The "Private" Roulettes

Rouletted stamps which can be dated prior to the recorded purchase of a rouletting wheel by the G.P.O. Melbourne in August 1857 have been considered to be privately applied. Recent evidence indicates, however, that the roulettes on a number of these stamps are similar and may represent an official experiment in the latter half of 1854.

Single-wheel roulette gauging 6½ - 7½, fine points



[31]

From the

Dale-Lichtenstein collection



[7]

Combination use of rouletted and imperforate stamps

[12]

From the Purves collection

Barred Oval cancellations indicate usage prior to December 1855.



30th September 1854 envelope from Melbourne to Woolwich, Kent. 1/- ship letter rate, carried by General Screw steamer *Lady Jocelyn*. Backstamped London, 2nd January 1855.

Two other covers dated in August/September 1854, bearing rouletted 3d Half-Length and 2/-Woodblock, are recorded.

The G.P.O. Roulettes

In late 1857/early 1858 a small proportion of the stamps sold at the Melbourne G.P.O. were rouletted. Probably about 12,000 stamps were so treated; practically all genuine stamps bear the Melbourne Barred Numeral 1 cancellation. Two rouletting instruments were used.

(i) Single-wheel gauging 6½ - 7½, thicker points

This instrument seems to have been used to a very limited extent.



[2]

The only rouletted stamp in the indigo shade



[15-16]



9th July 1859 lettersheet from Melbourne to Hobart per Black Swan. Franked with 1/- Octagonal and two 6d Queen-on-Throne, prepaying the intercolonial ship letter rate for a letter weighing 1-2oz.

The G.P.O. Roulettes

(ii) Raymond's machine gauging 7½ - 8½

This machine was purchased on 17th August 1857, and consisted of 11 wheels set on a rod.



Four unused rouletted stamps are recorded, two are in the Royal Collection



[10] Melbourne, 26th April 1858



[25]



[10/18]
Approximately six pairs are recorded
From the Perry collection



[24]
Abnormal type from bottom right corner of sheet (Pane IX)

Because the 1/- Octagonal was a square stamp, unlike the other rouletted values, non-marginal stamps are often found with roulettes on all four sides.

The G.P.O. Roulettes

(ii) Raymond's machine gauging 7½ - 8½



15th July 1858 envelope from Melbourne to London via Marseilles, carried per European & Australian steamers *Emeu* and *Wye*, arriving at Marseilles 2nd September. Backstamped London, 4th September 1858. 1/- Marseilles rate for a ½oz. letter.

From the Forster collection



16th August 1858 registered envelope from Melbourne to Glasgow, carried per European & Australian steamers *Columbian* and *Canbria*. Backstamped Glasgow, 19th October 1858. Franked with 1/- Octagonal and two 6d Woodblocks, one also rouletted, prepaying the 2 x 6d packet rate for a letter weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ -10z., plus 1/- registration fee.

Approximately twelve covers bearing the 1/- rouletted are recorded

From the Harvey and Perry collections

About the beginning of 1859 Mr F.W. Robinson was contracted to perforate all existing stamp stocks. Approximately 1,950,000 1/- stamps were so treated. These were in use until April 1865, when the remainder of 516,825 stamps were destroyed.



[20-21/28-29]

Two unused blocks are recorded outside the Royal Collection

From the Pack, Forster and Perry collections







[13]



[24]

OVERPRINTED SPECIMEN (22½ x 3mm, with stop)



[28]

The only recorded example

From the Harvey and Perry collections

The Earliest Known Date of Use 4 February 1859



4th February 1859 lettersheet from Melbourne to Manila, Philippine Islands, carried by private ship *Oneida*. Franked 1/- for the general ship letter rate for a double rate letter weighing between ½ and 1 ounce. Backstamped Manila, 14th April 1859, with handstruck "1½" (reales) representing the local delivery charge.

A new discovery, pre-dating the previous record date of 13th April 1859, and now incorporated in the catalogue listing. Only one earlier perforated stamp of Victoria (1d Emblems of 16th January 1859) is recorded.

