GUIDE LINES
TO THE
PENNY BLACK

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A detailed description of each one of the 2880 stamps and the plates from which it was printed.

BY
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corner squares in its second state and the very rare stamp PB re-entry, third state, which was produced by the provisional printing. Withdrawn March 23rd, 1841. Destroyed November 12th, 1841.

Plate 6. Registered June 17th, 1840. Printing probably started a day or two earlier on June 15th. Not used for either provisional or red printings. Defaced January 9th, 1841. Destroyed January, 1842. The plate was very badly constructed and soon showed signs of wear. As stamps are known in a second state, repairs must have taken place. These repairs were carried out very carelessly and probably done at various times during its short but very busy life.

Plate 7. Registered July 8th, 1840. Printing started, according to records, nearly a fortnight before on June 26th, but may possibly have started earlier as the plate was finished and ready on June 19th, the earliest date of use being July 8th, the date of registration. Not used for either provisional or red printings. Defaced January 9th, 1841. Destroyed January, 1842.

Like Plate 3, there is no evidence that it was ever repaired. Plate 7 was used for an experimental printing on a thinner and less sized paper with a view to rendering the stamps more adhesive. It was, however, decided that this was not practicable as the gum showed through these sheets of lighter paper.

Plate 8. Registered July 31st, 1840 but printing probably started sometime between July 3rd and 31st, although no used stamp is known before September 5th, 1840. Used for red printing but not provisional. Withdrawn March, 1841. Destroyed September 8th, 1841.

Like Plate 7 this was also used for experimental purposes. This happened when in December, 1840, an immediate trial was ordered of two new blue colours to see if they were fugitive. No "Two Pence" plate being available and it not being considered necessary to get one ready, Plate 8, which was in use at the time, was used for this trial, which resulted in the "One Penny Blue" of which only two copies are known.

Plate 9. Registered November 9th, 1840. There seems to be no record of the first day of printing but stamps are known to have been used soon after registration, as the earliest date known is November 18th. Used for provisional and red printings. Withdrawn March 1841. Destroyed October 7th, 1843.

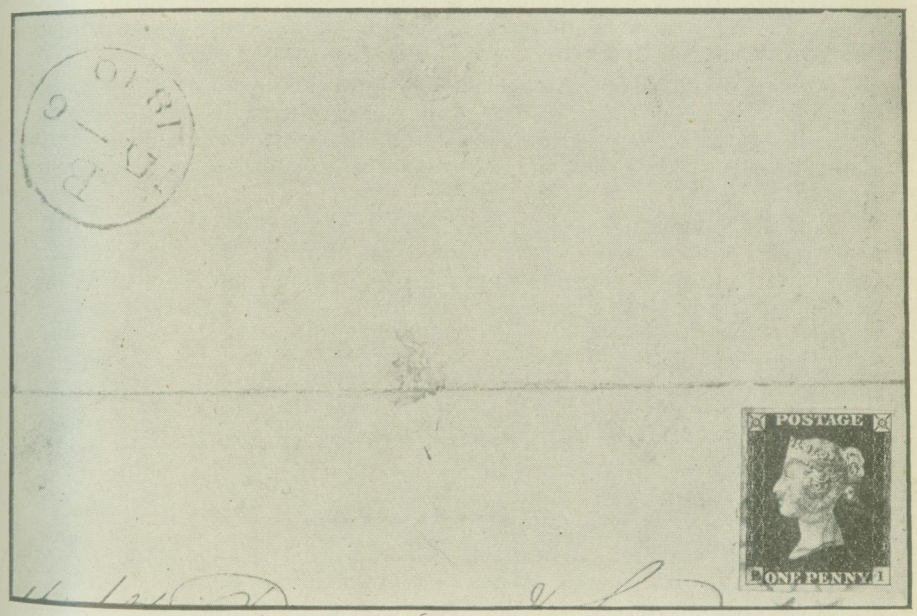
Plate 10. Registered December 8th, 1840. Like Plate 9, there is no record of the actual date of the first printing, but it was probably in December, with January 2nd, 1841, as the earliest known date of use. It was used for the red and provisional printings. During this red printing, either as a result of being very hard worked or for some other reason the plate does not seem to have been very satisfactory, as on March 27th Rowland Hill wrote to his brother Edwin complaining of badly printed specimens of the One Penny from Plate 10, saying "I am of opinion that, unless arrangements can be made to guard against the possibility of stamps so badly printed being issued, it will be unsafe to continue the present course and that an entirely new kind of label must be adopted without delay. Please communicate with Messrs. Perkins & Co., etc., etc."

As a result of this letter, Plate 10 was withdrawn from use, and with it also Plates 1, 2, 5, 8 and 9. The printing of the One Penny stamps ceased entirely from March 23rd to April 23rd, 1841, so it appears that Plates 1, 2, 5, 8, 9 and 10 were not used after the first of these dates, although Plate 10 was not destroyed until February 21st, 1843.

Plate 11. This plate is in a class by itself, as it was registered on January 27th, 1841, for the new issue of the Penny Red on February 10th, 1841.

The only black stamps ever printed from it were some 700 sheets, during the provisional printing, hence their rarity, and the earliest date known of a black stamp is February 4th, 1841. After this it was used for the red printing and was destroyed January 15th, 1842.

Plate 11 was used in April, 1841, for printing eight sheets on Dickinson paper, about which it was reported by the printers: "The paper prints well and the colour is good, but not strong enough for the gumming process."



The first day—May 6th, 1840

PLATING THE STAMPS

EVERY one of the Penny Black stamps has been plated, and it is hoped that the following suggestions may help the non-specialist to be successful in plating any of these most interesting of all stamps which he happens to have in his collection.

Counting 1A and 1B as two plates, there are 2,880 stamps, of which about 500 show no very definite marks to indicate from which one of the plates they have come. The task of allo ting a great many of them, each to its own particular plate, is often quite simple, but with many it is not so easy and with a few sometimes it may be quite difficult.

A stamp is recognized as coming from any particular plate by finding upon it in a certain position one of the marks, such as a Re-entry, Guide Line, Dot, etc., or some characteristic of the plate from which it was printed, such as the Ray or "O" Flaw.

Finally, except in the cases of Plate 1A and 1B, a stamp may be plated by the position of the Check Letters in the corner squares. On a great many of these stamps more than one definite clue by which they can be easily plated are present, but there are also several on which there may be no clue at all.

A method of plating some of these stamps without any clue is described under Plate 3, as so many of this type come from it. When examining a stamp first notice its general appearance and colour, and look especially for the Ray Flaw, which, if present, will limit your selection to Plates 1A, 1B or 2, or for the "O" Flaw which will indicate that the stamp must have come from either Plate 7, 8, 9 or 10. Next search carefully with a magnifying glass for any sign of Re-entry, Guide Line, Dots or Marks, examine the Frame Lines for any signs of extension, irregularity, weakness, etc., and then have a good look at the letters to see if any are double, faint or of a type peculiar to any particular plate. It may also be helpful to note whether the Maltese Cross obliteration is in black or red, and also, if the stamp should be on an entire or piece, to note if a date is present.

A number of stamps can be quickly plated by just a glance at the position of the letters in the squares. When one, or sometimes both, of the letters are placed either very high, very low, or so close as to be practically touching a side line of the square, the stamp can often be said to have come from one particular plate.

Having then thoroughly examined your stamp, the following procedure is suggested.

Refer to the detailed list AA–TL so as to confirm anything that you have seen and also to find out whether it mentions anything which may have been missed or which might be present but is doubtful.

Suppose the stamp you require to plate is the one lettered AA.

(1) Does it show the Ray Flaw? If so is it from Plate 1A, 1B or 2? Refer to the detailed list AA–TL, where you will find that if from Plate 1A two small dots are present, if from 1B the same two dots but also a trace of the missing Ray will be seen, and if from Plate 2 there will be a line under the first A square, but no dots.

(2) Instead of the Ray Flaw suppose the "O" Flaw should be present, it must therefore come from Plate 7, 8, 9 or 10. If from Plate 8 you will find a Vertical Guide Line in the NE square and a dot above the "S" of "POSTAGE", and if from Plate 9 the right Frame Line will extend below.

The AA from Plates 7 and 10 with the "O" Flaw have nothing else to be seen and so the plating of these must be decided by the letters. Here there should be no difficulty because the *first A* on Plate 7 is placed very low to the left and the second A centrally, whilst on Plate 10 the *second A* is very low and slightly to the left and the first central.

(3) When neither of the flaws is present the stamp must come from one of the Plates 3, 4, 5, 6 or 11. On referring to the detailed list AA–TL, it will be seen that it is quite easy to recognize.

Plate 3. Because the top of the first A is blind.

Plates 4 and 6. On both of these the right Frame Line extends below, but on Plate 6 the extension is not so obvious and the second A tilts upwards to the right.

The right Frame Line on AA Plate 9 also extends below, but on this stamp there is a Vertical Guide Line in the NE square and the "O" Flaw will also be present unless it should happen to come from the second state of the plate when the "O" Flaw does not appear.

Plates 5 and 11. On both of these the bottom line has been described as extending to the right and the lower left serif of the foot of the first A on Plate 11 may be extended or deformed. If this cannot be confirmed it would seem that the decision will have to depend upon the position of the letters and here it so happens, which is not often the case, that the letters on both plates are in much the same position, the first A being placed centrally in the square, and the second low to the left. The definite clue here will be that the second A on the stamp from Plate 11 slopes downwards to the right. It must also be remembered that the stamps from Plate 11 have a distinctive appearance and are very scarce.

As a matter of fact, however, where Plate 11 is concerned this method of plating by the position of the letters is not likely to be necessary because of the presence of two roller flaws (fully described under Plate 11) by which every stamp except GE and GF can be easily recognized.

(1) A 7 o'clock Ray Flaw in the NE square.

(2) A small break at the top left corner of the NE square.

This Penny Black AA is typical of a very great number of these stamps which can be quite easily plated without any great knowledge, but there are also quite a lot of what might be termed "Difficult Stamps," the plating of which is likely to cause considerable trouble to the inexperienced collector.

DIFFICULT STAMPS

THESE are the stamps on which nothing very definite can be seen to indicate from which Plate they have come. It sometimes happens that a definite clue such as the presence of either the "Ray" or "O" Flaw, a Re-entry, Guide Line or Dot, etc., which may be present has become hidden by the Maltese Cross obliteration, or perhaps a damaged corner may have removed the evidence of an extended Frame Line. Apart from such causes which may be termed accidental, there are however a great many stamps the plating of which is by no means easy.

These difficult stamps fall into three groups, as those on which :—

(*a*) The Ray Flaw is present but may be hidden and on which there is nothing else definite to indicate if it is from Plate 1A, 1B or 2.

(*b*) The "O" Flaw is present but may be very faint or invisible and nothing else, but must come from Plate 7, 8, 9 or 10.

(*c*) Neither Ray Flaw, "O" Flaw nor anything else. These may come from Plates 3, 4, 5, 6 or 11, or in a few cases from Plates 2, 7, 8 or 10, where stamps are concerned on which neither flaw ever appears.

As described elsewhere, every stamp except CL from Plate 1A, all except FI and LG from Plate 1B, and from Plate 2 all except those from FF to JL, on which no flaw is present, can be plated by some characteristic variations of the upper (10 o'clock) ray in the left segment and the left (7 o'clock) and right (5 o'clock) rays in the lower segment of the top left corner square. Much the same holds good for the "O" Flaw stamps as a great many of them can be plated by recognizing one of the three stages of this flaw.

With many of these so-called "difficult stamps," even when the appropriate "Ray" or "O" Flaw is invisible, there may not be much difficulty to the expert in plating them as they can often be recognized by some characteristic of each plate apart from the rays. To the inexperienced collector, however, this is not so easy, especially with the Group (a) stamps, because unfortunately even if the 10 o'clock Ray Flaw should be quite distinct and easy to detect, the other two are often not so distinct and confirmation depends very greatly on well-printed and clear impressions ; also on a clear view not being obstructed by a post-mark obliteration. The same difficulties are present with the "O" Flaw stamps, added to which is the fact that this flaw is so often faintly marked and may not even be present at all on a stamp on which it originally appeared, having been removed probably during repair to the plate. The stamps on which neither of these flaws ever appear are also sometimes quite difficult to plate when there is no obvious mark of identification present, and especially so where Plates 3 and 7 are concerned, as they are somewhat similar and perhaps also to a lesser extent Plates 4, 5 and 6.

GROUP A

Ray Flaw Stamps

AA, AB, AD, AE, AF, AG, AI, AJ, AL, BC, BD, BE, BF, BG, BI, BJ, BL, CB, CE, CI, CJ, CK, DB, DE, DG, DH, DI, DJ, EB, EC, EF, EH, FC, FI, FL, GH, HB, HE, HF, KB, KF, KH, KK, LC, LD, LF, LH, LJ, MC, ML, NF, NH, NI, OC, OG, OK, PC, PF, PH, QE, QF, QG, QH, QI, QJ, QK, RC, RF, SC, SI, SJ, TA, TB, TC, TF, TK.

When the Ray Flaw appears on these stamps they must have come from Plate 1A, 1B or 2 and to decide from which of the three plates any one of them has come is only really difficult when one or more of the three types of flaw are hidden or so faint as to be invisible.

Assuming this to be so, they can be discussed as :—

(1) Those on which the flaw cannot be seen and on which there is no other definite mark of identification and so may be from Plate 1A, 1B or 2.

(2) When Plate 2 can be eliminated they are from Plate 1A or 1B.

(3) Those from 1A or 2 or from 1B or 2.

Plate 1A, 1B or 2.

BG, BI, BL, CE, KH, LJ, OK, PH, QE, QG, RC, TB.

Apart from the Ray Flaw, which may not be visible, there is nothing very definite on these stamps but there *may* be some slight clue present which indicates Plate 1B on :—

BG.	Top line of NE square may be somewhat thinner. (See p. 31.)
BI, KH.	The I and H are thinner than on 1A and 2. (See p. 31.)
BL.	Top line of NW square may appear double.
CE, RC.	There may be a trace of the missing ray visible.
LJ.	J appears to be slightly larger.
OK.	Trace of missing ray. Slight weakness at corner of "O" square.
PH.	Cross bar of H thinner.
QE.	Bottom line of E square thinner.
QG.	Top line of NW square thin.
TB.	Bottom line of B square thinner.

It is obvious therefore that even if the Plate 1B stamps can be recognized by these slight clues there is nothing to indicate Plate 1A or 2.

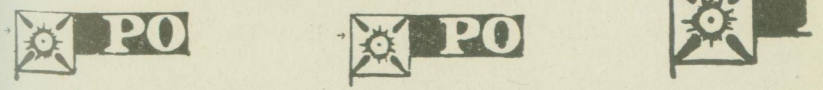


Plate 1A — Plate 1B — Plate 2

Ray Flaws.

Plates 1A or 1B

AA, AB, AD, AE, (AF), AG, AL, BC, BD, BE, BF, CI, CJ, CK, DB, DE, DG, DH, DI, EB, EC, EF, (FI, FL, GH, HB, HE, HF), KE, KK, LF, ML, OC, PF, QH, QI, RF, SC, SI, SJ, TA, TC, TF, TK.

All these which show the Ray Flaw, but nothing else, must have come from Plate 1A or 1B as Plate 2 can be eliminated because :—

(1) There being no Ray Flaw on the Plate 2 stamps FF to JL, none of the above FI to HF can have come from this plate.

(2) All the other stamps except AF have something definite for Plate 2 as distinct from Plates 1A and 1B.

AF can also be eliminated because although there is nothing on the Plate 2 stamps, there is a dot in the NE square on both the Plate 1A and 1B stamps.

It has already been mentioned that when the different types of Ray Flaws can be seen there should not be much difficulty in deciding when a stamp comes from Plate 1A or 1B, but when this is not possible it may not be so easy.

This is especially so when a stamp happens to be one on which :—

(1) There is nothing very obvious for either plate.

(2) The same mark or marks of identification for both plates are present.

(1) Some of the above stamps may, however, be plated without much difficulty if by chance some slight clue indicating Plate 1B can be confirmed, such as :—

(*a*) A trace of the missing 10 o'clock ray which should be present and may be visible on AA, AD, AE, AL, BC, BD, BE, BF, DB, EB, EC, EF, FI, HE, HF, KE, SJ, TC.

(*b*) DG, GH, KK, QH, QI.

On these there is nothing very definite for Plate 1A, but on the Plate 1B stamps the following may be seen :—

CI.	Side line, NE square, thinner.
CJ.	Top line, NE square, thinner.
DG, GH.	Letters G and H thinner.
KK.	Each letter slightly larger.
OC.	Left line has been described as re-cut.
QH.	Letter H with thinner centre bar.
QI.	Bottom line of I square double.
RF.	Faint vertical line in R square.
SC.	Faint scratches through postage.

On ML from Plate 1A there may be a short horizontal stroke at the top of the M square which is not present on Plate 1B.

(2) On the following stamps there are practically the same marks of identification for both Plate 1A and 1B, but there may be also some slight variations indicating Plate 1B, which have been described, but which it has not been possible to confirm in all cases.

AB.	Plate 1A.	Dot touching side line of NE square.
	Plate 1B.	Dot just off the line.
AF.	Plate 1A.	Dot in NE square.
	Plate 1B.	Dot in NE square. Trace of missing 10 o'clock ray.
AG.	Plate 1A.	A with foot long on the left.
	Plate 1B.	Short vertical line from "P" of "Postage" into the margin.
DE.	Plate 1A.	Side line of NE square perfect.
	Plate 1B.	Side line of NE square weak.
DH.	Plate 1A.	Letter D blurred.
	Plate 1B.	D not so blurred.
DI.	Plate 1A.	Guide line NE square. Bottom line extends to right.
	Plate 1B.	Guide line, if present, very faint. Same extensions. Letter I thinner.
FL.	Plate 1A.	Faint dot outside corner of L square. Very faint guide line in NE square.
	Plate 1B.	Same dot. No guide line.
HB.	Plate 1A.	Well marked re-entries upper squares Postage, H square and value.
	Plate 1B.	Same re-entries but not so evident.
LF.	Plate 1A.	Guide line in NE square.
	Plate 1B.	Guide line very faint.
PF.	Plate 1A.	Bottom line extends to right.
	Plate 1B.	Same extension. ? Left line stronger.
SI.	Plate 1A.	Line through OS of Postage.
	Plate 1B.	Same line. Right side weaker.
TA.	Plate 1A.	Dot below corner of T square.
	Plate 1B.	Dot fainter.
TK.	Plate 1A.	Left side of T enlarged at top ? double.
	Plate 1B.	Letter T identical.

If then it is assumed that all these slight clues can be confirmed, it would seem that the only really difficult 1A or 1B stamps are CK and TF, TK, on which there is nothing to indicate from which of the two plates they have come and that all the others might possibly be plated without any reference to the Ray Flaws. Unfortunately, this is not likely to happen and so not only these three but probably quite a number of others will to the inexperienced collector be very difficult.

To decide if a particular stamp is from Plate 1A or 1B when a ray flaw cannot be seen and on which there is nothing else present or on which there is the same identification mark is probably one of the most difficult plating problems of all to solve. This is so becau e the check letters are in the same position on both plates except on EJ, EK, GC, GK, IL, JC, PA, QL, on which the position of one or both letters on Plate 1B are different. Several of these Plate 1A or 1B stamps can therefore only be plated by their general make-up and appearance, together with a good knowledge of the characteristics of each plate and the experience only to be gained after examining a great number of them, by which some of the principal differences may be recognized, such as :

Plate 1A

(1) The intense black of the very early and the less well defined and greyish appearance of the later impressions due to wear of the plate.

(2) The tending to thicker base lines and letters.

(3) The absence of burr marks and strengthened side lines.

(4) Vertical guide lines, when present, are more definite and for the most part only present on Plate 1A.

(5) The "Plate Dot" which often appears on Plate 1A but practically never on 1B.

(6) If by any chance a May Date is present the stamp will be from Plate 1A.

Plates 1A or 2

AJ, BG, BI, BJ, BL, CE, DJ, EH, FC, KB, KF, KH, LC, LD, LH, LJ, MC, NF, NH, NI, OG, OK, PH, QE, QF, QG, QJ, QK, RC, TB.

Of these, BG*, BI*, BL, CE, KH, LJ, OK, PH, QE, QF, QG, RC, TB, have all been mentioned under Plates 1A, 1B or 2, because, if the slight clues given for Plate 1B cannot be confirmed it will then have to be decided from which of the three Plates 1A, 1B or 2 they have come.

On the following, although there may be something to indicate Plate 1B, there is nothing very definite by which Plate 1A or 2 can be easily recognized, but it may be possible on some of them to find something by which these two plates can be separated such as on AJ, BJ, EH, KF, where the left frame line may be weaker on Plate 1A.

DJ. There is a guide line in the NE square on 1A and 2 but not on 1B, and the letter D on Plate 2 is slightly larger than on 1A.

QK. Plate 2. Mark of re-entry on the crossbar of T of Postage, but this is not constant.

Except for these six stamps, on all of those mentioned above there is something more or less definite for Plate 1B, but nothing at all by which Plate 1A or 2 can be separated.

These will, therefore, have to be plated by the position of the letters in the corner square. This will not cause the same trouble as with the Plate 1A or 1B stamps as the letters on Plate 1A and 2 are not in the same position.

*Illustrated page 31.

Plates 1B or 2

AI, CB, PC. The difficulty with the stamps AI and CB is that there is a vertical guide line in the NE square on Plate 1A, but on Plates 1B and 2 there is no guide line or anything else.

PC. Here we have a vertical guide line in the NE squares on both the Plate 1A and 2 stamps. Therefore, if the guide line which has been described (but must be extremely faint) on Plate 2 can be confirmed, it is a question of Plates 1A or 2 ; if it cannot be seen, then it is a choice of Plates 1B or 2.

GROUP B

"O" Flaw Stamps

When the presence of the "O" Flaw cannot be confirmed on a stamp on which it should appear, it becomes, for plating purposes, a Group C stamp, and so may be from any plate except 1A, 1B or 2. Unless some slight clue, apart from the "O" Flaw, as given on the list AA to TL, can be confirmed, these stamps will have to be plated by some plate characteristic or perhaps a letter indicating a particular plate and finally by the position of the letters in the corner squares.

GROUP C

No Flaw or Any Other Mark of Identification

Beside those stamps which show either the Ray or "O" Flaw there are many other difficult stamps on which there is nothing definite to show from which plate they have come.

A few of these can only be from one plate because the same lettered stamp from all the other plates will have something definite to show for each one. There are also, however, the difficult stamps which may have come from any one of two or more plates, including the Ray and "O" Flaw plates where stamps are concerned on which neither flaw appears.

Where a decision has to be made between two or more plates, most difficulty will probably be found when it lies between two which are somewhat similar, such as 3 and 7, or 4, 5 and 6.

Plates 3 and 7

The stamps from both these plates are often very similar in appearance and as a great many of them have no definite mark of identification, a knowledge of their chief characteristics is very useful when plating.

The important letters to look for on Plate 3 are especially the "P" with the small loop and also the small "M" and narrow "K", both of which on some stamps are blurred. On Plate 7 there is no outstanding letter, but the "E" is of the narrow type and on some of the L's, especially LB, LD, LE, LH, LJ, the left lower serif is practically missing. Where these two plates are concerned there should be no difficulty with most of the stamps AA to JB as the "O" Flaw should appear on all of these from Plate 7 as Stage 1 or 2, but is of course entirely absent on Plate 3.

Plates 4 and 6

The principal characteristic of these plates is the great number of spots and dots which are present and especially so on Plate 4. Many of them are constant and most frequently to be seen in or around the corner squares and on the margins. So frequent are they that when one sees several in various positions and especially in little clusters near a corner it is pretty safe to assume that the stamp is from Plate 4.

Another point of similarity, to which Plate 5 must be added, is that the Frame Lines are in many cases very irregular, ragged or even practically missing, this being most frequent in Plate 6. As regards the lines around the corner squares, the bottom lines of the first letter squares of Plate 4 often appear to be much thicker than the corresponding line on the right.

There is no characteristic letter from either Plates 4 or 6, but the L's in the horizontal row of Plate 4 all tend to slope upwards.

On Plate 6 scratches are often to be seen and most frequently in the letter squares and on the lower margin.

Plate 3

As regards Plate 3 it has been mentioned that there are more than the average number of stamps on which there is nothing very definite to indicate any particular plate. This is so as there are about a hundred stamps on which there is nothing, and about fifty more with only some very slight clue, which may or may not be present or visible, indicating Plate 3.

On referring to the detailed list AA–TL, it will be seen that the stamps AB, BB, CE and JC are good examples of how some of these Plate 3 stamps with no definite mark of identification can or cannot be easily plated.

AB. On this lettered stamp there is something quite definite for every plate except 3, 6 and 10. The Plate 10 stamp, however, can be easily recognized by the "O" Flaw if visible. There is nothing, however, to indicate the Plate 3 or 6 stamps, so their plating must depend on some plate characteristic or the position of the letters in the squares.

BB. This stamp may be quite difficult as there is nothing to indicate Plate 3, 4, 5 or 6 unless it should happen to be a State 2 Plate 5 stamp, when the side lines would be stronger and the letters fainter. In addition the position of the letters on the Plate 3 and 4 stamps show very little difference.

The positions are :—

Plate 3. Both letters high to the right.

Plate 4. First B high to the right.
Second B high slightly to right.

CE. The plating of this should cause little trouble as each plate, except 2, 3 and 8, can be easily recognized and the ray flaw on Plate 2 and the "O" Flaw on Plate 8 would also be present.

JC. Plate 1A, 1B, 4 and 11 can be easily recognized and so can Plate 2, in spite of the fact that there is no Ray Flaw, by a dot in the corner of C square. Plates 8, 9 and 10 show the "O" Flaw and Plate 11 the Ray Flaw in the NE corner. As the "O" flaw is not present on the Plate 7 stamp, the plating rests between Plates 3, 5, 6 and 7. There will be nothing to look for if the stamp came from 5, 6 or 7, but it may be possible to detect a very faint horizontal guide line on the Plate 3 stamp.

Plates 1A and 1B or Plate 2.



Plates 1A and 1B or Plate 2.



The above are examples where awkwardly placed cancellations may mask the slight definite indications by which the plates may be distinguished.



PB shows the small looped "P," a characteristic of the row in plates 10 and 11.

Plate 3, QB with the blind loop in "Q."

EASY STAMPS

IN contrast to the difficult stamps there are also several which can be plated quite easily by noticing :—

(1) When something outstanding is present, indicating one particular plate, which does not appear on any other stamps of the same lettering from the other plates.

(2) An extreme position of one or in some cases both of the letters in the squares irrespective of anything else which may be present.

Individual Stamps

Some of these which can be quite easily recognized as coming from a particular plate are :—

AA, Plate 3. Both A's blind.

AA to DJ, Plate 10. These are the only stamps which show the "O" Flaw in stage 3.

DA and JA, Plate 1A. When the A is blurred or blind.

AB, Plate 9. AL, Plate 2. FD and GD, Plate 5. These are the only stamps which show two vertical guide lines in the NE square.

BF, Plate 4. This stamp shows the top line of B square extending into left margin.

BL and HL, Plate 8. Two distinct marks on the left margin just above B and H squares.

EA, Plate 2. EB, Plate 5. RL, Plate 11. On these the foot of E is distinctly bifurcated as is also the tail of the R of RL Plate 11.

GB, Plate 1B. Curved mark on N of ONE.

KA to KL, Plate 9. Several of these and especially KC, KD, KG, KJ and KL can be easily recognized by the extremely well defined horizontal guide lines through the letter squares and value.

NJ, Plates 3 and 9. These are the only stamps of this lettering with a vertical guide line in the NE square. They can be easily plated because of the "O" Flaw on Plate 9 and the fact that on the Plate 3 stamp there is also a horizontal guide line in the NE square.

PJ, Plate 11. Three curved scratches under "Penny".

QB, Plate 3. On this stamp the loop to the "Q" is blind.

PA and RA, Plate 1A. These may be recognized as from 1A when the A is seen to be blind, but this is not constant.

SA, Plate 3. SJ, Plate 10. These show the lower line of the NE square extending into the right margin.

SA and SL, Plate 10. Each stamp in this row has a small mark of re-entry close to the left side line of the NE square.

TL, Plate 8. Very well marked scratches over the NE square.

Other stamps which can be easily plated by characteristic letters are some from Plate 10 and 11 by the square-footed J and all the P row by the small loop to the P* and LA to LK with the foot of L sloping up to the right.

*See illustration page 31.

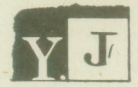


Plate 10.

EJ, JF, JH, JI, OJ, QJ, SJ. These can be recognized when from Plate 10, apart from the square J, by a distinctive mark on the right of the J. There are one or two others, but as the mark may be very faint and not easily seen, they are not mentioned. It is also useful to remember that every stamp except GE, GF from Plate 11 shows the 7 o'clock Ray Flaw in the NE corner and also that on Plate 11 several of the stamps show a very definite weakness of the top line of the NE square.

Position of Letters

On a number of stamps it will be noticed that the position of one or in some cases both the letters is such that if not practically touching one of the lines of the square it is placed further from the centre than on any other stamp from the same row and so can only come from the one plate as indicated on the AA to TL list.

It is not always easy to determine the actual degree of distance a letter is from the dead centre of the square, such as where from slightly high, low, to the right or left, it gradually becomes quite obviously or very much so.

It is, however, easy to see at a glance when the letter is quite close to if not practically touching one of the lines of the square. Only those stamps are mentioned which are placed in such an extreme position that they can only come from one plate. If, as happens in a few cases, a stamp of the same lettering could come from two plates such as 3 or 4, or 7 or 8, etc., they are not included ; but if, for instance, they come from Plate 1A or 1B with the Ray Flaw and Plate 3 without the flaw or from Plate 4 or 8 with and without the "O" Flaw these will be included.

It sometimes happens that when the position of a letter is, for instance, given as central, it may appear to the eye as slightly off centre. This is so because, even if the centre of the stamp may coincide with the dead centre of the square, some part of the letter may be slightly thickened. If this is so, the edge of the black letter encroaching slightly on the white background of the square gives the impression that it is placed just a little higher, lower, to the right or left according to which part of the letter is affected. The position of the letters, when not central, is described as slightly high, low, etc., or just high, quite high, very high or extremely so.

The position "quite" indicates that :—

(1) Although it is obvious it is not considered very or extreme.

(2) Both letters are in much the same position but one of them appears to be just a little higher or lower, etc.

THE RAY FLAW AND THE "O" FLAW

DESCRIPTION OF AND IMPORTANCE IN PLATING

Ray Flaw

ON looking at one of these Penny Black stamps it will be seen that from the small circle in the centre of the upper squares there are what are known as the Long Major rays, of which there are four, reaching up and down to the corners thus dividing the squares into four segments, in each of which are normally placed three smaller rays.

A ray flaw is said to be present when one of these small rays has completely or partially disappeared. When this happens it is of real help in plating, especially as it may not always be the same ray which is affected.

The common and best known Ray Flaw, which is only seen on stamps from Plate 1A, 1B and 2, is when there is no sign of, or perhaps only a trace of, the so-called 10 o'clock ray, this being the uppermost of the three small rays in the left segment of the left top square. It is generally accepted that all stamps from Plates 1A and 1B, except CL, RL, SL, TK and TL show this 10 o'clock Ray Flaw, whereas all the stamps CI to JL from Plate 2 do not. It follows, therefore, that the stamps CI, CJ, CK and all from the D to J rows which *do* show it come from Plate 1, and that RL, SL, TK and TL which show it, from Plate 2.

This flaw may also be of some help in distinguishing between Plates 1A, 1B and 2 because on some of the Plate 1B stamps there may be seen what looks like a faint trace of the missing ray which is entirely absent from the same lettered stamps from Plates 1A and 2.

Trace of Missing Ray

This may be seen on the following Plate 1B stamps : AA, AD, AE, AF, AL, BC, BD, BE, BF, CE, DB, EB, EC, EF, FI, HE, HF, KE, NC, OK, PE, QJ, RC, SJ, TC.

In addition to the 10 o'clock Ray Flaw, there are also certain alterations in the left (7 o'clock) and the right (5 o'clock) rays in the lower segment. These alterations cause some characteristic differences between the stamps from Plates 1A, 1B and 2 which help very considerably in their correct plating.

Plate 1A. The 10 o'clock ray, as already described, occurs on every stamp from this Plate, except CL, RL, SL, TK and TL, but as it is also present on so many of the Plate 1B and 2 stamps, it is not of so much importance in plating as the 7 and 5 o'clock rays. As Dr. Osborne states, with the exception of CL, every stamp from Plate 1A can be distinguished from any of the other black stamps from Plates 2 to 11 by an enlargement or thickening of the 7 o'clock and a weakness or complete absence of the 5 o'clock ray.



Plate 1A. Plate 1B. Plate 2. Plate 11.

Ray Flaws.

Plate 1B. The 10 o'clock ray is more or less the same as on Plate 1A except that it is perhaps not broken off quite so short, but here, unlike 1A, it is the 7 o'clock ray which is weak or missing and the 5 o'clock stronger or normal. This is the case on every stamp except FI and LG, on both of which this lower segment closely resembles that of Plate 1A. These variations of the 5 and 7 o'clock rays are the general rule, but as Dr. Osborne points out, it should be noted that there are a limited number of stamps on which this segment is intermediate between those of Plates 1A and 2.

Plate 2. FF to JL are the only stamps on which there is no Ray Flaw. AA to CH and KA to TL all show both a 7 o'clock and 10 o'clock Ray Flaw.

CI to FE do not show a 10 o'clock but can be recognized by a 7 o'clock Ray Flaw.

Plate 11. On this plate there is also a Ray Flaw which appears on every stamp except GE and GF, but unlike Plate 1 and 2 this is seen in the opposite or top right corner square and consists of the absence or extreme thinning of the 7 o'clock ray.

The importance of this ray flaw is that it appears on no other stamps printed in black ; it is therefore an easy means of recognizing one from this rare plate.



Stage 1. Stage 2. Stage 3.

"O" Flaws.

"O" Flaw

This consists of a white mark of indistinct outline situated between the "O" and "N" of "ONE". It only appears on Plates 7, 8, 9 and 10 and is extremely helpful when plating stamps from these plates, especially since Dr. Osborne described it as appearing in three stages.

Stage 1. A white mark between the base line and a point just to the right of the centre of the "O" of "ONE".

Stage 2. In addition to Stage 1 a white mark extending from the base line upwards and to the right to just *above* the foot of the "N" of "ONE".

Stage 3. An addition to or extension of Stage 2 which passes *beneath* the left half of the foot of the "N" of "ONE".

Exactly how this flaw came about is not definitely known.

Sir Edward Bacon thought that a small fragment of metal might have got on to the original die or perhaps the surface of the roller, which was not detected when the roller used for these particular plates was made, and Mr. J. B. Seymour suggested that it might have been caused by some slight damage to the roller before it was hardened.

Whatever the actual cause, however, it seems to be agreed that the "Flaw" was the result of a defective roller.

As regards Plates 8, 9 and 10, it is curious that there are several stamps from them which either never show the flaw at all or which do show it originally, but in a later state may or may not. Two or three reasons have been given for this, such as repair or wear or excessive ink. The ink theory is not supported by the fact that some stamps from Plate 9 show what looks like an attempt to remove the flaws by burring them out, but possibly all three together contributed to this occasional disappearance. It is important to remember that the general printing of stamps in black ceased towards the end of December, 1840, the printing of the 1841 red stamps commenced on December 30th, 1840, for which Plates 8, 9 and 10, together with 1, 2, 5 and 11 were used. Some of these plates were put to press untouched, but others seem to have been retouched and then later again in January, 1841, underwent further repair. As a result of these repairs the flaw disappeared from some of the stamps. This repair and the fact that Plates 9 and 10 were used for the provisional printing in black would therefore account for both black and red stamps of the same lettering and from the same plate being known both with and without the flaw.

Every stamp which shows the "O" Flaw must have come from either Plate 7, 8, 9 or 10, but this does not mean that a stamp cannot have come from one of them because it is not present on every stamp from these four plates.

The well-known Stage 2 of the flaw has generally been described as appearing on :—

Plate 7. AA to HL.

Plate 8. AA to OJ.

Plate 9. Every stamp in the first state of the plate.

Plate 10. Every stamp except BE, BF, BH, BJ, BK, KB.

Apart from these it will be found that Stages 1 and 3 of the flaw will give much additional help by which many more of the "O" Flaw stamps can be correctly plated.

Plate 7. *Stage 2.* In this stage the flaw is generally fairly obvious on most of the stamps from AA to FL, but after this it seems to get progressively fainter until, except on a few of the G and H row stamps, it will probably only be visible with any certainty on an exceptionally clear impression.

Stage 1. This stage may be seen on some of the stamps from the G, H and I rows and has been confirmed as present on GH, GJ, HA, HB, HD, HF, HG, HH, HI, HJ, HK, HL, IF, IG, IH, II, IK, IL and also JA, JB.

Plate 8. *Stage 2.* This should be present on every stamp AA to OJ from the first state of the plate.

Stage 1. Practically all the remaining stamps OK to TL show Stage 1, which has been confirmed on every stamp except OK, OL, PF, PI, PK, PL, QB, QE, QL, SB, SF, SH, SI, SL. When the flaw cannot be seen on one of these Plate 8 stamps it must be remembered that, as many of them were repaired, it may be one from the second state of the plate on which the flaw does not show.

Plate 9. *Stage 2.* In the first state of the plate this is present on every stamp, but as on Plate 8, after repair, in the second state it may be missing and particularly in the "A" row.

Plate 10. Except for BE, BF, BH, BJ, BK, KB, on which the flaw never appears it is present as Stage 2 or 3 on every stamp from the first state of this plate. In the second state, when missing, this is most likely to occur on BB, BC, BD, CA, CB, CC, CE, CF, CG, CH, DH, DI, DJ, DK and DL.

Stage 3. This is present on all the stamps AA to DJ. The importance of this is the fact that as Stage 3 of the "O" Flaw is not known on any other Penny Black, its presence on any of these stamps lettered AA to DJ indicates that they must come from Plate 10.

When dealing with these "O" Flaw stamps it will help to remember the letters which are characteristic of the plates they may have come from, such as especially the square-footed J, the tall I and the short squat H and T of Plate 10.

Also on this plate the R's have a long tail, so-called Rat-Tail, the tail having been added to the letter P. The letter E may be of some help with Plate 8, on which it is smaller than on the other plates, and on Plates 7 and 10, where it is narrower.

On Plate 7, also, several of the L's in the horizontal row have the left lower serif more or less missing. The J on Plate 9 has a tendency to be square-footed, but this is nothing like so pronounced as on Plates 10 and 11.



Plate 10.

PLATE 1

THE Penny Blacks—the first postage stamps or "Adhesive Labels" as they were originally termed, were produced for the world on May 6th, 1840. They were issued to the Post Office on May 1st, but not for use until May 6th. Three cases at least, however, have been recorded of an earlier use—one a cover dated May 2nd with the Bath postmark, another used on the same day from London, and the third a letter sheet dated May 5th carrying an unused Penny Black. Printing began about the middle of April (April 15th), but after only a week or so this had to be stopped as it was found that the plate, not having been hardened, was showing serious signs of wear. It was therefore withdrawn on April 22nd. Very extensive repair work was found to be necessary, as in addition to hardening and re-entering, many of the check letters, corner squares and frame lines had to be touched up, strengthened or in some cases completely re-cut, or re-entered. Most, if not all, of the later plates were probably also withdrawn for repair, but in no case was such a complete overhaul necessary. All this work meant that the stamps from the two states of the plate in many cases vary considerably. Those from the repaired or second state show many re-entries, re-cut or double letters. For this reason, Plate 1 is generally classified as two plates and is known by collectors, especially for plating purposes, as Plate 1A in its original state and Plate 1B after being reconditioned.

Exactly how long these repairs took is not very clear, but it seems to have been from April 22nd, when the plate was withdrawn for hardening, etc., until between May 23rd and 26th.

PLATE 1A

Earliest Official Date of Postage—May 6th, 1840.

The first stamps printed were of an intense black but as the plate began to show signs of wear they tended to become patchy and greyish-black to grey in colour, and were usually cancelled in red. As very grey impressions showing obvious signs of wear are extremely scarce from all the other plates, except perhaps Plate 3, and possibly 7, these are quite likely to come from Plate 1A.

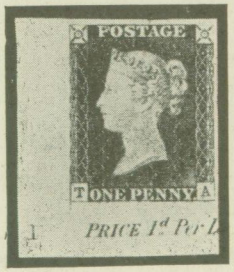
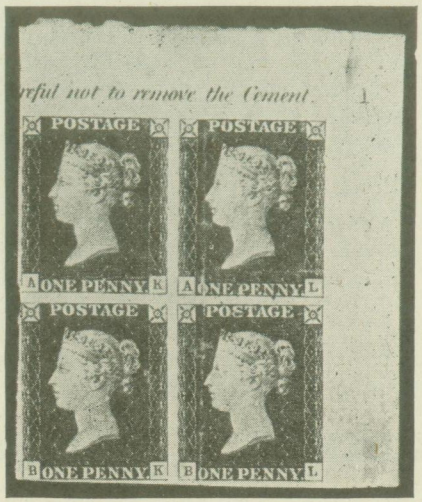
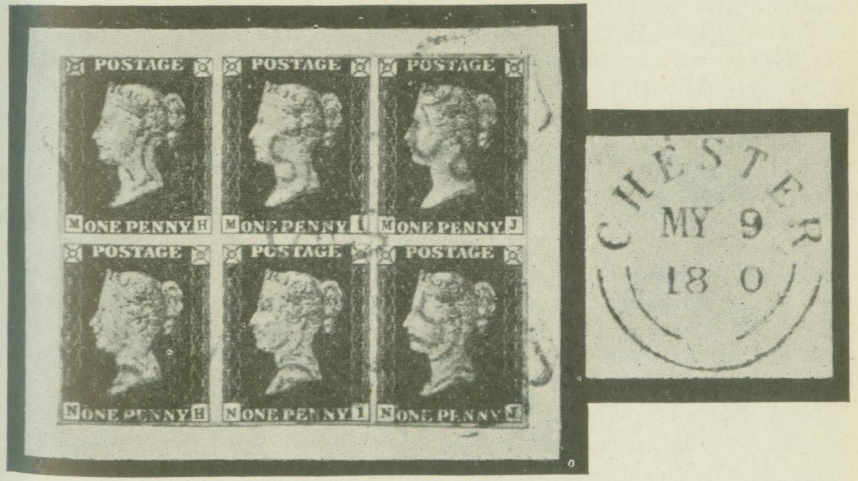


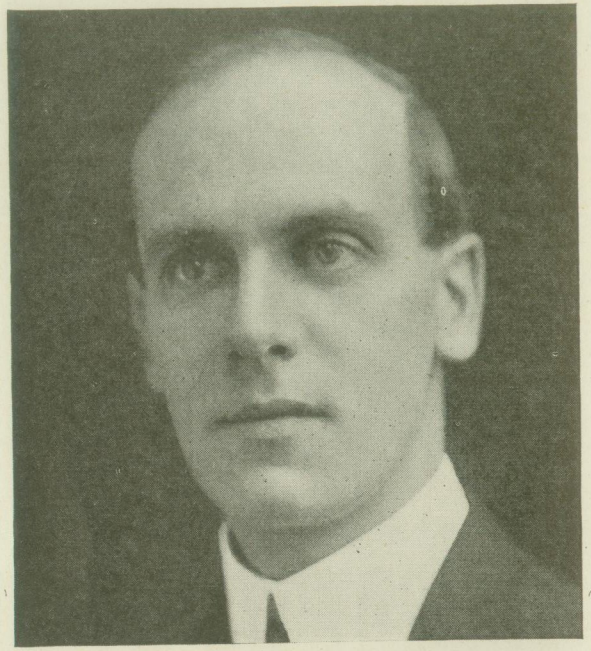
Plate 1A—corner copy.







Typical pieces from Plate 1A.



The Author

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Ray Flaw*

The outstanding feature of this plate is the Ray Flaw which appears on every stamp except CL, RL, SL, TK and TL, and which consists of the absence or breaking off short of the uppermost (10 o'clock) of the three small rays in the left segment of the left star.

In addition to this well-known classical flaw, which is common to Plates 1A, 1B and 2, there are also some slight variations in two of the small rays in the lower segment which help to distinguish between Plates 1A and 1B. These, which were first recorded by Dr. Osborne, are fully described on pages 34 and 35. Of the major varieties only two are to be found on Plate 1A alone, as practically all of them are either confined to Plate 1B or appear on both the plates. The two outstanding examples which alone appear on Plate 1A are the double bottom lines, or re-entries on SL, TL and the re-cut PB square. Nearly all the vertical guide lines in the NE square can only be seen on Plate 1A.



Plate 1A.

PLATE 1B

Earliest Date—June 8th, 1840.

The colour and appearance of these stamps vary considerably, but perhaps it can be said that the black is not so intense on the early and on the whole not so grey or worn looking as on the later ones from Plate 1A, but as this plate had a very long life, some of the later printings have much the same greyish-black and worn appearance as do the majority of the stamps from Plate 1A. That the repairs to Plate 1A which resulted in Plate 1B were satisfactory seems to have been proved by the fact that it was in continuous use for as long as the black stamps were printed and after this for the 1841 issue in red.

Apart from the general appearance of the stamps it is not surprising to find that as a result of the repairs which took place most of the landmarks, so essential for plating, such as Re-entries, Horizontal Guide Lines, etc., are to be found on Plate 1B with the one important exception, that the vertical lines are practically all to be found on Plate 1A. The same Ray Flaws are present here as on Plate 1A, but with some modifications, as described under "Ray and 'O' Flaw."

Trace of Missing Ray†

On the following stamps may be seen a faint trace of the uppermost (10 o'clock) ray in the left segment of the top left square. This may be of great help in plating because as it never appears on the Plate 1A or 2 stamps its presence indicates Plate 1B.

