

POSTAL CARDS OVERPRINTED SPECIMEN

(1885 - 1944)

ALSO APPEARED IN U.K. M.S.C. VIRTUAL DISPLAY NO #123

By Samuel Parnis

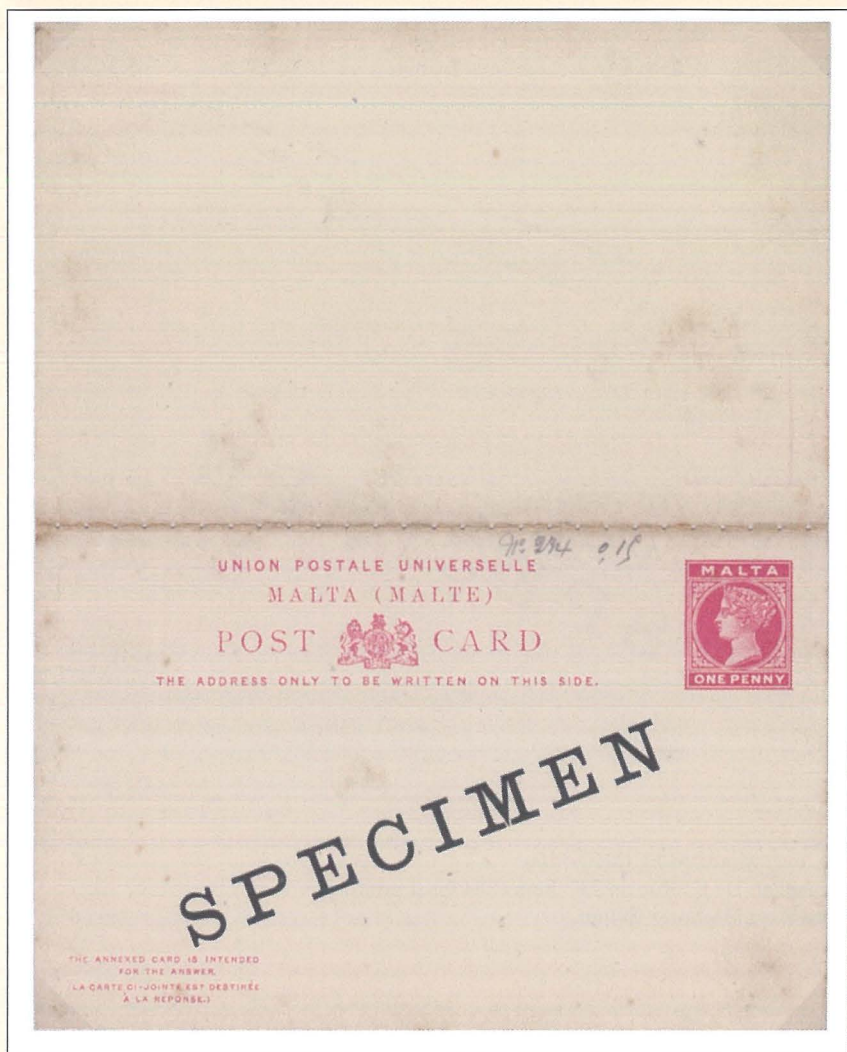
The Maltese Postal Cards, which replaced the Great Britain Postal Stationery postcards previously in use, are believed to have been put on sale on the 27th December 1884; to be used as from the 1st January 1885, the same day as the adhesive stamps for overseas mail were released. This was announced in the Malta Government Gazette №. 3031 issued on Wednesday 10th December 1884:-

"Malta postage stamps to be used on and from 1st January 1885 may be purchased at the G.P.O. Valletta, on and after 27th December". Stationery was not specifically mentioned in this notice, but a 1d. postcard is recorded datestamped 5th January 1885, and a used reply section sent back to Malta is recorded also postmarked – CATANIA 13 MARCH 85.

Postal Stationery Cards overprinted SPECIMEN were sent to Postmasters and Postal Administrations so that they were able to identify valid Postal Stationery and avoid forgeries.

