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W. & D. DOWNEY
PHOTOGRAPHERS



57 & 61, EBURY STREET.
LONDON, S.W.











BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Oran Sui

In upsy to your letter of

the 4th inst which her greville

has handed to me, I beg to

hipmy you that the King

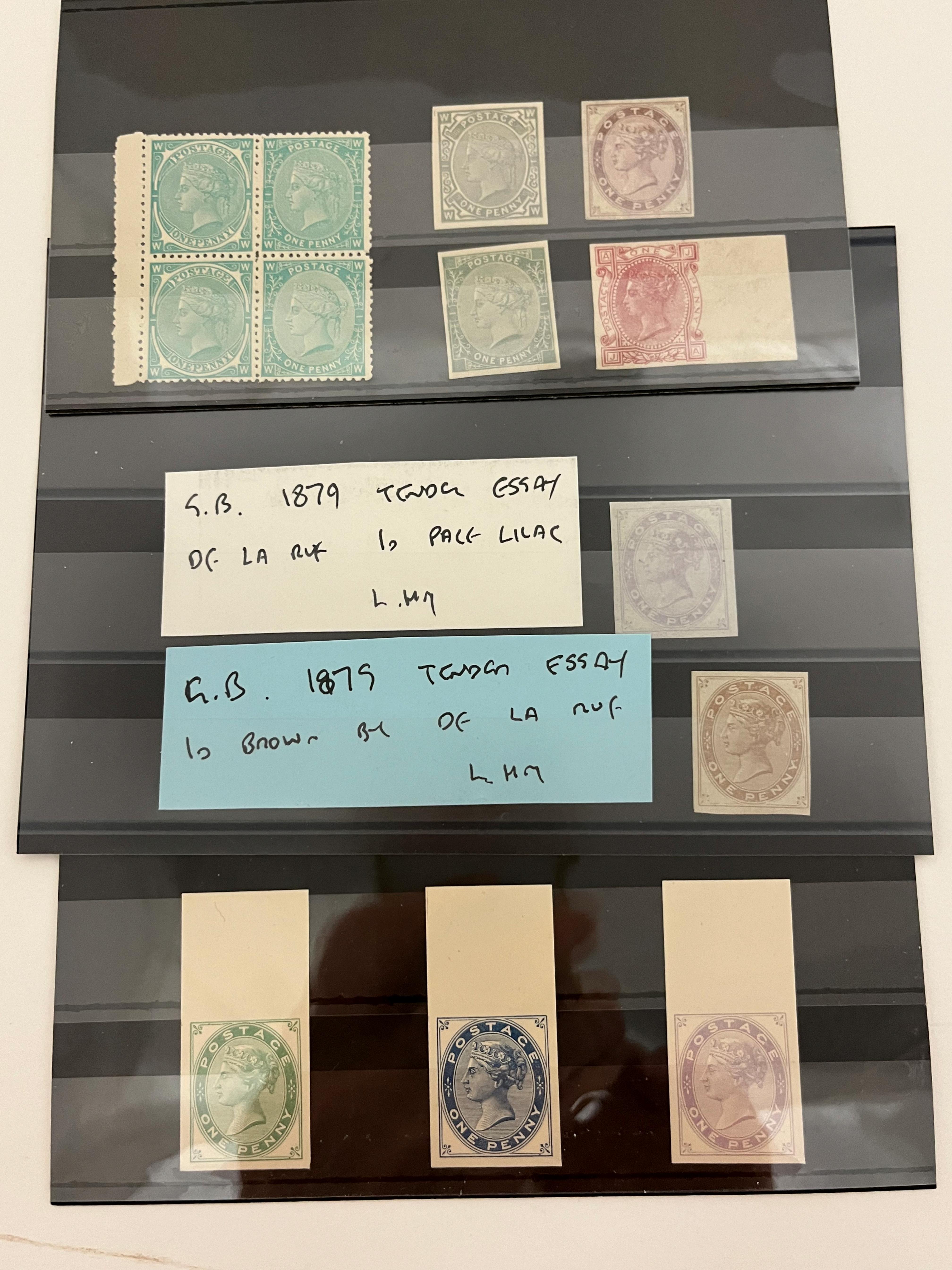
hile purchase the two

sketches which I am

leturning to you as thei

majesty wishes them to

be framed in the same





'The Penny Black'

Sir Rowland Hill (1795-1879)



Letter from Sir Rowland Hill.

