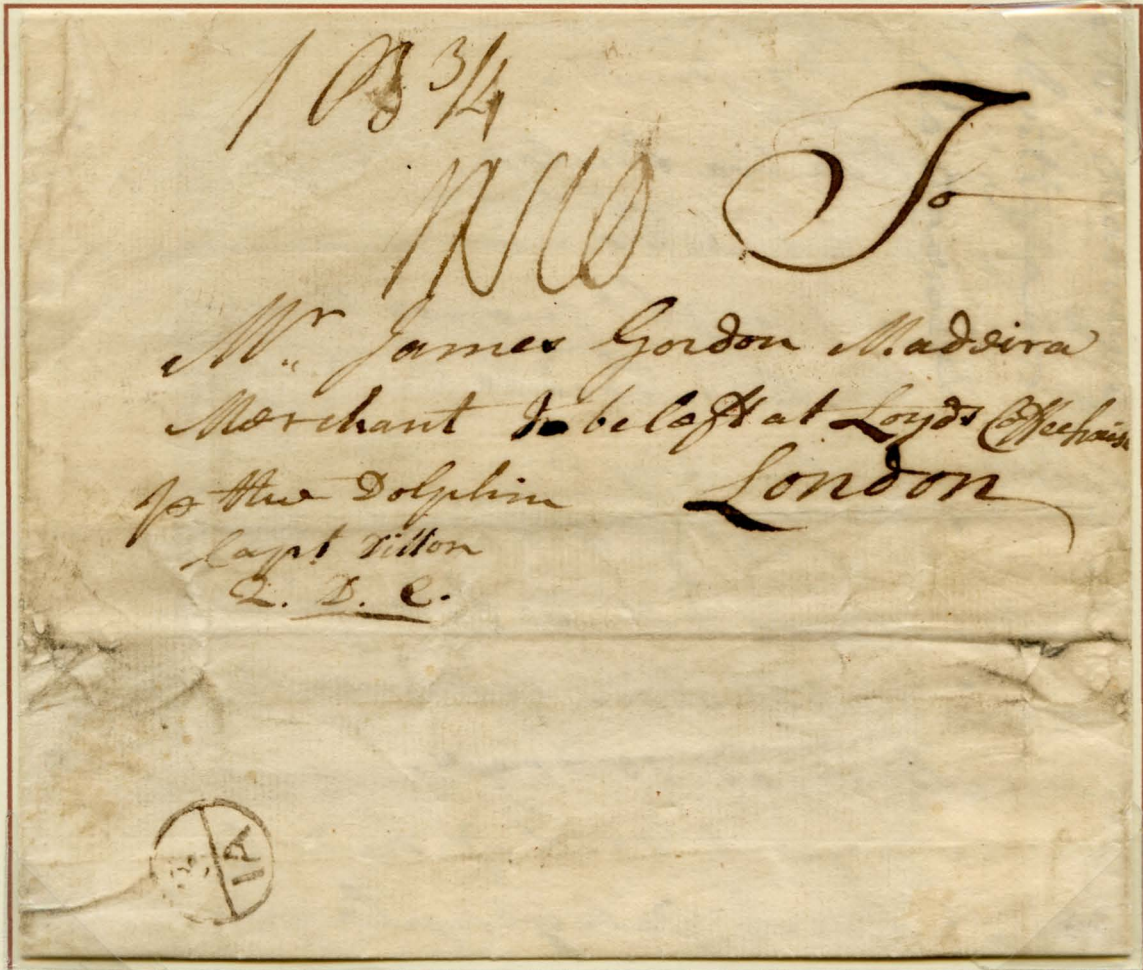


## DOMINICA

### 1763 - The earliest letter

By the Treaty of Paris that concluded the Seven Years War, Dominica was recognised as a British possession and was added to the packet contract route. The service only involved four vessels and this was insufficient to sustain a monthly service, which was scheduled to depart from Falmouth on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in the month.



This is the earliest known letter from Dominica and although not itself a packet letter the contents give some insight into the early workings – “By some neglect at Madeira these two enclosed letters were left in their bag with the Dominica and Grenada letters...”. The enclosures increased the weight to the 1 ¾ oz indicated. At 1d per ¼ oz ship letter charge, 1d Captain’s gratuity and 2d per ¼ oz inland postage makes for the total charge of 1s 10d shown.

Note too the Bishop datestamp of 3 IA applied by the Foreign Section of the GPO in London.



## DOMINICA

### 1776 – Early ship letter

From 1717 regulations required letters that were carried by private ship to be struck with a suitable handstamp at the first port of call. A ship letter fee was charged, initially 1d, together with the postage from that port to the destination. The post office paid the Captain a gratuity of 1d per letter as an incentive to comply with the regulation.



These three letters form part of 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 of a sugar mill and is written from Picard, Prince Rupert's Bay: 26 February 1776. The font 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 Rupert's Bay, Dominica  
5<sup>th</sup> June 1777.



DOMINICA

1777 – Early ship letters



This letter written on 5 June 1777 is also headed Prince Rupert's Bay. On the front is the second type of Ship Letter handstamp, whilst on the reverse is a single line Ramsgate handstamp. The initial postage charged was 7d, comprising the Ship letter fee and 6d postage to Edinburgh; this was then struck through and 9d marked to cover the 2d cost of redirecting the letter to Pittenween.



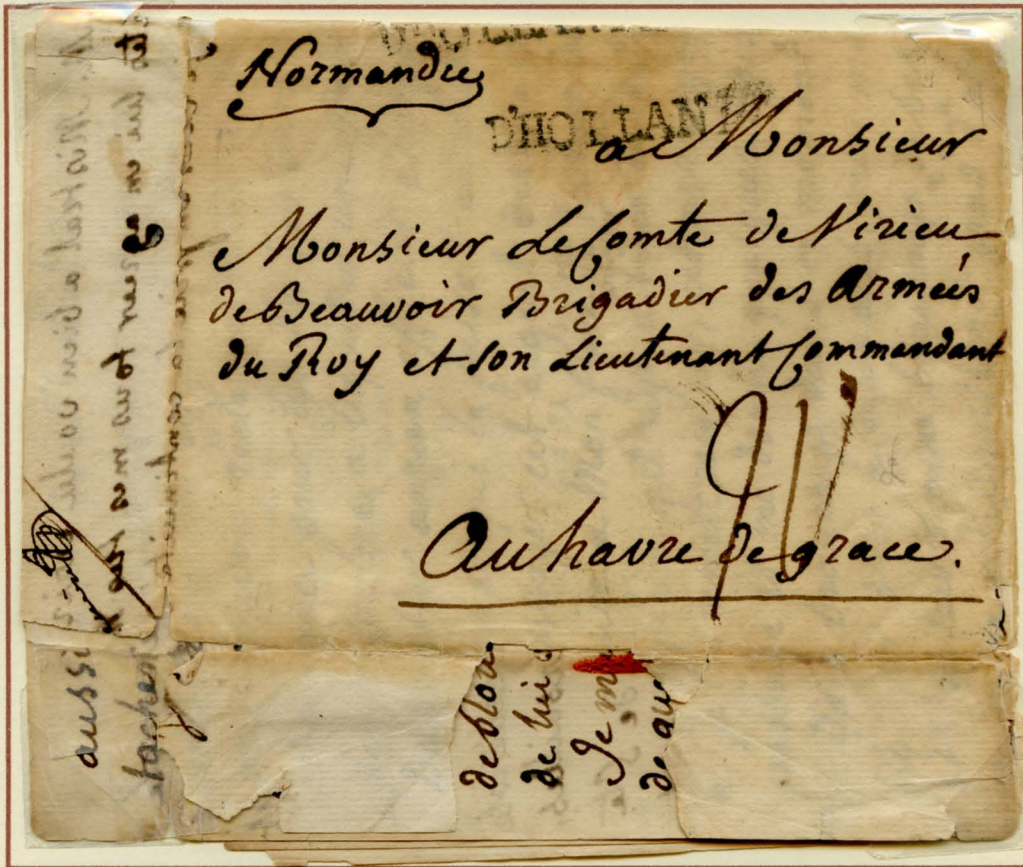
The third letter from this correspondence has no indication of origin but is dated 24 July 1777, and was landed at Portsmouth, also rated 10d. The 2s 8d refers to the total postage due on letters received by the household that day.



**DOMINICA**

**1778-82 – French occupation**

In August 1778 the French declared war on Britain coming in on the side of the Americans in the War of Independence, and on 7 September the Marquis de Bouille, governor of the French West Indies invaded Dominica.



This entire was written from Roseau on 13 January 1779 by M Fargen, who had been appointed second in command in Dominica four days earlier. Here he writes to his uncle the Comte de Visieu, who was commander of marines in Normandy, the letter was sent via Holland.



## DOMINICA

### 1790 Two line Dominica

The Treaty of Versailles, which concluded the American War of Independence restored British rule in Dominica and Britain formally took possession in 1784 of an island much damaged by a hurricane in 1780.

Britain improved the packet service to a fortnightly one. The first packet of the month went to Barbados and on to Jamaica (the Jamaica packet) and a second packet sailed a fortnight later (the Leewards packet). It also went first to Barbados but then proceeded up the island chain to Tortola. By 1787 it was realised that using local feeder vessels would improve the service further at little extra cost.

In most colonies handstamps of origin were introduced some in one line and some in two, from some colonies both styles were used. In Dominica a two line style was in use between 1790 and 1795, five such marks have been recorded to date.



This letter to Old Sarum, written in April 1790, shows the earliest recorded use of this handstamp. It arrived in June 1790 and the 1s 6d packet rate has been crossed out and 10d inscribed instead.

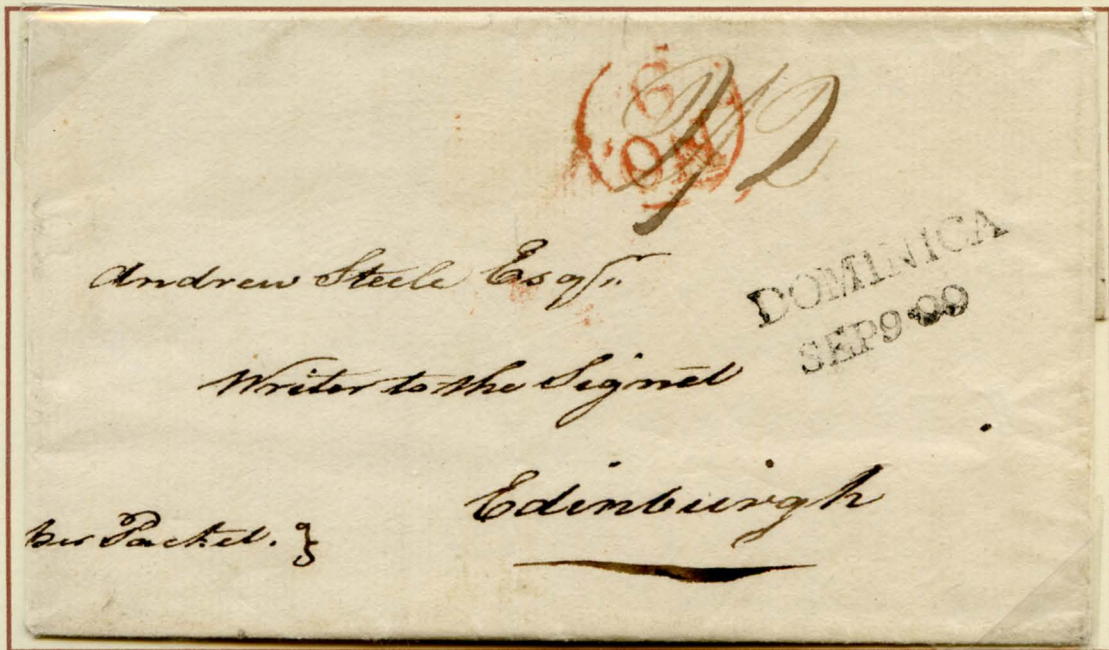
Despite the pressures of the war with France, the packet rate was reduced to 1s in January 1797, the first reduction since 1711. Additional postage was still due from the place of posting to the port of dispatch.



**DOMINICA**

**1799-1805 Freeling handstamp**

In 1798, after an insurance fraud in Martinique, underwriters wrote to Francis Freeling, Secretary to the GPO in London, requesting a means of dating the dispatch of letters; he produced dated handstamps in London that were in use by February 1799.



This letter of 1799 were carried on the Princess Royal packet. The above entire from Dominica shows the format of the datestamp followed the format MMMDD.YY and is dated 9 September; prepaid 2s 2d it arrived in Edinburgh on 9 November.

With the change of the century the Freeling datestamp was modified to a YYYY year format, on occasion this new plug was inserted the wrong way up – 1081 for 1801 below.



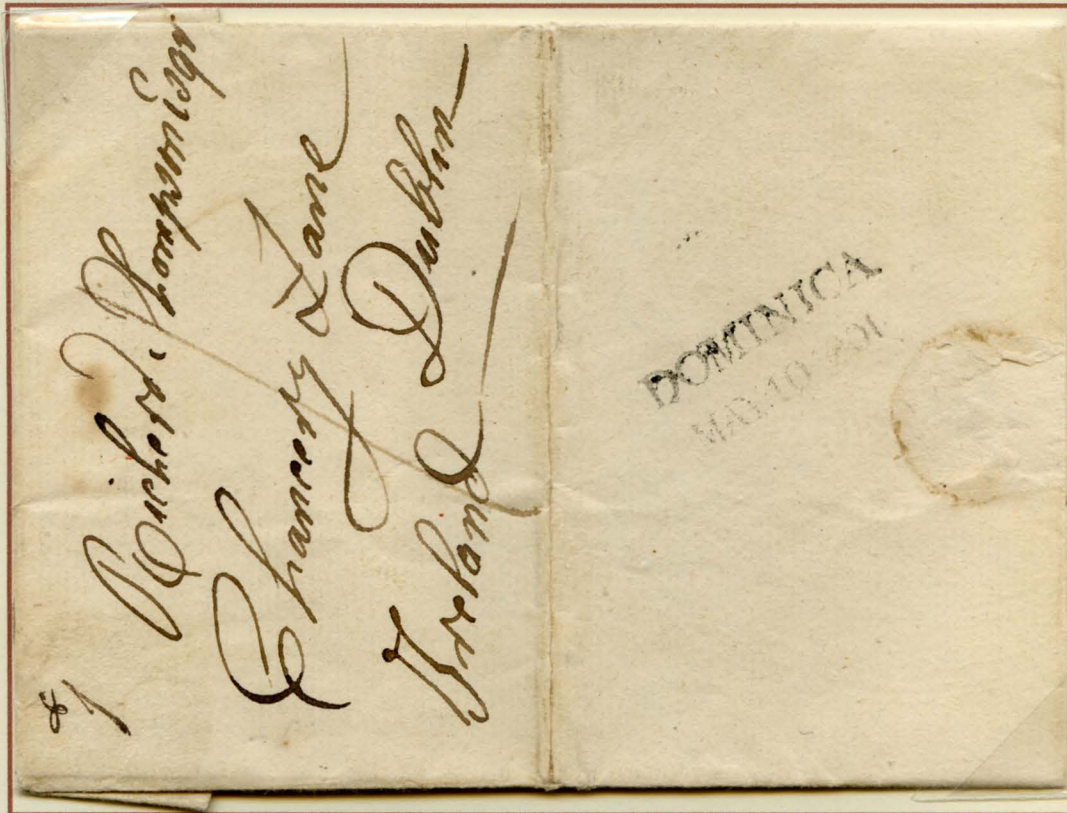
20 May 1801 entire from William Pagan in Dominica to his niece who has been ill with whooping cough. Rated 2s 2d, the arrival datestamp only shows 1801.



## DOMINICA

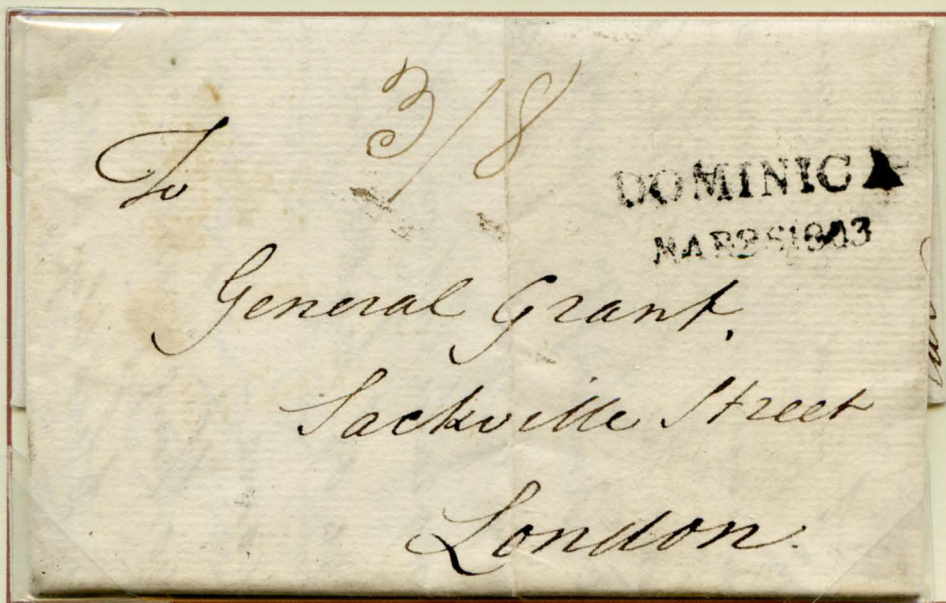
### 1799-1805 Freeling handstamp

During the Napoleonic wars British troops garrisoned the West Indies colonies, conditions were very harsh and it was a minor concession that regulations of 1795 introduced a 1d postage rate that allowed enlisted men to write home affordably.



Very few men were literate. Private Simon Brion of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 68<sup>th</sup> Foot, asks of a friend if his brother can do anything to get him out of the harsh conditions.

Officers had to pay the full rate as shown on this letter from Lt Col Donkin of 11<sup>th</sup> Foot, who replaced the 68<sup>th</sup>. James Grant was the regimental Colonel and had remained in London.



27 March 1803, double rate packet letter at 3s 8d, arrival datestamp of 10 May 1803, a passage of 44 days.



**DOMINICA**

**1806-13 Dated Fleuron handstamp**

In other islands fleuron datestamps were introduced in 1805, but in that year Roseau was burned by the French and the earliest recorded use is from 1806. These first fleurons measure between 35 and 40 mm in diameter.



4 August 1806 duplicate letter, not sent until 2 September, from John Laing at Melville Hall to General Melville in London, datestamped 2 November 1806 on arrival.



3 October 1809 large part entire sent from Dominica to London showing a fine large fleuron of 5 October 1809 datestamp and arrival datestamp of 4 December 1809 on the reverse. Carried by the packet "Duke of Kent".



## DOMINICA

### 1815 Withdrawn packet letter

The escape of Napoleon from Elba and his landing in France caused panic in the West Indies as both Martinique and Guadeloupe were thought to favour his cause.

The letter below is one of two known where the Dominica undated fleuron has been applied, indicating its acceptance as a packet letter, and yet both were carried by the Shannon, probably the famous HMS Shannon, and landed at Portsmouth where they received the Portsmouth Ship Letter stamp.

I believe these must have been considered withdrawn packet letters. Withdrawn ship letters from this period are known from Antigua and there was official sanction for this, and this parallel shows the disruption Napoleon caused – of course by the time the letter arrived the Battle of Waterloo had been fought and Napoleon captured to spend the rest of his days on St Helena.



24 May 1815 outer from Dominica to Edinburgh, originally rated 2s 4d but this has been altered to 3s 4d plus ½ d wheel tax, payable on crossing the Scottish border.



## DOMINICA

### 1813-32 Undated Fleuron handstamp

From late 1813 the date slugs were no longer used, and this breach of regulations was not rectified until 1832. Clearly not a wartime priority.

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 one of five examples known to me where it has been used on a letter from Dominica



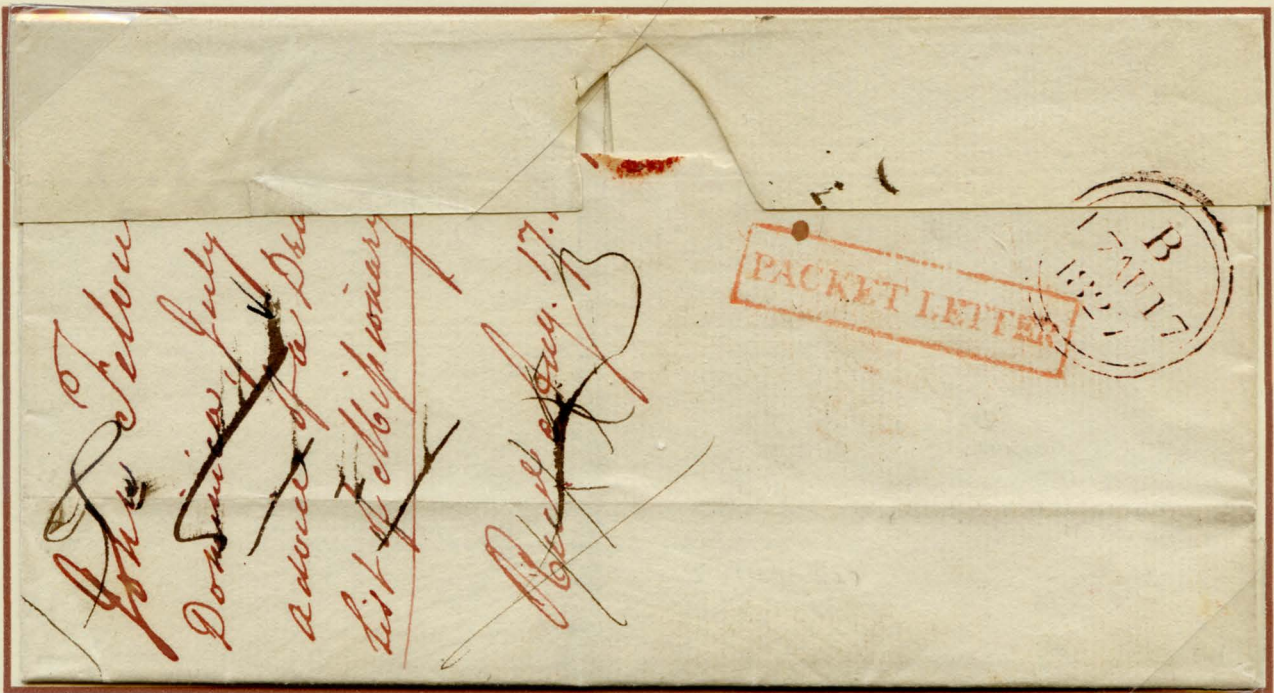
The letter is headed Roseau, Dominica, 15<sup>th</sup> November 1813 arriving in London 12<sup>th</sup> January the following year. Initially 2s 5d was charged, but after inspection the charge was raised to 4s 9d plus an additional ½ d wheel tax for the scottish roads. The reason for the alteration appears to be the Bill of Exchange enclosed with the entire, which made it double rate.



## DOMINICA

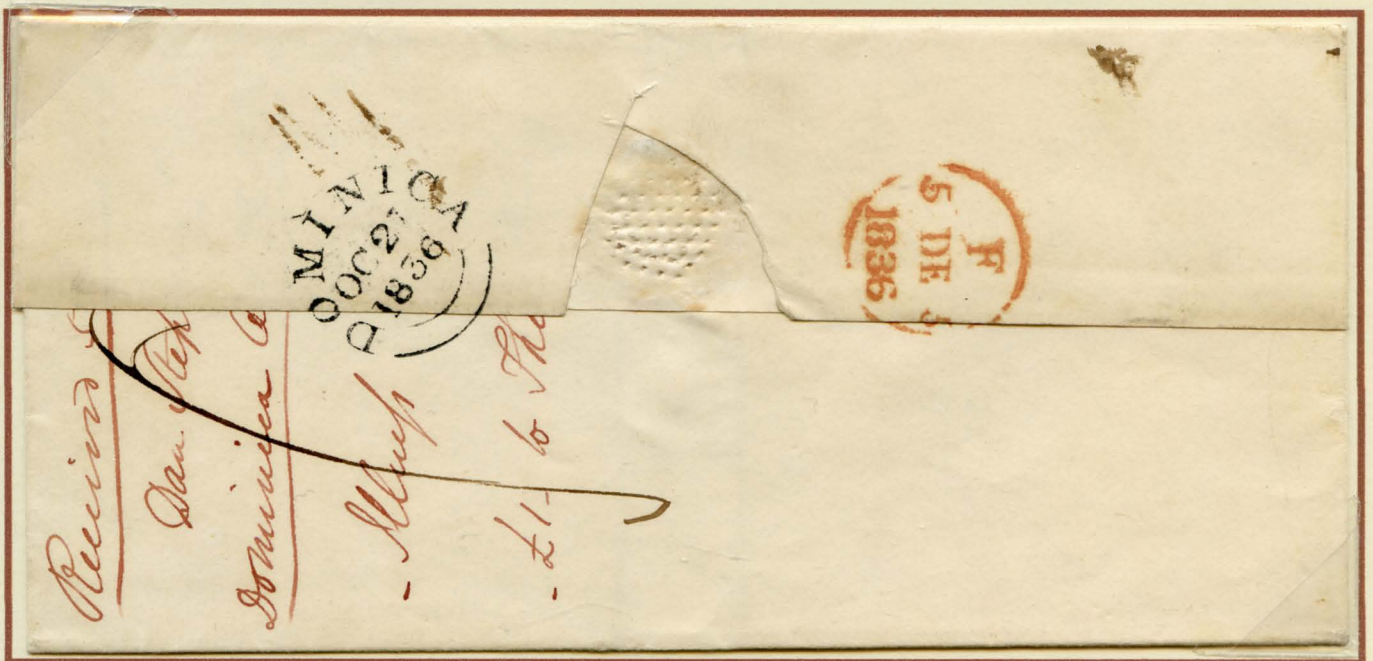
### 1832-68 Gothic Double-arc datestamp

The undated fleuron did not comply with the regulation to use a datestamp, and effectively its use merely indicated that the letter was a packet one. As such it was not always applied.



