

## NOTEBOOK

Number 117 October 1995

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### EDITORIAL

One hears of problems with British Rail, or whatever the current "owner" of the track may be called. Terms such as "wrong snow" "leaves on the line" and "staff shortages" are now, more or less, part of our national heritage. In your Editor's case, the lack of a Notebook for so long is attributed to the totally un-British weather over the summer months which resulted in the little grey cells assuming a quite neutral gear. With the return of more temperate conditions, the keyboard has been attacked with the usual dyslexic vigour (thank heavens for a Sub Editor !!)



Due to a find in Post Office Records there will be a special double issue ere long. This will deal with the 20th. century but should prove of interest to many, if not all, readers.

.....

## ***PROGRAMME 1996***

The details of the programme for next year are :  
Meetings at the Union Jack Club, Waterloo, Saturday afternoons 1 - 5  
Bourse from 1.30 to 2.30  
Display(s) start at 2.30

- 20th. January FULHAM & HAMMERSMITH - a display of local postal and social history by Keith Whitehouse  
As usual, members are invited to bring along any associated material for display.
- 16th. March THE POST OFFICE WENT TO WAR  
An invited display by Christine Finn  
to be supported by members with any WWII material from their collections which may have some connection !!
- 18th. May Annual Auction. Lots to Auctioneer before the end of March  
Material with one line description (if possible) and reserve please.
- 20th. July SUBURBAN OFFICE CANCELLATIONS AND OTHER MARKS  
From 1856 these seemingly local cancellations can be found on both London, country wide and overseas mail.
- 14th. September THE PAID STAMPS OF LONDON, General and Local Post up to 1995
- 6th. November PARLIAMENTARY AND GOVERNMENTAL MAIL (Date seems appropriate!!)  
Autographs of the (in)famous, cachets, postal markings and correspondence.

***and in 1997.....***

***Saturday 19th. January, 1997 the Silver Jubilee meeting***

Starting at 10 p.m. with coffee, lunch from 12 noon to 2 pm and finishing at 5 pm

Members will be invited to show and talk on up to twenty five of their favourite items. An invitation will be sent to all members during 1996.

There will be a contributory charge of £5 only towards the cost of the day, including morning coffee, afternoon tea and lunch but excluding additional drinks.

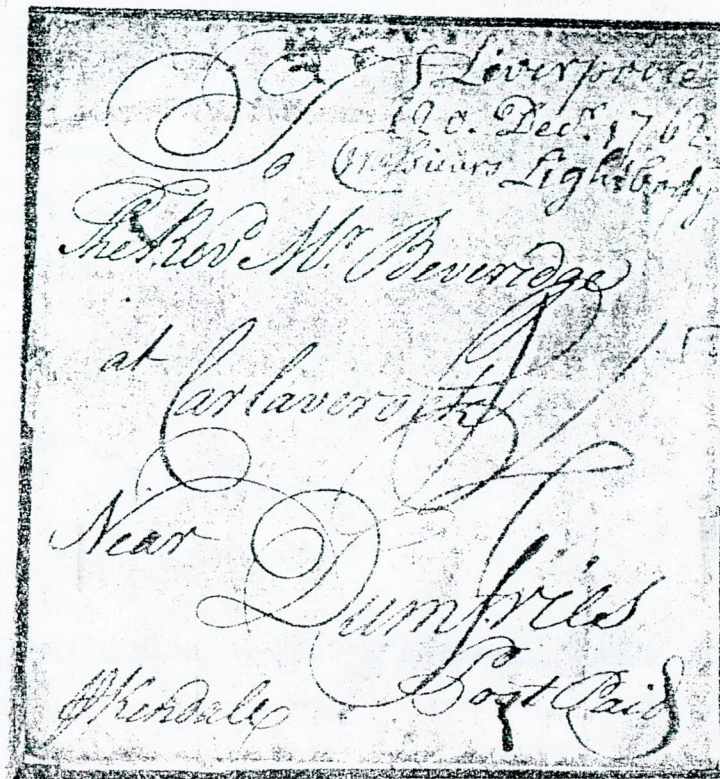
Make a diary entry and start noting your gems now !!

The printed programme will be issued before the year end



**RED INK**  
Trevor Davis

The note on the red ink convention for paid letters in Notebook 144.14 (November 1994) rang a bell with me as I had wondered about the origins of this myself. The cover from my collection reproduced below, although not a London item, shows the same convention.



Handstruck "Paid" markings for London and Dublin appeared in purple or red ink in the early to mid 1760's and, although no formal notice requiring this is known, this seems to be the beginning of the convention.

This December 1762 letter from Liverpool to Dumfries inscribed "p. Kendale" has the obverse inscribed "Post Paid" and shows a manuscript "P4" in red ink, this being the charge for a single letter travelling over 80 miles. The reverse carries a two line "LEVER/POOLE" hand stamp.

Can we have other red paid manuscript markings reported please; if they are London or no is not important. Examples may show if the practice spread slowly as was the result of an instruction. Does anyone have a notice on the subject predating 1838 ?

.....  
**LONDON RIVER LETTERS**

Collectors of London Maritime Mail will be aware of the River Letter Service which operated from the early 1800s through to the middle of the 20th. century. This year two items, one with the RIVER LRE stamp and one without, came up for auction.

By courtesy of Cavendish Philatelic Auctions of Derby we are able to illustrate here both covers and, since reading other peoples letters can be



most interesting, the contents.

The RIVER LRE stamp is the one featured in Alan Robertson's book. Due to a rather dark photocopy of the original, the illustration shown here is from the book. On the reverse is the double rim, code B for FE / 11 / 803.



The letter was written from a ship on the Thames; the original spelling has been retained.

Mr McClelland

London Feb 11<sup>th</sup> 1803

Sir

I have the opertuenity of writing these few lines too you and do not now which way I will be ever able to make (up for) the trouble you take of me for your few words soon made ... indentures out, for Mr Morton came down to Sheilds as soon as he had the letter from you and next day the got my indentures ... I might as well not had them yet for they are going to sell the ship if they posibly can get her sold the old Devile he will... ashore here for he is afraid sombody or other takes hold of him for Dept, he has Discharged the Master and all the men and there is nobody aboard but us foure Servants and himself but if the ship is sold they have got no other ship without the(re) be another but I do not think the have money anofh, to do it, but if the do not by another we all will be turned adrift If you have no objexsons I will make the best of my way on a trip to the East indeas for the are penty of ships to be got, but I would soon stay and serve my time out, but if they do sell her I will not .ind myself again for I can do any little job before the mast as well my Nibowuer, if the can not get her sold he is going to wait till the hamburg freight comes out and we .... there. I was up at Mr Marlons house one Sunday Dining and Mrs Ann was there.