[5]

Used Multiples





[23-24/31-32]





[40/8/16/24]



[17-19]



[25-26/33-34]



[25-27]







[5]



[28-29]

Used with 3d laid paper and 6d orange Beaded Ovals for 1/9d Marseilles rate

VERTICAL STITCH WATERMARK



[34]

Found at a frequency of about 1 in 1500 stamps

DOUBLE PERFORATION



[23]

To correct an off-centre line of perforations

MISPLACED PERFORATIONS



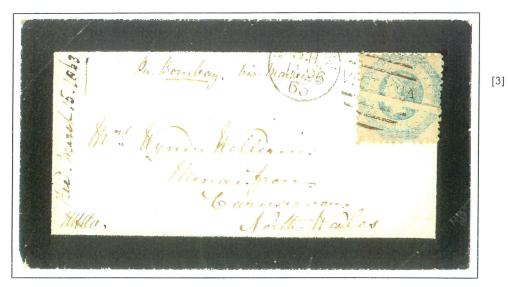
[7]



[34]

Possibly imperforate between

Pre-Printing Paper Fold



26th January 1863 envelope from Melbourne to Carnarvon, Wales. Carried by P. & O. steamers *Bombay* and *Euxine* via Marseilles. Backstamped Carnarvon, 15th March 1863. Franked 1/- for a ½ ounce letter to the United Kingdom via Marseilles.

The Latest Date of Use Seen



[26]

24th May 1865 front from Geelong to Lausanne, Switzerland. Carried by P. & O. steamers Madras, Mooltan, and Poonah, arriving at Marseilles 15th July. Franked 1/Octagonal and 8d orange Laureated for the double rate (2 x 10d) for a letter weighing ½ to 1 ounce.

Approximately ten covers are recorded bearing the 8d orange Laureated. This is the latest date so far seen for the 1/- Octagonal; it had been replaced in early April 1865 by the 1/- Laureated.

The 1862 Melbourne International Exhibition

Part of the Post Office exhibit at the 1862 Melbourne International Exhibition was a glass-covered frame consisting of strips of varying sizes of all the then-current stamp issues, 1d to 2/-. The 1/- Octagonal strips from this frame represent the largest unused multiples of the perforated stamp, other than the pane of 100 and block of 24 in the Royal Collection.



[9/17/25/33/25/33]





[36-40]

The stamps were damaged during poor storage and removal of the strips from the frame.

From the Purves collection

Imperforate Margins

The top row of the panes of 100 was usually perforated, but occasionally was left imperforate.

IMPERFORATE MARGINS FROM TOP OF SHEET



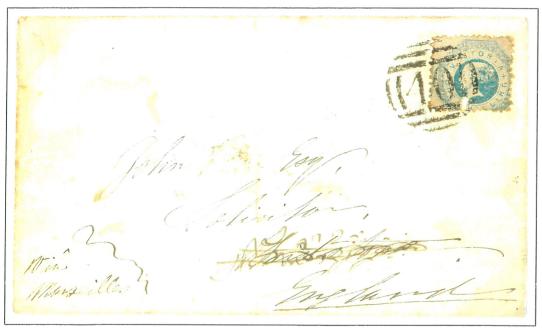








THE SAME UNITS WITH AND WITHOUT PERFORATED MARGINS





[4]
Constant secondary flaw colour spot under "R" of "VICTORIA".

25th September 1862 envelope from Echuca to Maidstone, England. Carried per P. & O. steamers *Northam, Bengal* and *Vectis,* arriving at Marseilles 12th November. Backstamped Maidstone, 14th November. 1/- rate for a ½ ounce letter via Marseilles.





