

The Electric Telegraph Company/Electric & International Telegraph Company – 1846 to 1870

Exhibit Objective and Scope

The objective of the exhibit is to show the telegraph stamps issued by the first British private telegraph company, *The Electric Telegraph Company* from its creation in 1846 until the company was bought by the British Post Office in 1870. The exhibit includes the first British franked telegraph forms and the first British adhesive telegraph stamps (both for use within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland) and stamps dedicated for use on its Continental service. The exhibit also shows the stamps of the South Eastern Railways, in strategic partnership with the *Electric Telegraph Company*.

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 later opened their service to the public as they realized the potential for increasing their profits. This service was then expanded by private telegraph companies, the first of these being *The Electric Telegraph Company* 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, followed by a series of stamps for the payment of telegrams sent by the public. *The Electric Telegraph Company* bought the Cook and Wheatstone patents for their electric needle telegraph and became operational after the passing of the Electric Telegraph Company Act of 1846. The company later amalgamated with *The International Telegraph Company* in 1855 to become *The Electric & International Telegraph Company*, both companies being promoted by the same financial interests.

Exhibit Plan (Philatelic and Company Development)

1. Franked Message Forms 1851 and Large Adhesive Stamps 1854 (Series 1 & Series 2).
2. Small Adhesive Stamps (Directors RG/JSF) 1861.
3. Small Adhesive Stamps (Directors RG/HW) 1864.
4. The Electric and International Telegraph Company Continental Stamps 1861.
5. The Electric and International Telegraph Company association with the South Eastern Railway Company 1855-1870/ Epilogue

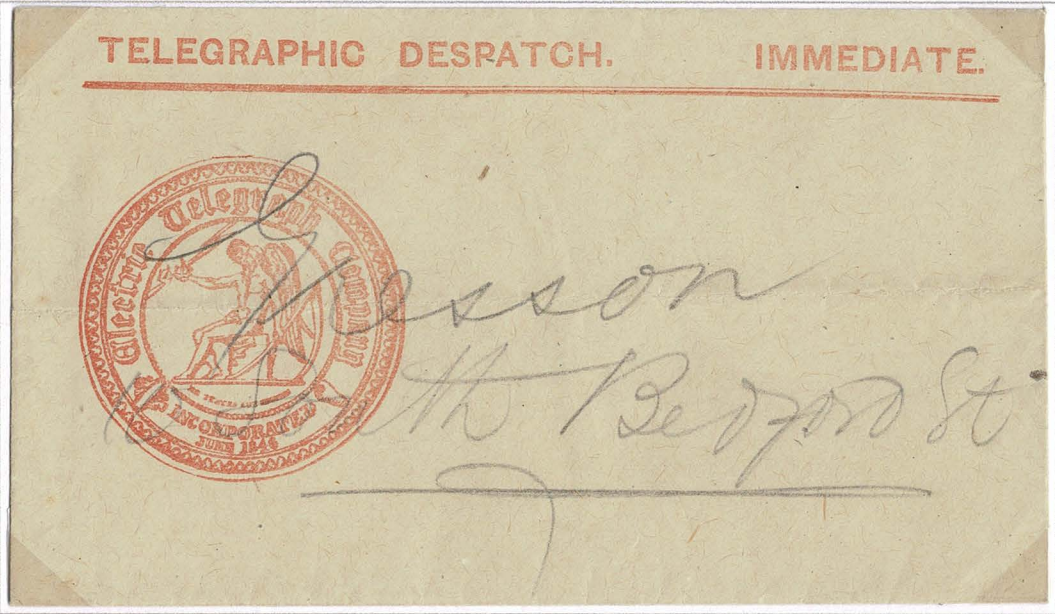
Exhibit follows rarity scale used by Langmead and Huggins.
R5 – Only known in official collection e.g. Royal Philatelic Collection
R4 - probably less than ten copies exist
R3- probably 10-50 copies exist
R2 probably 50-100 copies exist
R1 – over 100 copies exist
Items with rating R4 & R5 are outlined in red box/red text

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.

