



VICTORIAN COLERAINE

Exploring your History



Postcards courtesy of Coleraine
Museum Collection

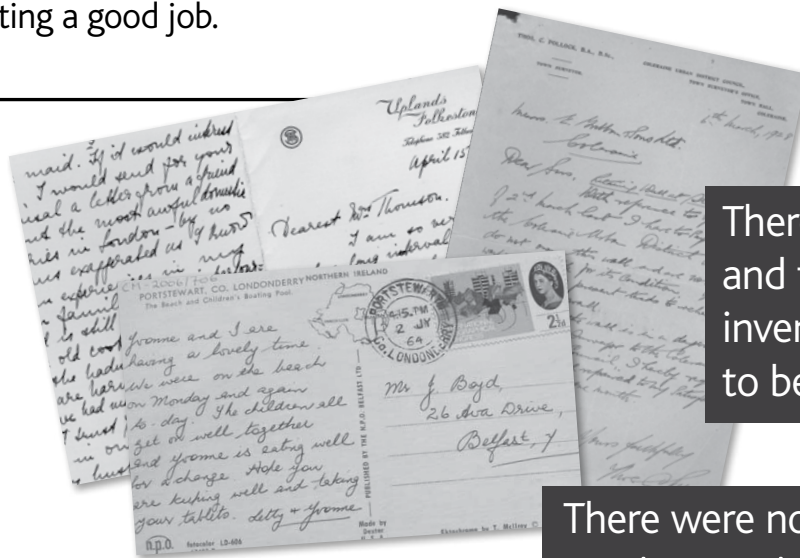
Created by Causeway Museum Service

Copperplate *Victorian Hand Writing*

In Victorian times hand writing was very important. People took pride in their hand writing, this was called Penmanship.

Children would spend a lot of time in school practising writing on their slates. Being able to write well was very important for getting a good job.

A letter written in 1898 by Hugh Thomson to Mr Gribbon in Coleraine.



There were no computers and type writers were a new invention so everything had to be written by hand.

There were no automatic fonts; you just had to learn to write properly.

There was no delete button to clear up your mistakes, so you had to get it right first time.

There was no spell checker so you had to spell things right.

You had to learn your spellings.

Do you think you could learn to write beautifully?

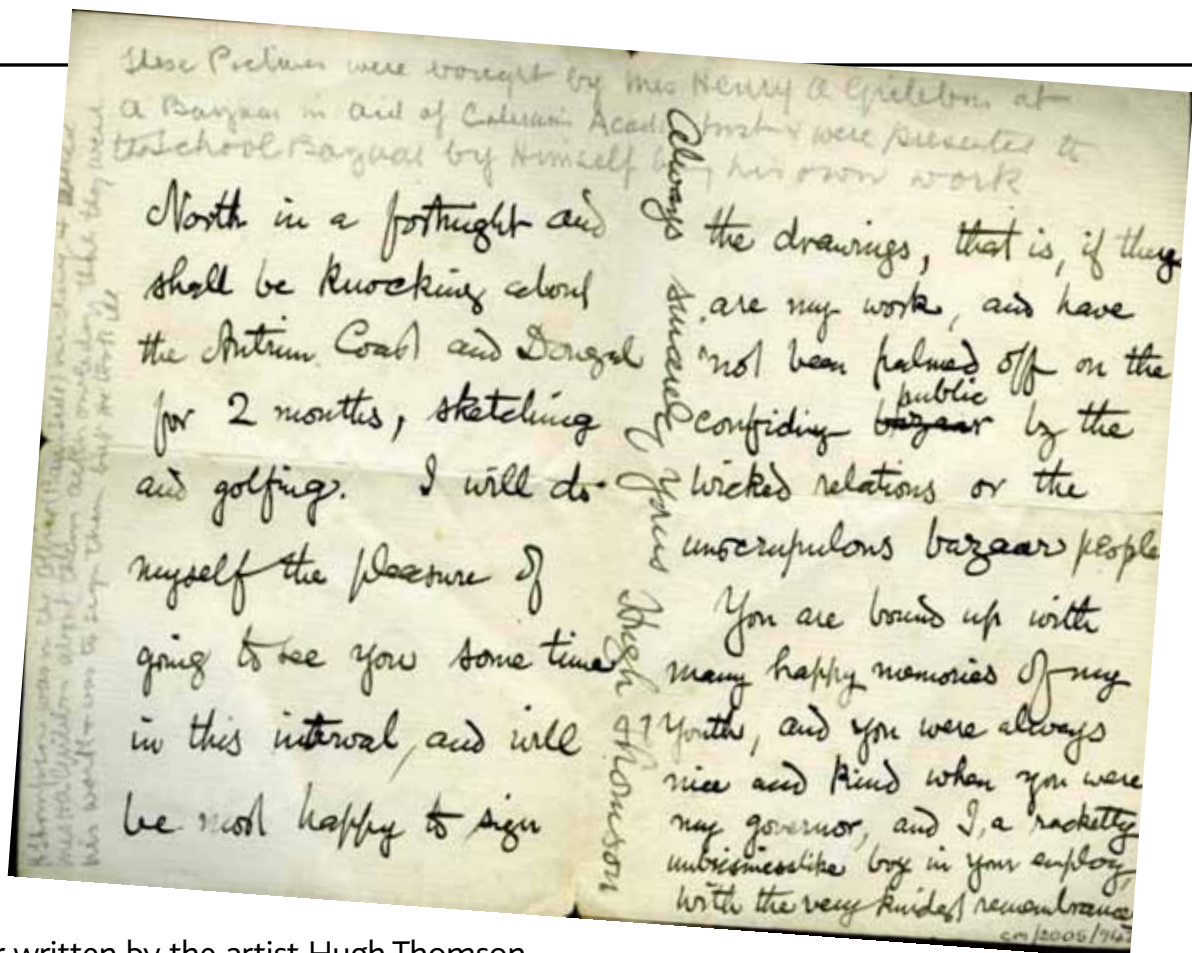
Writing styles change through the ages. The style of writing in Victorian Times was called Copperplate. It was called this as students learned it from copy books, which were printed from copper plates.