I am Surprised to see are..turned so big he is as tall as I am. Mr Morton told me that he was to give the few things that I wanted, and so he did for he took me to a man of his aquiantence and he was to give me what I wanted and if I Did not pay him Mr Morton was to pay him. I went to him and had as follows &c two shirts. 3 pair stockings. one handke.. 1 pair shose and that was £1..3s.0d I Told Mr Ellison ... I wold pay him when I got money of the owner but I Did not



get money of the owner till about Too ours befor we sailed and that was only £1.0s.0d and I only Bought a little tea and sugar to carry to sea with me and I had the rest of it with me but if I have money of the Owner here if we do not go to the Sheilds I will Send it Down by Sombdy. I hope you and M<sup>r</sup> M<sup>c</sup> Clelland and the children are in perfect good health. I hope you have heard from William and do not forget (the "r" was inserted as a correction) me To him I hope all my freinds is well at home no more at present from

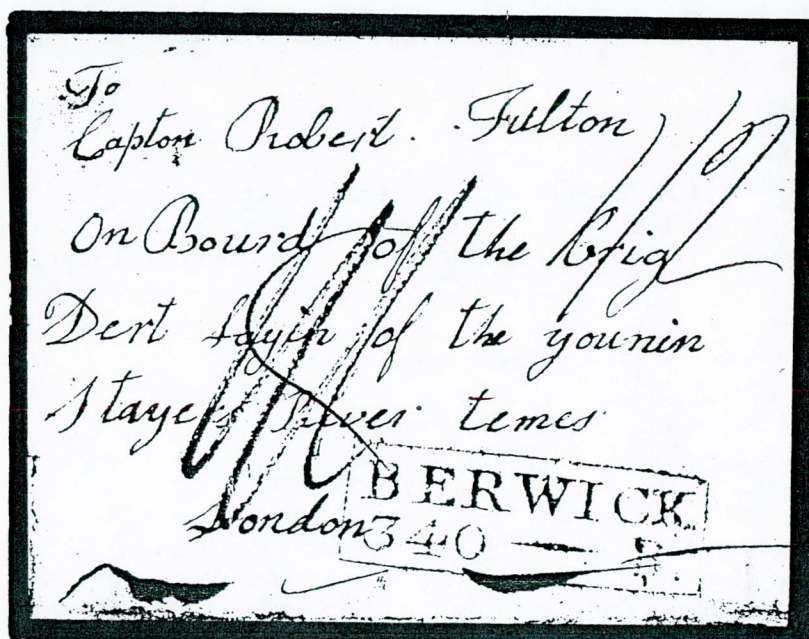
Yours / Faithful Servant / Tho<sup>s</sup> M<sup>c</sup> Clelland

pleas send and anwer and  
Direct to the Snow Millock  
Bell Warf Teave

n.b. the writing is not easy to read and some words which start and finish some lines appear incomplete on the photocopy. ( ) indicate Editor's guess.

The second item, which does not carry the River Letter stamp came up on the 21st. July this year, when a large portion of the collection formed by the late Frank Staff was offered by Messengers in conjunction with Cavendish. One of the many delightful items had the following description:

RIVER LETTER: "TO CAPTON ROBERT FULTON, ON BOARD OF THE BRIG DART LAYIN OF THE YOUNIN (UNION) STAYES, RIVER TEMES, LONDON" (13 Sept 1812) letter entire 4" x 3" opening to 4pp 9" x 7½". Postmarked 'Berwick 340-B' with London receipt. manuscript '1/1' crossed out and replaced with '1/2', the extra 1d. being charged for delivery to a ship in the River Thames. Interesting, semi-literate letter from his father, James with postscripts from his sisters, Elizabeth and Ann. \*\*\*



All the information available is to the effect of many thousands of river letters were handled over the years, so why the great rarity? Perhaps one reason is shown by this delightful item, the River Boatmen did not use the stamp, the rate was altered but the River Boatman did not use any explanatory stamp. Even if this were the case, why do we not have a range of letters with altered rates? Could it be some of those unexplained rates appearing on material in our collections conceals River Letter mail?

Obviously the letters will be addressed to ships on the Thames and one would expect the ever alert LPHG member to have identified such a River Letter - but do just check again.



The letter (from father) reads :

Berwick Greanses Subtember 13 1812

Loving Son this is to Let you knou that we have Received your Letter And is very Glead to Hear that you Ar well As this Leaves us All At preasent blessed be God for it. Robert Concerning willam watson I think He is a wild Lad Robert I have Littel to Add Only we have it Mid lin Good Draive and my Sow is Expected to ferie within A feou Days And I think if fortun faver us that we will No Eillof blesed be His Goodnes<sup>m</sup> for it Robert if you (...) Exdltd from the Cosens Call you Must bleas God for His Goodnes to you And that He will Exalt you in His Own Goud pleasour Robert Alexander Craig is Got A wif this is the Day He Maks His Apeareance hin the Surch she his A Hinds' Daughter Hir father And Mother is both Dead Shou stays with Hir brother And He thinks he will Lik Dents Company Very well He is keeping Out the ..... Robert you Must be sour And Let us knou you think you will Lik your Ship And Where Shou is bound for And bes... And Let us knou Every thing About it No Mor from your loving father James Fulton

Robert i was not well pelesed at you for not comen to see me that day you leaft hear but i went downen to the wales and seed you away i saw Mrs Craige this day and she asken for you and she was happyey to hear of wour walfear she bid me mak her love to you the littel Doctor has ben often times at me asken about you if i have ..ney from you so no mor but remens your loving sister

Tal Capten Fulton i have lost My Lad Elisbeth Fulton But i thought Alwas that he was so letel But he hes got A gud stut Man But Robert you must seeke Me A Lad at Lunden and in so doen you Wil obledg your luven Sister Ann Fulton

Robert Mis Ball is at the Cuntrey and Master Smith and famely joins ous With thar Love to you

.....

We can be but grateful to the Fulton family that, despite their poor hand at writing, they bothered to put pen to paper in a farewell letter to the son. In doing this service they afforded us, some 183 years later, sight of a River Letter penny charge.

.....

