

The 1854 1/- Lithograph of Victoria

The following comprise the eight-frame exhibit entered by Geoff Kellow in
CLASS 1A: TRADITIONAL PHILATELY, at **Australia 99**.

International Exhibiting profile:

<u>Exhibition</u>	<u>Award</u>
Istanbul '96	Gold medal
Pacific '97 (San Francisco)	Gold medal
Australia '99 (Melbourne)	Gold medal



THE 1854 1/- LITHOGRAPH OF VICTORIA

On 1 May 1854 the Victorian Post Office sharply increased most postal charges, with the inland rate rising from 2d to 6d, and the ship letter rate from 3d to 1/-, but the highest denomination stamp on sale was 3d.

Tenders for the production of 6d, 1/- and 2/- stamps were advertised. The successful bidder for the 1/- contract was Messrs. Campbell & Fergusson, who had previously printed 1d and 3d Half-Lengths and 2d Queen-on-Throne stamps. The new contract called for 3 million 1/- stamps, which were eventually issued in July 1854.

The 1/- Octagonal stamps, printed by lithography, remained current until 1865, spanning the use of rouletting and the introduction of perforation. During its life the Victorian postal rates were varied several times, and the 1/- stamp was of importance in prepaying all services other than newspaper postage.

Many unanswered questions remain concerning the technical aspects of this stamp. It is still uncertain how many printing stones were used, although original research by the exhibitor has made some progress in elucidating the fascinating approach used by the printer to construct these, using an intermediate stone of unsuitable format for the sheets of 100 which the Post Office required.

FRAME 1. The Printing Contracts, Essays and Proofs. The Imperforate Stamp.

FRAME 2. Usage of the Imperforate Stamp.

FRAME 3. Usage of the Imperforate Stamp. The Rouletted and Perforated Stamp.

FRAME 4. The Perforated Stamp and its Usage.

FRAME 5. Usage of the Perforated Stamp. Shades and Cancellations.

FRAME 6. Cancellations, Forgeries and Reprints. Printing Stone Layout. The Intermediate Stone. Evidence of the Number of Printing Stones Used.

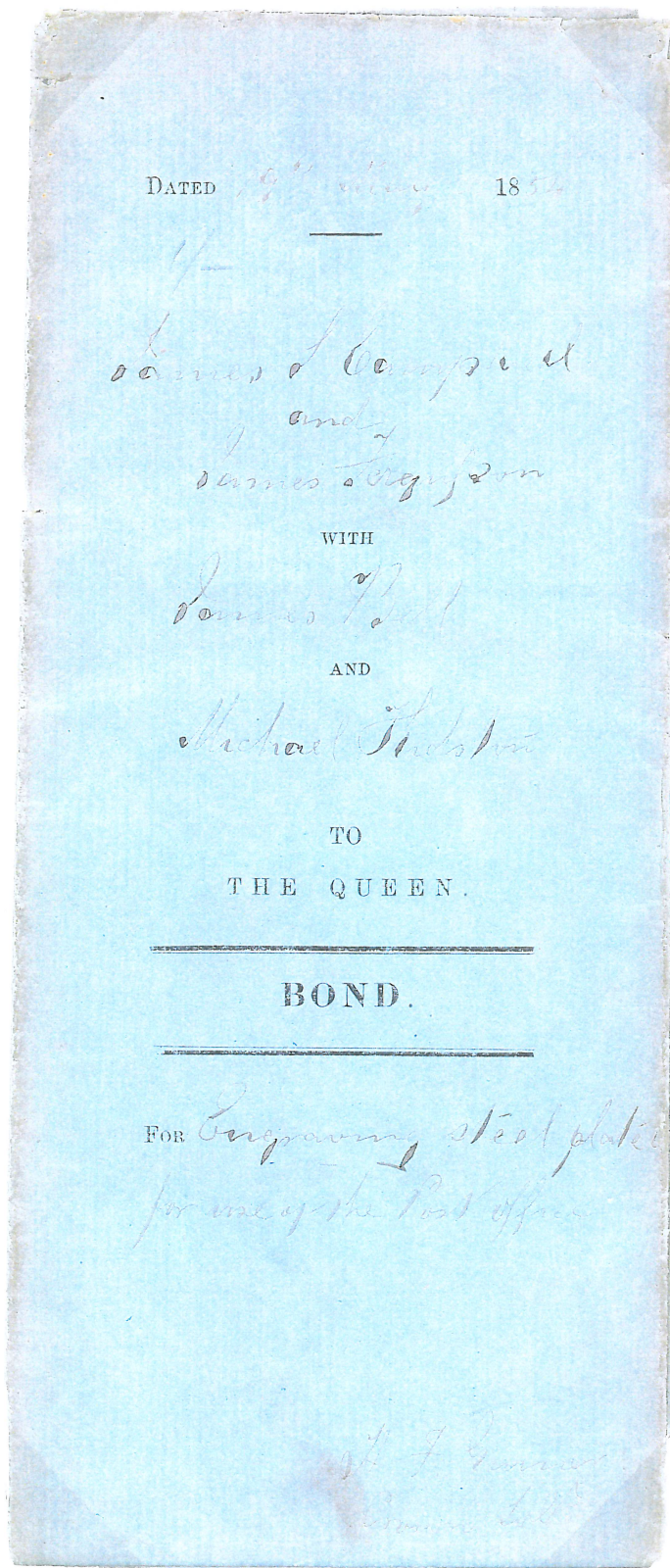
FRAME 7. Evidence of the Number of Printing Stones Used. The "Tagged" Stamps Used to Complete the Printing Stones.

