

THE LONDON NUMBER IN MALTESE CROSS CANCELLING THE 1841 PENNY RED.

INTRODUCTION - Numbered variations of the Maltese Cross were first introduced in March 1843. They were used at the London Inland Office of the General Post Office until the introduction of the Numeral cancellations in May 1844. They were the only official deviations from the standard Maltese Cross. It is thought that the numbering may have been a method of monitoring the work of the people employed to cancel stamps at the Post Office. The numbers run from 1 to 12. At the top of the cross is a small cross which distinguishes the number 6 from number 9. In the proof books held at the Post Office Archives, number 3 is omitted from the set and may have been remade since it had no cross at the top. The omission of the cross was probably an error.

DATES OF ISSUE - The following dates of issue are recorded in the proof book held at the Post Office Archive.

No 1 - 23 rd March 1843	No 7 - 1 st April 1843
No 2 - 23 rd March 1843	No 8 - 1 st April 1843
No 3 - Not in proof book	No 9 - 1 st April 1843
No 4 - 23 rd March 1843	No 10 - 1 st April 1843
No 5 - 23 rd March 1843	No 11 - 1 st April 1943
No 6 - 23 rd March 1843	No 12 - 1 st April 1843



Example of postmark with and without small cross.

Regarding the above proof book records, several of the numbers have been recorded used on earlier dates than those in the proof book, there are two possibilities for this, firstly, that the dates the hand stamps were struck in the proof book could sometimes follow the date the hand stamps were put into use, secondly, trials of earlier dates may have been used before being struck for the proof book.

Number 3 is recorded used from an even earlier date than any other, the 16th March 1843. Since there is no record in the proof book it is possible that it may have been entered into service as a prototype.

THE EXHIBIT - Contains each of the numbered crosses both on and of cover/entire. Cover/entire with early dates. Numbers 3, 6 and 7 used on copies of the Post Magazine and an entire and two stamp with a constant variation of the number 3 in cross.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

The Cancellations of the 1841 Penny Red - By Danzig and Goldsmith.

Great Britain Specialised Queen Victoria - By Stanley Gibbons.

Encyclopaedia of the Maltese Cross Cancellations of Great Britain and Ireland - by Professor David Rockoff and Mike Jackson.

Maltese Cross Cancellations - By R.C. Alcock & F. C. Holland.

THE LONDON NUMBER 1 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Date in proof book - 23rd March 1843.



The number 1 cancellation.



PLATE 34 - cancelled 1 in cross.



PLATE 31 - cancelled 1 in cross.



PLATE 36 - cancelled 1 in cross.



PLATE 30 - lettered "LI" on an entire letter posted to Over Darwen in Lancashire on the 27th July 1843. The stamp is cancelled by the 1 in cross.

Earliest recorded date of number 1 in cross - 21st March 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 2 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Date in proof book - 23rd March 1843.



The number 2 cancellation.

