

# London Postal History Group

## NOTEBOOK

Number 15

December 1973

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### EDITORIAL

The many troubles of the present time, both real and induced by an over reacting news media, have made an impact on Postal History, at least in as far as the quality of paper available for 'Notebook'. A small supply of the heavier paper is available, but will be held for the next monograph which is scheduled for early in 1974. For the time being, therefore, we shall have to print on a lighter paper, one side only. It may be that readers prefer this layout and comments would be welcome.

This issue contains an introduction to machine cancellations from 1886 which is the subject matter of our meeting on 19th. January. All are invited to bring along anything and everything which relates to this often much under rated aspect of Postal History.

Turning to other matters, collectors of modern handstamps are constantly put to the most ingenious devices to obtain examples of the offices in which they have an interest, there being an official ukase that the friendly service of handcancelling any covers presented should cease and indeed should have not been offered at all. Quite why the official mind should refuse to make a quick 3pence for very little effort, is hard to understand. The Editor has interests in the wild colonial parts of Suffolk, where the edict is treated with varying degrees of non compliance. Never the less it seems not a little foolish and all collectors, whether positively interested in modern handstamps or merely anxious to eliminate this particular unprofitable attitude of the Post Office, are urged to write to their local head postmaster who will pass it on to 'higher authority'.

Whilst we cannot expect an immediate response, there is the hope the notion of raising revenue at minimum cost will appeal; we might go as far as offering to pay 3½ pence.

Although dated December, the problem of printing in a three day week will delay this into 1974, which neatly brings us to wishing all readers a far more happy and prosperous New Year than the moaning minnies forecast.

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Note: The following illustrations have been taken from " Early Stamp Machines " by W.G. Stitt Dibden, PHS publication No.17.

Figs. 1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 12; 13; 20

and this is acknowledged with appreciation.



**COMMUNICATION WITH THE ENEMY**, by R.I. Johnson.

I wrote about services suspended or delayed in time of war in Notebook No.7 and I will try to supplement this article from time to time.

This first supplement sets out the text of three notices, one printed, two duplicated enclosed in an envelope posted in Streatham SW 16 on the 15th. September, 1918 addressed to Belgium.

A green censor label reading " RETURNED TO SENDER BY THE CENSOR FOR REASON EXPLAINED IN MEMORANDUM ENCLOSED IN THIS COVER ".

**The Printed Notice****NOTES FOR PERSONS WISHING TO COMMUNICATE WITH FRIENDS IN ENEMY COUNTRIES OR A COUNTRY IN THE OCCUPATION OF THE ENEMY.**

Letters or Post Cards should be written in English, French, Flemish, or German, and must contain nothing but matter of personal interest. No reference should be made to any phase of the War. No mention may be made in such letters, etc., of any Office of THOS. COOK & SON, at home or abroad.

Picture Post Cards and Photographs of persons or places cannot be sent.

Communications must be as brief as possible, in order to avoid delay in censoring.

Letters must be placed in an open envelope fully addressed to the addressee.

The envelope containing the Letter or Post Card should be placed in an outer envelope and posted to THOS. COOK & SON, SECRETARY'S DEPARTMENT, LUDGATE CIRCUS, E.C. 4, together with a memorandum, plainly written, containing the full name and address of the sender and instructions as to the forwarding of a reply, should one be received from the correspondent. THOS. COOK & SON endorse on each communication the address to which the recipient should reply should he desire to send an answer.

The communication to THOS. COOK & SON must enclose Postal Order value 1/- (International Coupons cannot be accepted), which fee will cover :—

- (1) The postage of one Post Card or of an envelope (containing one communication) to the neutral country.
- (2) Postage from the neutral country to the enemy country.
- (3) In case a reply is sent from the correspondent in an enemy country, the fee also includes postage from the neutral country to Cook's Head Office in London, and from that office to the original sender of the communication, but does not include the cost of postage of the reply from the enemy country to the neutral country.
- (4) Letters exceeding one ounce in weight will be subject to an additional charge.

Communications in French, German, or Flemish by Dutch or Swiss Post Cards can be sent under this arrangement to but not from certain places in Belgium, including among others, Antwerp, Brussels, Liege, and Verviers, the charge being 6d. each. Where a reply is desired, the sender must insert an address in Holland or Switzerland, to which it can be sent. If the sender cannot furnish such address, it will not be possible to obtain a reply. Communications cannot be sent to Ostend, Ghent, Bruges, Charleroi, places in East or West Flanders, and certain other districts in the area under Military jurisdiction. THOS. COOK & SON can supply the Post Cards.

THOS. COOK & SON undertake this transaction at the sole risk in all respects of the party requiring their services, and on the express understanding that no action will lie against them by reason of any act or default on their part, or on the part of any person or agent employed by them.

Communications for Prisoners of War must not be sent under the foregoing arrangements, but forwarded in accordance with the regulations to be obtained at any Post Office.

(154/2/18.)—10,000.

**First Duplicated Notice**

40.

**POSTAL CENSORSHIP**

The accompanying regulation applies equally to all correspondence, whether business or private, which may contain an enclosure or message for transmission to an enemy or enemy occupied country.

