

London Postal History Group

NOTEBOOK

November 1992

Numbers 101 to 106

THE GRACE DOVE COLLECTION

This second special edition of *Notebook* comprises the Gold Medal Exhibit by Miss Grace Dove at the London 1990 and Granada 1992 Internationals; the first special edition was the Wolf Hess Gold Medal Collection.

The opportunity has been taken to make some additions to the material originally shown, mainly the contents of letters, which although of interest to collectors, rarely attract the critical acclaim of judges.

The enhanced presentation is the result of better print facilities and is no reflection on the merits of the two exhibits.

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PRINT QUALITY

It had been hoped the print quality of Notebook would be improved with this bumper issue but this has not been the case.

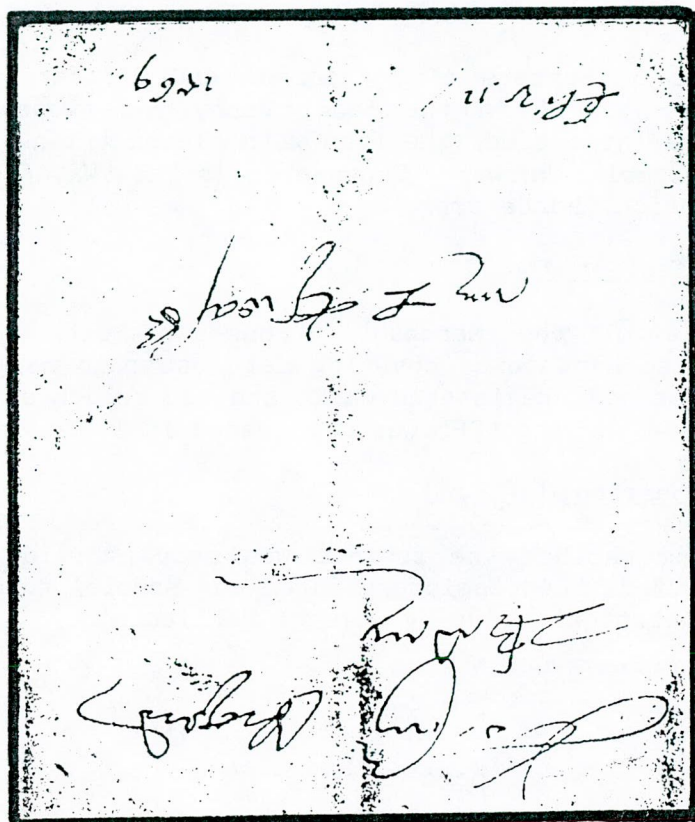
As readers will see, there is a marked variation in quality, from *** to * !!, the tone stain and vanishing page number being particularly irritating.

This has been due, in part, to the uneven performance of the printer but the Editor, with a mechanical aptitude which his time in National service ensured he was allowed no where near aircraft or other mechanical/electrical constructions, must accept responsibility.

It is hoped the failure to achieve the expected results will not detract too much from your enjoyment: at least most illustrations have appeared in reasonably good order.

LONDON POSTAL HISTORY 1569 to 1839

The exhibit comprises a selection of letters sent to, from and within London by the Royal Post, Merchant Post, Private Carriers and the Public Post. It shows the handstamps impressed by the General Post on Inland and Foreign Mail, on Freepost and Ship Letters, by the Government Penny Post and the London Penny and Twopenny Posts. The handstamps came into being to meet particular needs as they arose ; some were of an experimental nature and so very short lived.



Sent by William Paulet,
1st. Marquess of Winchester,
Lord Treasurer to Queen
Elizabeth, addressed to Mr
Richard Burny, agreeing to
intercede with the Queen on
his behalf.

Presumably sent by private
messenger within London.

Endorsed ; " My L. Treas' er
Eliz. 12. 1569 "

Section 1

Early Inland Letters and Datestamps - showing a Bishop mark of May 1661; the distinctive "Dockwra" type handstamps, experimental, followed by a series of datestamps, including those denoting Sunday posting, Late fee and posting at Branch Offices.

Section 2

Receiving Houses - were at first identified by an office number, the item showing '7 Off' being the rarest, then by Receivers' initials or name, later types gave the name of the Receiving House and showed whether postage was unpaid or prepaid.

Section 3

Paid and Not Paid marks - showing whether postage was to be collected by the Letter Carriers. The item showing 'Second Penny Paid' being a recent discovery.

Section 4

Instructional marks - General Post : Crowns were used to authenticate a change in the rate charged. 'Not According to the Act', 'More to Pay', 'Too Late for Morning Post', instructions to Post Office staff and the Public.

Section 5

Instructional marks - Penny and Twopenny Posts : The items showing 'GP' is one of only two examples recorded and 'FP' is a new discovery.

Section 6

Franked Letters - from 1652 letters of Members of Parliament and Officers of State were carried free of postage, except in the local Penny and twopenny Posts. In 1764 'Free' handstamps were introduced, the item with eleven triangles at base of circle is one of two examples known. Shown also is the 'Waterloo Subscription' handstamp.

Section 7

Foreign Branch - showing examples of the Merchant Strangers' Post, the forerunner of the Foreign Branch; also handstamps covering date and paid marks, per ounce charges, Rebate, Franches and Registered marks and the seldom seen 'Via Falmouth'. The item of 1794 showing 'PP' was discovered in 1986.

Section 8

Ship Letters - handstamps indicating whether the postage was paid, unpaid or exempt, sailing dates, Rebate, Soldiers' Concessionary Rates and special rates on letters to and from India, brought about by Acts of Parliament.

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Section 7	page 100
Section 8	page 117

WARRANT FOR PAYMENT FOR DELIVERY OF THE QUEEN'S LETTERS

Decembur Anno R^{te}
E^liz^a 2^{da} 1602

Richard Stanton one of the ordinary messengers of her ma^{ty} Comt^{ess}
of Arundell humbly prayeth allowance for his charge and
travel in ryding in her Ma^{ty}s service from the right honorable
the Lo: Keeper of the great seals of England & the right
the Lo: high Treasurer of England in order to divers Lords
and Ladies of Honor for the second payment of the second
subsidie granted unto her Ma^{ty} in the last Parliament holden
in the xliijth yere of her Ma^{ty}s reign (viz) one l^{ie} to the
Countess of Northampton at the Countess and l^{ie} to the Earle
of Northampton at the Countess and l^{ie} to the Earle of
Derby at Hackney, one l^{ie} to the Lady Russell at
Northampton, in the Countie of Northampton one l^{ie} to the Lady
Chandos first Dowager at Graves in the Countie of Essex,
one l^{ie} to the Lo: Remond at Purcell in the Countie of Essex
one l^{ie} to the Lo: Chandos at Wickhead in the Countie of
Gloucester, one l^{ie} to the Lady Chandos second Dowager at
Northampton, for the sum of xliijth p^{er} cent the said Stanton
humbly prayeth allowance to be allowed by the right
the Lo: high Treasurer of England, and voted by the right
in Parliament skimmert, and paid by one of the Treasurers of
her Ma^{ty}s Countie of Receipt at Westm^{ster}.

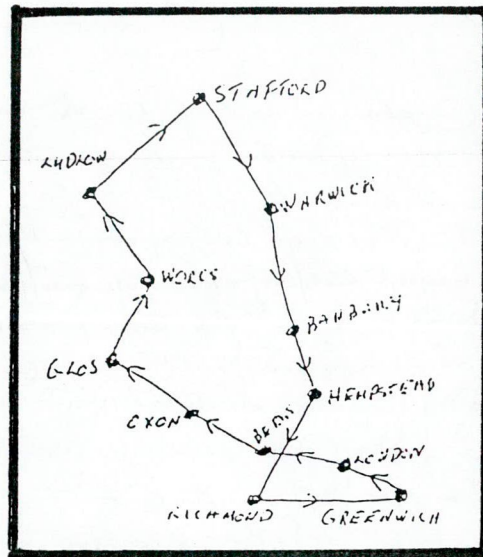
J. B. M. W. S.

my Chylde I pray you to be paid in
the sum of xliijth p^{er} cent
Ym. B. M. W. S.

For the sum of xliijth p^{er} cent
Decembur 1602

19. letters.
Esp. 5th Decemb. 1602
To me Arth: Maynwaring

Richard Stanton, a messenger at the Court of Receipts of Elizabeth I at Westminster, applies to the Lord High Treasurer for payment for 'his charge and travel in ryding in her Majesty's service with letters to divers Lords and ladies'. His first delivery being to the Court at Whitehall, then to Hackney, Berkshire and West and North to Stafford, returning via Warwick, Oxford, Richmond to Greenwich, delivering in all nineteen letters, for which service he is paid £8.



Richard Stanton one of the ordinary messengers of her Majesty's Courte of Receipte, humbly prayeth allowance for his charge and travell in ryding in her Majesty's service from the right honorable the Lord Keeper of the Great Seale of England and the right honorable the Lord High Treasurer of England, with letters to divers Lords and Ladies of honor, for the second payment of the second subsidie granted unto her Majesty in the last Parliament holden in the 43rd yere of her Majesty's raigne, viz; one letter to the Countess of Warwick at the Courte, one letter to the Earl of Worcester at the Courte, one letter to the Earl of Derby at Hackney, one letter to the Lady Russell at Bradley in the County of Berk, one letter to the Lady Chandoyes first Dowager at Graies in the County of Oxon, one letter to the Lord Norris at Rycott in the County of Oxon, one letter to the Lord Chandoies at Pricklady in the County of Gloucestershire, one letter to the Lady Chandoies second Dowager at Chewdley Castle in the County of Gloucester, one letter to the Lord Windsor at Hewell Graunge in the County of Worcester, one letter to the Lord Zouch, Lord president of her Majesty's Counsell in the Marches of Wales at Ludlow in the County of Salop, one letter to the Lord Dudeley at Dudeley Castle in the County of Staffs, one letter to the Lord Stafford at Stafford Castle in the County of Staffs, one letter to the Countess Leicester at Dreyton Bassett in the County of Stafford, one letter to the Lord Barkley at Callerdorone in the County of Warwick, one letter to the Lady Wentworth at her house near Banbury in the County of Oxon, one letter to the Lady Padgett at Hempsted in the County of Buck, one letter to the Lady Grey at Whaddon in the County of Buck, one letter to the Lady Marques at Richmond and one letter to the Lady Grey at Grenewich in the County of Kent, For the which service the said Stanton humbly prayeth allowance to be allowed by the right honorable the Lord High Treasurer of England and voted by the right worshipful Mr Vincent Skinner and paid by one of the tellers of her Majesty's Courte of Receipte at Westminster,

Thomas Buchurst

[Thomas Sackville Lord Buckhurst,
Lord Treasurer]

Mr,---I pray you to see the sum of eight
pounds payd in discharge of this Bill

Vin Skynner,

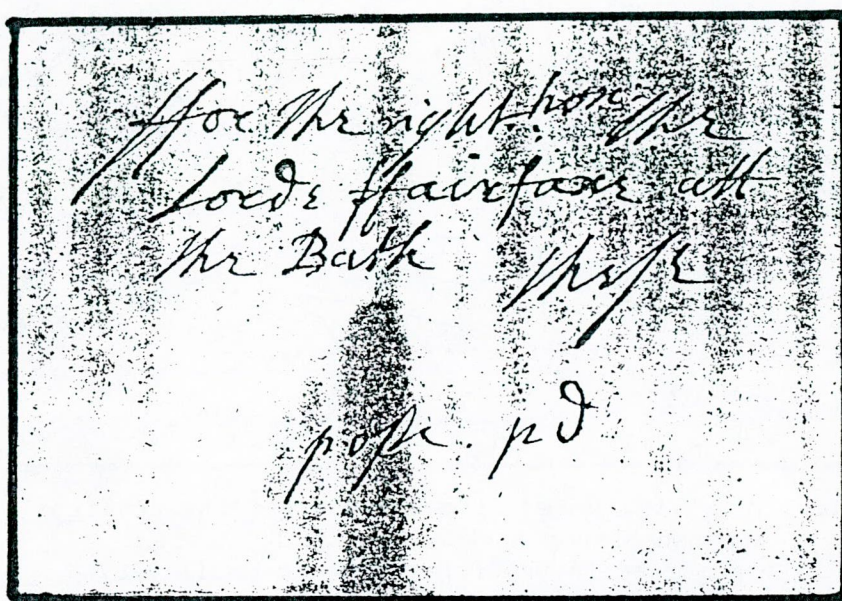
19 letters
ex 5 Dec, 1602
per Mr. Arthur Maynwaringes

N.B. In the summer the Queen 'progressed' and in her last years she wintered at Whitehall. She continued to celebrate the anniversary of her accession November 17th. in Whitehall. At the end of January 1603 she removed from Westminster to Richmond to 'escape the foulness of the winter' in the Capital.

Section 1

EARLY INLAND LETTERS and DATESTAMPS

In 1510 Henry VIII appointed a 'Master of the Post' who organised a service along the few roads out of London for the Royal mail, carried by messengers, and this continued throughout the reign of Elizabeth I. There was no public service until the Inland Office was opened in 1635 [the Foreign office having been opened in 1632].



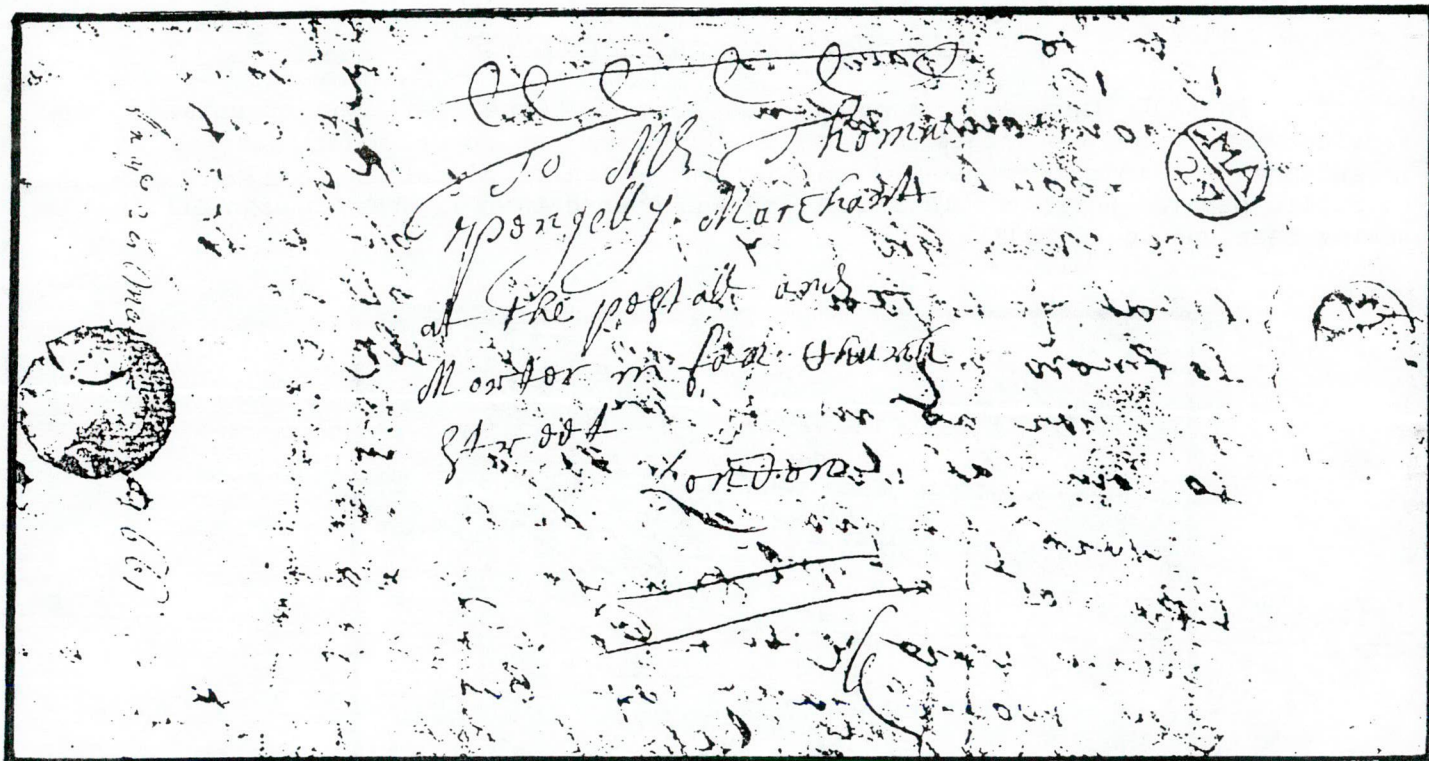
The Civil War of 1642 - 8 appears to have stopped any public post, although the example here, dated June 16th, 1646 and addressed to Lord Fairfax at Bath bears a manuscript "post pd" which suggests there was a service for which charges were levied.

The General Post controlling the Inland and Foreign branches was opened in 1657, under an Act passed by the Commonwealth Parliament, this being re-enacted by the restored Royalist Parliament in 1660. From 1680 there was a London Local Post and this, and the General Post employed their own handstamps and Letter Carriers.

Complaints of delay led the Postmaster General, Henry Bishop, to introduce the first datestamp in 1661, the 'Bishop' mark, which continued in use until 1787, when experimental datestamps were tried out, followed by a growing series of datestamps.

The General Post ran on the major roads connecting cities but no post was provided within cities until 1680 when a London merchant, William Dockwra, started his own penny Post within London, with its distinctive triangular handstamps. this was suppressed as an infringement of Crown monopoly but re-opened in 1682 as the Government Penny Post, which in turn developed into the London Penny and Twopenny Posts.

BISHOP MARK 13mm dia.

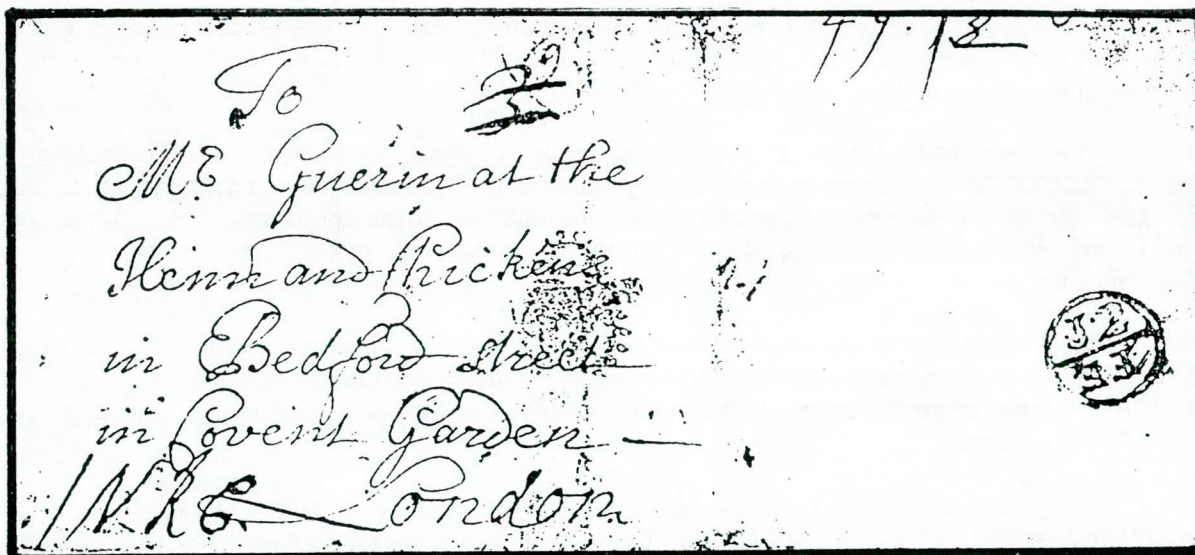


1661 May 27th. Dated five weeks after the earliest known Bishop mark of the 19th. April.

It remained in use for 126 years until 1787.

This example sent from Yarmouth.

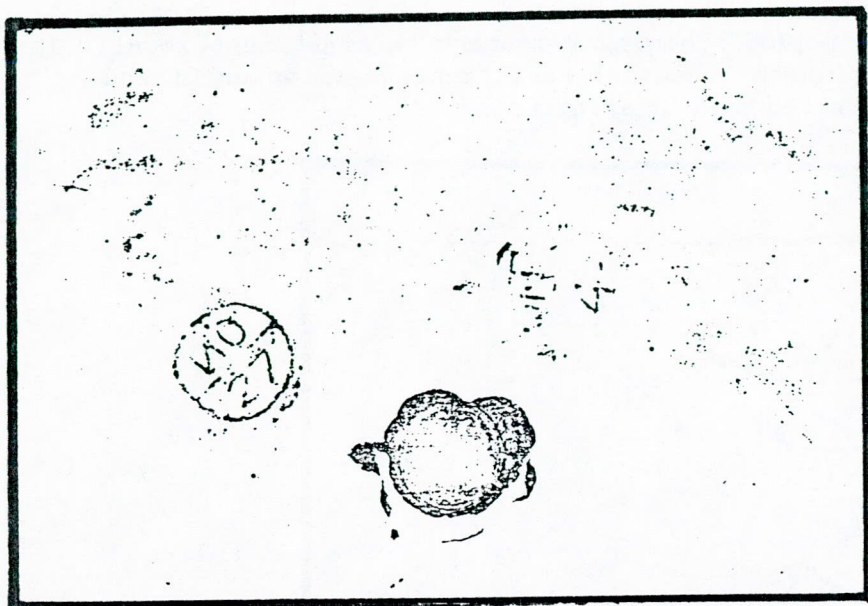
"J2/FE" TETE-BECHE BISHOP MARK



1717 February 10th. The carver of this Bishop mark for 12th. February uniquely cut "J" for the numeral "1" and cut the "FE" upside down. Charged 3d. but uprated to 1/-, authorised by the Inspector's Crown, as it contained receipts and a bill.

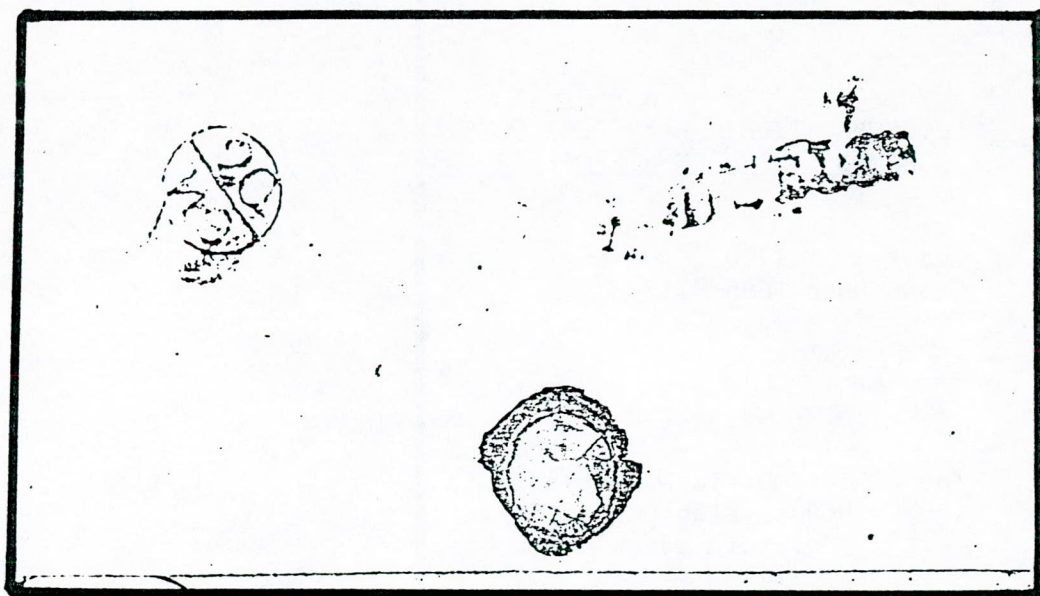
The "INRC" is probably the charge clerk's initial after "IN", often used for "one shilling", to show he had allowed the letter to go at the 80 mile ounce rate, although Stamford is some 85 miles from London.

BISHOP MARKS - REVERSED 'N' VARIETY



1675 November 27th.
Sans-serif lettering.
Known used 1673 - 8.
Sent from Sandon, Staffs.

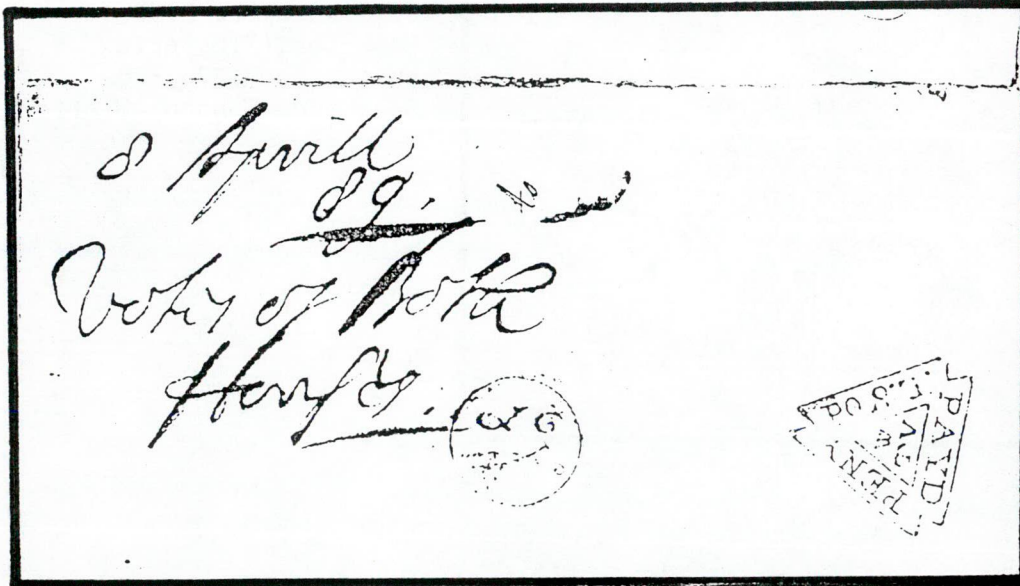
1758 November 20th.
Serif lettering.
Showing the revised
Inland Office form
after 1713 placing
the day above the
month.
Sent from Dublin
to London.



GOVERNMENT PENNY POST

DOCKWRA' TYPE - PENY POST PAYD
W/TV - WESTMINSTER OFFICE

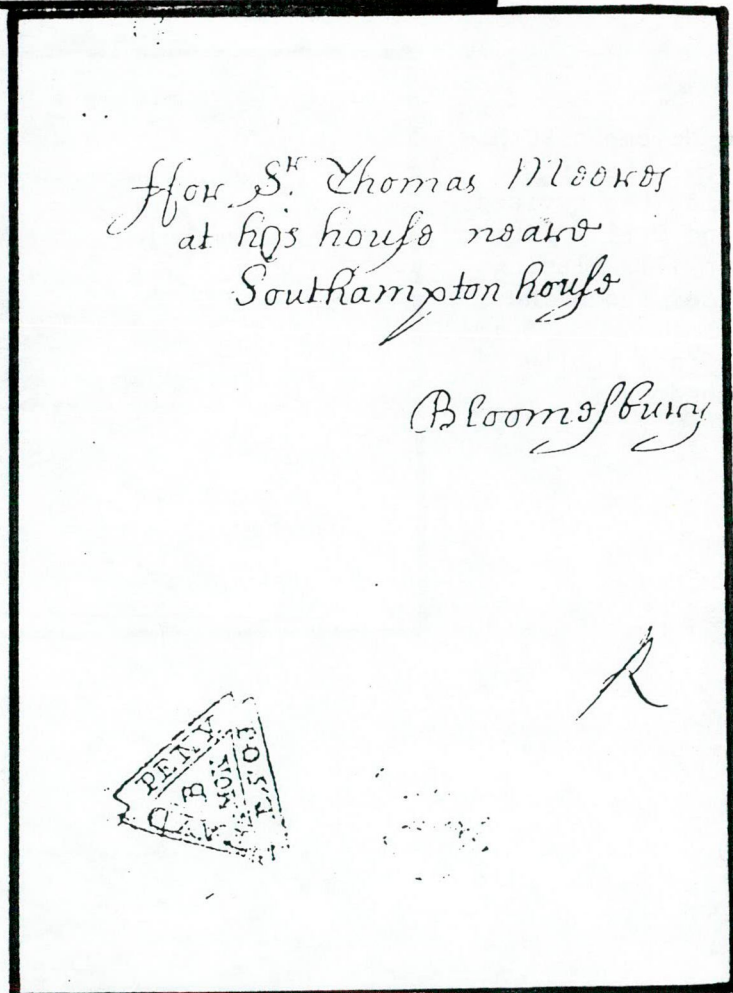
1689 April 8th. Known used 1686-1705. Showing time mark 'W/Af/2'. Sent locally in London; concerning matters of both Houses of Parliament. Westminster Office - situated near Charing Cross



'DOCKWRA' TYPE - PAYD PENY POST
B/MON - BISHOPSGATE OFFICE

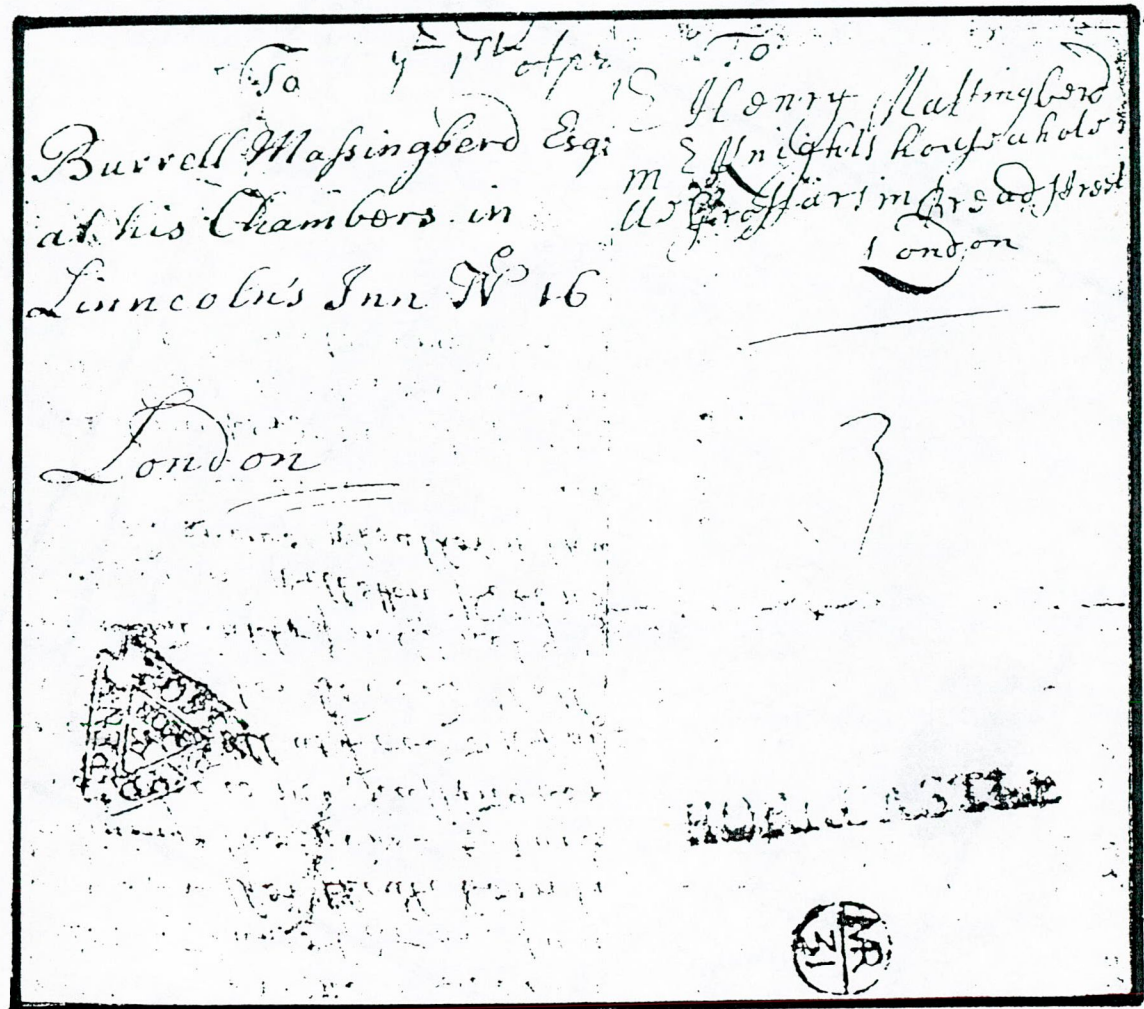
undated c. 1700
Known used 1685 - 1706

The Chief Office, probably in Crosby House, Bishopsgate Street at this date.



GOVERNMENT PENNY POST

'DOCKWRA' TYPE - PAYD PENY POST
P/MON - ST. PAUL'S OFFICE

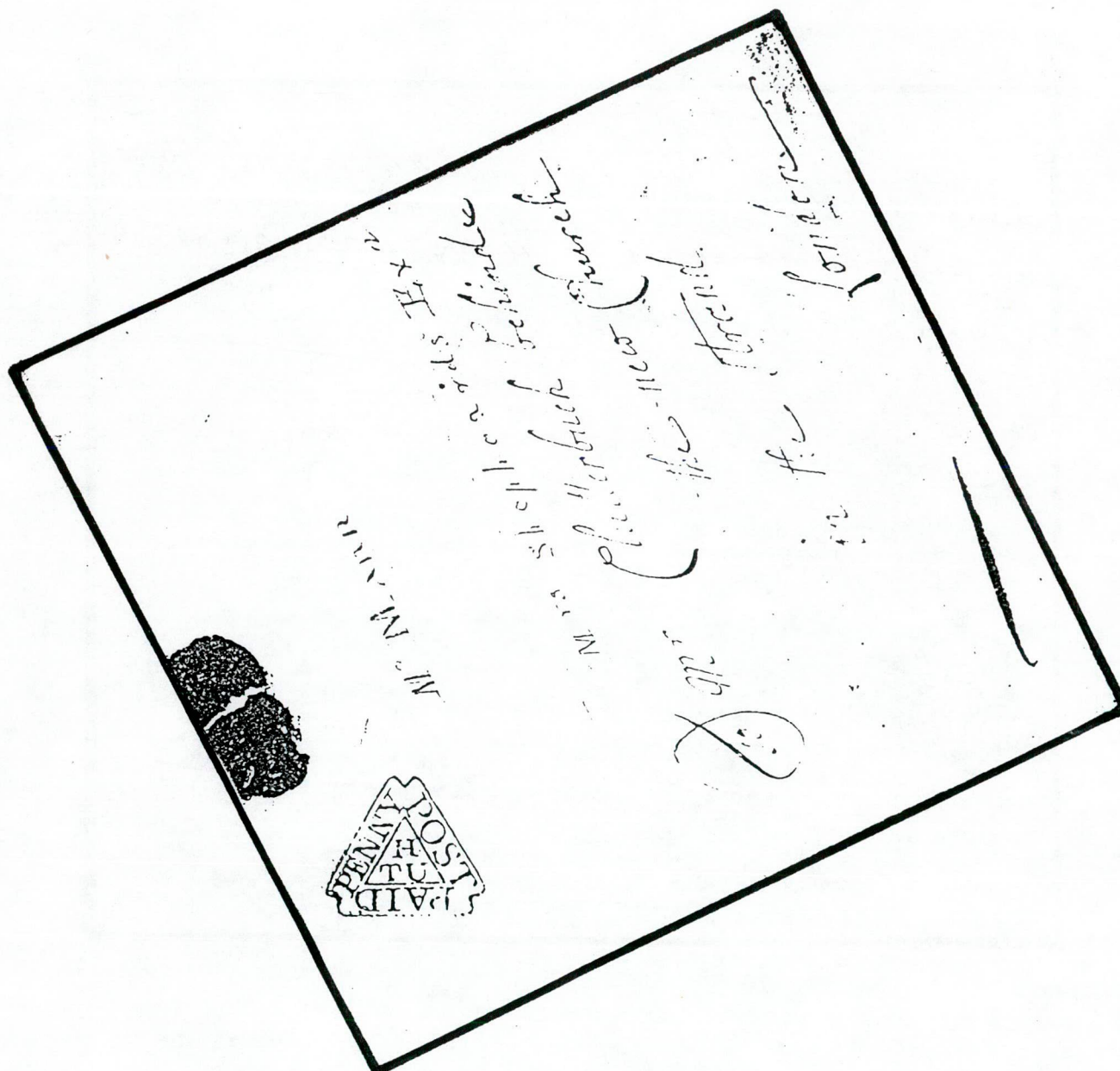


1707 March 29th. Known used 1703 - 52.
The letter was twice used, being sent from
Ormsby to Henry Massingbord, who wrote
a note on it for his brother Burrell
and sent it on to him the same day.

St. Paul's Office - in Queen's Head Alley,
Paternoster Row.

GOVERNMENT PENNY POST

'DOCKWRA' TYPE - PENNY POST PAID
H/TU - HERMITAGE OFFICE



1762 April 15th. Known used 1753 - 93

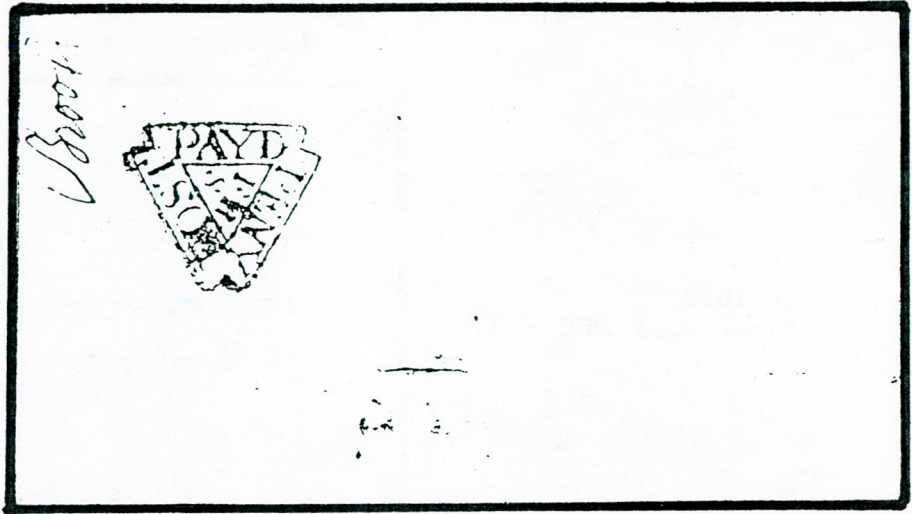
Hermitage Office - in Little Tower Hill

GOVERNMENT PENNY POST

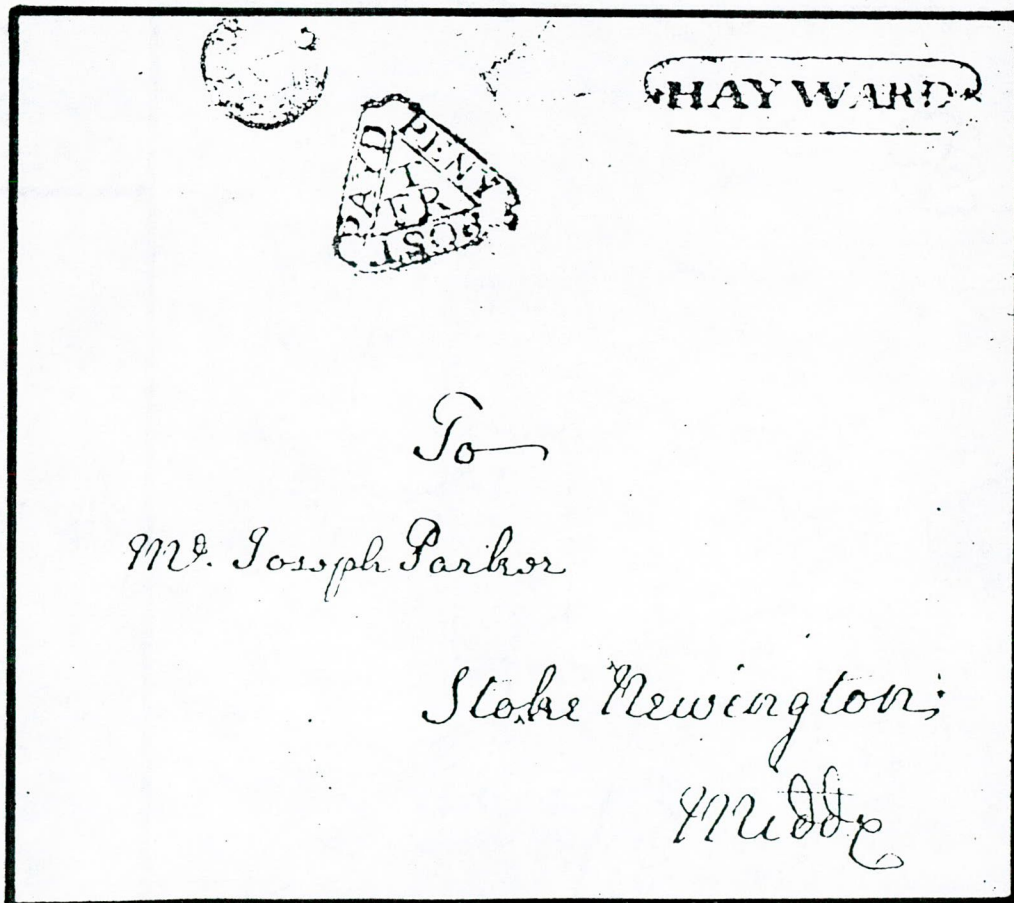
'DOCKWRA' TYPE - POST PAYD PENY
S/FR INVERTED
SOUTHWARK OFFICE

1740 October 3rd. INVERTED
CENTRE not previously recorded
for Friday. In use 1740 - 69.
Showing 'BROOKS', Receiver.
Sent to Lincoln's Inn

Southwark Office situated
around
St. Mary Overy's Church



'DOCKWRA' TYPE - PAYD PENY POST
T/FR - TEMPLE OFFICE



1770 March 9th. Known used 1703 - 91. Showing 7 o'clock TIME stamp
and 'HAYWARD' Receiver 1770 - 89. Sent from Carey Street, London.
Temple Office - Chichester Rents Chancery Lane

GOVERNMENT PENNY POST

SOLID AND DOTTED HEART SHAPED TIME STAMPS

Applied on transfer from the General Post for delivery
by the Government Penny Post.

c. 1697
Known used 1687 - 1702

This
For Burrell Mafingford Esq
at Mr Whateleys at Bromley
by Bow near

London.



London.

Mr Thomas Mafingford
at Mr Whateleys at Bromley
by Bow near

1710 July 13th.
Last year of use
[1702 - 1710]
sent from Dublin.

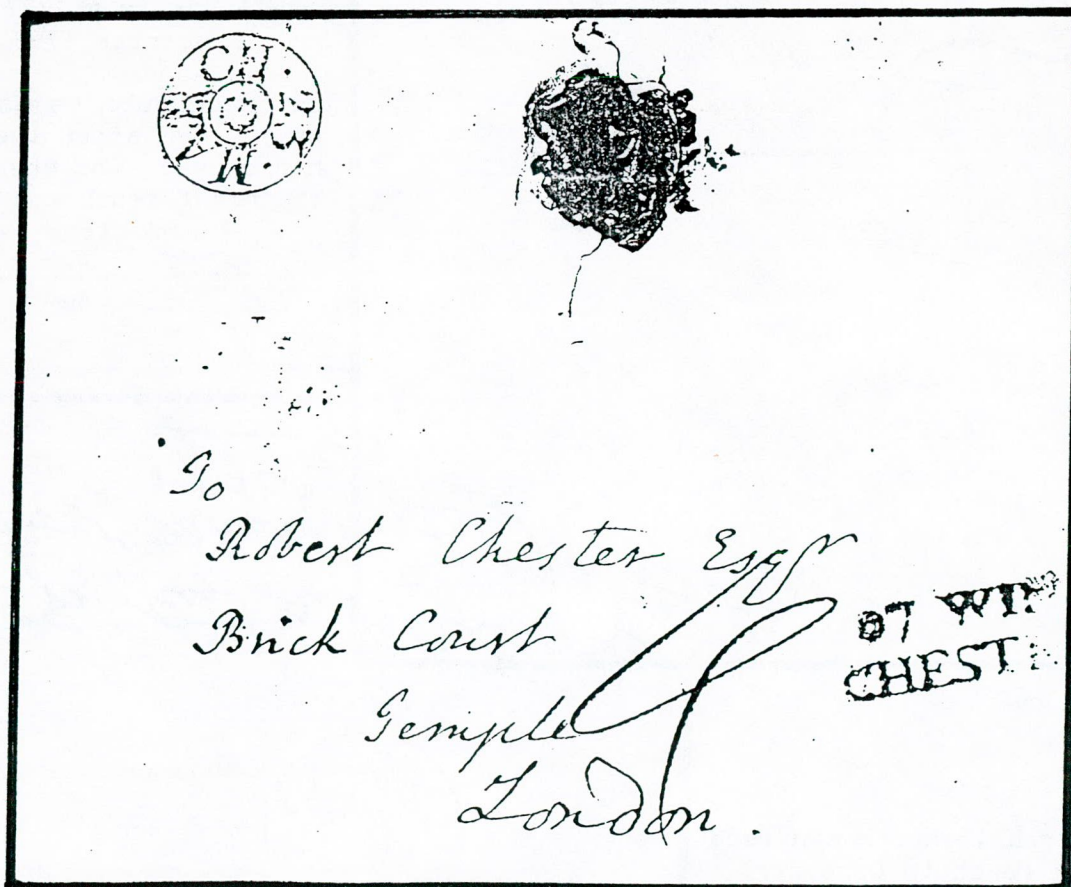
GENERAL POST - DATESTAMPS

EXPERIMENTAL DATESTAMPS

1787 January 31st. Known used for five days 27th. to 31st. January. Sent from CHIM/LEY', Devon. Rated 6d. Introduced for morning duty.



1787 March 23rd. Used only in March.



GENERAL POST - DATESTAMPS

CROSS OUTSIDE CIRCLE

1797 December 21st. In use during November and December only. Morning duty datestamp. rated '6'. sent from Southampton to London.

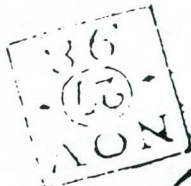


*Nathl. Summell Esq.
Dublin*

PREPAID LATE FEE MARKS

1798 November 27th.
In use July 1797 to
December 1798

Letters could be handed in at the GPO after the Office had closed, for despatch by the night coach, on payment of 6d. late fee.



1798

London 27 Nov

*John G. Allen &
London 13 March
1799*

1799 March 13th., known used from March to December.

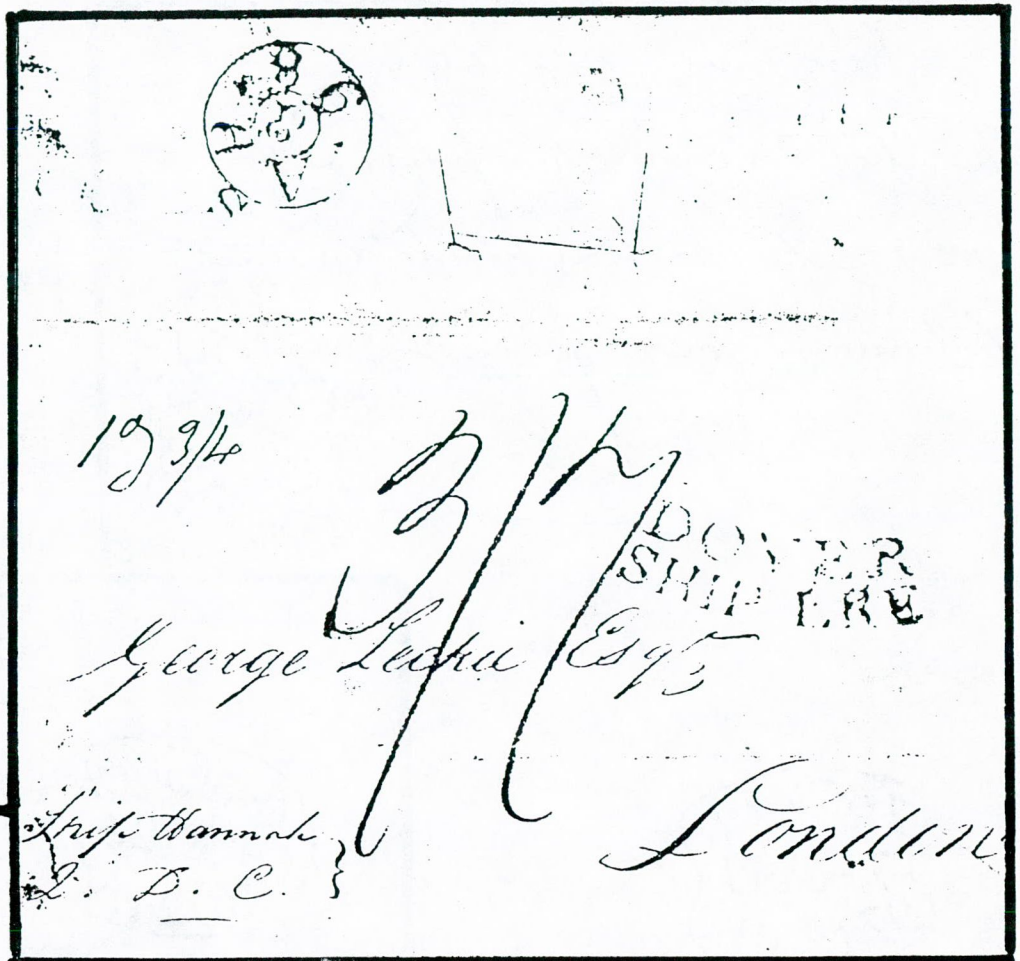


GENERAL POST - DATESTAMPS

SUNDAY 'S'
CODE OUTSIDE CIRCLE

1798 February 4th.
Used 1798-99. Letters
arriving at the GPO on
Sunday received this
mark and could be
collected from a
Window at the Chief
Office.

Sent from Kingston
Jamaica

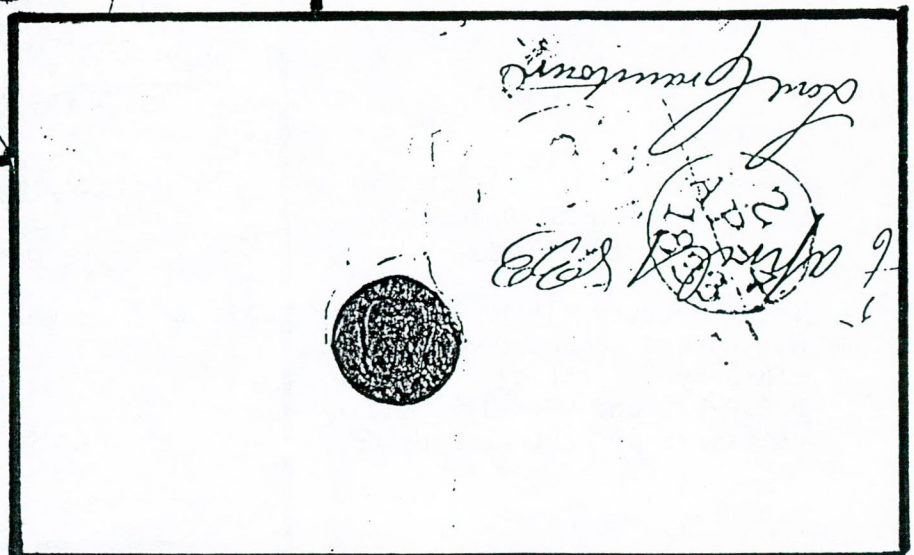


SUNDAY 'S' CODE

1802 April 4th. Known
used 1800-07. Struck on
the obverse with oval
"Ship Letter Portsmouth".

REVERSED 'S' CODE VARIETY

1833 April 4th. Known for this
day only. Not a Sunday date.
Posted in London on Thursday,
arriving Edinburgh on
Saturday. On obverse a charge
of 1/1, over struck by
Inspector's Crown, amended to
2/2, plus 1/4d. tax.



LONDON LOCAL POST DATESTAMPS

Viscount de ...
 Marshal des camps et armées du roi
 N° 7 Little (Charles Street) Charles Street
 Tottenham Court Road
 London

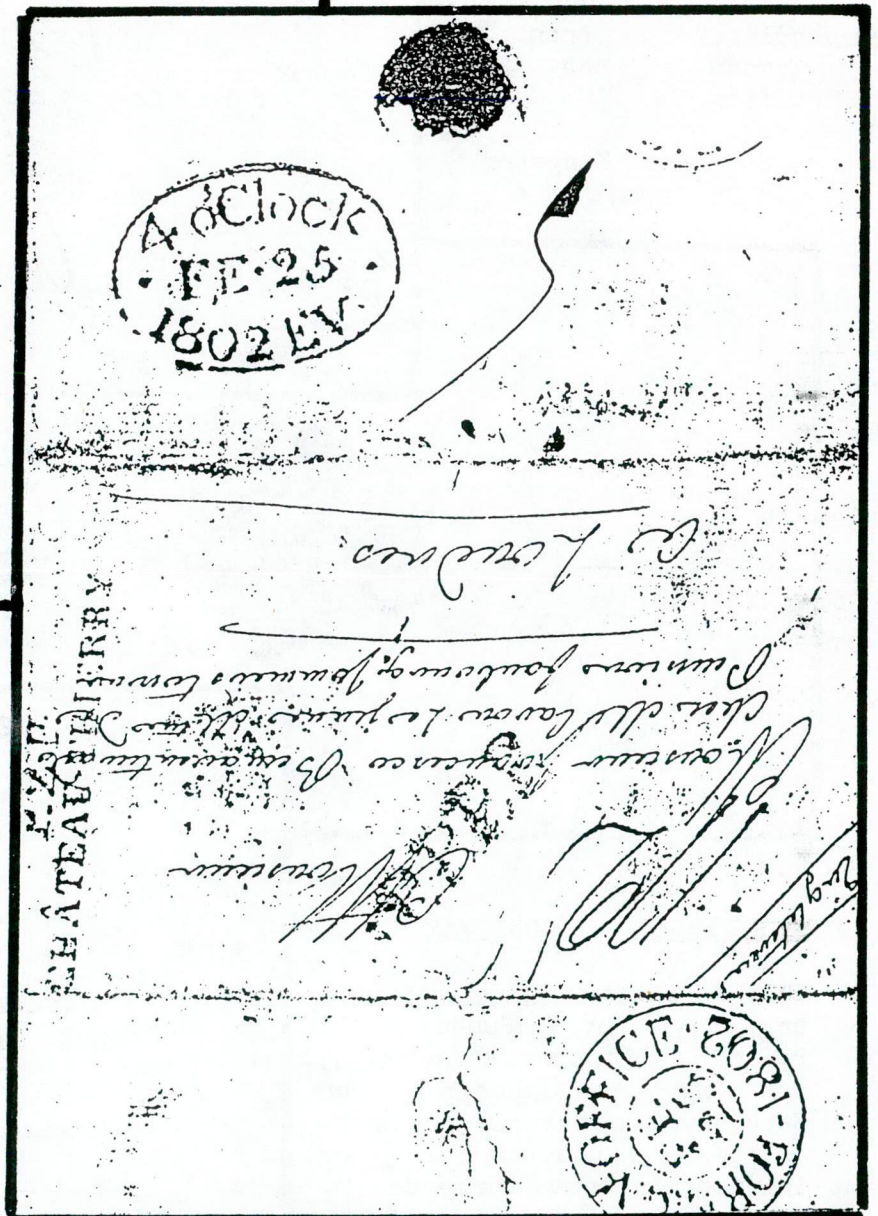
PENNY POST DATESTAMP
WESTMINSTER OFFICE

1797 August 6th. Known used
 1795-99. Sent from France
 to an emigre from the
 French Revolution.

7 o'clock
 7-AU
 97 NIGHT

TWOPENNY POST DATESTAMP
CHIEF OFFICE

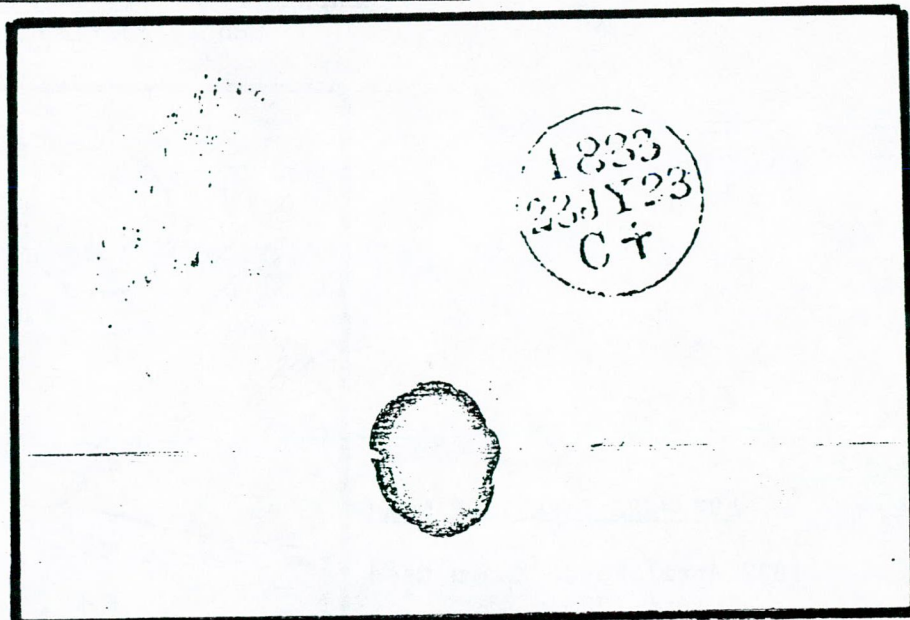
1802 January 16th. Sent to
 Somerstown London from Chateau
 -Thierry, Paris. Showing
 P.P.P.P. and Foreign Office
 datestamp of 25th. February.



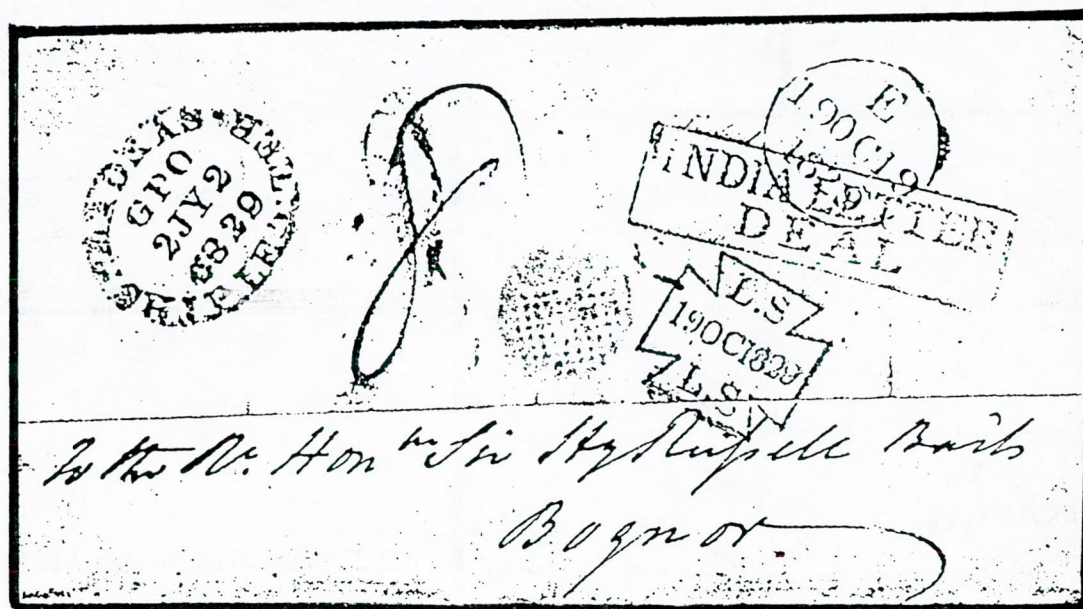
GENERAL POST - BRANCH OFFICE DATESTAMPS

"C+" - Charing Cross

1833 July 23rd. In use for 4½ months; second day of use. A Franked letter sent to the Isle of Wight.

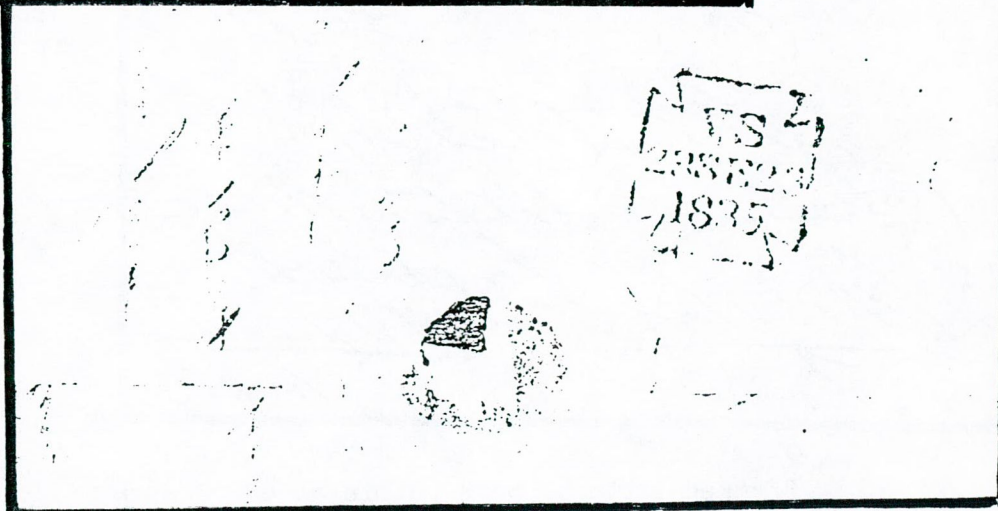


"L.S." - LOMBARD STREET 1829 July 2nd. Sent to London from Madras and re-directed to Bognor. First year of use. 1829 - 31.



