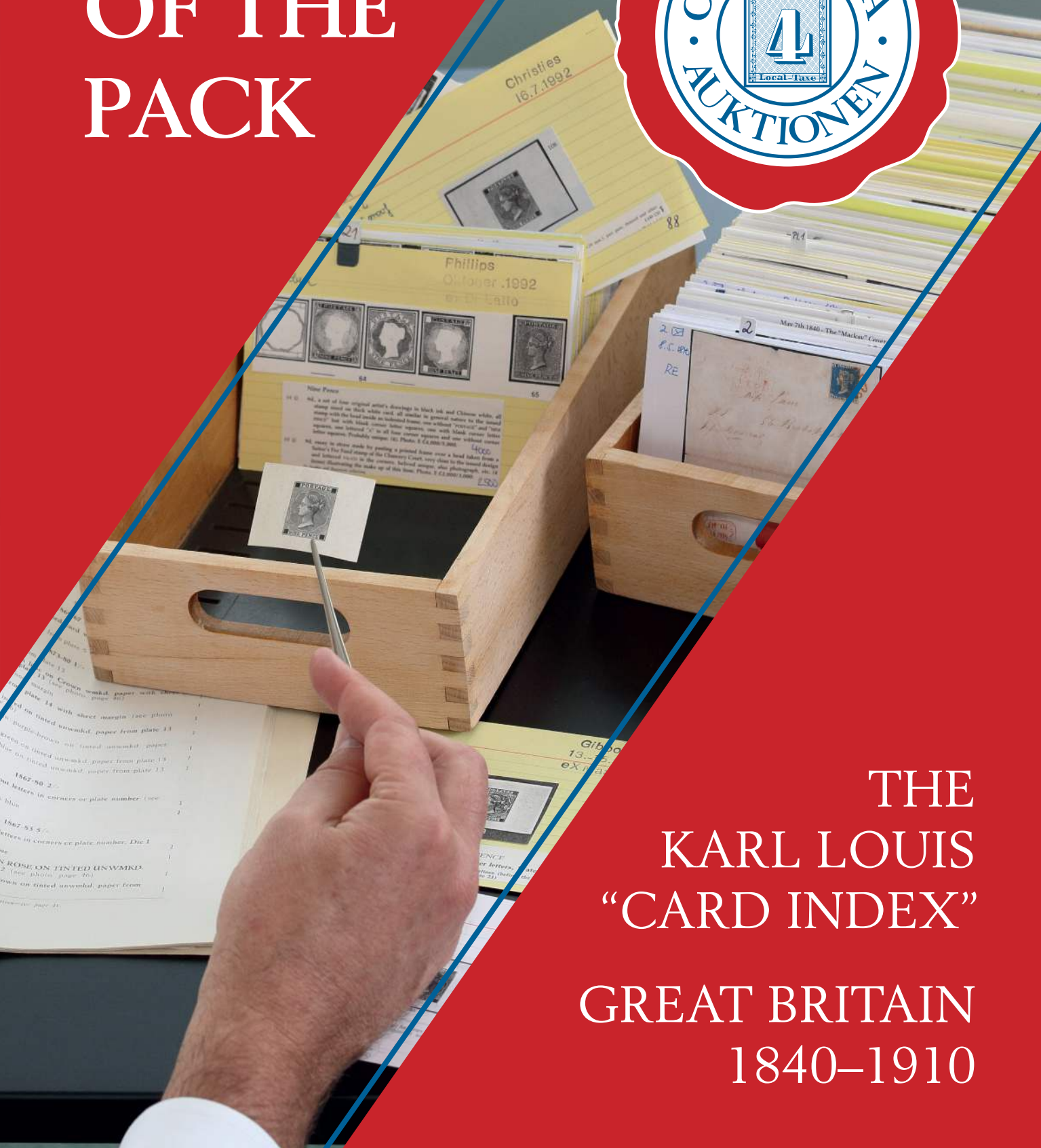


PICK OF THE PACK



THE
KARL LOUIS
“CARD INDEX”
GREAT BRITAIN
1840–1910



INTRODUCTION

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

The Karl Louis "Card Index"

Describing Philatelic rarities calls for more than just quoting catalogue numbers and values. Provenance is a philatelic pedigree of former owners from the inception of philately until the present day. Those collections held in the highest esteem by their contemporaries and containing the great rarities, the modern day "Large Gold" exhibits, can be traced back to the collectors who once owned the particular rarity and the auctions where they were sold and changed hands. Frequently, the further back a philatelic pedigree goes, the more coveted the rarity becomes. Provenance is a quality seal. As in Art, Provenance is an indispensable attribute: in this case, of valuable Great Britain stamps and covers. When the moment comes to sell an important collection, your stamps and covers deserve the very best provenance research and accurate descriptions: both contribute towards greater demand and higher realisations.

The most comprehensive Provenance files of rare Great Britain has been meticulously maintained by Karl Louis AIEP, FRPSL., Corinphila's Managing Director. Karl started his Great Britain "Card Index" more than 35 years ago. Consisting of approximately 100 000 records it is – to the best of our knowledge – by far the most comprehensive and important census of British Stamps in the philatelic world.

All Provenances given for items from Great Britain Victoria Issues in Corinphila Auction catalogues are based on information from the "Karl Louis Card Index" and we will provide as much information on previous owners and sales as possible. The most recent Corinphila auctions in Zurich have demonstrated: Provenance "Adds Value!".

*« Provenance is a quality seal.
As in Art, Provenance is an
indispensable attribute. »*



THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"



We invite you to compare the number of provenances given in the Great Britain 'BESANÇON' and the British Post Offices Abroad 'DUBOIS' collections offered by Corinphila with specialised Great Britain sales of any other stamp auction house.

We believe that the "Karl Louis Card Index" will benefit both potential buyers and future collectors. For further details, especially of what kind of items can be found in the "Card Index" see: www.corinphila.ch

*« Added Value by
Proof of Provenance »*

GB Collections offered by Corinphila in 2019–2025	No. of Lots offered	No. of Provenances mentioned
BESANÇON I (2019)	308	221
BESANÇON II (2020)	403	305
BESANÇON III (2021)	345	244
BESANÇON IV (2022)	303	221
BESANÇON V (2023)	376	224
DUBOIS I (2020)	307	306
DUBOIS II (2021)	385	397
Åke Rietz (2023)	247	226
Simon Beresford-Wylie I (2023)	240	143
Simon Beresford-Wylie II (2024)	223	127
Simon Beresford-Wylie III (2025)	222	137
KOOYONG (2025) *	157	86

* for GB 1840-1901 plus Official overprints



Philatelic Profile with Provenances – an Interview with Antoine Clavel and Karl Louis (Corinphila Auctions, Zurich)

As in the world of art, knowing the provenance of a valuable stamp is becoming increasingly important in philately. In which important collections was an item included, at which auctions was it sold or in which handbooks is it described and illustrated? The basis for provenance research is the building of extensive registers of rare stamps and covers of an area. The registers contain information about „where and when“ an important item was sold, seen or mentioned in literature. In an interview with Hans Schwarz (HS) of SBZ, Corinphila managing directors Antoine Clavel (AC) and Karl Louis (KL) discuss the benefits of provenance for collectors.

HS: For many years, the Corinphila auction house has maintained the most comprehensive register of high-quality and important items of classical Swiss philately. How did the development and expansion of this database come about?

KL: The Corinphila register for the Swiss collecting area is in principle modelled on

the German States register of Germany's oldest stamp auction house Heinrich Koehler, one of our sister companies in the Global Philatelic Network. As a young professional philatelist in the 1980s, I got to know this impressive register for provenance research. I decided to build up such a database also for my own collecting and later expertising area of Great Britain - today probably the most comprehensive register of all the important stamps in the area of Great Britain philately from 1840 to 1901. My register is the basis for almost all my philatelic research and publications. At the same time it has been indispensable for my work as an expertiser for more than 30 years. To build up a comparable archive at Corinphila for important stamps, postmarks and covers of the classic issues of Switzerland, this was our intention.

AC: Thanks to Karl's practical experience in this field, we began collecting thousands of individual records, illustrations, auction descriptions and other resources in 2008.



Corinphila managing director Antoine Clavel is convinced: The Corinphila register of Switzerland's classic issues is a treasure trove of knowledge par excellence!



Corinphila managing director and Great Britain expert Karl Louis has maintained his own Great Britain register for 35 years.

A few years ago, we added the archives of the well-known Swiss expertisers Hans F. Hunziker (1911-1994) and Emil Rellstab (1928-2006). Today we have a wealth of knowledge at our disposal that is probably unique in the history of Swiss philately.

HS: How extensive is the register today? How is further expansion progressing?

AC: Containing 20,000 entries, the register is a treasure trove of knowledge par excellence. Nevertheless, we are working on further expansion, recording historical sources, including additional information and adding new details. It is impossible to imagine our daily work without the register.

HS: You are not only active as auctioneers, but also as philatelic experts, authors and expertisers known far beyond the country's borders. What is the importance of the register in your various activities?

KL: In almost every respect, my Great Britain register is the starting point and at the same time an indispensable foundation for all my activities in philately as far as my personal

collecting area is concerned. At Corinphila the same applies to the work with the Switzerland register, which is indispensable for our experts. In everyday auction life, the describing of rare stamps nowadays requires much more than the simple indication of catalogue numbers and values.

AC: Our Switzerland register offers expertise that creates additional value, especially when it comes to decisive aspects such as quality, origin and rarity. This gives a rare item a very individual philatelic profile.

HS: To what extent does the register provide concrete information about the 'rarity' of a stamp?

KL: The word rarity is very subjective. Dealers, collectors and exhibitors use it almost in an inflated way in many contexts. But what is a 'rare' or a 'very rare' stamp? A database provides objective information by recording as many examples of an item as possible. Are there three or seven or 28, maybe even 50 or more comparable items recorded? This can be verified in detail and it provides information about the actual rarity of a stamp.



PHILATELIC PROVENANCES

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"



Provenance is becoming increasingly important and - as in art - is considered a „seal of quality“. Registers play a decisive role in provenance research.

HS: When studying high quality material offered by auction, the ‚provenance‘ of a valuable item in the lot description has become more and more conspicuous in recent years. What exactly is meant by ‚provenance‘ in philately?

AC: Provenance is information about the origin of a rare stamp. Has the stamp been in a famous collection in the past? Where and when was the item last offered, at auction or in a dealer's stock? Several provenances form a ‚philatelic family tree‘. Especially with high-value stamps and covers, this information can be crucial.

HS: Why has provenance research become so important in philately in recent years? Where is the benefit for the collector?

KL: Provenance is a valuable indication to the collector of how important a stamp or a cover was to earlier generations of collectors. If ownership by a famous collector appears in the „family tree“ of an item, this indicates philatelic importance at first sight. Especially for newcomers to a collecting field, this is a

good guide. This is why provenance information is so important in auction lot descriptions.

HS: Does provenance also have an influence on the market value of a stamp?

AC: The clear answer is obvious: yes! The fascination of famous items from legendary collections is unbroken. If two stamps of comparable quality are offered at the same time in an auction, the item with ‚prominent‘ provenance will almost certainly fetch a higher price than the ‚no-name‘ stamp. This is what experience has shown. Why is this? The ‚illustrious‘ names of previous owners convey confidence and the certainty of „knowing what you are buying“. This is an argument that also has a bearing on a subsequent sale.

HS: What is the benefit of provenance and other information in the register for you as experts and recognised expertisers?

KL: For the expertiser, provenance and evidence of quality with the help of historical illustrations and descriptions of an item in



old auction catalogues are of the utmost importance. Are the margins or perforations identical then and now, or has a margin or perforation tooth been added? Was an item described with or without gum in an earlier auction? If it was offered without gum in the past, then any assessment of gum that might be present today is very simple: regummed! Have stains been removed? For assessing the quality of important and valuable stamps and covers, the historical information in a register is indispensable.

HS: How might provenances be verified by the collector?

KL: In our auction catalogues at Corinphila, the auction house, the date of the auction and often the lot number are mentioned in the provenance information. Collectors can check this in philatelic libraries. Or one knows or finds collector friends in chat forums on the Internet who have access to historical auction catalogues.

HS: The „pro-provenance“ trend is understandable. As a final question: To what extent does the Corinphila auction house offer advantages regarding the question of provenance?

AC: Provenance research has always been a priority for us and it is always included in our auction lot descriptions, to the benefit of both consignor and buyer.

KL: Consignors in particular benefit from the careful processing that takes into account the available provenances. The background knowledge that a stamp is ex Ferrary, ex Hind or ex Bally or comes from another legendary collection offers interested collectors an additional incentive and leads to higher hammer prices. We firmly believe that provenance will play an increasingly important role in classical philately in the future.

HS: Thank you very much for the interesting interview.



Buyers as well as sellers benefit from the competence of the experts and their knowledge of the provenance of rare items.



PHILATELIC PROVENANCES

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

Unlock the Secrets of Your Collection!

Are you a collector of Great Britain stamps, covers, or postal history from 1840-1901 (Victoria Issues)? Are you curious about their history and provenance?

Now's your chance to discover the provenance of your valuable items!

Karl Louis's legendary "Card Index" is the most comprehensive census of British stamps in the philatelic world, containing approximately 100,000 records! This invaluable resource, also used to research key lots for the "Pick of the Pack" series, is ready to shed light on your collection's past.

Find Out If Your Items are in the Card Index!

We're inviting you to send in images of your Great Britain philatelic treasures to have their provenance reviewed.

Items that can be traced include: Great Britain stamps, covers, and postal history from 1840-1901 (Victoria Issues). This includes Official stamps and Mulready stationery.



How to Discover Your Stamps' Provenance:

1. Check the list below to see which items are likely to be traceable.
2. Select **up to three items** from your collection.
3. Take high-quality pictures or scans of them.
4. Email the images directly to Karl Louis at louis@corinphila.ch

**Don't miss this opportunity!
Send your images today!**

Provenance research is offered as a free service for collectors only.

1840, One Penny Black & Two Pence Blue (Stanley Gibbons Cat.-No. 1-6)

unused: singles, pairs, multiples
used: strips or blocks of four and larger
covers: strips and blocks of four and larger

1841, One Penny Red & Two Pence Blue „with lines“ (Stanley Gibbons Cat.-No. 7-15aa)

1d „Black plates“:
unused: singles, pairs and multiples
used: strips or blocks of four and larger
covers: strips and blocks of four and larger
1d later plates 12-177 and 2d. „with lines“:
unused: large multiples (2d. from pairs)
used: large multiples
covers: large, unusual and mixed frankings

1848/53, trial separations (Stanley Gibbons Cat.-No. 16-16d)

unused, used from singles and covers:
· Archer Roulette
· Treasury Roulette
· Archer perforations
· Government trial separations
· Private separations

1854/63 perforated 1d. & 2d. stars (Stanley Gibbons Cat.-No. 17-42)

unused: large multiples (2d. from pairs)
used: large multiples
covers: large, unusual and mixed frankings



1864, letters in all four corners ½ d., 1d., 1 ½ d., 2d. (Stanley Gibbons Cat.-No. 43-53a)

unused: large multiples

used: large multiples

covers: large, unusual and mixed frankings

1847/54, embossed 6d., 10d. and 1sh. (Stanley Gibbons Cat.-No.54-61)

unused: singles, pairs and multiples

used: strips and blocks of four and larger

covers: large, unusual and mixed frankings

1855/80, surface printed issues with corner letters, 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 9d., 10d., 1sh., 2sh. (Stanley Gibbons Cat.-No.62-125, 138-163)

unused: pairs and multiples

(2sh. brown from
singles)

used: large multiples

covers: large, unusual and mixed frankings

1867/91, surface printed „High Values“, 5sh., 10sh., £1, £5 (Stanley Gibbons Cat.-No. 126-137, 175-186, 212)

unused: singles, pairs and multiples

(1884 on white paper and 1891, £1
green from pairs)

used: pairs and multiples

(1882, £5 and

1884 on blued paper as well as 1884

10sh. cobalt from singles)

covers: every cover

1880, „provisional“ ½ d. – 5d., 1881, „unified“ 1d., 1883/83, „lilac and green“ ½ d. – 1sh., 1887/1900, „Jubilee“ ½ d. – 1sh. (Stanley Gibbons Cat.-No. 164-174, 187 – 211, 213, 214)

unused: large multiples

used: large multiples

covers: large, unusual and mixed frankings

1902 –1951, The Kings issues

1902/13, die proofs, plate proofs, Tyrian plum, 6d bright magenta, double printings, high values on covers, multiples and watermark varieties

Later issues: sporadic with some essays, die and plate proofs, perforation and varieties

Official stamps 1840 - 1904 (Stanley Gibbons Cat.-No. V1, 01 - 0112)

1840, VR One penny Black:

unused: singles, pairs and multiples

used: singles, pairs and multiples

covers: any cover

1882/1904 Government department overprints

inverted overprints, covers, „High Values“ 5sh., 10sh. and £ 1: unused and used singles, pairs and multiples

Mulready lettersheets and envelopes

unused: pairs, part sheets and sheets of 12

used: pairs, additional frankings

Mulready caricatures, pictorial envelopes, House of Commons, House of Parliament, House of Lords envelopes

All kinds of material recorded

Cancellations

Local Maltese Crosses, London MC with numbers, coloured obliterations, trial cancellations, cds., Penny Postage, mail bag, foreign cancellations on British stamps, British cancellations on foreign stamps

Used abroad and Posal History

Covers, mixed and combination frankings, crimean war and soldiers' letters, wreck covers, covers to unusual foreign destinations

This list is an overview. The full list of traceable items can be viewed here: www.corinphila.ch/en/great-britain-card-index

GBPS The Great Britain Philatelic Society GBPS



We hold ten **MEETINGS** a year, including seven all-day sessions, often held in London with dealers present.



The GBPS maintains an extensive **WEBSITE** with many useful features, including a Display Archive and Discussion Boards.



Membership includes bi-monthly copies of our high-quality **GB JOURNAL** which covers new research findings.



