

Dominica 1776 - 1890

Dominica, at 290 square miles, is the largest of the Windward Islands situated between the French islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique. It was sighted by Columbus on his second voyage but its warlike Carib inhabitants deterred colonisation for many years. French coastal settlements appeared by the mid-eighteenth century and were captured by Britain in 1759 during the seven years war. Britain retained the islands after the peace treaty of 1763. The island was recognised as an independent colony in 1771 and awarded a House of Representatives in 1775. However, in 1778, the French recaptured the island during the American war of independence and the island was only returned to Britain in 1783 at the peace conference. Attempts by the French to recapture the islands during the Napoleonic wars were defeated.

Settlement was largely confined to coastal areas and early mail mostly went by boat on the regular British packet service or by coastal vessels around the island. In 1871 Dominica and the British islands to the north were formed in to the Federation of the Leeward Islands Colony, whose administration was in Antigua.

This display shows a number of early letters from the colony including some from the first period of British rule and takes the reader through the introduction of handstamps, then shows the various datestamps used in the prestamp period, and the introduction of prepayment of postage including the use of British stamps.

The display then looks at the stamps produced by De La Rue, in London, from the first issue in 1874 until 1890, with particular emphasis on their postal use. 1890 saw the introduction of stamps that used the De La Rue universal keyplate design, inscribed Leeward Islands, which were introduced in all the presidencies of the colony.

The stamps are all of one type and were all produced in De La Rue's standard sheet size of 60 (6 rows of 10 impressions). Their mode of perforation and watermark follows the changes made generally by De La Rue. So the first issue is perforated 12 ½, watermark crown CC, then in 1877 this changes to perforated 14 but still crown CC followed by a change to crown CA in 1883. Then in 1886 stamps in the universal colour scheme were introduced.

At the times these changes were made, including the rate changes that came into force when Dominica joined the UPU in July 1879, various shortages of stamps occurred in the colony. These necessitated practical stamps to be taken at the island post office to overcome these shortages and led to some unusual varieties.

The postal use of these items is best shown on contemporary covers, which are scarce. This display incorporates a significant proportion of those known and aims to show that there was a genuine postal need for the measures taken by the post office in the islands capital Roseau.

Early Ship Letters

From 1717 regulations required letters that were carried by private ship to be struck with a suitable handstamp at the first port of call. The postage rate was the inland rate from the post of landfall to the destination plus a 1d captain's gratuity.



These three letters are from the Anstruther correspondence and are from Charles Anstruther to his brother Sir Robert Anstruther MP (1733-1818) of Balcaskie in Fife. All are from the first period of British occupation (1761-1778).

The entire above reports that he has found a job as the manager on a sugar mill and is written from Picard, Prince Rupert's Bay: 26th February 1776. The front bears the Ship letter mark of Brighton, then known as Brighthelmstone and is rated 10d

**BRIGHT
HELM
STONE
SHIP LRE**

The first two letters both have clear indications that they are village mail, Prince Rupert's Bay served as an early port for the island and became the village of Portsmouth, but the low lying ground was unhealthy and so it never came to rival Roseau.

*Prince Ruperts Bay Dominica
5th June 1777.*



The letter above is headed Prince Rupert's Bay: 5th June 1777. On the front is the second type of Ship Letter handstamp, whilst on the reverse is a single line Ramsgate hand stamp. The initial postage charged was 7d, being 1d Captain's gratuity and 6d to Edinburgh, this has been struck through and 9d marked to cover the 2d cost of redirecting the letter the additional 45 miles to Pittenween.



The third letter has no indication of origin but is dated 24th July 1777 and landed at Portsmouth, again rated 10d. The 2s 8d refers to the total postage due on letters received by the household that day.

Two line handstamp

The Treaty of Versailles in 1783 concluded the American War of Independence and it was realised that a fortnightly packet service would be of real advantage to all. In most colonies, including Dominica, Grenada and Jamaica handstamps of origin were introduced.

Dominica used a handstamp with the name of the colony in two lines between 1790 and 1795.



This letter to Old Sarum, written in April 1790, is the earliest known use of this handstamp. It arrived in June and the 1s packet rate has been crossed out and 10d inscribed.