"V.S." - Vere Street

1835 Sept. 23rd.
First year of use.
1835 - 42



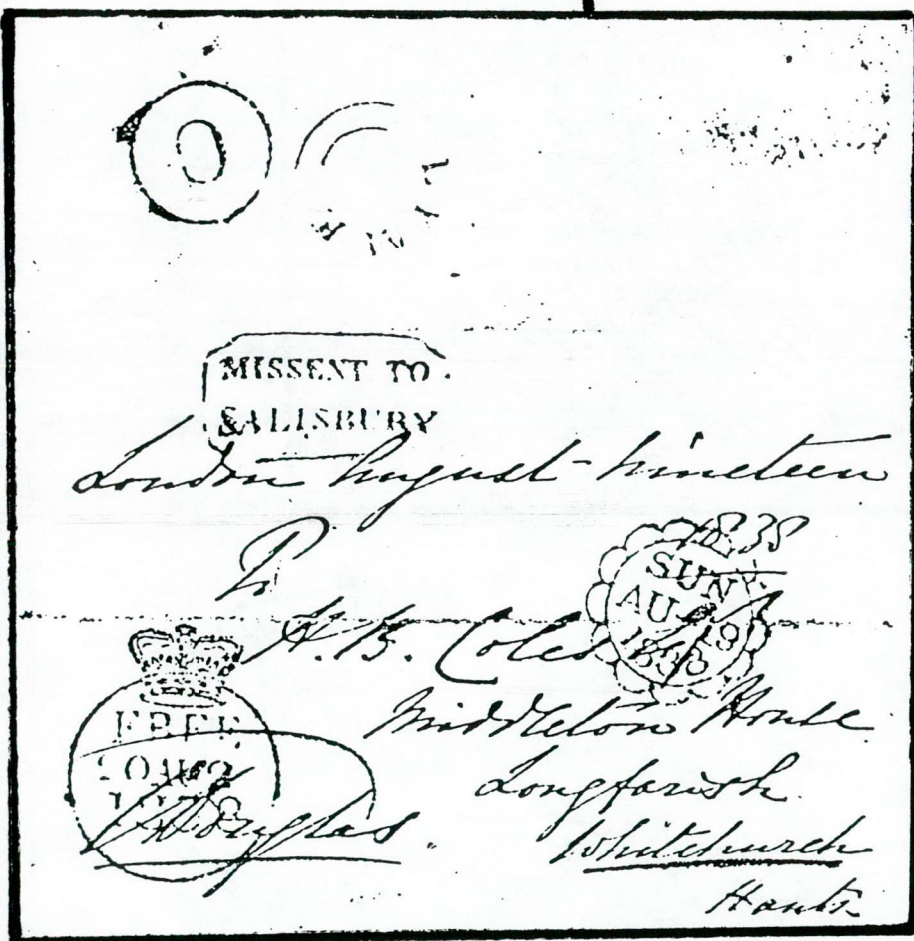
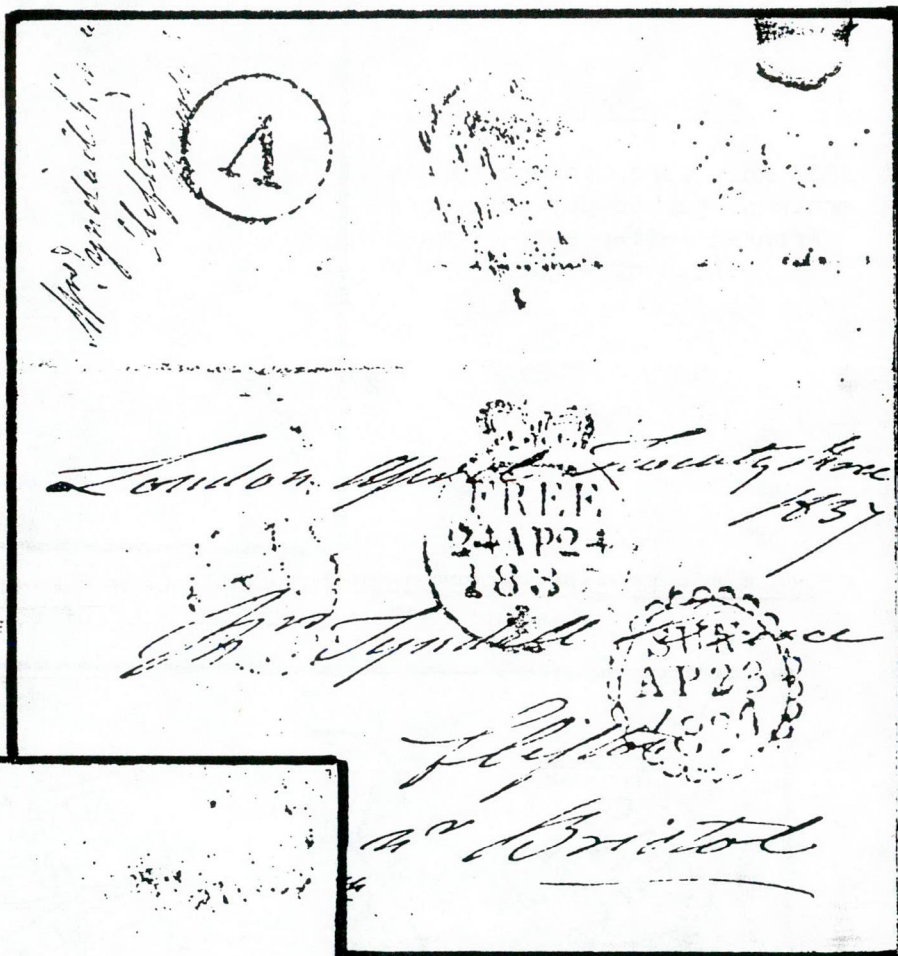
GENERAL POST - BRANCH OFFICE

Sunday Posting

"V" VERE STREET BRANCH

1937 April 23rd. Known used
from 1836 - 45.

Sent from Welbeck St. London



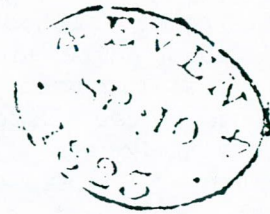
"C" - CHARING CROSS BRANCH

1838 Aug. 19th. Known used
from 1836-46. Showing "LYME"
townstamp and framed
"MISSENT TO SALISBURY"

Franked letters, both put in at GPO Branch Offices on a Sunday and held for Monday morning despatch. Showing the "SUN" datestamp.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - DATESTAMPS
INVERTED AND REVERSED HOUR FIGURES

1823 Sept. 10th. INVERTED 4 on
 Chief Office datestamp. Only
 year of use. Sent to Enfield



1823 July 18th.
REVERSED 7

Westminster Office
 Only year of use.
 Showing "T. P.
 Old Brentford".
 Sent to Grays Inn.

Charles. Ellison Esq.
No 2 Holborn Court
Grays. Inn
London

1830 April 6th. BOTH 7's
REVERSED on transfer date
 stamp. Known for Feb., Apr
 and Oct. Obverse carries
 "TP EUFTON SQ". Transfer
 to General Post en route
 to Brighton.



Section 2

RECEIVERS AND RECEIVING HOUSE MARKS

From earliest days Receiving Houses were set up for the mail could be handed in. From 1661 many receivers had their own handstamps to identify the origin of each letter. Initially numbered as Offices 1 to 7, then by the Receiver's initials [although at least two used their names in full]. Finally, about 1790, the name of the Receiving House, usually set within a frame, was used. The General Post also had Receiving Houses within the "Rules" of the King's Bench Prison. In 1794 the London Penny Post experimented with the name of the Receiving House [in large letters] followed by a number, the purpose of which is still undetermined.

Prior to 1794, letters in the London Penny Post had to be prepaid, those going from the Town to the Country areas being charged 2d. After reorganisation, letters were accepted unpaid and those coming from the Country area to the Town area were now also charged 2d. In April 1801, the London Twopenny Post by virtue of an increase in the charge from one to two pence, followed, in 1805, by a further increase to three pence for local letters passing in both directions between the Country and Town areas. Receiving House handstamps showed whether postage was paid or unpaid.

"7 OFF" - RECEIVING HOUSE No. 7

*My Chm. Cox was at the
of 14-4th Mar 1670*

*For the Ho:^{ble} the Lady Mary Harrington
at Binmure near Newcastle
Northumberland*



Francis Charles Cornwallis

*Leave this at yr Post House in Newcastle to be
sent as above*

1670 March 4th. Known used 1670 - 1671
The only example currently in private hands.

GENERAL POST - RECEIVING OFFICE MARKS

The item illustrated on the previous page comprises a letter sheet to Lady Mary Heveningham [wife of the regicide, William, then in the Tower of London], herself imprisoned at Tynemouth castle. Written by Charles Cornwallis, also one of the regicides but one who managed to keep his freedom.

Dated 4th. March, 1670

Madam,

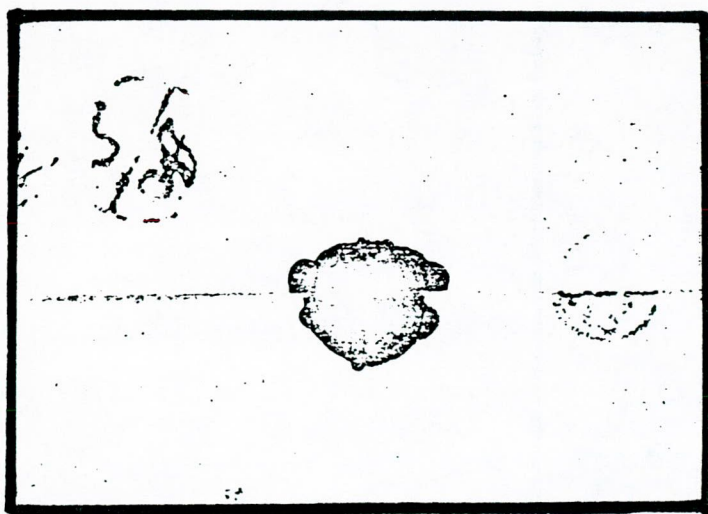
This day my eyes were blest with the sight of your Lady's letter of the 25th of last month.....

That your Lady is alone and in any condition of health in the most doleful sad and solitary retirement, is the admiration of all people...

[Apparently lady Mary had hopes of getting to France where her children were but Cornwallis counsels against this]

I did much approve of beholding the wonders of the deep in my own prison, but shall be in much more terror for your lady who unless driven by the barbarous inclosure, gaol or House of dark you have wintered in must necessarily be more unfit to go through such a sea as i am told there is.....

[He adds] Besides very many knowing persons believe there may possibly be a brake between the french and us and therefore I think they [Lady Mary's children] may not be very safe in France....[He goes on to suggest she sends for them to return to England.]



"5 OFF"

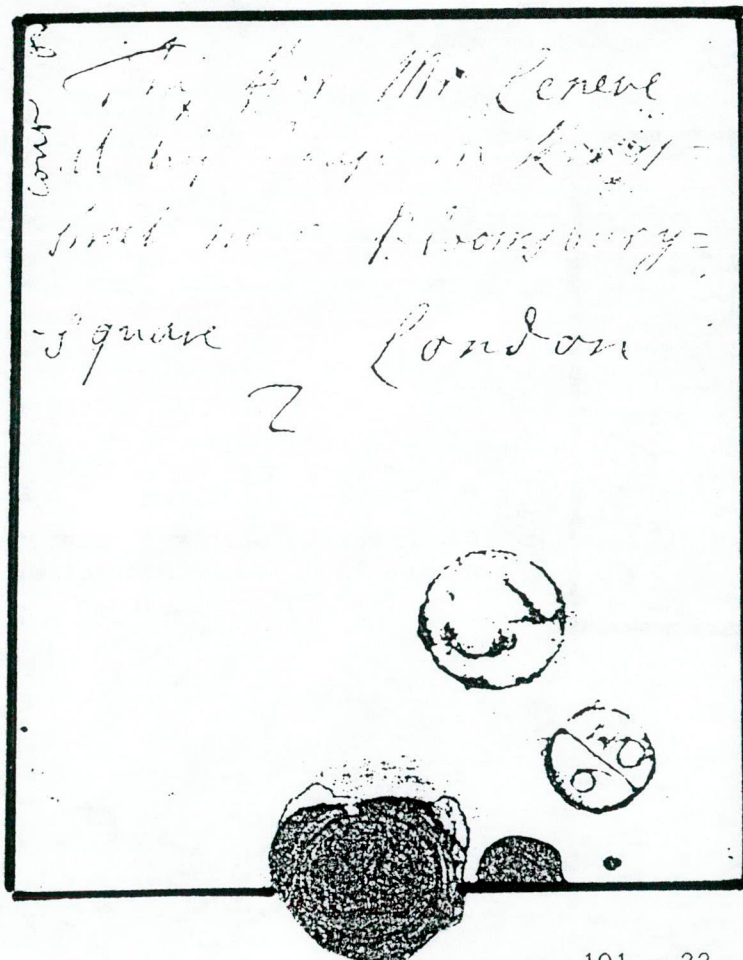
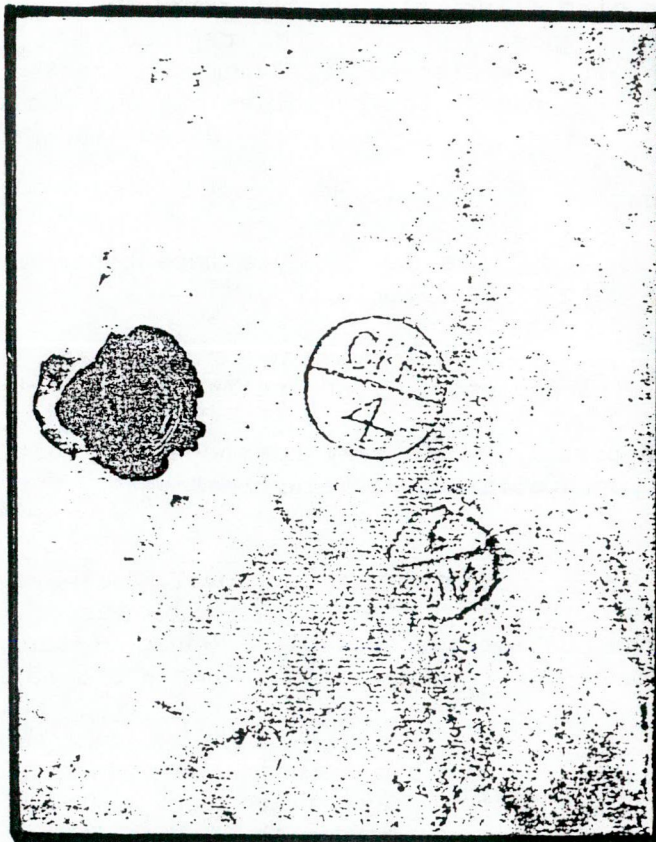
c. 1670. Sent to Chipley, Taunton
Known used 1670 74. Manuscript
"post pd 3d" on obverse.

GENERAL POST - RECEIVING OFFICE MARKS

"OFF 4"

1675 Non 9th. Known used 1671-76
Showing Bishop mark with reversed "N".
Addressed :

" For the Right Honorable my Lady
Gerard at Sandon in Staffordshire.
These, to be putt in Lichfield Bagg
and to be left at Sand Cross"



For Mr. Reneve
at Kings-Street in London
near Bloomsbury=
square London
2

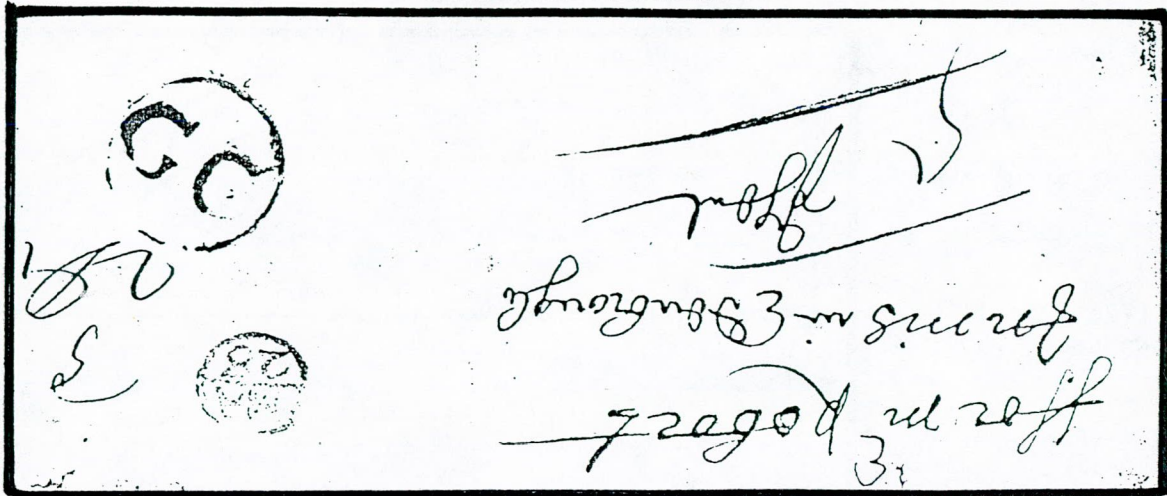
RECEIVING OFFICE No. 3

Addressed to "Kings=Street
near Bloomsbury=square
London"

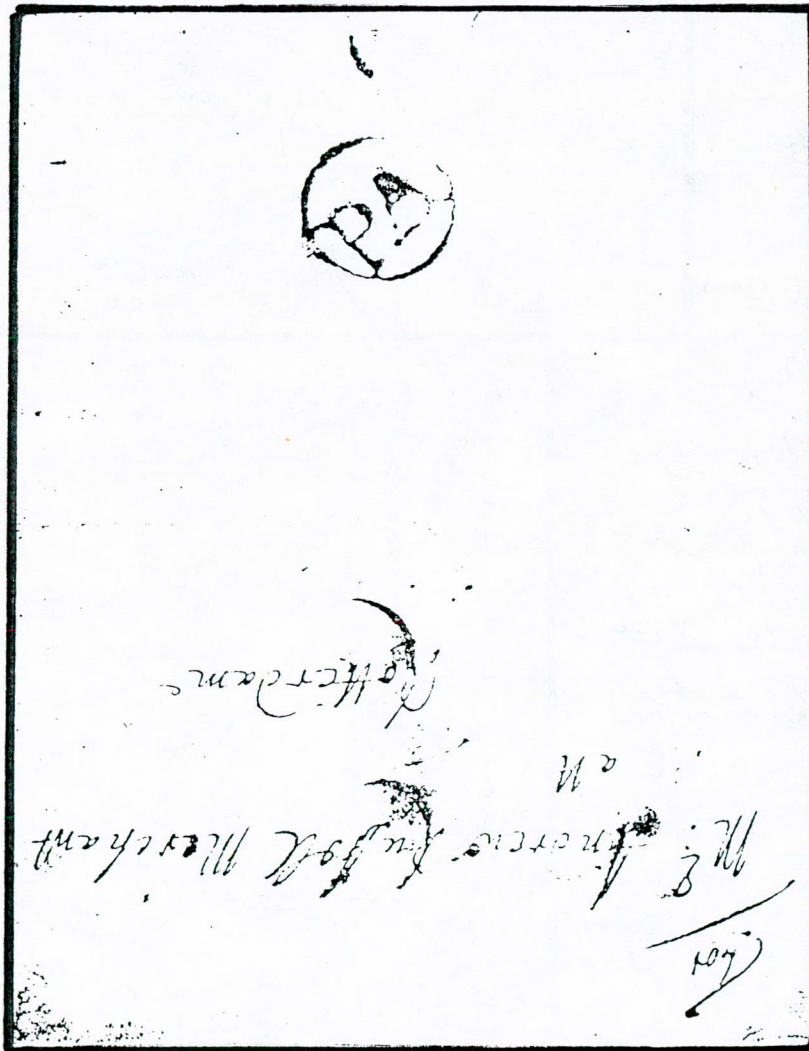
Dated as 1689 Non 5th, with
a Bishop mark for the 6th,
and a "2" charge.

GENERAL POST - RECEIVERS MARKS

RECEIVERS' INITIALS



1692 May 28th. "G.C." - Gabriel Collins. Known used at Temple Bar 1690 - 1706. Sent from London to Edinburgh



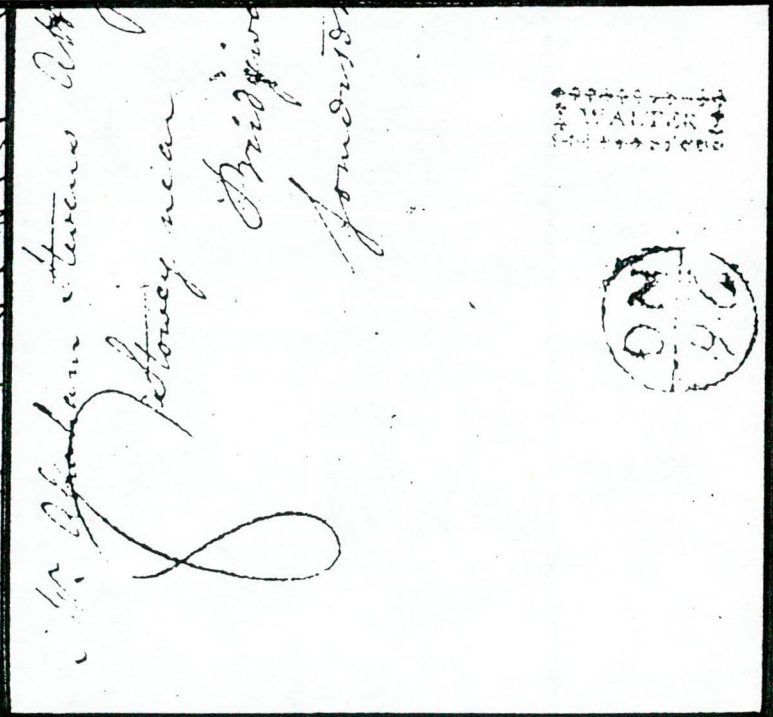
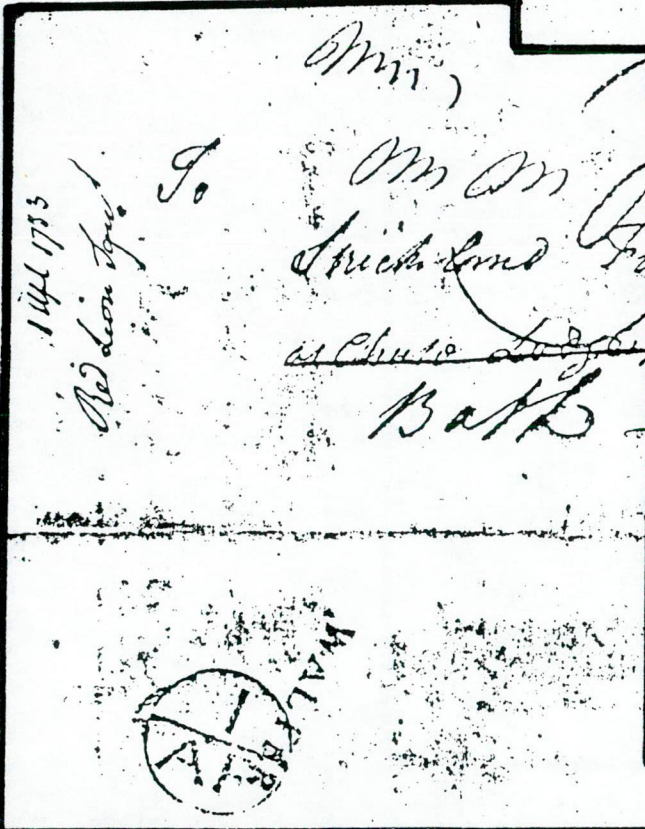
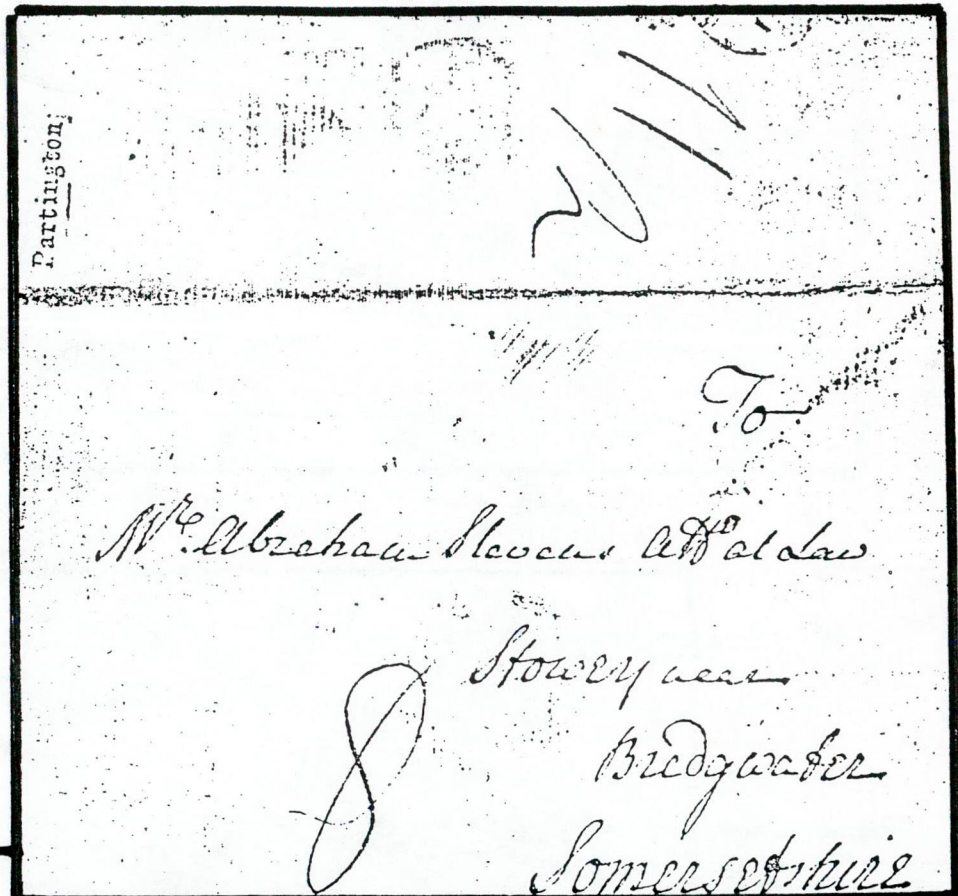
1692 May 31st. "P.A." Recorded 1684 - 92. Showing a red crayon "18" stuyvers payable on ship letter London to Rotterdam.

GENERAL POST - RECEIVERS' NAMES

"PARTINGTON"

1778 June 11th.
Known used 1755 - 82

"WALTER" - framed
and unframed.

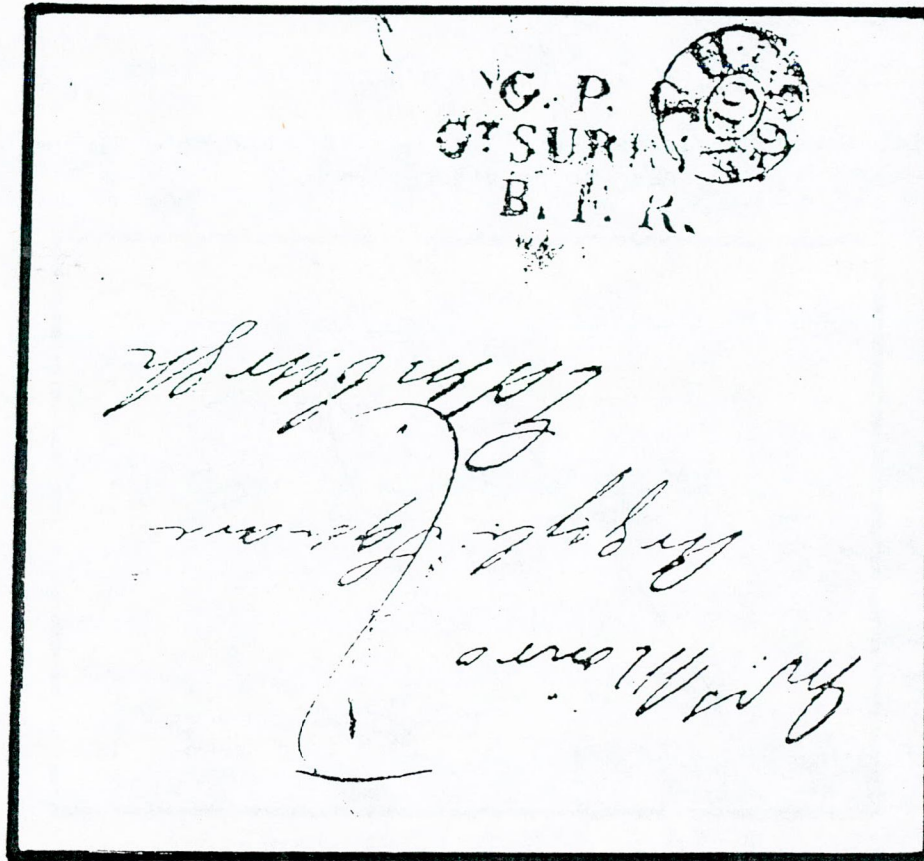


1783 April 1st. Only year of use.

1782 Nov. 26th. Known used
November and December only.

GENERAL POST - RECEIVING HOUSES

G.P.O. / G^r. SURRY St. / B.[LACK] F.[RIARS] R.[OAD]



1793 June 19th. Only year of use. London to Edinburgh



1795 Dec. 29th. In use 1795 - 99.
London to Wisbech. Rated "5"

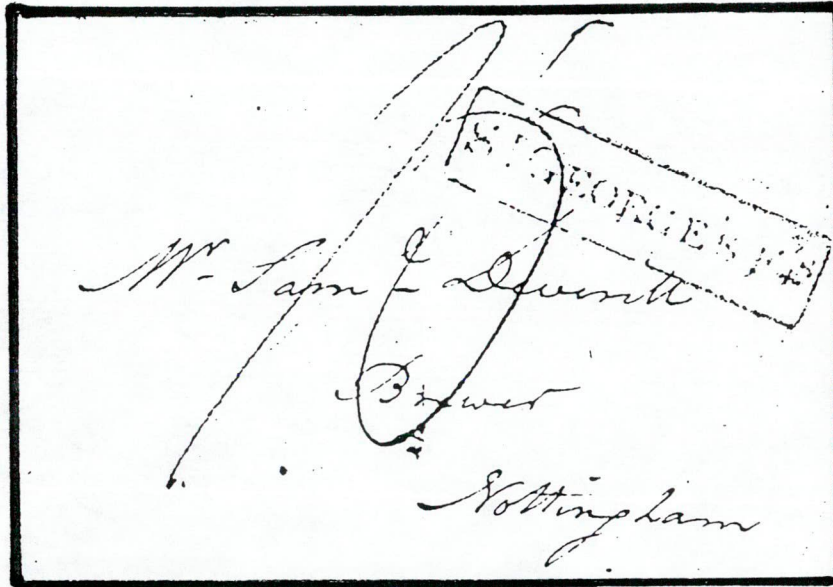
GENERAL POST - RECEIVING HOUSES

KING'S BENCH PRISON RECEIVING HOUSES

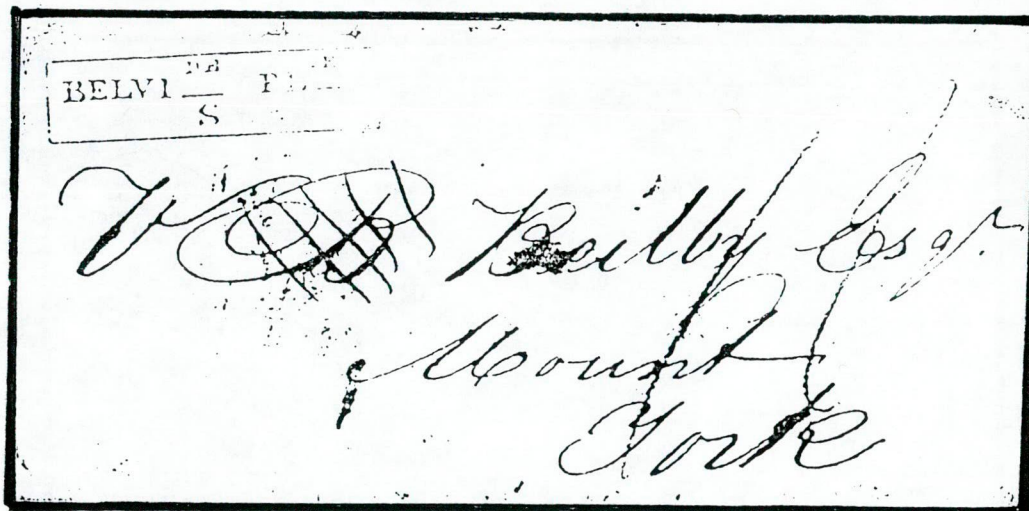
1817 May 27th. ST. GEORGE'S F' +^m

Only Year of Use.

[St. George's Fields, later known as St. George's Circus,
near to Belvidere Place.]



1822 Jan 3rd. BELVIDERE PLACE SOUTHWARK
First Year of Use



GENERAL POST - RECEIVING HOUSE MARKS

A few notes on the previous page's material.

Belvidere Place receiving House, within the "Rules" of King's Bench Prison, Southwark, an area where prisoners, who could afford a fee to the Master of the prison, were allowed to live and work and were not confined within the actual prison buildings. The "Rules" comprised an area approximately half a mile square, bounded roughly by Newington Road, Belvidere Road, Waterloo Road and St. Georges Road.

Little is known on St. Georges Fields Receiving House, there being scant material recorded bearing the office handstamp.

The contents of prison mail reflect the plight and condition of the inmates. The letter on the previous page was written by a Mark Stubbs expressing his thanks for £5 given to his wife saying " you have done the greatest kindness that could be done to a distressed family I left them destitute". apparently he also received £2 from the Lord mayor. Later in the letter he says : "I have drunken nothing but tea, it is the best likor I have had and I am now easier in my mind than I have been for the past 2 years".

GENERAL POST - RECEIVING HOUSE MARKS

"FLEET ST" and "PALL MALL"

Post Paid. 80

FLEET ST

*M. J. C. Reding
Marwick Union Insurance Office
Auburn, Maine.*

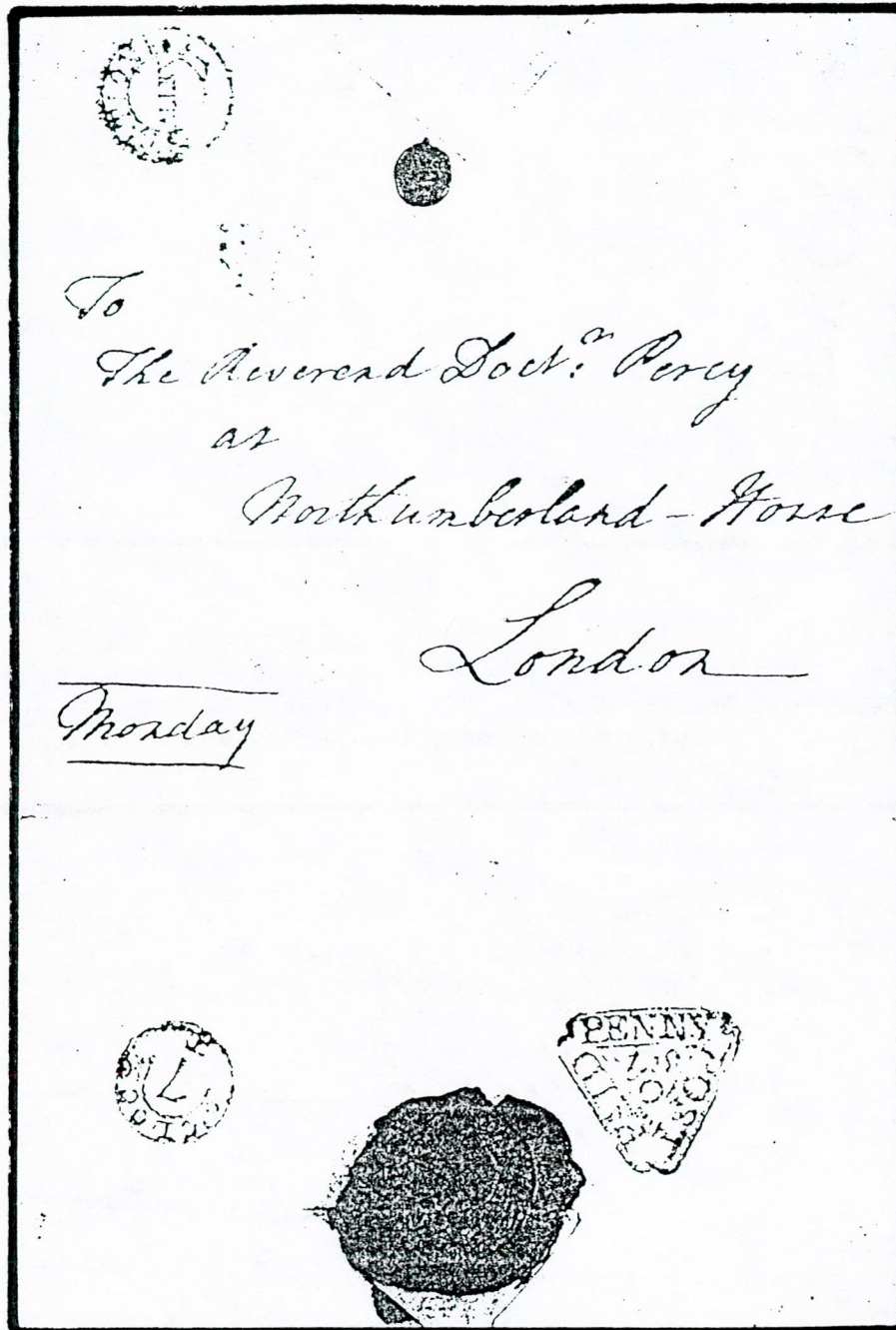
1836 Oct. 19th. Known used 1833-37

*Per Steamer from Liverpool 1/3
Sent to Dept. of the Navy 1/2
43^d Light Infantry 5/1
1839 1/1
via
New York
Niagara
Upper Canada
Pall Mall
6/2/2*

1839 Jan 22nd. Last year of use [1829-39]
Sent from Chelsea to Upper Canada

GOVERNMENT PENNY POST - RECEIVER

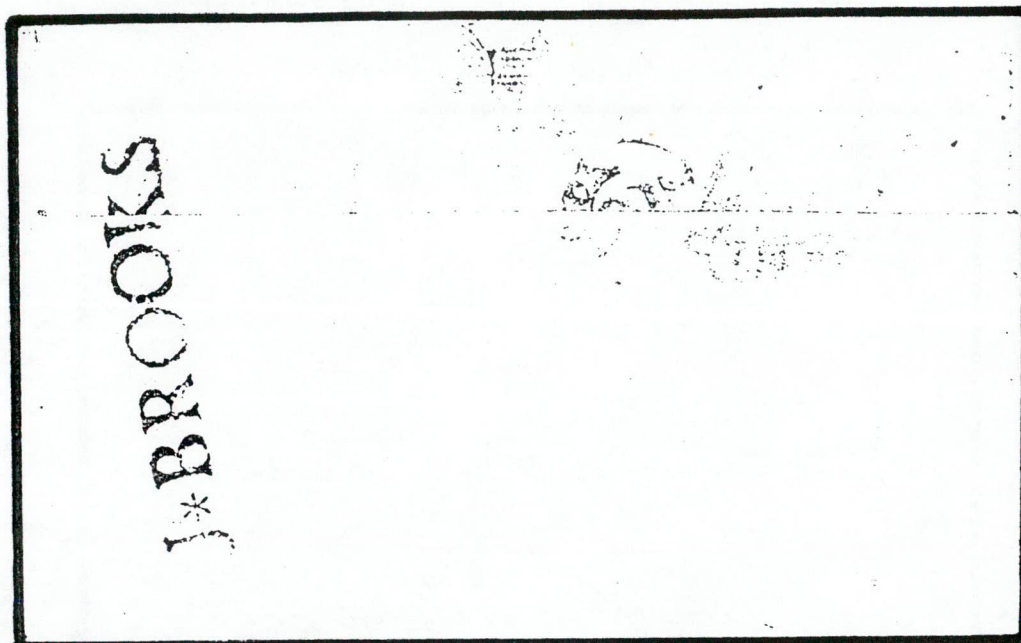
"ALLEN / STATIONER" - PENNY POST RECEIVER



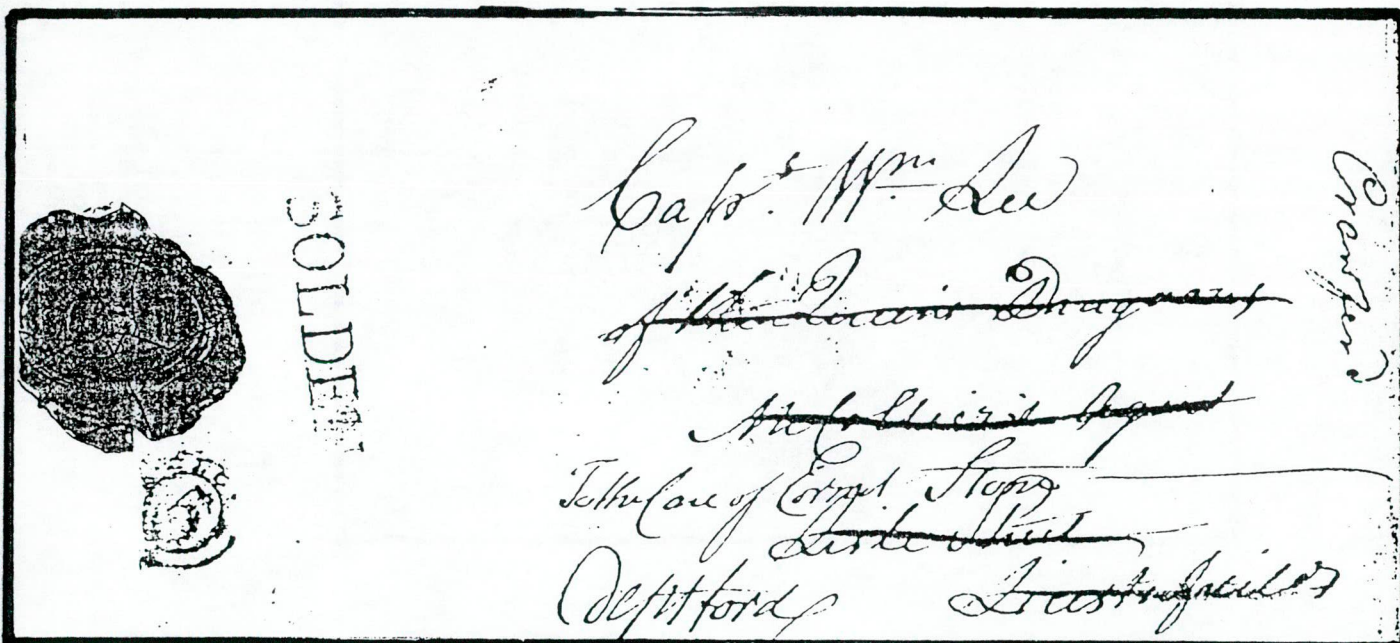
c. 1772 Allen was the receiver in Greenwich
1767-1791.

Showing Dockwra type mark for Southwark
"PENNY POST PAID S/MO"
and 7 o'clock Time Stamp.

GOVERNMENT PENNY POST - RECEIVERS' NAME STAMPS



1789 Dec. 20th. "J*BROOKS". Only year of use.
Sent from Orchard Street, Portman Square to the Strand.
Showing feint Penny Post handstamp.



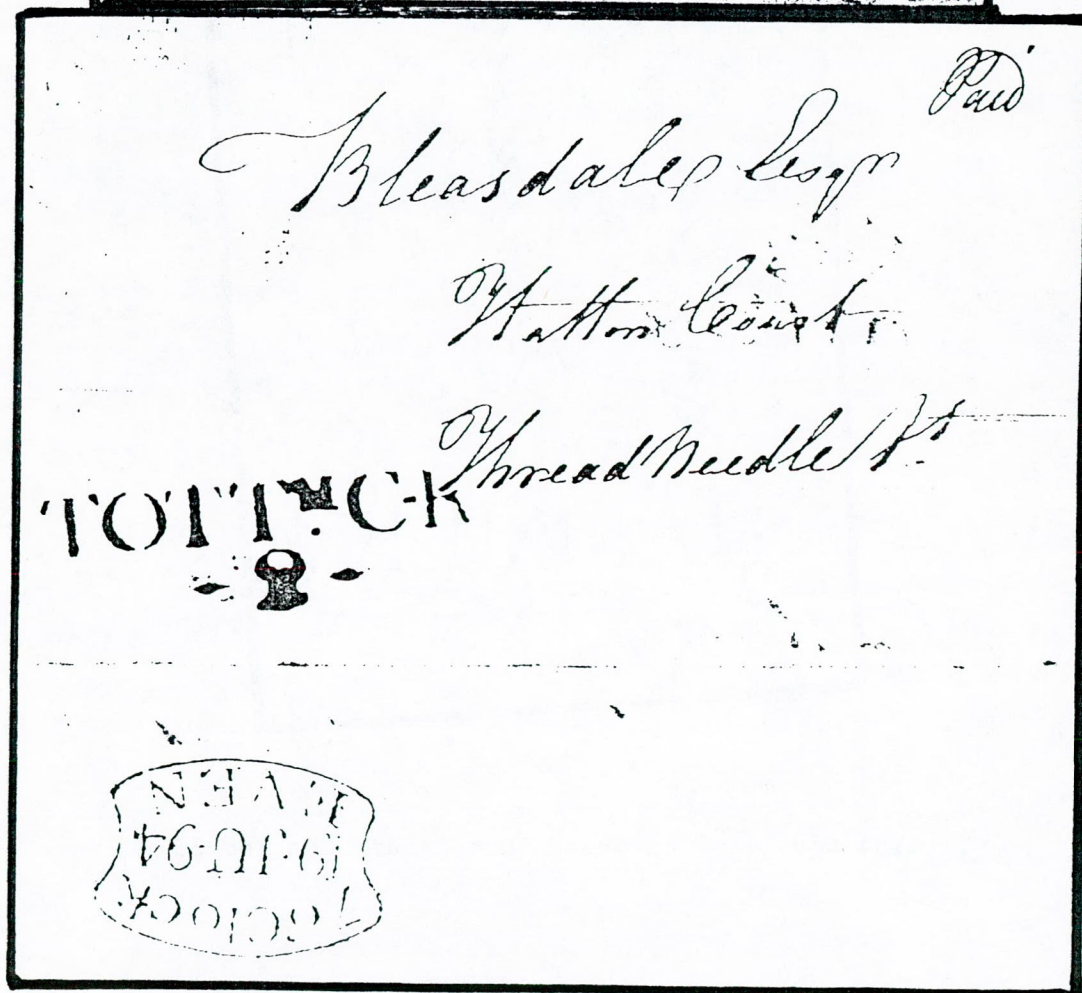
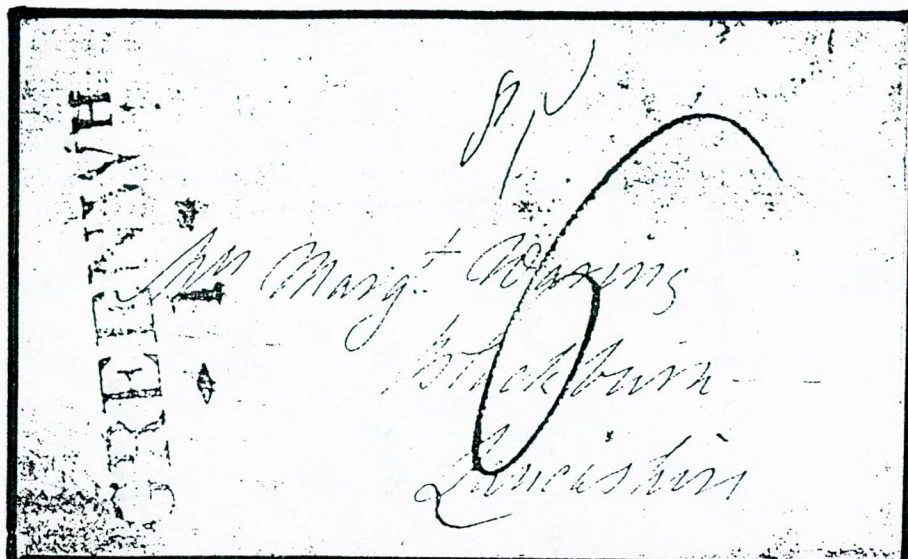
1791 May 10th. "SOLDEN". Only year of use.
Sent from Warwick and re-directed.
Showing also Receiver's name "Crawford"
in manuscript and 5 o'clock Time Stamp.

LONDON PENNY POST - RECEIVING HOUSE MARKS

Experimental Period

"GREENWICH - 1 -"

1794 July 17th. Known used 1794-5



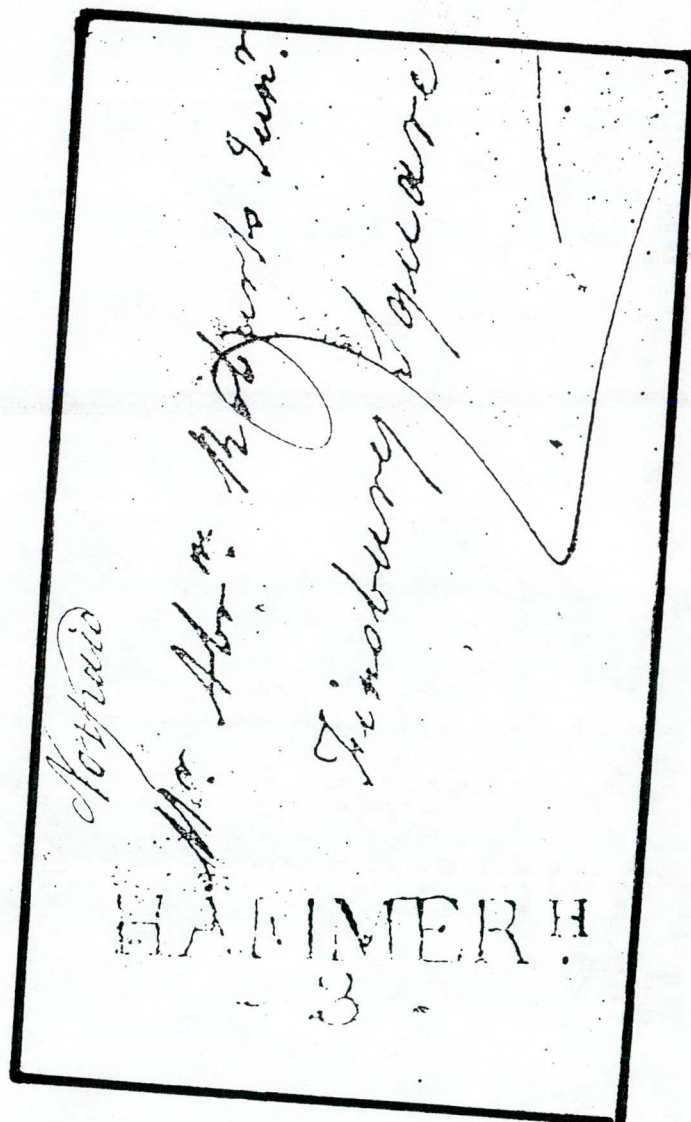
"TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD - 2 -"

1794 June 19th. Only year of use.

Showing "Crown Paid" and the experimental datestamp
used by the Chief and Westminster Offices in June and July.

LONDON PENNY POST - RECEIVING HOUSE MARKS
The experimental Period

"HAMMERSMITH - 3 -"

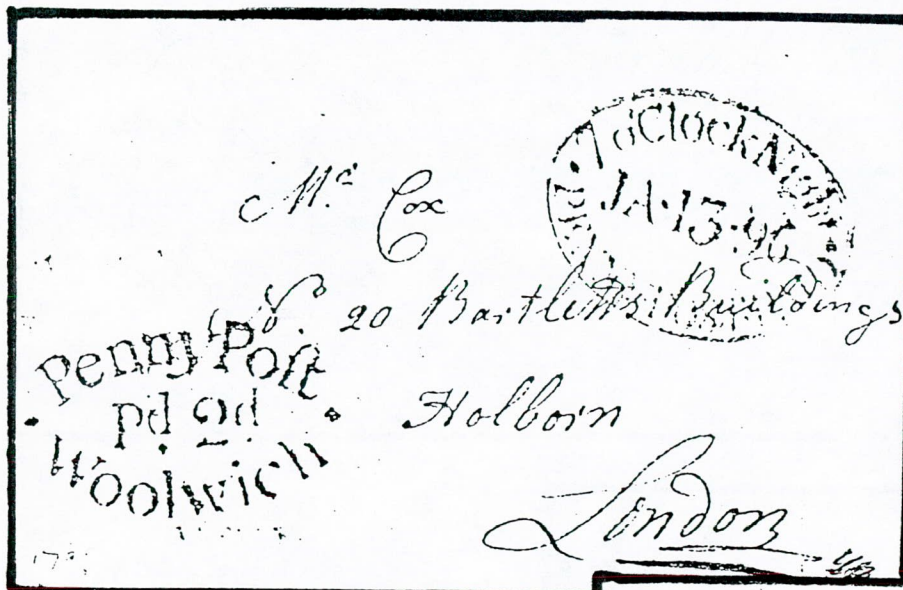
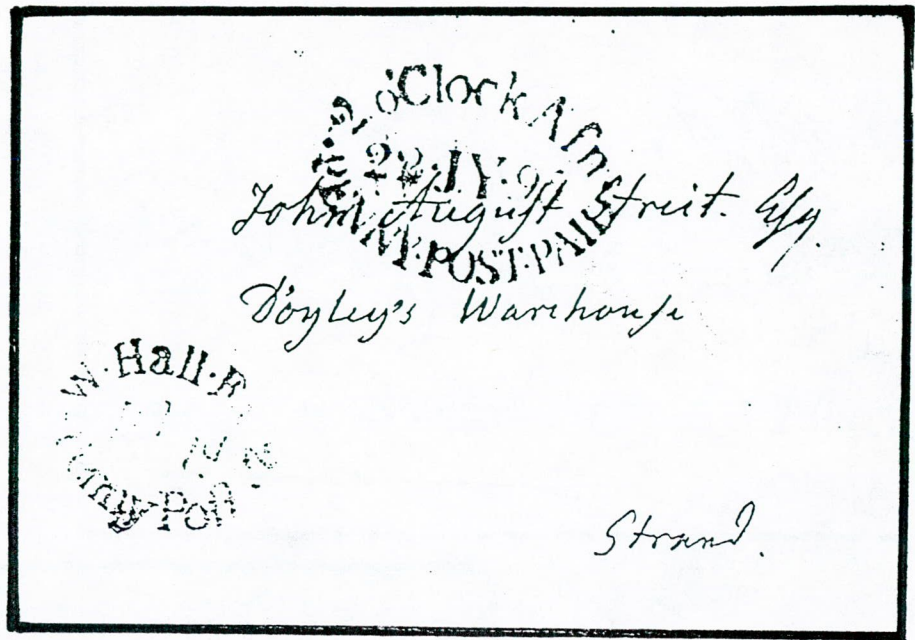


1794 Nov. 6th. Endorsed "Not Paid". Charged 3d.

LONDON PENNY POST - RECEIVING HOUSE MARKS

"WHITEHALL Et. 2. /
Pd 1d/PENNY POST"

1795 July 22nd.
Recorded used 1795-6
Written from Germany,
posted in London.
Shows "Penny Post Paid"
time/datestamp of the
Westminster Office.

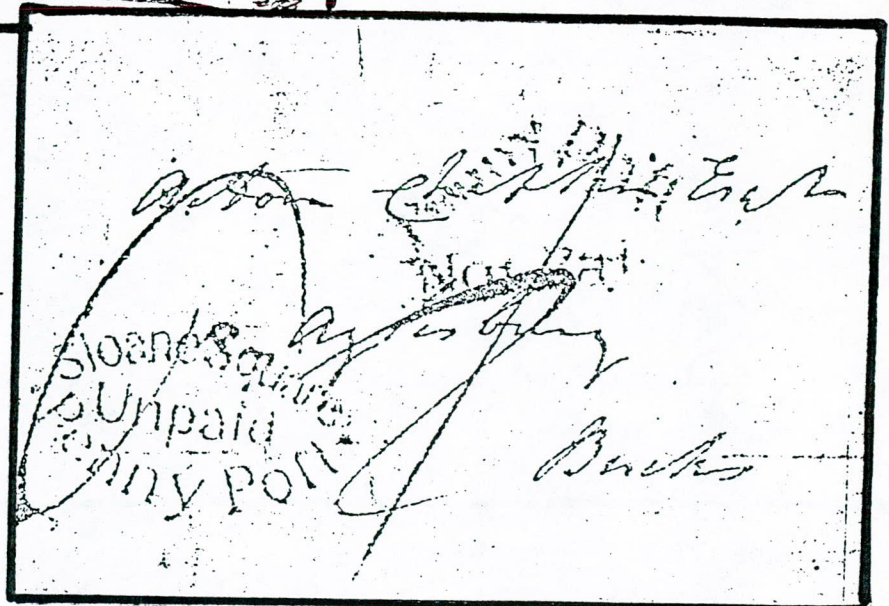


"PENNY POST/Pd 2d/
WOOLWICH"

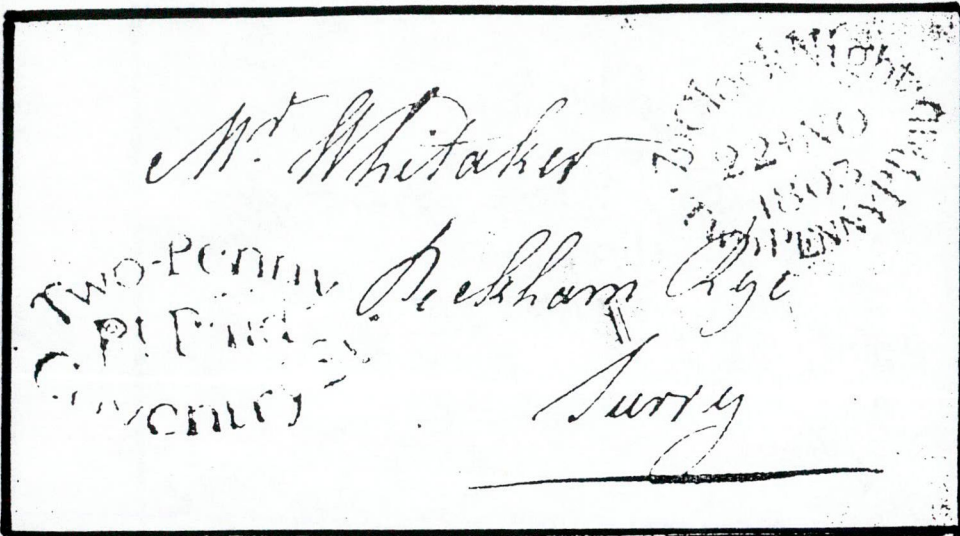
1796 Jan 13th.
Known used 1795-1800
Prepaid 2d
Carried in the Country
area
Showing Chief Office Paid
Time/Datestamp.