We issue a separate bi-monthly **NEWSLETTER** featuring news, views, information, articles, and correspondence.



And we produce excellent, award-winning **PUBLICATIONS**.



There are **PROVINCIAL MEETINGS** as well as those held in London.

The **GBPS** has some 750 members and covers all aspects and periods, postal history, postal stationery, coils and booklets, revenue and college stamps and, not least, all GB postage stamps. For further details please visit our website at www.gbgs.org.uk

PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

In 2019, Karl Louis began selecting key lots from Corinphila auctions, researching their history utilising his card index system and publishing the findings in the GB Journal.

This gave rise to a series of special feature articles entitled; "Pick of the Pack".

All of the articles published thus far in the GB Journal, from the inception of the series up until Oktober 2026, have been collated together for you and reproduced in the following pages. We hope you enjoy!

Please note that the items highlighted mainly refer to past Corinphila sales.



PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

Elihu Burrit's Ocean Penny Post Campaign

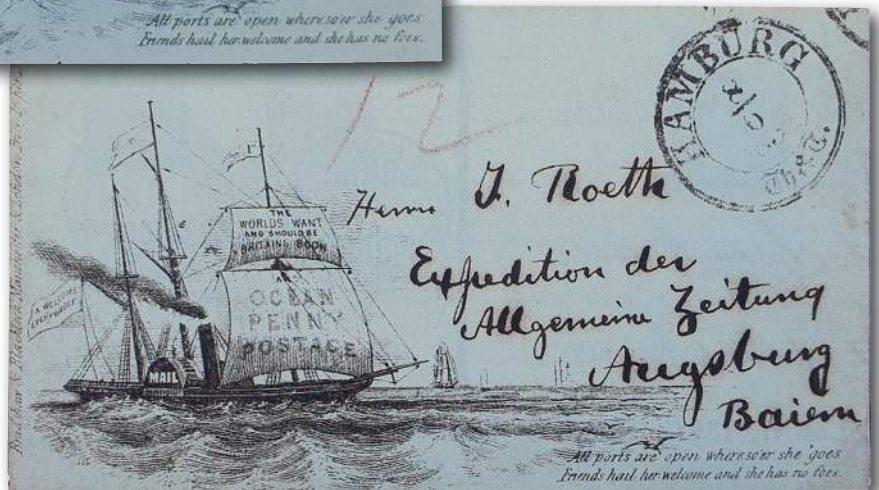
In 1846, the American diplomat, social activist and peace campaigner Elihu Burrit (1810-1879) launched a visionary campaign for a uniform "Ocean Penny Postage" for International mail. Burrit was convinced: Connecting the world through accessible communication would promote and aid world peace. He believed that wars arose from a lack of mutual understanding between peoples, and one of the principal causes of this disconnection was the high cost of international postage.

Elihu Burrit engaged directly with political leaders in London and Washington and he designed illustrated propaganda envelopes to mobilise public opinion. Burrit had conceived the idea of "Olive Leaves" for the press – short, impactful texts highlighting the horrors of war and the benefits of peace in a format suitable for widespread distribution to newspapers both across Europe and in America. Texts distributed to the press were enclosed in illustrated envelopes, which he expected to generate the interest of the journalists to which the "Olive Leaves" were addressed.

One of the illustrated envelopes promoting this vision was designed, printed and distributed by Bradshaw and Blacklock of Manchester, showing a Mail Packet inscribed "All ports are open whereso'er she goes. Friends hail her welcome and she has no foes". Since these beautifully designed propaganda envelopes were distributed and sold in Britain, any foreign usage, especially within Mainland Europe, is exceedingly rare. Just four Bradshaw and Blacklock Ocean Penny Postage envelopes used within Mainland Europe are recorded in Karl's card Index to date, three from Hamburg from a correspondence to the "Allgemeine Zeitung Augsburg" in Bavaria, and one from Bordeaux to Wimmis, Canton Berne, Switzerland. The Hamburg to Bavaria envelopes addressed to the "Allgemeine Zeitung in Augsburg" confirm Burrit's strategy of "Olive Leaves" propaganda texts were designed, not only for Great Britain, but for newspapers far beyond the borders of the British press. Hundreds of newspapers carried the articles – known as "Olive Leaves" – which were read by an estimated two million people.



ex Dr. Richard Hobbs International Gold Medal Collection



One of the four recorded Mainland Europe 'Bradshaw and Blacklock' usages will be offered by Corinphila in November 2026. It is the only one mailed from France and the unique Ocean Penny Postage envelope of any design addressed to Switzerland. This envelope has been exhibited in the Dr. Richard Hobbs International Gold Medal Collection, awarded in Brazil 2017, Stockholm 2019, London 2022 and at Europhilex in Birmingham 2025.

The other three Hamburg to Augsburg Mainland Europe used 'Bradshaw and Blacklock' envelopes are illustrated herewith for comparison.



Discovery of a Postal Notice with a Penny Black

Postal Notices announcing the “birth” of the world’s first postage stamp, the Penny Black, are among the most fascinating items a collector can add to a Great Britain collection—especially when the original pair of Penny Blacks remains attached to the Postmaster’s Notice.

The “Dublin Find” of 1899 included two such Postal Notices from the General Post Office in Edinburgh. One was deposited in the “Muniment Room,” a storage facility for the preservation of official postal records. The other was presented to the Prince of Wales in December 1903.

Until now, only twelve genuine Postal Notices are recorded in the Karl Louis Card Index. Each of these notices bears a vertical pair of One Penny Blacks from plate 1A—the earliest printings, showing no signs of plate wear. One additional notice is known with a single Penny Black, presumably after the second stamp from the vertical pair was cut away. All these notices originated from the General Post Office in Edinburgh, similar to the two examples from the Dublin Find. It is assumed that they all leaked from the Edinburgh and Dublin finds before the first official schedule of the Dublin Find was compiled in 1899.

A few weeks ago, a German stamp dealer made an important discovery in an old collector’s estate, tucked beneath newspapers of the Passauer Neue Presse dated 1947 and stored in an attic box in Kiefersfelden, Bavaria. He uncovered not only another Postal Notice bearing a single Penny Black, but also notices announcing the issues of the 1841 1d red and 2d blue, a Postal Notice announcing the 1841 Postal Stationery 2d blue, and sheets of twelve of the 1d and 2d Mulready.

He contacted Karl Louis, sending scans of his remarkable find. Karl confirmed that all the items most likely originated from the same sources as the Dublin Find, including materials from both Dublin and Edinburgh. However, he could find no record in his Card Index of this particular Postal Notice with the single Penny Black, nor of the 1841 notice featuring the Penny Red from plate 5. It seems these pieces were never offered at auction and had likely found their way into a German stamp collection as early as the 1930s—or even earlier—and then were forgotten.

The Penny Black affixed to the newly discovered notice is from plate 1A (earliest printing), lettered **LK**. Above this 1d adhesive, it is evident that another 1d black stamp, lettered **KK**, which originally formed a vertical pair with **LK**, had been removed. Karl searched his card index for a single unused Penny Black from plate 1A, lettered **KK**—and indeed, he was fortunate to find the missing stamp had been offered at auction decades ago. Based on the characteristic edges of the upper margin of stamp **LK** and the distinct features of the single 1d black lettered **KK**, it is clear that both stamps once formed a vertical pair affixed to the same notice. The stamp **KK** must have been removed at least 70 years ago; it appeared in a Robson Lowe auction in 1956, a Harmer auction in 1957, and a Phillips auction in 1992.

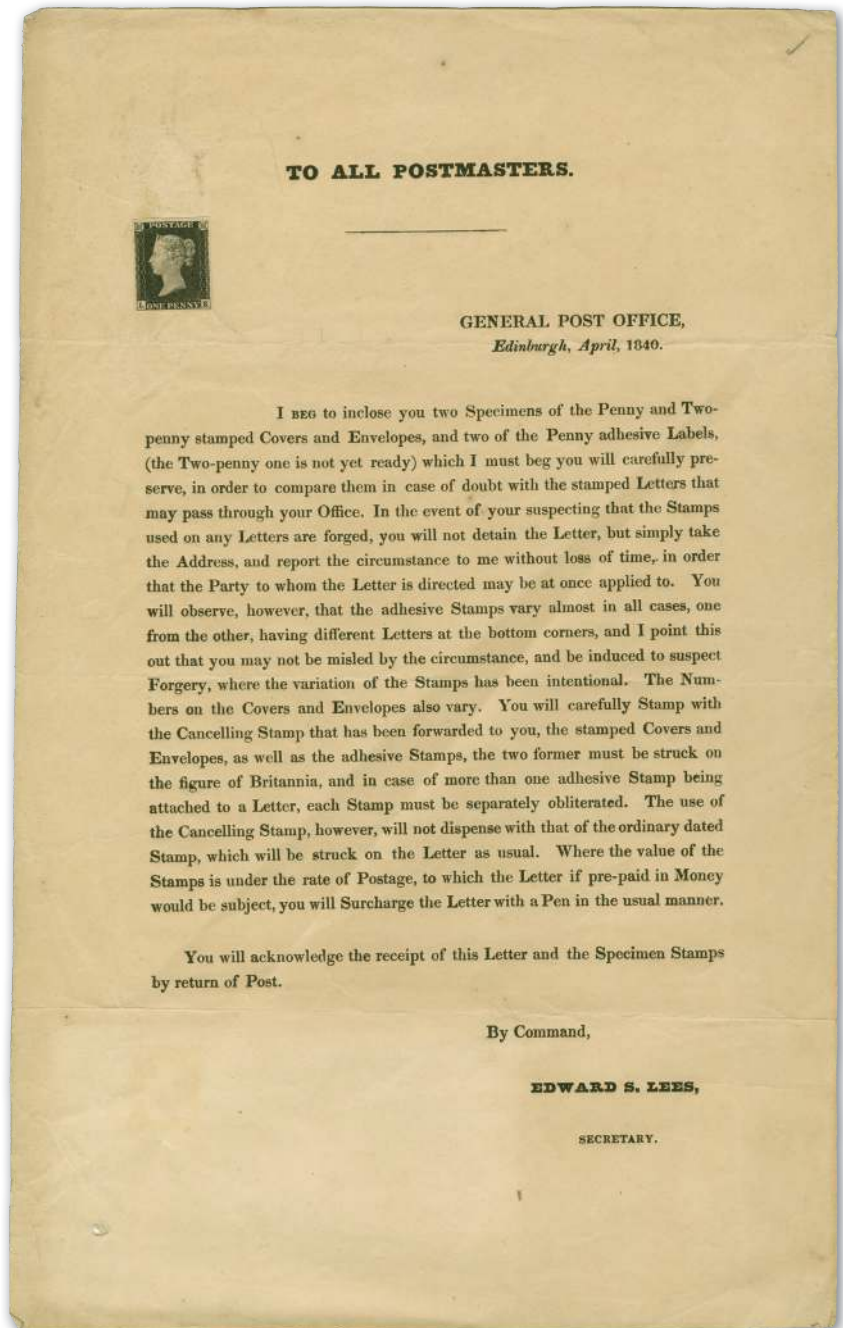
The “Kiefersfelden Stamp Find” will be offered by Heinrich Köhler Auctions in September 2025. A great challenge awaits the future owner: to search for and recover the ‘lost’ Penny Black **KK** and reunite it with its original companion, **LK**, on the historic Postal Notice.



The "Kiefersfelden Stamp Find"



Karl Louis was fortunate to find the missing 1d. black KK in his Card Index, offered at auctions decades ago. The characteristic edges between the stamps perfectly match!



Postal Notice bearing a single 1d black, plate 1A, LK. Another 1d black, KK, which originally formed a vertical pair with LK, had been removed.



PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

The Queen expressed high Appreciation with the Artwork of the Stamp!

On 16th December 1839 Rowland Hill instructed Perkins Bacon & Petch, the leading printer at the time, to produce a die composed of *"...the best Engraving of Her Majesty's Portrait which we can get executed by the best artist."*

It was decided that Queen Victoria's head would be the central feature of the design. Rowland Hill stated *"...the Queens Head is to be drawn from the City Medal"*. When Perkins Bacon & Petch received these instructions, they asked Henry Corbould, with whom they had been professionally acquainted with for more than twenty years, to make the drawing of the Queen's Head. The drawing Henry Corbould produced was said to be a; *"Masterpiece of Art"*! It is stated that the Queen expressed her high appreciation with the final artwork.

However, the first die was not accepted because the background was considered to be too light. As a consequence, a final die was prepared showing a much darker security background. When the new background was approved, Charles Heath (or his son Frederik) engraved the Queen's Head based on Henry Corbould's drawing into the steel of the final die to produce the printing plates for the world's first postage stamps in 1840.

Very few die proofs were struck from this final die which showed the Queen's Head, but without the inscriptions, the corners squares and the stars in the upper corners. One of the proof impressions was given to the artist, Henry Corbould F.S.A., in whose family archive it remained for decades to come. Frederick J. Melville mentioned in "Chats on Postage Stamps" in 1911, that Mrs. Haywood, a grand-daughter of the artist Henry Corbould, and niece of the engraver Frederik Heath, possesses the proof impression of the die. Edward Denny Bacon also mentioned this in "The Line Engraved Postage Stamps of Great Britain" in 1920.

In 1936 Harmer of London was entrusted by Captain P.S. Corbould to offer the original artist's die proof at auction. The auction lot description read: *"A Unique and Historic item (that) has been in the Corbould Family for the last 95 years"*! In 1971, Harmer of London was honoured again to offer the die proof originating from the Corbould's Family Archive. Possibly bought by John O. Griffiths, the die proof was one of the gems in John's celebrated Grand-Prix National awarded exhibit at London 1980 International Stamp Show. Next the famous die proof was spotted in the Byron Green 'TES' collection, sold in 1995, illustrated on the front cover of the auction catalogue.

The "Corbould Family Archive" artist's die proof of the world's first postage stamps is certainly the unrivalled key item for any important collection of the 1840, Penny Black and Two Pence Blue. It may possibly be a "once in a lifetime chance" to acquire this key item, which is the very foundation for the World's First Postage Stamps, when it is offered in 'Part II of the Simon Beresford-Wylie Collection', in November 2024, at Corinphila Auction in Zürich.





1840, 1d. black, Split Multiples

More than 70 years ago the 'Magnificent' collection sold in April 1950 by Harmers in London contained a top marginal horizontal mint strip of eight and a mint block of four of the 1840 Penny Black, plate 1B. Lettered AC-AJ and AK/BL the two multiples originally made an irregular block of twelve, although this was not mentioned in the auction lot descriptions. The separation of the original block into two multiples must have been done much earlier, because the corner block AK/BL with Plate number, was in the 'Trivett' collection sold by Plumridge in 1924.

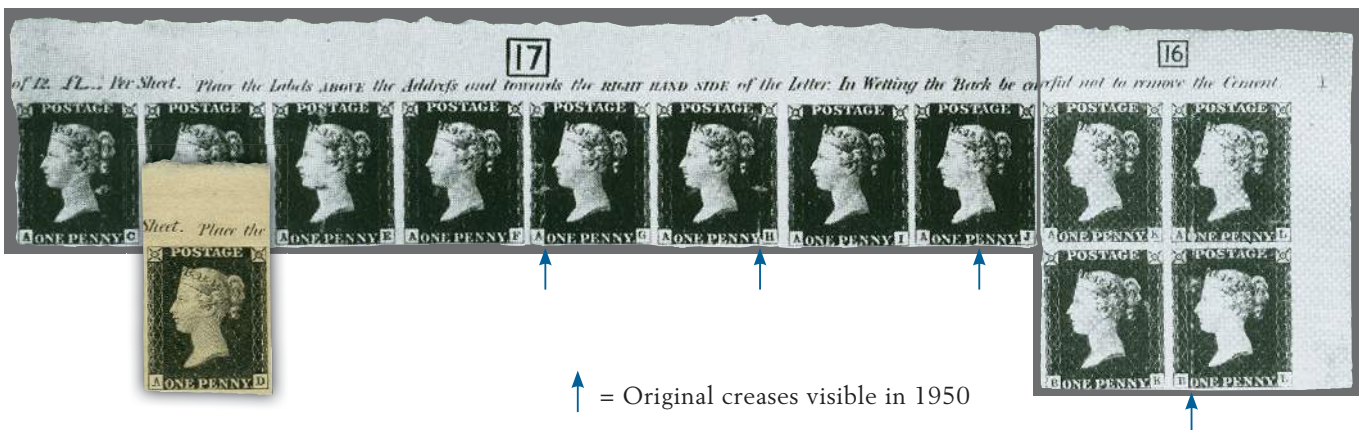
Unfortunately both multiples were badly affected by heavy vertical creases, causing surface damage to AC, AE, AG, AH, AJ and AL. The vertical creases are all in a constant distance from each other indicating that the original block must have been originally folded for storage. The original Harmers description of the horizontal strip AC-AJ states "damaged by creases which have penetrated the paper in places".

Unsold in the Harmers sale in April 1950, the strip was soon split into singles, indicated by stamps AI and AJ which were found offered in a Robson Lowe sale in October 1950, while the corner marginal



block of four AK/BL remained intact. Over the next 50 years, the heavily creased singles AC, AE, AG, AH and AI were carefully restored by repairing and repainting along the creases. Some repainting was also done to the corner block of four to cover the paper damage caused by the vertical crease.

Of special interest are the stamps AD, AF and AI cut from the strip. These were not affected by the vertical creases as can be seen on the 1950 auction catalogue illustrations and were perfectly preserved. AI was offered a few months later, in October 1950, and described by Robson Lowe as 'superb mint'. AD found its way into the "BESANÇON" collection and will be offered in the fourth part of the "BESANÇON" sale at Corinphila in May/June 2022.





PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

What a Discovery!

It is not unusual to locate unused stamps or multiples which added up to a larger multiple that existed decades ago. But how often do we spot used blocks that originally formed a larger multiple? This unusual and surprising discovery happened not long ago to Karl Louis!

