

## VICTORIA QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861

The full history of the Perkins Bacon & Co. design for the Colony of Victoria of the Queen-on-Throne stamps has not been demonstrated before. This exhibit shows the Perkins Bacon & Co. part of the story from conception to issued stamps. The central vignette of The Queen sitting on the Coronation Chair is from one of the few original artworks commissioned by Perkins Bacon & Co. from Edward Henry Corbould.

Although used in their security printing for banknotes this is the only stamp to incorporate this iconic design. The exhibit demonstrates for the first time the link between the development of the design by Perkins Bacon & Co. and the 1852 Victoria Colony stamp designed by William Strutt and printed by Thomas Ham in Melbourne, Victoria.



The inspiration for Edward Henry Corbould from the central feature of the Great Seal of England of Queen Victoria.

### Sections of the study -

- The genesis of the stamp design including the original artwork by Edward Henry Corbould,
- The origins of the design in Victoria Colony by William Strutt,
- The development of the design by Perkins Bacon & Co.
- The stamps and their deployment for postal use.

### References -

- The Perkins Bacon & Co. Records, J R W Purves original notes, The Stamps of Victoria by G Kellow,
- The 2d Queen-on-Throne stamps missing from the Victorian Parliamentary Library by I P Greig.
- The 2d Queen-on-Throne stamps of Victoria 1852-57 by G Kellow and J Shawley.

**VICTORIA**  
QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861

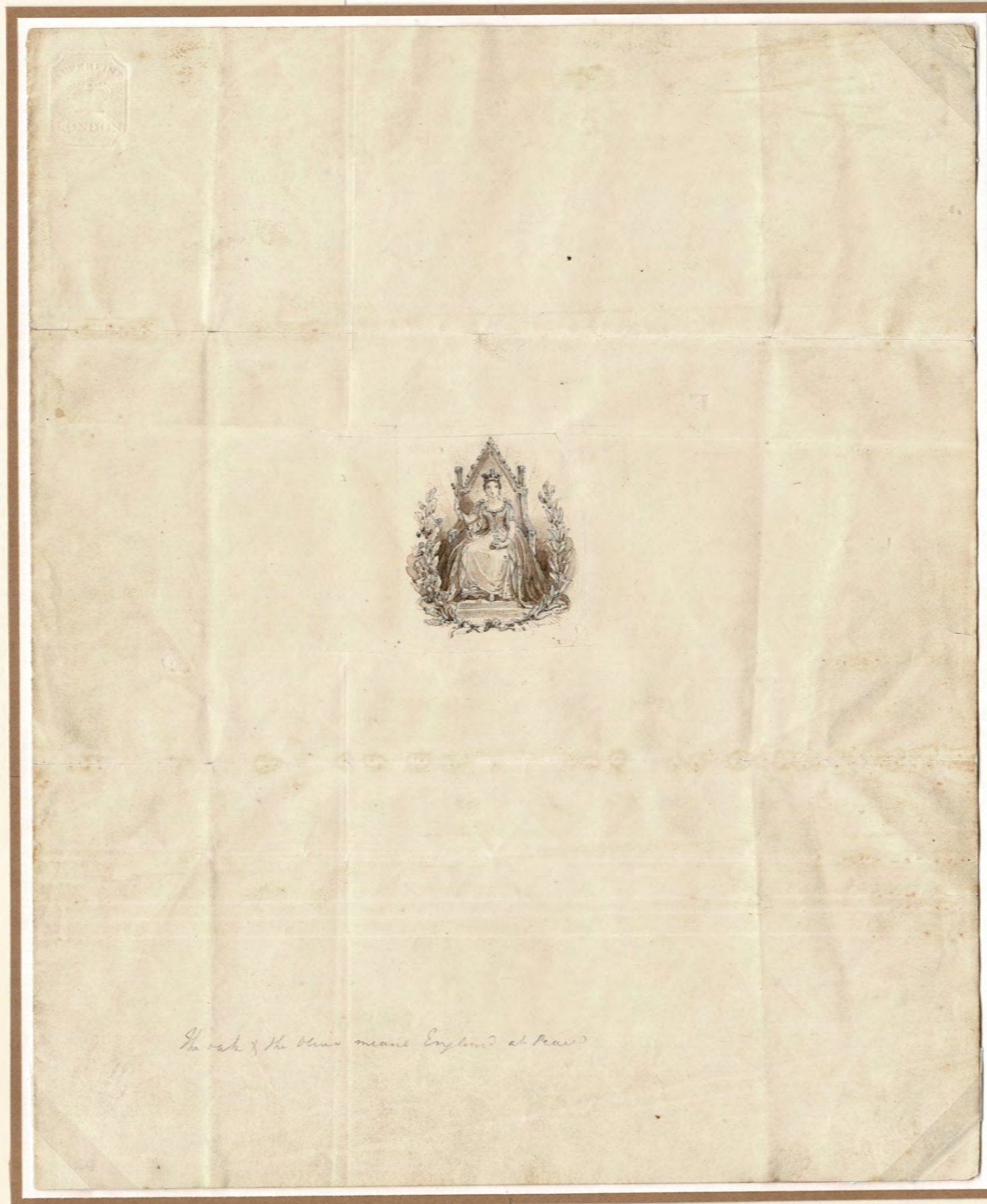
The design of the British Monarch sitting on the Coronation Chair had been used for many generations by Kings and Queens for their Great Seals of the Realm. Perkins Bacon & Co. produced a die of this design for use as a vignette in their security printings.

