

NOTEBOOK

Number 169 February, 2008

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EDITORIAL

We are pleased to be able to offer members another issue of *Notebook* but, apart from the continuation of the article on 'India Ship Letters' the stock of articles is now virtually exhausted, in short unless members are willing to put pen to paper.....

Two major events are due in London. **PHILATEX** opens on the 21st February at the Royal Horticultural Halls for three days with **STAMPEX** the following week, opening on Wednesday the 27th in the Exhibition Centre at Islington for four days.

Readers will, naturally, be providing full details of their finds, accompanied by either photocopies or CD scan if at all possible.

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PARLIAMENT AND THE POST

John Holman

This article, in a slightly different format, appeared in the December, 2007 issue of the British Philatelic Bulletin and this version appears by kind permission of the Author.

Ten years ago, shortly before the election which brought Tony Blair to power, the writer visited the Palace of Westminster and reported on the workings of the House of Commons Post Office (see the May 1997 *Bulletin*). A decade later, just after Tony Blair announced his resignation, a return visit was made to see what changes had been made in the postal provision for MPs, peers and their staff.

The first mentions of a postal service for Parliament date back to the 17th. century but it was in the 1830s Parliamentary committees had sought improved services from the Treasury and the Postmaster General. By 1839 a PO official 'of the senior class of Letter Carrier' had been appointed but the first Postmaster, H. Lawford, did not take up his post until 1871. An office for the sale of money orders was established in 1853 and, in 1884, it moved to the south east corner of the Members' Lobby. It was enlarged in the early 20th. century. A large part of the business was the sending and receiving of telegrams - over 79,000 were handled during the Parliamentary session of 1891. Following the bombing of the Palace in 1941, the PO was temporarily installed in a blocked off corridor between the Central and Members' Lobbies. A new office was opened in 1950, when a special uniform was introduced for House of Commons postmen on the personal orders of the PMG. This led to similar special uniforms for the postal staff at Buckingham Palace.

At the time of the May 1997 visit, the Commons Postmaster was Mark Pearce, who had held the post since 2001 but who was moving to another job. He handed over to Mark Morrish, who has worked for the Royal Mail for 27 years. The Postmaster is in overall charge of both counter and sorting services, each under separate managers.

Counter Services

Today there are three post office counters within the 'Parliamentary estate', i.e. the Palace of Westminster and eleven surrounding buildings in which the MPs and their staff and departments of the Lords and Commons are housed. Counter services are run by nine staff under the management of Paul Hemsley, who has worked at the Commons PO since 1995. The main counter is at the Central Lobby (often seen on TV news programmes) and is open to the public visiting Parliament. This office is open Monday to Thursday, 08.00-22.30 or later if the House is sitting. On Fridays the hours of business are 0800-17.00. The Members' Lobby office opens at 08.00 and closes Monday to Thursday at 22.30 or half an hour after the House has risen, whichever is the later. The hours on Friday are 08.00-17.00 and Saturday from 08.0-16.00. At the Portcullis House office business is conducted 09.00-18.00 Monday to Thursday and 09.00-17.00 on Friday. These times apply while Parliament is sitting with reduced hours during the recess.

In response to requests for a philatelic souvenir, the Commons Postmaster in 1997 introduced an attractive souvenir cover showing the Houses of Parliament. This can only be purchased by visiting the central Lobby office, for the price of £2 plus postage stamp. The covers can then be addressed and handed in for a 'House of Commons' philatelic datestamp exclusive to the covers. About 1000 are sold each year.

The smaller offices in the Members' Lobby and in Portcullis House are both only accessible to Parliamentarians and staff. With just one counter position, the office in Portcullis House is probably the smallest Crown Post Office, a distinction once held by the former office at the Royal Courts of Justice. Portcullis House was opened in 2001 and houses offices for some two hundred MPs, committee and reception rooms. The post office there replaced an earlier office at 1 Parliament Street. There are posting boxes for both internal and external mail, with three collections a day.

Mail sent from the post offices by Special delivery is given a counter datestamp. House of Commons London SW1 (Central and Members' Lobby offices) or Portcullis House, London SW1. All other stamped mail goes to the London South Mail centre and receives the standard machine postmark of that office. House of Commons machine postmarks, once much collected, are sadly now a thing of the past.

Incoming and Outgoing Mail.

The Sorting Office for the Parliamentary Estate was in the Palace of Westminster at the time of the 1997 visit but, since 2001, it has enjoyed a more spacious location in Portcullis House. There some thirty staff work under Deputy Postmaster Brian Gosling, who reports to the Postmaster and to the Service Delivery Manager at the London South Mail Centre. Brian is proud of the fact he and his staff have no less than six hundred and eight years Royal Mail employment between them, two staff members having forty-two years service.



From the top:

A House of Commons machine postmark, which was applied from 1965 - 1998 but, sadly, no longer available.
House of Commons counter datestamps.

House of Commons 1st. and 2nd. paid envelopes

The Palace of Westminster souvenir cover - these can be purchased only by visitors to the Central Lobby Office.

Until 2006 incoming mail was delivered to the Commons from the SW1 Delivery Office in Howick Place but now comes from the London South Mail Centre in Nine Elms. Approximately twenty thousand

items of incoming mail are processed every day. Like any ordinary sorting office, the Commons office is fitted out with numerous sorting frames but, instead of being headed with the names of towns, villages, roads or streets, the frames bear the names of all six hundred and forty-six MPs, seven hundred and twenty-four members of the House of Lords and departments of both Houses. After a general election the staff work over a weekend to change all the frames to cater for the re-elected and newly elected MPs. Brian recalls the 2005 election, his first time in charge of the change over. Mail for former MPs is redirected for a while after they have ceased to be Members but many letters and circulars continue to arrive for them, sometimes several years after they have left Parliament. This mail is returned to senders in the normal way. Some former MPs are elected to the Lords and thus mail addressed to them as an MP can be redirected to their sorting frame under their new ennobled title. Keeping up with the changes can be relentless.

Two MPs have frames owing to the volume of mail they receive - as you may guess these are the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition. Where MPs and Peers have the same surname, further identification ensures they receive the correct mail. The MP's constituency is included in the heading and those from the three main parties have a coloured dot to indicate the party.

MPs may have their mail delivered to the Members' Lobby PO, where they, or their secretary, can collect it, have it delivered to their office in Parliament, forwarded to their home address or constituency office. MPs specify what they require and this can change daily, so a special list is produced shortly before staff start the four daily deliveries from the sorting office, ensuring they have the latest information of how MPs want their mail delivered that day. This, as can be imagined, is quite a logistical exercise! Some MPs want internal Commons mail treated differently to that which arrived through the post. Mail to be sent on to MPs in their constituencies is sent in special large 'plastic' Special Delivery envelopes.

In the 1997 article, the system whereby some MPs' mail is placed for collection in a Letters Board in the Members' Lobby, was noted. A considerable amount of mail is generated within Parliament (including outbuildings); letters and packets addressed to MPs from fellow Members, ministers and officials, are placed in the Letter Board in the Lobby. Each MP has a pigeon hole in this board and his or her name is illuminated if there are letters to collect. All such mail is given a certifying stamp of the Speaker's Dept., with initials 'LB', for Letters Board. Letters still in the board at 23.00 are cleared and handed to the PO for delivery in next morning's post. In the past such letters were given an Official Paid datestamp and weighed to calculate a handling charge. This no longer applies, ending the rather quaint practice of letters with two Parliamentary markings. The Letters Board is managed by the Door Keepers wearing resplendent uniform and badge.

The sorting office received seven deliveries each day from the Mail Centre, the first at 01.00 in the morning and the final one at noon. As well as delivering within the Palace of Westminster and Portcullis House, staff also take the mail to some eleven outbuildings housing over one hundred departmental offices. Two transit vans are used to take mail to the outbuildings. Sadly, given the times in which we now live, all incoming mail is security checked before it arrives at the Commons and a rubber stamp applied to show this has been done.

The despatch of mail from the Parliamentary Estate is similarly well organized. Mail is collected from some eighty posting boxes in the main building from 08.00, continuing every hour until 19.00. Most mail goes out in prepaid envelopes supplied to MPs and peers. These bear a Machin head of The Queen and are cancelled by normal machines at the London South Mail centre, as is all mail bearing postage stamps. Mail from Parliamentary departments is treated differently, being given a certifying stamp (cachet) to denote the office or origin and a meter impression to indicate the postage paid. The certifying stamps allow the postage costs to be allocated to the correct department. The Speaker's department certifying stamp is probably the best known, although the Clerk of the Parliaments is quite often seen.