A few months ago Karl received for sale at Corinphila Auctions the International Large Gold medal Collection of Great Britain, Line Engraved Issues 1840-1970, assembled by Åke Rietz from Sweden. While preparing details of provenances for the various important items in Åke's collection, Karl came across the fascinating Penny Black used block of ten, lettered AG/BK, certainly one of the largest used multiples existing of the first stamp of the world. He was quite sure that the block would be easily located in his Card Index and was excited by which famous previous owner may have owned the block. Karl flipped through his Penny Black plate 7 Index cards and soon spotted a used block of ten. Here is "our lady" he thought and a smile came across his face. But a closer look to the block just found in the Card Index was a big surprise for Karl. The block was not Åke's block lettered AG/BK, it was another fantastic used block of ten, lettered AB/BF. At a first glance, they looked so very similar.

Similar? Could it be that these two blocks of ten once belonged together? Forming an original used block of twenty? Both multiples are from plate 7 and the letterings perfectly matched, two nearly complete horizontal 'A' and 'B' rows, lacking only the first and the last stamps.

A closer look at the characteristic uneven shaped margins between the vertical 'F' and 'G' rows of the two blocks caused Karl's heart to beat faster. After having digitally rejoined the two blocks of ten it could clearly be seen: they originally formed a used block of twenty, and represent as such the largest used multiple of the Penny Black recorded in Karl's Card Index. As far as one can say, both blocks have been used on the same large sized cover, although it is of course, uncertain whether the block of twenty had already been cut into two blocks of ten by the sender in 1840, or in later years by a stamp collector who had found the large sized cover in an archive.

Åke's block of ten, AG/BK, originates from the famous Maurice Burrus collection (1963), the adjoining block of ten lettered AB/BF, graced the collections of 'Daisy' and 'M.A.Sayed'. Karl's Card Index also provided further information, where the adjoining 'Daisy' / Sayeed block to Åke's multiple is housed today! Will these two fantastic blocks be reunited again, after over 180 years, in the future? The Åke Rietz collection will be auctioned by Corinphila Auctions in June 2023.



1840, 1d. black, plate 7, the two blocks of ten, AB/BF and AG/BK, originally formed a used block of twenty.

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

"One of our missing (black) lambs"

Nearly 130 years ago, on 30 November 1894, the Earl of Kingston, President of the Philatelic Society London, read a paper titled "Impressions from an Unregistered Plate of the One Penny Great Britain, 1840". The Earl stated: *"Four years ago, I purchased a block of black pennies. It once formed the top of the sheet, and consists of five entire rows of twelve stamps each. (...) The right and the left top corners of the margin contain the plate number 'II'. (...) 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 block above described is not an impression from plate 2, but from plate 11 – one of our missing (black) lambs!"*

What a philatelic sensation! Until then, the existence of a black plate 11 was not known to collectors! In January 1895, W.A.S. Westoby congratulated Lord Kingston in the 'Philatelic Record' *"... on having obtained the block of plate 11, in black, which I regard as a great curiosity."*

Just two years later, in 1896, the block, lettered AA/EL, was sold for £1,800 with the entire Earl of Kingston collection to Stanley Gibbons. A photo of the block, possibly taken around 1900 by Frank Godden Ltd. Stamp Experts and Philatelic Publishers, London, was headlined **"THE RAREST KNOWN BRITISH PIECE IN THE WORLD"**. The multiple went to the Earl of Crawford. Charles Nissen bought the Crawford collection in 1913 and split the block into the top three rows AA/CL and the lower two rows DA/EL. Nevertheless, both multiples remained in the same hands and were exhibited in Frank Wadham's celebrated exhibit "Great



1840, 1d black, plate 11. Mint pair with proven provenances going back 133 years!

Britain (1d. Black, 1840)" at the London International Stamp Exhibition in May 1923.

Later the two multiples were further split: the top three horizontal A-, B- and C- rows in blocks of nine and six, the lower two D- and E- rows in blocks of four; most of the blocks are now housed in institutional collections. The left-hand sheet marginal block of four, DA/EB, was acquired by J.B.Seymour, who exhibited the block at the RPSL Jubilee Exhibition in May 1935. Robson Lowe offered the block in Part 2 of the Seymour collection in 1951. Soon after (1954), the DA/EB block was cut into two pairs DA-DB and EA-EB. The lower pair EA-EB went into the Ernest Dale collection, later sold by Stanley Gibbons in 1966. It was bought by W.H. Harrison-Cripps, whose collection was auctioned in October 1972. Some 40 years later, in 2011, we saw the EA-EB pair in the sale of the "Chartwell" collection.

It was bought by Ake Rietz, whose collection has since been awarded three Large Gold medals at International Stamp Exhibitions. Ake's collection, including the fascinating 1d. Black, plate 11 pair EA-EB with proven provenances going back 133 years (!) will be offered by Corinphila in Zurich in June 2023.



The Corner 'Plate Number' Imprimaturs

Whenever a printing plate was finished, an impression in the colour of the issued stamp was delivered to Somerset House for final approval. The accepted sheet was then placed in the archives and later became known by collectors as the "Imprimatur sheets". The Imprimatur sheets mainly represent the most beautiful and earliest impressions of a line engraved printing plate. An artwork 'en miniature'!

From time to time a few copies have been cut from these Imprimatur sheets, mainly for presentation purposes. Of the highest importance are those Imprimaturs from the corners of the sheets showing full sheet margins, part of the sheet marginal inscription and the "Plate Number".

On 29 May 1946, Robson Lowe offered a complete set of Imprimaturs by auction. They had come from the late Leonard H. Clark collection and had never been offered on the philatelic market before. In the preface to the 1946 Leonard H. Clark Imprimatur set auction catalogue, Robson Lowe described in detail the history of the sheet corner plate number Imprimaturs, which today enables us to identify the provenance of them:

"About 1900, three of the corner copies from each Imprimatur sheet were cut and made up into presentation sets, one for the H.R.H. The Duke of York (later King George V) which still rests in the Royal Collection, one for the late Lord Crawford which later passed into the

collection of Col. A. S. Bates and subsequently was offered in a number of lots by auction in 1934, and one for the late Leonard H. Clark. This last set did not change hands until the death of the owner in 1944."

Based on the information given by Robson Lowe, it can be stated:

- From each Imprimatur sheet only two corner copies can be in private hands, whilst the third corner copy is still in the Royal collection. The fourth corner Imprimatur remains attached to each original Imprimatur sheet.
- All corner plate number Imprimaturs offered before the 1946 Leonard Clark sale are graced with the most important provenances "ex Earl of Crawford" and "ex Col. A.S.Bates".
- All corner plate number Imprimaturs offered on the stamp market after 1946 must originate either from the Crawford and Bates collections or alternatively, from the Clark collection.
- Corner plate number Imprimatur letterings not offered in the Bates collection (1934) therefore must originate from the Clark collection and vice versa.

In November 2023 Corinphila will start to auction the famous London 2022 "Grand-Prix candidate" collection "Great Britain 1840/1841 – The World's First Postage Stamps" assembled by Simon Beresford-Wylie. This highly important collection will be offered in three parts until 2025.

One of the 'Key-items' of Simon's fascinating collection is the Corner plate number Imprimatur of the never issued 1840 V. R. One Penny Black lettered TA, showing plate number "A" on the corner sheet margin, this originates from the Leonard H. Clark collection. This specimen can be regarded amongst the most important items in the history of the invention of Postage Stamps!





Pearson Hill and Philatelic Provenance

Pearson Hill, the only son of Sir Rowland Hill, KCB, was appointed in 1850 to a junior clerkship in the Secretary's Department of the Post Office. After the invention of a cancellation machine in 1858, he was sent out to Mauritius to reorganise the island's Postal System. The Editorial in the 31 December 1898 issue of the Stanley Gibbons Monthly stated, that Pearson Hill had inherited "...a multitude of notes and papers" from his father Rowland Hill in 1881. After Pearson retired from Postal Service, his interest in postal and philatelic matters continued until he died, aged 66 in December 1898.

In addition to the "notes and papers" Pearson Hill seems to have inherited important philatelic material, including proofs and trials of various kind. Pearson is reported to have shown a meeting of collectors the 1d Red, Plate 11 sheet on Dickinson Silk Thread paper in 1881. Soon after, the first stamps from this sheet appeared in philatelic collections. We know of a Mulready proof printing on India paper inscribed: *"This was Sir R. Hill's copy & was obtained by me from Pearson Hill"*. Similarly, Also, the TH-TI pair of Plate 70 1d Reds rouletted as part of Henry Archer's trials of his first machine have a piece of paper attached with the manuscript notation: *"These stamps were given by Mr. Archer to Mr. Rowland Hill who gave them to his son Mr. Pearson Hill, who in turn gave them to*

Mr. Hastings Wright, from whom I bought them. Wm. Peckitt"

The wide-ranging nature of the Rowland Hill 'philatelic' estate is demonstrated by an unissued VR official 1840 1d Black. Specimens of this stamp were used in 1840 for the cancellation removal experiments. An unknown number of these stamps were hand-stamped with concentric rings, and variously treated to ascertain whether the cancellation could be removed without damaging the stamp. One such stamp is VR 1d Black, lettered FK. Is inscribed in ink on the reverse: *"Pearson Hill guarantees this stamp to be genuine. 2nd. March 1894"*. It now seems likely that this was not the only stamp from these experiments in Rowland Hill's estate. Why?

The Card Index records the neighbouring letterings FJ and FL, and also FI, FH and FG! A digital re-unification brings it to light. These singles were in a strip when the cancellations were applied, before it was cut into singles for the obliteration removal trials. One might bet the stamps subjected to these experiments ended up in Rowland Hill's notes and papers and finally found their way into the stamp market between 1881 and 1898 through his son Pearson.

Do readers know of any other philatelic items with annotations linking them to Pearson Hill and his father's estate?





1841, One Penny Red, plate 11 unused

Even a single can tell a fascinating story!

Mint One Penny Reds from the 'Black plate 11' are rare. One of the earliest records of a large multiple from this plate, a block of 13, is an article by Charles Nissen in 'THE BRITISH PHILATELIST' vol. VIII (1915/16) page 82. Nissen mentions an original letter from the G.P.O. London addressed to G. H. Blackhoffner at the Polytechnic Institution, referring to the transmitting of Penny Labels in black and in red. This letter, together with a block of 13 Penny red stamps, was acquired by Bertram McGowan some time earlier. Unfortunately Charles Nissen did not mention the letterings of the block of 13. In 1934 we saw a "...damaged but scarce..." unused block of 13 offered in the sale of the Colonel Bates collection. Then the block of 13 disappeared and has never been recorded again.

The splitting begins

In 1951 the Seymour collection contained a block of 10, DC / EG. Was it the original block of 13 with three stamps removed? Many years later we saw a badly cut-into strip of 3, FC-FE, in the Harold W. Fisher (1983) and M. A. Sayeed collections (2002). Lettering and edges perfectly matched the Seymour block of 10 to the original multiple of 13! Since no other unused singles, pairs or blocks from the red plate 11 match up to a block of 13, we most likely have 'reconstructed' the McGowan/ Col. Bates block of 13! (Illustration 1).



Let us follow the path of the 'Seymour' block of 10: Still intact in 1962 (Dodd collection) the block of 10 was later badly damaged on stamp ED (Illustration 2). In the Bob Cooley collection (1995) and Pichai Buranasombati collection (2001) the lower left stamp, lettered EC and the damaged stamp ED, were cut off; so reducing the block to an irregular multiple of 8 (Illustration 3).

The splitting continues

Later the irregular block of 8 was reduced again to a pair (lettered DC-DD) and a block of 6, DE/ EG.

The pair EC-ED cut from the lower left corner of the block of 10 has never been seen. It seems it has been split leaving an amazing large margined 1d. plate 11 single lettered EC (Illustration 4). This single finally found a new home in the "BESANÇON" collection. Even just a mint single Penny Red may have a fascinating 'philatelic history' going back more than 100 years with an extraordinary provenance.



Illustration 1



The 'reconstructed' block of 13
 Reference: The British Philatelist (1915/16)
 Provenance: McGowan (1915); Colonel Bates (1934)
 Block of ten
 Provenance: Seymour (1951); Dodd (1962)
 Strip of three
 Provenance: Fisher (1983); Sayeed (2002)

Illustration 2



The 'damaged' block of ten
 Provenance: Harmers Auction (1984)

Illustration 3



The 'irregular' block of eight
 Provenance: Cooley (1995); Buranasombati (2001)

Illustration 4



Block of six
 Provenance: Bonhams Auction (2002)
 Horizontal pair
 Provenance: Grosvenor Auction (2002)
 Single stamp lettered EC
 Provenance: The "BESANÇON" collection



1841, 1d. red printed from 'Black Plate' 10

The "Dublin Find", a stamp find discovered in the General Post Office of Dublin in 1899, contained part sheets of the 1841 1d. red printed from 'Black Plates' 5 and 9, but not from plate 10. Although the stamp find became famous as being found in Dublin, it is clear that it was an assembly of stamps found in both Dublin and Edinburgh. This is proved by the handwritten "Schedule of Envelopes and Postage Stamps found at Edinburgh and Dublin" dated 25 May 1899.

It can also be stated that a number of stamps had found their way into the philatelic market prior to the first official schedule compiled in 1899. The 1840, V.R. 1d. black corner block of four, SA-SB/TA-TB (now Phillips collection, N.P.M. London) was cut earlier from the Dublin Find sheet of the V.R. 1d., since the block of four was exhibited as part of the White collection two years earlier, in 1897 at the London International Exhibition. As far as one can say, more mint sheets or part sheets from this source had been seen on the market at least by 1897. This seems to be fact for a number of mint 1841 1d. red plate 10 multiples.

The British stamp dealer H.L'Estrange Ewen offered in May 1897 in the "English Specialists Journal" a large mint block of 48 from the top or the bottom four rows showing plate No. "10" at each side. Based on records from the Karl Louis Card Index, more than one sheet from plate 10 was found in the Dublin or Edinburgh G.P.O. Except for the still intact 'DAISY' sheet (Christies Auction,

October 1996), all other sheets have meanwhile been split up.

The most impressive corner marginal block of 18, AA-AF/CA-CF now being offered in part IV of the "BESANÇON" collection, originates from a sheet divided shortly after the turn from the 19th. to the 20th. century. The block was part of the Louis Oram Trivett collection sold by Plumridge in 1924 and went into the collection of Baron Anthony de Worms (sold in 1938). The adjoining block on the right, AG-AL/CG-CL, now resides in the Royal collection of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II. The centre of the sheet comprising the horizontal G- to O-rows, a block of 112, is housed since the 1930s in the Lady Vickery collection (now Sydney Powerhouse Museum, Sydney). The lower left corner block of 30, PA/TF was in the J.B. Seymour collection sold in 1952.

This marvellous 1841 1d. red plate 10 corner sheet-marginal block of 18, AA/CF will be offered by Corinphila on Monday 30 May 2022.



The inverted Check Letters ,S' on plate 78

The philatelic interest in corner check letters varieties may have begun around 1900 with the detection of the imperf. 1d. red plate 77 with the "B Blank" missing 'A' variety on stamp BA. Collectors trying to find more varieties soon found the inverted Check Letter 'S'. Used stamps were not difficult to find. But unused specimens turned out to be very rare indeed, but the plate could not be identified since photographs of the Imprimatur sheets were not available at the time.

Then a mint lower sheet marginal block of 36, lettered RA-TL with plate number '78' in the sheet margin showing the inverted 'S' variety was found. Charles Nissen illustrated the multiple in THE BRITISH PHILATELIST (1917/18), pages 12/13 and

commented "...any of our readers, possessing a penny stamp with 'S' inverted, can tell whether or not it comes from plate 78".

In June 1928 Nissen illustrated the plate 78 block in his magazine again. Another ten years later, in July 1938, Charles Nissen announced the acquisition of the "Baronet's Collection" (Baron Anthony de Worms) in THE BRITISH PHILATELIST illustrating the left hand block lettered RA-TD. It seems Nissen had cut the block of 12 from the original block of 36 and had sold it to Baron de Worms.

The 1d. block RA-TD ended up in the Bostock collection sold by Robson Lowe in 1963.

In June 2019 it will be offered as part of the "BESANÇON" Collection.

The remaining block of 24, RE-TL he may have sold to H.C.V. Adams, whose collection was later sold by Robson Lowe in 1956.

The buyer was most likely Reginald. M. Phillips. He shortly afterwards donated his wonderful GB collection to the National Postal Museum. Today the RE-TL block can be seen in the The Postal Museum in vol XIV on page 24.

No other unused blocks from plate 78 showing the 'Inverted S' are recorded today.



The block of 36 illustrated in "The British Philatelist" by Charles Nissen, 1917/18.



The first stamp separation experiments

An article in 'The Times' newspaper on 25 October 1847 headed *"Interesting and Useful Improvement in Postage Stamps"* described at length *"... the inconvenience of imperforate stamps (and) ... a machine ... as to allow the stamps to be instantly detached from the sheet without the operation of cutting"*. In response to this, the first experiments in rouletting stamps were carried out by the Irish inventor, Henry Archer, in 1848.

Some years later examples of Rouletted Stamps found their way into stamp collections. In 1892 Mr. Vernon Roberts, President of the Manchester Philatelic Society, presented to the meeting held on 15 January 1892 a specimen of the Archer Roulette which he stated formerly belonged to Sir Rowland Hill. The Earl of Kingston whose collection was sold in 1896 to Stanley Gibbons, owned seven unused Archer Roulettes. E. D. Bacon mentioned in the June 1924 issue of 'The British Philatelist' that he had identified Archer Roulettes from two different plates: Plate 70 and Plate 71 *"... they probably came at some time or other from an Official source."* Based on information in the Karl Louis Card Index it can be stated that all recorded Archer Roulettes from plate 70 originate from a single 1d. block of 60 lettered PA-PL / TA-TL. All Archer Roulettes known from Plate 71 originate from a single multiple of 28 stamps lettered OF-RL. Stamps originating from the outer horizontal or vertical rows of both two multiples show separation by scissors on one side, whilst all corner specimens show two sides cut by scissors.

