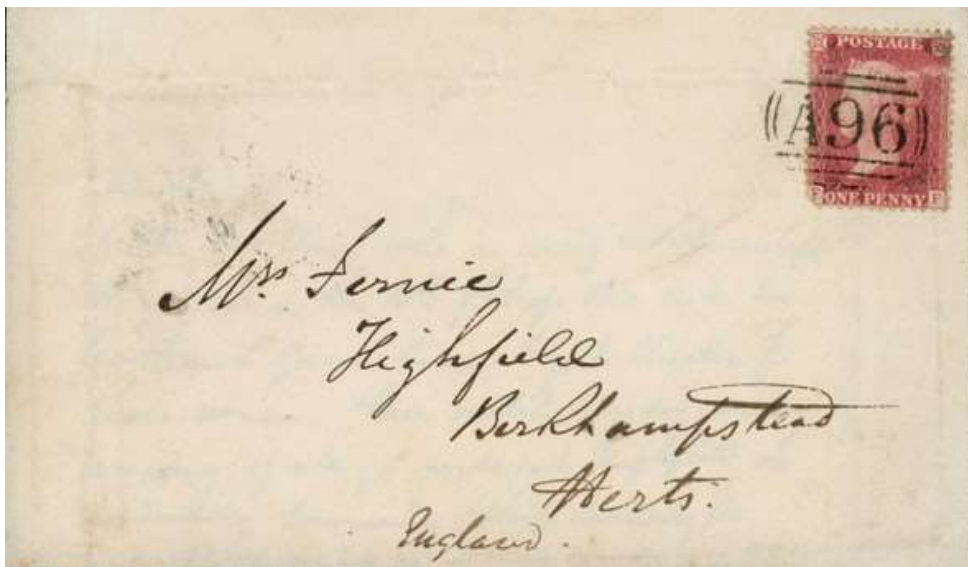


Cunard: 'A95', SG Spec. C10 Plate 62, letter dated 'MR—1862', with arrival backstamp: 'BRECON AP16 1862'.




Cunard: 'A95', SG Spec. C12 Plate 50

Cunard	North Atlantic	Cancellation	Z166	C10	52	U		
		 Used 1859 to 1868						




Cunard: 'A96', C10 Plate 52, letter recorded '18 Sept 1862 aboard SS Persia', with Liverpool arrival backstamp 'SP20 1862'.

D: MAILBOATS

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Cunard	North Atlantic	 Used 1859 to 1868	Z170	C10	57	59		
					Navy letter		59	
			Z170	C12	51			
			Z170	C13	R16			



Cunard: 'A97' used aboard Europa, SG Spec. C10 Plate 59. Departed Halifax, Nova Scotia 13 June 1862, arriving at Queenstown 21 June 1862. Arrival backstamp: TUNBRIDGE WELLS JU 23 1862.

Cunard	North Atlantic	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	38	41	47	48	56
		 Used 1859 to 1868	Z173	C10	60				
					Navy letters		43	56	
					R,17				
			Z173	C12	50				
			Z173	B2	forged 'A98'		172		
				3 dated covers noted					




Cunard: 'A98', SG Spec. C10 Plate 48

Cunard 'A98' on SG Spec. C12 Plate 50 confirmed by Ken Statham but not seen by author



Forged Cunard 'A98', SG Spec. B2 Plate 172

D: MAILBOATS

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
Cunard	North Atlantic	 Used 1862 to 1868		C10	58	U		
			One cover reported.					




Cunard 'B61', SG Spec. C10 Plate 58

P & O Line

P&O	Alexandria-Southampton Packet				No reported use.			
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P&O 'A17' was reportedly sent to Alexandria in April 1858 to cancel stamps sold aboard the Alexandria to Southampton packet but no examples of its use have been recorded.

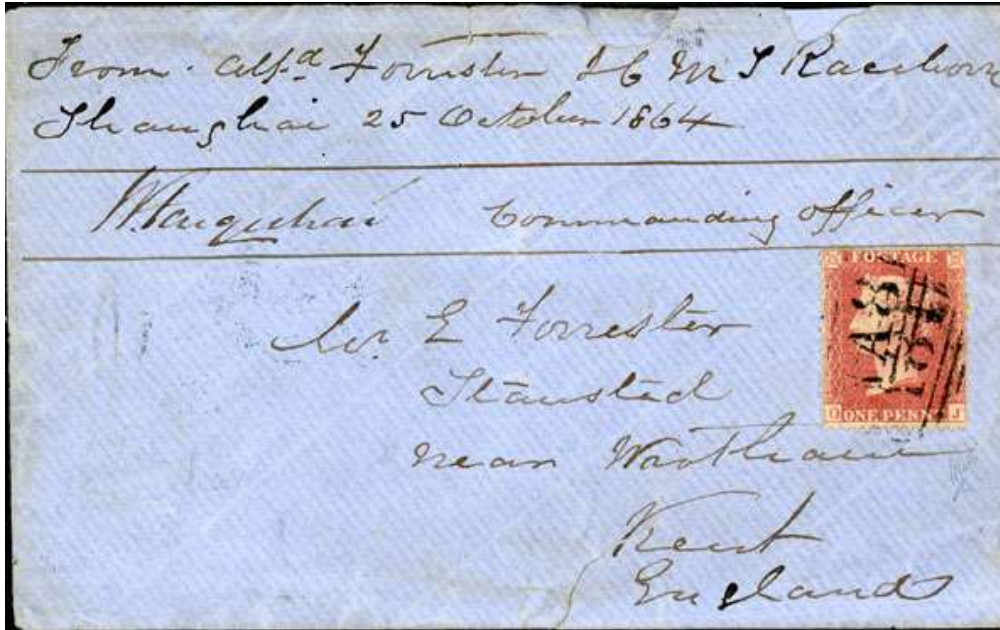
P&O	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	57	68		
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z1	C10	Navy letter		58	



P&O 'A80', SG Spec. C10 Plate 58. Navy letter written aboard HMS Euryalus at Corfu, 25th June 1859 and endorsed 'Via Marseilles'. Cancelled on P&O Mediterranean mailboat; arrival backstamp: 'LONDON JY12 59'.

D: MAILBOATS

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z3	C10	27	34	37	43	45
					49	55	56	57	59
					60	61	66	U	
					Navy letters		27	43	
			45	49	U				
			Z3	C13	R,15	U			
					7 dated covers noted				



P&O 'A81', SG Spec. C10 Plate 43, China, Shanghai sailor's letter, HMS Racehorse dated 25 October 1864, backstamped 'HONG KONG OC31 1864'; cancelled aboard P&O Delhi en route from Egypt to Southampton.




P&O 'A81', SG Spec. C13 Plate R,15

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	47	55	60		
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z15	C10					
					1 dated cover seen				



P&O 'A82', SG Spec. C10 Plate 55

D: MAILBOATS

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1870		C8	U					
			Z21	C10	36	43	49	55	56	
					57	58	59	R,17		
					Navy letters			37	44	
					46	48	56	60	62	
					U					
Z21	C13	R,15	R16							
		10 dated covers noted								



P&O 'A83', SG C10 Plate 48. Royal Navy shipmail cover (not the concessionary rate) with letter headed Hong Kong, Jany 14th 1863. To England from Lieut. William Farquhar on HMS *Racehorse* at Hong Kong harbour. HMS *Racehorse* carried mails for the British Fleet between Hong Kong, Shanghai and Japan during 1863.




P&O 'A83', SG Spec. C13 Plate R,15

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	U				
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z33	C10	U				

P&O 'A84' in *Stanley Gibbons* catalogue but not seen by author.

