

# Gibraltar Study Circle Annual Competition

## ENTRY FORM

(To be completed by the entrant – One form per entry)

Name .....Eric D Holmes.....

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Brief description of entry

**The Design, Approval, Production & Specimens stamps of the 1898 Queen**

**Victoria adhesive stamp issue with British Sterling currency values.**

**Class: (Tick appropriate box)**

<b>Class – No. of sheets</b>	<b>No of sheets in the entry</b>	<b>Tick</b>
1. <b>Premier</b> (Advanced) (32 sheets or more)		
2. <b>Postal History</b> (16 sheets maximum)		
3. <b>Traditional (Adhesives)</b> (16 sheets maximum)	16	√
4. <b>QEII</b> (16 sheets maximum)		
5. <b>GB used in Gibraltar</b> (16 sheets) maximum)		
6. <b>Miscellaneous</b> (16 sheets maximum)		

**Notes:**

All sheets to be sequentially numbered.

This form and your exhibit should be sent to WebMaster (Mr S Lawrence – [therockeditor@outlook.com](mailto:therockeditor@outlook.com)) by the 30<sup>th</sup> June.

# QUEEN VICTORIA 1<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 1898 ISSUE

The depreciation in the Spanish currency as a result of the Spanish-American War was causing a serious problem with the exchange rate between Spanish and English currency in Gibraltar.

The following Order in Council was promulgated in the "Gibraltar Chronicle and Official Gazette" on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1898:

## GOVERNMENT NOTICE

His Excellency the Governor desires to notify for public information that Orders in Council have been approved by Her Majesty making British Sterling Silver legal tender in Gibraltar under the conditions of the Coinage Act 1870.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1898, all postage fees will be payable in British Money and Stamps having the duties expressed in Spanish currency will cease to be valid in prepayment of postage in Gibraltar.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October next, both days inclusive, unused postage stamps having the duties expressed in Spanish currency will be repurchased at the Post Office at their face value, provided that these stamps be not soiled or otherwise damaged, and that they are presented in strips of no less than two.

The new postage stamps, etc, with sterling duties will be on sale on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1898.

By command  
H.M. JACKSON,  
Colonial Secretary

The stamps of the ½d; 1d; and 2½d values were printed from the same plates as the December 1886 values, but the green of the ½d was much darker; the 1d rose much brighter and the 2½d a very bright ultramarine. These stamps were printed in sheets of 240, 4 panes from Plate 1, with no Jubilee lines. The other values – 2d; 4d; 6d and 1/- were printed in two panes of 60 each from a new 1895 Keyplate No.2, with the Jubilee line (which reduced the wear at the pane edges). They were printed bi-coloured with the duty plate being in a different colour to the head plate.

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The following sheets show the Design, Approval, Production & Specimens stamps of this Queen Victoria stamp issue with British Sterling currency values.

### References:

*"Postage Stamps of Gibraltar"* by Geoffrey E Duveen, 1932.,

*"Posted in Gibraltar – An illustrated Postal History on Gibraltar, by W Hine-Haycock, 1978.*

*Gibraltar Stamps – Design; Approval; Production, & Specimens of Three Reigns, Paul Kayfetz,*

## Die Proofs

During the stages of engraving of a die, it was necessary to take proofs to check the work. These are referred to as progressive die proofs. On the completion of the die, proofs were taken before it was hardened, these were generally in black on white glazed card, and usually stamped with the date and inscription "**BEFORE HARDENING**". Once approved, the die was hardened and a further set of die proofs, also in black on white glazed card, were taken and usually stamped with the date and the inscription "**AFTER HARDENING**".

In 1886 De La Rue had produced separate designs and plates for three low values, ½d, 1d and 2½d as it was thought that there would be a considerable demand from the local mails, Spanish mails and mails from the large garrison.

### 1886 DIE PROOFS



Halfpenny value printed in black on glazed card of complete design stamped **BEFORE HARDENING** and dated 3 MAY 86.