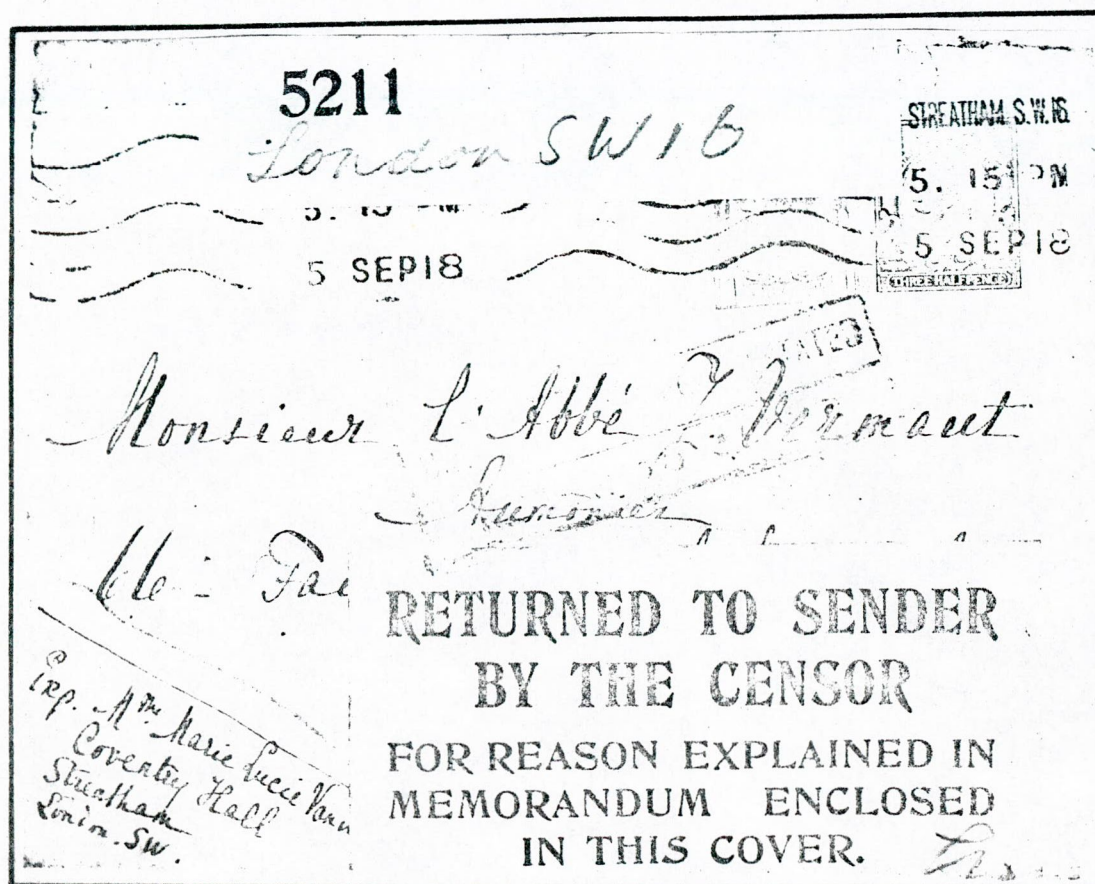


## Second Duplicated Notice

45a

In addition to Messrs.T.Cook & Son, the following Association has, up to the present date, been duly authorised by the War Office to act as an intermediary for persons desiring to correspond with occupied Belgium:-

Bureau de Correspondence Belge,  
28, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1



Green censor label with blue crayon initials which connect the three notices.

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

PICTON'S PRICED CATALOGUE OF BRITISH PICTORIAL POSTCARDS AND POSTMARKS  
1894 - 1939, by M.R. Hewlett.

For those who had not come across this publication, compiled by M.R. Hewlett and published by B.P.H. Publications Ltd, the growing interest in post cards and postmarks thereon is reflected in a third edition.

Mr. Hewlett has very kindly donated a copy to the Group and as one who has a well thumbed first edition, the addition of this book to our library is much appreciated by the Editor. Members may borrow the book, for the cost of the return postage, for a reasonable period ( or until another member requests it ).

Members are reminded we have purchased the two volumes of Dubus' London cancellations which are available on the same basis, but with registered post.



' W ' IN CIRCLE POSTMARK, by Barrie Jay.

In the Notebook No 14 is a short account of the ' W ' in circle postmark which has been variously attributed to Westminster, Wapping, Woolwich, Worcester Coffee House, water, etc. None of these suggestions merits serious consideration, each having been postulated from the study of only one or two covers.

I have recently had the opportunity to examine or to read about 43 covers with this mark, about half this number being in my own collection. I have submitted a detailed study of this postmark for publication in " Postal History " but thought that members of the London Postal History Group might be interested in my conclusions about this uncommon mark which can be found in black and red.

Letters with this postmark can be found written from London, from elsewhere in England, on board a ship, or from abroad. All these covers, wherever they were written were WRONGLY posted in the London General Post, whether in a General Post Receiving House or possibly in the General Post Chief Office itself. These covers were all addressed to places within the London delivery area, so should have been posted in the London Penny Post. This wrong posting resulted in a delay of one day in their delivery, and in some cases resulted in a charge of 2d instead of 1d.

Covers with the black ' W ' in circle were handled entirely by the General Post and were delivered by GP letter carriers to addresses in the GP delivery area. They all have two GP date stamps and a manuscript ' 2 ' charge mark ( a manuscript ' 3 ' in 1803 and 1804 ).

Covers with the red ' W ' in circle fall into two groups. The more common use of this postmark is on letters wrongly posted in the General Post and then transferred to the London Penny Post for delivery by their letter carriers to addresses usually outside the GP delivery area. These covers have a GP date stamp, sometimes a Penny Post date stamp, and a handstruck ' 2 ' charge mark ( of the Penny Post ). The less common use of this postmark is the same as that of the black ' W ', for letters wrongly posted in the General Post and handled throughout by the General Post. This latter group of covers has two GP date stamps and a manuscript ' 2 ', and has wither a red missorted mark or a red GP date stamp.

These uses of this postmark are supported by a study of the ' W ' itself, of which there appear to be three main types differing only slightly from each other:

- Type 1: 25mm circle, ' W ' 10mm high and placed rather low in the circle. Used between 1787 and 1790 in black only, on letters handled throughout by the General Post.
- Type 2: 25 - 26 mm circle, ' W ' 12mm high and placed rather high in the circle. Used between 1791 and 1798 and between 1803 and 1804 in black, and between 1799 and 1801 in red, on letters handled throughout by the General Post. This mark is frequently found in a worn state, sometimes with the second diagonal bar absent.
- Type 3: 24mm circle, ' W ' 13mm high. Used between 1794 and 1803 in red only, on letters transferred from the General Post to the Penny Post.

Readers are referred to the forthcoming article in " Postal History " for further details of this fascinating postmark.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

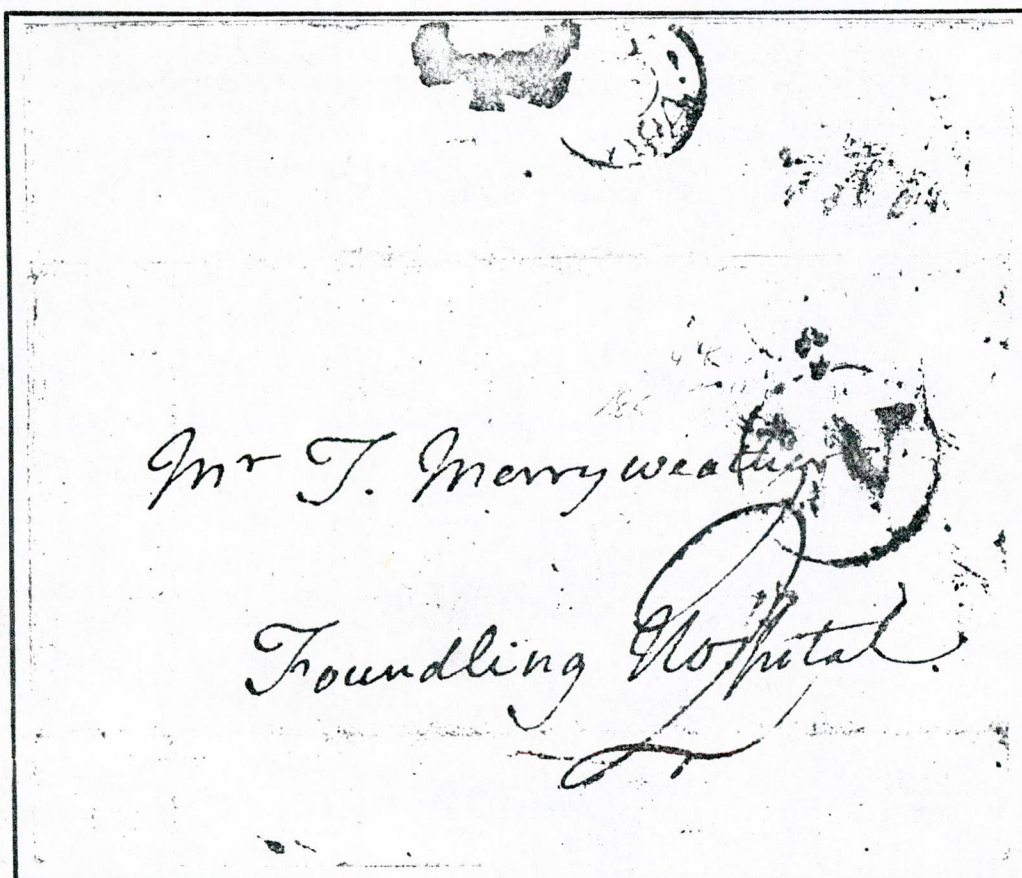
From Eric Quinn came a letter in which he makes it very clear that he cannot