Letter from Sir Rowland Hill, KCB, (1795-1879), champion of the Uniform Penny Post, and the invention of the Postage Stamp to facilitate prepayment of postal fees..

Baywater 14 July 1843

(Unknown),

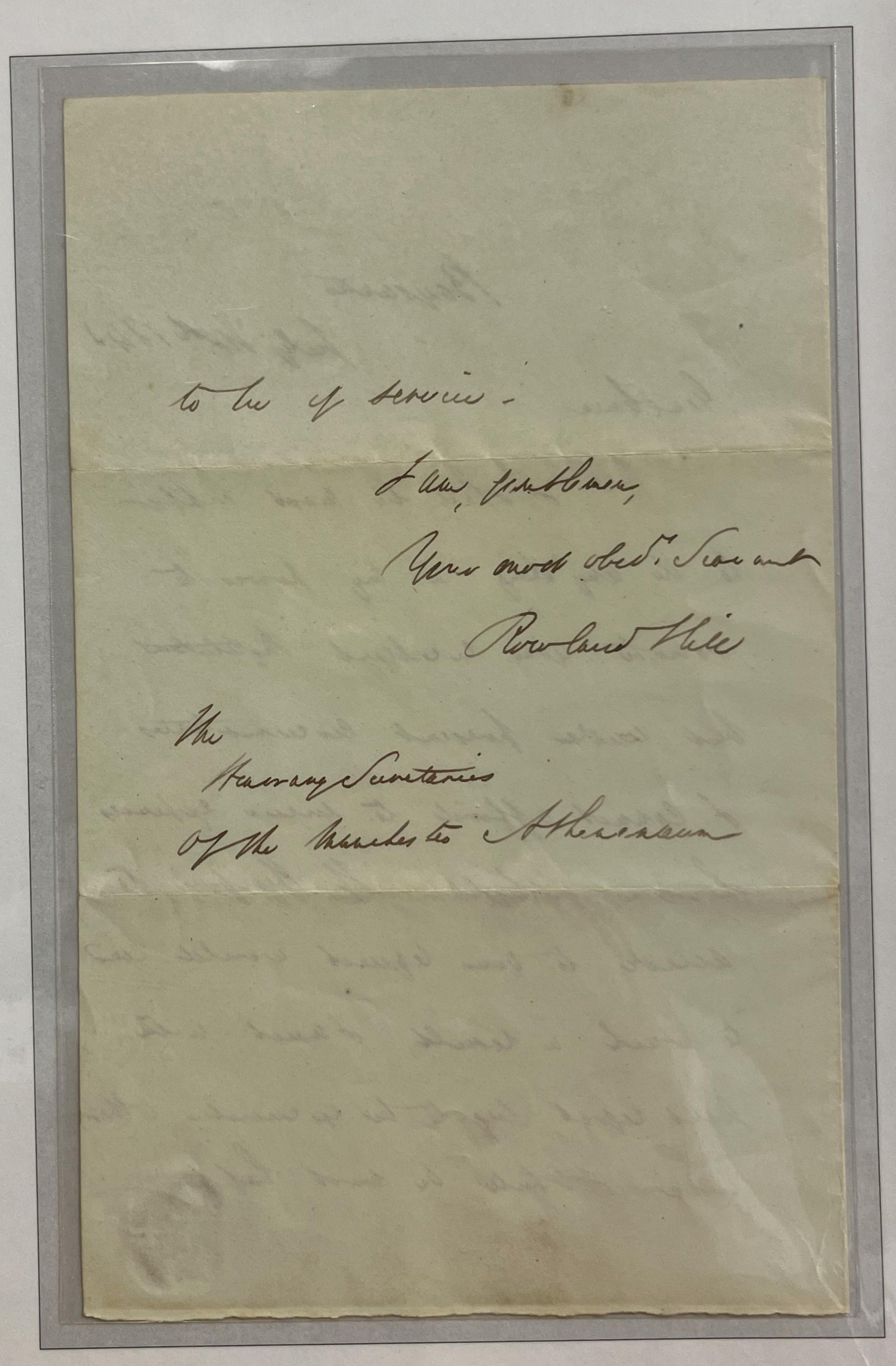
I shall be most happy to do anything in my power to promote your excellent institution but under present circumstances I cannot afford to incur expenses however slight - if, therefore to accede to your request would lead to such a result, I must, with great regret, beg to be excused - Otherwise I shall be most happy to be of service.