The „BESANCON“ collection contains a wonderful Archer Roulette mint pair from Plate 70 lettered PI-PJ. The pair clearly shows Archer Roulettes on three sides. The top of the pair is cut by scissors as can be seen on all known letterings from the „P“ row. The „BESANCON“ pair PI-PJ was first



recorded in the famous stamp collection of Henry Philip Manus sold in 1932 by Plumridge & Co. Originally attached on the right to the „BESANCON“ pair was an Archer Roulette single lettered PK which rested for years in the Colonel Bates collection sold in 1934. The neighbouring stamps to the „BESANCON“ pair, lettered QI and QJ, are housed in the N.P.M. in London (QI) and until 1951 in the J. B. Seymour collection (QJ).

The „BESANCON“ pair reflects a fascinating chapter of philatelic history: The first stamp separation experiments. E. D. Bacon's assumption about an „Official source“ the Archer Roulettes may have come from, can also be answered: A pair from the same Plate 70 multiple as the „BESANCON“ pair, but from the lower row lettered TH-TI, has a small piece of paper attached with a manuscript comment: *„These stamps were given by Mr. Archer to Mr. Rowland Hill who gave them to his son Mr. Pearson Hill, who in his turn gave them to Mr. Hastings Whright from whom I bought them. Wm. Peckitt“*. So the TH-TI pair clearly indicates that the Archer Roulettes were originally in the hands of Rowland Hill and later found their way on to the philatelic market via his son Pearson Hill. It seems Pearson Hill found the two Archer Roulette multiples from plate 70 and plate 71 in his father's estate and split them up for friends and collectors. What a perfect philatelic provenance!

How the Treasury Roulette's name was born!

For Friday, 14th December 1894, a sale "of about 200 lots of Postage Stamps, Mostly Rare, and comprising some of the greatest Rarities" was announced by William Ridout, 120, Newgate Street, E.C. in the 10th December issue of the Philatelic Journal of Great Britain. Among "Blocks of 6d., 10d. and 1s. Octagon in mint state", an "UNCHRONICLED RARITY, being a peculiarly rouletted 1d on letter from Right Hon. W.E. Gladstone" was offered.

Two years later, in February 1897, A. H. Stamford published an article in THE PHILATELISTS' SUPPLEMENT OF THE BAZAAR illustrating the cover. Stamford stated: *"The envelope addressed in the handwriting of the Right Honourable W.E. Gladstone, and in the corner countersigned 'W.E. Gladstone', is postmarked 21st. December, 1852, and is franked with the current 1d. red of the period, having a peculiar and, as would appear, an unchronicled machine roulette, consisting of a regular wavy cut (...). the length of the waves four and a half millimetres, measured from crest to crest."* Stamford continued: *"In the years 1850 to 1854 the Treasury had been experimenting with various processes, and it seems not improbable, that the rouletted stamps in question were issued on trial to members of the Government."* Ray Simpson and Timothy Burgess in their "New Appraisal of the Variety" (London Philatelist March 2013) valued this moment as the birth of *"the myth of the Treasury Roulette."*

A closer look to Karl's Card Index clearly shows the so called One Penny "Treasury Roulette" adhesive stamps were not only used by W.E. Gladstone, M.P. but also by other Members of Parliament and "High Society"! While it is generally accepted that there is no official or semi official involvement in the production of the One Penny Roulettes, especially not by the



Treasury itself, the popular Roulettes have nonetheless kept their name as "Treasury Roulettes".

The most likely theory for their existence is, that they were produced by a receptionist or employee at one of the prestigious London gentlemen's clubs, such as the Athenaeum, located in or adjacent to Pall Mall.

The famous cover addressed in W.E. Gladstone's handwriting and countersigned with his signature, addressed to John MacGregor (1797-1857), liberal M.P. for Glasgow from 1847-1857, will be offered by Corinphila in the sale of the Åke Rietz International Large Gold Collection of Great Britain 1840 – 1870 in June 2023. Based on Karl's Card Index, the cover has not been seen on the market since the 1950s as part of the famous Bertram McGowan collection. Perhaps a once in a philatelic lifetime chance *"to acquire the highly important cover, the Mother of all Treasury Roulettes!"*

For further reading: *"The Treasury Roulette: Fact and Fiction"* by Ray Simpson and Timothy Burgess in London Philatelist March 2013, pages 60-72.



The so called „Government Trial perforation 14“

How a famous 20th century creation fooled Collectors for 100 Years. One Penny red-brown stamps from plate 74 (die I, alphabet I) perforated 14, once believed to have been an official Government trial perforation.

In THE BRITISH PHILATELIST, February 1910, Charles Nissen first reported „An Interesting Discovery“ consisting of „... an unused block of four One Penny, Die I, Alphabet I, perforated 14,.....lettered JK-JL / KK-KL“. Although there was no evidence that the mystery perforation 14 had a status as a trial, it found a listing as a „Government Trial Perforation 14“ in the Stanley Gibbons Specialised catalogues as CE4. In later years, the block of four, JK-JL / KK-KL was identified to be from plate 74.

Around the turn of the millennium, intensive research was undertaken by Peter Sargent and Ray Simpson to find out more about the „Government Trial 14“ perforation. Also Karl Louis and his Card Index supported the ongoing research at the time. Karl had archived illustrations of two part perforated strips of the 1d. plate 74 from the horizontal ‚L‘ row, LC-LD-LE-LF and LJ-LK-LL. When he added the Sir Gawaine Baillie 'normal' imperforate 1d. plate 74 block of 30, MA/QF, to his census in 2004, things became obvious. The two part perforated strips from the horizontal L-row turned out to be „missing links“ between an upper part sheet of plate 74 ‚perforated 14‘ and a lower part sheet remaining imperforate. The part perforated strip of three LJ-LK-LL clearly once joined the perforated block of four, JK-JL / KK-KL first reported by Nissen in 1910. And the part perforated strip of four, LC-LD-LE-LF, originally joined the imperforate ‚Baillie‘-block of 30 at the bottom.



An all four sides perforated single 1d, LB, originally adjoining the part perforated 1d strip of 4, LC-LF.

To date Karl's Card Index confirms letterings between the horizontal E- to K- rows for "perforated" 1d reds from the plate 74 part sheet. All recorded letterings from the horizontal M- to R- rows are imperforate. And the recorded letterings of the horizontal L-row, sandwiched between the "perforated" and the "imperforated", are curiously part perforated only! Impossible for a comb perforation, while the "extension holes" in the sheet margins of the perforated multiples can not be produced by a line perforator. Various perforation irregularities can clearly be seen, but are not replicated.

The result of their research was summarised by Simpson & Sargent in 2006 in their STAMP PERFORATION handbook: „Apart from ruling out Government trial perforation, almost everything else about



The 1d part perforated strip, LC-LC, originally adjoined the imperforate block of 30, MA/QF.



The 1d plate 74 ,Mystery Perforation 14' mint block of 28.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	
A													A
B													B
C													C
D													D
E													E
F													F
G													G
H													H
I													I
J													J
K													K
L													L
M													M
N													N
O													O
P													P
Q													Q
R													R
S													S
T													T
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	

these perforated stamps remains a mystery". "Whatever the original manufacturer's motive in applying the perforation 14 may have been, that person must surely be deriving much quiet amusement at the enduring credulity of philatelists." The next Corinphila auction in November 2025 will offer the largest recorded multiple of this "1d, plate 74 mystery perforation 14", a mint block of 28, EF/HL, with full sheet margin. A „clandestine“ perforation 14, that became a curious chapter in British philatelic history!

Recorded letterings:

 = perforated singles and multiples

 = imperforate blocks

 = part-perforated strips



The Lord Crawford part sheet of 1d. Archer perforation trials

More than 110 years ago, around the turn of the century, John Julius Bornefield (1854-1937) started to study the various Alphabet types of the 1d. and 2d. line engraved issues. In 1908 he was the first philatelist to publish, in Stamp Collectors Fortnightly, a detailed summary of his research of the various Alphabet types. What was at the time an important step in philatelic research is now common knowledge: All 1d. reds perforated 16 and with Alphabet I corner check letters, are Henry Archer perforation trials.

A quarter of a century later, in November 1934, John Julius Bornefield, wrote a note in Gibbons Stamp Monthly Magazine about a stamp find of 'about a dozen' unused Archer perforation trials. In this note, he also mentioned a part sheet in the late Lord Crawford's collection (1847-1913): *"With my knowledge of the various Alphabets I was able, on a visit to Berlin, to pick up about a dozen unused 16 perforation 1d. reds which were "Archers", and which on my return, I found fitted in with a part sheet of Lord Crawford's who was astonished and delighted when I mentioned that his part sheet were Archers"*. Since Lord Crawford was still alive at the time of the find, the story Bornefield described must have been happened before 1913.

This story told by Bornefield raised a number of questions: Would it be possible to identify the plate, the size and the letterings of the 'dozen unused Archers' and Lord Crawford's part sheet? And what has happened to them since?

Three years after Lord Crawford had died, Charles Nissen in 'The British Philatelist', 1915/16, vol. VIII, page 49, illustrated a block of 12 'Archer' 1d. reds, lettered RD-SI (very likely the dozen unused perforated 16 Penny reds from the Bornefield find in Berlin). Furthermore Nissen mentioned

"...another and larger group of 112 still in the "Crawford" collection, which, unless sold on its entirety, will be broken up into small blocks....". When Karl had a look into his Card Index he found an old black & white photo of a perforated 1d. red mint part sheet, lettered HA-QL, but missing HG-HL, LA & MA, a total of 112 adhesives. The 'Crawford' part sheet was at last identified! Plating confirmed that the block of 12 RD-SI and the part sheet of 112 both originate from plate 96. Comparing the centering of the Archer trial perforation on both multiples, it can be seen that they match and originate from the same Post Office sheet. While the block of 12, RD-SI is now in the Royal Collection of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II, the part sheet of 112 has since been split up, most likely by Charles Nissen.

The "BESANÇON" collection contains a beautiful 1d. red Archer trial perforation 16 block of four lettered JE-KF. The centering of the stamps in this block clearly shows that the "BESANÇON" block of four originates from the Crawford multiple. Most probably Charles Nissen could not find a buyer for the entire block of 112 and split it up over the years, mainly into blocks of four, pairs and even singles.



The "Cardiff Penny"



The most popular and famous of all imperforate varieties of the 1864, One Penny Red with letters in all four corners is the so called 'Cardiff Penny'. In January 1870 some 1d. reds from plate 116, imperforate in error, were sold at the Post Office in Cardiff. Walter Scott, a youth at the time just starting in business was involved in the 'Find'. Some 56 years later, as a 'senior' stamp collector, he wrote about his initial find in the January 1926 issue of The British Philatelist:

"...at about 6 p.m. on January 18th, 1870, (Walter Scott)... was directing the despatch of office letters; and, finding the supply of stamps had run out, sent the office-boy to the Post Office for a couple of dozen. The boy, not returning as speedily as he should have done (excused the delay explaining) the clerks at the Post Office had to cut all stamps with scissors, instead of tearing them apart in the usual way". Walter Scott "...looked at those the boy had bought, and noticed the perforation was missing....He gave the office-boy a few shillings, and sent him back to the Post Office for a further supply... No other stamps being available, the first lot were cut up and used for the despatch of the letters. The few (....) remaining were retained by the writer." Walter Scott offered the imperforate 1d. Reds, plate 116, to some of the early stamp dealers, Dr. Viner, Alfred Smith & Co. and Mr. Stanley Gibbons.

Today the Karl Louis Card Index records in unused condition 12 different letterings, all from the upper part of the sheet (AA-AB, AD-AG, AL, BA, BB, BE, DA and EA), nearly all letterings from the 'S' row (SA-SF, SH, SI, SL) and five from the 'T' row (TH-TL). Two used 'Cardiff Pennys' (HC, KD) cancelled with a '162' Cardiff numeral have also been found.

Nine of the recorded unused 'Cardiff Penny' letterings (AA, AB, AD-AG, AL, BE, TA) are also known cut from the imperforate plate 116 Imprimatur sheet. How can these nine letterings of the imperforate 'Cardiff Errors' be distinguished from the Imprimaturs?

First: The Imprimaturs are ungummed whilst the Cardiff imperforate errors were gummed. Second: The Imprimaturs have been cut as singles from the Imprimatur sheet, so all imperforate multiples must originate from the Cardiff Find. Beware of re-gummed Imprimaturs! The two recorded plate 116 imperforate letterings BE are gummed, so one of these must therefore, be a re-gummed Imprimatur.

Corner marginal 'Cardiff Pennys' showing the plate number '116' are recorded in a block of six SA-TC (Royal Collection) and a pair TK-TL (N.P.M.). The single AA in private hands, now in the BESANÇON collection will be offered in June 2019 at Corinphila. It has some of the best provenances a stamp can have and a collector may dream of: ex H.C.V. Adams collection (1956), ex Ernest Dale collection (1969) and H.O.Fraser collection (2001). It was always described as having large part original gum. The corner marginal single AA illustrated in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia vol. I on page 162 described as 'The Cardiff Error' is in fact from the plate 116 Imprimatur sheet.



1840, Two Pence plate 1 mint blocks

Mint blocks of the 1840, 2d. blue are among the greatest rarities. From the 2d. plate 1 a large part sheet was found in 1899 at the Dublin Post Office lacking only the four horizontal A-, B-, C- and D-rows. Had the missing block been removed from the sheet before being itemised by the post office in 1899, and did this missing block find its way into the philatelic market prior to the Dublin find? A fact we have been able to prove for the VR 1d black part sheet, which was also discovered in Dublin in 1899.

In early 1938 Charles Nissen published the purchase of a collection he named "A Baronet's Collection". Nissen soon illustrated some of the key-items in various issues of his magazine "THE BRITISH PHILATELIST". In the July 1938 issue, he illustrated three mint blocks of six, describing these as "Three blocks of six, all connecting blocks, AC/CD, AE/CF and AG/CH". The shape of the vertical margins between the blocks easily proved that they originated from the same Post Office sheet. Just one year earlier, on 26/27 April 1937, Harmers of London offered a mint block of six lettered AI/CJ which also originally joined the three "Baronet's" blocks, forming an original block of 24 lettered AC/CJ. Did these fascinating multiples originate from the missing rows in the sheet of the Dublin Find?

What has happened since to the mint blocks of six? Let us follow the path of the 1937 Harmer auction block of six,

AI/CJ through the decades until today. The block was spotted again after World War II at a Harmer auction in November 1950 with an estimate of GBP 200. Robson Lowe then next had the block in October 1965, when it realised an auction hammer price of GBP 540. From London it went to Zurich, when Corinphila sold the block in March 1980 for a hammer price of CHF 24'000 (approx. GBP 6.500 at the time). In 1988/1989 the block was offered by various auction houses, including Harmers of London and Phillips but remained unsold at GBP 12'000. Finally, in 1989, David Feldman possibly sold the block to Bob Cooley, whose collection was auctioned by Charles Shreves in September 1995. From there it went into the Grand-Prix collection of Dr. Pichai Buranasombati which was sold by auction in March 2001. Eventually the block was bought by Bill Gross. When the Gross collection was sold in June 2007, the block realised USD 25'000. After that, the block was reduced by the (unknown) buyer to a block of four lettered BI/CJ. It finally found its way into the Simon Beresford-Wylie collection and graced his "Candidate Grand-Prix" collection at LONDON 2022 International Stamp Exhibition.

However, delving deeper into the philatelic archives, there is reference in October 1912 that Sydney Loder exhibited his Great Gold award winning collection at the International Stamp Exhibition in the Royal Horticultural Hall in London. In the Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal,

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

Charles J. Phillips listed a number of unused rarities of the collection, including "2d. blue, 1840, four blocks of six". Since the Dublin Find part sheet EA/TL was not yet split up (R.B.Sparrow had bought the Earl of Crawford collection a year later), the "...four blocks of six..." almost certainly are identical with the four blocks of six offered later in 1936 and 1937. As the Dublin Find / Crawford sheet was not split until after approx. 1915/16, there can be no chance of four mint 2d. blocks of six existing!!

This means, the earliest note of the four blocks and thus the philatelic pedigree of the blocks is not 85 years, but actually 111 years between 1912 – 2023!!

What a fantastically long philatelic pedigree!! By the way, Karl is fairly convinced the block and its neighbouring multiples were indeed cut from the Dublin Find sheet before the Dublin Find was first discovered and itemised by the postal authorities in a handwritten schedule on 25 May 1899.

The block of four lettered BI/CJ will be offered by Corinphila as one of the gems of the Simon Beresford-Wylie collection between November 2023 and June 2025 in Zurich.



The AI/CJ block of six before and after it was reduced to a block of four BI/CJ.



PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

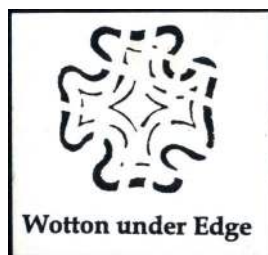
The Wotton under Edge local Maltese Cross

The Maltese Crosses were used to cancel the world's first adhesive stamps from May 1840 to April 1844. They were a mass produced device of a standard pattern. For various reasons few towns used a distinctive and mainly locally produced Maltese Cross, markedly different from the 'normal' crosses. One of the most popular 'Local Maltese Crosses' was used in the small Gloucestershire town of Wotton under Edge.

After the turn of the 20th. century, collectors spotted Maltese Cross cancellations showing different designs. J.B. Seymour was one of the first collectors who did research on local crosses. In THE BRITISH PHILATELIST (March 1928) Seymour dealt with one very special Maltese Cross which he described "...more of a curiosity than a variety", and he told the readers the following story:

"Ten years ago, or more, Mr. C. Nissen acquired a specimen of an 1840 penny stamp which was cancelled, in black ink by a cross which was broken in many places by distinct cuts.... Strangely enough, however, within a few days of the appearance of this specimen I came across a complete envelope which bore a penny stamp (Plate 7), which was obliterated, this time in red, by the identical cross in question. This cover was posted at Wotton under Edge, and was dated November 25, 1840. Some time later, Mr. John Simons showed me a handful of covers from a batch which he had recently acquired, all of which came from Wotton under Edge, and had this defaced cross showing many cross cuts".

