

## NOTEBOOK

Number 113 September 1994

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Editor : Peter Forrestier Smith

64 Gordon Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3RE

### EDITORIAL

After some forty years of STAMPEX (do you remember the six deep, one hundred yard long queues outside the Westminster Hall?) and with the near saturation availability of local, good fairs, this Autumn there was a degree of ennui. The displays were interesting - the one on London General Post Services (by a non member!) - winning a major award but the quality and variety of London material on offer did not appear to excite the interest of those LPHG members we met during the six day event. There were some exceptional items; that a number of these lasted through to Sunday before they were snapped up might be a reflection of the lack of "feel good" we are assured pervades the country at present.

To paraphrase a recruiting poster from WWI "What did you find at STAMPEX, Daddy?" might provide you with something to bring along to the November meeting and/or contribute a page or three to *Notebook*.



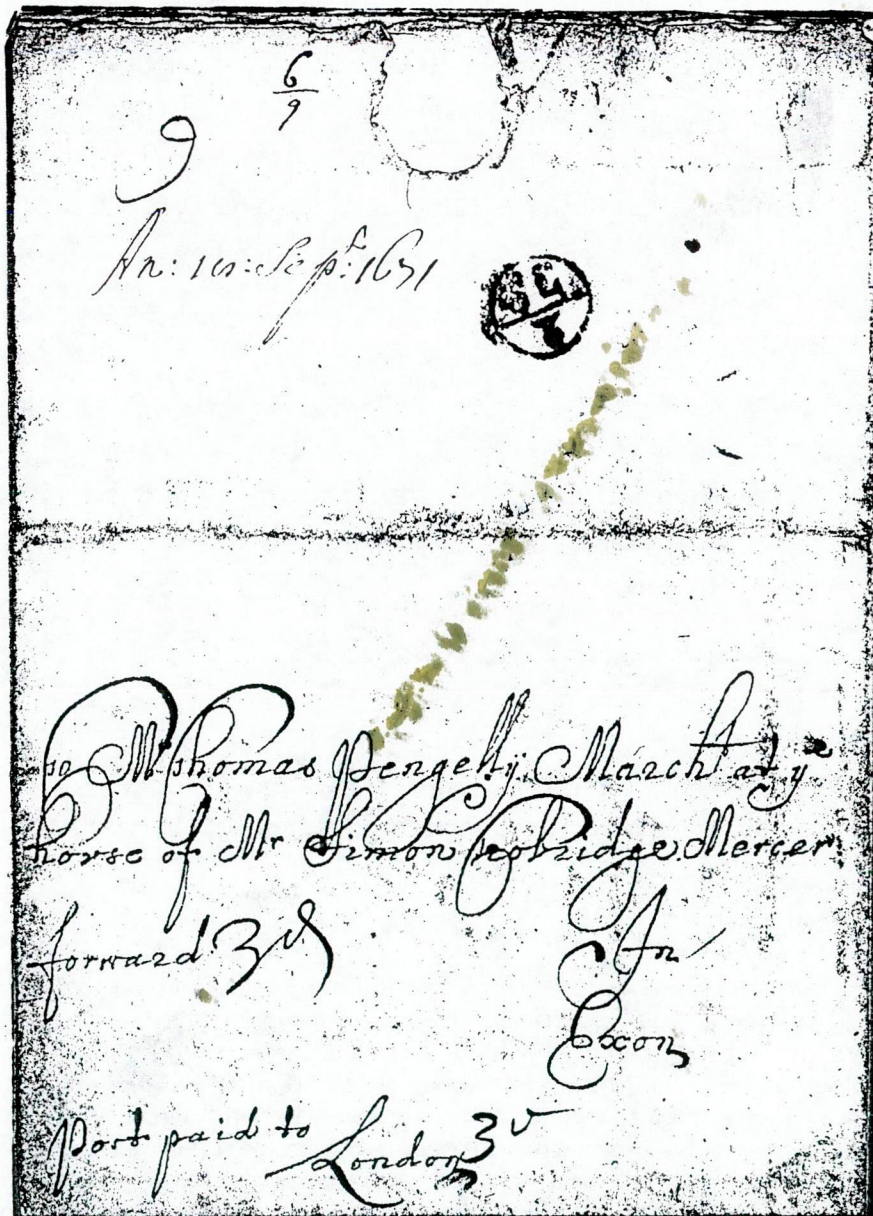
## A SPLIT POSTAGE EFFECT

by George Crabb

An unusual item, which has what I call a "split postage" effect. When I acquired this it was accompanied by a note to the effect that a similar item dated some eight years earlier, from the same person, had been seen.

The "London" angle is in the apparent part prepayment with the endorsement 'Post paid to London 3<sup>d</sup>'. Norwich, where the letter was written on the 6th. September, 1671, being some 111 miles to London would incur a 3<sup>d</sup> charge.

Exeter, being 171 miles from London, would incur a 3<sup>d</sup> charge, a total of 6<sup>d</sup>. The significance of the '6/9' and the '9' is, therefore, obscure,

