

GREAT BRITAIN'S
FIRST
POSTAGE STAMP



GREAT BRITAIN'S FIRST POSTAGE STAMP

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(Liverpool Philatelic Society)



LIVERPOOL:

DOUGLAS AND WALLS, LTD., PRINTERS, TITHEBARN STREET

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1924.

Great Britain's First Postage Stamp. By Ernest S. Gladstone (March 1924). 24 pp., $9\frac{1}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$. Cloth boards, 13 plates. Price 6/4 post free from Harris Publications Ltd., Windsor House, 46 Victoria Street, S.W.1.

This is an original work throwing new light on William Dockwra's London Penny Post. Whether or not the Dockwra frank is entitled to be called the first postage stamp of these islands is a moot point that can be pursued, by those who wish, through the earlier works of Hendy, Daniels, Foster, Joyce and Lewins. What concerns us here is that Mr. Gladstone has, by dint of perseverance, for which he is to be highly commended, unearthed impressions of Dockwra marks that anti-date those hitherto known and reveal several new types, which he illustrates on entire.

After an interesting introduction that explains to the uninitiated precisely what facilities Dockwra had, and what he did, the author summarises the evidence which he considered so unsatisfactory that, failing to find the answer in books, he decided upon a personal search. The lines he took, and the very satisfactory measure of success achieved, are told in the book. Suffice it to say that to have added a chapter to the history of British postal markings is an accomplishment of which Mr. Gladstone may well be proud, and demonstrates once again that opportunities for original research still exist quite close to the beaten track in directions which so many pass over in the rash assumption that there is nothing left to discover.

In a work that bears evidence of care, it is surprising to find the donor of the British Museum collection referred to as Mr. "Taplin" (p. 14 in two places).

PREFACE.

Anyone who wishes to know something about William Dockwra and his London Penny Post will find excellent articles in books by Hendy, Daniels, Foster, Joyce, Lewins and others. Historically the articles are exceptionally entertaining, but none of the above authors has seriously considered the philatelic interest in Dockwra's One Penny hand-impressed Postage Stamps. Nothing in the way of research seems to have been done by them to establish types or varieties of his Penny Post Paid Stamps, and this is why I now venture to place before the philatelic world a short account of the results of my investigations.

I would here ask the reader to remember that this small book is practically a pioneer work which is undoubtedly capable of being improved upon and amplified. The writer fully intends to continue his research work on the fascinating study of William Dockwra and his " Penny Post Paid " Stamps, for it is more than likely that earlier and later dates than those now on record, if not further types, will eventually be discovered.

In the meantime I shall be very pleased if any reader who possesses Dockwra or Government Dockwra Stamps, different from those illustrated in this book, will send me tracings or, if possible, photographs of them, so that, when the time arrives, they may be included in a second edition of this work.

From start to finish it is my intention only to give illustrations made from originals which, if necessary, can be examined. When a new type or variety is discovered full particulars should be given, and care should be taken to have it photographed *exactly* the size of the original. By working on these lines it ought to be possible to compile eventually a reliable account of Great Britain's earliest Penny Postage Stamp.

My thanks are due to Mr. C. Richard Lewis, also a member of the Liverpool Philatelic Society, who has helped me and shown great interest in this book. In fact he has written a special account of these researches for the pleasure and credit of the Liverpool Society, and is doing the same as regards a history of British Postmarks which he and the writer hope to publish shortly.

My thanks are also due to Sir William St. A. Rouse Boughton, Bart., of Downton Hall, Ludlow, whose collection of old family letters has been of the greatest assistance to me. There are 26 volumes and many bundles of these old letters at Downton Hall, and these Sir Rouse Boughton has most kindly placed at my disposal for illustrations of Government Dockwra Stamps, Postmarks, and other particulars which relate to the Postal Service.

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GREAT BRITAIN'S FIRST POSTAGE STAMP.

The title of this book will probably be commented on by those whose interest in Philately has been confined to the collection of adhesive labels. The science of stamp collecting has up to now recognized the line engraved English 1d. Black as the oldest stamp in the world, but the question is, "Is it the oldest stamp?" True, it is the oldest adhesive label, but cannot in any way be regarded as the oldest postage "stamp." This contention is now held by many philatelists and I cannot leave this subject without quoting a paragraph from Mr. F. W. Meredith's book entitled "Old Irish Postage Stamps and Franks," published by Walter Morley early last year, and also one from Mr. G. A. Foster's book on "Pre-Victorian Postage Stamps and Franks," published 1910:—

Mr. Meredith says:—

"Some philatelists may object to the use of the words 'postage stamps' because the stamps we are dealing with are not the stamps with gummed backs to which they are more accustomed, but, the description is quite accurate. 'Postage' is 'the money paid for the conveyance of letters by post,' and 'stamp' is 'an official mark put on things chargeable with duty as proof that the duty is paid'; so these

“ old marks impressed with a hand stamp, indicating that
“ postage has been prepaid, are just as much Postage Stamps
“ as their offspring with the gummed backs, and this has been
“ admitted by well-known authorities on Philately.”

Mr. G. A. Foster, in his book on “ Pre-Victorian Postage Stamps and Franks,” says :—

“ Now, to begin on a sound and reliable basis, and to
“ prevent any misunderstanding as to the true and proper
“ definition of a Postage Stamp, it must be borne in mind
“ that its fundamental principle is pre-payment, and the
“ stamp by which the pre-payment of postage has been
“ effected is a veritable Postage Stamp to all intents and
“ purposes within the true meaning of the word, and it is
“ palpably obvious that whether such stamp is adhesive,
“ printed, embossed, or impressed, is quite immaterial, so long
“ as its function is properly performed. The old hand-
“ impressed Pre-Victorian Postage Stamps were bought and
“ paid for by the public, and were equivalent to and as potent
“ as their successors, the gummed labels; in fact, *after* the
“ issue of adhesive, and embossed Stamps, they were sold by
“ the Post Office to and paid for by their purchasers up to
“ 1851, and it was perfectly optional for the senders of letters
“ to buy whichever they preferred.”

The above paragraphs are entirely in accordance with my views, and help considerably in paving the way for a more complete study of these old hand-impressed Postage Paid Stamps.

Post marks are a side line of Philately and must not be confounded with Paid Stamps, and if anyone wishes to go further into this fact he will find plenty to read in the Bazaar Philatelic Supplements of 1896-7, where the whole matter was fully discussed.

Some years ago I was asked to read a paper before the Liverpool Philatelic Society, and I chose as my subject the early post marks, paid stamps and free marks of Great Britain. These three branches of Philately had to my mind been sadly neglected, and the more I thought about them the more I was convinced that very little research work had been done in the past, and that there was practically a virgin field for anyone who cared to take up seriously the investigation of these three so-called "side lines" of Philately. The words "side lines" may rightly be applied to "Post Marks" and "Free Marks," but "Paid Stamps," I strongly maintain, are the ancestors of the adhesive label we use to-day, and should not be classed as a side line of Philately.

Many authors, such as Hendy, Daniels, Foster, Joyce, and Lewins, have written books in which reference is made to one or more of these three subjects, but with due appreciation of their works, it does not look as if any real research work had been done by them so as to bring before the Philatelic world a reliable account of these old post office stamps and marks, with illustrations accurately reproduced from original letters. Consequently I made up my mind to start work on Great Britain's oldest Postage Stamp, viz. :—

DOCKWRA'S 1^D. POSTAGE STAMP.

In the year 1680 appear the earliest examples of the very remarkable stamps associated with the name of William Dockwra—otherwise spelt Dockwray, Docwray, Docwra—who undertook to collect and deliver letters from one part of the City of London to another for the sum of one penny and to any place within a ten mile circuit for twopence.*

Now these Dockwra stamps must not be confused with Post marks. The latter had been in use many years before Dockwra's penny post started its existence, and were simply date marks or place marks. But the Dockwra Stamps acted in the same way as the modern adhesive labels, for they were a warrant of prepayment, and of obligation on the part of the Post Office to perform its duty by the letters so stamped.

It may therefore, I think, be rightly contended that these hand-impressed Dockwra stamps are the first of a long line of postage stamps, which is still, two hundred and forty-four years later, very far from completion or exhaustion. The adhesive labels we use to-day are a mere variant or alternative system of indicating prepayment and their advent in 1840 was solely due to the large increase in correspondence which made the posting of letters, in London and busy provincial towns, an uncertain, tedious and vexatious performance.

*Her Majesty's Mails—Lewins, page 31.

Those who used Dockwra's Penny Post were obliged to prepay the charge so that there was nothing to collect on the delivery of a letter. To make this better known to the public a pamphlet was published in 1681 entitled, "The Practical Method of the Penny Post," a photographic reproduction of which, slightly reduced in size, is here given (*Plates i.—iv.*).

