

NOTEBOOK

Number 145 April 2000

IN THIS ISSUE.....

page	2	Twopenny Post Riding Work	
page	3	The Barrie Jay Collection : Advice of Auction	
page	4	Mr Blair Goes To Tottenham	
page	5	The Missing Bishop	- a response from Barrie Jay
		Bishopsgate Office Dockwra Variety ?	
page	6	Notice of Auction Sale - the Late Dr. C.J.O. Taylor	
		The Unpaid Stamp of Holborn Hill	
page	7	Mr Prosser Shows Little Respect	
page	10	Penny Post Westminster Date Stamp	
page	11	Further Information	- from John Sharp
	 The Language of Stamps	
	 Initial Stamps of the London District Post	
	 Vere Street Inspector's Stamp	
		Foreign Office Double Stamps	- Tony Potter
page	12	Inland Office / Branch	- Noel Dickinson
		Notice of Auction Sale - the late Alf Kirk	
page	13	Post Office Telegram Receipt	- Robert Johnson
page	14	Newspaper Branch Killers	- Dr R.H. Champion
page	15	Additional Ship Letter Markings	
		Registered at South Kensington	- Paul Davey
page	17	Foreign Section Postage Due Advice	- Michael Goodman
page	18	The King's Messenger	- Michael Goodman
page	20	And Finally.... Current Use of Postage Due Adhesives	

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EDITOR

Peter A Forrestier Smith, 64 Gordon Road,
CARSHALTON, Surrey. SM5 3RE

It is a matter of personal sadness to record the deaths of several members over recent months. Alf Kirk; Dr. C.J.O. Taylor; Noel Swain; George Crabb and, most recent, Werner Bauschke. Several names will be known to many members, others less so: this is of no matter for all were part of L.P.H.G. and contributed, in their own way, to postal history.

As individual collectors, we have lost good friends and their families far more.
To all of them our condolences

Peter Forrestier Smith

TWOPENNY POST RIDING WORK

This detail, which provides a list of the post mileage involved with the Twopenny Post, is taken from the Post Masters General Reports.

General Post Office
14 December 1803

My Lords,

I have the honor to acquaint your Lordships that I have this day agreed with Mefs^{rs} Charles Mills & John Berridge of Princes Street, Westminster, to contract for the Two Penny Post Riding Work, consisting of 168 miles per day, at the rate of Six pence per Mile, for one year certain. These Persons are highly respectable, and have been recommended strongly by M^r Spencer, Son to Lord Charles Spencer.

I have the pleasure to say that this Contract will be made at a less expence to the Revenue than the existing one with M^r Holding, whose settled Allowances are £1570.16. per annum, together with a temporary Allowance at the rate of £150 per annum.

The Amount of the 6^d per Mile for a year is £1310.8. The Parties however / who engage for one year certain / have made this stipulation, that if at the expiration of that period, they shall exhibit an Account indisputably proving that they have sustained a Loss in the due & punctual performance of this Duty, your Lordships will take such their statement into favorable consideration.

All which is humbly submitted / by / F. Freeling

P.S. I have every sanguine expectation that this Service will now be performed both in a satisfactory & reputable manner

This arrangement promises well in every point of view :- It will be desirable to have frequent acc^{ts} of its Progress - (note by PMGs)

Princes St West
Decr 1st 1803

Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday (*not on file - ED*) and to inform you our meaning is six pence pr Mile one way only agreeable to M^r Johnson's Estimate of 168 Miles Pr day -

We are Sir / Your Most Obe^t / Humble Servants Ch^s Mills Jo Berridge

Expense to the Office for Riding - Work, at £9..7 - pr Mile pr Annum

		£	s	d
Woodford	21 miles	196..	7	-
Edmonton	17 D°	158..	19	-
Finchley	22 D°	205..	14	-
Brentford	18 D°	168..	6	-
Richmond	24 D°	224..	8	-
Beddington	24 D°	224..	8	-
Woolwich	18 D°	168..	6	-
Town	24 D°	224.	8	-

	168	£1570..	16	-

In addition to which as
compensation for the high price
of Provinder has been allowed
at the rate pr Annum of -----

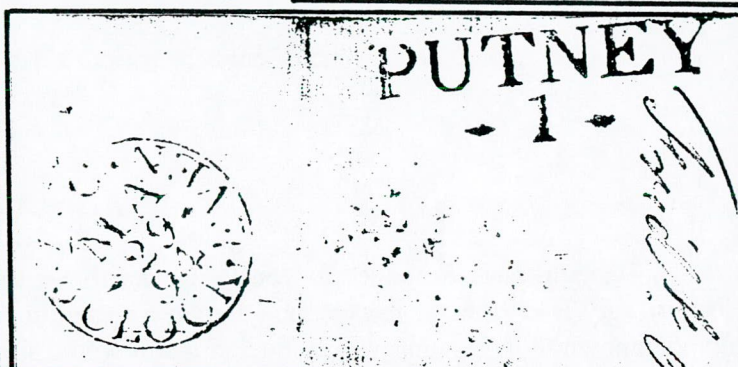
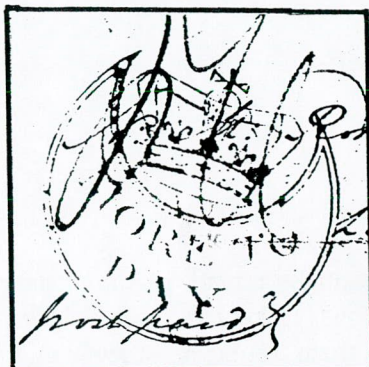
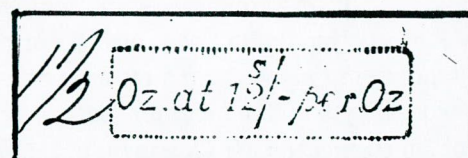
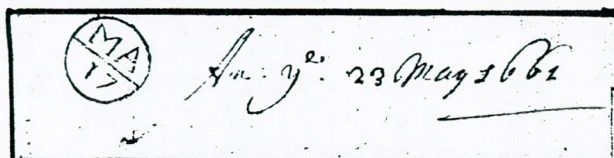
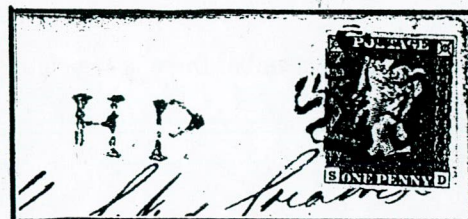
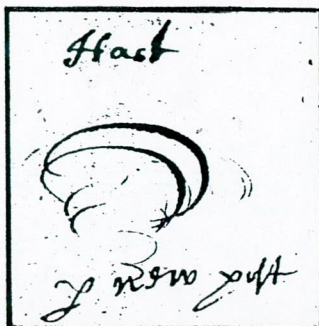
300.. - - -

£1870..16. -

The Barrie Jay Collection of British Postal History, 1530 - 1842.

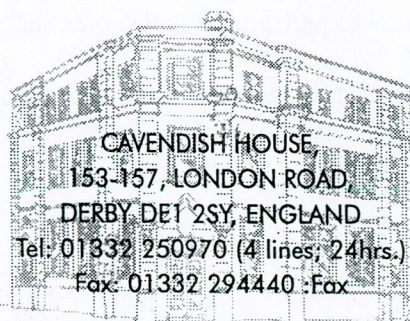
Friday 16th June.

On View in May at 'London 2000' - Stand R 12.



Handbook Catalogues of this exceptional Collection,
formed by the current President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London,
and co-author of the definitive "Willcocks & Jay" county catalogues,
will be available late April.

Catalogues £10 for non-subscribers,
by cheque, Visa/Access or Mastercard.
For further information, please call
James Grimwood-Taylor or Ken Baker.



