

# NOTEBOOK

Number 149 February 2001

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## EDITORIAL.....

We have started the new millennium (yes, this year, not last) with some very interesting material appearing in the auction catalogues. Given the amount of really fine London material being bought and to lack of a write up report from the purchaser appearing in *Notebook*, we are forced to conclude there are very many more non members out there actively collecting than there are members. Or is it you, for whatever reason, who prefers not to put quill to parchment, or finger to keyboard, to give your fellow collectors vicarious enjoyment of your happy purchases.

Make the obvious resolution - and keep to it. We look forward to reading your contribution.

You will see that Michael Goodman has sent in a selection of covers (more to come) for which the Editor has attempted a "ghost" write-up. If you, too, have a nice item but not the time to provide more than a few notes,

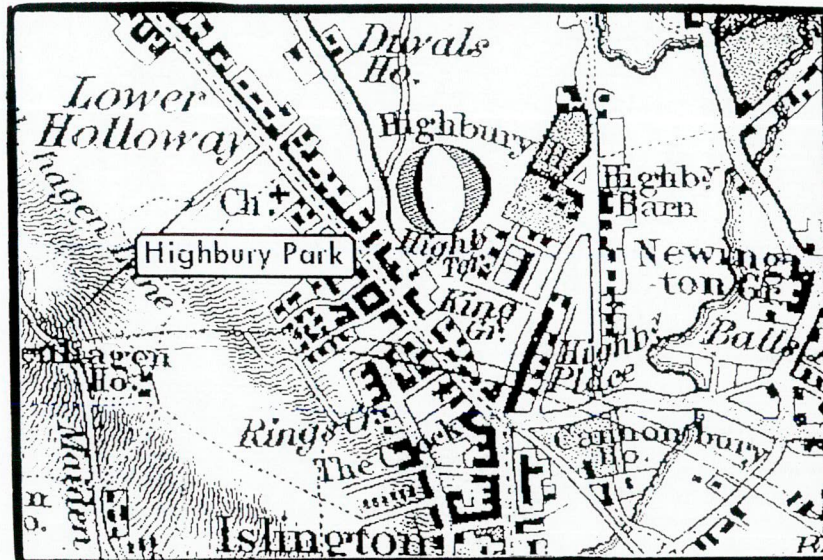
make the obvious resolution - and keep to it. We look forward to reading your contribution



## HIGHBURY RECEIVING HOUSE

In Hugh Feldman's *Letter Receivers of London* he has this to say : " Highbury Place, a development of 39 houses, was built by John Spiller in 1774 - 1794, Spiller occupying the top house. Highbury Terrace was built in 1789, after which little development until the 1820s, when the developer Thomas Cubitt built villas in Highbury Grove."

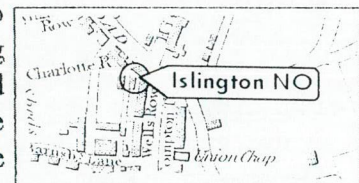
The 1823 Crutchley map shows the location of the Receiving Office at Highbury Park and Feldman notes such an office appears not to have been established in central Highbury until after the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post, the earliest recorded receiver not appearing in the cash books until April 1843.



Crutchley Map ; Published 1823

From the following Post Masters General Report, however, comes intelligence an office was established in the location sought and specifically at the request of residents of Highbury Place Terrace, Highbury Grove & Highbury Hill, to say nothing of the writer, who lived at Highbury House. There are two or three words which cannot be made of from the original script [see the end of this piece].

It seems clear that 23 Wells Row, which Feldman shows close to his location of the Islington North Office, is an earlier office serving Highbury. The map published by Cary in 1840, used by Feldman, and another by Cary published 1842, shown on the next page, demonstrate the marked difference between two map makers' perception of both scale and accuracy: one cannot but believe Cary the more reliable.



There is much of interest in the various reports [one has been edited to exclude non related material]

### POST 42 POST MASTERS GENERAL REPORTS

Vol. 24 Page 441 No 62V

General Post Office  
March 23<sup>rd</sup> 1805

My Lords,

I have the honor to enclose an Application for a new Receiving House in that part of Islington near Highbury & Holloway, and M<sup>r</sup> Johnson's report thereon.

I know perfectly well how much that Neighbourhood has increased and that the want of a Receiving House for their Letters must be a very great inconvenience. I presume your Lordships will readily consent to appoint one, as recommended, at M<sup>r</sup> Richd Walters', Wells Row, Islington, and that

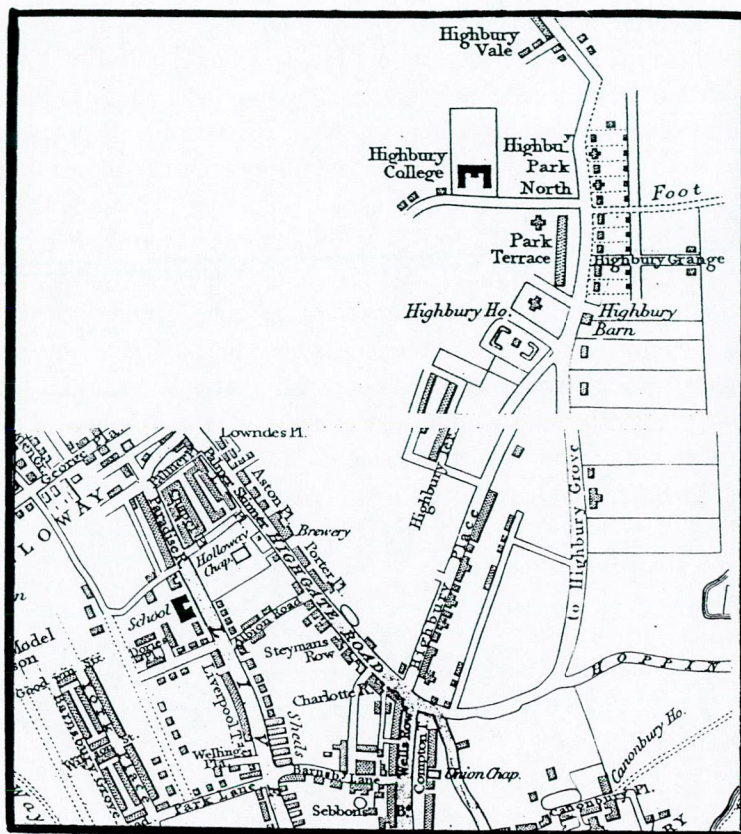


you will approve M<sup>r</sup> Johnson's idea of not fixing the amount of Salary, 'till it shall be seen what the number of Letters collected there will be.

All which is humbly / Submitted by / F. Freeling

*Approved*

*Mr Johnson informed 27 March 1805*



Cary's Map; Published 1842  
Wells Row runs south, opposite the junction with  
Highbury Place

Two penny Post Office  
March 22<sup>d</sup> 1805

Dear Sir,

I do not know any instance of an application for a Receiving House which has been better supported by the necessity of the case than the one enclosed. Beside the extensive and respectable neighbourhood of Highbury Place and Terrace, there is now a very populous neighbourhood at Holloway, and neither of them have any Receiving House nearer than Islington Church, which is at a very inconvenient distance from these parts.