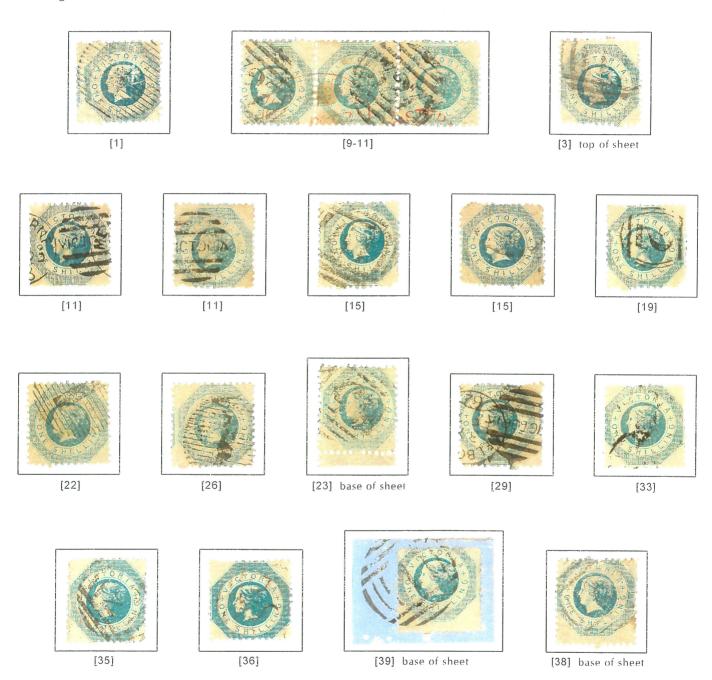
[5

Constant secondary flaw - spot right of bottom frame.

Missing Perforation Pins

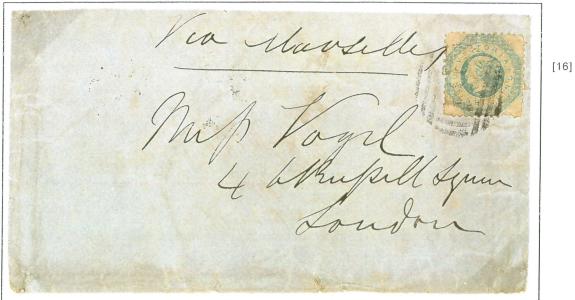
The single line perforator used by Robinson was at least 26cm long, judged by the depth of the known pane of 100 with fully perforated margins. Perforating pins broke occasionally, and the occurrence of these varieties can be of use in plating, since the sheet was invariably positioned for perforation at one end of the line of pins, as shown by the variety nearly always occurring in the same position on opposite sides of a stamp. Broken perforating pin varieties occur on about 3% of perforated stamps.

Missing Pins in Horizontal Lines



Missing Perforation Pins

Missing Pins in Vertical Lines



17th February envelope from Maryborough to London. Carried per P. & O. steamers Salsette and Panther, arriving at Marseilles 3rd April. Backstamped London two days later. 1/- rate for a ½ ounce letter.

[10] [18]

19th July 1859 lettersheet from Geelong to Sydney (28th July backstamp). Prepaid 2/- for a treble rate intercolonial ship letter (1-2 ounces).

Missing Perforation Pins

Missing Pins in Vertical Lines



Missing Pins in Both horizontal and Vertical Lines

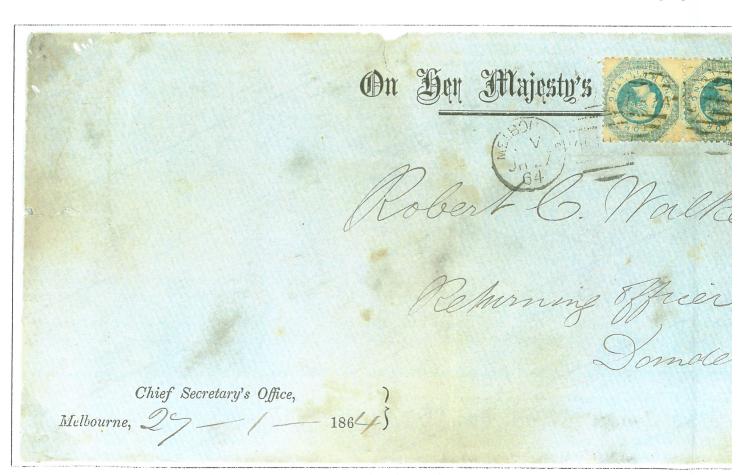


Inland Mail

Throughout the currency of the perforated stamp, the inland rate was 4d up to ½ ounce, 8d between ½ and 1 oun. The 1/- Octagonal can therefore only found on overweight letters above 1 ounce.



