

# THE PENNY BLACK



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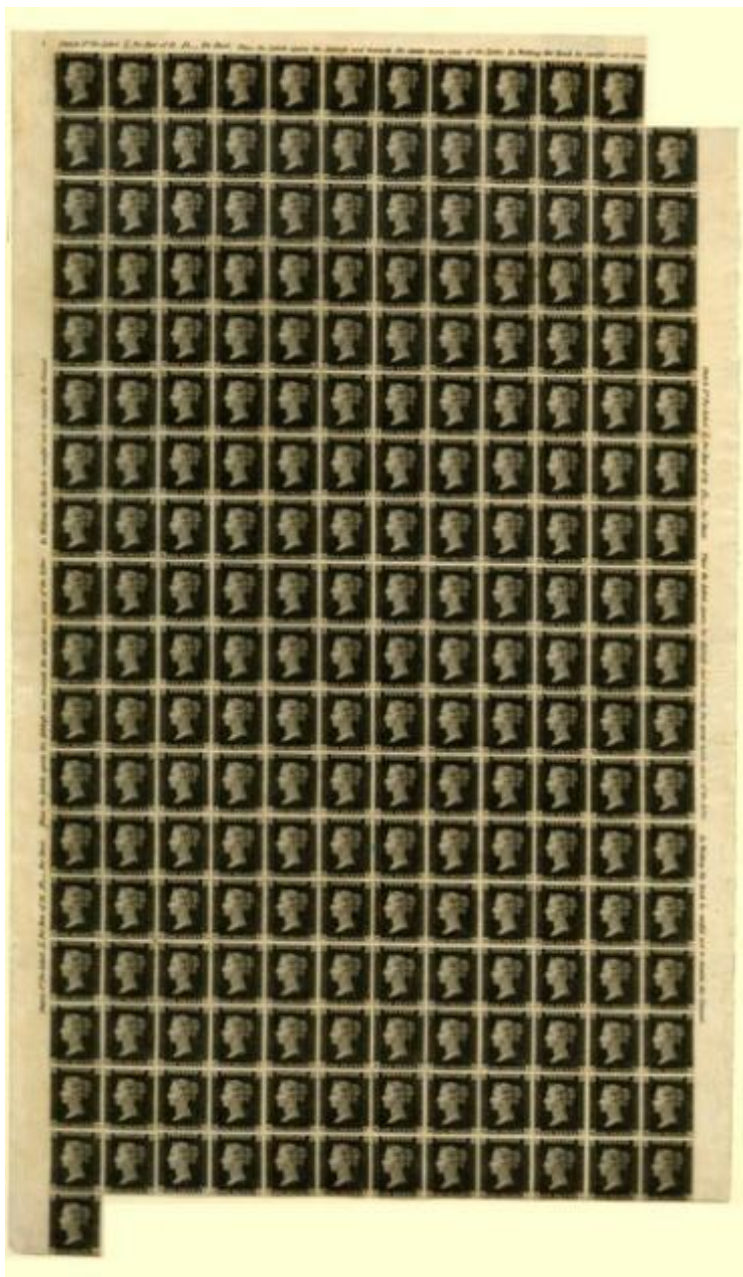


Royal Mail



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Penny Black stamps were printed in sheets of 240. They were cut by hand.