E-mail: stamps@cavendishphilauc.demon.co.uk

MR BLAIR GOES TO TOTTENHAM

Had it not been for the **Tottenham Receiver complaining of poor pay**, we may never have recorded some of the detail relating to the methods of paying these folk. As usual, we let the Post Masters General Report speak for itself.

Sir /

In Consequence of government assessing us 5 per Cent on our Salary, and the payment of the same being very bad, If the above takes place I must beg to decline the Office as it is not payment adequate to the trouble your appointing another Receiving House will Oblige.

C Quantrill

you will please to remember there is $\frac{1}{2}$ years Salary due 5th of the Month

.....

Two Py Post Office
Jany 21 1804

Dear Sir,

In consequence of the inclosed Letter from Mr Quantrill, Letter Receiver at Tottenham, I went to that quarter yesterday to see for a proper house to remove the Office to and that of a Mr Blair Linen-drapeer being named to me by the Letter-carrier I called on him and found he would be glad to accept it, I therefore beg to recommend for the approbation of their Lordships the Post Mast^r General, that Mr Blair be appointed to succeed Mr Quantrill, his shop being of respectable appearance & conveniently situated.

I am Dear Sir / your Ob^d H^{le} Ser^{vt} / E. Johnson

.....

Two py Post Office
Jany 25 1804

Dear Sir,

I should have explained to you in answer to Mr Quantrills remark of the payment of the Salaries being "very Bad" that as the Country Receivers came to Town to receive their Salaries and the salaries do not amount to large sums, we considered that it would save them trouble and they would prefer it, to receive their half yearly instead of Quarterly and in consequence of which we adopted that mode in the year 1795, and the Town Receivers who Salaries are but £2 a year we pay yearly.

The Receivers being numerous is also a reason why the Salaries are not paid immediately after the expiration of the half year, as they are paid by printed receipts which are first to be filled up - then taken to the Stamp Office to be stamped and afterwards to be put under cover and directed to the parties and previous to all this a list of their names and Salaries is made out, and as we have but one Clark who has other daily duties to perform, this unavoidably occasions delay, but all this has been repeatedly explained to Mr Quantrill.

Had he been unacquainted with the rules of the Office I should have explained them to him instead of forwarding the enclosed, but as he knew them, and at the same time as he had given much unnecessary to the office by the incorrect performance of his duty I considered that it was unnecessary to reply to his letter and that his resignation should be accepted.

I am Dear Sir / Your very Ob^d Serv^t / E Johnson

.....

General Post Office
28 January 1804

My Lords,

I have the honor to send your Lordships a report from Mr E Johnson containing the resignation of the Tottenham Receiver, and recommending that a Mr Blair, a respectable Shop Keeper be appointed to succeed him. His Report is accompanied by another which contains explanations respecting the mode of paying the Receivers Salaries, which I thought it very necessary should be explained in consequence of part of Mr Quantrill's Letter of resignation. It seems that the Rules and practice of the Office were perfectly well known to him, tho' I was apprehensive that he might not have been quite aware of them, and therefore that it might have been improper to have taken his resignation under the warmth of erroneous impressions.

All which is humbly / submitted by / F. Freeling

Let Mr Blair be appointed accordingly

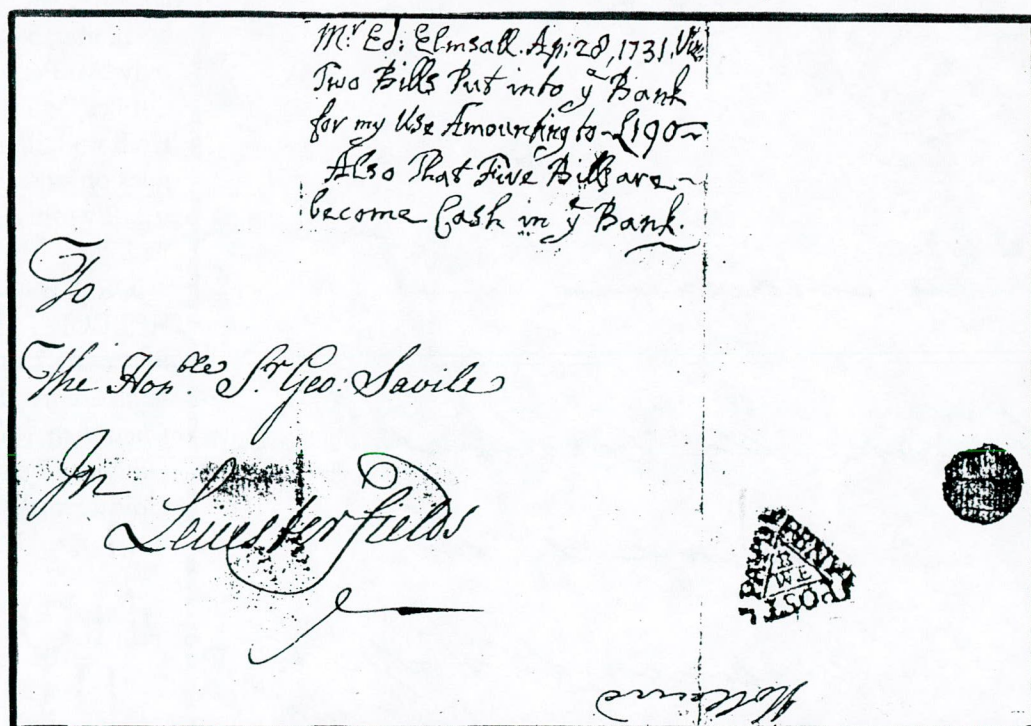
THE MISSING BISHOP

A response from Barrie Jay

There were two questions on the item illustrated in *Notebook 137/8 page 32*, a letter from London to Rotterdam: why no Bishop or charge marks? The Foreign Office did not use any handstamps on outward letters (except for the FRANK series) until 1797, hence the absence of a Bishop mark on the cover (see the London catalogue, p.148, last paragraph). In respect of the charge mark, or rather absence, outward letters to the Netherlands did not have to be prepaid, hence no British charge.

BISHOPSGATE OFFICE DOCKWRA VARIETY?

The letter, written as from London, dated 28 April 1731, concerning several remittances payable to the addressee "That Five Bills are become Cash in y^e Bank" he noted on the flap.



70% of
original

There is *no* trace of the outer frame line: can it be that, for some reason, this line was removed, the corner indentations are quite clear, or is it merely one of those quirky applications which produce a "variety".

