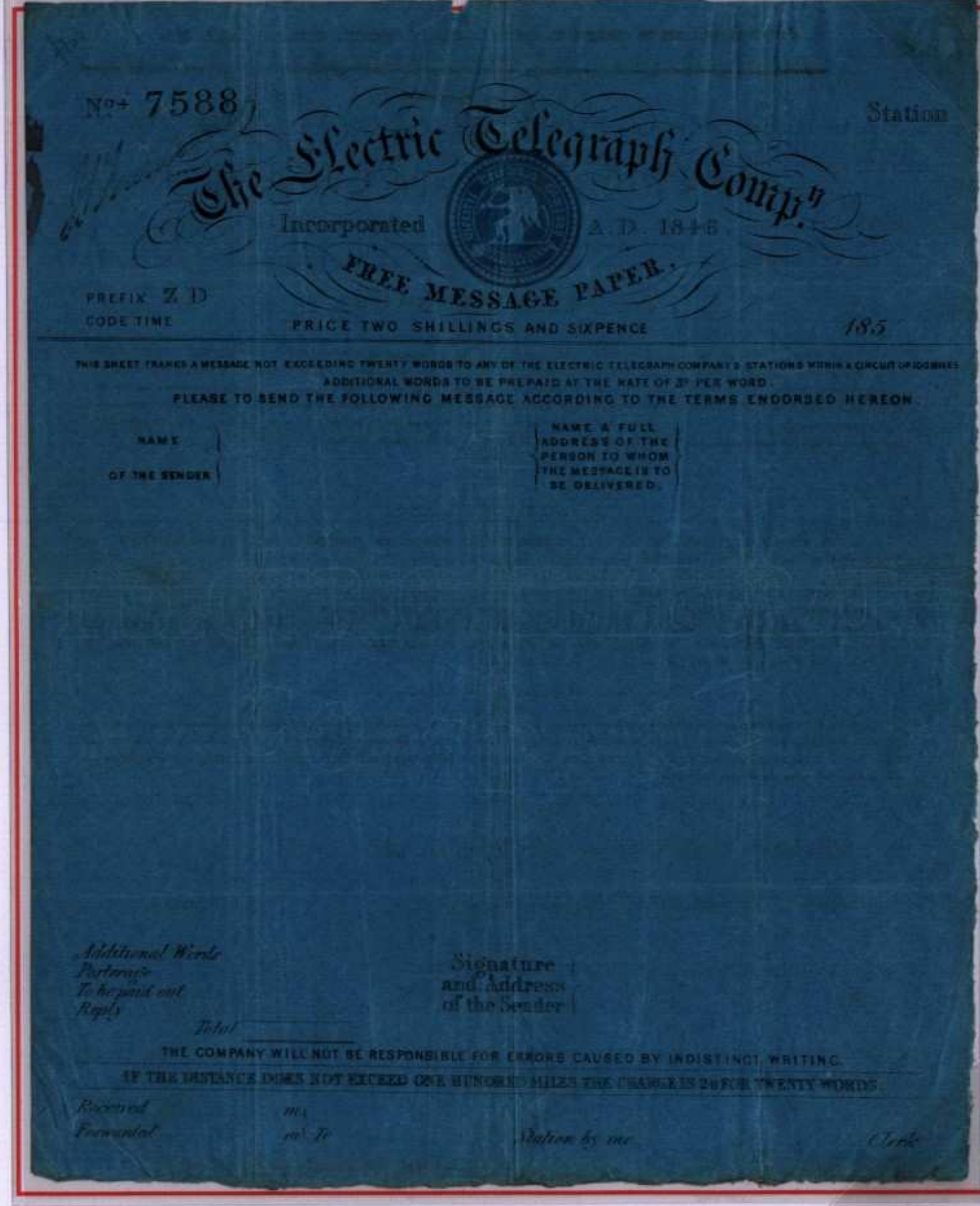


"Those who admire modern civilization usually identify it with the steam engine and the electric telegraph" – George Bernard Shaw.

The development of the telegraph service in the mid-nineteenth century allowed for a much faster communication than the postal service, with a delivery of messages in hours rather than days or weeks. The corresponding rapid growth of the railways throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland allowed the railway companies to be the first to adopt this new form of communication. They erected telegraph poles to run alongside their railway lines, primarily for their own use but later opened their service to the public as they realised the potential for increasing profits. This service was then expanded by a number of private telegraph companies, the first of these being "The Electric Telegraph Company" in June 1846. The directors and shareholders of the company were dominated by people involved in railway construction, and the company were the first to issue franked paper, followed by a series of stamps for the payment of telegrams sent by the public.

Morse, Cook, Wheatstone and Siemens all developed electric telegraph machines and the first commercial system was introduced in the United States in 1844 by Samuel Morse. Not long afterwards, "The Electric Telegraph Company" was founded in 1846 in the United Kingdom after they bought the Cook and Wheatstone patents for their electric needle telegraph. The company became operational after the passing of the Electric Telegraph Company Act of 1846 and the company later amalgamated with "The International Telegraph Company" in 1855 to become "The Electric & International Telegraph Company", both companies being promoted by the same financial interests.

The Electric Telegraph Company first produced stamped stationery with a franked message paper/forms issued in May 1851 for the London Exhibition held in Hyde Park. These were printed by Waterlow and Sons on handmade wove paper, watermarked with the name of the company in double-lined Roman capitals. Telegraph messages were limited to a maximum of twenty words each for the standard tariff rates but additional words could be added at a cost of 3d per word, with address and initials counted as full words.



**Exhibit Objective and Scope**

The objective of the exhibit is to demonstrate the "philatelic" evolution of the telegraphic service provided by the first British private telegraph company, "The Electric Telegraph Company" from its creation in 1846 until the company was bought by the British Post Office in 1870. This evolution includes the first British franked telegraph forms and the first British adhesive telegraph stamps (both for use within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland) and stamps dedicated for use on its Continental service.

- Exhibit Plan**
1. The Electric Telegraph Company Franked Message Papers 1851 & Large Adhesive Stamps 1854.
  2. The Electric and International Telegraph Company Small Adhesive Stamps (Series RG/JF) 1861
  3. The Electric and International Telegraph Company Small Adhesive Stamps (Series RG/HW) 1863.
  4. The Electric and International Telegraph Company Continental Stamps 1861.

**Bibliography**

1. P. Langmead & A. Huggins, "The Telegraph Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain 1851-1954", GB Philatelic Publications, 2003.
2. A. McDonald, "Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain, 1959."
3. R. Lister, "Private Telegraph Companies of Great Britain and Their Stamps, 1961."
4. S.E.R. Hiscocks, "Telegraph & Telephone Stamps of the World, 1982."
5. Bergdoll, H., "Telegraphs in Ireland", The Revealer (Eire Philatelic Society), pg. 53, Spring 2008.
- 6.

2s 6d Franked Message Paper with "Free Message Paper" instead of "Franked Message Paper", for use beyond 50 miles but within a circuit of 100 miles. This error sheet has control number 7588 at left above secretary's signature. The only other examples in private hands are control no. 7666 (Dr. Iain Stevenson Collection) and control no. 2824 which was reported by Sir Edward Denny Bacon in Post Office records and may still exist. Sir Edward Denny Bacon noted that these first message forms were among the greatest philatelic rarities.