AA, AD, AE, AF, AL, BC, BD, BE, BF, CE, DB, EB, EC, EF, FI, HE, HF, KE, NC, OK, PE, QJ, RC, SJ, TC.

*See illustration on page 35.
†See illustration on page 35.



NE of ONE Joined

CF, DF, FD, NA, OA, OB, OD, OF, PD, QD, RE.

On the above can be seen what might almost be called a characteristic of the plate, the joining or nearly so, at the foot of the N and E of ONE. The only other stamps on which this occurs are KJ, KK and NC on Plate 2, and SK and SL on Plate 3, but except on SK the join on these is not complete but closer than usual.

Where any dots appear on both plates, those on 1B are generally smaller and fainter than on 1A.

Plate 1B was also one of the plates used for the printing of the first issue of the Penny Reds, early in 1841, and it is from some of these stamps that there is evidence that the plate underwent some further repair and so is known as Plate 1C in a third state.

Examples

AK. On Plate 1A the corner of the A square is perfect, on 1B broken, and on the red or 1C perfect again.

LB. The corner of the NE square and the right frame line on 1B are weak, but have been strengthened on 1C.

LI. The corner of the L square is perfect on 1A, broken on 1B, and perfect on 1C.

QD. The bottom line is very thin and weak, and the NE of ONE is joined on 1B but normal on 1C.

QL. Star in NW square defective on Plate 1C.

PLATES 1A and 1B

Re-entries

As a result of the very extensive repairs which took place when the plate was withdrawn for hardening, it shows many more re-entries than any of the other plates. These may be seen in both the upper and lower squares, through the letters of POSTAGE and VALUE, and often in more than one of these positions on the same stamp.

Plates 1A and 1B. HA, HB, HD, OA.

Plate 1A. SL, TL.

On these two stamps the bottom lines appear double, showing the re-entered line cutting through the base of the value.

Plate 1B. CL, EH, EJ, EK, EL, GA, GK, GL, HK, IB, ID, IL, JA, JC, JI, JK, MH, MI, MJ, MK, NG, OI.

Of these, the most interesting are EJ, EK, IL and JC as in addition to the re-entry, the check letters are re-cut and enlarged with the position of one or both of them altered on EJ, EK, IL and JC. The position of both letters of GK is also altered.

Lines or faint marks which may be seen in the top squares on BB, II, JB, JD, JE, JF, LH and QL have also been described as slight re-entries, but on none of these stamps except LH are they very obvious and may perhaps be accidental and not true re-entries at all.

HB. As regards this stamp, it has recently been recorded by Mr. J. K. Sidebottom that it is doubly re-entered. The description of it as given by Nissen and McGowan is as follows :—

Plate 1A. Fine re-entry each upper square and through H and "ONE PENNY". Left side thin.

Plate 1B. Fine re-entry as before. Lower part of right side line double.



Plate 1A. HB the only double re-entry on a penny black.

On looking at an enlarged photograph of the Plate 1A, the following details, as described by Robson Lowe in the December, 1946, *Philatelist*, can be plainly seen.

In the top right star the NE ray is trebled and a second impression of the NW ray also appears.

In the top left corner there is a second impression of the NW ray. Further signs at the top of the stamp are horizontal lines through the middle of the PO of POSTAGE and just below this another line running through the right half of I and GE. At the bottom of the stamp there is a line through the middle of the E of ONE to the second N of PENNY and below this another line through EP. Still further signs are the doubling of the left side of the letter H and the frame line below the stamp. Surely this must be the most re-entered stamp of all the Penny Blacks.



Plate 1A

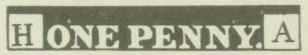


Plate 1B.

HA, Plate 1A. It seems from the following description, as recorded by the late Mr. George Grieve, that HA, the adjoining stamp to HB, was also re-entered and this after close examination of the stamp seems to be most probable.

Nissen and McGowan's description is :—

Plate 1A. Scratch or Guide Line on lower margin—small dot in upper part of H.

Plate 1B. Faint scratches left margin and small dot.

Grieve suggests that the dot in H is not a dot at all, but that the letter H is double and that the supposed guide line is none other than the bottom frame line doubled.

Check Letters

There is nothing outstanding about the general shape or form of the letters except that the D's are somewhat broad but not so obviously so as those in the horizontal row of Plate 2. The E is of a larger type than on most of the other plates and has a tendency for the foot to be slightly extended to the left.

Re-cut Letters

Plate 1B. EJ, EK, IL, JC.

On these not only are the letters re-cut, but they are slightly larger on Plate 1B than on 1A, and the position of one or both is altered on Plate 1B.

On GC, GK, PA and QL there is no enlargement of the letters, but change of position of the C of GC, the L of QL, and both letters of GK and PA.

PA. On this stamp the original outline of both letters which have been re-cut can be partly seen and their original position in Plate 1A has been altered on 1B.



All the above show re-entries ; of those illustrated, only HB and HD are also found in Plate 1A. These illustrations will serve to identify the corner letterings but, except to the trained eye, the re-entries will only be seen under magnification of the original stamp.

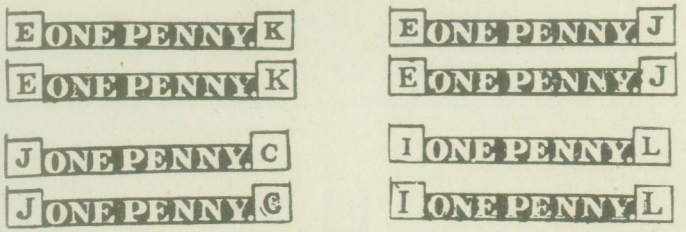


IL—the re-cut letters.



PK—both letters re-cut.
QL—re-entry in the NE corner.

Typical pieces from Plate 1B.



Examples of similar lettering from Plates 1A (uppermost) and 1B.

Other examples are JJ, PJ and PK, where both letters have been re-cut, as are also the J's of QJ, RJ and TJ, and the K's of RK and SK and the I with the long top on MI.

In the N row, except possibly on NA, NK and NL, all the N's are re-cut, the diagonal stroke thus appearing on Plate 1B as longer and more pointed, and on OI and RI the letter I is tall.

Double Letters

Plates 1A and 1B.

First letter of FA, FI, MF, QA and TK.

Second letter of AE, CD and GI.

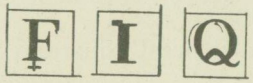
Some of these are very slight, the most obvious being the F's of FA and FI and the M of MF and Q of QA.

Plate 1A.

RI. Top serif of I slightly double.

Plate 1B.

The D and F of KD and KF only appear as slightly double, and PA as described above.



FA. RI. QA.
1A & 1B. 1A. 1A & 1B.

Defective Letters

Plates 1A and 1B.

AG. Foot of A extends to left.
DD. Top of both letters slightly defective.
EE. Bottom serif of first E long on left.

Plate 1A.

PD. Top curve of D slightly weak.
QB. Top of Q slightly weak.

Plate 1B.

DF. Bottom of D slightly weak.
GI. Foot of I defective on the right.
MI. Top right serif of I is longer (? re-cut).

The top serifs of the H on FH, JH and OH meet in the middle on Plate 1A but are apart on Plate 1B.

On BI, DG, DI, OI, RI, GH and KH, the letters G, H and I appear to be slightly thinner on Plate 1B than on 1A.



A typical example of a guide line in the NE corner (close).

Guide Lines

These are both vertical and horizontal, not very numerous, and generally very faintly marked. Practically all the vertical lines appear in the NE square of the A to F rows of Plate 1A, whereas the horizontal with a few exceptions are limited to the J and K rows of Plate 1B. On the margins there are a few indications of what in some cases may be guide lines, but in others are obviously scratches.

Vertical Guide Lines

Plate 1A.

In NE square. AC, AI, BA, BB, BC, CA, CB, CC, DI, DJ, EA, EC, ED, EF, EG, EI, EK, FA, FB, FG, FH, FI, FJ, FK, FL, LF, LG, MD, PC.

Some of the above may also sometimes be seen on Plate 1B, but only on BC, DI, EC, FI and FK with any constancy.

The following also appear on Plate 1B :—

AH, MC. Along the left margin.

KL. In the NE square.

CC, HK. In the H and second C squares respectively.

Horizontal Guide Lines

Plates 1A and 1B.

PL. Top of L and sometimes in the top of P squares.

Plate 1A.

GF. On the lower margin.

LK, MG. In the L and M squares.

Plate 1B.

Letter Squares. On the following the lines may be seen in one or both squares, but are generally much more distinct in the first.

GD, IG, JB, JE, JF, JG, JJ, JK, JL, KA, KB, KC, KD, KF, NB, RJ, ?SA.

Lower Margins. AJ, DL, FC.

NE Square. IE, IF, NL.

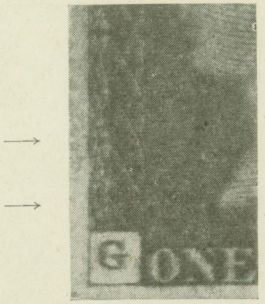
Frame Lines

During the repair work that took place soon after this plate came into use, many of the left frame lines on Plate 1B were strengthened and in some cases entirely re-cut or re-entered. Some of the corner squares were also re-cut, the lines of which may appear double or out of line. Many of the outer lines of the corner squares are thin or defective, especially at the NE corner, and in some cases there is an actual break at the SW or NW corner where the lines do not quite meet.

On the stamp GC, Plate 1B, Seymour describes a rough repair by hand of the design just above the G square. A few lines are extended, but only in one or two cases is the extension more than extremely slight.

On Plate 1B the left side lines appear as stronger on the following :—

AJ, BJ, BK, CD, CH, DH, ED, EH, GB, HC, HD, IG, IH, IJ, KF, LE, MA, ME, MG, NF, OF.



GC retouched by hand.

Re-cut Squares

Plate 1A.

PB. P square re-cut, showing bottom and side lines double, leaving a gap at the SW corner.

Plate 1B.



Plate 1B.
HL.



Plate 1B.
PB.

BL and QI. On these two stamps the top line of the NW square on BL and the bottom line of the I square on QI have been described as double.

AK, HL, IA, LC, LD, LI, LL, MA and SL. On all of these stamps the bottom and side lines do not meet at the SW corner, leaving either a small break or a very distinct gap at the corner which does not appear on the Plate 1A stamps. Apart from this break it can be seen that on HL the bottom line tends to slope upwards to the right, on LL the side line appears to be double and on MA the left side slopes slightly outwards.

On FE, JG, JL and NJ there is a break at the NW corner.



Extended Lines

Most of these extensions are very difficult to confirm and, if present, must be extremely slight. The most difficult, perhaps, are those described on DA and KG from Plate 1A and RG, Plate 1B.

On one or two of these stamps also, especially DD and PJ, Plate 1A, the extension described appears as though a dot was placed at the extreme point of the corner rather than an actual extension.

Plates 1A and 1B.

Bottom line to right. DI, ME, PF, TA, TG.
Left line below. KG, LA.
Right line below. OI.
Top line to left. FJ.
Bottom line to right and left. CA.

Plate 1A.

Bottom line to left. ?DA, ?PJ.
Left line below. PA.
Right line below. BH, DD, EL, GL, RH.
Right and bottom lines across. OA.

Plate 1B.

Bottom line to left. PJ.
Bottom line to right. KL.
Left line below. NH, OB, RG.
Both side lines below. DK.

Dots

When any dots appear on both plates, those on Plate 1A will be found to be much more distinct than on 1B, where they are often smaller, very faint, and difficult to see.

Plates 1A and 1B.

On Margins outside the SE square. CL, DL, FL, HL, JH, LL, PL, QL, RL, TH, TI.

On Margins outside the NE square. AB, AH, AK, AL, KL and on AF where it touches the side lines of the square. Dots can also be seen on both plates on :—

OA. In the centre of O.
TA. Below the SW corner of T square.

Plate 1A.

?DD. At the corner of the SE square. This has been described as an extension of the side line, but looks more like a dot, placed at the extreme tip of the corner.
EG. Outside the corner of G square.

Plate 1B.

CH. Dot or mark on P of POSTAGE.
DA. Dot or mark below E of ONE.
FF. Dot or mark on foot of E of PENNY.
GF. Above G.
IC. In I square to the left of the top of I.
?LG. Below the left corner of G square.
PG. On the O of ONE.

There are two dots on :—

Plates 1A and 1B.

AA. Outside the corner of the first A square, and touching the side line of the NW square.
IA. Plate 1A in SE corner of A square and outside corner of L square and on 1B in the SE corner of A square only.

Plate 1B.

HK. Two or three dots in K square to left of K.
IL. Two dots below L square.

Marks, Blurs and Scratches

Plates 1A and 1B.

AL. Diagonal line across L square. Perhaps not constant.
SI. Thin line through OS of POSTAGE.

Plate 1A.

EE. Small white mark on foot of second E.
GJ. Scratches on lower margin.
MK. Small mark on left margin level with the top of M square.
OA. Faint line below ONE close to frame.

Plate 1B.

AG. Thin line from O of POSTAGE into top margin.
CC. Horizontal scratch on first C square.
DA. Small mark or dot under E of ONE.
EI. Short stroke in NW square.
FC, FD. Line or scratch lower margin.
FE. Short stroke at point of, and scratches in F square.
FF. Mark or dot on foot of E of PENNY.
GA. Scratches top and left margins.
GB. "C" shaped line on N of ONE.
GJ. Scratches lower and ? right margin.
HA. Scratches left margin.
HH. Short stroke upward from left upright of second H.
HJ. Scratches top margin.
IA. Vertical line in NE square.
IC. Faint line or scratch NE square.
IE. Horizontal line across NE square and above POSTAGE.
IF. Horizontal and vertical lines in lower part of NE square.

JB. Horizontal line or stroke NE square. ? Re-entry.
JD. Marks in upper square and postage. ? Re-entry.
JE. Mark in NE and E squares. ? Re-entry.
JF. Marks in J square. ? Re-entry.
JH. Vertical scratch in NW square.
KC. Short vertical line from top of K (see illustration below).
KL. Scratches in lower margin.
MG. Mark on P of POSTAGE.
QB. ?Faint mark below B.
RK. Small mark in K square and below O of ONE.
SI. Line through OS of POSTAGE.

Blurs

Plate 1A. There is a blur on or about the letter A on DA, IA, JA and QA, and on DG, GA and RA the A and G may be blurred, but these do not seem to be constant.

Plate 1A and 1B. The A and D of EA and DH are blurred.



Examples of characteristics of Plate 1B of which a detailed description is given under the appropriate lettering.

PLATE 2

Earliest Date—May 6th, 1840.

THIS plate and Plate 1A were issued together on the same day, May 6th, 1840, and like Plate 1B was used for both the black and red printings.

There is no conclusive evidence that the plate was ever repaired, but stamps are known in red with complete corners, especially the NW, which were formerly incomplete. Some of the check letters also are faint, which may be due to a second state, although some of them appear to have been so originally.

The stamps are usually a good black and cancelled in red.

The only letter of any significance is the D, where all in the horizontal row are broader and larger than on any other plate.

Horizontal guide lines are very frequent and especially so in the S row.



Plate 2—a corner copy.

Ray Flaws

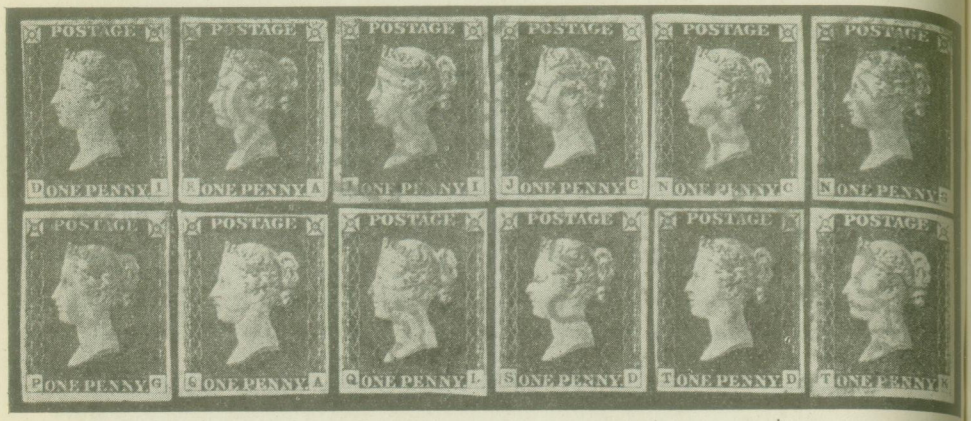
The usual upper (10 o'clock) flaw appears on the majority of stamps, but not to the same extent as on Plate 1, as it is absent here from CI to JL.

As regards the minor flaws (for details see pages 34 and 35) they may be best described in three classes :—

(1) AA to CH and KA to TL. On these there is some resemblance to Plate 1B as both the 10 and 7 o'clock flaws are present.
(2) CI to FE. Here there is no 10 o'clock flaw but these stamps can be recognized by a 7 o'clock flaw.
(3) The rest of the stamps, FF to JL, show no Ray Flaw at all.

Star Angle

This is a characteristic of the plate which shows in the top left corner square where the long lower ray is thicker than usual and badly shaped, with a tendency to curve towards the right. The best examples of this variety are to be seen in the R row.



Examples of Plate 2 which will be found useful in checking the corner lettering. DI shows the typical D of the horizontal row, SD and TD show the D of the vertical row. Examples of extended frame lines are JC (SW corner horizontal), PG (SW corner vertical) and TD (NE corner vertical). Examples of the enlarged "ONE PENNY" are NC ("NE" joined), QA and SD. Horizontal guide lines at the top of the stamp will be found on SD (above) and TK (NW square). Other varieties are EA (bottom serif of E bifurcated), QA (Q faint) and QL (constant mark in NE corner).

Re-entries

Good examples are AD, HL and SA.

AD. In the squares and on the lower margin.

HL. In the upper squares and H square and value.

SA. In each upper and A squares.

JF. There is also a small V-shaped mark in the NW square which has been described as a re-entry.

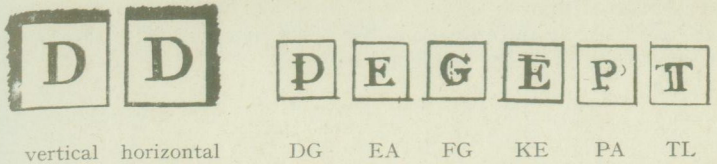
OJ. Slight indications of re-entry above NE square and in NW square.

QK. There may be what looks like a re-entry through the top of T of POSTAGE but this is not constant.

Check Letters

In the horizontal row the D's are slightly larger and broader than on any of the plates except perhaps Plate 1, to which they are somewhat similar, but they can be easily distinguished if it be remembered that in this row the 10 o'clock Ray Flaw is present on Plate 1 but absent on Plate 2. The letter E is not quite so wide as it is on Plates 1, 3 and 4, and the H's tend to slope upwards.

On NC and to a lesser extent on KJ and KK, the N and E of ONE are nearly joined at the base, but are not so close as on most of those where this variety shows on Plate 1.



vertical row horizontal row DG EA FG KE PA TL

Double Letters

The best examples are the first letters on DG, PA and TL, and the second on FG and KE.

The lower serif of the E on EA is bifurcated and the serif of the upper diagonal of the K of LK appears to be slightly double as does also the M on ME.

Defective or Faint Letters

First letters of DA, ?HA, NA, NB, NK, ?PB, QA, QB, RA, RL and very slightly on E of EJ.

Second letters of BD, EK, GK, HE, OE, and very slightly IK, JD, RB and TI.

Guide Lines

Vertical or horizontal guide lines, and in some cases both together, are to be found in rather more than a quarter of the stamps from this plate. They are most numerous in the D, R, S and T rows, but entirely absent from the F, G and K rows. Some of these are very faint or so close to the frame line as to be difficult to detect, but on the whole they can be readily seen. Vertical guide lines can be found both in the squares, and also on the side margins.

The horizontal guide lines are found through the value, letter squares, and also especially on this plate, along the upper and lower margins.

On a few of these stamps there is more than one guide line; DB, RA and RB having three, and AL, DA, DC, LB, LF, MF, OJ, RE, SE, TJ and TL, two each.

Three Guide Lines.

DB. Vertical NE square and horizontal letter squares.

RA. Vertical on right margin. Horizontal above each letter square.

RB. Vertical in NE and B squares, and horizontal in NW square.

Two Guide Lines.

AL. Two vertical in NE square.

DA, DC. Vertical in NE square and horizontal in lower margin.

LB. Horizontal through top of each upper square.

LF. Short thin vertical line from point of NE corner, and another parallel to it on the margin.

MF. Horizontal in NW square and on margin above.

OJ. Horizontal above NE square and ? in NW square.

RE. Horizontal above each upper square.

SE. Vertical in NE square and horizontal along top margin.

TJ. Vertical in NE square and horizontal above.

TL. Vertical and horizontal outside the NE corner.

Vertical Guide Lines

These are to be found mostly in the NE square, but are also present on the right margin, and in the SE letter square.

In NE Square.

AL, BC, CC, DA, DB, DC, DG, DJ, EB, EE, EF, IA, IB, IC. NL, PC, PD, PF, QB, RB, SE, TA, TF, TG, TJ.

In SE Square.

?CF, OD, OF, OI, QH, RB, ?RG, ?RI, ?RJ, SD, SI, TD, TE.

On Right Margin.

LF, MA, RA, SG, TL.

Horizontal Guide Lines

Those on the upper margins are mostly to be found on the stamps from the lower half of the plate on the M to T rows, and particularly the S row where traces may be seen on all except SI and SJ, while those on the lower margin are most numerous on the upper part of the plate in the A to D rows, and especially the D row.

These horizontal lines on the upper margin vary considerably. They may appear over one or both squares or along the whole margin, being in one or two cases so close to the frame line as to give the line the appearance of being double. The lines along the lower margin of the D row, which can be seen on all except DB, DF, DG and DJ, also vary much in the same way.

Upper Margin.

MB, MD, ME, MF, MG, MH, OJ, PK, PL, QL, RA, RD, RE, RK, RL, SA, SB, SC, SD, SE, SF, SG, SH, SK, SL, TI, TJ, TK, TL.

In NE Square.

LB, LE.

In NW Square.

LB, MF, ?OJ, RB, TK.

Lower Margin.

AA, AB, DA, DC, DD, DE, DH, DI, DK, DL, HK.

Letter Squares.

DB.

Some of these guide lines, both vertical and horizontal, which have been described as guide lines, have much more the appearance of scratches.



Frame Lines

The lines of the letter squares on PB, PD, PG, PI and RF have been re-cut and the lower lines of the P squares on PG and PI slope upwards, especially so on PI.

A few of the lines of the letter squares appear double, this being apparent on the bottom line of the B square of PB, the side line of the R square of RF, and to a lesser extent the bottom line of one or both letter squares on JA, JB and JC.

On AG, NC and RK the SE corner, and on PH and QD the NW corners are broken.

Extended Frame Lines

In no case does the top line extend to the left or the left line above. Some of the extensions are very slight indeed, but quite a number of them are well marked.

Right Line Above.

CI, ?CK, ?LF, ?LL, ?MJ, ?OL, PE, RG, RH, RI, SA, SB, SD, ?SJ, TA, TC, TD.

Right Line Below.

CC, FD, JE, ?LA, QI, RD, SC.

Left Line Below.

CH, ?DG, NG.

Bottom Line to Right.

BC, ?BF, BK, HC, IE, ?KC.

Bottom Line to Left.

JA, JB, JC, KC, KL.

Top Line to Right.

MB, MD, MF, ?ML, PE, RG.

CK, LF, MJ and SJ. These have a thin line running up from the NE corner and on LA there is a line running down from the SE corner. These have been described as extensions but look more like vertical guide lines.

DG, LL, ML and OL. Here the NE corner seems to bulge and looks as if a dot had been placed where the lines meet rather than that there is any real extension, and on *BF* the same occurs at the SE corner.

PE and RG. On these the lines have been described as crossing at the NE corner, the top line extending to the right and the right line above, and on KC the bottom line extends to the left and also there may be a slight extension to the right.

Dots

There are no dots on the A, D, M or R rows. On the other rows the dots are most often to be seen just outside or under the SE square.

There are *three dots.*

HA. One under each letter square, and a tiny one in the A square.

TF. Two under the F square connected by a thin line, and the other one above the corner of the NE square.

Two Dots on.

BB, EL. Outside the corner of the SE square.

HL. Below SE corner L square and in H square.

IL. A very faint one to the right of L, and another outside the corner of the SE square.

JL. Under the L square and a small faint one outside the corner of the NE square.

KA. Under the top right serif of K.

TA. Well outside the corner of the T square and at the bottom of A square.

SE Corner.
A dot can be seen either just outside the point of the corner or below the corner on
BA, BE, BH, FI, GK, HD, HE, HL, IL, SG, SL, TC, TE, TH, TK, TL.

Lower Margin.
?BF, CL, EC, GF.

Above NE Square.
NL, ?OL, PL, QL.

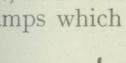
Right Margin.
GH, PJ.

In Letter Squares.
First square. HL, JC.
Second Square. IA, IL, GL.

In NW Square.
GI, LI.

Marks

AC. Short stroke under C.
BD. Mark above D.
CG. Horizontal line across C square.
IB. Short vertical stroke from top of I.
ID, IL. Mark on right side of the O of ONE.
JF. Small mark in NW square. ? Re-entry.
HL. Loop at top of H on right.
KD. Small mark on lower margin under O of ONE.
KE. Flaw or cut into the frame towards the top of left side. This cut, being accidental, does not show on the earlier printings.
LA. Thin line extending downwards from the corner of A square. ? Extension. Scratches on top right margin.
LE, LF, LG. Small marks on NY of PENNY.
LI. Mark at top of NW square. ? Dot.
MI. Slight blur on left side of I square.
OB, OC. Mark on top left serif of T of POSTAGE. ? Dot.
QL. Short horizontal mark and dot above NE corner.
RF. Short vertical stroke downwards from top of F square.
RL. Vertical stroke under L square.
SC. Vertical stroke downwards from corner of C square.


ID


JF


KE


QL

PLATE 3

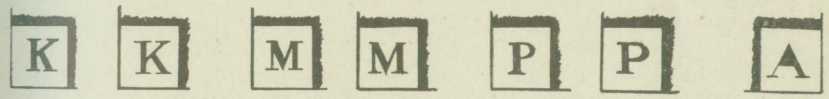
Earliest Date—May 18th, 1840.

THIS plate must have shown signs of wear very rapidly as it was the first to be destroyed in October, 1840, after being in use for only about five months. The stamps from it usually have a dull greyish appearance, very few being intense black, and many of them might easily be mistaken as coming from Plate 1A if it were not for the presence here of the Ray Flaw, which on Plate 3 never appears. Although this plate had such a short life, it would seem to have been very well constructed as the stamps from it show very few imperfections. There is no evidence that it was ever repaired in any way, and except for a tendency to a weakness of the bottom lines of the letter squares, there is very little in the way of any outstanding feature, except for the letter P, by which the stamps from it with this lettering can be easily recognized.

There are no obvious re-entries, very few guide lines, double letters or dots, in fact it might be termed the "Tidy Plate."

As a result of no repair work ever having taken place, there are very few of the usual identification marks present, so it is not surprising to find that there are more than the usual number of stamps from it which can only be plated with any certainty by the position of the letters in the corner squares.

In spite of this scarcity of any obvious re-entries, double letters, dots, etc., and that only a few guide lines can be seen, there are, however, some stamps which *can* be plated quite easily, such as :—



Pl. 3 Normal Pl. 3 Normal Pl. 3 Normal Pl. 3

(1) All the P and most of the M rows, because of the characteristic letter P with the small loop, and the small and sometimes blurred M's. One or two of the A row stamps can also be easily recognized, such as AA on which the A is blind, and AD on which the A slopes down to the right.
The A's of PA and RA and the loop to Q of QB are also blind.

(2) There are a great many stamps which show nothing very definite, so may have come from Plate 3 or from one of the other plates without either the "Ray" or "O" Flaw, as described under "Difficult Stamps."

Re-entries

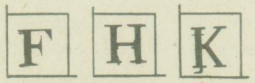
There is no good example, but there is a mark on NJ alongside the uppermost ray in the NW square, which has been described as having the appearance of a re-entry.


NW star in NJ.

Check Letters

The most characteristic letter on this plate is the P, on which the loop is much smaller than usual with this letter from Alphabet 1, and of which some are slightly blurred. As regards the other letters, the M's are rather small and the K's inclined to be narrow and some of both these letters may be also slightly blurred. The corner letters generally appear thinner and narrower than on other plates. The letter E is of the broad type, as seen on Plate 1, but except for TE is without the tendency to any extension of the foot.

Double Letters



FD HA KC

Only three have been recorded, the F of FD, H of HA, and K of KC, but none of these are good examples, the K perhaps being the best.

Blurred or Blind Letters

The A's of AA, PA and RA are blind.

The K's of OK, PK and QK are smaller and narrower than usual, and the M's of MD, ME, MF and MG are slightly small and blurred.

On QB the loop formed by the tail of the Q is also blind.

Other irregularities are few, but on TE the foot of the E extends to the left, and the top left serif of T on TF is slightly weak.

Some of the J's slope slightly downwards to the left and notably so on GJ, HJ and KJ.

The NE of ONE on SK and SL are not actually joined, but are closer than usual.

Guide Lines

These are very few and when present are generally very faint and for the most part horizontal.

MC, MH, MI, MJ, ML, RA, TC. Through one or both of the upper squares and perhaps partly through POSTAGE.

IH, JF, TG. Through the H, J and T squares.

JD. Through the value.

NJ. Horizontal and vertical in the NE squares.

It is useful to remember that NJ with a vertical guide line in the NE square can only come from Plate 3 or Plate 9 (on which the "O" Flaw is present).

Other guide lines which have been described but must be very faint indeed and difficult to confirm may be present on :—

DI. Vertical in I square.
IC. Horizontal in C square.
IK. Horizontal through value.
JA. Horizontal in A square.
JC. Horizontal both letter squares.
NF. Horizontal in NE square.
SJ. Vertical in NE square.

Frame Lines

On the whole these lines are very well defined, except that there is a tendency for some of the bottom lines of the letter squares, especially at the left corner, to be weak and thinner than usual.

In the L row the bottom line of the first letter squares are generally thinner and the lines between the squares thicker than usual, and especially so on LA, LB and LC where they appear to be double. This so-called double bottom variety has also been described as showing on AG, TB, TC, TE, TF, TI and TJ but not on heavily printed stamps.

The P square of PD has been re-cut, the right line of the square appearing double.

Extended Frame Lines

On no stamps from this plate does the top line extend in either direction nor does either side line extend above.

Bottom Line to Right.
AL, CA, JD.

Bottom Line to Left.
OB, OL, PG, PH, RL, SC, TA.

Left Line Below.
GE, ?HA, QI, SD.

Right Line Below.
?IA, IC.

On SA the lower line of the NE square extends into the right margin. Several of these extensions are very slight, the only really good example being PH.

Dots

These are not numerous and are generally very small and faint. On about a quarter of the stamps there is a dot (guide dot) about the middle of the left margin, but as these often appear on several stamps from the other plates they are not mentioned.

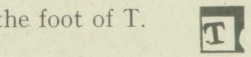
Three Dots

TL. One in the corner of the L square, and two very small ones just below.

Two Dots

TF. One just below and the other touching the bottom line of the F square near the corner.

TK. To the right of T and to left of the foot of T.



TK

Below the SE Corner.
EL, JL, KL, ML, PC.

In the Letter Squares.
First square. DB.
Second square. CF, IL, ?TI.

Others which may be seen are :—

AG, AI. Above the corner of NE square.
CG. Above G.
FJ. On the margin under the O of ONE.
FK. On the margin between the O and N of ONE.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

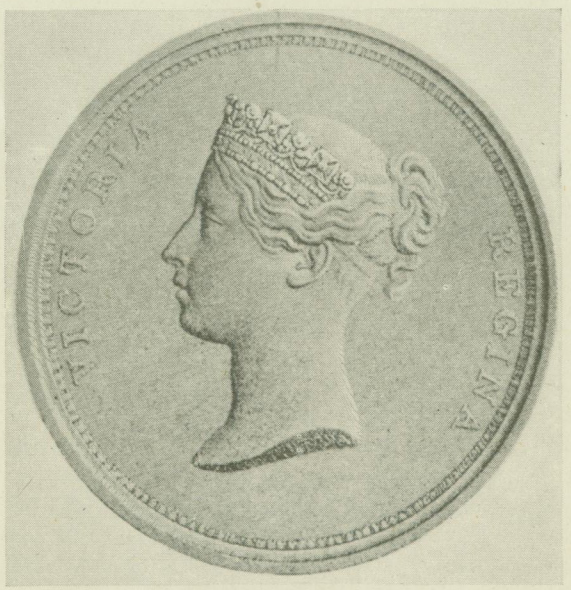
For a book of this description it is obvious that much of the information must have been gleaned from the classic work of McGowan and Nissen, and the writings of such well-known philatelists as J. B. Seymour and Dr. Osborne.

My thanks are also due to my friend Dr. C. Heygate Vernon for his kindly help, especially as regards the second state stamps from Plates 5 and 6.

To the memory of my great friend, the late Dr. R. C. Thompson, without whose generous and enthusiastic encouragement this pleasant task could never have been completed, let alone published, I would like to pay an especial tribute.

To Robson Lowe, also, whose vast experience and knowledge has been of the utmost help, I am very greatly indebted.

PERCY C. LITCHFIELD.

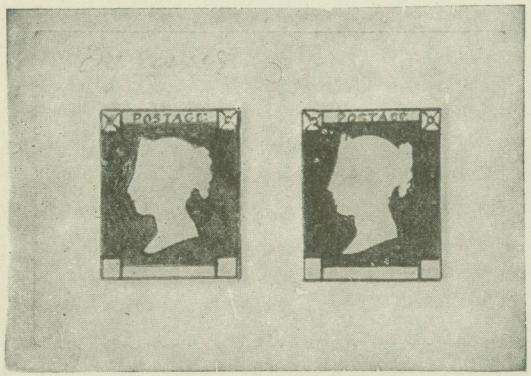


The City Medal engraved by William Wyon and from which Henry Corbould made a water-colour drawing for Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. This drawing was used in its turn by the engravers (Charles and his son, Frederic Heath) from which they copied the head for the Penny Black.

PREFACE

BEFORE embarking on technicalities I would like to make one fact clear, which is, the *raison d'être* of this book is not to try to impart new knowledge to the expert (who knows as much as I do—probably more—about plating Penny Blacks) but to give some useful assistance, Guide Lines, so to speak, to the collector whose keenness perhaps exceeds his knowledge.

During my life-long interest and study of these particular stamps I have often been asked "How does one know this? Can one be sure of that? What is the deciding factor in the other?" and so on, that I thought the facts contained in the following pages might bring some welcome assistance to the enthusiastic but doubting collector, and perhaps turn him in time into the specialist he hopes to become.

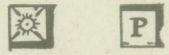


Water colour sketches made for Rowland Hill to show the effect of crosses in the upper corners on the appearance of the issued stamp.

Marks or Scratches

Marks.

BA. Horizontal stroke or line below A square.
BF. Short line below left corner of B square.
HG, HH. Small mark on base of Y of PENNY.
KF. In top of NE square on right.



KF PE

PE. Short stroke across lower inner corner of P square.

Scratches.

FE, QD. On lower margin.
HC, NL. On left margin.
OJ, QF, QJ. On upper margin.



Plate 3.



Mint block of Plate 3 from which a check of corner lettering may be made. FJ shows a dot below O of ONE.

PLATE 4

Earliest Date—May 23rd, 1840.

THIS was apparently never a very satisfactory plate as it was only in use from May 28th, 1840, until January 9th, 1841, on which date it was defaced. Why it was withdrawn after such a comparatively short time does not seem clear. There is no evidence that it was very hard worked, such as in the case of Plate 6, nor of any intensive repairs. The stamps are certainly fairly common, mostly cancelled in red, but generally of a good black colour and not showing many signs of wear except for a few greyish impressions. After the 240 impressions had been laid down but before printing started, there was some "touching up" of the exterior lines of the corner squares, but beyond this no repairs seem to have been recorded.

There is very little of importance to describe which will help towards plating the stamps, except for the presence of a great number of dots, and the fact that all the letters L in the horizontal row tilt upwards in varying degrees, except perhaps the second L of LL, by which they can generally be easily recognized. When several tiny dots are seen on a stamp in a cluster near one of the lower corners, as often happens on this plate, it is pretty safe to assume that it is from Plate 4.

Unlike Plate 3, from which, owing to the scarceness of identification marks, so many of the stamps cannot be easily recognized, on this plate, principally because of the great number of dots which are present, there are only about 50 of the stamps which cannot be plated without much trouble.

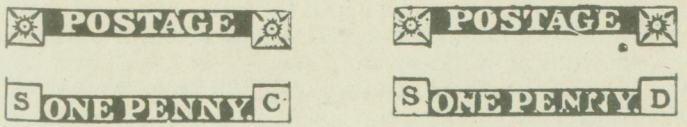
All of these, therefore, if not from Plate 4 must have come from one of the plates without either the "Ray" or "O" Flaw as described under "Difficult Stamps."

Dots are also present on all the other plates, especially Plate 6, but not to the same extent as on Plate 4, which for this reason is often referred to as the "Spotted Plate."

Re-entries

There are only two on this plate.

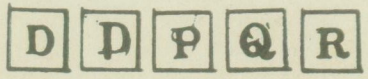
SC. In the NE square.
SD. In the NW and S squares, and through the value.



Check Letters

The only letters which will be of any real help in plating are the L's in the horizontal row, all of which definitely slope upwards, except the second L of LL. The E on this plate is of the large type, being somewhat similar to those on Plate 3.

Double Letters



DB DD PA QA RG

The first letters of DA, DB, DD, DF, PA, QA and RG are double.

The best examples are the first D of DD, and the P and Q of PA and QA respectively.

Defective Letters

H of AH. I of AI. K of AK. K of GK.

Both the letters of BI and the second L of LL may be faint.

Guide Lines

These are not numerous, generally very faint and so close to the frame line as to be difficult to confirm. Practically all the vertical lines are limited to the NE square in the B to G rows, whilst the horizontal run through the letter squares and/or the value, mostly in the K and N rows.

Vertical Guide Lines

NE square. BH, BK, CC, DG, EA, FA, FB, GC, GG, MA.

SE square. HL.

Horizontal Guide Lines

Letter Squares and/or Value.

CK, JA, KC, KG, KI, KJ, KK, KL, LB, NC, NF, NG, NJ, OI, TA, TE, TG.

Lower Margin.

EG, GB, GH and on OL, which may be a scratch.

Other lines which may be seen are :—

CK. Faint vertical line in NE square, as well as the horizontal through lower part of K square.

DH. Two thin vertical lines ? scratches in NE square.

EH. Very faint vertical line in NE square.

FA. Horizontal through lower part of value and A square, as well as the vertical in NE square.

GH. Very faint vertical line very close to frame line.

MB. Faint horizontal line through value and B square.

QK. Horizontal line through E of POSTAGE and NE square.

Frame Lines

It is often of help, when plating, to notice the condition of these lines and especially the left side line where Plates 4, 5 and 6 are concerned.

On these three plates they are irregular on many of the stamps, often very irregular or broken, and in some cases practically missing, especially on the left side, but this is not so evident or frequent on Plate 4 as on the other two plates, of which Plate 6 is certainly the worst.

The bottom lines are generally heavier and thicker than usual and especially so below the second letter square, which is in contrast to those on Plate 3, where they are on the whole thinner than usual, and more noticeably so under the first letter square.

Several of the outside lines of the NE square are very thin or broken, in some cases leaving gaps at the corners.



Re-cut Lines

IE. This is the only example on Plate 4, where the lines of the squares have been re-cut and here the top line of the I square appears double.

Extended Frame Lines

As is usual, many of these extensions are very slight and in some cases doubtful. They occur mostly on the right side where the side lines extend below or the bottom line to the right.

On no stamp does the side line extend above, unless a very slight extension which has been described on HJ can be confirmed. On BF the top line of the B square extends into the left margin.

Double extensions on the following stamps have been described, but in only four cases has it been possible for both extensions to be confirmed.

BE, EL. Bottom line to left and left below.

CE, GD. Right line below and bottom to right. Extension on GD below doubtful.

DC. Bottom line to right and left, but the extension to the left is doubtful.

HK. Bottom line to right and left below.

QA. Both side lines below but the extension on the right side is doubtful.

RF. Both side lines below.

The other extensions are :—

Right Side Line Below.

AA, AB, CB, CE, HD, ID, JE, JG, LI, ML, OF, OH, PJ, QC, RF, RH, RI, RK, TG, TK.

Left Side Line Below.

BE, EL, FH, GJ, HK, IA, II, LH, QA, QE, RF, TC.

Bottom Line to Right.

BA, BL, CE, FC, GD, GF, HA, HC, HF, HH, HK, KG.

Bottom Line to Left.

BE, EL.

Dots

These dots or rather spots must not be confused with the original guide dots which were used for the proper alignment and spacing of the guide lines. These guide dots have been described as appearing just outside the SE corner on CL, DL, EL, FL, GL, HL, IL, ML and NL, but those on FL, GL and ML have not been confirmed. Apart from the above there are also present on a great many of the stamps, both from this plate and to a lesser extent Plate 6, what might be termed accidental dots, many of which are not constant.

The letter squares and margins, especially round the corners of the lower squares, are principally affected and they are also to be found on the letters of ONE PENNY and POSTAGE. Frequently several are to be seen on the same stamp in different positions or in little clusters of very small ones, generally near one of the lower corners or on the lower margin. This is of help when plating as it is generally the case when this is seen that the stamp thus affected comes from Plate 4, quite apart from the actual position of any one dot.



LE

As they are so numerous and not always constant, only those which by their position will help definitely to plate a particular stamp are mentioned here.

In the First Letter Square.

BA, BD, BI, CB, CC, CD, CF, DE, EE, FL, HF, JE, KD, KF, LE, MH, NE, OF, PF.

In the Second Letter Square.

CH, DA, DB, FC, GA, IA, IB, JD, MD, NA, ND, NF, NG, NK, NL, OE, PC, PD, PL, TJ.

In Both Letter Squares.

HE, IC, ID, KB, KC, LA, LB, LC, LD, MC, OC, OD, OG, PE.

Letters of Value.

CA, CC, DA, GE, HE, JD, KA, LD, OB, OE, OF, PF.

Letters of Postage.

FE, NK, PB, PC.

NE Square.

CJ, EB, KA, MC, OL, TL,

NW Square.

JA, JC, KA, NC, QF.

Other dots which appear on one or more of the margins are on CD, CL, DA, DF, ED, EE, EL, FA, HB, HE, JB, JC, JD, JL, KA, KB, KC, KD, KH, LA, LB, LC, LI, MA, MB, MC, ME, MI, MJ, MK, NC, NG, NH, NL, OB, OD, OL, PE, PG, QE, QG, RD.

Marks, Blurs and Scratches

Marks.

AD. Small diagonal mark in lower part of NE square.
AK. Short vertical stroke in SW corner of A square.
BG. Short stroke at right of G square.



AD

CD. Short stroke at right of C square.
DE. Short line or scratch left of E.
DJ. Diagonal line above D.
GG. Indefinite mark above first G.
JH. Mark at top of NW square on the left.
LG. Mark at bottom of NE square and on lower margin between E and P.
MA. Short vertical stroke at left of M square.
MF. Two small marks at right of M.
MJ. Small mark or blur at left of J.
ND. Diagonal mark at the top right corner of N square.
NJ. Short horizontal stroke at SW corner of N square.
PF. Short stroke at foot of P on the right.
PK. Short stroke at top left of NW square.
PL. Vertical line on left margin.
QH. Mark or dot above O of POSTAGE.
QL. Horizontal line above GE of POSTAGE.

Blurs

DI. Outside the NW square.
FE. In NW square.
GL. Blurred line under NY of PENNY.
LA. Blur in L square.
NJ. To left of J.
RJ. Blurred stroke to left of J.

Scratches

These can be seen on all the margins, and in a few cases in the corner squares on :—

CL, EC, EI, EK, FF, KE, LD, MF, ND, OL, PA, QG, SA, SE, SF, TH.



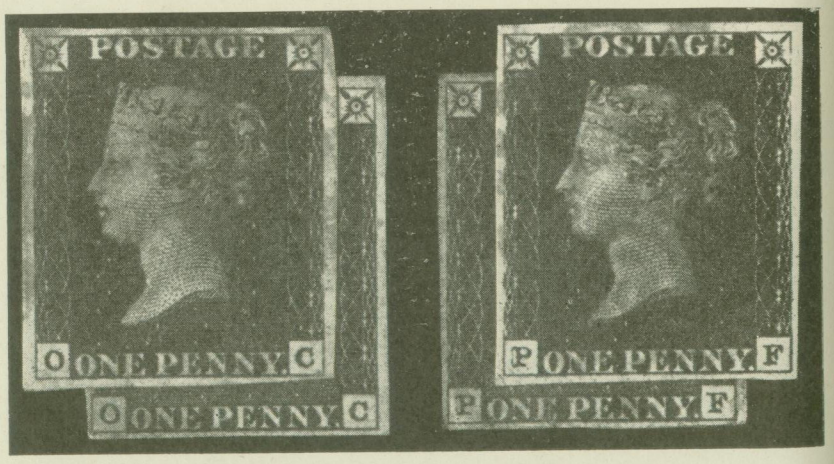
Examples of Plate 4 which will be found useful for checking the corner lettering. The dots varieties described on page 64 will be found on DE, GA, JF, KB, MA and NK. The re-entries are SC and SD. There is a horizontal guide line through the T square of TA.

First and Second States of Plate 6.



State 1.
State 2—note heavier frame line at right.

State 1.
State 2—note faint M and stronger framed line at left.



State 1.
State 2—note stronger frame line at right.

State 1.
State 2—note stronger frame line at left.