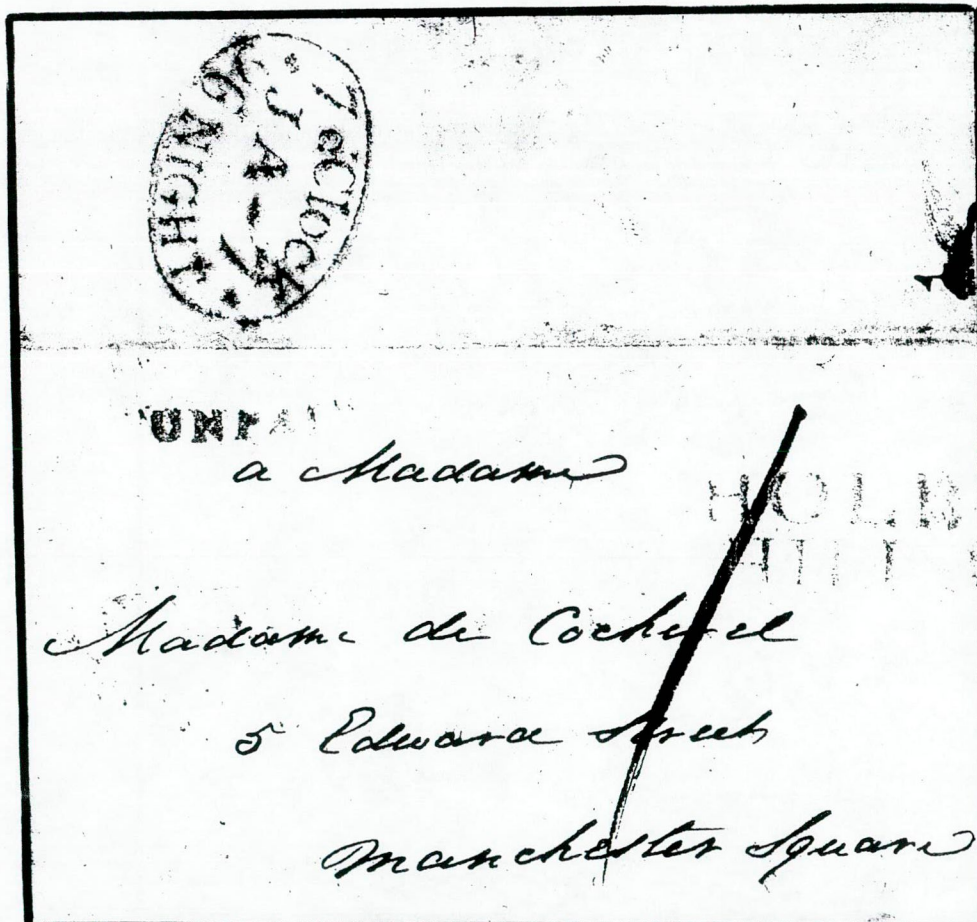
The Receiver signed the cover *Holland*, a name not listed by Hugh Feldman as being a Penny Post Receiver with a name handstamp. The late Alf Kirk was working on a listing of these manuscript names but it is not known whether this list was more than preliminary notes.

NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

We are advised by PHILLIPS they will be offering, on 20th. April, the collection of London Postal History formed by the late Dr. C.J.O. Taylor. If any member would care to have a complimentary catalogue for this sale please write to :

Stuart Billington,
Head of Stamp Department,
Phillips Son & Neale Ltd.,
101 New Bond Street,
LONDON
W1Y 0AS

THE UNPAID STAMP OF HOLBORN HILL



According to the Jay London Catalogue the PAID and UNPAID stamps have been, thus far, recorded at only two Penny Post Offices, Mortlake and Holborn Hill. The catalogue goes on to read "They are usually found on letters with the
MORTLE / - 3 - or
HOLBORN / HILL
Receiving House
handstamps (L418 - 420)
when their value will be
enhanced by the Receiving
House handstamp."

HOLBORN
HILL-1

It is a minor point but an item from a recent Cavendish auction shows HOLB^N / HILL - 1 : it is not clear if this is a new handstamp associated with the UNPAID or whether the wording in the catalogue requires correcting rather than an additional note. Would other owners of the Holborn Unpaid stamp please advise.

MR PROSSER SHOWS LITTLE RESPECT

There can be no doubt that in the early nineteenth century everyone was very much aware of his place in society and respect for those placed in a superior position was required, indeed, necessary if one was to safeguard one's own place.

The position adopted by Mr Proffer, the **Sloane Street Twopenny Post Receiver**, failed to match the requirements of his age. It is very clear from the correspondence relating to the matter that Francis Freeling was close to the proverbial apoplectic fit over the matter. Their Lordships writing indicated they too were less than calm and the scrawl which passed for writing of educated men reflects this. Despite best efforts some of the words as transcribed, as guesswork.

Unfortunately, some of the letters alluded to are not on file, e.g. that from the Receiver and the offending cover, which should be with Johnson note on 10th December, are not on file.

Two Py Post Office
Dec^r 10 1804

Dear Sir,

Having received the enclosed answer from M^r Prosser Letter receiver in Sloane Street in which he refuses to make any apology to M^{rs} Burrows for the error in stamping her letter addressed to M^r Palmer I beg to transmit it for your perusal and remain

Dear Sir / Your Ob^d H^{le} Ser^{nt} / E. Johnson

F. Freeling

Two Py Post Office
Dec^r 10 1804

Dear Sir,

In consequence of the enclosed note from M^r Palmer complaining of the cover which accompanies it being charged, tho the postage was paid by the Writer, and it appears that the error originated with the Letter Receiver, M^r Prosser of Sloane Street, I have written to and seen both M^{rs} Burrows and the Letter Receiver on the subject, and I have since acquainted M^r Palmer with the explanation of the latter, whose letter I also enclose.

Besides the fact of Stamping the cover "*Unpaid*" M^{rs} Burrows states than when she applied to him respecting it he was extremely insolent and she could get no other redress but the return of the Postage. In answer to this M^r Prosser represents that when M^{rs} Burrows called upon him he expressed to her his concern for the accident and immediately returned her the 2^d but M^{rs} Burrows was so enraged that she treated him in a manner which it was impossible any one could have patience to bear. He adds that in consequence of this treatment he could not think now of making her any further apology, but to M^r Palmer he is willing to make a proper concession.

The Post Paid Stamp, tho faint, is to be perceived under that of the Unpaid, but whether the latter was put on fraudulently or by accident is not easy to judge. But even in the latter case there was a want of due care or it could not have happened. On the other hand I have to observe that I have never before heard a complaint of any kind against this Receiver.

Submitting the above I have the honor to remain

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

F. Freeling

Sir,

I received yours this morn and hasten to reply, I well remember Stamping the enclosed cover, perhaps as it was faintly marked my Wife or Servant in dusk of Even or hurry of Business might not perceive Post Paid, on application from the Parties & by the circumstances being recent I remembered & immediately returned the two pence. We are as cautious as possible but nevertheless Errors will arise, the above is the only reason I can assign.

I beg to observe the Lady treated me with much indignity & we were subject to much impertinence from Persons on account of letters.

I am Sir your H^{le} S^{vt} / James Prosser

Sloane Street 144 / January 28 1804

Copy

General Post Office
8th Feb 1804

M^r Palmer has called upon me to express how much obliged he is for the ready attention which you have shewn to his representation made at the instance of M^{rs} Burrows.

It appears evident by your Letter that the Receiver has not used due care in the transaction, and in consequence of the deficiency in this particular all the trouble given to the Lady, to M^r Palmer and yourself has originated.

It follows then of necessity that the Receiver should make a suitable apology to M^{rs} Burrows (M^r Palmer does not require any) and here the matter may rest if you feel a conviction from the former conduct of the Receiver that in this instance it has been inaccurate & not fraudulent.

It is natural that any Person with occasion to complaint that their Letters were not deliver free altho' the Postage has been paid, to express themselves dissatisfied, and that warmly. If the Receiver should continue to resist making his apology, I must lay the matter before the Postmr^l General, who will I fear proceed to the appointment of another Person.

I am & F. Freeling.

General Post Office
13 Feb^y 1804

My Lords,

It is always unpleasant to me to lay before your Lordships any complaints, where friends of mine are interested.

The enclosed relates to a Twopenny Post Letter addressed to M^r Palmer (The Member for Bath) in Gower Street, the Postage of which was paid by the Writer M^{rs} Burrows to the Receiver in Sloane Street, but demanded of M^r Palmer on delivery.

That Gentleman, unwilling to trouble me, addressed a line to M^r Johnson of the Twopenny Post, with whose attentions he was well satisfied. But as the Lady had stated that she was treated with insolence by the Receiver, and he had expressed to her great indifference from his Office, and the result of her application she thought an apology ought to be made for that, and for the trouble which had been given to her so unnecessarily.

M^r Johnson therefore wrote to me the Letter enclosed (N^o 1) which was sent to M^r Palmer - it proved as I expected unsatisfactory to the Lady - I therefore wrote to M^r Johnson the Letter N^o 2 which produced N^o 3, continuing the Receiver's absolute refusal to make any apology whatsoever, which reduced me to the necessity of troubling your Lordships for your decision in the matter.