D: MAILBOATS


Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates					
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z34	C10	48	52	55	56	57	
					59	60				
					Navy letters		36	56		
			Z34	C12	48	60	66			
					5 dated covers noted					



P&O 'A85', SG Spec. C10 Plate 66, envelope backstamped: TRURO DE 26 64. Naval officer's letter form HMS Racehorse, Hong Kong



P&O 'A85', SG Spec. C12 Plate 50

P&O	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	46	49	52	55	58	
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z43	C10	59	60	61			
					Army letter		59			
					Navy letters		36	42		
			Z43	C13	R,15					
					4 dated covers noted					



P&O 'A86', SG Spec. C10 Plate 61 carried aboard Mediteranean Packet *Pera* . Left Alexandria 3 November 1859 to Marseille, for overland passage to Calais and on to England, arriving London 16 November 1859.

D: MAILBOATS

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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P&O 'A86', SG Spec. C13 Plate R,15

P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z56	C10	43	44	52	67
				C10	forged A87		U	

44


52



44

P&O 'A87', SG Spec. C10 Plate 44 (SB , SC) and 52 (SH). Carried by Mediterranean Packet from Alexandria, May 1860, sorted at Malta and continued to Marseilles for overland passage via Paris and Calais to England.

D: MAILBOATS

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates						
					27	36	42	52	57		
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z59	C10	27	36	42	52	57		
					58	59	61	62	68		
					Navy letters		27	57			
			Z59	C12	61	62					
					51						
					4 dated covers noted						

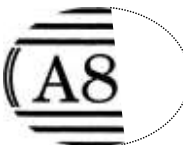


Pacific Naval Station: China sailor's letter from Gulf of Chili, Po Hai Sea, 'A88' on SG Spec. C10 Plates 57, 61 & 62. On HMS Reynard during the Second Opium War, cancelled on P&O Mediterranean mailboat, with 'SHEERNESS MY28 1862' arrival backstamp.

P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z71	C10	34	44			




P&O 'A89', SG Spec. C10 Plate 34

P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East			C12	50				



Singapore: Navy letter, SG Spec. C12 Plate 50 cancelled by partial 'A8-' obliterator of P&O Line. Sailor's letter from HMS Pantaloon, which departed for the East Indies in the autumn of 1861.

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1870	Z73	C10	55	58	66	
			Z73	C13	R,15			
					2 dated covers noted			

R,15

66




P&O 'A90', SG Spec. C13 Plate R,15 top left and others SG Spec. C10 Plate 66. 28 Jan 1864 envelope from Bombay, cancelled aboard P&O *Ripon* en route from Egypt to Southampton.

P&O	Route	Cancellation	Z78	C10	Navy letter	36
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1869	Z78	C10	Navy letter	36



P&O 'A99', SG Spec. C10 Plate 36. 1860 sailor's letter from HMS *Esk*, Hong Kong, when part of the East Indies and China Station of the Royal Navy. In an April 1860 Naval mail bag from Hong Kong, (prior to the departure of HMS *Esk* in the summer of 1860, as part of the action to seal the Bohai Gulf). London arrival c.d.s. 'JU 4 60'. The sender James Dale was a carpenter on board.

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1869		C6	15				
			Z87	C10	47				
				C10	faked/forged 'B03'		48		



P&O 'B03' in blue ink on SG Spec. C6 Plate 15

P&O 'B03' on SG Spec. C10 in *SG* catalogue and Plate 47 recorded by Ken Statham but not seen by author.

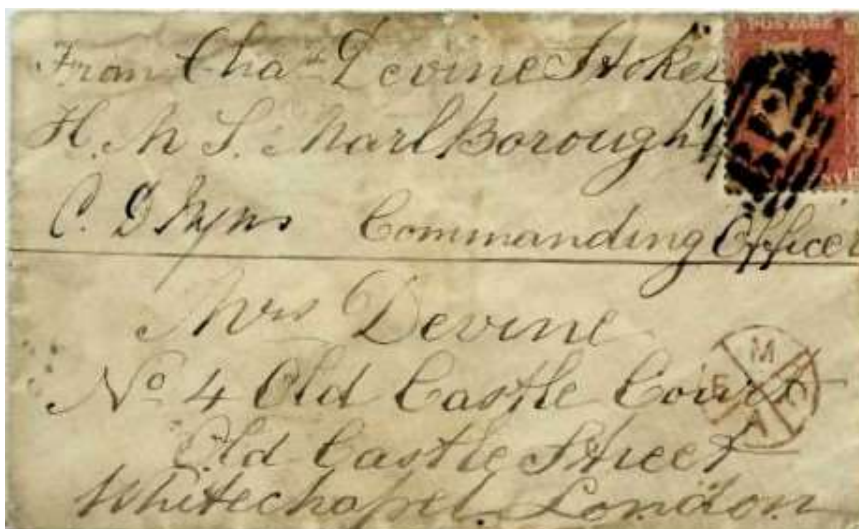


Faked/forged P&O 'B03', SG Spec. C10 Plate 48, altered from '803' obliterator of Dulverton, Somerset.

P&O	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	44	46	47	52	59
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1869	Z94	C10	Navy letter		U		




P&O 'B12', SG Spec. C10 Plate 59



P&O 'B12' on unprinted SG Spec. C10. Sailor's letter from Charles Devine, a stoker on *HMS Marlborough*, carried from Alexandria on 5 June 1864, probably on P&O steamer *Ceylon*. Vessel arrived Southampton 23 June 1864. Front shows an inspector's mark with a London missent mark for 27 June 1864 on the back.

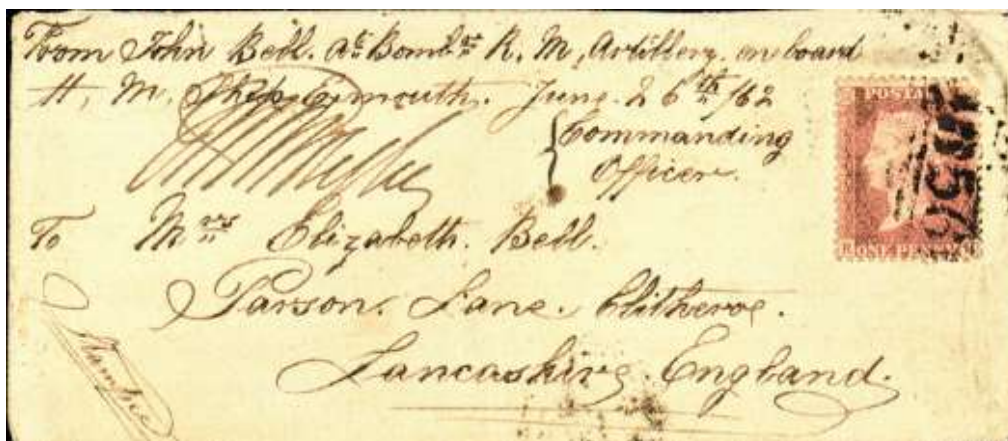
D: MAILBOATS

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1859 to 1869		C10	60	U		
					2 dated covers noted			



P&O 'B16', SG Spec. C10 Plate 60. May 1861 mourning envelope, cancelled aboard P&O Mediterranean Packet *China*. Following discussions with the *Stanley Gibbons* catalogue editor, P&O 'B16' is scheduled to be added to the mailboat listings in the *2025 Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps Catalogue 1840-1970*. 'B16' was reallocated to the Plymouth - Bristol sorting tender around early-1870.