From this pamphlet I have taken the spelling of "Dockwra's" name, for he probably had a great deal to do with its publication and would see that his name was spelt correctly.

When we consider that this pamphlet was published nearly 250 years ago, at a time when the collection and delivery of letters in London had only just begun, we can only say it is a most remarkable document. By publishing it he not only advertised the many advantages which his private post gave to those who resided in London and the suburbs, but he no doubt also hoped thereby to make his undertaking more remunerative. It is not surprising therefore that the Duke of York got alarmed at what was going on, for it must have been obvious to him that if Dockwra was left unchallenged he would, with his keen foresight and sound business ability, very quickly reap a rich harvest from his venture.

Dockwra seems to have summed up very accurately what could be done with a well organized postal system, for he impressed on each letter a time mark so as to prevent as far as possible any Post Office delay in the delivery of a letter. As

will be seen from the photographic reproduction of this pamphlet, he illustrates these time marks and also his Penny Post Paid Stamps. As regards the latter he says, "Each Office having its proper Letter, etc.," and this sounds as if there might be other letters inside his triangular Paid Stamp than L (Lyme Street) and W (Westminster), which are the only two which I have so far discovered. London, we are told by other authors, was divided into seven districts with a sorting office in each, and it is a pity that the pamphlet does not tell us where these sorting offices were placed. We can only hope that further research may enlighten us on this point, which is one of considerable interest to those who wish to make themselves acquainted with the history of Great Britain's first Penny Post.

A word or two may now be said about William Dockwra and what he had to contend with when he started his One Penny Post. He is described in the above pamphlet as a London Merchant, a title he no doubt assumed after leaving the Custom House, where he was employed as a searcher. To one Robert Murray is attributed the idea of a Penny Post, but it was William Dockwra who put the idea to a practical test, and he must have been a shrewd yet venturesome man to face the difficulties and expense which surrounded such an undertaking.

On the 1st April, 1680,* William Dockwra launched his private Penny Post. He divided London into seven districts with a sorting office in each, the chief office being his own

* Joyce, page 37

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(1) 118°

824596.

The Practical Method

Dockwra (W.) and others

OF THE

PENNY-POST:

Being a Sheet very necessary for all Persons to have by them,

For their Information in the Regular Use of a Design so well Approved of, for quickening Correspondence, Promoting Trade and Publick Good.

With an Explanation of the following Stamps, for the Marking of all Letters.



Hereas *William Dockwra* of *London* Merchant, and the rest of the Undertakers, (who are all Natives and free Citizens of *London*) out of a sense of the great benefit which would accrue to the numerous Inhabitants of this Great City, and adjacent parts. (with hopes of some Reasonable Encouragement hereafter to Themselves) have lately set up a *New Invention* to convey Letters and Parcels, not exceeding One Pound Weight, and Ten Pounds in Value, to and from all Parts within the Contiguous Buildings of the Weekly Bills Mortality for a Penny a Letter or Parcel, whereby Correspondency, the Life of Trade and Business, is and will be much facilitated; and having for above a year past, with great pains, and at some Thousands of Pounds Charge, reduced the

same into Practice, which does manifestly appear to be for the Publick Good; yet as all new Designs at first usually meet with Opposition and great Discouragements, rarely (if at all) proving beneficial to the First Adventurers, so hath this also incur'd the same Fate hitherto, especially from the Ignorant and Envious; but the Undertakers do hope that all People will be Convinced, by time and experience, which removes Prejudice and Errors, and renders all New Undertakings Compleat; for the Attainment of which good Ends, they have with great Industry, much expence of time, and at a Chargeable Rate, made such Alterations in their former Methods, as (they hope) will now give Universal satisfaction. And whereas there has been much Noise about the pretended Delays and Miscarriage of Letters going by the *Penny-Post*, which has risen through the great Mistake and Neglect of other People, as the Undertakers can sufficiently Evidence, by many Authentick Certificats which they have ready to produce, for the Justification of their due Performance in General, yet has there been so many Causeless and Unjust Reflections cast on so Useful an Undertaking, that they hold it highly Necessary to undeceive the World, by shewing some of the grounds from whence they spring, *viz.* Some Men suppose, and confidently Alledge their Letters are Miscarried, (or at least Delayed,) because they have not always an immediate Answer, when perhaps

A

the

the Party is not then at Leisure to write, or for private Reasons unwilling, or in the Country, or removed to some other part of the Town, where the Messengers cannot upon the strictest enquiry Learn or find him out; besides some Men will not in many Cases own the Receipt of Letters duly Delivered into their hands, or in their absence left for them at their Respective Houses or Lodgings, especially where they are Dun'd for Money, which they either will not or cannot Pay.

Some Complain of Delays of Letters, though in their Absence they were duly left for them, and through the careless Neglects of Servants, and others (to whom they were Delivered, have been mislaid and detain'd many Hours (sometimes Days) and to excuse their own fault, do Charge the Delay upon the *Penny-Post*, pretending the said Letters were but then brought; which the Stamps of the Hour will now detect.

It very often falls out that many Persons that have written, do not always put in or send their Letters to the *Penny-Post* at the same instant, but sometimes long after, an Hour, Two or Three, nay the Day after the Letters have been Dated, which upon the Delivery is Charged as a delay proceeding from the Office; which mischief People might easily Prevent, if they would please to be punctual and just, in setting the Day of the Week, and exact Hour of the Day under the Subscription agreeable to the time the same was really put in at the Receiving House.

As for Example, $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Mond.} \\ \text{Mor. 9. 10.} \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Wedn.} \\ \text{Aft. 3, 4, 5.} \end{array} \right.$

Also Letters that Men sometimes send by Porters to several Parts of the Town, after they have Idely (perhaps in an *Ali-Hous*.) kept them some Hours in their Hands, and have Receiv'd 4 d. 6 d. or 12 d. for Carriage of them, have been put in by them to be Conveyed by the *Penny-Post*, (their Stamps of Delivery appearing upon them,) which has Caused much Reflection upon the Office, as if the delay proceeded from Neglects therein.

Others intrusting Boys and other Servants to Deliver their Letters at the Receiving Houses, are often deceived by their Destroying such Letters to keep the Money, though so trivial, and by their Loytering and long Delay before the same be left by them, time is lost, all which is unjustly Charged on the *Penny-Post*.

There are many other Causes of Delays of Letters, which yet ought not to be Charged on the Office, as when Directions are not so plainly Written (as they ought to be,) and when they are very ill Directed; Persons that write do frequently omit to mention the Trade and Sign, or near what Place, Lane, Church, Remarkable Publick House, or Tavern, &c. which is altogether Necessary every where; but especially in long Streets and large Places, such as are in this great City and Suburbs, as the *Strand*, *Coveint-Garden*, *Thames-street*, *Wapping*, *Southmark*, &c. all which occasions not only Delays, but Expence of the Messengers time to seek out, and enquire for the Parties, but often times such Letters lie Undelivered, it being sometimes impossible by the most Acute Interpreter to Read, much less find out how, or where to Deliver them, and such short, imperfect and blind Directions, (as are, more or less, daily sent to go by the *Penny-Post*) beget them great Trouble, much Vexation; and unjust Disparagement.

Furthermore, Most Letters that are sent to Carriers and Stage-Coaches, are rejected at the *Inns* for want of two pence, which they require for Carriage, and often times abuse the Messengers that offer them; therefore all Persons are Desired to take Notice thereof, and either to settle the Receipt with Carriers, Coachmen or others, to take them without Money, (by agreement) or to send Two Pence for the future, and Endorse upon such Letters, Carriage Paid 2 d.

As for such as Object the Miscarriage of their Letters, because not come to hand, they are under the greatest mistake of all; for if they please to send or come to the Chief Office in *Lyme-street*, they shall find them there, remaining under their proper Alphabetical Letter, Endorsed with the True Reason why they could not be Delivered, though the Messenger has spent thrice the due time to find them out, which at last has not been possible to do, by Reason of such bad Directions, and for want of Money at *Inns*, as before mentioned; but these Letters lie ready for any that shall please to call or send for them by the *Penny-Post*, though every such Letter has caused Scandalous and unjust Reflections on the Undertaking, among thousands of Persons first and last, yet the *Penny-Post* has been altogether innocent.

Now for Remedy of divers of the forementioned Mischiefs, and to prevent the further spreading of mistaken Reports of the Delays and Miscarriage of Letters, which has not only tended greatly to the Prejudice of the *Penny-Post*; but to the hinderance of the Inhabitants from Embracing the great Benefit that they might have received, by the Use of this Conveyance.

