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A Postal Envelope from Jesus College Cambridge

Vincent West

It has hitherto been assumed¹ that College stamps first appeared in Oxford at Keble College in November 1871 and that College postal stationery first appeared there in 1875; and that in Cambridge, College stamps first appeared at Selwyn College in 1882 and there was no postal stationery. However there is an early Jesus College Cambridge prepaid envelope in the Post Office archives.

The envelope is first mentioned in a letter dated 20 October 1871 from Edmund Morgan, the Dean of Jesus College Cambridge, to the Secretary of the Post Office, Sir John Tilley. The letter reads as follows² (near the end it is torn and a few words have been restored as indicated by square brackets):

I shall be much obliged if you would have the goodness to inform me as to the legal bearings of the following scheme.

In various Colleges a servant exists who is the authorized Messenger of the College, who is paid by a fixed charge made for each message or parcel carried by him, such services being of course strictly limited to the members of the College.

In appointing such a servant here, we are desirous of simplifying the mode of charging for such messages or notes — & it seems most simple to supply members of the College with envelopes bearing the printed notice 'Jesus College Messenger' — these envelopes would be sold at a certain fixed price to Members of the College only. The Messenger is

not retained for this service specially, but has many other duties wh: render him very(?) strictly a domestic servant — he would however deliver these as part of his duty.

Usually if one has to send a note in the Town a fee must perforce be paid to the bearer.

I wish then to know whether such services (wh: are closely analogous to those rendered by Commissionairs) infringe in any way the patent of the Post Office.

Let me hope that while saying this I have made it plain that the Messenger is paid a fixed salary per week, that he has man[y] other duties, & that the fee proposed is r[ather?] to check Undergrad[uates] in undue use of [the?] services than any purpose of making a gain from his services.

Is it legal to do this?

A reply at your earliest convenience will much oblige [the] College Authorities. [The] Post Master in [Cam]bridge advised my direct application to you.

The letter was passed to the Solicitor Mr Ashurst for his opinion, who replied to the Secretary on the 26th as follows³:

The case put by the Writer of the enclosed letter seems to be this:-

The College authorities employ a Servant and they propose to charge the Members of the College, (by selling to them a particular form of envelope,) a certain sum in respect of every letter of such Members conveyed and delivered by that Servant — possibly making a profit by the transaction.

Such a transaction would seem to be all but identical with that pursued by the Circular Delivery Company a few years ago, which was declared by the Court of Queens Bench to be illegal — and I think the applicant should be so informed.

Despite this opinion a reply was sent, on the Secretary's instructions, to the Dean on 31 October 'that the delivery of the letters in question by the servant of the Colleges of Cambridge University [illegible] indicated by him would not appear to be an infringement of the Postmr. General's monopoly in regard to the collection conveyance delivery of letters'. No reason for this decision is recorded and it confused the Cambridge Postmaster J. H. Turner when the papers were sent to him for information soon after. He asked for confirmation that a clerical error had not been made and this was given on 2 November. A Post Office memorandum dated 1 June 1885⁴ suggests 'possibly because no collection of letters was mentioned, [the Secretary] regarded this case as one of a delivery by a Messenger sent on purpose', which was allowed by the Post Office Acts. Perhaps also the Universities, having

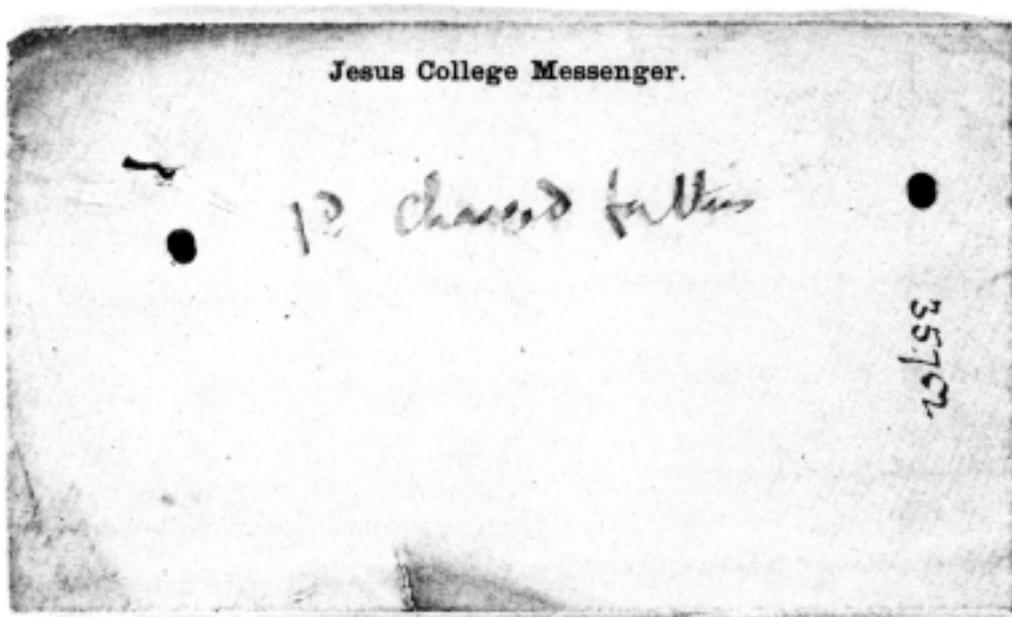


Fig. 1 (actual size)

enjoyed postal privileges for centuries, were recognised on further reflection as being a quite different case from the Circular Delivery Companies.