P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1861 to 1870	Z103	C10	52			
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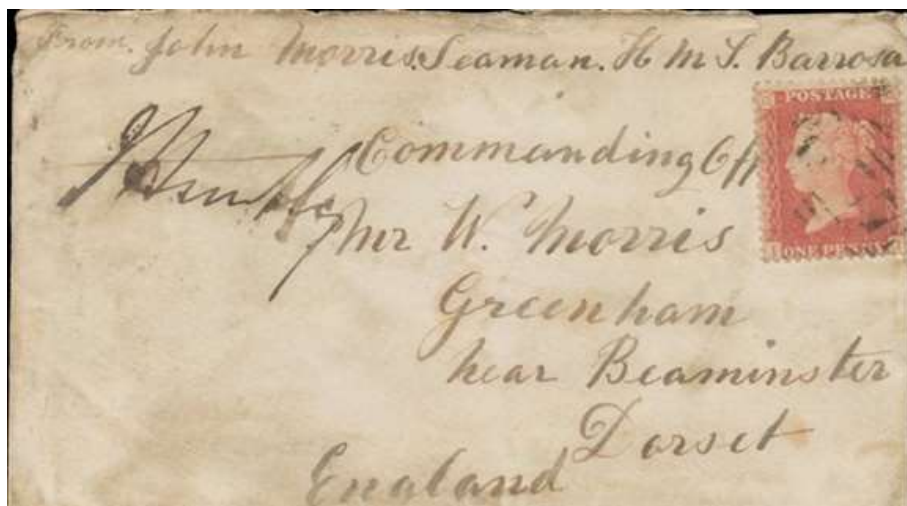
Malta: sailor's letter, P&O Line mailboat 'B56' on SG Spec. C10 Plate 52. A 26 June 1862 letter from a Royal Marine on board *HMS Exmouth*, when part of the Mediterranean Fleet out of Malta. backstamp BLACKBURN JY15 1862.

P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East				No reported use.			
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Although a Proof Book entry noted: "*Lent temporarily to Mr White (our Avoca official) for use on the P&O steamer Ellora...*" no examples have been recorded.

D: MAILBOATS

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
P&O	Mediterranean, Africa and Far East	 Used 1861 to 1870	Z110	C10	41	57	58	59	66
					U				
					Navy letters		41	62	
			Z110	C13	Navy letter		R16		
				3 dated covers noted					



P&O 'B57', SG Spec. C10 Plate 62, Navy letter from HMS *Barrosa*, Yokohama, Japan. Carried per P&O *Ganges*, departed Yokohama 26th August 1864; *Orissa*, departed Shanghai 4th September 1864; *Mooltan*, departed Galle date uncertain; *Baroda*, departed Alexandria date uncertain; *Ripon*, departed Malta 23 October 1864; arrived Southampton 3 November 1864.



P&O 'B57', SG Spec. C13 Plate R16, sailor's letter from Canton River gunboat HMS *Weasel*, with a London arrival c.d.s. 21 May 1863 and backstamped with a Hong Kong c.d.s. for 21 May 1863.

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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Allen Line

British GPO sorters worked on Atlantic mailboats of the Canadian-owned Allen Line between the end of 1859 and April 1860. Six cancellations: B17, B18, B27, B28, B29 and B30 were issued for the Allen Line by the British Post Office but have not been reported used on Great Britain stamps during this brief period. It is therefore most unlikely that any Penny Red Stars were used on mail from these vessels. All Allen Line obliterations were subsequently reallocated to British Post Offices.

Allen Line	North Atlantic			C10	No examples recorded		
				C10	forged 'B17'	37	







Allen Line: forged 'B17', SG Spec. C10 Plate 37

Allen Line	North Atlantic			C10	No examples recorded		
				C10	forged 'B18'	36	




Allen Line: Forged / faked 'B18' altered from '818' of Tunbridge on SG Spec. C10 Plate 36

Allen Line	North Atlantic				No examples recorded		
					No examples recorded		
					No examples recorded		
					No examples recorded		

Shipping Line	Route	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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MAILBOATS — FRENCH


Mail agents on board vessels of the French passenger-freight-mailboat company CMN or Compagnie des Messageries Nationale (so-named 1853 to 1871) were issued with a dotted lozenge obliterator, with an anchor in place of the usual numerals. This was to cancel either posted on board or posted at the docks. Circular datestamps, recognised by their double concentric circles with a fleuron (flower-petal) shape in the lower annulus, were to be struck on the front or back of the cover. Stamps of countries other than France, either alone or in combination with French stamps, were thus occasionally cancelled with the anchor obliterator, particularly on the Mediterranean, New York and Orient runs. (Ref. 15)

CMN		 <p>Used from July 1857</p>		C10	66				



France: Dotted lozenge with anchor, SG Spec. C10 Plate 66, cancelled aboard a CMN Line mailboat.

MAILBOATS — SPANISH

Herrera	West Indies	 <p>Used April to September 1868</p>			No examples recorded
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The 'D26' obliterator was supplied for use by British mail clerks on the mailboats of the Spanish Herrera Line after the era of the Penny Red Stars.

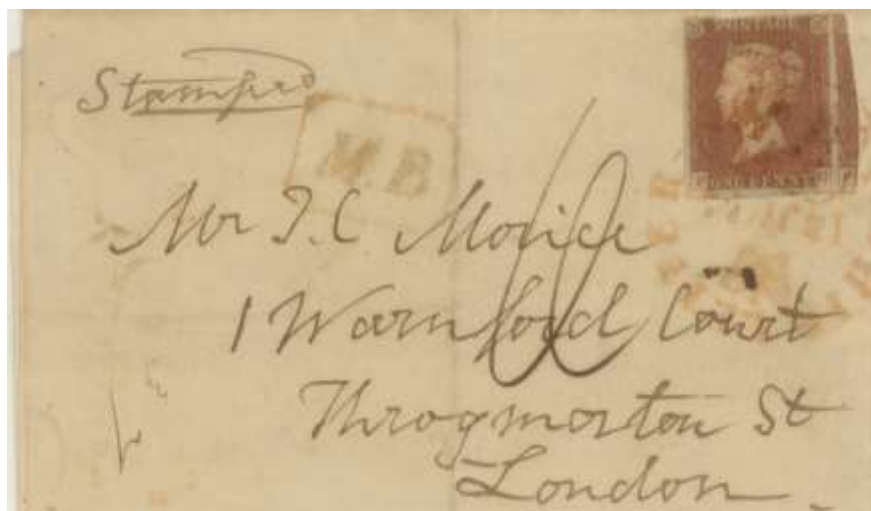
MOVEABLE BOX

Regular Post Office Packet vessels carried the bulk of the mail between England and France, via the Dover to Calais route. The Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1843 allowed the transport of mail between British and French ports by private ships sailing between certain French and English ports. The system of maritime Movable Boxes did not commence until early-1844, with such lockable boxes provided either at the quayside or on steamships sailing to Le Havre and later to Boulogne-Sur-Mer, from the ports of Southampton, London, Dover or Brighton, and in 1855 from Folkestone. Margate, Plymouth and Weymouth were possibly included, although they remain unrecorded. (Ref. 16). Far more information will be available in 2024 when the Stuart Rossiter Trust publishes a new book about the Anglo-French Moveable Box written by Doug McGill.