#### **INSTRUCTIONAL "A"**

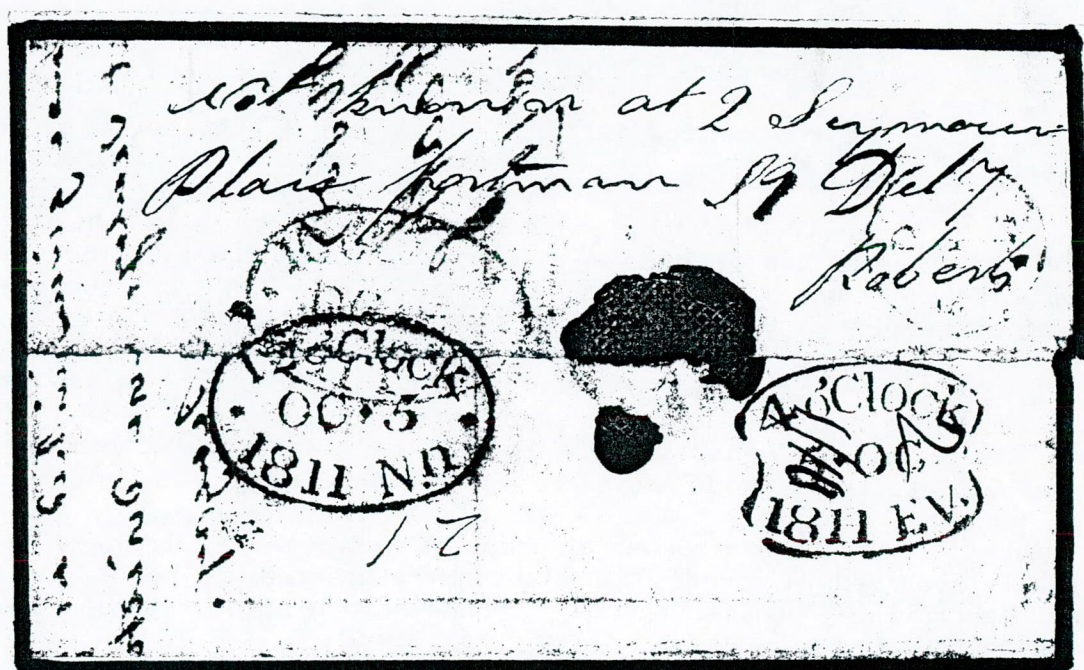
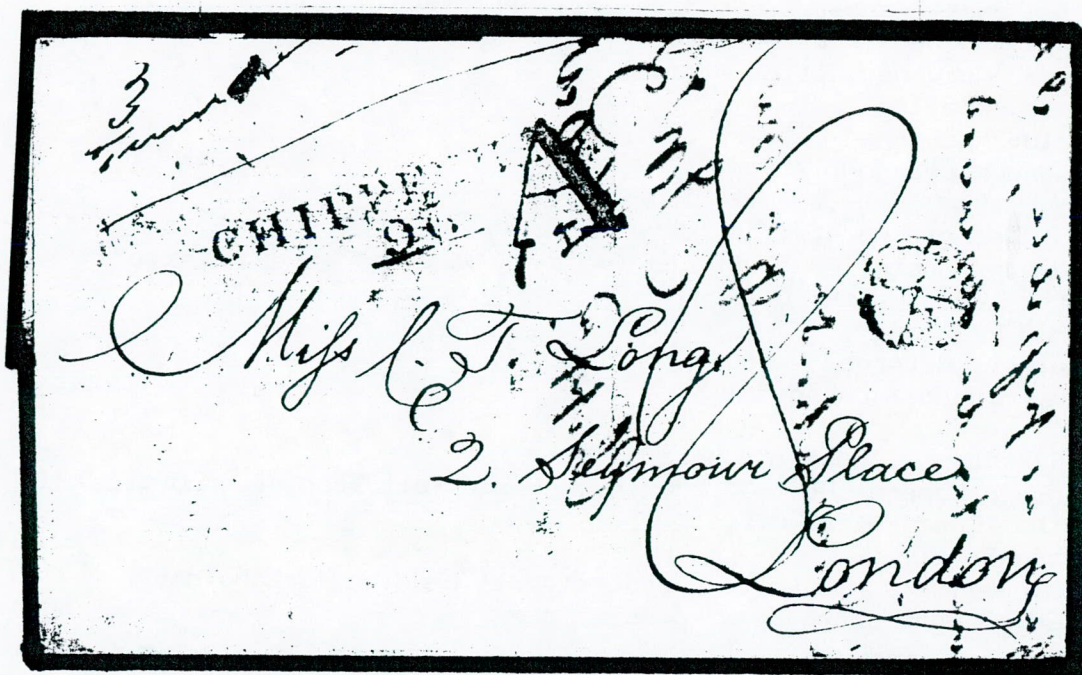
Barry Hampton

Notebook 116.7 showed an example of the "A" stamp : I offer a further example here, this showing also the "hot cross bun", the latter appearing to be in a different colour from the pale brown/red of the "A".

Dated 5th. October, 1811 the several stamps and endorsements on the reverse tell the story. The "hot cross bun" is noted by Alcock & Holland as being associated with the Twopenny Post, whilst Barrie Jay (L.183 and 183a) says "...are seen on the occasional cover transferred from the General Post to the penny or Twopenny Post and which has been delayed for some reason. the handstamp was apparently applied in the General Post." In this case..?

(the letter is shown on the opposite page)





### **DEAD LETTER OFFICE**

Dick Armstrong

Recently acquired were four items from the Dead Letter Office and I am wondering whether a reader has researched these. Alcock and Holland <sup>1</sup>, refers to the establishment of the Dead Letter Office in 1784, though Howard Robinson states the Dead Letter Office was set up as a separate organization in 1793. <sup>2</sup>

The details of the four are given overleaf:



- No. 1            1821 A double sheet. Year date 1821. Printed in full  
 Heading: General Post-Office (hyphen)  
 Ex the "Returned Letter Office"  
 Signed Freeling  
 Heading "Returned Letter" central  
 To London: charged 1/11
- No. 2            1833 A single sheet. Year date 183. only  
 Heading: General Post Office, (no hyphen, comma after "Office")  
 Ex the "Dead Letter Office"  
 Signed Freeling  
 Heading; "Returned Letter" to right  
 To Birmingham: charged 1/3
- No. 3            1835 A single sheet. No date at all.  
 Heading; General Post-Office. (hyphen and full stop after Office).  
 Ex the "Dead Letter Office"  
 Signed Freeling  
 Heading: "Returned Letter" central. All heading much bolder  
 To Edinburgh: Charged 1/3 plus  $\frac{1}{2}$ d tax
- No. 4            1838 A single sheet. No date at all  
 Heading as No. 3  
 Ex the "Dead Letter Office"  
 Signed Maberly  
 Heading "Returned Letter" central. Heading less bold than No. 3  
 To Northampton charged 1/1

Just two of the letters', Nos 1 and 2, obverse sides are shown opposite.

From the several volumes consulted it seems the terms "Dead Letter" and "Dead Letter Office" were freely used from the late 18th. century. It is not clear why one should find "Returned Letter Office" appearing on the official stationary at any time.

Apart from the research into the organisation of the Dead Letter Office (which is noted as having a staff of 18 in 1840 <sup>3</sup> a record of any such covers the reader has would be much appreciated. The usual photocopy would be welcome but details as shown above are most acceptable.

There are a number of areas of official stationary which have not been fully recorded in monographs, although references, no doubt, abound in the several specialist journals. Should a reader have a note of these, again a list will be appreciated.

<sup>1</sup> page 435 "The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland" (1940)

<sup>2</sup> page 90 "Britain's Post Office" (1953)

<sup>3</sup> page 224 *ibid*

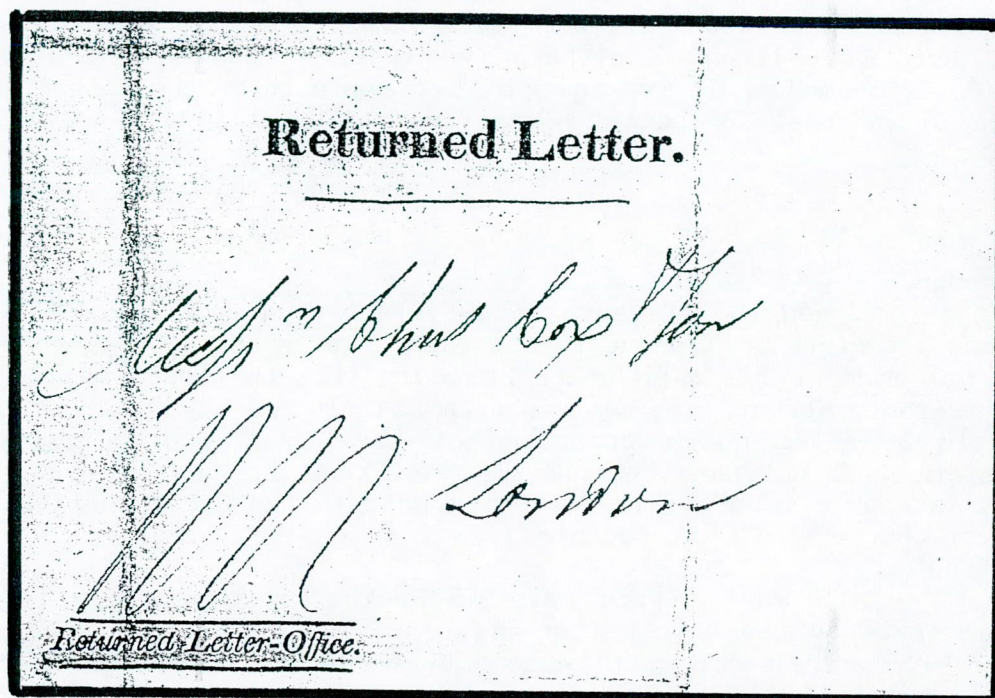
.....