agree he confirmed the Worcester Coffee House. His letter continues.....

" I also noticed the advertisement by Mr David Brandon offering a letter from the Worcester Coffee House with "W" in circle struck in black and described as rare. As a result of the offer in Stamp Collecting I offered the firm one struck in red and confirmed that the mark in red was identical to the one in black which I examined. However, I did not say my cover came from the Worcester Coffee House. Like a number of other researchers I am always keen to know more about the elusive origins of our facinating strikes. However, until several more letters from the Worcester Coffee House turn up bearing "W" marks it is unwise to ascribe the mark thus."

From George Crabb a note and a copy, reproduced below, of a Type 2. Dated 5th May 1794 from Doctors Commons to the Foundling Hospital, it carries a " more brown than black " - to quote his letter -, the GP datestamp and a manuscript ' 2 '.



There are no doubt other members with copies of the ' W ' in circle. Would they please forward details to Barrie Jay.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

JOHN BULL, November 23rd., 1834....." Very extensive arrangements are being made by Sir Francis Freeling in the Two-penny Post Office, which are expected to be completed in a few weeks. There will be six deliveries daily in town; three in the environs, within ten miles of the General Post-office; and two within a distance of twenty miles. Great praise is due to Sir F. Freeling for his indefatigable exertions in the Post-office department, and these new regulations will be of the utmost importance to the public, as letters at present sent to a distance of above ten miles, are only delivered at the same time as those sent to Brighton, Bristol, or 190 miles from town. "



**MACHINE CANCELLATIONS FROM 1886,** by D.C. Holliday.

In the 1880's the G.P.O. was using several Hoster machines in London and many hundreds of Pearson Hill machines at post offices throughout the country. The Hosters had not proved very satisfactory and the Pearson Hills were very slow. A number of machines, mainly of American origin, were tried out over the next fifty years.

The first of these, the Ethridge, was used between September 1886 and March 1887.

( fig 1 ). These machines proved superior to the Hosters but were very expensive and took up a considerable amount of space. The G.P.O. decided

they would not be economic in general use. The next machine tried was a Hey-Dolphin ( fig 2 ): it was installed at the Inland Office on 25th. August, 1893.

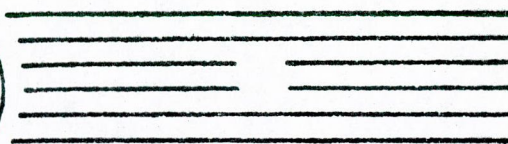


Fig. 1

The trial was for a short period and the latest date seen by me is 12th. September.

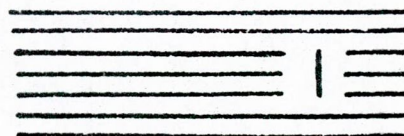


Fig. 2

The next trials involved the Bickerdike, Boston and Imperial Mail Marking Machines. These were all derivatives of the

original Ethridge machine, and were being used in America and Canada. A trial of the Imperial was carried out on 25th. November, 1897 with a flag die. The only impression of this on cover also has a Bickerdike cancellation and it is probable this came from a comparison trial. It was not used on ordinary mail.

During these tests it would appear that the Bickerdike was more successful and the Imperial was temporarily withdrawn. Another trial of the Imperial took place during March 1898. Copies have been reported of the 17th., 18th., 19th. and 21st. A different

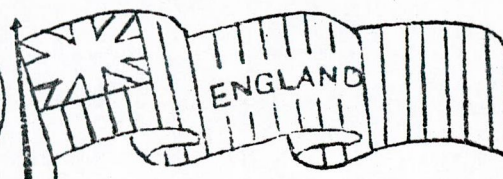


Fig. 3

flag die was used for these trials ( fig 3 ). It is possible dummy mail was used, although a few postally used covers exist.

The Bickerdike machines were put on trial at the London office in September 1897. According to Stitt Dibden there were four machines and two dies were employed. One had a serifed VR ( fig 4 ), the other

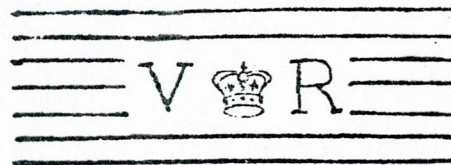


Fig. 4

unserifed. ( It is quite probable though that there only two machines used at the tests. ) Apparently the machines were removed in February 1898. It is not clear how long they were in use. The G.P.O. thought them satisfactory but could not agree on a suitable price with the agent.

At the same time as the Bickerdike trials, there were some of the Boston machine. These were between 27th. August and 30th. September, 1898 ( fig 5 ). Only one machine was involved during this trial and though the circular die was changed sometime during the middle of the trial, the wavy line portion remained the same throughout.



The Post Office found that it was not able to choose at this point between the Boston and Bickerdike, the latter having a slightly faster performance, this coupled with a higher failure rate. Therefore, in October 1898, six machines of each type were hired for use in London and in 1899 two more machines of each type were hired for trials at Liverpool. The machines remained in use until 1907/8 when they were scrapped. The Bickerdike dies had ' V crown R ' between parallel lines and a die number in the centre between the bottom pair of lines. When Queen Victoria died and King Edward came to the throne, the ' V ' was removed and a crude ' E ' put in its place but the same ' crown R ' was retained. This probably occurred on all six machines at the end of June or the beginning of July 1901. Later dies with a new ' E crown R ' were made and installed in the machines ( fig.6 ).



Fig. 5

Late in 1903 new dies were prepared without the die number and with differing crowns. The Liverpool machines had die numbers 1 and 2 and again these had the ' V ' removed & replaced with an ' E '. An example of a Bickerdike of 25th. September, 1899 with a large diameter circle, ( London ) and ' V crown R ' unserifed letters with a differing crown from the usual exists, but its origin is unknown.