"SLOANE SQUARE/UNPAID/PENNY POST"

1801 Jan 6th. Only year of use.
Showing triangular "Penny Post
Not Paid" transfer stamp to the
General Post.

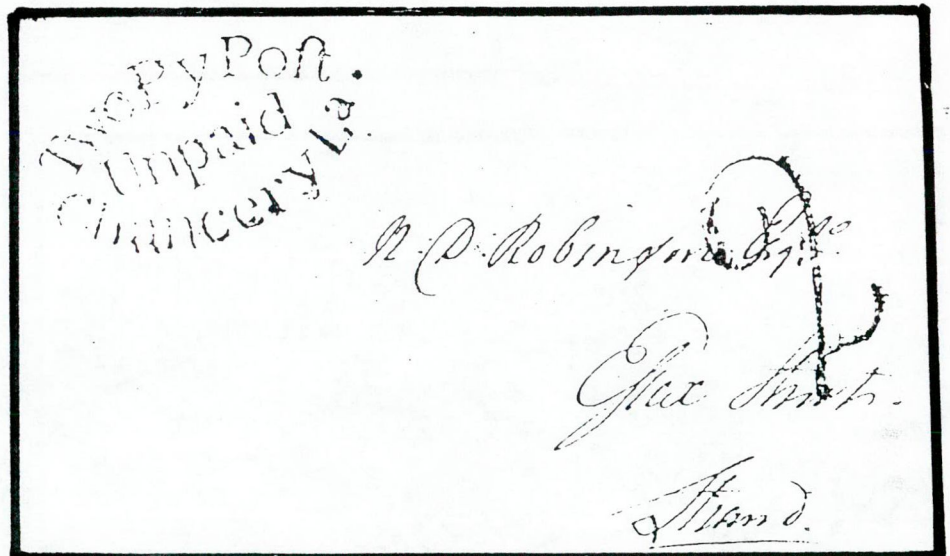


LONDON TWOPENNY POST - RECEIVING HOUSES



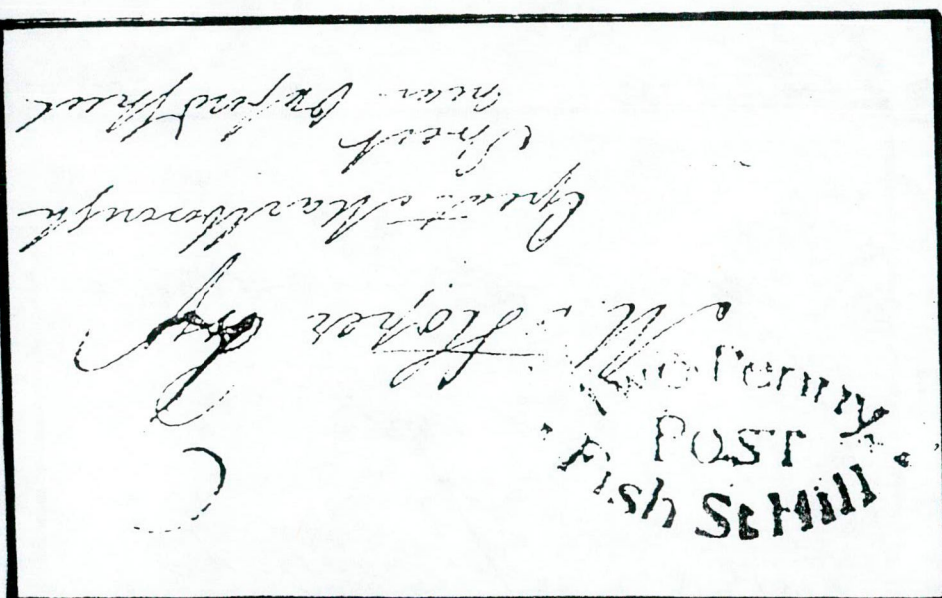
Two-Penny/P^t Paid/xxxxxx

Coventry St: 1803 Nov 22nd.
Known used 1801-11.
Showing the Westminster
time/date stamp
Written from Golden Square



Two Py Post/Unpaid/xxxxx

Chancery L^a :
1815 Feb 16th
Known used 1805-21



Two Penny/POST/xxxx

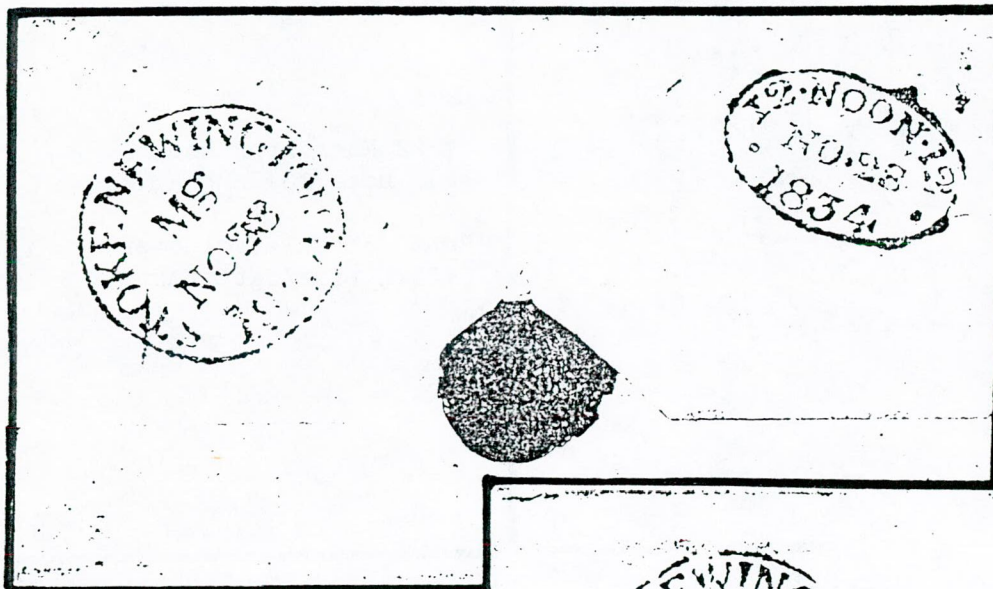
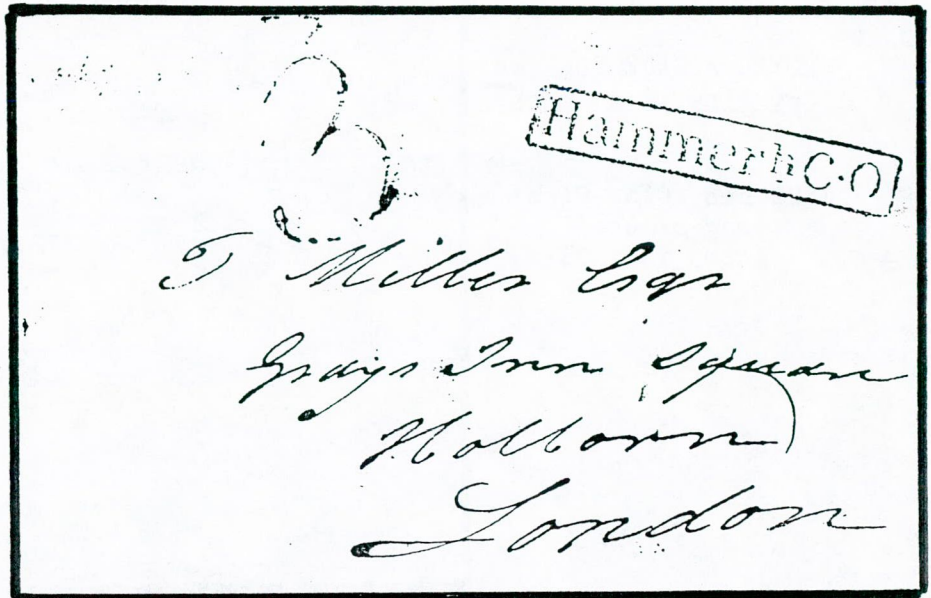
Fish St Hill: 1808 June 16th.
Known used 1801-11
Posted unpaid to Great
Marlborough Street

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - RECEIVING HOUSE
and
COUNTRY SORTING OFFICE DATESTAMPS

HAMMERSMITH CENTRAL OFFICE

1821 Dec. 27th. Type used
only in some Receiving
Houses in the Country area
of London, mainly north of
the Thames.

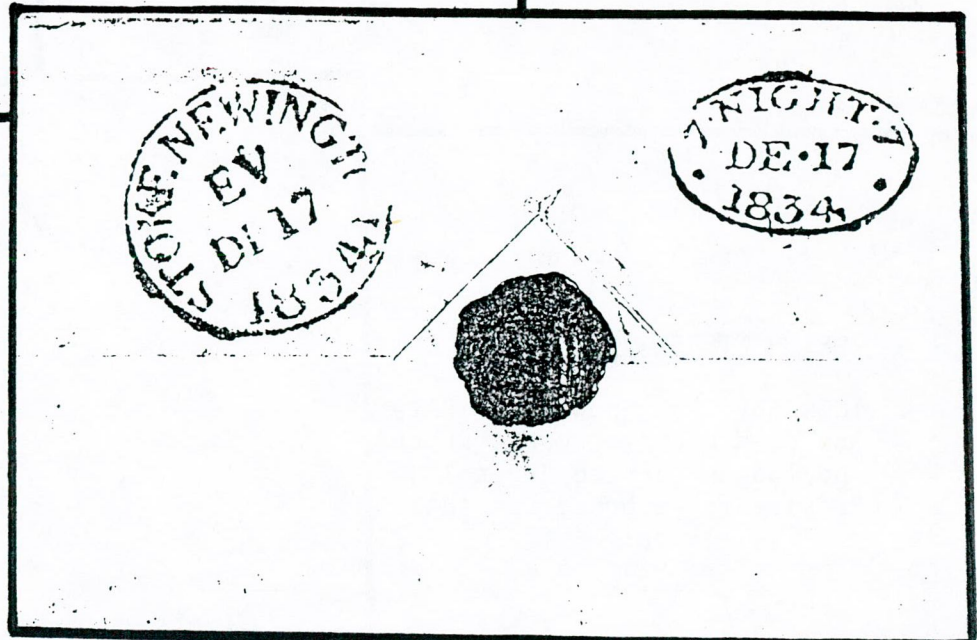
In use 1819-32.
Sent from Twyford



COUNTRY SORTING
OFFICE
DATESTAMPS

STOKE NEWINGTON
Ms and EV

Introduced for dating
bye letters but struck
also on letters in lieu
of a Receiving House
mark, as in these two
cases. This is shown
by the Chief office
datestamps.
[Round topped "3" on
obverse]



LONDON TWOPENNY POST - RECEIVING HOUSES

ROYAL ARCADE 2py and
3py P[ost]P[aid] marks

1822 Feb 16th. First
year of use.
[known 1822-24]



Post Paid.

RI Arcade
3py P[ost]P[aid]

Mr. Geo. Procter
24 White Cross St.

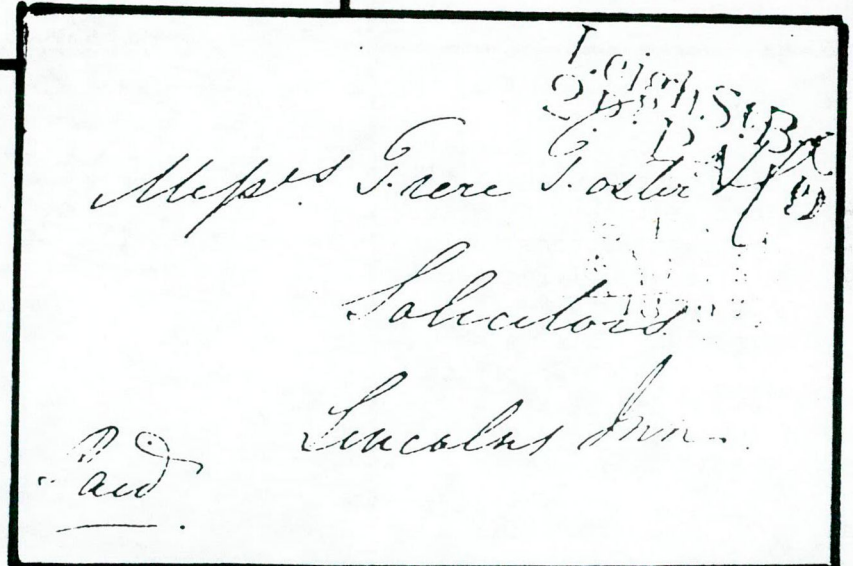
Private.

1822 Mar. 13th. Known
used 1817-24.

Both carry Westminster
Office time/date stamps

LEIGH STREET BURTON CRESCENT

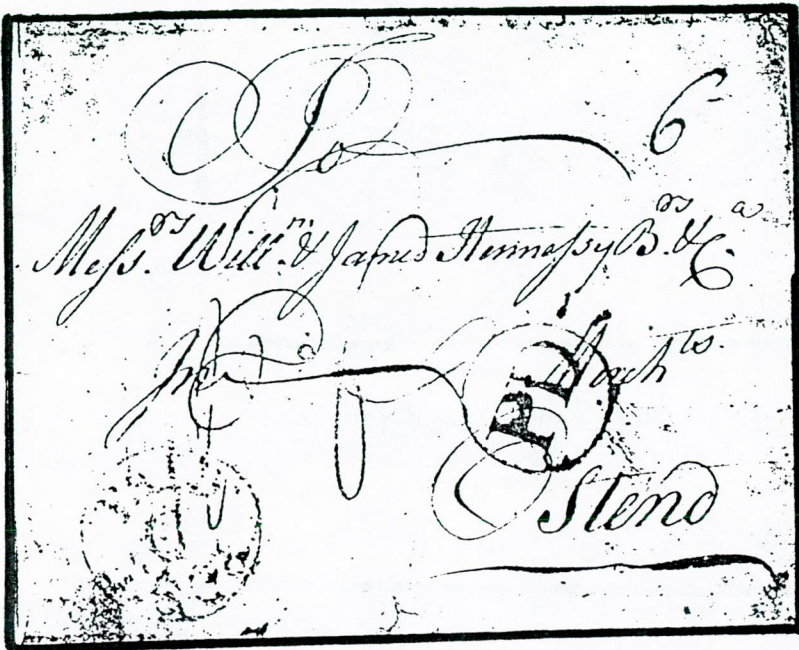
1839 Nov 5th. Showing 2^d PAID
One of a group of marks which
no longer carried "P[ost]".
Previously recorded for 1843
only.



SECTION 3

"PAID" AND "NOT PAID" MARKS

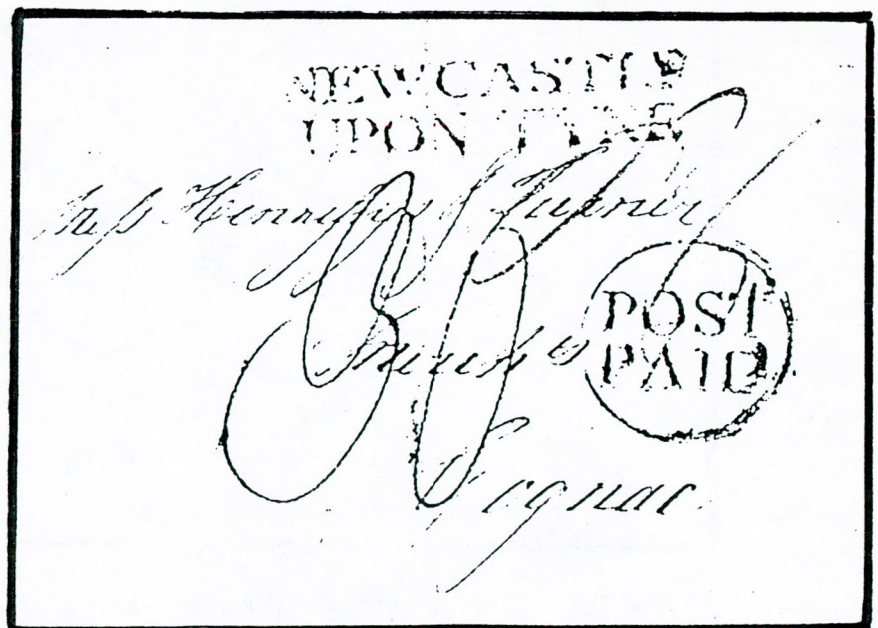
The majority of early General Post letters were sent unpaid, the recipient paying the post charge. This accounts for the relative scarcity of Paid handstamps; those of the 1794, being experimental, were very short lived. In the Government penny Post, however, the penny had to be prepaid and the exhibit shows the only known example of the second penny for delivery into the Country area of London also being prepaid, namely the handstamp "2dpypd". The Act of 1795 authorised a concessionary rate of 1d. for serving soldiers and sailors, providing it was prepaid. From 1806 letters to serving men were also charged 1d, if prepaid. In addition, prepayment was required on all letters going to foreign countries.



UNDATED POST PAID MARKS

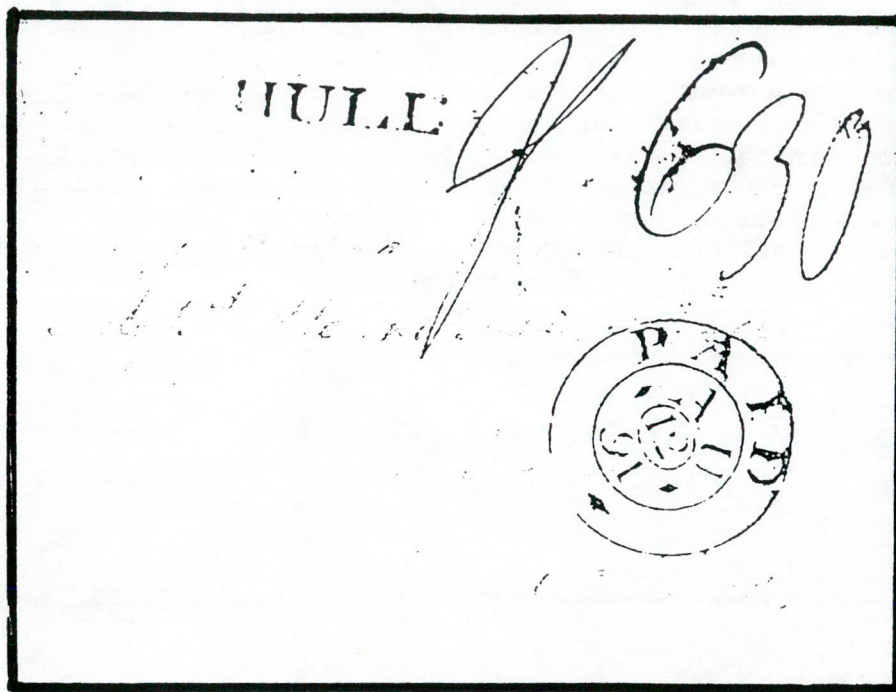
1760 Fen 14th. "PD". Known used 1713-65. Showing feint Dublin "POST PAID D" mark.

1791 Jan. 29th. "POST PAID"
Last year of use. Known
1766-91.



GENERAL POST - PAID MARKS

DATED PAID MARKS



1791 Aug. 12th. In use Dec. 1790 - Sept 1791

SMALL CODE LETTER "G" ABOVE PAID



1798 July 27th. Previously known with small code letters A - F
Only known in 1798.
Showing "BER/WICK" Scottish type handstamp

GENERAL POST - PAID MARKS

SMALL CODE LETTER "G" ABOVE PAID

The letter reads :

The Humble petition of Robert McKirdy Out Pensioner from His majesty6s 1st. Battn. 8th. fencible Infantry Most Humbly Sheweth

That your Petitioner on account of his family and this being his place of Abode, Humbly Solicits your Honor hoping thereby you will be pleased to return him upon the effective strength of this garrison, as a vacancy arises in Major Hiron and Major Cashills Compy on account of two men deceased, your petitioner being very capable of garrison Duty, and your Honors Complying with the above your Petitioner shall ever Pray.

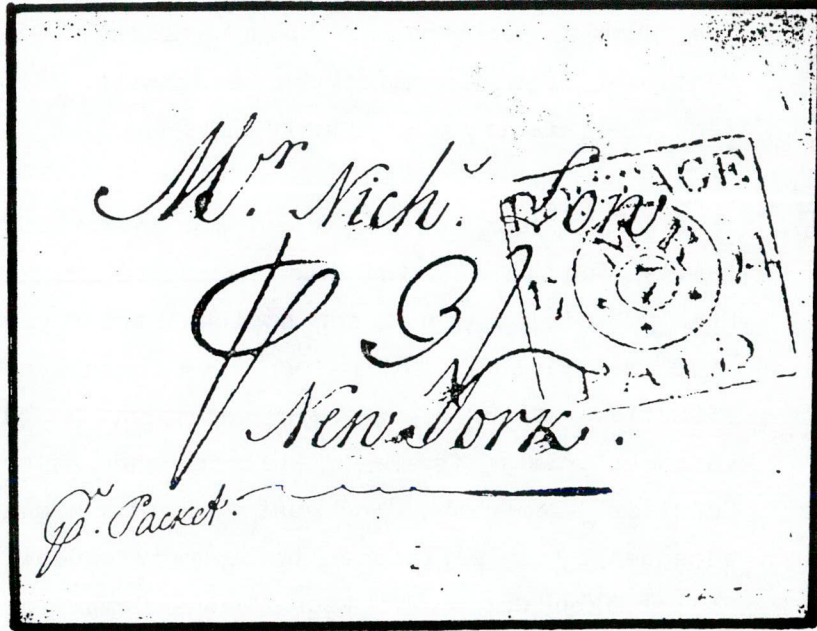
(Fencibles - Militia enlisted for home service)

GENERAL POST - PAID MARKS

EXPERIMENTAL PAID DATESTAMPS

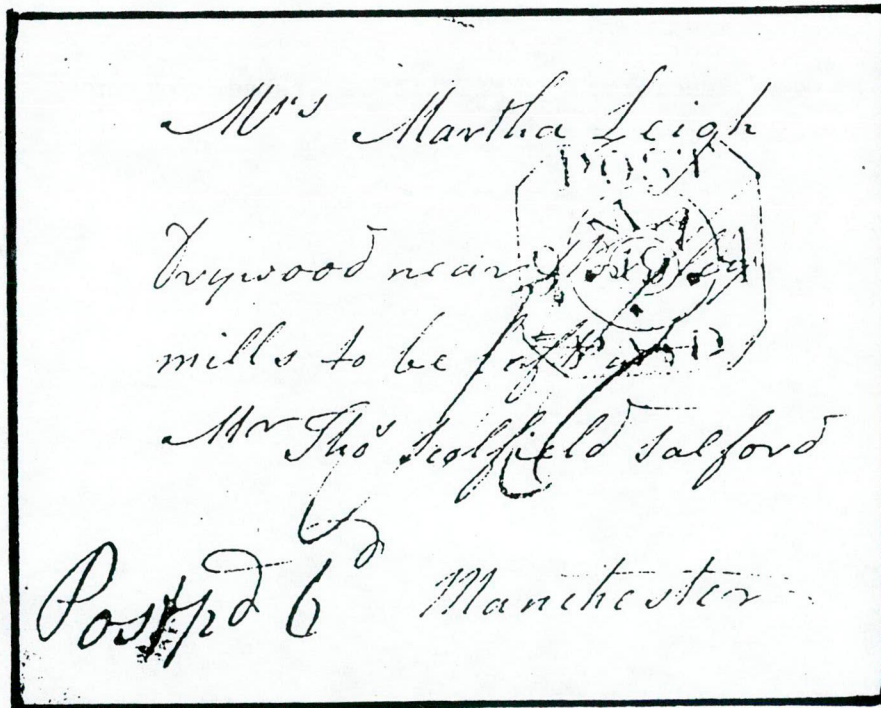
POSTAGE PAID"

1794 March 7th. Recorded used March only. London to New York.



POST PAID

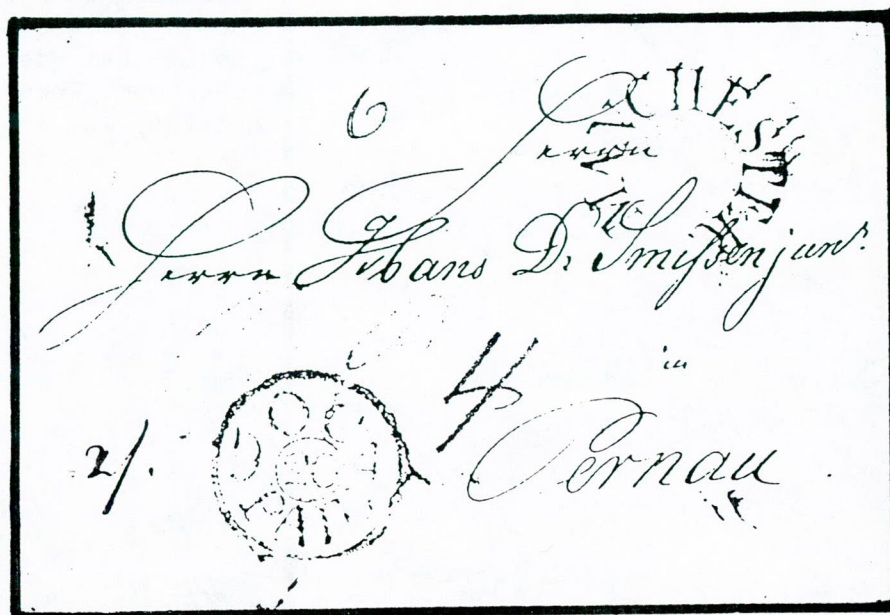
1794 May 19th. Known used April to July. London to Manchester



GENERAL POST - PAID MARKS

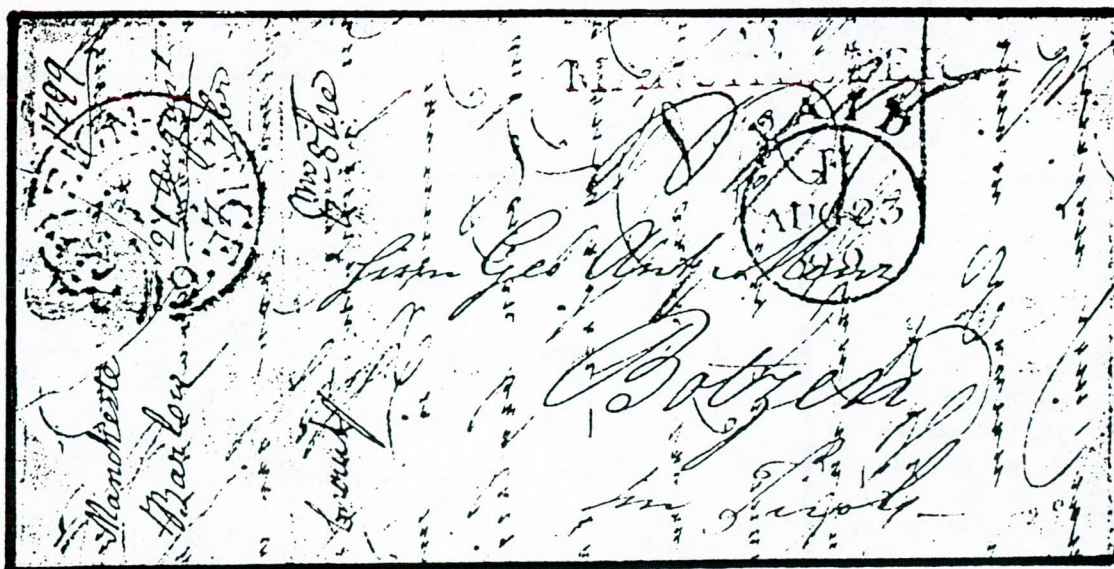
PAID DATESTAMPS

1794 Oct 20th. "PAID". An experimental stamp used from August to December.
Showing Manchester townstamp, sent to Russia.



"PAID" OUTSIDE CIRCLE

1799 Aug. 23rd. A morning duty mark recorded used July - December.
Carrying Manchester townstamp and "Foreign Office - 34 -99" outward datestamp

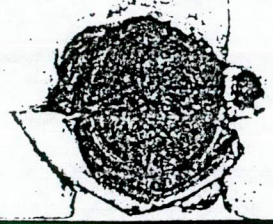


GOVERNMENT PENNY POST - NOT PAID MARKS

PENNY POST NOT PAID

This mark was applied to unpaid letters passed from the General Post to the Government Penny Post for delivery.

*McGarno to be left
at the New River
Company's Office
Whitechapel*



1775 Mar 9th. Put in at the Temple Office of the General Post. Previously recorded 1779-93. With 10 o'clock time Stamp and Bishop marks of the 9th. and 10th March, a signal of delayed mail.

1782 Nov 5th.
Sent from Rotherhithe
Put in at the General
Office. Recorded
1776-90.
Backstamped with Bishop
marks of consecutive
dates.

*M. Forbes
Copper Smith
Norton Folgate
London*



GOVERNMENT PENNY POST

NOTICE RELATING TO RETURNED LETTERS

PENNY-POST OFFICE, 116
Threadneedle Street Oct. 24: 1764

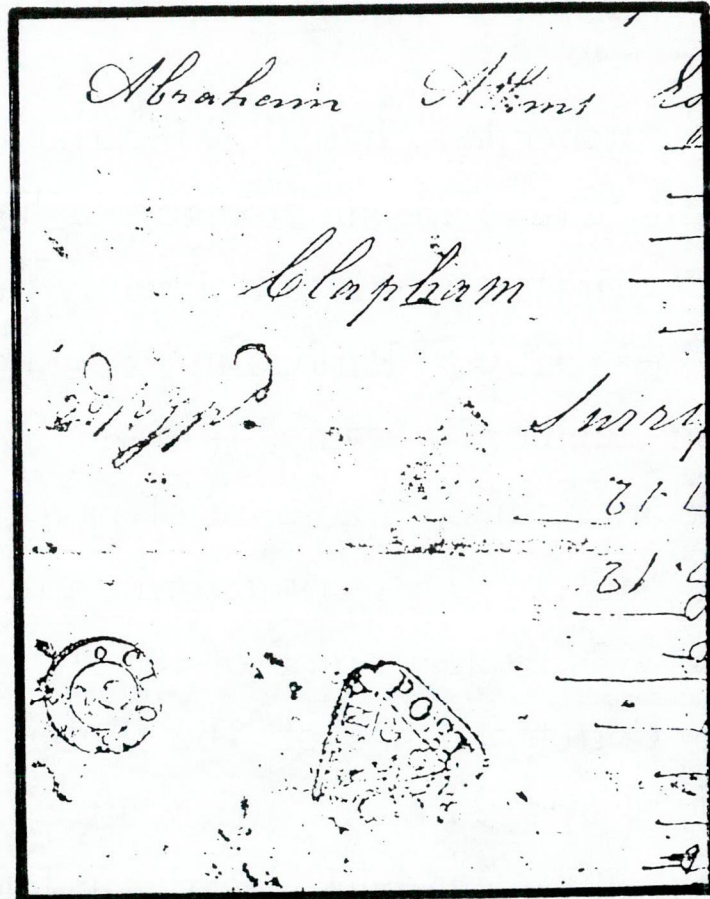
IT being apprehended that all Miscarriages of Penny-Post Letters are imputed to Negligence in the Office, whereas Directions frequently cannot be made out, especially to Persons in Lodgings for want of their Landlord's Name, or Sign, as also many Letters are refused on account of paying the Second Penny due on Delivery according to Act of Parliament. Now as a Proof of the Attention paid to the Correspondence of the Public, all Letters returned by the Letter Carriers after Three Days Inquiry will be sent back, as the inclosed is to the Writer, *gratis*, if His or Her Place of Residence can be discover'd, to the end that in case the Reason alledged on the Reverse of the Cover does not appear satisfactory, the Writer may have an Opportunity by complaining to this Office of discovering where the Fault lays.

By Order of the Comptroller,

Chas. Buckle Esq. Secretary

GOVERNMENT PENNY POST

HANDSTRUCK "2dpypd" - SECOND PENNY PAID



1785 The first recording of this "2dpypd" handstamp

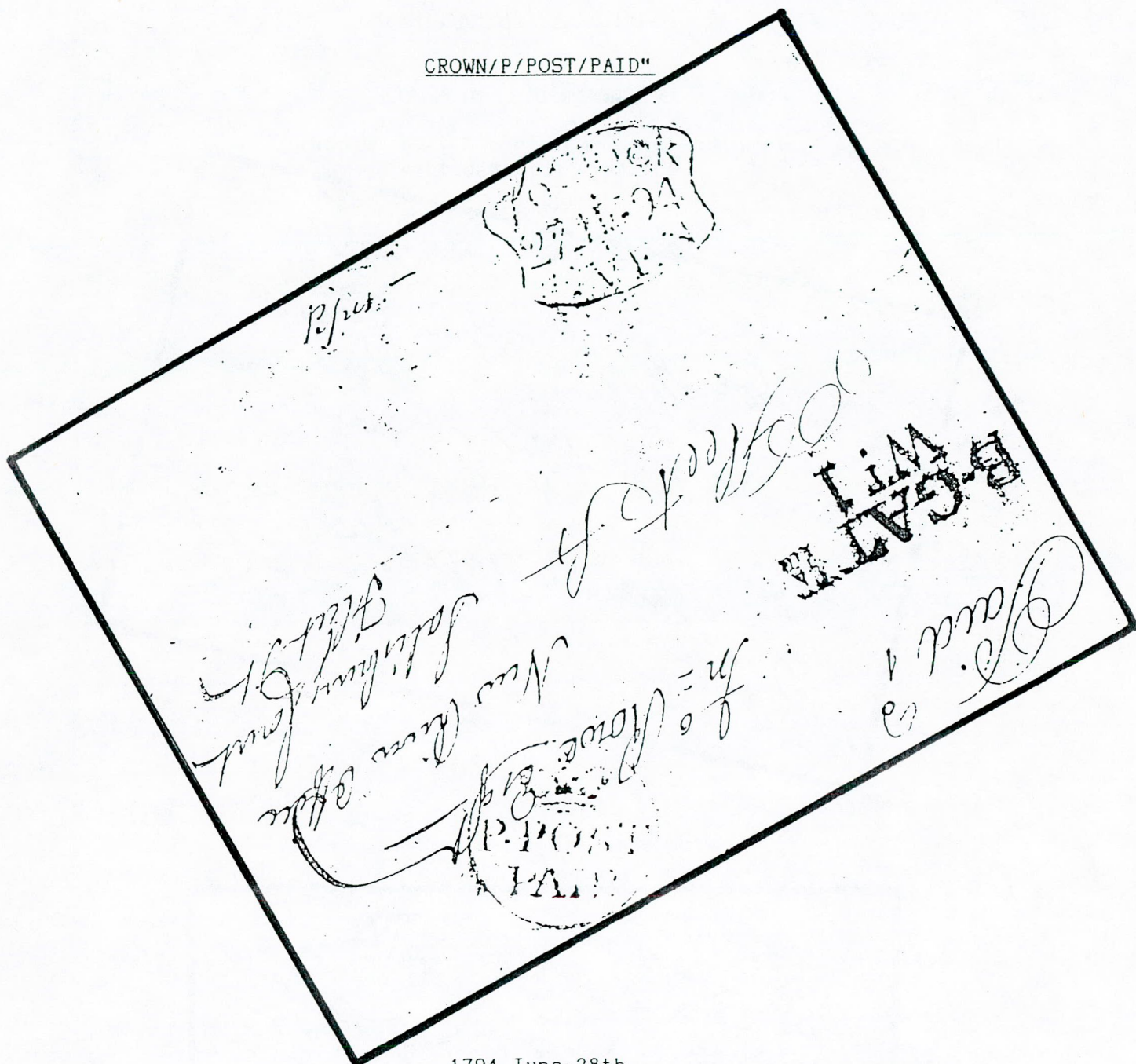
Struck in the same in as the Dockwra on a letter
prepaid both for the normal 1d. postage for delivery
"within the bills of mortality"

and the second penny charged for delivery
in the Country area.

[Legalised by the Post office Act of 1731]
and usually paid by the addressee.

LONDON PENNY POST - PAID MARK
Experimental Period

CROWN/P/POST/PAID"



1794 June 28th

A " Paid " mark of the Chief Office.

First month of use [June to October only]

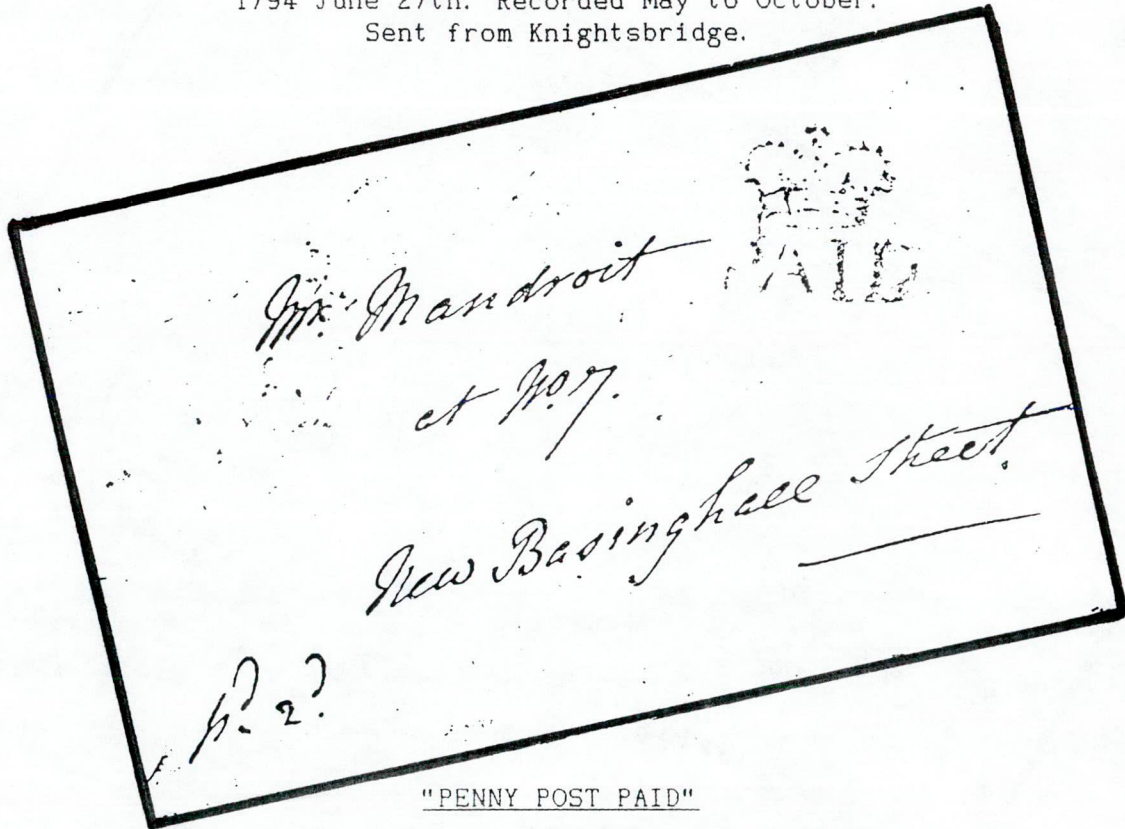
Showing " Bishopsgate Without - 1 - " Receiving House mark
and datestamp used by both the Chief Office and Westminster
during June to July.

LONDON PENNY POST - PAID MARKS

WESTMINSTER OFFICE PAID MARKS

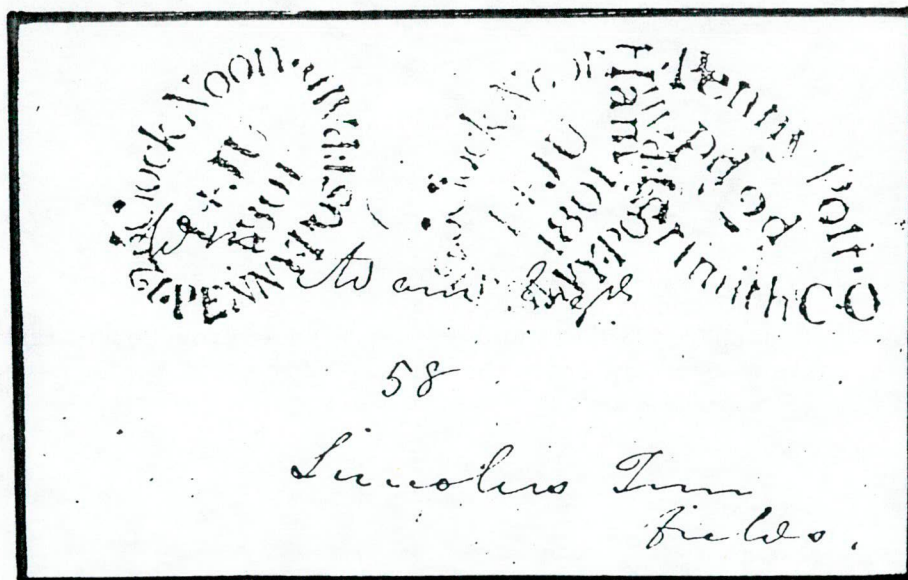
"CROWN/PAID"
Experimental mark

1794 June 27th. Recorded May to October.
Sent from Knightsbridge.



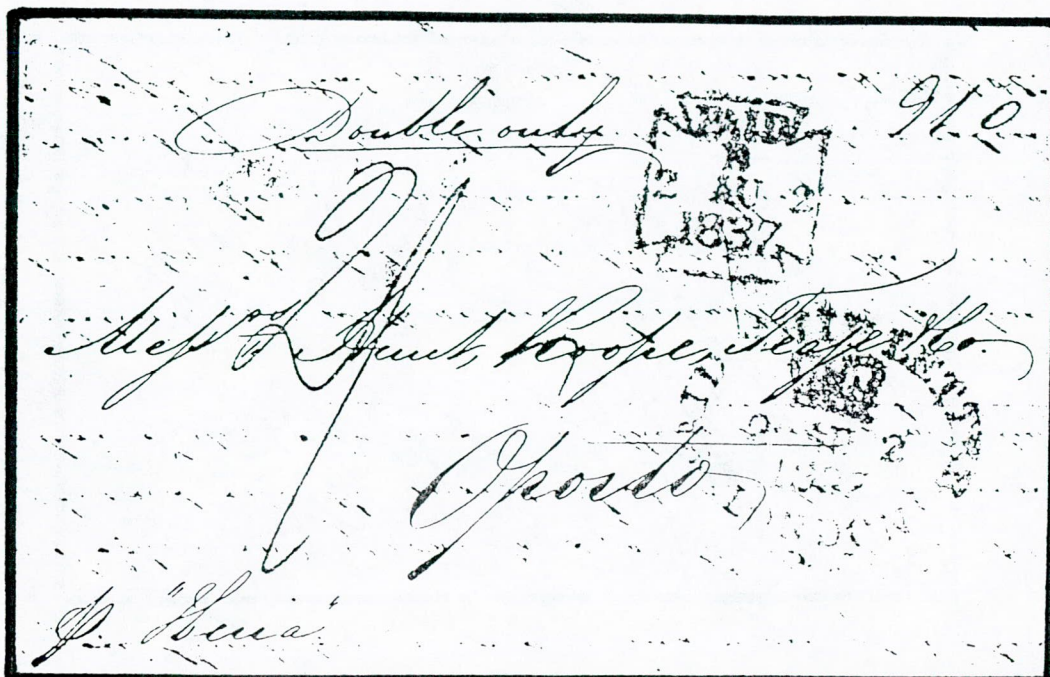
"PENNY POST PAID"

1801 June 1st. Recorded 1800-01
with the year given in full.

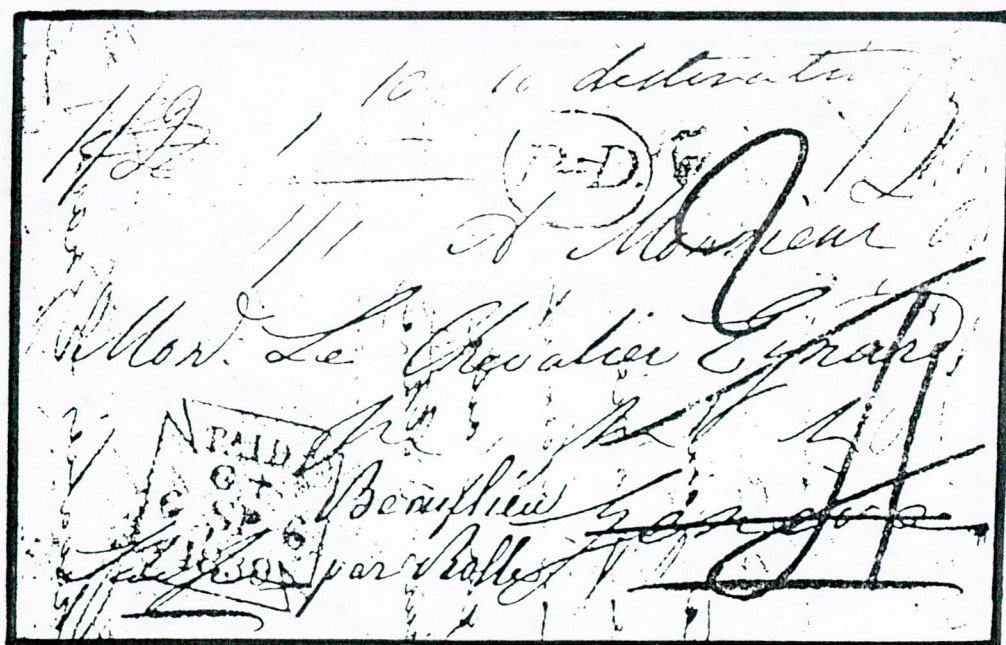


GENERAL POST - BRANCH OFFICE PAID MARKS

1837 Aug. 2nd. "B" - "BOROUGH"
Known used 1835-43.

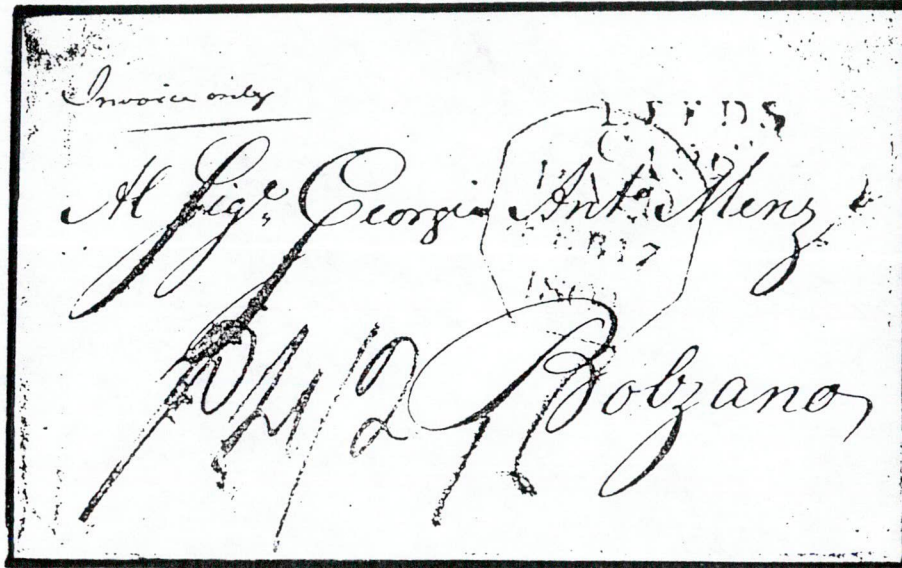


1839 Sept. 5th. "C+" - "CHARING CROSS"
Known used 1834-47



GENERAL POST - PAID MARKS

SINGLE FRAME "TOMBSTONE"
PAID MARK



1804 Feb. 17th. Applied to letters arriving at
the General Post Offices from the Provinces.
recorded 1800 - 1820.
Showing "LEEDS 196" mileage mark.

"S" SUNDAY PAID "TOMBSTONE"

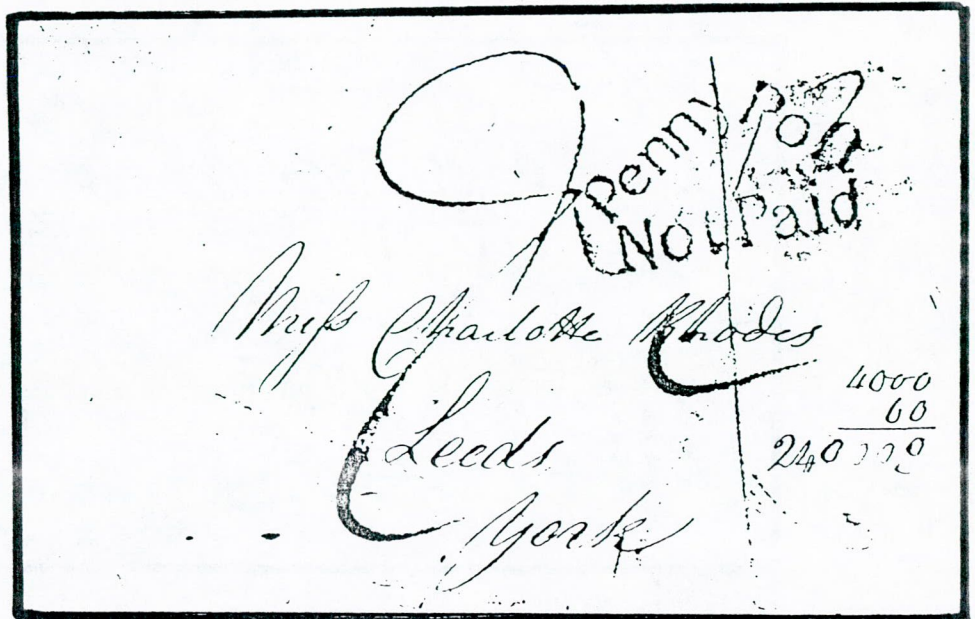


1839 March 8th. Recorded 1816-40.
Sent from Dublin to London.

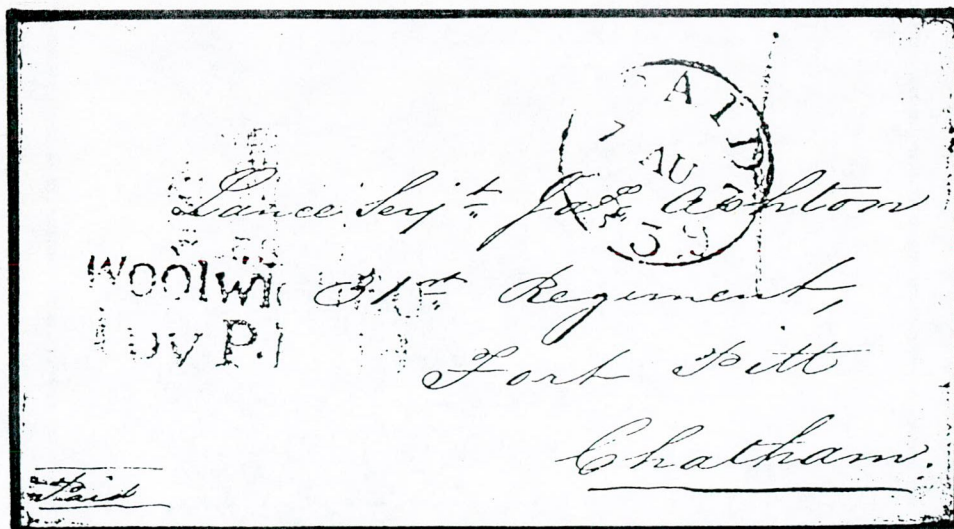
GENERAL POST - PAID MARKS

"PENNY POST/NOT PAID"

1800 Dec. 24th. Struck in the penny Post of transfer to the General Post for delivery. From 1796 if the 1d. charge was not prepaid, this handstamp was applied.



CHIEF OFFICE "PAID" DATESTAMP
with RED HANDSTRUCK "1" and
"1py P. PAID/WOOLWICH E. O."

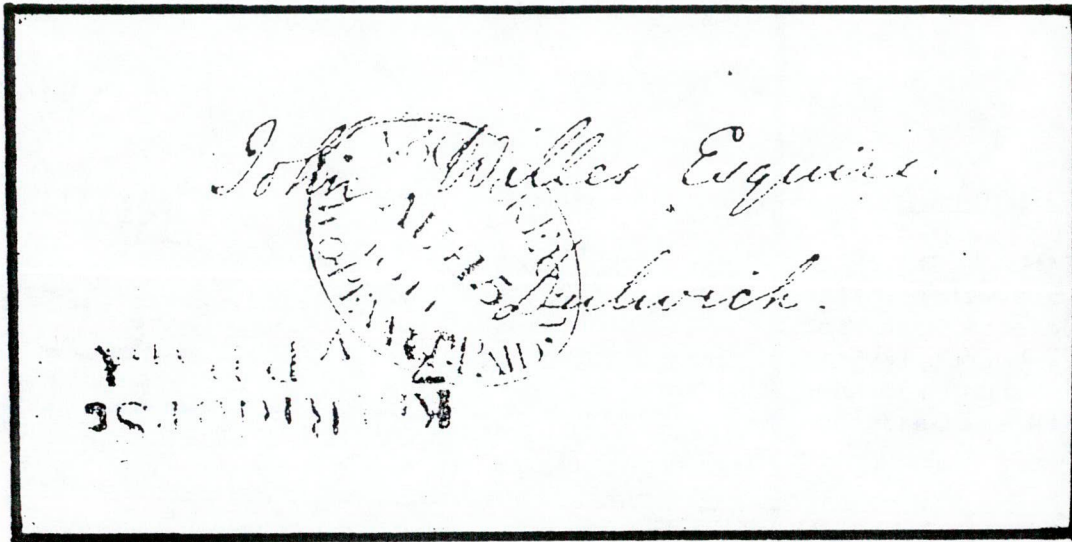


1839 Aug. 7th. the pre-1840 handstruck "1" in red [prepayment of the Soldiers' Concessionary Rate] has not previously been recorded for London.

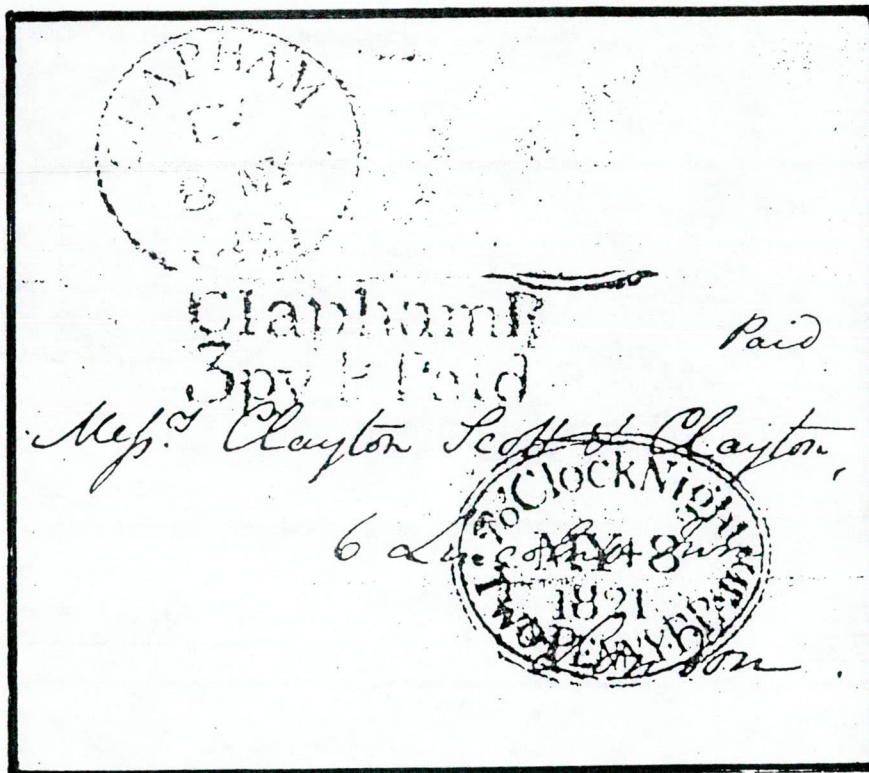
The "1py P. PAID" mark is seldom seen before December 1839, being found mainly on soldiers' and sailors' letters.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - PAID MARKS

CHIEF OFFICE SINGLE AND DOUBLE FRAME PAID MARKS



1811 Aug. 15th. Single frame, used 1801-18.
Receiving House mark "Knt Rider St/3py P.Paid".



1821 May 8th. Double frame in use 1819-22.
Showing Clapham Receiving House mark and
Country Sorting Office date stamp.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - PAID MARKS

CHIEF OFFICE SINGLE AND DOUBLE FRAME PAID MARKS

Drs Commons

Thursday

My Dear Sir,

I cannot delay in informing you that since I had the pleasure of being at Dulwich I have had several interviews with Miss Crossingham who has opened her whole heart to me and leaves me no reason to doubt her affection - The period of our marriage I do not know, for I am content now I am so entirely assured of the stability of her regard) to wait on her own time or rather His time whose Superintending Providence will determine for us is best. With my respectful compliments to Mrs. Willes, I am

My Dear Sir,

Your much obliged friend and sev^t

T. Edwards

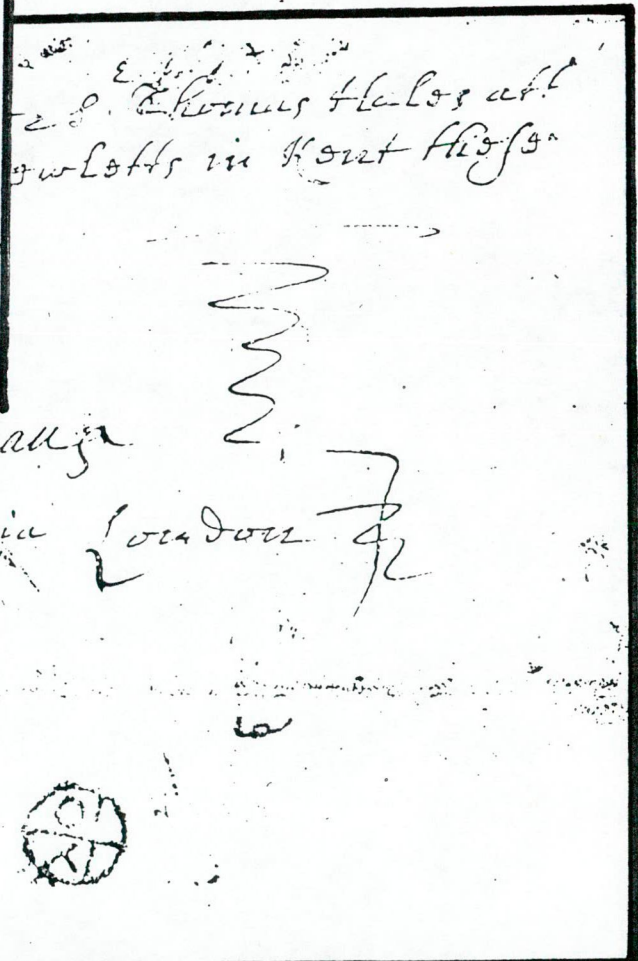
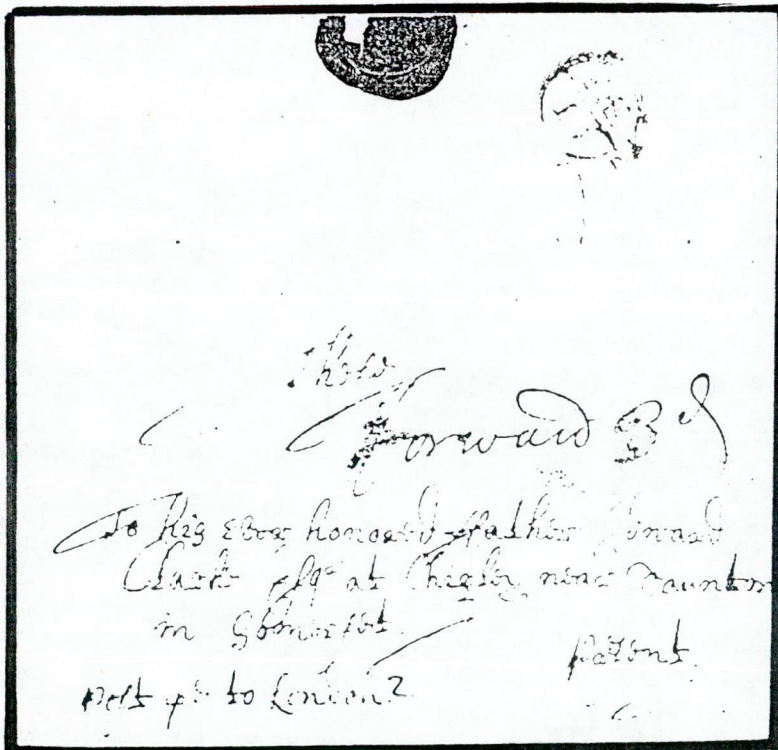
Section 4

INSTRUCTION MARKS - GENERAL POST

In the early period certain postal endorsements were in manuscript but later the General Post began to use instructional handstamps, some designed for public information and some as instructions to the Post Office staff. Crowns were used as official confirmation of a change in the rate charged. All letters between provinces came first to the G.P.O. in London then out to destination, hence the "In All" marks for the total post charge both into and out of London. Arrival on "Sunday" was denoted by "S", letters handed in at the Chief Office Window by "W" or "WL". The scarce "Not According to the Act" handstamp was applied to letters not qualifying for the soldier's concessionary rate under the Act of 1795. "Posted After 7PM" and "Put in After 7 o'clock" i.e. after closing time with no late fee paid. "Postage Not Paid to London" on redirected mail drew attention to the need to collect the total postage.

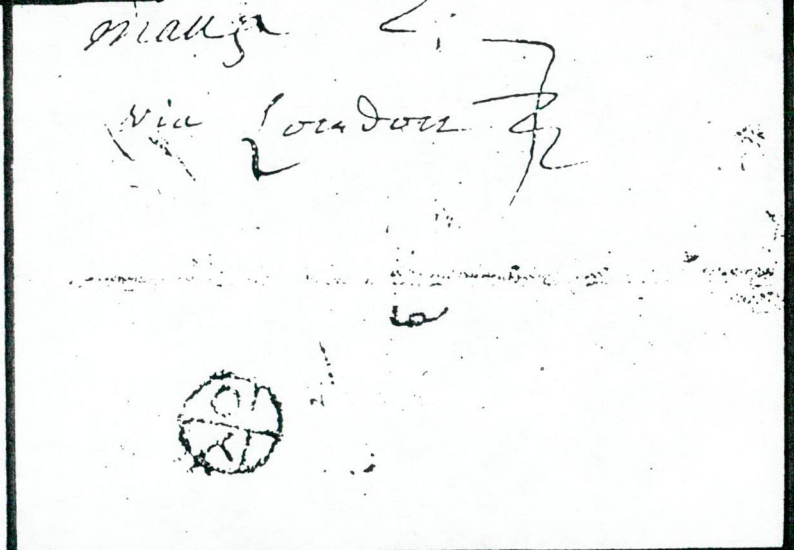
"FORWARD 3d" in manuscript

c. 1670 Feb. 10th. "Post paid to London 2d" with the 3d to be paid by the recipient shown by "forward 3d". Showing serif lettering 13mm Bishop for FE/10.