The Undertakers have provided the Stamps aforesaid to Mark the Hour of the Day on all Letters when sent out from their Office to be Delivered, and all Persons are to expect their Letters within one Hour (little more or less from the time Marked thereon,) (excepting such Letters as are to the four Out-Towns, and the Remotest Parts,) which necessarily require a longer time of Conveyance, by these they may be able from time to time to discern, whether



ther the delays that hereafter may happen, be really in the Office, or in their own Servants (or others,) with whom their Letters were left in due time.

This Mark signifies Eight of the Clock, in the Morning.



The Second Mark is the Letter of the Chief Office in Lynne-street.



The Third Mark signifies Four a Clock, in the Afternoon.



Each Office having its proper Letter, with an acknowledgment that the *Penny-Post* is paid, to prevent the giving of any thing at the Delivery, and for the more Regular Dispatch and Conveyance, the said Undertakers have Directed the Hourly Collecting and Delivery of all Letters, from Seven in the Morning, till Nine at Night on Post Nights, allowing all Persons an Hour to send in their said Letters or Parcels, and the Office an Hour to Collect, bring in, Sort and Distribute the same; That is to say, all Letters and Parcels given or left at any *Penny-Post-House* after Seven at Night, and before Eight in the Morning, are by the Office Collected, brought in, Sorted, and sent out soon after Nine. all Letters left betwixt the Hours of Eight and Nine, are brought in, sorted, and sent out by the Office soon after Ten, and so successively every Hour in the Day, till Eight of the Clock at Night.

All Letters left as before, betwixt Seven and Eight in the Evening, are Collected, brought in, sent out, and Distributed soon after Nine, (to the nearest, but not to the Remotest Parts, as *Blackwall, Redriff, &c.*) that Night, but no Letters left after Eight can be ascertained to be Delivered at all that Night, (except Post-Letters to *Lumbard-street,*) and indeed very late Delivery of Letters is a great disturbance to the Inhabitants, besides the great Toyle and Slavery that it procures to the poor Messengers.

Yet Letters coming too late at Night, shall be by Seven next Morning sent out, and Deliver'd by Eight, and sometimes sooner; where Note he that leaves his Letter immediately after Seven, is Dispatcht no sooner than that Letter which is put in just before Eight, and if any Man slips the time, and defers the putting in his Letter, but a very little while after Eight, his Letter by these Rules must lie an Hour extraordinary, till Nine, before it can be Collected; so that for want of due consideration how Letters proceed, the unthinking People do misreckon, and expect their Letters should be run away with as soon as left, whereas by the very mistiming it, two Hours, nay three, in some Cases, may be lost through their own default, and those that be orderly left by these Methods, must have allowed some two, some three, some four hours and more before they can be Delivered. All Persons are therefore desired to contrive their Business so beforehand, as to allow reasonable time for Conveyance as aforesaid, and they are desired not to leave any Town Letters after Six a Clock at furthest in Winter, and Seven in Summer (on Saturday Nights especially) except Post-Letters, to the end that the many poor Men who are Employed in this Service, may have a little time to provide for their Families against the Lords-Day, having no leisure all the week besides.

But all Letters to the four Towns of *Hackney, Islington, South-Newington and Lambeth,* and to the Remote Parts, must be left much earlier, or they will not be Delivered till next Morning, and if any Person in the four Towns do desire their Letters to be brought to their Houses, they may for another Penny be Accommodated; otherwise they will be left at the Receiving-Houses, to be sent for by their own Servants. And all People are hereby given to understand, that no Letters will be carried to any parts of the Weekly Bills of Mortality, further than the adjoining or contiguous Buildings, nor to any other Town than the Four above-mentioned.

Note that upon the Three Days at Christmas, the Two Days at Easter and Whitfuntide, and the Thirtieth of January, the Penny-Post does not go.

On all Post Nights, due Care is taken to call for, and Convey to the General Post-House in *Lumbard-street,* all Post-Letters, whether Foreign or Inland, left at any of the *Penny-Post* Receiving-Houses, at or before Nine of the Clock at Night. And since the Carriage of Town Letters doth not near Answer the necessary Charge required to support this Undertaking, the Undertakers do hope, that all Persons will so far Contribute to the Continuance of this Useful Design, as to send all their Post-Letters by this Conveyance, to the Post-House in *Lumbard-street,* which they do not Convey thither by Themselves or Servants, but if any Post-Letters be left without Money, that should pay before-hand; they must of necessity be Returned to the Office, and such as do send Money, are desired to Endorse the Postage Money upon their Letters.

And

And forasmuch, as there has been sundry Attempts to Cheat the Undertakers of many pounds, by false Endorsements of Money, and pretences of Loss of other things sent in small Parcels, which really never were sent at all, (an ungrateful return for the Undertakers kindness, such Persons having been shamefully Detected, and thereby the *Penny-Post* as thoroughly justified.

The Undertakers therefore, for some Expedient to prevent such Evil Designs against them, do Declare, that for the Future, They will not be Answerable for any Goods or Money, sent by them, but what is fast made up, and Sealed under such an Impression, as is plain to be seen, and that the Contents or the Value thereof be Endors'd fairly to be Read on the out-side. To the end they may know with what they are Charg'd, (excepting such Parcels, as the Contents are open and visible) nor will they make good any Breaking, or Damage of Choice and Curious Things; nor Glasses or Liquid Matter sent by them, it being altogether unreasonable, that such things as are brittle or subject to damage should be carried 2, 3, or 4 mile at the Adventure of the Undertakers for one Penny, to be liable to Pay Five shillings or Five Pounds damage, but all Persons shall be sure to have the honest Endeavours of the Messengers, to preserve them, as much as in them lies from breaking, or any other hurt, and of safe Delivery thereof, breaking and damage only excepted. It is also hereby signified, that the Undertakers, by Packets or Parcels under a Pound Weight, do not intend to accept Things of extraordinary Bulk, as some have been so unreasonable often times to offer to send by this Conveyance.

These being some of the Practical Methods of the *Penny-Post*, all Persons are Desired to Consider how far they may be Applied, or made Useful to themselves in their Respective Occasions, that they may not through their own mistakes meet with Disappointment, especially in expecting to go in lesser time than it is Practical by these Methods, and thereby Causelessly Reflect on the *Penny-Post*; and it is hoped, that all Ingenious and Worthy Persons for the Future will be so kind to the Undertakers, (and good Friends to the Publick) as to Encourage them in their Honest and Useful Design, by all Lawful ways and means; and to Discourteance all those that are so Envious and Brutish, as by Word or Deed to Oppose the good Progress thereof, and Discourage all that shall Attempt to intrude the like Practice, to the hindrance of the present Undertakers, who have first Erected this Publick Conveniency at their own great Hazard, Pains and Charge.

There shall be now hinted some of the Conveniencies of this Useful Undertaking of the Penny-Post.

All Gentlemen, Countrey-Chapmen, &c. can give notice of their Arrival to Town. Shopkeepers and Tradefmen send for what they want to their Workmen.

Much time saved in Sollicitation for Money.

Appointments of Meetings among men of Business.

Bills dispersed for Publication of any Concern.

Summons or Tickets convey'd to all parts.

Brewers Entries safely sent to the Excise-Office.

Lawyers and Clients mutually correspond.

Patients sent to Doctors, Apothecaries, &c. for what they want.

All the Town upon the River of *Thames* may send by their Watermen Letters to be delivered to the Receiving-Houses of the *Penny-Post*, near to most Plying-Places, from whence they will be dispersed according to their Directions, and Letters from *London* to be delivered to the Watermen, to send to the said Towns.

And the Poor Prisoners can now address to their Creditors or Benefactors for one Penny, and save 5 *d.* to buy them a Dinner.

Many other Benefits are to be had by this Conveyance, which (though for brevity omitted) the Ingenious will find out.

The Intention of the Undertakers in this Sheet, being chiefly to present to the Publick the Nature of this thing in its Practice; but hereafter they do intend to publish a larger Satisfaction to all the Impartial; not doubting to demonstrate undeniably the Universal Utility of this Invention, and the Unreasonableness and Invalidity of all the Objections hitherto alledged against it.

Lastly, If any Person desire further Information, or would communicate any thing to the Office, if they please to write to the Chief House in *Lyme-street*, they shall be Answered to all reasonable and just Content, and their Letters shall be taken in free by the Receivers, provided they be thus Directed,

To Mr. Dockwra, and the rest of the Undertakers, at the Penny-Post House in Lyme-street.

dwellinghouse in Lyme Street. In addition to the seven sorting offices, he appointed four or five hundred receiving houses in London and its suburbs. The area covered by his Penny Post extended from Blackwall in the east to Westminster in the west, and from Hackney in the north to Lambeth in the south. The various receiving houses collected the letters and each sent them to its own sorting office, where the letters were stamped with the sorting office's "Paid Stamp," and arranged for delivery. In important districts of London there were 10 or 12 collections and deliveries a day, and in other less important centres 4 to 8 a day. Parcels were also dealt with, and the charge, whether for a parcel or a letter, was only 1d. provided the weight did not exceed one pound. Now, the chief reason why Dockwra started this Penny Post in London was that, although many provincial towns had a regular postal service with London, yet there was no post at all between one part of London and another.* To go into all the details of the working of Dockwra's Penny Post is not the intention of the writer. Most of the well known books tell you about this wonderful man and his Penny Post even though they do not all agree in the details they give.

