

NOTEBOOK

Number 133 November 1998

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EDITOR

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EDITORIAL.....

Having received some response to the request for information on the undated receiving house stamps in members' collections, we have discovered an error in the original type classification. To remedy this a substitute page is included as an insert with this issue. Apart from putting the record straight for all readers, this may serve to remind anyone who has yet to report stamps to put pen to paper.

The superb result of the "Feldman Papers" and years of work by Hugh has been published. L.P.H.G. has purchased six copies for members to collect at meetings (£55 special price applies) but *please* advise the Editor before meetings. He has no wish to carry parcels costing £6 + in post for no good reason (n.b. 3 went at the November meeting).

**GREENWICH, SYDENHAM AND KINGSLAND
RECEIVERS' SALARY INCREASES**

Apart from the letter from the Kingsland Receiver, shown "as is", the contents of the file are transcribed using, as far as possible, the original wording and style. Some of the writing is unclear and either a fair guess is used or "....." shown.

There are a number of significant points of interest, apart from the style of the three Receivers, not the least being official recognition of the effect of the charge increases introduced in April 1805.

POST 42 POST MASTERS GENERAL REPORTS

Vol. 24 Page 581

No. 47W

General Post Office

20 May 1805

My Lords,

The enclosed report from the D^y Compt^r of the Twopenny Post proposes to augment the Allowances of the Receivers at Greenwich, at Sydenham, and at Kingsland.

At Greenwich the number of Letters passing thro' the Receiving House appears to entitle the Receiver to the highest Salary ever allowed in lieu of the Tenth Penny (the way in which Receivers were formerly paid / viz £24 Pr Year. M^r Johnson in proposing to increase it to that sum from £16 the present Allowance, from 5th April last.

At Sydenham the Receiver finds a Sorting Office and firing for the Letter Carriers. M^r Johnson proposes to give her £6 instead of £3 pr Ann: to take place from 1st August last, the time when new regulations added new duties to her Appointment.

At Kingsland the Receiver also finds house room & firing for the Letter Carriers, and has the responsibility of taking care till the following Morning of the Bag of Letters left each Night by the Mail Coach. M^r Johnson recommends that he should have £8 instead of £6 from the 5th April last.

Upon the opinions thus expressed by the Proper Officer, I presume your Lordships will feel justified in consenting to his several propositions.

All which is humbly / submitted by / F. Freeling

The Postm^r General

& &

outer : -

No. 47 W / Mr Freeling / 20 May 1805 / 4 Encl / Approved M / CL

March 1805

S^r

I Take the Liberty of Reminding you that I think my Self Slighted in Regard to the Promised Augmentation of my Sallerey foret Asure. Sir I Cannot think of Continuing at the Old Rate - for Since the Last Alteration it takes up my time & trouble three times more than it Did Befides the incumbrance of houfe Room & fireing So many hours in the Day for the men & as I have so lately Paid a Guinea for my Bond I was in Hopes I should not be for Gotten - as I find all ye Brother Office keepers Round this Quarter have been above Double Raised* witch I hope Sir mine will & from the Commencement of my Extra trouble & as I have Rec^d a letter from the office & fine my Sallerey not Raised I thought Proper to Send the above

(* This is and Your Confideration of the
a mistake) will greatly oblige your &cc

J Walter / Letter Receiver Sydenham Kent

The receiver at Kingsland, who writes from the "Black Bull" presents a problem for anyone attempting to read and transcribe. You are invited to submit your own version: the Editor will be happy to include the most likely in the growing volume of Post 42 files in his records.

516 -

Sir

I Am to inform you that my
Settrey is so small for my office and
shop that you will be kind to consider
for it more Res it to eight Pounds
for I do find one Pound for some men
to make up the Baggs and if you don't
think it proper to Res my Settrey
Let me know in soon as possible and
you may look for another House
of your humble servant

Peter Thomson
Black Bull Kingsland
7 March
1805

To the Right Honorable and Honorable The Postmasters General

The Humble Memorial of Geo Allen of the Post Office Greenwich in Kent

That your Memorialist having kept the Post Office in that Town near 20 Years and with his late Father and Mother near 80 Years.

That your Memorialist salary at Present is '16/ p' Year and Prior to the Year 1794 your Memorialist Always Received at the Rate of one Penny in ten Letters, at that Time there was Three Receiving Houses Exclusive of your Memorialist but now only your Memorialist Office in the Town.

That from the Verry Great Increase of Letters which your Memorialist takes in being Nearly 400 Every Day with Stamping and forting and the Responsibility it nearly Employs you Memorialist the whole day.

Your Memorialist therefore Humbly Prays to be Allow'd the Penny in ten Letters as formerly or an Increase of his Salary as your Lordships shall think Meet, and your Memorialist in Duty Bound will Every Pray

April 5 1805

Twopenny Post Office
May 19 1805

Dear Sir,

Having had an account kept of the number of Letters taken in by the Letter Receivers whose memorial I enclose I find that M^r Allens receipt at the Greenwich Office would, at the rate one penny for every ten letters, produce near £26 a year. I do not however recommend his proposition that he be allowed to the Amount of his Tenths, but that his Salary, from the 5th of April last be augmented from £16 to £24 p^r Annum that being the highest salary allowed by the regulations of the office in lieu of Tenths and M^r Allen performing no extra services to entitle him to any additional allowances. I have also to observe that M^r Allens receipt of letters has been nearly 400 p^r day, as he states, it must have decreased considerably, as it does not appear to be at present more than half that number; but the time of year and the temporary effect of a new Tax may probably have combined to reduce the number at this time, and I have no doubt but the average number he receives is considerably more than it appears from the account taken.

Mrs Walters Salary should have been considered at the Time the Ride was extended to Sydenham, as her Receiving House then became a Sorting Office where the Letter Carriers attend to receive and sort the Letters for Sydenham, Beckenham and South End twice a day and to make up and dispatch a bag to town containing the letters from the same places also twice a day. Her Salary is at present £3 p^r Annum, and I beg to recommend that for finding House room and firing and for her extra trouble her Salary be advanced to £6 p^r Annum, to take pace from the 1st of August last inclusive, that being the day the above regulation commenced.

M^r Thomsons House at Kingsland is also a Sorting Office where five Letter Carriers are accommodated with House room and firing, and he attends every night when the Mail Coach passes to receive the Hackney and Stoke Newington Bags which he has the care of till the next morning. For all which, together with his duty of Letter Receiver, his Salary at present is but £6 p^r Annum, but I beg to recommend that it be augmented from the 5th April last, to £8 p^r Annum, that being more than adequate to the duties and claims of his office.

I am Dear Sir / Your Ob^d H^{le} Sev^{nt} / Johnson

KEW REVIEW

A Cavendish auction this year afforded the opportunity of acquiring some material from the late Jim Elkin's collection, the primary reason being to obtain an example of the small, 27 mm long, Country Receiving Office stamp (L.503) believed to be in the material: this report details the items purchased.

The L.503, boxed single line, stamp from Kew is unique in that it is the only office south of the Thames to have been issued with this type. Why this should have been so is not, as far as the writer is aware, yet determined but it may have been due to the presence of the "quality folk" who lived in the area and whose mail merited closer attention than that from mere mortals.

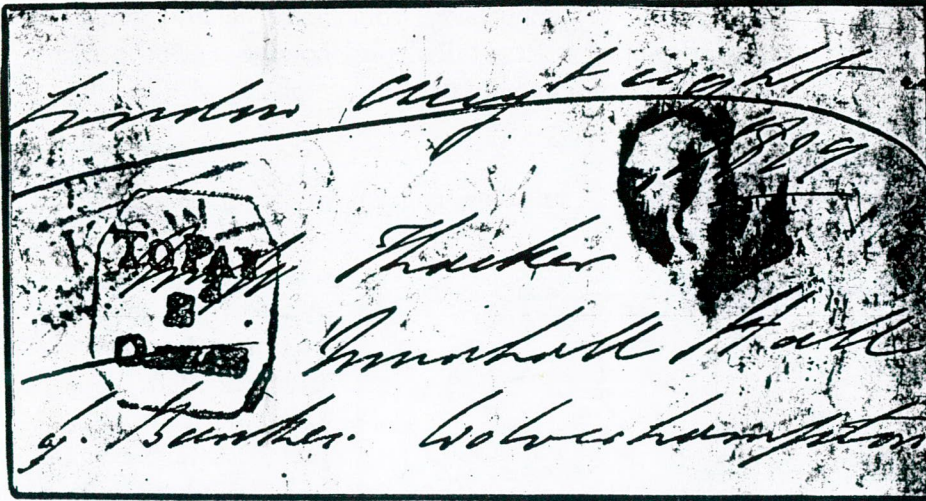


Fig. 1

Figure 1 comprises a front, headed "London August eight 1829," addressed to Wolverhampton and, therefore, routed through the General Post to that place. Posted at Kew it had the 34 mm framed Kew stamp applied, this over stamped by a rather inky "TO PAY / 2^d / ONLY", the latter confirming the hand struck "2" charge for the conveyance of the

letter to the General Post. The franking is by a "G. Banker" (?) - perhaps a reader with a Kew directory for 1829 can identify. That the Receiving House stamp is confirmed as the 34 mm version can be seen by a trace of the right hand vertical frame line one centimetre from the "w" of "Kew".

