

NOTEBOOK

TENTH REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ON THE POST OFFICE 1863

(For this report the PMG used the tenth ' anniversary ' to provide a review of the Post Office over the ten year period 1854 - 1863.)

The London Postal Districts

It will be seen from the Table at page 12 of this Report that the correspondence of the London district, which in 1854 amounted to not quite one fourth of the whole correspondence of the kingdom, is now more than one fourth of that correspondence having been greater in the London district than in any other of the great divisions into which, in the Table before referred to, the correspondence of the kingdom has been separated,

It was, of course, to be desired that correspondence so vast and so important as that of the London district should have, at least, an equal share of the advantages conferred on the correspondence of the whole kingdom by the improvements which have been described in the foregoing pages; but in order that the correspondence of the London district should obtain its fair proportion of these common advantages, a further and more improvement had to be effected.

So long as the Post Office continued to treat the whole of the London district as one town, and to serve it from one central office, it could not have greatly increased the number of receptacles for letters, since the cost of collecting from them to a central office would have been too great; nor, for the same reason, could it have materially increased the frequency of the collections; whilst so long as the majority of the letter carriers worked to and from a central office, the cost of adding to the number of deliveries or of expediting them by re-arrangements of walks and extensions of force, would have been too great to admit of any considerable improvements of this kind being effected. Lastly, so long as the Provincial Mails, coming into London, continued to be collected into one Central Office, and distributed thence throughout the vast area of the London District, it is quite certain that much of the time which might have been gained by accelerating the transmission of such mails to London would have been lost, after their arrival, by unavoidable delays of distribution. During the 30 years which have elapsed since Sir Rowland Hill first proposed to divide the London district into 10 Postal districts, and so treat each district as a distinct town, the numbers of the inhabited houses and of the population contained within the whole area have been doubled, and the disadvantages which he then discerned in the practice of treating the whole area as one town, would, if no division had taken place, have by this time been greatly increased. Sir Rowland Hill's scheme possesses the striking merit of satisfying not merely the requirements of the London for which it was devised, but the far greater requirements of the London of our own time.

The chief effect of the division of London into districts, and of some concurrent alterations of practice, on the correspondence of the London District since 1854, may thus be briefly described.

(continued on page 11)

Contents

page	1	Tenth Report of the Post Master General, 1863
	3	Massey Trial and Other Unusual Handstamps, by Derek Holliday
	4	Exchange of Postage Stamps
	6	Sun Fire-Office Notice of 1787, from John Sharp
	7	Dead Letter Office London, Peter Forrestier Smith
	8	Auction Results
	9	Forwarding Agents in London
11.		Posted Out of Course, from George Crabb
		Unapid Stamps of the General Post, further data
12		The London Exchange

c 1975 The contributor, where named, otherwise LPHG

POSTAL HISTORY IS THE STUDY OF THE OPERATION OF POSTAL SERVICES,
BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE FRUITS OF
SUCH STUDY

MEETING NOTICE.....

A SPECIAL AWAY MEETING IS BEING ARRANGED FOR SATURDAY 24TH APRIL 1976 at

CHARMOUTH HOUSE HOTEL, CHARMOUTH, DORSET

Would any member interested in having an early break beside the sea-side, for the day, week-end or even longer for themselves and family - the latter being the ' optional extra '- please contact AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Bernard Smith,
Sea Meadow, Higher Sea Lane,
Charmouth, Bridport, Dorset.
DT 6 6 BB

The charge at the hotel is £2 a head which covers morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. The charge for an overnight stay will be held to this year's price at £5.50 for B & B.

Charmouth is some 145 miles from London and no doubt suitable car loads can be arranged nearer the date.

PLEASE DO NOT DELAY IF YOU ARE AT ALL INTERESTED.