I am, (Unknown), Your most obed. servant,

Rowland Hill

The Honorary Secretaries of the Manchester Athenaeum

Note: The Manchester
Athenaeum was built in 1837,
for the "advancement and
diffusion of knowledge".
Rowland Hill spoke there in
the 1840s, on the subject of
culture and its improving
potential.



Letter from Sir Rowland Hill to The Honorary Secretaries of the Manchester Athenaeum.

Dated 14 July 1843. Signed "Rowland Hill". Block of 4 Penny Blacks printed in May 2000 using the Jacob Perkins' press originally used to print the Penny Blacks in 1840.



'The Penny Black'

Queen Victoria (1837-1901)



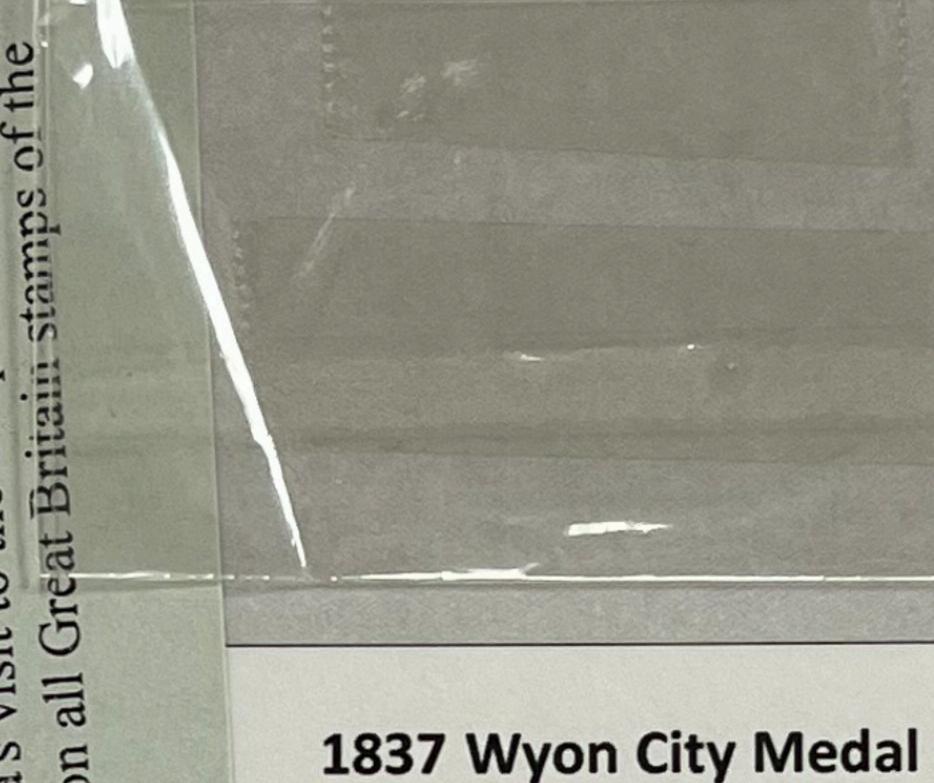
1837 Wyon City Medal

The 1837 Wyon City Medal was struck to commemorate Queen Victoria's visit to Guildhall on 9 November 1837, for the Lord Mayor's banquet. hostod L.

