POSTAGE
POST OFFICE
MAURITIUS
ONE PENNY

POSTAGE
POST OFFICE
MAURITIUS
TWO PENCE

Classic Mauritius

The Locally Printed Postage Stamps
1847–59

Hiroyuki Kanai, F.R.P.S.L.

STANLEY GIBBONS PUBLICATIONS LTD
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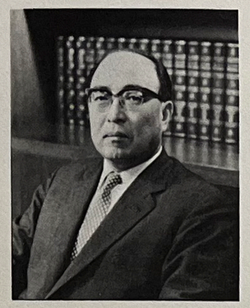
The Author



The author published a book on classic Mauritius in Japanese in 1976. The present work in English is greatly expanded and newly written to make the results of his researches available to a wider audience and, by comprehensive illustration, to share these philatelic treasures with collectors.

Having been privileged to work with him in seeing this book through the press, I believe readers will be interested in this biographical sketch.

Hiroyuki Kanai was born in Amagasaki, between Osaka and Kobe in Japan, on 16 May 1925. He graduated from the Technical Engineering Department of Nihon University and studied Political Economy at Waseda University, Tokyo, before entering the textile-machinery company founded by his grandfather. He succeeded his father as president of 10 companies of diverse nature and is currently President of Kanai Juyo Kogyo Co. Ltd. and several other enterprises. In his home country Emperor Hirohito has bestowed on him the Medal of Honour with Purple Ribbon.

As a small boy the young Hiroyuki had been given some stamps from overseas business mail by his father. The stamps – Greek pictorials *circa* 1930, still vividly remembered – were carefully taken off the envelopes and mounted in a notebook. Thus he became a stamp collector and at about 13, helped and encouraged by his mother, not least with much-needed pocket money, he started an orthodox general collection. This had grown to 50,000 stamps by his undergraduate days and led him to found philatelic societies at both Nihon and Waseda Universities.

After the war Mr. Kanai gave up general collecting to concentrate on British Colonials such as Mauritius, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. He has been collecting Finnish stamps quite enthusiastically of late and his engraved Japan are notable. He founded the Japanese Philatelic Congress and since 1977 has been President of the Philatelic Federation of Japan.

Stanley Gibbons at its Catalogue Centenary Exhibition in 1965 invited Mr. Kanai to exhibit his Mauritius; every year since then he has participated in International Exhibitions, either in the Court of Honour or competitively. Collectors around the world have over the years had immense pleasure in studying the exhibits of Mauritius, Japan, Nova Scotia, Trinidad and Finland which this work for philately has brought about.

Numerous high awards have resulted and for his Mauritius they include: the Grand Award for Best Entry of British Commonwealth at Philympia (London 1970); the International Grand Prix at Arphila (Paris 1975); Large Gold Medals at Interphil (Philadelphia 1976) and Amphilex (Amsterdam 1977); and the Grand Prix d'Honneur at Capex (Toronto 1978). The Mauritius collection has by invitation also been exhibited at Wipa (Vienna 1965), Amphilex (Amsterdam 1967), Praga (Prague 1968), Anphilex (New York 1971), Philatokyo (Tokyo 1971), Praga (Prague 1978), India 80 (New Delhi 1980) and London 1980.

Hiroyuki Kanai and his wife, Suzuna, were married in 1955 and have two sons, Hiromi and Hiroaki. He reports that besides stamps, golf is his favourite recreation in a very busy life.

JAMES NEGUS

Preface

I would like to describe the object that I had in writing this book.

The "Post Office" issue of Mauritius is very famous in the world of philately as are the succeeding classic stamps up to 1859. This was at the very dawn of philately and, for Mauritius, it was the period when production and printing of stamps took place on the island itself. Many philatelic students have striven to investigate them but often from a restricted point of view. There are numerous accounts of the discovery of "Post Office" stamps, their subsequent whereabouts, postal history before and after the First Issue, and so forth, as well as various arrangements of letters and records. There has hardly been a book devoted to the stamps themselves, however.

The Postage Stamps . . . of the British Colonies, Possessions and Protectorates in Africa Part II (1900) and *Les Timbres-Poste de l'Ile Maurice* by Georges Brunel (1928) are perhaps the only comprehensive books, though rarely available today. Of them, Major E. B. Evans's Mauritius in *British Africa* Part II was well furnished with invaluable information collected from official sources and this has served particularly to help students of Mauritius.

It was 50 to 80 years ago that these books were published and no others have been written since. I am very much in love with Mauritius stamps and I believe my own experience over 40 years helps me to judge the information that collectors need. Thus, I have arranged past records in this book, concentrating especially on philatelic matters and the cancellations.

All this information has been collected by one who has linguistic and geographical handicaps by being in Japan; there must be quite a few things that I may have failed to check or things which are still to be investigated. But in striving my best to write this book it is my sincere wish that it will nevertheless be of some help to collectors of Mauritius stamps.

I wish to acknowledge my deep indebtedness for the great help rendered by Mr. Peter Ibbotson and other philatelic friends. I wish also to express my sincerest appreciation of the kindness shown by the Royal Household and the British Library in furnishing me with invaluable photographs, which I deem a great honour. This book owes a great deal to Mr. A.L. Michael, Mr. James Negus and other staff of the Stanley Gibbons Group who have contributed so much to its publication; I wish to offer them my highest regards and grateful thanks.

金井宏之

HIROYUKI KANAI
Osaka, Japan

Acknowledgements

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Martin Willcocks, Esq.

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CHAPTER I

Outline of Mauritius and its Postal History

Mauritius is an island lying about 500 miles east of Madagascar with a total area of about 720 square miles. The island is roughly pear-shaped, about 39 miles long and 29 miles broad. The northern part of the island is a volcanic plain rising gently to a central plateau with isolated peaks, bordered by three mountain ranges. These are the Moka or Port Louis range, inland of Port Louis in the north-west; the Black River range, the highest and wildest in the island, in the south-west; and the Grand Port range in the east. Coral reefs almost surround the island and the white beaches are very beautiful. The island was formed by eruptions of submarine volcanoes, as the configuration of the mountains indicates.

Climate

The climate is subtropical and the temperature difference between summer and winter seasons seldom exceeds 5·5°C. November to April is the summer season and May to October is the winter.

Population

The population is 896,000 (mid-1978 estimate), i.e. nearly 1,250 inhabitants to the square mile. About 68% of the population is of Indian origin, 29% Creole (French and African) and 3% of Chinese origin.

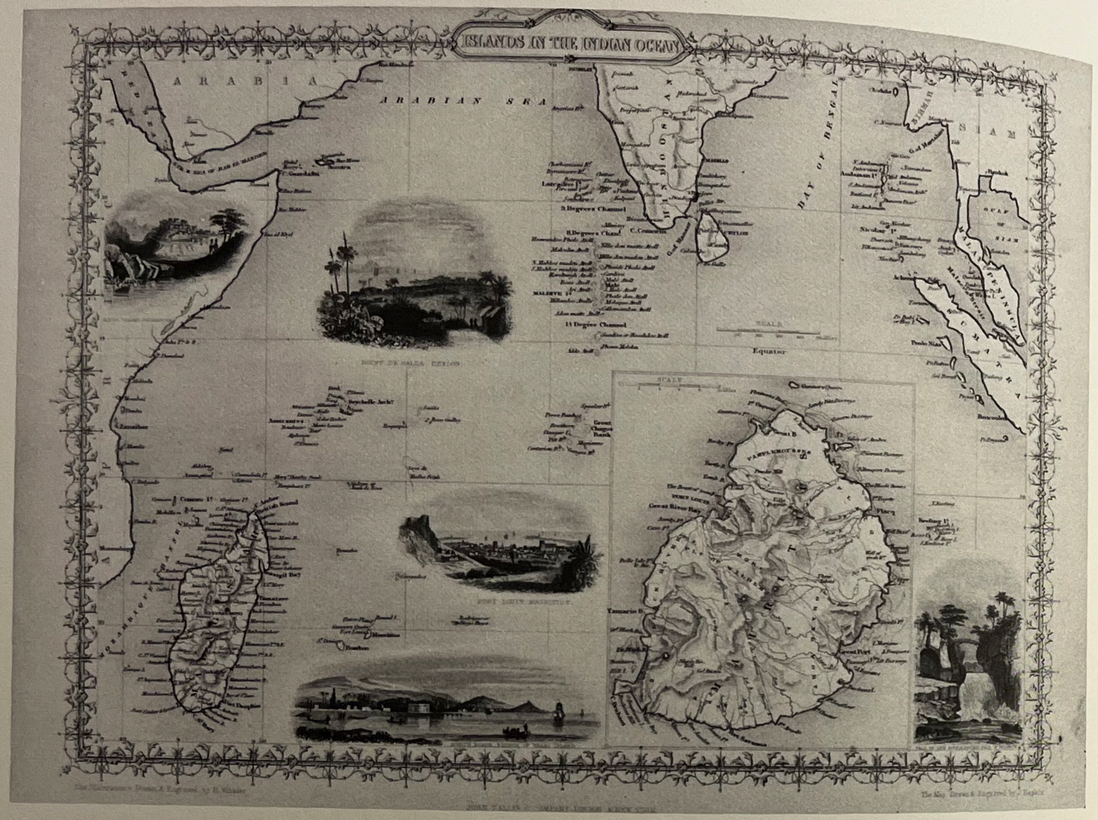
Language

The official languages are English and French, the latter being more commonly used. Creoles use the French language; Indians: English and various Oriental languages including Gujarati, Hindi, Telegu and Urdu; Chinese: Cantonese, French and English. Creole is the *lingua franca* which is understood by all.

Brief History and Political Organization

Before the 15th century Mauritius was known to Arabian sailors but the first European to discover it has been shown to be the Portuguese navigator Diogo Dias in July 1500. The island was then uninhabited. From the 16th to the 17th century, the Dutch, the French and the English competed with each other for the use of the island, but the Dutch took possession in 1598 and called it "Mauritius". They settled in 1638 and introduced cattle and sugar cane to the island, but their settlement did not last long and the island was abandoned in 1710. The French took possession in 1715 and settled Mauritius in 1721; it commanded the route to India. The island was governed until 1764 by the French East India Company which sent African and Malagasy slaves into the island for almost 50 years, In 1767 the population numbered 20,402; in 1776, 32,739. In 1764 the Company was ruined and the French Government assumed responsibility for Mauritius.

During the Napoleonic Wars the English, after the failure of their first raid on Mauritius in 1810, determined on an expedition for its capture. This was successful. By the Treaty of Paris, in 1814, Mauritius was confirmed as a possession of Britain. The government emancipated the slaves in 1834, awarding the slave-owners £2,112,632 compensation for 68,613 slaves. From 1837 Indian labourers were imported into the island to work in the cane fields. By 1846, the population of the island had increased to 158,462 (including 56,245 Indians) and in 1861 it had further increased to 310,000, out of which 193,000 were Indians brought in from India. Those



Islands in the Indian Ocean

The Island of Mauritius

labourers worked mainly on the sugar estates and they produced as much as 161,000 tons of sugar in 1899–1903. Internal self-government was granted in 1967 and Mauritius became the 27th independent country in the British Commonwealth on 12 March 1968.

Dependencies of Mauritius

Dependent on Mauritius is a number of small islands including: Rodrigues, 350 miles to the east; Agalega, 580 miles to the north; and St. Brandon, 250 miles to the north-east. Rodrigues is a main island having a total area of 40 square miles and is 9·5 miles long and 4·5 miles broad. It is a volcanic island surrounded by coral reefs. Agalega, virtually nothing but a coconut plantation, and St. Brandon, a fishing base, are small coral islets with transient populations.

Seychelles was a dependency of Mauritius until 1903, using the stamps of Mauritius until 1890.

Postal History Under French Rule

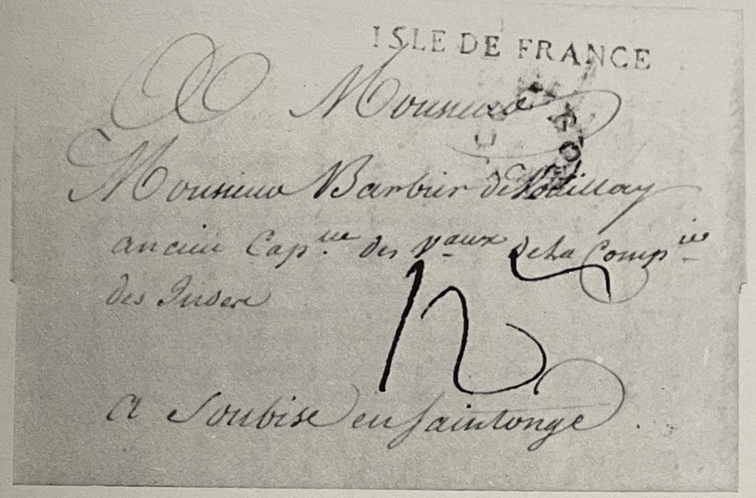
The first inland postal service began when Mauritius was under French rule.[1] On 7 January 1770 Pierre Nicolas Lambert was appointed Government printer, and on 21 December 1772 opened a post office for the first time in the island, with himself as Postmaster-General.

Until 1783 he was in charge of both printing and postal affairs. From 13 January 1773 he published a weekly newspaper, the annual subscription to which was 24 livres within Port Louis and 36 livres outside. For subscribers, a free delivery of inland mail together with the newspaper once a week on Wednesdays was guaranteed. Subscribers were also guaranteed free delivery of their letters from abroad six or eight hours after the arrival of the ship (if it arrived in the daytime) or on the following day (if the ship arrived at night). Non-subscribers were also able to take advantage of this system at a small fee. Overseas mails for France and the Indian settlements were organized, also at a small fee.

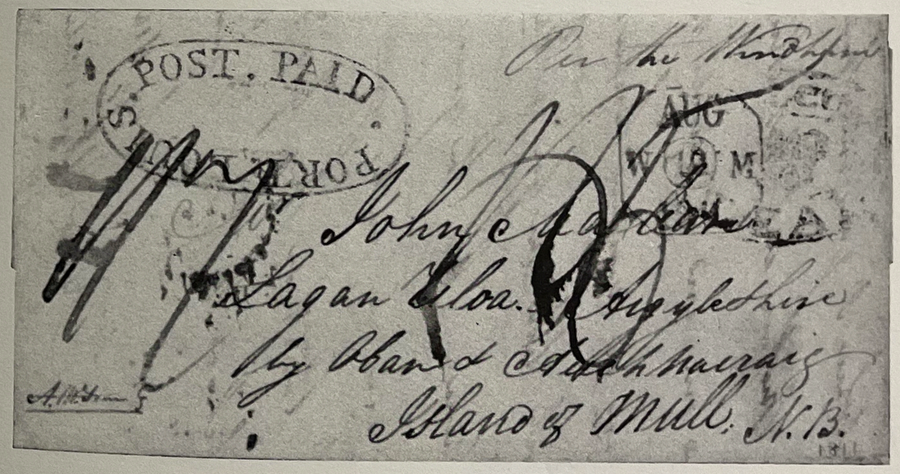
Postal History Under British Rule

Britain occupied Mauritius on 3 December 1810 and the island came under British rule. As we have seen, the inland postal system in the island was already well established. On 12 February 1811 James Saunders was appointed Postmaster-General.[2] The overseas mail service was maintained, as is confirmed by many stampless covers now existing, but the inland mail service appears to have deteriorated to extinction and was not revived until 1834. On 14 February 1832 the daily *Le Cernéen* was inaugurated and it has maintained publication ever since. It is not only one of the oldest daily newspapers in the world but also the third oldest extant French-language newspaper in the world. Towards the end of February 1832 *Le Cernéen* had launched a campaign to revive the inland mail service, but not until 1834 did it bear fruit.

In April, the government announced an "experimental" postal service between Port Louis and Mahebourg once a week from 19 May of that year. According to the announcement, the post chaise would start every Saturday at 6:45 A.M. from the post office in Port Louis with all the mail handed in at the post office before 6:00 P.M. on the previous day. The rate for ordinary mail was 4d and the post chaise left Mahebourg for the return trip at the same time on Mondays. This experiment was a success and from 1 January 1835 the service was increased to thrice-weekly and the departure was changed to evening instead of morning. In this way, the postal service of the French days was revived, and later extended, by the British. Finally Ordinance No. 13, which came into force on 1 January 1847, brought the issue of the "Post Office" stamps in Mauritius.



Cover of 1789 under French rule



Cover of 1811 under British rule

Postal Rates (1847–58)

1847 By Ordinance No. 13 of 1846 (effective from 1 January 1847)

Town postage	1d per 1 oz and 1d each additional 3 oz.
Inland postage	Between town and country or any two branch offices, 2d for the first ½ oz; 4d not exceeding 1 oz, and 2d per oz or part of an ounce thereafter.

1848 Ordinance No. 42 of 1848 (16 October 1848)

Packet letter to Ceylon
1s per 1 oz and 1s each additional ½ oz.
1d for catalogues, papers, price lists.
Extra 2d for letters to Ceylon from rural districts.

6d penalty for late postage.
Unpaid letter – double postage.
Insufficient postage – double rate charged.
Letter refused to be returned to sender.

1850 Ordinance No. 1 of 1850 (13 February 1850)

Ship postage	
inwards	6d for ½ oz; 1s for 1 oz; 1s per ounce or part of an ounce thereafter.
outwards	4d for ½ oz; 8d for 1 oz; 4d each additional extra ounce or part thereof.
Packet postage	1s for ½ oz; 2s for 1 oz; 2s each additional ounce or part thereof.
Town postage	1d per oz and 3d each additional ounce.
Inland postage	2d per ½ oz; 4d per oz; 4d per oz thereafter.
Price-current and catalogues	1d.
Registration fee	3d.

1855 Original documents to the Post Office dated 24 November 1855

Local letter	1d per ½ oz.
Country letter	2d per ½ oz (not affected by distance).
Newspapers	Free.
Books	3d per 6 oz; 1d each additional ounce.
Ship letter	6d per ½ oz.

1858 *Government Gazette* (1 May)
Postal Rates on and after 6 May 1858:

To: United Kingdom	Per ¼ oz	Per ½ oz
Via Marseilles	9d	1s
Via Southampton	6d	6d

To: Europe		
Via Marseilles	4d	4d
Via Trieste	1s 4d	1s 4d
To: India, Aden, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand	8d	8d
To: Malta, Gibraltar and Ionian Is.	8d	8d
To: Egypt	1s 4d	1s 4d
To: Réunion	4d	4d

Postal Markings

I. The Pre-adhesive Period

The first post office in Mauritius was opened in December 1772. An inland postal system had operated under French rule, with overseas mail carried by any available ship (except that there was a regular packet service between France and Mauritius 1783–88), before the island became a British possession in December 1810. No postal marking on inland mail is known for the French period, and only one on overseas mail (of which few examples are recorded). The overseas postal system was taken over by Britain in February 1811 and various markings came to be used since then. On overseas mails between 1811 and 1834, and on both inland and overseas between May 1834 and the time of issue of the "Post Office" stamps in 1847, the following postal markings were used; the date in the second column is the year of introduction.

HANDSTRUCK STAMPS

Under French Rule

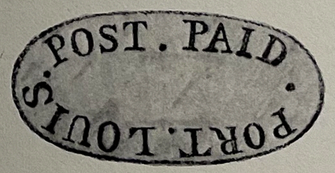
ISLE DE FRANCE

I-1

I-1	1780s	Black or Red	46·5 mm long	The only known marking under French rule.

Under British Rule

("Post. Paid")



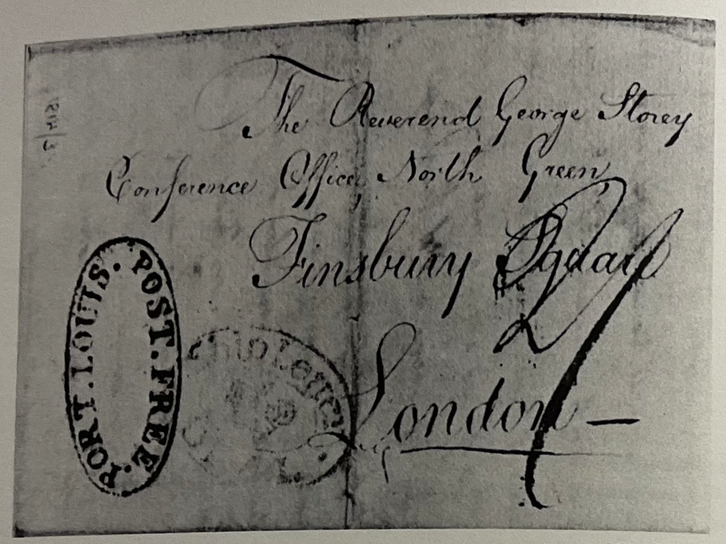
IA-1

("Post. Free")

IA-2

(A) Oval marking

IA-1	1811	Black	
IA-2		Red	The only one recorded was used in 1814.



Martin Willcocks

IA-2. The rate for soldiers' letters was 1d prepaid, but it was not always observed in the India Zone.

IB-1

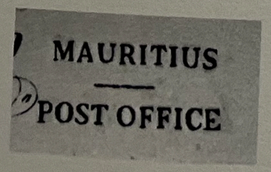
IB-2

IB-3

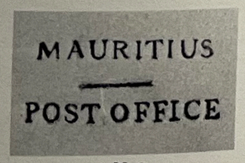
IB-1 1815 Black
IB-2 1819 Black
IB-3 1822 Black

(C) "POST OFFICE" markings

IC-1

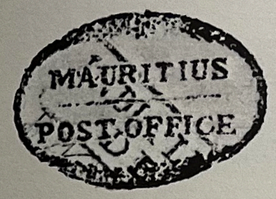


IC-2



IC-3

IC-1 1826 Black
IC-2 1828 Black
IC-3 1829 Black



IC-4

IC-5

IC-6

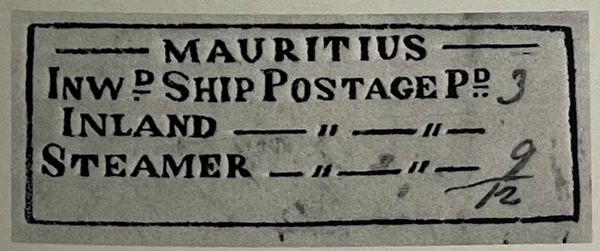
IC-4 1832 Black
IC-5 1834 Black
IC-6 1838 Black or Red datestamp
(Used continuously since 1847 and used also for the first cancellation of "Post Office" postage stamps.)

(D) "PACKET-LETTER" markings

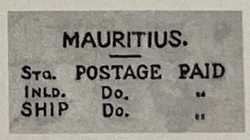
ID-1

ID-1 1816 Black or Brown-black datestamp

(E) Special "Paid" stamps



IE-1



IE-2

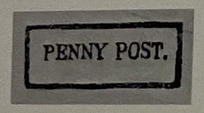
IE-1 1843 Black
IE-2 1845 Black or Red

(F) Currency Stamps

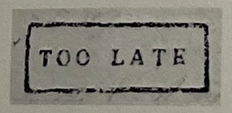
IF-1

IF-2

IF-1 1843 Black or Red
IF-2 1846 Red
Applied in London, in accordance with the provisions of the Anglo-French Postal Conventions of 1843 and 1846, to letters from Mauritius to France conveyed via the United Kingdom. They enabled the French postal authorities to determine the postage due from the addressee. The number – "12" or "13" – refers to an article of the waybill accompanying the mailbags, not to an article of the Conventions.



IIA-1



IIA-2

IIA-3

II. The Period of Adhesive Stamps

In September 1847, 1d and 2d postage stamps were issued for the first time in Mauritius and it became necessary to provide handstruck stamps for cancelling the postage stamps. Joseph Barnard, who had engraved the postage stamps, estimated[3, 4] for the manufacture of certain postal markings:

(1) Letter stamps with date and name of Station	12
(2) "Paid" stamps	12
(3) "Free" stamps	12
(4) "Too Late" stamps	12
(5) "Penny Post" stamp	1

From a subsequent memorandum of the Colonial Postmaster, dated 8 February 1847, it seems that Barnard initially undertook the manufacture of the first four items only. The "Penny Post" stamp was, however, used on 21 September 1847, so that we may deduce that he manufactured it subsequent to the Postmaster's memorandum.

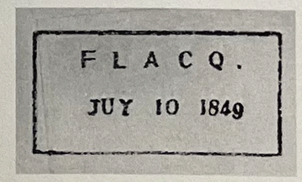
HANDSTRUCK STAMPS

II A-1 1847 Black
An example exists which shows that it was used as a cancellation at the time the "Post Office" postage stamps were issued.

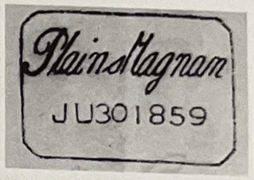
II A-2 1847 Black
Used since 1847. A few examples show that it was used also as a cancellation from 1855.

II A-3 1848 Black
Exclusively used on inland mails. Between 1848 and 1860 it was used as a cancellation quite frequently.

IIB-1



IIB-2

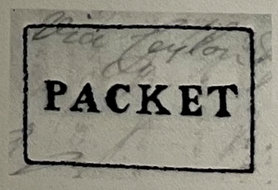


IIB-3

II B-1 1848 Black
Exclusively used by the General Post Office for accepting mails. It is recorded in use as a cancellation in 1857.

II B-2 1848 Black or Blue
Supposed to have been made at the same time as the "Post Office" postage stamps were issued in 1847. Examples show that it was used in 1849 at Mahebourg, Flacq, Souillac and Poudre d'Or.

