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THE

COLLEGE STAMPS

OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE.

H StuO^ ot tbeit Ibistor^ anC> XDlse

from 1870 to 1886. Exetnplified by reference to Original Letters and Collections. WITH ILLUSTRATIONS FROM SPECIALLY PREPARED
PHOTO

ir>LUSTRAT10NS.

OXFORD:— KEBLE COLLEGE. iLMBOSSED ISSUES, TYPE 1

Preface.

in the college issues. Ten panels, and these not very large, contain all its examples of college stamps. A
few of them are interesting, and these have

the

not col 32ge college thembyET /F1 60 Tf BT 1 0 0423429 11154

Introductton.

It seems very desirable to gather into one volume whatever is possible respecting these interesting issues of stamps, in use for fifteen years, then well-nigh forgotten, until several

UniDcrsltp PriDilegcs in Cemr Carrpitig.

From time immemorial the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge possessed

4 The College Stamps of

least one college, the college arms on the flap of the envelope franks the letter for delivery, and the University Delagacies pursue the same system with-

out let or

Oxford and Cambridge. 5

It

be quite undesirable to revive the controversy

Oxford and Cambridge. n

a vertical pair with the embossed impression of the

College Arms shewing on the two stamps tete beche, a great curiosity. A single mint copy is in the
Tapling Collection.
Early in the history of these stamps, but at what precise date is unknown, an obliterating stamp was provided. It was made of metal, and when used with an ordinary inked pad, impressed upon the stamp five dots in form of a square, about 7m.m. apart

from centre of dots. • •

b 179d

a 79A history C p b179dCoTm 1889erv

but

five

KEBLE COLLEGE.

Type I.—No. i.

Type I.—No. 2.

envelope.

1

6

The College Stamps of

A copy of his letter is here:

The Museum^ York,

1

8

Oxford and Cambridge Stamps*

KEBLE COLLEGE.

Type I.—No. 4.

Type II.—No. 5. In Ultramarine.

Type II.—No. 5. In Bright Blue.

22 The College Stamps of

The of The The The off

OxfordandCambridge.23SirWalterGray,sincethenfourtimesMayorofOxford,wasStewardofKeble,1870—andwasfteously

24 Oxford and Cambridge Stamps.

Crawford. This sheet is on cream paper. My own collection contains two sheets, slightly differing in shade, but both on white paper.

The original copper plates of this and the pre-ceding Spiers issue were defaced with others in 1898.

em^eiopes.

TYPE I.—No. 7. The

KEBLE COLLEGE.

Tyfk III.—No. 6.

Tvi'E I.—No. 7.

So-called " Provlsional." Officlal Collkgk Die.

Oxford and Cambridge Stamps, 27

A second variety {b) has the laid lines across the envelope from right top to bottom left corner, exactly the reverse of {a), and the colour of the embossed

o972

Oxford and Cambridge* 29

{a) Thin white card.

32 Oxford and Cambridge Stamps*

Both sizes are common enough in three distinct

varieties:

(a) Purplish grey, with diagonal flaps (these
were in use in 1893).
(d) Dark grey, with rounded flaps.

{c) Grey, with rounded flaps (these were in use in 1895).

And there may have been more varieties, but I have examples of all noted here which were used
in 1893-4.

Since 1895, the successive supplies of stationery-seem to have been of white and cream paper, both laid and wove, and envelopes made of both kinds, with the die (Type I) upon the flap " right way up," have been used, the franking power remaining as

before.

Reputed Parcel Stains

What has been

Oxford and Cambridge Stamps. 35

An irregular block of eight (see p. 33) are the only specimens known (the Earl of Crawford posesses the left hand block of three, the other five are in the collection of Erskine Beveridge, Esq.;,

36 The College Stamps of

in which the eight specimens found were embossed—not in a row, but one here, one there, one upright, another on its side, and so on, so irregular that they could not have been cut into squares, and

embossed embossedembossed

Oxford and Cambridge. 37

If

3^ The College Stamps of

But when we come to the college " messenger," still more definite evidence is forthcoming

Who the former college messenger, referred to p. 32, can have been it is difficult to know.

The first messenger at Keble was John Waite, 1870-71; then William Keep from 1872 to Easter, 1873. He was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Bunce, who retained the office for nearly thirteen years, until the summer of 1885.
Mr.

TOcrton Colkge, 1876,

At a Merton College meeting on October 26th, 1876, it was resolved " that stamps and stamp cards be adopted for messages."