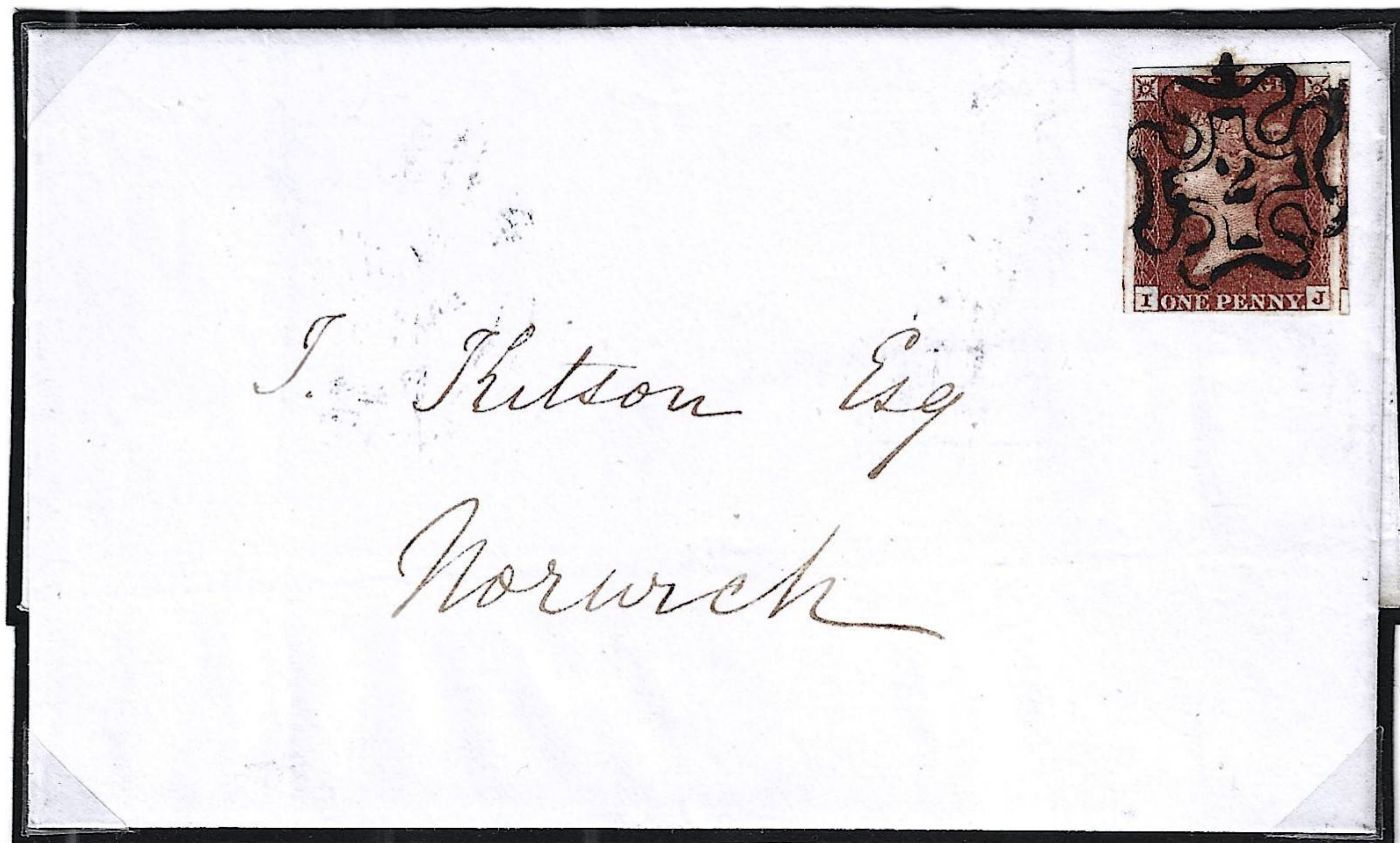


PLATE 29 - lettered "IJ" on an outer cover addressed to Norwich. It was posted on the 25th March 1843 (Early date of use) and cancelled by the number 2 in cross.



Plate 33 - cancelled by number 2 in cross



PLATE 35 - lettered "EI" sent from London to Burton in Westmorland on the 28th August 1843. The stamp is cancelled by the number 2 in cross.

Earliest recorded date of number 2 in cross - 21st March 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 3 IN MALTESE CROSS.

No entry in proof book



The number 3 cancellation.



PLATE 32 - Cancelled 3 in cross.
(Cancellation has a constant
mark below the 3)



PLATE 31 - Cancelled 3 in cross.
(Normal cross)



PLATE 34 - Cancelled 3 in cross.
(Cancellation has a constant
mark below the 3)



PLATE 34 - lettered "OL" on an outer cover posted to Oxford. The stamp is
cancelled by the 3 in cross. The stamp shows a constant mark
below the 3, the cover was posted on the 14th September.

Earliest recorded date of number 3 in cross - 16th March 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 3 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Number 3 not listed in the Proof Book records.



PLATE 31 – lettered “LK” on an entire letter addressed to Oxford on the 22nd March 1843 (Early date).
The stamp is cancelled by the London number 3 in cross.



PLATE 30 & 31 - on entire letter sent to Langley Park near Norwich. It was posted on the 23rd May 1843.
The entire is franked by two stamps “QD” Plate 30 and “BB” Plate 31. Both stamps are
cancelled by the London number 3 in cross.

THE LONDON NUMBER 3 IN MALTESE CROSS.