1840	80	1840	81
1 p.m.	The use of stamps in the public office.	May 6. Rose at 7.50.	
Stamps	May 1. Rose at 8. Stamps issued to the public today (on London) for the first time. Great bustle at the Stamp Office.	May 7. Rose at 7.50. The delay in supplying the receivers with stamps has led to a good deal of dissatisfaction, there being no sufficient check to the demands of the business. Who are charging 1/4 per label & 1/2 to 1/4 even 1/8 per dozen covers or envelopes. This delay has been caused partly by the mistake made on the 7th & partly by the impossibility of cutting the covers with the present machinery.	May 7. Rose at 7.50. The delay in supplying the receivers with stamps has led to a good deal of dissatisfaction, there being no sufficient check to the demands of the business. Who are charging 1/4 per label & 1/2 to 1/4 even 1/8 per dozen covers or envelopes. This delay has been caused partly by the mistake made on the 7th & partly by the impossibility of cutting the covers with the present machinery.
May 2.	Rose at 7.45. £2500 worth of stamps sent yesterday.	May 8. Monday. Rose at 7.40.	May 8. Monday. Rose at 7.40.
May 3.	At work at 7.10.	May 9. At work at 7.50. Stamps came into use today. We went to the P.O. about that about half the letters were stamped.	May 9. At work at 7.50. Stamps came into use today. We went to the P.O. about that about half the letters were stamped.
May 4.	Rose at 7.40. Called at Stationary Office to arrange with Mr. Lulloch as to the stamping with the name of the Office for the G.O. Envelopes.	May 5. Rose at 7.40. Called at Stationary Office to arrange with Mr. Lulloch as to the stamping with the name of the Office for the G.O. Envelopes.	May 5. Rose at 7.40. Called at Stationary Office to arrange with Mr. Lulloch as to the stamping with the name of the Office for the G.O. Envelopes.
Envelopes	The London receivers have not been supplied with stamps. The delay is 3 p.m. London owing to an error in the morning - a minute Receiver's Director that the issue may not be delayed. All certain bonds are prepared and worked into a letter to the P.O. with the word not omitted.	May 6. Rose at 7.50. The delay in supplying the receivers with stamps has led to a good deal of dissatisfaction, there being no sufficient check to the demands of the business. Who are charging 1/4 per label & 1/2 to 1/4 even 1/8 per dozen covers or envelopes. This delay has been caused partly by the mistake made on the 7th & partly by the impossibility of cutting the covers with the present machinery.	May 6. Rose at 7.50. The delay in supplying the receivers with stamps has led to a good deal of dissatisfaction, there being no sufficient check to the demands of the business. Who are charging 1/4 per label & 1/2 to 1/4 even 1/8 per dozen covers or envelopes. This delay has been caused partly by the mistake made on the 7th & partly by the impossibility of cutting the covers with the present machinery.
Stamps	London	May 7. Rose at 7.50. The delay in supplying the receivers with stamps has led to a good deal of dissatisfaction, there being no sufficient check to the demands of the business. Who are charging 1/4 per label & 1/2 to 1/4 even 1/8 per dozen covers or envelopes. This delay has been caused partly by the mistake made on the 7th & partly by the impossibility of cutting the covers with the present machinery.	May 7. Rose at 7.50. The delay in supplying the receivers with stamps has led to a good deal of dissatisfaction, there being no sufficient check to the demands of the business. Who are charging 1/4 per label & 1/2 to 1/4 even 1/8 per dozen covers or envelopes. This delay has been caused partly by the mistake made on the 7th & partly by the impossibility of cutting the covers with the present machinery.
Receivers	Delay	May 8. Monday. Rose at 7.40.	May 8. Monday. Rose at 7.40.
May 9.	At work at 7.50. Stamps came into use today. We went to the P.O. about that about half the letters were stamped.	May 9. At work at 7.50. Stamps came into use today. We went to the P.O. about that about half the letters were stamped.	May 9. At work at 7.50. Stamps came into use today. We went to the P.O. about that about half the letters were stamped.



©The Postal Museum

Illustrated prepaid envelopes designed by William Mulready were short lived. People felt they were too fancy and made fun of the grand imagery. Very few were posted.



THE RAINBOW SERIES OF COLOUR TRIALS

SECOND PLATE      FOURTH STATE

20th November 1840

Olive green

On similar paper to that of Page 14A. It has been dipped in carbonate of potash. Attempts have been made to affect the colour in the bottom row with four different cleaning fluids, the first of which was "soap and water".



VIII



©Royal Mail Group 2015, courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 141/08

The Rainbow Trials in 1840 which colour ink would be the best to make a cancellation mark on the Penny Black stamp to show it had been used.



©The Postal Museum,  
Sheet of Penny Red stamps. The hand printing techniques created variation in colour and different shades of red.

# ROAD-SIDE LETTER BOXES.



## Notice to the Public.

On and after the 23rd Nov., Road-side Letter Boxes will be opened for collecting the public correspondence in the following situations :—

**DAVID PLACE,**

*Nearly opposite the Rectory.*

**NEW STREET,**

*In front of Mr. Levy's, Painter and Glazier.*

**CHEAPSIDE,**

*Top of the Parade.*

**ST. CLEMENT'S ROAD,**

*Corner of Plaisance.*

The Letter Boxes will be cleared daily (Sundays excepted) at the following periods, until further notice :

**SIX A. M. AND AT NOON,**

Except on Mail-days, when, instead of at Noon, they will be cleared as soon as the Packet is signalled.

Letters deposited in these Boxes will be disposed of in all respects in the same manner as if posted at the Principal Office, previous to the above-named period.

**Post-office, St. Helier, November, 1852.**

PRINTED AT "THE JERSEY TIMES" OFFICE, LIBRARY-PLACE.



©Royal Mail Group 2015, courtesy of The Postal Museum

This public notice announced the arrival of roadside post boxes in the Channel Islands.





©Royal Mail Group 2015, courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 109/751

Early post boxes came in all shapes and sizes as shown by these drawings of potential designs.



©Royal Mail Group 2015, courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 101/751

The first post box in London was installed in Fleet Street in 1855. It doesn't exist any more.



©The Postal Museum, OB1996.653

The first post boxes set up in the Channel Islands in 1852 were green in colour but people complained they were hard to spot in the landscape.





©The Royal Mail Group, courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 118/1219  
This wall letter box is in rural Cumbria built into a stone wall.



By Command of the Postmaster General.

1235

## **NOTICE to the PUBLIC.**

### ***Rapid Delivery of Letters.***

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

May, 1849.