1843 MOVEABLE BOX: ANGLO-FRENCH

Under the terms of the Anglo-French Postal Conventions of 1843 (and 1856) mail from France bearing French stamps received British cancellations on arrival at English ports. If mail bearing British stamps was placed in the Moveable Box departing a French port, such mail should have been treated as unpaid by the British authorities. This was generally the case but, somewhat later, there were examples of the British authorities cancelling incoming stamps of Great Britain, although such items were undoubtedly philatelic in nature. (Ref. 37)


Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
England	Folkestone and London	 <p>Used from 1844 to 1850</p>  <p>Used 1835 to 1846</p>		B1	43				



England: Boxed 'MB' and 'SHIP LETTER LONDON' circular datestamp, SG Spec. B1 Plate 43. Letter posted in the Movable Box on the quayside in Boulogne on the evening of Thursday 13 June 1844. Letter and stamp cancelled on arrival at Folkestone with a boxed 'MB' and a circular datestamp 'SHIP LETTER LONDON 14 JU 14 1844' added in London.

Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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A special 'permissive' rate of 1d by private ship from the Channel Islands to Southampton was established in 1840. Between 1844 and 1846, when the rate was revised, some Moveable Box letters exist with the 'MB' handstamp use in error as the obliterator. (Ref. 40).

England	Southampton	 Used from 1844 to 1850	B1	70	U			
			Not counted					



England: Boxed 'MB' mark, SG Spec. B1 Plate 70; mail posted either at the dockside in the Channel Islands or when aboard a vessel bound for Southampton.

1856 MOVEABLE BOX: ANGLO-FRENCH

A new Anglo-French Postal Convention was drawn up in 1856 and commenced on 1st January 1857. This now included the English port of Newhaven, ports on the islands of Guernsey and Jersey, and in 1858 Weymouth. In addition to Le Havre, octagonal 'Angl. B.M.' (English Box Mobile) datestamps were issued to the French ports of Bordeaux, Boulogne-sur-Mer, Cherbourg, Dieppe, Granville and St Malo, (Ref. 16). No Penny Red Stars have so far been noted by this author as cancelled at Bordeaux, Plerin, Dieppe or Dunkerque. The latter three were arrival ports for sacks of mail to and from the British Post Office and examples of French mails in the Boite Mobile from these ports were recorded arriving in England. Another French source did not include Dieppe and queried the issue of datestamps to Calais and Morlaix; it also did not record circular datestamps issued to Plerin and Port Bail, nor the Moveable Box to Bordeaux carried on the English Packet Boat. (Ref. 29). Morlaix had been the subject of an earlier Postal Notice in 1851 and a Moveable Box may have been available on the infrequent summer service to Southampton but little use was made of the journey as a mail route. (Ref. 37). The two British stamps confirmed from here during the period of the 1856 Postal Convention were cancelled by the Morlaix circular datestamp.


The captains of ships carrying the Moveable Box were to be paid 1d per letter. On arrival of the vessel, the Moveable Box was carried to the local Post Master who opened it, took out the letters, and returned it to the ship. This mail received an octagonal 'Angl. B.M.' datestamp in red, with the stamps obliterated by a diamond-shaped lozenge of dots. The earlier obliterations *losange petits chiffres*, with small, 4mm numerals, were replaced from 1st January 1863 by a different series the *losange gros chiffres*, with larger, 7mm numerals, used together with a circular 'Angl. B.M.' datestamp, (Ref. 17). The octagonal datestamps were superseded but not destroyed, since used together with a circular 'Angl. B.M.' datestamp, (Ref. 17). The octagonal datestamps were superseded but not destroyed, since King Edward VII. Prior to receiving their larger format obliterations, certain Post Offices used obliterations, possibly manufactured locally, which incorporated the newly allocated number in the old 4mm format.




French Moveable Box datestamps

E: MOVEABLE BOX

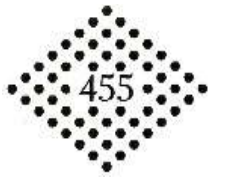
No covers with GB stamps are recorded with the 'ANGL. B.M. CALAIS', or 'ANGL. B.M. CHERBOURG' datestamps. Six Great Britain letter-press (*surface printed*) stamps were recorded cancelled by the '2896' *gros chiffres* of Port Bail, (on the coast of Normandy). These were from letters carried by summer excursion steamers between Gorey and Port Bail, a service which was by no means regular. The port silted-up in 1885 and the steamer service ceased (Ref. 19). This service commenced well after the period of use of Penny Red Stars, (Ref. 19), as was the introduction of circular datestamps at Port Bail, Plerin and St Malo.

Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
France	Bordeaux	 <p>Used 1852 to 1862</p>			None reported

France: Bordeaux. No 1d red stars reported with the '441' *petits chiffres* but the 'PAQ. ANGL. B.M.' datestamp was recorded for the English packet calling at Bordeaux, [Ref. 34].

France	Bordeaux	 <p>Used 1863 to 1876</p>			None reported
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France: Bordeaux. No Penny Red Stars reported with the '532' *gros chiffres*. The 'PAQ.ANGL. B.M.' datestamp has been recorded for the English packet calling there. (Ref. 34) and the obliterator noted on 1865 3d rose.


France	Boulogne-sur-Mer	 <p>Used 1852 to 1862</p>		C10	36	39	43	46	56
					60	61			
				C12	51				



France: Boulogne-sur-Mer, '455' *petits chiffres losange*, SG Spec. C10 Plate 43

France: Boulogne-sur-Mer, '455' *petits chiffres*, SG Spec. C12 Plate 51 reported but not seen by author.

E: MOVEABLE BOX

Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates			
France	Boulogne-sur-Mer	 Used 1863 to 1876		C10	60	62		

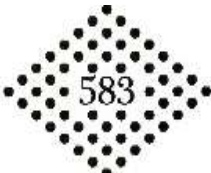


France, Boulogne: '549' *gros chiffres* on SG Spec. C10 Plate 60, courtesy *Mulready Philatelics*


France	Calais			C6	8			
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France: Calais, transit c.d.s. 18 AOUT 55 on SG Spec. C6 Plate 8 , probably 'catch-up' by the French authorities of one that was on departure from GB.


France	Calais	 Used 1852 to 1862			None reported			
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France: Calais, '583' *petits chiffres* .No 1d red stars reported. Only recorded use of this obliterator with GB stamps was on a 4d rose of 1857.


France	Calais	 Used 1863 to 1876			None reported			
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France: Calais, '698' *gros chiffres* . No 1d red stars reported. Only recorded use of this obliterator with GB stamps was on SG Spec. G1 Plate 96

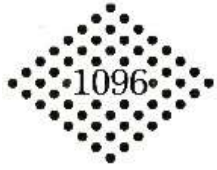
E: MOVEABLE BOX

Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
France	Cherbourg	 Used 1852 to 1862			None reported


France: Cherbourg, '842' *petits chiffres* not recorded on any stamps of Great Britain.

France	Cherbourg	 Used 1863 to 1876			None reported
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France: Cherbourg. No 1d red stars reported with the '1002' *gros chiffres*. The 'ANGL. B.M.' datestamp was recorded for the English packet calling there although no covers are known. '1002' has been seen on 1867 3d rose. (Ref. 34).

France	Dieppe	 Used 1852 to 1862			None reported
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France: Dieppe, '1096' *losange petits chiffres* not recorded on any stamps of Great Britain.


France	Dieppe	 Used 1863 to 1876			None reported
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France: Dieppe, '1299' *gros chiffres* not recorded on any stamps of Great Britain.

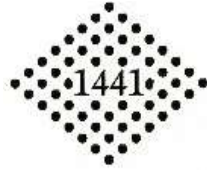
France	Dunkerque	 Used 1852 to 1862			None reported
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France: Dunkerque. 1d red stars not reported with the '1152' *losange petits chiffres*. 'ANGL. B.M. DUNKERQUE' datestamp was listed for the 'English packet calling there but no covers known. (Ref. 34). Obliterator recorded on 1856 4d carmine

E: MOVEABLE BOX

Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
France	Dunkerque	 Used 1863 to 1876			None reported

France: Dunkerque.'1364' *gros chiffres* not known on any stamps of Great Britain.