*Below* - An early die proof with heavy radiating lines. This proof is on thin paper, with China white paint added. It is adhered over a proof of the Chalon Portrait vignette, which shadow can be detected displaced left of the former. (Ex. Perkins Bacon & Co. Archive)



The design is based on an artwork commissioned by Perkins Bacon & Co. from Edward Henry Corbould, a noted miniaturist and painter of the time.

*Below* - As above, but used as a progressive artwork and showing additional pencil lines reinforcing the lines around The Queen. (Ex. Perkins Bacon & Co. Archive)



**VICTORIA**  
QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861

*Left* - Original Edward Henry Corbould artwork in sepia wash and China white painted on superfine paper, wmk. J Thatman Turkey Mill 1837. The only original commissioned artwork in a private collection. (Ex. Corbould, Art Sale, July 1919, J Purves, R Perry and M Stanley)

*Below* - The engraver's further attempt at the radiating lines, showing the engraved version of the previous progressive artwork, this however provided an even less satisfactory result. (Ex. Perkins Bacon & Co. Archive)



Perkins Bacon & Co. engravers had a further attempt at engraving the die but in a similar design to the earlier proof, this with lightly engraved lines achieves a much closer effect to the original artwork.

*Below* - The adopted proof and copy from the Record Book showing reference numbering, "252" and "668". (Ex. Perkins Bacon & Co, Archive and R Lee)



**VICTORIA**  
**QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861**

The Union Bank of Australia, early in 1850 had ordered banknote plates from Perkins Bacon & Co. but the delivery was delayed. A local printer, Thomas Ham was engaged to design and print temporary notes and although these were produced, they were not issued as the Perkins Bacon & Co. plates arrived 1851.  
 The banknote example shown is for use at the "MELBOURNE" branch. Records indicate only 18 copies of this banknote were printed. These notes were in circulation between 1851 to 1853.

The only recorded proof of the "Melbourne – Branch, Five Pounds, first issue, bank note for Union Bank of Australia. Printed in black ink onto white unwatermarked paper, bonded to card and overprinted SPECIMEN twice.



Although the "Queen on Coronation Chair" vignette was not used in the discarded Ham's banknote the design they adopted clearly indicates that W Strutt, Ham's designer had seen examples of Perkins Bacon & Co. banknotes. The new banknotes, likely to have been printed locally by Ham incorporated the vignette of the "Queen on Coronation Chair" incorrectly titled "Queen-on-Throne". This iconic vignette was incorporated by Strutt and Ham into the new 2d "Queen-on-Throne" stamp design, produced by them in December 1852 for Victoria. In December 1852 Ham provided a tender for plates and stamps for additional values of 1d and 6d but his tender was rejected.

## VICTORIA QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861

Having rejected Ham's tender, the authorities finally sent an order on 5 May 1853 to the Colonial Agent-General in London. The order was for 1d and 6d stamps in bright green and blue respectively and plates to print 50 stamps. This order was forwarded to Perkins Bacon & Co. with the example of the 2d "Queen-on-Throne" stamp sent by Victoria as a model of the required design. In agreement with the Colonial Agent-General, Edward Barnard, Perkins Bacon & Co. amended the plate to 240 stamps. the reason was to standardise the watermark paper sheet size with the other current orders for Tasmania and South Australia.