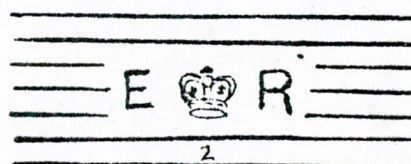


Fig. 6

The six Boston machines in London used the numbers 1 to 6 between the centre bars of the die. At first the machines had the line portion curved to fit the date circle ( fig.7 ) but from 1905 six bars with a straight edge were used ( fig.8 ).

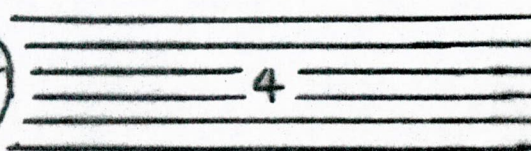
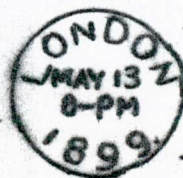


Fig. 7

Machines 2 and 3 had only four cancelling bars when first employed but when the six straight bars were introduced on the other machines, these also had six bars.

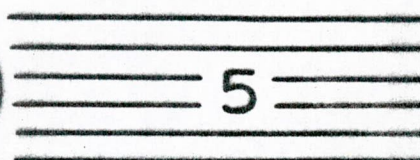


Fig. 8

Machine 5 initially had six straight bars but by August 1899 these were removed and seven wavy lines used instead ( fig.9 ).

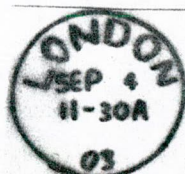


Fig. 9

This carried on until the new dies with the six straight lines were introduced in 1905, the earliest date of this is 3rd. January recorded by Stitt Dibden. These machines have 1900 in full, sometimes just 00. This also occurs in other years especially in 1906. Further, some of the machines are known with small and large diameter die heads.

The Hey-Dolphin machine was again tried out in 1902. This was installed on



26th. August, 1902, and a first trial carried out next day ( fig.10 ). Trials carried on until May 1903 and a Paid die has been seen with a date of May 23rd., 1903 with May 29th. recorded by Mann, although a final report was made on the 6th. April ( fig.11 ).



Fig. 10

A Columbia machine was tried on 16th. November, 1901 at the London E.C. office. The first die has London EC and a circle which only goes from the ' L ' to the ' C '(fig.12). In 1902 this was augmented with the London EC inside the circle. The date details in this die are known at an angle to the cancelling bars. In 1902 two more Columbias were in use in EC. They both have No.15 at the bottom of the die circle but there are differences in the 15. Another type of 15 without serifs was also used.



Fig. 11

There were a number of other EC dies and they occur with the numbers 1, 2, 3, 52 and 58. I have only seen 52 in use as a back stamp. These occur with different types of cancelling bars, as do the London M.P. dies 1, 2 and 3; some are shown in figs 13 - 15.

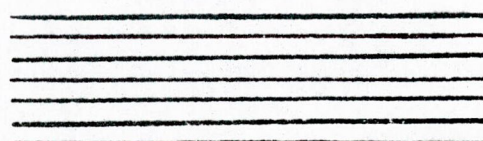


Fig. 12

From 1903 to 1905 Columbia machines were used in the major district offices with a cancelling portion of 7 straight lines with district letters in the bars ( fig.16 ). These were used at the EC, W, WC, SE, and SW offices.



Fig. 13

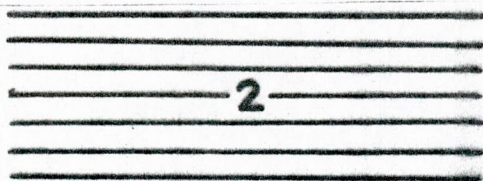


Fig. 14

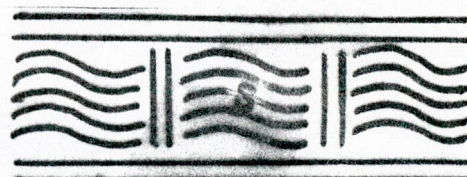


Fig. 15



Fig. 16



A new type of die with a straight line dated portion with bars above and below was brought into use in 1904 ( fig.17 ). Also machine numbers were put in at the left hand edge between the third and fourth cancelling bars.

LONDON.N.W.

1215-AM

DEC25'04

No. 20.

Fig. 17

Table of Offices and Their Corresponding Numbers

London EC	2, 21
SW	14
SE	15
WC	16, 19
W	17
E	18
NW	19, 20
Paddington W	19, 21

They were also used at provincial offices, e.g. Liverpool No.1 and 2, Manchester No.1 and 2, Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Newcastle, Nottingham, Hull, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dublin, No.1 only.

LONDON

SEP 2 -09

LONDON

SEP 2 -09

Fig. 18

Later the bars were removed from above and below the dated portion, then the machine number also. In 1907/8 several distinctive cancelling bars were in use at London Chief Office. These had seven straight lines instead of the normal six. One had three cuts through the top three lines; another two cuts through the top two lines and a third without cuts was employed between March 1906 and June 1907. In 1912 a cancelling die of eight bars was used.

Between 1909 and 1911 the Columbia Company tried to interest the G.P.O. in another machine. At first it gave a continuous impression of three straight lines ( fig.18 ); this was changed in March 1910 to a continuous impression of three pairs of lines. On the EC ' A ' machine a set of cancelling bars in three pairs was used ( fig.19 ) from 27th. November 1909 to June 1910. In 1910 a number of machines had straight line cancelling bars replaced with

LONDON

NOV 18 09A

8.45 PM

Fig. 19



Five wavy lines. All these different Columbia machines can be found with Paid dies. Into the 1920's some 58 Columbia machines were used in this country, of which 32 were employed in London.

In 1905 a new type of machine was produced by the Krag Company, giving a continuous impression ( fig.20 ). It was tried at the WC rather than the EC office because the electricity supply there was more suitable. Further trials were carried out in 1906 with an improved machine.



Fig. 20

This was installed at the EC office. The machine started use on 21st. August 1906 and on the 5th. December, 1906 two more Krag's were delivered, another one at the EC office and a hand operated model at the Chelsea SW office ( fig.21 ).