The volume of outgoing mail varies but averages about twenty thousand a day. More mail tends to be received when a major nation or international event prompts people to write to their MP. Brian was anticipating the change in leadership in June would cause an increase in incoming mail. Outgoing mail sacks are collected by van in Star Court and taken to the Mail centre for processing.

The Commons sorting office works from 23.00 on Sunday night to noon on Saturday. All sorting is done manually and the only concession to technology is the use of a 'bar code gun' to record the emptying of posting boxes, this ensures collections are made on time. The former sorting office still

houses the old postmarking machine, introduced in 1965 at the request of Tony Benn, PMG at the time, to eliminate the need of staff to handstamp every item of mail. The machine remained in use until 1968.

Tour of the Palaces.

The Palace of Westminster is a fascinating place and one can never tire of visiting, as there is so much to see, not the least spotting well known MPs or Peers as they walk round the building. On the recent visit the 'spotting' included a leading Cabinet minister, a former minister, a former Leader of the Opposition and an MP much in the news for his colourful lifestyle, with the new and rather commanding statue of Baroness Thatcher, alongside those of other prominent 20th century Prime Ministers David Lloyd George, Clement Atlee and Sir Winston Churchill.

Despite the telephone and e-mail, Parliamentarians still depend heavily on posted mail and the Commons PO remains as busy and well run as it was a decade ago. Long may it continue in this way.

For more information about the House of Commons PO and postmarks, readers are referred to a factsheet produced by the House of Commons Information Office, which can be seen on the Parliamentary website www.parliament.uk or supplied free by post. Useful information is contained in: James Mackay's *Official Mail of the British Isles* (1983); chapter 21 of the British Postmark Society's invaluable *Collect British Postmarks* (7th. edition, 1997); Colin Peachey's articles in the *British Postmark Bulletin* of 2nd. December, 1994 and the 13th. December, 1996.

The author is obliged to Paul Hemsley and Brian Gosling and their staff for their patience in answering so many questions during his visit and for checking the accuracy of this article before it was published. Information taken from the House of Commons Post Office factsheet has been used here with permission (Parliamentary copyright, House of Commons reserved).

There are two useful web site, try

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/upload/g20.pdf>

and

<http://www.parliament.uk/factsheets/>

*Any of our dealer members who wish to place an advert in Notebook,
up to a quarter page in size,
please send their copy to the Editor.*

*There will be no charge for this,
being a service not only for the dealer but also for the LPHG collector.*

CAVENDISH IN NOVEMBER 2007

There were many items of particular interest to collectors of London Postal History in the sale held on the 28th and 29th November last year, not the least being the material relating to what was grouped under the heading of "District Office Numerals." For those who may not have seen the Cavendish Catalogue, we give below an abstract from the sale relating the this material.

Lot 1844

DISTRICT OFFICE NUMERAL CANCELLATION - AN EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTION ON ADHESIVES INCLUDING RARE LOW NUMBERS ETC: The collection of district numeral cancellations on 1d adhesives inc.. numbers 1 to 6 (3), 7 (4, inc.. one in blue), 8 (3), 10 (2), 11 to 13 (2), 14, 15 (2, in blue), 16 (2) 17, 18 (4, inc. one on 2d), 20 (6, inc. one in blue) 22 (2), 23, 25, 27 (6, inc. one in blue), 28 (2), 30 (3), 31 (3, inc. one in blue), 32 (4, inc. one in blue), 33 (3), 34 (6), 35 (4, inc. one in blue), 36 (2), 37, (4), 38 (3), 41 (8, inc.. 2 in blue) and 49. Also a good range of higher numbers up to 97. An exceptional lot with more than twenty rated H by Parmenter. Mixed condition but mostly readable strikes. (243)

Est. £700 Hammer price: £2,600

Lot 1845

DISTRICT OFFICE NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS: 1851-63 The collection of covers and a few fronts/pieces, mostly with 1d reds tied by district numeral cancellation between 6 and 80. A good range of strikes and some interesting uses. (80+ items)

Est. £300 Hammer price £650

Lot 1846

DISTRICT OFFICE NUMERAL -12-BOW: 1869 (13 Feb.) env used to send a Valentine locally within Bow bearing 1d plate 72 tied by a fine "12" cancellation of the District office. Believed to be the earliest date of use. Not seen by Parmenter but rated H.

Est. £120 Hammer price £240

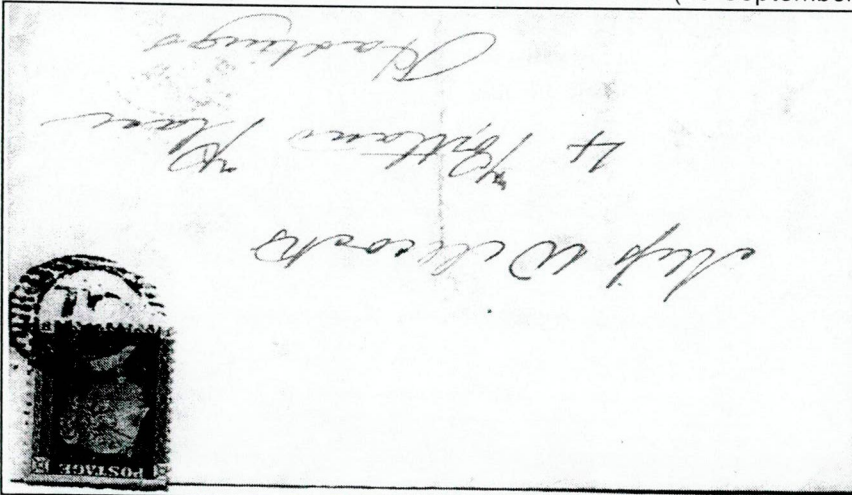
Lot 1847

DISTRICT OFFICE NUMERAL - 14 - LEYTON: 1856 (14 May) EL from Whips End to Walthamstow with m/s "Xpost" bearing LC14 1d tied by a clear "14" numeral of the district post, feint "LEYTONSTONE" c.d.s. on reverse. Believed to be the latest recorded date of use. Rated H in Parmenter.

Est. £120 Hammer price £180

Lot 1848

DISTRICT OFFICE NUMERAL - 18 - DEPTFORD: 1856 (25 September)



En to Hastings bearing 1d red tied by district office "18" of Deptford. Fine. Believed to be the earliest recorded date. Rated H in Parmenter.

EST. £120 hammer PRICE £140

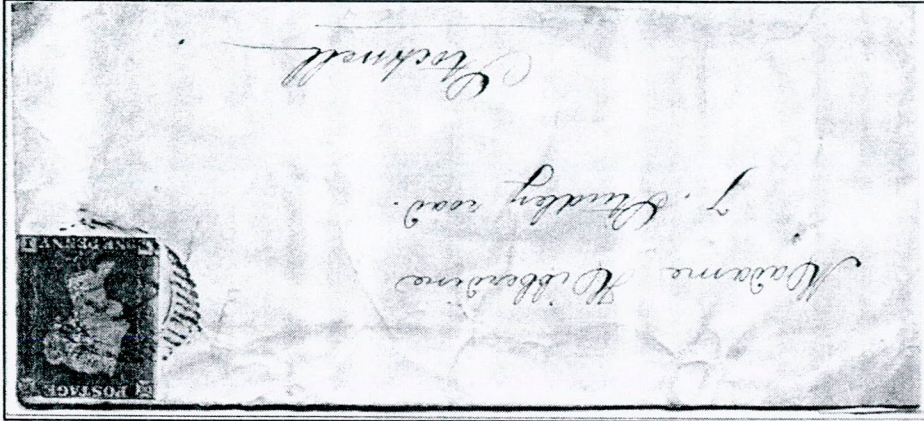
Lot 1849

DISTRICT OFFICE NUMERALS - 27 - CLAPHAM : 31 WANDSWORTH : 32 PUTNEY: 1855(4 Aug.) opened out env to Balham redirected to Tooting bearing LC14 1d tied by a fine "27" of Clapham in indigo blue. 1880 (30 June) & 1883 (8 Oct.) ½d wrappers from the same correspondence to Ryde, IOW with smudged "31" of Wandsworth. Also an undated front with ink illustration franked with 1d plate number tied by a good "32" of Putney. All rated H in Parmenter (4 items)

Est £120 Hammer price £260

Lot 1850

DISTRICT OFFICE NUMERAL - 27 CLAPHAM: 1851 (15 Oct.)