Section 2. Small Adhesive Stamps

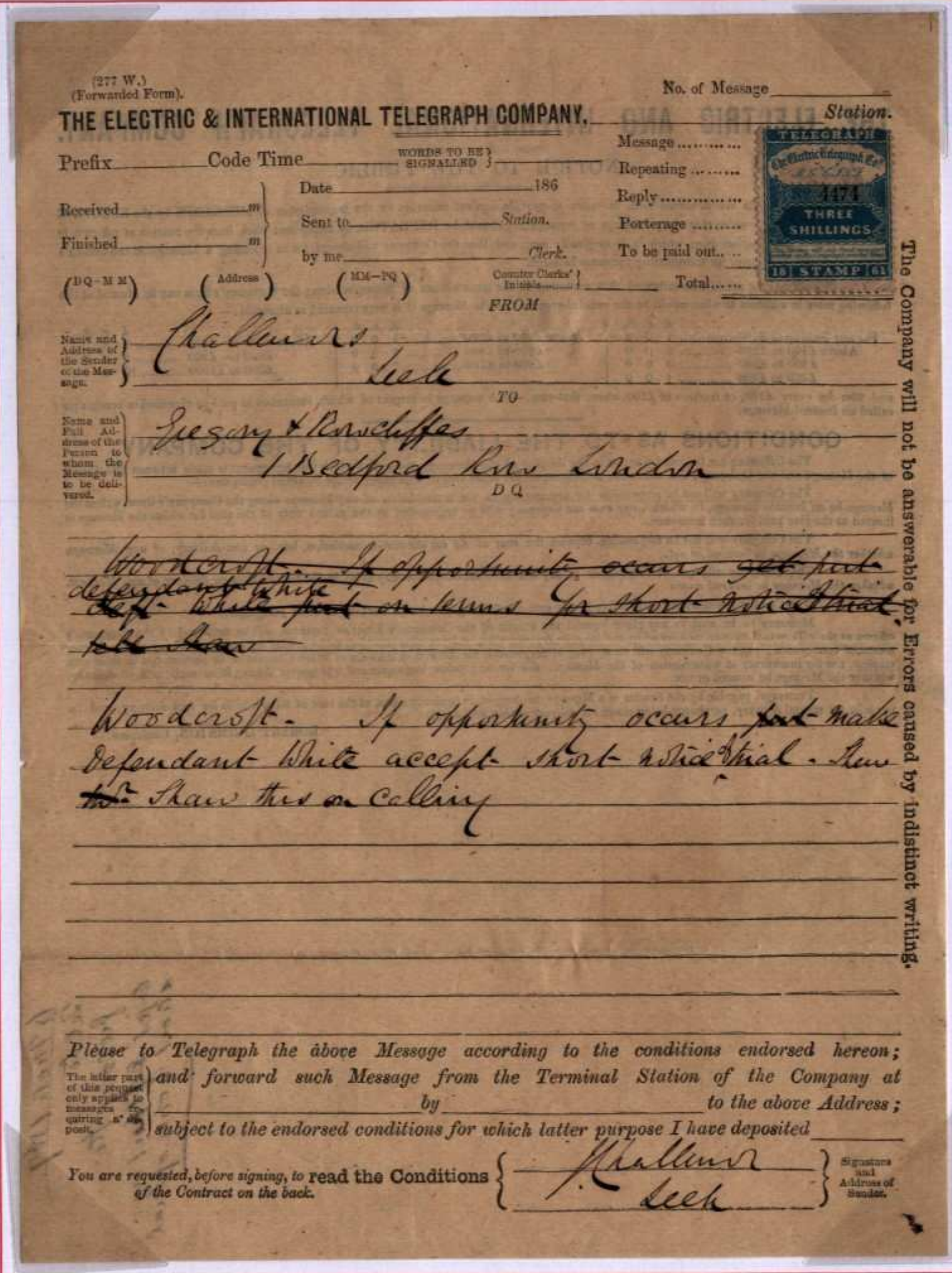
The next issue of stamps was designed by Charles Henry Jeens and engraved and lithographed by Waterlow & Sons, London (1861-1870), following a tender process for a more conventional 25mm x 32mm stamp requirement. The stamps bore the initials RG (Robert Grimston-Chairman from 1860) and JSF (J.S. Foulden-Secretary from 1861). A total of ten values were issued from 1861 to 1863, each with a different color according to the values: 3d (ochre), 6d (scarlet), 1s (orange), 1s 6d (rose), 2s (green), 2s 6d (brown), 3s (blue), 4s (black), 5s (purple) and 10s (brown). All stamps can be found with perforations 12 and 12½, except 6d and 10s which have perforation 12½ only. The 1s orange stamp was also issued with an A series where the letter A is included in the control number as part of the design and this series are also only reported to be proof samples by Langmead, whereas Lister and McDonald indicated these are likely to be remainders (Figure 5a).



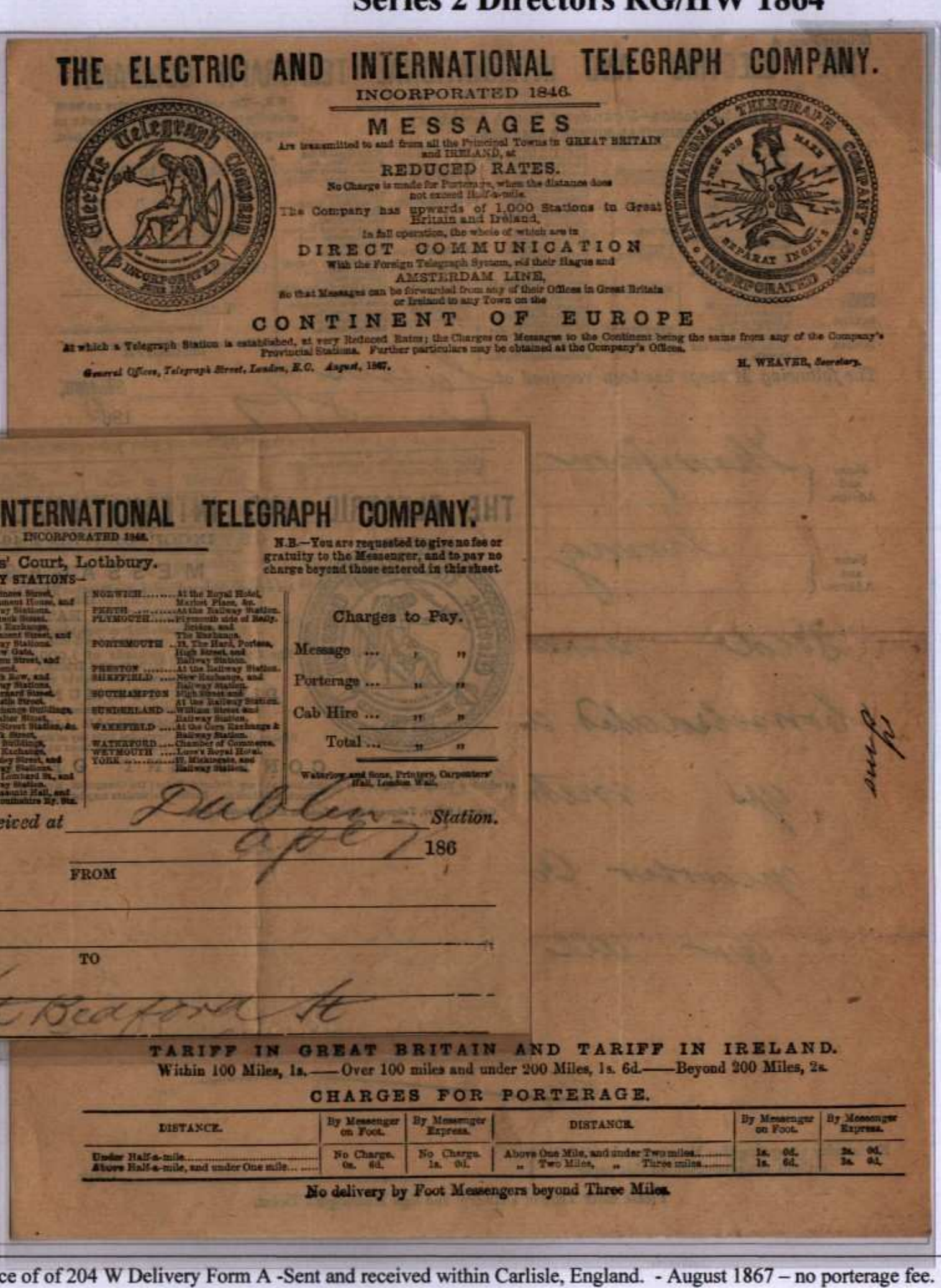
Full set of used RG/JSF adhesive stamps, issued in 1861. The scarcest stamp is the 6d scarlet (Langmead R4, less than 10 copies existing), with the 1s (control panel A), 1s 6d, 2s 6d, 4s, 5s and 10s all rated as "10 to 50 copies existing" (Langmead R3).

The company used Form 277W for forwarding messages. These forms are always scarce as they were usually destroyed as soon as the message was sent (for confidentiality) while delivery forms are much more common as they were often filed with the correspondence received. Langmead reports the existence of only six unused 277W forms, all having a three shilling RG/JSF perforation 12 stamp, with low control numbers between 4110 and 4498. Reverse of form is largely taken up by the security of transmission and details insurance tariffs and liabilities arising from insured errors with tariffs up to £10 for a liability of £1000. This 277W form populated in 1863, franked with 3s, low control number (4474) stamp but form was not apparently used.

Series 1 Directors RG/JSF 1861



Series 2 Directors RG/HW 1864



Section 3. Small Adhesive Stamps

This delivery form is the 26th issue of Form 204 W (Delivery form A). Form now indicates a network of 1000 telegraph offices and new Company Secretary H. Weaver.

General Office is now at "Telegraph Street", London. This is a renaming of original address to reflect the impact this company has made.