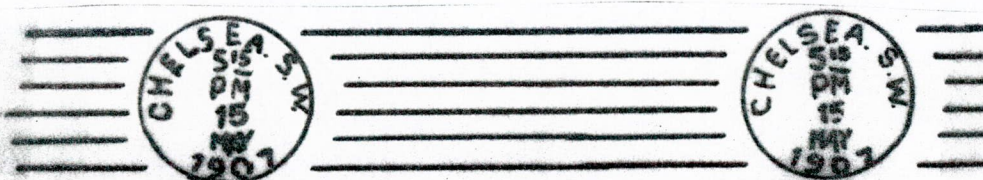


Fig. 21

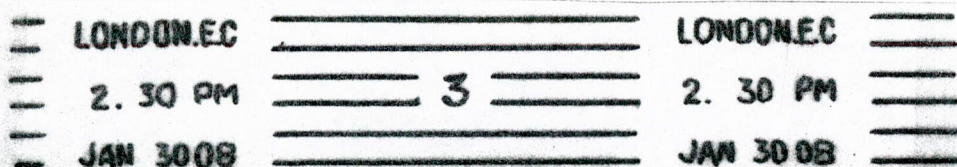


Fig. 22

These three machines gave similar cancellations. The first EC die is also known with five cancelling bars instead of the usual six. The Chelsea SW was still in use on 23rd. August, 1911. A die for the FS existed, possibly in 1906, and certainly from 1907. The circular die portion of the EC second machine was changed for a straight line dated portion and a 3 was put between the bars ( fig.22 ); this occurred by at least April 1907. Other machines were installed at London W, also with the 3 and the rectangular die. These all came into general use initially with six straight lines but these were replaced with five wavy lines in 1912.

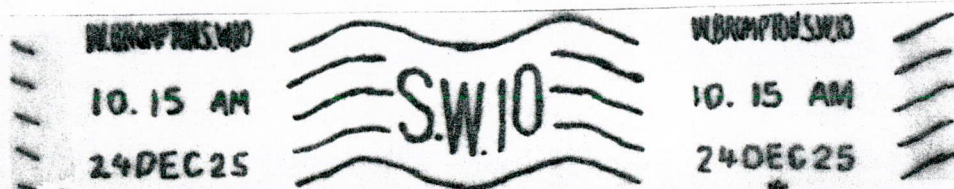


Fig. 23

When district numbers were introduced, three machines had the numbers in the cancelling bars - S.W.7, S.W.10 ( fig.23 ) and E.17, for varying periods. All the continuous Krag machines have two dated portions and cancelling bars - it is possible to find different inscriptions, dated etc., in the two portions.

In early 1912 the Alma machine company offered the G.P.O. a machine for trial. This was accepted and put into use sometime in 1913. The first machine gave a continuous impression with very short bars ( fig.24 ). The trials were successful and a further seven machines bought in 1914. On the first day of use of one of these machines in London EC it produced a very distinctive impression



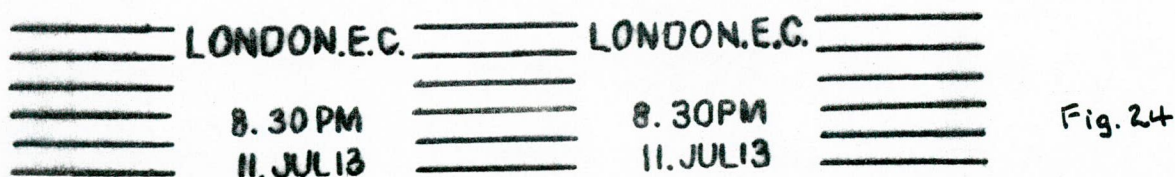


Fig. 24

with very short cancelling bars, but thereafter that machine and the others all gave impressions very similar to Krag continuous cancellations. They can be distinguished only by the die letter or by the position of the small cross which marks the master die. On a Krag this is placed underneath the die, whilst it is incorporated in the die at the side on the Alma machine. The offices using these were London EC with code letter M, N and P; Woolwich SE 18; Southend on Sea; London SW 1, letter C and X. A machine which was at London EC then moved to New Cross SE and dates have been seen between 17th. April and 11th. June, 1914. One machine was used at the London Foreign Section for a time ( ? ).

No other continuous impression machine was used in this country until 19th. March, 1957 when a machine, nicknamed the Roddis Mangle, was tried. This was installed at the Southampton head post office and was used for cancelling magazines and other packets prepaid in bulk. Its impression is very similar to a Krag and indeed at one office Krag dies have been used. The impression though is often not across the top of the envelope as in the Krag, but anywhere across it, possibly in the centre and sometimes at an angle.

A new version of the Hey-Dolphin machine called the Flier was tried out in 1911, the dates of use being at least between 11th. November and the 1st. December. The impression given by these machines was the same as that of the 1902/1903 trial. Although this trial was successful, the G.P.O. decided the machines were too expensive to buy for the moment, but in 1914 they ordered six machines, five Fliers and one " M " type i.e. the 1902/3 trial type. These were installed at Belfast ( fig.25 ), Lincoln, Rochdale, Canterbury, Wallasey, and Birmingham by 1915. The Wallasey and Birmingham machines were removed to Dublin in 1916. These machines gave an impression of a single ring date die and five wavy line cancelling bars. In 1924 a new type of die with a double ring ( fig.26 ) was introduced. By then the G.P.O. was buying these machines in large quantities and they are still in



Fig. 25



Fig. 26

use, but as from 1933 the date die for these, the Universal and the single impression Krag was unified to a single design. There are two other types of cancelling bars used with these machines, one is a seven wavy line dated portion of the Universal type which seems to have been used on these machines by accident at a few offices, e.g. London SW 1, London WC and Hornsey and some of the London Inland Section cancellations, i.e. London A, L and M. These London machines, e.g. London A to N, were also known with six straight lines cancelling bars. These seem to be used mainly on late cancelling work as most of the times are evening, an L or blank. The Hey-Dolphin were used also with triangles and Paid dies. The Paid dies were very distinctive ( fig.27 ) unlike any other cancellations, being just an oblong box.

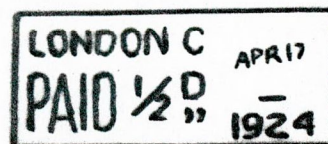


Fig. 27





Fig.28

The first Universal machine model D was supplied for use at least as early as 11th. November, 1910 ( fig.28 ). This was successful and a further machine, a slower version, model C, was also installed at the King Edward Building by 23rd. November; another model C was set up at London SW office by 9th. December. To differentiate between the two machines in King Edward Building, the first machine later had part of the die letter 'H' cut away, both having this at the foot of the circle. The number of machines in use grew rapidly and although at first very few were used in London, there being one at the EC office and another, for a short while, at the NW office. In 1921 a number of other offices were given Universal machines. In 1933 all machines, including the Hey-Dolphins, were changed to a seven wavy line cancelling bar and later this was sometimes changed into seven wavy lines in three portions. The centre plug could be removed for inserting PAID dies. To distinguish between Universal and Hey-Dolphin single ring cancellations, the Universal always has the year inside the date plug in the centre, whereas the Hey-Dolphin has it in the bottom in the outside ring.

In 1923 there was a trial of a single impression Krag machine in the London WC office, dates are known between 3rd. July and 18th. September. A slightly different example exists dated 10th. February 1926 but nothing is known of this trial. In 1927 a number of machines were ordered. These had a single ring die, but from 1928 onwards these dies were converted to a double ring ( fig.29 ) as were all the new machines of this type bought at that time. In 1933 these became the same as the Universal type die. The single impression Krag machine were mainly used in the provinces but one of the single dies is known for Willesden N.W.10 and of course as a double ring, also Kilburn N.W.6 and Stratford E.15 had double ring impressions.