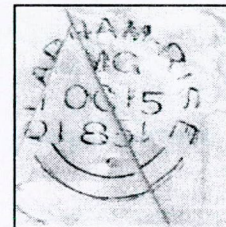


En to Stockwell bearing 1d red (touched in places) with a fine blue "27" numeral cancellation of Clapham. Also 1848 env to Upper Tooting bearing 1d red MR tied by a good "27" numeral with large "CLAPHAM" c.d.s. on reverse (2 covers) Rated H in Parmenter.

Est £120 Hammer price £160

Of considerable interest, apparently not to the previous owner though, is the Clapham Rise date stamp on the reverse.

This is in the format of the Provincial type date stamp, showing the MG, morning, associated with the Country Sorting Office stamps and is recorded used in very few London offices.



Lot 1851

DISTRICT OFFICE NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS - 35 TWICKENHAM: 37 BROMPTON : 41 BRENTFORD - ALL IN BLUE: 1850 (9 Sept.) 1d pink env to Garter House, Windsor Castle with a good deep blue "35" of Twickenham. 1846 (5 Sept.) 1d pink env to Ross with a smudged "37" of Brompton. 1852 (7 June) 1d pink end (stained) to HMS "Queen" at Devonport with a lightly struck blue "41" of Brentford. 1852 (23 Feb.) EL to Poole bearing 1d red (creased) clearly tied by a blue "47" of Brentford (4 covers).

Est. £200 Hammer price £240

It would be much appreciated for any reader who managed to secure any of these lots, or the other London items, to forward a scan, or photocopy, to the Editor for inclusion in a future issue of *Notebook*.

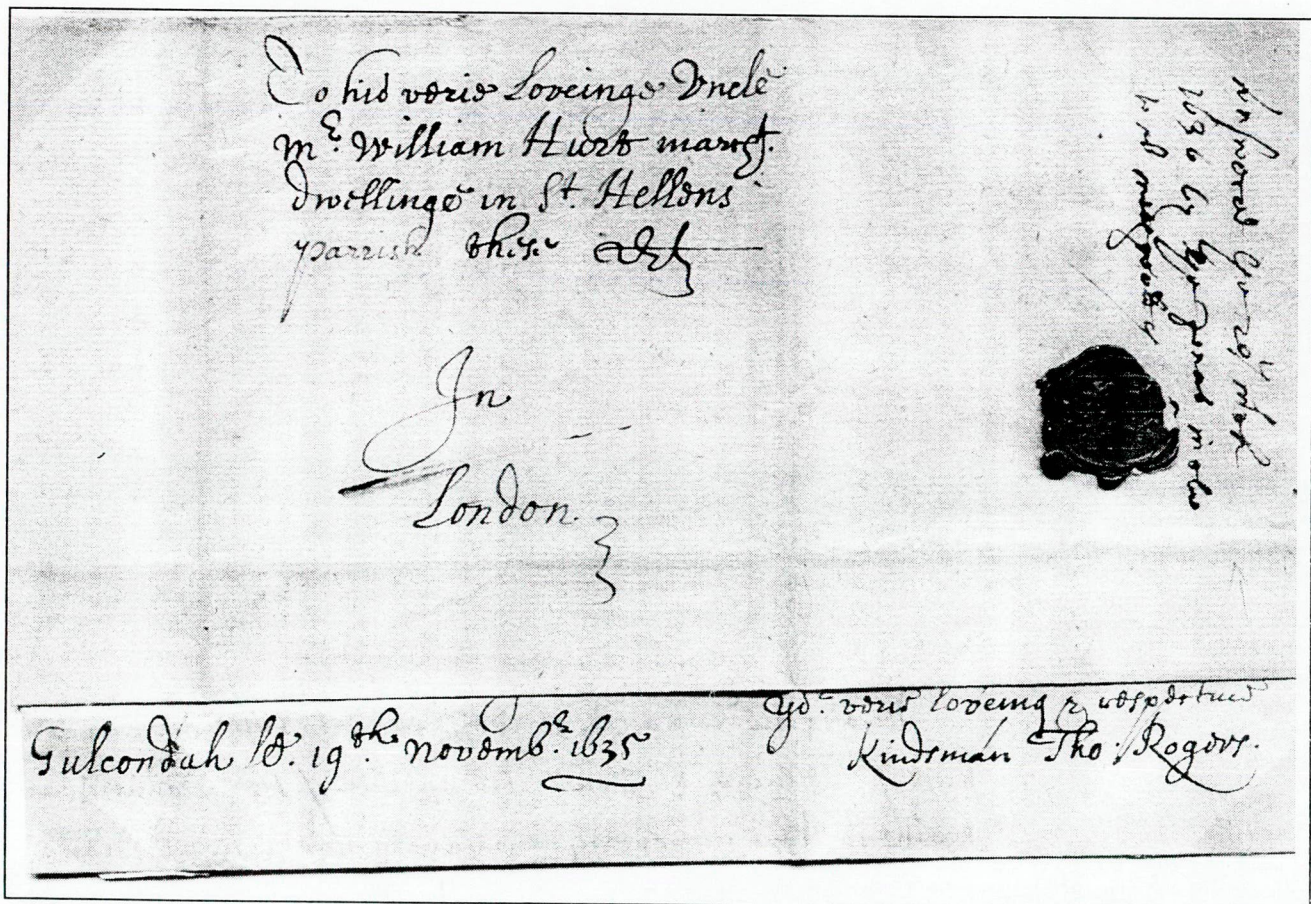
Our thanks to Cavendish for allowing us to feature material from their auction in *Notebook*.

INDIA SHIP LETTERS

The Honourable East India was an early joint-stock company, granted an English Royal Charter by Elizabeth 1 on the 31st. December, 1600, with the intention of securing trade privileges in India. The Royal Charter effectively gave the newly created company a twenty one year monopoly on all trade in the East Indies. It evolved from a commercial trading venture to one which effectively ruled India as it acquired auxiliary governmental and military functions until its dissolution in 1858, following the events of the Rebellion of 1857.

Given this background it is hardly surprising such commercial and military activity generated a great deal of correspondence between India and England, specifically London where the headquarters of the Company was based.

A letter from Gulcondah, a district of India with the principal town of Mesulpatam, where the first factory of the Company was opened, to London, via Suraatt, dated the **19th. November, 1635**.



The letter, in the rather ornate script of the early 18th. century, is from one Thomas Rogers, an East India Company Merchant, to his uncle William Hurt, a merchant in London.

The note on the right reads 'Answered the 20th March 1636 by Jonas Mold to Mr Methwold.'

The next item, dated from Madras **23rd September, 1776** was carried privately to London, where it was put into the Penny Post. The reverse carries a faint impression of a Dockwra and the time stamp. There is a flap endorsement with reads *Fort St George 23^d Sep^r 1776 Mr Moncton.*

Many thanks to my friend Patterson for his very friendly Letter; little did I expect when I recd his favor that such a change would be brought about I thought only of entertaining J^m with an Acc^t of my being married & my own happiness - But the 24th of last Month the most atrocious act of villany that was ever committed was brought about by Col. Stuart Benfield, Old Mackay & the Durbar in the seizing of the Person of Lord Pigot and keeping J^m a close Prisoner at the mount - for particulars I must refer you to Alexander Dalhymple only my friend for

God's sake be on your guard against Paul Benfield, villainy he makes very free with your name and M Robinson's at the Durbar & gives them hopes of doing any thing with Lord North thro' you and Robinson. Get your money without (ofs of time out of his hands and have done with him - God blefs you and believe me
 Your very sincere friend / & Humble Servant / C. Monkton.

George Patterson Esq.
 Argyll Street
 to favor of
 Capt. Matthews
 London

It should be noted Lord North was rather busy with matter in the American Colonies.

East-India Stock. 2000 2 190

LONDON, the 26 Day of July 1811

RECEIVED of James Mcnabb Esq

the Sum of Three thousand Nine hundred
 Sixty Pounds
 being in full for Two thousand Pounds £3960

in the principal Stock and proportionate Part of the Fund due to The United Company
 of Merchants of England, Trading to the East-Indies, this Day transferred in the
 said Company's Books, unto the said James Mcnabb Esq

Witness,
 W. Nishall
 W. Williams.

Cox and Son, Printers, St. Queen's

One of those 'social history' items which can enhance any postal history collection relating to the East Indies - a Stock Certificate, shown here at about 70% actual size.

The firm of Newton Gordon and Murdock is well known to collectors of London Maritime Mail. Their business was the importation of fine wines from Madeira and examples of their correspondence can be found in many collections. However, this item falls to be included under India Ship Letters. It is written from Calcutta on the 12th February. 1820 and has, firmly attached to it another note, in a different hand, dated the 7th : both are from 'Alexander & Co.'