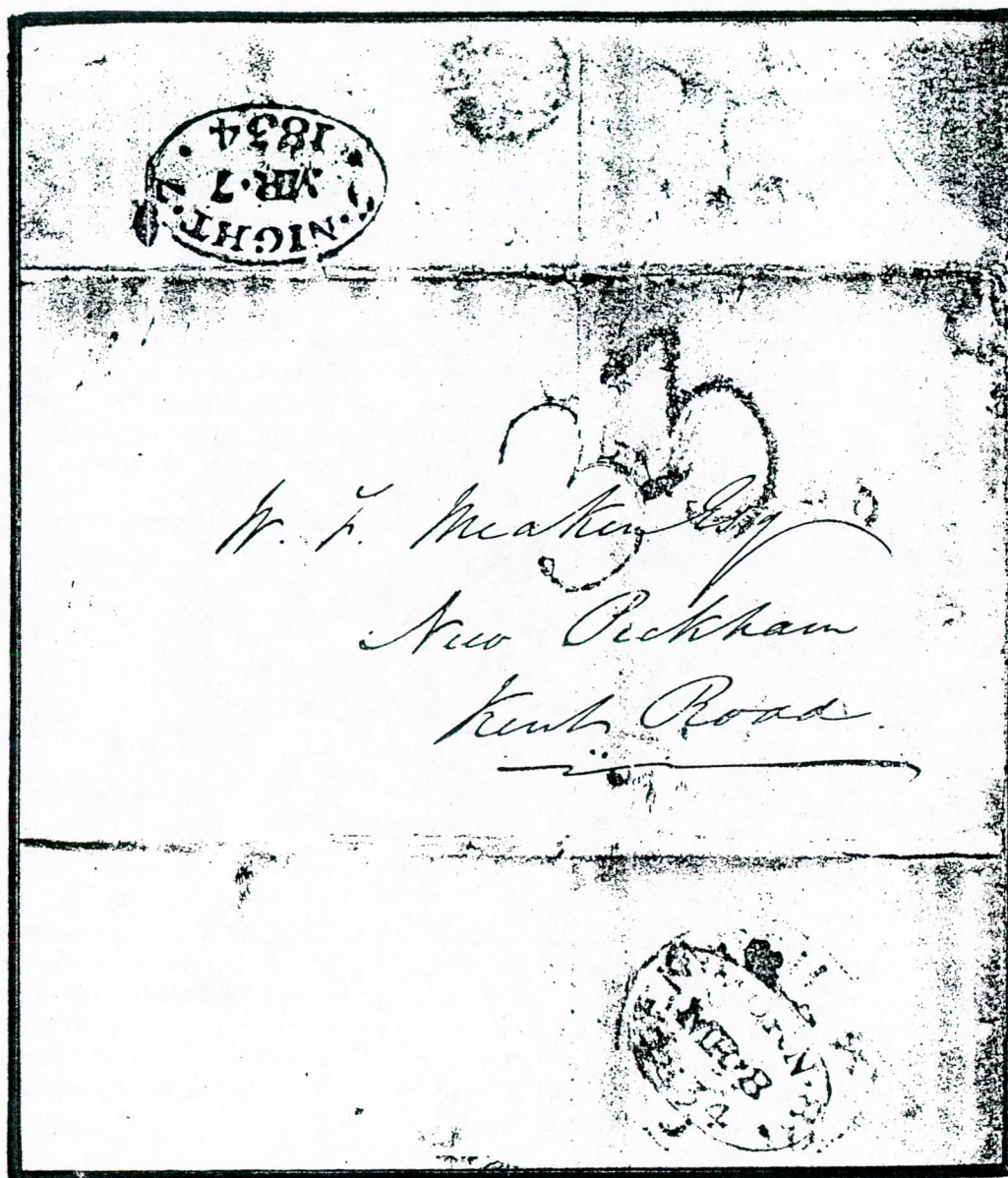




A MIS-SORTED GREENWICH BYE POST LETTER

The Editor

Whilst idling away a few minutes looking at a stock book of covers, one was noted which was described, in part, as relating to a survey of the Phoenix Gas Works by a Mr Meakin of New Peckham, Kent Road. Being interested in the Kent Road and knowing of SEEGAS HQ based there nowadays, it was purchased with that given as the reason for the interest.



The route from Blackheath (where the Greenwich date stamp and faint framed TP Greenwich was employed) to Peckham was on the Woolwich ride. This letter, dated as from Crooms Hill\*, Greenwich and dated 7th. March 1834 was posted late in the day but, nevertheless, received the Greenwich CSO date stamp for the 7th and the flat topped three of the Bye Letter service.

\* Crooms Hill is a rather nice street of Georgian Houses which runs down the west side of Greenwich Park from Blackheath to Greenwich. The top of Crooms Hill is not far from the site of the house at the top of Blackheath Hill that was the Greenwich Country Sorting Office.



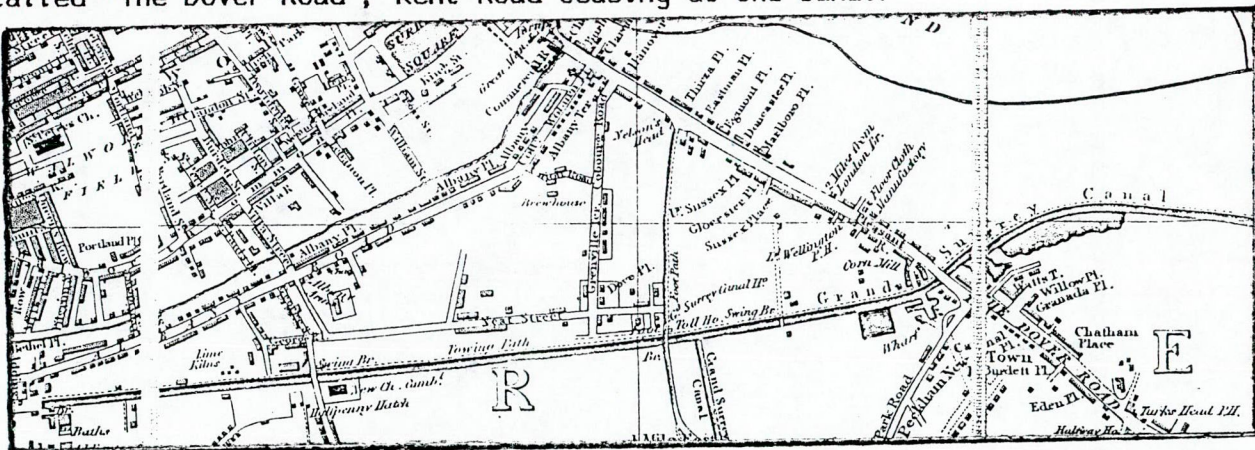
It appears the Bye Post letter would have been carried by the same rider as other TP and General Post mail. It follows if this were too late for the Bye Post it would have been too late for the other posts as well. This ruled out the initial thought this might be a "Too Late" item.

There was, in fact, a system of "too late" Bye Post letters for those districts which were partly in the Town and partly in the Country areas (such as the Kent Road) - but only for letters sent from such places. Bye Post letters which were posted too late could get to their destinations quicker via the Chief or Westminster offices.

Put in af-  
ter ½ pt 4

There was a 5 o'clock collection for Town, whereas the Bye Letters' time was 4.30 p.m. Once in town, the letters would be put on the evening mail coaches for delivery first thing the following morning, thus saving up to half a day on a delayed Bye Letter. The stamp illustrated above was meant to be put on such letters, although no example in use has been recorded thus far.

One factor which might cause an error by the originating office was the extension of the Town area 1829-31 whereby former Country area offices with a Bye Post lost this facility if taken into the Town area. As can be seen from the map, Peckham - which is south of the Albany Road/Kent Road junction, the new edge of the Town area - was unaffected by this change. New Peckham appears at the bottom right of the map, interestingly adjacent to what was then called "The Dover Road", Kent Road ceasing at the canal.



What is not clear from the photocopy is a very feint framed TP Greenwich, in red, overstruck by the flat top three, which is in an oily grey-black. In contrast, the round top three is in a clean, sharp black ink, quite unlike that of the FTT. On the reverse are the time stamps for the 7 Night for Mar 7 and the 8 Morn for the following day. The latter is struck over the Greenwich CSO evening date stamp.

The despatch of all mails, Bye Post, Twopenny and General Posts, from Greenwich was timed for 4.37 with arrival at Peckham soon after at 4.51pm. The third Peckham delivery was at 5.15pm. Plenty of time for the letter to reach Mr Meakin during the evening of the 7th. In fact, he did not get it until the following morning.

There is no indication of the reason for the routing through the Chief Office, no Inspector's mark to indicate a query, just the round top three. It is suggested this was struck in the Chief Office. Why the FTT was not cancelled is a matter for conjecture, examples of such deletions on other covers are known. Possibly an oversight, possibly tacit recognition of an



error by an employee of the Post Office. The Greenwich Receiver was not at fault, unless he wrongly bagged the item. (Were letters, Bye and other, mixed in one bag or separated at the office of dispatch?) I suspect the Rider just took the letter onto London, due to a mis sort at Peckham or Greenwich. In which case, why not a blunt admission of the mistake ?

Altogether a very happy purchase, generating research and adding a different example of postal history to the collection.

My thanks to Peter Bathe for his advices which have been incorporated into these notes: the conclusions are mine.

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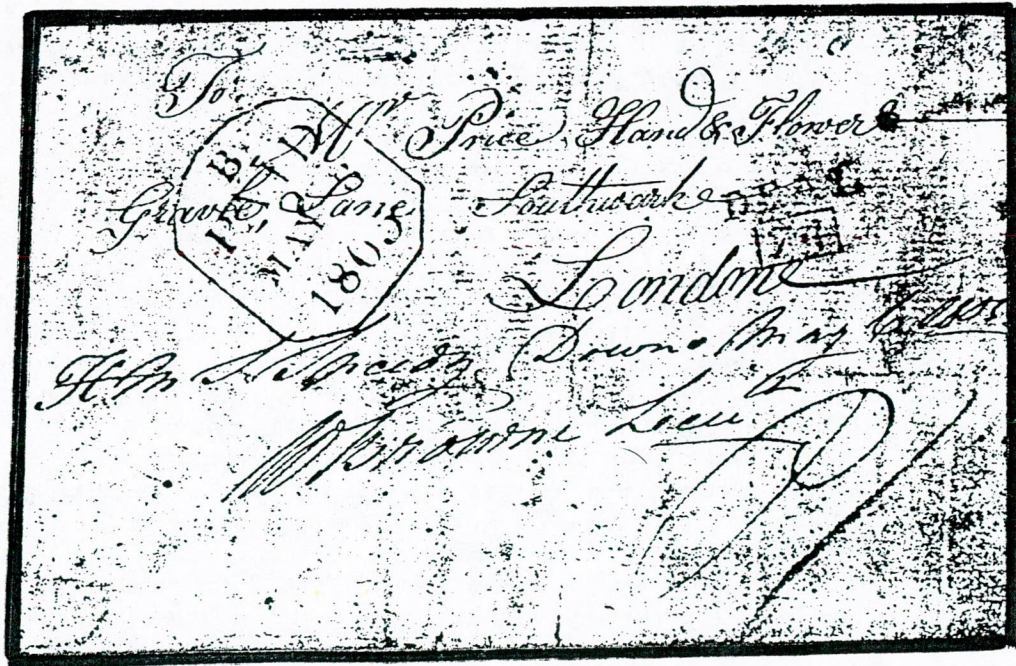
### GEORGE PRICE OF SOUTHWARK