All which is humbly / submitted by / F. Freeling

(The Postmasters General reply was rather more than the usual short note, a fair indication of their concern at the assault on the correct attitude to authority, although tempering their remarks somewhat .)

I am sorry for the result of this business, and am satisfied that the original Cause of Complaint was a inaccuracy or inadvertency, that inadvertency being acknowledged by the Receiver. he ought surely to have express'd himself to the full satisfaction of the parties whose complaint had been founded in Truth & in reason - As he refuses to do so, it will be necessary if Charles Spencer shall see the business in the same point of view, to appoint a new receiving house - M^r Johnson will proceed accordingly - We cannot however object to letting it be clearly understood that M^r Prosser's character in point of integrity remains unimpeach'd: But it is one of our duties to the Public to enforce a Becoming Civility towards Parties who lay their Complaints before us; & more especially when those Complaints are well founded..

.....

I have more than once communicated to you Sir my sentiments on the affair of M^r Burrows & must beg to be no more troubles with it - I cou^d not make it convenient to call on M^r Palmer neither on reflection did I think it necessary -

As to the office you are at liberty to remove as soon as you think proper - I can acquit myself of any impropriety to my conduct since I have held the stamps.

I am Sir / your & & / James Prosser

Sloane Street / Feb. 9th 1804

.....
Source : POST 42 POST MASTERS GENERAL REPORTS Vol. 23 No. 27 Q

However, this was not the end of the story. M^r Prosser was a man not to be put upon by his betters when he believed himself to have acted correctly and to be right.. Just over a week later came an urgent report from Edward Johnson:

General Post Office
20 Feb^y 1804

My Lords,

I have the honor to enclose a Report from M^r Johnson stating that he has appointed, subject to your Lordships approbation, M^r Thurston, Master of the Cadogan Arms Coffee House, to be the Receiver in Sloane Street. M^r Johnson has been obliged to do this * in consequence of the late Receiver having abruptly returned the Stamps with notice that he discontinued taking in any more Letters, a sort of conduct that if any justification were wanting of your Lordships' late proceedings with respect to him would I presume amply supply the deficiency.

I presume your Lordships will approve the appointment of M^r Thurston for the reasons M^r Johnson has assigned.

All which is humbly submitted by / F. Freeling

*note added at the side of the report : *without having first obtained your authority for such appointment*

To which their Lordships added the note *We approve this App^t of M^r Thurston*

Source : POST 42 POST MASTERS GENERAL REPORTS - Vol. 23 No 36Q

.....

Two penny Post Office
Feb^y 18 1804

Dear Sir,

I had no sooner set my enquiry on foot for a house to remove the office to in Sloane Street than M^r Prosser sent me the Stamps and a notice that he had ceased taking in letters. There was therefore no time to be lost in fixing upon some other house for the receipt of letters, as every hour of delay could inconvenience the neighbourhood. Having learned that M^r Thurston of the Cadogan Arms, Coffee House in Sloane Street was willing to accept the office. I called upon him this afternoon, and after settling with him to that effect

and explaining the duty I ordered the Stamps and Gen^l and Two penny Post Lists & & to be taken to his house, and he has commenced the office of Letter Receiver.

This house is in the most central & convenient situation, and there is no other house near it that it (*sic*) could be appointed, as they are all private houses. I have therefore humbly to hope that their Lordships will see no objection to M^r Thurston holding the office of Letter Receiver for Sloane Street, and confirm his appointment

I have the honor to remain / D^r Sir / your Ob^d H^{le} Se^{nt} / E Johnson

F. Freeling

Source: POST 42 POST MASTERS GENERAL REPORTS - Vol. 23 No. 36Q

As a footnote the entry appearing in Bryant Lillywhite's "London Coffee Houses" reads:

Cadogan Arms and Sloane Street Coffee House, Hans Town.

Hans Town was so-called as a compliment to Sir Hans Sloane.

Built in 1788 on a piece of land between Pimlico and Chelsea.

1809-11 The coffee-house is listed in directories. Proprietor - Simon Thurston. In 1803 & 1807 as Cadogan Arms, Sloane Street, Chelsea used for masonic meetings. Again in 1877 as Cadogan Hotel.

OFFERS FROM THE AUCTION HOUSES

*As readers will see there are no fewer than three
offers in this issue of Notebook
relating to the sale of the collectors of
former members.*

Do take advantage of these offers.

PENNY POST WESTMINSTER DATE STAMP

Another Date Recorded

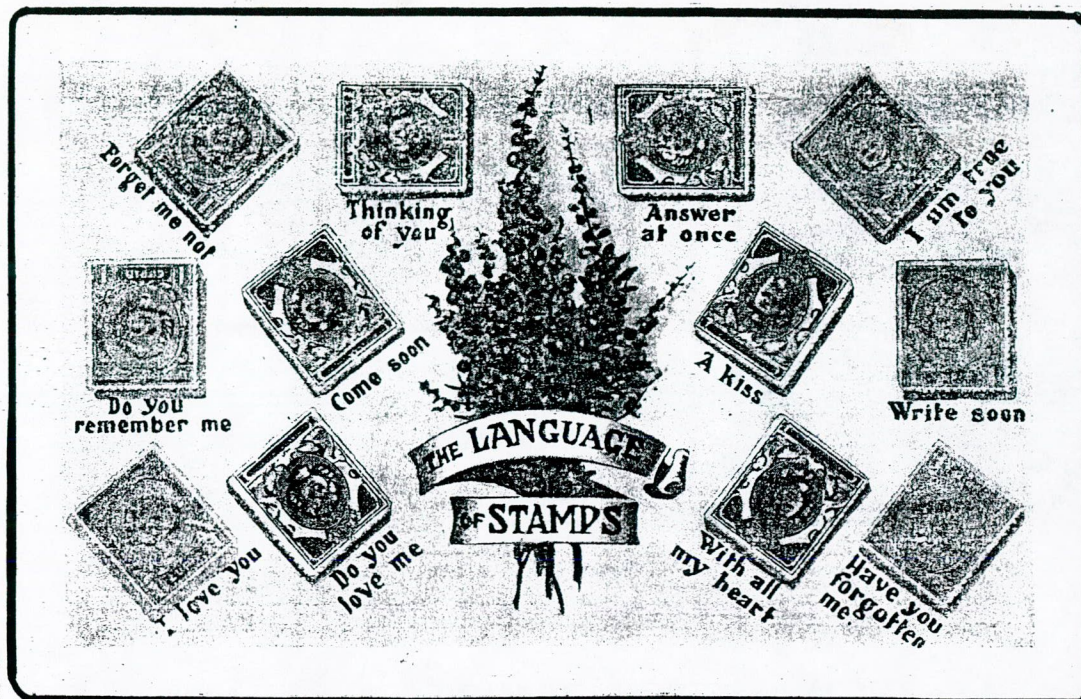
The London catalogue records just two dates for L.434b, this with the year given twice. The example here adds 29th March 1799 timed at 10 a.m. to these.



The letter is addressed to *The Rev^d D^r Clark / No: 6 Quebec Street Portman Sq^r* with the Pall Mall / Unpaid / Penny Post (L.447) in black as the Receiving House where posted.

FURTHER INFORMATION.....

from John Sharp



Notebook No. 129, p. 40 "The Language of Stamps" - A recently acquired post card with the adhesives based on the George V issues. The outer three on each side being the 1^d red and those surrounding the heather being the ½^d green. The card is dated June 1917.