Fig.29

Both the Universal and single impression Krag machines had distinctive Paid dies in the form of a box (fig.30) which were used with the wavy line cancelling bars.



Fig.30

Two other machines were tried out in London, the first at Cricklewood and the second at St. Johns Wood. These were produced by the Time Marketing Company of America which was then owned by Mr. Cummins. The first machine was used in December 1912, the second one in February 1913. They both had a seven straight line cancelling portion but the second machine had the year, 1913, at the left hand edge of the middle cancelling bar. Impressions from both these trials are very scarce.

One other machine was tried out in the 1930's and that was a Standard machine. It was used from 1930 to the end of 1937. Between 1930 and the beginning of 1935 it produced a double ring impression very similar to the Hey-Dolphin, but from 1935 it produced a very large distinctive cancellation ( fig. 31 ). The



Machine was used at the Chief Office in London and has the distinctive die letter Z on all its dies.

Most of the machines mentioned, e.g. Columbia, continuous and single impression, Krag, Universal, Hey - Dolphin, have been used with slogan dies instead of cancelling bars.

This has been done usually on cancelling adhesive franked mail, but also Paid dies have been used and triangular have been employed with the town die heads. Further, a number of machines can be found with triangular dies instead of the circular town die. These were used for bulk postings of circulars. The other type of die to be found in these machines is a diamond of different shapes, which is used in the October census.



Fig. 31

In this survey I have attempted to bring up to date the information given in Stitt Dibden's " Early Machine Cancellations ". All new dates mentioned are derived from material in my own collection and that of Mr. M.C. Goodman, who I would like to thank very much for his cooperation and advice in preparing this article. To keep it to a reasonable length, I have perforce been brief on a number of items and I hope at a future date to deal with the machines one at a time in depth. Any information on early or special uses of dies would be very welcome. The meeting on 19th. January is to deal with machine cancellations and I hope as many as possible will bring their own collections ( or even single items ) and thereby extend dates of use.

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## THE MARITIME MAIL OF LONDON

Due to a number of conflicting events, all too few members were able to come along on 17th. November to enjoy a remarkable display by Maurice Bristowe. Those fortunate to have a copy of Alan Robertson's " Maritime Postal History of London 1766 - 1960 " \*\* will appreciate the range of material when it is reported that nearly every single type ( and colours ) listed by Mr. Robertson was shown. Not content with this, we were fortunate to see several items which clearly predated information already noted; there were further a number of clearly defined sub-types fresh to those present. The superb quality of the items enhanced the pleasure to almost impulsive ' fresh acquisitions ', but Mr. Bristowe was allowed to depart with his collection and our appreciative thanks.

It had been the intention to note the material on display, but your reporter was somewhat overcome by the volume and quality. It is hoped, however, to have from Mr. Bristowe a short article ( or articles! ) for future issues of 'Notebook' highlighting some items he finds are particular interest.

Areas for further research mentioned by our speaker included the interpretation of the rates of postage recorded on the entires/covers. He remarked on the difficulties experienced in understanding why some charges are what they are. Another area which merits more attention is that of maritime mail markings arising during the two world wars. This material is more readily available and there is considerable scope for all collectors to assist in researching this area of Postal History.

\*\* see back page

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LEMAN ST., a query from Noel Dickinson

" I have a mourning envelope addressed to Mrs Perry, Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool with a 1d. red imperf cancelled by the Inland Office horizontal diamond 14, bearing on the front the receiving house mark of Leman St, dated 15 April 1847."

The question posed is simply that as the office is not listed by Brumell, or given in any lists appearing in ' Notebook ', can anyone offer any information.

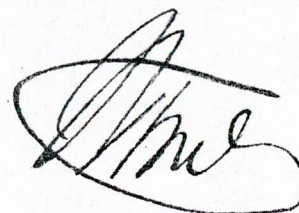
Leman-St

There is a Leman Street, Whitechapel, listed in the London Directory for 1857, and according to a map entitled " Eastern District. - Portion Nearest the General Post Office ", Leman Street runs from Whitechapel High Street down to the junction of Royal Mint Street and Cable Street. There is no post office indicated on the map.

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#### THE FREE ' E '

Also from Noel Dickinson comes a report of the eighth rare ' E ' code Free. This is on an entire from one Sophia Leach to a W. Haines of Birmingham, dated 6th. July, 1837; the signature endorsing the entire is reproduced on the right, as it seems unlikely that Sophia was a duly authorised person and it would be interesting to establish who was making ' free ' with his authorisations.



An ' N ' code dated 20th. March 1839, again on an entire addressed to the Royal Hospital. Chelsea for the attention of Richard Neave. The front of the entire carries no indication of authorisation, i.e. no signature in the lower left corner or place and date of posting across the top. There is, however, a TP/Rate 2<sup>d</sup>

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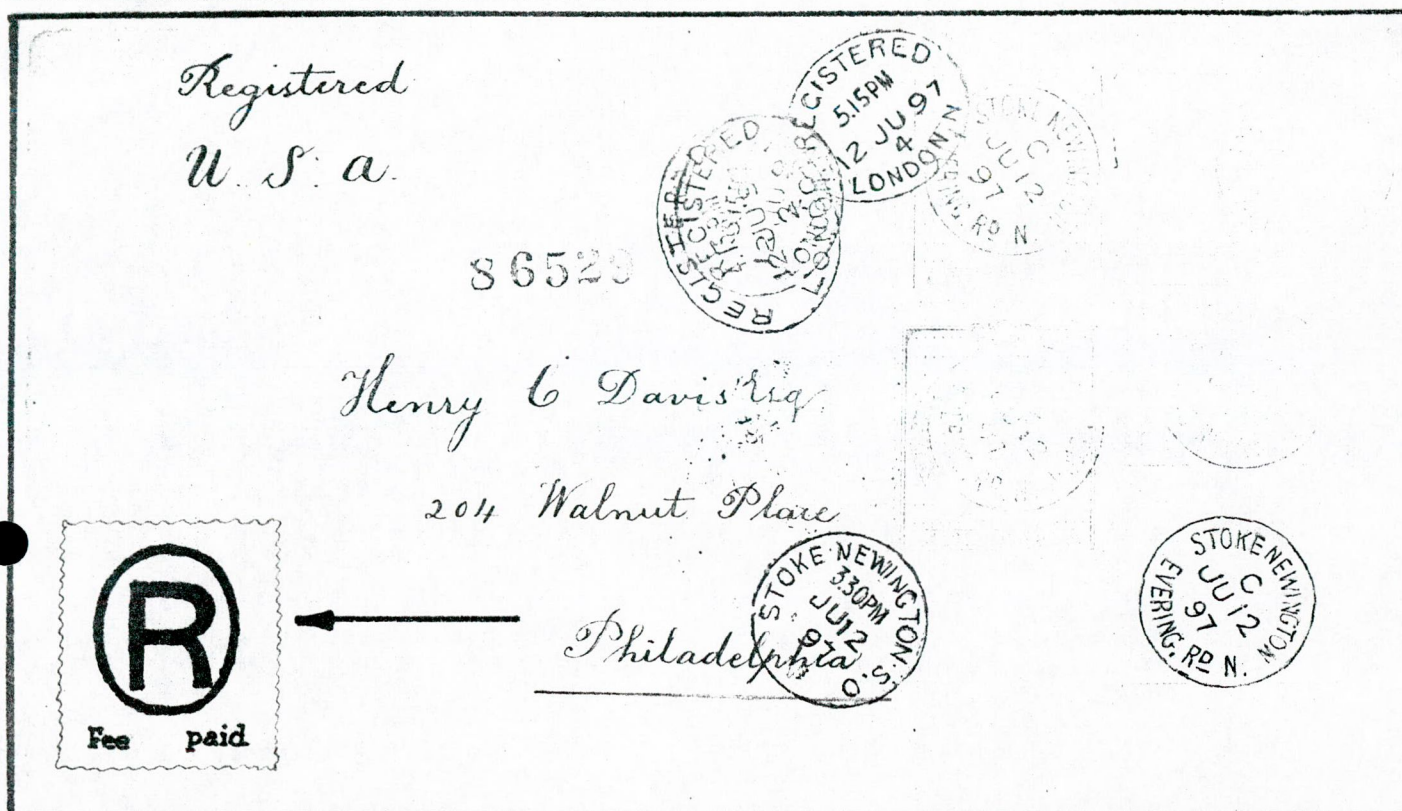
THE WATCHMAN, Wednesday Sept. 27, 1837