II B-3 1854 Black or Blue
A postmark used in place of II B-2. It was used also as a cancellation. The use of this mark has been confirmed at the following post offices:
Mahebourg, Flacq, Souillac, Plaines Wilhems, Poudre d'Or, Black River, Eastern Suburb and Plaine Magnien (misspelled on the handstamp). Another handstamp names the office as "Grand Sen".



IIC-1

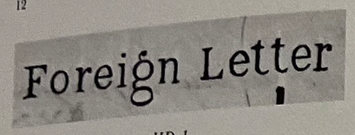
IIC-2

IIC-3

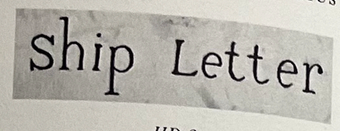
II C-1 1849 Black
1857 Red
Postmark used only on overseas mail. It was used in 1849–50 in black and 1857 in red.

II C-2 1850 Black or Red
Postmark on overseas mail which was used for about 10 years. Six varieties of this datestamp of different letter size and stamp size itself have been confirmed.

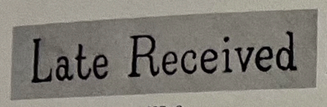
II C-3 1859 Black
This was used at the General Post Office in succession to the crowned Mauritius/GPO datestamp. Several 1d Post Paid postage stamps are known showing that it was used as a cancellation on 6 December 1859.



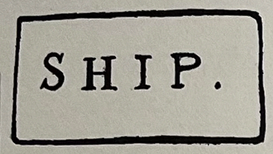
IID-1



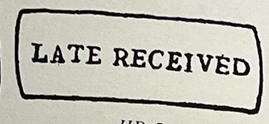
IID-2



IID-3



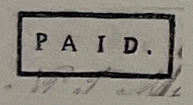
IID-4



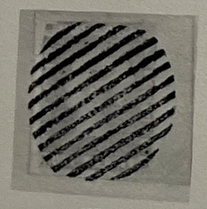
IID-5

II D-1	1850	Black or Red	
II D-2	1850	Black	
II D-3	1851	Black	Rare postmark.
II D-4	1850	Black	
II D-5	1846	Black	

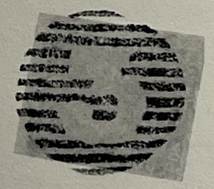
"CANCELLATION" STAMPS



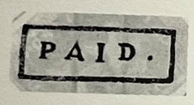
IIE-1



IIE-2

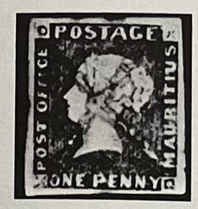


IIE-3



IIE-4

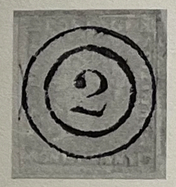
II E-1	1847	Black or Indigo	Type 1, 31·5 by 10 mm. An example shows that it was used as a postmark in 1850. Type 2, 26·5 by 9·5 mm. Started to be used when the "Post Office" postage stamps were issued.
II E-2	1848	Black	Generally used as a cancellation on the later "Post Office" and earlier "Post Paid" postage stamps. Number of bars is 12.
II E-3	1848	Black	Cancellation stamp same as II E-2 but its use might have been restricted to Souillac post office only.
II E-4	1848	Black or Blue	Used as a cancellation on "Post Paid" issues of the Early Impression. Dimension 24·5 by 8·5 mm.



IIF-1

IIF-2

II F-1	1847	Black	Only one "Post Office" postage stamp is known to have been pen-cancelled. The "Post Paid" postage stamps also offer a few examples.
II F-2	1847	Black	Usage must have started from 1847, but examples show that this was used as a cancellation after 1858.

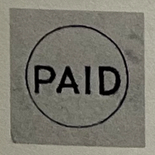


IIG-1

IIG-2

IIG-3

II G-1	1853	Black, Blue or Green	Used as a cancellation only until 1859. Very commonly used on "Post Paid" postage stamps. The figure varies from "1" to "17". Nos. "4", "6", "7" and "9" are scarce. Not all numerals have yet been allocated to the offices of use.
II G-2	1853	Black or Blue	Used exclusively as a cancellation up to about 1859. The central numeral is either "1" (Mahebourg) or "2" (Flacq).
II G-3	1853	Black or Blue	Cancellation only until about 1860. Commonly used on all locally printed issues after 1853.



IIH-1

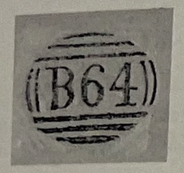
IIH-2

IIH-3

IIH-4

II H-1	1852	Black or Blue	Generally used as a cancellation from 1858, from later impressions of the "Post Paid" issue to "Dardenne" issue in 1860. Some examples show this as a postmark.

II H-2 1854	Black	Only one cover is known with this mark. Rarely found. Some examples show this mark as a postmark.
II H-3 1858	Black	Most commonly used cancellation mark from 1859.
II H-4 1861	Black	Recorded on "Post Paid" 2d on cover and detached "Lapirot" 2d, but they must have been late usages.



IIJ-1 (Seychelles)

IIJ-2 (Aden)

IIJ-3 (Kedgeree, India)

FOREIGN "CANCELLATION" STAMPS

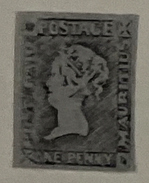
The following foreign cancellations are known on Mauritius stamps:

II J-1 There is only one record of a "Post Paid" stamp being used in Seychelles, but after the local issues many examples of the "B64" cancellation are known. Until 1890, Seychelles as a dependency of Mauritius used Mauritian postage stamps.

II J-2 Used in Aden on "Post Paid", "Lapirot" and "Sherwin" issues.

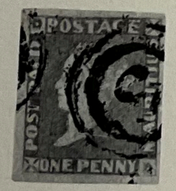
II J-3 Recorded used on a "Dardenne" stamp in Kedgeree, India.

Forgery



Made by Jean de Sperati after 1d "Post Paid", position 10. Can be used for plating, but the paper differs from the genuine

Better than Sperati forgery, but maker unknown. Neither can be used for plating



Best 2d "Post Paid" forgery seen by author. Note PENOE error

Mauritius stamps, it is almost needless to say, have been a good target for forgers because the more valuable the stamps, the greater the profit from forgery. There are many primitive forgeries of Mauritius stamps which can be distinguished at a glance, but, of course, there are some which are so clever that they cannot be assessed as genuine or not at first sight. Even in a famous reference book published in London, a photograph of a forged stamp of Mauritius has been illustrated as a genuine one. From this fact, therefore, it would be difficult for ordinary collectors to tell a genuine stamp from a forged specimen.

The photographs of three 1d stamps and one 2d illustrated above are so cleverly imitated that they had been offered at auction in England as genuine. It would be of no use to mention the auctioneer's name and the sale date here, so it will be kept unrevealed. The author would be pleased if he could be of any help to collectors and collectors-to-be. So far as the author's knowledge goes, these four forged stamps are the most dangerous.

CHAPTER II

The First Issue: The "Post Office" Issue

The Stamps

Denominations	: One Penny and Two Pence
Plate and Print	: Engraved and printed by Joseph Osmond Barnard at Port Louis, Mauritius, from a single plate bearing one of each denomination
Perforation	: Imperforate
Date of Issue	: 21 September 1847
Quantities	: One Penny – 500 copies : Two Pence – 500 copies
Stanley Gibbons Catalogue	: Nos. 1 and 2

Circumstances of the Issue

As has been seen, postal services in Mauritius started in 1772 and from that time were improved little by little by the French in the following 40 years. In 1810 Britain occupied the island and by the time it became confirmed as a British possession under the Treaty of 1814 the postal system was well established. Overseas mail service from the island was continued even after the British possession but inland mail service ceased until 1834. About 12 years later, on completion of organizing a system for inland mail, Ordinance No. 13 was passed in Council on 17 December 1846 and was published in the *Government Gazette* of 26 December.

Ordinance No. 13 came into force on 1 January 1847 and made it possible for the Government to issue its own stamps.[5] It consisted of many detailed articles and it can be said that a new postal system in Mauritius was consolidated by it. Article 9 provided for the issue of stamps and reads as follows:

Article 9. Every letter, newspaper, or packet of any kind liable to Postage under this Ordinance, if posted within the Colony and its Dependencies, and having a stamp or stamps affixed thereto, and appearing on the outside, such stamps being provided by the Government, and being of the value or amount required in each case according to the preceding tariff, and not having been used before, shall pass by the Post free of Postage.

As seen in Article 9, the word "stamp" was used to define the postage stamp for the first time. Before the promulgation of Ordinance No. 13, Joseph Barnard had submitted the following estimate of the things necessary for the manufacture of postage stamps, postal markings, etc., to the General Post Office on 12 November 1846.

Estimate of the expense of the undermentioned Blocks and Engraving for the use of the Mauritius General Post Office.

Letter Labels for One Penny and Twopence (per tho.)	10 0
Engraving Plate for Dº	10 0 0
12 Letter Stamps with moveable dates and names of Stations @ 24s.	14 8 0
12 Paid Stamps @ 6s.	3 12 0
12 Free Dº @ 6s.	3 12 0
12 Too Late Dº @ 8s.	4 16 0
1 Stamp Penny Post	10 0
Stamps 1 to 14 @ 3s. ea.	2 2 0
20 Badges for Post Men @ 20s.	20 0 0
	£59 10 0

Total of Estimate Fifty Nine Pounds Ten Shillings.

(Signed) J. O. Barnard

Port Louis Nov 12th, 1846

This estimate was first discovered by Mr. E. B. Evans,[6] who was on service as an Army Lieutenant at a garrison in Mauritius and it was brought back to England later together with many other documents. All these documents were donated to the British Museum with detailed reports by him in 1902.

With reference to this estimate, Peter Ibbotson[7] pointed out in a letter to *The London Philatelist* in 1975:

"... but as comparison of the 1846 estimate with the 1847 account shows, the Mauritius government initially economised."

What was paid was actually for:

Letter labels for One Penny and Two Pence (per tho.) and Engraving Plate for ditto	£10 0 0
12 Letter Stamps at 24s.	14 8 0
12 Paid Stamps at 6s.	3 12 0
12 Free ditto at 6s.	3 12 0
12 Too Late ditto at 8s.	4 16 0
17 Badges for Postmen at 20s.	17 0 0
Total	£53 8 0

By collating this with Barnard's estimate, we find that the Government economized 10 shillings for "Engraving and Printing" and reduced the quantity of Postmen's Badges from 20 to 17. One handstamp "Penny Post" and "Handstamps 1 to 14" were not ordered either, it seems.

The author, however, cannot believe that the "One Stamp Penny Post" was excluded from Barnard's estimate. It is an established fact that the stamp was made at the time of the issue of the postage stamps.

Prepayment of postage on letters for abroad was also regulated by one of the Articles under this Ordinance No. 13 operative from 1 January 1847.

The earliest record of the first Mauritius postage stamp now in existence is the following letter[8] of 20 September 1847 addressed to the Colonial Secretary (George Fairbairn Dick) from the Colonial Postmaster:

To The Honorable The Colonial Secretary, &c.

Sir, – With reference to Articles 9 and 10 of Post Office Ordinance No. 13 of 1846 I have the honor to report for His Excellency the Governor's information that the necessary Postage Stamps are now ready for issuing 700 having been struck off. And as the Regulations of the Service may require the supervision of some other Government Officer besides myself to attest to the Number of Stamps furnished to this Office I respectfully await His Excellency's instructions before having any further Number of Stamps struck off.

Genl Post Office
September 20/47

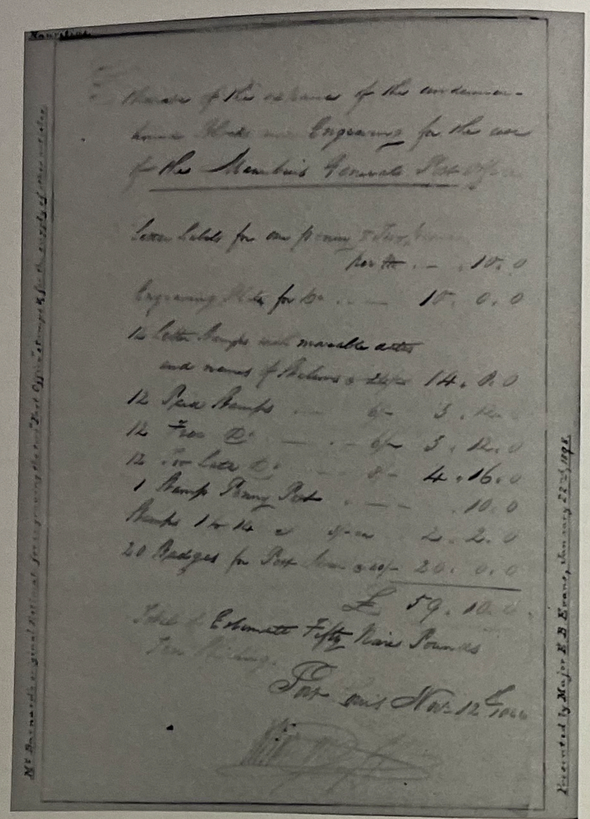
I have, &c.

J. Stuart Brownrigg
Colonial Post Master

From this letter, the quantity of the first postage stamps was 700 but the question remains of the date of issue. Out of seven covers now in existence, there are two examples with the earliest known date of 21 September 1847. Both covers were for an invitation to Lady Gomm's Ball. Although there is a day's discrepancy between the date of the Colonial Postmaster's letter and those of the earliest known used stamps it is generally believed that the date of issue of the "Post Office" stamps was 21 September 1847.

As to the quantity of the first issue, it is stated in the letter "... 700 having been struck off" and "... await instructions before having any further Number of Stamps struck off."

In Barnard's estimate the printing charges were for 1,000 stamps. The Government Account quoted earlier appears to confirm that this was the actual quantity printed (500 One Penny and 500 Two Pence). A considerable number of "Post Office" stamps were used on Ball Invitation covers, their debut marking the day of issue. Writing on 2 May 1848, J.S. Brownrigg finally confirms "... 1,000 were struck off ..." and "... in the course of a few days they were all disposed of."



Barnard's original estimate British Library

The Ball at Government House, 30 September 1847 Harmers of London

The Legend of the Wrong Inscription

The inscription "Post Office" was made in error by the engraver Barnard but it was too late to re-engrave the plate in time for the covers needed for invitations to the Ball given by Lady Gomm, wife of the Governor of Mauritius. So the stamps had to be issued in spite of the error. That is how the famous story of the "Post Office" stamps goes. It is a legend widely believed to be true but is actually mere fiction.

The make-believe story was hardly known before the Brunel book[9] was published in 1928: neither F. H. Frere[10] (1913) nor M. P. Castle[11] (1910) stated a word about it. In his comments on each stage of the postal history of Mauritius, Rev. C. S. Morton[12] (1924) likewise had not a word regarding the engraving "error" of "Post Office". When E. B. Evans was on service as a Lieutenant in Mauritius he conducted detailed researches into the stamps printed in the island but he never mentioned any "error" in his publication.[5] All these facts not only show the Brunel story to be a fiction but they make us pursue the truth by the aid of existing records.

In his letter dated 2 May 1848[13] to the Colonial Secretary G. F. Dick, the Colonial Postmaster J. S. Brownrigg wrote how the people of the island were inconvenienced without postage stamps and he was in a position to know that better than any one else at that time.

In his letter he wrote:

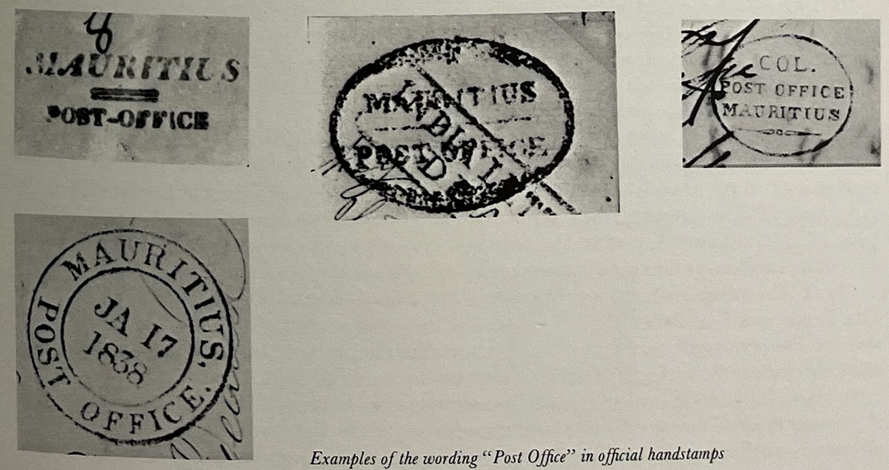
"Some delay in their delivery, it is true, has unavoidably occured in consequence of the Engraver having been for some time under medical treatment for his sight which had become impaired. This delay would not however have occasioned any inconvenience or disappointment to the public had I been permitted to use in the mean time the original plates, the only objection against them, as I understand, being, that as there was only one impression of each Label too much time would be occupied in working off any large number."

Had there been an engraving error by Barnard, the Colonial Postmaster would not have used such an expression as "the only objection . . ." and that relating to the slowness of production rather than a mistake in the plate.

The following notification was published in the *Government Gazette*[14] of Mauritius on 3 August 1848:

"The public are hereby informed that Post Office stamps for the prepayment of letters can be had at the General and District Post Offices."

This announcement refers, of course, to the issue of the "Post Paid" stamps but it demonstrates that the words "Post Office stamp" were commonly used among the people then. Furthermore,



Examples of the wording "Post Office" in official handstamps

before the new postal system was put into practice, that is, long before the issue of postage stamps, post offices in Mauritius were using handstamps bearing the inscription "Post Office Mauritius". These can be seen on many stampless covers. According to E. A. Kehr,[15] Barnard must have engraved his wording in accordance with those handstamps. Barnard arrived in Mauritius on 6 December 1838 when the "Post Office Mauritius" handstamps were in daily use.[2]

In their biography of the engraver, H. Adolphe and R. d'Unienville[16] have commented: "It is much more likely that Barnard used 'Post Office' because this was, and still is, the legal denomination of the government department concerned."

It is thus quite reasonable that the Postal Authorities in Mauritius at the time did not feel it strange to see the same inscription on the new postage stamps. L. N. and M. Williams have pointed out[17] that there is no evidence to support the story that "Post Office" was a mistaken inscription; they also remark ". . . Against it is the fact that, among the hand-stamped postal marks . . . were several which included the inscription 'Post Office'." A. J. Stevens[18] has also stated clearly and decisively at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 1961 that the "Post Office" inscription was not an error.

The Brunel book was the source of a fiction that the "Post Office" stamps were the products of engraving error and this story has been amusingly modified. In books of academic interest on Mauritius postage stamps, such a make-believe story should not really be repeated in future.

A Profile of Joseph Osmond Barnard

Joseph Osmond Barnard is justly famous in the postal history of the world because he was the engraver[2, 16] of the plates for the Mauritius "Post Office" and "Post Paid" stamps so celebrated among philatelists and non-philatelists alike.

He was born to David Barnard and Rebecca Davids on 10 August 1816 in Portsmouth, England. In 1838 when he was 22 years of age, he stowed away on the three-masted *Acasta* which left Le Havre on 25 August and arrived in Port Louis on 6 December.

The Chief Commissary of Police, John Finniss, wrote in his report book of his passenger "Mr. Barnard, 23, Engraver, Born in England" and simply "None" in the column on the opposite page for "Passports, by what authority signed and for what destination originally granted". Under "Motives of the voyage, if desirous of temporary or permanent residence in the Colony" he wrote "To reside". There were no entries under the headings "Recommendations" and "Pursuits and means of existence in the colony independently of trade or profession".

In the daily newspaper *Le Cernéen* of 9 March 1839 Barnard advertised as follows:

"M. Joseph Barnard, Miniature Painter and Engraver. Recently arrived from England, has the honour to inform his friends and the public, that he resides at Mr. Charon's opposite the Military Hospital where he intends exercising his profession to the satisfaction of such as may require his services. NB. Miniature Painting and Drawing taught by Mr. B. on the most moderate terms."

On 28 September 1839 he married Jeanne Joséphine Marie Mimi Doger de Veckranges, natural daughter of Joséphine Doger of rue Monsieur, Port Louis and he took up his new residence at 36 rue Monsieur. Almost at the same time he opened a shop at rue Royale.

In April 1842 he moved his shop at rue Royale to a more busy quarter, rue du Rempart, and pursued his occupation as printer and engraver. It seems his skills were exercised on such items as visiting cards and commercial letter-heads, but also on presentation silverware.

On 12 November 1846 Barnard submitted his famous estimate for engraving and printing One Penny and Two Pence postage stamps and the other necessary items to start a new postal system. This eventually made his name immortal in the postal history of Mauritius. Printing work for postage stamps seems to have continued up to about 1854.

In about 1853 he was involved in a boats business in partnership with W. Standley & Co. and R. Young & Co. During this time he decided to leave the Colony but he changed his mind afterwards and stayed; his business interests were now in trans-shipping goods at the harbour of

Port Louis under the name of J. Barnard & Co. On 26 September 1862 Barnard bought at auction 10,000 acres of land containing a sugar plantation and its factory in the region of Grand Port. He named the place "Astroea" and moved there from Port Louis.

Joseph Osmond Barnard died young, aged 48, on 30 May 1865. He was survived by his wife and their 10 children, the family remaining in Mauritus until about 1920.

No record that Barnard was a jeweller or a watchmaker has ever been found. It must be information handed down erroneously.

The Earliest and Latest Discoveries of Stamps

It is well known that no sooner had the stamps been issued than they were sold out. Today they arouse great interest among collectors but they scarcely did so for some period of time after their issue. They were even believed, for a considerable time, to be an error in the sheet of 12 of the second issue, "Post Paid".[18]

The first discovery of the Post Office stamps was some time in November 1864 when Mme. Borchard, wife of a merchant living in Bordeaux, found single copies of the 1d and 2d among the correspondence of her husband.[19] She was a collector herself and, having no space allotted in her Lallier Album, she exchanged the two stamps with two Montevideo "Suns" which were owned by Albert Coutures, her friend and also a collector, who lived in the same town. Later, in 1865, the stamps came into the hands of J. B. Moens through E. Gimel of Bordeaux. The two stamps had been affixed on the same letter and cancelled with a single "Paid" handstamp struck across both. Mme. Borchard had removed the specimens from the cover.

In February 1866 Moens sold them to F. A. Philbrick, from whom Ferrary got them later. At the Ferrary Auction in 1921 the stamps went to M. Burrus. At present they are believed to be in the possession of a Swedish collector, kept somewhere in Switzerland.

The first discovery

Up to today 27 copies of the "Post Office" stamps have been found and the serial numbers I, II, . . . XXVII have been given to each in chronological order of discovery. Attempts to list them are not new. In 1898 J. B. Moens did so in *Le Timbre-Poste* and the number of stamps known then was only 19. A few years later Hugo Krötzsch tried; then in 1928 G. Brunel in his book; while in 1939 C. J. Phillips also attempted a biography of the stamps. There are numerous differences among the lists. A more fundamental work was by L. N. & M. Williams, whose *Stamps of Fame*[20] clarified the record up to the middle of 1948. They updated this later in 1974 and this was added to by L. N. Williams in 1980.[21]

For many years, the number discovered was 26 copies but in 1952 a 27th was found in

The last discovery: condition when found in 1952

The last discovery: condition when received for expertization

Belgium.[22] This is a 1d stamp cancelled by pen. The author was requested to expertize it through a few people in 1971. The stamp's condition was very poor and it had been repaired. Someone seemed to have tried to remove the pen cancellation and the orange colour had been very much discoloured. It is unknown who possesses it now.

Discovery of the Original Plate and Reprints from it

One summer day in 1912 Colonel Colnaghi, alleged to have been a grandson of Governor Gomm of Mauritius at the time of the first issue, found an old copper plate among the Governor's papers in a London bank vault. He was not a collector and did not know what it was for. He took it to the Army and Navy Stores to find out. One of the people there happened to be a friend of N. L. Stocken who was soon informed of the plate. As a result, Colonel Colnaghi sold the plate to Stocken. It was the original plate for the "Post Office" stamps. [23, 24]

It is known, however, that Governor Gomm had no children.[25] What then is the relationship between Colonel Colnaghi and the Governor? It would be interesting to know how and why these people have come to have the plate but very little is recorded.

The original plate

Colonel Colnaghi (in full, Colonel Dominic Henry Colnaghi, Royal Engineers; he died in South Africa in 1950) was the son of Sir Dominic Ellis Colnaghi (1834–1908), who spent a consular career in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus, Corsica, North Africa and Florence. Sir Dominic's father, the colonel's grandfather, was Dominic Paul Colnaghi (1790–1879), a dealer in prints and old armour.[26]

After acquiring the plate, Stocken exhibited it to many people complying with their requests. During this time Duveen, the Earl of Crawford and others offered to buy it but he declined them all. A conscientious official in the Colonial Secretary's office on hearing about it ordered Stocken to return the plate to the Government as it was originally national property. However, people just laughed it off because Governor Gomm had died 37 years before in 1875 and it was actually 65 years since the plate had been in use. It was considered that the plate which Stocken bought was one handed down lawfully.

However, after a few months' possession, Stocken sold the plate to Sidney Loder, a famous collector at that time, through a London stamp dealer David Field. Soon after that, as history shows, he donated it to the British Museum which, at a late investigation does not admit the fact. According to another view the Williamses state in their book[27] that "It remained in his [Stocken's] possession until about 1930, when it was bought by M. Maurice Burrus." So far as the author knows, however, this original plate was unlikely to have been included in Burrus's collection. It could well make its appearance unexpectedly from somewhere else.