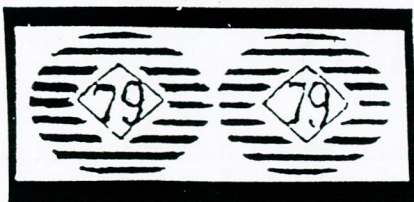
Notebook No. 132, p. 15 "Initial Stamps of the London District Post. From two covers found at the Spring STAMPEX, two date extensions. The O.C.S. (serif) for Old Cavendish Street - in black, dated 10th October, 1856 and one in blue/green ink, dated 20th February, 1857.

d

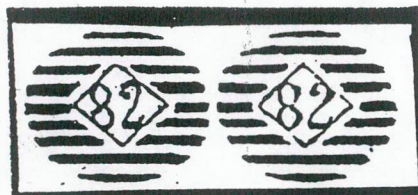
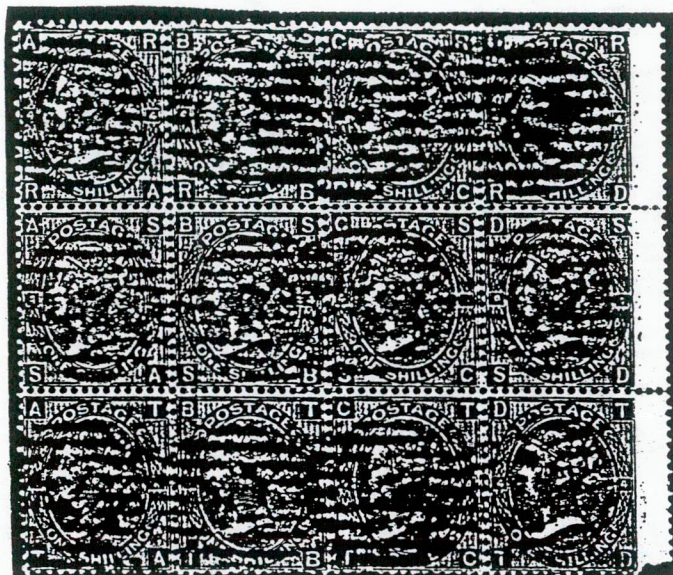
An early date for the Vere Street with the mark appearing with VS3 - 7th April, 1841. The earliest date before this was 29th January, 1842 at Vere Street. With the revised edition of the book on Branch Office stamps it will be helpful for members to report all of the A B C marks they have in their collections (with details of the Branch Office stamp accompanying them), thus ensuring the latest information.

FOREIGN OFFICE DOUBLE STAMPS

Tony Potter



In his book on *Inland Office Cancellations 1844 - 1866*, Brian Smith illustrates a series of double stamps issued on 20th February, 1860 to the Foreign Office. These were further shown in the Proof Impression books in a selection of cancellations on the 31st December, 1860 although, as is always the case, the purpose was not defined. Here is an example of a 1^d plate showing the double 79 but what really catches the eye is the block of sixteen one shilling adhesives (plate 4 - put to press 8.12.64)- see following page. This does not confirm the *why* but does give a slight indication of date.



INLAND OFFICE / BRANCH

Noel Dickinson



According to the Handbook, 3PH2 is shown as proofed in February 1861. It differs from the earlier PHT13, which had code "A". Further, the position of the "3" is at the centre of the fourth bar and the end of the fifth bar is cut diagonally. All these conditions are met by the example illustrated here which is dated DE 20 60.

Now for the Inland Branch: the duplex cancellation 37D19, recut, is described as "single rim c.d.s. with stamp code K". However, the example here is a *double rim* c.d.s. (this matches the example in Parmenter's "Barred Numeral Cancellations of London") BUT with code "J".

It is, however, curious the dater is so faint but the obliterator so good. It seems unlikely this obliterator could have been applied as a singleton, so more realistic explanation(s) sought.



NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions are offering the Alf Kirk Collection of London Postal History in their sale on Friday April 14th. Older members will recall the excellent series of articles by Alf on Southwark and this material, with other, features strongly.

Do drop a line to them at Cavendish House, 153-7 London Road, DERBY DE1 2SY. London viewing at the Strand Bourse, Royal National Hotel, Woburn Place on 12th for requested small lots.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAM RECEIPT


Robert Johson

This shows the excise duty charged on the receipt for payment for a telegraph (in this case 17' 6),
was Twopence.

As seventeen and sixpence was more than a week's pay for some domestics, the need, in the employer's eyes,
for such confirmation of dispatch, in understandable.

The telegram, to Berlin, was sent from Archer Street post office in Notting Hill.

- 145 / 13 -

No. 16.	POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.	G [7254] 400,000 12 75
<small>This Certificate is not valid unless Telegraph Stamps of the value of Twopence be affixed to it, and cancelled by the dated Stamp of the issuing Post Office.</small>		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"><small>Telegraph Stamps of the value of Twopence to be affixed here, and cancelled by the Postmaster's dated stamp.</small></div> 	<p>THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I have this day received a Telegraph Message, No. <u>34</u>, to be forwarded to* <u>Berlin</u>, and that the charges thereon, amounting to £ <u>17' 6</u>, were duly paid.</p>	
	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>Gillies</u> Postmaster.</p>	
<p><small>* If the Message be for a Foreign Station, the name must be inserted above. This is not absolutely necessary in the case of an Inland Message. [SEE BACK.]</small></p>		

NEWSPAPER BRANCH KILLERS

Unclassified Cancellations

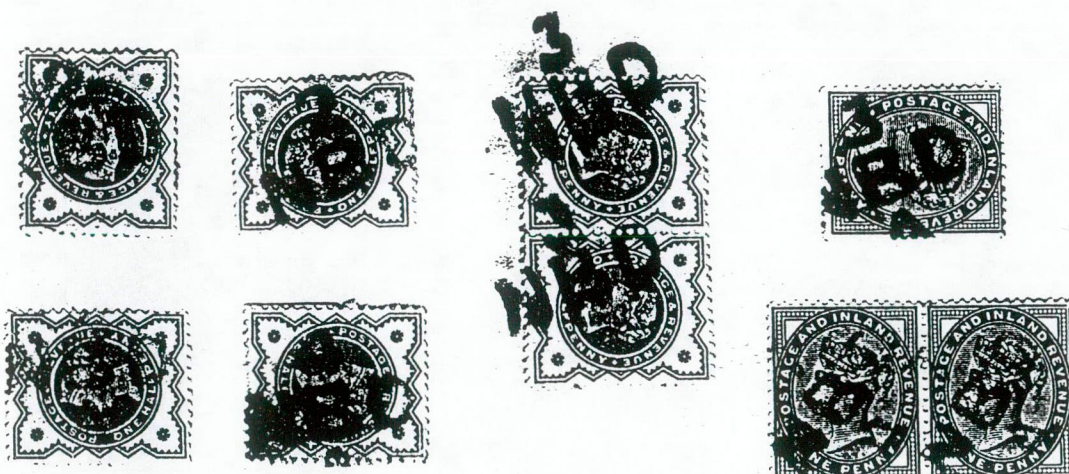
Dr R.H. Champion

At the meeting last year a page of obliterations not described by Stitt Dibden, Chandler or Alcock and Holland was displayed and it may be helpful to others to see this brief extract.

The first comprise the letters **NPB** across the centre, a number above and a letter below.



The next group show **NBD**, the meaning of which is not known.
Speculation invited, as are further examples of both groups.