No specimen of the envelope was enclosed with the Dean's letter but just one is enclosed with the 4 April 1885 report from Charles Rea, the Surveyor of the Eastern District on the Cambridge College messenger systems⁵ which says *At Jesus a distinctive envelope is used, which costs 1d. — specimens enclosed*'. This suggests that the envelope may have been in use till at least 1885 (the College stamps and stationery were suppressed in 1886).

The unused envelope in the Post Office archives (*Fig. 1*) has *Jesus College Messenger.*' across the face at the top in black and is embossed in colourless relief with a garter on the flap. It is in cream laid unwatermarked paper, with the laid lines running diagonally across its face, and measures 7.8 cm x 13.4 cm (3½ in. x 5¼ in.). The words '1^d. charged for this' and a Post Office reference number '35.762' have been written on its face. Two holes have been punched in it (to invalidate it?) and there is also a hole for the tag which holds it in its file.

There is no example of the envelope in the archives of Jesus College, but in the College 'Conclusion Book'⁶ (containing brief minutes of the decisions of meetings, mostly

relating to College property) for 1 November 1871 it was resolved that a college messenger be appointed *'with a competent wage'*.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful for assistance from the staff of Post Office Heritage, Chris Harman and Dr F. H. Willmoth of Jesus College. The quotations and illustration from Post Class 30-502 are reproduced by kind permission of The Post Office.

References

1. See for example Lister, R., *College Stamps of Oxford and Cambridge*, 2nd edition, 1974.
2. Post Class 30-502D, File I.
3. Post Class 30-502D, File I.
4. Post Class 30-502D, File V, memorandum enclosed with Post Office minute 1885/6422 to the Postmaster General.
5. Post Class 30-502D, File IV.
6. Classmark COL 4.4 ☒

QV 3d Jubilee on Orange Paper — Date of Issue

Raymond Abela

I have recently bought a fine used copy of the Jubilee 3d purple on orange paper. The stamp bears a clear Rugby c.d.s. of 22 October 1889. As the *SG Specialised Catalogue* (11th edition) list the stamp's earliest known use as 1891, I thought this would be worth reporting in *The GB Journal*. The stamp was bought from a well-known reputable GB dealer who advertises regularly in the GBJ.



Neale's Steam Press Experiment 1854–1856

W. de L. M. Messenger

This article supersedes my articles on the steam press trials published in *The GB Journal*, Vol. 26, pp. 95–96 and Vol. 27, pp. 34–35). It results from further information of which I have since become aware (and from further thought!).

It follows an article by David Rowse in the *London Philatelist* (Vol. 106, pp. 321–336, Vol. 107, pp. 11–14) which provides a comprehensive chronological survey of the contractual, financial, and legal background of the experiments, together with biographical information about Robert Neale, J. B. Bacon and others involved with the steam press, but is less concerned with philatelic matters. It is on the latter that my attention has been focused. I believe I have identified at least eight successive trials of the steam press, using up to twelve different plates.

As Mr Rowse points out, the records are sketchy because J. B. Bacon was anxious to gain advantage over his competitors by restricting knowledge of the trials. In consequence most of the correspondence was carried on from his own house and little of it has been found among the firm's records. Sir E. D. Bacon, in his account of the printing of the line-engraved stamps, has only two paragraphs (pp. 144 and 145) giving no further information than is contained in five letters reproduced in his Appendix C.

It should be appreciated that the essence of Neale's invention was not the use of steam power, but the press itself which could be driven by a steam engine or by any other prime mover.

Neale's First Machine

From a drawing in the patent specification (AD 1853 January 15 No. 120), reproduced by Rowse (LP 106/322), Neale's first machine appears to have carried three printing plates on endless chains, being inked, wiped and printed from in succession. It seems that these plates were much smaller than the postage plates and did not print stamps. Plain, unwatermarked paper was used. The description appears to have been added later to the drawing reproduced by Rowse, since it relates to a view from the other side of the machine and does not refer to the lettering on the drawing.

1st Trial

Neale's first trial was on 6 January 1854; the machine proved unsatisfactory.

2nd Trial

A second trial on 25 February was regarded by J. B. Bacon as more successful. There had been no official involvement of the Board so far.