These must have been prepared immediately, as they were issued in the latter part of the same year,
1876, and

Oxford and Cambridge Stamps, 51 Another, with part gum, I have seen, which

has evidently been removed from the envelope. It is in possession of Captain E. A.

been has

have has have seen,en, and Captain which been seen, which isSseen, E.aveS(and)Tj isthe been isA.ofbeen envelope.

Oxford and Cambridge. 53

This, however, is not the case—pairs and blocks unused are extremely rare; single copies are met with but seldom, and only three entire

. , mmm H

i

1

Citicoln College, 1877.

Tke design is a bishop's mitre in oval band, with the word " Message " in upper and " One Penny " in the
loiver curve, with fleurs-des-lis as corner ornaments, the whole enclosed in rectangular frame, printed from a steel plate in varying shades of blue on white and creamy paper, perfora-tions fourteen. Each sheet contains thirty stamps, five rows

of six. The Lincoln College stamp is the only

stamp

56 Oxford and Cambridge Stamps.

the paper of the later printings is whiter

LINCOLN COLLEGE.

From the "Original Proof Sheet."

B

6o The College Stamps of and the remainder of the sheet is

l>ertfor(l Colkgc. 1875.

A Study of these issues occasions a great surpri'se
that so small a college should have had such a stock of stamps and stamped stationery, and made so

aaT5 2theseupwn/F1 48.48 Tf B5d

HERTFORD COLLEGE.

Type I.—Envelopes.

mw * *"» «

I » » * « •

Type II.—No. 3.

Oxford and Cambridge Stamps. 69

JIdDcsiues.

TYPE II.- No. 3. College arms on a shield^ diagonally suspended., with

ciradar band above and below, inscribed, "Hertford College," upon a background

72 The College Stamps of

ODliUration,

Hertford

EXETER COLLEGE.

Type II.

Type

€xctcr College, 1882.

TYPE L

College arms in shield^ enclosed in circular band inscribed " Coll. Exon.

Oxford and Cambridge. 77

The card was in use as late as 1885, and those remaining after the suppression of the college issues, are said to have been used up in

m\ souls' Colle^et 1884.

College arms in a shield upon a circular band, which contains the words " All Souls' College " on a back ground of crossed lines, ifi a rectangular frame. Litho-graphed in

alines, Litho- ground onagraphed

84 Oxford and Cambridge Stamps«

Used copies on letters, obliterated with pencil rubbing, are met with now and then, but the majority of the specimens one sees are singles and

u^^1^k«^QCJ||]| IrS gjuyjp
S^^v ^IBbC' <^ M1

From Defaced Copper Plates.

Oxford and Cambridge Stamps. 89

The steel dies of Exeter St. John's and Keble (Emberlin, Type III) were, in 1895, in the possession of Professor Napier.
Relying on

90 The College Stamps of

There may be a

Stamps College

Oxford and Cambridge* 91

Oxford Union Socletp.

C/2 d
It will be interesting, in connection with Oxford stamps, to gather up what is known as to overprinted

stamps of the O. U. S. This overprint of the Oxford Union Society,

which celebrated its eightieth anniversary last year, is the only instance in which the Postal Authorities have ever permitted a surcharge on the face of

Government stamps, for private use. The permission given in 1857 or 8 was withdrawn
in 1870, after which time the surcharge or overprint was made on the back of

94 The College Stamps of

There is curiously no record in the minutes or ac- counts of the Oxford Union Society of any order to a
local or other firm for this overprinting, or of payment for the same, from which it

SELWYN COLLEGE, 1882.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE, 1883.

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, 1883

•^ W af W rf v^ ^••d-W ^!^

Queen's College, 1S$3.

A boar's head upon a

SYNOPSIS OF ISSUES.

Kebic College, 1870. Type I. Orange Vermilion, perf. ii, No. i... „,, perf. 12, No. 2 Rose Pink, perf. ii, No. 3... Large

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The Philatelist Dec. 1871, p. 154 Notice of Keble

Philatelic Record April, 1889 Rossiter. Stamp Collector March, 1893, p. 33 Monthly Journal Dec, 1892, p. 120 Napier.

Napier.

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Defaced plate 87

Defective

5.89 1 1122563 Tm (...)TTj 7 ET /F1 36.67 Tf37201770 1 66Bibliography9T /F1 41.94 Tf BT 1 0 0 1 44ai8T001770 820 132445 Tm (...)Tj ET

io8 Index.

Mekton Collegk:

Envelope S3 Mauve adhesive..................... 52 Missing dies

p. L PEMBERTON & Co.,
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