Reprint from original plate

After the discovery the plate seemed to have been used, perhaps in Autumn 1912 in Paris, to make a very limited number of reprints[28] in the same colour as the originals. To distinguish from the genuine, "REPRINT" was written on the back of each reprint. Interestingly enough, there are some reprints which have opposite colours to the originals: the One Penny was printed in blue instead of the original orange and the Two Pence in orange for the original blue. Specimens printed totally in black are known to be in existence.

Another record shows that there are a very few existing specimens printed in black on *papier Japon*. Regarding this black reprint, Brunel[29] states that there is a record showing it to have been sold at 7,300 francs by a Swiss firm in Zürich named E. Luder Edelmann in November 1927; unfortunately the author has never seen the black reprint on *papier Japon*. It is possible that it may have been confused with others, since similar specimens are known in the fourth issue (Sherwin Issue) of Mauritius, printed in black on *papier Japon*.

Adhesive Postage Stamps of One Penny and Two Pence

1 DESIGN AND PLATE

Design: Upright rectangular, 20 mm wide × 23 mm deep.

With a portrait of Queen Victoria in the centre surrounded by inscriptions POSTAGE at the top; ONE PENNY or TWO PENCE at the bottom; reading upwards POST OFFICE at the left and, also reading upwards, MAURITIUS at the right. Head of Queen on groundwork of diagonal and perpendicular lines.

Plate: Plate is made of copper, having a length of 8 cm and a width of 6 cm.

On the upper left corner is engraved the One Penny stamp and on the upper right corner the Two Pence stamp. The plate is believed to exist but its whereabouts are unknown.

2 PAPER AND THICKNESS

Only one kind of medium-thick bluish paper was used. It can be termed "granular" – a wove paper but with a rather coarse and uneven surface.

Thickness of Paper:
One Penny 0·080–0·085 mm
Two Pence 0·080–0·085 mm

3 COLOUR OF PRINTING

One Penny: Two kinds, Orange-red and Pale orange-red.

Engraver's initials "J.B." at base of neck to right

Two Pence: Can be sorted into two colours of Indigo blue and Dark blue but they are not distinct from each other.

4 PERIOD OF USE

The date of issue is said to be 21 September 1847 and this is the earliest date of use known. Other covers in the record were used in September and October/November 1847. The latest example of use is two 1d on cover for Bombay, India, having a date of 4 January 1850. However, the second issue ("Post Paid") had taken place in May 1848 so it would be right to put the period of use as up to the date of this second issue.

5 CLASSIFICATION OF STAMPS

One Penny
Orange-red – Bluish paper
Pale orange-red – Bluish paper

Two Pence
Indigo blue – Bluish paper
Dark blue – Bluish paper

Philatelic Record

ONE PENNY UNUSED

Only two examples are said to be in existence and one of them appeared on the market in 1963. The other one has been missing since the end of World War II, whether lost in the war or still kept by a collector, nobody seems to know.

ONE PENNY USED

The existing number has generally been said to be 12. After the war five copies have been seen on the market: a cover bearing two 1d, a single on cover, a 1d and 2d on cover and one single. Of the remaining seven copies, a single on cover is in the Royal Collection, a single on cover is in the British Library, a single stamp is in the Swedish Postal Museum and a single stamp was discovered in Philadelphia, U.S.A., in 1976. Thus four further copies are confirmed as existing. There remains a balance of three copies, not now positively substantiated; it is hard to be sure how many of them still exist.

As was mentioned earlier, a single pen-cancelled 1d, discovered in Belgium in 1952, was seen by the author in damaged condition in 1971. Adding this copy the total for the One Penny used becomes 13 copies.

Taking account of the two unused, the grand total of all One Penny stamps is thus 15 copies.

TWO PENCE UNUSED

Four copies are known to exist and this has been confirmed since the war. One is in the Royal Collection, one is in the British Library's Tapling Collection and the other two copies have been on the market. One of the two is known to have moved among collectors in Europe; the other one was sold at an auction in America in December 1971 and in April of the following year it was again resold in Germany.

TWO PENCE USED

Previous records show eight copies to have been discovered and after World War II four of them have appeared on the market. These are two single stamps, also one on large piece and another on cover affixed with a 1d. There is one single stamp at the Postal Museum in Stockholm, Sweden, which has been confirmed.

There was a 2d on cover in the Reichspost Museum in Berlin before the war. At the end of the war when Berlin was occupied by Allied Forces it was taken away somewhere and its whereabouts had long been unknown. In 1976 an American, who had brought it home with him from Germany some 30 years before, tried to dispose of it in Philadelphia, U.S.A. The stamp was confiscated by the U.S. Government. Its existence has thus been proved.

For the Two Penny stamp, it is seen that 12 copies are believed to be in existence but two of the used copies have not been confirmed yet.

Table 1 summarizes the present position for copies of the "Post Office" Mauritius.

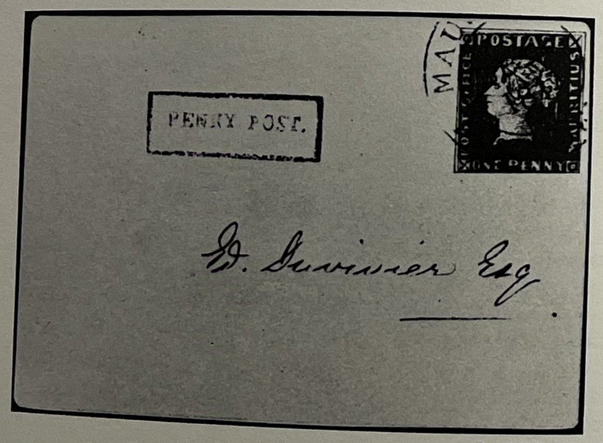
TABLE 1

"Post Office" Mauritius: Summary of Position since World War II

ONE PENNY	*Unused*	*Used*	
Copies confirmed	1	10	
Copies unconfirmed	1	3	
Recorded as existing	2	13	*Total One Penny* 15

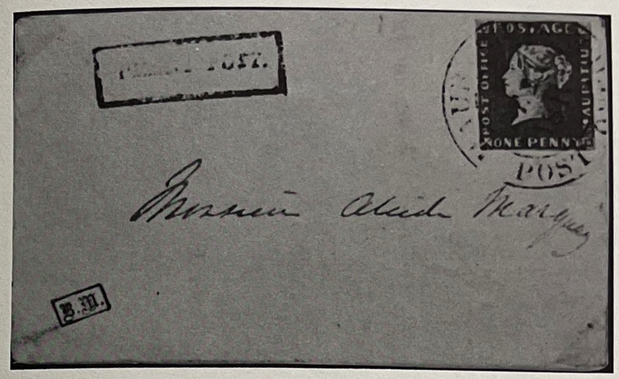
TWO PENCE	*Unused*	*Used*	
Copies confirmed	4	6	
Copies unconfirmed	–	2	
Recorded as existing	4	8	*Total Two Pence* 12

COVERS



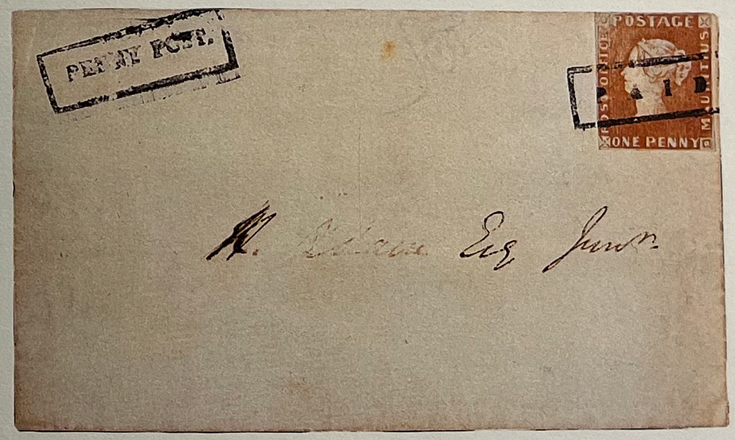
Royal Collection

Addressee: Ed. Duvivier Esq., [Port Louis]
Cancellation: Large double-circle circular datestamp
Postmark: PENNY POST
Date of Use: 21 September 1847
Use of Post: Town letter



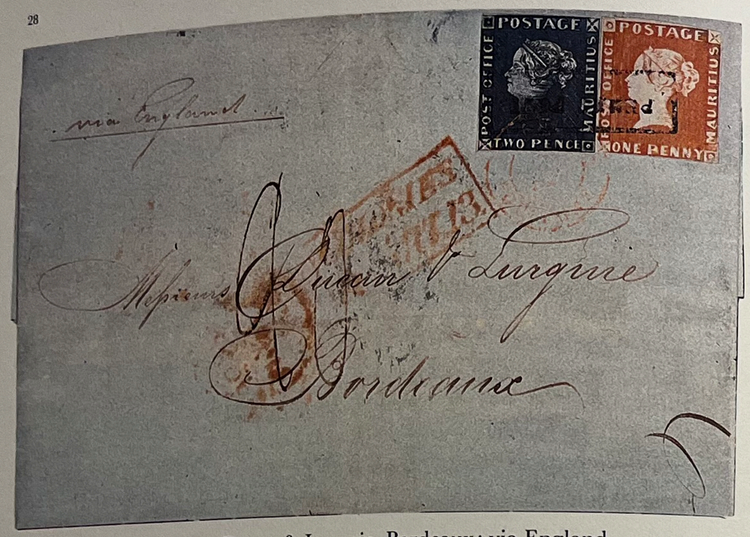
Tapling Collection, British Library

Addressee: Monsieur Alcide Marquay, [Port Louis]
Cancellation: Large double-circle circular datestamp
Postmark: PENNY POST
Date of Use: 21 September 1847
Use of Post: Town letter



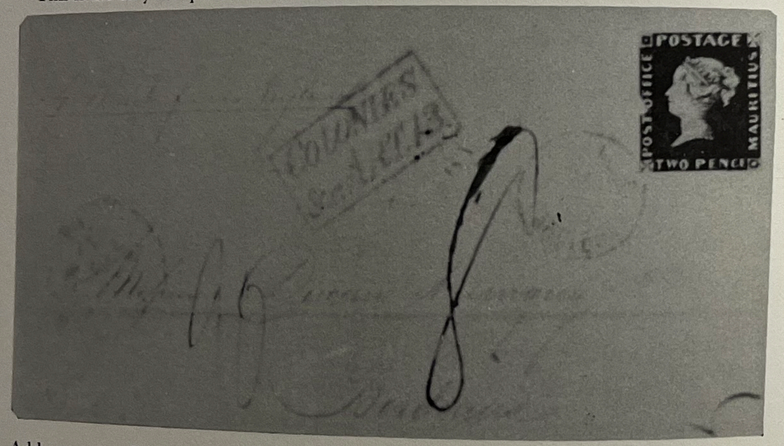
Addressee: H. Adam Esq. Junr., [Port Louis]
Cancellation: PAID
Postmark: PENNY POST and large double-circle circular datestamp on reverse
Date of Use: 27 September 1847
Use of Post: Town letter

The preceding three 1d single covers had been for invitations to the Fancy Dress Ball given by Lady Gomm, which was held on 30 September 1847 at Government House.



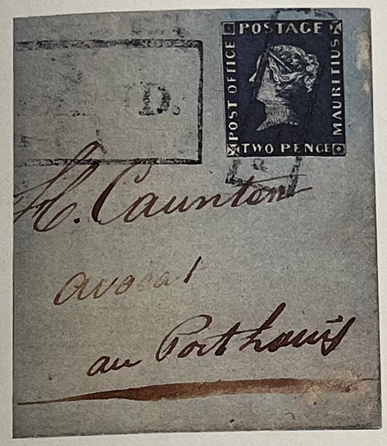
Addressee: Messieurs Ducan & Lurgnie, Bordeaux; via England
Cancellation: PENNY POST
Postmarks: Colonies &c. – Art. 13; manuscript delivery charge; Ship Letter Plymouth; Paris, Boulogne and Bordeaux arrival marks
Date of Use: 4 October 1847 (Mauritius Post Office c.d.s. on reverse)

This is the only complete set of 1d and 2d on cover in existence.



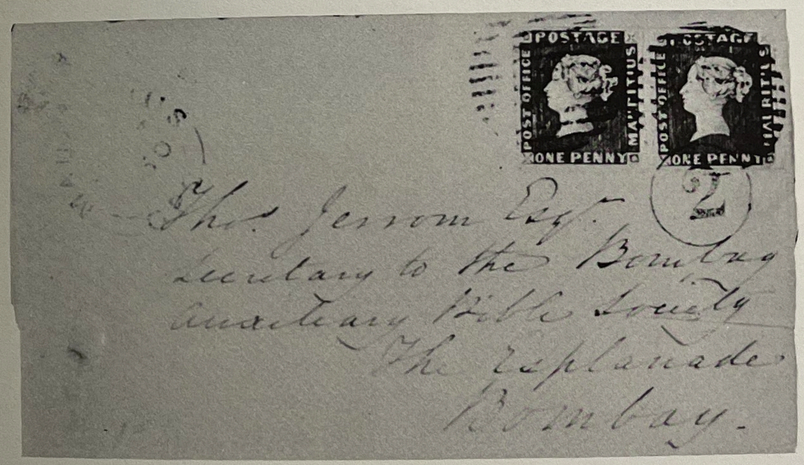
Addressee: Messieurs Ducan et Lurgny, Bordeaux; by Mischief – via England
Postmarks: Colonies &c – Art. 13; Boulogne c.d.s. 27 Dec. 47; manuscript delivery charges
Date of Use: October or November 1847
Use of Post: Oversea use

There are two covers known to exist bearing single copies of the 2d and this is the only example that was used for foreign mail. It was in the Reichspost Museum in Berlin but after the war ended it was taken out of Germany and found in Philadelphia, U.S.A., in 1976.



Addressee: Monsieur H. Caunten, Avocat, au Port Louis
Cancellation: PAID
Postmark: INLAND
Date of Use: Unknown but this can be in 1847 from the cancellation
Use of Post: Inland use

The cover comprises a piece of the original envelope; it is the second example of the 2d on cover used singly. It is the only known 2d on cover for inland use.



Addressee: Thos. Jerrom Esq., . . . Bombay
Cancellation: 12 parallel bars
Postmark: Crowned Mauritius/GPO datestamp and a numeral in circle "2"
Date of Use: 4 January 1850
Use of Post: Oversea use

This is the only example of two 1d on cover in the record and both stamps are in very good condition.

While all the previously mentioned six covers were used in 1847 only this cover was used in 1850. The "Post Office" stamps are believed to have been sold out almost as soon as they were issued and this is a late usage, more than two years after the "Post Paid" stamps were already in use. The cover is one of the most famous in the world of philately.

There is a record, said to be in the U.S.A., which certifies that the addressee, Mr. Jerrom, lived in Bombay at the time.[30] In the opinion of many, the cover addressed to him in 1850 is the most beautiful of the "Post Office" covers now in existence.

OWNERS OF THE UNUSED 1d AND 2d

According to the records there have been nine collectors fortunate enough to own the unused 1d and 2d "Post Office" Mauritius on different occasions during their collecting activities. However, only five of these nine have had in their collections this complete set of the 1d and 2d at the same time.

The five collectors are:

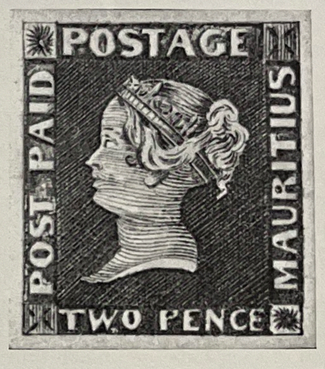
Madame Desbois
W. B. Avery
H. J. Duveen
A. Hind and
H. Kanai

The greatest number of "Post Office" stamps that has ever been held by a single collector or collection is six. Next comes five in the late Maurice Burrus's collection, but, of course this applies to the modern philately only.

CHAPTER III

The Second Issue: The "Post Paid" Issue

The Stamps



Denominations : One Penny and Two Pence
Plate and Print : Engraved and printed by Joseph Osmond Barnard at Port Louis, Mauritius
Sheet : 12 varieties on the sheet (4 horizontal rows of 3 stamps)
Perforation : Imperforate
Dates of Issue : 1853 for One Penny
June 1848 for Two Pence
Stanley Gibbons Catalogue : Nos. 3 to 25

Circumstances of the Issue

It is apparent[13] that the 1,000 copies of the "Post Office" stamps issued on 21 September 1847 were soon sold out. It was not until the middle of the following year that the next ("Post Paid") stamps were issued. That is to say, for about eight or nine months in between the island returned to a stampless age again.

However, the Colonial Government was not wasting time during this period. The Colonial Secretary requested the Colonial Agent in England in his letter[8] of 15 January 1848 that 100,000 stamps should be printed and sent to the island. He did not mention anything about printing colours or face values but made a suggestion that "the stamp for colonial use should be so different from that employed by the General Post Office at home, that it may be easily distinguishable, but otherwise to have as much resemblance as may be compatible with that object". The Colonial Agent, George Baillie, at once ordered[31] the Britannia-type stamp from Perkins, Bacon & Co., though it was as late as 21 December 1848 before the shipment of 100,000 printed stamps was dispatched from England.

Although the stamps were ordered from England, the Mauritius authorities could not wait for the shipment and the Colonial Postmaster, J. S. Brownrigg, asked Barnard, who had engraved the plate and printed the "Post Office" stamps before, to set to and engrave new stamps. As to when this was is not known precisely, but the following letter[13] dated 2 May 1848 from the Colonial Postmaster addressed to the Colonial Secretary reveals interesting facts.

To the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, &c.

Sir, – (1) I have the honor to report for His Excellency the Governor's information, that improved Plates containing twelve impressions of each Postal label (one penny and Two pence) are now finished and ready to be worked whenever it shall please His Excellency to favor me with his instructions.

(2) Some delay in their delivery, it is true, has unavoidably occurred in consequence of the Engraver having been for sometime under medical treatment for his sight which had become impaired. This delay would not however have occasioned any inconvenience or disappointment to the public had I been permitted to use in the mean time the original plates, the only objection against them, as I understand, being, that as there was only one impression of each Label too much time would be occupied in working off any large number. This objection cannot however apply to the new Plates, as the Engraver assures me that he can within the hour take off from 1,000 to 1,500 impressions.

(3) When first these labels were introduced, 1,000 were struck off and so desirous were the public of availing of them particularly for Town letters that in the course of a few days they were all disposed of.

(4) It was mentioned to me a few days ago that letter labels were ordered from England, but as considerable time must elapse before, agreeably to that order, any supply can be received I cannot but most respectfully represent for His Excellency consideration, the expediency of recommencing with the new Plates, an Issue of Postage Stamps, so frequently applied for by the community in Town and Country.

(5) In my letter of 20 September last I respectfully suggested (as a control) the nomination of some other Public officers in conjunction with myself to superintend the process of working the Plates (a Press for that purpose having been erected in this office) and to take account of the number of Stamps struck off.

(6) To this suggestion I would add, that the Plates be enclosed in a Box with two locks, each officer having a Key, so that except in presence of both the Box could not be opened.

With these few observations which I hope will meet His Excellency notice

I have, &c.,

J. Stuart Brownrigg

P.S. – The Engraver asks Ten Shillings per one Thousand Stamps.

From this letter we know that the plates were ready by 2 May 1848 to print the "Post Paid" stamps but it is not known exactly when this happened. However, on 3 August 1848 the following notification was published in the *Government Gazette*:

The public are hereby informed that Post Office stamps for the prepayment of letters can be had at the General and District Post Offices.

J. S. Brownrigg
Colonial Postmaster

General Post Office, August 3rd, 1848

From the dates of the letter as well as of the notification,[14] it has hitherto been assumed that the date of issue was on a day not very much after 2 May 1848; it seems unlikely that the new stamps available were kept unissued for three months when everything was ready.

The earliest known date for this issue is 19 June 1848, which is seen on a 2d on cover.[32] Beyond doubt, therefore, the issue date was between 2 May and 19 June 1848. There is, however, no evidence that One Penny and Two Pence stamps were issued on the same day and nobody seems ever to have tried to suggest this was the case.

Evans's transcription of Brownrigg's letter of 2 May 1848 is defective, as Peter Ibbotson discovered from the original letter in the Mauritius Archives.[33] Alongside the first paragraph is an annotation (like the postscript, in Brownrigg's own hand) which Evans omitted: "The Plates are herewith Enclosed".

Only recently was the reply to this letter discovered. Signed by Geo. F. Dick, the Colonial Secretary, and dated 30 May 1848, it informs Brownrigg that the Governor was agreeable to the suggestions made in paragraphs (5) and (6) of the letter of 2 May, and that Mr. Dowland, Assistant Treasurer and Pay Master General, had been appointed as the second public officer to superintend the printing. The letter includes the statement that the Governor "considers it very desirable that those plates which are herewith returned, Should at once be made use of under the Control proposed by you".

Since, on receipt of this letter and return of the plates, Brownrigg would have to make the necessary arrangements with Barnard and Dowland, it is unlikely that any stamps could have been printed before 1 June.

The 1d and 2d values were engraved on separate plates. More is said about them below at Chapter V in connection with an eventual re-engraving.

A Study of Dates and the Period in Use

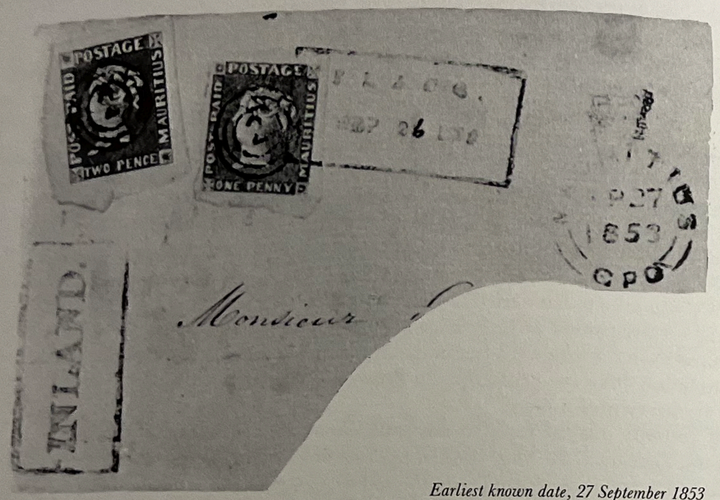
It is quite uncertain whether One Penny and Two Pence stamps were printed at the same time or not. But we can say that they were not issued at the same time. From data presently available, we can make a number of presumptions.

ONE PENNY

No discovery has been reported of the 1d being used before 1853. The earliest date known is 27 September 1853. Since the plate was ready in May 1848 why was this stamp left unissued for five years? For the 2d a cover bearing a date of 19 June 1848 has been discovered, so there is little problem.

If the 1d and 2d stamps were issued simultaneously, why is it that no cover with a single 1d has ever been discovered? One penny was the rate for a town letter in 1848 and the inland rate was two pence, according to Ordinance No. 13. One can say that there was thus little opportunity for single use of the 1d, but still two 1d stamps could be used for the inland rate or the foreign rate. There is no record of such at all. Since the 2d on cover is known, it is by no means a mere coincidence that no 1d on cover has been seen. It strongly suggests that the 1d

stamp was not issued at the same time as the 2d, or it was not put into use for some time. Examples of the 1d in existence are on a cover having a date of September 1853 and there are five examples of covers and pieces which have dates July–October 1854. There is no record of dates earlier than these.

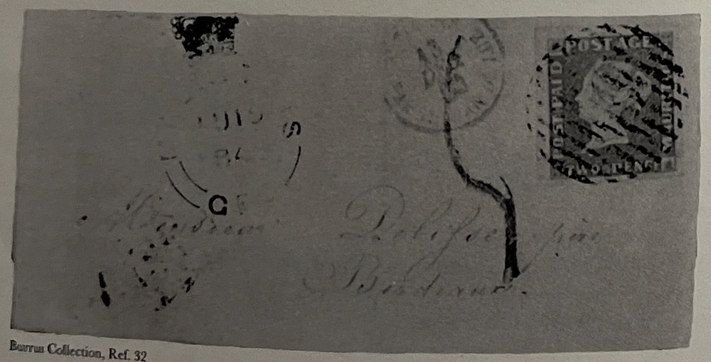


Mosely Collection, British Library

Earliest known date, 27 September 1853

TWO PENCE

Presuming that the 2d was issued in June 1848, the existence of a cover dated 19 June 1848 obviously does not cause any contradiction. The next earliest example is a cover also used in 1848, followed by nine covers in 1849 and one cover in 1850; then there is no used example known until 1853. This gives a blank of some years where there are no existing examples. The 2d stamp once issued might have been suspended for some reason, then resumed perhaps in the middle of 1853 or early 1854. At the time of the resumption both the 1d and 2d stamps might have been printed or issued. This time scale seems to give a consistent hypothesis.



Beurun Collection, Ref. 32

Earliest known date, 19 June 1848

As mentioned, recorded examples of the 2d on cover are particularly seen in 1848 and 1849. What is the reason for the blank in both 1d and 2d from about the middle of 1850 to the middle of 1853? Until 1854 there was no obligation to prepay overseas letters by means of postage stamps; they could be prepaid in cash or sent unpaid. Examples of use, therefore, must have been very few or none at all during this period, producing no discovery as yet; alternatively, there are no such discoveries as the stamps were not in use.

