

Great Britain
Mulready Envelope

1840

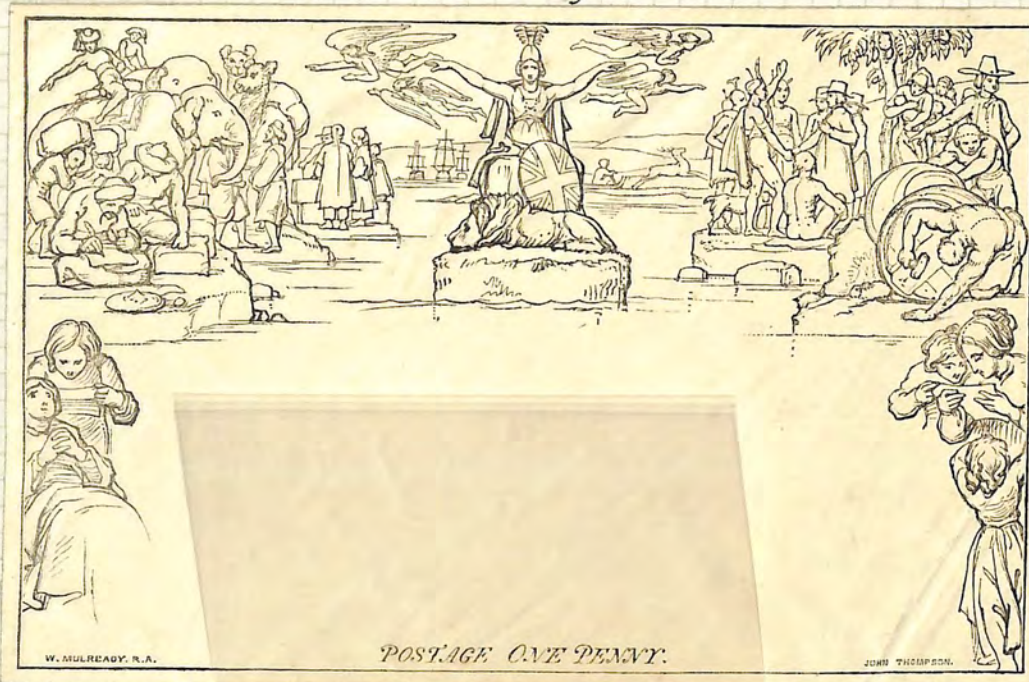
Great Britain was, apparently the first country to have prepayment of postage. Late in 1839 the authorities were considering the use and introduction of a system of prepayment of postage owing to the difficulty and inconvenience of collecting upon delivery, as many of the correspondents left the payment to the recipient of the letter. The use of stamped covers, stamped paper, and of stamps to be used separately was discussed, and finally after suggestions and proposals three forms were adopted 1, adhesives; 2, an envelope; 3, a stamp embossed upon any kind of paper sent to the Post Office.

Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. were to produce the adhesive

H. Cole was to obtain a design for a cover. He called in William Mulready, who produced the highly poetic design that was afterward adapted and called the "Mulready". The Queen placed her approval upon the design. On May 1, 1840, stamps and Mulready covers were issued to the public, but their use was not authorized until the sixth.

Within a week it was withdrawn from use having been greatly abused and ridiculed on all sides. The bulk of the issue was destroyed in especially designed stoves. Many of the one penny covers were sold to various firms and they were permitted to have their advertisements printed upon the inside.

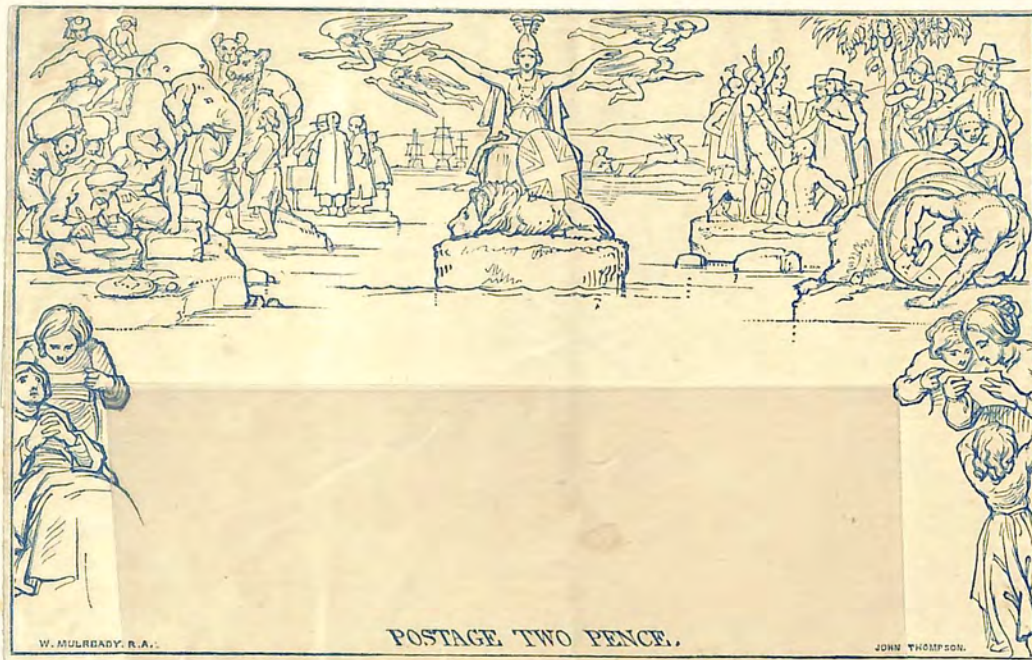
The Mulready



Envelope



Letter Sheet



Pull out to see back.