I surveyed the neighbourhood yesterday and viewed the situation of a house named by Mr Aubert [?] as a proper one for the purpose, and finding that it was the most conveniently situated of any, being opposite the entrance to Highbury, and at the corner of the Holloway Road and therefore the most central to both. I beg to recommend that M<sup>r</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Walters at N<sup>o</sup> 23 Wells Row Islington, which is the house alluded to, be appointed Letter Receiver for the above district. But as I can form no idea of the number of letters which may be put in there I defer recommending the Salary until that is ascertained.

I am Dear Sir . Your Ob<sup>d</sup> H<sup>le</sup> S<sup>vt</sup> / E Johnson.



Highbury House Islington  
13<sup>th</sup> February 1805

Sir,

I beg leave for myself and for the Several Inhabitants of Highbury Place Highbury Terrace Highbury Grove & Highbury Hill as also for the Inhabitants of that part of Islington ..... well street & also for the Inhabitants of Paradise row & Holloway humbly to represent to you that we suffer great inconvenience for want of a receiving House for Two penny post Letters within a convenient distance from us the only receiving House at Islington has been for many years past at the King's Head facing the Church a distance near one mile & a quarter from my House from Highbury Close, Terrace .... & much greater from Holloway we labour under the necessity of Trusting our Letters to Fishmongers Boys, Bakers or Butchers Boys, and find these miscarry often for want of their being properly being putt in to the Receiving office, for we perfectly well satisfied that when they are once under the care of the office they never miscarry, we flatter ourselves that you will please to consider that since the Receiving house at the King's head was established the number of Houses & Inhabitants of Islington parish & of Holloway have augmented so considerable that an alteration is required to accommodate the whole and we apprehend the revenue of the Twopenny post office would be benefited by our Correspondence being made earlier & consequently more considerable. I will beg leave to suggest that a Receiving House near the Cock at Islington, facing Highbury Place, would accommodate all parties concerned without giving needless trouble to your men. - I shall esteem it a particular favour if you will take the matter into your kind considerations; I have the honour to be with great esteem & regard

Sir, Your most obedient humble / Servant / Alex<sup>r</sup> Aubert

To the Comptroller of the Twopenny Post Office.

*Hill as also for the Inhabitants of that part of Islington  
(Harrow) well street & also for the Inhabitants of Paradise*

Can you identify the first word in the second line ?

*a quarter from my House from Highbury Place, Terrace (of a) \*  
& much greater from Holloway we labour under the necessity*

Can you identify the word[s] after "Terrace" at the end of the first line?

**MATERIAL WANTED**.....

Offers of items from WALTHAMSTOW and WHIPPS CROSS or, at least, a note of any items you have from the area, including contents, for a long term study.

Details to the Editor, please.



## **FELDMAN UPDATE - PART 2**

These several items are culled from the P.M.G. Records, Post 42, held in the Post Office Archives.

### **Beckenham :**

w.e.f. 5 July 1804 identified only as "*Mr William's*" had his salary of £3.3s. increased to £6 pr. annum due to great increase of letters handled.

### **Blandford Street :**

1 May 1805 : Mrs Roberts [Grocer], Widow of late Receiver, confirmed as Receiver in his place.

### **Enfield Highway :**

17 April 1805 : Mr William Frost, a Shopkeeper, appointed Receiver in place of Mr Wandale[? - unclear].

### **Islington South Office :**

on 28th September 1804 the Receiver, *H Jones* had his annual salary increased to £14 from £10, which amount he states "*when my present Salary was first allowed*" (PMG Reports Vol. 24 No. 99S)

### **Kennington Cross :**

February 1805: Receiver Wm. Wilkinson salary increased from £5 to £10.

### **Little Knight Rider Street :**

January 2 1805: this place is in Feldman under *Knightrider Street*: the Receiver at the *Fleece Public House* was dismissed for leaving letters "exposed on the Tap Room Table among persons who are drinking...". A Mr Holderness, a Law Stationer, was appointed the Letter Receiver "for that quarter" [the street not being more closely identified].

### **New Brentford :**

February 1805: Receiver P Newbury had a salary increase from £12 to £22. In his letter states "...not having any addition since the Alteration took place...". Does he allude to those of 1794?

### **Petersham :**

17 April 1805 : Mr William Chapman appointed Receiver in place of Mr Blizard, the office staying at a *Public House*, rather to the dismay of the Postmasters General.

### **Turnham Green :**

on 25 October 1804 the Receiver *Henry Wood* had his initial £5 salary increased to £6. Wood states "*I am a person Employed in the post office line & that so far only a few months*" I.e. newly appointed.



Watling Street :

2 January 1805: Mrs Inman, who "suffered [the letters] to lie about mixed with the goods of the Shop" dismissed as the Receiver and the office was not replaced.

### MANUSCRIPT MITCHAM

During the course of the year an entire letter from Mitcham, bearing that place name as the office of posting in manuscript, came to notice. Such use of a place name is known for Ealing but this is the first for Mitcham.



The letter is headed Mitcham October 21<sup>st</sup> (see copy below - reduced to 80%), the same Bishop Mark date *but no year*. Unfortunately the Southwark Office stamp (L.354) was in use for at least thirty four years. The possible dates with combine October 21 with a Friday are 1757 ; 1763; 1768; 1774 and 1785. There is nothing in the letter which affords a clue to the year but it does contain some excellent advice on the treatment of a cough, useful intelligence at this time of year. Part of the copy has been obscured but the loss does not appear to be significant. Given the letter is addressed to a Captain in a Guards Regiment, the quality of Mother's writing is of interest.

Mitcham Oct 21<sup>st</sup>

Dear Jack

I had wrote a letter to Mrs Johnson <sup>to Stret</sup> was



Mitchamock <sup>at</sup> York

Dear Jack

I had wrote a letter to Mr Johnson <sup>to H. H. H.</sup> was  
to have gone by yesterday, but getting a letter  
from you <sup>at</sup> informing me of your intentions  
of going to H. H. H. I did not send it. I am ex-  
cessively sorry for dear little Jenny, I hope her  
Cough prove what you apprehend, changing the  
Air is reckoned the best thing in the world for it;  
you will meet w<sup>th</sup> a Receipt for it, from every  
one you see, but as little folks are not good at  
taking things; oil of ~~St. Ives~~ rubbed night &  
Morn<sup>g</sup> upon the back bone is reckoned exceeding  
good for it; also a piece of brown paper as broad as  
a child's ribbon w<sup>th</sup> the oil & applied to the crown of  
her Head is also thought proper; what I have most  
faith in, is, when the Phlegm is excessive trouble  
some to give her a Spoonfull of Tea made with  
Oppeacuanha but the quantity of this Drug I have  
forgot

But any Apothecary you buy it of will tell you  
I came here last Night from Windsor called at  
Burhill in my way & found all well & the House  
getting ready for your reception; I shall be  
obliged to go to Walton again on Monday to com-