Over the next 100 years the "curious multiple cut" Wotton under Edge became one of the most popular distinctive Maltese Crosses. The "Encyclopaedia of



The Maltese Cross" by Professor S. David Rockoff & Mike Jackson states that the distinctive Wotton under Edge Cross was used between 24 August 1840 and 28 June 1842. A good number of Penny Blacks and Penny Reds on and off covers have meanwhile been recorded. But by far the fewest strikes have been seen on 1840 2d. blues! Indeed, not one 1840 2d. blue cover is recorded to date! Off cover only three 2d. singles, two pairs (BL-CL and LK-LL) and a unique strip of three PC-PD-PE are known. The 1840 2d. blue strip of three is without doubt one of the key-items of the fascinating 'local' Maltese Crosses 1840-1844. The 2d. strip showing three clear strikes of the distinctive Wotton under Edge Cross was first seen in a Stanley Gibbons auction in Frankfurt/Germany in 1974, and was then for many years one of the highlights of the famous Major-General Sir Leonard Atkinson K.B.E. collection. It will now be offered by Corinphila in their November 2022 sale.



THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

TWO PENCE on 'Dickinson' Silk Thread Paper

On 9 March 1841 the printers Perkins Bacon returned in a letter to John Dickinson F.R.S. "... five small pieces of paper, which we have printed, three of them in pink and two in blue ink, and gummed on the backs...". The five small pieces of paper had "silk" threads embedded in them for additional security against possible postal fraud. But the paper samples were small: only 8 stamps each, from the 1841, Two Pence small Trial plate of twelve. They were part of printing experiments to test if the 'Crown' watermarked paper could be substituted by 'Silk Thread Safety Paper', invented by John Dickinson F.R.S., of Dickinson & Co., Apsley Hill near Hemel Hempstead.

34 years later, in 1875, John Dickinson jr. found in Abbot's Hill, King's Langley, in the house of his father, various notes and memorabilia connected with paper making. John Dickinson jr. gave his find to his nephew Lewis Evans, who was seriously interested in stamp collecting. Lewis Evans later reported in 'The British Philatelist', vol. XIII, 1920/21, on pages 37-39 about the original find: "*The two most important postage stamp items were two blocks of eight, one in red and the other in blue, of the trial stamps referred to in the accompanying letter of March 9th.....from Joshua B.Bacon.....*". The red block was identified to originate from positions Nos. 1-4/5-8 and the blue block from position Nos. 5-8/9-12 of the 1841, 2d. blue small Trial plate of twelve.

Confirmed by another letter from Rowland Hill to John Dickinson F.R.S. dated March 27th, 1841, Hill had returned to Dickinson "... specimens of your new label paper (which have been printed)", which were most likely the two blocks of eight found by Dickinson jr. in 1875. Most probably Hill had kept the other three blocks which, after his death, found their way on the market through Rowland Hill's son Pearson Hill.



Lewis Evens gave his two blocks in exchange to His Majesty King George V for (unspecified) various essays "...as well as the specimens of this Two Pence with silk thread, which he had. Of the four stamps which His Majesty gave...in exchange, there was one red, No.7, and three blue, No. 9 and a pair Nos. 11 and 12".

Since the Royal Collection still incorporates the two blocks of eight, only a maximum of eight 2d. blue and sixteen 2d. red on Dickinson silk thread paper remain for collectors. Three specimens of these are housed in the Phillips Collection in the National Postal Museum (N.P.M.) in London, thus reducing the number of available Trials to just seven 2d. blue and fourteen 2d. red.

The Karl Louis Card Index has records of the 2d. blue from position Nos. 6, 7 and 9 – 12, lacking only position Nos. 5 and 8. From the sixteen 2d. red only three positions, namely Nos. 1, 2 and 4, have never been seen by Karl.

The BESANÇON Collection contains a wonderful lower right corner copy of a 2d. red from position No. 8. The second 2d. red from position No. 8 is in the Phillips Collection in the N.P.M. The BESANÇON corner example is from the 'DURHAM' collection (1993), and the Bob Cooley (1995) collection. It is illustrated in Stanley Gibbons Specialised Stamp Catalogue vol.1.



Blocks of Unfinished Stamps!

In July 1899 J.W. Phillips of Stanley Gibbons Ltd. and Major Evans inspected, upon invitation of the General Post Office in London, a "parcel of stamps". Part of this parcel of stamps were Two Pence blue stamps of the 1841 issue, mentioned in the 1899 "Schedule of Envelopes and Postage Stamps found at Edinburgh and Dublin". The 'parcel of stamps' later became known as the "Dublin Find".

It seems that this was the first time that 2d blue stamps of the 1841 issue were recognised showing no letters in the lower corners. On 18 July 1899 J.W. Phillips wrote a letter to J.J. Cardin of the G.P.O. in North London mentioning "41 sheets & 9 odd stamps" of the 2d blue stamps "*without letters in lower corners*". In a memorandum of 11 September 1901, Sydney C. Wade, employee in the G.P.O. Accountant - General's Office stated: "*...I had left with W.Plumridge the 41 blocks of unfinished stamps with instructions to do the best he could with them, after he had said they were of little or no value... He told me today that he had thrown them in with the other stamps – a liberal interpretation of my instructions.*" Alerted to this misinterpretation of Wade's request the G.P.O. reclaimed all of the material with the exception of three blocks. One of the three sheets that could not be retrieved was sold soon after by Puttick & Simpson on 29 October 1901 for 3 pounds 3 shillings hammer! The first ever record of a 2d. Trial sheet of twelve in Karl's Card Index sold at a stamp auction.

From the remaining 2d. sheets of twelve one was given to the Muniment Room (the forerunner of the British Postal Museum & Archive), one to the Prince of Wales. Eventually the remaining sheets were



sold, by private treaty, in bulk with the other stamps from the "Dublin Find" on 7 March 1904 to W.H. Peckitt.

Today the 1841 2d. blue Trial sheets of 12 without corner letters are among the rarest and most prominent rarities of the 1841 issue. Produced in haste on a small trial plate of twelve as samples for distribution with the Postal Notices to announce the new design of the 2d. stamps in February 1841, the 41 sheets were left-overs, many of which have meanwhile been cut up into singles, pairs and blocks of four, others are in institutional collections with three such sheets in the National Postal Museum, London.

The "Blue Symphony" collection of the late Burkhart Beer contains an 1841 2d. blue trial sheet of twelve, to be offered in the November sale of Corinphila Auctions in Zürich.



The 1841, 2d. blue trial plate "Gutter Sheet of 2 x 12"

Due to the delay of finishing the new printing plate of the 1841, 2d. "with white lines", a small trial plate of 12 impressions without corner letterings was made to print the specimens urgently required for the distribution of the Postal Notices to announce the new 1d. red and 2d. blue stamp issue of 1841.

The small sheets of 12 were provisionally printed on the large sized "Small Crown" watermark paper that was normally used to print from steel plates of 240 stamps. The sheet margins of the few surviving 2d. blue trial sheets of 12 were mainly between 5 – 10 mm wide. It is not known, if the large sized "Small Crown" printing sheet was divided first into small paper bits of approx. 9,5 x 10,0 cm and then printed individually on the small trial plate of 12 stamps, or if the large sheet of 240 was shifted intact between each individual print run underneath the small trial plate, leaving a "gutter" between the small sheets of 10 – 12 mm for a separation after the printing was finished.

A new Find may shed some more light to the question of the paper separation ,before or after' the printing. The upcoming Corinphila auction scheduled for the end of November 2024 will offer a 2d. blue trial sheet of 12 showing very characteristic 'uneven' edges of the sheet margins. When Karl got the sheet consigned, he checked his Card Index to see if he may find the original adjoining trial sheet. He was lucky to spot the formerly adjoining 2d. blue trial sheet of 12, forming a (separated) "pair of 2d. small trial sheets" with a 11 mm "Gutter Margin" in between.

This find may indicate, that the small trial plate was struck 15 times (five horizontal rows of three small sheets of 12) on the large sized intact printing sheet originally designed for 240 stamps. And then the 15 small sheets were separated

between the horizontal and vertical gutters. Corinphila will offer the upper small sheet. The lower small sheet was offered in a Phillips auction in February 1990. Perhaps the two 2d. small sheets can be "reunited" in the nearer or longer future, if the Phillips 1990 sheet has not been split up since. It would make a glorious album page with a re-joined "Gutter Sheet of 2 x 12"!





Symphony in Blue!

The fantastic 1841, 2d. blue plate 3,

Corner Plate Number block of four!

When Corinphila was entrusted to auction off the "BESANÇON" Collection, the splendid corner marginal block of four of the 1841, 2d. blue immediately caught the eye of Corinphila's philatelic experts. The question was raised about the history and provenance of this beautiful and amazing multiple.

The Karl Louis Card Index provided a surprising answer! At first no earlier provenance could be found than 1985, when the block was seen in Corinphila Auction No. 72 from 23-28 September 1985. But why could no earlier provenances for this marvellous block be located?

Continuous research ended with an extraordinary result: The mint 2d. corner sheet marginal block of four, SA/TB, was

formerly part of an irregular block of eleven comprising SA-SE/TA-TF that was offered by Stanley Gibbons in their auction in Frankfurt, Germany in 1974 and again in London (March 1975). Could it be true? The wonderful sheet marginal block of 11 had been split up?

Assuming it had been split into smaller multiples or singles, where were the remaining letterings SC-SE/TC-TF? It appears the block was cut almost immediately after the SG sale as the 2d. block of four SD/TE, could be spotted in Karl's Card Index in a Robson Lowe auction in April 1977. This confirms that the original block of eleven must have been split between March 1975 and the beginning of 1977. The formerly adjoining 2d. marginal single TF was offered in a Christies sale in April 1986. But what about the "missing" vertical pair SC-TC? Since the block of eleven has been cut up, the remaining pair SC-TC has never been seen again, neither as a vertical pair, nor as two singles. SC and TC were originally described as crossed by a vertical crease, but hopefully they still exist. Karl would be very interested to get information about their existence to complete his provenance on this remarkable multiple. It is a constant that in classic philately, large multiples get ever smaller by being 'hacked up' for resale - thus making those blocks that do survive even rarer.

The fantastic mint 1841 2d. blue corner marginal block of four lettered SA/TB will be offered by Corinphila in Part 3 of the "BESANÇON" collection in June 2020.





The irregular block of 11

Provenance: Stanley Gibbons, Frankfurt (1974), Stanley Gibbons, London (1975)



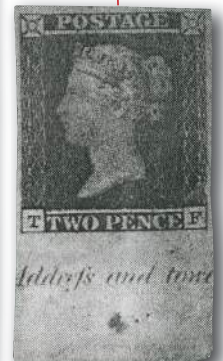
The Corner Plate Number block of four
Provenance:
72nd Corinphila Auction (1985)



The missing
vertical pair
?



The marginal block of four
Provenance:
Robson Lowe Auction (1977)



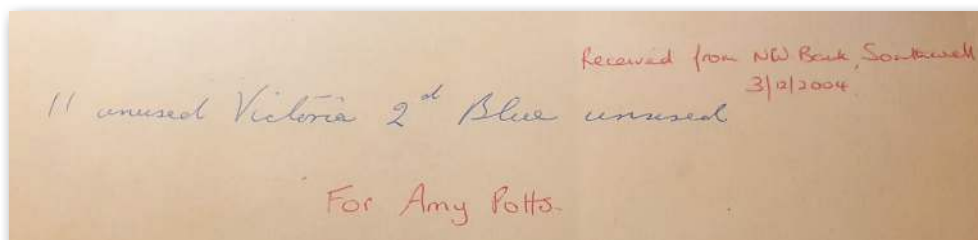
The marginal single
Provenance:
Christies (1986)



PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

Amy Potts and the forgotten „11 Victoria 2d Blue“



The notation on the large envelope

In February 2023 Karl Louis received an email from a philatelic friend. Upon reading the message, Karl was thrilled. He was asked by his friend, if there were any records or provenances for **“....a mint lower strip of 11, 1841, 2d., plate 3, lettered TA-TK showing full inscription and plate number at lower left”**.

Karl's answer was quite simple: *“.....nothing recorded in my Card Index.....also no larger block from which it could have been cut....and not the slightest idea where such a strip could have come from”*. The next day he received a scan of the item! To the best of Karl's

friend's knowledge and due to the lack of information in Karl's Card Index, it became obvious that the strip had never been offered on the philatelic market before, nor had been part of any significant philatelic collection. The 2d. blue strip has been in family hands for generations, stored and forgotten in a bank vault of the National Provincial Bank, one of the “Big Five” banks in Britain with a long tradition dating back to 1833. More than half a century ago, in 1970, the National Provincial Bank became the National Westminster Bank. This highly important philatelic “gem” was secured in





an old brown "National Provincial Bank" envelope with a manuscript notation on the front "11 Victoria 2d. Blue unused" and an additional note: "For Amy Potts".

Amy Pott's "11 Victoria 2d Blue unused" takes its place amongst the most important stamp finds over the last 70 or 80 years, with:

- I.R. OFFICIAL, 1902, Edward VII, 10 shillings mint block of 9, found in the 1940's.
- 1840 1d. Black, plate 8, re-joined mint block of 18, RC/TH, plus a strip of 3, TI-TK. Both multiples have been split into singles or smaller multiples.
- "Janet Davidson" 1840 1d. Black, plate 6 block of six, AF/BH, discovered in Scotland in 1971 in an envelope inscribed "some Queen's heads given to Janet Davidson by her father the day before he took to his bed in his last illness". This block does still exist.



We are proud to offer Amy Pott's "11 Victoria 2d Blue unused", one of the most important stamp finds for many years, in Corinphila's June 2023 auction.



Address and towards the RIGHT HAND SIDE of the Letter. In Wetting the Back be careful not to remove

New Find: 1841, 2d. blue, plate 3, lettered TA-TK, unused strip of eleven!



PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

Surprisingly rare:

1847, Embossed 1 shilling used on Domestic Mail

The 1847, Embossed 1 shilling green was issued to pay the rate of postage to the United States and some of the more distant of the British Colonies and Post Offices abroad. On Domestic Mail, the Embossed 1s. could be used, but is rarely seen.

When the stamp was issued in September 1847, the Registered Fee of 1s. could only be paid in money. In May 1848 the option was given to pay the Registered Fee by stamps or money, but the fee was already lowered to 6d. In consequence the use of the Embossed 1s. green on domestic mail was extremely limited to paying the postage for heavy weight letters.

Less than 1% of the recorded covers in The Karl Louis Card Index franked with Embossed 1s. adhesives are domestic use. The majority of these are 1s. green single frankings paying 6d. for a letter up to 4 ounces plus 6d. Registered fee. In addition just two domestic registered covers are recorded bearing the Embossed 1s. green + 6d. purple adhesives. And only three covers

bear 1s. green + 10d. brown frankings. Two more recorded domestic Registered covers are mixed frankings 1s. green + 1841, 2d. blue. That's all!

Probably the most important 1847, Embossed 1s. green Domestic Mail franking recorded, is the Mixed Franking registered cover from the Ray Simpson collection: Embossed 1s. green + 1855, Line Engraved 2d. blue plate 5, perf. 16 + 1855, Surface printed 4d. carmine (pair). Ray commented on the original album sheet: *".....the only recorded example of domestic use of a triple embossed, line engraved and surface printed stamp combination.....also features a perforation-related mixed franking with the 2d. blue perf. 16 and the 4d. carmine, perf. 14."* Nothing more to add to the experts comment!!

Were you aware of the extraordinary rarity of this cover? It will be offered in the November 2024 sale of Corinphila as an auction lot from the Ray Simpson 'Mixed Frankings' collection.



Probably the most important 1847, Embossed 1s. green Domestic Mail franking recorded, is the Mixed Franking registered cover from the Ray Simpson collection: Embossed 1s. green + 1855, Line Engraved 2d. blue plate 5, perf. 16 + 1855, Surface printed 4d. carmine (pair).

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

The 1848, 10d. brown handstamped SPECIMEN „puzzle“

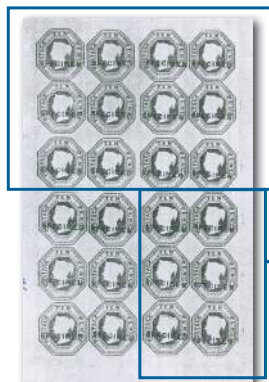
Sometimes the analysis of historic philatelic magazines, or auction lots offered in historic auction catalogues, raises unexpected question marks. A frequent query raised is, why a large mint multiple, spotted in one of these early records, has never been seen again.

This is the case for an impressive mint pane of 24 of the 1848, 10d. brown handstamped SPECIMEN. This multiple was illustrated more than 110 years ago in 'THE BRITISH PHILATELIST', January 1912, on page 86. Since then, it has never been spotted again as a complete pane of 24.

The 10d brown overprinted SPECIMEN was used as samples attached to Postal Notices sent to all Postmasters in 1848 to announce the new issue. 73 leftovers of the 10d. with SPECIMEN handstamps were found in sheets or part sheets in 1899 at the Dublin General Post Office. 71 of these were sold by Private Treaty in 1904 via Plumridge & Co. to the stamp dealer W.H.Peckitt.

35 years later, on the occasion of the sale of the K. J. Mulder collection by Harmers of London in June 1939, we saw the original pane of 24 split up and offered as a block of 12 from the top of the pane and a block of 6 from the lower left corner of the pane.