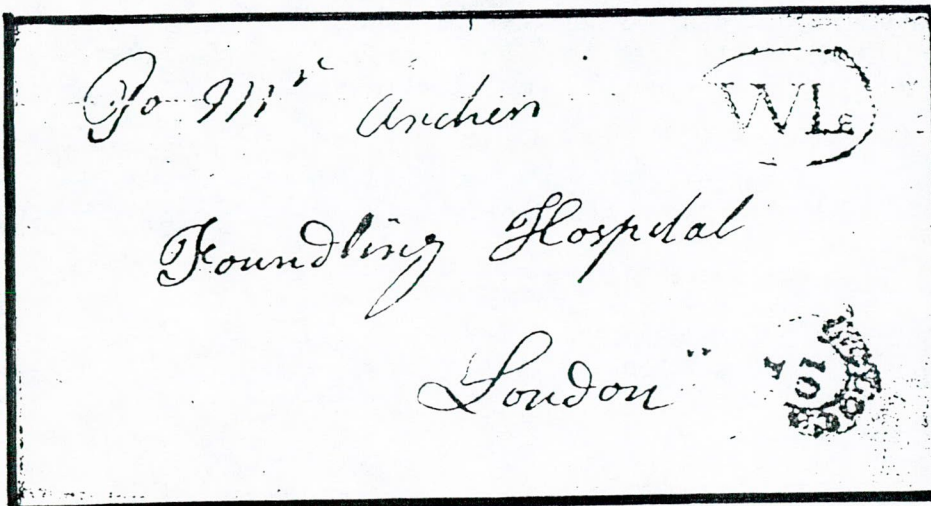
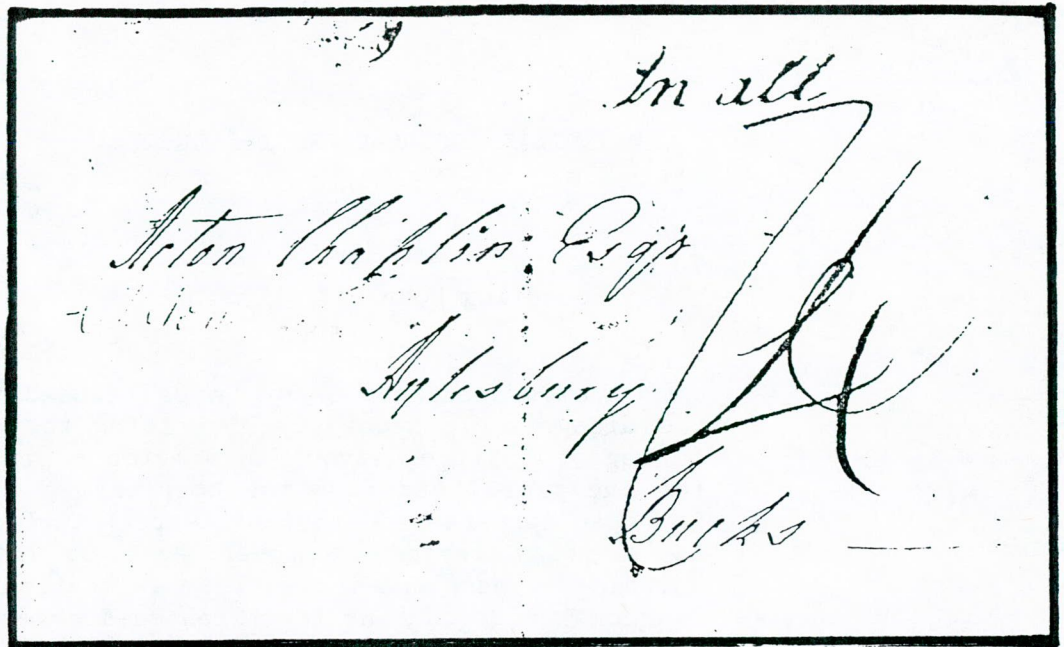
"IN ALL 5d" in manuscript

1702 July 8th. Bridgewater to London [3d] and on the Kent [2d]. Showing 13nn Bishop for "IY/10" sans-serif lettering.



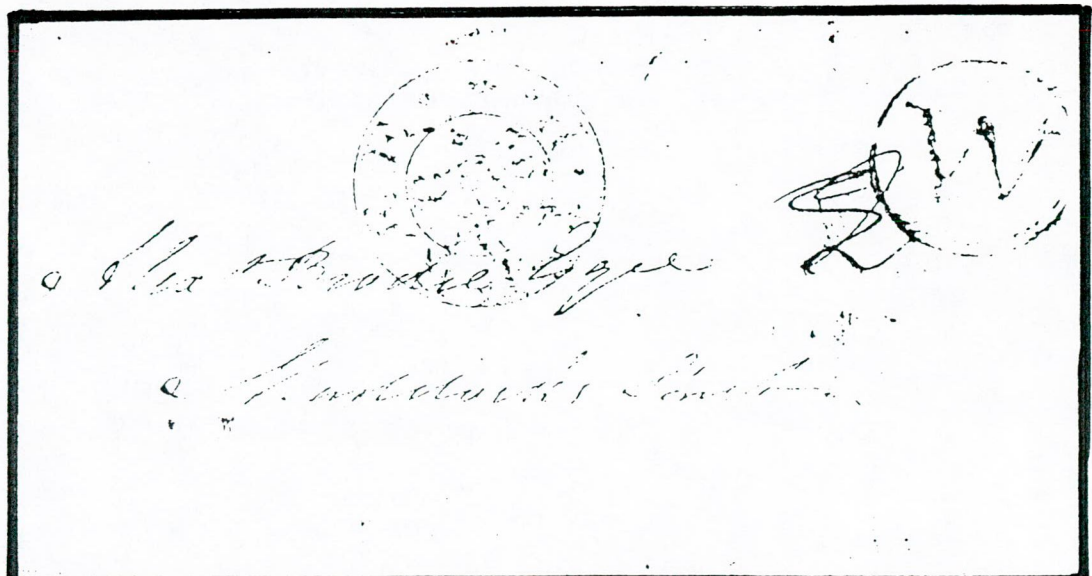
GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTION MARKS
[for Post office staff]

1780 May 2nd
"IN ALL"
Sent from
Coventry to
London [4d]
plus London
to Aylesbury
[3d].
Recorded 1760-81



1777 Feb. 18th
"WL" in oval
Only recorded year of use
Showing 10 o'clock Penny
Post time stamp.
Backstamped with Bishop
marks 18th & 19th.
Sent from Greenland Dock

1792 Mar. 22nd
"W" WINDOW LETTER.
Applied to letters
put in at the
Window of the
General Post
instead of a
Penny Post
Receiving House
and for delivery
in London and
handled throughout
by the General Post.
Used 1791-1804
Sent from Islington



GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
[for Post office staff]

Text of letter bearing "WL" in oval

To Mr. Archer
Foundling Hospital, London.

Sir,

I am exceedingly sorry to be reduced to the disagreeable necessity of writing to you to beg you will endeavour to provide a place for the girl I had from the hospital as she is of so perverse and violent temper, that it is entirely beyond my power ever to make anything of her, and indeed I am in continual fear on her account having threatened several times to destroy herself besides my peace is much disturbed in many other circumstances which obliges me to request your speedy endeavours to ease me of my continual anxiety.

I am, Sir,
Your very hbl Servant

Eliza Stone

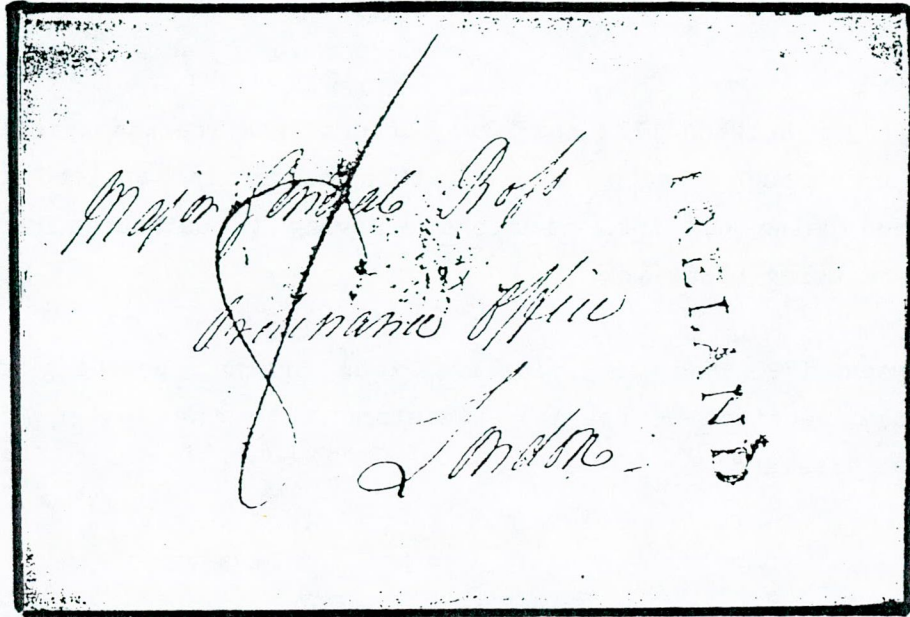
PS. She will not do with a fellow servant on account of her temper, is very honest and sober.

Greenland Dock Feb. 18th 1777.

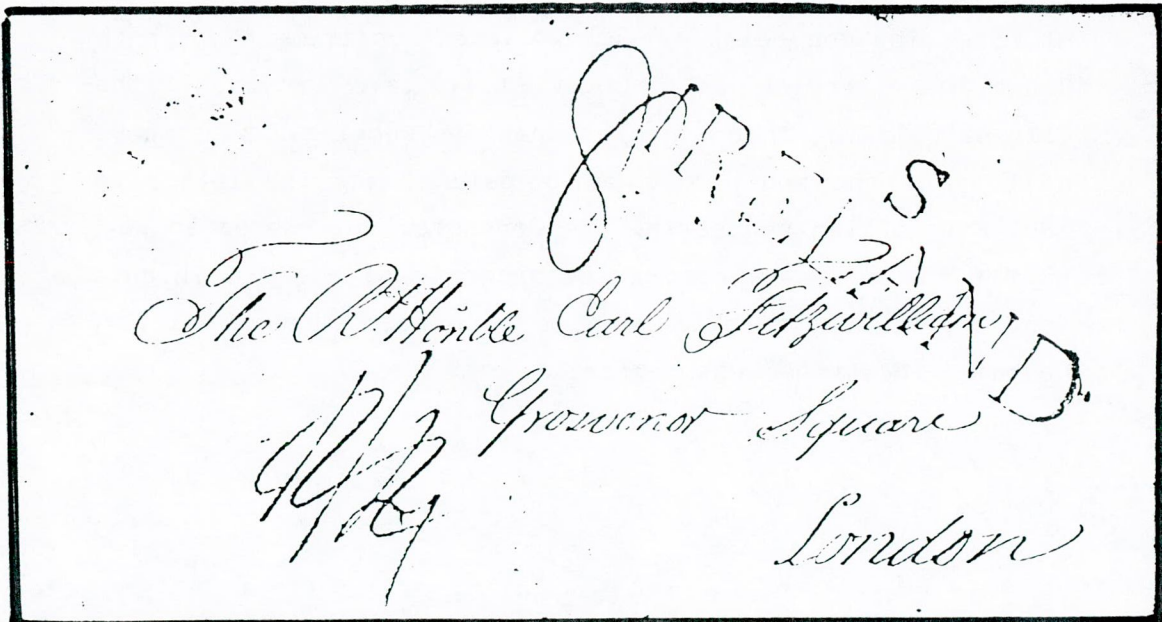
Mary Bryce No. 12168
Mar. 26th 1759. Appd Sept. 7th 1774

GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
[for Post Office staff]

"IRELAND" and "S/IRELAND"



1798 June 23rd. Applied in London on arrival from Ireland. Last year of use. Recorded 1777-98.



1799 Nov. 16th. Struck on letters from Ireland arriving in London on Sunday. Recorded 1798-1802. Sent from Dublin.

GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
[for Post office staff]

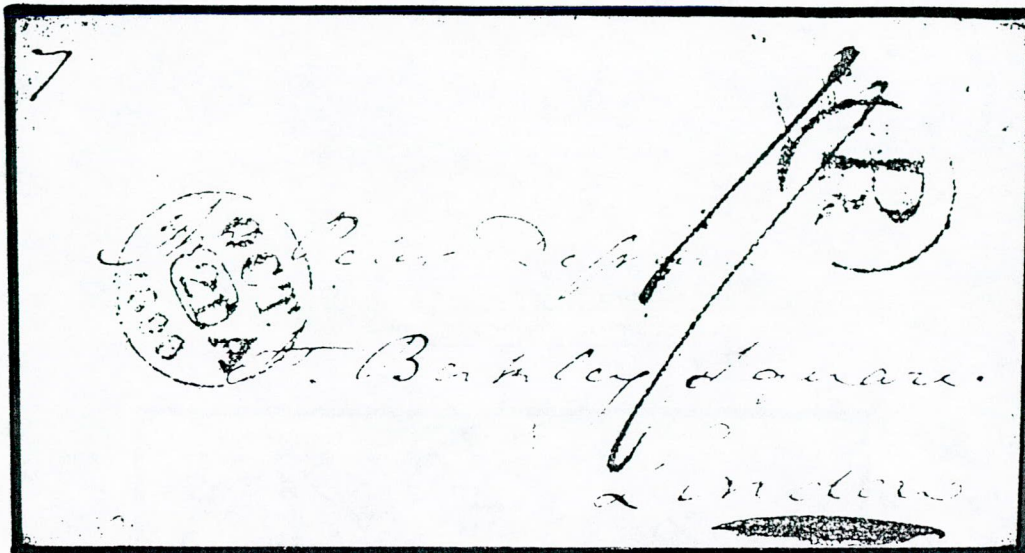
Ireland . Between 1777 and 1810 letters from Ireland passing to or through London received this handstamp, applied in London using red ink. Letters arriving in Edinburgh were struck using black ink.

Between 1798 and 1802 letters from Ireland arriving on Sunday received a special handstamp with the letter "S" above "Ireland"

S/IRELAND - The writer employed by a Dublin Publican - "a person who retails Malt and Spiritous Liquor" having touching faith in the West York Regiment based on experience with other English Regiments, allowed credit to the amount of £39. The men being asked to pay on receiving the King's Bounty for service in Holland still gave excuses. the colonel on being approached and perhaps knowing his men gave no hope of the money ever being paid, hence the letter to Earl Fitzwilliam requesting the Paymaster be ordered to pay, as "if the money is not forthcoming his wife and 4 infants must certainly perish for want of the necessities of life", he being threatened with arrest.

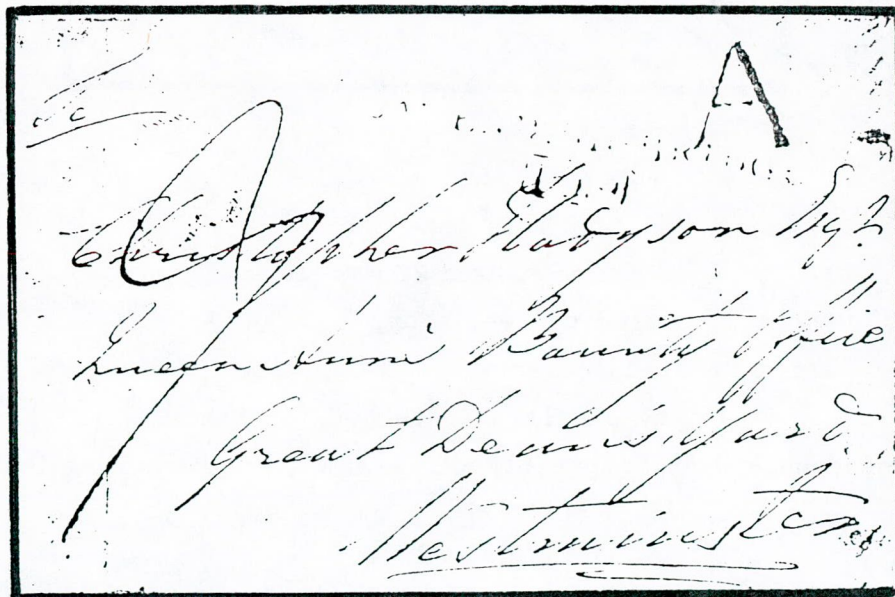
GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
[for Post Office staff]

"R" IN CIRCLE - RETURNED LETTER



1808 Oct. 21st. Returned to Edinburgh endorsed on the reverse "Not known in Berkeley Square", signed "J. Cross".
Previously recorded 1810-11.

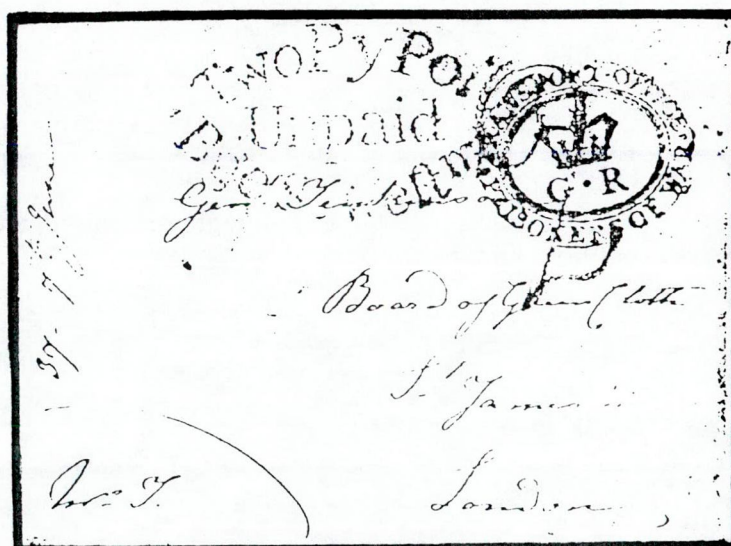
"A"



1824 Sept. 16th. Send from Cavendish Bridge [Leics].
Backstamped with General Post single ring datestamp
and the Chief Office double oval datestamp of
the Twopenny Post.
Recorded 1824-28.

GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
[for the Public & Post Office staff]

"TRANSPORT OFFICE/CROWN/G. R
PRISONER OF WAR"



1813 June 7th.

Known used 1804 - 14

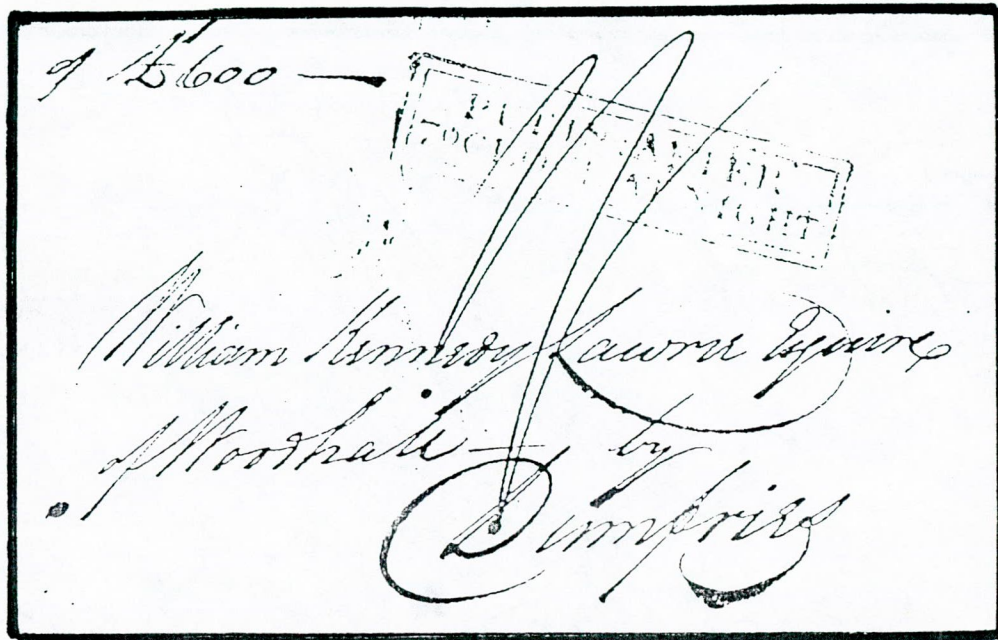
Applied by the Transport Office,
which handled letter written by prisoners of war.

Sent by a British prisoner in France,
posted unpaid at Bridge Street, Westminster Receiving House.

GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
[for the Public]

"PUT IN AFTER 7 o'CLOCK AT NIGHT"

1808 June 20th. Applied at the Chief office when the late fee was not paid. Known used 1807-40.



"POSTED AFTER 7PM"

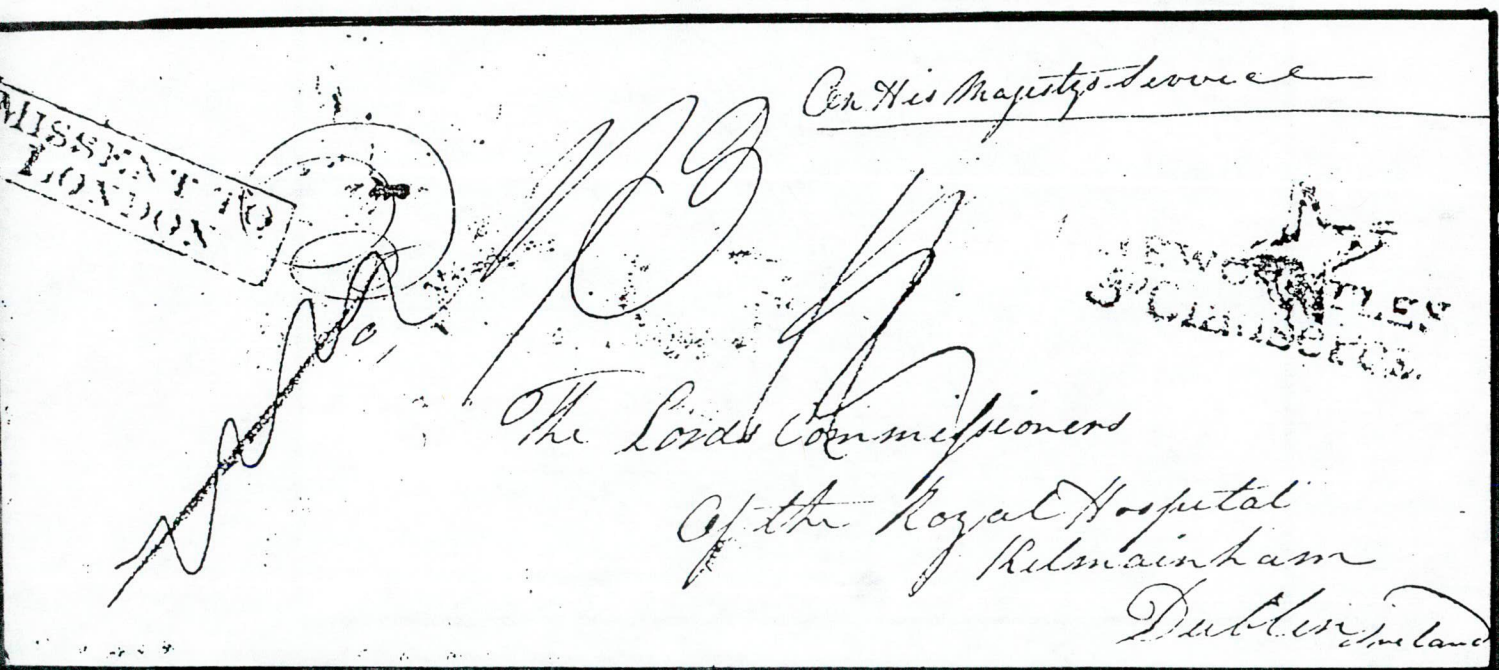
1839 July 23rd. Put in at the Lombard Street Branch Office and used only at Branch Offices from 183809. Showing London ½ Toll Tax with the sender's endorsement "Per Morning Mail"



GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS

BOXED "MISSENT TO LONDON"

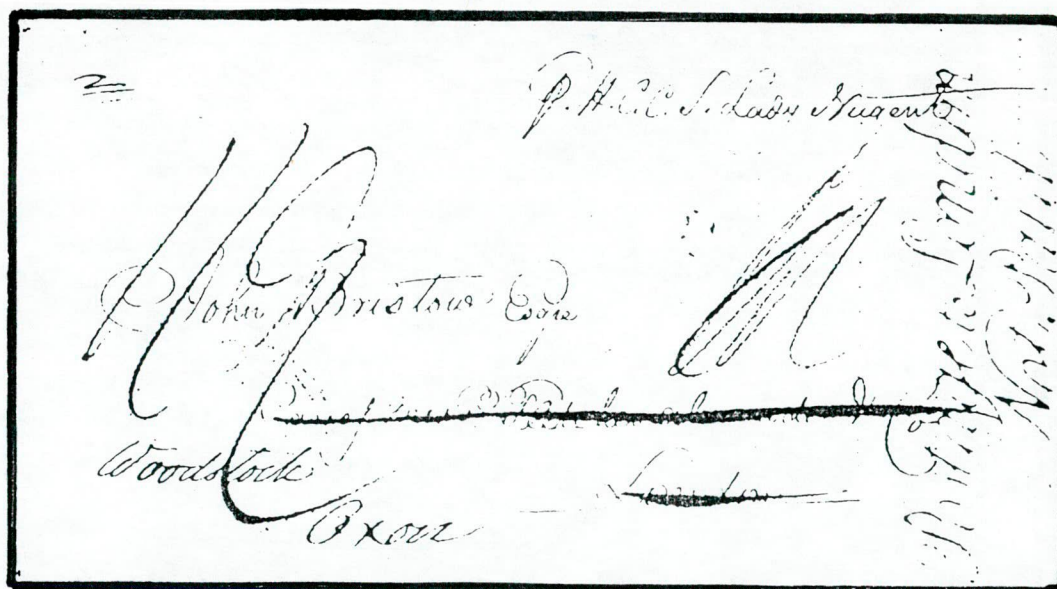
1823 June 22nd. recorded 1815-32.
Showing "NEWCASTLE[staffs] 5th CLAUSE POST" and Inspector's Star.



"POSTAGE TO LONDON NOT PAID"

[Script type]

1830 Mar. 4th. Known used 1807-32.
Calcutta to London, landed at Southampton.
Re-directed in London to Woodstock.



GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
[for Post Office staff]

[for Post Office staff]

"POSTAGE TO LONDON
NOT PAID"

1834 May 2nd.
India to London
via Deal
[74 miles] at
double rate plus sea
sea postage = 1/8d,
with charge on
redirection to
Nottingham [125
miles] of 1/8d.

1836 Aug. 1st.
Posted at sea from
" Latitude 10°
Longitude 25°30' "
to London.
Showing step type
"Deal Ship letter".
Redirected to
Brighton.
Recorded 1828-33.

POSTAGE NOT PAID
TO LONDON

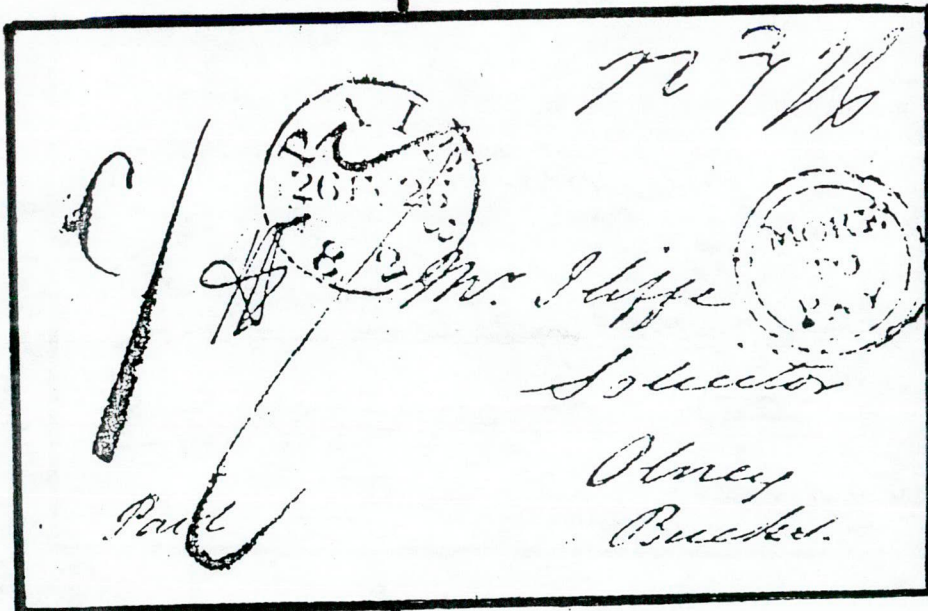
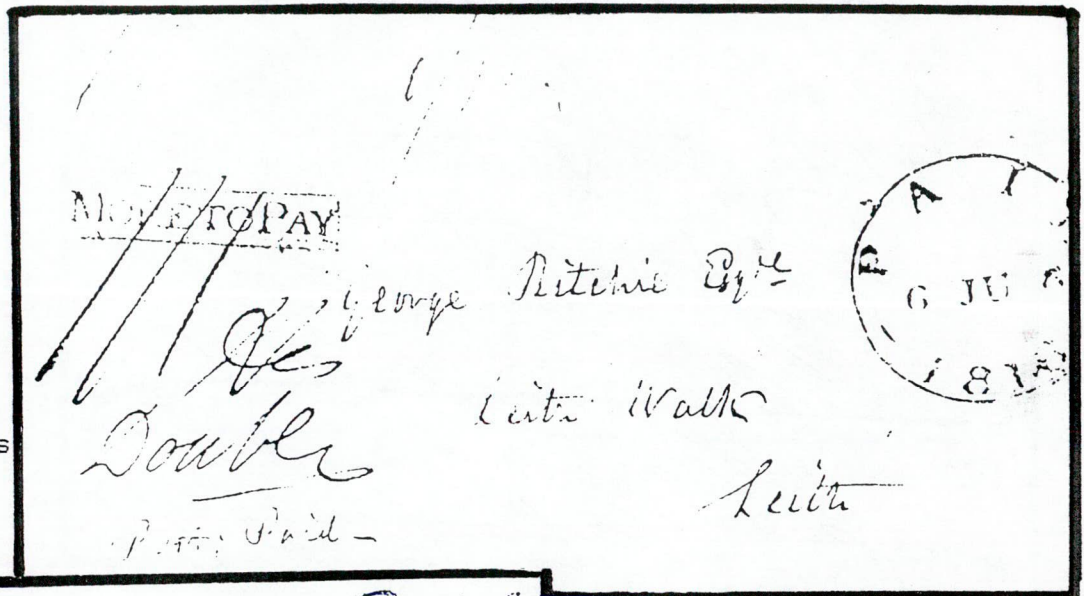
LETTER CARRIERS'
OFFICE STAMP

1838 Sept. 20th.
Sent from Bury
St. Edmunds to
London. Charged 8d.
[71 miles], plus 9d
on re-direction to
Norwich [111 miles]

GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
[for Post office staff]

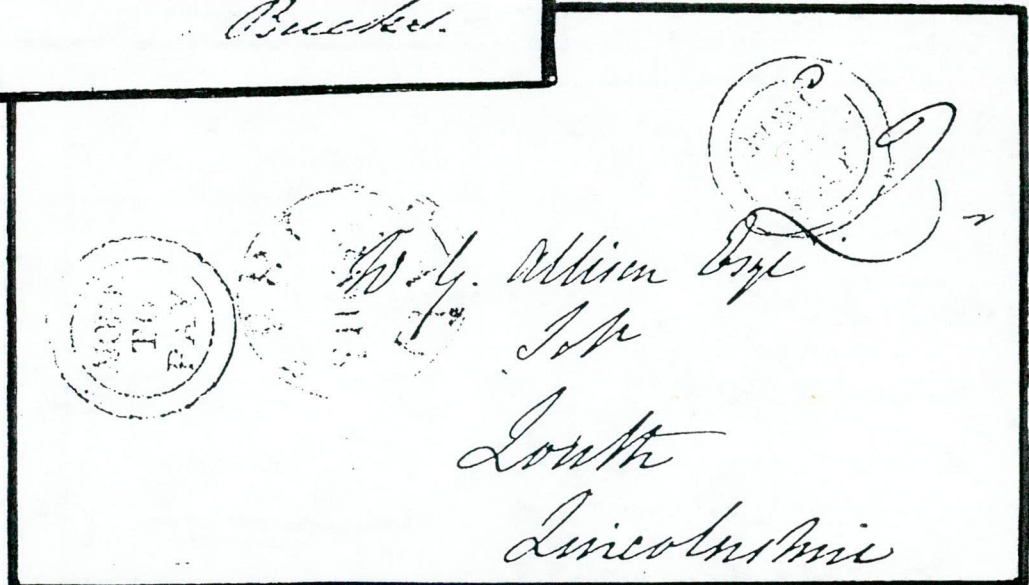
"MORE TO PAY"

1816 June 6th.
"Yes Double"
containing an
enclosure. Known
used 1810-21.
Showing PAID
datestamp applied
to prepaid letters
posted in London
for delivery in
the provinces.



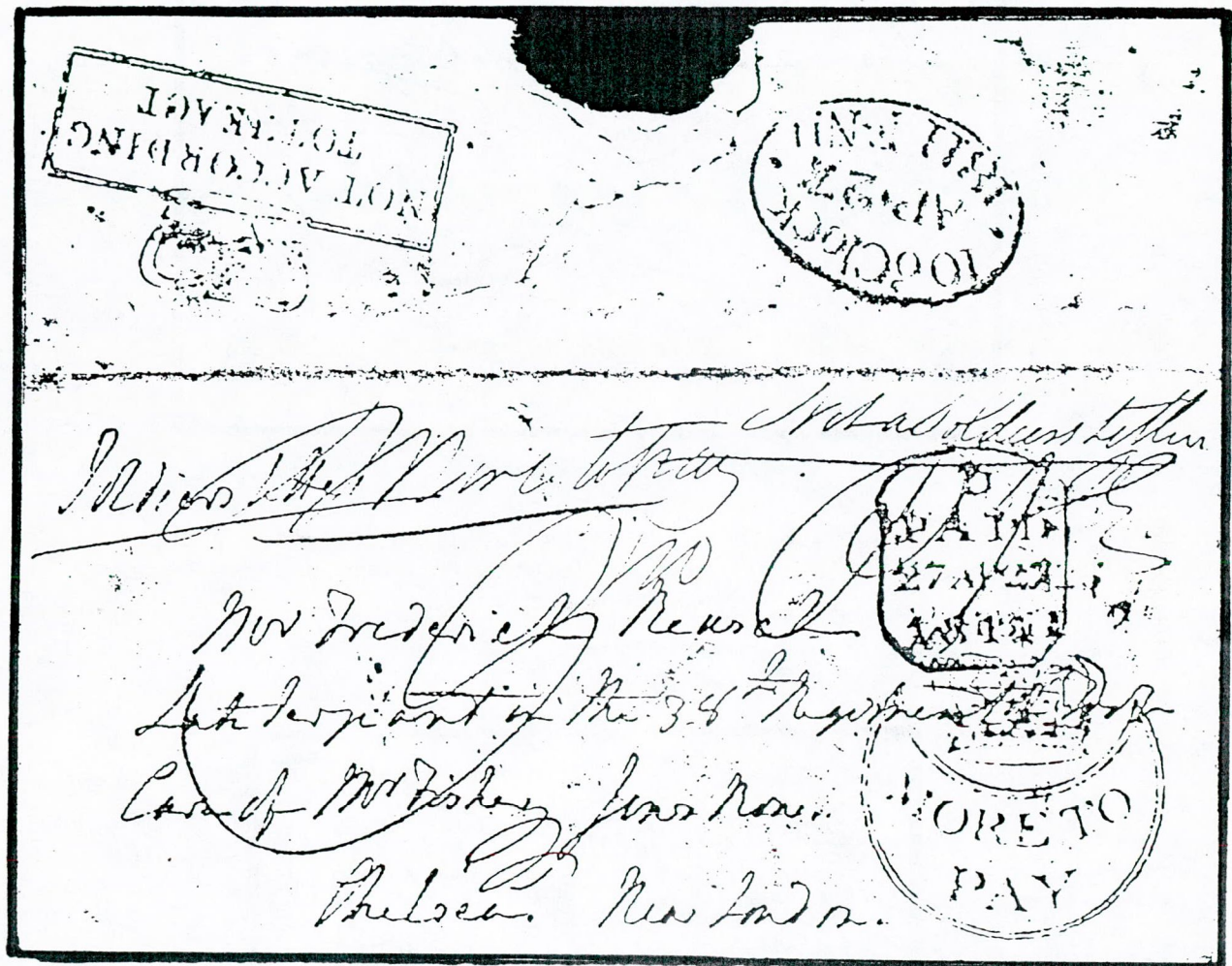
1828 Feb. 26th. Known used
1816-44. Put in at the
Chancery Lane Receiving
House. Post Paid 7d. but
Olney being 56 miles from
London, it came into the 8d
rate, leaving 1d due

1832 Nov. 15th.
Not previously
recorded in blue.



GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
[for Post Office staff & Public]

CROWNED "NOT ACCORDING TO THE ACT"
and
CROWNED "MORE TO PAY" IN CRESCENT



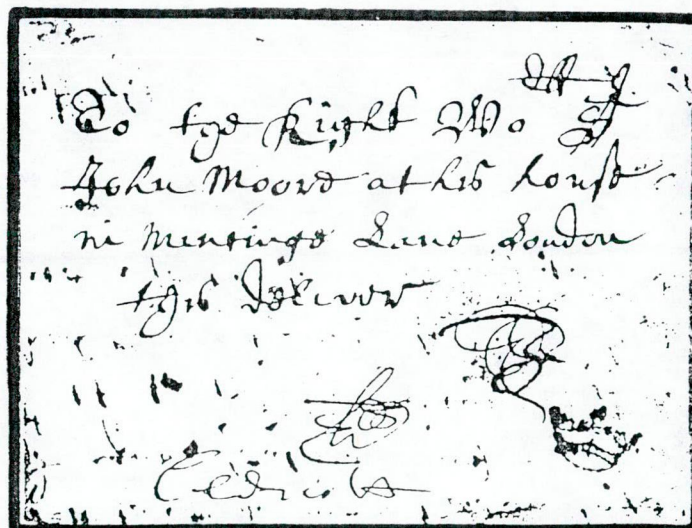
1811 April 27th. Endorsed "Soldier's Letter".
Addressed to "Late Sergeant in the 38th Regiment of Foot".
Prepaid 1d for the Soldiers' Concessionary Rate but
endorsed in London
"Not a Soldier's Letter" and "More to Pay".
Sent from York.

GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
[for Post Office staff]

INSPECTORS' CROWNS



1682 Dec. 20th. Believed to be the earliest recorded example.
Signed "Bebington" against deleted rate and charged 6d.
Sent from Carlisle.



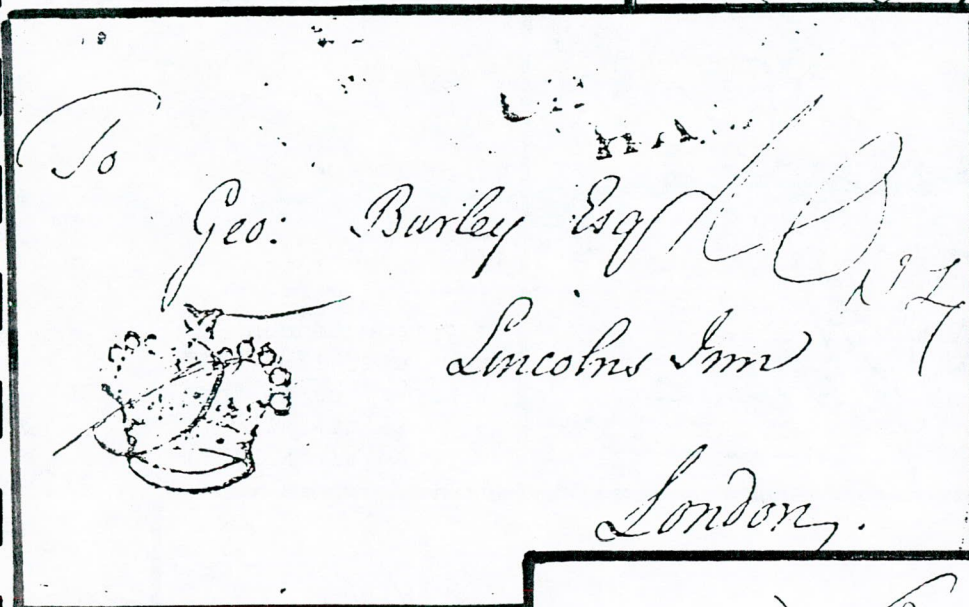
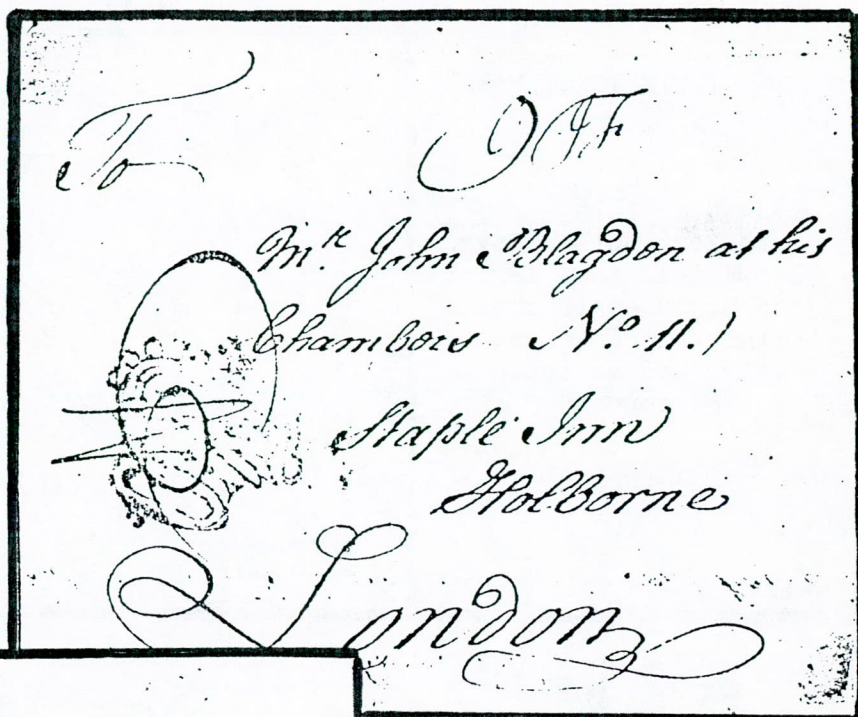
1685 Aug. 7th. recorded used 1682-1705

GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS

[for Post office staff]

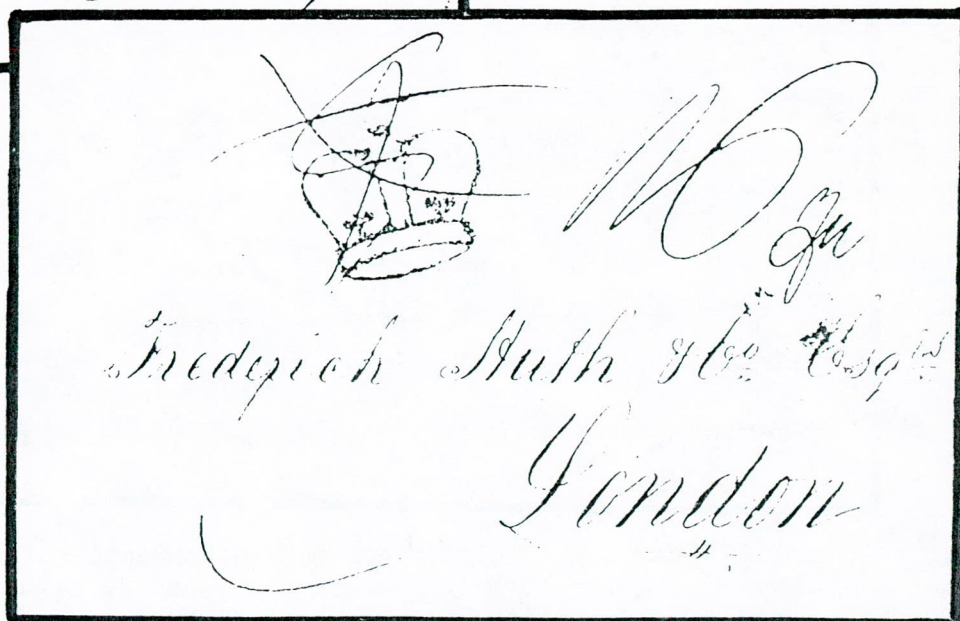
INSPECTORS' CROWNS

1766 July 20th. Charge altered
from 6d. to 5/10d on reverse
[2 enclosures] with Bishop
mark "1/AV" and "SALIS/BURY".
First year of use 1766-99.



1794 April 2nd ; Recorded
1766-99. Sent from
Cheltenham.
[Same Crown type showing
variation over the years.]

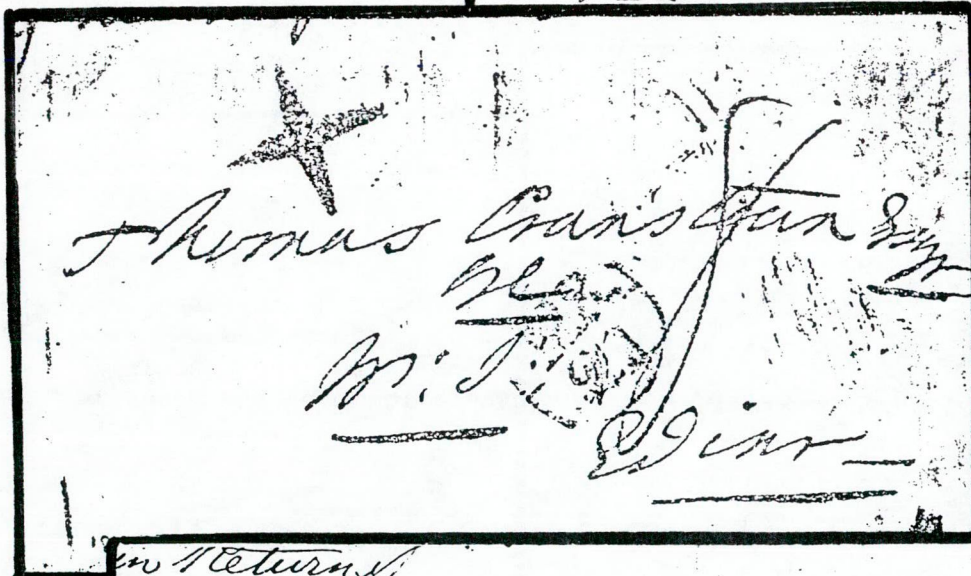
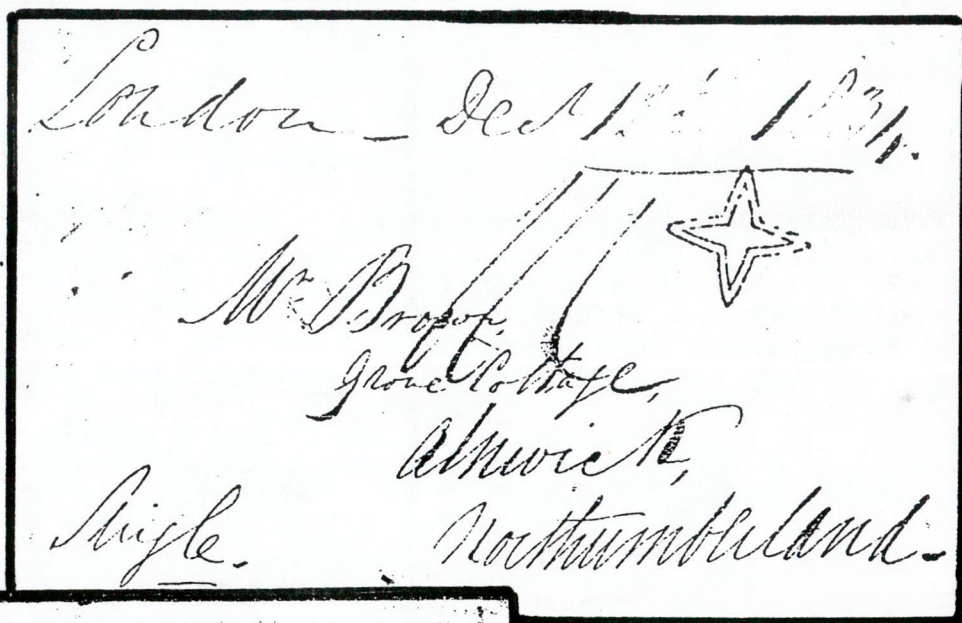
1838 Nov. 13th. Recorded
1800-40. Sent from
Gloucester.



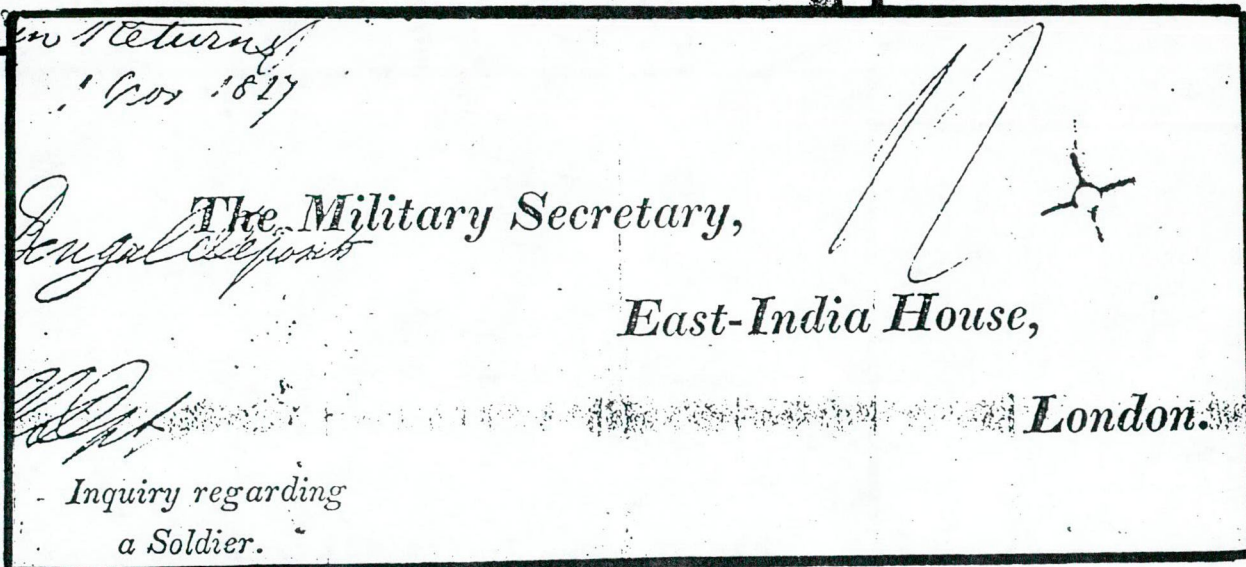
GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
[for Post office staff]

INSPECTORS' MARKS

1834 Dec. 12th
with 20mm Hollow Rays.
Known used from 1825-38.
Addressed as if coming
within the Franking
system and so taken
"out of course"



1800 March 18th.
with 22mm Solid Rays
Sent from London.
Known used 1798-1817.
[W. S. = Writer to the
Signet initially
misread as "M. P. "?]

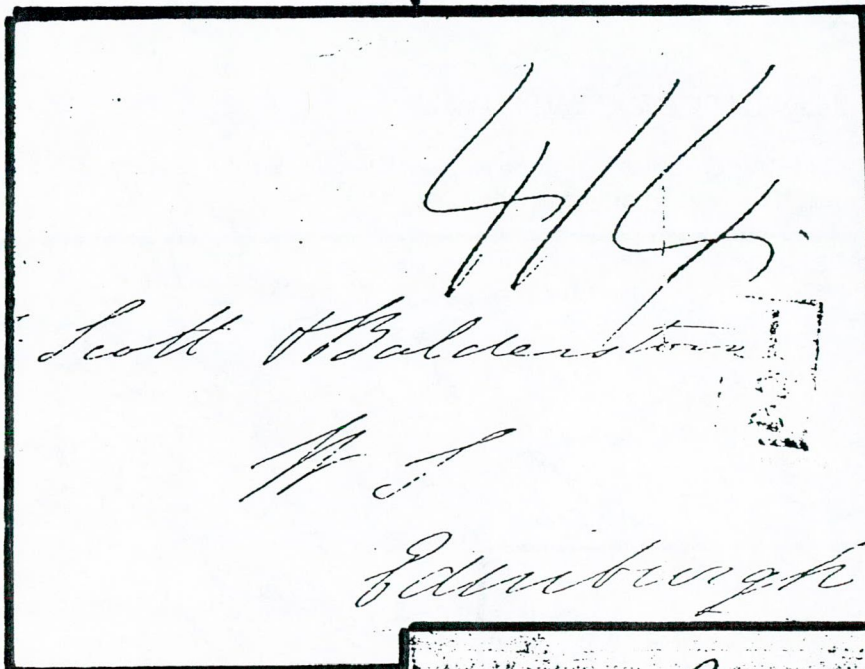
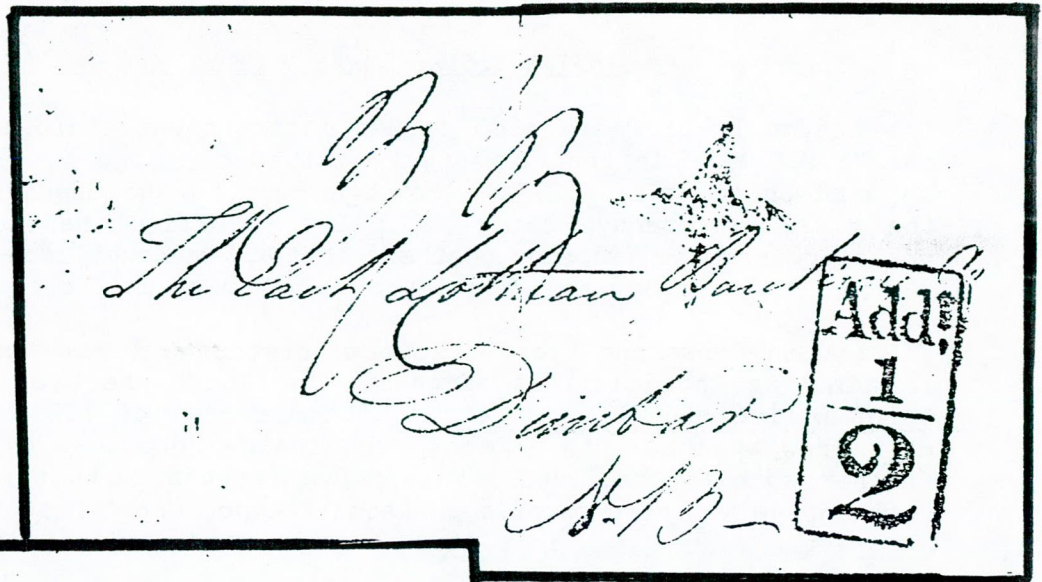


1837 Jan. 18th. This Inspector's stamp appears to have been issued
to both the General Post and Foreign Branch.
Probably applied in the General Post on a "missort" to the Foreign Branch.

GENERAL POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS

LONDON ADDITIONAL ½d

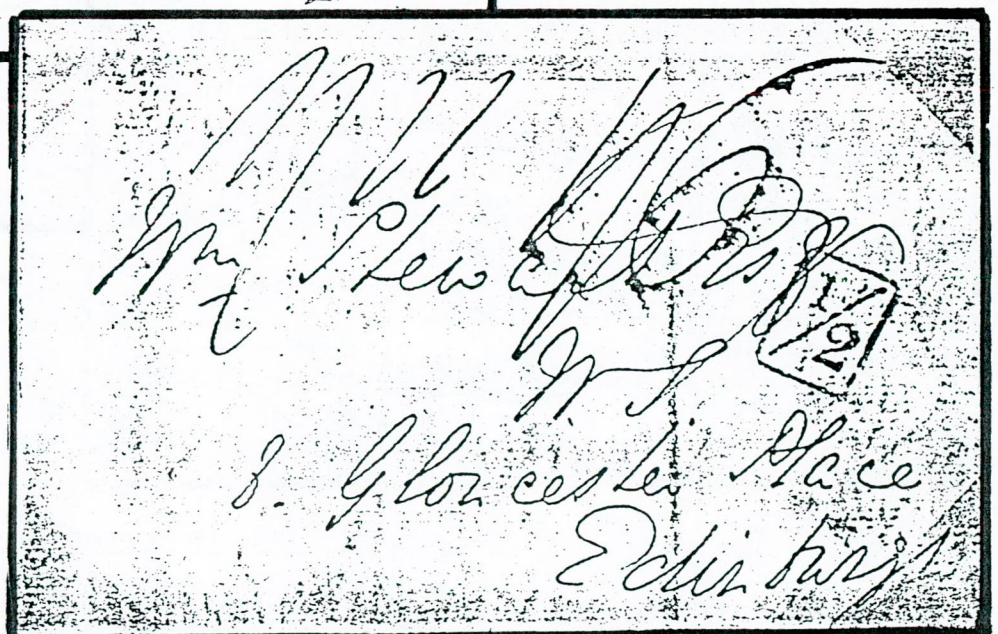
1816 Feb 9th. Known
used 1813 - 17.



Reversed Fraction Bar

1833 Aug. 13th.
Used 1833 - 34
Sent from Lincoln's Inn
enclosing an Affidavit.
Charged 4/4 plus ½d tax.

1837 July 27th.
Sent from Madeira,
arriving London
27th. August, when
it received the ½d
charge mark. Struck
on the reverse with
"SHIP LETTER/WEYMOUTH"



Section 5

INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS - PENNY AND TWOPENNY POSTS

The London Local Posts also issued instructional handstamps for staff and public. the "F.P." mark in the twopenny Post is one of two so far recorded and appears to be used on transfer from the Foreign Post to the General Post. A few examples of the "TP/S" (Twopenny Post to Ship Letter Office) handstamp are known, applied on transfer from the Twopenny Post and various instructional marks as to how and when letters are to be delivered are shown.

The London Cross and Bye Posts were introduced to eliminate the delay in handling those letters addressed to places short of London to go first to the Chief Office and then out again. The Bye Post of 1809, established to speed local mail grew by 1834 into a Cross Post inside London to process General Post letters, further speeding delivery. Unpaid Bye letters carry a flat topped "3". The Penny Post charge was also payable on these London Cross Post letters in addition to the General Post charge.

HANDSTRUCK "2" CHARGE MARK

1797 Oct. 26th. Known used 1795-6. Put in unpaid at the Walworth Penny Post Receiving House for delivery in the Country area.



5mm "UNPAID" MARK OF HOLBORN HILL

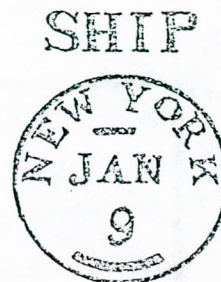
1796 Nov. 22nd. Type used only at Holborn Hill and Mortlake 1794.7. Showing HOLBN/HILL-1" Receiving House mark. Sent from Clapham to Norwood.

GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTER OFFICE

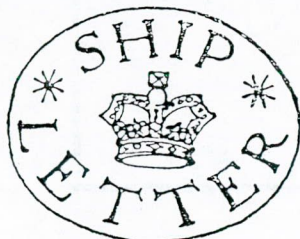
"SHIP LETTER"

On page 124 is illustrated an ex Robertson item which appears on page E 178A of his opus on Maritime Mail.

In his write up, the illustrations for which are shown below, the "SHIP LETTER" stamp has solid centres the the stars.



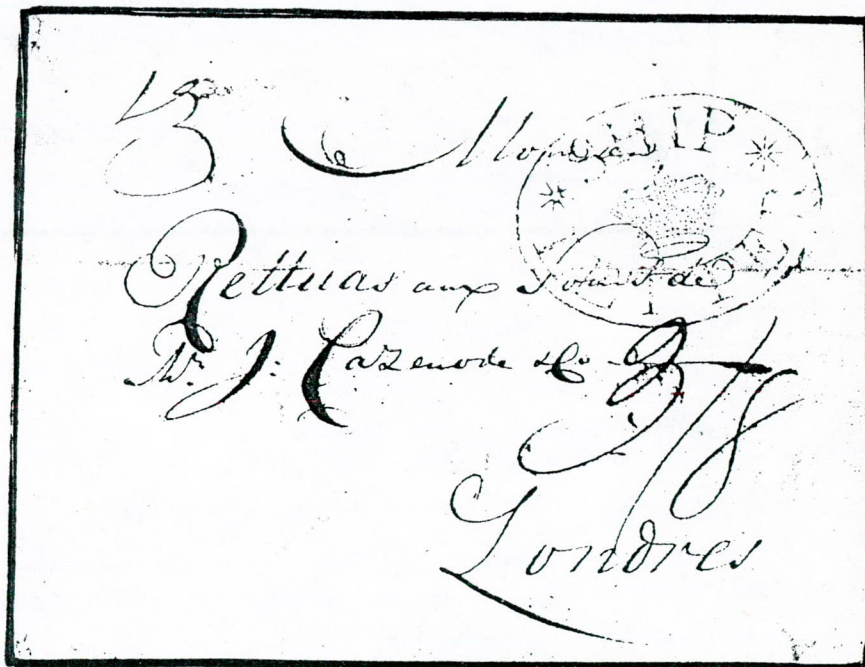
In addition, the illustration of S. 10 and L 1208 [Jay London Catalogue] appear with solid centres.