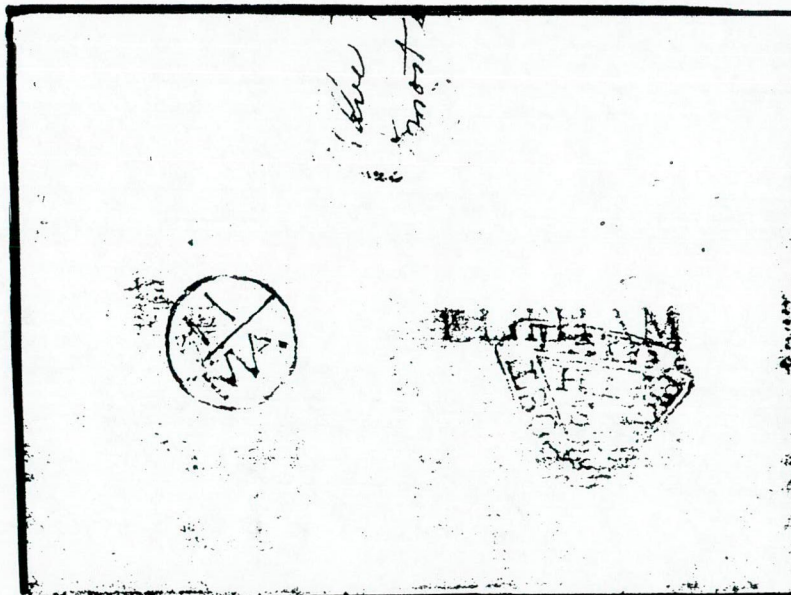


pleat Joshua's Affairs & then I hope my bus'ness at  
 Court will over, every Body at hand. are  
 Lamenting the Death of Bobb Braden he is  
 an amance lops to wife & Children. as soon  
 to have another letter from you with  
 of all your Healths; Watt hopes to hear  
 her sister <sup>who</sup> I hope will reap much benefit  
 from her journey; we are all well here & Mr Tate  
 daily talking of setting, & has fix'd upon to Mor-  
 row for it but till he is set out, I don't believe he  
 will go. all here join in love & Comp<sup>ts</sup> to you &  
 yours in w<sup>ch</sup> I most heartily join who am my  
 my Dear Jack

Your ever  
 Affe<sup>d</sup> Mother  
 D J

### ELTHAM STAMP

Having recorded the manuscript Mitcham, now a Receiving House stamp which - for the present -  
 can rightly be termed unique, we now show the Eltham office, the only one, during the Penny Post  
 period, to have the place name instead of the generally used Receiver's stamp, albeit it for 1775 only.



This example was written as from  
 Eltham May 10th 1775, with a  
 Bishop for the following date. The  
 Southward Office stamp is for  
 Thursday, also the 11<sup>th</sup>. One feature,  
 which is curious, is the absence of  
 any indication of the prepayment of  
 the local penny charge, this required  
 under the 1794 reorganisation. The  
 General Post charge is shown as four  
 pence, the rate for over eighty miles,  
 the letter being addressed to John  
 Carell Orsley Esq / Platt / near  
 Manchester.

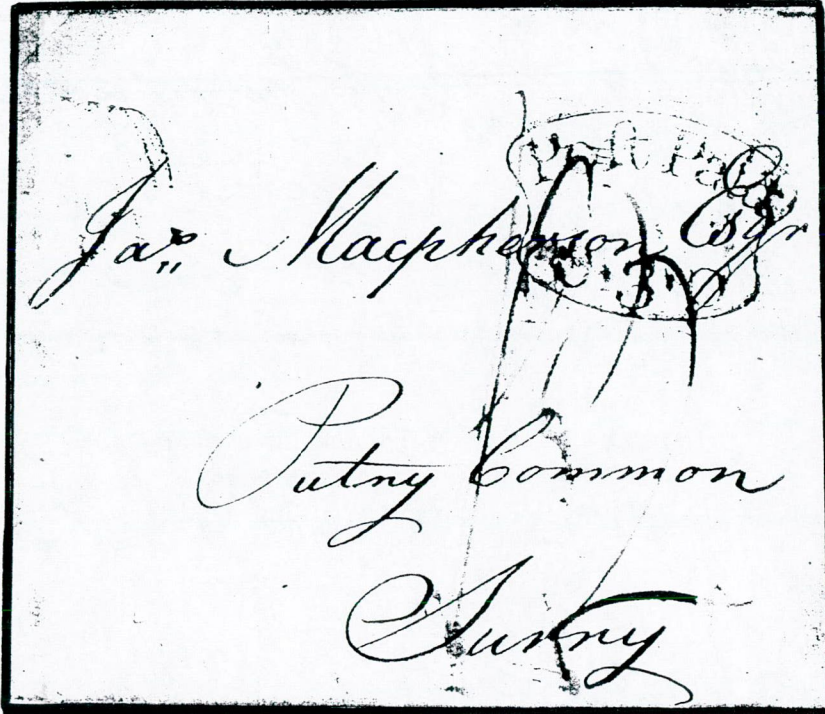


## THE 1794 REFORMS

The reforms of 1794 were the first since the Post Office took over the so-called "Dockwra" Post. They were the outcome of the work by an erstwhile Letter Carrier, Edward Johnson, who was sent in 1788 by John Palmer to make a survey of the Penny Post.

After six years the major reorganisation took place and the one year of 1794 yielded a number of stamps known, in some cases for weeks only, during that one year.

There were three 'Post Paid' stamps with the initial letters "C O", signifying Chief Office. These three are known for the months June to September for the undated example with just "C O"; June only for a similar stamp but with a date across the centre and the third, undated, for August, reading "C 3 O"



This particular example is written from 16 Philpot Lane to Putney Common and dated by the writer for Aug<sup>1</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1794 with a time stamp for 2 o'Clock AFN.

Knowing the Post Office never spent a penny unless it could be justified, one is left with the puzzle of the "3" insertion. To date no one appears to have any understanding of this "3"; the suggestion it is the third listed in the catalogue is not acceptable !!

## INDIA SOLDIERS LETTERS

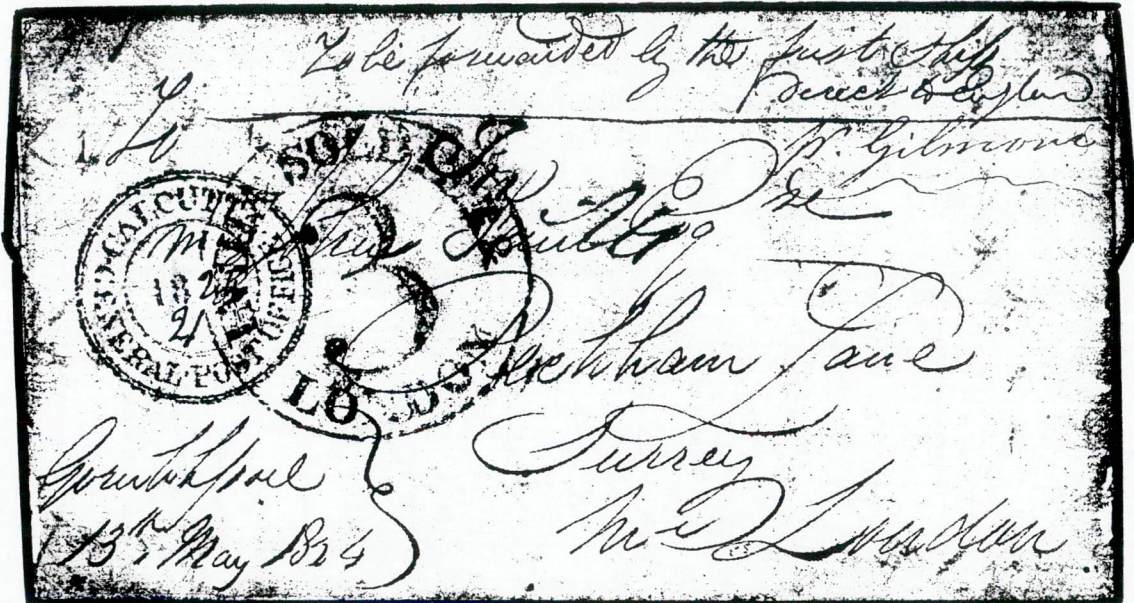
Soldiers and Seamen, below commissioned rank, whilst employed in the armed forces, were entitled to privilege rates of postage. Special privilege rates applied to those serving in India (E. Indies, Mauritius and Cape).