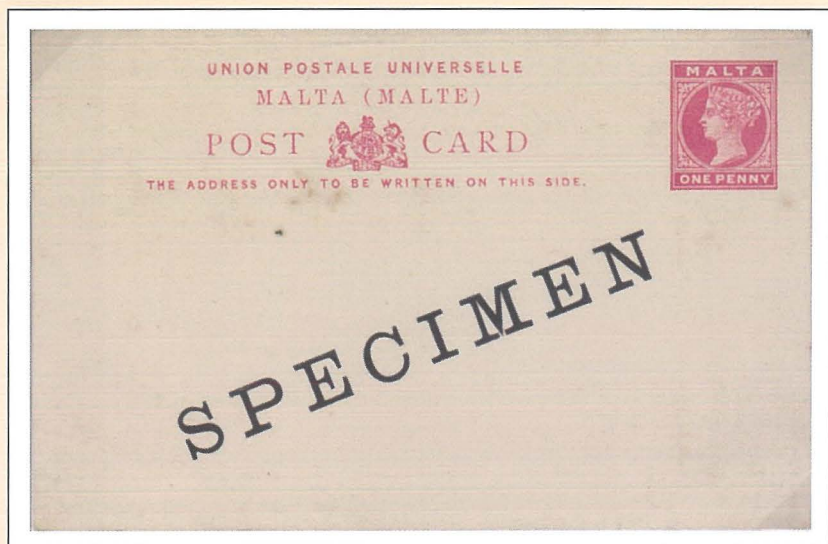


Queen Victoria 1d. + 1d. Reply Paid Postcard
Carmine on soft white card
SPECIMEN



No. overprinted SPECIMEN: 100.
Printed at: De La Rue on 5th July 1884 (first printing).
Card size (complete): 177mm. × 140mm.

Queen Victoria 1d. Single Postcard
Carmine on soft white card
SPECIMEN

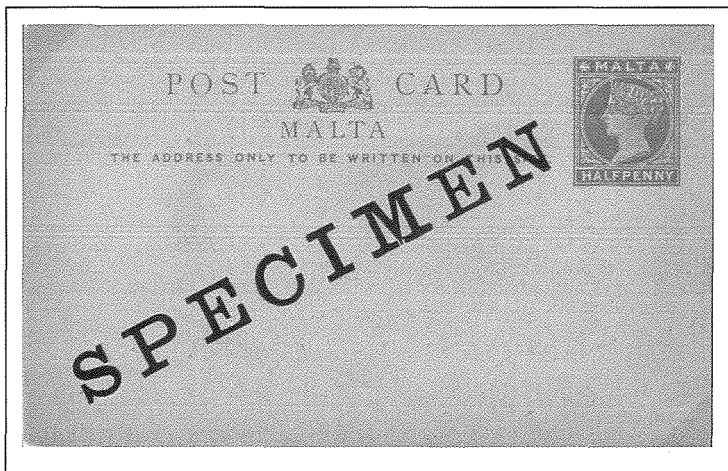


No. overprinted SPECIMEN: 100.

Printed at: De La Rue on 23rd June 1884 (first printing).

Card size: 138mm. × 89mm.

