

RE-DIRECTION CHARGES PAID WITH GB STAMPS 1840-1901**INTRODUCTION**

In the United Kingdom, unlike many other countries, an extra full inland postal rate had to be paid for the re-direction of mail. The same rule applied both for inland mail and mail arriving from overseas, and the later category creates interesting postal history items since they often show stamps from two different countries. In 1855 free re-direction was introduced for mail within the same postal district. In 1892 new rules allowed mail to be re-directed inland at no extra charge, but only if the re-direction was made within a day of delivery and the letter was unopened. At the same time mail re-directed overseas only had the additional postage charged. If these two conditions were not fulfilled, the full inland or overseas postage was charged.

PURPOSE & SCOPE

This exhibit is a study of the re-direction charges paid with GB stamps during the Queen Victoria period, starting with inland mail being re-directed within the UK, but the main part of the exhibit consists of mail from overseas, both pre-stamp and with stamps, mostly being re-directed within the UK with in most cases a GB 1d. stamp added, from 1d. black to later issues. Currently 67 different countries are represented.

STRUCTURE & CONTENT

The exhibit is arranged in sections, starting with inland mail being re-directed within the UK, followed by mail from a large number of overseas countries addressed to the UK, being re-directed upon arrival. The content of each section can be seen in the Plan below, and descriptions of the more important items are found under the Rarity & Highlights heading to the right.

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PERSONAL STUDY, RESEARCH & REFERENCES

Literature used includes "United Kingdom Letter Rates 1657-1900, Inland and Overseas" by Colin Tabart (1989), "British Letter Mail to Overseas Destinations 1840-1875" by Jane & Michael Moubay (1992), The Great Britain Philatelic Society website www.gbpps.org.uk, various auction catalogues, and much personal research.

RARITY & HIGHLIGHTS

The rarity statements in the exhibit are based on personal and other specialists' records, accumulated over a long time period. Below is a list of the more important items shown in the exhibit.

1. Inland mail (Frame 1)

This section contains **Mulready Envelopes** re-directed with the addition of a **1d. black** or **1d. red**, examples of mail with one or more examples of **1d. black**, re-directed with the addition of one or more copies of **1d. black**, **1d. red**, or **2d. blue**.

Later examples show multiple rates, and also other categories of mail including printed matters and registered letters, and finally examples of re-directed mail which has not been charged a re-direction fee because they were re-sent within the same postal district.

2. Mail from Europe (Frame 1-2)

The British Post Offices and Colonies include mail sent from Crimea (during the Crimean War), Gibraltar (prestamp and stamped mail **including a cover with a 1d. black**), Ionian Islands (prestamp mail), Ireland, and Malta (prestamp and stamped mail).

Other countries in Europe includes mail from Austria, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Denmark, France (prestamp and stamped mail **including a cover with a 1d. black**), Germany and States (prestamp and stamped mail), Greece, Italy (prestamp and stamped mail), Madeira, Netherlands (prestamp and stamped mail), Russia, Sweden, and Switzerland (prestamp and stamped mail).

3. Mail from Australasia (Frame 3)

Asia includes mail from Burma, Ceylon (prestamp and stamped mail), Hong Kong (prestamp and stamped mail), India (prestamp and stamped mail), Malaya, China, and Japan.

The Australias include New South Wales (prestamp and stamped mail), Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania (prestamp and stamped mail), Victoria, and New Zealand.

4. Mail from Africa (Frame 4)

Mail sent from British East Africa, Cape of Good Hope, Egypt (prestamp and stamped mail), Mauritius, Natal, Nigeria, St Helena, Sierra Leone, and Transvaal.

5. Mail from the Americas (Frame 4-5)

The British Colonies in the West Indies include mail from Antigua (prestamp mail), Bahamas, Barbados (prestamp and stamped mail), Dominica (prestamp mail), Grenada, Jamaica (prestamp and stamped mail **including a cover with two 1d. blacks**), St Christopher (prestamp mail), St Vincent, Trinidad (prestamp and stamped mail **including a cover with a 1d. black**), whereas the other British Colonies in the Americas include British Guiana, British Honduras, Canada (prestamp and stamped mail), Falkland Islands, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Nova Scotia.

Other countries include Argentina, Brazil (prestamp mail), Uruguay, and the United States (prestamp and stamped mail **including a cover with a 1d. black**).