THE TWO-PENNY POST - From the ninth report of the commissioners of Post-office Inquiry, which has just been made public, it appears that the total number of letters transmitted through the two-penny and three-penny posts during the last year was 13,589,925; that the number of letters collected from each town receiving-house of the two-penny post department was, in four weeks, 841,674. Of these there were " posted " at Charing Cross, 18,119; in Oxford-street, 23,363; in the Strand, 29,322; and in Cornhill, 59,519. It appears further that in 1835 the number of missing letters was 3,282 of which 35 were recovered; in 1836, missing 2,358, recovered 37; in 1837, missing 2,882, recovered 52. Of the missing letters no fewer than 339 were " money letters ", supposed to contain money to the amount of 6,173L. of which there were recovered 3,839L. The amount of receipts in the two-penny post department seems to be diminishing; in 1826 they were 117,368L; in 1836 they had dwindled to 112,924L.

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TRANSATLANTIC MAIL. 1897 Registered Mail to U.S.A. at the U.P.U. Rate of 2½d.



Arrival date stamp on reverse.

The cover shows a number of interesting points:

1. Two different types of the oval Registered/London N. datestamp on the same day at different hours.
2. The "R/Fee paid" label in blue. Although these are known at the end of the nineteenth century as handstamps, when were the labels introduced?; first numbered labels were put into use in 1907.
3. Five one penny Inland Revenue fiscal adhesives were used to prepay the U.P.U. rate to the U.S.A. of 2½d., plus 2d. Registration fee. The cover was twelve days in transit.

Any comments on the cover would be welcomed by

Mr. B.A. Cheason,  
23 Walcott Avenue,  
Fairmile, Christchurch, Hants.

BH23 2NQ



THE LONDON EXCHANGE

Wanted....To complete Postal History exhibit at local museum. " Christchurch/Penny Post " R.M.W. fig. 157 on clean entire. Also example on cover or card of ' Bickerdike ' machine ' V Crown R ' with serifs, SD 101. Krag machine, first die, SD 163.

Have several fine examples of these machine dies on covers and cards for sale or exchange.

B.A. Cheason, 23 Walcott Avenue, Fairmile, Christchurch, Hants. BH23 2NQ

Wanted.....The following Twopenny Post strikes on cover. Exchange ( many other T.P. stamps available ) or cash. Brumell fig. nos. quoted.

fig 61. 12 noon ( reversed 2nd 12 )	fig.63	8 Morn
67. all times	68	all times
73. 8 morn & 10 F.noon	74	10 F. noon
78 10 F.noon & 12 noon	79	all times
82 all times	83	all times

J. Harrison, 419 Earlham Road, Norwich, Norfolk. NOR 03G

Information please...on Columbia London Machine Cancellations. Dates, district initials, size of circle etc. etc.

Exchange offered for your wants.

R.A. Keneally, 1/2 Middlegate, Penrith, Cumberland.

Wanted: 1844 numeral type postmarks, Chief and District Offices..on piece, adhesive, entire. Offers to

R. Garner, 11a Balfour Road, Southport, PR8 6LE

Wanted: Xmas Special Scheme Manchester Postmark 1907, 1908 or 1909 ( types 6 - 10 ).....

M.R. Hewlett, The Hermitage, Box, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 9DT

WANTED...Information please re any postal markings from the Houses of Parliament. I am trying to complete a study of Parliamentary Postal History and shall value any information esp. dates of use etc. All postages will be refunded.....

David Trapnell, Brendon, Lyndale, London NW2 2NY

Wanted....London straight line Receivers marks; also a used envelope relating to the " Conversazione at the Guildhall " to celebrate the Jubilee of the Penny Post in 1890.....

W.V. Evans, 31 Balmoral Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2TY

Wanted.....Penny red imperf on cover from Chippenham wilts. Must be cancelled with Maltese Cross. Good price paid.

M.R. Hewlett, The Hermitage, Box, Chippenham, Wilts SN14 9DT

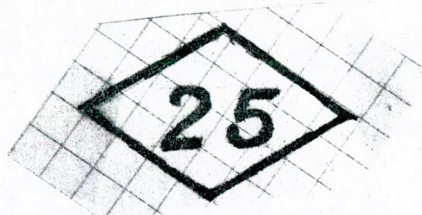


### THE TWENTYFIVE DIAMOND

The Inland Branch Diamond is still regarded by some collectors of being of no great interest. For those who make this aspect of postal history their particular field of research this is far from the truth.

From Monsieur Meunier comes a diamond rather out of the ordinary. He writes:

"...one cancellation I have found amongst a lot of 1900 items I have bought at a RL auction some two months ago. It is a block of 4 x 3d rose SG 103 cancelled by 4 strikes " 25 " as on the paper enclosed."

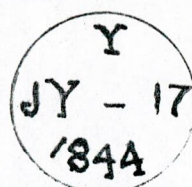


In a further note on the tracing, Plate 8 is quoted, this being put to press 29.2.1872. The illustration is the actual size and shape and is clearly not the usual Inland Branch diamond. Could it be an Accountancy mark? Readers are asked to cull through their records in an effort to provide Monsieur Meunier and the other 'diamond merchants' with an explanation.