Another example of this stamp on an entire dated 1830 (Fig. 2). Again there is just enough of that right hand frame line to confirm the 34 mm size stamp, albeit overstruck by the "2" charge on the "TO PAY etc." stamp. The Twopenny Post transfer stamp is not one with reversed "7"s.

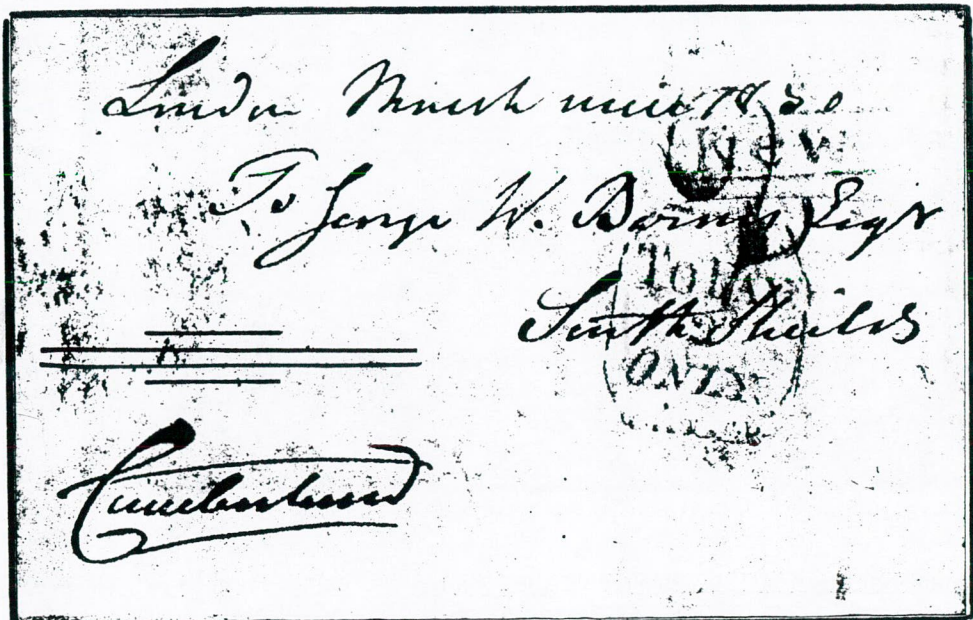


Fig. 2

There are four red ink lines on the left of the obverse,

applied by whom and when and for what purpose remains a source for conjecture by the Agatha Christies of the postal history fraternity. The franking is by "Cumberland" but the letter is of no small interest: it reads -

Kew March 6. 1832

Sir,

I am commanded by the Duke of Cumberland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of Feby 27.; you will perceive the H.R.H. has complied with your request; & I enclose also with H.R.H. approbation the Autograph of Prince George.

I have the honor to remain / Sir / Your most ob^t Ser^t
R.W. Jelf

In the lower right hand corner is a red wax royal seal, seemingly taken from another letter, because the seal on the actual letter quoted is in black, depicting a long billed bird holding a twig in same. Whether the Duke obliged with the red seal by way of an additional "autograph" or whether it was affixed subsequently is impossible to determine.

It should be noted in both these example (figs. 1 and 2) the album pages have been illustrated with a 27 mm long Kew country receiving office stamp.

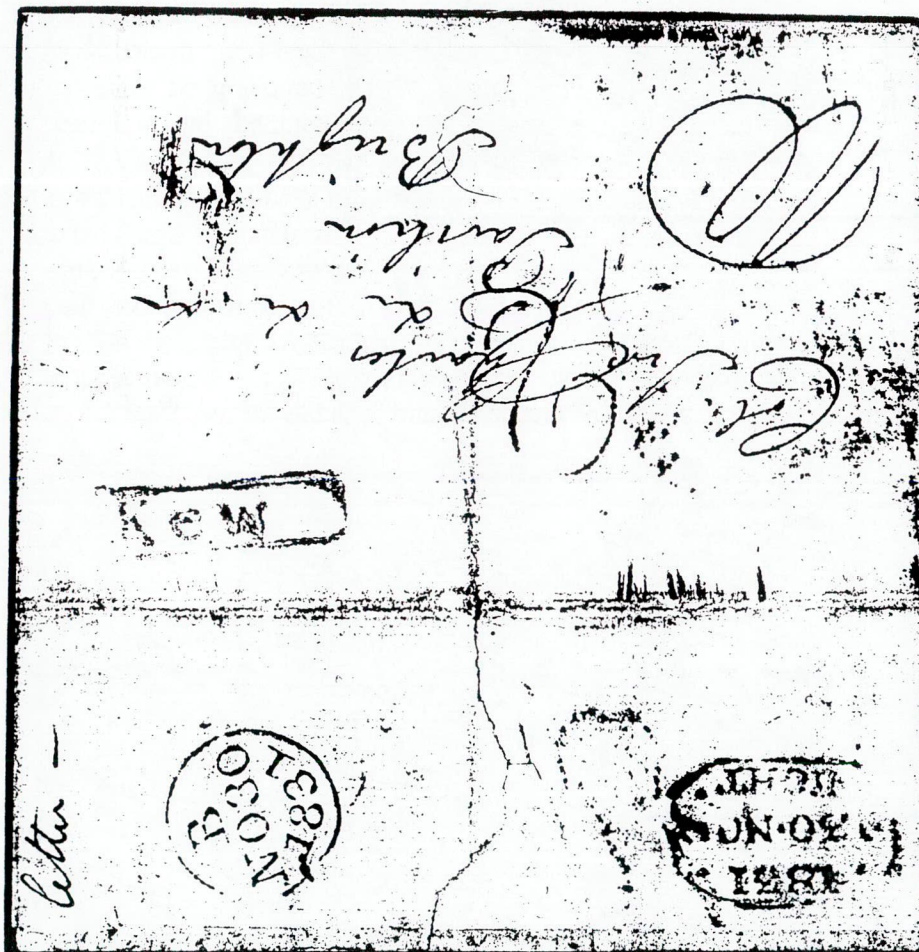


Fig. 3

A letter (Fig. 3) written by Prince George of Cumberland in November 1831 provides a third example of L.503, though in this case the right hand frame is clearly visible, another 34 mm example. It is addressed to Col. Sir Charles Wade Thorton in Brighton. Details on Sir Charles and Prince George were provided by the Registrar at the Round Tower Windsor Castle. (Fig. 4). From the addition to the Prince's letter is the explanation for the absence of a frank; that Cumberland was not asked or failed to frank may reflect on the integrity of the family at an age when franking for family and friends was a

commonplace illegality. As a result, the Colonel was called upon to pay 10^d postage, 8^d being for the General Post London to Brighton plus the Twopenny Post 2^d.

The letter from the young Prince is in a very adult hand, the only clue to the child being feint traces of pencil lines, imperfectly removed, drawn to guide his hand; the letter reads:

Mr Dear Sir Charles,

Many thanks for your very kind letter which you were so good as to write to me. I am very glad that your & my (this inserted over the line of writing) wish was fulfilled by her having had a boy & I am likewise glad to hear that they are both so well. I inclose in my Letter a little note from Mamma (not detected for double postage); Papa came back this morning at 2^h past 9 oclock quite well.

Have the kindnefs to give my Dutiyful ("y" overwriting "i") love to the King & Queen but love to dear George & best compliments to all around you.

I remain my Dear Sir Charles / yours most truly / George

I was near forgetting the principal point of my letter which was to thank you for that beautiful Pipe you were so good as to send me.

ROYAL ARCHIVES



ROUND TOWER

WINDSOR CASTLE

4th November 1980

Dear Mr. Elkins,

Thank you for your letter and enclosures, which I am returning herewith.

The writer of the letter headed 'Kew' is Prince George of Cumberland, son of Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, King George III's fifth son. On the death of King William IV in 1837 the Duke of Cumberland succeeded to the throne of Hanover, as Queen Victoria was debarred under the Salic Law. Prince George of Cumberland was born on 27th May 1819; he succeeded his father as King George V of Hanover in 1851, was deposed by the Prussians in 1866, and died in Paris in 1878.

The Rev. Richard William Jelf, writer of the note on the last page of the letter, who later became Principal of King's College, London (see Dictionary of National Biography), was Preceptor or Tutor to Prince George. The letters are, I think, addressed to Col. Sir Charles Wade Thornton, K.C.H., who was an A.D.C. to King William IV.

Yours sincerely,

Vane haughton.

Registrar.

P.S. The Duke of Cumberland and his family lived in King's Cottage on Kew Green, which King George III had settled on the Duke in 1806.

