

The Chalon Heads of Queen Victoria

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Queen Victoria was quick to see that her image was a powerful tool in relating to her public including on the new adhesive stamps first introduced in 1840 by Rowland Hill early in her reign.

The first image made of a monarch on a stamp engraved from a painting was of the Queen's head from the royal portrait by Alfred Edward Chalon. Two companies, one in London and the other in New York, created dies that were used in engraved issues from several colonies of Britain's global empire.



UK Government Art Collection

1837 portrait painted by Alfred Edward Chalon, R.A.



American Banknote Company

- Won contracts for three Canadian colonies
- First Chalon head issued was Canada 1851 12d black



1870 Prince Edward Island



400% Enlarged

*Lips closed
Crown jewels spread
Head tilted left and down*

Perkins Bacon Ltd.

- Won contracts for several colonies
- Dies engraved by William Humphreys



400% Enlarged

*Lips open like painting
Jewels tight on crown
Eyes looking left and up*



1863 New Zealand die proof in green. Stamp was issued as brown-lilac



1857 Colony of Canada



1863 New Brunswick

Nova Scotia and Grenada also issued stamps featuring the Humphreys engraving



1863 Bahamas



1869 Natal



1858 New Zealand



1897 Canada Diamond Jubilee

The die for the young Queen was re-engraved and flipped so that she would face into the stamp.



1861 Queensland



1855 Tasmania



1865 Tasmania