FRAME 8. The "Tagged" Stamps. Retouches and Creased Transfers. Other Major Stone Flaws.

References

Kellow, G.N. *The Stamps of Victoria* (B & K Philatelic Publishing, Melbourne, 1990).

Hausburg, L.L.R. "The 1/- Octagonal of Victoria", *London Philatelist*, January-February 1916.



The Printing contract for the 1/- Octagonal, signed between Messrs. Campbell & Fergusson and the Post Office

The Bond

of the said Colony for that purpose) any other or more impressions or stamps than shall be required by the said Postmaster General in pursuance of the said order hereto annexed or for any other purpose than for producing stamps or labels for the use of Her Majesty's Government at Melbourne aforesaid and also do and shall obliterate and destroy out and every impression or impressions taken from the said plates and not delivered to the Postmaster General aforesaid and also do and shall from time to time when required by the said Postmaster General or such person to be appointed as aforesaid deliver the said plate to the said Postmaster General or person to be appointed as aforesaid in good order and condition together with all stamps or impressions made or engraved from the same then and in such case this obligation to be void otherwise the same shall be void remain in full force and virtue.

Signed sealed and delivered by the said James Campbell, James Wilson, James Bell and William F. Wilson in the presence of

James Campbell
James Wilson

William F. Wilson



Specimen of Paper and Gumming

Specimen of gumming.

James C. Watson

James C. Watson

James C. Campbell

James C. Campbell

James Fergusson

James Fergusson

Michael Fergusson

Michael Fergusson

Witness to the above signatures

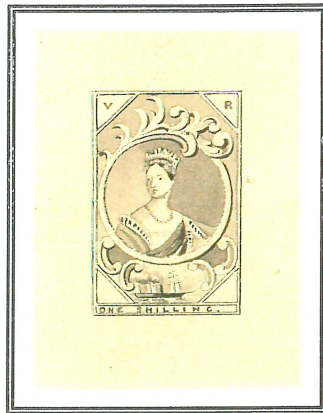
W. J. Jackson

Attached to the Schedule and signed by the principals of Campbell & Fergusson

The Unadopted Essays

Two essays for the 1/- stamp were attached to the tender submitted by Campbell & Fergusson. On 20th April 1854 the Secretary of the Post Office addressed a memo to the Governor, Charles Latrobe: "*The Designs for the Shilling Stamp plate are bad, being too large and would recommend fresh tenders being called for*".