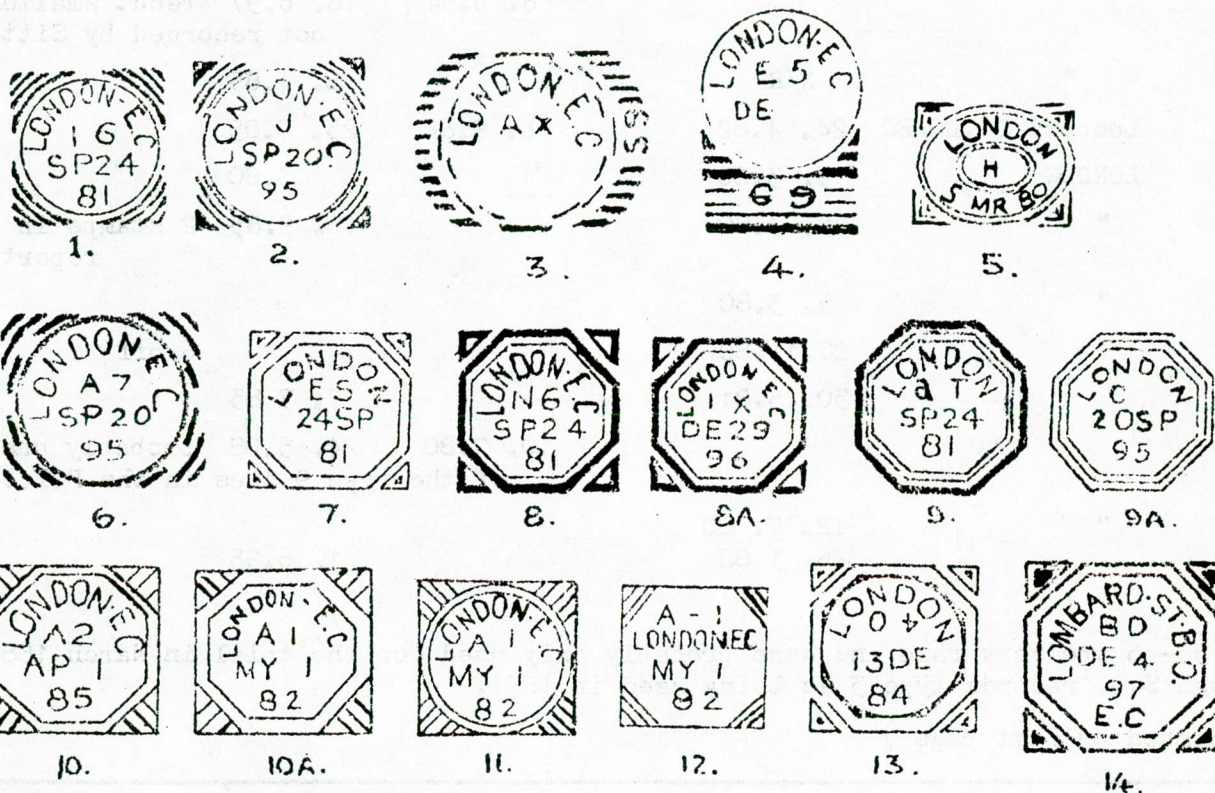
MASSEY TRIALS AND OTHER UNUSUAL HANDSTAMPS, by Derek Holliday

At the meeting on October 4th. we shall consider all the types of stamps which replaced the barred 1844 design, up to the standard single and double ring stamps.

In the late 1870's the G.P.O. had two (probably others as well) problems; at the time separate stamps were used for cancelling the adhesive and to show the date of posting, the other was the difficulty in changing the date plugs in the Pearson Hill Pivot machines which were held in place by screws.

Mr. J.E. Massey of 17 Chadwell St., E.C. proposed the use of a hinged stamp with a spring catch. Some were tried and found successful, so more were ordered. The G.P.O. tried out various designs and made reports in 1881 and 1895.

The squared circle design was doomed to failure because of the wear to the corners and the damage the stamps sometimes did to the mail. They were used widely throughout London, England and Wales but not in Scotland. The G.P.O. eventually became less worried about the stamps obliterating the adhesives and the various bars and lines disappeared from all the handstamps.



(Illustrations taken from the British Postmark Society publication "Squared Circle Postmarks" by W.G. Stitt Sibden, with appreciation.)

The earliest impressions of squared circles in the Proof Impression Books are :

London E.C.	27.11.79
Mark Lane EC	16. 4.80 (3 off)
Lombard St. BO/E.C	18. 7.82
	24. 4.82
	15. 9.83

The Massey Trial stamps are described by Stitt Dibden in some detail and I will

Massey Trials.....continued.

use his type numbers.

Type	Office	P.I.B.	Earliest	Latest	Notes
3	LONDON EC	N/R		1.10.91	
4	"	"			
6	"	"			
8	"	5. 3.80			7 stamps in 1895 report
8A	"			.97	recut
10	"	N/R		1.12.90)	probably only
10A	"		5. 9.91	26. 2.94)	one stamp
11	"	N/R		19. 6.85	
(11A)	"		6. 3.94	18. 6.97	recut smaller, not recorded by Sitt Dibden
12	"	N/R		8. 4.85	
14	Lombard ST.BO/EC	24. 4.82	6. 9.82	25. 3.05	
5	LONDON	5. 3.80		3.80	
7	"	5. 3.80		15. 9.85	2 stamps in 1881 report
9	"	5. 3.80			
		27.11.80			6 off
		30. 5.81		7. 7.83	
9A			10. 7.80	24. 5.08	probably one or more of the type 9 dies in the P.I.B.
13	"	12. 7. 80			
		26. 1.82		1. 6.95	

Types 3 - 6 are very rare and were probably only used for the trial in March 1880 although S.D. records type 3 as being used in 1891.