From a philatelic point of view a surprising error appears in a publication by the order of the Postmaster General entitled "The Post Office," published in 1911. In this historical summary of the Post Office, on page 7 the following sentence occurs in connection with a short account of Dockwra's Penny Post under the date of 1680 :—

* Joyce, page 36.

“ Parcels were carried and insured by this Post, and
“ *post marks were introduced.*”

Surely an historical summary of the Post Office published by the order of the Postmaster General would be the most reliable place to look for facts, but alas even a Government publication is not always correct, for Postmarks came in many years before 1680. If the writer of this Government publication had said “ and Paid Stamps and Time Marks were introduced ” he would have been correct. It is therefore, perhaps, wise not to go into too many details about the working of Wm. Dockwra’s Penny Post, for to do so would only be quoting one or more of the other authors and thus some errors might be unwittingly perpetuated.

An outline, such as given above, of Dockwra’s Penny Post is sufficient to lead up to a subject which is of more importance to the science of Philately. The questions that one would naturally ask would be : (1) What was the original Dockwra rd. stamp like ? (2) When was it used ? (3) Where can it be seen ? (4) Are there several types or only one ? And so on. At present the Philatelist who is interested in the early stamps, post marks, etc., of Great Britain can only refer to a comparatively small number of books for the answers to such questions. And when he has carefully studied what each writer has to say on the subject, he will no doubt be wiser, but he will not have found out what Dockwra’s original stamp was like, for such illustrations

as exist seem to be taken from woodcuts which appeared in the "Present state of London," 1681, or from the Dockwra Pamphlet of 1681, already referred to, and these are not, as will be seen, the earliest types of his stamps. At any rate the above questions are those that I put to myself and having failed to find the answers in books, there was only one thing to be done and that was to make a personal search.

Letters dated as far back as 1680-1683 are not very plentiful, and even if you do find some it does not mean that they have a Dockwra stamp on them, for unless addressed from one part of London to another they would not be handled by his Penny Post but by the General Post Office which existed alongside Dockwra's Post. It is obvious that if Dockwra Stamps were easily found, the various writers would not have so lightly passed over such an important event as the birth of Great Britain's Penny Stamp, which in the course of 160 years developed into our present adhesive label.

The question of where to search did not seem difficult. All ancient things of national interest seem to find a home at the British Museum, and I felt sure I should find there plenty of old documents and letters which probably had passed through the Post. London was therefore my hunting ground, with the British Museum as the most likely place to make my search successful. Everyone who has had any experience of the British Museum will tell you what a wonderful place it is, what a

store house of information on practically every conceivable subject, in fact the most likely place to obtain information. And so indeed it is, with the most considerate and polite specialists in charge of its various departments. But not knowing the ropes, I went to see the official in charge of Taplin's celebrated collection, and started work by asking him to show me the earliest British stamp ; which he very politely did by drawing out a frame in the Taplin collection containing some beautiful copies of our old friend the 1d. Black. I must say that I took the opportunity of quietly pulling his leg. To my enquiry as to the date of the Black stamp, he told me it was first issued in May, 1840. " Oh ! " I said, " But I want to see the ' earliest ' British stamp, long before those Black fellows." I really think he thought me a wandering lunatic at large, for he pushed the frame back into its place and said he did not know of any stamps earlier than those he had shown me. To continue the conversation on these lines might have been somewhat risky, for a policeman was standing not so far off, and the Museum is not a place where the insane are allowed full liberty. So I gradually explained to him what I was searching for, and before we parted he told me my most likely chance of finding what I wanted would be in the Manuscript Room amongst the many volumes of old Family letters.

Having obtained my student's ticket, I approached this holy of holies, but how to proceed I knew not. One need not however, be anxious in the British Museum. The kindly disposed

officials came to my aid, gave me all the help they could, and very quickly explained how I should set about my task. They however, openly admitted that I was the first person who had ever, to their knowledge, wanted to get at the history of ancient Post Office marks, and that they were consequently at some disadvantage in acting as my guide through their vast stocks of old letters and documents. With their assistance I was soon turning over pages of the Barrington Family letters, but unfortunately there were no Dockwra stamps to be found there. So I went on day after day hunting through dozens of volumes, but it all ended in a blank as far as Dockwra and his stamp was concerned. It was not until my fourth visit to London that I eventually discovered a beautiful impression of a Dockwra stamp. How it fascinated me, for it was *different* from all the drawings I had seen, and how pleased I felt that I could do Dockwra a good turn by bringing to light what I think must be his earliest type of a Postage Stamp.

TYPE 1.

The letter, on which this Dockwra stamp appears, is dated December 13, 1680, and can be seen in the Hatton letters, vol. 9, fol. 122. (Add. 29558 in the museum catalogue.)

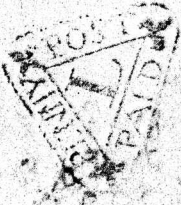
A photographic reproduction was the only thing which would satisfy me, and arrangements for this to be done were quickly made between the British Museum authorities and a photographer well up in such work.

Plate v. is a photographic reproduction of the cover, which, unless an earlier type is discovered, I call Dockwra's Type 1. "L" in centre and fleur-de-lis.

It need only be said that this photograph and all the others in this book are carefully reproduced exactly the size of the originals, and that no retouching has been done on the negatives or prints to make the impressions more perfect.

No apology need be made for reproducing a second (Plate vi.) and third example (Plate vii.) of this interesting pioneer stamp. Eight days later than our first example appears another Dockwra Stamp in the same 9th volume of the Hatton letters, fol. 126, and the third example in the same volume of letters, fol. 131.

There probably exists under this Type 1 a Dockwra Stamp with a W, and possibly other letters, in centre of triangle. Further searching may settle this point.



To the R^t Hon^{ble} my Lord
Hatton

at Mr Crispins in
Bowling alley

Westminster

per my post p^d

W. H. F.



~~1/2~~

For the R^t Hon^{ble} Christopher
Lord Hatton, at Mr Crispins
in Bowling alley

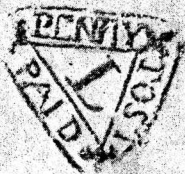
Westminster

This must needs go this
evening 21 Dec. 1600

Penny post paid.

Plate vi.

For ~~the~~ the R^t. Hon^{ble}
my Lord Hatton
at Mr. Crispin
Bowling alley
Westminster



penny post paid

Plate vii.

TYPE 2.

Many visits to London and many days' searching took place before another type of Dockwra's Stamp was unearthed. It is on a letter dated London, 22 March, 1689 in volume 8, fol. 38 of the Nicholas letters. (Eg. 2540.)

A photographic illustration (Plate viii.) is here given. The fleur-de-lis is now seen to be displaced apparently by 3 dots in each corner ; but even this decided alteration (perhaps for the worse) pales before the new arrangement of the inner triangle. We have now this section of the stamp divided into two compartments, separated by a well marked line, with the letter " L " now relegated to the upper section, itself triangular in shape. The lower section is left blank, and this is of considerable interest as at present we do not know what this blank space was intended for. Possibly some time mark or date should have been inserted *by hand* ; it remains for the present a little bit of hidden romance on which further research may cast some light.

In this type, and also in type 1, it will be noticed that the line forming the outer triangle is simply curved at the corners and is not indented as in type 3.

For the Hon. J. C. Nichols
at his house in Old

Spring garden

post paid



Plate viii.

TYPE 3.

The ninth volume of the Hatton letters, fol. 377, and tenth volume, fol. 118, provide us with the 3rd type of Dockwra's 1d. Stamp (Plate ix., Figs. 1 and 2), hitherto regarded as the first and only type. The triangular frame is smaller than before, the corners are dimpled or indented, and the two "N's" of "Penny" are joined together as illustrations in post mark literature have fairly faithfully shown. All previous illustrations, however, are incorrect as regards the size and shape of the interior letters, of which only L and W have so far been found. This Type 3 of Dockwra's characteristic stamp, so long mistaken for the original, is notably smaller than the long hidden Types 1 and 2, and is without the previous ornaments, viz.: the fleurs-de-lis of Type 1, and the three dots and divided triangle of Type 2. Indeed it is by no means so handsome and has lost something of air and nobility.