5 July 1827 outer from Dominica to the Wesleyan mission in London, rated 2s 2d, with no date stamp but a boxed Packet Letter applied in red in London.

Finally, in 1832 Dominica was supplied with one of the new format double arc datestamps with lettering in a gothic script, the second West Indian colony to receive one, after Grenada in 1830, and of the style that lasted until 1844 when datestamps in a roman script were brought in.



21 October 1836 outer from Dominica to the Wesleyan mission in London, rated 2s 2d.



**DOMINICA**

**1815-42 Later Ship Letters**

The Ship Letter Act of 1796 established the Ship Letter office, which opened on 13 September 1799, to deal with letters not brought by packet. It required letters to be handed in at the first port at a charge, initially of 4d plus the inland postage. The master was paid a 2d gratuity by the Office as an incentive.

New handstamps to denote the port of arrival were issued and a number can be found on letters from Dominica. In my collection are stepped Ship letter handstamps from Brighton, Deal, Folkestone and Sidmouth.



20 April 1819 letter sent to London per E Trove, rated 1s 2d comprising the Ship Letter charge of 8d and inland postage, of 6d (72 miles). London arrival mark of 9 June 1819.



23 April 1839 outer to London showing the very rare Ship Letter Sidmouth mark, with only one other recorded, rated at 3s – Sidmouth is 168 miles from London, so the inland postage was 10d, the ship letter fee 8d, total 1s 6d, double rate so 3s.



## DOMINICA

### 1848 Unpaid mail

In 1838 James McQueen proposed a general plan for mail communication by steam ships, this led to the formation of the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company ("RMSP"). In November 1839 UK inland postal charges were abolished and on 1 January 1840 the packet rate was reduced to 1s, anticipating the steam packets. Paid date stamps were introduced, which were to be applied in red. However the original contract with RMSP was never implemented and the steam packets did not become effective until two years later with an annual government subsidy of £240,000.

The first contract ran from 1 January 1842 until 1 November 1847 with various modifications. A second contract was awarded to RMSP and ran from 2 November 1847 until 1 August 1850, mail could be sent prepaid but this was not compulsory.



1 January 1848 outer, weight less than ½ oz, so charged 1s. Carried by the Eagle to St Thomas, dep 1 Jan, arr 4 Jan, transferred to the Conway to Bermuda, dep 5 Jan, arr 10 Jan and then to the Teviot which left that day, arr Southampton 29 Jan.



The second of two outers to John Gray of Calne, Lancashire, sent on 19 July 1848 and shows the other packet route home. It was carried by the same vessel to St Thomas, arr 14 Jul and then by the Dee to Southampton arriving on 4 Aug.



## DOMINICA

### 1848 Paid mail – the crowned circle

From the outset of the steam packets, prepayment was possible and crowned circle handstamps were despatched to the postal agencies and the colonies to denote this. In the West Indies colonies such marks are first recorded from St Lucia in 1845 and Dominica from 1847.



Another 1 January 1848 letter carried by the same Bermuda routing as on the previous page but this time the 1s postage has been prepaid as shown by the faint Dominica crowned circle and the London Paid datestamp of 29 January

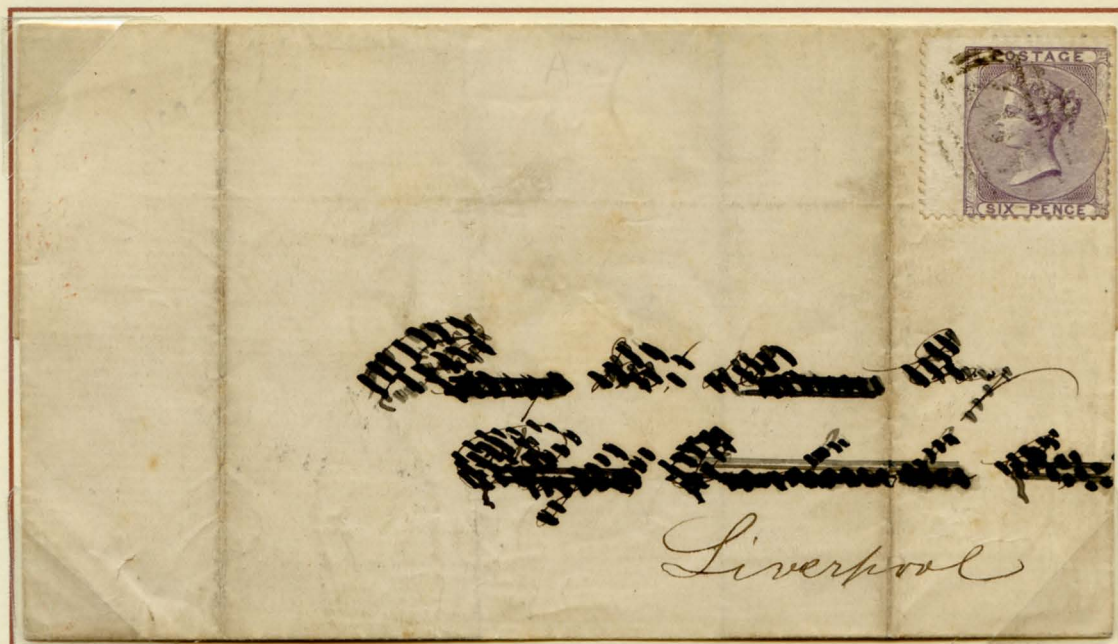
Of the 50 or so Dominica crowned circles I have recorded only four are from the pre 1858 period when prepayment became compulsory.



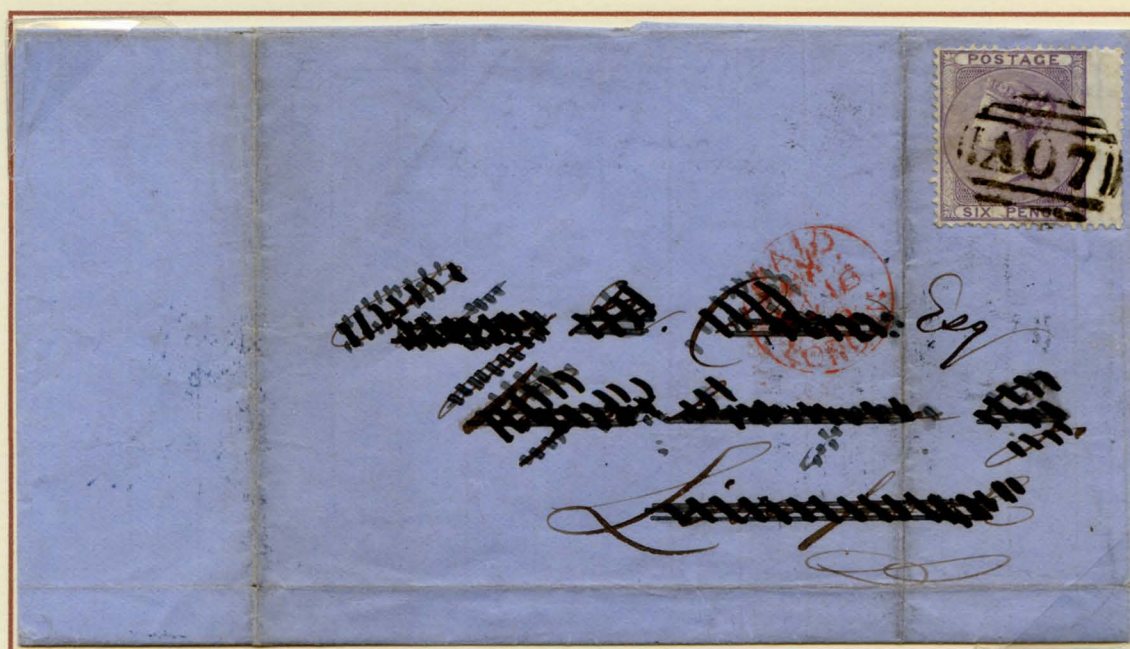
## DOMINICA

### 1858 Paid mail – using British stamps

Prepayment became compulsory on 1 April 1858 and Great Britain stamps were supplied to indicate that. The stamps were not sent until the mail of 17 May, and although prepayment was compulsory the use of stamps was not. Thus for 28 July 1859 I have two prepaid covers, one with prepayment denoted by a stamp and one by a crowned circle.



12 November 1858 entire to Liverpool, rated 6d pre-paid with wing marginal stamp and cancelled A07. It was carried by the Conway to St Thomas and by the La Plata to Southampton, arriving 2 December. Dominica double arc datestamp of 12 November and Liverpool double arc of 2 December on the reverse.



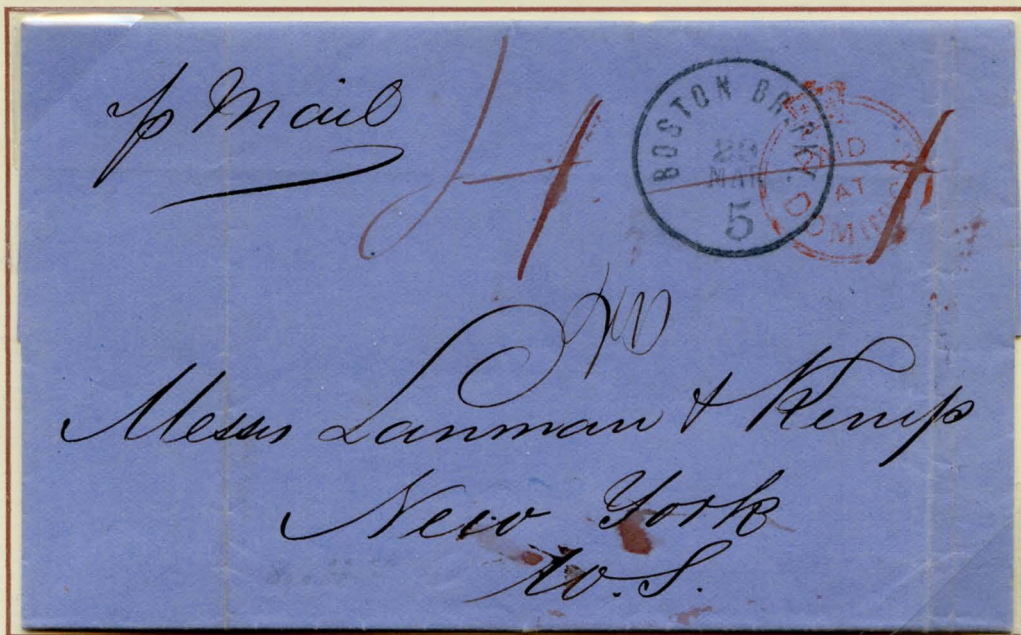
28 July 1859 outer from the same correspondence, carried by the Derwent to St Thomas, arr 1 August, then the next day on the Parana to Southampton, arr 16 Aug, London paid 16 August datestamp on the front and Liverpool 17 August on the reverse.



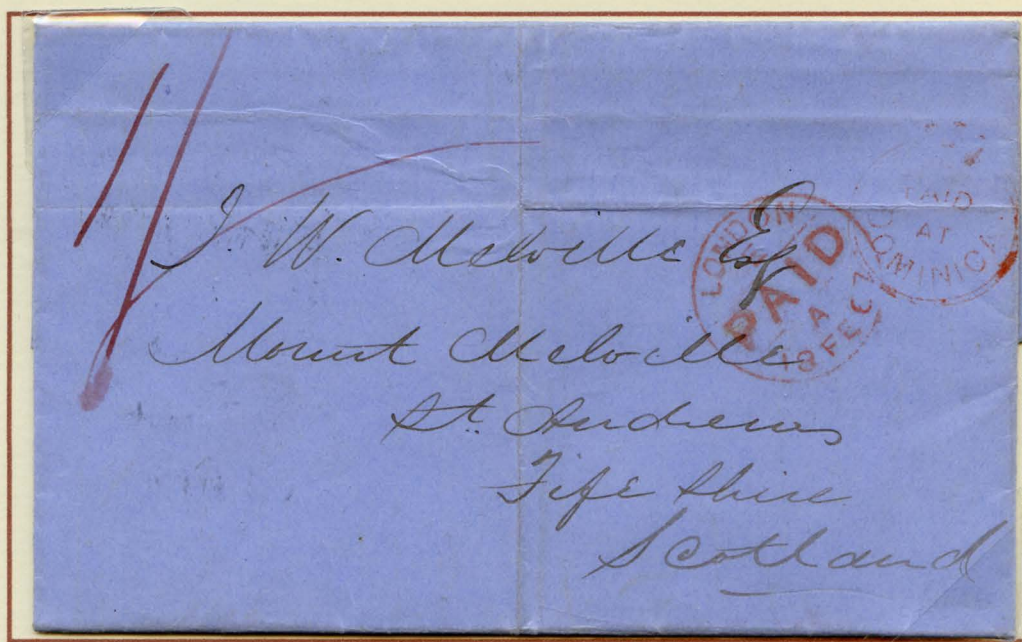
## DOMINICA

### 1860-70 Paid mail – the crowned circle

On 1 May 1860 control of the Post Office passed back to the Colonial authorities and the use of British stamps was no longer permitted. No arrangements were made for Dominica to have its own stamps and so the crowned circle paid handstamp came back into use. Many of the covers of this period are from the Melville correspondence.



26 February 1866 entire to New York, 4d to St Thomas prepaid. Dominica double arc datestamp on reverse as is a St Thomas datestamp of 1 March. Carried there by the Derwent, the manuscript 4 - 1 indicates 1 due to Dominica. Carried by Cunard via Bermuda to Halifax and then by the Allan line to Boston, 5c British Open Mail rate applied, Boston Br Pkt 5 of 29 March.



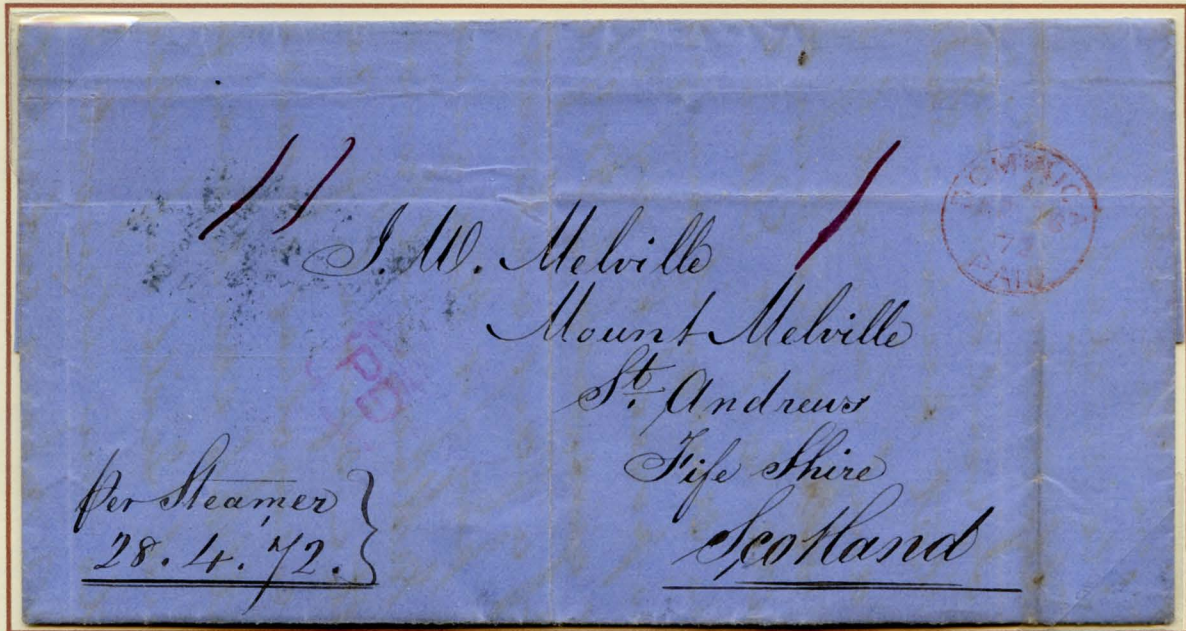
26 January 1867 Melville letter to Fife, rated 1s, late use Dominica double arc datestamp on reverse. Carried by the Wye to St Thomas and then by the Atrato to Southampton, reached London 18 February and Fife the next day.



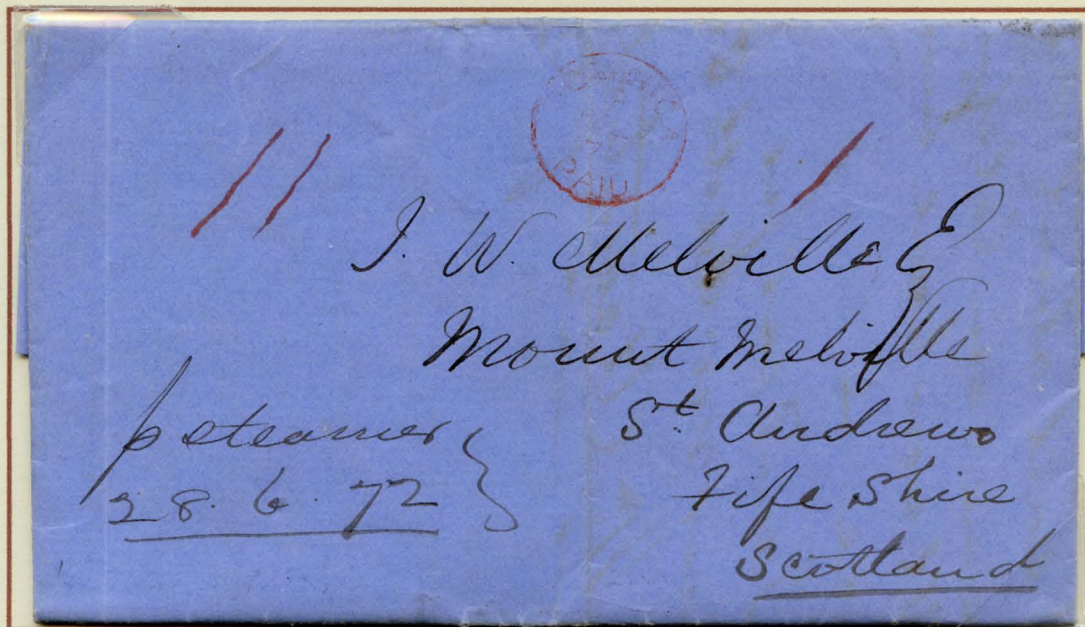
**DOMINICA**

**1870-73 Paid mail**

A new single ring datestamp was introduced in 1868 and in the spring of 1870 a new Paid datestamp was introduced as there were still no stamps. All the covers I have recorded bearing this datestamp are from the Melville correspondence.



28 April 1872 entire from Mr McIntyre to Mount Melville, rated 11 and 1, the 1d due to Dominica, note the Dominica Paid in single circle datestamp in red. This was carried to Plymouth on the Moselle under the first voyage of the new arrangement whereby alternate packets returned home from Barbados and St Thomas, the Moselle left Barbados on 30 April and reached Plymouth on 12 May, reaching Edinburgh the next day and St Andrews on 14 May. Carried by the Arno to Barbados.



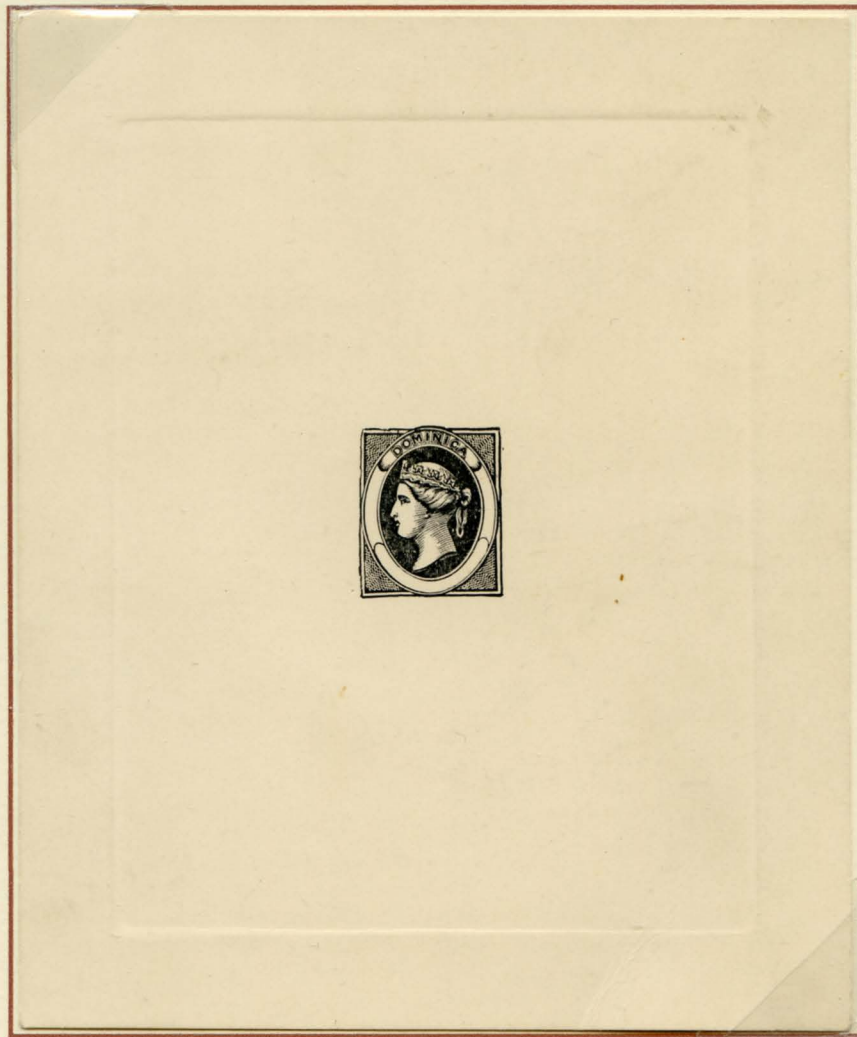
28 June 1872 similar letter from the same correspondence, also rated 11 and 1; carried by the Arno to Barbados and by the Elbe to Plymouth, dep 30 June, arr 13 July, 15 July St Andrews datestamp on the reverse.



**DOMINICA**

**1866 Bogus Essay**

**Dominica did not obtain its own postage stamps until 1874, but about 1866 persons unknown produced this essay, this is one of two copies known.**





**DOMINICA**

**1870 Bogus Essay**

In 1870 the "Boston Gang" produced a rather better quality essay, with engine turned spandrels. Similar essay were produced for St Kitts and St Lucia. The essays were produced in four colours, singly, in pairs and on raised card.



**"Proof"**



**Claret**

**Green**



**Violet**

**Ochre**



**Violet**



**Green**



# DOMINICA

## 1874 Queen Victoria – proofs

In November 1873 the Dominica Government asked the Crown Agents to supply stamps of 1d, 6d and 1s denominations using a design with the Queen's head. In turn De La Rue were asked to provide an estimate for a die-plate of 60 multiples and three overprint duty forms. Their estimate was accepted.

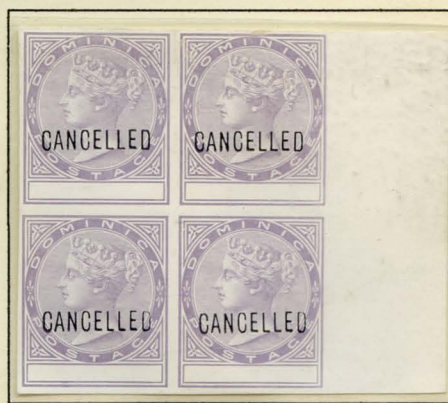


Master Die Proof in black



Cut-down Master Die Proof in magenta

Cancelled proofs with blank value tablet were made in lilac.



Imperforate Cancelled proofs of the 1d and 6d were produced.