The „missing“ lower right corner block of 6 was later seen in the T. P. Palmer collection, sold by Robson Lowe in October 1978 and in the Wade collection offered in March 1997 by Phillips. The puzzle of the split up 10d. SPECIMEN pane of 24 was solved. The upper half block of 12 was not to be seen for the next 64 years, until the sale of the K. J. Mulder collection in 1939! This 10d. half pane of 12 overprinted SPECIMEN was one of the „gems“ of the „Koh-I-Noor“ collection sold by Harmers of London in July 2003. Since then the half pane has resided in the BESANCON collection and will be offered in the June 2024 sale of the BESANCON collection at Corinphila in Zurich. More than 110 years of proven Provenance! How many items do we know which have a pedigree of that length?





PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

"100 Years of Provenance": The pedigree of the famous "Ewins Bennett" cover with Malta "Wavy Line" obliteration.

More than 90 years ago, Bertram McGowan, one of the most important Great Britain collectors of the first half of the last century, drew the reader's attention, in the April 1930 issue of THE BRITISH PHILATELIST, to a most fascinating item of Great Britain and Malta Postal History: *"I shall refer to an interesting envelope which I acquired at Plumridge's auction-sale on 1st. November 1917. The envelope (...) is franked with two British stamps, the 1s. octagonal of 1847, and a Penny stamp of Die II, Small Crown, perforated 16. The stamps are separately cancelled with a postmark in black consisting of seven parallel curved lines joined at each end by two vertical, curved shorter lines. On the back of the envelope there is struck the large date mark (...) July 3 1855."*

The exceedingly rare Malta "Wavy Line" obliteration was all but unknown to collectors at the time. But when Bertram McGowan bought the cover in 1917 at Plumridge's he had realised the curious "Wavy Line" cancellation - now amongst the rarest of all cancellations from British Post Offices abroad. By 1930 he had discovered just one more single off-cover Penny red cancelled thus, also in his own collection. Luckily enough Bertram McGowan mentioned in his report the "3 July 1855" as the date of the cover, so the cover shown can be identified as being the famous "Ewins Bennett, Marston Hall" cover.

Having realised its importance for British and Malta Postal History, Bertram McGowan selected the cover to exhibit as one the Highlights of the Royal Silver



Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition, held by Fellows and Members of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in honour of His Majesty the King, Their Patron, to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of his reign, on May 6, 1935.

By the middle of the century this 'Key-item' for British Postal History was to be found housed in the famous Malta collection of H.A. Cann (sold in 1970) and was therefore not available prior to that for Grant Glassco to acquire for his fantastic collection of British Post Offices Abroad. Glassco certainly much regretted that he had missed or never had the chance to acquire the cover. In 1989 the "Ewins Bennett cover" was sold in the Francisco collection, by R.L. Christies in March 1989.

One of the "Crown Jewels" of Malta and British Post Offices Abroad Postal History, the cover will be available in the DUBOIS collection, part II, in early June 2021 at Corinphila. Where will the new home for this iconic cover be? A cover with so many important provenances, stretching back for more than 100 years? Will it be a leading Malta collection or a more general British Post Offices Abroad collection? We can only wait and see...



1870, 'Bantam' ½d. plate 9

The 1870, ½d. rose-red was issued to match the reduced rate for newspapers and other printed matters on 1st. October 1870. The issue was printed over a period of ten years from 15 different plates, numbered between 1 and 20. Due to fracture of the roller dies or imperfect lay-down, plates 2, 7, 16, 17 and 18 were not completed. Plates 21 and 22 were laid down but were not put to press. By far the rarest plate is number 9 which was kept in reserve.

A good number of large or even very large mint multiples have survived from all of the plates, however multiples of the Bantam ½d. from plate 9 are exceedingly rare. Despite the upper right corner block of 72 which has the honour to grace the Royal Collection, a block of 9, lettered BJ-BL / DJ-DL, is the largest mint multiple remaining in private hands. Beside this block of 9, the Karl Louis Card Index records just seven mint blocks of four, two of which have not been seen for more than 50 years! Two mint pairs and a further mint block of 4 have been split into single examples during the last 20 or 30 years.

The largest mint multiple from plate 9 of today, the block of 9, BJ-DL, was first recorded by Karl when it was part of an irregular block of 13 lettered BJ-FL (less EJ and FJ). Robson Lowe offered this block for sale in his auction dated 30 May 1940. The May 1940 lot description stated: "If the above lot (the block of 13) remains unsold at a reserve of £65 it will be offered as two lots:

(a) A mint block of nine BJ-DL

(b) A mint block of four EK-FL"



It seems that the multiple was indeed split into the two blocks as mentioned, as the block of 13 has never been seen since. The block of four EK-FL was later split into pairs and/or singles. EK-EL is recorded as a pair in the 51st Corinphila sale of March 1966. FK-FL has disappeared since the 1940 auction. EK-EL was split into singles shortly before the turn of the century in the late 1990's.

The block of nine, BJ-DL, was offered again half a century later at a Stanley Gibbons auction from the H.F. 'Johnny' Johnson estate, thence into the "BESANÇON" collection, where it has remained for the last 30 years. Who will be the lucky buyer in Corinphila's auction on 7 September 2020 to enhance his collection with the most important mint multiple of the Bantam ½d. rose-red in private hands?



PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS “CARD INDEX”

A Philatelic Pedigree of 110+ Years

The 1855 4d. carmine was the first British Surface-printed stamp and the first postage stamp printed by De La Rue. Complaints from the Post Office regarding printing ink, paper, and the size of the watermark forced both the printers and the paper makers into various changes. The combinations of ink, paper, and watermarks created some of the greatest philatelic rarities, such as the 4d. “Crawford / Hind” mint block of six with the Medium Garter watermark.

When De La Rue won the contract for printing the new Fourpence stamps, they decided to use highly glazed (coated) “safety” paper that turned blue. The unwanted blueing was caused by the addition of prussiate of potash reacting with small traces of iron in the paper. The highly glazed surface coating prevented the printing ink from sufficiently penetrating the dry paper, and the colour consequently had a tendency to peel off. Obliterations could be removed, as proven in experiments carried out by the Post Office. In addition, the Small Garter watermark interfered with the appearance of Her Majesty’s head. All of this led to ongoing complaints from the Post Office.

In response, the printer De La Rue and the paper maker Turner & Co., Chafford Mills, experimented with different printing inks and different papers. Furthermore, a new and larger-sized Garter watermark was requested by Ormond Hill on 16 November 1855:

“...saw Mr. Turner, and settled that it would be best to have ... new Garters to both the 4d moulds.”

As a result of these complaints and printing problems, the first Surface-printed issue saw a complex range of papers (blue, white, glazed, ordinary), inks (carmine, rose), and Garter watermarks (small, medium, large) in various combinations during 1856. The parameters



for future printings were finally set in autumn 1856 (rose ink – ordinary paper – Large Garter watermark). The changes for the 4d. value were so significant that a new Postal Notice announcing “New kind of Shilling and Fourpenny labels” was distributed to Post Offices in October 1856.

Mint multiples of the 1856 “transitional” period, featuring various inks, papers, and watermarks, are among the greatest rarities in British philately. A 4d. carmine block of six, still on glazed blued paper but with the new Medium Garter watermark, marks the beginning of the 1856 experiments. The block was a key item for the first Surface-printed issue in the Earl of Crawford Collection around the turn of the 19th to the 20th century. The collection was acquired by Charles Nissen in 1914. Nissen illustrated the 4d. block of six in *The British Philatelist* in March 1916 as one of the gems of the Crawford Collection. The block later entered the Arthur Hind collection (offered in 1934), appeared in a Harmer auction in February 1967, and resurfaced in a Phillips auction in April 1988.

The famous 4d. Medium Garter on blued glazed paper, ex Crawford and Hind, graced with a philatelic pedigree of more than 110 years, will be offered in the May/June 2026 auction of Corinphila in Zürich.



Discovery in Mayfair: 1862 9d bistre – the largest mint multiple in private hands.

One hundred years ago, in 1925, one of the most remarkable discoveries of mint Victorian stamps emerged from a quiet attic in Mayfair. The find included large blocks and part sheets of Great Britain and British Commonwealth issue. Among them a spectacular mint block of twelve of the 1862 9d bistre, still today one of the largest surviving mint multiples of its kind in private hands.

The story of the "Mayfair Find" begins much earlier, in 1863–1864, when a young schoolboy became enthralled by the fashionable new pastime of stamp collecting. While many of his classmates built their collections through exchanging stamps with friends, this particular boy, who was evidently from a wealthy family, took a more ambitious approach. He sent remittances of £1 to £5 to postmasters across the Colonies and abroad, requesting supplies of current stamps. Their replies were typically formal letters acknowledging receipt of funds, listing the stamps enclosed, and noting any balance retained for future postage.

The boy did not limit himself to foreign postmasters. He also purchased stamps from his local Post Office, including a newly issued block of twelve of the 9d bistre. Shortly thereafter, however, he embarked on a military career. The correspondence, with all its enclosures, was set aside and eventually forgotten.

Sixty-one years later, in the summer of 1925, the schoolboy's great-granddaughter, a titled lady, was clearing the attic of the family's Mayfair residence when she came upon the long-forgotten bundle of letters. Neither she nor her husband knew anything about philately. They sought the advice of H. R. Harmer, then one of London's leading stamp auctioneers, who recognised the significance of



the material. The collection was entrusted to him and offered at auction that autumn, where it drew considerable excitement and achieved outstanding results.

Among the treasures was the mint corner block of twelve of the 1862 Ninepence bistre, offered as Lot 94. The piece soon entered the distinguished collection of Baron Anthony de Worms, one of the foremost philatelists of his era. In 1938, Charles Nissen acquired the entire "Baronet's Collection" intact, later illustrating the famed block in the August 1938 issue of *The British Philatelist*.*

The block resurfaced in May 1966 in the sale of the exceptional unused collection of A. Kennedy-Kisch of Newcastle, Co. Wicklow, Ireland. In later years it became part of the renowned collection of Dr Douglas Latta, sold by Phillips in October 1992, and subsequently entered the celebrated "BESANÇON" Collection, auctioned by Corinphila in June 2019.

Today, only two mint blocks of twelve are known to survive in private hands—the "Mayfair Block" being one of them. With its impeccable provenance spanning more than a century, this extraordinary philatelic rarity will be offered once again by Corinphila in May 2026.



The 1862, 4d. plate 4 imperforate

'The British Philatelist' in January 1909 reported a new find of an 1862, 4d. perforation variety: "....another chronicled, but uncatalogued, variety is the Fourpence, plate 4, imperforate. We have a photograph of a vertical pair (.....).The stamps bear an Irish obliteration, number '186', which indicates a posting at Dublin".

Already Wright & Creeke stated in 1899 in their handbook "The Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles: "....copies from plate 4 are to be found imperforate".

Assuming that the vertical used imperforate 4d. pair reported by 'The British Philatelist' in 1909 was a 'new find', then Wright & Creeke's mention must certainly have applied to unused imperforate 4d. stamps. Nevertheless the first record in the Karl Louis Card Index of a mint 4d. plate 4, imperforate variety dates back to 1918, when a single example, lettered HA was sold for 120 Reichsmark (a fortune at the time!) in the first auction of Ernst Stock in Berlin.

To date the Karl Louis Card Index records 93 mint 4d. plate 4 imperforates, in singles, pairs and multiples. The letterings all originate from the upper half of a sheet from horizontal rows A to J. No duplicate letterings are known in mint condition. This indicates that the 4d. plate 4 imperforate half sheet, AA-JL was the only to come on to the market.

During the last 120 years, this half sheet of 120 stamps has been split: mostly into singles and pairs. Two blocks of six represent the largest multiples existing today. This is CA-DC and HJ-IL. The "BESANÇON" collection contains one of the two known blocks of six, CA-DC. The other block of six, HJ-IL from the K.J.Mulder Collection,



was sold by Harmer in London on 19-21 June 1939, and has never been seen since. The "BESANÇON" block of six, lettered CA-DC, must now therefore be regarded as of the highest importance for this spectacular Surface Printed 1862, 4d. plate 4 perforation variety, especially when one considers that the blocks in the National Postal Museum and in the Royal Collection are 'only' blocks of four.

The "BESANÇON" block of six CA-DC formerly graced the important stamp collections of A.Kennedy-Kisch sold in May 1966 and Dr. Douglas Latto, sold in October 1992. After 27 years in strong hands, who will be the future lucky owner of the largest recorded multiple of the 1862, 4d. plate 4, imperforate variety?



Dr. Douglas Latto



The 1862, 4d. plate 4 imperforate

An update!

In GB Journal Volume 58 Number 4 (July/August 2020) I wrote about the 1862, 4d. plate 4, variety 'Imperforate'. A few weeks later I got an email from Geoff Kellow RDP from Melbourne, Australia. We have been in contact for many years and from time to time we have exchanged information on provenances and the number of existing items. Besides Australia and States, Geoff also has compiled large records of important and valuable British stamps. He attached a census file with a long list of his recorded letterings of the 4d. imperforate.

From my records of 93 different letterings, I could add a number of letterings to Geoff's list from my Card Index. He has also added to my listing so that the total we both now have is 107 different letterings. Bearing in mind that only 120 letterings from the upper half of a printing sheet of 240 had come on to the market, this makes a total of nearly 90%. Despite the fact that we will possibly never get to 100% completion, I believe it is a remarkable survey of those that exist.

We were also able to clarify an "imperforate horizontal pair from the lower left corner of the sheet" which was on Geoff's list and offered but not illustrated in the Michael Stephens collection when sold at Harmers, London in 1937.

« I am delighted to continue to receive information and I thank all of those who have responded to these articles. »



Unfortunately Harmers did not mention the letterings of the pair in the lot description. If this pair really came from the lower left corner of the sheet, it should have corner letters TA and TB. These two positions would comprehensively prove the assumption of just one upper half sheet having been separated was in error. As it finally turned out, the "horizontal pair from the lower left corner" originated from the lower left corner of the upper left pane of 60 and must therefore have been lettered JA-JB.

I thank Geoff for having supplied and exchanged additional information for my Card Index. I have also received other snippets of information and illustrations from other collectors and stamp dealers since I started my series "Pick of the Pack".

I am delighted to continue to receive information and I thank all of those who have responded to these articles. Please always feel free to contact me when you have additional questions on the various "Pick of the Pack" topics. It will be a pleasure for me to respond! Contact me at any time on: louis@corinphila.ch



PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

Mint multiples and their fascinating History!



The upcoming Corinphila Auction in June 2025 presents an extraordinary selection of mint multiples of the surface printed issues. Many of these strips and blocks have not been seen in the philatelic public since the mid 1960s.

One of these fascinating mint multiples is an exceptionally freshly preserved mint block of eight of the 1864, 4d. vermilion, plate 9, lettered AA/BD. When Karl searched through his card index for provenances, he was surprised at being unable to find the item in his files. Going more into detail of all mint items recorded from the 4d. plate 9, he soon realised, that most of the recorded mint strips and blocks originate from the upper half of the top left pane of 60 from a printing sheet of 240.

A detailed virtual reconstruction of the known mint blocks by letterings made a larger block

„visible“. He was able to identify the formerly attaching multiples to the 4d. block of eight, AA/BD. Together with the two blocks of eight, AE/DF and CA/BD the block of eight AA/BD originally formed a block of twenty-four, AA/ DF!

Knowing now that a block of 24 or larger must have existed in the past, Karl wondered if he could find the provenance for such a block. And indeed, he was lucky to find two entries in his card index for a mint block

of twenty-four: The Trivett collection, sold by Plumridge in November 1924 contained a block of twenty-four. Later, the block of twenty-four was spotted again in the Kennedy-Kisch collection sold by Harmer in May 1966. Unfortunately not illustrated in the auction catalogue, but the description mentioned „...lower right corner a little rounded“. Then the large block was never seen again.

What a fascinating philatelic pedigree for the 4d. vermilion, plate 9 block of eight, AA/BD: ex Trivett (1924), ex Kennedy-Kisch (1966), and never seen again since. But why was the block not spotted again? The consignor of the block (and many more mint multiples of the surface printed issues) was very active in assembling his wonderful collection in the mid 1960s. He preferred to collect for himself and avoided the spotlight of exhibitions.



Dramatic Misalignment of the Perforation Comb

"Mis-perforation", caused by inaccurate pinning of the sheets in the perforation machine, are more frequently seen on 1d. and 2d. line engraved issues. But for the surface printed issues they are extremely rare, especially in unused condition. One of the most striking "mis-perforation" varieties occurs on the 1864, 4 pence vermilion, plate 12.

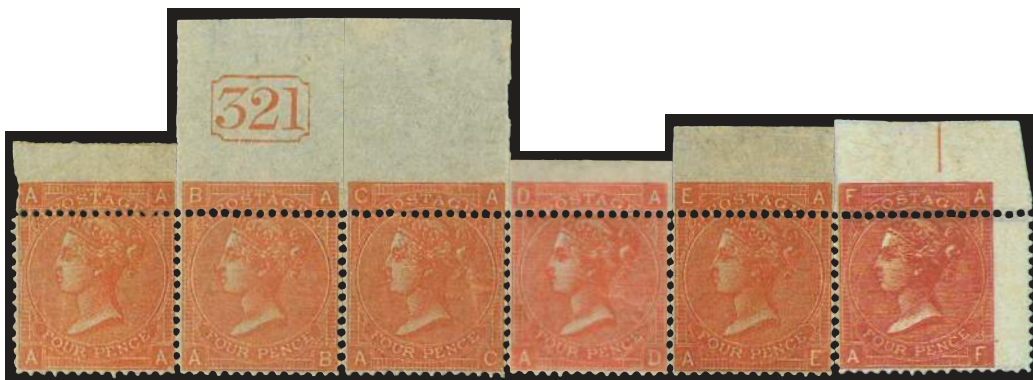
The earliest record of a "mis-perforated" 4d. vermilion, plate 12, according to the Karl Louis card index, goes back to 1945. In December of that year, Robson Lowe offered the Dendy Marshall collection. A mint pair with sheet margin at top, described as "slipped perforation", was offered as Lot 505. Ten years later, in January 1955, the Bailey collection offered by Harmer also contained a pair "...from top of the sheet with perfs. misplaced". It can be assumed that this pair was identical with the Dendy Marshall pair. Unfortunately, neither Robson Lowe or Harmer mentioned the corner letters, nor were they illustrated in the auction catalogues.