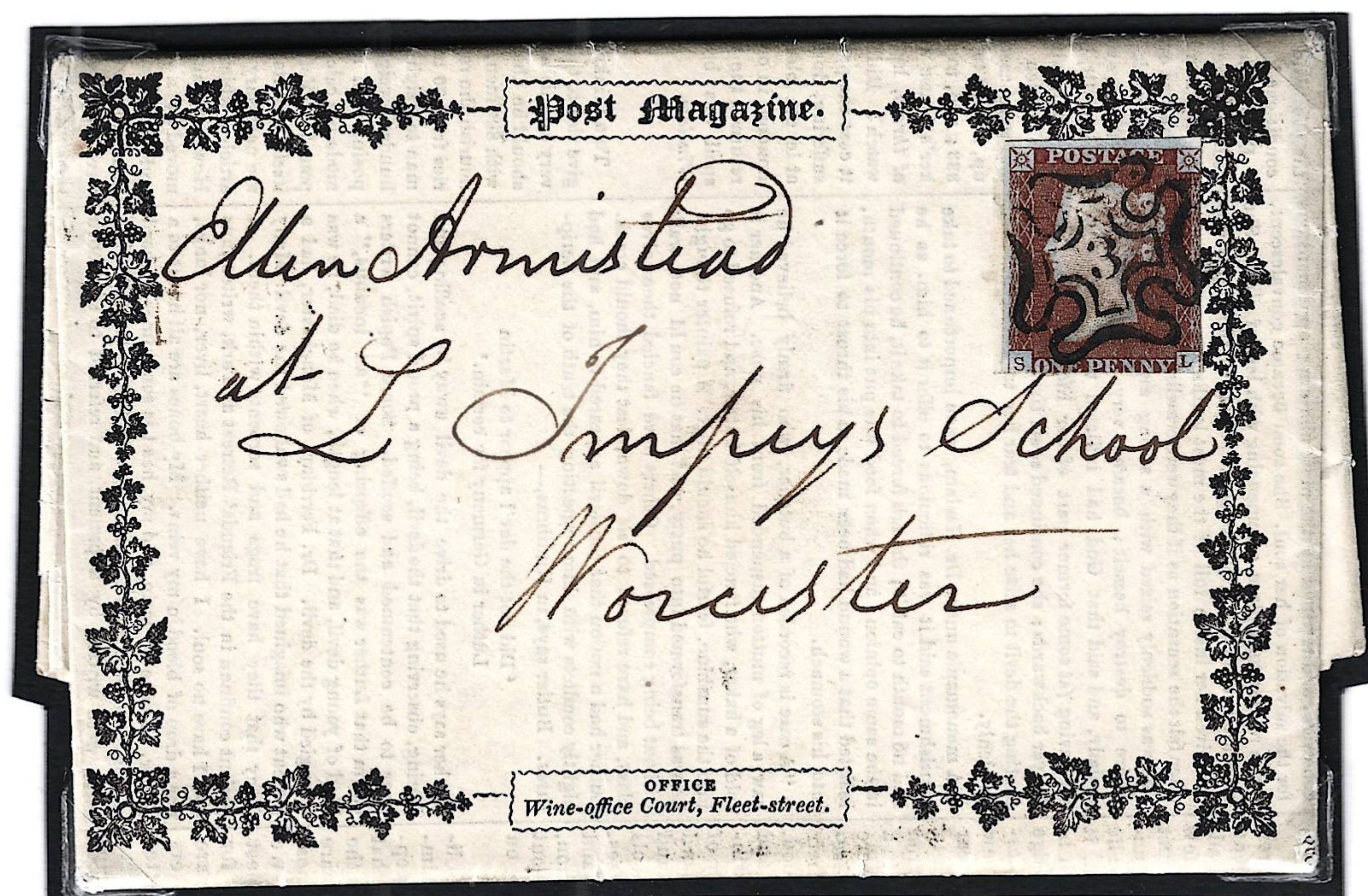


PLATE 30 - on a "Post Magazine" sent to Worcester on 4th May 1843. The stamp is lettered "SL" is cancelled by the number 3 in cross.

Earliest recorded date of number 3 in cross - 16th March 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 4 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Date in proof book - 23rd March 1843.



The number 4 cancellation.



PLATE 32 - cancelled 4 in cross.



PLATE 33 - cancelled 4 in cross.

THE LONDON NUMBER 4 AND 5 IN MALTESE CROSS.

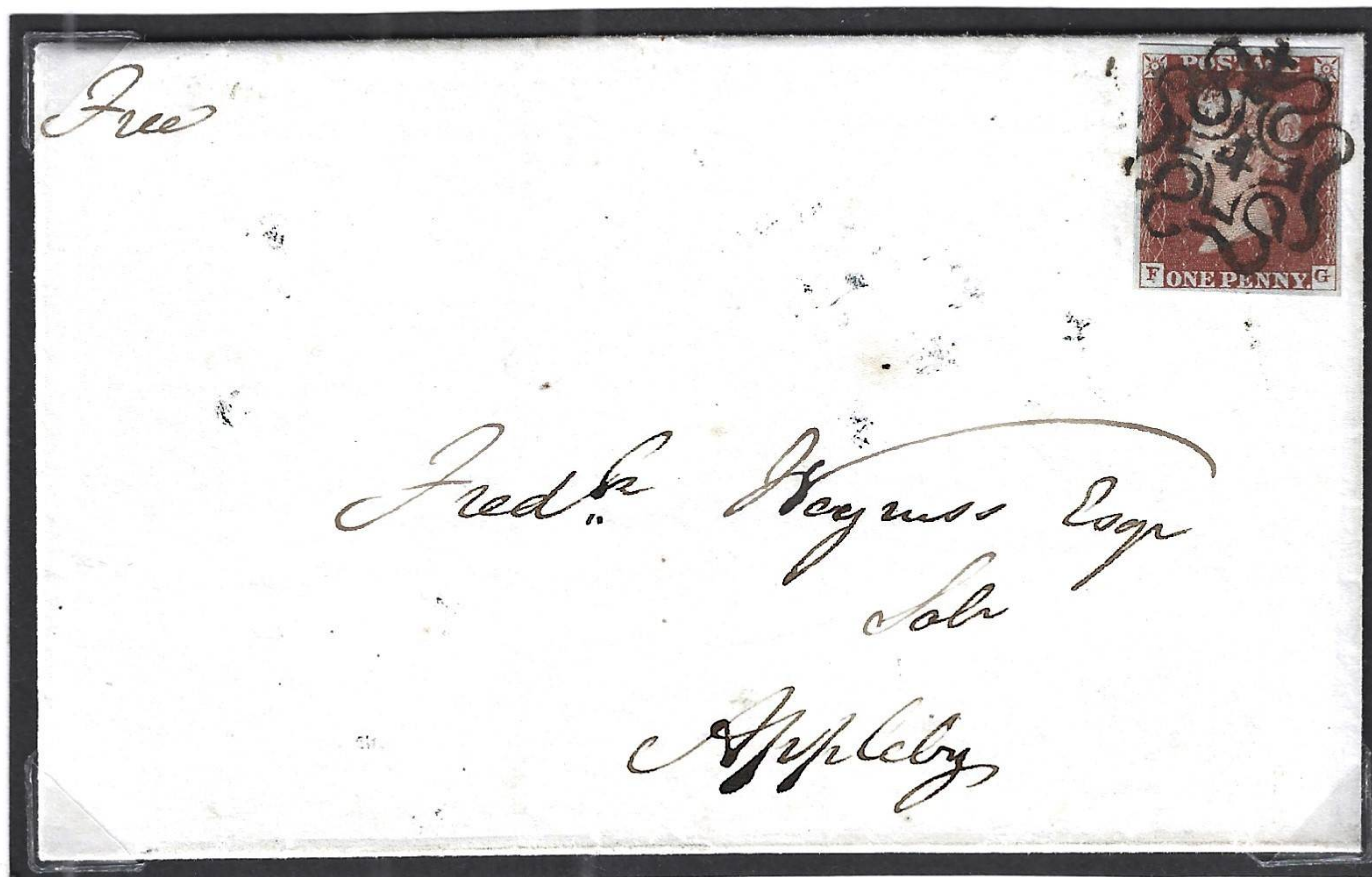


PLATE 30 - an outer letter sheet sent to Appleby on the 24th March 1843 (early date).
The stamp is cancelled by the number 4 in cross.