Section 1. The Electric Telegraph Company Franked Message Papers 1851

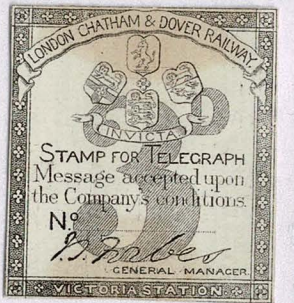
The Electric Telegraph Company first produced stamped stationery with a franked message paper/forms issued in May 1851 for the London Exhibition held in Hyde Park. These were printed by Waterlow and Sons on hand made wove paper, watermarked with the name of the company in double-lined Roman capitals. Telegraph messages were limited to a maximum of twenty words each for the standard tariff rates but additional words could be added at a cost of 3d per word, with address and initials counted as full words. *The Electric Telegraph Company* grew rapidly in England because of its close links to the Railway Companies, such as the South Eastern Railway, which was also the first to issue stamps for the payment of their telegraph services. Example of rare *Electric Telegraph Company* Franked Message Form on page 2.



Used Electric
Telegraph Delivery
envelope, with
company emblem.



Left: The South Eastern Railway was one of only two railways to issue telegraph stamps. 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 (see final page). R4 rating.

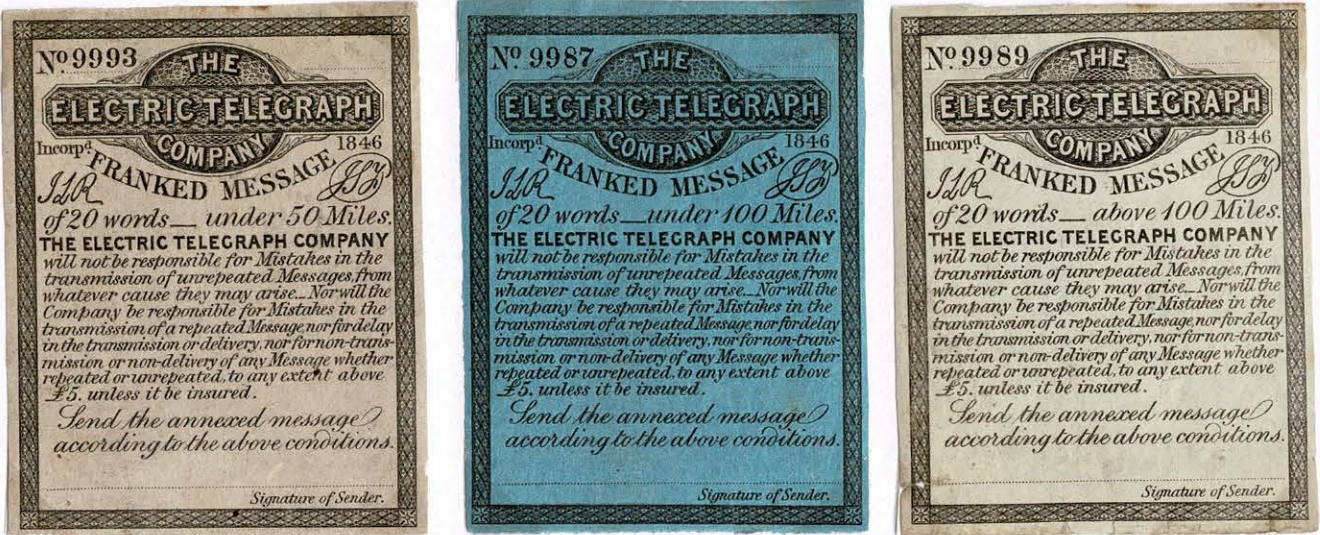


L.C.& D.R.

Above, Right: 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" and "Victoria Station". 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. Franked Forms (1851) and Large Adhesive Stamps (1854)

The Electric Telegraph Company introduced adhesive stamps in May /June 1954, printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co., bearing the initials of JLR (John Lewis Ricaro - Company Chairman) and JSF (James Sealy Foudrinier - Company Secretary). These relatively large stamps measured 53 x 67mm and stamps reinforced the company recommendation for retransmission to check accuracy, bearing the warning “not responsible for the transmission of unrepeated messages for whatever claim may arise”. Stamps 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 (proof sheet on next page).



Large Adhesive stamps issued 1st June 1854 (with control numbers between 9780 and 10000).
Under 50 miles (1s 0d, black on pale pink paper, control no. 9993).
Under 100 miles (2s 6d, black on blue paper, control no. 9987).
Above 100 miles (5s 0d, 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, *at Aug 4 185*

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	" 1/6
Total...£	" 1/6

Received £ *1/6* *Bacon* Messenger.

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

No+ 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 3d 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
Porterage
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 2d FOR TWENTY WORDS.

Received m
Forwarded m To Station by me Clerk

2s 6d 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 18, 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”.

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.



1s 0d black on buff paper, plate 2, control no. 8746 from the first printing October 1857. 50,000 stamps were printed up to 1960

2s 0d 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).