Then what about the inland mail service at the time? The letters could have been handled by private carriers.

Lack of data has obliged the author to make these assumptions from the available facts. Let us now develop these assumptions so that we may understand the period in use and particularly when the stamps were used last. As for the 1d we have three recorded – one used in January and the other in February, also another (month unknown) in 1860. The state of the printing on these is very bad and we can see easily how the plate is worn.

The 1d stamp is considered to have been used between 1853 and toward the end of 1860. What about the 2d stamp? Differently from the 1d, available records show that it was issued until late in 1857. There is one exception, a use on 7 March 1858, but it may safely be asserted that the issue ended in 1857.

This 2d stamp can be studied from another angle. A record[34] tells us that the plate was handed over to Sherwin in February 1858 for repairing, but he returned the plate to the Colonial Postmaster in August 1858 saying that it was much too worn out to repair.[35] From this fact, printing of 2d stamps must have surely been suspended in 1857; this deduction is confirmed by extant printing records. In addition records of use for the 1d stamp show a rapid increase in the years 1858 and 1859, in marked contrast to the 2d (nil in 1859 and 1860). This means that two 1d stamps were frequently used in substitution for a 2d stamp. Many strips of four of the Worn Impression and the Latest Impression exist for this reason.

The period of use can be presumed from the records but there still remains some doubt. It seems clear that 1d stamps were used in substitution for 2d stamps for the period of about a year, between March 1858 and 1859; but covers having 1d stamps used in this way are so scarce that the only recorded instance in this period is one used in September 1858. It is therefore very difficult to prove that this presumption is correct. The truth can only be had through new discoveries of the 1d on cover and further study.

Records of quantities printed and issued unfortunately appear to be incomplete. In December 1848 Barnard submitted an account for £4. 4s., for printing 8,400 stamps in that year; but neither his account nor the subsequent remarks by members of the Colonial administration indicate the denomination(s) involved.

The available records are silent until 1853 and again in 1855. The following table, adapted by Peter Ibbotson[36] from researches undertaken before 1913 by the prominent Mauritian philatelist Albert Rae,[37] shows the quantities of Post Paid stamps issued, with the dates of issue, during the period 1853–59.

Date of Issue		*1d*	*2d*
1853 –	May 25, 27, 28	8,004	8,004
1854 –	January 16, 19	8,004	–
	January 26, 29	–	8,004
	May 15	10,000	10,000
	May 19	625	–
	May 23	–	3,500
	May 25	–	3,696
	May 26	–	3,808
	August 7	10,000	10,000
	November 1	3,912	–

Date of Issue		*1d*	*2d*
1854 –	November 6	1,608	–
	November 7	–	5,808
	December 30	–	4,200
1856 –	January 1	–	10,008
1857 –	October 29	4,000	12,000
1858 –	September 16	10,000	–
	November 23	10,000	–
1859 –	January 28	10,000	–
	March 25	2,000	–
	March 26	10,000	–
	May 6	5,000	–
	June 11	12,000	–
	August 10	10,000	–

From this table it will readily be seen that the issue of 29 October 1857 was the last for which Barnard's 2d Post Paid plate was used, and that the final issue from the 1d Post Paid plate was on 10 August 1859.

One Penny

Early Impression

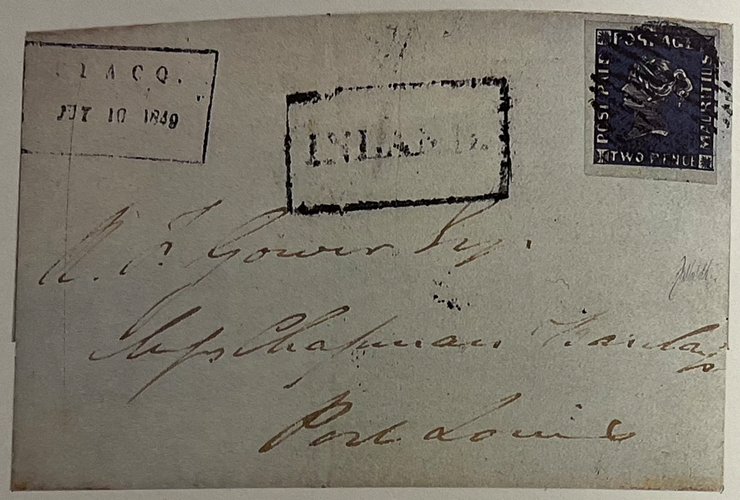
A pair, inland mail from Souillac to Port Louis, 1855

Latest Impression

Four singles, overseas mail from Port Louis to Granville, 1860

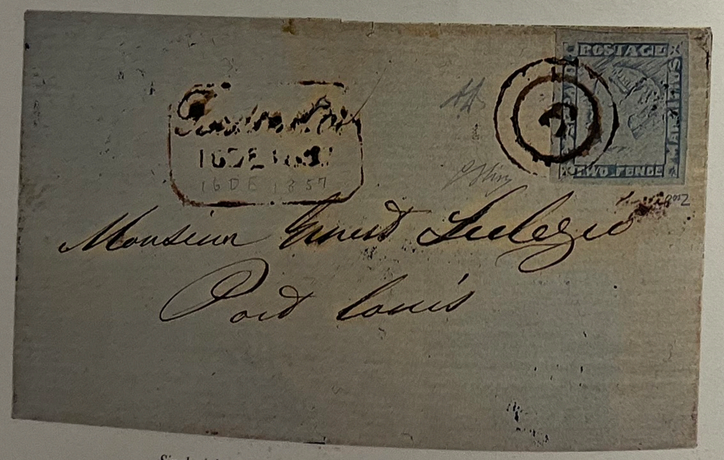
Two Pence

Earliest Impression



Single, inland mail from Flacq to Port Louis, 1849

Latest Impression



Single, inland mail from Poudre d'Or to Port Louis, 1857

The following tables are based on data presently known. Table 2 shows the existing covers set out chronologically. Table 3 classifies the 1d and 2d according to impression. Table 4 shows the period of use for the 1d and 2d while Table 5 records the earliest and latest known dates of covers.

Table 2
Existing "Post Paid" Covers

Face Value	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	Total
1d	×	×	×	×	×	1	5	6	1	3	4	15	3	38
2d	2	9	1	×	×	1	7	9	6	4	2	×	×	41

× : None recorded

Table 3
"Post Paid" Covers Classified by Impression

ONE PENNY

Impression	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	Total
Earliest	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	2*	×	×	×	×	×	2
Early	×	×	×	×	×	1	4	2	×	×	×	×	×	7
Intermediate	×	×	×	×	×	×	1	2	1	1	1	×	×	6
Worn	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	2	3	4	×	9
Latest	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	11	3	14

*Both on piece

TWO PENCE

Impression	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	Total
Earliest	1	3	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	4
Early	1	6	1	×	×	1	5	×	×	×	×	×	×	14
Intermediate	×	×	×	×	×	×	2	8	4	×	×	×	×	14
Worn	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	1	1	1	1	×	×	4
Latest	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	1	3	1	×	×	5

× : None recorded

Table 4
Period of use

Face Value	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	Total
1d						•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	8 years
2d	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•			9 years

TABLE 5
Earliest and Latest Dates of Covers

	One Penny	*Two Pence*
Earliest known date	27 September 1853	19 June 1848
Latest known date	8 February 1860	9 January 1858

By looking at these tables, we can easily see such things as which year has less covers, that earlier covers are not always scarce, and especially that 2d covers of later impression are rare. The author is of course not insisting that his hypothesis must be right and he is only too pleased to learn new facts to test his opinions.

Retouching of Two Pence Plate of 1848

Retouched Two Pence

Unretouched Two Pence

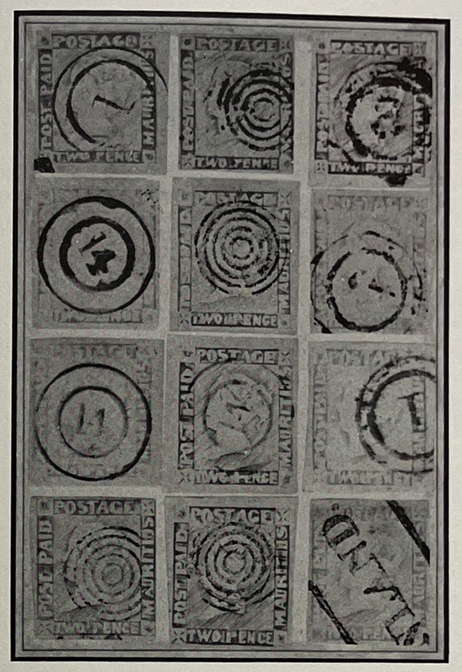
A worn One Penny

The retouching here referred to is, of course, quite distinct from the re-engraving by Mr. Sherwin described in Chapter V. The retouching comprises minor repairs to the plate as wear and tear progressed.

By February 1858 the 2d plate had become so worn that it could hardly be used for printing. It needed full repair or replacing by a new one and this was reported by the Colonial Postmaster to the Colonial Secretary. According to the records the plate was still in a state which had not been re-engraved in September 1858, for on the 2nd of that month Sherwin returned it without having done the job.

When, then, was the 2d plate retouched? Judging from all available records, the plate had already been retouched by October 1857. Probably from the middle of 1857 the wear had progressed and temporary expedients were employed by the postal authorities to prolong the plate's life. At any rate it is clear from the example of the 2d shown that retouching took place. Contrast the retouched (left-hand) stamp with the right. The 1d stamp also included here exhibits a similar degree of wear and there is no evidence that the 1d plate was ever retouched.

The retouching on the 2d plate seems to have been done lightly on the Queen's face, the neck, the whole contour and the inscriptions on four sides, all of which had become thin and vague. The reconstructed sheet illustrated shows every position of the plate retouched.



All positions of plate retouched

Re-engraving of One Penny Plate of 1848

There is no doubt that the 1d plate was kept in use until about December 1859 without being retouched or re-engraved. While there exist a few records for the 2d referring to re-engraving and a new plate, no record is known for the 1d plate.

Of the existing examples, the one which is considered to be the latest has the date of 8 March 1860 and this stamp has no trace of being printed from the re-engraved plate. The earliest known example of a Dardenne Issue has the date 12 January 1860 so the "Post Paid" 1d had by then been superseded by the Dardenne 1d. The next 1d stamp was shipped from De La Rue & Co., England, and arrived in Mauritius in January 1860.[38] It is recorded that these imported stamps were issued after the Dardenne 1d had all been sold out. That is to say, the "Post Paid" 1d plate was in use until August 1859. Then the Dardenne 1d was issued, followed by the De La Rue 1d. Thus there was no opportunity for the 1d plate to be re-used for printing despite its having been re-engraved.

When was the "Post Paid" 1d plate re-engraved then? There are no grounds for thinking it was done at the same time as the 2d plate.

This is a mere presumption, but we cannot but think, upon examination of various data, that the re-engraving was made in the last half of 1859 or it may have been done sometime when the new die for the Dardenne 1d was in the making. The exact date will be revealed only by the collection of new data and more discoveries of historical evidence.

Paper Thickness

How the printing paper was procured is not known but we can make some general observations on the paper employed. We can correlate the paper thickness with each state of the impression as follows:

STATE I – EARLIEST IMPRESSION
One Penny 0·095 – 0·115 mm
Two Pence 0·095 – 0·115 mm
Most of the papers are thicker than 0·10 mm.

STATE II – EARLY IMPRESSION
One Penny 0·070 – 0·080 mm
Two Pence 0·070 – 0·080 mm
0·085 – 0·095 mm (Early print only)
Most of the papers are in the above ranges. Those thicker than 0·085 mm are of stamps in early use.

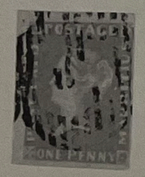
STATE III – INTERMEDIATE IMPRESSION
One Penny 0·060 – 0·075 mm
Many variations are known. Some papers are thicker than 0·08 mm and sometimes more than 0·09 mm (though not many).
Two Pence 0·065 – 0·080 mm
Most are in the above thickness range and no thicker one has been found.

STATE IV – WORN IMPRESSION
One Penny 0·055 – 0·070 mm
Most of the papers are in this range.
Two Pence 0·065 – 0·075 mm
Generally slightly thicker than 1d paper, with a few more than 0·075 mm in thickness.

STATE V – LATEST IMPRESSION
One Penny 0·055 – 0·065 mm
A few are thinner than 0·055 mm or thicker than 0·065 mm.
Two Pence 0·060 – 0·075 mm
Comparatively rich in variation. A few thinner papers are known, also a few thicker than 0·075 mm.

One Penny: Classification by Impression

As the plate was used for eight years, its surface became progressively worn. The existing stamps on cover can be classified chronologically into five impression states according to the degree of wear of the plate. In describing these Impressions the first state is called the Earliest; the second Early; the third Intermediate; the fourth Worn, and finally the fifth the Latest.

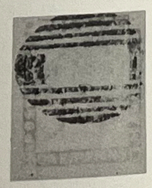


State I: Earliest Impression

State II: Early Impression

State III: Intermediate Impression

State IV: Worn Impression


State V: Latest Impression

STATE I: EARLIEST IMPRESSION

As the first printed from the new plate in May 1848, the profile of the Queen can be seen in minute detail. Inscriptions on all four sides are clearly legible, just as though carved in relief. The diagonal lines from upper right and the vertical lines in the background are distinct. This impression is altogether in a clear and sharp state.

Paper

Thick, granular, yellowish paper is used exclusively for 1d; it is noteworthy that more than one kind of paper was used for 2d.

Colour of Printing

Very few variations in colour are known, though the shades of (*a*) orange-vermilion and (*b*) deep orange-vermilion can be distinguished.

Period of Use

There are a variety of views about this and the scarcity of existing material makes it impossible to decide the period of use precisely. Our study of cancellations, etc., leads us to assert that the period of use was between 1853 and 1854.

STATE II: EARLY IMPRESSION

The wear of the plate is hardly noticeable for the first couple of years, except for a slight change of plate condition. This shows itself as a minor portion of the vertical lines of the background displaying a slight spread of ink. The design on the whole is still clear and sharp.

Paper

Compared to the paper of the first state, the quality is entirely different as well as being slightly thinner. It is quite easy to distinguish the two. Paper colours can be classified as bluish, greyish or yellowish. Most of them are bluish. The yellowish is scarce, about one in ten.

Colour of Printing

There are several shades in State II, classified as follows:
(*a–c*) vermilion; (*d–e*) orange-vermilion; (*f–g*) deep orange-vermilion; and (*h*) bright orange-vermilion.
Care should be taken when classifying shades not to mistake colours which have become oxidized in the course of time.

Period of Use

From existing covers we can only presume that the period of use was between 1853 and 1855. Should a used 1d stamp of State II be discovered of later date it would be one used from private stock, and probably not typical.

STATE III: INTERMEDIATE IMPRESSION

This is the middle of the five states of impression. The plate was used for more than two years and the impression still retains the appearance of the original plate. The impression rapidly became worse after this state. On the whole, printing clarity is poorer and the vertical lines of the background cannot be seen any more, but general wear is not so remarkable. When classifying impressions one is often apt to include this state as a late Early Impression, so care is needed.

Paper

Generally, paper quality is the same as that of State II but sometimes one can find a stiff half-transparent thinner paper for this. There are at least three kinds of paper but they can be divided into five or six kinds if classified minutely. There are four colours: bluish, greyish, white and yellowish. Most stamps are on bluish paper; the white paper is extremely scarce.

Colour of Printing

As the printing progressed, variations in colour increased. A large assortment of shades can exist if we take account of paper and they are:
(*a*) light vermilion; (*b–d*) vermilion; (*e–f*) orange-vermilion; (*g–h*) deep orange-vermilion; (*i*) bright orange-vermilion; (*j*) red-orange.
Changes of shade through oxidation should be carefully noted. Only one example has been recorded for red-orange.

Period of Use

The number of existing covers being so few, it is not easy to decide the period of use. From cancellations, etc., it is considered to be between 1854 and 1857. The existing number of covers is less than that of State II, Early Impression.

STATE IV: WORN IMPRESSION

This is the state four or five years after the printing had started. The wear of the plate quickly progressed and irregular wear on various parts of each position is very noticeable. The diagonal lines of the background and the Queen's face barely retain the original contours.

Paper

Generally there is no difference between the paper in this state and that used in States II and III, although it may be said to have become slightly thinner. Stiff and half-transparent paper which can be seen in State III is no longer to be found. Instead, thinner and more smooth paper appeared. Paper colours are: bluish, greyish and yellowish. Most stamps are on bluish paper.

Colour of Printing

Wear of the plate made the printing colour thin and there are many varieties, each of which is rather distinct from the others. More reddish colours appeared and vermilion became less. The shades can be divided into:
(*a–b*) light vermilion; (*c*) vermilion; (*d*) vermilion-red; (*e*) orange-red; (*f*) red; and (*g*) brown-red.
The surface of the stamps is often oxidized, so one must take this into consideration when classifying by colour.

Period of Use

They were used between 1857 and 1859. Used examples are particularly seen in 1858 and 1859.

STATE V: LATEST IMPRESSION

The worst condition of the plate after seven years' use. The plate is completely worn out, the inscriptions and the Queen's face being so thin that they can hardly be recognized. It is very difficult to check the position of stamps on the plate as the impression on the whole is so vague. No part of the plate appears ever to have been retouched even though the wear had progressed so far.

Paper

Paper quality is practically the same as that of State IV. Generally speaking, the paper is thinner and easily damaged. Almost all papers are bluish but sometimes a very distinct yellowish paper is found; besides these, there is a greyish paper. The yellowish paper is rare.

Colour of Printing

The appearance of the colour is very poor as the plate is almost worn out. Variations are many because the shades are influenced by the paper qualities. The shades can be classified as:
(*a–b*) light vermilion; (*c–d*) light orange; (*e–f*) orange-red; (*g*) red; and (*h*) brown-red.

Period of Use

During the first half of 1859.

ADHESIVE STAMP OF ONE PENNY

Shades	*Papers*
	State I: Earliest Impression
(*a*) Orange-vermilion	Thick yellowish paper
(*b*) Deep orange-vermilion	Thick yellowish paper
	State II: Early Impression
(*a*) Vermilion	Bluish paper
(*b*) Vermilion	Greyish paper
(*c*) Vermilion	Yellowish paper
(*d*) Orange-vermilion	Bluish paper
(*e*) Orange-vermilion	Yellowish paper
(*f*) Deep orange-vermilion	Bluish paper
(*g*) Deep orange-vermilion	Yellowish paper
(*h*) Bright orange-vermilion	Bluish paper
	State III: Intermediate Impression
(*a*) Light vermilion	White paper
(*b*) Vermilion	Bluish paper
(*c*) Vermilion	Greyish paper
(*d*) Vermilion	Yellowish paper
(*e*) Orange-vermilion	Bluish paper
(*f*) Orange-vermilion	Greyish paper
(*g*) Deep orange-vermilion	Greyish paper
(*h*) Deep orange-vermilion	Bluish paper
(*i*) Bright orange-vermilion	Bluish paper
(*j*) Red-orange	Bluish paper
	State IV: Worn Impression
(*a*) Light vermilion	Yellowish paper
(*b*) Light vermilion	Greyish paper
(*c*) Vermilion	Greyish paper
(*d*) Vermilion-red	Bluish paper
(*e*) Orange-red	Bluish paper
(*f*) Red	Bluish paper
(*g*) Brown-red	Bluish paper
	State V: Latest Impression
(*a*) Light vermilion	Yellowish paper
(*b*) Light vermilion	Bluish paper

(*c*) Light orange	Yellowish paper
(*d*) Light orange	Greyish paper
(*e*) Orange-red	Bluish paper
(*f*) Orange-red	Greyish paper
(*g*) Red	Bluish paper
(*h*) Brown-red	Bluish paper

Two Pence: Classification by Impression

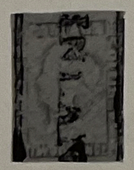
As demonstrated earlier, the Two Pence plate – like that of the One Penny – was used for a period totalling eight years, though not always concurrently. As before, classification into five states can be made according to the extent of wear. The plate was also retouched when it became in its worst condition and, if we add this, there are six states of impression in all. We will call the first state Earliest Impression, the second state Early Impression, the third state Intermediate Impression, the fourth state Worn Impression, the fifth state Latest Impression and the sixth state Retouched Impression.

State I:
Earliest Impression

State II:
Early Impression

State III:
Intermediate Impression

State IV:
Worn Impression



State V:
Latest Impression

State VI:
Retouched Impression

STATE I: EARLIEST IMPRESSION

Impression obtained from new plate. Very fine and clear in every detail, including the Queen's profile and the diagonal and vertical lines of the background. However, stamps are sometimes encountered whose inscriptions are partly under-inked and this can be seen especially in stamps printed in indigo-blue.

Used examples of State I are few. It is probable that numbers of the so-called unused copies have been prepared by removing cancellations.

Paper

Paper quality is not confined to one kind as with State I of the 1d. There are several, some heavier and others lighter. Most colours are yellowish but we sometimes see greyish and others which appear to be bluish due to impregnation of ink into the paper tissue.

Colour of Printing

Indigo or indigo-blue ink was used at first but examples printed in deep blue do exist, so there are three shades:
(*a–b*) indigo; (*c–e*) indigo-blue; and (*f–g*) deep blue.

Period of Use

Judging from existing covers and cancellations, this state is considered to have lasted from 1848 to the end of 1849. Most of the examples of use are in 1849.

STATE II: EARLY IMPRESSION

Printing in this state seems to be rather more uniform than that of the earliest impression and it is very clear and beautiful on the whole. It is notable that the contours of the Queen's profile are somewhat weak at delicate lines, while the vertical and diagonal lines are seen distinctly. The demand for 2d stamps was greater than that for the 1d at this time, presumably giving rise to more printings. State II lasted about two years or so.

Paper

There is not much difference in the thickness of paper between this state and the earliest although it appears that a little thinner paper, of which we have a few examples, was used. The papers vary in colour and occur in white, greyish, yellowish and bluish. With the exception of the last, all were used equally.

Colour of Printing

Shades can be classified into three main kinds:
(*a*) indigo-blue; (*b–d*) deep blue; and (*e–h*) blue.
There are, however, shades intermediate between the blue and the deep blue.

Period of Use

State II is considered to be used between 1849 and 1854. As we have more than 10 existing covers the period of use can be decided fairly accurately. However, there is a blank between the first half of 1850 and 1853 and it is presumed that the stamp was not used then. The period of use, therefore, was four years in all, i.e. 1848–49 and 1853–54.

STATE III: INTERMEDIATE IMPRESSION

As the quantity of printing increased, the wear of the plate rapidly progressed. After four years' use, the diagonal lines of the background were becoming dull and the vertical lines disappeared completely from the impression. In this state there are some unclear parts at the inscriptions.

Paper

Paper thickness is quite even and heavier or lighter ones are few. Most paper is bluish, but yellowish and greyish are also seen occasionally.

Colour of Printing

There are in comparison many shades in this impression. They are:
(*a*) indigo-blue; (*b–d*) deep blue; (*e–f*) blue; (*g*) light blue; and (*h*) grey-blue.

Period of Use

The stamps were used mainly between 1854 and 1857. The existence of more than a dozen covers makes it easy to decide the period of use.

STATE IV: WORN IMPRESSION

Printing of the 2d was much more than the 1d, making the plate life shorter and in this fourth state the diagonal lines and inscriptions were becoming thin and vague. The design of stamp can be recognized but not the details.

Paper

The quality is almost the same as that used for State III. Some papers are thinner and easily damaged. Bluish paper is the most common but there is some yellowish and greyish paper also.

Colour of Printing

This can be classified:
(*a*) deep blue; (*b–c*) blue; (*d–e*) light blue; and (*f–g*) grey-blue.

Period of Use

Use was between 1855 and 1858. Existing covers are rather few and it is difficult to determine the period precisely. There is a record of its being used in 1866 but this is an exceptional case.

STATE V: LATEST IMPRESSION

Seven years' production had brought to the plate extreme wear and consequently it was almost of no use. The background lines are all gone and only the outline of the Queen's profile is remaining. Inscriptions are virtually illegible with letters linked together in most places. The postmaster at this time was trying to have the plate repaired or replaced with a new one.

Paper

The paper became thinner and worse. Distinct bluish and yellowish papers occur; a white paper and a greyish paper are rarely seen.

Colour of Printing

There are several shades, seemingly equally used. They can be classified into:
(*a*) deep blue; (*b*) blue; (*c–d*) light blue; and (*f–g*) grey-blue.

Period of Use

This is considered to be between the second half of 1856 and the first half of 1858. An early date in 1858 is known but after this we have no record. The printing had to be suspended after October 1857 due to the extreme wear of the plate, it is presumed.

STATE VI: RETOUCHED IMPRESSION

The author believes there exists a sixth state of the plate, though no other student seems to have mentioned it. From examining many stamps of the previous state, we can sometimes notice that there are ones where inscriptions and the contours of the Queen's head have been re-touched, though this may be only very slight. It appears to have been done to the plate to make the impression a little better before the plate was re-engraved by Mr. Sherwin.

Paper

The quality is much the same as that of the latest impression but the paper is thinner. Most papers are in the bluish colour. Some greyish paper and yellowish paper have been discovered and the latter is very rare.

Colour of Printing

Not many varieties are known. Most stamps are in (*a*) greyish colour and there are some (*b–d*) light blue and (*e–g*) blue colours. One is apt to misjudge shades, which are affected by the paper colours.

Period of Use

Very few covers in this state have been discovered, in fact only two are known to exist. One was used in 1857 and the other in 1858. The period of use was very short, presumably less than a year.