#### **Change of Address.....**

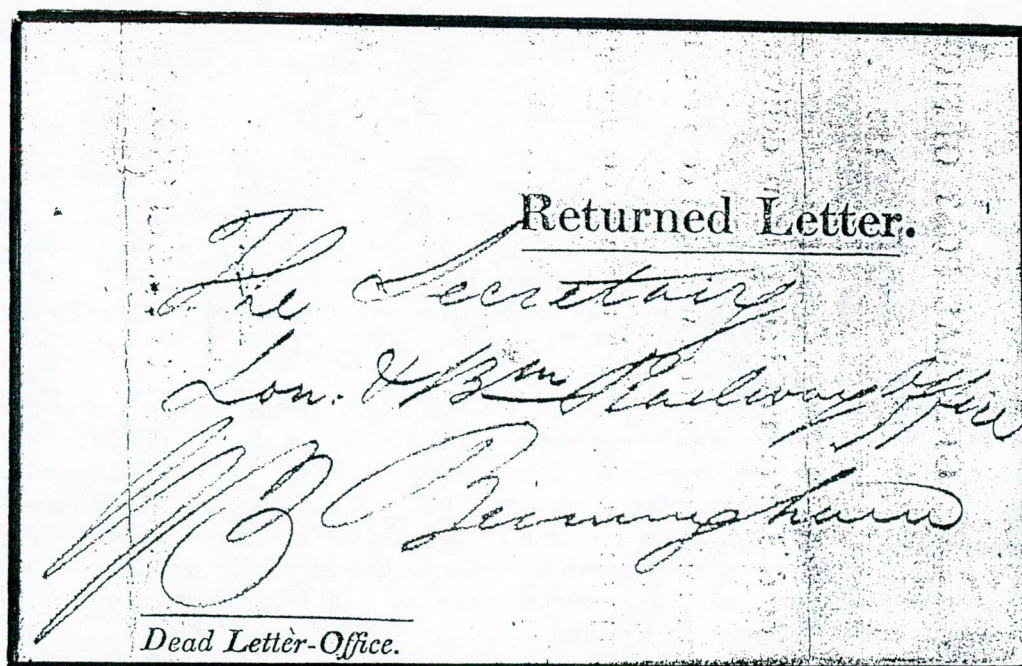
Please note:    W.B. Barrell, H & B Philatelists Ltd.,  
                      P.O. Box 73, SPALDING,  
                      Lincs            PE 11 4LU



No.1 is a double sheet, that is, the printed letter is not on the reverse of the address panel. This example is date stamped 14.2.1821. with the General Post double rim code C stamp on the reverse.



No.2 is clearly a completely revised form, note the lettering size and position. The printed letter is on the reverse of the address panel. The General Post date stamp is for 4.10.1833, single ring, code U and appears on the reverse.





## PACKET TO INDIA

The address on the front reads "G.C. Ascough Esq., Stanwell, near Staines, Midd<sup>x</sup>. The post charge is five pence, which in 1828 covered up to 20 miles in the General Post. The only postal marking is a double rim date stamp for 29th. March, 1828. The address inside is apparently "Henfington"; there is a pair of villages near Woodstock with this name, over sixty miles from London, so clearly, even if written at either, the letter must have been put into the General Post in London. It is, however, the contents of the letter which contain something of interest for postal historians.

Henfington  
Saturday Morning  
29<sup>th</sup>. March 1828

Dear Ascough,

I had the pleasure of duly receiving your favor 25<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>t</sup> - you are rather premature in wishing to get the burial place of a person, who perhaps has not yet made up his mind where he would like it should be the Mr Hale who lived at 26 Bury Street, now resides at N<sup>o</sup> 51 Albermarle Street, Piccadilly, and altho' old & infirm so as probably not able to attend to or transact much business yet I do not hear that he does not know what he is about, that is not mentally incapable I believe he at times goes to the Royal Institution, in that street, of course I did not see him.

The Post Office have no Packet to India, but letters now go from(sic) there by the Ship Letter Office & I sent the one you inclosed - on which p<sup>d</sup> 10<sup>d</sup>, say tenpence - which goes by the Ganges Captn Lloyd, to sail in a few days, & there will be others to Calcutta, at various times in all April, Petty & Wood have a friend going in the Prince Regent to be in the Downs 2<sup>nd</sup> May, & another in the Asia to be in the Downs 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

I am sorry the two Travellers have not yet got quite recovered from the fatigues of their Journey - all here desire to be remembered, but none of us yet awhile can embrace the opportunity you obligingly offer of visiting Stanwell.

I remain Dr A / Yours sincerely / G. Scott

.....

It was the reference to there being no Packet to India and a charge of ten pence (in 1828) which was of immediate interest.

Packet rates were set in 1815 at 3s.6d single etc *to be paid on delivery overseas*, and the Inland rate to port requiring *prepayment*. Robinson says " The rules for payment of these rates were very curious and seem to have been aimed at ensuring as much as possible was charged outside Britain to avoid controversy at home." (for the PORT & CARRIAGE of LETTERS).

Another Act followed in 1819, the East India packet services not having been a success. Letters were now to be sent by private or East India Company ships, with the Post Office charging much lower rates than for other ship letters. The Inland rate remained but the rate (outward) was just 2d per *item* if below 3 ounces, 1s 0d per ounce if above 3 ounces. This rate of charging appears in all the reference books and suggests a 17 oz item would cost 2/-, whereas a 15 oz item just 2d : seems very odd and perhaps readers might be able to provide examples to clarify what appears to be most curious.

In any event, this was the rate in 1828. Assuming the writer really meant to say letters went to India from the Ship Letter Office, why on



earth should he have paid "10<sup>d</sup>, say tenpence" ? The only explanation which readily offers is it was posted from Henfington , incurring 8d General Post (between 50 and 80 miles ) into London, plus the 2d Ship Letter rate. One can fruitlessly speculate on why a man who posted this letter in London should incur his friend extra costs by posting mail from outside town - or was there something odd going on in the Ship Letter Office, resulting in an official at that place charging five times the basic rate.