Victoria's model, the 1852, W Strutt designed, printed by T Ham of the 2d "Queen-on-Throne" stamp.



Although Victoria had not recognised the design used by W Strutt and T Ham, Perkins Bacon & Co. clearly did and used a reduced size version of their vignette as the bases of the new stamps. Perkins Bacon & Co. estimate was sent on 3 September and accepted by Barnard on the 26 September 1853.

The two recorded reduced die proofs of the "Queen-on-Coronation Chair".  
One from the record book numbered "321 - 321"  
(Ex. Perkins Bacon & Co. Archive and R Lee)



In accepting the estimate Barnard not only changed the plate size but included watermarked paper, printing ink and gum. The estimate also states the order would be ready for dispatch in 15 weeks. Accepting the estimate on the 26 September Victoria's anticipated delivery in November 1853 was clearly unrealistic.

**VICTORIA**  
QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861

Perkins Bacon & Co. placed this vignette on one of its "stock" grounds used for previous postage stamp designs including the first stamps of 1840.

*Right* - A die proof of the banknote plate submitted to the Bank of England in 1820, overlaid with a die proof from the "master roller" illustrating the area of background used,

*Below* - Die Proof from the "master roller" with blank panels.

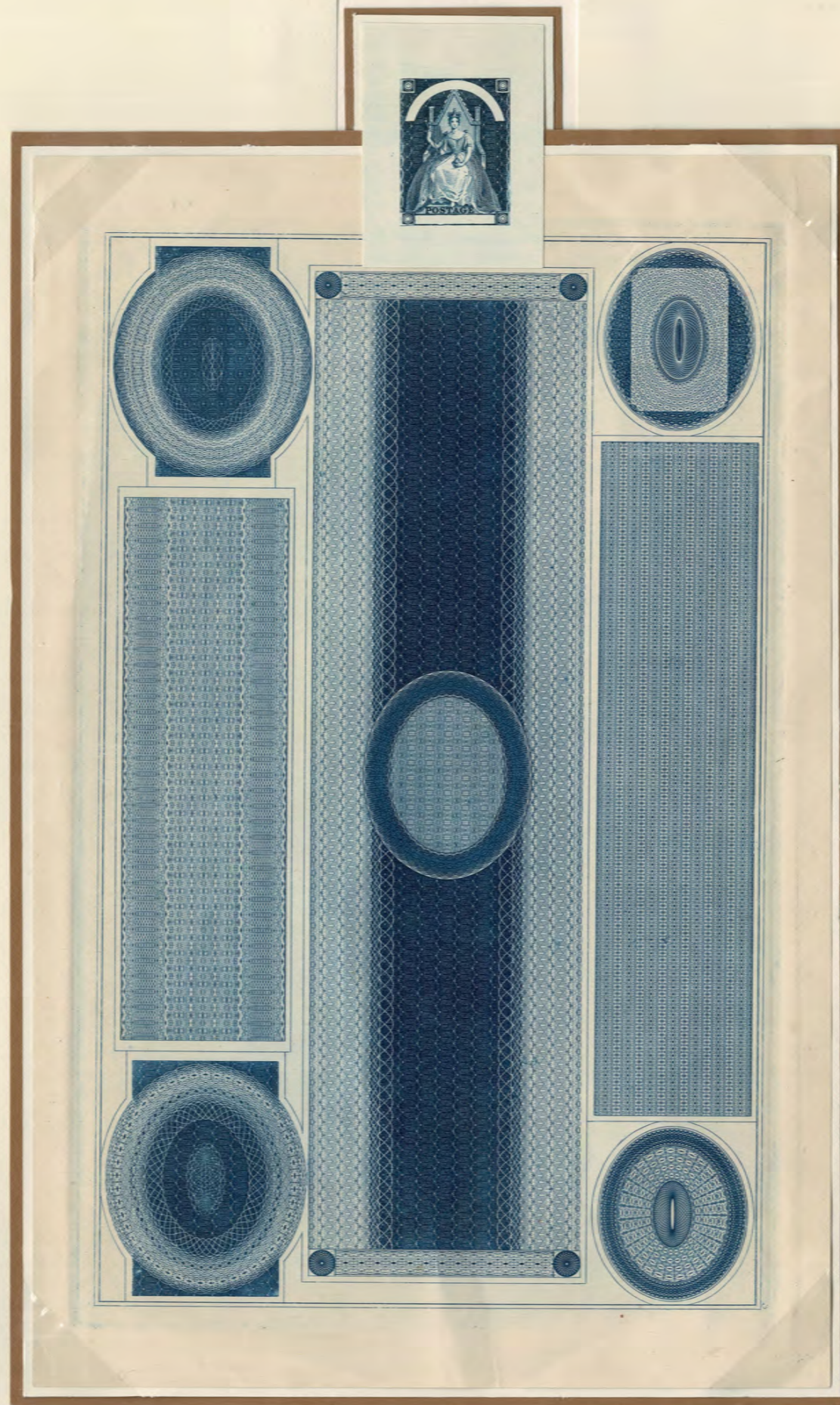


*Below* - A contemporary die proof in black of the finished TWO PENCE New South Wales design with the void removed to form the letters of the name, value and the top point of the chair in the blank panels.

Two copies recorded the other is in The Royal Philatelic Collection.  
(Ex J Hutson and V Manwood)



At this stage the error of the incorrect Colony was realised. There is no record either from Perkins Bacon & Co. or the Colonial Agents-General's Office on this, however it resulted in delay in completion and dispatch of the order to Victoria.



**VICTORIA**  
QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861

The New South Wales die was entered in the engravers book on 25 November 1853 two months after the estimate was accepted. Evidence from the "Victoria" die shows the Master Die was amended, reducing the top panel and giving it radiused ends. Inspection of the proofs show the original curved edge of the extended panel. The ONE PENNY Victoria Die was entered in the engravers book on 11 February 1854.

*Below* - The ONE PENNY Victoria Die Proof, four examples recorded.  
(Ex Perkins Bacon & Co. Archive. J Purves, R Perry)