These large stamps were issued to London to indicate the *through rate to addressee*, this amount to be paid on delivery, irrespective of the number of inland miles the destination was from London.



In. Sol. 5: 1823 - 1848. Black

A fine example of the writer endorsing the obverse to make it to appear to be a Soldier's Letter  
- which it is not.



To be forwarded by the first Ship direct to England  
"P Gilmore" - in another hand.  
At lower left the place of posting and date.

The letter post at  
GORUCKPOOR  
POST OFFICE  
13 May 1824  
and endorsed  
Post P<sup>d</sup> 18..<sup>an</sup>



Calcutta transit 24 May 1824 and London Time Stamp NO 25 1824.

The handling error compounded by the use of the *In All* stamp (L.638) on the letter  
addressed to Peckham Lane, Surrey, N London

ex Willcocks

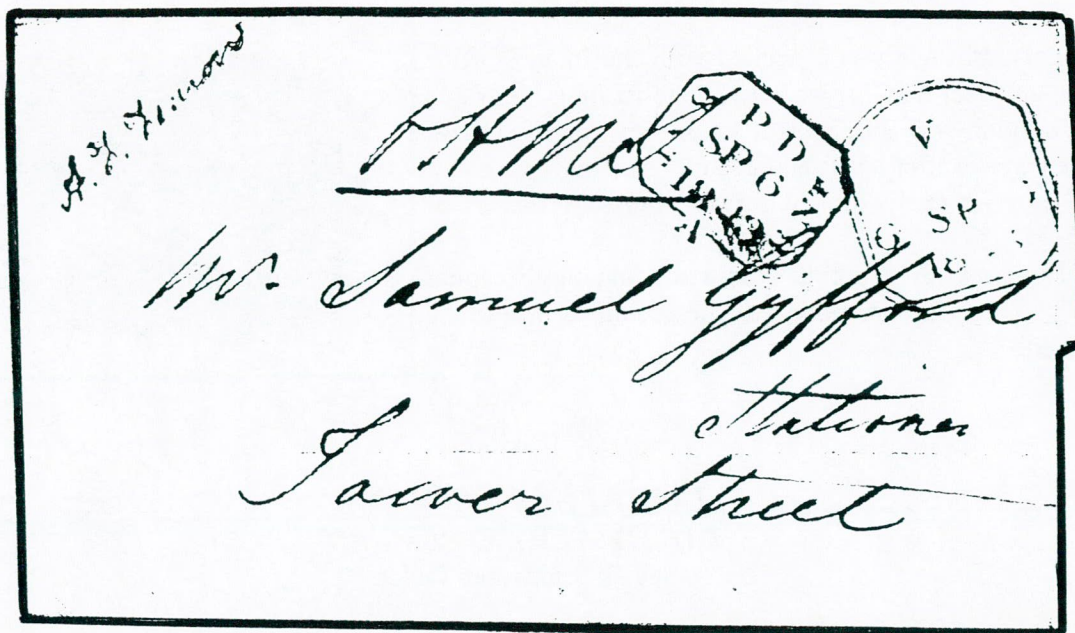
## THE TOMBSTONE PAID STAMPS OF LONDON

Ray Standing

As long ago as December 1981 in *Notebook No 55* Neil Blair, with additional material from others, provided a survey of many years of jotting down details of these Tombstone stamps. Tony Clark provided examples of a curious variety showing "P D" in place of the full "PAID". This can now be "capped", as it were, with the whole of "PAID" missing.

That this is a Paid letter is clear from the time stamp. The missing element of the General Post Paid stamp offers absolutely no trace of a lightly or partially struck PAID, although the date is not as clear as one might wish.



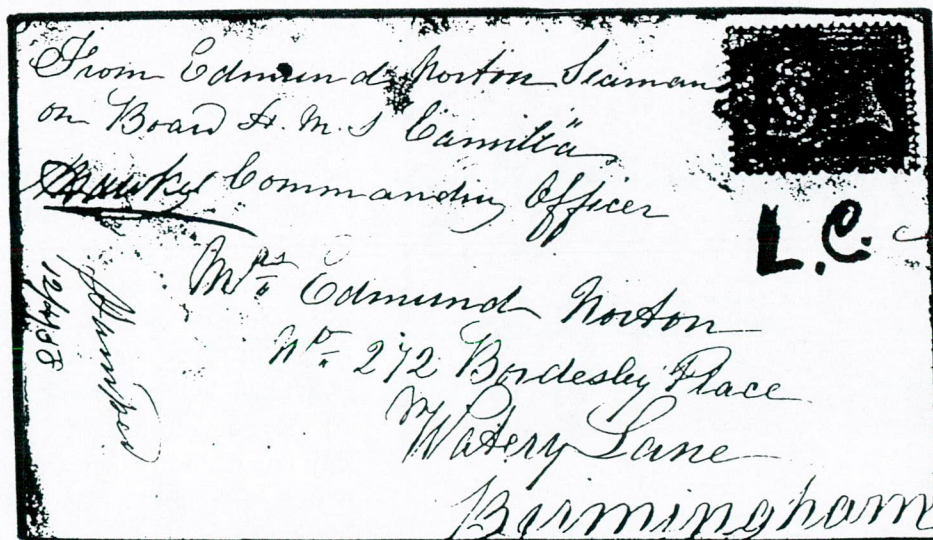


As with all these matters one can only speculate as to the cause of the "PAID" removal. Was this deliberate or not? This example is dated 1843 but the "V" code is recorded by Neil Blair for 1844 only. There is a slight difference in the size of the stamp to the dimensions quoted by Jay but one should not, it is contended, be too keen to specify a new stamp on the basis of a single mm.

A final thought. As the letter is an official, see the top left corner and OHMS endorsement, were the Postal Authorities using a special stamp to cover Government mail? It is a local letter, the service "previously known as the Twopenny Post" handling it: was the stamp applied in the Twopenny Post, General or where??

### A SEAMAN'S LETTER IN 1858

As is very clear, the top of the envelope is correctly endorsed for the letter to be carried at the concessionary rate of one penny. There is also an notation on the left hand side "Stamped 12/4/58", this referring to the penny star adhesive.

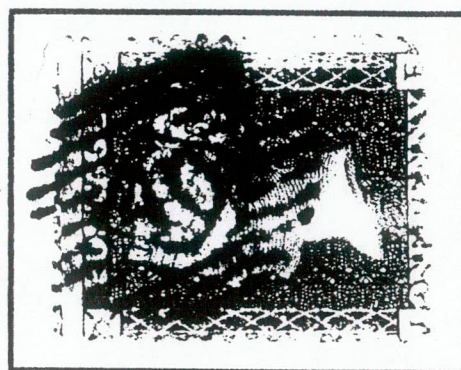




This adhesive was cancelled with the Inland Office diamond "40" (ref 40.C, recorded 15.2.58 to June '58, rated F). The London and Birmingham stamps are for JU 3 / 58, over seven weeks after it was endorsed for posting.

Thus far fairly straight forward but nevertheless of interest.

However, in a purple colour are the large capital letters "L.C." Explanations for these initials would be appreciated.