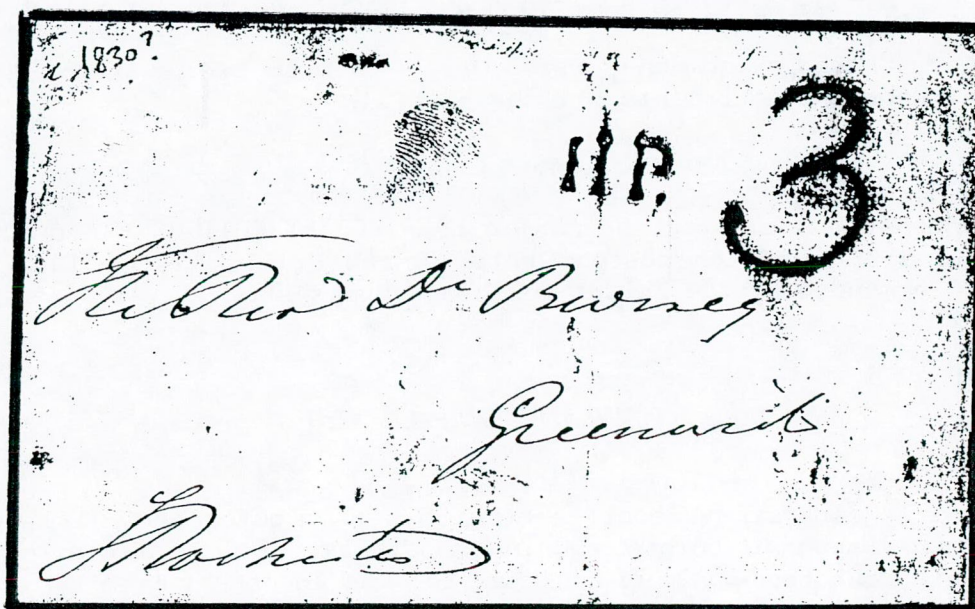
All this leaves two questions for the "man who knows" to respond:  
(i) Exactly how did the Ship Letter Office charge for letters over 3 ounces and  
(ii) What is your explanation for the ten pence charge.

.....

### PARLIAMENTARY MAIL

John Beveridge

The photocopy reproduced here is of a front which was offered to me. There was a pencil dating of 1830 given by the dealer but as the front lacked any means of verifying this I thought it well to enquire of readers if they could help.



The hand struck "3" is of no help, this size being in use for many years. Unless official records were rather better than one might suppose, the partial print, just to the left of the "HP" is only amusing.

The Bishop, Rochester", in signing the obverse, failed to avoid the local London Country Rate charge but the use of the parliamentary Receiving House, or just habit, may be reason for his action.

Jay records this larger 19 x 9 mm stamp 1837-43 and his illustration shows : between the letters. These are missing here.

Although these "HP" marks are very scarce, the Editor would welcome copies of other examples, with comments. This might assist in dating the front, confirming the missing : between H P in the larger stamp and providing a list of the signatories. Jay identifies "HP" as being used on letters posted in the Receiving House of the Houses of Parliament, whilst the most recent Whitney



still says "House of Peers"; some clarification here would be helpful.

.....

### **LOWER TOOTING TO BASINGSTOKE**

A Response From David Robinson

The Tooting to Basingstoke (Notebook 114.8) cover is very interesting but I am afraid I see no obvious explanation, other than error. Before 1838 it is always possible to speculate that some round-about route increased the mileage but by January 1839 charges were according to the shortest public road, which in this case would definitely be below 50 miles. 2<sup>d</sup>. plus 7<sup>d</sup>. seems the obvious charge.

As a general comment, there appears to have been quite a lot of problems over prepaid letters put into London receiving houses; contemporary Post Office notices actually say so and most of the covers whose rates I cannot explain belong to this category. Wrong charging is an ongoing problem. I had a "discussion" only a couple of weeks ago in our local office regarding the charge for a packet. Nowadays it can be sorted out with a telephone call to Customer Service but in 1839 the local postmaster had to do the best he could on his own, with the threat of having to make up the deficiency if he undercharged. Possibly that suggests a reason why this cover might have been charged over the odds ?

Perhaps someone can give a better explanation but, in the meantime, I hope these comments will be helpful.

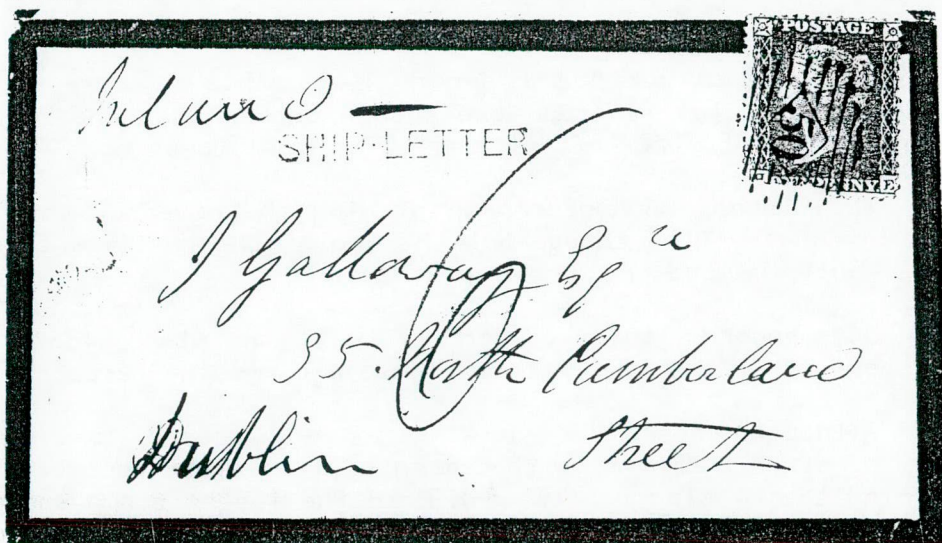
.....

David Robinson produced "for the PORT & CARRIAGE of LETTERS - A practical guide to the Inland and Foreign postage rate of the British Isles 1570 to 1840" - strongly recommended by the Editor for every bookshelf.

.....

### **"INLAND" SHIP-LETTER**

Readers may recall seeing this item before but it reappears here to demonstrate several points. During a display to a philatelic society, a member pointed out the write up for the item was incorrect !





This came as no surprise and was not resented as, during the talk and display, comments and queries had been invited. The advice given was the cover was a late fee item. The late fee had to be prepaid by affixing an adhesive and the Inland Office 50 was always used in such cases.

A rewrite was called for but confirmation of this advice was thought necessary; Stitt Dibden's "Late Fee and Too Late Stamps" was consulted. This showed the informant to be quite incorrect. The 1845 Post Office Guide stipulated the late fee (of one penny) had to be paid by a stamp affixed to the letter *if it were posted with a Letter Carrier or at a Branch Office*. At the GPO St. Martin's le Grand it *could be prepaid in cash or stamp*. Letters posted between 7 and 7.30 were accepted with a fee of 6d. on each. The 1858 P.O. Guide is cited by Stitt Dibden as stating the fee was 6d each either in money or stamps. In the case of this item, the manuscript "6" (in black by the way) is the late fee and the 1d. adhesive is the UK postage.

Of further interest is another quote by Stitt Dibden, this from an Order dated 3rd. October, 1858 from the President's Office of the Inland Branch. "As from the 1st. November new date stamps come into use... The square stamp will supersede the one now used upon letters upon which a late fee of 6d. has been paid in money". SD continued "... Readers will note the significance of the last three words 'paid in money'. In the margin of the order are struck examples of the four stamps mentioned which include the single stamp (fig 15 - this is a rare print error, it should be fig. 25). Here again Hendy (Vol. II, page 51) quotes the use of the stamp as 'Used on Late fee letters Posted in the Evening between 7 and 7.30 p.m.'"

"The new stamp was used as a backstamp and this, of course, left the adhesives stuck on the envelope to pay normal postage uncanceled. Inland late fee letters with 6d. fee prepaid in cash and the square indented stamp found their way to regular tables where the adhesives were then cancelled by the then current "number in diamond" handstamps..."

Illustrated below are the stamps from both Hendy and SD.