Queen Victoria ½d Single Postcard
Green on buff card
SPECIMEN

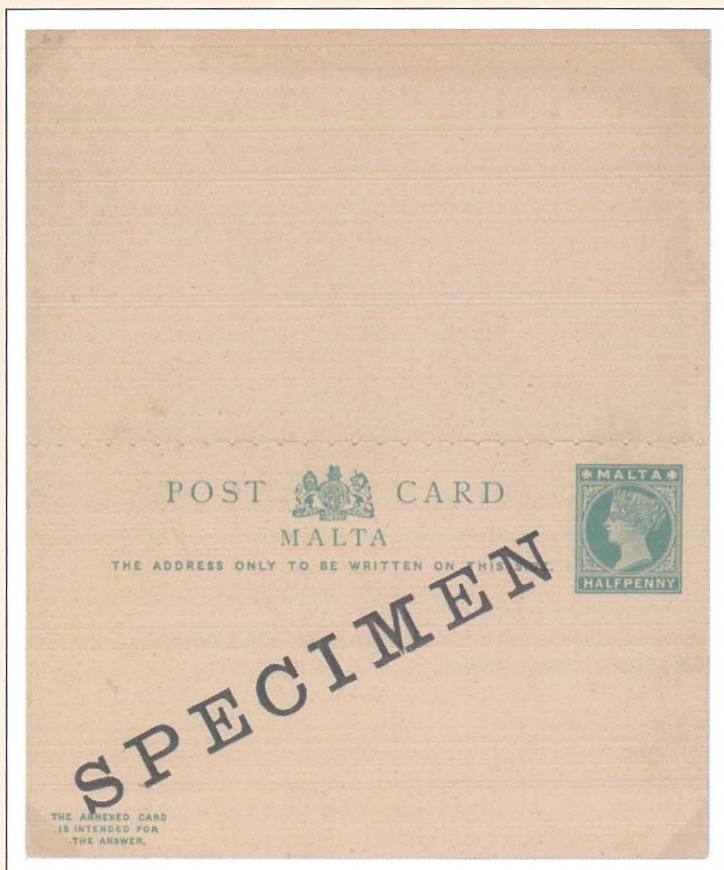


No. overprinted SPECIMEN: 722.

Printed at: De La Rue on 3rd October 1900 (first printing).

Card size: 121mm. × 74mm.

Queen Victoria ½d. + ½d. Reply Paid Postcard
Green on buff card
SPECIMEN

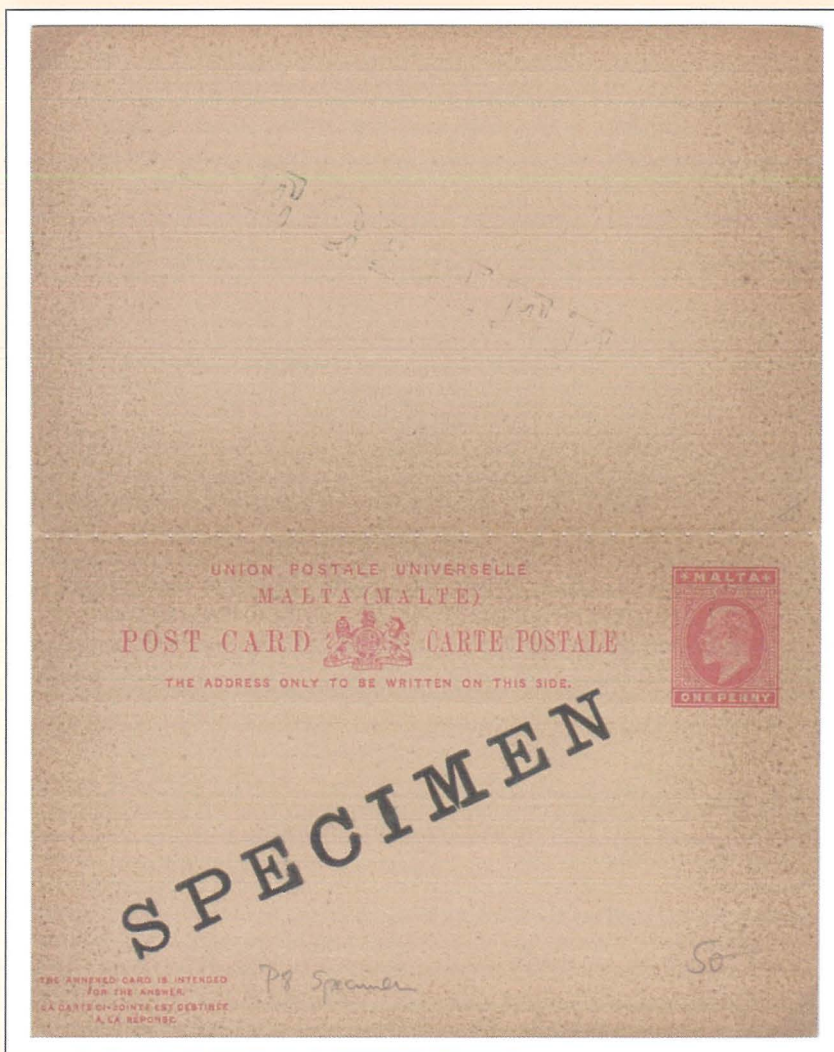


No. overprinted SPECIMEN: 722.

Printed at: De La Rue on 3rd October 1900 (first printing).

Card size (complete): 146mm. × 120mm.

King Edward VII 1d. + 1d. Reply Paid Postcard
Carmine on brown – buff card
SPECIMEN



No. overprinted SPECIMEN: 727.

Printed at: De La Rue on 29th September 1903 (first printing).

Card size (complete): 176mm. × 140mm.