Fig. 4

The Rev. Jelf then added a note :

Mr Dear Thorton,

You will feel for me, when you hear that it has pleased God to take our little angel Prudence to Himself. She expired at 2 oCl. on Sunday, without the smallest symptom of pain. We

bow our heads in grateful resignation to Gods will - she has been for four months the delight of our lives, but she is now happier than earth could have made her - Dear Emmy is wonderfully supported.

Yours sincerely / R.E. Jelf

P.S. Your most friendly letter reached me this morning after the above was written, & dearest Emmy & myself thank you for your kind sympathy most heartily _ she continues to be quite resigned.

Prince George is gone out hunting & has not made a cover - so I must direct this letter -

A few months earlier comes an entire (that is, lacking the letter so we know not by whom or from whence it was written) Fig 5 shows an example of the L.507 Kew / 2 py P Paid in black, not in Jay or

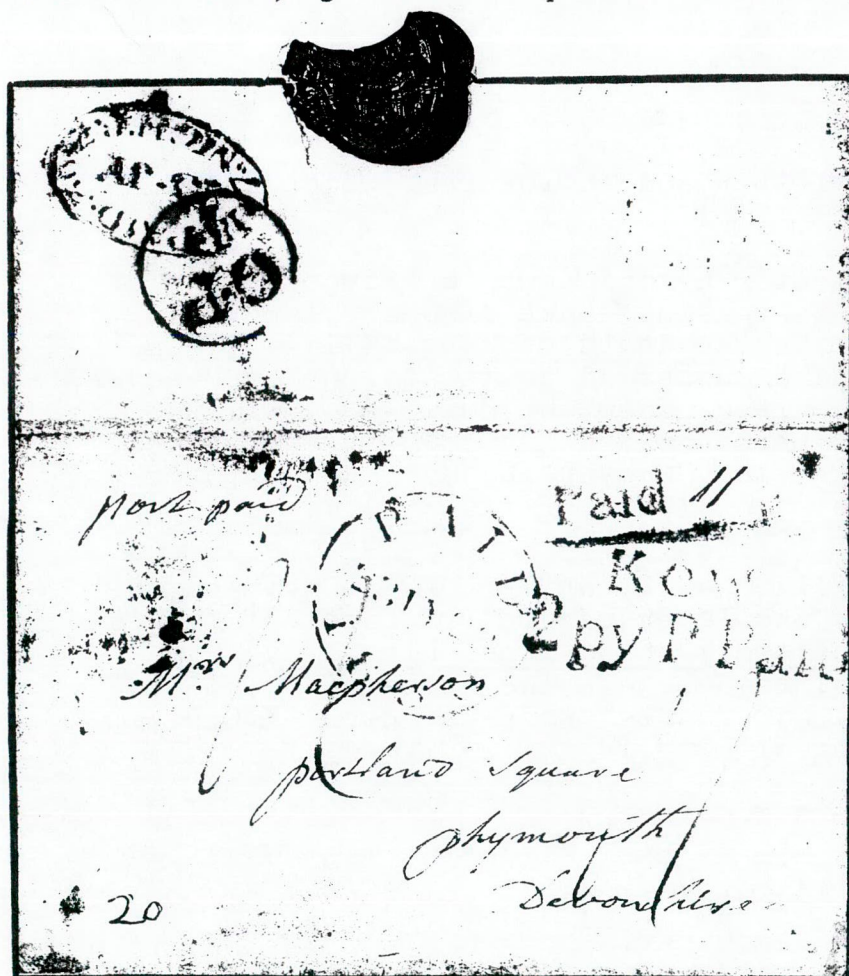


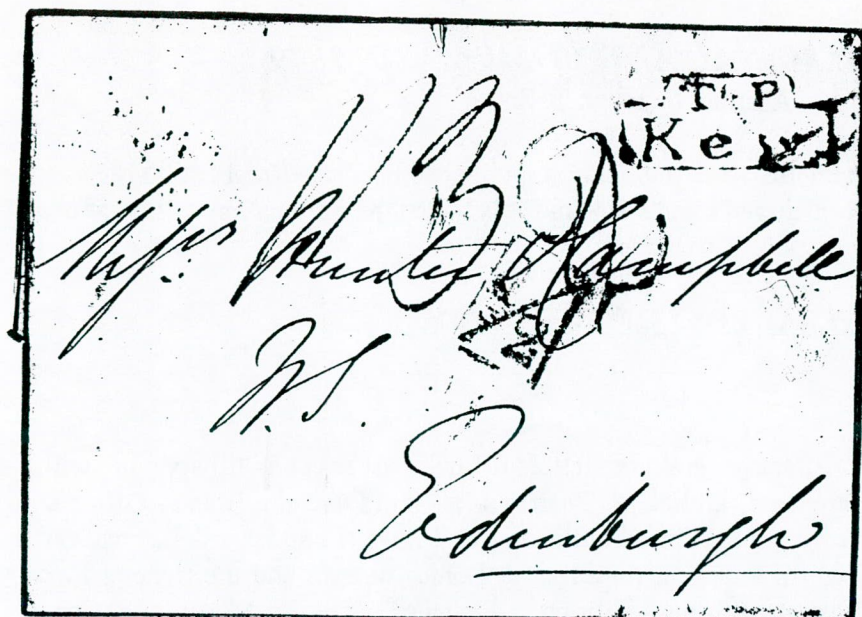
Fig. 5

the Feldman papers; the Kew oval framed Paid with "11" inserted, this being the General Post charge for up to 230 miles (Plymouth 218). The London Paid date stamp in red for 23 July 1830; the reverse carries the encircled G P / P (L.684) and the Twopenny Post time stamp for 7 Night for 23(?) July 1830, both in red. The black wax seal in broken but appears to comprise a castle keep over the initials "TS". The motto, in English" reads, in part "...is constant..."

Then an attractive pair showing examples of the framed and unframed TP Kew stamps, both in black. The item from April 7th 1830 (Fig. 6) is written from Kew Green - merely an acknowledgement of a letter of credit for £100. Addressed to Edinburgh, the quite decent strike of the framed TP Kew (Jay shows 1835 only) indicates place of

posting, the erased "2" the TP to GP charge, the 1/3 the total charge and then what looks like H & S* fig. 151 type IIIB of London. However, this example is 17 mm x 12 mm and is most surely in black, not "dirty green".

The final item (Fig. 7) a cross post to Seaton in Devon. The unframed TP Kew is two years before the 1840 Jay recording; the framed Hounslow / Py Post (L.730) are the only postal markings to be seen. The black ink "I" indicated the penny to be paid for the local post charge but, being franked "Cambridge" (H.R.H. Duke of Cambridge, seventh son of George III.) no General Post charge was



made. Unlike the other franked letter, this is headed as from "Kew". It would seem the majority of mail from the villages outside London but within the boundary of the Twopenny Post could be endorsed either "London" or the actual place name.

It would appear the 27 mm L.503 stamp is a product of an inaccurate drawing but anyone with a clear copy this size is urged to send a photocopy / note to the Editor.

Fig. 6

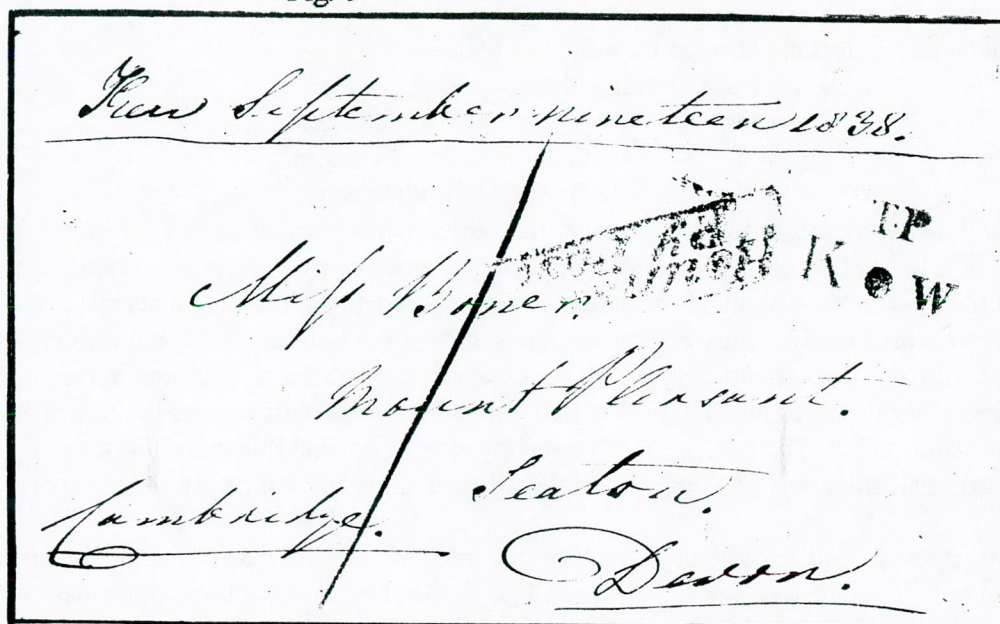


Fig. 7

* "The Scottish Additional Halfpenny Mail Tax 1813 - 1839 "
by K. Hodgson & W.A. Sedgewick (second edition 1984)

If any readers were fortunate enough to secure other material from the sale of Jim Elkins collection, please do use it to provide an article for *Notebook*. Apart from general interest it would be a small tribute to a member who contributed much to many in the enjoyment of postal history.

