

# British & Irish Telegraph Stamp and Form Development – 1851 to 1901 – First 50 Years

## Exhibit Objective , Scope and Importance

The objective of the exhibit is to show the development of the British & Irish telegraph stamps and forms from **1851 to 1901**, starting with the railway companies, closely followed by the independent telegraph companies, which were purchased by the British Post Office in 1870. The post office issued adhesive stamps between 1876 and 1881 and thereafter continued its service using postage stamps and postal stationery forms. The speed of communication offered by the telegraph made it an extremely important milestone in connecting the world.

## Introduction

The rapid growth of the railways throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in the 1840's allowed the railway companies to be the first to adopt telegraphs as a form of communication. They erected telegraph poles to run alongside their railway lines, primarily for their own use but opened their service to the public in 1845 as they realised the potential for increasing profits. This service was then expanded by private telegraph companies, the first of these being *The Electric Telegraph Company*, established in June 1846. The directors and shareholders of the company were dominated by people involved in railway construction, and the company was the first to issue franked paper (1851), followed by a series of stamps for the payment of telegrams sent by the public. A number of other private companies followed, all of which were purchased by the British Post Office in 1870.

## Exhibit Plan

1. Private Telegraph Company stamps and forms: 1.1 South Eastern Railway Co., 1.2 The Electric Telegraph Co., 1.3 The English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Co., 1.4 The British Telegraph Co., 1.5 The Submarine Telegraph Co., 1.6 The British & Irish Magnetic Telegraph Co. Ltd., 1.7 London District Telegraph Co. Ltd., 1.8 Bonelli's Telegraph Co. Ltd. 1.9 The Universal Private Telegraph Co., 1.10 United Kingdom Telegraph Co. Ltd.
2. Transition to Post Office: Forms, cancels and postage stamps for payment.
3. Post Office First Issue 1876: 1d, 3d, 1/- and 5/- stamps.
4. Post Office Second Issue 1877: 4d, 6d, 3/-, 10/-, £1 and £5 stamps.
5. Transition away from "TELEGRAPH" stamps, expansion to military use.
6. Telephone stamps – The beginning of the end.

## Independent Company Philatelic Rarity

*Exhibit follows rarity scale used by Peter Langmead and Alan Huggins (see ref 3 below).*

**R5 – Only known in official collections**

**R4 – probably less than ten copies exist**

**R3 – probably 10-50 copies exist**

**R2 – probably 50-100 copies exist**

**R1 – over 100 copies exist**

Items with rating R4 & R5 are outlined in red box/red text.

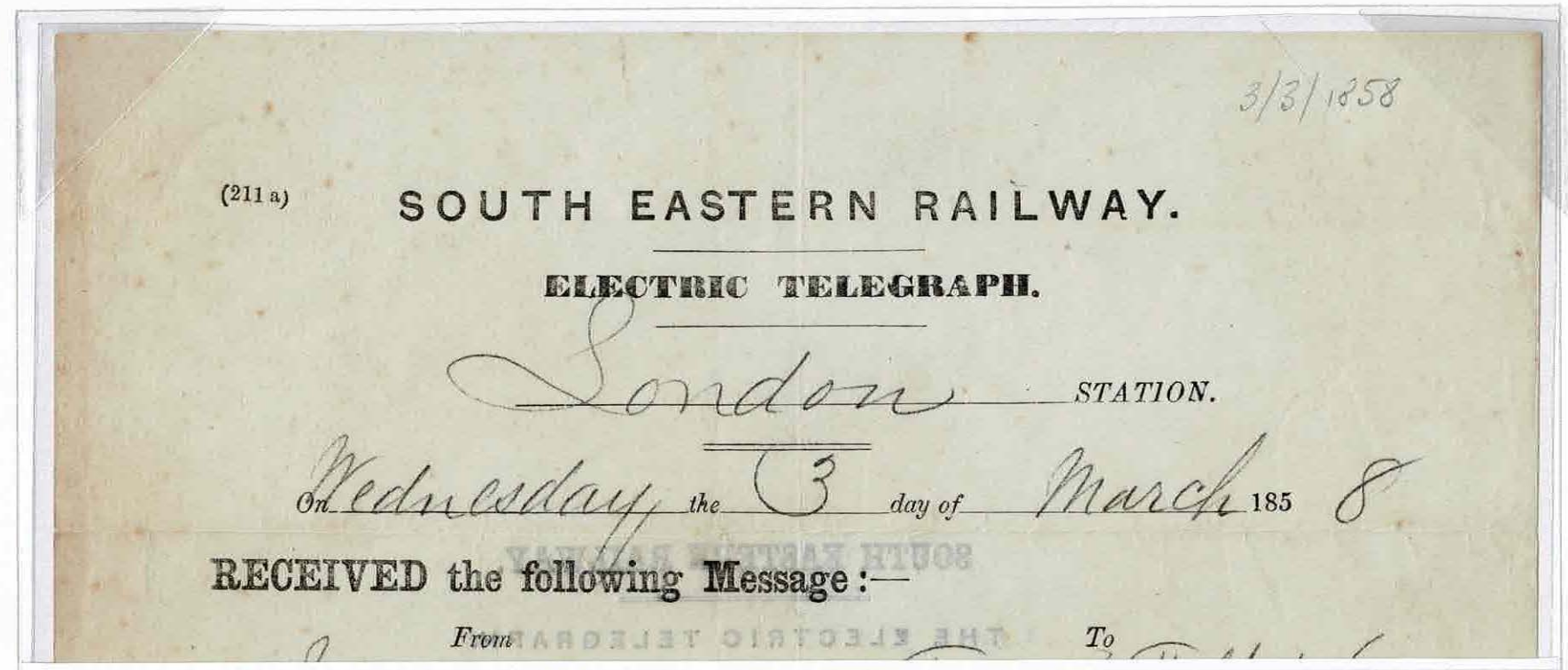
## Post Office Telegraph Stamp Rarity

Rarity of Post Office Telegraph stamps is based on census compiled by Dr Ian Pinwill and Paul Ramsay (9874 stamps from multiple sources – 7778 used and 2096 mint – January 2024). Higher numbers indicate scarcer (1 is most common and 37 is most scarce). 37 possible values/plate numbers/ variations.

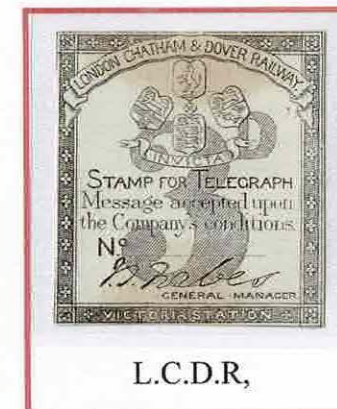
[www.gbtelegraphs.com](http://www.gbtelegraphs.com)

## Bibliography

1. Callan, B. (2021) The Stamps of the Electric Telegraph and Electric and International Telegraph Companies, The London Philatelist, Vol. 130, p 49-58.
2. Callan, B. (2021) The British and Magnetic Telegraph and Associated Companies 1857-1870, The London Philatelist, Vol. 130, p 92-105.
3. Langmead, P. & Huggins, A. "The Telegraph Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain 1851-1954", GB Philatelic Publications.



Only two railway companies are known to have issued stamps for the payment of telegraph fees in the United Kingdom: **The South Eastern Railway Company (S.E.R.)** and **The London Chatham and Dover Railway (L.C.D.R.)**. Above: **South Eastern Railway Electric Telegraph** from Folkestone to London, 3rd March 1858 using Form 211a issued on 1st January 1856, endorsed by Charles V. Walker (Engineer and Superintendent of Telegraphs), printed by McCorquodale and Co., London-Works, Newton.



L.C.D.R.

**Right:** The S.E.R. adhesive stamp, mint yellow 1868 **unused control**, 1 shilling with control number 53004 and perf 12 x 12½.

One of only five mint examples in private hands.

R4 rating.



S.E.R

Above: The London Chatham and Dover Railway is the only other railway known to issue telegraph stamps in the United Kingdom (it operated in competition to S.E.R.). Imperforate 3d black on greyish white, without control number added, bearing the wording "Stamp for Telegraph Message accepted upon the Company's conditions". Used examples are unknown and it may be that proofs were for future issue that never materialized. One of only two copies of 3d value known, bears the signature of J.S.Forbes who was General Manager of L.C.D.R. in 1863. R4 rating.



## Section 1.1 Private Telegraph Companies - The South Eastern Railway Company

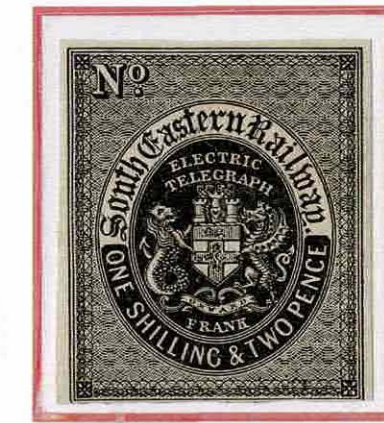
1855

The railroad companies were the first to install the telegraphic innovations but the South Eastern Railway (S.E.R) Company only installed their telegraph in 1855. This railroad company had 73 stations, 285 miles of telegraph lines and 1083 miles of telegraph wires when the system was established in 1855. This had increased to 104 stations, 322 miles of telegraphic lines and 3083 miles of telegraphic wire in the 1865 network. The *South Eastern Railway* was the only railroad company to issue formal adhesive stamps known to be used for payment of telegraph tariffs. The first stamps were issued in 1860, printed in sheets of 12 or 24 by Charles Whiting, London. There were four values in first issue (yellow 1/- (one shilling), lilac 1/6 (one shilling and six pence), brown 2/3 and green 2/9) with a further two values added in 1862 (red 9d and black 1/2). The initial SER telegraph tariff in 1855 was 1/- per 20 words with 6d for each addition 10 words (or less). This changed in 1856 to 1/- for 20 words up to 25 miles and 1s 6d for 25-50 miles. Messages sent on Sundays had an additional fee of 1/-.



Rare – Imperforate plate proofs of 1860 stamps.

1/- yellow, 1/6 lilac, 2/3 brown and 2/9 green, all without control numbers. 1/- and 1/6 have large part of original gum, others without gum. Stamps from this first issue had perf. 9 and are considered rare (all rated R4 by Langmead).



Rare Imperforate plate proof of 1862 stamp: 1s 2d black, without control number. Rated R4 (less than 10 copies known).

1862 perforated proof of 9d in red, without control no., perf 12, with gum.

This is the only example known in private hands, Rated R4 by Langmead, less than 10 copies existing, most contained in the Royal Philatelic Collection.



Unused Control Stamp

1860 Brown 2/3, perf 9, control no. 1413.

Rated R4 by Langmead, fewer than ten copies existing.



Unused Control Stamps:

1860 Green 2/9, perf. 9, control no. 608 & 688, with large part of original gum. Rated R4 by Langmead, fewer than ten copies existing.

Discovery.

Langmead reports control stamps from 600 to 630, whereas second example has control no. 688.

This was the only printing of this stamp.



Unused Control Stamp

1862 Black 1/2, perf 12, control no. 2014.

Rated R3 by Langmead, probably 10 to 50 copies existing.



Unused Control Stamp

1868 Grey 1/6, perf 12 X 12½, control no. 19003.

Rated R3 by Langmead, probably 10 to 50 copies existing.



Unused Control Stamps:

Pair of yellow 1868 1/-, with control numbers 54756/7, which are the highest numbers as yet recorded. There are only five mint 1s known, with added rarity as the only multiple. Paper has clear watermark and perforations run to the edge, leaving the left side of the edge stamp imperforate.





N<sup>o</sup> 7588 Station

**The Electric Telegraph Company**  
Incorporated A.D. 1846

**FREE MESSAGE PAPER**

PREFIX Z D  
CODE TIME PRICE TWO SHILLINGS AND SIXPENCE 185

THIS SHEET FRANKS A MESSAGE NOT EXCEEDING TWENTY WORDS TO ANY OF THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY'S STATIONS WITHIN A CIRCUIT OF 100 MILES. ADDITIONAL WORDS TO BE PREPAID AT THE RATE OF 3<sup>d</sup> PER WORD. PLEASE TO SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE ACCORDING TO THE TERMS ENDORSED HEREON.

NAME OF THE SENDER

NAME & FULL ADDRESS OF THE PERSON TO WHOM THE MESSAGE IS TO BE DELIVERED.

Additional Words  
Portage  
To be paid out  
Reply

Signature and Address of the Sender

Total

THE COMPANY WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ERRORS CAUSED BY INDISTINCT WRITING.  
IF THE DISTANCE DOES NOT EXCEED ONE HUNDRED MILES THE CHARGE IS 2<sup>d</sup> FOR TWENTY WORDS.

Received m  
Forwarded m To Station by m

2/6 Franked Message Paper with "Free Message Paper" instead of "Franked Message Paper", for use beyond 50 miles but within a circuit of 100 miles. This error sheet has control number 7588 at left above secretary's signature. The only other examples in private hands are control no. 7666 (Dr. Iain Stevenson Collection, sold to private bidder in Grosvenor Auction 118, October 2017) and control no. 2824 which was reported by Sir Edward Denny Bacon in Post Office records and may still exist. Sir Edward Denny Bacon described these first message forms in 1927 as "one the greatest philatelic rarities".

The Electric Telegraph Company, established in 1846, was the first company to provide a public telegraph service. The company first produced stamped stationery with a franked form, issued in May 1851 for the London Exhibition held in Hyde Park. These were printed by Perkins, Bacon on hand wove paper, watermarked with the name of the company. Telegraph messages were limited to 20 words for the standard tariff rates with additional words allowed at a cost of 3d per word. They also introduced large adhesive stamps in May /June 1854, also printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co., bearing the initials JLR (John Lewis Ricaro - Company Chairman) and JSF (James Sealy Foudrinier - Company Secretary). These relatively large stamps measured 53 x 67mm and were printed by line-engraving in sheets of sixteen (4 x 4), printed with control numbers in the upper left hand corner of each stamp and with T.H. SANDERS paper watermark. Ten thousand of each of the 1s, 2s and 2s 6d stamps were printed but only a few have survived.



Large Adhesive stamps issued 1st June 1854 (with control numbers between 9780 and 10000).

Under 50 miles (1/- (one shilling), black on pale pink paper, control no. 9993).

Under 100 miles (2/- (two shillings), black on blue paper, control no. 9987).

Above 100 miles (5/- (five shillings), black on white paper, control no. 9989).

Original gum remaining on all three stamps.

Langmead reports that fewer than ten of each of these original stamps exist (R4 rating). Sir E.D. Bacon stated that some of the stamps of these first three issues are of greater rarity than British Guiana "circulars" and the first issue of the Hawaiian Islands.

STATION, 27 Aug 1854

You are requested to give no fee or gratuity to the Messenger, and to pay no charges beyond those entered on this sheet.

Message for Chas. Harris

Charges to Pay.

|                        |   |     |
|------------------------|---|-----|
| Excess on Message..... | " | 1/6 |
| Porterage .....        | " | "   |
| Total...£              | " | 1/6 |

Received £ 1/6 by Bacon Messenger.

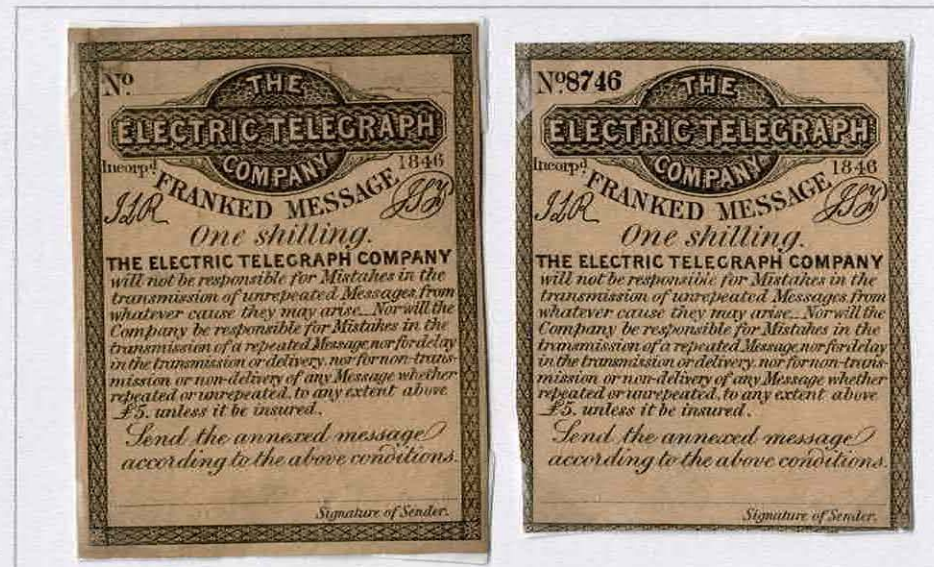
Receipt for payment on delivery of telegram, overage of 1s 6d paid



## Section 1.2 Private Telegraph Companies

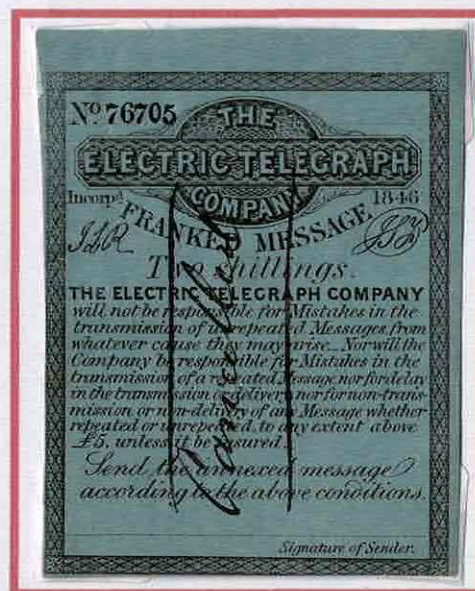
### The Electric Telegraph Company – Large Stamps 1854

Large Adhesive stamps re-issued August 1854 (Series 2) where the distances on these stamps were replaced almost immediately with the written monetary values. These stamps could only be used for transmission on company lines within Great Britain and Ireland but not to the Continent.



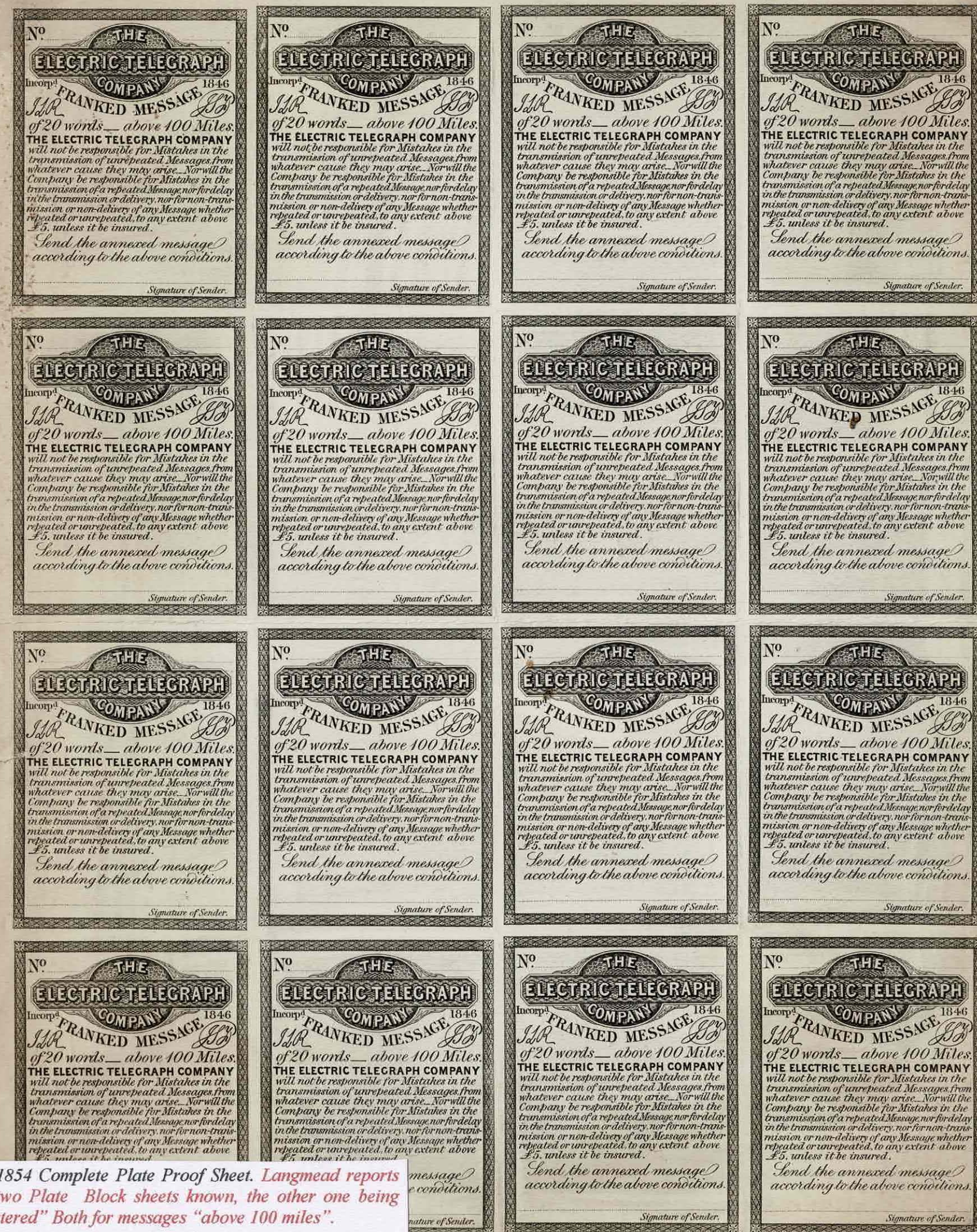
1/- black on buff paper, Plate proof (without control number) and plate 2, control no. 8746 from the first printing October 1857. 50,000 stamps were printed up to 1960

Langmead reports that fewer than ten of each of these original stamps exist (R4) but should be R3 as there are at least 20 known copies have survived.



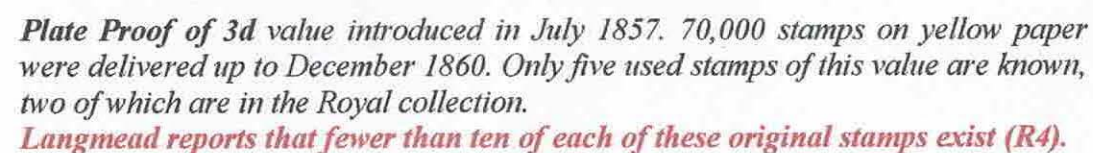
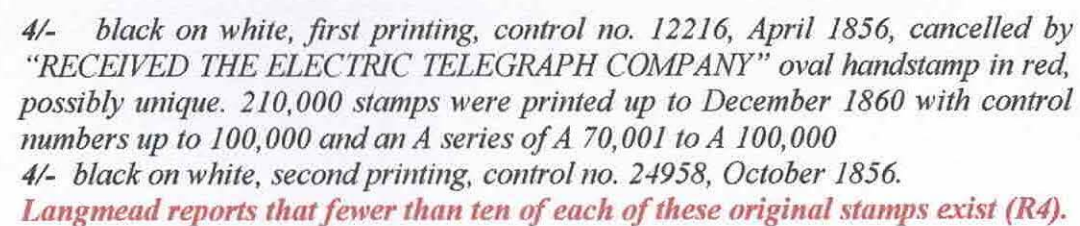
2/- black on blue-green, control no. 76705 (overwritten cancelled in manuscript so possibly used but with a large part of original gum remaining), December 1858. This value had control numbers 10,001 to 100,000

Langmead reports that fewer than ten of each of these original stamps exist (R4).



May 1854 Complete Plate Proof Sheet. Langmead reports only two Plate Block sheets known, the other one being "quartered" Both for messages "above 100 miles".





*Form 203W: Transmission Form used 2 Dec 1868, Westminster to Ludlow. Letter press printed in red on white paper, plain on reverse, printed 2 May 1854. First telegraph transmission form issued by The Electric International Telegraph Company, earliest recorded use is January 1862.*



The next issue of stamps was designed by Charles Henry Jeens and engraved and lithographed by Waterlow & Sons, London (1861-1870), following a tender process for a more conventional 25mm x 32mm design requirement. The stamps bore the initials RG (Robert Grimston-Chairman from 1860) and JSF (J.S. Foudrinier-Secretary from 1854). A total of ten values were issued from 1861 to 1863, each tinted a different color according to the values: 3d (ochre), 6d (scarlet), 1s (orange), 1/6 (rose), 2/- (green), 2/6 (brown), 3/- (blue), 4/- (black), 5/- (purple) and 10/- (brown). All stamps can be found with perforations 12 and 12½, except 6d and 10/- which have perforation 12½ only. The 1/- orange stamp was also issued with an A series where the letter A is included in the control tablet as part of the design and this series are also only perforated at 12½. The 1/-, 1/6 and 2/- values of these stamps are also known unnumbered/unperforated and are reported to be proof samples by Langmead, whereas Lister and McDonald indicated these are likely to be remainders.



3d value  
Control 146485  
1863 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R3



6d value  
Control 49842  
1863 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R4



1/- value  
Plate Proof  
Unnumbered  
1861  
Imperforate  
Scarcity R4



1/- value  
Control 8242  
1861 unused  
Perf 12  
Scarcity R1



1/- value  
Control 98547  
1861 Used  
Perf 12 Used  
Scarcity R1



1/- value  
Control 105698  
White tablet  
1863 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R2



1/6 (18d) value  
Control 67806  
1861 Unused  
Perf 12  
Scarcity R3



1/6 (18d) value  
Control 118369  
1861 Used  
Perf 12  
Scarcity R3



1/6 (18d) value  
Control 144717  
1863 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R3



2/- value  
Plate Proof  
Unnumbered  
1861  
Imperforate  
Scarcity R4



2/- value  
Control 131063  
1863 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R3



2/6 value  
Control 83707  
1861 Used  
Perf 12  
Scarcity R3



3/- value  
Control 4491  
1861 Unused  
Perf 12  
Scarcity R2



3/- value  
Control 62158  
1863 Used (Roches Point)  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R2



4/- value  
Control 104985  
1863 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R2



5/- value  
Control 14169  
1863 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R3



10/- value  
Control 3989  
1863 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R3

1861 RG/JSF 1s and 2s Proofs, unnumbered and imperf. Proofs only known for 1/-, 18d and 2/- Rated Langmead R4.



## 1861



*Block of 9 green 2/- stamps, perf 12, first issue 1861, with Director initials RG/JSF*

**Right:** Form 277W for forwarding messages. These forms are always scarce as they were usually destroyed as soon as the message was sent (for confidentiality). Langmead reports the existence of only six unused 277W forms from Bridport, all having a three shilling RG/JSF perf. 12 stamp, with low control numbers between 4110 and 4498

The lower 277W form populated in 1863, franked with 3s, low control number (4474) stamp but form was not apparently used as stamp is not cancelled.

Conditions on the back of the upper form, signed by Robert Stephenson, Chairman 1859). Lower form has conditions signed by Robert Grimston, Chairman 1860)

JSF

1861

(277 W.)  
(Forwarded Form).

