

SAPPHIRE

This book has been generated from a scan of the original and we cannot guarantee that it is free from errors or contains the full content of the original.




This compilation
copyright © Sapphire Publications Ltd

STRICTLY NOT FOR RESALE OR REDISTRIBUTION

# THE LINE-ENGRAVED POSTAGE STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN PRINTED BY PERKINS, BACON & CO.

BY

EDWARD DENNY BACON, M.V.O.

(President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London).

A HISTORY OF THEIR PRODUCTION DURING THE FORTY YEARS—1840 TO 1880—MAINLY COMPILED FROM THE RECORDS OF THE FIRM, WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF MR. JAMES DUNBAR HEATH, MANAGING DIRECTOR.

With Fifteen Plates of Collotype and other Illustrations.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

## *VOL. II.*

## *APPENDICES.*

Published by

CHAS. NISSEN & CO., LIMITED,

63 High Holborn, London, W.C.1.

(*All Rights Reserved*).

1920.

Oversize
HE
8125
.E6
D3
1a

# APPENDICES.

# *APPENDIX A.*

## EXTRACTS FROM NEWSPAPERS.

(1)

A copy of the Minute of the Board of Treasury, relative to carrying into effect the Act for establishing a Reduced and uniform Rate of Postage.

My Lords read the Act for the further regulation of the Duties of Postage, which received the Royal Assent on Saturday, the 17th instant.

By this Act, my Lords are invested with a power of carrying into effect the reduced and uniform rate of postage contemplated by Parliament, either according to the present mode of collecting the postage, or by pre-payment, collected by means of stamps, compulsory or optional.

My Lords feel the importance of the discretion with which Parliament has invested them, affecting as it must the convenience of the public, the collection of the revenue, as well as the security and facility of the transmission of the correspondence of the country.

In comparing the advantages which may arise from the plan of pre-payment by means of stamps, if such plan should be adopted, much must depend upon the stamp which may be employed. For the convenience of the public it is of the greatest importance that the mode selected should afford every facility for obtaining and using the stamp. It is also clear that the charge which will fall upon the public, in the shape of extra payment, on account of the stamp itself, in addition to the penny rate, must vary according to the nature of the stamp adopted.

In the course of the enquiries and discussions on the subject, several plans were suggested, viz., stamped covers, stamped paper, and stamps to be used separately, and to be applied to any letter, of whatever description, and written on any paper.

Before my Lords can decide upon the adoption of any course either by stamp or otherwise, they feel it will be useful that artists, men of science, and the public in general, may have an opportunity of offering any suggestions or proposals as to the manner in which the stamp may best be brought into use. With this view, my Lords will be prepared to receive and consider any proposal which may be sent in to them on or before the 15th of October, 1839.

All persons desirous of communicating with my Lords on the subject are requested to direct to the Lords of the Treasury, Whitehall, marked "Post-Office Stamp."

My Lords will be prepared to award a premium of £200 to such proposal as they may consider the most deserving of attention, and £100 to the next best proposal.

My Lords will feel at liberty to adopt, for the public service, any of the suggestions which may be contained in any communications made to them, except, of course, where parties have any right secured by patent.

The points which this Board consider of the greatest importance are :—

(1) The convenience as regards the public use.

(2) The security against forgery.

(3) The facility of being checked, and distinguished in the examination at the Post Office which must of necessity be re-paid.

(4) The expense of the production and circulation of the stamps.

My Lords will be prepared to receive and consider proposals from foreign countries, and they desire that a copy of this Minute be transmitted to Lord Palmerston, and that his Lordship should be requested to take such measures as he may deem most advisable, through Her Majesty's Ministers abroad, for the purpose of making known the intentions of this Board.

They desire, also, that Lord Palmerston be requested to procure for my Lords, through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, information respecting the system of stamps adopted in France, and specimens of the stamp impressions used in that country.

Transmit a copy of this Minute to the Postmaster-General, for his information and guidance.

WHITEHALL, TREASURY CHAMBERS ;

August 23rd.

*Published in* "THE TIMES" *of September 6th*, 1839.

---

(2)

*To the Editor of the* "INVENTORS' ADVOCATE."

SIR,—A friend has called our attention to an article in your paper of the 23rd ult., over the signature of "Jobard," which, as it not only contains several misstatements, but gratuitously connects Mr. Perkins' name with them, we doubt not you will, with your usual candour, allow us the opportunity of correcting.

Amongst other heedless assertions, M. Jobard makes the following :—

1st. "The Government has grafted on a plan of Mr. Perkins, a plan of penny postage, with a stamped envelope, for which there are to be established depôts in every part of London.

2d. He inaccurately describes our system for the prevention of forgery. and very modestly adds, "*it is worth nothing*," and that it is easy to reproduce these plates by lithography.

3d. He (rather obscurely) offers to give the public the plan of a chance plate rather than engage in what he *wisely terms the lottery* of endeavouring to obtain the prize of a million offered by the Bank of England."

To his first assertion we answer, that neither Mr. Perkins, nor our firm, nor anyone else in any way related to or connected with him, have made any arrangement, *nor even offered any plan whatever*, for carrying out the penny postage.

To the first part of his second assertion, the public will deem it quite sufficient for us to appeal to the experience of a quarter of a century, to contradict him, and as to the second part, it being impossible for us to prove the negative, we can only say it is untrue.

To the third statement we would say, that, so far is the plan of a chance plate from being novel, that the legislature of Massachusetts passed an Act twenty years ago obliging the banks in that State to use for their notes a chance plate, introduced by Mr. Perkins, and as to the million said to be offered by the Bank of England, this must be the production of his own, or some other equally-prolific brain.

Requesting, when next he drags persons and their affairs before the public, that he will pay some little regard to facts.

We are, Mr. Editor,

Your humble Servants,

PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

No. 69, FLEET STREET;

December 3rd, 1839.

This letter appeared in the issue of the paper for December 7th, 1839. M. Jobard was the Belgian director of the "Continental Society of Inventions," and lived at Brussels.

---

(3)

*Copy of a Treasury Minute, dated December 26th,* 1839.

My Lords read the minute of the 23rd of August, proposing to receive communications from the public with reference to the letter-stamps named in the Act 2 and 3 Victoria, cap. 52, and offering certain rewards for the same.

The communications (more than 2,600 in number) received in consequence of this minute, have for a long time occupied the attention of their lordships. Many of them display much ingenuity. They are highly satisfactory, as evincing the interest taken by men of science, and by the public in general, in the measures now in progress for the reduction of postage, and they have afforded much useful information with reference to the details of the new arrangement. Upon full deliberation, however, their lordships do not think it will be advisable to adopt any one of the specific plans proposed, without modification and combination with other arrangements.

After the best consideration my lords can give the subject, and with the view of awarding most fairly between the parties, my lords have decided not to give the specific sums mentioned in their minute of the 23rd of August, but have selected four communications which are the most distinguished either for originality or for completeness, and from which my lords have derived the greatest service, and decided to award the sum of £100 to each. The authors of these four communications are as follow, the names being arranged alphabetically, viz.:—Messrs. Bogardus and Coffin (who have acted together), Mr. Benjamin Cheverton, Mr. Henry Cole, and Mr. Charles Whiting

My lords next proceed to take into consideration the several points enumerated in the minute of 23rd of August, and the suggestions connected therewith which occur in the communications already referred to.

Their lordships, upon full consideration, have decided to require that, as far as practicable, the postage of letters shall be prepaid, and to effect such prepayment by means of stamps. Their lordships are of opinion that the convenience of the public will be consulted, more especially at first, by issuing stamps of various kinds, in order that every one may select that description of stamp which is most suitable to his own peculiar circumstances; and, with a view of affording an ample choice, their lordships are pleased to direct that the following stamps be prepared :—

(1) Stamped covers.—The stamp being struck on pieces of paper of the size of half a sheet of 4to. letter paper.

(2) Stamped envelopes.—The stamp being struck on pieces of paper of a lozenge form, of which the stationers and others may manufacture envelopes.

(3) Adhesive stamps, or stamps on small pieces of paper with a glutinous wash at the back, which may be attached to letters either before or after they are written, and

(4) Stamps to be struck on paper of any description, which the public may send to the Stamp-office for that purpose.

The paper for the first, second, and third kinds of stamps to be peculiar in its water-mark, or some other feature, but to be supplied to Government by competition.

My lords direct that the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, and the Commissioners of Excise, should receive the official directions to take the necessary steps in conjunction with this board, and with the Postmaster-General, for the preparation of the stamps herein enumerated.

Although the necessary experiments and investigations, which have been conducted under the direction of this board are already far advanced, my lords fear that a considerable time will be required for completing the preparation of the dies, plates, and machinery (much of which is unavoidably of a novel construction), necessary for the manufacture of the stamps; and being desirous of affording to the public, with the least possible delay, the full advantage of the intended reduction in postage, their lordships propose at once to effect such reduction. On the use of stamps, however, my lords have fully decided; they will be prepared with the least possible delay, and when ready, due notice will be given of their introduction.

---

The remainder of the Minute is concerned with the regulations for the introduction of uniform penny postage, which was fixed to come into operation on the 10th January, 1840.

---

*Published in* "The Inventors' Advocate and Journal of Industry" *of January 4th,* 1840.

(4)

THE POSTAGE STAMPS.—The construction of the stamps is advancing with all speed, the several artists to whom they are intrusted being actively engaged upon them. In the stamp for letter paper, and the adhesive stamp, a profile of the Queen, is the principal ornament. The letter paper stamp is being engraved by Mr. Wyon, R.A., medalist to the Mint. Charles Heath is engraving the drawing taken from Wyon's City medal, by H. Corbould, intended for the adhesive stamp. W. Mulready, R.A., has furnished the design for the cover and envelope, which is in the hands of John Thompson, for engraving.—*Ministerial print.*

*Published in* "THE TIMES" *of January 17th*, 1840.

(5)

PREPAYMENT OF POSTAGE.

We understand that Mr. Hill's plan of transmitting letters free, without actual cash payment of postage, is likely to come into operation very shortly, and that the three modes of carrying it into effect which were proposed last summer, and led to a good deal of discussion and controversy, are all to be brought into operation, viz :—

(1) Paper may be sent to the Stamp-office, and prepared for passing free by the post, by the application of a stamp.

(2) The public will have the opportunity of purchasing small adhesive labels, which they can stick on to their letters.

(3) They may purchase stamped covers, or envelopes printed on a paper manufactured by Mr. Dickinson, with lines of thread in the interior of the sheet ; and it is stated that "by causing part of the lines to be nearest to one surface of the paper, and part to the other, he has superadded a great protection against forgery."[1]

The stamp for affixing to letter paper at the Stamp-office, is from a die engraved by Mr. Wyon, of the Mint. It is an embossed stamp, consisting of a beautifully engraved head of Her Majesty, with a wreathed border to the die, and being prepared for printing at the same time, the head will show to advantage on a coloured ground, if the printing and stamping be well performed. This style of stamping is already in use in the office, but, as it must be more tedious and expensive than the ordinary mode, and presents no peculiar difficulty to the forger, we are surprised that it should have been adopted for a very large consumption. The adhesive labels are printed from an engraving on steel by Mr. Charles Heath, which consists of the head of Her Majesty, apparently copied from that of Mr. Wyon, and which is shown upon a ground of delicate and beautiful workmanship. Mr. Heath's engraving has been hardened, and forms, in fact, a die or punch, which by the process introduced by Mr. Perkins, can be propagated to any extent on plates of softened steel. This operation has been carried into effect by Messrs. Bacon & Co., and they are now printing labels from steel plates, each of which affords 240 impressions of the original engraving by Mr. Heath.

*Published in* "THE TIMES" *of April 14th*, 1840.

[1] "Athenæum," No. 649.

(6)

*Immediate.* TREASURY CHAMBERS,

21st February, 1840.

Gentlemen,

I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, to transmit herewith copy of a Treasury minute, dated the 20th inst., with reference to the arrangements to be made for the preparation of the new Post Office Stamps.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes.

COPY OF TREASURY MINUTE, DATED FEBRUARY 20TH, 1840.

My Lords read that part of their minute of the 26th of December last, which has reference to the Stamps to be used in the collection of Postage: Together with their minute of the 28th ulto., directing that the paper required for such Stamps should be procured by contract through the Commissioners of Excise.

My Lords are of opinion that the preparations for producing the several kinds of Stamps, enumerated in the minute of the 26th of December, and the experiments connected therewith, have now so far advanced as to render it expedient to place the completion of the work, under the immediate superintendence of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes.

My Lords have before them the several designs which have been prepared for the Postage Stamps. They are as follows:—For the stamped covers and envelopes, a design by Mulready, to be engraved in relief by Thompson, to be printed on paper containing the watermark "Postage," and to occupy a position above the address of the letter.

For the adhesive stamps, a fine steel-plate engraving, by Heath, of Her Majesty's Head, reduced from Wyon's City Medal, with an engine-turned background by Perkins, Bacon & Co., to be printed on sheets, each containing 240 impressions, these impressions being exact fac-similes of one another, except that they will be distinguished by certain combinations of the letters of the alphabet; the sheets of paper to have watermarks consisting of the word "Postage" in the margin, and a small crown so placed as to occupy the lower part of each stamp.

For the common stamp, viz., that to be struck on paper of any description which the public may send to the Stamp Office, an embossed head of Her Majesty, by Wyon, the head surrounded by a coloured ground with printed engine-turning and embossing combined.

It is proposed that each of the above stamps shall be of two denominations, viz., Penny and Twopenny Stamps, the Penny Stamps being all printed of one colour and lettered "Postage One Penny," the Twopenny Stamps being all printed of another colour and lettered "Postage Two Pence," the colours being so selected as to be readily distinguished one from the other either by daylight or by lamplight.

For a letter whose Postage exceeds Twopence, it is intended that the adhesive stamps shall be used either in combination with the other stamps or not, at the option of the writer, or that paper shall be employed which has been stamped with two or more impressions of the common Twopenny stamp, whichever arrangement the public

may prefer. It is also proposed that the adhesive Stamps used in the Government Departments, shall be distinguished from those in general use by a further variety of colour.

And lastly, that the obliteration of the Postage Stamp (in order to prevent its second use), shall be effected by striking it with the Journal Stamp of the office.

My Lords are pleased to approve of the several designs above enumerated, and of the artists who have been employed in their execution, as well as of the proposed arrangements for the completion and use of the Postage Stamp.

And my Lords authorize the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, to adopt the Stamps above enumerated, and direct them to superintend the completion of such Stamps, advising thereon from time to time with this Board, and, adopting the usual precautions against fraud, to cause the necessary authority to be given to the respective parties now employed, to proceed with the preparation of the same.

The Commissioners of Stamps will confer with the Postmaster-General as to the distinctive colours to be used for the several Stamps, and all other matters still left for decision, in which the convenience of the Post Office is concerned.

The Commissioners of Stamps will make arrangements for applying the common stamp to such paper, as the public may send in for that purpose in London, Edinburgh and Dublin, and in other parts of the Kingdom, if they are of opinion that it can be done with a due regard to safety and economy, and they will issue instructions for the stamps to be struck in such part of the sheets of paper sent in by the public as the Postmaster-General may advise, with a view to the convenience of the Post Office, and with such limitation as to the minimum numbers to be sent in as they may think fit.

My Lords further direct, that if the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes should find that their premises are not sufficiently extensive for executing the work at Somerset House, they will take such measures as to them shall seem fit, either by obtaining other premises, or by inviting proposals from parties to contract, under sufficient securities, for the execution of the printing. My Lords are of opinion, however, that it is important to bring the whole of the work, which cannot at present be executed at Somerset House, under one roof as soon as practicable.

My Lords are of opinion, that in order to insure perfection in the working of the plates and dies, and in their repair and multiplication, it would be highly desirable that the Commissioners should from time to time communicate with the artists respectively employed to produce them.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer states to the Board that he has been in communication with the Chairman of the Stamps and Taxes, as to the mode in which the stamping of the several stamps may be best performed, and that he is of opinion that it will be expedient that such duties shall be placed under the superintendence of a competent party. That after numerous inquiries made by the Chairman of the Stamps and Taxes, it appears that Mr. E. Hill is well qualified for these duties, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer recommends that he should be employed in those duties.

My Lords are pleased to approve and desire the (? Commissioners of) Stamps and Taxes, will report fully to this Board the arrangements which they may make for the due performance of this part of the duty.

*Published in* " THE PHILATELIC CIRCULAR " *of October 1st*, 1915.

# APPENDIX B.

Specification of Patent of Jacob Perkins, and two advertisements of Messrs. Perkins, Fairman & Heath, on the formation of the firm in December, 1819.

(1)

A.D. 1819. No. 4400.

Engine lathe for engraving surfaces, printing and coining presses, etc.

Perkins' Specification.

To all to whom these presents shall come, I, Jacob Perkins, late of Philadelphia, in the United States of America, but now residing at Austin Friars, in the City of London, engineer, send greeting.

Whereas His Most Excellent Majesty, King George the Third, did by His Letters Patent . . . . . bearing date at Westminster, the eleventh day of October, in the fifty-ninth year of his reign, give and grant unto me the said Jacob Perkins . . . . . His especial license, full power, sole privilege and authority, that I, the said Jacob Perkins, . . . . . should and lawfully might make use, exercise, and vend, . . . . . the invention, partly communicated to me, by a certain foreigner when residing in America, and partly of my own invention, of "Certain machinery and implements applicable to ornamental turning and engraving, and to the transferring of engraved or other work from the surface of one piece of metal to another piece of metal, and to the forming of metallic dies and matrices; and also improvements in the construction and method of using plates and presses, for printing Bank Notes and other papers, whereby the producing and combining various species of work is effected upon the same plates and surfaces, the difficulty of imitation increased, and the process of printing facilitated; and also an improved method of making and using dies and presses for coining money, stamping medals, and other useful purposes." . . . . . In drawing, No. 1, is represented an engine lathe for engraving oval or circular geometrical figures upon metal or other surfaces, whether flat, convex, or concave, . . . . [the peculiarity in which consists in producing a lateral motion of the mandrell, by means of the eccentric cylinder or other shaped body upon a separate axis, and of varying the number of lateral motions of the mandrell during one revolution thereof, by means of wheels of various diameters.]

2. In drawing No. 2 is represented an engine lathe for engraving certain figures, upon the peripheries of metal or other cylinders . . . . . [the novelty of which consists in producing the longitudinal motion of the mandrell by a different modification of the same expedient.]

In drawing No. 3, Fig. 1, represents the horizontal vibrating lever press viewed in front; Fig. 2, an end section of the same . . . . . [On the upper surface of an adjustable bed is placed the copper or steel plate to receive the impression from the circular die or roller.] The die or roller *j* consists of a hollow steel cylinder, fitted upon a steel axis, which is formed into two cylindrical necks on each side of the roller . . . . . Each end of the axis of the die or roller *j* is made square, on which squares

fit the square gaps made in the ends of the die lever or double spanner *O*, and by means of which the die or roller can be turned backwards, and forwards upon the surface of the steel or copper plate *w* lying upon the bed *g*, as aforesaid . . . . .

In drawing No. 4, is shewn an improved steel or copper plate or block printing press, Fig. 1 being a front view of it, and Fig. 2, an end view.

The principal improvements consist in a new method of heating the plate, or block, in the use of a tympan, for the purpose of saving the expense of making the plates or blocks any larger than is necessary, to receive the engraving as well as to save ink, and also time and labour in cleaning the plates or blocks . . . . .

In drawing No.5 is represented a cylindrical steel or copper plate printing press . . . . [the improvements claimed in this consist in affixing a number of engraved circular plates to the surface of a cylinder, so that the operation of inking the plates, wiping, and cleaning, and printing from the said plates shall be simultaneous and continuous.]

In drawing No. 6 is represented parts of a circular coining press, . . . . . In order to decarbonate the surfaces of cast-steel plates, cylinders, or dies by which they are rendered much softer and fit for transferring or engraving designs thereon, I find that pure iron filings, divested of all foreign or extraneous matters produce the softest decarbonated surface, and therefore I use iron filings, as pure and as free from rust as I can obtain them. I also carefully exclude all carbonaceous matter, and any substance from which carbon can be obtained. The stratum of decarbonated steel should not be too thick for transferring fine and delicate engravings; for instance, not more than three times the depth of the engraving. The surface of the steel may be decarbonated to any required thickness. To decarbonate it to a proper thickness for fine engravings, I expose it for four hours to a white heat, enclosed in a cast-iron box, with a well closed lid. The sides of the cast-iron box I make at least three-quarters of an inch in thickness, and at least a thickness of half-an-inch of pure iron filings, should cover or surround the cast steel surface to be decarbonated. The box should be suffered to cool very slowly, which may be effected by shutting off all access of air to the furnace, and covering it with a layer six or eight inches in thickness of fine cinders. Each side of the steel plate, cylinder, or die, must be equally decarbonated, to prevent it from springing or warping in hardening. I also find it much the safest way to heat the plates, cylinders, or dies in a vertical position. I make use of good cast-steel in preference to any other sort of steel, for the purpose of making plates, cylinders, circular or other dies, and more especially when such plates, cylinders, or dies are intended to be decarbonated. For the reason given above, the steel is decarbonated solely for the purpose of rendering it sufficiently soft for receiving any impression intended to be made thereon. It is, therefore, necessary that after any piece of steel, whether in the shape of an engraved plate, or a cylinder, or a die, with engraved or other figures upon its surface, should be again carbonated or reconverted into steel capable of being hardened.

In order, therefore, to effect this carbonisation or reconversion into steel, I employ the following process: I take a suitable quantity of leather and convert it into charcoal by the well-known method of exposing it to a red heat in an iron retort for a sufficient length of time, or until all the evaporable matter is driven off from the leather. Having thus prepared the charcoal, I reduce it to a very fine powder, I then take a box, which I prefer having made of cast-iron, of sufficient dimensions to

receive the plate, cylinder, or die which I wish to have reconverted into steel, so as that the intermediate space between the sides of the said box and the plate, cylinder, or die, may be about one inch. I fill the said box with the powdered charcoal, and having covered it with a well-fitted lid, I place the box in a furnace similar to those used for melting brass; I increase the heat gradually until the box is somewhat above a red heat, and suffer it to remain in that state till all the evaporable matter is driven off from the charcoal. I then remove the lid from the box, and immerse the plate, cylinder, or die, in the powdered charcoal, taking care to place it as nearly in the middle as possible, so that it should be surrounded on all sides by a stratum of the powder of nearly an uniform thickness. I replace the lid, and suffer the box with the plate, cylinder, or die, to remain in the degree of heat before described for from three to five hours, according to the thickness of the plate, cylinder, or die, so exposed. Three hours are sufficient for a plate of half-an-inch in thickness, and five hours when the steel is one inch and a half in thickness. After the plate, cylinder, or die, has been thus exposed to the fire for a sufficient length of time, I take it out from the box and immediately plunge it into cold water. It is important here to observe, that I find the plates, or other pieces of steel, when plunged into cold water, are least liable to be warped or bent when they are held in a vertical position or made to enter the water in the direction of their length. If a piece of steel, heated to a proper degree for hardening, be plunged into water, and suffered to remain there until it becomes cold, it is found by experience to be very liable to crack or break, and in many cases it would be found too hard for the operations it was intended to perform. If the steel cracks or breaks it is spoiled; and in order to render it fit for use, should it happen not to be broken in the hardening, it is the common practice to again heat the steel in order to reduce or lower its temper, as it is technically called. The degree of heat to which the steel is now exposed determines the future degree of hardness or the temper, and this is indicated by a change of colour upon the surface of the steel; during this heating a succession of shades is produced, from a very pale straw colour to a deep blue. I have found, however, by long experience that if on plunging the heated steel into cold water, and suffering it to remain there no longer than is sufficient for lowering the temperature of the steel to the same degree as that to which a hard piece of steel must have been raised in order to temper it in the common way, that it not only produces the same degree of hardness in the steel, but what is of much more importance, almost entirely does away the risk or liability of its cracking or breaking. I believe it to be impossible to communicate by words, or to describe the criterion by which, after long experience, I judge or determine when the steel has arrived at the proper degree of temperature after being plunged into cold water, and I believe that it can only be learnt by actual observation, as I am guided entirely by the kind of hissing or singing noise which the heated steel produces in the water whilst cooling. From the moment of its being first plunged into the water a varying sound will be observed, and it is at a certain period before the noise ceases that I find the effect to be produced, and the only directions I can give by which the experimentalist can be benefitted is as follows, namely, to take a piece of steel which has already been hardened by remaining in the water till cold, and by the common

method of again heating it, to let it be brought to the colour which would indicate the desired temper of the steel plate to be hardened by my process, and so soon as he discovers the colour to be that of pale yellow or straw colour, to dip the steel into water and attend carefully to the hissing, or as some call it, the singing noise, which it occasions. He will then be better able, and with fewer experiments, to judge of the precise time at which it should be taken out. I do not mean it to be understood that he temper indicated by a straw colour is that to which the steel plate, cylinder, or die should be reduced, because it would then be found too hard, but merely that the temperature which would produce that colour is that by which the peculiar sound would be occasioned when the steel should be withdrawn from the water for the first time. Immediately on withdrawing it from the water the steel plate, cylinder, or die, must be laid upon or held over a fire, and heated uniformly until its temperature is raised to that degree at which tallow would be decomposed, or, in other words, until smoke is perceived to arise from the surface of the steel plate, cylinder, or die, after having been rubbed with tallow. The steel plate, cylinder, or die, must then be again plunged into water, and kept there until the sound becomes somewhat weaker than before ; it is then to be taken out and heated a second time to the same degree, and by the same rule of smoking tallow as before, and the third time plunged into water till the sound becomes again weaker than the last ; expose it a third time to the fire as before, and for the last time return it into the water and cool it. After it is cooled, clean the surface of the steel plate, cylinder, or die, and by heating it over the fire the temper must be reduced by bringing on a brown or such other lighter or darker shade of colour as may best suit the quality of the steel, or the purpose to which it is to be applied. . . . . In witness whereof, I, the said Jacob Perkins (party hereto), have hereunto set my hand and s al, this tenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and twenty.

(Signed) JACOB PERKINS.

. . . . Inrolled the tenth day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty.

---

( 2 )

Two advertisements of Messrs. Perkins, Fairman & Heath issued soon after the formation of the partnership in December, 1819.

TO THE BANKING AND TRADING INSTITUTIONS OF GREAT BRITAIN, IRELAND, &c.

Messrs. PERKINS and FAIRMAN, Inventors of the Siderographick Art (or mode of engraving on Steel the most delicate and beautiful designs, and of transferring the same to copper plates or other metals, so as to multiply the means of printing therefrom Impressions on Paper and other Substances to an almost incalculable extent), having formed a partnership with Mr. CHARLES HEATH, engraver, of London, and obtained a Patent for this Invention, respectfully offer, for adoption, their plan to the Public.

This plan, embracing all the most difficult and beautiful branches of Engraving, possesses, in the judgment of the first Artists, and of the most distinguished Men of Science, who have examined the process, every requisite to put an entire stop to the Forgery of Bank Notes, with all its attendant evils; and as it combines facility of execution with economy, may be applied to any Banking or other Institution, public or private, using a Paper Currency, however extensive may be its operations.

Messrs. PERKINS, FAIRMAN and HEATH's plan is not presented to public notice as one of doubtful experiment, but as one which, even before the improvements which have been recently introduced, has stood the best of long experience, having been adopted for some years by more than three hundred Banking Establishments in America without one attempt at imitation.

Great variety of designs for notes executed on the Siderographick plan may be seen at Messrs. PERKINS and FAIRMAN's, No. 29, Austin Friars, London; and at Mr. CHARLES HEATH's, No. 6, Seymour Place, Euston Square.

This Invention is particularly worthy of the attention of the Country Bankers, whose Notes are often forged, but always paid to secure their circulation, and is indeed equally deserving the notice of all persons who are anxious to *protect their property by Graphic Designs or Marks, which would establish the Privilege of Sale exclusively with their respective Proprietors.*

---

THE SIDEROGRAPHICK ART,

or mode of engraving on Steel the most delicate and beautiful designs, and of transferring the same to copper plates or other metals, so as to multiply the means of printing therefrom Impressions on Paper and other Substances to an almost incalculable extent, and at an expense not greater, if not less, than that arising from the method now in common use, is the Invention of Messrs. PERKINS and FAIRMAN, who having obtained a Patent for this discovery, and entered into partnership with Mr. CHARLES HEATH, engraver, of London, offer their plan to the attention of the Public in general, as applicable to all establishments where protection from forgery is an object. For Bank Notes, and public departments using engraved Stamps, the adoption of this plan is of the first moment; but it is not of less importance in objects of minor consequence, even in the most trifling and minute, where elegance of design, beauty of execution, and economy, are held in consideration.

Specimens of notes and ornaments, &c., executed on this plan may be examined at Messrs. PERKINS and FAIRMAN's, No. 29, Austin Friars, London, and at Mr. CHARLES HEATH's, No. 6, Seymour Place, Euston Square, who will enter into every satisfactory guarantee for the honourable performance of any engagement which may be confided to their execution.

# APPENDIX C.

Extracts from the records of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., Limited, and copies of other documents connected with the designs and printing of the

POSTAGE STAMPS.

(1)

Mr. R. Hill presents his compts. to Mr. Bacon & if quite convenient to Mr. Bacon will call to see his machinery about ¼ past 2 o'clock today. Mr. Hill did not receive the enclosed from Mr. Bethune till after the appointed hour yesterday, & it was then impossible for Mr. Hill to leave the office.

6, ADELPHI TERRACE ;

Thursday morng.

[Enclosed letter.]

H.O. CHAMBERS ;

July 24, [1839].

DEAR BACON,

I have been prevented from coming this morning, but I shall be much obliged to you if you will show Mr. Hill your various processes for preventing forgery, & particularly the rolling press which you contrived for the use of the Stamp Office some years ago, and *enlighten him generally* on the subject of forgeries and their prevention.

Yours truly,

[Signed] J. E. D. BETHUNE.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

---

(2)

69, FLEET STREET ;

August 9th, 1839.

SIR,

We beg to apologise for not earlier redeeming our promise to write you respecting a stamp to be applied to the purpose of the penny postage, but the subject is

one which requires great consideration and we judged from the notice of the Chancellor of the Exchequer (the day after we had the honour of seeing you) that it would be open for competition, that it was not very pressing as to time.

After much reflection we have come to the conclusion that we could not produce a dry stamp with the security which we believe appertains to the one we exhibited to you, combined with a printed impression of any kind, at such an expense as would be at all likely to be incurred by the Government. Should you, however, be of opinion that a dry stamp might answer, provided it had the security of our present one, united with the distinctness of the Government Stamp now used for Bills & Receipts, then we should be willing to attempt the production of such a stamp at our own expense, trusting to the experiment being approved of—but we should rather avoid the loss of time & expense which would be incurred in the undertaking, if it is your present opinion that something more distinct would be desirable, and your views upon the point would greatly oblige us.

We see little difficulty in giving a stamp that would not be imitated, and no difficulty in giving a distinct one, but the combination of both properties, together with speed and economy requires no little thought & invention.

We are, Sir, respectfully,

Your most obedient servants,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

ROWLAND HILL, Esq.,
Adelphi Terrace.

---

(3)

6, ADELPHI TERRACE;

August 12, 1839.

GENTLEMEN,

In reply to your letter of the 9th inst. I beg to say that in my opinion, a dry stamp possessing the security of those which you showed me united with the distinctness of the Government receipt stamp would suffice for the purpose proposed; at the same time I must request you will distinctly understand that the arrangements are in no degree under my control and that I have no means whatever of remunerating you for any expense or trouble you may incur.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

(4)

69, FLEET STREET;

Sept. 9, 1839;

10 o'clock.

SIR,

On arriving home on Saty. morning I received your specimen of a stamp for the Post Office on which you wished an estimate and immediately called at the Reform Club, but was not so fortunate as to see you.

If you are not otherwise engaged I will call there to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock and if you are, and will name any other day or hour I will do myself the honour of attending you.

I am, etc., etc.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON,

for self and partners.

HENRY COLE, Esq.

---

(5)

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch present their compliments to Mr. Cole and have the pleasure of returning the Post Office permit with two impressions from a dry stamp upon it as promised.

69, FLEET STREET;

Sept. 11, 1839.

---

(6)

Sept. 17th, 1839.

DEAR SIR,

We have given the subject of the Penny stamps [? much] consideration and believe we could produce one on the principle [? described] between us at (and perhaps somewhat under) five pence per thousand, and we could stamp any number further which could be wanted. We should add, however, that the above estimate is [? predicated] upon the practicability of Mr. Whiting's work being printed without wetting the paper [? and] this we believe we can do.

Beyond this we have a proposal which we should be willing to test in printing and if successful we should not care how or when Mr. Whiting's work was done and in case of success in our view we could produce the stamp of the size of your pattern at threepence per thousand or possibly less.

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

HENRY COLE, ESQ.

[The words in square brackets are too indistinct to read with certainty in the letter book copy.]

(7)

Mr. Cole would [be] happy to see Mr. Bacon about the preparation of a Stamp—of the size proposed. And to hear more fully of the other project mentioned—the price of which appears to be very suitable. Mr. Cole will be in Whitehall Yard to-morrow between 11 and 3, and if Mr. Bacon should happen to be that way would be glad to see him.

FLEET STREET;

2 o'clock. 20/9-39.

---

(8)

69, FLEET STREET;

Oct. 7, 1839.

DEAR SIR,

I now enclose 2 impressions from a die which were struck off 6 or 7 years ago, and although we shall expect to improve a new one in strength, still if they can be imitated in the manner you imagine or in any other cheap or simple way, we shall feel obliged by having it done, as it will remove one of the ideas thought of for the new stamps.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

HY. COLE, Esq.

---

(9)

3, WHITEHALL YARD;

8 Oct., 1839.

DEAR SIR,

I only received the Stamp impressions this morning. What I wanted was a die or plate in order to try myself the experiment.

The time for sending in my Paper to the Treasury having more than elapsed, I determined to delay sending it no longer. I have done so without mentioning your project. If your faith still be sound in its efficacy, you had best communicate with the Treasury. With many thanks for your trouble.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yrs truly,

[Signed] HENRY COLE.

The last day for receiving Papers at the Treasury is 15 Oct.

( 10 )

*Some thoughts connected with the Post Office stamp about to be adopted by Government.*

After mature deliberation it appears to me that a stamp produced by the combined efforts of the engraver, and medallist or die sinker, will be the greatest security against imitation. In coming to this result I have likewise provided one which I think would prove facile both to those engaged in working the system at the Post Office and to the public generally. In the first place. I propose that the stamp do not exceed the size of a half crown piece. That at the close of the first series of operations in the form of an engraving upon steel it presents the united work of three branches now established and very widely circulated and appreciated by the mercantile and other interests of this Empire and the Governments abroad. I allude to the historical and ornamental engraving and the geometrical engine-turning as displayed and brought into an extensive range of usefulness by the transferring process of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch, Banknote manufacturers, Fleet Street. I could hardly refer to a specimen better adapted to our present purpose than to the playing card, ace of spades, but since its size would be objectionable, I have enclosed a vignette (No. 1) which being somewhat proportioned with my ideas may assist our attention as we proceed. Let the Armorial bearing in the centre be occupied by any subject thought most suitable, in my opinion " the human countenance divine," perhaps the full length form ; but not quite so large. Let the ornamental style occupy the next circlet, but still more reduced, which will then allow space for the third description of work already alluded to, which could be a fine and complicated pattern reversed by means of the transferring machine—while the whole could be multiplied by the sante instrument definitely and indefinitely upon one plate and many, to facilitate the printing. A vacancy could be left in the ornamental work top and bottom for the crown and lion and the royal arms, while similar spaces at right angles to these could be left upon the engine work for the amounts of weight and postage.

For the engraved medallion in the centre, I prefer the style of the late James Heath, A, the reason for such preference I will declare shortly.

I likewise propose to have the plates printed on variously colored papers to correspond with the amount of duty, reserving white for that which is most extensive.

Thus far I have only mapped out in a different degree what has been done successfully for years. I now approach the second series of operations. I am not aware that it has ever been attempted.

In the second place. Let a Die be sunk to give an embossed surface to the medallion and to any other part or parts of the vignette. I should say not only to it, but likewise to those four subjects designed to occupy the angles. Perhaps it might be as well to throw the ornamental work likewise into relief, at any rate not the engine-turning.

Now the case under consideration is this : Here are pursuits and operations as diverse as the matter may admit of, from the expediency of contracting the size of the stamp as much as possible both as regards economy and utility ; the business

of wet and dry printing or stamping being combined upon the same superfices: while it is doubtful whether the difficulty would not be considerably increased if experiment should prove that for the engraving to correspond, in all its features, with the same characteristics in the relief, it must be made a little larger, or what would still further enhance its worth, that it must moreover lose some of its "fair proportions" in the first process—that is that the lines of the engraving should be scientifically distorted to correspond with the relieve---that meeting there the curves of beauty—the whole might be perfect. In referring to my notice of the late J. Heath, A, I trust you will by this time perceive the appropriateness of his style of art to the plan before you, but should several dies be considered more efficient they might as a whole present the peculiar characteristics or mannerisms of many artists.

Having then a plate or plates, each containing many copies of the original and engraved die, I do not think that any very great difficulty would arise in framing embossing presses to strike each sheet at once, say twenty-five stamps upon each sheet, and allow one quarter of a minute for each action of the press—that would give 54,000 stamps in a day of labour containing 9 hours (say 50,000 stamps). I would then transfer a certain number of sheets of stamps carefully and gently held together in a peculiar way to a machine with a revolving cylindrical cutter. Two lads would be required at each stamping machine; and in separating the stamps by the cutter I would have it so much larger than the stamp as to leave a ring altogether unornamented by the engraved or stamped work for a cylindrical wafer presser to affix it to the letter, and I would likewise have the Post Office date stamp affixed to one side, both of it and the stamp itself to a certain extent so that being partially disfigured it could not be used again.

I do not mention the wafer as a Government affair, I think when so much has been done for the public, the public should do a little for themselves. Some might prefer paste or strong gum-water. The Post Office only require that the stamp be firmly affixed, and the best method would ultimately obtain general sanction.

The wafer would not be expensive, since one half of its diameter might very fairly be struck out by the maker, and the stuff reformed, it not being our intention that any part of the stamp should be injured by the individual adjusting it. The cylindrical and wooden stamps presenting just enough of surface to bind to the letter, the outer and plain portion of the stamp could be made by the turner for a comparative trifle.

---

(11)

69, Fleet Street;

December 3rd, 1839.

Sir,

We have given the subject you mentioned yesterday afternoon all the attention the time would allow and beg to say as the result that:—

We could engrave steel dies of the size you gave us, *containing work of any conceivable value as to Cost and Quality*, transfer them to any number of Plates that

could possibly be wanted, and Print them in any numbers per day,—at a charge of Eight Pence per thousand Stamps, exclusive of paper, which we understand would be supplied us and assuming that the numbers wanted would be very large, as we have only named a fair price for the Printing, and have considered the Plates and Dies, which ought to be very costly in the first instance, as given in without charge. You are probably aware *that having prepared the Original die, we could insure perfect fac-similes of it for a Century.*

Our charge would not exceed what we have named above, nor be less than six-pence per thousand, but what relative position it would take between these two extremes, would depend upon the exact size of the stamp, and the number which the Paper would allow us to put on One Plate .

We could prepare everything so as to commence Printing in a month.

Our present belief is that we could Print Forty one thousand six hundred per day or double that number in a day and night, from each Press employed upon the work.

We are, Sir,

Very respectfully

Your humble serv.

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

HENRY COLE, Esq.

---

(12)

69, FLEET STREET;

December 14th, 1839.

SIR,

Agreeably to promise at our interview yesterday we beg now to repeat in writing what was stated verbally viz. :—

That we would engage to prepare a die of the size pointed out by you—to be composed of the best Engraving of Her Majesty's Portrait which we can get executed by the best Artist, to be surrounded by white and black line Engine-turned work, (& of which Engine there is no copy in the British Dominions) and the appropriate wording—for the sum of Seventy-five Guineas, and which die shall be entirely ready to give a perfect impression of the proposed Stamp ; and to be taken up upon a Steel Roller, and applied to the making of any number of Steel Plates (if desired) in five weeks from the day of receiving an Order to commence. Such die or matrix may be perpetually used as at first produced and the Portrait may be used for other dies, also with a variation in the wording or machine work if required.

In five weeks we could commence Printing One hundred thousand per day and increase the daily number every two days by One hundred thousand until we reached many millions per day if wanted.

If after the die is completed our plan should be determined upon for the penny stamp, we would devote a large room in our Premises exclusively to the business

and would either enter into Bond that no impression should get out of our possession but in the regular way ; Or, an officer of the Government might keep the key and have the entire superintendence of the work.

Our charge per thousand and which includes every expense except the Paper would be as already stated to you in writing and in case our plan is adopted the Seventy-five Guineas would be credited back in account.

We have the honor to be Sir

Very respectfully your humble servts

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

ROWLAND HILL, ESQ.

---

(13)

11, DOWNING STREET ;

16 Decr., 1839.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to order the engraving of the postage stamp on the terms named in your letter of Decr. 14th as to price & time of preparation. But before the engraving is commenced, I will thank you to prepare and submit to me a sketch. The Queen's head is to be drawn from the City medal. The whole stamp is to occupy $\frac{3}{4}$ths of an inch square, including the lettering and engine-turned work.

I am Gentlemen

Your obedient servt

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

---

(14)

[*Memorandum written out by J. B. Bacon and signed by R. Hill in R. Hill's ink and on paper he usually used for his correspondence.*]

The 4 corners to be taken away but only to a slight extent.

The length of the die to be one sixteenth of an inch more, equally divided between top and bottom, and one sixteenth of an Inch more to be taken at the bottom so as to insert in black letters without an underground, the words

Half oz One Penny.

Or if practicable increase the length One eighth and insert in white letters at the bottom

$\frac{1}{2}$ oz One Penny.

Certain letters to vary with each stamp to be placed at the top behind the head.

Certain instructions as to the position of the stamp when used to be engraved round the margin of the plate.

20 times $\frac{3}{4}$ is 15 inches and half Inch Margin $15\frac{1}{2}$.

12 times $\frac{7}{8}$ is $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches and half Inch Margin by 9.[1]

Dec. 31, 39.

[Signed] R. HILL.

---

(15)

DEAR SIR,

I have sent the new die by the Bearer, and we shall be glad to have the Queen engraved in the highest style of art practicable, consistent with transferring and we shall be greatly obliged by your personal attention to it and in having it ready as soon as may be.

You will see by the Papers that Mulready and Thompson are about the other sizes.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

Jan. 16th, 1840.

C. HEATH, ESQ.

---

(16)

Mr. Bacon presents his respectful compliments to Mr. Hill and begs to say that as Mr. Heath has the die at his house two miles from this, it is impossible to give him anything from it now, but to-morrow morning he can have an impression from which no opinion can be formed except as to its size.

69, FLEET STREET;

Jany. 22nd, 1840.

---

(17)

Mr. R. Hill presents his Compts. to Mr. Bacon and is very desirous of having even a rough proof of the small label—if Mr. Bacon, therefore, could send him any thing, however unfinished, that would show what sort of a Stamp the label will be *when* finished, Mr. Hill will feel obliged.

11, DOWNING STREET;

Jany. 23rd, 1840.

---

[1] Error, shd be $15\frac{1}{2}$ by 11 inches.

(18)

DEAR SIR,

I have sent you by the bearer (Mr. Hill's messenger) the die as promised ready for putting work upon.

I am,
Truly yours,
[Signed] J. B. BACON.

HENRY COLE, Esq. Jan. 23rd, 1840.

---

(19)

Mr. Hill presents his Compts to Mr. Bacon and would feel obliged if he could let him have *anything* that would give some idea of the proposed label when finished.

11, DOWNING STREET;
Jan. 24/40.

---

(20)

SIR,

Mr. Bacon having left the counting house for the day your note was opened by his son and I beg to say that I am sorry that owing to the Engraver living at a distance it is impracticable to forward you the desired sketch, but it shall be sent to you the very first thing to-morrow morning.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient humble serv.,
[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.
(*pr. L. de Nicolas*).

ROWLAND HILL, Esq.

[This letter is undated. It was probably sent on January 24th, 1840, in reply to Mr. Rowland Hill's note of that date.]

---

(21)

TREASURY;
Jany. 30th, 1840.

GENTLEMEN,

The legend of the Stamp is now fixed to be "*Postage One Penny*" set out at full length—and I will thank you to proceed at once to insert it.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obt. Servant,
[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH,
Fleet Street.

(22)

69, FLEET STREET;

Feb. 15, 1840.

SIR,

As promised I have now the pleasure of enclosing herewith a sheet of labels which are near enough to determine what space ought to be allowed for each, and for the whole. The pencil lines will no doubt prove accurate but in pasting the labels, it is impossible to place them all perfectly accurate, and moreover the paste makes each one stretch a fraction. I now consider that to allow for cutting the 240 stamps should occupy 9 and $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch by 18 and $\frac{1}{4}$ inches; but outside of these labels or stamps it is proposed to engrave some directions and which would require the paper to be at least 10 and $\frac{1}{8}$ by $18\frac{3}{4}$ so as to take this in. It is not necessary, however, that *the watermarked crowns* should extend beyond the first named dimensions. Believing this will give you the means of judging how the moulds ought to be.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

EDWIN HILL, ESQ.

---

(23)

69, FLEET STREET;

Feb. 17, 1840.

SIR,

We have engraved the two experiments as requested by you on Saty evg. and have now the pleasure of enclosing proofs both of the white and black lettering. They will probably both look better when upon the real die, than now when overpowered by so large a white centre.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

---

(24)

[Endorsed],

(1840, Feby. 20th).

MY DEAR BACON,

I think you will find the Plate look better, pray save me 2 or 3 Proofs. I will be with you about 1 o'clock to-morrow.

Yours truly,

[Signed] C. HEATH.

If that does not transfer well nothing will.

(25)

| a a | a b | a c | a d | a e | a f | a g | a h | a l |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | to | |
| b a | | | | | | | | |
| c a | | | | | | | | |
| d a | | | | | | | | |
| e a | | | | | | | | |
| f a | | | | | | | | |
| g a | | | | | | | | |
| h a | | | | | | | | |
| i a | | | | | | | | |
| to | | | | | | | | |
| t a | | | | | | | | |

The letters are to be arranged as above, but they are to be Roman capitals.

[Signed] R. H.

Feb. 22. 40.

(26)

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch present their respectful compliments to Mr. Hill and have the pleasure of enclosing two finished Proofs from the Die for the adhesive stamp before the lettering.

69, Fleet Street;
Feby. 22, 1840.

[In the index to the letter-book this note is entered under the name of E. Hill.]

---

(27)

69, Fleet Street;
Feb. 24, 1840.

*To the Honb. The Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes.*

Honb. Sirs,

The Die for the proposed Adhesive Stamp being prepared we have now by desire of Rowland Hill Esq., the honour to state that we are ready and willing to prepare the Plates and all the apparatus and premises exclusively devoted to the business necessary for the penny and twopenny adhesive stamps, and to Print any number per day that may be required and to dry press and deliver them, ready for use, including every expense of drawings, original dies, plates, printing, etc., for the period of twelve Calendar Months at sevenpence per thousand, the paper only to be furnished by your Honors, and the whole to be done under the regulations and instructions of your Honb. Board, it being understood that they shall not be such as to lessen the usual hours and quality of work. We are also willing to contract at once for the same work for any period of time after the first year at sixpence per thousand, or to leave a further arrangement to be settled hereafter as may seem best to your Honors. Although we are willing to print in any practicable colour, we most strongly advise the penny stamp to be printed in black Ink, as beyond all comparison superior to any other for Steel plate engraving. We can have plates ready for Press in a week from the time we receive orders to hand in the Die, but it will take from 14 to 20 days to prepare our Wetting trough, Pinching and Glazing Presses Mill and Glazed Boards, Hot Air Stove, etc., immediately after which period we can begin to deliver and in one month thereafter deliver any requisite quantity whatever.

We have the honour to subscribe ourselves very respectfully,

Your Honors' most obedient servants,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

(28)

69, Fleet Street;

Feb. 25, 1840.

Dear Sir,

We have taken 6 impressions from the spoilt head upon the paper you gave us, and your brother has cut off and taken 2 of them away. The watermark is so faint on this sheet that it is all but impossible to see it, and of course, does not injure the head. We therefore both agree that as far as the public seeing the watermark is concerned it is no better than none, but when wet it is easily distinguishable, as we proved to him and this he thought an argument in favour of a weak watermark, besides the advantage in the printing and in this we agree with him and most decidedly recommend that it should not be very strong.

We have the honour, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

R. Hill, Esq.

---

(29)

11, Downing Street;

Feb. 26/40.

Dear Sir,

Can you let Mr. Hill have a few more impressions of the Queen's head similar to those on the sheet you sent him as he is desirous of showing the Ch. of the Exc. a sheet similar to the one prepared by you.

Very truly yours,

[Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

Bacon, Esq.

---

(30)

69, Fleet Street;

Feb. 26, 1840.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your note of this morning asking whether I "can let Mr. Hill have a few more impressions of the Queen's head similar to those on the sheet I sent him as he is desirous of shewing the Chancellor of the Ex. a sheet similar to the one prepared by us." I beg to say that if your intention is to have another sheet from the die not to be used, just like the sheet I have already furnished Mr. Hill, and which was solely for the purpose of giving the positions and distances which our

stamps would occupy upon the plates and our opinion of what size the crowns had better be, so that the mould [official ?] maker would know just how to prepare the mould, in that case I can if I hear from you by 5 o'clock, let him have it to-morrow; but if, *as I apprehend*, he wishes a sheet (or the heads to make a sheet) taken from the new die then I have to say 1st That Mr. Heath has had two interviews with Mr. Wyon in consequence of which he has the Plate and is at work to improve the likeness and I do not expect it back until to-morrow noon or night; and 2nd, When we have it back although we are ready to do anything Mr. Hill requires, it is a bad plan to multiply proofs unnecessarily before hardening, but afterwards it is quite unimportant.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

J. LEDINGHAM, Esq.

---

(31)

11, DOWNING STREET;

½ p. 4 p.m., Feb. 26 40.

DEAR SIR,

It is a few impressions similar to those you have *already furnished* that Mr. Hill wishes to have, and for the purpose of showing as you say "the position and distances which the stamps will occupy." If you will be good enough to send the impressions without being pasted on a prepared sheet, that will be enough, as we have a sheet ready for the purpose.

I am, Dear Sir,

Very truly yours,

[Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

J. B. BACON, ESQ.

---

(32)

69, FLEET STREET;

Feb. 27, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

Your note of last evening was duly received and I have now the pleasure of enclosing 35 rough impressions from the old die cut the exact size of the work, so that if pasted upon a sheet they ought to be so done as to leave the same white spaces between each that we left on the sheet I forwarded.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

JOHN LEDINGHAM, Esq.

(33)

MONDAY.

DEAR SIR,

The Chancellor of the Exchequer showed me on Saturday an autograph letter from the Queen expressive of "high appreciation" of the stamp.

If Mr. Wise should be in town to-day can you let him know that I shall be glad to see him.

Yours truly,

[Signed] R. HILL.

— BACON, Esq.

[This letter is endorsed "Rowland Hill, 1840." The actual date it was sent was March 2nd, 1840, which was a Monday, *vide* Appendix D (10).]

---

(34)

69, FLEET STREET;

March 3, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

I have now the pleasure of enclosing impressions from the blank die in 4 colours as promised and will give you the Proofs of the real die when I get it. The account has been sent in for the 1,600 prints for the Review at £2 16s. 0d. for the whole, which is much less than I told you.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

H. COLE, Esq.,

3, Whitehall Place.

---

(35)

Size of plates.
No lithographic plates to be used. } [This is in pencil].

No. 69, FLEET STREET;

11th March, 1840.

HONBLE SIR,

In consequence of your suggestion at the interview with which you honoured our Mr. Bacon yesterday we have examined the calculations on which our estimate of the 24th ulto. for the supply of the Adhesive Stamps was founded, as also the reasons you advanced why we should reduce our price and we regret to say that having before making our estimate in the first instance calculated our expenses

in the most accurate manner possible previous to having experience in working the Plan, and from those calculations having named the lowest possible price, we are unable to reduce it below seven pence per thousand, at least for the first year, but as the quantity required may prove greater than is now supposed;—as we may make the plates faster;—as they may take a greater number of impressions before wearing;—and as we may be able to print a larger number from each Press per day than we anticipate; as any, or all, these results may turn out in practice, we will pledge ourselves to reduce the price as much under sixpence after the first year as these results will justify, and *whatever our experience may prove in the other particulars*, we will produce them after the first year at five pence per thousand *provided* the quantity wanted should prove to be 400,000 stamps or more per day.

We have no objection to give our personal Bond (and Messrs. Glyn, Hallifax and Co., our Bankers, will doubtless satisfy you that it will be a safe one) in a penalty *of any Amount in case of our misconduct*, and of four or five times the Amount of such Stamps, should any ever be improperly taken from the Plates without our being privy thereto, and you can have any number of your own Officers on the Premises as additional security. Our first plate of 240 stamps will be ready for Press this week, and we can have all the machinery ready for steady printing in twenty days from the time of receiving an Order to proceed.

As you stated that you could get the work done by others for a much less price, we trust we shall be excused for saying that our style being Copper Plate Printing is in expense (whatever may be its other merits) entirely a different thing from letter press, or Compound Printing and thinking the Government might be willing to adopt one of those as sufficient for their purpose we did not even tender for the work, and it was only after being applied to and having given a rough estimate at 6d. to 8d. per thousand for the work, that we were directed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to proceed—we therefore have certainly taken no advantage, and indeed had we been informed that our price was too high we should have proceeded no further in the business; but we would respectfully go much further and say, that without making any allowance for the value of the combination of the machine pattern with the other work; the great importance of identity; and the fact that each plate would require some 12 months to engrave by any other Copperplate Printer or Engraver *setting aside all these valuable considerations*, no other house in England could furnish you *with the mere vignette alone*, equally well engraved as ours, at 7s. per thousand instead of 7d. and even if done by any system of compound printing now in practice we believe it would not be much under our price.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves,

Honble. Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

To the Honble. the Chairman of the
Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes.

[Pencilled below signature.]

The Board to have an Inspector on the premises. The premises to be separated and locked by both parties.

As to gum a specimen to be shown, and if approved, kept as sample.

---

(36)

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch present their respectful compliments to Mr. Wickham and have the honour of forwarding herewith a proof of the Die intended for the adhesive stamps, as requested.

69, FLEET STREET;

March 13, 1840.

H. L. WICKHAM, Esq.

---

(37)

No. 69, FLEET STREET;

16th March, 1840.

HONBLE. SIR,

The Die for the proposed adhesive Stamps being now ready we have the honor hereby to offer to prepare the plates and all the apparatus (and premises exclusively devoted to the business) necessary for the penny and twopenny adhesive stamps, to print any number per day that may be required, to dry and press them, including every expense of drawings, original dies, plates and printing, and to cover them ready for use, with such gum as shall be approved of by your Honor and deliver them in any part of the metropolis ready for use for a period of twelve calendar months at the price of sevenpence halfpenny per thousand complete stamps, the paper only to be furnished by the Government and the whole work to be done in rooms separated from others and entirely devoted to these purposes under the regulations and instructions of your Honble. Board—it being understood that they shall not be such as to lessen the usual hours and quantity of work—to have a Government Inspector upon the Premises, to have locks with duplicate keys, one to be kept by each party and a specimen of the gumming to be shown, and when approved of by your Honor to be kept as a sample pattern always to be followed thereafter. The machinery and fitting of the rooms, &c., which is to be done at our own expense shall be all ready so as to commence printing in twenty days from this date and in thirty days (should we not be delayed for paper) we can begin to deliver at the rate of 300,000 per day if wanted and in two months from this date increase it to any requisite quantity whatever. Although we are willing to print in any practicable color, we most strongly advise the penny stamp to be printed in black ink as beyond all comparison superior to any other for steel plate engraving. Although we are unable to reduce our price

below sevenpence halfpenny, *at least for the first year*, still as the quantity required may prove greater than is now supposed ; as we may make the plates faster ; as they may take a greater number of impressions before wearing ; and as we may be able to print a larger number from each press per day than we now anticipate ; as more satisfactory evidence will be had upon all these points in practice we pledge ourselves to reduce the price to sixpence halfpenny after the first year at all events and as much under this price as the results above named will justify, and *whatever our experience may prove in the other particulars*, we will produce them after the first year at fivepence halfpenny per thousand, *provided* the quantity wanted should prove to be 400,000 stamps or upwards p. day.

We will give our personal Bond (and Messrs. Glyn, Hallifax & Co., our Bankers, will doubtless satisfy you that it will be a safe one) in a penalty of any amount in case of our misconduct and of five times the amount of such stamps should any ever be improperly taken from the plates without our being privy thereto and you can have any number of your own officers on the premises as additional security.

The above we believe embrace all the points agreed upon at the interview with which you honoured us on Saturday.

We have the honor to be,

Hon.ble Sirs,

Very respectfully your humble servants,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

To the Honble. the Chairman of the
Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes.

---

(38)

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch present their compliments to Mr. Phillips and have the pleasure of enclosing 6 impressions marked No. 1 and 6 ditto marked No. 2 of red ink which they think he cannot extract without taking away paper also. They are still endeavouring to get a different and lighter colour. Mr. Taylor's ink they have taken out as well as all other black ink which they have attempted.

69, Fleet Street ;
March 13, 1840.

---

(39)

Stamps & Taxes
20th March, 1840.

We whose names are hereunto subscribed, being Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, do in pursuance of the powers and authorities vested in us, hereby authorize

and direct you to prepare a Die or Plate to be used for expressing and denoting the Stamp Duty of One Penny payable on the Postage of Letters under and by virtue of an Act passed in the Third Year of Her Majesty's Reign for the further regulation of the Duties on Postage.

[Signed] HENRY L. WICKHAM.
C. P. RUSHWORTH.
H. SEYMOUR MONTAGUE.

To Messieurs Joshua Butters Bacon
and Henry Petch.

---

(40)

Stamps and Taxes.
20th March, 1840.

We whose names are hereunto subscribed, being Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, do in pursuance of the powers and authorities vested in us, hereby authorize and direct you to prepare a Die or Plate to be used for expressing and denoting the Stamp Duty of Twopence payable on the Postage of Letters under and by virtue of an Act passed in the Third Year of Her Majesty's Reign, for the further regulation of the Duties on Postage.

[Signed] HENRY L. WICKHAM.
C. P. RUSHWORTH.
H. SEYMOUR MONTAGUE.

To Messieurs Joshua Butters Bacon
and Henry Petch.

---

(41)

69, Fleet Street;
March 21, 1840.

Dear Charles,

I send you herewith a Queen's head laid down for the 2d. die—the background has been re-entered and therefore will NOT REQUIRE TO BE TOUCHED. I need not tell you that it is very material for us to get the die completed as early as possible.

I remain, &c., &c.,
[Signed] H. PETCH.

C. Heath, Esq.

(42)

Mem. for Mr. Bacon.

In the margin to the plates insert the following inscription—if possible once at each end and twice on each side of the plate :—

(On sheet of penny labels) Price—1d. per label—1 - per row of 12—£1 per sheet.

(On the sheet of 2d. labels) Price—2d. per label—2 - per row of 12—£2 per sheet.

(On each kind following the price) " Place the label *above* the address and towards the *right hand side* of the letter. In wetting the back be careful not to remove the Cement."

---

One plate of penny and one of twopenny stamps will be required to supply the Government Offices. They are to be distinguished from those used by the public by inserting V.R. in place of the ornaments in the upper corners.

[Signed] R. HILL.

March 26th, 1840. Mr. Bacon will please to supply a pencil sketch of the inscription.

---

(43)

I shall be glad to see the sketch of the legend for the plates.

DOWNING STR. ;

Mar. 31 [1840].

DEAR SIR,

When can you let me see a proof, on plain paper if the other is not ready, of a sheet of penny stamps ?

When will the twopenny stamp be ready ?

We are becoming exceedingly impatient.

Yours truly,

[Signed] R. HILL.

— BACON, Esq.

[This letter is endorsed " Mar. 31, 1840."]

---

(44)

69, FLEET STREET ;

April 1, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

Your note of yesterday is at hand and in reply I beg to say that one plate of stamps for the public is ready and waiting only for the private letters and the legend to surround the plate ; and another plate for the Government stamps is partly done

and will be complete this week and a third for the public will be due next week. The sketch for the legend I shall have the honour of submitting to you this day and which can be engraved on the plates in a week after approval. On reflection we have determined to adopt punches made on purpose for the private letters in each stamp and they are promised us on Friday next.

Mr. Heath has also promised the twopenny die on that day, and although we have much to do, we have not a doubt but we shall be ready before the Paper.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

R. HILL, Esq.

---

(45)

DEAR SIR,

. . . . . .
. . . . . .
. . . . . .

I have returned the Die by the bearer and hope to have it finished in the morning.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

C. HEATH, Esq. April 6, 1840.

---

(46)

69, FLEET STREET;

April 8th, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

We have the pleasure to say that both the penny and the two penny stamp dies are now ready, and can be delivered up to the Honorable Commissioners and received back again if such a course is thought best.

We are dear Sir very respectfully,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

E. HILL, Esq.

---

(47)

69, FLEET STREET;

April 9th, 1840.

SIR,

We beg to inform you that the first plate of 240 stamps from the two penny die will be ready if we are not delayed in 15 days, and the second plate in 25 days from the present time. The penny and twopenny stamps original dies are both

completed and ready to go through the form of being delivered up and received back again for working. One plate for the public for the penny stamps is entirely ready, and one for the public offices is nearly ready for press and another for the public is in course of preparation; and if paper is received we shall be ready to commence printing on Monday next, but it is proper to state that the first two or 3 days will be principally occupied in getting the bearings of the presses (they being new), and in settling in and ascertaining the proper pinch, etc., for the plates.

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

CHAS. PRESSLY, ESQ.,
Secretary Commissioners of Stamps.

---

(48)

STAMPS & TAXES.
April 10, 1840.

SIR,

I have laid before the Board your letter of the 9th instant, stating the progress which you have made in the preparation of the plates for impressing the label postage Stamps, and I am to request, that you will bring to the Board this day, the plate for the penny stamp, which you state is now ready for use.

I am,
Sir,
Your obedt. Srvt.,
[Signed] CHA. PRESSLY.

MESSRS. PERKINS, & BACON,
69, Fleet Street.

---

(49)

11, DOWNING STREET;
April 11 40.

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Hill wishes to have another proof of the Sheet of Penny Stamps on Stacey Wise's paper (if you can) or on paper such as you sent the other.

If you wish it Mr. Hill will return it to you on Monday.

Yours very truly,
[Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

J. BACON, ESQ.

(50)

69, Fleet Street;

April 11th, 1840.

Dear Sir,

Agreeably to your request communicated through Mr. Ledingham I have the honor of enclosing a sheet of the penny stamps on Mr. Wise's paper, by which you will see that the Crowns in the watermark come so admirably as to pay us for all the trouble in preparing them. The impression is not perfect, nor can I have one that is so until we have been a day or two at work. I must beg its return to me by Monday at 12 o'clock, as I have only yet tried four sheets of paper, all of which must return the Comr. of Stamps at that time.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

R. Hill, Esq.

---

(51)

69, Fleet Street;

April 12th, 1840.

Dear Sir,

As the adhesive stamp for the Penny Postage is now definitely settled, I beg your acc ptance of a proof impression from the die, and to express my thanks for your great kindness in procuring me one, and loaning me also other medals to assist us in the drawing.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

— Marriott, Esq.

---

(52)

Ap. 17 1840.

Gentm.,

If you run short of paper I think you should cease printing the VR plate at once as there is less pressure for that than for the other and it is possible you may be disappointed in the paper in the morning. If you think it unadvisable to work all night, send me word to Clowes's as soon as you can and I will call at any hour to lock up the plates (not later than half past nine o'clock). I must know soon however.

I am, Yours truly,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

(53)

69, FLEET STREET;

April 18, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

I have the pleasure of sending herewith, the Proof of the Penny Postage Stamp and regret having been prevented by the hurry of an unusual pressure of business from attending to it sooner.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

HY. COLE, Esq.

---

(54)

69, FLEET STREET,

April 18, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

I have herewith the pleasure of sending by order of the Chairman of The Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes one sheet of the public, and one sheet of the Public Offices Penny stamps printed and gummed as they are to be issued.

I have also the pleasure of sending two small pots of red ink similar to that from which you tried specimens, the price of which would be five shillings and sixpence per pound.

I have the honour, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON

for self and partners.

ROWLAND HILL, Esq.,
Treasury.

---

(55)

11, DOWNING STREET;

April 21st, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th inst. transmitting two sheets of gummed labels and also two small pots of red ink.

Yours very truly,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

(56)

Stps. & Taxes.

Ap. 30, 1840.

Dear Sir,

Please to send 13 sheets of the Official stamps by bearer gummed or not. They are merely for samples for the Post Office.

Please to go on gumming the public stps and leave the Official till orders. We shall want 2d. public stamps for sale as early as possible.

Print as soon as ready without waiting for further directions.

Yours,

[Signed] E. HILL.

— Bacon, Esq.

---

(57)

69, Fleet Street;

April 30th, 1840.

In consequence of a note from Mr. Edwin Hill we have herewith the honour of sending you thirteen sheets of Official Penny stamps for samples for the Post Office, not gummed.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] BACON & PETCH.

C. Pressly, Esq.

---

(58)

Messrs. Bacon & Co.,

Be good enough to send by the Bearer the specimens that were taken on Saturday.

[Signed] J. PINNCY.

Stamps & Taxes.
4th May, 1840.

---

(59)

Mr. Bacon presents his compliments to Mr. Pinncy and has sent the Public two penny sheet marked on Saturday by Mr. Pressly, but the sheet from the Official 1d. stamp then taken cannot be sent for an hour or two as our man mixed it with all Saturday's work and every sheet must be examined to find it.

69, Fleet Street;
May 4th, 1840.

(60)

S. & T.

May 5th, 1840.

DEAR SIRS,

Please to send by bearer 18 sheets 2d. stamps for the Post Office ungummed will do. The proper warrant will be sent to you by Mr. Allen as soon as prepared.

Yours truly,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.,

---

(61)

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch present their compliments to Mr. E. Hill and have sent eighteen sheets of the two penny stamp sheets (imperfectly gummed), for the Post Office, as they could not send others without interfering with to-day's delivery.

69, FLEET STREET;

May 5th, 1840.

---

(62)

69, FLEET STREET;

9th May, 1840.

SIR,

From what passed in the conversation between you and our Mr. Bacon yesterday we fear you quite misunderstood his reluctance to continue nightwork upon the Postage Labels and trust we shall be excused for stating our views in writing, when you can the better judge of their prudence and fairness. After making the best calculations in our power we entered into a Contract with your Honble Board to deliver 1250 sheets or 300,000 Postage labels per day, from the 21st April, for two months and any number which might be required thereafter.

In consequence of being disappointed by our workmen in preparing the workshops, presses, &c., and the loss of time in getting accustomed to the gumming, we did not get under way as early as we anticipated, and in order that Government should not be delayed from such causes we have voluntarily worked night and day up to this time, although attended with an extra expense to us on the Printing of Fifty per Cent. For this expense we never made nor intended to make any claim; but we have now more than delivered the stipulated quantity—the following being a correct statement to the present time.

From 21st April to 9th May is 18 days.
Deduct 2 days waiting for paper
and 2 Sundays 4
leaves 14 days @ 1,250 shts. per day. 17,500 shts. due.
We have delivered 16,639
and have waited until a perfect ream is
ready 1,000 spoilt=17,639
being over the contract 139 sheets.

From this time until the end of the 2 months we can deliver the 1250 sheets per day without nightwork and will do our best (and we think successfully) to deliver 1500 per day during that time, but we object to continue the night work for two reasons :—

1st.—Because it is required of us owing to an unlooked for demand upon your Honble Board for labels, and not from any failure of our own to meet our engagements, and if we are put to an extra expense to do more than we ever agreed to it appears but reasonable that such extra expense should fall upon you and not upon us ; but the 2nd, and far the most weighty objection is, that we purposely stipulated for but 1250 sheets per day for 2 months, in order that during that 2 months we might accumulate a stock of plates to enable us to meet any possible demand thereafter—whereas if we continue to work night and day now we shall wear out twice the quantity of plates that we had any right to expect, and then after the 2 months be unable to increase our supply whatever might be your wants, although we should have a Bond, with £5,000 penalty for not doing so, standing against us. This we deem to be a very serious consideration, and with the greatest deference we would submit, whether it is not better to confine the supply for a few weeks to London than by prematurely extending it to risk a breakdown. However having stated as briefly as possible the reasons which we think ought to fully justify us with your Honble Board for the course we propose to take, we beg to state that we are ready to continue night work and to supply during the two months 2,250 sheets per day, we being paid in addition to our contract price the sum of 3d. per thousand labels upon all that we shall deliver over 300,000 per day, and receiving from your Honble Board in writing a discharge from any Penalty we are now subject to in case we fail to increase our deliveries, even if wanted for two months after we shall be ordered to cease night work.

We are, Sir very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

CHAS. PRESSLY, Esq.

(63)

69, FLEET STREET;

9th May, 1840.

SIR,

The statement we had the honor of handing you this day, we regret to say was erroneous in two particulars, owing to the haste in which it was prepared.

1st. The labels delivered were said to be 16,639, whereas they are in reality 18,139, making 1639 over our Contract, instead of 139, and

2nd. The extra expense of night work would be one penny halfpenny per thousand labels instead of threepence as there stated. With these exceptions our letter is correct and the more we reflect the more we are of opinion that the night work had better be discontinued.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

H. L. WICKHAM, Esq.

---

(64)

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch present their compliments to Mr. Pressly, and have the pleasure of handing him herewith the impressions of the Official and 3rd Public Postage Label plates, which he saw taken on Saturday last.[1]

No. 69, FLEET STREET;

May 11, 1840.