BRITISH ALMANAC AND COMPANION 1849

An Abstract by Brian T. Smith

These details have been taken from the 1849 publication, published by Chas. Knight at 90 Fleet Street, London. The text has not been altered in any way and it is hoped the information will be of use to readers.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON

Evening Mails

The receiving Houses are open for general post letters till half past five, and till six p.m., with a fee of 1d., paid by an additional stamp, and at St. Martin's-Le-Grand and the Branch Office at Charing Cross, Old Cavendish-street, Stones' End, Southwark, and Lombard-street, till six, without fee; at the first three Branch offices till a quarter to seven; at Lombard-street and the General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, till seven, with an additional 1d. stamp; and at St. Martin's-le-Grand till half-past seven p.m., with a fee of 6d. The extra penny on all inland letters to be paid by a stamp, but upon foreign, colonial, or ship letters the penny must be paid in money.

General post letters are charged by weight as follows :-

Letters not exceeding	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz	one postage
do	1 oz.	two postages
do	2 oz.	four postages
do	3 oz	six postages

and so on, adding two postages for every ounce; but parliamentary papers are an exception. The price of a postage is a 1d. which must be prepaid, whether by money or by the use of a stamp, or it will be charged double, and if the weight of the letter should exceed the value of the stamps attached, the excess will be charged double; thus a letter weighing more than half an ounce, but not exceeding an ounce, if bearing the 1d., stamp only, will be charged an additional 2d., on delivery. Stamped envelopes are to be purchased at every post-office, as well as most stationers, at the rate of 1s. 1½ d., per dozen of penny and 2s. 2d., per dozen of twopenny envelopes, and this rate is most rigidly ordered to be observed in all fractional parts of a dozen. Shilling stamps and ten penny stamps are now being issued.

Newspapers to go the same day, must be put into the General Post office before six o'clock; but those put in before half-past seven o'clock will go in the same evening by paying a halfpenny with each. In the branch offices they must be put in before five. They must be sent in covers, open at the sides, and to go free, no words or communications must be printed on such paper after the same shall have been published, nor any writing or marks upon such printed paper or the cover thereof, other than the name and address of the person to whom it is sent; but, by affixing a stamp conspicuously on the cover, the paper itself may be written on, but this exemption does not apply to papers sent abroad. If addressed to persons who have removed, they may be redirected, and sent free of extra charge. Failure in these conditions subjects the paper to the same rate of postage as an unpaid letter. Single books may be sent by post, open at the ends, at the rate of 6d. per pound, every portion being reckoned as a pound.

British newspapers sent to foreign countries (where they are permitted to go free through the foreign post) go free; but if otherwise they are charged a British postage of 2d. each; or a rate equivalent to the foreign rate. French and Belgium newspapers are subject in England to a postage of one halfpenny. English papers pay in France a postage of 5 centimes.

Newspapers to and from the Colonies are transmitted free (unless sent by private ships), and must be posted within a week of their publication.

Morning Mails

The Letter Boxes at the Receiving Houses will be open until seven a.m. for newspapers, and 7.45 a.m. for letters; and those at the branch offices, Charing Cross, Old Cavendish-street, and the Borough, for the reception of newspapers until half-past seven a.m., and for letters until eight a.m. At the General Post Office and the Branch Office in Lombard-street, the boxes will close for newspapers at a quarter before 8 a.m. and for letters at half-past eight a.m. Mail despatched at half-past nine a.m.

No person will be permitted hereafter to send or receive letters free of postage. members however of either House of Parliament will be entitled to receive, free of charge, petitions addressed to either House of Parliament, provided they are sent without covers or in covers open at the sides, and do not exceed the weight of thirty-two ounces; addressed to Her Majesty will likewise go free of postage.

The rates on newspapers and letters of soldiers and sailors will remain unaltered, with the exception, however, that the privilege now given to soldiers' and sailors' letters will be restricted to the cases in which they shall not exceed half an ounce in weight.

Letters exceeding 4 oz. in weight, must be prepaid in money or in stamps. With this restriction, any weight may be sent by post; but the packet must not exceed two feet in length, and nothing should be posted which will not bear the crush in the letter bags.

The rate of postage for Parliamentary Papers is 1d. for every 4 oz.

Letters containing coin or articles of value are recommended to be registered. Such letters and any others may be registered at any of the receiving-houses in London till five o'clock for the evening mail, and at any post-office in the country until within half an hour of closing of the bag at the place for which they are directed. The fee in any case in Great Britain is 6d. and the postage, and to France 6d. and double the French postage. Such letters bearing a sufficient number of stamps will pass as paid letters, but the registration fee must be paid in money.

Money orders for sums under £5 are granted by every post-town upon every other post-town in the United Kingdom, on application at the various offices; and also by and upon certain offices in the metropolis, of which the postmasters are furnished with a list, for which a commission of 3d. for Two Pounds, and 6d. for any sum above Two Pounds and not exceeding Five Pounds, is charged. They must be presented for payment within the second calendar month after their issue or a fresh order will be charged for, and within the twelfth calendar month, or they will not be paid at all. Post Office Orders are recommended for small sums; and, if neither that nor registration be adopted, that all bills, notes, etc. be cut in halves, and sent by different posts; the numbers, dates, etc. should also be carefully taken.

The following is a list of Receiving Houses within the limits of the London District Post appointed for the issue and payment of money orders :-

WITHIN THE THREE MILE CIRCLE

General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand

Branch Offices : Borough

Charing Cross

Old Cavendish Street

Lombard Street (for issuing Orders only).

Battle Bridge, No. 1, Pleasant Row

Bloomsbury, No. 1, Broad Street

Camberwell Green

Camden Town, No. 98, High Street

City Road, No. 36, near Old Street

Clerkenwell Green, No. 41

Coventry Street, Soho, No. 1
 Dockhead, No. 11
 Gray's Inn Lane, No. 43, Up. North Place
 Great Surrey Street, No. 231
 Great Tower Street, No. 36
 Hackney, No. 8 Church Street
 High Holborn, No. 62
 Islington, No. 86, Upper Street
 Kennington Cross, No. 2
 Kingsland Road, No. 4, Orchard Place
 Lambeth, No. 33 Mount Street
 Limehouse, No. 54, Three Colt Street
 Mile End, No. 6, Ireland Row
 Old Kent Road, No. 9, Northampton Place
 Oxford Street, No. 210
 Piccadilly, No. 65
 Pimlico, No. 28, Queen's Row
 Ratcliffe, No. 77, Broad Street
 Shoreditch, No. 211
 Strand, No. 180 corner of Norfolk Street
 Tottenham Court Road, No. 103
 Upper Baker Street, No. 54
 Walworth, No. 15, Crosby Row
 Westminster, No. 8, Broadway
 Whitechapel Road, No. 1

BEYOND THE THREE MILE CIRCLE

Barking	Eltham	Putney
Barnet	Enfield	Richmond
Bexley	Greenwich	Romford
Brentford	Hammersmith	Shooters Hill
Bromley, Kent	Hampstead	Southall
Brompton	Hampton	Stanmore
Carshalton	Harrow	Stoke Newington
Chelsea	Hendon	Stratford
Chislehurst	Highgate	Sydenham
Clapham	Hounslow	Tooting
Croydon	Kensington	Turnham Green
Deptford	Kingston	Waltham Cross
Dulwich	Lewisham	Woodford
Edgeware	Norwood	Woolwich
Edmonton	Paddington	

A money order granted upon London, without specifying any particular office in London, can only be paid at the General Post Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand. Where personal attendance is inconvenient, payment may be obtained by receipting the order and giving the bearer information as to the Christian name, surname, and occupation of the person who obtained the order.