1d lilac



6d green



**DOMINICA**

**1874 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 12 ½**

**Imperforate Specimen proofs of the 1d and 6d on watermarked paper were produced.**



**1d lilac**



**6d green**

**Cancelled proofs in the issued colours on watermarked paper were also produced.**



**1d Lilac**



**6d Green**



**1s Magenta**

**The first printing was sent to Dominica in April and placed on sale on 4 May 1874.**



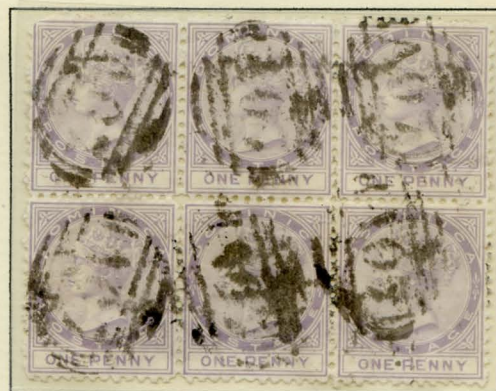
**1d Lilac  
69,540 Printed**



**6d Green  
33,540 Printed**



**1s Magenta  
33,900 Printed**



**Largest used block known**



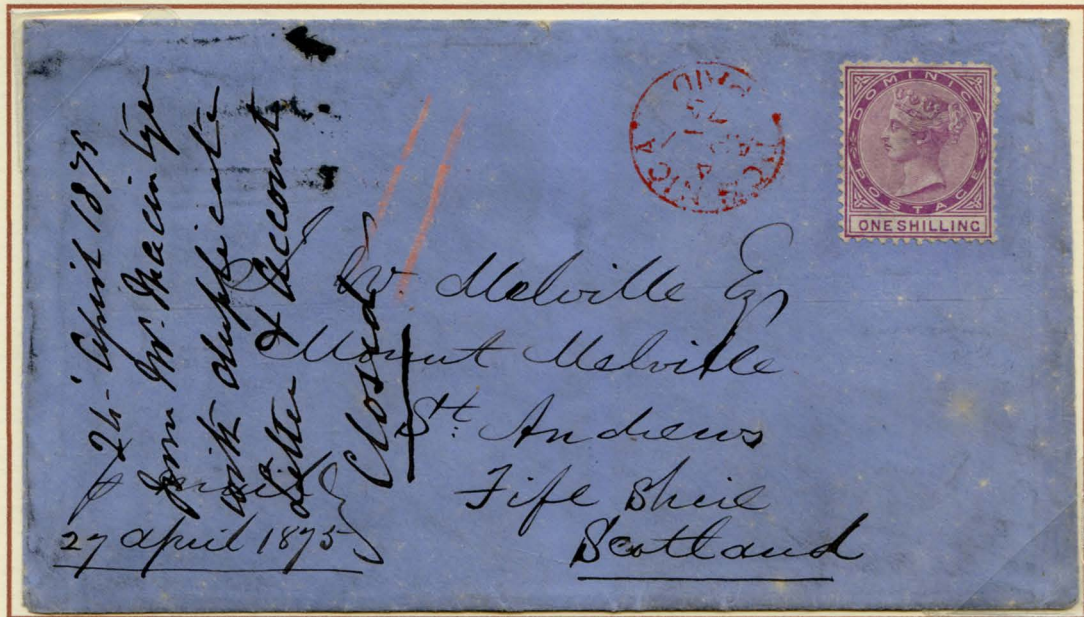
**DOMINICA**

**1874 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 12 ½**

Prepayment by use of stamps was compulsory from the outset but very few covers survive, but the Melville correspondence continued. Major John Whyte Melville (1797-1883) was the father of the poet George John Whyte Melville; born in 1821 he was killed in a hunting accident in 1878, leaving no male descendant to takeover Mount Melville on his father's death.



A fifth RMSP contract came into effect on 2 January 1875, the bi-monthly service home now ran from Colon, one via St Thomas and one via Barbados. This \* April 1875 outer to St Andrews was carried by the Ebro to St Thomas, arr 13 Apr, thence by the Nile to Plymouth, dep 15 Apr arr 27 Apr. Edinburgh and St Andrews datestamps of 28 April on the reverse.



A fortnight later this 27 April 1875 outer was carried by the Corsica to Barbados, arr 30 Apr, thence by the Tasmanian to Plymouth, dep 30 Apr arr 14 May, with St Andrews backstamp of 16 May. In this instance the 1s magenta has not been cancelled but there is a rather clearer Dominica paid datestamp.



**DOMINICA**

**1877 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 14**

**From 1877 supplies of the three values were made using the newer perf 14 machine.**



**1d Lilac  
69,540 Printed**



**6d Green  
33,540 Printed**



**1s Magenta  
33,900 Printed**



**1d left marginal block of six**



**1s right marginal block of six**



**DOMINICA**

**1877 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 14**

**1d bisect on 1877 cover to make up the 1s 1½d rate to France, one of five known.**



Taken on the RMSP Arno to Barbados (arr: 30 Nov) and then on RMSP Para (dep: 30Nov) to Plymouth (arr: 13 Dec), then by train to London, handstamped and accounted for and then on, via Calais to Bordeaux (arr: 14 Dec).

**1s on 1878 cover to UK showing the earliest use of the large Dominica Paid handstamp.**



Taken on the RMSP Eden to St Thomas (arr: 13 Nov) and then on RMSP Medway (dep: 14Nov) to Plymouth (arr: 30 Nov), then by train to London, (arr: 2 Dec – datestamp on reverse).



## DOMINICA

1877 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 14

Dominica, along with the rest of the Leeward Islands joined the UPU with effect from 1 July 1879. However plans to introduce new denominations of stamps, to reflect the reduced postage rates, were not progressed until mid-May, De La Rue's estimate was accepted and stamps were printed on 30 June but were not invoiced until 7 November.

Evidence from covers suggest that it was not until 18 November that stocks of the new values arrived in Dominica, though the new rates were put into effect on 1 July 1879.



Block of 4 of the 1d Lilac, perf 14, used to make up the new packet rate to London. This 11 September 1879 envelope was carried by the Eider to St Thomas, arr 14 Sep, then on the Medway, arr Plymouth 27 Sept, and London 29 Sept.

The shortage quickly used up the stock of 1d stamps and by October Revenue stamps, supplied in 1877, were in use, although never formally authorised.



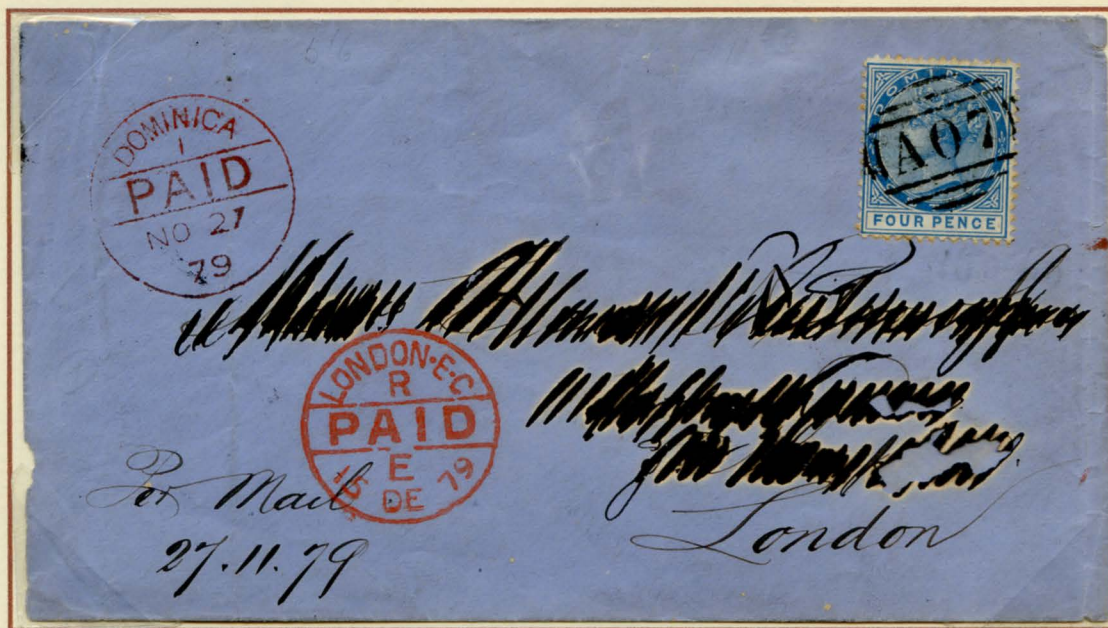
12 October 1879 envelope to London paid with 4 x 1d lilac, overprinted Revenue. The philatelic Record of October 1879 states that the mail from Dominica on the previous packet was mainly franked with these stamps.



**DOMINICA**

**1877 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 14**

By November the new stamps were available, as shown below, suggesting the most likely date first available was 18 November when the previous packet arrived.



27 November 1879 envelope to London carried by the Eider to Barbados, arr 29 Nov, and thence on the Medway to Plymouth, arr 15 Dec, reaching London the same day.

Shortages seem to have been an ongoing problem, and the next delivery printing of stamps was not until March 1881. Paid datestamps were now superfluous and the large one above is not recorded used after 12 December 1879. A new datestamp was available in 1880, though Proud lists May 1882.



A fragile 1880 envelope to Norwood, postage paid by a strip of 4 1d lilac stamps. The receiving datestamp is equally indecipherable, but I think the month is January as the second letter seems to be A and the first letter has a foot.



**DOMINICA**

**1879 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 14**

Dominica joined the UPU on 1 July 1879 and this necessitated three new values. 4d for the reduced rate to the UK and a ½d stamp for printed matter and a 2½d stamp for a commercial packet up to 4oz weight.

**Imperforate plate proofs on ungummed watermarked paper.**



**Imperforate Specimen proofs on gummed watermarked paper**



**Samuel type D8**



**Samuel type D11**

**Cancelled proof on gummed watermarked paper, perf 14**



**Samuel type D7**



**DOMINICA**

**1879 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 14**

**The issued stamps**



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



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



**4d Blue  
61,840 Printed**



**1/2d Ochre block of six**



**2 1/2 d Chestnut block of four**

**Perforation and watermark varieties occur**



**4d Blue right marginal pair**



**4d blue imperf between stamp and margin**



**Inverted watermark**



**DOMINICA**

**1879 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CC, perf 14**

**4d used on only recorded double rate 1882 cover to Liverpool.**



10 September 1882 envelope to Liverpool (arr: 28 Sept), forwarded in the UK, manuscript "looked through".

**Unusual combination of a 2½d and three ½d stamps paying postage to USA**



18 November 1882 envelope from Bishop's House, Roseau to New York (arr: 28 Nov), circular "paid all" handstamp on reverse.



# DOMINICA

## Revenue stamps used postally

In December 1877 De la Rue supplied a stock of stamps overprinted "REVENUE" for that purpose, at various times such stamps were pressed into postal service. We have seen one shortage period in 1879, there was a further shortage of 1d stamps in 1882, a shortage of 6d stamps in early 1886 and a possible delay in the Leeward Islands stamps gave rise to the use of the 1s in 1891.



1d Lilac  
105,000 Printed



6d Green  
24,000 Printed



1s Magenta  
24,000 Printed



27 July 1882  
local envelope  
to Mt Wallace

4 January 1886 registered envelope to Horsham, arr Plymouth 23 Jan, London next day.





**DOMINICA**

**1882-83 Halfpenny overprinted on 1d**



**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**



**31 May 1884**



**Reading Down**



**Equal largest known block**



## DOMINICA

### 1882-83 Halfpenny overprinted on 1d

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



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.



**DOMINICA**

**1882-83 Halfpenny overprinted on 1d**

The cover below shows all three types of overprint and pays the correct 4 ½ d rate.



16 March 1883 envelope to Barbados, 2 ½ d postage and 2d registration fee, paid with blocks of four of the later two overprints and a single of the earliest.

The cover below shows the earliest use of the boxed TOO LATE instructional mark.



10 August 1883 envelope to St Kitts, also showing the 4 ½ d rate.



# DOMINICA

## 1883 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14

A further order of stamps placed in March 1883 for 500 sheets of each of ½d, 1d and 2½d, these were supplied on watermark crown CA paper.



1/2d Ochre  
30,000 Printed



1d Lilac  
30,000 Printed



2 1/2d Chestnut  
30,000 Printed



6 Feb 1886  
Early dated copy

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. De la Rue proposed a scheme of colours 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”.





# DOMINICA

## 1886 Provisionals

In 1886 the postal system was re-organised and sub-postmasters were appointed in a number of villages and issued with a stock of ½d and 1d stamps leading to a shortage at GPO in Roseau. To resolve this 300 sheets of the 1877 6d and 250 sheets of the 1s were overprinted in Roseau, using a rule bar.



Famously one, or possibly two, sheets of the 6d green were overprinted "One Penny". In the top row the rule bar was inserted the wrong way up and so the value tablet is cancelled by a "thick bar", this was corrected in the remaining rows – the "thin bar".

It is remarkably that all six of the "thick bar" stamps survive as they were placed on a cover with two "thin bar" stamps to pay double rate postage to a stamp dealer in Essex. Two of the stamps from this cover are shown below, 21 "thin bar" stamps are known.

Thick bar



Position 6

Thin bar



Varieties in the surcharge setting occur in addition to the catalogued doubled surcharge.

### Constant varieties



Broken tail of "e"  
Row 1 stamp 3



Dropped "y"  
Row 1 stamp 6



Wide space between  
"n" and "e"

### Doubled



Double surcharge



**DOMINICA**

**1886 Provisionals**

The provisional stamps are known used on cover.



24 August 1886 registered envelope to New York, 4d postage, 2d registration fee, paid by 3 x ½ d green, a pair of 1d on is, and a 2 ½ d chestnut and not the UPU blue.



1 November 1887 registered envelope to a stamp dealer in Norfolk, Virginia, paid with 10 x ½ d on 6d and a 1d lilac.



## DOMINICA

### 1886 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14

#### UPU Colour scheme

In 1886 the De la Rue's suggested UPU colour scheme was finally adopted and was used for all printings to October 1890 when stamps for use in all the Leeward Island presidencies were brought into use, and the stamps of Dominica were no longer valid.



1/2d Green  
87,660 Printed



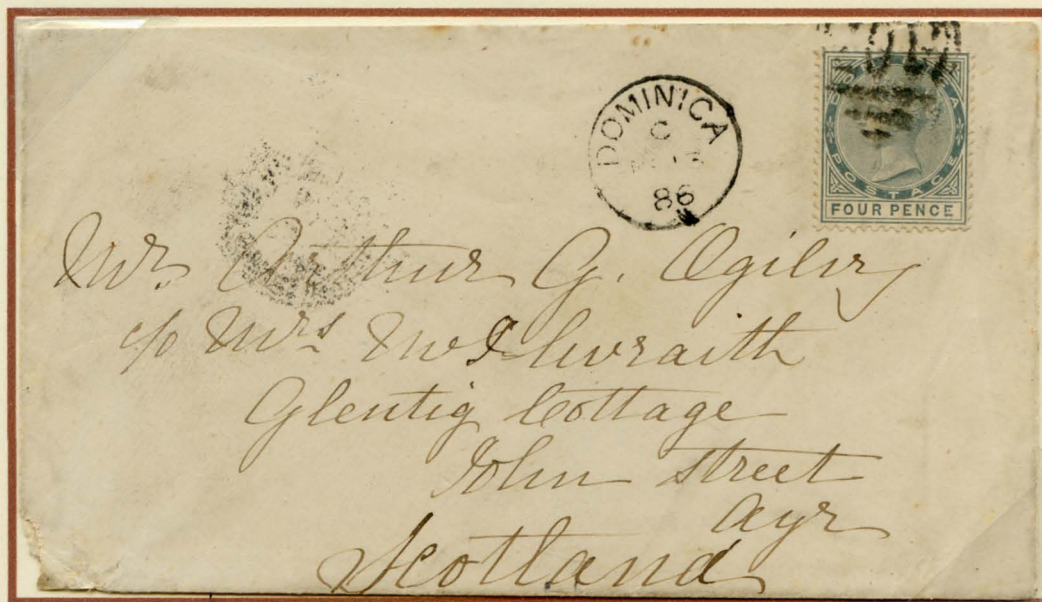
1d Red  
71,000 Printed



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.



**DOMINICA**

**1886 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14**



**3 February 1887, double rate registered envelope to Germany, paid with 2 x 4d grey and 2 x 1d lilac, received Berlin 22 February**



**DOMINICA**

**1888 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14**

*Proofs*



*De La Rue archive Specimen*

*Specimen stamps*

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



*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**



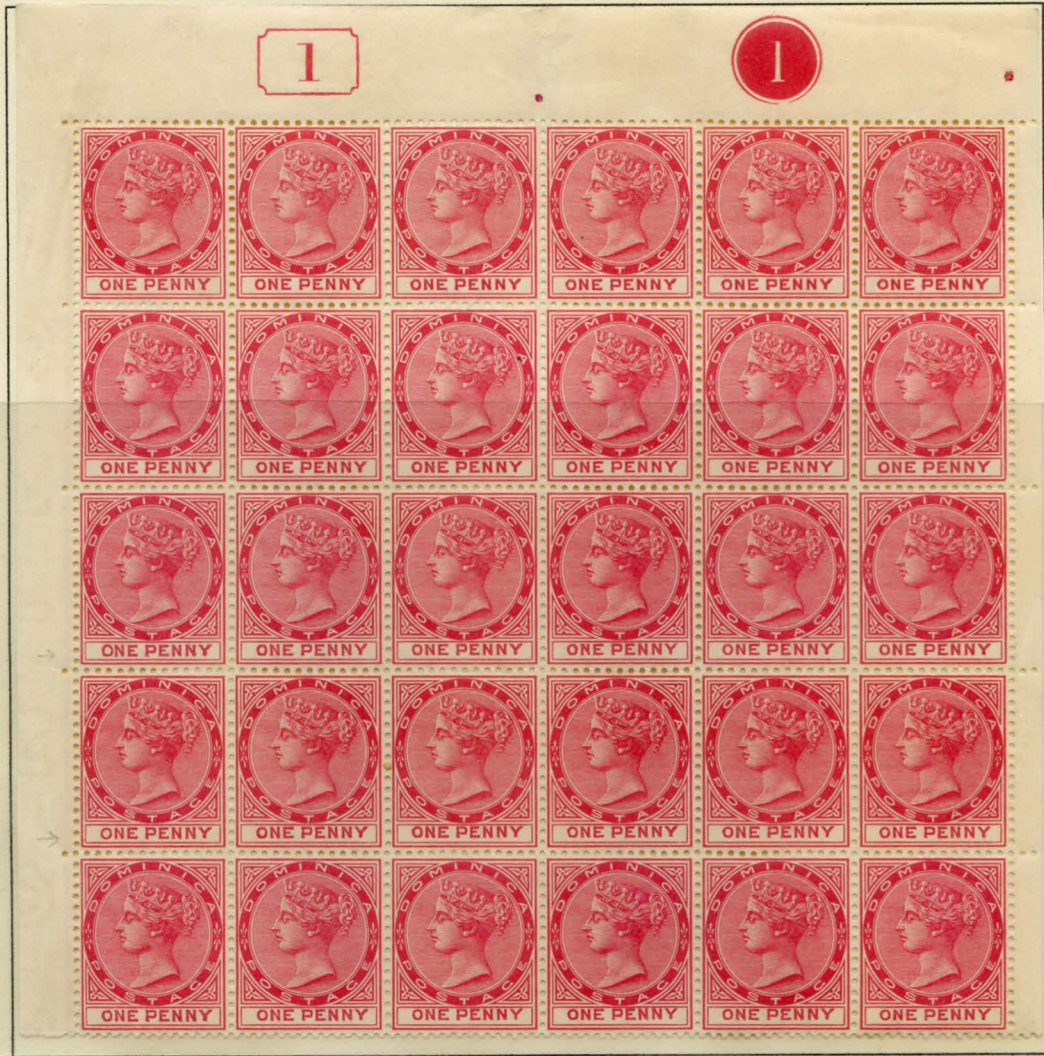
**1s Magenta  
1,200 Printed**





**DOMINICA**

1888 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14



1d carmine – top five rows of left hand pane



2 1/2 d blue – bottom three rows of left hand pane



**DOMINICA**

**1888 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14**



**½ d green – bottom five rows of right hand pane**



**4d grey – top two rows of right hand pane**



**One of three known used blocks of 4 of the 6d orange**



**Only recorded used multiple of the 1s magenta**



## DOMINICA

### 1887-8 Queen Victoria – further stamp shortages

Until mid-1888 there were no 6d stamps and it is possible this was the period in which the crowned circle paid at Dominica handstamp was used on ½ d and 1d stamps to denote that 6d had been paid. However, no covers to confirm this are known.



The 1d lilac Revenue stamps seems to have run out in 1888 and to remedy this some sheets, possibly just six, were overprinted locally with the word “Revenue” in black type. The Philatelic Record reports that “one-fourth were used postally”.



24 July 1888

A number are known used on cover all which, though of different dates, show the year as 86, which is thought to be 89 with the 9 inverted.



5 December 1889 local rate cover to Marigot.



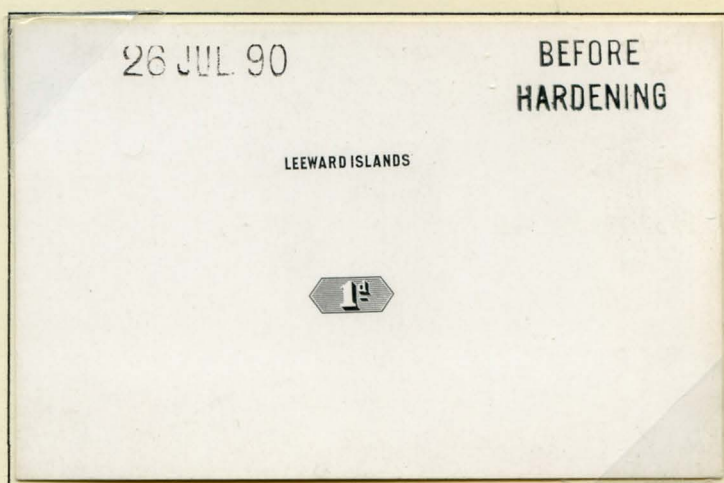
***DOMINICA (LEEWARD ISLANDS)***

***1890 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14***

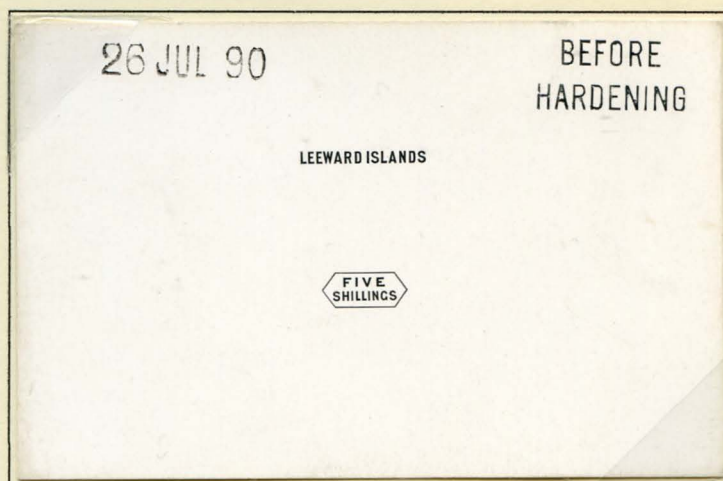
In January 1890 the Governor of the Leeward Islands proposed that one uniform set of stamps for postage and revenue purposes be introduced for use in the six Presidencies – Antigua, Dominica, Montserrat, Nevis, St Kitts and the Virgin Islands. The Colonial Office accepted the suggestion and stamps using the De La Rue keyplate were introduced on 31 October 1890 and the separate issues for the Presidencies were withdrawn on that date.

The Leeward Islands were the first colony to adopt the “Universal” key plate for a whole set.

Die proof of the overprint plate for the pence values:



Die proof of the overprint plate for the shilling values:





## DOMINICA (LEEWARD ISLANDS)

1890 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14

Leeward Island stamps used in each presidency can be distinguished by their postmark – either the “A07” killer or the name of the post office.



The quantities printed were much higher than for any single presidency and the quality of the printing was excellent. Three plates were used during the Victorian period and there are only a few varieties.



Inverted  
watermark

Dated copies from the first years of use are scarce on or off cover. The overseas postage rate was reduced from 4d to 2½d on 1 January 1891.