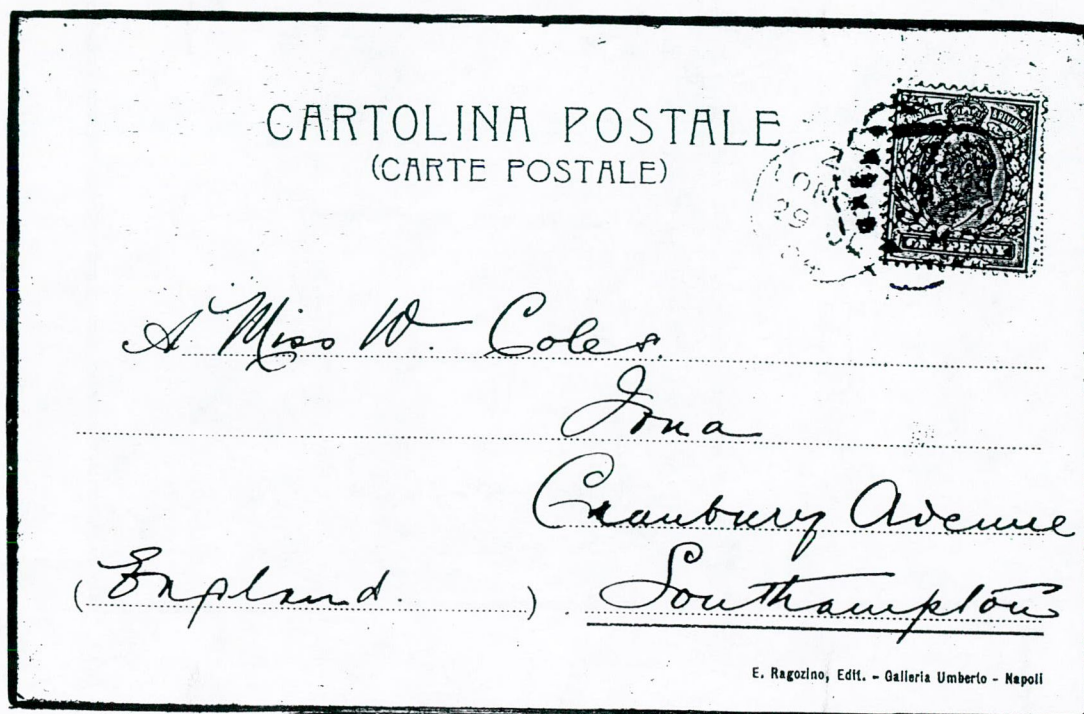
ADDITIONAL SHIP LETTER MARKINGS



6D4B

In *Robertson Revisited* four stamps from the 1850s are illustrated as used on mail, usually post cards, from overseas which carry British adhesives cancelled in London. One can find several other stamps, one such being the Inland Branch vertical oval 6D4B as well as the code ZA type S.58 date stamp for 29 JU 03, which appears to tie the adhesive quite adequately, albeit feint.

The *Handbook* notes there is no Proof Book entry and reports an example in December 1902 with an oval frame around the cancellation, as does this example.



No doubt this, although of interest, is a FRED.

REGISTERED AT SOUTH KENSINGTON

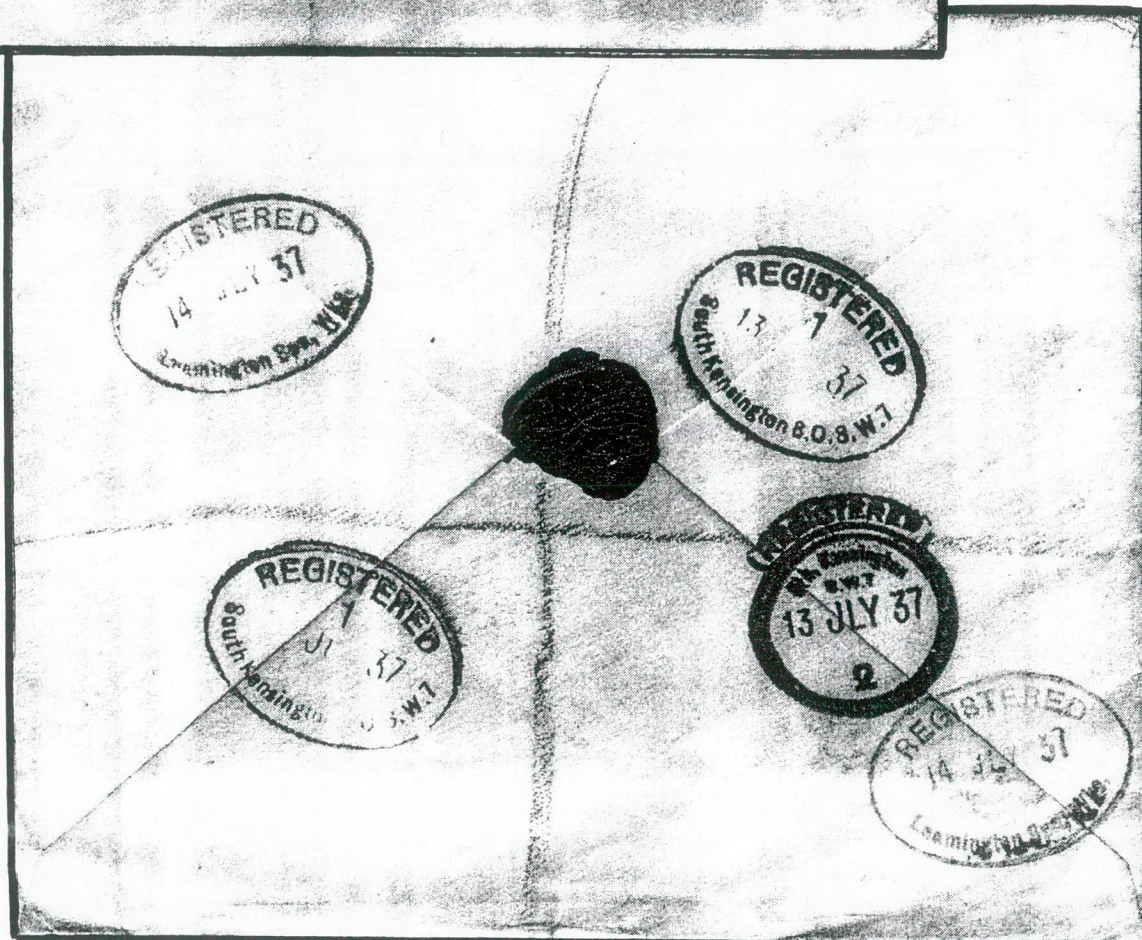
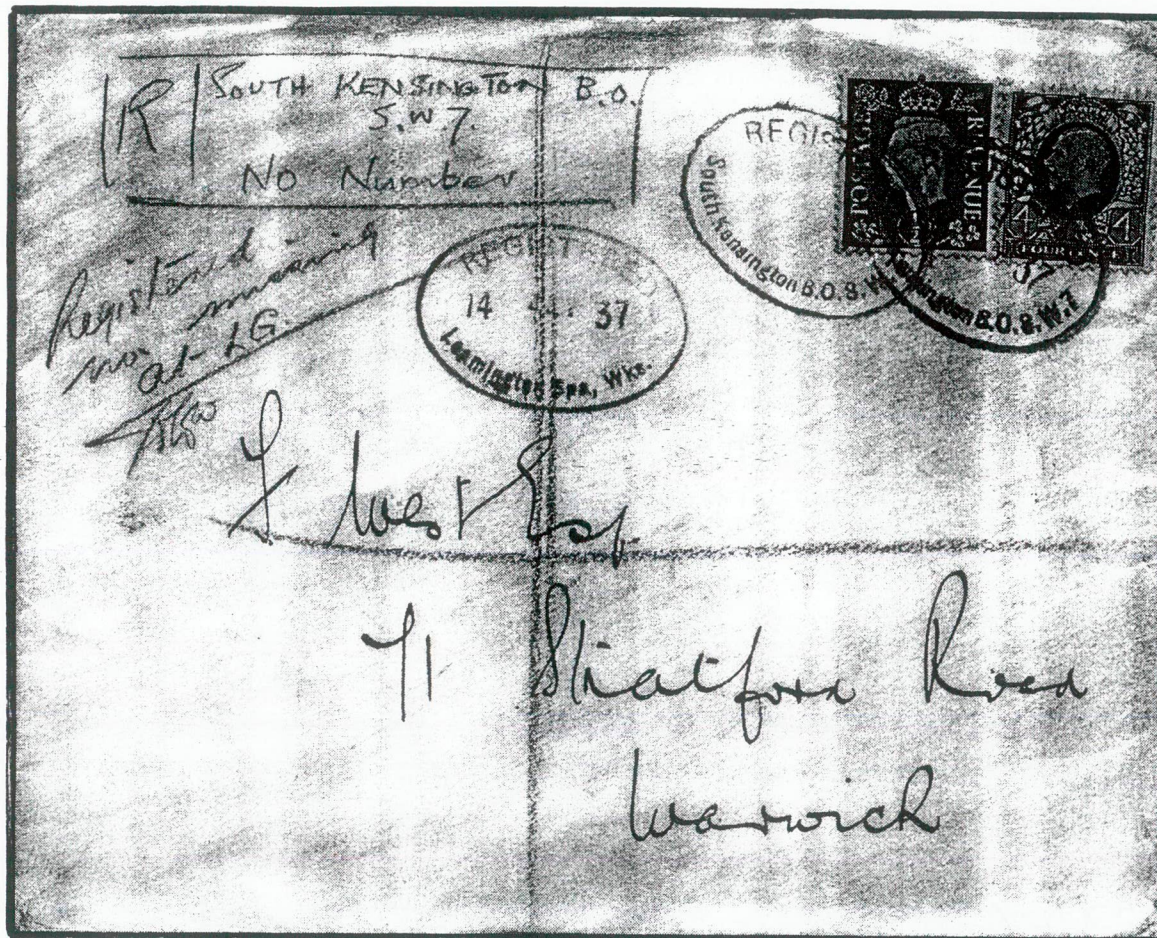
Paul Davey