LONDON DISTRICT POST

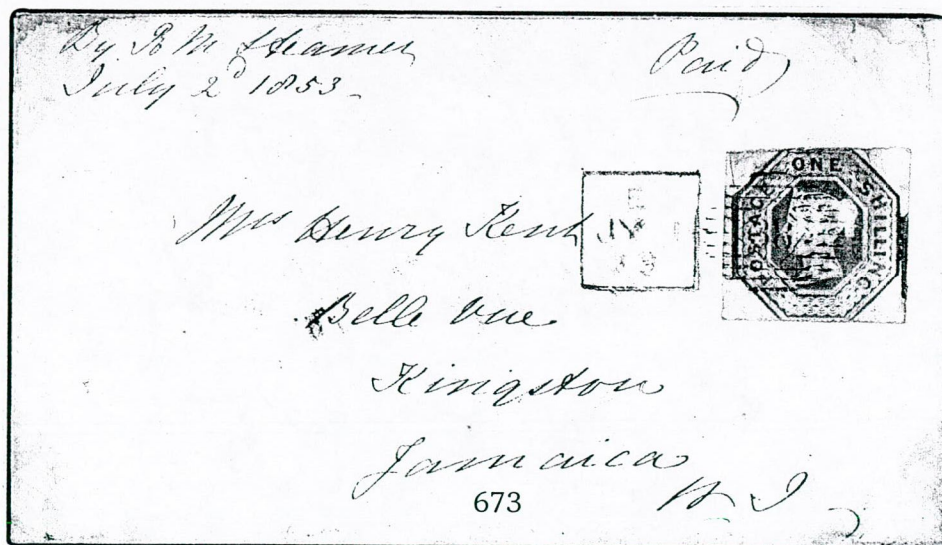
The principal office is at the General Post-Office.

Letters going from one part of the town to another, if put into the Receiving Offices at 8, 10, 12 a.m. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, p.m. or the Chief Office at 9, 11 a.m. ¼ before 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and at 7 and 9 p.m. will be sent out at 10, 12 a.m. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 p.m. and 8 a. m. the next morning.

The above deliveries are confined to London; and in the environs, within a circle of three miles, including Camberwell, Camden Town, Dalston, Hackney, Holloway, Islington, Kent Road (Old), Kennington, Kentish Town, Kingsland, Newington Butts, Pentonville, Shacklewell, South Lambeth, Somers Town, Vauxhall and Walworth, there are six deliveries a day, and letters posted in London before six are delivered the same evening. All places within six miles of the General Post Office have letters delivered the same evening if posted before five o'clock at a receiving-house, or before six at the chief office. the district extends twelve miles round London, but includes Hampton Court, Hampton and Sunbury, though beyond the limits; and the number of deliveries vary from five to two. Letters from the country to London, if posted in time for the morning despatch, are sent out for delivery in all parts of London at twelve; if for the noon despatch, they are sent out for delivery at eight in the evening; and if for the night despatch, they are sent out for delivery at ten on the following morning. Letters from one part of the country to another, if directed to a place belonging to the same ride or district, are by a bye-post arrangement delivered at noon if posted in time for each for the morning despatch, and in the evening (where there is an evening delivery) if in time for the noon despatch; if addressed to places not in the same ride, they come to London, and are delivered in the evening if posted in time for the morning despatch, or on the following morning if posted for the noon despatch.

THE FIRST, **SQUARE DATER DIE, DUPLEX**

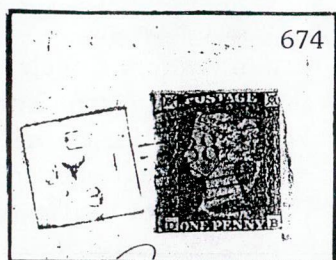
By kind permission of Cavendish Auctions we are able to illustrate two examples of this extraordinarily rare first London duplex stamp, recorded in use for a few days only from the 29th June to 8th August 1853. The piece and cover are both dated 1st July 1853; the illustration used by both Westley and Mackay is dated 29th June.



673 THE SQUARE-BOXED LATE FEE PAID DUPLEX ON EMBOSSED 1/- GREEN COVER TO JAMAICA: Remarkable 1st July 1853 env. (minor creasing) to Kingston "By R.M. Steamer July 2d 1853" franked by a cut-square (clear on two sides) Embossed 1/- Green tied by a fine strike of the highly elusive SQUARE London "38" duplex (code "E", dated 1st July) of which only a handful of examples have been recorded. It is exceptional to find one of the rarest of all London cancellations on an overseas destination; it was replaced within a few days by the chamfered cornered version.

Estimate..... £ 1000

The item is properly described as a "Dramatic Exhibition item".



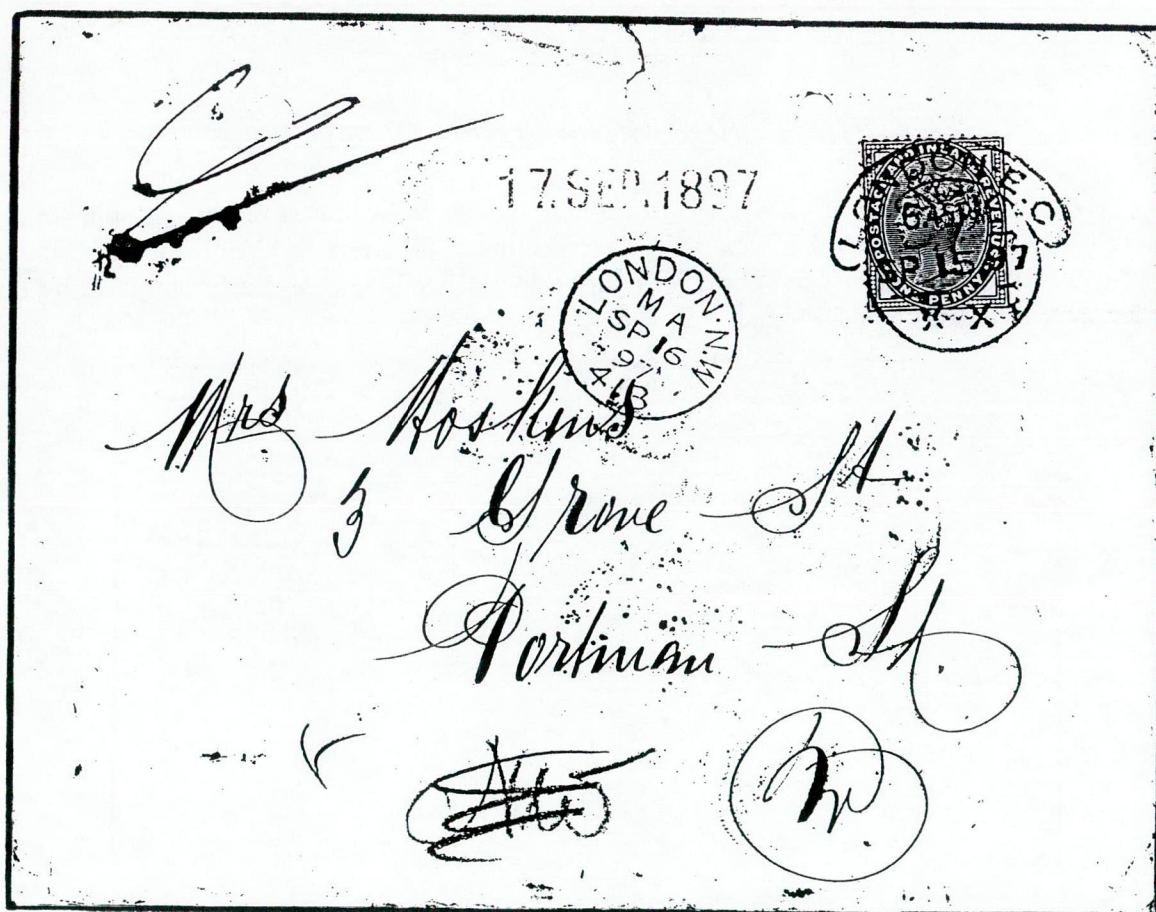
674 Similar large 1st July 1853 piece with 1d Red (margins wide to just cut into) franked by a very fine strike of the London SQUARE "38" Late Fee Paid Duplex (code "E"), with a fair 2nd July "WOLVERHAMPTON" c.d.s. on the flap. Very rare in any condition.