King Edward VII 1d. Single Postcard
Carmine on brown – buff card
SPECIMEN

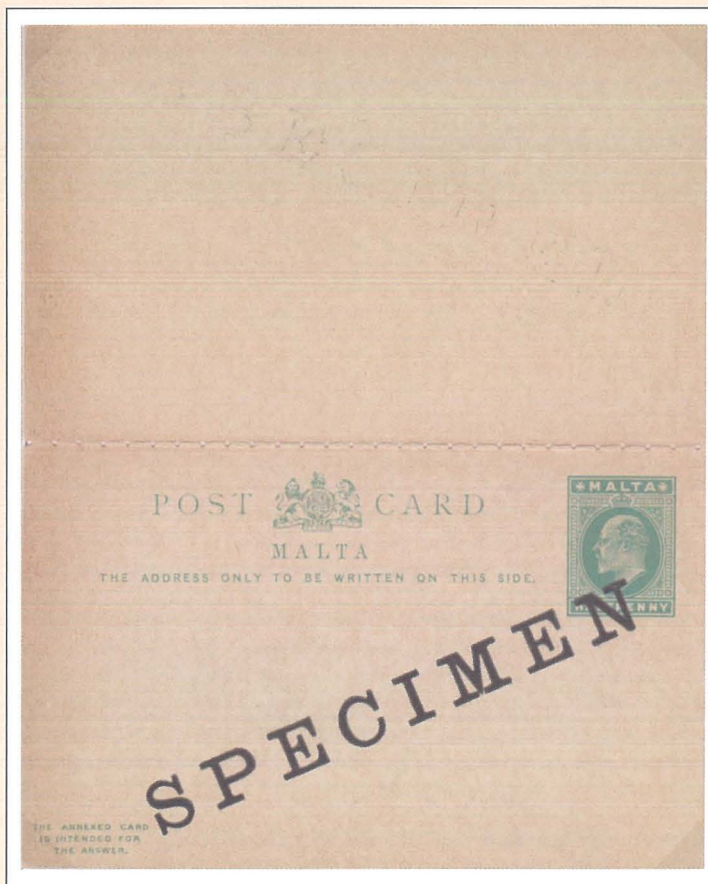


No. overprinted SPECIMEN: 722.

Printed at: De La Rue on 11th December 1902 (first printing).

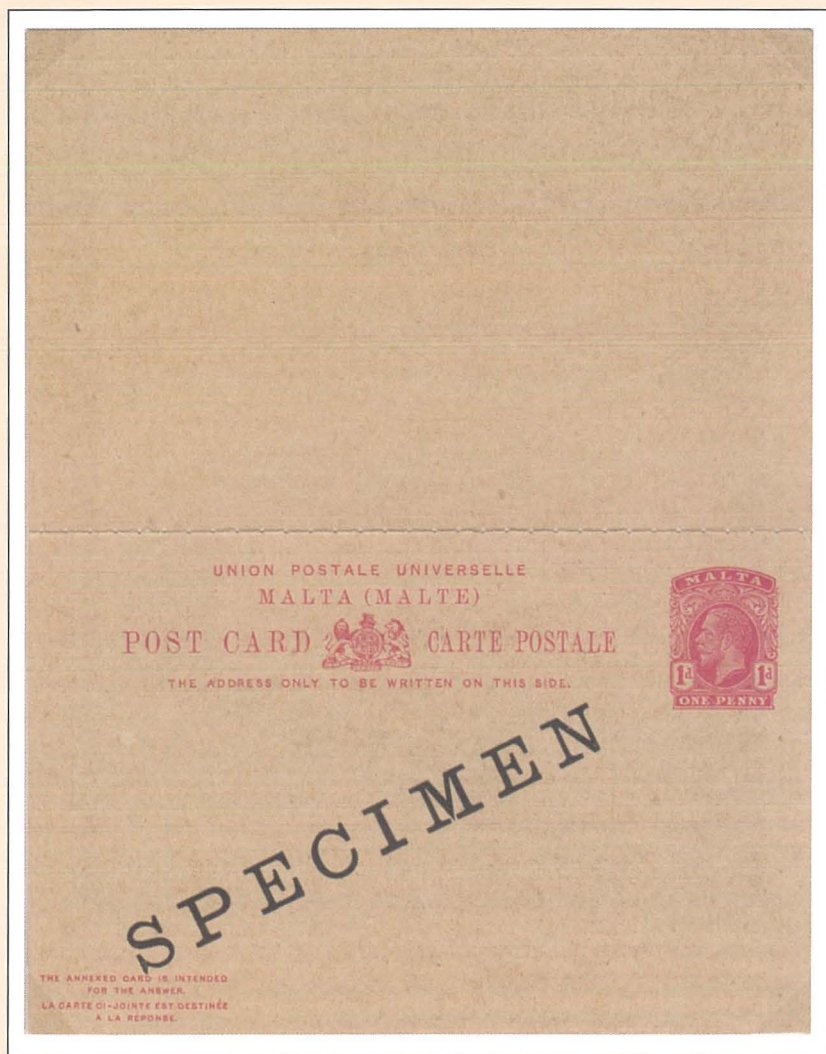
Card size: 139mm. × 89mm.