from Alistair Kennedy

The penny concessionary rate of soldiers' and sailors' letters is well known but material from sailors appears to be less commonly encountered. I have been fortunate in obtaining a number of these from one George Price (alias Green) to his brother at the "Hand & Flowers", Gravel lane, Southwark.

The second of these letters is at the concessionary rate, which required the prepayment of the penny (the first was sent unpaid). It carries the commanding officer's endorsement "HMS Speedy Downs May 6 1805" and signed W Brown Lieut, the "P1" in red ink, to show the prepayment, the Deal boxed 74 mileage and the London paid date stamp for the 8th. May.

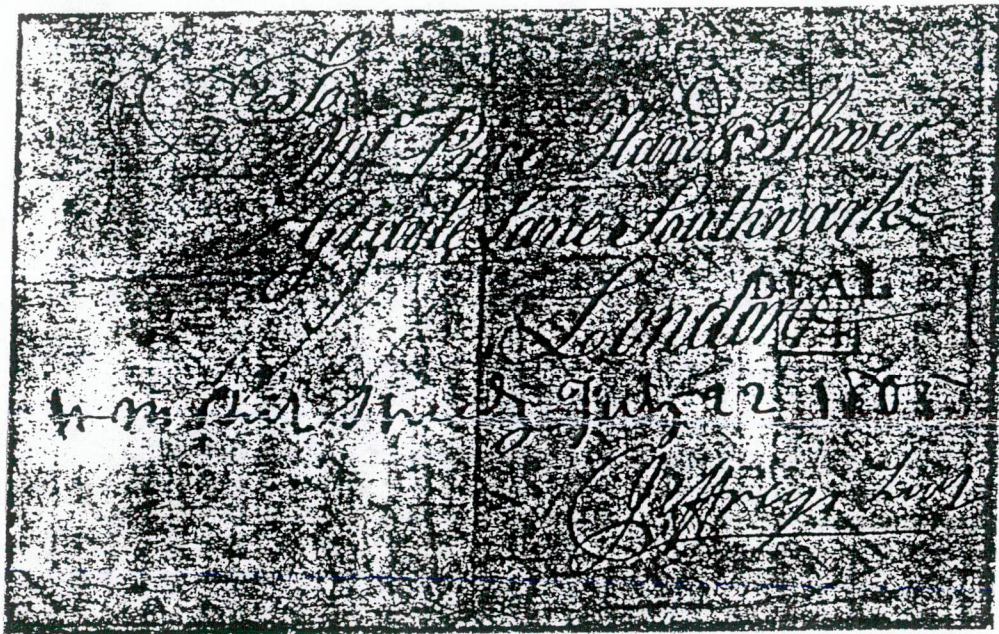
In passing, it is worth noting that not until the following year was the sender required to superscribe his own name, rank, ship or unit.



George was a fairly prolific writer, for the next example is dated 22nd July 1805. Again from HMS Speedy and countersigned by the commanding officer, this time Lieut. C. Jeffreys.



The photocopy is very dark but careful examination of the original shows no London stamps of any sort, despite the prepayment of the 1d postage. The reason for Deal, again, was HMS Speedy's duties comprised of Channel port blockading and harrying the French fleet.



This letter records an action with the French on the 17th and 18th of July and gives an insight into the feelings of the men : " Our captain is pleased to tell us there is not a Coward in the Ship, but you may depend upon it there is a number in the Ship that wood wish to be out of it. But for my part I am Determ'd to doo as Mutch as Another But at the same time I dont like it... Take Good care of your property for I Believe the Enemy will make there Landing Good in Spite of us".

"We are now Arrived in the Downs to refitt and to take in Ammunition". he continues by saying he expects about £20 from the Prize taken previously, but the Captain has other things to think about !!

The next of the letters is not prepaid and carries a manuscript "7", being the post to pay on delivery. AGAIN IT CARRIES NO LONDON STAMPS. In this letter George repeats much of the information in his last letter (22nd July); he shows his feelings in thinking his end is near "Wishin the Floatiller may come out and then I think some of us will be the means of putting an end to the War....I have a Direction in my Boxe signifying...what I wish you to have....But dont make yourself the least Concerned about me may gett over all this...we think the time long till we gett at them".

There is another page written on the 28th. August by John Wolfe - " i have the pleasure to inform you that y<sup>r</sup> Brother George has Eloped from the Ship and i hope By the time you receive this you will have the pleasure of seeing him."



These letters, full of interest as they are, pose a question. There is but the one which carries the London paid date stamps, the following two carry no London markings whatsoever. This can, of course, just be an oversight and there is no record of anything like a Cross Post operating as early as 1805 . Peter Bathe starts his book on the Bye and Cross Posts with an 1809 date for the first glimmering of the Bye Post scheme: Cross Posts had to wait many years. I half hope these two might be some sort of Cross Post, that is, mail dropped off from the coach before reaching London but in the absence of more material and, more importantly, some reference in the Post Office Archives this possibility must be ruled out.

.....

With the expression "Victorian" used to describe almost anything in the 19th. century, **this Post Office Notice** is a reminder of the early period.

There is no mention of a half day holiday for the postmen.



## **Two-penny Post Office.**

# **NOTICE**

Is hereby given, that there will be  
**NO DELIVERY** of **LETTERS**  
by the *Two-Penny Post*, in the  
Afternoon of the Day of *Her*  
*Majesty's Coronation.*

**R. SMITH,**  
*Snperintending President.*

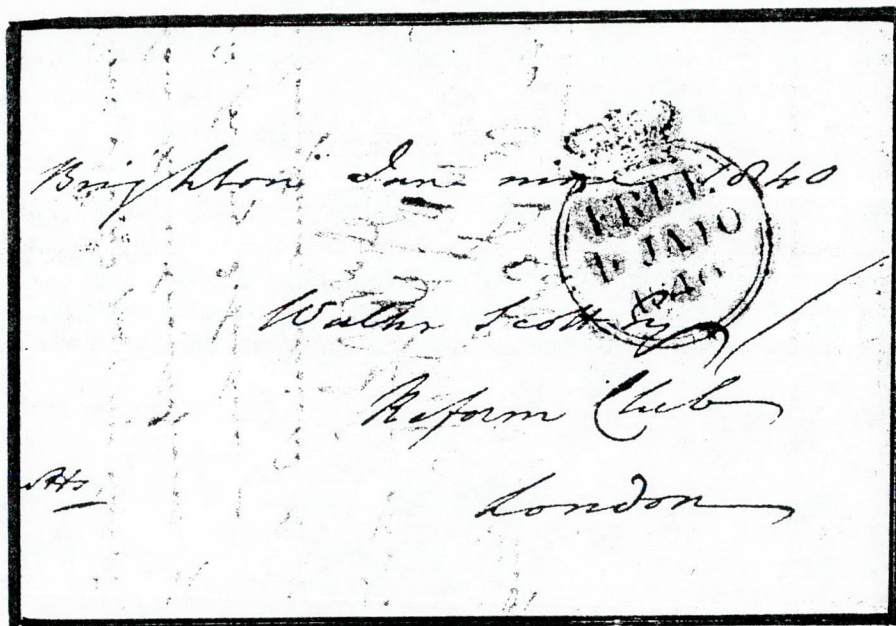
*June, 1838.*



## THE FREE WHICH CANNOT EXIST

from Stan Horrod

According to those who know, the Free franking of mail finished with the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post, that is, the 9th. January, 1840. On several occasions I have been told no covers exist with the FREE stamp dated the 10th. January, 1840 or later.