2nd Machine ('No. 1') — (and 3rd, 4th and 5th)

Notwithstanding problems with the first machine, it was agreed that four more, improved, machines should be ordered, the first of which was erected at Perkins, Bacon's works on 6 March 1855. These machines were to use the official postage plates. It is possible that the description attached to the illustration reproduced by Rowse (LP 106/322) relates to these improved new machines, which must have been much wider than the first machine in order to accommodate the unusually long postage plates, almost certainly mounted across the direction of travel. From the sketchy information available about the plates used it seems likely that the machine normally worked with two plates at a time.

3rd Trial

On 2 April 1855, Perkins, Bacon wrote to Ormond Hill (Bacon's App. C (197)) announcing that they had '*secured a patent for machinery for printing from engraved plates by means of mechanical instead of hand power . . .*'

They requested permission to test the machine by printing stamps from one of the postage plates before it was registered, on paper markedly different from that in current use. The impressions could be taken in charge and destroyed by the Board's Officer.

The Board's regular officer was stationed on the floor below the drying room (which was at the top of the building) but (presumably because the new machine and its driving engine were installed on the ground floor) it was suggested that the Board might prefer to appoint another Officer specially for the purpose of the trials; the firm would be prepared to meet the cost of his attendance. They expected to begin the following Thursday morning (5 April — not the 6th as stated by Rowse).

Plates 16 and 17

At the date of the letter the only unregistered plates in existence were the Die 2 Alphabet 2 **Plates 14 and 15**, which had been finished on 24 and 29 March respectively. **Plate 16** was finished on 4 April, the day before the proposed trial, but was still without its marginal inscriptions (Bacon's App. G). Was this because it was earmarked for the trials?

It was not until the proposed starting date (5 April) that Thomas Keogh replied agreeing to the firm's request (Bacon's App. C (198)). The Superintendent of Postage Stamps would send someone specially to take charge of the plate, to receive all impressions and to take them to Somerset House for destruction. However the trial does not seem to have taken place on the date proposed, but a revised date is not mentioned in the known correspondence; the firm may have had to wait until the additional Officer could be sent (it would seem optimistic to have given officialdom only three days' notice).

Meanwhile plate production continued:

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Plates finished</i>
April 4	16 — without legend
1855 – April 18	17
April 21	18
May 7	16 – addition of legend
May 8	19
May 12	20

On 30 April Bacon reported that the first machine of the new batch of four was in operation, the second erected but unfinished, and he had cancelled the order for completion of the third and fourth (Rowse, LP 106/330).

There seems to have been a change of plan — to use registered plates. On the day **Plate 20** was finished (12 May), all seven **Plates 14 to 20** were registered (Wright & Creeke, p. 244), and on 15 May **Plates 16 and 17** were put to the steam press (W&C, pp. 33 & 244). This seems to have been the eventual date of the third test.

4th Trial

Plate 18

A few weeks later, on 1 June, a third plate, **Plate 18**, was taken for the trials (W&C, pp. 34 & 244). Could this mean there were now three plates mounted in the steam press? Stanley Gibbons lists imperforate stamps from this plate on Large Crown Paper (C6j). Ungummed imperforate singles and blocks have been reported by Tonna (GBJ 14/27) and by Barrell (GBJ 24/34), all of which could have come from the right half of a single sheet

divided vertically i.e. except for the single 'PH' reported by Barrell and illustrated by Tonna in *The Plating of Alphabet II* (which, unlike the rest, is gummed, so it may be from another sheet). This the first indication that official watermarked paper may have been used in the experiments.

Plate 21

Plate 21 was registered on 8 June 1855 and, according to Wiggins (PSGB 2/65, repeated by Stanley Gibbons, p. 170) put to press the same day — exactly a week after **Plate 18** was put to the steam press. Was **Plate 21** in fact paired with **Plate 18** on that press? According to Wright and Creeke (p. 244) it was not put to the hand press until much later, on 19 October, at the same time as **Plate 20**. This latter date is supported by a first recorded use on 16 December (Robson Lowe, GBJ 1/85).

5th Trial

Plate 22

Wright and Creeke recorded in their 'Tabular Statement' (p. 244) (but not in their main text, as they did **Plates 16, 17 and 18**) that **Plate 22** was first used in the steam press trials on 1 August 1855. (It was registered on 8 June — not 18 August as stated by Rowse (LP 106/330)).

Demonstration

A whole imperforate ungummed sheet of **Plate 22** was purchased in America by Robson Lowe in 1957. An illustration of it appears as a frontispiece to Tonna's *Penny Red Stars*, Part 2 (ed. Don Madden) and is reproduced here as Fig. 1. It bears a manuscript inscription in the bottom margin: '*This sheet is one of 2000 printed by Mr. Neale's machine for us this day August 15 1855 Perkins Bacon & Co.*' and down the left side in the same hand in French: '*Cette feuille est une de 2000 imprimé par la machine de M. Neale pour nous ce jour le 15 Aout 1855 Perkins Bacon & Co.*' ('imprimé' should have been 'imprimées' to agree with '2000 [feuilles]' and 'Aout' should have a circumflex accent thus: 'Août'). These inscriptions would appear to be the work of a member of the firm who knew some French — or perhaps J. B. Bacon's daughter Sarah, who was his amanuensis. Latto (GBJ 6/67), illustrates a corner block AA/FF + GA-GC from the same sheet.