THE ELECTRIC & INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY,

No. of Message \_\_\_\_\_

Station \_\_\_\_\_

(277 W.)  
(Forwarded Form.)

The Electric and International Telegraph Company,

No. of Message \_\_\_\_\_

Station \_\_\_\_\_

Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ Code Time \_\_\_\_\_ WORDS TO BE  
SIGNALLED... }

Received \_\_\_\_\_ m } Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18  
 Finished \_\_\_\_\_ m } Sent to \_\_\_\_\_ Station,  
 by me \_\_\_\_\_ Clerk.

Message.....  
 Repeating .....  
 Reply.....  
 Portage .....  
 To be paid out

Total..... " "

(D Q-M M) (All Numbers must be written at length in words) Counter Clerk's Initials.....

(Address) Please to send the following Uninsured Message according to the conditions endorsed hereon.

(M M-P Q) FROM

Name and Address of the Sender of the Message.

TO

Name and Full Address of the Person to whom the Message is to be delivered.

D Q

This Franked Message Form must be used within Three Years from the 8th March, 1861.

Only available from Bridport to all parts of the Company's system in Great Britain and Ireland, and from London to Bridport.

Message.....  
 Repeating .....  
 ly.....  
 terage .....  
 be paid out.....  
 Total.....

The Company will not be answerable for Errors caused by indistinct writing.

Conditions endorsed hereon;  
 Station of the Company at \_\_\_\_\_  
 to the above Address;  
 as I have deposited

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature  
 and  
 Address of  
 Sender.

Before signing, please to see that the  
 amount to be charged for the message is cor-  
 rectly entered above, and on the receipt, and  
 read the endorsed conditions.

Signature  
 and  
 Address of  
 Sender.

Signature.

Address.

The Company will not be answerable for Errors caused by indistinct writing.



The 1864 change in Company Secretary resulted in a new set of stamps with the initials changed to RG and HW (Henry Weaver -Secretary from 1864). The 2/6, 4/-, 5/-, and 10/- values were not reissued. All values exist as perforation 12½ and 10 (after 1866), except the 3s (blue) value which only exists as perforation 10. Delivery form at this time also indicates that there was no portorage fee when the distance from the receiving office does not exceed half-a-mile.



3d value  
Control 317686  
1864 Unused  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R1



3d value  
Control 242291  
1864 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R1



6d value  
Control 127308  
1864 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R1



1/- value  
Control 673418  
1864 Unused  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R2



1/- value  
Control 724569  
1864 Unused  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R2



1/- value  
Control 342107  
1864 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R2



1/6 value  
Control 448693  
1861 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R1



2/- value  
Control 204160  
1843 Used  
Perf 12½  
Scarcity R1

Right: Telegraph Receiving Form 204W, used 4Aug 1863 from Liverpool to Dublin.

Rare Irish receiving receiving cancel - College Green Dublin, only Electric and International Telegraph Company receiving cancel known on telegram used in Ireland.

Light grey cover used to deliver telegram.

(204 W.)  
Delivery Form. A

THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED 1846.

Central Station, Founders' Court, Lothbury, London.

PRINCIPAL COUNTRY STATIONS—

ABERDEEN..... At the Railway Station.  
BATH..... 16 Old Bond Street.  
BIRMINGHAM..... Temple Buildings, New Street.  
BRIGHTON..... 18 Old Steine.  
BRISTOL..... Exchange Buildings.  
CAMBRIDGE..... At the Railway Station.  
CARDIFF..... 5 Powell Place, Docks, and near  
DERBY..... At the Railway Station.  
DUBLIN..... At the Railway Station.  
DUNDEE..... No. 4 College Green.  
EDMURGH..... Custom House Buildings.  
FALMOUTH..... 68 Princes Street, & Parliament  
GLASGOW..... Ardenwick Street, [House].  
HULL..... At the Exchange.  
LEEDS..... Park Row.  
LIVERPOOL..... 28 Bernard Street.

LIVERPOOL..... 35 Castle St., 9 Exchange Bldgs.,  
MANCHESTER..... 12 Water St. & Lime St. Station.  
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE..... Ducie Buildings, Exchange, and  
NEWPORT..... 1 Mosely Street.  
NORWICH..... Railway Station, Docks, and  
PERTH..... South Wales Railway Station.  
PLYMOUTH..... At the Royal Hotel, Market Place.  
PORTSMOUTH..... At the Railway Station.  
PRESTON..... Plymouth Side of Railway Bridge.  
SHEFFIELD..... 12 The Hard, Portsea.  
SOUTHAMPTON..... At the Railway Station.  
SUNDERLAND..... New Exchange.  
WAKEFIELD..... At the Railway Station.  
WEYMOUTH..... William Street.  
YORK..... At the Corn Exchange.  
17 Micklegate.

N.B.—You are requested to give no fee or gratuity to the Messenger, and to pay no charges beyond those entered in this sheet.

Charges to Pay.

Message ... 1/6  
Porterage ... 1/6  
Cab Hire ... 1/6  
Total ... 1/6

Waterlow and Sons, Printers, Carpenters' Hall, London Wall, London.

The following Message forwarded from Station, and received at Station, 1863

FROM  
Name and Address, John Harris, 8 Cambridge Terrace, Dublin  
TO  
Name and Address, D Q

My sister died yesterday. please send me some money at once to the General Post Office

TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCH. IMMEDIATE  
Major Blackall  
52 Dame  
Dublin  
18th August 1863





1864 Block of six 6d RG/HW small stamps, Perf 12½, first issue 1864



6d value  
Control 343903  
1866  
Perf. 10  
Scarcity R2



3d value  
Control 384856/384857  
1866  
Perf. 10  
Scarcity R2



1/- value  
Control 150745/150746  
1866  
Perf. 10  
Scarcity R1



2/- value  
Control 254686/254687  
1866  
Perf. 10  
Scarcity R2



RG/HW, Director Message Stamp (stamps produced for use by Directors only)  
Control No. 1014 & 1015  
Scarcity R3



1864 adhesive stamps printed by Waterlow bearing the initials RG/HW with perforation 15. However, Waterlow did not use this perforation before 1875 so this set likely to be produced as samples. Only set of such samples seen by the exhibitor

(204 W.)  
Delivery Form A

## THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED 1840.

Central Station—Founders' Court, Lothbury.

PRINCIPAL COUNTRY STATIONS—

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>ABERDEEN ..... 59, Marischall Street, &amp; Railway Station.</p> <p>BATH ..... 5, New Bond St. Buildings.</p> <p>BIRMINGHAM ..... Temple Buildings.</p> <p>BRIGHTON ..... Exchange Buildings, Corn Exchange, and Railway Stations.</p> <p>BRISTOL ..... Victoria Street, and 8, Doulton Square.</p> <p>CAMBRIDGE ..... 18, Old Steine, and Bedford Hotel.</p> <p>CARDIFF ..... Exchange Buildings &amp; Railway Station.</p> <p>CORK ..... Town Hall, and Railway Station.</p> <p>DERBY ..... 5, Powell Place Docks, and Railway Station.</p> <p>DUBLIN ..... 4, College Green, Canal Harbour and Eden Quay.</p> <p>DUNDEE ..... Corner of Cowgate and Wellgate.</p> | <p>EDINBURGH ..... 68, Princes Street, Parliament House, and Railway Stations.</p> <p>FALMOUTH ..... Arwenack Street.</p> <p>GLASGOW ..... At the Exchange, St. Vincent Street, and Railway Stations.</p> <p>HULL ..... 53, Low Gate, Paragon Street, and Southend.</p> <p>LEEDS ..... 4, Park Row, and Railway Station.</p> <p>LIVERPOOL ..... 26, Bernard Street, and Railway Station.</p> <p>MANCHESTER ..... 4, Park Row, and Railway Station.</p> <p>NEWCASTLE ..... 1 &amp; 2, Lombard St., and ON TINE ..... Railway Station.</p> <p>NEWPORT ..... Old Manoe Hall, and Monmouthshire Ry. Stn.</p> | <p>NORWICH ..... At the Royal Hotel, Market Place, &amp;c.</p> <p>PERTH ..... At the Railway Station.</p> <p>PLYMOUTH ..... Plymouth side of Rally Bridge, and The Exchange.</p> <p>PORTSMOUTH ..... 19, The Hard, Portsea, High Street, and Railway Station.</p> <p>PRESTON ..... At the Railway Station.</p> <p>SHEFFIELD ..... New Exchange, and Railway Station.</p> <p>SOUTHAMPTON ..... High Street and At the Railway Station.</p> <p>SUNDERLAND ..... William Street and Railway Station.</p> <p>WAKEFIELD ..... At the Corn Exchange &amp; Railway Station.</p> <p>WATERFORD ..... Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>WEYMOUTH ..... Lucas's Royal Hotel.</p> <p>YORK ..... 17, Micklegate, and Railway Station.</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

N.B.—You are requested to give no fee or gratuity to the Messenger, and to pay no charge beyond those entered in this sheet.

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Charges to Pay. |   |
| Message ...     | " |
| Porterage ...   | " |
| Cab Hire ...    | " |
| Total ...       | " |

Waterlow and Sons, Printers, Carpenters' Hall, London Wall.

The following Message has been received at Dublin Station.

FROM Maane

TO Jesson

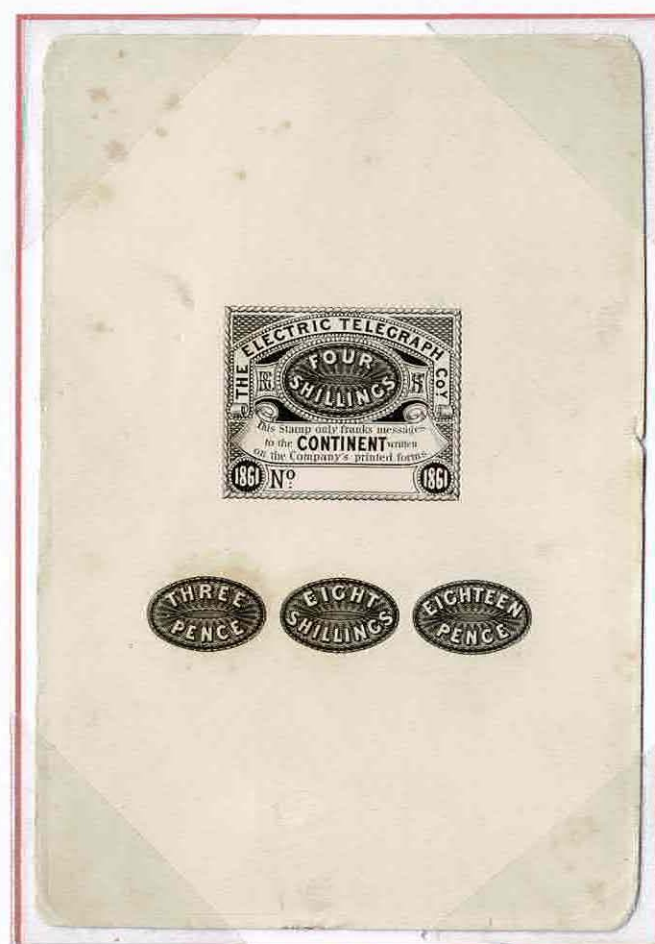
Name and Address: 10 South Bedford St

**Delivery Form 204W:** This delivery form is the 26th issue of Form 204 W (Delivery form A). Form now indicates a network of 1000 telegraph offices and new Company Secretary H. Weaver. General Office is now at "Telegraph Street", London. This is a renaming of original address to reflect the impact this company has made. This Form also printed by Waterlow & Sons, London.

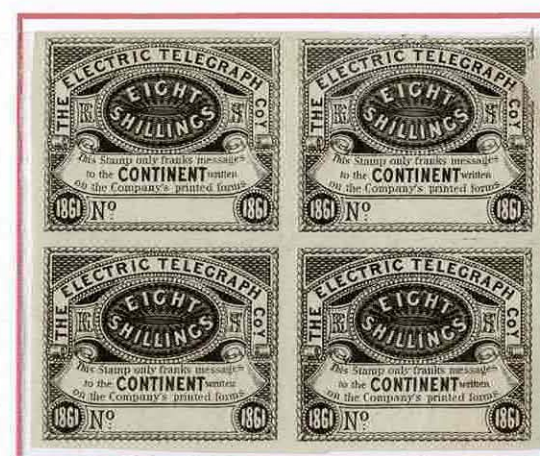


## Section 1.2 Electric & International Telegraph Continental Service Continental Stamps 1861

The Electric Company also operated a continental telegraph service and stamps for this service were also designed by C.H. Jeens and lithographed by Waterlow & Sons, London. These stamps had the initials R.G. and J.S.F. and the year of issue. Only four values were printed, namely 3d, 18d, 4/- and 8/-. Of these four values, only the 3d and 8/- values are known to exist, while the others are identified from Waterlow records. The 12 x 12½ 3d below has a blue-black vertical bar, control no. 1606, on wove paper. Lister reports that the vertical blue-black bar was to aid clerks in readily identifying the stamps rather than as a cancel. Langmead lists this 3d stamp as R5, only known in institutional collections and picture shown is one of only two copies in private hands.



Four Shilling Die Proof in black on India paper, laid down on card, with additional tablets of 3d, 8s and 18d. Rare item ex A.J. Lowe (1990) and S.J. Lawrie (2020) collections.



Eight Shilling Imperforate Plate Block Proof, without control numbers, only known example of multiples of this proof.



3d Electric Telegraph Continental Stamp, perf 12 x 12½, rated R5 by Langmead, only known in institutional collections. One of only two copies known in private hands.

Eight Shilling Imperforate Plate Block Proof, without control numbers, on white wove paper.



## THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY. INCORPORATED 1848.

Offices in London at which Messages are received and forwarded—

CENTRAL STATION—FOUNDERS' COURT, LOTHBURY.

BLACKWALL—At the Railway Station.  
CHEAPSIDE—No. 149.  
COAL EXCHANGE—Lower Thames Street.  
COPENHAGEN FIELDS—No. 13, Bank Buildings (Cattle Market)—Open on Market Days only.  
CORNHILL—No. 27, opposite the Royal Exchange—Open day and night.  
EDGWARE ROAD—No. 8, near the Marble Arch.  
FENCHURCH STREET—Corner of Mining Lane.  
FLEET STREET—No. 80, opposite St. Dunstan's Church.  
GENERAL POST OFFICE—10, Foster Lane.  
GLOSTER ROAD—Regent's Park.  
HIGHBURY—Corner of Highbury Place, Islington, opposite the Railway Station.  
HIGH HOLBORN—No. 241.  
HOUSE OF COMMONS—Central Lobby, during Session.  
KENSINGTON—West London Railway Station.  
KNIGHTSBRIDGE—15, St. George's Place.  
LEADENHALL STREET—No. 8.

LLOYD'S—Merchants' Room.  
LONDON DOCKS—Main Entrance.  
MARK LANE—Corn Exchange.  
MINING LANE—Corner of Fenchurch Street.  
OLD BROAD STREET—No. 64.  
OXFORD STREET—No. 314.  
REGENT STREET—No. 28.  
SOUTHWARK—No. 2, Southwark Street.  
STEPNEY—Regent's Canal Basin.  
STOCK EXCHANGE—New Court Entrance.  
STRAND—No. 443, corner of Adelaide Street—Open day and night.  
ST. JAMES STREET—No. 89, opposite the Palace.  
THAMES STREET (UPPER)—No. 178.  
TATTERSALL'S (SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS)—Open on Monday and Thursday.  
WESTMINSTER—No. 178, Great George Street.  
WHARF ROAD—No. 32.  
And at the Termini of all the Railways.

N.B.—You are requested to give no fee or gratuity to the Messenger, and to pay no charges beyond those entered in this sheet.

### Charges to Pay.

|               |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|
| Message ...   | .. | .. |
| Porterage ... | .. | .. |
| Cab Hire ...  | .. | .. |
| Total ...     | .. | .. |

Waterlow and Sons, Printers, Carpenters' Hall, London W.1.

The following Message has been received at High Holborn Station 1861  
FROM ...

## THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY. INCORPORATED 1848.

### MESSAGES

Are transmitted to and from all the Principal Towns in GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, at

### REDUCED RATES.

No Charge is made for Porterage, when the distance does not exceed Half-a-mile.

The Company has upwards of 1,000 Stations in Great Britain and Ireland,

In full operation, the whole of which are in

### DIRECT COMMUNICATION

With the Foreign Telegraph System, via their Hague and

AMSTERDAM LINE,

So that Messages can be forwarded from any of their Offices in Great Britain or Ireland to any Town on the

### CONTINENT OF EUROPE

At which a Telegraph Station is established, at very Reduced Rates; the Charges on Messages to the Continent being the same from any of the Company's Provincial Stations. Further particulars may be obtained at the Company's Offices.

General Offices, Telegraph Street, London, E.C. August, 1867.

H. WEAVER, Secretary.

No enquiry respecting this Message can be attended to without the production of this paper.

Please enter Time of Delivery, and sign Messenger's Ticket.

Clerk.

Face of 204 W Delivery Form B - Received at London Telegraph Office 241 - July 1868. Issued at same time as Form A but for use primarily in London. Form also indicates network now at 1000 telegraph offices - New Company Secretary H. Weaver. Reverse- Received at High Holborn, London - August 1868 - no porterage fee. Clear receiving cancel for telegraph office 241 - High Holborn. Top of Form lists significant London offices. New Form (August 1867) printed by Waterlow & Sons, London.



## Section 1.3 Private Telegraph Companies - The English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company 1851

The Magnetic Telegraph Company was founded in 1851 and it changed its name the following year (under Royal charter) to "The English and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company". Unlike its competitors, most of the early telegraphic lines of the company were underground, the first being a six wire line between Manchester and Liverpool. This company was also responsible for laying cables between Great Britain and Ireland, the first of these being successfully laid in May 1853 by Newall & Co. This cable connected Portpatrick and Donaghadee. The company also had a close working relationship with the newly formed Meteorological Department, sending daily reports on the weather from Irish stations to London. The lines of this company were the only ones extended throughout Ireland.

Key figures in the English and Magnetic Company were the Bright brothers, Charles and Edward, who took out a famous patent in 1852 with 24 different telegraphic inventions.

The company merged with the British Telegraph Company in 1857 and took on the name "British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company", the same year it released its stamps under the original company name.



1857 English and Irish Telegraphic Company stamps, set of five values (pairs/singles), all upper and lower margins tightly cut, control numbers handprinted in black.



Remainders - unissued, without control numbers and tight vertical margins.

Stamps which have no control number and tight margins are remainders. These remainders were unissued and for the most part destroyed when the Post Office took over responsibility for the telegraph service in 1870.

Stamps with no control number but with wide margins are reported (Hiscock, Lister and Langmead) to be proofs rather than remainders. However, Panting makes a good case that these also are remainders and he contends that the issued stamps were deliberately trimmed with no margin to fit into a dispenser of some sort. He particularly draws attention to the lack of examples showing parts of stamps above or below the upper and lower margins, which would confirm the tight margins. He also notes that these "proofs" have gum which would not normally be the case.

1857 stamps were issued in five denominations: 1/-s (black), 1/6s (Mauve), 2/6s (Blue), 4/-s (Red) and 5/-s (green). Stamps were lithographed on white wove paper by Mawdesley & Co., Liverpool. Various shades are seen for each value, with all stamps derived from the same design, imperforate, and without watermarks. The values were inserted by hand, which gave rise to slight differences e.g. the "1" in the "1s 6d" value has an exaggerated serif and can be mistaken for a "7".

The vertical spacing of the stamps in each sheet is very narrow and top and bottom margins are very small or absent.

Each stamp bears the name of E (Edward) B (Brailsford) Bright, the Company Secretary and General Manager.

Stamps were printed in sheets of 50 or 100. Those printed in sheets of 100 had actually two panes of 50 with the lower sheet being inverted. This meant that the junction between the two sheets had two middle tête-bêche rows (one such pair is part of the Tapling Collection in the British Library, London).



Proof Stamps - without control numbers but with large margins



## Section 1.4/1.5 Private Telegraph Companies - The British Telegraph Company 1853 & The Submarine Telegraph Company 1850

### Section 1.4 The British Telegraph Company

The British Telegraph Company began life as "The British Electric Telegraph Company" (incorporated 1849) and changed name in 1853 by Royal Charter. The company acquired "The European & American Electric Printing Company" the following year "by an exchange of shares and a cash sum". The company was founded in order to connect Great Britain and Ireland by submarine cable and to implement the telegraphic inventions of Edward Highton, a telegraphic engineer with the London and North Western Railway Company. The company was also successful in laying a cable between Portpatrick and Donaghadee in 1854 and it had a hundred principal offices throughout Great Britain and Ireland, many of these shared with the Submarine Telegraph Company which did not have its own inland network. The British Telegraph Company was not operating at a profit when it merged with the English and Irish Magnetic but it did have exclusive rights to run its overhead cables along public roads in great Britain.

The telegraph rates set by the British Telegraph Company were those agreed with the Electric Telegraph Company in August 1855:

- 1s 6d** for telegrams within a distance of 50 miles,
- 2s 0d** for telegrams between 50 miles and 100 miles,
- 3s 0d** for telegrams between 100 miles and 150 miles,
- 4s 0d** for telegrams beyond 150 miles,
- 5s 0d** for telegrams to Belfast and Dublin.

The British Telegraph Company issued stamps in late 1855, reported at two values, the 2s and 4s, although the company's published rate within circuit of fifty miles indicated that a 1s 6d stamp was also required. This value was unknown to Hiscock, Lister or Langmead but a single 18d (1s 6d) stamp (black on green paper with control no. 4091) has recently surfaced at auction from Stephen Lawrie's collection. Stamps are printed on thick wove paper with Watermark "BRITISH TELEGRAPH COMPANY" and are titled FRANK STAMP



#### The British Telegraph Company Stamps 1855:

Mint 2s black on blue paper, thick wove, control no. 3246,

Mint 4s black on yellow paper, control no. 8790 (large part of original gum).

Lister reported that used copies were unknown and lists just five known mint examples of the 2s and 4s stamps (these included the 2s with control no. 3254 and the 4s with control no. 8798, both of which are part of the Royal Collection). Langmead notes just six mint examples known, including two pairs, but list does not include those above. These stamps are rated R4 by Langmead, probably less than ten copies existing. Seven copies of 2s and nine copies of 4s are now known (listed by Panting).

### Section 1.5 The Submarine Telegraph Company

The "English Channel Submarine Telegraph Company" was founded in 1850, again by John Brett and his brother Jacob, and was renamed "The Submarine Telegraph Company" the following year. The initial objective was to lay and operate a submarine cable to France. This was successfully managed as the first ever ocean cable was laid from England to France in 1851, with lines to a number of other European countries following this success. The company operated very closely with the British Telegraph Company, the English and Irish Magnetic Company and their successor in 1857.

The company had no inland service of its own and it retained its cables when the Post Office took over the other private companies in 1870. The company controlled nine cables at this time, with thirty five connectors and had an average transmission of 8,500 telegrams per day. The company had been granted a ten year monopoly in 1849, later extended to forty years and this came to an end in 1889 when its Anglo-Continental cables were taken over by the British and French governments.

The Submarine Telegraph Company rates were:

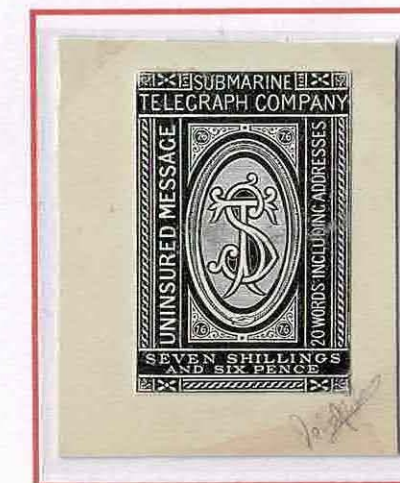
- 4s** for 20 word messages to Paris,
- 3s 9d / 4s** for 10 word messages to Denmark,
- 7s 6d / 8s** for 20 word messages to Denmark,
- 5s** for unspecified 20 word messages,
- 4½d** for additional words.

The Submarine Telegraph Company stamps had five denominations and were designed and engraved by De La Rue in November 1861: 4½d, 3s 9d, 4s, 7s 6d and 8s.

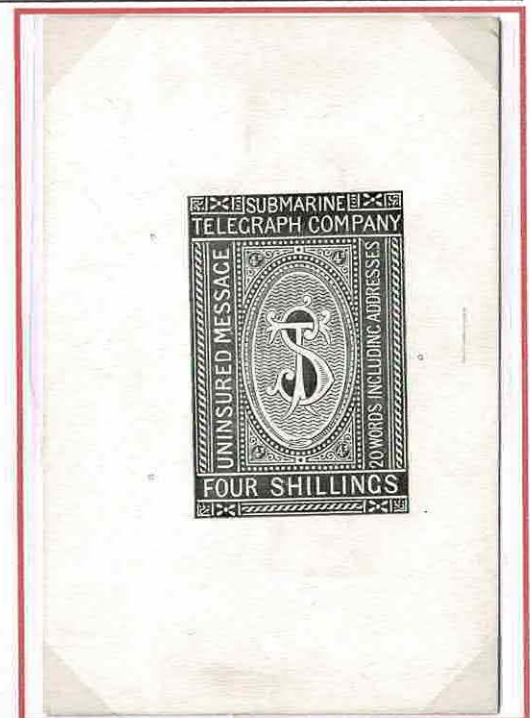
Langmead and Hiscock list the first four values as unknown (none surviving) with a single used copy of the 8s, cancelled by concentric rings, and part of the Royal Collection. The company had the distinction of being the only one required to over-print stamps because of a temporary shortage. This was the case initially for the 4s, followed by the 4½d values, both of which were overprinted on the 8s lilac stamps by De La Rue in 1881.



Mint temporary 4½d stamp, overprinted on 8s stamp. Rated R5 by Langmead (known only in institutional collections). This is the only unused example of any value now in private hands.



4s and 7s 6d Die Proofs in black, the latter on glazed card cut to shape and affixed to buff card (45mm x 55mm), endorsed "De La Rue" in pencil below. Stamps carried the inscriptions "20 WORDS INCLUDING ADDRESSES" and "UNINSURED MESSAGE". Die proofs for all values from the De La Rue archives exist but in small numbers. (Less than 10 each).





## Section 1.6 Private Telegraph Companies - The British and Irish Telegraph Company Ltd. 1857

The English and Irish Telegraph Company ran into some difficulty with their underground network and they merged in 1857 with The British Telegraph Company (founded in 1853), to form "The British and Irish Telegraph Company Ltd." The company had the longest underground cable in the world at this time, the 670 miles from London to Dublin via Manchester, Liverpool, Carlisle and Belfast. The merger immediately gave the company more access to overhead routes and allowed it to develop its network by constructing lines along the main roads. The merger also gave direct access to the submarine cable that The British Telegraph Co. had laid from Donaghdee (Ireland) to Port Patrick (Scotland). The company was the only one to extend lines to the whole of Ireland resulting in 20% of its offices being located here. The new Company Secretary was Edward Brailford Bright, previous General Manager of the "The English & Irish Telegraph Company.