S. 10



1208

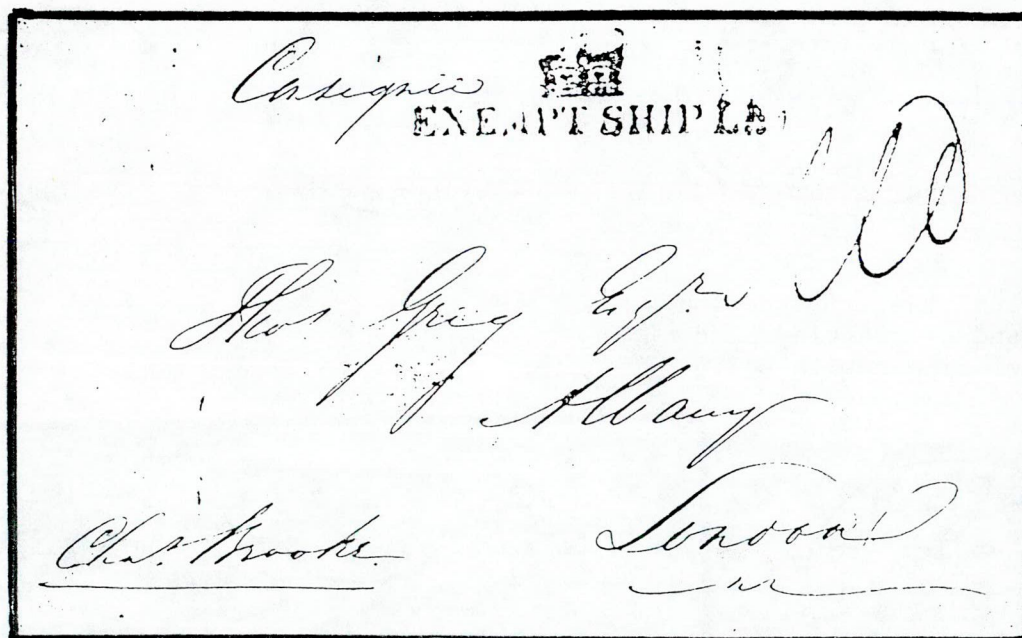


The above item is dated May 7th. 1807 [same year as the ex-Robertson item] yet clearly shows hollow centres to the stars.

In the Editor's opinion, this is a good example of an illustration getting into print, accepted for many years without challenge but which could be considered misleading. The hollow is so small it seems reasonable to assume either dirt or dried ink created the solid centre variety. The copies in the Editor's collection show hollow centres : would readers inspect their copies and advise whether "hollow" or "solid" and the dates.

GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTER OFFICE

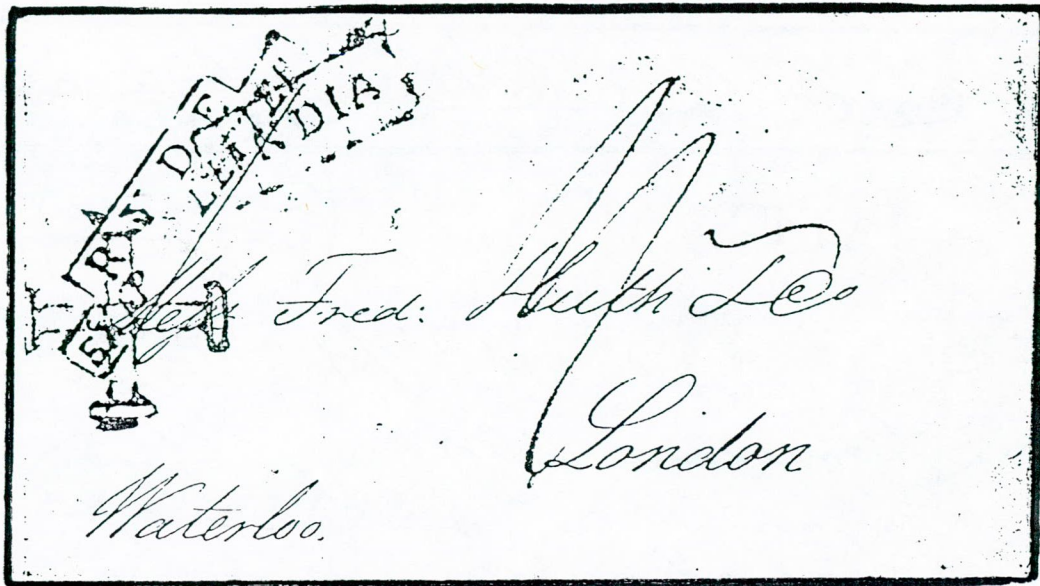
CROWN/EXEMPT SHIP LETTER



1839 April 17th. Sent from St. Vincents, backstamped with a step type "SHIP LETTER / PLYMOUTH" and a datestamp of 22nd June. The letter sent by the consignee and carried in the ship by which the goods travelled, was carried exempt from the Ship Letter charge, although full inland postage was payable. In this case a double inland letter charge of 1/10d was incurred.

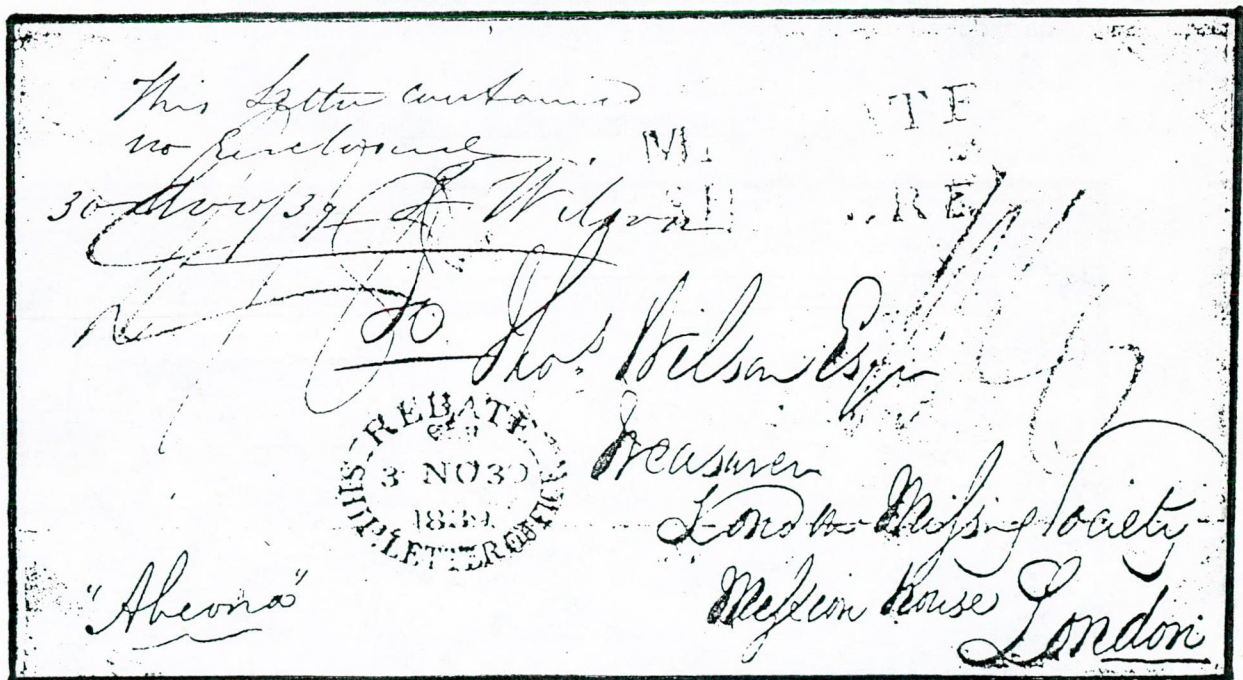
GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTER OFFICE

"CRUTCHED CROSS"



1838 Sept. 1st. Struck by the Ship Letter Office cancelling the word "SHIP", leaving "RYDE LETTER INDIA".
Sent from Port Louis, Mauritius, arrived Ryde, Isle of Wight.
Charged 8d. for the 63 miles to London plus 4d India Ship Letter rate.

"REBATE - SHIP LETTER OFFICE"



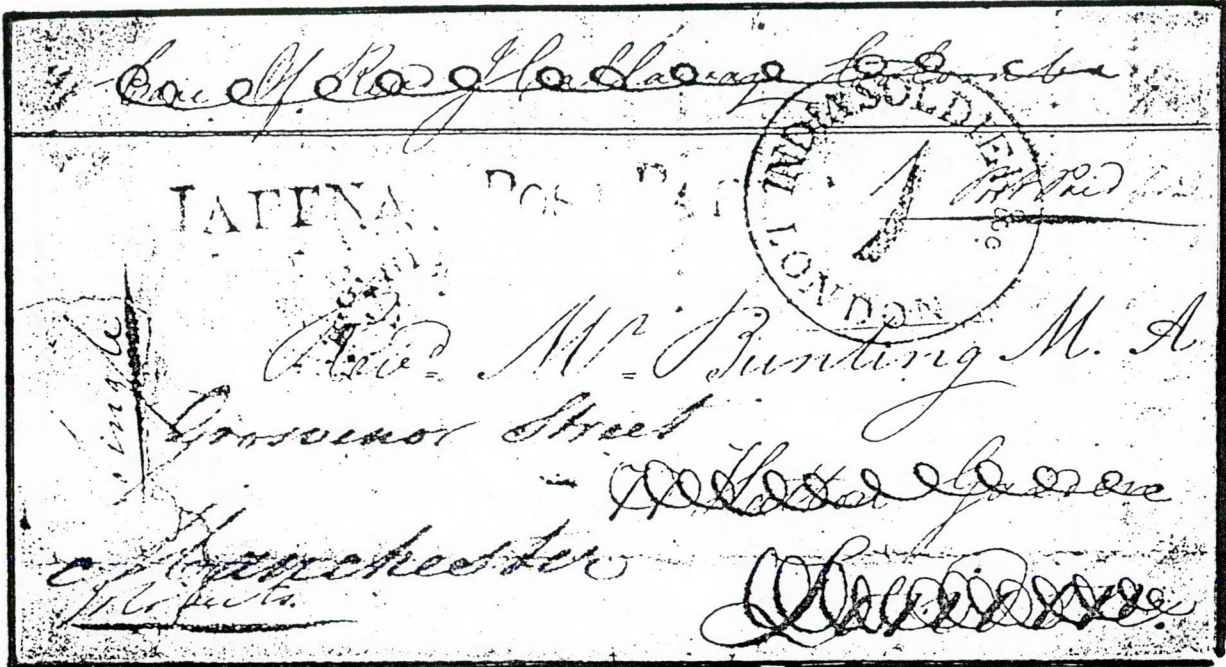
1839 Nov. 30th. Sent from British Guiana. Showing "MARGATE/SHIP LETTER" and double rate charge of 2/8d.

The addressee endorsed the cover "This letter contained no enclosure 30 Nov/39 T. Wilson."

The Post Office amended the charge in red to 1/4d, indicating a refund was due, this being authorised by the REBATE handstamp, which was in use 18th. October to 7th. December only.

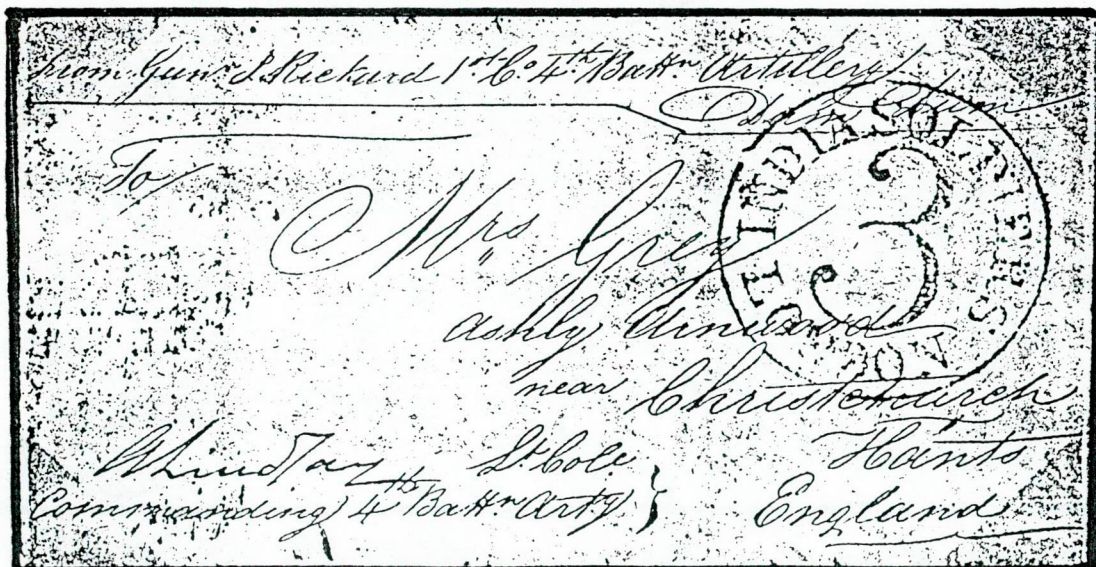
GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTER OFFICE

"INDIA SOLDIER &c/1/LONDON"



1826 April 1st. Sent by a missionary in Jaffra endorsed "Care of Revd J. Callawat, Colombo and signed to resemble a soldier's letter. On arrival in London it was taken for a soldier's letter [as no doubt had been intended] and handstruck with the "1" mark. It was subsequently re-directed, without extra charge, to Manchester.

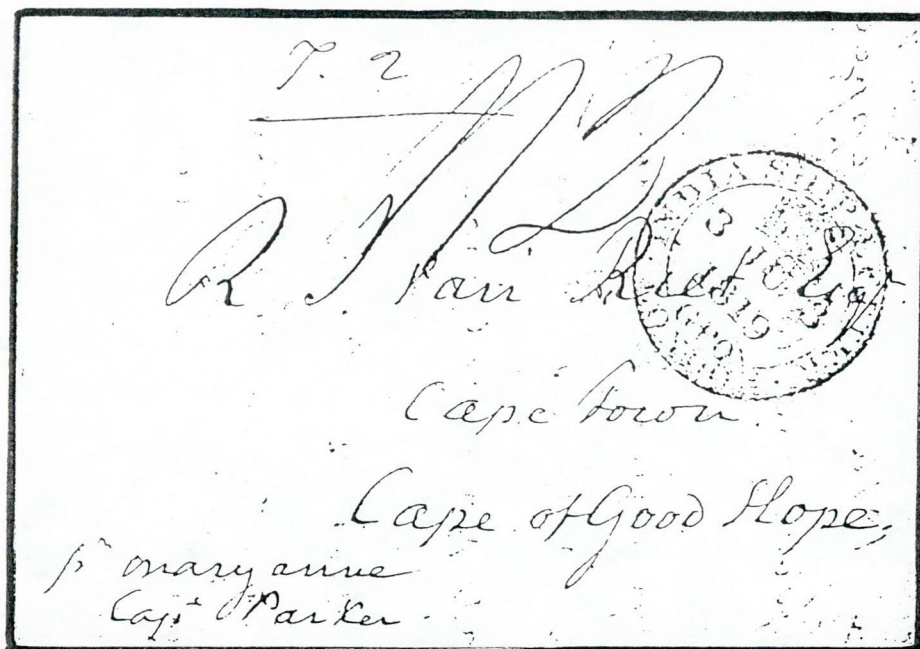
"INDIA SOLDIERS/3/LONDON"



1831 Dec. Known used 1823-48.
Applied in London, 3d to pay [1d inland and 2d sea postage],
the special concessionary rate for soldiers serving in India.
Sent from Dum Dum

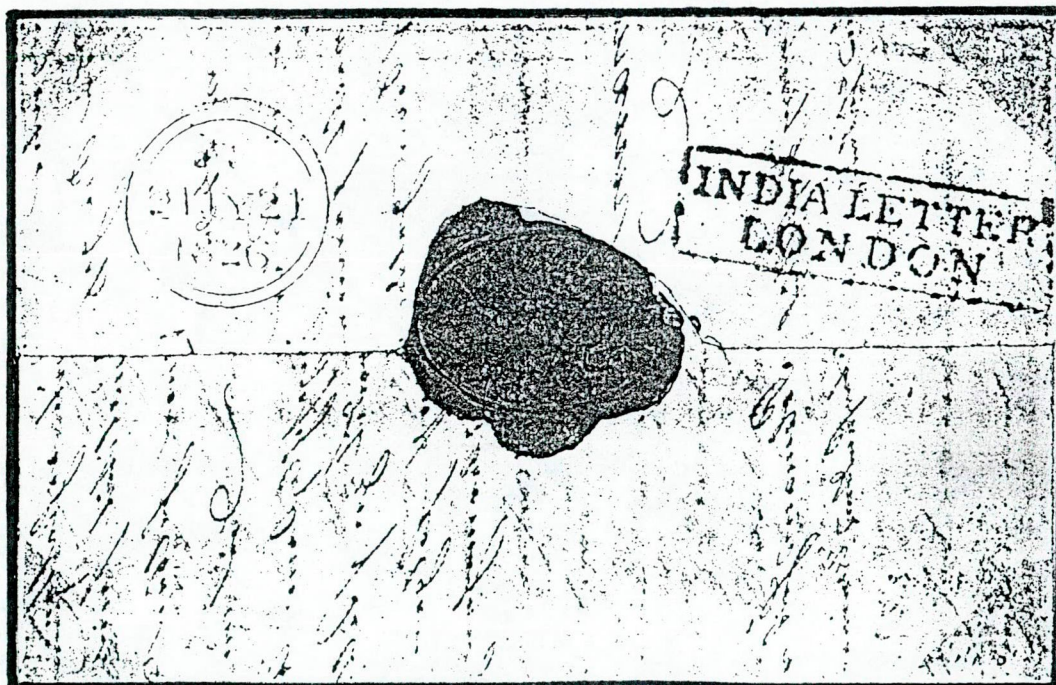
GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTER OFFICE

"INDIA SHIP LETTER G. P. O. LONDON"



1819 June 3rd. Known used 1818-20
Charged 1/2d - Sea Postage 8d., Inland to London 6d.

BOXED "INDIA LETTER/LONDON"



1826 July 21st. Known used 1822-33
Sent on 6th. May from Kaapstadt to London

"PAID INDIA PACKET LETTER"

SURAT 24th. Nov. 1817

My Dear Brother,

I wrote to you about a week since on the state of affairs at Poona. Since then the Blockade of our Camp there has been relieved by the return of General Smith with a large force, but deficient in Cavalry accd in the usual strain of humbug the guns had fired a Royal Salute and the Gazette has announced a Great Victory over the Marhatta forces on the 16th instant. But truth will make its way and that you may not be mystified by the Reports which will be published I send you the following account from an Officer on the Staff who was present.

On the 16th. General Smith effected no more than to pass four battalions across the river and in which operation he lost one Captain wounded and about fifty men killed and wounded - An attack was intended to be made the next day [the 17th] but the Marhatta are now too wise to attempt to cope with regular troops in the field and they drew off their guns and everything in the night, leaving only their tents as a feint - It is said the Town of Poona was snow bound and that it surrendered - it is in fact an open place and incapable of defence.

I am now very apprehensive that we are now fairly involved in a Marhatta war to which it is not easy to foresee a termination if they persevere in their old system of leading us a dance and destroying the resources of the countries we must pass through.

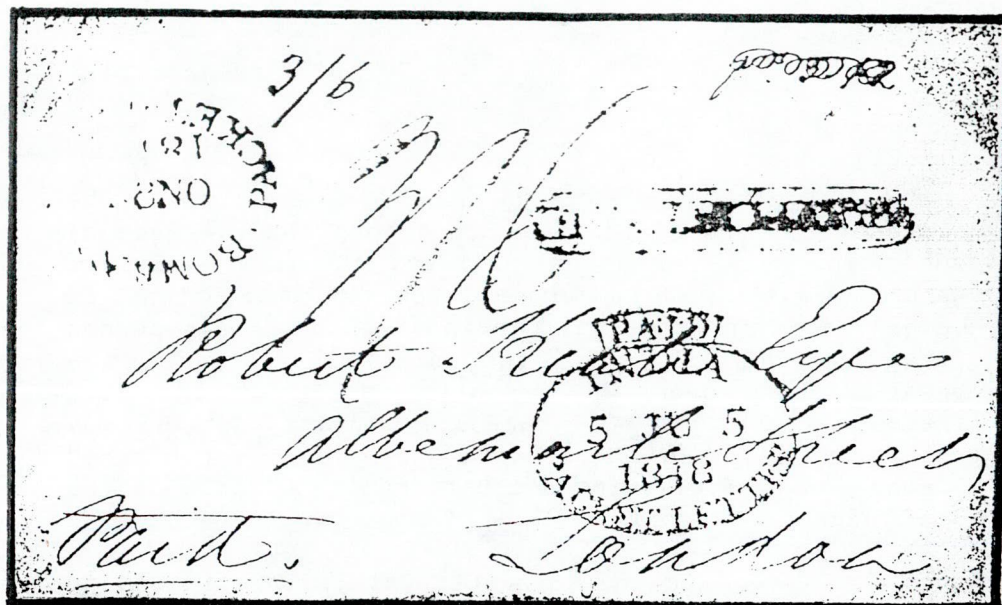
Add to this the prospect of a war with the other Marhatta powers of India and that of the Pindaries who have overrun the country in all directions for these three years past and who are this year increased in numbers to a very formidable degree - and we need not be surprised at a repetition of the scenes....of the Carnatic.

Far be it from me to accuse Sir Evan and his miserable Government as the author of all this but so far he is responsible for the protection of the Country under his charge he has been most grossly negligent - and if he remains long in the Government we shall lose three months of the Bombay Residency.

Another ship will sail early in December and I will write again.

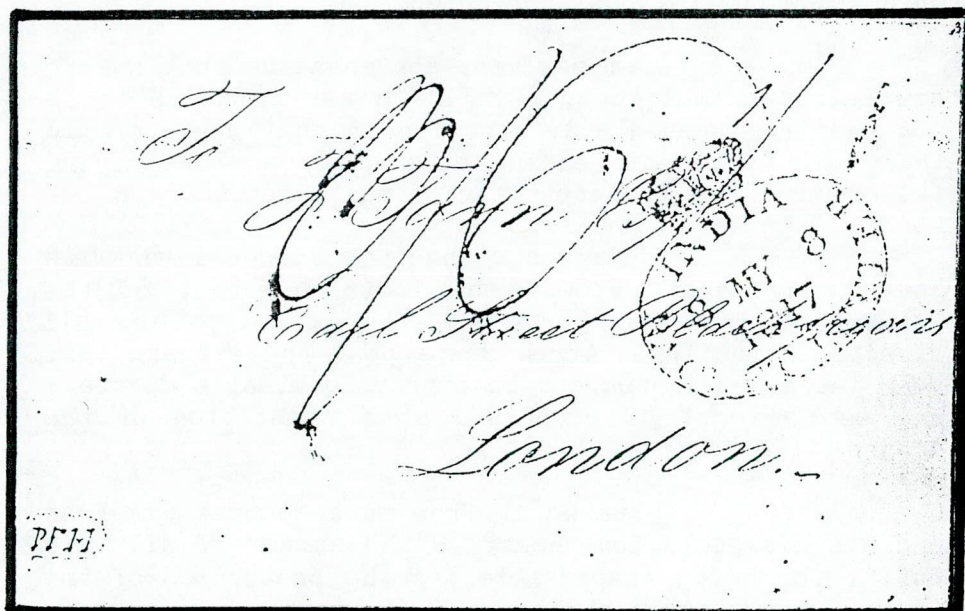
GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTER OFFICE

PAID INDIA PACKET LETTER"



1817 Nov. 24th. Known used 1816-9.
Sent from Surat. Showing "Bombay Packet Letter" handstamp.

CROWNED "INDIA PACKET LETTER"



1817. Known used 1817-8
Sent from Caledon, Cape Province on 22nd. January
arriving in London on 8th. May.

GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTER OFFICE

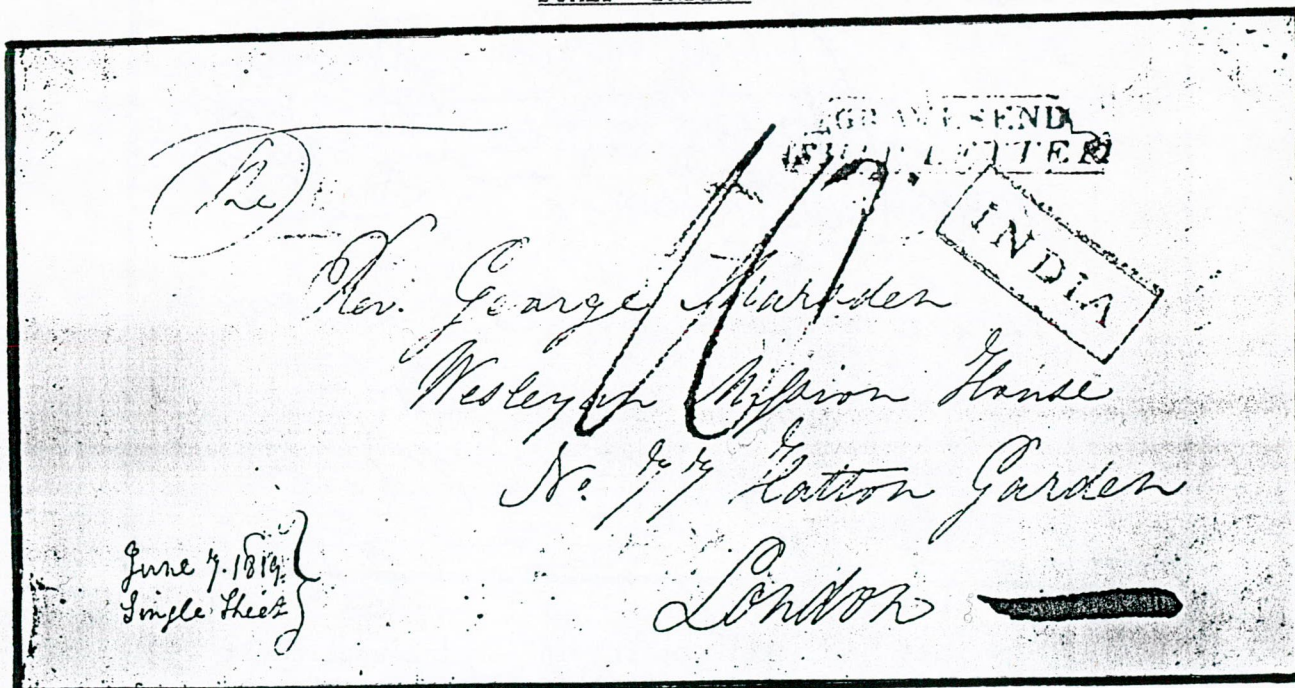
"POST PAID WITHDRAWN SHIP LETTER. LONDON"



1815 Feb. 21st. Known used 1814-15.

On payment of one third of the Packet rate, the letter was struck with this handstamp, over the join to prevent the subsequent addition of any enclosures, then handed back to the sender for despatch by any private ship.
Sent from Scotland to Bengal.

BOXED "INDIA"

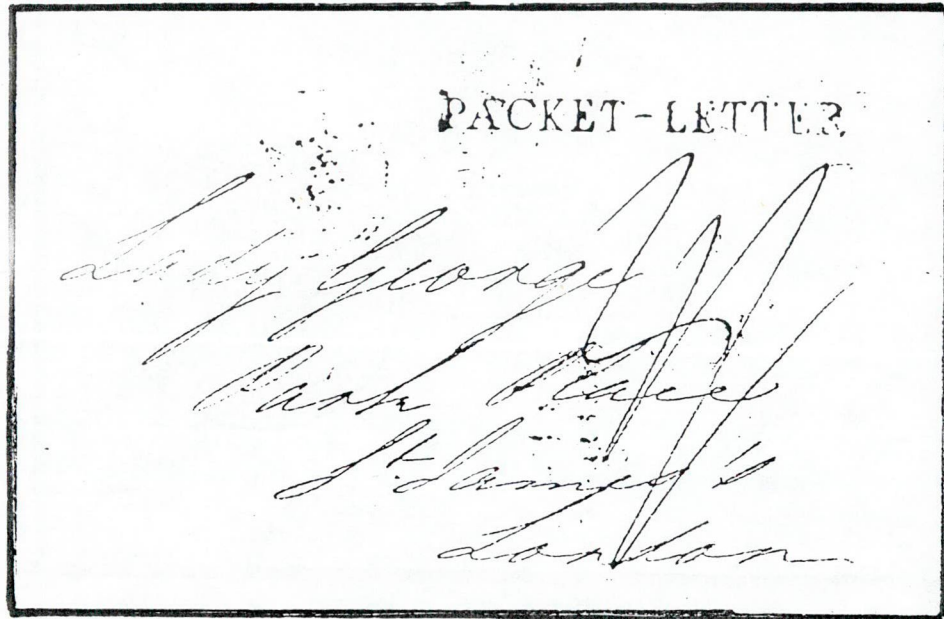


1819 June 7th. Struck in London. Introduced to identify incoming mail from India and the Cape, due for the new lower rate of 4d. sea postage.

Sent from Cape Town, arrived in London 4th. September.

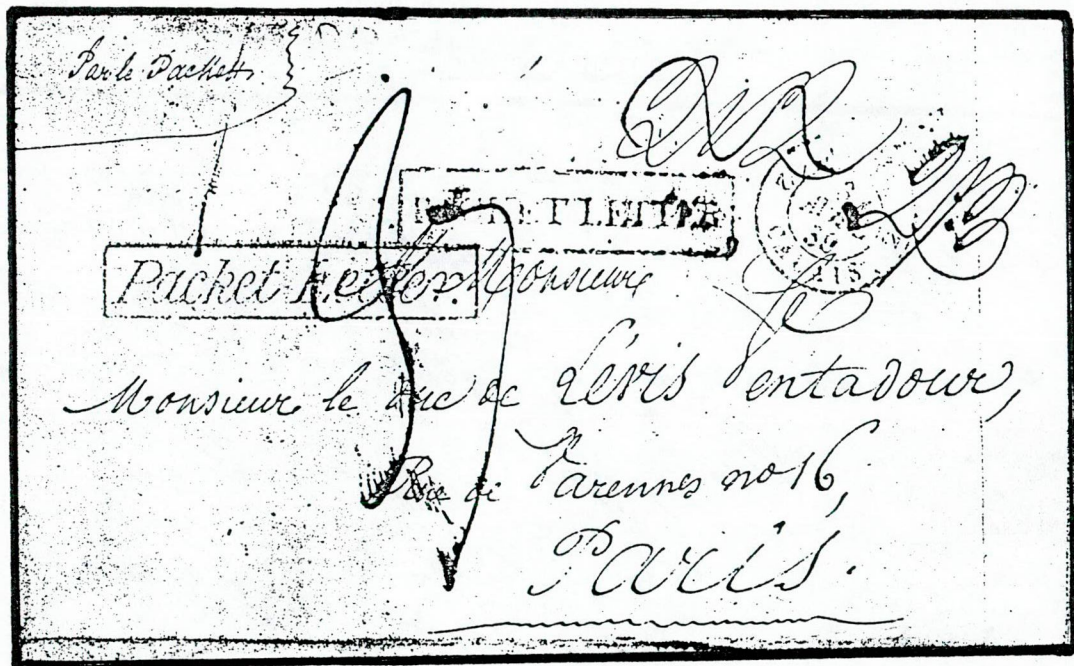
GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTER OFFICE

"PACKET-LETTER"



1808 Sept. 23rd. Known used 1802-63

BOXED PACKET LETTER

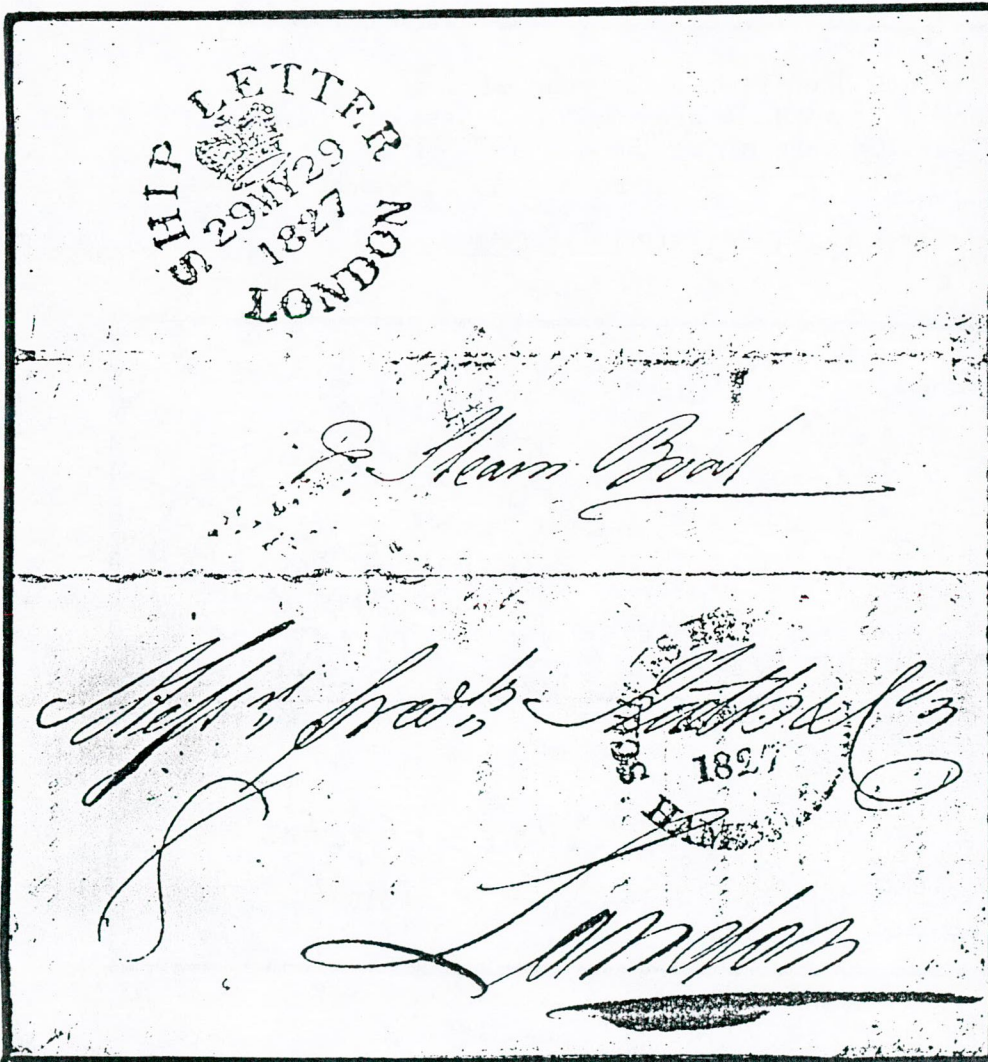
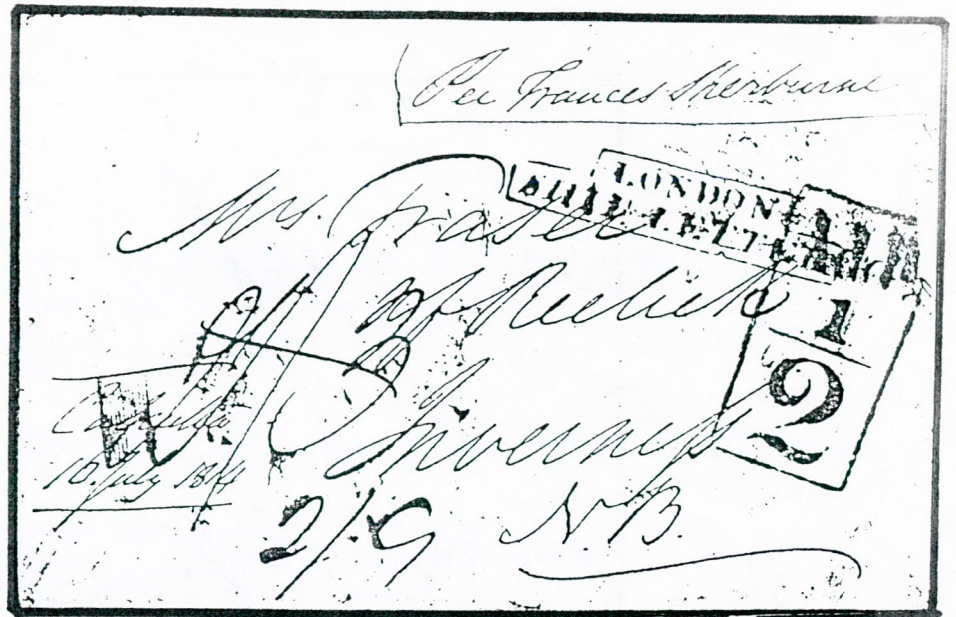


1839 Apr. 1st. "Packet Letter" in red ink applied at the Inland Office and in script in black in struck in the Foreign Branch. Backstamped with "MARTINIQUE" and Foreign Branch datestamp. The letter came to England by British packet, then transferred to the Foreign Branch for accounting and forwarding to destination.

GENERAL POST - UNPAID SHIP LETTERS

SMALL STEP TYPE
LONDON/SHIP LETTER

1815 Feb. 13th. Sent from
Calcutta on 16th. July,
1814 to Inverness.
Known Used 1814-15 only.

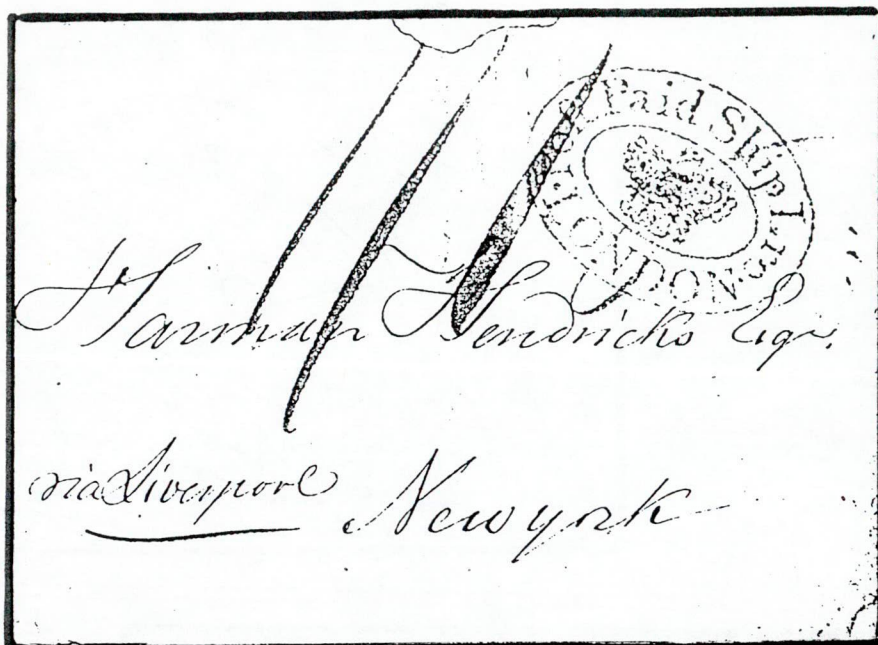


"SHIP LETTER LONDON"

1827 May 29th.
Known used 1820-46.
Showing Hamburg datestamp

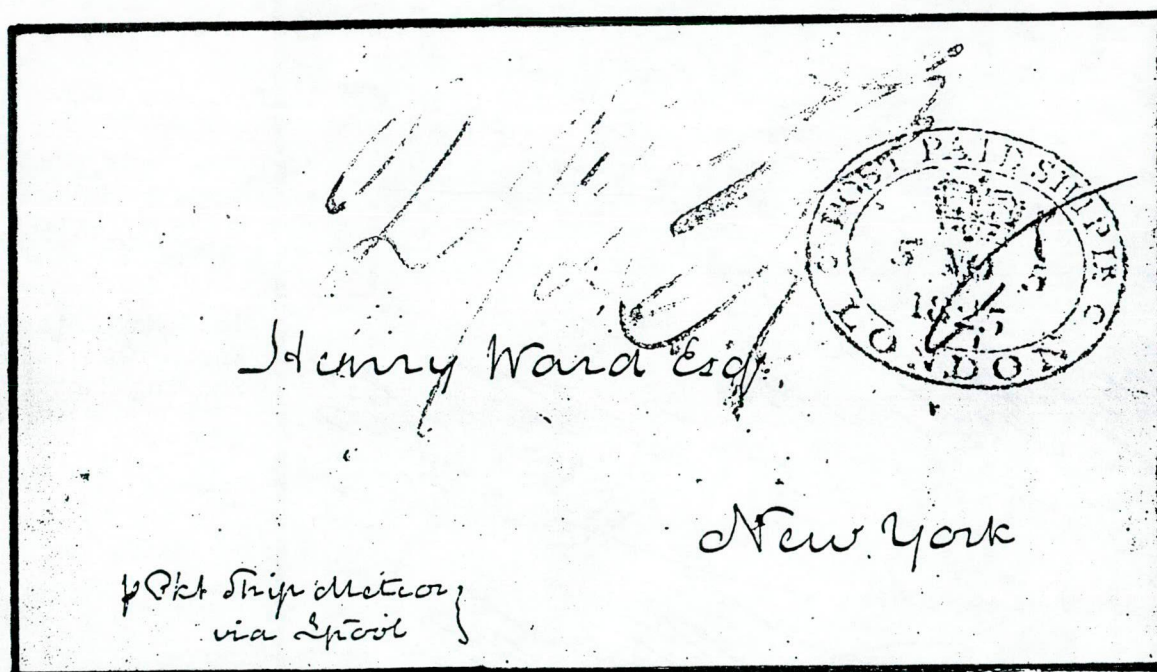
GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTER OFFICE

"POST PAID SHIP LRE. LONDON"



1819 Nov. 17th. Only year of use.
Backstamped with the Double Framed Oval Datestamp "24 NO 24"
sailing date mark. Sent from London.

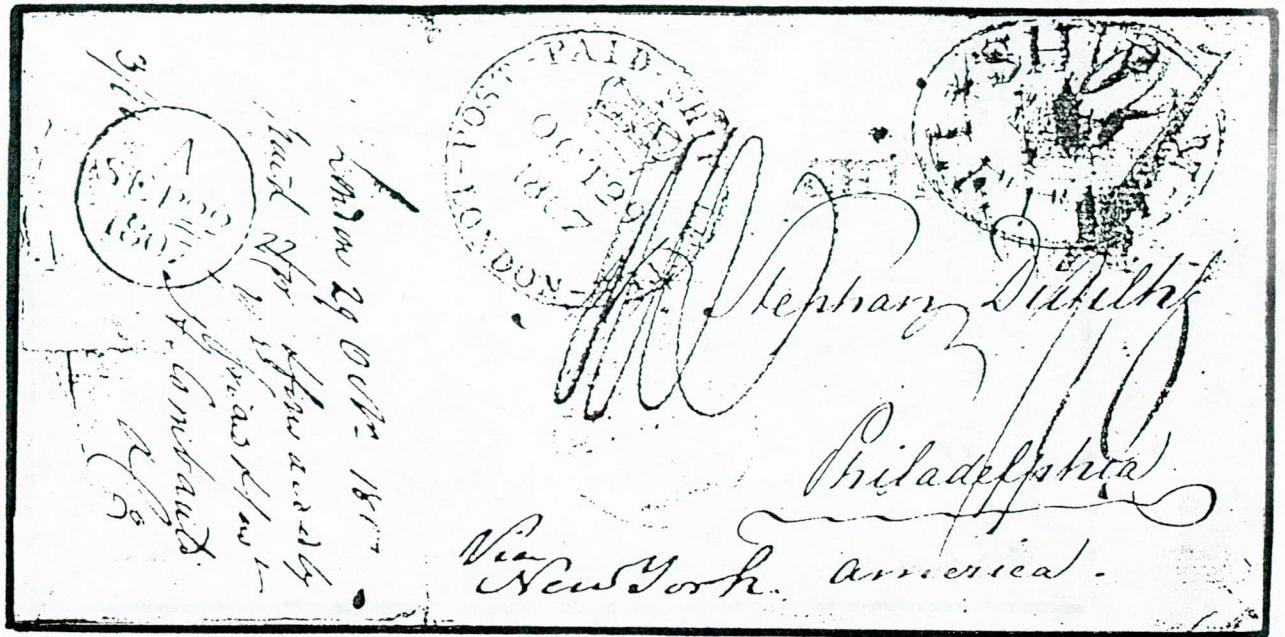
"POST PAID SHIP L^r LONDON"



1825 Nov. 5th. Last year of use 1818-25.
Sent from London to New York.

GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTER OFFICE

"SHIP LETTER" and "POST PAID SHIP LETTER-LONDON"



1807 August. Sent from Rotterdam to Philadelphia via London, arriving 22nd. September, when it received the incoming "SHIP LETTER" handstamp used mainly on letters from private ships arriving at one of the smaller posts not having its own Ship Letter handstamp. held over for payment to Philadelphia of the 1/10 comprising : double rate charge 8d., gratuity 2d., inland charge from unknown port [30-50 miles] 1/-.

Endorsed by Forwarding Agent "London 29th. Oct. 1807 paid for and forwarded by Yr Friend & Servant H. Combanto & Co. 3/10d ", this including despatch by private ship at half packet rate of 2/-.

On release it received the outgoing "POST PAID SHIP LETTER LONDON" handstamp and endorsement "via new York". On arrival there it received the "SHIP" handstamp and charge of 27 cents due from addressee.

Transit time 4½ months due to the Napoleonic Wars.

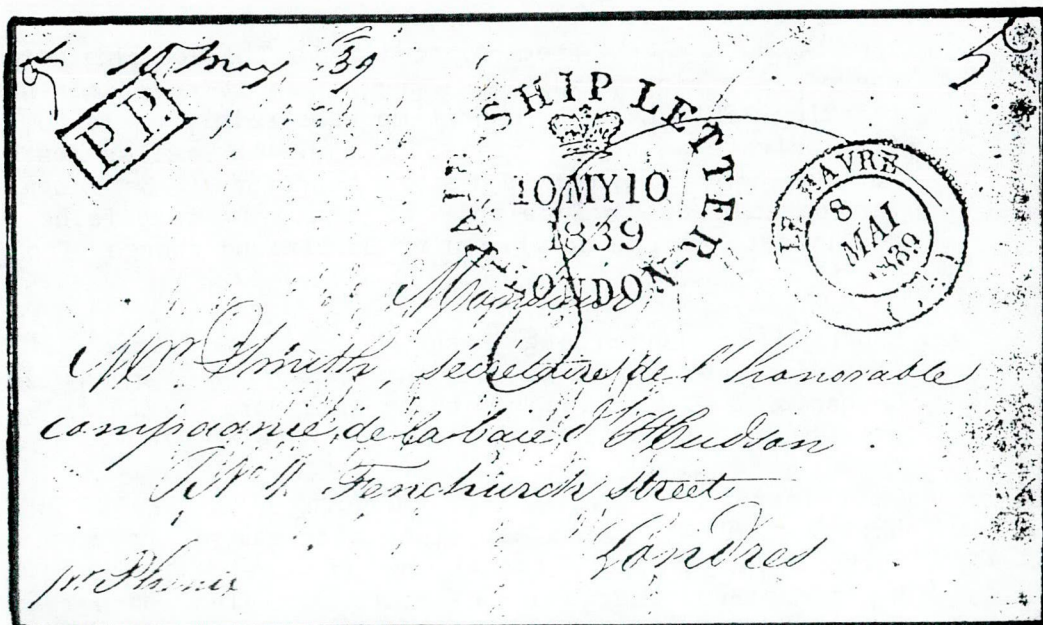
GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTER OFFICE

"POST PAID SHIP LETTER, LONDON"



1803 July 23rd. Known used 1802-5.
Prepaid. From London by private ship via New York.

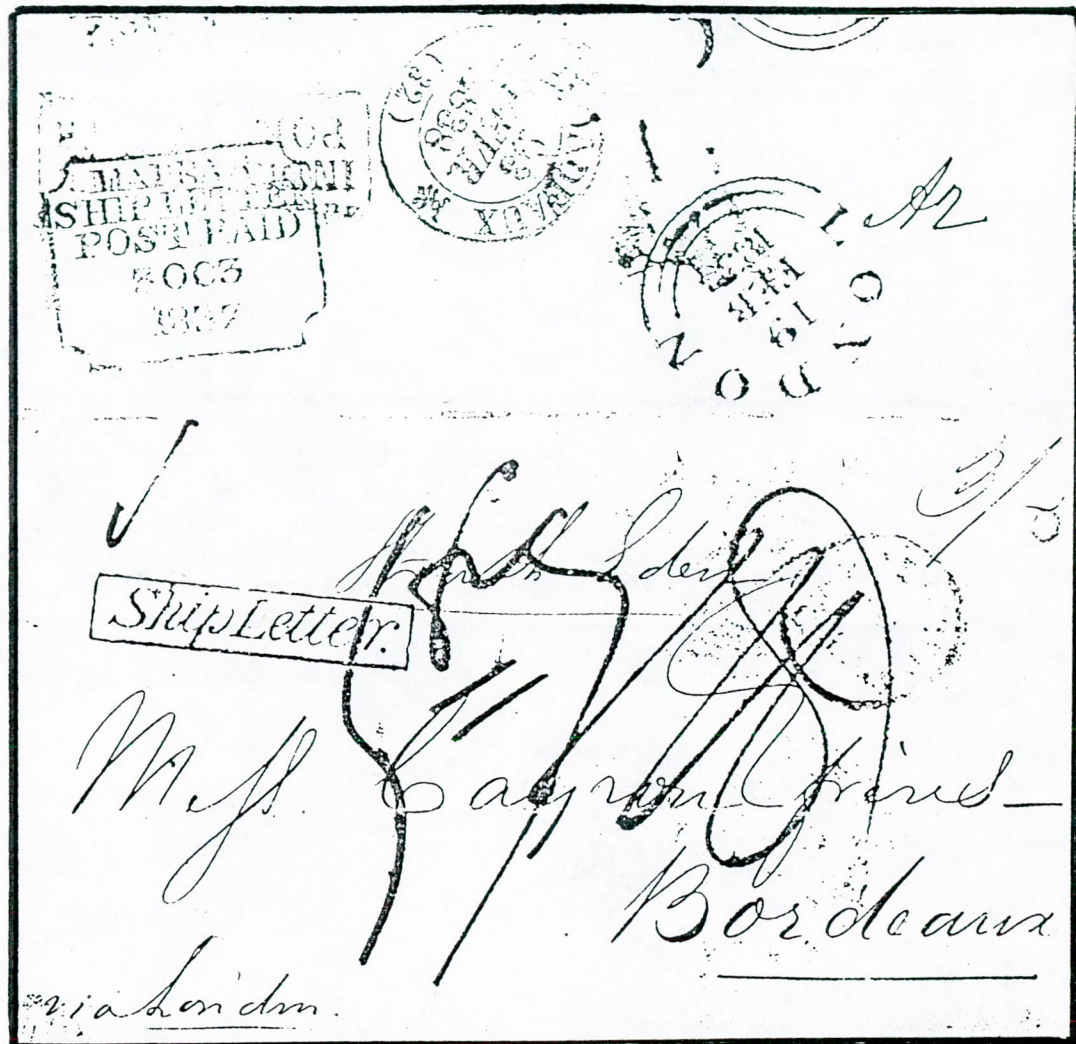
"PAID SHIP LETTER, LONDON"



1839 May 10th. Known used 1833-47.

GENERAL POST - FOREIGN BRANCH AND SHIP LETTER OFFICE

BOXED "SHIP LETTER"



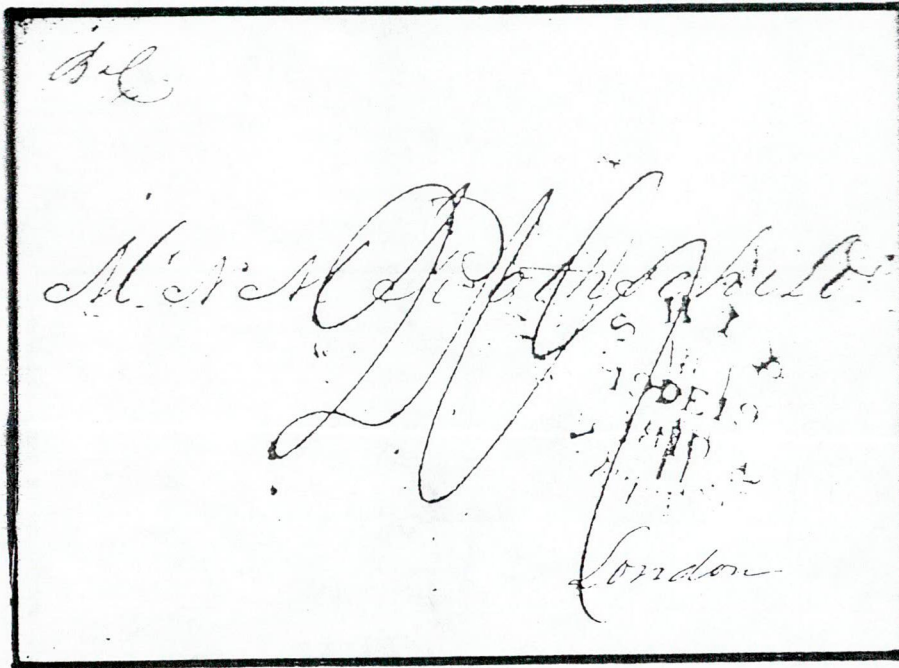
1838 Feb. 19th. Boxed "Ship Letter" handstamp used in both the Foreign Office and the Ship Letter Office.

First year of use.

Sent from Madras to Bordeaux via London.

Showing "India Letter/Portsmouth" and Foreign Office datestamp.

GENERAL POST - UNPAID SHIP LETTERS



"SHIP/LETTER"

1810 Dec. 19th. First year
of use [1810-11]. Sent
from Amsterdam.

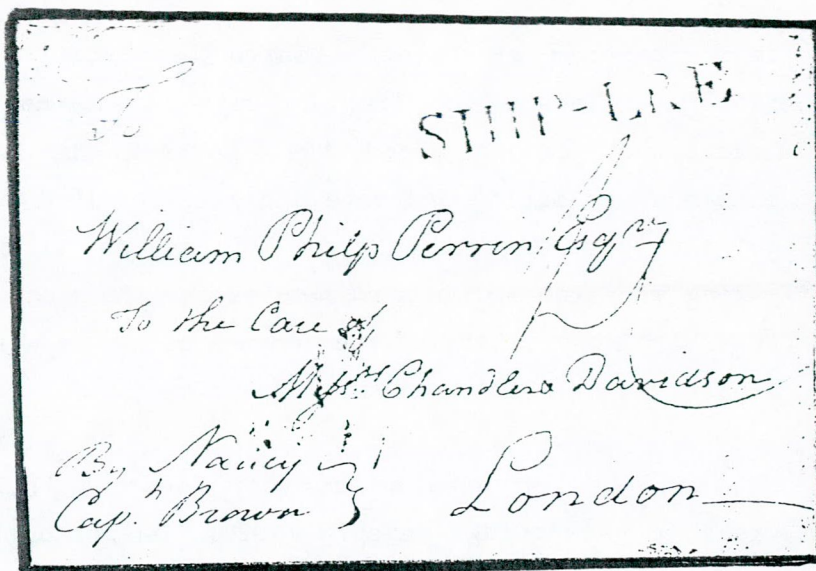
"SHIP-LETTER/LONDON"

1807 Apr. 13th. Sent from Allahabad via London to Madeira.
Showing London datestamps April and July, the letter being delayed
awaiting payment of the 8d. postage to Madeira.



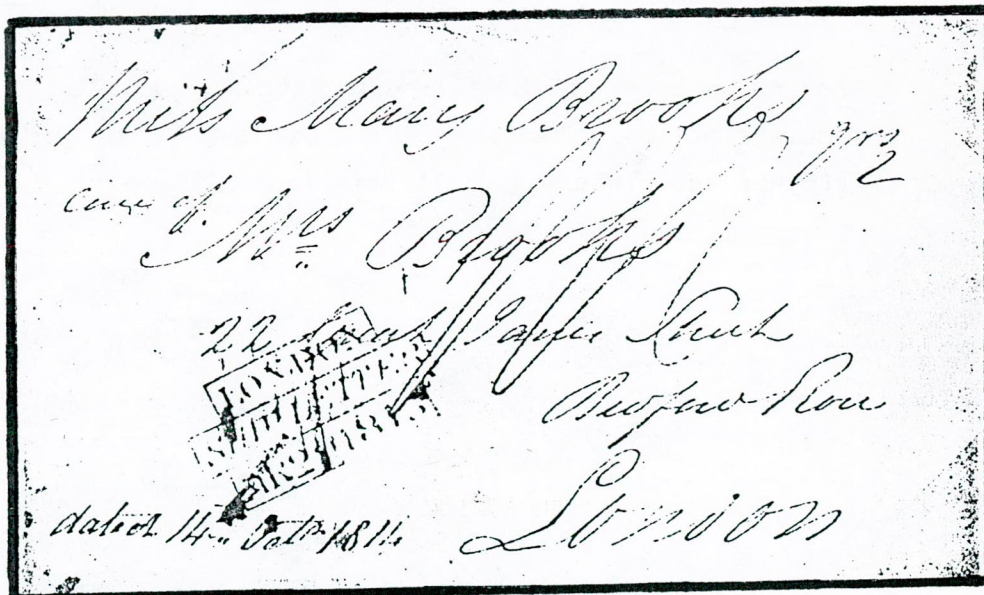
GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTERS

"SHIP-LRE"



1775 Jan. 13th. Unpaid ship letter.
Seven years earlier than previously recorded.
Sent from Kingston, Jamaica.

LONDON
SHIP LETTER
MR 20 1815



1815 Recorded only 1815.
Sent from Bombay on the 14th. October, 1814
A single example of a second type is known in January 1816

GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTERS

LONDON / SHIP-LRE"

In a letter from a Capt. Liston in Calcutta to his father, a Parson in Fife, he says first that "Capt. Geddes put me on board the "Laurel" the ship he commands, as acting 3rd mate and goes on - " I have not got the least news to tell you but perhaps you might be asking what kind of place Calcutta is, the town is very superbly built most of the houses being palaces, the houses are all flat roofed".

He then goes on with a not very pleasant thumb nail sketch of how things were in 1792 - "On board ship the harbour it is very disagreeable as to this, that we are always exposed so as to see almost all the dead indians that float by these ships, tis a custom amongst them when they are given over by the doctor to carry them to the river side and put them within highwater mark where the tide completely drowns them and takes them down with it, sometimes when left by the tide on the beach there will be dogs and crows and other ravenous birds knowing away upon them".

Having started with "Dearest Father", it is in a postscript that he says "remember me to my mother, brother and sisters and all relations".

GENERAL POST - SHIP LETTERS

"LONDON/SHIP-LRE"

1792 Dec. 10th. Known used 1774 - 92. Sent from Calcutta.



"SHIP LETTER, LONDON"

1807 May 7th. First year of use [1807-15] Sent from Paris.

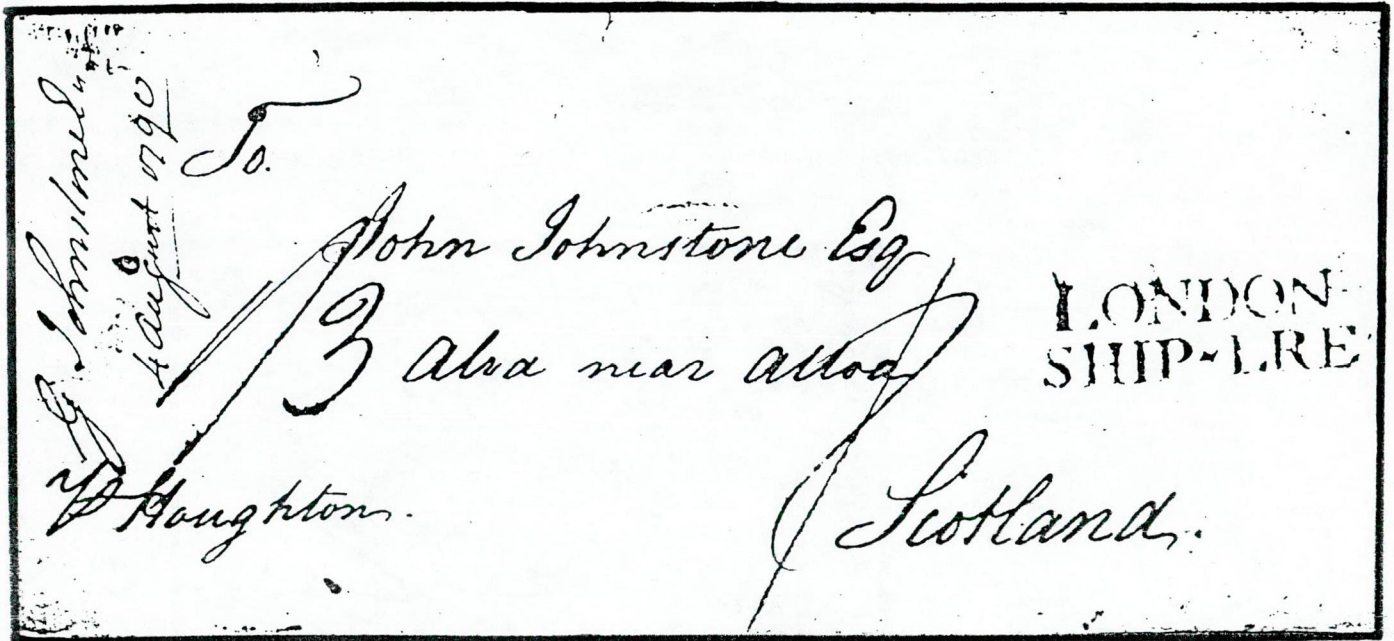


Section 8

SHIP AND PACKET LETTERS

The earliest named LONDON Ship Letter handstamp is the two-line "London Ship Lre" of 1766 in black ink and, in a few rare instances, in magenta. From 1799, when the London Ship Letter Office was opened, oval handstamps were issued, followed by prepaid handstamps in 1800 and by circular framed and unframed in 1802. Outgoing letters were carried by arrangement with Ship Masters until 1814 when it became compulsory for all Ship Masters to carry such mail as was tendered by the Post Office. A short lived system of paying one third packet rate was introduced in 1814 to overcome the illegal practice of handing letters direct to Ships' Masters. After paying the one third rate, the letter could be withdrawn from the Post Office and handed to any Ship's Captain, giving rise to the handstamp "Post Paid Withdrawn Ship Letter". The Ship Letter Office Rebate stamp shows a refund authorised after challenge by the addressee. The Act of 1819, which reduced sea postage on letters from India, created the need for a large number of "India Letter" handstamps. The concessionary rate for soldiers letters from India also led to the issue of special handstamps viz. "India Soldiers/3/London"

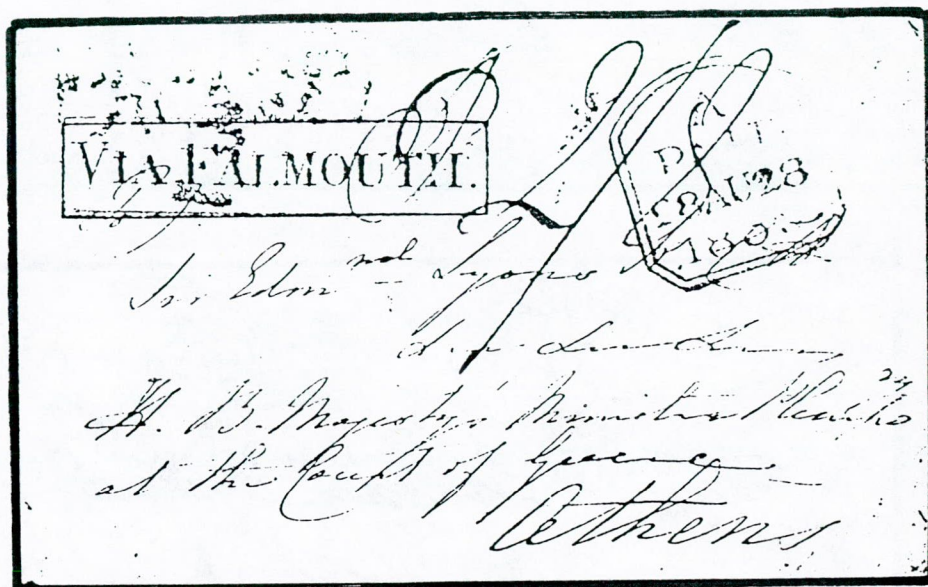
"LONDON/SHIP LRE"



1790 Aug. 4th. Sent from Lucknow. Struck in a rarely used magenta ink, this handstamp was the main London Ship mark until replaced in 1799 by the oval type.