ADHESIVE STAMP OF TWO PENCE

Shades	*Papers*
	State I: Earliest Impression
(*a*) Indigo	Greyish paper
(*b*) Indigo	Yellowish paper
(*c*) Indigo-blue	Bluish paper
(*d*) Indigo-blue	Greyish paper
(*e*) Indigo-blue	Yellowish paper
(*f*) Deep blue	Bluish paper
(*g*) Deep blue	Greyish paper
	State II: Early Impression
(*a*) Indigo-blue	Bluish paper
(*b*) Deep blue	Bluish paper
(*c*) Deep blue	Greyish paper
(*d*) Deep blue	Yellowish paper
(*e*) Blue	Bluish paper
(*f*) Blue	Greyish paper
(*g*) Blue	Yellowish paper
(*h*) Blue	White paper
	State III: Intermediate Impression
(*a*) Indigo-blue	Bluish paper
(*b*) Deep blue	Bluish paper
(*c*) Deep blue	Greyish paper
(*d*) Deep blue	Yellowish paper
(*e*) Blue	Bluish paper
(*f*) Blue	Greyish paper
(*g*) Light blue	Bluish paper
(*h*) Grey-blue	Bluish paper

State IV: Worn Impression

(*a*) Deep blue	Bluish paper
(*b*) Blue	Bluish paper
(*c*) Blue	Yellowish paper
(*d*) Light blue	Bluish paper
(*e*) Light blue	Greyish paper
(*f*) Grey-blue	Bluish paper
(*g*) Grey-blue	Greyish paper

State V: Latest Impression

(*a*) Deep blue	Bluish paper
(*b*) Blue	Bluish paper
(*c*) Light blue	Bluish paper
(*d*) Light blue	Greyish paper
(*e*) Light blue	White paper
(*f*) Grey-blue	Bluish paper
(*g*) Grey-blue	Yellowish paper

State VI: Retouched Impression

(*a*) Greyish light blue	Greyish paper
(*b*) Light blue	Bluish paper
(*c*) Light blue	Greyish paper
(*d*) Light blue	Yellowish paper
(*e*) Blue	Bluish paper
(*f*) Blue	Greyish paper
(*g*) Blue	Yellowish paper

Plating of One Penny and Two Pence

The plates for the "Post Paid" stamps were in use for about eight years and the impressions changed as the time went by. We have already classified the impressions into their different states and the plating should be made in accordance with these classifications. As the plate was later re-engraved by Mr. Sherwin plating ought to be done with pairs or multiples larger than a pair. There being only 12 varieties, plating is not too difficult, but care is needed with mixed impressions.

Generally, plating starts from sorting the stamps into three kinds of impressions – Early, Intermediate and Worn states – and, since we need 12 varieties for each impression, this means 36 varieties each for 1d and 2d stamps so that, ultimately, 72 varieties are necessary to complete the plating. Any plating other than by this method would be almost meaningless. No attempt has ever been made to do the plating for the five (or six) impression states classified earlier.

In order to decide on a position three points of each stamp should be thoroughly checked. Trying to collate the shapes of the corner ornaments of one stamp with another is rather difficult; the procedure recommended is to use the inscriptions on the four sides.

The following section shows (first for the 1d and next for the 2d) the characteristics of each of the 12 positions; stamps placed at the left are Early and to the right Worn Impressions. The interconnection of the positions is then demonstrated from overlapping multiples; this is followed by complete reconstructed sheets for the Early, Intermediate and Worn states whose plating is usual.

Only one error occurs in these plates: position 7 of the 2d has o instead of c in PENCE, so forming the well-known PENOE error.

ONE PENNY: CHARACTERISTICS OF POSITIONS

EARLY WORN

Position 1

POSTAGE	s misshapen. E raised.
ONE	Small O. Thick N.
PENNY	Y spaced widely either side.

Position 2

POSTAGE	Loop of P and lower curve of s extruded.
PENNY	Y touches at right.

Position 3

POSTAGE	P flattened at top.
MAURITIUS	Tiny internal triangle in A.

Position 4

POSTAGE	Short P. Tall s.
PENNY	Small loop to P.

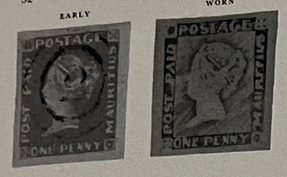
Position 5

POSTAGE	G resembles a C. Top bar of E points upward.

Position 6

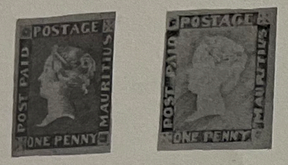
POSTAGE	P close to O. s slightly tall.

EARLY WORN



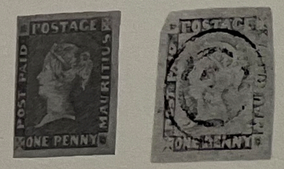
Position 7

POSTAGE Loop of P drooping.
MAURITIUS Sharp bottom corner on right of second U.
PENNY Y wide open.



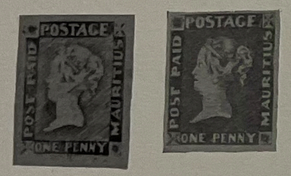
Position 8

POSTAGE Small internal bowl of P.
MAURITIUS A inclined to right.
PENNY P inclined to right.



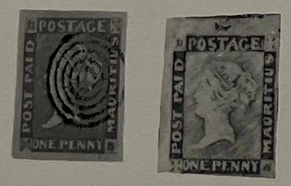
Position 9

POSTAGE Flat top to P. Characteristic G with heavy foot.



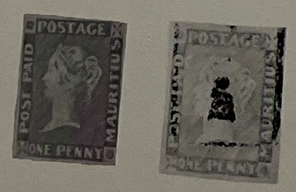
Position 10

POSTAGE Largest S of all positions.
PENNY Small P and large Y.



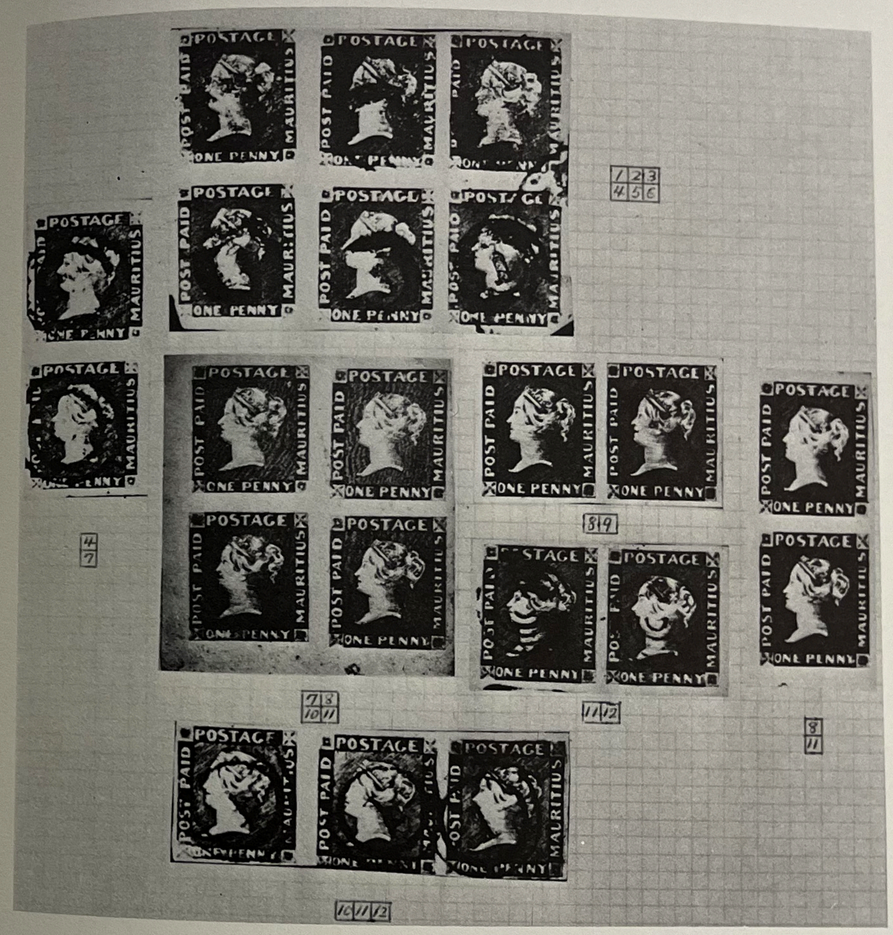
Position 11

POSTAGE Very large T.
ONE Oblong O.
PENNY Small Y.



Position 12

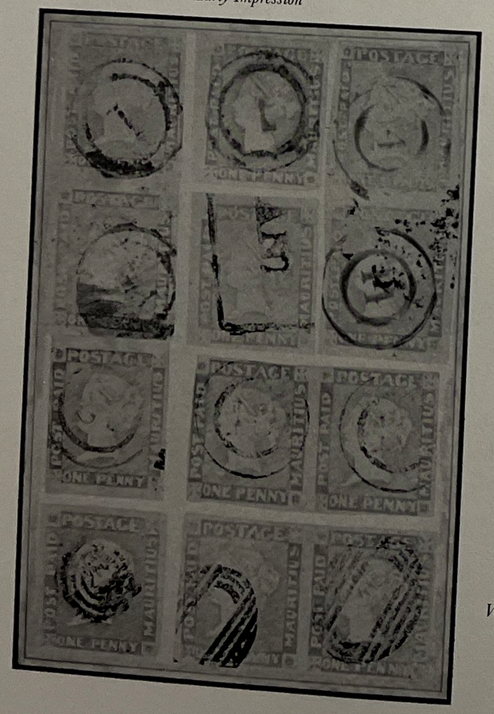
POSTAGE Heavy foot to T and letter inclines left.
MAURITIUS Thin first U.



ONE PENNY: RECONSTRUCTED SHEETS OF DIFFERENT IMPRESSIONS

Early Impression

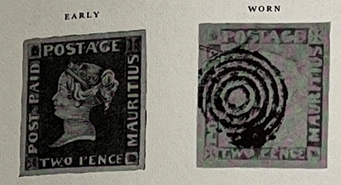
Intermediate Impression



Worn Impression

TWO PENCE: CHARACTERISTICS OF POSITIONS

EARLY WORN



Position 1

TWO PENCE — Foot of w uneven. Loop of P extruded. C characteristic shape.

Position 2

PENCE — Whole word thin letters. Smallest P of all positions.

Position 3

POSTAGE — Flat top to P.
PENCE — Squat C.

Position 4

POSTAGE — P and O linked.
PAID — Prominent D.
PENCE — In *Worn Impression* C became O. Distinguish from position 7 by disposition of words TWO and PENCE: they are close in position 4 but wider spaced in position 7.

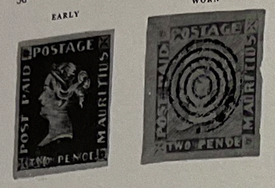
Position 5

POSTAGE — Thin A. Horizontal stroke of T shorter.
TWO PENCE — Widely spaced.

Position 6

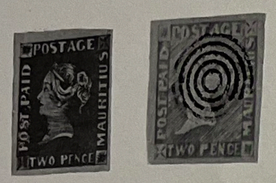
POSTAGE — P and S characteristic shapes.
TWO PENCE — Small letters.

EARLY WORN



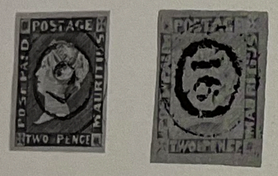
Position 7

PENCE — C engraved in error as O. Small P, with lower part of stroke jutting to left.



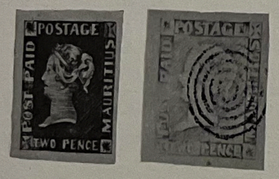
Position 8

POSTAGE — T inclined to right.
MAURITIUS — First and second U different in size (distinguish from position 11).



Position 9

POSTAGE — Large S. T is larger.
TWO — W inclined to right. O inclined to left.



Position 10

POSTAGE — Slender P. Large S and T.
MAURITIUS — Each letter U thin and of characteristic appearance.

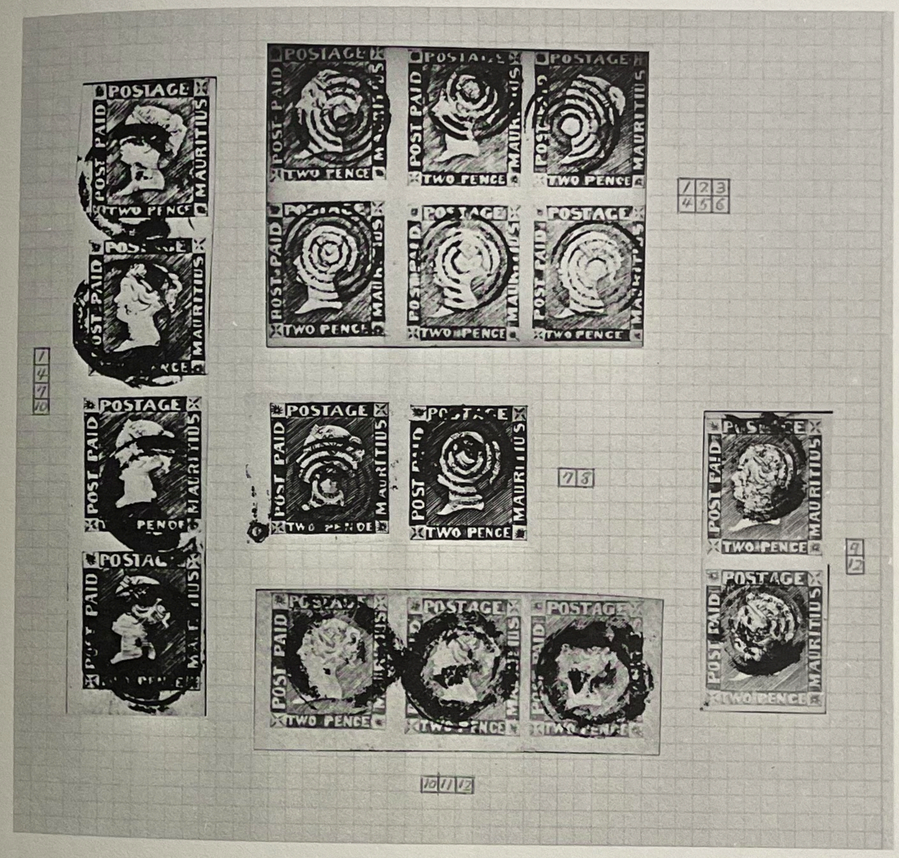
Position 11

POSTAGE — P and O linked. T inclined to right.
MAURITIUS — Each letter U thin.

Position 12

TWO — T and W linked at top.
PENCE — Characteristic P.

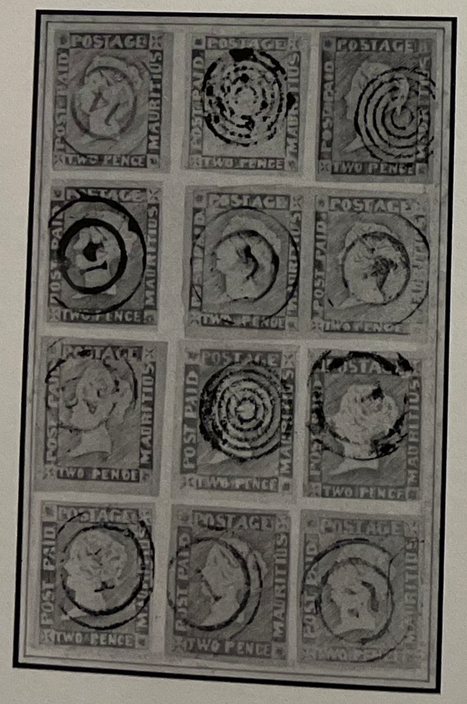
TWO PENCE : INTERCONNECTION OF POSITIONS



TWO PENCE: RECONSTRUCTED SHEETS OF DIFFERENT IMPRESSIONS

Early Impression

Intermediate Impression



Worn Impression

Philatelic Record

MULTIPLES: ONE PENNY

The largest unused block of 4 of the Earliest Impression [State I]

The largest block (of 6, unused) of the Latest Impression [State V]

Used block of the Early Impression [State II]. Blocks of 6 are the largest known

Used block of the Early Impression [State II]. Blocks of 6 are the largest known

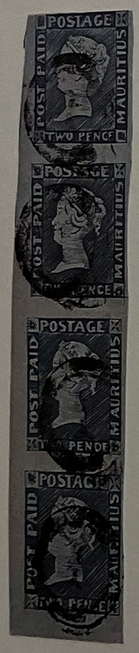
The largest used block of the "Post Paid" issue. Known as a photograph in the Lichtenstein Collection; present location of stamps unknown

MULTIPLES: TWO PENCE

Unused block of 4 of the Intermediate Impression [State III]

Royal Collection

The largest unused block (of 5) with PENOE (No. 7); Intermediate Impression [State III]



Only known vertical strip of 4 containing PENOE (No. 7); Intermediate Impression [State III]

The largest used block (of 6) in the Intermediate Impression [State III]

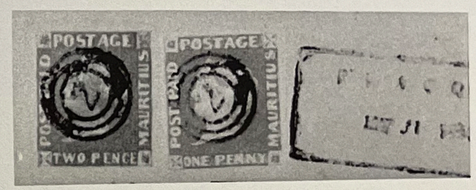
THE FIRST TWO STATES ON COVER

It is useful to summarize what is known about the existence on cover of the Earliest and Early Impressions (States I and II).

One Penny State I

It has never been made public before, but two pieces are now illustrated.

Two singles of 1d on piece



The 1d and 2d are now off paper and do not exist as here

One Penny State II

The existing number of examples made public are four items only; we can add three more covers to that if we may do so with covers bearing 1d and 2d stamps. There are known to have been used: three covers in 1854, one in 1855 for single use, and one cover each in 1853, 1854 and 1855 for combination use. From their addresses they were all for inland use.

Two Pence State I

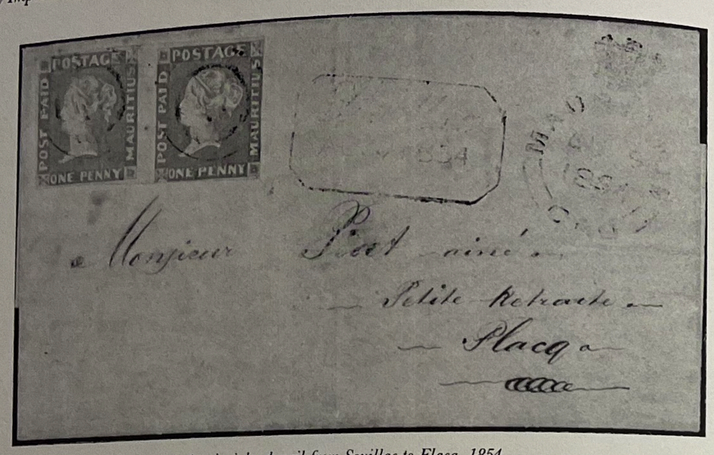
Examples of this are more in abundance than for the 1d. This is probably because the 2d stamps, the rate for overseas mail, were used more often, especially for Europe where old mails tended to be kept and where there are possibilites that still more may be discovered. Out of four covers known today, one was for inland use in 1849, one for overseas in 1848 and there were two overseas uses in 1849. The 2d used for inland mail is very rare.

Two Pence State II

As for State I, more covers exist than for the 1d. Out of 14 covers, 11 were of 2d single use or bore 2d stamps only and three covers bore 1d and 2d. One cover was used in 1848, six in 1849, one in 1850, one in 1853 and five in 1854. Eleven were for overseas and three were for inland.

ONE PENNY: THE DIFFERENT IMPRESSIONS ON COVER

Early Impression (State II)



A pair, inland mail from Souillac to Flacq, 1854

Intermediate Impression (State III)

Single, a soldier's letter from Mahebourg to Staplehurst, 1856. Two soldier's letters have been discovered so far

Worn Impression (State IV)

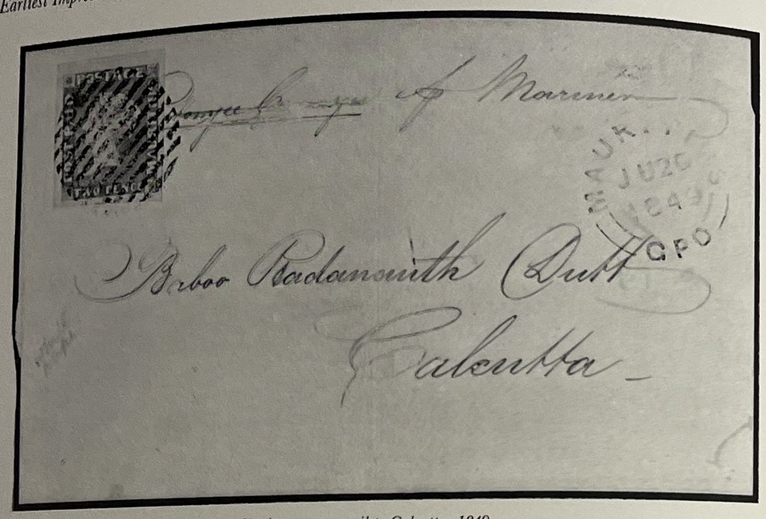
Two singles, inland mail from Eastern Suburb to Port Louis, 1857

Latest Impression (State V)

Single, town letter, 1859. The only cover cancelled with PENNY POST

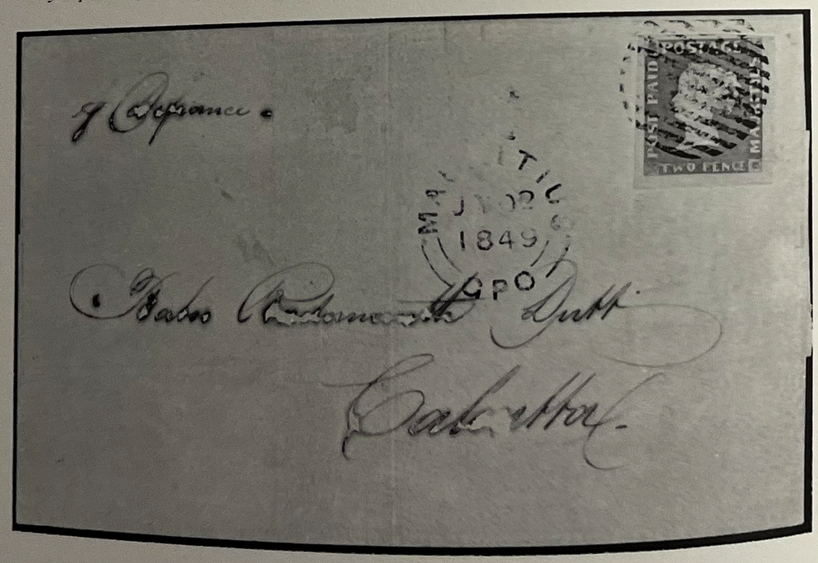
TWO PENCE: THE DIFFERENT IMPRESSIONS ON COVER

Earliest Impression (State I)



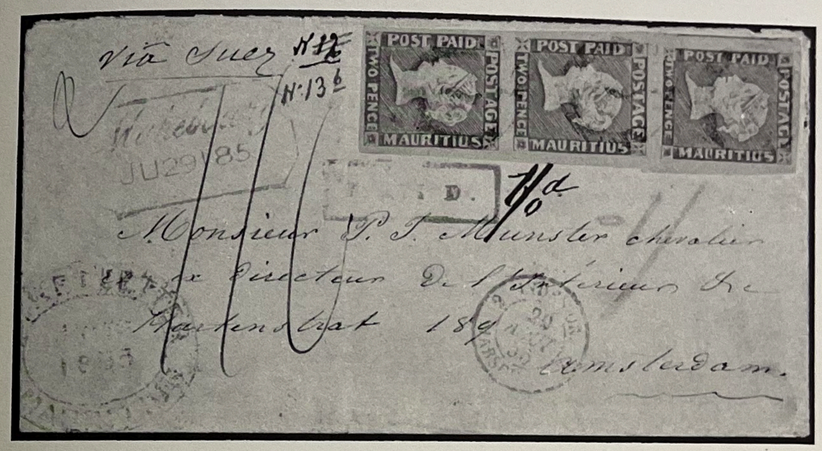
Single, overseas mail to Calcutta, 1849

Early Impression (State II)



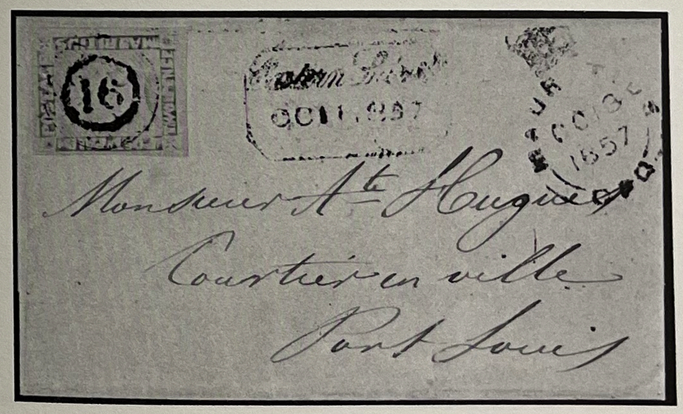
Single, overseas mail to Calcutta, 1849

Intermediate Impression (State III)