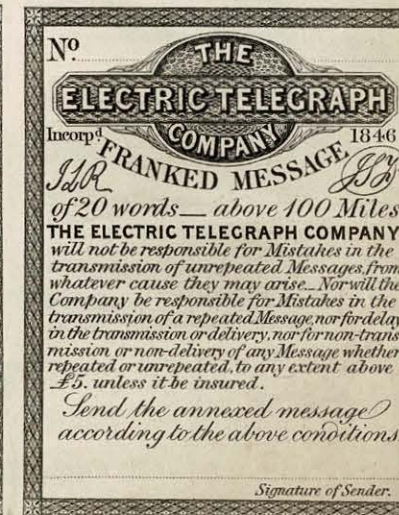


4s 0d black on white, first printing, control no. 12216, April 1856, cancelled by "RECEIVED THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY" oval handstamp in red, possibly unique. 210,000 stamps were printed up to December 1860 with control numbers up to 100,000 and an A series of A 70,001 to A 100,000

4s 0d black on white, second printing, control no. 24958, October 1856.

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

Right: Langmead reports only two Plate Block sheets known, the other one being "quartered" Both for messages "above 100 miles".



Section 2. Small Adhesive StampsSeries 1 Directors RG/JSF 1861

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), 1s 6d (rose), 2s (green), 2s 6d (brown), 3s (blue), 4s (black), 5s (purple) and 10s (brown). All stamps can be found with perforations 12 and 12½, except 6d and 10s which have perforation 12½ only. The 1s 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 1s, 1s 6d and 2s 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.



1863 RG/JSF 6d, 12½ perf, Langmead R4, less than 10 copies existing

Full set of used RG/JSF adhesive stamps; 3d (perf 12½, 1863), 1s (perf 12, 1861), 1s white tablet (perf 12½, 1863), 18d (perf 12½, 1863), 2s (perf 12½, 1863), 2s6d (perf 12, 1861), 3s (perf 12½, 1863), 4s (perf 12½, 1863), 5s (perf 12, 1861), 10s (perf 12½, 1863), 6d (perf 12½, 1863)

Right: The company used Form 277W for forwarding messages. These forms are always scarce as they were usually destroyed as soon as the message was sent (for confidentiality) while delivery forms are much more common as they were often filed with the correspondence received. **Langmead reports the existence of only six unused 277W forms from Bridport, all having a three shilling RG/JSF perforation 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.

(277 W.)
(Forwarded Form.)

No. of Message _____ Station. _____

THE ELECTRIC & INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY,

Prefix _____ Code Time _____ WORDS TO BE SIGNALLED ... } _____

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

Message.....
Repeating
Reply.....
Porterage
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. _____

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

4474 seen
4393
4108

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

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

Signature. _____
Address. _____

Signature and Address of Sender. _____

endorsed hereon; the Company at the above Address; deposited _____

Signature and Address of Sender. _____

Section 3. Small Adhesive Stamps Series 2 Directors RG/HW 1864

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 2s 6d, 4s, 5s, and 10s 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.



Full set of used 1864 RG/HW hand cancelled stamps, all perforation 12½, the scarcest of these being the 1s (orange) value, deemed as R2 by Langmead (50 to 100 copies existing). Stamps retained the 1861 date in lower boxes and higher values were not reprinted in this series



RG/JSF green 2s, perf 12, first issue 1861.

1863 Delivery Telegram to Dame St., Dublin (received at College Green Telegraph Station).
Telegram cost (< 20 words) had reduced in 1863 to:

1s	under 50 miles,
1s 6d	100-200 miles,
2s	greater than 200 miles.



Rare Irish receiving cancel on reverse - College Green Dublin, only Electric and International Telegraph Company receiving cancel known on telegram used in Ireland (Copy to left, Ref. Hans Bergdolt, Telegraphy in Ireland, Revealer, page 53 Spring 2008.) Light Grey delivery envelope, in contrast to buff manila envelope previously shown.

The Electric and International Telegraph

COMPANY.

INCORPORATED 1846.

MESSAGES

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

REDUCED RATES.

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

The Company has upwards of 590 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.
June, 1862.

By Order,

J. S. FOURDRINIER,
Secretary.

TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCH.

IMMEDIATE

Major Blackall
53 Anne
Cable
18th Nov 1861

CHARGE FOR PORTORAGE.

DISTANCE.	By Messenger on Foot.	By Messenger Express.	DISTANCE.	By Messenger on Foot.	By Messenger Express.
Under Half-a-mile.....	No Charge.	No Charge.	Above One Mile, and under Two miles....	1s. 0d.	2s. 0d.
Above Half-a-mile, and under One mile...	0s. 6d.	1s. 0d.	„ Two Miles, „ Three miles..	1s. 6d.	3s. 0d.