PLATES 5 AND 6

Frame Lines and Repairs

THE frame lines of these two plates have much in common, especially as regards repairs. The side lines and outer lines of the corner squares on both were generally weak and soon broke down, becoming very ragged and uneven, therefore needing repair, the result of which shows on many of the stamps from the second state of the plates on which the margins have become sharp and clear.

Dr. Heygate Vernon, who has made an intensive study of these plates, suggests that repairs to Plate 6 took place on more than one occasion by means of re-entering and re-cutting, which seems most probable. As regards re-entering the roller seems to have been most accurately re-applied, as no faulty re-entry seems to be known in the second state compared with that of the first. In comparing impressions after repair, it looks as if the sideways rocking of the roller made a better impression sometimes on one side and sometimes on the other, but frequently good on both sides. This suggests that the rocking of the roller was subjected to pressure irregularly from side to side, either with a tilt slightly to the right so that the pressure of the right edge of the roller was greater than that of the left, or with a tilt slightly to the left.

Plate 6 stamps on which this re-entering appears more marked on the right are KE, KF, LD, NA, NC, NI, PG, QE and TA. Those which show repair due to re-entry on the left side are CA, JD, PE, PF and PL, and others which show this feature on both sides, therefore suggesting that the rocking was subjected to pressure irregularly from side to side, are FF, FG, HL, KD, MD, ME, NB, NE, OC, OD, OE, PD, QD, QL, RE, SE, TB, TC, TE and TF.

Many of the NE and some of the SE corner lines also give evidence of re-cutting, as shown by the fainter stars and letters which may be seen in varying degrees on FF, FG, GL, JD, ND, NK, QL, RE, SE, TB, TE and TF.

Other stamps which may show one or both side lines stronger, or other evidence of a second state such as faint letters, scratches or marks of burnishing due to the careless cleaning, etc., are :—

DF, DH, FI, KB, KC, LE, LK, LL, MC, OF, SC, SD, SL, TD, TJ.

On *Plate 5* the method of repair seems to have been much the same as on *Plate 6* except that perhaps the sideways rocking of the roller caused the pressure to vary more laterally, as although most of the strengthening took place on the right side of the stamp, the left side shows all degrees of pressure, from none at all to quite a heavy strengthening. In no case is the left line stronger than the right.

In addition to this repair of the side lines, several of the corner squares and some of the top and bottom lines seem to have been re-cut.

First and Second States of Plate 6.



State 1. State 2—note stronger frame line on both sides.



State 1. State 2. Note faint M and both frame lines stronger.



State 1. State 2a. Top corners re-cut. State 2b. Top corners further re-cut and sides strengthened.

Stamps showing these repairs are :—

Both Sides Stronger.

AB, BB, BC, CD, DB, DD, EB, EC, FC, OB, PB, TA.

Right Side Especially Stronger.

AA, CA, DA, DC, FA, MA.

Others which may be recognized as from State 2 by re-cut corners or other evidence such as burr marks, faint letters, or stars, etc., are :—

AC, BA, CB, CC, CE, ?EA, ED, ?FD, GE, KA, NA, ?NH, OA, PA, QB, ?QC, RA, RD, TB.

On the following red stamps one or other of these indications for second state have also been confirmed, thus suggesting the possibility of the equivalent black stamps being likewise affected :—

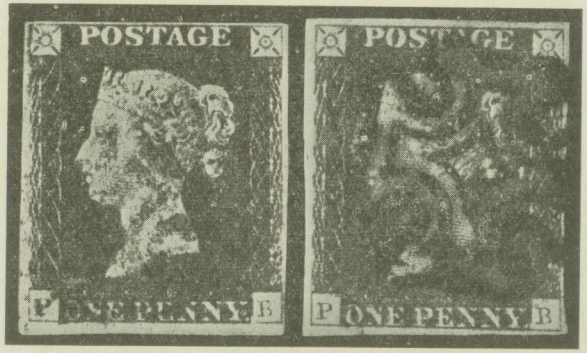
AJ, AK, FB, GA, GB, HA, JA, QA, RB, SA, SB, SC, SD, SE, TC, TD.

States of the Plate

(1) There is great irregularity of the frame lines, especially the left. The top lines of the NW and the side lines of the NE squares are also often very weak.

(2) Here the side lines appear to have been re-entered and corners re-cut and in many cases the stars and/or letters which in State 1 are quite normal, appear as fainter.

(3) This state is particularly interesting on account of the very rare and well-known PB re-entry.



PB State (1) PB State (3)

As regards State 3, is it not possible, indeed probable, that as well as PB some other stamps may exist in a third state in black?

The known facts about repairs to Plate 5 are :—

(1) The first took place sometime in 1840 as a result of which some 40 odd stamps have been recorded as in State 2 with stronger frame lines, re-cut corners, fainter stars and letters or blurs etc.

(2) The second repair was in January, 1841, during the red printing when PB was re-entered.

An interesting result of this repair, and the fact that the plate was used for this red printing and also for a provisional printing of a few sheets in black, is that the PB shows the well-known re-entry on both black and red stamps. This being so suggests that the black must come from the provisional printing.

It seems curious that PB should be the only recorded black stamp from Plate 5 in State 3 and perhaps a solution may be that such stamps as PA, QA, QB and RA and maybe others, were not affected by the 1840 repair and so were not qualified for State 2. Later on, however, after the January, 1841, repair, whatever, if anything, was done to them may not, as on PB, have been recognized.

The re-entry on PB was faulty and out of alignment, therefore being very obvious, whereas on PA, QA, QB and RA the roller may have been most accurately re-applied with the result not so obvious.

As regards these four stamps, it might be assumed that PA, although not recorded in a second state but known with both sides stronger and contents of all squares fainter with the same in red, may therefore have been re-entered in January 1841, and if so is from the third state of the plate.

QB and RA are also known in altered states in black and red. Lightly re-entered and all corners fainter. ? State 3.

QA. On the red stamps the letters are fainter, indicating a possible existence in black comparable with PB, State 3.



Typical examples from the second state of Plate 5 described above are BA, BB, CA, CB, CD, DB and DD. The other letterings are first state, GA and NE being good examples of the varieties with broken or weak upper corner squares.

PLATE 5

Earliest Date—June 16th, 1840.

PENNY Blacks were printed from this plate from June 8th to December 30th, 1840. After this date it was used for the 1841 Penny Red issue except for a short interval between January 22nd and February 5th, 1841, during which it was one of the plates used for the emergency or provisional printing in black.

Characteristic of the plate are the very weak frame lines, especially the left, defective NE corners and somewhat weak check letters.

On some plates there is what looks like a bulging from the bottom line on each side of the O of ONE, and as this occurs so frequently on Plate 5 it has also been described as characteristic of the plate.

The black stamps are known in three states so it is obvious that some repair must have taken place on at least two occasions whilst it was used for printing in black. The later red stamps also show evidence of further repairs, such as faint stars and letters due to burnishing and re-cut corners. The first repairs were responsible for the strengthening of some of the frame lines, most probably by re-entering, and the re-cutting of some of the defective corners.

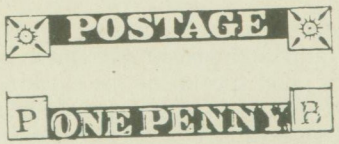
Later on further repair seems to have taken place, resulting in the very rare PB re-entry. As this re-entry appears on both black and red stamps, the repair must have taken place in January 1841 during the printing of the new 1841 Penny Red. The very few black stamps which show it are the result of the provisional printing. This provisional printing was necessary to supply a sudden demand for black stamps before the new red ones could be issued.

The three states of this plate and the method of repair with the stamps affected are mentioned elsewhere under "Frame Lines and Repairs," Plates 5 and 6. Having produced the rarest of all the Penny Blacks, Plate 5 might be called the PB Re-entry Plate.

Re-entries

The only good example appears in the letter squares and value on PB from the third state of the plate.

There are slight marks of re-entry on the O of ONE on LL and the O and N of ONE on ND.



The rare re-entry found on the third state of PB. Also see page 69.

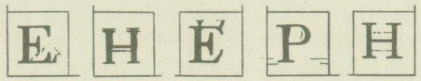
Check Letters

There is no letter which can be described as characteristic, and there is nothing particular to note about them in the original state of the plate but after repair in its second state one or both of them may appear weaker or fainter on several of the stamps such as :—

AB, BA, BB, BC, CA, CC, CE, DA, DB, DC, DD, FA, FB, FC, KA, MA, NA, OA, OB, PB, RA, SB, TA, TB.

One or both of the letters on the following stamps in black have also been described as fainter and probably are so, but this has only been actually confirmed on the red stamps.

CB, CD, EA, EB, EC, ED, FD, GA, GB, GE, HA, JA, PA, QC, RB, RD, SA, SC, SD, TC, TD.



EB HE KE PJ TH

Double Letters.

DB, EB, HB, HE, HI, KE, PH, PJ, TH.

The most obvious are the first letter of EB and HE, and second letter of PH and TH.

The first letters of DB, HB, HI and PJ and the E of KE are slightly affected.

Re-cut Letters

Some of the N's appear to have been re-cut, especially the N's of NA and NL, which have the longer and more pointed appearance to be seen on some of the N's in the N row of Plate 1B after being re-cut.

The B square of BA seems to have been re-cut before the first printing, hence the fainter B.

Other letters which are distinctive are :—

AD, AH. The foot of the A extends to the left.
EC. Lower half of vertical stroke of C weak.
FF. Left bottom serif of first F long.
ID. Foot of I defective on the right.
NB. Top curve of B defective.
QA. Lower part of Q slightly faint.

Guide Lines

Vertical.

All the following have been mentioned as appearing in the NE square, but being mostly very faint and placed extremely close to the frame lines they will, except on very good specimens, be extremely difficult to confirm.

AF, AI, CA, CB, DB, DC, DH, DI, DJ, DL, EI, EL, FC, FE, FF, FG, FI, FJ, ?FK, GD, GE, GF, ?GG, HA, HC, ?HD, HG, IA, IB, KG, MC, OA, OD, QE, QK, ?RH, RI, SC, ?TA.

Horizontal.

Like the vertical, many of these are also faint but may be seen running through one or both of the letter squares and/or the letters of ONE PENNY.



AE

AE, AG, AJ, BH, CF, CH, ?DG, HK, ?IG, ?IJ, JG, JJ, KA, KC, KG, KH, KJ, LG, LI, OJ, PA, PB, PD, PE, PF, PG, ?PI, PJ, PK, QC, RA, ?RC, RE, ?RJ, ?RK, ?TJ, ?TK, ?TL.

Other stamps on which more than one guide line appears are :—

AF. Vertical in NE square, and horizontal below A square.
FD, GD. What looks like two vertical lines very close together in the NE square.
KG. Horizontal and vertical in G square. Horizontal through value and ?vertical in NE square.
OD. Vertical in NE square and horizontal in NW square.
QK. Vertical in NE square and horizontal through E of PENNY.

Frame Lines

The left frame lines on the printings from the first state of this plate are in a great many cases very irregular and often hardly present at all.

This weakness is also common to Plates 4 and 6, but here it is more frequent than on Plate 4 and less so than on Plate 6. On many of these Plate 5 stamps also the top lines of the NW squares are thin and weak and the side lines of the NE square also are weak or actually broken at the corner. In the second state several of the lines appear as stronger and the corner squares re-cut.

The stamps thus affected and the method of repair are mentioned under "Frame Lines and Repairs, Plates 5 and 6."

Extended Frame Lines.

The stamp SE is unusual in that it shows three extensions, the bottom line extending both to the right and left and the right line below.

Double extensions are present on :—

AC, RJ. Right line below and bottom slightly to left.
CE. Bottom to right. Left line slightly below.

Other extensions, some of which are very slight or doubtful, are :—

Right Line Below.

AB, AC, DD, GA, GJ, ID, JB, KJ, MF, QL, RJ, SC, SE.

Left Line Below.

AF, BA, BG, CE, GF, KD, KE, NG.

Bottom Line to Right.

AA, CC, CE, DF, GI, ?HJ, ?JI, ME, SE, TE.

Bottom Line to Left.

AC, AD, DL, IK, RJ, SE.

The extension mentioned on JI looks rather as if a dot was attached to the point of the SE corner.

Dots

There are only a few which are generally placed either on the margins close to the corner of, or just inside, the second letter square. They are mostly very small and faint.

Near SE Corner.

Inside AD, HA, PL.

Outside AE, AK, AL, EL, KL, ML, RL, TF, TG, TK.

Lower Margin.

BJ. Between P and E of PENNY.

HF. Under second N of PENNY.

JA, LF. Below Y of PENNY.

First Letter Square.

EA, ?EB, MD.

NE Square.

FC, QF.

NW Square.

CL.

Others to be seen are :—

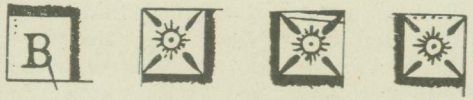
AH. On P of POSTAGE.

IA. Tiny dots in one or both letter squares.

KB. On foot of E of PENNY.

LA. Outside NE square.

RG. On side line of R square near corner.



BG OL QC QF

Scratches and Marks

On several stamps scratches appear on the margins and also in a few cases in the corner squares.

Some of these being very faint, are difficult to confirm and others can only be seen on a well margined stamp.

Lower Margin.

BD, BE, CD, DG, DH, FH, FI, FL, GF, HG, HH, HI, II, IJ, JA, JG, JI, JK, JL, LD, LH, LI, NL, PA, PC, QF, QH, QJ, QK.

Top Margin.

CJ, EK, PE, RK.

Left Margin.

JE, NL, OC, OL, PG, QC, SG, TG.

Right Margin.

CE, HD, SG.

Letter Squares.

First square. BF, BH, FL, PC, PG.

Second square. DL, FL, SJ.

NW Square.

QC, RF.

NE Square.

GJ.

Other marks which may be seen are :—

AG. Mark in NE square at top right corner.

BG. Thin diagonal line or scratch from base of B to bottom line of square.

?EG. Faint line below the letter E.

IG. Blur in NE square.

LC. Short stroke below L square.

QA. Short stroke above T of POSTAGE.



A strip from the second state.



A block from the first state.

PLATE 6

Earliest Date—June 29th, 1840.

THIS, generally considered to be the commonest, was certainly the most carelessly laid down of all the black plates. It was very hard worked and soon worn out, only being in use for just under seven months from June 15th, 1840, until January 9th, 1841. Like Plate 4 it is known as a "Spotty Plate," but the spots here are not so numerous or so constant. The stamps were usually a strong black in colour and generally cancelled in red. They were never satisfactory, the frame lines being ragged and uneven, and not only on the left side (a weakness so common to many stamps from other plates, notably 4 and 5), but also at the corners.

This weakness of the frame lines on Plate 6 is much more frequent than on Plate 4 and to a lesser extent also more frequent than on Plate 5.

The base lines on Plate 6 are as a general rule thinner than on Plate 4.

The impressions have the appearance of not having been very carefully made, possibly due to the metal of the plate being too hard and so not taking them clearly enough. Whatever the cause, however, the quality of the plate did not seem to have pleased the printers as even before printing started it is probable that some of the corners were repaired. Although there is no official record it appears certain that repair, on more than one occasion, became imperative, the results of which are seen on some of the stamps from the second state of the plate.

These repairs also give evidence of carelessness, as the choice of the stamps which needed it must have been very haphazard, so many bad specimens remaining untouched. The method of repair and the stamps affected are discussed under "Frame Lines and Repairs," Plates 5 and 6.

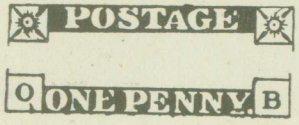
As a result of the necessary burnishing and cleaning after repairs, many of the stamps show faint scratches and some of the letters appear fainter and thinner, but in no case do they appear to have been recut or repunched.

The outstanding features of Plate 6 are the ragged frame lines and the presence of spots. It is suggested, in order to distinguish it from Plate 4, that it should be known as the "Spotty and Shabby" Plate.

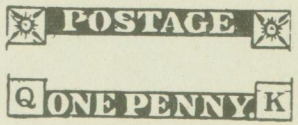
Re-entries

There are only four, but all well marked.

OB. In NW and O squares and also through value.
QJ. In both upper squares and on the lower margin.
QK. Through postage and both upper and K squares.
SA. Both upper squares.



OB



QK

Check Letters

There is no characteristic letter and except for a tendency to weakness and in one or two cases some slight deformity such as the foot of the I on CI and the right foot of A on OA there are no outstanding features.

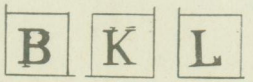
On EA and GA the lower parts of the E and G are generally weak or faint.

The letter E is of the narrow type as on Plates 5, 7, 9 and 10.

In the second state of the plate some of the letters may be thinner or weaker than usual, such as MD, ME, QE, TB and TE.

Double Letters.

The first letters of BG, LB, MK, PF and the K of FK are double. The two best examples being the M of MK and P of PF.



BG FK LB

Guide Lines

These are nearly all vertical and in the NE square. They are very unevenly distributed, there being none in the F or Q rows, and only one in each of the A, I, J, L, N, O, P and R rows. Several of them, especially those on BF, CJ, DA, DB, EF, GA, KG, MJ, MK and OG being very faint or placed very close to the frame lines, are extremely difficult to confirm.

Vertical.

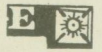
AF, BC, BE, BF, BI, BK, BL, CC, CJ, DA, DB, DF, EB, EC, EE, EF, EG, EH, EJ, EK, GA, GC, GF, HC, HH, IB, JA, KA, KB, KC, KE, KG, KI, LA, MA, MB, MD, ME, MF, MG, MH, MJ, MK, NI, OG, PA, RC, RI, SB, TA, TC.

SH. Traces of vertical guide lines may be seen in each upper square.

Horizontal.

These, like some of the vertical, are also difficult to see and of those which have been described as appearing in the value or squares on ED, HA, IB, JK, MB, MC, PH, RD, SD, SE, TI, the only ones it has been possible to confirm with any certainty are ED and RD in the D squares, JK and MC through the value, and the letter squares on JK and on MC in the C square.

The lines on IB and TI in the NE squares are also quite clear. The line in the D square of RD slopes down to the right and may be a scratch. On the following stamps more than one guide line has been described.



EG. One strong vertical and two fainter horizontal guide lines in NE square.
HC. Vertical in NE square and C squares.
IB. Vertical and horizontal in NE square.
KC. Vertical in NE square and C square and ? right side of K.
KE. Vertical in NE and E squares.
LA. Vertical in NE and A squares.
MB. Faint horizontal through value and B square and vertical in NE square.

Frame Lines

The bad condition of the side lines in the first state of this plate appears more frequently than on the stamps from Plates 4 and 5 and in addition many of the top and side lines of the upper squares are very weak.

In the second state, however, many of them show the lines stronger and corner squares re-cut.

These second state stamps are mentioned and the method of repair described under "Frame Lines and Repairs," Plates 5 and 6.

Extended Frame Lines

Right Line Below.
AA, AE, KB, LL, NK, RC.

Left Line Below.
CA, FA, GA, KD, LA, NA, PA, RA, SC.

Bottom Line to Right.
AG, JL, SA, SE.

Bottom Line to Left.
LC, NA, PA.

On NA and PA the left side and bottom lines have been described as crossing, but on PA these extensions must be very slight indeed.

Dots

These are not so numerous, constant or well defined as those on Plate 4. They are most numerous in the letter squares but are also to be seen in the letters of Postage and Value and on the margins. Several which have been described as present on this plate are mentioned below, but may be doubtful as it has not been possible to confirm them either because they are not constant or extremely faint.

Letter Squares.
First Square.
AI, AL, CI, CK, EK, GI, GJ, GL, HI, HJ, IB, JA, KI, KK, LL, MH, OJ, PL.

Second Square.
AH, AI, AJ, BJ, BL, CL, HH, IH, II, IL, JK, KL, LH, LK, MI, MJ, ML, NI, OL, PG, RF, RL, SG.

Both Squares.
DI, DJ, DL, GL, HL, IJ, JJ.

NE Square.
EK, EL, FK, IJ, JK, NJ, OH.

Letters of Postage.
AK, CD, IA, NJ, RA, RJ.

Letters of One Penny.
AL, NH, PD.

Upper Margin.
CJ, DA, JI, ?KH, NJ, PH, RI.

Lower Margin.
AD, JF, JJ, LJ, OH, QC, QL.

Marks and Scratches

Marks.

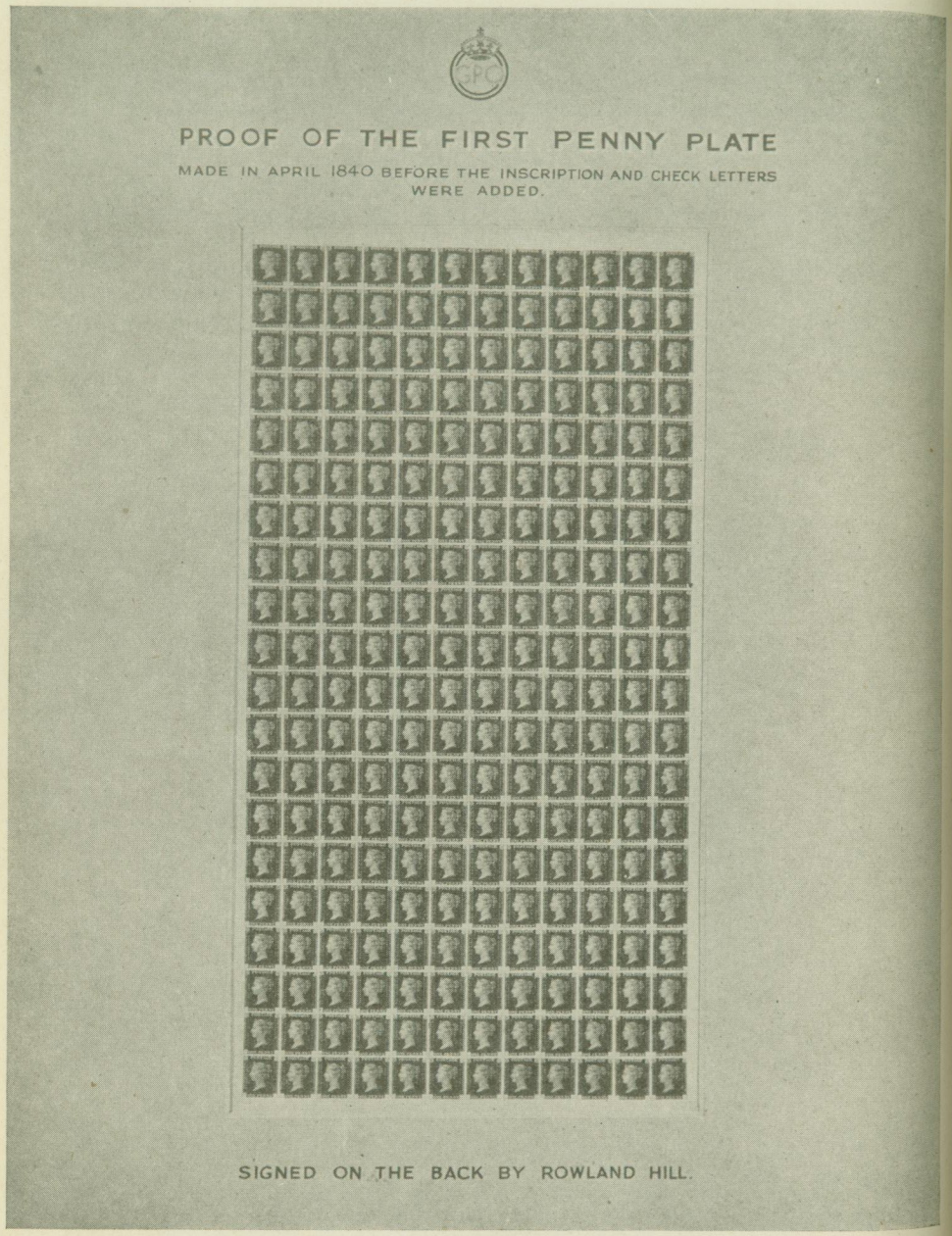
BK. Small mark at bottom of B square.
CD. Short stroke under margin under E of ONE.
CE. Faint blur to left side of NW square.
EK. Small mark or dot at top of NE square.
FB. Black mark on first upright of first N of PENNY.
GE. Diagonal line upwards from top of G to margin.
GF. Blur on left of NE square.
HE. Small mark below H square.
IK. Faint line or mark below E of ONE and PENNY.
JL. Faint mark on left side of O of ONE.
MG. Mark below E of PENNY.
ND. Blur on margin at side of NW square.
OI. Outside NE square. ? Scratch. ? Guide Line.
PI. Short stroke on margin under Y of PENNY.
QL. Small stroke on left of circle of Q.
RD. Horizontal line sloping down through D square. ? Guide line.
SK. Small mark on margin above NW square.
TD. Short stroke on left of D square. ? Also top of T square.
TE. Pointed stroke piercing top right corner of E square.
TG. Short stroke downwards from top left of T square.
TH. Mark on right diagonal stroke of Y of PENNY.
TJ. Short vertical line or mark on margin just below NW square.

Scratches.

DD. First D square.
FL, GK, SG. Lower margin.
KD, KJ, RA. Left margin.
OI. O square and outside NE square.
RF. NW and R squares.
RG. In all squares (very faint).
RH. R square and below.
TA. T square.
QE, QF, TB. Only to be seen in the second state of the plate.



QE. Diagonal lines in E square.
QF. Diagonal lines in F square.
TB. Scratches to the left of T square.



The complete sheet of plate proofs in the records of the General Post Office, London.

INTRODUCTION

THERE must be many thousands of stamp collectors who own from one up to a dozen or so of the Great Britain Penny Black Stamps. It would surely add to their interest to have some idea from which plate they have been printed.

In the following pages nothing much original which will add to the knowledge of the expert is claimed, but it is hoped that a short explanation of the salient features of each plate, with a description of every stamp which has any characteristic mark by which it can be plated, may prove helpful. Apart from the position of the check letters in the lower corners, which is often a deciding feature, a very great number of the stamps show something indicating definitely from which plate they have come, or at any rate from which plate they can NOT have come.

The English Penny Black stamps were printed from steel plates, of which there were eleven, each being designed to carry 240 impressions. These impressions were produced by a somewhat complicated procedure. The design of the stamp was engraved, in reverse, on a soft steel die which was then hardened. A soft steel roller of suitable size to carry from four to eight impressions was then put in a transfer press and rolled under great pressure until the design on the die was transferred in reverse form to the roller.

The roller was then hardened and by the same process in the transfer press an unlimited number of reproductions exactly similar to the original die could be laid down on soft steel plates.

After these plates had been cut to the exact size required, faint lines known as Guide Lines were marked on them to help keep the transfers in alignment. These lines were afterwards removed as far as possible, but traces of them were often left and appeared on the stamps, and finally any additional touching up that was found to be necessary was completed. The lower corner squares on the plates were left blank for the letters which were afterwards inserted by means of steel punches each bearing a different letter from A to T.

The arrangement and positions of the letters are fully described when discussing the Check Letters.

As a result of this process of production there are present on a great many of the stamps, in addition to the Guide Lines already mentioned, flaws and varieties that are known as Re-entries, Double Letters, Dots, Blurs and other marks, all of which are described under their appropriate headings. There are also present on some of the stamps two constant flaws, originating no doubt on the rollers, called roller flaws, one of which, the Ray Flaw, appears on stamps from Plates 1, 2 and 11 ; the other, the O Flaw, on Plates 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Before the printing on paper of the stamps began the usual routine was for the plates to be hardened, but in the case of, at any rate, Plate 1, this was not done, probably owing to the rush to get the stamps ready.

The actual printing was done by means of a hand printing press, each sheet consisting of 20 rows of 12, making 240 stamps in all.

PLATE 7

Earliest Date—July 8th, 1840.

THIS plate was completed on June 19th, 1840, but for some unknown reason was not registered until July 8th, although it was put to press on 26th June, 1840.

The colour of the first stamps printed is quite black, but not the intense black of the early printings from Plate 1A and as later it began to wear they seem to take on the greyish appearance of those from Plate 3 but perhaps not quite to the same extent.

Like Plate 3, Plate 7 was very well prepared and there is no evidence that either of them underwent any repair. Like Plate 3, also, it seems to have worn badly, and was only in use for about six months. For this reason stamps from each of them have very few abnormal marks (except for the "O" Flaw, which often may not be visible) by which they can be identified and specimens are by no means common. Plate 7 begins a series of four plates on which the "O" Flaw appears, the others being 8, 9 and 10, and it was the only one of them not to be used for the 1841 issue of the Penny Reds.

This flaw may be seen in one or two forms or stages (see pages 35 to 38) on most of the stamps in the A to G rows ; on some of the H and I rows and also on JA and JB.

It is generally very faint and ill-defined, being best seen on the A to F rows, but not even here is it so well marked as on the later plates, and in the G, H and I rows it is often practically invisible.

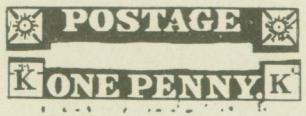
The only letter at all characteristic is the "L" on which the left lower serif on most of the stamps is practically missing. The two plates, 3 and 7, having so much in common, and Plate 3 having been referred to as the "Tidy" Plate, this might be referred to as the "Neat and Tidy" Plate.

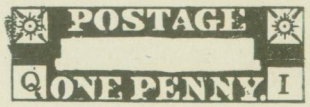
Re-entries

The two stamps, KK and QI, are the only ones to show a re-entry and both are very well marked.

KK. In the NE square, both letter squares and along the lower border.

QI. In the Q and both upper squares.





Check Letters

There is nothing very particular to notice about the letters, except that the left lower serif of the L's in the horizontal row of LB, LD, LE and LH is missing, and on LA, LC, LJ and LL is weak or more or less missing.

Double Letters

The first letters of CA, DA, FA, NB, NF and the E of PE have all been described as *double*, but none of these are very obvious, the best of some very poor examples being perhaps the F of FA, the N of NF and E of PE.

Other slight abnormalities are on :—

BA. The B appears to have been re-cut.

EI. Lower part of E faint.

FB. Foot of F defective.

FI. Top serif of I weak on left.

GA. Lower part of G deformed.

IH. Left upright of H weak.

Guide Lines

Vertical.

AF, AJ, AK, BH, BI, BJ, CJ, CK, CL, IB, ?IC, MB, ?MF, MK, OB, OC, OE, OG, OJ, OK, QC, RB, RF, RH, RJ, RK, SA, TJ.

All these appear in the NE square, except one which has been recorded as appearing on IC in the NW as well as the NE square.

Horizontal.

There are only a few of these and like the vertical they are mostly very faint, and all except that on LI appear either in one or both of the letter squares and/or the value.

BF, DG, KC, KJ, QA, QB, QF, RA, TC.

LI. There is a trace of a guide line through the E of POSTAGE.

Frame Lines

These are generally very well defined, only a few exceptions being noticed, such as AG, DI and DJ, where the side lines of the NE square are weak or broken, and on EJ where there is a gap at the top left corner of the NE square. The left side lines of BL, CE and CK and the right side line of DH are noticeably irregular.

Extended Frame Lines

Two very unusual extensions occur on this plate.

HK. Right line extends upwards. This stamp shows the same extension on Plate 8.

KB. Top line of K square appears to extend into the left margin.

Bottom Line to Right.

AG, BE, CC, CI, DA, ?IE, IF, MB, RB, RI, RL.

Bottom Line to Left.
AG, CI, DK, EG, EH, EK, HJ.
Right Line Below.
AB, CG, DA, IJ, GK, LH, MI, NE, NI, PC, RL, SH.
On HK the right line appears to extend well above but this looks more like a guide line than an extension.
Left Line Below.
CL, OL.

Double Extensions

AG. Bottom line to right and perhaps very slightly to left.
CI. Bottom line to right and left.
DA, RL. Bottom line to right and right below.

Dots

There are only a few, some of which can be seen inside or on the margin near the corner of the SE square.
AL, BL, DL, GL, IB, QL, SL, TL and on LA and PB in the L and P squares.
Others are to be found on :—
ED. On the E of Penny.
EG. A white dot on the foot of E.
QA. A very well marked one on the left margin opposite the diadem. Dots are to be seen in this position on other plates, especially Plate 3.
QF. On the lower margin between N and Y of Penny.
TE. Two dots on the upper margin near the inner corner of NE square.
TG. One dot in much the same position.

Scratches and Marks

Scratches.
These are not so frequent as on some of the other plates but can be easily seen on :—
Lower Margin. BA, CD, GB, GD, LJ, NB, PL, QA, RA.
Left Margin. BA, JG, PG.
Right Margin. SC.
Marks.
AI. Vertical mark on margin beside NW square.
BA. Thin line through foot of B—B re-cut.
CC, CD. Blur outside NW square.
CF. Short vertical stroke on left of F square.
FI. Thin line from foot of I to side line.
KG. Mark to left of NW square.
MD. Short stroke on left of D square.
RC. Short mark at left of letter C.
RI. Thin lines or scratches in NE square.
TG. Short stroke downwards from top left of T square near the corner.
TJ. Small mark top left of T square.

PLATE 8

Earliest Date—September 5th, 1840.

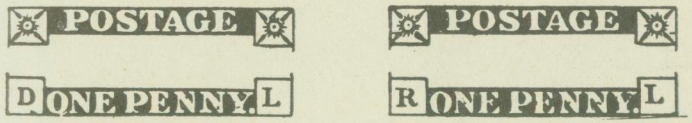
ALTHOUGH completed in July, 1840, and registered the same month, the earliest known date for a used stamp is September 11th, 1840.

The stamps are normally a strong black in colour and cancelled in both red and black and perhaps more frequently in red. Apart from the presence of the "O" Flaw, there is nothing outstanding by which this plate can be recognized. This flaw may be seen in Stage 2 (see pages 35 to 38) on all the stamps AA to OJ and in stage 1 in most of those from OK to TL. That the plate underwent some minor repairs whilst printing the black stamps is supported by the fact that some stamps, such as DC, DK, GE, HE and perhaps also OD, OE, OF and OH, which show the "O" Flaw originally, later appear as in a second state without it.

Plate 8 was used for the 1841 red issue, and that further repairs took place during this printing is shown on the red stamps AF to AL by signs of re-entering of the bottom frame lines and letter squares.

Re-entries

There are only four but all are well marked.
DL. NE square, D square and value.
RL. NE square and NN of PENNY.
TA. Both upper squares and lower margin.
TJ. NE square and lower margin.

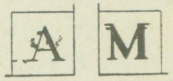


Check Letters

There is no really characteristic letter unless the E, which is of the narrow type and somewhat similar to that on Plate 7, but slightly smaller, can be considered so.

Double Letters

HA. A double.
MI. Upper part of M slightly double.



HA MI

Defective Letters

LL. Foot of first L long on left.
NA. N with long foot.
On AD the A has been described as defective on top, but if so it must be very slight.

Guide Lines

These are more numerous here than on any plate except Plate 9 and on the whole can be fairly easily recognized but as usual some of them are very faint or very close to the frame line. There is no guide line on any stamp in the K row, and only one in the J and M rows.

It may help in plating to remember that any KA to KL stamp which shows a guide line cannot come from Plate 8.

Vertical.

NE Square. AA, AE, AF, AJ, AK, AL, BC, BG, BI, ?BJ, BK, BL, CC, CD, CI, CL, DA, DC, DD, DG, DH, DI, DK, EA, EB, EC, EF, EG, EI, EJ, EK, EL, FC, FD, FI, GA, ?GH, ?HA, HC, HG, HH, HI, ?IA, IB, ?IE, JE, LB, LD, LF, ?LI, MA, ND, NI, OD, OE, OF, OI, OK, OL, PA, PB, PC, PD, PG, PH, PI, PJ, PK, PL, QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QG, QH, QI, QJ, QK, RA, RB, RC, RD, RE, RF, RG, RI, RK, SA, SB, SC, SD, TB, TC, TD, TE, TF.

Guide lines which have also been described in the NE square on BJ, GH, HA, IA, IE and LI it has not been possible to confirm.

Two guide lines can be seen on :—

EL, SC. Vertical in NE square and horizontal in the L and C squares.
PI. Vertical in NE and I squares.

Horizontal.

EL, FB, SC, in the L, B and C squares.
FH in the F square.
FG, LI, NB, SC. Through one or both letter squares and value.

Frame Lines

As on Plate 7 the lines are well defined, and the weakness so common on some of the earlier plates seems to have been overcome.

Extended Lines

Bottom Line to Right.

AF, BC, CC, CJ, ?EE, ?FC, DH, EK, FI, GI, HE, HF, IA, JF, MA, ME, MF, NC, RA, SA, TB.

Bottom Line to Left.

BJ, DC, PH, SE.

Right Line Below.

AC, AE, AG, AI, DB, FL, QL, TF.

Left Line Below.

CF, GK.

More than One Extension.

NL. Right line very slightly below and bottom line slightly to right.

On HK there is an extension of the right side line above and on NI a thin line extends from the bottom line to the right.

Dots

These are not very numerous and they are nearly all to be found in or just outside the second letter squares on :—

AB, AD, AF, AH, AK, EL, FL, GL, HL, ML, OL, PJ, PL, QL, SL, TH, TK, TL.

On AA there is a dot on the upper margin.
AL. On middle of side line of L square.
TC and TD have dots in both letter squares.
TE. Two dots in corner of E square.
TG. Dot on left margin.

Scratches.

A few stamps have scratches along the lower and right margins.
Lower Margin. BH, MH, SG.
Right Margin. HK, IG.

Marks.

BL, HL. Two short strokes on left margin just above the B and H squares.
QL. Mark on top margin between O and S of POSTAGE.

The marks on BL and HL are very faint on stamps from the second state of the plate.



Plate 8.
Examples show the "O" flaw and GI the extended bottom frame line to right.

PLATE 9

Earliest Date—November 18th, 1840.

UNLIKE Plates 7, 8 and 10, every stamp from the first state of the plate shows stage 2 of the "O" Flaw, but later on, after repairs, from its second state some of the stamps in the top rows, particularly the A row, such as AA to AF, AI to AK and BB, EC and FE may be found without the flaw. On some of these stamps there may appear in place of the flaw a blurring effect which looks like a crude attempt to remove it without effecting its complete absence.

This suggests some minor repairs or touching up which probably took place before the plate was used for the provisional printing in black.

There are more vertical guide lines in the NE square of this plate than on any other, being even more numerous than on Plate 8.

A feature of the plate is the presence on AB, AC, AH, AI, AJ of a distinct dot above the NE corner.

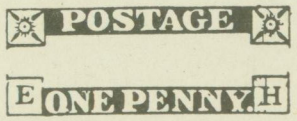
The stamps are a strong black and cancelled in both red and black in about equal proportions.

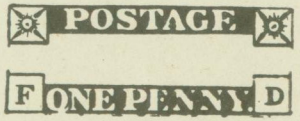
As the plate could only have been used for printing stamps during November and December, 1840, and also for a short time in January, 1841, for the provisional printing, the stamps from it are by no means common.

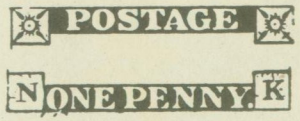
Re-entries

The best example of the three stamps affected is on NK, the other two being EH and FD.

EH. NE and H squares.
FD. Lower margin.
NK. NE square, letter squares and below O of ONE.







Check Letters

The letter J has a tendency to being square footed like those on Plate 10, but by no means to the same extent. The stamps which show this best are :—

HJ, JA, JG, JH, JI, MJ and also OJ, PJ, QJ and RJ.

In the N row the diagonal stroke of the N is longer than usual on NE, NF, NG and NH, being apparently the result of retouching.

The letter E is somewhat similar to those on Plates 5, 6, 7 and 10, being of the narrow type.

Double Letters



BL CK DC EB HB



LB MA OA OB TB

First Letter. BE, BL, CK, DC, HB, LL, MA, OA, TB.

Second Letter. AE, EB, JL, LB, OB.

On the whole these are quite distinctive, except perhaps for AE, BE, JL and LL. The double letters on EB and OA are usually very indistinct, but occasionally are found to be quite clear.

Guide Lines

From no other plates are there so many stamps with both vertical and horizontal guide lines, both of which in several cases appear on the same stamp. The horizontal lines are often very faint and seldom continuous, except on the K row, where they may be seen running through one or both letter squares and the value. The vertical are practically all placed in the NE square, and often also appear on the same stamp in the second letter square.

The K row is outstanding as every stamp has a horizontal line which is generally extremely well defined and on KA, KC, KE, KF, KG and KK there are vertical lines as well.

Vertical. NE Square.

AA, AB, AC, AD, AE, AF, AG, AH, AI, AJ, AK, BA, BB, BC, BD, BE, BF, BG, BI, BK, CA, CB, CE, CF, ?CG, CH, CI, CL, DA, DB, DC, DD, DE, DF, DG, DI, DJ, DK, EA, EB, ED, EE, EF, EI, EJ, EK, FB, FC, FE, FF, FJ, FK, GA, GC, GE, GF, GG, GJ, GK, HA, HE, HK, IK, JD, KA, KC, KE, KF, KG, KK, LF, LK, LL, MA, MB, MC, ME, MF, MG, MH, MI, MJ, MK, NA, NB, NC, ND, NE, NG, NH, NI, NJ, OA, OB, OC, OD, OF, OG, OH, OI, PC, PF, PI, PJ, PK, QF, RA, RE, RF, TA, TB, ?TC, TD.

On AB there are what look like two vertical lines in the NE square.

Vertical. In NE and SE Squares.

?AA, AE, BA, CB, CF, DA, DE, DF, EE, EI, ?FB, ?FC, FF, GA, GC, GG, HA, HE, HK, ?IK, KA, KC, KG, KK, LF, LK, LL, MC, MF, MG, MK, NC, NE, OE, QF, TA.

The vertical lines which have been described in the SE square on AA, FB, FC and IK cannot be confirmed, and on TC, also, a vertical line may be present in the NE square.

Vertical. In Letter Squares.

In the E and F squares of JF, KE and KF.

In the E and H squares of LE and ?LH.

Vertical lines have also been described on ID in the I square and on IB, RG and TH in the NW squares, which can rarely be recognized.

Horizontal. Through Value, Letter Squares or Both.

BA, BB, CG, CJ, HA, HB, HC, HE, HH, HK, IA, JD, ?JE, JG, KA, KB, KC, KD, KE, KF, KG, KH, KI, KJ, KK, KL, LL, ML, NA, NI, NJ, NL, OA, OH, OI, PK, QA, QB, QD, QG, RC, ?RG, ?SD, SE, SI.

Horizontal lines are also described as appearing on :—

FF, FH, FI and SG.

Vertical and Horizontal.

Vertical in NE square or NW square and second letter squares with horizontal also through letter squares and/or value.

BA, BB, ?CG, HA, HE, HK, JD, KA, KC, KE, KF, KG, KK, LL, MJ, NA, NI, NJ, OA, OH, OI, PK.

Frame Lines

Except for a weakness on a few stamps at the NE square, the frame lines are generally good.

Extended Lines

Right line below. AA, BH, CG, FC, GF, HF, KB, KI, OE, OI.

Left line below. AF, LK, RC, RE.

Bottom line to right. AF, BH, BI, CG, EC, ?IJ, OA, QK, SA, SE, TA.

Bottom line to left. KI, KL, MK, PC, PJ, QG, RL.

Double Extensions

AF. Left line below bottom line slightly to right.

BH, CG. Right line below and bottom line to right.

KI. Right line slightly below bottom line to left.

Dots

These are very few in number, but AB, AC, AH, AI and AJ all have a dot on the upper margin just above the NE square.

BL and TA have a dot in the SE corner of the L and A squares respectively, and SL and TC a dot below the SE corner.



Plate 9.



Blocks with identical letterings—the second showing considerable wear. Note the size of the letters in "ONE PENNY" and the lower corner squares.

Scratches and Blurs

Scratches.

A few stamps have scratches along the margins.
Lower margin. RC, ?SB.
Right margin. ?HF, IH, PE, SC.
Left margin. QH, SD.
RD. Faint scratches in the letter squares, letters of value and also on both top and lower margins.

Blurs

The following have a blur in the left side of the NW square or just outside it.

BJ, CD, CE, DH, DL, GH, QE, QH, and on NB there is a blur all along the left margin.

On OL there is a short blurred line in the NW square on the left.



CF and DF vertical guide line in NE and "F" Squares.
CG horizontal guide line through value and G square.
Right frame extends below.
DG vertical guide line in NE square.

PLATE 10

Earliest Date—January 2nd, 1841.

THESE stamps are very scarce and after those from Plate 11 they are probably the most difficult to obtain, and especially so with a red maltese cross, as being generally cancelled in black this is very rare. That comparatively few black stamps could have been produced from the plate is obvious as they could only have been printed in December, 1840, and during the short period of the provisional printing in January, 1841, for which it was one of the plates to be used.

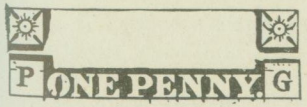
Like Plates 7, 8 and 9, Plate 10 carries the "O" Flaw, which is present on all the stamps from the first state of the plate except BE, BF, BH, BJ, BK and KB.

Plate 10 is known in a second state, and that some repairs took place at any rate to the upper four rows is proved by the following stamps on which the "O" Flaw practically disappears in the second state.

BA, BB, BC, BD, CA, CB, CC, CE, CF, CG, CH, DH, DI, DJ, DK, DL.