Handpainted in watercolour on card



Numbered "1" on reverse



Numbered "2" on reverse

Endorsed in Latrobe's hand

"not recommended but put this head in the new design"

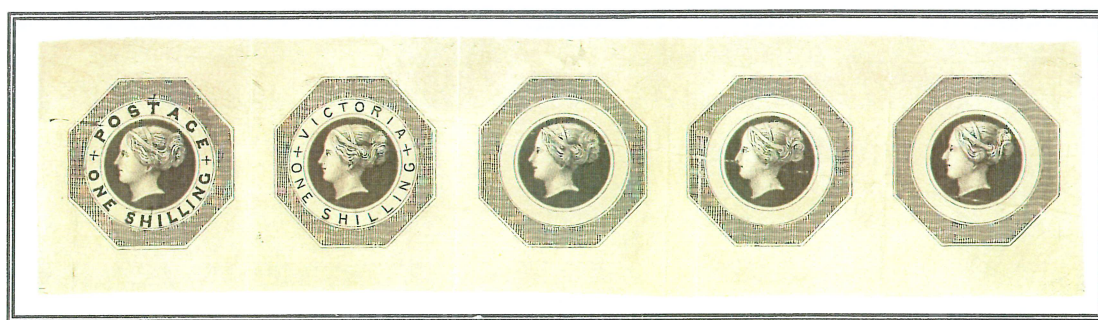
From the Rundell, Purves and Perry collections

On 21st April a new design modelled on the octagonal 4d stamp of Van Diemen's Land was submitted. This was adopted, but the head used in design "2" above was preferred.

The Die Plate

The die for the 1/- stamp was engraved on a piece of steel measuring 8 inches x 6 inches. Five impressions were engraved. The first three bore no inscriptions, the fourth is the adopted design, and the fifth has an unadopted style of inscription. No contemporary proofs are known.

THE 1901 "ROYAL REPRINT" PROOF



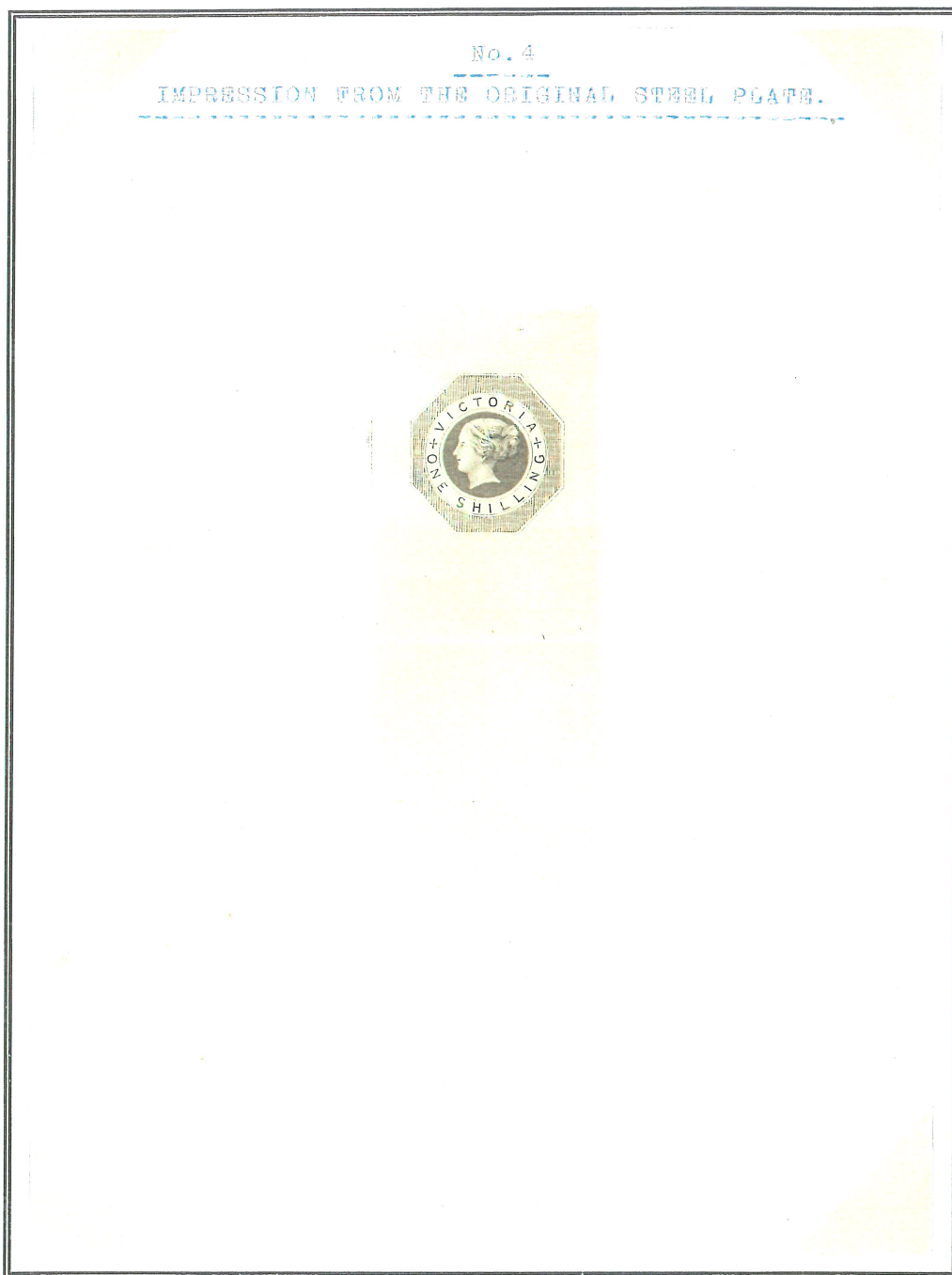
Produced at the instigation of the Duke of York (later King George V) during his 1901 visit to Australia.

