

## Where it all began – the 1d Black of Great Britain, 1840

Social unrest was rampant in Britain in the 1830s. One issue was the high cost of communication for an increasingly mobile population. Postal Reform to reduce the price of postage, culminated with the issue of the 1d Black on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1840.



Letter sent from Wolverhampton to No. 1 Gray's Inn Square, London on 4<sup>th</sup> Sept 1840. Postage paid using the right hand 1d Black lettered T-A from Plate 2, cancelled with a red Wolverhampton Maltese Cross. In London, the letter was re-addressed to 38, Bedford Square, Brighton and a second 1d Black applied (K-L from plate 1b). A red, London Maltese Cross was applied to the stamp and a circular, red 'D 5 SP 5 1840' handstamp applied to the reverse. A black receiver on the reverse shows letter was received in Brighton on 6<sup>th</sup> Sept 1840.

Concern with removal of red cancels and illegal reuse of stamps led to the transition to black cancels, this in turn led to introduction of the 1d Red-brown in early 1841, which could be clearly cancelled with black ink.



Mint early 1d  
Red-brown



1d Plate 12 - first plate used  
solely for printing 1d Red  
stamps. Effectively cancelled  
by black Maltese Cross.