(continued on next page)

EXCHANGE OF POSTAGE STAMPS.....

In the 9th Report of the PMG there is a passing reference to the exchange of stamps for money by the post office.

" A large amount of money is already paid in exchange for postage stamps, amounting last year in London alone to nearly 60,000£.....postage stamps..can now be exchanged for money at a charge of 2½ per cent: thus enabling any person to send stamps to the value of 3s4d for one penny, and to the value of 1s8d for a halfpenny."

The date of the report is 1862 which was several years before any particular security appears to have been taken to prevent the office boy from enhancing his not too heavy weekly wage.

Massey Trials.....continuedMedium sized double circle, approx 26mm

This has been recorded from 13. 5.85 to March 1900 and the following codes have been noted at the bottom.

ALL alphabet, except A, B, L, Q. Varieties include K reversed and sideways W.

Large double circle - A & H fig 1207

Noted from 4.12.89 with codes B, K, S, V and
4.9.95 to 1. 3.07 with 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

Large double circle arc - A & H fig 1208

The first type has a thinner arc than illustrated with code LETTER at bottom.

P.I.B. 18.4.89; noted 14.5.89 to 28.12.94; codes ,ALL alphabet except, A. B,
H, Q, T.

The second type has the thicker bars as illustrated.

Recorded from 28.8.95 to 16.6.1900 with codes 25 to 35, although 25 seems scarcer than the others.

Double rim - A & H fig 1205

No code 4.6.86 to 1.4.98

Codes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8,10,13,18 from 11.11.98 to 23.8.04

Hammer design - A & H fig. 1209

Dies 1 - 6 were issued to LONDON EC and LONDON (IS). These twelve are all very scarce.



Fig. 1205

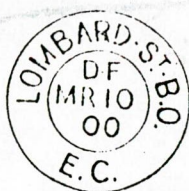


Fig. 1206

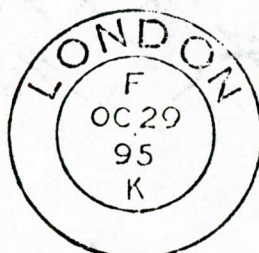


Fig. 1207



Fig. 1208



Fig. 1209

(Illustrations taken from the Alcock and Holland 1940 edition of " The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland ", with appreciation.)

Medium sized double circle - LOMBARD ST. BO/EC - A & H fig 1206

P.I.B. 23.5.82 and used until 17.2.99

Hooded circles

There has already been an article on the experimental types and both these, and the standard types, will be considered at the meeting.