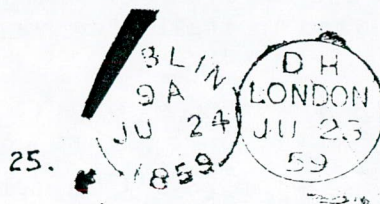


Fig. 290. Used on Late Fee Letters Posted in the Evening between 7 and 7.30 p.m.

Hendy



Stitt



Cover

.....

**HOSTER : AN UNRECORDED DATER DIE**

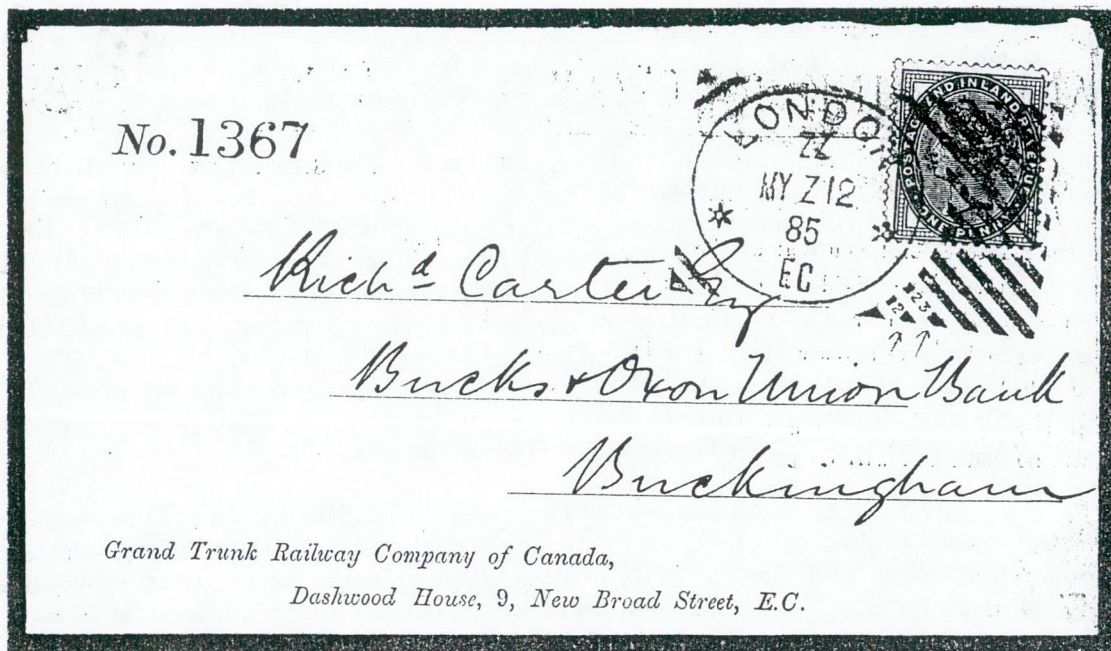
Tim Schofield

A recently acquired Hoster cover offers yet a further example of the truism of always something new to discover and record in London.

As is clear from the very clean impression, the centre date line reads "MY Z 12" and not "MY \* 12", as one would expect. Several well known collectors of this material have been consulted and, indeed, this letter "intrusion" appears to be unknown to them.

Would readers please check any Hoster material they have for the same or other letters inserted between the month and the day. As ever, a photocopy would be most useful but the important record is the centre date line,





the year as well. There may be a pattern of use discernible.

Any suggestions for the insertion of the "Z" in the date?

.....

# THE COMMEMORATIVE BUDGET LETTER CARD

Tony Potter

Offered for the interest of members, this 1897 Jubilee commemoration. The only comment is on the writer's (presumed) haste, the evidence for which I leave to the reader to find in the letter reproduced opposite.



The reverse carries the imprint :

PATENTEES & SOLE MANUFACTURERS: LANGLEY & SONS EUSTON WORKS, LONDON, N. W.



S.S. "Kakaia"  
Royal Albert Dks.  
Oct. 14 1894

Dear aunt Annie,

I am pleased to tell  
you that the "Kakaia" is once  
more in her old berth, after  
a very pleasant and fine  
voyage. This note, I will  
write you further later on,  
and shall be very glad  
to hear from you again.

With love to you all, and  
greetings to old Hurvish,

Yours affectionately  
Chas. Acton.

#### PARCEL POST DIAMONDS

Michael Goodman

Mackay notes the special purpose stamps being issued in connection with parcel post stamps. Double lined diamond shaped stamps were issued to the General Post Office and the London District parcels offices. These are illustrated at figs 2516 and 2517.<sup>1</sup>

Two of these stamps, the Northern and South Eastern Offices are illustrated overleaf. The Northern Office item appears on a Parcel Post label, the adhesives being cancelled with the undated NDO cancellation. The dated stamp appears to be 26 NO 08, although the fuzziness means it could be another year.

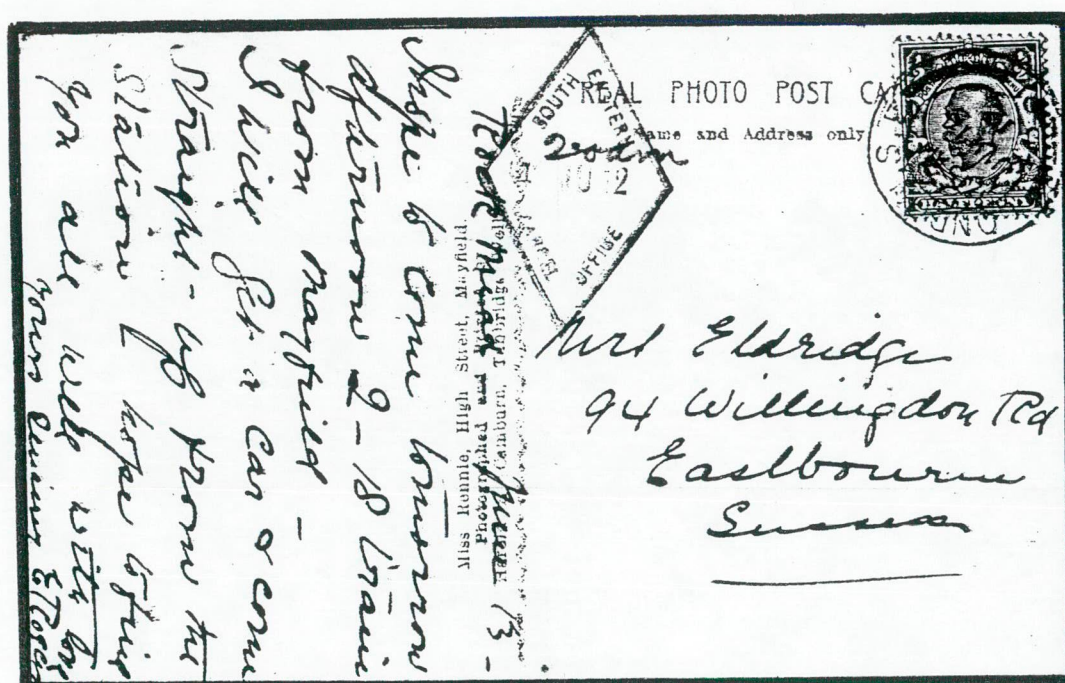
The South Eastern Office stamp is for a day in June 1912 and appears on a post card. Struck in violet one might presume the card was passed through the parcel office in error and, to signal the possible delay, the diamond stamp was applied.