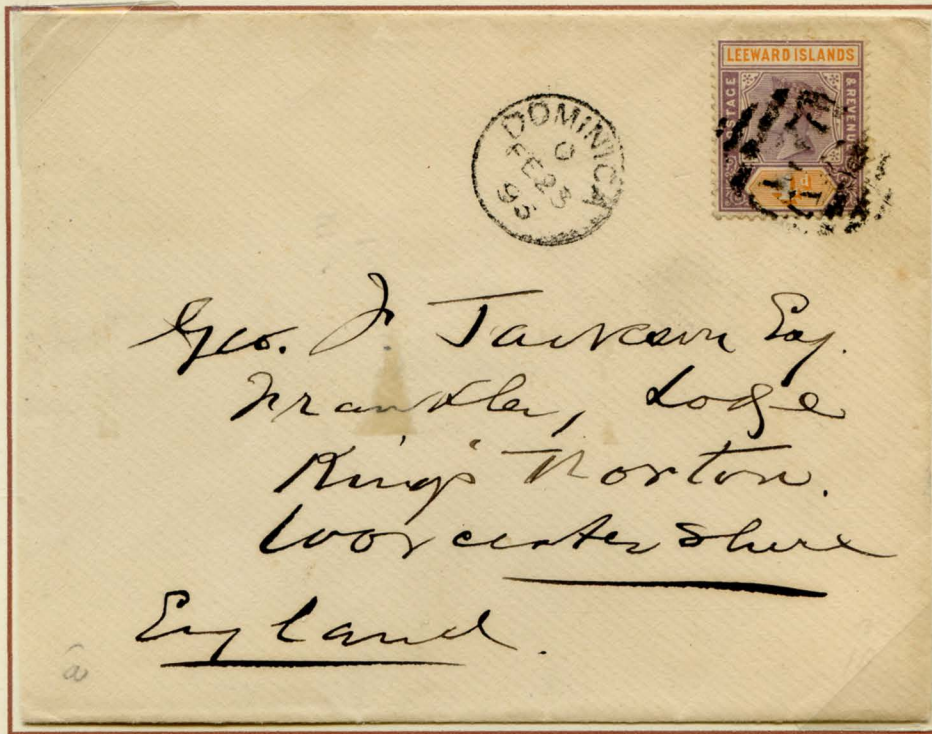
6 October 1892 envelope to England, 4½d paid, 2½d postage, 2d registration fee.



**DOMINICA (LEEWARD ISLANDS)**

**1890 Queen Victoria – watermark Crown CA, perf 14**

The new rate did cause some confusion and covers can be found 4d paid some considerable time later.



23 February 1893 envelope to Worcestershire, 4d paid, Birmingham datestamp of 23 March 1893 on the reverse.



4 December 1897 double rate, registered letter from Edouard Brou, French druggist, in Roseau to St Pierre, Martinique, received there on 10 December.



**DOMINICA (LEEWARD ISLANDS)**

**1897 Queen Victoria – Sexagenary issue**

The set of keyplate stamps were overprinted in Antigua with a design featuring the intertwined letters VRI surrounded by a belt inscribed SEXAGENARY 1897. The stamps were distributed to each of the presidencies making up the colony and were to be placed on sale for one week only commencing 22 July 1897.



Envelopes from the correct period of use are scarce. This cover to Barbados dated 28 July 1897 is correctly rated 2 ½ d, and has a Barbados Ship Letter handstamp of 30 July 1897 on the reverse and a fine James Garraway Commission Merchants handstamp in purple.



Stamps seem to have been available at Portsmouth as well as Roseau as can be seen by this inland registered cover to Roseau with a 31 July 1897 Portsmouth datestamp. It took six days to reach the capital, 1d postage, 2d registration fee.



**DOMINICA (LEEWARD ISLANDS)**

**1898 Queen Victoria – Empire penny post**

On Christmas Day 1898 the Empire Penny Post service was introduced whereby any ½ oz letter posted at any Post Office within the Empire could be sent to any other address within the Empire for 1d.



3 January 1900 envelope to London at the 1d Empire rate.

The rate to foreign countries remained at 2 ½d.



21 January 1899 registered envelope to the USA showing 2 ½d rate with 2d registration fee. Backstamped New York 29 Jan and Woburn, Mass 1 Feb.



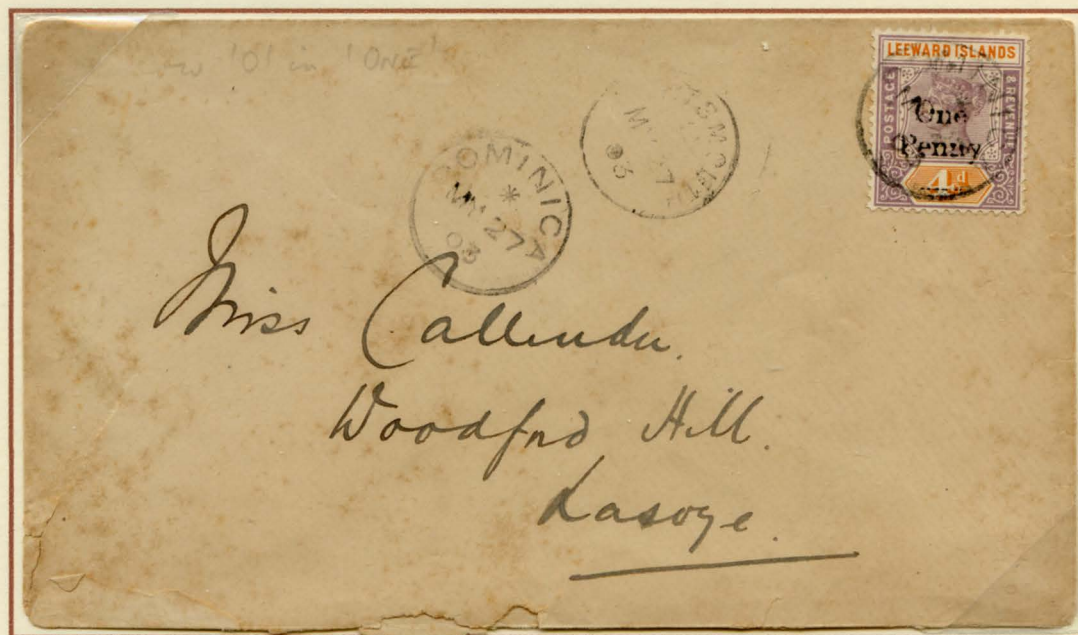
**DOMINICA (LEEWARD ISLANDS)**

**1902 Queen Victoria – One penny overprint**

After the Queen's death, and to save costs before stamps showing the new king were available, the colonial authorities had 310 sheets of each of the 4d, 6d and 7d stamps overprinted "One Penny". This was done in Antigua, probably by two printers.



**One Penny on 7d on 22 August 1902 local envelope.**



**One Penny on 4d on 27 May 1903 envelope to Woodford Hill.**

Effective from 3 July 1903 the postal regulations were amended so that each of the Presidencies might issue special stamps that could be used in conjunction with the federal issues.



## *DOMINICA*

### *1903 Roseau from the Sea*

The Leeward Islands Stamp Act of 1902 empowered the Governor to direct that special stamps could be used in each of the Presidencies concurrently with the uniform Federal stamps. The passage of the legislation was anticipated by the Colony as in December 1901 the Crown Agents placed an order with De La Rue based on a view of Roseau.



*[After Lieut. Caddy, R.A.]*

Town of Roseau, Dominica

In 1850 Lieutenant Caddy, R. A. painted a picture of the town of Roseau "Dominica from the sea. The government of Dominica adopted aspects of this design for the first issue of stamps to be used in the Colony following the thirteen years from 1890 to 1903 during which only the federal stamps could be used.



# DOMINICA

## 1903 Roseau from the Sea

A photographic essay was produced dated Sept 13<sup>th</sup> 1901 in response to a request for a design from the Crown Agents. An artist's essay was produced for the 5s value, which was to bear the King's head and be of a common style for Antigua, Dominica and Montserrat. The design was approved and an order placed on 21 December 1901.

Die proofs of the central vignette were produced in March 1902.

Before Hardening



After Hardening



Some delay then seems to have occurred as the complete design master die proof is dated 20 January 1903 and the surrounds were not cleared until 11 March 1903.



Prior to that, a complete working die proof was made with uncleared value tablets and surrounds. These were removed by scraping and then being painted in Chinese white.





**DOMINICA**

**1903 Roseau from the Sea**

Frame die proofs were made between 25 May and 3 Jun 1903. Two sets were struck "Before Hardening" and one "After Hardening".





**DOMINICA**

**1903 Roseau from the Sea**



For the 5s the master die proof with uncleared surrounds and blank value and country tablet was made on 22 December 1902 and the frame Die Proof struck on 11 March 1903.
















DOMINICA

1903 Roseau from the Sea

The De La Rue archives also contained a sheet of Die Proofs with instructions as to how many leads were required for the stamps and postal stationery.

<p><del>March 19</del> 60 leads each &amp; 6 " " Color</p>  <p><i>Aug 14.03</i></p>	<p><del>Mar 24, 60 leads</del> 6 extra &amp; 6 Color scheme</p>  <p>Dominica</p>	<p><del>Mar 27, 60 leads</del> 2 extra. &amp; 4 extra &amp; 6 Color scheme 2 for P Card</p> 
<p>June 3</p> <p>2 lead for P Card</p> 	<p><i>Aug 14.03</i></p> <p>June 3</p> <p>60 leads each &amp; 2 extra</p> <p>2 lead for P Card</p> 	<p>June 4</p> <p>2 lead for P Card</p> 
<p>June 4</p> 	<p><i>Aug 14.03</i></p> <p>June 5</p> <p>60 leads each &amp; 2 extra</p> 	<p>June 5</p> 
<p>June 6</p> <p>60 leads each &amp; 2 extra</p> 		<p>June 6</p> 

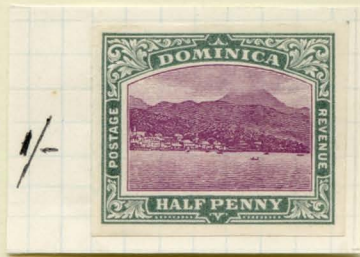


# Dominica

## 1903 Roseau from the Sea

The De La Rue archives also contained "Appendix A", a colour scheme dated 8 April 1903 and approved a week later, with the exception of the suggested colour for the 1s. This sheet was cut up after the dispersal of the archive but the contents are displayed below.

### Appendix A



8<sup>th</sup> April 1903.  
Dominica  
Req<sup>n</sup> 68/01

Approved  
WAM 15.4.03



# DOMINICA

1903 Roseau from the Sea — watermark Crown CC, perf 14

Specimen sets were made in accordance with UPU regulations. This set is additionally overprinted "Ultramar" indicating that it comes from the archives of a Portuguese colony.





## DOMINICA

### 1903 Roseau from the Sea – watermark Crown CC, perf 14

The stamps were printed on Crown CC paper and perforated 14. All values were sent to the Colony on 15 August 1903. There were further printings of all values up to the 1s, and the printing of 6 May 1905 was printed on chalk surfaced paper.



**½d green and grey-green**  
129,140 printed



**1d grey and red**  
368,340 printed



**2d green and brown**  
26,700 printed



**2 ½d grey and bright blue**  
48,600 printed



**3d dull-purple and grey-black**  
25,200 printed



**6d grey and chestnut**  
12,120 printed



**1s magenta and grey-green**  
9,240 printed



**2s grey-black and purple**  
6,360 printed



**2s 6d grey-green and maize**  
6,300 printed



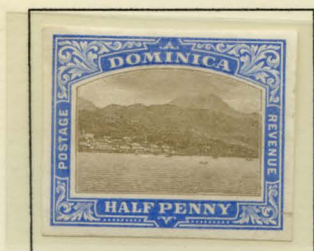
**5s black and brown**  
2,520 printed



# DOMINICA

1907 Roseau from the Sea — watermark Mult. Crown CA, perf 14

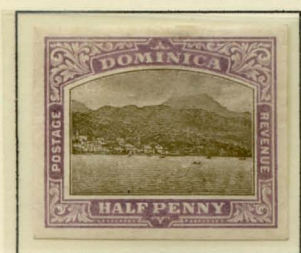
The final printing on Crown CC paper was sent to the colony on 19 December 1906. Subsequent printings were made on Multiple Crown CA paper and for no very clear reason colour trials were produced in a range of colours, yet there was essentially not change to the colour of the issued stamps and so no new Specimen stamps were required.



Grey-blue and ultramarine



Dull blue-green



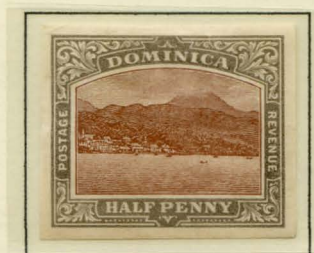
Grey-black and violet



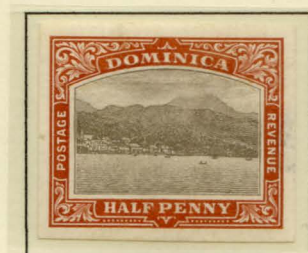
Grey-black and mauve



Dull blue green and ultramarine



Dull brown and grey-black



Grey-black and brown



Grey-black and red



Violet and green



Green and ultramarine



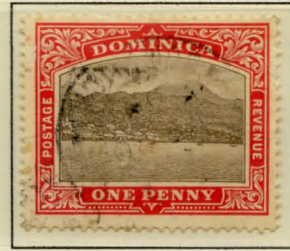
## DOMINICA

1907-08 Roseau from the Sea – watermark Mult. Crown CA, perf 14

The stamps were printed on Multiple Crown CA paper and perforated 14. The pence values were sent to the Colony on 20 November 1907, and the shilling values on 2 May 1908, along with a second printing of the 2d and 3d. All were printed on chalk surfaced paper bar the some sheets of the ½d.



½d green  
9,240 printed



1d grey and red  
66,300 printed



2d green and brown  
10,200 printed



2 ½d grey and bright blue  
4,200 printed



3d dull-purple and grey-black  
8,580 printed



6d grey and chestnut  
4,080 printed



1s magenta and grey-green  
6,180 printed



2s grey-black and purple  
4,400 printed



2s 6d grey-green and maize  
4,400 printed



5s black and brown  
4,340 printed



# DOMINICA

1908-21 Roseau from the Sea -- watermark mult. Crown CA, perf 14

In 1908 the Crown Agents requested that future printings of the low values should be printed in UPU colours using single fugitive inks. After much correspondence it was decided that higher values should also be printed in single fugitive inks and a colour scheme was sent to the island for approval. De La Rue must have retained a copy for they were able to produce plate proofs of the suggested colours and blocks of four for eight values still exist, even though the changes were introduced piecemeal.



1908 : ½d Blue-green



1909: 2d Grey



1908: 2 ½ d Blue



1909: 3d Purple on yellow



1908-21 Roseau from the Sea -- watermark mult. Crown CA, perf 14



1914 : 6d Dull and bright purple



1910: 1s Black on green



1918: 2s Purple and deep blue on blue



1913: 5s Red and green on yellow



# DOMINICA

1908-21 Roseau from the Sea – watermark mult. Crown CA, perf 14

In 1908 the Crown Agents requested that future printings of the low values should be printed in UPU colours and in subsequent years there were changes to the colour of the other values and the death of Edward VII led to a new head being required for the 5s. Specimen stamps were produced for the changes.





# DOMINICA

*1908-21 Roseau from the Sea – watermark mult. Crown CA, perf 14*

**1908 – the UPU colours**



**½d Blue-green**  
337,320 printed



**1d Scarlet**  
809,250 printed



**2½ d Blue**  
116,700 printed

**1909-10 – colour changes**



**2d Grey**  
44,700 printed



**3d Purple on yellow**  
21,180 printed



**6d Dull and bright purple**  
27,540 printed



**1s Black on green**  
49,380 printed

**1914 – King George V high value**



**5s Red and green on yellow**  
16,680 printed

**1915-20 – colour changes and new shades**



**½d Deep green**  
121,860 printed



**1d Carmine**  
350,640 printed



**2d Slate**  
24,940 printed



**2½d Bright blue**  
30,300 printed



**3d Purple on pale yellow**  
70,200 printed



**6d Dull purple**  
18,540 printed



**2s Purple, deep blue on blue**  
11,940 printed



**2s 6d Black, red on blue**  
5,940 printed



**DOMINICA**  
**1916 War Tax**

In 1916 many of the West Indies were looking for ways to defray the cost of their contribution to the war effort. In April 1916 the Crown Agents asked De La Rue to produce ½d postage stamps overprinted WAR TAX/ONE HALFPENNY in red. Their suggested proof was accepted and 170,000 such stamps were produced in two printings. They were in use from 1 September 1916, initially for seven months to apply to letters addressed to other parts of the Empire, outside the Leeward Islands. The period was extended and from 1 February 1917 it applied to letters addressed to the USA.



Specimen



Unused pair, lower stamp shows small "O" in one.

4 October 1916 envelope to London, postage paid by two halfpenny stamps and then halfpenny war tax in addition.





**DOMINICA**  
**1918 War Tax**

In June 1917 the Dominica government asked for the overprint plate to be sent to them. A small quantity of ½d stamps, perhaps 45,000, were overprinted locally with the “One Halfpenny” blanked out by a piece of card.



Specimen



“Thick” overprint



“Thin overprint”



13 July 1918 Penny postal stationery envelope to France uprated by 1d stamp and halfpenny stamp overprinted locally. Note the rate to foreign countries remained at 2 ½d so the overprinted stamp was not used for its intended purpose.



**DOMINICA**  
**1918 War Tax**

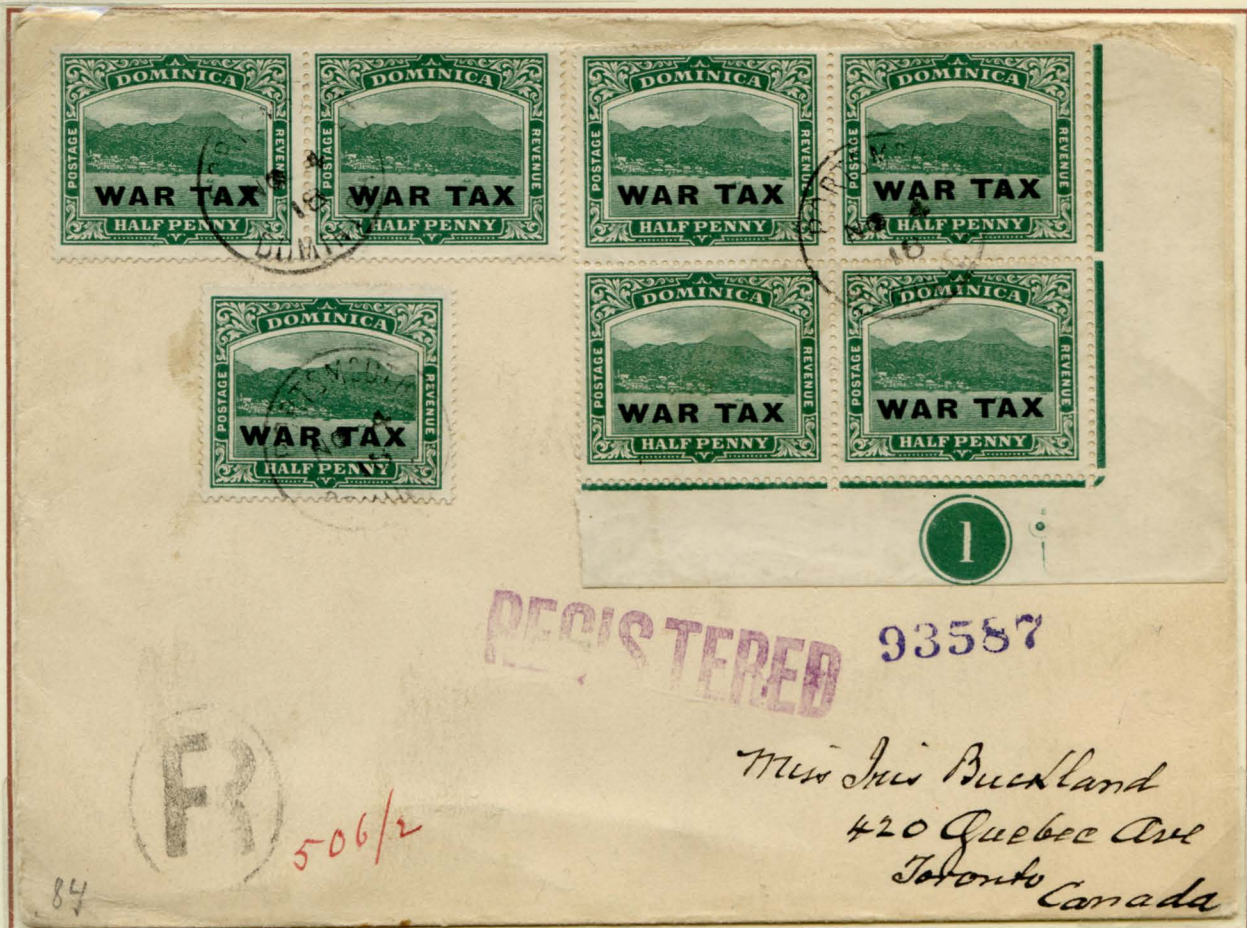
The War Tax stamps proved popular and an order placed in February 1918 for 250,000 half penny stamps simply overprinted "WAR TAX" in black was increased by 120,000 in April to supply the dealers in London and those additional stamps were never sent to the Colony.



Specimen



Bluish paper



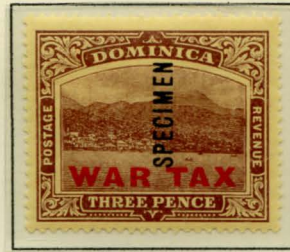
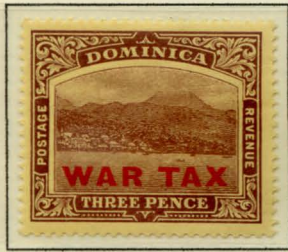
Registered envelope to Canada, postage 1d, War Tax 1/2d, registration 2d.



# DOMINICA

## 1919 War Tax

In September 1918, in anticipation of the introduction of a War Tax levy on parcels set to Empire destinations, for which the ordinary rate was 2 ½d, a 3d War Tax was requisitioned. The new rate did not come into effect until 25 January 1919, after the war had ended. 77,760 were sent to the colony and 23,000 retained for dealers.



Specimen



27 June 1919

At the same time a 1 ½d stamp was requisitioned to pay the letter rate postage inclusive of war tax.



9 May registered letter to Norwood with both stamps, one paying the postage, the other paying the registration fee of 3d.



**DOMINICA**

**1919 War Tax**

The 1 ½d inclusive War Tax overprint was printed on sheets of the 2 ½d printed in orange. 157,380 were sent to the colony and 47,400 retained for dealers. Row 6 stamp 4 shows a "short fraction bar variety."



**Specimen**



**Short fraction bar**



21 July 1919 registered (philatelic) envelope to Barbados with a block of four including the short fraction bar variety.



**DOMINICA**  
**1920 War Tax**

In March 1920 the government made a further requisition for 180,000 1 ½d stamps, but with the words "War Tax" omitted. This was done by cutting away those words from the plate.

Plate proof:



179,580 stamps were printed and sent to the colony in May 1920.



Specimen

The short fraction bar on position 4 of row 6 was not corrected.



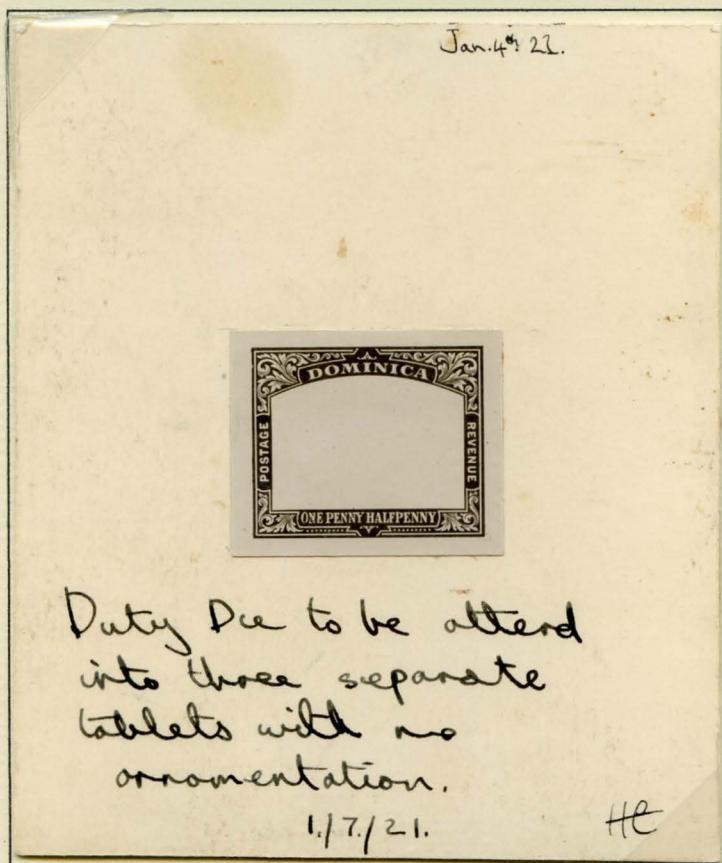
The War Tax postal Surtax was rescinded on 31 January 1922 and new postal rates were introduced from 1 February 1922.



**DOMINICA**

**1921 Roseau from the Sea — watermark mult. Script CA, perf 14**

In June 1921 De La Rue were asked to produce 120,000 1 ½d stamps as a matter of urgency. This required the production of a new frame design and a photographic essay, on the same lines as the earlier Roseau from the Sea values, was produced.



As can be seen from the annotation this was rejected in favour of a design with three tablets and no ornamentation, thus a design with the numeric value in the corner and no ornamentation below the central tablet.