References

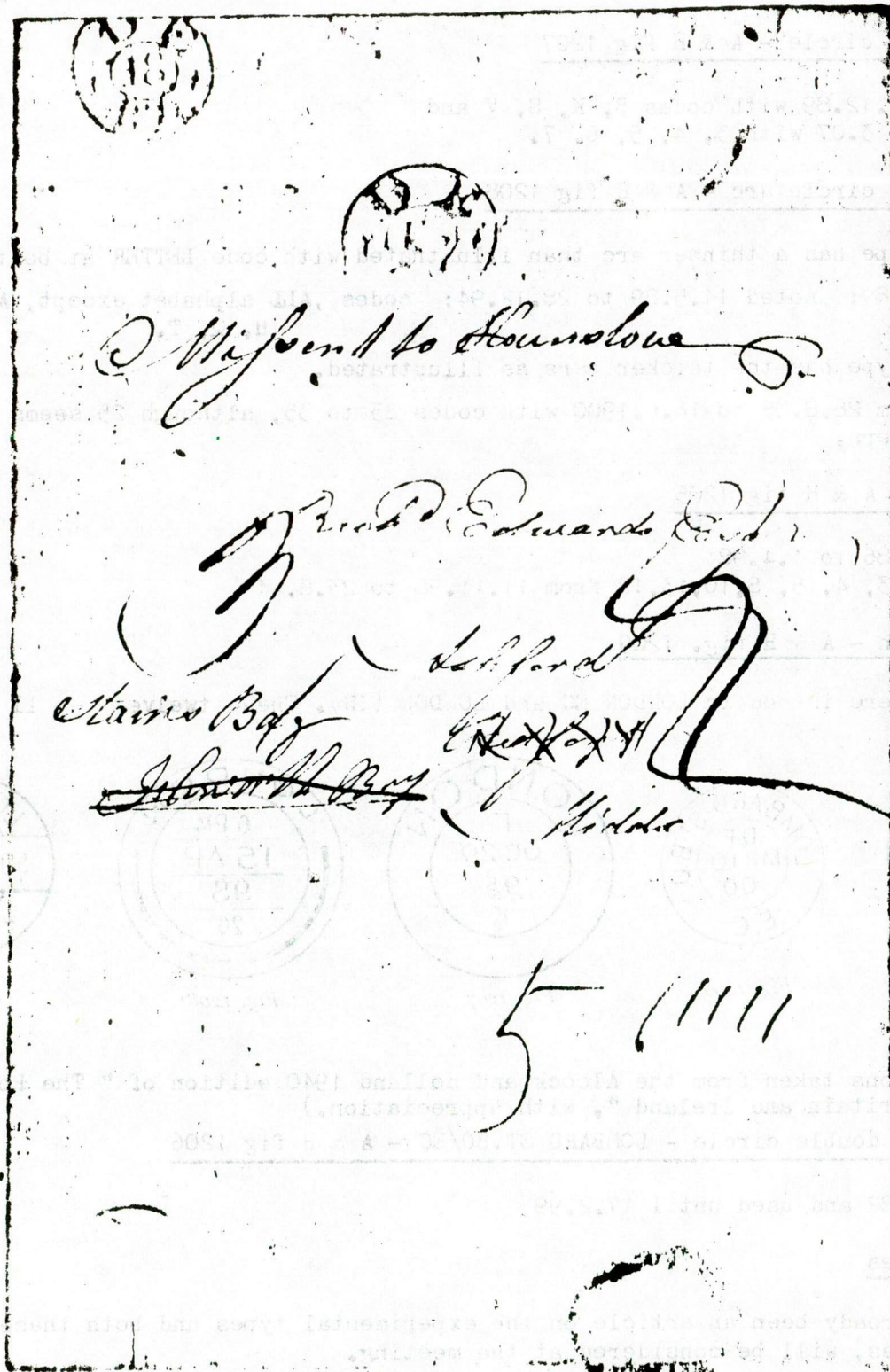
" Squared Circle Postmarks " by W.G. Stitt Dibden

" British Postmarks " Alcock and Holland 1940.

LPHG ' Notebook ', several.

SUN FIRE - OFFICE NOTICE OF 1787, from John Sharp

The cover, recently acquired from a LPHG packet, is in the form of a printed notice from the 'Sun Fire-Office' dated 10th. December 1787 (this date is also printed) and consists of a single sheet



Sun Fire Office....continued

Above the address is written ' Missent to Hounslow ' and at the bottom ' Isleworth Bag ' has been crossed out and ' Staines Bag ' written over.

There is a puzzle with the manuscript marks. The General Post rate for this period was 4d., but the 4 (to the right hand side) has been crossed out. Over the ' Staines Bag ' is written a 3, whilst through the ' a ' of ' Bag ' is another stroke which may have some significance.

On the reverse is a manuscript 5 and five strokes. When was this applied and does it have any bearing on the final charge ?

The London date stamps are on the reverse; one for 18th. December, the date for the other is not clear.

Would a reader please suggest the reasoning behind the various ' charges ' and in particular the purpose of the five single strokes.

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

DEAD LETTER OFFICE LONDON, from Peter Forrestier Smith

Several years ago I was offered an example of a refused letter. The exact price escapes me now but at the time I could merely gaze longingly on the cover and decline. At that time the lesson of considering the frequency of offer of the desired mark with, say, a black on cover and mentally juggling comparative prices against the look on the bank manager's face - in or out of the cupboard - had to be learned.

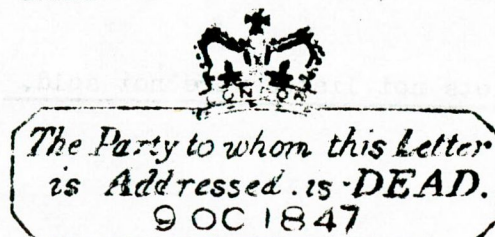
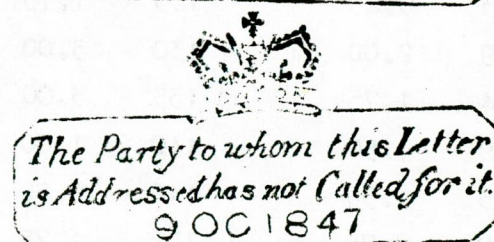
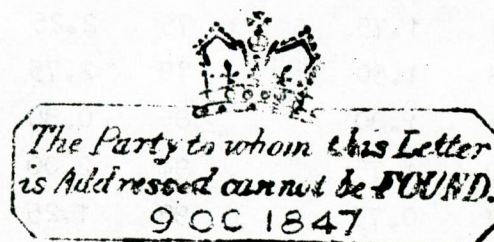
The none too brillaint examples on the right are taken from volume 9, page 87, of the Post Office Proof Impression Books. Due to the quality of the copy I have had recourse to my shaking pen retouch, but the main design is fairly clear.