## CODELESS CROWNS THE MYSTERY EXPLAINED James Grimwood-Taylor

This article was first published in 1989 in "STAMPS". It has since been amended by the Author.

As of the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1840 the "Privilege of Official Franking" was abolished. Letters from Government departments were no longer to be sent by post without charge. However, they were still not to be treated in the same way as the ordinary letters of the general public.



Fig 1

Due to the vast quantities of official correspondence generated by Government Departments in London, Edinburgh and Dublin, their letters (both ingoing *and* outgoing) were to be handled in bulk. The postages due for the "Bags" of mail delivered to and from the departments were to be recorded on a daily basis by the Post office and accounts, to be sent each month, which were to be paid to the Post Office by each department. The most significant difference between the letters in these bags and ordinary letters was - with the exception of "Foreign Letters" (principally those to the Continent) - they were *not* to be weighed individually. They were to be weighed en masse and charged by the ounce (inland letters), or the half ounce ("ship" and "colonial" letters). The number of letters in each bag was not to be checked and it will be clear the Official Paid rates were - in aggregate - much lower than for individual letters. The bag-charges were : 2d. per ounce inland, 8d. per ½ ounce for ship letters and 1/- per ½ ounce for colonial letters. "Foreign" letters were to be charged individually.





Fig 2

the Official "crown/PAID" date stamp. Were they handled and bagged in bulk as well? I do not know.

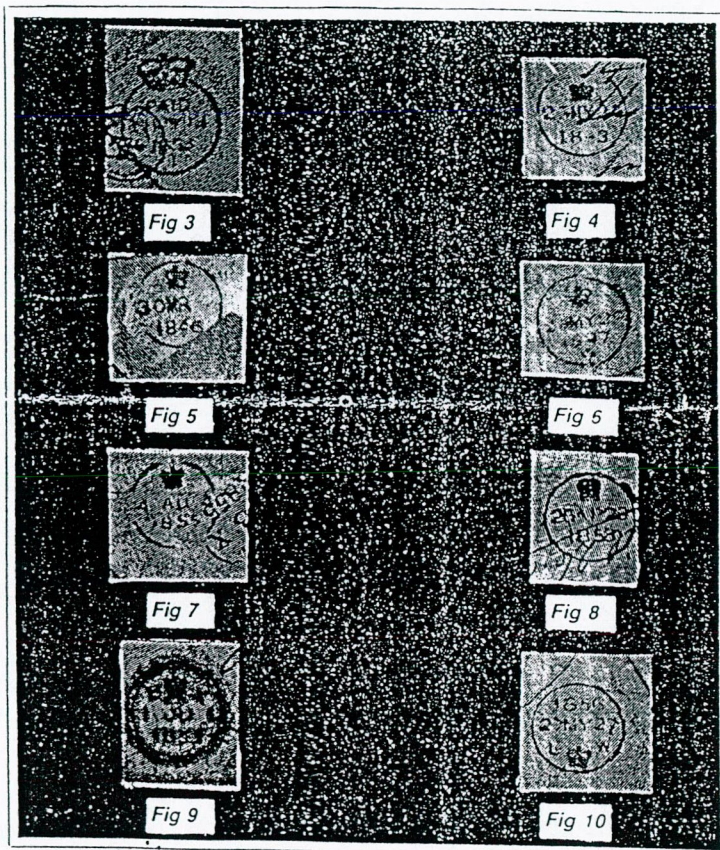
Inland letters from Government departments give no indication as to their weight. Early Official Paid letters that were classed as "Foreign letters" are hard to find but I do have one of 29<sup>th</sup> September 1840 - more a parcel tag than a letter (fig 2) - which is clearly signed by (Lord) "Palmerston" (the Foreign Secretary). It bears a feint but recognisable impression of the ordinary inland mail "PAID" CDs. There is no indication of how much was prepaid but, not surprisingly, Continental postage was charged on arrival.

The second part of the 8<sup>th</sup> January circular letter relates to "Letters received by the Department" and this shows unpaid inward official mail was also charged in bulk. This means, once again, unpaid charges were less for Government Departments per letter than they were for the general public. Bearing in mind we are now dealing with the Uniform Penny Post

period, the charges to the Government departments were 4d. per ounce for inland letters *when weighed in bulk*. Many letters to Government departments can, in fact, be found with manuscript "2" and "4" charges but the actual charges paid would, generally, have been only a proportion of these (varying according to the weight of each letter). For example, an unpaid 1/4 ounce letter to Chelsea Hospital would have cost 1/4 of the per ounce charge of 4d., i.e. 1d. The same letter to a member of the public would have cost 2d. Everyone was equal but some were more equal than others!

The standard "Crown/PAID" date stamps continued in use on Official Mail until about 1858 (see Fig.3 also) but no special equivalent postmarks for unpaid Official Mail (addressed *to* Government Departments) have been recorded, so far as I know, as yet. However, I have been building up a new theory over the last ten years and more in order to try and pinpoint some "Official Unpaid" marks. I now feel confident enough to record some of my findings.

As a result of this standard bulk charge for official letters, the PAID postmarks applied to them on receipt at the Post Office made no mention of "1d" or "2d" or suchlike; they simply included the date, the word "PAID" and a crown. (See Fig. 1 for the first London variety). I have now seen two 10<sup>th</sup> January 1840 examples of this mark, one for the 16<sup>th</sup> January and have one for the 20<sup>th</sup>, this on the special "Houses of Parliament" envelope (Fig.1). These special envelopes were not introduced until the 16<sup>th</sup> January (the first day of the new session of Parliament) and, almost without exception, are found with





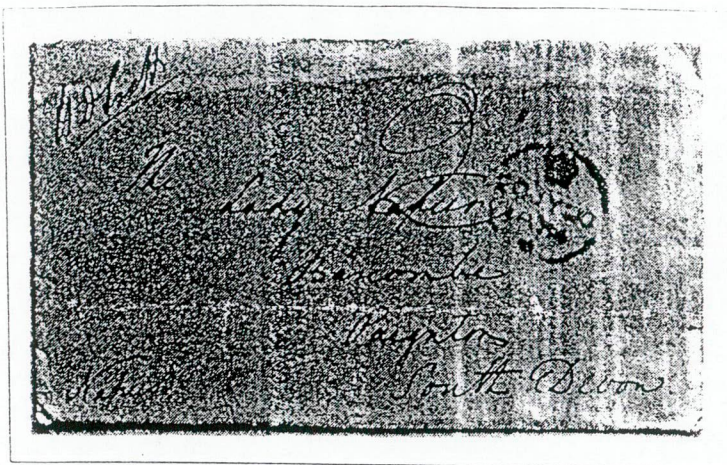


Fig 11

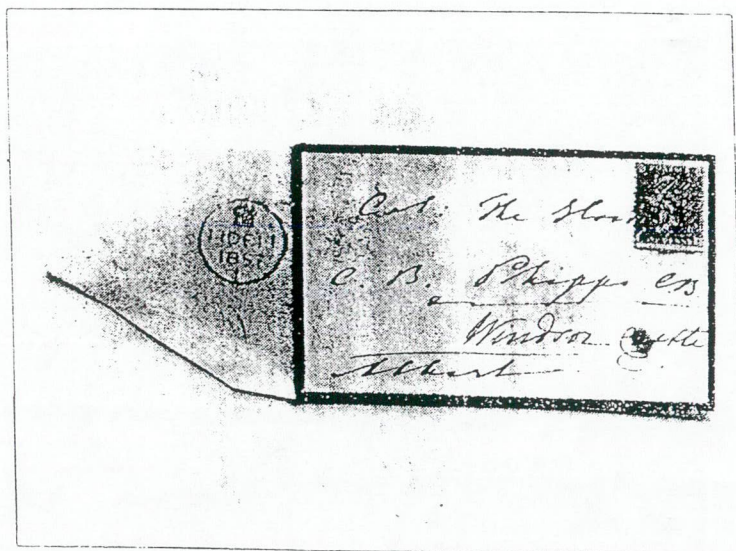


Fig 12

I have seen large numbers of *unpaid* letters from all over the UK during the 1840's and 1850's which were addressed to the Secretary at War, the Chelsea Hospital and other Government Departments. These were clearly included in bulk-charged bags of inward mail without regard to their individual "2" and "4" Postage Due charges. I am very glad to report that, in most cases, such letters consistently have a type of date stamp very rarely encountered on other types of mail. I have chosen to call this type of mark the "Codeless Crown" date stamps (Figs. 4-8).

