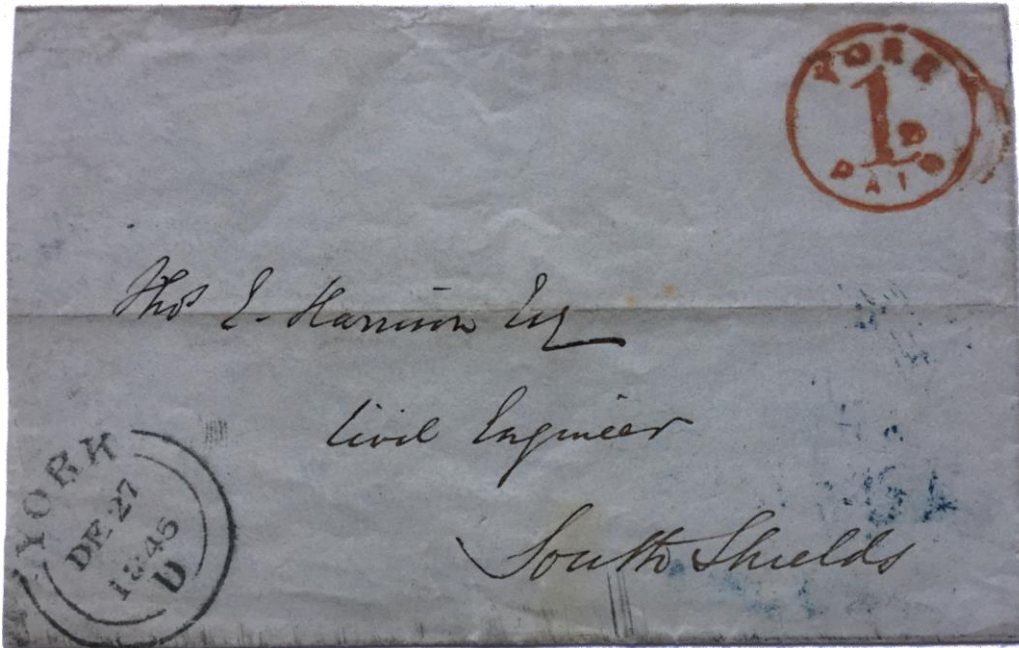


BUILDING VICTORIAN BRIDGES – THE WORK OF THOMAS ELLIOT HARRISON

Written by **Colin Clark**: Civil engineering and Victorian railway development had an immense social impact and this postal history item is tied to railway innovation via the addressee.



1845 (folded entire – Great Britain - wrapper). Route: York to South Shields (North East of England).
Rate: 1d PAID (½ - half-ounce rate). **Comments:** paid letters marked with red ink (YORK 1d PAID). YORK posted: DE 27 1845. **Dimensions of folded entire:** 13.8 cm by 8.6 cm.
Addressee: *Thos E. Harrison Esq, Civil Engineer, South Shields.*



← OBVERSE:

Backstamp
(circular dated
double arc).
Received:
South Shields
DE 28 1845.

YORK 1d PAID.

Shows
postage
had been
pre-paid.



Portrait commissioned for the board room of the North Eastern Railway (circa 1884). Source: Science Museum Group – Pictorial Collection (Railway).

Thomas Elliot Harrison (1808 – 1888) was a Victorian civil engineer and an associate of Robert Stephenson. He designed bridges, stations and other permanent railway structures. Some milestones of his career were:

- 📖 Designed the **Victoria Viaduct** for the Durham Junction Railway. Its official opening was planned to coincide with **Queen Victoria's coronation** on 28th June 1838, but the viaduct did not open until **1839**.
- 📖 Worked with Robert Stephenson in **1845** to build the main railway line between Newcastle-on-Tyne and Berwick. Robert was the only son of George Stephenson and co-inventor of the **Rocket** steam locomotive.
- 📖 Engineered design for the Newcastle-on-Tyne High Level Bridge in **1849**.
- 📖 Designed and built the **Tyne Dock at South Shields** in **1859**.
- 📖 Served as President of the **Institution of Civil Engineers** (1874 – 1876).



The title bar background is a part of the engineering drawing for the Newcastle-on-Tyne High Level Bridge.