Just how many of these are there in the members' collections and how near the date of issue?

Alcock and Holland note the Act of 1847 made it compulsory for the sender to pay postage on refused unpaid letters. The other marks in the same style, were issued at the same time, clearly on the basis that an unpaid letter being returned to the sender for any reason, albeit that the addressee is dead, then the point of final delivery is the point for payment and the stamp states the reason.

The point cannot be made too frequently that the object of these marks, and all the other explanatory stamps, was for the benefit not only of the revenue, but to advise the public of the why's and wherefore's for a particular event.

There must be a thought for the 1970's there.



LPHG GROUP AUCTION AUGUST 9TH. RESULTS

Under the experienced hand of Derrick Muggleton the annual auction of 160 lots yielded £ 281. 45 with £161.85 going to postal bidders. A number of the lots moved smartly along whilst others demonstrated that there are bargains for the discerning member.

Lot	£.p	Lot	£.p	Lot	£.p	Lot	£.p
1	0.75	2	1.50	3	1.50	4	15.50
5	7.50	6	7.00	7	3.50	11	0.75
12	1.00	15	1.70	16	1.00	17	1.00
18	1.00	19	0.50	22	1.40	23	2.10
24	2.50	25	1.50	26	1.25	28	1.50
29	1.00	30	2.50	31	10.00	32	3.00
33	4.50	34	10.00	35	2.50	36	1.50
38	3.50	39	6.00	40	2.00	41	2.50
42	3.00	43	1.25	44	0.50	45	0.75
46	6.00	47	1.00	48	1.50	49	1.25
50	2.00	52	5.00	53	6.00	54	12.00
55	11.50	56	8.00	57	5.00	58	2.25
59	1.50	60	2.75	62	1.00	64	0.80
65	1.00	66	1.25	68	1.00	69	1.00
70	1.60	71	1.75	72	1.25	73	1.00
74	1.75	75	2.25	76	1.25	77	0.80
78	1.50	79	2.75	80	1.20	82	0.80
83	1.80	85	0.80	86	2.00	88	2.50
90	1.75	94	2.00	95	0.75	96	0.75
97	0.75	98	1.25	100	1.50	101	1.00
102	1.25	104	1.00	105	0.75	107	2.50
109	0.50	110	3.50	111	2.25	113	0.60
114	0.95	115	1.00	116	3.00	118	0.50
119	1.50	120	4.00	121	3.00	122	0.50
123	0.25	125	1.75	126	1.00	128	1.00
129	2.00	130	3.00	131	3.25	132	0.60
134	1.75	135	3.00	136	1.25	137	0.80
139	4.50	140	1.00	141	1.75	144	2.00
145	1.50	146	0.80	147	0.50	149	0.70
150	0.75	152	1.75	158	1.25	159	2.50

lots not listed were not sold.

FORWARDING AGENTS IN LONDON

One might be inclined to regard forwarding agents cachets as outside the scope of postal history but if the definition of the subject quoted in Notebook is accepted, then clearly they form an important part of the study. For the London collector it may come as something of a surprise to learn that some two hundred have now been recorded and present a formidable task to anyone who might wish to attempt anything like a comprehensive collection. Even if this is not so, the odd example may well appear when illustrating another aspect of the London scene so it is useful to have some background information to add to the pleasure.

A forwarding agent has been defined as one who undertakes to see that the goods or correspondence of another are transported without himself acting as the carrier. In short, a person or firm who arranges the transporting by use of a third party.

As can be appreciated, it is only since the Universal Postal Union agreement of 1875 that anything approaching order came forth from the chaos which obtained until that date. A series of agreements between individual nations had over the years been laboriously negotiated (it has always been a puzzle to the writer why it could not be accepted that a letter out was usually caused by, or gave cause for, a letter in, thereby eliminating the complex accounting devices employed by the postal authorities).

The demand for communication arose with the growth of trade, this being recognised by the British Government as early as 1688 with the start of the Packet Boat service to Corunna. It was quite inadequate, with private vessels - in the Post Office's own words - being ' indispensable '; it should be added that at the same time that same authority was attempting to stop the free enterprise thus applauded!