Stamps of the British and Irish Magnetic were also lithographed by Mawdesley and Co., Liverpool, with some values printed on coloured paper stocks remaining from The British Telegraph Company, while others used a paper watermarked with rows of five clenched hands grasping thunderbolts.



**British and Irish Magnetic stamps 1859/ 1860:**

THREE PENCE black on white, control no. 406349, perf. 13.

*SIXPENCE* black on pink, control no. 141449, perf. 13.

*ONE SHILLING* black on lilac, control numbers for pair 171926/7, perf. 13,

*1s 6d black on white, control no. 201739, perf. 13,*

*THREE SHILLINGS* black on rose, control no. 61514, perf. 12.

*FOUR SHILLINGS* black on green, control no. 238848, perf. 13.

*FIVE SHILLINGS* black on blue, control no. 106135, perf. 12.

All values rated R2 except Four and Five Shilling values which are rated R3.

Reverse of Company Telegraph Form issued in May 1862, sent to Dublin on 30th April 1863. Reverse retains the "Magnetic Telegraphic" designation while face of form has full company name "British and Irish Telegraph Company Ltd." Reverse also lists principal offices in the United Kingdom (includes 52 in Ireland) and advertises direct connection to 3500 telegraph offices worldwide, with fee from any UK office. Reverse also advertises two submarine cables, each with six wires.

[illegible]



## Section 1.6 Private Telegraph Companies - The British and Irish Telegraph Company Ltd. 1864

Imperforate stamps without a control number are remainders, which should have been destroyed when the Post Office took over in 1870. These likely came from the printers and reflect the actual issues in circulation at the transfer to the Post Office.



No remainders are known for 4s or 2s 6d which likely reflects that these issues were not in use at point where the company was nationalized.

**BRITISH AND IRISH MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY, (LIMITED.)**  
In exclusive connexion with the Submarine Telegraph Company

**CHIEF OFFICES.**  
**LIVERPOOL**..... 2, EXCHANGE BUILDINGS.  
**LONDON OFFICES.**  
Central London Station, 57, 58 and 59, Threadneedle-street.  
Chancery-lane, 22.  
Charing Cross, 7.  
Corn Exchange-chambers, Seething-lane.  
Gresham House, Old Broad-street.  
House of Commons (during Session).  
And all the Stations of the London District Telegraph Co.

**A FEW OF THE PRINCIPAL STATIONS.**

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Adrossan                      | Huddersfield, L. & Y. R'way   |
| Ayr                           | Station                       |
| Barnsley                      | Hull, 37, Lowgate             |
| Belfast, Donegal Street       | Kilkenny                      |
| Birmingham, 104, New Street   | Killarney                     |
| Blackburn                     | Kilmarnock                    |
| Bolton                        | Leith                         |
| Bradford, Exchange            | Leeds, Commercial Buildings   |
| Canisla, 2, Botolphsgate      | " Corn Market                 |
| Cantham, 308, High Street     | Limerick, Chamber of Commerce |
| Cork, 88, South Mall          | Londonderry                   |
| Coleraine                     | Manchester, 11, Ducie Place   |
| Darlington                    | Middlesex, 19, Bond Street    |
| Deal, 100, Beach Street       | Middlesbrough                 |
| Dover, 7, Clarence Place      | Newcastle, Quayside           |
| Drogheda                      | Newry                         |
| Dunfries                      | Oldham                        |
| Dundee                        | Parth                         |
| Dublin, 23, College Green     | Queenstown, The Quay          |
| Dundalk                       | Stockton                      |
| Edinburgh                     | Sheffield                     |
| Galway                        | St. Helens                    |
| Glasgow, 24, Exchange Square  | Southport                     |
| Gravesend, 45, The Terrace    | Stafford                      |
| Greenock, 23, Cathcart street | Sunderland                    |
| Hull                          | Wakefield, Corn Market        |
| Harrogate                     | Warrington                    |
| Hartlepool, Dock Office       | Waterford                     |
| Hartlepool West, Ry. Station  | Wolverhampton                 |

Reduced Prices. No charge for delivery if within half-a-mile of the Stations where Messengers are kept.  
Direct Communication with the Continent of Europe through the Submarine Telegraph Company's Cables.

**EDWARD B. BRIGHT,**  
GENERAL MANAGER.

Reverse of 1864 British & Irish Telegraph Co. receipt for telegram sent from Waterford to Dublin on 4th August 1864. Receipt reverse details company addresses and some of principal offices/stations at that time.

Reverse also indicates company is "in exclusive connexion with the Submarine Telegraph Company."

**BRITISH & IRISH MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH CO. (LIMITED.)**  
(IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUBMARINE & LONDON DISTRICT TELEGRAPH COMPANY.)

STATION. Barnsley

Received the following Message the 10th day of June 1864

From S. S. Murphy To Robert Males

Name S. S. Murphy Name Robert Males

Address Barnsley Address Carlton

Charges to Pay.  
Message 1/0  
Portage 0/0  
Cab Hire 0/0  
Total 1/0

Case. Same trespass to be tried here today. I hold one pound fee. If unable to attend please telegraph answer paid for.



## Section 1.6 Private Telegraph Companies - The British and Irish Telegraph Company Ltd. 1868

 [6] Derry STATION, 23 July 1869

Received 8/-

For Message No. Glasgow

Initials of Clerk ROC

All Messages taken by this Company are received subject to the following Conditions. —

In order to provide against mistakes, and more effectually insure delivery, every Message of consequence ought to be REPEATED, by being sent back from the station at which it is to be received to the Station from which it is originally sent. Half the usual price for transmission will be charged in addition for repeating the Message. The Company will not be responsible for mistakes in the transmission of un-repeated Messages, from whatever cause arising. Nor will the Company be responsible for mistakes in the transmission of a repeated Message, nor for delay in the transmission or delivery, nor for the non-transmission, or non-delivery, of any Message whether repeated or un-repeated, to any extent above £5, unless it be insured at the rate of £1 per cent.

NOTICE.—It is expressly provided that the Company cannot insure or undertake any liability with regard to the transmission of Messages to the Continent of Europe, or elsewhere, beyond the extent of their own lines.

Receipt for telegram sent from Derry to Glasgow on 23rd July 1868.  
Company crest displayed on receipt plus details of insurance liabilities.

TELEGRAM — IMMEDIATE.



Robert Melcomson Esq

Solo

Barlort

CHARGES TO PAY nil

Typical British & Irish telegram delivery envelope, used in Ireland. Envelope has company crest, with no delivery charges due for telegram it contained.

Telegram sent from London to Dublin on 13th August 1868, received at College Green telegraph office. Nothing on reverse of this early form, larger size than latter telegrams.

Rare Irish receiving cancel - College Green, Dublin, one of only 2 receiving cancels known (both displayed in this exhibit, previous one for Electric Telegraph Company).

Ref. Hans Bergdolt, Telegraphy in Ireland, Revealer, page 53 Spring 2008.

BRITISH & IRISH MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

IN CONNEXION WITH THE SUBMARINE AND LONDON DISTRICT TELEGRAPH COMPANIES.

[3] Dublin STATION.

Received the following Message the 13 day of August 1868

From London To J W Thompson

Name London Address 9 Gurney St

No enquiry respecting this Message can be attended to unless made within fourteen days from the date of the Message.

Richard Palairt writes from  
Chalvey Rath if you give  
him short notice of day  
I am will be at home  
write him and Robert Bateman  
to expect you





## Section 1.7 Private Telegraph Companies - London District Telegraph Co. Ltd. 1859

### Section 1.7 The London District Telegraph Company Ltd.

The British and Irish Magnetic also had very close links with the London District Telegraph Company Ltd., which was founded in 1859, the same year that the British and Irish Magnetic moved its headquarters from Liverpool to London. The premises at Threadneedle Street also became the headquarters for the London District Telegraph Company and the Submarine Telegraph Company, and the three companies shared directors. The British and Irish Magnetic also took responsibility for installing lines and training staff of the London District Telegraph Company. In turn, the London District directed all their telegraph traffic outside London to the British and Irish Magnetic lines. The new company established a network of one hundred telegraph offices in London and as well as the collaboration with the British and Irish Magnetic, the company also accepted messages for the Submarine Telegraph Company.

The primary aim of the London District company was to develop a cheaper and more efficient telegraph service within the city and suburbs of London and to compete effectively with the Electric Telegraph Company. The delivery fees to any part of London and within five miles of Charing Cross were:

- 4d not exceeding 10 words,
- 6d between 10 and 20 words,
- 2d for every additional 10 words.

This was revised upwards in October 1862:

- 6d maximum of 16 words,
- 9d maximum of 20 words,
- 9d message and reply (15 words each),
- 3d for every additional ten words or fraction of that number.

Names and addresses were not charged.

The first stamps issued by the London District Telegraph Company were three values in 1862, 3d, 4d and 6d. These were lithographed by Truscott & Son.



### London District Telegraph Company Stamps 1862

3d on pale yellow paper, control no. A1443, 12½ perf. (This is the highest recorded control no. reported for this issue).

4d on blue paper, control no. A2464, 12½ perf. (This is the highest recorded control no. reported for this issue), Langmead R4 rating, less than ten stamps existing.

6d on vermillion paper, control no. A2111, 12½ perf., (Highest control number reported by Langmead is A6272).

The next London District Telegraph design was introduced in 1865 with 3d and 6d values. Stamps were signed by the Company Secretary and later Chairman, Samuel Gurney. Samuel Gurney was also a director of the Submarine Telegraph Company and the Atlantic Telegraph Company. The initial issues of this new design had control numbers handwritten, with both such stamps rated R5 by Langmead (only seen in institutional collections). These were followed by issues with control numbers printed in both large and small numbers.



### London District Telegraph Company Stamps 1865

3d on yellow paper with control no. 4776 (large) and control no. 1588 (small),  
6d on dull rose paper with control no. 2167 (large) and control no. 37827 (small).



### District Telegraph Company Stamps 1865

Rare large eight block, the numbering of which confirms that stamps were printed in rows of eight (based on sequence of control numbers).



## Section 1.8 Bonelli's Telegraph Co. Ltd. 1861

3d, 6d, 9d & 1/- 1863

**Bonelli's Electric Telegraph Co. Ltd.** was established in 1861, with the objective of establishing the typo-electric telegraphy invented by Chevalier Gaetano Bonelli. However, there is little known about the activities of the company. It has been established that they did have a single line from Manchester to Liverpool and that they actually transmitted messages, but level of business was low. Four values of adhesive stamps were likely printed in 1863, lithographed by Waterlow & Sons, London; 3d (yellow-green), 6d (grey), 9d (blue) and 1/- (orange). The 3d value was also printed in ochre and issued in booklet form. Issues contain black control numbers, perforation 12¾, on T. H. Sander watermarked paper. Stamps reported as being printed in sheets of 80 or 100, most likely 100 (see next section). **The first five stamps in each row are repeated in the second half of each sheet, giving rise to repeated faults in every 5<sup>th</sup> stamp.** Company had a stock issue in 1864, which was unsuccessful and led to the company being sued and its assets been frozen by the courts.



**6d Plate Proof for First Printing**

- Three known imperforate examples
- No Control Number
- reported in literature and as plate proof
- sideways partial watermark (T.H. Saunders)



**6d Second Printing**

- Control No 15
- Highest known No is 14387
- Scratched Buckle Variety – present in column 5 and 10
- Perf 12.75
- Partial watermark



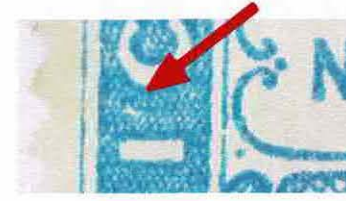
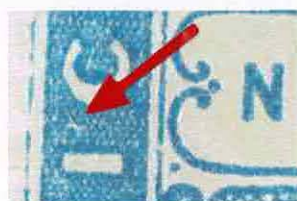
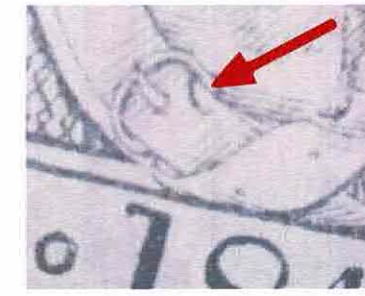
**6d Third Printing**

- Control No 19051
- Highest known No is 19527
- Perf 12.75
- No watermark



**6d Third Printing**

- Control No 18415
- Scratched Buckle Variety
- White dot over A of TELEGRAPH
- Perf 12.75
- No watermark



**9d Only Printing - Repeated faults**

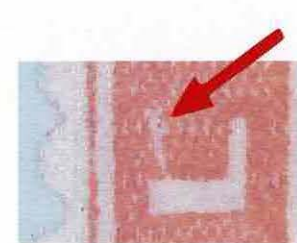
- Control Number 133 and 3158 (highest recorded is 4781)
- White spot between I and C of ELECTYRIC (columns 3 & 8)
- Perf 12.75

**9d Only Printing - Repeated faults**

- Control Number 331
- Broken "N" (column 1)
- Perf 12.75

**3d Only Printing- Repeated faults**

- Control Number 8453 and 8508 (highest recorded is 8566)
- White spot above T of TELEGRAPH (column 3 & 8)
- Perf 12.75



**1/- Only Printing - Repeated faults**

- Control Number 3303 and 3728
- Dot between ONE and SHILLING (column 3)
- Perf 12.75

**1/- Only Printing - Repeated faults**

- Control Number 3947
- Dash above "L" of ELECTRIC (column 2)
- Perf 12.75

**1/- Only Printing - Repeated faults**

- Control Number 4189 (highest recorded is 4996)
- White spots above L of BONELLI'S (column 4)
- Perf 12.75



**3d Large Booklet Stamps:** 3d stamps with brown control no., published in booklets, the first ever of such booklets to be issued (predates the first postage related booklet by 28 years). Two types of booklet; 7 pages of six stamps (3x2) or twelve stamps (3x4), Perf. 12.5, each page surrounded by selvedge. Cover of plain card, bound by sewing.



The Universal Private Telegraph Co. Ltd. was registered on 20th September 1860 and it had a more defined commercial focus, existing to provide a service between business establishments and private enterprises. The customers in this case rented the service from The Universal Private Telegraph Co., mainly in London, Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds and Newcastle. The company issued stamps in 1864, lithographed by Waterlow & Sons, London (printed in Glasgow). While there are records of four values being printed (3d, 6d, 9d and 1/-), only two issues are actually known (1/- followed by 6d). The 1/- and 6d stamps were issued with six and five coloured control numbers respectively, but it is not known if there was any significance in the different colours (considered too common to be trial issues). No used stamps are known, possibly company was more successful at destroying used telegraph forms than its competitors.

The original die that was engraved by Waterlow & Sons had a transfer block of five stamps that was used to produce a sheet of 100 stamps. This gave rise to a number of varieties, which are repeated on every fifth stamp, or every fifth column. These repeated varieties are each described and shown below.

## Repeat Varieties



Stamps printed in sheets off 100 (10x10), with "Waterlow & Sons, London" imprint at bottom of sheet, below columns 5 & 6.

Left: Lower row of sheet printed with control numbers 3901 to 4000, with control numbers in red.



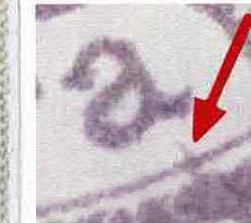
Control No 9101  
Column 1 & 6  
Mark at bottom left "N" of "ONE"  
3991 & 3996 on strip.



Control No 9102  
Column 2 & 7  
Long left tail on "P" of "Private"  
3992 & 9997 on strip



Control No 9103  
Column 3 & 8  
Scratch to left of tablet with control number  
3993 & 9998 on strip



Control No 9104  
Column 4 & 9  
Line through frame below "a" of "Telegraph"  
3994 & 3999 on strip



Control No 9105  
Column 5 & 10  
Outer frame of control table broken below "N" of "ONE"  
3995 & 4000 on strip



Black  
17 Sheets



Red  
21 Sheets



Green  
17 Sheets



Yellow  
14 Sheets



Lilac  
5 Sheets

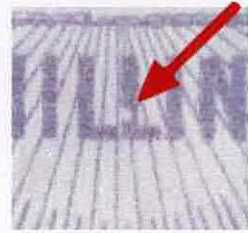


Brown  
9 Sheets

Six Control No  
Colours.  
Number of sheets  
printed.



Random faults across each sheet



Control No 9111  
Position 11 on sheet  
Damage to second "L" of  
"SHILLING"



Control No 9130  
Position 30 on sheet  
Malformed bottom left leg in "h"  
of "Telegraph"



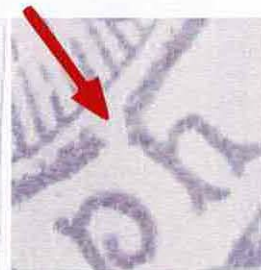
Control No 9136  
Position 36 on sheet  
Top right of "N" in "ONE" is  
broken



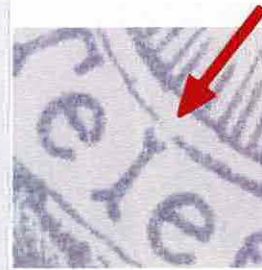
Control No 9141  
Position 41 on sheet  
Long broken scratch from top  
right corner down through  
"N" of "ONE".



Control No 9149  
Position 49 on sheet  
Extensive frame brake at the  
top of the stamp



Control No 9178  
Control No 6978 (below)  
Position 78 on sheet  
Large inner frame break by  
the "h" of "Telegraph"



Control No 9179  
Control No 6979 (below)  
Position 79 on sheet  
Large frame break by the "l"  
of "Telegraph"



Control No 9180  
Control No 6980 (below)  
Position 80 on sheet  
Smaller outer frame break  
above the "8" in the top right  
corner



Control No 3996  
Position 96 on sheet  
Mark by the "8" in top right  
corner

Stamp displayed on previous  
page as part of lower strip of  
10 stamps



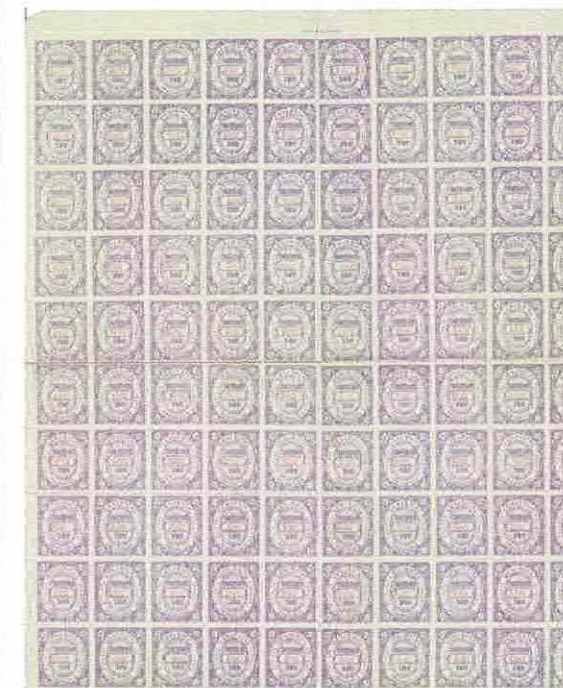
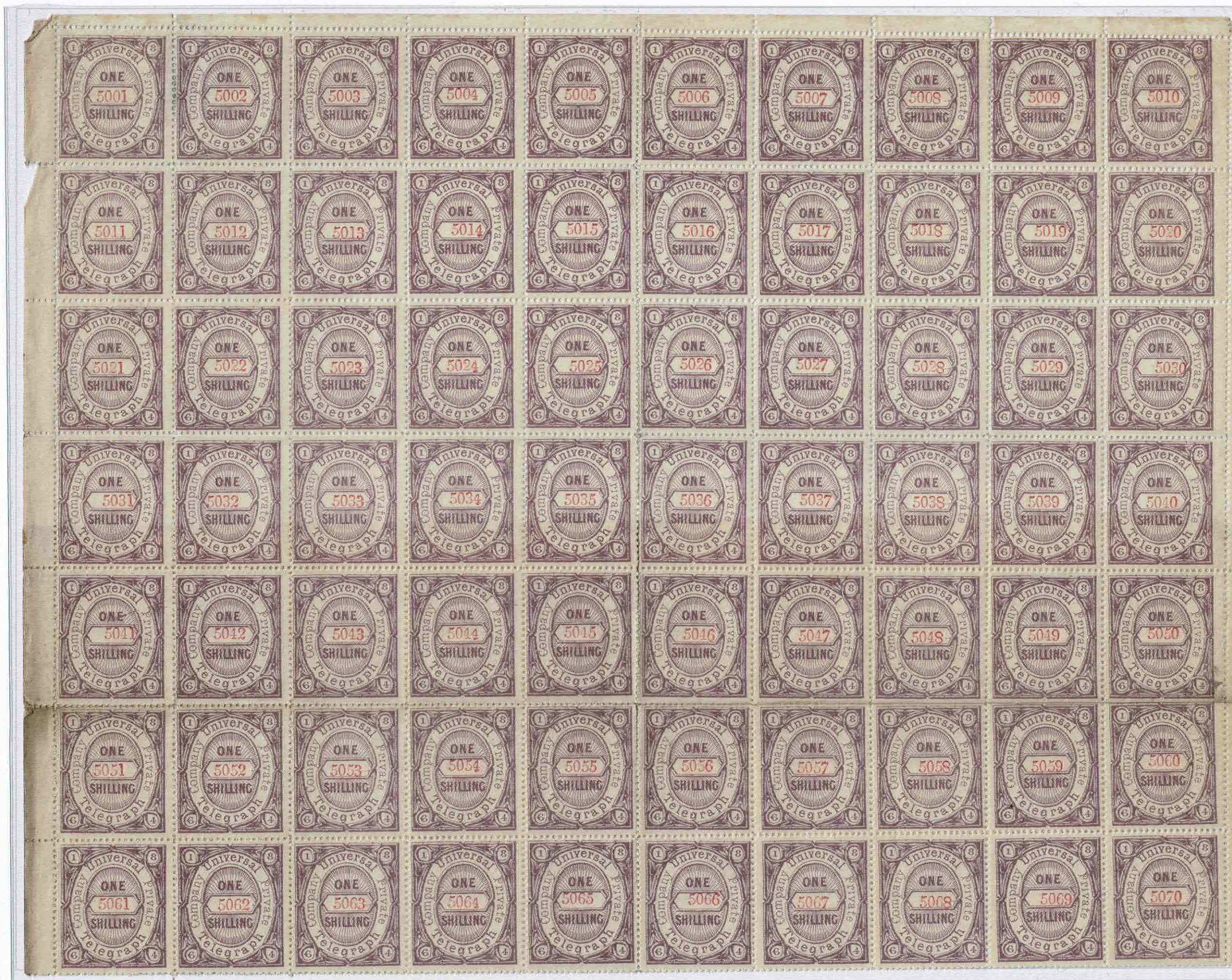
Control No 3997  
Position 97 on sheet  
Mark below "C" of "Company"  
Mark above "e" in "Private"  
Mark above "g" in "Telegraph"

Stamp displayed on previous page as  
part of lower strip of 10 stamps



Left: Strip of position 78 to 80, variety described  
above, with green control numbers. Note much  
paler shade of lilac on this sheet..

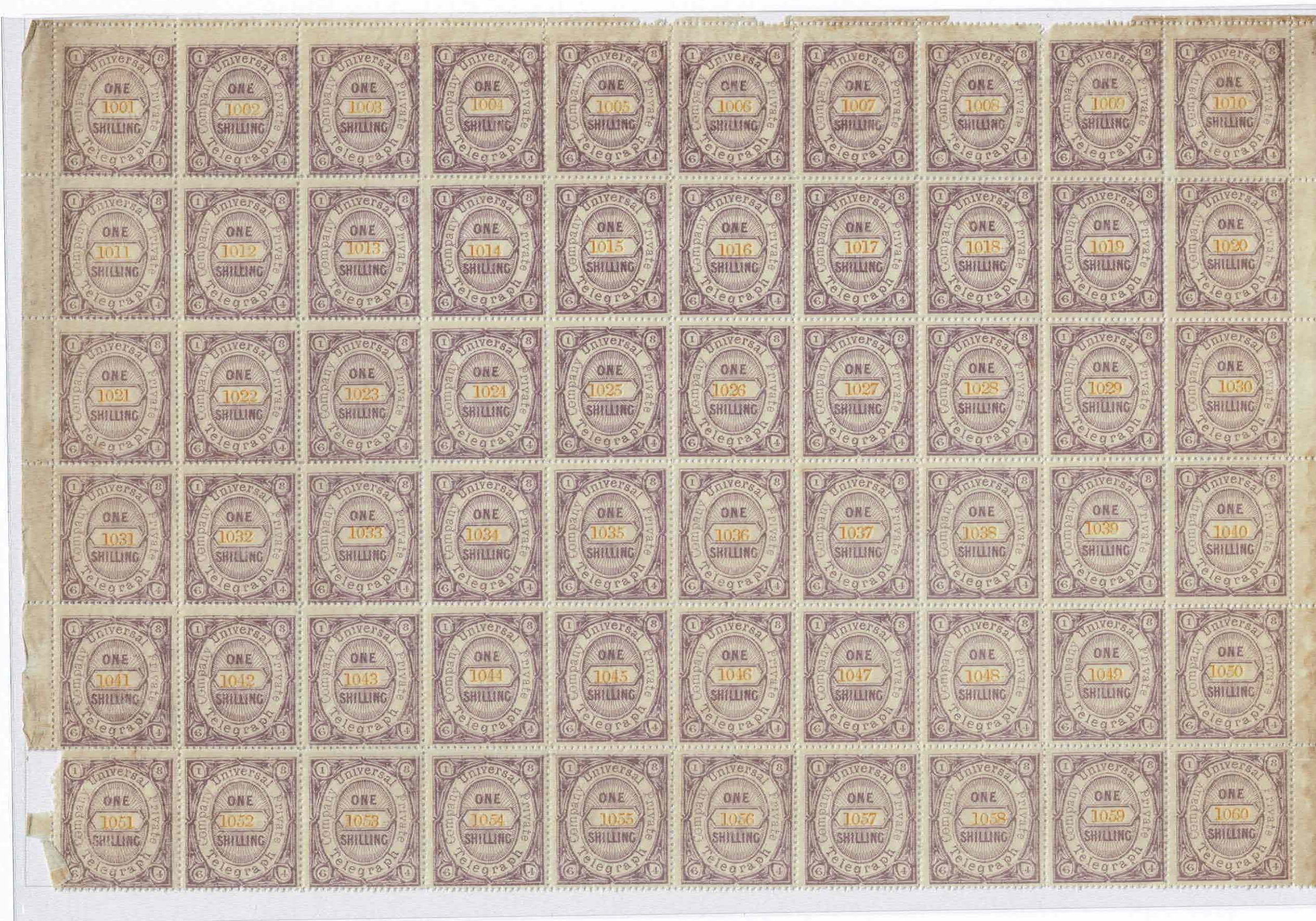




Full sheet of 100 stamps, red control No 5001 to 5100 (first 70 stamps shown here, remaining 30 folded over)

Langmead estimates the number of sheets printed of each control No colour (see previous page) while Panting indicates the likelihood of 100 sheets of each colour being printed, with remainders destroyed.





