

1st October 1870 - 150 Years Ago – the Half-penny Postal Rate

Britain introduced a ½d Postal Rate to pay domestic Printed Matter (<½ Oz.) and Post Cards. Printed post cards, a special stamp and wrappers and were issued for this rate. 1st October was a Saturday which, in those days, was a normal work day with regular mail service.



Post Card sent from Mitcham, W. London, (W 29 vertical oval with horizontal bars duplex cancelation) on the 1st OC 1870 to Camden Square, N.W. London. It was received on the same day becoming first day of ½d postage rate and first day printed Post Cards were available in Britain.

A half-penny postage stamp 'Bantam' - Britain's smallest stamp was issued on same date:

Bantam (Plate 4) used on a printed mourning card, dated 28 Sep 1871, announcing the death of an 8 year old boy at 4:30pm on the previous day.



Very fine mint 'Bantam', (Plate 3).

Undated, 1870 Half-Penny wrapper used locally in London to send a publication to 22 St Paul's Church Yard.

The printed stamp has been cancelled with an unrecorded handstamp made up of a barred vertical oval enclosing a circle and the numbers 86