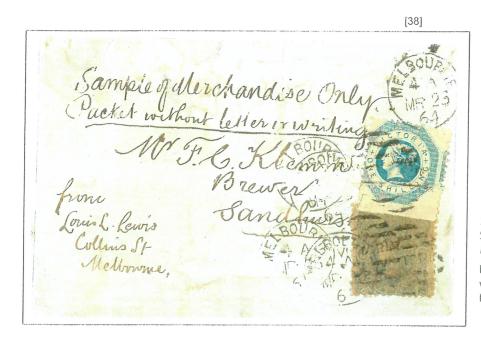
13th July 1859 envelope from Melbourne to Ballarat. Franked 2/- for a letter weighing between



27th January 1864 O.H.M.S. envelope from Melbourne to Dandenong. Franked 4/- for a letter weighing L

Packet Mail

Special rates for packets were introduced from March 1857, but because of its nature very few examples of such The rates were 6d up to 4 ounces, plus 3d for each additional 2 ounces or part thereof.



23rd March 1864 wrapper from Melbourne I Sandhurst, endorsed "Sample of Merchandis Packet without letter or writing."

Franked 1/- Octagonal plus 3d blue Beaded t watermark "THREE PENCE", prepaying the p for an item weighing between 8 and 10 ounc



16th September 1859 envelope from Melbourne to Geelong. The reverse of the envelope shows signs of having been affixed to some other cused as an address label for a parcel, probably of legal papers. Franked 1/- for a packet weighing between 6 and 8 ounces. This is not a letter were 4d, 8d and 1/4d.

Intercolonial Mail

The intercolonial ship letter rate which had come into force on 1st July 1855 remained for the life of the 1/- Octagonal stamp was thus restricted to overweight letters. The rate was 6d up to ½ ounce, 1/- for ½ to 1 ounce, and 1/- for each additional 1 ounce.

DOUBLE RATE (1/2 to 1 OUNCE) TO QUEENSLAND



12th December 1863 lettersheet from Melbourne to Brisbane, Per Steamer via Sydney, backstamped Brisbane c.d.s., 20th December 1863.

TRIPLE RATE (1 to 2 OUNCES) TO TASMANIA



3rd August 1861 lettersheet from Melbourne to Hobart. Carried per Black Swan and with diamond "SHIP-LETTER-INWARDS FREE" arrival backstamp of 5th August 1861.

[25] [13]

All mail was carried by the P. & O. contract throughout the life of the perforated issue. The all-sea rate via Southampton remained at 6d per ½ ounce, but overweight mail by this route is scarce. Most mail went via Marseilles, at the existing rate of 6d per ½ ounce plus French transit of 3d per ¼ ounce. This rate remained in force up to 10th August 1863.

VIA SOUTHAMPTON



26th May 1862 envelope from Melbourne to Cupar Fife, Scotland. Carried per P. & O. Madras and Ceylon, arriving at Southampton 18th July. Backstamped Cupar Fife, 21st July 1862. 1/double rate for a letter weighing between ½ and 1 ounce.

VIA MARSEILLES



24th February 1862 envelope from Sandridge to Dent, England. Carried per P. & O. Benares, Simla and Sultan, arriving at Marseilles 16th April. Backstamped Kendal, 15th April 1862. 1/rate for a ½ ounce letter via Marseilles, comprising 6d packet + 2 x 3d French transit.

34 OUNCE RATE VIA MARSEILLES (2 x 6d PACKET RATE + 3 x 3d FRENCH TRANSIT)

[18]



16th April 1859 lettersheet from Melbourne to Birmingham. Carried per P. & O. Malta leaving Melbourne 18th April, and thence per Ceylon and Pera, arriving at Marseilles 3rd June. Backstamped Birmingham, 5th June 1859. Franked with 1/- Octagonal, 6d Queen-on-Throne and 3d perforated Half-Length (Campbell & Co. printing).