*Left: Block of 60 1/- stamps, yellow control No 1001 to 1060. Partial Inverted watermark "T.H.Saunders" shown above.*



*Above: Corner block of four from lower right hand of sheet, with green control numbers and where the sheet is a much lighter shade of lilac.*





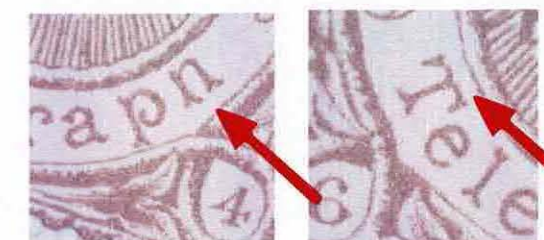
**Block of 40 6d stamps, with blue control numbers and first 8 columns of the full sheet.**

Like the 1/- sheet (and also the Bonelli sheets), the original 6d sheet engraved by Waterlow & Sons had a transfer block of five stamps, leading to a repeat of varieties every fifth stamp or column. The 6d stamp was created by removing 1/- centre and replacing with the 6d centre. The difficulty in this process was getting the values central and each of the five positions in the transfer block are slightly misplaced in some direction. This is probably the reason for the replacement of "n" for "h" in "Telegraph", the most significant variety, seen in columns 1 and 6. Steve Panting suggests this occurred because of excessive removal of the old 1/- centre. The variation can also be clearly seen by looking at the distance to the top of the "T" of "Telegraph" and its distance to the inner frame.

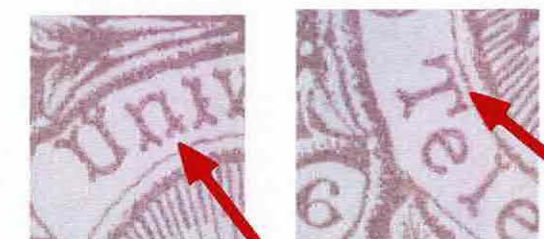
**Left:** Two further examples of this variety from column 1 are shown with green control numbers



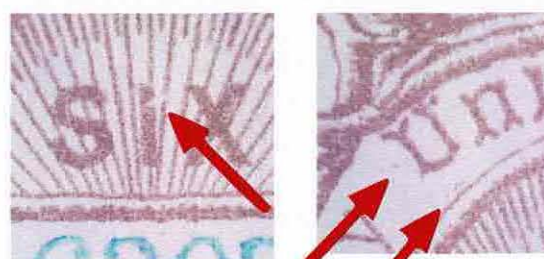
### Repeated varieties every fifth column



**Column 1 & 6:**  
"n" instead of "h" in "Telegraph".  
More central alignment of "T" in "Telegraph" see column 2.



**Column 2 & 7:**  
Mark on "n" of "Universal".  
"T" much closer to inner frame than in column 1.



**Column 3 & 8:**  
Scratched "I" in "SIX".  
Dot before and line under "U" of "Universal".



**Column 4 (& 9 on next page):**  
"y" of "Company" broken.  
Broken serif of "I" in top left corner.



**Column 5 (& 10 on next page):**  
Bulge in thick frame above "ra" in "Telegraph".



## Section 1.9 Private Telegraph Companies - Universal Private Telegraph Co.

6d Random varieties across  
every sheet

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 31 | 32 | 33 | 34 | 35 | 36 | 37 | 38 |
| 41 | 42 | 3  | 44 | 45 | 46 | 47 | 48 |

Stamp positions from  
block on previous page

|    |    |    |     |
|----|----|----|-----|
| 27 | 2  | 29 | 30  |
| 37 | 38 | 39 | 40  |
| 47 | 48 | 49 | 50  |
| 57 | 58 | 59 | 60  |
| 67 | 68 | 69 | 70  |
| 77 | 78 | 79 | 80  |
| 87 | 88 | 89 | 90  |
| 97 | 98 | 99 | 100 |

Right: Block  
Stamp positions



Position 44  
Lilac Control No.



Position 54



Position 5::  
Break in frame below "v"  
of "Private"



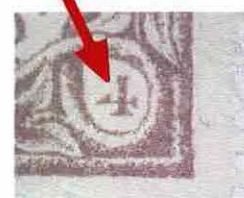
Position 7::  
Blob under "N" of "PENCE"



Position 21::  
Legs joined on bottom of "n"  
of "Universal"



Position 26::  
White marks/streaks on  
top left side of stamp.



Position 54::  
Diagonal stroke of "4" is broken  
in bottom right hand corner.



Position 77::  
Break in frame above "g"  
in "Telegraph".



Positions 59,69, 79,89 & 99:  
Additional mark/spot on the  
second "e" of "Telegraph".  
Consistent flaw on lower five  
rows column 9..



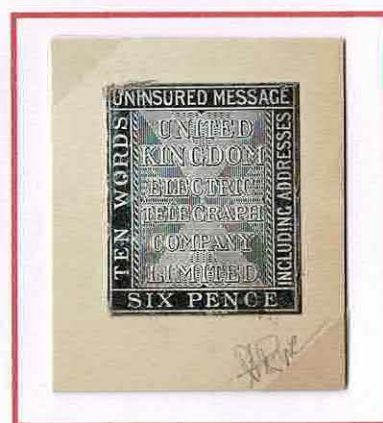


## Section 1.10 Private Telegraph Companies - United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Co. Ltd. 1860

**The United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Co. Ltd.** was established in July 1860 with the primary objective of offering a single low uniform rate of charging, along the same lines as the Penny Post. This rate started at 1/-s for 20 words regardless of the distance the telegram was communicated. The aggressive pricing strategy forced a price war with the other companies and the new company had to abandon the 1/-s rate in 1865 and revise its rates to be competitive with the other companies. This was because the company only had 305 miles of lines (16 stations) and the older establish companies reduced their rates at the locations served by The United Kingdom Electrical Co. Ltd. The new rate introduced by the company in 1865 was:

1/-s up to 100 miles  
1/6s 100-200 miles  
2/-s beyond 200 miles

United Kingdom Electric stamps were designed and recess printed by De La Rue and comb perforated at Somerset House. The first issue was in December 1861, in a vertical format, perf. 15 x 15½, with three values: 3d, 6d and 1/-s. The initial 1861 issue was without control numbers. Die proofs from the De La Rue archives are known for all three values.



*United Kingdom Telegraph Co. 6d vertical format die proof in black, cut to size and mounted on card, endorsed "De La Rue" in pencil on lower right side.*



*United Kingdom Telegraph Co. 1861  
3d brown-ochre, perf. 15 x 15½,  
6d rose, perf. perf. 15 x 15½,  
1/-s lilac on blued paper, perf. perf. 15 x 15½,  
All three stamps, without control numbers, rated R4 by  
Langmead, less than 10 copies of each existing.*



*United Kingdom  
Telegraph Co. 1/-s  
vertical issue on white  
paper, rated R3 by  
Langmead, "10 to 50  
copies existing).*



*United Kingdom Telegraph Co. 1861  
6d rose, perf. perf. 15 x 15½,  
1/-s lilac on blued paper, perf. perf. 15 x 15½,  
Both stamps, with control numbers, rated R4 by  
Langmead, less than 10 copies of each existing.*

The initial charge set by the United Kingdom Telegraph Co. was too low and had to be adjusted upwards, resulting in rates being set at two thirds those of its competitors. At the time of purchase by the Post Office, this was the second largest domestic inland telegraph company, second only to the Electric Telegraph Company.

The next issue of stamps was in a horizontal format, initially for 6d and 1s/-s values (1864), followed by 3d, 1s 6d and 2/-s values (1865).



*United Kingdom Telegraph Co. 1864  
3d (orange-yellow), Control numbers in  
small black print (3.5 mm), perf. 15 -  
15½, no watermark.*

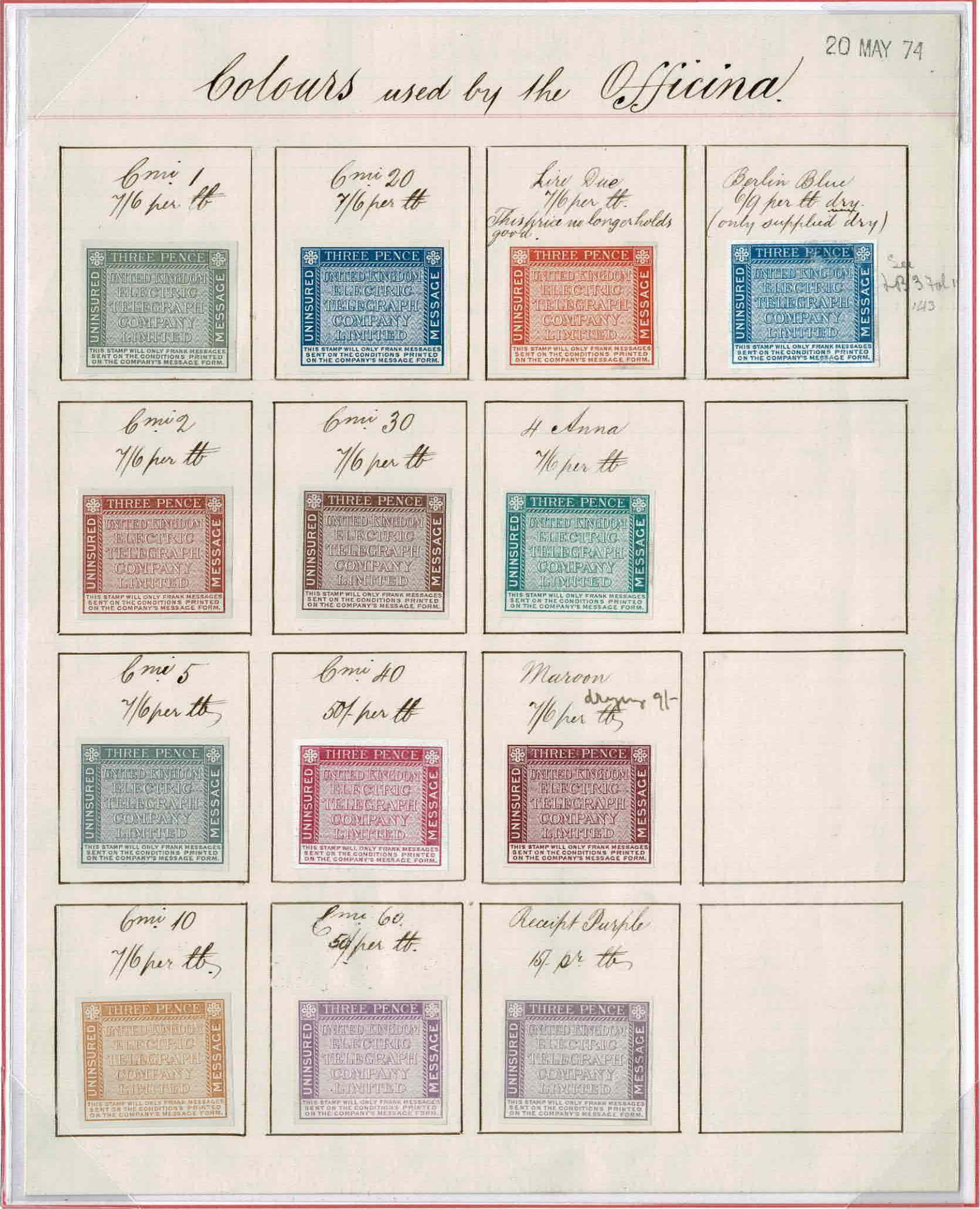


*United Kingdom Telegraph Co. 1865  
3d (orange-yellow), 6d (rose), 1s 6d (green) and 2/-s (brown) stamps. Control  
numbers in large black print (4.0 mm), perf. 15 - 15½, no watermark.*



*United Kingdom Telegraph Co. 1865  
Stamps with INT(interest) overprint were issued to  
shareholders in lieu of a cash dividend, when the  
company was facing financial difficulties.*





Left: De La Rue appendix page headed "Colours used by Officina", with imperforate UK Electric Telegraph Co. "THREE PENCE" colour trials in 13 different colours in horizontal format, all apparently supplied by De La Rue to the Italian printing works in Turin, including inks used in the Italy 1863-65 set of nine values and the 1867 20c stamps; four other trials include inks used for the Great Britain 1855-56 1d receipt stamps and the India 1865-78 4a stamps. The cost of the ink per pound is written alongside each of the colour trials. Appendix sheet dated 20 MAY 74. This is a unique De La Rue archival page.



United Kingdom Telegraph Co. THREE PENCE horizontal format. Two imperforate examples in blue and greenish-grey, fixed to card for use as colour samples of doubly fugitive inks by William Cousins of the Inland Revenue, dated "29 OCT 77", cancelled with a manuscript cross. Colours listed as "Aniline & Azuline" for the blue and "4cts Ceylon Post Reduced" for the greenish-grey. Item dated 29 OCT 77.



[2 d]

## THE UNITED KINGDOM ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY, LIMITED.

Promoters of the Uniform Shilling Charge for Telegrams, irrespective of Distance.

### CHIEF STATIONS NOW OPEN.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LONDON.—200, Fleet Street (Temple Bar).<br>" Gresham House, 103, Bishopsgate Street Entrance.<br>" 7, Mincing Lane, and 34, Fenchurch Street.<br>" Stock Exchange, Hercules Passage, Old Broad Street.<br>" 20, Cockspur Street, Charing Cross (Waterloo Chambers).<br>" 40, Gresham Street (opposite Milk Street).<br>" 65, High Holborn.<br>" 64, New Bond Street. | BRISTOL.—33, Corn Street.<br>CARDIFF.—1, James Street, Decks.<br>DUNDEE.<br>EDINBURGH.—1, Hanover Street.<br>EXETER.<br>GLASGOW.—3, Exchange Square.<br>GLOUCESTER.—Commercial Road.<br>HALIFAX.—14, Princess Street.<br>HARTLEPOOL.—(East and West).<br>HULL.—52, Lowgate.<br>LEEDS.—11, Park Row.<br>LEICESTER.—2, Hotel Street, St. Martin's.<br>LEITH.—Exchange Buildings.<br>LIVERPOOL.—Liverpool and London Insurance Buildings (C Basement).<br>" 40, Lime Street. | MANCHESTER.—1A, Cooper Street.<br>" Bank Street, St. Ann's Sq. (Opposite principal entrance, Royal Exchange).<br>NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Prince's Buildings, Queen Street.<br>NEWPORT.—16, Dock Street.<br>" 172½, Commercial Street.<br>NOTTINGHAM.—1, Carlton Street.<br>PLYMOUTH.<br>ROCHDALE.—5, Yorkshire Street.<br>SHEFFIELD.—66, High Street.<br>SHIELDS (North and South).<br>SUNDERLAND.—East Cross Street.<br>SWANSEA.—Somerset Place, Adelaide St.<br>WAKEFIELD.—Old Corn Exchange.<br>WOLVERHAMPTON.—67, Queen Street. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

The following Message has been received at \_\_\_\_\_ Station,

Oct 26 1865

FROM John Clerk Halifax

TO John Clerk Bradford

The Pomerby bridge arbitrations will not last over the sixth November

26 Oct 1865 used United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Co. Ltd. Telegram delivery form – shows 14 chief telegraph stations across Great Britain.

**Left: De La Rue appendix page A (circa 1878) Fugitive inks test sheet- tested oxalic acid and benzene**  
Rare original De La Rue document comparing the effectiveness of "singly fugitive" and "doubly fugitive" inks when subjected to attempted cancellation removal.

Top three rows – Stamps printed in singly fugitive inks  
Bottom three rows – Stamps printed in doubly fugitive inks  
First Column – Stamps left intact (untreated)  
Second Column – Stamps obliterated by printing when treated with benzene - experimental "BO1" numeral inscribed.  
Third Column – Stamps obliterated by writing and then treated with oxalic acid.

Bottom two rows - United Kingdom Electric Telegraph Co, colour trial stamps





When the Message is in excess of fifty words, the additional words may be written on ordinary paper, attached to the Message form by pin, or wafer, or gum.

27



## Section 2 Telegraph Transition to Post Office

## Transmission Payment using Pre Paid Forms

1869 - 1874

The A1 Transmission Form was also issued as a pre-paid version (green 1/- indicium). Upper form, marked specimen, was printed on 22 Nov 1869, and was part of a booklet version of 20 forms. Lower form, printed 15 Dec 1869, was a single format form.

**A. 1.**

### POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

The Blank spaces below are for use by the Officers of the Post Office only, and the Public are requested not to write in or over them.

|                 |                            |                |              |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Prefix .....    | Words to be signalled      | <b>CHARGE.</b> | Number ..... |
| Code Time ..... | In Address (Free).....     | Telegram ..... |              |
|                 | In Telegram (Charged)..... |                |              |

**PAID.**

**A. 1.**

### POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

The Blank spaces below are for use by the Officers of the Post Office only, and the Public are requested not to write in or over them.

|                   |                            |                       |              |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Prefix .....      | Words to be signalled      | <b>CHARGE.</b>        | Number ..... |
| Code Time .....   | In Address (Free).....     | Telegram .....        |              |
| Received at ..... | In Telegram (Charged)..... | Repeating .....       |              |
| Sent at .....     | In Instructions .....      | Reply .....           |              |
| To .....          |                            | Extra Copies .....    |              |
| By me .....       |                            | Porterage .....       |              |
|                   |                            | Special Charges ..... |              |
|                   | Total .....                | Total .....           |              |

**HOW PAID.**

In Stamps .....

In Money .....

Total .....



The extra charges for transmission, portorage, &c., are, as far as is possible, to be paid by Postage Stamps affixed in this space.

**FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS ONLY.**

Name and Address of the Sender of the Telegram.

*From*

Name and Full Address of the Person to whom the Telegram is to be delivered.

*To*

In each of the spaces below, one word only should be written. The first five words of the Message should be written in the five spaces into which the first line is divided; the second five words in the spaces on the second line, and so on. Numbers must be written in words. It is particularly requested that the Messages may be written distinctly.

| Words | Charge |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------|--------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 20    | 1/-    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 25    | 1/3    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 30    | 1/6    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 35    | 1/9    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 40    | 2/-    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 45    | 2/3    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 50    | 2/6    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

When the Message is in excess of fifty words, the additional words may be written on ordinary paper, attached to the Message form by pin, or wafer, or gum.

**Y.**

Address Free.

ten in the five on. Numbers

If the Telegram is to be delivered by special means, such as horse express or cab, or if it is to be sent beyond the free delivery and is not to go by special means, but may be detained till next delivery by Post, the form of request at the back must be filled up accordingly.

If the Telegram is to be delivered by special means, such as horse express or cab, or if it is to be sent beyond the free delivery and is not to go by special means, but may be detained till next delivery by Post, the form of request at the back must be filled up accordingly.

attached to the Message form by pin, or wafer, or gum.

Reverse of form outlines the new uniform rate for inland telegrams: 1/- for 20 words and 3d for each additional 5 words (or part of). The address was not charged and the form itself was charged at the embossed indicia charge, additional words paid with postage stamps.



Left: Initial public form used by Post Office where both the lion and the unicorn are looking towards the crown on top of the shield. Form was printed in August 1870 by Waterlow & Sons, London and is blank on reverse. Form is set up to take up to 50 words (recorded in rows of five for ease of counting).

Below Post Office Telegraph Transmission Form A G/D for use by Government Departments or the Royal family. The form is folded over, with a series of nine plain lines on the lower section. The form was printed in 1870 by Wyman & Sons, London and remained in used throughout the period of this study.  
The coat of arms has the lion looking towards the viewer while the unicorn is looking towards the crown on top of the shield.

Charges to Pay \_\_\_\_\_



**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.**

From James McKeever  
Windermere

To Mr John Harris  
McKeever  
Wigton Cumberland

Received at \_\_\_\_\_

DATED  
P  
WIGTON  
25 JULY  
72  
STAMP.

train here will be  
errow morning first Train  
ur folks

Windermere 3:40 pm

Waterlow & Sons, Printers, London.

**A G/D**

Office Stamp



**POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.**

Counter No. \_\_\_\_\_

Foreign No. \_\_\_\_\_

Handed over to Cable Comp<sup>t</sup>. at \_\_\_\_\_

Government Dispatch.  
to be forwarded by the best route available.

I Certify that this Telegram is sent on the business of the Office.  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
For use of Post Office.

| Prefix    |      | No. of Chargeable Words<br>(If in Cipher)<br>No. of plain Words<br>Groups<br>Ciphers | SERVICE INSTRUCTIONS<br>AS TO ROUTE. | CHARGES         |            | L. | s. | d. |
|-----------|------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|----|----|----|
| A.M.      | P.M. |                                                                                      |                                      | Telegram        | Repetition |    |    |    |
| Code Time |      |                                                                                      |                                      | Acknowledgment  |            |    |    |    |
| Sent at   |      |                                                                                      |                                      | Reply           |            |    |    |    |
| To        |      |                                                                                      |                                      | Extra Copies    |            |    |    |    |
| By me     |      |                                                                                      |                                      | Re-direction    |            |    |    |    |
|           |      |                                                                                      |                                      | Special Charges |            |    |    |    |
|           |      |                                                                                      |                                      | Total           |            |    |    |    |

Counterman to sign here \_\_\_\_\_

The Name and Address of the Sender, if to be telegraphed, must be written at the end of the Telegram.

TO {

Above: Telegraph Delivery Form sent from Windermere, Lake District to Wigton on 23 July 1872, alerting receiver that sender had missed their train. Likely this was sent from the Railway Station.



Left: Revised public form with new coat of arms, where both the lion and unicorn are looking outwards away from the crown and shield. This coat of arms remained for the first fifty years of telegraph operation by the Post Office.



1870 1d (plate 138) used block of 12 stamps to pay the 1/- telegraph tariff, cancelled at Birmingham Telegraph Office on 2 April 1872.



1/- and 6d stamps, cancelled at Birmingham Telegraph Office during 1872.



3d cancelled at DUBLIN 29 COLLEGE GREEN on 13 June 1872.



1/- cancelled "PP12/PAID" used at Sutton.



No. of Message .....

Charges to pay } £.....s.....d.

## POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

**Regulation as to Inland Telegrams.**

If the Receiver of an Inland Message doubts its accuracy, he may have it repeated on paying half the cost of its transmission to him. In the event of an error having been made, the amount paid for repetition will be refunded on application to the Secretary.

Office of Origin College Green, Dublin handed in at 4.50 M.; Sent out at 5.15 M.

From John Sharpe To G. W. Thompson  
9 Home St. Dublin Kells. Station

| Words | Charge |
|-------|--------|
| 20    | 1/-    |
| 25    | 1/3    |
| 30    | 1/6    |
| 35    | 1/9    |
| 40    | 2/-    |

*All right Colonel in Newbridge  
 Will see you Monday morning  
 ten or twelve I arranged for the  
 Letter hour.*

When the cost of a reply to a Telegram has been prepaid, and the number of words in the reply is in excess of the prepayment, the sender of the reply must pay for any excess of words over the number so prepaid. The reply must be handed in at the Office from which the original Telegram was delivered.

A prepaid reply to a Message must be handed in within two days from the date of the original Message, or it will be charged for in the ordinary way, but the money prepaid will be returned on application to the Secretary.

Telegrams may be re-directed from town to town at an extra charge of *one-half* the ordinary inland tariff, fractions of threepence being reckoned as twopence, but in such cases they must not have been opened.

**N.B.**—It will materially assist the Department if, in making any inquiry respecting this Telegram, the Applicant will enclose this form in his Letter. In the case of a Foreign Message, the application should be addressed to the Administration to which the Message was handed in the first instance.

Jas. Truscott & Son, London.

Above: Telegraph Delivery Form sent from Dublin to Kells, Co Meath, on 4 Nov. 1871. Form printed by James Truscott & Sons, London. Format reduced to fit 40 words rather than 50, reverse of form is blank.



## Section 2 Post Office Nationalisation - Railway Station Telegraph Hand Stamps issued by Post Office in England & Wales

### Railway Station Cancels for telegraph usage

The Post Office took control of the telegraph offices on 5<sup>th</sup> February 1870, a total of 1000 telegraph offices and 1800 railway station offices. Postal telegraph offices used their own office cancellations but the railway telegraphic offices, which acted only as agents of the Post Office, were issued plain numbered 16 mm circular handstamps for use in England and Wales;

1-1569 Stations in England & Wales (Circle with no.)

These were issued on 30 June 1870 and any additions or replacements were issued with a larger 23mm circle and with the letter A added after the number.



72 Bagworth  
Leic., MID



50 Arundel,  
Sussex (LSCR)



93 Barnham Junc.  
Sussex (LBSC)



117 Bedford  
Beds., LNW/MID



152 New St,  
Birmingham  
Works., LNW



206 Braemor  
Hants., LSW



270 Canon St,  
Middx., M&M/SE



306 Chard Junc.  
Somerset, LSW



429 Didcot  
Berks., GW



439 Dorking  
Surrey, LBSC/SE&C



480 Egham  
Surrey, L&SW



511 Exeter  
Devons, LSW



543 Folkstone Har.  
Kent, SE&C



570 Gloucester  
Glos., GW



573 Glyn Neath  
Glam., GWR



588 Grantham  
Lincs., GN



589 Grateley  
Hants., LSWR



671 Hildenborough  
Kent, SE&C



703 Huddersfield  
Yorks., LNWR



704 Hull Paragon  
Yorks., NE



726 Kegsworth  
Notts., MID



758 Kirklington  
Notts., MID



803 Lincoln  
Lincs., GW&GC



814 Lime St  
Liverpool, LNWR



822 Landrillo  
Merioneth,  
GWR



823 Landudno  
Denbigshire  
LNWR



839 London Bridge  
SE&C



855 Ludgate Hill  
London  
LC&D



877 Manchester  
L&YR/ LNWR



878 Victoria  
Manchester  
L&YR/ LNWR



900 Mary Tavey  
Devon  
LSWR



935 Moat Lane  
Montgomery  
CAM



973 Newcastle  
Upon Tyne  
NE&NB



985 New Milford  
Pemb., GWR



## Section 2 Post Office Nationalisation - Railway Station Telegraph Hand Stamps issued by Post Office in England & Wales



1070 Petworth  
Sussex,  
LBSC



1082 Plymouth  
Devon, GWR



1103 Portsmouth  
Harbour  
Hants., LBSC



1108 Preston  
Lincs.,  
LNWR/LYR



1126 Ramskill  
Notts., GN



1172 Rugby  
Warwick, LNWR



1240 Sherburn  
Yorks., NER



1251 Shrewbury  
Salop.,  
GWR/LNWR



1256 Silverdale  
Lincs., Furness



1265 Snaith  
Yorks., LYR



1292 Stafford  
Staffs., LNWR



1349 Swansea Docks  
Glam., GWR



1352 Swindon  
Wilts., GWR



1400 Torre  
Devon, GWR



1469 Waterloo  
London LSWR



1504 Wickham  
Suffolk, GE



1567 York  
Yorks., NE

### Railway Telegraph Handstamps - Usage and Replacement

The most common telegraph tariff was paid with a 1/- adhesive (20 words), with 6d and 3d adhesives being used to add words. Less common was the use of 4d and 5/- adhesives.

New Railway Telegraph Stations were allocated larger 23mm circular handstamps and replacement handstamps also were this larger size, where the number was usually suffixed with a capital "A".