France	Granville	 Used 1852 to 1862		C10	36	55	60	U	
				C13	R,15				



France: Granville '1441' *losange petits chiffres* , SG Spec. C10 Plate 60

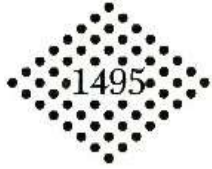


France: Granville '1441' *losange petits chiffres* , SG Spec. C13 Plate R,15

France	Granville	 Used 1863 to 1876		C10	37	56	U	
				C13	R,15			



France: Granville '1706' *gros chiffres* , SG Spec. C13 Plate R,15

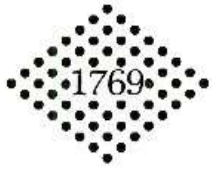
Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
France	Le Havre	 Used 1852 to 1862		C8	34	38	44		
				C10	34	43	44	46	47
					49	52	55	56	57
					60	R,17			



France: Le Havre, '1495' *petits chiffres* , SG Spec. C8 Plate 44




France: Le Havre '1495' *petits chiffres* , SG Spec. C10 Plate 60, datestamp: 'ANGL. B.M. LE HAVRE 23 JUN 60'

France	Le Havre	 Temporary use 1863		C10	36				
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France: Le Havre. Seen by author but no scan available of '1769' *petits chiffres* on SG Spec. C10 Plate 36. *Petit chiffres du Gros Chiffres*: the authorities issued, for emergency use only, the old PC cancellers of other places to the owners of the new GC numbers. Some were also made locally, prior to the arrival of the new GC obliterations.

E: MOVEABLE BOX

Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
France	Le Havre	 1769 Used 1863 to 1876		C10	55	56	60	U	



France: Le Havre '1769' *gros chiffres* , SG Spec. C10 Plate 55

Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.					
France	St Malo	 3176 Used 1852 to 1862		C3	11				
				C8	32	46			
				C10	27	34	36	43	37
					46	47	48	52	55
					56	58	60	61	62
				C11	36				
				C12	50				
				C13	R,15				
						2 dated covers noted			



France: St Malo '3176' *petits chiffres* , SG Spec. C3 Plate 11




France: St Malo '3176' *petits chiffres* , SG Spec. C8 Plate 46, separated pieces from two collections, with scans rejoined.

E: MOVEABLE BOX

Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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France: St Malo '3176' petits chiffres, SG Spec. C11 Plate 36 on a letter from Guernsey with Moveable Box arrival datestamp 'ANGL. B.M. ST. MALO 3 AOUT 58'

France	St. Malo		C9	27				
			C10	27	39	43	46	47
				48	55	60	67	R,17
				U				
			C12	50				
			C13	R,15	R16			
		Used 1863 to 1876						4 dated covers noted



France: St Malo '3734' losange gros chiffres , SG Spec. C9 Plate 27



France: St Malo '3734' gros chiffres , SG Spec. C10 Plate R,17 with datestamp 'ANGL. B.M. ST MALO 3 FEVR. 64'

E: MOVEABLE BOX


Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates
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France: St Malo '3734' gros chiffres , SG Spec. C13 Plate R,15 with datestamp 'ANGL. B.M. ST MALO 17 FEVR. 64'

MOVEABLE BOX: MEDITERRANEAN

In addition to the cross-Channel ports of the Anglo-French Postal Convention of 1856, Moveable Box datestamps were issued to Valletta, Malta and to Alexandria, Egypt. The 'MALTA MB' datestamp has been noted on mail from Alexandria via Malta to Marseille, including two items with Penny Red Stars, (Ref. 20). The Moveable Box was taken ashore at Valletta, the contents sorted and the Malta MB datestamp was applied; stamps on mail for Malta would be cancelled with a Maltese obliterator, whilst onward mail was returned to a Packet Boat bound for Marseille, where the stamps were cancelled with strikes either of the '1896' losange petits chiffres or of the '2240' losange gros chiffres together with a paquebot datestamp. Mail arriving at Alexandria in a Moveable Box aboard vessels from Malta and elsewhere should receive the Alexandria MB datestamp.

Egypt	Alexandria	 Used 1858 to 1860?			No covers recorded
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E: MOVEABLE BOX

Country	Port or Town	Cancellation	SGZ	SG Spec.	Printing Plates				
Malta	Valletta	  <p>Used February 1859 to September 1881</p>  <p>Used 1858 to 1879</p>		C10	60	U			
					2 dated covers noted by the Malta Study Circle (Ref. 21)				



Malta Moveable Box: A letter endorsed 'At Sea March 1st' was posted on board ship en route from Alexandria to Malta. SG Spec. C10 Plate 60 stamps cancelled by 'MALTA A25' duplex and the octagonal framed Moveable Box datestamp 'MALTA MB MR 2 64' applied to the front of the envelope.

APPENDIX - SG SPECIALISED GROUPS AND SHADES OF ONE PENNY RED STARS

Between 1841 and 1864, Penny Red Stars were printed and gummed at the Whitefriars Street printing works of Perkins, Bacon & Petch (Perkins, Bacon & Co from 1853), to the rear of their Fleet Street, London offices. Official perforation was at Somerset House. Printing was interrupted due to a serious fire at the printing works on 11th March 1857, with an emergency relocation to nearby, temporary premises in Savoy Street, where printing of postage stamps continued between Tuesday 17 March and week-ending 26 June. Printing resumed at the rebuilt printing works of Perkins, Bacon & Co on 15th July 1857. Combinations of different factors determine the specialised groups. Although the normally accepted range of groups for penny red stars in Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Volume 1 Queen Victoria Stamp Catalogue, (Ref. 31), is SG Spec. A2, B1, CE1, CE2, B2, and C1 to C13, the table below is expanded to include those items yet to receive a reference number in the latest edition of the catalogue. SC, LC1 and LC2 are abbreviations for the watermarks small crown, large crown type 1 and large crown type 2.

Year	SG	SG Spec	Colour	Paper	Water-mark	Die	Alp h-	Separation	Printing plates and notes
1840	7	A1	black	white	SC	1	1	imperf.	1 to 11. (Part of the history of One Penny Stars)
1841	7	A2	red-brown (shades)	blued	SC	1	1	imperf.	1, 2, 5 and 8 to 11. Printed from 'Penny Black' plates
1 May 1841	16	DP22	full deep red	deeply blued	SC	1	1	imperf.	11. Dickenson 'thread' paper trial.
1841 to 1842	7	A2 var	red-brown (shades)	blued	SC	1	1	roulette	Various plates. Unofficial, unauthorised separation methods.
1841 to 1852	8 - 12	B1(1)	red-brown	blued	SC	1	1	imperf.	12 to 131. As A2 but printing plates only put to press in red-brown.
		B1(2)	red-brown	deeply blued					
		B1(3)	pale red-brown (worn plates)	blued					
		B1(4)	deep red-brown	blued					
		B1(5)	lake-red	blued					
		B1(6)	orange-brown	blued					
1841 to 1852	8 - 12	B1 var 1	red-brown	blued	SC	1	1	roulette	115, 131 and other plates. Unofficial, unauthorised separation methods
1847	16a	CE1	red-brown	blued	SC	1	1	1½ roulette	70 and 71. Rouletting trials by Henry Archer
1848 to 1850	16b	CE2	red-brown	blued	SC	1	1	perf. 16	90 to 94 and 96 to 101. (Plate 95 not used). Perforation trials by Henry Archer. Stamps distributed in 1850 and late-1853 to early-1854.
1850		DP71b	red-brown	white	none	—	—	imperf.	Henry Archer's letterpress, (surface printed), Prince Consort essays. (Part of the history of One Penny Stars; copies also printed in black and blue).
		DP71c	red-brown	white	none	—	—	perf. 16	
1851 to 1852	16b	CE2	red-brown	blued	SC	1	1	perf. 16	103, 105, 106, 107, 108, 111 and 116. Probably from demonstrations of the Archer machine for the 1851-1852 Parliamentary Select Committee.
June 1851	8 - 12	B1 var 2	red-brown	lavender tinted	SC	1	1	imperf.	98. A few examples are reported when the Plate 98 was recalled to replace Plate 107.