Estimate£240

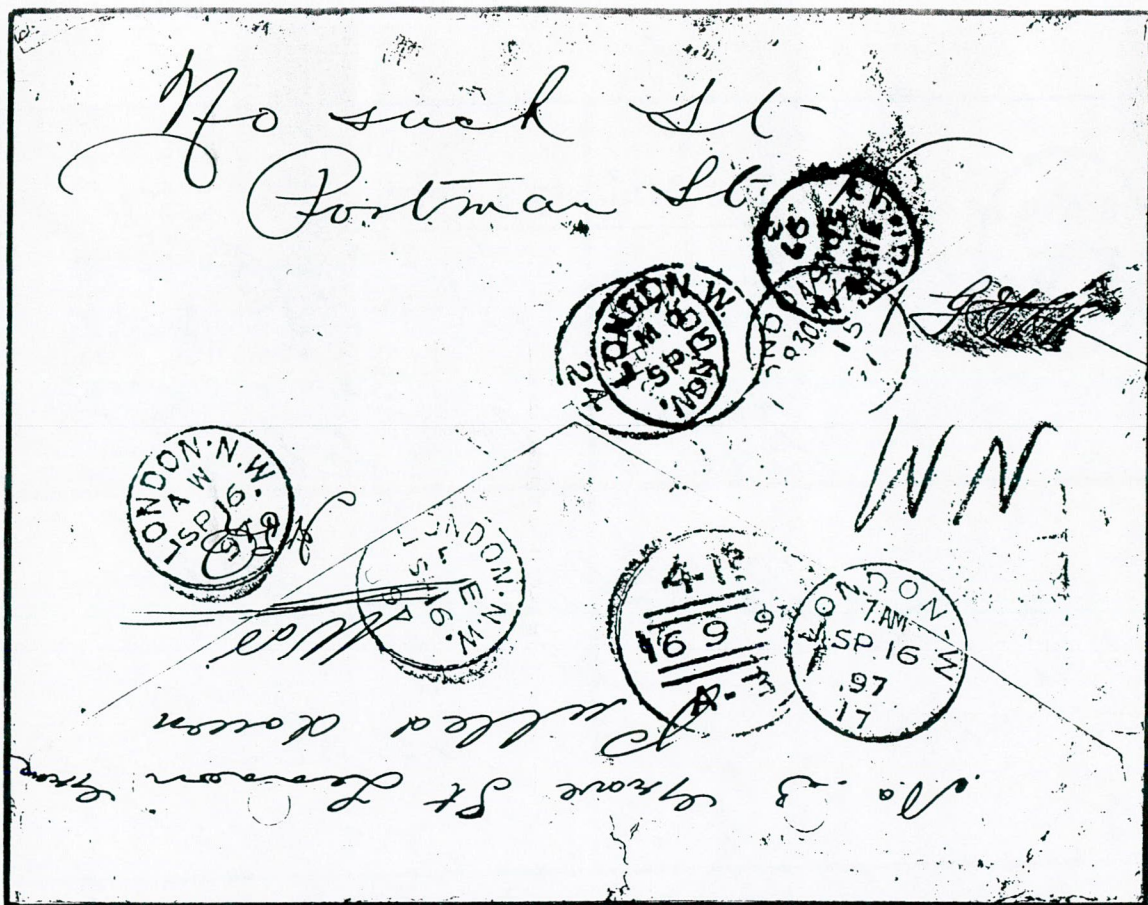
..... It should be noted the piece is rather larger than the small portion reproduced in the catalogue.

HALFPENNY BOOK POST IN ST JOHN'S WOOD

The item was posted on 15th. September 1897, addressed to Mrs Hoskins, 3 Grove St, Portman St, W but this led to the endorsement *No such St Portman St* with an 8.30 p.m. London W date stamp signalling a return, undelivered, to that office. At 7 am on the 16th. London W stamp 17 suggests it was sent to London NW, see deleted endorsement on the obverse.



The date 17 SEP. 1897 was, one might imagine, applied by the writer on receiving the item returned as undelivered.



At the London NW office the letter received date stamps, no times but duty codes AW and L(?) E . On the obverse a neat code MA 41B Mill Hill mis-sort and, on the reverse, the quite unexpected use of the Book Post stamp for the same office, this presumably applied after the letter carrier had endorsed the depressing intelligence that his No. 3 Grove St had been "Pulled down"

Rather buried under another date stamp is one reading LONDON / 24, clearly a special duty stamp one might suppose but what special duty pray ?

OFFICIAL EDWARD VII

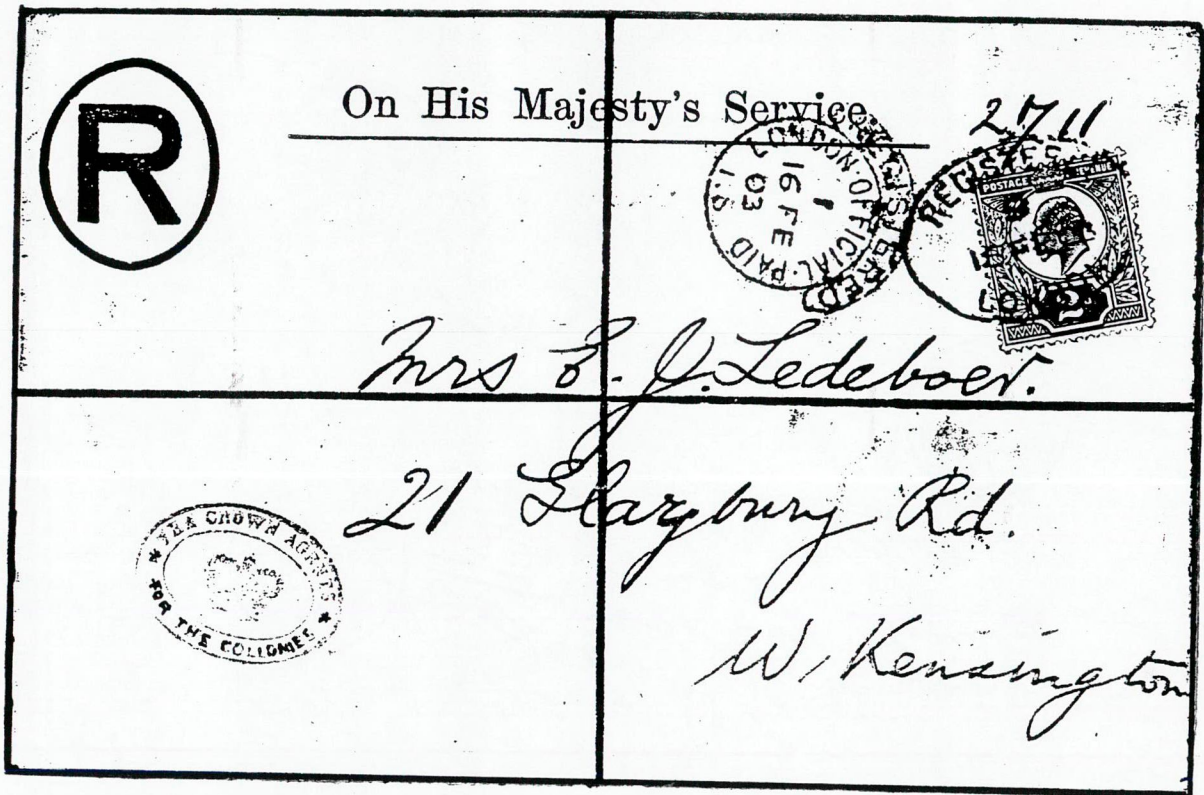
partly paid in adhesives

Simon Kelly

A printed envelope for registered mail with On His Majesty's Service in black, R in oval and crossed lines in blue is shown overleaf. There is no embossed postage stamp but the reverse flap bears an albino embossing of the Coat of Arms and Crown Agents for the Colonies. There is, on the lower left of the obverse, the oval Crown handstamp, also inscribed Crown Agents for the Colonies, in a distinct claret. The envelope is addressed to Mrs E.J. Ledebor, 21 Glaybury Rd., W. Kensington and carries a manuscript "2711" on the upper right corner.

It appears only the Registration Fee has been prepaid in adhesives, with a 2^d Edward VII, this cancelled by a REGISTERED / LONDON oval die 9 for 16 FE 03. The, presumed, penny postage payment is indicated by the hooded REGISTERED / LONDON OFFICIAL PAID / I.S. die 1 date stamp, this in red. The same stamp is struck on the reverse with the arrival oval date stamp REGISTERED / W.KENSINGTON.W, A7 on 17 FE 03.

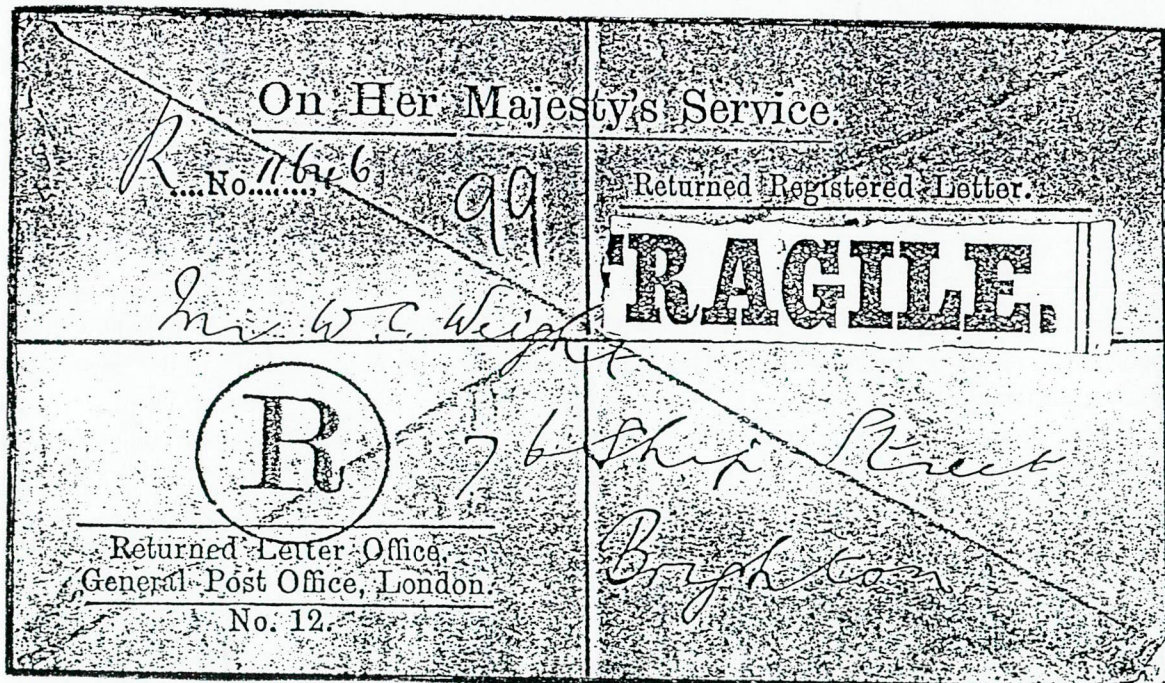
This is an unusual example of the Postage paid for in cash, indicated by the hooded registered die in combination with the Registration Fee payment shown by an adhesive.