The letter from which our illustration (Plate ix., Fig. 1), is made is dated July 18th, 1681, additional manuscripts, 29558, fol. 377, and the centre letter W stands for Westminster, where one of Dockwra's Chief Offices was situated. Illustrations by others do not show a "W" of this angular block-letter type. Hendy gives an illustration of this type under date of 9th December, 1681 (Fig. 116), but I doubt if his illustration is carefully copied from an original as he has placed a well-defined dot in each corner. These dots do not exist in the type now under review, although

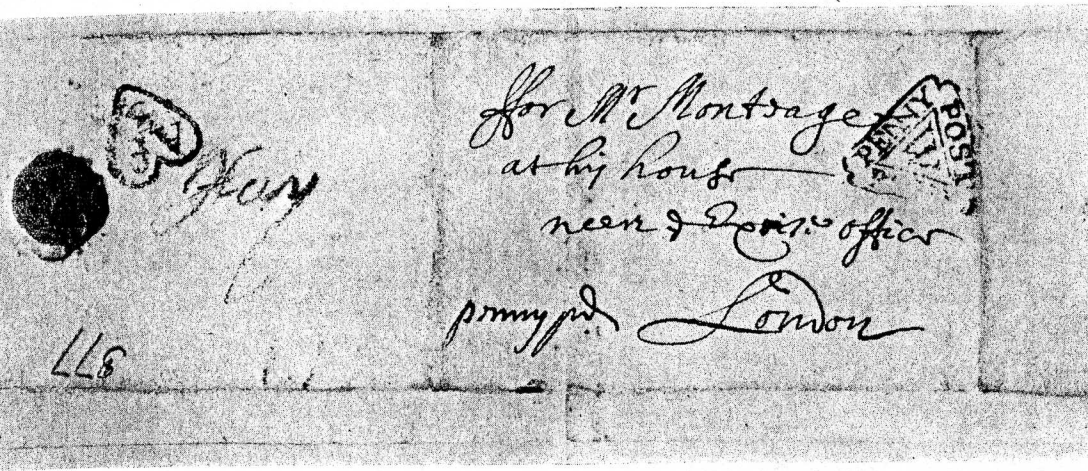


Plate ix.—Fig. 1.

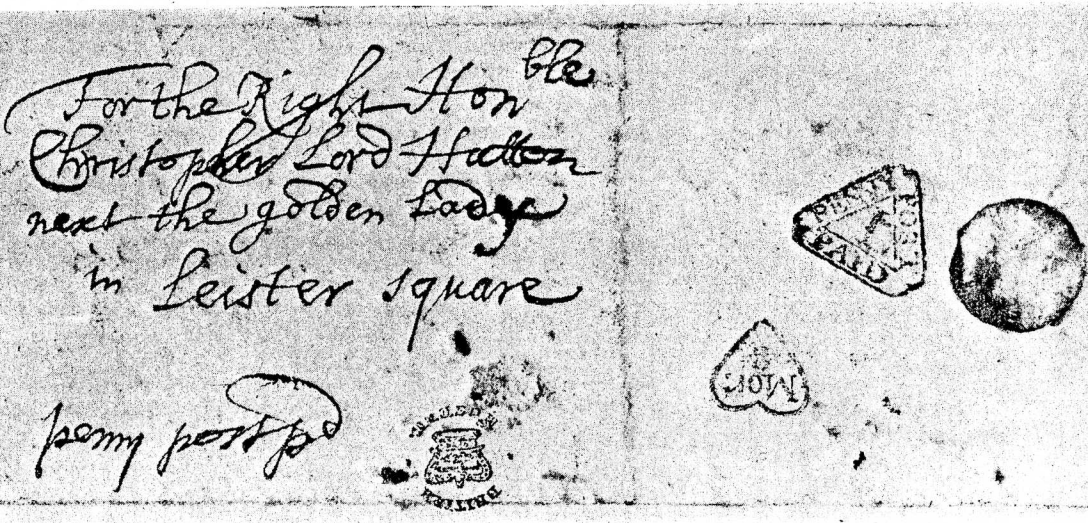
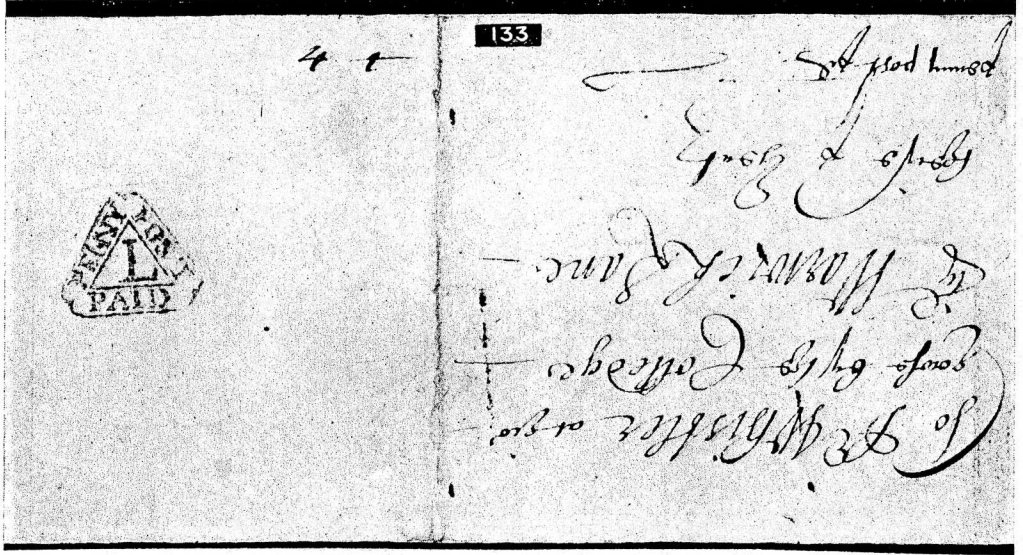


Plate ix.—Fig. 2.

SOLD AT HARRIS'S for £140.

July 7th and 8th, 1941.

PLATE I



of 2

Thos M. R. K. Lane
 at - R. R. Lane
 Lane - Lane
 Old - Lane

they may possibly have been added to the design of the stamp between my date of 18 July and his date of 9 December, 1681.

The next example of Type 3 is the same triangular formation, but the letter " L " (Lyme St. Chief Office) in centre in place of " W." All books which give an illustration of this stamp make the letter " L " too small and not neatly centred. I was lucky enough when turning over the pages of Hatton letters, vol. X, fol. 118, to come across a beautifully clear impression of this stamp, as will be seen from the accompanying photograph (Plate ix., Fig. 2). The letter is dated 22nd May, 1682, and the address to which it is sent should not be overlooked.

The previous illustration, and this one, clearly show the two " N's " of " Penny " joined together.

These two triangular stamps probably were in use until Dockwra was dispossessed of his private post.

The small heart-shaped delivery time marks, Afternoon 3 and Morning 8, on these two letter covers are also deeply interesting and are the first of their kind to appear.

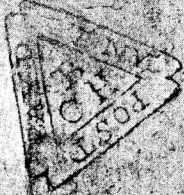
In 1663 the profits of the Post Office were settled by Act of Parliament on the Duke of York and his heirs, but Dockwra's venture was so lucrative and apparently so well managed that the Duke complained of the infringement of his monopoly, and he accordingly made a High Court case of Dockwra's right to carry on his undertaking.

As long as Dockwra was not making any profit, no notice was apparently taken of him, but as soon as his Penny Post gave promise of large returns the Duke of York became alarmed. The case was tried and the decision of the Court was given in favour of the Duke. Dockwra's undertaking was not long afterwards taken over and incorporated into the General Post Office. It is perhaps sufficient to add that according to Lewins's history of Her Majesty's mails, Dockwra was appointed in 1684 to the office of Controller of the District Post under the Duke of York, and in 1690 was granted a pension of £200-£500 a year. Authorities differ as to the exact amount, the date when the pension started, and also when it finished. Thus Dockwra's Penny Post came to an end. The General Post Office whose revenues were the property of the Duke of York, appears to have absorbed the whole of Dockwra's establishment including its special characteristic, the triangular stamp. But although the general appearance of Dockwra's stamp was retained, certain alterations were made by the Postal Authorities which distinguish it from its predecessors. I therefore call the next type

TYPE 4.

The Government Dockwra Stamp.

This new type remains in use for the long period of one hundred and eleven years, *i.e.*, till the year 1794. The original Dockwra Stamps, except for the short-lived Type 2 which had



1/2

For John Allen
Nicholas at his
house in the

Old Spring Garden

the lower portion of the inner triangle left blank, had one letter only, " L " or " W," inside the triangle, and the word " Paid " always at the base, always the right way up, and always spelt PAID. Government Dockwra Stamps, on the other hand, have generally three or four letters within the triangle, while the words " PENY POST PAYD," with variations of spelling, occur indifferently on any one of the sides of the triangle, with the word PAYD *not* at the base in the majority of cases, and never the right way up when it happens to occupy that important position.