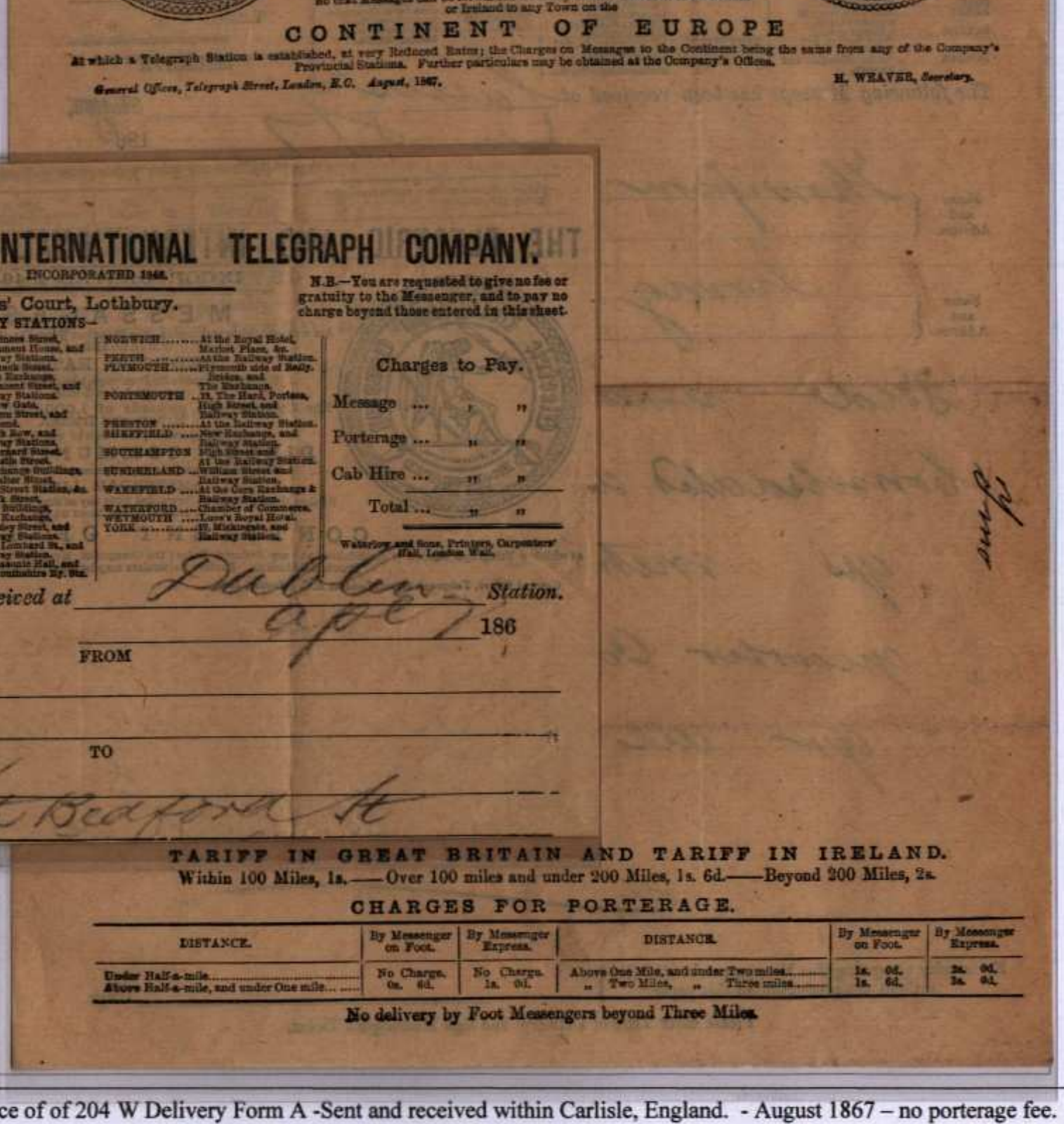
New Form also printed by Waterlow & Sons, London.



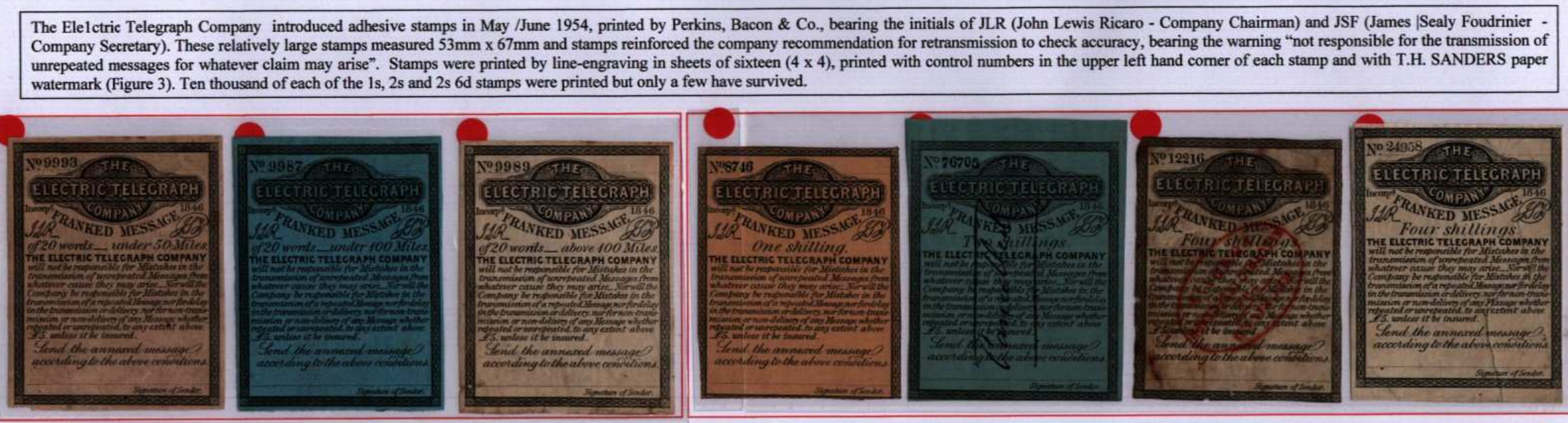
Reverse of Form 204W Delivery Form A - Sent and received within Dublin - August 1867, fees displayed (unchanged).

Section 3. Small Adhesive Stamps

The Electric and International company also issued Director message stamps with the JLR/JSF stamp issued in 1855 and replaced with a RG/HW stamp in 1864. The latter stamps were meant for the use of Captain Huish and the message could be sent without any payment, once signed by a Director of the company. This issue was lithographed on blue wove paper with control numbers 1000 to 1100. Lowe also reports director stamps with the names of Thomas Brassey (Director 1838 to 1869) and Lord Alfred Paget (Director 1855 to 1869), while Lister adds the name of Charles William Earle (Director 1867 to 1870). The only existing Lord Alfred Paget stamp is contained in the Royal Collection.



Face of 204 W Delivery Form A - Sent and received within Carlisle, England - August 1867 - no postage fee.



The Electric Telegraph Company introduced adhesive stamps in May 1854, printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co., bearing the initials of JLR (John Lewis Ricardo - Company Chairman) and JSF (James [Sealy] Foulden - Company Secretary). These relatively large stamps measured 33mm x 67mm and stamps reinforced the company recommendation for retransmission to check accuracy, bearing warning "not responsible for the transmission of unrepeatable messages for whatever claim may arise". Stamps were printed by line-engraving in sheets of sixteen (4 x 4), printed with control numbers in the upper left hand corner of each stamp and with T.H. SANDERS paper watermark (Figure 3). Ten thousand of each of the 1s, 2s and 2s 6d stamps were printed but only a few have survived.

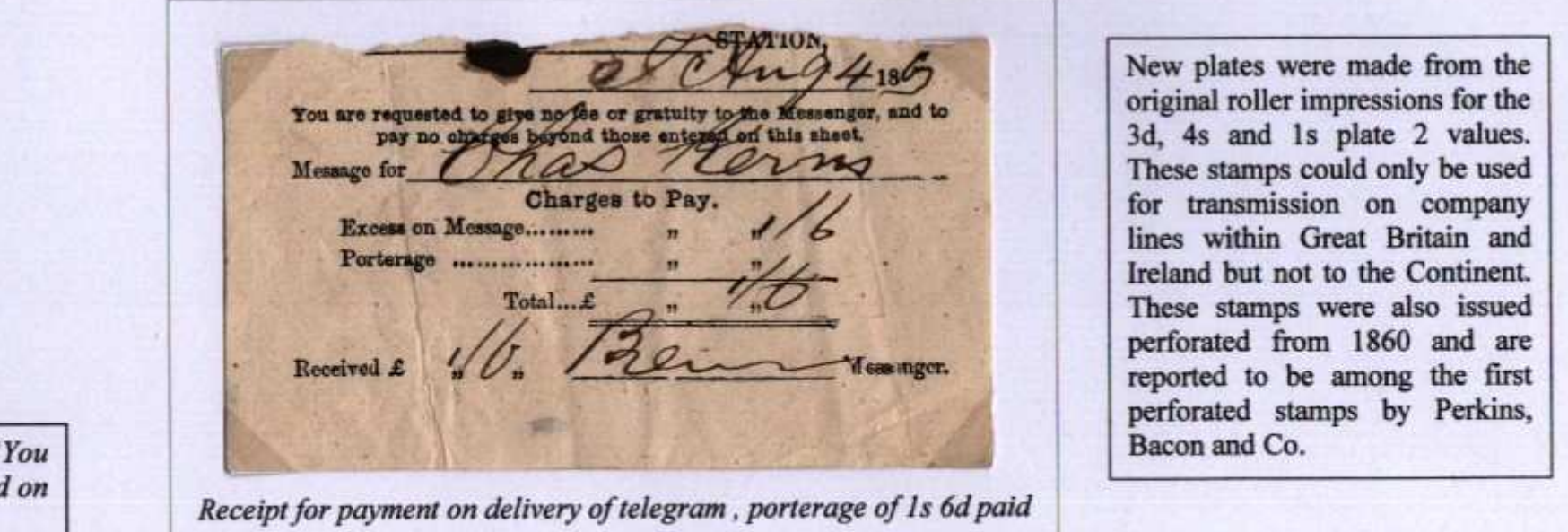
Large Adhesive stamps issued August 1854 (Series 2) where the distances on these stamps were replaced almost immediately with the written monetary values:

- 1s 6d black on buff paper, plate 2, control no. 8746 from the first printing October 1857. 50,000 stamps were printed up to 1860 with last 10,000 perforated.
- 2s 6d black on blue-green, control no. 76705 (overwritten cancelled in manuscript so possibly used but with a large part of original gum remaining). December 1858. This value had control numbers 10,001 to 100,000 with the last 30,000 perforated.
- 4s 6d black on white, first printing, control no. 12216. April 1856, cancelled by "RECEIVED THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY" oval handstamp in red, possibly unique. 210,000 stamps were printed up to December 1860 with control numbers up to 100,000 and an A series of A 70,001 to A 100,000. A further A series was perforated (A 100,001 to A 110,000).
- 4s 6d black on white, second printing, control no. 24958, October 1856.