The registered letter, correctly prepaid at 4½^d (see following page), appears to have been handed in at the counter as the adhesives are cancelled by the office oval in purple, which stamp also seals three of the four flaps on the reverse: the fourth is sealed by the office hooded circle registered stamp, this number "2" (why a different mark?). For some reason either no label was applied or it was lost in transit, for a manuscript "label" was drawn for South Kensington and signed, by initials, with the notation "*Registered no missing at LG*".

There are no offices in London with LG initials but these are the Telegraphic Code letters for Leamington Spa, which office's registered stamps appear on the reverse, so the "LG" is identified, albeit probably conveying nothing to the addressee.

One may assume the registered etiquette, failing to be correctly applied and requiring such action en route to the addressee, was the subject of a report from Leamington Spa: the wording of the rocket to South Kensington would may interesting. One wonders if Mr West had any comments, there seems to have been no delay of the item.

A final thought: since Warwick is the County Town, why no registered marks applied there?



FOREIGN SECTION POSTAGE DUE ADVICE

Material from Michael Goodman

The letter & cover were supplied by Michael Goodman with the comment *Nice of them!* - which says it all.



Tel.: HEAquarters 3504

Extension

Your Reference

P.O. Reference Reporting Duty, F.S.

DIVISIONAL CONTROLLER'S OFFICE,
LONDON POSTAL REGION,
KING EDWARD STREET,

LONDON, E.C.1.

18 MAR 1941

(Time)

Dear Sir(s)/Madam,

A letter superscribed "Registered by Air Mail" posted by you on the 18 of March 1941 and addressed to Mrs. W. W. Artje

Kendrew Estate, Cape Province S. Africa

is being held over in this Office owing to *totally unpaid*

are *owed fee 2½ ordinary postage plus Registration Fee of 3d.*

The amount of the deficient postage is £ - / - / 5½ and you may send the necessary stamps by post to "The Superintendent on Duty, Foreign Section, London Postal Region, London, E.C.1" (the cover should be marked "Immediate"), or, if you so desire, you may pay the amount of the deficiency at the Public Enquiry Office, King Edward Building, King Edward Street, E.C.1 (when closed, at the main entrance to the Sorting Office (South-East Lobby), King Edward Building), in which case this communication should be presented at the time of payment.

It is requested that the matter be attended to within 48 hours (excluding Sunday) of the time stated above, otherwise the item(s) will be surcharged double the amount of the *deficient ordinary postage* and *sent forward as an ordinary letter.*

Retention of the item(s) beyond the period mentioned is not practicable.

Yours faithfully,

Air Service to Union of South Africa
Temporary unpaid.

Divisional Controller.

FS 131

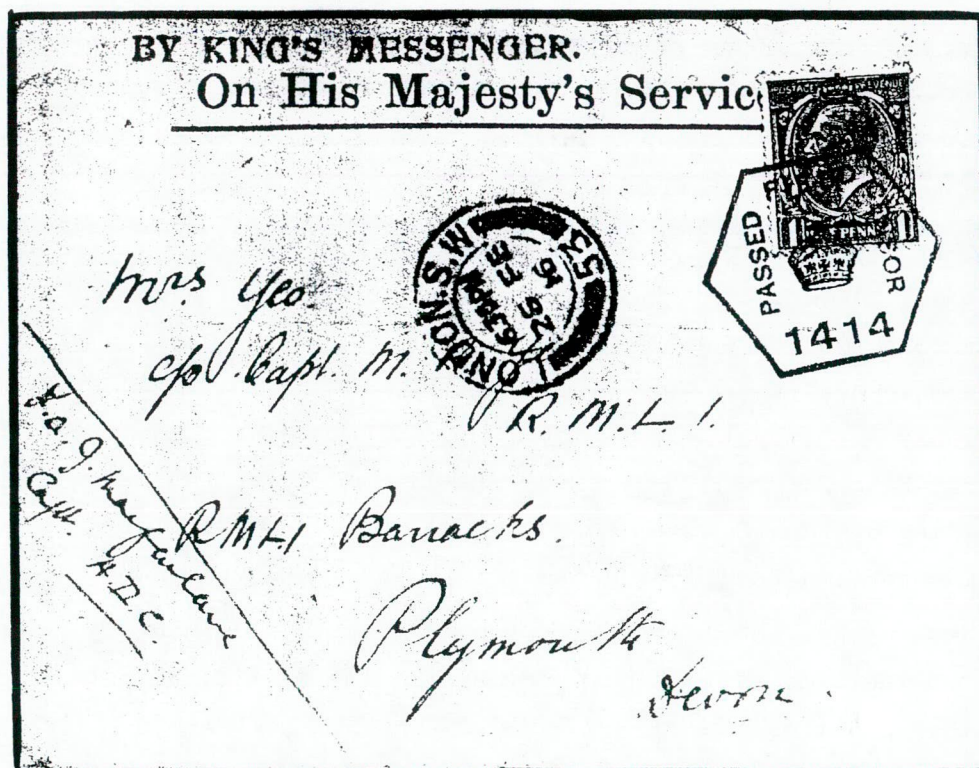
R07067C

It may be noted
the FS 71 hand stamp
carries no time or
duty code.



