

COMPLIMENTARY COPY

THE BRITISH PHILATELIST.



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November, 1908.

[ONE PENNY.

“ DICKINSON ” PAPER.



OUR attention has been drawn to a letter from the Earl of Crawford, published in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* of the 14th November (No. 202). Towards the foot of page 320, his Lordship, referring to some remarks earlier in the letter, says:—

“ On 9th March ”—1841—“ Bacon asked for 6 or 8 sheets more to try upon. Rowland Hill sent the letter on to Dickinson, asking, on 17th March, if he could supply these 6 or 8 sheets asked for.

“ Wright & Creeke quote a letter (on page 30) to the effect that on 10th April, Dickinson sent 15 sheets of ‘ tub-sized paper to Perkins, Bacon, through Rowland Hill. . . . ’

“ The same authorities tell us that eight of these sheets were used and printed from Plate 2 of the Penny Value. (Of this there is no doubt possible, for I have a right top corner block of 4, with the plate number ‘ 2 ’ thereon.)

“ But the following words of that paragraph, ‘ they were not gummed, as were the impressions of the Twopence, taken from Plate 2, ’ are vague, only implying that the remaining 7 sheets were thus used, and without truth as regards Plate 2 (no lines), which had been taken from press on 30th August, 1840, and sent to Somerset House nearly seven months before these paper sheets were sent in for trial. . . . ”

Lord Crawford, we think, is mistaken in crediting these stamps as from Plate 2, as all the evidence points to their being the product of Plate 11 (eleven). We find that Wright & Creeke say that 8 sheets were printed from Plate 11 of the One Penny—not from Plate 2, the numbers on the Plates being in Arabic, not Roman, figures.

The late Earl of Kingston was for a time in similar error. In a paper, read before the Philatelic Society, London, on 30th November, 1894, and published in the *London Philatelist* for the following December, the Earl said, on page 292 :—

“Four years ago I purchased a block of black pennies. It once formed part of the top of the sheet, and consists of five entire rows of twelve stamps each. The margins are intact and perfect; the right and left top corners of the margin contain the plate number 11. Although somewhat thin in substance, and placed rather far apart, by reason of there being no registration sheet of plate 11, I took these figures to represent No. 2 in *Roman numerals*; but, from enquiries made this summer, I ascertained beyond doubt that the practice has always been to number the sheets in *Arabic numerals*. . . .”

Again, in the “Philbrick” collection, as detailed by the late Mr. Gordon Smith—*London Philatelist* for January, 1895, page 10—“A block of six”—of the One Penny—“from the left top corner of the sheet, showing the plate No. 11, is on ‘Dickinson’ paper.”

If—though from the misquotation of *British Isles*, we doubt it—Lord Crawford has a block of One Penny, red, on Dickinson paper, showing the plate number “2” (two) in Arabic character, all the other authorities must be hopelessly wrong. Both plates—2 and 11—were at press in April, 1841.

With regard to the concluding portion of the excerpt from Lord Crawford’s letter, it is quite true that Plate 2 of the Twopence was taken from press at the end of August, 1840, but it was not defaced until the 27th January, 1842. Now, assuming that some or all of the remaining seven sheets of Dickinson paper were used for taking impressions from a Twopence plate, would not the authorities use a plate of an obsolete type, viz.—Plate 1 or 2, “no lines”—in preference to a plate of the current type, viz.—Plate 3, “white lines”? This course was to some extent subsequently adopted in the case of the “Royal Reprint,” struck from Plate 66 (Die II.), which had been withdrawn from press on 17th March, 1864, and was then in Reserve at Somerset House—a discarded plate was used, there being no plate of Die I. in existence, except some half-dozen Reserve plates which had never been at press.

As to the “assumption” of printing from a plate of the Twopence, Mr. Creeke informs us that the late Mr. Hastings Wright had official information sufficient to warrant the statement that there was a printing on “Dickinson” paper from Plate 2 of the Twopence, and that the impressions were gummed; the only point in doubt

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being as to how many of the seven sheets were so used—that being, as Mr. Creeke well remembers, the reason given to him by Mr. Wright, on his drawing the latter's attention to the necessarily vague wording, "as were the impressions," no number being given.

We are making enquiries, which may possibly be quite abortive, as to the remaining seven sheets; but, meanwhile, we do not think that the authors of *British Isles* would have deliberately embellished a theory (printing from a Twopence plate) with a positive statement (the number of the Plate and the gumming), part of which, viz., the gumming, was a quite unnecessary addition.

"RAINBOW" SERIES.



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We illustrate an impression from a small plate (of 12 stamps) of the One Penny, Die I, constructed in 1840 by Perkins, Bacon & Co., for experimental purposes.

As can be seen, the upper right-hand corner of each stamp is missing, and we should imagine, from the similarity of the omission, that the erasure was made on the roller.

Impressions were struck on plain white wove and laid papers, also on paper chemically blued, in various inks and colours, the "cement" was then applied, and experiments in obliterating marks were carried out. The lowest row of the sheet illustrated has evidently been subjected to cleansing processes, the pencilled notes under the four stamps being respectively, "Soap and Water," "Turps," "Alkali," and "Acid." The upper rows appear to have been treated with "plain water" only.

The subjoined list, taken from *Philbrick and Westoby*, page 290, contains the more striking of a numerous and varied series of colours; a "v." implying that varieties of shades and tones of that particular colour exist:—

Red-brown, as issued.

Red-carmine, light and dark, v.
Brick-red, a light shade.
Brown, shades of reddish, v.
Brown, shades of amber, v.
Mauve-pink, or rose-hortensia.
Purple.

