CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANIES

"For thirty years after the great postal reform of 1840, the British Post Office turned a deaf ear to appeals for a reduced rate of postage for printed papers and circulars. And so private enterprise stepped in. In 1865 Robert Brydone formed the first of the Circular Delivery Companies, undertaking to deliver circulars within the boundaries of Edinburgh and Leigh for a farthing each. This service was successful, but when Brydone started extending his operations to London and other cities, and there was even a hint of a National Circular Delivery Company, the Post Office instituted legal proceedings as a result of which the companies' activities were supressed as an infringement of the State postal monopoly. In their four-year career the companies issued various local stamps; these are an interesting specialist study but in genuine used condition, especially on cover are rare. As a direct result of the companies' enterprise, the Post Office heeded the demand for cheaper postage in 1870, and in that year the first 1/2d stamp was issued to meet the new reduced rate for printed paper."

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The Stamp Collector's Encyclopaedia, Published 1966
R.J.Sutton 6th edition revised by K.W. Anthon

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Liverpool – A reduced photocopy of a part sheet with blank impression at top right

<u>The Exhibit</u>

The exhibit shows examples of stamps from all the Circular Delivery Companies. There are very considerable variations in size, paper and perforation types among the stamps and the exhibit attempts to illustrate many of these variations, very often with mint blocks. Some of the more outstanding errors or faults are shown. Amongst these is Liverpool with blank impression, London and District with a row of farthing stamps at the top of a block of halfpenny stamps, and an Edinburgh and Leith unrecorded imperforate block. Stamps with blue crayon marks were the work of stamp dealer W.S.Lincoln who thought he could not sell uncancelled copies of these stamps. There are write ups on pages detailing where changes to the Companies occurred.

Edinburgh & Leith Company

The first company set up by Robert Brydone was the Endinburgh and Leith Circular Delivery Company which included Edinburgh & Leith Parcel Delivery Company. The first stamps for these companies appeared in October 1865. Despite good response from the public, towards the end of 1866 Robert became bankrupt and his father James took over the business. It is very probable that James Brydone, who was a printer, had been printing the stamps for the companies all along.

Issues of October 1865 – 1866

One farthing green – roulette 7

One farthing slate – blue roulette 7

One farthing pale - grey lilac
Imperforate

One farthing slate-blue imperforate
Totally imperforate for this is not recorded

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Issues of October 1865 – 1866 (Contd.)

One farthing olive grey imperforate

One farthing olive grey
Perforation 11½

One farthing dull mauve - shades

One farthing dull mauve imperforate (Issued Jan. 1866)

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Issue of December 1866

One halfpenny yellowish green

One farthing grey-lilac

Pin perforation 10½

Imperforate

Pin perforation 10½

Imperforate

Issue of February 1867
Inscribed "12 Elder Street"

One farthing black
on lemon yellow
Roulette 7

One farthing red brown imperforate

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Edinburgh & Leith Parcel Delivery Company

Issue of October 1865. Inscribed
"12 St. Andrews Square"

No values shown

(One farthing) yellowish green
Roulette 7

(Two pence) yellow-bistre. Roulette 7

Issue of March 1866

Two pence yellow imperforate

Three pence brown-red imperforate

London & Metropolitan Circular Delivery Company

London Circular Delivery Company

Robert Brydone solved his financial affairs in Edinburgh, and then moved to London. Late in 1866 he formed the London Circular Delivery Company. The first stamps were issued in September 1866 on thick soft paper, all imperforate. In April 1867 another company was formed the Metropolitan Circular Delivery Company. The two companies soon amalgamated and were managed by Manuel Eyre.
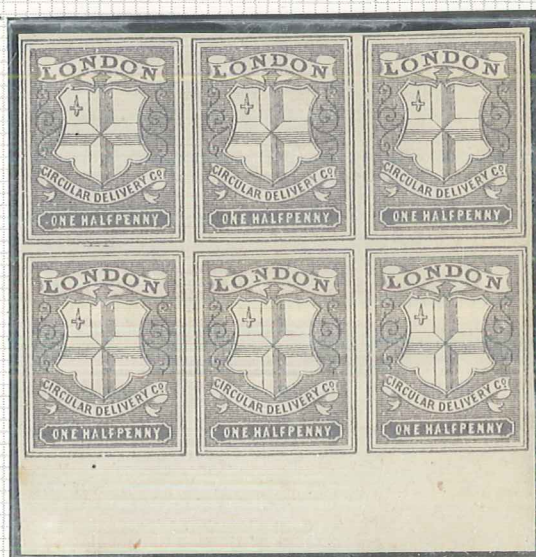
One Halfpenny greenish grey

One farthing deep blue

One half penny dull mauve

One halfpenny deep dull purple

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London & Metropolitan Circular Delivery Company

London Circular Delivery Company

One farthing deep blue perf.11½

One halfpenny greenish grey. Pin perf. 10½-11
A scarce stamp

One farthing deep blue Pin perf. 10½-11

One farthing deep blue
Imperforate horizontally
Unrecorded previously

London Circular Delivery Company

The halfpenny deep dull purple on thick paper without watermark was issued in September 1866. The farthing deep blue and the halfpenny dull purple were printed on hard wove paper with a papermakers watermark and issued in March 1867.