### THE TWENTYTWO DIAMOND

All reference books on the marks of the Inland Office state very firmly that the first issue of the diamond series was numbered from 1 to 20, with lines varying in number from 12 to 18. Issued in May 1844, it remained in service till 1851, running in parallel with the second series which was issued 2nd. March, 1847. This second series was numbered 1 to 29. The 22 issued with 25 lines forming the oval was issued (?) in April 1847 and is attributed to the Ship Letter Office. It would be helpful to have this confirmed with at least one on cover!

Bernard Smith has upset all these records by producing a cover with the 22 in fourteen lines but clearly dated 17th. July 1844 !!



The date is confirmed by the contents of the letter, so there can be no doubt as to its accuracy. It would seem, therefore, the interest in these very "ordinary" marks is fully justified.

Again readers are invited to recheck their own collections to establish if this is just ONE of those odd items which turn up, or is it that as collectors we tend to accept that which has been written by others without using our own material to confirm or confound?

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### STUDY GROUPS.....

May we remind readers that several members have undertaken to coordinate the researches of members into various sections of London PH and that any work they are undertaking and the results thereof, will be most welcome news.



## FIFTH REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL 1858

## APPENDIX (I)

## To The London Letter Carriers

November, 1858

I AM directed by the Postmaster-General to inform you that his Lordship has received authority from the Lords of the Treasury to make the following alterations with regard to the appointment, pay, and promotion of the London letter carriers, and other members of the Fourth Class.

1. In future, when vacancies occur among the letter carriers of the Third Class, such letter carriers as are also " Charge Takers " ( and fully competent for that office ), and as are not already in the Third Class, will be promoted to it in the order of merit, without requiring that they should become sorters; but, with this exception, no more letter carriers will as such be promoted to the Third Class, and all future vacancies which may arise among the letter carriers now in that class will not be filled up.
2. The scale of wages for the Fourth Class, which at present commences at 19s. per week, and rises by an annual increment of 1s. to 23s., will, as regards all future appointments, commence at 18s., but will rise, by the same annual increment, to 25s.
3. Men now in the service will continue to advance on the present scale till they reach 23s. a week; but instead of remaining at 23s. ( the maximum of that scale ), they will, after six years' service ( dating from their being placed on the establishment ), advance to 24s., provided they shall have stood at wages of 23s. as much as one year. Having served another year at wages of 24s., they will advance to 25s., the maximum of the new scale. A service of six years is required to entitle a man to advance to 24s., because, under the new scale, it will require six years to reach that point.
4. Those who have already served six years in all ( dating from their being placed on the establishment ), and at least one year at wages of 23s. a week, will be at once advanced to 24s., and a year hence will be further advanced to 25s. a week.
5. By the old scale ( that in use before the revision in 1854 ) the 60 senior general post letter carriers ( a distinction which, as you know, then existed ) were entitled to 30s. each per week; and a further number of 110 to 25s.; and it has been arranged that of the old general post letter carriers still in the service ( whatever may be their present class ), such as are receiving less than they would have had under the old scale shall henceforth receive the wages which, under the old scale, they would have enjoyed. This will at once advance every such letter carrier ( now receiving less ) either to 25s. or 30s.; and as vacancies occur in the 30s. class, they will be filled up by the admission ( according to seniority ) of other old general post letter carriers, so long as any remain in the service.
6. In like manner also, under the old system, 141 of the senior London district letter carriers received wages of 25s. a week; and it has been settled that, as regards all men now in the service who were district letter carriers at the time of the revision, this regulation shall be re-established. Consequently, such of the 141 senior London district letter carriers still in the service ( whatever may be their present class ) as are now receiving less than 25s. a week will be at once advanced to that amount; and as



vacancies occur in the 25s. class, they will be filled up by the admission ( according to seniority ) of other old London district letter carriers, so long as any remain who were in the service at the time of the revision.

7. It is, of course, intended that all advancement herein authorized shall, as heretofore, depend on every man's good conduct, and on the efficient discharge of his duties.
8. At present men sometimes enter the service beyond the age for which the lowest wages are calculated, and with the burden of a family upon them. Such men are objectionable, not only because a man who has incurred responsibilities beyond his income is likely to be uneasy, dissatisfied, and a bad officer, but because the difficulty of training a person to the rapid and efficient discharge of the duties of letter carrier and sorter is greatly increased if at the commencement he is past the age of youth. To remedy this evil it has been determined that every new letter carrier to be appointed must be under twenty-one years of age.
9. The wages for the current week will be paid, in accordance with the foregoing arrangements, on Saturday next, December 4th.
10. Arrangements, as you are aware, have for some time been in progress for changing the hour of the last collection of letters from ten o'clock to nine; and it is under consideration whether some improvement may not be made in the mode of appointing letter carriers to their different walks.
11. I am directed to express the satisfaction which Lord Colchester feels at being thus enabled to fulfil the expectations held out by him to the general body of letter carriers, of improving their condition; and to state that his Lordship is glad to find that, although some few letter carriers have been led by bad advisers into acts which have brought punishment upon them, the general body have placed a just confidence in his word, and have shown that they did not participate in the late discreditable system of agitation.

WILLIAM BOKENHAM  
Controller of the Circulation Department.

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GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE, February 1835

**Twopenny Post-office** - The following new regulations, which have been for some time in progress, have just been issued by command of the Postmaster-General, Lord Maryborough:- " The principal office is at the General Post-office, St. Martin's-le-grand, where letters may be put in one hour later than at the receiving houses; but for the accommodation of the public at the west-end of the town, letters will be received at the office at Charing-cross, corner of Craig's-court, and at the office in Regent-street, near Langham-place, half an hour later at each dispatch than at any of the other receiving-houses. There are now six deliveries and six collections of letters in London daily, and by this new regulation the seven o'clock delivery has been extended to all places in the environs of the town within the circle of three miles from the General Post-office, most of which at present will have five deliveries and five dispatches daily. The country delivery of the Twopenny post has been extended from nine miles to a circle of twelve miles from the General Post-office. Newspapers, if put into any Twopenny Post-office within the circle of three miles from the General Post-office, will pass to the country districts of this (continued at foot of back page)



LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

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There are a number of Study Groups and readers are invited to contact the Hon. Secretary for details.

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Our of print issues may involve a special quotation.

Reprints of articles may be obtained at 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>p. per page + postage.

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THE MARITIME MAIL OF LONDON ( see page 13 )

For those who do not have a copy of Alan W. Robertson's book on this subject, a letter to

Robson Lowe Ltd., Literature Department,  
Granville Chambers, Richmond Hill,  
Bournemouth BH1 1DQ

might achieve a happy result. There were certainly a few copies available a year or two ago and for the quality and depth of the work one would have to search a great many bookshelves to find its equal.

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( continued from page 19 )

office, if covers open at the ends, for one penny each; but from one part of the circle to the other, or from the country to any part of the circle, or one part of the country to another, the postage is the same as for letters. "

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