Yes, I know the superscription is "Brighton Jan nine 1840" but the double rim FREE was allocated to evening duty. Had the letter been in time for the final despatch from Brighton, it surely would have carried the London applied evening duty stamp for the ninth.

Given the importance of the date to the franking system, I do not believe this represents an error on the part of the postal clerk in London but, rather, a conscious decision to treat the item as if it should be treated as franked mail.

Why this should be so is not understood. There is no discernible stamp elsewhere on the cover and the initials at the lower left, surely, do not comply with the franking regulations which required the signature (in full) to be entered. If it were too late for the post from Brighton there should be a stamp or endorsement to that effect. Given it came up on the Friday morning (yes, the 10th. was a Friday) the evening duty double rim stamp adds to the puzzle, even if the franking system were still in operation.

THE Walter Scott had died some eight years before and even the powerful Reform Club could not have influenced the Postal Clerk to extend the franking privilege.

Since there is no official reason to suppose the letter was entitled to the franking privilege, no full signature, no indication of delay, no other London stamps, I can offer no certain explanation for the use of the FREE date stamp.

I would like to know of other covers bearing the 10th (or later) dates which may have survived over 150 years and have comment from other members.



**CHARGES ON RETURNED MAIL**

from R. I. Johnson

On Her Majesty's Service.

Returned Postal Packet.



Returned Letter Office,  
General Post Office, London.  
No. 28.

*Mr. M. J. Jones*  
*40 Chatterbox*  
*5*



The enclosed Undelivered Packet is offered to the sender, on payment of the return postage; but the sender should note that, if it is desired to ensure the return of Undelivered Packets prepaid only  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., a request for their return must be placed on the outside before posting.

London November 1899  
Returned Letter Office London Envelope

Specially printed in differing types for each Returned Letter Office.

The regulation which provided for the return of mail paid at less than letter rate came into force on the 1st. January, 1895



## PROGRAMME FOR 1995

The following dates have been booked at the Union Jack Club for the meetings next year: please make a note in the "next year" section of your diaries (or 1995 if you are that prepared!!)

All meetings are on Saturdays. The rooms are available from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. so it is suggested the Bourse start at 1 p.m., the main meeting at 2 p.m.

- 21st. January (A) The London Penny Post
- 18th. March (A) The London Hooded Circle, see note page 14
- 13th. May (B) Annual Auction
- 15th. July (C) Charge, Explanatory, Erasure Marks and Postal Endorsements
- 16th. September (C) The Foreign Branch and Section
- 18th. November (C) Members' 1995 Purchases (or anything you like)  
Maximum of TWENTY sheets

(A)...Reserved Bar Lounge (B)...Leatham Room (C)...Burns Room

The Bourse is for anyone with something to sell or exchange as well as those who want to buy. Do bring along anything you wish to exchange for cash or kind.

Members are reminded to have some form of identification. The Club Security have a list of members for checking purposes.

Lunch at reasonable prices is available to you at the Club for those travelling some distance.

If you have a particular topic you wish to see included in future programmes please do write to the Editor: after 22 years the "little grey cells" are feeling a "little grey".

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## NEWSPAPERS CUTTINGS - NOTICES FROM THE GENERAL POST OFFICE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.  
GENERAL POST-OFFICE, 5th March, 1842.

ON and after the 10th instant, the BRANCH OFFICES at CHARING-CROSS, OLD CAVENDISH-STREET, and the BOROUGH, will be kept open for the reception of Letters, without Fee, until 6 p.m., instead of the present hour of 5-45 p.m.; and the same Offices will remain open for the reception of Paid Letters of every description, until 6-30 p.m., instead of the present hour of 6-15 p.m., under the following Regulations; namely, that all Letters so posted between 6 p.m. and 6-30 p.m. will be subject to a Fee of One Penny each, which Fee, as well as the Postage, must, as regards Inland Letters, be paid by Stamps affixed to the Letters, though upon Foreign, Colonial, or Ship Letters, the Postage and Fee may be paid by Stamps, or in Money, at the option of the Sender.

By command,  
W. L. MABERLY, Secretary.  
GENERAL POST OFFICE, March, 1842.

IN consequence of the frequent complaints of the loss and exchange of Newspapers passing through this department, which is mainly attributable to the insecure manner in which they are inclosed in their covers, persons forwarding Newspapers, through the Post-office, are recommended to write the address on the printed part of the paper itself as well as on the envelope, which will, in a great measure, remove the evil, and tend to secure their safe delivery. It is to be distinctly understood, however, that nothing more must be written on the paper than the address of the person for whom it is intended, as it will otherwise become subject to treble postage.

By command,  
W. L. MABERLY, Secretary.

CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC.  
GENERAL POST-OFFICE, March, 1842.

AS it is not safe to transmit Letters containing Coin or articles of Jewellery through the Post, parties having occasion to remit small sums in cash, are recommended to make use of the Money Order Office, where they will incur no hazard. MONEY ORDERS, for sums under Five Pounds, are granted and paid by every Post Town in the United Kingdom, and by the Chief Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand, the three Branch Offices, Charing-cross, Cavendish-street, and the Borough, and also by the principal Receiving Houses within the twelve mile circle.

Those who may desire to remit Bank-notes or drafts payable to bearer, may register the Letter on payment of a fee of 1s. in addition to the postage; in this case the safest course will be to cut such notes, &c., in half, sending each half, if possible, by two different posts. In the case of Bank-notes or Bank Post-bills being sent, the numbers, dates, and amounts should be carefully taken. With the great convenience thus afforded for transmitting small sums at so low a charge, and the power now given of registering letters containing value, it is hoped the public will no longer forward Letters of value, except in one or other of these methods.

By command,  
W. L. MABERLY, Secretary.