King Edward VII ½d. + ½d. Replay Paid Postcard
Green on buff card
SPECIMEN



No. overprinted SPECIMEN: 732 (no mint or used copies recorded).
Printed at: De La Rue on 19th July 1906.
Card size (complete): 149mm. × 120mm.

King George V 1d. + 1d. Replay Paid Postcard
Carmine on brown - buff card
SPECIMEN



No. overprinted SPECIMEN: 396.
Printed at: De La Rue on 30th September 1913 (first printing).
Card size (complete): 178mm. × 139mm.

King George V 1d. Single Postcard
Carmine on brown - buff card
SPECIMEN



No. overprinted SPECIMEN: 396.

Printed at: De La Rue on 30th September 1913 (first printing).

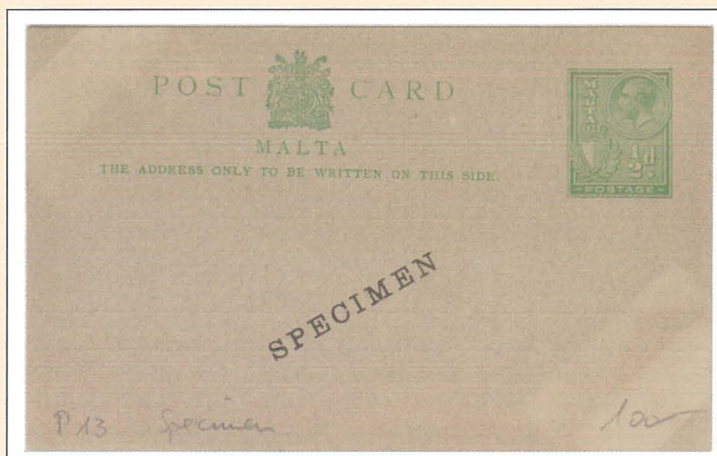
Card size: 139mm. × 89mm.

King George V ½d. Single Postcard
Green on buff card
SPECIMEN



No. overprinted SPECIMEN: 379.
Printed at: De La Rue on 4th October 1917 (first printing).
Card size: 121mm. × 74mm.

King George V ½d. Single Postcard
Green on cream card
SPECIMEN



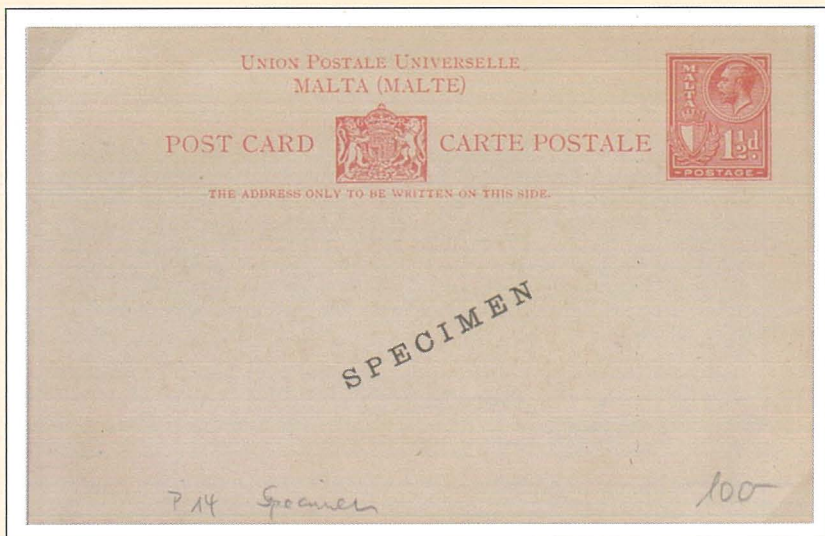
No. overprinted SPECIMEN: Information N/A.
Printed at: Waterlow & Sons Ltd.
Card size: 121mm. × 74mm.

