

# Frederick Huth & Co.

Merchants and Merchant Bankers, 12 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC.

For the early history of the company I can do no better than quote from the website of the University College London. The 'UCL' is where the "*Frederick Huth & Company*" archives (1812-1955) are housed.

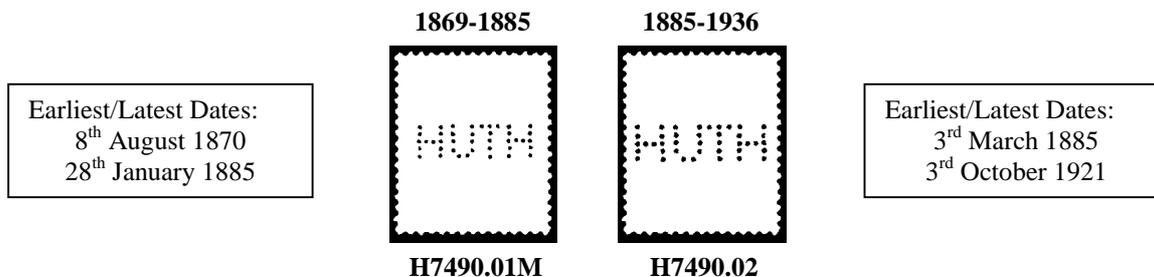
*Frederick Huth first established his own business in Corunna, Spain, in 1805. He came to London in 1809 and set up business as a merchant. In 1814 he took John Frederick Grüning into partnership and the resulting firm, Huth & Company, was formed. Throughout the 19th century the firm is described in London directories as 'merchants', only from 1904 is the description 'bankers' added, although it is clear that the business always included banking. From 1912 the firm had a fur warehouse, it also had a tea warehouse from 1921. In 1936 the company was dissolved. The banking business was acquired by British Overseas Bank Ltd, and the fur business by C M Lampson & Co Ltd.*

Confirmation of the Spanish connection can be found in this extract taken from the **1881 Census of Great Britain**.

Dwelling: 9 Palace Garden, Paddington, London, Middlesex.				
	Marr	Age	Sex	Birthplace
<b>Charles Frederick HUTH</b>	M	74	M	<b>Spain - British Subject.</b>
	Rel:	Head	Occ:	Merchant (Tokenhouse Yard).
Francis Caroline HUTH	M	68	F	London, Middlesex, England.
	Rel:	Wife		
Reginald HUTH	U	27	M	London, Middlesex, England.
	Rel:	Son	Occ:	No Occupation.

This *Charles Frederick Huth* (born in Spain, c1806/7) is the son of Frederick Huth, co-founder of "*Huth & Co*", and even aged 74 years would still have been in charge of the company at the time of the 1881 census.

'Tomkins' and the old Illustrated Catalogue give scant details of the two "**HUTH**" dies. However, an analysis of the postage stamps, Foreign Bills, and other 'stamps' found initialled with these patterns (at least 269 different issues/values are known!) help refine the 'die in use' dates as follows:



In the case of the earlier die, Queen Victoria 1d Red plate numbers in the low 100s (i.e. 100, 106, 107, 113, 116 ..... ) indicate a *start date* slightly earlier than 1870, say 1869 (or just possibly 1868). This early date (pre 1872) means the die was made by "*Joseph Sloper & Co*" during his 'monopoly' period.

Both dies are known on the 'Lilac & Green' issue of Queen Victoria, (introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1884), with known dates in the first quarter of 1885, so the *changeover date* for the dies was probably February 1885.

The later, larger die is known on the photogravure issue of King George V. This ties in neatly with the take-over of the company in 1936, and gives us a *terminal date* of 1936.

Just to finish off the chronology, in June 1944 the produce businesses, "Huth Coffee Sales Ltd" and "Huth Produce Sales Ltd" (absorbed by the "British Overseas Bank Ltd" in 1936), were sold to "Matheson & Co", while the banking business was sold to "Glyn, Mills & Co" (Established 1753). In 1954 the "British Overseas Bank Ltd" was formally wound up, although the process was not finalised until 1962.

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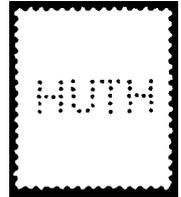
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Examples follow from the 'Permanent Collection', arranged in chronological order within the issues.

1869-1885

## The Line Engraved issues.

The Queen Victoria 1d Red plates have been organised in years according to their 'put-to-press' dates. Although the early plate 100 (first put-to-press in 1866) is recorded with the "HUTH" perfin, there is no example in the collection.



### First 'put-to-press' 1868.



### First 'put-to-press' 1869.



### First 'put-to-press' 1870.



### First 'put-to-press' 1871.



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## First 'put-to-press' 1872.