As with the New South Wales die different intermediate rollers were used with void panels for the Victoria values. This can be seen as the "VICTORIA" and top point of the chair are different on both values. The SIX PENNY Victoria Die was entered in the engravers book on 14 February 1854.

*Below* - The SIX PENNY Victoria Die Proof, five examples recorded.  
(Ex Perkins Bacon & Co. Archive. J Purves, R Perry)



The accepted estimate included for plates as requested by Victoria, it did not include for the dies or intermediate rollers, and these were not issued by Perkins Bacon & Co. with the rest of the order.

## VICTORIA QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861

Although there are no contemporary records on the error the "New South Wales" roller was included when the other dies and rollers were finally handed over to the Colonial Crown-Agent on 28 January 1862 implying it had been paid for. Die proofs were taken from this roller in 1877

The error 2d "New South Wales" die proof from the roller made in 1877 on watermarked "2" paper.  
Three copies recorded.  
(Ex J Purves, M Stanley, Sir M Rivett-Carnac, "Alvarado" Collection)



The final use of the Victoria dies was associated with the South Kensington Exhibition in London. It is believed die proofs of both values were printed by De La Rue for the Exhibition.

1d and 6d die proofs, printed in brighter colours of the then current British stamps.  
Four copies of each recorded.  
(Ex J Purves)



Perkins Bacon & Co. invoiced Barnard on the 8 May 1854, presumably indicating they had completed the order. It however took a further two months before the order was dispatched on 10 July 1854 from London to Victoria on board the ship Land o'Cakes.

## VICTORIA QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861

The Land o'Cakes arrived in Melbourne on the 27 October 1854. Records indicate the Post Office was unaware of the delivery until 29 December some 20 months after the original order was sent. With the late arrival, the need for new stamps had been overtaken by events and all the order was put into storage unopened. It was not till some two years later that any of the consignment was utilised.

1d Bright green (shades pale to deep)  
1,000,000 ordered – 4,167 sheets of 240 delivered (1,000,080).  
Printed on watermark "large star" paper – issued imperforated as delivered.  
Date of use – 23 October 1856 – February 1857.



The 1d x 240 plate had no contemporary use but was retained in usable condition.  
The 160 lbs. bright green ink was used for printing the first 1d Emblems issue of February 1857.  
Perkins Bacon & Co. included a pull from the plate printed in black when they dispatched the plates.  
Examples of the 1d value large enough to confirm as plate proofs have not been recorded.