Earliest recorded date of number 4 in cross - 21st March 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 5 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Date in proof book - 23rd March 1843.



The number 5 cancellation.



PLATE 28 - cancelled 5 in cross.



PLATE 36 - cancelled 5 in cross.

THE LONDON NUMBER 5 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Date in proof book - 23rd March 1843.



PLATE 20 - a small envelope sent to Exeter on the 11th May 1843. The stamp is cancelled by the number 5 in cross.

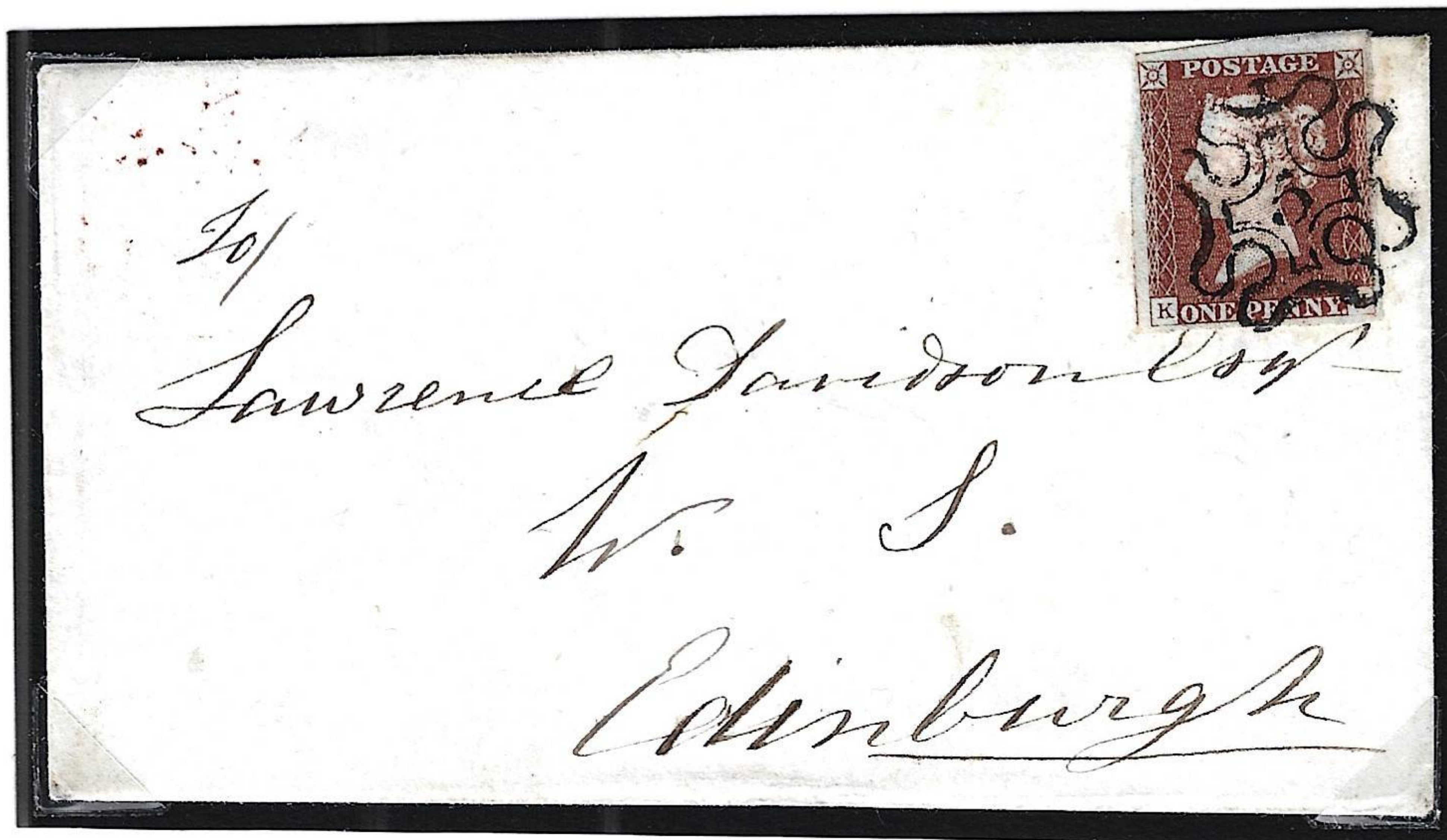


PLATE 28 - an envelope posted to Edinburgh in Scotland on July 8th 1843. The stamp is cancelled by the number 5 in cross.

Earliest recorded date of number 5 in cross - 22nd March 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 6 AND 7 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Date in proof book - 23rd March 1843.



The number 6 cancellation.



PLATE 33 - 6 in cross.



PLATE 43 - 7 in cross.



PLATE 34 - an entire letter sent to Chester on the 2nd August 1843.