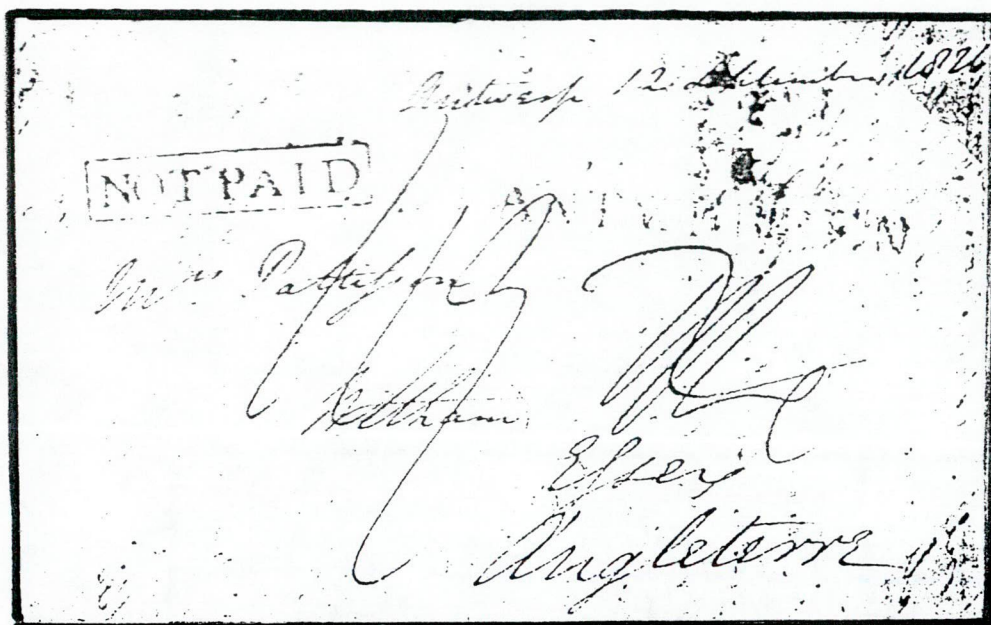
GENERAL POST - FOREIGN BRANCH

BOXED "VIA FALMOUTH"



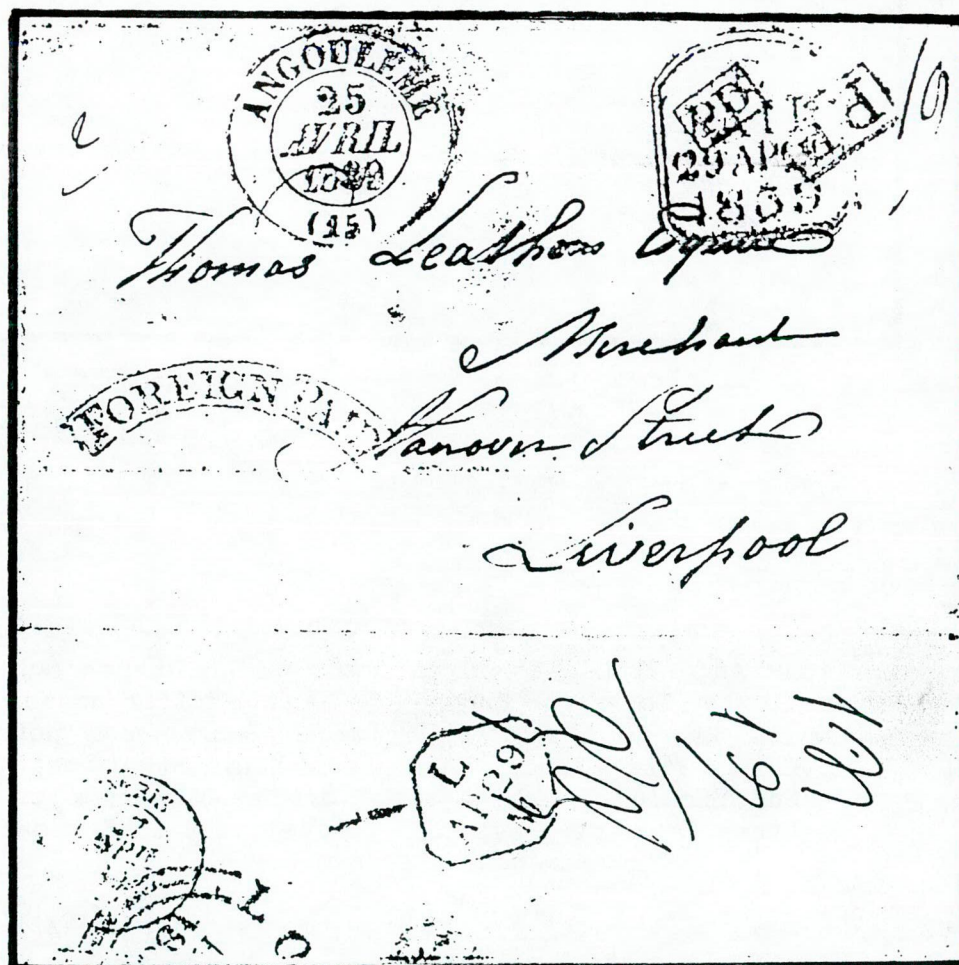
1839 Aug. 28th. Issued to the Foreign Branch for mail to Southern Europe or the Mediterranean, which was to travel by Falmouth Packet and not overland via France. Sent from Honiton, prepaid 2/8d. Showing double frame "Tombstone" struck on letters from the provinces for delivery in London or for onward transmission.

GENERAL POST - FOREIGN BRANCH



"NOT PAID"

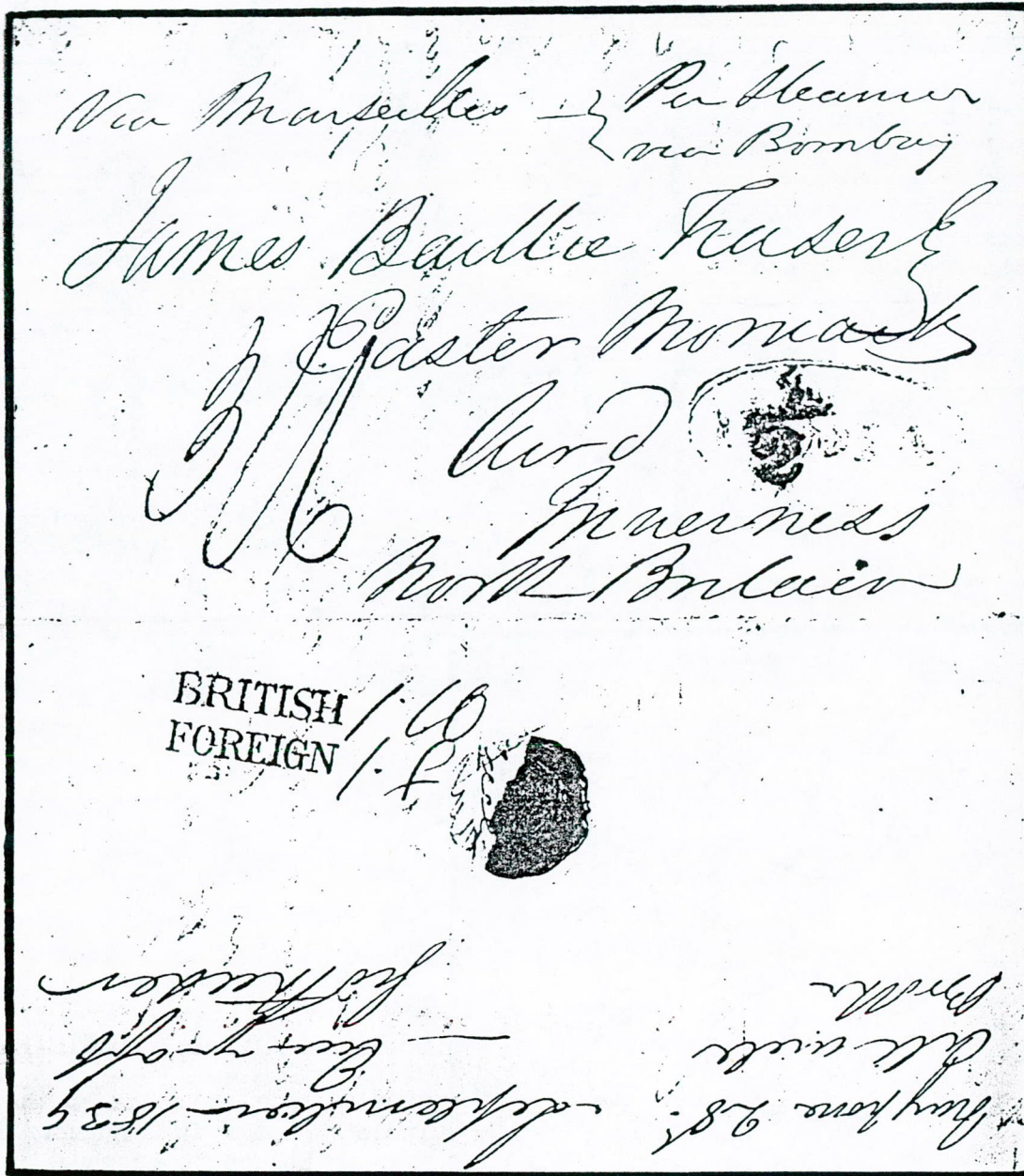
1826 Sept. 15th.
Known used 1808-38.
Showing "ANTWERPEN"
name stamp.



FRAMED "FOREIGN PAID"

1839 April 24th. Known used 1836-40. Showing double frame Paid "Tombstone" and
Liverpool inwards date stamp.

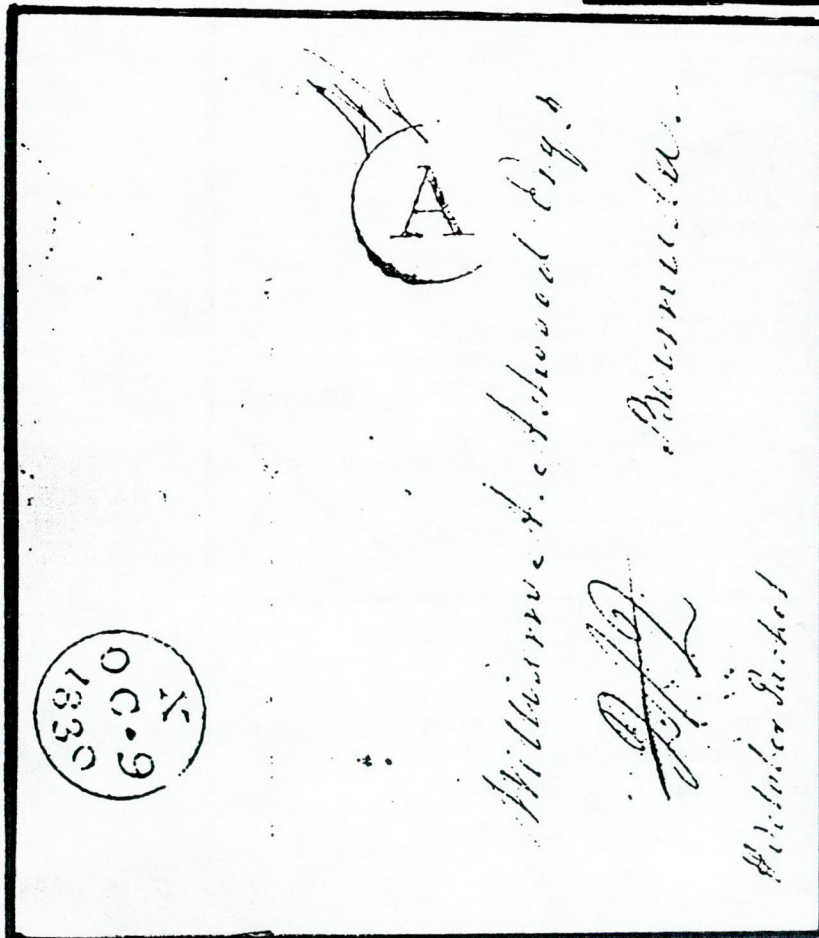
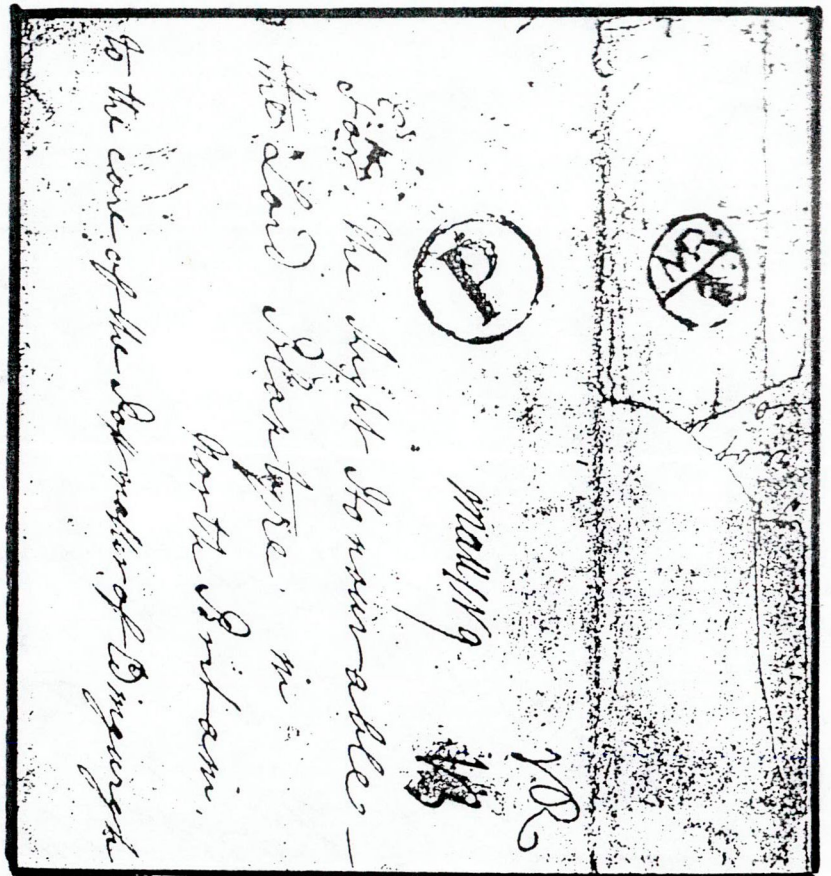
"BRITISH FOREIGN"



1839 Sept. 29th. Sent from Nagpore, Showing feint
Bombay oval "INDIA" stamp and London ½d. Toll Tax.
Received in London on the 16th. November.

"P" in Circle

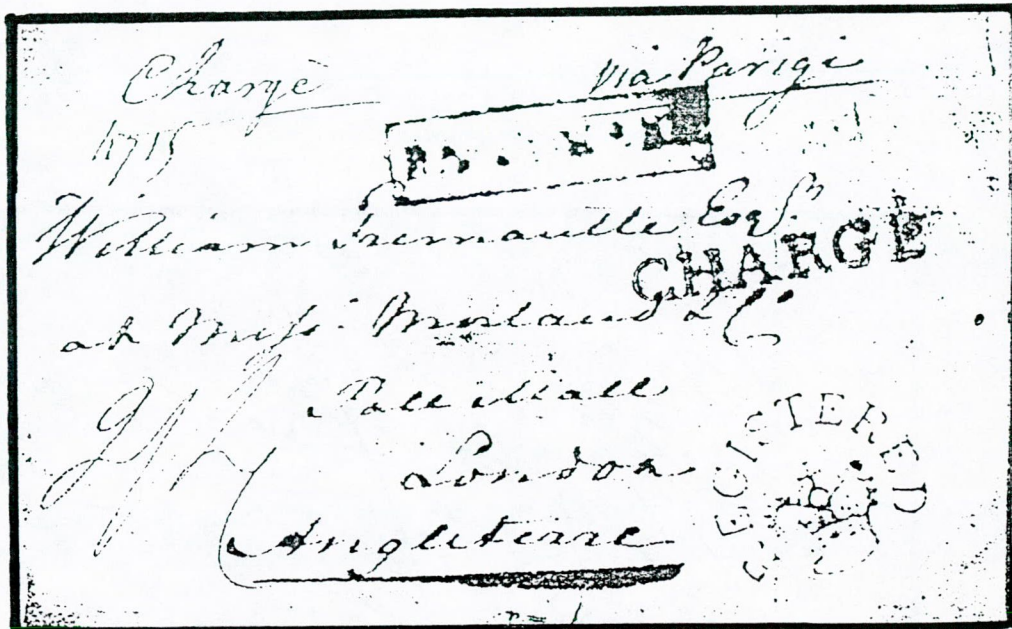
1718 Jan. 25th. Known used
1718-35 : First year of
use. Sent from Mahon. Struck on
letters from Sapin and
Portugal to, or passing
through, London. Showing
"INALL1N9" with Foreign Branch
Bishop mark.



"A" in Circle = AGENT'S BAG

1830 Oct. 9th. Issued to the West
India Room in August 1830.
London to Bermuda.

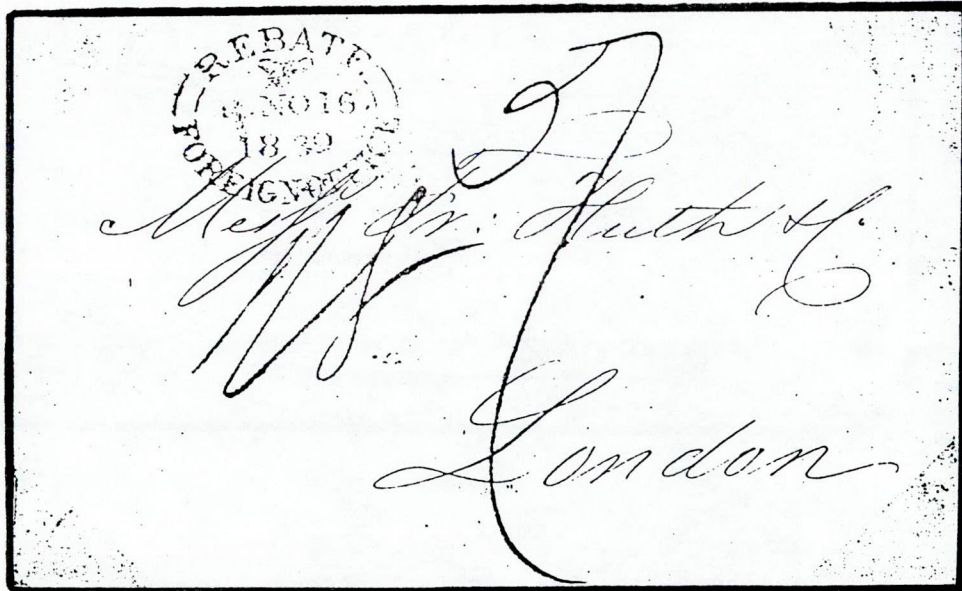
REGISTERED CROWN



1816 Jan. 13th. The earliest recorded example.
Applied at the Foreign Branch Post office.
Sent from Milan, via Paris.
Charged 2/4d.

GENERAL POST - FOREIGN BRANCH

"REBATE - FOREIGN OFFICE"



1839 Nov. 16th. Recorded 16th. to 28th. November and
15th. April, 1840 only, this is the first day of use.

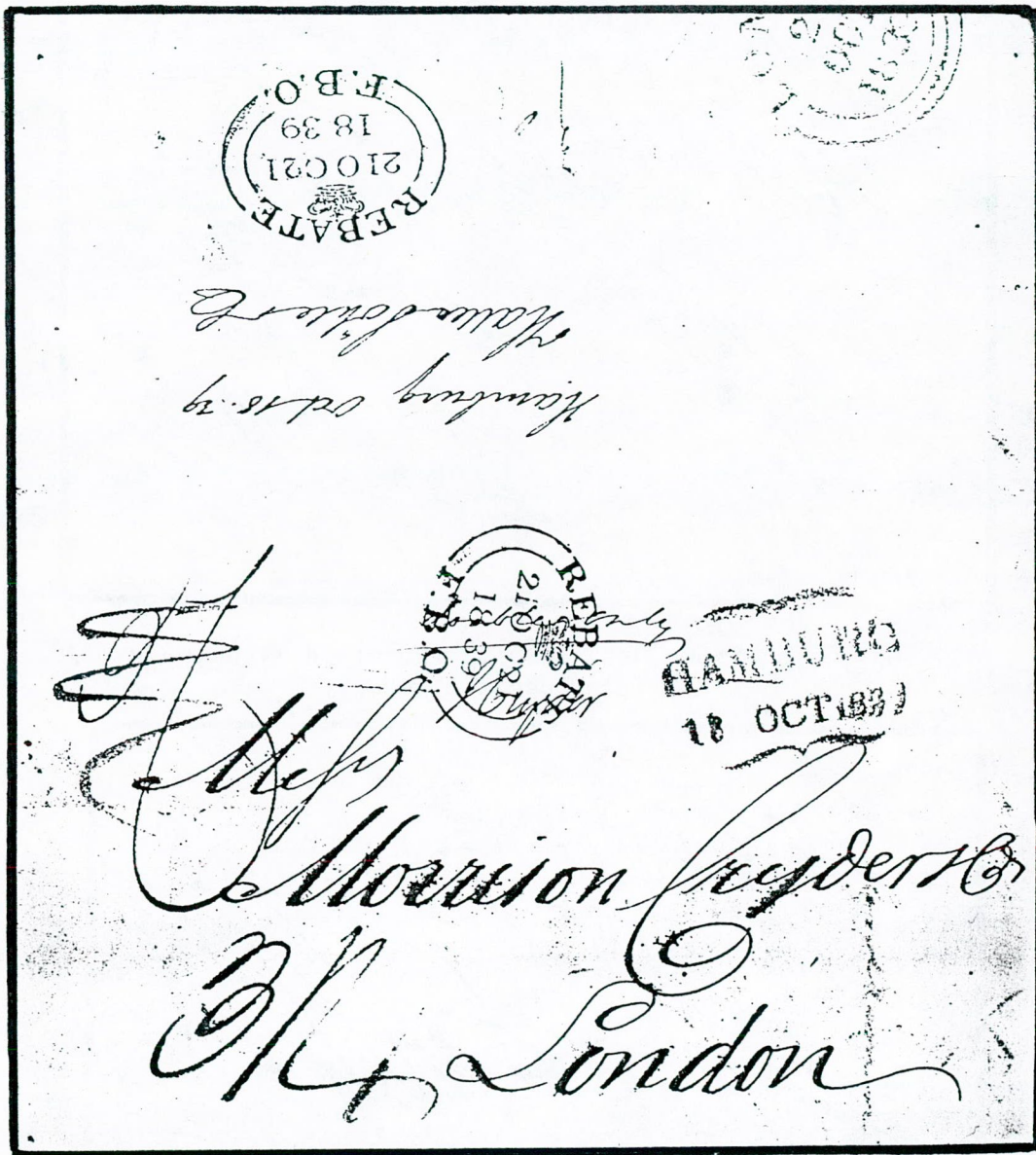
Sent from Altona, Germany.

1/8d rate deleted and 5/- charged.

GENERAL POST - FOREIGN BRANCH

Certain larger banks and businesses kept accounts with the Post office before the introduction of cheap uniform postage. Occasional letters were incorrectly overcharged and, when taken back to the Post office for reassessment, were stamped with one of the special "Rebate" handstamps, which were issued to the Inland office, Lombard Street Branch Office, the Ship Letter office and the Foreign Office.

"REBATE F.B.O"

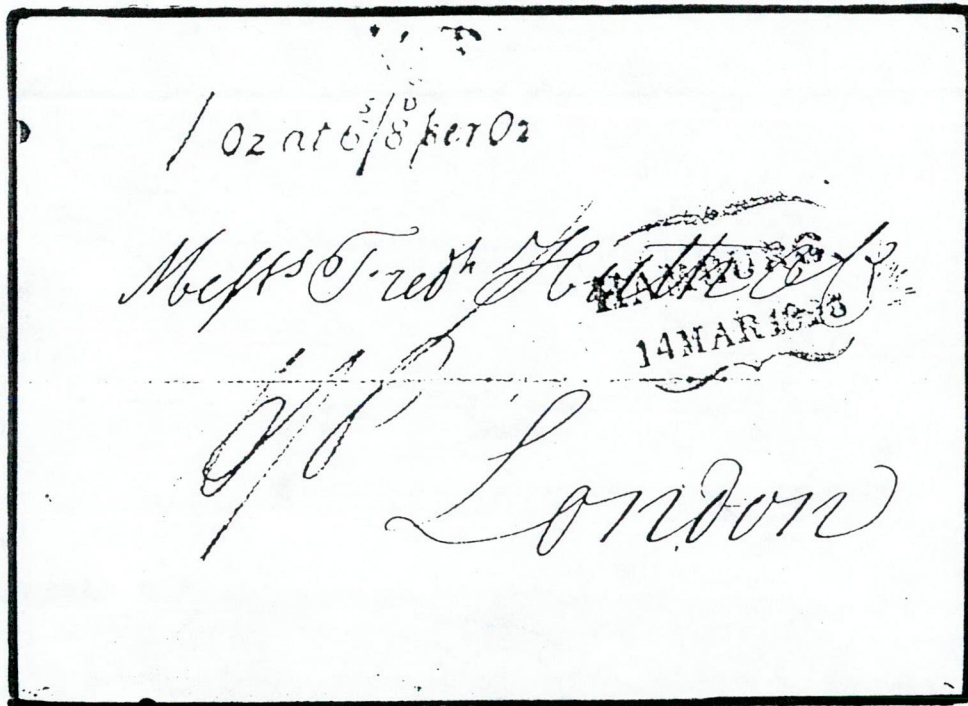


1839 Oct. 21st. Recorded used 12th. October to 8th.
November only. Showing the initial charge of 2/6d
deleted and 3/4d substituted. Showing Hamburg datestamp
addressed to London.

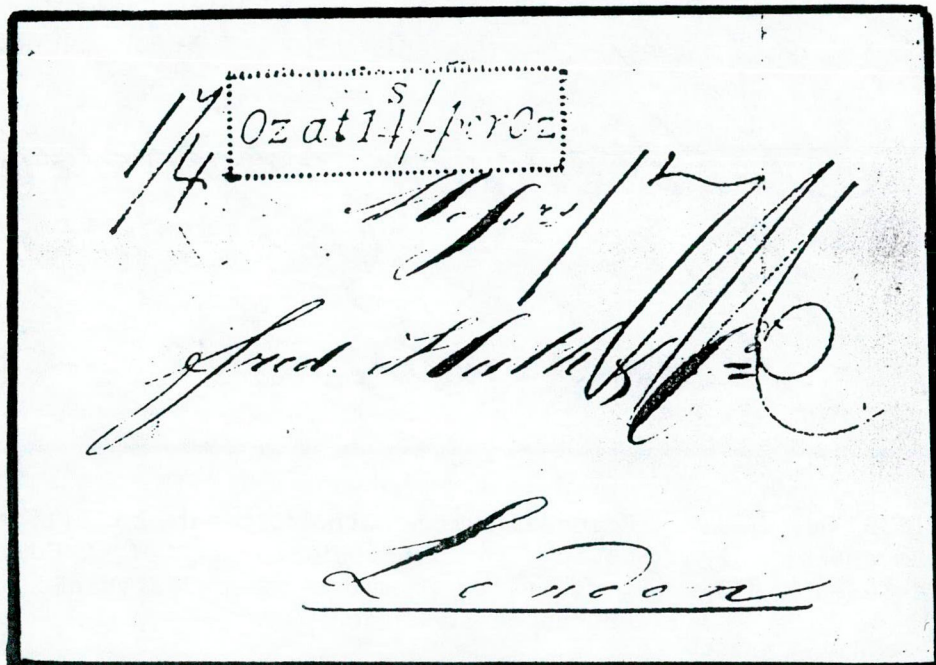
GENERAL POST - FOREIGN BRANCH

UNFRAMED AND FRAMED PACKET RATES

1828 Mar. 14th Known Used 1818-28.
Last Year of Use. Showing Hamburg datestamp.

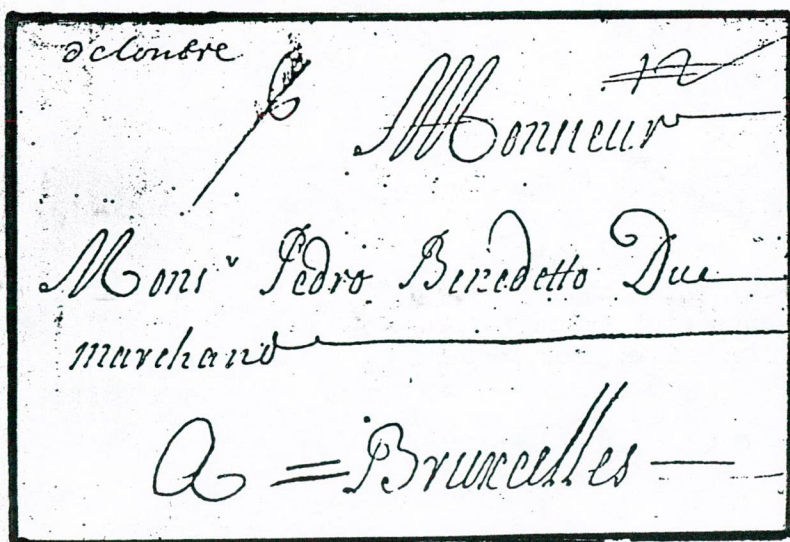
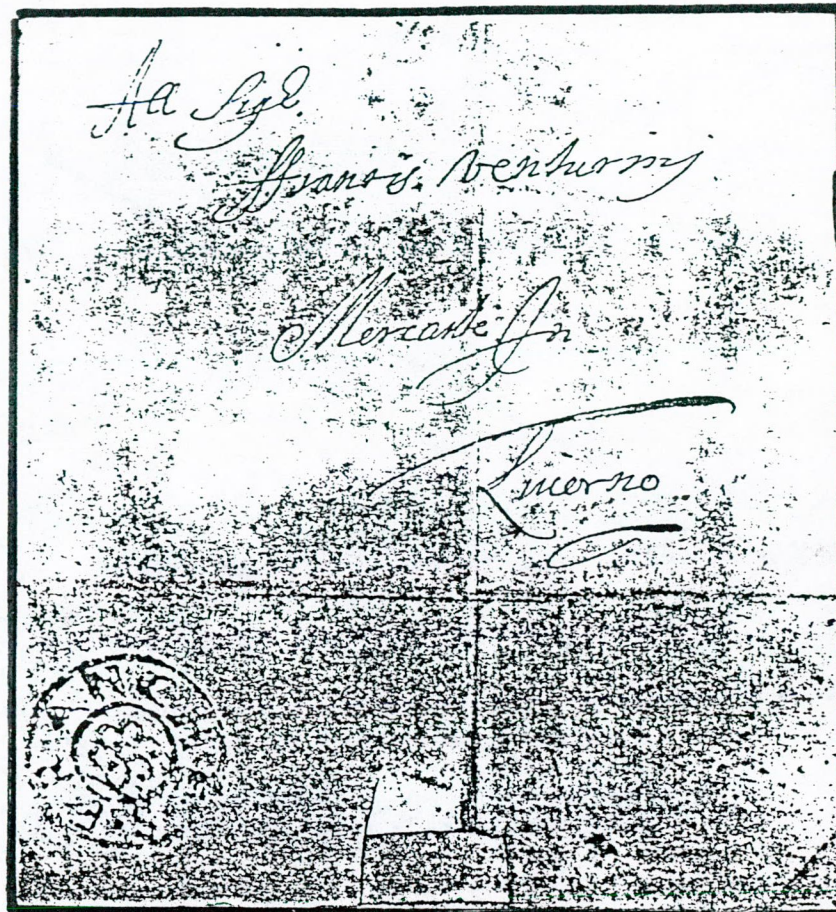


1830 Sept. 25th. Known used 1829-32. Received 14th. December,
from Buenos Aires.



"FRANCHES"

1674 Aug. 31st. Applied to outward mail to foreign merchants to show the whole of the postage had been paid, the mark being struck over the charge of one shilling to obliterate it.

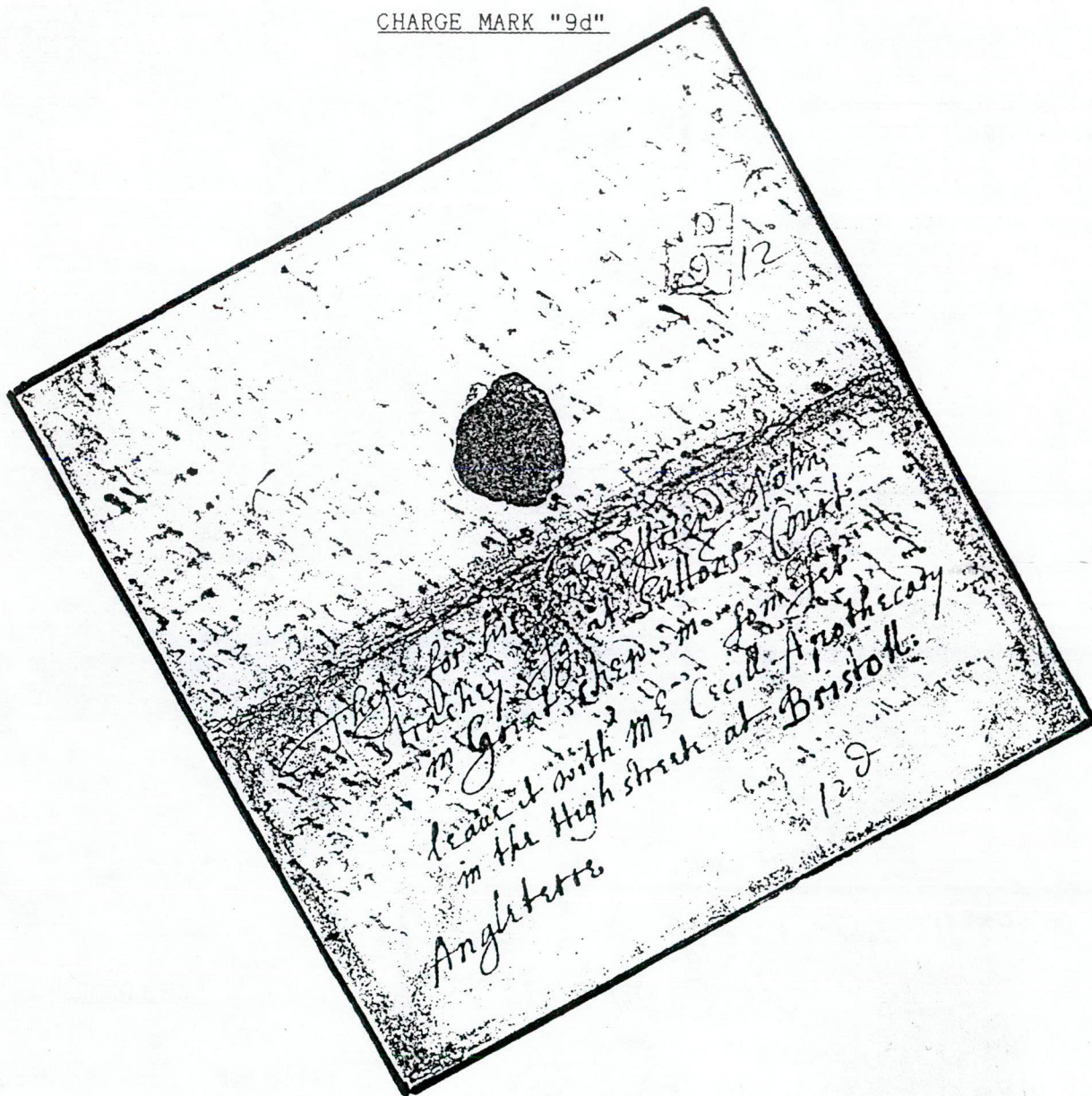


"de LONDRE"

1714 Apr. 2nd. Endorsed "de Londres" to show the letter originates from London (it seems the Foreign Office did not have handstamps until 1797 for outward letters apart from the Franches mark). Showing a postal charge of "6", replaced by a double rate "12" written over a two line flourish.

GENERAL POST - FOREIGN BRANCH

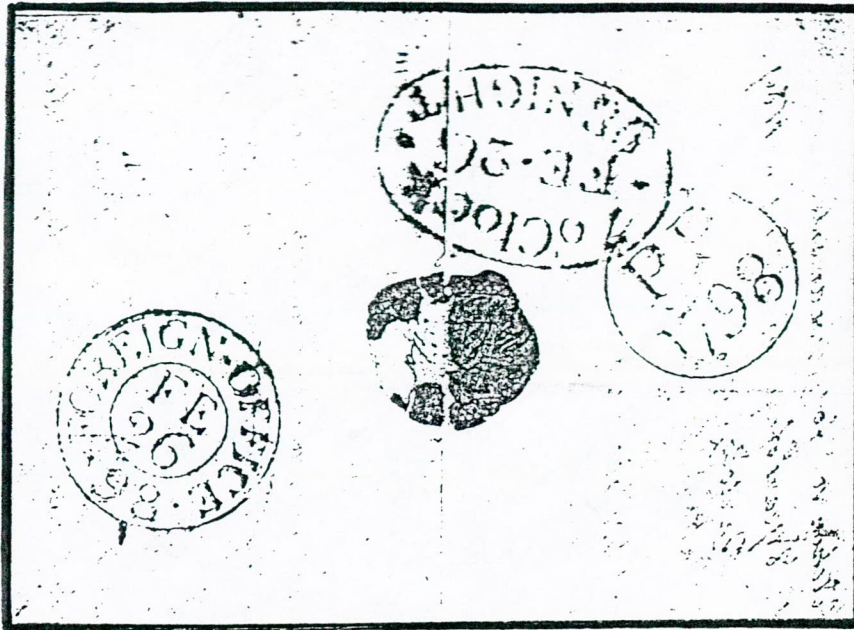
CHARGE MARK "9d"



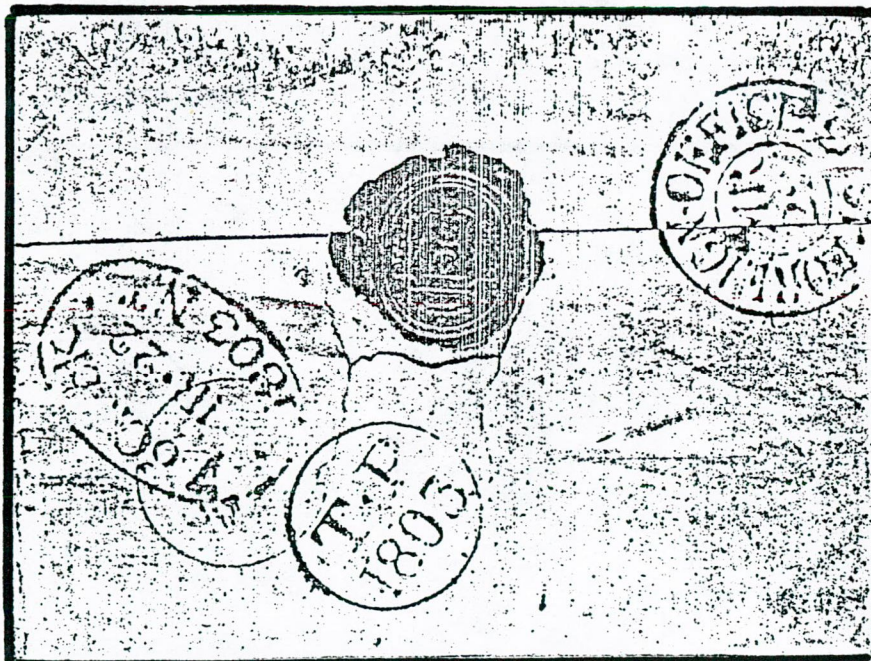
1665 Jan. 12th. The charge of 9d
amended in manuscript twice to 12d.
Sent from Paris. Known used 1663-7.

GENERAL POST - FOREIGN BRANCH

TRANSFER STAMPS FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE
TO THE LONDON PENNY AND TWOPENNY POSTS.



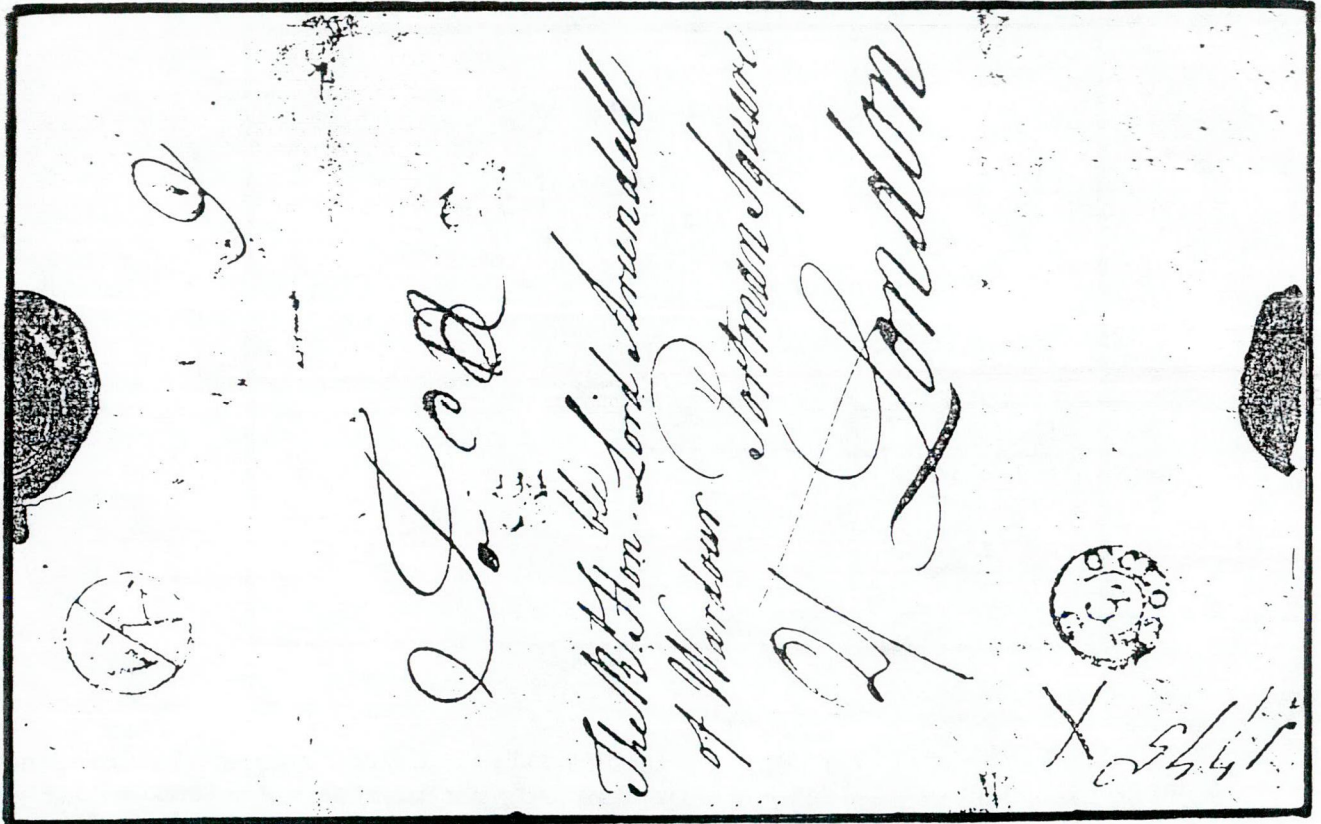
1798 Jan 26th. "P.P 1798". Only year of use. Brunswick - London routed via Cuxhaven, due to the Napoleonic War. With Foreign Office inwards datestamp.



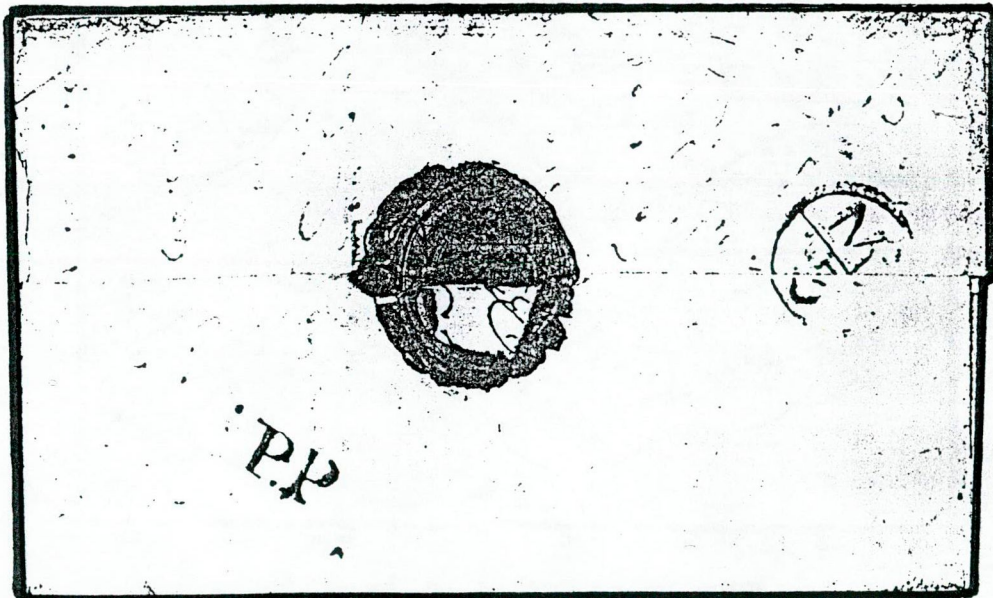
1803 March 22nd. "T.P 1803" . Only year of use. Sent from Ferrara, Italy, to London.
Rated 4/-d

GENERAL POST - FOREIGN BRANCH

TRANSFER FROM THE FOREIGN BRANCH TO THE LONDON PENNY POST



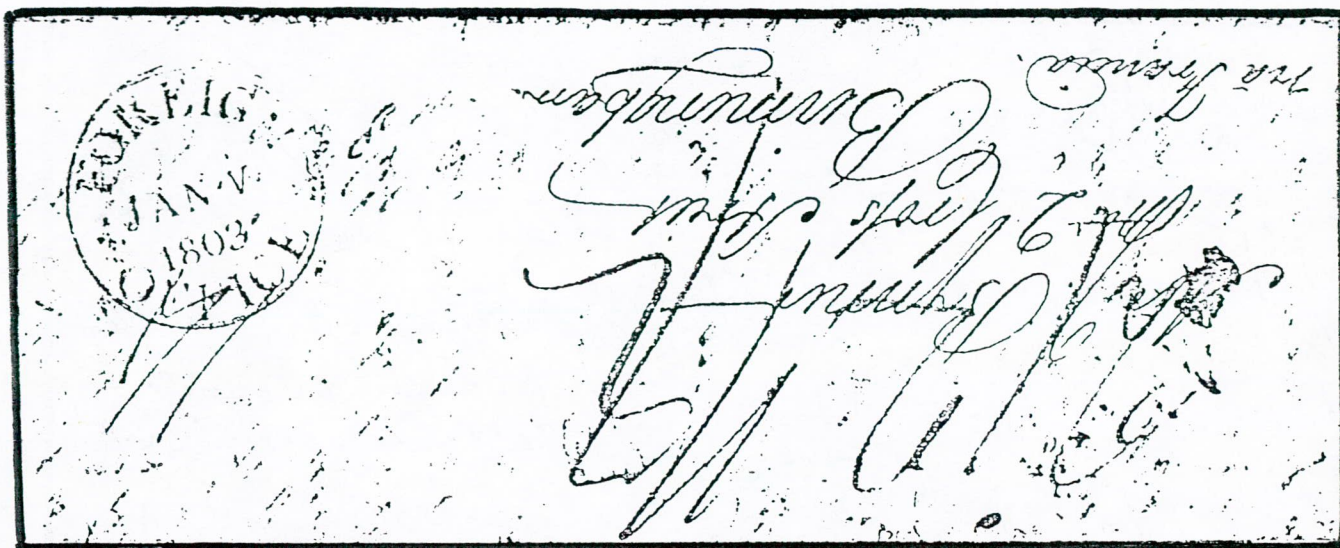
1775 June 28th. Letters to London from abroad transferred to the Penny Post for delivery were struck with the penny Post TIME STAMP before the introduction of the "P.P." mark shown below.
Carrying Foreign Branch Bishop mark. Sent from Rome.



1794 March 3rd. "P.P." a mark of the experimental period not previously recorded.
Sent from Portugal to Wimpole Street, London. Rated 1/6d.

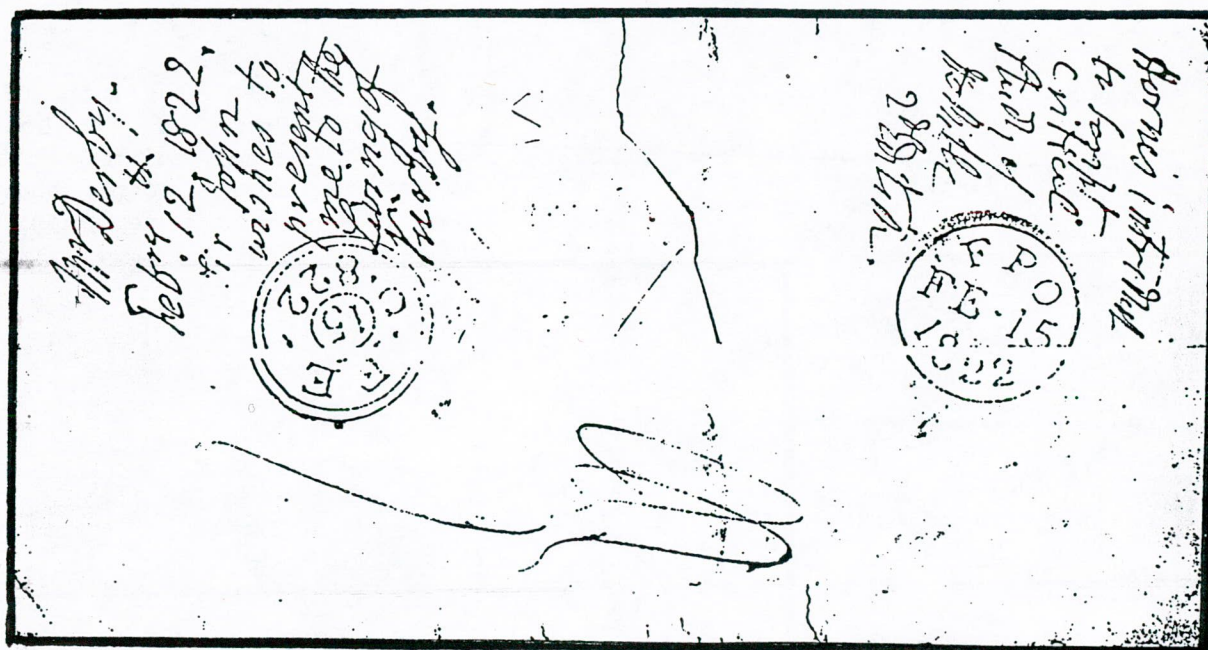
GENERAL POST - FOREIGN BRANCH

"ROMAN V for 5"- INWARDS DATESTAMP



1803 Jan. 5th. An experimental mark used in
January-February only.
Sent from Naples to Birmingham.
rated 1/7d, amended to 2/2d.

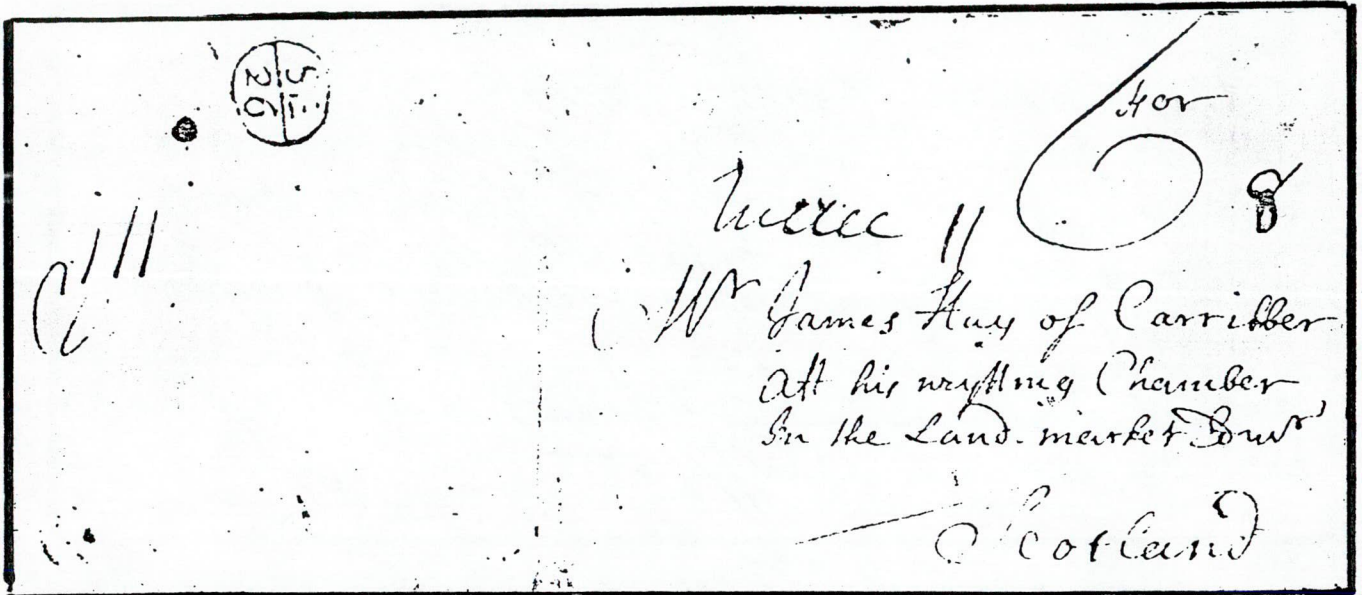
SOLID FRAME DATESTAMP



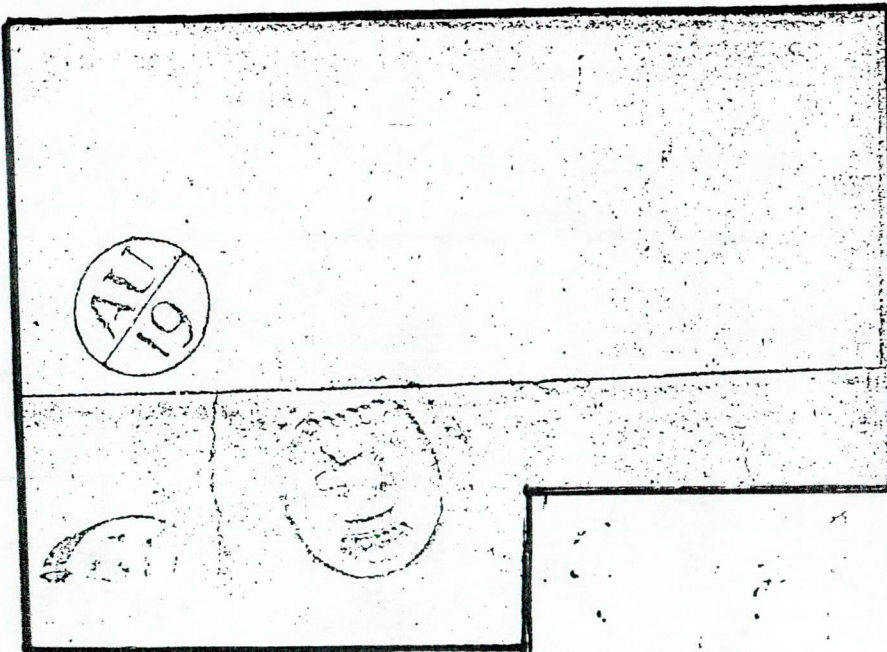
1822 Feb. 15th. Recorded for this date only.
Sent from Ostend to Kirby Budon, Norwich.

GENERAL POST - FOREIGN BRANCH

BISHOPS MARKS - INWARDS DATESTAMP



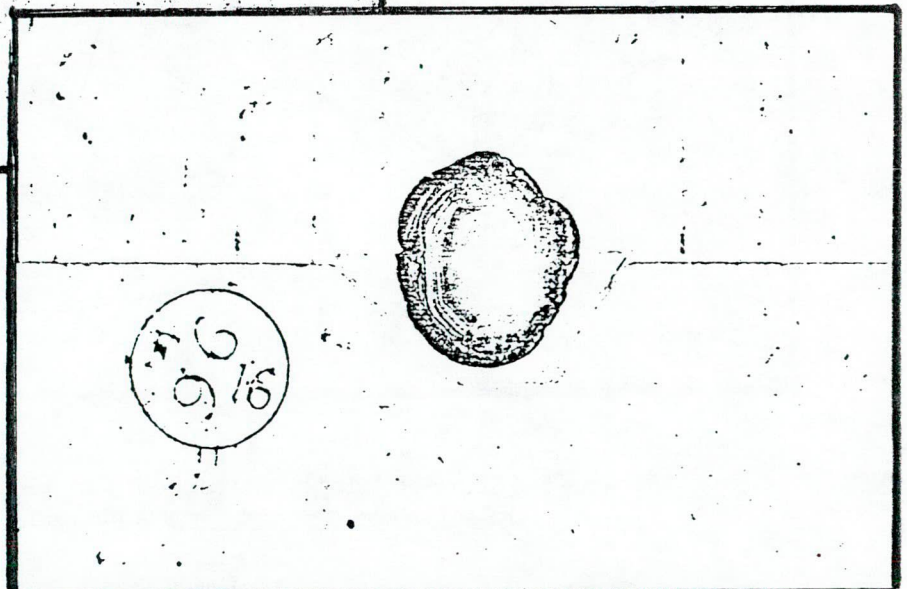
1694 Sept. 26th. Sent from Utrecht. 13mm Diam. Bishop mark.