③



One penny value printed in black on glazed card of complete design stamped **BEFORE HARDENING** and dated 30 APR 86.

③



③

Two pence Halfpenny value printed in black on glazed card of complete design stamped **BEFORE HARDENING** and dated **27 APR 86**.



③

Two pence Halfpenny value printed in black on glazed card of complete Design stamped **BEFORE HARDENING** and dated **30 APR 86 86.Y 86**.

**Die proofs pulled after the approved engravings were heat hardened, initialed (faintly) "G.N." by De La Rue staff before being placed in the records.**



①

Halfpenny value printed in black on glazed card of complete design stamped **AFTER HARDENING** and dated **11 MAY 86**.



One penny value printed in black on glazed card of complete design stamped **AFTER HARDENING** and dated **11 MAY 86**.



Two pence Halfpenny value printed in black on glazed card of complete design stamped **AFTER HARDENING** and dated **11 MAY 86**.

**Initialed die proofs from Printer's Files**



5 June 86 on the back



25 June 86 on the back

**Cut down die proofs of the three low values for use in printer's record books.**



## Key Plate Die Proof

The remaining four values, 2d, 4d, 6d and 1/- were to be produced from a single master head and frame die with separate dies for the respective duty values



③

Die proof of key plate master pulled after engraving for review before heat hardening of the steel die. Printed in black on glazed card of complete design stamped **BEFORE HARDENING** and dated **30 APR 86**.

## Printer's Record Book Die Proofs

All of De La Rue's Works Records were destroyed by bombing fires in 1940 with the exception of for two volumes of die proofs, an album of punches, and two Striking books. The latter detail the date and number of lead clichés struck from the hardened dies as each printing plate was prepared. The electrotype printing plates were then made from the assembled sets of 'leads'.



①

Duty plate proofs; notes indicate 60 leads struck from each on 6 July 1886

### Reconstruction of the 13 July 1898 Colour Trial Appendix

In 1898 the Crown Agents ordered stamps returning to values in sterling: De La Rue suggested the previous (1886) colours of the 2d and 1/- stamps should be changed. The Crown Agents requested a colour scheme for these two values plus the 6d, the bodies to remain the colour of the 1896 issues but with a choice of several different coloured values. On its own initiative De La Rue included choices for the 4d also (since this value had been printed with the same key plate as the other three).

13<sup>th</sup> July 1898

## Appendix



Two days later, on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1898 the Crown Agents selected the colours to be used, indicating them with cross marks. Thus, these major colour decisions were initiated by the printer and made in London without the colony's involvement.

[The appendix as it appeared before it was cut up in 1975. The twenty colour trials, which were sold individually to many buyers, have been reassembled here with the original text (copied from a pre-destruction colour slide).] ②

**U.P.U. SPECIMEN overprints**

750 copies of each value were supplied to the U.P.U. for distribution to member countries (five copies each). Complete sheets and large blocks were divided into strips before being forwarded. Surviving strips are very uncommon as over the years most have been separated into single stamps.



**Overprint varieties**



Top stamp in each pair – varieties i) Dot in 'C'; ii) Short right leg of 'N'



U.P.U multiples

Copies of stamps supplied to the U.P.U overprinted SPECIMEN can be found as – singles; pairs, triples or in fives, and the multiples can be either vertical or horizontal (less common).



**Gibraltar Post Office Issues**



**Gibraltar Post Office Exemplars (for local post offices/postmasters):**

**These were supplied by the Postmistress to local Postmasters in the region to rectify their lack of access to U.P.U. copies which were invariably held by a central authority.**



**SPECIMEN overprint (for English speakers)**

**MUESTRA overprint (for Spanish speakers)**



**ULTRAMAR overprint with post office cds extra security cancellation (for Cape Verde Islands)**

Value: HALFPENNY  
 Colour: Grey green  
 Watermark: Crown C A  
 Perforation: 14  
 Value date: 1 October 1898



U.P.U SPECIMEN



Issued adhesives



Four with inter-panneau margin.