P. Columbia
Messrs. Newton Gordon and Murdock
Madeira
Care of Thomas Murdock Esq
Liverpool Street
London

Calcutta
7 & 12 Feb 1827
Alexander & Co
recd 28 August
ansd 10 Sept 1827

The endorsement, top right, is *P. Columbia* but there is no trace of such a vessel as an East Indiaman nor is it in Palmer's list of merchant vessels.

The flap endorsement, shown on the left, made in Madeira, demonstrates the time required to answer a letter from India.

Another flap note reads: 'Recd and ansd 2 August - to go pr Packet to Madeira'

The next letter, another carried privately, was written by a man who rose to become a significant player in the history of the East India Company but, in this case, writes a 'family news' letter.

To preface the letter, a brief history of **John Shore Teignmouth**, 1st Baron (1751 - 1834).

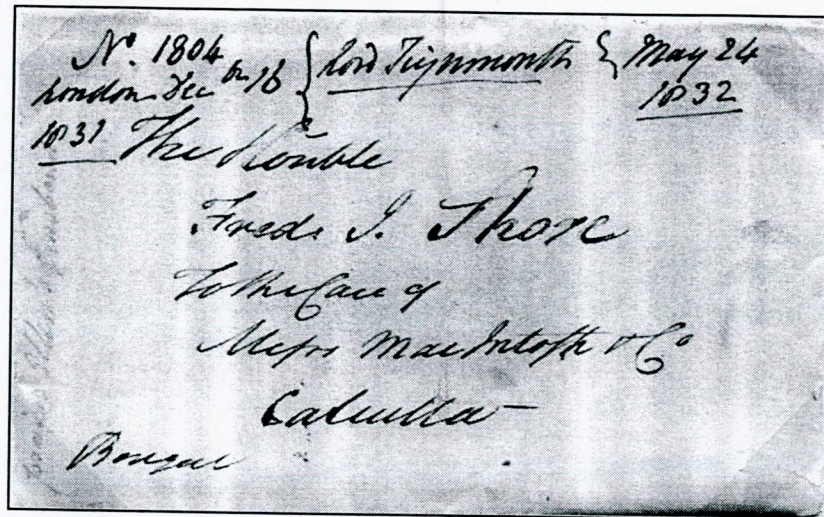
Born on the 8th October, 1751, the son of Thomas Shore, a supercargo in the service of the East India Company. He was educated at Harrow and went out to India as a writer in the Bengal Civil Service in 1769. He became a member of the Supreme Council (1787 - 89) in which capacity he assisted Lord Cornwallis in introducing many reforms but did not approve of his permanent settlement of Bengal.

On the retirement of Cornwallis, he was appointed Governor - General (1793 - 98), adopting a policy on non interference; despite this, he deposed Wazir Ali for whom he substituted Saadat Ali as Nawab of Oudh. His term of office was also signalized by a mutiny of the officers of the Indian Army, which he met with concessions.

He was created a baronet in 1792 and Baron Teignmouth in the peerage of Ireland in 1798.

On his retirement from India he was appointed member of the Board of Control (1807 - 28) and was, for many years, President of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

He died on the 14th February, 1834. The line became extinct in 1981.



The letter, to his son in India, was carried privately to the addressee.
There are no postal markings.

It was written over a four day period, covering four pages and is dated December 16th 1831.
There is an annotation May 24 1832, presumably date of receipt.

Mr dear Frederick

It is sometime since I wrote to you, but Charles has not omitted his monthly correspondence on the 23^d Sept. I forwarded a letter of recommendation of you from Mr. C. Grant to Lord W. Bentinck, and answered Mary's letter from Madeira of the 23 of July. I hope that you have received all that we sent. But I shall now give you what will be more interesting to you, family details - poor Ellen is now sitting in our drawing room; very languid and weak but not ill. We have just heard from her a long account of the illness of her dear babe, and it is a relief to her to unburthen her heart to a father & mother, who can enter into her feelings, and sympathize with her sorrows. Her child died of an affliction of the heart, and it is a mercy to her grievously as she bemoans her loss, as the disorder is incurable, and if the poor babe had lived a few years, which with a similar complaint, is The case, it would have proved a source of unabated anxiety to her, for what can be a greater anxiety to a mother, that that of a child suffering from a disease, for which there is no remedy. In this as in all our suffering, if we estimate (?) them as we ought always to do, we shall see the mercies of our heavenly father.

Where bowed beneath afflictions sent
Our wanderings to reprove,
Hail them as heaven's Kind mercies
For the soul's good, for God is love.

Your mother is & has been comfortably well for a long time, and I hope she will go through the winter, as well as can be expected at her time of life. we have had no occasion for Pennington, for many months Charlotte is uncommonly well, & Charles who had a bilious attack is now well again. As to myself I have every reason to be thankful for a phase of health which ten years ago I could never had expected to enjoy, but I feel the effects of cold though the weather has not been inclement, far beyond what I ever before knew as age had diminished the circulation of the blood and I cannot think last much longer. But life and death are at the disposal of a good & gracious God, and it is my earnest and daily prayer to him that I may not waste or neglect the precious moments which he still gives me to work out my salvation trusting to his grace to enable me to act up to the spirit of my prayers and to increase my faith in my only and all sufficient saviour.

At this point the writer either changed or cleaned up his pen, the writing becoming neater and finer.

Believe me my dear Frederick, that these are not words of bourse, but the heartfelt sentiments of a man who knows & feels himself to be a sinner, on the very verge of eternity, believe me I again say, my dear Frederick, when I assure you that it is my daily prayer to God, not only to protect you, & your dear Mary and child, from the dangers of the ocean, and the disorders of the climate in which providence has placed you, but from those temptations, to which you are necessarily exposed.

When shall we hear from Frederick, is a question which daily occur, & is frequently repeated in this house. I know that it cannot be resolved by impatience, and unless the fortunate occurrence of a homeward bound ship should bring us intelligence of you we must I fear remain in suspense until the End of February or beginning of march (sic) and in the mean time, rest in hope and trust in God. How has the voyage agreed with Mary, how is your child, how does the climate with him and many other similar thoughts escape from the tongue, and next, how are you situated, in what appointment, and numberless other questions which affectionate solicitude suggests you will see by the papers that we have decidedly the cholera in Sunderland, I was in hopes that it had been confined within the Parliamentary walls, where it paused to rage during the last session, whether it will return there again, remains to be seen. The fever which agitated the country, has for the present subsided in the cold set, but I fear the hot set will again return but as the politics, I leave you to get your information from those vehicles of misrepresentation, scandal, intemperance & I had almost faced sedition, the public papers, and shall only add that the state of public affairs has to me a very melancholy aspect. The windows of the Duke of Newcastle's house in our square, then of the Dukes of Gloster and Wellington, are covered & enclosed with deal planks, a memorial of mob rage, and democratic intolerance. So goodbye politics. Anna lately spent a fortnight with us, whilst her husband made a tour into Shropshire, for the first time since his return from Canada. Notwithstanding her late confinement, I never saw Anna in better health, looks and spirits, and she enjoyed herself perfectly whilst in town Caroline was in a state of promise, as to an increase of family, but has been disappointed; she does not appear to have suffered from the miscarriage, but seems to have the fullest employment of health and spirits. I wish our poor dear Ellen could recover hers; she yesterday the 14th of December left town with her husband for Maidenhead that he might rejoin his Regiment. Nothing could exceed his most affectionate attention to Ellen during her sufferings he gains upon you in proportion to your knowledge of him, and his principles are as sound as his affection to Ellen is ardent so I think I may say that God has befriended me in my sons in law, as well as my legal daughter, Charlotte Mary Shore - I could say much more, but I will not delay the dispatch of this letter, which I began four days ago. I have only to repeat what will give you pleasure that we all well in Portman Square, and that your mother is able to take her daily airings when the weather is tolerable. All unite in sincerest love to you & Mary and with my prayers to God for you all I am my dear Frederick, your ever affectionate

Father

London

Teignmouth

Dec 16 1831

FAMILY TREE

John Shore = Sarah Wilmer
(1673 - 1741)

Thomas Shore = Dorothy Shepherd
(1710 - 1759) (? - 1783)

Sir John Shore 1st Baron Teignmouth = Charlotte Cornish
(5.10.1751) - (14.2.1834) (11.9.1759 - (13.7.1834)

six children

1. Anna Maria Shore = Thomas Noel Hill, six children
(1797/ 8) - (25.2.1886)

2. Caroline Dorothea Shore = Robert Anderson
(?) - (3.5.1864)

3. Charlotte Shore unmarried
(?) - (3.5.1864)

4. Frederick John Shore = Charlotte Mary Cornish, three children
(31.5.1799 - 29.5.1837)

5. Charles John Shore 2nd Baron Teignmouth = Caroline Brown, one child,
(13.1.1796) - (18.9.1885)

Charles John Shore 3rd Baron
(31.7.1796) - (18.9.1885)

6. Ellen Mary Shore = Edward Charles Fletcher
(?) - (17.1.1835)

In a letter of the 29th March, 1828 from Kensington to Stanwell Staines, a paragraph detailing postal arrangements for India mails.