In time, Dr Douglas Latta came across this dramatic and rare 4d. plate 12 "misperforation". Over the years he had

acquired a pair AB – AC (the Marshall / Bailey pair?) and also two singles AA and AE, certainly realising that all four stamps originated from the same pane of 60, lacking only two missing letterings to complete the top row of six; AA – AF.

The two missing letterings were AD and AF. Karl spotted the 4d., AF, in a Phillips auction in February 1987. And the last "missing lamb", the 4d. lettered AD, he finally found in Ray Simpson's fantastic collection, "British Stamp Perforation 1840-1883", which was awarded Gold at the London 2022 International Stamp Exhibition. Ray was also lucky to acquire another single AB showing the current De La Rue plate number "320" in the margin. This means, the only existing pair had been split into singles after the Dr Douglas Latta sale in 1992.

It is interesting to note that only the six "mis-perforated" 4d. vermilion from the top row lettered AA – AF, originating from the upper left pane from plate 1, are recorded. The original strip of six is shown visually re-joined. AB and AD will be part of the Ray Simpson collection offered by Corinphila at the end of November 2023.





PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

The Rarest 1867, 10d red-brown Variety!

In 1867 a 10d. value was introduced for prepayment of postage to India, Mauritius and Australia. Although only 10 years in use, this 10d. stamp saw a number of rare varieties: Inverted watermarks, an error printed on watermark Emblems, an "abnormal" printing plate 2 which was never put to press with the exceptions of the five extra sheets for registration of which the Imprimatur sheet was taken for archive storage. But the rarest 10d. error of all is an Imperforate error. Not very much is known about it.

The earliest record of the existence of an imperforate variety of the surface printed 1867, 10d. red-brown in the Karl Louis Card Index is found in a description of the Judge Philbrick collection in 'The London Philatelist' in 1895, on page 75. This description mentions "...a pair imperforate", but unfortunately adds no more details, e.g. the letterings were not given. Over the years only very few pairs have been recorded. Singles cut from the Imprimatur sheets in earlier years often were wrongly described as 'imperforate errors' instead of 'Imperforate Imprimaturs'.

Karl's Card Index records just four imperforate pairs. They are lettered MK-ML, NK-NL, PK-PL and SA-SB. While the first three pairs from the M-, N- and P- rows which most likely originally formed a larger block cut into pairs (of which OK-OL is still missing), the pair lettered SA-SB is from the left side of a sheet.

The Provenances:

MK-ML is first recorded from a Robson Lowe auction in June 1952 and in September 1968. From there the pair found its way into the Dr. Douglas Latto collection (October 1992) and finally into the BESANÇON collection.

NK-NL was first seen in a Harmer of London auction in July 1936. Today it found anew home in the famous and Grand-Prix awarded collection of Dr. Bob Galland.

PK-PL can now be found in the Royal Collection of His Majesty King Charles III.

SA-SB was seen in a Harmer February 1967 auction, then in 1992 in Dr. Douglas Latto's collection where it was possibly bought by Sir Gawaine Baillie, whose celebrated collection of Surface Printed Issues was sold in 2004.

None of the above pairs can originate from an Imprimatur sheet. The letterings of the first three mentioned pairs are still present on the imperforate Imprimatur sheet. Only the pair SA-SB could have been cut as a pair from the Imprimatur sheet. But this is not possible, since the Imprimatur single lettered SB is housed in the Royal Collection. The Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue of Great Britain also lists an "Imperforate single", but based on Karl's Card Index it could well be possible that this is based on imperforate Imprimaturs described in error as a normally issued "imperforate" stamps.

Since one pair is housed in the Royal Collection, only three out of the four imperforate 10d. pairs recorded in Karl's Card Index are available for collectors. This makes the 10d. imperforate variety the scarcest variety of the 1867 10d. issue and one of the rarest varieties of all Surface Printed issues.

The BESANÇON Collection, part V, offered by Corinphila in June 2024 will give collectors a chance to acquire the 10d. red-brown MK-ML imperforate pair. And will we see the imperforate rarity exhibited in BIRMINGHAM 2025?



THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

'OLD' and 'NEW' Design! The Change from Large White to Large Coloured Corner Letters

In February 1872 the stamp printers De La Rue submitted to the Board of Inland Revenue three sets of coloured die proofs for the seven low value stamps in use showing coloured corner letters instead of white corner letters. For comparison De La Rue also attached the seven low values in the old design in similar die proofs for comparison. The sets were handstamped 'OLD' and 'NEW' respectively. The reason for the change of the design proposed by De La Rue was to speed up production of printing plates due to increasing demand for adhesive stamps. In addition to the three sets of 'OLD' & 'NEW' die proofs delivered to the Board of Inland Revenue, De La Rue kept another set for their archive, making a total of four sets produced.

The History of the 'Four sets'

Robert B. Galland studied and listed in 'Surface Printed Postage Stamps 1855-1883 - Low Values' (2009) for the first time the individual 'four sets'. Bob stated 'Set 1' now being in the Royal Collection. 'Set 2' and 'Set 3' have been seen in private hands and in auction. 'Set 4' was offered for the first time on the market in December 1976, when Robson Lowe sold the holding of the Board of Inland Revenue. This 'Set 4' was bought by the National Postal Museum, thus today only two sets in private hands are possible. The 'BESANÇON' collection contains a fascinating pair of the 9d. 'OLD' & 'NEW' die proofs, the 'NEW' die proof being endorsed in pencil "approved 11 March 1872 - 2280/72" – this stated to be in Ormond Hill's handwriting.

Robert B. Galland's Research

Based on Bob Galland's research and supported by Karl's Card Index, the 'BESANÇON' 9d. 'OLD' & 'NEW' pair of die proofs originate from 'Set 2'. They are unique in private hands in regard of the following aspects: From 'Set 3'



only the 9d. 'NEW' design die proof is recorded, but very much reduced in size and therefore with the handstamp 'NEW' missing. The 9d. 'OLD' design die proof from 'set 3' has never been found, neither by Robert Galland, nor is it recorded in Karl's Card Index. So the 'BESANÇON' 9d. pair of the 'OLD' & 'NEW' die proofs must originate from 'Set 2'. Thus the 9d. 'OLD' die proof is unique in private hands, the 9d. 'NEW' die proof is also unique in private hands showing the handstamp 'NEW'!

Prominent Provenances

Confirmed provenances of the 'BESANÇON' 9d. pair of die proofs in Karl's Card Index are most prominent: The first record could be traced to the W.E. Sugden collection sold by Robson Lowe in January 1951. They were bought by Major K.M. Beaumont, C.B.E., D.S.O, President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, from 1953-1956 and first president of the Great Britain Philatelic Society. Major K.M. Beaumonts collection was sold through Robson Lowe by auction in December 1965 and the 9d. pair of die proofs went into the collection of Dr. Douglas Latta F.R.P.S.L. (sold in by auction in October 1992) one of Britain's foremost gynaecological specialists.

Since 1992 the pair of die proofs have rested in the 'BESANÇON' collection. Never exhibited by the collector, only very few people ever had a chance to see them. They will now be offered in May 2020 in part 2 of the 'BESANÇON' series of auctions at Corinphila in Zurich. During LONDON 2020 International Stamp Exhibition the 9d. pair of 'OLD' & 'NEW' die proofs can be viewed at Corinphila's superbooth.



PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

1877, 4d. sage green, mint multiples.

Mint multiples of the Surface Printed issues are amongst the most fascinating items of Classic Great Britain Philately. Compared to printing figures extremely few such multiples have survived. Most multiples initially recorded have since been split up. Unfortunately our knowledge about the original large multiples that existed is very limited due to the lack of photographs made at the beginning of the 20th Century. Early auction lot descriptions simply mentioned the size of a multiple, but often did not mention the letterings or indeed the margins. In many cases the only way to identify the position and the letterings of the original multiple is to reconstruct them from today's recorded smaller multiples that originate from the original large block.

The earliest source available for a large mint multiple of the 1877, 4d. sage-green, plate 16, is *The British Philatelist*, vol. VIII, 1915/16, published by Charles Nissen. Nissen was the leading stamp dealer at the time and had just acquired the Earl of Crawford collection. Unfortunately not very many details are known about this legendary collection, except for the very limited information and

illustrations published by Nissen in the following years in his philatelic magazine. Nissen advertised a half sheet of 120 subjects in 1916 at the enormous wartime sum of £50. The sheet presumably did not find a buyer and was therefore split: by 1951 the largest multiple in the Karl Louis Card Index is a block of 42 (6 x 7) with gutter margin at base most probably lettered DG-DL / JG-JL, offered in Seymour in June 1951 (lot 967). Two years later this had been split again: in May 1953 the interpanneau marginal block of 18 (to be offered in the Besancon series of sales by Corinphila) lettered HG-HL / JG-JL, was sold at Robson Lowe on May 6, 1953 (lot 582). This block reappeared at RL where it sold and then was tucked away until offered at David Feldman in October 1995 (lot 20078), correctly described as 'believed to be the largest known multiple'.

It is interesting to note from the Karl Louis Card Index that nearly all recorded multiples emanate from the upper half of the sheet with the second largest multiple, a block of twelve (3 x 4), being lettered BA-BC / EA-EC, ex the Howard O. Fraser collection sold at Spink in November 2001, lot 744.



THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

IGNORED RARITY: Interpanneau Multiples

The arrangement of printing plates of the 3d., 6d., 9d., 10d., 1s. and 2s. Surface Printed Issues was divided in "panes" of 20 stamps until the re-arrangement of plates with the introduction of Crown Watermark paper in 1880/81. In between the panes was an "Interpanneau Margin" showing individual imprints. Each pane of 20 represented a Post Office sheet and single panes of 20 were delivered to the P.O.'s on demand. For the 3d. and 6d. the situation was different. Each P.O. sheet consisted of 40 stamps in two panes of 20, confirmed by the imprint between the two panes reading "... per sheet of 40". As such they were delivered to the P.O.'s which could sell "Interpanneau" pairs or blocks to the public.

In practically all philatelic countries such "Interpanneau" pairs or blocks are celebrated and most valuable philatelic gems. Not so for British stamps, although hardly a dozen "Interpanneau" multiples seem to have survived.

A summary of what is known based on Karl's Card Index:

- 1862, 6d. plate 4, mint block of six EI/FK in Bob Gallands collection.
- 1864, 3d. plate 4, mint block of twelve, NI/PL, ex Trivett coll. (1924), now in everlasting prisonship in the NPM London.
- 1871, 3d. plate 5, the Griffiths (1981) & Chartwell (2012) mint vertical pair EI/FI.
- 1871, 3d. plate 5, mint vertical strip of three (letterings unknown), last seen in 1948. Very likely now reduced and identical with the Griffiths/Chartwell pair.
- 1871, 3d. plate 5, mint "part sheet of thirty-two stamps" (letterings: ?), Cheverley & Co. auction 1896 (!), never seen since.
- 1871, 3d. plate 6, the Seymour (1951), Burrus (1963), Dale (1969), Baillie (2012) and Bertsimas (2019) mint block of sixteen, MA/PD.



- 1871, 3d. plate 7, the Maximus (1970) & Fischer (1983) mint block of six, OJ/PL.
- 1871, 3d. plate 7, the unique used (!) block of four EI/FJ, presently in Ray Simpson's celebrated 'Stamp Perforation' collection.
- 1873/80, 3d. plate 18, OI/PL, mint block of eight.
- 1873/80, 3d. plate 18, mint block of forty (lettering unknown) with perfin 'ADAM'. Offered on Harmer's auction in 1935 and never seen since. Most likely split up without preserving any "Interpanneau" multiples.
- 1876, 6d. pl. 15, unused block of eight, OE/PH
- 1876, 6d. plate 16, mint block of sixteen, NE/ QH (1957), now reduced to a block of twelve, OE/QH.

The last and the most recently found 'Interpanneau' multiple on Karl's list is one of the finest surviving. It was found in an envelope in 1991/92 and is an irregular mint block of twelve, ex positions OA/RD lacking OC, OD, QD and RD. This marvellous multiple found its way into the BESANÇON collection and will be offered by Corinphila in the 4th part of the BESANÇON collection in May 2022.



Victorian Mint Panes of Twenty

Victorian low-value stamps were typically printed in sheets of 240. However, these printing sheets were not always intended to be distributed to Post Offices in that form. Only the line-engraved 1d issues were supplied as full sheets of 240, while later issues: such as the 2d; were produced for delivery in smaller sheets of 120.

Surface-printed stamps followed a similar pattern. Although generally printed in sheets of 240, they were commonly distributed (until around 1880) in smaller Post Office sheets: 60 for the 4d, 40 for the 3d and 6d, and 20 for the higher values such as the 9d, 10d, 1s, and 2s. Among collectors, the original printing sheets are usually referred to simply as "sheets," while the smaller Post Office units are termed "panes." Interestingly, contemporary marginal inscriptions often describe these smaller units as "Sheet of 20" or "Sheet of 40," rather than using the term "pane." Very few of these Post Office sheets - particularly panes of 20 - have survived.

Even by the turn of the twentieth century, mint panes were already regarded as highlights within the most distinguished collections. Their appeal is immediately evident: they provide a complete and visually striking presentation of the stamp issue, serving as both a focal point in an exhibit and a crowning element on an album page. Many of the surviving examples have since entered the Royal Collection, further underscoring their importance.

For the 1873 1s green issue, only four Post Office panes of 20 are known to survive. None are recorded from plates 8, 9, 10, or 11. Instead, two panes each are known from plates 12 and 13. The two plate 12 panes, which are lettered AE/EH and PI/TL, were notable highlights in the celebrated collections of John O. Griffiths and Dr Douglas Latta, respectively.

From plate 13, the Karl Louis Card Index records two panes. One, lettered PI/TL, is incomplete, having lost its lower and right sheet margins; it is illustrated in the Phillips Collection (N.P.M. London, Vol. XXXIV, p. 13). The only complete Post Office pane from plate 13 (lettered AI/EL) remaining in private hands is scheduled to be offered by Corinphila in June 2026. This remarkable pane is distinguished not only by the presence of the plate number "13" in the corner margin, but also by the red Controller's handstamp "*Crown / POSTAGE - 1s0d*" applied in the right margin; an exceptionally desirable feature.

Its provenance is equally impressive. The pane can be traced back to 1941, when it was sold by Harmer as part of the H. B. Wane collection. It later formed part of the renowned collections of Dr Douglas Latta (sold in 1992) and Bill Gross (sold in 2007).

This pane represents a rare and visually compelling artefact of the Surface Printed issues, combining rarity, provenance, and aesthetic appeal. As such, it stands as a cornerstone piece for any advanced collection of Victorian philately.



This item will be offered for sale during Corinphila's next auction in June 2026, lot 4190.



1880, 2s. brown Imperforate

At the London International Stamp Exhibition in 1906 the Earl of Crawford's celebrated Great Britain collection was shown. Among other Rarities and 'Key-items' of GB philately, the Earl exhibited an imperforate pane of twenty of the 1880, 2s. brown. Just six years later, Charles Nissen reported in *The British Philatelist*, vol. V, page 66 a *"Two Shillings Brown (), block of 18, partly imperforate and partly perforated 12, evidently the work of the small treadle-machine which was responsible for the similar and rare varieties of the 1884 issue"*. The block of eighteen was not illustrated by Nissen, but a part perforated block of 16, lettered KI-NL was offered as lot 2792 in a Bela Sekula auction in January 1931 in Lucerne, Switzerland. The pair OI-OJ originally adjoining the block of 18 had been separated from it and found a home in the 'Magnificent' collection sold by Harmers in April 1950.

Whilst the completely imperforate Crawford 2s. brown pane of 20 was finally added to the Royal Collection, the partly imperforate and partly line perf. 12 block of sixteen can now be seen in the National Postal Museum in London, ex the Reginald M. Philips collection, Vol. XXXIII, on page 16. As far as one can say, both multiples originate from a lower half of a printing sheet since only letterings between the horizontal K and T rows are recorded. Despite the part perforated pair OI-OJ which has meanwhile been separated into two singles, only very few imperforate singles and pairs, all from the lower three panes (horizontal P to T rows) are recorded in Karl Louis's Card Index. The Philippe La Renotière de Ferrari (1924) collection contained a pair (QK-QL), also



the Beaumont collection in 1965 (RI-SJ) and Dr. Douglas Latta (1992) the pair PI-PJ. 2s. brown imperforate singles were owned by Charles Williams (1947), Ernest Hunt (1966), Joseph Silkin (1971) and Harold W. Fisher (1983) to name just a few eminent former owners.

The BESANÇON Collection contains a superb single of the 2s. brown imperforate variety, lettered PF. This single was in the important Great Britain collections of Charles Williams (Harmers, November 1947) and Ernest Hunt (Stanley Gibbons, November 1966). In both sales the imperforate variety was incorrectly described as an 'Imprimatur', although no Imprimatur sheet of the 2s. brown was ever pulled. Today the Stanley Gibbons Specialised Stamp Catalogue states: *"..... in a slightly different shade from the normal. They may be colour trials of (left overs) from perforation tests."* A great rarity and gem for every specialised collection of GB Surface printed issues!

The Rarest mint British Stamp

1882, £1 brown-lilac, with watermark 'Large Anchor'.

Have you ever thought about what is the rarest 'basic catalogue number' mint British Stamp? No? – Guess!

We are not talking about a sub-catalogue number like a rare 'abnormal' plate, a printing error or a plate variety. Simply, a generally issued adhesive stamp, but not taking the Official Stamp issues into consideration since they were not available for the public. Already just 17 years after the rarest mint/unused British stamp was issued, it was stated by the pioneer philatelic experts Hastings Elwin Wright and Anthony Buck Creeke in 1899, in their renowned handbook "The Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles": "Unused copies are of great rarity"!