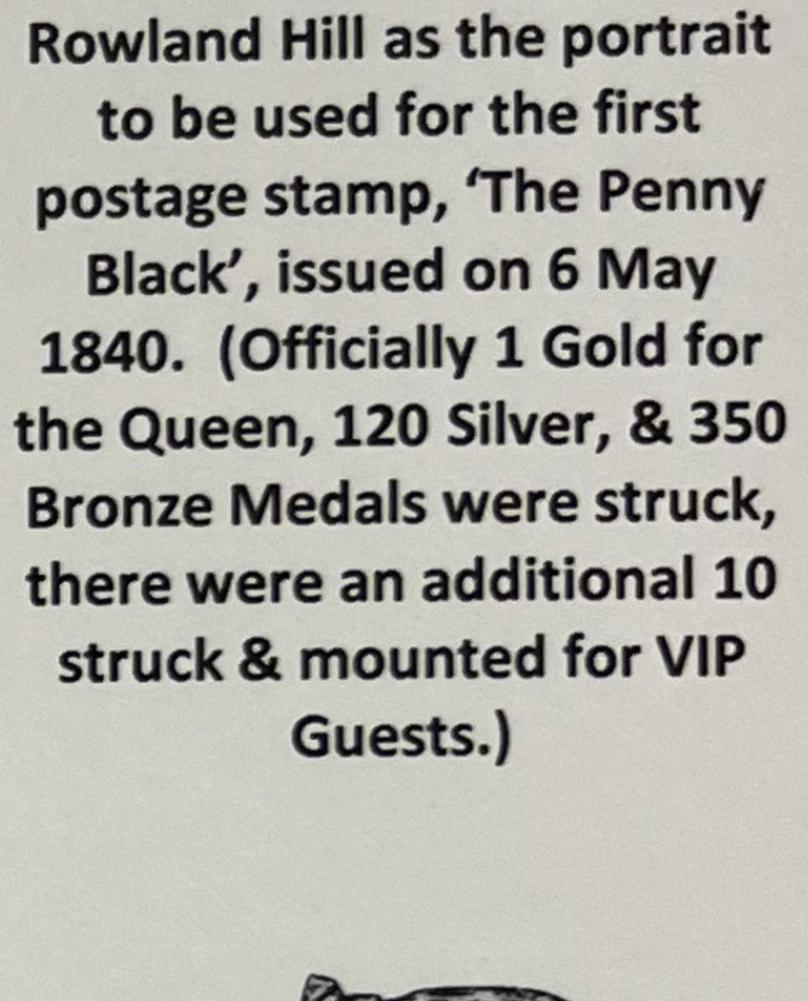
Corp Willian was th the Roy he mo

Princes





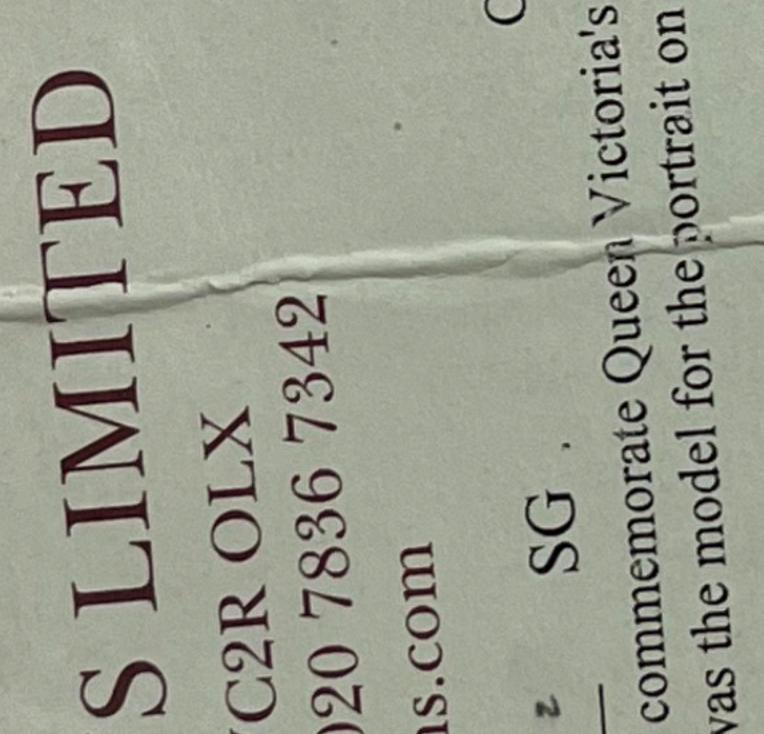
350 Struck in Bronze 17" (55mm) & 2.64 oz (74.85g) med bust of Victoria left; "VICTORIA REGINA" of Guildhall; "IN HONOUR OF HER MAJESTY'S ORPORATION OF LONDON / 9TH NOV. 1837" : "W. WYON R.A." on tranche of neck. Ex. Stanley Gibbons, 1994.



subsequently used for the

Medal in 1837. Wyon's

Head was selected by



On 13 Fel **Rowland Hi** the governm a prepaid e stamp. A cor announced fo and after over Hill chose a r that included the Queen.

was refined usi

based on Willi

1834 model, th

used in 1837 f

Medal. Wyon's

sketched by

examples

B40 'One Penny Black'



AS22 1d. Intense Black Plate 4: 19 May 1840 Position 34: "C J" chai Buranasomb lark Bloxham, 20



Corbould, and this was used by Charles & Frederick Heath to engrave the head on to a die using line engraving, which in turn was used to produce the plate of 240 images. The background was provided by Perkins Bacon & Co, and the firm received the contract to print the

The result over two ould result in 11 6,000 sheets, 8,000 Penny printed.



