

NOTEBOOK

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

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THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.....

As forecast in Notebook, the A.G.M. agreed the annual subscription should be increased to £3 with effect from the current year.

The ' budget ' for the year prepared by the Hon. Treasurer made it quite clear that the 90% of costs related to printing and postages and without the ' subsidy ' from the Editor's previous employment of ' paper-only ' costs, it was necessary. A cross in the box indicates an early cheque to the H.T. will be welcome.



On the question of printing, the questionnaires which are enclosed in this mailing cost £1 each, so please make full use of them. Happily a substantial donation to the total bill reduces the effect on Group funds, but this indicates the size of the problem.

HERWITH MY FRANK.....A Supplement by J.W. Lovegrove

Since the publication of the book, several letters have been received which extend dates or provide additional information. It seems to give this information an early airing can do nothing but good; no doubt readers of ' Notebook ' will be able to add further.

Extensions of the dates tend to close the gaps between successive types and point to positive dates of withdrawal of the old and issue of the new ones. Additional information derives from items that are rare but of which specimens have been held by one or two contributors for some time, unknown perhaps to others. Most exciting are the discoveries which emerge from material newly come to light, or given a searching appraisal instead of a mere passing glance.

Extensions of dates

<u>JL List No.</u>	5	Later to 3.4.1792
	18	Earlier from 1.8.1800
	21	Later to 3.7.1807
	24	Earlier from 8.8.1807
	39	On the 1.6.1838 (cf. page 46, para 1)
	70	Earlier from 12.7.1825
	93	Earlier from 12.10.1785 and later to 15.12.1794
	94	Later to 3.10.1807
	96	Earlier from 13.1.1808
	104	Later to 6.1.1832
	117	Earlier from 12.7.1825
	C/9	Also on 3.9.1830

Additional Items

<u>JL List No.</u>	125	TREBLE POSTAGE, known used on a letter of 1794 as a penalty for breaches in the postal regulations.
	-	PAR.PAPERS in manuscript on a front of the 16 March 1836. Formerly it was supposed that the official heading of such material was limited to PART.PROCEEDINGS or PAR.PRO. (see page 45).

NEW DISCOVERIES

<u>JL List No.</u>	37a	A variety of the " Large E " coded stamp, dated 27.9.1837 but instead of the code letter ' E ', the letter ' N ' is inserted. The strike is very clear and so far the item is unique. It proves that the ' E ' and ' N ' codes of 1838 (JL40 & 41) both had a precedent in 1837.
	C/4a	A horizontal oval 29mm wide with the Royal Crown bisecting the middle top of the oval. Within the oval frame and in descending order are the following symbols: The word FREE as in the standard Franking stamps;

Herewith My Frank, continued.....



37a

under that a two letter month code and date digits separated by a small, classical decorative swag; below the day date the four figures of the year - the whole date is for the 13 May 1839; right at the bottom under the year figures is a small 8mm rule, tapered at each end.

The letter has the manuscript heading O.H.M.S. and is addressed to

G. Stewart Esq. J.P.,
Police Magistrate,
Goulburn.

In the bottom left hand corner is the word Treasury and again the date.



C/4a

There are no other handstamps but the one described and a scrawl over the Treasury detail includes the word Ship. This is relevant as Goulburn was in 1839 one of the new settlements in New South Wales. The back of the letter is missing so it is impossible to conclude that the whole item did not bear some other stamp beside the Free one in evidence, but the possibility does arise that here we have a special stamp which authorised Free postage BEYOND THE FRANKING LIMITS OF THE UK SHORES.

A Reminder.....

Stationery embossed in albino with the word FREE is known from about 1841 and survived in various decorative forms at least until 1853. It has a negative importance as being distinctly nothing to do with the Free Franks. When adhesives were first introduced it was a habit of writers to put the word Free somewhere on the front of the letters to indicate that beyond the adhesive no further postage charge was due. To meet a new market stationery was made which was embossed with the word FREE either on its own or as part of a design which incorporated the word FREE beneath a space for the adhesive. The design was floral and sometimes included a Crown over the top.

