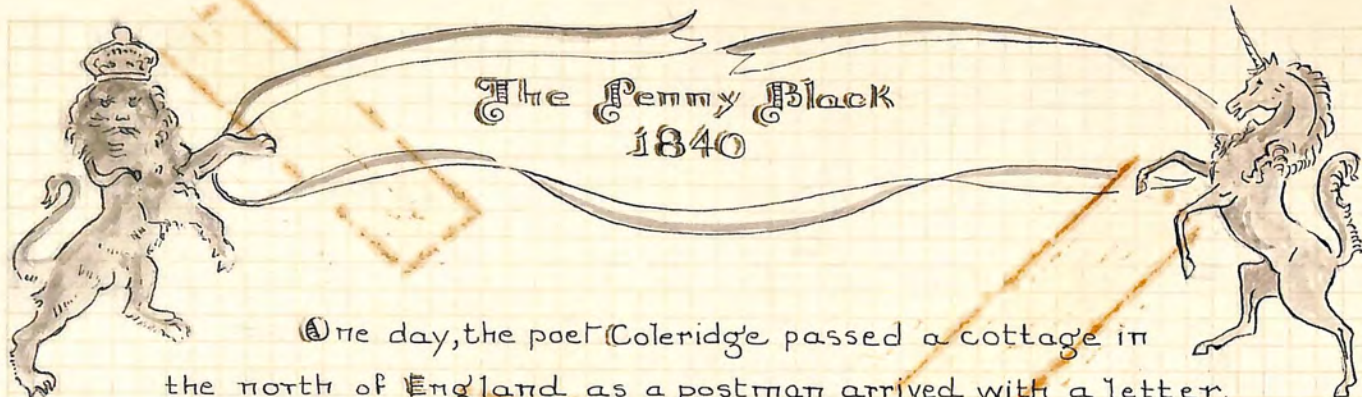




Stephen Bailey Hall Esq.
Skipton



Red Maltese Cross Cancellation



One day, the poet Coleridge passed a cottage in the north of England as a postman arrived with a letter. A girl came out, looked at the letter and returned it to the postman. In those days the payment for postage was high, a shilling or two being an ordinary charge, the postage rising according to the distance. The receiver not the sender of the letter had to pay for it. Coleridge felt compassion for the girl and paid for the letter. As soon as the postman was out of hearing the girl told him she was sorry that he had given so much money for a letter which had nothing written inside it. She then explained that her brother had gone to London and had promised that, as she was too poor to pay postage, he would, at stated intervals, address to her a blank sheet of paper, which she could return to the postman, but the sight of which would let her know he was in good health. Coleridge told this story to Rowland Hill, an officer in the Post Office who thought it over and submitted a plan to the Government whereby postage stamps, which before had been unknown could be bought, by the sender, and affixed to the envelope. The postage rate on all letters between all places in Great Britain and Ireland was reduced to a penny. The new system came into complete force in 1840, and the first postage stamp was the "Penny Black". There were — 63,000,000 "Penny Blacks" issued according to available records, but after over one hundred years of handling good copies are very scarce.

Great Britain

Penny Black on Cover



Thos Wilson & Tabor
Sons
Stockton
upon Tees

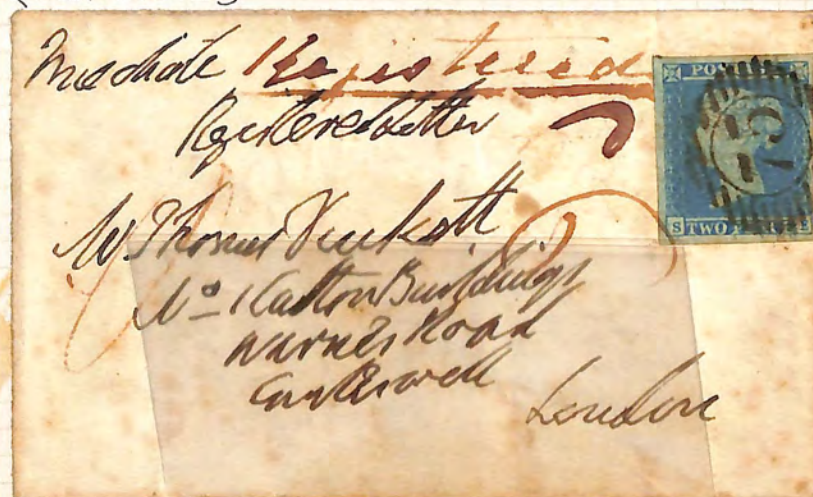


Maltese Cross Cancellation.