Wiggins (PSGB 2/77) reports only the English inscription, and without the firm's 'signature'. He says there were inscriptions in *all four margins, twice in each language*. Latto

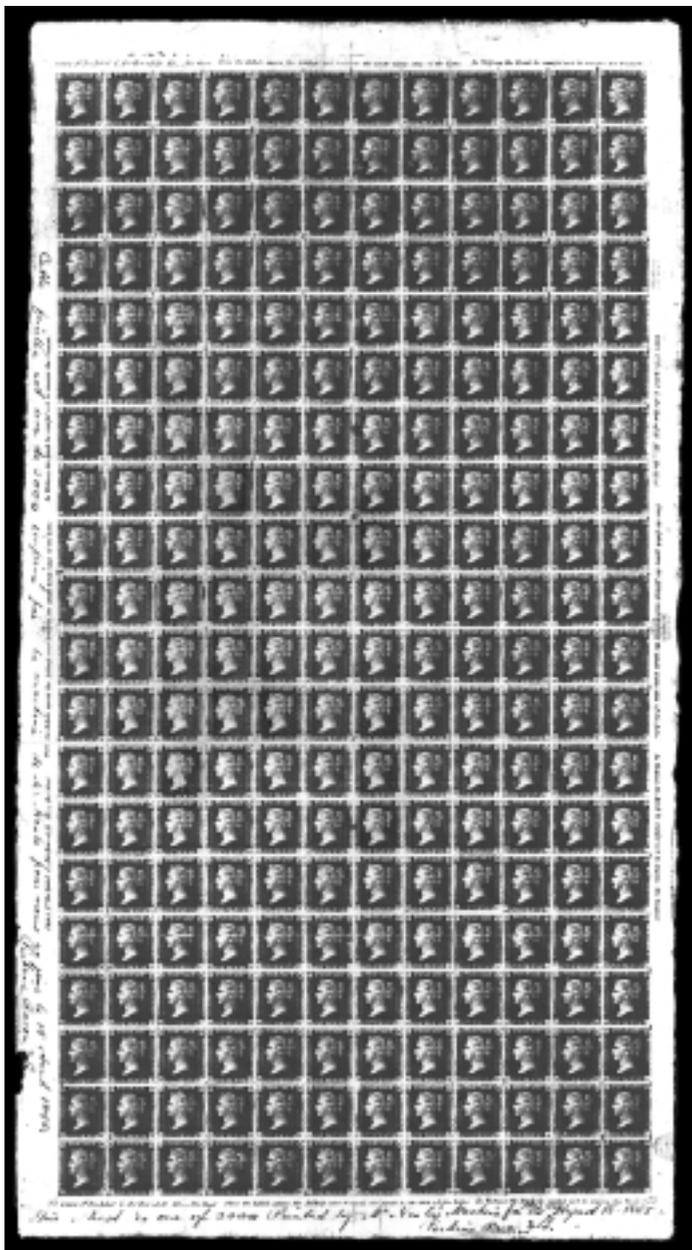


Fig. 1 — The imperforate un gummed sheet of Plate 22 which was purchased in America by Robson Lowe in 1957.

(GBJ 6/66) repeats this. Could they be referring to a different sheet, or is this merely an inadvertent slip?

The words 'for us' and 'pour nous' in these inscriptions and the use of two languages suggest that the printing of 2,000 sheets on 15 August was a demonstration before invited spectators, the culmination of trials to date. The fact that the sheet reached New York tends to support this view (Perkins, a founder member of Perkins, Bacon & Petch, then dead, was an American who, before the advent of the postage stamp, had brought over other Americans to this country to engage in security printing.) Regrettably this sheet was broken up and pieces sold in 1957. (The back of the Robson Lowe GB sale catalogue for 6 November 1957 carried a Regent Stamp Co. Ltd private treaty advertisement for the remaining pieces: '*a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society purchased the entire sheet, kept that portion that he wanted for his own collection and returned the balance to us for sale*').

Wiggins (PSGB 2/77) says of **Plate 22**: '*Centring is often unkind and must have left many stamps [i.e. sheets] being discarded*', i.e. perforation was difficult: it might not have been thought worthwhile, after the trial, to print more sheets from the plate on a hand press, as Wright and Creeke report for **Plates 16, 17 and 18**. They mention no corresponding usage for **Plate 22**, which is recorded as having printed only 7,000 sheets. If 2,000 of them were printed on 15 August, the balance of 5,000 could easily have been printed between the 1st and 15th.