Freeling handstamps

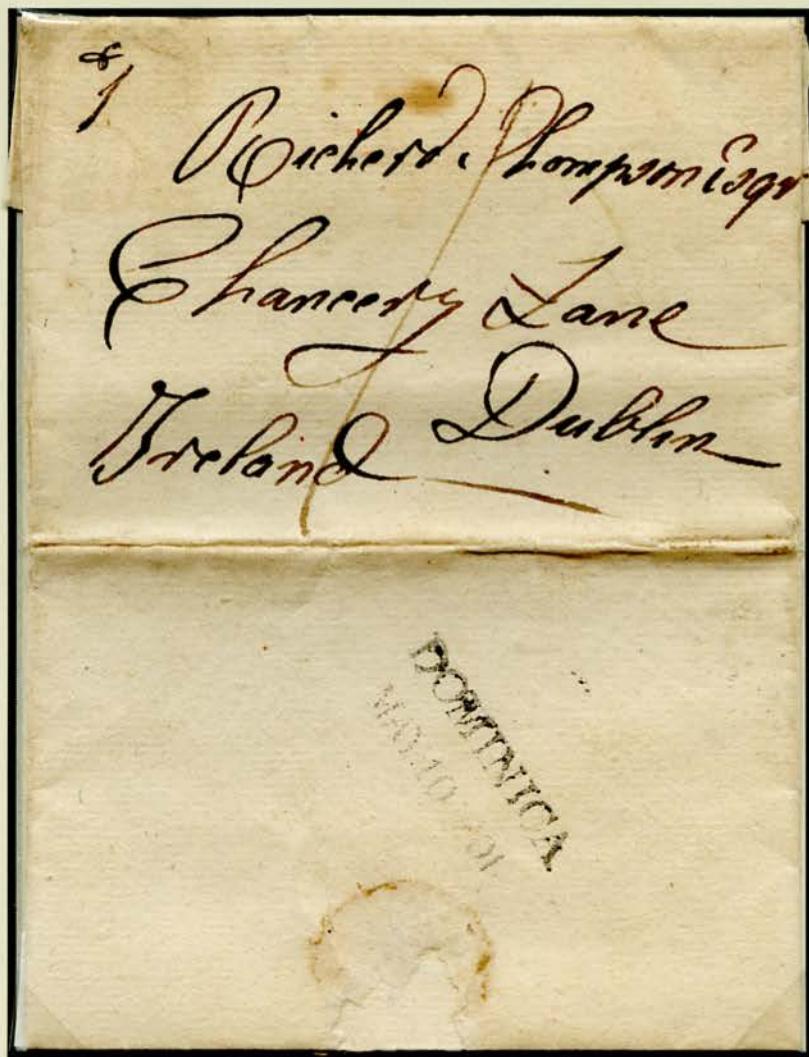
None of these handstamps gave the date. This caused practical problems to commerce. Following an insurance fraud in Martinique the committee of underwriters at Lloyds Coffee House wrote to Francis Freeling, then Secretary to the GPO in London, observing that the fraud would have been more easily prevented if the date of despatch of letters were shown. Freeling took this up with the Postmaster General and those colonies already using handstamps were instructed to introduce dated handstamps. These instructions were approved in October 1798 and appropriate handstamps were in use in the colonies by March 1799. Use in twelve colonies has been recorded.



The known letters of 1799 have been tabulated in the June 2007 British West Indies Study Circle Bulletin. This entire from the Steele correspondence shows the format of the date stamps followed the format MMMDD.YY. This entire dated 9 September 1799 Arrived in Edinburgh on 9 November, carried by the packet and rated 2s 2d prepaid in Dominica. For the new century a MMMDDYYYY format was adopted

Soldiers Letters

During the Napoleonic wars Britain garrisoned her possessions in the West Indies with troops, conditions were very harsh and it was only a minor relief that regulations of 1795 introduced a 1d postage rate to allow the men an affordable means of writing home.



Of course very few men were literate. This letter is from Private Simon Brion of 2nd Battalion 69th Regiment, enquiring of a friend as to whether his brother can do anything to get him out of the harsh conditions. The letter bears the Freeling style handstamp of 10th May 1801.

The French attacked the island in both 1795 and in 1805. On the latter occasion 4000 troops landed and pillaged the island but left when the governor refused to surrender.

Large Fleuron Datestamp

A new format of handstamp was introduced around 1805, partly to deal with the problem of the date plugs. First used in St Kitts and St Vincent, this style is first recorded in Dominica in 1806. Also it is possible that the earlier handstamp was lost in the french raid on Roseau in 1805.



6th April 1806 packet letter to Edinburgh which arrived on 5th June, rated 2s made up of the packet letter rate of 1s 1d and the inland postage of 11d.