**DOMINICA**

**1921 Roseau from the Sea -- watermark mult. Script CA, perf 14**

**Die proofs were struck of the frame**



**And below is the only recorded composite die proof**



**In July 1921 a new order was placed for most values, the 3d, 1s and 5s were supplied on the Multiple Crown CA paper, whilst the ½d, 1d, 1 ½d, 2d, 2 ½d, 6d, and 2s 6d were all printed on the new Multiple Script CA paper, as was the 2s the following year.**



Despite this just being a change of watermark for all values bar the 1 ½d, a full Specimen set was prepared for fellow UPU members.





**DOMINICA**

**1921 Roseau from the Sea -- watermark mult. Script CA, perf 14**



**1/2d Blue-green  
119,740 printed**



**1d Carmine  
180,760 printed**



**1 1/2 d Orange  
118,000 printed**



**2d Grey  
74,130 printed**



**2 1/2d Bright blue  
20,100 printed**



**6d Purple  
17,280 printed**



**2s Purple and blue on blue  
9,180 printed**



**2s 6d Black and red on blue  
9,220 printed**

Used examples are scarce as a new definitive design was introduced in 1923, and 463,045 surplus stamps of the Roseau from the Sea design were officially burned in November 1924.





## DOMINICA

### 1923 Twin Medallions

In September 1921 the Governor-in-Council of the Leeward Islands directed that a new design of stamps be introduced in Dominica and prescribed that the design shall be in two medallions one containing the Head of His Majesty King George V and the other containing a device taken from the Arms of the Public Seal of Dominica.



Die Proof of the Official Seal dated January 13, 1923.

The order required the stamps to be available from 1 October 1921 but in fact they did not become available until 1923.

The Colonial Office sent out a circular early in 1924 recommending that when a new series was introduced, remaining stamps of the superseded types should be withdrawn and destroyed. Different colonies interpreted this circular in different ways, but in Dominica it led to the burning of 463,045 stamps of the Roseau type in November 1924.



**DOMINICA**

**1923 Twin Medallions - Essays**

De La Rue produced a design and the one below, with the King's Head on the right, was approved on 15 July 1922.



In October 1922 the Crown Agents approved the design and asked for a colour scheme to be prepared for fifteen values with the medallions to be in black and the frames in colour.

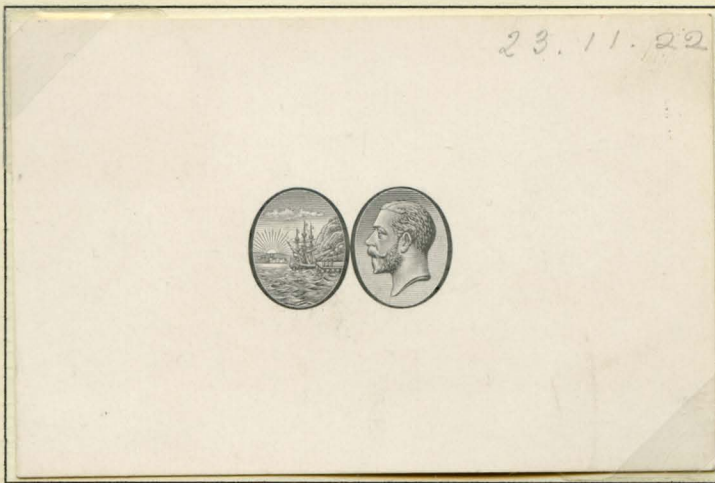


**DOMINICA**

**1923 Twin Medallions – Die proofs**



An unfinished Die Proof of the frame in black on plain paper, showing four centre guidelines and with parts of the design uncleared.



Two Die Proofs of the medallions, one dated 23 November 1922 and the other dated 24 November 1922 and stamped "Before Hardening".



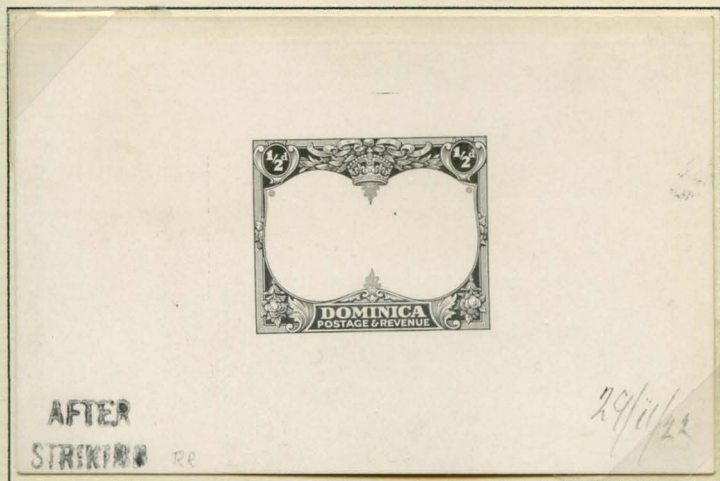
Completed Die proof of the whole design in black, showing the ½ d value, only one recorded.



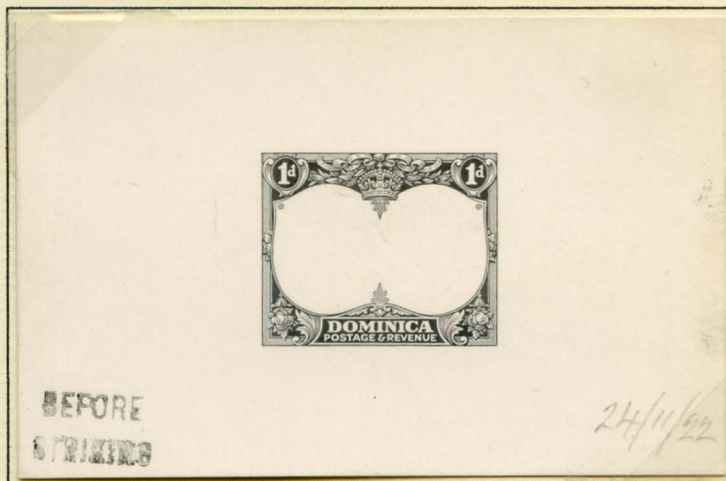
**DOMINICA**

**1923 Twin Medallions – Die proofs**

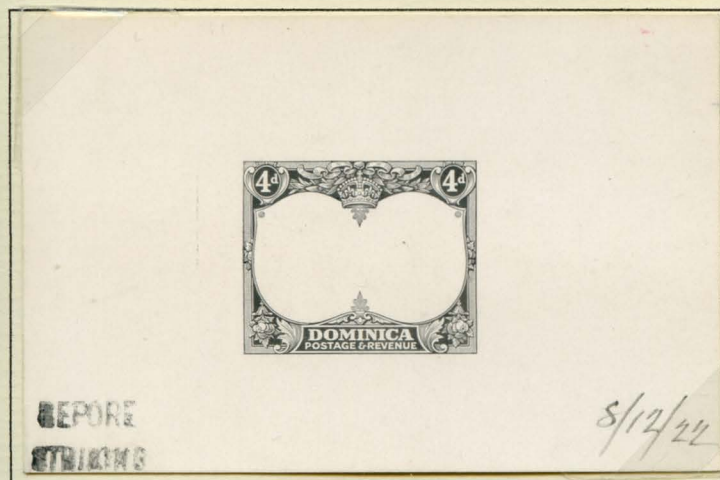
Before and After Striking Die Proofs were struck for 14 of the values but only one was struck for the £1 value.



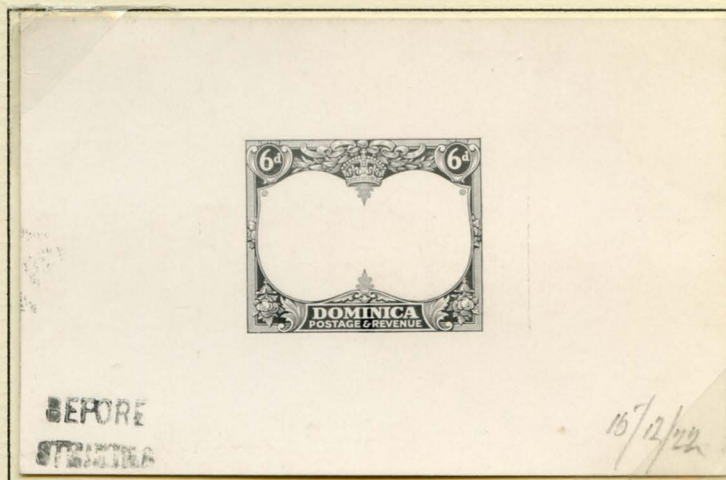
**1/2 d After Striking**



**1d Before Striking**



**4d Before Striking**



**6d Before Striking**



**5s Before Striking**



**£1 Before Striking**



*DOMINICA*

*1923 Twin Medallions – Multiple Script CA*

Specimen sets were produced.





**DOMINICA**

**1923 Twin Medallions – Colour Trials**

Some 50 1d colour trials, including a rejected scheme, were produced.



As issued 2d



As issued 2 1/2d



As issued 3s

**1923 Twin Medallions – Multiple Crown CA**

The first printing of the issued stamps was made on coloured multiple crown CA watermarked paper for the 3s, 5s and £1 values and on multiple script CA paper for the other twelve, perf 14.

*Specimen*



*Mint*



3s Black and purple/yellow  
8,400 printed



5s Black and green/yellow  
8,400 printed



£1 Black and purple/red  
3,900 printed

*Used*





**DOMINICA**

**1923 Twin Medallions – Multiple Script CA- Mint**



**½ d Black and green  
521,400 printed**



**1d Black and bright violet  
667,080 printed**



**1 ½d Black and scarlet  
377,520 printed**



**2d Black and grey  
181,860 printed**



**2 ½d Black and orange-yellow  
248,580 printed**



**3d Black and ultramarine  
52,420 printed**



**4d Black and Brown  
52,580 printed**



**6d Black and bright magenta  
73,800 printed**



**1s Black on emerald  
63,300 printed**



**2s Black and blue on blue  
12,540 printed**



**2s 6d Black and red on blue  
12,480 printed**



**4s Black and red on emerald  
8,700 printed**



# DOMINICA

## 1923 Twin Medallions – Multiple Script CA - Used

Approximately one quarter of the first printings were kept back for dealers, accounting for the greater scarcity of used copies over mint ones for all bar the lowest values.





**DOMINICA**

**1927 Twin Medallions – Multiple Script CA**

The second printings of the 3s and 5s value were sent to the colony at the beginning of 1927 and were printed on multiple crown CA paper. Later in the year a new colour for the 2 ½d and 3d was proposed and, after the production of a colour trial adopted and imperf plate proofs made.

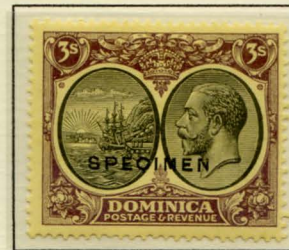
**Colour trial**



**Plate proofs**



Specimen stamps were struck for all four values.



**Mint**



**2 ½ d Black and ultramarine  
170,340 printed**

**3d Black and red  
on yellow  
96,060 printed**

**3s Black and purple  
on yellow  
20,460 printed**

**5s Black and green  
on yellow  
20,200 printed**

**Used**



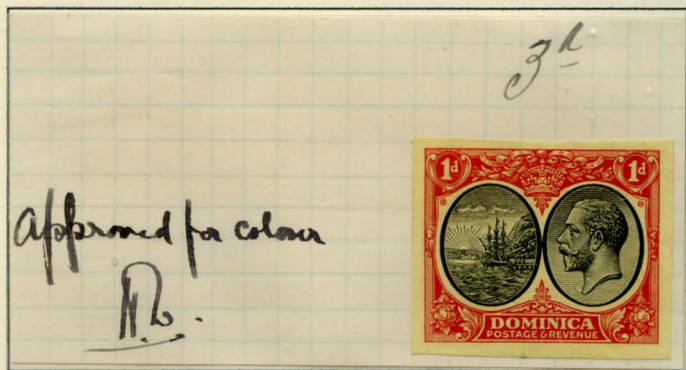


# DOMINICA

## 1933 Twin Medallions – Multiple Script CA

The order made in June 1933 requested that the border colour of the 1d and 1 ½d values be changed to bring them into line with the other Leeward Island colonies.

### Colour trials



### Plate proof

### Specimens



### Mint



1d Black and scarlet  
663,080 printed



1 ½d Black and re-brown  
181,680 printed

### Used





# DOMINICA

## The First Airmails

The first airmail service to the Leeward Islands commenced in September 1929 when PanAm opened Foreign Airmail Route 6 (FAM6). The plane flew from Miami to Dutch Guiana via Antigua, St Lucia and Trinidad, mail was carried and the return trip to Miami left Antigua on 26 September. Mail from other islands, including Dominica was taken by boat to Antigua.



19 September 1929 airmail envelope to Washington flown on the Lindy, rated at 1s 4 ½d comprising postage of 1 ½d and an airmail fee of 1s 3d.

Routes and schedules were experimental and between 1932 and 1934 airmail generally went via St Lucia rather than Antigua.



14 March 1932 OHMS letter to Bermuda, via St Lucia (15 March) and New York, rated 1s 11 ½d. I believe this is 1d postage and 1s 10 ½d airmail fee for countries in Group 3 where the airmail transitted the United States.



**DOMINICA**

**The First Airmails**

The PanAm service to St Lucia ran on Sundays and returned to Miami on Thursdays, this service ran until 13 September 1934.



27 May 1932 airmail envelope to New York; rated 1s 11 ½d, comprising 2 ½d postage and an air mail fee of 1s 9d.

From 1934 airmail reverted to Antigua.



13 June 1935 airmail envelope to Toronto, postage 3s 6d, double the combined postage and air mail fee rate of 1s 9d introduced on 1 January 1935.

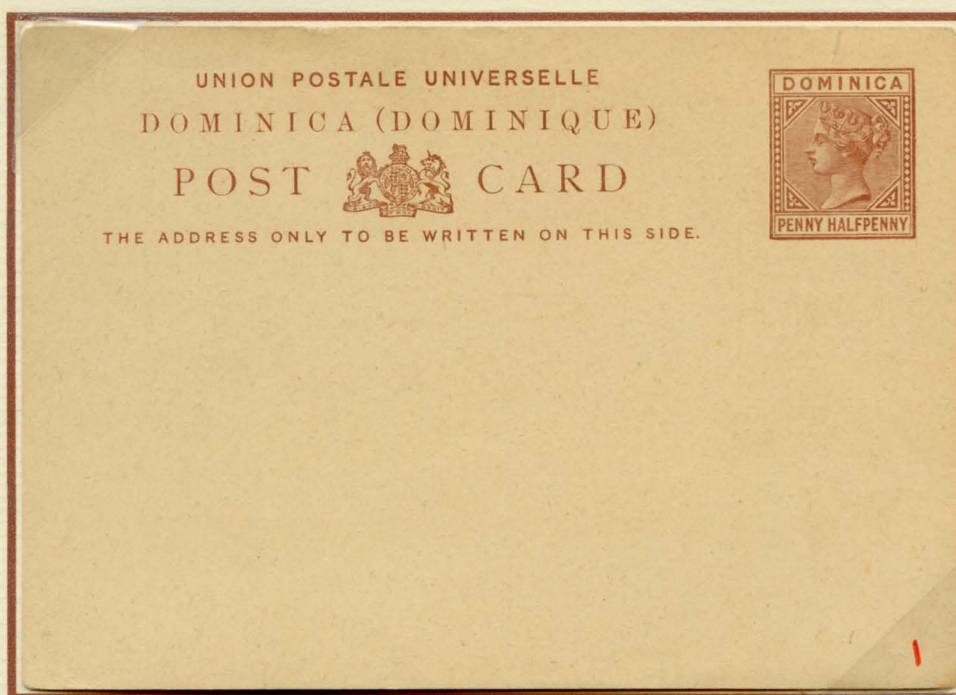


## DOMINICA

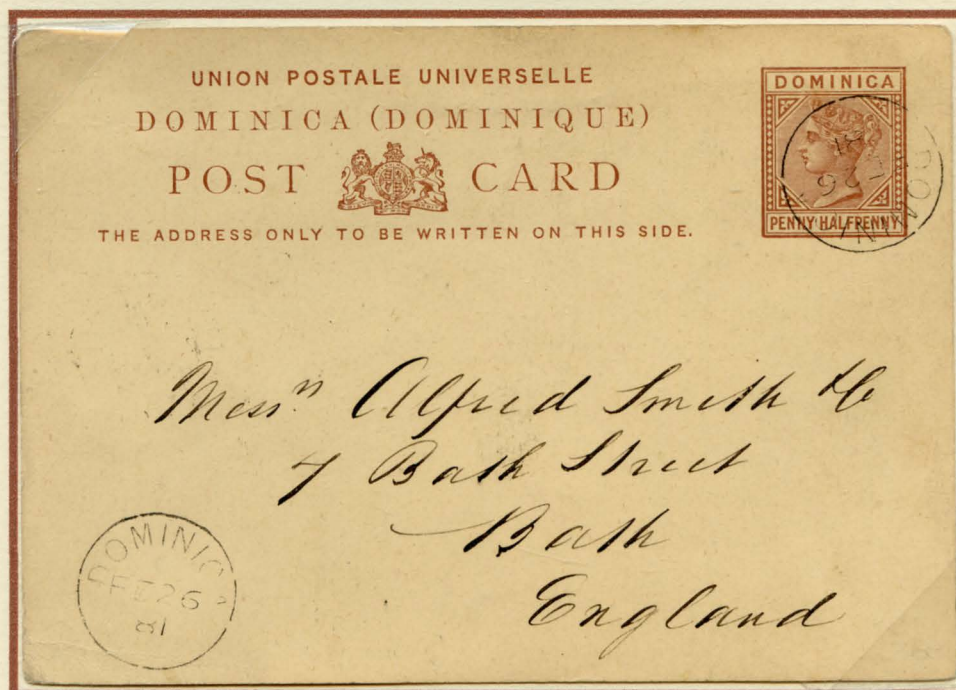
### Postal Stationery 1879 Queen Victoria

#### 1 ½ d International Post Card

When Dominica joined the UPU on 1 July 1879 an international post card was required in addition to new stamps, reflecting the reduction in postage rates. De La Rue produced a common design for the six Leeward Island Presidencies, with a minimum order quantity of 1,000. Three such printings were made in 1879, 1882 and 1885.



Used card from the first printing, 1 ½ d was significantly less than the 4d letter rate.



26 February 1881 card sent from Dominica to Bath.

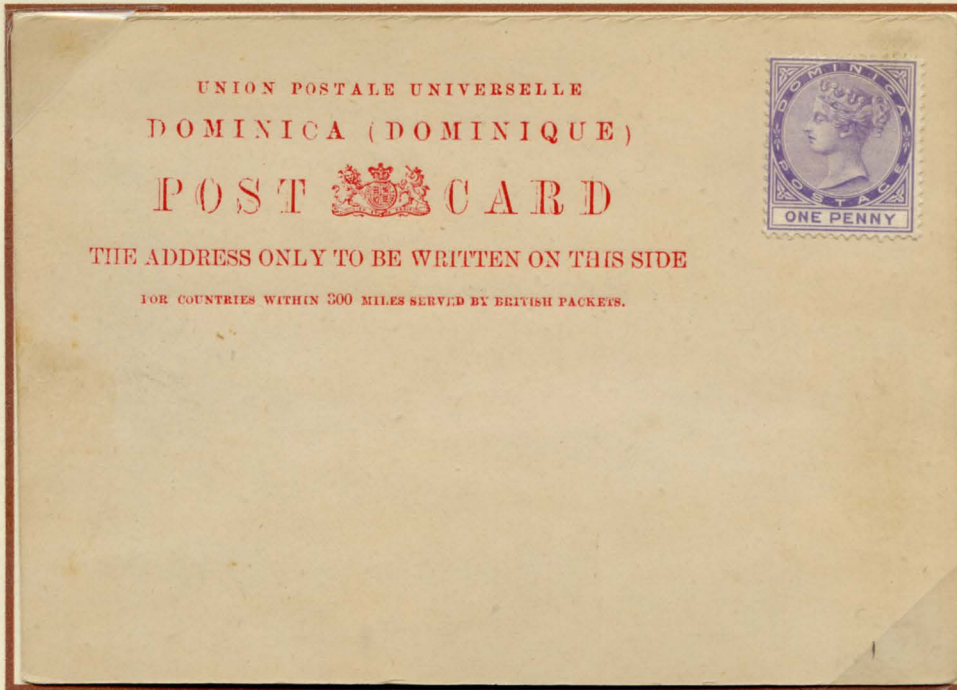


**DOMINICA**

**Postal Stationery 1882-83 Queen Victoria**

**1 d Post Cards**

In October 1882 the rate for mail to destinations within 300 miles was reduced to 2 ½ d for letters and 1d for postcards. As no card was available 100 cards were produced in Roseau and a 1d lilac stamp affixed in the corner.



In April 1883 De La Rue supplied 2,000 1d postcards in violet.



31 March 1887 postcard to Budapest.

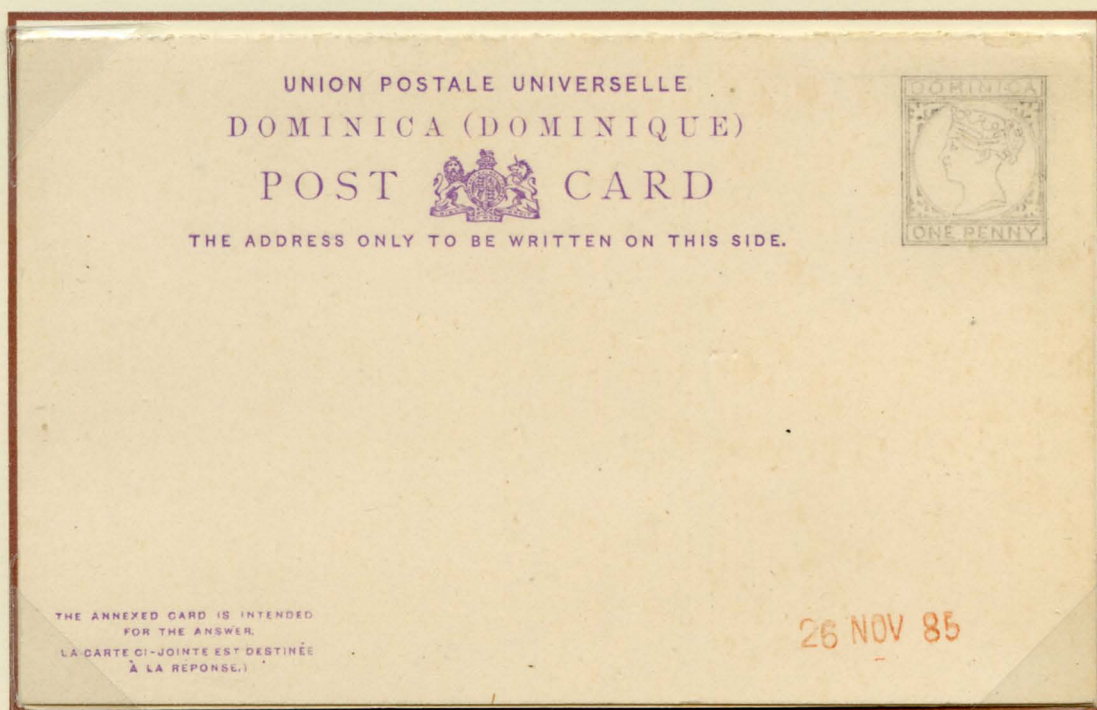


**DOMINICA**

**Postal Stationery 1886 Queen Victoria**

**Essay**

**In November 1885 De La Rue were asked for an estimate to produce 1d and 1 ½ d Reply Post Cards and on 26 November submitted two essays with the queen's head drawn in purple on the 1d card as that was the colour of the single card.**



**They suggested that in future the 1d card should be printed in red as this was the international colour, and that the card should be made to the same size and quality as the English international cards. This was adopted.**