No delivery by Foot Messengers beyond Three Miles.

Section 3 Small Adhesive Stamps

Series 2 RG/HW 1864



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.

New Form also printed by Waterlow & Sons, London.

Multiples of mint adhesive RG/HW stamps.
Perf 12½, first issue 1864
Six block of this 6d is scarce item



RG/HW, 3d ochre, Perf 10, Issue 1866.



RG/HW, 1s orange, Perf 10, Issue 1866.



RG/HW, 2s green, Perf 10, Issue 1866.



RG/HW, Director Message Stamp



The 1s, 1s 6d and 2s values of the RG/JSF 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.

THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED 1846.

MESSAGES

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

REDUCED RATES.

No Charge is made for Portage, 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.

(204 W.)
Delivery Form A

THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

INCORPORATED 1846.

Central Station—Founders' Court, Lothbury.

PRINCIPAL COUNTRY STATIONS—

ABERDEEN 59, Marischall Street, & Railway Station.
BATH 3, New Bond St. Buildg.
BIRMINGHAM Temple Buildings, Exchange Buildings, Corn Exchange, and Railway Stations.
BELFAST Victoria Street, and 8, Donegal Square.
BRIGHTON 18, Old Steine, and Bedford Hotel.
BRISTOL Exchange Buildings & Railway Stations.
CAMBRIDGE Town Hall and Railway Station.
CARDIFF 5, Powell Place Docks, Town Hall, and Railway Station.
CORK 89, South Mall.
DERBY Corn Exchange and Railway Station.
DUBLIN 4, College Green, Canal Harbour and Eden Quay.
DUNDEE Corner of Cowgate and Wellgate.
DUNDEE 11 & 12, Lombard St., and Railway Station.
NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE Old Masonic Hall, and Moatmouthshire By. Stn.
NEWPORT 11 & 12, Lombard St., and Railway Station.
NEWPORT Old Masonic Hall, and Moatmouthshire By. Stn.
NORWICH At the Royal Hotel, Market Place, &c.
PERTH At the Railway Station.
PLYMOUTH Plymouth side of Raily. Bridge, and The Exchange.
PORTSMOUTH 12, The Hard, Portsea, High Street, and Railway Station.
PRESTON At the Railway Station.
SHEFFIELD New Exchange, and Railway Station.
SOUTHAMPTON High Street and At the Railway Station.
SUNDERLAND William Street and Railway Station.
WAKEFIELD At the Corn Exchange & Railway Station.
WATERFORD Chamber of Commerce.
WEYMOUTH Luce's Royal Hotel.
YORK 17, Micklegate, and Railway Station.

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

Station.

FROM

TO

Name and Address.

Name and Address.

CHARGES FOR PORTERAGE.

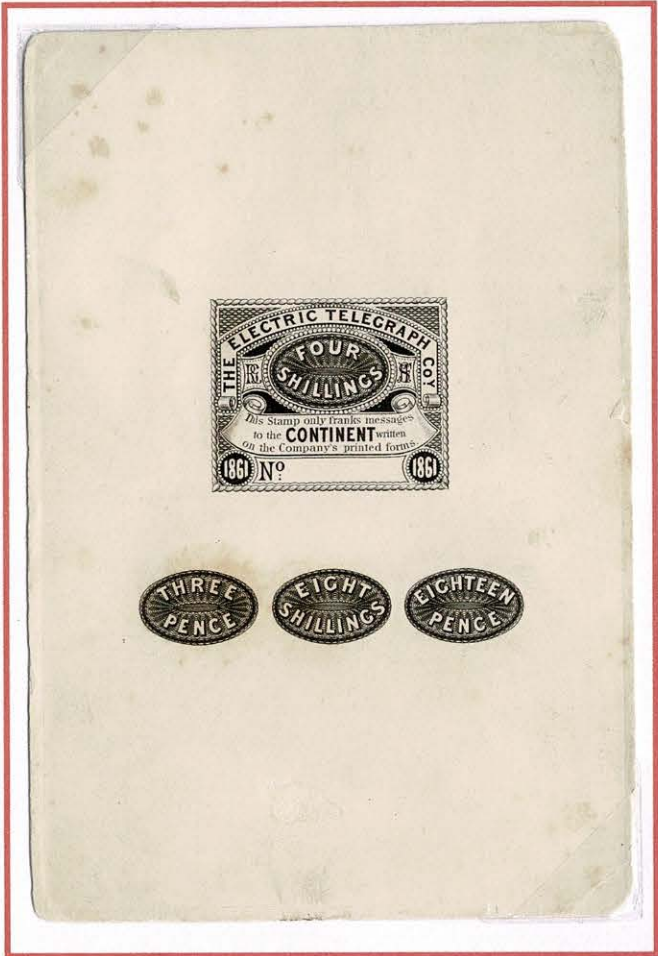
DISTANCE.	By Messenger on Foot.	By Messenger Express.	DISTANCE.	By Messenger on Foot.	By Messenger Express.
Under Half-a-mile.....	No Charge.	No Charge.	Above One Mile, and under Two miles.....	1s. 0d.	2s. 0d.
Above Half-a-mile, and under One mile.....	0s. 6d.	1s. 0d.	„ Two Miles, „ Three miles.....	1s. 6d.	3s. 0d.