For anyone close to a port, it was a matter of finding a ship's captain willing to carry the letter. Away from such direct access, a forwarding agent had to be used. But what was wrong with the official post to make this necessary ?

Apart from efficiency, the lack of which the Post Office acknowledged, as noted above, there was the cost. It was one thing for a trader whose very profits depended upon the speedy transmission and receipt of market information being willing to pay, but with such a slow official service was the added vexation of high cost. (If this situation seems familiar....?) The extensive use of the private carrier within the United Kingdom was well established, and indeed remained in use after the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post, with the natural consequence of similar means for mail beyond the national boundaries.

Recognising the inevitability of the situation, the authorities permitted the transmission of mail by private ship and gave a generous discount of 50 per cent on the Packet Rate for those who specified the vessel on which the mail was to be carried, at the time of posting.

To avoid this, which after all was a charge for no service other than getting the mail to a U.K. port, correspondents with North America had available the American Packets. Their agents kept what amounted to receiving houses in London (and Liverpool). For the sum of 4 cents - 2d - a letter, irrespective of weight or the number of sheets, would be carried across the Atlantic.

To illustrate this, take the cost of a letter to Toronto in 1826. The charges for the three available methods were 4/8 using the P.O. Packet, 3/7 using a named private ship via Halifax N.S. and as little as 1/8½ via New York and the Border Exchange Office. To this latter should be added the gratuity in the Coffee House, which is mentioned again later.

For a firm in constant communication with North America the advantages were quite

Forwarding Agents in London, continued

obvious and pressing.

One aspect and cause of the forwarding agent was the distribution of circulars such as price lists. These would be forwarded in bulk, not handed in at a post office as should have been the case, but dealt with by the forwarding agent who would employ the least expensive method available.

The use of coffee houses as meeting places for businessmen is well documented and it needs only to record here their use as collecting points for mail and to act as poste restante for incoming letters. This latter adds another aspect to a London collection. Each house tended to develop its own particular 'brand' of customers with specialised interests and no doubt specialised mail facilities. Ships' captains would advertise their time of departure and hang up a bag for mail. The enthusiastic response to this caused a vigorous reaction by the Post Office who tried to prevent the practice. In 1818, for example, the New England Coffee House paid a penalty and published an apology for its behaviour in this matter, and after a suitable period, resumed the service, no doubt by public demand. Coffee houses were, of course, part only of the picture. The others engaged as forwarding agents included shipping agents, bankers, private citizens and diplomatic staff. Some operated on a grace and favor basis, others on a strictly professional capacity.

The first group were not always without commercial motive, since it formed part of their total service to clients, who would pay indirectly. Those engaged in a more obviously commercial capacity levied charges, a copper or two in the case of the Coffee House. This would normally go to the Ship's Captain who might pay a percentage to the Coffee House, though it was usual that their activities were financed by more indirect methods. The New England Coffee House had a 3d charge for the American Packet service already mentioned. With free enterprise competition a keypart of commercial activity it would not be unreasonable to assume much the same scale of charge by most professional agents. When examining mail handled by forwarding agents it is not uncommon to find a number endorsed on the letter. To go to the lengths of making such a record of the items handled would of itself justify the charge.

It is worth noting that the earliest known agent operating in London was Ezekial Wright in 1673.

As to markings, many had no stamp but endorsed the letter with a suitable message. Some did not even do this and it requires a thoughtful comparison of the inside address and contents with postal markings to establish if carried by means other than the post office for much of its journey, remembering always that the forwarding agent does not engage in the actual carriage. Coffee Houses rarely had markings, either mss or handstamp. A word of caution. Many firms used house handstamps to indicate to the addressee from whom the letter came; these markings should not be construed as forwarding agents cachets. Just to add to the complexity, such stamps might, from time to time, be employed as f.a.c.'s and this may only be verified by contents. As a rough guide, house cachets after the 1880's are suspect and lacking very positive data to the contrary, they should not be treated as f.a.c.'s.