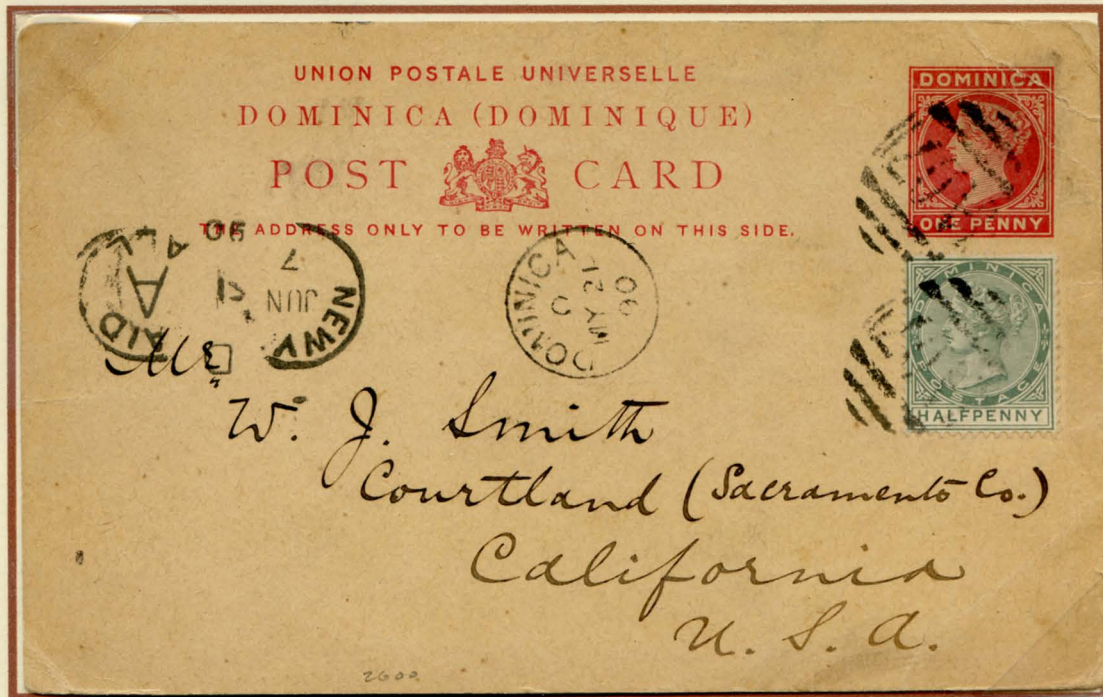


**DOMINICA**

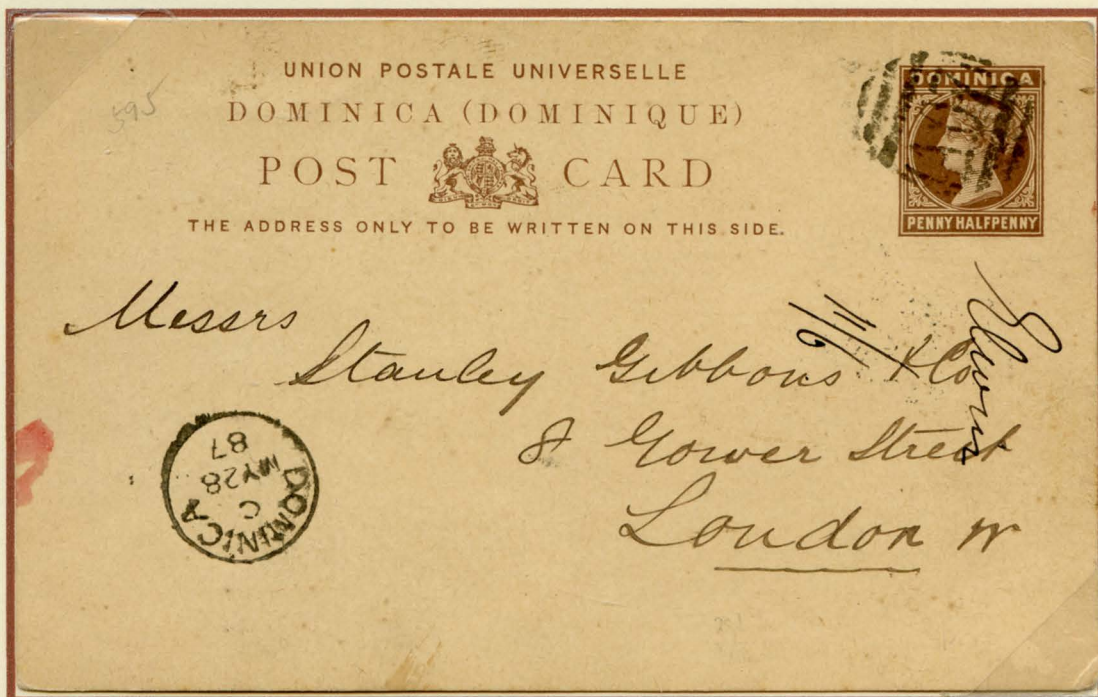
**Postal Stationery 1886 Queen Victoria**

**1d and 1 ½ d Postcards**

In March 1886, 1,114 1d and 1,114 1 ½ d cards were produced, of which 351 were overprinted "Specimen". Two more printings of 1,000 each made in 1887 and 1890.



21 May 1890 1d postcard from R Garraway to California offering to sell halfpenny overprinted stamps "all on original envelopes". Up-rated by ½ d to pay the 1 ½ d overseas postcard rate.



28 May 1887 1 ½ d postcard from E Elwin, a collector in Roseau, asking Stanley Gibbons for a price list, which was sent on 2 July.

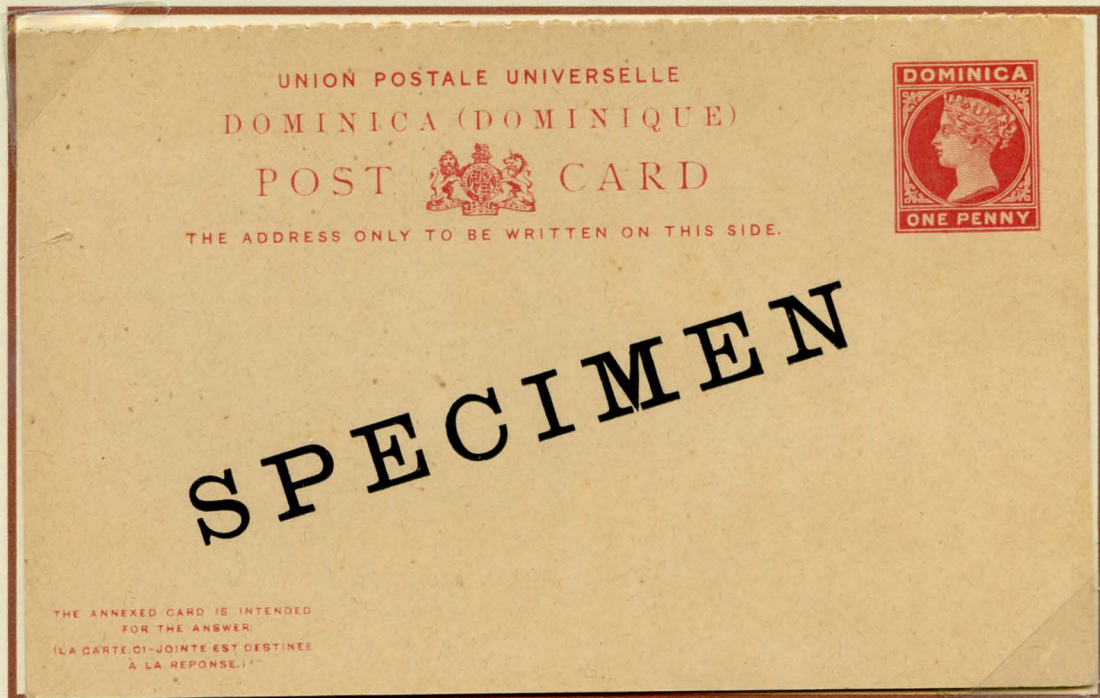


**DOMINICA**

**Postal Stationery 1886 Queen Victoria**

**1d and 1 ½ d Reply Postcards**

In March 1886, 1,144 1d and 1,138 1 ½ d cards were produced, of which 351 were overprinted "Specimen".



**SPECIMEN is found on both parts of the card.**



**As with the postage stamps, the Dominica postal stationery was withdrawn on 31 October 1890 and replaced by the general Leeward Islands type.**



# DOMINICA

## Postal Stationery 1903 Roseau

### ½ d and 1d Postcards

The Leeward Islands Stamp Act of 1902 authorised each of the Presidencies to recommence issuing their own stamps and postal stationery. The view of Roseau from the sea was used to create a broader range of stationery items, comprising post cars, envelopes, registered envelopes and wrappers.

Only 2,304 of the ½ d postcard were printed, once in 1903 and again in 1914.



19 Apr 1910 ½ d postcard from Dominica to Antigua, rate treated as internal.

There were six printings of the larger 1d card, 1903, 1905, 1909, 1914 (twice) and 1920. In all some 9,500 were printed.



6 April 1904 1d card of the first printing, written in German and sent from Portsmouth, via Roseau and New Orleans to San Jose, Costa Rica.

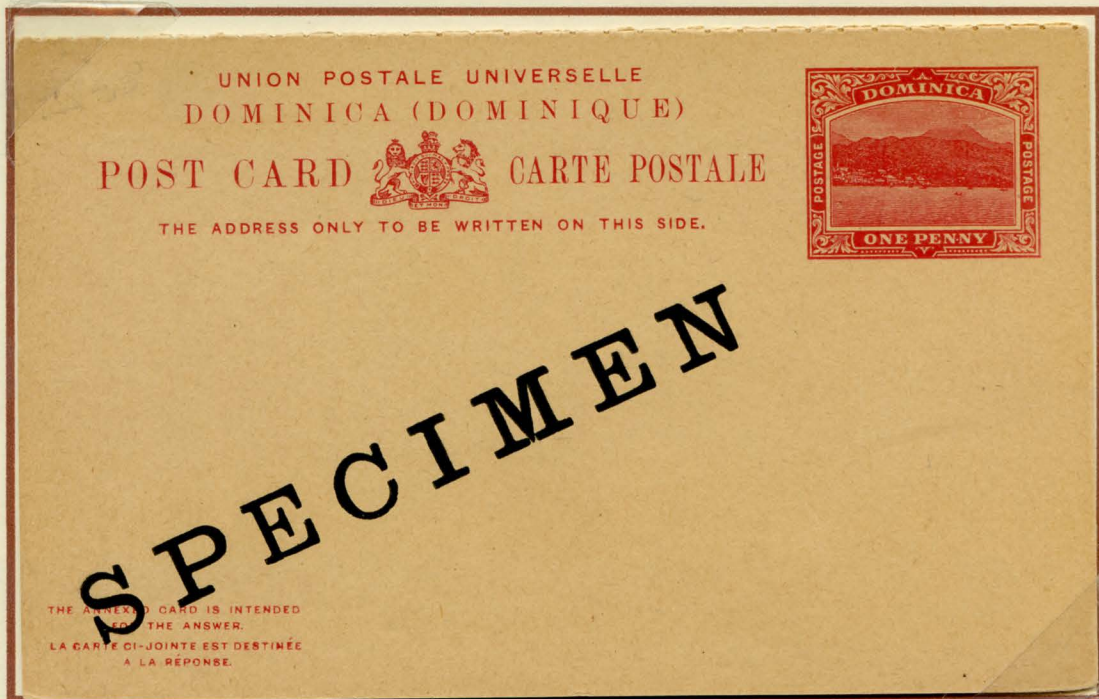


**DOMINICA**

**Postal Stationery 1903 Roseau**

**1d Reply Postcard**

Only 1d reply cards were made, there were two printings, one in 1903 and one sent in 1914, each of just over 1,000. It appears that UPU requirements led to as many as 727 being overprinted Specimen.



The reply part of the card can be found still attached on used items, an indicator of possible philatelic use, the idea was for the recipient to detach and send it back, as happened with the card below.



2 August 1910 card headed Pointe Michel, written in French and sent to Tournai, Belgium, and then redirected.

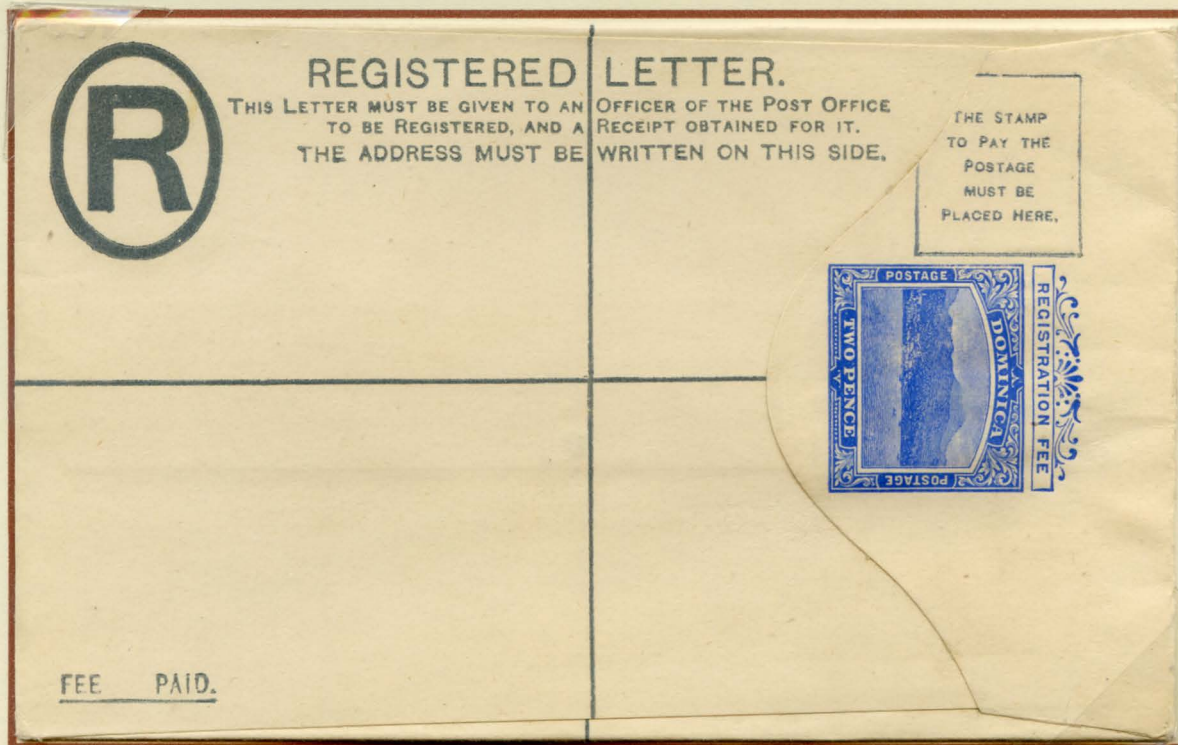


**DOMINICA**

**Postal Stationery 1903 Roseau**

**2d Registered Envelope**

One of the new stationery items was a registered envelope, printed with the registration fee paid as a view of Roseau in blue. Postage had to be added. Two sizes were produced, 1,275 of size G and just 225 of size H2.



An unused size G envelope.



28 July 1904 envelope to Austria, sent via London and reached Karlsbad on 12 August. Postage paid by three 1d stamps, which seems to be ½ d too much.



**DOMINICA**

**Postal Stationery 1903 Roseau**

**1d and 2 ½ d Postal Envelope**

Postal envelopes had also been introduced by the federal authorities and there were 6 printings of 5,000 each time of the 1d but just one of the 2 ½ d. The later was intended for letters to foreign countries, whilst the former was for within the empire.



28 June 1904 1d envelope from Wesley, to Cambridge, Portsmouth transit stamp of 29 June and GPO Dominica on 30 June, backstamped Cambridge 14 July.



25 July 1906 2 ½ d postal envelope to Holland, backstamped Eindhoven 14 August.

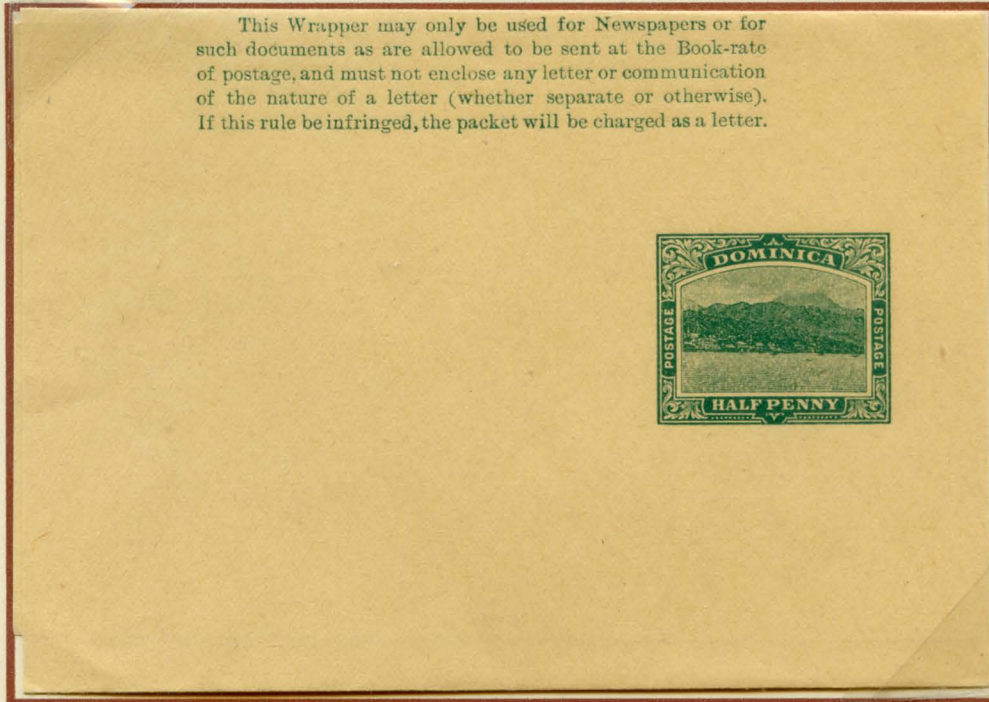


**DOMINICA**

**Postal Stationery 1903 Roseau**

**½ d and 1d Wrappers**

The other item of stationery was the postal wrapper, intended for newspapers, ½ d was due internally and 1d overseas.



An unused wrapper, there were six printings of the ½ d and in all 71,000 were produced.



4 July 1911 ½ d wrapper to St Joseph's, Barbados.

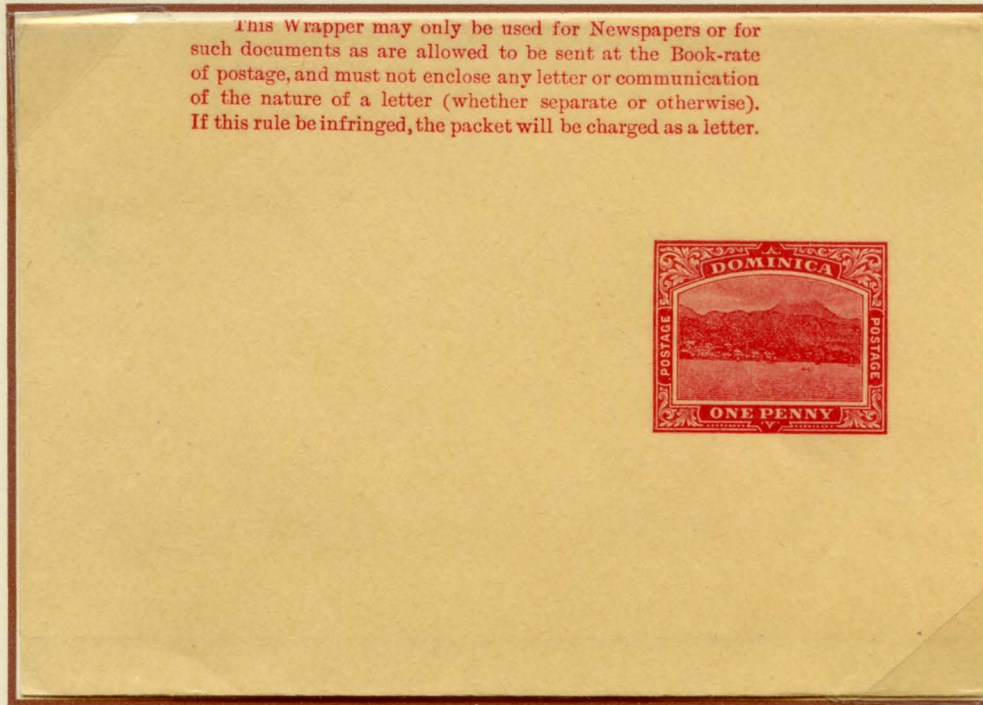


**DOMINICA**

**Postal Stationery 1903 Roseau**

**½ d and 1d Wrappers**

**There was only one printing of 3,080 of the 1d wrapper.**



**An unused wrapper.**



**5 April 1908 1d envelope to Germany.**

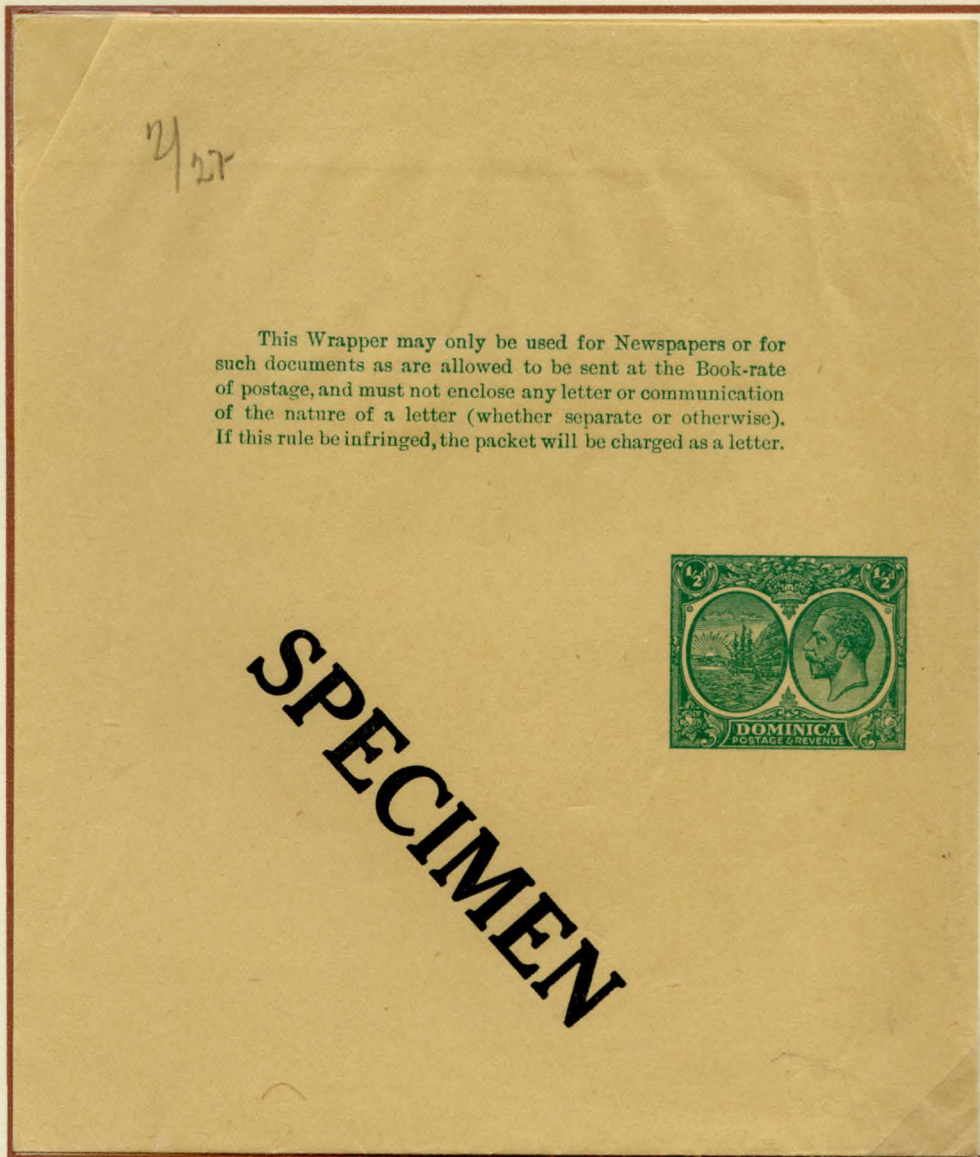


**DOMINICA**

**Postal Stationery 1926 King and Seal**

**½ d Wrappers**

After the first world war the demand for postal stationery declined and picture postcards increased in popularity. The only new design of King George V's reign was a ½ d with the two medallions showing the King's head and the seal of Dominica. 1,920 were produced and 418 overprinted Specimen.



Federal postal stationery continued to be produced until 1938 and a federal ¼ d wrapper was introduced at the same time as the above.