The stamp "SD" is cancelled by the number 6 in cross



PLATE 35 - a Post Magazine sent Golspie on the 6th July 1843. The stamp is cancelled with a number 6 in cross.

Earliest recorded date - 22nd March 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 6 AND 7 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Date in proof book - 1st April 1843.



The number 7 cancellation.

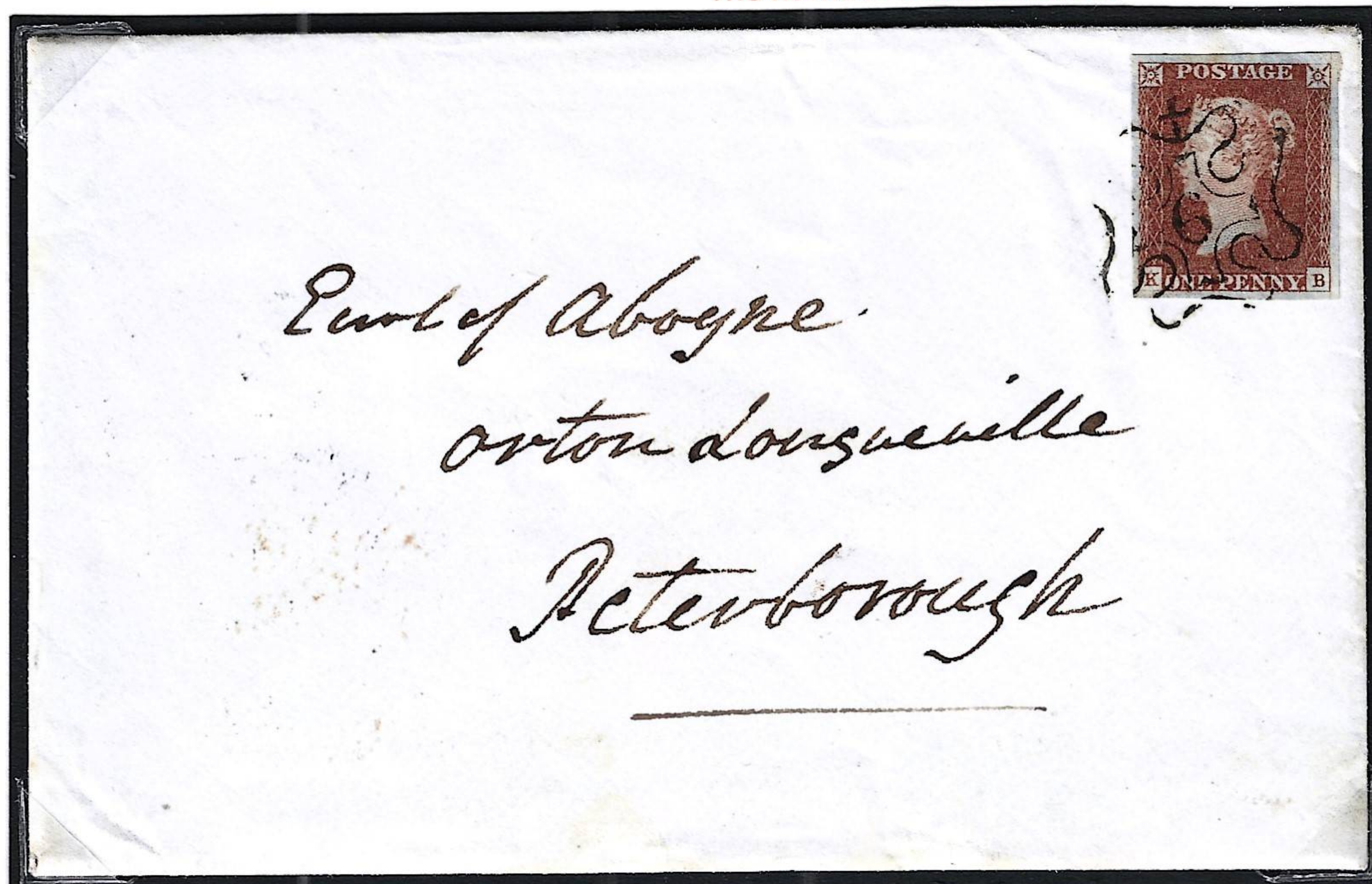


Plate 42 - cancelled number 7 in cross.

PLATE 27- lettered "EB" on an envelope addressed to Peterborough. It was posted on the 23rd August 1843 and cancelled by the number 6 in cross.



PLATE 35 - entire letter sent from Argentina to London. It was then Forwarded to Bridgwater on the 22nd August where the stamp lettered "JI" was cancelled with the 7 in cross.

Earliest recorded date of number 7 in cross - 1st April 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 7 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Date in proof book - 1st April 1843.



The number 7 cancellation.