There seems a strong possibility that **Plate 22** was never used on a hand press and that all known stamps from it were printed on the steam press.

Plate 25

Stanley Gibbons' *Specialised Catalogue* (p. 174) states that both **Plates 22 and 25** were used '*for an experiment on Neal's [sic, without the second 'e'] steam press and are ungummed*'. When I asked about what evidence there was for **Plate 25** I was referred to Robson Lowe's *The British Postage Stamp*, page 156 which says: '*In August 1855 the printers made an experimental printing with a steam-driven press, in a deep red-brown shade on deeply toned paper and this is represented [in the R. M. Phillips Collection] by an imperforate block of twenty-seven from plate 22 (28) as well as two smaller pieces.² There are also imperforate marginal blocks of eight and four² from plate 25 (33)*'. The superscript '2' (in two places) refers to a footnote '*See illustrations in colour on page 13 of imperforate blocks of four from plates 22 and 25.*' (These illustrations will be referred to later).

At first glance this extract seems to support the view that **Plate 25** was also used in the trials, but more careful consideration shows that it does not.

On the other hand, the late Mr Robson Lowe in a letter to myself dated 28 November 1988, in which he gives the provenance of the **Plate 22** sheet already described here, wrote '*Curiously enough, in 1938 we acquired a half-sheet of the same variety from plate 25*'. Wiggins (PSGB 2/80) describes this imperforate half-sheet, but does not attribute it to the steam press. Mr Robert Folkard has kindly sent me a photocopy of it mounted on an album page, that he acquired from Robson Lowe in the 1960s. The page was annotated to the effect that the half-sheet was discovered in New York. It is an upper half. The sheet margin has no manuscript inscriptions or other indications that it came from the steam press, and the album page heading states that the plate was put to press in November 1855 — Wright and Creeke (p. 244) say 12 November, the same day as **Plate 26** (the annotated **Plate 22** sheet was printed in August). The first recorded use of a stamp from **Plate 25** is 8 February 1856 — a typical two or three months after going to press in November. Sadly the half-sheet was cut up and sold in June 1939.

Latto (GBJ 6/66) illustrated an unused imperforate block of six AA/CB from **Plate 25** which appears to have come from the aforementioned half-sheet. Wiggins & Tonna (*The Plating of Alphabet III*, MA to PL) show a block of four AG/BH.

Here it is necessary to consider the significance of the quotations already given from Robson Lowe's *The British Postage Stamp* and his letter of November 1988 with the phrase 'of the same variety', which some have taken to link the **Plate 25** half-sheet with the **Plate 22** whole sheet and hence have attributed the former to the steam press as well as the latter. Certainly both sheets are 'of the same variety' in so far as they are both in shades of red-brown on blued Large Crown paper and are ungummed and imperforate, but stamps with these characteristics in common may well be in different shades, or from different printings.

Although the whole sheet of **Plate 22** was described by Robson Lowe in *The British Postage Stamp* (p. 156) as being '*in a deep red-brown shade on deeply toned paper*', in his letter to me of 28 November 1988 he said it was '*almost orange-brown on toned paper*', exactly the same wording as in the 1957 Regent Stamp Co. private treaty advertisement for pieces from the sheet. Beaumont (GBJ 3/14) describes the piece HD/JG from it as in '*deep red brown on blued paper*' and Folkard, in a letter to myself dated 20 October 1997, describes the re-joined piece GH/II as in '*red brown/orange brown*' on '*blued paper*'. He adds that the colour might be described as '*orange brown although not a distinctive shade*'.

However, it must be remembered that the red-brown ink was chosen because it was more fugitive under chemical attack than the new black cancelling ink. Robson Lowe says, in the letter to myself already quoted, that the **Plate 22** sheet had been framed and hung in the hall

of the Chase National Bank in New York ‘*as long as anyone could remember*’. Thus one cannot be sure that exposure to light and city air pollution have not altered the colour since the sheet was printed.

Page 13 of Robson Lowe’s *The British Postage Stamp* has coloured reproductions, side by side, of the R. M. Phillips blocks of four from the **Plate 22** sheet (KD/LG) and the **Plate 25** half-sheet (DK/EL) referred to in the footnote 2 to page 156, already cited. They actually are not of the same shade, the former being the darker, so that it is difficult to believe that they are from the same printing. One might attribute the difference to dissimilar conditions of photography. However both blocks are in Volume XXII of the R. M. Phillips Collection and were presumably photographed on the same occasion and under identical conditions.

There also seems disagreement as to whether the paper of the **Plate 22** stamps is ‘toned’ or ‘blued’. Although ‘toned’ in connection with the QV line-engraved stamps is generally applied to paper with a yellowish tinge, it could equally well be applied to the slightly blued papers. Here again the blue colour seems not to be stable, as Madden has pointed out in, for example, Tonna’s *Penny Red Stars*, Part 2 (pp. 4, 5). It is possible that the uncontrolled reaction between the ink and any conditioning agent applied to the paper may not have reached its end-point for many years. It may also be observed that toned (yellowish) paper is supposed not to have appeared until January 1857 — 15 months after the **Plate 22** printing.