These items appear to have been mainly used in an Irish context although some are known from the UK and one at least from the Channel Islands. They are perhaps more widespread than is generally known among collectors and a later and more pendent variety is known with the word PREPAID supplanting FREE. The point of including the Free Stationery here is to remind readers of what has been written many years ago on the subject and avoid any confusion that might arise with the Franking System.

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

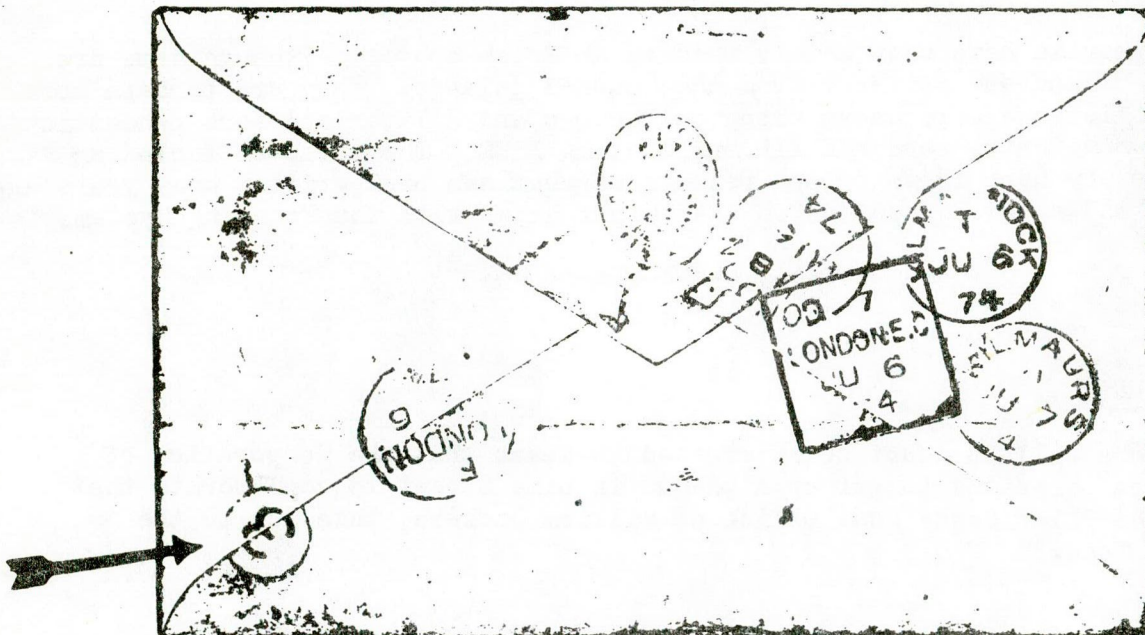
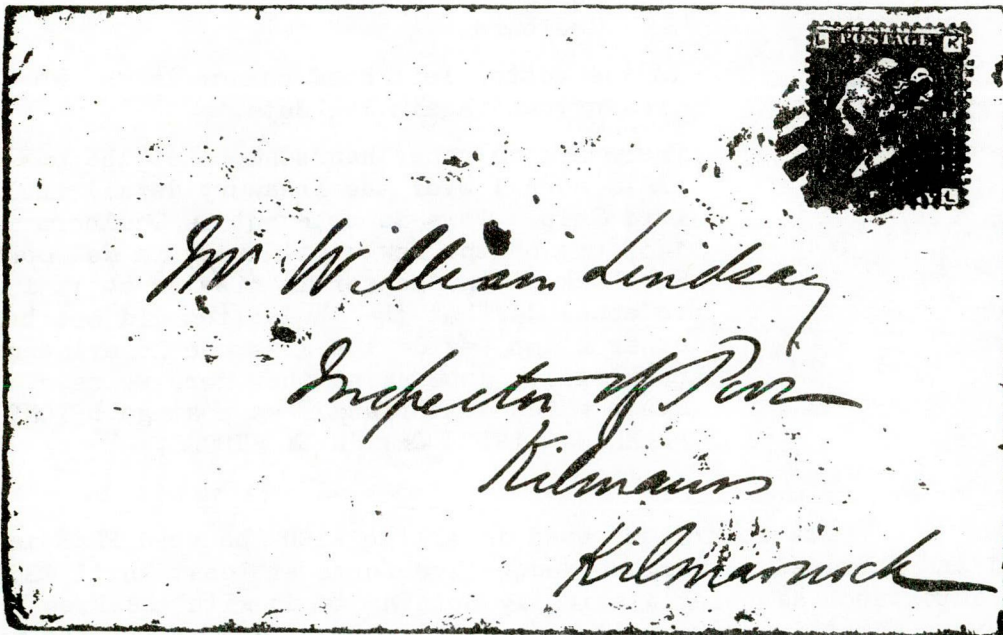
A DOCKWRA PLAQUE.....