**Plate Blocks**

The single colour ½d grey-green was printed from the original 1886 Plate no.1 and does not have a Jubilee line surrounding all the images.



From the bottom left pane



From the bottom right pane.

Dates of printing	Dates of printing	Dates of printing
August 1898	February 1899	January 1902
January 1899	March 1901	December 1902
No. printed		1,384,560

Value: ONE PENNY  
 Colour: Carmine  
 Watermark: Crown C A  
 Perforation: 14  
 Value date: 1 October 1898



U.P.U. SPECIMEN



Issued adhesives (from right hand pane showing interpanneau margin).



Pair with inter-panneau margin.

**Plate Blocks**

The single colour 1d carmine was printed from the original 1886 Plate no.1 and does not have a Jubilee line surrounding all the images.



From bottom right pane.

Dates of printing	Dates of printing	Dates of printing	Dates of printing
August 1898	January 1899	February 1899	October 1899
May 1900	August 1900	March 1901	January 1902
May 1902	December 1902		
No. printed		3,583,680	

Value: TWO PENCE  
 Colour: Brown purple & ultramarine  
 Watermark: Crown C A  
 Perforation: 14  
 Value date: 1 October 1898



U.P.U. SPECIMEN



Issued adhesives



Deep ultramarine value

**Plate Blocks**

The two colour 2d brown-purple was printed from the new 1895 Keyplate No.2 and has A Jubilee line surrounding all the images.



From the bottom right pane



From the bottom right pane

Dates of printing	No. printed
August 1898	144,600
January 1899	
January 1902	
May 1902	

Value: TWO PENCE HALPENNY  
 Colour: Bright ultramarine  
 Watermark: Crown C A  
 Perforation: 14  
 Value date: 1 October 1898



U.P.U. SPECIMEN



Issued adhesives



Inverted watermark

**Plate Blocks**

The single colour 2½d bright ultramarine was printed from the original 1886 Plate no.1 and does not have a Jubilee line surrounding all the images.



From the bottom right pane.

Dates of printing	No. printed
August 1898	589,440
January 1899	

Value: FOUR PENCE  
 Colour: Orange brown & green  
 Watermark: Crown C A  
 Perforation: 14  
 Value date: 1 October 1898



U.P.U SPECIMEN



Issued adhesives

**Plate Blocks**

The two colour 2d brown-purple was printed from the new 1895 Keyplate No.2 and had a Jubilee line surrounding all the images.



From the right hand pane

**Varieties**



Short 'F' in 'FOUR'.



Wide 'U' in FOUR.



'FOUR PENCE' trimmed at the top  
 Pl. 2, R6/4-5, R8/4-6

Dates of printing	No. printed
August 1898	65,640
March 1901	

Value: SIX PENCE  
 Colour: Violet & red  
 Watermark: Crown C A  
 Perforation: 14  
 Value date: 1 October 1898



U.P.U. SPECIMEN



Issued adhesives

**Plate Blocks**

The two colour 6d violet and red was printed from the new 1895 Keyplate No.2 and had a Jubilee line surrounding all the images.

**Variety**

Long bottom foot to second 'E' in SIX PENCE.



From the right hand pane



Dates of printing	No. printed
August 1898	36,000

Value: ONE SHILLING  
 Colour: Bistre & carmine  
 Watermark: Crown C A  
 Perforation: 14  
 Value date: 1 October 1898



U.P.U. SPECIMEN



Issued adhesives

**Plate Blocks**

The two colour 1/- bistre and carmine was printed from the new 1895 Keyplate No.2 and had a Jubilee line surrounding all the images.



From the left hand pane



From the right hand pane

Dates of printing	No. printed
August 1898	96,000
January 1899	