That the whole sheet of **Plate 22** and the half-sheet of **Plate 25** were not from the same printing is confirmed by the facts that the former was printed on 15 August, while the latter plate was not registered until 12 November 1855 and, with **Plate 26**, was put to the hand press in the normal way on that same day.

That both sheets were found in New York may be merely coincidental — the two finds were 19 years apart.

6th Trial

On 31 October, J. B. Bacon finally cancelled the order for the last two machines of the batch of four (Rowse, LP 106/330). Nevertheless Neale agreed on 20 November to try the first of these machines for three days, requesting inks and men to assist him. This request appears not to have included plates. **Plate 17** reverted to hand printing on 30 November, but **Plates 16 and 18** did not do so until 17 December — were they still with the steam press and had Neale been intending to use them? Other doubtful possibilities are **Plates 21 and 22**.

On 7 December, Neale reported that he had carried on the trial for four days, but Bacon wrote to him on the same day that it had been 'quite unsatisfactory' (Rowse, LP 106/331).

Reversion of Plates to Hand Presses

In the normal course of events, had they not been taken for the steam press trials, **Plates 16, 17, and 18** would have been started on hand presses in October. Instead **Plates 19 and 20** went to press in that month and the three trial plates did not revert to hand working until six weeks later:

<i>Dates</i>	<i>Plates to hand presses</i>
1855 October 16	19
October 19	20
November 30	17
December 11	16, 18

While the rest of the Die 2 Alphabet 2 plates were withdrawn before 8 May 1856, the last three, having started regular hand printing late, continued on hand presses beyond that date, just into the toned paper period (Wiggins, PSGB 2/58–62), not being destroyed until 22 June 1857.

(To be continued)

PENNY PINK LETTER SHEETS

Michael H. Lockton, FRPSL

Introduction

Mulready Letter Sheets were issued in May 1840 and withdrawn in April 1844. During the four years of availability, they were extensively used for commercial advertising, their format making them eminently suitable for printing on the reverse side. These printed letter sheets have been studied in great detail and are listed in Appendix 1 of the *SG Specialised Catalogue*¹ and illustrated in *The Mulready Advertisements*². (The GBPS

Newsletter dated July/August 1999 (page 5) announced that Tom Slemons of the USA and Bill Barrell of H&B Philatelists are proposing to publish a new edition of this latter book).

Penny Pink Letter Sheets

In April 1844 the Mulready was replaced by the Penny Pink letter sheet³ printed on Dickinson's threaded paper. Subsequently these letter sheets were printed on a further two qualities of this paper⁴. A summary of these letter sheets is as follows:

- | | | |
|---------|------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1844 | LP3 | Thick creamish white wove paper with threads. |
| 1846/50 | LP4a | Thin greyish white wove paper with threads. |
| " | LP4b | Thin blue wove paper with threads. |

The author considers the description of the paper of Type LP4a is more accurate than that given in Ref 4.

As with the Mulready, various institutions and companies used these letter sheets for advertising and for commercial transactions (invoices, statements, etc.). The author is unaware of any attempt to list these printed letter sheets in a similar manner to that of the Mulready and would like to attempt an initial listing.

Two typical examples of printed Penny Pink letter sheets are shown in the accompanying figures. Figure 1 shows that of the Atlas Assurance Company — one of the more common examples. If one refers to the listing of the similar Mulready advertisement¹, the following entry will be found:

MA28 Atlas Assurance Company

- a. Dated: Cheapside, 21st Dec. 1839*
- b. Dated: 92 Cheapside, 10th Oct. 1840 (9 lines of claims)*
- ba. Dated: As b but 11 lines of claims.*
- c. Dated: 92, Cheapside, 10th May 1841*
- d. Dated: 92, Cheapside, 10th Oct. 1841*
- e. Dated: 92, Cheapside, 11th Feb. 1842*
- f. Dated: 92, Cheapside, 7th April 1842*
- g. Dated: 92, Cheapside, June 1842*
- h. Dated: 92, Cheapside, Nov. 1842*
- i. Dated: 92, Cheapside, Aug. 1843*

Advert (i) exists on the 1d. pink stationery envelope [sic], with new directors' names etc.

Atlas Assurance Company,

92, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON,
ESTABLISHED 1808.

DIRECTORS.