Probably three proofs of the strip of five impressions were pulled;
one is in the Royal Collection.

From the Harvey and Perry collections

The Die Plate

THE 1901 "ROYAL REPRINT" PROOF



Albino impressions of the other designs are apparent
Probably three proofs of the single impression were pulled; one is in the Royal Collection.

From the Purves, Perry and Jones collections

IMPERFORATE

A total of 3,000,000 1/- stamps were delivered to the G.P.O. Melbourne by the contractors, Campbell & Fergusson, in the second and third quarters of 1854. Up to the introduction of perforation at the beginning of 1859, approximately 956,000 imperforate stamps were issued.



[11]



[24]



[5]



[7]



[12]

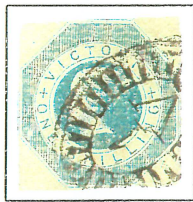


[20]

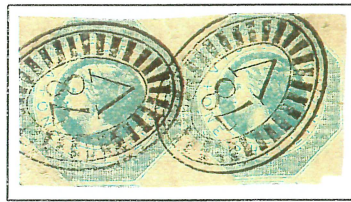


[40]

The normal cancellation up to the end of 1855 was the Barred Oval obliterator, and thereafter the Barred Numeral obliterator.



[22]



[36-37]



[28]



[3]



[14]



[32]



[35]

Early Dates of Use

The issue of the 1/- Octagonal was gazetted on 6th July 1854. Early dates are rare, since internal usages could only have been for heavy letters. The first contract steamers departing after the issue of the stamp were the General Screw steamer *Queen of the South* and P & O steamer *Norna*.

QUEEN OF THE SOUTH



20th July 1854 lettersheet from Melbourne to London. The *Queen of the South* departed Melbourne 22nd July. Backstamped at London 13th October 1854.

NORNA



24th July 1854 lettersheet from Melbourne to Athy, Ireland. The *Norna* departed Melbourne 26th July for Galle, thence per *Bentinck* and *Nubia*, and arrived at Southampton 13th October. Dated stamped at Athy, 7th October 1854.

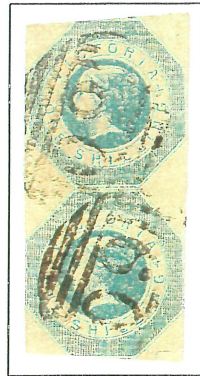
Prepaid 1/- for a ½ ounce packet letter and with 1/- delivery charge due from addressee.

Vertical Stitch Watermark

From the join in the continuous belt on which the machine-made paper was manufactured.



[31]

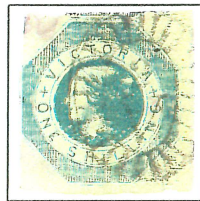


[21/29]

Stitch watermarks are found at a frequency of about 1 in 750 stamps.

Double (“Kiss”) Print

Double prints of varying intensity occasionally occur. These are probably only “kiss” prints, and the result of slipping of the paper during printing.



