

# The Stamp Reporter.

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## The Stamps of Great Britain.

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The postal names of Great Britain are for many reasons more interesting than those of any other part of the world. Commencing in 1840 the 1d. black, with stars in corners (it was imperforated and finely engraved on white paper) was probably the oldest adhesive stamps ever issued, with the exception, perhaps, of one or two doubtful locals. During the same year it was issued provisionally with V. R. in upper corners instead of stars. This variety is worth about \$75 unused, and over \$100 used. The ordinary 1d. black is worth about 8 cents used and \$2 unused. A 2d. blue stamp of the same design as the 1d. was in use at this time, having no white lines under the word postage.

The next penny stamp (1841) bore the same design as the 1840 issue, but was printed in a brick-red color and can be obtained on white or blue paper, the blue being caused by a chemical action of the gum. This stamp has been seen rouletted. In the 2d. blue stamps of this issue white lines were inserted under "postage" and over "twopence."

In 1854 the first machine perforated stamps were issued: they

were the same as the preceding series in color, design and value, but, as I have said, were perforated (small 16). They can be found on white and blue paper, and have a very small crown watermark. Unused specimens of 1d. red, on red, are very rare. The same year the perforation was made larger (size 14) and also the watermark changed to a much larger crown, easily distinguished. These can also be found on blue paper. The 1d. red of this set exists in many shades, from a light rose to a yellowish brown. Specimens of these stamps can be found with small perforation and large crown watermark and vice-versa, though they are not common.

Next after the above came the octagonal stamps, which are generally put down as one set, although issued at different periods. They consist of the 6d. lilac, issued in 1854, 10d., brown, issued in 1848, 1s., green, issued in 1847, (Dates subject to correction.) These stamps are very rare in the unused state.

Now we have the first stamps issued with plate numbers. These were the 1d. red and 2d. blue, of the same design as 1840 and 1854, with large perforations, large crown and watermarks and various plate numbers. In the 2d.