Dates of issue are recorded for individual replacement handstamps.



27A Alton, Staffs., NS., Issued 12 May 1871



41A Appley Bridge  
Lincs., GN  
14 Nov 1885



69 Aynho  
Northants., GW  
1 Nov. 1887



78 Balham  
Surrey,  
LB&SC  
8 July 1874



150 Snow Hill  
Birmingham, LNWR  
18 June 1886



475A Ecclesfield  
Sheffield, MID/GC  
28 April 1884



499 Erith  
London, SE&C  
3 April 1873



679 Holborn  
Viaduct, Yorks.,  
24 April 1874



714 Ingersby, Leics., GN  
Issued on 18 April 1891



818 Llandebie  
Carm., GWR  
14 May 1874



849 Lowdham  
Notts., MID  
26 July 1875



1253 Sidcup  
Kent., SE&C  
20 April 1872



1362 Taplow, Berks., GWR,  
Issued on 27 September 1873



**Right: 22 of Oldcastle**



A rare multiple and the largest recorded telegraphic cancel for an Irish railway station

Telegram sent from Limerick Railway Station to Post Office at College Green, Dublin on 6 May 1870. These large receiving forms were used through the entire Post Office network from 1870 to 1876. The rates were printed on the left margin of the form, which was printed by James Truscott & Son, London. The reverse of the form is blank and the 19 word message would have been covered by the 1/- cost



Scottish Railway Handstamps

The telegraph handstamps issued to the Scottish railway stations were in the shape of rectangles, containing the appropriate number. These numbers ranged from 1 to 270. The initial date of issue was 10 March 1870, but dates of later additions are added below.



13A Arnage  
Aberdeen, GN  
24 Dec. 1872



52 Castlecary  
Dumbarton, NB  
10 Mar. 1870



78A Drybridge  
Ayr, GSW/HR  
13 Nov. 1875



111 Garnkirk  
1anark, Cal  
20 Mar.1870



119 Gogar  
Edinburgh, NB  
4 Aug. 1871



135 Hawthornden  
Edinburgh, NB  
10 Mar. 1870



73 Denny  
Stirling, Cal  
10 Mar. 1870



137 Hellensburgh  
Dumbarton, NB  
10 Mar. 1870



154 Kilkerran  
Ayr, GSW  
10 Mar. 1870



124 Granton, Edinburgh, NB  
Issued 10 Mar. 1870  
Block of 12 (RE - RH) , 3d rose plate 6



185 Longniddry  
Haddington, NB  
10 Mar. 1870



204 Monifieth  
Forfar, D&A  
10 Mar. 1870



269A Whitehouse  
Aberdeen, GN



270 Winchburgh  
Linlithgow, NB  
10 Mar. 1870

[Railway Station Delivery Form.]  
(205 w.)

**ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.**

Charges to Pay.  
Message : : | Portorage : : | Cab Hire : : | TOTAL : :  
The following Message, received at Biggleswade Station, Feb 15th 1862

FROM  
Name Rhodan and Co  
AND Six Three Bagnard  
Address St. Ann

TO  
Name J J Harker Esq  
AND Schiller  
Address Biggleswade Beds

*Waters and Perry stands number two in the paper for tomorrow - It may come on at Ten O'clock. We expect to see you and your Wretches at our Office at half past nine at the latest*

*J. Farr* Clerk.

Generic Railway Station telegraph delivery form prior to Post Office ownership  
Sen to Biggleswade Railway Station, Bedfordshire on 15 February 1862.



Non Railway Telegraph Branch Office numbers

A series of triangular handstamps were also issued to the non railway telegraph offices, which identified each of the transmitting and receiving offices. The two or three letter codes were used as a short hand address for signalling, which cut down the time needed for transmission. The most important offices were given two letters with the main London office located at St Martins Le Grand (code SM). In this case the individual branch offices associated with SM were given a series of numbers to further identify them. The telegraph handstamps quickly took on other uses, most significantly in cancelling certain types of printed matter and parcel labels (only a small number of the codes were used for these postal usages).



Bristol (BS) Cardiff Docks (CBV) Chester-Le-Street (CGU) Edinburgh Leith BO (EGL) Edinburgh (EH)



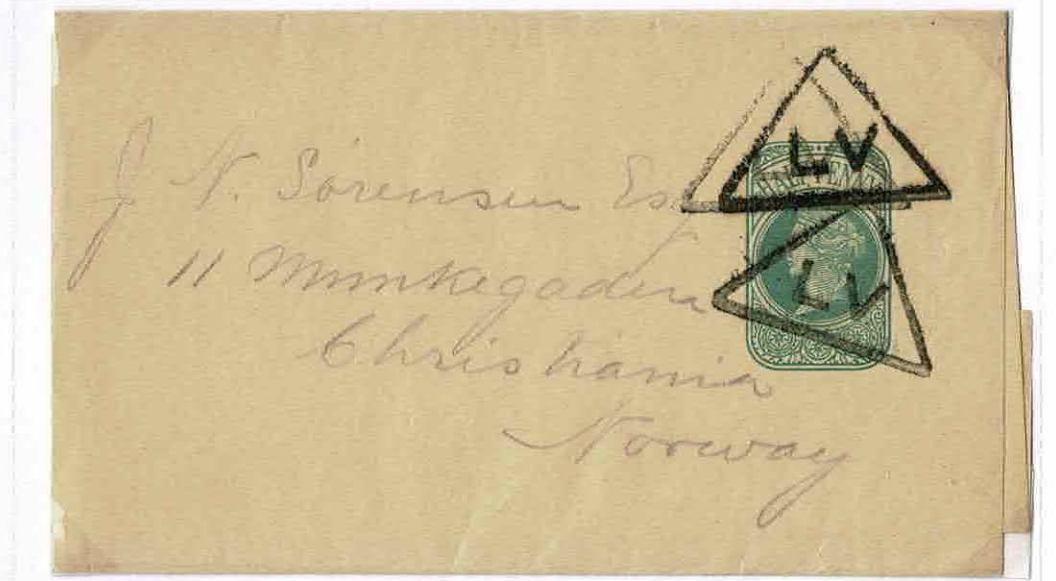
Grimsby (GY) Hull (HU) Inishbofin (IFB) Liverpool (LV) Liverpool Canning Place (LIZ)



Liverpool Corn Exchange (LGF) Liverpool Exchange BO (LX) Newcastle-on Tyne (NT) Plymouth (PY) St Martins-Le-Grand London (SM)



South Western District Office (SW) Swansea (SX) Western District Office, London (WD) Wisbech (WJ) West Hartlepool (WP)

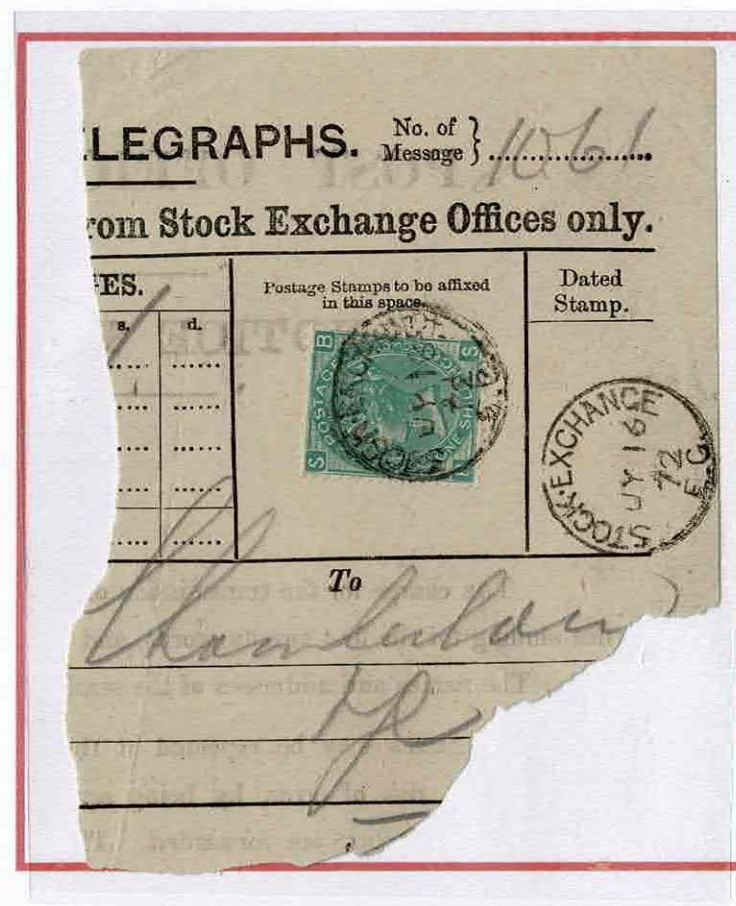


Telegraph hand stamps used to cancel printed matter at Liverpool Exchange Branch Office, Liverpool Main Office and Newcastle on Tyne office.



The **stock exchange forgery** was a fraud perpetrated at the London Stock Exchange during 1872 and 1873. It involved the application of forged postage stamps to telegraph forms. These forms were usually destroyed after transmission of the message and the fraud was only discovered 25 years later. A clerk or clerks applied a mixture of real and forged postage stamps and the fraud was successful because the stamps, though not precise in detail, were not retained by the customer. The forgery was detected for several reasons :

- (1) Some stamps had impossible lettering, such as that with positions BS or EM above
- (2) Forgeries were not on watermarked paper.
- (3) Forgeries were less expertly printed e.g. differences in shading above.



Stock Exchange cancel 16<sup>th</sup> July 1872  
Plate 5 Forgery - less defined shading  
pattern. **Impossible lettering BS position.**



Stock Exchange cancel 29<sup>th</sup> July 1872  
Plate 5 Forgery - less defined shading  
pattern. **Impossible lettering EM position.**



**Non Forgery for Comparison**  
Block of six cancelled at Glasgow Stock  
Exchange 21 Feb. 1872 Plate 5 Standard  
Shading for Post Office Issue.



Stock Exchange cancel, on piece, 16<sup>th</sup> July  
1872. Plate 5 Forgery - less defined shading  
pattern. Possible lettering DE position.





## 2.0 Telegraph Transition to Post Office

**Telegraph Form A:** The date of printing of each form is easily identified by the Date plugs on the green indicia. As forms were strictly required to be destroyed after use (for confidentiality), only the cut out indicia have survived in numbers.



Printed 28.8.71  
Used: Fairfax Rd, Hampstead  
2 DE 71



Printed 2.9.71  
Used: LEES  
27 MY 72



Printed 24.9.71  
Used: Stourport  
1 SE 72



Printed 1.10.71  
Used: Douglas, Isle of Man  
2 NO 72



Printed 7.10.71  
Used: College Green, Dublin  
25 JU 72



Printed 11.10.71  
Used: Foyle Street, Derry  
17 AU 72



Printed 1.07.72  
Used: Seething Lane  
13 AU 72



Printed 1.07.72  
Used: Longford  
30 DE 72

## Priority Telegraph Transmission Forms

1872 - 1874

**A. POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.**

No. of Message { } \_\_\_\_\_

Counter Clerk to write M. M. Instructions here.

| Prefix           | A.M. | P.M. | Words to be signalled.      | CHARGE.         | How Paid. |
|------------------|------|------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Received at      |      |      | In Addresses (Free)...      | Telegram        | s. d.     |
| Code Time        |      |      | In Telegram (Charged)       | Repeating       | s. d.     |
| Sent at          |      |      | In Instructions             | Reply           |           |
| To the Office at |      |      | Total                       | Excess in R.P.  | In Stamps |
| By me            |      |      | Counter Clerk to sign here. | Extra Copies    | In Money  |
|                  |      |      |                             | Re-direction    | Total     |
|                  |      |      |                             | Porterage       |           |
|                  |      |      |                             | Special Charges |           |
|                  |      |      |                             | Total           |           |

The blank spaces above are for use by the Officers of the Post Office only, and the Public are requested not to write in or over them.

**FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS ONLY.**  
It is particularly requested that the Message may be written distinctly.

Name and Address of the Sender of the Telegram. Addresses Free. *From* \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Full Address of the Person to whom the Telegram is to be delivered. *To* \_\_\_\_\_

In each of the spaces below, one word only should be written. The first five words of the Message should be written in the five spaces into which the line is divided, and so on. When the Message is in excess of forty words, the additional words may be written on ordinary paper attached to the Message Form by pin, or wafer, or gum.

| Words | Charge |
|-------|--------|
| 20    | 1/-    |
| 25    | 1/3    |
| 30    | 1/6    |
| 35    | 1/9    |
| 40    | 2/-    |

1. If the Sender requires the above Telegram to be forwarded by Post or by Train from the Terminal Station, he should write the words "By Post" or "By Train," as the case may be, in the following space. If, however, no such instructions be given, it will be delivered according to circumstances in the following manner, viz.: If the Addressee resides within one mile of the Terminal Telegraph Office, or within the limits of the Town Postal Delivery, the Telegram will be delivered free. Beyond those limits, and if the whole distance to be traversed be under 3 miles, a charge of 6d. per mile counting from the delivery office will be charged; and if the distance be over 3 miles, the Telegram will be delivered by Horse Express at the charge of 1s. per mile, except in the case of a Telegram to Ireland, where the charge is 8d. a mile.

2. The cost of a reply to a Telegram may be prepaid, and a Form of Authority will in that case be delivered to the Addressee, who will be at liberty to send his reply from any Postal Telegraph Station at any time within two months after the date of the original message. If the Form of Authority be not used, application for the return of the money should be made by the holder of the form to the Secretary, General Post Office, London.

3. The Department is not liable for losses incurred through the incorrect transmission, delay, or non-delivery of Telegrams.

Millington & Hutton, Manufacturing and Wholesale Stationers, London.



**PRIORITY.**

Large A Form ruled for 40 words, printed by Millington & Hutton on 1st August 1874. This form, unlike the A.1 counterpart, does not have printed instructions on reverse.



2.0 Telegraph Transition to Post Office

**Green 1/- embossed Postal Telegraph Card:** The Postal Telegraph Cards were designed to allow people to send a telegraph from their local Post Office letter box (e.g. Post Office closed between 8pm and 8am). The cards were first issued in February 1872 with space for up to 20 words, at a cost of one shilling. The sender was required to write their message in the space provided, the card was then placed in a special free envelope and posted. Once the card arrived at the Post Office, it was given to the Telegraph Clerk who proceeded to send the telegraph in the normal way. Postal Telegraph Cards were withdrawn from use on 31 January 1876.

POSTAL TELEGRAPH CARD.  
FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS ONLY.  
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.  
1.—This Card is intended for use by persons who either cannot, or do not desire to, send a Message to the nearest Telegraph Office proper (i.e. to an Office which has the means of transmission by wire), and who are content to deposit it where it will be carried for them, free of expense, to an Office from which it can be sent by wire. If it be deposited in a Pillar Box, Wall Box, or ordinary Post Office Letter Box, it will be carried to a Telegraph Office on the next ensuing clearance of the Box in which it is deposited. The person who wishes to deposit one of these Cards in such a Box may ascertain from the Table of Collections on or over the Box, how long his Message will remain in the Box before it is taken to a Telegraph Office.  
2.—Most of the Telegraph Offices in the Kingdom are closed between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m., and as time is required for transmission between Office and Office, it must be borne in mind that if a Card be deposited in a Box at such a time that it cannot reach a Telegraph Office before 7 p.m., it may not reach its destination until after 8 a.m. on the following day.

ONE SHILLING

From

To

One word only should be written in each space, from left to right across the card.

If the sender wishes other than the usual means to be employed in the delivery of the Message the means must be described here.

By

MIN. A.M.

MIN. P.M.

Reverse: Printed 29.1.72. Coat of Arms with lion looking outwards towards viewer (original post coat of arms used by Post Office).

Printed 1.2. 72. Coat of Arms with lion looking outwards towards viewer (original post coat of arms used by Post Office).

From

To

One word only should be written in each space, from left to right across the Card.

If the sender wishes other than the usual means to be employed in the delivery of the Message the means must be described here.

By

**Plain card, no indicium.** Coat of Arms with lion looking towards unicorn (second post coat of arms used by Post Office). Card has been described as both a remainder (surplus to requirement) or to allow use with a 1/- postage stamp.

Postal Telegraph Cards

1872 - 1876

POSTAL TELEGRAPH CARD.  
FOR INLAND TELEGRAMS ONLY.  
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.  
1.—This Card is intended for use by persons who either cannot, or do not desire to, send a Message to the nearest Telegraph Office proper (i.e. to an Office which has the means of transmission by wire), and who are content to deposit it where it will be carried for them, free of expense, to an Office from which it can be sent by wire. If it be deposited in a Pillar Box, Wall Box, or ordinary Post Office Letter Box, it will be carried to a Telegraph Office on the next ensuing clearance of the Box in which it is deposited. The person who wishes to deposit one of these Cards in such a Box may ascertain from the Table of Collections on or over the Box how long his Message will remain in the Box before it is taken to a Telegraph Office.  
2.—Most of the Telegraph Offices in the Kingdom are closed between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m., and as time is required for transmission between Office and Office, it must be borne in mind that if a Card be deposited in a Box at such a time that it cannot reach a Telegraph Office before 7 p.m., it may not reach its destination until after 8 a.m. on the following day.

ONE SHILLING

From

To

One word only should be written in each space, from left to right across the Card.

If the sender wishes other than the usual means to be employed in the delivery of the Message the means must be described here.

By

MIN. A.M.

MIN. P.M.

Reverse: Printed 15.2.72 (SPECIMEN). Coat of Arms with lion looking towards unicorn (second coat of arms used by Post Office).

Printed 9.2. 72. Coat of Arms with lion looking towards unicorn (second coat of arms used by Post Office).

**Telegraph Envelope.** Free cover (ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE) adapted for sending telegraph cards to the post office for transmission. Used Dublin 22 July 1871, from G.C.Cornwall (GPO Secretary, Sir Rowland Hill's representative since 1857).

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

TELEGRAPHS.

Mrs. A. Wallace & Co

DUBLIN. 22 JUL 1871

G. C. CORNWALL.  
GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
DUBLIN.

38

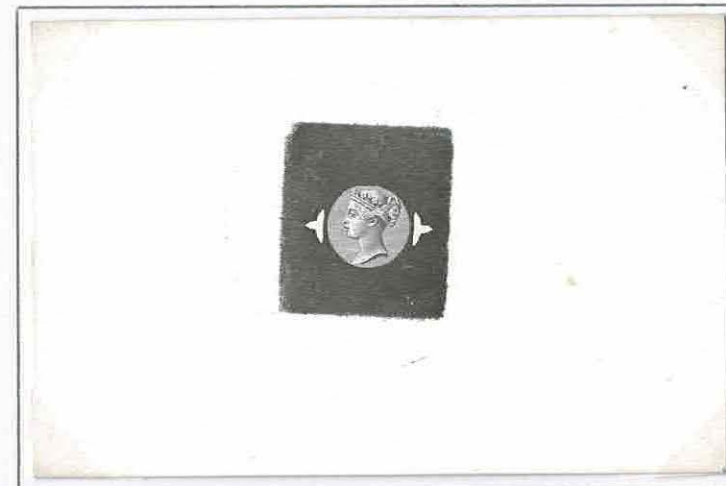


## Section 3.1 Post Office Second Issue

## One Pence Brown Stamps

February 1876

The first dedicated Post Office telegraph stamps were issued on 1st February 1876 in denominations of 1d, 3d, 1/- and 5/-. The Post Office attempted to match the colours of the new telegraphic stamps with those of existing postage stamps. As De La Rue did not print a 1d stamp at this time, they used the same paper as the 2/- Irish dog licence stamp. This allowed for printing of 240 stamps in same orientation as the required telegraph stamps. From 1st May 1876, ordinary postage stamps were no longer accepted as payment for telegraphic fees. All the Post Office telegraphic stamps were surface printed in a horizontal format in order to distinguish from postage stamps.



One of two small head dies prepared by De La Rue but not adopted.  
Small Head 2:  
19 pearls in upper band  
3 lines in hair bandeau  
11mm diameter circle,  
March/April 1875.



Adopted Die, similar to above except in head size:  
20 pearls in upper band  
3 lines in hair bandeau  
13mm diameter circle  
Dated July 6 (one of seven on this date).  
No plate or check letters.



Die Proof Plate 2 lettered AA, one of only two for this plate, with the other dated 22 July 1875.

### The 1d Brown

Issue Date: 1 Feb. 1876  
Plates: 5  
Printer: De La Rue  
Watermark: shamrocks  
Perforation: 14



Scarcity: (Pinwill census)

|         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|
| Plate 1 | 2 Mint  | 7 Used  |
| Plate 2 | 5 Mint  | 10 Used |
| Plate 3 | 10 Mint | 14 Used |



1875 Unique hand printed essay for 1d value from the De La Rue Archives, prepared in 1875 for initial issue but not adopted.  
Essay is black and Chinese white on thick card. Ex A.J. Lowe

### Plates

Stamps are only known from the first three plates, plate 5 was adapted and dedicated to the 1/2d stamp in 1881 and no stamps are known from plate 4 (destroyed by Post Office)

### Scarcity

Scarcity of Post Office telegraph stamps is based on database compiled by Dr Ian Pinwill (9874 stamps from multiple sources – 7778 used and 2096 mint – January 2024). Higher numbers indicate scarcer (1 is most common and 37 is most scarce).



1876 1d, red-brown adhesive stamps (Plate 3) – marginal block of 40, Specimen Type 9, showing marginal dividing ornament.



PLATE 1 Scarcity Mint (2) Used (7) - Pinwill Census



Mint Pair (QL-RL)

Used Liverpool (BH-CH)  
24 Nov 1876Used Belfast (CF-DF)  
18 Aug 1880Belfast (CA)  
12 Sept 1877Glasgow (HC)  
12 Dec 1877Bradford (TL)  
12 Dec 1877Dundee (BA)  
3 April 1878Ballyhaunis (AJ)  
14 Feb 1882

PLATE 2 Scarcity Mint (5) Used (10) - Pinwill Census



Mint (EB)

Portobello SC  
17 July 1877Newcastle CK  
1 Aug 1878Liverpool (KL)  
3 March 1880Kilkenny (LB)  
20 July 1880

**Scarcity:** There are 37 possible Post Office stamps (all values and all plates) and Pinwill has arranged these from most common (No.1) to rarest (No.37).



Above: Two 1d telegraphic stamps (Plate 1) affixed to certificate (receipt) to confirm payment for sending telegram from Ladbroke Corner Post Office on 3rd October 1878.

Left: Similar pair on piece (Plate 1) used to pay for telegram receipt at Belfast on 23 June 1880.



Largest known used block from plate 2, cancelled with nine Aberdeen strikes for MY. 25 76.

Used multiples beyond pairs are rare (two blocks of 4, one block of 8 and this block of 9 are only ones recorded).

PLATE 3 Scarcity Mint (10) Used (14) Pinwill Census



Mint (BC)

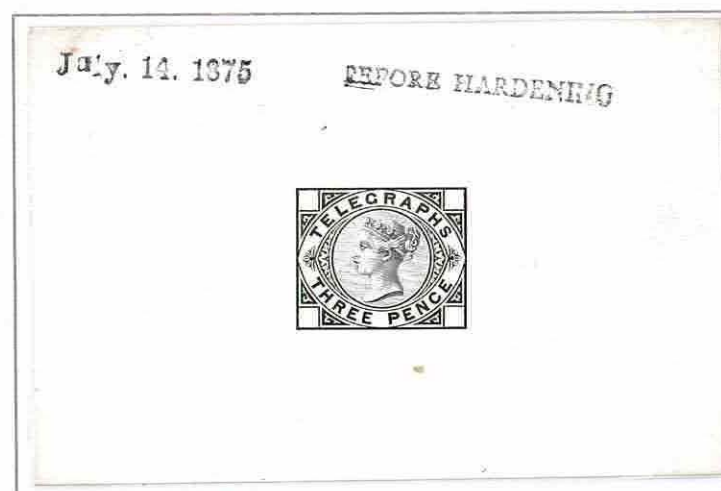
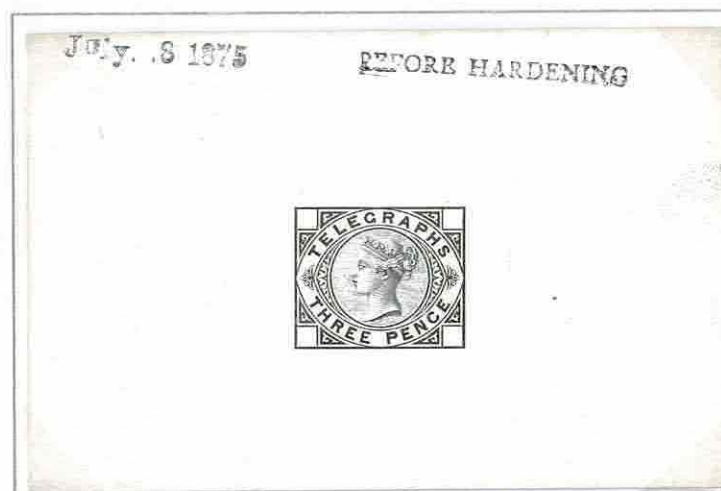
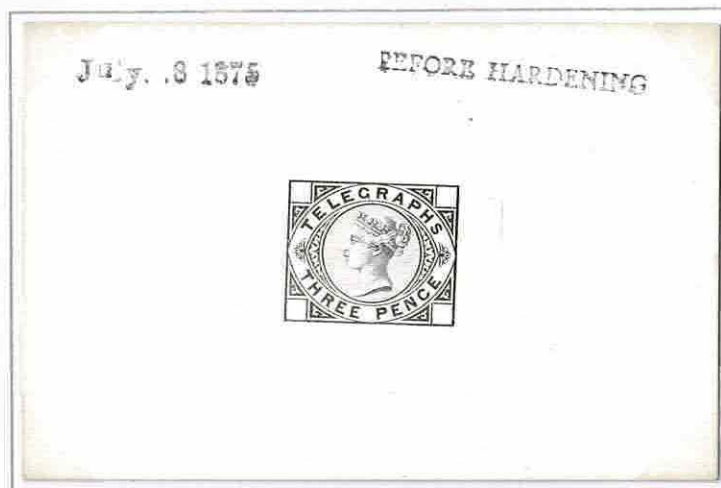
Liverpool (MF-NF)  
10 Sept 1880Belfast (IA)  
11 Apr 1881Covent Garden (MF-NF)  
19 July 1881

1d telegraph stamp (Plate 2) used postally in London on 13 June 1892. Cancelled with hooded London postmark



1d telegraph stamp (Plate 2) in piece, used postally in London on 1 Nov 1880. Cancelled with London duplex postmark. Telegraph stamps were not permitted for postage but this was "overlooked" when the telegraph stamps were discontinued in 1881.



**3d Die Proofs**

1875 3d die proofs without plate numbers or corner letters, in black on glazed card (92mm X 60mm) dated "July 8 1875" and "July 14 1875", both endorsed "BEFORE HARDENING".  
July 8 proofs had of three die proofs on this date and July 14 had eight die proofs on this date.