This handstamp appears to have been applied to both Ship and Packet letters. The entire to Edinburgh above is dated 24th May 1815 and was originally rated 2s 4d but this has been altered to 3s 4d plus 1/2d wheel tax. Note the Portsmouth Ship Letter mark. Or was the letter intended to go by packet but was carried by HMS Shannon instead as it was thought to be quicker?

Rate alterations

The rate initially applied to a letter was frequently altered. Occasionally the alteration was given greater authority by the application of a crown handstamp. The entire below is the only example known to me where it has been used on a letter from Dominica



The letter is headed Roseau, Dominica, 15th November 1813 arriving in London 12th January the following year. Initially 2s 5d was charged, but after inspection the charge was raised to 4s 9d plus an additional 1/2d whel tax for the scottish roads. The reason for the alteration appears to be the Bill of Exchange enclosed with the entire, which made it double rate.

Note that the use of a date within the fleuron marking has lapsed, and this appears to have started in mid 1813.

Two ring datestamp

A two ring datestamp was sent to the colony on 4th October 1832 and continued in use for many years on letters carried by both sailing packets and later by steam.



Packet letter of 21 October 1836 to Wesleyan Mission in London. The rate was increased to 2s 2d in 1813 (1s 2d for the packet and 1s inland to London). In November 1839 the inland postage was abolished and on 1st January 1840 the packet rate was reduced to 1s, in anticipation of the coming of steam packets.



The first steam packet contract was awarded to the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company and ran for five years from 1842.

In October 1842 the contract was amended and this letter was caught up in the changeover, carried by the Clyde from Dominica to St Thomas on the last islands voyage of the original contract it waited in St Thomas until 24th October and then was carried home to Falmouth, again by the Clyde, via Bermuda and Fayal, on the first homeward voyage under the new contract.

Crowned Circle Paid at Dominica

The two ring datestamp continued in use throughout the period of the second contract which ran from 2nd November 1847 until 1st August 1850. Prepayment of postage was introduced and a Crowned Circle handstamps was applied in red to indicate this.

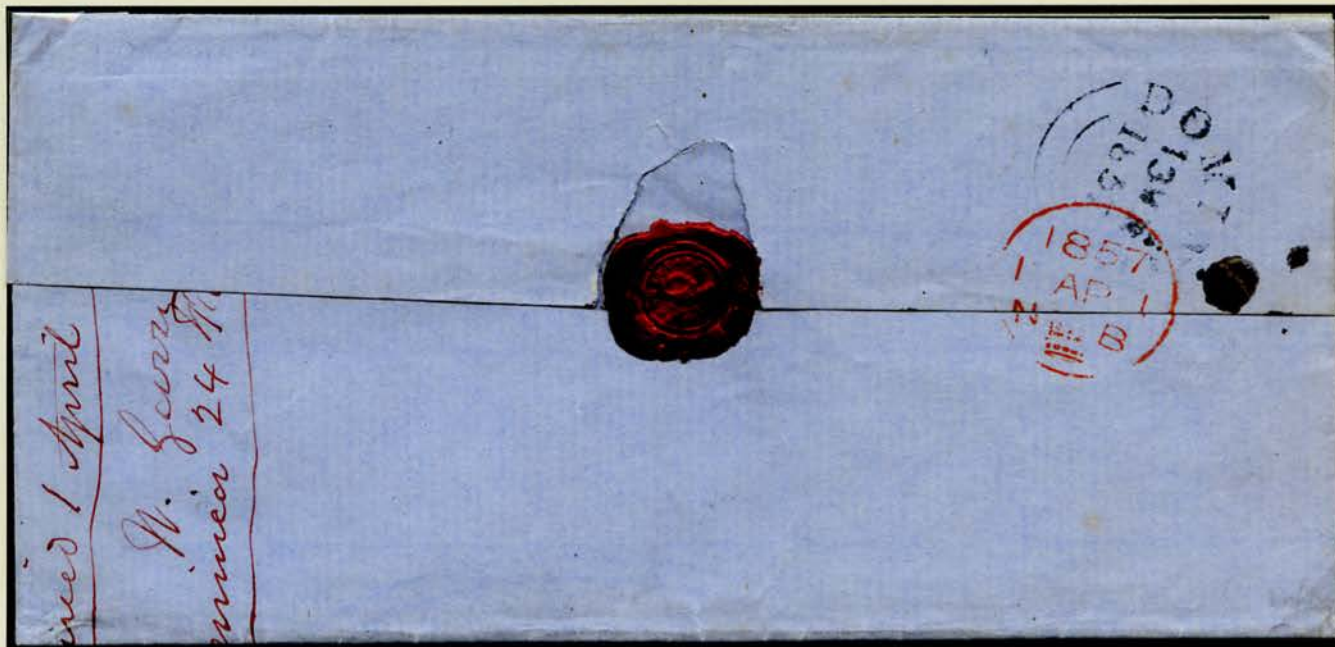


Letter of 1st January 1848 to Glasgow, rated 1s. Carried by the Conway to St Thomas (arr 4th Jan) and then by the same vessel from St Thomas (dep 5th Jan) to Bermuda (arr 10th Jan). From Bermuda the Teviot carried the mail to Southampton on the first homeward sailing of the second contract, departing 10th January arriving on 29th January.