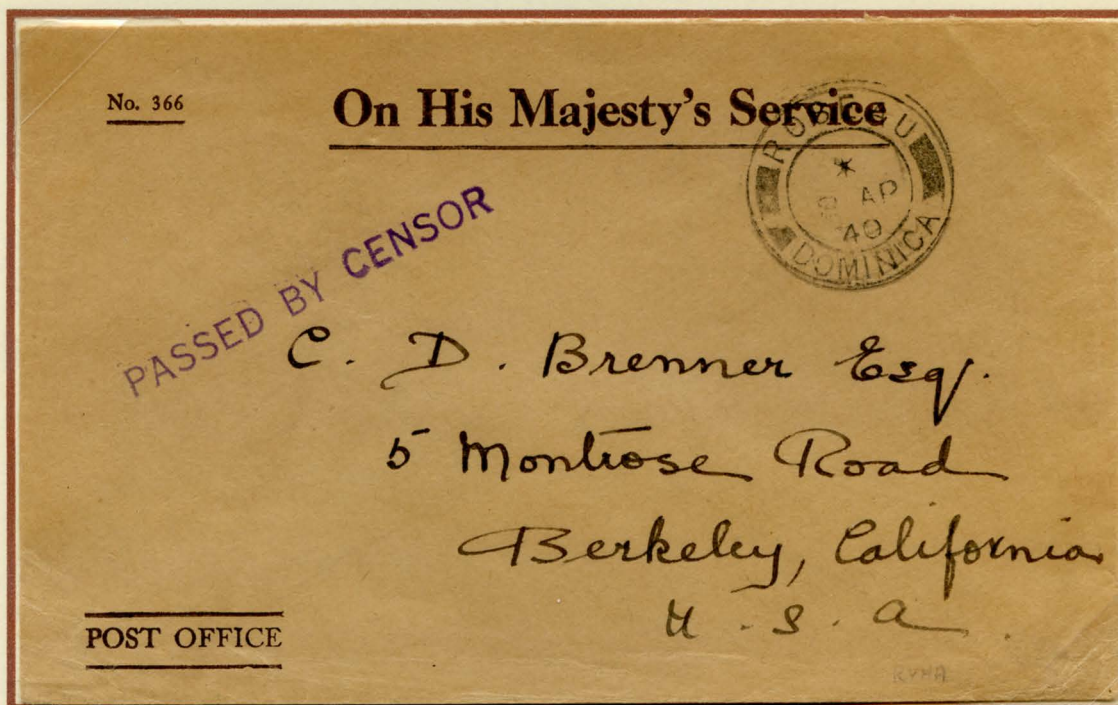


**DOMINICA**

**WWII Postal Censorship**

**PASSED BY CENSOR Handstamp – H2**

Postal censorship was introduced shortly after War broke out on 4 September 1939, the earliest markings recorded to date are from November 1939. Evidence of censorship could be indicated by a “Passed by Censor” handstamp or by use of a label to reseal the correspondence when opened, or both.



8 April 1940 OHMS envelope to California “Passed by Censor” – 52mm.



20 December 1941 envelope to Maine, USA “Passed by Censor”. Postage 3 ½d.



**DOMINICA**

**WWII Postal Censorship**

**PASSED BY CENSOR Handstamp – H2**



25 October 1941 airmail envelope to Canada “Passed by Censor” and with patriotic label on the back “Red + Fund Dominica, the safe arrival of this letter is due to the Royal Navy & the RAF”. Postage 1s 1d paid



5 May 1942 registered envelope to New York “Passed by Censor”. Postage 3 ½d, registration fee 3d.



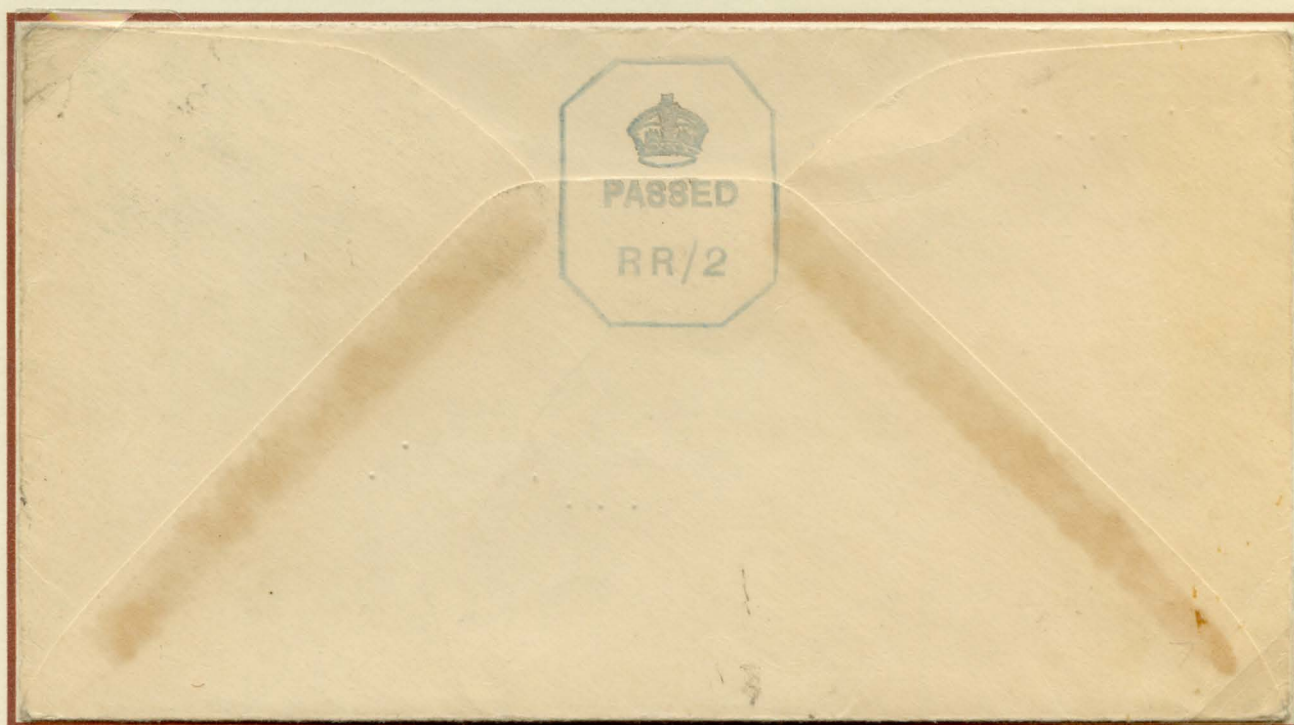
**DOMINICA**

**WWII Postal Censorship**

**Crown PASSED Handstamp – H3**

**A rare octagonal handstamp containing the crown the word “PASSED” and the censor code RR for Dominica is found occasionally.**

**The use below is some eighteen months before that normally given as earliest known use.**



**11 December 1943 envelope to Endicott, New York from Roseau, bearing this mark. Only ¾ d postage has been paid and the envelope is unsealed.**

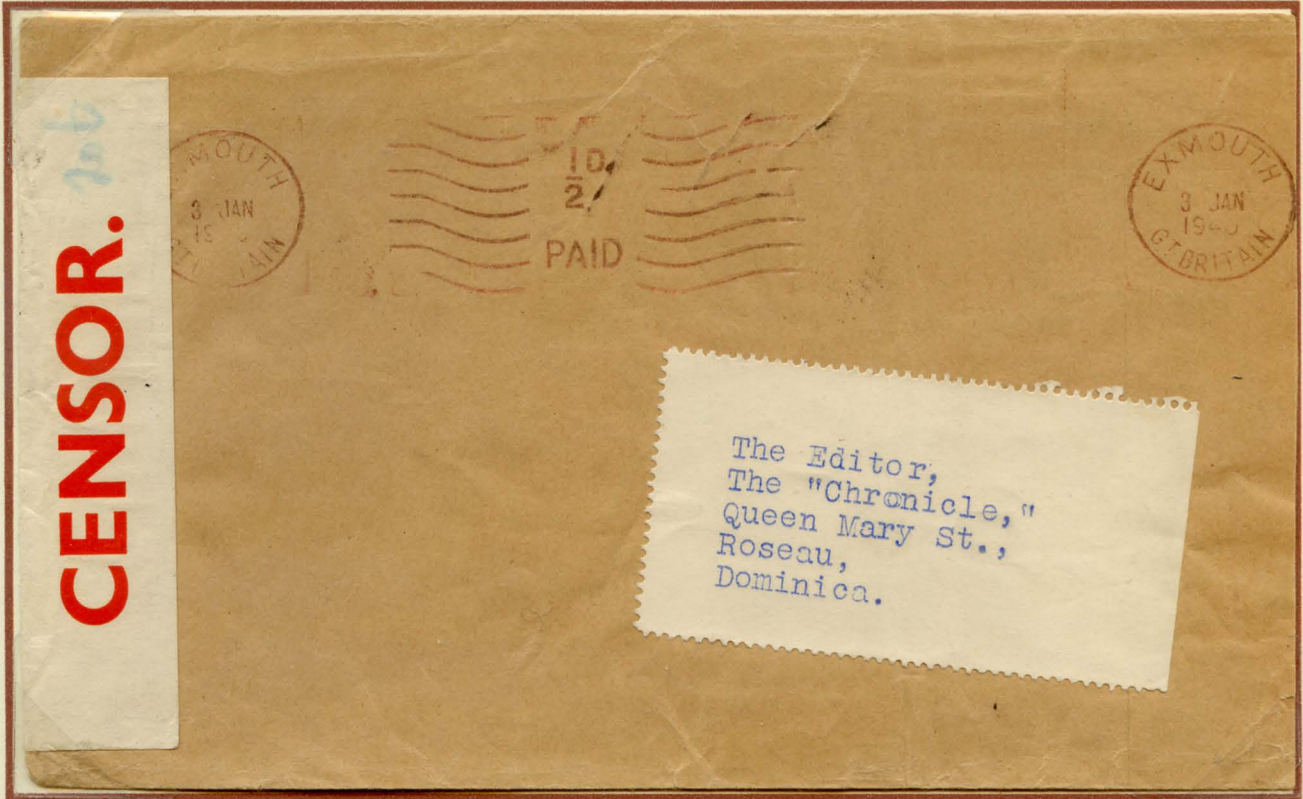


**DOMINICA**

**WWII Postal Censorship**

**OPENED BY CENSOR Label – L1a**

Gummed labels for resealing opened correspondence were introduced in 1940. The first labels, PC22 were printed in red and have thicker letters than the next type. These labels were applied to incoming and outgoing mail, here are two examples from 1940 predating the published earliest date by a year.



3 January 1940 envelope from Exmouth to Roseau, received there on 5 February, printed matter rate of ½d paid.



21 December 1940 envelope to Georgia, some two months before the recorded earliest date. The label is tied to the envelope on the reverse by a violet Handstamp H6, a circle with the date in the centre and the words “General Post Office” at the top of the circle and “Dominica Br. W.I.” at the bottom. Postage 3 ½d.



**DOMINICA**

**WWII Postal Censorship**

**OPENED BY CENSOR Label – L1b**

The second red gummed PC22 label was introduced in 1941 and the letters are taller and thinner, again the H6 handstamp often ties the label to the cover.



30 December 1941 envelope to Canada sent by Airmail at a cost of 1s 1d. Letter opened and resealed with second red PC22 label. Sent via Antigua, arr 1 Jan 1942.



16 March 1942 double rate airmail letter to Jamaica, via Antigua, postage 2s 3d. Second PC22 label tied to envelope by circular GPO datestamp.

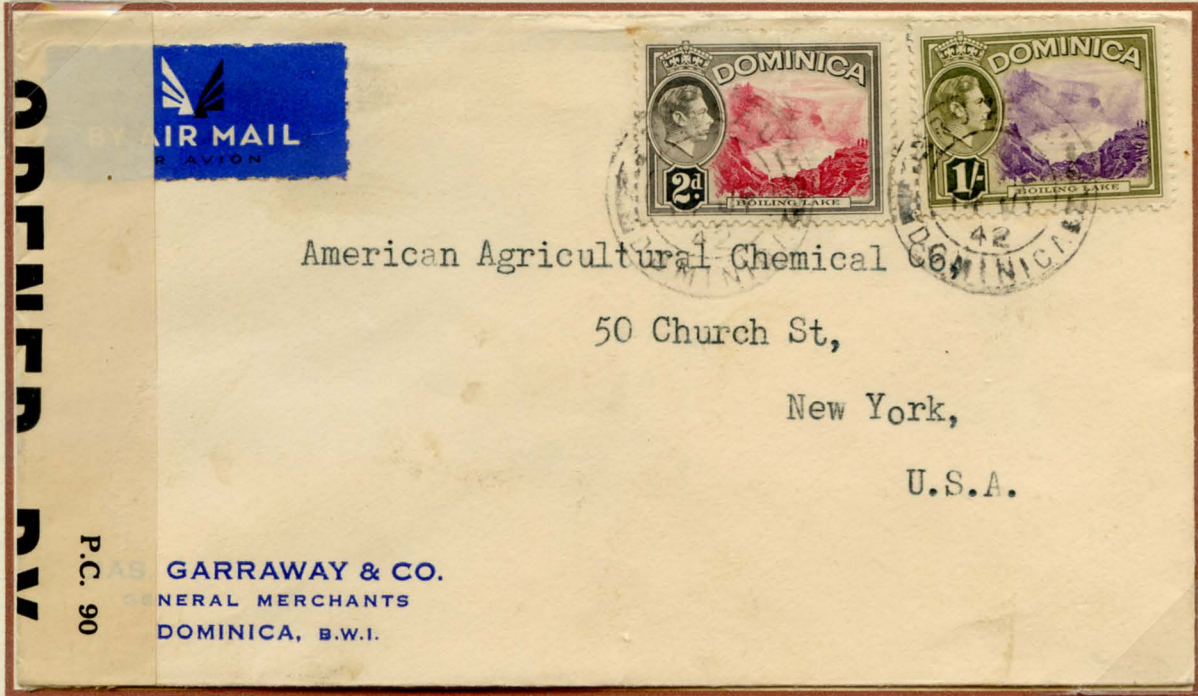


**DOMINICA**

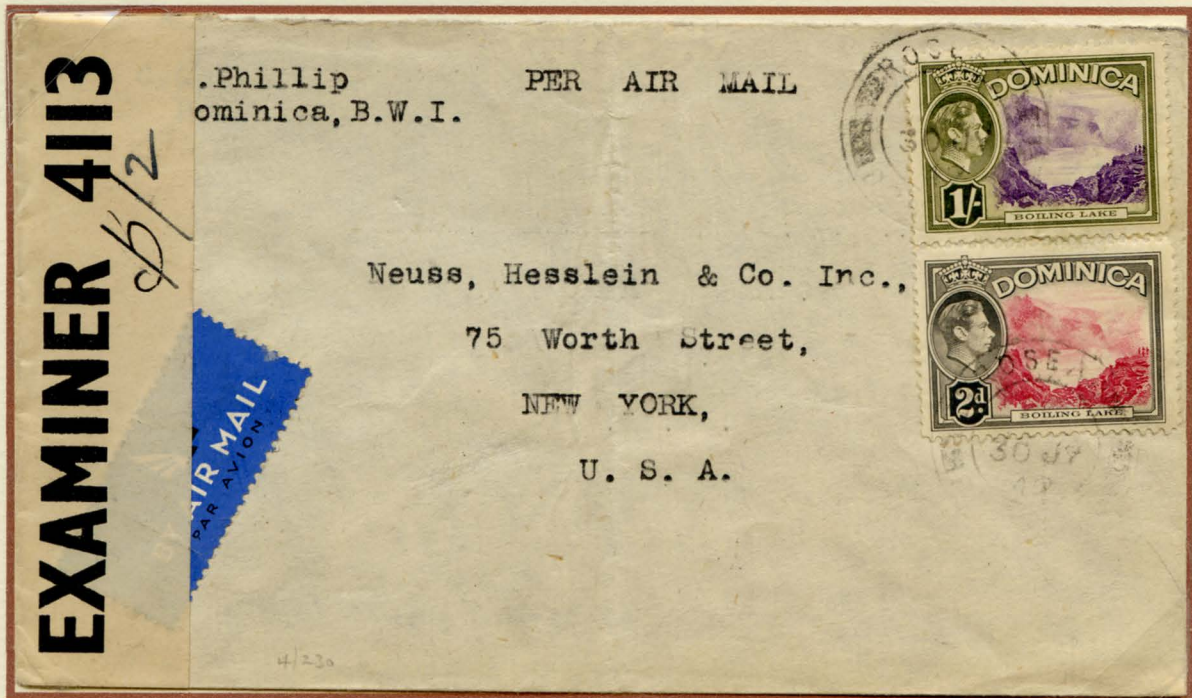
**WWII Postal Censorship**

**OPENED BY CENSOR – in Antigua**

During 1942 mail from Dominica to the USA is known censored in Antigua. The labels are of the PC90 type “OPENED BY EXAMINER 4113”.



14 July 1942 envelope to New York, airmail rate 1s 2d. Arrived Antigua 18 July and censored there, label has printed purple IB handstamp with a manuscript /2 suffix.



30 July airmail envelope to Maine, arrived St John's 7 August and censored there, this time there is a manuscript B/2 on the label.

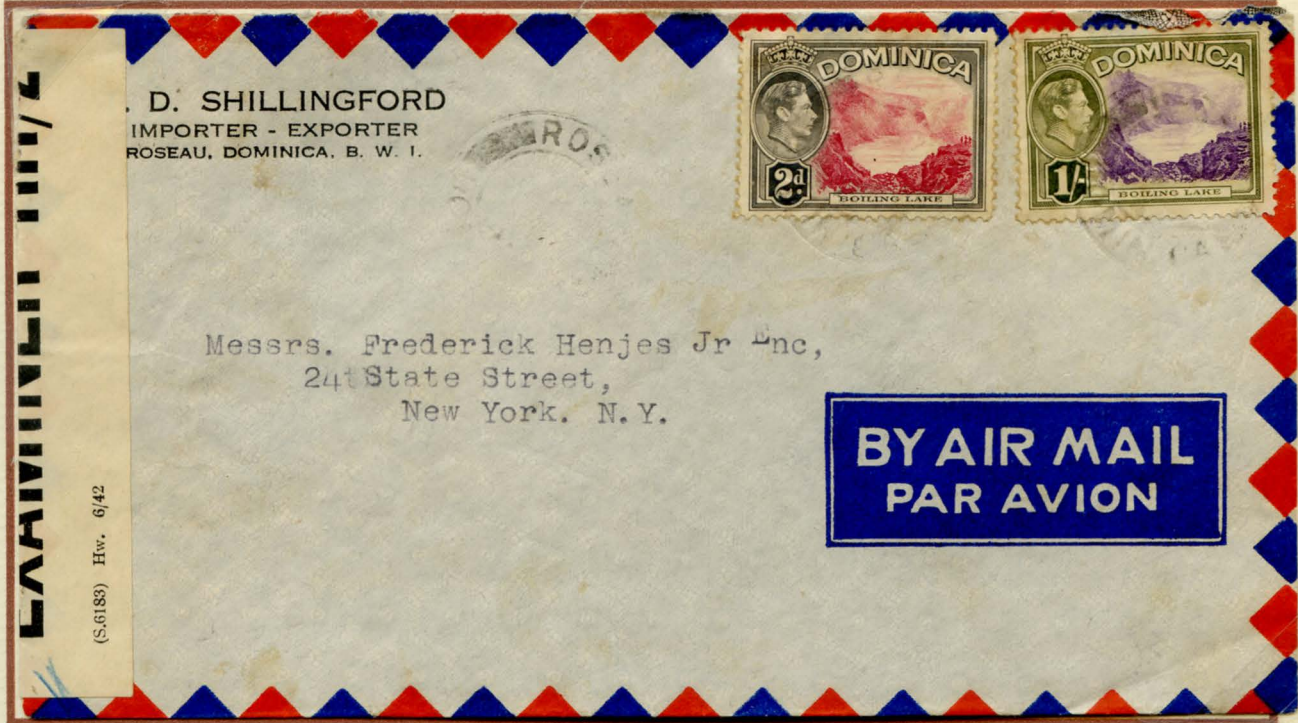


**DOMINICA**

**WWII Postal Censorship**

**OPENED BY CENSOR – Label L2**

The first PC90 labels used in Dominica seem to have been printed in June 1942 but are not recorded used before 1943. These first labels bear the Dominica “Code” RR and are recorded with a printed numeral suffix – either 1 or 2.



Airmail envelope of uncertain date to New York, rated at 1s 2d.



30 October 194(3) airmail envelope to Maine, also rated 1s 2d, with manuscript suffix 52, hitherto unrecorded.

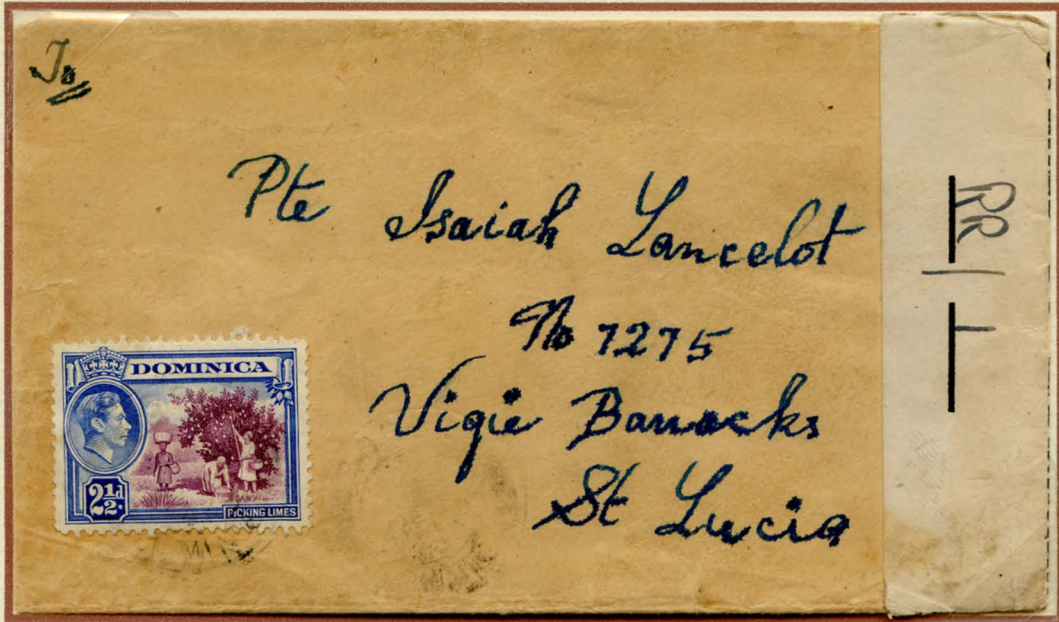


**DOMINICA**

**WWII Postal Censorship**

**OPENED BY CENSOROR – Label L3a**

From late 1943 generic PC90 labels were used with “Opened by Examiner” in one line and two straight lines on which the Country Code and the inspector’s number were to be written by hand, separated by a backslash.



This cover to St Lucia is on the earliest date recorded of 1 December 1943 and shows the mark of RR/1. Postage of 2 ½d.



22 December 1944 airmail envelope to Detroit, censor mark RR53. Airmail postage of 1s 2d – a rate shown on a number of covers and suggests that the airmail fee was still in addition to the surface postage, though there are other views.



**DOMINICA**

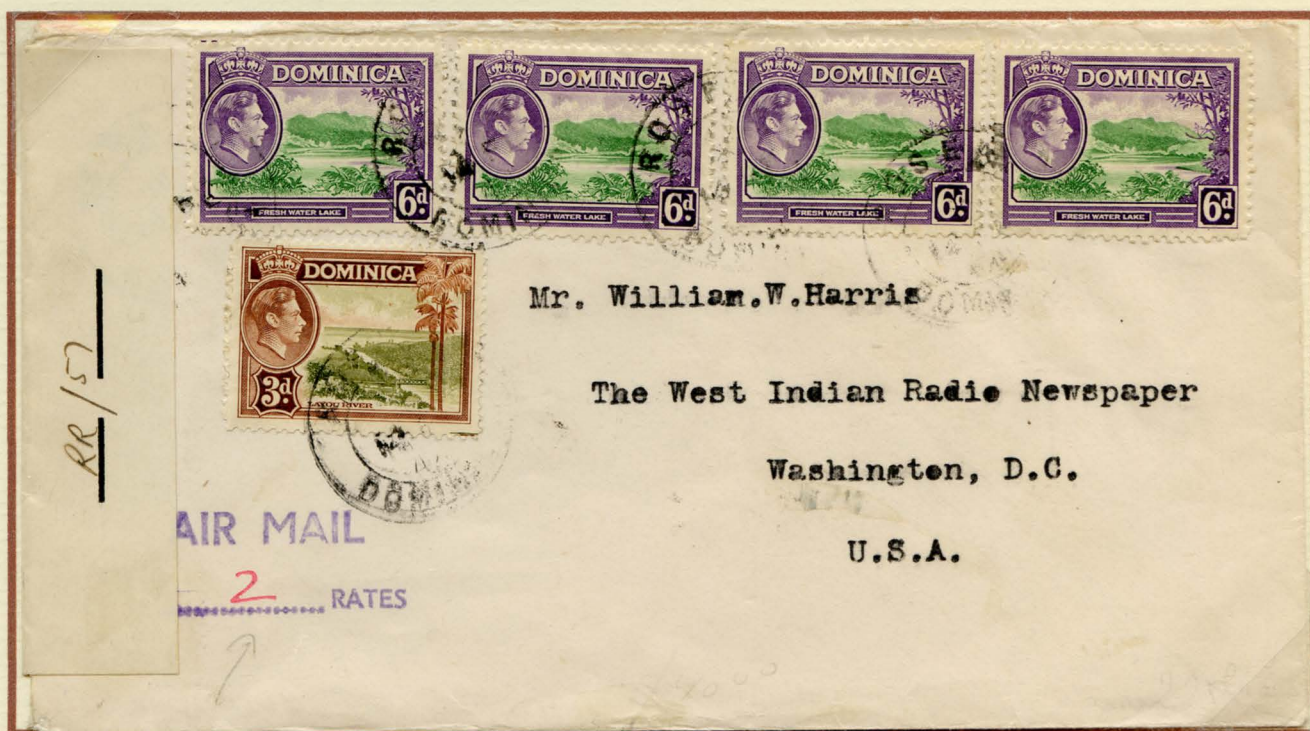
**WWII Postal Censorship**

**OPENED BY CENSOR – Label L3a**

At least sixteen different censor numbers are known, including the two below from which are not in the published lists.