Plate 41 - cancelled
number 7 in cross

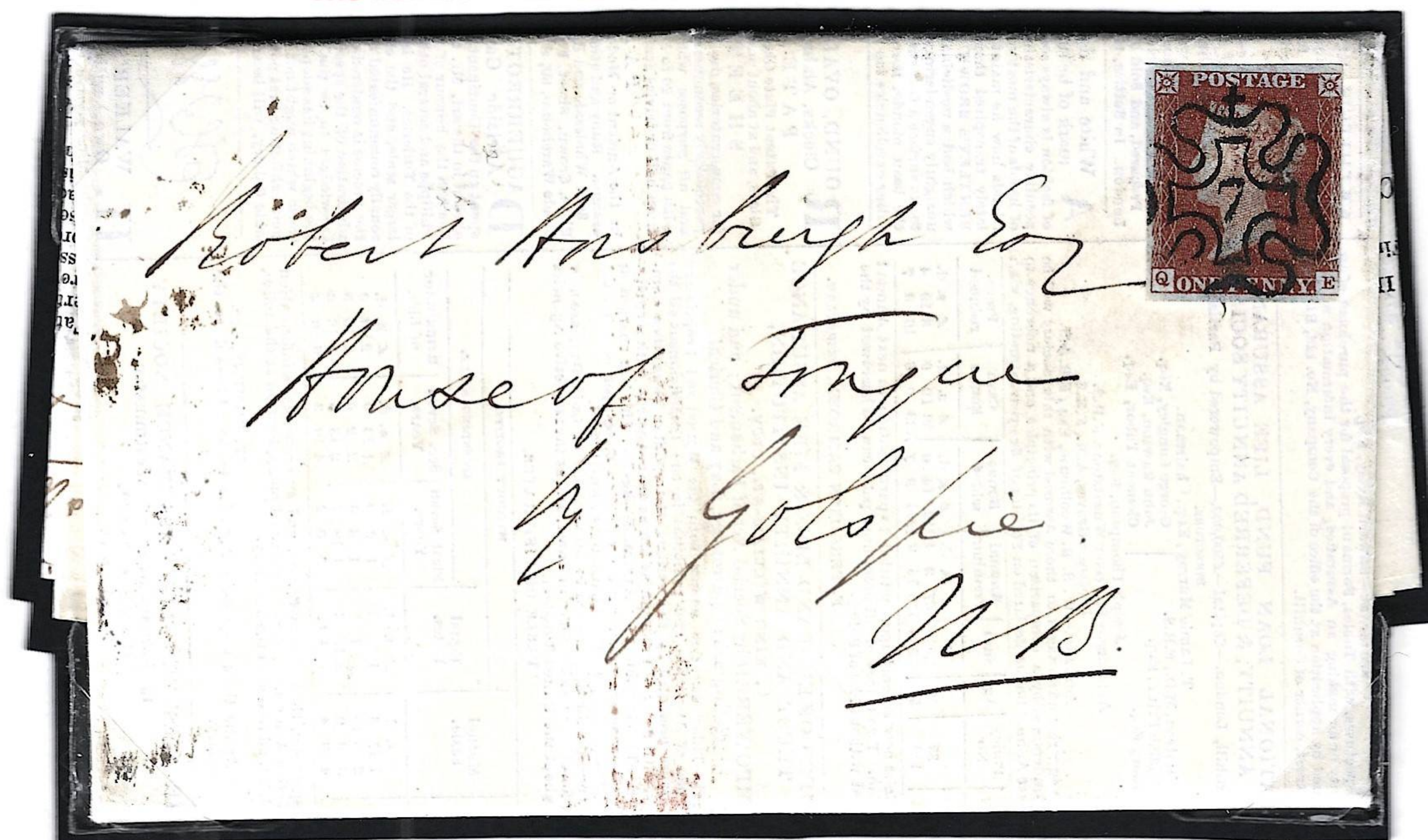


PLATE 34 - lettered "QE" on a Post Magazine addressed to Golspie in Scotland.
It was posted on the 4th August 1843 and cancelled by the number 7 in cross.