**Plate 1** Mint (HL)  
Spray(sideways)



**Plate 2** Mint (MA)  
Spray(sideways)



**Plate 4** Mint (CA)  
Crown (sideways)



**Plate 5** Mint (MB)  
Crown(sideways)

**The 3d Carmine**

**Issue Date:** 1 Feb. 1876

**Plates :** 5

**Printer:** De La Rue

**Watermark:** Spray (sideways) Pl 1-3  
Crown (sideways) Pl 3-5

**Perforation:** 14

**Scarcity:** (Pinwill census)

Plate 1 7 Mint 15 Used

Plate 2 8 Mint 9 Used

Plate 3 6 Mint 16 Used

Crown 14Mint 25 Used

Plate 4 31 Mint 34 Used

Plate 5 24 Mint 36 Used

This is rated No. 31 on Pinwill scarcity chart, making it the 7<sup>th</sup> rarest of the Post Office mint telegraph stamps.

**Plates**

The 3d issue had five different plates manufactured. Plates 1 to 3 had a flower watermark(sideways) known as a spray. However, this was changed to a "Crown (sideways)" half way through printing with the third plate. Plates 4 and 5 did not come into usage until 1881 so were not in use for very long. Plate 5 (issued August 1881 has the lowest number issued for this value, with used values the most difficult to source.

Plates 4 & 5 both mint and used are among the rarest of the Post Office telegraph stamps



3d (Plate 3) proof in black on white wove unwatermarked paper.  
One of 12 proofs for this plate, from top right hand corner of sheet.



Plate 1 perforated specimen strip (FJ-HJ), overprinted SPECIMEN, type 9



**Plate 1:** Imperforate pane of twenty lettered FI-JL. Overprinted "SPECIMEN" type 10, showing marginal inscription "TELEGRAPHS THREE PENCE".

**3d Die Proofs - Number of Proofs**

1. June 22 1875 - 1
2. July 2 1875 - 1
3. July 6 1875 - 1
4. July 1 1875 - 1 BEFORE HARDENING
5. July 1 1875 - 1 BEFORE HARDENING
6. July 8 1875 - 3 BEFORE HARDENING
7. July 14 1875 - 8 BEFORE HARDENING
8. July 14 1875 - 2 AFTER HARDENING
9. Aug. 16 1875 - 1 BEFORE STRIKING
10. Aug. 16 1875 - 2 AFTER STRIKING
11. Aug. 20 1875 - AFTER STRIKING
12. FEB. 22 1876 - 1 BEFORE STRIKING



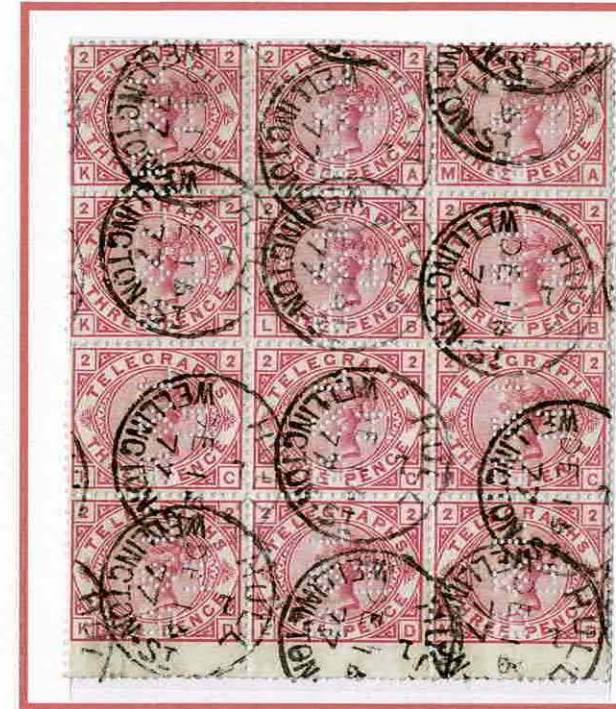


**Plate 1 3d** Four block, positions (QA-RB), used 7 May 1876 at Aberdeen.



**Plate 1 3d** Six block, positions (EA-FC), showing interpanneau gutter with marginal THREE PENCE TELEGRAPHS inscription, used Custom House Dublin, on 23 October 1877.

Multiples beyond pairs and strips are scarce with only 4 four blocks and one six block recorded for Plate 1. Six Block shown here is the largest multiple recorded.



**Left: Plate 2 3d** Twelve block, positions (KA-MD), used on 16 Dec 1877 at Wellington. This is the second largest multiple known for this plate with a larger 20 stamp block also recorded.



**Plate 3 3d** Six block, positions (AA-CB), used 30 Dec 1879.

Only three multiples for Plate 3 recorded, four block, six block and eight block. This is the second largest multiple recorded.

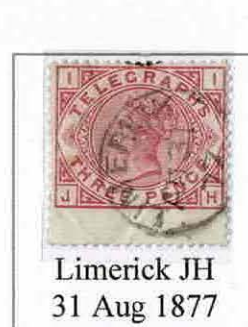
**Plate 1**



Manchester DF  
21 Dec 1876



Gorseinon EA  
28 Dec 1876



Limerick JH  
31 Aug 1877



Formby (MJ-MK)  
2 Feb 1877

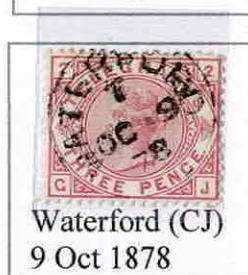
**Plate 2**



Hereford (RC)  
17 Oct 1877



Dublin (KJ)  
8 Nov 1877



Waterford (CJ)  
9 Oct 1878



Southwick (CJ-CL)  
2 Feb 1877

**Plate 3**



704 Hull Railway  
Stn. (IF)



Baltasound RC  
23 Julv 1879



Dublin (GJ)  
24 Jan 1880



North Wall, Dublin (DA-DB)  
23 Aug 1879

**Plate 5**



Edinburgh IA  
Havmarket Rail Stn



Stromness (LI-LJ)  
25 Oct 1881

Used stamps from Plate 5 are rated No. 34 by Pinwill (Fourth rarest Post Office Stamp).



**Plate3:** 3d carmine stamp used postally on cover within London, tied with LONDON JY 9 83 postmark



**The 1/- Green/ Orange Brown****Issue Date:** 1 Feb. 1876**Plates :** 12

Plates 1-10 Green

Plates 10 – 12 Orange Brown

**Printer:** De La Rue**Watermark:** Spray (sideways) Pl 1-10, 12

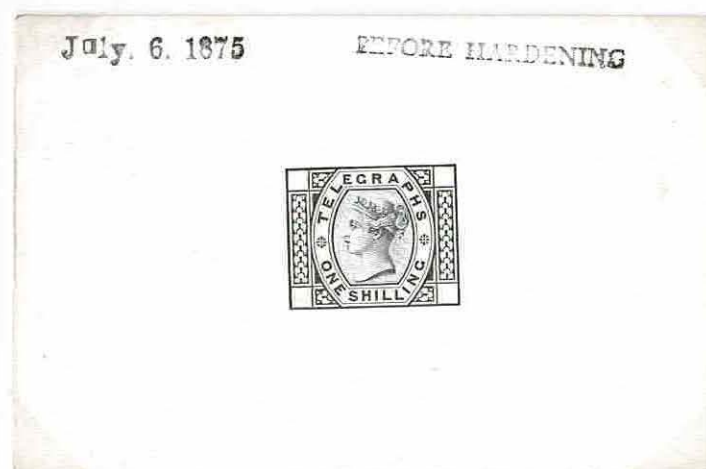
Crown (sideways) Pl 11-12

**Perforation:** 14**Scarcity:** (Pinwill census)  
See Next Page

Plate 8: Marginal plate proof SF-TF. Scarce multiple.



**Plate 1:** 1876 One Shilling complete imperforate sheet of 20 (FA-JD), with SPECIMEN Type 10.

**1s Die Proof**

1875 1/- die proof without plate numbers or corner letters, in black on glazed card (92mm X 60mm) dated "July 6, 1875" and stamped "BEFORE HARDENING". In this die proof., the earhole was shaded with white lines.

This was on of seven die proofs taken on July 6<sup>th</sup> 1875.

**1s Die Proofs - No Proofs**

- |                  |     |                  |
|------------------|-----|------------------|
| 1. June 25 1875  | - 1 |                  |
| 2. June 30 1875  | - 1 |                  |
| 3. July 1 1875   | - 1 |                  |
| 4. July 2 1875   | - 1 |                  |
| 5. July 3 1875   | - 1 |                  |
| 6. July 4 1875   | - 1 |                  |
| 7. July 6 1875   | - 7 | BEFORE HARDENING |
| 8. July 14 1875  | - 2 | BEFORE HARDENING |
| 9. Aug. 4 1875   | - 3 | BEFORE HARDENING |
| 10. Aug 12 1875  | -   | BEFORE STRIKING  |
| 11. July 25 1876 | - 2 | BEFORE STRIKING  |
| 12. Mar 16 1877  | - 2 | AFTER STRIKING   |
| 13. Aug. 17 1877 | - 1 | BEFORE STRIKING  |
| 14. Aug. 28 1877 | - 2 | AFTER STRIKING   |
| 15. Apr. 26 1878 | - 1 | BEFORE STRIKING  |
| 16. Jul 26 1878  | - 2 | BEFORE STRIKING  |
| 17. Apr 13 1880  | - 1 | BEFORE STRIKING  |



**Plate 5:** Block of 6, (MB-ND), Queenstown, 15 Dec. 1877.



**Plate 5:** Block of 4 Grimsby, (NG-OH), 3 Dec. 1877.



**Plate 6:** Strip of 3, Dundee, (CE-EE), 9 Nov 1878



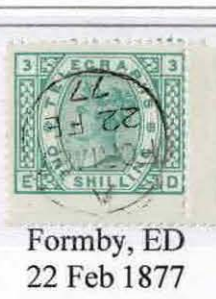
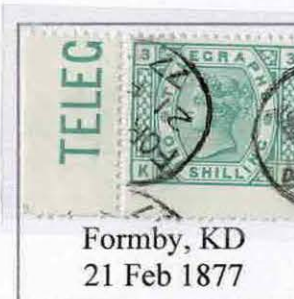
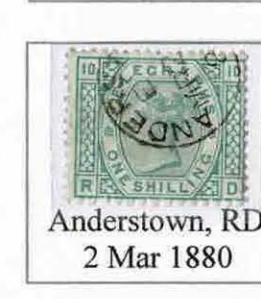
**Plate 4:** Block of 4, Dublin College Green, (CI-DJ), 5 Dec. 1877.



**Plate 10:** Block of 6, Anderstown, (QB-SC), 3 Dec. 1877.

Largest multiple of plate 10, one of two blocks of 6 recorded.



**Plate 1**Scarcity  
#9 Mint  
#21 used**Plate 8**Scarcity  
#3 Mint  
#24 used**Plate 2**Scarcity  
#19 Mint  
#26 used**Plate 9**Scarcity  
#16 Mint  
#22 used**Plate 3**Scarcity  
#27 Mint  
#23 used**Plate 10**Scarcity  
#20 Mint  
#19 used**Plate 4**Scarcity  
#25 Mint  
#3 used**Plate 10**Scarcity  
#21 Mint  
#28 used**Plate 5**Scarcity  
#18 Mint  
#2 used**Plate 11**Scarcity  
#12 Mint  
#11 used**Plate 6**Scarcity  
#23 Mint  
#18 used**Plate 12**Scarcity  
#26 Mint  
#31 used**Plate 7**Scarcity  
#22 Mint  
#20 used

The one shilling value was the most used telegraphic adhesive in this period and there were 12 plates used from 1876 to 1881, with an estimated 8.4 million stamps from each plate. This was estimated to be the maximum that printers, De La Rue, could get from each plate. **Plates 1 to 10** were green with "Spray" watermark, **plate 11** had "Crown" watermark and **plate 12** had both watermarks used. The colour was changed to orange-brown in September 1880, with the earliest recorded use of plate 10 being 23 October 1880.

**Plate 12 used is the scarest of the stamps shown here, rated 31 out of 37 on scarcity table**



## Section 3.4 Post Office First Issue

## Five Shilling Red Stamps

February 1876

### The 5/- Red

Issue Date: 1 Feb. 1876

Plates: 3

Plate 1: 9th August 1875

Plate 2: 31st December 1879

Plate 3: 14th October 1878.

Printer: De La Rue

### Watermark:

Plate 1: Maltese Cross

Plate 2: Maltese Cross

Plate 3: Anchor (sideways).

Perforation: 15 x 15½

Plate 2 also has Perf 14

Scarcity: (Pinwill census)

Plate 1: #17 Mint, #1 Used

Plate 2: #34 Mint, #30 Used

Plate 2 Perf 14: #36 Mint, #29 Used.

Plate 3: #37 Mint, #33 Used.

Plate 1

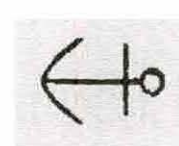
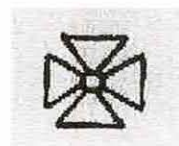


Plate 2



1875 Unique hand printed essay for 5/- value from the De La Rue Archives, prepared in 1875 for initial issue but not adopted. Essay is black and Chinese white on thick card. Ex A.J. Lowe

JUN 23. 1875



### Five Shilling Die Proof

1875 5s die proofs without plate numbers or corner letters, in black on glazed card (92mm X 60mm) dated "June, 23, 1875". This is the only die proof struck on this date, and one of only 16 over all dates.

### 5s Die Proofs - No. Proofs

|     |             |    |
|-----|-------------|----|
| 1.  | Jun 6 1875  | -1 |
| 2.  | Jun 17 1875 | -2 |
| 3.  | Jun 18 1875 | -3 |
| 4.  | Jun 23 1875 | -1 |
| 5.  | Jun 25 1875 | -4 |
| 6.  | Jul 2 1875  | -1 |
| 7.  | No date     | -1 |
| 8.  | No date     | -1 |
| 9.  | Jul 31 1878 | -1 |
| 10. | Jul 31 1878 | -1 |



Plate 3 (Anchor Watermark)  
1882, Wexford position BO.  
Only recorded Irish usage of this stamp but stamp itself also has a scarcity number of 33, making it the fifth scarcest telegraph stamp.



Mint, BB  
Specimen



Manchester, CH  
15 Feb 1876



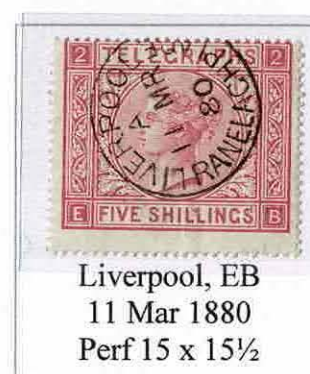
Belfast, EB  
25 Sept 1877



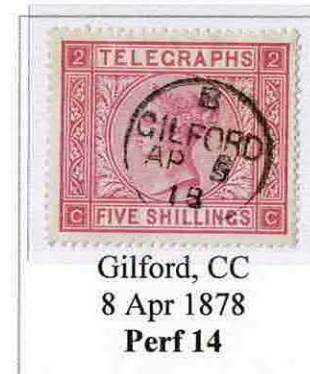
Cork, CC  
6 July 1878



Burntisland, CH  
12 July 1878



Liverpool, EB  
11 Mar 1880  
Perf 15 x 15½



Gilford, CC  
8 Apr 1878  
Perf 14



Mark Lane, AG  
16 Aug 1880  
Perf 15 x 15½



Leadenhall St, FF  
15 Feb 1876  
Perf 15 x 15½



1880 eight stamp multiple of 5s Rose issue, cancelled with Dublin 8T (T for Telegraph Office) on 5 February 1880. GB-HE

Plate 1 Ireland  
Maltese Cross Watermark



A and A.1 Telegraph Transmission Forms – Small Format

The size of the A/A1 telegraph forms were significantly reduced with the introduction of a smaller format in 1875, now sized for 30 words. The original green octagonal indicia used on the A1 forms had the word “POSTAGE” and it was replaced with a circular indicium in August 1875 with the word “TELEGRAPHS” and printed by James Truscott & Son, London (printers 1877 to 1881). However, when the printing moved to Harrison and Sons, London (1881-1889) it reverted to the green octagonal indicia, in line with the Post Office decision to return to postage stamps for telegraph payment.

The telegraph transmission charge in this period was 1/- for 20 words and 3d for each additional five words. Unstamped A forms were provided gratis, for use with the appropriated stamps while those with the embossed 1/- green indicia were available individually or in booklets of twenty.

**A.** POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. (Inland Telegrams.)

Prefix.....Code.....

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words Sent.

At.....M.

Charge To.....

By.....

Please Write Distinctly.

FROM TO

Address Free.

1/-

1/3

1/6

NOTICE TO THE SENDER OF THIS TELEGRAM.

This Telegram will be accepted for transmission subject to the Regulations made pursuant to the 15th Section of the Telegraph Act, 1868. and to the Notice printed at the back hereof.

(HARRISON & SONS, PRINTERS, LONDON.)

No. of Message. For Stamps. Office Stamp.

Receipt on this T. obtained, on 2d. add.

TELEGRAPHS

SHILLING

TO

of the same

at Terrace Late Kings

Brighton

the same have

collection of

not to

and for

you fully on

tomorrow

TELEGRAM.

to the 15th Section of the Telegraph Act, 1868.

(HARRISON & SONS, PRINTERS, LONDON.)

Above: A Form, printed by Harrison & Sons, London, for use with adhesive stamps.



Specimen 11.11.78

**A.1.** POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. (Inland Telegrams.)

Prefix.....Code.....

Office of Origin and Service Instructions. Words Sent.

At.....M.

Charge To.....

By.....

Please Write Distinctly.

FROM TO

Address Free.

1/-

1/3

1/6

NOTICE TO THE SENDER OF THIS TELEGRAM.

This Telegram will be accepted for transmission subject to the Regulations made pursuant to the 15th Section of the Telegraph Act, 1868. and to the Notice printed at the back hereof.

(HARRISON & SONS, PRINTERS, LONDON.)

Above A.1 Form, with new circular indicium, printed by James Truscott & Sons, London, introduced in 1875. This form was printed on 27 December 1876 (date plugs on embossed indicium). Form was sold as a book of 20 and has rouletted margin

Left: A.1 Form, printed by Harrison & Sons, London, introduced in 1881, when decision was made to return to the use of postage stamps for telegraph tariffs. This form was printed on 23 January 1882 (date plugs on embossed indicium). Form was sold as a book of 20 and has perforated margin.



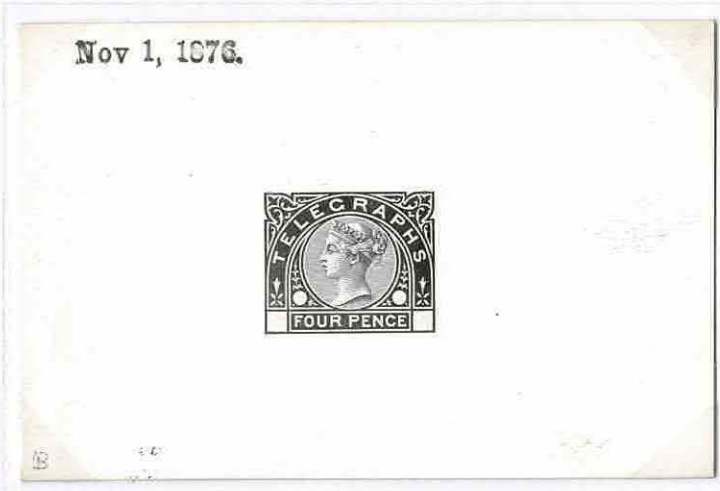
Section 4.1 Post Office Second Issue

Four Pence Sage Green Stamps

March 1877

Die Proof Development

1876 4d die proofs shown are without plate numbers or corner letters, in black on glazed card (92mm X 60mm) dated "Nov 1, 2, 4, 7 & 21". The first proof of the 4d die were struck on 30th October 1876, with plate numbers blank. A second proof was taken on 31st Oct. These proofs show the centre of the Queen's ear as a solid block of colour and three short white lines were added to this blot in the proofs generated on 1st November. The engraver then did some work on the Queen's upper lip, leading to further proofs on 2nd November, and after a further retouch another new set die proofs were generated up to 7th November. A full list of the die plates can be found in table below.



1 Nov 1876  
3 white lines added to Queen's ear which was a solid black blot previous to this.



2 Nov, 1876  
Queen's upper lip and metal around her mouth was hammered up from the back. This action flattened out the background lines in front of the mouth and chin which were promptly recut. Line in lower lip removed.



4 Nov, 1876  
Artist continued work on Queen's mouth.



7 Nov, 1876  
This retouch brings subtle artist changes to mouth. Die Proof has inscription "BEFORE HARDENING".

| 4d Die Proofs - Number of Proofs |             |     |                  |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-----|------------------|
| 1.                               | Oct 30 1876 | - 7 |                  |
| 2.                               | Oct 31 1876 | - 7 |                  |
| 3.                               | Nov 1 1876  | - 6 |                  |
| 4.                               | Nov 2 1876  | - 7 |                  |
| 5.                               | Nov 3 1876  | - 9 |                  |
| 6.                               | Nov 4 1876  | - 7 |                  |
| 7.                               | Nov 6 1876  | - 4 |                  |
| 8.                               | Nov 7 1876  | - 8 | BEFORE HARDENING |
| 9.                               | Nov 17 1876 | - 1 | AFTER HARDENING  |
| 10.                              | Nov 17 1876 | - 1 | BEFORE STRIKING  |
| 11.                              | Nov 21 1876 | - 2 | AFTER STRIKING   |
| 12.                              | May 14 1877 | - 1 | BEFORE STRIKING  |
| 13.                              | May 14 1877 | - 2 | AFTER STRIKING   |



21 Nov, 1876  
Final die proof of 1876 with inscription "AFTER STRIKING"



## Section 4.1 Post Office Second Issue

## Four Pence Sage Green Stamps

March 1877

### The 4d Issue Sage Green

Issue Date: 1 Mar. 1877

Plates: 1, 2 (stamps issued only for plate 1)

Printer: De La Rue

Watermark: Large Garter (sideways)

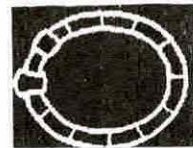
Perforation: 14

Sheet size: Printed on same paper used for 4d postage stamp (watermarked with large garter) the sheet formation was the same as the postage stamps except that the sheet and the water mark were turned sideways. This gave 240 stamps arranged in four panes (two rows of two with 60 garters per pane).

Scarcity: Mint stamps #13, used stamps #14 (Pinwell census)



Mint (TC)



Watermark

Plate 1 registered 12 Jan 1877 and put to press on 15 Jan 1877. Plate taken from press in Oct. 1881 after printing about 25,000 sheets.



**Plate 1:** 1877 Four Pence complete perforate sheet of 20 (PI-TL), with SPECIMEN Type 9 (Sub type b). Sideways Garter watermark. Block also shows printed paper duty – “Crown Telegraphs 4d”.



4d Sage Green Plate 1 (AA) used to pay postage and registration for cover sent locally in Liverpool, cancelled by a crisp squared circle for MY.23.82. Telegraph stamps were abolished in 1881 and most remaining stocks were destroyed. Others. Like this use, were used without official authorisation as postages stamps by the public.



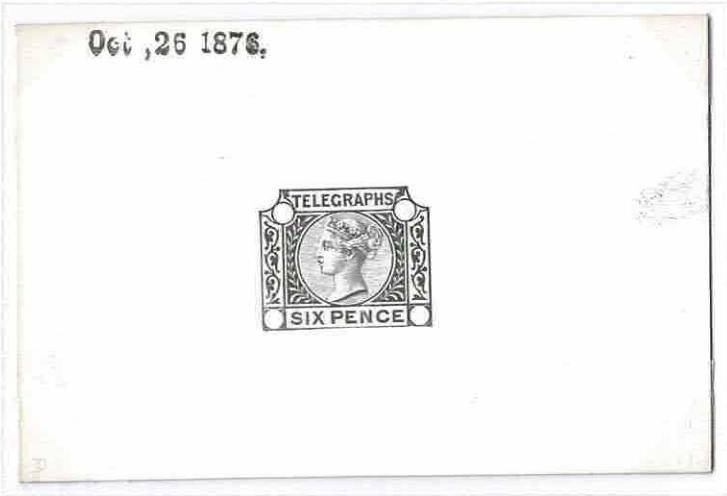
Section 4.2 Post Office Second Issue

Six Pence Grey Stamps

March 1877

Die Proof Development

1876 6d die proofs are without plate numbers or corner letters, in black on glazed card (91mm X 60mm) and are dated "Oct 26, Nov 4,6,7,9 1876". Major design revision was the change in appearance of the lower corner boxes, from that in the proof die dated 26 Oct. 1876. Other changes centred on ear, mouth and background shading.



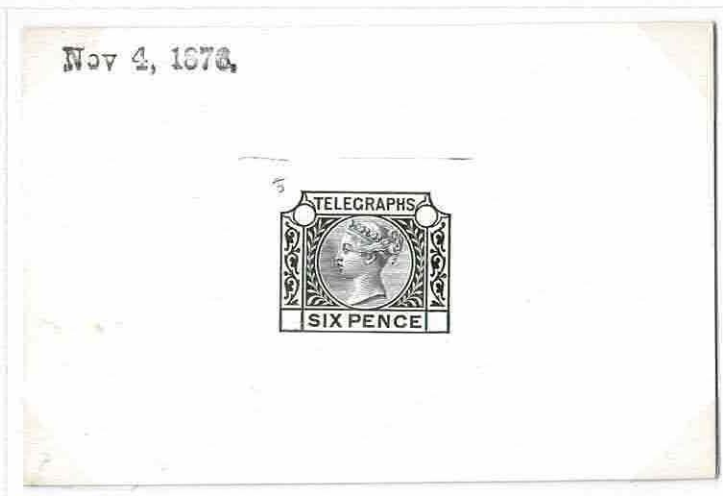
26 Oct, 1876  
Queen's ear is a black blob.



26 Oct, 1876  
Black blob on either end of top tablet containing "TELEGRAPHS".



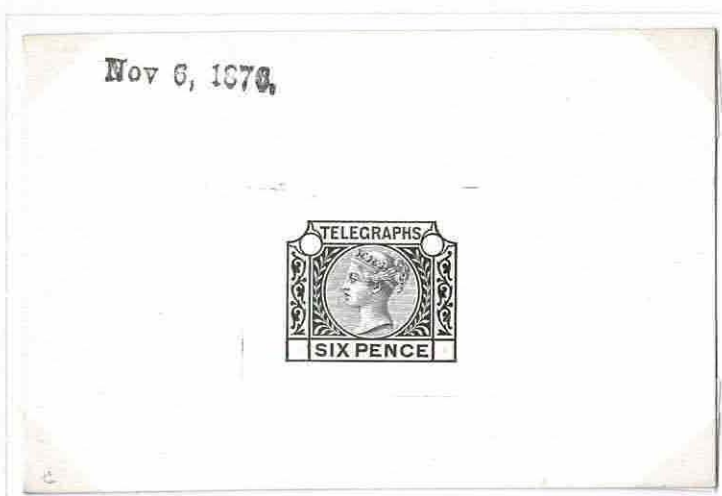
26 Oct, 1876  
Major difference in this proof is the circle enclosed in a second box, within each of the lower corner squares. Removed in next die proof.