21 September airmail letter to Quebec showing the mark of censor RR/21. Postage of 1s 1 ½ d, suggestive of 3d postage and 10½ d airmail fee.



14 April (?) 1944 airmail letter to Washington, with censor mark RR/57. 2s 3d double rate and with AIR Mail .... Rates handstamp. Again suggests the airmail fee was in addition to the surface postage.

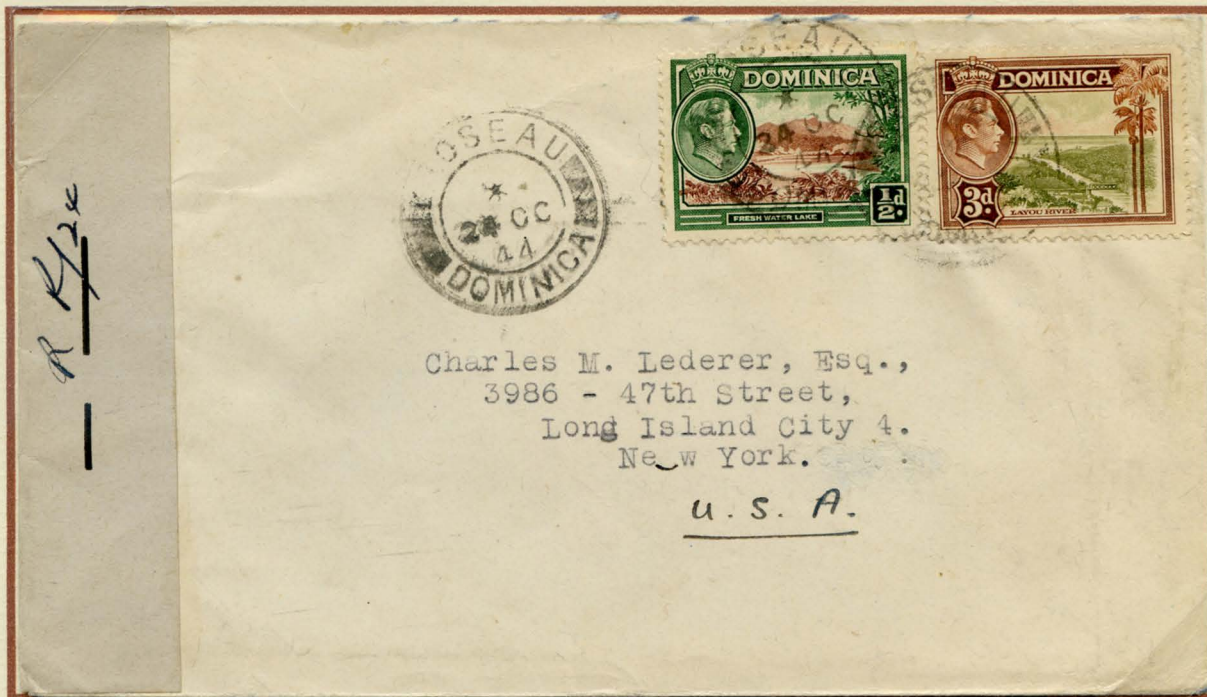


**DOMINICA**

**WWII Postal Censorship**

**OPENED BY CENSOR – Label L3b**

A slightly different P90 label is known used by 8 censors, only two of which, 18 and 21, are recorded on both types. The easiest way to distinguish the two is by the length of the first horizontal bar, which is only 8mm long in this type against the 11mm of type 3a.



24 October 1944 envelope to New York, showing the previously unrecorded censor 24 mark. Surface postage 3 ½ d.



9 December 1944 airmail envelope to Canada showing another unrecorded number, censor 77; postage 1s 1½ d, which would seem to be surface postage 3 ½d and airmail fee of 10d.



**DOMINICA**

**WWII Postal Censorship**

**OPENED BY CENSOR – Label L4**

Antiguan PC90 labels were altered for use in Dominica, eight different censor numbers are recorded with no overlap, so far, recorded with the L3 numbers.



14 August 1944, double rate, registered, air mail letter to Canada rated 2s 1 ½d, censored by number 20 using modified Antiguan PC 90 labels. Double air rate (2x 10d), surface postage 2 ½d, registration fee 3d.



30 (July) 1944 airmail letter to New York, rated 1s 1 ½d and showing the previously unrecorded number of censor 27. Airmail fee 10d, surface rate 3 ½d.

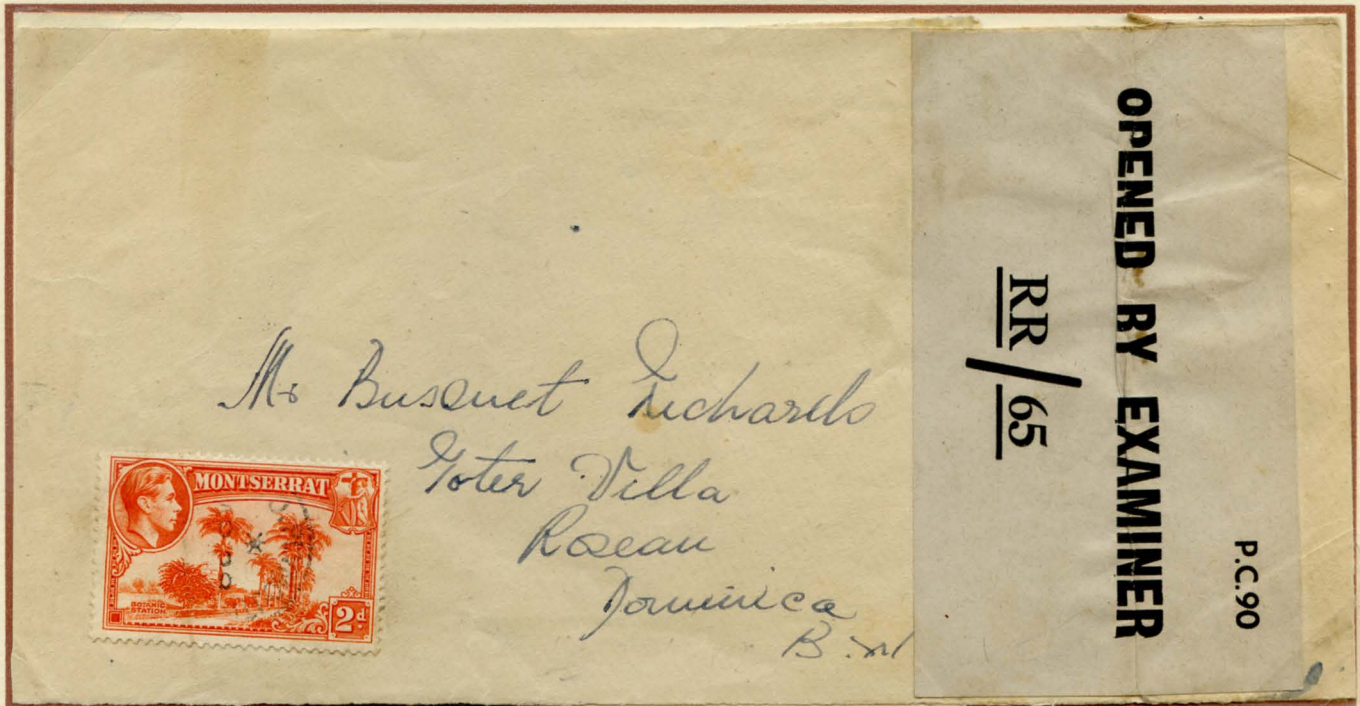


**DOMINICA**

**WWII Postal Censorship**

**OPENED BY CENSOR – Label L5**

In 1945 P90 labels with the examiners number printed on the label were introduced, to date four numbers have been recorded, two of which overlap with L3a numbers.



4 May 1945 letter from Montserrat to Roseau, censored on arrival by censor 65, label opened up for display.



23 July 1945 envelope from the Chief Censor in Dominica to this counterpart in Washington. This represents the latest use recorded thus far, surface postage 3 1/2d.





- National Capital (15,000 in 2001)
- main city
- other main city
- other city

# DOMINICA



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## ST ANDREW

Wesley 1875  
Woodford Hill 1958  
Lower Penville 1965

Vielle Case 1878  
Dos D'Ane 1959

Marigot 1903  
Pais Bouche 1962

Calibishie 1939  
Penville 1962

Anse de Mai 1958  
Thibaud 1962

New village cancels were introduced in the 1930's and are known as "Birmingham" after their place of manufacture. The first ones show a double circle containing, within the ring, the name of the village at the top and the colony at the bottom, the two separated by a block of black, an asterisk and the date are shown in the central circle.

The Vielle Case Birmingham is recorded used between 1938 and 1989.



3 January 1947 envelope to Staten Island; rated 3d.

Smaller post offices, opened in the late fifties or later, tended to be issued with single circle date stamps. Strikes from the Lower Penville post office are known from 1966 to 1988, but are very scarce.



27 June 1970 envelope to Radio Antilles, based in Montserrat.



## ST DAVID

Castle Bruce 1875  
Atkinson 1958  
Tranto 1970

Rosalie 1875  
Riviere Cyrique 1959

Sans Saveur 1949  
Morne Jaune 1960

Salybia 1954  
Petite Soufriere 1962

Grand Fond 1958  
Good Hope 1967

St David's parish contains a number of smaller offices and here are single circle cancels from two villages that are rated as very scarce.



1 November 1963 registered envelope from Grand Fond to California, rated 28cents. This cancel is known from 1958 to 1980, this is the Proud type example.



19 November 1970 envelope to Radio Antilles. The Good Hope postmark is known used from 1967 to 1983.



## ST DAVID - ROSALIE

The post office at Rosalie was one of the oldest on the island and served the Rosalie estate, one of the largest on the island. Between 1936 and 1955 it used a single circle datestamp without asterisk.



The final date recorded is 1 April 1955 as shown on this registered airmail envelope to Texas and rated at 73 cents.

From then until 1958 when the estate was sold an unusual single circle datestamp was used, with Asterisk but without the name of the colony. These are rated very scarce.



18 July 1959 envelope to Roseau postage 6c paid.

The Rosalie estate has reopened in 1999 as a boutique hotel.



## ST PATRICK

La Plaine 1884  
Pichelin 1956

Grand Bay 1884  
Belvue Chopin 1959

Delices 1896  
Tete Morne 1960

Petite Savanne 1949  
Boetica 1960

Fond St Jean 1956  
La Roche 1967

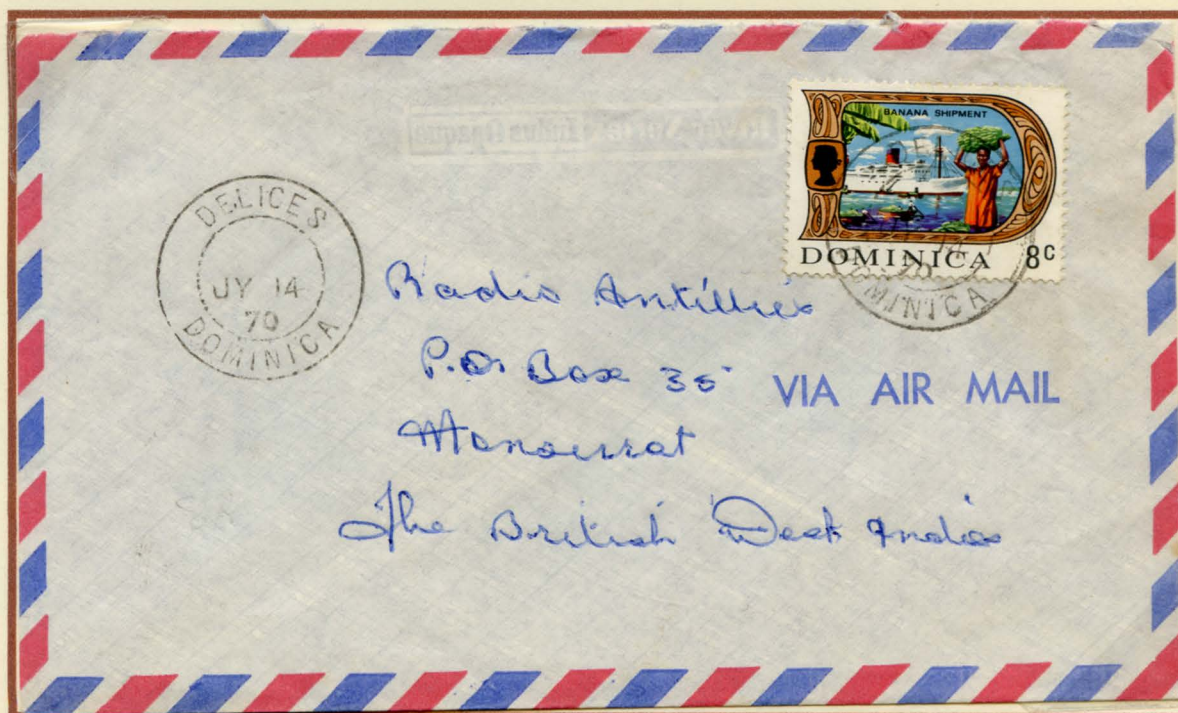
Later types of Birmingham date stamps are found either without the block of colour "Open Birmingham" or with a line instead of a block of colour "New Birmingham".

New Birmingham datestamp of Fond St Jean, use recorded from 1957 until 1992.



25 November 1968 airmail letter to California, rated 30 cents.

Open Birmingham datestamp of Delice, in use from 1960 until 1993.



14 July 1970 airmail radio request to Montserrat, rated 8c.



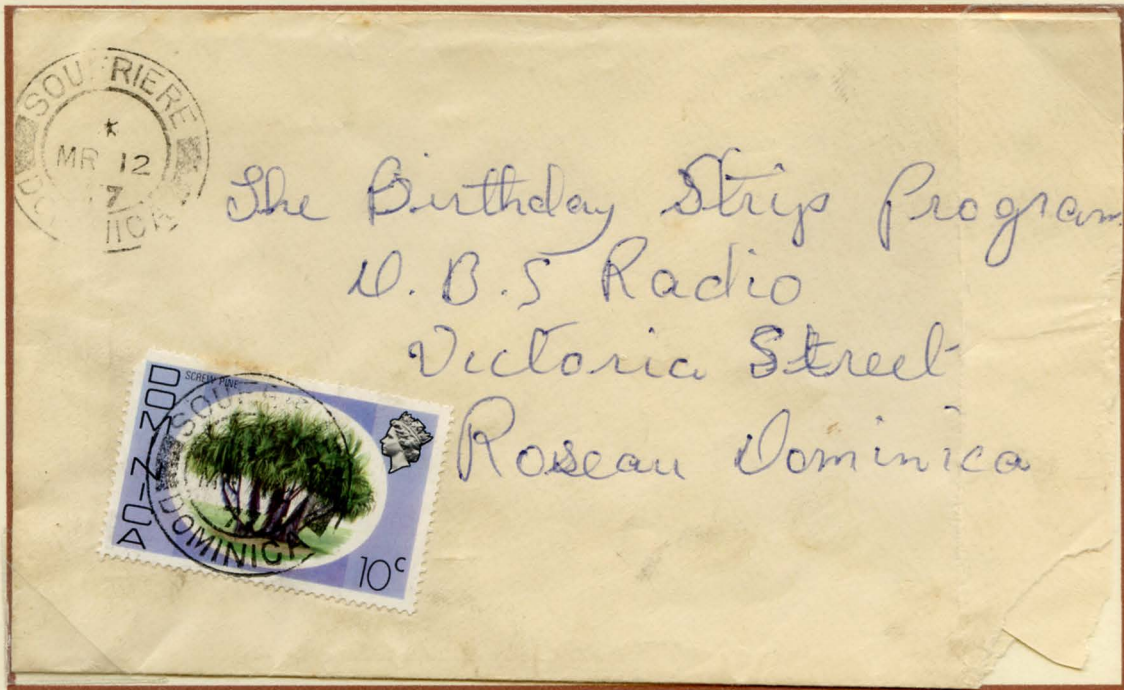
## ST MARK

Soufriere 1884

Scott's Head 1964

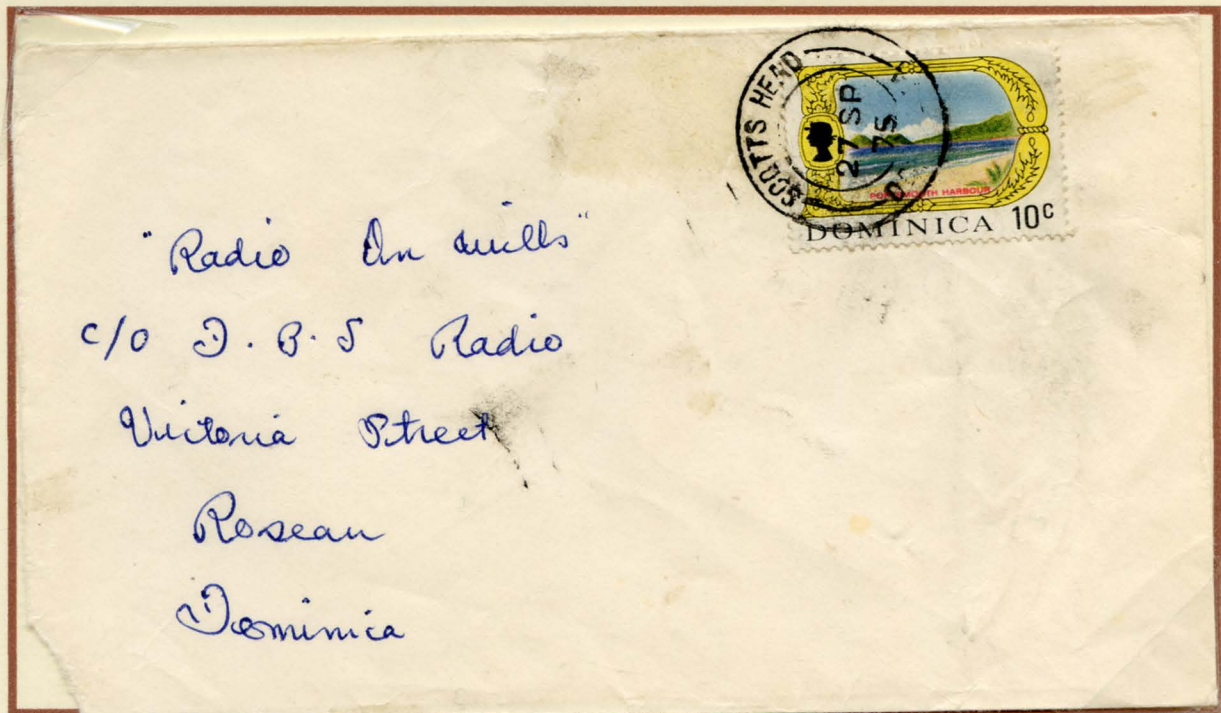
The small parish of St Mark only has two post offices.

Old Birmingham datestamp of Soufriere, in use between 1936 and 1993.



12 March 1977 local radio request envelope to Roseau, rated 10cents.

New Birmingham datestamp of Scott's head, used between 1965 and 1982.



27 September 1975 local radio request, also rated 10 cents.



## ST LUKE

Pointe Michel 1884

Pointe Michel was opened in 1884 when the system of parish offices was first created, no other post offices have been opened in this parish.

The original single circle with asterisk date stamp remained in use until 1935.



28 February 1929 part registered wrapper to Glasgow bearing King and Seal 3s.

In 1936 this was replaced by an Old Birmingham datestamp, in use until 1983



6 December 1948 registered airmail envelope to California, rated 1s 1/2. Note the village registered rubber datestamp introduced in village post offices in 1946.



# ST GEORGE

Roseau 1762  
Morne Prosper 1960

Giraudel 1956  
Wotten Waven 1967

Loubiere 1956

Trafalgar 1956

Laudat 1956

Roseau is the capital of Dominica. Four new offices in this parish were opened in 1956, each was issued with a New Birmingham datestamp.



12 October 1965 airmail envelope to California, airmail rate 28 cents, showing the very scarce Laudat New Birmingham datestamp, which remained in use until 1981.



14 January 1970 airmail radio request to Montserrat, airmail rate 10 cents, showing the scarce Loubiere New Birmingham datestamp, which remained in use until 1981.



# ST PAUL

Mahaut 1898

Massacre 1956

Cochrane 1956

Roger 1968

1956 also saw the first expansion of the service in this parish. The village of Massacre commemorates a massacre of Carib's in 1674.



3 April 1971 airmail radio request to Montserrat, rated at 10cents and showing the very scarce New Birmingham datestamp of Massacre.



28 November 1968 airmail envelope to California, rated 30 cents and showing the unusual single circle datestamp of Roger post office – there is no country indicated in the lower portion.

A short lived datestamp recorded first in April 1968 and only in use until April 1972 when the postmistress died and was no replaced.



# ST JOSEPH

St Joseph 1875  
Mero 1965

Coulibistrie 1898

Salisbury 1949

Bell 1955

Morne Rchette 1964

This parish features two nineteenth century post offices as well as two small post offices opened in 1965, which have the only Elizabethan postmarks classified as Rare.



16 October 1963 airmail envelope to California, rated 28cents and showing the rare New Birmingham of Bell, this office closed in January 1965.



27 November 1968 National Day issue used on envelope to Massachusetts, rated 30 cents, and showing the rare single circle datestamp of Mero.



**ST PETER**

Colihaut 1875

Dublanc 1894

Bioche 1965

Dublanc received an Old Birmingham datestamp that remained in use until 1992



10 November 1972 airmail letter to Montserrat, rated 8 cents and showing the scarce Dublanc Old Birmingham datestamp.

Colihaut used a single circle datestamp from 1900 until 1971, the cover below extends the recorded daterange by three months.



1 July 1971 airmail radio request to Montserrat, rated 8 cents.



# ST JOHN

Portsmouth 1875

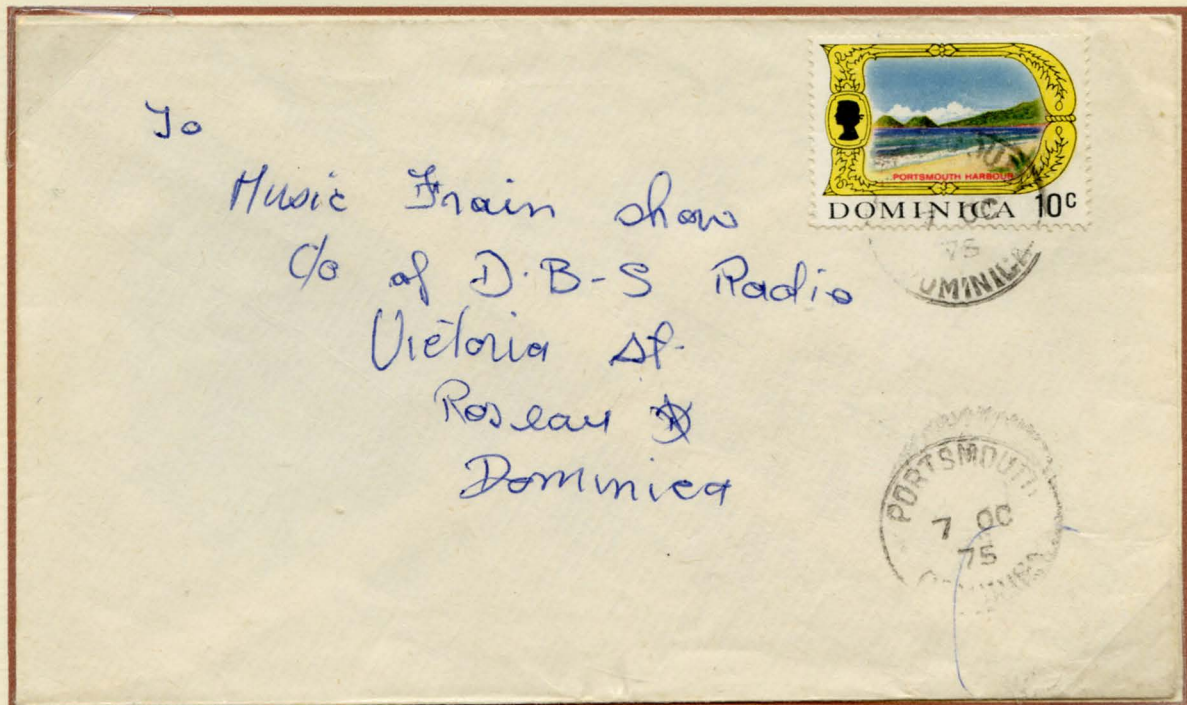
Clifton 1962

Tan Tan 1965

St John's contains the second town of the island – Portsmouth. Portsmouth had an Old Birmingham datestamp and a single circle datestamp which were in use at the same time.



3 August 1977 radio request, rated 10 cents, and showing the Portsmouth Old Birmingham datestamp recorded in use between 1937 and January 1978.



7 October 1975 radio request, rated 10 cents, showing single circle datestamp in use from 1955 until 1993.