From the Forster collection



25th June 1862 lettersheet from Melbourne to London. Carried per P. & O. Northam leaving Melbourne 26th June, and thence per Nubia and Vectis, arriving at Marseilles 14th August. Franked with 1/- Octagonal and three 3d Beaded Ovals watermark THREE PENCE.

From the Perry collection

[8]

THE GEELONG "M" MARK



[2]

17th November 185° P. & O. steamer *Ben.* December 1/- rate fo

The red "M" (= Mar: directly on board the



17th March 1860 envelope from Melbourne to Dundee, Scotland. Carried per P. & O. steamer *Northam* and thence per *Vectis*, arriving a 1860. Franked 4/- for a via Marseilles letter weighing 1¾ and 2 ounces.

One of two recorded blocks of the perforated stamp on cover From the Purves collectic

Reduction of the Via Marseilles Rate

On 10th August 1863 the via Marseilles rate was reduced when the French transit charges became 4d per ½ ounce became 10d for a ½ ounce letter, 1/8d up to 1 ounce, and 1/8d for each additional ounce or part thereof. The found only on overweight letters.

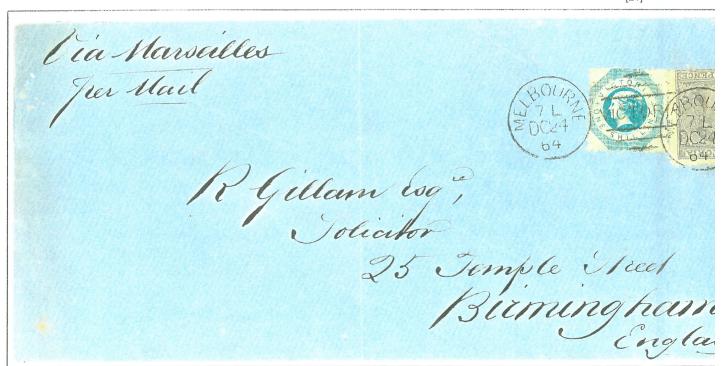
Two covers dated 24th December 1864, carried on the same voyage of P. & O. steamer Northam, leaving Melbo and thence per Ellora and Poonah, arriving at Marseilles 14th February 1865.



[36]

Melbourne to Darlington, r Torquay (arrival backstamp Franked with 1/- Octagonal Laureated watermark single the double rate. Handstruck re-direction.

[21]



Melbourne to Birmingham (arrival backstamp 16th February 1865). Franked 1/- Octagonal, 2d Laureated watermark simgle-lined "2" a watermark single-lined "6", prepaying the double rate.

LATE FEE MAIL

In the 1860s a more complex scale of late fees was introduced, depending on the time after closing of a mail that a but the basic fee remained 6d for letters posted up to 45 minutes after closure.



[14]

24th February 1865 envelope fro London via Marseilles. The P. & C Melbourne at 2pm, and closing ti 10am. This cover was posted bet 10.45am (indicated by code H dasubject to a late fee of 6d. Carriec Madras, thence per Ceylon and C Marseilles 10th April. Franked wi 4d Laureated watermark single-lit 10d rate for a ½ ounce letter + 6

PACKET MAIL



24th September 1861 wrapper from Sandhurst to Burton, England, endorsed "Book Post. Deed Only. No other letter enclosed." Carrie steamers Salsette, Candia and Ceylon, arriving at Southampton 19th November. Overseas packets were provided for at the inland rat postage. Franked 1/- Octagonal and 6d black Beaded Oval. prepaying a packet weighing under 4 ounces (6d packet rate + 1/- sea postage).

Mail to Europe Via the United Kingdom

During the 1860s more Victorian mail was delivered direct to Europe via Marseilles or via Trieste, but up to European mail via the United Kingdom was still normal.



23rd February 1863 envelope from Hepburn to Locarno, Switzerland. Carried per P. & O. steamer *Madras* and theil per *Ellora*, arriving at Southampton 17th April. Forwarded to Switzerland via France. Franked with 1/- Octagonal a 6d Adapted Design watermark single-lined "6", prepaying the ½ ounce rate, and comprising 6d packet rate plus continental postage (2 x 6d per ½ ounce, due to British P.O.).