London collectors will no doubt be interested to learn that the Corporation of London have been persuaded to put up a plaque in Lime Street to commemorate that close by was the Chief Penny Post Office of William Dockwra, this due to the efforts of Tom Todd.

THE INLAND BRANCH NUMBER ONE

From A. Bruce Auckland comes the item illustrated below, on which a few comments.

The shape of the cancelling stamp is not that of the normal diamond but is contained within a square cut aperture with the three central bars. The backstamping provides a wide selection with the House of Commons Library embossed 'seal' lending support to the parliamentary attribution. A quite uncommon Examiners' marks is the 3 in circle (A & H fig. 1861).



THE ADDITIONAL HALFPENNY MAIL TAX

In Notebook 18 we carried an introductory article on this subject and before too much effort was put into gathering data Messrs Hodgson and Sedgewick published a very full account of these stamps. Permission has been very kindly given to reprint the section relating to London, namely Chapter V, pp 38 - 41 inclusive.

Those who wish to extend their source information should obtain a copy of the book:

The Scottish Additional Halpenny Mail Tax 1813 - 1839, by
Kenneth Hodgson and W.A. Sedgewick, published by
Jonathan Partridge, P.O. Box No.84, Sheffield S11AZ (tel: 0742-302941) £1.40

Type	Size in mm Ht x Wth	Color	Recorded Earliest	Dates Latest	Rarity	Fig
IA	37 x 17.5	Black	17. 6.13	3. 7.13	D	115
IA	36 x 18	Black	23. 6.13	8. 9.17	D	116
IA	36.5 x 18	Black	4. 8.13	16. 2.17	C	117
IC	23.5 x 19	Black	13. 4.16	12. 8.17	B	118
IIIA	20.5 x 20.5	Black	8. 2.17	21. 9.21	A	119
IIIA	18.5 x 17	Black	21. 4.20	30.10.24	A	120
IIIA	20 x 20	Black	13. 1.23	1.12.24	A	121
IIIB	18.5 x 11	Black	13.12.24	21.3.27	B	122
IIIB	18.5 x 12	Black	10. 7.28	22.11.31	B	123
IIIB	14.5 x 9	Black	31. 7.28	24. 7.29	E	124

One of the smallest Add. Halfpennies.
Use probably restricted to redirected mail.



FIG 115



FIG 116



FIG 117

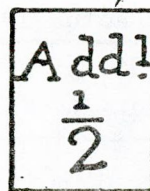


FIG 118

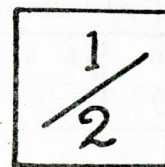


FIG 119



FIG 120

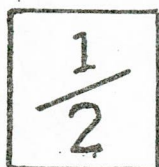


FIG 121



FIG 122



FIG 123

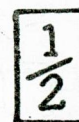


FIG 124

The Additional Halfpenny Mail Tax, continued.....

