

UK Tax Marks and their Offices of Use in the Centimes Era

1 July 1875 the General Postal Union came into operation standardizing the treatment of underpaid mail.

Founding members included most European countries, Egypt, Turkey and the US.

1 Apr 1879 the GPU became the Universal Postal Union – Membership expanded to include almost all countries.

The sending country identified underpaid mail by 'T' for tax marks.

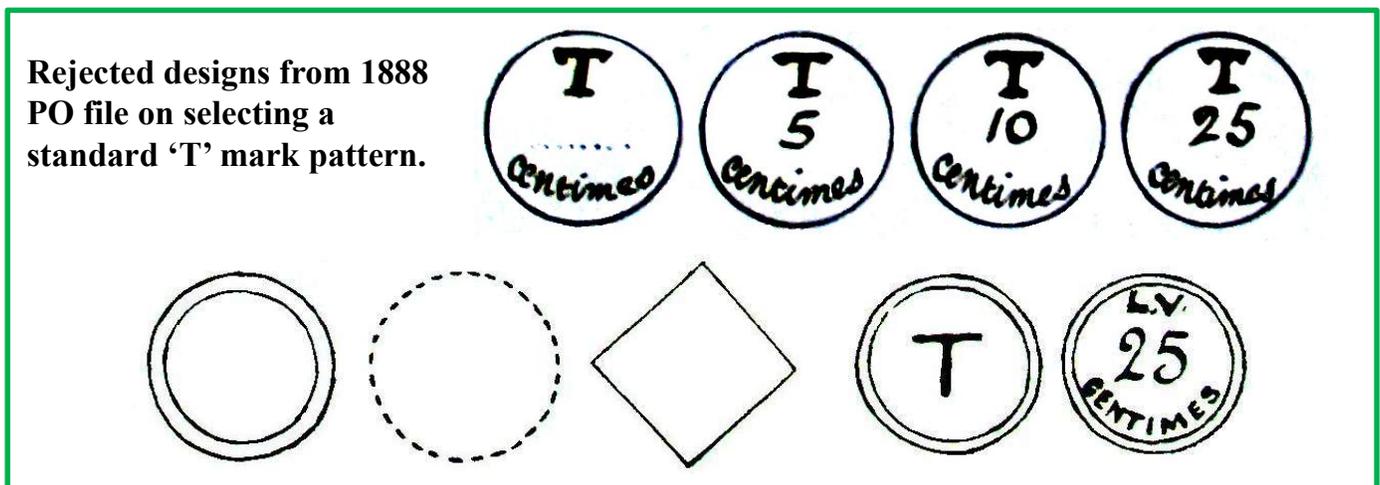
Rate information to allow the receiving country to calculate postage due was marked in centimes.

Centimes markings were replaced by fractional markings on 1 Jan 1966.

This exhibit illustrates the 'T' marks used by the United Kingdom post office from 1875 to 1965.

Most mail was taxed in London but many other Offices of Exchange taxed mail.

The exhibit aims to show examples from all offices which had distinctive tax marks and illustrates the Postal Union rules for taxing mail.



Section 1 - Tax marks prior to 1888 Issue of Hexagonal Marks

Mostly 'T' marks without indication of office of use.

2 - Offices issued with Hexagonal Marks in 1888

Hexagonal design issued to 18 offices with letters to identify the office.

Many marks included a value in centimes.

3 – Traveling and Sea Post Offices

Some underpaid mail leaving the UK was taxed en-route to the port on a TPO.

4 - London District Offices

From about 1905 London District Offices had identifiable 'T' marks.

5 - Other Offices in 1929 Survey

A 1929 survey listed the amount of mail taxed in each office.

It included some offices not covered in the preceding sections.

6 - Army Post Offices

Some Army Post Offices abroad had their own 'T' marks.

7 – Offices not in 1929 Survey

Offices that were omitted and those that started taxing after 1929.