337 Wyon City Medal &

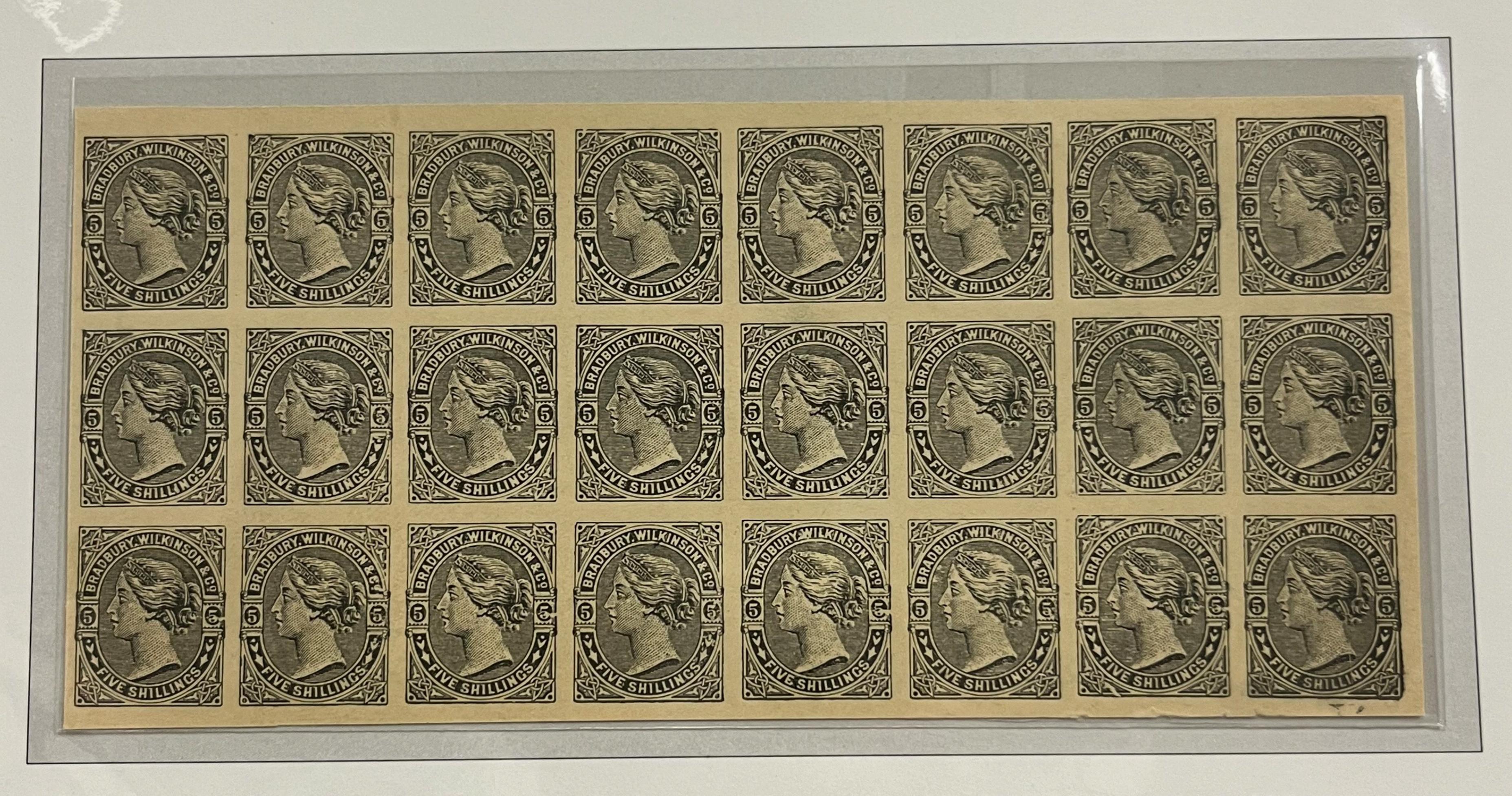


Bourn and Issues of Queen Victoria



Queen of England 1837-1901 & Empress of India 1876-1901

1879 Bradbury Wilkinson Five Shilling Surface Printed Tender Essay Block of 24



1879 Bradbury Wilkinson & Company Five Shilling Surface Printed Tender Essay Block of 24 for the 17 May 1879 Tender to replace the Perkins Bacon One Penny Red. Positions 5-12, 17-24, & 29-36.

Bradbury Wilkinson had very little time to prepare their submission to the One Penny Tender, and this essay block represents their attempt to convert Herbert Bourne's engraving of the Queen's Head from Recess to Surface printing. The Queen's portrait has also been flipped from its other uses to face left. Close examination of the block shows how inferior the surface printed version of this portrait is, and how difficult it was for Bradbury Wilkinson to attempt to produce a high quality design using a method of printing they were not familiar with. The transfer resulted in tremendous loss of detail, splotchy areas, and very inconsistent quality from one essay to the next. Mr. Robertson found this design "inferior, and unsuitable for surface-printing".

Designer: Queen's Head engraved by Herbert K. Bourne (1825-1907).

Provenance: Ex. Bradbury Wilkinson Archives (as a Block of 36 (3 Rows of 12 Impressions) - this being the right eight columns - the other 12 examples are in 2 x Blocks of Four, and 4 x Singles - there is also an Essay Die Proof in Green for this design in the R. M. Philips collection held by the British Postal Museum with the Submission Mark of the "Stamp Secretary 1879 #3252" with note "Specimen Surface Printed Stamp".