The Postmaster General is desirous of calling attention to the greater rapidity of delivery which would obviously be consequent on the general adoption of ***Street-door Letter Boxes, or Slits***, in private dwelling houses, and indeed wherever the Postman is at present kept waiting.

He hopes that householders will not object to the means by which, at a very moderate expense, they may secure so desirable an advantage to themselves, to their neighbours, and to the Public Service.



©The Royal Mail Group, courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 107/942

A notice dated 1849 encouraging the public to provide letter boxes in their doors.



©The Postal Museum, 2009\_0065\_2

Postman became familiar figures on the streets and many popular songs and rhymes were written about their arrival.



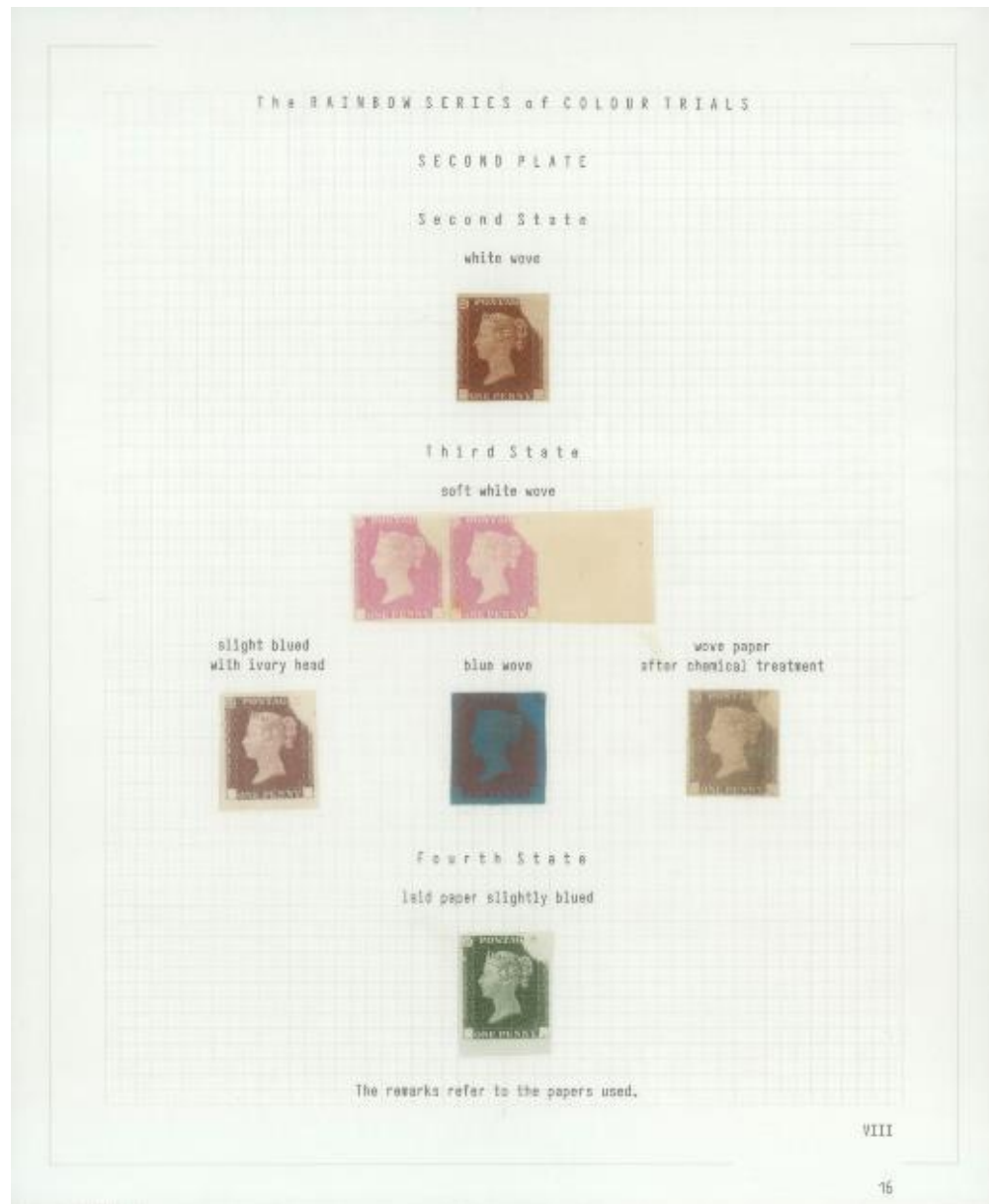


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A lantern slide of a London District Letter carrier in uniform carrying letters and a rolled up public notice.



©The Postal Museum, 2010\_0383\_24  
Illustration of an English Rural District Letter carrier.







©Royal Mail Group Ltd 2015, courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 150  
The Twopenny Blue was introduced for heavier letters that weighed over half an ounce.





©Royal Mail Group 2015, courtesy of The Postal Museum, POST 150  
The Penny Black stamp introduced in Britain on May 6 1840.