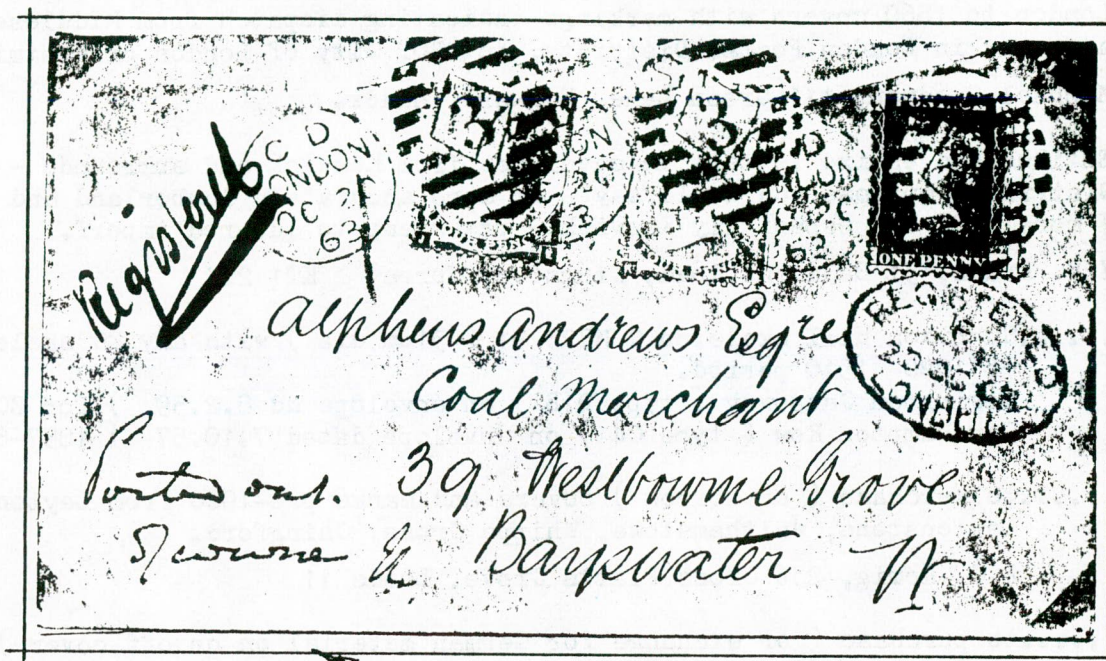
This brief introduction may serve to encourage the interest of readers and should this be so then treat yourself to the two volumes by Kenneth Rowe on the subject. They give a world wide record of the agent network, with a very readable introduction. The two volumes were published separately and some years apart but are:

THE FORWARDING AGENTS, published by The Philatelic Specialists Society, Totonto,
Canada, in 1966

THE FORWARDING AGENTS (II) published by Harry Hayes, 48 Trafalgar Street, Batley,
Yorks in 1974.

POSTED OUT OF COURSE, from George Crabb

Stemming from the Ninth Report for 1862 came a query if any member could offer an example of compulsory registration or similar event.



M.S. Posted out of Course

The item illustrated was posted out of course, that is posted in a letter box when it should have been handed in and a receipt obtained.

This regulation came into effect on 1st. November, 1856 when letters marked registered became to double the unpaid registration fee, i.e. 1/-. On the 1st. January, 1863 this fee of double rate was reduced to 8d.

The letter bears the 1d stamp and the two fourpenny stamps to make up the eight pence unpaid fee, this in accordance with the Postal Official Circular dated 11th. July 1863. (In this case, however, it looks as if the addresser had foreseen this. Ed)

UNPAID STAMPS OF THE GENERAL POST, further data from Brian Smith

In Notebook No.22, page 11, the A & H fig. 49 suggests that only 7 stamps with codes running from C were issued. This may well have been the case at the date of issue, but I can record one 1857/25JU25/B crown W. This is some seven years after the dates previously given for issue, though within the time span for the type.

Can anyone produce code A ?

and from Keith Romig.....

I have a cover in my collection of A & H fig. 49 on an envelope from Jermyn St addressed to New York dated 1854 13 MR with HC (or HG) either side of the crown. It is struck in black. Alcock and Holland noted but one example and that on piece.

These finds still turn up.