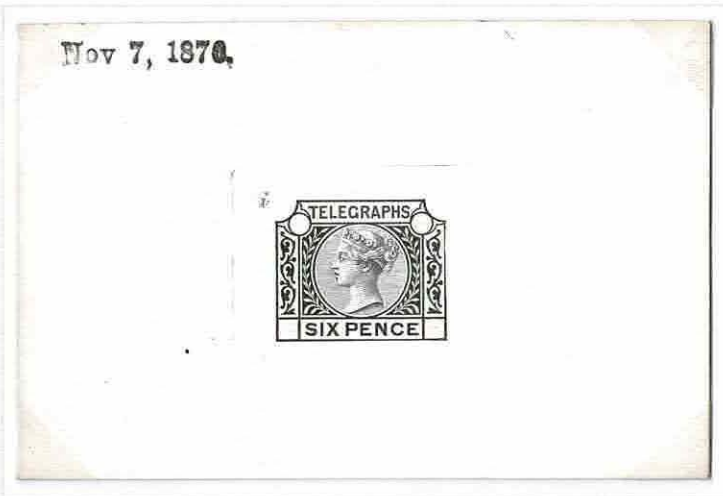
4 Nov, 1876  
Corrections.



4 Nov, 1876  
Items identified on 16 Oct die proof corrected here. Lines of background shading in front of Queen's face have been strengthened but they now appear as a darkened patch extending from face to surrounding circle,



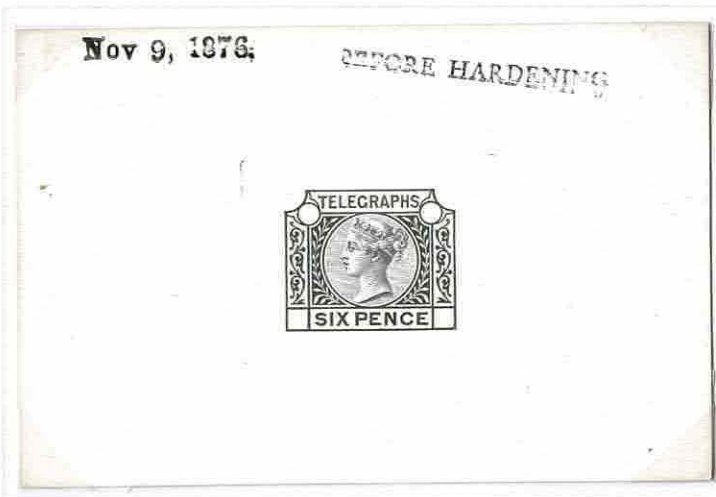
6 Nov, 1876  
Deep shading surrounding face has been corrected, background lines now evenly thin. Pencil "c" added to lower left corner.



7 Nov, 1876  
This retouch reduced the circular spot of shadow in front of the upper lip. It also strengthened the lower frame line.

6d Die Proofs - Number of Proofs

|     |        |      |                       |
|-----|--------|------|-----------------------|
| 1.  | Oct 25 | 1876 | - 1                   |
| 2.  | Oct 26 | 1876 | - 6                   |
| 3.  | Oct 27 | 1876 | - 1                   |
| 4.  | Oct 30 | 1876 | - 1                   |
| 5.  | Oct 31 | 1876 | - 3                   |
| 6.  | Nov 2  | 1876 | - 1                   |
| 7.  | Nov 3  | 1876 | - 4                   |
| 8.  | Nov 4  | 1876 | - 4                   |
| 9.  | Nov 6  | 1876 | - 12                  |
| 10. | Nov 7  | 1876 | - 6                   |
| 11. | Nov 9  | 1876 | - 10 BEFORE HARDENING |
| 12. | Nov 20 | 1876 | - 2 AFTER STRIKING    |



9 Nov, 1876  
Shadow under Queen's lip reduced and shading on her chin has been rubbed down. Die proof was approved and hand stamped "BEFORE HARDENING".



## Section 4.2 Post Office Second Issue

## Six Pence Grey Stamps

March 1877

### The 6d Issue Grey

Issue Date: 1 Mar. 1877

Plates: 1, 2

Printer: De La Rue

Watermark: Plate 1 & 2 Spray (sideways)

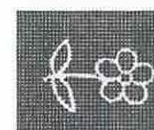
Plate 2 Crown (sideways inverted) issued Jan 1880

Perforation: 14

Sheet size: Printed on same paper used for 6d postage stamp (watermarked as above), the colour and sheet formation was the same as the postage stamps except that the sheet and the water mark were turned sideways. This gave 240 stamps arranged in 12 panes of 20 stamps.

Scarcity: Plate 1 Mint stamps #11, used stamps # 6 (Pinwill census)

Plate 2 Mint stamps #30, used stamps #27 (Pinwill census)



Spray



Plate 1 (GG)  
Spray



Edinburgh (SL)  
22 July 1877



Liverpool (RL)  
25 Sept. 1877



Newport (DK)  
13 Dec 1877



Middlesborough (CJ)  
8 August 1878



Mark Lane (CD/DG)  
12 Feb 1879



London (LC)  
22 June 1880



Edinburgh (JH)  
1 July 1880  
Wing Margin



Hull (ME-NH)  
8 Dec 1877  
Plate 1 perfined B+L/H  
Block of 8  
One of two recorded blocks of 8



Queenstown, Cork (MG-NH)  
15 Dec 1877  
Wing margins are present on stamps  
in rows D,E,H or I.  
Only recorded Irish Block



B+L/H  
6d plate 1 Perfin



Plate 1 1877 6d imperforate pane of 20 stamps (FA-JD), with rose spray watermark, overprinted horizontally with SPECIMEN Type 9. Specimens at this time were only available in Post Office blocks overprinted by Inland Revenue stores. A complete sheet had to be taken and split for overprinting before the perforation process.



Plate 1: strip of 3 perforated,  
overprinted with Specimen  
Type 9, issued after 1878

### Plate 2



Penryn (IB)  
27 Sept 1880



Glasgow (SD)  
6 July 1881



Leith (RG)  
Sept 1881

Only one recorded usage later than Sept 1881



**Die Proof Development**

The 3/- die proofs were generated in October 1876, with sequential improvements centred on getting the Queen's mouth and nostril correct. Die proofs are without plate numbers or corner letters, in black on glazed card (92mm X 60mm) dated "OCT 19,20,24,25,26, 1876" with final proof endorsed "BEFORE HARDENING". The first proofs of the 3s die were struck on 10th October 1876, with a second proof on 14th October (Dates in Table). The Queen's lip was still considered to be unsatisfactory, so further enhancements were made and proofs were struck on 24th, 25th, and finally approved on 26th October 1876.



19 October 1876  
Queen's forehead.



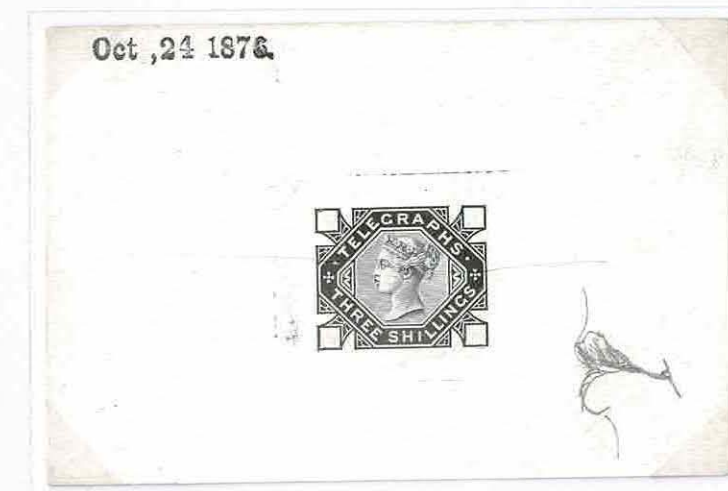
19 October 1876  
Queen's earhole appears as a black blob with four indistinct white lines cross it – no change in die proofs which follow.



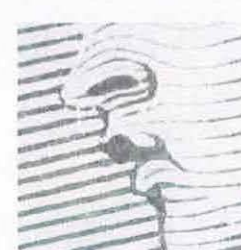
20 October 1876  
Lines on Queen's forehead reinstated.



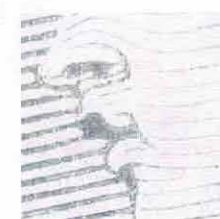
20 October 1876  
Upper lip still unsatisfactory. Die retouched to correct shape.



24 October 1876  
Artist still unhappy with upper lip and has drawn a sketch in pencil on this die proof. To show how he wants it to look.



19 October 1876  
Die retouched to correct shape of Queen's upper lip. Die Proof also has clear imprint of printer's inky thumb.

**25 October 1876**

This retouch still bears little resemblance to the artist's pencil sketch from 24 October Die Proof. Queen's nostril reduced in size by removing the front portion.

**3/- Die Proofs - Number Proofs**

|                  |             |     |
|------------------|-------------|-----|
| 1.               | Oct 10 1876 | - 1 |
| 2.               | Oct 14 1876 | - 1 |
| 3.               | Oct 16 1876 | - 1 |
| 4.               | Oct 17 1876 | - 4 |
| 5.               | Oct 18 1876 | - 2 |
| 6.               | Oct 19 1876 | - 6 |
| 7.               | Oct 20 1876 | - 7 |
| 8.               | Oct 24 1876 | - 5 |
| 9.               | Oct 25 1876 | - 5 |
| 10.              | Oct 26 1876 | - 4 |
| 11.              | Oct 26 1876 | - 8 |
| BEFORE HARDENING |             |     |

**26 October 1876**

This retouch still has no significant improvement in shape of Queen's lip but die proof was approved and die proof has the inscription "BEFORE HARDENING". This is the Queen's mouth as it appears in the issued stamp



**The 3/- Issue Slate Blue****Issue Date:** 1 Mar. 1877**Plates :** 1**Printer:** De La Rue**Watermark:** Spray (sideways) and Crown (sideways inverted)

Spray (99%) and Crown (1%). Little is known about the origin of the latter and it is suspected that these were trials of some sort that escaped from De La Rue and may not have been intended for formal issue.

**Perforation:** 14

**Sheet size:** Sheet formation was the same as the postage stamps except that the sheet and the water mark were turned sideways. This gave 240 stamps arranged 12 panes of 20 stamps (3 rows of 4 panes).

**Scarcity:** Spray: Mint stamps #4, used stamps #4 (Pinwill census)  
Crown: Mint stamps #35, used stamps #37 (Pinwill census)



Unused (AA), Spray (sideways), partial printed duty. Watermarked "MARK" associated with postage



**Plate 1 3/- (FE-JH)**-Slate Blue pane of 20 perforated, on Spray of Rose watermarked paper.



Ultramarine (AL)  
Specimen Type 8



Brown-Lilac (EE)  
Specimen Type 8



Dull Mauve (OE)  
Specimen Type 8



Unused (CI) Spray  
Wing Margin

## COLOUR TRIALS



All stamps shown here have spray watermark.

**Plate 1 3/- (AE-EH)**  
Complete marginal pane, Dull Mauve colour trial, overprinted with SPECIMEN Type 8.



Glasgow (RJ)  
12 Dec 1877



Newcastle (RC)  
12 Dec 1877



Birmingham (TI)  
13 Dec 1877  
Upr Wing Margin



Renfrew (FB)  
27 Mar 1880



Ladbroke (FI)  
10 Aug 1880  
Upr Wing Margin

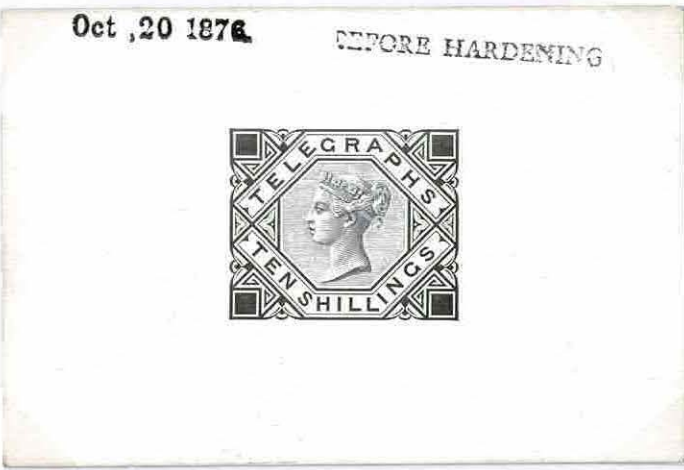


Manchester  
17 Aug 1880



Manchester (KI/JI)  
Telegraph Branch Office  
Upper Wing Margin

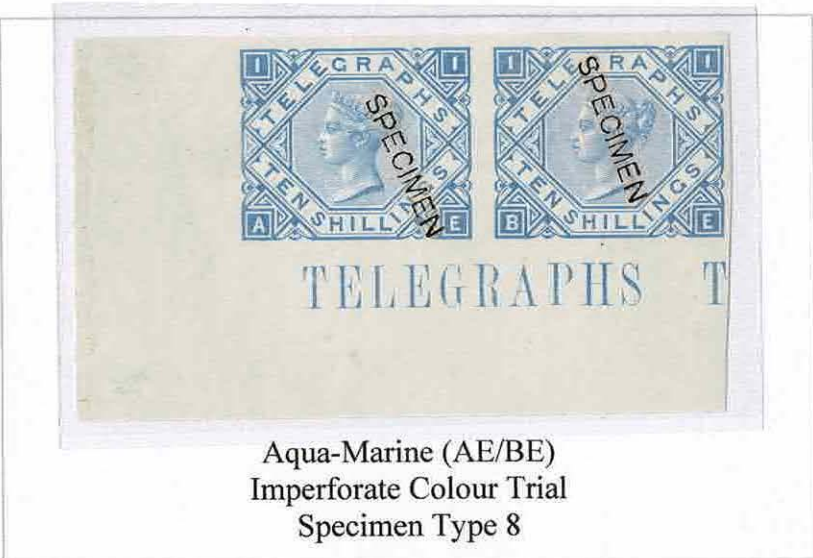




**Ten Shilling Die Proof**  
1876 10s die proofs without plate numbers or corner letters, in black on glazed card (92mm X 60mm) dated "OCT 19, 20 & 20, 1876".  
Corner boxes blacked out.  
The die proof taken on these dates were one of only three to five.

**The 10/- Issue Grey-Green**  
Issue Date: 1 Mar. 1877  
Plates : 1  
Printer: De La Rue  
Watermark: Maltese Cross  
Perforation: 15 x 15½  
No Printed: 520,000 stamps issued  
  
Scarcity: Mint stamps #29, used stamps #5 (Pinwill census)

| 10s Die Proofs - Number of Proofs |             |    |                  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----|------------------|
| 1.                                | Oct 14 1876 | -2 |                  |
| 2.                                | Oct 16 1876 | -3 |                  |
| 3.                                | Oct 17 1876 | -4 |                  |
| 4.                                | Oct 18 1876 | -5 |                  |
| 5.                                | Oct 19 1876 | -5 |                  |
| 6.                                | Oct 20 1876 | -3 |                  |
| 7.                                | Oct 20 1876 | -5 | BEFORE HARDENING |



10/- value had no corresponding postage stamp so colour trials were required and Maltese Cross watermarked paper was chosen to match the 5/- postage value.





Section 4.5 Post Office Second Issue

One Pound Brown-Lilac Stamps

March 1877

The £1 Brown-Lilac

Issue Date: 1 Mar. 1877

Plates : 1

Printer: De La Rue

Watermark: multiple inverted shamrocks

Perforation: 15 x 15½

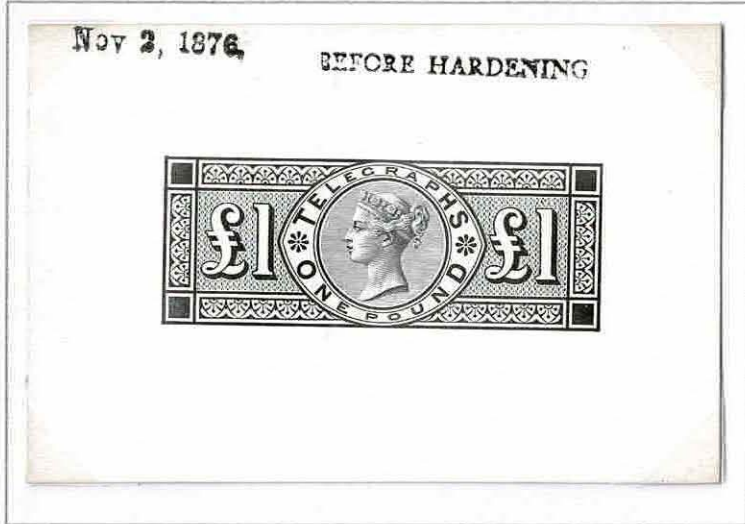
Stamp design almost identical to £1 postage stamp but it predates the postage stamp by 18 months.

Scarcity: Mint stamps #33, used stamps #8 (Pinwill census)



£1 Die Proofs - No Proofs

1. Oct 20 1876 - 1
2. Oct 23 1876 - 3
3. Oct 26 1876 - 2
4. Oct 27 1876 - 4
5. Oct 30 1876 - 6
6. Oct 31 1876 - 2
7. Nov 2 1876 - 6  
BEFORE HARDENING
8. Nov 10 1876 - 1  
AFTER HARDENING



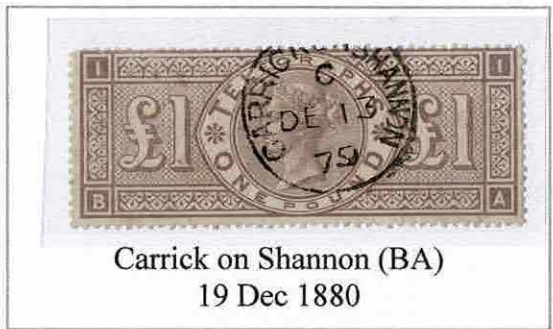
1877 £1 Die Proof in black, showing "BEFORE HARDENING" and dated "Nov 2, 1876". This is the penultimate of eight die proof dates listed for this value, the final die proof dated 10th November, "After Hardening".



Actual colour chosen for this value



The post office issued their telegraph stamps in the same colour as the corresponding postage stamp value. Where no postage value existed, the post office created colour trials for these values.



1877 £1 perforated brown-lilac, BC, specimen type 11 SPECIMEN overprint.  
1877 £1 imperf. pale ultramarine colour trial, AJ, with type 8 SPECIMEN overprint  
1877 £1 imperf. slate blue colour trial, AJ, with type 8 SPECIMEN overprint.  
1877 £1 imperf. Dull mauve colour trial, block of four, CH-DI, with type 8 SPECIMEN overprint. Scarce multiple.



Section 4.6 Post Office Second Issue

Five Pound Orange Stamps

March 1877

The £5 Orange

Issue Date: 1 Mar. 1877

Plates : 1

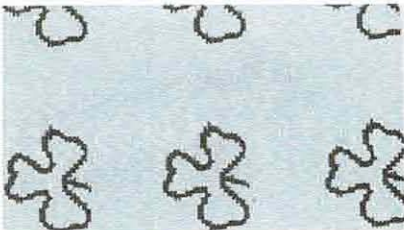
Printer: De La Rue

Watermark: multiple shamrocks (sideways inverted)

Perforation: 15 x 15½

Stamps printed on same paper as £1 value. £1 sheets rotated anticlockwise giving a sideways shamrock on the sheet of 56 stamps (14 x 4) but for the £5 value the sheet was rotated clockwise giving a sideways inverted shamrock.

Scarcity: Mint stamps #33, used stamps #8 (Pinwill census)



One of only two known examples used in Wales, both in Aberystwith. Cancelled with boxed T.M.B./G.P.O. and CDS JU 24 78.



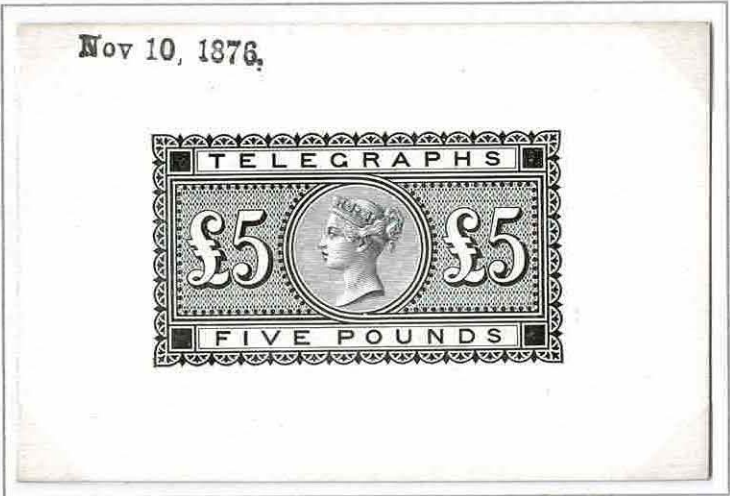
Liverpool (AA)  
17 May 1878



Glasgow (CA)  
17 May 1878



Inverness (DG)  
12 April 1882



£5 Die Proofs - No. of Proofs

- |    |             |                      |
|----|-------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Nov 8 1876  | - 4                  |
| 2. | Nov 9 1876  | - 6                  |
| 3. | Nov 10 1876 | - 8                  |
| 4. | Nov 14 1876 | - 6                  |
| 5. | Nov 15 1876 | - 10                 |
| 6. | Nov 16 1876 | - 5 BEFORE HARDENING |
| 7. | Nov 17 1876 | - 3                  |
| 8. | Nov 17 1876 | - 5 BEFORE HARDENING |

1876 £5 Die Proof printed in black, on white glazed card (92mm x 60mm) and dated "Nov 10, 1876". Plate number and corner



Specimen (AG) Type 10



1877 £5 imperf. Colour Trial in Gold, letter BF. The cost of printing gold was estimated at 4d to 6d per stamp which was much too expensive to be adopted. The top half of the trial sheet (AA to DG) received no specimen overprint.



1877 £5 imperf. Colour Trial in slate-blue, letter BC Specimen type 11 overprint.



1877 £5 imperf. Colour Trial in dull mauve, letter D Specimen type 8 overprint.



London (AB-AD)  
22 January 1878

Vertical strip of three used £5 orange telegraph stamps (lettered AB, AC, AD), cancelled London/Western Office with CDS JA 22 78 and boxed T.M.B /G.P.O. Only used multiple of three known to exhibitor.



## 5.1 Transition Away from Telegraph Stamps

## Half Pence Orange Stamps

April 1880

The ½d orange was the last of the Post Office telegraph stamps, it was required to meet the charges on some foreign telegraph rates. In order to avoid any delay, it was decided to issue this value with the same design as the 1d stamp. The 1d Plate 5 which was unused, was adapted for this value with the "One Penny" removed and replaced with "Half Penny". There were 1812 sheets (434,880 stamps) printed but these were not in use for very long. All telegraph stamps were withdrawn on 1st November 1881.

### The ½d Orange

**Issue Date:** 1 April 1880  
**Plates:** 1 (Plate 5 from 1d issue)  
**Printer:** De La Rue  
**Watermark:** shamrock  
**Perforation:** 14



### Scarcity:

Mint stamps #1,  
 Used stamps #13  
 (Pinwill census)



**Plate 5** block of six (AJ-BL). Sheet margin has current number 484.



**Plate 5** strip (AA-AC). Sheet margin has plate number 5.



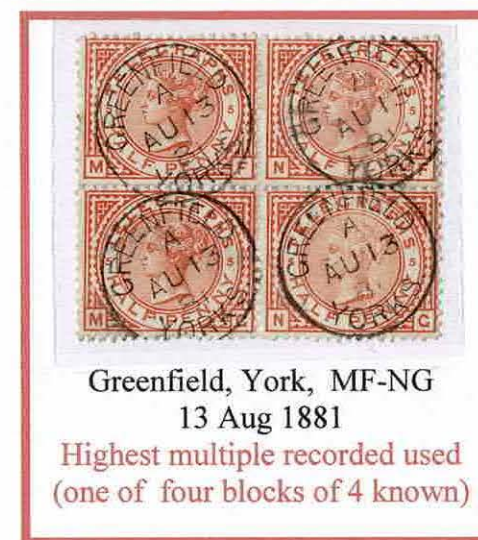
**Plate 5:** Mint corner block of 35 (AA-GE), overprinted "SPECIMEN", type 9. Sheet margin has plate number 5.



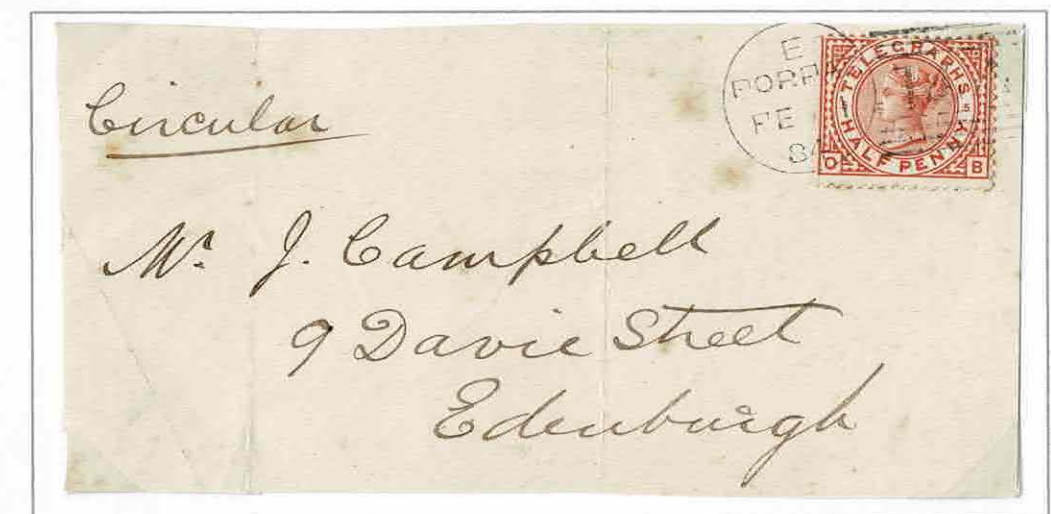
Buckland, Oxfordshire (IA-ID), 29 Sept 1880



Edinburgh (RC-RD)  
 26 Oct. 1881



Greenfield, York, MF-NG  
 13 Aug 1881  
 Highest multiple recorded used  
 (one of four blocks of 4 known)



Half pence telegraph stamp used postally to pay the printed matter rate, used at Forfar, Scotland to Edinburgh on 1 Feb. 1884. At this point the Post Office had reverted to using postage stamps to pay the telegraph rates.