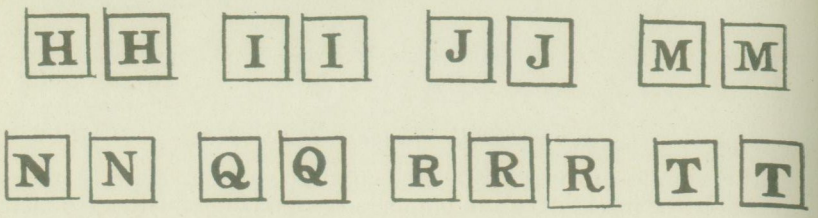
In its early state, Plate 10 shows the "O" Flaw in stage 2 or 3 on every stamp except BE, BF, BH, BJ, BK, KB, as mentioned above. Stage 3 is of great importance in plating because the only Penny Blacks on which this stage of the flaw appears being AA to DJ, Plate 10, all these stamps except BE, BF, BH, etc., can be so easily recognized. Some of the check letters also may be very helpful in plating and especially so I, J, Q, R and T. The long-tailed R, sometimes called "Rat Tailed," is characteristic and peculiar to Plate 10, as is also the Q with its tail less curled than usual. The tall I, square-footed J and squat T are much the same on both Plates 10 and 11, but of course there will be no "O" Flaw on the Plate 11 stamps. Other letters which are also more or less characteristic for both plates 10 and 11 are the broad "M" and tall "N".

Re-entries





These are well defined, and appear on :—
PG, SI. NE square, letter squares, value and below.
PK. NE square, letter squares, value and POSTAGE.
RI. NE square, value and I square.
RK. Lower margin.
RL. NW square and lower margin.
TA. NE square, postage and value.



In each case, the first letter is the normal, the second (or third) from plate 10.

Check Letters

The long-tailed R and square-footed J are the outstanding features on this plate. That the letter P was originally wrongly used and a tail, cut by hand, added subsequently, accounts for the variation in shape which so often occurs to the tail of the letter R.

The letter Q is also somewhat distinctive in that the tail has the appearance of having had its tip clipped off, which is especially noticeable on QB and QF.

Other letters which differ from the normal alphabet I type are the short and stumpy-looking H, the short and squat T, and the tall and thin I and N.

All these letters, especially the J, are somewhat similar to those on Plate 11, but here the entire absence of the "O" Flaw is a great aid in cases of doubt. On both Plates 10 and 11 the letter J is completely square-footed and on a few stamps from Plate 9, instead of the normal rounded foot there is a tendency to squareness.

Double Letters

These are seven in number if the second E of EE, which must be very slight, is included.

The other six are the second letters of GJ, KL, ?ND, OJ, PA and the H of HA. None of these are really good examples, perhaps the H of HA, L of KL, and the A of PA are the best.

The D of ND is included, but this looks more like a small projection from the bottom curve of the letter D than a double letter.

Defective or Faint Letters

The following are defective in varying degrees :—

B of KB and QB, H of HC and M of MA, and very slightly the B of BA and C of LC.

The diagonal stroke of the N of NE, NF and NG is longer and more pointed than usual.

Guide Lines

Practically all the vertical lines appear in the NE squares, and several of them, which are mentioned separately, are very faint or so close to the frame lines as to be difficult to see. The horizontal through the letters of value are also mostly very faint and seldom appear as a continuous line, generally only being visible on one or two of the letters.

Vertical. NE Square.

AI, BJ, DA, DD, DI, DJ, EF, EG, FB, FK, FL, GA, GB, GF, GL, HD, HL, KA, KF, KJ, KK, MA, NA, NI, NJ, OA, OC, PJ, QA, QI, RA, RF, RG, SA, SB, SC, SG, TB, TC, TF, TJ, TK.

Others which have been described as present but which are very faint may perhaps be visible on :—

DB, DC, DE, DF, DG, DH, ED, EI, FG, FJ, GH, GI, HA, HC, HG, KI, MK, NB, NH, PL, QB, QC, QJ, SG, TG.

On FL there is a vertical guide line in the NE and L square. The line in the NE square extends slightly above the top line of the square.

KJ. Faint vertical line in front of J.

Vertical. NW Square.

ID, JG, MF, and perhaps on HF and LG.

Horizontal.

FC, JK, KG, KI, NI, OL, PJ, SC.

On JA, KA, LI, MI, MJ, NK, RD and SF horizontal lines have also been described but not confirmed.

Horizontal and Vertical.

NI, PJ, SC.

Frame Lines

There is nothing particular to describe about these lines, as on the whole they are well defined and show few weaknesses.

Extended Lines

It will be seen that the majority of these extensions are on the left side of the stamp and especially the left line below.

Left Line Below.

CA, CD, CK, DA, DB, DC, DF, DI, EH, FD, FL, HB, KB.

Right Line Below.

AD, CA, HB, IA, IG, NK, SD.

Bottom Line to Right.

OK, QH, QI.

Bottom Line to Left.

DB, SG.

Double Extensions

DB. Bottom line well to left. Left line slightly below.

CA, HB. Both side lines below.

Dots

There are only about a dozen of these and they are mostly very small, faint and indistinct. All but four or five of them will be found either in the SE squares, or on the margins below on EK, LK, OL, RC, SL, TC, TF, TK.

Others present are :—

AL. Side margin at about the middle of the NE square.
DL. In the NW square.
GD. Top of NE square.
JK. Two dots on the lower margin which are connected by a thin line running from below NNY to the K square.
JL. On the lower margin, but as it is some distance below the L square it can only be seen on a well margined stamp.

Scratches, Marks and Blurs

Scratches.

These are not very definite, but can generally be seen on :—

AG. Left margin.
OF, PB. Lower margin.
QD. Top margin.
QE. Top and lower margins.

Marks.

There is a small mark which appears on the right of the letter J which is characteristic of this plate and appears on :—

EJ, IJ, JF, JI, JJ (first J), NJ, OJ, PJ, QJ, RJ, SJ.

The only other marks of note are a thick vertical line running through top line of NW square of RL, and on MD an indistinct vertical line or scratch through the bottom line of the M square.

Blurs.

As on Plate 9, there are several blurs either in the NW square or on the margin outside, but on Plate 10 there are twice as many.

The only stamps on which this is present on both Plates 9 and 10 are CD, CE and CG, but for plating purposes it is well to remember that the NW corner square is also blurred on :—

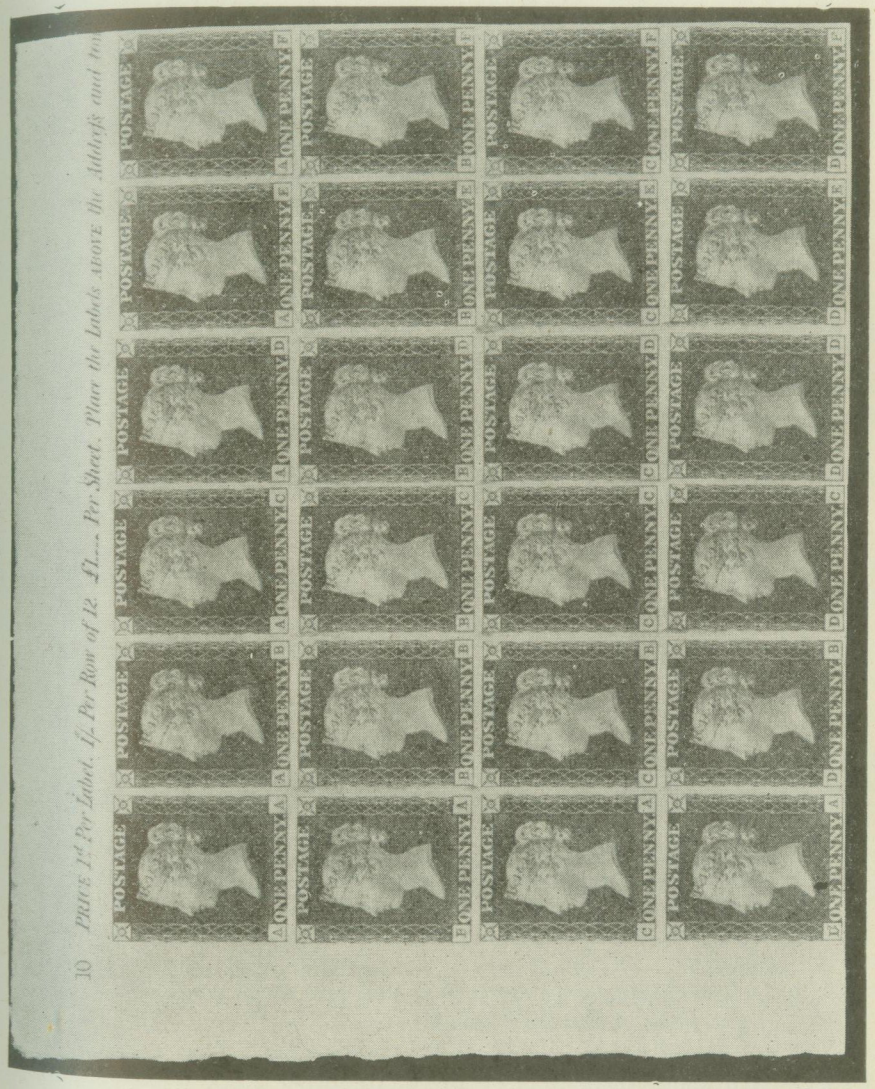
CC and CD, Plates 7 and 10.

On Plate 10 it appears on :—

BG, BH, CC, CD, CE, CG, CH, CI, ?CJ, CL, DE, DG, DI, DK, EB.



Note the absence of the "O" flaw on the stamps lettered BJ and BK.



For the minor varieties in this block see the descriptions under the corner letters AA to DF.

PLATE 11

Earliest Date—February 4th, 1841.

THE principal interest of this most interesting plate is that the first printings were made in red on January 29th and 30th, and the imprimatur copies registered at Somerset House were in this colour. The printings in black were made on February 1st and 2nd, as part of the provisional printing which took place between January 22nd and February 3rd. Only some 700 sheets, including some wastage, were printed from it.

To the experienced eye, Plate 11 stamps are of a greyish tint which is quite distinct from the grey due to wear so often seen on those from Plates 1A, 2, 3 and 7.

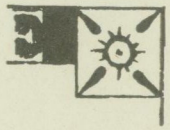
As this is generally considered to be characteristic of the plate, was the provisional printing in any way responsible? This seems to be probable and in fact it is quite likely that there may be stamps from the other plates used for this printing which have the same peculiar tint.

Some of the check letters, especially the square J, are very similar to those on Plate 10, but the absence here of any "O" Flaw is the deciding factor between the two plates.

The letter E, being broad and short, is somewhat distinctive, and on some of the L's from the L row the foot is short on the left.

The cancellations are generally in black, the red Maltese Cross being rarely seen.

As the Plate 11 stamps are so scarce, it is very useful to remember two characteristics of the plate, described by Dr. Osborne, by which practically every stamp can be recognized at sight.



(1) Instead of the 7 o'clock Ray Flaw which appears so often on the Plate 1 and 2 stamps, this same flaw (7 o'clock) is present on every Plate 11 stamp except GE and GF, but in the opposite or top right square. The importance of this Ray Flaw when plating is that it does not appear on any stamp from the other plates printed in black.

(2) A break of varying dimensions and/or a weakness of the top and right lines of the NE square.

As regards plating these particular stamps, much less seems to have been written about them than of any of the other black stamps. This is no doubt due to lack of the material for careful study of the stamps. If, as it is hoped, this can be remedied, it is entirely due to the very great kindness and generosity of the four well known philatelists, H. C. V. Adams, Bertram McGowan, J. B. Seymour and W. Sugden, who have lent their

collections of Plate 11 for examination. For my Publisher, and in a lesser degree myself, to be able to meet and have the opportunity of examining and discussing each one of these 240 scarce stamps both in black and red must surely be a most fortunate and unusual experience.

The conclusions we have come to are as follows:—

Although it has been recorded by at least one eminent authority that most of the SE corners were re-cut, which is quite correct, no list of the stamps so affected seems to have been published. There is no official record of any general repair to the plate, but there are indications that some minor repairs such as "touching up" took place on more than one occasion—when the SE corners were re-cut and the left lines reinforced.

It is thought that the work must have been done late in the day on February 1st or early on the following morning before the last printings in black were made. Two different states of red printing of the same lettering are not difficult to find and in the case of the stamps lettered MF, MH, PL and QC, copies have been seen of both states in both red and black. The touching-up must have been made *during* the black printing and the situation may be summarized as follows:—

January 29th/30th—first printings made in red—i.e., first state.

February 1st—first printings made in black—i.e., first state. The plate touched up.

February 2nd—second and final printings made in black—i.e., second state.

Later—subsequent printings made in red—i.e., second state. This being the first and only plate from which red stamps were printed before the black, and both red and black being known in two states, it is thought advisable to make some slight alterations in the detailed list AA-TL.

AA and TL, for instance, show the left line strengthened, and RI has a break at the SE corner on the black but not the red stamps. These are examples of stamps from the first state of the plate in red and from the first part of the printing in black.

Details of such stamps as AA, etc., will therefore be given under the heading A State 1, but the stamps MF, MH, MJ, ?ML, PK and PL, having been seen in black in *two* states, will be mentioned under A State 1 and C State 2.

Re-cut Corners

As already mentioned, most of the SE corners were re-cut and it will be seen from the following that only eight stamps were not so affected.

All the A, B, C, D and E rows and the F row except FJ.
GA, GC, GE, GF, GG, GH, GK, GL from the G row.
All the H row.
IC, IE, IF, IG, IH, II, IJ, IK, IL from the I row.
All the J row and especially so JD and JH.
All the K row except KJ and all the L to T rows.

This leaves FJ, GB, GD, GI, GJ, IA, IB, ID and KJ with the corners not re-cut.

Frame Lines

The principal feature of note concerning these lines is :—

(1) A *reinforcement of the left line only* on :
AA (first state in red, not re-cut), AB, AE, AG, AH, BA, BC, BD, BE, (BH and BI, upper half), BJ, BK, CF, CH, DB, DC, DF, (DH and DK, upper half), ED, FD, (FH, upper half), GE, GG, (HI, lower half), JI, (JK, upper half), JL, KA (KG, upper half), LD, LH, MF, MH and MJ (second state), ML (? second state), PK and PL (second state), QA, QB, QL, RA, RE, TE, TG, TJ (second state) and TL.

(2) *Right side* only :
EE.

(3) *NE corner weak at top and right :*
AH, CK, DI, DK, EE, EH, EI, FD, HJ, HL, ID, JA, JG, KJ, LF, MH, NB, NH, NI, NK, OF, OG, RK, SE, SF, SG.

(4) *Top line NE corner missing :*
NA.

(5) *Top line NE corner broken or weak :*
AA, AB, AC, AD, AE, AI, AJ, AK, AL, BA, BB, BG, ?BH, BI, BJ, BL, CD, DA, DD, DG, DH, DJ, DL, EA, EB, EF, EJ, EK, EL, FC, FE, FF, FG, FK, FL, GA, GD, GK, HA, HB, HF, HG, IB, QA.

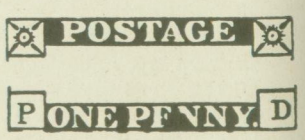
(6) *NE corner weak at right:*
CH, CI, CJ, CL, FB, FI, IF, II, IK, JD, JE, JH, JK, LJ, NG, PJ, QI, SK, TG, TJ.

Re-entries

All the S row stamps have a small mark in the NE square on the left which is generally recognized as a re-entry.

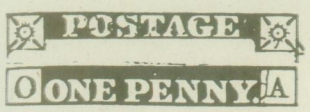
The other re-entries to be seen are on :—

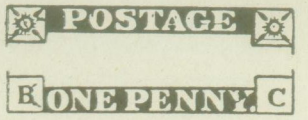
BC. B square. Upper squares. Postage and value.
ND. Upper squares. Postage and Penny.
NE. NE square and NE PEN.
NJ. Postage and NW square.
NK. Letters of One Penny.
OA. Upper squares. Postage and A square.
RA. E PEN of One Penny.
TC. NE square.
TB. Below One.
TD. NW square.
TK. NE square, K square and value.



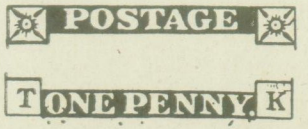
PD

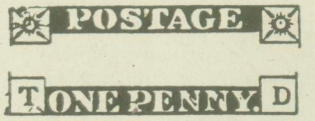
All the following show the bottom line double in varying degrees—NF, PD, RF, RG, SA, SC, SF, SI, SK, TA, TI, TJ, and in addition to the mark in the NE square, there is also on SA, SB and SC a mark through the lower part of the S of Postage.









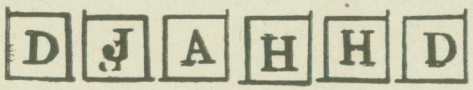


Check Letters

Apart from the square-footed J, some of these letters are much like those on Plate 10, such as the rather short and stumpy-looking H and T, and the tall and thin I and N. As on Plate 7, but not to the same extent, there is on some of the L's in the horizontal row a shortening of the foot on the left which is perhaps most noticeable on BL, GL, HL, QL and RL.

Double Letters

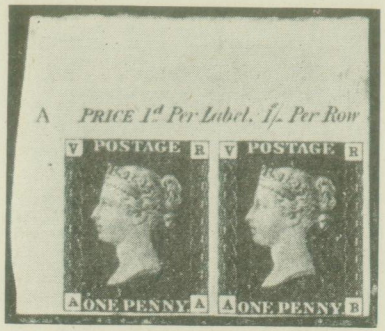
There are several of these, perhaps the best example being the J of JE.



DD JE KA NH PH RD

The others are mostly slightly affected either at the upper or lower extremity and are :—

BB. Second B on top.
DD. First D on top.
DI, DL. Letter D double.
JE. Letter J double.
KA. Right foot of A.
LL. Second L.
NH. Left upright of H at top
PH. Top and bottom of H.
RD. Bottom of D.
SD. Top of D.



The "VR" Penny Black.

In addition to this public issue of the 1840 Penny Black, there was also a small issue of what is known as the "VR" Penny Black.

This issue was only for use in Government Departments, and not for sale, and as only 3,000 sheets were printed these stamps are very difficult to obtain.

These were produced by erasing the crosses from the upper corners from a roller impression of the original die, and then transferring 240 impressions to a plate. After this the letters "V" and "R" were inserted by hand in the two blank squares, in the same way as were the letters in the two lower corner squares.

State of Plate

After the printing from the plate had begun it was often found that owing to wear some sort of repair, from minor touching up to slight repair or even complete overhaul, became necessary, as was the case soon after Plate 1 came into action.

When a plate was printed from, *after* it had been repaired, that is, later than as it was when originally laid down, the resulting stamps are referred to as from its second state and if any further repair took place as from its third state. It often happened however that minor repairs took place after the plate was completed but *before* it was put to press.

After the 240 impressions had been laid down, the rough edges, caused by the turning up of the steel due to the pressure of the roller when the impressions were being transferred to the plate, were scraped away.

The removal of these rough edges or "burrs" as they are called, and the burnishing out of the guide lines, scratches, etc., often left the corners and side lines weak, thus necessitating retouching or in some cases recutting the lines of the squares and perhaps re-drawing or re-entering the sidelines.

This, as explained later, may account in some measure for the great number of stamps from all the plates on which the frame lines are extended.

Although there does not seem to be any direct evidence as regards dates of repairs to individual plates or exactly what was done except in the case of Plate 1, it is most probable that with the possible exception of Plates 3, 4 and 7 all the black plates underwent repair of some sort at least once and probably more often.

When the colour of the stamps was changed from black to red in January 1841, the black plates 1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11 were all used for the printing of this first issue of the Penny Red. Plates 3, 4, 6 and 7 were not used because Plate 3 had already been destroyed and Plates 4, 6 and 7 had been discarded before this red printing began and were finally destroyed early in January 1841.

Several of these red stamps give evidence that in addition to the first extensive repairs to the original plate, known as Plate 1A, resulting in a second state Plate 1B, further repair must have taken place by which a third state or 1C can be recognized.

These particular stamps may therefore be considered as coming from a later state of the plate than the original, but apart from these red, many of the black stamps can also be recognized as coming from a second state, and not only from Plate 1, but also from Plates 6, 8, 9 and 10 by showing signs of Re-entering, Re-cut lines, Re-touching, etc.

That Plate 5 also existed in a third state is proved by the stamp PB.

Having outlined the method of production of the stamps, it will now be necessary to mention two flaws which are very helpful in recognizing stamps from Plates 1, 2, 7, 8, 9 and 10. Other means by which the plate a stamp comes from can be recognized such as Re-entries, Guide Lines, Double Letters, etc., will also be described.

Ray Flaw

This is the complete or partial absence of the upper-most of the small rays in the top left square just below the long and bigger ray which runs up to the top left corner.

There are also two other ray flaws which appear only on Plates 1 and 2 and another which appears only on Plate 11.

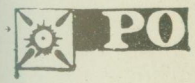
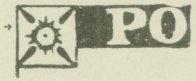
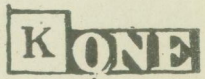


Plate 1A



Ray Flaws. Plate 1B



"O" Flaw.

"O" Flaw

This appears as a small white mark extending from the bottom line upwards between the letters "O" and "N" of "ONE". This flaw is present on many stamps from Plates 7, 8, 9 and 10 but on no other plate.

Both these flaws were probably due to the same cause. It is most likely that a speck of metal on the original die or perhaps on the surface of the roller was not noticed when the roller used for these plates was made. As several stamps from these plates never show the flaw it would seem therefore most probable that more than one roller was used. These flaws are fully discussed later.

Defective Letters

AH. Foot of A long on the left.
EB. Top serif of E faint.
EC. C thin and small.
FA. Right foot of A weak.
HA. H faint or defective below on left.
HH. Second H defective on left.
MF. Top serif of M weak.
MJ. M slightly defective on right and left (second state).
RB. Second vertical stroke of second N of Penny longer than usual.
RL. Tail of R appears bifurcated. ? Double.

Guide Lines

These are few in number and mostly very faint. The vertical lines are only to be found in the NE square and the horizontal are limited to the letter squares and value with the possible exception of AE, on which a vertical line has been described as appearing in the E square and RF, which has a horizontal line in the NE square.

Vertical in NE Square.

BL, CD, CE, CK, DC, DD, DF, DL, HB, KF, KK, LC, MB, MC, NB, NC, OI.

Horizontal.

Through value and/or letter squares. GC, HA, HC, HD, HG, HH, HI, ID, IF, IH, II, IK, JD, KC, KF, KG, KH, KK, LC, LD, LF, LG, LH, LK, PI.

RF. Horizontal guide line, NE square.

QL. A trace of a guide line has been mentioned under the L square.

Extended Lines

What is unusual is that all the extensions are to be found on the right side, the majority being an extension of the bottom line to the right. The one exception to this may be an extension of the bottom line of RG to the left, but this is difficult to confirm owing to a blur covering the corner.

Plate 2 is somewhat similar as this only shows about half a dozen extensions on the left side of the stamp, most of them on Plate 2 being an extension of the right line above or the bottom line to the right.

Bottom Line to Right

?AA, AJ, BE, CE, DI, FI, IC, ID, IE, JA, LA, NA, NF, OB, PE, ?QA, QB, QC, RC, SA, SC, TG.

Right Line Below.

EL, FC, GB, ML, OK, QC, QG, ?SC.

On GC and SC a double extension has been described. The right side line extending below and the bottom to the right.

Dots

There are only a few of these which, with one or two exceptions, can be quite easily recognized.

CJ. On N of ONE.
DJ, NI, NJ, NL, TF. In the second letter squares.
FF. Below second F square.
FJ. Above the NW square and EI and OL in the NW square.
FL. Dot in NE square above NW square and below SE corner.
IE. Touching side line of I square.
FF, KC, RL, TJ, TL. Below the SE corner.
LK. On T of Postage.
LL. Under P of Penny.
OG. In O square.
TB. Two small dots on bottom line of B square.

Blurs

There are very few stamps from this plate which show any distinctive marks such as scratches or what are generally described as small strokes, etc., but some blurring in or about the NW and SW corner squares can be seen on :—

SW Corners.

OC, OD, OF, OG, OH, PD, PF, PG, QD, RG.

NW Corners.

?CF, ?CG, ?ED, NC, NJ.

Other Varieties

DK. Scratches on lower margin.
FD. Faint lines through ON of ONE.
PJ. Three curved scratches under E of PENNY.
RB. Second vertical stroke of second N of PENNY too long.
RG. Lines do not meet at NW corner.
RI. Lines do not meet at SE corner (not in first state in red).
RL. Tail of I bifurcated.
TE. Diagonal line in E square to right of E.
TJ. Side line of J square broken at top and bottom.
TL. Side line of L square broken at top (not in first state in red).



Typical examples from Plate 11.

AA—TL

TO help in this task of plating, a list has been prepared giving a detailed description of every stamp from AA to TL, from all the Plates 1A, 1B to 11. Anything seen on each stamp by which it can be definitely plated, such as a re-entry, guide line, characteristic letter, etc., is described and the position of the letters in the corner squares are also given. These descriptions are under three headings :—

(a) Something is present by which the plate the stamp comes from can be easily recognized.

(b) When nothing very definite is present, but when there may be something to look for which is not very obvious and which it has not been possible to identify or confirm and so is considered as doubtful or not constant.

(c) What to look for if the stamp should be from a later state of the plate than the original.

Abbreviations

RE. . . .	Re-entry.
NE sq. NW sq. . .	Top right and top left squares.
GL.	Guide line.
SE sq. SW sq. . .	Bottom right and bottom left squares.
FL.	Frame line.
Exts. . . .	Extensions.
Ext.	Extreme.
RT. LT. . . .	Right or left.
Sl.	Slight or slightly.
Nil.	Nothing to describe.
↗ ↘ . . .	Letter slopes upwards or downwards.
RF. 5, RF. 7, RF. 10 .	Ray Flaw, 5, 7 and 10 o'clock.
OF. 1, OF. 2, OF. 3 .	O Flaw, Stages 1, 2 and 3.

AA

	a	A	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot outside corner of first A sq. Dot on side line NW sq.	Central, Sl. to right	Sl. low, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same dots. Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Central, Sl. to right	Sl. low, Sl. to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line below first A sq.	Central	Central
3	Top of first A and ? second A closed	Sl. high to right	Central
4	Right line extends below	High to right	Very high central
5	Bottom line extends to right	Central	Low to left
6	Right line extends slightly below	Very low central	Central ↗
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Dot on margin above S of Postage	Central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide) and ? SE sq. (close). Right line extends below	**Ext. high** to right	Very low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Break in top line NE sq. at left corner. SE corner re-cut. ? Bottom line extends to right. Left line strengthened	Central	Low to left ↘
	b		
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	**Ext. low** to left	Central
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	Central	**Ext. low** central
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger		
9	"O" flaw not present		

AB

	a	A	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot touching side line of NE sq.	Central	Central to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same dot but not quite touching the line	Central	Central to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line below A sq.	Sl. low, Sl. to right	Quite high to right
4	Right line extends slightly below	**Ext. low** to right	Central, Sl. to left
5	Right line extends below and ? bottom line extends to right	Central	Sl. high, Sl. to left
7	*OF. 2.* Right line extends slightly below	Central	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Dot on margin below SE corner of B sq.	Sl. high, Sl. to left	Central to right
9	*OF. 2.* Two vert. guide lines NE sq. Dot above NE sq. ? Hor. line on lower margin	High central	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Two small breaks in top line NE sq. SE corner re-cut. Left line strengthened	Central ↘	Low to left
	b		
3	Nil	Central to right	High to right
6	Nil	Central to right	High central
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	High central	High central
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger. Letters fainter		
9	"O" flaw not present		

AC

	a	A	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to right	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line	Central to right	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Short stroke under C	Central, Sl. to right	**Ext. low,** well to left
5	Right line extends below. Bottom line extends to left	Central, Sl. to right	Sl. low to left
6	Lower half of side line NE sq. missing	Low central	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Right line extends below	Central to right	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot above NE sq.	Central to right	Low, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Two small breaks in top line NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Low central ↘	Low, Sl. to right
	b		
3	Top of A may be blind. Not constant	Very low to right	Central to left
4	Dot on right of A. Left side weak	Central to right	Central to left
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Central to left
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	Low central	**Ext. low** to left
	C state 2		
5	Blur mark in NW sq. Otherwise little difference		
9	"O" flaw not present. Letter C faint		

AD

	a	A	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to right	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Central to right	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Re-entry upper sqs., letter sqs. and lower margin	Low to right	Sl. high central
4	Small diagonal mark or blur in lower part of NE sq.	Central to right	Central to left
5	Foot of A long on left. Bottom line extends to left. Dot in SE corner	Sl. low to right	Central to right
6	Dot on bottom line close to SE corner	Very low, Sl. to right	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Letter A slightly defective at top. Dot below D sq.	Central, Sl. to left	High to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Sl. high, **ext. far** to right
10	*OF. 3.* Right line extends very slightly below	High central	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. broken at left corner. SE corner re-cut. Both side lines strengthened	Low to right ↘	Sl. high, well to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central to right	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Foot of A long on left	Central to right	High central
	C state 2		
9	"O" flaw not present. Letter D faint		

AE

	a	A	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Letter E double	Central to right	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter E double. Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Central to right	Central to left
3	Letter A slopes down	Low central ↘	Central, well to right
4	Letter A slopes up	Central ↗	Central, well to right
5	? Hor. guide line through A sq. Dot below and touching SE corner A sq.	Low central	High central
6	Right line extends below	Low to right	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Right line extends below	Very high central	High, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide) and E sq. (close). Letter E slightly double	High central	Sl. high, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Break in top line NE sq. at left corner. SE corner re-cut. Left side strengthened. ? Trace of vert. guide line E sq.	Central	Central to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom line of E sq. thin	Low central	Central to left
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	**Ext. low** to right	High to left
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	Central	Low central
	C state 2		
9	"O" flaw not present.		

AF

	a	A	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot in NE sq. touching the side line near the top	Low to right	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot fainter. Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Low to right	Central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Hor. guide line below A sq. and ? F sq. Left line extends slightly below	Sl. low, Sl. to left	Low to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to right	Low to left
7	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High central	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot below SE corner F sq. Bottom line extends to right	High to right	Low central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Left line exts. below. Bottom line exts. very slightly to right	Central to right Central to right	Sl. high to left Sl. high to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Side line NE sq. weak below	Very low to left	Low central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Quite low to left	Central
3	Nil	High central	Low central
4	Nil	**Ext. low** to left	**Ext. high** central
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	Very high central	Low central
	C state 2		
9	"O" flaw not present		

AG

	a	A	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Foot of A long on the left	High to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Foot of A long. ? Short vert. line up from P of Postage into margin	High to right	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* SE corner of G sq. broken	Central to right	High to left
3	Dot above NE corner. Bottom line double	Central	High to left
5	Hor. guide line below letter G. Small mark top right corner of NE sq.	Central	High central
6	Bottom line extends slightly to right. Side line NE sq. very weak	Central to right	High to left
7	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends to right and ? to left. Side line NE sq. weak	Central to right	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Right line extends below	Sl. high, Sl. to left	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central to left	Low to left
10	*OF. 3.* Scratches on left margin	Central to right	Sl. low central
11	*RF. ?, NE sq.* Left side strengthened. Top line NE sq. very weak. SE corner re-cut	High central	High central
	b		
4	Left side weak	Central to right	High to left

AH

	a	A	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot on margin near top of NE sq.	High to right	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line along left margin. Dot smaller and fainter	High to right	Central to left
4	Left foot of H defective	Central	Very high, well to left ↘
5	Foot of A long on the left. Small dot on P of Postage	Central	High to left
6	Very small dot to right of H	Central	Central, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Dot on margin touching bottom line of H sq. close to SE corner	High central	**Ext. high** to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot above NE sq.	High to right	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Foot of A long on left. Left side strengthened, SE corner re-cut. Top and side line NE sq. weak	**Ext. low** central	Central, Sl. to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	**Ext. low** to left	High central ↗
3	Nil	Central	Low to right
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	High to left ↘
10	*OF. 3.* Squat H. Nil	High to right	Sl. low to left

AI

	a	A	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to right	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line	Central to right	Low central
3	Dot above corner of NE sq.	Low to right	Low central
4	Foot of I defective on right	Central, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to left
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Low to left	Central to left
6	Faint dot to right of A	Central, Sl. to right	High to left
7	*OF. 2.* Mark or blur outside NW sq.	Central	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Right line extends below	Central to left	Central to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot above NE sq.	Low central	Central
10	*OF. 3.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Tall I	Very high to right	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Break in top line of NE sq. at left corner. Tall I. SE corner re-cut. Bottom line extends very slightly to right	Central to right	High central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil.	Low to right	High to right
	C state 2		
9	"O" flaw not present		

AJ

	a	A	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side weak	Quite high to right	Quite high central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left side stronger. Hor. guide line below A sq.	Quite high to right	Quite high central
6	Dot touching foot of J on the left. Small faint dot to right of J	Central Sl. to right	High Sl. to left
7	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Central Sl. to left	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	High Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot above NE sq.	High central	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line extends slightly to right, foot of J sq. Two small breaks in top line of NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Low to right	Very high to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Low central	Low central
3	Top of J slopes down very slightly	Low to left	High to left
4	Nil	Low central	Very high central
5	Traces of hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. Top line NE sq. thin	Central to right	High Sl. to left
10	*OF. 3.* Letter J with square foot. Nil	Low to right	High to right
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamp shows top line NE sq. stronger		
9	"O" flaw not present		

AK

	a	A	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot touching side line just below NE corner	High to right	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same dot A sq. re-cut, leaving gap at SW corner	High to right	High central
3	Faint dot above NE corner. Left side very weak	Central, Sl. to right	Central to left
4	Right foot of K slightly defective. Short vert. stroke SW corner A sq.	Low central	Central
5	Small dot below SE corner K sq.	Central to left	Central to left
6	Dot on right side of O of Postage	High to right	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Dot below SE corner K sq.	High central	High, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Strong vert. guide line NE sq. extending above	High central	**Ext. low** to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Break in top line NE sq. at left corner. SE corner re-cut	Central ↘	Central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. stroke K faint	Central, Sl. to right	Central
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	High central	Central to right
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamps show upper sqs. fainter		
9	"O" flaw not present		

AL

	a	A	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot above corner NE sq. Diagonal scratch through L sq.	Central to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same dot and scratch. Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Central to right	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* **Two** vert. guide lines NE sq.	Central	High central
3	Bottom line extends slightly to right	Central to left	Central to left
5	Very faint dot outside SE corner. Left side very weak	Central to right	Central
6	Dot on N of One. Two small faint dots above A	High to right	High to left
7	*OF. 2.* Dot on lower line L sq. near SE corner	Central to right	Low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Very faint vert. guide line NE sq. Dot on middle of side line L sq.	Central	High to left
10	*OF. 3.* Dot on side line NE sq. just above the middle	Very low central	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Break in top line NE sq. at left corner. SE corner re-cut	High to right	Central to right
	b		
4	Nil.	Low, Sl. to right	High, Sl. to right
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central ↘	Central to left

BA

	a	B	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	Central, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line	Central to right	Central, Sl. to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot outside SE corner of A sq.	Sl. high to right	Low to left
3	Hor. stroke or line below SE corner of A sq.	Sl. high to right	Central
4	Bottom line extends to right. Small dot to right of middle of B	High to right	Central
5	Letter B re-cut. Left line extends below	Sl. high to right	Central ↘
7	*OF. 2.* B re-cut. Line from below B to left and right. Scratches NE sq. and on all margins	Sl. high central	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. line on margin parallel with NW sq.	Central to right	Sl. high central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide) and A sq. (close). Hor. guide line A sq.	High central	Central ↘
10	*OF. 3.* Lower part of B slightly defective on the left	High to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened. Break in top line NE sq. at each end. SE corner re-cut	Very low central	High central
	b		
6	Nil	Low to right	Low to right
	C state 2		
5	One or both sides stronger. Letters fainter		
10	"O" flaw not present. Letters fainter		

BB

	a	B	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line. Slight traces of re-entry NE sq.	Central	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Two dots on margin below SE corner of second B sq.	Very low to right	High to right
7	*OF. 2.* First B slopes up definitely and second B slightly	Central to right ↗	Central to left ↗
8	*OF. 2.* Small blur outside SW corner. Scratches on left margin	Central to right	High to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value	Sl. high to right	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Second B double. Two small breaks in top line NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Central to left	Low, Sl. to left
	b		
3	Nil	High to right	High to right
4	Nil	High to right	High, Sl. to right
5	Nil	Low central	High to left
6	Nil	Low to right	Central
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	High, Sl. to right	High, Sl. to left
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger. Letter fainter		
9	"O" flaw not present		
10	"O" flaw not present. First B faint		

BC

	a	B	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Low to right	Sl. high to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray ? Guide line NE sq.	Low to right	Sl. high to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line exts. to right. Scratches on right margin	Low to right	**Ext. low, ext. far to left**
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to right	Very low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends very slightly to right	Central	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Very high central	Low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Re-entry upper and B sqs., also slightly Postage and Y of Penny. Break in top line NE sq. at left corner. SE corner re-cut. Left line strengthened	Central	Sl. low to right
	b		
3	Top line NE sq. thin	Central to right	High to left
4	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low central	Very low central
5	Nil	Low central	Low to left
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high to right	Central
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	Very high to right	High central
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger. One or both letters faint		
10	"O" flaw not present. Letter C faint		

BD

	a	B	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Very low to right	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Very low to right	Central to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter D slightly defective top right. Small mark just above D on left	Central	Central to left
4	Dot practically touching top of B	High to right	Central
5	Scratches on lower margin	Central to right	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left side strengthened. SE corner re-cut	Low, Sl. to left	Low, well to right
	b		
3	Top line NE sq. thin	Low to right	Central
6	Nil	Low to right	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central, Sl. to left	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Central to right
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	High to right	High central
	C state 2		
10	"O" flaw not present. Letter D faint		

BE

	a	B	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low to right	Central, well to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Low to right	Central, well to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot outside corner of E sq.	Central to left	Central
3	Top line NE sq. broken at left corner	Low to left	Central to right
4	Left line extends below and bottom line to left	Low to right	Central, well to right
5	Scratches on lower margin	Central to right	High central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	Central to left
7	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends to right	Central to right	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Letter B slightly double on right. Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low to right	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line extends very slightly to right. Left line strengthened. Top left corner NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	Central to right	Central to left
	b		
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	Central
10	Not known with "O" flaw. Nil	Very high to right	Very low central

BF

	a	B	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low to right	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Low to right	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot on bottom line at SE corner F sq. ? Extension of line	Central	Central
3	Short line below SW corner B sq.	High to right	Low to left
4	Thin line from top of B sq. into left margin. ? Extension. ? Guide line	Central	Central
5	Vert. scratch left of B. Traces of hor. guide line value	High central	Central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Central, well to right	Sl. low to left
7	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line NNY. Letter B slopes up to right	Central ↗	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. very weak	Central to right	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Scratch under Y. ? Scratch in B sq.	High to right	High, Sl. to lfet
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top left corner NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	Low to right	Central
	b		
10	Not known with "O" flaw. Nil	Central to right	Low central

BG

	a	B	G
4	Small mark on margin level with top line of G sq.	Central to right	High to left
5	Left line exts. slightly below. Scratches on left of and below B	Central	High central
6	Letter B slightly double	Low to right	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Sl. high central	Very high central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Quite high to left	Very low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Break in top line NE sq. at left corner. SE corner re-cut	Very low to left	Very high central
	b		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top line NE sq. thinner than on Plate 1A	Central	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Central, Sl. to left	Sl. low central
3	Nil	Low to left	High to left
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	High to left
10	*OF. 3.* Blur outside NW sq.	Central to right	High to left

BH

	a	B	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Right line extends slightly below	Low to right	Central, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No extension	Low to right	Central, Sl. to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot outside SE corner H sq.	Central to left	High to right
4	Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	High to left
5	Hor. guide line value and H sq. Vert. scratch left of B	High to left	Central
6	Top line NE sq. very weak. Side line practically missing	Central to right	Sl. high central
7	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Right line extends below. Bottom line to right	High central	Very low to left
10	*No "O" flaw.* Blur outside NW sq. Letter H short and stumpy	Low to right	**Ext. low** to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Upper half left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut. Top line NE sq. weak or broken at left corner	Low central	Central to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central to right	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Scratch below H sq. (not constant)	Sl. high, Sl. to right	High to right ↗

BI

	a	B	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. low to right	Sl low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter I slightly thinner	Sl. low to right	Sl. low to right
4	Top right of B and right foot of I defective. Dot to left of foot of B	Central to left	Low central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	Sl. high central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to right	Very high to right	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Upper half left side strengthened. Top line NE sq. weak or missing on the left. SE corner re-cut	Central	High to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High to left	Very low central
3	Nil	Low central	High, Sl. to left
5	Nil	Central, Sl. to left	Central to left
10	*OF. 3.* Tall I. Nil	Low to right	Central, Sl. to right

BJ

	a	B	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side weak	Central to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left side stronger	Central to right	High to left
5	Small dot on lower margin between P and E of Penny	Sl. high to left	Sl. high central
6	Several dots in J sq. Side line NE sq. weak	Central to right	Very high to left
7	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. low central	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line exts. very slightly to left. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Blur outside NW sq.	Central to right	**Ext. high** to left
10	*No "O" flaw.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Square J	Low to right	**Ext. low** to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. broken at left corner. Left line strengthened SE corner re-cut. Foot of J square	Low to left	**Ext. high** to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Central to left	Central
3	Nil	Very high to right	High to left
4	Nil	Low central	Central

BK

	a	B	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left line somewhat weak	Central to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left line stronger. Top line NE sq. thinner than on Plate 1A	Central to right	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom line extends very slightly to right	Central to left	Central
4	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central	Central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Small mark on bottom line of B sq.	Central, well to right	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	High to left	Low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left side strengthened. SE corner re-cut	High to right	Central
	b		
3	Nil	Central to right	Central to left ↗
5	Nil	High to right	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Sl. high to left
10	*No "O" flaw.* Nil	**Ext. high** to right	Central to right

BL

	a	B	L
4	Bottom line extends to right	Central to left	Central, Sl. to right
6	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Small dot in SE corner of L sq. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner	Central to right	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Dot in SE corner L sq. Left side weak	Low to left	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Two short hor. marks on left margin just above B sq. Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Top of B double. Dot in SE corner of L sq.	High to left	Low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Two small breaks in top line NE sq. Foot of L short on left. SE corner re-cut	Central, Sl. to left	High to right
	b		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top line NW sq. appears slightly double	Central to right	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High to right	Very high to left
3	Left side irregular	Central to right	Central to left
5	Left side very irregular	High central	Central to left
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	Sl. high to right	Central to right
	C state 2		
8	*OF. 2.* The marks on state 2 are extremely faint or missing but show on the red stamps		

CA

	a	C	A
1A	Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to left and right	Central to left	Low to right
1B	Same extensions. No guide line	Central to left	Low to right
3	Bottom line extends to right	Sl. low central	Central
4	Two small dots on left arm of Y of Penny. Side line NE sq. very weak	High, Sl. to right	Central
5	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Low to left	Low central
6	Left line extends slightly below. ? Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	High central	Low central
7	*OF. 2.* Short stroke on right of C. ? Double letter	Sl. low, well to left	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Blur outside NW sq.	Central to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low to left	Sl. low, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 3.* Both side lines extend below	Low to left	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Very low central	**Ext. high to right**
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	**Ext. low central**	Central
	C state 2		
5	Right side stronger. Contents of corners fainter		
6	Left side stronger		
10	"O" flaw not present		

CB

	a	C	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line	Central	Central
4	Right line extends below. Small dot in top left corner of C sq.	Low to left	Central to right
5	Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Low to left	Central to right
7	*OF. 2.* Blur outside NW sq.	Central, **ext. far to left**	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide) and B sq. (close)	**Ext. low** to left	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. ? Top left corner NE sq. weak	Low to left	High to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High central	Low to right
3	Nil	Central	Very high to right
6	Nil	Very low central	Very low central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Central to right
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	Low central	Low to right
	C state 2		
5	Burr marks on left side. One or both letters faint. ? Frame lines stronger		
10	"O" flaw not present		

CC

	a	C	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and second C sq. (very close)	Central	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line second C sq. (very close). Hor. scratch first C sq.	Central	Central to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Very faint vert. guide line NE sq. Right line extends below	**Ext. low** to left	**Ext. low** to left
4	Vert. guide line NE sq. Tiny dot on E of ONE and above first C	Low to left	High to left
5	Bottom line extends slightly to right	Sl. low to left	Sl. low to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Side line NE sq. broken below. Left side very weak	Central to left	Sl. low to left
7	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to right. Blur in NW sq.	High to left	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to right	Central to right	High central
10	*OF. 3.* Blur in NW sq.	Central, Sl. to left	Low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. ? Top left corner NE sq. weak	Sl. high to left	High to right
	b		
3	Nil	High central	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to left	Sl. low, Sl. to left
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger. One or both letters faint		
10	"O" flaw not present		

CD

	a	C	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Letter D double. Left side weak	Central to left	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* D double. Left side stronger	Central to left	High central
4	Dot below C and several on lower margin. Small mark on right of C sq.	Central	Central
5	Scratch below NY of Penny	Low to left	Very low, well to right
6	Dot on S of Postage. Hor. stroke on margin below E of One	Sl. low to left	Central, Sl. to right
7	*OF. 2.* Blur outside NW sq. Scratches on lower margin	Central to left	Sl. high central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Left line extends very slightly below	High central	Central to right
9	*OF. 2.* Faint blur in NW sq.	Very low, well to left	Central, well to right
10	*OF. 3.* Left line extends below. Blur in NW sq.	High, Sl. to left	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. SE corner re-cut. Top left corner NE sq. weak	Low to left	Very high, **ext. far to right**
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Central	Central
3	Nil	High central	Central to right
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger		

CE

	a	C	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. high central	High, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Sl. high central	High, Sl. to left
4	Right line extends below. Bottom line extends slightly to right	Low central	Low, well to right
5	Bottom line extends to right. Left line extends slightly below. Scratches on right margin	**Ext. low, ext. far to right**	Central to left
6	Faint blur in NW sq.	Low, Sl. to left	Central to left
7	*OF. 2.* Left side very weak	Central, well to left	Low central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Blur in NW sq.	**Ext. low** to left	Quite low, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 3.* Blur in NW sq. and on margin outside	Low central	Low, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to right. SE corner re-cut	Very low to left	Very high, **ext. far to right**
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Low central	Central to left
3	Nil	Central	High, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. high to right	High, Sl. to left
	C state 2		
5	Top line NE sq. re-cut. Lines stronger. Letters faint		
10	"O" flaw not present. Letter E faint		

CF

	a	C	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Letter C blurred	Central to left	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* NE of One nearly joined. C slightly blurred	Central to left	High central
3	Dot close to left line of F sq.	Central	Central to left
4	Dot touching right line of C sq. Side line NE sq. very weak	Low central	Very low central
5	Hor. guide line top of F sq.	Very low, **ext. far to left**	**Ext. low** central
6	Right side very weak. Side line NE sq. very weak	Low, **ext. far to left**	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Short stroke touching left line of F sq.	Central to left	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Left line extends slightly below	Sl. high central	Quite high central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and F sqs.	High, Sl. to left	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Blur outside NW sq. Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	**Ext. low**, well to left	Central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint vert. guide line F sq.	Low, Sl. to left	Central
10	*OF. 3.* Nil	High to left	**Ext. low** central
	C state 2		
10	"O" flaw not present		

CG

	a	C	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top and side lines NE sq. very weak	Central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. lines (scratches) across C sq.	Central	High central
3	Faint dot above G	Central	High central
7	*OF. 2.* Right line extends below	Sl. high to left	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line value and G sq. Bottom line extends to right. Right line extends below. Blur in and outside NW sq. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	High, Sl. to left	Low to left
10	*OF. 3.* Blur in NW sq.	Sl. high to left	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* ? Small blur outside NW sq. ? Break at top left corner NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Very low to left	Very high to right
	b		
4	Indistinct dot in middle of C	Central to left	High to left
5	Side line NE sq. weak	Low, Sl. to left	High central
6	Nil	Sl. high to left	High to left
8	*OF.* 2. Nil	Very low central	Quite high central
	C state 2		
10	"O" flaw not present		

CH

	a	C	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side weak	High central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left side strong. Dot on P of Postage	High central	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Left line exts. very slightly below	Central	Low central ↗
3	Side lines both letter sqs. very weak	Sl. low central	Central ↗
4	Dot below and to right of H	Low central	**Ext. high, ext. far to left**
5	Hor. guide line value and H sq.	Sl. low, **ext. far left**	Low to right
6	Left side practically missing	Low, well to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High central	High to left
10	*OF. 3.* Blur NW sq. Squat H	Central to left	Very low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened. Side line NE sq. weak or broken below. SE corner re-cut	High, Sl. to left	Central to right
	b		
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. high central	Very high central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low to left	High to right
	C state 2		
9	"O" flaw not present		

CI

	a	C	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Side line NE sq. well defined	High, Sl. to right	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Side line NE sq. weak	High, Sl. to right	Low central
2	*RF. 7.* Right line extends well above	Central to left	Low central
4	Right line weak, especially at top and bottom	Low, Sl. to left	Very low central
6	Foot of I defective on right. Minute dot above C	**Ext. low** to left	Sl. low to left
7	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends to right and left	High, well to left	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	High to left	Low to right
10	*OF. 3.* Blur in and outside NW sq. Tall I	Low, well to left	Central
11	*RF. 7. NE sq.* Right side very weak. SE corner re-cut. Side line NE sq. weak or broken below	Central to left	High central
	b		
3	Nil	Central	Central
5	Nil	Central, well to left	Central

CJ

	a	C	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Top line NE sq. well defined	High central	Very high central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top line NE sq. very weak	High central	Very high central
4	Very small dot just above right long lower ray NE sq.	Central, well to left	High, Sl. to left
5	Faint scratches in NE sq. and on top and ? lower margins	Sl. high central	High central
6	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Dot on margin above P of Post. ? Dot below C	Central to right	Low to left
7	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	High central	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends to right	Very high central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Trace of Hor. guide line value and J sq. Side line NE sq. very weak	High central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot on right upright of N of One. SE corner re-cut. Side line NE sq. weak or broken below	**Ext. low** to left	Very high to right
	b		
2	*RF. 7.* Nil	**Ext. low** central	Central to left
3	Nil	Central	High Sl. to right
10	*OF. 3.* Blur in NW sq. Square J	High central	Very high to right

Colour

The first stamps to be printed were intense black but as the plate began to wear they became greyish-black in colour, and it is often very difficult to discriminate between a stamp from Plate 1 before it was hardened (Plate 1A) and a worn stamp from the same plate after hardening (Plate 1B) as both have much the same greyish-black appearance.