Without doubt, the 'Queen' of mint British adhesive stamps is the 1882 £1 brown-lilac with watermark 'Large Anchor'! on either bluish (SG 132) or white (SG 136) fiscal paper. Only 23 mint/unused adhesives have been recorded to date in the Karl Louis Card Index Register, whereof two are housed in the Phillips collection in the National Postal Museum in London, and one resides in the Royal Collection of Her Majesty The Queen. As can be expected, most of the recorded examples are not in the foremost quality, with some showing either perforation faults, missing gum / regummed, minor tears or soiled. The following letterings are recorded: AA, AC, AD, AF, AG, BA, BB, BG, BH (1), BH (2), CA, CB, CG, DA, DB, DE (1), DE (2), DF, EA, EB, EE, EF and GB. Another unused specimen lettered FE (without gum) has lately been identified as being a 're-perforated' Imprimatur ex the Per Gjerding collection (1956)! Karl does not claim his list to be complete, but only very few unused £1 'Large Anchor' possibly exist out there in private hands. Karl is highly interested to get information about



more existing mint or unused examples of this stamp to record in his Card Index.

Practically all of the 20 recorded copies in private hands have outstanding provenances: Philippe von Ferrari (1924), Arthur Hind (1934), Baron Anthony de Worms (1938), A.B.Wane (1941), King Carol II of Romania (1951), J.B.Seymour (1952), Alfred H. Caspary (1956), Maurice Burrus (1963), Louise Boyd-Dale & Alfred F. Lichtenstein (1969), Gerald E. Wellburn (1976), Dr. Douglas Latto (1992) and others. Nearly all pedigrees date back to 50, 70 or even 100 years ago.

In the 4th sale of the "BESANÇON" collection in May 2022, a pristine £1 brown-lilac, 'Large Anchor' watermark on bluish fiscal paper, lettered CA will be offered. The stamp has a proven pedigree of more than 80 years. It was offered at a London auction, as part of the Baron Anthony de Worms collection in May 1938. Later this stamp found its way into the famous collection of Dr. Douglas Latto. Who will be the lucky future owner of the rarest, generally issued, British adhesive stamp?



Baron Anthony de Worms



PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

King of Hobbies & Hobby of Kings

Since the nineteenth century, stamp collecting has often been celebrated as the "King of Hobbies". Owing to its association with renowned royal collectors such as King George V of the United Kingdom, King Carol II of Romania, and King Alfonso XIII of Spain, philately has also become widely known as the "Hobby of Kings".

While extensive information exists regarding the rarities and provenance of the collections formed by King George V and King Carol II, remarkably little is known about the stamp collection of King Alfonso XIII (1886-1941).

Alfonso XIII reigned as King of Spain until April 1931. Following the proclamation of the Second Spanish Republic, he was forced into exile, first in Paris and later in Rome. Much like King Carol II when he fled Romania, Alfonso XIII succeeded in preserving his stamp collections during his departure from Spain. These remained in his possession until his death in Rome on 28 February 1941.

By a fortunate stroke of luck, the provenance of the "King Alfonso XIII Collection" has now been conclusively established for three rare British official stamps. These are the three high-value Edward VII I.R. OFFICIAL stamps issued in 1902: the 5 shillings, 10 shillings, and £1 denominations.

On 26 August 1942, Dr G. Fulpius, an accredited expert of the Union of Swiss Philatelic Societies, was presented with these three official stamps from the

estate of King Alfonso XIII for examination. In a letter dated 25 January 1943 to Eduard Luder, founder of Corinphila in Zurich, Dr Fulpius confirmed:

"I have prepared an expert certificate for each of these stamps. The stamps originate from the collection of the late King Alfonso of Spain, which was liquidated by his heirs."

In April 1943, Eduard Luder purchased a large newly-built country house in Zollikon, near Zurich. The seller, a prominent Zurich architect and an important philatelist, accepted the three official stamps as part payment towards the purchase price. Their agreed value was 45,000 Swiss francs, equivalent during the wartime year of 1943 to approximately £2,600 sterling.

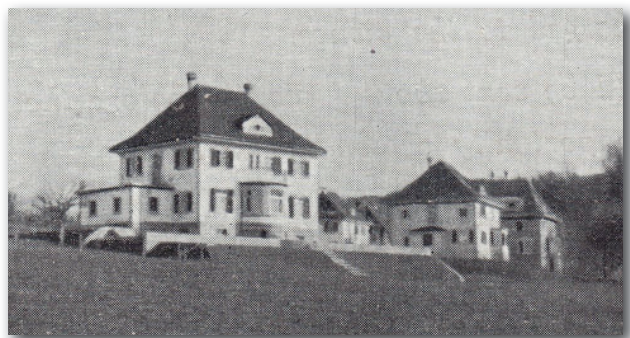
Fifty-nine years later, the three stamps reappeared when they were consigned to a Corinphila auction from the architect's estate. Accompanying them were the original letters written by Dr Fulpius in 1943, together with the agreement between Eduard Luder and the architect concerning the sale of the Zollikon villa and the settlement of the purchase price. These documents provided compelling evidence of their royal provenance from the collection of King Alfonso XIII. As a result, the stamps have since been recorded in the Karl Louis Card Index with their confirmed royal pedigree.

These three stamps rank among the great rarities of British philately. According to the Karl Louis Card Index, only around two dozen mint examples of each denomination are presently recorded. Notably, both the collections of King Carol II and King George V also contained these elusive official stamps. The examples from the collection of King Carol II were sold in New York in March 1951, while those from the collection of King George V were dispersed in London in May 2001.

The discovery and documentation of these three stamps therefore not only sheds light on a little-known aspect of King Alfonso XIII's philatelic pursuits, but also secures an important royal provenance for some of the rarest official stamps of Great Britain.



*Alfonso XIII
King of Spain*



The country house in Zollikon, purchased by Eduard Luder in 1943.



Bestätigung.

Der Unterzeichnete bestätigt hiermit beim Kauf der Liegenschaft Neuhausstr.6 in Zollikon für den erhaltenen Verrechnungswert von Frs.45000.- (fünfundvierzigtausend) welche als Zahlung beim Kauf verrechnet wurden) die drei Marken: Grossbritannien Dienstmarken Zumstein No.61,62 und 63 Herrn [redacted] übergeben zuhaben und die e erwähnten Frs.45.000.- (fünfundvierzigtausend) hierfür quittiert wurden.

Der Unterzeichnete bestätigt im weitern, dass die oben erwähnten drei Marken garantiert echt sind und die mit übergebenen drei Prüfungsstests mit Prüfungstempel zu den betr. drei Marken gehör- end und Originalunterschriften von Dr. Fulpius in Genf sind.

Zollikon 1.4.43.

der Käufer der Liegenschaft Neuhausstr.6:

Eduard Lüder

DOCTEUR G. FULPIUS
—
Expert officiel de l'Union des
Sociétés philatéliques suisses

55, Rue de la Servette, 55
Téléphone : 22.088
Compte de chèques I. 2024

Genève, le 25 Janvier 1943

Monsieur E. Lüder
Zürich,

Monsieur,

Cher date du 26 Août 1942 j'ai
reçu o l'apportée 3 timbres de
Serie de Grande Bretagne, c'
l'effigie du Roi Edouard VII 5 sh.
10 sh. et 1 Pound. surchargés I.R. OFFICIAL
et j'ai établi un bulletin d'ex-
pertise pour chacun de ces 3 timbres.
Les pièces provenant de la
collection de son roi Alphonse
d'Espagne, collection liquidée par
la mission.

Agriez mes salutations
distinguées

G. Fulpius

The three stamps were part of the deal.





PICK OF THE PACK

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

The 1885, I.R.OFFICIAL overprinted 1 Pound brown-lilac



On the 26 September 1882, a Post Office circular announced the issue of stamps overprinted I.R.OFFICIAL on and after the 1st October, *".....for denoting the Postage and Registration Fees on Letters transmitted by certain Officers of Inland Revenue, stationed outside the Metropolis....."*

The wording "outside the metropolis" was interpreted as such; that the new I.R.OFFICIAL overprinted stamps of 1/2d., 1d. and 6d. were only to be distributed and used by Provincial Offices in England, but not by the London, Scottish and Irish Offices. A second Post Office circular dated 17 April 1883 made it clear that Inland Revenue Offices in the whole of the United Kingdom, including Scotland and Ireland, were allowed to use the overprinted stamps, but still with the curious exception of the London Offices. The London Offices were finally included and could use the new official stamps following a third Postal Circular on 29th May 1883. While London received newly issued stamps first, the Official Stamps were distributed to London last!

The issue of the I.R.OFFICIAL overprinted stamps were a great success and a demand for more and higher denominations arose. In 1885 the decision was taken to issue additional values up to 1 Pound. Just 8,200 stamps of the 1 Pound brown-lilac with the "Three Crowns" watermark were overprinted, representing only 0.5% of the total face value of all I.R.OFFICIAL overprinted stamps produced in the first 14 years between 1883 to 1896. It can be assumed that about 350 of the overprinted 8,200 stamps were used for UPU distribution.

Soon the new official stamps generated the interest of stamp collectors. The authorities tried whatever they could to protect official stamps from getting into the hands of the stamp collector. Used stamps however found their way into the collections of philatelists via unauthorised leakages from material intended for destruction. Also mint stamps found a legal route to the market, albeit this breached the trust expected of Civil Servants. As a result, the issue of Official Stamps was finally stopped in May 1904 when the overprints were withdrawn.

For stamp collectors, the overprinted Official Stamp Issues immediately became "Objects of High Desire"! But due to the strict security measures of the Postal and Government authorities, only very few official stamps found their way on the philatelic market. Especially the High Values which were, and are today, regarded as the "Philatelic Crown Jewels" for the most important collections of each generation.

An exceptional mint I.R.OFFICIAL, 1 Pound brown-lilac with Watermark "Three Crowns", lettered EB, will be offered by Corinphila Auctions in the 'KOOYONG' collection in May 2025. The Karl Louis Card Index has just 41 mint / unused stamps recorded, of which some are unavailable for collectors due to being contained within institutional collections, such as the Royal Collection, The Duke of Leinster Collection in the National Irish Museum in Dublin, or the Swiss Postal Museum. The philatelic pedigree of the 'KOOYONG' 1 Pound can be traced back more than 100 years and starts with the Philipp von Ferrary collection. Ferrary died in 1917 and his collection was sold in Paris in 1924. In later years, the stamp was spotted again in a Harmer, London, auction (1939), a Robson Lowe auction (1974), in the Howard Gibraltar collection (1996), and the Drs Joanne & Edward Dauer collection (2014). The elusive stamp will be available for viewing at Corinphila's Super Booth at BIRMINGHAM 2025, and will finally be auctioned two weeks later in Zürich.

The Stamp Find in the „Titled Lady's“ Small Leather Jewel Box!

Early in 1947 one of the most important Stamp Finds in British Philately was discovered: A sensational unused block of nine of the Edward VII, 10 shillings Stamps overprinted „I.R. OFFICIAL“ was discovered, one of the rarest stamps of Great Britain.

Shortly afterwards, THE BRITISH PHILATELIST (June 1947) proclaimed on its front page:

“A discovery of considerable interest has been announced by Harmer, Rooke & Co. Ltd. Recently two men brought in a large cardboard box, containing various stamps and albums (...). While the stamps were being examined one of the men produced a small leather jewel box, opened it and withdrew a rolled block of stamps. When they were straightened they were seen to be a block of nine of the very rare 10s. I.R.OFFICIAL of Edward VII, of which until then, only about 14 specimens were known to exist. The stamps are not in perfect condition, but, (...) form a very desirable piece“. “The present owner (1947) is a titled lady who does not wish her name to be disclosed.“ The block was sold by Harmer, Rooke & Co. Ltd in autumn 1947, purchased at the auction by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. The block was soon broken up into singles and a block of four, the latter appearing within stamp auctions in 1952 and 1953 in Germany and Switzerland.

Today, the Karl Louis Card Index lists 15 individual unused examples of the Edward VII, 10s. I.R.OFFICIAL, all of which were already seen on the stamp market before the 1947 discovery, plus 9 unused singles from the „titled Lady's“ 1947 block of nine. Also 4 used Edward VII, 10s. I.R.OFFICIAL stamps are recorded by Karl, making a total number of 24 unused and 4 used stamps. The unused corner block of four in the National Collection of Ireland is not counted for, because it was taken in 1905 from the perforated Registration sheet for the Science & Art Museum in Dublin and – as an imprimatur – it is not a „normal issued“ stamp.



Most of the 24 recorded unused Edward VII, 10s. I.R.OFFICIAL have crowned the most important stamp collections of the 20th century, such as H.R.H. King George V of Great Britain, H.R.H. King Carol II of Romania, Lord Crawford, Baron de Worms, Dale-Lichtenstein, Phillipe La Renotiere de Ferrari and Maurice Burrus, to highlight a few names only.

Corinphila is entrusted to auction the „KOOYONG“ collection, assembled by the well known Australian stamp collector Jack Gringlas from Melbourne. The „KOOYONG“ collection includes a stamp originating from the „Titled Lady's“ 1947 block of nine, the third stamp from the lower row. This stamp was offered and sold for the first time in April 1958 by Corinphila. It had since resided in a Swiss collection. It was offered a second time, after 57 years, at the Corinphila & Köhler EUROPHILEX LONDON 2015 Rarity Auction. This rarity will now be offered at auction for the third time by Corinphila in June 2025.



The 1929, PUC £1 Artist's Essay



Until the 1920's the British Post Office authorities had always been against the issuing of special "Commemorative" stamps. The British Empire Exhibitions in Wembley in 1924 and 1925 were the first Commemorative stamps issued, followed by the Postal Union Congress (PUC) commemorative issue of 1929. Initially it was decided to issue only the four low values ($\frac{1}{2}$ d. - $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) but London stamp dealer Harry Nissen stated that a £1 value was added to the set in order "...to make the set of Congress stamps a worthwhile gift to the delegates".

Whilst the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps were designed by John Farleigh and Ernest Linzell, the £1 was an adaption of one of the designs, originally submit-

ted by Harold Nelson in 1924, for the Wembley Exhibition stamps. The June 1929 issue of THE BRITISH PHILATELIST described the story of the "Birth" of the PUC £1 stamp on pages 28 and 29: "*The original pencil sketch of that (1924 - Wembley) alternative was given by Mr. Nelson to Dr. Gordon Ward and...has for some time been in the possession of Mr. J.B.Seymour..... the rough sketch for this (PUC London 1929) £1 stamp has been kindly lent to us by Mr. Nelson for the purpose of reproduction*".

This rough sketch – without the King's head – was illustrated on page 28. The artist, Harold Nelson, later placed it on the philatelic market. In January 1965 Nelson's pencil sketch was offered at a Harmer's auction in London, lot 346 and estimated

at £50. The Essay realised, after a strong bidding battle, the high amount of £110!

Forty years later, the Essay was spotted again at a Spink auction held on 3 March 2005, lot 1835. Described as "*almost certainly unique and a wonderful exhibition showpiece*" and estimated at £1'200 – £1'500, it finally realised £5'200.

Now, after 21 years, this unique "PUC £1 Essay" will be offered by Corinphila in Zurich in November 2026 as one of the key-items of the International Gold Medal Collection of Mary Pugh's King George V Commemorative Stamp Issues 1924/1935. A 20th Century philatelic item with a pedigree proven by illustrations over 97 years!

THE KARL LOUIS "CARD INDEX"

What else can a 'Card Index' register be valuable for?

Our regular features endeavour to illustrate the value of Provenances and how the Card Index system tracks historical sales of important GB material, over an extended period of time, providing the critical data needed to demonstrate Provenance. This always gives us interesting talking points, as well as additional information which is of great use in our wider studies.

One such element is the ability to support a detailed census of a particular area of collecting such as; 'the number of recorded examples known', 'dates of use', and 'usages' - (on/off cover/piece, frankings, and destinations). This ultimately benefits the wider philatelic community in understanding the rarity of any particular item.

An excellent example of this added-value, derived from the Card Index system, was put to the test recently when Karl Louis decided to undertake a detailed census on; *'The earliest Experimental and Machine Postmarks obliterating Postage Stamps'*, which he intended to publish within the Corinphila Great Britain auction catalogue this November, as a supplement to the sale of the *'Jerry H. Miller International Gold Medal collection of GB Experimental Machine Cancels 1857-1901'*.

Of course, the exhibition pages of the collection contained a certain amount of useful information to this end. However, as we can all appreciate, the tracking of such data can be a moving target over time, especially when specialised collections like this come onto the market. It is also rare for a collector to have all the known examples of say a particular cancellation. Karl regularly receives enquiries from exhibitors and collectors seeking to collaborate on data of this nature and seeing the sale of this important postmark collection as an ideal opportunity to present a census of this type, Karl and Jerry Miller (a collector from



The so-called Pearson Hill 'Opera Glass' cancellation on cover.

the US) put their research together and drafted an article. Karl, having met Tim Scholfield, a collector from Australia, some years before and knowing he also possessed an important collection of a very similar type he contacted him and asked if he would work with them on this project, which he kindly agreed. The illustrated cover is from Jerry's collection and is the so-called Pearson Hill 'Opera Glass' cancellation. Whilst it is not the rarest of the machine cancels, with there being ten recorded on cover, it is perhaps the most sought after amongst GB postmark collectors on account of its visual appeal. Working with Jerry and Tim, Karl was able to list all the known examples on and off cover and to update the previous records of this and other cancellations.

The census, as well as listing the usage of the early 'Pearson Hill' marks also includes; the Hinrichsen (J.C.'Azemar') Rapid Postmarking machine, the various types of the 'Hoster' and the 'Malin Machine'. The final census which will be exclusively available within the Corinphila GB auction catalogue demonstrates not only one of the additional benefits of the Card Index register, but also the international nature of our hobby. The census bringing together collectors from three different continents!

If you intend selling
your Collection,
or want more
information on
Provenance
research, please
contact Karl Louis:
louis@corinphila.ch



*« Provenance is a quality seal.
As in Art, Provenance is an
indispensable attribute. »*

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