FRAGILE RETURNED REGISTERED LETTER

Information from Vivienne Sussex

The item shown on page 20 of *Notebook 132* is even more interesting than one might suppose. It appears the corner to corner lines would have been entered by Post Office staff instructing all those handling the item that it was not to be included in a **bag to be dropped from a train**. This is usually



denoted by a label with this precise instruction. The FRAGILE label comes in various sizes, in what Vivienne Sussex calls "Post Office Pink", is probably from rouletted (?) sheets and can be found from

the Victorian, through Edwardian to Georgian period, though the date of introduction is not, at present, known.

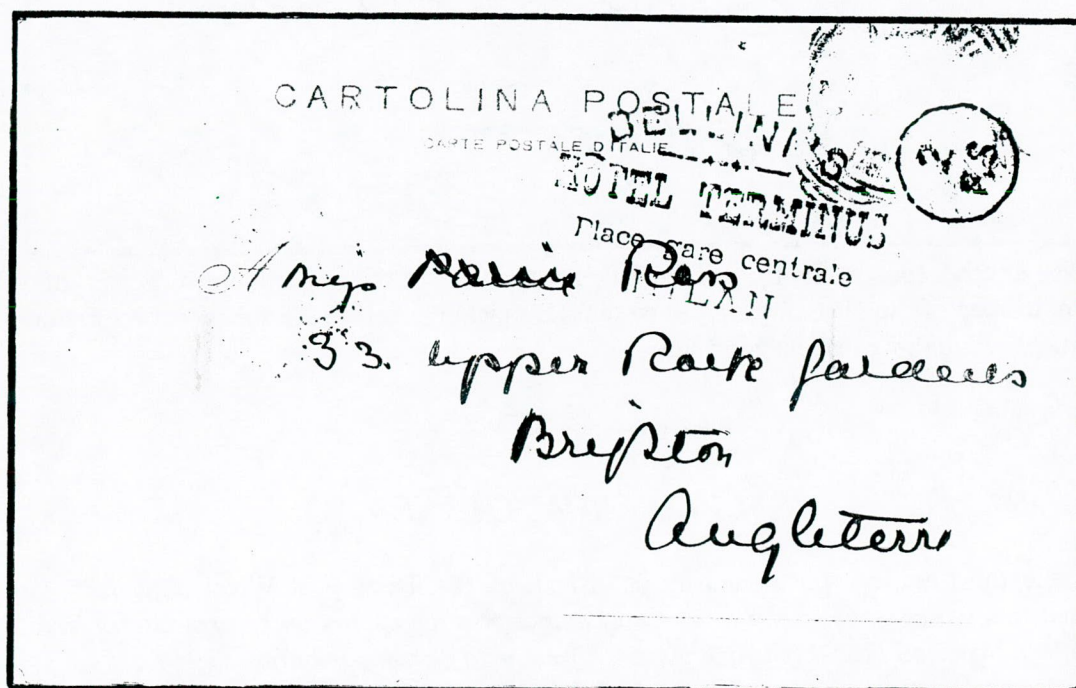
What could have been contained within such a small registered item? Remember it is *inside* the cover shown, so what could have been "fragile" remains a mystery.

The label and the crossed letter instruction is extremely scarce, much more so than was known at the time of the auction. Should readers have an example of such items, with or without the label but with the lines, please write to the Editor.

FOREIGN SECTION INSPECTOR'S STAMP

The card was posted from Bellini's Hotel terminus in Milan in 1904; one can just make out the "04" in the faint Milan date stamp and the card has a 1904 print date. The adhesive was lost during the journey to London.

On arrival in the Foreign Section the card must have been carefully examined before mindlessly stamping with a deficient postage charge. The clerk could just make out the shape of the **missing adhesive** from the Milan date stamp and applied the encircled 2 / F.S. (in black) to authorise the card should be delivered without cost to the addressee.



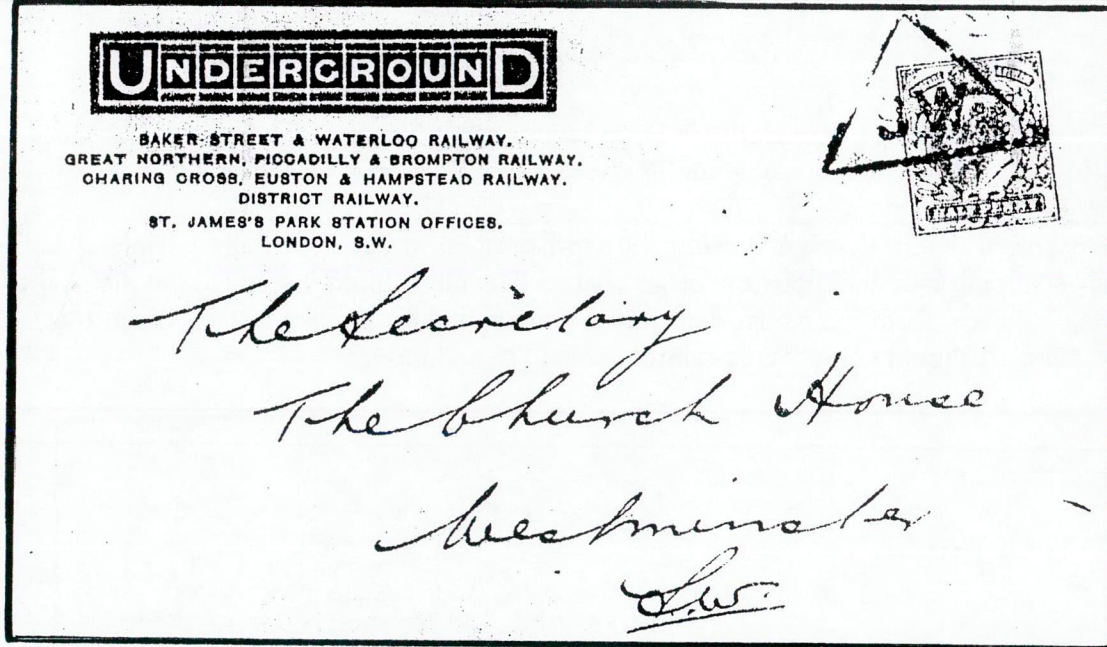
This type of stamp is well known as being in use at various London offices but Mackay, for example, does not illustrate an "FS". There are no doubt other numbers in the series and any further information of these would be much appreciated.

WANTED : Details. to the Editor, of any undated receiving house stamp either in your collection or found when "browsing. No matter if they appear to be "run of the mill". Thanks to those who already sent information but there are many as yet unreported.

TRIANGULAR CANCELLATION "JW"

Michael Goodman

According to Mackay in "telegraphic Codes of the British Isles 1870::1924", JW was used by JARROW. Indeed, not so much Mackay but the officially printed Post Office listing which he reproduced in the book. No stretch of imagination can suppose the London Underground Electric Railways had their mail cancelled anywhere other than in the London South West District Office and here, of course, comes the hasty collector.



Have another look at the illustration. The faint outline of the upper loop of the "S" of "SW" can be seen, the top of the "J" being created by the ink attaching itself to the adhesive perforations.

Pity, it would have made a good story.