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

all of which only shows it is worth the time to read letters offered to collectors just for the possible postal markings interest.



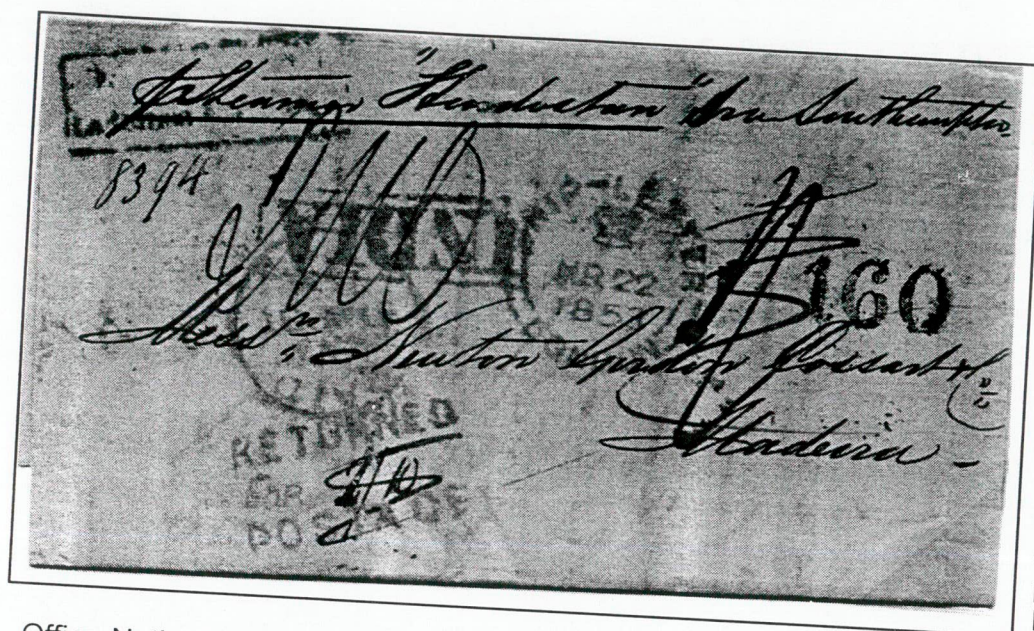
There is a series of stamps reading just "INDIA" and some believe these to have been applied in either Madras or Bombay although this view is not universally accepted. One such is shown here and the London crown date stamp and the oval INDIA appear to be in much the same orange brown colour, whereas the MADRAS date stamp is a much brighter brown-red.

The letter is headed by the writer *via Bombay & Marseilles* and carried date stamps for Mussooree JUL 20 1854, Bombay AU 1 1854, Madras 1854 AU 9, London 18 SP 1854 and Irvine SE 19 1854. From the 5th December, 1839 the rate between Marseilles and Egypt by British Mediterranean Packet and between Egypt and India by the Red Sea Packet Service was 1s. 10d per half ounce, with no British Inland Charge, as is the example here in 1854.

The next is an example of India Mails to India, written from Calcutta on the 5th February 1853 and carrying the London Ship Letter (S.29) for the 22nd March. In addition there is the London transit 'C' crown 'N' for the same date, both in the red-brown so typical of London markings at that time. The obverse carries the writer's all important instruction "per Steamer" "Hindustan" "Via Southampton".

From August 1837, the Post Office set up packets between the Red Sea and India, with the uniform Colonial rate of one shillings introduced in January 1840 being applied to this route. The use of the ordinary Ship Letter date stamp would appear inappropriate for an item which used two packet services!

Again, contrary to received wisdom, the writer believes the rectangular framed INDIA, struck in a much stronger red brown than the identified London stamps, probably originated in Calcutta. The 160 stamp, applied in black, is the local Madeira charge in rials.



It appears the letter was not prepaid, the one shilling due being entered in black ink (Post Office Notice based on 3 & 4 Victoria c.96), Adding interest, the RETURNED FOR 2/10 POSTAGE was struck in red-brown, the charge in black ink. It looks as if the first charge entered was 1/10, the packet rate for Madeira, which comprised one shilling and eight pence per half ounce for the Packet plus two pence for the Inland postage (Post

Office Notice Victoria 3 & \$ c.96). The rate was then amended to 2/10 to take into account the unpaid postage from India. Given the firm of Newton Gordon was well known to the Post Office, the charge would most probably have been collected from their London office.

The total payment of 2/10 was scribbled across the INDIA stamp with both the two other charges originally entered in black being deleted in the same red ink. in the top left hand corner in a very poor impression of what was probably a 'detained for postage' mark, in red, with the reference number of 8394 being written below the frame for obvious reasons.

The third letter which shows an INDIA stamp is represented by the contents only..

My dear Uncle,

It was very kind of you to ask Sir J. Hobhouse for a Cadetship for Willey & we feel very grateful perhaps as they are talking of Annexing the Punjab and making a great increase to the Army - that you w^d not find it so difficult to get one -

I therefore write this to let you know that an en crease is talked of - a large army is being collected on the NW Frontier - but no battle has been fought - It is expected that something will be done now soon as the Troops have nearly reached * and Lord Dalhousie is on his way up the Country and hoping yourself and my old Friend Toni, Mr. Northcote & all your Grandchildren are quite well.

Believe me / My Dear Uncle / Y^r Affect Niece / T.J Taylor
62 Cantonment / Agra Oct^r 25th / 48 -

* The lady writer fails to say where.

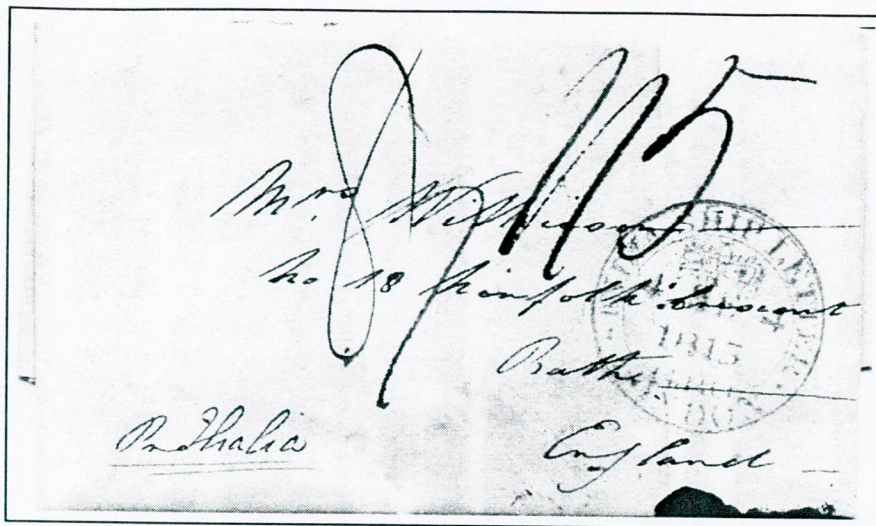
India Ship Letter stamps, on which a small note.

Ship letters were those carried by private ships by favour, individuals and declared to the Post Office as such or, in most cases, given to the Post Office to be sent by private ship rather than Packet.

Packet Letters were invariably much more expensive but, in theory at least, were safely and quickly carried to their destination port.

The letter, on the next page. is from Calcutta; dated by the writer for the 19th March, 1815 with the India Ship Letter stamp dated the 4th September the same year. The obverse is endorsed by the sender *per Italia*. Reverse carries an Indian manuscript endorsement, a stamp for Bengal GPO April (date unclear) and a double rim stamp, code C, also for the 4th September.