Re-entries

These are marks left on the stamp when, during repair, the roller had been applied a second time and this second impression does not fall exactly on the impression to be re-entered. This is most frequently found in the corner squares, margins and value.

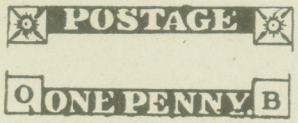


Plate 6

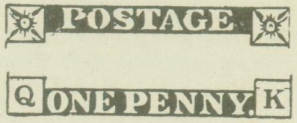


Plate 6

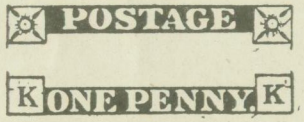


Plate 7

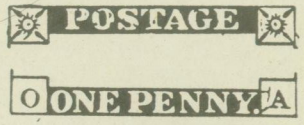


Plate 11

Fresh Entry

On making some of the early transfers (before improvements were made to the transferring press) it sometimes happened that an impression was rolled into the plate in a faulty position. This impression was then burnished off as far as possible and the plate again put under the roller and what was called a "Fresh Entry" was made in the correct position.

Double Bottom Variety—(Re-entry)

On several stamps the lower frame line may appear double or have a wavy appearance or even as on SL, TL, Plate 1A, for the lower frame line to be actually running through the value.

This variety does not apparently show on heavily printed stamps but may often be seen on :—

Plate 1B : TF, TI, TJ. *Plate 2 :* TH, TJ. *Plate 3 :* AG, TB, TC, TE, TF, TI, TJ. *Plate 4 :* TE, TH, TI. *Plate 5 :* TE, TH, TI, TJ. *Plate 6 :* TE, TF, TH, TI, TL. *Plate 7 :* TE. *Plate 8 :* GL. *Plate 9 :* TH, TI. *Plate 10 :* TE, TF, TH, TI, TK. *Plate 11 :* PD, PI, TC, TH.

Check Letters

These are placed in the lower corner squares of each of the 240 stamps of every sheet from all the plates. Each sheet consists of 20 rows of 12 stamps and the letters from left to right on the top row are AA, AB, AC, etc., to AL. On the second row, BA, BB, BC, etc., and so on to TA, TB, TC, to TL, on the bottom row. The great importance of the letters in the plating of the Penny Black will be understood when it is realized how many of these stamps there are which can only be definitely plated by their exact position in the squares, or by some peculiarity of the letter itself which points to one particular plate.

These letters were punched in by hand by means of punches fixed into holders with fairly long handles. The lower extremity of the head of these holders ended in a small square of the exact size of one of the corner squares. When the punch was fixed in the holder the end with the appropriate letter fixed to it was fitted to one of the squares and the head of the punch hit with a hammer.

As it was by no means easy to get the letters exactly in the centre of the squares it is easily understandable how their positions vary considerably from dead in the centre gradually to very high or low, or far to the right or left. When a letter is placed very high or very low, far to the right or left, the position is obvious and may be of great help in plating. On several stamps one of these positions is so extreme that the letter is practically, if not actually, touching one of the lines of the square. These can be plated by the position of the letter alone quite apart from anything else which may be present. All these stamps will be referred to later together with the plates from which they must have come. It is not however always easy to decide the intervening positions such as when it ceases to be slightly off the centre and gradually becomes more definitely so until it is near the edge of the square. For this reason, when plating a stamp on which the letters are in much the same position on two plates, it is much more satisfactory to be able to compare the exact position with a photograph of the actual stamp, as most of the experts do, but this of course is seldom possible to the ordinary collector as these sets of photographs are difficult to obtain and very costly.

Defective or Faint Letters

Defective. When the letters had been added to the plate the "burr" round them was scraped away after which they often required touching up. This would account for the slight difference of shape which can sometimes be noticed in a particular letter on stamps from the same plate.

Faint. This can be accounted for by wear of those plates which have been in use for a long time but the condition may be constant on some of the plates from the start. One or both letters also generally appear faint on stamps from the second and third states of a plate.

Double Letters

These are due to mistakes made when punching in the letters. Sometimes a wrong letter has been corrected by punching the right one over it or perhaps they were caused by the punch shifting slightly after the first blow of the hammer.

CK

	a	C	K
2	*RF. 7.* Thin line extending up from NE corner. ? Extension of line or guide line.	Central	Central to right
4	Faint hor. guide line at bottom of K sq. Left side weak. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. low, Sl. to left	Central, Sl. to left
6	Small dot NE corner of C sq. Break at top left corner NE sq.	High central	Central to left
7	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Left side weak	Central to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Letter C double	High central	Central to right
10	*OF. 3.* Left line extends well below	Central	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Top and side lines NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut.	**Ext. low** central	Very low to left
	b		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. high, Sl. to right	Sl. high central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Sl. high, Sl. to right	Sl. high central
3	Nil	Central	Sl. high central
5	Nil	High to left	Sl. low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Central

CL

	a	C	L
1A	*No RF.* Small dot below SE corner L sq.	Central	High to left
1B	*No RF.* Marks of re-entry NW sq., value and L sq. Same dot	Central	High to left
2	*RF. 7.* Dot below SW corner C sq.	Low central	Central to left
4	Dot on margin just above SE corner L sq. Scratches outside NW sq.	Very low to left	Quite high central
5	Dot in NW sq. just above left long lower ray. Left side weak	Low to left	Central, Sl. to right
6	Small dot SE corner L sq. Break at top left corner NE sq.	Central to left	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Left line extends below	Central to left	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Left margin weak and blurred	High to left	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	Low central
10	*OF. 3.* Blur outside NW sq.	Central	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Side line NE sq. weak	Low to left	High to right
	b		
3	Nil	Sl. low, Sl. to left	Central Sl. to right

DA

	a	D	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Blur in A sq. Bottom line extends slightly to left. ? Mark left side of A sq.	Sl. high to right	Sl. low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No blur. Small mark below E of One. SE corner re-cut	Sl. high to right	Sl. low to right
2	*RF. 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Hor. guide line lower margin. Large D with top defective	High to right	Very low to left
4	Top of D slightly double. Dot on N of One. Several dots in and outside A sq.	Central to right	Central
6	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Two or three dots on top margin to left of NE sq.	Central to right	Low to left
7	*OF. 2.* Letter D slightly double. Bottom line extends to right. Right line extends below	Central	High, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central to right	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and A sqs. (close)	Low, **ext. far to right**	High, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 3.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Left line extends below	Very low to left	Quite high central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	Sl. low, Sl. to right	Central
	b		
3	Bottom line D sq. weak	High to right	Central
5	Nil	Quite high to right	Quite low central
	C state 2		
5	Right side stronger. All corners faint		

DB

	a	D	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Central	Central
2	*RF. 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Faint Hor. guide line letter sqs. Large D	Central to right	Sl. high, Sl. to right
3	Dot touching left line of D sq.	Sl. low to right	High to right
4	Letter D slightly double below. Dot just below left top serif of B	Central to right	Central to right
5	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Letter D slightly double below	Low central	Sl. high central
6	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to right	Low to right
8	*OF. 2.* Right line extends very slightly below	Central to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central	High central
10	*OF. 3.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends well to left. Left line extends slightly below	Central	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Blur in NW sq. Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	Low central	Central
	b		
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low to left	Central to right
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger. All corners fainter		

DC

	a	D	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to right	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* D sq. weak at SW corner	Central to right	Central to left
2	*RF. 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Hor. line along lower margin. Large D	High central	High central
4	Bottom line extends slightly to right and very slightly to left. ? Dots in NE and D sqs.	Very low to right	Central to left
5	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low, well to right	Central, well to left
6	Side line NE sq. very thin	Low to right	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to left	Central, well to right	Central, well to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Letter D double on right	Central, well to right	Low to left
10	*OF. 3.* Left line extends slightly below. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. low to right	Sl. low, well to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. SE corner re-cut. Left line strengthened. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner	Sl. low, well to right	Sl. high central
	b		
3	Nil	Central, well to right	Low, well to left
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very low central	Central, well to left
	C state 2		
5	Right side stronger. Letters faint		
8	"O" flaw not present		

DD

	a	D	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Top of each D slightly defective. ? Right line extends below or ? dot on SE corner	High to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Both D's slightly defective. Weakness at SE corner	High to right	High to left
2	*RF. 7.* Hor. line on lower margin under value. Each D large	Central to right	High to left
4	First D distinctly double	High to right	High central
5	Right line extends below	Sl. low to right	Low central
6	Vert. scratch in first D sq. on the left	Central to right	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central to right	High to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Low central	Central to right
10	*OF. 3.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	**Ext. low, ext. far** to right	Very high, well to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* First D double. Vert. guide line NE sq. Top line NE sq. weak or broken at left corner. SE corner re-cut	Central, well to right	Central, well to right
	b		
3	Nil	Very low to right	Sl. high to right
7	*OF. 2.* Faint hor. guide line value. Faint scratches on lower margin	Central to right	Sl. high central
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger. All corners fainter		

DE

	a	D	E
2	*RF. 7.* Hor. line along lower margin. Large D	High to right	Central
4	Very small faint dots right and left of D. ? Line or scratch left of E	Low to right	High, well to left
5	Scratch on left margin. Left side weak	Very low to right	High, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Well defined vert. guide line NE and E sqs.	Central	Central
10	*OF. 3.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Blur outside NW sq.	High to right	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Low to right	High, well to left
	b		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to right	Low to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left line and side line of NE sq. somewhat weaker than on Plate 1A	High to right	Low to left
3	Nil	Central to right	High to right
6	Left side weak	Low to right	Central to left
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. high to right	Sl. high central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central, well to right	High central

DF

	a	D	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to right	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* NE of ONE nearly joined. Bottom of D slightly weak	High to right	Central
4	Letter D very slightly double below. ? Very small dot below D sq. and above NW sq.	Low central	Sl. high to left
5	Bottom line extends very slightly to right	Quite high to right	Sl. high central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Side line NE sq. very weak	Very high to right	Central to left
7	*OF. 2.* Small faint blur in NW sq.	Central to right	Very high central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line in NE sq. and F sq. (close)	High to right	Low, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 3.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Left line extends slightly below	High to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut. ? Top line NE weak at left corner	**Ext. low** to right	Low central
	b		
2	*RF. 7.* Large D. Nil	Sl. high central	Central
3	Nil	Low to right	Very low central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low to right	Very low central
	C state 2		
6	Recorded, but not seen in black. Probably one or both sides stronger		

DG

	a	D	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil. ? Smudge in D sq.	High to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter G thinner	High to right	High to left
2	*RF. 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Letter D large and double. Left line extends below or ? dot on corner	High, Sl. to right	High, Sl. to left
4	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low central	High to right
5	Hor. line or scratch along lower margin	Very high to right	High to left
7	*OF. 2.* Well defined hor. guide line value and letter sqs.	Central	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Low to right	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	High to right	Central Sl. to left
10	*OF. 3.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Blur in NW sq. and on left margin	Very low to right	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. weak at left corner. SE corner re-cut	Quite low to right	Very high to right
	b		
3	Nil	Low central	High central
6	Nil	High to right	High to left

DH

	a	D	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Blur in D sq. Left side weak	High to left	Low to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Slight blur in D sq. Left side stronger	High to left	Low to left
2	*RF. 7.* Hor. line along lower margin. Large D	V. high to right	Very high central
4	Faint scratches in NE sq.	Sl. low to right	High to right
5	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Faint scratches lower margin	High to right	High central ↗
6	Very small dot on margin below Y. Side line NE sq. broken below	Sl. low to right	Very high central
7	*OF. 2.* Right side line very weak	Central to right	Very high central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to right	Central to right	Central to right
9	*OF. 2.* Blur in NW sq.	Low to left	Central
10	*OF. 3.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Squat H	Central to right	Very high central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Upper half of left line strengthened. Bottom line extends to right. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner. SE corner re-cut	Central, **ext. far right**	**Ext. high** to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central, well to right	High to left ↗
	C state 2		
6	Recorded, not seen. Probably one or both sides stronger		
10	"O" flaw not present		

DI

	a	D	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to right	High to right	Sl. low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Guide line fainter. Same extension. Letter I thinner	High to right	Sl. low central
2	*RF. 7.* Hor. guide line on lower margin. Large D	Very high to right	Sl. high central
4	Blur outside NW sq.	Low to right	Central to left
5	Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	Low central
6	Dot above D and right and left of I. ? Letter I slightly defective at top	High to right	Low to left
7	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. defective below	Central, Sl. to left	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central	High central
10	*OF 3.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Left line extends below. Blur in NW sq. Tall I	Central to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Letter D slightly double. Bottom line extends to right. SE corner re-cut. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner and side line at SE corner	High to right	Central to right
	b		
3	Faint vert. guide line I sq. (close)	Central to right	Central
	C state 2		
10	"O" flaw not present		

DJ

	a	D	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	High to right	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line	High to right	High central
2	*RF. 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Large D	High to right	High central
4	Short diagonal stroke from top of D upwards to the left	Central to right	High central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to right	High central
6	Dot in SW corner of D sq. Dot to right of foot of J	High to right	Central to left
7	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. broken below	Sl. low to right	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to right	Central, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 3.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Square J	Low to right	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot to right of J. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner. Foot of J sq. SE corner re-cut	Sl. low to right	Very high to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central, well to right	Very high, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Sl. low to right	Sl. low central
	C state 2		
10	"O" flaw not present		

DK

	a	D	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to right	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Both side lines extend below	High to right	High central
5	Side line NE sq. very thin	Central to right	Sl. low, Sl. to left
6	Side line NE sq. absent	High to right	Low to left
7	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends to left	High to right	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	Central to left ↗
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High, well to left	Central, well to left
10	*OF. 2.* Blur in NW sq.	Very low central	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Scratches lower margin. Upper half left line strengthened. Top and side lines NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	Quite low to right	Low central
	b		
2	*RF. 7.* Bottom line K sq. slightly double	Very high central	Very low to left
3	Nil	Central, well to right	Central ↗
4	Scratches on lower margin	Central, Sl. to right	Central
	C state 2		
8	"O" flaw not present		
10	"O" flaw not present		

DL

	a	D	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot below SE corner L sq.	High to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same dot. Thin line on margin under Y of Penny	High to right	High to left
2	*RF. 7.* Line on margin below D sq. Large D	High to left	High, Sl. to left
4	Dot on margin just above SE corner L sq.	High central	Very high, Sl. to right
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends very slightly to left. Diagonal scratch left of L	Sl. low to right	Central
6	Faint dot below D. Small dot touching right line of L sq.	Central to right	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Dot in SE corner L sq.	Sl. high central	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Re-entry NE and D sqs. and also NY of Penny	Central to right	Sl. high to left
9	*OF. 2.* Blurred line outside NW sq.	Central to right	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Small dot top right of NW sq.	Central	**Ext. low** central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Letter D double. Vert. guide line NE sq. SE corner re-cut. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner	Central, **ext. far to right**	Central to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central to right	Central
	C state 2		
10	"O" flaw not present		

EA

	a	E	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Blur in A sq.	Sl. high to right	High to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line. Side line NE sq. very weak. Blur in A sq.	Sl. high to right	High to right
2	*RF. 7.* Bottom serif of E bifurcated. ? Thin line on right of E	Central to left	Central to right
4	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Central
5	Very small dot to left of top of E	High to right	Central
6	Foot of E faint	High central	**Ext. low** to right
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	Central, Sl. to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Very high to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. broken at left corner. SE corner re-cut	Sl. low central	Very low central
	b		
3	Bottom line of A sq. thin.	Central to left	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Central to right
10	*OF. 2.*	Central	**Ext. high** central
	C state 2		
5	Little difference. Letters perhaps fainter		

EB

	a	E	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central, Sl. to right	Central to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Central, Sl. to right	Central to right
2	*RF. 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. low to left	Central to right
4	Dot NE sq. just below top right long ray	Sl. high central	Central to right
5	Bottom serif of E bifurcated	High to left	Central
6	Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. high central	Low central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Left side weak	Central to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Foot of B double	Central to right	Central, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 2.* Blur outside NW sq. and below	Very low central	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top right serif of E faint. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner. SE corner re-cut	Central	Quite low central
	b		
3	Nil	Quite high to right	Very high to right
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Central
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger. NW sq. ? re-cut		

EC

	a	E	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. low to right	Central, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same guide line. Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Sl. low to right	Central, Sl. to left
2	*RF. 7.* Dot on lower margin to left of C sq.	Low central	Central to left
4	Line or scratch on margin below Penny. Left side very weak	Central	Low central
5	Vert. stroke of E faint below	Central	Low to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High central	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High to left	Low central
9	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to right	**Ext. high** to right	Quite high to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Letter C very thin. SE corner re-cut. ? Top line NE sq. broken at left corner	Central	Central
	b		
3	Nil	High central	High to left
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to left	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low central	High to left
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger especially the top half		
9	"O" flaw not present		

ED

	a	E	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (very close). Left side weak	Central	Very high central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line. Left side stronger	Central	Very high central
4	Two or three dots on margin below ONE	Central, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to right
6	Hor. guide line D sq.	Sl. high central	Central to right
7	*OF. 2.* Dot on E of Penny	High, Sl. to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	**Ext. high** central	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Faint blur outside NW sq. Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	**Ext. low** to right	**Ext. low** to right
	b		
2	*RF. 7.* Nil	Central to right	Central to right
3	Bottom line of E sq. thin	High to right	Central to right
5	Top line of NW sq. thin	Central	Central, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High, Sl. to right	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Low central	Central
	C state 2		
5	Top line re-cut		

EE

	a	E	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left bottom serif of first E extends to left. ? Vert. guide line NE sq. (very close). ? Second E blurred. White mark on bottom limb of second E	Low to right	High to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left serif of E long. Side line NE sq. weak	Low to right	High to right
2	*RF. 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to left	Central
4	Dot to left of first E. Dot below N of One	Central, Sl. to right	High central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. very thin. ? Bottom line extends slightly to right	High central	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and second E sq.	Central to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Right line strengthened. Top and side line NE sq. faint. SE corner re-cut	**Ext. high** central	Very high to right
	b		
3	Bottom lines of letter squares thin	Very high to right	Very high central
5	Bottom limb of second E faint	Central, Sl. to right	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low, **ext. far to left**	**Ext. low** central
10	*OF. 2.* Second E slightly double	Low to right	Low central

EF

	a	E	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low to left	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (very faint). Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Low to left	High central
2	*RF. 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to left	Sl. low central
4	Side line NE sq. weak below	Central	High to left
6	Very faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	High, Sl. to left	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Side line NE sq. very weak	Sl. high central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Very high central	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. low to right	Very low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Break at top left corner NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Central, well to right	Very high central
	b		
3	Nil	High, **ext. far to right**	**Ext. low** to left
5	Nil	Central	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	High to left

EG

	a	E	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Dot at SE corner G sq.	High to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No dot. Guide line not so evident	High to right	High to left
4	Faint line or scratch on margin below E sq.	Central to left	Central, Sl. to left
6	Vert. and hor. guide lines in NE sq.	Central to left	Very high, **ext. far to** left
7	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to left. White dot on bottom serif of E. Faint scratches on lower margin	Central	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Side line NE sq. practically missing	Central	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. low, Sl. to right	Sl. low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* ? Top line NE sq. weak at left corner. SE corner re-cut	Quite high to right	High central
	b		
2	*RF. 7.* Nil	Central, Sl. to left ↗	Sl. low, **ext. far to** left
3	Nil	High, well to right	Sl. high to left
5	Faint line below letter E	Central to right	Very high to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Central well to left

EH

	a	E	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side weak	Low to right	Low to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Slight marks of re-entry each upper sq. Left side stronger	Low to right	Low to left
5	Top line NW sq. very weak	Central	Very high central ↗
6	Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	Central to right
7	*OF. 2.* Top left serif of E missing. Bottom line extends slightly to left. ? Scratches on lower margin	Central, **ext. far to left**	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Re-entry NE and H sqs.	High central	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Left line extends below. Squat H	Sl. high, Sl. to right	Very low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top and side lines NE sq. faint. SE corner re-cut	High, Sl. to left	Central ↗
	b		
2	*RF. 7.* Nil	Central	**Ext. high** central
3	Nil	Very high to right	Central
4	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to left	Very low to right
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. high to left	High, well to right ↗

EI

	a	E	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Low to right	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line. Mark or scratch on right side of NW sq.	Low to right	Low central
4	Faint scratches outside NW sq.	Central	Central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Low central	Sl. low central
7	*OF. 2.* Foot of E weak	Central	Very low, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Sl. high central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide) and I sq. (close)	High central	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot at top left NW sq. Top and side lines NE sq. faint. Tall I. SE corner re-cut	High to right	Central
	b		
2	*RF. 7.* Nil	Central	**Ext. low** central
3	Nil	Very high to right	Central to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Lower part of right side weak	High, Sl. to left	Sl. low to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Tall "I"	Low central	High to right

EJ

	a	E	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to right	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Re-entry each upper sq. and NNY of Penny. Letters re-cut and enlarged	Central to right	High central
2	*RF. 7.* Foot of E slightly faint on the left	Central to left	Central
3	Side line NE sq. broken below	Central	**Ext. high,** Sl. to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High to left	Sl. high central
7	*OF. 2.* Top line NE sq. weak at left corner. Top line NW sq. thin	Sl. high, Sl. to right	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Low central	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Letter J with square foot and short stroke on its right	High to right	Very low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. broken at left corner. SE corner re-cut. Square J	Very low to right	**Ext. high** central
	b		
4	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low central	High, Sl. to right
5	Top line NW sq. thin	High to left	High central

EK

		E	K
	a		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to right	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Traces of re-entry Postage and NE sq. Both letters re-cut and enlarged. No guide line. Position of letters changed	**Low to right**	**High to right**
2	*RF. 7.* Left foot of K weak	Central	Central
4	Scratches on left margin	Low to left	Central to right
5	Scratch on margin above NE sq.	Central	Low central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Dot above letter E and at top of NE sq.	Sl. high central	Low to left
7	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to left	Central	Sl. low central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Bottom line extends slightly to right	Central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Very high to right	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Dot to right of top of K	Central to right	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Break at top left corner NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Central	Sl. low central
	b		
3	Scratches on top and bottom margins	**Ext. high** to right	Central to right

EL

		E	L
	a		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Right line extends below	Sl. high to right	High, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Re-entry NW sq. No extension	Sl. high to right	High, Sl. to left
2	*RF. 7.* Two dots below SE corner of L sq.	Central to left	Very high to left
3	Small dot below SE corner L sq. Top left ray NW sq. short of corner	Central	High, Sl. to left
4	Dot on margin just above SE corner. Left line extends below. Bottom line extends very slightly to left	Central	Central to right
5	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Very small dot below SE corner L sq.	Central	Very low central
6	Two very small dots in centre of right star. Dot below SE corner L sq.	Central to left	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Hor. guide line L sq. Tiny dot in SE corner L sq.	High to left	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Right line extends below. Foot of L short on left. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner. SE corner re-cut	Low central	High to right
	b		
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Low central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high to right	Central

FA

		F	A
	a		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Letter F double below	High central	Low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter F double. No guide line	High central	Low to right
4	Vert. guide line NE sq. Hor. guide line NNY of PENNY and A sq. Dot top margin between G and E	Sl. low to right	Central
5	Side line NE sq. very weak	Central	Low central
6	Left line extends slightly below. Top line NW sq. thin	Central, Sl. to left	**Ext. low** to right
7	*OF. 2.* Letter F double	Low central	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Right foot of A weak. SE corner re-cut	Low to right	Central
	b		
2	*RF. 7.* Nil	Low central	Central
3	Bottom serif of F slightly long on the left	Very low to left	Low to right
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Bottom line encroaches each side of ONE	Central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low, Sl. to right	Central
	C state 2		
5	Right side stronger. All corners fainter		

FB

		F	B
	a		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert guide line NE sq.	High, Sl. to right	Low, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line	High, Sl. to right	Low, Sl. to right
3	Bottom line F sq. very weak	Low to left	High to right
4	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	**Ext. high** to right
6	Black mark across left vert. stroke first N of Penny. Side line NE sq. weak	Low, Sl. to left	Central to right
7	*OF. 2.* Foot of F defective on the left	Low central	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Faint hor. guide line B sq.	Central to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. ? Faint vert. line to right of B	Very high to right	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	Low, Sl. to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Side line NE sq. faint. SE corner re-cut	Low, Sl. to right	Central to right
	b		
2	*RF. 7.* Nil	Low to right	High to right
5	Nil	Quite low to left	Very low central
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamps show right side stronger		

FC

	a	F	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. high central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint hor. line or scratch on margin below F sq. and ONE	Sl. high central	High central
4	Bottom line extends slightly to right. Small dot on right and left of C	Central to right	Low to left
5	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Dot touching left side line NE sq.	Central to right	Very high to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). ? Bottom line extends very slightly to right	Central	Very high central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and ? C sq. (very close). Right line extends below	Sl. low to left	Sl. low to left
10	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line C sq.	**Ext. low** to left	Very high, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Right line extends below. Break at top left corner NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Very high to right	Central to left
	b		
2	*RF. 7.* Nil	Very low to left	Low to left
3	Bottom line F sq. weak	**Ext. low** central	Central to left
6	Nil	Sl. low central	Low to right
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. low central	Low to left
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger. Corners weaker		

FD

	a	F	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Sl. high to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* NE of ONE joined. Scratches on lower margin. Side line NE sq. weak	High central	Sl. high to left
2	*RF. 7.* Right line extends below	High, Sl. to right	Quite high central
3	Letter F slightly double above and below. Bottom line F sq. thin	Low central	Central to right
5	**Two** vert. guide lines NE sq. Faint hor. guide line D sq. and below second N of Penny	Central to right	High to right
6	Top and side lines NE sq. very weak	Sl. low central	Sl. high central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central	Sl. high central
9	*OF. 2.* Bottom line appears double	Low central	High, well to right
10	*OF. 2.* Left line extends slightly below	Very low central	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner and side line NE sq. below	High to right	Central to right
	b		
4	Nil	Central	High central
7	*OF. 2.* Faint scratches on margin above Postage	Central to left	Central to right
	C state 2		
5	Practically no difference. ? Double bottom below One.		

FE

	a	F	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Central to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint scratches in and outside corner of F sq. Top line NW sq. broken at left corner	Central	Central to right
3	Scratches on lower margin	Very low to right	Very high to right
4	Small dot on E of Postage. Slight smudge in NW sq.	Central to right	Low central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Top line both upper sqs. weak	Central	Central, Sl. to left
6	Top line NW sq. very weak	Central	Low to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	High, Sl. to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Two small breaks in top line of NE sq. SE corner re-cut	High to right	High to right
	b		
2	*RF. 7.* Nil	Low, Sl. to right	Central
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very low, well to left	Low, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. thin	Sl. high, Sl. to right	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very low to right	Low central
	C state 2		
9	"O" flaw not present		

FF

	a	F	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to left	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Small mark or dot on bottom serif of E of Penny	Central to left	Central
4	Scratch on margin below One	Low, Sl. to right	Central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. Left bottom serif of first F long	**Ext. low** central	Central to right
6	Top and side lines NE sq. very weak	Central	Low central
7	*OF. 2.* Scratches on lower margin	Central to right	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. weak	Central	High, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and F sqs. (close). Hor. guide line first F sq.	High central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot below second F sq. Two small breaks in top line of NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Very high to right	**Ext. high** central
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	High to right	Very high central
3	Top line NE sq. thin	Central to right	Low to right
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	High central
	C state 2		
6	Both sides, especially the right, stronger. Corners re-cut, contents fainter		
9	"O" flaw not present		

FG

	a	F	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Central	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* GE of Postage very close to top line. ? Scratches on left margin. NNY of Penny tend to slope up towards the right. No guide line	Central	High to left
2	*No RF.* Letter G double	High central	High to left
5	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Quite low central	Very low, well to left
8	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value	Sl. high central	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Quite low central	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Break at top left corner NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Central to right	Very low, well to left
	b		
3	Nil	Central to right	Very low to left
4	Nil	Very low central	Quite high central
6	Nil	Low central	High to left
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low, Sl. to right	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	High, **Ext. far** to left
	C state 2		
6	Both sides, especially the right, stronger. Corners re-cut, contents fainter		

FH

	a	F	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Serifs of H nearly meet in the middle	Central	Low to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Serifs of H wider apart. No guide line	Central	Low to left
4	Left line extends slightly below	Central	Central, Sl. to right
5	Scratch on margin below ONE. Top line NW sq. very weak	Low central	**Ext. high** to left
6	Side line NE sq. very weak	Central	High to left ↗
7	*OF. 2.* Small mark touching left side of H sq.	Central	Sl. high, Sl. to right ↘
8	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line through F sq.	Central	**Ext. high** to right ↗
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Upper half of left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	High central	Central
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Sl. low central	Very low central
3	Nil	High to right	High, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line F sq.	Quite high central	Quite high to right
10	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. thin. Squat H	Very low, Sl. to right	Very low, **ext. far** to right

FI

	a	F	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Letter F double below. Vert. guide line NE sq.	High, Sl. to right	Low to left
1B	*RF. 10, 5.* Double F and vert. guide line. Trace of 10 o'clock ray	High, Sl. to right	Low to left
2	*No RF.* Very small dot below SE corner of I sq.	Central, Sl. to right	Central to left
4	Side line NE sq. weak	Central	Central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Faint scratch below ONE	Central	Low to left
6	Top and side line NE sq. very weak	Central to left	Low to left
7	*OF. 2.* Top left serif of I weak. Thin line from foot of I to right side line	Central, Sl. to right	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (very close). Bottom line extends very slightly to right	Central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line extends to right. Side line NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	Very high to right	Very low to right
	b		
3	Bottom line of I sq. thin	High to right	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line through top of value	High to left	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Tall I. Nil	Low central	High to right
	C state 2		
6	Recorded as in a second state. ? One or both sides stronger		

FJ

	a	F	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Top line extends to left	Low, Sl. to right	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same extension. No guide line	Low, Sl. to right	Central to left
3	Dot on margin below O of ONE	Very high to right	Very high central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Top line NW sq. very thin	Central to right	Central to left
6	Small mark on foot of E of ONE	Central to left	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Quite high to right	**Ext. high,** Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Foot of J square	Very low to left	Quite high to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot above NW corner. Foot of J square.	High to right	**Ext. high** to right
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	High, Sl. to right	Quite high central
4	Nil	Central to right	Very high central
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to left	High, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	Low to left

FK

	a	F	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (faint). GE of Postage very close to top line	Central	Central to left
3	Dot on lower margin between O and N of ONE	Low to right	Central, **ext. far to left**
4	Left side very weak except towards the top	Central to right	Central
5	Top line NW sq. weak. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	High central
6	Top serif of K double. Dot just below top right ray NE sq.	Central to left	Low central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central	Low to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. high to right	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Two small breaks in top line NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Central	High central
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	High central	Low to right
7	*OF. 2.* Nil	**Ext. low** to right	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	Sl. high central

FL

	a	F	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Faint dot outside SE corner	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line. Same dot	Central	High central
4	Dot close to left side of F sq. ? Faint dot outside SE corner	Central, Sl. to right	High central
5	Scratches in letter sqs. and on lower margin. ? Small dot below SE corner	High to right	Very low to left
6	Top line NW sq. practically missing. ? Scratches on lower margin	Central, Sl. to left	Central, Sl. to left
7	*OF. 2.* Scratches on top margin	Central, Sl. to right	Sl. low, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Right line extends slightly below. Very small dot in SE corner L sq.	Central to right	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide) extending above. Vert. guide line L sq. Left line extends slightly below	Low to right	Sl. high to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot below SE corner L sq. Dot above NW sq. and in top of NE sq. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner. SE corner re-cut	Low central	Central well to right
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	High central	High to left
3	Nil	Central to right	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	**Ext. high** central	Very low, **ext. far to left**

GA

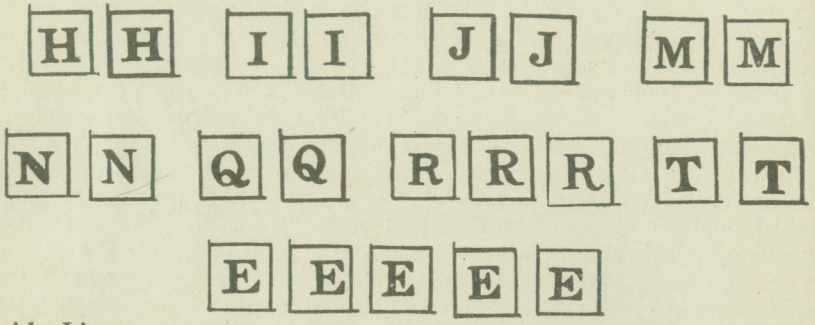
	a	G	A
1A	*RF, 10, 5.* ? Slight blur in A sq. Nil	Central	Central, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Slight re-entry NE sq. and foot of E of POSTAGE. Scratches on top and left margins	Central	Central, Sl. to right
4	Small dot above A	High central	**Ext. low,** Sl. to left
5	Right line extends below	Low to left	Low, Sl. to right
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Letter G weak below on the left. ? Left line extends slightly below	High to left	Central to right
7	*OF. ? 2.* Short stroke joined to foot of G	High to left	Central, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close) and A sq. (wide)	High, Sl. to right	High to left
10	*OF. ? 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. weak towards the left. SE corner re-cut	High central	Low, Sl. to right
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	High central	Central to left
3	Nil	Central	Central ↘
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamps show all corners fainter		

GB

	a	G	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side weak	High central	Central to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left side stronger. C-shaped line on N of ONE	High central	Central to right
4	Faint hor. guide line below B sq.	High central	Sl. low, Sl. to left
6	Top line NE sq. weak and broken at each end. Side line NE sq. thin	High to left	Central to right
7	*OF. 2.* Scratches on lower margin	Sl. high to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to left	Very high central
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Low to left	High to right ↘
3	Nil	Low central	High to right
5	Nil	Central to left	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low to left	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Nil	Low to left	Sl. high to right
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamps show stronger sides		

Characteristic Letters

Some letters are characteristic of a particular plate or plates, such as the longtailed "R", the short, squat "H" or "T", the tall "I" and the tall and somewhat slender "N" of Plate 10. On Plate 10 also the "Q" has a short tail with a distinctive curve. Several of the letters on Plate 11 are very similar to those on Plate 10, especially the square-footed "J" and tall "I", but in the few cases where these two letters are concerned, and there may be any difficulty in separating the two plates, this is overcome by the presence of the "O" flaw on Plate 10 which never appears on Plate 11. Apart from the "I" and "J" the most distinctive letters on Plate 11 are the very broad and short "E" and in a lesser degree the "L" with the somewhat shortened foot. On Plate 2 the broad "D" in the horizontal row and on Plate 3 the small and sometimes blurred "M", narrow "K", and especially the "P" with the small loop are all characteristic. The letter "E" varies considerably; on Plate 1 it is of the large type with the bottom serif often extended to the left. This may also occur on Plate 2, but here the "E" is narrower. Plates 3 and 4 have also a la ge type but less so than Plate 1. On Plates 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10 it is of the narrow type and on Plate 8 it is smaller.



Guide Lines

These are thin vertical or horizontal lines sometimes known as "Hair Lines," being what remained after the sometimes only partial removal of the lines drawn on the Plate before transferring the impression from the rollers so as to keep the stamps in proper alignment.

Vertical. These are present on a very great number of the stamps from all eleven plates and are most frequently to be seen in the top right (N.E.) corner squares, being very numerous on Plates 8 and 9 and especially so on those from Plate 9 where they also may be visible in the south-east (S.E.) square as well as the N.E.

Vertical lines may also appear along the side margins as well as in all the squares. They may be placed very close to the side line of a square or at varying distances from it, but when they are very faint or very close to the line, as so often happens, they may be extremely difficult to confirm.

Horizontal. These can be seen running through all the corner squares, and/or the letters of value and also along the upper and lower margins, being most numerous on stamps from Plate 2, in the S row, and Plate 9, in the K row.

Frame Lines



An enlarged example of the defective frame as found on plates 4, 5 and 6

The lines which surround the stamps above, below and on each side often show many irregularities. When a plate became worn through cleaning or burnishing the side lines, especially the left, often became very uneven and in some cases practically absent, this being particularly evident on Plates 4, 5 and 6. They may also have a wavy appearance or look as if they were double. In several cases the top and side lines of the upper corner squares, especially the top right, are thin and broken, often leaving gaps at the corner. Some of the bottom lines are thin, notably on Plate 3, whereas on other plates, such as Plate 4, they may be thicker than usual.

 ← A typical extension

Extended Lines

The lines may be extended above, below or to either side. Some of those which have been described as extended are probably not really so as they have much more the appearance of a thin line, such as a guide line, running up or down from where the frame line should have ended rather than an actual extension of the line itself.

This so-called extension on such stamps as GA (11), GK (7), HK (7), LF (2), TF (2), TJ (2) may indeed be due to the imperfect rubbing out of guide lines. On others, especially where very slight extensions of the bottom line to the right are concerned, it looks more like a small bulge or dot, perhaps a guide dot, which has become attached to the corner thus giving the linear appearance.

How were these extensions caused? They were probably due to some necessary touching up or repairs which took place, such as:—

(1) Touching up of the plate, *before* the first printing, when the original impression showed any weakness.

(2) The imperfect rubbing out of guide lines which would affect the bottom or east line of the stamp.

(3) Some may be due to re-entry in the case of faint lines either below the bottom line or above the top line.

Are these stamps state 1 or 2?

It is suggested that any which show an extension before the first printing are from state 1, and that any stamps showing an extension due to further repairs, that is, after printing had started, are from state 2.

