

## PENNY RED IMPERFORATE CANCELLATIONS – SYNOPSIS

The imperforate penny black was replaced with the imperforate penny red starting in February 1841. The Post Office was very concerned about fraudulent reuse of the penny blacks as the red ink used with Maltese Cross cancellation could be easily removed. Black printers ink was now used for cancellations, although a few coloured cancels can be found.

Various types of cancellers were developed during the period of use of the imperforate penny reds. This is shown in the exhibit in chronological order of their use. Initially the stamps were cancelled manually with a Maltese Cross and a circular town date stamp (CDS) of the mailing office on the back. Several of these Maltese Crosses had unique features that could be traced back to specific offices. The Maltese Crosses were replaced by town obliterations around 1844, although the date and location was still added with a CDS on the back. There were five distinct types of these obliterations, London Head Office, London District Office, England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland. These are all illustrated on stamps as well as covers. The colour of the cancellations was not always black and examples can be found with green or blue cancellations. The purple cancellation of Denbigh is quite rare.

Starting in 1853 early experiments were made to have an obliterator that cancelled the stamp as well as showing the date and originating office, the duplex cancellers. Early examples of these are shown, the indented square and spoon combined with the town cancel.

The last page shows the 1853 use of a Scottish office line stamp for cancellation.

Perforated penny red stamps were officially issued starting on 24 February 1854.

### Summary

p. 1 Introduction: 1843 Black MC cancellation

p. 2 Maltese Cross cancellations, including blue cancellations on individual stamps, one stamp with both an MC and CDS and a cover with blue Maltese Cross cancellation.

p. 3 Black MCs on single rate cover from the Library of the House of Commons and a double rate cover used locally in London.

p. 4 Shows London head Office MCs numbered at the centre from 1 – 12, and a cover with MC6 to Warwick.

p. 5 Some distinctive town MCs and cover from Dublin to Moy with distinctive Dublin MC.

p. 6-7 Stamps with 1844 type numeral cancellations of London Chief Office, London District Office, England and Wales, Scotland and Ireland, including a block of four from Jedburgh, Scotland.

The next five pages show these cancellations used on covers,

p. 8 Covers with London cancellations, including one to Lady Byron, from Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman physician.

p. 9 Covers with England and Wales cancellations. The one from Hull to Bowling Iron Works, Bradford has a Machell Street Sub Post Office line stamp.

p. 10 Cover from Abergavenny, England was Wales 1, with a block of six 1d. imperfs.

p. 11 Covers with Scottish town cancellations, both to Edinburgh, one double weight from Dumfries and one from Struan Sub Post Office via Broadford, Isle of Skye.

p. 12 Irish town cancels, one from Larne and one from Waterford.

p. 13 Numeral cancellations in colour on stamps, the purple Denbigh 241 cancellation is extremely rare and two covers, one with a blue cancellation and one with a green cancellation.

p. 14 Early duplex cancellation, 1854, on cover from London to Dublin, and a very late duplex, 1867, on piece from Manchester.

p. 15 1854 spoon duplex from Liverpool to London.

p. 16 Scottish local cancellation on 1855 mourning cover from Leith, Edinburgh, to London.