Type	Size in mm Ht x Wth	Color	Earliest Recorded	Latest Dates	Rarity	Fig
IIIB	19.5 x 12	Black	11.11.28	4. 5.30	B	125
Tall Fig. 1 (7.5mm); 2 not square with frame						
IIIB	18 x 11.5	Black	14. 3.30	25. 4.31	B	126
		Blue	13. 6.32	24. 7.32	C	
		Dirty Green	15.12.32	7. 1.33	B	
The Blues are not a true blue but a definite transition from black-blue to the distinctive dirty green.						
IIIB (i)	19 x 12	Dirty Green	25. 2.33	29. 6.34	D	127
IIIB	18 x 12	Dirty Green	2. 8.34	3. 9.35	B	128
This stamp suffered a great deal of frame damage and by April 1835 the top line is almost all missing also the lower part of the left hand frame line. Towards the end of its use the frame was in all probability repaired as the latest recorded copy shows a full frame line. Fig. 1 almost touches the top frame line before the damage; fig. 2 large and distinctive.						
IIIB (ii)	16.5 x 12.5	Dirty Green	27. 1.36	19. 9.38	B	129
The fraction bar now goes from top right to bottom left corners without actually touching						
IIIB (ii)	17 x 13.5	Dirty Green	13. 2.36	9. 4.36	C	130



FIG 125



FIG 126

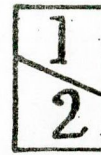


FIG 127



FIG 128



FIG 129

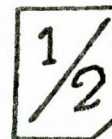


FIG 130

The Additional Halfpenny Mail Tax, continued.....

Type	Size in mm Ht x Wth	Color	Recorded Dates		Rarity	Fig
			Earliest	Latest		
IIIB (ii)	16.5 x 12	Dirty Green	28. 9.37	21. 7.38	B	131
IVB		Dirty Green	26.11.38	29.11.39	C	132

This completes the London Handstamps and is the only type without a frame from London.