The earliest " Government Dockwra Stamp " which the writer has so far found is on a letter dated July 26, 1683, in volume 8 of the Nicholas letters (Eg. 2540), fol. 46 (Plate x.) addressed to Spring Gardens, and bearing a circular delivery time mark, "W. af. 6," which means Westminster 6 p.m. This circular time mark supplants the small heart-shaped time mark of the genuine Dockwra type. The three letters in the triangle c^B H probably represent the head post office at Bishopsgate, Crosby House.

In later years " B " meant " Borough," *i.e.*, Southwark, and " C H " is said to represent " Commons House," *i.e.*, House of Commons, but in 1683 I venture to think that Bishopsgate, Crosby House, is what these three letters stand for.

On examining the annexed illustration of this early type of Government Dockwra Stamp, it will be seen that the word " POST " is at the base of the triangle and upside down. PAID is spelt PAYD, and though indistinct, PENNY appears to be spelt PENY.

TYPE 5.

Following on this Government Dockwra Stamp* comes another type where we find the letters within the triangle signify—as to the top letter, the particular chief office concerned; and as to the lower two or three, the day of the week, as FR for Friday, WEN for Wednesday, and so forth. The offices denoted by B, H, P, S, T and W seem to have been stationed respectively at or about Bishopsgate, Hermitage, St. Paul's, Southwark, The Temple, and Westminster, and to have served as head offices of their respective districts into which the smaller receiving houses poured their hourly collection of letters.

Plate xi., Fig. 1, add. 29572, fol. 444, shows the same type of Government Dockwra Stamp with W_{EN}^B inside the triangle. The letter "B," I take it, stands for Bishopsgate, and "WEN" for Wednesday.

Alongside this triangular stamp is a circular delivery time mark $\frac{W}{6}$ = Westminster, 6 o'clock in the afternoon. The letter is dated London, Feb. 15, 1685 and addressed to Duke Street, near St. James's. It was stamped with the Bishopsgate paid stamp and forwarded to the Westminster office, where it was sent out for delivery at 6 p.m., as shown by the time mark.

* G. A. Foster, in his book on Pre-Victorian Postage Stamps and Franks, gives an illustration (Fig. 7) of a Government Dockwra Stamp with a large "H" in the triangle which he says is copied from an old letter sheet dated Dec. 28, 1685. This is interesting, but not having a photograph of the original, I do not at present include it as a special type.

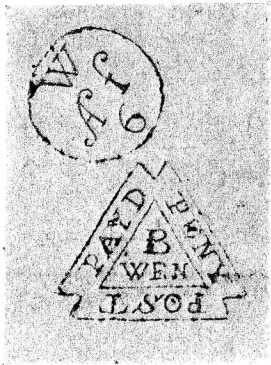


Plate xi.—Fig. 1.

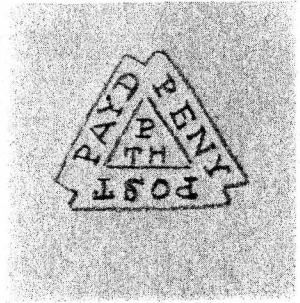


Plate xi.—Fig. 2.

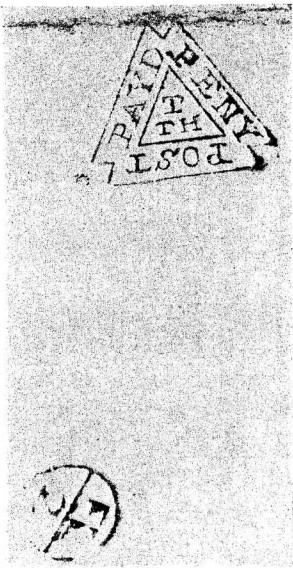


Plate xi.—Fig. 3.

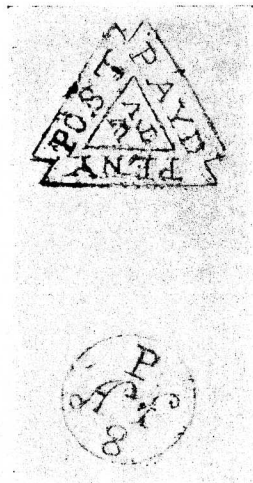


Plate xi.—Fig. 4.

Plate xi., Fig. 2, add. 29562, fol. 217, has $\frac{P}{TH}$ inside the triangle denoting "P" for St. Paul's and "TH" for Thursday. Letter dated 23 June, 1687.

Plate xi., Fig. 3, add. 29563, fol. 32, has $\frac{T}{TH}$ inside the triangle, the letter "T" for the Temple, and "TH" for Thursday. There is no delivery time mark on this cover as the letter is addressed from London to Northamptonshire, and therefore could not be delivered by the London Penny Post. This is an instance of a letter being posted at The Temple Penny Post Office and transferred to the General Post, for it bears the General Post Office circular despatching mark of Feb. 2. The letter is dated London, 2 Feb. 1687.

Plate xi., Fig. 4, add. 29564, fol. 270. The letters $\frac{W}{T}$ in the triangle signify Westminster, Tuesday. This letter was stamped with the Westminster Paid Stamp, and the time mark tells us that it was sent out for delivery by the St. Paul's office at 8 p.m. The letter is dated London, 24 Dec., 1689, and is addressed to a house in Broad Street.

In February, 1786,* appears one of these triangular Government Dockwra Stamps with the letter "G" at the top of the triangle. The meaning of this letter "G" is at present uncertain. It might mean "General," signifying General Post Office, it might be Gerrard St., where one of the principal offices was situated about this time, or again, it might stand for something else. A

* Mr. G. W. T. H. Fleming, Ryhope, Sunderland, has one of these Government Dockwra Stamps with the letter "G" at the top of the triangle on a cover dated 1747.

photographic illustration (Plate xii., Fig. 1) is given of this stamp which can be seen in the British Museum additional manuscripts 38219, fol. 35.

Figs. 2 and 3, Plate xii. are traced from letters at Downton Hall, Ludlow.

Fig. 4, Plate xii. is traced from a letter in my own collection, and shows only two letters for Wednesday. From these three illustrations (Plate xii., Figs. 2—4) it will be seen that the words "Penny" "Post" "Paid" occupy respectively different sides of the triangular stamp. There is no attempt at uniformity.

Plate xiii., Fig. 1 (Eg. 2540), is taken from a letter dated 2 May, 1693, and shows a new type of circular time mark W=Westminster, M=Morning, and 9=9 o'clock.

For their own special interest, two illustrations are added (Plate xiii., Figs. 2 and 3) showing the letters H (Hermitage) and S (Southwark) at the top of the inside triangle, thus completing the cycle of Offices so far known to have possessed a Paid Stamp. The Hermitage stamp is from add. 38224, fol. 230, on a letter dated July 23, 1789; the Southwark example from a letter at Downton Hall dated December 16, 1789.

With the aid of Sir Rouse Boughton's collection this Government Dockwra Stamp can be followed up to 8 March, 1794 (Plate xiii., Fig. 4), when it probably ceases, as a careful examination of subsequent letters fails to show its use after that date.

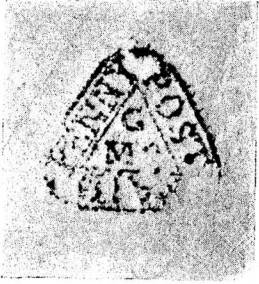


Plate xii.—Fig. 1.

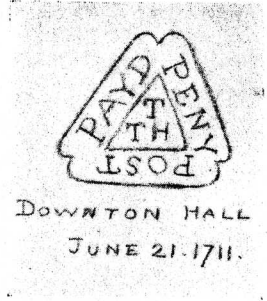


Plate xii.—Fig. 2.

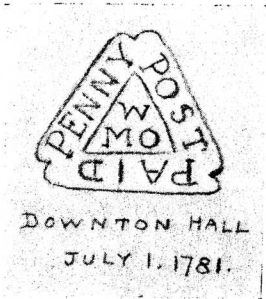


Plate xii.—Fig. 3.

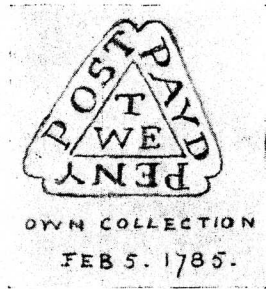


Plate xii.—Fig. 4.