THE KING'S MESSENGER

Material by Michael Goodman : notes expanded by Editor

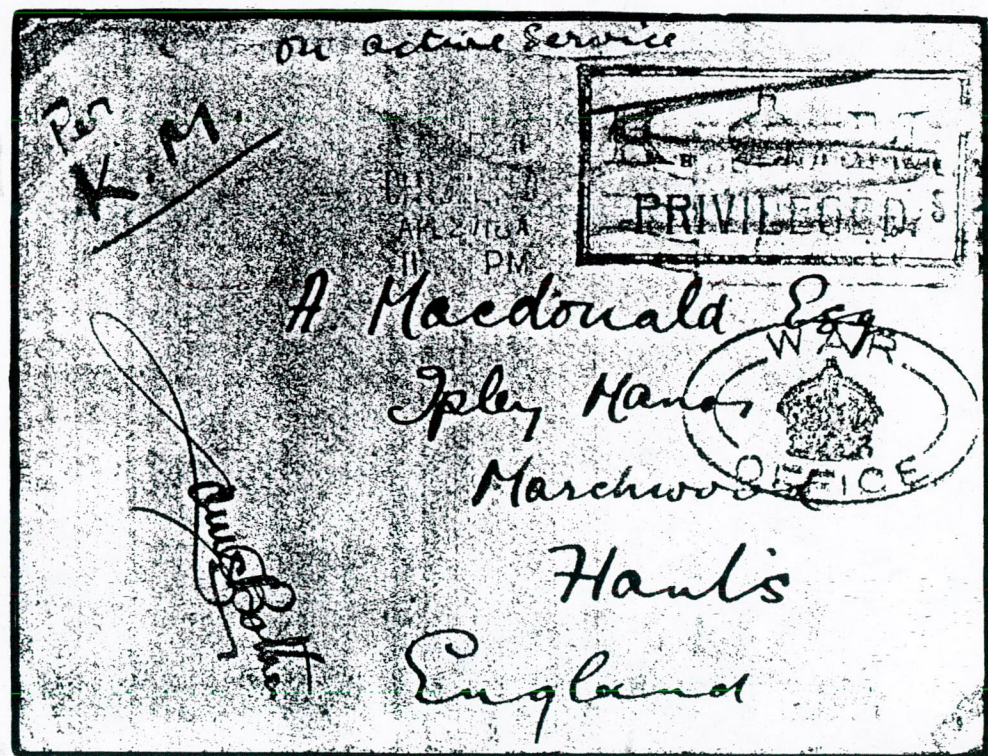
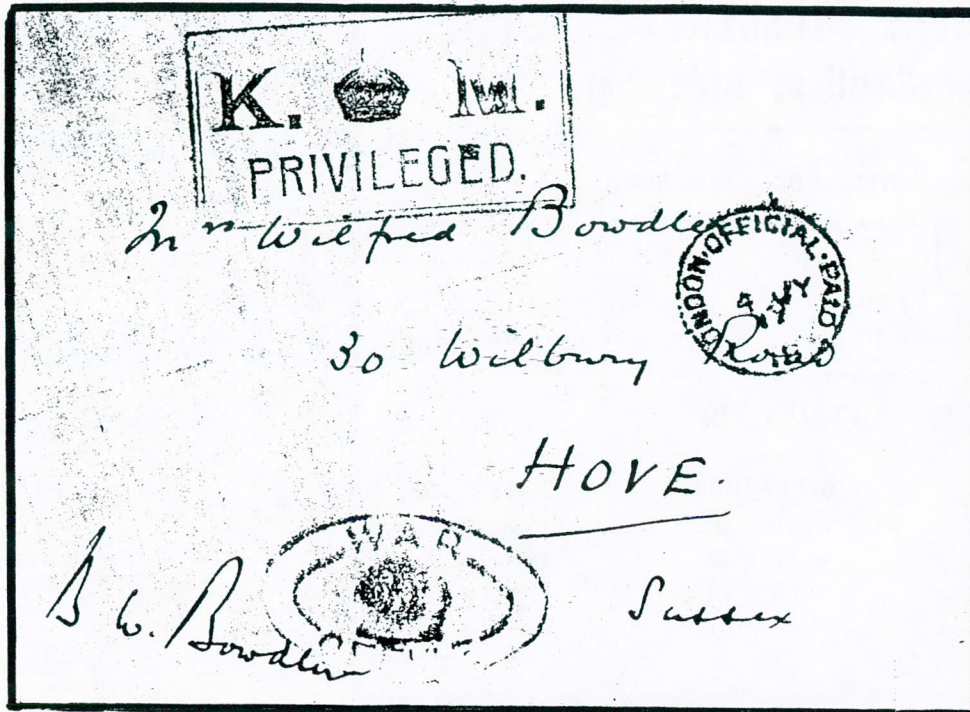


The only reference to the King's Messenger Service to be found in an extensive library, comes from *Royal Household Mail*, by Glenn H. Morgan, and that contained one of the covers shown here ! The greyhound badge in the lapel with a case firmly attached to the wrist have featured in a few "B" films from the 1950s, usually with the messenger winding up dead it must be said !, hardly form the basis of a study of the matter . However, Glenn Morgan's work is tantalising brief and

leaves the actual operation of the service , prior to being taken over by the Post Office, rather obscure. The Royal element up to June 1932, at which date George V abolished the messengers, failed to mention how mail from private individuals had letters carried by the King's Messenger service.

The first cover is dated 1916 with a neat red stamp in capitals reading "BY KING'S MESSENGER" over "On His Majesty's Service". The envelope is endorsed by *F.A.J. Macfarlane Capt A.D.C.*, in a different hand to the addresser of the envelope; this would have been the censor. The 1st adhesive is cancelled by the censor stamp number 1414 (this in red) . This stamp is the standard type CM4, used in France January to November 1916, which supports Michael's note "Probably from the W. Front" . The London transit stamp is for 26th February 1916.

The second letter carries the double framed violet struck K crown M / PRIVILEGED, a War Office cachet and the London Official paid date stamp for the 4th July 1917. There is no indication of the place from whence the letter was actually written but the cover is endorsed by *B.W. Bowdler* with Mrs Wilfred Bowdler the recipient.



The third cover again carries the War office cachet, a London machine cancellation for 27th April 1918, the same KM stamp but this deleted by a violet blue crayon endorsement. The writer has entered "Per K.M." and "On Active Service". Perhaps the KM service was used to get the letter to London but was not available

for onwards transmission , it being put into the ordinary post ? But surely the same comment can apply to the second item bearing an Office Paid date stamp but this leaving the KM stamp intact ?

MAY, 1928.

THE KING'S OWN MESSENGER SERVICE To Royal Pavilion, Aldershot.

	LEAVE BUCKINGHAM PALACE.	LEAVE WATERLOO.	DUE AT ALDERSHOT.	DUE AT R. PAVILION.
WEEK DAYS	10.55 a.m.	11.24 a.m.	12.56 p.m.	1.15 p.m.
	7.30 p.m.	8.0 p.m.	9.22 p.m.	9.45 p.m.
SUNDAYS	12.50 p.m.	1.20 p.m.	2.52 p.m.	3.15 p.m.
	5.40 p.m.	6.10 p.m.	7.21 p.m.	7.45 p.m.

TO LONDON.

	LEAVE R. PAVILION.	LEAVE ALDERSHOT.	DUE AT WATERLOO.
WEEK DAYS	9.55 a.m.	10.16 a.m.	11.36 a.m.
	8.25 p.m.	8.46 p.m.	10.14 p.m.
SUNDAYS	9.34 a.m.	9.54 a.m.	11.20 a.m.
	8.10 p.m.	8.30 p.m.	9.56 p.m.

Finally, a card dated May 1928, very much a Royal item ,with the title reading

THE KING'S OWN
MESSENGER
SERVICE.

One has to speculate: could there be three distinct services which have been muddled ? The first is the KING'S OWN MESSENGER SERVICE, this dealing with mail initiated by the King or mail specially for his attention. The second the KING'S MESSENGER SERVICE, which again would carry mail for the Sovereign but used primarily for Official despatches and military, albeit private, mail. The third service, the aforementioned greyhound courier, could carry urgent official documents.

Further examples of these King's (Own) Messenger services would be much appreciated and, especially, the source of further information.

And Finally.....Current Use of Postage Due Adhesives

Due to the adhesives falling off in transit, one recipient of *Notebook* received a charge, which was refused. This generated an example, in black, of the CANCELLED / POST OFFICE USED obliterator and associated labels: no-one paid anything !

"Unable to deliver" in red & white, this dated 11 11 99: REVENUE PROTECTION, black on yellow.



Royal Mail

We were unable to deliver this item because

☐ addressee has gone away ☐ addressee unknown

☐ no answer ☒ refused

☐ address incomplete ☐ not called for

☐ address inaccessible

no such address in

date 11 11 99 initials [signature]

badge number [signature]

POSTAGE UNPAID DEFICIENT POSTAGE	61	TO PAY
HANDLING FEE	20p	81p

REVENUE PROTECTION