---

(65)

69, FLEET STREET;

May 14, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

We have the pleasure of enclosing a specimen of vegetable printing as requested by you, and beg to say that by applying chloride of lime or bleaching liquid to it the colour would be destroyed so that it cannot be restored again. But there are several mild agents which may be applied to it without destroying the colour, although for

---

[1] That is May 9th.

the purpose for which it is now used (viz., preventing alterations of checks), it is quite safe.

We do not recommend any vegetable colour for printing the labels, as it is liable to many objections, among which is the price of the article, and we believe will furnish no security for the purpose intended, which cannot be got in some other way.

We are, etc., etc.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

ROWLAND HILL, Esq.

---

(66)

69, FLEET STREET;

June 4th, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

I have now the pleasure of enclosing you some stamps in Pink which I think is the best for colour and for printing of any we have yet produced and which will probably stand your test as well as any. I also send one in the Black ink we are now using, but wet in the solution, it is all the safer for wetting, but not so good as the Pink.

I am dear Sir very respectfully,

Your humble servant,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

R. PHILLIPS, Esq.

6, Craig's Court.

---

(67)

11, DOWNING ST.

15 June, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

Will you be good enough to obliterate the 2 enclosed stamps with your prepared ink and return them. I have sent the Post Office stamp for the purpose. If you could get them ready by the time the messenger returns from the City, so that he could bring them back, I should be very much obliged to you.

I am, Dear, Sir,

Yours very truly,

[Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

(68)

69, FLEET STREET;

June 15, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

You sent me the brass stamp which does not work as well as that of wood, neither did you explain which of the 5 kinds of obliterating ink you wished used. I have therefore put B & A upon the upper and No. 1 June 11th upon the lower labels, and am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

J. LEDINGHAM, Esq.

of Downing Street.

---

(69)

Mr. Bacon presents his compliments to Mr. Hill and has the pleasure of returning the 18 letter covers with the obliterating matter "B & A" upon 9, & "No. 1 June 11th," upon 9 more of them and all have been put indiscriminately together, indeed if any greater drying quality was wanted it could easily be so prepared. Mr. B. would remark that the paper on which these stamps are placed is *as weak* as could be procured.

69, FLEET STREET;

June 17th, 1840.

---

(69a)

NORWICH, 16th June, 1840.

SIR,

The remarks I wished to make on the postage covers principally amount to objections to their use.

1st. The cost of the paper and printing must amount to a serious percentage on the revenue derived from those letters franked by them.

2nd. The Engraving is easily forged, and lines might be ruled on the inside so nearly to resemble the appearance of the threads on the outside as to deceive those employed at the post offices.

3rd. As an emblematic engraving was chosen, surely it might have been executed in a style that would have done credit to the present art of engraving in this country, and with deference I would say, that for a national object, the highest national talent should have been employed; the cost of a splendid steel engraving, which would have multiplied facsimilies ad infinitum, would eventually not have cost more than

the present one, and would at the same time have been considerably more difficult and costly to forge, and if forged, more easily detected; the only thing to recommend the present one is that letter-press is cheaper than plate printing.

4th. That unless it is compulsory on the public to use either stamps, or covers, I am of opinion that very few covers will be used, first, because the booksellers charge a profit on them, it being difficult to procure them in villages and small towns from the stamp office; secondly, because they are more troublesome than the stamps, and thirdly, because they would frequently increase the rate of postage. Enclosed are the four stamps you sent me, you will perceive that the cancelling ink is not removed entirely from either of them, neither do I now think it possible to do so except when very slightly marked,—without at the same time materially injuring the stamp itself, and it may therefore obviate the necessity of any other change, save that required to prevent forgery, and that perhaps will not be necessary until it is attempted; Turpentine instead of removing the ink appears to fix it, the stamp marked MG was first steeped in turpentine and afterwards subjected to the same process as the one marked ME.

Will you have the kindness to favour me with your opinion of my suggestion, of a self-registering-stamping machine for the post offices, to supersede, or be used in conjunction with the present stamps and covers?

I am, etc., etc.,

[Signed] F. HAM.

ROWLAND HILL, Esqre.

Treasury.

[The letter bears the Treasury number "1026" and across one corner is written: "Thanked. Misstatements corrected—referred Evidence abt. the stamping machine. H. C."[ole]

---

(70)

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Hill has succeeded in taking out our obliterating stamp on all that he tried within 2 days, but failed in those which had remained longer, he has left me some here which I must try, and return him to-morrow morning, will you therefore be here as soon after 10 o'clock as you can, as it requires some consideration how to mix it.

Yours, etc., etc.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

Monday,

June 22, 1840.

J. H. FISHER, Esq.

(71)

69, FLEET STREET;

June 23, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

We beg now to return you the 18 letters of Postage Stamps, which Mr. Ledingham left with us yesterday, that had been rubbed and as far as practicable defaced, but in consequence of seeing these we have only stamped three of the 6 fresh ones, which he left with us, with a rather stronger preparation, and which we also now return, and shall send the remaining three to-morrow with an alteration in the preparation suggested by what you have done.

We have etc., etc.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

R. HILL, Esq.

---

(72)

No. 69, FLEET STREET,

2nd July, 1840.

SIR,

In compliance with your request we beg to say that we should be ready if required to supply any quantity of obliterating ink similar to that used for the stamps sent you marked, "No 1 June 11" afterwards somewhat improved at a price not under six nor exceeding seven shillings per lb. made ready for use. It is composed of several ingredients, and we cannot on the small scale in which we have at present prepared it, determine *accurately* what would be its cost on a large one, but we are willing to bind ourselves to 7 - and give the advantage of any reduction that more experience may justify.

We have the honor, etc.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

ROWLAND HILL, Esq.

---

(73)

Mr. R. Hill presents his compts. to Mr. Bacon and would be obliged if Mr. Bacon could let him have, by the bearer, a little of his peculiar *obliterating ink*, either of the sorts will answer Mr. Hill's purpose.

11, DOWNING ST.

21 July, 40.

(74)

Mr. Bacon presents his compliments to Mr. Hill and has sent him a small quantity of one of the obliterating inks which he tried for him some days back.

69, Fleet Street ;

July 21, 1840.

---

(75)

Mr. Bacon presents his respectful compliments to Mr. Hill and has the pleasure of sending some obliterating ink as promised yesterday and which should be used with a wooden stamp.

69, Fleet Street ;

July 22nd, 1840.

---

(76)

11, Downing St.

5th Augt., 1840.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by Mr. Hill to transmit the enclosed letter for your perusal, after which please to return it.

The two Postage Stamps mentioned in it (one of which has been lost) were obliterated with the ink I last received from you.

Yours very truly,

[Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

J. Bacon, Esq.

---

(77)

11, Clare Street,

Dublin ;

July 24th, 1840.

Sir,

I return you two of the last stamps with which you favored me, with the obliteration in red acid ink. I have removed the obliteration perfectly. One of them marked on the back " best " has its ground as black as ever, for I used more care in preserving it, and its finest lines are preserved. I find that practice is as necessary in this art as in any other, and tells with as much effect.

You mention an apprehension, grounded on the disparity of the two inks, in which Mr. Phillips participates, and you request my opinion. The reasons you assign are no doubt in general sound, and consonant with experience. In the present case, however, I would have less fears, for reasons which I will hereafter explain.

But as you seem inclined to the principle of coincidence of properties, why not at once assume identity of composition, provided that priority of application to the paper shall not give to one a permanence which the other would not possess.

Acting on this principle I have contrived an ink, which I believe to be possessed of the following qualities—it is hard, will not rub off, nor soil other paper rubbed to it more than copperplate printers common ink would do ; it will show out the finest lines, be they ever so close together, it will bear a shower of rain without very much injury ; yet it will wash out of the paper and blot all the parts over which it has been washed ; its colour is sufficiently intense. When the same ink is used for cancelling, and is stamped on with a rather clumsy cypher, it will be dry in five minutes or less, and if means be applied to wash out the cancel, the stamp will go first. I send you specimens on which you can make a trial. No. 1 is ink of this kind merely black—No. 2 is ink of the same kind, blue-black—No. 3 is an impression of the same plate in common oil ink, such as copperplate printers use ; its object is to show how little the engraving suffers by the use of my ink—Nos. 4 and 5, are the blue-black ink, cancelled by the same ink the plate is printed with. If you pour water on these, and rub them with a sponge or with your finger I think you will find it impracticable to remove the cancel without the stamp.

Much is yet to be ascertained about the paper and the nature of the engraving as to tracery and subject. The method of printing I find must be different. But there is no real difficulty to be encountered. The stamps which I sent on the 23rd, I printed in relief, because in this way the ink takes much less hold of the paper. It was clumsily done as I had no good means for printing it, but a beautiful and difficultly imitable cut could be produced in relief on metal, and the impressions could be multiplied ad infinitum by means known to me and all exactly the same.

I do not think the prints which I send you can fade when exposed to the light.

I have the honor etc.,

[Signed] M. DONOVAN.

---

(78)

11, Downing St. ;

8 Augt. 1840.

Dear Sir,

Mr. Hill will be obliged by your returning Mr. Dunovan's (*sic*) letter, which was referred to you on the 5th inst., and if you have any remarks to make on it Mr. Hill will be happy to receive them.

Yours very truly,

J. Bacon, Esq. [Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

D

(79)

69, Fleet Street;

8th August, 1840.

Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of a note from Mr. Ledingham, written by your directions, dated the 5th inst., and enclosing a letter from a Mr. Donovan, 11, Clare Street, Dublin, together with a Postage Stamp, which had been subjected to experiments after being obliterated with ink received from our Firm, and also five impressions of "hand in hand" engraving, printed in ink of vegetable or fugitive character, except one which is said to be in oil, and all of them upon plate or soft paper.

Upon all these I beg to offer the following observations:—

1st. I differ entirely from the writer of the letter when he says, "the stamp returned has its ground as black as ever, and its finest lines are preserved," to me it carried on its front the appearance of having been tampered with, and both face and lines are considerably *defaced*, but if you think otherwise I can only express my regret that we have not been able to hit upon something more effective, as we have exhausted our means—unless Mr. D. is willing to state what means he made use of to remove the ink and then it may be, we can better guard against it.

2nd. Mr. Donovan has sent 5 impressions printed upon Plate Paper, and then observes on these "you can make the trial," whether he is ignorant that plate paper cannot be used with gum, and consequently no trial can be made of the samples he has sent, or whether he supposes the parties to whom they are sent are thus ignorant I am unable to state, but this much I can say, that being so printed not one of the qualities he has named can be correctly ascertained.

3rd. But assuming that he had printed his impressions (as he ought to have done), upon hard paper, and that every syllable of what he says proved true, *even then* he will have arrived at exactly the same stage at which we stopped some months back, when we gave you specimens of a fugitive ink which had all the qualities he speaks of, and with which you expressed your satisfaction, only you wished if possible to avoid changing the colours at first adopted.

4th. Supposing our fugitive ink were used nothing could be easier than to obliterate the stamp most effectually.

5th. He says, in the close of his letter, "I do not think the prints which I send you can fade when exposed to the light," in this (if they possess the other qualities he describes) he is mistaken, altho' they may not fade a great deal, as minerals are the only fast colours.

6th. His allusion to "Stamps sent on the 23rd, printed in relief" and to a "Cut to be produced in relief on metal, *difficult of imitation*" is so imperfect without a key to what is meant that I can only be expected to pass it over in silence.

In conclusion I beg to say that no experiments have been made or attempted on the specimens, because when we found they were upon soft paper we knew that whatever might be the result it would prove just nothing.

I have the honor etc.,

Rowland Hill, Esq. [Signed] J. B. BACON.

(80)

A master chymist in this town, a short time ago, by means of a chymical application, which of course he has not made known, completely succeeded in obliterating the Post-Office mark on the profile of Her Majesty. Thinking that the discovery might be of importance to Government, he immediately communicated the fact to the General Post-Office, enclosing in his letter one of the profiles from which he had obliterated the Post-Office mark. In the course of a few days he received a communication from one of the officials in the General Post-Office, not very remarkable for its courtesy, informing him that he had not succeeded in obliterating the Post-office mark, and that the profile sent to the General Post-office, if used a second time, would be detected by any postmaster in the kingdom.

Anxious to open the eyes of the obstinate to conviction our townsman took two of the profiles from the letters, which had passed through the Post-office, obliterated the post-mark from both, wrote again to the Post-office authorities, enclosing one of the profiles for their inspection and actually franked the letter he sent them with the other. This letter he caused to be posted by a friend in Liverpool, and the postmaster of that town did not discover the fraud, for the obliteration was so complete as to render detection impossible. The letter, which reached its destination, contained a recipe for the obliteration, in order that the Post-office authorities might convince themselves that the destruction of their bungling tattooing was practicable. What steps will be taken by the Postmaster-General in this affair remains to be seen —whether they will try some new method of tattooing the Royal profile, or whether they will choose to risk the liability of fraud, or adhere in future entirely to the Mulready system of franking with covers, which is certainly less liable to abuse than that of the Post-office stamp. *Cumberland Packet.*

"*The Times.*" August 3, 1840.

---

(81)

11, DOWNING ST.;

12 Augt. 1840.

DEAR SIR,

I have sent all that we have left of Mr. Parsons's ink and hope there will be sufficient for your purpose.

I am dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

[Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

J. BACON, Esq.

(82)

69, Fleet Street;

Aug. 18, 1840.

Sir,

We have tried the ink sent us last week and find we can effectually take it out of paper on which it has been impressed; and we have made two new inks one, if not both, of which we think will prove effectual. The ink you sent us would have to be altered before it could be generally used, as after a few impressions it drys up too fast.

We are &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

R. Hill, Esq.

---

(83)

Immediate.

11, Downing Street;

22 Aug. 1840.

Dear Sir,

Will you have the kindness to forward the enclosed with such a quantity of your ink as may be required for trying the experiment of stamping, and with directions for use—as respects fluidity, &c. Mr. Hill will be glad if you will give this matter your immediate attention.

I am dear Sir,

Yours truly,

[Signed] HENRY COLE.

F. Bacon, Esq.

---

(84)

If you have no objection to tell the ingredients, please do so. H. C.

Dear Sir,

Please send me some of the last ink for obliteration about which you wrote to Mr. Hill by the bearer if possible, if not as soon as possible.

Yours truly,

[Signed] HENRY COLE.

Downing Street;

Saturday,

F. Bacon, Esq. [Endorsed "22nd Augt. 1840."]

(85)

[? August 1840] [Sent to J. B. Bacon by R. Hill.]

Extract from a letter to the Lords of the Treasury.

"In reply to your Lordships' favor of the 13th inst. I beg to say that the red ink mark was removed from the Post-Office Stamp I forwarded to your Lordships by first boiling it in a solution of caustic potash to remove the oil, and then immersing it in a strong solution of chloride of lime, which latter entirely destroyed the red mark in about one minute. I find also that Turpentine and slight friction will remove it, though not nearly so well and requires care.

Should the present Adhesive Stamp be persevered in, allow me to suggest to your Lordships an improvement which will prevent their being used a second time, viz., to have the engraving in an ink of a color that can easily be destroyed, and the Post Office mark in a Carbonic ink (black printers ink for instance), should this alteration be adopted it would also remove the necessity for a distinct stamp at the Post Office for the usual one with the date (or the two combined) might be put upon it and save both time and labour."

---

(86)

[August 23rd, 1840]

The obliterating stamp is to be changed to Black letterpress Printers Ink and remain so for a long time.

We are to produce several shades of Blue and Brown, approaching a Pink Ink for Printing the Postage Stamps.

1st In fugitive Ink printed with oil.
2nd In fugitive Ink printed without oil.
3rd In fugitive Ink printed with oil and dipped in Prussiate of Potash.
4th do do with Prussiate of Potash mixed with the colour and common wetting.
5th In fugitive Ink printed without Oil, dipped in Prussiate of Potash.
6th In fugitive Ink printed without Oil, with Prussiate of Potash mixed with the colour and common wetting.

Avoid Creosote & Turpentine.

---

(87)

69, FLEET STREET;

Aug. 23rd, 1840.

4 o'clock.

DEAR SIR,

On my way from you to-day I had business with Mr. Pressly, and was astonished at hearing from him that by orders from you we were to stop printing

the Postage Stamps, and which we have agreed to do to-morrow unless we hear from him to the contrary. We understood there has been an order in town, from Ireland 2 or 3 days, which will take within 2400 sheets of all that we have delivered, including a large delivery this day, and my firm conviction is that if now stopped the Government will come to a dead stand still in supplying the public some time before any new colours, this day agreed to be tried, can be experimented upon and put in a course of printing. We have no objection to putting some men upon other work, and whenever you please ordering the *same number* (say to printers) back again to the Postage Stamps ; but should the public apply for stamps and find none and the Press set up a cry of mismanagement, we do and shall object to its being charged upon us ; as we have not a doubt of difficulties arising out of this measure.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

R. HILL, Esq.

---

(88)

DR. SIR,

Will you have the kindness to print *immediately* some imperfect stamps of this colour and send them to Downing St., with a report of any reasons for or against its adoption.

Your cancelling ink gets hard. It is necessary for Post Office purposes that it should always be fluid.

Yrs. truly,

[Signed] HENRY COLE.

69, FLEET STREET ;

24 Aug., 1840.

J. BACON, Esq.

---

(89)

Mr. Rowland Hill presents his compliments to Mr. Bacon and requests him to go on printing the labels as before until Mr. Hill has had an opportunity of conferring with Mr. Pressly.

DOWNING STREET ;

25th August, 1840.

(90)

Mr. R. Hill presents his Compts. to Mr. Bacon and would be obliged if he could let him have, at his earliest possible convenience, some stamps printed in aqueous ink of the blue and brown colour fixed upon, as he is desirous of making further experiments respecting obliteration.

11, Downing St. ;

Aug. 25/40.

---

(91)

69, Fleet Street ;

Aug. 28, 1840 ;

One o'Clock.

Dear Sir,

I have by Mr. Edwin Hill's request enclosed two samples of stamps in blue of different shades and 2 of chocolate of different shades both printed yesterday, before you and Mr. R. Hill called at our office. I have numbered them with common black letter-press ink, having no obliterating stamp to print over them, but I consider the experiments now making by us will be more important for the object you have in view than these are.

If possible I will send them to you to-morrow, but these experiments take much more time to be done properly than persons unacquainted with the difficulties to be overcome may imagine.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

R. Phillips, Esq.

---

(92)

Saturday, 29th Augt. [1840] ;

Craig's Court.

Dear Sir,

I return the enclosed as being of no manner of use—had you sent *all* the heads unstamped the supply would have been small, but to have only *two* of each kind to operate and report upon, is what I really cannot undertake to perform.

I am utterly at a loss to conjecture why you marked the heads.

Yours truly,

[Signed] R. PHILLIPS.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

[Endorsed " 29th Augt. 1840."]

(93)

69, Fleet Street;

Sept. 1, 1840;

Dear Sir,

We have now the pleasure of sending you specimens of the Postage Label for experimenting upon as follows:—

Of the Pink Cast.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. | 1 | .. | 2 | sheets | 12 | each | or | 24 stamps. |
| | 3 | .. | 2 | —— | ,, | —— | | 24 —— |
| | 4 | .. | 2 | —— | ,, | —— | | 24 —— |
| | 7 | .. | 2 | —— | ,, | —— | | 24 —— |
| | 9 | .. | 2 | —— | ,, | —— | | 24 —— |
| | 10 | .. | 2 | —— | ,, | —— | | 24 —— |
| | 11 | .. | 2 | —— | ,, | —— | | 24 —— |
| | 12 | .. | 2 | —— | ,, | —— | | 24 —— |
| | 16 | .. | 2 | —— | ,, | —— | | 24 —— |

Of the Blue Cast.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| No. | 1 | .. | 2 | sheets | 12 | each | or | 24 stamps. |
| | 2 | .. | 2 | —— | ,, | —— | | 24 —— |
| | 3 | .. | 2 | —— | ,, | —— | | 24 —— |
| | 4 | .. | 2 | —— | ,, | —— | | 24 —— |
| | A | .. | 3 | —— | 3 | —— | | 9 —— |
| No. | B | .. | 3 | —— | 3 | —— | | 9 —— |
| | C | .. | 3 | —— | 3 | —— | | 9 —— |

All the above of the same No. or letter are alike, but each No. or letter are in some respects different from the others. Trusting here are sufficient for any experiments.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

R. Phillips, Esq.

---

(94)

Mr. Bacon presents his respectful compliments to Mr. Hill and begs to hand him Specimens of Blue stamps marked A. B. and C., which with those his brother took to him this afternoon make all the *prints* sent Mr. Phillips and exhaust our powers of producing fugitive colours which will print.

69, Fleet Street;

Sept. 1, 1840.

( 95 )

Within the last few days all labelled letters passing through the Post-office have been stamped in black ink instead of red, a change which has been brought about in consequence of a communication lately received by the Government from a scientific chymist (who declines giving his name), in which he explains the method of preparing a composition which will entirely annihilate the red stamp, reducing the label to its original appearance ; but it only possesses this power over the red ink, the colouring matter of the black ink being of such a nature as to resist the action of this compound. In future the black will be substituted for the red.

" *The Times*," Sept. 3rd, 1840.

---

( 96 )

69, Fleet Street,

September 3rd, 1840.

Sir,

On the other side we have the pleasure of annexing impressions of the 16 kinds of stamps which we have last made by your directions.

When you and Mr. Phillips have decided which you consider the best for use— we should recommend that the two best Blue and the two best red colours be tried to the extent of several sheets, upon the actual Postage paper and gummed in the usual way, and then obliterated with common black letter-press printers ink, when we can tell you whether it will make any, and if any, what difference in the cost over those at present in use. If this plan is agreed upon it will be necessary to supply us with some paper for the experiments.

We are, Sir, very respectfully,

Your humble servants,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

Rowland Hill, Esq.

---

( 97 )

4 Sept./40.

Dear Sir,

I have unfortunately missed you on the way. I called to shew you a paragraph in a letter I received this morning from Mr. Rowland Hill and which I copy below.

" If Mr. Bacon has not already done it, get him to report to Mr. Phillips the composition of the inks which have been sent to the latter for trial, this should be done in every case."

If you see no objection to do this perhaps you will report as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,

J. Bacon, Esq. [Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

(98)

Particulars sent to R. Phillips, September 4, 1840].

Compositions.

Color A.

¼ of an oz. of Rose Pink. 1 16 oz. Cochineal.
1 16 oz. Carbonate of Potash. 1 16 oz. Carbonate of Soda.
1 16 Sulphate of Potash. 1 16 oz. Tartrate of Potash.

---

Color B.

¼ oz. of an oz. of Rose Pink. 1 16 oz. Cochineal.
⅛ oz. Sulphate of Potash. ⅛ oz. Carbonate of Soda.

---

Color C.

¼ of an oz. of Rose Pink. ⅛ oz. Cochineal.
⅛ oz. Carbonate of Potash. ⅛ oz. Tartrate of Potash.

---

Color D.

¼ of an oz. of Rose Pink. 1 16 oz. Prussiate of Potash.
1 16 oz. Carbonate of Soda. 1 16 oz. Cochineal.

---

Color E.

1 16 oz. Cochineal. 1 16 oz. Prussiate of Potash.
1 16 oz. Tartrate of Potash. ¼ oz. Red Lead. ½ oz. of Rose Pink

---

Color F.

¼ of an oz. of Prussiate of Potash.
1/16 oz. of Red Lead. ¼ oz. of Rose Pink. 1 16 oz. of Cochineal.

---

Color G.

2 oz. Rose Pink.
2 oz. Prussiate of Potash.
½ oz. Cochineal. ½ oz. Carbonate of Potash.

---

No. 9.

| | | | | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 16 lb. Pink | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 2 |
| 1 16 P. of Pot. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 3 |
| 1 16 Car. of Soda | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 1 |
| 1 16 Cochineal | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 7 |
| 4 16 Oil .. | .. | .. | .. | 0 | 1 |
| 11/16 | | | | 1 | 2 |

or per lb. with oil, 1/9.

| No. 16. | s. | d. |
|---|---|---|
| 2 lb. Pink .. .. .. .. | 1 | 4 |
| 2 lb. Prus. of Pot. .. .. .. | 6 | 0 |
| ½ Car. Potash .. .. .. | 0 | 6 |
| ½ Cochineal .. .. .. | 4 | 6 |
| 2½ Oil .. .. .. .. | 1 | 0 |
| 7½ | 12 | 4 |

or per lb., 1/8.

---

(99)

LONDON, 6, CRAIG'S COURT;

MY DEAR SIR, Sept. 5, 1840.

Having received from Mr. Bacon a great number of stamps for trial as to the facility of their removal, I have to report that the blue colours were not very variable in quality and on comparing them when obliterated with black ink, prepared as I shall presently state, it did not appear to me that any advantage could be gained in making an alteration in this ink; although the obliteration had not been effected one hour, yet the ink resisted to a sufficient degree all the re-agents likely to be employed and most effective in discharging it. I repeat therefore that the present blue printing ink obliterated by black ink appears to me to afford so great a degree of security, that I am quite unacquainted with any means capable of removing the obliterating ink, and even if they should be discovered the blue colour would be much sooner destroyed.

With respect to the red ink stamps sent by Mr. Bacon, I found on trial that several of them would efficiently answer the intended purpose; but those which I more particularly recommend are marked *No. 9 plain* and *No. 16G* which I enclose; if all other circumstances such as facility of printing, &c., be the same I rather prefer the latter, but if the least advantage in this or any other respect would attach to the use of No. 9 the preference may be safely given to it.

The obliterating black ink which I employed and which was prepared after taking several opinions on the subject, was printers' ink obtained from Smith, Wine Office Court, at 5/- per lb. mixed with an equal weight of *cold drawn linseed oil only.*

This ink dries sufficiently soon, so that as already stated, the most active chemical reagents did not remove it, employed within an hour of its use, with the obliterating stamp, and yet it does not so readily dry by exposure to the air as to occasion the slightest inconvenience in its use.

In concluding I may remark that the means are now obtained of adopting the plan which I sometime since recommended, viz., that of using a *stamp of destructible ink, with an obliteration of indestructible ink.* It may be proper also for me to observe that the use of the *black* obliterating ink, instead of the *red*, will even with the present black stamps very greatly increase the difficulty of using them a second time, even if a method of effecting it should eventually be discovered.

I remain, &c., &c.,

ROWLAND HILL, Esq. [Signed] R. PHILLIPS.

( 100 )

69, FLEET STREET ;

Sept. 8th, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

We have made the most accurate calculations which are possible where the work has not been done on a large scale, and cannot engage to print from the pink colour No. 9, or No. 16, last sent you as Specimens, without an additional charge of one farthing per thousand Postage Stamps. The colour to be used is far more expensive than the ink at present employed, but we are unable to ascertain how far it will go, compared relatively with black printing ink, or the other fast colours ordinarily employed, but if adopted we will risk it at the farthing above named whatever may be the result ; and if experiment shall justify the old price we will cheerfully reduce it to that.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

ROWLAND HILL, Esq.

---

( 101 )

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch present their compliments to Mr. Edwin Hill, and have the pleasure of handing him herewith the 2 sheets of Crown paper received from him yesterday afternoon, cut into 16 pieces and printed as follows :—

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | pieces | 12 | each—96 | labels | printed | in | colour No. 9. |
| 8 | ,, | 12 | ,, 96 | ,, | ,, | ,, | ,, 16. |
| 16 | pieces. | | 192 | labels. | | | |

No. 69, FLEET STREET ;
10 Sept. 1840.

---

( 102 )

S. & T. ;

Sep. 10, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

If you can have the two sheets gummed as well as printed, I think it will be best so to do, for the sake of making the experiment complete in every respect, so that we may be able to report to the Chancellor that the trials have been made upon stamps in all respects the same as the others excepting the change of color.

I am,

Yours truly,

[J. B. BACON, Esq.] [Signed] EDWIN HILL.

(103)

SOMERSET HOUSE ;

Sep. 18, 1840.

GENTM.,

I shall be obliged if you will make a little ink, No. 16 red, about the consistence of ordinary letter press printing ink for us to try with the embossed heads. Please also to inform me what it ought to be thinned with if we should find it too stiff for use.

I am,

Your obed. servant,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO.

---

(104)

STAMPS & TAXES ;

Sep. 23, 1840.

GENTM.,

You will herewith receive from Mr. Allen a warrant for printing five thousand sheets of 1d. label stamps which should be commenced without delay. I recommend that two presses should be employed as I think they will print as rapidly as the demand requires and it is not desirable to print more because of the expected change in the Colours employed.

I am, Gentm.,

Your humble ser.,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

MESSRS. BACON & PETCH.

---

(105)

11, DOWNING ST. ;

Oct. 6 40.

DEAR SIR,

I am directed by Mr. Hill to request that you will transmit to him as soon as possible some more of the red stamps marked *No. 16G* printed and gummed on the crown-paper.

I have written to Mr. E. Hill respecting a supply of paper.

Yours very truly,

[Signed JNO. LEDINGHAM.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

( 106 )

S. & T. ;

Oct. 7. 1840.

GENTM.,

At the request of my brother's clerk I send you four sheets crown marked paper, upon which to print some more red color No. 16 G. for my brother.

If you have not instructions to the contrary I presume you will print the defaced stamps as before.

I am Gentm.,

Your obn. Ser.,

Signed] EDWIN HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO.

---

( 107 )

69, FLEET STREET ;

Oct. 8th, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to acknowledge your note of the 6th inst., requesting some more of the red stamps marked No. 16 G. printed and gummed on the Crown paper and we yesterday received four sheets paper from Mr. Edwin Hill for the purpose.

These four sheets cut into 12 pieces (of 12 stamps each) or 48 pieces, and we have now the pleasure of sending you :—

39 pieces or 468 good stamps No. 16G. and
9 ,, ,, 108 spoilt stamps ditto being the intact proceeds of the paper.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

JNO. LEDINGHAM, Esq.
11, Downing Street.

---

( 108 )

11, DOWNING STREET ;

Oct. 9 1840.

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Hill is desirous of having a few sheets of crown paper printed in ink marked No. 3 plain (Blue), being one of the inks which you recommended. Mr. E. Hill will send you the paper.

Yours very truly,

Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

(109)

No. 69, FLEET STREET;

12th Octr., 1840.

DEAR SIR,

Mr. E. Hill has sent us four more sheets paper from which we have printed as requested by you.

42 sheets 12 each is 504 good postage stamps No. 3 blue.
6 ,, —— 72 spoilt ditto ——

making 48 sheets which is the exact quantity into which the 4 sheets paper cut.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

JNO. LEDINGHAM, Esq.

---

(110)

11, DOWNING ST.;

Oct. 17 1840.

DEAR SIR,

Can you make it convenient to call upon Mr. Hill to-day? An early hour would suit him best.

Yours very truly,

[Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

J. BACON, Esq.

---

(111)

69, FLEET STREET;

Oct. 19th, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

When on Saturday I promised you the result of an experiment upon the two-penny Postage Stamp either to-morrow or Wednesday, I very naturally inferred that I could have the means of doing so; but all the dies are locked up and your brother has the key; and as he has gone to Kidderminster we have applied to his son Ormond, who declines letting us open the box until he has his Father's answer.

Under these circumstances it is impossible to state *any time* when we can fulfil this part of our promise, but we have the pleasure of enclosing four sheets each of two shades of blue, the deeper of which we think even more secure from effacing obliteration, than that which you now have [a few words here are indecipherable.]

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

R. HILL, Esq.

(112)

Mr. Bacon presents his respectful compliments to Mr. Hill and has now the pleasure of enclosing :—

One impression from the two penny die with the white line marked along the top as suggested, and also one with a corresponding white line both at the top and bottom, for his decision.

69, FLEET STREET ;

Oct. 23rd, 1840.

---

(113)

11, DOWNING STREET ;

Oct. 23 40.

DEAR SIR,

I must trouble you to send me another specimen of the Twopenny Stamp (with the white lines), printed in blue ink to enable me to judge of the effect. It is not intended I presume to blot out the words "Twopence," if they can be retained in the new specimen I shall be glad as I wish to see the stamp as nearly as possible in the state in which it will be issued.

I remain,

Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

---

(114)

Mr. Bacon presents his respectful compliments to Mr. Hill and has the pleasure of enclosing :—

2 impressions from the 2 penny die in blue ink with a white line at the top only —and

2 more with a white line at top and bottom also.

69, FLEET STREET ;

Oct. 26th, 1840.

(115)

Mr. Rowland Hill presents his Compts. to Mr. Bacon and would be obliged if he could make it convenient to call at 11, Downing St. to-morrow morning at 11 o'clock.

11, DOWNING ST.

Octr. 28/1840.

---

(116)

Oct. 28/40.

DEAR SIR,

The intended new blue stamp (No. 3 plain) is not secure. Can you send me some specimens of a more fugitive kind? I must request the favour of your letting me have them with as little delay as possible.

Yours truly,

[Signed] R. HILL.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

---

(117)

Oct. 29 40.

DEAR SIR,

Neither of the last blues will do—if anything the dark is the more stubborn, and therefore the more objectionable of the two.—We find too that by lamp light the dark blue is scarcely distinguishable from the old black stamp.

Please to let the bearer have some of the obliterating ink of which you spoke this morning with a statement of its composition.

Yours truly,

[Signed] R. HILL.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

---

(118)

FLEET STREET;

Oct. 29, 1840.

Mr. Hill reports that neither the last light or dark blue stamps, which we sent him, will answer—the darkest is not only too dark to show the black obliterating stamp but is not near fugitive enough, it will therefore be useless to try those two again or "No. 3 plain" blue. In trying a Prussian blue, use sufficient of lighter colours to bring it light enough—and if you can use Pruss. of Potash in one or two

of the trials I think it advisable. I also wish you to send me some of the obliterating ink we last defaced stamps with and a Mem. of the component parts as early to-morrow as you can.

If you do not clearly understand all I have here said, will you be kind enough to call up between 10 and 11 in the morning and I will explain, as everything is urgent now.

Yours &c., &c.,

J. H. FISHER, Esq. [Signed] J. B. BACON.

---

(119)

69, FLEET STREET;

Oct. 30, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

I lost no time after seeing you yesterday in setting about the ink and the stamps, but as we have got to prepare the former, and in experimenting upon the latter must avoid all the combinations which we have previously tried, I do not expect to be able to send you anything until to-morrow. I fear you are not aware of the time taken up in making these new experiments where we have no former experience to guide us.

I am, &c., &c.,

R. HILL, Esq. [Signed] J. B. BACON.

---

(120)

69, FLEET STREET;

Nov. 2nd, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

I have now the pleasure of forwarding you specimens of Thirteen variations of colour for the blue or twopenny stamp, which are all that we can add to our former trials, as possessing the capacity of printing, and yet combining the other qualities you require;

My opinion is that

E Color plain is the best for printing
E Color Pruss. blue in paper next
B Pruss. blue plain ,, next
B Pruss. blue with Pruss. in paper next and
D Color Pruss. in paper next

As we have now gone into new combinations we cannot vouch for these specimens keeping their colour, but those which do not alter much in a week when exposed to the air, will not in a year, or ten years.

Each of these specimens have some quality peculiar to itself, and the security or insecurity on trial of one is no evidence at all as to another.

I believe also I have heard from you or Mr. Ledingham that wetting in Prussiate of Potash or other chemical liquid is useless as another wetting in water will remove it. If this doctrine is held I beg to demur to it, as in my opinion the properties of the article used in wetting are in such case taken up into the colour in printing and the wetting in water will not disengage it.

I have also sent some ink for obliterating Marked No. 1, and some more marked No. 2, and enclosed a statement of the articles of which they are composed.

I am, Dear Sir,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

ROWLAND HILL, Esq.

---

(121)

DOWNING ST. ;

Nov. 2/40.

DEAR SIR,

We shall try the proposed colours for the new twopenny label (just received), but I shall be obliged by your trying them also as to their permanency when exposed to light.

Will you do me the favour to state which contain oil and which do not.

Also whether you have tried your obliterating inks as to their effects on the paper? Do they injure its texture at all ? I perceive that both contain sulphuric acid.

If you have any papers which have been stampt with these inks for some time I shall be obliged by your letting me see them.

Yours very truly,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

Written in pencil on fly leaf of above.

All the colors last sent are made with oil, none of them are printed without. All are the same with the exception of gradation of color.

The indelible stamping inks will not injure the texture of the paper.

And I believe the blue tints are permanent when exposed to the light, those only are liable to change which are printed on paper dipped in Prussiate of potash the others I think will not.

---

(122)

Mr. Rowland Hill presents his Compts. to Mr. Bacon and will be obliged if he can let him have (per bearer), some of the *obliterating* ink, mentioned in Mr. Bacon's note of the 30th ult : without waiting for the stamps.

11, DOWNING ST. ;

Nov. 2, 1840.

(123)

69, Fleet Street;

Nov. 4, 1840.

Dear Sir,

Your note of the 2nd inst. was received in course, and I beg to say in reply that I have now found the plain Printed Paper which was stamped with the obliterating inks last sent you (as also with other inks) on the 11th June last, and so marked at the time, copies of which were then sent you—and I find that in no instance have they on those [gone ?] through the paper, and that writing placed behind them upon the paper would not, if plainly written, have been defaced. I will call up and shew them to you to-morrow, but am unable to-day.

In answer to your other enquiry, I would say that all the Specimens sent you of Postage Stamps on the 31st Oct. were printed in Oil. I did not mention it because I was only directed by you to prepare specimens in oil and besides, a printing in oil is the rule, and without oil the exception, in copper-plate printing. I should always mention it when I sent you anything without oil, and when in oil assume it as a matter of course. I can, however, always mention it in future. We will expose our copies of the stamps sent the 31st Oct. to the air as you request.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

R. Hill, Esq.

P.S. I have no reason to believe the Specimens last sent will change when exposed to the air, indeed I think those wet in plain water will not change. I only meant to say that in the colours now trying we had had no previous experience.

[Signed] J. B. B.

---

(124)

Nov. 6.

Dear Sir,

Will you have the goodness to say at what rate per gallon you can supply the ink? If you can let me have this information (you may say, if you please *about* so much) by return of messenger, as also, if possible that promised yesterday I shall be glad as my report is only waiting for it.

Yours truly,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

[J. B. Bacon, Esq.]

( 125 )

69, Fleet Street ;

Nov. 7, 1840.

Dear Sir,

I find on examination that the obliterating ink sent in this week "No. 1.," although with many of the ingredients contained in that sent and marked "No. 1 June 11th" was altered on the 23rd June and again on the 18th Augst. as mentioned in my notes of those dates. I have no impression which I can be sure was from that ink in my possession, and therefore cannot send you one, but I am fully convinced that it will prove less detrimental to the paper than the ink "No. 1, June 11," an impression from which on plain paper stamped on that day I now enclose you ; indeed the alterations were made on purpose to weaken the acid qualities of that fine ink and which I understood you at the time had no other objection but its possible injury to the paper. In regard to price we have made no such quantity as would justify fixing a price per gallon, which is also a very unusual mode of charging.

I can state, however, that if approved of, our charge would be somewhere between four shillings and four shillings and sixpence per pound : you however have now our receipt and perhaps persons of leisure whose time is of little value would produce it lower, as the principal expense is in the preparation and not in the materials.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

Rowland Hill, Esq.

---

( 126 )

No. 1, June 11th, but improved.

No. 1 Color same as last stamped with, but better mixed.

| Pint. | | | *s.* | *d.* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | .. | 1 part Alkanet Root .. .. .. .. | 0 | 8 |
| 1 | .. | 1 do. Oil of Turpentine .. .. .. | 0 | 6 |
| ¼ | .. | 1 Fourth part sulphuric acid .. .. | 0 | 0½ |
| ½ | .. | ½ do. boiled oil .. .. .. .. | 0 | 6 |
| ½ | .. | ½ do, each Sulphate of Iron (calcined) .. | 0 | 2 |
| ½ | .. | | | 3 |
| ½ | .. | Rose pink, litharge of lead .. .. .. | 0 | 3 |
| 1 | .. | Small portion of indigo, with a few drops of Nitric Acid, a small portion of lamp black .. | 0 | 2½ |
| 5¼ | | | 2 | 7 |
| | | Mixing .. .. .. .. | 2 | 7 |
| | | | 5 | 2 |

No. 2. Same as above, except different quantity of ingredients.
No. 2 Alkanet root, Indigo, Sulphate of Iron, Rose Pink, Boiled Oil, Turpentine, and small portion of Sulphuric Acid.
5¼ pints No. 1, as above, 4 - to 4 6 per lb., letter sent 7th Nov.

---

(127)

Mr. Rowland Hill presents his Compts. to Mr. Bacon and will be obliged if he will prepare about a pint of his obliterating ink marked No. 1 (lately transmitted), as Mr. Hill is desirous of having it fairly tried at the Post Office.

11, Downing St. ;

Nov. 9/40.

---

(128)

Mr. Rowland Hill presents his Compts. to Mr. Bacon and will feel obliged if Mr. Bacon will transmit a further supply of the red coloured stamps (No. 16 G), printed on *common* paper.

11, Downing St.

Nov. 12/40.

---

(129)

Mr. Bacon presents his respectful compliments to Mr. R. Hill and has the pleasure of forwarding him herewith Forty sheets of 12 each making 480 Postage Stamps, printed from the red ink *No.* 16 *G* and on common paper, agreeably to the request contained in his note of yesterday.

69, Fleet Street ;

Nov. 13, 1840.

---

(130)

Nov. 14. '40.

Dear Sir,

We do not find your last blues to be so fugitive as could be desired. Do any of them contain Prussian blue in the colour ? And if not, is there any objection to its being used ? You will recollect that this was the course recommended by Mr. Phillips.

Yours truly,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

J. B. Bacon, Esq.

( 131 )

69, Fleet Street ;

Nov. 17th, 1840.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your note of the 14th, inst. I beg to say that in consequence of Mr. Phillips suggestion to you, the Specimens we sent you on the 2nd instant were mostly *vizt. seven of them*,—printed with more or less of Prussian blue in them, as will be seen by examining our letter of that date to you, or the impressions themselves. Your late directions to me have been to keep as far from black as possible, so as to allow of a contrast between the postage and the obliterating stamp ; but if we used more than half Prussian blue, which is the quantity in some of the specimens sent you, it would scarcely be distinguishable from black. The use of Prussian blue in the colour whether useful or not, was Mr. Phillips suggestion and not ours, as we are unable to conceive how it can increase the fugitiveness of any article, and this we stated to you when it was first proposed.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

Rowland Hill, Esq.

---

( 132 )

Mr. Rowland Hill presents his Compts. to Mr. Bacon and will be happy to see Mr. Bacon on Monday (23rd inst.) if convenient.

11, Downing St. :

Nov. 21/40.

---

( 133 )

69, Fleet Street ;

Nov. 23rd, 1840.

8 o'clock ev.g.

Dear Sir,

Our foreman of the other works has just been up to say that the colours I left with you to-day are not secure and to beg you will not try them. When he first made them they stood every test he could apply, and the second day also, but to be very safe he has tried again being the fourth day since they were printed, and he finds much to his surprise that they are insensible to some of his applications to remove the colour, particularly turpentine. He has brought these new kinds which he believes will not set so as to be less safe than No. 16 G pink : and he also says they will print very well. Of that you must judge, as I am too anxious to prevent your

wasting time upon the Nov. 20th samples, to keep back this letter until to-morrow when I could see them myself by daylight. I now have the pleasure of sending you

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | sheets | 12 | each is | 36 | stamps | Marked Pruss. paper Nov. 23rd. | A. |
| 3 | ,, | ,, | ,, | 36 | ,, | C.P. ,, Nov. 23rd. | B. |
| 3 | ,, | ,, | ,, | 36 | ,, | Plain water Nov. 23rd. | C. |

I have strong hopes that all these are safe, and if so I should recommend C for use if it also prints as well as the rest.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

ROWLAND HILL, Esq.

---

(134)

11, DOWNING ST.;

Nov. 24 40.

DEAR SIR,

The colour of the stamps enclosed in your letter of yesterday is objectionable—its appearance is unpleasing and by candle light it would, I fear, be confounded with black.

If you think you can prepare a colour more fugitive than the Blues which you sent some time since, pray do so. If not, have the goodness to favour me with a call at your earliest convenience and we will together select the best among those already prepared.

I remain,

My dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

---

(135)

11, DOWNING STREET;

Dec. 4 40.

DEAR SIR,

Will you have the goodness to arrange with Mr. Edwin Hill for the immediate trial, in the manner you proposed (viz.: with the steel plates and crown marked paper) of the two Blue colours A.A. plain and B Prussian blue plain and of the Red No. 16 G.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

J. B. BACON, Esq. [Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

(136)

69, Fleet Street;

Dec. 15, 1840.

Dear Sir,

I have been delayed in the experimental sheets of new pink and blue Postage Stamps by some difficulties connected with printing, but having now overcome them, I have the pleasure of forwarding you

4 sheets No. 16 G. pink
4 sheets A A Pruss. blue plain
4 sheets B. No. 2 plain

which I trust will prove satisfactory.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

R. Hill, Esq.

---

(137)

11, Downing St.;

Decr. 17 40.

Dear Sir,

Will you do me the favour to say if the sheets of labels which we received on the 15th inst: are printed precisely in the same colours (Red No. 16 G—Blue A. A. Colour plain— and B Prussian blue plain) as the specimens tried some time ago? Some experiments which have just been made lead us to think there may be some slight difference—at least as regards the Red.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

J. B. Bacon, Esq.

---

(138)

69, Fleet Street;

Dec. 18, 1840.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of yesterday I beg to say that the blue colours sent you on the 15th instant were just the same as the Specimens sent sometime ago, and marked in the same manner and that the only alteration in the red ink is that there is rather a greater proportion of colour and less of liquid in the cast than the former specimens, and this was done to give more clearness in the impression.

I am, &c., &c.,

R. Hill, Esq. [Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

(139)

11, Downing St. ;

Decr. 19 40.

Dear Sir,

Referring to your Notes of the 15th and 18 inst., I beg to acquaint you that I have consulted the gentleman at the Stamp Office with reference to the selection of colours, and that it is finally decided to print the penny labels in the Red colour marked "16 G" and the Twopenny labels in the Blue colour marked "A.A.," also that for the purpose of distinguishing the future from the present Twopenny labels the white lines are to be introduced above and below the head as in the specimen with which you favoured me some time ago.

You will of course receive your instructions from the Stamp Office, but as the details have hitherto been arranged by myself, I write this note to guard against any possible misunderstanding.

Yours truly,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

P.S. Your Note of the 18th states that there is a greater body of colour in the last specimens of Red labels—if this is necessary to give a clear impression I suppose I must not object to it, but I find that it to some extent renders the stamp less fugitive.

---

(140)

*Private.* Stamps & Taxes ;

Dec. 19, 1840.

Dear Sir,

I beg to inform you (*not officially*) that the new colors are agreed upon, viz. 16 G red for the 1d. & A.A. blue for the 2d., these last with the white line above and below the head as proposed by you.

My brother expects that the Treasury minute will reach this office on Monday, and when it arrives no doubt you will have regular instructions from the Board in due course.

Meantime if you care to begin to put yourself a little in train it may save time.

I am, Yours truly,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

J. B. Bacon, Esq.

(141)

*Private.* S. & T.;

Dec. 23, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

I find it is true that there is a large stock of the 1d. stamps in Scotland (abt. 14,000) and this renders it the more desirable not to print any more now.

I called last evening and found that one man is printing still. If you can stop him too I shall feel much relieved, as I fear the Chancellor may be greatly displeased if he finds the coming out of the red stamps delayed by the existence of a heavy stock on hand of black, therefore I hope you will not print a single sheet more than is quite unavoidable.

I am in great haste,

Yours faithfully,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

---

(142)

STAMPS AND TAXES;

24th December, 1840.

GENTLEMEN,

The Board have been authorised by a Treasury Minute dated the 17th instant to print the Penny Postage stamps with the ink of a red colour and the twopenny stamps with blue ink of a different description from that hitherto used, both of which inks have been prepared by you and their lordships have also decided that as it may be important hereafter to have the means of distinguishing new twopenny labels from the old ones, some alteration may be made in the plate used for printing them. I am therefore to request that you will cause the penny stamps to be in future printed with the red ink in question, and immediately make some slight distinctive mark in the plate for the 2d. stamps and submit the same for the approbation of the Board, and that when this alteration is approved you will forthwith proceed to print the twopenny stamps with the new blue ink referred to.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

MESSRS. PERKINS & BACON.

[This letter was forwarded without being signed. It is postmarked "De. 24, 1840."]

(143)

Decr. 28, 1840.

Dear Sir,

As your son (as far as I can make out his meaning) speaks of recommencing the printing in *black* I have deemed it necessary to lock up the plates again, as the readiest way of taking upon myself the responsibility of any inconvenience which may arise and which I am quite willing to bear, having had positive instructions from Mr. Pressly that no more black should be printed. As I had a message from you by my son on Thursday evening last that you would be ready with the red colour (for trial at least) on Monday morning and that you only waited formal instructions from our Board, and as upon enquiry I was told that such instructions had been issued (on Thursday evening) I presume there must be some misunderstanding in respect of going on with the black. Mr. Gates informed me in the last week that you did not like to incur the responsibility of endangering the spoiling of the paper already wetted, but surely it will be better to spoil a little paper than to incur the further loss of printing it when it is not likely to be wanted. I am quite willing to take the responsibility of the loss of whatever paper may be wetted.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

[Signed] E. HILL.

J. B. Bacon, Esq.

P.S.—I can attend at any time to unlock the plates upon your sending me word.

---

(144)

Receipt for obliterating ink for stamps :—

1 part alkanet root.
2 do. oil of turpentine.
1 qr. part sulphuric acid.
½ part of boiled oil.
½ do. Sulphate of iron (calcined).
½ do. each rose pink and litharge of lead.
Small portions of indigo, lamp black and a few drops of nitric acid.

Dec. 30th, /40.

[Signed] J. H. F[ISHER].

(145)

69, Fleet Street;

Edwin Hill, Esq., 5 Jany., 1841.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of yesterday is at hand stating that the printing of the Red Stamps is not satisfactory to you and which I exceedingly regret to learn for if they are unsatisfactory now I have no hopes of making them less so, and it being but the commencement of a new color it is best for all parties that the matter should be understood at once.

The fact is that at the request of your brother I have tried all sorts of experiments upon all sorts of Colours always stating to him my undisguised opinion that the nearer we approached to a black Colour the better it would print, and although we produced a Red to print something better than I had anticipated, I never thought of putting it in competition with a black or a blue Colour, but finding the danger of removing the obliterating Stamp to be much greater than that of Forgery.

Your Brother decided in favour of the Specimens which we sent him in Red as well as Blue Ink, and in consequence (as we suppose) of his Report we have been Ordered by the Hon. Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes to prepare and proceed with such Stamps. We have accordingly commenced and on Saturday last I exhibited five of the Red and some Blue Stamps such as we purposed printing to Mr. Pressly, who approved of them and ordered us to proceed and when you stated in his presence that they might be better I answered this they could not without endangering that security which your Brother called essential to them. Such being the facts, that you should now give an opinion against what both Mr. Pressly and your Brother have approved, is a matter of deep regret as however very little expense has yet been incurred it may save much trouble and unpleasantness at least to us to inform you that having at *great loss to ourselves* perfected and exhibited Specimens, which have been approved, we are ready constantly to produce similar Stamps to them, but if these will not answer then the Colour must be changed or some other course adopted as we have done our best and it would be mere delusion to hold out any hopes that we could still further improve. I have no belief that pressing would alter the appearance of the Stamps in any other way except as to smoothness and pleasantness to the touch, and cannot help thinking that prints which require carrying to Somerset House to be seen through a magnifier must be done well enough for general use, for although we will yield to no house for good printing still it must be borne in mind that Proof and Prints are not synonimous terms.

The trying the Red Colour upon *Copper* plates would be perfectly useless, because even if they would print better (which experience teaches me they would not), still we could not furnish them for *ten times the price* which we now charge on steel and which would alone render their use impracticable. I am glad to find but one opinion as to the Blue Ink.

P.S.—The Copperplate for the twopenny experiment is in the box as you desire.

I am, etc., etc.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

(146)

69, Fleet Street;

Jan. 6, 1841.

Dear Sir,

Agreeably to the request in your letter of yesterday as altered in your message through Mr. Gates, we have the pleasure of sending herewith two sheets each, taken by us promiscuously from the four plates now at Press upon the red stamps, which you will please return after examining with Mr. Pressly? I have also sent the blue twopenny samples which Mr. Pressly saw last Saturday.

I am, etc., etc.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

E. Hill, Esq.

---

(147)

69, Fleet Street;

Feb. 4, 1841.

Dear Sir,

Your favour of the 29th ulto. was duly received, but the queries it propounded required several experiments before I could answer you satisfactorily: and even now there is one point on which I cannot come to any certain conclusion for 12 or 14 days, and it is the following. The *sizing* used in the last process of manufacturing the paper contains Alum. In wetting the paper preparatory to printing, some portion of the Alum mixes with the water, and as the Water Company now allow no one to draw from the main, and it is only let on three times a week, our reservoir will only allow fresh water every other day; consequently, the alum must be slightly accumulating at each wetting during the two days, and although this accumulation is no injury in ordinary and was none while we were printing the original black and blue stamps it may be that the chemical properties of the new Pink Colour, when coming in contact with the alum particularly when the paper is impregnated with a strong quantity of it, causes an action which terminates in the bluish green appearance to which your letter alludes. Now to solve this doubt requires not only that several parcels of paper should be printed and kept quite separate from the rest after being dipped in *fresh* water, but that they should be kept 10 or 12 days in order to see whether they come from the press at first and remain after exposure to the air a reasonable time free from this greenish hue. Bating, however these experiments, and assuming at most that this discolouration cannot be avoided, I have to remark:—

1st.—That from repeated experiments we have proved that although the gum from its transparency tends to *shew* the green colour to the eye, it acts as a mere coating for it, and does not in any manner take up or incorporate itself with it.

2nd.—That supposing the colour did incorporate itself with the gum, so as to reach the tongue when it moistens it, the article which produces the greenish appear-

ance is not deleterious in its effects and if a party were to lick 500 stamps a day he could derive no injury from that source.

3rd.—I can give no opinion of the consequences of applying the tongue to the stamps after [several words here cannot now be deciphered] the stamp after obliteration.

When I can give you accurate information upon the point first mentioned in this letter I shall be happy to do so—and am,

Dear Sir, etc., etc.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON,

for self and partners.

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

---

(148)

To all Postmasters, Sub-postmasters, and Letter Receivers.

GENERAL POST OFFICE;

*Edinburgh*, 1841.

An immediate *Alteration* is about to be made in the *Adhesive Postage Label Stamps*, and a *new description of Stamped Envelopes*, both Penny and Two-penny, introduced; the *new* Labels and Envelopes are intended to replace those in present use, but until the stock of the latter remaining on hand is disposed of, the *old Labels* and *Envelopes* are to circulate in common with the *new* ones. The Penny Envelope will be of Two Sizes, and the *sale* of them will be confined, for the present, to the limits of the London Two-penny Post, but of course they will circulate by Post in the same manner as those already issued.

By Command,

[Signed] E. S. LEES,

(*Secretary*).

To all Postmasters.

Referring to the accompanying Circular, announcing an Alteration in the Adhesive Postage Label Stamps and Stamped Envelopes, I enclose you Specimens of the *new Labels*, which are intended to replace those in present use, when the stock of the latter shall be exhausted; in the mean time, however, these new Stamps are to be brought into immediate use, in common with those now circulating. I also enclose Specimens of each of the new Penny Envelopes, which you will permit to pass at the rate of Postage marked upon them. When the Two-penny Envelope is ready, you will receive a Specimen of that also. At present the *sale* of these Envelopes will be confined to the limits of the London Two-penny Post, so far as the Post Office is concerned.

It is intended, hereafter, to obliterate the Postage Stamps with Black Com-

position, a supply of which will be forwarded to you as soon as possible, but until you receive this supply you will continue to obliterate the Postage Stamp with the Red Composition, as heretofore.

By Command,

[Signed] E. S. LEES.

*Secretary.*

Attached to this notice were two One Penny envelopes of different sizes, overprinted " SPECIMEN " in red ink ; a One Penny red-brown adhesive stamp and a Two-Pence blue adhesive stamp, with white lines above and below the Queen's head, but without letters in the lower corners.

---

(149)

11, DOWNING STREET ;

March 27 41.

DEAR EDWIN,

I fear that the arrangements made some time ago for the examination of the labels are not efficient—the enclosed are so badly printed that imitation could not I think be very difficult—fortunately they shew the number of the plate (10).

After carefully considering the matter I am decidedly of opinion that, unless arrangements can be made to guard against the possibility of stamps so badly printed being issued, it will be unsafe to continue the present course and that an entirely new kind of label must be adopted without delay.

Please to communicate with Messrs. Perkins & Co, on the subject and let me know, in writing, their opinion and yours as to whether it is or is not possible to put an absolute stop to the issue of badly printed labels.

Yours,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

E. HILL, Esq.

---

(150)

11, DOWNING STREET ;

April 1 41.

SIR,

Having made a further trial of the Red stamps with the view of ascertaining whether they still retained their fugitive qualities, I beg to report that as far as I have tried them I find they still remain as fugitive as when printed.

The last trial on stamps similar to the present was made on the 25 Feb.

[Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

R. HILL, Esq.

(151)

EDWIN HILL, Esq. 29th October, 1841.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your note of yesterday with respect to the future registration of the Postage Label plates, I have to state that although it is objectionable to print from the plate until it is registered, it is quite necessary to do so in order that the Commissioners may have a perfect specimen of the Plate.

It requires some time for the man to "settle in" with a new plate and to work off a sufficient quantity to get the Press rightly adjusted. If the whole of the six presses were not at work, the printing to any extent beyond getting a good impression might be avoided, as the press, after having been adjusted for a new plate might be so left, but as at present, Mr. Allen is urgent for his deliveries, and the whole of the presses are at work, I fear too much of the Commissioners' time would be taken up and even then probably not a good impression taken.

I will, however, take care to apprise you when No. 20 is completed that I may have your instructions on this point.

I had written thus far when I had an opportunity of speaking to Mr. Bacon on the subject. He agrees in what I have said, and begs me to add, if in future he had an hour's intimation, previous to the Commissioners coming, of their intention of doing so to take the registry, he could give directions that during that time the new plate should be printed on the backs of spoilt sheets as you suggest, and so be in readiness when the Commissioners came.

all right.[1]

The time for "settling in" varies considerably, sometimes the plate is made to print well in a hour or two, and sometimes it takes the man a day to get all right, but as it is important the Commissioners' Proof should be the fair working state of the plate we ought by all means to be at work a day before such proof is taken.

Yours etc.,

[Signed] W. G. [ATES.]

[1] This and the paragraph below are in Mr. J. B. Bacon's handwriting.

Remarks by Mr. Hill on the foregoing letter.

---

The above leaves it uncertain whether Mr. Bacon means that the plate can be got into use by the working of spoiled sheets *entirely* or otherwise. Pray ascertain this and inform me.

[Signed] E. H. [HILL.]

---

(152)

69, FLEET STREET;

Dec. 8. 1841.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your note of yesterday I beg to say that we have not got through all our experiments respecting the ink for the Postage Stamp yet, although we have for several days succeeded in preparing one which answers very well. That which we like the best dries up too fast as well as [running to gatherings ?] and my wish is to get this particular colour but free of those objections.

Yours &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

D. D. HEATH, Esq.

---

(153)

69, FLEET STREET;

8 Jany., 1842.

MY LORD,

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordships letter of the 5th inst., putting to us several queries which we beg now to answer as supplemental to our letter of the 29th ultimo, and in so doing we will explain the mode in which our business is conducted with three of our most important customers vizt. the Government, the Provincial Bank of Ireland and the East India Company.

1st. The Government. The Hon. the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, having notified the Hon. Commissioners of Excise that a given quantity of paper for the Postage lables is wanted, the latter (who keep the custody of the moulds) send them to the Mill where the paper is made under the inspection of an officer of Excise and when finished counted by him sealed up and forwarded to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, upon whose receipt for the paper the manufacturer is settled with; from the Stamp Office warrants are made out in convenient quantities and the paper sent us for Printing. A confidential Clerk counts the paper and receipts the Warrant, it is then counted out to the printers, who count it again themselves and return the printed work every night, this is then counted and delivered out to be gummed, the gummers counting it again, it is then counted when brought

back from them, and finally again counted, when if it proves correct the good impressions are packed in parcels of 500 sheets each, sealed and sent back to the Stamp Office by a responsible porter in a basket made for the purpose locked with Chubbs patent lock (the Clerk at each place having one key), and the spoilt sheets follow at the completion of each Warrant. All the business is conducted upon premises exclusively appropriated to it, and separated from our other business, with an Officer of the Government always on the spot during work and the Plates when not at work are locked up in boxes with two locks and keys, one of the latter being kept by him, and the other by our Clerk, and both being essential to open the box. The dies also as soon as made, as well as the plates produced by them, are kept in similar boxes and under similar custody, because we are nearly always at work ; but if the case were otherwise they could be kept in the Bank of England's strong room, or by the Government if thought preferable. We consider this plan perfectly secure and we know it to be a great saving to Government.

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

We may add as regards Postage Stamps—that we keep as perfect a ledger account of the supply of paper for and proceeds of each plate and balance it as accurately as that for our cash or customers accounts.

The principal clerk in the Postage Department is a son of one of our firm.

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LORD MONTEAGLE, etc., etc., etc.

---

(154)

69, FLEET STREET ;

Jan. 2, 1842.

SIR,

We beg to acquaint you that the following fourteen Postage Stamp label plates have been defaced so as to be perfectly useless, in consequence of being worn :

vizt No. 1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
11

No. 12
13
14

12 penny and

No. 1
2 2 twopenny,

making together fourteen Plates. We are desirous of having these plates turned in a lathe so as to make them available again for other Postage label plates. By this means they will be perfectly turned off and become *plain* steel plates without engraving and it is also important to get rid of them, as both the Boxes in which your plates are kept, are now full, and we need room for new ones as they are from time to time made. We would respectfully suggest that impressions be taken in their present defaced state, of each plate, in order that they may be transmitted through you to the Honourable the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, and that the plates above named be then given up to us to be turned off, either in the presence of your officer, here, or in such other way as it may please your Honourable Board to direct.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

CHARLES PRESSLY, Esq.

---

(155)

S. & T. ;

DEAR SIR, Jan. 28, 1842.

No. 2 is not effectually defaced as the others, will you let it be done as they are and send me a second proof, returning the one enclosed at the same time, as soon as you can.

I am &c., &c.,

J. B. BACON, Esq. [Signed] EDWIN HILL.

---

(156)

*Memorandum of the number of stamps printed and delivered to January* 5, 1843.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1840. | | | | |
| July 5 | .. | .. | .. | 28,266,480 |
| Oct. 10 | .. | .. | .. | 24,855,120 |
| 1841. | | | | |
| Jan. 5 | .. | .. | .. | 22,303,680 |
| Apr. 5 | .. | .. | .. | 29,492,640 |
| July 5 | .. | .. | .. | 18,845,520 |
| Oct 11 | .. | .. | .. | 25,999,920 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1842. | | | | |
| Jan. 17 | .. | .. | .. | 30,748,080 |
| Apr. 14 | .. | .. | .. | 26,287,200 |
| July 5 | .. | .. | .. | 28,482,240 |
| Oct. 12 | .. | .. | .. | 28,922,880 |
| 1843. | | | | |
| Jan. 5 | .. | .. | .. | 26,889,600 |
| | | | | 291,093,360 |

---

(157)

STAMPS AND TAXES,

LONDON ;

17th March, 1843.

GENTLEMEN,

The Board have had before them the statement made by you as to the expense incurred by you in the gumming of the adhesive Postage stamps, with a view to show that the charge of one halfpenny per 1,000 set down by you in your proposal for the contract does not reimburse you such expense, and therefore that the rate of 7½d. per thousand for printing and gumming, paid to you for the first year, ought to be continued for the subsequent period instead of being reduced to 6½d. as undertaken by your letter of the 16th March, 1840. The Board have also considered the observations of Mr. Rapley, of the Stationery Office, to whom your statement was submitted as a gentleman well qualified by his practical acquaintance with such matters to advise the Board upon the subject. I am directed to acquaint you that the Board are clearly of opinion that the rate of 7½d. per thousand ought not to be continued after the first year ; but under all the circumstances they are willing to add one halfpenny per thousand for gumming to the price of 6½d. which you agreed should be the rate after the first year being together 7d. per thousand, and that that sum should be paid to you for the period which has elapsed since the termination of the first year.

I am also to state that the Board have decided that the prices should be reconsidered before further progress be made in the preparation of a new Contract, and they propose as a fair remuneration for the future work that 13 - shall be allowed per one hundred sheets, being 6½d. per one thousand stamps until the quantity of stamps received in a quarter of a year shall amount to 30,000,000 equal to about 390,000 per day, when the price shall be 12 6 per 100 sheets, or 6¼d. per one thousand stamps, or if it should reach 32,000,000 equal to about 415,000 a day the price shall

be 12 - per 100 sheets or 6d. per thousand stamps. I am therefore desired to request that you will inform the Board whether or not you will undertake the future printing and gumming of the stamps on the terms above stated.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH,

Asst. Secty.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

69, Fleet Street.

---

(158)

69, FLEET STREET;

March 20, 1843.

SIR,

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th inst., informing us that for the reasons therein stated the Hon. Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes "are of opinion that the rate of 7½d. per thousand for preparing the adhesive postage stamps ought not to be continued after the first year; that they are willing to have the price 7d. per thousand after the first year up to the present time and we presume (as it is so very near at hand) to the termination of the present quarter. And proposing as the basis of a new Contract that for the future Thirteen Shillings shall be allowed per one hundred sheets, being 6½d. per one thousand stamps *until* the quantity received in a quarter of a year shall amount to 30,000,000, equal to about 390,000 per day, when the price shall be 12 6 per hundred sheets or 6¼d. per thousand stamps, or if it should reach 32,000,000, equal to about 415,000 a day, the price shall be 12 - per hundred sheets or 6d. per thousand stamps," and requiring to know whether or not we will undertake the future printing and gumming of the stamps on the terms as above stated. In reply we beg most respectfully to remark that we have never asked for, and it is not our wish to derive any profit whatever from that part of our operations connected with the gumming of the stamps; that we have submitted to your Honourable Board a detailed statement of all the expenses from the commencement and which we are ready fully to prove and which doubtless Mr. Rapley was satisfied were correct, that the decision to which your Honors have come, reduces very considerably the profit upon the other portion of the work both by the diminution of the price of that part and the loss by the gumming, but as we certainly committed an oversight in not making a representation of our loss at the end of the year, and as we hope an improved consumption of the stamps may make up (in the increased quantity) our reduction of profits we are ready to agree to an arrangement

on the terms proposed in your letter and as far as the past is concerned have enclosed a corrected account based upon the above, an early passing of which as it is now long overdue will oblige us.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

P.S. We beg to return herewith our orginal account for the last quarter, with the order for payment attached.

THOMAS KEOGH, Esq.

Stamps and Taxes.

---

(159)

"THE TIMES," April 14, 1843.

A forged imitation postage penny stamp was detected by the Postmaster of Monmouth on Sunday week, on a letter which had been posted at his office. The party who had used it was traced, and a representation of the circumstance made to the higher authorities.—*Wolverhampton Chronicle.*

---

(160)

69, FLEET STREET;

May 14, 1841.

DEAR SIR,

Finding that for a short time, we shall be under the necessity of printing the postage label plates by night as well as day, we shall feel obliged by your sending someone to relieve Mr. Ledingham as superintendent, this evening.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

E. HILL, Esq.,

---

(161)

69, FLEET STREET;

June 4, 1844.

SIR,

The Honourable the Commissioners of Excise having honoured us with the appointment to Print in future the Paper and Permit Labels heretofore done by them, and the appointment involves material alterations in our Premises we have

now to beg the Honourable the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes two favors. 1st. That they will allow us to work night and day (except Sundays), for such a period and we believe three weeks will be sufficient as will accumulate a stock of adhesive Labels sufficient in the opinion of the Board to keep them supplied during the alterations and repairs which will take (after commencing) about six weeks—and

2nd. That your Honourable Board will permit the removal of the printing of the Postage Labels to another portion of our premises which has been explained to your Mr. Hill and which will certainly be more commodious, better lighted, and ventilated and in every way better than the present—and of course entirely distinct from the rest of our premises ; in fact more so than they now are, as they will have a distinct staircase and entrance. If required our Surveyor shall wait upon your Honourable Board, with the plan of the intended alterations which will certainly conduce to the health and comfort of all concerned. The compliance of your Honourable Board with our requests will very greatly oblige.

Very respectfully, Sir, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

THOMAS KEOGH, Esq.,
Stamps and Taxes.

---

(162)

69, FLEET STREET ;

June 25, 1844.

SIR,

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th inst. informing us that the Board see no objection as a temporary measure to our printing the Postage Labels by night as well as by day, the Board's opinion as to the sufficiency of the Stock accumulated being taken before the printing is discontinued.

With respect to the removal of the printing to the new rooms which it is proposed to erect, I am desired to signify the Board's consent provided the new rooms be at least as large as the present ones, and that they be wholly cut off from the rest of the Premises and we desire to express our obligations for their kind consent to our request. We now beg to state that by Tuesday next, we shall have completed the printing of all the outstanding Warrants, and which amount to 186,000 sheets since this quarter commenced. We have already delivered 101,666 sheets and shall have delivered on the 6th July, being the quarter day, 121,666 sheets, which is *many thousand sheets* more than ever delivered *at the same period* of any previous quarter, and

from Mr. Allen's present stock there is reason to believe that the balance in his hands on that day will be considerably above his average. The general practice has been to suspend printing some days before the termination of the quarter, so as to finish the gumming and deliver and commence afresh, and consequently the deliveries which will now be made *by the 6th July* would not, were we going on steadily, be made before the 20th or 25th of July. Beyond the above deliveries however, we shall have on hand ready at any moment 57,000 sheets more besides the spoilages which will give six weeks consumption and Mr. Allen will doubtless have two weeks making eight weeks or until the 14th Sept., before he will be out, or if Mr. Allen's balance is deducted as being a stock he should always keep on hand, it would still make it the 31st of August before he would require us to commence deliveries again. We have made such arrangements however that we have no doubt whatever of being able to recommence work in the altered premises so as to begin delivery by the 16th August, and probably rather earlier.