One halfpenny deep dull purple
Pin perf 10½-11

One halfpenny dull purple
Rough perf 11½

One farthing deep blue. Rough perf 11½

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London & Metropolitan Circular Delivery Company

Metropolitan Circular Delivery Company

The Metropolitan Circular Delivery Company merged with the London Circular Delivery Company very soon after its formation and traded under the joint name under the management of Manuel Eyre. Stamps were issued on two types of paper

Issued March 1867

One halfpenny orange Rough perf 11½
Hard wove paper with papermaker's wmk.

One farthing rose carmine
Rough perf 11½ No wmk.

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Glasgow Circular Delivery Company

James Brydone, Robert's father formed a second delivery company in Glasgow, and stamps were produced at the end of 1866. Strangely no advertisements have been found in the local newspapers for the company although, in the fight against the Post Office it was raised that Inland Revenue in Glasgow had used the company to deliver Tax Demand forms. The Glasgow stamps were the only ones to be printed on laid paper.

Issued December 1866   One farthing black and half pence dull scarlet   Pin perf. 10½

Cracked plate

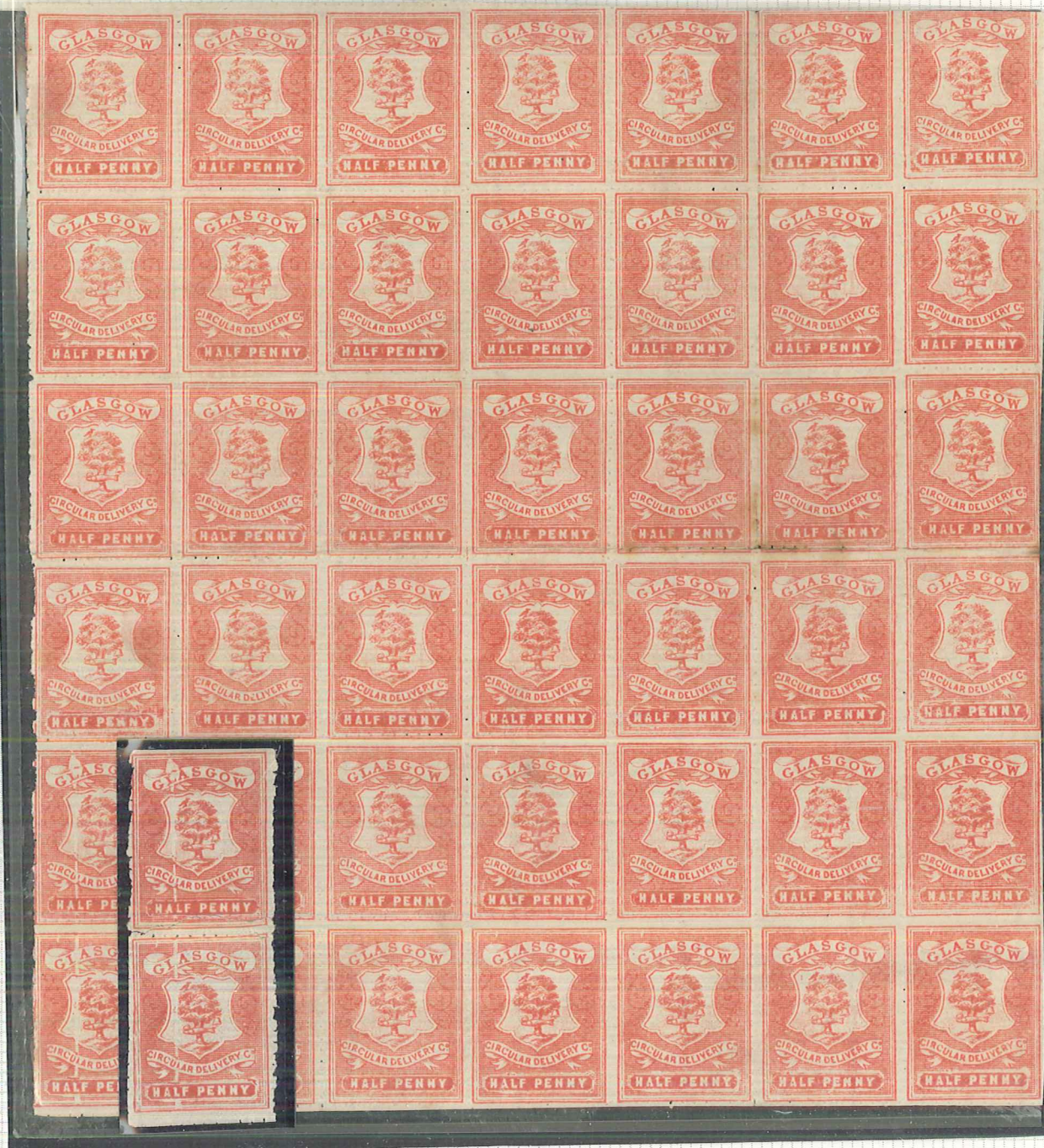Imperforate

Cracked plate

Double perf

Cracked plate

10

Glasgow Circular Delivery Company

Half pence dull scarlet

Major flaw, identical in vertical pair and bottom left
vertical pair of sheet. Indicates flaw is on printing plate

Cracked plate

Liverpool Circular Delivery Company

There is no trace of this company in the street directory or local newspapers in 1867. It is possible that these stamps were prepared for use in Liverpool but because of the impending Post Office action, the stamps were never used.

Issued April 1867

The very scarce blank impression

One farthing sepia, imperforate. The stamps Have many faults particularly at lower left

A block of halfpenny slate lilac perf. 13 showing the blank impression in the top right corner.

One halfpenny slate lilac, perforation 13.