Copperplate

Victorian Hand Writing

LETTERS

Writing letters was very important in Victorian Times. You couldn't just pick up the phone to talk to someone. Your friends and family might have been on the other side of the world working in the British Empire. The only way to keep in touch was to write letters, even though they might take months to get there.



A letter written by the artist Hugh Thomson, can you read it?

Courtesy of Coleraine Museum Collection

Copperplate

Victorian Hand Writing

POSTCARDS

The Victorians were the first people to go on holidays. They often went to the sea-side, to places like Portrush and Portstewart. They invented the picture post card. People had sent cards with writing on them before, but in Victorian Times cards appeared with pictures on them to show where you had been on your holidays.



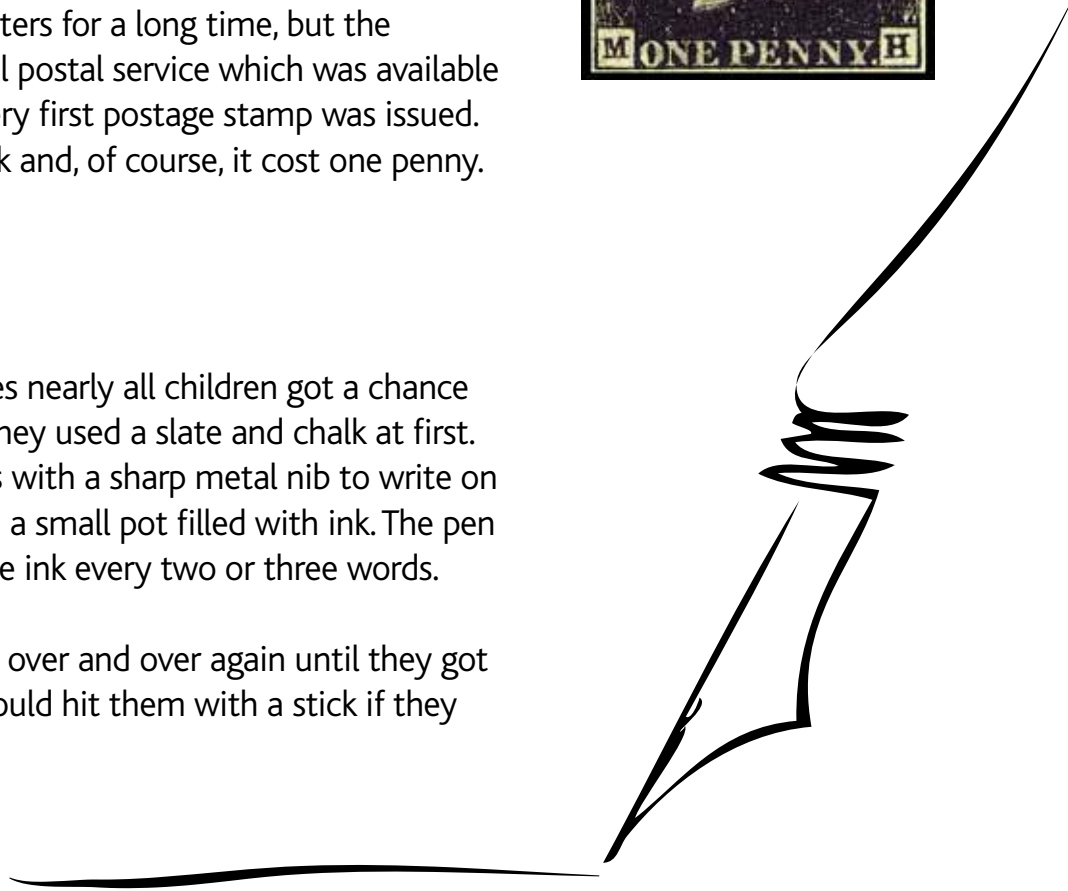
THE POST OFFICE

People had been sending letters for a long time, but the Victorians created a national postal service which was available to everyone. In 1840 the very first postage stamp was issued. It was called the Penny Black and, of course, it cost one penny.

LEARNING TO WRITE

By the end of Victorian Times nearly all children got a chance to learn to read and write. They used a slate and chalk at first. Older pupils would use pens with a sharp metal nib to write on paper. The nib was dipped in a small pot filled with ink. The pen needed to be dipped into the ink every two or three words.