In regard to the last clause of your letter we engage that the new rooms shall be larger and better ventilated than the present ones and wholly separated from the rest of the premises.

We have &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

CHARLES PRESSLY, Esq.,

Stamps & Taxes.

---

(163)

69, FLEET STREET;

July 12, 1844.

DEAR SIR,

I beg to enclose a check for £18-12-0 being for the payment of the extra Officer during the 26 nights while the Postage printing was going on for our accomodation.

And am, Dear Sir, &c., &c.,

Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON,

(for self and partners).

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

---

(164)

69, FLEET STREET;

August 26, 1844.

DEAR SIR,

After consulting with our builder, and assuring him he must on no account deceive us, he has promised that we shall have the printing room for the Adhesive

Postage Labels on Thursday next, and the Gumming Room over it on Monday following. We therefore can undertake to commence printing on Monday 2nd Sept. and deliver (if necessary) on Thursday the 5th Sept. although it is better to have a week between the printing and gumming when practicable. We think your stock can be made to hold out without inconvenience until that time, but of that you are of course the best judge.

Were we to attempt the erection of Presses anywhere else, it would take two days at least to get them up if there were only two or three, and longer if a larger number, and as much more to take them down and re-erect them again; so that time would be lost, instead of gained, by the operation.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

---

(165)

69, FLEET STREET;

Feb. 22. 1845.

DEAR SIRS,

Although we find that the six presses in the Post Office department of our premises are sufficient to print on an average all the labels that are wanted, and to leave our men about six weeks without work in that office per annum, still *from the irregularity of the demand*, we are obliged occasionally to work night and day, which is attended with some extra expense, we are therefore half disposed to get one or two more presses just like those six and from the same patterns, will you let us know what you would charge for one and what for two presses, and how long you would require to prepare them.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

MESSRS. HOPKINSON & COPE,

14, New North Street,

Finsbury.

---

(166)

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch present their compliments to Messrs. Hopkinson & Cope, and beg they will send home the new press immediately, which was promised a fortnight ago and which is very much wanted.

69, FLEET STREET;

April 4, 1845.

( 167 )

| Period. | | | | | Number of sheets delivered. | | Price received. | | Number delivered from quarter to quarter. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1843. | Jan. 18 to | Apl. 29 | .. | 138,736 | .. | 7d. | .. | 109,921 |
| ,, | May ,, | July 22 | .. | 110,541 | .. | 6½d. | .. | 118,128 |
| ,, | July 24 ,, | Oct. 31 | .. | 148,003 | .. | 6d. | .. | 141,554 |
| ,, | Nov. 7 ,, | Jan. 25, | 1844 | 111,252 | .. | 6½d. | .. | 109,961 |
| 1844. | Jan. 26 ,, | Apl. 26 | .. | 119,441 | .. | 6½d. | .. | 133,925 |
| ,, | Apl. 27 ,, | July 5 | .. | 119,736 | .. | 6½d. | .. | 134,220 |
| ,, | July 22 ,, | Oct. 29 | .. | 139,080 | .. | 6d. | .. | 111,607 |
| ,, | Oct. 30 ,, | Jan. 4, | 1845 | 119,976 | .. | 6½d. | .. | 147,449 |
| 1845. | Jan. 8 ,, | Apl. 15 | .. | 173,133 | .. | 6d. | .. | 156,397 |
| ,, | Apl. 16 ,, | July 9 | .. | 158,923 | .. | 6d. | .. | 169,181 |
| ,, | July 10 ,, | Oct. 30 | .. | 200,624 | .. | 6d. | .. | 167,997 |
| ,, | Nov. 4 ,, | Jan. 2, | 1846 | 124,233 | .. | 6½d. | .. | 166,338 |
| | | Jan. 5, | ,. | 3,000 | .. | 6d. | .. | — |

---

( 168 )

STAMPS AND TAXES ;

Mon. 28 12 46.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to inform you that Mr. Hodgetts is appointed supervisor of Postage Label stamps in the room of Mr. Ledingham.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed ORMOND HILL.

MESSRS. BACON & CO.

---

( 169 )

P.S. Jan. 5 48.

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Keogh says the plate, No. 77, should have the letter " A " engraved in the blank space and then be registered again. Please to have it done at once. As no notice appears to have been taken of the missing letter it is not likely that inconvenience will arise from issuing those already printed, and as they, being printed from a registered plate, are legal stamps their issue need not be longer prevented. I have informed Mr. Allen, who is prepared to receive them.

I am,

Yours truly,

J. B. BACON, Esq. [Signed] E. HILL.

(170)

## Statement of Postage Labels Delivered after the First Year.

| Quarter ending. | Total Paper. | Total good Stamps. | When the Quarter's delivery ceased. | Time over the Quarter. | Yearly Quantity. | Quarterly average. | Quantity Mr. Allen had on hand when we commenced each quarter. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1841. | | | | | | | |
| July 6 | 80,000 | 78,523 | July 20 | 14 days | | | |
| Oct. 11 | 120,000 | 108,333 | Oct. 31 | 20 ,, | | | |
| 1842. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 6 | 133,500 | 128,117 | Jan. 19 | 13 days | | | 21,000 |
| Apr. 6 | 113,000 | 109,530 | Apr. 26 | 20 ,, | 424,503 | 106,126 | 30,500 |
| July 6 | 122,000 | 118,676 | July 20 | 14 days | | | 15,000 |
| Oct. 11 | 124,000 | 120,512 | Nov. 4 | 24 ,, | | | 20,900 |
| 1843. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 6 | 116,000 | 112,040 | Jan. 17 | 11 ,, | | | 16,400 |
| Apr. 6 | 143,000 | 138,736 | May 9 | 33 ,, | 489,064 | 122,461 | 16,500 |
| July 6 | 114,000 | 110,441 | July 23 | 17 days | | | 13,000 |
| Oct. 11 | 153,000 | 148,003 | Nov. 9 | 29 ,, | | | 21,000 |
| 1844. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 6 | 115,000 | 111,252 | Jan. 25 | 19 days | | | 11,200 |
| Apr. 6 | 124,000 | 119,441 | Apr. 26 | 20 ,, | 489,137 | 122,285 | 4,750 |
| July 6 | 124,000 | 119,736 | July 6 | No days | | | 16,300 |
| Oct. 11 | 146,000 | 141,037 | Oct. 29 | 18 ,, | | | None |
| 1845. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 5 | 124,000 | 119,976 | Jan. 4 | None | | | None |
| Apr. 6 | 179,000 | 173,133 | Apr. 15 | 9 days | 553,882 | 138,470 | None |
| July 5 | 163,000 | 158,923 | July 9 | 4 days | | | |
| Oct. 10 | 205,000 | 200,624 | Oct. 30 | 15 ,, | | | |
| 1846. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 5 | 130,000 | 127,233 | Jan. 5 | None | | | |
| Apr. 5 | 184,500 | 180,332 | Apr. 5 | None | 667,112 | 166,778 | |
| July 5 | 197,500 | 192,689 | July 5 | None | | | |
| Oct. 10 | 168,500 | 165,827 | Oct. 9 | ,, | | | |
| 1847. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 5 | 183,000 | 180,662 | Jan. 5 | None | | | |
| Apr. 5 | 183,500 | 180,612 | Apr. 5 | ,, | 719,790 | 179,947 | |
| July 5 | 202,000 | 195,609 | July 5 | None | | | |
| Oct. 10 | 199,000 | 195,827 | Oct. 10 | ,, | | | |
| 1848. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 5 | 184,000 | 179,884 | Jan. 5 | None | | | |
| Apr. 5 | 235,000 | 211,774 | Apr. 5 | ,, | 783,094 | | 38,000 |
| July 5 | 189,000 | 179,944 | July 5 | None | | | |
| Oct. 10 | 209,000 | 192,085 | Oct. 9 | None | | | |
| 1849. | | | | | | | |
| Jan. 5 | 204,500 | 200,037 | Jan. 4 | None | | | |

( 171 )

69, Fleet Street ;

May 20, 1851.

Gentlemen,

We have the honour to acknowledge receipt of a letter dated 16th inst., stating that "an offer has been made to the Board to print the postage labels in the same manner as that service is now performed by you at the rate of 5d. per thousand, and the Board are desirous of knowing whether considering the great increase (from 32,000,000 to upwards of 60,000,000) which has taken place in the quantity of stamps required since the agreement was made between the Board and you, you are willing to reduce the rate per thousand from 6d. to 5d."

In reply we beg to say we have given the subject our best consideration, and although from our great experience we feel persuaded that no other House could at 5d. per thousand, successfully produce postage labels, with such beauty of design, perfect identity, uniformity of colour, adhesive properties, and, lastly, what we conceive to be of paramount importance, security from forgery, as those we have had the honour of furnishing for now upwards of ten years ; still feeling particularly desirous of maintaining the honourable position of supplying Her Majesty's Government, at the same time bearing in mind the increased demand, we will at once agree to lower the price as suggested to 5d. per thousand labels ; we presume that your Honble. Board will permit the alteration to date from the 5th July next, and we also trust the new contract may be for the term of five years as heretofore.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

The Honble. Commissioners of Inland Revenue.

---

( 172 )

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House ;

May 27, 1851.

Gentlemen,

I have laid before the Board your letter of the 20th instant.

In reply I am directed to inform you that the Board have accepted your offer to print the postage Labels for the term of five years at the rate of 5d. per thousand, it being understood that the period is to commence from the 5th of July next and have given directions that a Contract be prepared accordingly.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch.

(173)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON;

GENTLEMEN, 11th September, 1851.

As circumstances may possibly arise requiring a larger stock of the Postage Label stamps to be retained in the Warehouse of this Office than is at present kept there, and it being also in the Board's opinion desirable to provide against any contingency that might cause the stoppage or insufficiency of the supply of these stamps, I have to request that you will in accordance with the terms of the Agreement lately entered into by you, engrave one spare plate (for every press now employed) complete for use, with a die or matrix in case of injury to the present matrix.

These plates and matrices are to be deposited at this Office and on the same being prepared should be delivered by you to me.

I am, &c., &c.,

MESSRS. BACON & PETCH. [Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

---

(174)

23, PERCY CIRCUS,

SIR, Feb. 10, 1852.

Having lately been confined at home by diarrhœa, too much debilitated for business, my son has brought me a letter from you dated 29th January, in which I was surprised to find our firm rather severely censured for neglect, as it was the first knowledge I had of the subject. On enquiring I learnt that Mr. Keogh had written in September for a permanent stock and that you had spoken verbally afterwards as to having a better supply of prepared plates at all times ready for use, but that Mr. Petch being confined to his house by severe illness soon after, these communications were waiting in the hope of his shortly returning to business, when after making me acquainted with the subject he intended to forward a reply.

You are aware that during the period which has since elapsed, we have been pressed with an unusual amount of business in that very department where you demand our services and even the Honble. Commissioners themselves have kindly assisted us during the pressure. That pressure, however, is now over, and it is some evidence that we have not been neglectful, that even at this moment, we have six new registered plates entirely ready for use when wanted, and we assure you that the remaining number for stock as well as those to be deposited with the Honble. Commissioners agreeably to the above-named letter, shall all be got ready without a moment's delay (unnecessary).

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

ORMOND HILL, Esq. (p. J. B. BACON).

(175)

69, FLEET STREET;

Feb. [1852.]

SIR,

It is doubtless not unknown to you, and probably not to your Hon. Board either, that the author of this letter has been for a long time visited with a very severe and dangerous illness, during which time the transaction of business was impossible, and it seems during the latter part of that illness that his partner, Mr. Petch, received your communication of 11th September last, wherein you write as follows:—

"As circumstances, etc."

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

In regard to the communication itself, your Hon. Commissioners must be aware that it is not only important in itself, but under almost any other circumstances might involve most important consequences. We think however when fairly considered, the demand is a correct one, as it leaves the Government in perfect security for the wants of the public under every contingency. We ask of your Hon. Board no pecuniary stipulations, pledges, or promises whatever, but shall prepare the plates as set forth in your letter, and deliver them to the officer duly authorized to receive them, as quickly as possible, with a mere understanding that although held by you and in your possession, they are our property, and not to be used but by mutual consent.

We request permission also to inspect them half yearly, so as to keep them in a state of security from rust, and they ought to be kept in a dry place.

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

THOMAS KEOGH, Esq.

---

(175a)

SOMERSET HOUSE;

16 April, 1852.

GENTLEMAN,

Mr. Hodgetts having called attention to the work produced from plate 122, I examined some of it and reported to my father on the subject; and it is by his desire that I have to request that you will send a dozen or so of the sheets in question to us for examination; that you will cause the whole of the recent work of this plate to be put aside and not gummed until a decision has been come to in the matter, and that no more impressions be taken from the plate in question No. 122.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ORMOND HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

(176)

69, Fleet Street;

May 3, 1852.

Dear Sir,

Your letter of the 30th ult, was received on Saturday, and we have noticed its contents with regret. You therein state that "no progress has been made in the preparation of the Postage Label plates" since our letter to you on the subject, whereas Mr. White has been incessantly occupied in transferring and finishing those plates and those alone, from the time we wrote you to the present hour; for although during a considerable portion of that time we have been very much pressed with work we have given it all to Mr. Grace to do, so as not to interfere with Mr. White, in the preparation of the Postage Plates.

It is true as you sometime back stated, that our stock of plates had got very low and it was your own proposition, and a very proper one too as we conceive, that we should first get up a stock for work and then prepare plates to be lodged at Somerset House.

On examination we find that there was 70 days from the time of the previous register of plates by the Honble Commissioners to that when the last registry of 6 plates was made so that a plate every twelve days has been completed entire without taking into account 4 more which are now in a great state of forwardness. We cannot therefore admit, nor will the facts, as we think establish, your charge of neglect against us. When we made the promise, we made it in good faith, we have hitherto kept it, and shall continue to do so. With so many enemies as you at Somerset House as well as we, have, we are determined that old plates shall be abandoned rather too soon than too late: further than this there has been a large increase of business during the last 12 months requiring as you know, new presses and new plates, and in addition to both of these the Government are continually increasing the demand by extending compulsory payments. All these circumstances are pressing upon us for new plates and, notwithstanding all, we have in two short months gained a better position as to plates than we were ever in before and surely this shews no neglect. We shall endeavour, and we think we can accomplish it, that after the next 3 plates are began 2 shall be prepared for Somerset House and one for every 2 afterwards as you propose, but we cannot make this as a positive promise as you are perfectly aware we are subject to heavy penalties and you would all be subject to much annoyance if the public were to make demands which we were unable to comply with, owing to such stipulations. One thing we can say, that nothing shall be allowed to interfere with making the plates, until all are done and we think we shall be able to manage about 1 plate every 7 or 8 days.

The marks R1–R2–R3 shall be attended to, our Mr. Bacon who dictated the last letter to you having been long from business did not notice that any die for Somerset House was asked for when it was written. He did and does now perceive the reasonableness of the Government being secure for proper supplies of stamps in case of fire or any other unexpected contingency, and the plates would secure them against such things, but the die cannot be wanted for any such purpose because we could

easily furnish a fresh engraving and fresh plates before those at Somerset House under any contingency could possibly be worn. If notwithstanding this fact, a flat die is still wanted we shall be ready to furnish it on having in writing from the Honble. Commissioners, that neither plates nor die shall ever go out of their possession, or be used for any purpose whatever, but with our consent in writing, or our breach of any of the covenants we have entered into with the Honble Board.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

ORMOND HILL, Esq.

---

(177)

69, FLEET STREET;

May 11, 1852.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your written and verbal communications we beg to say that we shall devote our close attention to the Postage Label plates until all which can be wanted are completed.

We shall in a fortnight hence have 5 stock plates and 3 reserve plates ready for registration which will leave the next plate for stock and the one after that for registration, after which we shall prepare 2 stock for 1 registration plate until finished. The flat and circular dies shall be prepared, the one taken from the other as proposed by your father. After the 8 plates above named we fully believe we shall be able to produce one plate every 7 or 8 days, most probably one every six working days. Although we consider our present power sufficient for at least the next 12 months, we shall immediately order 2 more presses as it is far better to have too many than too few.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

ORMOND HILL, Esq.

---

(177a)

SOMERSET HOUSE;

25 June, 1852.

DEAR SIR,

The iron box for the Reserve plates is now here and in place. I shall therefore be glad if some one from you can come across to see the plates put in and take possession of the key. The die and roller had better be brought at same time if convenient.

Yours very truly,

J. B. BACON, Esq. [Signed] ORMOND HILL.

(178)

69, Fleet Street;

Aug. 24, 1852.

Dear Sir,

I have received your letter of yesterday's date accompanied by another dated the 14th, from the Head of the London District Post Office to your brother respecting a fraud, said to be sometimes practised, of using different halves of obliterated stamps over again in cases where the obliteration has been very low down or very high up the stamp when originally issued, and proposing a method of greatly obviating it by placing cheque letters in the upper as well as in the lower corners of the stamp, suggesting that they be placed in diagonal points thereon, and further asking my opinion whether the insertion of the additional letters in the order proposed presents much difficulty.

In reply I beg leave to state that my own experience of the manner in which stamps are generally obliterated, and the bare possibility of detection when the guilty party could be so easily identified and the saving when successful so very small would have induced me to believe, if presented as a bare supposition, that it would never be likely to take place, but reasoning against facts is superfluous for it seems actually to have been done, and I cannot avoid the remark in passing, it being so much to the purpose, that it shows most impressively the shortsightedness of much that passed in the Committee room of the House of Commons, when attempts were made in so many quarters to disparage the importance of the Postage Stamp being secure from forgery, because the temptation to the crime and the danger of detection were of themselves so great a security.

In regards to the alteration I conceive that it would very greatly impede if not altogether prevent this kind of fraud:

1st. because it could not be practised at all without using different halves of stamps which were printed from one and the same plate, but would be wholly useless if attempted from different plates, and this added to the rare instances where the stamp is so obliterated as to leave it open to the fraud would probably go a great way to prevent any such attempt, but

2ndly. whoever carries on such a traffic doubtless studies his business, and when he attempted the altered stamp he would at once see that the Government were awake to his practices, and from very fear thus generated be deterred from continuing to carry them on, even if he obtained the right halves which probably he would not. I therefore entirely concur with you in thinking the alteration should be ordered to take place in plates hereafter to be made, as it may do a vast deal of good, it must do some, and can be accompanied by no injury to the Government or the public.

As however the top matter is now and ever has been on the die itself and therefore requires no time or labour to produce it and under the new plan it must be erased from the top corners, and stamped in every plate 480 times, you will perceive in a moment that it will increase the time required in the preparation of every new

plate by from 2½ to 3 days, and in fact from the quantity of plates now sent would oblige us to employ an extra hand. I do not mention this latter fact from any desire to charge the Government for this additional work, but simply to guard against the supposition that the time required for making a given plate will under the new circumstances be the same as in behalf of my Firm I committed myself to under the old. However, I apprehend no difficulty in making plates faster than they can possibly be wanted, as soon as we finish making the reserve.

Having thus given an unqualified adhesion to this new proposal I hope I shall be excused for mentioning a thought which has occurred to me upon this subject, which is this; would it not be well as an additional security, and it strikes me it would be almost perfect to alter the present obliterating stamp to one which should be in the form of X. If this were done and the figures left out, it might then extend from one end of the stamp to the other and not being a very thick letter, would require no more power, no more ink, no more care and no more time than is occupied by the present obliterating stamp, but probably there are great objections to giving up the figures which indicate the different office marks, if this be so I conceive that the letters could be incorporated around the X, leaving the security I am looking to just as perfect as without them and only in a slight degree affecting the power and rapidity of obliteration as compared with the present plan. I merely mention the thought as it has occurred to me and even if it is not feasible, I doubt not something might be hit upon which would meet the difficulty effectually.

I am, Dear Sir, &c., &c.,

Signed J. B. BACON,

(for Self & Partners).

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

---

(179)

69, FLEET STREET;

Sept. 11, 1852.

DEAR SIR,

Having investigated the subject of Mr. Ledingham's note to you of the 6th inst., I now beg leave to remark that the orders which the firm gave during my illness, and which I gave before and since that period, have been to use the same articles, weighed out in the same proportions, and manufactured into ink or color, in exactly the same manner with the greatest care and attention, at all times, and on no account whatever to allow of any change, and further to secure uniformity, we constantly purchase the articles of the largest and most respectable importing houses in the trade, with the strict orders always to supply us with the same quality, and which is of the best.

We have closely questioned the manager of our ink, color and oil manufactory and he assures us in the most positive manner, that our orders and directions have

been strictly complied with and that he neither knows, nor has ever heard until now of any complaint that the color of the Postage Label stamps comes off more readily than it used to do. Having given you the best possible testimony as to the color itself, I will now add, that if the complaint is well founded, it is most singular that neither my son who manages our business, Mr. Harrison, who is constantly in the Post Office department, your officer Mr. Hodgetts, our printers, nor our gummers or pressers should ever have noticed any such fact. I am constrained therefore to say that I do not think the complaint well founded. It is perfectly true that the color is fugitive, was purposely made so, with the perfect knowledge and consent of Government in general, and your brother Rowland Hill, Esq., in particular, in order to defeat any attempt to take out the obliterating ink, and still have the stamp itself in a fit state for going upon a fresh letter. The color can therefore, be easily forced off, but in fair and natural use, nothing of any moment is obtained from it. I think the subject well worth probing to the bottom because I am convinced that the malignity which has been for some time past displayed against three branches of Her Majesty's Government and against ourselves, and which is startled by no amount of self contradictions and sticks at no unfounded assertions, in order to carry a point, will leave no stone unturned, in order to injure any of the parties above named, and the best way to silence them will be by one or two detections, we should therefore feel grateful if the Post Office authorities will allow us the inspection of a few of these condemned stamps should it turn out, that in every case they are single stamps, it will go very far to negative the complaint, because if well founded there must be many whole sheets in that condition, and if no Postmaster in the three kingdoms can send the Post Office even one sheet, which has never been out of his hands, liable to this complaint, then the evidence is, as I conceive irresistible that the single impressions so defaced or injured, became so after they were purchased by the public, and if sheets can be obtained from any Postmaster, we believe we can either shew he is mistaken in his inferences or gather the means of discovering the trick. You are doubtless as well aware as we are that in such a case as the Penny Postage stamps, the mere spending of a penny will enable any evil disposed person to play any kind of trick with that stamp, and declare it was so when he bought it, he can rub the whole ink off, if he will use a piece of flannel or other material long enough, to pass it through the Post Office directed to himself or a friend, and then declare that it was an imitation of the real stamp. But even supposing for a moment that no men were actuated by bad motives (and I wish for the sake of human nature that there were none such), you will doubtless recollect, how often my son was in the early stages of the business called about the town, to investigate complaints of Post Offices, that the gum would not stick to the letters, in almost all instances on his appearance they were quite confident of proving to him the fact, yet whenever they picked out what they (no doubt honestly) thought defective stamps, he wetted and successfully attached them to paper before their eyes so that they confessed the complaints were groundless. Every few weeks we are informed that the anastatic people profess that they can imitate the Postage Label and our other work: we have repeatedly applied to them at the Polytechnic, and they would not shew their skill there, at their printing office,

and they will not attempt it there. We have urged Mr. Appel to attempt some of our general work offering to pay him any price, which was not very exorbitant whether he succeeded or not. He was quite willing to undertake it but must get the approbation of his partner Mr. Glyn first, we waited several days and on calling again were told, that he had not yet seen Mr. Glyn, after many more days delay, we called again, and were told that Mr. Glyn had not given him an answer, that it was of no use calling again, as Mr. G. had left London for a considerable period and nothing therefore could be done. I am yet perfectly sceptical as to the power of Appel and Glyn, or any other anastatic printer to imitate our Penny Postage Label. But I think I may here state, what I have already mentioned to you in conversation, and testified before the select Committee of the House of Commons, that we have been and now are ready at the very shortest notice merely sufficient to grind the ink for the men to prepare the stamps, in such a way as shall defy the anastatic process to imitate them. The color may remain so nearly what it is now, that no one would imagine that it had been altered by design and the impression would be rather improved than deteriorated. This would not cause the cessation of work for a moment. It would not require any alteration in anything whatever, but the preparation of the ink, and although that article would probably cost us a little more money per lb. of which the stamps consume many thousands per annum, we should ask for no alteration in the Contract. I mention this subject now, because it is possible, though contrary to my anticipations, they may succeed. It seems to me that both the Government and ourselves would occupy a better position by anticipating a difficulty before it arose, rather than by meeting it afterwards.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

---

(180)

69, FLEET STREET;

Sept. 28, 1852.

DEAR SIR,

Your letter to us attached to another from Mr. Bokenham to Mr Ledingham, and enclosing 6 stamps alluded to in the letter were yesterday received.

1st. A careful examination of these stamps has convinced us that all the 6 stamps are genuine and were printed by us, and issued to the public in the ordinary way. 2nd. That the stamps 3 and 6 which are darker than the other 4 both in the ink and in the gum have become so by the size in the paper having washed into the water more than ordinary (probably owing to the paper having been fresh made), and thus the alum in the size has acted upon the color used in printing. 3rd. As to the stamp which we call No. 1, it has been scraped with a knife or other sharp instrument and otherwise tampered with, but our Mr. Bacon, who indites this letter, believes that it has been obliterated and the ink very well removed while his son does not think it

was ever obliterated at all, both however, agree in one thing viz. that all your offices do not use a similar or a good obliterating ink for even in our letters received yesterday the obliterating ink could not be seen through one of them, while it was visible in all the others. It is therefore, evident that the stamp will be exposed to these attacks unless at least as good an ink as that in general use shall be urged upon all the postmasters. 4th. The stamp No. 2, has been scraped, rubbed and the obliterating ink but partially removed. 5th. Stamp No. 3, has been scraped and rubbed out and yet the obliteration is not removed. 6th. Stamp No. 4, has been tampered with, but the obliterating ink remains entire. 7th. Stamp No. 5, has been scraped and probably rubbed also, but the obliteration is well removed except about the neck and the machine work near the neck. 8th. Stamp No. 6, has been carefully rubbed but not scraped and the obliterating ink is still to be seen

We understand that all of them passed through the General Post Office and from the foregoing facts, we are led in our own minds to the conclusion that 3 of the 6 even to the naked eye, show palpable marks of obliteration and being genuine stamps call for no further observation, that 2 more of them show signs of having been once obliterated, since which tricks have been played with them, and as to the 6th stamp, if it has ever been obliterated the same remark applies as to the 2 others above named and if it has never been obliterated, then it must have passed through the Post Office in its original uncancelled state.

If these are the stamps alluded to in the correspondence between us which took place a few days back then we cannot ourselves see the grounds on which Postmasters refuse to acknowledge them, except as to the one stamp and in that one there certainly is a little difficulty in determining whether it has been cancelled, but certainly none as to its being genuine.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

---

(181)

69, FLEET STREET;

Oct. 15, 1852.

SIR,

Your letter of the 13th inst. enclosing 4 Postage Stamps which had been transmitted to your Honble Board by Mr. Jellinger Symons, in the supposition that they had been previously used and the ink effaced but which the Board have no doubt are genuine, and although printed from a Plate which ought to have been earlier laid aside, and pointing out the impropriety of allowing such inferior impressions to be taken off has been received. We have carefully examined the said stamps, and have no hesitation in concurring with your Honble Board's opinion that they are genuine, but although we on the whole believe that they have never been tampered with, we arrive at that opinion with some hesitation, for that one in the upper left hand corner

has certainly had something on it probably accidental, but the appearance of the Queen's Head in all, is such as has certainly been caused either by the action of the gum, or by having been obliterated and the obliteration afterwards pretty well removed. It is a fact, however, that in some instances a particular plate has been printed longer than it should have been, while waiting for a new set to be registered, but from the time that our attention was called to the subject last spring by the statement of Mr. Muntz, we have given directions and which we will see shall be positively enforced, that no plate shall continue printing, when it is in the least degree injuriously worn, but that all shall hereafter be cancelled rather before than after they have arrived at an imperfect state. We herewith return the stamps, and are, Sir, &c., &c.,

Signed, PERKINS, BACON & Co.

J. SARGENT, Esq.

Inland Revenue.

---

(182)

69, FLEET STREET;

Mar. 6, 1854.

DEAR SIR,

Your favour of the 2nd inst. was not received till Saturday. As it occasionally turns out that we lose entire postage plates, from the wear of one or two of the heads, which cannot be successfully re-entered in consequence of hardening, we have lately tried several plates without hardening hoping that the wear would justify such proceeding, which would have been very desirable, if successful, as it would then be easy to re-enter any head which in the course of printing was found to need it. We have had but just enough experience to prove that altho' we gained the latter object, the plates do not, on an average last more than half as long, and have therefore determined to abandon it, but as considerable time will be saved in re-engraving those plates over what would be required for entirely new ones, we propose immediately to re-engrave them, and then submit them to the usual hardening process and afterwards to prepare new plates but as far as the purposes of Government go, these are in themselves the same as new plates.

We are now in a better condition than ordinary, as we have supplied an entire set of Duplicates in deposit and future plates will all be applicable to use whenever wanted. We shall not overlook the necessity of keeping up a sufficient supply to prevent any plate remaining at press, after it ought to be withdrawn and shall not rest satisfied, until we have a fresh stock of *ten* to fall back upon.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed, PERKINS, BACON & Co.

ORMOND HILL, Esq.

(183)

69, Fleet Street;

Sept. 5, 1854.

Gentlemen,

After the lapse of 14 years during which we have had occasion to use the original flat die for the preparation of Postage Stamps, we find that it is desirable to prepare a new one in which the lines may be cut deeper than they now are, which will produce a stronger impression and enable us to print more labels from a Plate before it is worn out. We have had to go through a similar process lately in preparing plates for some of the Colonial Governments so that we have evidence before us to prove that the object we propose may be obtained without in any way destroying the identity of the Queen's Head.

We therefore, have to request the permission of your Honble Board to prepare the new flat die referred to, under the direction of the Inspector of H.M. Stamps.

We have &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

The Honble Commissioners of Inland Revenue

---

(184)

Inland Revenue;

Somerset House, London;

13 Sept., 1854.

Gentlemen,

The Board of Inland Revenue have had before them your letter of the 5th instant requesting that a new flat die for the preparation of postage stamps may be prepared. I am directed to acquaint you that they have consented to your request.

I am to state however that on the completion of the new die you will be required to submit to the Board a proof impression of the same together with a proof impression of the present die.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co.

(185)

LONDON, No. 69, FLEET STREET;

25th September, 1854.

SIR,

Agreeably to your Honble Board's permission of the 13th inst. we have prepared a new Die for the "One Penny" Postage Stamps, and have herewith the honor of enclosing two impressions from the same, as also two others taken from the original Die, and all of them in the presence of your Officer.

We believe the new Die will be found to be a faithful copy of the original except being in all respects deeper cut and stronger, and this is the more desirable because when the Die was first made, it was intended to be used for printing with black ink, and was therefore not made as strong as it would have been, had we then known that it would afterwards be printed in color.

Should this die receive the approval of the Board, we shall be prepared to harden and put it into operation for the preparation of new Plates without delay.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] Per Proc. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

J. P. BACON.

THOMAS KEOGH, Esq.
Inland Revenue.

---

(186)

INLAND REVENUE;

SOMERSET HOUSE,

3 October, 1854.

GENTLEMEN,

Referring to your communication of the 25th ultimo transmitting two impressions from the new die for the one penny postage stamps which you have prepared, I have to inform you that the Board are decidedly of opinion that the Die in question is objectionable, the impression of it being so very unlike the stamps now in use.

They therefore think that another effort should be made to produce a Die which would give an impression as nearly similar to the present one as possible.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

( 187 )

69, Fleet Street;

Nov. 3, 1854.

Dear Sir,

We are greatly obliged by your kind attention and hints to Mr. Humphries (*sic*) in the preparation of the new Postage Penny Stamp die, and which we understand from him, that you approve in its present state. We have forwarded herewith a letter to Mr. Keogh, enclosing impressions which we shall feel obliged if you will seal and forward to the Commissioners as early as convenient after having examined the contents.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

Ormond Hill, Esq.

---

( 188 )

69, Fleet Street:

Nov. 3, 1854.

Sir,

In consequence of the permission contained in your letter of the inst.,[1] we have again prepared a steel Die for the one Penny Postage Stamp, which we trust we have succeeded in making exactly like the original in every respect except that it is deeper cut and this can hardly be perceived by the eye, although when the impressions from it come to be worn the advantage will be most palpable. We have the honour of enclosing two impressions from the die as it now is and marked in pencil *last die;* one from the Original Die when first made and one from the original die as it now is after having produced more than 4,000 engraved Steel stamps and 200,000,000 of impressions, but the die which we now propose to use will give thousands of millions of impressions. Should this die prove satisfactory to your Honble Board we should be glad to prepare plates from it as early as possible as they will doubtless wear much longer than those lately made.

We have &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

Thomas Keogh, Esq.

---

[1] The date was omitted to be filled in.

(189)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE,

LONDON.

November 11th, 1854.

GENTLEMEN,

The Board of Inland Revenue have had before them your letter of the 3rd instant, transmitting an impression of a new steel die prepared by you for the one penny postage label.

I am directed to state that the Board approve of the impression submitted, and I am to authorize you to proceed with the preparation of steel plates by transfers from the die from which this impression was taken.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(190)

69, FLEET STREET;

Nov. 17, 1854.

GENTLEMEN,

In consequence of the long use of the "one penny" Postage die, to an extent not originally anticipated, it has become weakened, so that the transfers proceeding from it wear out much faster than they did originally, as we have already explained to your Honble Board, when writing for permission to make the new die and the demand now required for the remainder of the year being large, we are inconvenienced in supplying them until plates from the new die are ready for press. We shall therefore feel greatly obliged if your Honble Board will allow us to have 8 of the 14 reserved plates for immediate use and which we will replace by others from the new die when ready.

We have, &c., &c.

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

The Honble the Commissioners

of Inland Revenue.

(191)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON;

GENTLEMEN, 20 November, 1854.

The Board having had under their consideration your application for eight of the reserved plates, are of opinion that it would too much diminish the Revenue to part with more than six of such plates and moreover having regard to the state of the demand for postage stamps they think it would not be right to deliver out any of the plates except with a clear understanding that in order to make good the reserve and provide a proper stock of plates in work you do complete one new plate every week until the reserve be made good and your working stock be made up to twenty plates.

The Board request to be informed whether you are prepared to consent to this arrangement.

I am, &c., &c.

Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(192)

69, FLEET STREET;

SIR, Nov. 21, 1854.

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday and in reply hereby agree to the arrangement as named by you which we will faithfully carry out and beg to express our thanks to your Honble Board for the loan of the 6 plates.

We have the honor to be, &c., &c.

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

THOMAS KEOGH, Esq.

---

(193)

Referring to the Articles of Agreement dated the 27th day of August, 1851, between yourselves and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and to your Bond of the same date whereby you agreed and became bound to prepare and complete for the purpose of printing certain Postage stamps, so many fine steel plates as the Commissioners should from time to time require and would engrave or impress upon each of such plates certain copies or fac-similes of a certain Engraving in the said Articles mentioned with such additions and in the manner therein provided, and referring also to your letter of the 17th of November instant, requesting the Commissioner to deliver out to you from the reserved stock of such plates deposited at this Office, eight of such plates for immediate use and to my letter of the 20th instant, intimating

to you their consent to deliver out to you, six of such reserved plates on the understanding that in order to make good the reserve and provide a proper stock of plates in work you should complete one new plate every week until the reserve should be made good, and your working stock be made up to twenty plates, and also referring to your letter to me of the 21st instant in reply agreeing to such arrangement, and the Commissioners having delivered out to you six of such reserved plates for immediate use. They hereby give you notice and require you in pursuance of the said Articles of Agreement of the 27th of August, 1851, to prepare and complete in the manner therein mentioned six new plates to be substituted for the plates so delivered out and deliver each plate to the Commissioners as soon as the same is complete, and also to prepare and complete in like manner so many other new plates as will make up with those now in use the full number of twenty plates for work in addition to the number of fourteen plates to be kept in reserve by the Commissioners, and that one of such new plates be completed within a week from this day and one other every successive week until the whole number be completed the six first to be delivered to the Commissioners for the reserve as aforesaid.

The Commissioners also give you notice that you do from time to time pursuant to the said Articles prepare and complete a new plate as often as any of such plates shall be disused so that the stock of plates to be kept for work and capable of being used to the satisfaction of the Officer employed in that behalf be at no time less than twenty in addition to those to be kept in reserve by the Commissioners.

Dated this 25th day of November 1854.

By Order of the Commissioners.

Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

To Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.
69, Fleet Street.

---

(194)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House ;

31 January, 1855.

Gentlemen,

Under the very pressing circumstances we consent to the alteration in the mark of the new plate from R17 to 7. I have made an engagement with one of the Commissioners to be at Fleet St. to-morrow at ¼ past 2 to register the three plates. I trust you will have everything quite ready.

I am, &c., &c.

Signed, ORMOND HILL.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

The new plate last began will be No. 8.

(195)

New North Road;

Feb. 12 55.

Dear Sir,

There has been no alteration in the color with the exception of a thicker mucilage. The ingredients are the same as they have ever been, neither is there anything in the composition which can possibly effect the steel. The evil complained of lies in the allum of the paper, and is fearfully accelerated by continuing the same set of Blankets in use for so many days. They should be changed twice or thrice a day. In order to prove what I say I would wish you to have a day's work of paper wetted with soda in the water. Two ounces to the gallon, and let the men try with clean Blankets, and if this practice is continued you will find no corrosion of plates take place. The reason the color has been thickened, is in order to produce better impressions. I should have done myself the pleasure of waiting upon you, but am labouring under a severe cold.

I am, &c., &c.

Signed J. H. FISHER.

J. B. Bacon, Esq.

---

(196)

Somerset House;

15 March, 1855.

Gentlemen,

I send the bearer Mr. Peacock, the superintendent of the perforating to you, with a view to getting rectified a disagreement, which he will point out, in the crosses which you print upon the sheets of Postage Labels, as a guide for the perforating. I believe that this inaccurary arises chiefly from the want of proper templates by which to make the crosses. I send card patterns, by Mr. Peacock, of such as I think would be best; and I think that if you would let your work people make such, in brass, or iron, and work by them, complete accuracy would be insured.

By so doing you will much oblige.

Gentlemen, &c., &c.

Signed ORMOND HILL.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

(197)

69, Fleet Street;

April 2, 1855.

Dear Sir,

Having secured a patent and prepared the machinery for a new method of copper or steel plate printing from engraved plates, by means of mechanical instead of hand power and which we think will be applicable to, and useful in, printing Postage stamps, we should feel greatly obliged if the Honble. the Commissioners of Inland Revenue will give permission to have it tested by printing one of the Postage plates before registering, in one of the rooms of the postage department of our premises. We propose to test it with a paper altogether different in appearance from that which is in actual use, and all the impressions taken from the plate can be kept in charge of, or destroyed by, your officer. As several days may be consumed in bringing new and complicated machinery to accomplish that which has never yet been done and the machine is in the drying room over that in which your officer is stationed perhaps you would be better satisfied to appoint a special officer to superintend the trial, in which case we are quite ready to bear the expense.

We are, &c., &c.

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

Ormond Hill, Esq.

P.S.—We expect to be ready for trial on Thursday morning next.

---

(198)

Inland Revenue;

Somerset House, London.

5th April, 1855.

Gentlemen,

I have laid before the Board of Inland Revenue your letter of the 2nd, instant requesting their permission to print with an unregistered Postage label Plate in a newly contrived machine, with a view to testing the machine as to its applicability to the printing of Postage label Stamps.

I am directed to state that the Board have consented to this request on the understanding that the plate in question is taken charge of by a person sent specially by the Superintendent of Postage Stamps, who will receive all the impressions taken from it, and forward them to this office for the purpose of being destroyed.

The Board will afterwards inform you of the expense which you will be required to defray in this matter.

I am, &c., &c.

Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

(199)

INLAND REVENUE;

SOMERSET HOUSE,

18 May, 1855.

GENTLEMEN,

My attention has been called to the great variation from the straight lines which appears in several of the rows of heads upon new plate No. 13. This want of truth is so considerable, that it is quite impossible for us to perforate the sheets of this plate without considerably incroaching upon some of the stamps. Under these circumstances I have to request that you will immediately discontinue working this plate; and that you will take measures to prevent your engravers from falling into the same inaccuracies as respects any other plates they may be making. I have also to request that you will have the other new (recently registered) plates examined and if there are others inaccurate in like manner, that you will not put them to press until it has been decided whether or not the impressions from them can be received.

I am, &c., &c.

[Signed] ORMOND HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(200)

Extract from a letter of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., to Mr. Edward Barnard, Agent-General for the Crown Colonies, dated May 19th, 1855.

"We deeply regret the delay which has taken place, and think you are entitled to know the cause why we have sometimes of late been so wanting in our usual punctuality. When we undertook to supply our Home Government with postage stamps we did not anticipate anything like the demand, which began and continued annually to increase, and therefore prepared ourselves with but one original die; but from that one die we have had to prepare and produce over 50,000 engravings on steel. This die experienced no visible deterioration for many years. But about two years since the plates from it showed signs of weakness, which continued gradually to increase until those that formerly produced 100,000 good impressions latterly gave only 20,000 to 30,000. The time occupied in preparing these plates at first was great; but owing to these causes we have been kept incessantly occupied in their manufacture with the machinery appropriated to that purpose, as it was utterly impossible for the Government to suspend any part of their supply of stamps to the public, as required. When we ascertained the origin of this falling off in the productiveness of our plates, and that it was not accidental, which at first we suspected it to be, we obtained permission to prepare another original die similar to the first, but from which we have now secured a sufficient number of flat dies to last for

centuries, and these we could easily have done in the former instance, had we supposed it would prove necessary. The plates are now even better than they were at first; but it has taken a long time to meet this extraordinary and unexpected drag upon us, which will, however, cease in two or three weeks, and we can promise the New South Wales 2d postage plate, with its accompaniments, in three weeks, and the 1d. and 3d. in six weeks from the present time."

---

(201)

69, FLEET STREET;

May 22, 1855.

DEAR SIR,

We received your note of the 18th inst. on Saturday, but as Mr. White demurred to the correctness of the objections made to Plate No. 13 and having no impressions on hand (it not being at press), we ordered some taken and on a careful examination, although we do not discover rows of heads which greatly vary from the straight line, there certainly is one head viz. A G & B G in the second line from the top which is very much out and could not be perforated or in any other way parted from the remainder without taking from the stamp itself and which consequently leaves the plate decidedly open to the objections mentioned in your letter. No more impressions shall be taken from that plate until after the defect has been remedied which we do not at present know that it can be.

We have examined the rest of the plates which are not open to a similar complaint and have given strict charge to our engravers to avoid falling into the like error again.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

ORMOND HILL, Esq.

---

(202)

11-2-56.

HONBLE. SIRS,

We beg to apologise for intruding upon your valuable time but a statement has lately appeared in the City Article of the "Times" newspaper, asserting with such an air of authority that at the expiration of the present contract for Postage stamps, arrangements had already been made to exchange the present mode for surface-printing, that although merely a newspaper notice it induces us to address you.

We neither ask nor expect your Honors to do any thing for us detrimental to the public interest and we are satisfied it would be useless even if we did ; but assuming that the quality of the work produced by us to be equal or superior to that which can be obtained elsewhere, and that it shall also be as economical to the Public Purse, then we trust that your Honors will agree with us in thinking that we have claims to be continued in your service which cannot be advanced by other parties, to say nothing of the fact that our Firm originated and introduced that system of engraving and transferring which has led to the general use of so much superior work of art at reasonable prices as is now the case, still when the penny postage was first introduced, and although premiums were offered and some hundreds of plans proffered not one among them was found to answer (as Mr. Mulready's the only one accepted had but a few months existence) we were then applied to and (under the instructions of Mr. Cole as to the wants of the Government) we produced a stamp which was accepted and approved by your Honors, and although the undertaking was new and arduous we were ready at the time specified and from that day to this, have ever supplied your very large and constantly increasing demands in that Department, without any stoppage or more than one single sheet having been missing from the whole number entrusted to us for printing, and that one very probably was delivered by us but stuck to another sheet and was counted and destroyed as one sheet, when actually there were two together ; indeed we thankfully appeal to the evidence of Mr. Rowland Hill and Mr. Keogh, before the Parliamentary Committee as to the satisfactory manner in which we had then performed our Contracts, and we doubt not the present respected Head of that Department will say it is quite as well done as ever it was. As regards economy we believe that a good practical stamp safe as to obliteration, cannot be had at a less price than we charge for it, and as to an opinion which some hold that surface-printing is as secure from forgery as ours, we think it cannot be sustained on examination either by theory or practice. As to the former it seems to us at least self evident that as is the case of the present 1d. and 2d. adhesive stamps, the machine pattern is produced by such a combination of intersecting lines and yet exhibiting to the naked eye a perfect pattern. Owing to the work being indented in the plate, and the hand of the printer wiping the surface of the plate and leaving the ink below, while if the same pattern could be produced by surface-printing the work would be raised above the metal, and the fineness of the pattern is such that the ink would clog the interstices and prevent the possibility of perfect printing in any quantity ; and as to the secondary security from forgery we are quite willing to have our system tested against any other which may be offered to you, holding out any profession to be as secure, and we are willing to pledge ourselves at our own expense to prove its great superiority.

Signed, PERKINS, BACON & Co.

The Board of Inland Revenue.

(203)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON;

14th February, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,

The Board having had before them your letter of the 11th instant as to a statement having appeared in the "*Times*" to the effect that at the expiration of the present contracts for printing the penny postage stamps, it was the intention of the authorities to adopt the system of surface-printing for those stamps, I am directed to acquaint you that the whole subject will shortly receive the fullest consideration, but the Board have not at present come to any determination upon it, as alleged in the article referred to.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(204)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON;

15th February, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,

In April last you applied to the Board for permission to print with an unregistered Postage Label Plate in a newly contrived machine, with a view to testing the machine as to its applicability to the printing of the Label Stamps.

The Board by their letter to you of the 5th of that month, consented to this request on the understanding that the Plate in question should be taken charge of by a person sent specially by the Superintendent of Postage Stamps, and they added that you would afterwards be informed of the expence which you would be required to defray. It appears that the experiments in question have been brought to a conclusion, and that the time of the Officer's attendance in connexion with this business amonnts to 674 hours.

I am directed to call upon you to pay to the Receiver-General the expence of this attendance namely £33 14s. 0d.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

(205)

69, Fleet Street;

Sir, Feb. 18, 1856.

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th inst. stating that as the experiments upon the new machine for printing the Postage Stamps had been brought to a conclusion, you are directed by the Board to call upon us to pay to the Receiver-General the sum of £33 14s. 0d. being for 674 hours of time your officer was in attendance in connection with that business.

We beg to state that we have paid to the Receiver-General the sum of £33 14s. 0d. as above for which we have his receipt. You are under an erroneous impression however, as to the experiments having been concluded we having informed your officer Mr. Peacock, that such was not the case when he put the question to us about three weeks back. It is true, however, that the inventor after having made great progress has broken down in his attempt to perfect the machine, but as we have such a large sum upon the invention, and a little additional time and expense will enable us to ascertain whether we cannot take it up where he has left it and thus bring it to perfection, we shall feel greatly obliged if your Honble. Board will allow us to have an officer again in a few days and for a few days in order to test the improvements it is now undergoing. The expense of his attendance to be paid by us as before.

Thanking you for this favor and requesting that permission may be continued for a short time longer.

We have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

Thomas Keogh, Esq. [Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

---

(206)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House, London;

23rd February, 1856.

Gentlemen,

The Board have had before them your letter of the 18th instant, requesting that as the experiments upon the new machine for printing the Postage Stamps are not concluded, you may be allowed to have the attendance of an Officer of this Department again in a few days in order to test the improvements the machine is now undergoing.

I am directed to inform you that the Board have instructed the Superintendent of Postage Stamps to send an Officer for this purpose as soon as you are prepared to continue the trial of the machine, the expense of his attendance being defrayed by you as before.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

( 207 )

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, LONDON ;

4th June, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,

The Board of Inland Revenue have brought under the consideration of the Lords of the Treasury the subject of the supply of One-penny and Two-penny adhesive Postage Stamps in reference to the circumstance that your Contract with this Department for the preparation of these stamps will expire in the month of July next.

I am directed to inform you that their Lordships have authorized the Board to renew the Contract with you for the preparation and gumming the One-penny and Two-penny adhesive postage stamps of the descriptions hitherto supplied for another period of five years subject to the following conditions.

Their Lordships state that it appears that the materials used by you have not at all times been of the best quality, that the ink has been less fugitive in some instances than others, and that the Gum has considerably varied in quality. In the event therefore, of the Post Office authorities making a complaint to this Board as to the inferiority of the materials used by you in the preparation of these stamps, or that the Contract is insufficiently executed in other respects the Board shall have the right to put an end to that Contract upon giving you six months notice at any time after the first year ; but that if you should feel that you have ground of complaint against such determination of the Contract an appeal should be open to you to the Lords of the Treasury whose decision thereon is to be final.

Their Lordships are also of opinion that an article should be inserted in the new Contract under which you will be required to adopt any improvement in the manufacture or design of the present Stamps or the introduction of any other description which experience and the progress of art, may shew to be desirable and which this Board shall approve and require, upon the understanding that you will have a claim to such compensation as their Lordships may determine for any additional expense to which you may be subjected by the exercise of that right on the part of this Board. On your signifying your consent to a Contract containing the conditions herein expressed the Board's Solicitor will immediately prepare such Contract for your execution.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

MESSRS. BACON & PETCH.

(208)

69, Fleet Street;

June 23, 1856.

My Dear Sir,

We have now 7 Postage Stamp plates ready for registering and as 2 of them are of a new size adapted to printing by machine and the machine is now ready for what we hope will be a conclusive trial; we shall feel greatly obliged if your Honble Board will appoint as early a time as convenient for the registration in order that we may have it tested.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

Ormond Hill, Esq.

---

(209)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House, London;

23rd June, 1856.

Gentlemen,

Referring to the communication which the Board addressed to you on the 4th instant, relative to the Contract proposed to be entered into with you for the preparation and gumming of the Postage Label Stamps of One Penny, and Twopence, I am directed to state that the Board have since received instructions from the Treasury to propose to you a reduction of the terms at which the Stamps are at present supplied.

When the Contract was entered into in 1851, the quantity supplied for a year to the 5th April preceding was 249,975,120. In the year ended the 31st March last, the quantity was 419,853,360. Considering the increase to nearly double the amount in 1851, the Board are desirous to know what reduction of the present rate of 5d. per 1,000 Stamps you are willing to make.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

Messrs. Bacon & Petch.

(210)

69, FLEET STREET;

June 30, 1856.

SIR,

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst. R. $\frac{5455}{56}$

We confess that we were not prepared for your communication as we thought that a new Contract for the preparation of the 1d. and 2d. adhesive stamps had been agreed upon at the present price of 5d. per 1,000 with certain other stipulations which you had proposed.

We admit the correctness of your remark that the amount of work now required is considerably greater than it was when the last Contract was made, but we must be permitted to add that the present price is an exceedingly low one and would not pay the expenses if the quantity required were not very large and this price which was a considerable reduction from the previous one was fixed in consequence of what we cannot but call an unfair underhand attempt made by Mr. Archer to supplant us.

Mr. Archer, after receiving every courtesy and assistance from us in bringing out his invention, first attacked us with false charges in public and when they were refuted offered to do the work at a lower price although he neither knew what he would have to do nor was capable of performing it. But beyond this we can with truthfulness say that in none of the items of our very large expenditure in conducting this business has there been any reduction in cost, but in several of the items, viz., color, canvas, gum, machinery, steam, gas and labour there has been a large increase, so that the rate of profit we did make is now very considerably diminished and we believe it will be admitted by all your officers acquainted with the subject that we have made great improvements and that everything is now in a perfectly satisfactory state. Under all these circumstances we really think it will be fair and reasonable on both sides that the Contract should be drawn out at 5d. per 1,000 or £5 per 1,000 sheets, as heretofore. We cannot deny, however, that having had the honour of being employed by your Honble. Board from the commencement of the system of 1d. postage to the present time and having expended large sums in buildings and machinery, we should be sorry to lose the Contract, and if their Honors the Lords of the Treasury, after knowing the facts, insist upon reduction in the price we would consent to continue the work for 5 years more as already arranged at 4½d. per 1,000 stamps or £4 10s. per 1,000 sheets, lower than this we cannot go.

Hoping that your Honble. Board will see that the arrangement as it at present stands is as it ought to be.

We have the honour to be, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

THOMAS KEOGH, Esq.

(211)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE;
July 10, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,

The Board having had before them your letter of the 30th ultimo, in regard to the reduction in the terms upon which you will undertake to supply the penny and two penny postage stamps for a further period of five years; I am directed to acquaint you that the Postmaster-General is willing to accept the reduction proposed in the Contract price of the stamps in question.

I am, however, to observe that it is considered, even at the reduced price, that the payment to you is exceedingly liberal, and the Board must therefore require that the work be invariably executed in the best possible manner.

I am, &c., &c.,
[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

MESSRS. BACON & PETCH.

---

(212)

No. 69, FLEET STREET;
August 23, 1856.

DEAR SIR,

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your note attached to a letter from Mr. Thomas Bartlett, of Blakedown House, near Kidderminster, suggesting that it would be a very great convenience to the public if one side of the sheet of Postage stamps were printed with the figures 1 to 20 " as it would save the trouble of counting, which is more or less troublesome in the case of remitting or indeed of purchasing " and asking for our observations thereon.

In reply we would state that we think Mr. Bartlett considerably magnifies the inconvenience now suffered and the benefit to be derived from his suggestion—but we have no objection to carrying it out, and although it would cause us a trifling expense, we should not think of charging it to the Government. If done it would of course be on the left and not right side of the sheet.

We are, &c., &c.,
[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.
(per L. de Nicolas).

ORMOND HILL, Esq.

(213)

69, Fleet Street;

Sept. 4, 1856.

Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 29th ult. and presume the letter therein referred to was from T. Bartlett, Esqre., of Blakedown House, Kidderminster, in which he suggests that it would be a great convenience to the public and no expense to the Government if on one side of the sheet of Postage stamps 1, 2, 3, etc., were printed down as it would save the trouble of counting which is more or less troublesome in the case of remitting or indeed of purchasing. In reply we beg to state that although we think Mr. Bartlett somewhat exaggerates the inconvenience of the present arrangement and the convenience of that which he suggests, the addition of the 1 to 20 can easily be effected on the left hand side of the sheet, and although it would be attended with some little labor and expense on our part still we are quite willing to make the addition without further charge should your Honourable Board think proper to adopt the plan. We received a similar communication from Mr. Ormond Hill on the 21st ult., which was immediately replied to, but we presume we were in error in addressing our reply to him instead of yourself.

We have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

Thomas Keogh, Esq.

---

(214)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House;

9 September, 1856.

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letter of the 4 Instant, I am directed to acquaint you that the Board think it would conduce to the convenience of all vendors of Postage Stamps and others that the sheets should be numbered in the manner proposed, and I am therefore to request that you will cause it to be done.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed THOMAS KEOGH.

Messrs. Bacon & Petch.

(215)

69, Fleet Street:

Oct. 14, 1856.

Dear Sir,

Agreeably to what we understood to be your verbal directions we have stamped the figures 1 to 20 on one side of a hardened one penny postage plate and find the expense of so doing by punches will be 3s. 9d. each plate, the punches cost 45s. each set of 20, and we believe the stamping of 32 hardened plates would wear out 2 sets :—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Say punches for 32 plates | .. | .. | £4 10 0 |
| Punching and scraping 32 plates | .. | .. | 6 0 0 |
| Making together | .. | .. | £10 10 0 |

And if our estimate for the wear of the punches is correct, of course the stamping on both sides would be double the above-named sum.

We are quite willing, however, to leave the charge for punches to be ruled by the actual result and not by our estimate if that should be preferred as we have no experience accurately to guide us on such a subject.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

O. Hill, Esq.

---

(216)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House, London,

24 October, 1856.

Gentlemen,

With reference to the Board's letter of the 9th ultimo in which you were instructed to cause the sheets of Postage stamps to be numbered in the manner suggested by Mr. Bartleet (*sic*) of the Post Office, I am directed to acquaint you that on reconsideration of this matter and finding that the same is not required by the Licensed Vendors the Board decline to adopt the suggestion and have so informed Mr. Bartleet (*sic*).

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] T. SARGENT,

*Assist. Secretary.*

Messrs. Bacon & Petch.

(217)

No. 69, Fleet Street;

November 13, 1856.

Dear Sir,

I beg to apologize for not sooner replying to your application for us to supply you with some of the penny Postage ink to assist the authorized imitation of that stamp. Your application to my son was verbally made and so communicated by him to me, and I regret that in the pressure of business I forgot it.

It is with regret that we decline anything that either you, or your Honourable Board, wish from us, but we do not feel called upon to assist in the forgery of a Postage stamp, even supposing (which is not the case) that we had no other reasons for declining to supply our ink.

If the demand of the imitator, however, that he wishes to show his production in the same ink as the genuine stamp, is sincere, we are quite ready, by having authority, to send you one or more stamps printed with ordinary ink either on India or plain paper, either of which he can also employ in producing his imitations.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

(per L. de Nicolas).

Ormond Hill, Esq.

---

(218)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House;

22 Nov., 1856.

My Dear Sir,

I enclose the impression made in imitation of the 1d. Postage label which I promised to show you.

Please to consider that this is done confidentially as I have not applied for any authority to show it. I shall be glad if you will allow Mr. Beckwith who now delivers this to you to bring it back when he returns to me in the course of an hour.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Signed] ORMOND HILL.

J. B. Bacon, Esq.

(219)

(Private).

69, Fleet Street;

Nov. 25, 1856.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for a sight of the imitation of the penny postage stamp, although I had it for too short a time for a thorough examination as it was left by your messenger for half an hour just before I arrived, when I did so I was met by a gentleman on business which left me but a few moments for inspection. I consider, however, although I can easily detect it from several points of dissimilarity that it is very well done and would deceive any ordinary person who was not prepared for it. We shall feel greatly obliged, however, if at the completion of the experiments you or your Honble. Board will allow us a longer time for examining it, and if you will let us know the facts of the case as it may be useful to the Government and certainly would be to us to know them: for instance it would be very desirable to ascertain what is the standing and profession of the person who produced the imitation, whether he did it alone or had much assistance, and how long it took assuming it to be done by one man, and as he was employed by Government he will of course inform them by what process it was done. We believe it to have been by hand but at present our glance has been a rapid one and our engine-turner has not seen it at all.

It should be borne in mind that the whole stamp is but about an inch in size, and when those portions are taken away which are requisite for the lettering it is considerably under that and half what is left is occupied by her Majesty's head and although there is some security in that still there must be many artists in London who could by time and skill make a tolerable imitation of it. We, therefore, have but a very little space to give the most difficult part of the security which the stamp contains, and I have a strong impression that if all the facts connected with it are ascertained they would go to show the security of the real stamp against any actual forger. Besides this to do less than a dozen could not be worth the while of any imitator indeed to make it profitable they should be half sheets or sheets. I much question if the party who has done the present one can do as many as a dozen free from such inequalities as would be ruinous to their circulation. This much we do not fear to say, and to prove if necessary that the adhesive Postage penny and two-penny stamp possesses more security than any other of an equal size engraved or surface-printed stamp now known.

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

I am, Dear Sir, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA BUTTERS BACON.

Ormond Hill, Esq.

( 220 )

69, Fleet Street ;

March 12, 1857.

Sir,

A most exaggerated and incorrect statement of the fire which unfortunately occurred on our premises in White Friar St. last evening, having appeared in your paper this morning we beg to state for the satisfaction of the public in general, and our friends and customers in particular that although we have suffered most severely and shall certainly be inconvenienced by the amount of damage done, it has been immensely magnified as to the amount and so far from all the Government plates and dies being destroyed, all the Postage dies and Excise plates, and nearly all the Postage plates are preserved uninjured, as also are all our private plates and there is no danger of the public being in any way inconvenienced by this calamity.

We are, &c., &c.

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

The Editor of "The Times."

---

( 220a )

69, Fleet Street, E. C. ;

March 16, 1857.

Sir,

There having appeared in the Newspapers an Account which, in some parts, was totally untrue, and in others greatly magnified, of a Fire which unfortunately occurred at our Establishment on the night of the 11th inst., we beg to inform you that the portion of our premises used for general business was scarcely touched ; that only one plate was injured ; that business therein was suspended but for a day ; that, except in the loss of some unfinished work, the general business has not been affected ; and that nothing has occurred to prevent our executing the Orders of our Customers as heretofore, to any extent to which they may please to favor us.

Almost all the damage was in the Government Department of our business, but even there, not a Postage or Excise plate or die was lost or injured, and the public at least will not be inconvenienced by this disastrous occurrence. Thanking you for all past favors, and soliciting a continuance of them,

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

(221)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE;

GENTLEMEN, 13th March, 1857.

The Commissioners having had before them your application of this date: I am directed to inform you that they will not object to your carrying on the printing of paper labels, and, if necessary, permits and Certificates at Messrs. Whitings' of Beaufort House, pending further arrangements.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THOS. DOBSON.

(Assist. Secretary).

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(222)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W. C.;

MY DEAR SIR, 20 March, 1857.

Will you be good enough to return me the enclosed stamp with your opinion as to its being an impression from one of your plates or otherwise.

You will observe that it is a *penny* stamp in the Two-penny blue colour.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ORMOND HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

---

(223)

69, FLEET STREET, E. C.;

SIR, March 21, 1857.

Understanding that you wish us to make a report in relation to the paper and postage stamps which we had in hand when the late fire occurred at our premises on the 11th inst., without waiting until we could report upon all the subjects connected therewith, we have now the honor to state for the information of your Honble. Board that we then had on hand 137,500 sheets in the following proportions viz.:

| | |
|---|---|
| Printed and gummed. | 39,000 |
| Printed but ungummed. | 79,000 |
| Paper not printed. | 19,000 |
| Damaged. | 500 |
| | 137,500 |

but of this quantity there were saved from the fire

5492 sheets of penny,
and 312 ,, twopenny

making 5,804 sheets,

which taken from the foregoing leaves 131,696 either lost by the fire or delivered up to Mr. Ormond Hill and his officers and sent by him to Somerset House on your account.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

O. HILL, Esq.

---

(224)

69, FLEET STREET, E.C.;

March 24, 1857.

DEAR SIR,

Your note of the 21st inst. [*sic*] has been received enclosing a one penny obliterated stamp apparently printed in Blue ink, although the penny stamps were never printed in that color.

We have given it a very careful examination, but are quite unable to account for it. In the first place, if genuine, it must have been printed in an early stage of the business, for it is deficient in the white line under the word postage and over twopence, which was cut out of the die many years back at the time of the change of color. We think it very possible, although we have no distinct recollection of the fact, that it was taken to show Mr. Rowland Hill the shade of Blue color which we intended for the twopenny stamps, but printed from the one penny plate or die before the twopenny was prepared in order to save time, if this was not the case we cannot account ?] for it. It is certainly not from the present die, and it has been so effectually injured by the obliterating stamp, even if the whole has not been tampered with, that it is not easy to tell whether it is from any genuine die or not. On the supposition that we really printed and sent it in for issue there must have been at least 240 of them, and surely so many years would not have elapsed without the fact being discovered if there were so large a number in circulation, but neither the firm, Mr. Harrison, nor any of our printers believe it possible that such a mistake could have occurred. We think if you would procure for us a full and fair impression upon white paper from the 17 obliterating stamp it may throw some light on the subject, for at present we cannot tell how much of the defacement is blue, or how much is black ink, or how far these two matters have effected the stamp, while it looks unlike the real die there is one very remarkable thing about it which never could have occurred in our office, there are in the stamp two very distinct shades of blue, the one very dark and the other very

light, and this would imply that it had been chemically doctored and yet if so the lettering has been very well done. We shall be glad if you will allow us to keep it until we can see an impression of the 17 obliterating stamp.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

ORMOND HILL, Esq.

---

(225)

[March 31, 1857.]

DEAR SIR,

We beg to thank you for your note of the 27th inst., annexing several impressions of the No. 17 obliterating stamp, but the only light it seems to throw upon the subject of the one penny stamp printed in blue ink beyond what we have already stated, is, that the heaviness, blackness and size of the impression made by it renders it very difficult to say what the tint of the blue was, before it was so disfigured; no part of the stamp being left perfect, except the lettering. We re-enclose the originals.

We are, &c., &c.,

Per. Pro. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

ORMOND HILL, Esq.

---

(226)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C;

April 1, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,

In regard to the impression of the 1d. stamp in *blue*, which you sent me some time since and which I now return, I feel sure that it is one from some experimental sheets taken 16 or 17 years ago. I enclose you an envelope bearing another such, which came here addressed to one of my father's men, and which passed safely through your department. The sender of this stamp has been questioned and says that he purchased a few such from the servant of the son of the late Mr. H. Goulburn, and he destroyed those remaining unused. We know that Mr. Goulburn as Chancellor of the Exchequer had had some few sheets of these stamps, and it appears probable that one or two sheets must have got into wrong hands. As the number *must* be very small we shall not take any further steps in the matter unless more such should be discovered in your Office.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Signed] ORMOND HILL.

WM. BOKENHAM, Esq.

[The original letter and the stamp mentioned therein are now in the Royal Collection].

(227)

69, Fleet Street, E.C.;

April 8, 1857.

Dear Sir,

As my son was obliged to leave Town for the Mill, whither he should have gone a fortnight back but for the fire, he requested me to answer your note to him of the 3rd inst., enclosing the twopenny stamp supposed to be printed in black ink. I have carefully examined it and am satisfied it is a genuine stamp which was printed in blue ink and has since, for what reason I cannot divine, been carefully painted over with black ink. The Queen's head was unquestionably printed with blue ink and nothing else, and appears so still, and I doubt not that the remainder came from the press in the same colour, but a coating has been painted over it very well done round the head, but more irregular and patchy in the machine parts further removed from the profile, and the consequence is that they have thickened the lathe pattern, and thus made it appear as though the ink in that part of the impression had been a very strong blue-black, but no printer ever sent it from the press in the state it now is. If the truth is ever discovered, I believe it will be found to have been cooked up by a clever painstaking party, and at a great expenditure of time and trouble. I beg to return it herewith in case you should require it.

And am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

Per J. Upham.

Ormond Hill, Esq.

P.S.—The bottom of the stamp has been taken away, but had it remained I think it would have been found to be without the check letters.

---

(228)

69, Fleet Street, E.C.;

April 27, 1857.

Sir,

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th inst., informing us that the Comptroller General has laid before your Board a statement of the warehouse-keeper's account with us shewing that 124,008 sheets of 1d. and 4,687 sheets of 2d., making 128,695 sheets of Postage paper in various stages of printing, had been destroyed by the fire which occurred at our premises on the 11th of March last, the cost of this paper to the revenue at the contract price of 13 - per ream was £167 5d. 0d.

With reference to the sum of £167 5s. 0d. you desire us to inform you whether we have recovered it or are likely to recover it under our Insurance, and if recovered you request the amount may be paid the Receiver General.

You also add that for the purpose of adjusting the warehouse-keeper's a c he has been authorized to issue us 128,695 of Postage labels, without a stamping warrant, to supply the place of that quantity destroyed, viz., 124,008 sheets for 1d. labels and 4,687 for 2d. labels. We have the honor to state in reply that our policies of Insurance would have abundantly included the amount of this loss that we did claim

to have it allowed, and to assist that claim we purposely sent your general Paper with other articles to the appraizer of the Insurance Companies, but he immediately and steadily refused to admit it, and although we have now settled the amount of our claim with both offices, and we must acknowledge that they have acted in a fair and liberal manner in other respects, they resolutely refused to allow that any Bank Note paper belonging to our customers, which had been sent in by them to be printed saying that such papers were trust property and not recoverable unless separately insured as such, and from the enquiries which we have made we believe they are only carrying out a universal rule in so doing. We shall not, therefore, be enabled to recover the money or pay it in to the Receiver General. We shall draw from the Warehouse-keeper the 128,695 sheets without warrants from time to time as it may be required.

We have the honor to be &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

THOS. KEOGH, Esq.

---

(229)

69, FLEET STREET;

May 13th, 1857.

DEAR SIR,

We have maturely considered the suggestions you made some days back, that you thought it desirable to have a fireproof iron safe to contain the various dies connected with the postage stamps, and 4 or 5 iron safes, not fireproof, for plates and postage stamps even if the difference of cost between them and strong oak boxes, which we have hitherto used was borne by your Honble. Board.

We have made many enquiries on the subject and regret to find the expense very great. Messrs. Chubb & Son have the greatest variety, but of their 30 fireproof, and their 10 wrought iron safes not fireproof, not one of them is of a size which could be used by us with any advantage.

We have a distinct estimate from them of a safe, which should hold 40 postage plates, in which they charge £28, and it would not be fireproof, but we think that unnecessary.