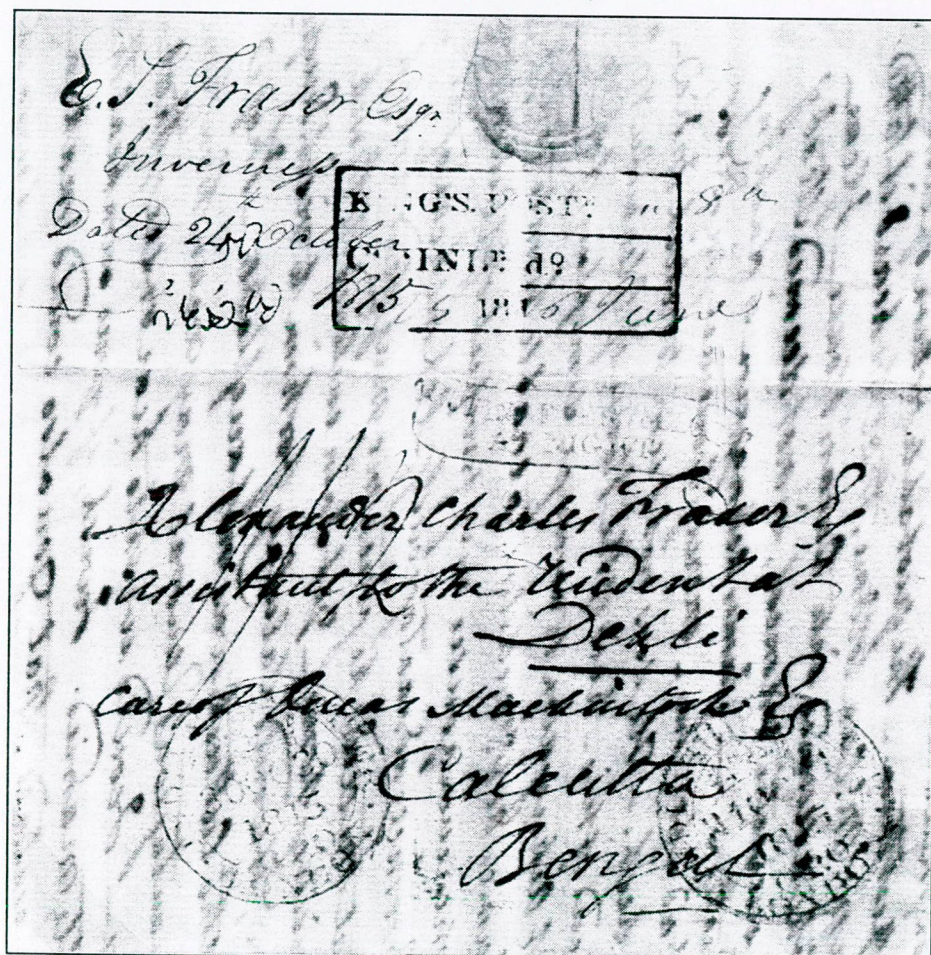
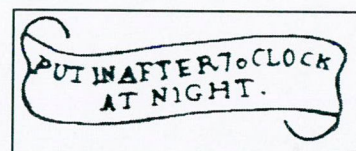
As the letter contained an order for £100 it should have been charged double rate but, since the writer did not mention this and the Post Office failed to detect the enclosure, the single rate was applied. Initial manuscript '8', being the India to London charge, with the total of 1/5 substituted to include the nine pence for the London to Bath journey.



The letter is from the addressee's sister who writes of her husband having 'obtained a situation which will allow him to send home a hundred pounds for our dear boys yearly.' throughout the letter the husband is referred to 'Mainwaring'.

The final cover in this part also shows India Ship Letter stamp but has more to offer than just a Ship Letter stamps, in fact two stamps.

Written from Inverness on the 24th October 1815, it appears to have been carried to London privately, the only charge made being the basic Ship Letter rate of one shilling and twopence.



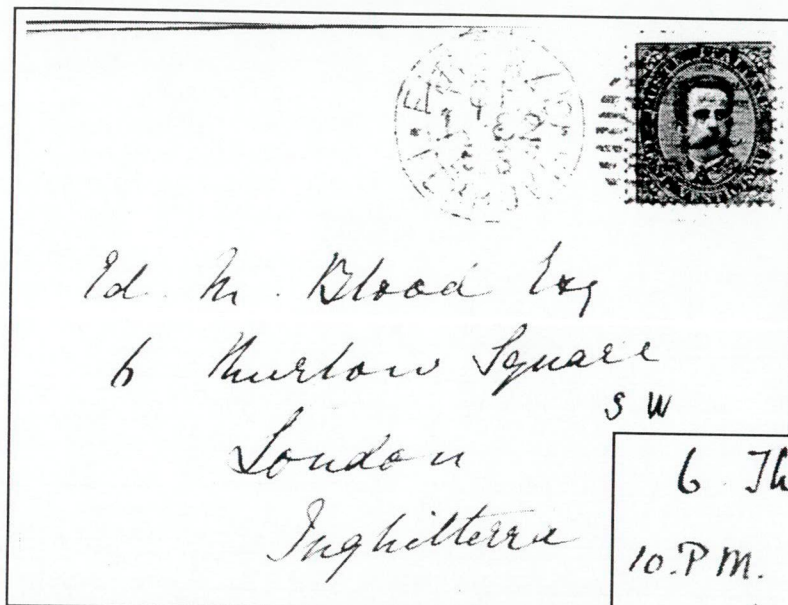
There are two strikes of the Ship Letter stamps, the 30th and 31st October, which is explained by the faint impression of the London 'PUT IN AFTER..' stamp. This is catalogued under the Foreign Branch though this cover suggests it should be treated as from the Ship Letter Office.

The letter is addressed to 'Charles Fraser Esq., Assistant to the Resident at Delhi' and 'Care of Lucas Mackintosh Esq., Calcutta, Bengal'. There is a manuscript endorsement for arrival in India on the 6th June, 1816, just short of eight months from the date the letter was written.

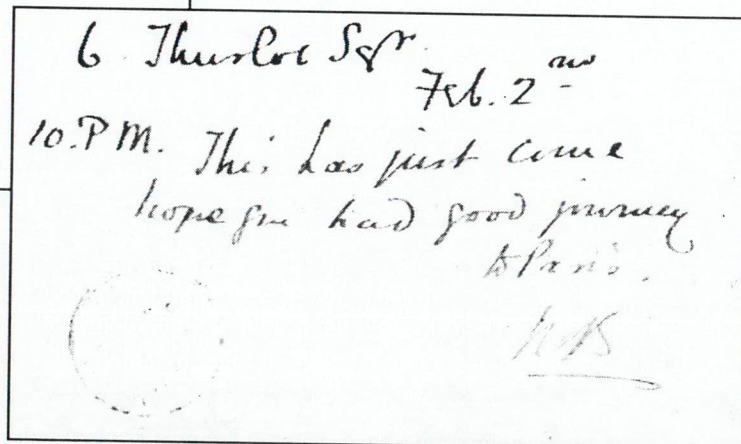
To be continued.....