Grey, v.
Slate.
Slate-purple, v.
Blue, light and dark, v.
Slate-blue.
Black.

Our publishers have also shown us complete sheets of 12 printed as follows:—

In a full rich green on bluish laid paper; ungummed.

In a deep blue (like that of the issued Twopence) on white wove paper, on this sheet the colour has "run" over the design and beyond it to the extent of about one-sixteenth of an inch; ungummed.

In greenish-black, on a laid paper, more or less blued by some ingredient in its substance; ungummed.

These three sheets are mint.

The fourth is printed in a medium shade of sage-green, on bluish laid paper, and is not mint, the lowest row having been experimented on, with these results:—"Soap and Water," impression badly rubbed; "Turps," impression faint and "run" as if the detergent had dissolved the ink; "Alkali," a faint impression of a dark grey; and "Acid," rubbed, somewhat "run" and more blue than green in colour.

The following are

C51 (St. Th

C57 (Greyto
Moore).

Of the Stamps of
and "A.T." at foot



ONE SHILL
(UNUSE

The above are il
octagonal, struck in
embossed.

DISCOVERIES AND NOTES.

USED ABROAD.

The following are new to us:—

C51 (St. Thomas, Danish West Indies); 2d., blue, plate 12.

C57 (Greytown, Nicaragua); 2/-, brown (shown to us by Mr. W. H. Moore).

TELEGRAPH STAMPS.

Of the Stamps of the late Orange Free State, overprinted "V.R.I." above and "A.T." at foot, we have seen the following varieties:—

No stop after "V."

1/-, brown.

5/-, green.

10/-, orange.

£1, claret.

ONE SHILLING BROWN.



ONE SHILLING BROWN.
(UNUSED COPY).



ONE SHILLING BROWN
(USED COPY).

The above are illustrations of an unused and a used copy of a One Shilling, octagonal, struck in brown, the colour subsequently adopted for the Tenpence, embossed.

A
Rarity!



FOR SALE.
A FINE COPY.

A Stamp very Few
Collectors can poss-
ess; possibly only
one sheet of twenty
were printed.

**One Shilling
Embossed,**
IN THE COLOUR OF
THE TEN PENCE.

A CURIOUS ERROR.

One of the most curious errors in British Stamps is the 1d lilac, 1881, printed on the *gum*, and which is exceedingly scarce. We offer as a special bargain to our readers, for only 15/- each (unused); pair or a block of four at same rate, if unsold.

1840 MULREADY'S.

THE FIRST ENVELOPES and Letter Sheets issued, known as "Mulready's," seem a special favourite amongst all collectors, even to those who do not collect anything else but adhesive. Having a large stock, we are now selling these to our readers at the following low prices:—

**Letter Sheets, 1d black, unused or used, 4/6 each.
2d blue, 10/6 unused; 16/- used.
Envelopes, 5/- unused or used.
2d blue, 12/6 unused.**

GRE

Is our Speciality, and
Selection of the
both in Unused

We shall be p

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GREAT BR

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BRITISH

We have a very F
... the Colonies

1841 C

We have for sale
full margins printed in
impressions shows a def
to a particular plate.

The first letter of th
if the letter were "Q,"
extends over, and break
is very distinct on every
the roller having recei
appears on stamp letter
black or 1d. red shoul
this half sheet, showing

GREAT BRITAIN

Is our Speciality, and we always have in Stock a Large and Varied Selection of the STAMPS, ENVELOPES, POST CARDS, &c., both in Unused and Used condition.

We shall be pleased to send Selections to Responsible Parties.

PROOFS, ESSAY, and SPECIMEN STAMPS of
GREAT BRITAIN and OTHER COUNTRIES. . . .

SELECTIONS ON APPROVAL.

BRITISH STAMPS USED ABROAD

We have a very Fine and Large Stock of British Stamps used in
. . . the Colonies and also in South and Central America. . . .

. . . . Selections on Approval. . . .

1841 ONE PENNY, PLATE 9.

We have for sale the upper half of a sheet of the above value and plate, with full margins printed in red. Its interest lies in the fact that every one of the impressions shows a defect, which, so far as we are aware, had not been allocated to a particular plate.

The first letter of the word "ONE" spreads out, just where the tail would be if the letter were "Q," into a somewhat small, shapeless white blotch, which extends over, and breaks, the bottom coloured line of the frame of the design. It is very distinct on every one of the stamps, and was caused, we should think, by the roller having received a blow on that particular part. A double letter D appears on stamp lettering D.C. Collectors interested in the plating of the 1d. black or 1d. red should acquire a splendid collotype reproduction, in *full size*, of this half sheet, showing all the minute varieties.

Price 2/-, post free.

FIJI.

The Postage Stamps, Etc., of the Fiji Islands, by CHARLES. J. PHILLIPS, with numerous Illustrations in the text, and also 15 full plates of Photogravure Illustrations.

Price, 21/-.

Post free 21/5.

SARAWAK.

The Postage Stamps of Sarawak, by FRED J. MELVILLE, with an Account of the Sarawak Post Office. The latest and best work on this most interesting country, with exclusive and valuable official information. Illustrated with Collotype plates.

Price 1/-.

Post free 1/1½.

HAYTI.

The Postage Stamps of Hayti, by FRED J. MELVILLE. A fascinating study of stamps of the Black Republic. 77 pages and 26 illustrations.

Price 1/-.

Post free, 1/1.

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No. 2.—MODENA, by Dr. Emilio Diena. Price 5s. Post free, 5s. 4d.

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7 Southampton Row, London, W.C.