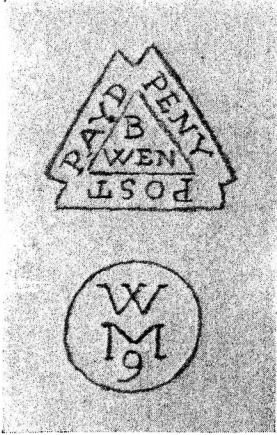


Plate xiii.—Fig. 1.

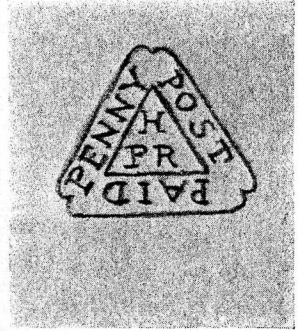


Plate xiii.—Fig. 2.

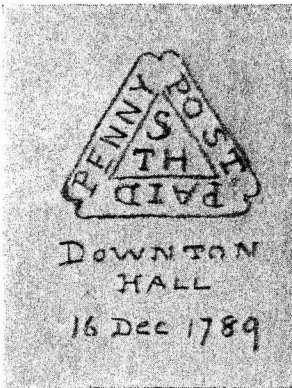


Plate xiii.—Fig. 3.

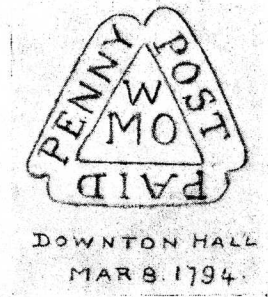


Plate xiii.—Fig. 4.

It is quite likely that these Government Dockwra Stamps will be found on letters dated later than 8 March, 1794, but as Edward Johnson's combined Date and Paid Stamp came into use in the principal London Penny Post Offices in September that year,* it may reasonably be assumed that the Government Dockwra type finished its lengthy career of 111 years about the middle or latter part of 1794.

At the time these lines are printed it seems necessary, at any rate a wise precaution, to use here and there such words as "probably," "apparently," etc., for it is very unlikely that a pioneer work can steer clear of rocks in the form of statements which may be easily contradicted at a future date.

Further research work will doubtless add to our information about the Dockwra and Government Dockwra Stamps, and I can only hope that other philatelists will assist in making the history of these interesting Stamps more perfect.

* Joyce, page 305. A letter at Downton Hall bears a combined date and time mark dated July 12, 1794, of the type associated with the name of Johnson.

THE
London Philatelist:

THE MONTHLY JOURNAL OF
THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON.

VOL. XXXIII.

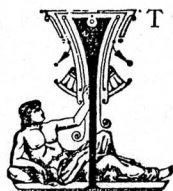
NOVEMBER, 1924.

No. 395.

A New Dockwra Discovery.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE LATE E. S. GLADSTONE'S RECENT BOOK.

BY C. RICHARD LEWIS.



It was my privilege for the past few years to work in close collaboration with the late Ernest Steuart Gladstone, of Liverpool,* author of *Great Britain's First Postage Stamp*, and re-discoverer of Dockwra. This was, indeed, more than a privilege, for Gladstone, on many points of the early history of the postal service—or of “Philately,” as he preferred to put it, as he would never have it that adhesive labels were the first or only “stamps”—was easily the world-authority. I have in my possession, through the kindness of his family, a large quantity of his tracings and postmarked originals, sufficient to last a lifetime,

* Ernest Steuart Gladstone died of pneumonia at his home in Liverpool, April 14, 1924, aged fifty-seven.

or at least the leisure of a lifetime, to study and arrange, much of it entirely unsuspected by the more advanced students of the postmark. Why the laws of nature and physique should elect to cut off such a man in his prime as E. S. Gladstone, with so much to live for, and so keen a desire to plan his work for years ahead, is more than a mystery. I mourn my friend thus publicly in these pages. . . .

Shortly after the publication of *Great Britain's First Postage Stamp*—on February 26, 1924, to be precise—Gladstone wrote me an urgent piece of news. He had been "up" again at the British Museum. . . . "Yesterday I spent from 10 o'clock in the morning till 5 in the afternoon and found nothing out of nine volumes at the B.M. To-day I was there again at the opening, and at 3.35½ p.m. I discovered another type of Dockwra stamp—a perfect copy, good luck to it. It is the frame of the divided triangle, Type 2, but the triangle is not divided and it contains a beautiful large **W**. Three dots in each corner, no indentations, but the words "PENNY POST PAID" are smaller than Type 2. It is a new type, and the book is now out of date. It is on a letter dated 19 Dec., 1680."

Yours
 The Right Hon^{ble} the
 Earl of Darby at his
 Lodgings in the Tower
 of London



J. H. C.

In the hope that Gladstone's fellow-members of the Royal Philatelic Society of London will be glad to have this latest discovery chronicled in their journal, I send one of the only three copies of this photograph that exist to my knowledge, to serve as a basis for reproduction. Fortunate possessors of a copy of *Great Britain's First Postage Stamp* may place a facsimile of it in the space provided for "record of unchronicled varieties." The new type displaces Type 2, and is the second Dockwra type so far unearthed, yielding place only to the fine old fleur-de-lys of Type 1, which takes precedence in date, to our present knowledge, by six days only. But Type 1 is only known with the Lyme Street initial "L," and it is possible that this new-discovered "Westminster" mark is equally old, and actually commenced its existence on the same day; and that both may be still further antedated in good time.

AN
ADVERTISEMENT

On the behalf of

William Dockwra, Merch^t.

Concerning the

PENNY-POST.

WHereas the said Dockwra did above Nine Years since at his Sole Charge, first set up, that New and useful *Invention* of the Penny-Post, so universally approved, and well known to be a Great and Publick good. He was most unjustly deprived thereof, by the Power of the late King James, when Duke of York, under Colour of Law, and kept out of Possession in the late Reigns, without any manner of Reparation to this Day; as appears more fully by his Caselately Printed.

Therefore finding himself obliged, for Vindication of his just rights, and in order to the Reparation of his great damages; to make Address to the Parliament for Relief, he did accordingly exhibit his humble Petition, to the Honourable House of Commons, and upon Reading of the same there, it was Unanimously referred to the *Committee* of the whole House, for considering the Publick Revenue.

Soon after, some Unnamed Person, did Print, and Disperse a Paper, which he call'd; *An answer to Mr. Dockwra's Case concerning the Penny-Post*: wherein, by citing Part only of the *Post-Office Statute*, and asserting several untruths, and by framing a Tryfling Parallel, between the *General and Penny-Post* (but leaving out the Material, and Essential Parts of the Practice, wherein they are utterly disagreeable and inconsistent) he put the whole Case in a False Light, and as much as in him lay, used his Talent towards the justifying of these Illegal and Arbitrary Proceedings, under which the said Dockwra with his Family of a Wife, and Eight Children, have been so many Years oppressed.

The Design of which Paper, bespeaking the Author, to be a Man of as little Sense, as good Principles. The said Dockwra, is well satisfied the present Governour of the *General-Post Office*, had no hand therein; as knowing his Abilities too great, and (believing his Ingenuity and Justice) to be far above thoughts so low, and attempts so malicious.

Now whereas the said Dockwra, had prepared a Reply to that pretended *Answer*, which he had by him ready to wash off the Varnish of that Officious Undertaker, and solidly to Brince to the Parliament his Legal Title to this *New Invention* (never known or practis'd in the World before) and to expose the wicked Practices that were made use of to Divest him thereof, (after he had spent so many Years time, and so many Thousand Pounds just to bring the *Penny-Post* to Perfection) and having Duitfully attended the *House of Commons* to that End. The Parliament adjourned, before the Revenue was settled; so that the said Dockwra's Case came not on to a Hearing this Session, for which Reason, he did not think fit to Print his Reply.

(Aug: 20. - 89.)

But finding since the Adjournment of the Parliament, the same sort of Papers have been thrown into *Coffee-houses* and other Places, and Care taken, Industriously to spread false reports about Town, concerning the Issue of the said Dockwra's Petition, which may beget undue Impressions.

The said Dockwra thinks it Incumbent upon him, to Advertise the Publick hereby, that he has not met with any sort of Discouragement from the Parliament in his Application to them for Relief: But on the contrary, hath found an Honourable and Universal Countenance therein, and doubts not (at the next meeting of the Parliament) but that he shall receive from their great Wisdom and Justice, such Generous Reparation for his Sufferings, and such due Reward for the Publick Service he hath done his Country; as will be not only to his intire satisfaction, but to their *Eternal Honour*.

London Printed August 26. - Lxxxix.

Petition on behalf of WILLIAM DOCKWRA asking for Relief
for depriving him of his PENNY POST August 26th 1689.



THE BRITISH PHILATELIST,
For Collectors of
BRITISH STAMPS, CARDS,
and ENVELOPES.