F: APPENDIX

Year	SG	SG Spec	Colour	Paper	Water-mark	Die	Alp h-	Separation	Printing plates and notes
Early-January to mid-/late-March 1852	8 - 12	BS91 <i>e</i>	red-brown	lavender tinted	SC	1	1	imperf.	118, 119 and 121 to 131
1852 to 1854	8 - 12	B2(1)	red-brown	blued	SC	1	2	imperf.	132 to 177
		B2(2)	lake-red	blued					
		B2(3)	orange-brown	blued					
		B2(4)	red-orange	blued					
Early-January to mid-/late-March 1852	8 - 12	B2 <i>k</i>	red-brown	lavender tinted	SC	1	2	imperf.	132 to 136. There are reports of 143, 144 and 145 but these were put to press after the accepted period.
1852 to 1854		B2 <i>var</i>	red-brown	blued	SC	1	2	imperf.	R,7 to R,14. Unissued reserve plates
August 1853 to January 1854	16c	CE3	red-brown	blued	SC	1	2	perf. 14	140 and 164 on dated covers prior to February 1854 are no longer considered to be genuine and removed from SG catalogue.
November 1852 to March 1854	8 - 12	B2 <i>a</i> and B2 <i>aa</i>	red-brown	blued	SC	1	2	serpentine roulette	133, 138, 141, 146 to 154, 156 to 165, 167, 168, 170, 171 and 173, (Ref. 30). The so-called Treasury Roulette was an unauthorised serpentine roulette from a London club.
1854 to 1855	17 - 18	C1(1)	red-brown	blued	SC	1	2	perf. 16	155, 157, 162 to 204 and R,1 to R,6. The first official perforation.
		C1(2)	yellow-brown	blued					
		C1(3)	brick-red	blued					
		C1(4)	plum	blued					
		C1(5)	orange-red	blued					
1855	22	C2(1)	red-brown	blued	SC	1	2	perf. 14	194 to 198, 200 to 204 and R,1 to R,6. The second official perforation.
		C2(2)	yellow-brown	blued					
		C2(3)	brick-red	blued					
		C2(4)	plum	blued					
		C2(5)	orange-red	blued					
1855	24 - 25	C3(1)	red-brown	blued	SC	2	2	perf. 14	1 to 21
		C3(2)	deep red-brown	very blued					
		C3(3)	dull orange-brown	blued					
		C3(4)	brown-rose	blued					
		C3(5)	yellow-brown	blued					
		C3(6)	brick-red	blued					
Mid-May to August 1855		C3 <i>var</i>	red-brown	blued	SC	2	2	imperf.	16 to 18. Neale's steam-press trial. Two blocks of five and twenty five stamps from Plate 18 exist.
1855	21	C4(1)	red-brown	blued	SC	2	2	perf. 16	1 to 15
		C4(2)	yellow-brown	blued					
		C4(3)	brick-red	blued					
		C4(4)	brown-rose	blued					
		C4(5)	dull orange-brown	blued					

F: APPENDIX

Year	SG	SG Spec	Colour	Paper	Water-mark	Die	Alp h-	Separation	Printing plates and notes
Late-July 1855	26	C5(1)	red-brown	blued	LC1	2	2	perf. 16	1, 2 and 4 to 15
		C5(1)	very deep red-brown	blued					
Late-July 1855 to 1856		C6(1)	red-brown	blued	LC1	2	2	perf. 14	1 to 21
		C6(2)	yellow-brown	blued					
		C6(3)	plum	blued					
		C6(4)	brown-rose	blued					
		C6(5)	dull orange-brown	blued					
August 1855		C8 var 1	red-brown	blued	LC1	2	3	imperf.	22 and possibly 25. Neale's steam-press trial. One sheet from Plate 22 and a half sheet from Plate 25 exist.
November 1855 to December 1855		C7(1)	red-brown	blued	SC	2	3	perf. 14	22 to 27. The result of the concurrent use of both watermark papers, until supplies of small crown paper were exhausted.
		C7(2)	deep red-brown	very blued					
November 1855 to 1857	29 - 33	C8(1)	red-brown (shades)	blued	LC1	2	3	perf. 14	22 to 38, 40 and 42 to 48
		C8(2)	brick-red (shades)	blued					
		C8(3)	plum	blued					
		C8(4)	brown-rose (shades)	blued					
		C8(5)	orange-brown (shades)	blued					
		C8(6)	deep claret	deeply blued					
		C8(7)	orange-red	blued					
		C8(8)	purple-brown	blued					
		C8(9)	pale red	blued					
November 1855		C8 var 2	red-brown	blued	LC1	2	3	imperf.	R,18 and R,19. Unissued reserve plates
November 1855		C7 var	red-brown	blued	SC	2	3	imperf.	R,20. Unissued reserve plate
March 1856 to July 1856	37	C8A (early period)	red-brown	unblued	LC1	2	3	perf. 14	23 to 26, 28 to 30. Late, worn plates
April 1856		C8 var 3	red-brown	blued	LC1	2	3	imperf.	39 and 41. Neale's steam-press trial. All sheets destroyed?
Mid-1856		C6 var 1	red-brown	unblued	LC1	2	3	perf. 14	16 and 17
June 1856	42	C12 var 1	red-brown	blued	LC1	2	4	perf. 14	50 and 51. Hand-cut letters. Neale's steam-press trial. All sheets destroyed?
Late-October 1856 to early-1857	37	C8A (later period)	red-brown	unblued	LC1	2	3	perf. 14	27, 31 to 38, 40 and 42 to 46
December 1856 to January 1857		C6 var 2	red-brown to orange-brown	unblued	LC1	2	2	perf. 14	18