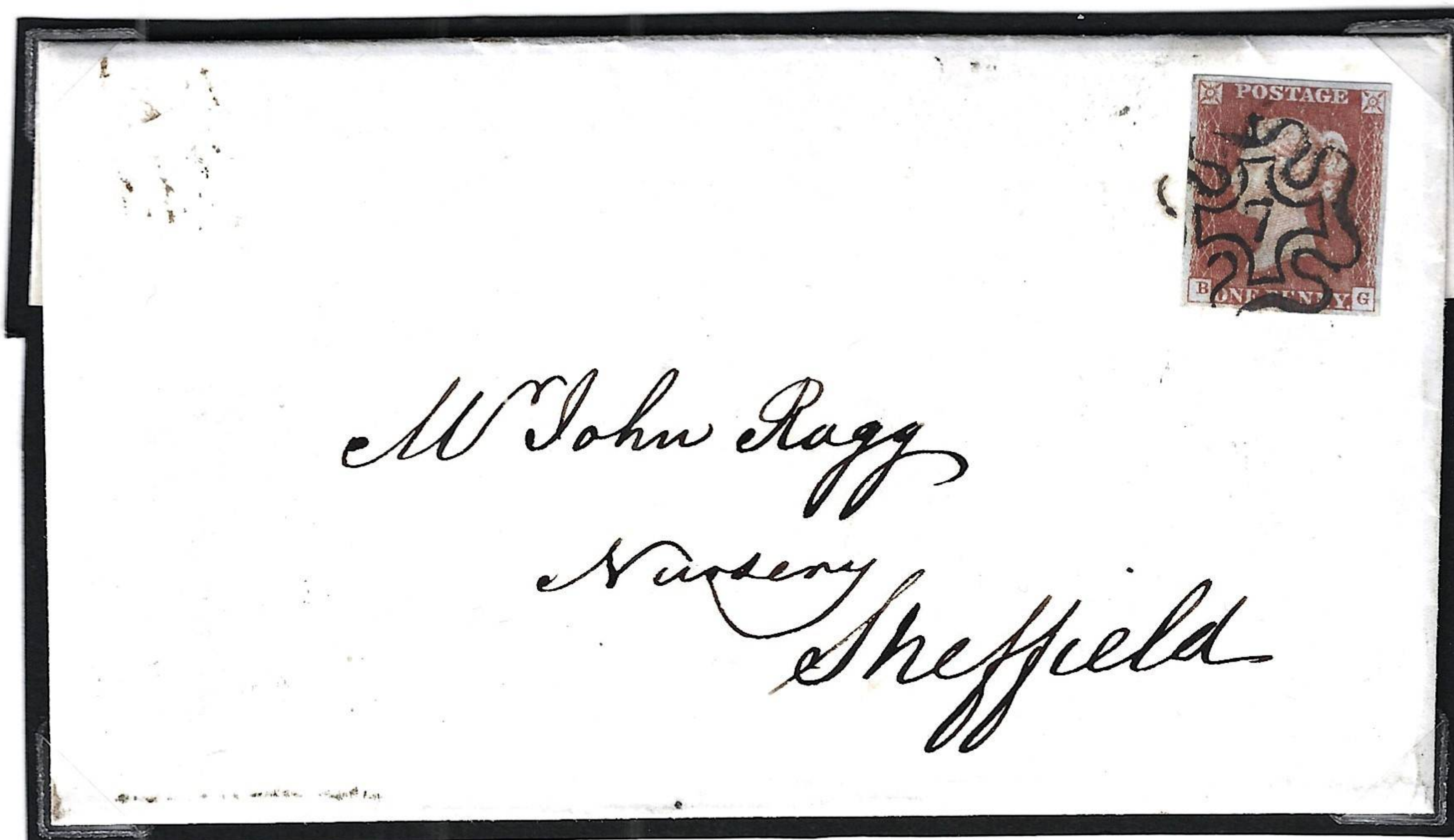
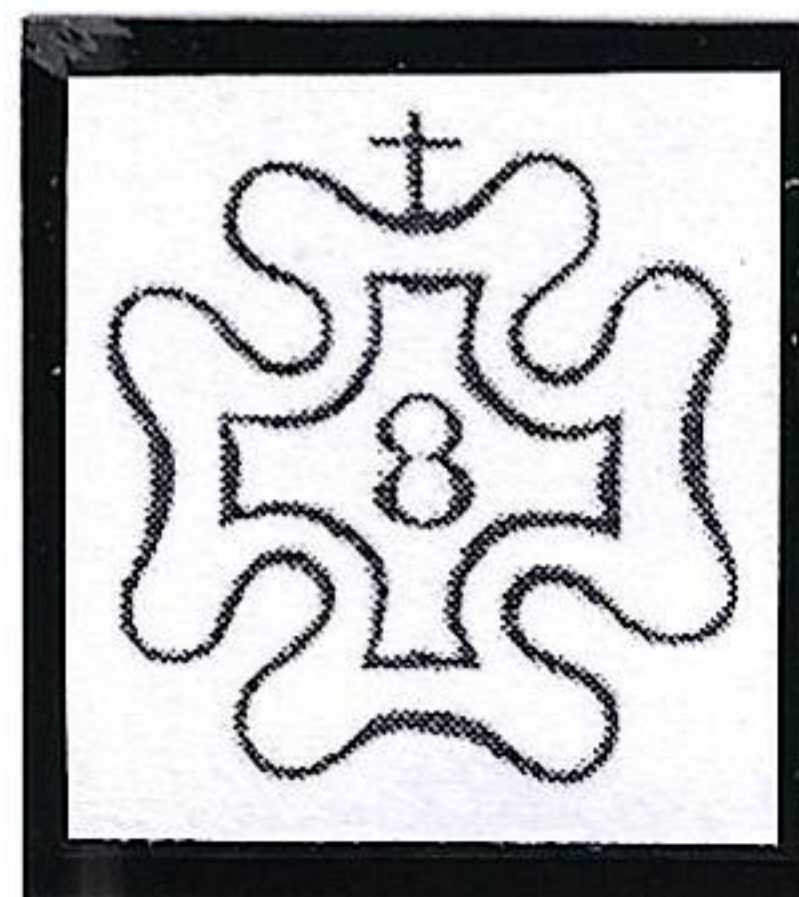


PLATE 32 - lettered "BG" (Missing Imprimatur) on an entire letter sent to Sheffield. It was
posted on September 7th 1843. The stamp is cancelled by the 7 in cross

Earliest recorded date of number 7 in cross - 1st April 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 8 AND 9 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Date in proof book - 1st April 1843.



The number 8 cancellation.



PLATE 30 - on outer cover sent to Sheffield on the 18th July 1843.
The stamp "FB" is cancelled by the number 9 in cross



BLACK PLATE 9 - 8 in cross.



PLATE 33 - 8 in cross.



PLATE 36 - lettered "RA" on an entire letter sent to Preston on the 15th September 1843.
The stamp is cancelled with a number 8 in cross.

Earliest recorded date - 4th April 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 8, 9 AND 10 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Date in proof book - 1st April 1843.



The number 9 cancellation.



PLATE 30 - 8 in cross.



PLATE 34 - 9 in cross.



PLATE 35 - an envelope sent to Ampthill on the 29th December 1843.
The stamp "BJ" is cancelled by the number 9 in cross.



PLATE 35 - lettered "SE" on an entire letter sent to Kendal on the 5th August 1843.
The stamp is cancelled with a number 10 in cross.