Great Britain

Mulready Caricature



Published by Menzies, Princes, St. Edinburgh.

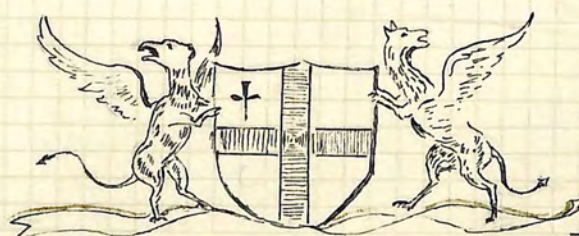
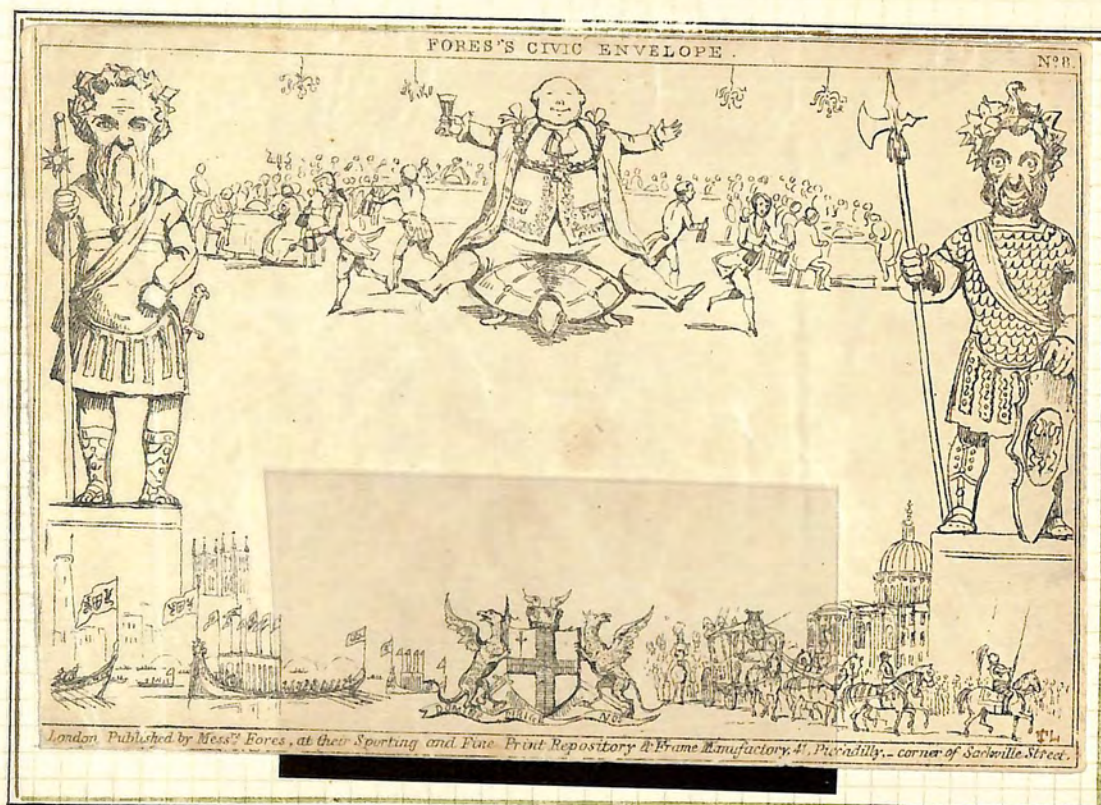


The Mulready envelope was ridiculed and freely caricatured. The caricatures were by noted artists of the time who were employed by certain firms to draw designs for the caricatures



Great Britain

Caricature Envelope



"Brittania is sending her messengers forth,
 To the East, to the West, to the South, to the North.
 At her feet is a lion what's taking a nap,
 And a dish cover rests on her legs and her lap.
 To the left is a Musselman writing a letter
 His Knees form a desk for the want of something
 better.
 To the right is the King of the Cannibal Islands.
 In the same pantaloons that they wear in the Highlands,
 Some squaws by his side with their infantile varmint,
 And a friend in the port who's forgotten his garminits.
 Below to the left as designed by Mulready,
 Is sorrow's effect on a very fat lady;
 While joy at good news is plainly descried
 In the trio engaged on the opposite side."

The designer of the Mulready envelope, appointed by Rowland Hill, was a
 W. Mulready, a painter and Royal Academician, an Irishman born
 in County Clare April 1, 1776.



The Mulready Caricature.