No delivery by Foot Messengers beyond Three Miles.

Face of of 204 W Delivery Form A -Sent and received within Carlisle, England. - August 1867 – no portorage fee. Inset: Reverse of Form 204W Delivery Form A - Sent and received within Dublin – August 1867.

Section 4, 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, 4s and 8s. Of these four values, only the 3d and 8s 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.



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.



(204 W.)
Delivery Form, B
THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.
INCORPORATED 1846.

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 (Cathedral 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. 30, 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. 448, corner of Adelaide Street—Open day and night.
ST. JAMES STREET—No. 89, opposite the Palace.
THAMES STREET (UPPER)—No. 173.
TATTERSALL'S (SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS)—Open on Monday and Thursday.
WESTMINSTER—No. 17a, 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 Wall.

The following Message has been received at High Holborn Station, 1861

FROM London

THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.
INCORPORATED 1846.

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.

18 July 1861
Dane

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.

241
HIGH HOLBORN

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. Major offices listed at top of Form.

Section 5 . Electric & International Telegraph Company association with South Eastern Railway Company 1855 -1870/ Epilogue

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. *The Electric & International Telegraph Company* had a close association with the railroad companies in Great Britain, with exclusion cooperation agreements in the South, in order to prevent access to its greatest competitor, *The British and Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company*. The *South Eastern Railway Company* had an exclusive use agreement with *the Electric & International Telegraph Company* for sharing of telegraph lines and the 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 1865. In Ireland the reverse was the case, where the exclusive agreements with railroad companies were established with *The British and Irish Magnetic Company* and *The Electric Telegraph Company* was forced to find alternative routes for telegraph network. The *South Eastern Railway* was the only railroad company to issue formal adhesive stamps 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 1s, lilac 1s 6d, brown 2s 3d and green 2s 9d) with a further two values added in 1862 (red 9d and black 1s 2d). The initial SER telegraph tariff in 1855 was 1s per 20 words with 6d for each addition 10 words (or less). This changed in 1856 to 1s for 20 words up to 25 miles and 1s 6d for 25-50 miles. Messages sent on Sundays had an additional fee of 1s.



Rare – Imperforate plate proofs of 1860 stamps.

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



Rare Imperforate plate proof of 1862 stamp: 1s 2d black, without control number. Rate R4.

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 2s 3d, perf 9, control no. 1413.

Rated R4 by Langmead, fewer than ten copies existing.



Unused Control Stamps:

1860 Green 2s 9d, 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 1s 2d, perf 12, control no. 2014.

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



Unused Control Stamp

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

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



Unused Control Stamps:

Pair of yellow 1868 1s, 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 side of the edge stamp imperforate.



Epilogue. *The Electric and International Telegraphic Company* was the most successful private company in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and it boasted control of 1,500 miles of telegraphic line by 1848 and 15,000 miles of wire by 1851 (within Great Britain and Ireland). Ultimately the success of the private companies and the need to further extend the telegraphic network, led to the Telegraphic Act 1868, which conferred power on the Postmaster General to acquire the existing Telegraph Companies, with a further Telegraph Act in 1869 required to ensure a Post Office monopoly going forward. The private telegraph systems were finally transferred to the Post Office on 4th February 1870, the main arguments for this change being uniformity of charges and the wider extension of the telegraphic service. *The Electric and International Telegraphic Company* was purchased by the Post Office for £2, 938, 826 and of all the private companies, this was the only one to destroy all its papers, stamps and printing plates. This fact, along with the established practice of destroying stamped telegraph transmission forms to maintain confidentiality, means many of these stamps are very difficult to acquire.