12

London & District Circular Delivery Company

The "farthing error". Farthing value on the top row of a block of halfpenny stamps

Error of colour

National Circular Delivery Company

The National Circular Delivery Company was formed to deliver bulk circulars handed in in London, to other cities in which there were associated companies. Four values of stamps were involved, all perforated 13.

Issued April 1867

One farthing light green – a scarce stamp

Half penny blue

Three farthings brown ochre

One penny brown rose

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Dundee and Aberdeen Circular Delivery Companies

There appears to be no evidence that either of these two companies ever used their stamps, Only two stamps each, a farthing and a halfpenny, were produced by the companies. Of these, only the one halfpenny of Aberdeen is not very scarce.

Dundee Circular Delivery Company

Issued May 1867

One farthing reddish purple imperforate

Aberdeen Circular Delivery Company

Issued May 1867

One halfpenny slate blue

One farthing yellow-brown

Clark & Co. Edinburgh

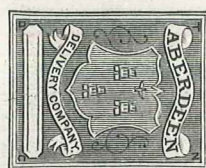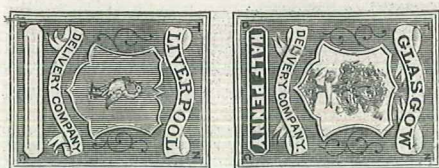Little is known about this company which was formed in Edinburgh

Issued February 1866

Type I   25.0mm width
Type II 23.5mm width

Type II   Type I

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The National Delivery Company
Nine different towns were printed
on a 9x9 sheet. These are referred
to as TNDC issues as these initials
were in the corner of the stamps.

This is a die proof taken in 1929
from the original die of the TNDC
issues, Metropolitan is missing.

Clark & Co. Edinburgh

Little is known about this company which was formed in Edinburgh as a Circular & Parcel Delivery Agency. Possibly they saw the success of Robert Brydone's Edinburgh and Leith Circular & Parcel Delivery Companies in 1865.

Only one stamp design was used but of two alternating transfer types, Type I of 25mm width and Type II of 23½mm width. Whilst there is no value on the stamps it is understood the value was one farthing