25th May 1861 envelope from Williamstown to Brussels, Belgium. Carried per P. & O. steamer *Benares* and thence per *Pera*, arriving Forwarded to Belgium via Ostend. Franked with 1/- Octagonal and 6d Queen-on-Throne, prepaying a letter weighing ½ to 1 ounce, and postage, plus 2 x 3d continental postage (due to British P.O.).

Mail to Europe Via Marseilles

TO ITALY



21st February 1863 envelope from Hepburn to Intra, Italy. Carried per P. & O. steamers Madras, Simla and Vectis, arriving at Marseilles 10th April. Backstamped Intra, 13th April. Franked 1/- for a ½ ounce letter to Italy via Marseilles.

TO SWITZERLAND



[16]

25th September 1863 lettersheet from Melbourne to Geneva. Carried per P. & O. steamers *Northam, Carnatic* and *Massilia*, arriving at Marseilles 14th November. Backstamped Geneva the following day. Franked 1/- Octagonal and 3d blue Beaded Oval watermark "THREE PENCE".

The Post Office Guides of 1864 on indicate the Swiss rate via Marseilles was 10d per ½ ounce. This 1/3d rate is not mentioned in the Guide, but other examples have been seen.

Mail to British North America

Arrangements for mail to British north America were similar to those for the United States. However, the rate for transatlantic British steamers was only 6d per ½ ounce, so the Victorian rate was 1/- per ½ ounce via Southampton.



[31]

28th June 1862 envelope from Melbourne to St. John, New Brunswick. Carried per P. & O. steamers *Northam, Nubia* and *Vectis,* arriving at Marseilles 14th August. Thence per Allan Line steamer *North American* leaving Liverpool 21st August and arriving at Quebec 3rd September. Backstamped St. John, 4th September 1862. Although carried via Marseilles, not endorsed for this route and prepaid only for the Southampton route for a ½ ounce letter (6d U.K. rate + 6d transatlantic rate).



24th September 1864 envelope from Melbourne to Cambridge, New Brunswick. Endorsed "Via Marseilles" but underpaid (correct rate 1/4d) and struck with INSUFFICIENTLY PAID/VIA MARSEILLES. Carried per P. & O. steamers Northam, Nubia and Baroda, arriving at Southampton 20th November. Thence per Cunard steamer Canada leaving Liverpool 26th November, and arriving at Boston 14th December. Backstamped Gage Town, 16th December 1864. Franked 1/- plus 2d Laureated watermark single-lined "2", a 2d overpayment for the Southampton route used.

In both cases "5(d)" accountancy due from New Brunswick to British P.O., and handstruck "1d" local delivery charged.

[38]

Mail to U.S.A. via the United Kingdom

The prepaid rate to U.S.A. was 1/2d per ½ ounce, comprising 6d packet rate by the long route to the United Kingdom, and 8d transatlantic postage. The transatlantic service was operated by several companies, subsidised by either the British or U.S. Post Office, identified by differences in accountancy charges and U.S. arrival handstamps.

TRANSATLANTIC BRITISH CONTRACT STEAMERS



13th October 1859 envelope from Ballarat to Hartford, Connecticut. Carried by P. & O. *Emeu* and *Ripon* to Southampton, then by Cunard Line steamer *Canadian* from Liverpool, arriving at Boston 2nd January. Franked with 1/- Octagonal and 1d Emblems perf. 12 pair on horizontal laid paper.



17th December 1859 envelope from Melbourne to Oyster Bay, New York. Carried by P. & O. *Malta* and *Delta* to Southampton, then by Cunard Line steamer *Europa* from Liverpool, arriving at Boston 24th February. Franked with two 1/- Octagonal and 1d Emblems perf. 12 pair on wove paper.

8d credit to British P.O., An incoming packet charge of 5 cents per ½ ounce was levied on the addressee.