A very superior oak safe which would contain the same number of plates would only cost ——

Chubb's No. 3 fireproof wrought iron safe, which is the smallest and cheapest of any which they make, would be £10 5s. 0d., and we think this would answer for the dies. A box made of oak for the same purpose would cost ——, but when looked at as a depository for many thousand sheets of postage stamps the expense would be frightful, even the largest and most expensive size, not fireproof, which is 49 inches high, 22 wide and 19 in depth would cost £30 and only contain about 12,000 sheets, and in this size as in all the others the waste is very great; not one of them being capable of taking the sheets depthwise, which would be the most simple, and although the largest one would take the sheet in width the depth will not allow of 2 sheets although there is a great deal too much room for one, and this fault runs more or less through the whole of them. It is true we can have safes made of any dimensions,

but then the charge would be much greater in proportion to the square inches required than it would be for patterns which they are in the habit of making. You purpose having one which would hold 40,000 sheets and that would require a safe about 8 feet 6 high, 5 feet wide and 2 feet deep on the outside and that would probably cost ——

An oak box the same size would cost ——

You propose another to hold 8,000 which should be about 3 feet 6 high, 2 feet 6 wide and 2 feet deep and would cost ——

An oak box the same size would cost ——

These are for the Counting room and the post office. You also propose one for 8,000 for paper, which has been wetted down for printing, and of course it would cost the same money as the last, but we should think that in this instance an ordinary closet would answer the purpose very well, and another to contain such of the work which has reached the presses, has not gone to the Counting House as finished, nor is in the hydraulic press, mill boards or trays. This would be a varying quantity, and probably amount to 10,000 or 12,000, and another iron safe for these would probably cost ——

From the foregoing, you will see that the expense of wrought iron safes would be very great, and as not only the room but the roof of the building are now to be fire-proof, we do not ourselves see the necessity of such expenditure, for even supposing another fire to occur it would be almost impossible that it should extend beyond the floor in which it originated, and consequently would be very easily subdued.

We attended the Royal British Bank Sale on Monday, with a desire to purchase, but the largest safe which would not hold 12,000 shts. of stamps sold for £27.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

ORMOND HILL, Esq.

[The prices of several of the safes and oak boxes had not been filled in at the time the copy of this letter was taken.]

---

(230)

69, FLEET STREET, E.C.;

Dec. 19, 1857.

MY DEAR SIR,

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

I have sent Mr. Henry Gill up to see you on the subject of the introduction of the new matter on the Postage Stamps, as he is the individual who would carry them out and could best answer any questions you might wish to put.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

ORMOND HILL, Esq. Per. J. Upham.

(231)

69, Fleet Street, E.C.;

Jan. 2, 1858.

My Dear Sir,

After sending off my note to you last evening I found on reflection that although the principle of it was all right it could be improved in one particular, viz., that whereas I calculated each plate of postage stamps would require a roller, and its accompanyments for itself this may be in part avoided as far as regards the rollers themselves by taking up 5 or 6 labels at a time on the same roller, and then preparing each of them for a different number, this would produce considerable saving in the original metal and in the softening, polishing, and hardening the same, and I see nothing to prevent its being adopted. While writing this I have received your note, and will prepare the estimate and forward it to you without delay.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

Ormond Hill, Esq.

---

(232)

69, Fleet Street, E.C.;

Jany. 7, 1858.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry what would be the expense of carrying out the alterations proposed to be made in the lettering and in adding figures to the 1d. and 2d. postage stamps, we beg to say that we understand the plates already made, including the reserve, are to be used as they now are. Our charge for 3 roller dies, containing 17–1d. and 4–2d. engraved postage labels, which would be rendered useless would be 18 guineas. For the expense of preparing extra circular dies, engraving one postage label hereafter for each plate, shaving off a part of it, stamping 2 extra consecutive numbers for each plate, 2 sets of steel numbers to be used in stamping, and cost of extra flat dies occasioned by the operation 3/6 per million stamps, or £3 per plate if this mode of charge is preferred. The latter would probably be the most equitable, as you might estimate the number which a plate would print very differently from what we do; but it would cause the charge to be made of the exact number which each plate would print, or, if more satisfactory to the Commissioners, we should be willing to take the sum of £189 in full for the sacrifice of the present dies and all other expenses whatever connected with, or occasioned by, the change so as to leave our charge, in future, the same as it now is, and thus make it a part of the contract.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] Per Proc. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

J. P. BACON.

Ormond Hill, Esq.

(233)

69, Fleet Street, E.C.;

Jany. 19, 1858.

Dear Sir,

In reference to the alterations proposed to be made in the one penny and two penny postage stamps we understand that the plates at present made are to be used as far as they will go. We should therefore be willing to sacrifice all the engraved roller dies which would become useless by such arrangements for the sum of 18 guineas, which would certainly not more than cover what they would actually cost us, beyond and irrespective of this sum we shall be willing to prepare all the flat and circular dies and alter and add to the latter, provide the necessary steel punches for lettering and strike two extra numbers on every stamp which is issued, in short to carry out all the alteration proposed to be made at the charge of one half per cent. upon the amount of each future account for postage stamp printing until the expiration of our contract.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS BACON & Co.

Ormond Hill, Esq.

---

(234)

69, Fleet Street, E.C.;

Mar. 18, 1858.

Dear Sir,

As we are now about to wear out transfers much faster than heretofore, and the present 2d. stamp partakes of the same weakness as the first one penny did, we think it every way desirable now that an alteration is being made to prepare a new die for two pence, which we can do from the same original as that we are now using for the penny stamp, and in that case the dies will all be alike and decidedly more perfect than the present two penny now is. Will you please say whether you see any objection to the proposal.

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] Per Proc. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

J. P. Bacon.

O. Hill, Esq.

(235)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;

11 Feb., 1860.

Enclosure A.

GENTLEMEN,

A new Postage label stamp of the amount of three halfpence (1½d.) is required to be prepared for without delay. It is desired that this stamp should be of the same size as the 1d. and the 2d. and be printed 240 upon a sheet as they are ; but that it should be made quite distinct in appearance by difference in form, or color, or both.

You are already trying some experiments with a view to finding a color for this stamp. I enclose a specimen of a tint which I should like you to aim at. But please also to suggest any others which you think suitable. I should be very glad if your Mr. Perkins Bacon could come here on Monday morning at about 10½ or 11 to confer with me as to the steps necessary for the preparation of the dies and plates.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ORMOND HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO.

[The enclosure sent in this letter has disappeared.]

---

(236)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE ;

15 Feb., 1860.

MY DEAR SIR,

In the Specimen 1½d. stamps which you are going to prepare will you please to put letters in all four corners. I mean of course by printing them in the required color and gumming them on, as if this be not done the specimen will probably be referred back from the General Post Office, and a correspondence entered into on the subject.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ORMOND HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

(237)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE ;
20th Feb., 1860.

DEAR SIR,

The Post Office people are *not* satisfied with our design for the 1½d. label, so we must do something else. Can you step across here now ? If not, will you come in good time to-morrow morning.

And will you please make quite certain as to the practicability of altering the engine-turning around the present head.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] ORMOND HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

---

(238)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;
22 Feb., 1860.

DEAR SIR,

Can you produce a good fugitive color of this tint, I have a notion that you can. If so I think it would be the best. Perhaps you could let me have a design in this in addition to the others which you promised.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

P. BACON, Esq.

[Attached to this letter was a portion of an ornamental design printed in lilac-rose, with the paper deeply blued by the ink, corresponding closely with the color adopted for the 1½d. stamps printed in 1860.]

---

(239)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE ;
9 March, 1860.

Enclosure.

DEAR SIR,

This is very nearly what I desire. I agree with you that the word "Postage" should be a little higher—its centre should be level with the centre of "Half Pence." I prefer these words "Half Pence" as they now stand, *i.e.*, without a hyphen or more space.

Either the white band should be rather wider or the letters rather smaller so as to shew the white a little more distinctly above and below the letters. A little color should be introduced between the white band and the neck where they intersect.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

[The enclosure is missing.]

---

(240)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE;
9th March, 1860.

We whose names are hereunto subscribed being Commissioners of Inland Revenue, do hereby direct you to prepare a plate for printing postage labels to denote the duty of threehalfpence.

You are requested to apply to Mr. Ormond Hill for particulars.

[Signed] ALEX. DUFF GORDON.
JAMES DISRAELI.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO.

---

(241)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
1 Feb. 1861.

GENTLEMEN,

I think it right to call your attention to your having omitted to charge the one sum of £18 18s. — and ½ per cent. additional upon all accounts since the beginning of the year 1858: which charges it appears to me that you were entitled to make under the agreement having reference to the insertion of the letters in the upper corners of the postage stamps and of the numbers at the sides.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO.

(242)

69, Fleet Street, E.C.;

9 Feb., 1861.

Dear Sir,

We received your letter of the 1st inst. in course and sincerely thank you for calling our attention to the omission of any charge of the one sum of 18 Guineas, and half p. cent. additional upon all Postage accounts since the beginning of the year 1858.

We were aware of the claim, but as there have yet been only 2—2d. Postage plates engraved under the new arrangement, we were waiting until some of the 1d. plates have been prepared before making the charge.

We think, however, on reflection that we had better make it so far, as the new plates will justify in rendering our next quarterly account.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed] Per Proc. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

J. P. Bacon.

Ormond Hill, Esq.

---

(243)

Postage Department;

13 February, 1861.

Gentlemen,

*Postage—Daily supply.*

Please to increase the daily delivery to us of 1d. Postage labels to 20 rms. per day, commencing to-morrow and continuing until further notice.

*Printing.*

The impressions of the sheets printed from Plate No. 65 are found to be so much out of square that they cannot be perforated. The plate must, therefore, be rejected as unfit for use. I am afraid that the whole of the sheets printed from it will also have to be rejected: but of this I cannot speak with certainty until they have been collected and examined. I have to request that in future great care be taken to arrange the impressions on the plates with perfect accuracy.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] ORMOND HILL.

Messrs. Perkins & Co.

(244)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
15 Feb., 1861.

GENTLEMEN,

I am sorry to say that in new plate No. 69 the rows of stamps are so far oblique that we cannot perforate the impressions from it. I have to request, therefore, that this plate may be condemned like plate 65. And to prevent the trouble which would occur by these plates, either of them being brought into work by mistake, I request that they may be partially defaced without delay.

The picking out of the impressions of plate 65 which we are now doing gives us very considerable trouble.

The heads in plate No. 70 are by no means accurately placed; but the inaccuracy is not so great but that we can manage to perforate impressions from it.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO.

[This letter has written on the back in pencil "to be filed at Fleet St."]

---

(245)

69, FLEET ST., E.C.;
18th Feb., 1861.

DEAR SIR,

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th inst. and in compliance therewith we have this day commenced the delivery of 20 reams of 1d. Postage labels p. day and shall continue it until further orders.

We regret to learn that the Postage Plates Nos. 65 and 69, are engraved so much out of square that the sheets of stamps printed from it cannot be perforated.

Mr. White seems very unwilling to acknowledge that the Plates were at fault, and to the eye it does not appear so, but a careful examination shews that from some cause which we have been unable to ascertain, the upper row of stamps were laid down upon a slight angle, and having started wrong, he continued the same error throughout. Both have been taken from the Press and shall be cancelled. We have given such orders that we doubt not will prevent the recurrence of this mistake.

We are, &c., &c.,
Signed] PERKINS, BACON & CO.
p. G. M. W. Mills.

ORMOND HILL, Esq.

(246)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
14 MARCH, 1861.

GENTLEMEN,

I am happy to say that we have succeeded in perforating the sheets printed from plate 65 sufficiently well for them to be issued. The operation gave us a great deal of trouble: but entailed the spoilage of only 375 sheets out of the 10,000 impressions from the plate which had to be dealt with.

I am, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO

---

(247)

The Honble. the Commrs. of Inland Revenue.

1861. Apl. 2.

For preparing new flat and circular dies, inserting the letters in the upper corners and the numbers in the sides of the "One penny" and Two penny postage stamps as per agreement 19th Jany., 1858. 18. 18. 0.

For 40,000 stamps from No. 7 Two Penny plate.
66,000 ,, ,, No. 8 ,, ,, ,,

106,000 sheets printed with additional numbers [at 4½d.] £477 0s. 0d.
½ °/₀ on the above sum 2 7s. 8d.

---

(248)

Number of sheets of Postage lables produced from the plates now at press 22nd. Novr., 1862.

| Printers Names. | No. of Plate. | No. of Sheets Produced. |
|---|---|---|
| Kingsmill .. .. | 27 .. | .. 857,800 |
| Triggs .. .. | 36 .. | .. 850,900 |
| Sutton .. .. | 43 .. | .. 799,000 |
| W. Fisher .. .. | 47 .. | .. 798,300 |
| Henningshaw .. | 55 .. | .. 706,600 |
| Russell .. .. | 52 .. | .. 674,200 |
| Hamilton .. .. | 48 .. | .. 669,400 |

| Printers Names. | No. of Plate. | No. of Sheets Produced. |
|---|---|---|
| Rose .. .. .. | 60 .. | .. 648,300 |
| Miller .. .. | 56 .. | .. 639,000 |
| J. Fisher .. .. | 59 .. | .. 647,900 |
| Ward .. .. .. | 57 .. | .. 601,500 |
| Smith .. .. | 62 .. | .. 357,700 |
| Willis .. .. | 66 .. | .. 218,600 |
| Doland .. .. | 41 .. | .. 209,400 |
| Price .. .. | 50 .. | .. 197,200 |
| Turner .. .. | 39 .. | .. 193,100 |
| F. Smith .. .. | 51 .. | .. 167,600 |
| Henings .. .. | 68 .. | . 106,400 |
| Bale .. .. .. | 67 .. | . 102,200 |
| Rivett .. .. | 16 .. | .. 76,300 |
| Burne .. .. | 15 .. | .. 71,200 |
| Dix .. .. | 17 .. | .. 41,000 |

[The last three were Reserve Plates.]

---

(249)

SOMERSET HOUSE ;

7th February, 1863.

GENTLEMEN,

I am very sorry to be under the necessity of rejecting the two Postage plates on account of the irregularity of the placing of the heads.

I am glad to hear that you have discovered the cause of the defects and are taking prompt measures to prevent their recurrence.

The width of the sheet could not be altered without entailing very expensive alteration in the perforating machinery. And the length could not be increased by more than 1-8th of an inch, which giving only 1-160th in each space, would be inappreciable. Whenever it is decided to allow more space for the perforation I think it must be gained by diminishing the size of the engraving of the individual stamps. But this as you know would involve considerable expense, and as it would not affect the correct division of the plate, I think may be dismissed for the present.

The gauge for Messrs. Holtzappfels (*sic*) guidance I think had better be prepared by yourselves ; and if you please submitted to me for approval. I have had the work of the various plates now in use carefully examined with a view to naming the most accurate as a guide in making the gauge. Plate 56 is right as respects the total length and total width of the engraving, but the placing relatively of the individual stamps is not accurate in any existing plate.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO.

( 250 )

69, Fleet Street, E.C. ;

Feb. 17, 1864.

Dear Sir,

We find that the facts regarding the time taken in the manufacture of a Postage Plate are as follows :—To transfer the 240 labels on to a Plate takes one day, and a very hard day's work it is. Perfect accuracy in the arrangement of the labels cannot however at present be secured if the roller is taken off the Plate during its manufacture and therefore it must be assumed as one day's work. To transfer the Legends and scrape the burr off the steel takes 3 full ordinary days, so that a Plate takes in the Transferring Room 4 days exclusive of the hardening and subsequent cleaning. To put in the letters at the 4 corners and retouch the work where it is injured by this process takes Mr. H. Gill 4 days good work also. The hardening and cleaning cannot be reckoned at less than a day. It therefore takes 9 days to make a Plate from first to last, and the week is only 5½ days, so that to promise one complete plate a week is to lock up from all our other work 2 of our engravers for the greater part of the time. Still we undertake to do this from this time until a stock of 22 Plates with the new lettering, &c., is completed. There is no difficulty in lettering as fast as the Plates are transferred, and in fact Mr. H. Gill will have finished Plate No. 85 before 86 is ready for him.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

Ormond Hill, Esq.,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House.

---

( 251 )

Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, W.C. ;

22nd Feby., 1864.

Gentlemen,

It having been decided to discontinue the issue of the present two corner lettered 1d. Postage labels and to commence that of the four corner lettered stamps as soon as the latter kind can be produced at a sufficient rate to meet the demand, and considering the desirableness of gradually replacing our large stock with the new sort : in the meantime I have to request that as soon as there are fourteen of the new four-lettered plates ready they may be put to press and worked simultaneously with as many of the old kind as may be necessary to maintain the regular supply, that afterwards each new plate be registered and put to press as soon as completed, an old one being withdrawn on each such occasion, and that as soon as eighteen new plates be at work all of the old kind be withdrawn.

I have also to request that so long as you have in your possession printed sheets of both the two-lettered and four-lettered kinds you will keep them unmixed and send them here in parcels consisting wholly of the one or wholly of the other kind. Also that you will allow your superintendent to distinguish the parcels of the new kind from those of the old kind by marking every parcel of the former at each end in the manner already agreed upon between him and me.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO.

---

(252)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

1 Sept., 1865.

Please return the plate by bearer.

MY DEAR SIR,

Will you kindly have a proof, in black, taken for me from the accompanying plate. Please send me all impressions which may be taken as I am not authorized to let any go elsewhere.

Please not to take trouble to get a perfect impression as that is of no consequence.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

---

(253)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

6 Oct., 1865.

DEAR SIR,

It is desired to have a preparation put upon the surface of a few sheets of crown paper before they are printed as an experiment, and it appears to me best to borrow the sheets—say four—from you in order that they may be prepared; to return them to you to be printed and then to receive them as part of a ream in the ordinary way. The ream being marked to shew us that it contains said sheets. If you do not object to this course will you be good enough to have four sheets given to my messenger who will take them to be prepared. I enclose a receipt for them.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

P. BACON, Esq.

(254)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;

12th Oct., 1865.

DEAR SIR,

Thank you for printing and gumming the experimental paper left by me. You appear to have been *mis*informed as to the nature of my request. I did not ask for an impression of Foreign Stamps ; but for an impression of anything which had a close engine-turned ground similar to that of our stamp and which you would have no objection to give.

As regards the color-ink which the applicant, Mr. Russell, who accompanied me to your factory, really asked was to be allowed to apply to your ink some chemical test which he had in his pocket. He did not ask for any ink to take away. I asked for a little for him because Mr. Fisher very properly declined to permit the application of the test in your absence. Before writing to Mr. Russell I should be glad to know whether you would object to his applying his test in your presence if he were to call upon you for the purpose. Please to do just as you think best. I ask the question because I want to give him as full an answer as possible and so avoid unnecessary correspondence.

I think it best to tell you that Mr. Russell comes to me from the authorities of the Post Office. That he has convinced them that it is quite possible and tolerably easy to remove the obliterating mark from your stamps repeatedly, so as to make one stamp pass again and again. Indeed he has done this. That he proposes a safe-guard against this in the form of some preparation to be put upon the paper before it is printed, and that it is with the alleged object of avoiding chemical antagonism between his preparation and your ink that he seeks to test the latter.

I have now told you all I know of the matter as I should have done when I called had I been fortunate enough to have found you at your office.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Signed] O. HILL.

P. BACON, Esq.

---

(255)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;

31 Oct., 1865.

GENTLEMEN,

As it appears that you cannot conveniently gum the 102 sheets of paper, sent by Mr. Edwin Hill to be gummed on both sides, without taking them into the Postage Stamp department, and thereby breaking our regulation against the admission of white paper into that department, I wish to substitute sheets of a dark blue color for the paper sent. As, however, some objection may arise to this dark blue paper

I now send a dozen sheets which I shall be glad if you will have gummed on both sides and returned to us as an experiment. If it succeed and is found unobjectionable I will send other 90 sheets to make up the quantity and will then ask you to return the *white sheets* ungummed. In the meantime please to keep these *latter* outside our department.

Yours, &c., &c.,

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO. [Signed] O. HILL.

---

(256)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
17 April, 1866.

GENTLEMEN,

Messrs. Gill and Bird, of Ipswich, have asked me to facilitate their obtaining some sheets (I assume 100 or so) of gummed plain paper perforated exactly as our 1d. Postage Stamps are, to enable them to experiment with a machine for damping and affixing Postage Stamps, which they say they have contrived and patented.

Should you be willing to supply what is required, provided I would perforate the sheets for you at the usual rate for Colonial stamps.

If so I will refer the parties to you. Your giving me a price per 100 sheets delivered at Ipswich would perhaps save time and trouble. I think they should resemble the Postage paper somewhat in thickness, &c., and should be twice gummed.

Yours, &c., &c.,

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO. [Signed] O. HILL.

---

(257)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
10 May, 1866.

MY DEAR SIR,

In communicating with you concerning the sheets of paper gummed and perforated for the firm at Ipswich I omitted to ask you to be good enough to apply to me to give instructions to the Officer to admit the paper within the postage department to be gummed.

Will you be good enough to apply to me in any future instance as I prefer to give the Officer precise instructions—I mean that he is to admit a certain number of sheets —rather than general or vague directions.

I am, &c., &c.,

J. P. BACON, Esq. [Signed] O. HILL.

( 258 )

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., present their compliments to Messrs. Gill & Bird, and hand annexed Invoice of Paper gummed and perforated for which Postage Stamps may be sent, say 8/-

The parcel is forwarded p. Rail this evening.

69, Fleet Street, E C. ;

11 May, 1865.

---

( 259 )

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House, W.C. ;

26 Feby., 1867.

Gentlemen,

Please to prepare One Hundred sheets of the 1d. Postage Labels which you are now printing, with the words " J. & C. Boyd & Co." printed at the back of each.

Yours &c., &c.,

Signed] O. HILL.

Messrs. Perkins & Co.

---

( 260 )

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House, W.C. ;

28 March, 1867.

Dear Sir,

The Board has decided to supply to the General Post Office for exhibition at Paris, a proof sheet of each variety of Postage stamp. Will you have the goodness therefore, to have a proof taken upon plate paper of the newest 1d. plate and the newest 2d. plate, and send them to me for the purpose named. I send instructions to Mr. Peacock on the matter.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Signed O. HILL.

J. P. Bacon, Esq.

( 261 )

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;
April 1st, 1867.

DEAR SIR,

I acknowledge the receipt of four proofs from Postage plates, viz :—one in blue and one in black from twopenny plate No. 9, and one in red and one in black from penny plate No. 103.

I will endeavour to prevent the twopenny black proof from being sent forward for exhibition.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Mr. J. P. BACON. [Signed] O. HILL.

---

( 262 )

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;
April 18th, 1867.

GENTLEMEN,

A communication has been received from the General Post Office respecting the non-fugitive character of the blue ink with which the Twopenny Postage label stamps are printed. The letter is accompanied by specimens of stamps from which the obliterating mark has been effectually removed and contains a request that a more fugitive ink may if possible be used in future.

I shall feel obliged if you will inform me whether you can make the change desired. If you have not a fugitive blue ink at present perhaps you will try some experiments with a view to obtaining one. Whenever you succeed in obtaining such ink I should be glad to have specimens printed with it to submit to the officers of the General Post Office.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO.

---

( 263 )

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;
30 April, 1867.

DEAR SIR,

The Board has agreed to permit the name, &c., of Messrs. Smith & Son, of 186, Strand, to be printed upon the back of Postage labels in the same manner as that of Messrs. Boyd and under the same arrangements.

Presuming that you have no objection to this and that you will undertake to do the printing in this case, I beg to introduce Mr. Elliman, who has come to us as the representative of Messrs. Smith & Son.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. Bacon, Esq.

---

(264)

Post Office;

June 4, 1867.

My Dear O. H.,

I do not think the ink of the enclosed blue stamp is sufficiently fugitive. I have washed it with soap and water, and with benzine about three times, and it has hardly started the colour at all. I should tell you that in order to give it a fair trial I had the stamp dried thoroughly before cancelling it, because almost any ink is tolerably fugitive when the impression is new. By way of contrast I also enclose a penny stamp and one of De La Rue's 9d. stamps, both of which have been slightly washed with benzine once only. The ninepenny stamp I have had in my possession some years, it is one of the first set of "specimens" printed, but you will see the ink is as fugitive as ever. If De La Rue are printing any of their blue Colonial stamps, as for instance the 2d. Mauritian, or the 2d. Bermuda stamp, you should get some from them and you will find they are wonderfully fugitive. I hope you will enjoy your trip to Paris; come and tell us all about it when you come back and look at the stamping machine especially.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PEARSON HILL.

[Ormond Hill, Esq.]

[The original letter and the enclosures are now in the Royal Collection.]

---

(265)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House, W.C.:

5 June, 1867.

My Dear Sir,

I fear you have not been successful in obtaining a fugitive blue.

The Post Office experts pronounce the last sent specimens not fugitive enough—I did not send them any of the first dark ones—and I find that those first sent, the dark ones, are not fugitive to benzole.

I enclose one which I have operated upon.

Yours, &c., &c.,

J. P. Bacon, Esq. [Signed O. HILL.

(266)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
25 June, 1867.

MY DEAR SIR,

The ink of the two experimental blue impressions last sent to me appears to be sufficiently fugitive.

I presume, however, that you are scarcely able to speak as to its working qualities and as a trial of its fugitiveness must be made on rather a larger scale and more formally, I think you had better if you please have a dozen or twenty sheets printed with this ink, in the current or next warrant, and take steps for their coming specially into my hands. They had better be gummed in the ordinary manner.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

---

(267)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
26 July, 1867.

DEAR SIR,

I am afraid the blue ink, a specimen impression of which you sent me on 23rd inst, is quite a failure. It is scarcely moved or affected by any treatment with benzole.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

[The specimen referred to in this letter is now in the Royal Collection.]

---

(268)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
5th September, 1867.

MY DEAR SIR,

The Blue color submitted by you on the two sheets of Crown paper appears fairly fugitive. The tint, however, should be lighter. If you think well to print some impressions from the experimental plate in this color I will submit them to the Post Office authorities. Perhaps you could let me have impressions in ultramarine with a very *small* addition of Chinese Blue at the same time. I return the two sheets of crown paper.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

(269)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
17 Sept., 1867.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have tried the blue color specimens of which you sent me a few days ago, and I find that after careful drying the ink is scarcely fugitive at all.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

---

(270)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
13 Nov., 1867.

GENTLEMEN,

The Board has given permission for Messrs. Copestake, Moore & Crampton's name to be printed on the back of 1d. and 2d. Postage stamps on the same terms as have already been conceded to Messrs. Boyd & Messrs. Smith & Son.

I presume that Messrs. C. M. & C. have been in communication with you on the subject, and I have now to request that you will prepare with their name 200 sheets of 1d. stamps value £200 and 50 sheets of 2d. value £100.

I am, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO.

---

(271)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
8 Feb., 1868.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have at last got an answer from the Post Office to my unofficial enquiry concerning the two blue inks of which you last (on 29 Oct. 67), gave me specimens. The P. O. people consider both much too fast, *i.e.*, too permanent. They are, however, an improvement upon the old ink and one of them—the brightest—looks much better. Do you think there is any chance of your getting a suitable blue of more fugitive qualities? If not I will consider the experiments at an end and will report as much to the Board.

Would the brighter of the two inks to which I have been referring give you much more trouble in working than the present ink, or be otherwise objectionable? If not and in case of your failing to get a better ink I should be inclined to recommend the adoption of this one.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

---

(272)

69, FLEET STREET, E.C.;

Feby. 10, 1868.

DEAR SIR,

In reference to the more fugitive blue ink for Postage Stamps, I do not see my way to any better result than you are in possession of. With regard to the brightest of the two specimens last sent, it owed its qualities to the use of ultramarine, and we know by experience that it is more expensive than other color, and also that it greatly diminishes the duration of the plates, but we should not raise any difficulty on either of those heads, as the quantity of blue stamps is small, if you feel that it is likely to give reasonable satisfaction. We could not tell the increase of expense without an experiment on a larger scale than any we have yet tried, but as to the wear of the plates, I feel sure we should not get half as many good impressions from a plate as we do now.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

O. HILL, Esq.

[The original letter is now in the Royal Collection.]

---

(273)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

11 Feb., 1868.

DEAR SIR,

Could you make the 2d. Postage more fugitive in green or purple? I see you have printed colonial stamps in both these colors.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

(274)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
25 March, 1868.

DEAR SIR,

I am sorry that I cannot pass Plate No. 113: but the inaccuracy in it is greater than can be permitted.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

MR. FISHER.

---

(275)

69, FLEET STREET, E.C.;
April 2, 1868.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your favor of yesterday I beg to state that a receipt shall be sent to-morrow morning for the 6 reams of 2d. P.S. of which you complain, and we will endeavour to remove the fault referred to. At the same time you must allow me to say that we cannot admit our liability to the rejection of sheets which *do not adhere together* or in any other respect than as regards irregularity of shrinkage, prove to be improperly dried. We are at all times willing to do whatever we can to remove the difficulties of perforation, but we cannot control the weather, or dry the roke by artificial heat. We have used extra means lately to overcome the moisture of a damp atmosphere, but if we were to do more than that it would make the sheets brittle and cause them to crack objectionably. I have just received a message from you through Mr. Peacock urging me to take steps to prepare plates faster. But here again, I must urge that you are calling upon us to make bricks without straw. I quite admit that we are blameable in letting so many of the plates at press become worn without having a sufficient stock to replace them, but the fact is, I have left it to you to condemn plates (through your agents), and have exercised no supervision in the matter until I was surprised to discover incidentally that plates which I considered quite faulty were still at press. When, however, the fault is discovered, and we set to work to make new plates, they are condemned for such minute defects as to render it hopeless to endeavour to meet your wishes. The plate last rejected was the 24th part of an inch untrue when measured crossways, and I have no hope and certainly never contracted to make plates regularly that shall be nearer mathematical accuracy than that. If the irregularity is divided over the whole plate, *which I doubt*, it will amount to a deviation of a 480th of an inch in each row— an inappreciable quantity, while if as I believe, a local error, it would not affect the perforation of the one row enough to be noticed. The die itself is not exactly true and, therefore the error, as it affects perforation, is more apparent than real. If, however, we can obtain greater nicety, I am quite willing to do so, but I cannot see the reasonableness of the requirement, and it takes away all heart from the workmen to feel that they

are working with total uncertainty as to the value of their time and labour. Besides this, there is an actual waste of time between the completion of the transferring of a plate and the knowledge of its acceptance or rejection, as it is impossible now to risk further progress on a plate, until it is known to be accepted. We have every wish to get up a stock of plates speedily and we have no other work which induces a *wish* to cause delay, but the uncertainly is very detrimental to speed.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

O. HILL, Esq.

---

(276)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;

3 Apl., 1868.

DEAR SIR,

Thank you for sending for the six reams of 2d. I intended to have called on you to-day to have talked to you about the contents of your note but have been prevented. I will do so to-morrow if possible.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

J P. BACON, Esq.

---

(277)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;

3 April, 1868.

GENTLEMEN,

Plate No. 114 examined to-day is not quite correctly laid down ; but as the total inaccuracy does not exceed $\frac{1}{32}$ of an inch I will agree to accept it. A greater amount of inaccuracy could not be passed.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO.

(278)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

MY DEAR SIR, 23 April, 1868.

Another careful examination has been made of plate No. 113—the one which we declined to accept on account of want of accuracy. The result is that it appears not quite so much out of square as was believed and that we will accept it, expressing a hope at the same time that all future plates may be more accurate.

Yours, &c., &c.,

J. P. BACON, Esq. Signed] O. HILL.

---

(279)

LONDON,

69, FLEET STREET, E.C.;

SIR, Jany. 6th, 1870.

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date we beg to say that our charge for preparing and cutting original design, stereotyping the same, and preparing plate with "O U S" repeated 240 times, would be £5 os. od.

For printing 200 sheets of stamps or any less number 10/- For every 100 over that number ordered at the same time 5/-

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

Per J. H. Upham.

THOS. HARRIS, Esqre.

Oxford Union Society.

[97 sheets of 1d. stamps with the initials printed on the back were sent to the Society on January 30th, 1870, and 13 sheets (the balance of the order) followed on February 1st, 1870.]

---

(280)

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

MY DEAR SIR, 20 Apl., 1870.

I omitted to mention to you that the P. O. authorities would prefer a design for the ½d. stamp in which part of the head and ground should be cut away to leave a white tablet in which "½d" should appear as I have written it.

I do not mean that no other design would be received.

Yours, &c., &c.,

J. P. BACON, Esq. [Signed] O. HILL.

(281)

Stamping Department,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, W.C.;
21 Apl., 1870.

My Dear Sir,

If you really think it could be done in time I think it would be best for you [to] contemplate the engraving of a reduced head for the ½d. stamp and to have your designs prepared accordingly.

Hoping that my apparent changeableness will not have put you to inconvenience.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. Bacon, Esq.

---

(282)

Inland Revenue,
Somerset House,
London, W.C.;
29th April, 1870.

Immediate.

Gentlemen,

The Board have received a communication from the Postmaster General, stating that it is proposed to reduce the duty on the postage of Newspapers and on Inland Book and Sample Packets not exceeding 2oz. in weight to one half-penny, on the 1st October next, and requesting that steps may be taken by the Board for the preparation of adhesive stamps to denote the duty.

I have accordingly to invite you to forward to the Board a tender for the preparation and supply of the stamps required. The size of this stamp from top to bottom must not be more than two thirds of that of the penny postage stamp, the width remaining the same; and in essential particulars the stamp must be similar to the postage stamps which you now prepare, the Queen's head being the essential feature in it.

The color of the stamp, which must be fugitive, should be green, but it must not be dark, nor the ground so heavy as that of the penny stamp. It will be open to you to include the making of the paper or not in your Tender.

The paper must be as thin and soft as possible. It must be made under the same regulations as the paper now used for other adhesive stamps.

The sheets should contain 480 stamps each, so as to be of £1 value.

The paper must contain a watermark, a portion of which must appear on each stamp.

It is estimated that about four millions of the stamps will be required every week; and it is thought that a stock sufficient for twenty five weeks, viz., one hundred

millions should be supplied in the first instance, not later than the 24th September next.

I have to add that the tender in a sealed envelope endorsed "Tender for stamps" should be sent under a separate cover to the Board as early as possible, and not later than the 3rd of May next.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] T. SARGENT.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(283)

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.
30 Apl., 1870.

DEAR SIR,

I find the green ink you submitted to me very fairly fugitive.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

---

(284)

69, FLEET STREET;
May 2, 1870.

SIR,

In reply to the communication received from your Honble. Board with reference to the preparation of a Halfpenny Postage Stamp we beg to submit the following :—

1. We shall be happy to prepare such stamps engraved from either of the 10 designs enclosed herewith and printed in a light green ink which shall be fugitive, for the same price including all cost of plates, printing and double gumming, as we are now paid for the One Penny and Two Penny stamps, *i.e.*, four pence halfpenny per 1,000 stamps.

We are aware that these stamps are smaller than the One Penny and will be printed 480 on the sheet and that, therefore, it would seem reasonable to offer to prepare them at a lower rate, but we shall have all the first cost of engraving the plates and adapting our machinery and premises to the larger plates, the first cost of

the One Penny labels having been defrayed out of a higher price which was then paid us and moreover we find that the cost of a fugitive green ink will be considerably more than that of the colors we are now using.

Should neither of the designs now submitted prove exactly such as may be approved of we are ready to execute any other design which may be provided for us, compatible with our style of engraving and to defray the expense of its preparation. It must, however, be understood that if such new design should involve an unreasonable delay, we could not undertake to deliver as many as one hundred millions of the new stamps by the date specified, but we would do our utmost to provide as many as possible.

2. We shall be happy also to provide paper similar in substance and texture to that now used for the One Penny stamps, with an appropriate watermark for the sum of three halfpence per 1,000 labels, including the cost of moulds, or sixpence per 1,000 for the stamps complete paper inclusive.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

T. SARGENT, Esq.

---

( 285 )

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE,

LONDON, W.C. ;

3rd May, 1870.

GENTLEMEN,

I have laid before the Board of Inland Revenue your letter of the 2nd instant, stating the terms on which you are prepared to supply adhesive stamps to denote the duty of one-half-penny on the postage of Newspapers, &c., and to provide paper for the same.

I am directed to acquaint you that the Board have accepted your tender to supply such Stamps and paper in the manner therein mentioned for Six-pence per 1,000 stamps ; and instructions will be given to their Solicitor to prepare the necessary contract for your execution.

I have now to request that you will with the utmost possible despatch forward to the Board a finished design for this Stamp, the Queen's head to be similar to that in the 1d. postage labels—but reduced to proper size—and the words " Postage " and " One Halfpenny " to be at the side.

If you should require any further information on this subject I shall be glad to afford it if you will call upon me.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] T. SARGENT.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

(286)

69, Fleet Street, E.C. ;
May 5, 1870.

Dear Sir,

We shall shortly require a new Queen's head slightly reduced from that you formerly engraved—for a ½d. P. Stamp. Would you be willing to undertake this commission and to do it in a reasonable time ? If so will you commence with one at your early convenience.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] J. P. BACON.

F. Heath, Esq.

---

(287)

87, Sussex Road ;
May 7, 70.

Dear Sir,

According to promise just a line to say that I undertake the engraving of the Queen's Head to save you all further suspense in the matter, although I have not at present effected the arrangement I desire with regard to the Plate I have in hand. I expect to be in the City to-morrow eveng. with the reduction.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] FREDK. A. HEATH.

J. Bacon, Esq.

---

(288)

Stamping Department,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, W.C. ;

Dear Sir, 11 May, 1870.

Herewith I send you a strip of iron scratched to indicate what should be the cross measurements of the engraving of the halfpenny plates, and below I give a copy of the scratches with an explanation of their meaning.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. Bacon, Esq.

[On the other side of this letter is a diagram of the top row of twenty ½d. stamps as they were to be engraved on the plate with the space to be left between each stamp and below the diagram is written. "A twentieth part of the distance from the one arrow point to the other will be exactly the distance which the centre of one stamp should be from the centre of the next."]

(289)

Stamping Department,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, W.C.;
12 May, 1870.

My Dear Sir,

How soon do you think that you could let me have such a trial sheet of the halfpenny stamps as we spoke of? I mean a sheet of the proper paper made in regular work pulled upon a plate either partially engraved or with the boundary lines only marked upon it and afterwards double gummed.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. Bacon, Esq.

---

(290)

69, Fleet Street, E.C.:
May 13, 1870.

Dear Sir,

We have at last got our Drawing finally agreed upon and marked by one of the Commissioners. It is to be the reduced head in a circle of white, and we shall be able to send you the die ready for work to-morrow (Saturday) afternoon.

We think you will be able to make a more satisfactory engraving as it is now resolved on, than was at first arranged, but of course the reduction in size is a disadvantage. You will not be surprised when we say that time has become now more pressing than before, but we trust you will do your best.

We are, &c., &c.,
[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

F. Heath, Esq.,
87, Sussex Road,
Hornsey Road,
Holloway, N.

---

(291)

69, Fleet Street, E.C.;
May 24th, 1870.

Sir,

With reference to the color intended for the One Halfpenny stamps, we regret to say that the green ink which we had prepared for experiment at the time when we sent in the Estimate, which was accepted by your Honble. Board, and which was then fugitive has after the lapse of three or four weeks become fast, and we fear

lest any other color which we may manufacture may prove deceptive in a similar manner, as it will be necessary to commence printing the Stamps (owing to the large number required by Sept. 24th), before the lapse of a sufficient interval to shew the effect of time upon the color. Under these circumstances we do not know what to do. We will spare neither trouble or expense to obtain a green ink which shall be fugitive, but cannot guarantee its retaining that quality for want of time in which to test it.

We enclose prints from the 1½d. die in two other colors, which have been printed nearly three weeks, and which we consider sufficiently fugitive now, and which we have no reason to suppose would be effected by further time, in case it should be deemed desirable to abandon the green color in the present instance.

We are Sir, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

T. SARGENT, Esq.

---

( 292 )

24th May, 1870.

DEAR SIRS,

Please send me at once by Bearer, or if you prefer it by one of your own employés, the approved design for the halfpenny adhesive Newspaper Stamp. If you cannot send the original design you can perhaps send a copy of it. Mr. Sargent wishes to see it at once with reference to your representation as to the green colour not being fugitive and with reference to your letter of this morning.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] W. H. COUSINS,

Inland Revenue.

[MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.]

---

( 292a )

213, NEW NORTH ROAD;

May 25 70.

DEAR SIR,

I enclose you 3 impressions of Green, which I think are the best I have sent you, but not so perfect as I should like them. I have been trying many experiments, but have not been able as yet to succeed as I should have wished. These impressions have been printed 6 *Days*, waiting your answer.

I remain, &c., &c.,

[Signed] G ARNOLD.

To J. P. BACON, Esq.

(293)

87, Sussex Road;

Thursday 7.30 a.m.

[Letter endorsed May 26th, 1870.]

Dear Sir,

Herewith enclosed you will receive the little drawing you are in want of. I am sorry not to have been in the way when your messenger came yesterday. Engraving going on well, hope to show you something on Saturday or Monday next.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] FREDK. A. HEATH

J. Bacon, Esq

---

(294)

Inland Revenue

Warehouse;

27th May, 1870.

Sirs,

I enclose, at the request of Mr. Ormond Hill, a warrant for printing 5,000 sheets of 1½d. Postage Labels.

The paper will be sent as soon as your porter can call for it; but in the meantime if you wish to begin the work the paper you have on hand for One penny Stamps can be used.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] GEORGE EVETT.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.,

Fleet Street.

---

(295)

*Messrs. Perkins & Bacon,*

*Drs.*

*To Fredk. A. Heath.*

To engraving Half-penny Postage Stamp .. .. £36 15s. 0d.

Receipted and signed] FREDK. A. HEATH.

6/6/1870.

( 296 )

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;
23 Jan., 1871.

MY DEAR SIR,

The roller concerning the making of which I sent you a rather informal message by your Mr. Gill, and which I should be glad to have made is a 1d. and 2d. one, soft and unnumbered. For it appears that the roller we have here as a reserve bears heads of the old kind—2 letters only— and being not such a one as you would use in preparing fresh plates, should all at Fleet St. be destroyed, cannot be looked upon as a reserve. I do not press this because a roller could I know soon be made from the flat die which we have : but I should prefer to have such a soft roller in reserve if you do not object. If you consent and will let me know as much I will instruct Mr. Peacock to give out the die, &c.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

---

( 297 )

69, FLEET STREET, E.C. ;
Jany. 24th, 1871.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your favor of yesterday's date we shall be happy to prepare such a roller as you suggest for 1d. and 2d. P. S. [a few further words cannot be deciphered.]

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] J. P. BACON.

O. HILL, Esq.

---

( 298 )

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;
1 Feb., 1871.

DEAR SIRS,

The Board are desirous of having for the supply of the Postmaster-General six proofs in black and six in the proper colors from each the ½d. Postage die, the 1d., the 1½d. and the 2d. I shall feel much obliged if you will have these taken ; and I

shall be glad if you will at the same time take a similar number of each for me to keep and a few from each die in two or three other colors.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

P.S.—I give instructions to the officer to give out the dies for this purpose.

[Signed] O. H.

---

(299)

LONDON,

69, FLEET STREET, E.C.;

Febry. 5th, 1872.

SIR,

At the Annual International Exhibition, to be held during the current year at South Kensington, we propose to exhibit specimens of our work, and among other things we wish to forward for inspection some of the Postage Stamps now in use. We desire to send a sheet each of ½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2d. printed in their respective colors. We also desire to send a sheet (printed in black) from Postage Plate No. 36, which is now at Somerset House, among the reserve plates, which plate has printed over a million sheets, and is still in fair condition, and which we consider a great curiosity on that account. We should prefer to print the whole of these impressions on what is called "proof paper" and not on the regular watermarked paper, unless there is any strong objection to that course.

Our object in writing now is to ask the permission of the Honble. Commissioners of Inland Revenue to the printing of the necessary impressions under the supervision of their Officer, and the exhibiting of the 5 sheets above mentioned during such time as the Exhibition may remain open.

We are, &c., &c.,

W. LOMAS, Esq.
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House.

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

---

(300)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE,

LONDON, W.C.;

15th February, 1872.

GENTLEMEN,

Having submitted to the Board of Inland Revenue your letter of the 5th instant, I am directed to acquaint you that they will not object to your obtaining a

sheet each of the ½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2d. postage labels, printed on proof paper in their respective colours and also a sheet printed in black from postage plate No. 36 for exhibition at the Annual International Exhibition at South Kensington.

I am to add that the proofs should be returned at the close of the Exhibition, and that if any be not returned, or accounted for, to the satisfaction of the Board, the amount of the duty thereon must be paid.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] WM. LOMAS.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co

---

(301)

69, FLEET STREET;

16 February, 1872.

DEAR SIR,

Having now received the Board's order for the printing of the Specimen sheet of Stamps for the An. Inter. Exhibition, I shall be much obliged by your delivery to the Bearer, Mr. David Gill, Reserve Plate *No.* 27, and giving the necessary instructions to Mr. Peacock to allow of the printing of the Plate. Our application was for No. 36 Plate, but on examination I find that rather less than a million impressions were taken from that plate, but that No. 27 had printed more than that number. I suppose there will be no objection to the substitution of one No. for the other.

I am, &c., &c.,

(Signed] J. P. BACON.

O HILL, Esq.

---

(302)

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

17 Feb., 1872.

MY DEAR SIR,

Can you tell me why the 1½d. stamps are printed in a color so different from the mauve tint originally selected and whether there would be any difficulty in reverting to the original color if it were desired.

The present color seems much too near to that of the 1d. stamps.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON. Esq.

(303)

69, Fleet Street, E.C. ;

Oct. 31st, 1872.

Sir,

On the 5th of Febry. last we requested permission to print on proof paper and to exhibit at the International Exhibition 4 sheets of Postage Stamps of different values printed in their respective colors and a sheet of One penny Postage Stamps printed in Black from a plate which had been withdrawn from use after having printed more than a million sheets of Postage Stamps.

Our request was kindly granted and we have now returned to the Foreman of the Postage Stamp Department for the purpose of delivery in the usual manner the whole of the sheets with the exception of that printed in Black, which we should be very glad to keep permanently, if permitted to do so by your Honble. Board. As it is printed in black, and on proof paper, it could not be used to the injury of the Revenue, and it is so great a curiosity as to be well worthy of preservation. We should be willing to pay the value of a sheet of One Penny Stamps if it should be thought necessary.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

W. Lomas, Esq.

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House.

---

(304)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House,

London, W.C. ;

Gentlemen, 12th November, 1872.

I am directed to acquaint you that the Board have been pleased to grant the request contained in your letter of the 31st ultimo, that you should be allowed to retain the sheet of One Penny Postage Stamps printed in black which you were permitted to obtain for the purpose of being exhibited at the International Exhibition at South Kensington, from a plate which had been withdrawn from use.

The value of a sheet of One Penny Postage Stamps should be paid, in order to balance the accounts of the Storekeeper-General.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] FRED. B. GARNETT,

Asst. Secretary.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

[Written up the side of the letter is "Recd. Novr. 13, 1872. £1 ,, — ,, — W. Rea. pro. Rev. Genl."].

(305)

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
11th Oct., 1873.

GENTLEMEN,

Please to prepare Postage Stamps, as stated below, with the initials G.E.R printed at the back for the "Great Eastern Railway Company."

| Sheets | Duty | Total duty |
|---|---|---|
| 100 | 1d. | £100 |

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] GEO. B. ROBERTSON.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

---

(306)

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
19 Feb., 1875.

Enclosure.

DEAR SIR,

May I trouble you to make a slight alteration in the pinning marks upon one of the 1d. Post. Plates, in order to enable me to decide a question which has been raised in connection with perforation. What I want is this—that the pinning crosses of one of the plates at work should be cut considerably bolder, say as boldly as the sketch enclosed. When the engraving is deepened I shall be glad if you will have the sheets printed from the plate kept together and sent in, say a ream or more at a time, with a reminder of the fact that they are from this special plate. I shall then be able to decide almost immediately as to whether I shall ask you to be good enough to deepen the pinning marks of the other plates or not.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

[The enclosure sent is still with the letter. It consists of a sheet of paper with a cross in red ink, the lines of which are broader than those cut on the top and bottom margins of the plates up to this date.]

(307)

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

3 Aug., 1876.

GENTLEMEN,

The double pinning mark is not observable at one end of the sheets of ½d. Postage labels recently received. I shall be obliged if you will instruct your printers to take more care in inking the plates.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] GEO. B. ROBERTSON.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(308)

LONDON,

69, FLEET STREET, E.C.;

May 4th, 1877.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your enquiry as to the terms of existing contracts between the Commrs. of Inland Revenue and our firm we beg to state:

The contract for *One Penny & Two Penny Labels* was for a term of Ten years from the 5th of July, 1861. "and for so long after as the Commrs. of Inland Revenue for the time being shall require the delivery of any such stamps, or until the same shall after the expiration of the said term of Ten years be determined by the said firm upon Six months notice thereof in writing to be given by them to the said Commrs." The stamps for *Three halfpence* have been printed by mutual agreement on the same terms.

The contract for *Halfpenny* stamps bears date the 18th of May, 1870, and provides without fixing any period of continuance "that it shall be competent after the expiration of Twelve months from the date hereof, for either party hereto to give Twelve months notice to determine this contract."

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

W. H. COUSINS, Esqre.,

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House.

(309)

*Extract from a letter of Perkins, Bacon & Co., of April 8th, 1878, to F. B. Garnett, Esq., Secretary Inland Revenue, Somerset House.*

"When our premises were rebuilt after the fire in 1857, the Printing Room approved by your officer had accommodation for 31 Presses, of which number only 18 were used up to 1860, the increase being at the average rate of one Press a year until Nov., 1862, when there were 22 at work. It was not until 1870 that 30 Presses were required. In 1865 more space being needed for gumming, an addition of 2 stories was made to a portion of our premises at a cost of £560. In 1870 we had exhausted the room provided for printing in 1857, and with the concurrence of Mr. O. Hill, we erected a new wing at an expense of £2,300 (including the cost of an injunction in Chancery obtained against us by a Chimney Sweep who complained that we obstructed his light by the height of our new buildings). This alteration provided space for 7 more printing presses."

[The letter from which this extract is taken contained a number of suggestions for providing increased accommodation for the printing of the stamps.]

---

(310)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

May 6, 1878.

GENTLEMEN,

I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to enclose for your information an extract from a Report of the Controller of the Circulation Department of the General Post Office which has been forwarded to them by the Postmaster-General respecting the ink in which the halfpenny, penny, three-halfpenny and twopenny postage stamps are printed, which it is stated admits of the obliterating marks of the Post Office Stamp being removed without removing the ground color of the stamp, so as to enable it to be used a second time.

The Board having caused experiments to be made in their Laboratory with a view to test the accuracy of this representation, have satisfied themselves that the facts are as has been reported to the Postmaster-General.

To remedy this defect the Postmaster-General has expressed the desire to have stamps provided to represent these duties of the same description as those provided by Messrs. De La Rue to denote the higher postal duties which are printed in inks of a highly fugitive character, and the Board desire, therefore, to know whether you can supply stamps of this description to denote the several duties in question and, if so, at what price.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] A. A. WATTS,

Asst. Secretary.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

[Enclosure.] Copy.

It has long been rumoured that the obliterating marks can be taken out of Postage Stamps, and recently I have seen various experiments and have experimented myself on different stamps and am able therefore, to say that by the use of a certain fluid, which it is not desirable to mention, the obliteration can be perfectly removed with very little trouble.

In the case of the halfpenny, penny, three halfpenny and twopenny stamps, this can be done without leaving any marks of the operation behind. With all other stamps this is not so, indeed the same fluid that removes the obliterating ink destroys the ground colours of the other stamps as well.

The reason of this is that the former named stamps are printed in fast colours while the latter are printed in fugitive colours. Having tested this matter I am not prepared to say that frauds on the Revenue by these means are but few, because the process is so simple, and the removal of the obliteration so effectual that stamps so treated would pass unnoticed to almost any extent. This, however, for the reason before stated, is only true of the halfpenny, penny, three halfpenny and twopenny stamps.

This being so, I think no time should be lost in applying a remedy, and this will be found in having the stamps of low values made precisely in the same way as those of higher value, both as regards the mode of manufacture and the printing in fugitive colours.

---

(311)

69, Fleet Street;

May, 1878.

Sir,

We beg to acknowledge receipt of letter from the Honble. Commrs. of Inland Revenue under date 6th inst. covering extract from a report of the Controller of the Circulation Department of the General Post Office, to the effect that the Postage Stamps prepared by our firm are not printed in fugitive ink and that, therefore, the Postmaster-General wishes to have stamps of such denominations as have hitherto been supplied by our firm from Steel Plates (*i.e.* those of ½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2d.), of the same description as those provided by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., to denote the higher postal duties and enquiring if we can supply such stamps and if so at what price.

In reply to the enquiry of your Honble. Board we beg to state that we shall be happy to quote a price for Stamps prepared in the manner desired, but before doing so we ask permission very respectfully to urge reasons why if we remedy the defect complained of, it is not desirable to change from the system hitherto used which is "intaglio printing," or line-engraving to "surface-printing."

We believe we may confidently appeal to the general opinion of artists when we say that other things being equal line-engraving "as a style" is superior to surface-printing; the reason being that in the latter style the top or surface of the design has to be covered with ink in order to produce the impression and, therefore, the lines must be further apart and coarser than in line-engraving, as otherwise they will become clogged and a confused impression will be produced. In line-engraving on the other

hand the lines are filled with colour and the surface wiped clean, and a clean impression of the design is transferred to the paper, however fine the work. We are not therefore, we trust open to any charge of unduly attempting to disparage the work of another firm if, when asked to prepare stamps similar to those printed by Messrs. De La Rue we submit that the Queen's head of our present stamp is very decidedly superior to that of the higher denominations.

In these latter the lines are necessarily further apart and there is a want of softness and ease so to speak plainly visible in whatever colour, but best seen in a proof impression such as we enclose of our own Head.

There is much more security against forgery by copying the engraving in our system than in the other. In the first place, as regards the Head, the finer the work of art the greater the skill required to produce a colourable imitation. In point of fact the Artist who engraved our Queen's Head having recently died we do not know at the moment to whom we should apply if we needed a similar one. But in the next place the Head is only one part of our design.

In the stamps of higher denominations prepared by Messrs. De La Rue the background is simply what is called " dry point " or ordinary ruling and requires no skill but only an even hand to produce smooth surface, whereas the background of our 1d. and ½d. stamps is produced by a very costly machine which would be inaccessible to a forger, and the lines which are very numerous and fine, cross each other at regular intervals, as will be very clearly seen in the proof specimen. Our opinion is that there is more security in this kind of machine work engraved by a proper machine (and not by a mere ordinary rose-engine machine) than even in the elaborate head though of course the combination of the two is very important.

We hope we may be excused if we remind the Honble. Commrs. that when the 1d. stamps were first introduced our firm did not send in a design in competition for the work, but after 1,000 plans and drawings had been submitted by other parties, none of which was deemed wholly suitable, we were requested to prepare a sketch which was finally adopted, the basis being the best line-engraving of her Majesty's Head which could be produced combined with a background of elaborate engine-turned work.

Another though subordinate objection to the surface-printing system is the uncertainty in producing clear impressions which arises from the tendency of the lines to become clogged with ink. As doubtless the impressions delivered are good, a large number must be destroyed in manufacture as inferior and hence the cost of production which we have always understood to be greater than ours, is much increased. In leaving this part of the subject, we may be allowed to mention one consideration which in our judgment adds greatly to the importance of making the stamps of lower values as secure from forgery as possible. Not only are fewer stamps of the higher values used but the facility of using them if fraudulently prepared is greatly diminished. Any person will take a few 1d. Postage Stamps in ordinary business transactions, but few people will receive as a matter of course such values as 3d., 6d. or 1s. From long experience as Bank Note Engravers we have always found that it was necessary to give the greatest protection to notes of small value because of the facility with which they pass from hand to hand and the comparative ignorance of those who use each kind.

But the question will be asked whether we can produce the fugitiveness in which our stamps have hitherto been deficient and in other ways meet the requirements of

the Post Office. We find that our attention has hitherto been turned in a wrong direction in seeking to make our ink fugitive and we believe we have found the means of giving the quality required. As, however, it takes some weeks to test the question fairly we are not yet in a position to submit specimens. We are informed that there are other difficulties experienced at the Post Office in handling our Stamps to which our attention must also be directed. The ink of the 1d. Stamp when fresh comes off on the hands of those who count them. The colors are so dark as to render the impression of the date stamp indistinct if it should be used as an obliterating mark. The surface of our Stamps is not smooth and glossy as those for the higher values are. As to all these we have hitherto been under the impression that we were confined to the exact tints settled on for the present stamps, and this has prevented our seeking to improve on some particulars. Now that we understand that we may vary the tint, provided we do not propose colors already in use, we believe we can remove, or at all events greatly reduce all these defects. There is one other point to which reference has been made, *i.e.*, the thickness and clumsiness of the sheets owing to the large quantity of gum employed. This can be altered at once if the Honble. Commrs. so direct by the discontinuance of the practice of double gumming, which was ordered at the close of the year 1865, and for which we have been paid an extra sum of ½d. per 1,000 Stamps ever since. We ourselves did not consider that extra coat of gum necessary, but it was at the time *resolved* upon by the Post Office Authorities, not because the quality of the gum was objected to but in order to secure so much adhesive matter that parties with rough tongues might not be able to remove it wholly. For this purpose we believe it has proved a success and doubtless if discontinued some complaints will arise from those who have been accustomed to an excess of gum, but we are convinced that the stamps would adhere sufficiently without it.

We now leave the matter in the hands of your Honble. Board, respectfully requesting that the above suggestions may be considered, and that time be allowed us to make and test a series of experiments with the view of carrying out the changes proposed before considering further the question of a change of system from line-engraving to surface-printing.

We beg, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

THE SECRETARY,

Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

---

(312)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

May 29, 1878.

GENTLEMEN,

I have laid before the Board of Inland Revenue your letter in reply to their communication respecting the defects in the Postage Stamps supplied by your firm, and I am to state that the Board will of course be prepared to allow a reasonable time for making experiments with a view to the proposed changes.

With regard to your remarks as to the relative merits of line-engraving and surface-printing the Board are ready to admit the superiority of the former process *per se*. They must, however, draw your attention to the practical effects of the two processes when applied to the manufacture of Stamps, as shewn in the coarse blurred appearance of the Penny Postage Stamp, compared with the clear clean printing of the Inland Revenue Stamp of the same value.

The *specimen* furnished by you, as carefully printed on proof paper, exhibits, no doubt, a good effect, but the question is whether the same effect can be produced in your ordinary issues. Such is certainly not now the case as regards the inconveniences complained of by the Post Office, and which you propose to obviate by a variation of the tint, the Board are not aware of any objection to the tint being varied; but they will communicate with the Post Office on the subject.

With respect to the thickness of the sheets stated to be caused by the double gumming, I am to observe that the penny Inland Revenue Stamps adhere perfectly, though the gum is very thin, and they wish to know whether the process used for those stamps could not be adopted by you.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] FRED. B. GARNETT,

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. Secretary.

---

(313)

69, Fleet Street;

Dear Sir, 14 June, 1878.

I have herewith the pleasure to forward you specimen sheet of ½d., 1d. and 2d. Postage Stamps, printed in the colors which we propose for adoption. They are fugitive, and much lighter in tone, as also in my opinion, prettier colors than those now in use. They will not rub off I believe in handling as the color of the 1d. Stamps does, but I fear they will not bear rolling, as the ingredient in the ink which renders the color fugitive, keeps it moist and prevents the pressure of the rolls from being applied without injury. These sheets were printed last Saturday, June 8th, but other prints in the same color taken a month ago retain their fugitive character.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

W. H. Cousins, Esq.

---

(314)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House, W.C.;

June 15, 1878.

Gentlemen,

Referring to your letter of the 3rd instant, and previous correspondence, I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to acquaint you that they understand

that the Postmaster-General considers that the colour of the halfpenny, penny, three halfpenny and twopenny Postage Stamps should be changed to a lighter and better character of colour.

I am accordingly to request that you will prepare and forward to this office some specimens of colours from which a selection may be made.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] A. A. WATTS.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

We have been unsuccessful in finding a copy of the letter of June 3rd, to which reference is made.]

---

(315)

CONTROLLER OF STAMPS & STORES DEPT. ;

DEAR SIRS, 18 June, 1878.

In returning herewith the specimen sheets of ½d. 1d. and 2d. stamps which you sent me on the 14th instant, I should point out to you that all three specimens retain one of the defects complained of by the Post Office, vizt., that the color comes off on handling the sheets. This defect, however, I suppose might to some extent be remedied by rolling, which I am inclined to think will be considered by the Post Office as a sine quâ non, since it would, I presume, give to the stamps that glossy and enamelled appearance possessed by the higher rates of stamps.

When you have subjected the sheets to the rolling process you should transmit them direct to the Secretary with a covering letter giving any observations you may have to offer.

In regard to the Board's letter to you of the 15th instant, which you showed me yesterday, you will perceive that the concluding paragraph requires specimens of colors to be submitted for selection. Therefore in addition to those now returned, you will have to submit each rate of postage stamps in two if not three colors.

I should add that I am rather doubtful whether these specimens will be stable under water.

The specimens of gumming have all been sent to the Post Office for their opinion

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] W. H. COUSINS.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(316)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;

GENTLEMEN, July 11, 1878.

I am directed by the Board to call your attention to the letter to you of the 15th ultimo, in reference to a change of colour in the halfpenny, penny, three half-

penny and twopenny Postage Stamps, and to request that you will without delay transmit to me the specimens to be forwarded to the Post Office, as the Officers of that Department are anxious that this matter should no longer be delayed.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] FRED. B. GARNETT.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

---

(317)

69, FLEET STREET;

13th July, 1878.

SIR,

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 11st inst., and in reply to state that as our Postage Stamp Department is closed for our Annual Holiday until Tuesday next, we are unable to forward such specimens of new colors as we have prepared until after that date.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & CO.

F. B. GARNETT, Esq.,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House.

---

(318)

69, FLEET STREET;

July 16, 1878.

SIR,

Herewith we have the honor to forward Specimen sheets of the colors we propose for the Postage Stamps prepared by us. We think they will be found to contain the qualities of fugitiveness to the action of benzole and lightness of shade sufficient to exhibit a clear impression of the obliterating stamp. We regret, however, to state that we have not up to the present time succeeded in producing a color which possesses the quality of fastness so as not to rub off and to bear rolling. The fact is that the quality in the ink which renders it fugitive to benzole keeps it moist and prevents its bearing pressure. We have tried many experiments in order to secure the additional quality desired, but hitherto without effect, except by the employment of a process which would add ½d. a sheet to the cost of the stamps and this we judge to be a prohibitory price.

We are still making further trials, but they are necessarily tedious, as we have to wait some days between each set of experiments to see if they become firm enough, and as we are asked to furnish our specimens of colors without delay we forward the present result of our labours. We have as we suppose furnished the qualities desired by the Post Office Authorities in all but this one, and should we be unable to overcome this difficulty we hope it will not be considered necessary to abandon the greater

security from forgery of line-engraving for surface-printing in order to meet the objection to the rubbing of the color which is only perceived when the stamps are handled in very large quantities. We have offered specimens of gum which, while being perfectly adhesive are much thinner, whiter and smoother than the present gum and which we believe are not liable to crack and become brittle. We also offer colors which are decidedly fugitive and much lighter in body and shade than the existing stamp and are at the same time much more attractive looking colours. We feel persuaded that we shall be able eventually at least to obviate the tendency to rub in the present specimens, if more time be allowed us, in fact we have obtained better results since this letter was drafted, but there has not been time to test them sufficiently.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & CO.

THE SECRETARY,

Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

---

(319)

69, FLEET STREET;

July 31, 1878.

SIR,

With reference to our letter of 16th inst., enclosing specimens of colors proposed for Postage Stamps, we have now the honor to forward a sheet each of 1d. and 2d. labels printed in the same colors as the previous specimens, but with an ingredient added which sets the colors so far that they will not rub off on a *dry* hand. We are unable to discover any means combining fugitiveness with sufficient fixity of color to bear rolling, except the expensive process referred to in our former letter.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & CO.

THE SECRETARY,

Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

Enclosures: One sheet 1d. P.S.
one ,, 2d. do.

---

(320)

69, FLEET STREET;

August 7, 1878.

SIR,

Referring once more to our letter of the 16th ult., we are now enabled to furnish for your inspection and approval specimen sheets of Postage Stamps which have been rolled and which do not involve any large extra expense.

The sheets were only printed yesterday and are not therefore as hard as they would become in a few days, so far as handling is concerned, but they would be improved and not injured by age.

We enclose sheets of the ½d., 1d. and 2d. Stamps in the colors which we suggest for use, and also a sheet of 1d. P.S. of the full strength of the color, which is much more brilliant, but which we imagine is too strong to shew the obliterating stamp well. We could print in either color or any shade between the two.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & CO.

THE SECRETARY,
Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

Enclosures: One sheet ½d. P.S.
two sheets 1d. do.
one sheet 2d. do.

---

(321)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
November 2, 1878.

GENTLEMEN,

The Board, having transmitted for the consideration of the Postmaster General the specimen sheets in new colors of halfpeuny, penny, and twopenny Postage Stamps submitted by you in July and August last, as possessing the qualities desiderated by the Postal authorities, have now received a communication from the Post Office requesting that his Lordship may be informed whether it is to be understood that those specimens are to be considered in all respects the best which your firm can produce.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] FRED B. GARNETT,
Secretary.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(322)

69, FLEET STREET;
Nov. 8, 1878.

SIR,

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your favor of 2nd inst, conveying the enquiry of the Postmaster General "Whether it is to be understood that our Specimens are to be considered in all respects the best which our firm can produce."

Before replying to the question itself we beg to state that since the delivery of our Specimens in August last we had reason to suspect that the color which we had

submitted contained arsenic in sufficient quantities to be dangerous. We therefore had a careful analysis made and finding that the color was not safe to use, we procured other specimens of the same kind of color and now submit three shades of different degrees of strength, all of which are free from arsenic. They shew a somewhat brighter color and are quite as fugitive as the others.

As to the general question we are somewhat at a loss to reply to it. Our attention was called to various objections to the Postage Stamps hitherto prepared by us, and we have endeavoured, and we believe successfully to meet them.

We have sent in specimens of gum which are thinner, whiter, less liable to crack, and at the same time sufficiently adhesive for all practical purposes. We have produced printed sheets the color of which is fugitive, is lighter in tint, is brighter in color than the present stamps and which does not rub off on the hand, and will bear rolling, as we shew by the sheets themselves which have been submitted to that process. To judge fairly of the general effect of the whole, however, we ought properly to have time and authority to print 500 or 1,000 sheets in the regular way and have them gummed with the mixture which should be approved of. The stamps would then look complete, whereas ungummed sheets and plain gummed paper, or sheets of the old stamps gummed with the new gum give an unfair appearance.

The question of his Lordship may apply to color. We have endeavoured to secure colors which, while generally resembling the colors at present in use and differing from the colors used for the stamps of other denominations should secure the requisite qualities in other respects ; and having as we believed secured such colors, our endeavour has been to perfect them as to fugitiveness and capability of bearing the pressure of rolling. If, however, the object be to obtain a different and *lighter* color, we may be able to do so, if sufficient time be allowed for a series of experiments which are necessarily tedious.

On the other hand, the question may mean whether we can produce from steel plates a different kind of stamp, which shall combine the highest style of line-engraving for the Head with our intricate geometrical lathe work (on which we place great reliance as protection against forgery) for the background and which shall yet shew *more white* and produce a lighter effect. We should be happy to do this and enclose six specimens of stamps which we have produced for the Colonies as giving a general idea.

Any design which admitted of being brought within the space allowed, we should be happy to reproduce, but we do not know whether we have met the particular point in his Lordship's enquiry. If we have not done so we shall be happy to do it, upon learning his wishes.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

THE SECRETARY,

Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

Enclosures : Six specimens of Colonial Postage Stamps.
and three sheets of 1d. stamps.

(323)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

GENTLEMEN, December 23, 1878.

Referring to the correspondence which has passed in regard to an improvement in the Postage Stamps manufactured by you, I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to acquaint you that the several specimens forwarded by you are not satisfactory to the Post Office Authorities.

The Board have had therefore no alternative but to order notices to be served upon you determining the present arrangements, and those notices I accordingly herewith enclose.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] F. L. ROBINSON.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO. Assistant Secretary.

Enclosures.]

(1)

TO MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

GENTLEMEN, 69, FLEET STREET, E.C.

We, The Commissioners of Inland Revenue do hereby give you notice of our intention to determine all arrangements agreements or contracts now subsisting between your Firm and ourselves on behalf of Her Majesty for or relating to the manufacture or supply of postage stamps (other than the supply of postage stamps of the value of one halfpenny each), at the expiration of six calendar months from the service on you of this notice.

Dated this twenty-third day of December one thousand eight hundred and seventy eight.

[Signed] C. J. HERRIES.
,, ALGERNON WEST.
FRED. B. GARNETT, ,, A. MONTGOMERY.
Secretary to the said Commissioners.

(2)

TO MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

GENTLEMEN, 69, FLEET STREET, E.C.

We, The Commissioners of Inland Revenue do hereby give you notice of our intention to determine the Contract made on the 18th day of May, 1870, between your Firm and ourselves on behalf of Her Majesty for the manufacture and supply of postage stamps of the value of one halfpenny each and for the supply of the paper to be used in such manufacture at the expiration of twelve calendar months from the service on you of this notice.

Dated this twenty-third day of December one thousand eight hundred and seventy eight.

Signed C. J. HERRIES.
,, ALGERNON WEST.
FRED. B. GARNETT, ,, A. MONTGOMERY.
Secretary to the said Commissioners.

(324)

69, FLEET STREET;

HONABLE. SIRS, Dec. 30, 1878.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letters of the 23rd inst., giving notice of your intention to terminate the contracts for the preparation of the Postage Stamps hitherto manufactured by our firm at the dates named. We need not express our great regret at the receipt of these notices after so long a period of service which we had thought until a recent date had been satisfactorily rendered. As no indication is given as to the nature of the objections entertained by the Postmaster-General we are of course unable to endeavour to remove them, but we take the opportunity of this letter to enclose specimens of other colors which we have recently discovered which are fugitive and free from poisonous ingredients. As, however, our Specimens of stamps in line-engraving in fugitive colors are not satisfactory to the Post Office Authorities we will now prepare specimens of surface-printed stamps as directed by the Honable. Commrs. on 6th May last, and trust we shall not be considered obtrusive if we submit them for consideration at the earliest period.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

TO THE HONABLE. COMMRS., Inland Revenue.