Northern District Parcel Office  
Parcel Post Label for "STORES DEPARTMENT"  
The slightly trimmed label shows, at the foot, ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE



South Eastern Parcel Office



# FIRE ON THE S.S. COMORIN

The "tired" envelope appeared to have carried just one 1½d. adhesive and no stamps to show either the date of posting, transit or arrival in Edinburgh.

However, the cachet, which probably reads "Damaged by water / on S.S. Comorin" -struck in violet- is neither illustrated nor mentioned by Hopkins ("A History of Wreck Covers"). He states most of the mail was reconditioned in London but notes at least two items being handled in Bristol. It may be the cachet shown above originated in Edinburgh. It would be helpful to hear from a reader with a similar item in their collection.





The mail was carried by the P. & O. steamer *Comorin* from Australia to England, leaving Sydney on the 19th. February, 1930 and Freemantle on the 3rd. March. A fire occurred on board on the night of the 12th. March, just as she was about to sail from Colombo. This was not put out until the 14th but the fire was confined to No.3 hold, the mail being wetted by sea water when the hold was flooded. Sailing was delayed until the 17th. March, arriving in London on the 2nd. April. The following day the P.M.G. announced there could be a considerable delay in distribution while the mails were dried out.

Another cover carried five of the 1½d. adhesives and was endorsed AIR MAIL but, nevertheless, went into No.3 hold. A third item, bearing one of the cachets illustrated by Hopkins has, on the reverse, an O.H.M.S. label (P.613B) under which is stuck a dated Air Mail label which does not belong. It appears more than one writer intended, and paid for, post by air only to have their correspondence taking several weeks, rather than days, to arrive in the U. K.

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### **POSTED OUT OF COURSE**

Michael Goodman

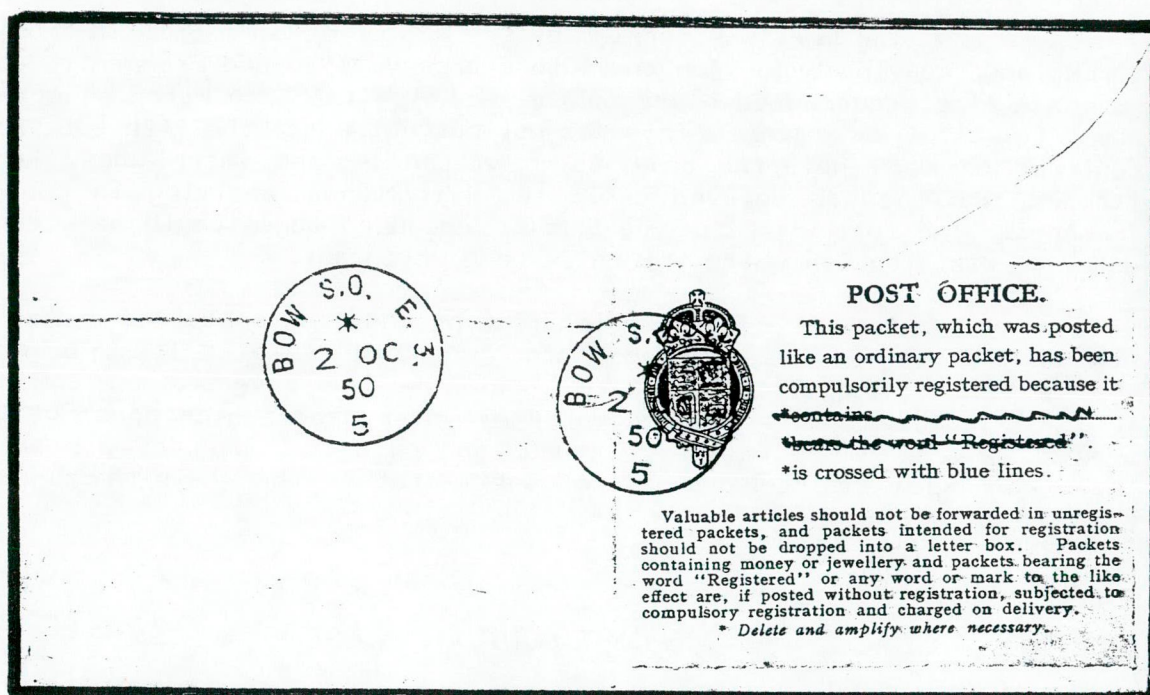
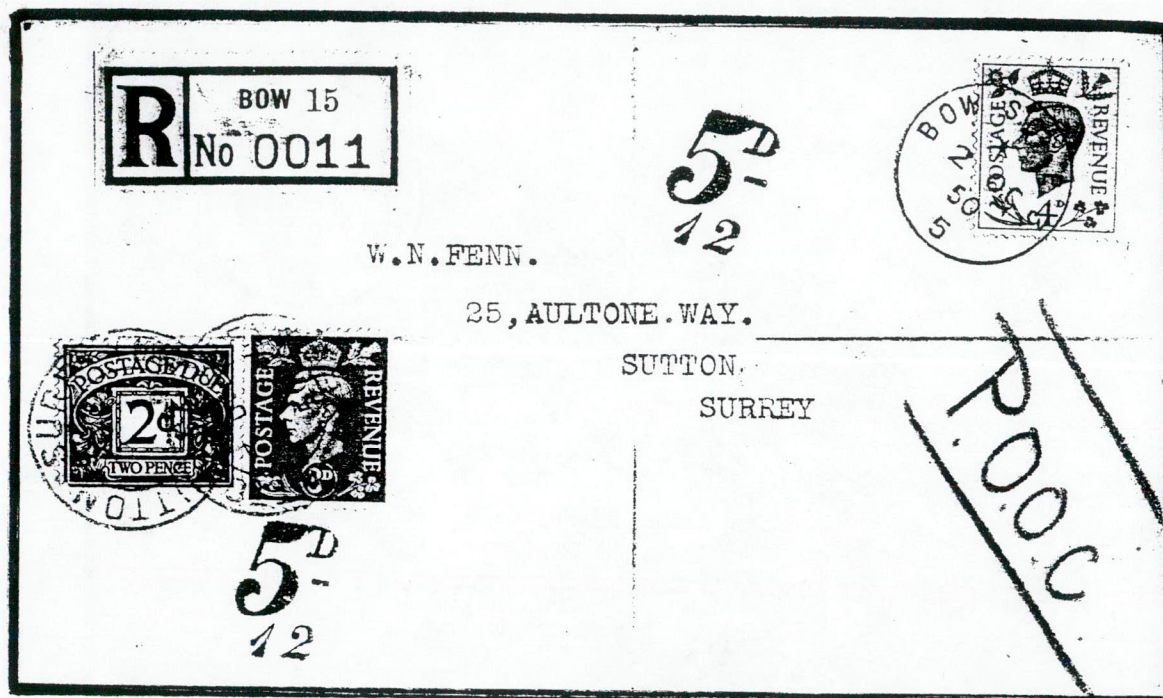
Posted Out Of Course (P.O.O.C.) to Post Office officials has been the source of numerous interesting items for the postal historian, even when - as this might well be the case - the cover has been "arranged".

This was posted into Bow, most probably in a box at the post office, all neatly addressed and with blue lines crossing but without wishing to bother the counter clerk at the time. See label on the reverse.