A LETTER FROM ITALY

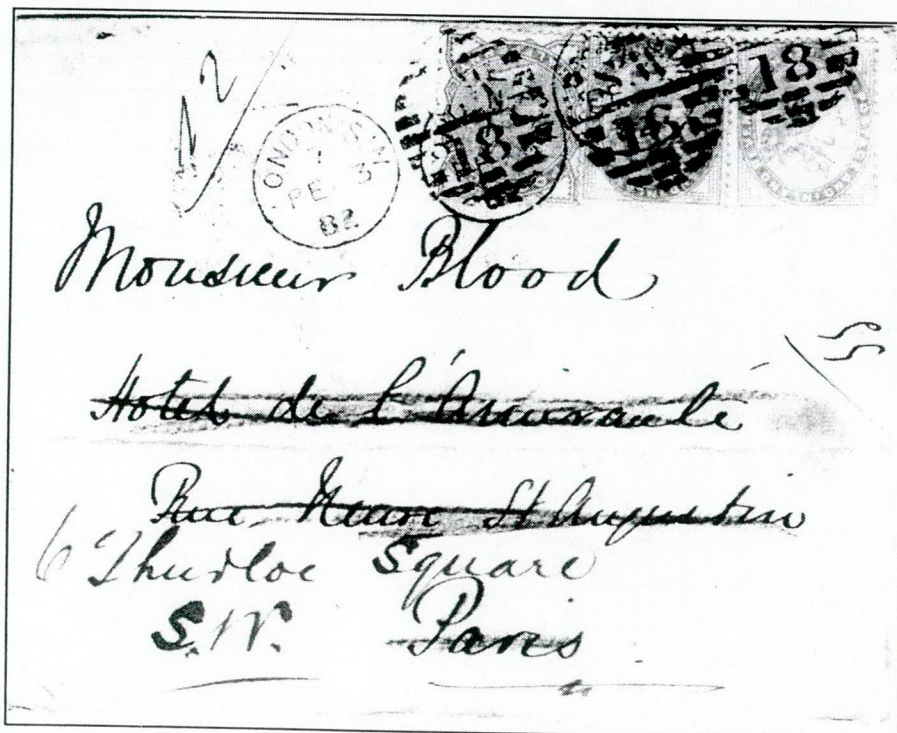
Frank Lane



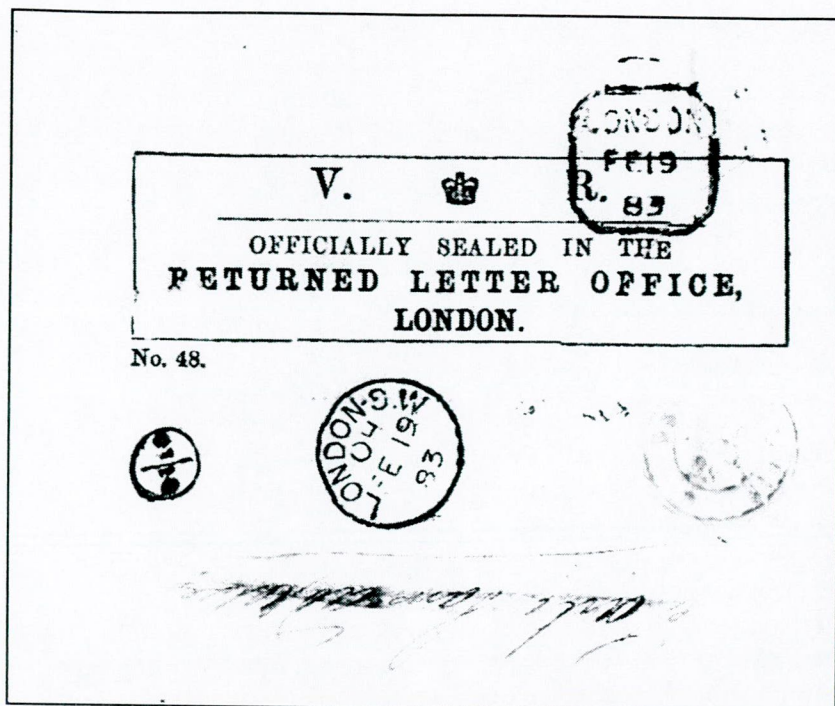
In 1882 a correspondent wrote a letter from Italy addressed to Ed. M. Blood Esq. at an address in London SW. On the reverse of the envelope someone else, presumably residing at or having access to the property wrote a message when forwarding it to Paris.



The envelope in which it was forwarded, as can be seen, was cancelled with the London South West duplex 18 BUT this cancellation was not the one illustrated in 'Barred Numeral Cancellations of London' by John Parmenter, shown here. Someone carefully cut two vertical lines through the lower three bars, as can be seen



As an aside, the reader is invited to suggest why Post Office employees engaged in this curious activity, which has been recorded for a number of offices.



The letter could not be delivered to the addressee, though there is no indication why this was the case nor was any attempt made to show to where it should be returned.

There are two French postal markings to be seen, though rather indistinct.

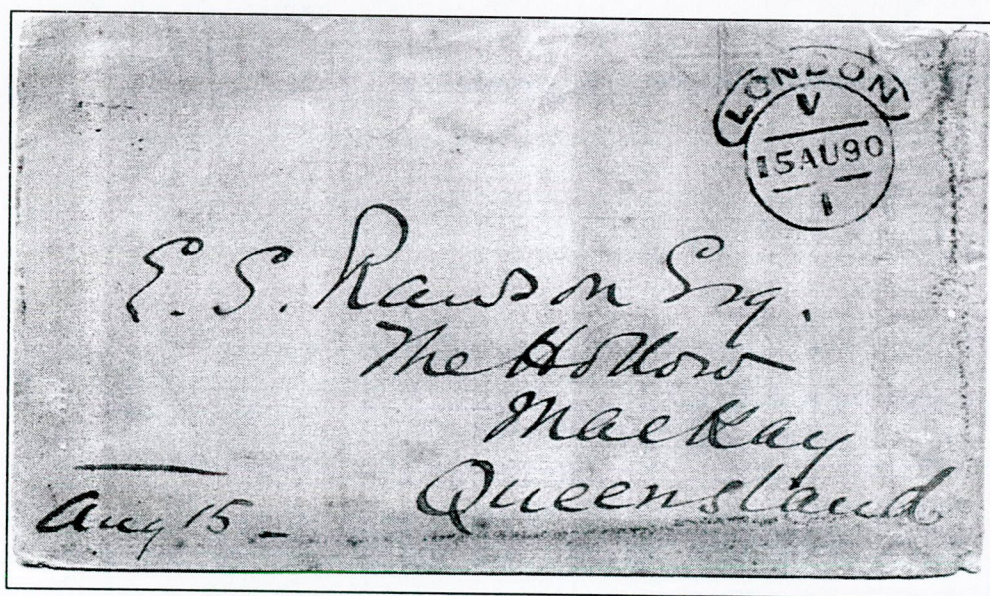
The British Post Office were not deterred and opened the returned item, discovered the address from the enclosed letter and the note on the back of the Italian envelope, resealed with the Official label, wrote the return address in red ink.

Two London date stamps neatly tie the label to the envelope.

Fortunately, these several attractive items of postal history survived.

POSTED UNPAID

This one has always provided a puzzle with there having been both no prepayment and no charge made on arrival. As can be seen, the letter is addressed to E.S. Rawson in Queensland.



The flap contains the printed name and address of the, presumed, sender:

C.C. Rawson
88, Bishopsgate Street
LONDON E.C.

The obverse carries a well struck scroll date stamp for the 15th August 1890, with the writer noting the date at lower left.

Date stamps of arrival, on the reverse, include a Brisbane transit for the 20th September and a Mackay arrival for the 23rd.

The obverse has been most carefully examined under a good glass but there is no trace of either an adhesive or another postal marking cancelling it, that is, no trace of - say - the rim of another scroll. All which brings us back to the first puzzle. How / why did the letter pass through normally diligent postal authorities hands without any attempt to make a charge? Answers appreciated.

STAMPED MAILSORT CANCELLATIONS

The cancellation shown, on a first class adhesive - which is not too well attached to the envelope - was received some time ago and, although it was from a business in Basildon, there should be many examples of this from within the LPHG London area - the 12+ circle.

If undelivered, please return to:
The M&G Group, PO Box 6108, Basildon SS15 5NA.

15453 NOV 04

A letter was sent to the sender but, alas, there has been no response.

The '15453 NOV' at the top right might indicate the quantity involved and the date processed : more information sought

Contact was made with John Enfield of the British Postmark Society, who very kindly provided basis for the following information.

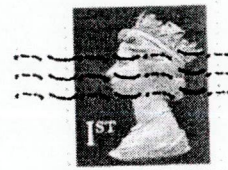
The use of "precancel" for this type of cancellation (used by the writer when contacting John) is not the usual one, as it relates the adhesives bearing pre-printed cancellations supplied by postal authorities (e.g. USA, France) and then affixed by major mailers. In such cases of course the cancel is only on the adhesive, not the envelope. The term used by the BPS to refer to such items is "Stamped Mailsort Cancellations", as the adhesives were evidently supplied uncanceled to the users of Royal Mail's "Mailsort" services, at a discount in return for pre-sorting.

Adhesives are used to make the items stand out from "Junk Mail".

The cancellations, as far as can be ascertained without official information, are applied by the senders, or rather normally mailing houses, which print the envelope address and despatch large volumes of mail for several customers.

Some of the earlier cancellations were apparently applied by machines loaned by Royal Mail and two patterns of Post Office Supplies Department handstamp have also been used. Most 'Stamped Mailsort Cancellations' are applied by inkjet printers, often it seems at the same time as the addressing of the envelope.

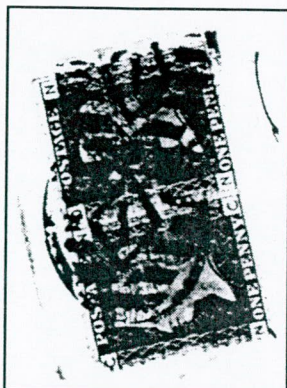
The mailing houses involved are in various locations but some include a place name, for example Bristol or Leeds, while the return addresses on others indicate despatch from Northampton and Sunderland. In addition the imperfect adhesion in the example here appears to have been guillotined at top and bottom, probably indicating affixing by machine from a roll of adhesives.



