

## PRINTING OF POSTAGE STAMPS IN INDIA SGO OFFICE, CALCUTTA 1854-55

In 1854 Govt. asked the Survey of India if stamps could be printed on the presses that were then installed at the Surveyor General's Office.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February it was decided to take this job up. The design of the postage stamp with the Queen's head was prepared by head draftsman Mariano Smith of Survey of India.

Proper engraving of the design on the copper plate was made by Sri Namiruddin and from this plate transfers were obtained.

First printing of stamps was of 1 lac and a half number in one day, by keeping double working hours at the press.



The top row shows stamps printed in indigo and vermilion, and officially issued. Reproduced from specimen struck from original copper-plate dies without exact matching of colours.

The below two lower rows show experimental designs reproduced from specimen struck from original copper-plates and lithographic stones.



The envelope is a reproduction of one posted to Alexander Wyatt at Mymen singh in February 1856.