Letter of 10th July 1848 to Lancaster, rated 1s. Carried by the Eagle to St Thomas and by the Dee back to Falmouth where it arrived on 29th July, but it seems the mail was not unloaded until the ship reached Southampton on 4th August.

The third contract ran from 1st August 1850 until 1864 and again this two ring datestamp was used throughout on packet letters.



Letter of 13th March 1857 to London, rated 1s. Carried by the Thames to St Thomas and by the La Plata to Southampton, arriving on 1st April.

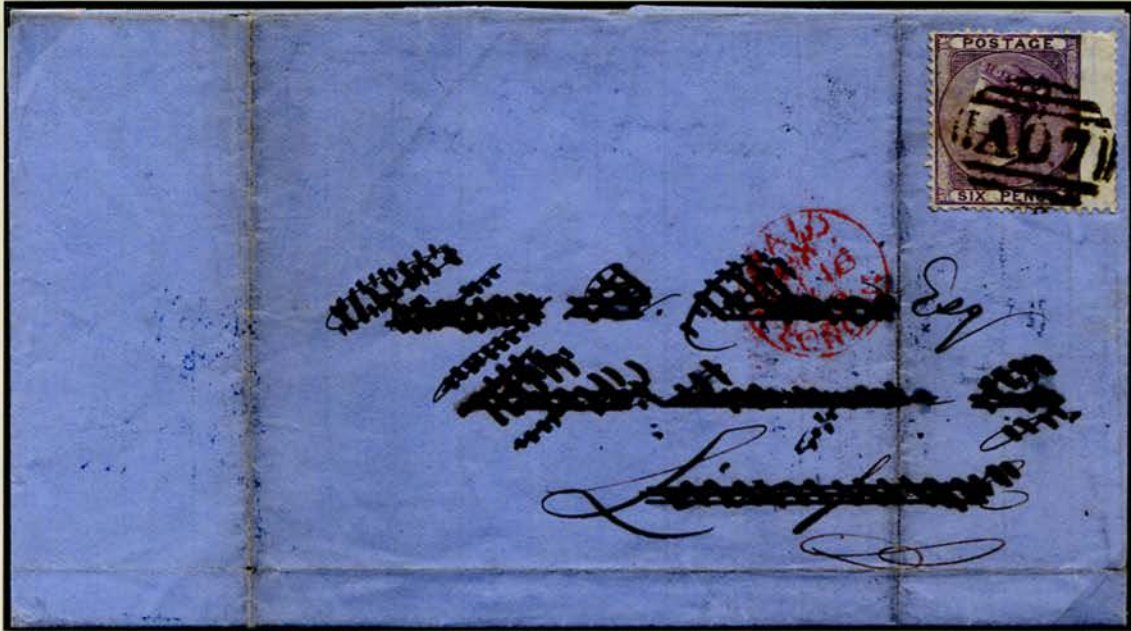
From 1843 all mail was carried to London from Southampton, rather than Falmouth, and then sorted and from 1859 a London Paid handstamp was applied.

GB Stamp used in Dominca

For a brief period between 1858 and 1860 the colonies were issued with British postage stamps and an A07 canceller.



Letter of 12th November 1858 to Liverpool, rated 6d. Carried by the Conway to St Thomas and by the La Plata to Southampton, arriving on 2nd December.



Letter of 28th July 1859 to Liverpool, rated 6d. Carried by the Derwent to St Thomas and by the Parana to Southampton, arriving on 16th August.

This use of British stamps ceased in mid 1860 and officials reverted to the use of the Crowned Circle Paid at Dominica handstamp.



Letter of 26th August 1860 to Liverpool, rated 6d. Carried by the Wye to St Thomas and by the Shannon to Southampton, arriving on 13th September. The letter shows good strikes of both the Crowned Circle and the London Paid marks.

The A07 cancel also fell into disuse until the introduction of postage stamps some 14 years later.

New datestamps

The fourth RMSP contract ran from 1864 to 1875.