LONDON'S TWOPENNY POST - UNDELIVERED MAIL

L. 458 but in black  
on returned letter  
Last year of use

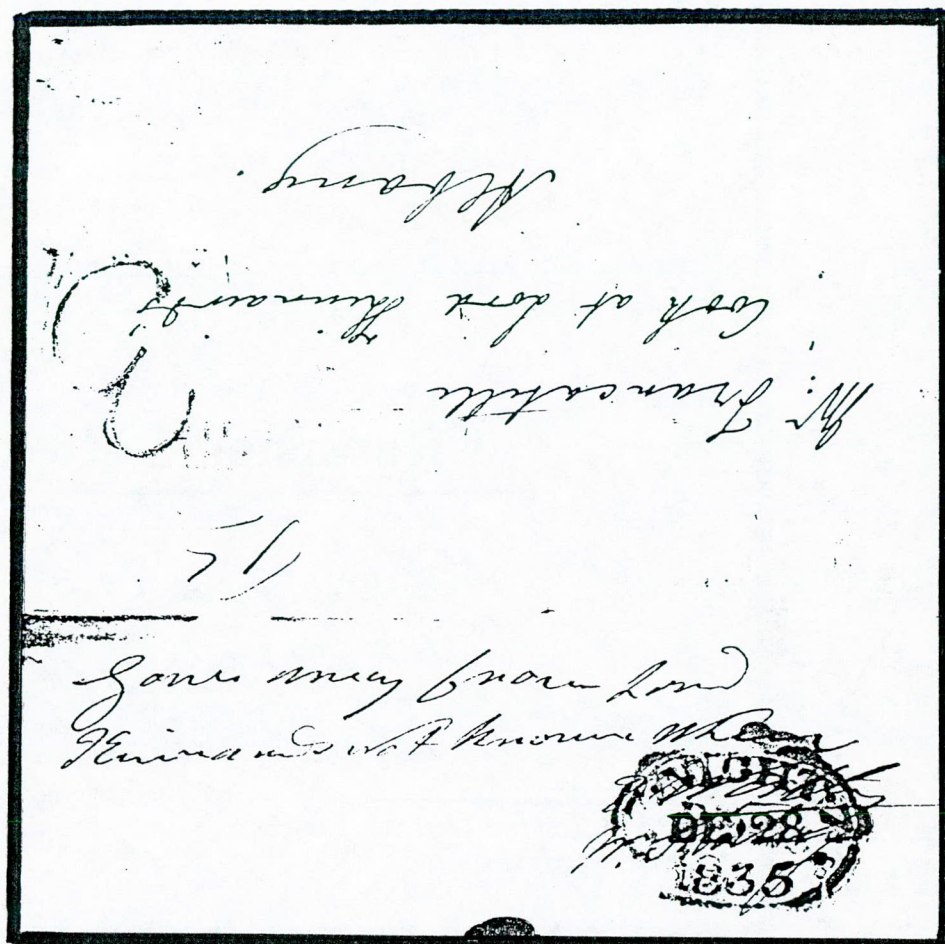
Written from  
White House,  
Park Place,  
Harrow Road  
14 Apr 1835

The flap is endorsed

"Gone away from Lord  
"Kinnaids not know  
"where"

and is signed by two  
Letter Carriers

L. 458 not recorded  
by Jay in black  
The stamp was not used  
after 1835



The letter reads :

Sir,

I am desired by the afsignees of George Bostock a bankrupt to apply to you again for £3. 19. 3 owing by you to the estate, & to inform you that if it is not paid to me with my charges as under on Monday next between 10 & 12 coercive measures will be resorted to.

I am Sir

Yr Obt Sert

P Healy

Solr to the Afsignees

Debt	3. 19. 3
2 letters	7.
	-----
	£4. 6. 3
	=====

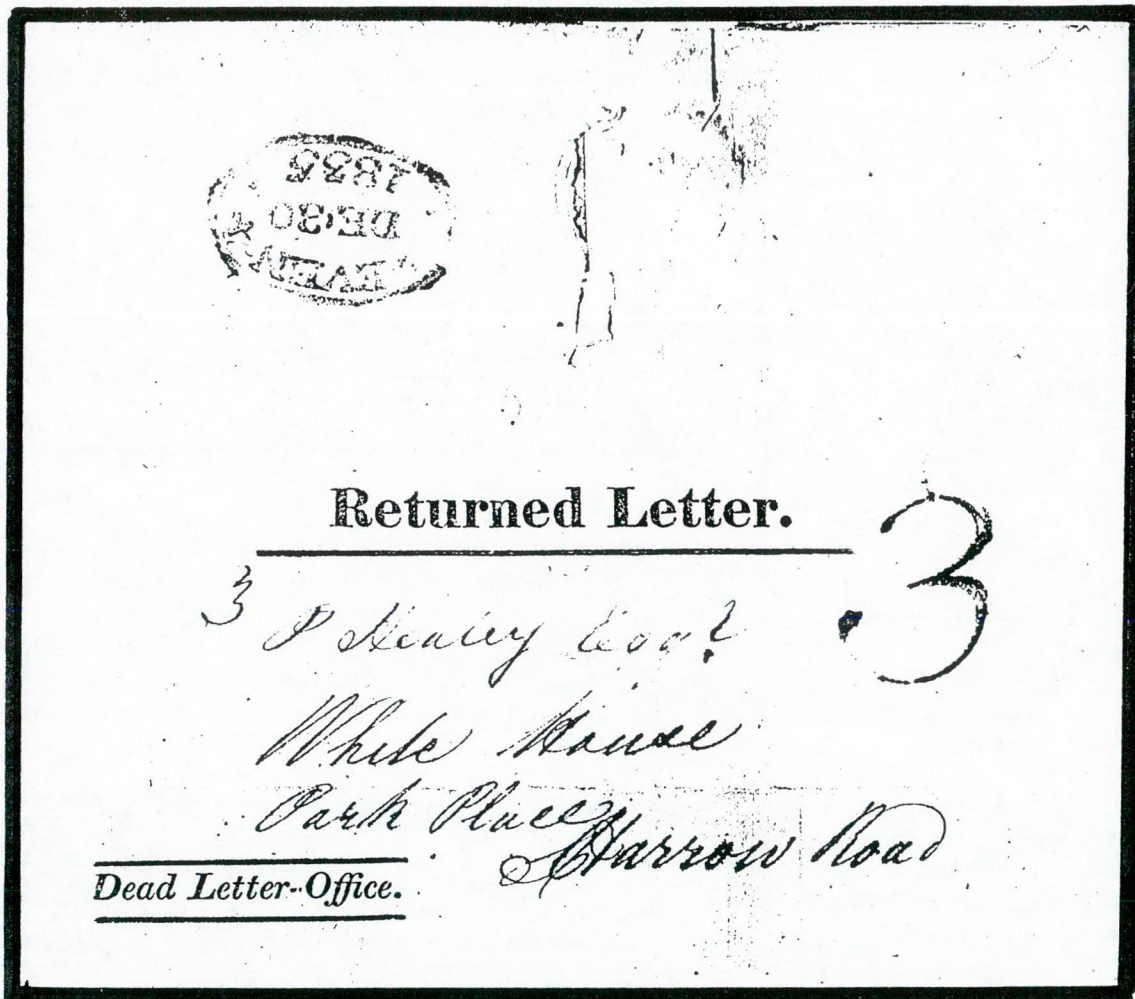
Mr Francatelle

Posted at Maida Hill Receiving House and carries the framed  
TP Maida Hill stamp  
The Official Returned Letter for this on the next page.



LONDON'S TWOPENNY POST - UNDELIVERED MAIL

It is uncommon to find the returned letter with the original  
General Post Office Dead Letter-Office envelope.



**GENERAL POST-OFFICE.**

THE inclosed Letter not having been delivered for the Reason assigned thereon, was opened by the Officer appointed by His Majesty's Postmaster-General for that purpose, and is now returned to the Writer, on payment of the postage.