JOHN OFFICE HARRIS, Esq. Chairman.
WILLIAM GIBSON PATERSON, Esq. Deputy Chairman.
Sir WILLIAM BAYNE, Bart.
Arthur Edward Campbell, Esq.
Thomas Chapman, Esq. F.R.S.
Donald Maclean, Esq.
Samuel Denton Myles, Esq.
Messrs. HARRIS, Esq.
Capt. Alexander L. Montgomery, B.N.
James William Ogil, Esq.
Francis Packer, M. D.
Joseph Polley, Esq.
Agents—FRANCIS BLISS HODGKIN, Esq. and ARTHUR AUGUSTUS BARNES, Esq.
Attorney—CHARLES ARNOLD, Esq. F.R.S.
Solicitor—THOMAS BUCKINGHAM, Esq.
Surveyor—THOMAS HOPKINS, Esq.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Returns.—Policies for £200 and upwards which may have been in force for one year prior to the date to which the Account is made up, will be periodically entitled to participate in the return of Surplus Profits.

Rent.—This Office (independent of the Returns) offers to Persons effecting Assurances on Buildings, the further advantage of an allowance for the loss of Rent thereof, when rendered untenable by Fire.

Distilleries, Sugar Houses, and Mercantile Property, in the Docks, in Private or Public Warehouses; also **Shipping** in Harbour; assured for the Year or for any shorter period on advantageous terms.

Farming Stock is now exempt from Duty, and may be assured without the average clause.

On assurances for **seven years** by one payment, a Deduction of one-seventh part of the premium and duty will be made.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.

The situation of the Public has, in the Advertisements and Proposals of this Company of late years, been called to a Table of Additions applicable to and dependent on Policies of particular dates and ages; the Directors now beg to submit the following statement of Claims actually paid, showing the Sums respectively assured and the Business effected, and they request, in order to exemplify the advantageous plan of Assurances proposed by this Company, that Persons desirous of effecting Assurances on their own Lives at an advanced Age, will compare the statement now submitted, with the Addition or Bonus of any of the other Offices which may apply to a Policy issued by them since 1808, when the Atlas Company adopted the Bonus System.

Statement of Claims paid on Policies effected in London or through an Agent in Great Britain.

No. of Policy.	Name of Life Assured.	Date of Term being run.	Sum Assured.	Bonus.	Total Amount paid.	Deduction per Cent. on the Sum Assured.				Bonus equal to the Sum Assured less the Deduction.				
						£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
215	His Majesty William IV.	14	2000	1000	3000	35	12	0	2	10	10			
69 & 90	His R. H. the Duke of York ..	7	5000	2602	7602	19	5	0	2	15	0			
3454	Mrs. S. Hyde	20	400	204	604	7	0	0	2	11	0			
3759	Mr. Nathaniel Baring	18	300	127	427	35	13	4	2	14	10			
2810	Admiral Sir W. Sidney Smith ..	6	1700	324	2024	19	1	2	2	9	0			
3422	The late Duke of Angou	34	5000	1483	6483	29	1	2	2	35	0			
3604	The late Earl of Clarendon	22	2500	1120	3620	46	16	0	2	11	0			
407	M. S. (Becke)	21	400	437	837	109	2	0	2	4	1			
1202	Sir John Dean Thomson, K.G.H. ..	21	500	369	869	41	12	0	2	19	0			
1074	Rev. Thomas Creighton	29	300	350	650	73	0	0	2	19	0			
7020	William Gilpin, Esq.	41	200	197	397	39	0	0	4	12	0			
754	George Jones, Esq.	21	1000	354	1354	78	1	7	2	11	0			
1811	Sir John S. Sturges, Bart.	20	5000	2900	7900	79	10	0	3	3	0			
1370	Nicholas Swidge	26	300	128	428	39	10	0	4	10	0			
1010	Rev. F. W. Mansel, D.D.	20	2000	2976	4976	319	17	4	4	2	0			

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92, Cheapside, 1st December, 1849.

HENRY DESBOROUGH, SECRETARY.

H. BAKER, Printer, 5, Church-Lane, Lombard Street, London.

Fig. 1 — Atlas Assurance Company letter sheet on LP4a.
(Note address and date in bottom left corner).

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Cash ditto	Accounting ditto	Accounting ditto
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Fig. 2 — Nissen & Parker letter sheet printed in green ink on LP3.

As will be seen from Figure 1, this particular example is dated in the bottom left corner ‘92, Cheapside, 1st December, 1849’. At present the author has recorded five printings on Type LP4a:

September 1848
 February 1849
 1 December 1849
 August 1850
 November 1850

This information indicates a five year gap between the demise of the Mulready and the recorded printing on Penny Pinks. The question arises as to whether or not examples were printed on Type LP3 in this intervening period. Figure 2 is a typical advertising letter sheet of Nissen & Parker, Great Tower Street, London on Type LP3. This particular example is printed in green ink and was used from Ipswich to Liverpool on 23 October 1845. The author has also recorded an example printed in red ink.

Appeal for information

In order to commence the production of an initial listing of Penny Pink letter sheets, the author would be pleased to receive a photostat copy of any such sheets held by collectors. In addition, it would be useful to know whether the letter sheet is Type LP3, LP4a or LP4b and if postally used, the date and place of posting. Having supplied information in the past to similar appeals without as much as an acknowledgement, the author will ensure each response is acknowledged and that a subsequent article in *The GB Journal* will summarise the findings. Please note this initial listing will only include those printed on Post Office letter sheets, i.e. using Dickinson’s threaded paper. From 1855 with the introduction of stamped-to-order stationery, many firms produced printed letter sheets and wrappers but these fall outside the terms of reference of the present investigation.