By the late 1860s a new datestamp was required and this came in a circle. A faint copy is shown below which seems to be Proud Type D3 but this is a few months earlier the March 1869 date recorded by him and still has a year plug, unlike the one illustrated in his book. As the LKD for the two ring datestamp is 1867 then there is a question as to what datestamp was used in 1868, and here may be the answer.



Letter of 26th November 1868 to St Andrews, rated 1s (11d packet rate and 1d inland postage). Carried by the Eider to St Thomas and by the Shannon to Plymouth, arriving on 18th December.

The Crowned Circle Paid at Dominica handstamp continued to be used until 1870 for prepaid letters, when a Paid handstamp containing the date was introduced and remained in use until the introduction of postage stamps in 1874.



28th April 1872 letter from Mr McIntyre in Dominica to St Andrews showing the Dominica paid in a circle in red. Similar style datestamps on the reverse of Edinburgh and St Andrews (14th May) applied in black.

1874 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perforated 12 ½

The assembly in Dominica approved the idea of a Queen's head design for the first issue of postage stamps in late 1873 and asked the Crown Agents to procure stamps. De La Rue were asked to come up with a design and suggested the type of keyplate previously used for stamps of St Christopher where the design would remain constant and the value tablet only would be altered. This was approved and the stamps were printed in April 1874.



**1d Lilac
69,540 printed**



**6d Green
33,540 printed**



**1s Magenta
33,900 printed**



The stamps of the first issue were printed in sheets of 60 (6x10) on paper watermarked CC, the perf 12 ½ perforating machine was used, and the stamps reached the colony in May 1874. Further supplies of the 1d were sent in 1875 and a further supply of the 6d and 1s were sent in February 1876.



The stamps were produced in sheets of 60 from one impression of the Queen's head but some variation can be found in the value tablet, possibly suggesting that more than one impression was used or alternatively that the tablet received some damage during printing.



Damaged N



Small G

1877 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perforated 14

Ever since 1854 De La Rue had sent the printed stamps to Somerset House for perforation on the Inland Revenues perforating machines and in 1877 the perforation machine was changed and stamps perforated 14, still with the crown CC watermark were dispatched in January 1878, the same three values remained in use.



1d Lilac
117,000 printed



6d Green
21,240 printed



1s Magenta
2,580 printed



1d was used for a local postal service introduced in 1875, 6d was the standard rate to other islands in the West Indies and 1s the standard rate to the UK. Covers are scarce.



This cover shows the 1877 1 Shilling used on an 11 November 1878 envelope to London. It would have been carried on the Eden as far as St Thomas (arr: 13 Nov) and then on the Medway to Plymouth (dep 14: Nov), which it reached on 30 November. It bears a London paid handstamp and on the reverse a London datestamp of 2 December. The Dominica paid handstamp is the earliest known date of use.

5 covers from this period are known which bear the 1d bisected. All are used to make up a rate of 1s 1 ½ d to France which I believe to be the regular 11d to France and 2 ½d charge for routing the mail via London under one of the Anglo-French postal conventions.

Three penny stamps perforated 12 ½ are known bisected in this way and two perforated 14. The envelope below shows a bisected 1d perforated 14 used, together with another 1d stamp and two 6d stamps from the very small first printing of the perf 14 issue, at a very early date.



1877 envelope to Bordeaux by the Arno to Barbados (arr: 30 Nov) and then on the Para (dep: 30 Nov) arriving at Plymouth on 13 December. Taken to London by Train where it received the London paid handstamp and then on to Bordeaux via Calais, reaching Bordeaux on 14 December.

Most of the known bisects are from this correspondence to Bordeaux.

1867 saw the opening of the railway between Plymouth and Bristol, and on 12 October that year the RMS *Tasmanian* docked at Plymouth on her return and the mails were transferred to the night train which had a GPO Sorting Tender so that deliveries could be made the next day. Thereafter all returning packets docked first at Plymouth to transfer the mails before proceeding to Southampton.

The RMS contract was reorganised in 1872 so that of the two sailings from Southampton each month, one departed for Colon via St Thomas and the other for Barbados and this remained the case until the beginning of 1882 when all sailings went first to Barbados.

1879 UPU Admission

Dominica, along with the rest of the Leeward Islands, joined the UPU with effect from 1 July 1879. This resulted in a reduction in postage rates and in particular the standard rate for mail to the UK dropped from 1/- to 4d per half ounce. A cover showing the 1/- rate dated 31 January 1879 is shown in E V Toeg's book on Dominica and a cover to Antigua, rated 6d and dated 26 April 1879 is illustrated on the front cover of that book.