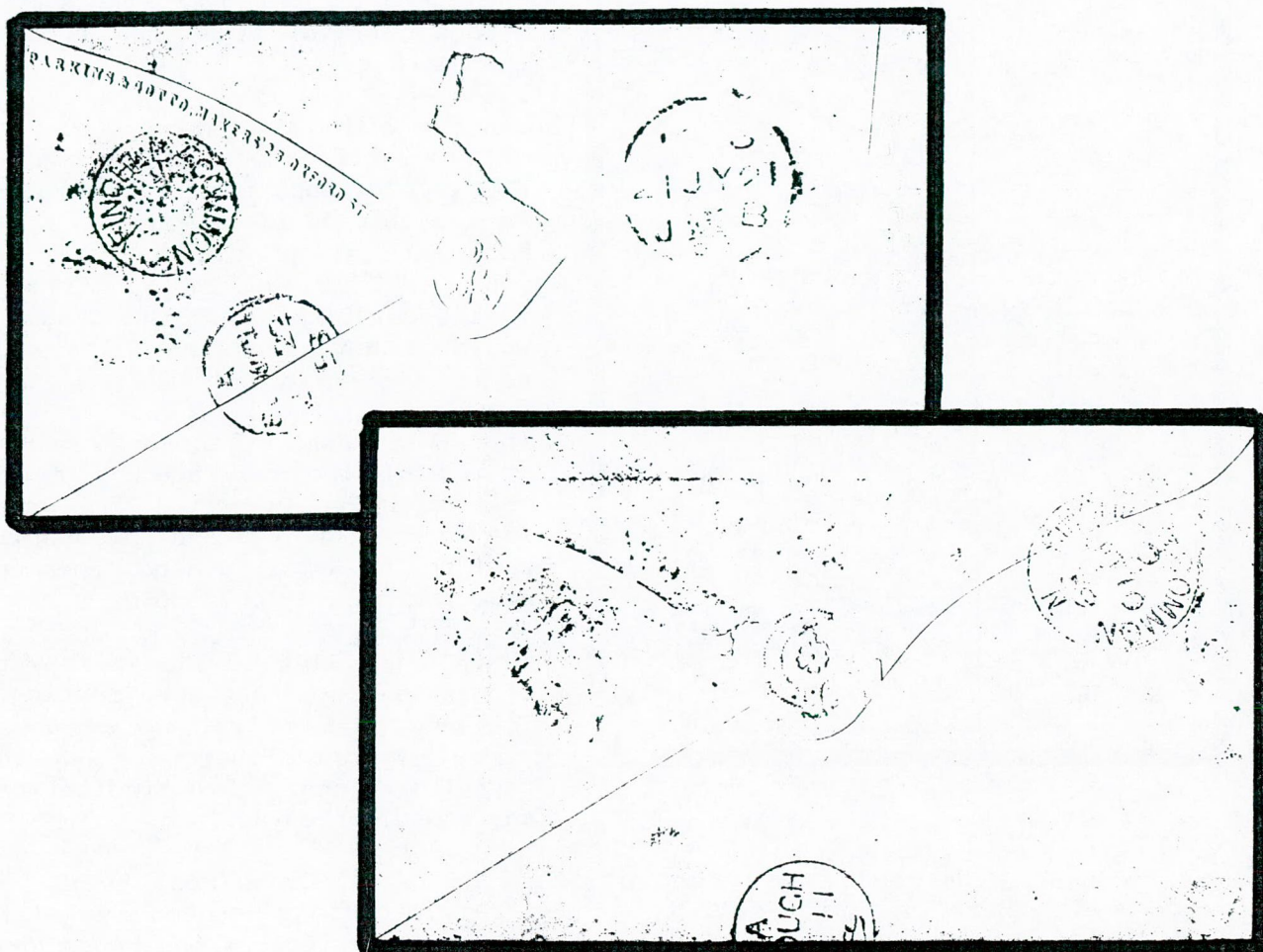
FRANCIS FREELING,  
*Secretary.*

Does a reader have an example of L. 458, in red or black,  
for the 31st. December, 1835?



### FINCHLEY COMMON BACK STAMPS

Browsing, a favourite pastime for most of us, through a dealer's box of odds and ends, two covers were discovered which, although hardly likely to rewrite London postal history and a bit grubby to boot, seemed a useful addition to the story of the development of stamping mail at the office of origin.



The circular undated (type D1A) appears on an envelope addressed to Slough, with the adhesive cancelled by the Inland diamond 10, the London back stamp is dated 21st. July, 1858. Less than eleven months later, this had been replaced with a dated stamp, also reading FINCHLEY COMMON but with the "N" inserted at the base, as one would expect for a post 1856/7 issued stamp. This is to the same address but the adhesive is now cancelled with the London N N/18 duplex. (Parmenter 18D2)

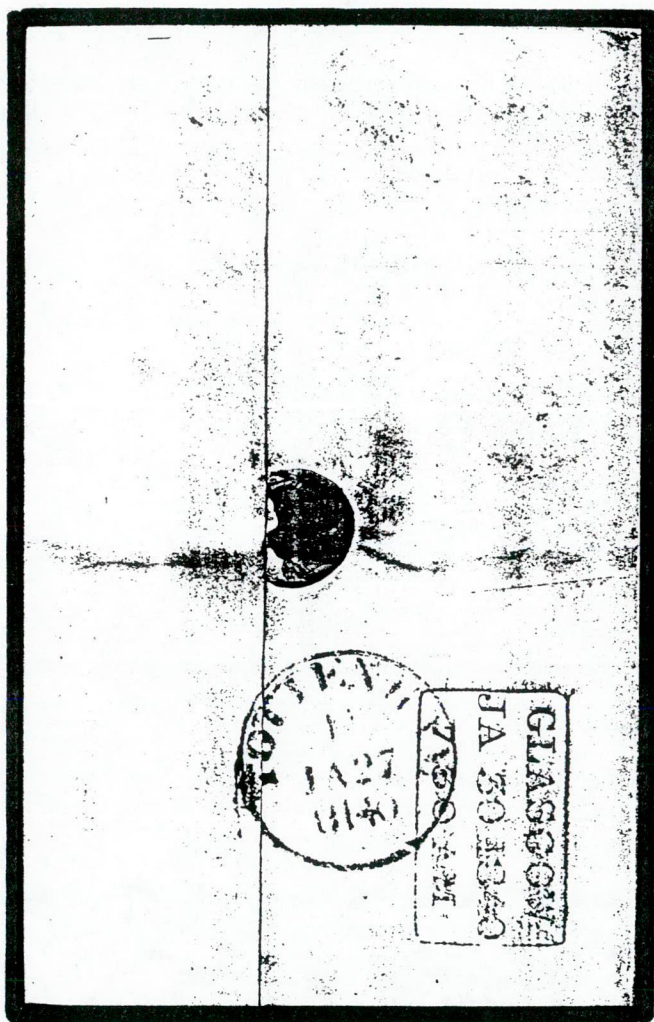
Neither strike is better than "fair" - a polite postal historian grading but to get these two within the year serves to demonstrate the changes taking place across the whole of London at this time.

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### **TOTTENHAM CSO DATE ERROR**

The letter, reproduced on the next page, is addressed to Glasgow. The only postal marking on the obverse is that of the receiving House "SO Tottenham / 1 py P Paid" (in black).





The Country Sorting Office stamp is unclear as to whether it is Ev or Mg and rather looks like a sideways "2". However, the date is clearly JA 27/ 8140 and the stamp was sold as being in red, although some might suggest it is oxidised black.

The stamp is just over struck by the Glasgow arrival stamp for the 30th, this mark being in black.

January 27th was a Monday, so why a delay until Thursday to get to Glasgow? Perhaps of greater interest is the absence of any London General Post date stamp, signalling a Cross Post letter, not going into the centre but picking up the coach, (or would it have been train in 1840 ?) on its way north.

The only note discovered on the matter of the carriage by rail is that mail for Liverpool via Preston was working by 1840 and this would be well on the way to Glasgow. perhaps a member can clear this point.

What is puzzling is the journey time of three days between posting in Tottenham and arrival in Glasgow. As already remarked there are but three postal markings with no indication of any cause for delay.

There are any number of these post 1839 Cross Post items to be found and, generally, quite fail to arouse the interest generated by material from 1838/9 but, nevertheless, clearly showing the operation of the Cross Post.

### THE HOODED CIRCLE OF LONDON

Members will be pleased to learn that Simon Kelly is pressing ahead with his Handbook publication on the London Hooded Circle stamps. He writes to say " I have recently taken delivery of a new computer and laser printer and so I can produce good copy on my own at long last. I have had all the old files transferred from their original magnetic tape to 3.5" discs and I have made some progress towards reformatting the original part of the work. Once this is done I will start inputting new data...."

"I am loath to put a time scale on the future progress but you can rest assured something really is happening..."

It is suggested every reader with any London Hood material write to Simon, through the Editor, for information in this long awaited work to be as complete as possible.



# LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

## BALANCE SHEET

as at 30th April 1994

ASSETS	1994	1993
BANK ACCOUNTS		
Girobank PLC	2891.75	840.66
Abbey National Building Soc.	0.00	1182.14
	-----	-----
	2891.75	2022.80
Publication Stock (5)	598.25	1475.00
Packet, Accrued Profit	214.07	213.40
Sundry Debtors	0.00	16.00
	-----	-----
TOTAL ASSETS	3704.07	3727.20
	=====	=====
LIABILITIES		
Sundry Creditors	49.59	26.98
Unsecured Loan (6)	500.00	500.00
Publication Loan Fund	510.27	510.27
	-----	-----
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1059.86	1037.25
	=====	=====
NET BALANCE	2644.21	2689.95
	=====	=====

## RECONCILIATION

	Balance 1/5/93	2689.95
ADD	Operating Profit 93/4	950.37
		-----
		3640.32
LESS	1994 Auction Expenses paid in advance:	119.36
		-----
		3520.96
LESS	Publications Stock Revaluation	876.75
		-----
	Balance 30/4/94	2644.21
		=====

M M English  
Hon. Treasurer  
20th July 1994

I have examined the Accounts, supporting documents and the  
Statements of the Society and have been satisfied that the  
figures are correct and the Accounts are true and fair.  
The Treasurer's Report is also correct and fair.  
The Accounts are in accordance with the financial records of the  
Society.

*M.C. LORQUET*  
Hon. Auditor  
12.12.94



LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
Year Ended 30th April 1994

INCOME		1993/4	1992/3
Subscriptions received	(1)	1251.00	1078
Packet Profit	(2)	214.07	213
Auction Commission (net)		207.01	198
Interest Received		45.46	71
Publications (net)		134.28	66
Donations		32.02	28
(Sales Commission)		0.00	40
		-----	-----
		1883.84	1697
		=====	=====
EXPENDITURE			
Notebook (Print & Post)	(3)	654.93	1779
Meetings		127.45	146
Bank Charges		7.00	23
Secretarial Expenses		90.57	
Treasurer Expenses		53.52	
(Advertising)		0.00	30
(Stationery)		0.00	144
(BPF Exhibition)		0.00	9
(Misc Expenses)	(4)		234
		-----	-----
		933.47	2367
		=====	=====
Operating Profit / (Loss)		950.37	(669.63)
		=====	=====

NOTES:

1. SUBSCRIPTIONS are taken into account in the year received. No account is taken of Subscriptions in arrears or paid in advance.

2. PACKET ACCOUNTS are not consolidated with main LPHG Accounts. A copy for this year accompany these accounts.

3. NOTEBOOK. The 1992/3 costs include £667 relating to previous years.

4. EXPENSES. Analysis of expenses is not comparable with previous year.

5. PUBLICATION STOCK. A revaluation of Publication stock (shown in "Reconciliation") has been made during the year. We consider that this shows a more prudent estimate of value.

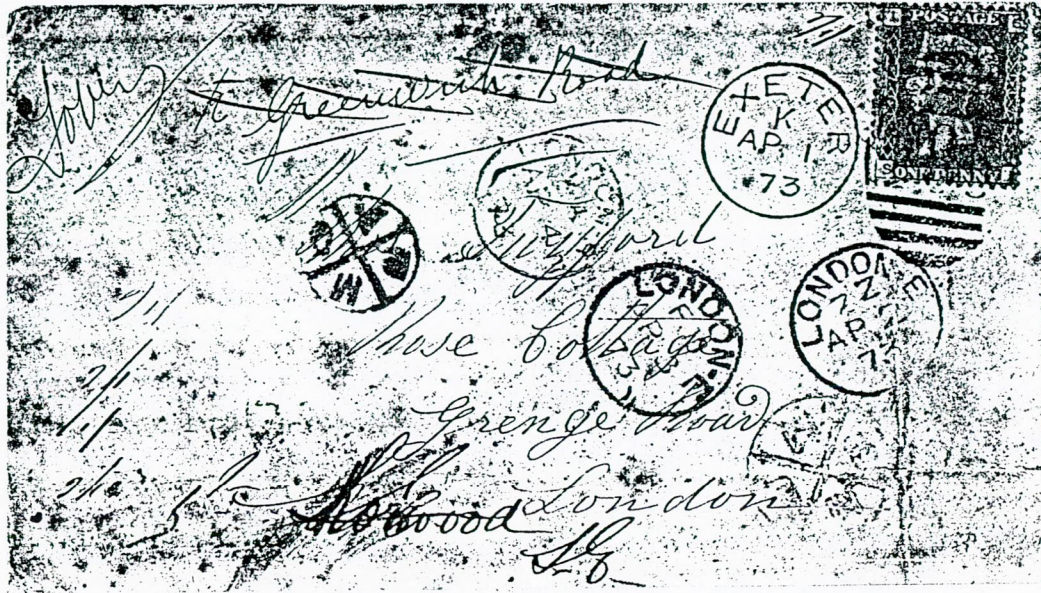
6. UNSECURED LOAN. This was repaid in July 1994.



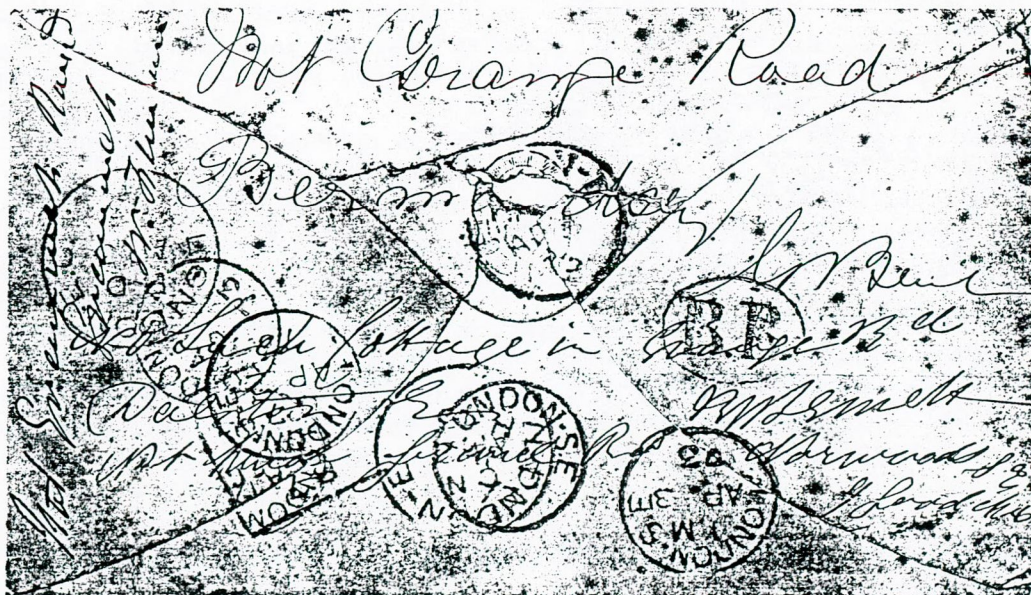
## BLIND BAG DUTY

from Ray Haffner

The efforts of the Blind Bag duty office to effect delivery are well recorded but it is pleasant to record the use of the scarce B.B. in an oval frame, especially when linked with two examples of the quartered circle mis sort stamp, one of which being from other than the main District Office.



Dealing with the quartered circles: The M/E/D/A for the Eastern District main office and the larger M/S/E/M, the Greenwich office stamp are both struck inverted. The item was posted from Exeter on the 1st. April, 1873 (One wonders if there was any significance in that!!) and is addressed to "Rose Cottage Grange Road London". According to the 1857 "Principal Streets and Places" there were at least five "Grange Road" locations. These were Bermondsey, Camden Town, Canonbury-Park, Dalston and Hoxton. Someone scribbled "try Greenwich Road" which explains the Greenwich mis sort stamp, see endorsement on the reverse.