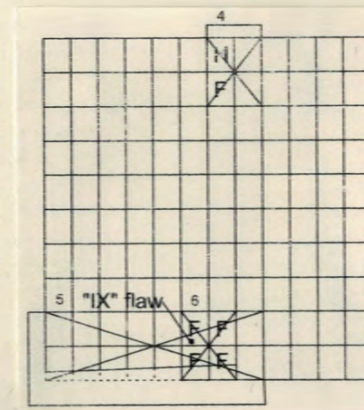
VICTORIA  
 QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861

Plate proofs seem to exist for the 6d value only of which two part sheets are recorded, on white paper (block 1, 3 and 6) and buff paper (block 2, 4 and 5). A paper fold across the base of one during printing (block 5) may be the reason for the second sheet. Plates are proofed in black to emphasize defects as on block 3, showing a re-entry causing doubling of the design, (this was not corrected).



Previously unrecorded the intermediate transfer (roller) failed during production of the plate. Block 4, 7-8/19-20, unit 7 shows a white "halo" around the right arm of the chair, unit 19 below this area is white and the start of the flaw. Block 5 217-224/229- 236, units 222, 223 and 234, 235 below are all flawed, with varying damage to the dress below. Block 6, 222 234-235, shows the same damage units but from the second proof sheet. This demonstrates at least two columns were applied to the plate before the damaged roller was changed.

Also unrecorded is a similar flaw to that found on the 2d Western Australia plate, steel waste adhered to the surface on unit 222 across "IX" of "six", and this is constant on both proofs shown. The making of a new roller to finish the sheet caused further delay in completion of the order.



## VICTORIA QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861

Although the consignment had been sent in deal and tin packing it seems the stamps deteriorated either in transit or storage, both effecting the colour and the gum. The 6d was particularly effected possibly caused by the fact it was not issued until over 4½ years after it had been printed.

6d Bright blue (shades pale to deep)

2,500,000 ordered – 10,417 sheets of 240 delivered (2,500,080).

Printed on watermark "large star" paper – issued roulette 5½-6½ locally by the F W Robinson Machine.

Date of use – November 1858 – August 1860 and September 1860 – June 1861.



The 6d x 240 plate had no contemporary use but was retained in usable condition.

The 400 lbs. bright blue ink was possibly used for printing the first 3d Half-Length, Stone D.

60 Rms of watermarked paper was used for the 1d and 4d Emblems stamps of January, February 1857.

The Victoria authorities felt these stamps were "inferior in every respect" and "not a credit to the Colony" however, the 6d remained in used for some 1½ years.

VICTORIA  
QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861

"SINGLE TOWN LETTER RATE"

Rates of postage for period  
1 July 1855 to 1 August 1866.  
2x1d Bright green on a 26 December  
1856, Ballarat Town Letter Rate  
cover weighing under ½ oz.  
Back - BALLARAT, DC 26, 1856,  
VICTORIA.  
(Ex J Purves)



"SINGLE INLAND LETTER RATE"

Rates of postage for period  
1 July 1855 to 1 August 1866.  
4x1d Bright green on an 18  
December 1856, Ballarat to  
Geelong, Inland Letter Rate  
cover weighing under ½ oz.  
Back - BALLARAT, DC 18,  
1856, VICTORIA.  
and "PAID, DC 19, 1856,  
GEELONG.  
(Ex R Perry)

Below - "LETTER RATE, INTERCOLONIAL"  
 Rates of postage for period 1 July 1855 to 1 August 1866.  
 6d Bright blue on a 9 February 1860 letter to Newcastle NSW.  
 Rate up to ½ oz - 6d.  
 Back - MELBOURNE, B, FE 9, 60 and  
 NEWCASTLE, FE 14 1860, NSW.



Below - "NEWSPAPER RATE TO UNITED KINGDOM VIA MARSEILLES"  
 Rate of postage 1 July 1855 to January 1873.  
 6d Bright blue on only recorded double newspaper rate Via Marseilles  
 "Melbourne Deutsche Zeitung No 33 - 20 April 1860.  
 Rate 3d per newspaper.



Below - "LETTER RATE TO HOLLAND VIA SOUTHAMPTON"  
 Rate of postage - rates as GB with additional charges on delivery.  
 6d Bright blue on a 17 December 1858 cover from Melbourne to Holland.  
 6d double rouletting to the left side - only recorded copy.  
 Rate up to ½ oz - 6d.  
 Back - MELBOURNE, DC 17, 58, VICTORIA, PARIS, AZ, FE 12, 58,  
 and LONDON, -----, 1859.