Langmead reports that fewer than ten of each of these original stamps exist (R4 rating). Sir E.D. Bacon stated that some of the stamps of these first three issues are of greater rarity than British "circulars" and the first issue of the Hawaiian Islands.



Delivery envelope showing Electric Telegraph Company Emblem, text on reverse flap of envelope: "You are requested to give no fee or gratuity to the Messenger and to pay no charges beyond those entered on the Messenger's Ticket and on the Message Form. Some envelopes do not have this message."



Receipt for payment on delivery of telegram - postage of 1s 6d paid

Section 3. Small Adhesive Stamps

The 1864 change in Company Secretary resulted in a new set of stamps with the initials changed to RG and HW (Henry Weaver - Secretary from 1864). The 2s 6d, 4s, 5s, and 10s values were not reused. All values exist as perforation 12½ and 10 (after 1866), except the 3s (blue) value which only exists as perforation 10.

Delivery form at this time also indicates that there was no postage fee when the distance from the receiving office does not exceed half-a-mile.



Full set of used RG/HW hand cancelled stamps, all perforation 12½; the scarcest of these being the 1s (orange) value, deemed as R2 by Langmead (50 to 100 copies existing). Stamps retained the 1861 date in lower boxes and higher values were not reprinted in this series.

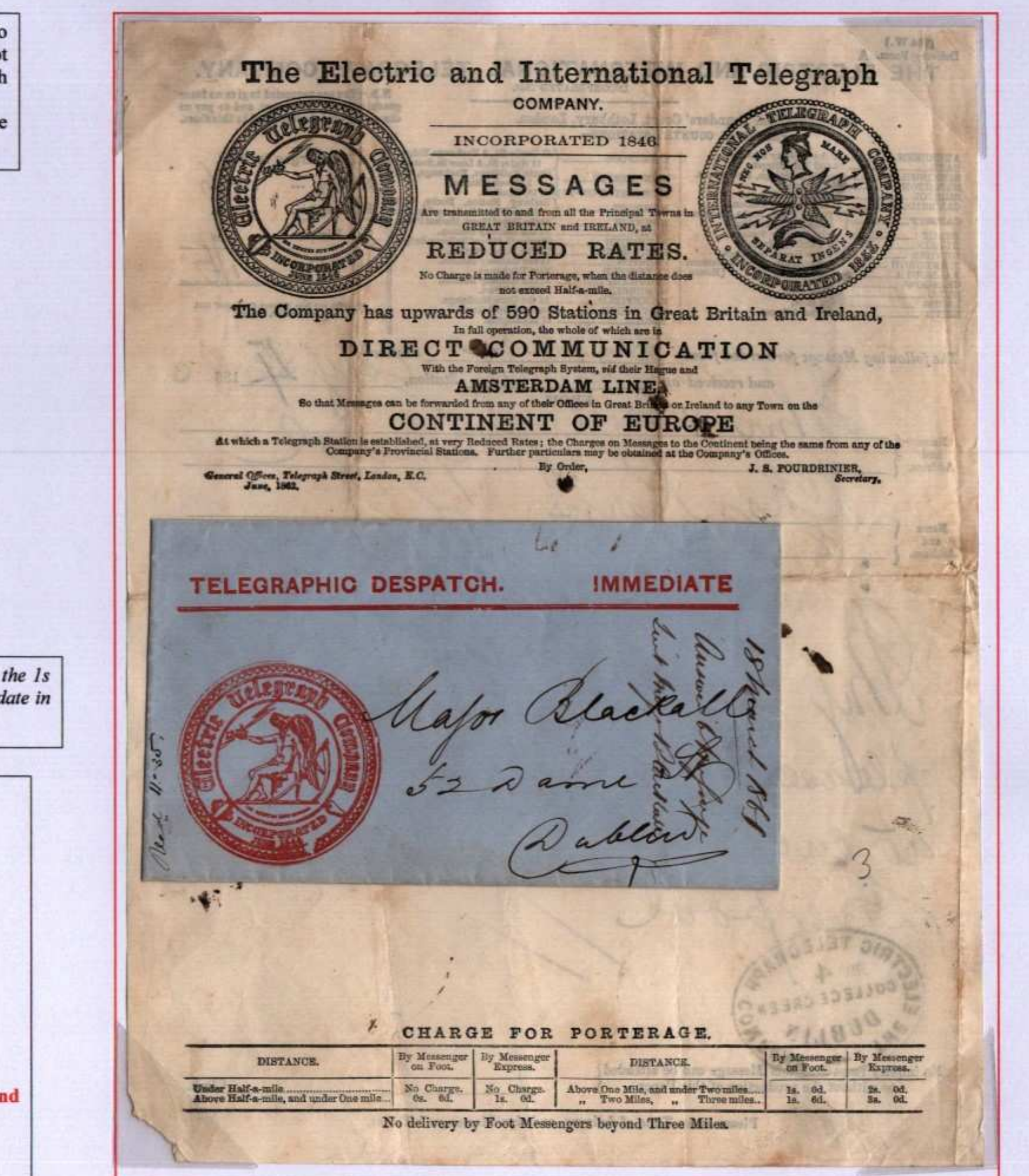
1863 Delivery Telegram to Dame St. Dublin. (received at College Green Telegraph Station) Telegram cost (< 20 words) had reduced in 1863 to:

- 1s 6d under 50 miles,
- 2s 100-200 miles,
- 1s greater than 200 miles.

Rare Irish receiving cancel on reverse - College Green Dublin, only Electric and International Telegraph Company receiving cancel known (Copy above). (Def. Hans Bergdoll, Telegraphy in Ireland, Revealer, page 53 Spring 2008.)

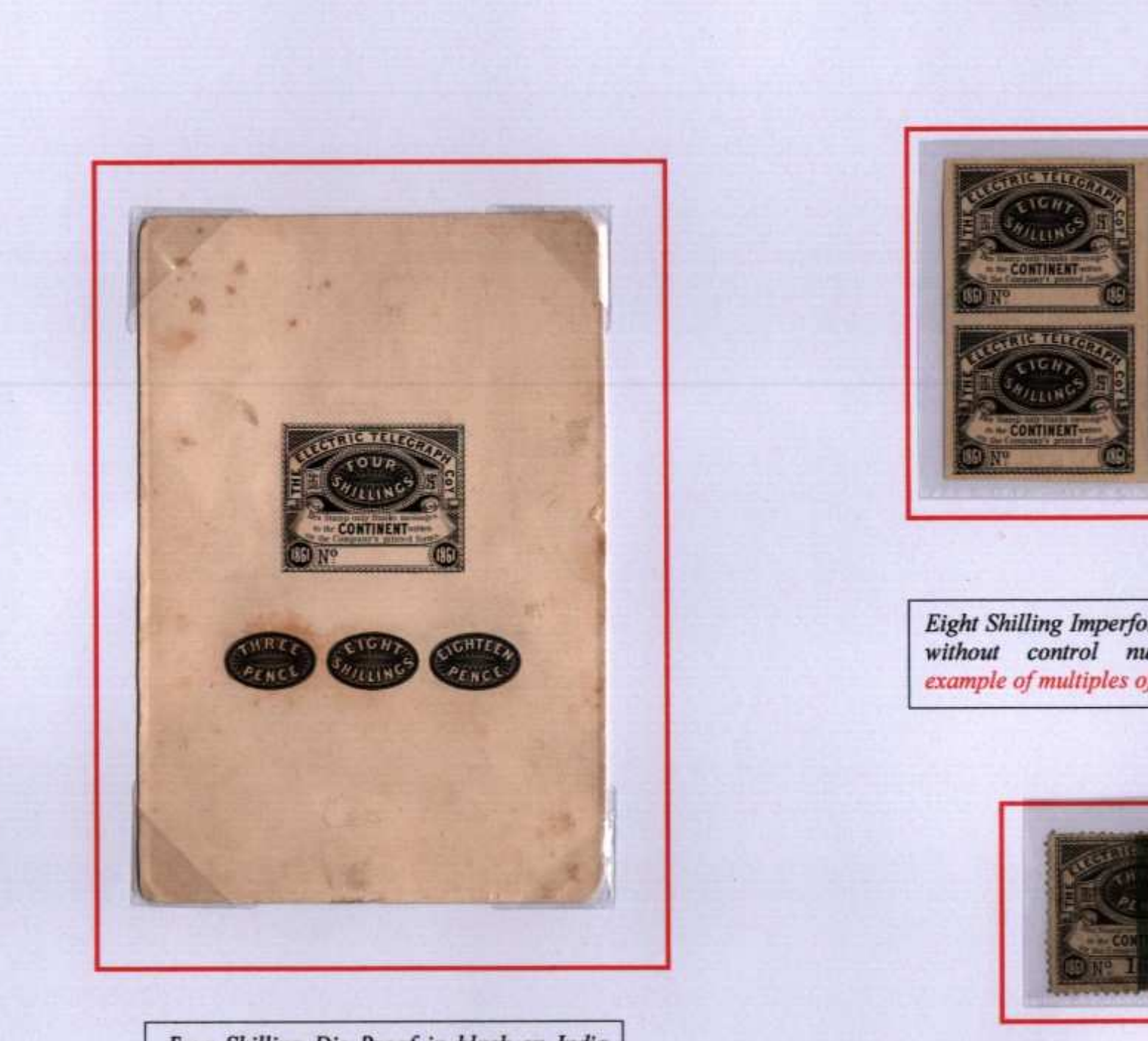
Light Grey delivery envelope, in contrast to buff manila envelope previously shown.

