

# A study in the design of Queen Victoria stamps in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

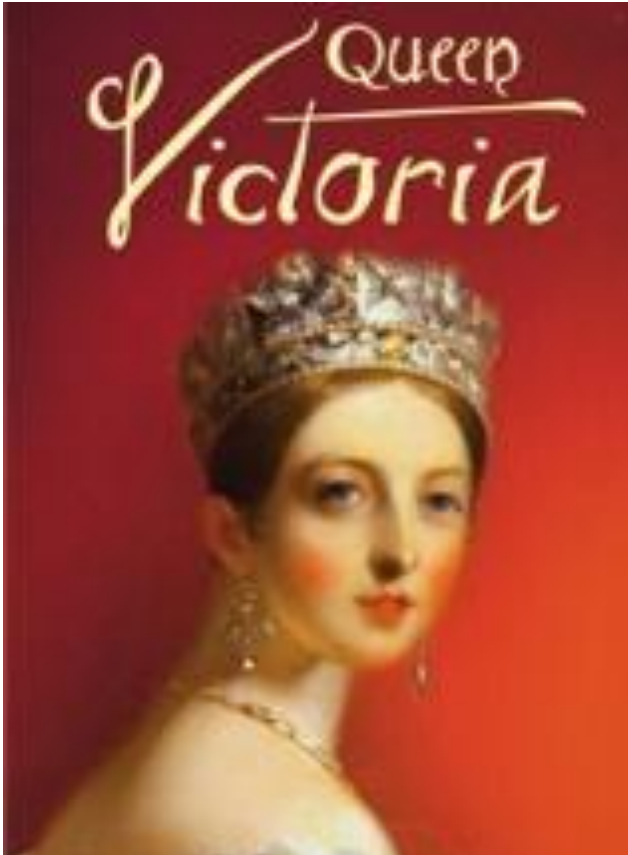


Photo from Usborne publications

Descriptions are noted using quotation marks from references throughout.

The author also describes stamp designs to showcase fine details of items when needed.

The Penny Black may be the oldest stamp utilizing the image of Queen Victoria but it is not the rarest item within the exhibit.

Items of note are shown within a blue frame.

## Challenges

Obtaining specimen copies of the 1854 issues of India shown on page six was arduous.

Locating the 1853 Chalon issue of Nova Scotia in fine condition took some effort.

When looking at Queen Victoria designs by specific country, the 1851 – 1853 issues from New South Wales shown on page three, were specifically chosen for clarity of their designs.

## PURPOSE

This exhibit will introduce you to the major and minute design changes to Queen Victoria stamps during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

It begins with the Penny Black of Great Britain, the first adhesive stamp ever issued.

The exhibit ends with the Jubilee Issue of Canada, the only stamp to include both a young Queen and an older Queen.

The exhibit is organized in a somewhat chronological order with exceptions made to provide clarity and continuity.

To meet this organizational challenge, there are separate sections on Chalon designs, Widow's Weed designs and designs by country.

Dr. John Edward Gray published a book in 1870 that described many of the stamps in this exhibit.

The book was titled:

### "The Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps"

Terms used from his book in the exhibit:

**Diadem** ( Crown )

**Diapered** ( Woven repeated pattern )

**Reticulated** ( A pattern of interlacing lines )

## References

- (1) *The Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps* by Dr. John Edward Gray (1870)
- (2) *Album Weeds or How to Detect Forged Stamps* Robert Earee (1892)
- (3) Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Queen Victoria Volume 1, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (1973)
- (4) *Holmes Specialized Philatelic Catalogue of British North America*
- (5) "Identification of the Essays Proofs and Reprints of the 1854 Issue of India". J.A. Spence