Strip of 3, overseas mail from Mahebourg to Amsterdam, 1855

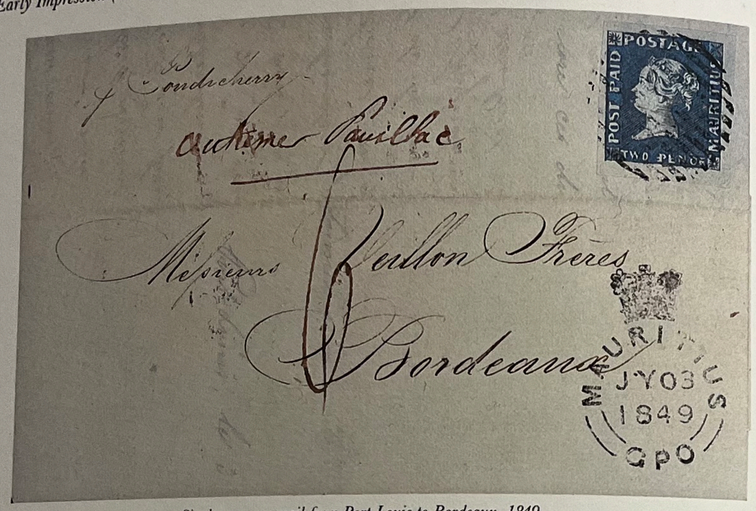
Latest Impression (State V)



Single, inland mail from Eastern Suburb to Port Louis, 1857

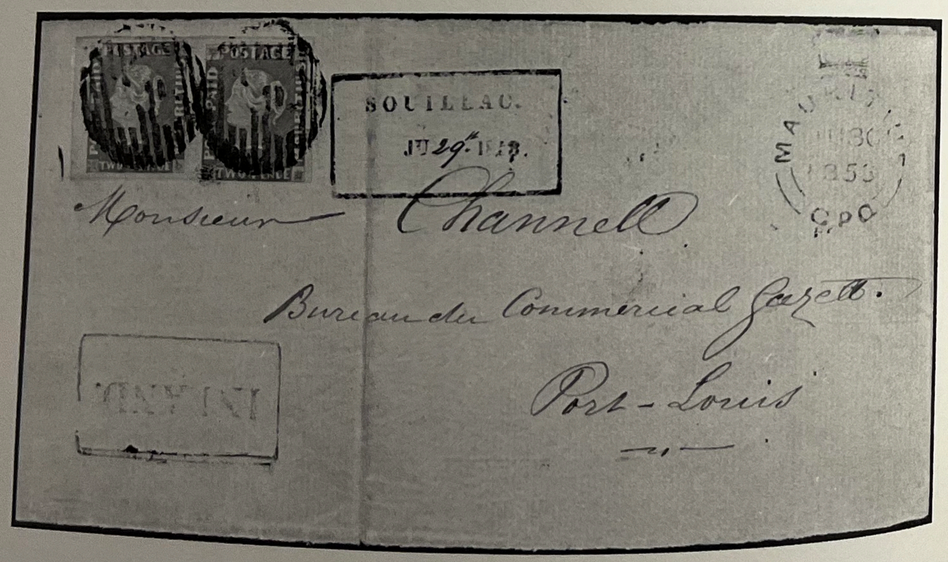
"PENOE" ERROR ON COVER

Early Impression (State II)



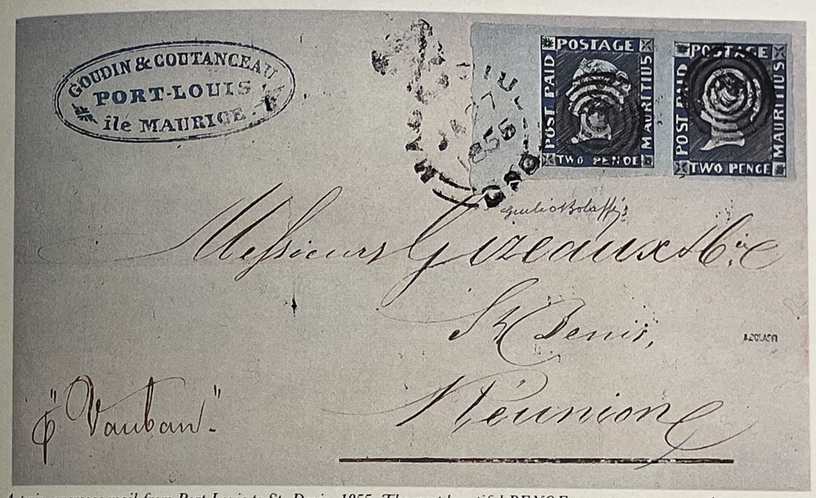
Single, overseas mail from Port Louis to Bordeaux, 1849

Early Impression (State II)



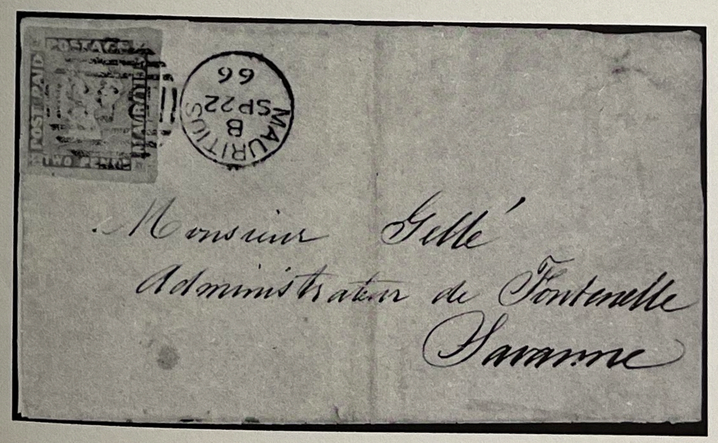
A pair, inland mail from Souillac to Port Louis, 1853

Intermediate Impression (State III)



A pair, overseas mail from Port Louis to St. Denis, 1855. The most beautiful PENOE error on cover among the ones now in existence

Worn Impression (State IV)



Single, inland mail to Savanne with B53

Reconstructed Sheets

Reconstruction of the sheets for the 1d and 2d stamps of the "Post Paid" issue is very interesting and at the same time important in collecting the Mauritius locally printed issues generally. Many famous collectors have tried it and illustrated in the following are records of reconstructions done in the past.

RECONSTRUCTIONS OF THE ONE PENNY

Royal Collection Plating

Royal Collection

Still in existence. Positions are correct

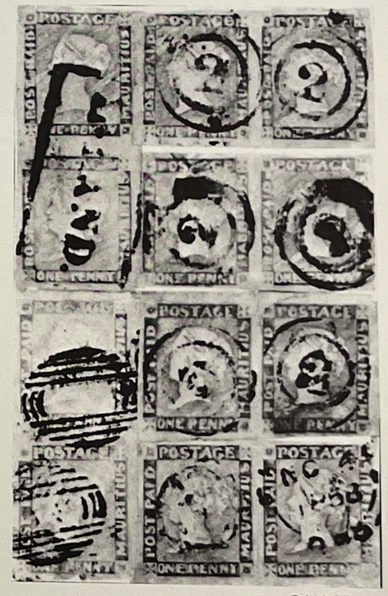
Tapling Platings

British Library

Still in existence. Positions are correct.
One of the two known platings of unused 1d.

British Library

Still in existence.
Positions are correct



British Library

Still in existence.
Positions are correct

Ferrary Plating

Not now in existence.
Positions 5 and 10 are wrong and should replace each other.
The second known plating of the unused 1d

Hind Platings

These two sheets were put on sale in 1934 and they have not appeared on the market since. They probably still exist. Positions are correct

Burrus Platings

Possibly still in existence.
The plating went from Ferrary to Burrus, and positions 5 and 10 were interchanged. Positions are correct

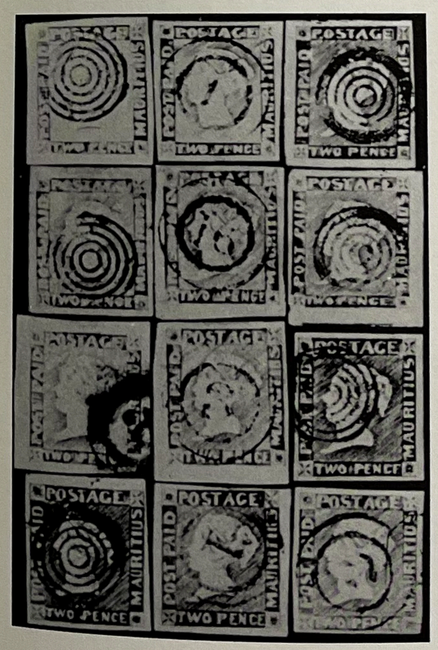
Not now in existence.
Positions are correct

Not now in existence.
Position 3 is wrong, being No. 9

Hind Platings

Sheet not now in existence.
Positions are correct

Sheet not now in existence.
Positions are correct



This sheet does not now exist. It went from Hind to Burrus, who reconstructed it further. Position 8 is wrong, being No. 11

RECONSTRUCTIONS OF THE TWO PENCE

Royal Collection Plating

Royal Collection

Still in existence. Positions are correct

Tapling Platings

British Library

This incomplete sheet still exists. The only example of a plating made up of unused stamps.
Positions 1 and 12 are missing, but others are in right positions

British Library

Still in existence.
Positions are correct

British Library

Still in existence.
Postions are correct

Brunel Plating

This reconstructed sheet is seen in Brunel's book (ref. 9), but it is not known what happened to it after publication. Positions are correct

Collin and Calman Plating

After it had been used in the Collin and Calman book (ref. 39), the sheet went to Hind and then to Burrus. Not now existing. Positions are correct

Collin and Calman Plating

From Collin and Calman, ref. 39

This plating does not exist now. Positions are correct

Unknown plating

By whom this plating was made is unknown, neither is it known whether it still exists. Positions are correct

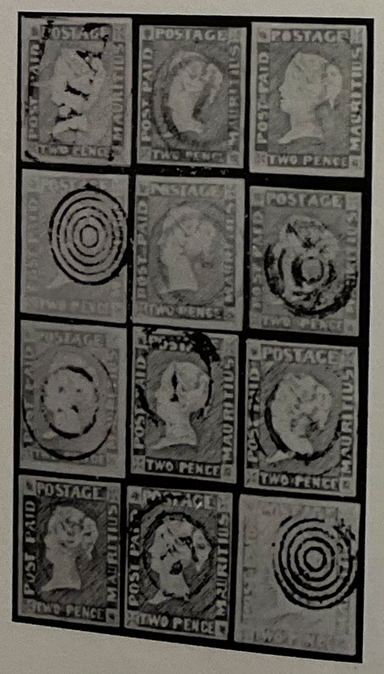
Brunel Plating

Not known whether this still exists. Position 4 is wrong, being No. 10

From Brunel, ref. 9

Burrus Platings

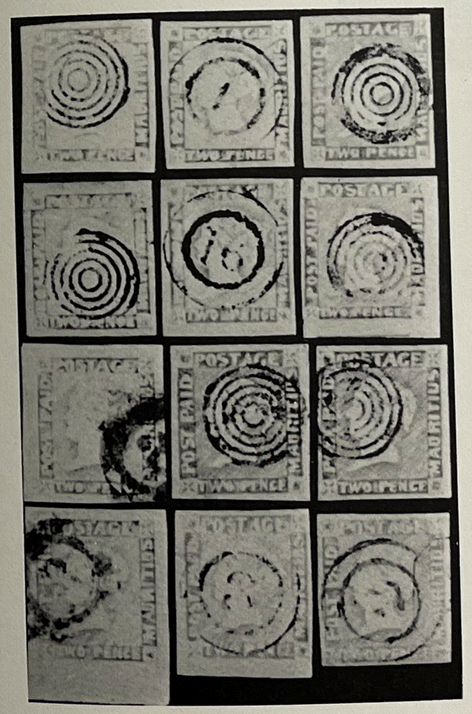
This sheet had come to Burrus from Ferrary; Burrus replaced the stamps at positions 2, 6, 9, 10 and 11. Not known if still in existence. Positions are correct



Can hardly be called a reconstructed sheet, since positions 4, 5, 6 and 8 are all wrong (they correspond to Nos. 11, 4, 8 and 9 respectively). Not known if still in existence

Burrus Platings (contd.)

The stamps were used for another reconstruction. Not now existing. Positions are correct



Not now existing. Positions are correct

Ferrary Plating

This sheet does not now exist.
Positions are correct

CHAPTER IV

The Third Issue: The "Lapirot" Issue

The Stamp

Denomination	: Two Pence
Plate and Print	: Engraved and printed by Jules Lapirot at Port Louis, Mauritius
Sheet	: 12 varieties on the sheet (3 horizontal rows of 4 stamps)
Perforation	: Imperforate
Date of Issue	: March 1859
Stanley Gibbons Catalogue	: Nos. 26 to 29

Circumstances of the Issue

The copper plates of the "Post Paid" issue were wearing so badly that they could no longer be used. The Colonial Postmaster, in his letter[34] of 10 February 1858 to the Colonial Secretary, drew attention to this and requested that the plate of 2d stamps might be repaired or a new plate engraved. In the same letter he suggested to the Colonial Secretary that Mr. Robert Sherwin, who had had previous experience of doing engraving work for the department, could be used. Then in a "Report" dated 24 February he wrote that he had seen the engraver who had inspected the plate and had told him the minimum price for restoring the twelve stamps would be £7. On this matter the Postmaster again wrote a letter[34] on 4 August reporting that Sherwin had not yet "repaired the Twopenny Stamp Plate" and asking for instructions, as 2d stamps were much wanted. On the reverse of this letter is written, "Post Master to endeavour to find another person to re-engrave the plate". A Mr. Lapirot was approached.

According to a report[35] from the Postmaster of 4 September 1858, Lapirot examined the plate and gave his opinion that "it was too far gone to produce a good impression": he offered to make a new one for £10. The Colonial Secretary accepted Lapirot's offer.

Five months later the Postmaster reported[35] in a letter of 22 February 1859 to the Colonial Secretary that "Mr. Lapirot has this day delivered the new plate for 2d stamps" and requested that 5,000 stamps might be printed from it immediately.

This is the history of the new plate and the stamps printed from it. It appears[36] that 4,959 stamps were issued on 19 March 1859, and a further 5,000 each on 25 and 26 March. The new plate, however, wore away because the engraving was not deep enough. It is usually believed that it was in use for about a year but actually it was much shorter than that, only about eight months. Records show that 10,000 2d stamps were issued on 6 May 1859; 12,000 on 11 June; and 10,000 on 6 August. It is not specifically stated that these were from the Lapirot plate, although they must have been for no other 2d plate was then available.

This stamp is sometimes referred to as "Small Head with Fillet" (the "fillet" is the hair-ribbon). L. N. and M. Williams[40] have noted the several unkindly descriptions accorded to Mr. Lapirot's engraving of Queen Victoria. The stamps have at times been characterized as dog's heads, monkey's heads, libel labels and – in Mauritius itself – as the "Two Pence Mozambique".

Classification by Impression

Impressions made from the new plate can be classified in three states: the first state, the Early Impression; the second state, Intermediate Impression; the third state, Worn Impression.

State I: Early Impression

State II: Intermediate Impression

State III: Worn Impression

STATE I: EARLY IMPRESSION

While the plate was still new, the impression is clear enough to see the profile of the Queen standing out from the background of crossed diagonal, vertical and horizontal lines. Inscriptions are on another groundwork of fine crossed vertical and horizontal lines from which they stand out clearly.

Paper

Thin granular paper was used, both bluish and greyish. Greyish paper is much scarcer than bluish. A stout paper is very occasionally found.

Colour of Printing

Varieties of shade occur in abundance. They can be divided into: grey-blue, dark blue, blue and light blue.

Period of Use

An investigation of about 20 existing covers gives a period of use of about 5–6 months – the first 3 months, from May to July 1859, for the Early and Intermediate Impressions. For the whole issue the earliest recorded date is 9 May 1859 and the latest is 20 November 1859.

STATE II: INTERMEDIATE IMPRESSION

The engraving being shallow, wear and tear of the plate progressed in a short period of time. In this state, the surrounding background of the Queen's profile started to wear away first. On the whole, however, there still remain the traces of the first state of impression.

Paper

The quality of the paper is not quite so good. There were two kinds of paper, thin and medium, and the paper colour can be divided into yellowish, greyish or bluish. The existence of a stout paper has not been confirmed. The yellowish paper is much scarcer than the other two.

Colour of Printing

Shades can be grouped as follows: grey-blue, dark blue and blue.

Early Impression, overseas mail with One Penny "Post Paid" and (9d) "Britannia" on cover to England, 1859

Period of Use

The records are comparatively few and it is difficult to tell definitely the period when the plate was in this state. However, it is likely to have been from about July to October 1859.

STATE III: WORN IMPRESSION

In this third state the plate had worn away considerably. The vertical and horizontal lines in the background are indistinct and the Queen's profile has become dull and unclear. Inscriptions are almost illegible.

Paper

There is not much difference from the papers used for the Early and Intermediate Impressions but there is a tendency that less of the thin and more of the medium paper was used in this state. The paper colours are yellowish, greyish and bluish. A stout paper seems to have been used sometimes but it is very rare. The yellowish paper is much scarcer than the other two.

Colour of Printing

There is not so much variety of printing colour in this state but shades can be classified as: dark blue, blue and bright blue.

Period of Use

From the records and other existing covers, the plate was used in this state for about one or two months, from October to November 1859.

A pair, Intermediate Impression, overseas mail from Port Louis to Granville, 1859

ADHESIVE STAMP OF TWO PENCE

		Shades	*Papers*
			State I: Early Impression
Thin paper	(*a*)	Grey-blue	Greyish paper
	(*b*)	Dark blue	Bluish paper
	(*c*)	Blue	Greyish paper
	(*d*)	Blue	Bluish paper
	(*e*)	Light blue	Greyish paper
Medium paper	(*a*)	Grey-blue	Greyish paper
	(*b*)	Blue	Bluish paper
	(*c*)	Blue	Greyish paper
	(*d*)	Light blue	Greyish paper
	(*e*)	Light blue	Bluish paper
Stout paper*	(*a*)	Dark blue	Bluish paper
			State II: Intermediate Impression
Thin paper	(*a*)	Dark blue	Yellowish paper
	(*b*)	Dark blue	Greyish paper
	(*c*)	Dark blue	Bluish paper
	(*d*)	Blue	Greyish paper
	(*e*)	Blue	Bluish paper
Medium paper	(*a*)	Grey-blue	Greyish paper
	(*b*)	Dark blue	Greyish paper
	(*c*)	Dark blue	Bluish paper
	(*d*)	Blue	Greyish paper
	(*e*)	Blue	Bluish paper
			State III: Worn Impression
Thin paper	(*a*)	Dark blue	Bluish paper
	(*b*)	Dark blue	Bluish paper
Medium paper	(*a*)	Dark blue	Yellowish paper
	(*b*)	Dark blue	Greyish paper
	(*c*)	Dark blue	Bluish paper
	(*d*)	Blue	Yellowish paper
	(*e*)	Blue	Greyish paper
	(*f*)	Blue	Bluish paper
	(*g*)	Bright blue	Bluish paper
Stout paper*	(*a*)	Blue	Bluish paper

*The stamps on stout paper are very rare.

Paper Thickness

Little is recorded on how the printing paper was provided. The quality is not very good and there is much unevenness in the thickness. The papers can be classified as follows:

State I: Early Impression

Thin paper	0·060–0·065 mm
Medium paper	0·065–0·075 mm
Stout paper	more than 0·080 mm

State II: Intermediate Impression

Thin paper	0·060–0·065 mm
Medium paper	0·065–0·075 mm

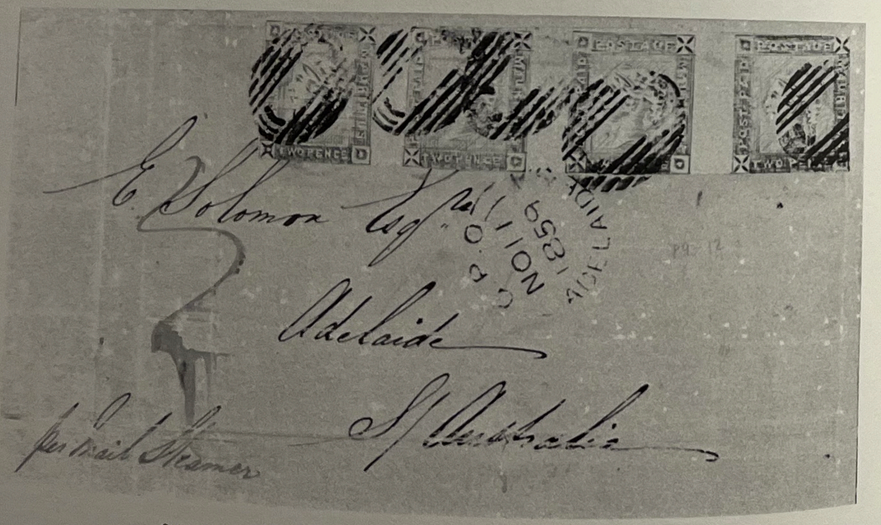
State III: Worn Impression

Thin paper	0·055–0·065 mm
Medium paper	0·065–0·075 mm
Stout paper	more than 0·080 mm

Plating

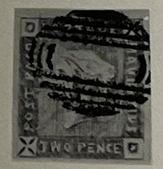
Plating should be done in accordance with the condition of the impression, i.e. Early, Intermediate or Worn. As each impression has 12 varieties, a total of at least 36 stamps is needed to reconstruct the sheets. Several collectors have tried so far to make a complete reconstructed sheet, but none of them ever achieved it initially. Some of them tried to do plating using mixed impressions but this is not desirable.

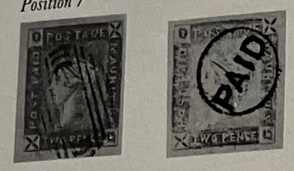
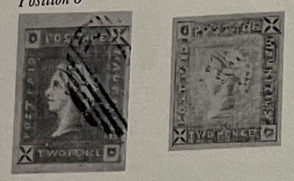
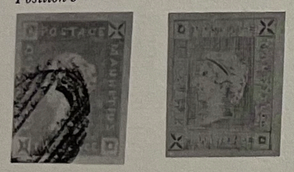
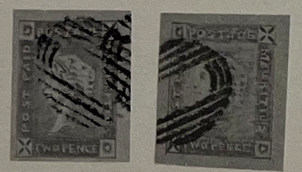
There is no other means but to decide each of 12 positions by the aid of overlapping multiples. It will be recalled that in the second issue, the "Post Paid", positions were decided by comparing the inscriptions on the four sides. For this Lapirot issue it is much better to decide the correct position by a comparison of the ornaments at the four corners of the stamp. Of the 12 positions, position 8 has an inverted N in the word PENCE and position 9 has at its south-west corner an ornament with a white circular dot at the centre which is easy to distinguish. The characteristics of each position are set out here.



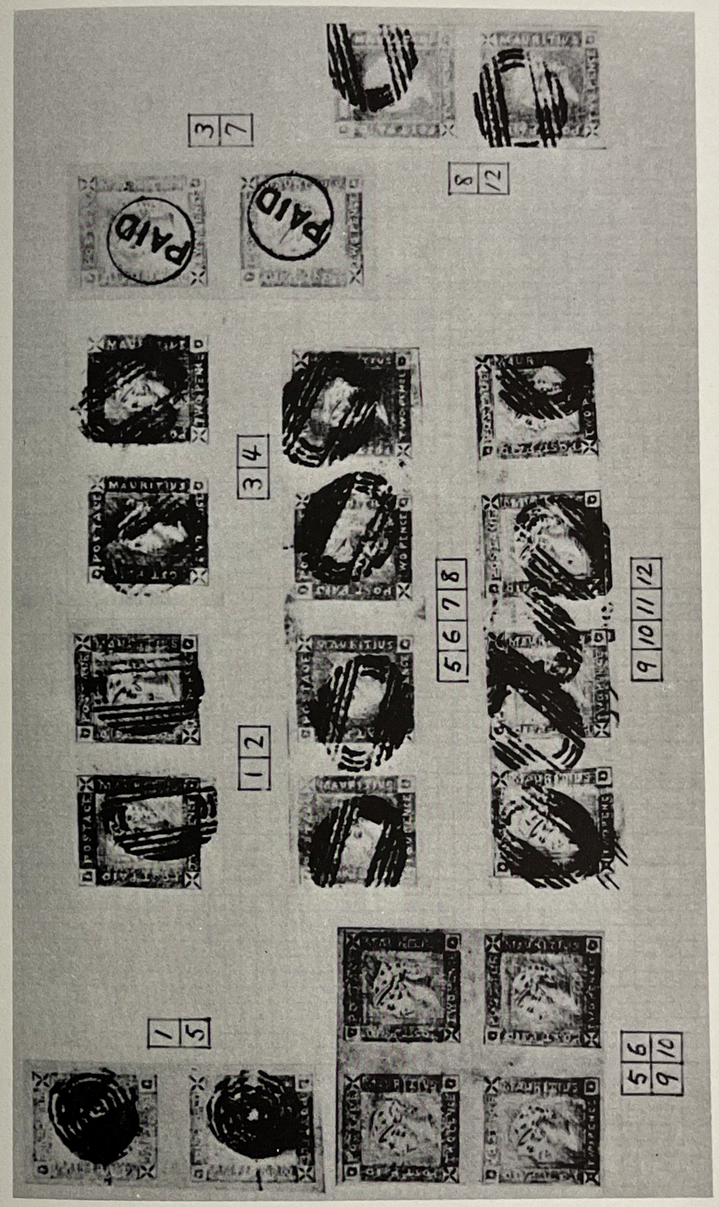
Strip of 4, Worn Impression, overseas mail from Port Louis to Adelaide, 1859

CHARACTERISTICS OF POSITIONS: DIFFERENCES IN CORNER ORNAMENTS

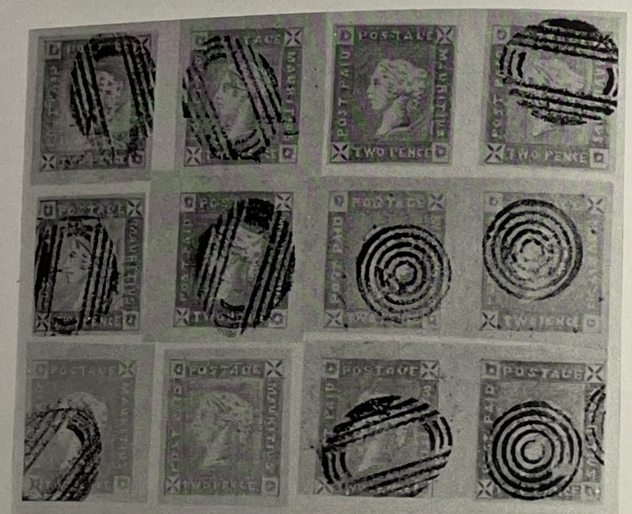
			N.W. Corner	S.E. Corner	N.E. Corner	S.W. Corner
Position 1						
Position 2						
Position 3						
Position 4						
Position 5						
Position 6						

	N.W. Corner	S.E. Corner	N.E. Corner	S.W. Corner
Position 7				
Position 8				
	N of PENCE inverted.			
Position 9				
	South-west corner has white circular dot in the centre.			
Position 10				
Position 11				
Position 12				

The horizontal and vertical connections between the rows are shown in the following arrangement. It is accompanied by a newly reconstructed sheet, showing the correct positions for the plating.