Series 2 Directors RG/HW 1864



Section 4. Electric And International Telegraph Continental Service

The Electric Company also operated a continental telegraph service and stamps for this service were also designed by C.H. Jeens and lithographed by Waterlow & Sons, London. These stamps had the initials R.G. and J.S.F. and the year of issue. Only four values were printed, namely 3d, 18d, 4s and 8s. Of these four values, only the 3d and 8s values are known to exist, while the others are identified from Waterlow records. The 12 x 12½ 3d stamp has a blue-black vertical bar, control no. 1606, on wove paper. Lister reports that the vertical blue-black bar was to aid clerks in readily identifying the stamps rather than as a cancel. Langmead lists this 3d stamp as R5, only known in institutional collections and picture shown is one of only two copies in private hands.



Four Shilling Die Proof in black on India paper (reduced by 15%), laid down on card, with additional tablets of 3d, 8s and 18d. Rare item ex A.J. Love (1990) and S.J. Lawrie (2020) collections. All Electric Telegraph Stamps bore the initials RG and JSF.

Continental Stamp 1861

Waterlow & Sons, London, produced a wove map showing the network which the Electric Telegraph Company was connected to in 1859 (next page). This map extends as far east as Moscow and as far south as Constantinople in Algeria. The telegraph line to the United States, from Valentin in Ireland, is shown on this map as under construction. This was the most successful private company in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and it boasted control of 1,500 miles of telegraphic line by 1848 and 15,000 miles of wire by 1851 (within Great Britain and Ireland). Ultimately the success of the private companies and the need to further extend the telegraphic network, led to the Telegraphic Act 1868, which conferred power on the Postmaster General to acquire the existing Telegraph Companies, with a further Telegraph Act in 1869 required to ensure a Post Office monopoly going forward. The private telegraph systems were finally transferred to the Post Office on 4th February 1870, the main arguments for this change being uniformity of charges and the wider extension of the telegraphic service. The Electric and International Telegraphic Company was purchased by the Post Office for £2, 938, 826 and of all the private companies, this was the only one to destroy all its papers, stamps and printing plates. This fact, along with the established practice of destroying stamped telegraph transmission forms to maintain confidentiality, means many of these stamps are very difficult to acquire.

Section 4 The Electrical & International Telegraph Company 1859 - Map of Network Connections Across Europe



Original Electrical & International Telegraph Company Map of Europe showing existing telegraph offices. Map opened at British Isles. Note route from Ireland to America, at Valentin, is already under consideration.

# Electric Telegraph Company/Electric & International Telegraph Company – 1846-1870

*“Those who admire modern civilization usually identify it with the steam engine and the electric telegraph” – George Bernard Shaw.*

The development of the telegraph service in the mid-nineteenth century allowed for a much faster communication than the postal service, with a delivery of messages in hours rather than days or weeks. The corresponding rapid growth of the railways throughout the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland allowed the railway companies to be the first to adopt this new form of communication. They erected telegraph poles to run alongside their railway lines, primarily for their own use but later opened their service to the public as they realised the potential for increasing profits. This service was then expanded by a number of private telegraph companies, the first of these being “The Electric Telegraph Company” in June 1846. The directors and shareholders of the company were dominated by people involved in railway construction, and the company were the first to issue franked paper, followed by a series of stamps for the payment of telegrams sent by the public.

Morse, Cook, Wheatstone and Siemens all developed electric telegraph machines and the first commercial system was introduced in the United States in 1844 by Samuel Morse. Not long afterwards, “The Electric Telegraph Company” was founded in 1846 in the United Kingdom after they bought the Cook and Wheatstone patents for their electric needle telegraph. The company became operational after the passing of the Electric Telegraph Company Act of 1846 and the company later amalgamated with “The International Telegraph Company” in 1855 to become “The Electric & International Telegraph Company”, both companies being promoted by the same financial interests.

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## Exhibit Objective and Scope

The objective of the exhibit is to demonstrate the “philatelic” evolution of the telegraphic service provided by the first British private telegraph company, “The Electric Telegraph Company” from its creation in 1846 until the company was bought by the British Post Office in 1870. This evolution includes the first British franked telegraph forms and the first British adhesive telegraph stamps (both for use within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland) and stamps dedicated for use on its Continental service.

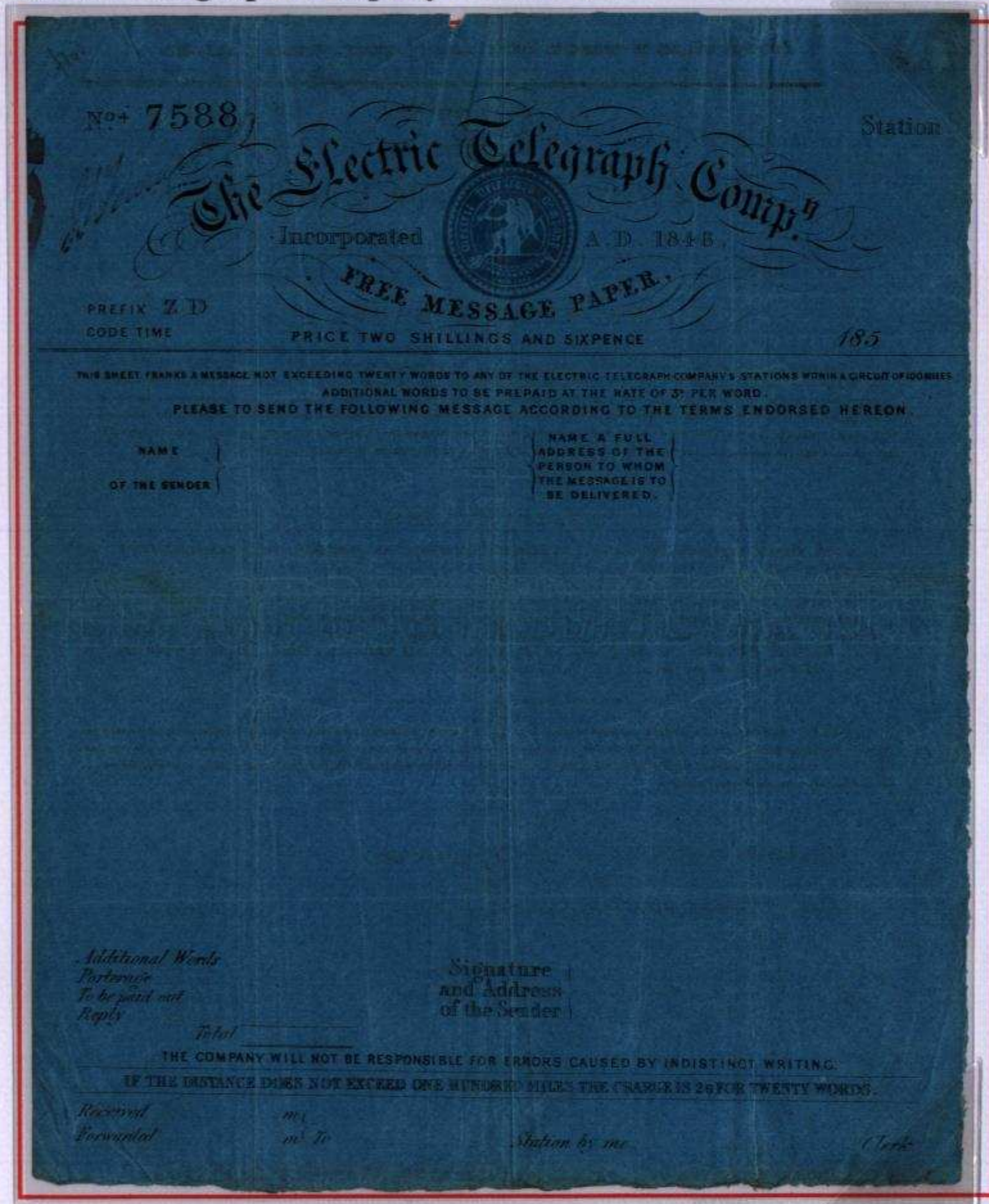
## Exhibit Plan

1. The Electric Telegraph Company Franked Message Papers 1851 & Large Adhesive Stamps 1854.
2. The Electric and International Telegraph Company Small Adhesive Stamps (Series RG/JSF) 1861.
3. The Electric and International Telegraph Company Small Adhesive Stamps (Series RG/HW) 1863.
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## Bibliography

1. P. Langmead & A. Huggins, “The Telegraph Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain 1851-1954”, GB Philatelic Publications, 2003.
2. A. McDonald, Telegraph Stamps of Great Britain, 1959.
3. R. Lister, Private Telegraph Companies of Great Britain and Their Stamps, 1961.
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5. Bergdolt, H., “Telegraphy in Ireland”, The Revealer (Eire Philatelic Society), pg. 53, Spring 2008.