[31]

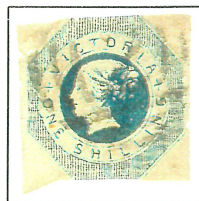
Probably from the corner of a sheet.

Knife-cut Separation

This form of separation, characteristic of one or more of the counter clerks at Geelong, consists of a series of knife-cuts made between the stamps in a row or column, final separation being by tearing.



[22/30]



[31]



[23/31]

Used Multiples

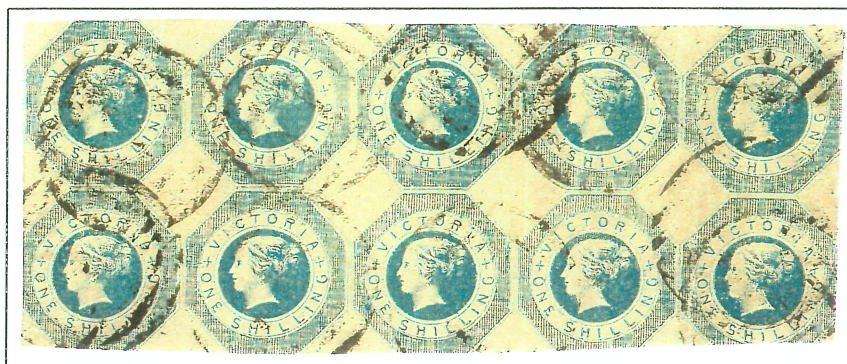


[29-32]

[37-40]

[5-8]

From the Purves and Perry collections



[2-24]

[28-32]

From the Forster and Perry collections

The two largest used blocks of the imperforate stamp

20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31	32
	37	38	39	40
	5	6	7	8

These two blocks are from the same printing stone, and overlap

Used Multiples



[25-26/33-34]



[25-26/33-34]



[1-2/9-10]



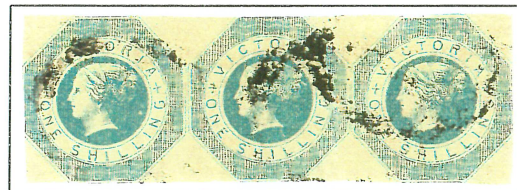
[17-18]



[30-31/38-39]



[36-37]

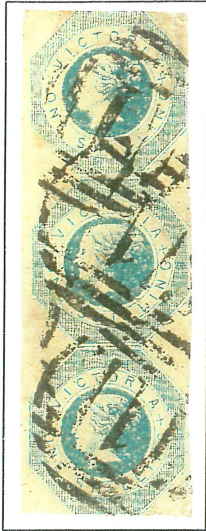


[20-22]



[28-31]

Used Multiples



[9/17/25]



[2/10/18]



[11/19/27]



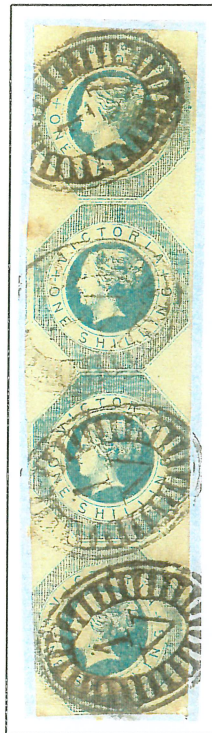
[20/28/36]



[4/12]



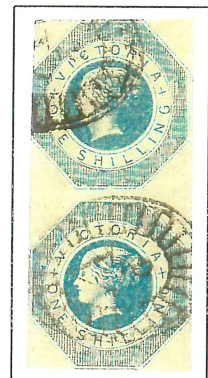
[36/4]



[3/11/19/27]



[37/5]