Below - "LETTER RATE TO HONG KONG"  
 Rates of postage for period - pre-August 1865.  
 2x 6d Bright blue on a 15 November 1858, Melbourne to Hong Kong direct.  
 Rate under 1oz - 1/- (6d per ½oz) use of stamp in first two weeks of issue  
 and second earliest recorded cover to Hong Kong arriving on Christmas Day.  
 Back - MELBOURNE, NO 15, 58 and HONG KONG, 25 DE, 1858.



Below - "LETTER RATE TO SWITZERLAND VIA SOUTHAMPTON"  
 Rate of postage for period Feb 1857 to March 1871  
 5x6d Bright blue on a 12 August 1860 cover from Smyths Creek to Switzerland  
 Rate over ½oz and under ¾oz - 2/6d.  
 Back - SMYTH'S CREEK, AU 21 60, VICTORIA, MELBOURNE, AU 22, 60,  
 PARIS, 23 OC 60, LUCERNE, 24 OC 60, NACHM, and LUCARNO, 26 OC 60.



Herausgeber: W. A. BRAHE  
 Nr. 33. Melbourne, F

Zustände Italiens.  
 Die Aufregung in Italien muss, nach Allem was ge-  
 schehen ist und gehofft wird, den höchsten Grad er-  
 reicht haben; und es ist kaum zu begreifen mit welcher  
 Mässigung das Volk so lange aushält, ohne seinen  
 Leidenschaften freies Spiel zu lassen, oder durch ewig-  
 langes Zaudern und peinliche Ungewissheit geistig auf-  
 gerieben zu sein. Der provisorische Zustand der Dinge  
 währt jedoch nunmehr so lange, dass die Gereiztheit  
 der Gemüther sich nicht mehr steigern kann, und wir  
 sind sehr geneigt zu glauben, dass, indem wir dies  
 schreiben, die Flamme des Kriegs längst ausgebrochen,  
 oder eine für die Italiener ehrenvolle Schlichtung ihrer  
 Angelegenheiten erfolgt ist.  
 In der That, das Volk von Italien hat Mässigung be-  
 wiesen, — es ist nicht zu leugnen — Mässigung und  
 Ausdauer in Glück und Unglück nicht allein, sondern  
 Rom und der Lomba unter Modifikationen  
 Mächte nicht um die dig's kümmern sollten  
 Sardinien die Herrsch  
 sobald ein neues Volk  
 Annexation aussprech  
 wollte Frankreich in  
 Kaiser, wie man vermu  
 Erfüllung seines Wun  
 Frankreich zu vereinigt  
 ist indess leicht begre  
 die andern Mächte mi  
 übereinstimmen; und  
 bei bleibt, für eine „Id  
 lässt derselbe auch auf  
 Geschicht dies; so steh  
 Wege, dass Victor Em

VICTORIA  
QUEEN-ON-THRONE 1852-1861



“VIA SOUTHAMPTON LETTER RATE TO BRITISH NORTH AMERICA”

Rates of postage for period  
25 Feb 1859 to April 1970.  
2x6d Bright blue on a 14 December  
1859, Vaughan to Kingston  
New Brunswick, via Southampton  
Letter Rate up to ½ oz.  
The rate via Southampton from  
25 Feb 1859 was revised to 11d  
for up to ½ oz however most covers  
paid the fee of 1/- (Ref B Palmer).  
Back - VAUGHAN, DC 14, 59,  
VICTORIA  
MELBOURNE, DC 15, 59,  
ST JOHN NEW BRUNSWICK,  
FE 25, 1860 and  
KINGSTON, FE 27, 1860, NB.



“OVERLAND VIA MARSEILLES LETTER RATE” TO SCOTLAND”

Rates of postage for period  
Feb 1857 to 23 July 1863.  
4x6d Bright blue on a 14 December  
1858, Fiery Creek to Glasgow,  
Via Marseilles Letter Rate cover  
weighing over ¾ oz but under 1 oz.  
The two right-hand stamps show the  
damage die flaw to the right arm of  
the chair.  
Back - FIERY CREEK P.G.F, DC 14,  
1858, VICTORIA,  
MELBOURNE, DC 15, 58.  
3 ⬤, GLASGOW, FE 6, 59.