Significant items with red border/text/dot.



*2s 6d Franked Message Paper with “Free Message Paper” instead of “Franked Message Paper”, for use beyond 50 miles but within a circuit of 100 miles. This error sheet has control number 7588 at left above secretary’s signature. The only other examples in private hands are control no. 7666 (Dr. Iain Stevenson Collection) and control no. 2824 which was reported by Sir Edward Denny Bacon in Post Office records and may still exist. Sir Edward Denny Bacon noted that these first message forms were among the greatest philatelic rarities.*

# 1. Large Adhesive Stamps

Series 1 June 1854 / Series 2 August 1854

The Electric Telegraph Company introduced adhesive stamps in May /June 1854, printed by Perkins, Bacon & Co., bearing the initials of JLR (John Lewis Ricaro - Company Chairman) and JSF (James Sealy Foudrinier - Company Secretary). These relatively large stamps measured 53mm x 67mm and stamps reinforced the company recommendation for retransmission to check accuracy, bearing the warning "not responsible for the transmission of unreported messages for whatever claim may arise". Stamps were printed by line-engraving in sheets of sixteen (4 x 4), printed with control numbers in the upper left hand corner of each stamp and with T.H. SANDERS paper watermark (Figure 3). Ten thousand of each of the 1s, 2s and 2s 6d stamps were printed but only a few have survived.

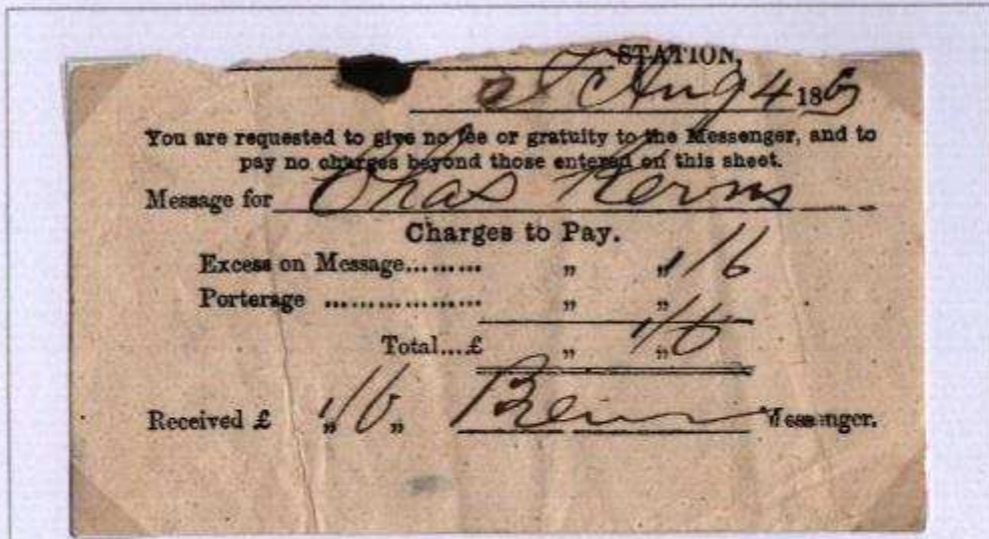


Large Adhesive stamps issued 1st June 1854 (with control numbers between 9780 and 10000).  
**Under 50 miles** (1s 0d, black on pale pink paper, control no. 9993).  
**Under 100 miles** (2s 6d, black on blue paper, control no. 9987).  
**Above 100 miles** (5s 0d, black on white paper, control no. 9989).  
 Original gum remaining on all three stamps.  
 Langmead reports that fewer than ten of each of these original stamps exist (R4 rating). Sir E.D. Bacon stated that some of the stamps of these first three issues are of greater rarity than British Guiana "circulars" and the first issue of the Hawaiian Islands.

Large Adhesive stamps issued August 1854 (Series 2) where the distances on these stamps were replaced almost immediately with the written monetary values:  
**1s 0d** black on buff paper, plate 2, control no. 8746 from the first printing October 1857. 50,000 stamps were printed up to 1960 with last 10,000 perforated.  
**2s 0d** black on blue-green, control no. 76705 (overwritten cancelled in manuscript so possibly used but with a large part of original gum remaining), December 1858. This value had control numbers 10,001 to 100,000 with the last 30,000 perforated.  
**4s 0d** black on white, first printing, control no. 12216, April 1856, cancelled by "RECEIVED THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH COMPANY" oval handstamp in red, possibly unique. 210,000 stamps were printed up to December 1860 with control numbers up to 100,000 and an A series of A 70,001 to A 100,000. A further A series was perforated (A 100,001 to A 110,000).  
**4s 0d** black on white, second printing, control no. 24958, October 1856.  
 Langmead reports that fewer than ten of each of these original stamps exist (R4 rating).



Delivery envelope showing Electric Telegraph Company Emblem, text on reverse flap of envelope: "You are requested to give no fee or gratuity to the Messenger and to pay no charges beyond those entered on the Messenger's Ticket and on the Message Form. Some envelopes do not have this message."



Receipt for payment on delivery of telegram, porterage of 1s 6d paid

New plates were made from the original roller impressions for the 3d, 4s and 1s plate 2 values. These stamps could only be used for transmission on company lines within Great Britain and Ireland but not to the Continent. These stamps were also issued perforated from 1860 and are reported to be among the first perforated stamps by Perkins, Bacon and Co.

## Section 2. Small Adhesive Stamps

Series 1 Directors RG/JSF 1861

The next issue of stamps was designed by Charles Henry Jeens and engraved and lithographed by Waterlow & Sons, London (1861-1870), following a tender process for a more conventional 25mm x 32mm design requirement. The stamps bore the initials RG (Robert Grimston-Chairman from 1860) and JSF (J.S. Foudrinier-Secretary from 1854). A total of ten values were issued from 1861 to 1863, each tinted a different colour according to the values: 3d (ochre), 6d (scarlet), 1s (orange), 1s 6d (rose), 2s (green), 2s 6d (brown), 3s (blue), 4s (black), 5s (purple) and 10s (brown). All stamps can be found with perforations 12 and 12½, except 6d and 10s which have perforation 12½ only. The 1s orange stamp was also issued with an A series where the letter A is included in the control tablet as part of the design and this series are also only perforated at 12½. The 1s, 1s 6d and 2s values of these stamps are also known unnumbered/unperforated and are reported to be proof samples by Langmead, whereas Lister and McDonald indicated these are likely to be remainders (Figure 5a)



Full set of used RG/JSF adhesive stamps, issued in 1861. The scarcest stamp is the 6d scarlet (Langmead R4, less than 10 copies existing), with the 1s (control panel A), 1s 6d, 2s 6d, 4s, 5s and 10s all rated as "10 to 50 copies existing" (Langmead R3).

The company used Form 277W for forwarding messages. These forms are always scarce as they were usually destroyed as soon as the message was sent (for confidentiality) while delivery forms are much more common as they were often filed with the correspondence received. Langmead reports the existence of only six unused 277W forms, all having a three shilling RG/JSF perforation 12 stamp, with low control numbers between 4110 and 4498. Reverse of form is largely taken up by the security of transmission and details insurance tariffs and liabilities arising from insured errors with tariffs up to £10 for a liability of £1000. This 277W form populated in 1863, franked with 3s, low control number (4474) stamp but form was not apparently used.

(277 W.)  
(Forwarded Form).

No. of Message \_\_\_\_\_ Station \_\_\_\_\_

**THE ELECTRIC & INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**

Prefix \_\_\_\_\_ Code Time \_\_\_\_\_ WORDS TO BE SIGNALLED \_\_\_\_\_

Received \_\_\_\_\_ m Date \_\_\_\_\_ 186 \_\_\_\_\_

Finished \_\_\_\_\_ m Sent to \_\_\_\_\_ Station \_\_\_\_\_

(DQ-MM) (Address) (MM-PQ) Counter Clerks' Initials \_\_\_\_\_

Message .....  
Repeating .....  
Reply .....  
Porterage .....  
To be paid out .....  
Total .....