F: APPENDIX

Year	SG	SG Spec	Colour	Paper	Water-mark	Die	Alp h-	Separation	Printing plates and notes
December 1856 to January 1857	29 - 33	C8	orange-brown	slightly blued	LC1	2	3	perf. 14	27, 31 to 38, 40 and 42 to 47
January 1857 to 11 March 1857		C9(1)	orange-brown (shades)	unblued	LC1	2	3	perf. 14	27, 31, 33 to 38, 40 and 42 to 48. Pre-fire printings at Perkins, Bacon. Deep and orange shades of early-1857 were within normal range of shades. of shades. (Ref. 22).
		C9(2)	red-orange (shades)						
		C9(3)	pale-red (shades)						
		C9(4)	bright red (shades)						
		C9(5)	dull red (shades)						
18 March 1857 to mid-May 1857		C9A(1)	pale rose (shades)	unblued	LC1	2	3	perf. 14	27, 31, 34, 36 to 38, 40, 43, 44, 47, 49, 52, 53 and 55. Early post-fire, thinned-ink printings at Savoy Street resulted in a very pale appearance to the printed stamps. Late Savoy Street printings in rose-red were almost indistinguishable from the later C10s and best identified on dated pieces.
Mid-May 1857 to 26 June 1857		C9A(2)	rose (shades)	unblued	LC1	2	3	perf. 14	
		C9A(3)	rose-red	white					
14 July 1857 to 1862	40 - 41	C10(1)	rose-red (shades)	white	LC1	2	3	perf. 14	27, 33 to 34, 36 to 39, 41 to 49, 52, 55 to 68 and R,17. Printing recommenced at Fleet Street on 14 July 1857 in the same shade as the late Savoy Street printings of June 1857. (Ref. 22).
		C10(2)	deep rose-red						
December 1857 to February 1858	36	C11	rose-red	white	LC1	2	3	perf. 16	27, 34, 36 to 38, 42 to 49, 52 and 55 to 60.
1861 to 1864		C10(3)	pale rose-red	white	LC1	2	3	perf. 14	27, 34, 36, 39, 42 to 44, 46 to 48, 52, 55 to 60, 62 to 68 and R,17
1861 to 1864	40 - 41	C10(1)c	rose-red (shades)	white	LC2	2	3	perf. 14	27, 34, 36, 39, 41 to 44, 46 to 49, 52, 55 to 60, 62 to 68 and R,17. Single copies of 58 (TA), 65 (IA) and two of 64 (TB re-entry) were from mixed watermark sources; also 65 (LG) in a mixed watermark pair (LG-LH).
		C10(2)c	deep rose-red						
		C10(3)c	pale rose-red						
1861 to 1862		C10aa	rose-red	white	Mixed LC1 and LC2	2	3	perf. 14	27, 34, 36, 39, 43, 46, 55 to 60, 64, 65, 67 and R,17. Mixed watermarks se-tenant (i.e., in adjacent stamps of pairs, strips or blocks).
1863 to 1864	40 - 41	C10(4)c	pale rose-pink	white	LC2	2	3	perf. 14	27, 34, 36, 39, 42 to 44, 46 to 48, 52, 55 to 57, 60, 62 to 68 and R,17. (After supplies of LC1 paper were used up.)
1861 to 1864	42	C12(1)	rose-red	white	LC2	2	4	perf. 14	50

F: APPENDIX

Year	SG	SG Spec	Colour	Paper	Water-mark	Die	Alp h-	Separation	Printing plates and notes
1861 to 1862	42	C12(1) <i>c</i>	rose-red	white	LC1	2	4	perf. 14	50. The stock of LC1 paper was exhausted by December 1862 or slightly earlier.
1861 to 1864	42	C12(2)	rose-red	white	LC2	2	4	perf. 14	50
1861 to 1862	42	C12(2) <i>c</i>	pale rose-red	white	LC1	2	4	perf. 14	50. The stock of LC1 paper was exhausted by December 1862 or slightly earlier.
1861 to 1862		C12(1) <i>ca</i>	rose-red	white	Mixed LC1 and LC2	2	4	perf. 14	50. The stock of LC1 paper was exhausted by December 1862 or slightly earlier.
1861 to 1864	42	C12(3)	rose-red	white	LC2	2	4	perf. 14	51
1861 to 1862	42	C12(3) <i>d</i>	pale rose-red	white	LC1	2	4	perf. 14	51. The stock of LC1 paper was exhausted by December 1862 or earlier.
1861 to 1864	42	C12(4)	pale rose-red	white	LC2	2	4	perf. 14	51
1861 to 1862	42	C12(4) <i>c</i>	pale rose-red	white	LC1	2	4	perf. 14	51. The stock of LC1 paper was exhausted by December 1862 or earlier.
1861 to 1862		C12(3) <i>ca</i>	rose-red	white	Mixed LC1 and LC2	2	4	perf. 14	51. Mixed watermarks se-tenant. (ie: in adjacent stamps of pairs, strips or blocks)
1862 to 1864		C13(1)	rose-red	white	LC2	2	2	perf. 14	R,15
1862		C13(1) <i>d</i>	rose-red	white	LC1	2	2	perf. 14	R,15. The stock of LC1 paper was exhausted by December 1862 or earlier.
1862 to 1864		C13(2)	pale rose-red	white	LC2	2	2	perf. 14	R,15
1862		C13(2) <i>d</i>	pale rose-red	white	LC1	2	2	perf. 14	R,15. The stock of LC1 paper was exhausted by December 1862 or earlier.
1862 to 1864		C13(3)	rose-red	white	LC2	2	2	perf. 14	R16
1862		C13(3) <i>e</i>	rose-red	white	LC1	2	2	perf. 14	R16. The stock of LC1 paper was exhausted by December 1862 or earlier.
1862 to 1864		C13(4)	pale rose-red	white	LC2	2	2	perf. 14	R16
1862		C13(4) <i>e</i>	pale rose-red	white	LC1	2	2	perf. 14	R16. The stock of LC1 paper was exhausted by December 1862 or earlier.
Sep 1865		DP35 <i>b</i>	rose-red	white	LC2	2	3	imperf.	66. The unissued, so-called <i>Royal Reprint</i> , produced by Perkins, Bacon following a request from Ormond Hill.
1862 or later	—	A2 <i>var</i> 2	red-brown	blued	SC	1	1	perf. 11½	10. Possibly unofficial 11·38 line-perforation by Perkins, Bacon. Perforations 11 – 12½ on their Machine B, used from 1862 to 1881 for stamps of Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada and St Vincent. (Ref.23).

C8A colours, red-brown on unblued paper, resemble those observed with locally (Chilean) printed Chile 'Colon' 5c of 1854-1855; none of the printing inks used by Chilean printers contained potassium ferricyanate.

C9 and C9A are revised, logical groupings adopted in 2020 by the Editors in Stanley Gibbons Queen Victoria Volume 1, Part 1 Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue (Ref. 39). Current and on-going research now indicates that the appearance of various orange colours followed by rose-red on unblued paper after the end of 1856 and first half of 1857 may not have been accidental. It coincided with the unauthorised and unrecorded use by Perkins, Bacon of cheaper, metal-based (lead) dyes, rather than the vegetable pigments in the authorised ink formula, as used on the Ceylon 10d and Tasmania 1d. Thus C9 colours on toned paper were due to printing with ink containing lead chromate, resulting in an orange tint to the paper. The use of such inks persisted throughout the remaining period of Perkins, Bacon printings from July 1857 onwards. (Ref. 36).

Watermark large crown type 2 was a modification of the watermark bits in 1860 during the era of the SG Spec. C10 printings and such paper was first recorded in use during 1861. Plates 33, 35, 37, 38, 40, 45, 61, 64 and 65 were withdrawn prior to these water-mark changes. Examples with large crown type 2 from Plates 58, 64 and 65 were from mixed watermark sources. The Plate 58 example had a September 1860 datestamp, indicating the existence of the Large Crown Type 2 watermark bits far earlier than previously supposed, (Ref. 38).

Not included in the above general tables are certain watermark and perforation varieties, which include: 1). Inverted or reversed watermarks, which were a consequence of paper handling when placed on the printing presses. 2). Two types of watermark error found on SG Spec. groups C10, C12 and C13 from 1857 onwards. On large crown type 1 paper there was an error at position TA (TL sheets), between 1857 and 1862. There was a different error noted at position MA on large crown type 2 paper, (ML on inverted on inverted sheets), between 1857 and 1864, which continued with the subsequent plate number series. 3). From 1862 onwards, control letters were included in sheet watermarks, positioned in the upper and lower margins, with different capital letters A, B, C, etc to identify the moulds from which the hand-made paper originated, continuing into the 1870s. 4). Long or short stamps. 5). Double perforation. 6). Imperforate stamps which would normally be found perforate. 7). Broken perforation pins. 4), 5) 6) and 7) were due to handling or machine errors in the perforating room at Somerset House.

