

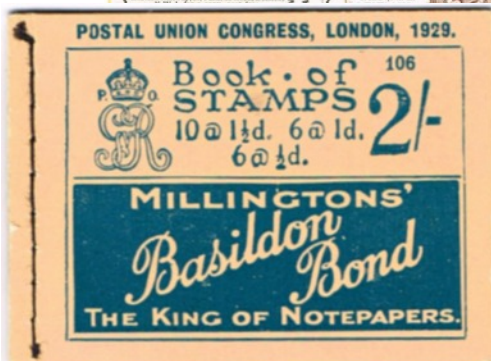
Sending a letter



The British postal reforms of 1840 changed the way people thought about writing to each other. From 6th May that year it became cheap to send letters, and when William Mulready designed the stationery that launched these reforms he was clearly aware of their importance. He called his design "Britannia Sending Letters to the World", the focal point of the design being a personification of Britannia overseeing people reading and writing letters.
 11 July 1840 Mill Hill to London, with straight-line MILL HILL cancel and red Maltese Cross. London District dated cancel on reverse

The reforms brought an increase in letter writing and the following year saw a doubling of the number of items sent. This symbolic design of a roll of paper being converted to writing supplies embodies its popularity.

An industry to support letter writing for all, not just the elite, was launched



Good quality pens were deployed

By the twentieth century good quality writing paper was a mark of refinement. Basildon Bond was created by Millington and Sons in 1911.
 1929 booklet with PUC stamps, watermark inverted

But today all that is gone. We use text and email.