It is my belief these marks were reserved exclusively for mail to (*and* from; see below) Government Departments. They can be found, in my experience, on just two kinds of mail and, what is more, I have a cover I consider to be a "proving cover" for my theory. The "Codeless Crown" marks shown in Figs. 4-8, date from 1843 (black), 1846 (red), 1847 (red), 1855 (red) and 1858 (red); Fig. 4 is on an unpaid letter to the War Office; Figs. 5-7 are on private letters, both prepaid and unpaid and Fig. 8 is on an unpaid letter addressed to Chelsea Hospital.

A number of writers have commented on these marks (all of which are very scarce, especially on private letters) but no one has discovered their true meaning as yet. they were recorded in Alcock and Holland's

1940 handbook where "no explanation of its use" was offered. Later addenda to the book implied a possible special House of Commons or Government Department usage and this idea was taken up by later writers, who suggested the marks were connected with some kind of "special late fee service". As can be seen from the illustrations, they sometimes included an "+", an "1" or no code at all in addition to the crown. All along they have been distinguished from their fully coded cousins (Fig.9, in black and Fig.10, in red) which are found on occasional, ordinary private letters (often on packages of an unusual size).

What does not appear to have been noticed is their similarity to the Official Paid marks described above. I think readers will agree that the similarities are clear. Both marks appear with "+", "1" or no code, other than their crowns and, in both groups, sans serif lettering takes over from serif lettering during the 1840's (compare Figs. 1 and 3, or 4 and 6). Likewise both groups disappear at about the same time (circa 1858). The connection may appear to be tenuous at first but I believe a theory to explain it can readily be found.

The regulations make it clear that personal letters from Government Officials are not to be included as Officially Paid mail but I think it would be inevitable such letters would reach the Post Office by the same channels from the desks of Government Officials, albeit perhaps separate from the sealed bags of Official Paid mail. The two groups of letters on which the "Codeless Crown" date stamps are to be found are unpaid letters to Government Departments and (see Figs 11 and 12) a small number of private letters, all from London and often from the Houses of Parliament or Senior Civil Servants. Fig. 11



is from Lord Napier and Fig.12 from Prince Albert himself. I believe, therefore, the "Codeless Crown" date stamps are the long lost "Official Unpaid" marks which one might reasonably be expected to exist. They were, I think, originally intended for use on unpaid inward mail of Government Departments but, after a while, they were also used on private letters which emanated from these Government Departments (including the Houses of Parliament) alongside Official Paid mail.

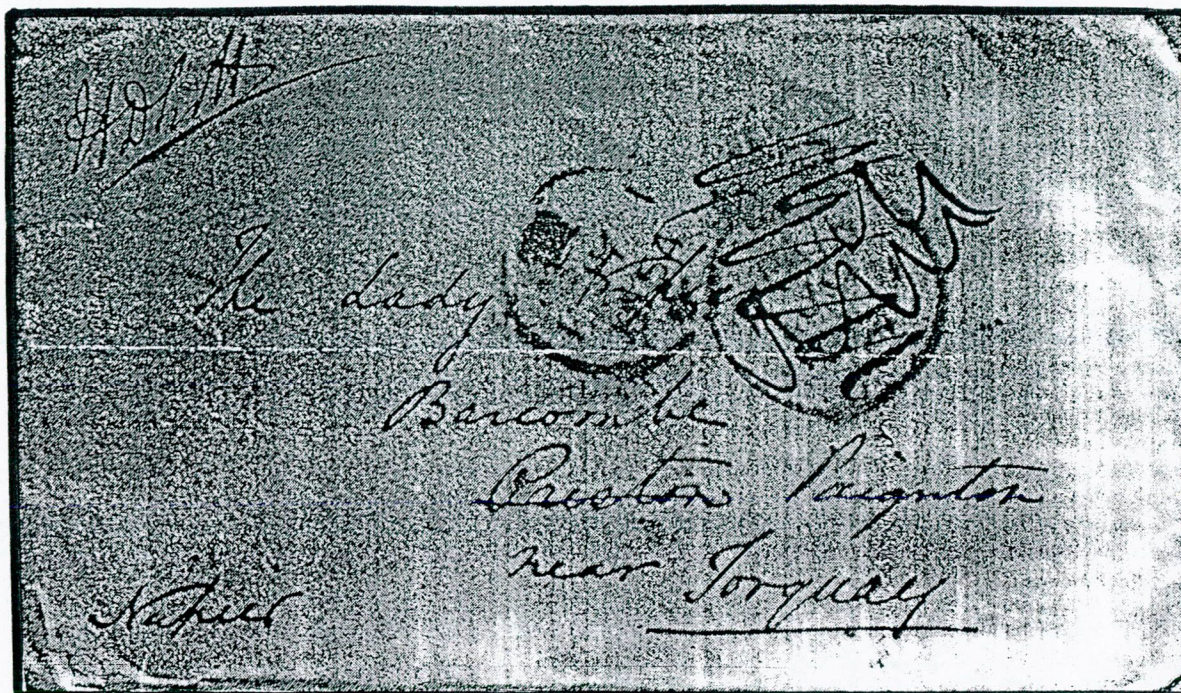


Fig. 13

It is not yet proven these private letters were included with and then separated (by Post Office staff) from the letters in sealed Official Mail bags but I think this is quite likely. My favourite "Codeless Crown" cover is once more from Lord Napier (see Fig. 13) but it bears both a black "Codeless Crown" c.d.s. with the "+" code and a red Crowned Official "PAID" c.d.s. with the "1" code. The latter stamp has been crossed through and was, presumably, struck in error. The marks are both of 1 July 1854 and it seems clear to me they were the two hand struck marks available to the staff of the section of the Post Office that dealt with the Official mail bags from Government departments.

What is particularly nice about this cover (apart from the fact the clerk seems to have, after all, omitted to charge it !!) is I found it *after* I had built up my theory that these two marks were intimately connected. the search for a "proving cover" is one of the greatest challenges for the Postal Historian; the discovery of one is a great joy. Can anyone disprove my theory or can I now include a new chapter heading in my collection "Official Unpaid Handstamp" ?

### **R.L. = RIDE LETTER ???**

A recent item offered by Stanley Gibbons caused some "fluttering in the dove cots" since it appears to either contradict a change in the correct interpretation of "RL" stamps or a change in the meaning by the postal authorities.