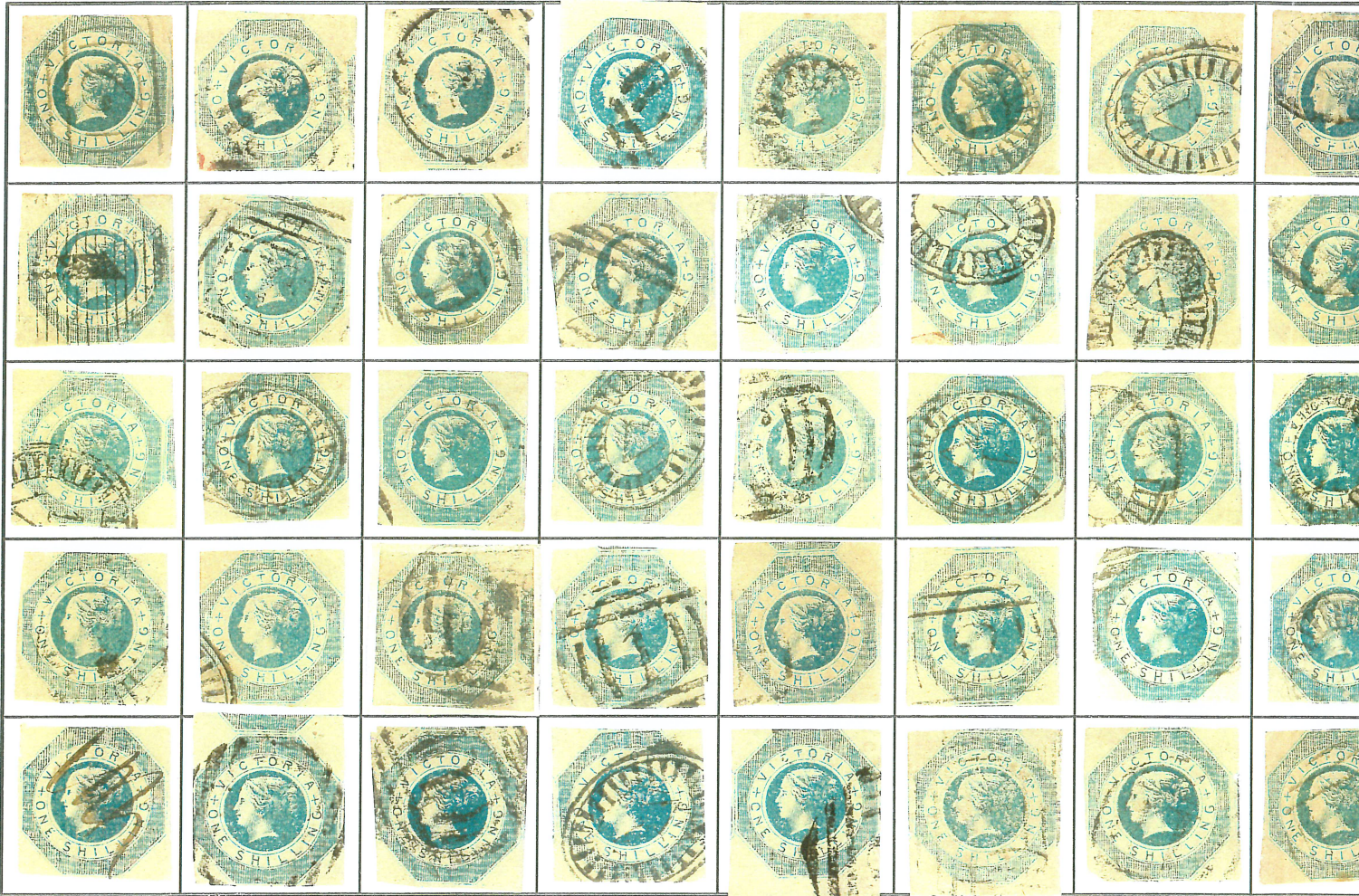


[9/7]

MAKE-UP OF THE PRINTING STONES

**The Primary Group of 40
in five horizontal rows of eight**

IMPERFORATE



The 1/- General Ship Letter Rate

The major reason for the issue of the 1/- stamp was an increase in the general ship letter ½ ounce rate from 3d to 1/- on 1st May 1854, as a response to considerable shortfalls in Post Office revenue. This rate applied to all ship mail irrespective of destination, and remained in force until 1st July 1855.

INTERCOLONIAL MAIL



14th June 1855 envelope from Ballarat to Hobart, carried by *Black Swan* arriving at Launceston 20th June (Ship Letter backstamp).



12th October 1855 envelope from Sandhurst to Adelaide, carried per General Screw steamer *Bosphorus* on a non-contract homeward voyage.