GC

	a	G	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to left	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Position of letter C changed. Letters of ONE PENNY thinner. Sign of retouch just above the top of G sq.	High to left	**Central to left**
4	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Two small dots on margin just above C sq.	High to right	Central to left
5	Top line NW sq. broken at left corner. Top line NE sq. thin	High to left	Low to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. and ? NW sq.	High to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and C sqs.	Low to right	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line from O of ONE to C sq. SE corner re-cut	Sl. low central	High Sl. to left
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil		
3	Bottom line of G sq. thin	Central	Central to left
7	*OF. 2.* Right line extends very slightly below. Bottom line NE sq. extends slightly into margin	Low central High to left	High to left Very high to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil		
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to left Central	Central Sl. high to left

GD

	a	G	D
1A	*OF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low to left	**Ext. high** central
1B	*OF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line G sq. Top of right side weak	Low to left	**Ext. high** central
4	Bottom line extends to right and right line very slightly below. ? Dot on margin above A of POSTAGE	Sl. high to left	Central, well to right
5	**Two** vert. guide lines NE sq.	Central	Very high to right
7	*OF. 2.* Scratch on margin below NNY	Central, well to left	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Blur along left margin	Sl. high to left	Low central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central, well to left	High to right
10	*OF. 2.* Dot at top left NE sq.	Central	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. broken at left corner	**Ext. low** central	Very low, Sl. to left
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil		
3	Nil	High to left	Central
6	Top line both upper sqs. thin	Low central High to left	Central to right Quite low to right
	C state 2		
9	"O" flaw not present		

GE

	a	G	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High, well to left	Low, well to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint hor. guide line in G sq. Side line NE sq. and right line weak	High, well to left	Low, well to right
3	Left line extends slightly below. Bottom line G sq. thin	Central to left	High central
4	Dot on second N of PENNY. Side line NE sq. defective below	Sl. high, Sl. to right	Sl. high, Sl. to left
5	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low to left	Central to left
6	Short diagonal stroke upwards from top of G to margin	High to left	Sl. high to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Low to left	Quite low to left
11	*No RF.* Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	Central to right	High to right
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Central, well to left	High central
7	*OF. ? 2.* Nil	High to left	Low central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to left	Sl. high central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low central	Central to right
	C state 2		
5	Letter E somewhat fainter		
8	"O" flaw not present		
9	"O" flaw not present		

GF

	a	G	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Hor. guide line on margin below value and F sq.	Low, well to left	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Very small dot above G	Low, well to left	Central
2	*No RF.* Dot on margin between E of ONE and P of PENNY	High, well to left	Central
4	Bottom line extends to right	High to left	Central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Left line extends below. Scratches below G sq.	Low to left	Low, Sl. to right
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. ? Margin of NW sq. blurred	High to left	Low, Sl. to left
7	*OF. ? 2.* Hor. stroke of G longer than usual	High, Sl. to right	High, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (very close). Right line extends below	High, Sl. to left	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Sl. low, Sl. to left	Sl. low to left
11	*No RF.* SE corner re-cut	Central to right	High to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central, well to left	Central to right
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High, well to left	Central

GG

	a	G	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* E of PENNY very close to bottom line	Low to right	High to left
4	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Indefinite mark above first G	High to right	Very high central
6	Top line NE sq. defective at left corner	High to left	Low to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and second G sqs.	Central to left	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	Sl. high central	Central
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Central	Very high to left
3	Nil	Low to left	Central to right
5	Very faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central, well to left	Low to left
7	*OF. ? 2.* Nil	Central	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to left	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Low to left

GH

	a	G	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. low, well to left	Sl. low, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter H thinner	Sl. low, well to left	Sl. low, Sl. to left
2	*No RF.* Dot on lower part of right margin	Sl. high central	Central to right ↗
4	Short faint line on lower margin below P of PENNY. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to right	Sl. low central ↘
9	*OF. 2.* Blur outside NW sq.	Central to right	Sl. high, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Low central	Sl. high to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Central to left	Low central ↘
	b		
3	Nil	Central to left	Sl. high central
5	Top line NW sq. weak	Low central	Central to left
6	Nil	**Ext. high** to left	High to right
7	*OF. 1 ? 2.* Nil	High to left	Very high central
8	*OF. 2.* Trace of vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	High to right

GI

	a	G	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Top of I double	Very low central	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter I double with foot defective on the right	Very low central	Low central
2	*No RF.* Very small dot just above left lower ray NW sq.	High to left	Central, Sl. to left
3	Bottom line G sq. extremely thin	Central	Central to left
5	Bottom line extends slightly to right	High to right	Low to left
6	Distinct dot below G. Faint dot to right of I	High to left	Very low, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to right. Side line NE sq. very thin	High to left	Central, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Very faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Tall I	High central	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	High, Sl. to right	Central to right
	b		
4	Nil	Central to right	Sl. low to left
7	*OF. 1.* Nil	**Ext. high,** Sl. to left	Sl. low to right
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	Low central

GJ

	a	G	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Scratch on right of lower margin	Sl. high central	High, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Very faint scratches on lower and right margins	Sl. high central	High, Sl. to left
4	Left side very ragged but extends below	Low to right	High, Sl. to left
5	Right side of J sq. re-cut and extends below. Scratches in NE sq.	Low to left	Central to left
6	Small dot touching right side of G sq.	Very high to left	Sl. low, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	High to left	**Ext. low** to left
10	*OF. 2.* Letter J slightly double on top and square footed	Central to left	High central
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	High to left	High, Sl. to left
3	Nil	High to left	Central
7	*OF. 1.* Nil	High to left	High, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to left	**Ext. high** central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Letter J with square foot. Nil	High to left	**Ext. high** to right

GK

	a	G	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to left	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Re-entry NW sq., value and K sq. Position of each letter altered	**Low central**	**Central to right**
2	*No RF.* Vert. stroke of K slightly defective. Dot below SE corner K sq.	Low to left	Low central
4	Left foot of K defective. Side line NE sq. weak	Central to right	Central to right
5	Right side very weak. Top line NW sq. very thin	Central	Low to left
6	Faint scratches on right of lower margin	High to left	Central, well to left
7	*OF. 1 or 2.* Right line ? guide line extends below. ? Left line extends below	High, Sl. to right	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Left line extends slightly below	High to left	Central, well to left
9	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Very low central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. broken or weak. SE corner re-cut	Central	Low central
	b		
3	Nil		
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left High central	Central to left Central to right

GL

	a	G	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Right line extends below	High central	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Re-entry NW and letter sqs. Also value (slight)	High central	High to left
2	*No RF.* Dot touching right line L sq. about the middle	Central	Sl. high to left
4	Blurred line on margin below NNY of Penny	High to left	High central
6	Dots in G sq. and ? L sq.	High to left	Central
7	*OF. ?1 or 2.* Dot touching bottom line L sq.	High central	Sl. low, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Dot below L sq. near SE corner	High to left	Sl. high to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Very low to left	Quite low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Foot of L short on left. SE corner re-cut	Central, **ext. far** right	High to right
	b		
3	Nil		
5	Left side weak	High to left High central	Central Sl. low, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central, **ext. far** left	Central
	C state 2		
6	Corners re-cut, contents fainter		

HA

	a	H	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Letter H double or ? Dot on H. Double bottom line or ? scratch along margin	Low to left	Central to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Much the same but also faint scratches on left margin	Low to left	Central to right
2	*No RF.* Top of H defective. Dot below H sq. Small dot in A sq. and below SE corner	Central to right ↗	Central
3	Letter H slightly double. ? Left line extends below	**Ext. high** to right	Central
4	Bottom line extends slightly to right	High to right	High central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Dot in SE corner A sq.	High to left	Low central
6	Hor. guide line through E of One and ? P of Penny	High to right	High to right
7	*OF. 1.* Letter O of One closer to line than other letters of value	**Ext. high** to left	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Letter A double. Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Very high to left	Sl. low central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and A sqs. Hor. guide line through H sq. and O of One	Central	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Letter H double. ? Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Sl. high to right	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Letter H defective on left. Hor. guide line H sq. and O of One. Top line NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	Low central	High to right
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamp shows letters fainter		

HB

	a	H	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Re-entry both upper sqs., H sq., Postage, value and lower margin	Low to left	Sl. low, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same re-entries but not so definite	Low to left	Sl. low, Sl. to right
4	Dot below B sq. Faint hor. line above NW sq.	High, **ext. far to right**	Central to left
5	Top of H slightly double	High, **ext. far to left**	Central to right
7	*OF. 1.* Faint scratches on top and lower margins	High to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Letter H slightly double on the right. Traces of hor. guide line value	**Ext. low** central	Sl. high to right
10	*OF. 2.* Both side lines extend below	Sl. high to right	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Top line NE sq. weak at left corner. Letter B ? small. SE corner re-cut	Quite low central	Very high, well to right
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Central to right ↗	Central, Sl. to right
3	Bottom lines of letter sqs. thin	Very low to left ↗	Quite high to right
6	Nil	High, Sl. to right ↗	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high to left	Central to right

HC

	a	H	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side weak	Low to left	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left side stronger	Low to left	Central to left
2	*No RF.* Bottom line extends to right	Central to right	Very low to left
3	Faint scratches on left margin	Low to right	High to left
4	Bottom line extends slightly to right	Very low to right	Central, Sl. to left
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High, **ext. far** to left	Low to left
6	Vert. guide line NE and C sqs. (closer)	Central, well to right	Very low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Scratches on left margin	High, Sl. to left	Low to left
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line through H sq.	Sl. low central	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Letter H defective at top on right. Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	High to right	Very high, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line through value. SE corner re-cut	Low to left	Central to left
	b		
7	*OF. 1 or 2.* Nil	High to left	Sl. high, well to left

HD

	a	H	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Re-entry upper and D sqs. value and below. Also Postage (slightly)	Low to left	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same re-entries. Left side stronger	Low to left	High central
2	*No RF.* Dot below SE corner D sq.	Low to right	Central to right
3	Top left corner NE sq. weak	Central to right ↗	Central to right
4	Right line extends below	**Ext. low** to right	Central
5	Scratches on right margin. ? Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	High, well to left	High, Sl. to right
7	*OF. 1.* Scratches on lower margin	Central to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High, Sl. to right	Very high to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line through value. SE corner re-cut	Central to right	Central to right
	b		
6	Nil	High to right ↗	Sl. high, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High, Sl. to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Low, **ext. far** to right

HE

	a	H	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to left	Low, Sl. to right ↗
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Central to left	Low, Sl. to right ↗
2	*No RF.* Foot of E faint. Dot below SE corner of E sq.	Central to right	Very high to right
4	Dot above H and E, also on Y of Penny. Dots on margin below PE	High to right	Central to left
5	Letter H double. Scratches on lower margin	High, **ext. far to left**	Very high, Sl. to left
6	Small mark below H sq. Upper half of left side very weak	Central ↗	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to right	High central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and E sq. (close). Hor. guide line H sq. and value (close)	Low central	Low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Low, Sl. to right	High central
	b		
3	Nil	Central to right ↗	High to right
7	*OF. 1 or 2.* Nil	Quite high central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. weak	Central	Low central
	C state 2		
8	"O" flaw not present		

HF

	a	H	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low to left	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Low to left	Central to left
4	Bottom line extends well to right. Dot on right of H	Very low to right	Central
5	Dot on margin below second N of Penny	High, **ext. far to left**	Very high to right
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends to right	High, Sl. to right	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Right line extends slightly below. ? Faint scratches top of right margin	High to left	Low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. weak and broken at left corner. SE corner re-cut	Low to right	High to left
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	High to right	Central, Sl. to left
3	Nil	Very low to right	Very low central
6	Bottom line may extend to left but this is not constant	Central to right	Low to left
7	*OF. 1.* Faint scratches on right margin	**Ext. high** to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line on left of NW sq.	Central to right	Sl. high central

HG

	a	H	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Scratch or line on lower margin below Penny and G sq.	Low to left	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left line stronger	Low to left	High to left
3	Small faint mark on Y of Penny	Central to right ↗	Low to left
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. Scratches on lower margin	Central, Sl. to left ↗	High, well to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Quite high to left	Quite high, well to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line through E of Penny. SE corner re-cut. Top line NE sq. weak at left corner	Low to left	High to left
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Central ↗	Central, Sl. to left
4	Nil	Central to right	Central, well to left
6	Right line extends very slightly below	High to right	High central
7	*OF. 1.* Nil	High to left	Sl. high to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high to right	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Central to right	Low central

HH

	a	H	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low to left	Low to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint mark above left upright of second H	Low to left	Low to left
3	Mark on foot of Y of Penny	High to right	High, Sl. to right
4	Bottom line extends slightly to right. Faint mark above corner of NE sq.	Central to right	High central
5	Hor. line or scratch on margin below first H sq. and value	Central	High to left ↗
6	Faint vert. and hor. guide line NE sq. Very small dot SE corner second H sq.	Central to right	Central to right
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High central	High central ↗
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line first H sq.	Central ↗	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line first H sq. and N of ONE. Left foot of second H defective. SE corner re-cut	High central	High to left
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Low to right	High to right ↗
7	*OF. 1.* Nil	High central	High, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	Very low central

HI

	a	H	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low to left	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top and side lines NE sq. weak	Low to left	Low central
5	Crossbar of H slightly double. Scratch on margin below NY of Penny	High central ↗	**Ext. low,** well to left
6	Very small dot below H. Side line NE sq. very weak	**Ext. high** to right	Sl. low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	High, Sl. to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line from H to I sqs. Lower half of left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	Central	Central to right
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Sl. low central ↗	Central
3	Nil	Low to right	Central to left
4	Top line NE sq. weak	High to right	Central to left
7	*OF. 1.* Nil	High central	Low, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very low to left	Low, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Tall I. Nil	Central to right	Low to right

HJ

	a	H	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. low to left	Central, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Right line thinner than on Plate 1A. Scratches on top margin	Sl. low to left	Central, Sl. to left
4	Thin line up from NE corner. ? Guide line. ? Extension	Very low to right	Quite high central
5	Bottom line extends very slightly to right. Both sides irregular. Side line NE sq. weak	Central, Sl. to left ↗	High central
6	Dots in H sq. ? Faint vert. guide line H sq. (very close)	High central	High to left
7	*OF. 1.* Bottom line extends well to left	Very high central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top and side lines NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut foot of sq.	Very low to left	Very high central
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Sl. low to left	High central
3	Nil	Central to right	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. weak. Foot of J slightly square	Central to left ↗	Very high to left
10	*OF. 2.* Foot of J square. Nil	Very low to right	Central to left

HK

	a	H	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low to left	Low, well to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Re-entry upper sqs. and value. Vert. guide line left of H. Two or three dots to left of K	Low to left	Low, well to left
3	Slight weakness at SW corner of H sq.	Quite high central ↗	High to left
4	Bottom line extends well to right. Left line extends very slightly below	Low central	Central, Sl. to right ↗
5	Hor. guide line through value	High central	Low to left
7	*OF. 1.* Right line extends well above	High to right	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Right line extends above. Scratches along right margin	High, Sl. to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and K sqs. Hor. guide line value and K sq.	Central to left ↗	Low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	High to right	Central to right
	b		
2	*No RF.* Trace of hor. guide line below H sq.	Central	Central
6	Tiny dot opposite foot of K. Left side very weak	High to right	Central well to left
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central, Sl. to right	High, Sl. to right

HL

	a	H	L
1A	*RF. 10, 7.* Small dot below SE corner L sq.	Low to left	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* H sq. re-cut leaving gap at SW corner. Same dot (fainter). PEN of Penny very close to bottom line. Bottom line H sq. slopes up to right	Low to left	High central
2	*No RF.* Re-entry upper sqs., H sq. and value. Loop at top of H on the right. Dot below right upright of H. ? Dot below SE corner	Low central ↗	Very high to left
4	Faint vert. guide line L sq.	**Ext. low** to right	Low central
6	Dot in each letter sq. above H and below L	Central	Central
7	*OF. 1.* Faint scratches on lower and right margins	High to right	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Two marks or dots on margin just above H sq. Tiny dot in SE corner L sq.	Central	Sl. high to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Quite high to right	Very low, well to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top and side lines NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	Central	Very high to right
	b		
3	Nil	Very high, well to right ↗	Central
5	Nil	Sl. high, Sl. to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low. **ext. far to left**	High, Sl. to left
	C state 2		
6	Both sides, especially the right stronger		
8	*OF. 2.* The marks on the left margin are very faint		

IA

	a	I	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Small dot SE corner A sq. Dot just outside SW corner I sq. Letter A may be blurred	Low to right	Central, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same dot in A sq. (faint). Vert. line or scratch in NE sq. SW corner I sq. weak. Letter A not blurred	Low to right	Central, Sl. to right
2	*No RF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot in A sq. near SE corner	Central	Sl. low to right
4	Left line extends below. Two or three dots to right of A	Low central	Sl. high central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. Minute dots left of I and right of A. Top line NW sq. very weak	Very low central	Very low central
6	Dot on vert. stroke of P of Postage	Central to left	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to right. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central	Sl. high central
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line I sq. Small dot on top right of I	Central	Central, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 2.* Right line extends very slightly below. Tall I	High to right	High to right
	b		
3	Right line extends below	Central to left	Central, Sl. to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Tall I. Nil	Low central	High to right

IB

	a	I	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low central	Sl. low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Marks of re-entry upper sqs. P of Postage and O of One	Low central	Sl. low to right
2	*No RF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Short vert. stroke upwards from top of I	Very low central	Central to right
4	Dot on left of B and two dots on the right. Side line NE sq. very weak	Very low to left	Sl. high, Sl. to left
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Top line NW sq. and side line NE sq. weak	Central	Sl. low to left
6	Vert. and hor. guide lines NE sq. Faint dot SE corner I sq.	Central	Central, Sl. to right
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot below and touching bottom line B sq.	Central, Sl. to left	Central to right
8	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. weak. Tall I	High to right	Quite high to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central	High to right
9	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NW sq.	High, Sl. to right	Sl. low, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 2.* Tall I. Nil	Very low central	Sl. low, Sl. to right

IC

	a	I	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Tiny dot just below top left serif of I. Vert. line or scratch in NE sq. Bottom line C sq. thin	Low, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to left
2	*No RF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and extending slightly above top line	High, Sl. to right	High to left
3	Faint hor. guide line C sq. Right line extends very slightly below	Central to right	Central to left
4	Dots in both letter sqs. Top line NE sq. very weak	Sl. low to right	Very low to left
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line on left of NW sq. ? Very faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Central, Sl. to left	Central, well to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line extends to right. SE corner re-cut. Tall I	Sl. low to right	Central to left
	b		
5	Nil	Sl. low central	Central, well to left
6	Faint vert. guide line left of C. Top line NE sq. weak.	Low central	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. high central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Tall I. Nil	Low to right	Very high, Sl. to left

ID

	a	I	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Very low to right	Very high, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Re-entry both upper sqs. and value	Very low to right	Very high, Sl. to left
2	*No RF.* Mark or dot on right side of O of ONE	Central	Central to right
4	Right line extends below. Several small dots in letter sqs.	Sl. low to left	Central to right
5	Foot of I defective on right. Right line extends below	Low central	High to right
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line in NW sq. on the left. Tall I	**Ext. low** central	Very high to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top and side lines NE sq. weak. Tall I. Hor. guide line value. Bottom line extends to right	Central to right	Very high to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central to left	High to right
6	Nil	**Ext. low** to left	Sl. low central
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central to left	Sl. low to right
8	*OF. 2.* Scratches on top part of right margin	Low, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line on right of I sq. Hor. guide line value	High to right	High central

IE

	a	I	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low central	Low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. line lower part of NE sq. Scratch on top margin above Postage	Low central	Low to right
2	*No RF.* Bottom line extends to right	Low to left	Low to left
4	I sq. re-cut above and below, showing top line double	Low central	Quite high to right
5	E of Penny practically touches bottom line	Very low, Sl. to right	Sl. high, Sl. to right
7	*No OF.* Bottom line extends very slightly to right	Central	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line extends slightly to right. Dot touching side line I sq. just above SW corner. Top line NW sq. broken at left corner. SE corner recut. Tall I	Central to right	High to right
	b		
3	Small mark or marks on left line of E sq.	Very low to left	Very high, Sl. to left
6	Trace of vert. guide line NE sq. Left side weak	Central, Sl. to left	**Ext. low** central
8	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Diagonal blur in E sq.	High central	Central, Sl. left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low central	Sl. high central
10	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. weak. Tall I	High to right	Low central

IF

	a	I	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low central	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. and hor. lines lower part NE sq.	Low central	High to left
4	Top line NE sq. very weak on left	Sl. low central	Central
5	Top line NW sq. weak on right	Central to right	Sl. low central
6	Both side lines very weak, especially towards the top	Sl. high to left	Low to left
7	*OF. 1.* Bottom line extends to right	Central to left	Sl. high, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Faint scratches in NW sq. Tall I	Low to left	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line through letter sqs. and value. SE corner re-cut. Side line NE sq. weak. Tall I	High to right	High, Sl. to right
	b		
2	*No OF.* Letter I very slightly double at top	Central to right	Sl. high, Sl. to left
3	Nil	High to left	Low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Sl. High central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very low central	Very high, Sl. to left

IG

	a	I	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Top half of left side weak	Low to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line G sq. Left side stronger	Low to right	High to left
4	Scratches towards top of right margin	Central	High central
5	Blur in NW sq. Left side very weak. ? Hor. guide line I sq.	Low central	High, Sl. to left
6	Side line NE sq. very weak	Central	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Line along right margin close to frame line. ? Double line	Low to right	Quite high to left
10	*OF. 2.* Right line extends slightly below. Top line NW sq. weak. Tall I	Low, Sl. to left	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Tall I	Low central	Sl. high central
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Low central	High to left
3	Nil	**Ext. low** to left	Central, Sl. to left
7	*OF. 1.* Nil	Central	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low to right	Central to left

IH

	a	I	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side weak	Very low central	Sl. low, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Lower half of side line NE sq. missing. Left side stronger	Very low central	Sl. low, Sl. to left
3	Hor. guide line H sq.	Central	High, Sl. to left
4	Top line NE sq. very weak	Low central	High, Sl. to left
6	Dot in lower half of H	Central	High, Sl. to left
7	*OF. 1.* Left upright of H weak	Central	High, well to left
9	*OF. 2.* Scratches on right margin	Low to left	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. SE corner re-cut. Tall I	High to left	Low central
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Low, Sl. to left	**Ext. high** central
5	Nil	Low central	Central to left ↗
8	*OF. 2.* Blur on top of left margin	High central	High, well to right
10	*OF. 2.* Tall I. Squat H. Nil	Low central	Very low to right

II

	a	I	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low central	Low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint marks of re-entry NE sq. and P and G of Postage. Right side weak towards top	Low central	Low to right
4	Left line extends below	**Ext. low** to left	Central, Sl. to left
5	Faint scratches on lower margin below One	Very low to right	Very high to left
6	Tiny dot in NE corner of second I sq.	Sl. low central	Sl. low central
8	*OF. 2.* Mark or scratch on margin to right of NE sq.	High to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. Side line NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut. Both I's tall	**Ext. low** central	**Ext. high** to right
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	High central	Sl. low, Sl. to left
3	Nil	High central	High to right ↗
7	*OF. ? 1.* Faint scratches on top margin	Central	Sl. low central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. low to left	Low, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Both I's tall. Nil	Quite high to right	Low to left

IJ

	a	I	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side weak	Low central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left side stronger	Low central	High central
5	Faint scratches on lower margin. ? Hor. guide line I sq. (close)	Low central	Very high central
6	Dot near top of NE sq. Tiny dots below I and to right of J	Central	High central
7	*No OF.* Right line extends slightly below	Sl. high to left	**Ext. low** to left
10	*OF. 2.* Small faint mark to right of J. Foot of J square. Tall I.	Sl. low to right	**Ext. low** central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Foot of J square. Tall I	Sl. low to right	High central
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Central	Sl. low central
3	Nil	Low central	High, Sl. to left
4	Dot at top right of I sq.	Low to left	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	Very high, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends very slightly to right	**Ext. low** to left	**Ext. low** to left

IK

	a	I	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Side line NE sq. practically absent	Low central	High central
5	Bottom line extends to left	Low to left	Central
6	Faint line on margin below E and P of Penny	Sl. High, Sl. to left	Low, Sl. to left ↗
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and ? K sq. Scratches top margin	Low central	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line NNY of Penny. SE corner re-cut. Side line NE sq. weak	Central to right	Central
	b		
2	*No RF.* Letter K may be slightly faint	Sl. high to left	Central
3	Very faint vert. guide line through value	High to right	Central to left
4	Nil	Sl. low central	Central, **ext. far** to right
7	*OF. 1.* Scratches top margin. Vert. line upper part of right margin	Central, Sl. to left	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Scratches on bottom margin. Tall I	High to right	Very low to right

IL

	a	I	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Slight marks re-entry top sqs., L sq. and value. Two dots below L sq. Both letters re-cut, enlarged and positions changed	**Low to left**	**Central**
2	*No RF.* Dot to right of L. Small faint dot under SE corner of L sq. Mark on right side of O of One	Sl. high, Sl. to right	High central
3	Small dot in SE corner of L sq. Top serif I slopes down	Low to right	High to left
4	Small dot below SE corner L sq. Top line NE sq. weak on left	Low central	Central to right
6	Very small dots in L sq. Small faint dot outside NE corner	Central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Tall I	Central to right	Central to right
	b		
5	Nil	Low to left	Sl. high to left
7	*OF. 1.* Nil	Central	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	**Ext. low** central	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Tall I. Nil	Central	Low central

JA

	a	J	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Letter A blurred and blind	Low to left	Low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Mark of re-entry through centre of NE sq. A not blurred	Low to left	Low to right
2	*No RF.* Bottom line A sq. and ? J sq. double and extends to left	Quite high central	**Ext. low** to right
4	Traces of hor. guide value. Dot in right segment of NW sq.	High central	Very low to right
5	Dot on margin below Y of Penny. Scratches on lower margin	Central to left	Low to right
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot to right J.	Sl. low to left	Central to right
10	*OF. 2.* Trace of hor. guide line value, Foot of J square	High to right	Very high central ↘
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line extends to right. Top and side lines NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut. Foot of J square	**Ext. high** to right	High central
	b		
3	Faint hor. guide line A sq.	**Ext. high** central	Central
7	*OF. 1.* Nil	Central	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Foot of J slightly square. Nil	Central, Sl. to left	High central
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamps show letters fainter		

JB

	a	J	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Central, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. lines in NE sq. ? Re-entry	Central	Central, Sl. to right
2	*No RF.* Bottom line double and extends well to left.	High central	Very high to right
4	Several dots on lower margin	Central to left	Sl. high central
5	Right line extends slightly below. Left side very weak. Side line NE sq. broken below	**Ext. low** central	Sl. high, Sl. to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Foot of J square	**Ext. high** to right	Central to right
	b		
3	Nil	High central	Central to right
6	Nil	Central	Low central
7	*OF. 1.* Very faint scratch on right margin	High, Sl. to left	Central to right
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to right	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Foot of J slightly square. Nil	Low to left	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Foot of J square. Nil	Very high, Sl. to right	**Ext. low** to right

JC

	a	J	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Low to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Slight marks of re-entry NW and C sqs. Both letters re-cut, slightly enlarged and positions changed	**Central**	**High central**
2	*No RF.* Small dot SE corner C sq. Bottom line J sq. double and extends to left	**Ext. high** central	**Ext. high** to left
4	Dot in left segment NW sq. Dots on top and bottom margins	Central	**Ext. low**, well to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Foot of J square	Very high to right	Sl. high central
	b		
3	Faint hor. guide line both letter sqs.	High to left	**Ext. high** to left
5	Nil	Very low to left	Very low to left
6	Nil	High to left	High central
7	*No OF.* Nil	High to left	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to right	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Foot of J slightly square. Nil	**Ext. high** central	Very high to left
10	*OF. 2.* Foot of J square	High to right	Central

JD

	a	J	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Very high central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. and D sq. Slight marks upper sqs. and Postage	Very high central	High central
2	*No RF.* Top curve of D weak. E of Penny practically touches bottom line	Central to right	High to left
3	Hor. guide line value. Bottom line extends very slightly to right	Very high to right	Central
4	Dots on Y of Penny and above D and T of Postage. Scratch above NE sq.	Central to left	Central to right
8	*OF. 2.* Small mark left side NW sq.	High Sl. to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Hor. guide line value. Foot of J slightly square	Central	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line from O to Y of One Penny. Side line NE sq. weak. Foot of J square, SE corner deeply re-cut	Very high to right	Low to right
	b		
5	Nil	**Ext. low,** well to left	High to right
6	Nil	High to left	High to right
7	*No OF.* Nil	High central	**Ext. low** to right
10	*OF. 2.* Foot of J square. Nil	Low central	High to left

JE

	a	J	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Very high central	Low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line through J sq. (strong) and E sq. (weak). Trace of re-entry NE sq. Scratches in letter sqs.	Very high central	Low to right
2	*No RF.* Right line extends below	Quite high central	Central, Sl. to left
4	Right line extends below. Two dots to right of J. Side line NE sq. weak	Very high central	Sl. low, **ext. far to left**
5	Scratch on margin outside NW sq.	**Ext. low,** Sl. to left	Low, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Quite high to right	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Letter J double and square footed. SE corner re-cut. Side line NE sq. weak	Very high to right	Central to right
	b		
3	Nil	Low to left	Very high to right
6	Nil	High central	High, Sl. to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	High, Sl. to right	Sl. high, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Traces of hor. guide line through value. Foot of J slightly square	Central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Foot of J square. Nil	Sl. low central	Sl. low, Sl. to left

JF

	a	J	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to right	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line through J sq. (strong) and F sq. (weak). Scratches in J sq.	Central to right	Central
2	*No RF.* Small mark at bottom of NW sq. ? Re-entry	High central	High central
3	Faint hor. guide line through J sq.	High, Sl. to left	Low central
4	Dot touching bottom line F sq. at SE corner	High to left	Sl. low to left
5	Left side of J sq. blurred	Very high central	Central
6	Dot well below SE corner of F sq.	Central to left	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to right	Central to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Letter J with square foot and small mark on its right	Central	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Foot of J square	**Ext. high** to right	**Ext. high** to right
	b		
7	*No OF.* Nil	High central	Sl. low, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line F sq. (close). Foot of J slightly square	High central	High central

These extended lines can be of great help in plating not only because of the number of stamps, some 250 or more on which they are present but also because in the majority of cases they are so obvious as to be easily recognized. That these ragged and weak side lines and corners were repaired, probably by means of re-entry and re-cutting, is proved by many stamps from the second state of the plates, as on these the corresponding lines have become sharp and clear. Many of the corners were re-cut, in particular the north-east and to a lesser degree the south-east. This is obvious where the stars and letters are fainter than in the first state.

Dots and Spots

Small dots are to be found on stamps from all eleven plates. Several of these known as Guide Dots can often be seen outside the lower right (SE) corner squares, having been originally used as spacing marks for inserting the Guide Lines. Spots, as distinct from these Guide Dots, can also often be seen in or outside the squares and on the margins, and especially so on Plates 4 and 6 where they are so numerous that these two plates have been referred to as the "Spotty Plates." It has been suggested that these spots were probably caused by the plates becoming pitted with small shallow holes which showed as spots on the prints and that this pitting was due to rust through the plates not being kept in a thoroughly dry place before being brought into use.

Plate Dot

This is a tiny dot which can be seen on the left margin of a great many stamps from several of the plates, situated opposite the mouth of the "Portrait of the Queen." It perhaps occurs most frequently on Plates 1A and 3 but is by no means present on all these stamps and should not be considered as characteristic of any plate.

Marks

In addition to the Guide Lines and Dots other marks of an indefinite but accidental nature are seen on many stamps and may take the form of scratches, blurs, lines or cuts, many of which are constant.

Colour of Maltese Cross

When the stamps were first issued in June 1840, red ink was used for the so-called Maltese Cross obliteration, but this was changed to black in February 1841 when the colour of the stamp was changed from black to red. For this reason stamps with the red Maltese Cross are more likely to have come from one of the early plates, and it is a fact that stamps from the later plates, especially 10 and 11, with a red cross are very scarce. The black cross, however, was used experimentally in London or struck in error from as early as August 1840.

The Significance of Date

Any definite date on a cover or piece may help in deciding to some extent which plate a stamp has come from or at any rate the plates from which it can NOT have come.

Plates 1 and 2 were issued together on May 6th 1840 and the earliest known date for a stamp from Plate 3 to have been used was May 18th; therefore a cover or piece with any date from May 6th to May 17th should carry a stamp from Plate 1 or 2.

The earliest known date for Plate 4 stamps was May 23rd, therefore any date before this indicates that the stamp can have come from Plates 1, 2 or 3.

On these lines the following table may be of some slight use in plating.

Dates before May 18th, 1840.	Plates 1 or 2.
,, ,, May 23rd, 1840.	,, 1 to 3.
,, ,, June 16th, 1840.	,, 1 to 4.
,, ,, June 29th, 1840.	,, 1 to 5.
,, ,, July 8th, 1840.	,, 1 to 6.
,, ,, September 5th, 1840.	,, 1 to 7.
,, ,, November 18th, 1840.	,, 1 to 8.
,, ,, January 2nd, 1841.	,, 1 to 9.
,, ,, February 4th, 1841.	,, 1 to 10.

Plate 11 was first used for an emergency printing of the stamps in black on the 1st of February, 1841, and the earliest date known used is February 4th, therefore no cover bearing a date prior to this can possibly bear a Plate 11 stamp from this printing.

Sunday Dates, 1840

Many collectors interested in covers like to have one bearing a Sunday date.

May 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st.
June 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.
July 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th.
August 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.
September 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.
October 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th.
November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.
December 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th.

JG

	a	J	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to left	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Hor. guide line letter sqs. Top line NW sq. broken on the left. Left top ray NW sq. short of corner	High to left	Central to left
4	Right line extends below	High, well to left	**Ext. high, ext. far to left**
5	Hor. guide line through value. Scratches on lower margin	High central	Central, well to left
7	*No OF.* Scratches on left margin	High to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Traces of hor. guide line value. Foot of J slightly square	Low central	Sl. low, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line in NW sq. on the left. Foot of J square	Very low, Sl. to left	Very low, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top and side lines NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut. Foot of J square	**Ext. high** to right	Low, Sl. to left
	b		
2	*No OF.* Nil	Very high to right	Very high to left
3	Nil	Very high to left	Sl. low to left
6	Nil	Central to left	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	High, Sl. to left

JH

	a	J	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot below SE corner H sq. Top serifs of H practically meet	High to left	Low to left ↗
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot faint. Serifs apart. Vert. scratch in left of NW sq.	High to left	Low to left ↗
4	Small mark or blur in top left of NW sq.	Central to right	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Letter J with square foot and small mark on the right	Very high to right	**Ext. low** to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Side line NE sq. weak. SE corner deeply re-cut	Very high to right	Sl. high central ↗
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Sl. high central	High, Sl. to left ↗
3	Nil	Very high central	High central
5	Upper part of left side very weak	High central	High, Sl. to right ↗
6	Low half of right side very weak	High central	High central ↗
7	*No OF.* Nil	High central	**Ext. high, ext. far to left**
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	High, well to right
9	*OF. 2.* Foot of J slightly square	Central to right	High central

JI

	a	J	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to right	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Re-entry all four sqs. ONE of One Penny and O of Postage	High to right	Low central
5	Bottom line extends slightly to right. ? Dot on corner. Scratch on lower margin	Central	Central to left
6	Dot above NE sq. near corner. Side line NE sq. weak below	Sl. high central	Low to left
10	*OF. 2.* Letter J with square foot and small mark on the right. Tall I	Central	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left side strengthened. SE corner re-cut. Letter J with square foot. Tall I	Very high to right	Central to right
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	High to right	Low central
3	Nil	Very high central	Sl. high to left
4	Scratches on right margin	Central	Sl. low central
7	*No OF.* Nil	High central	Low, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Foot of J slightly square	Central to right	Low to left

JJ

	a	J	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letters re-cut. Hor. guide line each upper and both J sqs.	High central	High central
6	Very small dot above each J. Dot on margin below first J	High to right	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Foot of each J square. Small mark to right of first J	High central	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Foot of each J square	**Ext. high** to right	**Ext. high** to right
	b		
2	*No RF.* Nil	Central	Sl. low central
3	Nil	Central	Central
4	Nil	Central to left	Central to left
5	Faint hor. guide line second J sq.	High to right	High central
7	*No OF.* Nil	High, Sl. to right	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Very high to right
9	*OF. 2.* Foot of each J slightly square. Nil	Low central	High central

JK

	a	J	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Re-entry NE sq. Hor. line ? re-entry J sq.	Central	High central
2	*No RF.* Foot of E and of N of Penny appear splayed	Very high central	High central
5	Scratches on lower margin	High central	Low to left
6	Traces of Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. Dots in NE and K sqs.	Sl. low to left	Central ↗
10	*OF. 2.* Trace of hor. guide line through ONE. Foot of J square. Dots below second N of Penny and K sq. joined by a thin line	Very high to right	Low, Sl. to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Upper half left side strengthened. SE corner re-cut. Side line NE sq. weak	Very high to right	Very low to right
	b		
3	Nil	High central	High to right
4	Nil	High central	Central, well to left ↗
7	*No OF.* Nil	High central	Central to right
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. thin. Foot of J slightly square	Low central	Central

JL

	a	J	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line J sq. and ? L sq. Top left corner NW sq. weak	High central	High central
2	*No RF.* Dot on lower margin near corner of L sq. Faint dot outside NE corner	Sl. high central	Central
3	Dot below SE corner L sq.	Very high central	High, Sl. to left
4	Dots on margin outside NW sq. and ? SE corner of L sq.	Central	Central to left
5	Scratch on lower margin between NE and PE of One Penny	Central	Central
6	Bottom line extends slightly to right. Mark on left side of O of ONE. Top left corner NE sq. weak	Central	Central to right
9	*OF. 2.* Top serif of L double, foot of J slightly square	High central	Low central
10	*OF. 2.* Dot well below SE corner of L sq. Foot of J square	Central	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut. Foot of J square	**Ext. high** to right	Very high to right
	b		
7	*No OF.* Faint trace hor. guide line value	High central	Central, well to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high central	Low to left

KA

	a	K	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High, Sl. to right	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line A sq. (strong). Hor. guide line K sq. (faint)	High, Sl. to right	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Two minute dots under top right serif of K	Central, Sl. to right	Sl. high, Sl. to right ↗
4	Small dots upper sqs., O of ONE and lower margin	Sl. high central	Central
5	Traces of hor. guide line value and A sq.	High central	Central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Top right corner NW sq. defective	Central	Sl. high central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and A sqs. Hor. guide line K sq. and ONE	Very low to left	Very high central
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close). ? Trace of hor. guide line value	High central	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Right foot of K and left foot of A double. Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	**Ext. low** to right	Central to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to right
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central, Sl. to left	Sl. low central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	Central, Sl. to left
	C state 2		
5	All corners fainter		

KB

	a	K	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. line from top of B to right side line	Central	Central
4	Minute dots in letter sqs. and on lower margin	Very low central	Very high to right
5	Small dot on foot of E of PENNY	Central	Sl. low central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Right line extends slightly below	Central	Central
7	*No OF.* Top line of K sq. extends into left margin	Central to left	Low central
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line K sq. Right line extends below	Central ↗	Central
10	*No OF.* Left line extends below. Letter B faint	**Ext. low** to right	Very high central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Central	Very high to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Sl. low, Sl. to right	Sl. low central ↗
3	Nil	Central	High to right
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Central to right
	C state 2		
6	Not seen but recorded as in second state. Probably one or both sides stronger		

KC

	a	K	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to left	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line C sq. Top lines of upper sqs. weak. Thin vert. line upwards from top of K	Central to left	Central to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom line extends to left and ? very slightly to right	Central	**Ext. low** central
3	Left foot of K double	Low to right	Central to left
4	Faint hor. guide line K sq. and O of ONE. Dots in letter sqs. and on top and lower margins	Central	Low to left
5	Hor. guide line below K. Left side very weak	**Ext. low** central	Low, Sl. to left
6	Vert. guide line NE and C sqs. (close). Faint vert. line on right of K	Sl. high to left	Low to left
7	*No OF.* Traces of hor. guide line K sq. and value	Central, Sl. to left	High, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and C sqs. (close). Strong hor. guide line K sq. and value	Central	Central, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. thin	Very low to right	Sl. high to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line through E of PENNY. Faint dot below C sq. SE corner re-cut	Very low to left	High central
	b		
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central, Sl. to left	Low central
	C state 2		
6	Not seen but recorded as in a second state		

KD

	a	K	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Quite high central	Quite high central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter D slightly double. Hor. guide line letter sqs.	Quite high central	Quite high central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Mark on margin below O of ONE	Central	Very low central
4	Small dots in K sq. and on top and bottom margins	Central to right	**Ext. high** to right
5	Left line extends below. Left side very weak	Low central	High to right
6	Left line extends slightly below. Scratches on left margin	Central	High, Sl. to right
9	*OF. 2.* Strong hor. guide line letter sqs. and value	Central	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Quite low to right	**Ext. high** well to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central Sl. to right	Very low to right
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central Sl. to right	Sl. low central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central Sl. to right	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	**Ext. low** central	Very high central
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger		

KE

	a	K	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Central to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Traces of 10 o'clock ray	High central	Central to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter E double at top. Flaw on left margin towards top. This flaw or accidental cut through the line is only seen on later printings	Central, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to right
4	Scratches top and left margins	Central	Central, **ext. far to right**
5	Letter E double at top. Left line extends slightly below	Central	Central, Sl. to left
6	Vert. guide line NE and E sqs.	Central to right	Quite low to left
7	*No OF.* Scratches on lower margin	Central, Sl. to left	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line E sq. Hor. guide line K sq. and ONE	Very low, well to left	Quite low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Central to right	Sl. low to right
	b		
3	Nil	Low central	High, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Central, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. low to left	Sl. high central
	C state 2		
6	Side lines stronger, especially the right		

KF

	a	K	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side weak	Sl. high central	High, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left side stronger. Hor. guide line K sq. Letter F ? slightly double	Sl. high central	High, Sl. to left
3	Dot top right in NE sq.	Central	Very low to left
4	Small dot touching foot of K on right	Central	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line F sq. (very close). Hor. guide line K sq.	Central to left	Very high to right
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	**Ext. low** central	Very low, Sl. to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Hor. guide line through O-Y. SE corner re-cut	Sl. low central	Very high, Sl. to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Central to right	Central to right
5	Nil	Central	Quite low central
6	Nil	Central	Central, well to left
7	*No RF.* Nil	Central	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High, Sl. to right	Central
	C state 2		
6	Side lines stronger, especially the right		

KG

	a	K	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left line extends very slightly below	Sl. high to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Extension more evident. Side line NE sq. very weak	Sl. high to right	High to left
4	Hor. guide line K sq. and ONE. Bottom line extends slightly to right	High, Sl. to right	High central
5	Hor. guide line value and G sq. Faint vert. guide line G sq. and ? NE sq.	Very low central	High, Sl. to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	High to left
7	*No OF.* Vert. line or scratch outside NW sq.	Central	High, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Strong hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. Vert. guide line NE sq. (close) and G sq. (wide)	Low, Sl. left	High, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Hor. guide line value and letter sqs.	Sl. low to left	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line Y of PENNY—G sq. Upper half left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	Central	**Ext. high** to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Very low central	Sl. low to left
3	Nil	Sl. high central	Low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. low to right	High central

KH

	a	K	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Low Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter H thinner	Central	Low central
4	Dot touching bottom line below E of ONE	Central ↗	Very high to left
5	Hor. line or scratch below K sq.	Low, Sl. to right	Very high to left
6	Small dot well above NE sq.	Central, Sl. to right	High, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value	Very low to left	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. SE corner re-cut	Low to left	Central, Sl. to left
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High to right	Central
3	Nil	High to left	Very low central
7	*No OF.* Mark above NW sq.	Central	Very high to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to right	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Squat H. Nil	Very low to left	Low, Sl. to right

KI

	a	K	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. high central	Low, well to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top line NE sq. very weak	Sl. high central	Low, well to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* PE of PENNY very close to bottom line	High, Sl. to right	Central to right
4	Hor. guide line K sq. and ONE	Central, Sl. to left	Very low central
5	Left side line practically missing	Central to left	Very low to left
6	Small dots K sq. Dot outside corner NW sq. Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Diagonal stroke across top right corner of K sq.	Central	Very high, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line ~~K~~ sq. Bottom line extends slightly to left and right line slightly below	**Ext. low** to left	Very low to left
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. ? Traces of hor. guide line value. Tall I	Central to left	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Central, Sl. to right	Very low, Sl. to right
	b		
3	Nil	Sl. low central	High, Sl. to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central to left	Low, Sl. to left

KJ

	a	K	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. high central	Very high central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top line NE sq. weak	Sl. high central	Very high central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Feet of E PEN of ONE PENNY enlarged and close to margin. NE of ONE nearly joined	High to right	Very high to left
4	Traces of hor. guide line K sq. and value	High, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to left
5	Traces of hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. Right line extends slightly below	Central, well to left	Central
6	Faint scratches on left margin towards bottom	Central to right	Central
7	*No OF.* Hor. guide line K sq. and value	Central	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Strong hor. guide line K sq. and ONE PE of ONE PENNY	Low, Sl. to right	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Vert. line on left of J. Square J	**Ext. low, ext. far left**	Central to left
	b		
3	Nil	Central to left ↗	Very high to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Lines of NE sq. weak. Square J	Very low to left	Very high, Sl. to right

KK

	a	K	K
2	*RF. 10, 7.* NE of ONE nearly joined. PE of PENNY very close to bottom line	Central	Central
4	Traces of hor. guide line through ONE and PE of PENNY	Central	Very low central
6	One or ? two small dots above first K	Low, Sl. to left	Central to left
7	*No OF.* Re-entry NE and letter sqs., also lower margin	Central to right	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and second K sqs. ? Vert. guide line first K sq. Hor. guide line first K sq. and ONE	Central, Sl. to right	Central to right
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to right	Very low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. Faint vert. guide line NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Sl. high to right	Central
	b		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Each letter very slightly enlarged	High central	High central
3	Faint diagonal stroke to right of second K cutting through frame line	High, Sl. to left ↗	Very high central
5	Nil	Low to left	Low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low central	Sl. low central

KL

	a	K	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot well above NE sq.	High to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Scratches on lower margin. Same dot (fainter). Bottom line extends to right	High to right	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom line extends slightly to left. Scratches on right margin	High, Sl. to right	High, Sl. to left
3	Short hor. stroke from middle of left side of K sq.	Central to left ↗	Central
4	Traces of hor. guide line through K sq. and value	Central to left ↗	Sl. high central
5	Dot below SE corner of L sq.	Low to right	High central
6	Small dot close to left side of L	**Ext. low** central	Sl. high central
9	*OF. 2.* Strong hor. guide line K sq. and first half of value. Bottom line extends to left	Low, Sl. to right	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Letter L double at top	Central to right	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Central to right	High to right
	b		
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central to right	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. high to right	High to left

LA

	a	L	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left line extends slightly below	Central, Sl. to left	Sl. low, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same extension. Scratches on left margin	Central, Sl. to left	Sl. low, Sl. to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Thin line extends down from SE corner. ? Guide line. Scratch top of right margin	Central	Central
3	Bottom line between the squares appears double	Central, Sl. to left	Central to right
4	Dots in letter sqs. and on margins. Blur in the left of L sq.	Low to right ↗	Central
5	Dot touching side line of NE sq. near top corner	Low to left	Central
6	Vert. guide line NE and A sqs. Left line extends below	Sl. low to left	Central, **ext. far** to right
7	*No OF.* Dot in SE corner L sq. Foot of L weak on left	Central, Sl. to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line extends slightly to right. SE corner re-cut	Quite high to right	Very high, Sl. to right
	b		
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high to right	Sl. high central

LB

	a	L	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. high central	High to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Side line NE sq. very weak below	Sl. high central	High to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line NE sq. and ? NW sq.	High central	High to right
3	Bottom line between the squares appears double	Central	Sl. high to right
4	Traces of hor. guide line value. Dots in letter sqs. and on lower margin	Central to left ↗	Central, Sl. to right
6	Foot of L double on the right	Central, Sl. to left	Low central
7	*No OF.* Foot of L missing on the left	Central	**Ext. low** central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	**Ext. high** to left	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Foot of B double on the left	Central	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	**Ext. low, ext. far right**	Quite high central
	b		
5	Letters of Postage very close to top line	Low, Sl. to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very low to right	Very high to right

LC

		L	C
	a		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High, Sl. to right	Low to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top left corner NW sq. and SW corner L sq. weak	High, Sl. to right	Low to left
3	Bottom line between the squares appears double	Central	High to left
4	Several dots in each letter sq. and on lower margin	Low central ↗	Low to left
5	Short hor. mark below L sq.	Central to left	Central
6	Bottom line extends slightly to left	Central	High, Sl. to right
7	*No OF.* Foot of L practically missing on the left	Central, Sl. to left	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Hor. guide line value and C sq. SE corner re-cut	**Ext. low** central ↗	Sl. low central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High central	Central, **ext. far to left**
8	*OF. 2.* Thin line running up from NE corner	Sl. low, Sl. to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. described as double	High central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Quite low to right	Very high to left

LD

		L	D
	a		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* L sq. re-cut. SW corner broken	Central	High central
3	Bottom line between the squares appears double	Central to right	Sl. high to right
4	Dot in middle of D. Dots on O of ONE and in L sq. Scratches left margin	Central ↗	Central
5	Scratch on margin below L sq. and ONE	Central to left	High to right
7	*No OF.* Foot of L missing on the left	Central	Central, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	Central, Sl. to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line (low) in D sq. Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	Very low to right	Central well to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Sl. high central	Central to right
6	Nil	Central, Sl. to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. high central	Central to right
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low to right	High, Sl. to right