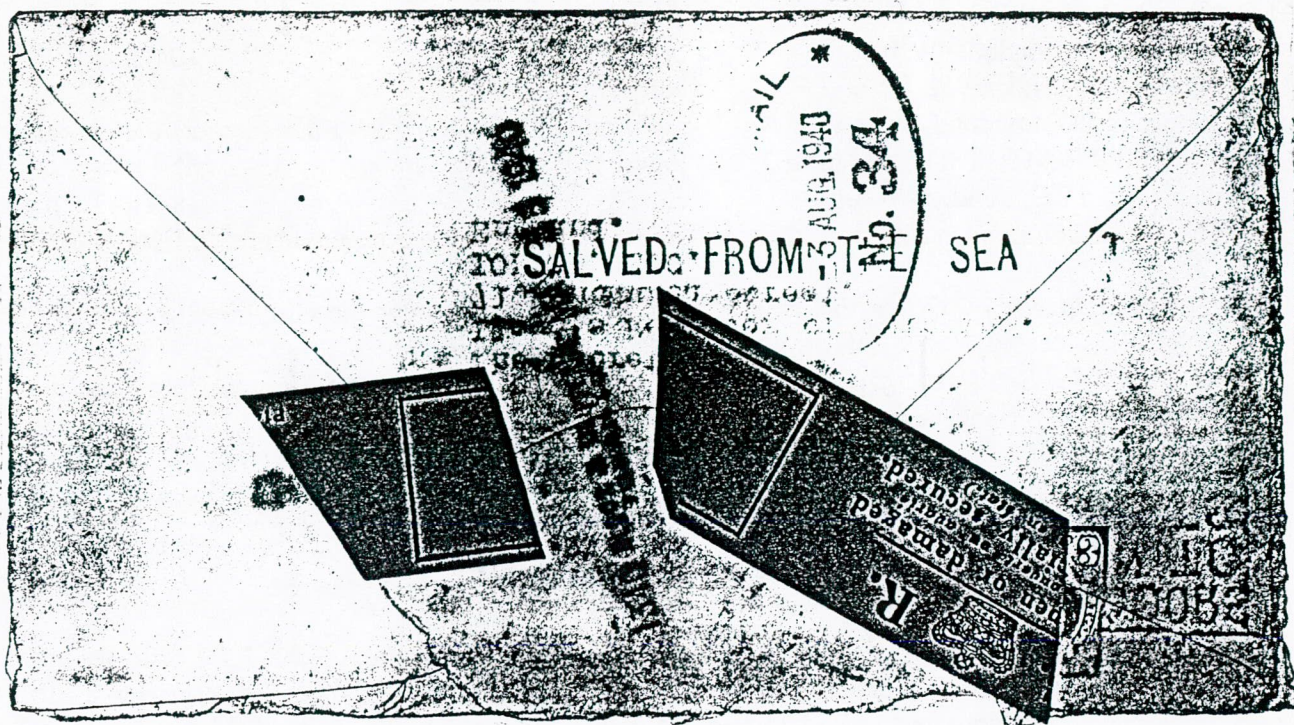
SALVED FROM THE SEA

In the third edition, posthumously published, of "A History of Wreck Covers"*, Adrian Hopkins had this to say ; *"This is a new type of marking which occurs on several letters from mail which was being carried by a ship which apparently came to grief in early June ,1940.*

There are two covers from Japan which bear the endorsement "per S.S. Heian Maru via Vancouver". In both cases the adhesive has floated off, though one has a 20 sen blue pictorial stamp which has probably transferred itself from another cover while under water. Neither envelope shows any sort of date stamp front or back, but the evidence of the letters enclosed goes to prove that these were posted in Yokohama on May 4th and delivered in London on 22nd July, 1940.

The bulk of the mail appears to have been of Canadian origin. I have two of these covers posted in Toronto on 25th May, both addressed to London. One of these, which was delivered in London on 3rd August, was delivered in London on 3rd August, shows an almost photographic offset in reverse of a 3 cents Canadian stamp from the envelope lying next to it in the mail bag."

At "TREVEK" this year this very cover was purchased and the offset, partly covered by the tape, "tied" by the offset cancellation, was delightfully visible. The letter is addressed to Lloyds Bank, Gracechurch Street and the "stamp" for 3 Aug. 1940 is, it is clear, their house receiving house stamp rather than a London transit mark.



Another cover from the same recovered mail was purchased by another L.P.H.G. member. The cover is apparently from Yokohama; full details in due course would be appreciated.

It is obvious from the extract quoted above, the oft repeated note these are "Heian Maru" covers is incorrect. The likelihood of a Japanese ship "coming to grief" in the submarine war (some 265 British merchantmen had been sunk by June 1940) is unlikely. Moreover, two ships of the same name were sunk in 1944 and it seems it was one of these which carried the mails to Vancouver, from which place it was freighted to Montreal, where it was put on board the, as yet, unidentified vessel.

Further enquiries are being made but any reader with information is asked to forward it to the Editor.

* "A History of Wreck Covers Originating at Sea, on Land and in the Air" A.E. Hopkins. Third Edition. Published by Robson Lowe, 50 Pall Mall, London S.W.1

POST OFFICE CHANGES 1996/8

Restricted to those with a London Post Code

Culled from the pages of "British Postmark Society Quarterly Bulletin" with thanks.

Camden High St. BO, London NW1	replacing Camden Town BO	18/07/98
Camden Town BO, London NW1	replaced by Camden High St BO	17.07/98
Chingford Mount BO, London E4	converted to MSPO	28/10/96
Chiswick BO, London W4	replaced by IFPO	24/03/97
Ealing BO, London W5	converted to FPO	11/11/96
Haymarket FPO, London SW1	replaced by Lower Regent Street FPO	24/03/97
Kensington Church Street BO, London W8	converted to FPO	11/11/96
Kings Cross BO, London NW1	replaced by IFPO	24/03/97
Kingsway BO, London WC2	replaced by Aldwych BO	21.08.98

Lordship Lane 342 TSO, London SE 22	to No. 369	24/10/96
Mornington Crescent BO, London NW1	closed	17.07.98
Park Royal TSO, London NW 10	opened	10/02/97
Queensway BO, London W2	converted to FPO	18/11/96
Paragon Road BO, London E9	replaced by Hackney MSPO E8	27/01/97
Shooters Hill Road 180 TSO, London SE3	to No. 178	01/11/96
Theobalds Road BO, London WC1	closed	18/03/98
West Norwood BO, London SE 27	converted to MSPO in same premises	21/10/96

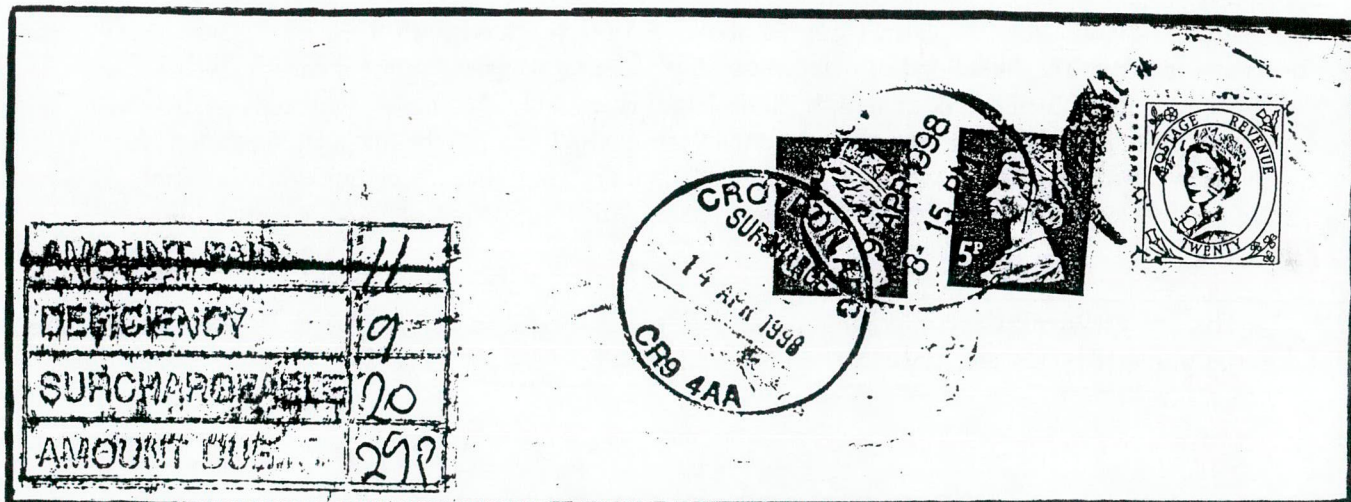
FPO a **Franchised Post Office**, that is, controlled by a company owning the store in which the post office is located, Boots, Safeways etc. Handstamps may be inscribed "Post Office".

MSPO a **Modified Sub Post Office**, that is, controlled by an individual in another store, local grocer, stationer etc. Handstamps may be inscribed "MSPO"

and finally.....

DEFICIENT POSTAGE

Bill Hogg sent in a Notebook wrapper displaying the diligence of the P.O. officials at Croydon who decided the "Wilding" adhesive was pre decimal and invalid. Your Editor tries not to over frank mail but it appears the Post Office decided there was only 20 pence to pay (unusual as Notebook almost invariably attracts the next step rate). They show the deficiency as "9", a surcharge "20". Fortunately, or not, Bill's local office did not concern themselves with such matters - pity, he might has obtained genuinely used postage dues adhesives !



In any event the matter was duly reported to Croydon with the following response:

"I have been in contact with the Philatelic Bureau, as admittedly I had never seen this recent issue of stamps. They have confirmed that these stamps were a pre-decimal design that have now been re-issued and are valid for use.

"May I thank you for taking the time to contact this office, and as suggested by yourself, I have now contacted the section responsible and informed them of their error."

One only hopes all the sorting offices have next year's stamp issue programme !!