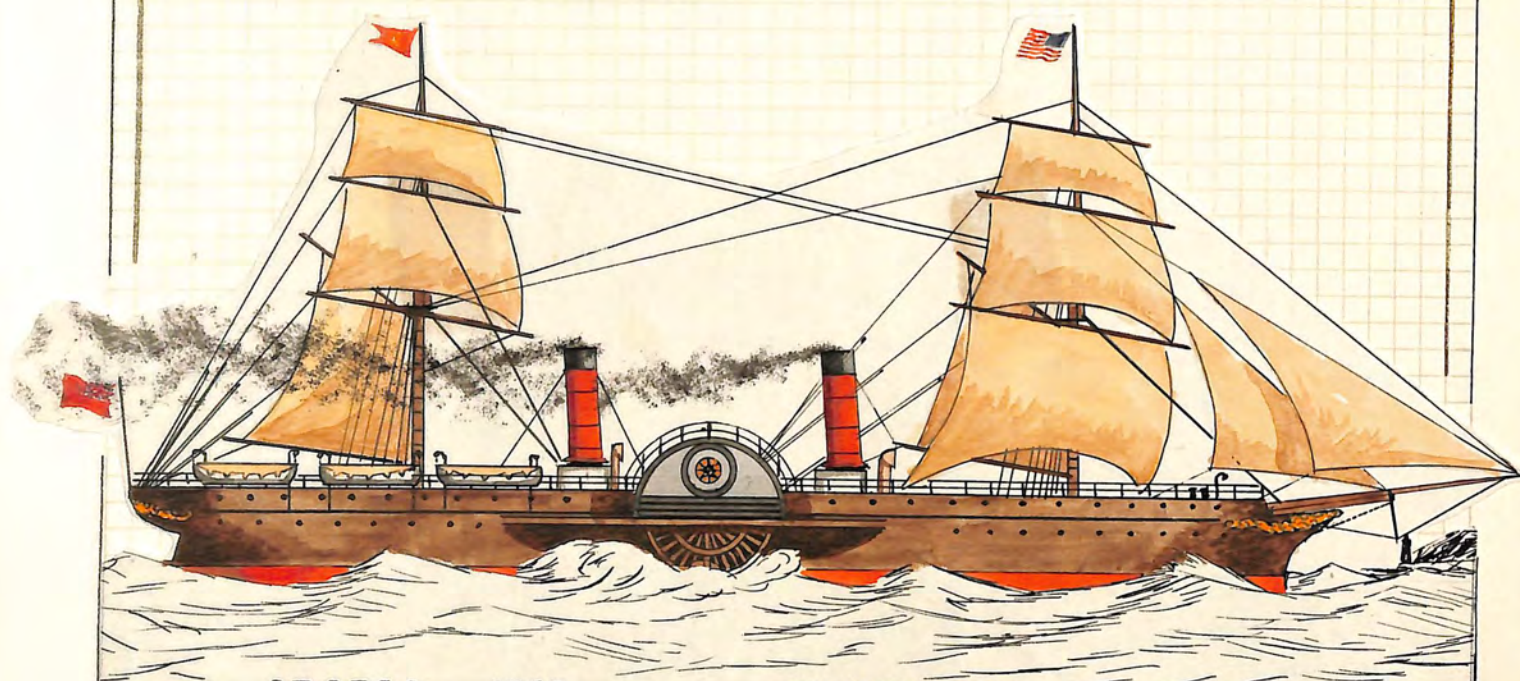
Great Britain's
 "Two Penny Blue"
 1840



These stamps were issued at approximately
 the same time as the "Penny Blacks" but in vastly
 smaller quantities



Ship Cover



ARABIA 1852

CUNARD LINE

LENGTH 315'. BEAM 41'. DEPTH 29'. DISPLACEMENT 6500 T. H.P. 3,250. SPEED 13 KNOTS.

Great Britain

Penny Postage Jubilee Cover & Card



"HE GAVE US PENNY POSTAGE"



1890.



UR.