LE

		L	E
	a		
1A	*RF. 10, 5,* Left side weak	Central	Very low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left side strengthened	Central	Very low to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint hor. guide line NE sq. Marks on N and Y of Penny	Central	Central to right
3	Bottom line of L sq. thin but under value appears double	Central ↗	Very high, well to right
4	Dots in L sq.	Low central	Central
5	Top line NE sq. thin and broken at left corner	Central to left	Low to left
7	*No OF.* Foot of L missing on the left	High to left	High central ↗
9	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	**Ext. low** central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut		Very high to right
	b		
6	Nil	Sl. high central	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central, Sl. to right	Sl. high central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low to right	Low to left
	C state 2		
6	Recorded in second state. One or both sides probably stronger		

LF

		L	F
	a		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Guide line if present very faint	High central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Thin line extends up from NE corner with parallel line on margin. Marks on NY of Penny	High central	Low central
3	Bottom line between the squares appears slightly double	Central to right	Low central
5	Very faint dot on margin below Y of Penny	High central	Central to right
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central to left	**Ext. high** central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and F sqs. ? Scratches on left margin	Sl. high, Sl. to right	Sl. high central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line low in F sq. Lines of NE corner weak. SE corner re-cut	**Ext. low** central	Very high, Sl. to right
	b		
4	Nil	Central ↗	Central, Sl. to left
6	Nil	Central to left	Low to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Quite low to right	Very low central

LG

	a	L	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High central	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line. Scratch along lower margin. ? Dot below G sq.	High central	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil. Slight marks on NNY of Penny	Central	Very high to left
3	Bottom line between the letter sqs. appears double	Sl. low central	High, Sl. to left
4	Small mark at bottom of NE sq. Small mark or dot on margin between E and P. ? Mark at top right of L sq.	Central ↗	High central
5	Hor. guide line L sq. Side line NE sq. weak, especially below	High to right	Sl. low, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line in G sq. (low). SE corner re-cut	Low, well to right	Very high central
	b		
6	Nil	Central	Quite high central
7	*No OF.* Nil	Sl. high, Sl. to left	Sl. low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low central	Sl. low, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NW sq. on the left	Central, **ext. far right**	Low, Sl. to right

LH

	a	L	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Sl. low, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Diagonal marks NW sq. ? Re-entry	Central	Sl. low, Sl. to left
3	Bottom line between the sqs. appears slightly double	Central	Very low, well to left
4	Left line extends below	Central ↗	Very high to left
5	Scratch along lower margin	Very high central	High to left
6	Dot on left of H	Central	Central
7	*No OF.* Right line extends well below. Foot of L missing on the left	Central	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Faint hor. guide line H sq. Left side strengthened. SE corner re-cut	Very low, well to right	Very high central ↘
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High central	Low to right
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Trace of vert. guide line H sq.	High central	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Squat H. Nil	**Ext. low** to right	Sl. low central

LI

	a	L	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* L sq. re-cut leaving SW corner broken	Central	Low to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot at top of NW sq.	High central	**Ext. high** central
3	Bottom line under ONE appears double	Central	High to left
4	Right line extends below. Small dot on margin between P and E of Penny	Central to left ↗	Sl. low central
5	Hor. guide line L sq. Scratches on lower margin. Side line NE sq. very weak	High central	Central to left
6	Short vert. stroke attached to middle of foot of I	Low to left	Sl. low to left
7	*No OF.* Hor. guide line through top of E of Postage	Central to left	Sl. low central
8	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line through L sq. and ONE PE of One Penny. Tall I	**Ext. high** to right	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. SE corner re-cut. Tall I	Central to right	High to right
	b		
9	*OF. 2.* Faint line extends up from NW corner. ? Guide line or extension	High, Sl. to right	Low to right

LJ

	a	L	J
3	Bottom line between the squares appears double	Central	**Ext. high** central
6	Dots on margin below EN of Penny. Small dot at top right of L sq.	Very high central	Sl. low to left
7	*No OF.* Scratches on lower margin. Foot of L weak on left	Central	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Side line of NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut. Foot of J square	Central to right	**Ext. high,** Sl. to right
	b		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter J slightly enlarged	High central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High to right	Low to left
4	Nil	Central ↗	High central
5	Top line NW sq. weak	High central	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. high, Sl. to right	Very high central
10	*OF. 2.* Foot of J square. Nil	Central to right	**Ext. low** to left

LK

	a	L	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Faint hor. guide line L sq.	Central to left	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Central to left	Low central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Serif of upper diagonal stroke of K double	High central	Sl. low central
6	Dots in K sq.	Low central	Very low to right
7	*No OF.* Top right ray NW sq. incomplete	Central to right	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and K sqs. Left line extends slightly below	Central to right	**Ext. low** central
10	*OF. 2.* Dot touching K below	Central to right	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot on T of POSTAGE. Hor. guide line low in K sq. SE corner re-cut	Central to right	High central ↗
	b		
3	Nil	Central to left	Low central
4	Both letters slope up especially the first	Central ↗	High central ↗
5	Nil	High to right	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	High central
	C state 2		
6	Not seen but recorded as in state 2. ? One or both sides stronger		

LL

	a	L	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot below SE corner second L sq.	Sl. high central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same dot (fainter). SW corner first L sq. broken. Left side line first L sq. appears double. Sq. re-cut	Sl. high central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Right line extends above	High central	High central
5	Slight marks on O of ONE	High to right	Low central
6	Right line extends slightly below. Very small dot SE corner first L sq.	Central	Central to left
7	*No OF.* Foot of first L shorter than usual on the left	Central	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Foot of first L longer than usual on the left	High to left	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and second L sqs. Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. Top of first L slightly double	Sl. low central	Quite high central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Second L double. Dot on margin below P of PENNY. SE corner re-cut	Very high to right	**Ext. high** to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central to left	High, Sl. to left
4	Nil	High, well to left	Sl. high, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low to right	Low to right
	C state 2		
6	Recorded as in state 2. ? One or both sides stronger		

MA

	a	M	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side very weak	High central	Sl. high to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left side stronger. M sq. re-cut with SW corner broken	High central	Sl. high to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. line on right margin close to NE sq. and below	High central ↗	High central
4	Vert. guide line NE sq. Dots above and to side of NE sq. Short stroke on left of M sq.	High to right ↗	**Ext. low** central
5	Short thin line under Y of Penny. Top line NW sq. thin	Central ↗	Low, Sl. to right
6	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low to right ↗	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Bottom line extends to right	High central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Letter M double below. Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low to right	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Right upright stroke of M weak. Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low to right	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Central to right	Central
	b		
3	Nil	Central ↗	Central
7	*No OF.* Nil	High central ↗	High central
	C state 2		
5	Right side stronger. Corners fainter		

MB

	a	M	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint vert. line or scratch outside M sq.	High central	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Top line extends to right. ? Hor. guide line above NW sq.	Central	High to right
4	Traces of hor. guide line Penny and B sq. Dot on top margin to left of NE sq.	Central to right ↗	Central, Sl. to right
5	Top lines both upper sqs. very thin	Central	Central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Hor. guide line value and B sq.	Sl. low central	Central
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). ? Bottom line extends to right	Central to right	High to right
9	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central to left	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. SE corner re-cut. Slightly double bottom. Possibly exists in two states	Low to right	High to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central	Very high to right
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	High central

MC

	a	M	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. line left margin close to upper part of left frame line	High central	Central to left
3	Hor. guide line top of NW sq. and ? Postage and NE sq.	High to right	Central to left
4	Dots in each letter sq., NE sq. and on top margin	High central	Central to left
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Faint scratches top margin	High central	Sl. high to left
6	Hor. guide line through bottom of C sq.	Low, well to right	High, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 2.* Blur along left margin	Sl. high, Sl. to right	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide) and C sq. (close)	Low central	Very high central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Sl. high to right	High central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High central ↗	Quite low to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	High, Sl. to right	Sl. high to left
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	High central
	C state 2		
6	Not seen but recorded as in a second state		

MD

	a	M	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. which extends above	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line. Right side strengthened	Central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above NW sq. Top line extends to right	Central ↗	Central to right
3	Letter M small and blurred with bottom serifs long	High central	Central, Sl. to right
4	Dots in letter sqs. and ? on lower margin	Central to left	High central
5	Dot above right upright of M	Central	High to right
6	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central, well to right ↗	Central
7	*No OF.* Right foot of M extends to side of the sq. Short vert. stroke left side of D sq.	Central	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Mark on right side of O of ONE	High, Sl. to left	Central to right
10	*OF. 2.* Short vert. line below SW corner of M sq.	Sl. high to right	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Very low, Sl. to right	High to right
	b		
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high to right	**Ext. high** to right
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger. Letters faint		

ME

	a	M	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Bottom line extends slightly to right. Left side very weak	Central	Central to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same extension. Left side stronger	Central	Central to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above NW sq. ? Letter M double. ? Blur below M (not constant)	High central	Central to right
4	Dot below N of One. Dots on lower margin not so definite	High, Sl. to right	Low to left
5	Bottom line extends very slightly to right	High central	Central to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High, well to right	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to right	High central	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	High to right ~	**Ext. high** to right
	b		
3	Letter M may be slightly blurred	Sl. high central	Very high, **ext. far** right
7	*No OF.* Nil	Sl. high to right	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. low to right	Low central
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger. Letters faint		

MF

	a	M	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Letter M double below. Faint vert. guide line NE sq. and above	Central, Sl. to left	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter M double. No guide line	Central, Sl. to left	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Top line extends to right. ? Faint hor. guide line in and above NW sq.	Very high to left ↗	Central to right
3	Letter M small and slightly blurred	Central	**Ext. low** central
4	Two short hor. marks right of M. Scratches top and bottom margins	Central	Very low to left
5	Right line extends below. Lower half of side line NE sq. missing	High, Sl. to right	Central to right
6	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low central	Low central
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends to right	High central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and F sq. (close)	Central to right	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line in NW sq. on the left	Low to right	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top right serif of F weak. SE corner re-cut	**Ext. low** central	**Ext. high** central
	b		
7	*No OF.* Trace of vert. guide line NE sq.	High central	Central to left
	C state 2		
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened		

MG

	a	M	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side weak. ? Hor. guide line M sq.	High, Sl. to right	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Mark on P of Postage. Left side stronger	High, Sl. to right	Central to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above NW sq.	Central	High central
3	Letter M small and blurred	High central	High, Sl. to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Mark on lower margin below E of Penny	High central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide) and G sq.	Central to left	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Low to right	High central
	b		
4	Nil	Central ↗	Sl. high, well to left
5	Nil	Central	Low, well to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	High, Sl. to right ↗	Quite high to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to left	Very high, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to right	Central to left

MH

	a	M	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Mark of re-entry NE sq.	High central	Low central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above NW sq. (close)	High central ↗	Very high, Sl. to right
3	Hor. guide line at top of NW sq.	High to right	High central ↗
4	Dot or mark above M. Dot on E of Penny	Central to right	Central to left ↗
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot in NE corner M sq.	Central	Central to right
8	*OF. 2.* Scratches on lower margin	High central	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Very high to left	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut. M faint. Small mark or blur below H	Very low to right	High central
	b		
5	Nil	High to right ↘	Very high, Sl. to right ↗
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central	High, well to left
10	*OF. 2.* Squat H. Nil	High to right	**Ext. low** central
	C state 2		
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened		

MI

	a	M	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Slight marks re-entry NE sq., Postage and ? NW sq. I with long top. Re-cut. Scratches on lower margin	Central	Low to right
3	Hor. guide line upper squares and POSTAGE	High central ↘	Central
4	Dot on margin to left of NW sq. near top	Central to right	Central to left
6	Small dot below left top serif of I	Central to right	Sl. low to left
7	*No OF.* Right line exists below	High central	Low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Top of M slightly double	High central	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central to right	High to right
10	*OF. 2.* Faint hor. guide line I sq. Tall I	Central to right	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Tall I. M faint. Slight double bottom	Very low to right	Very high to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Blurred mark left side of I sq.	High central	High central
5	Nil	High central	Low to right

MJ

	a	M	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. low, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Slight marks re-entry NE sq. and on Y of PENNY	Sl. low, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to left
3	Hor. guide line NW sq. and POSTAGE very close to top line	High to right	Very high to left
4	Dot on margin below P of PENNY. Slight mark or blur to left of J	Central	Central to left
6	Small dot above J. ? Vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Central	Sl. low, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. ? Hor. guide M sq. J slightly square-footed	Very low central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Faint hor. guide line J sq. (close) Square-footed J	Low to right	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Letter M defective or weak on right and left. Square-footed J. SE corner re-cut	Sl. low to right ↗	High central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Traces of thin vert. and hor. lines at NE corner	Sl. high central	Very high central
5	Nil	Central	High to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	Sl. high to right	High, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Very high central
	C state 2		
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened		

A SHORT HISTORY OF PLATES 1 TO 11

APART from the presence of something definite, such as Re-entry, Double Letter, Guide Lines, etc., by which a stamp may be plated, much of the interest of the Penny Blacks depends upon the number which were printed from each individual plate, or in other words, the so-called "Life of the Plate." The stamps, for instance, which were printed from Plate 1A, which was only in use for about a week, are obviously much scarcer and therefore more valuable than those from Plate 1B which was used continuously for as long as the black stamps were printed.

"Life of a Plate" is not therefore altogether a very appropriate term where these particular stamps are concerned, because some were still in use for printing red stamps after the Penny Black printing had ceased.

Plate 1B certainly did have a long life as it was in use from April 22nd, 1840, until it was destroyed on December 11th, 1841.

It was, however, only used for printing black stamps from the end of May, 1840, to December 30th, 1840, and also probably for an emergency, the Provisional Printing from January 22nd to February 3rd, 1841, and then for the rest of its "Life" it was used for the Penny Reds.

The "Life" therefore of Plates 1 to 10 in connection with the "Penny Blacks" should be calculated from the date of registration at Somerset House, or rather from the first day it was put to press, until December 30th, 1840, after which date the colour of the stamps was changed to red.

PROVISIONAL PRINTING

January 22nd, 1841—February 3rd, 1841

Soon after the adhesive stamps were first issued, it was decided that the colour of the penny value must be changed. Experimental printings from small defaced plates were made in a variety of colours on various papers from May to September, 1840. Red was chosen as the new colour and it was determined that the cancellation should be altered from red to black—it being much more difficult to clean a black cancellation off a red or a blue stamp than a red or a black cancellation off a black stamp.

The printing of the penny value in red commenced on December 30th, 1840, and continued until the third week in January, 1841, but as sufficient cancelling ink was not available for national distribution, postmasters were advised that the stamps would not come into use until February 10th, 1841.

That they were issued on this date seems clear from the following. On February 3rd, Rowland Hill wrote in his "Journal": "Called at Stamp Office—They have arranged with Post Office for bringing new labels and envelopes into use on the 10th inst." On February 11th, 1841, he adds: "Yesterday the new envelopes and labels came into use."

The first official issue of red stamps was therefore on February 10th, 1841. That a few odd specimens are known with dates ranging from January 20th, 1841, may be accounted for by the facts:—

(1) That sheets of stamps were no doubt distributed to post offices some little time before their issue was authorized.

(2) That red stamps were sold either inadvertently or because the supply of black stamps became exhausted in certain towns.

Meanwhile as the stock of black stamps was becoming exhausted, it became necessary to make a Provisional Printing, and this was carried out from January 22nd to February 3rd, 1841.

For this printing five plates were used, of which Plates 5 and 11 were certainly included and Plates 1, 9 and 10 are generally accepted as the others.

Plates 1 to 10 and 11

This gives the actual period during which black stamps were printed from each plate from the approximate date of being put to press, until defacement or destruction.

Plate 1A. Finished April 8th, 1840. Registered April 15th, 1840. Printing began a day or two before on April 11th, and on April 22nd the plate was withdrawn for hardening and repair. Reappeared between May 23rd and 26th as Plate 1B.

Plate 1B. Used for printing of Penny Blacks until December 30th, 1840, and then for provisional printing. It was also used for the Penny Reds, but probably only for a short time, as these stamps are very scarce. Withdrawn March 23rd, 1841. Destroyed December 11th, 1841.

Plate 2. Registered April 22nd, 1840. Printing started at once, the stamps being issued with those from Plate 1A on May 6th. Was used for the Penny Red 1841 issue, but not for the provisional printing. Was most probably repaired, but of this there is no officially recorded evidence. Withdrawn March 23rd, 1841. Destroyed, November 19th, 1841.

Plate 3. Registered May 9th, 1840. Printing started May 12th. Not used for either provisional or red printings. No evidence of any repair. This was the first plate to be out of action, being defaced October, 1840. Destroyed January, 1842, together with Plates 4, 6 and 7.

Plate 4. Registered May 19th, 1840. Printing started May 28th. Not used for provisional or red printings. Defaced January 9th, 1841. Destroyed January, 1842.

Plate 5. Registered June 1st and also on June 11th, 1840. Printing started June 8th, 1840. Used for provisional and red printings. Not used for long after the provisional printing as it was not used after March 23rd, but not destroyed until November 12th, 1841.

There is no evidence as to why it was registered twice, but it was probably before and after hardening. The plate was certainly repaired on at least two occasions, as proved by the repaired frame lines and re-cut

MK

	a	M	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Short stroke on margin level with top of M sq.	Central	Sl. high, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Slight mark of re-entry NE sq.	Central	Sl. high, Sl. to right
4	Dot on right margin just above K sq.	High to right	Central
6	Letter M double below on left. Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Low to left ↗
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	Sl. low central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and K sq. (close). Bottom line extends to left. Side line NE sq. missing	Low to right	High to right
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	**Ext.** high to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. ? Blur on margin outside NW sq. Top of M faint	Central to right	Central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Low central ↗	High central
3	Nil	High to left	Sl. high central
5	Trace of vert. line on left margin	Central	Sl. low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Central to left

ML

	a	M	L
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot on NE corner. ? Top line extends slightly to right	Sl. high, Sl. to right ↗	Sl. high central
3	Traces of hor. guide line upper sqs. and POSTAGE. Dot below SE corner L sq.	Sl. low, well to left	High, Sl. to left
4	Right line extends slightly below. Faint dot outside SE corner	Central to right	Central
5	Small dot below and touching SE corner L sq.	Central ↘	Low to left
6	Very small dot just below L	Sl. high central	Very high, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Dot below L sq. near SE corner	High, Sl. to left	Sl. high central
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line through ONE	Central, Sl. to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Right line extends below. SE corner re-cut. Letter M faint	**Ext. low** to right	Very high to right
	b		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High central	High central
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central	Low to left
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to right	High to right
	C state 2		
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* ? Left line strengthened		

NA

	a	N	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* NE of One joined	High central	Low to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Left upright of N faint	High central	Low, Sl. to right
4	Top right serif of N extends to right. Small dot in top right of A sq. Two dots in top of NW sq. Dot in NE sq. and dots on right margin	Central to right	Very low central
5	Letter N re-cut	High to right	Very low central
6	Bottom line extends to left. Left line extends slightly below	**Ext. low** central	Central
7	*No OF.* Line or scratch on left margin	Central	Low, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 2.* Foot of N long. Top and side lines NE sq. weak. ? Vert guide line NE sq.	High to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value	Very high to right	Sl. low central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Letter N tall and thin	Quite low central	Very high to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. absent. Bottom line extends to right. SE corner re-cut	Central	High to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central to right	Central to right
	C state 2		
5	Top line re-entered. Letter N faint		
6	Side lines stronger, especially the right		

NB

	a	N	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to left	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line bottom of B sq.	Central to left	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Left vert. stroke of N faint below	High to right	High, Sl. to right
5	Top right of B defective. Side line NE sq. weak below. Left side weak	High to right	Low to left
7	*No OF.* Top right of N slightly double. Scratches lower margin	Central	High, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line value and B sq.	High central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide) which extends slightly above. Blurred lines on left margin	Very high to right	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Letter N tall and thin	Central to left	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Top and side lines NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	High to left	High central
	b		
3	Nil	Sl. high to right	High to right
4	Dot on margin outside NW sq. and another further away	Central	Sl. low to right
6	Nil	**Ext. low** to right	Sl. low central
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger		

NC

	a	N	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Diagonal stroke N short	Central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter N re-cut. Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Central	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* SE corner C sq. broken. NE of ONE newly joined	Central to left	Central to left
3	Top line NW sq. very thin	Central	Central, Sl. to left
4	Dots in NW sq. and above. Hor. guide line bottom of C sq.	Low to right	Central to left
5	Side line NE sq. thin and weak below	Central	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends to right	Very high to left	Quite high, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and C sq. (close)	Central	Very high, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Blur outside NW sq. SE corner re-cut	High to left	High, Sl. to left
	b		
6	Bottom line N sq. thin	Central	**Ext. low,** Sl. to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central	Sl. high to left
10	*OF. 2.* Nil. N tall and thin	Central to left	High, Sl. to left
	C state 2		
6	Side lines stronger, especially the right		

ND

	a	N	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Diagonal stroke of N short	High, Sl. to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter N re-cut. Side line NE sq. weaker	High, Sl. to right	High to left
4	Mark across NE corner N sq. Dot on left of D. Scratches on lower margin	Central	Low to right
5	Marks of Re-entry on ON of ONE. Left side weak	Central to right	High to right
6	Blur on margin outside NW sq. and below	Low, Sl. to right	**Ext. low** central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High, Sl. to left	Central to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to right	Very high to right
10	*OF. 2.* Short stroke attached to lower curve of D. ? Double letter. Tall thin N	Quite high to left	Very high to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small marks of re-entry at bottom of upper sqs., POSTAGE at foot, and PENNY. SE corner re-cut	Central to left	Central to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom line of N sq. thin	Central	Sl. high central
3	Nil	Central to right	High to right
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central	Central
	C state 2		
6	One or more corners re-cut, stars and letter fainter		

NE

	a	N	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Diagonal stroke of N short	Central	Central to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter N re-cut. ? SW corner of N weak or broken	Central	Central to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom lines of letter sqs., especially E sq., weak	Sl. low to left	**Ext. high** to right
4	Dots in N sq., one of them in middle of N	Central	Central
7	*No OF.* Right line extends below	Central	Sl. high, Sl. to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and E sqs. Diagonal stroke of N long and pointed	High to right	Central, well to right
10	*OF. 2.* Letter N as on Plate 9	Central	Sl. low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark of re-entry at bottom of NE sq. and on NE PEN of ONE PENNY. SE corner re-cut	Low central	Very low to right
	b		
3	Nil	Low, Sl. to right	Quite high to right
5	Side line NE sq. thin	Central, well to left	High central
6	Top line NW sq. thin	Very low to right	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Top line NW sq. thin	High to left	Sl. high, Sl. to left
	C state 2		
6	Recorded as in state 2. ? One or both sides stronger and letters fainter		

NF

	a	N	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Diagonal stroke of letter N short. Left side weak	High central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter N re-cut. Left side stronger	High central	Central
4	Hor. guide line value. Dot in NE corner F sq.	Very low central	Low to left
5	Top line NW sq. and side line NE sq. extremely weak	High to right	Very low to right
7	*No OF.* Top right serif of N double	Central	**Ext. low,** well to left
8	*OF. 2.* Top right ray in NW sq. smaller and thinner than usual	High central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Diagonal stroke of letter N long and pointed	High to right	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Letter N as on Plate 9	High central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line double and extends to right. Letter N as on Plate 9. SE corner re-cut	Central to left	**Ext. high** to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Central to left	Central to left
3	Faint hor. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Central to right	Low to right
6	Nil	Low central	Central to left

NG

	a	N	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Diagonal stroke of N short	Central	High, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter N re-cut. Slight re-entry SW corner of NE sq.	Central	High, Sl. to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Left line extends very slightly below	Sl. low, well to left	Sl. low, well to left
4	Hor. guide line N sq., value and ? G sq. Dot on right of base of G. Dot on margin below E of ONE and first N of PENNY	Low central	Sl. high, well to left
5	Left line extends below	**Ext. high** to right	Very high to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Diagonal stroke of N long	Central to right	Low to right
10	*OF. 2.* Letter N as on Plate 9	Central to left	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Side line NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	High central	High central
	b		
3	Nil	Central to right	High central
6	Nil	Low, **ext. far to left**	High, Sl. to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	**Ext. low** to left	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Low to left

NH

	a	N	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Diagonal stroke of N short	High to right	Low to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter N re-cut. Left line extends below	High to right	Low to left
4	Mark or dot on left margin towards the top	Central to left	High central ↗
5	GE of POSTAGE very close to top line	High to right	Low central
6	Dot on N of ONE	Central to left	Sl. high to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Diagonal stroke of N long. E of POSTAGE very close to top line	High central	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Squat H. Tall N	Sl. low to left	Sl. low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top of H double on the left. Lines of NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut. Tall N	High, Sl. to left	Low to left
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Central	Very high to right
3	Slight mark on top of left side of O of POSTAGE	High to right	Central to right ↗
7	*No OF.* Nil	High, Sl. to right	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	High central
	C state 2		
5	Lower half of left side appears stronger		

NI

	a	N	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Diagonal stroke of N short	Low to left	Low, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter N re-cut. Top and side lines NE sq. weak	Low to left	Low, Sl. to right
5	Bottom line encroaches each side of O of ONE	High to right	Low to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Small dot on right of I	Central, Sl. to right	Sl. low central
7	*No OF.* Right line extends below	Central	Sl. low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Thin hor. line from SE corner to margin. ? Extension	High central	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value	Very high to right	Very low to right
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Hor. guide line value and I sq. Tall I	High to left	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot to left of foot of I. Top and side lines NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut. Tall I	Central, Sl. to left	Sl. high to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High to left	High central
3	Left side fairly good	High central	Central to right
4	Left side weak	High to left	Sl. low to left
	C state 2		
6	Side lines, especially the right, stronger		

NJ

	a	N	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Diagonal stroke of N short	High to right	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter N re-cut. Scratches lower margin. NW corner weak	High to right	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* PE of PENNY very close to bottom line	Sl. high to left	High central
3	Small mark close to top left ray NW sq. ? Re-entry. Hor. and vert. guide line NE sq.	High central	Central to left
4	Traces of hor. guide line value. Blur to left of J. Short hor. stroke in SW corner N sq.	Central	Central to left
5	Bottom line encroaches each side of ONE	Very high central	Central to left
6	Dots on P of POSTAGE, in NE sq. and on top margin	Very low to right	Low to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value	High to right	Low to left
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Foot of J square with small mark on the right	High to left	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Slight marks of re-entry in NW sq. and POSTAGE. Blur outside NW sq. Dot practically touching square foot of J on right. SE corner re-cut	High central	**Ext. high** central
	b		
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high to left	High central

NK

	a	N	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to right	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top and side lines NE sq. very weak	High to right	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Top of left upright of N defective	Central	High to right
4	Dot on P of POSTAGE. Two dots on right of K	Central	Central
6	Right line extends below. Left side weak	Low central	Low to left
9	*OF. 2.* Re-entry NE sq., both letter sqs. and below O of ONE	Sl. high to right	Quite high central
10	*OF. 2.* Right line extends below. ? Hor. guide line value. Tall thin N	High central	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Re-entry ONE PENNY. Top and side lines NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut. Tall thin N	**Ext. high** central	**Ext. low** central
	b		
3	Nil	High to right	Central to right ↗
5	Nil	High to right	Low to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central to left	Low to right
8	*OF. 2.* Top right ray NW sq. thin	High, Sl. to left	Central to left
	C state 2		
6	One or both right corners re-cut. Contents fainter		

NL

	a	N	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. high, Sl. to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line top of NE sq.	Sl. high, Sl. to right	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot above NE corner. ? Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Sl. high central	High to left ↗
3	Scratches on left margin	High to right	Central
4	Two dots in L sq. (large and small). Dot above T of POSTAGE and below SE corner	High central	High central
5	Vert. line along left margin	**Ext. high** to right	Central to left
7	*No OF.* Scratch in right of N sq.	Central	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends to right and right line below. Letters of POSTAGE very close to margin	Sl. high central	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line N sq. and ONE	High to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot in SE corner L sq. SE corner re-cut. Tall thin N	Central	Low to right
	b		
6	Nil	Very low to right	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Tall N. Nil	High to left	Central to right

OA

	a	O	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Re-entry NE sq. Right and bottom lines slightly extended at SE corner. Dot in centre of ONE. Hor. line below ONE. Left side weak. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. low central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same re-entry and dot. N and E of ONE nearly joined. Left side stronger	Sl. low central	Central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Central to right ↗
6	Right foot of A defective but not constant	Central	Central to right
9	*OF. 2.* Top of O double. Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Hor. guide line value. Bottom line extends to right	Low central	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Low to right	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Re-entry upper sqs. A sq. and POSTAGE. SE corner re-cut	Low to right	Central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Central	Central, Sl. to right
3	Nil	Central	Low to left
4	Dot on top margin to right of NW sq.	Central	Low to right
7	*No OF.* Nil	High central	Central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high, Sl to left	Low to left
	C state 2		
5	Corners probably re-cut. Contents fainter		
6	Lower frame line thicker		

OB

	a	O	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central, Sl. to left	Central to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left line extends well below. NE of ONE joined. ? Bottom line extends slightly to right	Central, Sl. to left	Central to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Mark on top left serif of T of POSTAGE	Sl. high, Sl. to left	Central to right
3	Bottom line extends to left	Central	Central to right
4	Dot on Y and on margin below P of PENNY. Dot in B sq. to left of foot of B	High to left	Central to right
5	Letters of POSTAGE practically touch top line. Side lines weak	Very low to left	High central
6	Re-entry NW sq. O sq. and value	High to right	Central
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Sl. high, Sl. to left	Low central
9	*OF. 2.* Top of B slightly double. Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Very low to left	Sl. low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line extends to right. Blur outside SW corner. SE corner recut	Low to right	High central
	b		
8	*OF. 2,* but may not be present. Nil	High to left	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. weak	Central to left	High to right
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger and letters fainter		

OC

	a	O	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left frame line weak	Central	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left frame line stronger	Central	Central to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Mark on top left serif of T of POSTAGE	Sl. high, Sl. to left	Low, Sl. to left
4	Small dot at top right of O. Dot top left corner C sq.	Central to left	Central, Sl. to left
5	Line outside and close to NW sq.	High to right	Very high to left
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Sl. high to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Strong vert. guide line NE sq.	Very low, Sl. to left	Very high central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Top of C slightly defective	Low to left	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Blur outside SW corner O sq. ? Mark left side NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Low central	Sl. high to left ↘
	b		
3	Nil	Central	Central to left
6	Nil	Central to right	Central, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to left	Sl. low, Sl. to left
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger		

OD

	a	O	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* N and E of ONE nearly joined	Central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line in D sq.	Sl. high central	High to right
4	Dot SW of O. Dots right and left of D and several on lower margin	Low, Sl. to left	Central
5	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Strong hor. guide line NW sq.	High to right	High central
6	Side lines weak	Sl. high central	Sl. high, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. "O" flaw very faint if present	Sl. high central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Low central	Very low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Blur outside SW corner O sq. SE corner re-cut	Central	High to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central	High, Sl. to right
7	*No OF.* Nil	Sl. high central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	High central
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger		

OE

	a	O	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* PE of PENNY practically touch the bottom line	Central	Low to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom serif of E faint	Very low, well to left	Very high to right
4	Two small dots on left side O of ONE. Dot or mark touching top line E sq.	Central	Central
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High central	High central
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	Central, well to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide) and E sq. (close). Right line extends below	**Ext. low** central	Sl. low, Sl. to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Central to right	High central
	b		
3	Nil	Central	High, **ext. far** to right
5	Nil	**Ext. high** to right	Central to left ↗
6	Nil	Very low to right	Central to right
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high to right	Low central
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger		

OF

	a	O	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left side weak	High central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* N and E of ONE nearly joined. Left side stronger	High central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint vert. guide line F sq. (close). ? F slightly defective	Sl. high to left	Central
4	Right line extends below. Dot NE of O. Dot on O of ONE on right side	Central to left	Central
5	Right side weak. Left side very weak	Central, Sl. to right	Very high to right
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low central	**Ext. high** central
10	*OF. 2.* Hor. line or scratch below NY and F sq.	**Ext. low** central	Very low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Blur on margin outside lower half of O sq. Top and side lines NE corner weak. SE corner re-cut	Central to right	Central
	b		
3	Nil	Low to right	Central to left
6	Trace of double right side line	Central, **ext. far to left**	**Ext. low** to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	High, Sl. to left	Central, well to left
	C state 2		
6	Nothing obvious except signs of burnishing		
8	"O" flaw may not be present		

OG

	a	O	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Lower half of side line NE sq. and top of right line very weak	High central	High to left
4	Two small dots on SE corner of O sq. Dot in curve of G	High central	Central to left
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. high to left	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to left	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot in SW corner of O sq. Top and side line NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	Central	Very high central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom line somewhat thinner than usual	Central	High to left
3	Nil	Central, Sl. to right	Very high to left
5	Side line NE sq. weak	Very high to right	Very low to left
6	Very faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Low to right	Sl. high central
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to left	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Low to left

OH

	a	O	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Top serifs of H join in the middle	Central	Low to left ↗
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Serifs apart. Letter H thinner	Central	Low to left ↗
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Top left corner NW sq. broken	Sl. high central	High, well to right
4	Right line extends below	Low central	Central to left ↗
5	Left side very weak	Very high central	Central
6	One or two dots below N of ONE. Dot touching middle of left line of NE sq.	High to right	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Hor. guide line H sq.	Central, Sl. to right	Sl. low, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Blur on left margin just above SW corner of O sq. SE corner re-cut	Central to right	High to left
	b		
3	Nil	Central	Central, Sl. to right
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central to left	High to left
8	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high to left	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Squat H. Nil	High central	Low central
	C state 2		
8	"O" flaw may not be present		

OI

	a	O	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Right line extends below	Central	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same extension. Re-entry NW sq. and value (slight). Letter I re-cut and appears slightly taller and thinner	Central	Low central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint vert. guide line I sq. ? Bottom line extends slightly to right	Central to right	Central to right
4	Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value	Central	Low, Sl. to left
6	Vert. line or scratch outside NE sq. ? Faint scratch through bottom line O sq.	Central to left	Central to left
8	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Quite high central	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Trace of hor. guide line value. Right line extends slightly below	Low to left	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Vert. guide line NE sq. ? Dot on bottom right of O of POSTAGE. SE corner re-cut. Tall I	Low, Sl. to right	**Ext. high** central
	b		
3	E of PENNY close to lower margin	Central	Central to left
5	Nil	Central, well to left	Very low to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	Very low, **ext. far to left**	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Tall I. Nil	Low central	Sl. high to right

OJ

	a	O	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. high central	Quite high, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* E of PENNY very close to bottom line. Top line NW sq. thin	Sl. high central	Quite high, Sl. to left
3	Faint hor. scratches on top margin	Central, Sl. to right	High central
5	Hor. guide line J sq. Right side weak. Upper part of left side weak	Very high to right	Sl. high to left
6	Very small dots in O sq. Left top ray NW sq. short of corner	Central to left	Central
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Very low to left
8	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to right	Central	**Ext. high** central
10	*OF. 2.* Letter J slightly double. Square footed and with small mark on right	Sl. low central	Very low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Letter J with square foot	Central, Sl. to right	**Ext. high** central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above NE sq. ? Indications of re-entry NW sq.	Sl. high, Sl. to right	High Sl. to left
4	Left side weak	Sl. high central	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Letter J slightly square footed	Very low central	Central

OK

	a	O	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Central	High central
3	Letter K small and blurred	Sl. low central	Central to left
7	*No OF.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Central	Central
8	*No OF.* Strong vert. guide line NE sq.	High, Sl. to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. very thin	High to right	High to right
10	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to right	Central, Sl. to right	Very low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* K sq. re-cut leaving right side line sloping downwards and inwards and extending below	Very low central	Quite low to right
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High, Sl. to left	Low central
4	Top line NW sq. thin	High to right	Central to left
5	Left side very weak	High, **ext. far to right**	Central, **ext. far to left**
6	Left side very weak	High to left	Central to left

OL

	a	O	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* PE of PENNY closer to bottom line than NNY	High central	Central to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Right line extends above or ? dot on corner	Sl. high central	Quite high central
3	Bottom line extends to left	Central	High central
4	Dot at top of NE sq. and on margin above E of POSTAGE. Faint scratches in O sq. and on lower margin	Low to right	Central to left
5	Scratches on left margin	Very high, Sl. to right	Central to left
6	Dot to left of foot of L. Faint dot SE corner O sq.	Sl. low to right	Central, Sl. to left
7	*No OF.* Left line extends below	Low to left	Central to left
8	*No OF.* Dot below SE corner L sq. E of POSTAGE very close to top line. ? Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Central to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Blurred line or mark close to left line in NW sq.	Quite low to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. Dot SE corner L sq.	Very high to right	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small dot top centre NW sq. SE corner re-cut	High to right	High to right

PA

	a	P	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Left line extends below. ? Dot outside SW corner of P sq.	High to right	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Both letters re-cut and positions altered. Traces of original letters left	**Central to left**	**Central to left**
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter P double on the right	High to left	Low to right
3	Letter A ? blind and P with small loop	Central, Sl. to right	High, Sl. to left
4	Letter P double on the left. Scratches on lower margin	Central to right	Central
5	Traces of hor. guide line letter sqs. and value. Scratches on lower margin	Central	Central to right
6	Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Bottom line extends slightly to left. ? Left line very slightly below	Very low central	Very high central
7	*No OF.* Faint scratches on lower margin	Central, **ext. far to right**	Central
8	*OF. 1.* Very faint vert. guide line NE sq.	**Ext. high** to right	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Letter A double	Central	**Ext. high** central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Central, Sl. to right	High to right
	b		
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low central	High central
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger. Contents all corners fainter. Same in red		

PB

	a	P	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* P square re-cut. Frame lines of square, especially the left, double	Central	Low, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* P sq. normal	Central	Low, Sl. to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Both letter sqs. re-cut. Top of letter P faint. Right line of P sq. slightly and bottom line B sq. obviously, double	Central to right	High to right
5	Hor. guide line B sq. Both sides weak	Very low to left	Sl. low to left
6	Left side very weak	High central	High to right
7	*No OF.* Dot in SE corner P sq.	Low to right	High to right
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High, **ext. far to right**	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Scratches on lower margin	**Ext. low** central	Very high central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq* SE corner re-cut	**Ext. low** central	Very low central
	b		
3	Letter P with small loop. Nil	Central to left	High to right
4	Dot on A of POSTAGE and in NE sq.	Central to right	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	High central
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger		
	state 3		
5	Re-entry letter squares and value		

PC

	a	P	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. low central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No guide line	Sl. low central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Sl. low central	High, Sl. to left
3	Faint dot below SE corner C sq. Letter P with small loop	High central	High to left
4	Dot on P of POSTAGE. Two dots to right of C	Central to right	Low to left
5	Well marked scratches in P sq. ? Faint scratches on lower margin	Central	Central, Sl. to left
6	Side line NE sq. weak, especially lower half	Low central	Sl. low central
7	*No OF.* Right line extends very slightly below	High to right	High to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Very high to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to left	Central to left	Sl. high central
10	*OF. 2.* Top line NE sq. very thin	Central	High, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	High central	**Ext. low** central

PD

	a	P	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Top curve of P slightly weak. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central, Sl. to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter D normal. N and E of ONE nearly joined. ? Scratch below ONE	Central, Sl. to right	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* P sq. re-cut. Vert. guide line NE sq (close)	Central	Central
3	P sq. re-cut with right line of square double. Letter P with small loop	Sl. low to right	Sl. high to right
4	Dot in D sq. near SE corner	Central to right	Central to right
5	Faint hor. guide line D sq. (very close). Left side weak	Low central	High to right
6	Dot on E of PENNY. Dot on left margin opposite diadem	Sl. high to right	High central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Very high to left	**Ext. high** to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Re-entry lower margin. Blur outside SW corner. SE corner re-cut	**Ext. low** to left	High, **ext. far to right**
	b		
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central, Sl. to right	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	High central	Central to right
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Very high to right
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger		

PE

	a	P	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to right	Central to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray. Right side weak towards top	Central to right	Central to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Top line extends to right. Right line extends above	Central to right	High to left
3	Short hor. stroke SE corner of P sq. Letter P with small loop	Sl. high to right	Quite high to left
4	Dots in both letter sqs. and on lower margin	Central	Central
5	Scratches on top margin. ? Hor. guide line E sq.	Sl. low central	High central
6	Left side weak	Central to right	High, well to right
7	*No OF.* Top of E slightly double	Central to right	High, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 1.* Mark across NE corner of P sq.	High central	Sl. high central
9	*OF. 2.* Scratches on right margin	Central	Very low central
11	*RF. 7. NE sq.* Bottom line extends to right. SE corner re-cut	Central	High central
	b		
10	*OF. 2.* Nil. Bottom line of E sq. thin	High, Sl. to right	Low central
	C state 2		
6	Left side stronger		

PF

	a	P	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Bottom line extends to right	Sl. high to right	High, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same extension. Left line appears stronger	Sl. high to right	High, Sl. to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	High to right	Sl. low central
3	Right side weak. Letter P with small loop	Low, Sl. to right	Central
4	Short vert. stroke attached to foot of P. Dots in P sq. E of ONE and P of PENNY	Sl. low central	Low to left
5	Faint traces of hor. guide line letter sqs. and value	Low, Sl. to right	Central
6	Letter P double on left	Sl. high central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central	**Ext. low** to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Blur at SW corner. SE corner re-cut	Very low, Sl. to left	**Ext. high** central
	b		
7	*No OF.* Nil	Low to left	Central to left
8	*No OF.* Nil	High to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Scratches on lower margin	**Ext. low** central	Low central
	C state 2		
6	Left side stronger		

PG

	a	P	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Faint line on margin below value	Low, Sl. to left	High, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot on left of O of ONE	Low, Sl. to left	High, Sl. to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* P sq. re-cut. Bottom line of square slopes up to right	Central to right	High to left
3	Bottom line extends slightly to left. Letter P with small loop	Central to right	High central
4	Dot on margin above G of POSTAGE	Sl. high to right	High, Sl. to right
5	Hor. guide line G sq. Scratches in P sq. and on left margin	Low central	Low, well to left
6	Dot below letter G	High central	High central
7	*No OF.* Scratch along middle of left margin	High, Sl. to right	High, well to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Quite high to left	Quite high to left
10	*OF. 2.* Re-entry NE and letter sqs. lower margin and left line NW sq.	High central	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Blur at SW corner. SE corner re-cut	Very low central	Sl. low to left
	b		
9	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. weak. Bottom line extends to left	Sl. low central	Very low central
	C state 2		
6	NE sq. re-cut. Side lines stronger, especially the right		

PH

	a	P	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to right	Low, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Cross bar of H thinner	High to right	Low, Sl. to left
3	Bottom line extends well to left. Letter P with small loop	Central	High central ↗
5	Letter H double	**Ext. low** to left	High to left
6	Trace of hor. guide line through ONE. Dot on line above T of POSTAGE	High, Sl. to left	High, **ext. far to right**
8	*OF. 1.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to left	Very high well to left	Very high, **ext. far to right**
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Letter H slightly double above and below. SE corner re-cut	**Ext. low** to left	High central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High to right	Central
4	Nil	Central to right	High to left ↗
7	*No OF.* Nil	Sl. high central	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	Very high, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 2.* Squat H. Nil	Low to right	**Ext. low** to right

PI

	a	P	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to right	Low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Side line NE sq. practically missing	High to right	Low to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* P sq. re-cut. Bottom line slopes up to right	Central to right	Very high to right
5	Hor. guide line I sq. (very close)	Very low to right	**Ext. low** to left
6	Short hor. stroke on margin below Y of PENNY	High to right	Central to left
8	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and ? I sq.	Very high to left	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line value. SE corner re-cut. Tall I. ? Bottom line double	**Ext. low,** Sl. to left	High to right
	b		
3	Letter P with small loop. Nil	Central	Sl. high to left
4	Nil	High to right	Central
7	*No OF.* Nil	High central	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Tall I. Nil	Sl. high central	Sl. high central
	C state 2		
6	Signs of burnishing, otherwise no change		

PJ

	a	P	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Pin point extension of line or dot on point of SW corner	Central to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Both letters re-cut. Bottom line extends slightly to left	Central to right	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot on right margin just above the middle	Central, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to left
4	Right line extends below	Very low to right	**Ext. high** central
5	Loop of P slightly double. One ? two hor. guide lines J sq.	Central	Central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot in SE corner J sq.	**Ext. high** central	Very high, Sl. to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to left. Foot of J slightly square	Sl. high central	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Hor. guide line J sq. Foot of J square with small mark on right	High to right	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Scratches under "E" of ONE and PENNY. SE corner re-cut. Top line NE corner weak at right. Bottom line double. ? Blur along right margin	**Ext. low** central	**Ext. high** central
	b		
3	Letter P with small loop. Nil	Central	Sl. high central
6	Nil	Central to right	Low to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	High to right	Central to left

PK

	a	P	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Both letters re-cut. Side line NE sq. thinner than on Plate 1A	Central to right	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above NE sq. (very close)	Central	Low central
3	Letter P with small loop. Letter K small and blurred	Central	Central to right
4	Small vert. mark at top of NW sq. on the left	Central to right	Sl. high to right ↗
5	Hor. Guide line letter sqs. and value	Low central	Central to right
6	Left side very weak	**Ext. low** central	**Ext. low** to left
8	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Mark on margin below P sq.	High to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Traces of hor. guide line letter sqs. and value	Low to left	Low to left
10	*OF. 2.* Re-entry NE and letter sqs., also POSTAGE and value	**Ext. low** central	High, **ext. far to right**
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Central	**Ext. low** to right
	b		
7	*No OF.* Nil	Sl. low to left	Sl. low to right
	C state 2		
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened		

PL

	a	P	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot outside SE corner L sq. Traces of hor. guide line letter sqs. and value	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same guide line. Dot if present fainter. Bottom line P sq. thinner	Central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Short hor. line and dot above NE sq.	Sl. low central	Central to left
3	Top line NW sq. weak and broken at left corner. P with small loop	Sl. low to right	High central
4	Dot on left of L. Vert. line along left margin	Central, well to right	Central
5	Small dot in SE corner of L sq.	Sl. low to right	Central, Sl. to left
6	Small dot above P	Sl. high central	High central
7	*No OF.* Scratches on lower margin	Central	Central to left
8	*No OF.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. Small dot below SE corner L sq.	**Ext. high** to left	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Central	Low central
	b		
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low to left	Low central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Low to right
	C state 2		
6	Left side stronger		
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left side strengthened		

QA

	a	Q	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Letter Q double and A slightly blurred	High to right	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Q double. A not blurred	High to right	Low central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Right side of Q faint	Central	Central to right
3	Outside lines of all squares except NW weak	Sl. high to right	Central to right
4	Letter Q double. Left line extends below. ? Right line extends below	Central to right	Central
5	Indistinct mark above T of POSTAGE. Lower part of Q may be faint	High central	Central, Sl. to right
6	Side line NE sq. very weak, especially below	Very high central	High to right
7	*No OF.* Hor. guide line through NE PE of ONE PENNY. Dot on left margin. Scratches on lower margin	High central	Central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line each letter sq.	Central to left	Sl. high, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High central	High central ↘
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner. ? Bottom line extends slightly to right. SE corner re-cut	Central	**Ext. high** to right
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamps show letters fainter		

QB

	a	Q	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Right side of Q faint or weak	Very high central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Q normal. Faint mark below B. Side line NE sq. thin	Very high central	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Lower part of Q defective	**Ext. high** central	Sl. high, Sl. to right
3	Loop of Q blind	Central	Central to right
4	Top left corner NE sq. weak or broken	Central	Central to right
5	Left and right side lines weak at top	Central	Low central
6	Left line very weak and ? extends slightly below. Top and side lines NE sq. weak	Sl. high central	High central
7	*No OF.* Traces of hor. guide line through value and B sq.	Central	Sl. high to right
8	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High, Sl. to right	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line Q sq. and value. Top and side lines NE sq. weak	Low central	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Top right of B faint. Letter Q with short tail. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	**Ext. low** to right	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line extends to right. Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	Very low central	Central to right
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger. Corners fainter		

QC

	a	Q	C
4	Right line extends below	Central, well to right	Central
5	Hor. guide line C sq. Diagonal line or scratch left side of NW sq. Scratches on left margin	Sl. high to left	Central to left
6	Small dot below SE corner C sq.	High, Sl. to left	Very high, Sl. to left
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Quite high to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central	Central, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. ? Side line NE sq. weak	Central	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Right line extends below. below. SE corner re-cut	High to right	Central, Sl. to right
	b		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Low, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Side line NE sq. thin	High central	Low, Sl. to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Rays in upper sqs. thicker than usual. Side line Q sq. thin	Central to right	High central
3	Top line NW sq. double	Quite high central	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Top and side lines NE sq. weak	Central to left	High central
	C state 2		
5	Recorded, but not seen in a second state. Red stamps show no apparent difference		

QD

	a	Q	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to left	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* NE of ONE joined	High to left	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Top and side lines NW sq. very weak	Central	High to right
5	Top line NE sq. broken at left corner. Left side very weak	Central, Sl. to left	High central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Low central	Sl. low, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Traces of hor. guide line value and D sq.	**Ext. high, ext. far left**	Very high, well to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Blur at SW. corner. SE corner re-cut	Quite high central	High, well to right
	b		
3	Scratches on lower margin	Central	Central to right
4	Nil	Central to right	Central, well to right
6	Nil	Central to right	Central, well to right
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central	Very high, Sl. to right
10	*OF. 2.* Scratches on top margin	Very high central	Low central
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger		

QE

	a	Q	E
3	Top line NW sq. very thin	High central	High to left
4	Left line extends below. Dot on margin near bottom of NE sq.	Central, Sl. to right	High, **ext. far to left**
5	Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to left	Low central
6	Side line NE sq. practically missing	High to right	Central to left
8	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Blur on margin outside NW sq. ? Scratches lower margin	Central to right	Very low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Right side very ragged. SE corner re-cut	Central to right	Low central
	b		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Very low central	Quite low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom line appears somewhat thinner than on Plate 1A	Very low central	Quite low to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Central, Sl. to right	High to right
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Scratches on top and lower margins	**Ext. high** to right	Very low to left
	C state 2		
6	Diagonal lines in E sq. Side lines stronger, especially the right		

QF

	a	Q	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	High, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top left ray NW sq. short. Top line NW sq. thin	High central	High, Sl. to left
3	Scratch along right of top margin. Side line NE sq. very weak below	Central	High, Sl. to left
4	Dot at bottom of NW sq. Top line NW sq. weak at right	Central to right	Central to left
5	Three or four dots at top of NE sq. Scratch along lower margin	Sl. high to right	Central
6	Top line NW sq. very thin	High to left	Sl. low central
7	*No OF.* Traces of hor. guide line value. Dot on margin between N and Y	Central	Central
8	*OF. 1.* Side line F sq. very thin	Low, Sl. to right	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and F sqs.	High central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Letter Q with short tail	Low central	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	High central	**Ext. high** central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Central	Central
	C state 2		
6	Diagonal lines in F sq.		