CORRECT MODEL PLATING

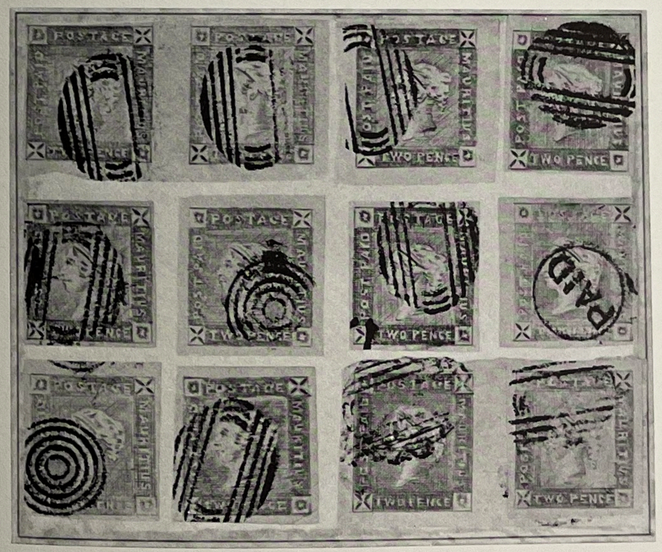


All the past reconstructions have been imperfect. Here illustrated is the first correct reconstructed sheet ever to have been made public

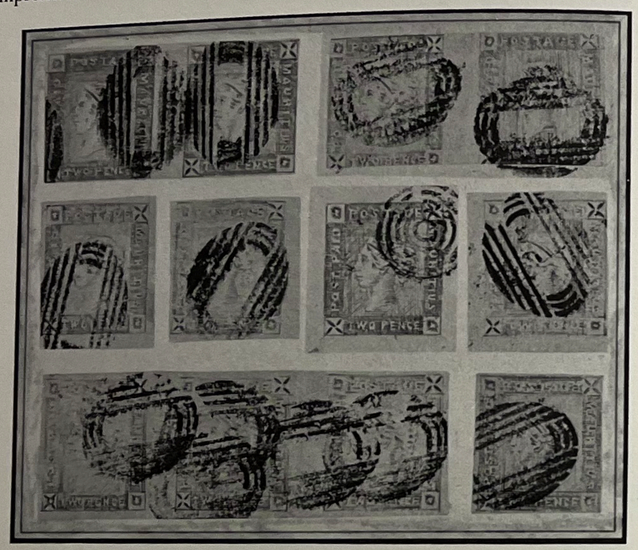
RECONSTRUCTED SHEETS OF DIFFERENT IMPRESSIONS

Early Impression

Intermediate Impression



Worn Impression

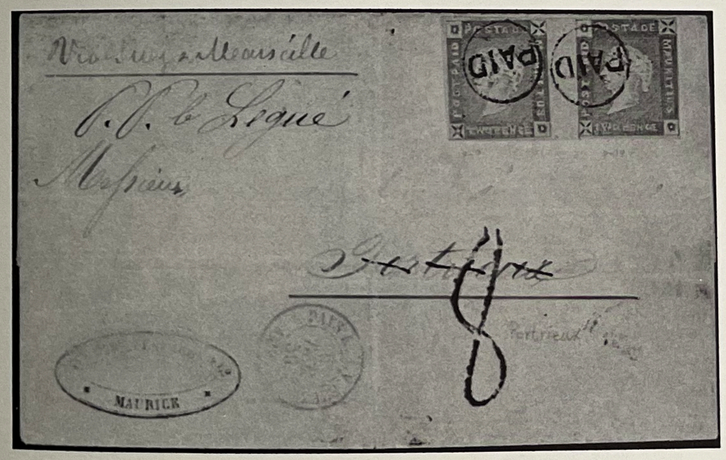


The Retouched Plate

Retouching of the plate has already been taken up in this book with a few examples in the "Post Paid" Two Pence, which seem scarcely to have been noticed before. For this "Lapirot" issue, however, the subject has hitherto never been studied practically.

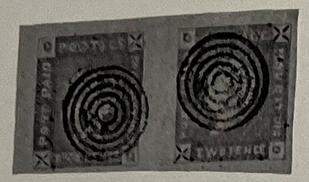
On writing this book, the author undertook a minute study of each position of the plate according to the states of impression – Early, Intermediate and Worn. A state was found which did not fit into any of these three states of impression. Generally, this state is considered to be of the Early Impression, but the size of letters in the design is very different from early impressions of the corresponding positions.

The plate had become too worn out to use and the next Sherwin Issue was not yet ready, so it had to be retouched similarly to the "Post Paid" 2d plate. The retouching method, however, differs from that of the past. The vertical and horizontal lines of the background were retouched so as to make the impression clearer and to look like the early impression. Judging from the effect of the retouching, it was apparently done by Lapirot himself, the same man who had engraved the plate.

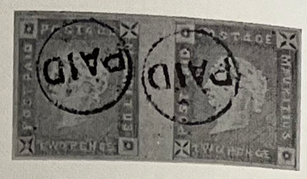


A pair of Retouched Impression on cover

Retouched Plate

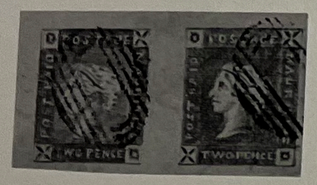


Retouched plate, positions 7–8

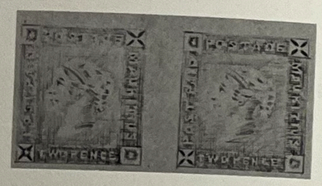


Retouched plate, positions 9–10

Unretouched Plate



Unretouched plate, Early Impression, positions 7–8



Unretouched plate, Worn Impression, positions 9–10

Unretouched plate, Early Impression, position 9

One can easily notice the difference between the original and retouched stamps. Position 9 can be taken as an example. In the illustrations examine the ornaments in the north-west and south-east corners. Both have a small dot in the centre of each ornament, but as this only occurs on the retouched plate it is characteristic. The dots are absent at position 9 on all states of the unretouched plate from Early to Worn Impression.

The author expects to renew his study so that he can produce more definite proof about retouching. The existing numbers of stamps from the retouched plate are very few and it can be said that this is the rarest impression of this issue.

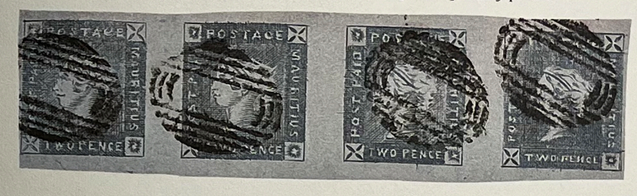
Philatelic Record

MULTIPLES

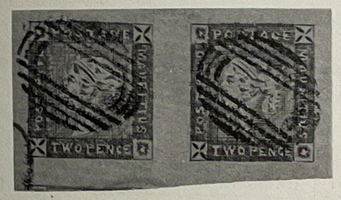
As almost all of the issue seems to have been used, there are not many left unused. The largest known multiple is the block of four shown. As to strips of four, there are two used ones known. A rejoined block of four used is also in the record. Vertical pairs are much scarcer than horizontal pairs.

Largest unused block (of 4) of Worn Impression [State III]

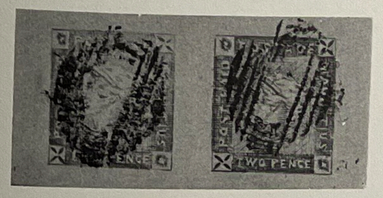
Rejoined used block of 4 of Early Impression [State I], doubly printed



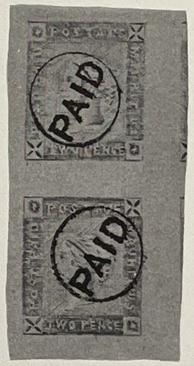
Largest used strip (of 4) of Early Impression [State I]



Horizontal used pair of Intermediate Impression [State II]



Horizontal used pair of Worn Impression [State III]

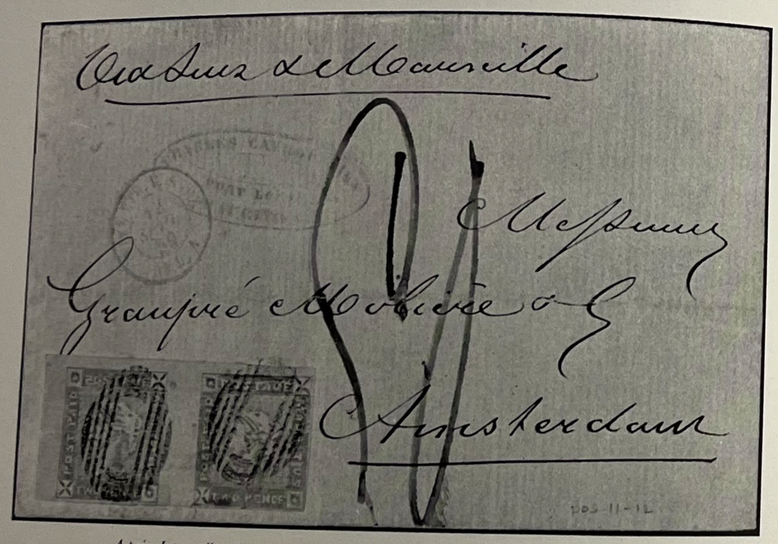


Vertical used pair of Worn Impression [State III]

COVERS

Early and Intermediate Impressions on cover are scarce. As many as seven covers with the Early Impression have been known but the ones in good condition are very rare. The covers comprise four with the Lapirot 2d in combination with 6d Britannia stamps; two covers with a pair and one with a single. Covers with the Worn Impression are not quite so scarce.

Excluded from this record are covers in such bad condition as to be of hardly any value.



A pair, Intermediate Impression, overseas mail from Port Louis to Amsterdam, 1859

Reconstructed Sheets

Looking into the records of the past, there has been no perfectly reconstructed sheet for this issue.[41] All the sheets reconstructed by past collectors have unfortunately been wrong, because they were all based on their predecessors' wrong models. The author has noticed, in many cases, similar mistakes in the positions of stamps in this sheet made by stamp dealers and auctioneers who, without doubt, have just copied the original collections. By minutely comparing available material, the author believes he has come to a new and proper conclusion regarding the correct positions of each stamp of this issue. As distinct from the "Post Paid" and "Sherwin Issue", the sheet construction is here twelve stamps in three horizontal rows of four, as opposed to four horizontal rows of three. Given in the following is an examination of positions in the previously reconstructed sheets.

Royal Collection Plating

Royal Collection

2	3	4	1
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12

The original early reconstruction. It was corrected by transposing the strip of 3 and the single in the first horizontal row (ref. 41).

Correct Position	*Royal Collection Position (originally)*
Pos. 1	Pos. 2
Pos. 2	Pos. 3
Pos. 3	Pos. 4
Pos. 4	Pos. 1

Tapling Platings

British Library

1	3	4	2
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12

First horizontal row only is wrong.

Correct Position	*Tapling Position*
Pos. 2	Pos. 3
Pos. 3	Pos. 4
Pos. 4	Pos. 2

British Library

1	3	4	2
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	

First horizontal row only is wrong.

Correct Position	*Tapling Position*
Pos. 2	Pos. 3
Pos. 3	Pos. 4
Pos. 4	Pos. 2

Brunel Plating

From Brunel, ref. 9

From Brunel, ref. 9

1	3	4	10
5	6	7	8
9	10	1	2

Many mistakes in various positions. Same positions in two places, i.e. Pos. 1 and 10 two of each.

Correct Position	*Brunel Position*
Pos. 2	Pos. 3
Pos. 3	Pos. 4
Pos. 4	Pos. 10
Pos. 11	Pos. 1
Pos. 12	Pos. 2

Hind Platings

1	3	4	2
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12

First horizontal row only is wrong. Same mistake as Tapling Collection. Must have been reconstructed after Tapling Collection or *British Africa* Part II (ref. 4).

Correct Position	*Hind Position*
Pos. 2	Pos. 3
Pos. 3	Pos. 4
Pos. 4	Pos. 2

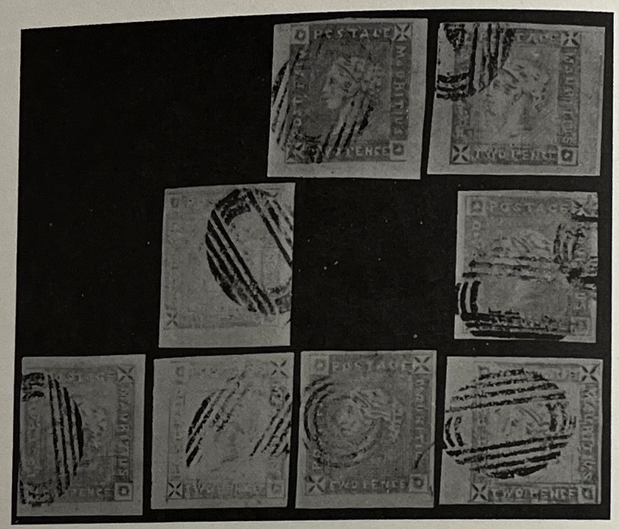
Hind Platings (contd.)

1	3	4	2
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12

First horizontal row is wrong as explained on page 100.

Correct Position	*Hind Position*
Pos. 2	Pos. 3
Pos. 3	Pos. 4
Pos. 4	Pos. 2

Burrus Plating

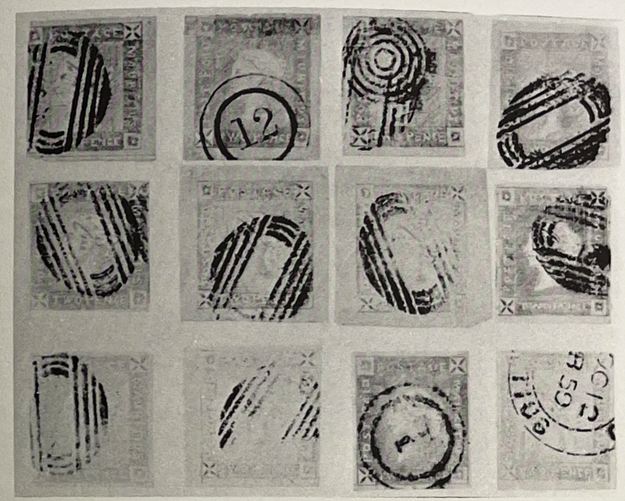


		3	2
	6		9
9	10	11	12

What is different from the Tapling and Hind platings is that No. 3 was rightly placed. However, No. 8 is in error.

Correct Position	*Burrus Position*
Pos. 4	Pos. 2
Pos. 8	Pos. 9

Collin and Calman Plating



From Collin and Calman, ref. 39

From Collin and Calman, ref. 39

1	3	4	2
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12

Same mistakes as Tapling and Hind. Reconstruction was presumably done after Tapling.

Correct Position	*Collin-Calman Position*
Pos. 2	Pos. 3
Pos. 3	Pos. 4
Pos. 4	Pos. 2

CHAPTER V

The Fourth Issue: The "Sherwin" Issue

The Stamp

Denomination	: Two Pence
Plate	: Barnard's plate of 1848 re-engraved by Robert Sherwin of Port Louis, Mauritius
Sheet	: 12 varieties on the sheet (4 horizontal rows of 3)
Perforation	: Imperforate
Date of Issue	: October 1859
Stanley Gibbons Catalogue	: No. 30

Circumstances of the Issue

As mentioned in Chapter IV the 1d and 2d "Post Paid" stamps of 1848 were still in use in early 1858 but the plates were badly worn. Mr. Sherwin was commissioned to re-engrave them. By August 1858 the need for 2d stamps was urgent but, as the re-engraving was not completed, another engraver was found. This was Mr. Lapirot, who decided to prepare a new plate entirely for the 2d and this he delivered in February 1859. Stamps from his plate, the Third Issue of Mauritius, were dealt with in the preceding Chapter.

Returning to the Fourth Issue, it was on 2 September 1858 that Sherwin had written to the Colonial Postmaster saying that he had not had time to complete the re-engraving.[42] From this, we understand that the work was suspended in September 1858 but, as the Lapirot plate also wore so quickly and became unfit for use, it seems certain that the "Post Paid" plate (plate of 1848) was finally re-engraved within 12 months of that time.

Whether the re-engraving was done by Robert Sherwin or by some other engraver is not recorded. For the sake of classification, however, it is called the Sherwin plate. The Fourth locally printed Issue, therefore, is considered to have been issued about September or October 1859; as it had such a very short life it can be regarded as a provisional issue since the lithographed 1d and 2d stamps (Dardenne) were issued in December 1859.

There seems little doubt that the 1d plate of 1848 was re-engraved one or two months after the 2d plate but, strangely enough, no actual use of stamps printed from this plate is known.

The Sherwin engraving is sometimes termed "Large Head with Fillet", the fillet being the hair-ribbon.

The Original Copper Plates

In 1877 Edward B. Evans was stationed in Mauritius as an Army Lieutenant. This renowned philatelist researched into the stamps of the island and succeeded in locating two copper plates. These were the ones originally engraved by Barnard for the "Post Paid" issue and later re-engraved by Sherwin, a historic find.

The plates had previously been used to print the advertisements of the Grand Hotel d'Europe in Port Louis. The One Penny plate was engraved on the reverse side of the advertisement in French and the Two Pence on that in English. The English advertisement reads as follows:[42]

> This Establishment offers to Strangers arriving in the Colony, and to visitors generally, every comfort and convenience that can be desired, it is particularly recommendable for its central, airy, and salubrious situation; being in the vicinity of the principal public places, Government House, Protestant and Catholic Church, Public Offices, Courts of Justice, Theatre, Champ-de-Mars, &c., Splendid Saloons, spacious, lofty and elegantly fitted up bed Chambers, extensive Court Yards, Baths, Coach house, Stabling, &c. A first rate Master Cook, an experienced head Waiter, excellent attendance; and a cellar stocked with every variety of choice Wines, Malt Liquors, Spirits, &c.

It seems that Evans obtained permission from the authorities to reprint from the original plates. These reprints were in black and they are certainly very rare items; the author unfortunately has not yet had a chance of seeing them. From these black reprints 600 coloured impressions were later made by autotype (a process akin to collotype) and included as illustrations in *The Postage Stamps . . . of the British Colonies . . . in Africa* (1900).

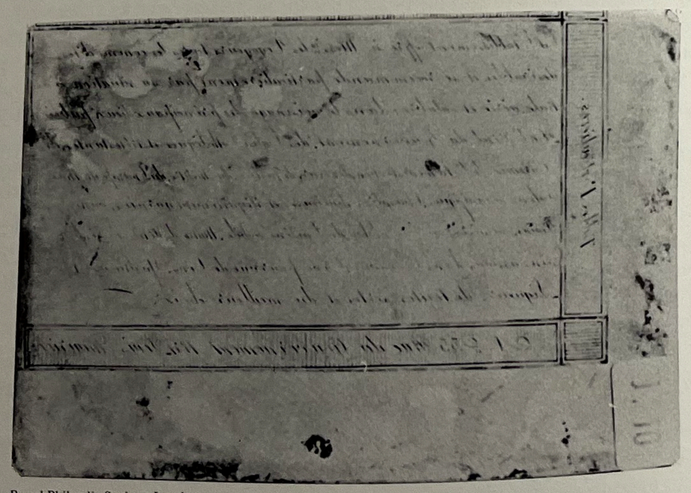
Mr. Brunel[43] tells an interesting story about how the black reprints were made. Mr. Thompson, the Colonial Postmaster of the time, had the plates cleaned for the reprinting. The man who actually did it was Alcide Lafleur L'Ortanz, a clerk employed in a shop on Chaussée Street, and an engraver in his leisure hours. The printing took place in the presence of Mr. Thompson in the shop of a jeweller named Groeme, who was still alive in 1913 and remembered everything very clearly.

According to Groeme, the plates had been so worn out that only about a dozen defective

One Penny Plate

Royal Philatelic Society, London

Original plate for Sherwin One Penny



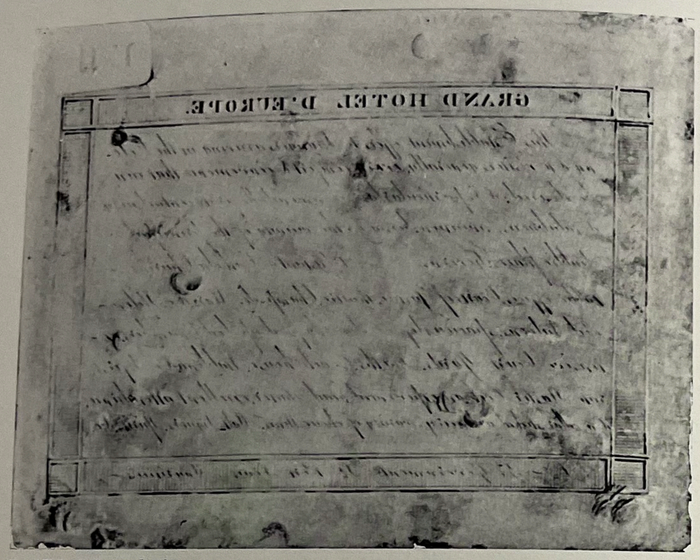
Royal Philatelic Society, London

French-language reverse of One Penny plate

Two Pence Plate

Royal Philatelic Society, London

Original plate for Sherwin Two Pence



Royal Philatelic Society, London

English-language reverse of Two Pence plate

impressions could be taken. The present author, however, has a different view on this. It is obvious from the impressions of the existing stamps that the plates could not have been so worn out. The plate for the One Penny, furthermore, had been kept unused after re-engraving. Groeme's story, therefore, can hardly be true. Mr. Brunel's book sometimes contains material which is not factual and this story might be thought to be one of his creations were it not that his source is readily traceable to Albert Rae.[37]

It was not until the early part of this century that these plates re-emerged. While Sir Cavendish Boyle, Governor of Mauritius 1904–11, was in the island he found the two original plates were kept by the Government of Mauritius. On his return home he presented the plates, which he had taken with him (without authority) from the island, to King George V. The King, who was a famous philatelist himself, made a donation of these items of great philatelic interest to the (Royal) Philatelic Society, London, on 15 June 1911.[44] The plates have been scratched on their printing surfaces with vertical lines as defacement. At the time a few sheets were printed for the Society's collection.

Adhesive Stamp of Two Pence

DESIGN AND PLATE

The plate of 1848 was re-engraved with the same design as previously, but this was so extensive that no vestige of the original engraving remains. It gives an impression that the stamps were struck off from an entirely different plate. The wear and tear are not so remarkable as it was not used for very long. The plate itself is preserved in the Museum of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

PAPER AND THICKNESS

Granular paper was used. The quality can be classified as thin paper and medium thin paper. There are two paper colours, greyish and bluish. Thin paper has a thickness ranging from 0·055 to 0·060 mm and medium thin paper from 0·061 to 0·065 mm. Very rarely a paper thicker than 0·070 mm is found. Thin paper is scarcer than medium thin paper.

COLOUR OF PRINTING

There are not many varieties of shade, but they can be sorted as follows: dark blue; blue; deep bright-blue; and indigo.

PERIOD OF USE

Because of the short life of the plate of the preceding "Lapirot" issue, this Sherwin issue had to play the role of a stop-gap. It can be regarded as a provisional issue.

The stamps were put into use as soon as the printing was finished and this seems to be for about five months from about the end of October 1859 until about March of the following year. Since the Fifth ("Dardenne") Issue took place in December 1859, for some time in early 1860 there were these two issues for the low denominations in use. Covers in existence are very few and records are scanty. A cover used in 1861 is known but this must be an example of a late use.