FOOTNOTE 1: SG CATALOGUE 'ARMY FIELD OFFICES IN RUSSIA-THE CRIMEA' (Ref.24)

For many years this author was of the opinion that there were some inaccuracies in the 'GB Used Abroad' section of the Stanley Catalogue of Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1952, (Ref. 3), concerning the listings: Russia-Field Offices in the Crimea, 1854-57. This catalogue listing, which still endured into the 2011 edition, may benefit from being described as Crimean War Mail, 1854-1856, and the SG editors have been so informed.

Copies of the 'Crown between Stars' obliterations and circular backstamps were not only used at the Army Field Post Office(s) in the Crimea but also at other Army Field Post Offices established to serve the forces based at the Selimiye Barracks in Constantinople from 1854, from May to September 1854 at the Black Sea port of Varna, (now in Bulgaria) and at the British Army Post Office which opened at Constantinople in January 1855. The replacement 'Star between Cyphers' obliterations were sent to the Crimea and to Constantinople. As noted earlier, the Allied forces landed in the Crimea between 14 and 16 September 1854. The dates summarised below, from the Imperial War Museum and The National Archives, indicate that the war finished and Allied forces started to leave the Crimea during the spring and early summer of 1856:

25 February 1856	The Paris Peace Conference opened.
29 February 1856	The Armistice was signed.
30 March 1856	The Treaty of Paris was signed.
2 April 1856	Proclamation of Peace made to the Allied armies at Balaclava and to the naval forces at Kamiesch and Kazatch.
Mid-April 1856	Evacuation of the Crimea commenced
27 April 1856	Ratification in London of the Treaty of Paris formally ended Britain's participation in the War.
12 July 1856	Completion of the evacuation, with the British commander General Coddington aboard HMS <i>Algiers</i> , the final Allied ship to depart the port of Sevastopol.

After the Crimean War, the telegraph system from Varna to Constantinople stayed under British control (Lieut. Biddulph) until Turkey took it over on 23 February 1857. (Ref. 25). Prior to and following the closure of the British Army Post Office at Constantinople at the end of 1856, there were representations from British commercial and diplomatic interests to the British Government and a British Post Office at Constantinople at the end of 1856, there were representations from British commercial and diplomatic interests to the British Government and a British Post Office was eventually opened at Constantinople in July 1857. The final *SG Part 1* listing of Penny Red Stars from the Crimean War was 'Z15 1d red-brown (1855), die II, wmk Large Crown, perf. 14', which corresponded to SG Spec. C6. Alphabet 3 stamps were also recorded from the Crimean War but do not appear in the *SG Part 1* listings: SG Spec. C7, reported by Seymour pre-1939 with the Stars between Cyphers cancellation, plate unknown, (Ref. 14) and SG Spec. C8 Plates 24 to 36. Stamps from Plate 36, which was put to press on 20 February 1856, were the last recorded with Crimean War cancellations.



SG Spec. C8 Plate 34



SG Spec. C8 Plate 36

Although the 1d value was by far the most common stamp to be encountered in use during the period of the Crimean War, no stamps have so far been seen from later printing plates of group SG Spec. C8, or from the subsequent groups SG Spec. C8A and C9, printed in mid- to late-1856 or early-1857.

The listing by *Stanley Gibbons* of '4d rose (1857)' must also be doubtful, as the date would indicate it to be SG Spec. J51 with large garter watermark, issued in January 1857. Either it was mistaken for the medium garter watermark or it may have been cancelled with a forged obliterator. Neither SG Spec. J48 4d rose with medium garter watermark, first issued 25th February 1856, nor the earlier SG Spec. J47 4d rose with small garter watermark, issued July 31st 1855 appear under their catalogue listings for the Crimean War.

Between 1907 and 1909 a series of articles entitled 'British Stamps Used Abroad' by I J Bernstein and Chas. Nissen appeared in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, (Ref. 26), which later became the basis for much information in the first catalogue listings of these stamps. In Group VI of their articles, when discussing the Crimea 1854-56, the authors wrote:

...*"Peace was declared in April, 1856, but the Crimea was not finally evacuated by the Allies till 12 July, 1857; consequently we can assume British stamps were used there from about November, 1854, till 12 July, 1857."*

and

...*"The varieties known are:- ... Cyphers and Star ... 4d Large Garter"...*

The above article included a few minor errors, in particular the typographical error: '12 July, 1857', which should read as: '12 July, 1856'. The Field Post Office at Balaclava in the Crimea closed in mid-1856, as part of the evacuation of the Allied forces. The record of Penny Red Stars used in the Crimean War supports this view, with no dated covers so far reported after July 1856. Further supporting evidence was the deeply sad fact that soldiers who had survived the Crimean campaign were later killed in July 1857, during the Siege of Lucknow in India, which started on 2nd of that month. Examination of the Despatches of the Commanding Officer General Sir William John Codrington KCB to Lord Panmure, Secretary of State for War confirmed the events of July 1856. In Despatch Number 336, dated July 25 1856, he wrote:

"My Lord

On the 12th inst. the last of the British Army quitted the Crimea in H.M.S. Algiers and I embarked in the same ship with my personal staff and sailed from Balaclava that evening..."

The current description and date listing in the Gibbons catalogue is a continuation of the factual and typographical errors in the 1907 to 1909 articles by Bernstein and Nissen, which the SG editors may choose to amend in the future. Unless, of course, a 4d rose with large garter watermark and Crown between Cyphers cancellation should ever be confirmed.

2012 SG Catalogue Amendment

Following the publication of my article in *The London Philatelist* (Ref. 24), the SG Editors corrected the 2012 Edition. The dates were amended to 1854-1856 and they delisted the 4d with large garter watermark from the Crimean War section. Subsequently the 4d rose stamp was located and examined in 2013 and the 'Star between Cyphers' cancellation was confirmed as a forgery.

FOOTNOTE 2: SG SPEC. C12 PLATE 51 'USED IN JAMAICA'

There was a minor error concerning Plate 51 in Volume 16 of *The Essential Guide to the Line Engraved 1d and 2d Stars 1840-1864* by the late Dr Ken Statham. On page 3162 he recorded SG Spec. C12 Plate 51 used abroad with the 'A01' cancellation of Kingston, Jamaica, (Ref. 27). The use of British stamps in Jamaica ceased on 1st August 1860, when the island assumed responsibility for its July 1861 in Great Britain. It would be most unlikely that such stamps were used in Jamaica. This usage could only be correct if on a cover with a Kingston, Jamaica datestamp. Late use of a now-invalidated British stamp would have been contrary to regulations and any cover was endorsed with the amount to be paid by the recipient. The author has seen and inspected an 1864 cover from Port Royal, Jamaica which was endorsed: 'No Good' and '2d to Pay' and for this reason continued to list SG Spec. Plate 51 in the Kingston, Jamaica section of this book.

2013 Update

The SG Spec. C12 Plate 51 stamp with Kingston, Jamaica 'A01' cancellation was inspected in August 2013 and confirmed to have a forged 'A01' cancellation.

FOOTNOTE 3: PENNY BLACKS USED ABROAD

Although not part of the overall study of Penny Red Stars, the Author has included details of Penny Black covers, since they were line-engraved 1d Penny Stars. Two 1842 covers from a Royal Navy officer in the West Indies, listed in the Concessionary Mail section; one 1841 cover from St Malo, listed in the French section; one cover from Corfu; one cover from Baltimore, USA. Two further covers are also reported, as yet unseen, one from Brazil and one from Russia, although it is possible the Russian cover had the Penny Black added in London.

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