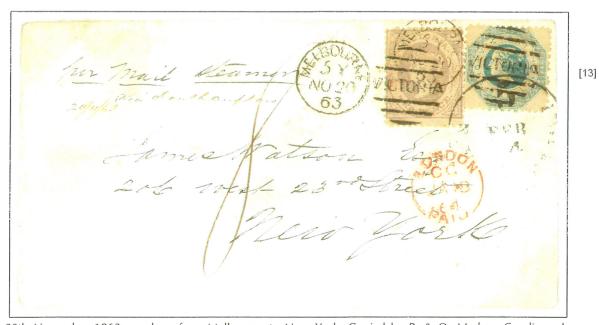
[5]

Mail to U.S.A. via the United Kingdom

TRANSATLANTIC BRITISH CONTRACT STEAMERS



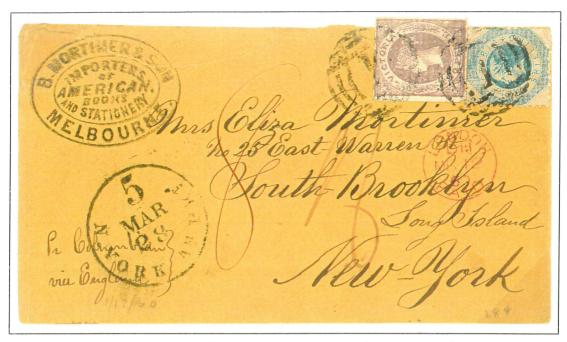
16th February 1860 envelope from Back Creek to Gill, Massachusetts. Carried by P. & O. Salsette and Indus to Southampton, then by Cunard Line steamer Africa from Liverpool, arriving at New York 27th April. Franked with 1/- Octagonal and 2d Emblems rouletted on horizontal laid paper.



20th November 1863 envelope from Melbourne to New York. Carried by P. & O. Madras, Candia and Mooltan to Southampton, then by Galway Line steamer Hibernia from Liverpool, arriving at New York 3rd February. Franked with two 1/- Octagonal and 2d Emblems watermark single-lined '2'.

Mail to U.S.A. via the United Kingdom

TRANSATLANTIC U.S. CONTRACT STEAMERS



17th January 1860 envelope from Melbourne to New York. Carried by P. & O. Columbian and Pera to Southampton, then by Inman Line steamer Washington from Liverpool, arriving at New York 28th March. Franked with 1/- Octagonal and 2d Emblems rouletted on vertical laid paper.

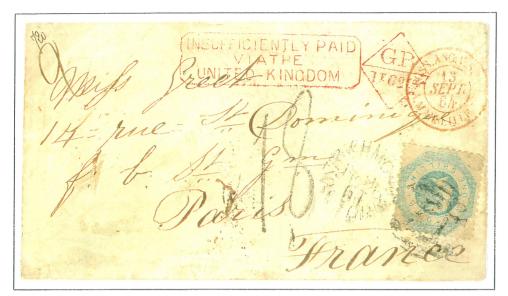


25th May 1861 lettersheet from Melbourne to New York. Carried by P. & O. Benares and Pera to Southampton, then by Havre Line steamer Fulton from Liverpool, arriving at New York 5th August. Franked with two 1/-Octagonal and 4d Beaded Oval wmk. FOUR PENCE.

Single and double rate covers showing 8d and 1/4d credit respectively to British P.O., transferred to United States P.O. (16 cents and 32 cents). An incoming packet charge of 5 cents per ½ ounce was levied on the addressee.

[33]

Insufficiently Paid Mail



26th July 1864 envelope from Richmond to Paris. At this time all mail to France was routed via Marseilles, at 10d per ½ ounce. Apparently underpaid (presumably double-weight), the letter was therefore routed by the cheaper Southampton route and the "INSUFFICIENTLY PAID/VIA THE/UNITED KINGDOM" was applied, plus the "GB/1^f62^c" AngloFrench accountancy mark. The French Post Office charged "18" (decimes) due from the addressee.

[40]

The only recorded use of the Anglo-French charge mark with a 1/- Octagonal. There are about six covers known bearing the "INSUFFICIENTLY PAID/VIA THE/UNITED KINGDOM" mark.