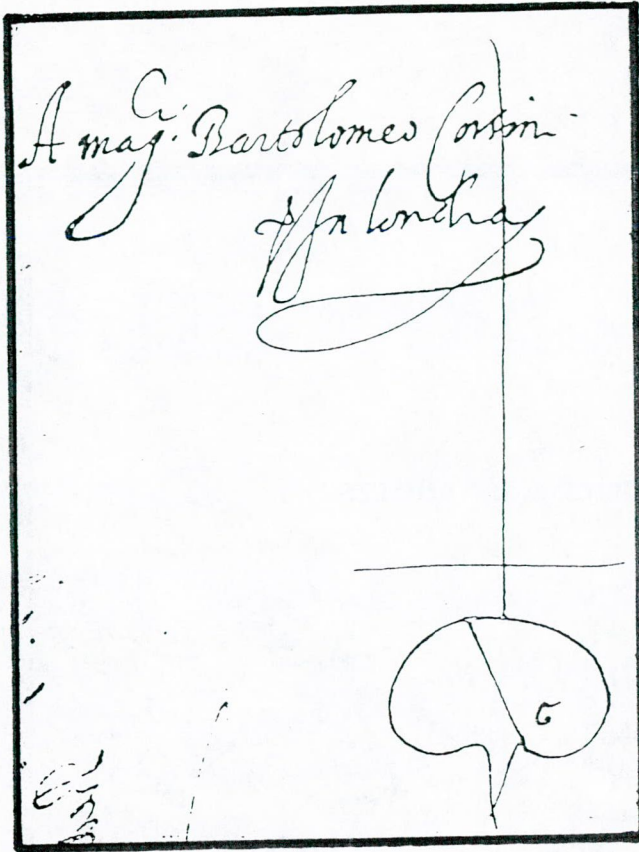


1788 Aug. 15th. From Brussels to London. 18mm diam. Bishop mark, both showing month above day.

OUTWARDS DATESTAMP

1816 May 7th. Known used 1815-36. London to Malta. Rated 3/2d. (The "F" indicates Foreign Branch and "16" the year but the purpose of the number across the centre is not so far known.)

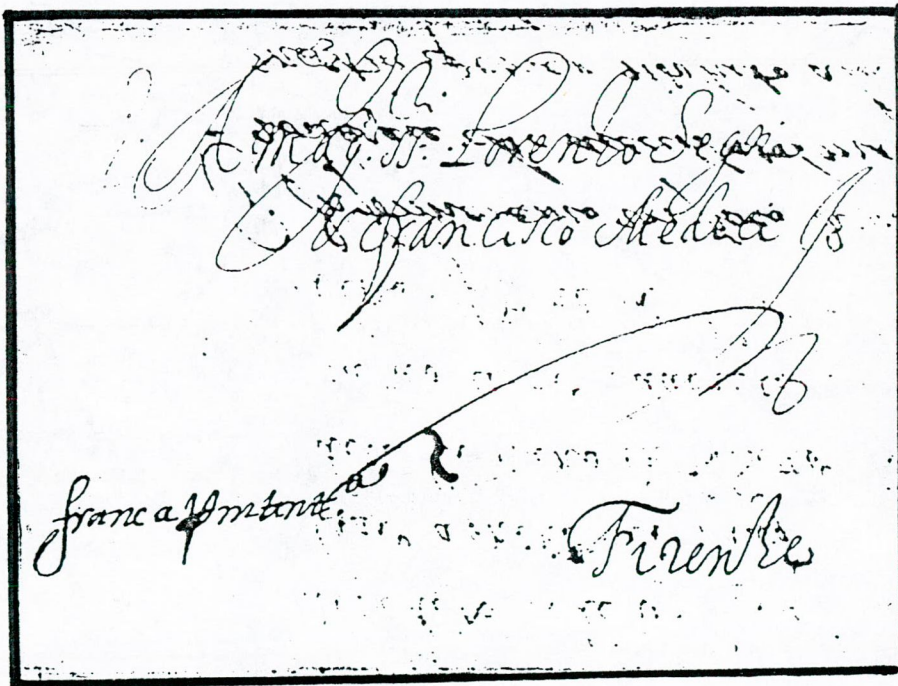




GUILD MARK OF THE CAPPONI FAMILY

1585 Sent by Luigi Capponi in Lyons to Bartholomew Corsini, a leading Merchant Stranger operating in London.

"FRANCA P MANTUA" (paid to Mantua)



1628 Sent from London by Burlamachi & Oeils via Mantua, to Lorenzo Segni & Francesco Medici, Corsini's Bankers in Florence. The endorsement is in a second hand, probably that of Matthew de Quester, a Merchant Stranger living in London, who was appointed by James I as the first permanent Postmaster of England for Foreign Parts" [1619-32].



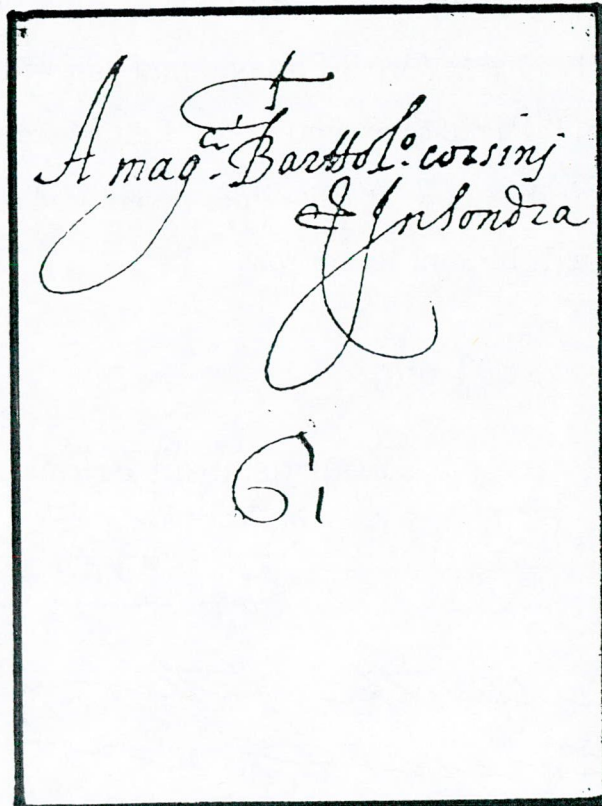
Map Reproduced from Christie's Robson Lowe Catalogue
"The Corsini Correspondence 1568 - 1601"
London Wednesday 11th. June, 1986

Section 7

MARKS OF THE FOREIGN BRANCH

Letters between Britain and the Continent of Europe in the 16th. and 17th. centuries were mostly to and from Venetian and other merchants who organised an extensive private network for the conveyance of letters. Known as the Merchant Strangers' Posts, they appointed their own Postmaster in London. The letters usually carried identifying Merchant's marks drawn on the front. From 1661 letters from abroad handled by the Foreign Branch received a Bishop mark in its original form of month above day. Early handstamps included charge marks viz. "D/9" and an interesting series of Franches marks used to obliterate the manuscript charge, also ounce charge marks. As with other sections of the Post the Foreign Branch also tried out some experimental handstamps, all having a short life, one being the datestamp with the Roman "V" for "5" and a recently discovered "PP", the forerunner of the 1795-1801 series of dated "PP" and "TP" marks. The General Post issued Rebate stamps to each of its sections in October 1839 for refunding any overcharge, all short lived as Uniform Post came into operation on the 5th. December.

MERCHANT STRANGERS' POST



1582 April 2nd. Showing the London arrival charge of 'dl', in a second hand probably that of Raphael Vande Putte, the Merchant Strangers' own Postmaster [1569-1604]. Sent from Cologne to Bartholomew Corsini in London by Filippo Luchini.

To all Postmasters.

GENERAL POST-OFFICE,

3rd December, 1832.

SIR,

THE Parliament is dissolved. The Franks of this Evening are necessarily charged with Postage, and you will immediately charge all Letters and Packets, excepting the Letters franked by such Public Officers as are by Law at all times exempted from Postage. Full instructions will be sent to-morrow.

I am,

Your assured Friend,

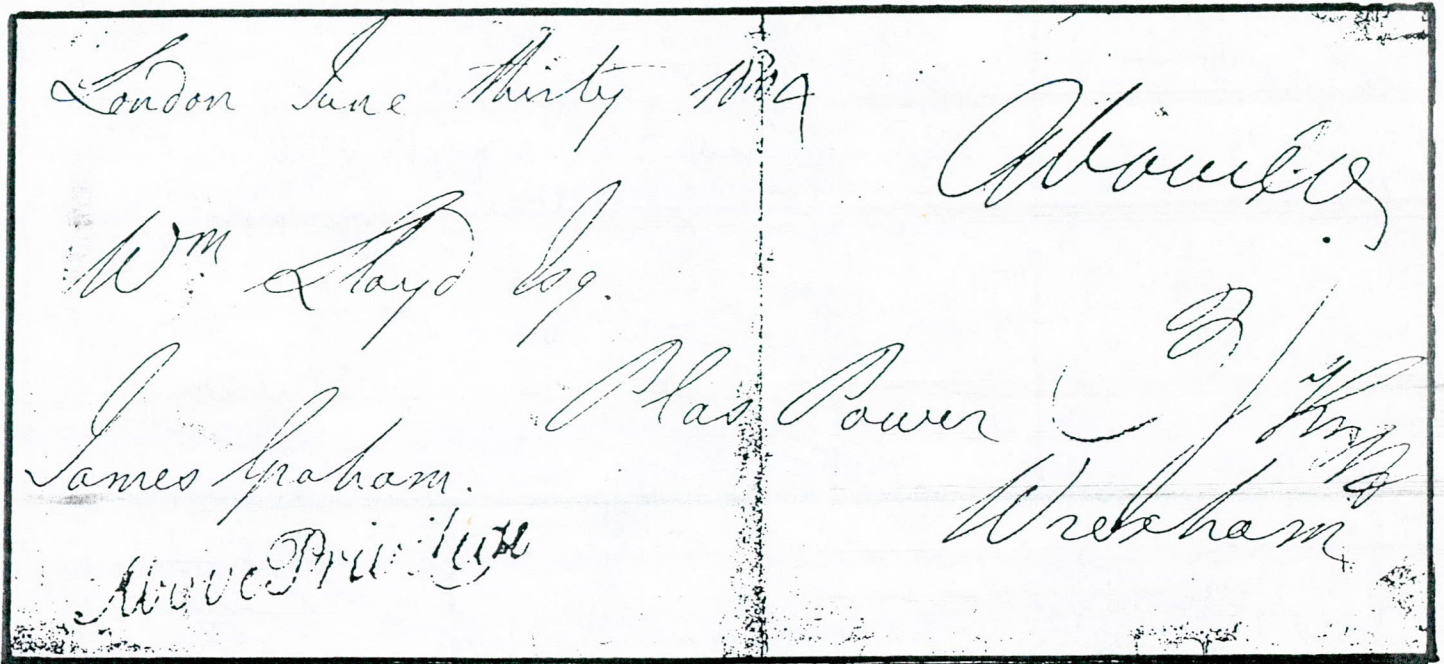
F. FREELING,

all the letters put into the Country Post-offices and arriving here ^{Secretary.} this day & to be delivered tomorrow in the Country were charged

By Authority:—J. Harpell, Fleet Street

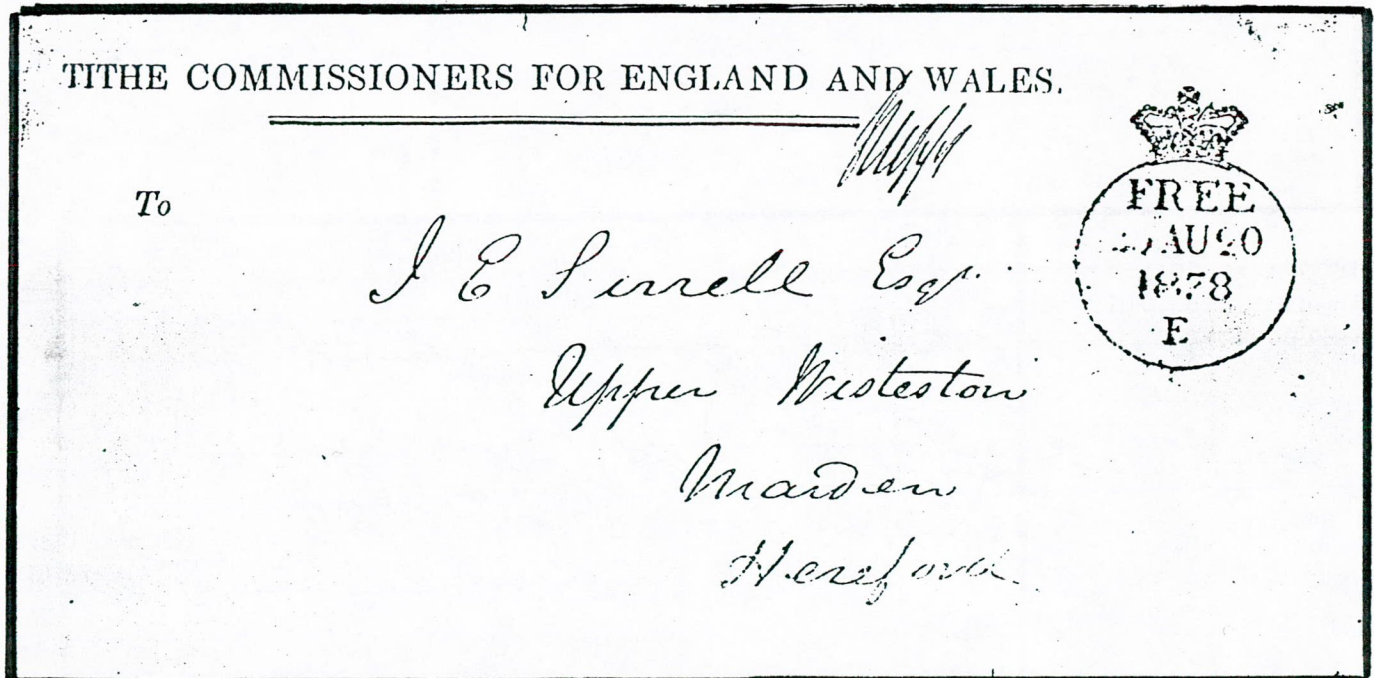
GENERAL POST - FRANKED LETTERS

"ABOVE PRIVILEGE"



1804 June 30th. Not previously recorded in black.
sent from Lincoln's Inn, showing "Above 1 oz" in manuscript.
Charged 3/-d.

SUPPLEMENTARY FRANKING STAMP with "E" CODE

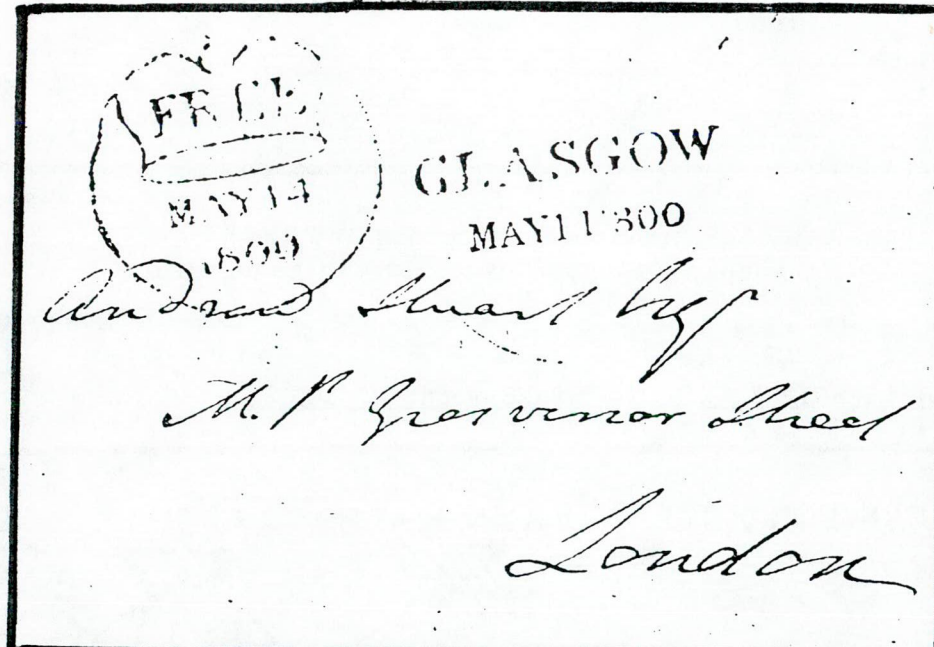
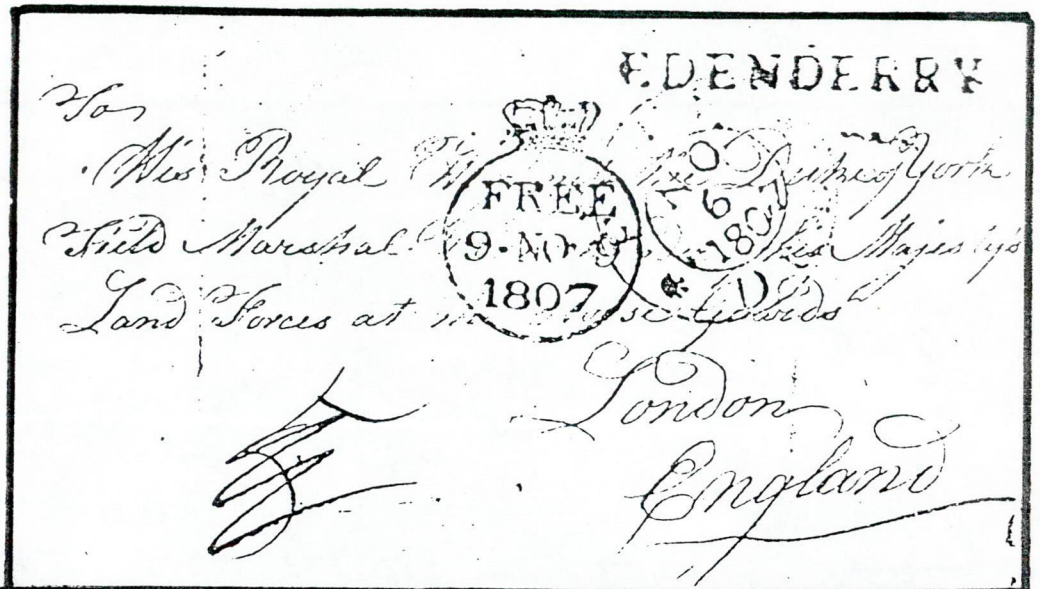


1838 Aug. 20th. First year of use 1838-40.
Code "E" denoting evening mail.

GENERAL POST - FRANKED LETTERS

"FREE" WITH CROWN
ON TOP OF CIRCLE

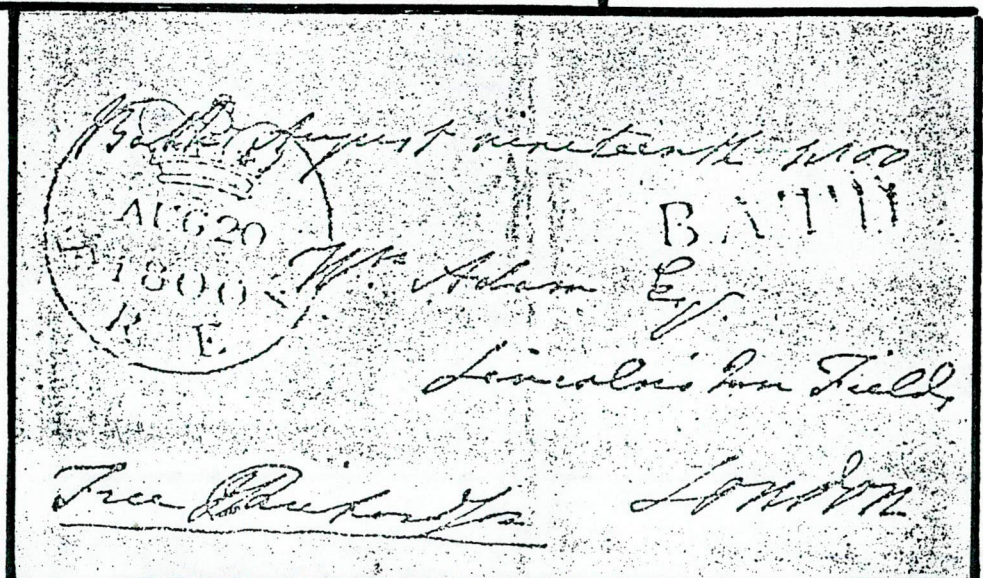
1807 Nov 6th.
Known used July to
December.
Showing Irish
"Free NO 6 1807 DUB"



"FREE" WITH CROWN
IN CIRCLE

1800 May 14th.
In use January to
July 25th.

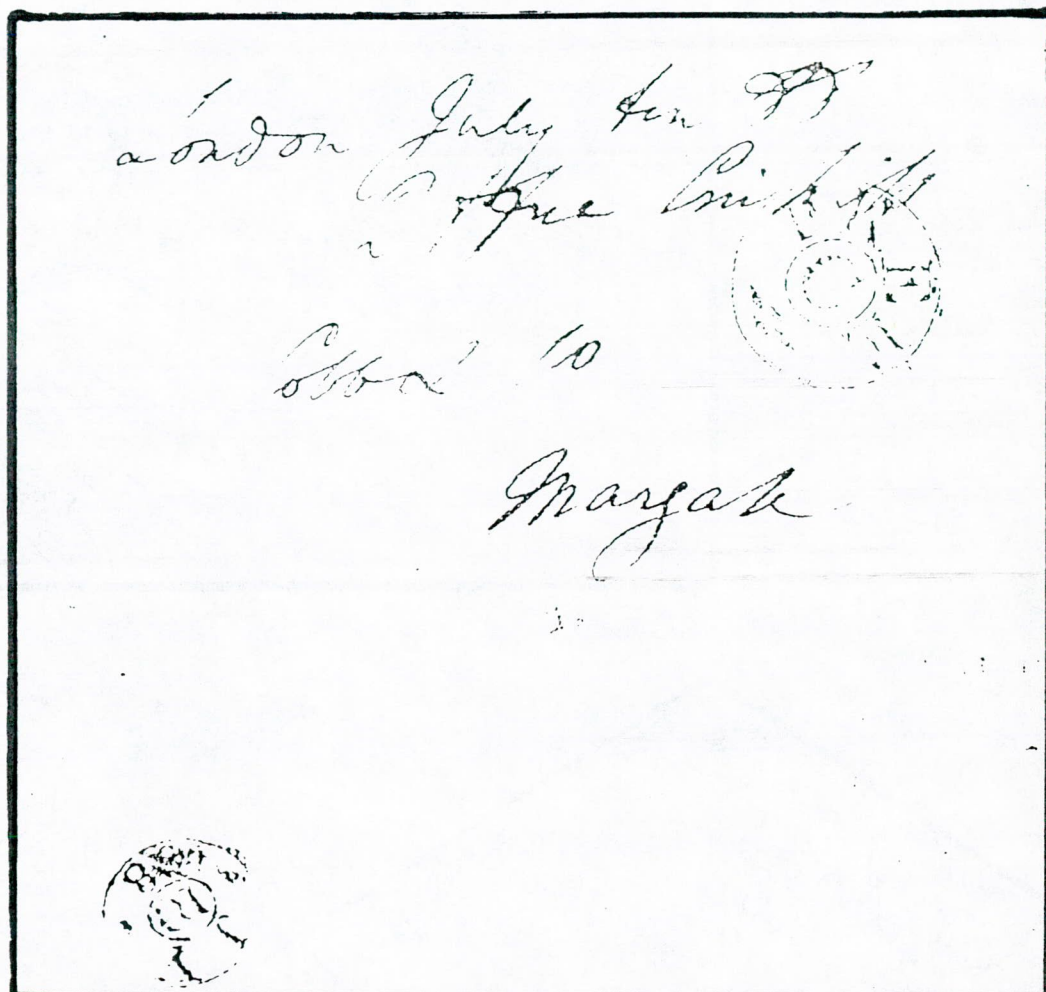
1800 Aug. 20th.
In use 29th. July
to December.



GENERAL POST - FRANKED LETTERS

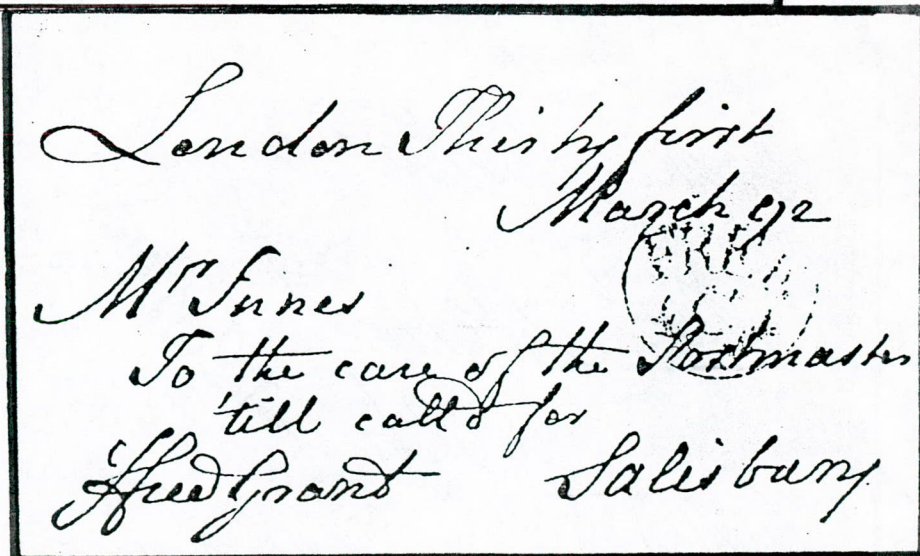
TWO RING STAMP WITH INITIAL

1788 July 10th. Known Used 1787-89
The First Initialled Type



"FREE" with INITIAL "C"
BETWEEN FRONDS

1792 March 31st.
Known used 1791-2.

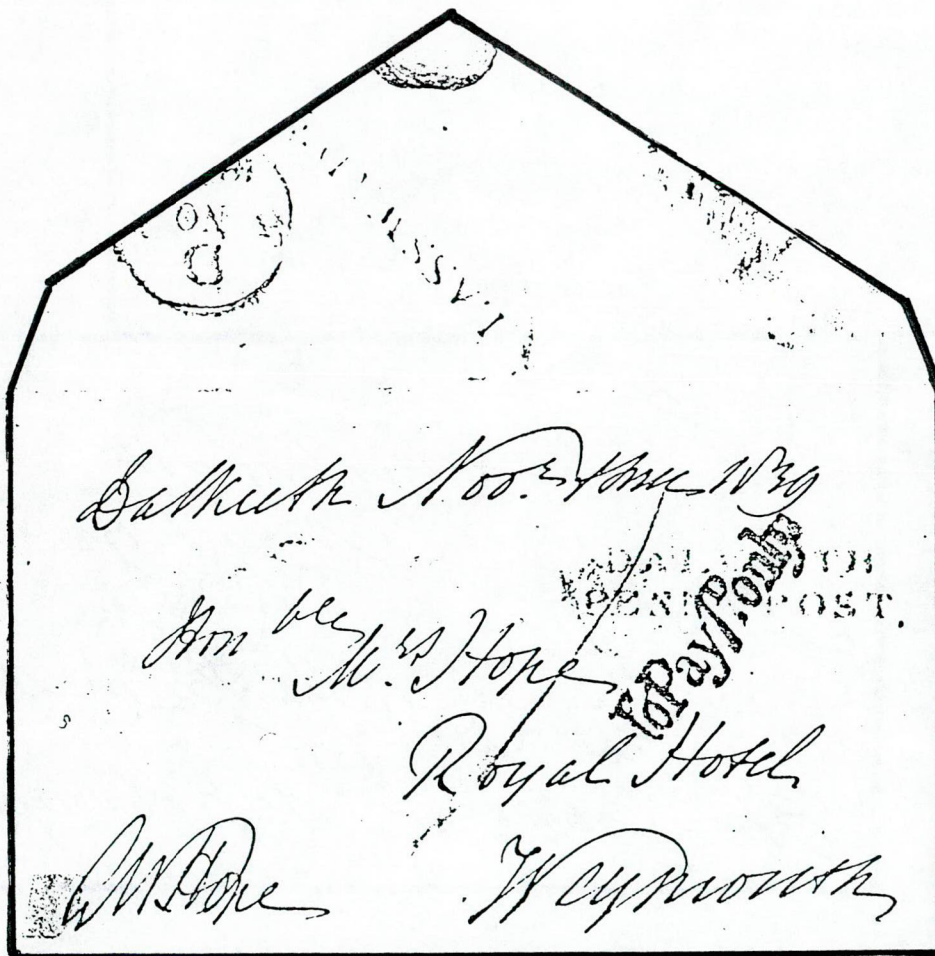
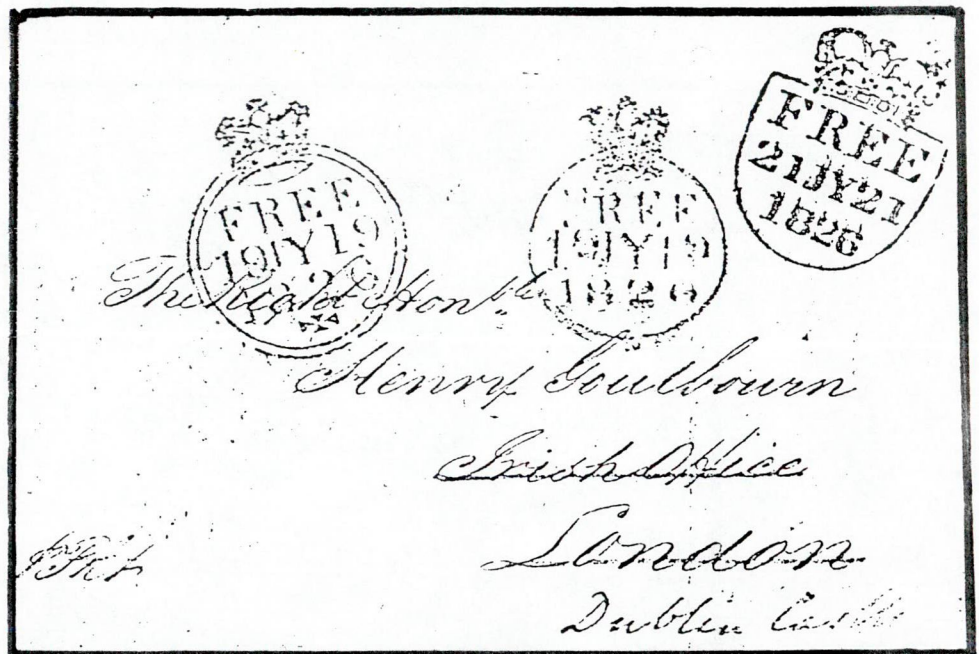


Charles Coltson, Inspector of Franks 1777-97

GENERAL POST - FRANKED LETTERS

"FREE" WITH CROWN
IN CIRCLE

1826 June 10th. Evening
& morning duty datestamps.
Known used 1807-40.
Showing Irish FREE mark.
Sent from Kingston,
Jamaica.

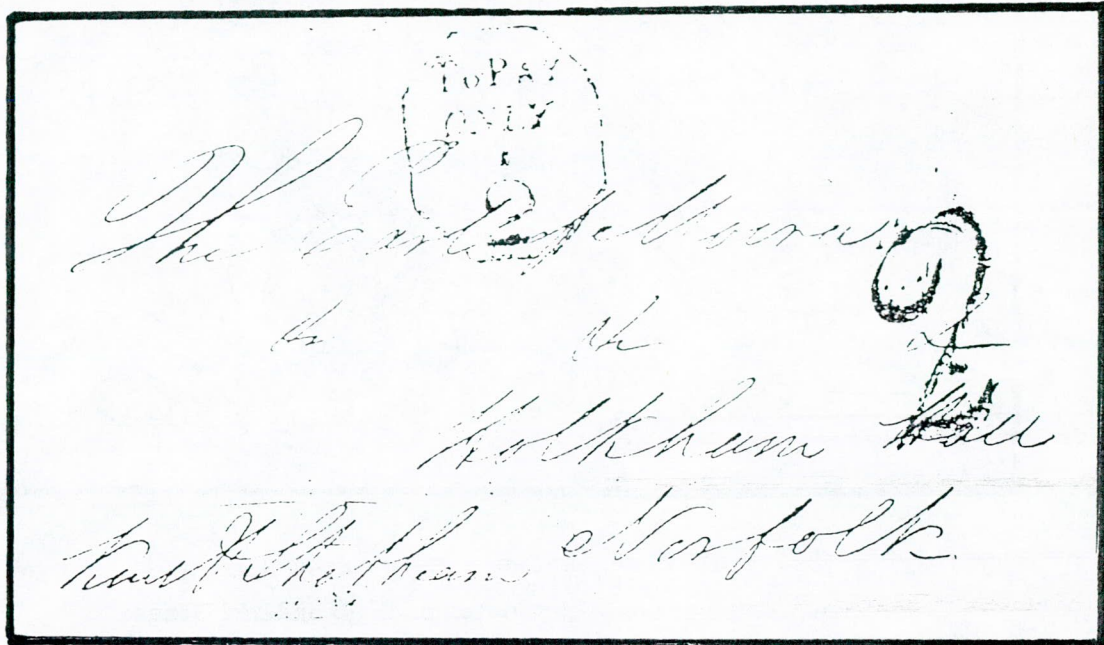


"TO PAY 1d. ONLY"

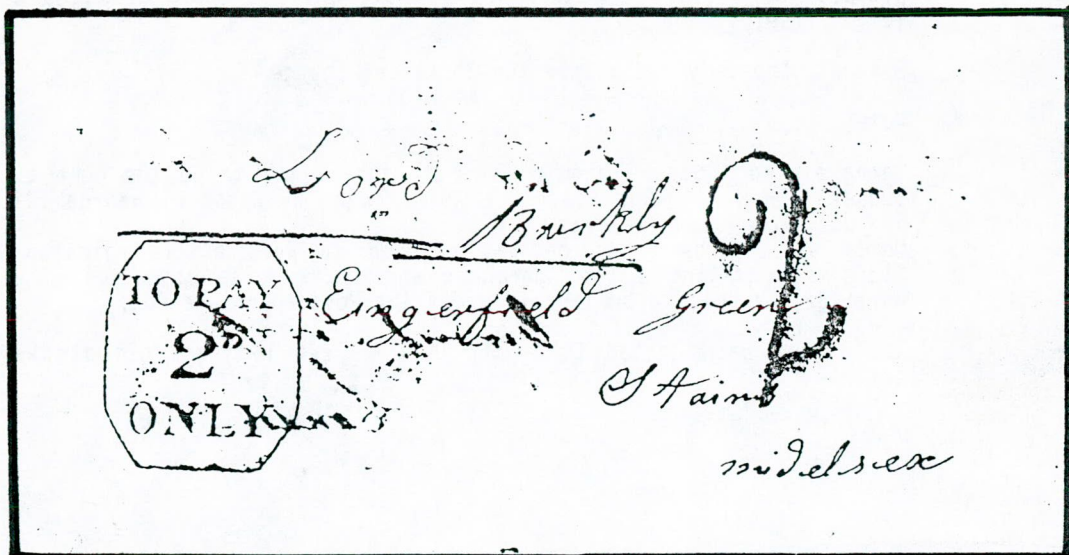
1839 Nov. 5th. Applied at
the General Post Office
instead of a "Free" mark
on a franked letter
posted unpaid in the
Provincial Penny Post.
Showing "LASSWADE"
namestamp.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - FRANKED LETTERS

"TO PAY ONLY 2d" - "TO PAY 2d ONLY"



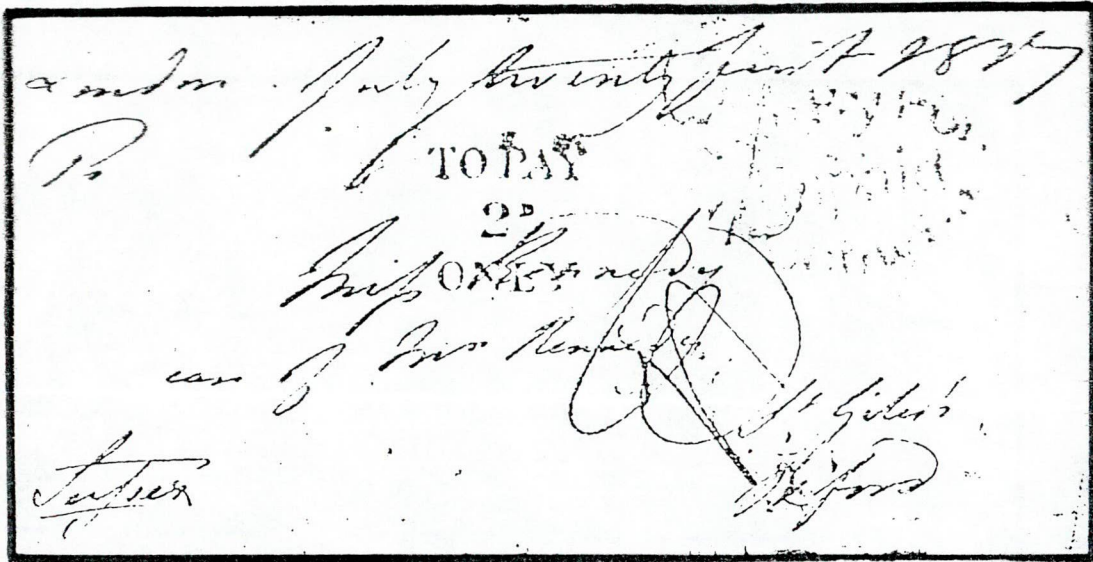
1811 Nov. 25th. Known used 1803-17.
Signed "Kent & Strathearn". the father of Queen Victoria



1818 Sept. 17th. From Lord Burkeley to Francis Freeling,
Secretary of State 1798-1836.
Turned and returned by him.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - FRANKED LETTER

UNFRAMED "TO PAY 2d ONLY"



1817 July 21st. Known used on four days only
18th. to 21st. July.
Sent from Greenwich to Oxford. Franked "Sussex"

A love letter signed "Welch" but endorsed "Sussex", so either written by the Duke of Sussex using a non de plume or by someone taking advantage of a Frank.

Writing on the 21st, July acknowledging the lady's letter he says -

"I should have answered it immediately but having the prospect of a Frank I determined to wait until I could send you a letter free of expense".

However, the lady had to pay the 2d. local charge.

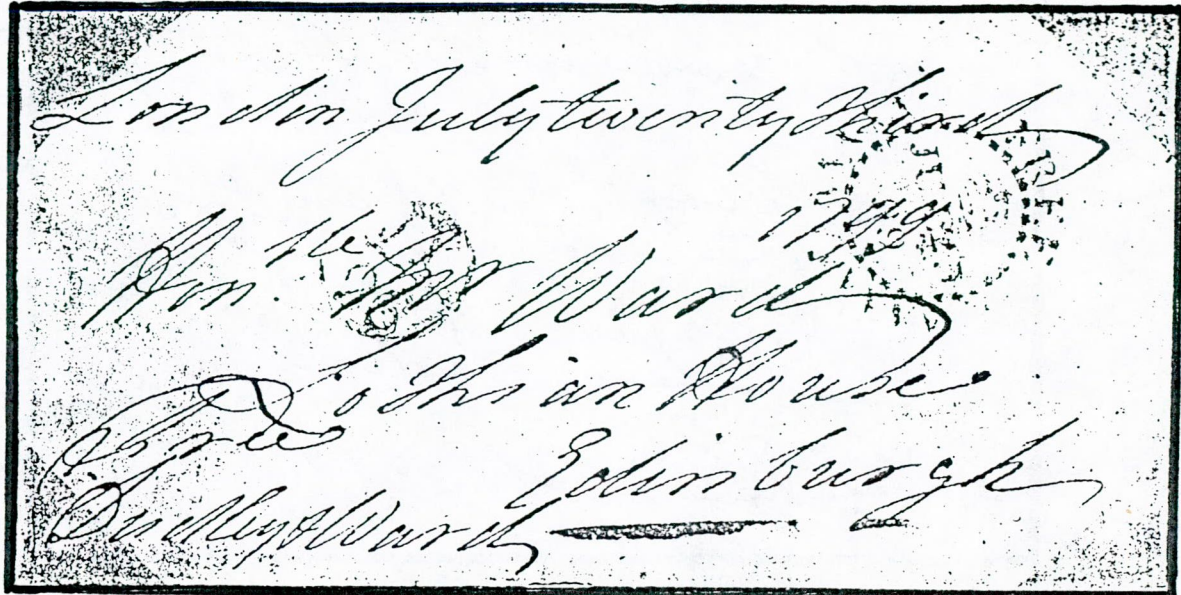
Note:

Being signed "Sussex" should indicate the writer to be the Duke of Sussex, H.R.H. Augustus Frederick, 6th, born 1801, son of George III and uncle of Queen Victoria. While still under age, he was married in Rome by a Protestant Clergyman, getting a coal merchant and his wife as witnesses. The marriage was held to be invalid under the Royal Marriage Act.

The letter being dated 1817, the Duke he was 16 years old at the time.

GENERAL POST - FRANKED LETTER

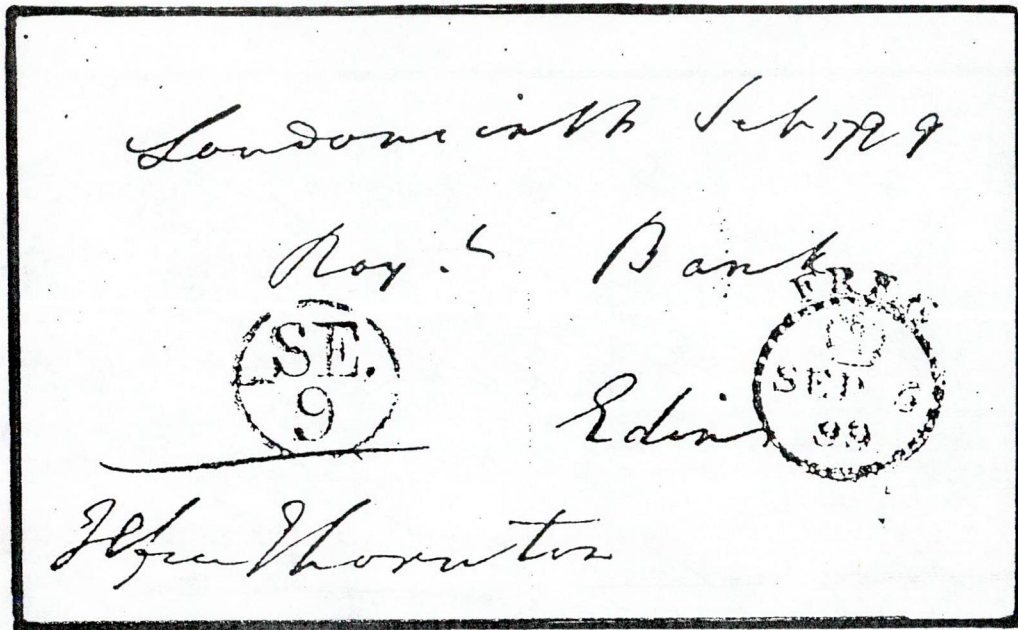
"FREE" ABOVE DOTTED CIRCLE with
ELEVEN TRIANGULAR RAYS BELOW



1799 July 23rd.
An experimental "FREE" handstamps
in use on the 23rd. and 24th. July
and of which only two examples
so far known.

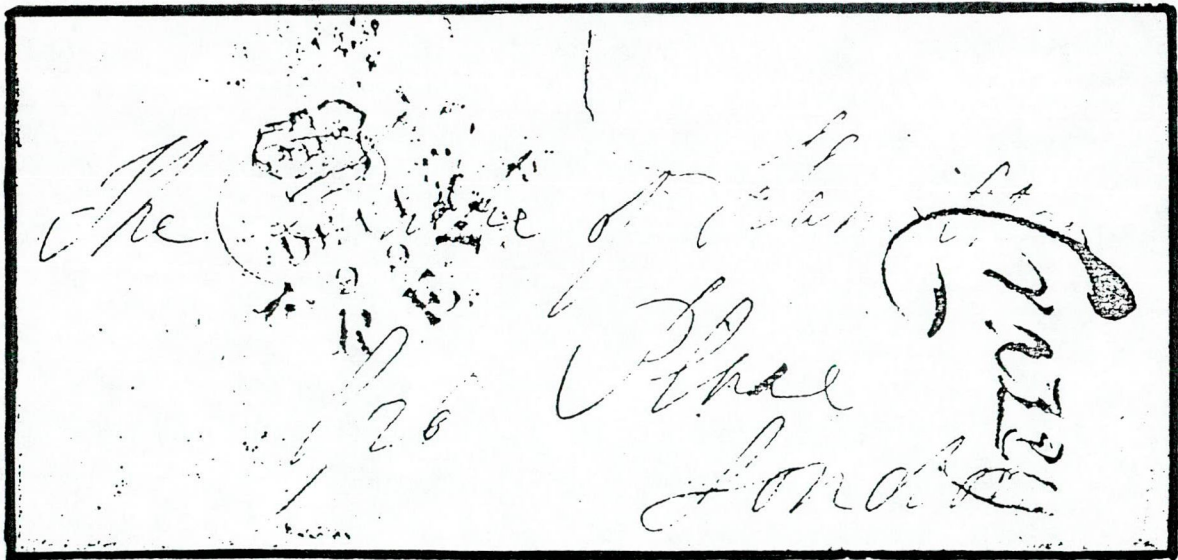
GENERAL POST - FRANKED LETTERS

EXPERIMENTAL "FREE" DATESTAMPS



1799 Sept. 6th. Known used July - October.
Showing Edinburgh BISHOP mark with a broken diameter line.

UNFRAMED "FREE"



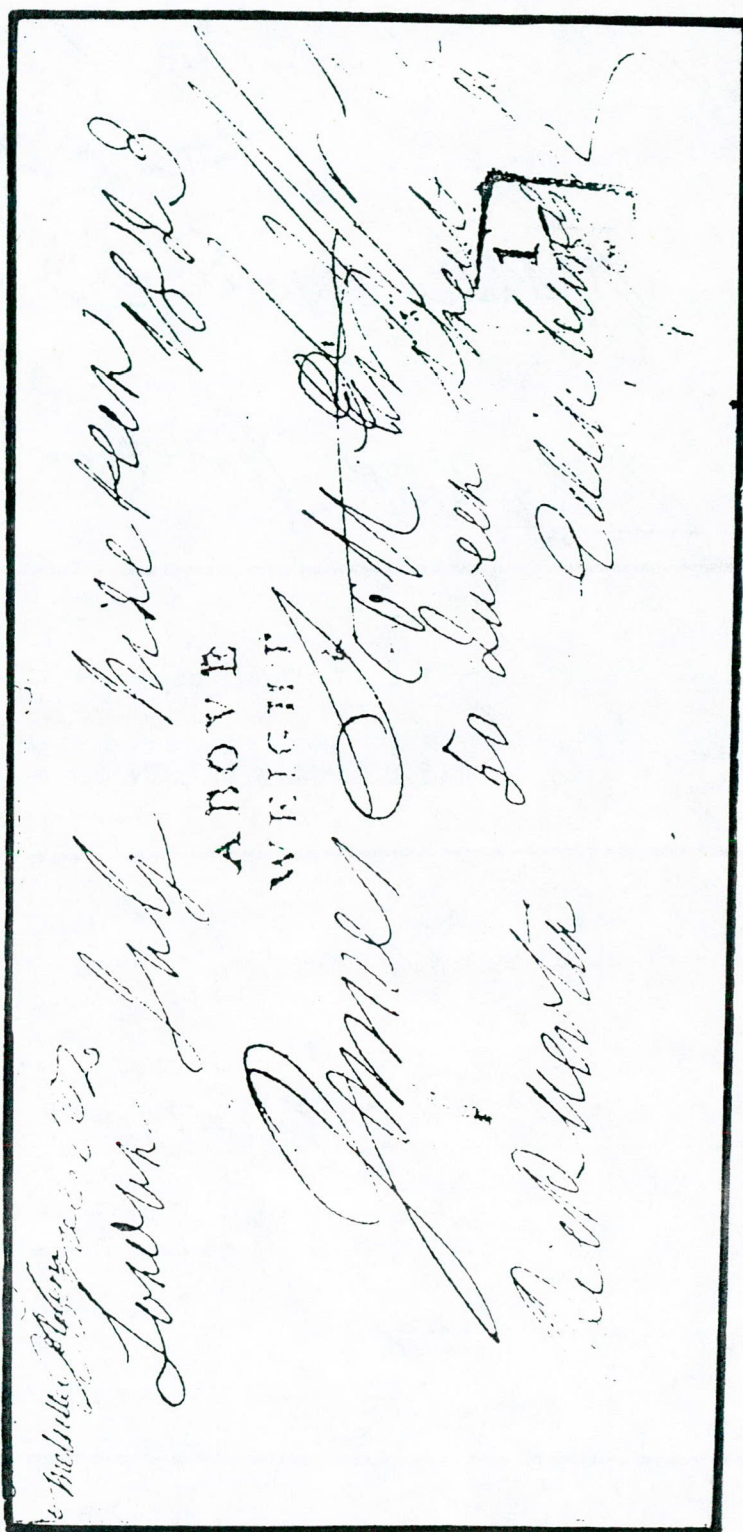
1799 Dec. 11th. Known used October - December.
Sent from Bath

Letter from the Marquis of Bath to the Duke of Hamilton - "The lady whom the present Duke of Hamilton has treated with so much low duplicity advises him to decline paying his visits to his Majesty as she would take measures to have him exposed in that quarter in a manner in which he so truly deserves".

The Duke apparently wrote "CRAZEY" on reading the letter.

GENERAL POST - FRANKED LETTERS

"ABOVE WEIGHT"



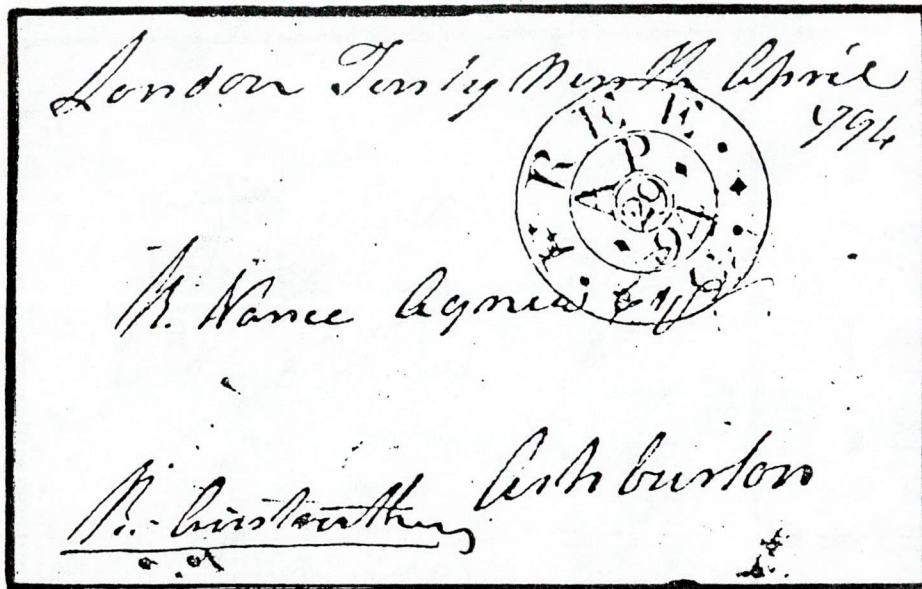
mss endorsement:

"Above 1 oz"

1823 July 19th. Known used 1819-20
Showing London $\frac{1}{2}$ Toll Tax and charge of $4\frac{1}{4}$ d.

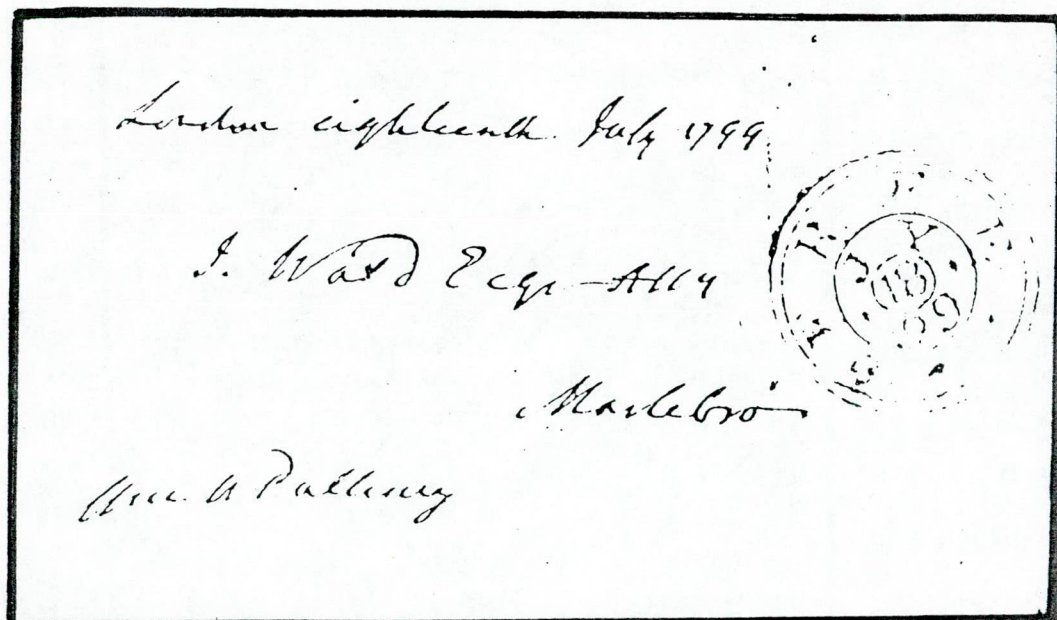
GENERAL POST - FRANKED LETTERS

"FREE" - THREE RING DATESTAMP with INITIAL "C"



1794 April 29th. Known used 1792-7

DOUBLE OUTER RIM DATESTAMP



1799 July 18th.

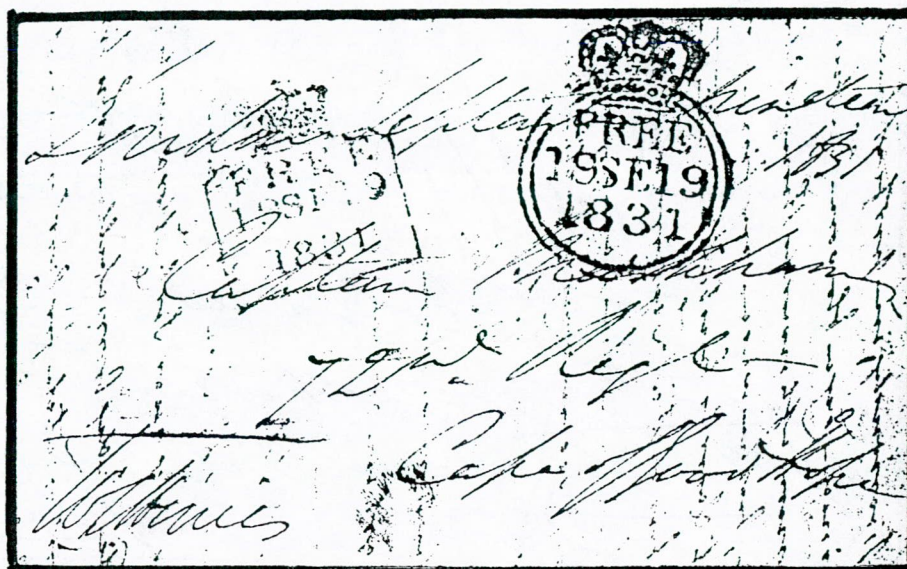
Last Year of use [1797-9]

Evening Duty

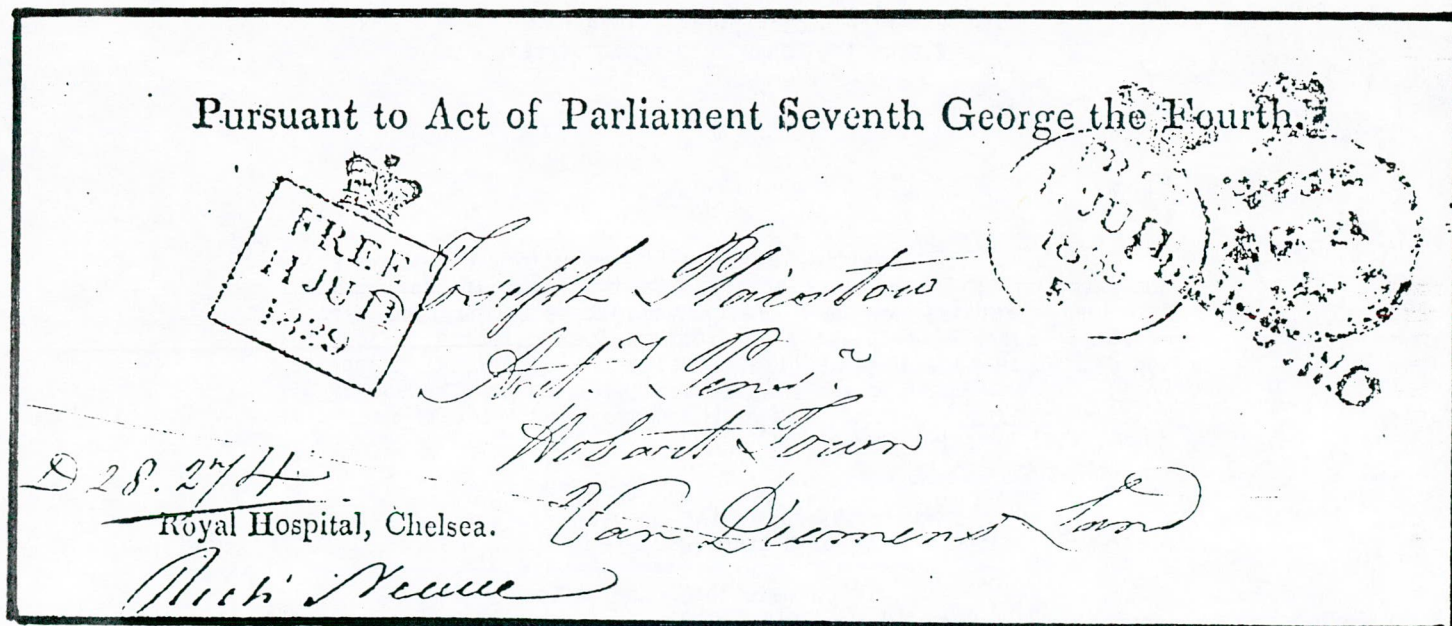
The first handstamp to differentiate between morning and evening duty,
this by the use of the double outer rim/

GENERAL POST - FRANKED LETTERS

"FREE" mark of the FOREIGN BRANCH



1831 Sep. 19th. Known used 1820-31. Last year of use.
Addressed to Cape of Good Hope from London
Showing both the evening duty General Post Free and
the Foreign Branch Free.



1839 June 11th. Recorded 1837-9. Last year of use. Sent to Tasmania.
Showing "Pimlico W.O. Receiving House mark. London "Free" datestamp
and crowned "Free" of Hobart.
On reverse, in manuscript, "cannot find, pensioner unknown" and
boxed "Ship Letter 21 Oc. 1839" of Hobart.
Presumably the letter was carried out and back to England
all free of charge.

GENERAL POST - FRANKED LETTERS

"WATERLOO SUBSCRIPTION"



1824. Sent to Prussia from the Waterloo Subscription Office,
Old Broad Street, London, freepost as charitable mail
and signed by Francis Freeling.
Late use of this mark.

