

SURFING THE VICTORIAN WEB

Just as virtual Philately in the 21st century is currently gaining momentum, so the Victorian era had its own popular modes of mass communication, e.g. books. Books helped to fuel the increasing national literacy rate and British cultural development. Book publishers were integral to this social media trend. This postal history item is closely tied to the history of Victorian book publishing via the **addressee**.

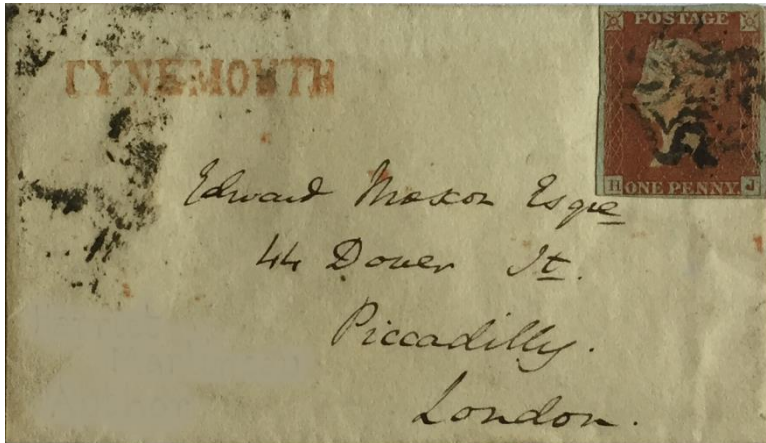


Figure 1. 1842 (Great Britain - cover).

Route: TYNEMOUTH – North Shields (North East of England) to London.

Rate: ONE PENNY (½ - half-ounce rate). **Dimensions of cover:**

94 mm by 54 mm.

ADDRESSEE: *Edward Moxon Esqre, 44 Dover St., Piccadilly, London.*



Figures 2 (left) and 3 (above). Obverse: Featuring backstamp (Circular dated double arc). From: **NORTH SHIELDS SP 3 1842.**



Figure 4 (above). TYNEMOUTH (red) one straight line uppercase script mark, located on the cover's front.



STAMP on COVER: Imperforate 1d. red-brown with **Maltese Cross** cancellation.

Figure 5. Date and Hour Stamp. Receiving London office: **8 N^T 8 SP 5 1842 (red)**. Time is 8 PM at night, indicated by **8 N^T 8**. It is located on the cover's back.

THE ADDRESSEE:

Edward Moxon (1801 – 1858) was a Victorian publisher. Some milestones of his career were:

- 📖 **William Wordsworth** entrusted him with the publication of his works from 1835 onwards.
- 📖 He published the poetry of **Alfred Lord Tennyson** and **John Keats**.
- 📖 In 1839, he issued the first complete edition of **Percy Bysshe Shelley** poems, edited by **Mary Shelley**, who herself was the author of the classic gothic novel *Frankenstein* (1818).
- 📖 Both **Tennyson** and **Wordsworth** became personal friends of **Moxon**.
- 📖 He published the work of **Harriet Martineau (1802 – 1876)**, female author and sociologist.



NOTE: The background of the title bar starting this exhibit is an antique map fragment showing **Front Street** in **TYNEMOUTH**. **Harriet Martineau** lived at **57 Front Street, North Shields (TYNEMOUTH)** for nearly 5 years, from 16th March 1840. This cover is dated 1842.

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