Belfast FD  
 5 May 1880



Burlington Hse  
 26 Dec 1881



Aberdeen PA  
 26 Dec 1881

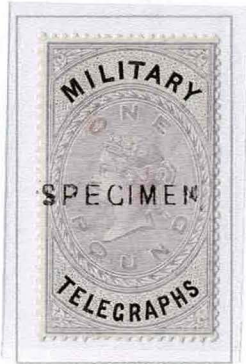


Omagh BI  
 20 Jan 1882



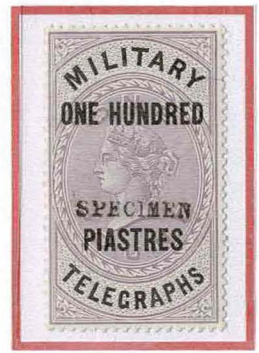
The Military Telegraph Stamps – Used in Sudan & Egypt

As the use of telegraph stamps declined, the one important area of growth was the use of telegraph stamps in a military context. These were generally “used by the British Forces abroad”. The “Field Electric Telegraph Train, Royal Engineers” was established as early as 1866 and the telegraph was to become an essential part of the military armaments, due to the changing nature of the battlefield. The first set of military telegraph stamps was not issued until 1884. These were revenue stamps overprinted with “MILITARY TELEGRAPHS and were granted after Col. Webber, Director of the Royal Engineers, personally applied to the Controller of Stamps at Somerset House for a set of telegraph stamps. The initial values issued were 1d, 3d, 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 5/-, 10/- and £1 values, overprinted by De La Rue on 11 September 1884, for use on the 1884 Nile Expedition (failed attempt to prevent Khartoum, which was under attack, to be overrun). Two further values, 2d and 8d. were not issued at this time.

|                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                     |                                                                                      |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |   |  |  |
| SPECIMEN 9<br>ONE PENCE<br>42 sheets<br>5040 stamps<br>Perf 13½<br>January 1885   | SPECIMEN 9<br>SIX PENCE<br>45 sheets<br>5400 stamps<br>Perf 13½<br>January 1885   | SPECIMEN 9<br>TWO SHILLINGS<br>65 sheets<br>5460 stamps<br>Perf 14<br>February 1885 | SPECIMEN 9<br>FIVE SHILLINGS<br>63 sheets<br>5292 stamps<br>Perf 14<br>February 1885 | SPECIMEN 9<br>TEN SHILLINGS<br>65 sheets<br>5460 stamps<br>Perf 14<br>February 1885 | SPECIMEN 9<br>ONE POUND<br>85 sheets<br>5100 stamps<br>Perf 14<br>February 1885     |

Langmead rates the £1 value as the scarcest of this set, rated R2 (50-100 copies exist).

The telegraph tariff was 10 piastres per five words but as the stamps had British denominations, it was difficult to manage the charges in Egypt. De La Rue overprinted remaining stocks at the end of 1885 (and the 2d and 8d values which had not previously been issued) with “DIME” and “PIASTRES” values (a DIME is 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a PIASTRES). A further printing of 499 sheets of the one shilling value was printed in February 1886, also overprinted with piastres and used in the Suakin Expedition. A daily bulletin of the war news was sent by telegraph to all military telegraph stations and a copy was suspended within thirty minutes outside each telegraph station.

|                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                       |                                                                                             |                                                                                       |                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |        |  |             |
| SPECIMEN 9<br>ONE PENCE<br>Overprinted<br>ONE DIME<br>25 sheets<br>Perf 13½         | SPECIMEN 9<br>TWO PENCE<br>Overprinted<br>TWO DIMES<br>25 sheets<br>Perf 13½        | SPECIMEN 9<br>THREE PENCE<br>Overprinted<br>FIVE DIMES<br>25 sheets<br>Perf 13½     | SPECIMEN 9<br>SIX PENCE<br>Overprinted<br>ONE PIASTRE<br>25 sheets<br>Perf 13½        | SPECIMEN 9<br>EIGHT PENCE<br>Overprinted<br>TWO PIASTRES<br>25 sheets<br>Perf 13½     | SPECIMEN 9<br>ONE SHILLING<br>Overprinted<br>FIVE PIASTRES<br>398 sheets<br>Perf 14   | SPECIMEN 9<br>TWO SHILLINGS<br>Overprinted<br>TEN PIASTRES<br>150 sheets<br>Perf 14   | SPECIMEN 9<br>FIVE SHILLINGS<br>Overprinted<br>TWENTY-FIVE PIASTRES<br>75 sheets<br>Perf 14 | SPECIMEN 9<br>TEN SHILLINGS<br>Overprinted<br>FIFTY PIASTRES<br>25 sheets<br>Perf 14  | ONE POUND<br>Overprinted<br>ONE HUNDRED PIASTRES<br>25 sheets<br>Perf 14<br>R3 – 10 to 50 copies |

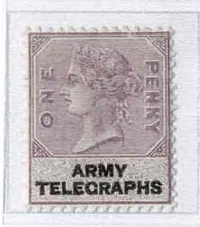
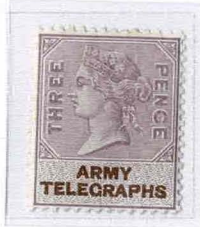


Section 5.2 Military Telegraph Stamps

ARMY OVERPRINTS

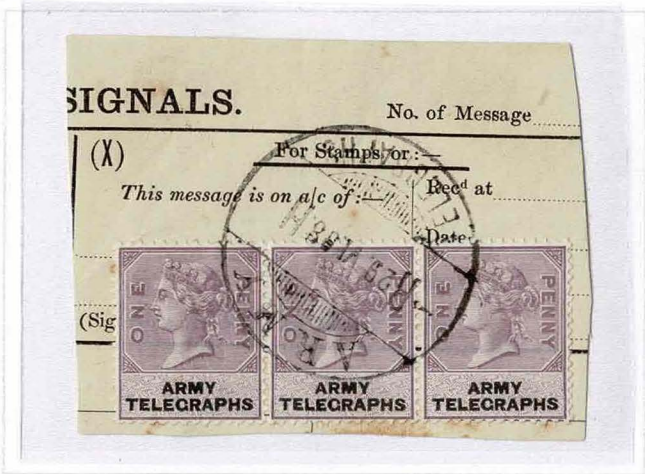
1895/1896

The Army Telegraph Stamps – Used in 1895 Ashanti Campaign (Gold Coast) and in the 1899 Boer War, South Africa.  
A new series of eleven stamps was issued for the Ashanti Campaign, similar to the previous set but with “ARMY” replacing “MILTARY” in the lower tablet. A new Army telegraph cancellation was designed by J.J.Guller, using a steel wheel rather than the usual plugs. The British Army used this device as early as 1887. A few Army Telegraph cancellations are known in England while army was on military manoeuvres but are extremely rare. There were 1047 British Army telegraph offices operational at one time during the South African campaign but only 147 permanent offices. The cancellation remained in use up to World War I, again with some usage in England.

|                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                   |                                                                                    |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ONE PENCE<br>39 sheets<br>Perf 13½<br>Nov. 1895                                   | TWO PENCE<br>23 sheets<br>Perf 13½<br>Nov. 1895                                   | THREE PENCE<br>49 sheets<br>Perf 13½<br>Oct. 1896                                 | SIX PENCE<br>24 sheets<br>Perf 13½<br>Nov. 1895                                    | EIGHT PENCE<br>18 sheets<br>Perf 13½<br>Aug. 1896                                   | ONE SHILLING<br>44 sheets<br>Perf 14<br>Nov. 1895                                   | TWO SHILLINGS & SIX PENCE<br>9 sheets<br>Perf 14<br>Nov. 1895                       | FIVE SHILLINGS<br>9 sheets<br>Perf 14<br>Nov. 1895                                  | TEN SHILLINGS<br>9 sheets<br>Perf 14<br>Nov. 1895                                   | ONE POUND<br>14 sheets<br>Perf 14<br>Nov. 1895                                      | FIVE POUNDS<br>9 sheets<br>Perf 14<br>Oct. 1900<br>R3 – 10 to 50 copies             |

Printed in sheets of 120, with ten horizontal rows of twelve each. Each stamp had a lower blank tablet to receive the overprint of the intended revenue service. Initial print run listed above.

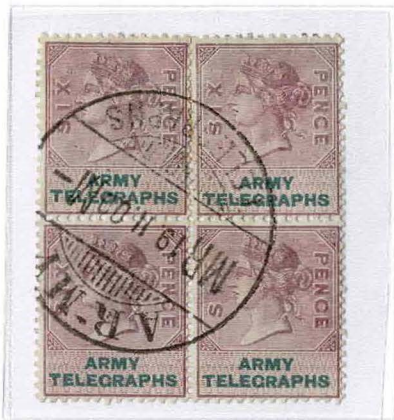
Printed in sheets of 84, with seven horizontal rows of twelve each. Each stamp had a lower blank tablet to receive the overprint of the intended revenue service. Initial print run listed above.



Strip of three ONE PENCE stamps on telegraph piece. Dated 29 Jun 1898. Cancel has letters R & H for Rotherham, Yorkshire, used during Army manoeuvres in United Kingdom 1896-1899.



Strip of six ONE PENCE stamps on telegraph piece. Dated 26 Dec 1899. Cancel has letters MR & M for Modder, used during Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902.



Block of four SIX PENCE stamps dated 19 Mar 1900. Cancel has letters MR & M for Modder, used during Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902.



SIX PENCE stamp on telegraph piece. Dated 25 Jul 1900. Cancel has letters S & N for Standerton, used during Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902.



## Section 5.2 Military Telegraph Stamps

## ARMY OVERPRINTS

1896/ 1900

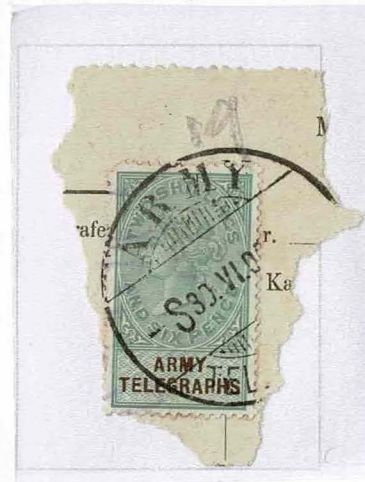
The Army Telegraph Stamps – Used in 1895 Ashanti Campaign (Gold Coast) and in the 1899 Boer War, South Africa. Also used during Army manoeuvres in United Kingdom 1896 – 1900.



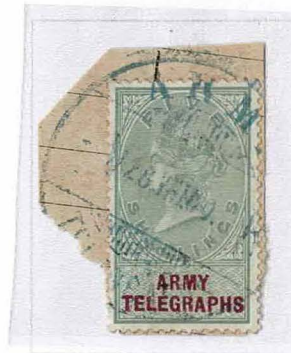
**2/6 Value**  
only partial date (Dec 1899) with final letter M, likely to be from MR & M for Modder. Used during the Anglo Boer War.



**2/6 Value**  
Used 18 Nov. 1900, with letter code NP for Noval's Point. Used during Anglo Boer War.



**2/6 Value** on telegraph piece,  
Used 30 Jun. 1900, with letter code S for Spearman's Farm Camp. Used during the Anglo Boer War.



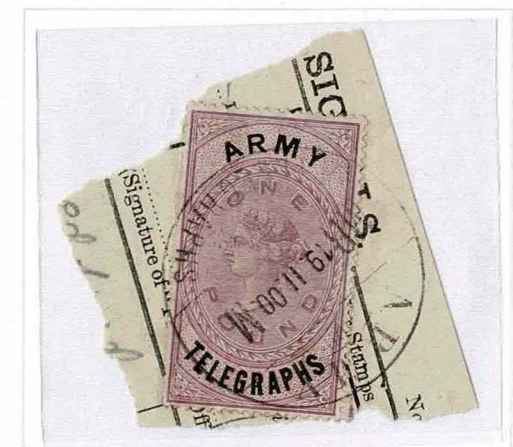
**5/- Value** on telegraph piece,  
Used 28 Jul. 1900, with letter code ALN for Arundel. Used during Army manoeuvres in United Kingdom 1896-1899.



**5/- Value** on telegraph piece, overprinted with ONE SHILLING value. Used 9 Nov. 1900 with letter code MR & M for Modder. Used during the Anglo Boer War. *Langmead rates this ONE SHILLING BLUE overprint as R3 (ten to fifty existing).*



**10/- Value**, stamp and stamp on telegraph piece, partial dates only but each using letter code S for Standerton or Spearman's Farm Camp (as only one letter of code visible). Used during Anglo Boer War.



**£1 Value** on telegraph piece, dated 19 Nov. 1900, with letter code MR & M for Modder. Used during Anglo Boer War.

### ARMY TELEGRAPH OVERPRINTS

The 1/2d vermilion postage stamp was overprinted ARMY TELEGRAPHS, with first printing on 19 August 1896. The 1/2d green postage stamp was also similarly overprinted in 1901. As postage stamps were used at this time for telegraph transmission, these overprinted stamps were widely used for payment of military telegraphs within the United Kingdom, as indeed were non overprinted stamps. However, these overprinted postage stamps were also used during the Boer War in South Africa.



Postage stamps with TELEGRAPH overprint on telegraph piece, dated 28 May 1896 with letter code S & C for Stoney Castle army camp, Pirbright, United Kingdom.

*Earliest recorded use of this very scarce telegraph cancel.*

A.Higson, M.Rutherford, London Philatelist, Vol 120, pg 144, 2011.

Postage stamps without TELEGRAPH overprint on telegraph piece, dated 30 May 1899 with letter code S & R for Stourbridge army camp, United Kingdom.

Postage stamps with TELEGRAPH overprint, only partial dates but with partial letter code A (one of several UK Army camps) and NP for Noval Point, used during Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902.



## 1885 - 1900

Printing moved to by McCorquodale & Co. Ltd.in 1890 and form was redesigned to accept 25 words, with tariff unchanged.

60



TO {

**Lower Form** printed by Wyman & Sons, London (Printers 1895 to 1900), this batch printed Feb 1898



## Section 6.1 National Telephone Company Ltd.

The telephone was invented in 1874 by Alexander Graham Bell and "The National Telephone Company Ltd." was established two years later in Great Britain using Bell's invention, but competing aggressively at the time with the "Edison Telephone Company". Both companies merged in 1880 to form the "United Telephone Co. Ltd."

The National telephone Company Ltd. was operational in cities of Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Ulster and several parts of Scotland. The company issued telephone stamps in 1884 to allow non-subscribers to make public calls in their company offices. Stamps were intended to be fixed to a call-sheet according to the price of the telephone call. The National Telephone Company bought over the smaller companies and operated most exchanges in Great Britain and Ireland by 1890, with the exception of the inter city lines (trunk calls) which were operated by the Post Office. The company also had to pay a line rental of £10 per mile to the Post Office, as the 1869 Telegraph Act defined the term telegraph as "a wire or wires used for the purpose of telegraphic communication".

Five stamps were issued; 1d (grey-black), 3d (red-brown), 4d (blue), 6d (green), 1/-s (brown). The stamps had a portrait of Col. Robert Raynsford Jackson (Chairman of the National Telephone Company) which caused considerable offence at the time of issue, due to the omission of a portrait of Queen Victoria and they were officially asked to withdrawn from use in 1891 at the request of the Post Master-General.

The success of the telephone service was the first step in the decline of the telegraph system with its faster means of communication, without the restriction of limited words.



**Above:** 1884 Sheetlet of 12 1d stamps (Perf 12), printed by Maclure, MacDonald & Co, Glasgow.



**Above:** Used 1d stamps at Glasgow (top, manuscript cancel) and Edinburgh (lower, heavy purple printed cancel with "ED" of Edinburgh).

**Right:** Bill from National Telephone Company, Edinburgh Office, to be paid to the Post Office, posted 13 Dec. 1900.

## The Beginning of the End

1d 1884

**POSTAL TELEGRAPHS, &c.**

EDINBURGH. Exchange

Subscriber's No. 2088.

Messrs

**Account of POST OFFICE FEES** incurred for Trunk Calls, Postal Telegrams, and other facilities through **THE NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY'S** System.

Payable at the Company's District Office: 90a, George Street, EDINBURGH.

| DATE.   | TRUNK FEES. | TELEGRAMS. | POSTAL FACILITIES. | DATE. | £ | s. | d. |
|---------|-------------|------------|--------------------|-------|---|----|----|
| 1900... |             |            |                    |       |   |    |    |
| 1       |             |            |                    | 1     |   |    |    |
| 2       |             |            |                    | 2     |   |    |    |
| 3       |             |            |                    | 3     |   |    |    |
| 4       |             |            |                    | 4     |   |    |    |
| 5       |             |            |                    | 5     |   |    |    |
| 6       |             |            |                    | 6     |   |    |    |
| 7       |             |            |                    | 7     |   |    |    |
| 8       |             |            |                    | 8     |   |    |    |
| 9       |             |            |                    | 9     |   |    |    |
| 10      |             |            |                    | 10    |   |    |    |
| 11      |             |            |                    | 11    |   |    |    |
| 12      |             |            |                    | 12    |   |    |    |
| 13      |             |            |                    | 13    |   |    |    |
| 14      |             |            |                    | 14    |   |    |    |
| 15      |             |            |                    | 15    |   |    |    |
| 16      |             |            |                    | 16    |   |    |    |
| 17      |             |            |                    | 17    |   |    |    |
| 18      |             |            |                    | 18    |   |    |    |
| 19      |             |            |                    | 19    |   |    |    |
| 20      |             |            |                    | 20    |   |    |    |
| 21      |             |            |                    | 21    |   |    |    |
| 22      |             |            |                    | 22    |   |    |    |
| 23      |             |            |                    | 23    |   |    |    |
| 24      |             |            |                    | 24    |   |    |    |
| 25      |             |            |                    | 25    |   |    |    |
| 26      |             |            |                    | 26    |   |    |    |
| 27      |             |            |                    | 27    |   |    |    |
| 28      |             |            |                    | 28    |   |    |    |
| 29      |             |            |                    | 29    |   |    |    |
| 30      |             |            |                    | 30    |   |    |    |
| 31      |             |            |                    | 31    |   |    |    |

**National Telephone Company, Limited.**  
Edinburgh District Office,  
90a, George Street, Edinburgh.

No. 11797 Received from No. 2088 1900

Name Messrs Leitch & Walker the sum of £ 130.11.00 amount of Fees due to the Post Office to For the NATIONAL TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.

G. Hooper. District Manager.

Countersigned by M. Macdonald Collector.

The Company will not recognise any receipt unless given on their official form and bearing the signature of the District Manager and Countersigned by the Collector

The details of this bill are at the Company's District Office, after which period, no question as to its validity will be entertained.

THE COMPANY WILL NOT RECOGNISE ANY RECEIPT UNLESS GIVEN ON ITS OFFICIAL FORM.

No. 219. 8-00.

Stamps will not be received in payment if Account is over 1/-.

**N.B.—This Account must be paid within Seven Days.**

RENDERED within 5 days entertained.



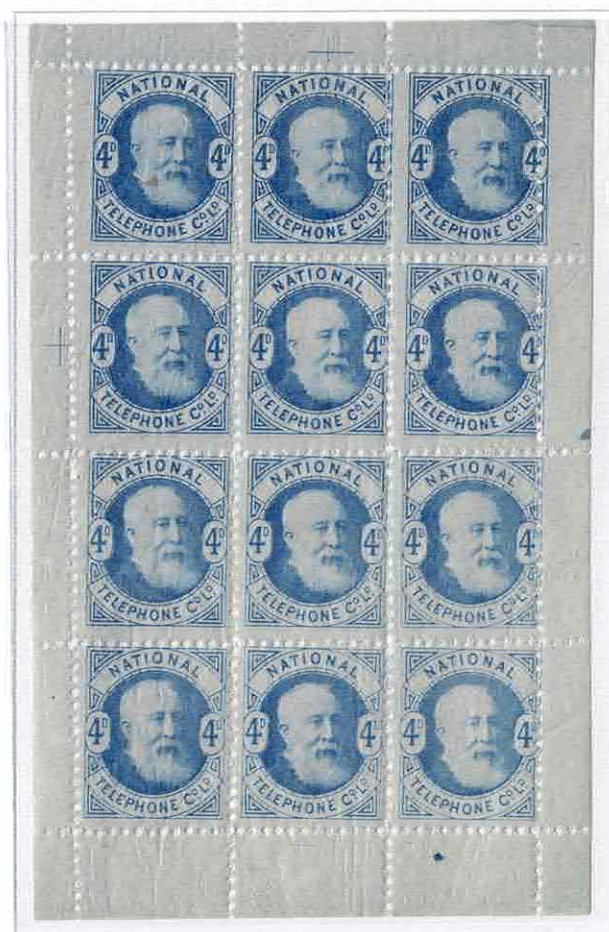
## Section 6.2 National Telephone Company Ltd. 1878

3d, 6d 1884 & 4d 1886

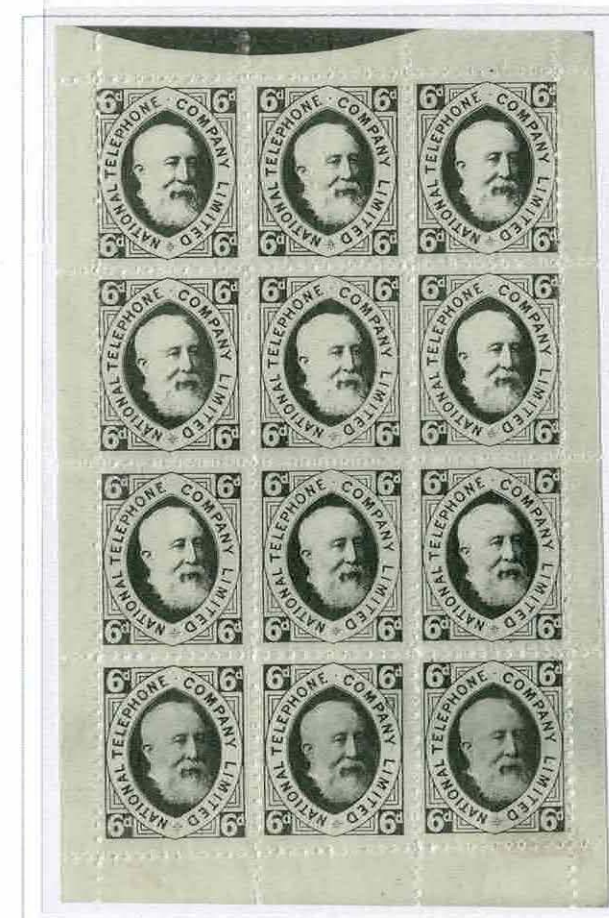
Sheets of 12 stamps, Perf. 12, National Telephone Company Ltd. : 3d (red-brown), 4d (blue) and 6d (pale green) values. Sheets originally printed in larger foolscap sheets of nine mini sheets (3 rows of 3 sheets), guillotined into sheets shown below, for delivery. Sheets printed in 1884, except 4d value in 1886, by Maclure, MacDonald & Co, Glasgow. There are two distinctive colour shades for the 6d value and it has been proposed that the myrtle-green shade may be a later printing due to shortage of this value. Stamps printed by the photographic gelatine process of collotyping. Stamps were issued as the company needed to keep a strict record of revenues, as their contract with the Post Office meant that the Post Office received 10% of the cost for use of the telegraph lines on trunk (inter-city) calls.



3d Stamp Sheetlet. (1884)



4d Stamp Sheetlet (1886)



6d Stamp Sheetlet (1884)



Wide variety of shades in the 6d value, clearly divided into olive-green and myrtle-green.

National Telephone Co.  
Ltd. Printings:

1d 122,196 stamps  
3d 124,800 stamps  
4d 22,800 stamps  
6d 95,840 stamps  
1/- 61,032 stamps



3d. Unusual cancel reads  
"Subject to sufficient  
support being obtained".



4d Kirkcaldy  
cancel.



6d Dundee  
cancel



6d TELEPHONE  
cancel.  
No location.



3d, Dundee cancels, last  
stamp dated 13 Oct 1890



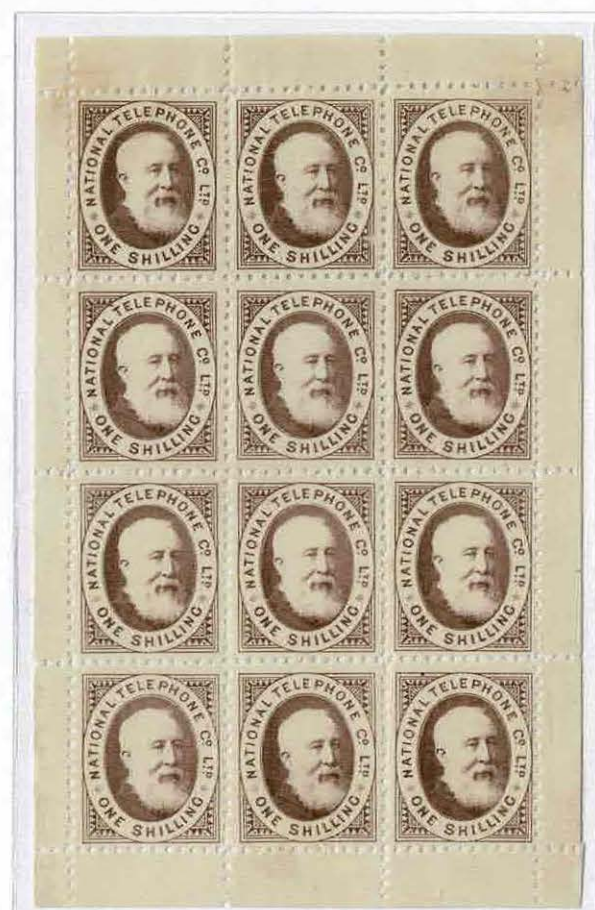
4d TELEPHONE  
cancel.  
No location.



6d cancel reads:  
CORPORATE CERTIFIED



The 1/- sheet was also printed by Maclure, MacDonald & Co., Glasgow. A shortage of the 6d stamps in 1890/1891, led to the 1/- value being bisected and used as a 6d value. These were required in order to determine the fee due to the Post Office for use of the telegraph lines (10% of revenue from all trunk calls). These bisepts were stuck in a numbered 50 position call sheet, with each position cancelled and usually dated. Subscribers to the telephone service, simply had to sign the call sheet while non subscribers had to purchase the relevant stamps, depending on duration of call.



1/- Stamp Sheetlet (1884)



Used 1/- stamps. Top stamp cancelled with "BUR" of Edinburgh and bottom stamp dated 3 April 1888.



Dated 23, 29 and 31 Dec 1890. Two stamps have manuscript 288 (officer designation).



Dated 31 Oct 1890 and 2 Nov 1890. Stamps have manuscript 866 (officer designation).



Dated 1, 4 and 12 Oct. 1890. Stamps have manuscript 388 or 590, each followed with letter "D".



Numbered positions on tally sheet clearly visible  
Top: No 2  
Bottom: No 11, with 16 below – rows of 5.

## Epilogue

The Military and telephone adhesive stamps were the last to be directly linked to Telegraph development. The postal stationery items continued as shown but with relevant reigning Royal Head. By 1901 the telegraph stamps had been replaced with their postage equivalents, as shown below. However, the first major step towards the decline of the telegraph was the development of the telephone, which was an even faster means of communication. The Post Office eventually took over the telephone service in 1912 and proceeded to promote both communication tools on an equal basis.



4d London  
29 Mar 1883

10d London  
2 Mar 1901

1/- Southampton  
27 Dec 1893

1/- Cork  
6 Jul 1894

2/6 Lincoln  
24 Sept 1891

2/6 London  
26 Jan 1893

5/- Manchester  
28 May 1889

5/- Birmingham  
26 Apr 1892

10/- Manchester  
31 May 1889

£1 Birmingham  
2 Nov 1883