Earliest recorded date - 4th April 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 10 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Dated in proof book - 1st April 1843.



The number 10 cancellation.



PLATE 40 - cancelled 10 in cross.



PLATE 37 - cancelled 10 in cross.



PLATE 33 - lettered "SI" on an outer cover posted to Perth in in Scotland on the 12th August 1843. The stamp is cancelled by the number 10 in cross.

Earliest recorded date of number 1 in cross - 13th April 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 11 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Dated in proof book - 1st April 1843.



The number 11 cancellation.



PLATE 29 - cancelled 11 in cross.



PLATE 31 - cancelled 11 in cross.



PLATE 34 - lettered "GD" on an entire letter posted to Wellington in Somerset. It was posted on the 8th January 1844. The stamp is cancelled by the number 11 in cross.

Earliest recorded date of number 11 in cross - 8th April 1843.

THE LONDON NUMBER 12 IN MALTESE CROSS.

Date in proof book - 1st April 1843.



The number 12 cancellation.



PLATE 29 - an envelope sent to Broadway on the 23rd May 1843.
The stamp "MA" is cancelled by the number 12 in cross



PLATE 33 - 12 in cross.



PLATE 32 - 12 in cross.

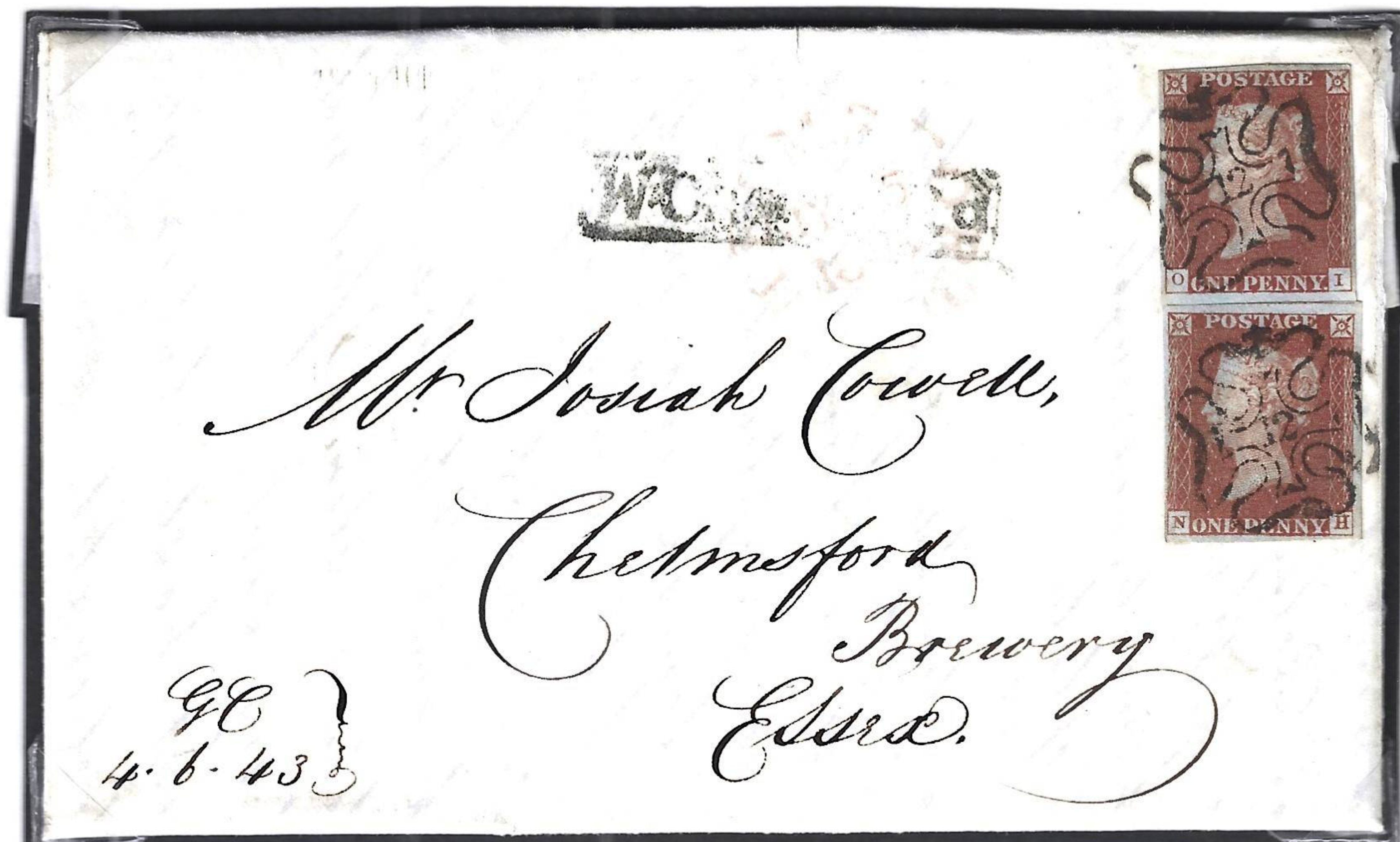


PLATE 32 - lettered "OI" and "NH" placed as a vertical pair on an entire letter sent to Chelmsford in Essex.
Both stamps are cancelled with a number 12 in cross. The entire was posted on the 4th July 1843.

Earliest recorded date - 1st April 1843.