CLASSIFICATION OF STAMPS

	Shades	*Papers*
Thin paper	Blue	Bluish paper
	Blue	Greyish paper
	Dark blue	Bluish paper
	Dark blue	Greyish paper
Medium thin paper	Blue	Bluish paper
	Blue	Greyish paper
	Dark blue	Bluish paper
	Dark blue	Greyish paper
	Deep bright-blue	Bluish paper
	Indigo	Greyish paper

Plating

The easiest way to reconstruct the sheet might be to base it on the reprint sheet, although in practice plating is hampered by the inadequate number of existing stamps, which had rather a short life.

The number of reconstructed sheets in complete form is only five so far. They are in the collections of H.M. The Queen, Tapling in the British Library, Manus and Kanai, and there is one to be found in the Brunel book.

When reconstructing this sheet, the following may be noted. To decide the position, the important check points are the inscriptions on both sides and those appearing above and below

the design on each stamp. It is recommended to compare the differences in these inscriptions upon individual stamps. Each stamp has a white dot immediately after the word PAID, except for positions 1, 4, 7 and 10. Comparing ornaments of each stamp should be avoided as these are often hard to distinguish from each other, having been covered by cancellation.

The most serious error (of PENOE) in all Mauritius classic stamps had been corrected when the plate of 1848 was re-engraved and there is not much to mention in the way of varieties. In general it is not too difficult a plating.

A sheet probably reprinted from the original plate

Philatelic Record

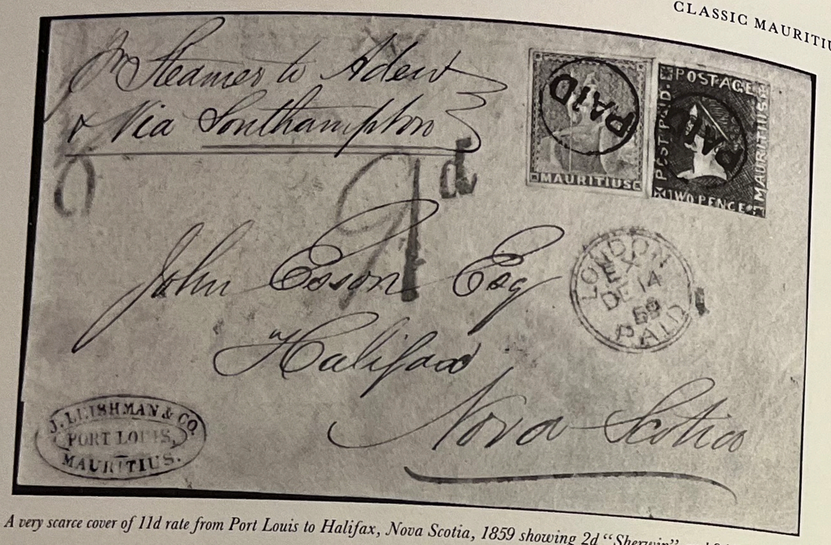
(1)	Vertical pairs	Five pairs have been recorded, all used.
(2)	Horizontal pairs	Four used pairs are recorded.
(3)	Block of 4	Only one used block is recorded.
(4)	Unused singles	Two unused singles are recorded.
(5)	Unused pair	Only one pair known to exist.

COVERS

Only seven covers are recorded, namely:

2 covers each with single.
1 cover with four singles.
2 covers each with a vertical pair.
1 cover in combination with a Perkins Bacon "Magenta".
1 cover in combination with a Perkins Bacon "Green".
The earliest recorded date is 10 November 1859 and the latest 6 July 1861.

Note: There are some more in the record, but covers in the worst condition have been omitted.



A very scarce cover of 11d rate from Port Louis to Halifax, Nova Scotia, 1859 showing 2d "Sherwin" and 9d "Britannia"

The 8d rate to Paris, 1859, with a pair of the 2d "Sherwin" and a 4d "Britannia"

Single rate to Bordeaux, 1859

Double rate to Bordeaux, 1859

Reconstructed Sheets

The following are all of the reconstructed sheets known today. All the positions of each sheet are correct except for No. 10 of the Tapling, which may not be correct or it may have been repaired to a fairly large extent.

Royal Collection Plating

Royal Collection

Tapling Plating

British Library

Manus Plating

Kanai Plating

Brunel Plating

From Brunel, ref. 9

CHAPTER VI

The Fifth Issue: The "Dardenne" Issue

The Stamps

Denominations	: One Penny and Two Pence
Plate and Print	: Designed and printed by lithography by Louis Adolphe Dardenne at Port Louis, Mauritius
Sheet	: Size unknown
Perforation	: Imperforate
Date of Issue	: December 1859
Stanley Gibbons Catalogue	: Nos. 31 to 34*b*

Circumstances of the Issue

We saw in Chapter V that the Sherwin 2d stamp was in the nature of a provisional, in use from October 1859 until about March 1860. We mention for completeness that from 1854 onwards several denominations other than 1d and 2d had been issued in the island, although as they were imported from Perkins, Bacon & Co. in London they are outside the scope of this book.

During the period up to 1860, with which we are concerned, the issues, all imperforate, had been:

(*a*) In April 1854 a Britannia stamp in green inscribed only MAURITIUS, surcharged locally (by Sherwin) with denomination FOUR-PENCE. This is catalogued as S.G. 35.

(*b*) In 1858 the same stamp, again as 4d, but without surcharge (S.G. 36). Also the other undenominated Britannias – the vermilion as 6d (S.G. 37) and the dull magenta as 9d (S.G. 38).

(*c*) In 1859 the modified Britannia which included the denominations, namely a 6d in blue (S.G. 42) and a 1s in vermilion (S.G. 43).

All this time from 1847 the low values of 1d and 2d had been manufactured in the island and the problems of plate wear have been detailed in earlier Chapters.

In a letter of 31 March 1859 to the Colonial Secretary, Pearson Hill[45] suggested that 1d and 2d stamps should also be ordered from England as they could get better stamps economically. Ten shillings per thousand was still being paid for printing, and this did not include gumming. In a further letter to the same person dated 11 November 1859 he stated, "As regards the stamps to be manufactured by Mr. Dardenne, I submit that 3,000 1d. labels and 4,000 2d. labels be now ordered" and this was approved on 17 November in that year.

According to a requisition dated 3 December 1859 submitted by the Postmaster, 25,000 copies of the 1d and 50,000 of the 2d were to be lithographed. This quantity was calculated to be sufficient to meet the demand for four months until the new stamps arrived from England. (This was the new series, typographed and perforated, from De La Rue which began arriving in January 1860.) Printing records[36] show that 30,000 of the 1d and 40,000 of the 2d were issued on 12 December 1859.

The Postmaster further stated in a letter[45] of 21 December 1859 that "the instructions regarding 'lithographic stones, from which the postage stamps are to be struck off' has been complied with, and I have received receipt for same".

Judging from these letters and other records, there is little doubt that the fifth locally printed issue was released on or immediately after 12 December 1859.

Adhesive stamps of One Penny and Two Pence

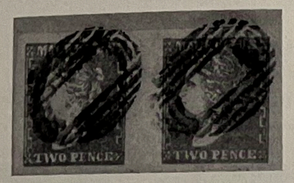
DESIGN AND PLATE

For convenience we use the term "plate", though the Dardenne issue was, of course, from lithographic stones. The plates seem to have been made much larger than the ones before, but there are very few facts known about this. An assumption of large plate size is probable because the demand for low-value stamps was great at the time; also the size of the stamp itself is smaller than before, allowing for more to the sheet.

The new size of the stamp was 13·5 by 21·5 mm with a profile design of the Queen at the centre. The whole design was simplified by omitting inscriptions from the two sides and using a Greek key pattern instead. The inscription above the Queen's head is MAURITIUS and below it are the words ONE PENNY or TWO PENCE.

The peculiarity of these plates is that the distances between the stamps are very wide, being about 8 mm horizontally.

Wide spacing of 1d stamps



Wide spacing of 2d stamps

PAPER

Entirely different paper from the ones used in the previous four issues was employed. It is a thick paper with quite widely spaced horizontal laid lines. The colour varies from white to yellowish and the paper has a papermaker's watermark, the design of which is not known. The same paper quality is considered to have been used throughout the issue and notable variations are not to be seen.

COLOUR OF PRINTING

Comparatively speaking, numerous shades occur. They can be classified as follows:

One Penny
Blood red
Deep red
Red
Red-vermilion
Vermilion
Dull vermilion

Two Pence
Grey-blue
Slate blue
Light blue
Pale blue
Blue
Bright blue
Deep blue

Both 1d blood red and deep red, and the 2d grey-blue and slate blue, are considered to be of the earlier impressions. All are very rare.

PERIOD OF USE

As to the 1d stamp, the plate of the Second Issue was worn out and the Sherwin re-engraving seems not to have been brought into use. The Dardenne 1d was thus issued as soon as the new plate had been made. For the 2d stamp, the Sherwin plate (Fourth Issue) seems to have been in

use for only a short period of time of a few months and then replaced by this issue. Therefore, the commencement of use of the 1d and 2d is considered to be very much alike. The earliest recorded date of an existing entire is 12 January 1860 which supports a first date of use being some time in December 1859. The latest date known for an entire is March 1861. It can safely be said that the period of use was between these two dates.

CLASSIFICATION OF STAMPS

One Penny

Thick yellowish wide-laid paper
Blood red
Deep red
Red
Red-vermilion
Vermilion
Dull vermilion
Thick white wide-laid paper
Blood red
Deep red
Red
Red-vermilion
Vermilion
Dull vermilion

Two Pence

Thick yellowish wide-laid paper
Grey-blue
Slate blue
Light blue
Pale blue
Blue
Bright blue
Deep blue
Thick white wide-laid paper
Grey-blue
Slate blue
Light blue
Pale blue
Blue
Bright blue
Deep blue

Stamps printed on paper showing the papermaker's watermark are rare.

Size of the Sheet and Plating

The size of sheet of the Dardenne lithographs is unknown. Nobody seems ever to have tried to investigate the size of the sheet and publish the results. The only reference available in relation to this is by M. P. Castle,[11] which speaks of "possibly, twenty-four, but more probably twice that number".

This issue was made around December 1859 by which time the three varieties of green, vermilion and magenta Britannia stamps which had previously been ordered from Perkins, Bacon in England had already arrived in Mauritius. Being in the formation of 216 stamps, it is quite possible that the Dardenne issue was in sheets of 216 or 108 or 54 stamps. On the other hand, the Penny Black was issued in sheets of 240 stamps worth £1, and this raises a possibility of sheets of 240, 120, 60 or 30 stamps for the Dardenne. But equally, convenient total sheet values would arise from using 36, 42, 48 or 54 stamps.

This was a lithographic issue and it still remains unknown how large was the sheet that could be made by lithographers at that time. That is to say, the biggest problem is to explore the degree of lithographic technique they had attained in the island then. Records referring to the size of the lithograph are none at all today and not the slightest clue is available.

The only thing we can do is to try to reconstruct the sheet. It is understandable, however, that few collectors in the past have even attempted the reconstruction, as the stamps are not intaglio printed but lithographed and so far more difficult to reconstruct.

One of a very few collectors who ever tried to reconstruct the sheet was Alfred F. Lichtenstein and in his collection was a diagram having five horizontal rows named A, B, C, D and E. Each row contained eight positions on which he had placed 21 single 2d stamps at different positions so as to make something appearing to be a partly reconstructed sheet. It is not known, however, what data he used to determine the positions.

At any rate, Lichtenstein seems to have been convinced of the size of the sheet being 40 stamps. Unfortunately, however, this partly reconstructed sheet was broken up and sold as single pieces at a sale held in New York, U.S.A., in October 1968. No record from this sheet has been preserved, except for a few memoranda that the author managed to scribble down before the disposal of the collection.

For the study of the early stamps of Mauritius, the sheet dimension of the Fifth Issue is a subject which cannot be neglected. Therefore, an experiment was made by using existing vertical and horizontal pairs to explore the connections between the stamps and the following facts have been revealed consequently.

The large illustration shows quite an extensive reconstruction of interconnecting multiples; its 17 stamps define a layout of 5 across and 7 down, making a possibility of 35 different positions to be filled. The smaller illustrations show six further individual reconstructions, but none of these latter interconnect nor correspond with any of the stamps on the large reconstruction. These six smaller items account for 22 stamps. They can naturally be placed together in many different layouts and the correct sequence will only gradually be established if and when new multiples come to light that can be overlapped.

In addition to the above there exist two vertical pairs and eight horizontal pairs, none of which connect with any position so far described. That is to say, we must add another 20 different positions.

The number of undoubted positions is thus:

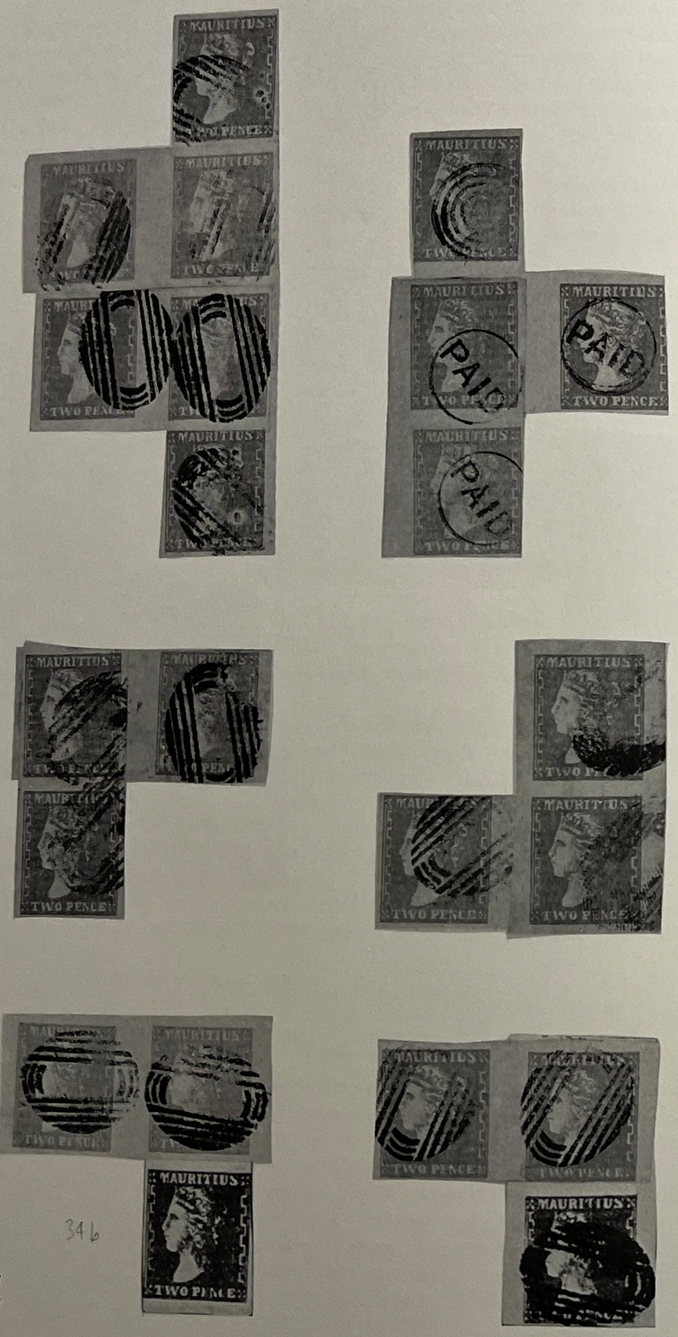
17 from the large reconstruction
22 from the six smaller reconstructions
20 from the unconnected pairs

This gives a total of 59. By using the large reconstruction as a framework one can try placing in vacant positions all the other available material so as to find the minimum sheet that would accommodate them all without overlapping. On the basis of stamps so far known the minimum layout from this exercise appears to be 70 (7 across by 10 down).

One final point is that, assuming the quantities 30,000 and 40,000 were made up of complete sheets, a sheet size of 80 or 100 is feasible, but not 60 (which is not exactly divisible).

With regard to the 1d stamps, existing material larger than a pair is very scarce. Although a 2d reconstructed sheet may be completed by somebody, there is little possibility of reconstruction for the 1d stamp. The author has in his possession as much material as has been possible to find but the time is not yet ripe to make it public.

Large reconstruction (17 stamps)



Six individual reconstructions

Retouching of the Plate

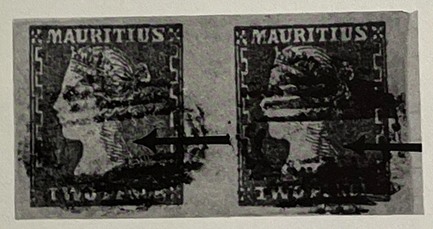
The ''Dardenne'' Issue has the least record of all the Mauritius stamps considered in this book. It was printed after the dispatch of the new stamps ordered from De La Rue and was to meet the temporary demand until the consignment arrived from England. This provisional issue, as it might be called, was lithographed and the stamps have a kind of vague impression compared with the ones obtained from copper plates. It is, therefore, very difficult to find the retouch on the plate from the existing examples.

So far as we can see from the stamps, some changes have been made. It is not clear whether these changes were due to wear of the plate itself or smears of ink, but it is an established fact that the Queen's neck has been retouched in consequence of the wear of the plate. How many positions in a sheet were retouched is not known but there have been several discovered and some are very distinctive. Some of them look like the nose of the Queen's profile having been retouched but it is difficult to be certain this was in fact retouching and not caused by heavy or light printings.

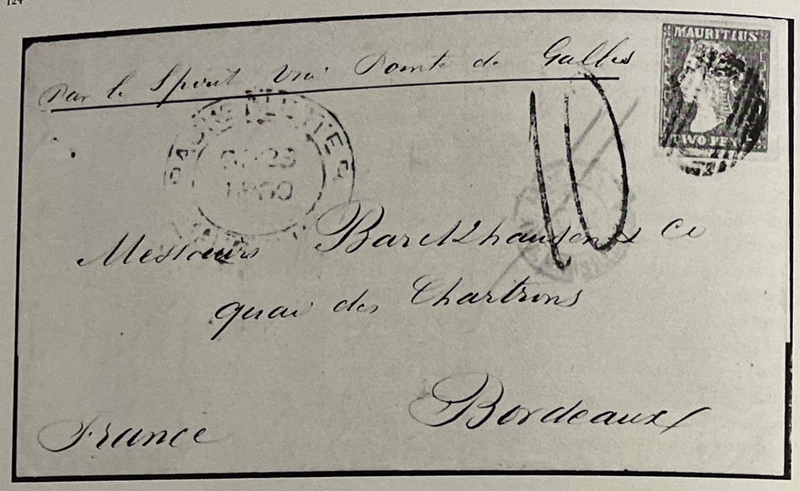
Besides this, many flaws are apparent in the form of dots of ink which apparently remained on the surface of the lithographic stone. It seems certain that some retouching was attempted on this issue. But as the sheet formation is not known, not to mention the position of stamps in the sheet, unless the complete reconstruction is achieved, it is going to remain difficult to be very positive.

Known retouching occurs only on 2d stamps and not on the 1d. Shown here are examples of stamps having clear traces of retouching.

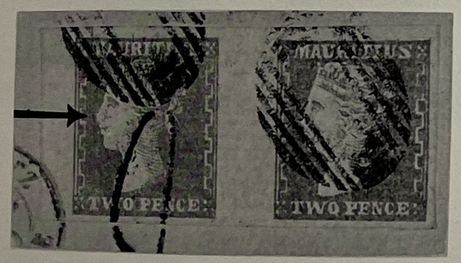
Remarkable retouch to Queen's neck



Both stamps of the pair show slight retouches to Queen's neck



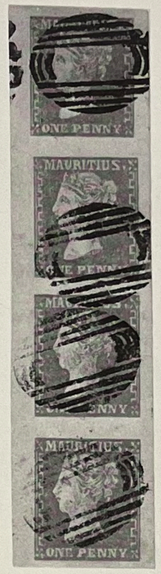
A heavily retouched stamp used on overseas cover to Bordeaux, 1860



Left stamp of pair exhibits slight retouch to Queen's nose

Philatelic Record

MULTIPLES



Two Pence

The largest known multiples of the 1d are three vertical strips of 4, one horizontal strip of 4 and one block of 4. For the 2d just one example of a vertical strip of 4 has been reported. Multiples larger than a pair are scarce, especially for the 2d; no other examples than the two illustrated are known.

UNUSED STAMPS

One Penny

One unused pair is recorded. There are more than 10 singles known, but they are all in poor condition.

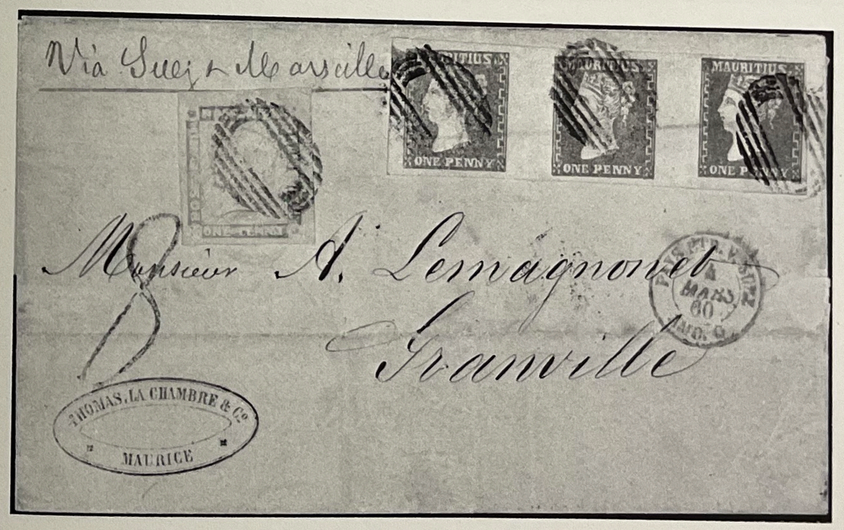
Two Pence

A horizontal pair and a vertical pair are recorded, but not in good condition. More than 10 singles are also recorded, only one of which is known as having a wide margin.

COVERS

1d. Very few. Probably less than 10 covers of good condition now existing.
2d. There are some 20 covers.
1d and 2d. Only two covers having the complete set of two stamps are recorded.

Two strips of 4 of 1d on cover to Paris, 1861



A strip of 3 of 1d on cover to Granville, 1860

Castor oil—has undergone no change, in its abundance, and dullness of sale: value 2 drs 60 to 2 drs 75 per case of 1 dozen.

Hogslard—is worth 19 drs per 100 lbs and tending upwards.

Leaf Tobacco.—The following are present quotations, viz:

Calcutta, 9 drs 50 per 100 lbs, nearly unsaleable.
Mazulipatam, 11 drs to 12 drs, abundant.
Coringa, 20 drs to 22 drs, in demand.

The duty is 3d per lb.

Tranquebar soap—is scarce at 13 drs per 100 lbs.

Sugar.—The Dec. European mail produced a further advance of 1/6 2[a cwt, and the demand was k pt up til within the last ten days, when purchases have been made on more easy terms again. No 11 of the Dutch Standards (good grey) costs about 5 drs 75 per 100 lbs or 25[3 per cwt free on board (without insurance): other qualities in proportion.

The weather has been exceedingly favorable for the growing canes, and there is every appearance of next crop being the largest ever made in the island.

Exchange—is gradually becoming more favorable for drawers, as the season advances and document bills become less abundant. That paper at 3 months sight on England may be quoted at 1 per cent discount, and the Bank's drawing rates are now

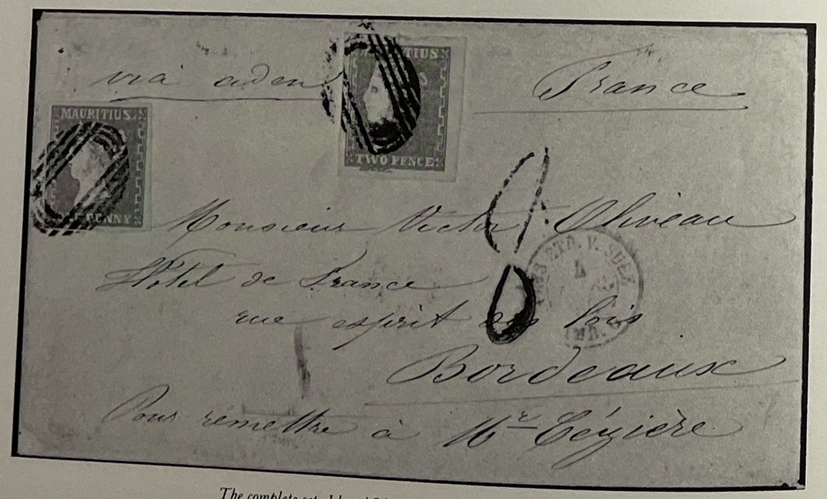
On London, at 3 months sight.....	1	per cent, premium.
On Calcutta, at 3 days sight.....	51 1/4	cents per Rupee.
On Madras, do.	51 1/4	do.
On Bombay, do.	51 1/4	do.

Sovereigns of the English mint are procurable at 1/4 per cent premium, and those of the Australian at par.

Freight—The month has been one of uninterrupted dullness in [illegible]ights: 10s per ton to England has been the ruling rate, and altho' the advices from India [illegible] of late more encouraging there is yet no advance on these quotations. To Australia £ 2 [illegible] Cape of Good Hope £ 1, and to France 50 fes. to 80 fes. per ton.

We are yours faithfully

Pair of 1d on printed circular dispatched from Port Louis, 1860



The complete set, 1d and 2d, on cover to Bordeaux, 1860

Two Pence "Dardenne" with 4d "Britannia" on cover to Marseilles, 1860

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