However the preparation for this change took time. The auditor general had notified the Colony that they would be admitted to UPU, and though written on 15 May this news would not have reached the colony until three weeks later. The Crown Agents were only notified on 12 June and forwarded the request to De La Rue, who provided an estimate, which was accepted, and appear to have produced 30,000 4d stamps on 30 June, though these were not invoiced until 7 November, and no definitive answer to the question of when the stamps first arrived in Dominica has been produced.

Meanwhile a post office notice had publicised the reduced rates and no doubt the colonists were keen to take advantage of them, so initially the stock of 1d stamps was used. Fig 1 shows a cover of 11 September 1879 to London showing a block of 4 of the 1d Lilac used to make up the rate.



11 September 1879 envelope carried by the Eidur to St Thomas (arr: 14 Sept) then on the Medway (dep: 15 Sept) arriving in Plymouth on 27 September and London 29 September. Note the smaller London paid handstamp, the colony was still using the larger type.

It seems that the stock of 1d stamps was running low and the 4d stamps had still not arrived. However the post office did have a stock of 1d Lilac stamps that had been overprinted "Revenue" by De La Rue in 1877 to collect revenue from documents. Although no formal post office notice appears to have been issued a pragmatic decision to use this stock seems to have been taken and Fig 2 shows a strip of four of these stamps on an envelope to the UK dated 12 October. Indeed Robson Lowe quotes the Philatelic Record of October 1879 which reported that the mail from Dominica that arrived on 13 October was mainly franked with these stamps.



12 October 1879 envelope to London bearing 4x1d Lilac, overprinted Revenue., carried by the Eider to St Thomas (arr: 14 Oct) and then on the Moselle (dep: 16 Oct) arriving Plymouth 30 October and London on 31 October.

By November the new stamps had arrived, figure 3 shows a 4d stamp used on an envelope to the UK dated 27 November 1879. So when did the stamps arrive? The mails from London tended to arrive in Dominica on the 1st or 2nd of the month and on the 18th. From the date the stamps were invoiced and the envelopes shown, I would suggest that 18 November is the most likely date.



27 November 1879 4d blue on envelope to London carried by the Eider to Barbados (arr: 29 Nov) and then on the Medway (dep: 2 Dec), arriving Plymouth 15 December and London the same day.

1879 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perforated 14

In addition to the 4d blue for the UPU rate to the UK and elsewhere, a ½ d stamp and a 2 ½ d stamp were introduced. The former was for use on printed matter and the later was the rate for a commercial packet up to 4oz weight.



**1/2d Ochre
27,420 Printed**



**2 1/2d Chestnut
12,780 Printed**



**4d Blue
61,840 Printed**



Sept 1880 envelope to Norwood arrived London 27 September 1880, rated 4d.

Note that there is no longer a red paid handstamp applied in the colony, just a datestamp in black ink. The new procedure was introduced in January 1880 and removed the need for the clerk to apply a handstamp to both sides of an envelope.

Further supplies of all values, bar the 1s, were despatched and invoiced on 27 April 1881.



10 September 1882 envelope to Liverpool, arrived 28 September, showing a rare use of the double rate, forwarded in the UK with the manuscript "looked through".



18 November 1882 part envelope to New York showing the 4d single rate made up of 3x 1/2d and one 2 1/2d.

1882-83 Shortages of postage stamps

Use of revenue stamps

In December 1877 De La Rue had provided a supply of all three then current values (1d, 6d & 1s) overprinted Revenue. We have already seen that the 1d was used for postage purposes in 1879 and there seem to have been at least two other periods of shortage where their use was authorised.



The use of the 1d stamp for mail within the island and of the ½d for newspapers led to further shortages of both values during 1882. As in 1879, measures used to overcome shortages included the use of the 1d stamps overprinted Revenue.



27 July 1882 local envelope to Mount Wallace.

1882-83 Shortages of postage stamps

Stamps overprinted halfpenny

To overcome shortages of the halfpenny different measures were adopted. In November 1882 sheets of the 1d stamp were overprinted with a locally made black $\frac{1}{2}$ handstamp, folded vertically and then cut roughly so as to separate the sheet into columns of stamps whereby each appears to be a bisect. All unsevered pairs contain the right half of one stamp and the left half of another.



The small black $\frac{1}{2}$ was not thought to be clear enough and so in March 1883 a much larger $\frac{1}{2}$ handstamp was produced and struck in red using the same procedure as in November.