They had on offer a page entitled "Southern Date Stamp Impressions and Stamper's Signature", the italics representing a hand written word. Their sales note, unfortunately covered the signatory but what shows is "Southern District Office 1<sup>st</sup> June 1859". As with as such useful records it contains hand written



notes as to the use of the various stamps recorded, such information rarely appearing in Proof Impression Books. The whole is reproduced here but, of great interest, note the "RL" remark.

*"For Road letters I.e. letters given to the Cart Drivers"*

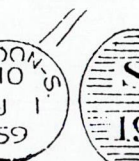
Although the concept of letters handed in "en route" as it were remains, does the change in the oft quoted "Ride Letter" reflect the more general employment of a cart, rather than the overloaded Letter carrier of yesteryear?

Hours of  
Collection.

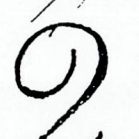
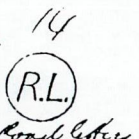
## *Southern* Date Stamp Impressions and Stamper's Signature,

*For obliterating the postage labels on letters occasionally (as required)*

*For inspection and keeping for poster within the 3 miles circle*



*Regularly used for stamping the letters which arrive by Country Carts from the Collections*



*For letters unsufficiently stamped.*

*For Road letters i.e. letters given to the Cart Drivers*

*For letters collected by the Cart Drivers liable to further charge posted in Hillar letter book*

*For inspection and keeping for poster*

*For inspection and keeping for poster*



*For unpaid letters*

*For stamped letters from the provinces, which are already obliterated*



*For Foreign Letters where paid in Money taken into account at P.D.O.*

*For Official Letters taken into account at P.D.O.*

Illustrated by courtesy of  
Stanley Gibbons Ltd

Should the current owner be a reader, perhaps s/he would forward a full size copy for the record?

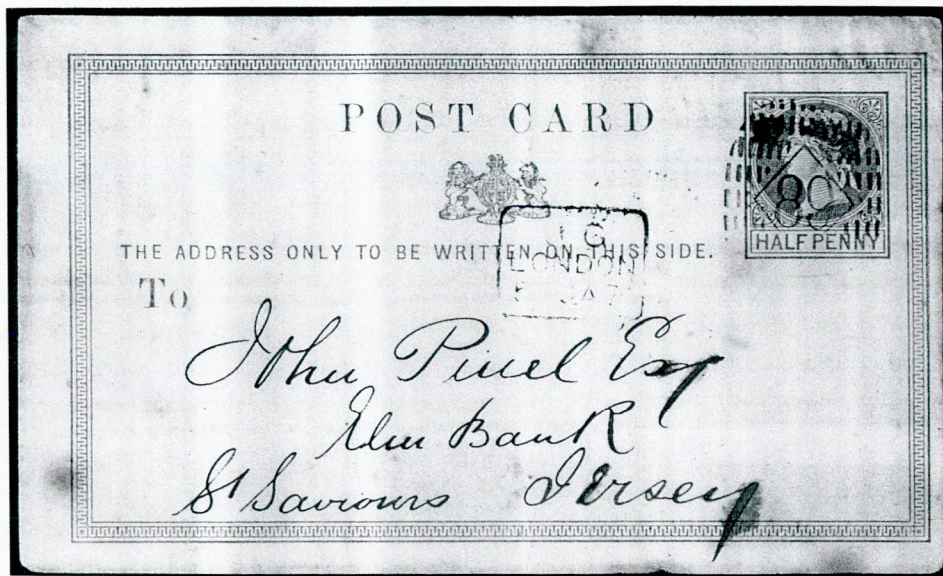
## POST CARD CANCELLATION

Westley, in the section "Early Machine Obliterators"\* has this to say: "Postcards were introduced under an Act of Parliament, on 1st October 1870. At first they were cancelled in the same way as letters,



but there is evidence that this method was not entirely satisfactory, especially in the bigger offices where large numbers of cards were dealt with, and that the authorities were trying out alternative methods. In January 1871, an obliterator giving an impression as fig. 62 appeared. Its use was confined to postcards, and is only known used during January 1871. I have, so far, failed to find any record concerning this mark in the Post Office. I do not think there is any doubt that it was made by a machine, and appears to be an attempt to cancel partly by perforation. It could not have been satisfactory, as it was discarded after a very short period of use."

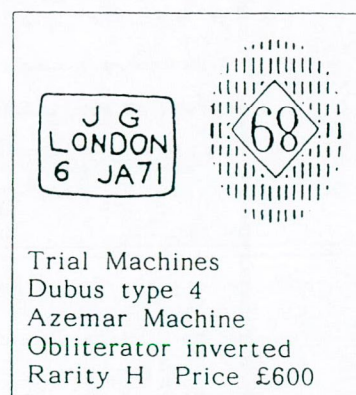
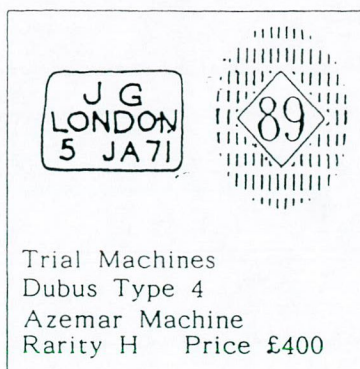
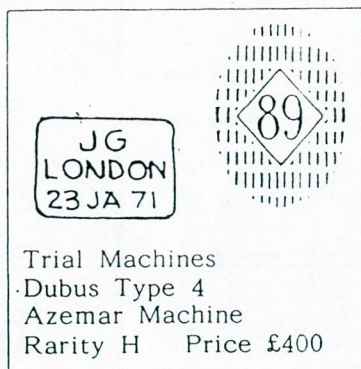
One example came up in the Grosvenor auction in May last year and is shown here.



As with all such items, information from readers is sought as to numbers extant and dates of use.

Tony Potter reports one post card with the dater reading JG / LONDON/ 10 JA 71, this dater being at the same height as the 89 cancellation. He points out the allocation to Azemar may be challenged on the grounds his initial were "J.C." not "J.G." - a point worth pursuing.

John Parmenter illustrated three "Azemar" machines \*\* which are shown here. The first of these



reduced to 90% of original

matches that used by Westley\*.



As already noted, Westley stated the trials took place during January 1871 only. From the range shown here, 5th to 25th this would appear to be correct, unless you can demonstrate to the contrary.

Please do so.

\* "The Postal Cancellations Of London 1840 - 1890" by H.C. Westley.