Plate 155



Plate 156



Plate 157



Plate 158



Plate 159



Plate 160



Plate 164

## First 'put-to-press' 1873.



Plate 167



Plate 170



Plate 171

## First 'put-to-press' 1874.



Plate 174



Plate 175

## First 'put-to-press' 1875.



Plate 179



Plate 180



Plate 183

## First 'put-to-press' 1876.



Plate 187



Plate 190



Plate 192



Plate 195

# Frederick Huth & Co.

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First 'put-to-press' 1877.



Plate 196



Plate 198



Plate 199



Plate 200



Plate 201



Plate 202



Plate 205

First 'put-to-press' 1878.



Plate 217



Plate 218



Plate 13



Plate 14



Plate 15

The Line Engraved issues – all four denominations are represented, a “*Full House!*”



Plate 12



Plate 119



Plate 1



Plate 15

The postmarks usually encountered are for London, but ‘466’ (**Liverpool**) and ‘383’ (**Hull**) may also be found.



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## The Surface Printed issues.

### 2½d Rosy Mauve.



Plate 3



Plate 5



Plate 6



Plate 9



Plate 10



Plate 11



Plate 13



Plate 14



Plate 16



Plate 17

### 2½d Blue.



Plate 17



Plate 19



Plate 20



Plate 21



Plate 22



Plate 23

### 3d Carmine.



Plate 10



Plate 18

### 4d Vermilion.



Plate 12



Plate 13



Plate 14

### 4d Sage-green.



Plate 15

### 4d Grey-brown.



Plate 18

# Frederick Huth & Co.

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**6d Violet.**



Plate 9

**6d Chestnut.**



Plate 11

**6d Grey.**



Plate 14



Plate 15



Plate 16



Plate 17

**6d on 6d.**



Plate 18

**1/- Green.**



Plate 13

**1/- Brown.**



Plate 13



Plate 14

**2/- Blue.**



Plate 1

The following high value stamps are known:  
5/- (Plate 1 – SG126), and £1 (Plate 1 – SG129)

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The earlier "HUTH" die is known on all five values introduced in 1880. It is also known on the first issue of the 1d Lilac with 14 pearls (introduced 12<sup>th</sup> July 1881), although there is no example in the 'Permanent Collection'.



**½d Green**



**16 Dots**

## Queen Victoria 'Lilac and Green' issue.

These examples were issued on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1884.



**2d Lilac**



**4d Green**



**2½d Lilac**

This last postage stamp postmarked 6<sup>th</sup> January 1885 shows a late use of the early die. This die was replaced by one with slightly larger letters probably during February 1885.



\* \* \* \* \*

The early die is also recorded as having been used on a variety of other stamps, including the 1d Inland Revenue, a 3d Telegraph stamp, and a range of Foreign Bills. The following examples are representative of its use on Foreign Bills.



**9d**



**1/-**



**3/-**



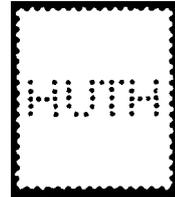
**5/-**

# Frederick Huth & Co.

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1885-1936

As reported previously, the earlier "HUTH" die was replaced by one with slightly larger letters. From postmark evidence, the changeover date is likely to have been during *February 1885*.



Again, stamps are shown in issue order.



1/2d Slate



16 Dots

## Queen Victoria 'Lilac and Green' issue.



2d Lilac



2 1/2d Lilac



6d Green



1 1/2d Lilac



4d Green



5d Green

## Queen Victoria 'Jubilee' issue.



1 1/2d



2d



2 1/2d



4d



5d



6d



1/- Green

# Frederick Huth & Co.

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High value stamps are known: 2/6d, 5/- & 10/- for Queen Victoria, and 2/6d & 5/- for King Edward VII.



2/6d



2/6d

## King Edward VII definitives.



1/2d Blue-green



1d



1 1/2d



2d



2 1/2d



3d



4d Green-brown



4d Orange



10d



1/-

## King George V 'Downey' Head.



1d

## King George V 'Typographs' - mixture of watermarks.



1 1/2d



2d



2 1/2d



3d



5d



6d

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The sequence is completed by this single example of a King George V 'Photogravure' issue, introduced in 1935.



1½d

In 1936 the company was dissolved. The banking business was acquired by "*British Overseas Bank Ltd*", and the fur business by "*C M Lampson & Co Ltd*".

\* \* \* \* \*

As with the earlier die, this later die is also known on 'Foreign Bills'. The following examples are representative of the use on this category of material.



QV 3d



QV 2/-



QV 10/-



KEVII 5/-



KEVII £1

Newly acquired material awaiting incorporation into the display.

(I suspect there may be a long wait!)



Acknowledgements to:

Lars Boettger, Jack Brandt, Ian Burns (ob), Terry Comper, John Donner, Maurice Harp, John Nelson, Jeff Turnbull, Terry Wood (ob), and Charles Jennings (publication).