Issued February 1866

Type I

Type II   Type I   Type II

Type I   Type II

Type I   Type II

LONDON AND DISTRICT
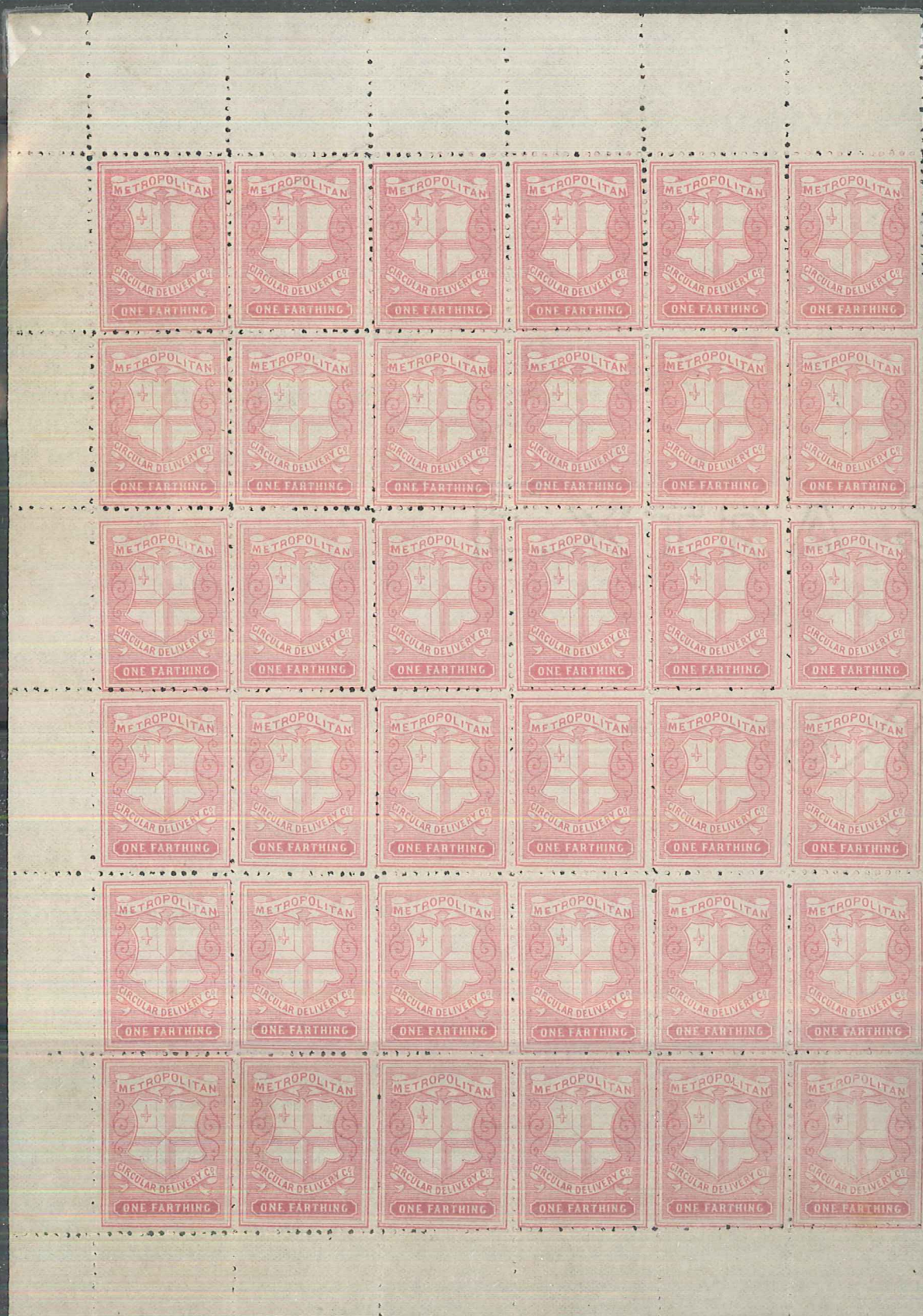
Error of colour CD43a/CD44

Error of colour, row of one farthing stamps is sheet of one half penny ie claret instead of yellow/green. Example show normal and error stamps together.

Error of colour on its own

One farthing rose-carmine Part sheet of 36. Original sheet is 6 x 11. Watermark shows word "Extra" in centre of part sheet for "EXTRA SUPERFINE AC & S".

LONDON AND DISTRICT CIRCULAR DELIVERY COMPANY'S STAMPS

CD53 Bk 8 and pair and single CD 56.1

LIVERPOOL issued 1867 Perf. 12 – 13.

½ lilac strip of 3. Possibly 8 – 10 on sheet.
This was the second issue for Liverpool as the ¼ brown had been issued in 1866 imperf.
The 1/2d lilac was printed in sheets of 198.

GLASGOW

Issued 1867 on laid paper either imperf. on pin perf. 10 ½ .

1/2d black imperf.

1/4d black pin perf.

Various Circular Delivery Stamps

ABERDEEN

1/2d slate blue x 2 (perf 13)

EDINBGURH AND LEITH (Elder Street)

1/2d red brown

LONDON CIRCULAR DELIVERY

1/2d greenish grey CD 30   1/2d colour is really dull violet (Methuen) CD27 or 28

METROPOLITAN (with letters of watermark)

Letter "E"   Letters SU inverted   CD 40

GLASGOW

One farthing black-imperf sheet of 6 x 9 but last 2 columns stained, original sheet is 6 x 11.
There is a vertical line as watermark through each column.