QG

	a	Q	G
4	Dots outside SW corner Q sq. and below SE corner Q sq. Scratches on left margin	Central to right	High to left
6	Side line NE sq. weak below	Central to left	High central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Side line G sq. thin	Low, Sl. to right	Very high to left
9	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to left. Traces of hor. guide line value	Central, well to left	Central, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Right line extends below. SE corner recut	**Ext. high** to right	Very high to right
	b		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low central	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top line NW sq. somewhat thinner than on Plate 1A	Low central	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	**Ext. high** central	**Ext. high** central
3	Nil	High central	High to left
5	Nil	Central	High, **ext. far to left**
7	*No OF.* Nil	Sl. low to right	Quite high to left
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	**Ext. low** central	Sl. high to right

QH

	a	Q	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Low, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Crossbar of H slightly thinner	Central	Low, Sl. to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line H sq. (very close)	Central	High to right ↗
4	Small mark above O of POSTAGE. Letters of POSTAGE very close to top line	Central to right	Very high, Sl. to left
5	Scratches on lower margin. Left side weak	Central to right	Central to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	**Ext. low** to right	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Blur and scratch outside NW sq. ? Faint scratches lower margin	Low central	Low central
10	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends slightly to right. Squat H	High central	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	Central to right	High central
	b		
3	Nil	Central	Very high to right
6	Left side weak	Sl. high, Sl. to left	Sl. high, well to right
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central to left	Sl. high, Sl. to left

QI

	a	Q	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom line of I sq. double	Central	Low central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Right line extends well below	Low to right	Very high, Sl. to right
3	Left line extends slightly below. Top left corner NW sq. weak	Central	High to left
7	*No OF.* Re-entry both upper sqs., Q sq. and value	Central to right	Central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low central	Sl. high to right
9	*OF. 2.* Top line NE sq. practically missing and side line NE sq. very weak	High central	Very low central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Bottom line extends to right. Tall I	Low to right	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top line NE sq. weak at right. SE corner re-cut. Tall I	Central to right	High to right
	b		
4	Nil	High to left	Central
5	Nil	Central	Very low to left
6	Nil	High to left	Central to left

QJ

	a	Q	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter J re-cut. Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Central	High central
4	Side line NE sq. and right frame line weak and thin	Central to right	Sl. high central
6	Re-entry upper sqs. and lower margin	High to left	Low central
7	*No OF.* Hor. guide line Q sq.	Central to right	High central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	**Ext. low** central	Very high, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Letter J with square foot and small faint mark on its right. ? Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Low central	Low to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Letter J with square foot	**Ext. high,** Sl. to left	High central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Low to right	**Ext. high** to right
3	Line on margin above NW sq. to P of POSTAGE	Central	Sl. high central
5	Scratch on lower margin below Y of PENNY	Central, Sl. to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Foot of J inclined to be slightly square	Central	Sl. low, Sl. to left

QK

	a	Q	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low to left	High to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top line NE sq. much weaker than on Plate 1A	Low to left	High to right
4	Trace of hor. guide line E of POSTAGE and NE sq. Side line NE sq. weak below	High to right	Sl. high to right ↗
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. and ? traces of hor. guide line value. Scratches on lower margin	Central	Central
6	Re-entry upper sqs. and POSTAGE and also slightly K sq.	Central to left	Central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Low central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends to right. Top and side lines NE sq. thin	High central	Low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut	High Sl. to left	High central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Mark of re-entry on cross-piece of T of POSTAGE (not constant)	Low central	Very low central
3	Letter K somewhat narrow	High to left	Central to left
7	*No OF.* Traces of hor. guide line value. Scratches top margin	Central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Quite high, Sl. to right	High to right ↗

QL

	a	Q	L
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Dot outside SE corner L sq.	Central	Quite high to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Slight mark of re-entry NE sq. Same dot smaller and fainter	Central	Very high, Sl. to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Short hor. mark and one or two dots above NE corner. Bottom line Q sq. thin	Low to right	High central
3	Very small dot in SE corner of L sq.	Low, Sl. to right	Sl. high central
4	Mark or line on margin above GE of POSTAGE	Central	Central to left
5	Right line extends below	Low to right	Low to left ↗
6	Small mark in circle of Q on the left. Small dot below L sq.	High to left	Central to left
7	*No OF.* Dot in SE corner of L sq.	Central	Sl. high to left
8	*No OF.* Right line extends below. Vert. line up from top margin between O and S of POSTAGE	**Ext. low** central	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Foot of L short on left. Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	Central	**Ext. low** central
	b		
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very high to left	Quite high central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to right	Central to right
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger. Corners re-cut		

RA

	a	R	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Letter R may be blurred (not constant)	High to right	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No blur. Side line NE sq. weak	High to right	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. stroke R faint. Hor. guide line above NE and ? NW sqs. Vert. line right margin	Low to right	Central
3	Letter A blind. Hor. guide line NW sq.	Low to left	Central
5	Hor. guide line value and A sq.	Low to right	Central
6	Left line extends below. Dot on P of POSTAGE. Scratches on left and ? lower margins	Low to right	Sl. high central
7	*No OF.* Scratch below NN of PENNY. Hor. guide line A sq: and ? NE sq. (close)	Central	Central
8	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Bottom line extends to right	Central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Letter R with long tail	Very high to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Slight marks of re-entry on E PEN of ONE PENNY. SE corner re-cut. Left line strengthened	Central to right	High central
	b		
4	Nil	Central to right ↗	Central to right
	C state 2		
5	Letters fainter		

RB

	a	R	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to right	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Side line NE sq. practically missing vert.	Central to right	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line NE and B sqs. Hor. guide line top of NW sq. Letter B faint on right below	Central	Very high to right
3	Bottom line of R sq. thin	High central	Central to right
4	Bottom line of R sq. thicker	Sl. low, Sl. to right	Central to right
5	Left line very ragged	Low central	Sl. high central
6	Top line NW sq. very weak	Central	Central
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to right	Central to right	High, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central	Central, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Second vert. stroke of second N of PENNY longer than on first N. SE corner re-cut	High to right	Very high central
	b		
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Very low to left	Central, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Letter R with long tail. Nil	High to right	High central
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamps have upper corners re-cut. Letters fainter		

RC

	a	R	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. low to right	Central, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Sl. low to right	Central, Sl. to left
3	Top line NW sq. practically missing	Central	Central to left
5	Short stroke on lower segment of NW sq. Traces of hor. guide line on value	Central	High to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Right line extends slightly below	Central to right	Very low to left
7	*No OF.* Small blur or mark on left of C	Low to right	Central to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Very low, **ext. far to left**	Very high to right
9	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line value and C sq. Left line extends below. Scratches on lower margin	Quite high, Sl. to right	**Ext. high** central
10	*OF. 2.* Dot in middle of C. R with long tail	Central to right	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line extends to right. SE corner re-cut	Very high, Sl. to right	Central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	High to right	Low to left
4	Nil	Central to right	Central to left

RD

	a	R	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Bottom line of R sq. thick	Central to right	Central to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom line of R sq. much thinner	Central to right	Central to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above NE sq. Right line extends below	Central	Sl. high to right
4	Small dot on right margin just below middle of D sq.	Central to right	Central to right
6	Hor. line under D, sloping downwards to right	Central to right	High central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Low central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Faint scratches letter sqs., margins and some of letters of value	Low central	High, Sl. to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Letter D double below. SE corner re-cut	Central, well to right	Sl. high, **ext. far** to right
	b		
3	Nil	**Ext. high** to right	Low, Sl. to right
5	Left side weak, especially top half	Central, Sl. to right	High, central
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central to right	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Trace of hor. guide line value. R with long tail	High central	High central
	C state 2		
5	No evidence of repair, only signs of burnishing		

RE

	a	R	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Quite high central	Sl. low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* N and E of ONE joined. Side line NE sq. thin	Quite high central	Sl. low well to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. line above each letter sq.	High, well to right	Central to right
4	Left side very weak	Central	High, Sl. to right
5	Hor. guide line E sq. and ? traces through value. Left side weak	Very low to right	Sl. high to left
6	Left side very weak and also side line of NW sq.	Central	Central
7	*No OF.* Blur in NW sq.	Central	High central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central	Sl. high central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Left line extends below	Central to left	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut	Central, well to right	Central
	b		
3	Top line NE sq. thin	High to right	Quite high central
10	*OF. 2.* Letter R with long tail. Nil	Very high to right	High to left
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger. ? One or more corners re-cut		

RF

	a	R	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to right	Very high to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Faint vert. line on left of R	High to right	Very high to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* R sq. re-cut. Left line of sq. double. Small mark top right of F sq.	Central	Central
3	Top line NW sq. thin and weak at left corner	High to right	Central to right
4	Both side lines extend below	Sl. low to right	Central
5	Top line NE sq. weak. ? Scratches in NW sq.	High to right	Low central
6	Vert. line or scratch from left of R to bottom line. Scratches at top of NW sq. Small faint dot on right of F	Central	Central to left
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to right	Central to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	Sl. high to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq (close)	Sl. low to left	Low to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Letter R with long tail	High central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Hor. guide line at top of NE sq. SE corner re-cut. Bottom line slightly double	Low to right	Very low to left

RG

	a	R	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Left line extends below. Bottom line R sq. thinner than on Plate 1A	High to right	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Right line extends above. ? Top line extends to right. ? Vert. guide line SE sq.	Central to right	Central to left
4	Top serif of R double	Central to right	Very high central
5	Large dot on margin just above SW corner of R sq.	Very high to right	Central, **ext. far to left**
6	Faint scratches left margin, NE and letter sqs. Left side very weak	Central	Very high, Sl. to left
7	*No OF.* Faint scratches left, top, and ? lower margins	Central to right	Sl. low to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Line on margin below E of PENNY	Central to left	High to right
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Letter R with long tail	Central to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Blur outside SW corner. Top left corner NW sq. broken. Bottom line slightly double and ? extends to left. SE corner re-cut	Very low central	High central
	b		
3	Nil	High central	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Traces of hor. guide line value. Vert. guide line NW sq.	High to left	High central

RH

	a	R	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Right line extends below	Central	Central, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* No extension	Central	Central, Sl. to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Right line extends well above	Central to right	Quite high to right
4	Right line extends below	Sl. high, Sl. to right	Very high, well to left
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Central to left ↗
6	Vert. scratches in R sq. and scratches on margin below	Central	Very high to right
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	High, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. ? Faint vert. guide line NE sq.	Central to right	High central
	b		
3	Nil	High to right	Central
8	*OF. 1.* Nil	Sl. low to left	High to right
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Squat H. Letter R with long tail. Nil	Central	Central to left

RI

	a	R	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Top left serif of I slightly double	Low central	Very low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter I taller and thinner. Re-cut	Low central	Very low to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Thin line extends upwards from NE corner. ? Guide line or ? extension. ? Faint vert. guide line in I sq. (close)	Central to right	Central to right
4	Right line extends below	Central	High central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Central to left
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot on top margin above NE sq. Dot also on top margin to right of NW sq.	Central	Central, Sl. to left
7	*No OF.* Bottom line extends to right. Scratches in NE sq.	Central to right	Central, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Re-entry NE sq. and slight marks on value and I sq. R with long tail. Tall I	Quite high to right	**Ext. high** to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. I sq. broken at SE corner. Tall I	Central	Central to right
	b		
3	Nil	Sl. low central	Very low to left
9	*OF. 2.* Side line NE sq. thin	Very high to left	Low central

RJ

	a	R	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter J re-cut. Hor. guide line R sq. Top line NW sq. thinner than on Plate 1A	Central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Thin line extends up from NE sq. ? Guide line or ? extension. ? Vert. guide line in J sq.	High to right	Very low central
4	Small blurred stroke to left of J	Central to right	High central
5	Traces of hor. guide line value. Right line extends below and bottom line very slightly to left	Low, Sl. to right	Sl. low central
6	Dot on right side of O of POSTAGE. Dot on margin level with bottom of NE sq. Top line NE sq. broken at left corner	Very low to right	Central, Sl. to left
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to right	Central to right
8	*OF. 1.* Diagonal scratch through R. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Letter J with square foot and small mark on the right	Central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Foot of J square	High to right	High central
	b		
3	Bottom line R sq. thin	Central to right	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Foot of J slightly square	Low to left	Sl. low central

o

RK

	a	R	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to right	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter K re-cut. Small mark below O of ONE and on left of K. Hor. line very close to frame line under Y of PENNY	High to right	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above NE sq. SE corner K sq. weak. PE very close to bottom line	Central to right	Central to right
4	Trace of hor. guide line value and K sq. Right line extends below	Central	Central
5	Trace of hor. guide line value. Mark or scratch above NW sq.	Central	Central
7	*No OF.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	Central to right	Central, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Re-entry lower margin. Letter R with long tail	Central to right	Sl. high to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Top and side lines NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	High central	Central
	b		
3	Nil	High central	Very high to right
6	Left side weak	Sl. low, Sl. to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to left	Central

RL

	a	R	L
1A	*RF. 5.* Small dot touching SE corner L sq. Lower serif of L long on the left	High central	Sl. high to left
1B	*RF. 7.* Same dot (fainter). Serif of L long. Bottom line R sq. thinner than on Plate 1A	High central	Sl. high to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* R defective below on left. Hor. line above NE sq. Vert. stroke below L sq.	Central to right	High to left
3	Bottom line extends slightly to left	Central to right	High, Sl. to left
4	Faint dot to right of L	Central to right	Central to left
5	Small dot below SE corner of L sq. Left side weak	Central	Low to left
6	Dot in SE corner of L sq.	Low central	Central, well to left
7	*No OF.* Right line extends below and bottom line to right	Central to right	Central to left
8	*OF. 1.* Marks of re-entry NE sq. and value and especially on NN of PENNY. Bottom line extends to right or ? dot on SE corner	Sl. low central	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends very slightly to left	High to left	**Ext. high to** left
10	*OF. 2.* Re-entry lower margin. Vert. mark ? re-entry NW sq. Letter R with long tail	High central	Very low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Tail of R bifurcated. ? Double. Dot below SE corner. Foot of L short on the left. SE corner re-cut	Central to right	Very low to right

SA

	a	S	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom line A sq. double. ? Hor. guide line A sq.	High central	Low central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Re-entry each top and A sqs. Right line extends well above. Hor. guide line above NE sq.	High, Sl. to right	Central
3	Bottom line NE sq. extends into margin	Central	Central
4	Scratch on margin below ONE and P of ONE PENNY	High to right	Central
6	Re-entry each top square. Bottom line extends to right	High to left	Central, Sl. to right
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	High to right	High to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Bottom line extends to right	High to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Bottom line extends to right	Central	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide)	High central	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small marks of re-entry in left of NE sq. and S of POSTAGE. Bottom line double and extends to right. SE corner re-cut	Central ↘	Low to right
	b		
5	Top and side lines NE sq. thin	Very low to left	Central
	C state 2		
5	Top line re-cut. Red stamp shows letters fainter and outline of NE sq. nearly burnished away		

SB

	a	S	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Central to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* PE of PENNY practically touch bottom line	High central	Central to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Right line extends well above. Traces of hor. guide line on top margin	High to right	Central to right
6	Vert. guide line NE sq.	High, Sl. to left	Central
7	*No OF.* Traces of hor. guide line through Y of PENNY and B sq. Marks below NNY of PENNY	Central, Sl. to left	High, Sl. to right
8	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. ? Bottom line extends to right	High to left	Central to right
9	*OF. 2.* Faint line or scratch below Y of PENNY	Central	Low, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). ? Top line NW sq. defective	Central	High to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark of re-entry on left of NE sq. and on S of POSTAGE. SE corner re-cut	**Ext. low,** well to left	Low to right
	b		
3	Nil	Central	Central, well to right
4	Top line NW sq. thin	High, Sl. to right	Central to right
5	Top line and side line NE sq. thin	High, Sl. to left	Low central
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamp letters fainter		

SC

	a	S	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. low to right	Low, Sl. to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Scratch through PO of POSTAGE	Sl. low to right	Low, Sl. to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line top margin (very close). Vert. stroke below corner of C sq.	High central	Sl. high to left
3	Bottom line extends slightly to left. ? Left line extends below	High, Sl. to right	High to left
4	Re-entry NE sq.	Very high to left	High central
5	Vert. guide line NE sq. (close) and NW sq. (close). Right line extends slightly below. Scratches on top margin	Very high central	Low to left
6	Left line extends slightly below. Dot on right margin	High central	Central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Hor. guide line C sq.	Sl. high to left	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Faint scratches on top and right margins	Central, well to left	**Ext. high** central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Traces of hor. guide line value and C sq.	Central	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark of re-entry on left of NE sq. and on S of POSTAGE. Slightly to right. Right line extends below. SE corner re-cut	Central, Sl. to right	Very low to left
	b		
7	*No OF.* Scratches on right margin	Central	Central to left
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamp shows right side stronger		

SD

	a	S	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. high central	High to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* PE of PENNY nearly touch bottom line. Side line S sq. weak below	Sl. high central	High to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line D sq. Hor. guide line top margin. Right line extends well above	Central to right	Sl. high central
3	Left line extends slightly below	Low central	High to right
4	Re-entry NW and S sqs. and also letters of value	High central	Low to right
6	Traces of hor. guide line through value	High to right	Central, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High, well to left	Central to right
9	*OF. 2.* Traces of hor. guide line NY and D sq. Faint scratches top and left margins	High central	Central to right
10	*OF. 2.* Right line extends very slightly below	Central to left	Central to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark of re-entry in left of NE sq. Top of letter D double. SE corner re-cut	Very high to right	Sl. high, **ext. far to right**
	b		
5	Faint scratches NE sq. and on left margin	Central	High to right
7	*No OF.* Nil	High, Sl. to right	High to right
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamp letter D fainter		
6	Not seen but recorded as in a second state with both side lines strengthened		

SE

	a	S	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Central, well to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* E of PENNY practically touches bottom line	Central	Central, well to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and above. Hor. guide line top margin	High central	High to right
4	Scratches on right margin	Central, Sl. to left	Central, well to right
5	Bottom line extends to right and left. Right line extends below	Central ↗	Central, Sl. to left
6	Bottom line extends to right. ? Hor. guide line value	Central to right	Central to left
8	*OF. 1.* Bottom line extends slightly to left	High to left ↗	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Strong hor. guide line S sq. and value. Bottom line extends slightly to right	High central ↗	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark of re-entry on left of NE sq. SE corner re-cut. Top and side lines NE corner weak	Central to right	Low, Sl. to left
	b		
3	Nil	High central	High central
7	*No OF.* Nil	High central	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low, Sl. to left ↗	Central to left
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamp NE sq. re-cut		
6	Both sides stronger. One or more corners re-cut		

SF

	a	S	F
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	Sl. high central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Lower half of side line NE sq. missing	High central	Sl. high central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above NE sq.	Central to left	Central to right
4	Scratches on lower margin	High to left	Central to right
6	Side line NE sq. very weak	High central	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark of re-entry on left of NE sq. Lines of NE sq. weak. Bottom line double	High to right ↘	High to right
	b		
3	Nil	High central	Very high central
5	Nil	High central	**Ext. low** to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	High, Sl. to left	Central
8	*No OF.* Mark on margin below N of ONE	Low, Sl. to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central	Very low to left
10	*OF. 2.* Hor. guide line value	Central, Sl. to right ↘	Central

SG

	a	S	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Top line NW sq. weak on the left	High central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line top of NW sq. (close). Dot below SE corner G sq. Side line NE sq. double	Very high central	**Ext. high** central
5	Faint scratches on right and left margins	Very high central	Sl. high, **ext. far to left**
6	Dot in SW corner G sq. Scratches on margin below NNY	Very high central ↗	High central
8	*OF. 1.* Blur outside NW sq. Faint scratches on lower margin	Sl. high to left	High, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. ? Bottom line extends very slightly to left	Low, Sl. to right	Low to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark of re-entry in left of NE sq. SE corner re-cut. Lines of NE corner weak	Central, Sl. to right	Central
	b		
3	Nil	Central, Sl. to right	High to left
4	Nil	High central	High, Sl. to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	**Ext. low** to left	High, **ext. far to left**
9	*OF. 2.* Traces of hor. guide line through value and G sq.	Low to left ↗	Low central

SH

	a	S	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low to left	Low to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Crossbar of H thinner. Side line NE sq. weak	Low to left	Low to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above NW sq.	High to right	Central ↗
5	Upper part of left side very weak	High to left ↗	Central ↗
7	*No OF.* Right line extends slightly below. Hor. guide line through Y. Mark above S of POSTAGE	High central	High to left ↗
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark of re-entry in left of NE sq. SE corner re-cut	Central	Very high to right ↘
	b		
3	Nil	High central	High to right
4	Nil	High central	High to left
6	Trace of vert. guide line in each upper sq.	High central	Central
8	*No OF.* Nil	High to left	High central
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	High to left	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Squat H. Nil	Central	Low central ↘

SI

	a	S	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Thin line through OS of POSTAGE	Central to left	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same line through OS. Right side weaker than on Plate 1A	Central to left	Low central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line in I sq.	High, Sl. to right	Central to right
3	Side line NE sq. very weak	Central	High central
5	GE of POSTAGE practically touching top line. Top line NE sq. very weak	Central, Sl. to right	Low to left
9	*OF. 2.* Traces of hor. guide line through letter sqs. and value	Quite high, well to left	Very high central
10	*OF. 2.* Re-entry NE sq., letter sqs. and value. Tall I	Very low central	**Ext. high** to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark of re-entry on left of NE sq. SE corner re-cut. Bottom line double. Tall I	Low, Sl. to right	Sl. low, Sl. to right
	b		
4	Side line NE sq. thin	High to left	Sl. low, Sl. to left
6	Faint line on margin below O of ONE	High, well to right ↗	Sl. low central
7	*No OF.* Nil	High, Sl. to left	Central
8	*No OF.* Left side weak	High to left	Central to right

SJ

	a	S	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Thin line extends up from NE corner. ? Guide line or extension	High, Sl. to right	Very high central
5	Diagonal scratch in J sq. on the right	**Ext. low** central	Central to left
8	*OF. 1.* Bottom line of NE sq. extends into margin	High to left	Sl. high central
10	*OF. 2.* Letter J with square foot and small mark on the right	Very low central	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark of re-entry on left of NE sq. SE corner re-cut. Letter J with square foot	Low central	Quite low to left
	b		
3	Trace of vert. guide line NE sq. (very close)	High, Sl. to right	High central
4	Side line NE sq. weak	High to left	Very high, Sl. to left
6	Nil	High central	Central, well to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	High to left	Central, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Sl. low, Sl. to right	Quite low to left

SK

	a	S	K
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High central	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter K re-cut	High central	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above each upper sq.	High central	High central
3	N and E of ONE joined	Central to right	Central to left
4	Top line NE sq. very thin and broken at left corner	**Ext. high,** Sl. to left	Central
5	Left side very weak. Side line NE sq. broken below	High central	Very low to left
6	Small mark above NW sq.	High, Sl. to right	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark re-entry NE sq. Bottom line double. Side lines NE sq. weak. SE corner re-cut	Low, Sl. to right	High central
	b		
7	*No OF.* Nil	High to left	Sl. low, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 1.* Nil	Quite high to left	Central to left
9	*OF. 2.* Faint scratches below K sq.	Quite low to left	Sl. low to left
10	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to left	Central to left

SL

	a	S	L
1A	*RF. 5.* Bottom line double	Sl. low central	High to left
1B	*RF. 7.* S sq. re-cut. SW corner of S sq. broken	Sl. low central	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. line above and vert. line at side of NE sq. which cross at NE corner. Dot outside SE corner L sq.	High to right	High to left ↗
3	N and E of ONE nearly joined	Central	Sl. high central
7	*No OF.* Dot touching side line of L sq. just above SE corner	Quite high, Sl. to left	Central to left
8	*No OF.* Dot touching bottom line of L sq. at SE corner	Central, Sl. to right	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Dot below SE corner of L sq. Foot of L long on left	Very low well to left	Central to left
10	*OF. 2.* Small faint dot below SE corner of L sq. ? Hor. guide line in L sq.	Very high central	Low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small mark of re-entry NE sq. SE corner re-cut	High to right	Central to right
	b		
4	Nil	**Ext. high** central	Central to left
5	Nil	Quite high central	Very low, well to left
6	Nil	High, Sl. to right	Central
	C state 2		
5	Not seen but recorded in second state with side lines stronger		
6	Recorded in a second state		

TA

	a	T	A
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Bottom line extends slightly to right. Dot below SW corner T sq.	Central	Central
1B	Same extension. Same dot but fainter	Central	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close) and ? extending above. ? Hor. guide line top of NW sq. Dot outside SW corner T sq. Dot at bottom of A sq. Top line NW sq. very weak	Central to left	High, Sl. to right
3	Bottom line extends to left	High to right	Central
4	Hor. guide line T sq.	Central to right	Central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq. Scratches in T sq.	Central to left ↗	Central
8	*OF. 1.* Re-entry both upper sqs. and lower margin	Very high to left	Sl. low, Sl. to right
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE and A sqs. Bottom line extends slightly to right. Dot in SE corner A sq.	High central	Sl. high central
10	*OF. 2.* Re-entry NE sq. and value. Squat T	Low to left	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line double. SE corner re-cut. Squat T	Low to right ↘	High to right ↘
	b		
5	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Central, well to right ↗	Central to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	Sl. low, well to right	High to left
	C state 2		
5	Both sides stronger. Contents of all corners fainter. Burr line left side. Double bottom.		
6	Both sides stronger, especially the right		

TB

	a	T	B
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	High to right	Low, Sl. to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom line of B sq. thinner than on Plate 1A	High to right	Low, Sl. to right
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Bottom line extends to right	Sl. high to left	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Letter T slightly double below. Vert. guide line NE sq. (close)	Central to left	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Squat T	Low central	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* One or two dots on bottom line B sq. Line encroaches below ONE. ? Re-entry. SE corner re-cut. Squat T	Central to right	High central
	b		
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Bottom lines of letter sqs. thin	Central to left	High to right
3	Bottom lines of letter sqs. thin	High to right	Sl. high to right
4	Nil	High to right	Central to right
5	Nil	Central to right	Central
6	May be scratches in letter sqs.	Low, well to right	Sl. low central
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central, well to right	High to right
	C state 2		
5	Heavily burnished. ? Both sides stronger. Letter B faint		
6	Both sides stronger. Scratches on left of T. One or more corners re-cut. Contents fainter. Red stamp (? third state) shows B nearly obliterated. SE and NE corners re-cut		

TC

	a	T	C
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Low to left	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Trace of 10 o'clock ray	Low to left	High to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Right line extends above. Small dot below SE corner of C sq.	Sl. low to right	Sl. low to left
3	Hor. guide line NW sq. close to top. ? Bottom line double	High central	Central
4	Left line extends below	High central	Sl. high central
5	Top line NW sq. weak on right. Top line NE sq. weak on left	Central to right	Very high central
6	Vert. guide line NE sq.	Low, Sl. to right	Low to left
7	*No OF.* Traces of hor. guide line value and C sq.	Low, Sl. to right	Central to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Two dots SE corner C sq. Dot in T sq. on the left	Central to left	Sl. high, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Dot below SE corner C sq. ? Vert. guide line NE sq.	High central	High, Sl. to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Dot below SE corner C sq. Squat T	Very low to right	High, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Re-entry NE sq. and lower margin SE corner re-cut. Squat T	High to right	Low central
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamps show letter C faint		
6	Both sides stronger, especially the right		

TD

	a	T	D
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to left	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Right side weak at top. Side line NE sq. broken below	Central to left	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line D sq. Right line extends above	Central to right	Central
4	Hor. guide line NE sq. Lower half of NE sq. side line missing	High central	Central, Sl. to right
6	Small mark on left side of D sq., also small mark top left of T sq.	High to right ↘	Very high to right
7	*No OF.* Hor. guide line T sq.	Central to right	Central
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot on left of T and also in SE corner D sq.	Very low central	Central
9	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq.	High to left	Sl. high to right
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Re-entry NW and T sqs. and also value. SE corner re-cut. Squat T		
	b		
3	Nil	Central to right	Central
5	Left side weak	Low to left	High to right
10	*OF. 2.* Squat T. Nil	Low central	High central
	C state 2		
5	Not seen in black. Red stamp shows all corners faint		
6	One or both sides stronger		

TE

	a	T	E
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Sl. low, Sl. to right	Low, well to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Right line weak towards top	Low, Sl. to right	Low, well to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot below SE corner E sq. Vert. line or scratch in E sq.	Sl. low to left	High, Sl. to left
3	Foot of E extends to left side of square.	Sl. high to right	High central
4	Faint traces hor. guide line value and E sq.	Central	High, **ext. far to right**
5	Bottom line extends to right	Central, well to right	Low to left
6	Pointed stroke piercing top right corner E sq. Side line NE sq. weak below	Central, well to right	Sl. high to left
7	*No OF.* Two dots on top margin to left of NE sq.	Central, Sl. to right	Sl. high, Sl. to left
8	*OF. 1.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Two dots in SE corner E sq.	Central, Sl. to right	Central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line strengthened. Two very small dots below E sq., joined by a very faint line. Squat T.	High to right	Low central
	b		
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central, Sl. to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Squat T. Nil	Central to right	High, Sl. to right
	C state 2		
6	Both sides, especially the right, stronger. Corners re-cut, contents fainter		

TF

	a	T	F
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. and extending above. Two dots below F sq. joined by a thin line	Central to left	Central
3	Dot on bottom line F sq. Small dot just below F sq. Top left serif T weak	High to right	Sl. high central
5	Dot touching SE corner F sq.	Central	Central to left
6	Left side very weak. Top line NW sq. thin	Central, **ext. far** to right	Sl. low, well to left
8	*OF. 1.* Faint vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Right line extends slightly below	High to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (wide). Small dot in SE corner F sq. Squat T	**Ext. low** central	**Ext. high** to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Small dot in SE corner F sq. SE corner re-cut. Squat T	Central to right	High central
	b		
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central to right	High to left
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Nil	Central to right	High to left
4	Nil	Sl. high, Sl. to right	Sl. high central
7	*No OF.* Nil	Central to right	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low central	Central to left
	C state 2		
6	Both sides stronger. Corners re-cut. Contents fainter		

TG

	a	T	G
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Bottom line extends to right	Central	High central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same extension. Top line NW sq. weak and broken on left	Central	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Side line NE sq. appears double	Sl. low to left	Sl. high central
3	Hor. guide line T sq.	Low central	High central
4	Right line extends below. Hor. guide line PENNY and ? G sq.	Central to right	Quite high, well to left
5	Dot below SE corner G sq. Scratches on left margin	Low to right	Sl. high to left
6	Short stroke down from top left of G sq. Top half left side weak	High to right	High to left
7	*No OF.* Similar stroke as on Plate 6. Dot on top margin to left of NE sq.	Central to right	Very high central
8	*OF. 1.* Mark or dot on left margin well above T sq. Serif of G longer than usual	Low to left ↗	High to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line extends to right. SE corner re-cut. Left line strengthened. Side line NE sq. weak. Squat T	High to right	High to left
	b		
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to left	Central
10	*OF. 2.* Very faint vert. guide line NE sq. Squat T.	Low central	Low central
	C state 2		
8	*OF. 1.* Mark on left margin may be missing		

TH

	a	T	H
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Small dot below SE corner H sq.	Central to left	Low central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same dot. Crossbar of H thinner. Right line weak towards top	Central to left	Low central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot below SE corner H sq.	High central	Central
4	Vert. scratch in NW sq.	Central ↗	**Ext. high,** well to left
5	Letter H double (not constant)	Central	High central
6	Mark on right diagonal stroke of Y of PENNY	High to right	High central
8	*OF. 1.* Dot outside SE corner of H sq.	High to left	High to right
9	*OF. 2.* Faint vert. guide line in NW sq. on the left	Very low to left	Sl. low central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* SE corner re-cut. Squat H and T	Central ↘	High central
	b		
3	*No OF.* Nil	High to right	High central
7	*No OF.* Nil	Low to right ↗	High to left
10	*OF. 2.* Squat H and T. Nil	Central to right	Central to right ↗

TI

	a	T	I
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Small dot below SE corner of I sq.	High to right	Low to right
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Same dot. Small break at top left corner of NE sq.	High to right	Low to right
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Hor. guide line above NE sq. Top of I slightly defective	Central, Sl. to left	High central ↘
5	Bottom line encroaches each side of ONE	High to right	Sl. low, Sl. to left
6	Hor. guide line NE sq.	Central, **ext. far to right** ↗	Low central
7	*No OF.* Diagonal scratch left of I. Scratch on margin outside I sq.	Central to right ↗	High to left
8	*OF. 1.* Blur outside NW sq. and below	High central	High, Sl. to left
9	*OF. 2.* Left side very weak	Low to left	Low central
10	*OF. 2.* Top line NW sq. very thin. Tall I. Squat T	Very low central	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Bottom line slightly double. SE corner re-cut. Tall I. Squat T	High to right	Central to right
	b		
3	Faint dot below I. Top line NE sq. double	Central	High, Sl. to left
4	Top lines of each upper sq. weak or thin	Central	High central

TJ

	a	T	J
1A	*RF. 10, 5.* Nil	Central	Central
1B	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter J re-cut. Side and bottom lines J sq. weak	Central	Central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Vert. guide line NE sq. extends above and crosses hor. guide line above NE sq.	Central	High, Sl. to left
4	Dot in extreme SE corner J sq.	High central ↗	Very high to left
5	Faint line or scratch below J. Left side very weak	Sl. low to right	Central, Sl. to left
6	Short line or mark on margin just below NW sq.	Low to right	Central to left
7	*No OF.* Vert. guide line NE sq. (close). Small mark top left of T sq.	Central to right	Central to left
8	*OF. 1.* Re-entry NE sq. and lower margin	Low central	High to right
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Letter J with square foot. Squat T	Central	Central, Sl. to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot below J sq. Bottom line double. SE corner re-cut. Side line NE sq. weak. Letter J with square foot. Squat T. Side line J sq. weak at top and bottom	High to right	**Ext. low** central
	b		
3	Nil	Sl. high to right	Very high to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Low to left	Central
	C state 2		
6	Recorded in state 2. Side lines probably stronger		
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Left line greatly strengthened		

TK

	a	T	K
1A	*RF. 5.* Top left serif of T double. Five o'clock but no ten o'clock ray flaw	Central to left	Central to left
1B	*RF. 7.* T double as on Plate 1A. Seven o'clock but no ten o'clock ray flaw	Central to left	Central to left
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Dot below SE corner K sq. Hor. guide line top of NW sq.	Central	High central
3	Dot to left of foot of T. ? Dot to right of T	Central, well to left	Central
4	Right line extends below. Top and side lines NE sq. very thin	High to left	Low central
5	Dot outside SE corner K sq. Faint hor. guide line below K	Low central	Central to left
8	*OF. 1.* Dot to right of middle of K.	High, Sl. to left	Sl. high to left
10	*OF. 2.* Vert. guide line NE sq. Dot below K. Squat T	Central to right	Central to left
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Re-entry NE and K sqs. also lower margin. Squat T. SE corner re-cut	High to right	Low to right
	b		
6	Nil	Sl. high to right	High, well to left
7	*No OF.* Nil	High to right	High to left
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	High, well to left	Low, Sl. to left

TL

	a	T	L
1A	*RF. 5.* Bottom line double. No 10 o'clock ray flaw	Central, Sl. to left	High central
1B	*RF. 7.* Bottom line encroaches each side of O of ONE. No 10 o'clock ray flaw	Central, Sl. to left	High central
2	*RF. 10, 7.* Letter T double. Vert. and Hor. guide lines cross outside NE corner. ? Dot below SE corner L sq.	Sl. high to right	High, Sl. to left
3	Small dot in SE corner L sq. and two dots below	High to left	High central
4	Dot in top of NE sq.	Central to left	Central to left
7	*No OF.* Dot in SE corner of L sq.	Central	Central to left
8	*OF. 1.* Dot in SE corner of L sq. Scratches above NE sq.	High to right ↘	High central
11	*RF. 7, NE sq.* Dot touching bottom line of L sq. Top right corner of L sq. weak (not on red stamps). Left line strengthened. SE corner re-cut. Squat T	Sl. high to right	Sl. low to left
	b		
5	Faint hor. guide line below L	Central, Sl. to right	Sl. high to left
6	Nil	Central to right	Central ↗
9	*OF. 2.* Nil	Central to left	High central
10	*OF. 2.* Squat T. Nil	High to right	Low central
	C state 2		
8	*OF. 1.* The scratches above NE sq. missing or very faint		

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SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

PLATE #	DATE REGISTERED	PUT TO PRESS	OFFICIAL DAY OF USE	SHEETS PRINTED IN BLACK	SHEETS PRINTED IN RED	CHARACTERISTICS OF PLATE. ETC.	PLATE WITHDRAWN	LIFE DATA	PLATE DESTROYED
IA	8 APR. '40	15 APR. '40	6 MAY. '40	↓	–	VERY SOFT. RAY FLAW I INTENSE BLACK - RED MCs	22 APR '40 **	WORE BADLY. VERY SHORT LIFE; 7 DAYS	↓
IB	8 APR '40	26 MAY. '40	12 JUNE. '40	42.000 # as 3rd State	5.000	RAY FLAW II USUALLY WITH RED MC BLACK & GREYISH BLACK	23 MCH '41	VERY LONG LIFE - 10 MONTHS	11 DEC. '41
II	22 APR. '40	22 APR. '40	6 MAY. '40	32.000	5.000	RAY FLAW II & III GOOD BLACK - RED MCs	23 MCH '41	LONG LIFE 13 MONTHS	19 NOV. '41
III	9 MAY '40	12 MAY. '40	18 MAY. '40	20.000	–	NO RAY OR OTHER FLAW K-M-P. DIFFERENT DULL GREY - RED MCs	Oct. '40	SHORT LIFE WORE FAST 5-½ MONTHS	JAN '42
IV	18 MAY '40	28 MAY '40	28 MAY. '40 △	28.000	–	SPOTTED PLATE, NOT AT ALL SATISFACTORY. GOOD BLACK - RED MCs	9 JAN. '41	SHORT LIFE 8 MONTHS	JAN '42
V	1 JUNE '40 11 JUNE '40 *	8 JUNE '40	16 JUN '40	36.600 # as 3rd State	10.000	VERY WEAK FRAME LINES BOTTOM LINE BULGES NEAR 'O' BLACK - RED MCs	23 MCH '41	MANY REPAIRS 10 MONTHS	12 NOV. '41
VI	17 JUNE '40	15 JUNE. '40 ***	29 JUN '40	38.000	–	MOST CARELESSLY LAID DOWN PLATE. COMMONEST. BASE LINES THIN. STRONG BLACK - RED MCs	9 JAN '41	A VERY HARD WORKED PLATE FOR 6½ MONTHS	JAN '42
VII	8 JULY '40	26 JUN '40 ***	8 JULY '40	24.000	–	NEAT. TIDY PLATE. 'O' FLAW APPEARS WITH THIS PLATE QUITE BLACK to GREY.	9 JAN. '41	WORE FAST. SHORT LIFE 6 MONTHS.	JAN '42
VIII	31 JULY. '40	3 JULY '40 ***	5 SEP '40	30.000	15.000	'O' FLAW PLENTIFOL PLATE STRONG BLACK - RED & BLK MCs	MCH '41	9 MONTHS	8 SEP. '41
IX	6 NOV. '40	NOV. '40	18 NOV. '40	16.000 # as 2nd State	20.000	'O' FLAW NOT A COMMON PLATE. STRONG BLACK - RED & BLK MCs	MCH '41	SHORT LIFE 3 MONTHS	7 Oct '41
X	2 DEC '40	8 DEC. '40	2 JAN '41	8,000 # as 2nd State	10.000	'O' FLAW V. SCARCE PLATE BLACK - BLK MCs (RED RARE)	MCH '41	V. SHORT LIFE 2 MONTHS	24 FEB '43
XI	27 JAN '41 **	1 FEB '41 #	4 FEB '41	.700 # as 1st State	25.000	NO 'O' FLAW - BUT RAY FLAW IX (NE SQUARE) GREYISH BLACK - BLK MCs	USED ON 1+2 FEB '41 ONLY.	LONG LIFE FOR RED PTGS - 11 MO	15 JAN. '42

* TWO IMPRIMATUR SHEETS EXIST. EVIDENTLY REGISTERED BEFORE & AFTER REHARDENING.

** THE IMPRIMATUR SHEET (IN RED) NO LONGER EXISTS.

*** PRIOR TO REGISTRATION.

FOR BLACK PROVISIONAL PRINTINGS. PLATES 5. 8. 9. 10 & 11.

FOR REHARDENING. REAPPEARED MAY 23rd AS PLATE 1B.

△ CONTRADICTION. AUTHORITIES DO NOT AGREE.