Waterloo Subscription Office,
Winchester House, Old Broad Street,
1824

Madam,

The Committee for the distribution of the Waterloo Subscription find themselves enabled, in the final appropriation of the Fund committed to their charge, to increase the sums already voted, in cases of peculiar suffering and I am directed to acquaint you that they hold at your disposal as the Widow of Lt. Colonel I. Chr. Schroder, 2L.KGL slain in that memorable Battle, the sum of Six Hundred Pounds, for which your Bill on the Committee at three days sight, will be duly honored,

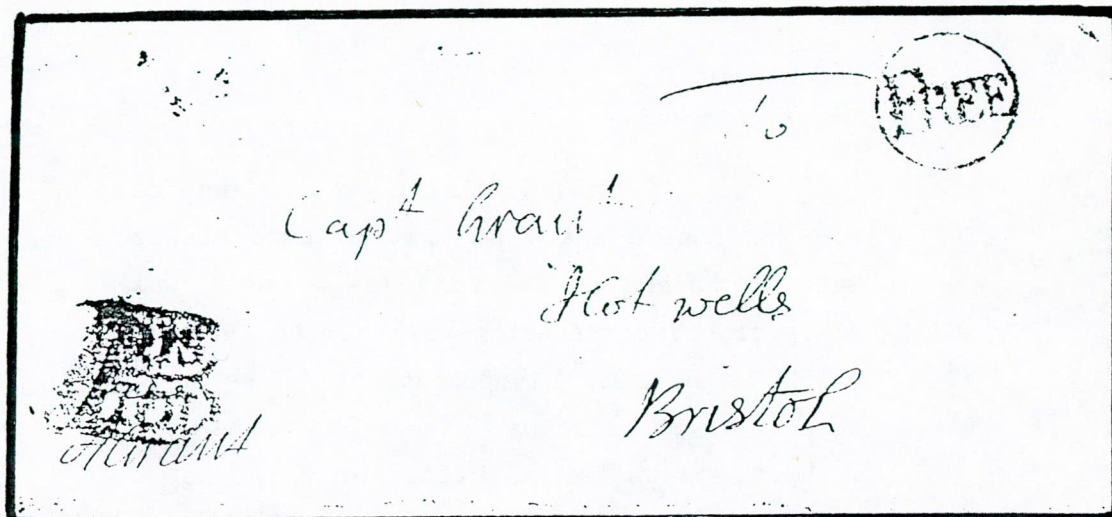
This is exclusive of the Annuity you are receiving and which will continue to be paid as heretofore,

I have the honor to be,
Madam
Your most obedient Servant
J.P. Wilsford ? Pry

Mrs. Delius

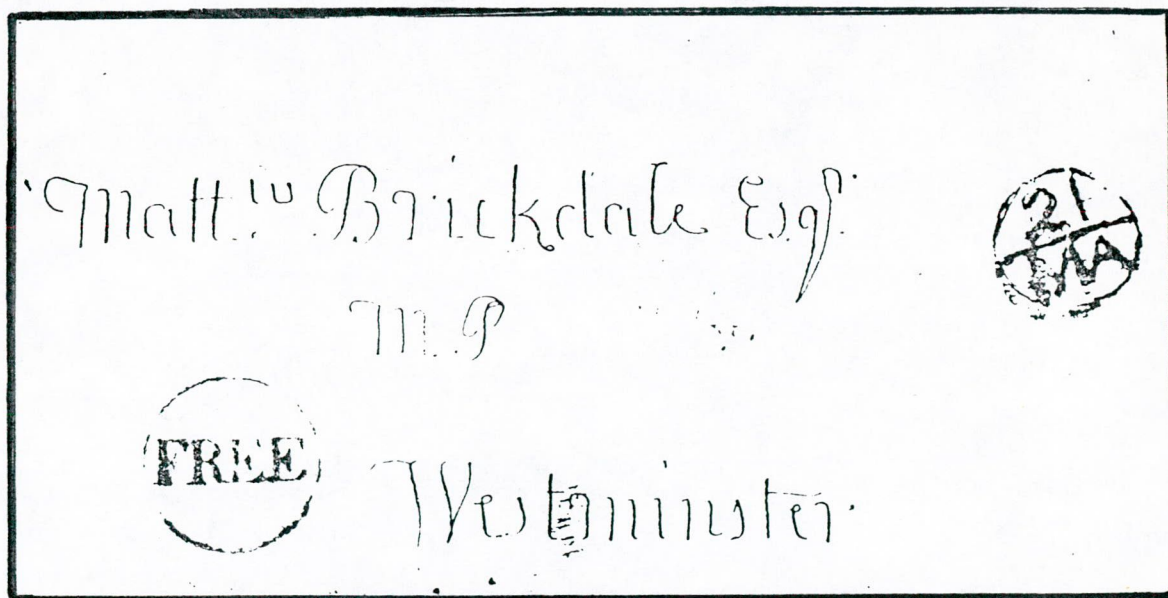
GENERAL POST - FRANKED LETTERS

UNDATED "FREE" WITH TALL "F"



1764 June 7th. Within 18mm diam. circle. First year of use.
Showing "B-ris/tol" handstamp. sent from Delgaty.

UNDATED "FREE" IN 23mm diam. CIRCLE



1781 May 21st. Known used 1765-88.
Sent from Bristol.
Showing 188mm diam. Bishop mark.

"FFRANKE" in manuscript

Mr. Harvey,

This morning I went to enquire for Mr. Austin and find that My Lord Bishop went to Farnum on Saturday last, soe I was disappointed of speaking with him Mr. Austin, which is a great disappointment to me as I have not above four pounds with me and without you assist me I doe not know what I shall doe. Pray will you be soe kind as to take some care in this business that I may not being disappointed and in it you will very much oblige

Your friend to serve you

ffra Dawe

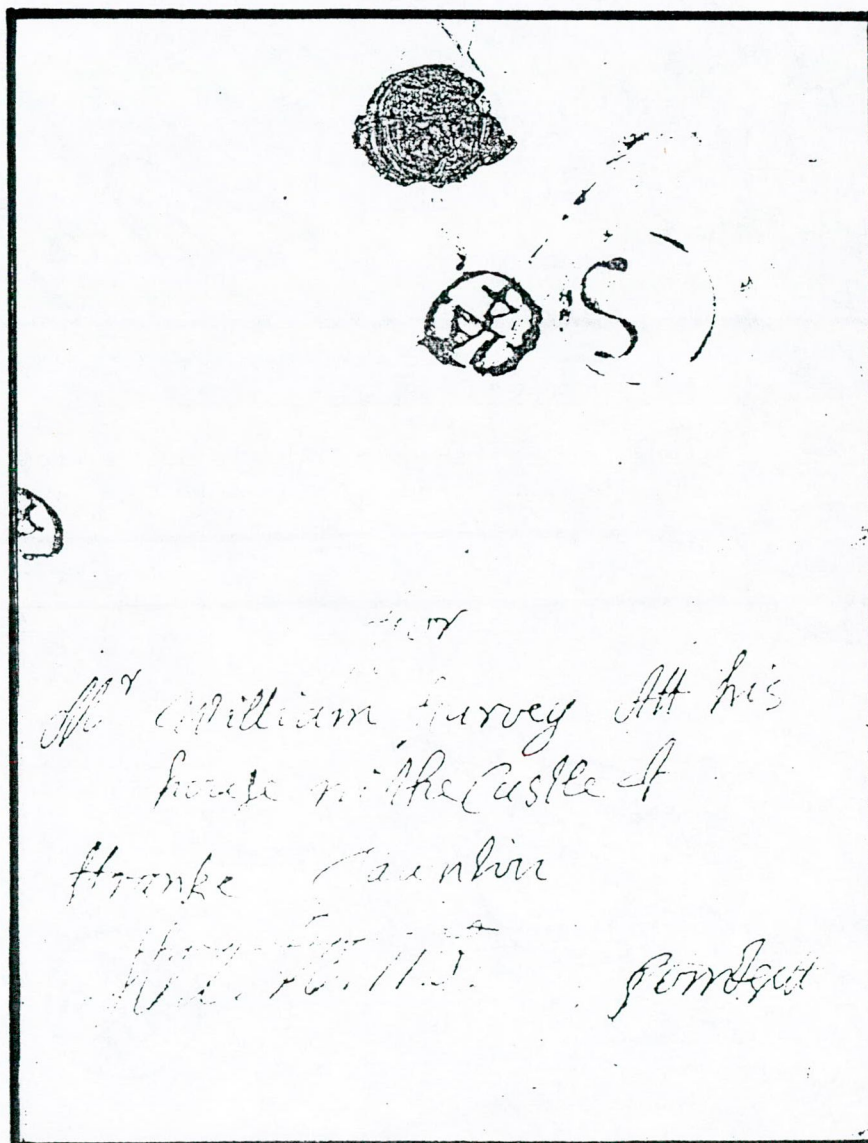
Pray lett me have a
line in answer.

Section 6

FRANKED LETTERS

The Franking privilege for Members of both Houses of Parliament and certain officials was in operation from at least 1652, governed by certain rules which were, due to abuse, gradually added to. A simple endorsement with the word "Frank" and signature of sender was at first sufficient. Handstamps came into use in 1764 and, from 1799, experimental ones were tried out in both the General and London Local Posts. Scarce examples of these being that with eleven triangular rays [in use 2 days] and the unframed "To Pay 2d Only [in use 4 days]". In 1795 the weight limit was introduced and the numbers limited to sending 10 letters and receiving up to 15 each day under the Frank, which gave rise to the handstamps "Above Weight" and "Above Number". Franked letters were not exempt from the Local Post charges bringing about handstamps "To Pay 1d Only" and "To Pay 2d Only". Also shown is the handstamp "Waterloo Subscription", a national charity appeal for "relief to the wounded and surviving relatives of those who fell on that glorious day". Letters carrying this handstamp were entitled to go free in the post.

"FFRANKE" in manuscript

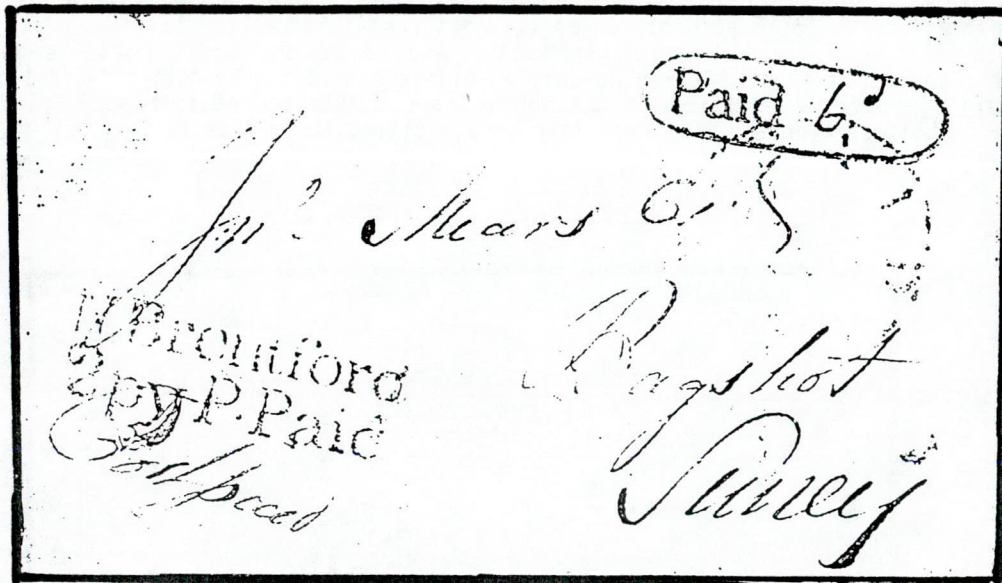


1699 Jan 4th. Sent from London to Taunton.
Showing mark of Richard Sare,
Receiver 1683-1721 in Gray's Inn

LONDON TWOPENNY POST INSTRUCTIONAL MARK
(for Post office Staff)

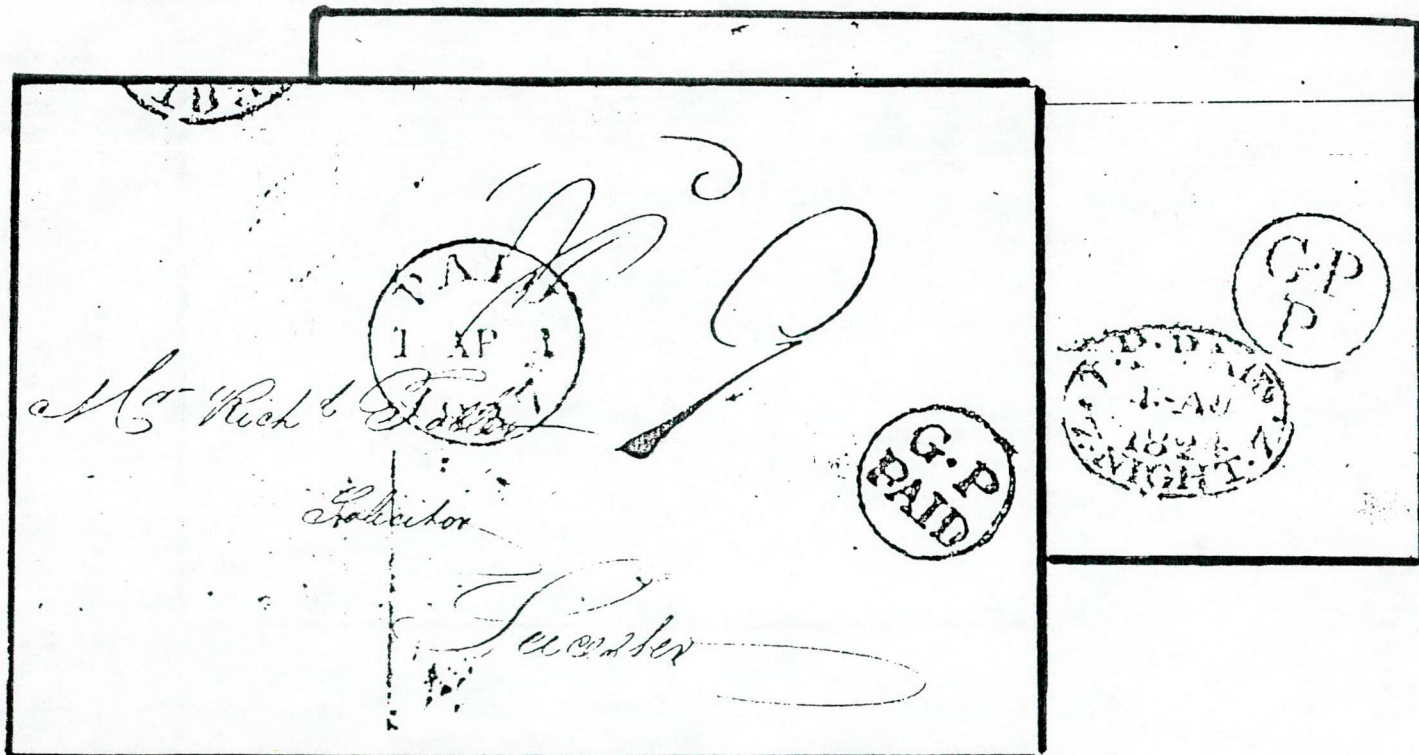
"Paid 6d - in oval frame"

1818 Sept. 29th. In use 1800-33. Used in the Country Offices of the Twopenny Post on letters to be transferred to the General Post for delivery and on which the General Post charge had been prepaid.



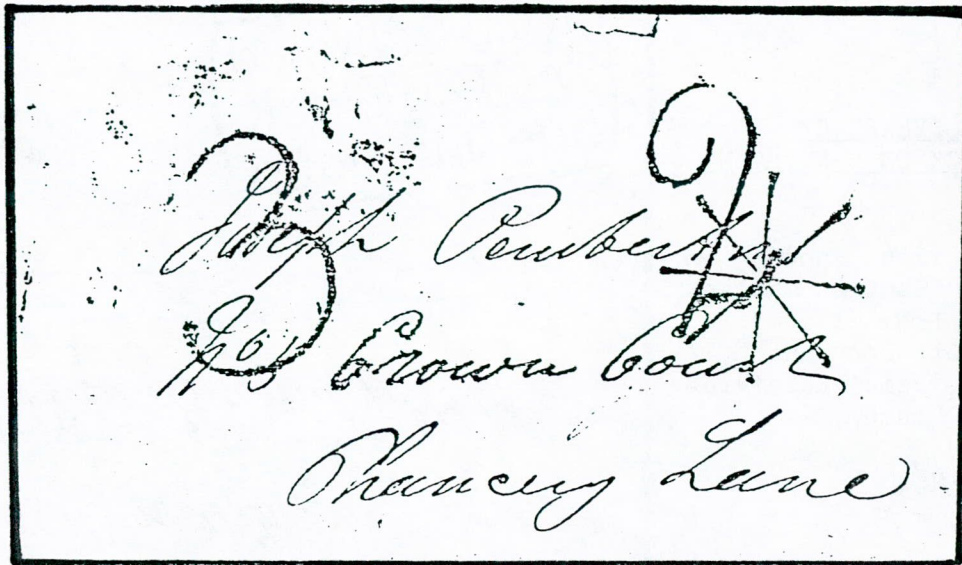
"G.P/P" and "G.P/PAID in circular frame"

Applied to letters transferred from Local to General Post, on which the General Post has been paid.



LONDON TWOPENNY POST INSTRUCTIONAL MARK
(for Post Office Staff)

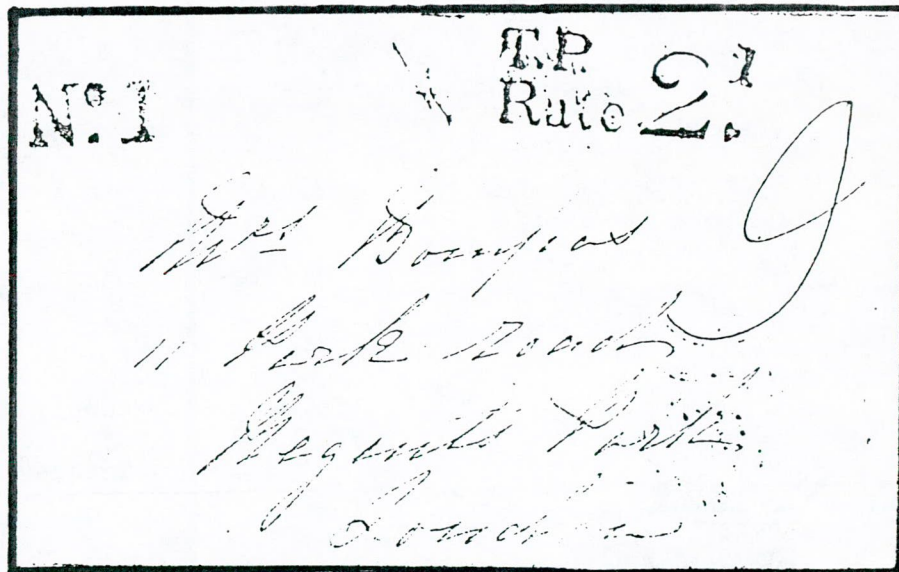
ERASURE MARK



1816 July 20th.

Used at the Westminster Office, amending the charge to 3d.
Sent from Chelsea in the Country area.

"TP/RATE 2d"



1837 June 22nd.

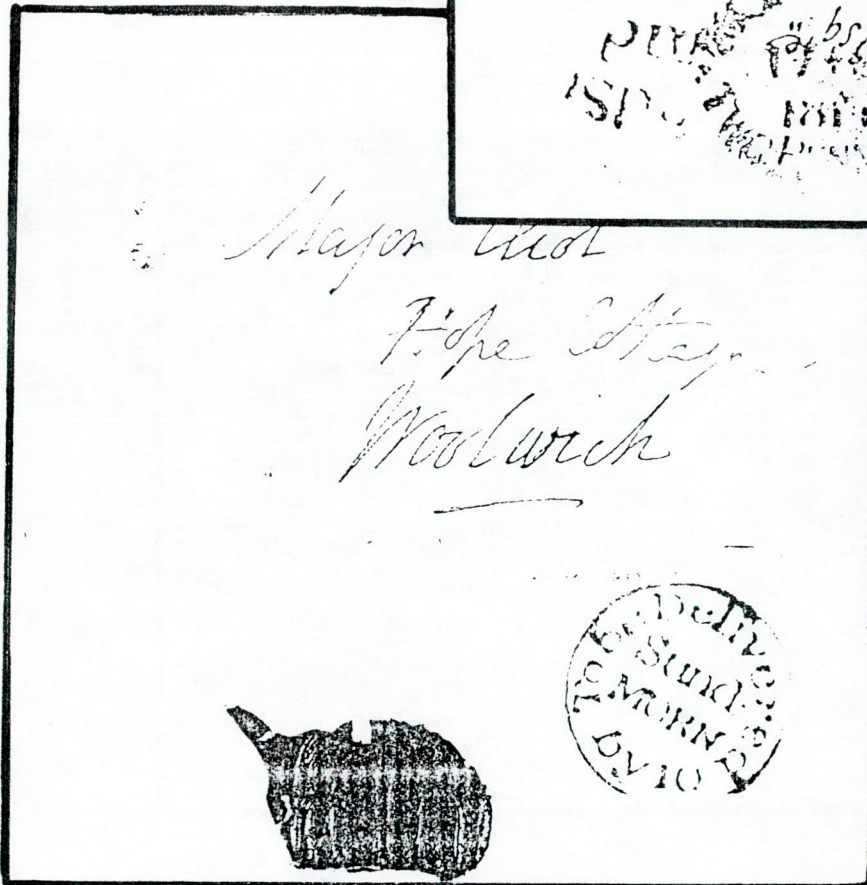
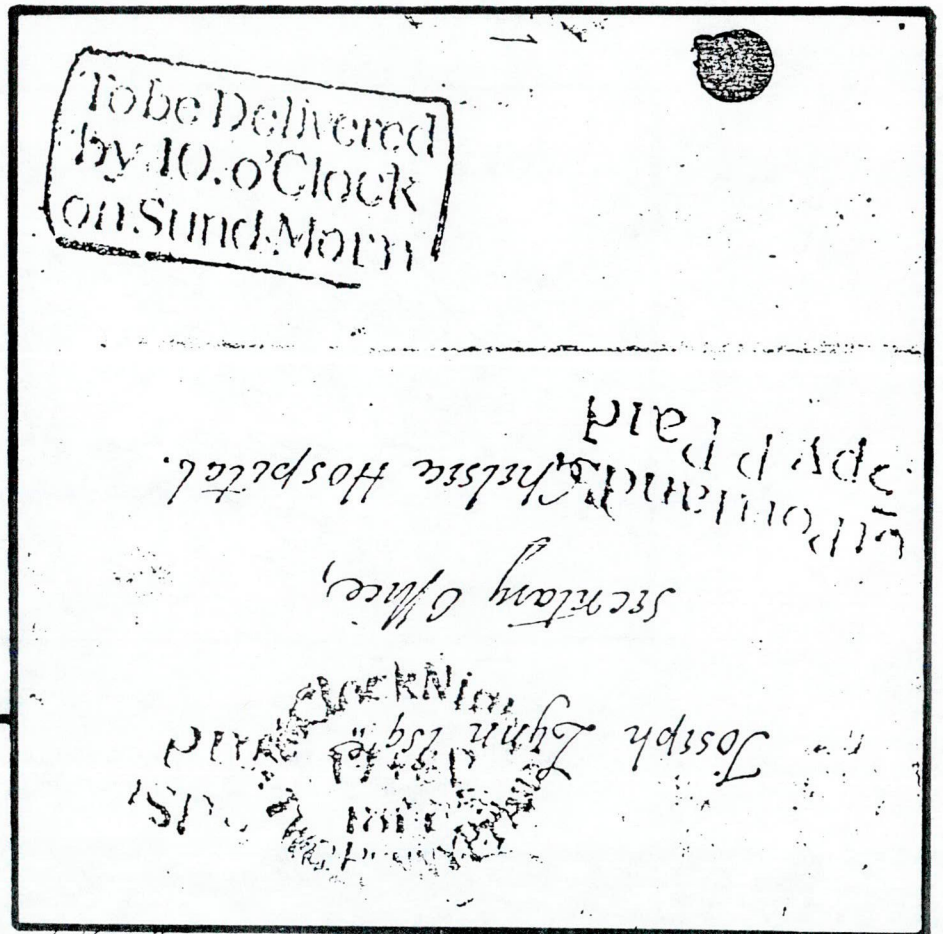
Only year of use.

Applied to letters transferred from the General Post to the Twopenny Post
for delivery in the Country area of London,
authorising the charge of 2d. in additional to the General Post charge.
Showing STOCKBRIDGE No. 1 Receiving House stamp.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
(for Post Office staff)

"TO BE DELIVERED BY
10. o' CLOCK ON SUND. MORN"

1814 Sept 17th. Known from
1801. Sent to Chelsea
Hospital from Fitzroy Sq.
Showing "Gt. Portland St /
3 py P. Paid" Receiving
House.



"TO BE DELIVERED
BY 10. SUND. MORN"

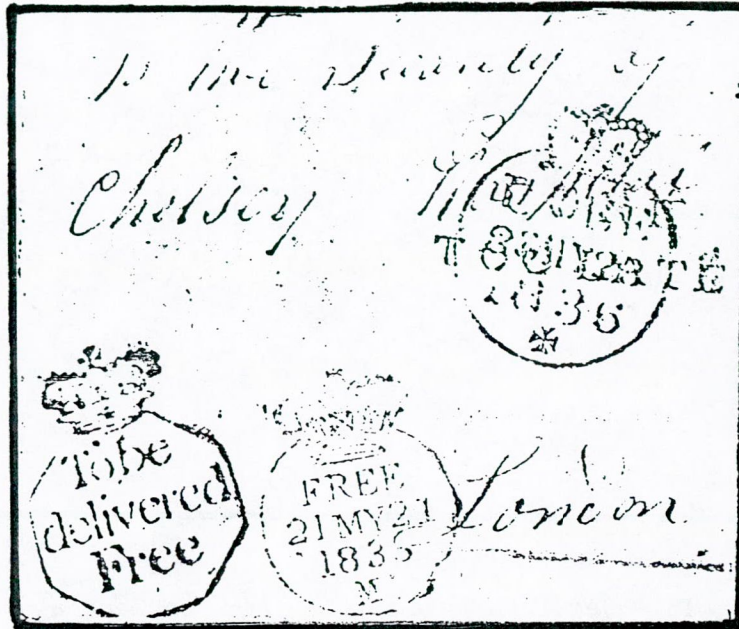
1828 Nov. 15th.
Recorded 1822-32.
Put in at 223 H. Holborn
Twopenny Post Receiving
House.

These Sunday Stamps were
introduced to avoid accusations
that Sunday work prevented
Letter Carriers from attending
Church Services.

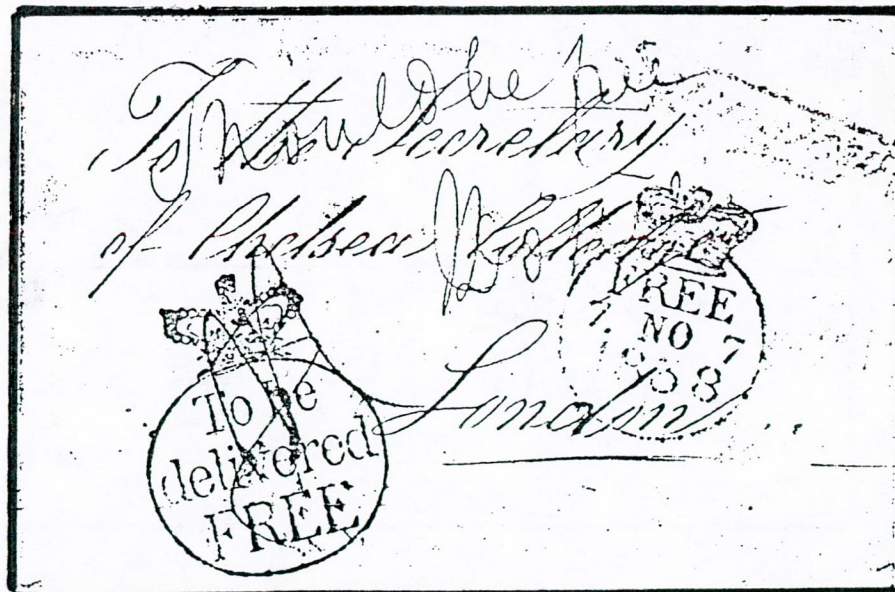
LONDON TWOPENNY POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
(for Post Office staff)

Administration Marks

"TO BE DELIVERED FREE"



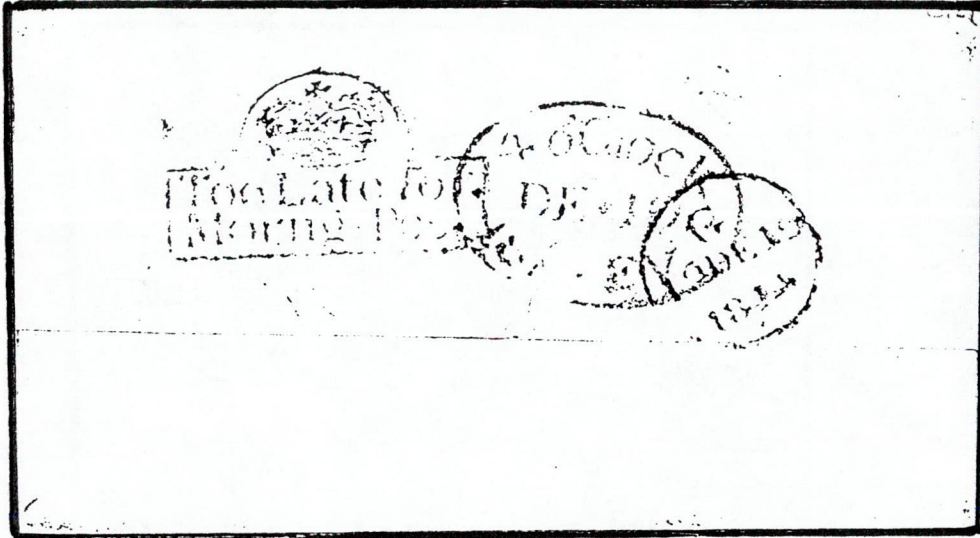
1836 May 20th. Known used 1816-40.
Showing "CORK TOO LATE" with Irish and London "Free" marks.
sent from Midleton.



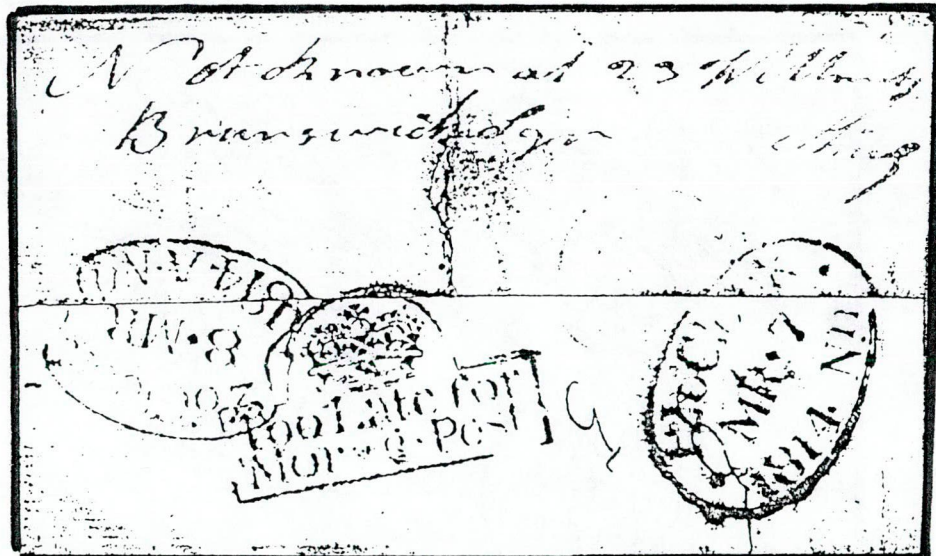
1838 Nov 5th. Recorded 1837-40.
Originally charges "8", this cancelled by the stamp.
Manuscript "Should be free"
Showing feint "Hounslow Py. Post"
Sent from Bath.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
(for the public)

"TOO LATE FOR MORNING POST"

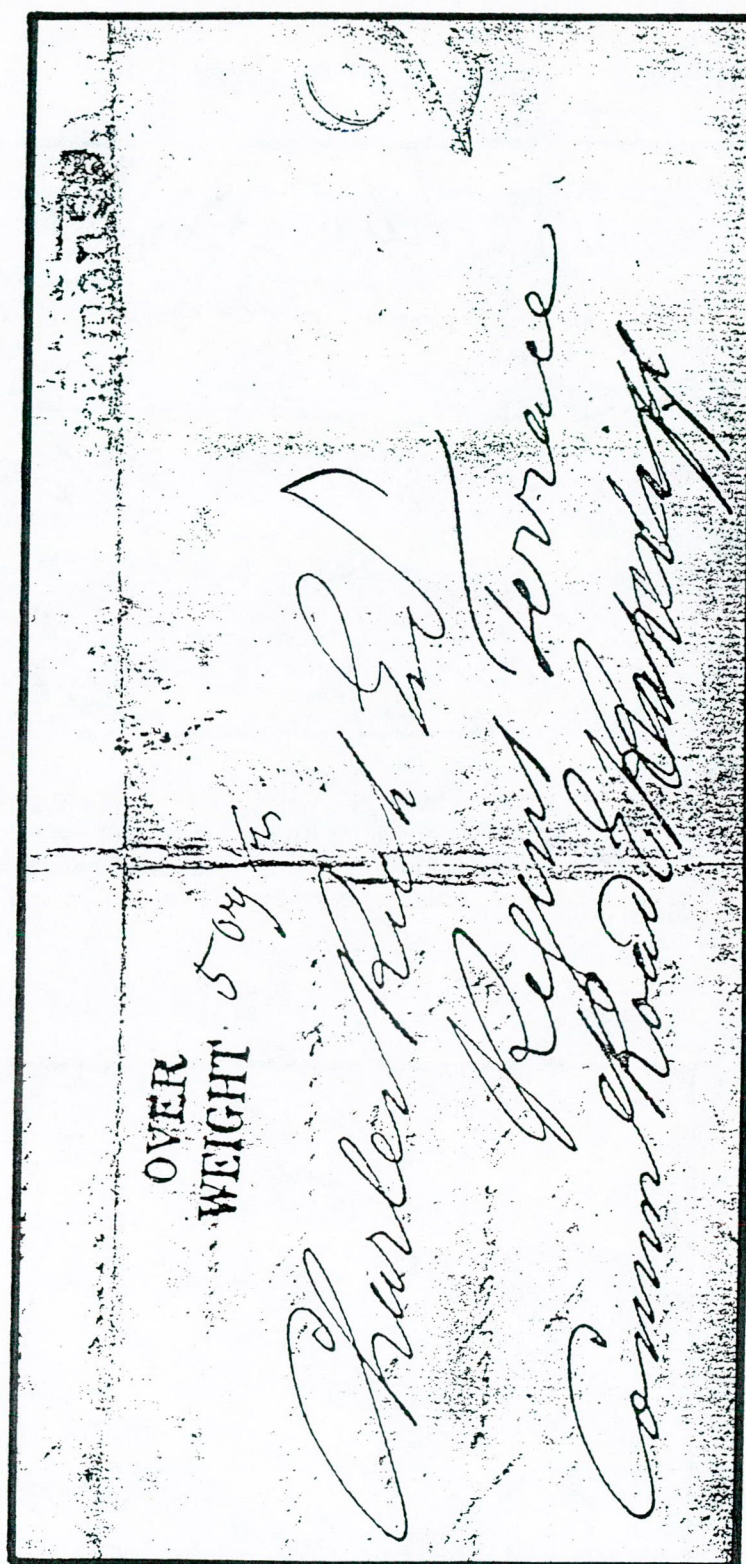


1814 Dec. 17th. recorded 1813-5 on General Post letters which have been delayed and transferred to the Twopenny Post for delivery.
Sent from Evesham to Woolwich Common. Rated 1/6d.



1814 March 6th. Previously only recorded in red. but this example struck in black on a redirected letter.
Sent from Epsom to Brunswick Square.
On obverse "G.P." handstamp and endorsed "Supposed Finsbury Sq."
Transferred to Twopenny Post for delivery.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
(for the Public)



"OVER WEIGHT"

1838 Sept. 22nd.

"OVER WEIGHT" handstamp applied at the Chief Office with '5oz½' in manuscript.

Put in at the Twopenny Post Receiving House in Coleman Street.

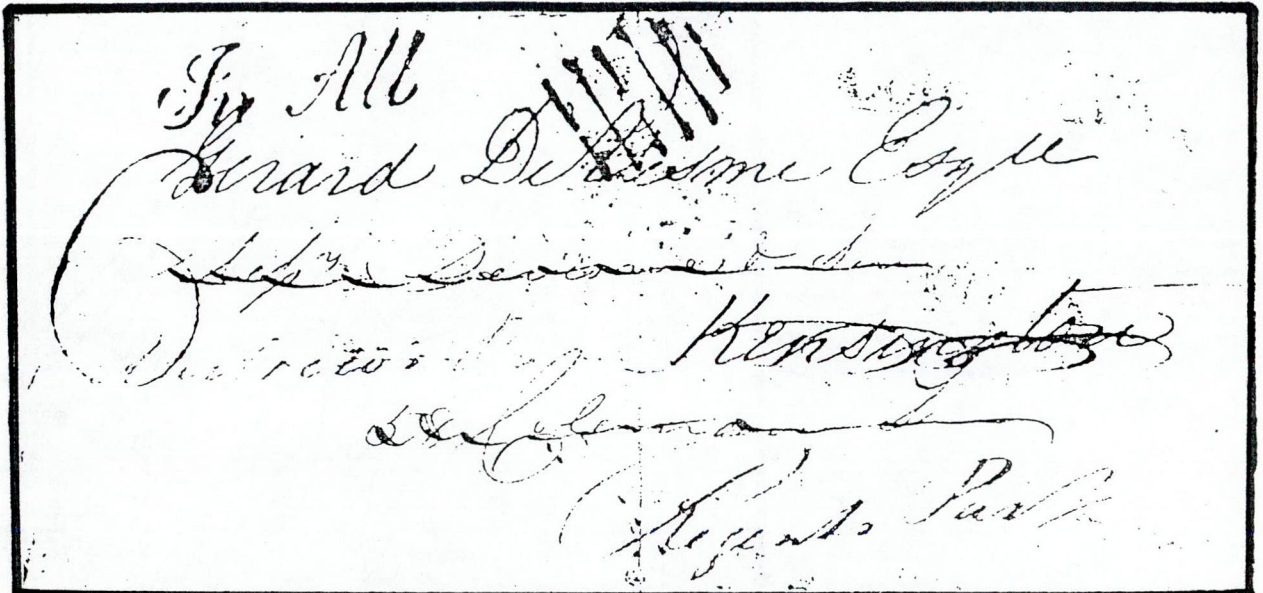
Showing the "2" charge.

Backstamped with datestamp "6 EV 6. SP 22. 1838"

One other example of this handstamp is known but of a later date.

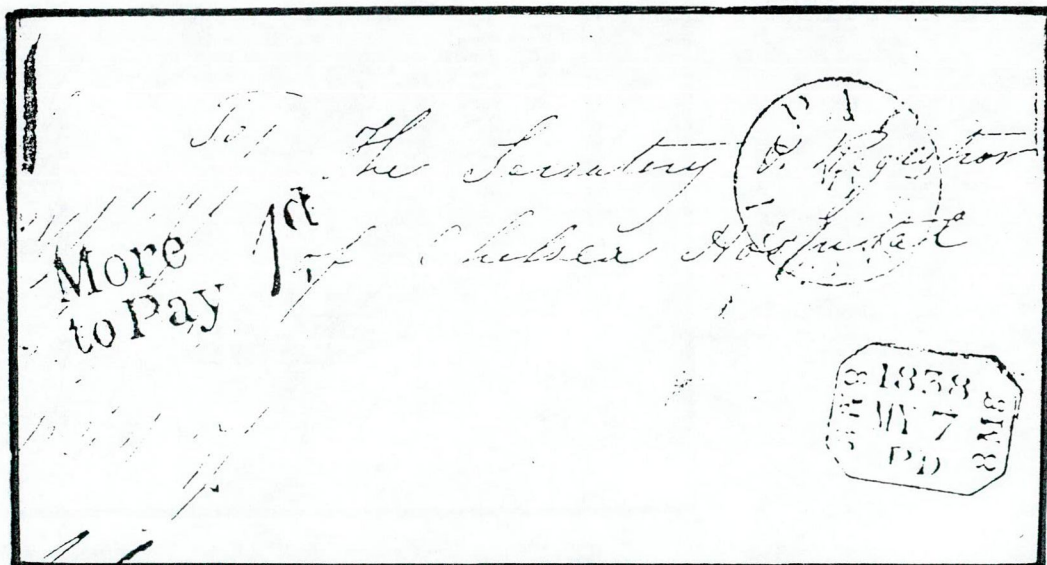
LONDON TWOPENNY POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
(for Post Office staff)

"IN ALL 6"



1828 July 9th. Sent from a Cornhill to Kensington in the 3d Country area and redirected within the Country area, the charge of 6d being made for both the original and redirected delivery.

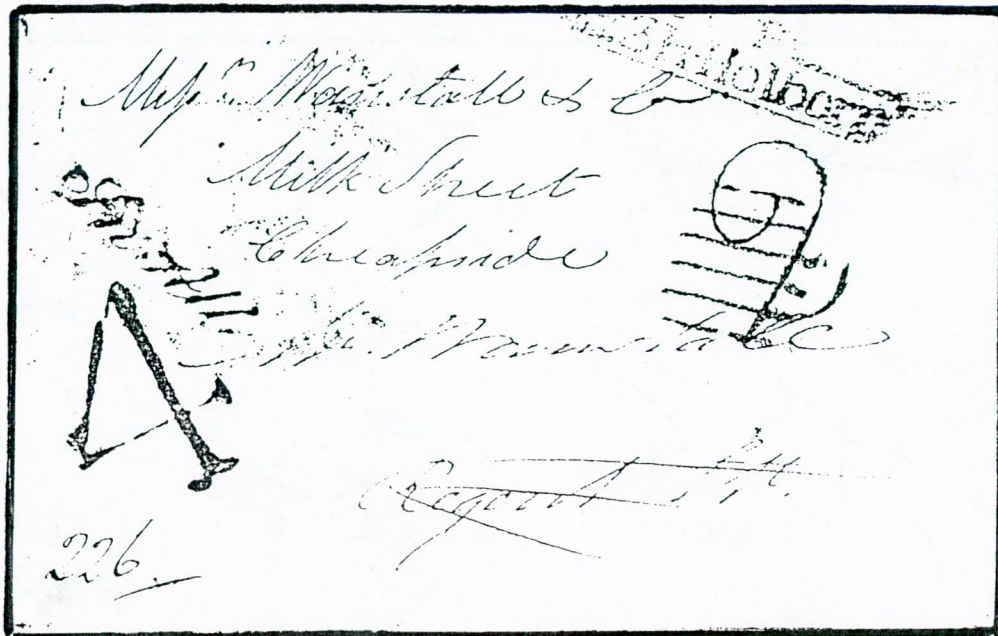
"MORE / TO PAY 1d"



1838 May 5th. Only year of use.
Sent by an Out-Pensioner in St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park Corner.
Showing General and Twopenny Post paid stamps.

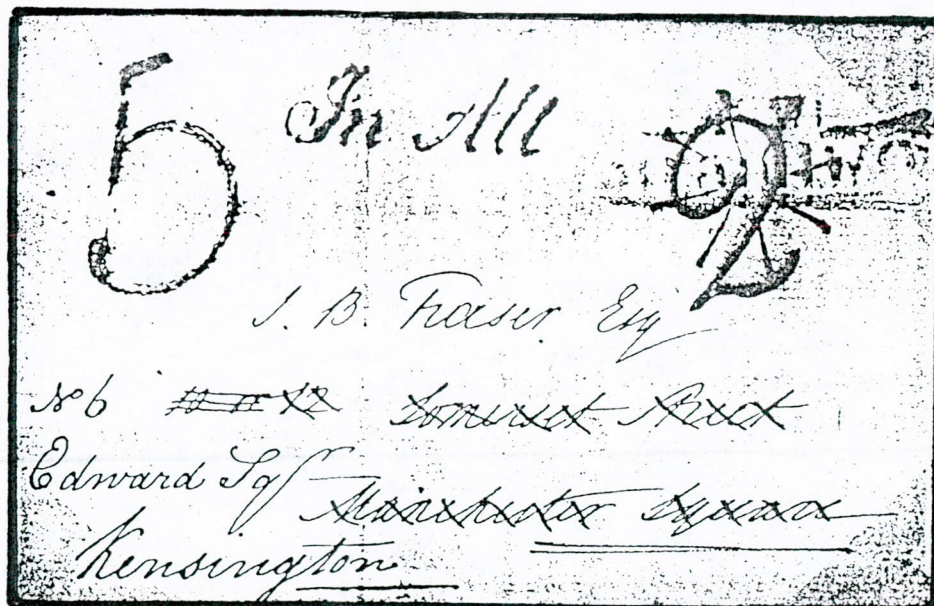
LONDON TWOPENNY POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
(for Post office staff)

"IN ALL 4"



1829 Sept 11th. Sent from Bloomsbury in the 2d. Post area and redirected. Showing erasure mark used at Westminster

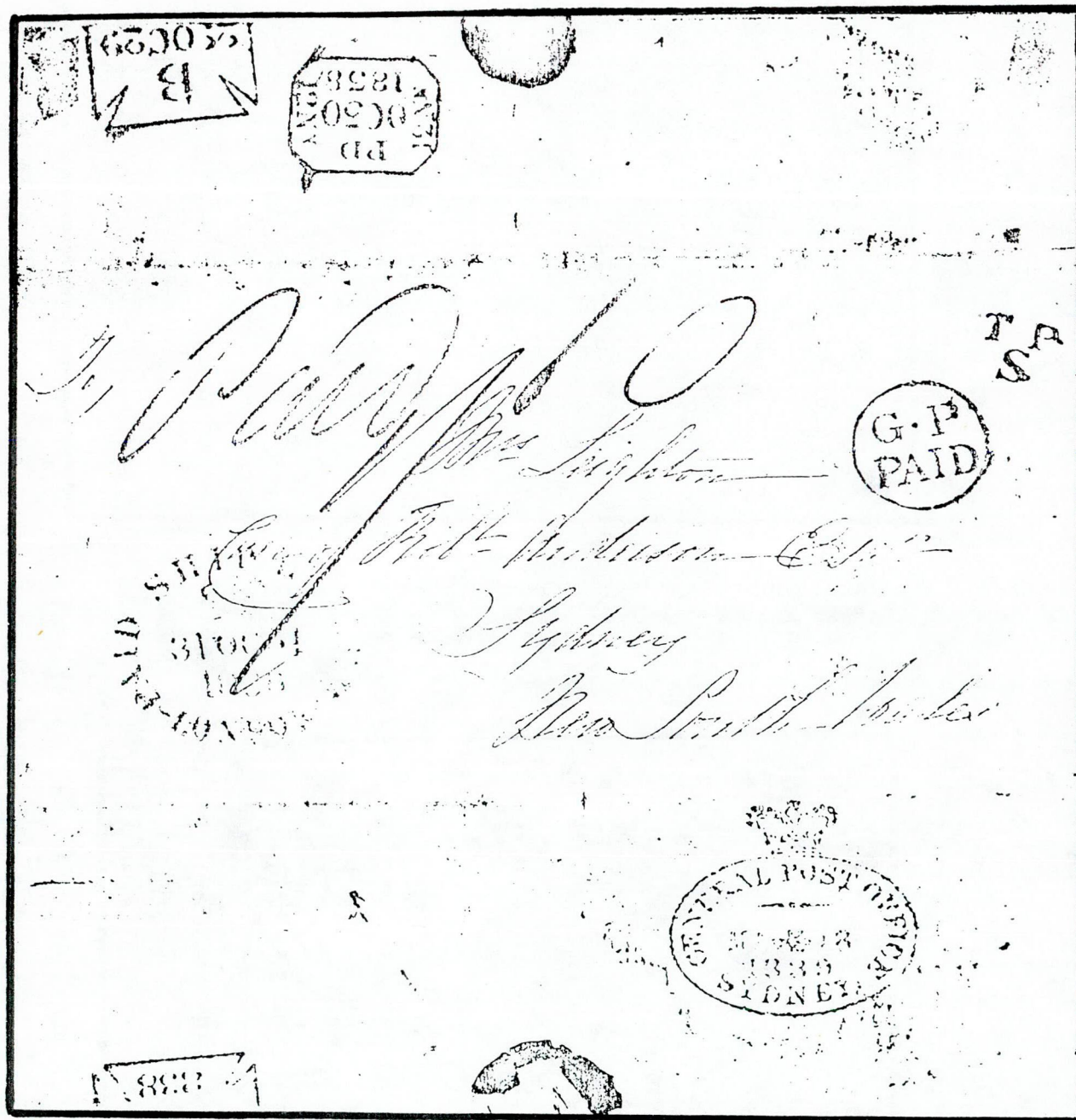
"IN ALL 5"



Recorded in 1815 only Posted originally in the Town area and charged 2, this being deleted with the "spider" erasure stamp and the "5" charged on redirection to Kensington, in the Country area.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARK
(For Post Office staff)

"TP/S" - TWOPENNY POST TO THE SHIP LETTER OFFICE



1838 Oct. 27th. Brighton to New South Wales. Carried to Southwark by hand and posted in the Borough Branch Office of the General Post, this Ship Letter was apparently missorted to the Local Post, receiving the "G.P/PAID" and "PD" time/datestamp. Transferred back for the Ship Letter Office, it received the "TP/S" mark. Presumably the address was misread at first as *Lydney, Near South Wales* (127 miles) and 10d prepaid in error, the 1/- being collected in Australia.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
(For Post Office staff)

To the Right Hon. ^{ble}
Lord Palmerston
Secretary at War
Horse Guards
Private

MS

"MS" - IN OVAL

1817 Jan. 30th Known
used 1813-33. Probably
indicating "MISSORTED".
Put in at the Minorities
Receiving House.

"R.L" - RIDE LETTERS

Handed to a Letter Carrier
on a Country Ride and not
put in at a Receiving
House, so carries no R.H.
handstamp. Both are from
the Country area of the
Twopenny Post. Charged
3d. for delivery within
London.

RL

Wm Townsend Esq
Doctor Common
and Curmudge

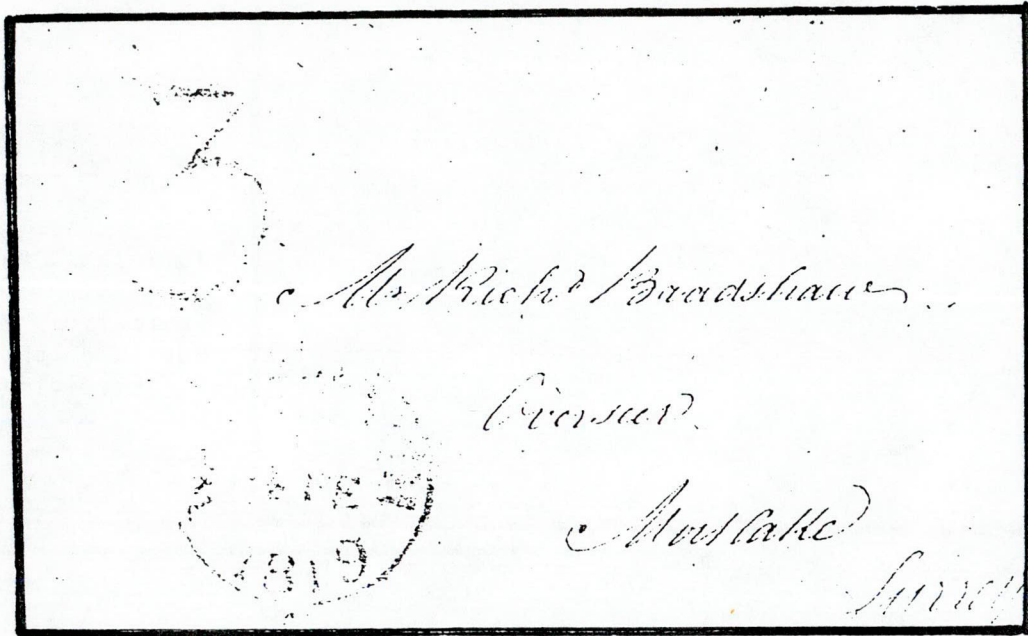
Miss M. M. M.
Doctor
London

1836 Mar. 24th.
Last year of use.
Recorded 1829-36

1837 March 16th.
Recorded 1837-8.

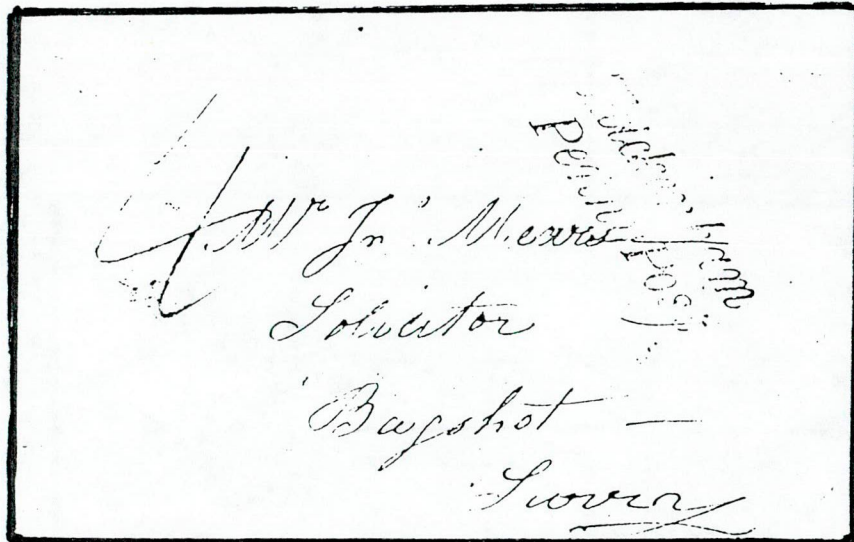
LONDON CROSS AND BYE POSTS

FLAT TOPPED "3" ON BYE LETTER



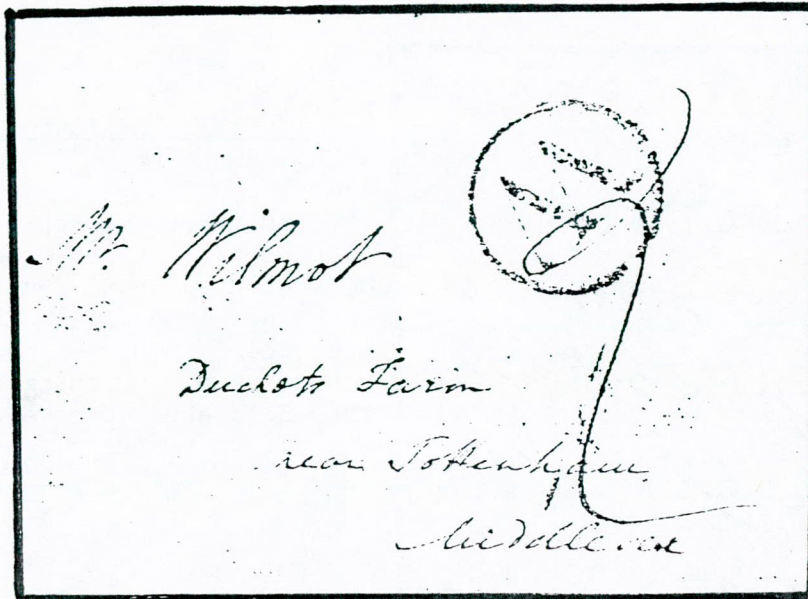
1819 Feb. 4th. Known used 1912-38

LONDON CROSS POST and
UNIFORM FOURPENNY POST



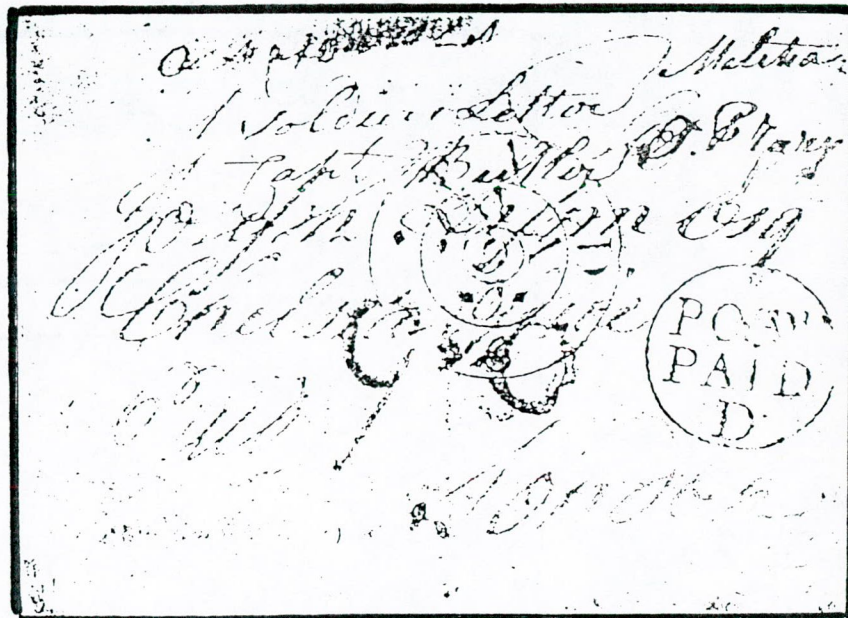
1839 Dec 16th. sent from Twickenham in the
London Cross Post to Kingston, incurring the
Penny Post charge and on to Bagshot by the
Uniform 4d. Post.

LONDON PENNY POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
(For Post Office Staff)



"WINDOW" LETTER

1795 Feb. 11th. First year of use. Applied to letters wrongly posted in the General Post instead of a Penny Post Receiving House and transferred to the Penny Post for delivery outside the London General Post delivery area. Sent from Symonds Inn.



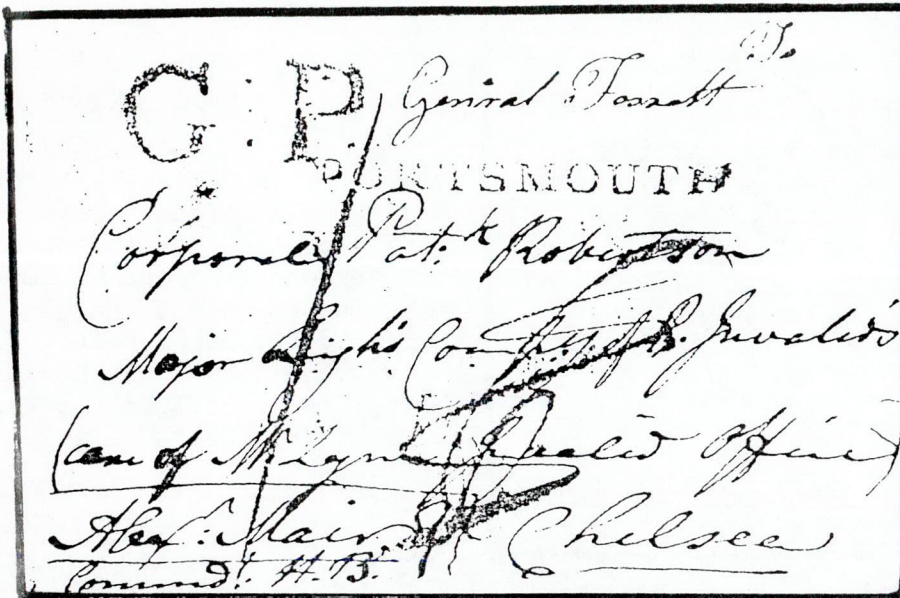
"C.O." - CHIEF OFFICE

1796 May 4th. Usually applied to letters posted at the Chief Office but this item was posted in Dublin to Chelsea in the London Penny Post Country area.

It is possible the "C.O." was applied upon transfer for delivery by the Penny Post.

A soldier's letter showing the 1d. concessionary rate and the General Post "Paid" mark.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS
(For Post Office Staff)



"G: P" - GENERAL POST

1801 July 3rd. Applied to letters transferred from the General to Local Post on which no local post charge was due. Charge of 6d. erased and 1d. charged for the Soldiers Concessionary Rate.



"F. P." - FOREIGN POST

1828 July 21st. Sent from Belgium. The "F. P." mark appears to be the equivalent of the above "G: P" mark on letters transferred to the Twopenny Post for delivery and on which no local post-charge was due. A previously unrecorded Twopenny Post handstamp of which only two are known. Charged 1/4, the standard incoming Belgium mail charge to London.

Government Penny Post "GP" Handstamp

25th. June 1778

Sent from the Foundling Hospital -

Sir,

Be pleased to send the wet nurse
that was disappointed having a child a short time since
to this hospital next Wednesday morning the first July
and one will be delivered to her.

I am,

Your most obedient &
Most Humble Servant

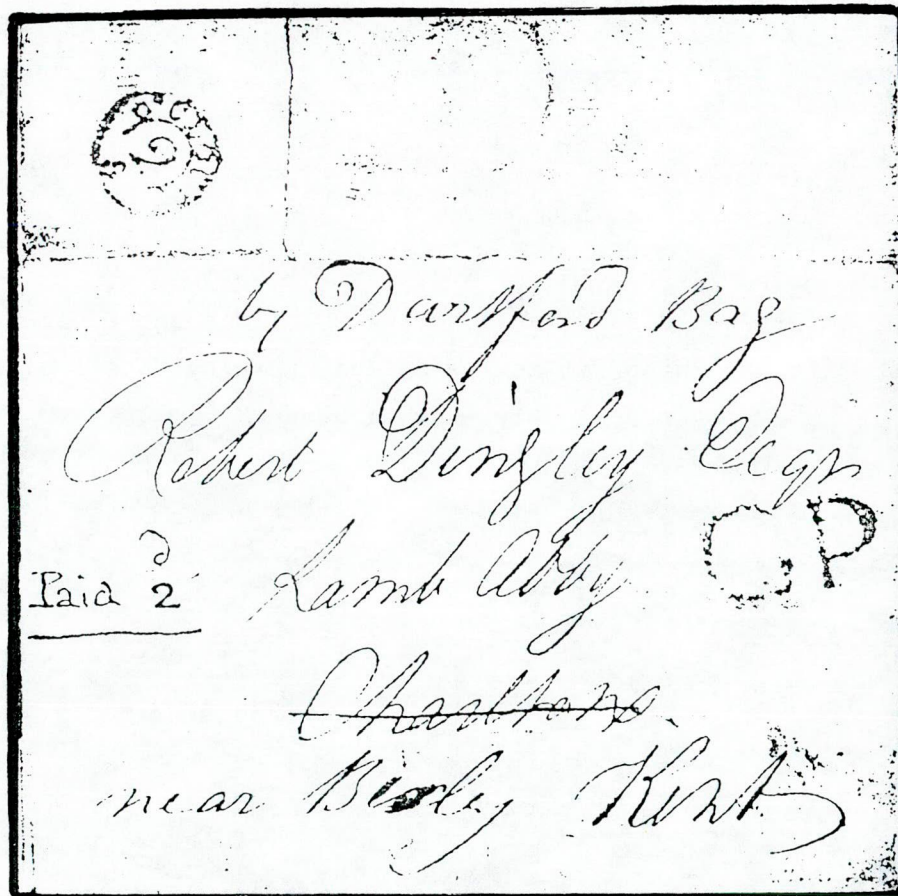
M. Collingwood,

Secy.

Ann Mills of Greenwich No. 17352

GOVERNMENT PENNY POST - INSTRUCTIONAL MARK
(For Post Office Staff)

"GP" - GENERAL POST



1778 June 25th. Struck in the Government penny Post on transfer to the General Post for delivery - one of only two examples recorded, both on re-addressed mail. Sent from the Foundling Hospital to Charlton endorsed "by Dartford Bag" Paid 2d. Showing Southwark Time stamp. Backstamped with Bishop marks of the 25th. & 26th. June.