No. 12.—Vol. XXIX. February, 1937. 3d. [SUBSCRIPTION
Whole No. 348. 3/- PER ANNUM

A HAMBURG SYNDIC LOOKS IN.

Although the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg was late in issuing postage stamps (January 1st, 1859), we find among the Perkins, Bacon papers, an enquiry was made by a member of the Senate into the English system within seven months of the introduction of adhesive postage stamps.

This note is in the handwriting of Mr. Rowland Hill:
Jan. 1. '41.

Dear Sir,

Allow me to introduce to you Mr. Syndic Banks a member of the Senate of Hambro' who is desirous of making some enquiries with reference to the introduction of postage stamps into Hambro'.

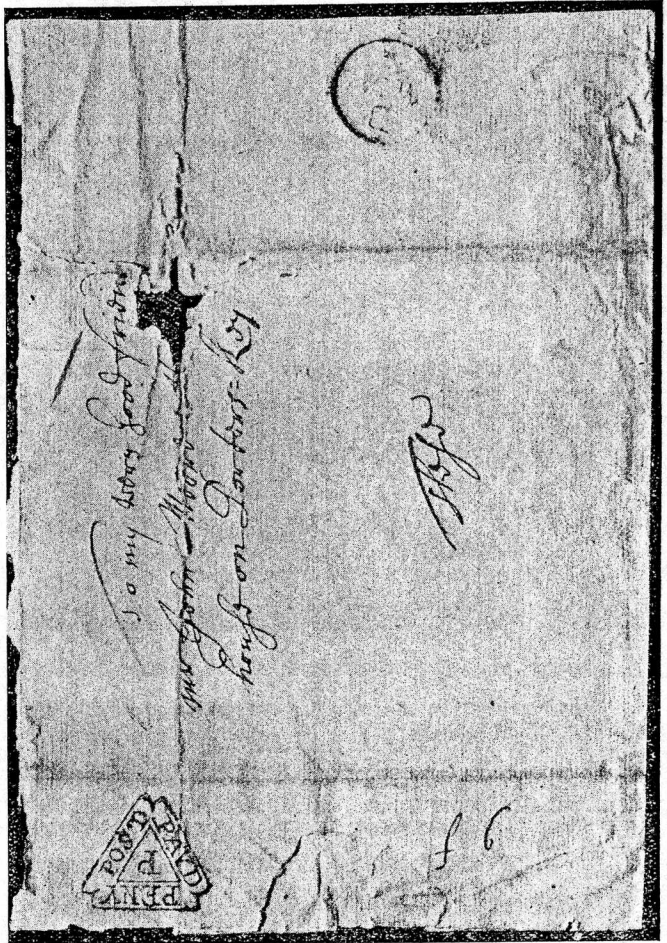
Yours truly,
Rowland Hill.

J. B. Bacon, Esq.

The foregoing note was enclosed in a small (4in.) envelope on which, in Hill's writing "To introduce Mr. Syndic Banks . . . J. B. Bacon, Esq., 69 Fleet Street, London." With the note was enclosed the engraved visiting card "Syndicus Banks Dr." on which the visitor's temporary address is written in a foreign hand "James Hotel, Jermynstreet."

DOCKWRA TYPE DISCOVERY.

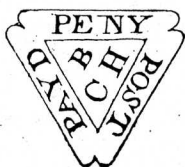
In the Moore correspondence Mr. Charles Nissen has found a new type of the Dockwra triangular stamp, used after the Government took over the management. It has the PENY and PAYD spelling, with indented corners, but with a large



P in the centre, with its head below the word PENNY, resembling in this respect Daniels' Type 7.

The receiving office letter is usually placed with its head to the apex of the inner triangle. The "P" denotes St. Paul's, and there is a delivery-office time mark of B (Bishopsgate) on the letter; year unknown.

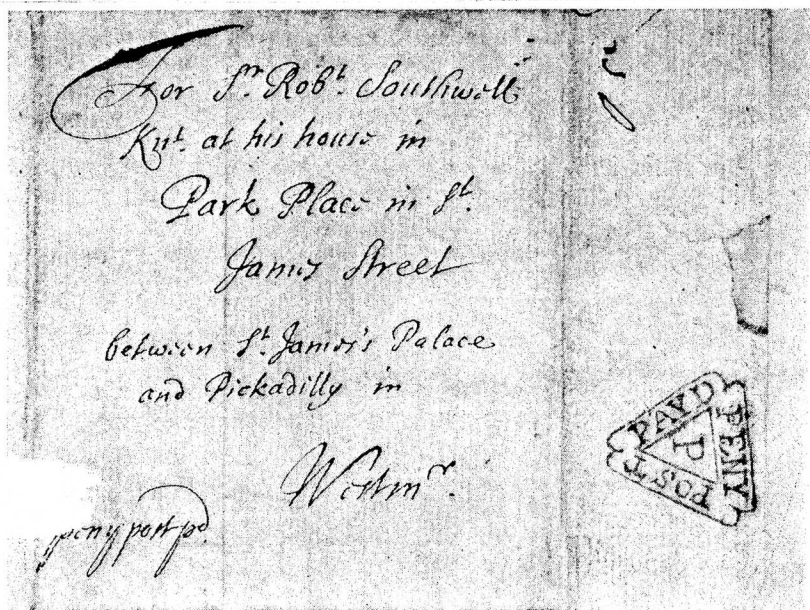
Record of Unchronicled Varieties



Stamps of Crosby Hall, Bishopsgate and Hermitage Offices.

First Government Penny Post Stamps

Members of the Postal History Society gathered in the lounge at Oddenino's Hotel on April 12 for an informal chat on problems of special interest to collectors of Great Britain, under the chairmanship of Foster W. Bond. Mr. Graveson opened the discussion with an inquiry concerning the 1683 issue of Government stamps used for the London Penny Post. A proof of two of these stamps is illustrated from the block used in the Society's volume, "Penny Postage Centenary." Mr. Graveson produced a facsimile illustration which appeared in the first volume of a periodical called "The Mirror" in 1840. The point debated was the origin of the "proof." This was reported to have been found in an old scrap book and was sent by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons to one of the early Postal History Auctions conducted by Mr. Robson Lowe, where it was bought by Mr. Foster Bond, in whose collection it now rests. Reliable information concerning the 1683 issue of Government Penny Posts is still far from complete. Original impressions of the stamps seem to be quite as rare as original Dockwra's which they immediately followed. An original with B/CH (Bishopsgate Crosby Hall), the head office of the Penny Post under Government management, as illustrated in the late Ernest Gladstone's book, "Great Britain's First Postage Stamp." This is taken from a letter of 1683 which Mr. Gladstone discovered in the British Museum. Colonel Guy Crouch has the impression of a stamp with H (Hermitage office) on an undated piece; also a complete letter with impression of St. Paul's office stamp (P), which he has kindly allowed us to reproduce. Mr. Robson Lowe in his catalogue "The Postage Stamps of Great Britain" also gives an illustration of a stamp with P in centre, taken from original on letter in collection of the late Charles Nissen. This leaves T (Temple), W (Westminster), S (Southwark) still to be recorded and described. It may be queried whether there ever was an L (Lyme Street) stamp in the 1683 issue, for we know that in the original stamps this stood for Dockwra's own house, which he used as his head office.



Letter with P (St. Paul's Office) stamp from original in collection of Col. G. R. Crouch.

P.A. Autumn, 1937



THE "DOTTED HEART"

May I mention that the particular type of Dockwra mark with the "P" upright beneath the word "Peny" is *not* a new discovery, as it has already been illustrated by Colonel G. Crouch in his pamphlet on these marks. It was one of the first two types of Dockwra mark issued by the Government after they took over Dockwra's private post-farm, when they used as a postmark a triangular design, more or less following the design that Dockwra himself used.



With regard to the "Dotted Heart" Postmark I possess nine copies of these—three with the letter "M," four with the letter "W" and two with the letter "F," all on entires. The letters were sent either from Norwich or Hockwold (near Thetford) to Chelsea, near London, and were evidently "stamped" by the London Post Office on arrival there. The dates range from 1702 to 1708. The alphabet letters evidently refer to the days of the week, for example "W"—Wednesday, as in every case the date of the Bishop Mark on the covers, which were stamped on arrival at London coincides with a Monday, Wednesday or Friday as the case may be. All my "Heart" marks have "AFT," indicating afternoon. I have none with "MOR," and do not know if such exist.

H. G. GILES.

[The above information is in answer to the notes on two rare pre-stamp covers which were illustrated in the last (Summer Number) of the "Philatelic Adviser," copies of which can be sent by return of post (4d. post free).]



THE DOTTED HEART.

A dotted heart-shaped mark on a letter posted from Dublin to London on 13th July, 1710, is new to us. The delivery mark is July 19th.

We shall be interested to know if other readers have similar examples.