FROM

Name and Address of the Sender of the Message } *Challinor*  
 } *Leek*

Name and Full Address of the Person to whom the Message is to be delivered. } *Gregory & Rowcliffes*  
 } *1 Bedford Row London*

*Woodcroft. If opportunity occurs get put dependant White accept short notice trial. See the Shaw this on calling*

Please to Telegraph the above Message according to the conditions endorsed hereon; and forward such Message from the Terminal Station of the Company at \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ to the above Address; subject to the endorsed conditions for which latter purpose I have deposited \_\_\_\_\_

You are requested, before signing, to read the Conditions of the Contract on the back.

Signature and Address of Sender } *Challinor*  
 } *Leek*

The Company will not be answerable for Errors caused by indistinct writing.

### Section 3. Small Adhesive Stamps

The 1864 change in Company Secretary resulted in a new set of stamps with the initials changed to RG and HW (Henry Weaver -Secretary from 1864). The 2s 6d, 4s, 5s, and 10s values were not reissued. All values exist as perforation 12½ and 10 (after 1866), except the 3s (blue) value which only exists as perforation 10.

Delivery form at this time also indicates that there was no portorage fee when the distance from the receiving office does not exceed half-a-mile.



Full set of used RG/HW hand cancelled stamps, all perforation 12½, the scarcest of these being the 1s (orange) value, deemed as R2 by Langmead (50 to 100 copies existing). Stamps retained the 1861 date in lower boxes and higher values were not reprinted in this series

**1863 Delivery Telegram to Dame St., Dublin.**  
 (received at College Green Telegraph Station)  
 Telegram cost (< 20 words) had reduced in 1863 to:

1s	under 50 miles,
1s 6d	100-200 miles,
2s	greater than 200 miles.

**Rare Irish receiving cancel on reverse - College Green Dublin, only Electric and International Telegraph Company receiving cancel known (Copy above).**

(Ref. Hans Bergdolt, *Telegraphy in Ireland, Revealer*, page 53 Spring 2008.)

Light Grey delivery envelope, in contrast to buff manila envelope previously shown.



### Series 2 Directors RG/HW 1864

**The Electric and International Telegraph COMPANY.**  
 INCORPORATED 1846

**MESSAGES**  
 Are transmitted to and from all the Principal Towns in GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, at  
**REDUCED RATES.**  
 No Charge is made for Portorage, when the distance does not exceed Half-a-mile.

The Company has upwards of 590 Stations in Great Britain and Ireland, In full operation, the whole of which are in  
**DIRECT COMMUNICATION**  
 With the Foreign Telegraph System, via their Hague and **AMSTERDAM LINE.**  
 So that Messages can be forwarded from any of their Offices in Great Britain or Ireland to any Town on the **CONTINENT OF EUROPE**  
 At which a Telegraph Station is established, at very Reduced Rates; the Charges on Messages to the Continent being the same from any of the Company's Provincial Stations. Further particulars may be obtained at the Company's Offices.

General Office, Telegraph Street, London, E.C.  
 June, 1864.

By Order,  
**J. S. FOURDRINIER,**  
 Secretary.

---

**TELEGRAPHIC DESPATCH. IMMEDIATE**

Major Blackall  
 52 Dame Street  
 Dublin

18 June 1864  
 J. S. Fourdrinier

**CHARGE FOR PORTERAGE.**

DISTANCE.	By Messenger on Foot.	By Messenger Express.	DISTANCE.	By Messenger on Foot.	By Messenger Express.
Under Half-a-mile	No Charge.	No Charge.	Above One Mile, and under Two miles	1s. 6d.	2s. 6d.
Above Half-a-mile, and under One mile	6s. 6d.	1s. 6d.	Two Miles, and under Three miles	1s. 6d.	5s. 6d.

No delivery by Foot Messengers beyond Three Miles.

Section 3. Small Adhesive Stamps

Series 2 Directors RG/HW 1864



This delivery form is the 26th issue of Form 204 W (Delivery form A). Form now indicates a network of 1000 telegraph offices and new Company Secretary H. Weaver.

General Office is now at "Telegraph Street", London. This is a renaming of original address to reflect the impact this company has made.

New Form also printed by Waterlow & Sons, London.

Multiples of mint adhesive RG/HW stamps.

Six block of 6d is scarce item



(204 W.)  
Delivery Form A

**THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**  
INCORPORATED 1846.

Central Station—Founders' Court, Lothbury.

**PRINCIPAL COUNTRY STATIONS—**

ARMSDEN	10, Marshall Street, & Railway Station.	DUNDEE	Corner of Covegate and Wellgate.	GLASGOW	At the Exchange, St. Vincent Street, and Railway Station.	LYONS	1, Place de la Bourse, and Railway Station.	NEWCASTLE	1 & 2, Lombard St., and Railway Station.	PLYMOUTH	By approach side of Bally-Deides, and The Exchange.	WATERLOO	At the Railway Station.
BATH	2, New Bond St. Building.	GLASGOW	At the Exchange, St. Vincent Street, and Railway Station.	LEEDS	1, Park Row, and Railway Station.	LONDON	At the Railway Station.	NEWCASTLE	1 & 2, Lombard St., and Railway Station.	PLYMOUTH	By approach side of Bally-Deides, and The Exchange.	WATERLOO	At the Railway Station.
BIRMINGHAM	Temple Buildings, Corn Exchange, and Railway Station.	HULL	M. Low Gate, Fargate Street, and Southwell.	LONDON	At the Railway Station.	LONDON	At the Railway Station.	NEWCASTLE	1 & 2, Lombard St., and Railway Station.	PLYMOUTH	By approach side of Bally-Deides, and The Exchange.	WATERLOO	At the Railway Station.
BIRMINGHAM	Temple Buildings, Corn Exchange, and Railway Station.	HULL	M. Low Gate, Fargate Street, and Southwell.	LONDON	At the Railway Station.	LONDON	At the Railway Station.	NEWCASTLE	1 & 2, Lombard St., and Railway Station.	PLYMOUTH	By approach side of Bally-Deides, and The Exchange.	WATERLOO	At the Railway Station.
BIRMINGHAM	Temple Buildings, Corn Exchange, and Railway Station.	HULL	M. Low Gate, Fargate Street, and Southwell.	LONDON	At the Railway Station.	LONDON	At the Railway Station.	NEWCASTLE	1 & 2, Lombard St., and Railway Station.	PLYMOUTH	By approach side of Bally-Deides, and The Exchange.	WATERLOO	At the Railway Station.

NE.—You are requested to give no fee or gratuity to the Messenger, and to pay no charge beyond those entered in this sheet.

**Charges to Pay.**

Message	...	186
Porterage	...	186
Cab Hire	...	186
Total	...	186

The following Message has been received at Dublin Station.

FROM Dane

TO 10 South Bedford St

**TARIFF IN GREAT BRITAIN AND TARIFF IN IRELAND.**  
Within 100 Miles, 1s.—Over 100 miles and under 200 Miles, 1s. 6d.—Beyond 200 Miles, 2s.

**CHARGES FOR PORTERAGE.**

DISTANCE.	By Messenger on Foot.	By Messenger Express.	DISTANCE.	By Messenger on Foot.	By Messenger Express.
Under Half-a-mile	No Charge.	No Charge.	Above One Mile, and under Two miles	1s. 0d.	2s. 0d.
Above Half-a-mile, and under One mile	0s. 6d.	1s. 0d.	Two Miles, " Three miles	1s. 6d.	2s. 6d.

No delivery by Foot Messengers beyond Three Miles.

Reverse of Form 204W Delivery Form A - Sent and received within Dublin - August 1867, fees displayed (unchanged).

Face of of 204 W Delivery Form A -Sent and received within Carlisle, England. - August 1867 - no porterage fee.

### Section 3. Small Adhesive Stamps

Series 2 Directors RG/HW 1864

The Electric and International company also issued Director message stamps with the JLR/JSF stamp issued in 1855 and replaced with a RG/HW stamp in 1864. The latter stamps were meant for the use of Captain Huish and the message could be sent without any payment, once signed by a Director of the company. This issue was lithographed on blue wove paper with control numbers 1000 to 1100. Lowe also reports director stamps with the names of Thomas Brassey (Director 1858 to 1869) and Lord Alfred Paget (Director 1855 to 1869), while Lister adds the name of Charles William Earle (Director 1867 to 1870). The only existing Lord Alfred Paget stamp is contained in the Royal Collection.



RG/HW Director Message stamp.



The 1s, 1s 6d and 2s values of the RG/JSF stamps are also known unnumbered/unperforated and are reported to be proof samples by Langmead, whereas Lister and McDonald indicated these are likely to be remainders.

**THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**  
INCORPORATED 1846.

**MESSAGES**

Are transmitted to and from all the Principal Towns in GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND, at

**REDUCED RATES.**

No Charge is made for Portage, when the distance does not exceed Half-a-mile.

The Company has upwards of 1,000 Stations in Great Britain and Ireland.

In full operation, the whole of which are in

**DIRECT COMMUNICATION**

With the Foreign Telegraph System, and their Hague and

**AMSTERDAM LINE,**

So that Messages can be forwarded from any of their Offices in Great Britain or Ireland to any Town on the

**CONTINENT OF EUROPE**

At which a Telegraph Station is established, at very Reduced Rates; the Charges on Messages to the Continent being the same from any of the Company's Provincial Stations. Further particulars may be obtained at the Company's Office.