13 March 1883

Almost inevitably some errors were made and the handstamp can be found inverted



This period also saw the introduction of the use of a datestamp to cancel the stamp in place of the A07 killer canceller. Stamps with legible datestamps are comparatively rare.

The methods used can be seen on these larger blocks



Largest known used block.



12 March 1883



12 March 1883 envelope to the Essex stamp dealer, A Churchill, with twelve examples of the 1/2d red surcharge making up the 6d rate for registered mail (4d postage, 2d registration fee).

The final attempt to solve the problem was to use a small Halfpenny overprint which was applied in black on remaining sheets in March 1883.



Reading Up

31 Mar 1883
Earliest known date



Reading Down



31 May 1884



Equal largest known block

The cover to Barbados below of March 1883 shows all three types of overprint on the one cover. It is the correct rate and the use of two blocks of four of the later two overprints and a single of the first could reflect what was available rather than any philatelic purpose.



16 March 1883 envelope to Barbados showing the 4½d rate, 2½d postage and 2d registration fee.



10 August 1883 cover to St Kitts also showing the 4½d rate, 2½d postage and 2d late fee. This is the first known use of this instructional marking.

1883 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perforated 14

On 12 March 1883 the government of Dominica asked the Crown Agents to supply 500 sheets of each value to replace the provisional issue, and to supply more 4d stamps. These were ordered and produced on the new watermark Crown CA paper and invoiced to the colony at the end of May 1883. However the 1d is not known used before 1886 and so it is not clear when the stamps were actually sent to the colony.



**1/2d Ochre
30,000 Printed**



**1d Lilac
30,000 Printed**



**2 1/2d Chestnut
30,000 Printed**



Under UPU regulations these stamps should have been produced in regulation colours, green for the ½d, red for the 1d and blue for the 2½d but the need was clearly more urgent. Some discussions had been held between De La Rue and the Crown Agents on this subject and in fact a proposed scheme of colours was submitted in July 1883 which suggested the UPU colours for the lower values, a grey for the 4d and orange for the 6d, with the remark that the colour for the 1s “cannot be improved on”.

However, it appears that the stock of stamps in the island must have been broadly satisfactory for no action was taken to procure supplies in the suggested colours at the time.

1886 Further shortages of postage stamps

From their first use, postage stamps could be purchased from the GPO, County Police Stations and any sub-post office. In 1886 the system was re-organised and control was transferred from the police to the postmaster who appointed sub-postmasters in a number of villages. Each was provided with a stock of ½ d and 1d stamps and it seems this led to a shortage at the GPO.

To overcome this sheets of the 1877 6d were overprinted, on the island, Halfpenny with a bar to obscure the original value tablets and sheets of the 1877 1s were overprinted One Penny with bar.



18,000 Printed



15,000 Printed



Cover to Virginia, USA, bearing the correct rate of 4½d, datestamped 21 December 1886 with control C in the stamp, a new type of datestamp introduced that year.

1886 The One Penny on sixpence error

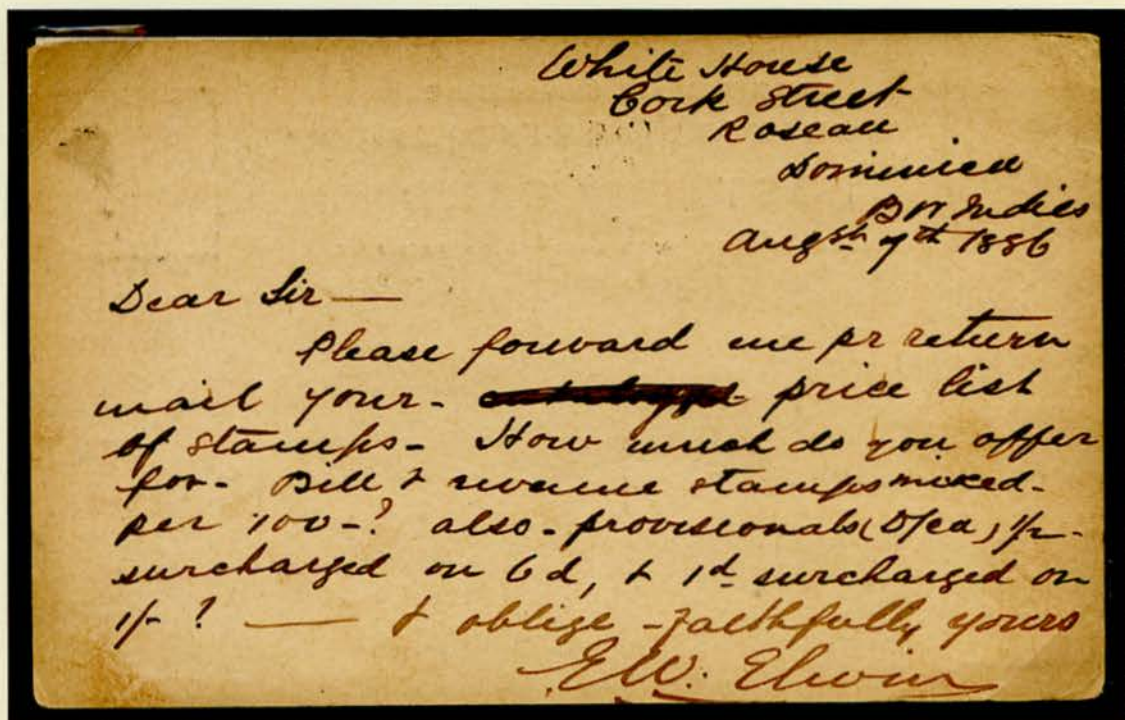
This overprint gave rise to Dominica's most famous stamp as one, or possibly two, sheets of the 6d were overprinted One Penny in error. One theory is that the Half penny sheets were produced first and then, by way of a trial a sheet of the 6d was overprinted One Penny before it was used in earnest on the sheets of the 1s.