Please note the author’s new address: Wroxton, 10 Park Road, WOKING GU22 7BW.

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1940 Centenary Exhibition Miniature Sheets

Pat Lyon

For some time I have been trying to find out something about five stamps I have in my collection. I gave a display recently to my local society and showed the postcard and envelope, together with the Mulready caricature, which were issued for the Jubilee of Uniform Penny Postage in 1890. I also showed the miniature sheets of the Penny Black and 20p Machin, and the reproduction of the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue issued for the 150th anniversary exhibition. I had assumed that the centenary had not been celebrated in this way as it was during the war and, living in London at that time, I had not been aware of any exhibition.

I also displayed the five stamps I mentioned at the beginning — all reproductions of the Penny Red (*Fig. 1*). Each of the five stamps is lettered D-K and is in a different colour: lilac; orange; green; dull red; and light brown — the latter having V-R in the top corners, the others having stars.

I spoke to one of the members afterwards and he told me they may have been cut from some miniature sheets (*Fig. 2*) that he had obtained from an exhibition at Lancaster House in May 1940. His miniature sheets were in the same five colours as my stamps.

What I would like to know is why the letters D-K were chosen, and also why the letters S-W were chosen for the 150th anniversary miniature sheet. I had never heard of these 1940 centenary sheets before but I thought perhaps some of members may have. ☒



Fig. 2



Fig. 1

Numbers in Maltese Cross — a ‘6’ or a ‘9’?

E. J. Mitchell



Fig. 1 — ‘6’ in cross



Fig. 2 — ‘9’ in cross

Generally, the numbered Maltese Cross cancellations ‘1’–‘12’, used at the London Chief Office from 1843–44, are readily distinguishable. A small cross on the outside indicates the top. This, providing it is visible, avoids confusion and in particular enables a ‘6’ or a ‘9’ to be orientated correctly. Often, however, the top of the cross is poorly defined, or off the stamp, and correct orientation by this method is not possible.

There are, however, clearly visible differences between the two crosses:

- The height of the ‘6’ is 5.5mm, whereas the ‘9’ is 5mm high.
- In the ‘6’ the enclosed circle tends towards an upright oval, as does the shape of the whole numeral, whereas the circle of the ‘9’, and the numeral itself, is more rounded.
- In the ‘6’ the vertical upright appears longer and extended upwards.
- The ‘9’ may appear daintier, and the top of the circle is often weak. ☒



Fig. 3

Editor’s note: I happened to have a problem stamp which I had classified as a ‘6’ in cross. However, upon reading Mr Mitchell’s article I now think it is a ‘9’ — see Fig. 3.

Book Reviews

COLLECTING BRITISH SQUARED CIRCLE POSTMARKS — SUPPLEMENT No. 4. Stanley F. Cohen, FRPSL; Maurice Barette, FRPSL; Daniel G. Rosenblat; A. M. Williams. Size A4, card covers, 63 pp. Published June 1999. No ISBN.

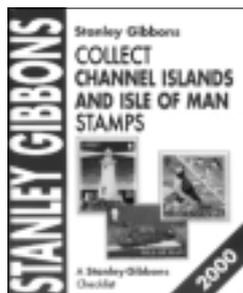
This is the fourth supplement to *Collecting British Squared Circle Postmarks*, published by Stanley Cohen in 1987. Over 1000 new updates are included, together with a listing of the 'Lonely Greats' where only one copy has been recorded. In the provincial section Devonport, Gloucester and Ipswich are reviewed in some detail, and Maurice Barette has rewritten the section on the London WC office, showing for the first time the recut positions on the early SC hammers and the later CT hammers. Four collectors are acknowledged as having supplied the majority of the updates: Guy Grainger, John Hine, John Powell and Steven Reeve. This supplement is indispensable for those wishing to keep up to date with the definitive work on the subject.

MJ

STANLEY GIBBONS COLLECT CHANNEL ISLANDS AND ISLE OF MAN STAMPS, 16th edn. Size 195 x 165 mm, soft-bound, 296 pp. Published 2000. Price £9.95. ISBN 0-85259-482-8.

Fully illustrated in black and white, this new edition of SG's popular checklist of the islands has been revised and updated to include all stamp issues up to the end of 1999.

MJ



A REQUEST FOR ARTICLES — AND AN APOLOGY

Short articles, long articles, notes, reviews, biographies, autobiographies, collecting techniques, hints and tips, criticism (constructive of course!), queries, replies —

The GB Journal needs YOUR contribution.

The apology is for the poor quality of some of the illustrations in the last issue: hopefully this will be remedied in this issue — MJ