THE LONDON EXCHANGE

- WANTED:** Postmarks of Middlesex, pre-stamp to date; pieces or covers. Also require London to 1860 covers with markings indicating dispatch from Middlesex area now in London Postal Districts, but NOT City of London or Westminster. Michael Goodman, 111 Green Lane, Edgware, Middx.
- WANTED.** Entire and entire letters in envelopes from Keswick and surrounds - Lake District I suppose you could say - or more accurately Cumberland and W'moreland, but especially Keswick - pre-stamp to 1d. red imperf. W.V. Evans, 31 Balmoral Road, Kingston, Surrey KT1 2TY
- EXCHANGE.....** Surbiton Hill skeleton C MR23 91 (31mm dia) with any EC skeleton of 1890- 1910 period.
 *** Newington Causeway (type D1B) on envelope dd 8.2.59) for EC office
 Southampton Row (type C4) on envelope dated 7.10.57) 1857-60 period
- WANTED.....** to purchase (or borrow) covers and marks pre-1900 from Leyton, Leytonstone, Walthamstowe, Whipps Cross, Chingford. K.C. Romig, 236 Cross Flatts Grove, Leeds 11
- WANTED.....** to purchase (or exchange for German material on or off cover) London Penny/Two penny Post or covers with an EC or WC cancellation. Payment by UK cheque. E. Shaw, 2082 Uetersen/Holst, Hafenstrasse 8, Germany.
- WANTED.....** South London (i.e. Southwark, Walworth, Camberwell, Bermondsey etc) covers and marks prior to about 1900. Will swap for your wants, either PH or adhesives, GB or other countries, or pay cash (UK cheque) C.H.W. Lilley, P.O. Box 3137, Fitzroy, New Plymouth, New Zealand.
- WANTED.....** to buy Post Cards - Huggins No.CP1 and 2 with side clips punched or pin cancellations....also information about Albert Hoster and a sketch of his machine or any related material Abbot Lutz, 1270 Ave. of the Americas, New York, NY 10020, USA
- FOR SALE.....** by means of exchange, a varied collection of GB postal history. Require items relating to Leics., Hinckley in particular; also re-addressed, cartoon and much travelled covers. Let me know what you want/have Jon Baker, 13 Station Road, Hinckley, Leics.
- WANTED.....** XMAS pmks of Manchester 1907, 1908 or 1909 (types 6 - 10) M.R. Hewlett, The Hermitage, Box, Chippenham, Wilts. SN 14 9DT
- WANTED.....** 1844 Numeral type postmarks, Chief Office, District Offices; on stamp, piece, entire. Offers please to.... R. Garner, 11a Balfour Road, Southport PR8 6LE

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Tenth Report of the PMG....continuedFirst, as to the **Town Service**

Within the town limits, which in 1854 did not include Islington, Pentonville, Balls Pond, the Kent Road, Newington Butts, Kennington, Vauzhall, Camden Town, Kentish Town, and Somers Town, the principal Morning Delivery, by which the bulk of the correspondence from the provinces was distributed, was rarely completed until 10 am. Now, within limits which include the districts above named, a similar delivery is completed by 9 a.m. In 1854, the transmission of a local letter (i.e., letter posted in the district for delivery in the district) from one part to another of the town limits occupied from three to four hours, under the most favourable circumstances. Now the transmission of a letter from one place in a town district to another place in the same town district occupies less than two hours; whilst the period required for the transmission of a letter from one town district to another town district has been reduced by three quarters of an hour.

In 1854, local letters intended for the first Morning Delivery within the town limits, and letters intended to be despatched by the Morning Mails to the provinces, must, to obtain such delivery and despatch, have been posted by 10 p.m. Now such letters may be posted in one or other of a largely increased number of receptacles for letters up to 5 a.m.

Next as to the **Suburban Service.**

In 1854, the Principal Delivery, that which comprised the provincial letters, did not commence in the nearest suburbs much before 9 a.m., and was not completed in the most distant suburbs until noon, or even until 1 p.m. Now, it is completed throughout the nearest suburbs by 9.30 a.m., and has been accelerated to a minimum extent of 45 minutes, and a maximum extent of 1½ hours throughout the most distant suburbs.

In 1854, the local letters collected in the suburbs were, as a general rule, taken to the Chief Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and thence distributed, and, as the arrival of the carts with the collections was not then, as now, fitted to the departure of the carts with the despatches, communication on the same day between any suburban places lying at a distance from each other could hardly be effected. Under the present arrangements communication between suburbs lying widely apart from each other is very rapid. In the case of Hampstead and Blackheath, for instance, which are situated on opposite points of the six mile circle, a letter may be posted in either place in the morning, and the reply thereto may be received on the same day and in sufficient time to admit of a third letter being despatched for early delivery the following morning.

Lastly, in 1854, local letters intended for a Morning Delivery, and letters intended for despatch to the provinces by the Morning Mails, must to attain such delivery and despatch have been posted by 8, and in many cases by 7 pm. Now, throughout the whole of the suburbs, the posting of such letters in one or other of a largely increased number of receptacles for letters may be deferred until 9 a.m., whilst within the five mile circle it may take place up to 6.30 a.m.

When it is considered that London is not so much a city as a province of towns, that the inhabitants of the towns, thus closely compressed within its vast area, keep up a constant inter-communication for the purposes of trade and commerce, and for the purposes of social intercourse, and that the purely local correspondence arising out of these inter-communications amounted in 1854 to 44 per cent. of the whole correspondence of London, and was in fact as large as the whole correspondence of either Ireland or Scotland, the value of the changes which have so greatly benefited this correspondence will be fully understood.

London Postal History Group

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