They would copy the letters over and over again until they got them perfect. The teacher could hit them with a stick if they didn't get it right!



Copperplate

Victorian Hand Writing

COPPERPLATE WRITING

There were many styles of Copperplate writing. Some of these were developed in the Edwardian era, which was just after Victorian Times. Here are three styles. Which do you like best?

*Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow,
Everywhere that Mary went,
The lamb was sure to go.*

FRENCH STYLE

*Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow,
Everywhere that Mary went,
The lamb was sure to go.*

PALACE STYLE

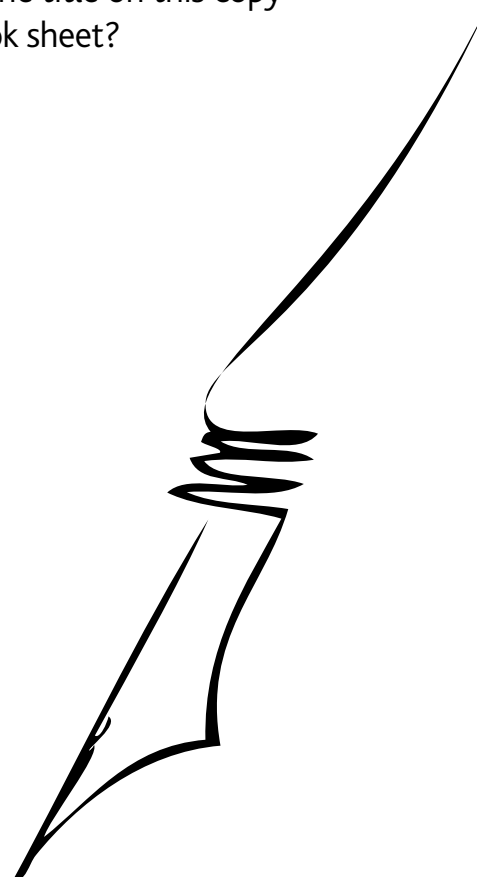
*Mary had a little lamb,
Its fleece was white as snow,
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EDWARDIAN STYLE



Vere Foster copy book.

Can you write the letters
of the title on this copy
book sheet?



Copperplate

Victorian Hand Writing

AFTER VICTORIAN CAME
EDWARDIAN STYLE

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh

Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp

Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx

Yy Zz

Copperplate

Victorian Hand Writing

PALACE STYLE

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh

Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp

Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx

Yy Zz

Copperplate

Victorian Hand Writing

FRENCH STYLE

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh

Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp

Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx

Yy Zz