4 Enclosures: 1 Pink stamp.
1 Green ,,
1 Blue ,,
1 Yellow ,,

---

(324a)

69, FLEET STREET:

DEAR SIR, Feb. 6, 1879.

I have pleasure in enclosing P.O. order for 25 - in discharge of $a/c$ enclosed, and thank you for the accommodation.

I have at last succeeded in getting a steel Queen's Head cut. M. Joubert was in Paris and several others failed me, but at last Mr. Ridgway, of Acton, has undertaken it, and his proof shews that he will succeed.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

C. H. JEENS, Esq.

You do not say how you are. I hope you are better.

---

(325)

69, FLEET STREET;

HONBLE. SIRS, Feb. 15, 1879.

Referring to the letter of your Honble. Board, dated 6th May, 1878, asking if we could furnish "Surface-Printed Postage Stamps," and to our letter of Dec. 30, 1878 (written after the receipt of notices to terminate contracts), in which we stated

our intention to prepare such designs, we now beg to submit Specimens of stamps in several forms, together with one or two Heads, *all cut in relief*, and shewing different colors which when printed for use would be fugitive for the purposes intended.

We have not felt at liberty to imitate the Queen's Head at present in use, and we have not had sufficient time to unite the general design with the Head on one die, and consequently the effect produced is rather that of Drawings than of finished stamps (though each of the parts is actually printed), but we trust that we shew enough to prove that we are able to produce the stamps in this class of work, if allowed to do so. We should be happy to supply such stamps as might be approved for about the same price as we are now receiving for the 1d. Postage Stamps.

We take the opportunity at the same time to submit some specimens of stamps on the "Copper Plate System" prepared on lighter machine-grounds and with different general designs, on the chance of their being preferred to the Surface-printed style. They do not fairly represent the work of the Queen's Head, as they are cut out from other stamps and are pasted upon the Drawings, but if any of these were adopted the Head would of course be made to look uniform with the rest of the stamp.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

To The Honble. Commrs.,
Inland Revenue.

---

(326)

69, Fleet Street;
April 4, 1879.

Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of letter of yesterday's date, enquiring whether we are willing to tender for the future preparation of the 1d. Postage Stamps by Surface-printing. In reply we beg to state that we desire to send in a tender, but having learned the particulars attaching to the competition from Mr. Cousins we find that the date fixed for delivery of tenders is 1st May, which is less than a month from this date.

As so short a time is too little for the engraving of a die, it would place us and all other competitors at a disadvantage with Messrs. De La Rue, as these gentlemen need only to adopt one of their existing Queen's Heads to a new general design, to be ready at once, whereas we should have to engrave an entirely new Stamp in order to shew anything good enough for the purpose. We therefore respectfully submit that at least a fortnight longer should be allowed for the completion of the designs.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

Signed PERKINS, BACON & Co.

F. B. Garnett, Esq.

[We have been unable to find the letter of April 3rd, to which this is a reply.]

(327)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;
May 8, 1879.

GENTLEMEN,

Referring to the intimation which has been personally made to you by the controller of stamps and stores that supplies of Penny Postage stamps of the present kind will be required, certainly until the 30th September next, and to the verbal reply of Mr. Bacon, that you would continue to furnish them, I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to acquaint you that they have now decided that any new postage stamps shall not come into use until the end of the year, consequently they will be glad if you will continue to furnish the present stamps up to the 31st December next. A change in the 1½d. and 2d. postage stamps is not immediately contemplated, so that they will continue to be required even after the expiration of the present year.

I am, &c., &c.,
[Signed] H. J. PRENDERGAST,
pro. Secretary.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(328)

69, FLEET STREET;
May 9, 1879.

SIR,

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 8th inst., and in reply thereto we beg to say that we shall be happy to continue to supply the stamps until the end of the year, as therein requested.

We are, &c., &c.,
[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & CO.

THE SECRETARY,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House.

---

(329)

69, FLEET STREET;
May 17, 1879.

HONBLE. SIRS,

In reply to your favor of the 3rd ult., inviting us to tender for printing 1d. Postage Stamps prepared by Surface-printing which shall be fugitive to the hydrocarbons and not solvent in water.

We have now the honor to enclose herewith 2 specimens in each of 4 colors, printed from a trial plate and gummed (on paper furnished to us at Somerset House), and 2 other prints of the same colors, as Specimens of color only.

We also enclose impressions in 4 colors of a new Queen's Head with 6 different surrounding devices and a gummed sheet printed in pink and shewing all 6 designs, placed one above the other.

The printing and rolling of the large specimens are not as perfect as we could wish, the work being new to us, but we feel quite prepared to undertake the delivery of such stamps as shall be approved by your Honable. Board if our Tender should be accepted.

We should be prepared to furnish such quantities of these stamps or such modifications of them as may be mutually arranged, for the sum of Twopence half-penny (2½d.) per 1,000 labels.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

To THE HONBLE. COMMRS.,
Inland Revenue.

---

(330)

June 4, 1879.

1d. Red.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Drop Rose Pink | .. .. | 96 lbs |
| Pale Vermilion | .. .. | 30 ,, |
| Orange Red | .. .. | 20 ,, |
| Mucilage | .. .. | 54 ,, |
| | | 200 ,, = 1 cwt. 3 qr. 4 lbs |

½d. Pink.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rose Pink | .. .. | 112 lbs |
| Flake White | .. .. | 56 ,, |
| Drop Rose Lake | .. .. | 6 ,, |
| Mucilage | .. .. | 56 ,, |
| | | 230 ,, = 2 cwt. 0 qr. 6 lbs |

2d. Blue.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Chinese blue | .. .. | 4½ lbs |
| Prussiate of Potash | .. .. | 1 ,, |
| Flake White | .. .. | 48 ,, |
| Whiting | .. .. | 8 ,, |
| Mucilage | .. .. | 8 ,, |
| | | 69½ ,, = 2 qr. 13½ lbs |

Mucilage.

8 gallons of slightly burnt linseed oil. Melt in this 1½ lbs. of Bees Wax, and 4 lbs. of soft soap. Add 2 quarts of Turpentine (spt) 2 or 2½ gallons of this is sufficient to thin and mix ½ cwt. of the stamp color.

(331)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

GENTLEMEN, June 27, 1879.

With reference to the Tender for supply of Surface-printed Penny Postage Stamps submitted by your firm on the 17th ultimo, I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to acquaint you that the specimens furnished by you, and by the several other firms from whom Tenders had been invited, were subjected to careful examination by the practical and Chemical Officers of this Department, whose reports have been fully and carefully considered by the Board, and have likewise been submitted to the Postmaster-General for his opinion, before any conclusion was come to on the subject.

The decision which has been arrived at is that the Tender of Messrs. T. De La Rue & Co. on this occasion is that which, while fulfilling all the conditions of the proposed contract, affords the best security to the Revenue.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] FRED. B. GARNETT.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(332)

INLAND REVENUE,

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

GENTLEMEN, June 27, 1879.

Referring to the communication which has been made to you as to the acceptance of a tender made by Messrs. T. De La Rue & Co., for the supply of 1d. Postage stamps, I am to acquaint you that there is no immediate intention on the part of the Board to take out of your hands the manufacture of the ½d., 1½d. and 2d. stamps, provided that all lead or other poisonous ingredients be eliminated from the colors used in their manufacture, with a view to carrying out which condition it is understood you are now making experiments.

After Christmas next it will be necessary to review the scale of charges for these stamps, and perhaps some of the designs may be then reconsidered.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] FRED. B. GARNETT.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(333)

69, FLEET STREET;

SIR, June 30, 1879.

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letters informing us that the contract for 1d. Postage Stamps had been given by the Honble. Commrs. of Inland Revenue to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., and also that there was no immediate

intention on the part of the Board to take out of our hands the manufacture of the ½d., 1½d. and 2d. Stamps, in the event of our compliance with certain stipulations.

With reference to the 1d. Stamps we can only express our deep regret at this decision.

With reference to the Stamps of other denominations indicated, we beg to ask if we are at liberty to alter the colors hitherto used, so as to make them more fugitive, and also to use Gum similar to that used on the specimens which were submitted to the Honble. Commrs. in the recent competition.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

THE SECRETARY,

Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

---

(334)

INLAND REVENUE

SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

July 12, 1879.

GENTLEMEN,

The Board have consulted the Postmaster-General with reference to the enquiry contained in your letter of the 30th ultimo, whether you are at liberty to alter the colors hitherto used for the ½d., 1½d. and 2d. Stamps, so as to make them more fugitive. From the answer to this enquiry the Board find that it is the wish of the Postmaster-General that a change should be made, and that the opportunity should be taken to adopt for the ½d. Stamps, which are now printed by your firm, and the 2½d. Stamps, which are printed by Messrs. De La Rue & Co., the colors recommended by the International Bureau for Foreign Stamps of those denominations, vigt., Light green for the ½d. stamp and light blue for the 2½d. stamp.

The Postmaster-General further suggests that the present color of the 2½d. Stamp should be adopted for the 2d. stamp, and that as regards the 1½d. Stamp the color should be the same as that, vigt. light red, which has been proposed for the new 1d. Stamp.

I enclose specimens of the colors thus proposed for the ½d., 1½d. and 2d. Stamps, and request that specimens of the stamps printed in those colors may be forwarded for inspection.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] FRED. B. GARNETT.

Secretary.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

[On the margin of the letter is: "Pattern of green for ½d. stamp, and of maroon for 2d. stamp enclosed. Specimen of color red 1½d. stamp will be furnished when ready."]

(335)

69, Fleet Street;

July 14, 1879.

Sir,

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 12th inst, and to thank you for its reply to our enquiry.

We will take immediate measures to procure and submit specimens of the colors directed for future use in the preparation of Postage Stamps of the denominations of ½d. and 2d. respectively.

We presume that we are now to discontinue our experiments with a view to the substitution of colors free from lead in place of those hitherto supplied.

We beg to be allowed to remind you that no reply has been given to our enquiry whether we may substitute such a gum as we proposed for the 1d. Stamps in competition for that now in use and to which the Postmaster-General objects.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

F. B. Garnett, Esq.

---

(336)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House, W.C.;

July 17, 1879.

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letter of the 14th instant, I am directed by the Board to inform you that the new colours for the ½d., 1½d. and 2d. Postage Stamps must be free from Lead.

You will be permitted to use in the manufacture of those Stamps, the Gum which was adopted in the case of the specimen stamps submitted by you in the late competition.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] A. A. WATTS.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

---

(337)

69, Fleet Street;

July 18, 1879.

Sir,

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of letter of yesterday's date. We regret that we have not expressed the meaning of our enquiry clearly. What we wished to ask is, whether pending the preparation of the specimens of color ordered

for the ½d. and 2d. Postage Stamps, which will take some little time, we are to continue our experiments upon the existing colors so as to supply such as are absolutely free from lead in the interval.

We quite understand that the new colors are to be free from lead. Your reply will much oblige Sir.

Respectfully, &c., &c.,

A. A. WATTS, Esq. [Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House.

---

(338)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

GENTLEMEN, July 22, 1879.

In reference to your further letter of the 18th inst., which has been submitted to the Board, I have to state that it is apprehended there will be no great delay in your submitting to them new colors for the Postage Stamps of ½d., 1½d. and 2d. which must of course be free from lead.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed FRED. B. GARNETT.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

---

(339)

CONTROLLER OF STAMPS & STORES DEPT.,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

DEAR SIRS, 20 Octr., 1879.

I shall be glad if you will execute the warrant you have outstanding for 2d. Postage at once in the present blue color.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Signed T. A. COLLS.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co. P.T.O.

P.S.—I have this day sent on an order for 450 reams more of crown paper for which I will send you a warrant to print.

[Signed] T. A. C.

---

(340)

Pressing. INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

GENTLEMEN, October 31, 1879.

Referring to previous correspondence, I am directed by the Board to transmit specimens of the new 1d. Postage Stamp, and to request that you will furnish

for immediate transmission to the General Post Office samples of the 1½d. Postage Stamp printed in the same color.

I also forward specimens of the new 2½d. Postage Stamp, the color of which is to be adopted for the 2d. Postage Stamp. You will be good enough to furnish samples of the latter printed accordingly.

I am to state that it is imperative that these samples should be furnished by you with the least possible delay.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed FRED. B. GARNETT.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(341)

69, FLEET STREET;

Nov. 5, 1879.

DEAR SIR,

In reply to your enquiry respecting the sheets of Postage stamp paper not produced to the gentlemen who took stock on Oct. 1st, we beg to say that there were at that time in the possession of our Mr. Bacon, the following sheets printed in various colors as specimens :—

| | ½d. | 1d. | 2d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 29 sheets halfpenny and 13 sheets twopenny. .. | 29 | | 13 |
| That we enclosed in our letter of the 31st July,* to the Commrs. 1 sheet penny and 1 sheet twopenny .. .. .. .. | | 1 | 1 |
| In our letter of 7th Augt.,* 1 sheet halfpenny, 2 sheets penny and 1 of twopenny .. | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| And in our letter of 8th Nov.,* 3 sheets of penny .. | | 3 | |
| That we delivered to Mr. Bell† for the purpose of experiments 2 sheets ½d. printed in green | 2 | | |
| That we hold the receipt of Mr. Watts for 1 sheet and of Mr. Robinson for 2 of 1d. stamps | | 3 | |
| | 32 | 9 | 15 |

There is therefore an apparent deficiency of 1 sheet 1½d. and 2 sheets of 1d., but a surplus of 1 sheet ½d. and 1 sheet 2d. These discrepancies will probably be cleared up when we come to make our final balance.

Besides those referred to above, 1 sheet of 1d. and 1 sheet of 2d. were enclosed with our letter of 16th July,* but were subsequently returned to us and are therefore not reckoned in the $a/c$.

W. H. COUSINS, Esq.

---

* These dates are those of the year 1878.

† One of the Warehousemen in the Controller of Stamps and Stores Department, Somerset House.

(342)

CONTROLLER OF STAMPS & STORES DEPT.,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;

DEAR SIRS, 7 Novr., 1879.

If you require specimens of the present 2½d. Postage I will send you them.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] T. A. COLLS.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

---

(343)

CONTROLLER OF STAMPS & STORES DEPT.,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;

DEAR SIRS, 8 Novr., 1879.

Will you kindly let me know when you will be ready with the specimens of the color of the new 2d. Postage stamp.

The matter is very pressing and it is desirable to urge it forward as I am anxious to increase the stocks of ½d. and 2d. stamps.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Signed, T. A. COLLS.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

---

(344)

69, FLEET STREET ;

DEAR SIR, 10 November, 1879.

I am unable as yet to say when we shall be able to submit specimens of the new colors for Postage Stamps. After waiting for months for the samples of color, we at length received what were said to be correct samples and then after having got a specimen sheet of Blue for the 2d. Stamps, which we copied and in every way satisfactory, we are informed that this is a mistake and that we are to match the old 2½ color. Now as the color of the new 1d. Stamp is a shade of reddish-brown, and the old 2½ is also a shade of a similar color, we doubt our ability to produce two colors sufficiently distinct from one another to answer the requests of the Honble. Commissioners. We have a sheet of 1d. printed in a reddish-brown color (the officer has no instructions to allow us to print one from the 1½ Plate) which is simply waiting for age now, and we will shew you the best we can do to match the 2½ color as soon as we can prepare it.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed J. P. BACON

T. A. COLLS, Esq. (Perkins, Bacon & Co.).

(345)

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

GENTLEMEN, 3rd Dec., 1879.

The printing of the 1d. Postage labels by your Firm having now come to a close I am desirous of withdrawing, as soon as practicable, one of my officers, whose services are henceforth appropriated elsewhere. I should be glad to know how soon you will be able to do the whole of the Government printing in one room, so that one officer can superintend the entire operation.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Signed] GEO. B. ROBERTSON.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(346)

LONDON,
69, FLEET STREET, E.C.:

DEAR SIR, Dec. 4th, 1879.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date to which our Mr. Bacon will reply in the course of a few days, which he is unable to do at present being detained by the serious illness of his wife.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & CO.

G. B. ROBERTSON, Esq. per J. H. UPHAM.
Inland Revenue.

[We have found no further reply to Mr. Robertson's letter of Dec. 3rd.]

---

(347)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

GENTLEMEN, December 20, 1879.

I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to inform you that the specimens of the new ½d., 1½d. and 2d. Postage Stamps recently furnished by you have been submitted to the Postmaster-General, and are not considered by his Lordship to be satisfactory, an opinion in which the Board feel bound to express their concurrence.

Lord John Manners thinks it essential that the three stamps in question should be in every respect equal to the new 1d. stamp which has received approval; and I am, in these circumstances, to call upon you forthwith to state whether you are

prepared to furnish surface-printed stamps of ½d., 1½d. and 2d. of the style of the new 1d. stamp, and, if so, how soon, and at what prices :—the halfpenny stamp to be of the same size as the penny one.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed FRED. B. GARNETT,

Secretary.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(348)

69, FLEET STREET ;

Dec. 27, 1879.

SIR,

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of letter from the Honble. Commrs. of Inland Revenue dated 20th inst., informing us that our Specimens of color submitted for the ½d., 1½d. and 2d. Postage Stamps, were not considered satisfactory and asking whether we were prepared to furnish Surface Printed Stamps of those denominations similar to the design for the 1d. Stamp which has been approved, and if so in what time and at what price we should be prepared to do so.

In reply we beg to express our regret that our Specimens of color are not acceptable. We have never been authorised to submit specimens of other designs in copper-plate and have reason to suppose that some designs which we did prepare shewing lighter patterns and different devices, were never submitted to the Postmaster-General, if indeed they were presented to your Honble. Board—but with reference to the colors we may be permitted to say that it would be impossible to match in copper-plate, colors which were printed from Surface blocks, owing to the different amount of color used in the respective processes.

In reply to the questions contained in the letter of your Honble. Board, we beg to state that we are prepared to furnish Surface Printed stamps of the denominations required at the price of 2⅜d. per 1,000 stamps, although the profit on the manufacture in a separate department of such a diminished number of stamps will be very small.

As to the time in which we should be prepared to deliver the new stamps it is very difficult to fix a precise date. In addition to the time which we must necessarily occupy in preparing a new set of Plates and getting the necessary new machinery to work we cannot possibly estimate the delay which may occur in the approving of our designs and colors, but we could undertake to deliver the new stamps in two months from the approval of our designs, and we would use every exertion to complete our preparations in a shorter period.

We trust that after the many years during which we have had the honor to furnish Postage Stamps to your Honble. Board, this offer will not be rejected, but that we shall be directed to furnish designs on which a contract may be concluded and which we would do at an early date.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

Signed PERKINS, BACON & Co.

THE SECRETARY,

Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

(349)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;

GENTLEMEN, January 7, 1880.

Having laid before the Board of Inland Revenue your further letter of the 27th ultimo, I am to acquaint you that there are no grounds whatever for your supposition that some of the designs which you formerly forwarded to this Office were not presented to the Board. Every such design has been fully considered by the Board, and if some of them have not been forwarded to the Postmaster-General it was simply because the Board could not recommend them for adoption.

The conclusion at which the Board have now arrived in this matter is to invite designs for the surface-printed Postage Stamps of ½d., 1½d. and 2d. simultaneously from yourselves and from Messrs. T. De La Rue and Co., with a view to their being submitted to the Postmaster-General.

The designs should be accompanied by specimens of the fugitive printing inks intended to be employed with a tender as to the rates at which they can be produced and must be forwarded to this office within one month from the date of this letter.

I am, &c., &c.,
Signed FRED. B. GARNETT.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(350)

CONTROLLER OF STAMPS & STORES DEPT.,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;

DEAR SIR, 24 Jany., 1880.

I have spoken to Mr. Cousins about the ½d. and his reply is that he thinks the present class of stamps will be required for the next three months. But I did not understand that he gave any pledge on the subject.

Yours, &c., &c.,
P. BACON, Esq. [Signed] T. A. COLLS.

---

(351)

69, FLEET STREET ;

SIR, Feb. 7, 1880.

We have the honor to submit herewith designs for Surface-printed Postage Stamps of the denominations of ½d., 1½d. and 2d. There are two designs of ½d., two of 1½d. and four of 2d., but if the design adopted for any one denomination should be considered more suitable for another it could easily be changed, or any modification which might be suggested could be made. The colors used are those which we were instructed to prepare for copper-plate stamps some time since, but which we were not able to match in that style of engraving but as there is some resemblance between the color of the 1½d. and that for 2d. we enclose in another envelope impressions of a browner shade for 1½d. stamps and two shades of a more pink colour for the 2d.

We were only able to finish the engraving of the last of these designs two days since and have been much hindered as to the colors by the prevalent dark days and consequently they are barely dry and may not prove so fugitive as they may be made, but if our designs are approved we do not doubt being able to meet the other requirements should time prove them to be defective.

We enclose two specimens of each of the colors suggested in order to shew their fugitiveness but may remark that the same colors would prove more fugitive if printed in sheets, than when printed singly from a die.

The price at which we are prepared to furnish these stamps is the same that we named in our letter of 27th Decr. last, *i.e.* 2⅜d. per 1,000 labels.

Trusting to be favored with your commands.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

Signed PERKINS, BACON & Co.

F. B. GARNETT, Esq.

---

(352)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C.;

GENTLEMEN, 19th February, 1880.

I am directed by the Board of Inland Revenue to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, submitting designs with specimens of colour for surface-printed Postage Stamps of the denominations of ½d., 1½d. and 2d. which you would be prepared to furnish at the rate of 2⅜d. per 1,000 labels.

As you are aware the Board had also invited Messrs. De La Rue & Co. to submit designs with specimens of colour and a tender for the supply of stamps of these denominations.

Your designs and specimens of color together with those of Messrs. De La Rue & Co. have undergone careful examination and testing by the Board's Chemical and Practical Officers with the result of shewing that your colors are less fugitive than those of Messrs. De La Rue especially as regards the shades of brown and green; while as regards prices Messrs. De La Rue offer to provide stamps of a character completely meeting the requirements of the Post Office at a lower rate of charge and with the offer of contingent advantages by which the cost of manufacture would be reduced to a material extent.

Under these circumstances the Board feel bound to accept the Tender of Messrs. De La Rue & Co.

In announcing to you this decision I should not give effect to the wishes of the Board if I failed to convey to you their sense of the faithful services your Firm has rendered to this Department in past years and their appreciation of the endeavours you have made to meet the increasing requirements of the Public service in this Department.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] FRED. B. GARNETT.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

(353)

69, Fleet Street;

Sir, Feb. 24, 1880.

We have the honor to acknowledge the letter of the Honble. Commrs. of Inland Revenue of the 19th inst.

We beg to thank the Honble. Commrs. for the terms of the concluding paragraph of the letter and have the honor to subscribe ourselves.

Respectfully, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

F. B. Garnett, Esq.

---

(354)

69, Fleet Street;

Sir, April 10, 1880.

We have received instructions from Mr. Robertson to destroy the dies and rollers used in the preparation of the 1d. Postage Stamps (the Steel plates having already been defaced), but before doing so we wish to ask the permission of the Honble. Commrs. to retain a steel impression of the profile of Her Majesty which was the foundation of the Postage Stamp. We could erase from the die all the writing and engine-turned background, so as to make it useless for the production of a postage stamp, but the profile itself, is a fine work of art, and might be utilised in our business for other purposes, and it appears a great pity that it should be destroyed.

We have the honour, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

F. Garnett, Esq.

---

(355)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House, London, W.C.;

Gentlemen, 14th May, 1880.

Having laid before the Board your letter of the 10th ultimo, I am to acquaint you that they do not feel at liberty to accede to your request to be allowed to retain in your possession a steel impression of the Queen's Head which was used in the preparation of the penny Postage Stamps.

You appear to be under a misapprehension in supposing that it has been decided to destroy the original die, as the Board understand that the Controller of their Stamping Department has merely requested you to send the Dies, &c., to this Office in order that arrangements might be made as to their disposal.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] FRED. B. GARNETT.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

(356)

69, Fleet Street;

Sir, May 15, 1880.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor of 14th instant, and regret to learn that the Honble. Commrs. decline to allow us to retain a steel impression of the portrait of Her Majesty used originally in the preparation of the penny Postage Stamps.

With reference to the second paragraph in your favor—the only communication we have received on the subject of the Dies was a verbal message through your Officer that they were to be sent to Somerset House to be defaced.

If it is only intended that they or any part of them should be deposited in one of the safes of the Honble. Commrs. under two locks, the keys of one of which shall be in our possession, as has hitherto been the case with the reserve Dies and Plates, we can of course have no objection to such a course, but if it is intended that the custody of them shall be absolutely given up, we could not consent, as they are our property.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

F. B. Garnett, Esq. [Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

---

(357)

Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, London, W.C.;

Gentlemen, 4th June, 1880.

Having submitted to the Board of Inland Revenue your further letter of the 15th ultimo, I am directed to acquaint you that they will not object to the Dies, &c., which were formerly used in the preparation of the Penny Postage Stamps being deposited in the custody of the Controller of Stamping under two locks, the keys of one lock to be in your possession as has been the case with regard to the reserve dies and plates

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] FRED. B. GARNETT.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

---

(358)

Stamping Department,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, W.C.;

Gentlemen, 19 Oct., 1880.

I shall be glad if you can make arrangements for the defacement of the Postage dies, rollers and plates at Messrs. Dewsnaps on Thursday next at 11 a.m.

Please let me know whether this can be done or not.

Mr. H. Lloyd will attend at Fleet Street at 9 a.m. on that day to open the safes, &c.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] GEO. B. ROBERTSON.

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.

(359)

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;
20th Oct., 1880.

MY DEAR SIR,

If convenient to you I will arrange to send Mr. Lloyd at 10 o/c on Friday next, to remove those plates, etc., which are to be brought here, and on Tuesday next at 10 o/c an officer shall be sent to Fleet Street to remove those that are to be destroyed on the premises of Messrs. Dewsnap.

I have also arranged for the officer of the Cancel Office to attend at Messrs. Dewsnap's at 11 o c on Tuesday next.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] GEO. B. ROBERTSON.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

---

(360)

LONDON,
69, FLEET ST., E.C. ;
Oct. 20th, 1880.

DEAR SIR,

We are in receipt of your favors of the 19th and 20th inst., and the dates mentioned therein shall be attended to.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.
Per J. H. Upham.

G. B. ROBERTSON, Esq.
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House.

---

(361)

LONDON,
69, FLEET ST., E.C. ;
Oct. 20th, 1880.

GENTLEMEN,

Will you kindly make arrangements for us to cancel some plates at 11 a.m. on Tuesday next the 26th Inst.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.
Per. J. H. Upham.

MESSRS. DEWSNAP & Co.

(362)

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;
22 Oct. 1880.

MY DEAR SIR,

The Postage dies which were brought here to-day can be locked in the Reserve Safe anytime between 10 and 4 o'c you like to send Mr. Gill with the key.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] GEO. B. ROBERTSON.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

---

(363)

LONDON ;
Oct. 26th, 1880.

GENTLEMEN,

In reply to your enquiry we write to say that we wish the plates you have turned off this morning to be finished as has been your usual custom when dealing with our plates.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

Per J. H. Upham.

MESSRS. DEWSNAP & Co.

---

(364)

69, FLEET STREET ;
March 5, 1889.

SIR,

It having come to our knowledge that there is a possibility of the present Contract for Postage Stamps and other Stationery being renewed without public competition, we ask permission as Contractors who for a period of 40 years supplied the Government with Postage Stamps to urge on your Honorable Board the desirability of inviting Tenders for the articles in question from Firms willing to supply the same, that full advantage may be taken of the most improved and economical methods of production.

We have the honor, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co. LIMITED.

SIR ALGERNON WEST, K.C.B., &c.,
Chairman, Board of Inland Revenue.

# *APPENDIX D.*

Extracts from the records of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., Limited, and copies of other documents connected with the watermarked paper used for the POSTAGE STAMPS.

(1)

Mr. Bacon presents his compliments to Mr. Cole and begs to say that Mr. Chas. Brewer, Paper mould maker, lives at Church Street, Hackney.

Messrs. A. Brewer & Co., ditto, 19, Surrey Place, Old Kent Road, and Mr. John Marshall, ditto, at Deptford, Kent.

The two latter do a great deal of business.

Mr. Brewer, a brother of the two first above-named and who makes for the Bank of England only, can be found at the Bank.

69, FLEET STREET;
Dec. 14, 1839.

---

(2)

RUSH MILLS;
28 Dec., 1839.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

DEAR SIRS,

. . . . .
. . . . .

I perceive by the Standard Paper that the Government propose submitting the supply of the watermark paper for the Penny Postage Stamps to public competition, it may be worth attention and shall be glad to hear from you whenever you have intimation of it.

Yours, etc., etc.,
[Signed] STACEY WISE.

---

(3)

Mr. Bacon presents his respectful compliments to Mr. Hill and he encloses the two samples of paper left yesterday afternoon with this observation after Mr. Smith's —viz.—

"There can be no doubt but this paper will print well enough *if* it will take the gum on the back without showing through.

[Signed] J. B. BACON,
69, FLEET STREET,
Feb. 8th, 1840."

Mr. Bacon would beg to add to the above, that the paper is not a strong one, which, perhaps is of no consequence, but if the strength is not an object and it will take the gum without injury to the appearance of the stamp, in such case it will be well adapted to the adhesive stamp.

69, Fleet Street ;
Feb. 8th, 1840.

[The above communication was sent to Mr. Rowland Hill.]

---

(4)

11, Downing Street ;
Saturday.

Sir, [Feb. 8, 1840].

I sent a piece of paper to you yesterday (made by Mr. Smith) for the purpose of obtaining your opinion of its fitness for the reception of the plate which you have in hand and the gum at the back, also whether in your opinion it is a less expensive paper than that of which you furnished me with a sample.

I wished to send it to Manchester to have the gum laid on, but as I have not yet received it from you I shall feel obliged if you will send it by bearer and favor me with your observations at the same time.

I called last evening but had not the pleasure of meeting with you.

I am, etc., etc.,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

— Bacon, Esq.

[This letter is endorsed "Feby. 1840."]

---

(5)

69, Fleet Street ;
Feby. 8, 1840.

Dear Sir,

I made a remark upon the sheet of paper which was left here yesterday (I did not know it was by you) while I was with your brother ; and called at Mr. Cole's this morning when he said he would take it over for me to Downing Street and it ought to have been delivered some hours back. I have no doubt, however, but you will have it before you get this note.

The sheet is not strong, but that probably is of no moment, and I fear is too little sized to take the gum without injury to the engraving in front ; but if free from this objection it certainly will print well enough for our purpose and could be made at a lower price. I now regret I did not go about it to Downing Street myself.

I am, etc., etc.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON

Edwin Hill, Esq.

(6)

Rush Mills;

Dear Sirs, Feb. 10, 1840.

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

I am much engaged in making specimens of paper with a complex and beautiful watermark for the envelopes, which I have no fear the machines can imitate, and flatter myself it must take the attention of the *high authorities*—it will not be attended with any more expense than in making plain paper, and after a long conference with the men this morning they have agreed to make 5 Rms. for a day's work for *both* sizes. I will take the earliest opportunity of showing you the specimens of watermark and shall be happy to receive any suggestion which you think may be an improvement.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] STACEY WISE.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch.

---

(7)

11, Downing Street;

Sir, Feb. 19, 1840.

I send the mould herewith which you kindly undertook to forward to Mr. Wise with samples of paper for his guidance. Please to enclose the note herewith or send it by post, as I do not know Mr. Wise's address.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

J. B. Bacon, Esq.

---

(8)

London;

Dear Sir, Feb. 19, 1840.

We have sent you a watermarked mould by directions of Mr. Edwin Hill, from which we wish you to make several specimen sheets in weight to be equal to :—

14½
14¾
15
15¼
15½
15¾
16
16¼ and
16½ lb large Post size, but of course you must make it as much heavier in each case as the difference between the size of large Post and the mould sent you. We also wish two or three variations as to strength of material and sizing of each

weight : to have one sheet of each dryed as soon as possible and sent up to us and the remainder to be dryed in the usual way by the [atmosphere ?] and sent up with the mould when ready. Your early and careful attention to this will oblige.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

Mr. Stacey Wise.

---

(9)

Rush Mills;

Dear Sirs, March 1, 1840.

Annexed is a copy of a letter received this morning from the Excise Office which settles *that question*. My interview with Mr. Rowland Hill yesterday leads me to hope I shall have an order for the Crown paper, but probably only a small quantity at first as an experiment.

I shall be glad to receive any information you may be able to convey.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] S. WISE.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch.

[Enclosure]

Excise Office;

Sir, Feb. 29, 1840.

I am directed by the Commissioners of Excise to acknowledge the receipt of your Tender for the supply of paper for Post Office covers, etc., and to acquaint you that the same has *not* been accepted.

[Signed] F. C. FREELING.

Mr. S. Wise,
Rush Mills.

---

(10)

London;

Dear Sir, March 2, 1840.

I have a note from Mr. Hill to-day saying that he wished to see you if in town, since then I have seen him and he has advised Mr. Wood to see you with him with a view to giving you the Crown paper stamps to do, if he gets a favorable answer in time he will write you making an appointment to see them; his opinion is in favour of giving you the order, but Mr. Wood may possibly be against it. The Queen has expressed her *high approbation* of our stamp, but we have no contract yet.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

Stacey Wise, Esq.

( 11 )

[No date. ? Feby. 20th-28, 1840].

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your note of yesterday's date asking to be furnished with the probable price per lb at which I could furnish 500 reams of paper with the Crown watermarks, with which I am familiar, each ream weighing about 33 lb with the price of the moulds included, and in reply I beg to state that I am willing to furnish 500 Reams of paper as above at the price of thirteen-pence three farthings per lb. or 37/9½ per ream, watermarked moulds included, and that after the first quantity named, I would furnish 500 Reams, or any larger quantity at thirteen pence halfpenny per lb or 37/1½ per ream.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] S. WISE.

ROWLAND HILL, Esq.
Treasury.

The copy of this letter is placed between copies of letters dated Feb. 8, 1840, and Mar. 9, 1840.]

---

( 12 )

LONDON ;
March 17, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

It is quite time the sample sheet with those crowns made its appearance, or you will be out in your contract, and when you send let us have 4 sheets that we may judge how it takes the gum, which operation we have undertaken to apply to the stamps much against our wish—it will therefore be important that we should have them as near the substance and quality that the paper is to be made as possible —but if you are not prepared to do this at once let the one sheet to judge of distances in the mould come up first and the others as soon after as possible, which latter must be sized.

We believe the order is to send the *one* sheet to Mr. Hill, in that case let us have a duplicate by the same post.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON,
for self and partners.

S. WISE, Esq.

(13)

69 FLEET STREET;
March 18. 1840.

DEAR SIR.

My father will start for Manchester to-morrow morning by the 11 o'clock train from Euston Square and will be much obliged if you will send him a sheet of the stamp paper to meet him at Blisworth; if you do not send it this way he will have to wait for it till he comes back, which will be Saturday. From the time you are in getting this sheet ready my father fears you will be behind time with the paper.

I am, &c., &c.,

S. WISE, Esq. Signed] J. P. BACON.

---

(14)

DEAR SIR.

The Crowns must be lowered one eighth of an inch more, the 20 crowns equally divided up and down the plate: this will leave the eighth of an inch thus gained to be equally divided between the upper and lower margin. The cross that is 10 9/10th wide, *which is right* ALTOGETHER, but the lines and outer edge of the paper is only three eighths of an inch on each side when they ought to be half an inch each, thus taking from the two a quarter of an inch. The space for Crowns between the lines is 9 13/16th, when it ought to be 9 9/16th, thus taking a quarter of an inch improperly in the centre from the margin.

March 19. 1840.

Mr. S. WISE.

---

(15)

RUSH MILLS,
April 2. 1840.

DEAR SIRS.

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

Will send you a sheet of the Stamp paper on Saturday morning if the officers will permit it. they have suggested whether it ought not to be sent to the Excise Office first—there are three of them alternately in attendance and another is expected—they place themselves at the vat side and mark down *every sheet that is made* and complain much of the heat, cold and damp—they say they must tell out every sheet themselves when it comes to the finishing Bench. I hope to send up 2 Rms. the *early* part of the week, but I am exceedingly annoyed with the conduct of the men who had agreed to do a certain quantity of work, say 5 Reams per day; although the moulds are of *less* dimensions than they agreed to—they will only now do 4 Reams per day.

The officers put the moulds under Government locks every meal time and night.

Yours, &c., &c.,

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH. [Signed] S. WISE.

(16)

Rush Mills;

Dear Sirs, 6 April, 1840.

. . . . .

. . . . .

My father . . . . purposes being in Town to-morrow taking with him 2 Reams of the Crown paper and will call Wednesday morning early.

I remain, &c., &c.,

For my father,

Signed] STACEY WISE, Junr.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch.

---

(17)

London;

Dear Sir, April 14, 1840.

Mr. Edwin Hill wishes that the old moulds should be sent up to him directed to the Stamp Office as was previously arranged they should be, and you will please to do so without any loss of time. We have not yet received your monthly account for March.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

We find the time taken in cutting the Postage paper quite impossible to be endured. Can you not make a strong watermark the size of a pin's head at the top and bottom of each of the centre divisions, so as to guide us in cutting the sheets. It will be very simple to do it, and enable us to cut much faster, indeed at present it employs one person's whole time to cut the sheets.

Stacey Wise, Esq.

---

(18)

Rush Mills;

Dear Sir. April 15, 1840.

. . . . .

. . . . .

. . . . .

. . . . .

In reply to yours this morning I have sent the old moulds to Mr. Edwin Hill by Worster & Co's boats this day, together with 4 Reams of Crown paper to the Stamp Office. I can easily put (I suppose you mean a watermark *dot* like this o — and not a line) at the top and bottom of each of the centre divisions. . . . .

Yours, &c., &c.,

Signed] STACEY WISE.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch.

( 19 )

To the Honble. the Chairman
of the Commissioners of Stamps & Taxes.

? April 15. 1840.

Honble. Sir,

We find the cutting of the paper for the Adhesive Stamps into three pieces is now—for want of a guide, a very long and laborious undertaking, and which may be greatly reduced by simply having four watermarks placed in the mould about twice the size of an ordinary pin's head, one at the top and one at the bottom of the mould where the mill sheet is to be cut into three pieces or label sheets and of course exactly halfway between the outer lines which divide one label sheet from the other, these pinholes will enable us to place the sheets accurately upon a frame and cut a hundred sheets at a time instead of doing them singly as we are now obliged to do. If your honor will have the kindness to procure from the Excise permission for Mr. Wise to place these holes upon the mould, we will engage that he will willingly do it and that no expense or delay will be occasioned thereby.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

---

( 20 )

London.

April 16. 1840

Dear Sir,

. . . . .
. .
. . .
. . . . .

We very much regret your sending the 4 reams of Postage Paper yesterday by boat as we shall be standing still for it to-morrow night, and must throw the responsibility of it upon the Stamp Office. The 4 reams will only last us until Wednesday next and we shall use 8 reams of three sheets each per week if we get them and if we do not, the fault will not be with us. We are at work night and day and must continue so for 20 days to come.

You are right about our wanting a dot at the top and bottom of each of the centres of the sheet between the lines which divide the sheets and the Excise will write authorizing you to do so. Your paper is not well pressed and is horrible in roughness more so than any I ever received from Rush Mills, can you not alter it ? It might be a little less sized than it is, but not much.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Signed PERKINS BACON & PETCH.

S. Wise, Esq.

(21)

London ;
Dear Sir, April 18, 1840.

Mr. Bacon desires me to inform you that we are to the present moment without the paper forwarded by you on the 15th, c/o Worster & Co., nor has it arrived at the Stamp Office ; this is very annoying for after working night and day, including Good Friday, we have not had a sheet to use since 12 o'clock this morning. Begging your immediate attention.

We remain, &c., &c.,
[Signed For PERKINS, BACON & PETCH
James Brady.

Stacey Wise, Esq.

---

(22)

Saty., 4 o'clock.
Dear Sir, April 18, 1840.]

I have just left the Stamp Office and no paper has arrived. We have been waiting since 12 o'clock and you can therefore see the plates locked up as soon as you please and it is needless to unlock them until 9 o'clock on Monday morning.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] J. B. Bacon.

E. Hill, Esq.

---

(23)

Rush Mills ;
Dear Sirs, April 18, 1840.

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

In compliance with your request have introduced the dots, a sheet of which will send you, but must be returned, and should you require anything more it shall be attended to immediately. I have called on Worster & Co. here who cannot account for the delay in the delivery of the 4 rms. Crown paper, as there was ample time to have sent it in on Saturday. With regard to the roughness of the paper it is easily accounted for owing to the hurried manner in which we have been obliged to finish it, but trust what you receive for future will please. On Wednesday next shall send 3 rms. more by van which will be delivered Thursday morning and a further quantity (about 8 or 10 rms.) on Saturday next.

I remain, &c., &c.,
For my father,
[Signed] STACEY WISE, Jun.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch.

( 24 )

LONDON ;

April 28, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

. . . . .
. . . . .

Ten reams more of Postage paper has just arrived, so that we are safe for 8 or 9 days. We trust it is made of a very strong material and but little sized, or, at any rate, but little alum in the size and no grease on any account.

. . . . .
. . . . .

Yours, &c., &c.,

Signed PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

S. WISE, Esq.

---

( 25 )

LONDON ;

May 2, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

We received 10 reams more paper from the Stamp Office yesterday, and among it are several reams which must be rejected, as it has come up from the mill, the centre divisions very badly creased lengthways, and the outer ones crossways, this creasing prevents our printing it without spoiling. The Commissioners have required us to write you, to write them (they having called to-day and seen some in the counting house), and to throw aside every ream in which we find any such imperfections. It seems singular there should be so many blemishes in this paper of a character which has not previously occurred at your mill, or any other as far as our experience goes.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

S. WISE, Esq.

---

( 26 )

RUSH MILLS ;

May 9, 1840.

DEAR SIRS,

. . . . .
. . . . .

The Supervisor has received a letter from the Board of Excise respecting the wrinkle in the Postage Label Stamp paper and wishing to know how it was occasioned. The sheets ought not to have been sent. I particularly noticed them

when the paper was sorted and gave strict orders they should be thrown out, but by some means they have been sent accidentally and unknown to me till Mr. C. Wise brought me word down. I trust you will only find it partially so in each ream.

. . . . .

. . . . .

I remain, &c., &c.,

For my father,

[Signed] STACEY WISE, Jun

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

---

(27)

LONDON ;

DEAR SIR, May 16, 1840.

Stacey astonished me by saying that you have 20 reams Postage paper at the mill waiting to come off, but it is stopped for want of an order—and I have just left the Chairman and Secretary of Stamps and Taxes, who say they notified the Excise on the 13th inst., that they wanted paper and they beg me to request you will send off some by Railway immediately or we shall be stopped again. We are working night and day by express orders, and if stopped for paper again the consequences will be serious as we cannot supply the public faster than they call for them.

Yours, &c., &c.,

S. WISE, Esq. [Signed] J. B. BACON.

---

(28)

RUSH MILLS ;

DEAR SIRS, May 17, 1840.

In reply to your favor this morning I fear you will suffer some interruption and annoyance not receiving supply of the Stamp paper owing to an error of the Excise, who have sent an order to the Supervisor to take a receipt from me for 38 rms. *instead* of 28 rms. which I had ready yesterday to forward to you, but he refused to let me send them without further communication from the Board. I read to him the two enclosed letters and he was satisfied the error was on their part. The Supervisor has written to the Board of Excise and concludes there will be answer on Tuesday morning, but Stacey had better call on the Solicitor or Chairman to prevent any further delay and say how many reams must be sent by the van on Tuesday until the remainder would be *delivered* on Friday or *Saturday* next. I have dipped several sheets and am convinced the apparent unsoundness of the paper at the S.H. arises from the stuff being crushed from the pressure of the plates in rolling, which must be discontinued.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] S. WISE.

Perhaps Stacey had better take the enclosed letters to the Board of Excise, as he could obtain at once their order to be allowed to cut off the damaged sheets.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

(Copy of letters to and from the Commissioners of Stamps & Taxes.)

RUSH MILLS;
GENTLEMEN, May 12, 1840.

I beg to acquaint you that I have eighteen reams of Crown watermark paper for the Postage Label Stamps ready, which await the order from the Board of Excise, as also beg to refer you to my letter of the 2nd inst., wherein I stated ten reams were ready and awaited the order, which as yet has not been sent down.

I also request the order to be allowed to cut the damaged sheets as they are made from the mould, that I may throw out the divisions that are bad from the good as several sheets are only spoilt in one division, the other two being perfect.

[Signed] S. WISE.

STAMPS AND TAXES,
LONDON;
GENTLEMEN, May 13, 1840.

I have laid before the Board your letter of the 12th instant, and I am directed to acquaint you that they have applied to the Commissioners of Excise for an order for the delivery of the 18 reams of paper therein mentioned and also for an order to deliver the 10 reams referred to in your letter of the 2nd inst.

In reference to your objections with regard to damaged sheets only spoiling one division of the paper as it comes from the mould leaving the remainder perfect, I have to observe that the Board have no objection to receive some of the paper in double or single reams, instead of treble, if it be not objected to by the Board of Excise.

It will, however, be necessary for you to apply to that Board for the necessary authority in this respect.

I am, &c., &c.,
[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH,
Asst. Secy.

MESSRS. WYSE (*sic*),
Rush Mills,
Northampton.

---

(29)

LONDON;
May 19, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

. . . . .
. . . . .

I am sorry to say that as we get towards the close of the last 10 reams Postage paper it spots in gumming very badly and Stacey has seen several sheets which were size stained. This must be avoided.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] J. B. BACON.

S. WISE, Esq. P.P.O

P.S.—The paper has been received to-day for Postages, and our night men have not enough to supply them, and the day men will be off until it comes, and which cannot now be before 11 o'clock to-morrow. The logic by which a man refuses to deliver 28 reams of paper because the order is for 38 reams is beyond my comprehension.

---

(30)

RUSH MILLS;

DEAR SIRS, May 19, 1840.

I have sent by the 12 o'c. train this morning 4 Rms. stamp paper directed to Mr. Allen, Storekeeper, Somerset House, and to-morrow will send by Worster & Co.'s boats 24 Rms. more and a further quantity on Saturday next.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] S. WISE.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

---

(31)

LONDON. No. 69, FLEET STREET;

DEAR SIR, May 20, 1840.

We have received the four reams of stamp paper advised in yours of yesterday's date. We find that the 24 reams coming by boat will not arrive till Saturday and as the above 4 will not be sufficient for us will you send 2 or 3 reams of the lot you intend for [word illegible here] by *Railway immediately* otherwise we shall be at a standstill again.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

S. WISE, Esq.

---

(32)

RUSH MILLS;

DEAR SIRS, May 20, 1840.

I hope you have received the 4 Rms. Stamp paper early this morning, the remaining 24 Rms. are forwarded by Worster & Co.'s boat this day and I expect to deliver the whole of the order, viz., 133 Rms. by Saturday week, it was very vexatious the Supervisor would not allow it to be sent before, as it was evidently the error of the Excise and subjected me to additional expense.

. . . . .
. . . . .

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] S. WISE.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

(33)

69, FLEET STREET;

SIR, 21st May, 1840.

We beg to inform you that our night men had not a sufficient supply of Postage paper to carry them through the night of Tuesday last and that the day men lost nearly half the day yesterday from want of paper—that 4 reams sent by Railway were received yesterday, but that unless more arrives to-morrow morning we shall be at a stand still again, as we have been obliged to give out every sheet in order to keep the night men at work to-night. 24 reams we understand left yesterday per Boat, making 28 reams sent this week, but as these are not likely to be delivered until to-morrow night or Saturday morning, we wrote yesterday requesting that a part of 10 reams which we believe will also be ready on Saturday might be forwarded to-day by Railway to keep us at work. These delays for paper are sad hindrances to us.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

CHARLES PRESSLY, Esq.

---

(34)

S. & T.;

GENTM., May 21, 1840.

Please to inform me if you have received the supply of paper you expected, or how the matter stands, as Mr. Pressly is anxious upon the subject.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(35)

RUSH MILLS;

DEAR SIRS, June 1, 1840.

. . . . .

. . . . .

P.S.—Eighteen reams of Crown paper were sent on Saturday and fifty more are ready for Wednesday next, which nearly completes the whole of it.

[Letter from Stacey Wise, Jnn., to Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch.]

---

(36)

69, FLEET STREET;

SIR, 24th June, 1840.

We trust we shall be excused for informing you that we have now been at work printing the Postage labels but ten weeks and have used 80 reams of paper. We understand the whole quantity ordered and made is only 133 reams, if, therefore,

the demand upon us continues to be what it is at present, the paper now made will be printed in five weeks from this date. With these facts in view you will be able to judge whether it is not advisable to engage a fresh supply without loss of time, as it will take three or four weeks after an order is given to make and deliver any quantity fit for use.

We have, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

CHARLES PRESSLY, Esq.,
Secretary,
Stamps and Taxes.

---

(37)

1840.

June 26th. Recd. from Mr. Hill 1 ream 549 paper 28 lbs.
1 ,, 599 ,, 24 ,,
1 ,, 549 ,, 26 ,,

1697

The above paper was recd. from Mr. Hill for experimental Printing.

| 1840. | Printed by | |
|---|---|---|
| June 26 | Cockbill | 150 |
| 29 | do | 300 |
| | | 450 |

Printed and spoilt in wetting, and returned Mr. Hill with the rest of the paper.

[Extract from end of account book of Perkins, Bacon & Petch, lettered: "General Account of Postage labels 1840."]

---

(38)

11, DOWNING STREET;
30 June, 1840.

GENTLEMEN,

Mr. Stacey Wise having misinformed me respecting the number of sample crown sheets which he delivered to you I shall feel obliged by your substituting the enclosed for my letter of the 25th, on this subject.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

(39)

11, DOWNING STREET;

GENTLEMEN, 30 June, 1840.

Please to receive from Mr. Stacey Wise, 3 Reams containing 1697 sheets of sample Crown paper and print it in such manner as Mr. Edwin Hill may direct.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed ROWLAND HILL.

These Reams are of small sheets, one third the size of those hitherto supplied, and they weigh respectively 9 1 3 lbs, 8 2 3 lbs. and 8 lbs.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(40)

69, FLEET STREET;

SIR, 2nd July, 1840.

You have been already informed, both verbally by us, and by seeing the results, that the 24lbs. and 26lbs. Postage Stamp paper will not answer. We have now printed 300 sheets of that which weighs 28lbs. to the ream and gummed 100 sheets thereof, and the result is that 14 sheets are good, 27 useless and 59 of a doubtful character, and in nearly one half the spoilage is occasioned by the gum shewing through the sheet. We have to report that all this paper is less sized than it ought to be, and that none has been made of 30lbs. weight, but what has been done has very much confirmed the opinion already expressed by our Mr. Bacon, that thirty pounds p. ream or 10lbs. p. ream of 240 labels, and the strength of paper and sizing employed in the bulk of the paper now in use is that which will be found best calculated to secure all the objects which it is desirable to attain, and we should recommend the new contract to be so made. We have sent all the paper received from you and enclose a statement of the same, which you will oblige us by acknowledging.

We have, &c., &c.,

ROWLAND HILL, Esq. Signed, PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

Statement.

| | | | Sheets. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Paper received from Rowland Hill, Esq. | | 24lbs. | 599 | |
| | | 26lbs. | 549 | |
| | | 28lbs. | 549 | 1097 sheets. |
| Returned | 28lbs. weight | 59 doubtful | | |
| | | 27 bad | 100 | |
| | | 14 good | | |
| Printed, but not gummed, 28lbs. | | | 200[1] | |
| Gummed, being 19 of each weight | | | 57 | |
| Gummed, being 6 of each weight | | | 18 | |
| Printed and not gummed, being 25 of each | | | 75[2] | |
| Paper neither printed or gummed | | | 499[3] | |
| do. | | | 549 | |
| do. | 28lbs. | | 199 | 1697 |

[1] Printed 107, spoilt in wetting 3
[2] Printed 51, spoilt in wetting 24
[3] Paper 499, add above 3 and 24=526

(41)

TREASURY ;

GENTLEMEN, July 4th, 1840.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of 1697 sheets of paper for Postage Stamps, being the quantity which Mr. Wise delivered to you by my directions.

I will thank you to inform the Board of Stamps of the quantity which you have printed out of the above number of sheets, and to state that it forms no part of what you have received Warrants to print, and therefore, does not enter into your account with the Commrs. of Stamps.

I enclose 24 of the Penny Labels, cut from one of the 14 sheets, which you considered good, in order that you may try their adhesiveness. To me the labels appear to have been improved in this respect by the reduction in the thickness of the paper, but I shall be glad to have your opinion on the subject. I have also enclosed 24 from the paper weighing 26lbs, and the same number from that weighing 24 lbs. to the Ream all are obliterated.

The further supplies of paper will be of the weight you recommend, viz., 10lbs. to the Ream of sheets of the reduced size. With regard to the quantity of size it is desirable that you should communicate direct with Mr. Wise, the Contractor.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.

---

(42)

DEAR SIR, July 4th, [1840.]

With my official letter I write this to request a careful trial of the 24lb. paper. It appears to me that the labels printed from it stick much better than any others and if I recollect rightly you did not find that the gum struck through this paper so readily as through some that was thicker, which would appear to shew that the protection arises from some other cause, perhaps higher sizing.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

[This letter is endorsed " received July 4th, 1840."]

---

(43)

11, DOWNING STREET ;

DEAR SIR, 4 July, [1840.]

I am directed by Mr. Hill to call your attention to the enclosed statement which you sent with the experimental paper. After carefully counting each lot the result is, that the correction stated in pencil in the margin will require to be made. If you wish any of your people to come and check it, Mr. Hill will retain them in his

possession a little longer, but if you are satisfied with the result of our counting perhaps you will be good enough to make the necessary alteration and return it immediately, in order that we may send the whole to the Stamp Office to-day.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

[This letter was sent to Mr. J. B. Bacon and is endorsed "received 4th July, 1840."]

---

(44)

11, DOWNING STREET;

MY DEAR SIR, July 6, 40.

Perhaps you will be good enough to adjust the enclosed, and return it by our Messenger, as the Stamps cannot be sent to Somerset House until we have the statement corrected.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

[J. B. BACON, Esq.]

---

(45)

69, FLEET STREET;

DEAR SIR, July 6, 1840.

I return you a statement made out as you wish, but that before sent was the one which a Printer would actually make, vizt., all the sheets which had been given out to be printed were calculated as printed, although some of them being spoilt in wetting the men returned them back without any attempt to print them. You have made the "Printed not gummed being 17 of each or 51," and we have so stated them, but in reality nearly all the 24 which were spoilt and not printed in our first statement were the 24 lb. paper, so that nearly all the 51 were 26 lb and 28 lb. paper, and very few were 24 lb. weight. We have followed your course as it does not effect the general statement.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON,

for self and partners.

MR. JNO. LEDINGHAM.

---

(46)

CHARLES PRESSLY, ESQ.

69, FLEET STREET;

SIR, 6th July. 1840.

We have the honor of annexing a statement of 1697 sheets of Experimental paper received by us from the Treasury, some of which has been printed from the

Postage Plates, and to add that all this paper has been returned to the Treasury, and that we do not look to your Honble. Board for the expense of Printing or any other expense connected therewith.

We have &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

Statement of Postage paper to 4th July, 1840 inclusive, sent Mr. Allen, Stamp Office.

| | 1d. public. | 2d. public. | 1d. official. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Received | 130 500 | 16 500 | 6 000 | |
| | 101,510 | 13 001 | 3 266 | |
| | 28,990 | 3,499 | 2,734 | |
| | 10 | 1 | 16 | delivered Mr. Pressly and Post Office. |
| | 29 000 | 3 500 | 2 750 | Mr. Allen's statement. |
| | 1d. public. | 2d. public. | 1d. official. | |
| Delivered | 101,710 | 12,919 | 3 266 | |

(47)

STAMPS AND TAXES;
6th July, 1840.

GENTLEMEN,

With reference to your letter of the 24th ultimo, intimating that the whole quantity of paper supplied for label stamps would be printed in five weeks, I am directed to acquaint you that the Board caused a representation to be made to the Treasury on the subject, and have received a reply from Mr. Gordon stating that the Commissioners of Excise have been instructed to enter into a further contract with Mr. Stacey Wise on terms arranged by their Lordships.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] CHA. PRESSLY.

MESSRS. PERKINS, & CO.

(48)

DOWNING STREET;
Feb. 22 1841.

DEAR SIR,

I think there can be no doubt that we have hit the public taste as regards the Envelope, and that a further supply of paper will be required almost immediately. I am desirous, however, of keeping the matter open as long as I can with the view of availing ourselves of such suggestions as may arise out of the first trial, and therefore beg to know what is the shortest time in which you could *commence* to supply a further quantity of paper? I also wish to ask how long it would require to add to your machines the apparatus for glazing the paper? You will consider this question as

distinct from the last, which has reference to the supply of *unglazed* paper. And further, could you in the course of a few months undertake the manufacture of the hand-made crown marked paper used for Labels? When I first spoke to you on the subject, I understood that it would not be convenient for you to do so, but as I am desirous of making the arrangement, if practicable, with a view of reducing the cost of Excise-superintendence, I should be glad to know if your views on this subject have undergone any change.

I remain, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

J. DICKINSON, Esq.

P.S.—An early answer, especially to the first question, will oblige.

[This letter is reproduced from "*Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal.*" Vol. XVII. 1906–07. Page 163.]

---

(49)

11, DOWNING STREET;

DEAR SIR, Feb. 27, 1841.

The sample of Label paper just received appears to be very superior to any which I have before seen, and I am glad to find that you can make so great a reduction in the price. Can you let me have two or three sheets steeped in gelatine in the way you described? I find that we can allow you a week or so for any experiments you may desire to make with regard to label paper—further enquiry shows the stock in hand to be larger than it was supposed to be when I wrote last.

I remain, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

J. DICKINSON, Esq.

(Duplicate sent to Old Bailey.)

[The original letter is now in the Royal Collection.]

---

(50)

11, DOWNING STREET;

DEAR SIR, March 6 41.

Will you have the goodness to print the enclosed specimens of new paper made by Dickinson with one of your trial plates and to give me your opinion as to the quality of the paper for the purpose of Labels?

The paper has been impregnated with gelatine (to fix the threads) under the receiver of an air pump which is the cause of its being sent in such small pieces.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

P.S.—In order to try the paper fully please to gum it.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

(51)

69, Fleet Street;

March 9. 1841.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge your favour of the 6th instant, enclosing five small pieces of paper which we have printed, three of them in pink, and two in blue ink, and gummed the backs of the whole of them, and which I have now the pleasure of returning herein. The very small pieces sent renders it impossible to give any opinion which could be depended upon as to its printing or gumming qualities, but with this very necessary reservation I should say that as far as the imperfect experiment has been tried, the paper appears to stand the gum very well, but not to print quite as well as the paper now in use. We ought to have at least six or eight *sheets* of paper to enable me to give an opinion of any value.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON

Rowland Hill, Esq.

---

(52)

11, Downing Street;

March 27. 1841.

Dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to enclose specimens of your new label paper (which have been printed), together with a copy of Mr. Bacon's letter thereon. Can you, without much trouble, supply the 6 or 8 *sheets* of paper which he desires to have?

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

J. Dickinson, Esq.

[The copy of the letter enclosed was that of March 9th, 1841. The original letter and the copy enclosed are now in the Royal Collection.]

---

(53)

Nash Mill;

April 3 1841.

Dear Sir,

I am sorry not be able to send you a sample of paper with threads in it, adapted for labels, but I have no doubt of being able to furnish you one in the course of the present week, sized in such a way as to make the threads adhere strongly, without the printing quality being impaired by the process.

Very sincerely yours,

[Signed] JOHN DICKINSON.

To Rowland Hill, Esq.

(54)

NASH MILL;

DEAR SIR, 10th April, 1841.

I send herewith 15 sheets of tub sized paper, which perhaps you will allow Messrs. Bacon & Co. to try the printing of, but am rather disappointed in the paper myself by its turning out not so strongly sized as I intended it should be—In making the paper in any quantity we could adjust this process with more accuracy, and I am convinced that the paper would bear being harder sized than this specimen without detriment to its printing quality.

I remain, &c., &c.,

Signed JOHN DICKINSON.

TO ROWLAND HILL, Esq.

---

(55)

69, FLEET STREET;

DEAR SIR, May 1st, 1841.

I beg to acknowledge your favour of the 15th ulto., accompanied by copy of a letter from Mr. Dickinson and *eight* sheets paper which have been printed from the Penny Postage plate and are now returned you, 6 of them gummed and 2 not gummed. My opinion is that the Paper prints very well and better than that we generally use; that the threads (though they may be seen through the heads by a close examination) will not be generally perceived by the eye, provided the paper is no thinner than the sheets sent us; and that the colour of the paper is very good. I have fears that it is not strong enough for the gumming process, but believe that a rather stronger pulp or *rather stronger size in finishing* would make it all that is requisite for the purpose wanted.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

ROWLAND HILL, Esq.

---

(56)

69 FLEET STREET;

DEAR SIR, Aug. 23 1841.

Although we mentioned to you verbally some days back that the last Postage Paper received from Mr. Wise was not satisfactory, still we did not feel justified in making any official report until sufficient time had elapsed to give it a fair trial. We have now gummed eleven days printing and the three last days are about as bad as any three days previous work and the average loss by gumming during the whole eleven days is more than fourteen per cent., or 2201 sheets spoilt entirely in consequence of the defect in the paper. This is a loss which neither we, nor we should say the Government ought to bear; and if we may be excused for so doing, we should advise that one or two hundred reams more paper be ordered immediately from Mr. Wise to be sent in without delay and then before paying for it, require an equitable allowance for the spoilage in the present lot of paper, or that he should resize it in London with-

out removal to the mill. The present paper possesses two faults. It is very irregular in substance and too weakly sized so that the gum penetrates through the paper and the consequences are 1st, That the Government lose 14 per cent. of paper; 2nd, We lose the cost of printing and wear of the plates of 14 per cent. more than usual; 3rd, Although the work is wanted by Mr. Allen we cannot deliver him so much by 14 per cent. even with the same execution as formerly. And there is no certainty, but it may increase daily. Your early attention to this will oblige.

Dear Sir, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

---

(57)

69, FLEET STREET;

DEAR SIR, Aug. 27, 1841.

I have perused the letter from Mr. Wise and now return it as requested. I have not many remarks to make upon its contents, his observation that paper is improved by keeping a few months before being used is undoubtedly true, but both the other contracts of his were used as soon after being made as this has been and they did not give us this same trouble; there is *but one proper mode* of wetting the paper, although we have tried several in hopes to humour it, and the pressure must be such as to get the water out and leave it proper for printing, in fact we have tried our best to make it stand the gum as it ought but without success; no doubt judgment is required to get the right strength of size to resist the gum and yet not to make it lay in spots, but this was obtained in his last contract but one, and why has he not done it in the last? Mr. Wise says he is at a loss to account why it should prove that some and not all the sheets are spoilt in gumming, if all his paper was of one exact substance and sized and dried exactly alike. We should be at a loss, too, but the three things never happen to any hundred reams of paper exactly, and as his last lot of paper was very unequal both in sizing and substance the occurrence was naturally to be expected. If he makes more I think it should be sized as the last contract but one was, and weigh about one lb per ream more.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

---

(58)

69, FLEET STREET;

DEAR SIR, Nov. 5 1841.

Having now printed and gummed all the *five reams new paper* and the *two reams resized paper*, received from Mr. Wise, we are able to report:—

1st. That 1 ream of the resized Postage paper which came with blue labels attached to it all absorbed the gum more than it should do and some of it was ruined by the process.

2nd. That the other ream which came with pink labels attached to it turned out (with the exception of 2 or 3 sheets) such as it should be thus proving not only that the material used in the manufacture of the paper was good, and that its defects arose from bad sizing originally, or from being kept after it was finished in a damp place; but also that of the two experimental modes of sizing adopted by Mr. Wise, one is good and the other a bad one. But the resizing of the paper having been so long delayed the only advantage which we can now see in having done any of it, is the evidence it conclusively furnishes that the paper came to us—*from whatever cause it may have arisen*—in a defective state, that one mode of remedying this defect is a failure, and that another mode is successful—but as all the paper of the old manufacture, which we have still unprinted, and Mr. Allen and Mr. Wise have, is only sufficient for nine or ten days printing, it seems quite impossible to spare any of it to be sent to the mill for resizing.

3rd. But we are happy to report that of the five reams new paper sent in to us for printing only six sheets have been spoilt in gumming and these six sheets were unusually thin and light and would thus be easily accounted for; indeed they varied so very much from the average thickness that they ought to have been thrown out at the mill as spoilt sheets.

In view of all these facts we would respectfully suggest whether the paper now ordered had not better be finished and forwarded to London without delay and whether another order should not be given as soon as this is completed, the present order only being enough for three months supply.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON,

E. Hill, Esq. for self and partners.

---

(59)

69, Fleet Street;

Dear Sir, Nov. 13 1841.

I received your note of yesterday in the afternoon and commenced an answer then, but was called off by business which kept me the remainder of the day. My letter to you of the 5th instant, will shew that I fully entertain your fears of being stopt for paper, and find that Mr. Allen has none on hand, and we only have enough for four days work, after this day. Mr. Wise, however, has a few reams which went to him to be resized, and so long ago as the 5th inst. *he writes* from the Mill *that he informed the Commissioners of Stamps & Taxes on the 4th instant*, that he had 150 reams Postage paper ready waiting the order from the Board of Excise to send it off. If this letter of his has been attended to, the Paper ought to have been in Mr. Allen's possession some days, and if it has not, no time should be lost in requesting the Board of Excise to order its departure!!!

In regard to the communications of Messrs Smith and White, herewith returned to you, I have to say that everything is and has been the same latterly as for many months past, with the exception of the Paper, but as we all know that much of the last make was so porous as to shew the gum through and spoil the heads, it is quite possible that some other sheets which did not appear to the eye to have injured the appearance of the engraving, may yet have soaked in so much of the gum as to leave

a defective gumming surface. We were not aware of such fact, but the above is the only rational way of accounting for it. With good paper there is no danger of its recurring again, for this, and many other reasons I consider it would be very desirable that the stock of good unprinted paper in Mr. Allen's hands should never fall below 100 single or 300 treble reams, being about three months supply, without ordering a fresh manufacture, and so then if any of the paper when received proved defective there would always be time to cure the evil without the loss and complaints which have lately arisen.

In regard to defacing the worn out plates Mr. Pressly has directed me to address a letter to the Commissioners stating what I propose, which I will do early in the next week. I saw Mr. Keogh and he satisfied me that no impressions taken from the new plates should be sent in *as good* previous to that which is taken in the presence of and approved by the Commissioners and I understood him to say it would be best (as there are always some spoilt reams in manufacturing an order which have to be destroyed and made into fresh pulp) to take with each order two or three reams of the best of the spoilage at a price which will cover the duty and its value as waste paper, and let it be sent up to Mr. Allen quite distinct from the other paper, then let it be furnished us for settling in new plates as wanted and returned back with spoilt impressions quite separate from the general deliveries, and not entered in the same Warrant with them. Then let us give two days notice when a new plate is ready and the Commissioners will name a day and hour when they will take an impression therefrom. I believe the above is the substance of what passed, and am.

Dear Sir, &c., &c.,

EDWIN HILL, Esq. [Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

P.S.—I am obliged by what you say about the Specimens our man as you have since learnt had them to take to the License Office and brot them to you by mistake, we shall be happy to furnish you with some, however, if you see fit to shew them you can, and we know that none can compete with us in security from forgery.

---

(60)

69 FLEET STREET;

DEAR SIR, NOV. 19, 1841.

As we understand Mr. Wise is very anxious for a settlement of his account for the new paper delivered by him within a few days, and that objections are made to paying him until the full amount of our charge for work spoilt from the defective state of the paper is known—we beg to state that from a wish to make our charge as light as possible, and to facilitate a settlement with him, which may be to him important—we will content ourselves with our present demand of £62 6s. 2d. for spoilage occasioned by bad paper up to the 15th Oct. last and bear our own loss upon all which have arisen from that period until the whole of the last order of paper has been delivered if that will be satisfactory to the Board.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

(61)

69, Fleet Street;

Nov. 24, 1841.

Dear Sir,

We shall not get through gumming and examining all the Postage Stamps from the old paper until Friday, but the number spoilt from defective paper will be very near 2200, probably not 20 sheets from it either way—beyond these there were 8308 sheets in our last account which two quantities must be added together in order to make out the total loss from defective paper.

I enclose you as promised three envelopes with the adhesive penny stamp attached to them and all of which when received had the stamps as they now are upon them, and which all must have passed through two Post Offices without the least attempt to obliterate them. One was posted at Kingston, another at East Horsley and the third at East Clandon, and were delivered from the Post Office at Bookham, all in Surrey. I discovered them from the merest accident, and obtained them upon the promise to conceal the name of the friend who gave them to me.

As this extraordinary practice is so prevalent in one little spot, is it to be presumed it is confined to that corner of the country, and that the failure to obliterate them was not accidental, is evident from the fact that from one of those offices I saw two or three in the same predicament. Supposing that the Government would beg hard to have evidence of, so as to stop this practice; I obtained the enclosed stamps with their envelopes from my friend.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

Edwin Hill, Esq.

---

(62)

69, Fleet Street;

28th Feby., 1842.