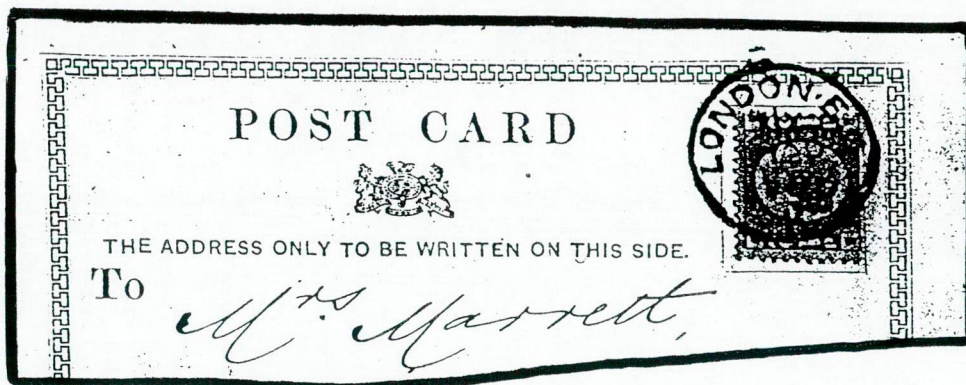
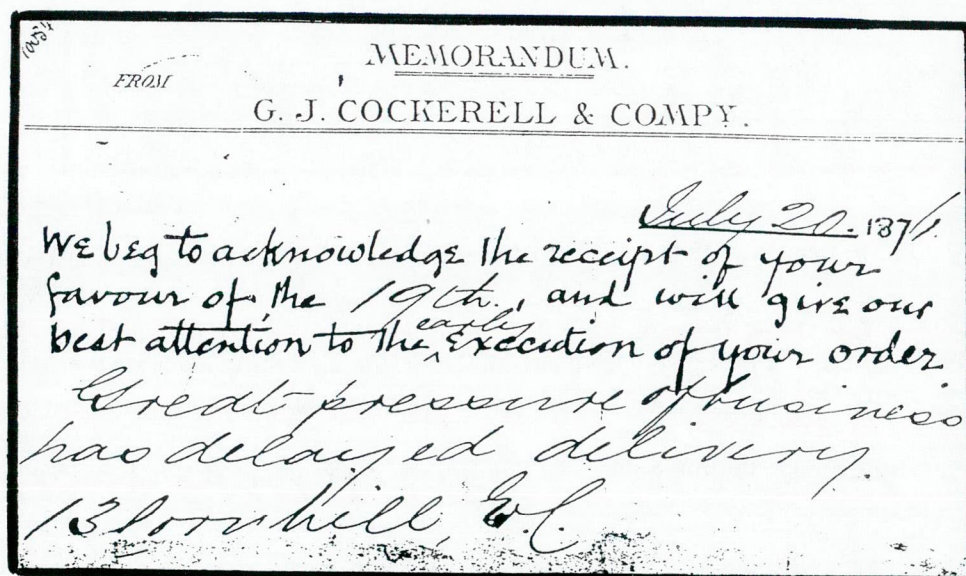
\*\* "Barred Numeral Cancellations of London" by John Parmenter

## MISCELLANY

From Michael Goodman

These are a few photocopies received in the past under the note "*Thought some of these might be of use.*", although the comments are the Editor's and, as such, liable to correction by the better informed (i.e. most readers).

The first is a printed post card from G.J. Cockerell & Comp<sup>y</sup> which combines the courtesy of an immediate response to a customer with, apparently, a bulk printing of a "hand written" note, completed in another hand: it is good to see "pressure of business" was ever extant as the excuse, sorry, reason, for the delay.



(part only of obverse shown here.)



The Post Office were very considerate in the matter of redirection but, as is the manner of all bureaucracies, imposed limits on their services.

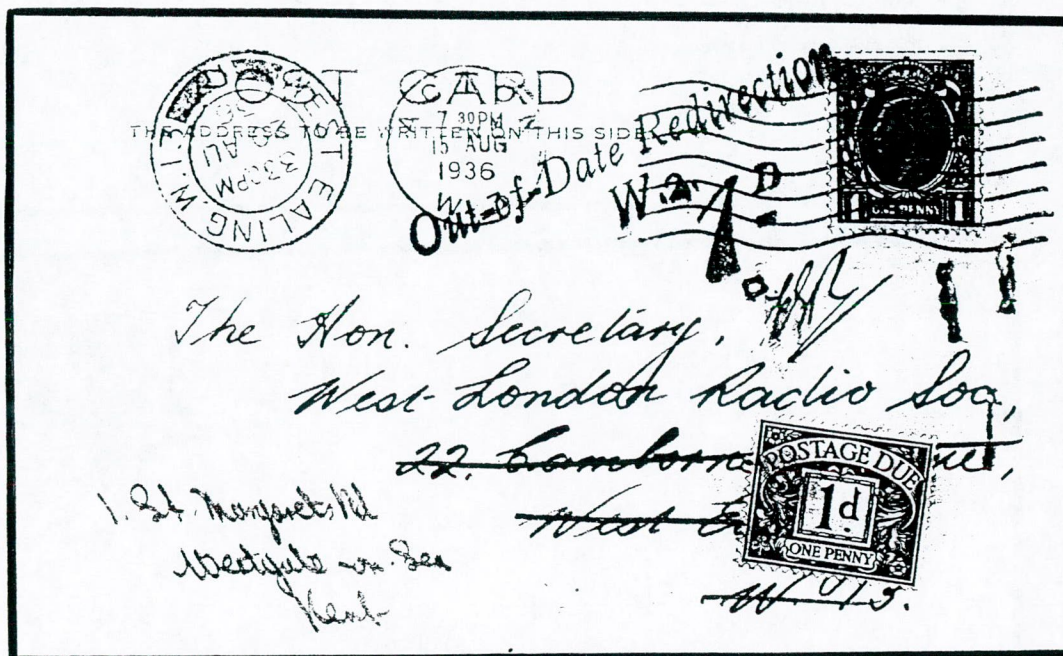
Other than for someone initiating redirection of their own mail, redirection to another address, on an individual basis, rules have remained much the same for many years, certainly so at the date of the item shown here.

To quote "Any kind of postal packet may be re-directed to the same addressee at another address, either by an Officer of the Post Office, or by an agent of the addressee after delivery, under the following rules:-

*Letters, Post-cards, Printed Papers and Newspapers are re-transmitted by post without additional charge. In the case of re-direction by the addressee's agent the packet must be posted not later than the day after delivery (Sundays and public holidays not being counted), and must not previous to re-direction be opened or tampered with. If an adhesive label is used for the purpose of indicating the new address, the name of the original addressee must not be obscured. If the name is obscured, the packet will be liable to surcharge as unpaid.*

*Re-directed packets reported later than the day after delivery will be liable to charge at the prepaid rate. Any packet which appears to have been opened or tampered with will be chargeable as freshly posted and unpaid. (Taken from the Post Office Guide January 1914 - much the same in 1985.)*

This fine example of the genre complies exactly with these rules and carries, what must be rare, charge mark "Out-of-Date Redirection / W.2."



To conclude this small selection we have two examples of Triangular cancellations which might, all too easily, be overlooked when browsing through material at a local fair. The first, apart from the very obvious reading of the letters in the triangle, has the evidence of the printed card address. Other than the halfpenny Q.V. adhesive, there appears to be no dating for this. One would have thought that if there were more than a few for local delivery, the office boy should have been sent out with a bundle for delivery. Perhaps it was considered more business like to use the Royal Mail.

The second is dated, on the reverse, as for 16 January 1912.



The lettering appears to be ST / M T P, which one might render as St. Martins Place. One might have thought SMP or even ST M P would have been adequate, so who was Saint MIP ?

From R. BRIMLEY JOHNSON,  
8, YORK BUILDINGS,  
ADELPHI.

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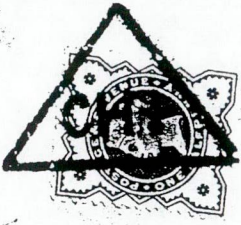
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POST CARD

Mr. J. News,

44, Grosvenor Rd,  
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*And Finally.....* John Parmenter has discovered a very useful booklet "Days, Months & Years", which provides not only a perpetual calendar but a mass of information about calendars and time. Costing £2.95, LPHG will order these for members if **YOU WRITE IN ASKING FOR A COPY.**, to be sent post free if enough order a copy.