Some 22 copies of this stamp are recorded and those from the top row have a thicker bar than those from lower rows. The reason for this is the way the rule bar for the top row was inserted when the type was changed. Rule bars are thick and flat at the top and thin and sharp at the bottom and it seems that the rule bar for the top row was inserted upside down, leading to a thick bar when inked. That no other sheets appear with a thick bar suggests that this was noticed but the sheet with the error did make its way into the philatelic world as all 6 stamps were used on a cover to A Churchill a stamp dealer in London.



This example is Position 6 as shown by the fact that the bar does not full extend across the value tablet. It has graced the collections of Ferrari, Burrus, Kanai & Sugarman.

The 1886 postcard below is addressed to Churchill and the reverse shows some insight into the stamp trade at the time and is offering to supply the dealer with these overprinted stamps.



7 August 1886 Dominical 1/2d postcard to A Churchill of Leytonstone, Essex

1886 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perforated 14

UPU Colour scheme

In 1886 the colour scheme suggested by De La Rue in 1883 was finally adopted and was used for all printings to October 1890 when stamps for use in all the presidencies of the Leeward Islands were brought into use, and remained the sole authorised postage stamps until 1903.



1/2d Green
87,660 Printed



1d Red
71,000 Printed



4d Grey
39,920 Printed



The first stamps ordered were 4d ones, which were invoiced in March 1886, the cover below shows an early use of the first printing. 1/2d green stamps were introduced in July 1886 with a further shipment in March 1887 along with the first shipment of 1d red stamps in a rose shade.



Cover dated 11 November 1886 to Ayr, franked with the 4d grey for the 1/2 oz rate.

1887 Use of Crowned Circle as surcharge?

During this period there was no 6d stamp and it is possible that this is the period of use when the crowned circle paid at Dominica handstamp was used on 1d stamps to denote that 6d had been paid. However there are no covers known that can confirm this.



1888-90 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perforated 14

New colours and values

The 2 ½ d blue and 6d orange were introduced in June 1888 but the 1s not until April 1890. Late printings of the 1d are in a deeper carmine shade of red.



2 ½d Blue
30,300 Printed



6d Orange
6,000 Printed



1s Magenta
1,200 Printed



Specimen stamps

One UPU requirement was for the provision of specimen stamps to enable other member countries to know what stamps were valid.



1889 Further shortages of postage stamps

The 1d Revenue stamps seem to have run out in 1888 and to remedy this some sheets, possibly as few as six (360 stamps), were overprinted with the word Revenue in lower case black type. The Philatelic Record states that "one-fourth were used postally", with most of the remainder used on receipts before a supply of the lilac stamps overprinted REVENUE arrived.

The most probable date for their introduction is August 1888 and the two local covers below are thought to be from 1889 with the 9 replaced by a 6 in error in the year plug.



July 9 1889 local rate cover to Marigot.



December 5 1889 local rate cover also to Marigot, a village in the north-east of the island.

The stamps of Dominica, along with those of Antigua, St Christopher, Nevis, Montserrat and Virgin Islands were replaced by the Leeward Islands stamps in the Universal Key Plate design on 31 October 1890. The earlier stamps were rendered obsolete and the remainders sold to a dealer in Bishop Auckland, Durham.