What is of particular interest is the use, at Sutton in 1950, of the current Geo VI 3<sup>d</sup> as part of the process for collecting the charges associated with Posting Out Of Course. The Registration Fee would have been 4<sup>d</sup>,



the Post Office taking the adhesive as dealing with this element, the Postage 2½<sup>d</sup>, which being unpaid was apparently doubled to 5<sup>d</sup>.



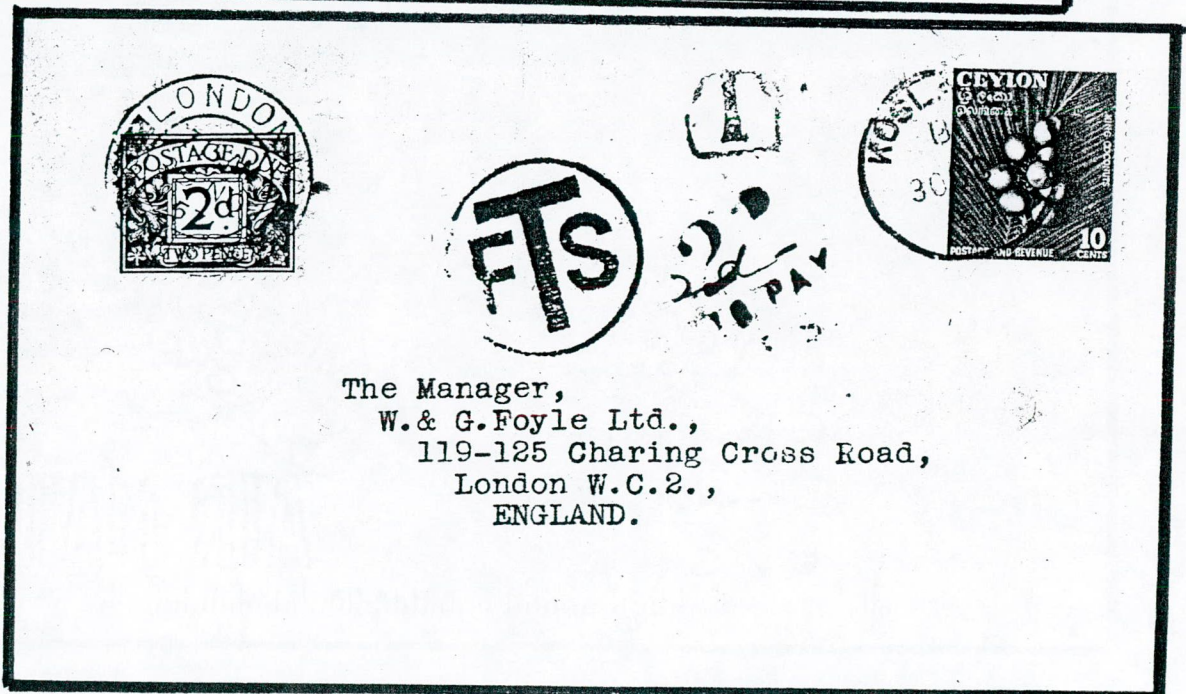
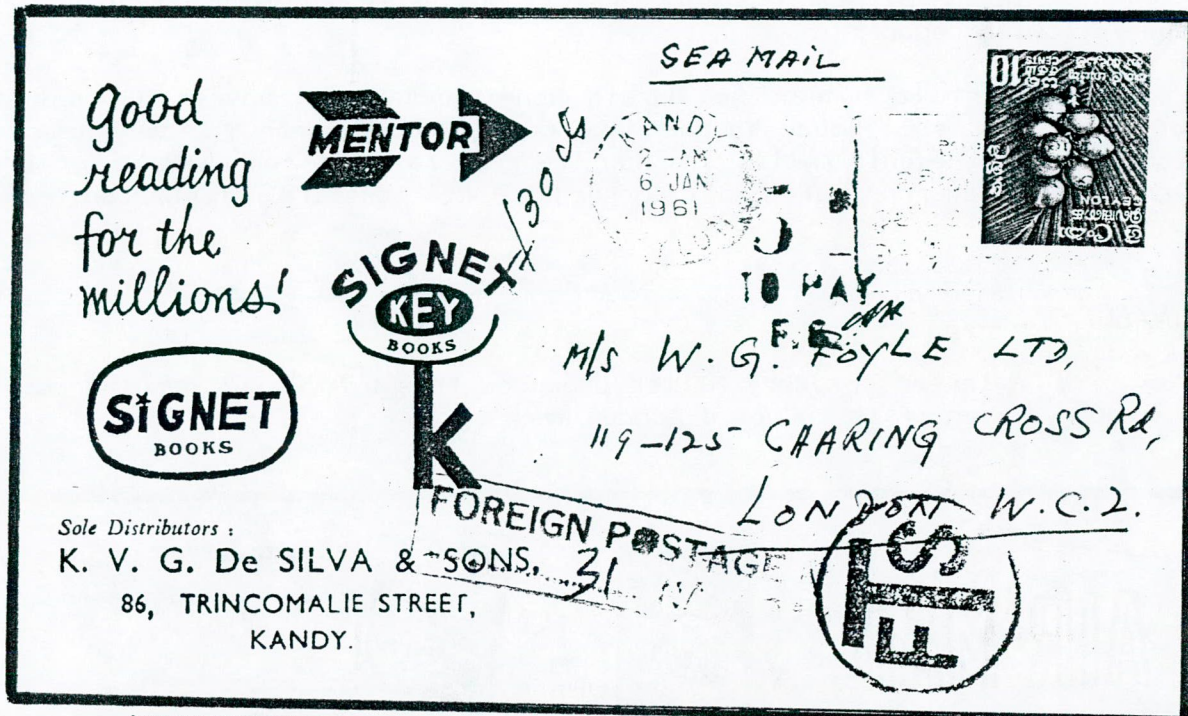
Can readers offer further examples of Postage Due duties being effected by either definitive or commemorative adhesives? Perhaps a collector of Sutton material has other examples of P.O.O.C. covers and non Postage Due adhesives being used to charge the addressee.

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# **FOREIGN SECTION TAXE (FTS)**

The two items shown here from Alistair Kennedy confirm the Singhalese connection with the encircled FTS stamp. There is a reference to the stamp



by Mackay, (fig.2914 - English and Welsh Postmarks Since 1840) with the remark "There were also circular marks inscribed with a 'T', sometimes with the initials of the Foreign section on either side."

As was remarked at the meeting on Foreign Section and Branch stamps, one has to remember British colonies would tend to use the same titles for the same services as the UK Post Office: a Ceylon Foreign Section follows.

Would members please amend their copy of the book accordingly !!



### BRIXTON RD SKELETON

In *Notebook 114.10* Roger Vaughan raised the question of the correct numbering for the Brixton Road office.

In the British Postmark Society Quarterly Bulletin for April 1995 came the following report:

"Just to summarise: Harald Schei and others have confirmed the post office was at 420. Roger Vaughan and Colin Peachy agree the handstamp is inscribed 426 and the only mystery is how 426 came to be in the handstamp. It is believed to be pure error: after all, errors in skeletons are not unknown."

### AND FINALLY.....

A letter to Jerry Miller produced this example of genuine modern postal history, even if it is not a London mark !!



As can be seen, there are at least two lines of post coding (the envelope was not preprinted in any way) and the Editor's handwriting is not so obscure to allow for a reasonable error by a sorter.

One can only assume as it floated through the air to the USA bag, it was deflected by a Post Office gremlin