Sir,

Having printed now, gummed and sent in to the Stamp Office all the eight sample reams of Postage Paper from the new order, we beg to report that the paper proved in general of a good quality, and bore the gum as well as usual, that there were a few sheets rather size stained (probably from sizing it during the late frost), but the whole amount of spoilage from every cause is scarcely perceptible from the usual average, we therefore see no reason to complain of the paper.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

Edwin Hill, Esq.

(63)

69, Fleet Street;

Dear Sir, Feb. 24, 1843.

We think it prudent to inform you, if your attention has not already been called to the fact, that there is now only 330 reams Postage paper in your hands and ours unprinted; that in getting the order through the different Departments and the moulds at the mill generally takes a month and in this time new stock will be reduced to about 210 or 220 reams, allowing again 3 weeks to bring and send the paper and deliver it, there would then be only 120 or 130 reams left, which in case of any fault in the New paper would be a very small stock to go on with until it was remedied—would it not therefore be best to give a fresh order without delay. Taken altogether the last paper ordered was decidedly the best we have yet had, but some of the sheets received lately turn blue in spots which is probably occasioned by imperfect washing after bleaching the rags and many sheets are thinner in the lower end than the rest—if this fault arises from the moulds which I do not believe—the maker must correct it free of expense, but if the fault is in the Vatman, then calling Mrs. Wise's attention to the fact will cure it.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

Edwin Hill, Esq.

---

(64)

Somerset House;

Dear Sir, Dec. 16 43.

I think I did not mention to you that one of the paper moulds appears to be in bad repair, and the other also rather defective. I judge from the imperfect appearance of some of the Crown watermarks. It will be some time, doubtless, before a new supply of paper is required, but if a new pair of moulds be necessary, as the making of them is a slow affair, it seems desirable that it should not be put off too long. Perhaps you will enquire into this when you go to the mill next and see that the requisite steps are taken.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] E. HILL.

J. B. Bacon, Esq.

---

(65)

69, Fleet Street;

Dear Sir, Dec. 26, 1843.

I have received your Mem. about the possible and probable causes of the defects in the gumming, for which I am obliged, and am now trying experiments with the hope of finding a remedy.

I have also your letter about the Crown watermarked Paper moulds and am decidedly of opinion that there should be a New Pair of Moulds made before another order is given. I have written to the Mill and they are of the same opinion. I do not know the exact time, but think it would take about three weeks to prepare them ; possibly four weeks. Perhaps under these circumstances it would be well to commence them at once ?

In regard to the spotting, although the weather is not all the cause, yet it has much to do with it, and our patience has been well tried the past 20 days.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

---

(66)

69, FLEET STREET ;

Dec. 27, 1843.

DEAR SIR,

I am writing you, but to say I have received information from the Mould Maker that he cannot make a new pair of Crown watermarked moulds in less than six weeks from the time they are commenced, so that it is a longer operation than I had supposed.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

EDWIN HILL, Esq.

---

(67)

LONDON ;

Feb. 2, 1844.

DEAR MRS. WISE,

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

Had you not better write a letter to the Commissioners of Excise, through the Supervisor, stating the necessity of a new set of moulds before any more Postage Paper is made, and then the order and George may come together?

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. B. BACON.

MRS. E. S. WISE.

(68)

London ;

Feb. 15, 1844.

Dear Sir,

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

Inform me by return of post what has been done about new Postage Moulds, as it is now quite time they were making, indeed I begin to be troubled for fear the paper will be wanted before it can be made, the [eczema ?] in my hand has obliged me to get Mr. Hill Petch to write for me.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

Charles Wise, Esq.

---

(69)

69, Fleet Street ;

Jany. 17, 1846.

Dear Sir,

I now return the letter for Mrs. Wise, which appears to me to do very well just as it is. Although she *ought* to report the state of the moulds she has never yet been directed to do it, and cannot be aware that she would be permitted to make new moulds until a new order was about being given. On reflection, I question if Mr. Wood will agree to the moulds being prepared *all but the Crowns*, without an officer being present—for if I recollect aright there is a very stringent Act, applying to moulds and everything else connected with the Postage Labels, and a voluntary permission to make a mould just the size of yours, with the bar lines at the edges—and wanting only the Crowns—would somewhat commit the Government—in case of a forgery afterwards. I should think, however, that the moulds ought to be put in hand, either with or without an officer, without much delay, and the old ones repaired, too, so as to be at work while the new are making.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JOSHUA B. BACON.

Edwin Hill, Esq.

P.S.—I find that in addition to the reasons I stated yesterday, why our accounts were made out always as they have been, there is another, vizt., That Mr. Allen required it, so that his warrants could be shown as vouchers for the correctness of our account and his stock, which they could not be, while only partially delivered.

(70)

RUSH MILL;

DEAR SIR, Mar. 23, 1852.

In reply to your note received this morning I do not feel sufficiently positive on the subject of this Postage paper to make a definite report, but will give my general impression as far as it is formed. The experiment was made with 20 rms. which furnished two full-days consumption, and as far as related to the Printing affords no ground for comment, the paper printing well and the spoilage in printing (owing probably to a slight increase in the strength of the Paper made for this experiment), being decidedly less than it had been for some days previously. The Paper when gummed (with the exception of a very few sheets in which the watermark showed through) looked as well as usual, presenting no ground for remark, but the spoilage in gumming was very considerable, so much so as to cause the total spoilage in the day's work to be greater than usual, notwithstanding the decreased amount of spoilage in printing. This appears to be caused by the increased tendency to curl inwards when wet with gum consequent upon the additional strength, and which again causes the curled edge to stick to the tray in which it is placed to dry and when gathered the parts so stuck tear from the sheet. The result therefore, would appear to be that there would be an increased spoilage consequent upon the general use of so thin a paper, which must be taken as a sett off against the benefits which are expected to arise. The paper tried weighed 9 lbs. to the ream, while the paper previously in use weighed about 11lbs. I have consulted Mrs. Wise and Mr. Hayes, respecting the alteration in the price of the paper consequent upon the alteration in weight, and I find that their decided opinion is that if there is to be any alteration it ought to be an increase as the increased spoilage in *making a very thin* paper, the increased *strength* of *material* necessary and the increased wear and tear of machinery much more than compensate for the amount saved in the weight of rags and the Duty paid; which are the only items affected. If you ask any paper-maker he will tell you that he charges more for a very thin paper than for a thicker one for these reasons. Your reference to the case of the 6d. paper does not agree with my recollection of my letter to you as (in the absence of the copy which is in Town), I have run over the calculation and reckon that the difference of 1lb. per ream which is equal to 2 15lbs. caused a saving of only a 25th, but the fact is that the question there was between a very thick paper and another which was to a moderate extent thicker or thinner, whereas here it is between a moderately thin paper and a very thin one. I may notice in passing that the authorized weight of the Crown paper (as far as I can learn both from the Excise Office here and my own recollection) is 10½lbs. and that the additional half-pound was put on at my recommendation to increase the strength. I may likewise add that there would probably be some additional expense in the cost of moulds, as a worn mould is apt to *cut* the paper by the thickness of the watermark, and this would show so much sooner on a very thin sheet than on the present that the old moulds would have to be abandoned sooner. None of these items alone would amount to much, but taken together and sett off against so small a saving as I have referred to, they would I am persuaded quite make out Mrs. Wise's position. I trust you will excuse haste as I am in the midst of a cs., etc.

I am, &c., &c.,

O. HILL, Esq., Signed] J. P. BACON.

Somerset House.

o

(71)

69, Fleet Street;

My Dear Sir, July 21, 1852.

There is no *insuperable* objection to the idea of printing the stamps on thinner paper, but as the spoilage is increased by the thinness of the paper (the strength of material being equal), I have lately urged Mrs. Wise, who had fallen into a habit of making it thinner, to get it up to the original standard of 11½lbs. to the ream. I remember that Mr. Rowland Hill was at first desirous to have a very thin paper, but I thought that he had been led to abandon the point, though I never heard any reason assigned either way.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

J. Ledingham, Esq.,
G.P.O.

---

(72)

69, Fleet Street;

Sir, Sept. 30, 1852.

With reference to the trial of 273 reams of thin postage paper, which we received for printing from the 7th August to the 7th September last, and which we commenced delivering to Mr. Allen on the 7th September last, and shall probably finish delivering this week, we have to remark that we did not observe any *great* objection to the general use of such thin paper arising from the increase of spoilage, while the party who pasts the ½ sheets together reports to us that he found the adhesiveness of such paper to be decidedly greater than usual. We are therefore of opinion that it would be quite safe to order a considerable quantity of such paper to be made, if it should be the opinion of the Honble. Commissioners that such a course is desirable.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS BACON & Co.

Ormond Hill, Esq.

---

(73)

Somerset House;

Dear Sir, 11 Nov. 1852.

A specimen of labels upon the thinner paper is wanted, and it appears that there are not any in Mr. Allen's stock. If you have any left will you send them in to-morrow, taking care to mark the parcel in such a way that they may be distinguished? If you have *not* any please to inform me of the fact.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ORMOND HILL.

Perkins Bacon, Esq.

(74)

69, FLEET STREET;

MY DEAR SIR, Aug. 28, 1853.

I was not aware that it was usual to trouble you on the subject of New Crown Moulds, and still think that the proper course for Mrs. Wise to take is to write to the Excise Comrs. for an Officer when the new moulds are sufficiently advanced to be taken under his charge, and that she has merely intended to inform you of the fact, without asking for instructions on that head. I will write to her (or rather her daughter, for she is absent from the Mill), to follow these precedents in the matter. She ought, however, to have told you (as perhaps she has done) that she had not more than three weeks work to do on the o'd order for paper [a few words cannot be read here] to prevent delay, she will require the new order very shortly.

I am, &c., &c.,

O. HILL, Esq. [Signed] J. P. BACON.

---

(75)

69, FLEET STREET;

MY DEAR MRS. WISE, Jan. 27, 1854.

. . . . .

. . . . .

I have shewn the new crowns to Mr. O. Hill, who thinks it will be well to put a few similar ones on a piece of note mould (as you have now done), of different thicknesses of metal including the *very thinnest*. They should be placed very near together and then we can print a few for experiment. I should like this done quickly.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

---

(76)

69, FLEET STREET;

MY DEAR MRS. WISE, Feb. 14 1854.

1. We have printed and gummed the experimental crowns, but being (from some unexplained cause) on much thicker paper than the crowns, they do not show well at all. I therefore wish half a dozen more made from the actual crown pulp and sent up finished as before. The sooner the better. Mr. Hill thinks the crowns badly made, but that I suppose arises from the difficulty of cutting them by hand?

. . . . .

. . . . .

. . . . .

. . . . .

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

(77)

69, Fleet Street;
April 12, 1854.

My Dear Mrs. Wise,

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

What have you done as to the Crown new order: Have you written Mr. Hill as I suggested? I enclose two crowns for Mr. Hayes, of which I like the plainest one best, but I am no judge as to their practicability.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

---

(78)

69, Fleet Street;
Apl. 22, 1854.

Sir,

In reply to your favor enquiring if we have any suggestions to offer respecting the paper used for printing the Postage Stamps, we are not aware of anything which calls for observation at the present time.

We are, &c., &c.,

per pro. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

Ormond Hill, Esq.,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House.

---

(79)

69, Fleet Street;
April 25, 1854.

My Dear Mrs. Wise,

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

I am very glad you have got the order for Postage paper all right again.

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

(80)

69, Fleet Street;

My Dear Mrs. Wise, May 15, 1854.

I have seen Mr. O. Hill, and he does not see any objection to the watermark for the Crowns being made out of the Mills, provided he knows the name of the party doing the work, as a guarantee for his responsibility. Will you therefore ask Mr. Hayes to have the die made as soon as possible, and *half a dozen* impressions struck that I may show them before you are finally committed.

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

---

(81)

69, Fleet Street;

My Dear Mrs. Wise, Aug. 10, 1854.

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

I do not know what to say about the Crown watermark? If it will not come better than the specimens sent I do not think it worth while to change. If you will send me up the drawing I will see if Saunders cannot give us a better?

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

---

(82)

69, Fleet Street;

Sir, Oct. 21, 1854.

I write on behalf of Mrs. E. S. Wise, of Rush Mill, Northampton (the manufacturer of the Postage label paper), to know if you will be willing to make a die for her which would be suitable for making a watermark similar to the enclosed, but better in shape, and if so what would be the cost. Or if you prefer the other mode, at what rate you would supply her with a thousand crowns ready for sewing on the mould.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

Mr. Smith,
Fountain Place,
City Road.

(83)

69, Fleet Street;

Oct. 27, 1854.

My Dear Mrs. Wise,

I have shewn the Crowns to Mr. Hill, who did not like any of them, but referred me to Mr. Smith, the maker of the Anchor moulds, from whom I have got an estimate, and suspect I shall have to order a pair from him, though his price is *double* that of Mr. Hayes. I am very sorry it is so, but cannot risk the order for the paper for the sake of getting Mr. Hayes the moulds to make.

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

Yours, &c., &c.

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

---

(84)

69, Fleet Street;

Nov. 15. 1854.

My Dear Mrs. Wise,

I send to-night by rail the new Postage moulds.

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

---

(85)

69, Fleet Street;

Dec. 19, 1854.

My Dear Mrs. Wise,

I have received the sheet of crowns, which certainly shows the water-mark much plainer than the old one, though there may be two opinions as to the shape!

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

(86)

69, Fleet Street;

January 5, 1855.

My Dear Sir,

I am obliged by your note respecting the weakness of the Postage paper. I was not aware that strength was a desideratum as to the perforation, but will communicate with Mrs. Wise on the subject. At the same time, I fear that the new watermark will not shew to advantage if the paper is much stronger than the Postage paper has been when of fair average toughness.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

O. Hill, Esq.

---

(87)

69, Fleet Street;

Jan. 5, 1855.

My Dear Mrs. Wise,

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

Mr. Hill writes me that the Postage paper is too weak and short in fibre. This should be looked to, but as the paper now in use is probably 6 months old, all you can do is to look to the present stock.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

---

(88)

69, Fleet Street;

May 25, 1855.

My Dear Mrs. Wise

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

There are great complaints of the unevenness of the crown paper, some sheets being *very* thin and others *very* thick. Mr. Hill does not care how thin you make it provided it is even, but it is impossible to perforate such irregular substances as are from time to time turning up in this paper. This must be attended to. . . . . .

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

(89)

69, Fleet Street;

Gentlemen, Oct. 1, 1855.

Some months since you supplied Mrs. Wise, of Rush Mills, with a pair of crown watermarked paper moulds. The watermark has given satisfaction, but the workmanship of the moulds has turned out very bad indeed, having cost Mrs. Wise a great deal for repairs. I therefore wish to know (to prevent a similar trouble in future), at what price you will furnish the patent watermarks, in order that I may judge as to the expediency of continuing the use of this watermark. In addition to the reasons stated above Mrs. Wise has the frames and deckles for 2 pr. of crown moulds on hand, which of course she cannot afford to throw away.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Messrs. Smith & Son, [Signed] J. P. BACON.
Fountain Place,
City Road.

---

(90)

69, Fleet Street;

Dear Sirs, Oct. 25, 1855.

In reply to your favor of this morning I much prefer to leave the arrangement respecting the Crown moulds as it was understood to be, which can still be accomplished by your putting on the faces and sending them back to the Mill in their present state. It *may* be perfectly true that the workmanship of those sent you is inferior to your own, but in that case it is only necessary to say that we *prefer* the bad work and do not wish [? ] in the present case.

I am, &c., &c.,

Messrs. J. Smith & Son, [Signed] J. P. BACON.
Fountain Place.

---

(91)

69, Fleet Street;

Gentlemen, Feb. 13, 1856.

In the month of October of last year Mrs. Wise forwarded you a pair of frames for facing with the patent crown watermarks. They ought to have been delivered some weeks since and I should be glad to know if they are in a state of forwardness so that they can be absolutely delivered in a short time, as otherwise it is not necessary that they should be proceeded with at present. Your immediate and definite reply will oblige.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. P. BACON.

Messrs. J. Smith & Son,
8, Fountain Place,
City Road.

(92)

BLENHEIM HOUSE,
SCARBORO ;
3 Augt., 1866.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am desirous that in future a more systematic official check should be maintained upon the making of the crown moulds : and with this view that the crown bits for these moulds should be kept in the custody of the Board's Officers at Rush Mill, to be given out by them when required for use by the mould maker. Will you be good enough to give directions.

1st. That any crowns which are at Rush Mill, other than those which are upon the moulds in the officers custody may be counted and delivered to the officers.

2nd. That when any new crowns shall be ordered the maker of them, Mr. Smith I presume, be instructed to consign them to the Excise Officer in charge at Rush Mill, and to send *me* a memorandum on each occasion of the number so consigned. I shall myself communicate with Mr. Smith on the subject as soon as I receive an answer from you : but of course as he is employed to make the crowns for Mrs. Faircloth he should receive his instructions from her.

If I am mistaken in communicating to you on this subject will you be good enough to forward this note [to] the proper person.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

---

(93)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C. ;
28 Sept., 1866.

MY DEAR SIR,

I learn from Mr. Smith, the mould maker, that your firm has instructed him to prepare 2,000 crowns for Rush Mill. I think you must have forgotten that in yours of Augt. 6th you undertook "that none shall be ordered or made without first communicating with you," *i.e.*, me "on the subject." However, as Mr. Smith has at once written to me no harm is done :—

I propose if you do not object to request Mr. Smith on this and all similar future occasions to deliver the crowns to me here. On receiving them I shall send him an acknowledgment to produce to you and at once forward them to the supervisor at Rush Mill and instruct him to inform the manager of the Mill of their arrival. Please to let me know whether you agree to this arrangement.

Yours, &c., &c.,
[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. BACON, Esq.

(94)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

GENTLEMEN, 3 September, 1868.

The stock of Crown watermark bits for making new moulds is nearly exhausted. Will you please have 2,000 new crowns ordered of Mr. W. H. Smith, of Grantley Works, Park Lane, Peckham, and direct him to deliver them to this office as soon as made.

Yours, &c., &c.,

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO. [Signed] E. HILL.

---

(95)

LONDON;

SIR, Sept. 18, 1868.

Your order of yesterday is at hand and will loose (*sic*) no time in preparing the 2,000 crown's watermark, then will forward the same to Mr. O. Hill, Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

I am, &c., &c.,
E. SMITH,
for W. H. Smith.

---

(96)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

DEAR SIRS, 19 Nov., 1868.

We received 2,000 crown watermark bits from Mr. Smith on 23 Oct. last and forwarded them at once to the Officer at Rush Mill. On future similar occasions you shall be informed.

Yours, &c., &c.,

MESSRS. PERKINS & CO. [Signed] O. HILL.

---

(97)

STAMPING DEPARTMENT,
INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE, W.C.;

GENTLEMEN, 11 May, 1874.

It is desirable for the convenience of the perforating that the margin of the sheets of Postage stamps should be increased by a $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch on each side; but before communicating with Mrs. Faircloth on the subject I wish to know whether such alteration will cause you inconvenience.

Yours, &c., &c.,

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO. [Signed] O. HILL.

(98)

69, Fleet Street;

12 May, 1874.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your enquiry whether it would cause us inconvenience if the width of the Postage paper were increased by half an inch, we beg to say that it would do so in several ways. The safes which were provided some little time since for the safe custody of the packed Stamps, were made to take three rows of reams or sheets each, but the addition of ½ an inch in width, would prevent them holding more than two rows in the same way. The trays in which the wet gummed work is placed to dry are too narrow to admit of the increased width and would all (there being several hundreds of them) require alteration. There would probably also be a danger of the sides of the paper being dirty owing to its being broader than the plate. And a still more serious consequence would be the cost of covering with gum an increased surface, amounting to an addition of 1 22d. to the present size. Still as we understand it may be highly desirable to make the change we shall be willing to try the effect of the alteration for a reasonable period without charge, if it is understood that objection will not be raised to the want of cleanness at the sides of the sheets owing to the cause before stated.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed PERKINS BACON & Co.

O. Hill, Esq.

---

(99)

Stamping Department,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, W.C.;
28th July, 1874.

Gentlemen,

The width of the 1d. Post label paper which will be required for the new feed motion will be 11⅛ inches. I shall feel obliged by your informing me whether this will necessitate an additional charge, and if so the amount of such charge.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Signed O. HILL.

Messrs. Perkins Bacon & Co.

---

(100)

London,
69 Fleet Street, E.C.;
July 29th, 1874.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of yesterday's date we beg to say that we shall be willing to make the alteration in the 1d. Postage paper mentioned therein without

charge, on the understanding that should we find it more expensive than we reckoned we shall be at liberty to re-open the subject.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.,
per J. H. Upham.

Ormond Hill, Esqre.,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House.

---

( 101 )

Stamping Department,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, W.C. ;

Dear Sirs, 31 July, 1874.

Please convey my thanks to Mrs. Faircloth for the willingness on her part, conveyed to me in yours of 29th inst, to make the required increase in the width of the side margins of the crown paper in the first place at any rate without extra charge.

I shall feel much obliged if you will arrange for this alteration being made on the condition named in your said note of 29th inst.

Yours, &c., &c.,

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. [Signed] O. HILL.

---

( 102 )

Stamping Department,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, W.C. ;

My Dear Sir, 5 July, 1875.

In regard to the weight which the reams of 1d., 1½d. and 2d. Postage stamps should be when printed on the broad paper, I find that adding to the stipulated minimum weight of the reams upon narrow paper (a) the amount due to the increase in the area of the paper and (b) the amount due to the quantity of gum which the additional area should take, gives 18lbs. 8oz. as the minimum weight of a ream of the finished stamps, upon wide paper, when weighed without wrapper. If you agree to this will you be good enough to instruct your people accordingly.

Yours, &c., &c.,

J. P. Bacon, Esq. [Signed] O. HILL.

# APPENDIX E.

Extracts from the records of Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., Limited, and copies of other documents connected with the gumming of the POSTAGE STAMPS.

---

(1)

MANCHESTER ;

SIR, 9 October, 1839.

In case you determine to adopt "Labels" for the proposed penny postage, I presume each stamp will be "gummed" and that a gum will be required of the strongest adhesive quality, if so, I take the liberty of offering to supply the Post Office, London, with a *manufactured gum* possessing this property in the highest degree, being a purer and stronger gum than Senegal or other foreign gums and at a price 50 per cent. cheaper.

I shall feel honoured with a reply, and if necessary can furnish necessary security for the fulfilment of any contracts.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JNO. RAWSTHORNE.

P.S.—I supply the Calico Printers with the article in lieu of Senegal gum.

[ROWLAND HILL, Esq.]

[This, and several other letters of Mr. Rawsthorne's correspondence, are reproduced from copies published in the "*Philatelic Journal of Great Britain.*" London. 1898. Vol. VIII., pp. 97–102.]

---

(2)

TREASURY CHAMBERS ;

SIR, October 11th, 1839.

In reply to your letter of the 9th inst., relative to the supply of gum in case labels should be adopted under the new arrangements, I beg to say (in Mr. Hill's absence) that I conceive your proper course will be to address that Department, whatever it may be, in whose control the manufacture of the stamps shall actually rest.

I am, &c., &c.,

MR. J. RAWSTHORNE. [Signed] HENRY COLE.

[It was not until February 20th, 1840,[1] that the Lords of the Treasury made a Minute, placing the preparation of the postage stamps under the Commissions of Stamps and Taxes.]

[1] Vide Appendix A, p. 8.

(3)

TREASURY CHAMBERS;

December 2nd, 1839.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 9th October, describing a gum manufactured by you, I am directed by Mr. Hill to request that you will have the goodness to transmit for his inspection specimens of paper gummed with your preparation, and a sample of the gum itself, and that you will state the price at which you can furnish it.

I am also directed to request that you would state whether it can be so prepared as that any Label so gummed and applied to a letter will not become detached if placed near a moist newspaper, and whether if sheets of paper similarly prepared would adhere to each other if placed in bulk.

A reply by return of post is requested.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] JNO. LEDINGHAM.

MR. JOHN RAWSTHORNE.]

---

(4)

MR. LEDINGHAM,
TREASURY CHAMBERS,
LONDON.

MANCHESTER;

3 Decr., 1839.

SIR,

I am honoured with your letter of yesterday, and pr. this Mail transmit samples of the Gum of which I am the original Manufacturer.

A a Bottle containing the Gum in solution mixed with *Cold* water.

B a Bottle containing the Gum in solution with *Hot* water.

C a Bottle containing the Gum in the state it is sold per ton.

D a sample of paper gummed with *Cold* and *Hot* water in the proportion of 4lb. gum to 8lb. water.

In a Box pr. Mail this Evg.

The price of the gum marked C delivered in London would be £45 per ton.

The price of Senegal Gum is £70 to £75 subject to a loss from extraneous matter of 10 to 12 pr. Cent which always occurs in foreign Gums besides being difficult of solution.

I do not think it possible that a Ticket Gummed will become detached if placed any length of time near to a moist newspaper—neither will sheets of paper similarly prepared adhere to each other if placed in bulk.

From the short notice given I am not prepared to state the number of square feet of paper that a given weight of gum would prepare. I propose to ascertain this

point and will report the result, in the meantime I beg to state that the expense will be *so little* as to be almost incredible, as the gum works in the most economical manner both as regards its adhesiveness or the facility with which it dissolves.

Any further information that Mr. Hill may require or experiments made, I shall have much pleasure in furnishing.

And have the honour, &c., &c.,

Signed] JNO. RAWSTHORNE.

P.S.—The enclosed sample of gummed paper has been prepared within 3 hours and dried a longer time and *different paper better sized* would have given a more favourable sample.

[Signed] J. R.

---

(5)

TREASURY CHAMBERS;

December 19th, 1839.

SIR,

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter of the 13th inst., and to say that I shall probably avail myself of your offer of assistance.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

MR. JOHN RAWSTHORNE.

---

(6)

11, DOWNING STREET;

February 6th, 1840.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of December 13 to Mr. Rowland Hill, I beg to enclose a sample of the paper which is recommended for the adhesive stamps, and I shall feel obliged if you will have the gum laid upon it in the manner you think most likely to answer the purpose, and to return it to me, also I shall be glad if you will give me what information you can as to the operation and the room, number of persons, etc., required to prepare about $2\frac{1}{2}$ reams per day of sheets each about 18in. × 10in. I have written a few questions upon the other side which please to send back to me with the answers and any further information you may think necessary.

My present purpose is to report to the proper authorities what preparation is necessary to be made so that it may not be requisite to go very much into detail as I can apply to you again when the mode of proceeding is decided upon.

There is no doubt the wash must be applied in London but at first I think the solution of the gum had better be done in Manchester.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] EDWIN HILL

TO JOHN RAWSTHORNE, Esq.

(7)

LONDON ;
February 9, 1840.

SIR,

I have requested Messrs. Perkins and Co. to print some impressions upon two new samples of paper, one of which they recommend and the other, the one written upon, recommended by a paper maker, and I shall feel greatly obliged if you will have both carefully gummed, to try whether the print will be injured in either case by the gum soaking through the paper. When I say carefully done I mean so that the impression may not be smeared or dirtied in the operation, in other respects the matter should be so conducted as to give the print no better chance of remaining uninjured than it will have in the real process, otherwise, of course, the experiment will be inconclusive. I shall be glad of any hint or observation which may arise in the trial. Will you be good enough to transmit the papers to me at 11 Downing Street as soon as they are done and to have this put in hand immediately.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

JOHN RAWSTHORNE, Esq., Manchester.

P.S., February 12.

Messrs. Perkins and Co. have prepared 5 specimens, which I shall be glad if you will be good enough to put in hand immediately. Will you give directions to return *all* the impressions whether damaged or otherwise.

[Signed] E. H.

---

(8)

TREASURY ;
February 27th, 1840.

Mr. Edwin Hill presents his compliments to Mr. Rawsthorne and has enclosed half a sheet of paper which he would be obliged if Mr. Rawsthorne would gum on one side only and return to Mr. Hill at the earliest possible period with such remarks as may occur to Mr. Rawsthorne with respect to the fitness of this paper for adhesive Labels so far as gumming is concerned.

---

(9)

69 FLEET STREET ;
March 14 1840.

Supposed Expenses of Gumming.

Dissolved Gum will cost 2 - per gallon ready for use and which will gum effectually 84,480 square inches and, therefore, if the labels be one square inch each, 1 000,000 would cost 24 - or 9 32 of a penny per 1,000, but as they are less it would give 1,083,000 for 24 - or 1,200,000 for 26 8.

1 man at 20 - per week }
1 boy at 12 - do. } 32/-

For 1,200,000 a week's work at 1,200 sheets per day or say 5,000 per week, coal for heating to 90° at 1 - per day, or 6 - per week. Expenses of stove, press boards, tables and other apparatus, say carriage of gum and rent of rooms 10 4.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 man at 20 - per week .. .. .. | £1 | 0 | 0 |
| 1 boy at 12 - per week .. .. .. .. | | 12 | 0 |
| Coal 1 shilling a day, 6 days 6 - .. .. | | 6 | 0 |
| Expenses sundries .. .. .. .. | | 10 | 4 |
| Gum .. .. .. .. .. .. | 1 | 6 | 8 |
| | £3 | 15 | 0 |

75 - or 3 4ths of a penny per thousand stamps.

If the above calculation is correct the expense to us of gumming exclusive of waste would be 11 per cent. upon our Estimate. The result of the whole is :

1st. That we cannot be responsible that the Gum and Paper shall be adapted to each other.

2nd. That any spoilage in Gumming alone cannot interfere with our charge of printing Stamps, but no charge to be made for Gumming them.

3rd. That we will deduct one farthing per thousand from our charge and give the room to the Commissioners to gum on our premises, or we will gum at the actual cost to us, or we will take all risks and Gum the Stamps at three farthings per thousand beyond our present estimate.

In the foregoing statement we have entirely left out of calculation one press, one man and perhaps one boy likewise, all which are mentioned as being wanted by Mr. Rawsthorne.

R. HILL, Esq.

---

( 10 )

69, FLEET STREET, LONDON ;

March 14th, 1840.

SIR,

We have this day completed a contract with the Government, in which, much against our own wish, we have agreed to furnish the adhesive matter (and put it upon the back of the stamps) as well as the stamps themselves, the latter being the only thing we are anxious to do. And the Government is desirous that we should use the preparation made by you and similar to the sample had by Mr. Hill, if not more expensive than we can procure it elsewhere.

Will you therefore oblige us by a letter per return of post, stating your price for the article dissolved and ready for use. Whether you can furnish a few hundred weight in 20 days ; whether it gets injured by laying some time after being made ; and in what size casks you would recommend its being packed ; please also to state the mode of payment, which to us is a matter of indifference. The only stipulations we shall require of you if we arrange with each other are 1st, that the article shall be always equal to that you sent Mr. Hill, and 2nd, that you will always let us have a

supply on receiving (after the first order) two months notice. And on our part we have no objection to agreeing always to take of you if we arrange at all during our agreement with the Government, which is for one year certain.

We have no doubt Joseph C. Dyer, Esq., or E. Burdekin, Esq., Manager of the Bank, Manchester, will satisfy you of our respectability and responsibility.

As we have contracted to be ready for circulation in three weeks your immediate attention will oblige.

Sir, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

J. RAWSTHORNE, Esq., Manchester.

---

(11)

LONDON;

SIR, March 17th, 1840.

We thank you for the prompt reply to our letter of the 14th inst., but regret to find as Mr. Hill has mentioned above that both your price and the number which can be gummed from a given quantity differ materially from what you had stated to Mr. R. Hill and Mr. Ledingham. As we have been induced to agree upon a price for gumming which under the new light will never answer. As time, however, will not admit of delay our Mr. Bacon purposes if he can possibly accomplish it to go down to Manchester on Friday or Saturday next in order to see if an arrangment can be made with you. We were led by the Government to think, and we believed it, that if any difference was made it would be in our favour as tradesmen and not against us, and we cannot give the price you now ask, and still keep the price to the Government, which their representations taken from your letters induced them to make to us.

A line by return of post, giving your address will oblige us, as the writer cannot be gone longer from home than is absolutely necessary.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

JOHN RAWSTHORNE, Esq.

---

(12)

LONDON;

SIR, March 17th, 1840.

I beg to inform you that the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes upon whom the preparation of Postage Stamps has devolved have contracted with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Petch to print the adhesive stamps and in order to simplify the matter they have also engaged that the same parties shall put on the gum. In order to enable these gentlemen to make their estimate of terms they were informed of your offers to supply gum and the prices contained in your letters of December 3 and 13, viz., £45 per ton for the dry gum or 2s. per gallon for the gum in solution fit for use. Also that in your opinion (Dec. 13) 24s. worth of gum would be sufficient for a million stamps of 1 square inch each. I am sorry to perceive from your letter to Messrs. Perkins and Co. that your views both as to price and as to the quantity requisite for

a given number of stamps have changed materially since you wrote in December. As, however, it is probable that Mr. Bacon will visit Manchester these differences may make matters of conversation. I beg to say that I shall feel greatly obliged if you will afford him all the information in your power so that he may be enabled to effect the purpose in the most speedy, certain and economical manner, and thereby most effectually promote the great measure in progress.

I am, &c., &c.,

JOHN RAWSTHORNE Esq. [Signed] EDWIN HILL.

---

(13)

MR. BACON.

GREENMAN'S ST. ;

SIR, 21 Mar. /40.

I beg to offer the *improved solution* of gum similar to the sheets of paper gummed and sent to Mr. E. Hill at 28 - per cwt. delivered in London 2½ off.

If the dry gum is thought to be sufficient I will supply it at 48 - (2½ off, and also half the carriage say 1 6 per cwt.) and I will warrant it equal to the samples sent December 3. 1839, and I propose to communicate the best mode of mixing it for use in solution.

And am, Sir, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JNO. RAWSTHORNE.

---

(14)

MANC. ;

SIR, March 21st, 1840.

I beg to acknowledge your letter of this day and I will accept one of the two propositions therein contained and let you know which by Tuesday's London Mail.

[Signed] J. B. BACON,

J. RAWSTHORNE, Esq. for self and partner.

---

(15)

LONDON ;

SIR, March 24th 184

I promised to write you this evening and therefore drop a line to say that having discovered on trial that the improved gum you gave me is *much less*, and the specimen of the dry gum *a little less adhesive* than your December samples sent the Government, and only an hour having elapsed since I proved it by comparison with your inferior samples as you consider them, I must have another mail to reflect upon what ought to be done. As you seemed so positive of the superiority of the last over the former samples, and only gave me the two pieces of paper with the two kinds upon them, after we had closed our business, I did not think it necessary to test them there.

I am, &c., &c.,

J. RAWSTHORNE, Esq. [Signed] J. B. BACON

(16)

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH,
LONDON. MANCHESTER;
GENTM., 25 March, 1840.

I am favoured with Mr. Bacon's letter of yesterday's date and have merely to observe that the two specimens of gummed paper given to Mr. B. were only to show the difference of *colour*. They were covered quickly with the finger and are not to be taken as samples of the adhesiveness. I believe that Mr. Hill and Government are perfectly satisfied that no other gum possesses the same degree of adhesiveness, numberless samples having been sent. Of course I should warrant the improved gum to be stronger and superior to the other. I am anxiously waiting your decision as there will be little time to spare.

And am, Gentm., &c., &c.,

[Signed] JNO. RAWSTHORNE.

---

(17)

69, FLEET STREET, LONDON;
JOHN RAWSTHORNE, Esq. March 25th, 1840.
SIR,

We beg now to say that we will take your gum in the dry state, similar in every respect as to colour and adhesiveness to the sample sent by you on the 3rd December, 1839 (addressed to Mr. Ledingham, Treasury Chambers, London), or *better, worse will not do*; it being understood that you will supply us with five hundred weight in fourteen days from this date, and any further quantity that we may require from time to time at one month notice, furnishing us on or before the delivery of the first parcel of the article with the proper mode of rendering it into solution fit for use, for which we agree to pay you forty-eight shillings per ewt., $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. discount off and half the expense of carriage to London to be borne by you, payment to be made in ten days after delivery of each parcel in London; we also agree to take all we want of you for the period of one year, that being the term of our contract with Government. We beg to observe that neither of the samples brought to London by our Mr. Bacon possess the adhesive quality necessary for the purpose, as they both peeled off after having been stuck on paper some time, the lighter one more readily than the other.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS BACON & PETCH.

P.S.—The above being the agreement we came to on Saturday last the 21st inst. at Manchester, you will please drop a line by return of post acknowledging the same, but no variation can be made as there is no time for delay, and you can go on after the quantity above named, in making one ton more. We will write you about the wire as soon as we decide whether to use it.

[Signed] P. B. and P.

We think you had better send us one or two pounds as soon as possible so as to see that all is right.—[Signed] P., B. and P.

(18)

LONDON ;

SIR, April 7th, 1840.

We have now received and tried the gum as well as samples sent by you, and wish the ton you are about making to be like the No. 1 sample, as that is lighter and better in every way than the others. We shall not get to work until Monday next, and cannot therefore yet tell how it will act upon the paper as to creasing, but fear the gum will dry faster than the paper, and thus trouble us with cockling. You can draw a check on us for the cask sent as agreed. The next supply may arrive any time you please, within six weeks.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

J. RAWSTHORNE, Esq.,
Manchester.

---

(19)

LONDON ;

DEAR SIR, April 22nd, 1840.

Your draft for £10 19s. 2d., the amount of the bill for the first gum received, was presented on the 16th inst., and duly paid.

We have now been five days occupied in gumming the Stamps, and the difficulties we have met with are beyond description ; some of them were natural to a new business in which we had never had any experience, and as far as the time required for drying goes, and the *cockling after pressing* we are better off than we expected to be ; but after various experiments we find :—

1st.—That three persons can only gum and dry 600 sheets in 12 hours, whereas we shall probably require five times that quantity.

2nd.—That unless the gum is laid on rather thick, it will not adhere to the letter, when wet and put upon it, and consequently that it will not go near so far as you supposed.

3rd.—That after perfectly gumming the sheets it frequently happens that the gum separates, and leaves large spots upon the sheet, where the gum *has not taken at all.* We do not believe this is owing to any fault in the gum, but in the bleaching of the rag or sizing of the paper at the mill.

4th.—That the sheets do cockle and thus trouble us, while drying, and before we get them into the glazed boards for pressing.

If you can assist us by any suggestions we shall be glad to hear from you, for at present the cost to us of gumming is ruinous.

In the act of gumming we have tried three plans, one was the placing the sheets under a tympan—another was to place them in piles and gum the top, and remove them as done—and the last is placing them singly upon a block a fraction smaller than the sheet, and this is the best mode of the three.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH

J. RAWSTHORNE, Esq.

( 20 )

MANCHESTER ;

DEAR SIRS, April 25, 1840.

I have this evening dispatched by Railway a small Barrel of Solution as mentioned in my last—on trying it perhaps you will get on more smoothly—it will be delivered on Monday morning—in case it becomes (which is most likely too thick or strong), it can be reduced easily. Referring to mine of yesterday.

I remain, &c., &c.,

Signed JNO. RAWSTHORNE.

TO MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.
69, Fleet Street, London.

---

( 21 )

MANCHESTER ;

SIRS, 5 May, 1840.

Could you oblige me by procuring a few specimens of the stamps issued to-morrow, both adhesive and envelopes, say 20/- of the former and 2/- worth of the other, which send pr. post.

I have not seen any of the adhesive stamps altho.' there are some I understand in Town and I am told they are *very adhesive indeed.*

It will afford me much gratification to learn that you are now progressing fast and more smoothly. I shall be glad to have a report of the solution sent. Waiting to hear from you pr. return as a part of the stamps are intended for our Mnchr. Exhibition now open.

I remain, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JNO. RAWSTHORNE.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH,
69, Fleet Street, London.

P.S.—In case the gum becomes too thick let it be warmed without adding more water.

---

( 22 )

LONDON ;

DEAR SIR, May 8th, 1840.

Your favour of the 5th inst. was received, and should have been answered yesterday, but the writer was so pressed with business and ill besides, as to prevent it. We have now the pleasure of enclosing you as requested :

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| One sheet of Adhesive penny labels .. | £1 | 0 | 0 |
| 24 Envelopes of one penny each is .. | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| | £1 | 2 | 6 |

which is to your debit.

We are of course getting on better with the gumming than at first, but we have had no improved paper yet, and it will take 3 men to do 1,250 per day when we have done our best. We regret to say that the gum does not adhere to glazed writing paper, although it does to that which is not much pressed, and we are trying to obviate this difficulty which we supposed the Government in their intercourse with you had satisfactorily ascertained. This we must overcome by some means. The difficulty is that the high polish prevents the gum getting below it, so as to reach the fibre of the paper, and it thus has nothing to adhere to.

The run so far upon our Labels very far exceeds the Envelopes and Covers.

We have tried the solution sent by you, and its colour is good, but it does not adhere any better than that we are using, and not so well if weakened in the least.

We are, &c., &c.,

Signed PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

MR. J. RAWSTHORNE.

---

(23)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Invoice 22 April .. .. .. .. | £55 11 10 | | |
| do. 25 ,, .. .. .. .. | 2 11 0 | | |
| | | £58 | 2 10 |
| ½ charge on gross .. .. £25 3 9 2 9 | 1 15 6 | | |
| whole charge on .. .. 2 0 7 3 6 | 7 2 | | |
| | | 2 | 2 8 |
| | | 56 | 0 2 |
| disct 2½% .. .. .. .. .. .. .. | | 1 | 8 0 |
| | | £54 | 12 2 |

less Stamps paid for 22 6
Cash order 53.9.8.

MANCHESTER;
19 May, 1840.

DR. SIRS,

Above is sketched the amount for the last gum which I purpose giving an order upon you say for 53.9.8.

The Labels appear to be preferred here the covers being scarcely used, there might be some improvement in the obliteration, it can be discharged in two minutes. I think nevertheless it is not difficult to find some other colour that will stand. I enclose a label I have just discharged and the part of the letter (L'pool) from which it was torn and waiting your future commands for gum.

I remain, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JNO. RAWSTHORNE.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.,
69, Fleet St., London.

(24)

69, Fleet Street;

Charles Pressly, Esq. 16th July, 1840.

Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of an anonymous note referred to us by you for our observations thereon, and beg to report that the gum used for the Adhesive stamps is such as had been approved by Mr. R. Hill, and was recommended by your Hon. Chairman to be adopted and that therefore whether it be good or bad we do not consider ourselves entitled to either praise or blame for its results. We must add, however, that whatever the writer of the note intends by saying it is of *very inferior quality* is not borne out by facts, for not only has our knowledge gained by using sheets purchased frequently and promiscuously at the stamp office falsified this statement, but we have tried many experiments since your communication was received, and the result is a perfect conviction that the gum now in use is of a good, and when properly attached to the letter, of an adhesive quality. We can easily make use of gum acacia, there being no objection to it, but its great price which would force us to charge one halfpenny p. thousand more than we now do. Or we can ourselves manufacture and use a gum which shall be as adhesive as gum acacia, or any other gum within our knowledge, more adhesive than that now used, pure in its component parts, and that shall firmly adhere to any letter after it has been attached ten minutes, if done with the merest ordinary care. We can furnish samples of this latter if required, but we could not adopt it without an extra charge of one farthing per thousand labels, and which would include a claim which we shall have on the score of extra cost of gumming (although not to that amount), at the end of the year under the present system.

We have, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

---

(25)

Friday morning,

Dear Sir, [July ? 1840.]

I spoke to my brother yesterday respecting the gum. He thinks it hardly necessary to increase the expense as the gum answers tolerably well. He suggests that you had better perhaps use a little sugar with it, as you did at first, if as he supposes you have discontinued it from the circumstance of a few of the sheets having adhered to each other. If you think well to try the effect of sugar in various proportions, the waste sheets, of which you must now have many, would enable you to try the effect upon our own paper, which is more conclusive than any other trial can be. I see no objection to your cutting up the waste prints to try their adhesion, so that you preserve the paper upon which the trials are made, to enable us to make up the quantity when we have to cancel the waste.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

J. B. Bacon, Esq.

[The letter is endorsed "1840."]

( 26 )

MANCHESTER ;

DEAR SIRS, Nov. 6th, 1840.

I have for some time past been looking for further instructions to prepare a lot of the "adhesive gum," it is now upwards of six months since the Ton was forwarded ! the consumption appears strangely less than contemplated by me at the period when the contract was made. Until the public be compelled to use labels and refrain from giving the post office servants such unnecessary trouble by *continuing* to *pay money* I dare say the quantity of gum will be small that is required, still, I did not apprehend so great a difference. As the material from which the gum is made is daily getting dearer the article being now applied to new purposes, I am desirous of providing a stock, and therefore request the favour of your informing me by an early post how soon you will require further supplies.

I hear no complaints ! every body seems quite satisfied that the plan cannot be improved and think the alteration one of the greatest boons to the Public. If the postmasters were ordered to have more deliveries of local letters in their respective towns there would be a much greater revenue : here, in this great town we have only three deliveries of towns letters per day ! one of them too late for business hours—whereas if there were *five* or *six deliveries* every body would avail themselves of it, instead of sending messengers with invoices and notes.

Apologizing for taking up your valuable time and waiting the favour of a reply.

I remain, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JNO. RAWSTHORNE.

TO MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH,
69. Fleet Street, London.

---

( 27 )

MANCHESTER ;

DEAR SIRS, Nov. 25, 1840.

I have your favour of yesterday, and in reply have set to work to produce the 7 cwt. of adhesive gum (say 2 casks), fortunately having some preparation ready I can dispatch it I expect on Monday or Tuesday next, indeed, I happen to have part of a cask left of the former lot which if necessary might be sent off any time. Having some very fine material just now from last seasons make I could have wished that you had taken a ton or two. I shall keep in mind your hint to make it as adhesive as possible, having a due regard to colour. The paper should be kept *thin*. If I do not hear from you the 2 casks will be dispatched as before stated on Monday or following day.

I am, &c., &c.,

Signed] JNO. RAWSTHORNE.

For the future let me have longer notice as arranged.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH,
Fleet St., London.

(28)

MANCHESTER;

Dec. 2, 1840.

DEAR SIRS,

In conformity to my last of the 25th ulto: two casks of the adhesive gum have been forwarded yesterday per Mills & Co., to whom they are delivered in good condition. Invoice inclosed.

Every attention has been paid to produce the article as perfect as possible, and I feel confident that it will answer my most sanguine expectations. In your next order please to give me a month's notice previously.

I hope Mr. Hill will not relax his efforts in perfecting the plan next Session—no money should be received—the use of the "Label" must be compulsory. May I be permitted to enquire if you contemplate offering your assistance to carry out the "Penny postage" scheme in the *United States* or in *France*? Surely these countries so highly civilized will adopt the plan—if so, perhaps you will say a word for my "*adhesive gum.*" I can easily supply all that both countries might require.

I remain, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JNO. RAWSTHORNE.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH,

69, Fleet St., London.

---

(29)

S. & T.;

Dec. 12, 1840.

DEAR SIR,

We have had some stamps returned as unsaleable, on account of a difference in the gum, and Mr. Allen upon examining his stock finds to his great mortification that he has more than a thousand in the same condition—see sample. He sent off 5,000 yesterday to the post office and is in fear that he may hear an ill report of them. I request that you will take measures to let us have an early supply of some which are properly done, as Mr. Allen has not 150, but which are defective, and he does not know what number he may be called upon to exchange or how speedily.

It may be that there is no great difference as to adhesive power, this I have not tried, but this is of no great moment, for it is of no use to offer an article which the public will not accept. I shall be obliged to you to inform me what you think it best to do with the stock we have, which is like the sheet sent herewith—this last at your leisure.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] EDWIN HILL.

J. B. BACON, Esq.

(30)

11, Downing Street;

Dec. 21, 1840.

Sir,

Having had my attention directed to a paragraph which lately appeared in a Liverpool paper, stating that the gum on the Postage Labels produced cancer on the tongue, I am desirous of being informed of the ingredients of which the gum is composed (if you have no objection to afford the information), with the view of allaying all apprehension on the subject by making the ingredients publickly (*sic*) known.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ROWLAND HILL.

Mr. J. Rawsthorne.

P.S.—If you should feel any objection to the composition of the gum being made public, please to say whether or not it contains anything which can affect the tongue, or what will perhaps be still better, address a letter to some of the London papers, stating that you are the manufacturer of the gum, and that it does not contain anything deleterious.

---

(31)

Stamps and Taxes;

23rd December, 1840.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Board to transmit to you for your explanation, copy of a letter received from the General Post Office, relative to the want of the adhesive composition upon Postage Label Stamps.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] CHA. PRESSLY

Messrs. Bacon & Petch.

(Copy.)

General Post Office;

19th December, 1840.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that complaints have been frequent of the want of the adhesive composition upon the Penny Label Postage Stamps, and I beg to request that you will be pleased to bring the subject under the notice of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes.

I have, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THO. LAWRENCE,

Ass. Secty.

C. Pressly, Esq.,

Stamps and Taxes.

(32)

MANCHESTER ;

24th Dec. 40.

DEAR SIRS,

Perhaps you may have seen an absurd paragraph in the London n'papers " that the adhesive stamps cause cancers ! in the opinion of scientific men," etc., etc.

The " John Bull " stated that it was extracted from the " Liverpool Mercury." I have written to Egerton Smith to ascertain if it originated in his paper ?—previous to publishing a contradiction to allay any apprehensions from such a silly paragraph —the material from which it is made is eaten daily in my own family in soups, milk, etc. I am sure I have no need to enter more into the matter as regards yourselves, you are quite aware that there is nothing deleterious in the gum when it leaves my store, in fact if cancers can be produced by licking a *stick of sugar*, toffy or taking molasses on bread, why then if one person could wet a few millions, at once, there might be some grounds for such a ridiculous charge.

I have written Mr. Hill per this post.

And remain, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JNO. RAWSTHORNE.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH,
London.

---

(33)

69, FLEET STREET ;

Decr. 26th, 1840.

CHARLES PRESSLY, Esq.

SIR,

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 23 Instant, annexing Copy of one received by you from the General Post Office, relative to the want of the Adhesive Composition upon Postage Label Stamps, and beg to state in reply that a few weeks back on getting short of the Adhesive Composition we ordered a fresh supply from Manchester, this was at the time we had but 3 presses at work, immediately after we were ordered to put on 5 presses some Gum was unexpectedly exhausted before a supply arrived. In this deliverence we made a Gum which adhered better than the other when first made, but which lost some of its adhesive quality by time. From this only 3,223 that were printed and of this number 1,510 that were regummed the remainder gave to the Post Office, and it must be those of which Mr. Lawrence complained, as all others have been from the same original Gumming and coming from the same source. We have now a good supply and shall take care not to be short again.

We have, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

(34)

[Copy of paragraph in the "Manchester Courier," of Saturday, November 28th 1840.]

"ADHESIVE LABELS.—It cannot be too generally known that the very numerous cases of cancer which have recently prevailed are attributed, by the faculty and scientific men, to moistening the adhesive postage stamps with the tongue or lips. A little new milk is preferable, and causes the stamp to stick much better, particularly on smooth or glazed letter paper."

SIR,

Mr. T. Hurst has handed your letter of yesterday's date to me, respecting the article that appeared in the "Manchester Courier" of the 28th Novr. last, in reference to the new post office labels, requesting the name of its author.

In answer thereto I beg to inform you that he is so circumstanced with regard to his trade of a printer and the writer's name of this very foolish paragraph that he feels himself bound in honour not to disclose it (having pledged himself to that effect), that he received it as an advertisement and therefore he could have had no design of injuring you as the Government contractor of the adhesive gum, and utterly disclaims such an intention. If, however, by any possibility it can have done so, he feels sorry; it may be called a poor attempt to perpetrate a joke, but with any reflecting person nothing further, as the innuendo is too absurd to be credited, even for a moment, by the weakest of its readers.

If you have any further communication to make with reference to this matter you will be good enough to address it to me.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] JAMES BAYLEY.

WARINGTON;
7th Jany., 1841.

MR. RAWSTHORNE,
Chemist, &c., Manchester.

(Thomas Hurst, Bookseller, Warrington, is *Agent* for the "Manchester Courier," and to whom I wrote requesting the name of the party and address that sent the advertisement. [Signed] JNO. RAWSTHORNE.)

---

(35)

69, FLEET STREET;
Jany. 20, 1841.

DEAR SIR,

You are aware that we have heretofore treated all the attacks upon the Postage Labels and gum with silent contempt, but there is a false and filthy attack upon the gum in the "Weekly Dispatch" of Sunday last, which the Government calls upon us to notice. (You will see it in the last page of that paper, at your reading

room.) Now as the writer states what it is composed of we fear a simple denial of the truth of his assertion will have little weight, unless we can say what are its real ingredients—and we wish to know whether you are willing we should give (in our answer) all the ingredients used (their proportions we conceive to be quite unnecessary). If you are, we shall oblige them to insert a severe denial of their own statements, or enter an action against them. We think this attack much more dangerous than any before it. Your reply by return of post will oblige.

Dear Sir, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

J. RAWSTHORNE, Esq.

---

(36)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE;
January 13, 1855.

GENTLEMEN,

The Commissioners of Inland Revenue desire to inform you that they do not approve of the gum or glutinous wash with which the Postage Stamps prepared by you under the Articles of Agreement of the 27th day of August, 1851, are now covered at the back, and they require you in pursuance of such Articles to provide forthwith a more tenacious and adhesive gum or wash, to be applied to the Stamps to be hereafter made in lieu of that now used, and such as shall be approved of by the Commissioners.

[Signed] JOHN WOOD.
,, CHA. PRESSLY.
,, C. J. HERRIES.

TO MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

---

(37)

69, FLEET STREET;
[Jany. 15?] 1855.

HONBLE. SIRS

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from your Honble. Board dated the 13th inst., informing us, that you "do not approve of the gum or glutinous wash with which the Postage Stamps, prepared by us under the Articles of Agreement of the 27th day of August, 1851, are now covered at the back and you require us in pursuance of such articles to provide forthwith a more tenacious and adhesive gum or wash, to be applied to the stamps to be hereafter made in lieu of that now used, and such as shall be approved of by the Commissioners."

When we were first honored with the contract, we adopted that gum or glutin which Mr. Rowland Hill decidedly recommended after having had numerous specimens laid before him and from that day to this we have never declined the adoption of anything really beneficial, on the contrary we have given a fair trial to immense

numbers of applications all making great profession, and the result has been a conviction that we had obtained the best gum which could be procured from purely vegetable matter. Various experiments we also tried with animal gums, but as we were at that time forbidden to use any article which would not keep sweet several days in a state of solution we were compelled to forego their use on that account alone.

The introduction of animal substance into the cement used upon the adhesive Receipt Stamps, having been permitted, however, we have quite recently tried other substances (in consequence of a communication made to us by Mr. Ormond Hill), and by the use of a strong animal gum have supplied an entirely different article, since about the commencement of the present quarter, and which we believe to be equal in its *adhesive* qualities to any other gum yet in use. When submitted to the examination of Mr. O. Hill it was as an experiment, and on a small scale, but we believe it will be found to be still more satisfactory now that it has been tried on a large scale.

With a view to add any other advantages that can be obtained besides the primary one of adhesiveness we are still making further experiments ourselves, and in addition thereto have set on foot enquiries on the Continent of Europe as well as elsewhere, and should we succeed in discovering a still better article than that recently introduced will immediately communicate the result to your Honble. Board.

We may perhaps be permitted to say that it has always been our practice to investigate every feasible offer of gum substitute *entirely irrespective of cost.* It is obvious that an article might be discovered which offered superior properties, but was too costly for use, but we have never yet met with a more costly gum which was superior to that we employ.

We have, &c., &c.,

Signed PERKINS BACON & Co.

THE HONBLE. THE COMMISSIONERS
OF INLAND REVENUE.

---

(38)

LONDON ;
April 13. 1855.

DEAR SIR.

Your favor of the 8th inst. was not received until the *noon* of yesterday, so that there must have been some unaccountable delay in its transmission. The alterations you have made in our proposals are not very material and therefore we agree to them.

The party or a gentleman deputed by him, we understand, will come over to London any day he pleases, and you will kindly accompany him at an expense not exceeding £15 for him and £7 for yourself : he will bring with him from 40 to 50lbs. of the glutin or gum ; just such as that he proposes to us to manufacture and for which we will pay 6d. per lb. This quantity shall be immediately attached to the sheets of stamps under his own inspection and direction and by himself personally if he pleases and if it answers our purpose we will pay £80 in cash and £70 more if after a month's trial it still proves satisfactory and not being more than 2 - per gallon

ready for use. We shall look for you on Tuesday or Wednesday ; the only notice we require will be a few hours to use up the gum in the pans, and have them empty to receive the new matter. We generally have 3 parties employed in laying on the gum, and I think we had better do so in the present instance so as to complete the experiment without delay. In mentioning that our sheets are sometimes deliquissent (*sic*) we meant to say that although after being gummed they appear dry and turn satisfactory, yet they sometimes afterwards collect moisture so that the sheets stick together when subjected to the pressure occasioned by perforation, and not that we ever purposely damp them after being gummed ; we really hope, however, that the new article will be free from this drawback to its success. We are quite as well satisfied with our own sheet which you have returned us in a gummed state as with any of the other specimens received from you, but cannot form a decided opinion as we have before said from single sheets : it is evident, however, that the nature of our paper will in itself be no obstacle to its success—please bring back the other sheets with you as we must be ready to account for the whole of them.

Hoping soon to have the pleasure of seeing you, and that the trial will prove satisfactory.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] Per Proc. PERKINS BACON & Co.,

J. P. Bacon.

CHARLES WISE Esq.

P.S.—If the party should wish anything more formally drawn up then this letter you are authorized to prepare it so that it embodies the foregoing, but if we obtain from him an article that we find it desirable to use, we shall very cheerfully comply with our engagements.

---

(39)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE ;
April 28, 1855.

GENTLEMEN,

I have not yet been able to test the sheets gummed with the French cement, as to its adhesiveness : but I have perforated a ream so prepared, and have found one peculiarity which obliges me to ask you to *dis*continue at once the use of this gum upon any good sheets of our stamps. I refer to a much greater shrinkage : which so much reduces the length of the sheets as to make them quite too small for our perforating machines. Though this is a decided objection against the *immediate* use of this gum, it is one which can easily be removed by an alteration of the machines. And if it appears that there are advantages to be obtained by the adoption of this cement, we shall be quite willing to have such alterations made. As far as we can judge at present, this cement is fully as deliquescent as *that* you usually apply : and it makes the sheets curl very much

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] ORMOND HILL.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co.

(40)

London ;

April 30, 1855.

Dear Sir,

We have received a note from Mr. Hill, of which the following is a copy. [Then follows a copy of the last letter dated April 28, 1855.]

The stamps alluded to were those gummed as well as mixed under M. Winter's inspection and Perkins thought at the time they would not answer. We have still a lot which you agreed to have gummed by what is left of M. Winter's mixing, after bringing it to a reasonable consistency, but although better than the others, we still fear they will not answer, and yet have a strong opinion that if the material was mixed and put upon the sheets by ourselves, or by any other person of practical experience in such an operation it might then prove what is wanted. Acting for M. Winter you object to our taking the materials preparing and gumming it in a means we consider best ; we therefore think it is desirable that a party accustomed to such operations in Paris should come over and mix the materials and see 500 sheets gummed.

By giving us previous notice he could leave Paris one day, arrive in Fleet Street in the afternoon in time to mix his materials and lock it up—see the sheets gummed the next and return to Paris that night or the third day ; and although we did not and do not now object to the £15, still that sum would pay all M. Winter's and his reasonable expenses besides, so that both would be covered by such payment, and although we are willing to send in the 2nd lot, without such further trial, we fear it would end in their condemnation and if a third lot was afterwards tried it would be with a prejudice against them. With these facts and opinions before you, please say what course we shall pursue. A letter arrived for you from Paris to-day which we have forwarded by post. The £15 and £7 are ready any time you wish to have them.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

per M. L. Bacon.

Charles Wise, Esq.

---

(41)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House ;

May 9. 1855.

Gentlemen,

We have carefully tried and tested the sheets of stamps cemented with the gum as used in France ; and the conclusions I arrive at are :—

1st. That it adheres well : but not so well or so readily as the last cement which I tested at your request. and which I understood was British gum with an admixture of animal size.

2nd. The sheets of stamps show so great a propensity to curl as to render them almost unmanageable either to perforate or to tell, *i.e.*, count.

3rd. As to deliquescence. I do not think there is any marked improvement: though perhaps a very slight one. Upon the whole I prefer the gum as in use lately, (I suppose at present) to this French gum: but should be glad to have something without the faults of either.

I am, &c., &c.,

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co. [Signed] ORMOND HILL.

---

(42)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE;

GENTLEMEN, July 31, 1855.

In respect to the gum, of which you desired to have my opinion, and with which the 17 reams you called my attention to, were cemented, I have to observe:

1st. That it is easily removed from the stamp in wetting—too much so.

2nd. That if wetted and applied carefully, it adheres fairly: but not so firmly as the gum in regular use by you, or as the samples submitted to me some weeks ago.

3rd. It is *free* from that peculiarity of one of the samples, which made the sheets curl to so troublesome an extent.

4th. As respects deliquescence: it appears about on a par with the gum you ordinarily use.

5th. It certainly is not the same kind of cement as that with which the French Postage Stamps are coated; it is much inferior to it: and has scarcely any resemblance to it. Judging from its appearance, taste and smell, and its qualities as a cement, I should say that it is "British gum" such as you used formerly.

I am, &c., &c.,

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & Co. [Signed] ORMOND HILL.

---

(43)

69, FLEET STREET;

DEAR SIR, August 10, 1855.

I have received your favor of the 6th inst., enclosing the half sheet of French Postage stamps, for which I am obliged, and which I now return herewith, not as I believe any more torn or otherways injured than when I received it.

The gum certainly appears different from any of the samples sent us from Paris, and the paper is very weak. I should like to try some experiments which of course I could not do upon this sheet, but my son is going to Paris in a few days when he can purchase a few sheets and thus enable me to accomplish that object. I thank you for Thomas Martin's address and shall communicate with him.

. . . . .
. . . . .
. . . . .

I am, &c., &c.,

ORMOND HILL, Esq. [Signed] JOSHUA BUTTERS BACON.

(44)

PARIS ; 24 September, 1855.
5, RUE du PONT LOUIS PHILIPPE.

MESSRS. PERKINS, BACON & CO.,
LONDON.

Asking news from you in reply to the letter I addressed to you early in the month, as well as a small box containing gum, prepared for the use of our Postage stamps, I am anxious to know if you have received them.

Not being only personally interested in this affair, my associate wishes to know if you will make fresh experiments in order to be thoroughly suited both as to the quality and beauty of this gum.

I write this letter fearing that you have no more gum left out of the last barrel that I sent you and that this cause has hindered your trial of it. In that case if you will let me know it, I will hasten to send some.

Will you be good enough gentlemen to write me a few words to tell me where you are in this matter. The trials we have since made have perfectly succeeded. We have perforated several sheets of stamps as you do with yours and they have not stuck together at all. I hope that the details as to the mode of preparing these two kinds of gum will be sufficient to enable you to give a good account of them yourselves. In the expectation of a favourable reply, receive gentlemen, the assurance of my perfect consideration.

[Signed] L. WINTER.

You can write me in English, my Uncle will translate it for me.

---

(45)

[In reply to the last letter a long communication was sent to Mr. L. Winter, on October 2nd, 1855, by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., which is not of sufficient interest to reproduce in full. The firm state therein that they had tried the two samples of gum sent by Mr. Winter, but that neither of them was of suitable quality for the Postage Stamps. They added that the gum they were then using answered the purpose very well, and they did not think that it was worth Mr. Winter's while to submit further samples.]

---

(46)

69, FLEET STREET, E.C. ;
April 5, 1865.

DEAR SIR,

With reference to the suggestion of the Secretary of the Post Office, that the quantity of gum on the postage labels should be somewhat increased, so that no difficulty in affixing them may be experienced by anyone—we beg to state that in our opinion the *actual adhesiveness* of the labels would not be increased by such a course inasmuch as the object could be only attained by adding more dextrine to the gum used, and thereby proportionately, though slightly, decreasing the quantity

of animal matter, in which the main strength lies: still as the gum would *look* more adhesive it might give the stamps a more *popular* appearance if the change were made. It would of course involve an additional expense to us, but we do not wish to throw any difficulty in the way of that which may be considered desirable, on that score.

We are, &c., &c.,

O. HILL, Esq., [Signed] PERKINS BACON & Co.

Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

---

(47)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE;

DEAR SIR, Apl. 18, 1865.

Referring again to the question of thickening the coating of cement upon the Postage labels, concerning which you wrote to me on 5th inst., I am directed by the Board to ask you to try what can be done by experimenting upon a small scale and let us know the result.

Of course if any plan which you may find practicable entails extra cost, so as to necessitate an increased charge to us, you will be good enough to state what that will amount to. As well as such other experiments as your experience may dictate, please to try gumming twice over with gum slightly thinner so as to produce a coating ab't once and a half the thickness of the present.

Yours, &c., &c.,

J. P. BACON, Esq. [Signed] O. HILL.

---

(48)

INLAND REVENUE,
SOMERSET HOUSE;

Enclose letter and sample of gum. May 1, 1865.

DEAR SIR,

Herewith I send you a small sample of gum received from Paris at the General Post Office here together with a translation of the letter which accompanied it. You will perceive that the price delivered in London would be about 3d. pr lb. If from the examination of this small sample you think there is promise in the thing I should think you might do well to send to Paris for one lot of 100 kilos so as to be able to give it a full trial. We have, of course, no immediate interest in the matter. As soon as you have arrived at a conclusion either from the small sample or otherwise, will you kindly let me know the result in order that I may be able to give a reply.

Yours, &c., &c.,

J. P. BACON, Esq. [Signed] O. HILL.

[Letters enclosed with the above.]

113 R. de Flandre à la Villette,

Paris ;

Feb. 18, 1865.

*To the Director of the Manufacture of Postage Stamps in London.*

I have the honour to bring under your notice a new product called "Artificial Gum" which I discovered about two months ago. This substance bears some resemblance to dextrine, but differs from it materially in not being acid, and in remaining in a state of solution after if has been once dissolved. I send you by to-day's post 100 grammes (about 4 oz.) of it as a sample. I hope you will be induced to give it a trial. I feel assured you will be satisfied with it.

This gum is now exclusively used for the manufacture of French postage stamps —the use of all other gums having been abandoned in its favour.

The saving effected by its use is very considerable. I could deliver it to you in London at the nett price of 65 frs. per 100 kilos=220lbs. without discount—while at the present time Senegal gum is selling at 240 francs and even 260 francs. As it contains no foreign substance it does not require filtering—Senegal gum cannot be used without.

To prepare it for use it simply requires dissolving in water. The quantity of water used to be regulated by the degree of consistency required. Care should be taken to stir the mixture whenever water is added. More gloss is obtained by using the gum in a heated state.

To heat it, it is only necessary to place it on a slow fire and to stir it until it gently simmers ; it will then be entirely dissolved and ready for use.

I cannot too strongly urge you to give this gum a trial. I will send any quantity you wish as a sample.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] CHAS. BOUTON.

Paris ;

April 7, 1865.

*To the Postmaster-General, London.*

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ult., No. 17,884, in which you inform me that you have not received the sample of "Artificial Gum" for gumming postage labels which I had forwarded to you. I beg to inform you that I have now sent another 4oz. sample of the gum through the General Post Office. If this quantity is not sufficient for a trial I will send more if you will send me word to that effect.

The gum may be dissolved either cold or in a heated state. The latter is the quicker method. It may be mixed in about the same proportions as the true gum.

I have, &c., &c.,

[Signed] C. BOUTON.

(49)

69, Fleet Street, E.C. ;
May 3, 1865.

Dear Sir,

We forward you herewith six sheets of P.S. gummed with the French farina. It is a very good and a very cheap farina, but nothing else. If you are satisfied with it and wish us to substitute it for the present gum, we should be the gainers in the long run, though our present factory would be rendered useless.

We are, &c., &c.,

O. Hill, Esq., [Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

Inland Revenue, Somerset House.

---

(50)

Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, W.C. ;
4 May, 1865.

With a parcel.

My Dear Sir,

I return herewith the six sheets gummed with the sample of farina from Paris, and thank you for your attention to the matter. The appearance seems better : the adhesiveness about the same as usual. I will defer saying more until I am in a position to speak concerning the four reams gummed for experiment, the last of which I have not yet tested.

Yours, &c., &c.,

J. P. Bacon, Esq. [Signed] O. HILL.

---

(51)

Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, W.C. ;
11 May, 1865.

My Dear Sir,

In *re* the gum and the experiments you have tried for us. We find a decided superiority in the last ream (the 4th) sent to us on 2nd inst., both as respects facility and firmness of adhesion. The weight of this ream shows that the quantity of gum borne upon its sheets is much above the usual quantity.

I should be glad now to know at what extra charge you would be willing to gum all the sheets in this manner and with this quantity of gum : also what would be the additional cost to us in case of our adopting either of the changes illustrated by your three earlier experimental reams.

As respects the French farina, a sample of which I sent you, I should like you to do just as you like, either adopt it or not as may suit you best. But as I want to give an answer concerning it to the General Post Office, I should be glad to know whether you have any intention of using it or trying it on a larger scale.

Yours, &c., &c.,

J. P. Bacon, Esq. [Signed] O. HILL.

(52)

69. Fleet Street, E.C.;
May 12, 1865.

Dear Sir,

To speak first, in reply to your favor, of the French *dextrine* (as I ought to have called it)—we do not see anything in the nature of the sample sent to lead us to go further into the matter, unless you desired it, which you do not. We believe it to be just the same article as was offered us some time since from the same quarter, and which we then tried more fully, without finding any reason to take it up.