The reverse records the various attempts to locate the addressee. There is one from Dalston, hence the ED mis sort. There is also, by 1873, a Grange Road in Norwood; this was tried but without success.

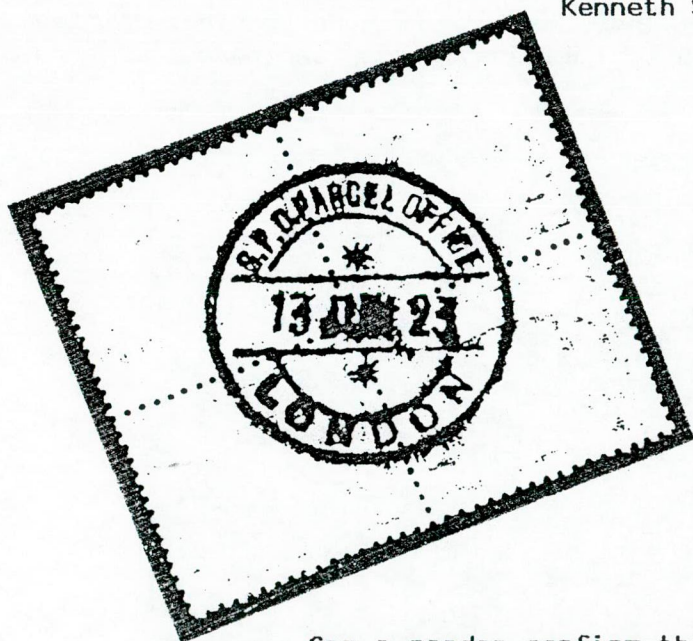


London Postal History Group  
Packets Completed year ended 30th April 1994

Packet No.	Insurance	Sales	Commission	Expenses
3/93	7.44	151.80	15.18	3.20
5/93	7.14	137.40	13.74	2.60
6/93	7.12	135.95	13.59	2.50
7/93	6.65	112.85	11.28	2.45
8/93	8.47	194.00	19.40	2.60
9/93	7.07	163.80	16.38	7.30
10/93	6.17	148.32	14.83	6.36
11/93	6.32	115.90	11.59	2.60
12/93	6.68	123.75	12.37	2.52
13/93	7.62	179.04	17.91	3.06
14/93	7.03	141.75	14.18	4.00
15/93	7.14	135.00	13.50	1.50
16/93	6.63	131.35	13.13	2.60
17/93	6.13	106.30	10.63	3.30
18/93	7.09	154.60	15.46	(2.15)
19/93	8.46	202.93	20.29	6.25
1/94	7.57	156.02	15.60	2.85
	£120.73	£2490.76	£249.06	£53.54
			<u>53.54</u>	
Net Income			<u>£195.52</u>	

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**G.P.O. PARCEL OFFICE**

Kenneth S. Sargeant



In order to highlight the cancellation I have faded out the 1/- postage due adhesives and, as will be appreciated, slightly enlarged the photocopy.

I am sure there must be a reference to such cancellations in Notebook but have been unable to find it.

Editor's note : Ken sent in this contribution shortly before his death and although we discussed it more than once the only conclusion reached was that it represented the collection of customs charges, this being effected by means of the Postage Due adhesives.

Can a reader confirm this practice in general and possibly offer another example of the cancellation ? Juggling with a photocopier to estimate the actual size, it looks as if the date stamp is about 26mm diameter.



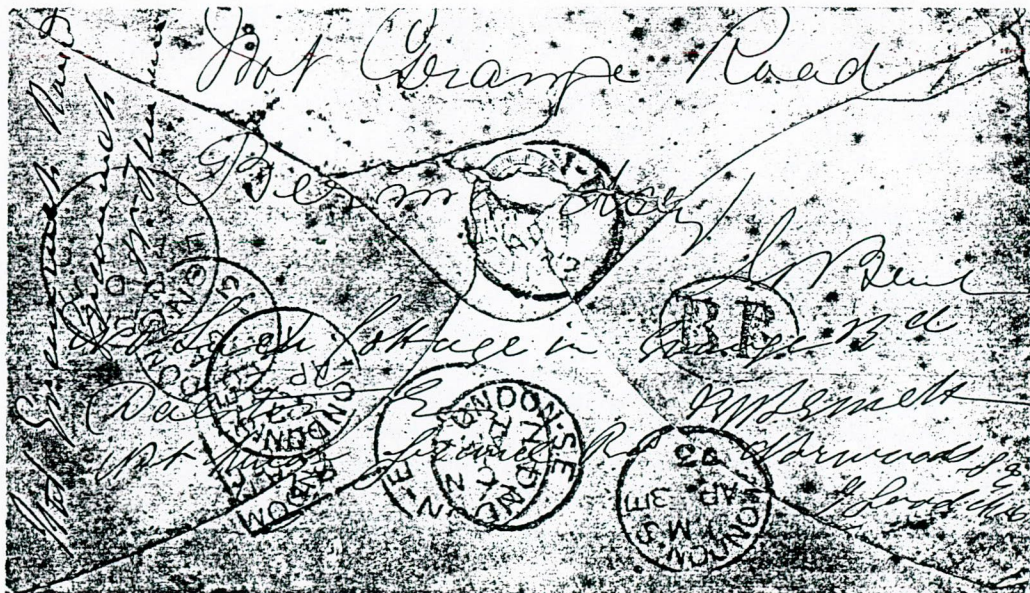
## BLIND BAG DUTY

from Ray Haffner

The efforts of the Blind Bag duty office to effect delivery are well recorded but it is pleasant to record the use of the scarce B.B. in an oval frame, especially when linked with two examples of the quartered circle mis sort stamp, one of which being from other than the main District Office.



Dealing with the quartered circles: The M/E/D/A for the Eastern District main office and the larger M/S/E/M, the Greenwich office stamp are both struck inverted. The item was posted from Exeter on the 1st. April, 1873 (One wonders if there was any significance in that!!) and is addressed to "Rose Cottage Grange Road London". According to the 1857 "Principal Streets and Places" there were at least five "Grange Road" locations. These were Bermondsey, Camden Town, Canonbury-Park, Dalston and Hoxton. Someone scribbled "try Greenwich Road" which explains the Greenwich mis sort stamp, see endorsement on the reverse.



The reverse records the various attempts to locate the addressee. There is one from Dalston, hence the ED mis sort. There is also, by 1873, a Grange Road in Norwood; this was tried but without success.



What is fascinating is to discover all this furious activity (for just one penny) took place over just three days. In the absence of any evidence one way or the other it is not possible to conclude if the Blind Bag office did the impossible and located "Rose Cottage". I can see no Returned Letter duty stamp and hope it reached the addressee.

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### TP PEACEHAVEN

Received in the Spring of this year it was not possible to include the new discovery in an appropriate issue of "Notebook" but is included now as it is of no small interest.



It is quite remarkable to find any TP stamp used as late as 1855, there being a London back stamp for the 1st. April of that year, reflecting the Inland Office handling of the letter from London to Darlington.

When one considers the brevity of this address on this item and the problems generated by the comparatively full address of the Grange Road item seen earlier, it is noteworthy the Post Office had no problem in delivering in Darlington.

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### AND FINALLY.....

We commend to all readers the purchase of the reprinted "British Postal Guide No:3 1st January 1857" for which a leaflet is enclosed with this issue of "Notebook".

Of no little value are the sections on the London District Post and that for the Principal Street & Places in London & Environs. The other information is of considerable use to every postal history collector.

At £9.40 post paid is represents a very sound buy and ought be on everyone's shelf, not just sitting there but well thumbed for the mass of information between the covers.