General Office, Telegraph Street, London, E.C. August, 1868.

H. WEAVER, Secretary.

18 July 1868  
Dane

Face of 204 W Delivery Form B - Received at London Telegraph Office 241 - July 1868. Issued at same time as Form A but for use primarily in London.

Form also indicates network now at 1000 telegraph offices - New Company Secretary H. Weaver.

(204 W.)  
Delivery Form, B

**THE ELECTRIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELEGRAPH COMPANY.**  
INCORPORATED 1846.

Offices in London at which Messages are received and forwarded—

**CENTRAL STATION—FOUNDERS' COURT, LOTHBURY.**

STATIONERS' HALL—At the Railway Station.  
CHEAPSIDE—No. 148.  
COAL EXCHANGE—Lower Thames Street.  
COPENHAGEN FIELDS—No. 13, Bank Buildings (Market)—Open on Market Days only.  
CORNHILL—No. 27, opposite the Royal Exchange—Open day and night.  
EDGWARE ROAD—No. 6, near the Marble Arch.  
FENCHURCH STREET—Corner of Mincing Lane.  
FLEET STREET—No. 98, opposite St. Dunstan's Church.  
GENERAL POST OFFICE—10, Foster Lane.  
GLOBE ROAD—Regent's Park.  
HIGHBURY—Corner of Highbury Place, Islington, opposite the Railway Station.  
HIGH HOLBORN—No. 24.  
HOUSE OF COMMONS—Central Lobby, during Session.  
KENSINGTON—West London Railway Station.  
KNIGHTSBIDGE—15, St. George's Place.  
LEADENHALL STREET—No. 2.

LLOYD'S—Morphams' Room.  
LONDON DOCKS—Main Entrance.  
MARK LANE—Corn Exchange.  
MINING LANE—Corner of Fenchurch Street.  
OLD BROAD STREET—No. 64.  
OXFORD STREET—No. 314.  
REGENT STREET—No. 32.  
SOUTHWARK—No. 7, Southwark Street.  
STEPNEY—Regent's Canal Basin.  
STOCK EXCHANGE—New Court Entrance.  
STRAND—No. 49, corner of Adelphi Street—Open day and night.  
ST. JAMES STREET—No. 20, opposite the Palace.  
THAMES STREET (OPPER)—No. 179.  
TATTERSALL'S (SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS)—Open on Monday and Thursday.  
WESTMINSTER—No. 17, Great George Street.  
WHARF ROAD—No. 32.  
And at the Terminals of all the Railways.

N.B.—You are requested to give no fee or gratuity to the Messenger, and to pay no charges beyond those entered in this sheet.

**Charges to Pay.**

Message ...	"	"
Porterage ...	"	"
Cab Hire ...	"	"
Total ...	"	"

Waterloo and Sons, Printers, Clerkenwell Hall, London Wall.

The following Message has been received at High Holborn 241

1868

FROM Ward

Heath Villas Bourne

TO Month

Falbot 47 Bedford

DQ New London

is not written

th Comyngham

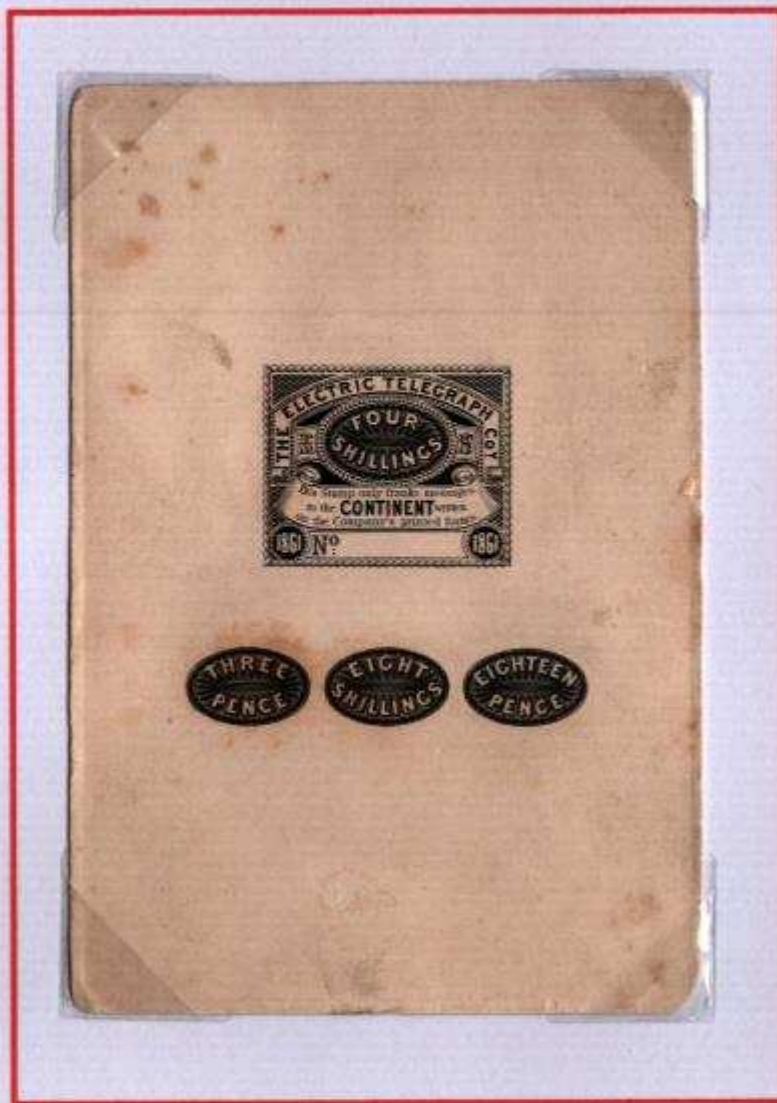
No enquiry respecting this Message can be attended to without the production of this paper.

Please enter Time of Delivery, and sign Messenger's Ticket.

Clerk.

Reverse of Delivery Form B - Received at High Holborn, London - August 1868 - no portage fee. Clear receiving cancel for telegraph office 241 -High Holborn. Top of Form lists significant London offices.

The Electric Company also operated a continental telegraph service and stamps for this service were also designed by C.H. Jeens and lithographed by Waterlow & Sons, London. These stamps had the initials R.G. and J.S.F. and the year of issue. Only four values were printed, namely 3d, 18d, 4s and 8s. Of these four values, only the 3d and 8s values are known to exist, while the others are identified from Waterlow records. The 12 x 12½ 3d below has a blue-black vertical bar, control no. 1606, on wove paper. Lister reports that the vertical blue-black bar was to aid clerks in readily identifying the stamps rather than as a cancel. Langmead lists this 3d stamp as R5, only known in institutional collections and picture shown is one of only two copies in private hands.



*Four Shilling Die Proof in black on India paper (reduced by 15%), laid down on card, with additional tablets of 3d, 8s and 18d. Rare item ex A.J. Lowe (1990) and S.J. Lawrie (2020) collections. All Electric Telegraph Stamps bore the initials RG and JSF.*



*Eight Shilling Imperforate Plate Block Proof, without control numbers, only known example of multiples of this proof.*



*3d Electric Telegraph Continental Stamp, rated R5 by Langmead, only known in institutional collections. One of only two copies known in private hands.*



*Eight Shilling Imperforate Plate Block Proof, without control numbers, on white wove paper.*

Waterlow & Sons, London, produced a woven map showing the network which the Electric Telegraph Company was connected to in 1859 (next page). This map extends as far east as Moscow and as far south as Constantine in Algeria. The telegraph line to the United States, from Valentia in Ireland, is shown on this map as under construction. This was the most successful private company in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and it boasted control of 1,500 miles of telegraphic line by 1848 and 15,000 miles of wire by 1851 (within Great Britain and Ireland). Ultimately the success of the private companies and the need to further extend the telegraphic network, led to the Telegraphic Act 1868, which conferred power on the Postmaster General to acquire the existing Telegraph Companies, with a further Telegraph Act in 1869 required to ensure a Post Office monopoly going forward. The private telegraph systems were finally transferred to the Post Office on 4th February 1870, the main arguments for this change being uniformity of charges and the wider extension of the telegraphic service. The Electric and International Telegraphic Company was purchased by the Post Office for £2, 938, 826 and of all the private companies, this was the only one to destroy all its papers, stamps and printing plates. This fact, along with the established practice of destroying stamped telegraph transmission forms to maintain confidentiality, means many of these stamps are very difficult to acquire.

**MAP**  
OF  
**EUROPE**  
compiled from the most recent Surveys  
Published  
**ELECTRIC & INTERNATIONAL**  
**Telegraph Company**  
Shewing the System of  
**TELEGRAPHS**  
WITH WHICH THEY ARE CONNECTED

1859

Waterlow & Sons  
London

EXPLANATION.

- Telegraphs in operation
- Telegraphs in course of construction
- Telegraph Stations

to America



Original  
Electrical &  
International  
Telegraph  
Company  
Map of  
Europe

showing  
existing  
telegraph  
offices.

Map opened at  
British Isles.

Note route  
from Ireland to  
America, at  
Valentia, is  
already under  
consideration.