With reference to the experiments with increased gum, we cannot arrive at any satisfactory conclusion as to the cost after only trying 500 sheets of each sort. We believe that the charge we should be compelled to ask for the 4lb. sample would be ½d. (one halfpenny) per 1,000 labels, which would involve to the Govt. an additional outlay of probably £1,500 per annum, and in our opinion with no appreciable advantage to the public. In the sum indicated, no allowance is made for increased spoilage, which we believe would be very considerable, and, in fact, we could give no *estimate* of cost without at least gumming the whole of one day's work in the way proposed and even then it would depend very much upon the weather what the extra spoilage would be. In a brisk wind sheets already gummed would curl up under the brush in a most perplexing manner, while on a damp day, they would be much more manageable. The cheapest of the 4 alterations would be No. 3 (middling thick gum once laid on) which would certainly not cost more than ¼d. per 1,000 extra, but still we could not commit ourselves to any price without further trial. Any system which involved twice gumming would necessitate double the space at present required for gumming, and which would consume all our new accommodation at once.

We are, &c., &c.,

Ormond Hill, Esq., [Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.
Inland Revenue.

---

(53)

Inland Revenue,
Somerset House;
May 18, 1865.

Dear Sir,

I have had some unofficial communication with the Post Office authorities since the receipt of yours of the 12th inst., in which you say that you think the adoption of the mode of gumming and quantity of gum shown in experimental ream, No. 4, would entail an extra cost of ½d. per 1,000 labels, and the result is that it is wished that you should try the experiment on such a scale as would enable you to speak positively on this point. Please to do this at your earliest convenience and have the goodness to have every ream specially gummed so marked that we may readily distinguish them when sent in: as for obvious reasons we wish to be careful not to issue these reams until the question be settled.

Yours, &c., &c.,

J. P. Bacon, Esq. [Signed] O. HILL.

(54)

69, Fleet Street, E.C.;

May 26, 1865.

Dear Sir,

Having now gummed 11,000 Sheets by the double process, we are in a better position to speak of the cost arising from this change of operation, if carried out. We find that the cost of material is less than double, being as 4/2 to 7/-: that the cost of labour is one half more than double, being as 3/4 to 8/4: that the extra spoilage will probably be on the average 500 Sheets or one Ream to 40,000 Sheets. We should be willing to meet all this for an extra charge of ½d. (one halfpenny) per 1,000 labels, but in naming this sum we are not charging a profit price, or a price at which we could undertake any *new* work. There are serious inconveniences attending this alteration, the greatest of which is the additional room which will be required for gumming. This will swallow up all the additional accommodation provided by our new floor above the counting house, and leave us crippled in view of prospective increase in the demand for Postage Stamps. We shall be happy to supply any further information you may desire and still more happy to learn that the Postage Authorities decline to incur this unnecessary waste of money (as we cannot but consider it to be).

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

O. Hill, Esq.

---

(55)

Inland Revenue,

Somerset House,

London, W.C.;

15 June, 1865.

Gentlemen,

The Board have had before them the letters which you have addressed to Mr. Ormond Hill, of this Department, relative to increasing the quantity of gum used for the penny postage label stamps.

I am directed to acquaint you that the Board accept your offer to put two coats of gum upon each sheet of these label stamps, for an extra charge of one halfpenny per thousand labels, and I am to request that you will proceed with this plan without delay.

The Solicitor will prepare for your execution a contract to the above effect.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] T. SARGENT.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

(56)

69, Fleet Street, E.C. ;
Aug. 26, 1865.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your favor of yesterday's date, in reference to the twice gumming of the P. Stamps, we beg to state that we are still waiting for the Solicitor Department, having heard nothing whatever on the subject. We are ready to commence the operation at short notice.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS BACON & Co.

O. Hill, Esq.,
Inland Revenue.

---

(57)

69, Fleet Street, E.C. ;
Sept. 29 1865.

Dear Sir,

I return the Draft contract, regarding which I have no remark to make, except that it will take three weeks from the time of our receiving the final order to commence the Double Gumming before we shall be in a position to deliver such sheets to the Warehouse Keeper.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J P. BACON.

E. H. Tilsley, Esq.,
Inland Revenue,
Somerset House.

---

(58)

Inland Revenue,
Somerset House, W.C. ;
17 Oct., 1866.

My Dear Sir,

The year during which it was agreed that you were to put a second coating of gum upon the 1d. and 2d. Postage labels will terminate on 23rd inst.

But I write now to tell you that there is no intention on the part of the Board to discontinue this double gumming ; and that a formal negotiation with your firm for the perpetuation of the contract will I expect be opened in a few days.

Yours, &c., &c.,

[Signed] O. HILL.

J. P. Bacon, Esq.

# *APPENDIX F.*

Copies of Contracts made between the Government and the firm of Perkins, Bacon.

---

(1)

Copy of the First Contract for the supply of One Penny and Two Pence Postage Stamps made between the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes and Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch.

ARTICLES of AGREEMENT made the 13th day of April 1840 Between Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch carrying on the business of Engravers and Copper and Steel Plate Printers at No. 69 Fleet Street in the City of London under the Style or Firm of Perkins, Bacon & Petch, of the one part and the Undersigned Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes for and on behalf of Her Majesty of the other part WHEREAS the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have under the authority of an Act passed in the 2nd and 3rd years of the Reign of Her present Majesty for the further regulation of the Duties on Postage, directed that certain Stamps of the description hereinafter mentioned amongst others expressing or denoting the Duties of one penny and two pence respectively on the Postage of Letters shall be prepared and issued by and under the direction of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes for the purpose of being affixed to Letters : vizt. Adhesive Stamps or Stamps on small pieces of paper with a glutinous wash at the back which may be attached to Letters either before or after they are written and have ordered and directed the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes to provide proper and sufficient Dies and other Implements as by the said Act they are also authorised for printing or impressing the said Stamps and have approved of a design for such Stamps, the same being a fine steel plate Engraving by Heath of Her Majesty's Head reduced from Wyon's City Medal with an Engine turned back ground by the said Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Petch, such Stamps to be printed on sheets of the said paper each sheet containing 240 impressions the several impressions being exact fac-similes of one another, except that they are to be distinguished by certain combinations of the letters of the Alphabet. AND WHEREAS the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch have agreed with the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes to provide and make the plates for printing the said Stamps and to print and deliver the same in manner and upon the terms hereinafter mentioned. Now therefore the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch for themselves and the survivor of them hereby Contract and agree with the said Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes that they will at the price or for the reward hereinafter mentioned prepare and complete for the purpose of printing the Stamps aforesaid so many fine steel plates as the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes shall require and shall be requisite, and will engrave or impress upon each of such plates in such manner as the said Commissioners shall

approve 240 copies or fac-similes of the design before mentioned with such combinations of the letters of the Alphabet as the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes shall direct, and will provide and prepare all the apparatus necessary for printing the Stamps therewith, and will print off to the satisfaction of the said Commissioners upon paper to be furnished by them the said Commissioners any quantities of such Stamps that the said Commissioners shall require with proper ink of any practicable colour or colours that the said Commissioners shall direct, provided such quantities do not exceed for two months next after the first delivery thereof the rate of 300,000 Stamps per day and will dry and press the same and cover them at the back in a proper and sufficient manner for use with such gum or glutinous wash as the said Commissioners shall approve to be provided by and at the expence of the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch and will deliver the said Stamps in a fit and proper condition for use in such quantities and at such times as the said Commissioners shall appoint at the Head Office for Stamps and Taxes or wheresoever else in London or Westminster they shall require, the first of such deliveries of any quantity not exceeding the rate aforesaid to be made on or before the 21st day of April instant. AND the Undersigned Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes for and on behalf of Her Majesty Her Heirs and Successors hereby undertake and agree with the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch to pay or cause to be paid to them or the survivor of them the rate or price of seven pence halfpenny for every one thousand Stamps that they the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch or the survivor of them shall so print off and deliver in manner and in the condition aforesaid, such payments to be made quarterly (that is to say) within twenty one days after the 5th day of July the tenth day of October the 5th day of January and the fifth day of April for all such Stamps delivered upon or previous to the said respective quarter days.

AND it is hereby further Agreed between the said parties that all necessary Drawings, Original Dies, Plates and other matters and things necessary for the purposes aforesaid shall be provided by and at the expence of the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch or the survivor of them and that the Printing of the said Stamps and completing the same fit for use shall be done in rooms or offices and with machinery and fittings up to be also found and provided by and at the expence of the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch or the survivor of them, such rooms and offices to be approved of by the said Commissioners and which shall be appropriated and used exclusively for the purposes aforesaid and that the Dies and plates to be used for the purposes aforesaid shall be deposited in such place or places as the said Commissioners shall direct and in a box or boxes or other inclosure provided by the said Commissioners with two or more different locks the key of one of which shall be kept by the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch and the key or keys of the other or others of the said locks shall be kept by such person or persons as the said Commissioners shall appoint in that behalf And that the making and preparing of all such Dies and Plates as aforesaid and the printing of the said Stamps and other the matters and things to be done in completing the said Stamps for use as aforesaid and the delivery of the same shall be under the superintendence of such person or persons being an Officer or Officers of the said Commissioners as they the said Commissioners shall appoint, and under such regulations and directions for the Security of the said Dies Plates Stamps and Paper and otherwise as the said Commissioners shall from time to time make or give in that behalf. Provided always that the said Commissioners shall not by any such regulations or directions restrain or prevent the

the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch or the survivor of them or their servants or workmen from working in the manufacture and completion of such stamps in the said rooms and offices between the hours of 7 in the morning and 8 in the evening on any day on which such work may lawfully be performed. And it is further Agreed that the said Commissioners and their said Officers and any other person and persons authorized by them in that behalf shall at all times have free access to all and every of the rooms and offices aforesaid, and have all proper and necessary control over the persons to be employed and engaged in printing the said Stamps and preparing the same for use. And it is Agreed that this contract and agreement shall be and remain in force for the printing and delivering of such Stamps for the term of one year from the day of the first delivery of any such stamps provided the powers and authorities of the said Commissioners herein shall so long continue under and by virtue of the said Act or any other Act made for the continuance or amendment of the same or under the orders and directions of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury or otherwise. And lastly the said Joshua Butters Bacon and Henry Petch do hereby undertake and agree that they or the survivor of them shall and will whenever they or he shall be thereunto required by or on behalf of the said Commissioners after the expiration of the time limited for the continuance of this Contract and Agreement utterly deface and destroy in the presence of such person or persons as the said Commissioners shall name in that behalf all the Drawings Original and other Dies and Plates which shall have been provided made or used for the purposes aforesaid,

In witness, etc. ———————

(2)

Copy of the Contract for the supply of Halfpenny Postage Stamps made between the Commissioners of Inland Revenue and Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co.

ARTICLES of AGREEMENT made the eighteenth day of May One thousand eight hundred and seventy Between Henry Malden and Jacob Perkins Bacon carrying on in Copartnership with other persons the business of Engravers and Copper and Steel Plate Printers at No. 69 Fleet Street in the City of London under the style or Firm of Perkins, Bacon & Co. and which said Copartnership or Firm is hereinafter designated the Firm of the one part and The Commissioners of Inland Revenue for and on behalf of Her Majesty of the other part. WHEREAS the said Firm under an Agreement dated the third day of December one thousand eight hundred and sixty one have provided and made under proper authority certain Steel plates for the purpose of printing Stamps for expressing or denoting the Duties of One Penny and Twopence respectively on the postage of Letters which plates have been used by the said Firm under the directions of the said Commissioners for printing on Paper provided by the said Commissioners Postage Stamps for the use of Her Majesty. AND whereas it has been agreed between the said parties that the Firm shall manufacture for the use of Her Majesty a Stamp to denote Postage of the value of One halfpenny.

It is agreed as follows.

THE Firm shall provide the paper to be used in the manufacture of the said Stamps which is to be precisely similar, except in size and watermark to that now supplied by the said Commissioners for printing the Stamps of One Penny and Two-

pence by the Firm under the said Contract of the third December one thousand eight hundred and sixty one.

THE Paper is to be made at a Mill to be approved of by the Commissioners under the supervision of an Officer or Officers to be appointed by the Commissioners who shall take into his or their possession all such paper as soon as made and keep the same in some secure place or places until ordered by the Commissioners to be given up to the Firm for delivery at the Inland Revenue Office, Somerset House. The said Officer or Officers to have charge also of and keep in some secure place or places when not in use the implements called Moulds used for making the said paper. The said Moulds and the said places for keeping the same to be provided by and at the expence of the Firm.

THE Firm undertake to deliver at the Inland Revenue Office at Somerset House such quantities of paper and at such times as the Commissioners shall require upon Orders to be issued by the Commissioners directed to their Officer or Officers in charge of the Paper at the Mill. The Sheets of Paper so provided by the Firm shall be of uniform thickness and a ream of such Sheets shall not exceed in weight twelve pounds four ounces. Any ream exceeding this weight may be rejected by the Commissioners or their Officer.

THE Firm shall at or for the price hereafter mentioned prepare and complete for the purpose of printing the Stamps aforesaid so many fine Steel plates and also so many dies and rollers for the purpose of making the said Plates respectively as the Commissioners of Inland Revenue for the time being shall from time to time require and engrave or impress upon each of such Plates in such manner as the said Commissioners shall approve four hundred and eighty copies or fac-similies of the engraving of a design for a Postage Stamp of One halfpenny as shall have been approved by the said Commissioners with such letters or combination of the letters of the Alphabet and figures to denote the current number of the Plate as the Commissioners shall direct and provide all the Machinery and apparatus necessary for printing the Stamps therewith and print off from the said Plates in a good and workmanlike manner to the satisfaction of the said Commissioners any quantities of such Stamps that they shall require with ink to be approved of by the Commissioners of a fugitive nature of a light green color or any other practicable color which the Commissioners may desire, and dry and press the said Stamps and cover them at the back in a proper and sufficient manner and to the satisfaction of the Commissioners with such gum or glutinous wash as the said Commissioners shall approve to the same amount as the said Firm are now by the said Contract and a Contract dated the twelfth April one thousand eight hundred and sixty seven are bound to place on the backs of the said Postage Stamps of One penny and Twopence. The said ink and the said gum or wash to be provided by and at the expence of the said Firm.

THE Firm shall deliver the same Stamps in a fit and proper condition for use at the Inland Revenue Office Somerset House or wherever else in London or Westminster they shall require before the twenty fourth day of September next one hundred million Stamps and after that date they shall deliver such quantities and at such times as the Commissioners shall appoint.

EVERY sheet of paper provided by the Firm shall have upon it such watermark or watermarks as shall be required and approved of by the Commissioners.

THE Commissioners of Inland Revenue on the due performance from time to time on the part of the said Firm of the provisions herein contained shall pay or

cause to be paid to the said Firm for such Stamps the sum of Sixpence for every one thousand Stamps printed off and delivered in manner and in the condition aforesaid such payments to be made quarterly that is to say, on the first day of January, the first day of April, the first day of July and the first day of October in every year for all such Stamps delivered upon or previous to the said respective quarter days.

ALL necessary drawings original engravings dies plates and other matters and things necessary for the purposes aforesaid shall be provided by and at the expence of the Firm.

THE printing of the said Stamps and the completing of the same fit for use shall be done in rooms or offices and with machinery and fittings up to be also found and provided by and at the expence of the said Firm such rooms and offices to be approved of by the said Commissioners and to be appropriated and used exclusively for the purpose of manufacturing Postage Stamps under this or any Contract with the said Commissioners now in force, and the said rooms and Offices and the access thereto shall be at all times kept by the said Firm in a clean and wholesome state and all proper means and precaution shall be taken by them to the satisfaction of the said Commissioners to prevent loss or damage by fire.

THE said rooms or offices shall have only one external or entrance door upon which shall be affixed and kept in proper condition by the said Firm a lock to be approved by the said Commissioners or their Officer appointed to superintend the Printing as hereinafter mentioned and who shall by means of such lock secure the door whenever he shall think proper, the Firm to be allowed to place upon such door another lock and to keep the key thereof—the said door to be locked by means of such last mentioned lock, and also if thought necessary by both locks on every temporary cessation of printing.

NO paper whatever shall be brought into any of the said rooms or offices except such as shall be delivered by the said Commissioners under this Agreement.

THE said Officer shall be at liberty to reject as spoiled all such sheets of Stamps as shall not be printed and completed to his satisfaction, and all such rejected sheets shall be delivered to the said Commissioners or their Officer to be cancelled or destroyed.

ONCE in every year or oftener if required by the said Commissioners the Firm shall suspend for a period not exceeding two whole days the printing of such Stamps and all the process connected therewith and shall so arrange all the sheets printed and unprinted in their hands as to allow a proper account to be taken thereof by the Officers of the Commissioners, and if upon taking any account there shall appear to be any deficiency in the quantity of paper which ought to be in the hands of the said Firm the paper so deficient shall be deemed to be fully stamped with One halfpenny Stamps and the Firm shall be answerable for the Duties denoted or assumed to be denoted thereby and the amount thereof shall be deducted from any money to be thereafter paid to them by or by direction of the said Commissioners.

ALL the engravings dies rollers and plates to be made or at any time in the process of making for any of the purposes aforesaid shall be deposited in such place or places as the said Commissioners shall direct and in a box or boxes or other enclosure provided by the said Firm and approved by the said Commissioners—each box or enclosure having two or more different locks—the key of one of such locks to be kept by the said Firm and the key or keys of the other or others of such locks to be kept by the Commissioners or some person appointed by them.

THE Firm shall also make before the end of the current year and deposit in the Safe in which are deposited the reserve dies and plates of the 1d. Stamp to be there kept as aforesaid one flat die, one roller die, having thereon not less than seven impressions and two completed plates.

THE making and preparing of all such dies rollers and plates as aforesaid and the printing of the said Stamps and other the matters and things to be done in completing the said Stamps for use as aforesaid and the delivery of the same shall be under the superintendence of such person or persons being an Officer or Officers of the said Commissioners as they the said Commissioners shall from time to time appoint — and under such regulations and directions for the security of the said dies, plates, Stamps and papers and otherwise as the said Commissioners shall from time to time make or give in that behalf. Provided that the said Commissioners shall not, except for the purpose of taking an account of the Sheets as aforesaid by any such regulations or directions restrain or prevent the said Firm or their Servants or Workmen from working in the said Rooms or Offices between the hours of Seven in the morning and Eight in the evening on any day on which such work may lawfully be performed if necessary for the production of the quantities of Stamps required.

The Commissioners and their said Officers and any other persons authorised by them in that behalf shall at all times have free access to all the rooms and Offices used for any of the purposes of this Agreement and have all proper and necessary control over the same and the persons to be employed and engaged in making or preparing the said dies, plates, or rollers and in printing the said Stamps and preparing the same for use.

THE said Firm whenever thereunto required by or on behalf of the said Commissioners after the expiration of this Agreement shall utterly deface and destroy in the presence of such person or persons as the said Commissioners shall name in that behalf all the drawings, original and other dies, plates and rollers which shall have been provided made or used or the purposes aforesaid. AND IT IS HEREBY FURTHER AGREED by the said Firm that they will adopt any improvement in the manufacture or design of the said Stamps or the introduction of any other description of Stamps which experience or the progress of Art may shew to be desirable and which the Commissioners of Inland Revenue may approve and require, compensation being paid to them by the said Commissioners for any additional expence to which they shall be put by reason of their adopting any improvement which shall be so required the amount of such compensation to be determined by the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

Provided also that it shall be competent after the expiration of twelve months from the date hereof for either party hereto to give twelve months notice to determine this Contract.

Provided also that any such Notice given by the Commissioners of Inland Revenue to determine this Contract may be recalled and cancelled by them within six months from the date of such Notice.

[Signed] W. H. STEPHENSON.
,, C. J. HERRIES.
Witness ,, HENRY ROBERTS.
WM. LOMAS
Asst. Secretary
Inland Revenue.

# APPENDIX G.

Extracts from the Engraving Book of Perkins Bacon.

## ONE PENNY.

1840.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 1 | .. | Experiments Queen's Head. |
| ,, | 15 | .. | Engraving Dies, Rollers, etc., Queen's Head. |
| Feb. | 8 | .. | Engraving Rollers for the Queen's Head. |
| ,, | 21 | .. | Engraving Patterns for Queen's Head. |
| March | 4 | .. | Engraving Die for the Queen's Head Penny Postage. |
| April | 2 | .. | Engraving Die. Inscription for the Queen's Head Plates. |
| ,, | 8 | .. | Finishing first plate Queen's Heads. [Plate 1.] |
| ,, | 14 | .. | ,, second ,, ,, ,, ["V.R." Plate.] |
| ,, | 22 | .. | ,, third ,, ,, ,, [Plate 2.] |
| | | | For fourth plate see under Two Pence. |
| May | 9 | .. | Finishing fifth plate Queen's Heads. [Plate 3.] |
| ,, | 16 | .. | ,, sixth ,, ,, ,, [Plate 4.] |
| ,, | 23 | .. | ,, seventh ,, ,, ,, [Plate 5.] |
| ,, | 26 | .. | Repairing first plate of Queen's Heads. |
| June | 8 | .. | Finishing eighth plate Queen's Heads. [Plate 6.] |
| ,, | 19 | .. | ,, ninth ,, ,, ,, [Plate 7.] |
| | | | For tenth plate see under Two Pence. |
| July | 31 | .. | Finishing eleventh plate Queen's Heads. [Plate 8.] |
| Oct. | 7 | .. | ,, twelfth ,, ,, ,, [Plate 9.] |
| Dec. | 2 | .. | ,, thirteenth ,, ,, ,, [Plate 10.] |

1841.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 19 | .. | Finishing fourteenth plate Queen's Heads. [Plate 11.] |
| Feb. | 16 | .. | ,, fifteenth ,, ,, ,, [Plate 12.] |
| | | | For sixteenth plate see under Two Pence. |
| April | 17 | .. | Finishing sixteenth and seventeenth [17th and 18th]. plates Queen's Heads. [Plates 13, 14.] |
| July | 14 | .. | ,, nineteenth plate Queen's Heads. [Plate 15.] |
| ,, | 16 | .. | ,, twentieth ,, ,, ,, [Plate 16.] |
| Sept. | 7 | .. | ,, twenty-first ,, ,, ,, No. 17. |
| ,, | 15 | .. | ,, twenty-second ,, ,, No. 18. |
| Oct. | 9 | .. | ,, twenty-third ,, ,, ,, No. 19. |
| Nov. | 12 | .. | ,, twenty-fourth ,, ,, No. 20. |
| Dec. | 10 | .. | ,, twenty-fifth ,, ,, ,, No. 21. |
| ,, | 29 | .. | Engraving twenty-sixth ,, ,, No. 22. |
| ,, | 29 | .. | ,, twenty-seventh ,, ,, No. 23. |

1842.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. | 11 | .. | Engraving | twenty-eighth | plate | Queen's Heads. No. 24. |
| March | 12 | .. | Finishing | twenty-ninth | ,, | ,, ,, No. 25. |
| June | 17 | .. | ,, | thirtieth | ,, | Postage Labels. No. 26. |
| Aug. | 19 | .. | ,, | thirty-first | ,, | ,, ,, No. 27. |
| Sept. | 12 | .. | ,, | thirty-second | ,, | ,, ,, No. 28. |
| Nov. | 11 | .. | ,, | thirty-third | ,, | ,, ,, No. 29. |
| Dec. | 6 | .. | ,, | thirty-fourth | ,, | ,, ,, No. 30. |

1843.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 26 | .. | Finishing | thirty-fifth | plate. | Postage Labels. No. 31. |
| Feb. | 8 | .. | Engraving | thirty-sixth | ,, | ,, ,, No. 32. |
| ,, | 14 | .. | Finishing | thirty-seventh | ,, | ,, ,, No. 33. |
| April | 12 | .. | ,, | thirty-seventh [38th] | ,, | ,, No. 34. |
| June | 3 | .. | ,, | thirty-eighth [39th] | ,, | ,, No. 35. |
| | (entry omitted previously.) | | | | | |
| ,, | 5 | .. | ,, | thirty-ninth [40th] | ,, | ,, No. 36. |
| Aug. | 16 | .. | ,, | fortieth [41st] | ,, | ,, No. 37. |
| | (entry omitted previously.) | | | | | |
| ,, | 16 | .. | ,, | forty-first [42nd] | ,, | ,, No. 38. |
| | (entry omitted previously.) | | | | | |
| Aug. | 16 | .. | ,, | forty-second [43rd] | ,, | ,, No. 39. |
| ,, | 17 | .. | ,, | forty-third [44th] | ,, | ,, No. 40. |
| Oct. | 13 | .. | ,, | [no numbers given] | ,, | ,, No. [41]. |

1844.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 5 | .. | Finishing | [no numbers given] | Plate | Postage | Labels. No. [42]. |
| ,, | 30 | .. | ,, | | ,, | ,, | ,, No. 43. |
| Feb. | 16 | .. | ,, | | ,, | ,, | ,, No. 44. |
| ,, | 22 | .. | ,, | | ,, | ,, | ,, No. 45. |
| May | 1 | .. | ,, | | ,, | ,, | ,, No. 46. |
| ,, | 15 | .. | ,, | | ,, | ,, | ,, No. 47. |
| June | 19 | .. | ,, | | ,, | ,, | ,, No. 48. |
| ,, | 24 | .. | ,, | | ,, | ,, | ,, No. 49. |
| Sept. | 7 | .. | ,, | | ,, | ,, | ,, No. 50. |

1848.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nov. | 25 | .. | Making pin marks in 9 Postage Plates. |

1849.

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June | 21 | .. | Finishing | Postage | Plate | No. 95. |
| July | 2 | .. | ,, | ,, | ,, | No. 96. |
| ,, | 23 | .. | ,, | ,, | ,, | No. 97. |
| Aug. | 6 | .. | ,, | ,, | ,, | No. 98. |
| ,, | 11 | .. | ,, | ,, | ,, | No. 99. |
| ,, | 28 | .. | ,, | ,, | ,, | No. 100. |

1850.

Jan. 3 .. Altering Postage Plate from 100 to No. 95 in place of Plate 95 spoiled.
Feb. 14 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. 100 in place of Plate altered from No. 100 to No. 95.
,, 21 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. 101.

1851.

Dec. 13 .. Engraving Star to Postage Plates Nos. 130, 131, 120, 127, 121.
,, 16 .. ,, ,, ,, Nos. 116, 118, 119, 122, 128, 125, 123, 124, 129.

1854.

April 27 .. Repairing Postage Plate No. 155.
May 23 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 176.
Dec. 7 .. Finishing ,, ,, No. 1 (new die).
,, 13 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 2.
,, 19 .. ,, ,, ,, No. R15.
,, 29 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 3.

1855.

Jan. 5 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. 4.
,, 10 .. ,, ,, ,, No. R16.
,, 18 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 5.
,, 26 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 6.
,, 30 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 7.
Feb. 6 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 8.
,, 14 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 9.
,, 21 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 10.
,, 28 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 11.
March 8 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 12.
,, 15 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 13.
,, 24 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 14.
,, 29 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 15.
April 4 .. ,, ,, ,, "without" legend (16).
,, 18 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 17.
,, 21 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 18.
May 7 .. Adding margin to Postage Plate, finished April 4th.
,, 8 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. 19.
May 12 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 20.
,, 30 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 21.
June 5 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 22.
,, 12 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 23.
,, 19 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 24.
,, 22 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 19 [should be R19].
,, 23 .. Altering Postage Plates from No. 23 to R17 and No. 24 to R18.
July 2 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. R20.
,, 17 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 23.
,, 30 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 24.

1856.

June 11 .. Engraving letters to Postage Plates No. 50 and 51.
Sept. 24 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. 52.
,, 25 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 53.
Oct. 2 .. Adding marginal Nos. to Postage Plate No. 52.
,, 27 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. 55.
,, 30 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 56.

1857.

March 2 .. Repairing Postage Plate No. 41.

1858.

April 9 .. Engraving Nos. on 1d. roller postage die 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75

1860.

Dec. 10 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. 69.

1861.

Jan. 24 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. 70.
,, 31 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 71.
Feb 7 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 72.
,, 12 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 73.
,, 20 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 74.
April 26 .. Repairing ,, ,, No. 51.
,, 29 .. Engraving small figures on Postage Roller No. 2 [76 to 81].
May 24 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. 75.
Sept. 16 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 76.
,, 23 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 77.
,, 27 .. ,, ,, ,, No. 78.

1862.

April 5 .. Altering perforating marks to postage Reserve No. 15.
,, 5 .. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, No. 16.
May 1 .. Preparing Postage 1d. roller from 82 to 87. No. 3.
,, 2 .. ,, ,, ,, ,, 88 ,, 93. No. 4.

1864.

April 5 .. Finishing Postage roller 1d. No. 5 from 94 to 100.

1865.

March 2 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. 98 (106). [The last is the current number.]
,, 4 .. Engraving small figures on postage roller No. 6, 101 to 108.

1866.

May 12 .. Preparing Postage roller [No. 7] 109 to 116 small figures.

1868.

Jan. 31 .. Repairing 49 labels in 1d. postage plate 81.
,, 31 .. ,, 67 ,, ,, ,, ,, 73.
Feb. 4 .. ,, 87 ,, ,, ,, ,, 85.
,, 5 .. ,, 13 ,, ,, ,, ,, 72.
,, 22 .. ,, 28 ,, postage 1d. 100/110.
,, 25 .. ,, 3 ,, 1d. postage No. 80.
,, 25 .. ,, 3 ,, ,, No. 90.
April 7 .. Completing 1d. Postage roller No. 8 containing 7 transfers, Nos. 117 to 123 inclusive.
June 29 .. Completing 1d. Postage roller No. 9–124 to 130 inclusive.
Aug. 11 .. Finishing Postage Plate 1d. 124/139.
Sept. 1 .. ,, ,, ,, 1d. 125/140.
,, 16 .. ,, ,, ,, 1d. 127/142.
,, 19 .. ,, 1d. Postage roller No. 10 containing 6 transfers, Nos. 131 to 136 inclusive.
Dec. 18 .. ,, Postage Plate 1d. 129/144.
,, 30 .. ,, ,, ,, 1d. 130/145.

1869.

Jan. 21 .. Finishing Postage roller No. 11 containing 6 transfers, Nos. 137 to 142 inclusive.
June 11 .. ,, 1d. Postage roller No. 12, containing 6 transfers, Nos. 143 to 148 inclusive.

1870.

Feb. 2 .. Finishing 1d. Postage roller, No. 13, containing 7 transfers, Nos. 149 to 155 inclusive.

1878.

Sept. 19 .. Finishing 1d. Postage roller No. 25, containing 7 transfers, Nos. 226 to 232 inclusive.
Nov. 29 .. ,, 1d. Postage plate 225/268.

1879.

Feb. 19 .. Finishing 1d. Postage Plate 226/269.
,, 26 .. ,, ,, ,, 227/270.
March 4 .. ,, ,, ,, 228/271.

## TWO PENCE.

1840.

April 7 .. Engraving Die Queen's Head Two Pence.
May 1 .. Finishing fourth plate Queen's Heads. [Plate 1].
July 18 .. Engraving tenth plate ,, ,, [Plate 2.]

1841.
Feb. 25 .. Finishing sixteenth plate Queen's Heads. [Plate 3.]

1849.
Nov. 29 .. Finishing Twopenny Postage Plate No. 4.

1855.
May 25 .. Finishing Twopenny Postage Plate No. 5.

1856.
Sept. 3 .. Finishing Postage Plate No. 6 two pence.

1858.
April 8 .. Engraving Two Pence on Postage Die new transfer.
,, 13 .. ,, Nos. on 2d. roller 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.
May 18 .. Finishing 2d. Postage Plate No. 7.

1859.
June 25 .. Finishing Postage Plate 2d. No. 8.
Nov. 24 .. ,, ,, ,, ,, No. 9.

1867.
Sept. 14 .. Finishing Twopenny Postage Plate 12 123.
Oct. 3 .. ,, ,, Roller No. 2, containing Nos. 13 to 18 inclusive.

1868.
Jan. 31 .. Repairing 49 labels in 2d. postage plate 9.

1869.
March 5 .. Finishing Postage Plate 2d. 13/152.

1870.
June 7 .. Finishing Postage Plate 14 170.

1875.
May 25 .. Finishing Postage Plate 2d. 15 227.

## THREE-HALFPENCE.

1860.
Feb. 16 .. Drawings Postage Labels Three halfpence.
,, 23 .. ,, for ,, Label, ,, ,,
March 8 .. Drawing ,, ,, ,, ,,
,, 10 .. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
,, 17 .. Engraving Postage Die Three halfpence.
,, 22 .. Finishing Postage Plate Three halfpence No. 1.

1871.
Sept. 26 .. Finishing Postage roller 1½d., No. 3, containing 4 transfers, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

1872.
Jan. 18 .. Finishing Postage Plate 1½d. 3/193.

## HALFPENNY.

1870.

April 22 .. Drawings for Halfpenny postage stamp.
May 2 .. ,, ,, postage stamp Halfpenny 10.
,, 5 .. ,, 3 ,, ,, ,, ,, 13 in all.
,, 10 .. ,, 4 ,, ,, ,, ,, 17 ,,
,, 13 .. ,, 2 ,, ,, ,, ,, 19 ,,
,, 31 .. Engraving postage die Halfpenny.
June 3 .. Finishing ½[d.] postage roller No. 1, containing 4 transfers, Nos. 1 to 4 inclusive.
,, 10 .. Engraving die legend for ½d. postage plates.
,, 20 .. Finishing postage plate ½d. 1 171.
,, 20 .. ,, ,, roller ½d. No. 2 containing 7 transfers, 5 to 10, one blank for making dies.
June 27 .. ,, ,, plate ½d. 3 173.
July 2 .. ,, ,, ,, ½d. 4 174.
,, 11 .. ,, ,, ,, ½d. 5 175.
,, 18 .. ,, ,, ,, ½d. 6 176.
,, 23 .. ,, ,, ,, ½d. 8 177.
Aug. 13 .. ,, ,, ,, ½d. 9 178.
Sept. 15 .. ,, ½d. postage roller No. 3 with 8 transfers, Nos. 11 to 18.
,, 15 .. ,, reserve roller ½d. No. 4 with 8 transfers without numbers.
Dec. 20 .. Engraving Halfpenny postage die No. 2.

1872.

May 31 .. Finishing postage plate ½d. 10 197.
June 12 .. ,, ,, ,, ½d. 11 198.

1874.

Feb. 21 .. Finishing postage plate ½d. 12 220.
Oct. 3 .. ,, ,, ,, ½d. 13 221.

1875.

Feb. 9 .. Finishing postage plate ½d. 14 224.

1876.

June 23 .. Finishing postage plate ½d. 15 242.

1877.

Jan. 6 .. Finishing ½d. postage roller No. 5 containing 8 transfers from No. 19 to 26 inclusive.
Feb. 28 .. ,, postage plate ½d. 19 248.

1878.

Oct. 7 .. Finishing postage plate ½d. 20 249.

1879.

Dec. 10 .. Finishing postage plate ½d. 21 272.

## Essays of Stamps Submitted to the Board of Inland Revenue in 1879–80.

1878.

June 29 .. Finishing specimen 1d. postage stamps 4 on pl. for surface printing.

1879.

Jan. 4 .. Engraving 4 preliminary dies (postage).
,, 24 .. ,, dies, etc., various. Postage stamps.
Feb. 16 .. Drawing 2 sheets of Postage stamp specimens "Copper plate and surface."
,, 27 .. Engraving postage stamp die one penny (surface).
March 20 .. Finishing 1d. postage plate 1 for surface printing.
May 6 .. Engraving dies postage one penny (surface) 1, 2, 3.
,, 8 .. ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 4, 5, 6.
,, 13 .. Finishing experimental postage plate 6 designs, 36 on pl. (surface).
Dec. 24 .. Drawings ½d., 1½d. and 2d. postage stamps.

1880.

Jan. 5 .. Transferring Postage Die (Head only) for alteration.
,, 13 .. Preparing postage roller 6 transfers for ½d., 1½d. and 2d. stamps.
,, 19 .. Postage die ½d. specimen stamp.
,, 22 .. Engraving postage die ½d. specimen stamp 2.
,, 23 .. ,, ,, ,, 1½d. ,, ,,
,, 26 .. ,, ,, ,, 2d. ,, ,, 1.
,, 27 .. ,, ,, ,, 1½d. ,, ,, 2.
,, 29 .. ,, ,, ,, 2d. ,, ,, 2 and 3.
Feb. 2 .. ,, ,, ,, 2d. ,, ,, 4.

# APPENDIX H.

Number of stamps printed of the Two Pence, blue, 1840, Plates 1 and 2.

PLATE 1.

| Date. 1840. | Printers. Curtis. Day work. | Corbett. Night work. |
|---|---|---|
| May 1 | 25 | |
| ,, 2 | 92 | |
| ,, 4 | 219 | 320 |
| ,, 5 | 248 | 350 |
| ,, 6 | 269 | 350 |
| ,, 7 | 333 | 255 |
| ,, 8 | 332 | 375 |
| ,, 9 | 187 | |
| ,, 11 | 353 | 287 |
| ,, 12 | 289 | 413 |
| ,, 13 | 399 | 402 |
| ,, 14 | 357 | 400 |
| ,, 15 | 394 | 380 |
| ,, 16 | | 320 |
| ,, 18 | 287 | 251 |
| ,, 19 | 313 | 297 |
| ,, 20 | 216 | 300 |
| ,, 21 | 366 | 300 |
| ,, 22 | 318 | |
| ,, 23 | 72 | |
| ,, 25 | 359 | 400 |
| ,, 26 | 369 | 400 |
| ,, 27 | 350 | 250 |
| ,, 28 | | 150 |
| June 1 | 15 | |
| | 6,162 | 6,200 |

| Date. 1840. | Printers. McMurdie. Day work. | Bunce. Night work. |
|---|---|---|
| June 25 | 318 | 275 |
| ,, 26 | 332 | 300 |
| ,, 27 | | 300 |
| ,, 29 | 260 | |
| ,, 30 | 320 | |
| July 1 | 320 | |
| ,, 2 | 325 | |
| ,, 3 | 325 | |
| ,, 4 | 300 | |
| ,, 6 | 300 | |
| ,, 7 | 303 | |
| ,, 8 | 296 | |
| ,, 9 | 301 | |
| ,, 10 | 25 | |
| | 3 725 | 875 |

Total 16,962 sheets.

May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, and July 5 were Sundays.

PLATE 2.

| Date. 1840. | Printer. Graham. | Date. 1840. | Printer. Cockbill. |
|---|---|---|---|
| July 21 .. | .. 207 | Aug. 17 .. | .. 193 |
| ,, 22 .. | .. 343 | ,, 19 .. | .. 234 |
| ,, 23 .. | .. 361 | ,, 20 .. | .. 308 |
| ,, 24 .. | .. 364 | ,, 21 .. | .. 265 |
| ,, 25 .. | .. 325 | ,, 22 .. | .. 226 |
| ,, 27 .. | .. 273 | ,, 24 .. | .. 300 |
| ,, 28 .. | .. 367 | ,, 25 .. | .. 294 |
| ,, 29 .. | .. 360 | ,, 26 .. | .. 306 |
| ,, 30 .. | .. 351 | ,, 27 .. | .. 312 |
| ,, 31 .. | .. 320 | ,, 28 .. | .. 312 |
| Aug. 1 .. | .. 329 | ,, 29 .. | .. 350 |
| ,, 3 .. | .. 321 | | |
| ,, 4 .. | .. 312 | | |
| ,, 5 .. | .. 250 | | |
| ,, 6 .. | .. 367 | | |
| ,, 7 .. | .. 385 | | |
| ,, 8 .. | .. 315 | | |
| ,, 10 .. | .. 270 | | |
| ,, 11 .. | .. 320 | | |
| ,, 12 .. | .. 365 | | |
| ,, 13 .. | .. 365 | | |
| ,, 14 .. | .. 300 | | |
| ,, 15 .. | .. 330 | | |
| | 7,500 | | 3,100 |

Total 10,600 sheets.

July 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 were Sundays.

# *APPENDIX I.*

Copies of Invoices of the deliveries of sheets of the Postage stamps furnished by Perkins Bacon to the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes.

| Date 1840. | Public. 1d. | Public. 2d. | Official. 1d. | Night Work. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 15 .. | 1 | — | 1 | — | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheets Plate 1 and "V.R." Plate.] |
| ,, 18 .. | 1 | — | 1 | — | Mr. R. Hill. |
| ,, 21 .. | 800 | — | — | — | |
| ,, 22 .. | 1 | — | — | — | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet Plate 2.] |
| ,, 23 .. | 700 | — | — | — | |
| ,, 24 .. | 500 | — | — | — | |
| | 1 | — | — | — | Delivered to make up supposed deficiency, which we deny. |
| ,, 25 .. | 1,000 | — | — | — | |
| ,, 27 .. | 500 | — | — | — | |
| | 2 | — | — | — | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheets Plates 1 and 2.] |
| ,, 28 .. | 500 | — | — | — | |
| ,, 29 .. | 1,500 | — | — | — | |
| ,, 30 .. | 1,000 | — | 13 | — | 13 sheets 1d. "Official" Post Office. |
| | 6,506 | | 15 | | |
| | 15 | | | | |
| | 6,521 sheets 240 each = 1,565,040 stamps. | | | | |
| May 1 .. | 1,500 | — | — | — | |
| ,, 2 .. | 1,000 | 1 | — | — | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet Plate 1 2d.[1]] |
| ,, 4 .. | 1,000 | — | — | — | |
| ,, 5 .. | 1,000 | 18 | — | — | 18 sheets 2d. Post Office. |
| ,, 6 .. | — | 600 | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, 7 .. | 500 | 500 | — | — | |
| ,, 8 .. | 2,000 | 500 | — | — | |
| ,, 9 .. | 1,000 | 500 | — | — | |
| ,, 11 .. | 1 | — | 1 | — | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheets Plate 3 and "V.R." Plate.[2]] |
| ,, ,, .. | 750 | 500 | — | — | |
| ,, 12 .. | 1,000 | 500 | — | 250 | |
| ,, 13 .. | 1,300 | 500 | 1,500 | 2,050 | |
| ,, 14 .. | 1,300 | 500 | — | 550 | |
| ,, 15 .. | 1,500 | 500 | 250 | 1,000 | |
| | 13,851 | 4,619 | 3,251 | 3,850 | Carried forward |

[1] Appendix C (59) p. 40. [2] Ibid. (64) p. 43.

| | | Public. 1d. | Public. 2d. | Official. 1d. | Night Work. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1840. | | 13,851 | 4,619 | 3,251 | 3,850 | Brought forward |
| May | 16 .. | 2,000 | 1 000 | - - | 1,750 | |
| ,, | 18 .. | 1,500 | 500 | - - | 750 | |
| ,, | 19 .. | 1,000 | 1,000 | - - | 750 | |
| | | 1 | — | - - | — | Mr Pressly (Imprimatur sheet Plate 4) |
| ,, | 20 .. | 2,500 | — | - | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 21 .. | 2,250 | 382 | - - | 1,382 | |
| ,, | 22 .. | 2,000 | — | — | 750 | |
| ,, | 23 .. | 1,500 | 1,500 | — | 1 750 | |
| ,, | 25 .. | 1,000 | 500 | — | 250 | |
| ,, | 26 .. | 750 | 250 | — | — | |
| ,, | 27 .. | 2,000 | 750 | - | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 28 .. | 1,500 | — | — | 250 | |
| ,, | 29 .. | 2,000 | 500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 1,500 | 500 | — | 750 | |
| | | 35,352 | 11,501 | 3,251 | 15,982 | |
| | | 11,501 | | | | |
| | | 3,251 | | | | |

50,104 sheets 240 each = 12,024,960 stamp labels.

Night work on 15,982 sheets 240 each = 3,835,680.

| | | 1d. | 2d. | Night Work. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June | 1 .. | 2,000 | — | 750 | |
| ,, | 2 .. | 1,500 | 500 | 750 | |
| | | 1 | — | — | Mr. Pressly (Imprimatur sheet Plate 5.) |
| ,, | 3 .. | 1,500 | — | — | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 1,000 | — | — | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 1,500 | — | — | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 2,000 | — | — | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 4,650 | — | 1,900 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 1 | — | — | Mr. Pressly (Imprimatur sheet Plate 5.) |
| | .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 16 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 17 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | ,, .. | 1 | — | — | Mr. Pressly[1] (Imprimatur sheet Plate 6.) |
| ,, | 18 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| | | 31,653 | 500 | 12,150 | Carried forward |

[1] This sheet was inadvertently omitted in the Invoice Book, but appears in the Account Book, from which the entries were copied into the Invoice Book.

| | | 1d. | 2d. | Night Work. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1840. | | 31,653 | 500 | 12 150 | Brought forward |
| June | 19 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 20 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 22 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 23 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 24 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 25 .. | 2 500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 26 .. | 2 500 | — | 1 250 | |
| ,, | 27 .. | 2,500 | — | 1,250 | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 4 000 | — | 1 500 | |
| | | 55,652[1] | 500 | 23 650 | |
| | | 500 | | | |
| | | 56 152 sheets 240 each = 13 476,480 labels. | | | |

Night work on 23,650 sheets 240 each = 5,676,000 (as per Agreement).

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| July | 1 .. | 1 000 | 250 | |
| ,, | 2 .. | 1,000 | 250 | |
| ,, | 3 .. | 1,250 | — | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 750 | 500 | |
| | | 4,000 | 1 000 | |
| | | 1 000 | | |
| | | 5,000 sheets 240 each = 1,200 000 labels. | | |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| July | 6 .. | 1 000 | 250 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 1 000 | 250 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 750 | 500 | |
| | | 1 | — | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet Plate 7.] |
| ,, | 9 .. | 1,250 | — | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2 000 | 500 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 1,250 | — | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 1 000 | 250 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1 000 | 250 | |
| ,, | 16 .. | 1 000 | 250 | |
| ,, | 17 .. | 1 000 | 250 | |
| | | 11,251 | 2,500 | Carried forward |

[1] Should be 55,653 sheets.

| | | 1d. | 2d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1840. | | 11,251 | 2,500 | Brought forward |
| July | 18 .. | 1,250 | — | |
| ,, | 20 .. | 1,000 | 250 | |
| ,, | 21 .. | 2,250 | — | |
| ,, | 22 .. | 1,250 | — | |
| ,, | 23 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, | 24 .. | 2,000 | 750 | |
| ,, | 25 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, | 27 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, | 28 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, | 29 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 2,500 | — | |
| ,, | 31 .. | 1,250 | 225 | |
| | | 30,251 | 3,725 | |
| | | 3,725 | | |

33,976 sheets 240 each = 8,154,240 labels.

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aug. | 1 .. | 1 | 1 | Mr. Pressly[1] [Imprimatur sheets 1d. plate 8 and 2d. Plate 2.] |
| | | 1,250 | 275 | |
| ,, | 3 .. | 1,250 | 250 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 1,250 | 250 | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 2,000 | 250 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 1,500 | 250 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 1,000 | 500 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 1,000 | 500 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 3,500 | — | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 1,000 | 500 | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, | 17 .. | 2,500 | 1,000 | |
| ,, | 18 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, | 19 .. | 1,000 | 500 | |
| ,, | 20 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| ,, | 21 .. | 2,500 | — | |
| ,, | 22 .. | 1,500 | — | |
| | | 30,251 | 4,276 | Carried forward |

[1] These two sheets are given under the date July 31st, in the Account Book from which the entries were copied into the Invoice Book.

| | | 1d. | 2d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1840. | | 30,251 | 4,276 | Brought forward |
| Aug. | 24 .. | 2,000 | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 25 .. | 4,543 | 889 | 57 1d. Official. |
| ,, | 28 .. | 1,500 | — | New Paper. [First lot of Second Contract with Mr. Stacey Wise.] |
| | | 38,294 | 7,165 | |
| | | 7,165 | | |
| | | 57 | | |
| | | 45,516 | | sheets 240 each = 10,923,840 labels. |
| Sept. | 2 .. | 2,500 | — | |
| ,, | 3 .. | 2,000 | 500 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 2,500 | 500 | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 2,500 | 500 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 1,500 | 500 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2,000 | 1,000 | |
| | | 166 | 38 | |
| ,, | 29 .. | 1,000 | — | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 500 | — | |
| | | 14,666 | 3,038 | |
| | | 3,038 | | |
| | | 17,704 | | sheets 240 each = 4,248,960 labels. |

| | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oct. | 1 .. | 500 | |
| ,, | 2 .. | 500 | |
| ,, | 3 .. | 500 | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 500 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 1,397 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 500 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 500 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 970 | |
| | | 6,367 | sheets 240 each = 1,528,080 labels. |

1840. Memorandum of Spoilt Impressions delivered.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aug. 25 .. | 6,011 | 1d. | Public. | First Contract | Paper. |
| | 571 | 2d. | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| | 148 | 1d. | Official | ,, | ,, |
| Sept. 10 .. | 334 | 1d. | Public. | Second ,, | ,, |
| | 62 | 2d. | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| Oct. 6 .. | 103 | 1d. | ,, | ,, | ,, |
| ,, 10 .. | 30 | 1d. | ,, | ,, | ,, |

7,259 Impressions spoilt from the commencement.

| | 1d. | | 1840. | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oct. 12 .. | 500 | | | 4,955 | Brought forward |
| ,, 13 .. | 500 | | Oct. 23 .. | 1,462 | |
| ,, 14 .. | 500 | | ,, 24 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 15 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 26 .. | 1,408 | |
| ,, 16 .. | 455 | | ,, 27 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 19 .. | 500 | | ,, 28 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 20 .. | 500 | | ,, 29 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 21 .. | 500 | | ,, 30 .. | 1,371 | |
| ,, 22 .. | 500 | | ,, 31 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 4,955 | Carried forward | | 17,196 | |

17,196 sheets 240 each = 4,127,040 labels.

| | 1d. | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nov. 2 .. | 1,500 | | | 13,167 | Brought forward |
| ,, 3 .. | 1,500 | | Nov. 19 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 4 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 20 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 5 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 21 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 6 .. | 1,304 | | ,, 23 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 12 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 24 .. | 1,859 | |
| ,, 16 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 25 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 17 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 26 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 18 .. | 1,362 | | ,, 27 .. | 1,500 | |
| | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet Plate 9.] | ,, 28 .. | 1,852 | |
| | 13,167 | Carried forward | | 24,878 | |

24,878 sheets 240 each = 5,070,720 labels.

| | 1d. | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dec. 1 .. | 2,000 | | | 8,364 | Brought forward |
| ,, 2 .. | 2,000 | | Dec. 8 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 3 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 9 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 4 .. | 864 | | ,, 10 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 5 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 11 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 7 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 12 .. | 1,000 | |
| | 8,364 | Carried forward | | 13,364 | Carried forward |

| 1840. | 1d. | | 1840. | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 13 364 | Brought forward | | 25,208 | Brought forward |
| Dec. 15 .. | 1,000 | | Dec. 4 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 16 .. | 1,500 | | | 253 | |
| ,, 17 .. | 2 344 | | | 1 | Mr. Pressly (Imprimatur sheet Plate 10.) |
| ,, 18 .. | 1 500 | | ,, 26 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 19 .. | 1 000 | | ,, 28 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 21 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 29 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 22 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 30 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 23 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 31 .. | 1,000 | |
| | 25,208 | Carried forward | | 31,462 | |

31,462 sheets 240 each = 7,550,880 labels.

Between October 10th and Dec. 31st, 1840, the number of 1d. spoilt sheets delivered was 1,464.

| 1841. | 1d | | 1841. | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. 1 .. | 1,000 | | | 9,361 | Brought forward |
| ,, 2 .. | 1,000 | | Jan. [13] | 1,000 | Red, new Colour. |
| ,, 4 .. | 1,000 | | ,, [14] | 2,000 | |
| ,, 5 .. | 2,799 | | ,, [15] | 1,183 | |
| ,, [7][1] | 3 550 | | ,, [16] | 2,000 | |
| | 12 | Rowland Hill, Esq. | ,, [18] | 3,852 | |
| | 9,361 | Carried forward | | 19,396 | |

19,396 sheets 240 each = 4,655,040 labels.

From Jan. 1st to 7th, 1841, the number of 1d. spoilt sheets delivered was 329.

Memorandum of the execution of Warrant Numbers 26 to 39 of 1840 :—

Received 95,000 sheets. Delivered, good .. 92,932 1d.
,, spoilt .. 2,068 1d.
95,000 sheets.

| | 1d. | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. 22 .. | 2,000 | | | 9,841 | Brought forward |
| ,, 23 .. | 2,000 | | Jan. 27 .. | 1,500 | Black. |
| ,, 25 .. | 2,500 | | | 18 | 2d. for Specimens (on the 15th). |
| ,, 26 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 28 .. | 1,500 | Black. |
| ,, 27 .. | 1,336 | | ,, 29 .. | 2,013 | Do. |
| ,, ,, .. | 5 | Edwin Hill. | ,, 30 .. | 1,500 | Red. |
| | 9,841 | Carried forward | | 16,372 | |

16,372 sheets 240 each = 3,929,280 labels.

[1] The six dates given in brackets were inadvertently omitted from the Invoice Book, but we have obtained them from the Account Book, from which the entries were copied into the Invoice Book. There is no date opposite the 12 sheets sent to Rowland Hill. There can be no doubt that these are the sheets in trial colours that were sent to him on December 15th, 1840, vide Appendix C (136) p. 73.

| 1841. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. | 1 .. | 2,000 | Red |
| ,, | 2 .. | 1,302 | Do. |
| ,, | 3 .. | 1,500 | Do. |
| ,, | 4 .. | 1,500 | Black.[1] |
| ,, | 5 .. | 2,000 | Do. |
| ,, | 6 .. | 1,505 | Do. |
| ,, | 8 .. | 2,000 | Red. |
| ,, | ,, .. | 3 | Post Office E.H.[ill's] Order. |
| ,, | 9 .. | 2,000 | Red |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2,000 | Do. |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,000 | Do. |
| ,, | 13 .. | 1,500 | Do. |
| ,, | 16 .. | 2,134 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1,500 | |
| | | 22,944 | Carried forward |

| 1841. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 22,944 | Brought forward |
| Feb. | 17 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 18 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 20 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 26 .. | 4,000 | |
| | | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 12.] |
| ,, | 27 .. | 2,763 | |
| | | 1 | 2d. Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 3.] |
| ,, | ,, .. | 1,000 | |
| | | 43,709 | |

43,709 sheets 240 each = 10,489,920 labels.

| | | 1d. | 2d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mar. | 1 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 2 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 3 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 4,000 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 1,500 | 500 |
| ,, | 12 .. | 2,167 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1,500 | 1,000 |
| ,, | 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 17 .. | 1,500 | 500 |
| ,, | 18 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 19 .. | 4,000 | 1,000 |
| | | 31,667 | 3,000 Carried for'd. |

| | | 1d. | 2d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 31,667 | 3,000 | Brot. for'd. |
| Mar. | 20 .. | 1,500 | 500 | |
| ,, | 22 .. | 2,000 | | |
| ,, | 23 .. | 3,215 | 500 | |
| ,, | 24 .. | 1,000 | 918 | |
| ,, | 25 .. | 2,500 | | |
| ,, | 26 .. | 4,000 | | |
| ,, | 27 .. | 2,000 | | |
| ,, | 31 .. | 3,500 | | |
| | | 1 | | Mr. Pressly 27 Jany. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 11.] |
| | | 51,383 | 4,918 | |
| | | 4,918 | | |
| | | 56,301 | | |

56,301 sheets 240 each = 13,512,240 labels.

| | | 1d. |
|---|---|---|
| April | 2 .. | 2,500 |
| ,, | 3 .. | 4,005 |
| | | 6,505 |

6,505 sheets 240 each = 1,561,200 labels.

[1] Of the Provisional printing of 10,200 sheets of the 1d. in black, the Account Book gives the number of spoilt sheets as 182.

Memorandum of the execution of Warrant Numbers 1 to 9 of 1841 :—

Received 125,018 sheets.

| Delivered, | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| good | .. | 117,968 | 1d. | |
| ,, | ,, | 4,919 | 2d. | |
| ,, | spoilt | 2,131 | 1d. | 2d. |
| | | 125,018 | sheets. | |

| 1841. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| April | 29 .. | 2 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheets, Plates 13 and 14.] |
| ,, | 30 .. | 1,500 | |
| | | 1,502 | |

1,502 sheets 240 each = 360,480 labels.

| | | 1d. | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May | 1 .. | 1,500 | | | 18,233 | Brought forward |
| ,, | 3 .. | 1,500 | May | 17 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 18 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 19 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 20 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 22 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 25 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 26 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 27 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 28 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1,733 | | | 33,733 | |
| | | 18,233 | Carried forward | | | |

33,733 sheets 240 each = 8,095,920 labels.

| | | 1d. | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June | 2 .. | 3,983 | | | 20,983 | Brought forward |
| ,, | 3 .. | 2,000 | June | 17 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 18 .. | 1,230 | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 21 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 22 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 23 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 24 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 25 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 26 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 29 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1,500 | ,, | 30 .. | 4,000 | |
| ,, | 16 .. | 1,500 | | | 38,213 | |
| | | 20,983 | Carried forward | | | |

38,213 sheets 240 each = 9,171,120 labels.

| 1841. | Id. |
|---|---|
| July 2 .. | 1,500 |
| ,, 3 .. | 3,575 |
| | 5,075 |

5,075 sheets 240 each = 1,218,000 labels.

Memorandum of the execution of Warrant Numbers 10 to 13 of 1841 :—

Received 80,000 sheets. Delivered, good .. 78 523 Id.
,, spoilt .. 1,477 Id.
80,000 sheets.

| | Id. | | | Id. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| July 21 .. | 1,500 | | | 8,002 | Brought forward |
| ,, 22 .. | 1,500 | | July 27 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 23 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 28 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 24 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 29 .. | 1,000 | |
| | 2 | Mr. Pressly (Imprimatur sheets, Plates 15 and 16.) | ,, 30 .. | 1,000 | |
| | | | ,, 31 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 26 .. | 1,500 | | | 13,002 | |
| | 8,002 | Carried forward | | | |

13,002 sheets 240 each = 3,120,480 postage labels.

| | Id. | | | Id. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aug. 2 .. | 1,000 | | | 14,807 | Brought forward |
| ,, 3 .. | 1,000 | | Aug. 20 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 4 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 21 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 5 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 23 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 6 .. | 1,807 | | ,, 24 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 7 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 25 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 9 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 26 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 10 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 27 .. | 2,171 | |
| ,, 16 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 28 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 17 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 30 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 18 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 31 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 19 .. | 1,500 | | | 27,978 | |
| | 14,807 | Carried forward | | | |

27,978 sheets 240 each = 6,714,720 labels.

| | Id. | | | Id. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sept. 1 .. | 1,000 | | | 5,500 | Brought forward |
| ,, 2 .. | 1,500 | | Sept. 6 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 3 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 7 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 4 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 8 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 5,500 | Carried forward | | 10,500 | Carried forward |

| 1841. | | 1d. | | 1841. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 10,500 | Brought forward | | | 27,501 | Brought forward |
| Sept. | 9 .. | 1,500 | | Sept. | 20 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 21 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 22 .. | 2 000 | |
| | | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 17.] | | | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 18.] |
| ,, | 13 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 24 .. | 2 000 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 25 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 16 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 17 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 18 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 29 .. | 2 000 | |
| | | 27,501 | Carried forward | | | 45,502 | |

45,502 sheets 240 each = 10,920,480 labels.

| | | 1d. | | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oct. | 2 .. | 2,000 | | | | 13 498 | Brought forward |
| ,, | 4 .. | 1,675 | | Oct. | 7 .. | 2 000 | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 4,823 | | ,, | 8 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 5,000 | | ,, | 9 .. | 4,853 | |
| | | 13,498 | Carried forward | | | 21,851 | |

21,851 sheets 240 each = 5,244,240 labels.

Memorandum of Impressions spoilt by Bad Paper and dates of delivery :—

| | | 1d. | | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aug. | 27 .. | 1,793 | | | | 6,007 | Brought forward |
| Oct. | 4 .. | 1,356 | | Oct. | 8 .. | 1,656 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 859 | | ,, | 9 .. | 645 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 1,999 | | | | 8,308 | |
| | | 6,007 | Carried forward | | | | |

8,308 sheets 240 each = 1,993,920 labels.

Memorandum of the execution of Warrant Numbers 14 to 19 of 1841 :—

Received 120,000 sheets.

Delivered, good .. 108,333 1d.
,, bad paper 8,308 1d.
,, spoilt gummed 3,359 1d.
120,000 sheets.

Memorandum of further Impressions spoilt by Bad Paper :—

1841.

Nov. 26 .. 2,173 sheets 240 each = 521,520 labels.

The foregoing Account includes all the Postage Stamps which have been rendered useless from a defect in the Paper and the deduction of one-third of our charge is made at the suggestion of the Honble. the Chairman of the Board, and because in a case of hardship where the proposition is made that the Honble. Board, Mr. Wise and ourselves, should each bear one-third the loss ; we are willing to sacrifice much more than our profit in order to perfect this arrangement.

| 1841. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nov. | 1 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 2 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, | 3 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 3,000 | |
| | | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 19]. |
| ,, | 5 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 3,000 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 26,001 | Carried forward |

| 1841. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 26,001 | Brought forward |
| Nov. | 17 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 18 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 20 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 20]. |
| ,, | 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 25 .. | 3,000 | |
| ,, | 26 .. | 3,134 | |
| ,, | 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| , | 29 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 52,136 | |

52,136 sheets 240 each = 12 512,640 labels.

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dec. | 1 .. | 2,000 | | | | 24,452 | Brought forward |
| ,, | 2 .. | 1,500 | | Dec. | 17 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, | 3 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 18 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 20 .. | 1,989 | 2d. |
| ,, | 6 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 21 .. | 2,000 | 1d. |
| ,, | 7 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 1,345 | | ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 1,607 | | ,, | 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 28 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 29 .. | 4,000 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 30 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1,000 | | ,, | 31 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 16 .. | 1,500 | | | | 48,441 | |
| | | 24,452 | Carried forward | | | | |

48,441 sheets 240 each = 11,625,840 labels.

| 1842. | | 1d. | 2d. | 1842. | | 1d. | 2d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 1 .. | 2,000 | | | | 19,000 | | Brought forward |
| ,, | 3 .. | 3,500 | 500 | Jan. | 13 .. | 2,000 | | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 1,500 | 1,477 | ,, | 14 .. | 2,000 | | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 4,000 | | ,, | 15 .. | 2,305 | | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 2,000 | | | | 1 | | Mr. Pressly 13th December [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 21]. |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 17 .. | 257 | | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,000 | | | | 25,563 | | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 2,000 | | | | 1,977 | 2d. | |
| | | 19,000 | Carried forward | | | | | |

27,540 sheets 240 each = 6,609,600 labels.

Memorandum of the execution of Warrant numbers 20 to 27 of 1841.

| Received. | | Delivered. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Warrant No. 20 | .. 30,000 sheets. | 1841. | | |
| ,, No. 21 | .. 19,500 ,, | Nov. good | 52,136 | |
| ,, No. 22 | .. 20,000 ,, | Dec. ,, | .. 48,441 | |
| ,, No. 23 | .. 2,000 ,, | 1842. | | |
| ,, No. 24 | .. 20,000 ,, | Jan. ,, | .. 27,540 | |
| ,, No. 25 | .. 20,000 ,, | | | 128,117 sheets |
| ,, No. 27 | .. 2,000 ,, | 1841. | | |
| ,, No. 26 | .. 20,000 ,, | Nov. 26 spoilt | 1,191 1d. | |
| | 133,500 | Dec. 9 ,, | .. 548 1d. | |
| | | ,, 20 ,, | .. 11 2d. | |
| | | 1842. | | |
| | | Jan. 4 ,, | .. 23 2d. | |
| | | ,, 17 ,, ,, | 1,437 1d. | 3,210 |
| | | | | 131,327 |
| | | 1841. | | |
| | | Nov. 26 Spoilt sheets already settled in consequence of bad paper | | 2,173 sheets |
| | | | | 133,500 |

| 1842. | 1d. | | 1842. | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. 20 .. | 2,000 | | | 10,002 | Brought forward |
| ,, 21 .. | 2,000 | | Jan. 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 2 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheets, Plates 22 and 23]. | ,, 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 22 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 29 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 24 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 31 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 26 .. | 2,000 | | | 18,002 | |
| | 10,002 | Carried forward | | | |

18,002 sheets 240 each = 4,320,480 labels.

| | 1d. | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. 1 .. | 1,626 | | | 15,626 | Brought forward. |
| ,, 2 .. | 2,000 | | Feb. 10 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 3 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 11 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 4 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 12 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 5 .. | 2,000 | | | 1,000 | 2d. |
| ,, 7 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 14 .. | 1,584 | |
| ,, 8 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 15 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 9 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 15,626 | Carried forward | | 27,210 | Carried forward |

| 1842. | | | 1842. | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1d. | | | 1d. | |
| | 27,210 | Brought forward | | 35,144 | Brought forward |
| Feb. 17 .. | 2,000 | | Feb. 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 18 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 934 | 2d. | ,, 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 19 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 25 .. | 1,374 | |
| ,, 21 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 26 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 35,144 | Carried forward | | 44,518 | |

44,518 sheets 240 each = 10,684,320 labels.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 1d. | | | 1d. | |
| Mar. 1 .. | 1,000 | | | 17,254 | Brought forward |
| ,, 2 .. | 1,000 | | Mar. 17 .. | 500 | |
| ,, 3 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 18 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 4 .. | 1,000 | | | 1 | Mr. Pressly (Imprimatur sheet, Plate 25). |
| ,, 5 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 19 .. | 1,000 | |
| | 1 | Mr. Pressly (Imprimatur sheet, Plate 24). | ,, 21 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 7 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 22 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 8 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 23 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 9 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 10 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 26 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 11 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 12 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 29 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 14 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 30 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 15 .. | 1,000 | | ,, 31 .. | 932 | 2d. |
| ,, 16 .. | 1,253 | | | 32,687 | |
| | 17,254 | Carried forward | | | |

32,687 sheets 240 each = 7,844,880 labels.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 2 .. | 1,000 | 2d. | | 8,680 | Brought forward |
| | 2,000 | 1d. | April 12 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 4 .. | 1,680 | | ,, 13 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 9 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 14 .. | 1,643 | |
| ,, 11 .. | 2,000 | | | 14,323 | |
| | 8,680 | Carried forward | | | |

14,323 sheets 240 each = 3,437,520 labels.

Memorandum of the execution of Warrant Numbers 1—8 of 1842.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Received .. .. | 113,000 sheets | Delivered good | 105,664 1d. |
| | | ,, .. | 3,866 2d. |
| | | ,, spoilt | 3,470 1d. 2d. |
| | | | 113,000 sheets. |

| 1842. | | 1d. |
|---|---|---|
| April | 27 .. | 1,000 |
| ,, | 29 .. | 1,500 |
| , | 30 .. | 2,500 |
| | | 5,000 |

5 000 sheets 240 each = 1,200,000 labels.

| | | | | 1842. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May | 2 .. | 2,000 | | | | 23,934 | Brought forward |
| ,, | 3 .. | 2,500 | | May | 14 .. | 2,241 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 2,000 | | | | 427 | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 2,500 | | ,, | 18 .. | 5,000 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 20 .. | 4,500 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 2,500 | | ,, | 21 .. | 4,500 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 500 | 2d. | ,, | 25 .. | 1,015 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 500 | ,, | ,, | 26 .. | 1,500 | |
| | | 2,000 | 1d. | ,, | 27 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 1,500 | ,, | ,, | 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 500 | 2d. | ,, | 31 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 434 | ,, | | | 23,954 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 1,500 | | | | | |
| | | 23,934 | Carried forward | | | | |

52,117 sheets 240 each = 12,508,080 labels.

| | | 1d. | | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| June | 1 .. | 1,000 | | | | 17,511 | Brought forward |
| ,, | 2 .. | 1,500 | | June | 16 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 3 .. | 1,000 | | ,, | 20 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 21 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 1,000 | | ,, | 22 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 23 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 1,000 | | ,, | ,, | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 26]. |
| ,, | 9 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 24 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 25 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 1,511 | | ,, | 27 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 29 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 30 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1,500 | | | | 32,512 | |
| | | 17,511 | Carried forward | | | | |

32,512 sheets 240 each = 7,802,880 labels.

| 1842. | 1d. | | 1842. | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| July 1 .. | 1,500 | | | 13,480 | Brought forward |
| ,, 2 .. | 1,500 | | July 13 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 4 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 14 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 5 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 15 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 7 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 8 .. | 1,480 | | ,, 18 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 9 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 11 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 20 .. | 3,567 | |
| | 13,480 | Carried forward | | 29,047 | |

29,047 sheets 240 each = 6,971,280 labels.