Would readers kindly send any examples of this cancellation, as well as any other types, they receive through the post or have accumulated. A copy of the cancellation and any return address or other annotations please.

INLAND BRANCH

Steve Mulvey



The illustration on the far left is taken from John Parmenter's 'Barred Numeral Cancellations of London'. It shows a 2.4.4.2 format of bars.

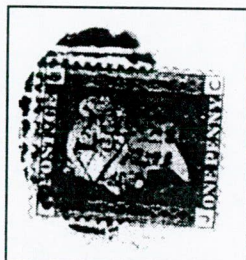
The LPHG Handbook entry carries the note "(Jan 1876) used on a House of Commons envelope." However, in Notebook 27, page 13, Dr Wyttenbach cites 23 June, 1876: a confusion of dates.

The one with the cancellation of a pair of One Penny plates has no apparent House of Commons connection, with date stamps for both London and Windsor on the 9th March, 1877.

This shows a 1.5.5.1 format, the point of the diamond breaking second bar both top and bottom.

Given there is over a year's gap between the dates, could the second be a replacement for the January 1876 (or June?) example in BCL?

Turning to the twopence paid in 1877. The London back stamp has code F1, the Windsor, code C both, as noted both for the 9th March: it seems unlikely to have been any form of Late Fee and, given it went to a firm of Silk Mercers, may there have been samples enclosed requiring a payment for extra weight?

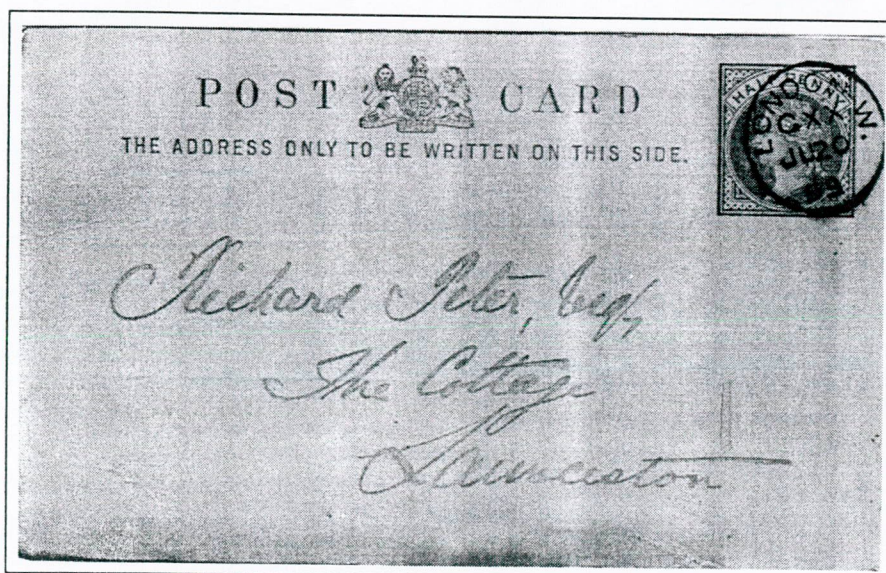


The illustration on the far left is taken from John Parmenter's 'Barred Numeral Cancellations of London'.

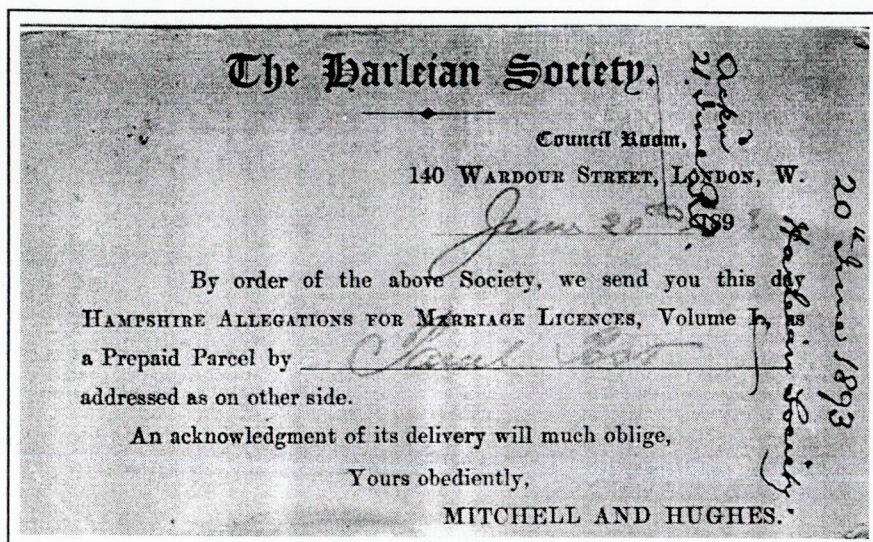
The other is from a folded sheet of paper, making up a wrapper, as it were. It is endorsed 'Book Post' and addressed to a 'G Boldette Lyons France'; there is a firm's cachet stamped on the obverse 'G. Maruti & Co London'.

There is a Calais transit mark for the 29th October and an arrival for the 30th. on the reverse. 'Obverse' and 'reverse' used as if it were folded.

SINGLE OR DUPLEX?



The question is caused by the positioning of the date stamp cancelling the postal stationery post card. As can be seen it is almost touching the side of the card, leaving no room for the right hand part of a duplex, so is it one or not? Although there are a number of illustrations in John Parmenter's BNC for West District daters with a three letter code including XX, there are none for GXX. Were post cards cancelled by both single hand and the duplex stamps?



What is of 'Social History' interest - why the "experts" had to invent the category has caused many a collector to ponder - is from whom the card came, "The Harleian Society" who are sending Volume 1 of 'HAMPSHIRE ALLEGATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENCES', Richard Peters, being a Solicitor, would have need of such.

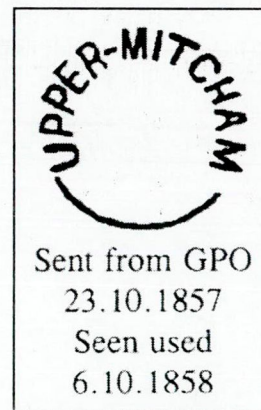
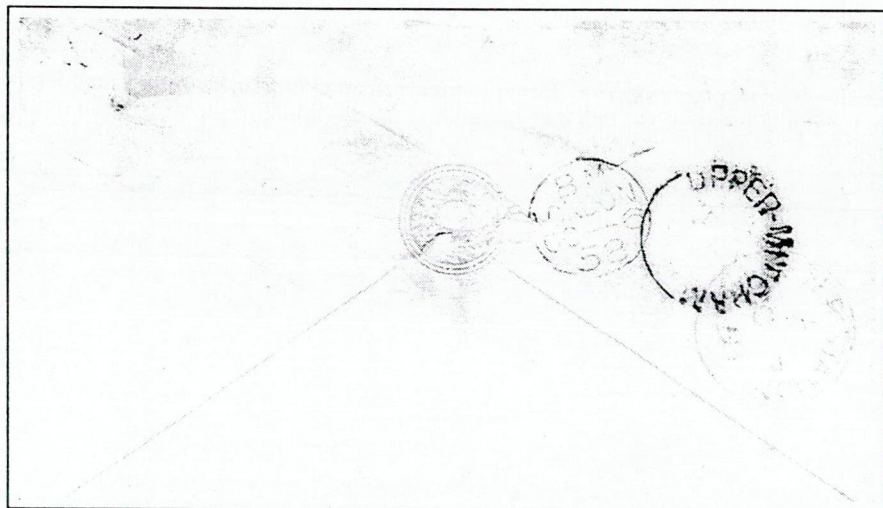
Of postal history interest the reader will see the annotation 'Ackn'd 21 June RP' and the book was sent 'as a Prepaid Parcel by Parcel Post ...'

The Harleian Society is still going strong, established in 1869 with the objects "the transcribing, printing and publishing of the heraldic visitations of counties, parish registers or any manuscripts relating to genealogy, family history and heraldry".

Their web site is <http://harleian.co.uk>

UPPER MITCHAM

Arthur Moyles



enlarged

Readers will, it is hoped, be encouraged to search for further recordings of the undated office stamps, this being a recent acquisition and, thus far, the only recorded date. Not the most frequently used office, this is not unexpected. There are so many of the offices to which, according to the proof books, a stamp was issued remaining likewise unrecorded.

It is anticipated the LPHG will be publishing, this year, a handbook section dealing with these marks. Before this can happen a list of unrecorded use will be sent to members: please let the Editor have details of any of these which you have in your collection.