23rd February 1863 envelope sent from Sandhurst to Hobro, Denmark. Endorsed "Via Marseilles" but a stamp has fallen off in transit between Sandhurst and Melbourne, and the "INSUFFICIENTLY PAID/VIA MARSEILLES" mark was applied. Sent via Southampton, and to Denmark via Belgium and Hamburg. Backstamped Hobro, 24th April 1863. It is probable that the missing stamp is a second 1/- Octagonal, the ½ ounce rate to Denmark being 1/10½d. Shortly afterwards this rate was reduced to 1/9d. The Victorian portion due to the British P.O. was levied at the old rate ("10½[d]"), but the portion of this due to Hamburg was "4½(d)", the rate as of 1.1.1863. Manuscript "2 (schillings)" in red crayon due from addressee.

[12]

The 1/- Octagonal was effectively the registration stamp throughout the life of the perforated issue.

INLAND MAIL



[19]

August 1861 registered home-made envelope from a Chinese at Castlemaine, to Melbourne. There is no despatch mark, but the REGISTERED/MELBOURNE arrival c.d.s. of 22nd August 1861 is on the front. Franked with 1/- plus 4d Beaded Oval watermark FOUR PENCE, prepaying the ½ ounce inland rate plus registration fee.

From the Pack, Forster and Perry collection

[36]



16th May 1864 registered lettersheet from Benalla to Melbourne. Franked with 1/- and 4d Laureated watermark double-lined "4", prepaying the ½ ounce inland rate plus registration fee.

From the Perry collection

TOWN MAIL



28th October 1863 registered envelope used locally in Ballarat. Franked with 1/- plus 2d Emblems watermark single-lined "2", prepaying the ½ ounce town rate plus registration fee.

From the Purves collection

INTERCOLONIAL MAIL



22nd March 1861 registered envelope from Richmond to Port Frederick, Van Diemen's Land. Undeliverable despite redirection to Torquay, and eventually returned to the addressee. Franked with 1/- and 4d Beaded Oval watermark "FOUR PENCE", a 2d underpayment of the 6d intercolonial rate plus registration fee, but no indication of deficient postage being charged.

[29]

[16]

TO THE UNITED KINGDOM



14th January 1860 registered envelope from Kyneton to Sheffield. Carried per P. & O. steamers Columbian and Pera, arriving at Southampton 11th March. Franked with 1/-Octagonal and 6d Queen-on-Throne, prepaying the ½ ounce packet rate via Southampton plus registration fee.

TO SWEDEN VIA MARSEILLES AND LONDON



30th January 1863 registered envelope from Melbourne to Gottenburg, Sweden. Carried per P. & O. steamers *Madras, Simla* and *Vectis,* arriving at Marseilles 10th April, and re-registered at London two days later. Forwarded to Sweden via Belgium and Hamburg. Franked with four 1/- Octagonals and 1d Netted Corners watermark single-lined "1", prepaying the 4/1d registered rate via Marseilles for a letter weighing ½ to ¾ ounce. Manuscript "2/4" represents the proportion of Victorian postage due to the British P.O.

From the Perry collection

MAIL TO SWITZERLAND VIA THE UNITED KINGDOM AND FRANCE



[9/17]

30th August 1859 registered envelope from Hepburn to Locarno. Carried per P. & O. steamers *Bombay, Vectis* and *Delta,* arriving at Southampton 10th November. Backstamped Locarno 16th November 1859. Franked with 1/- Octagonal (2) and 6d Queen-on-Throne prepaying the ¼ ounce registered rate. Manuscript 1/- represents the proportion of Victorian postage due to the British P.O.

From the Purves collection



23rd July 1861 registered envelope from Epsom to Locarno. Carried per P. & O. steamers *Northam, Nemesis* and *Pera*, arriving at Southampton 19th September. Backstamped Locarno 23rd September 1861. Franked with 1/- Octagonal pair and 6d black Woodblock strip of three prepaying the ½ ounce registered rate. Manuscript "2/-" represents the proportion of Victorian postage due to the British P.O.

[28/36]