Memorandum of the execution of Warrant numbers 9 to 14 of 1842.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Received .. .. | 122,000 sheets | Delivered good | 116,742 1d. |
| | | ,, ,, | 1,934 2d. |
| | | ,, spoilt | 3,324 1d. 2d. |
| | | | 122,000 sheets. |

| | 1d. | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| July 21 .. | 1,000 | | | 9,500 | Brought forward |
| ,, 22 .. | 1,500 | | July 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 23 .. | 2,500 | | ,, 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 25 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 29 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 26 .. | 2,500 | | ,, 30 .. | 1,500 | |
| | 9,500 | Carried forward | | 16,500 | |

16,500 sheets 240 each = 3,960,000 labels.

| | 1d. | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aug. 3 .. | 2,000 | | | 28,762 | Brought forward |
| ,, 4 .. | 2,000 | | Aug. 18 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 5 .. | 2,000 | | | 500 | 2d. |
| ,, 6 .. | 2,500 | | ,, 19 .. | 2,000 | 1d. |
| ,, 8 .. | 2,500 | | ,, 20 .. | 2,000 | ,, |
| ,, 9 .. | 1,762 | | ,, 22 .. | 500 | ,, |
| ,, 10 .. | 2,500 | | | 1,447 | 2d. |
| ,, 11 .. | 2,500 | | ,, 23 .. | 2,000 | 1d. |
| ,, 12 .. | 2,500 | | ,, 24 .. | 2,000 | ,, |
| ,, 13 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 25 .. | 1,500 | ,, |
| ,, 15 .. | 2,000 | | | 500 | 2d. |
| | 500 | 2d. | ,, 26 .. | 1,754 | 1d. |
| ,, 16 .. | 2,000 | 1d. | ,, 27 .. | 382 | ,, |
| ,, 17 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 31 .. | 1,000 | ,, |
| | 28,762 | Carried forward | | 45,845 | |

45 845 sheets 240 each = 11,002,800 labels.

| 1842. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Sept. | 1 .. | 1,000 | |
| | | 500 | 2d. |
| ,, | 2 .. | 1,500 | 1d. |
| ,, | 3 .. | 1,000 | ,, |
| | | 458 | 2d. |
| ,, | 5 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 27]. |
| ,, | 8 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1,500 | |
| | | 17,459 | Carried forward |

| 1842. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 17,459 | Brought forward |
| Sept. | 15 .. | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 28]. |
| ,, | 16 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 19 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 20 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 21 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 22 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 23 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 26 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 27 .. | 1,058 | |
| ,, | 28 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 29 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 1,500 | |
| | | 33,518 | |

33,518 sheets 240 each = 8,044,320 labels.

| | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oct. | 1 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 3 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 1,500 | |
| | | 13,500 | Carried forward |

| | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 13,500 | Brought forward |
| Oct. | 14 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 18 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 19 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 20 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 22 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 24 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 25 .. | 649 | |
| | | 24,649 | |

24,649 sheets 240 each = 5,915,760 labels.

Memorandum of the execution of Warrant Numbers 15 to 20 of 1842.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Received .. .. | 124,000 sheets. | Delivered, good | 116,607 1d. |
| | | ,, ,, | 3,905 2d. |
| | | ,, spoilt | 3,488 1d. 2d. |
| | | | 124,000 sheets |

| | | 1d. | 2d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nov. | 5 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 4,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 11,500 | Carried forward |

| | | 1d. | 2d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 11,500 | Brought forward |
| Nov. | 12 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 1,500 | 500 |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 29]. |
| ,, | ,, .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 17,001 | Carried forward |

| 1842. | 1d. | 2d. |
|---|---|---|
| | 17,001 | Brought forward |
| Nov. 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 17 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 18 .. | 1,500 | 500 |
| ,, 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 21 .. | 2,000 | 500 |
| ,, 22 .. | 2,485 | |
| ,, 23 .. | 1,500 | 1,000 |
| ,, 24 .. | 2,000 | 500 |
| | 32,486 | Carried forward |

| 1842. | 1d. | 2d. |
|---|---|---|
| | 32,486 | Brought forward |
| Nov. 25 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 26 .. | 4,000 | |
| ,, 29 .. | 4,000 | 1,857 |
| ,, 30 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 44,486 | 4,857 |
| | 4,857 | 2d. |
| | 49,343 | |

49,343 sheets 240 each = 11,842,320 labels.

| | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|
| Dec. 1 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 2 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 3 .. | 500 | |
| | 941 | 2d. |
| ,, 5 .. | 2,000 | 1d. |
| ,, 6 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 7 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, ,, .. | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 30]. |
| ,, 8 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 9 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 10 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 12 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 13 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 14 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 15 .. | 680 | |
| | 24,122 | Carried forward |

| | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|
| | 24,122 | Brought forward |
| Dec. 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 17 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 20 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 21 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 27 .. | 4,000 | |
| ,, 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 29 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 30 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, 31 .. | 2,500 | |
| | 53,122 | |

53,122 sheets 240 each =12,749,280 labels.

| 1843. | 1d. |
|---|---|
| Jan. 2 .. | 2,500 |
| ,, 3 .. | 3,500 |
| ,, 4 .. | 2,000 |
| ,, 5 .. | 1,575 |
| | 9,575 |

9,575 sheets 240 each = 2,298,000 labels.

Memorandum of the execution of Warrant numbers 21 to 25 of 1842.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Received .. | 116,000 sheets | Delivered, good | 106,242 1d. |
| | | ,, spoilt | 3,758 1d. |
| | | ,, good | 5,798 2d. |
| | | ,, spoilt | 202 2d. |
| | | | 116,000 sheets. |

| 1843. | | 1d. | | 1843. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 18 .. | 2,000 | | | | 12,000 | Brought forward |
| ,, | 19 .. | 2,000 | | Jan. | 25 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 20 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 26 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 21 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | ,, .. | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 31]. |
| ,, | 24 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 28 .. | 1,389 | |
| | | 12,000 | Carried forward | | | 19,390 | |

19,390 sheets 240 each = 4,653,600 labels.

| | | 1d. | | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. | 3 .. | 2 000 | | | | 21,501 | Brought forward |
| ,, | 4 .. | 1,500 | | Feb. | 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 17 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 18 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | ,, .. | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 32]. | ,, | 20 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | ,, .. | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 33]. |
| ,, | 9 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 21 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 25 .. | 1,713 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 2,500 | | ,, | 28 .. | 1,000 | 2d. |
| | | 21,501 | Carried forward | | | 39,715 | |

39,715 sheets 240 each = 9,531,600 labels.

| | | 1d. | | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mar. | 1 .. | 2,500 | | | | 24,413 | Brought forward |
| ,, | 2 .. | 1,500 | | Mar. | 15 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | ,, .. | 500 | 2d. | ,, | 16 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, | 3 .. | 500 | 1d. | ,, | 17 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | ,, .. | 1,413 | 2d. | ,, | 18 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 2,000 | 1d. | ,, | 20 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 21 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 2 000 | | ,, | 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 23 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 24 .. | 1,903 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2 000 | | ,, | 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 30 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 31 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 24,413 | Carried forward | | | 48,816 | |

48,816 sheets 240 each = 11,715,840 labels.

| 1843. | 1d. | | 1843. | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 1 .. | 2,000 | | | 16,000 | Brought forward |
| ,, 7 | 2,000 | | April 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 8 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 10 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 25 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 11 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 26 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 12 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 19 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 21 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 29 .. | 2,815 | |
| | 16,000 | Carried forward | | 30,815 | |

30,815 sheets 240 each = 7,395,600 labels.

| | |
|---|---|
| Jan. .. | 19,390 |
| Feb. .. | 39,715 |
| March .. | 48,816 |
| April .. | 30,815 |
| | 138,736 |

138,736 sheets 240 each = 33,296,640 labels for the first quarter of 1843.

| | 1d. | | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| May 10 .. | 2,500 | | | 20,500 | Brought forward |
| ,, 11 .. | 2,000 | | May 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 12 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 13 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 15 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 25 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 16 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 26 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 17 .. | 2,000 | | ,, ,, .. | 500 | 2d. |
| ,, 18 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 27 .. | 1,500 | 1d. |
| ,, 19 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 30 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 20 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 31 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 20,500 | Carried forward | | 36,500 | |
| June 1 .. | 1,000 | | | 16,229 | Brought forward |
| ,, ,, .. | 1,000 | 2d. | June 14 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, 2 .. | 1,000 | 1d. | ,, 15 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, ,, .. | 1,000 | 2d. | ,, 16 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, 3 .. | 799 | 1d. | ,, 17 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 7 .. | 1,427 | 2d. | ,, 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, ,, .. | 3 | 1d. Mr. Pressly [Imprunatur sheets, Plates 34,35 & 36 | ,, 20 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, 8 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 21 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 9 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 22 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, 10 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 12 .. | 1,500 | | ,, 24 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, 13 .. | 3,500 | | ,, 26 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 16,229 | Carried forward | | 40,729 | Carried forward |

| 1843. | Id. | |
|---|---|---|
| | 40,729 | Brought forward |
| June 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 29 .. | 1,950 | |
| ,, 30 .. | 133 | |
| | 44,812 | |
| July 1 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 3 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 4 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 5 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, ,, .. | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 37. |
| ,, 11 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 12 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 13 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 14 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 16,001 | Carried forward |

| 1843. | Id. | |
|---|---|---|
| | 16,001 | Brought forward |
| July 15 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 17 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 18 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 20 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 21 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 22 .. | 1,228 | |
| | 29,229 | |

| | |
|---|---|
| May .. | 36,500 |
| June .. | 44,812 |
| July .. | 29,229 |
| | 110,541 |

110,541 sheets 240 each = 26,529,840 labels for the second quarter of 1843.

| | Id. | |
|---|---|---|
| July 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 25 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 26 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, ,, .. | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 38]. |
| ,, 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 8,001 | Carried forward |

| | Id. | |
|---|---|---|
| | 8,001 | Brought forward |
| July 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 29 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 31 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 14,001 | |

| | Id. | |
|---|---|---|
| | 24,000 | Brought forward |
| Aug. 1 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 2 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 3 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 4 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 5 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 7 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 8 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 9 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 10 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 11 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 12 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 14 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 24,000 | Carried forward |

| | Id. | |
|---|---|---|
| | 24,000 | Brought forward |
| Aug. 15 .. | 829 | |
| ,, 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 17 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 18 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 21 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 25 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 26 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 44,829 | Carried forward |

| 1843. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 44,829 | Brought forward |
| Aug. | 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 29 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 31 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 52,829 | |
| Sept. | 4 .. | 500 | |
| , | 7 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 2,000 | |
| , | 9 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 1,522 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 684 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | ,, .. | 500 | 2d. |
| ,, | 16 .. | 1,500 | 1d. |
| ,, | ,, .. | 500 | 2d. |
| ,, | 18 .. | 2,000 | 1d. |
| ,, | 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 20 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 22,706 | Carried forward |
| Oct. | 2 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 39]. |
| ,, | 3 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 967 | |
| ,, | 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 17 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 18 .. | 2,000 | |
| , | 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 20,968 | Carried forward |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| July | .. | 14,001 |
| Aug. | .. | 52,829 |
| Sept. | .. | 39,116 |
| Oct. | .. | 40,645 |
| Nov. | .. | 1,412 |
| | | 148,003 |

| 1843. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 22,706 | Brought forward |
| Sept. | 21 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | ,, .. | 500 | 2d. |
| ,, | 22 .. | 1,500 | 1d. |
| ,, | ,, .. | 500 | 2d. |
| ,, | 23 .. | 1,500 | 1d. |
| ,, | ,, .. | 500 | 2d. |
| ,, | 25 .. | 2,000 | 1d. |
| ,, | 26 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | ,, .. | 410 | 2d. |
| ,, | 27 .. | 2,000 | 1d. |
| ,, | 29 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 2,500 | |
| | | 39,116 | |
| | | 20,968 | Brought forward |
| Oct. | 20 .. | 1,677 | |
| ,, | 21 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 25 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 26 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 31 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 40 645 | |

148,003 sheets 240 each = 35,520,720 labels for the third quarter of 1843.

| 1843. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nov. | 7 .. | 1 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 41]. |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 17 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, | 18 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 500 | 2d. |
| | | 1 | 1d. Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheet, Plate 40]. |
| ,, | 20 .. | 1,500 | |
| | | 500 | 2d. |
| | | 17,502 | Carried forward |

| 1843. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 17,502 | Brought forward |
| Nov. | 21 .. | 2 000 | 1d. |
| ,, | 22 .. | 1,500 | |
| | | 500 | 2d. |
| ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | 1d. |
| ,, | 24 .. | 1,500 | |
| | | 500 | 2d. |
| ,, | 25 .. | 1,000 | 1d. |
| | | 1,000 | 2d. |
| ,, | 27 .. | 1,500 | 1d. |
| ,, | 28 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 29 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 34,502 | |

| | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Dec. | 1 .. | 1,500 | |
| | | 500 | 2d. |
| ,, | 4 .. | 500 | 1d. |
| | | 1,329 | 2d. |
| ,, | 5 .. | 2,000 | 1d. |
| ,, | 6 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 1,242 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 14 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 21,071 | Carried forward |

| | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 21,071 | Brought forward |
| Dec. | 15 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 18 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 20 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 21 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 27 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 29 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 45,071 | |

| 1844. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 1 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 2 .. | 1,211 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 11 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 15 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 16 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 17 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 16,711 | Carried forward |

| 1844. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 16,711 | Brought forward |
| Jan. | 18 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 19 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 20 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 22 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 25 .. | 1,468 | |
| | | 31,679 | |

| 1844. | 1d. |
|---|---|
| Nov. 30 .. | 34,502 |
| Dec. 30 .. | 45,071 |
| 1844. | |
| Jan. 25 .. | 31,679 |
| | 111,252 |

111,252 sheets 240 each = 26,700,480 labels for the last quarter of 1843.

| | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 26 .. | 2 | Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheets, Plates 42 and 43]. |
| | | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 27 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 29 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 30 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 31 .. | 2,500 | |
| | | 12,002 sheets | |

| | | | | 1844. | | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Feb. | 1 .. | 2,500 | | | | 27,500 | Brought forward |
| ,, | 2 .. | 2,000 | | Feb. | 16 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 3 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 17 .. | 2,500 | |
| ,, | 5 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 19 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 1,500 | | | | 500 | 2d. |
| | | 500 | 2d. | ,, | 20 .. | 2,000 | 1d. |
| ,, | 7 .. | 2,000 | 1d. | ,, | 21 .. | 2,152 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 2,000 | | ,, | 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 24 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 500 | 2d. | ,, | 26 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 10 .. | 1,500 | 1d. | ,, | 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 500 | 2d. | ,, | 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 12 .. | 2,000 | 1d. | ,, | 29 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, | 13 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | | 500 | 2d. |
| | | 500 | 2d. | | | 2 | 1d. Mr. Pressly [Imprimatur sheets, Plates 44 and 45]. |
| ,, | 14 .. | 2,500 | 1d. | | | 50,154 | sheets |
| ,, | 15 .. | 2,500 | | | | | |
| | | 27,500 | Carried forward | | | 11,898 | Brought forward |
| Mar. | 1 .. | 1,500 | | Mar. | 11 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 2 .. | 1,000 | | ,, | 12 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 4 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 13 .. | 2,000 | |
| | | 898 | 2d. | ,, | 14 .. | 903 | |
| ,, | 6 .. | 2,000 | 1d. | ,, | 19 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 7 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 20 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 8 .. | 1,500 | | ,, | 21 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, | 9 .. | 2,000 | | | | | |
| | | 11,898 | Carried forward | | | 24 801 | Carried forward |

| 1844. | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|
| | 24 801 | Brought forward |
| Mar. 22 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 23 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 25 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 26 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 27 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 28 .. | 2,000 | |
| | 36,801 | sheets |

| | | | 1844. | 1d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| April 1 .. | 2,000 | | | 14,000 | Brought forward |
| ,, 2 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 17 .. | 2,000 | |
| ,, 3 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 18 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 8 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 19 .. | 1,500 | |
| ,, 9 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 24 .. | 1,000 | |
| ,, 10 .. | 2,000 | | ,, 26 .. | 484 | |
| ,, 16 .. | 2,000 | | | 20,484 | sheets. |
| | 14,000 | Carried forward | | | |

Jan. 31 .. 12,002 sheets.
Feb. 29 .. 50,154
Mar. 28 .. 36,801
April 26 .. 20,484

119,441

119,441 sheets 240 each = 28,665,840 Postage Labels for the first quarter of 1844.

| | 1d. | | 2d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| April 27–30 .. | 7,000 | | |
| | | [May 4. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 46]. | |
| May .. .. | 43 250 | [May 25. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 47]. | 2 500 |
| June .. .. | 55,157 | | 1,257 |
| July 1–5 .. | 10,572 | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 17,500 | | |
| | | [Aug. 8. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 48].[1] | |
| Aug. .. .. | 40,571 | | |
| | | [Sept. 13. 2 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 49, 50]. | |
| Sept. .. .. | 36,002 | | 500 |
| Oct. .. .. | 41,102 | | 3,405 |
| ,, 30–31 .. | 4,000 | | |
| Nov. .. .. | 53,568 | | 3,852 |
| | | [Dec. 4. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 51]. | |
| Dec. .. .. | 51,271 | [Dec. 20. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 52]. | |

[1] This sheet must have been overlooked in the deliveries as Plate 48 was given out for printing from on June 19th, 1844, (vide under heading "Plates used for ordinary printing before the registration of the Imprimatur sheets" Vol. I); and the "Imprimatur" sheet of the plate bears the same date.

| 1845. | 1d. | | 2d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. 4 .. | 7,285 | [Jan. 8. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 53]. | |
| ,, 31 .. | 40,669 | [Jan. 30. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 54]. | 500 |
| Feb. .. .. | 48,686 | [Feb. 8. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 55]. [Feb. 26, 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 56]. | 1,500 |
| Mar. .. .. | 51,948 | | 2 794 |
| April 15 .. | 23,866 | | 3 870 |
| ,, 30 .. | 32,000 | | |
| May .. .. | 49,803 | [May 10. 2 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 57, 58]. | 1,000 |
| June .. .. | 55 203 | [June 26. 2 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 59, 60]. | 1 939 |
| July 9 .. | 18,978 | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 17,615 | | 1,500 |
| Aug. .. .. | 60,745 | [Aug. 15. 2 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 61, 62]. | 3 403 |
| Sept. .. .. | 44 669 | [Sept. 3. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 63]. | |
| Oct. .. .. | 45,192 | | |
| Nov. .. .. | 53,681 | | 3,500 |
| Dec. .. .. | 60,100 | [Dec. 3. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 64]. | 3,309 |
| 1846. | | | |
| Jan. 2 .. | 3,643 | | |
| ,, 5 .. | 3,000 | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 53,804 | | 500 |
| Feb. .. .. | 49 002 | [Feb. 2. 2 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 65 and 66]. | 4.376 |
| Mar. .. .. | 62,650 | | |
| April 5 .. | 8,500 | [April 18. 2 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 67, 68]. | 1,500 |
| ,, 30 .. | 58,126 | | 3 417 |
| May .. .. | 69,435 | | |
| June .. .. | 22,000 | [June 6. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 69]. | 2 500 |
| July 3 .. | 5,115 | [July 7. 1 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 70]. | 2 284 |
| ,, 31 .. | 64,755 | | |
| Aug. .. .. | 45 844 | | |
| Sept. .. .. | 30,825 | | 4 500 |
| Oct. 9 .. | 19,500 | [Oct. 21. 2 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 71, 72]. | 403 |
| ,, 31 .. | 32,973 | | |
| Nov. .. .. | 67,949 | | 1,500 |
| Dec. .. .. | 65 590 | | 2 460 |
| 1847. | | | |
| Jan. .. .. | 56 554 | [Jan. 15. 2 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 73, 74]. | 3 000 |
| Feb. .. .. | 66,429 | | 2 892 |
| Mar. .. .. | 61,737 | | |
| April .. .. | 46,292 | [April 19. 3 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 75, 76, 77]. | 4 896 |
| May .. .. | 64,551 | | |
| June .. .. | 69,483 | | 3,968 |
| July 5 .. | 6,419 | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 56,745 | | |
| Aug. .. .. | 52,710 | | 3,876 |
| Sept. .. .. | 62,496 | | |

| 1847. | 1d. | | 2d. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oct. 9 .. | 20,000 | | | |
| ,, 30 .. | 38,666 | | 500 | |
| Nov. .. | 56,318 | | 4,420 | |
| Dec. .. .. | 66,330 | | 3,945 | |
| 1848. | | | | |
| Jan. 5 .. | 9,705 | [Jan. 12. 7 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 77B, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83]. | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 58,138 | | 3,000 | |
| Feb. .. .. | 70,517 | | 1,918 | |
| Mar. .. .. | 72,201 | | | |
| April 4 .. | 3,000 | | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 43,323 | | 4,912 | |
| May .. .. | 62,404 | | 1,000 | |
| June .. .. | 53,415 | | 3,890 | |
| July 4 .. | 9,000 | | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 56,344 | | | |
| Aug. .. .. | 66,843 | | 1,500 | |
| Sept. .. .. | 49,545 | | 3,353 | |
| Oct. 7 .. | 14,500 | [Oct. 12. 4 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 84, 85, 86, 87]. | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 38,606 | | 2,500 | |
| Nov. .. .. | 82,949 | | 2,401 | |
| Dec. .. .. | 61,581 | | 2,000 | |
| 1849. | | | | |
| Jan. 4 .. | 8,000 | | 2,000 | |
| ,, 31 .. | 57,195 | | 912 | |
| Feb. .. .. | 65,402 | | 5,919 | |
| Mar. .. .. | 69,578 | [March 21. 2 Mr. Pressly. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 88, 89]. | | |
| April 5 .. | 10,078 | | | |
| ,, 30 .. | 62,643 | | | |
| May .. .. | 60,523 | [May 25. 3 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 90, 91, 92]. | 5,886 | |
| June .. .. | 69,712 | | | |
| July 4 .. | 5,304 | | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 56,191 | | 3,000 | |
| Aug. .. .. | 81,364 | | 2,861 | |
| Sept. .. .. | 75,534 | | | |
| Oct. 9 .. | 21,500 | | 2,500 | |
| ,, 31 .. | 47,105 | | 2,396 | |
| Nov. .. .. | 72,743 | | 4,500 | |
| Dec. .. .. | 87,211 | [Dec. 7. 5 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 93, 94, 96, 97, 98]. | 410 | |
| 1850. | | | | |
| Jan. 5 .. | 15,000 | [Jan. 8. 2 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 95, 99]. | | [Jan. 17. 1 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheet, Plate 4]. |
| ,, 31 .. | 72,357 | | 4,501 | |
| Feb. .. .. | 78,785 | [Feb. 26. 2 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 100, 101]. | 1,408 | |
| Mar. .. .. | 77,695 | | 1,000 | |
| April 4 .. | 13,873 | | 1,000 | |

| 1850. | 1d. | | 2d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| April 30 .. | 70,002 | | 2,931 |
| May .. .. | 70,248 | | 4 892 |
| June .. .. | 59,872 | | |
| July 4 .. | 12 000 | [July 10. 5 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 102, 103, 104, 105, 106]. | |
| ,, 31 .. | 73.154 | | 3 500 |
| Aug. .. .. | 94.347 | | 2,779 |
| Sept. .. .. | 81,402 | | 3 379 |
| Oct. 10 .. | 23,000 | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 45,982 | | 2,500 |
| Nov. .. .. | 87,926 | | 2,856 |
| Dec. .. .. | 92,902 | | 4,396 |
| 1851. | | | |
| Jan. 4 .. | 12,343 | [Jan. 8. 6 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112]. | 2,000 |
| ,, 31 .. | 89,345 | | 2,892 |
| Feb. .. .. | 102,056 | [Feb. 27. 3 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 113, 114, 115]. | 2 000 |
| Mar. .. .. | 75.440 | | 2,895 |
| April 3 .. | 14,524 | | |
| ,, 30 .. | 92,867 | | 2,500 |
| May .. .. | 106,103 | [May 21. 6 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121]. | 7.258 |
| June .. .. | 84,190 | | |
| July 5 .. | 14,000 | [July 26. 4 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 122, 123, 124, 125]. | |
| ,, 31 .. | 73.300 | | 4 877 |
| Aug. .. .. | 120,921 | | |
| Sept. .. .. | 94,926 | | 4,897 |
| Oct. 9 .. | 22,821 | [Oct. 17. 6 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131]. | |
| ,, 31 .. | 74,692 | | 2,500 |
| Nov. .. .. | 106,170 | | 5 384 |
| Dec. .. .. | 77,936 | | 1,886 |
| 1852. | | | |
| Jan. 3 .. | 9,000 | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 81,046 | | 4 905 |
| Feb. .. .. | 107,186 | | 4 000 |
| Mar. .. .. | 119 681 | [March 7. 6 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137]. | 889 |
| April 3 .. | 11.500 | [April 18. 6 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 138, 139, 140, 141. 142, 143]. | 500 |
| ,, 30 .. | 73 859 | | 6.331 |
| May .. .. | 99 070 | | 2 793 |
| June .. .. | 108,595 | | 5 371 |
| July 3 .. | 15.500 | [July 7. 8 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, R1, R2, R3]. | 1 000 |
| ,, 31 .. | 114 807 | [July 30. 9 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates R4, R5, R6, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154] | 3 324 |
| Aug. .. .. | 115,463 | | 5,825 |
| Sept. .. .. | 121,184 | | 1,500 |
| Oct. 8 .. | 29 916 | [Oct. 11. 7 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates R7, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160]. | 2 500 |
| ,, 30 .. | 76,968 | | 806 |
| Nov. .. .. | 100,670 | | 4,850 |
| Dec. .. .. | 110,588 | | 4,828 |

| 1853. | 1d. | | 2d. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jan. 5 .. | 20,000 | [Jan. 15. 9 Commissioners.' Imprimatur sheets, Plates 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, R8, R9, R10]. | |
| ,, 31 .. | 94,795 | | 4,000 |
| Feb. .. .. | 131,591 | | 4,889 |
| Mar. .. .. | 115,315 | | 4,850 |
| April 5 .. | 22,137 | [April 19. 7 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, | |
| ,, 30 .. | 98,500 | Plates R11, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172]. | 4,832 |
| May .. .. | 117,739 | | 4,863 |
| June .. .. | 130,921 | | 4,789 |
| July 4 .. | 11,000 | | 1,000 |
| ,, 30 .. | 109,698 | | 3,767 |
| Aug. .. .. | 123,824 | [Aug. 18. 7 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, R12, R13]. | 6,337 |
| Sept. .. .. | 124,811 | | 6,825 |
| Oct. 7 .. | 32,670 | | 1,348 |
| ,, .. .. | 89,688 | | 1,000 |
| Nov. .. .. | 112,816 | | 4,399 |
| Dec. .. .. | 124,577 | | 5,389 |
| 1854. | | | |
| Jan. 5 .. | 19,500 | | 1,500 |
| ,, 31 .. | 125,633 | | 3,379 |
| Feb. .. .. | 116,970 | [Feb. 22. 7 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates R14, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183]. | 8,368 |
| Mar. .. .. | 162,737 | | 5,334 |
| April 5 .. | 24,000 | | 1,000 |
| ,, 29 .. | 88,388 | | 3,500 |
| May .. .. | 136,564 | | 2,870 |
| June .. .. | 107,846 | | 6,684 |
| July 5 .. | 22,741 | | |
| ,, 31 .. | 82,332 | | 4,832 |
| | | [Aug. 3. 6 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189]. | |
| Aug. .. .. | 163,824 | [Aug. 14. 4 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 190, 191, 192, 193]. | |
| Sept. .. .. | 152,400 | [Sept. 22. 4 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 194, 195, 196, 197]. | 2,000 |
| Oct. 10 .. | 38,625 | | 2,835 |
| ,, 31 .. | 79,390 | | |
| Nov. .. .. | 104,928 | [Nov. 10. 4 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 198, 199, 200, 201]. | 4,848 |
| Dec. .. .. | 132,082 | [Dec. 2. 3 Commissioners. Imprimatur sheets, Plates 202, 203, 204]. | 4,856 |

# APPENDIX J.

Copies of Documents relating to the Perforation of the Postage Stamps.

[All of these, with the exception of Nos. 8, 18, 19 and 20, are taken from "Copies of Letters, Memorials, &c., between the Lords of the Treasury, the General Post Office, and Mr. Archer and the Commissioners of Inland Revenue, relative to the construction of a Machine by Mr. Archer for Perforating sheets of Postage Label Stamps, &c." Ordered by The House of Commons, to be printed, 24th July, 1851.]

---

(1)

18, Shaftesbury-Crescent,
Eccleston-Square;

My Lord, 1 October, 1847.

As it is well known that your Lordship is ever ready to promote by every means in your power, whatever may tend even to increase those manifest facilities which are at present afforded to the community by the public department over which your Lordship presides, I am induced to offer for your Lordship's consideration the following remarks in reference to an invention, which I presume to submit, will, if carried out, prove a very great convenience, particularly to those whose business entails upon them an extensive correspondence.

The Post Office Stamps having to be detached either by cutting or tearing them from each other, great inconvenience is felt by both the public and postmasters, particularly during the last hour or so for posting letters for the General Post; for instance, a postmaster after disposing of, say a shilling's worth of stamps, is frequently called upon by the purchaser to cut them off one by one for the purpose of attaching them to the letters intended to be posted in his office, or if too late there, at the General Post Office or one of the branches, as extra-stamped letters, so that at the period of the day that the press of official business demands their exclusive attention, postmasters, to their great annoyance, are continually importuned by persons requiring their stamps to be cut; indeed it not unfrequently happens that the hour for closing the letter-box arrives before many of those who are waiting for their turn can be served. To provide therefore a remedy for the inconvenience thus experienced, I have contrived an inexpensive plan whereby the stamps may be instantly detached from the sheet without the operation of cutting, perfect too in every respect, or in other words, in no way mutilated or disfigured like most of the stamps that are now torn from each other. The contrivance will also enable purchasers to fold a sheet of stamps, or any less quantity with unerring regularity, and in one-tenth of the time that is at present consumed in the operation, in a manner moreover that renders them peculiarly convenient both for the pocket and use, whereas to fold one of the present sheets into a portable form requires considerable care and patience; indeed the proposed plan affords such facility for folding any quantity of stamps in the most

convenient form, it is not improbable that retailers, for the sake of their own interest and convenience, will be induced to supply them to the public ready folded.

I also beg to submit that another advantage of the proposed plan is, that it will render stamps after they shall have been attached to the letters less liable to be removed by hand or otherwise.

The facilities likewise which in many points of view the plan affords are, I submit, so very obvious, it is reasonable to calculate that the present objectionable practice of paying the postage would by its adoption in a great measure be done away with. In conclusion, I respectfully take leave to state that in submitting my plan to the consideration of your Lordship, I feel so well persuaded that the moment it is adopted it will receive the unqualified approbation of the public, that I am willing my claims for remuneration should be contingent on its complete success.

I have, &c., &c.,

To the Right Honourable
The Marquis of Clanricarde.

[Signed] HENRY ARCHER.

---

(2)

General Post Office;

Sir, 13 October, 1847.

I am directed by the Postmaster-general to inform you, in reply to your letter of the 1st instant, that the practical officers of this department are unable without seeing the invention to which you allude to form any opinion as to its utility.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] CHARLES JOHNSON,
for the Secretary.

H. Archer, Esq.,
10, Shaftesbury-crescent,
Eccleston-square.

---

(3)

General Post Office;

Sir, 22 October, 1847.

I am directed by the Postmaster-general to transmit to you, for the information of the Commissioners of Stamps, copy of a Report of the "Inland" and "London District Post" Offices on the subject of an invention for separating postage stamps, which has been submitted to this department by Mr. Archer of No. 10, Shaftesbury-crescent.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. RAMSEY,
for the Secretary.

C. Pressly, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.
Office of Stamps and Taxes.

(4)

Copy of Report from Presidents of Inland and London District Post Offices enclosed in foregoing.

INLAND OFFICE ;
14 October, 1847.

The machine appears to be a very clever and useful invention.

We are thoroughly convinced that postage stamps separated by it, having jagged edges, will adhere to letters far better than those cut from the sheet by knives or scissors.

We submit it is most desirable that the invention be recommended to the notice of the Commissioners of Stamps.

[Signed] W. BOKENHAM.
" R. SMITH.

LIEUT.-COL. MABERLY,
&c., &c.

---

(5)

10, SHAFTESBURY-CRESCENT,
ECCLESTON-SQUARE ;
25 October, 1847.

SIR,

The Post Office Stamps having to be detached, either by cutting or tearing them from each other, great inconvenience is felt, particularly by those of extensive correspondence. The postmasters of the principal receiving houses are also greatly inconvenienced by the additional trouble which is entailed upon them by the present mode of detaching the stamps, especially during the last hour for posting letters intended to be despatched by the evening mail, and also at the period when an additional stamp (which cannot be obtained at the branch offices after $5\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock, where letters after that time must be posted) is required to be placed upon them. For instance : a postmaster, after disposing of, say a shilling's worth of stamps, is frequently called upon by the purchaser to cut them off one by one, for the purpose of attaching them to letters intended to be posted in his office, or if too late there, at the General Post Office, or one of the branches, as extra-stamped letters ; so that at the period of the day that the press of official business demands their exclusive attention, postmasters to their great annoyance are continually importuned by persons requiring their stamps to be cut ; indeed, it not unfrequently happens that the hour for closing the letter-box arrives before many of those who are waiting for their turn can be served. To provide, therefore, a remedy for the inconvenience thus experienced, I have invented a plan, which, by the aid of a machine that can be worked by two boys, more than treble the number of stamp sheets that is now annually sold to the public may be so minutely indented in the direction of the white lines as to allow the stamp to be instantly detached from the sheet without the operation of cutting. Persons who are near sighted or unsteady in the hand find it very difficult to detach the stamps at present, but even the most expert hand cannot cut with a pair of scissors a sheet of stamps in less time than a quarter of an hour. Perfect to in every respect, or in other words, no way mutilated or disfigured, like most of the

stamps that are now torn from each other. The contrivance will also enable purchasers to fold a sheet of stamps, or any less quantity, with unerring regularity, and in one-tenth of the time that is at present consumed in the operation ; in a manner, moreover, that will render them peculiarly convenient for both the pocket and use, inasmuch as a sheet in the first instance may be readily folded or plaited like a paper fan, and then doubled up like a map, whereas, to fold one of the present sheets into a portable form requires considerable care and patience ; and even then, before one quarter of the sheet is folded, the crease, instead of being in the direction of the white line, has to be formed along the centre of the heads, whereby the folding, instead of serving to facilitate the operation of cutting, is found to increase the difficulty. Indeed the proposed plan offers such facility for folding any quantity of stamps in the most convenient form, it is not improbable that retailers for the sake of their own interest and convenience will be induced to supply them to the public ready folded. Again, it is well known that these creases, and also the curls which is produced upon the stamps by keeping them in a loose or rolled state, tend very much to prevent them adhering on the letters. The proposed plan, however, will not only secure that the stamps shall be folded in the direction of the white line, but in a manner that will effectually prevent them from curling. Again, the rough or dental edges which it will give to the stamps will render them, after they shall have been attached to the letters, less liable to be removed, either by hand or otherwise.

It is also, I submit, reasonable to expect that the increased facilities to which I have referred would tend very much to diminish the practice of paying the postage, and which I understand entails upon the Post Office very considerable trouble and expense. I beg to add that I have lately submitted the plan to the consideration of the Postmaster-General, who has been pleased to refer it to the practical department of the Post Office, with a view to ascertaining whether its advantages are of a sufficient importance in a public point of view as to justify his Lordship recommending it to the consideration of Her Majesty's Commissioners of Stamps. As I have since been officially informed that the department referred to has reported in favour of the plan, and that his Lordship, in consequence thereof, intends to take the earliest opportunity of communicating with the Commissioners on the subject, I, with the view of affording them the fullest information, have deemed it advisable shortly to explain to them the nature of the invention, and how far and in what way it is likely to prove advantageous to the public, and at the same time to add, so fully confident am I, that if the plan shall be adopted, it will essentially contribute to the efficient working of the postage-stamp system, and prove moreover a great convenience to the public, that I am willing my claims for compensation shall be contingent upon the complete success of the plan, or when it shall have received the unqualified approbation of the public, the Postmaster-General, and Her Majesty's Commissioners of Stamps.

I am also willing to furnish the machine on the understanding I am not to be repaid the money it has cost me until the plan shall have succeeded.

In order the more fully to illustrate the practical advantages of the investion, I beg to inform you the accompanying stamps have passed through the machine.

I have &c., &c.,

[Signed] HENRY ARCHER.

CHARLES PRESSLY, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.

(6)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STAMPS AND TAXES TO THE LORDS OF THE TREASURY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIPS,

We beg to bring under your Lordships' notice the annexed copy of a letter which we have received from Mr. Henry Archer, of 10, Shaftesbury Crescent, respecting a plan which he has invented for separating the adhesive postage stamps by the use of a machine.

Mr. Archer has submitted this invention to the department of the General Post Office, and we have received by the direction of the Postmaster-General copy of the Report from the superintending presidents of the "Inland" and "London District" Post Offices, in recommendation of the same. We annex a copy of that Report.

The superintendent of postage stamps in this office has also examined the drawings of the proposed machines, and their effect in the separation and folding of the label stamps, which will in his opinion effect the object intended. The plan consists in the piercing of the portions of the paper intervening between the labels, in such manner as to admit of their being detached singly without the use of knife or scissors, and likewise to facilitate the convenient folding of the sheets without creasing the stamps.

There can be no doubt that if the sheets before being issued to the public were punctured in the manner proposed, by the contractors who print and gum the stamps, that they would be in a more convenient state for use and carriage than they now are.

We submit a specimen of the way in which they may be folded and carried, left here by Mr. Archer.

The additional expense which this process, if undertaken by the contractor, will entail upon the revenue, will we are informed be but trifling, and is not likely to exceed £50 per annum.

As the adoption of this suggestion is recommended by the officers employed in this department, and the General Post Office, as likely to promote the use of the label stamps, we deem it proper to submit the matter for your Lordships' judgment, as all the arrangements with regard to these stamps have been made under your Lordships' immediate directions.

We have, &c., &c.,

[Signed] H. L. WICKHAM.
,, J. THORNTON.
19 December, 1847. ,, H. S. MONTAGU.

---

(7)

SIR C. E. TREVELYAN TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF STAMPS AND TAXES.

GENTLEMEN, TREASURY CHAMBERS; 7 January, 1848.

The Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had under their consideration your memorial, dated 18th ultimo., enclosing copy of a letter which you have received from Mr. Henry Archer, respecting a plan which he has invented for separating the adhesive postage stamps by the use of a machine.

I am commanded to acquaint you that their Lordships approve of the circulation of the postage stamps in question.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] C. E. TREVELYAN.

(8)

69, Fleet Street;

Dear Sir, Jan. 12th, 1848.

We understand you wish us to give an Estimate of the price at which we would indent or cut the adhesive postage label stamps through all the divisions in the sheets, your Honourable Board providing the necessary machinery, and we finding room for it and paying for the labour of cutting and all expense of keeping the machinery in order, in fact we paying any and all other expenses.

We beg to say in reply that although we do not wish to lose neither do we desire to make a profit by this part of your business, but it is impossible to make a correct Estimate of the cost of a new operation before it has been tried or even the machinery by which it is to be prepared has been seen by us.

As it was at first represented by the Inventor we conceive that fifty pounds per annum would cover the expense, and if one person of common capacity is found sufficient to cut all which are required then we still think that sum would satisfy us, but we believe the Inventor afterwards thought two machines would be necessary, and his idea of the quantity of persons necessary to employ and the number which could be cut per hour may prove incorrect, and in this case £50 would certainly not pay the expense.

Would it not be better to see what can be done first, and then if we fix what is conceived too high a price (which can hardly be the case, where you can judge of the expense as well as we, and it is the expense only which we look to), you can take the machinery to Somerset House without any injury to the Commissioners or ourselves.

We are in great doubt whether one hand or two, and whether boys or men will be required to work the machines, and then again the machines may be substantially made so as to want scarcely any repairs, or they may be very slightly made and require many repairs, under these circumstances how can a price be fixed without a risk of our having far more or less than would cover us.

We think you will see from the above that we are not in a situation to give a correct Estimate of the expense until the machinery is complete.

We are, &c., &c.,

Edwin Hill, Esq. [Signed] PERKINS, BACON & PETCH.

---

(9)

Stamps and Taxes, Somerset House;

Gentlemen, 17 January, 1848.

The Board having been authorised by the Treasury to bring into operation the machine invented by Mr. Henry Archer, for separating the adhesive postage stamps, in which you have been consulted, and understanding that you are willing to work the machine and charge the Office only with the expense of such working, which they are informed will not exceed £50 per annum, I am directed to authorise you to receive from Mr. Archer the machines when they are completed, and to bring them into use without delay, under the general direction of Mr. Edwin Hill.

I am, &c., &c.,

Messrs. Bacon & Petch, [Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.
Fleet Street.

(10)

STAMPS AND TAXES, SOMERSET HOUSE;

17 January, 1848.

SIR,

The Board having had before them your letter of 28th October, relative to the machine you have invented for separating postage labels;

I am directed to acquaint you that they have been authorised by the Treasury to give a trial to that plan as an experimental measure.

By your letter above mentioned, you stated that you were prepared to supply the machines for the experiment with the understanding you were not to be repaid the cost of them until the plan is brought into successful operation, and I am to express the acquiescence of the Board in this arrangement.

The machines when completed may be sent to Messrs. Bacon & Petch, of Fleet Street, who have received the Board's instructions in this matter.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

HENRY ARCHER, Esq.,

10, Shaftesbury Crescent, Eccleston Square.

---

(11)

10, SHAFTESBURY CRESCENT;

17 January, 1848.

SIR,

I had the honour to receive your letter of this date, informing me that the Commissioners of Stamps had been authorised by the Treasury to give a trial to my plan for separating postage labels, and requiring me at the same time to furnish the machines for the experiment, on the understanding, as expressed in my letter of the 28th October last, that I was not to be repaid the cost of them until the plan was brought into successful operation.

In reply, I deem it right to observe that in my letter referred to I proposed to furnish but one machine, being fully persuaded that one would, upon trial, be found sufficient. As, however, the practical department of the Stamp Office is of opinion that two machines will be necessary, I have directed Messrs. Smith & English, the eminent mechanical engineers, to construct them at my expense, with all convenient speed, and to forward the same, when completed, to Messrs. Perkins & Bacon, according to your directions.

I have, &c., &c.,

[Signed] HENRY ARCHER.

THOMAS KEOGH, Esq.,

&c., &c., &c.

(12)

STAMPS AND TAXES, SOMERSET HOUSE;

20 January, 1848.

SIR,

Having laid before the Board your letter of the 17th inst., I am directed to acquaint you that they concur in the course which you have taken; but that in order to ensure the completeness of the second machine for the purpose in view, it is desirable that you shall communicate with Mr. Edwin Hill, and also that the machinist employed should distinctly understand the precise purposes to which each machine is to be applied.

I am, &c., &c.,

[Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.

HENRY ARCHER, Esq.,
10, Shaftesbury Crescent,
Eccleston Square.

---

(13)

37, GREAT GEORGE STREET, WESTMINSTER;

26 November, 1848.

SIR,

In reference to the communication I made to the Commissioners about a year ago, respecting a plan which I had invented for detaching the postage letter stamps, I beg to inform you that I had two different machines made by different parties, to carry out the plan which I then proposed; but finding that neither of them realised my expectations, I had a new machine made upon a totally different principle, which, I am happy to say, has succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations.

I have taken out a patent to secure my invention; but as my wish is that Ireland should reap the entire advantage of it, I feel persuaded that Her Majesty's Government will not hesitate to accede to the terms which it is my intention to propose as soon as the Commissioners are satisfied that the machine I have had constructed will answer the purpose.

I have, &c., &c.,

[Signed] HENRY ARCHER.

THOMAS KEOGH, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.

---

(14)

STAMPS AND TAXES, SOMERSET HOUSE;

6 December, 1848.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 26th ultimo., I have to acquaint you that Messrs. Bacon & Petch, of Fleet-street, have been instructed to receive the machines

prepared by you for separating postage labels, and to put these machines into use, so as to ascertain whether or not they will fully answer the purpose designed.

I am, &c., &c.,

HENRY ARCHER, Esq., [Signed] THOMAS KEOGH.
37, Great George Street,
Westminster.

---

(15)

37, GREAT GEORGE STREET;
SIR, 7 December, 1848.

In reply to your communication of the 6th instant, I beg to inform you that I have directed the machine prepared by me for separating Postage labels to be forwarded to Messrs. Bacon & Petch, as I consider it but fair and reasonable that the Commissioners should have ample opportunity of ascertaining whether or not it will fully answer the purpose designed.

I have, &c., &c.,

THOMAS KEOGH, Esq. [Signed] HENRY ARCHER.
&c., &c., &c.

---

(16)

BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE TO THE LORDS OF THE TREASURY.

INLAND REVENUE, 21st August, 1849.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIPS,

We have had the honour to receive your Lordships' reference, dated 31st ultimo, of the annexed letter from Mr. Henry Archer, of 37, Great George Street, Westminster, relative to a machine which he has invented for perforating sheets of paper for the purposes of the postage label stamps.

We beg to state that in pursuance of your Lordships' directions conveyed to us by Sir C. E. Trevelyan's letter dated 7th January, 1848, we proposed to Mr. Archer that a trial should be made of his invention, on the completion of some improvements in the machine which he intended to use, which improvements he himself considered necessary for giving it complete effect. At the close of the last month the machine, as then completed, was accordingly tried; but it was found that in the state in which it then was it could not be applied to use. The machine is now in the hands of the machine-maker employed by Mr. Archer, who is endeavouring to surmount the difficulties as to its practical application to the object in view. Mr. Archer's letter to your Lordships is therefore premature, and we are at present unable to state whether or not the invention can be made available for the desired object.

We have, &c., &c.

[Signed] J. THORNTON.
,, C. J. HERRIES.
,, C. PRESSLY.

(17)

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF INLAND REVENUE TO THE LORDS OF THE TREASURY.

INLAND REVENUE, 16 May, 1850.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIPS,

By Sir Charles Trevelyan's letter of the 7th January, 1848, your Lordships approval was conveyed to us for the adoption of a plan for the division of the sheets of postage label stamps, according to a plan explained in our Report dated 18th December, 1847, the invention of Mr. Henry Archer, of Shaftesbury Crescent.

Since our Report to your Lordships of the 21st August last, on a memorial from Mr. Archer on the subject of his invention, he has, after several alterations, rendered it fit for use, and it is now about to be brought into work at this department.

We have, &c., &c.,

[Signed] J. THORNTON.
,, C. P. RUSHWORTH.
,, A. MONTGOMERY.

---

(18)

PARLIAMENTARY PAPER OFFICE,
HOUSE OF COMMONS,
WESTMINSTER, LONDON;
September 2nd, 1851.

This is to certify . . . that the perforated Postage Labels which were supplied at the House of Commons for the use of Members of Parliament, during the last Session, were highly approved of by them: so much so, that the quantity sold was very considerably greater than in any previous year. . .

[Signed] WM. JNO. LINTON.

[This document is reproduced from "A History of the Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles." By Hastings E. Wright and A. B. Creeke, Jun. London. 1899. Page 8.

---

(19)

"*THE TIMES*" July 4, 1853.

It has at length been announced that the new perforated postage stamps, which have been so long delayed, will almost immediately be issued. The method consists in each stamp of a sheet being surrounded by small holes, having the effect of network, so that they can be torn off one by one as they are required without the necessity for cutting.

( 20 )

69, Fleet Street ;

February 8, 1854.

Dear Sir,

Our Mr. Bacon, Junr. reports your desire to be informed what would be our charge for assorting and arranging in different parcels and divisions for the convenience of perforating all the sheets of Postage Labels which may be required by the Commissioners, previous to delivery.

We have reflected upon the subject and find it extremely difficult to give an answer, as there would be danger either of our charging much more, or much less, than might prove by experience to be reasonable, neither of which would we wish to do.

We expressed to Mr. Keogh some time back our willingness to execute the perforations without profit and we are ready to do the same in this matter also. We therefore propose either to keep an accurate and distinct account of the money which the operation costs for a period of six months and then charge at such rate, as we should prove it, to the satisfaction of the Commissioners to be, or we are willing to make such charge as after reasonable experience of the time and labour employed any gentleman deputed by the Commissioners themselves shall decide that it is worth ; always bearing in mind, that we do not wish to make a profit by the operation, although we should like to avoid any loss.

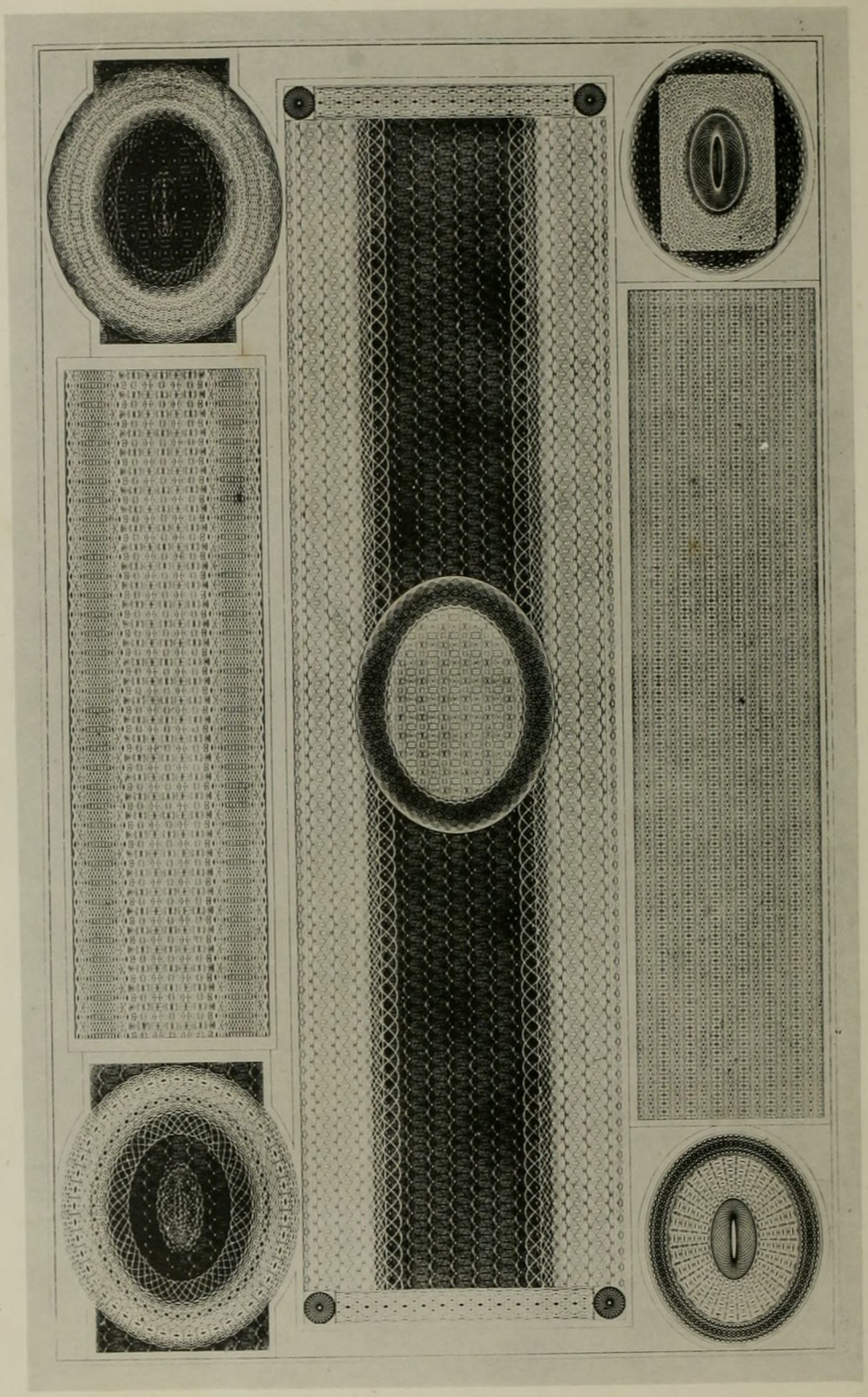
We have already stated to you in conversation that if desired, we could to a slight extent increase the clear spaces between each of the Postage Stamps in all new plates without any expense to the Commissioners.

We are, &c., &c.,

[Signed] PERKINS, BACON & Co.

Ormond Hill, Esq.

BATH :
Printed by William Lewis & Son, Ltd., Herald Press, North Gate.





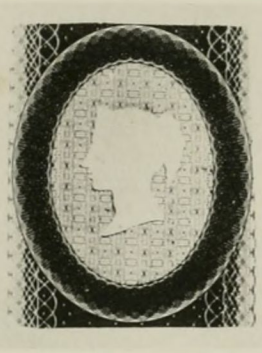

2




3



5



4




6




7



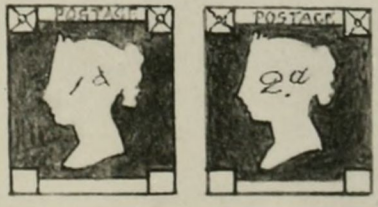

8




9




10




11



12



13



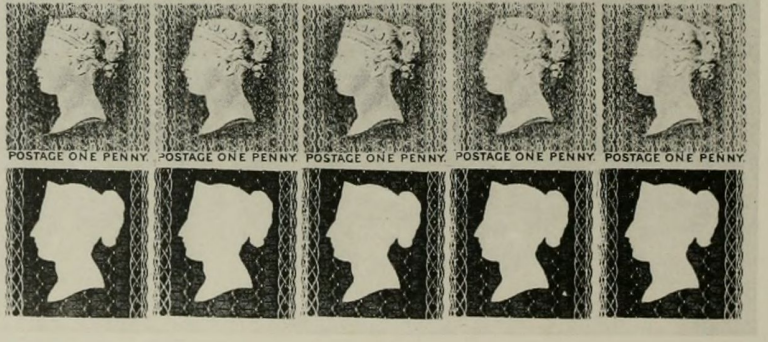
14



15


POSTAGE ONE PENNY

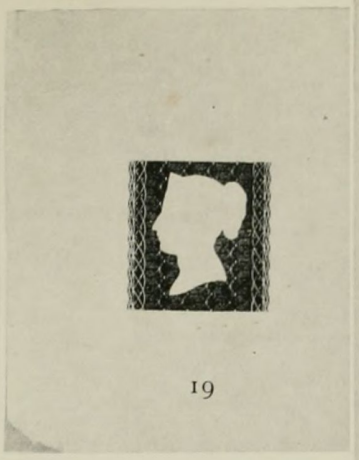
16


POSTAGE ONE PENNY
POSTAGE ONE PENNY
POSTAGE ONE PENNY
POSTAGE ONE PENNY
POSTAGE ONE PENNY

17



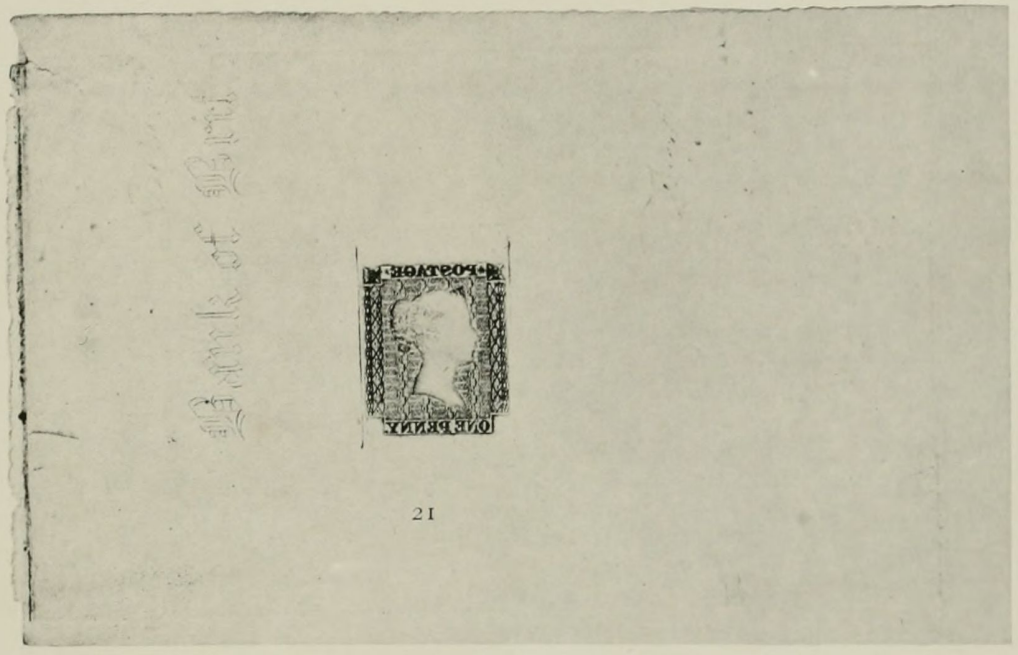
18



19



20



21




22




23




24




25




26



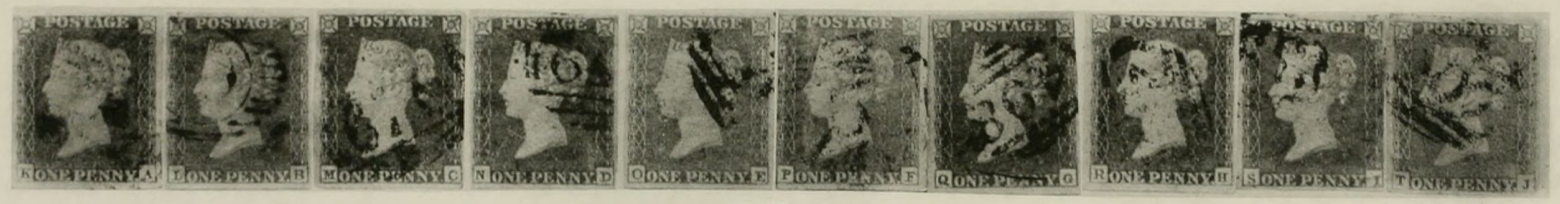
27




28


POSTAGE
K ONE PENNY A
L ONE PENNY B
M ONE PENNY C
N ONE PENNY D
O ONE PENNY E
P ONE PENNY F
Q ONE PENNY G
R ONE PENNY H
S ONE PENNY I
T ONE PENNY J

29


POSTAGE
K ONE PENNY A
L ONE PENNY B
M ONE PENNY C
N ONE PENNY D
O ONE PENNY E
P ONE PENNY F
R ONE PENNY H
S ONE PENNY I
T ONE PENNY J

30


POSTAGE
K ONE PENNY A
L ONE PENNY B
M ONE PENNY C
N ONE PENNY D
P ONE PENNY F
R ONE PENNY H
T ONE PENNY J

31


POSTAGE
K ONE PENNY A
L ONE PENNY B
M ONE PENNY C
N ONE PENNY D
P ONE PENNY F
Q ONE PENNY G
R ONE PENNY H
T ONE PENNY J

32


POSTAG
ONE PENNY
POSTAG
ONE PENNY
POSTAG
ONE PENNY

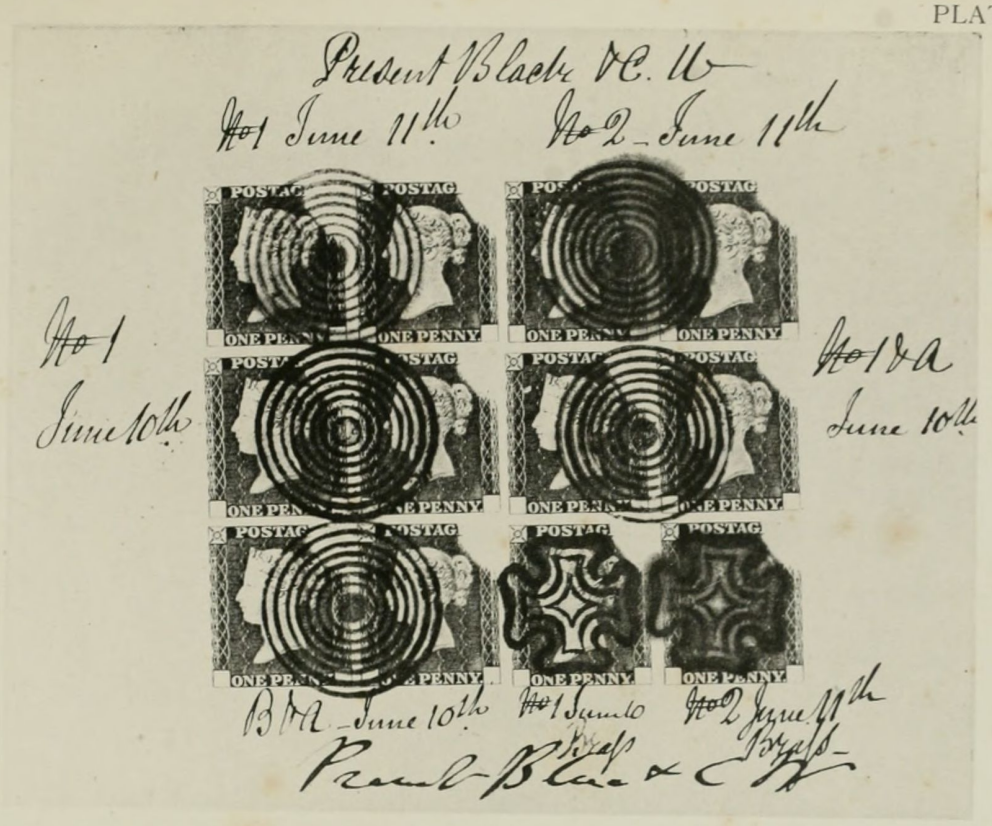
33


POSTAGE
ONE PENNY

34


POSTAG
ONE PENNY

35




36




37




41




38




39




40




42




43




44




45




48




49




46




47




51




50




52

A Design submitted for ½d Stamp
Head to be reengraved
Shell work suggested in the 4 corners
as shewn in B




53

B Drawing to shew the effect of the
light back ground in green color.
Also to shew the corners suggested
to be used in A




54

C Drawing to shew the effect of the
present back ground to ½d. Stamps
in green color.



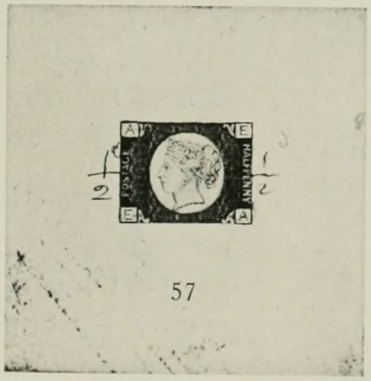

55

3




Jasper Perkins Ho

56



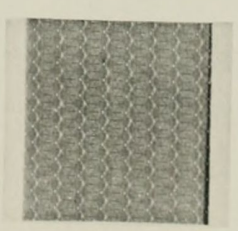
57



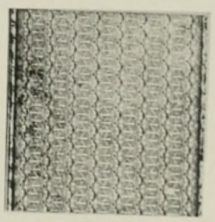

58



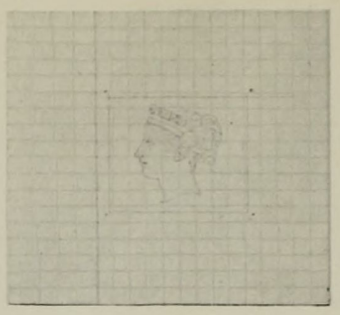

59



60



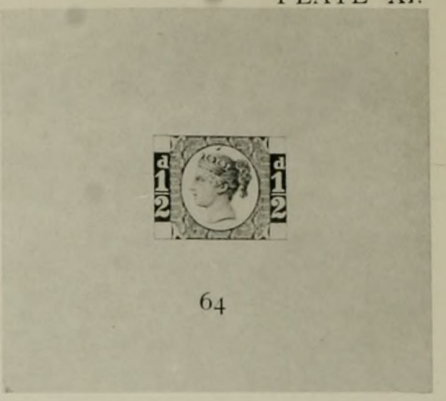
61



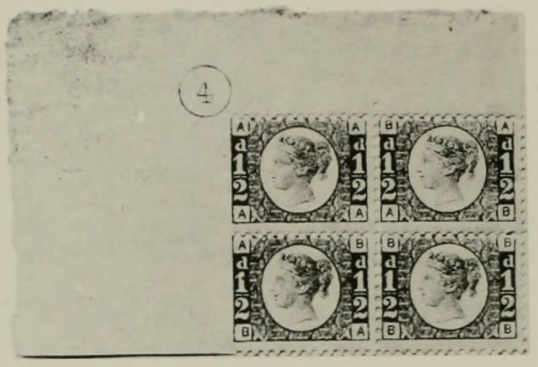
62



63



64



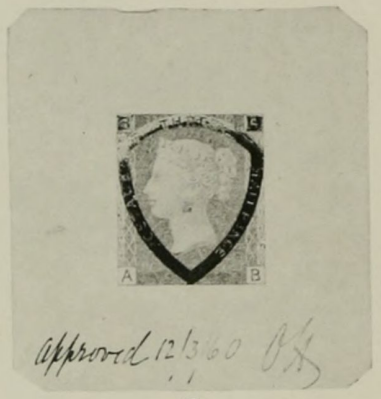
65



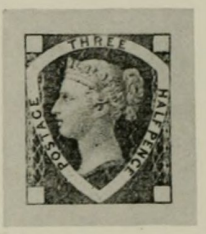
66



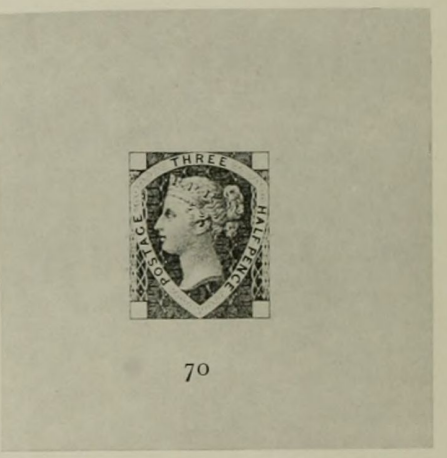
67



68



69



70



71



72




73




74




75




76




77




78




79




80




81



82



83



84

SPECIMENS OF SURFACE PRINTED POSTAGE STAMPS

PERKINS, BACON & Co.



85



86



87



88



89



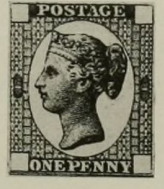
90



91



92



93



94



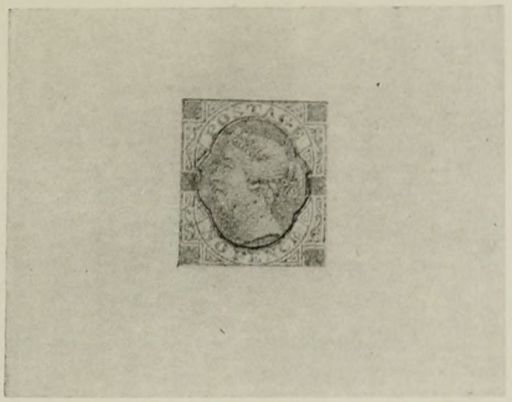
95



96

SPECIMENS OF COPPER PLATE PRINTED POSTAGE STAMPS

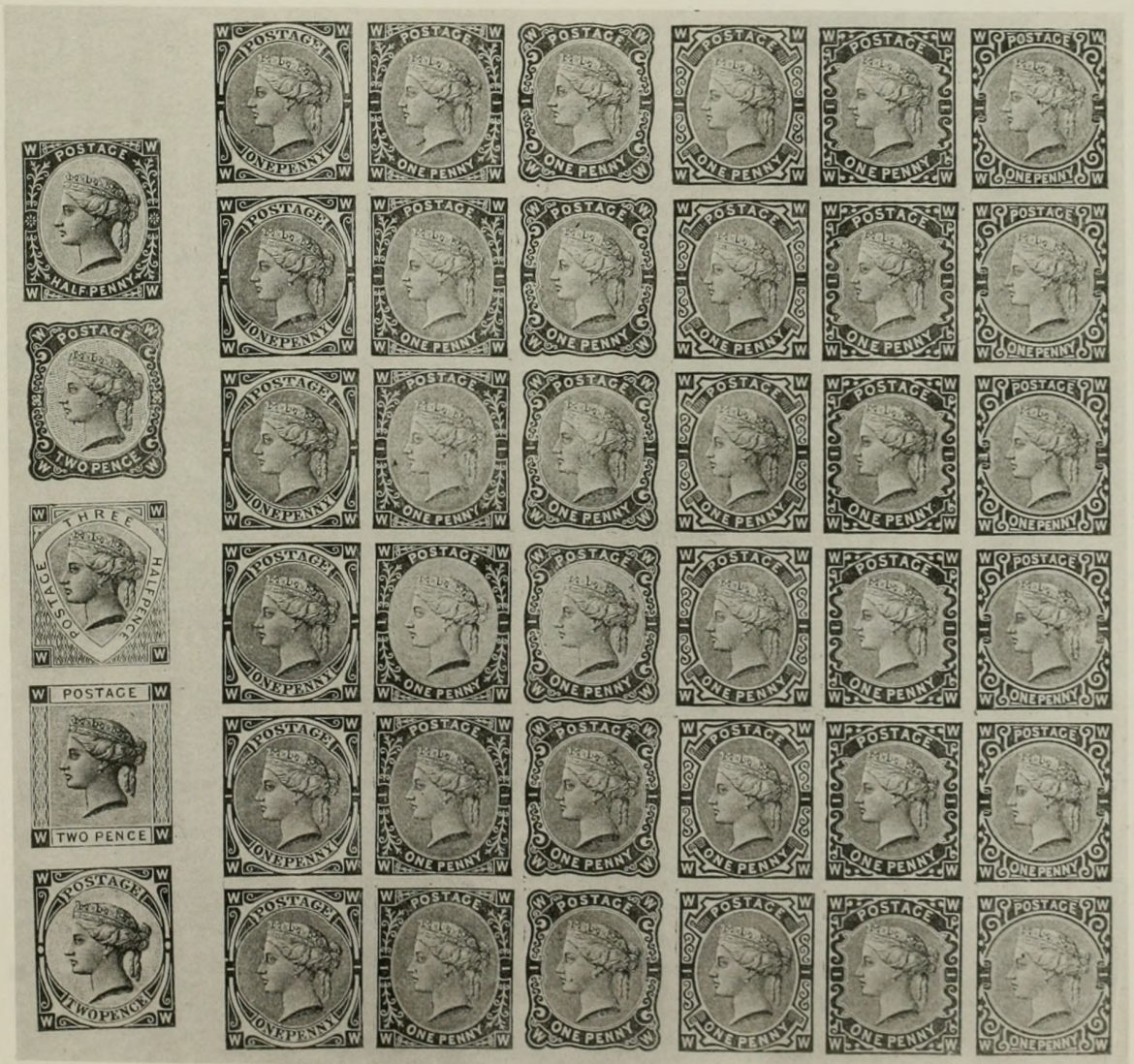
PERKINS, BACON & Co



97



98




105

106

107

108

109

99 100 101 102 103 104




110



111




112 113 114