King George V 1d. Single Postcard
Brown on brown card
SPECIMEN



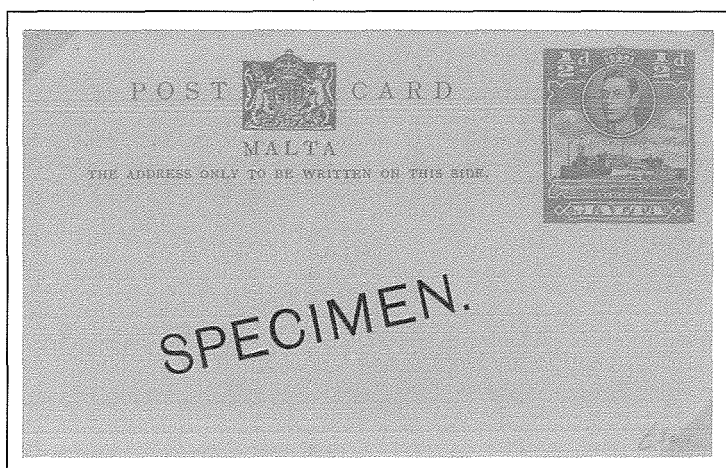
No. overprinted SPECIMEN: Information N/A.
Printed at: Waterlow & Sons Ltd.
Card size: 139mm. × 89mm.

King George V 1½d. Single Postcard
Red on cream card
SPECIMEN



No. overprinted SPECIMEN: Information N/A.
Printed at: Waterlow & Sons Ltd.
Card size: 139mm. × 89mm.

King George VI ½d. Single Postcard
Green on cream granite card
SPECIMEN



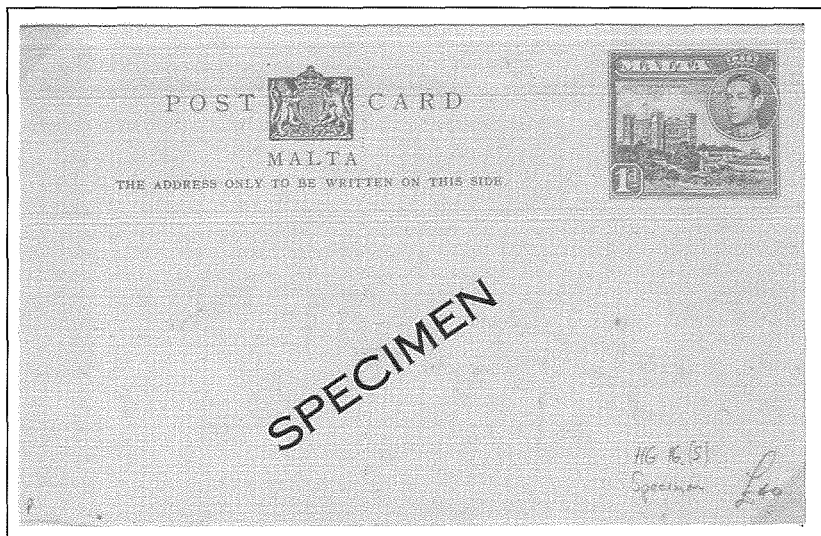
No. overprinted SPECIMEN: Information N/A.
Printed at: Waterlow & Sons Ltd.
Card size: 121mm. × 74mm.

King George VI 1½d. Single Postcard
Dark red on cream granite card
SPECIMEN



No. overprinted SPECIMEN: Information N/A.
Printed at: Waterlow & Sons Ltd.
Card size: 139mm. × 89mm.

King George VI 1d. Single Postcard
Green on buff granite card
SPECIMEN



No. overprinted SPECIMEN: Information N/A.
Printed at: Waterlow & Sons Ltd.
Card size: 139mm. × 89mm.

King George VI 2d. Single Postcard
Red on buff granite card
SPECIMEN



No. overprinted SPECIMEN: Information N/A.
Printed at: Waterlow & Sons Ltd.
Card size: 139mm. × 89mm.