FIG 131

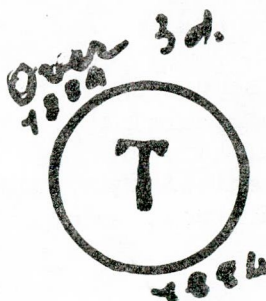


FIG 132

Notes

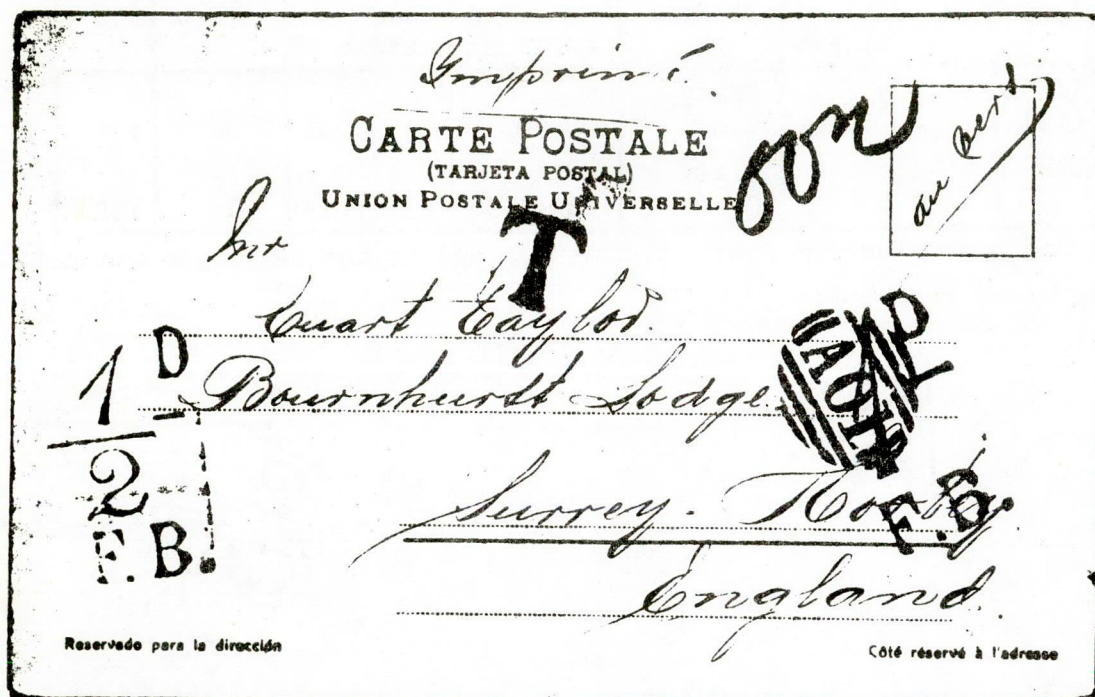
- Type
- IIIA Frame wider than 18mm.
Fraction line slopes from right to left
 - IIIB Vertical rectangular frame narrower than 18mm.
Fraction line slopes from right to left.
 - IA Vertical rectangular frame, taller than 25mm
No dividing line between Addl. and $\frac{1}{2}$
Fraction line horizontal
 - IC Vertical rectangular frame, shorter than 25mm
No dividing line between Addl. and $\frac{1}{2}$
Fraction line horizontal
 - IVB Without a frame
Fraction line slopes from right to left

Rarity Scale: This runs A to F, commonest to rarest

CANCELLATION QUERIES, from A. Pernin

The four items illustrated above have proved difficult to trace and I would be glad to have readers help in identifying their use. The T in circle is probably a Taxe stamp, but it has been applied to the 3d adhesive; from other stamps the item can be dated 7.8.84.

Those with the solid bar across the middle seem familiar, but again they elude me. I suspect C.T.O. does NOT mean 'cancelled to order'!

UNDERPAID MAIL FROM ARGENTINA, by Ian Warn

I have just acquired the post card, illustrated above, which I am sure will be of interest to some LPHG members.

It was posted in Argentina, franked with a 5c adhesive; this amount was insufficient and the 'T' stamp applied with a m/s 002 before despatch to England.

On arrival in London a postage due mark of 1d was applied, presumably before the 'Au verse' in m/s and deficiency amount of 002 was observed. On inspection, the adhesive on the picture side would be confirmed and, assuming the amount to be two decimes underpaid, the double deficiency of 1d was as nearly correct as possible.

The unusual feature lies in the use of the barred oval AO1 to cancel the 1d due mark. The previous association of AO1 with Kingston Jamaica is well known, but Brumell makes reference to only one other use on a 1d reply post card, apparently posted in France, addressed to London, and dated 1903.

Unhappily there is no dating of the card above but it seems fair to put it into the first decade, to judge the general character. That there are only two uses of this stamp in London seems unlikely and news of others known or owned by readers would be welcome. One might extend this request to include any of the stamps at first allocated to overseas offices.

Editor's Late Extra.....

Taken from " Philately of the Anglo-Boer War 1899 - 1902 " by Stephen G. Rich...

" Pirie and co-workers mention the use of the old grid canceller No. AO1, used at Kingston Jamaica, from 1858 to 1884 and then returned to London, for cancelling out due ratings on Boer War soldiers' mail. "

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

[Oct. 18, 1856.

WEIGHING MACHINE AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

THE object of this machine is to enable the Post-office authorities at St. Martin's-le-Grand to weigh, *en masse*, the letters and newspapers sent daily from the office to the provinces—a work hitherto done in detail, at much cost of time to the duty. When it is borne in mind that not less than 71,000,000 newspapers per annum—or about 200,000 every day—pass through the Post-office, and that the average

weight of each is not less than three ounces; and that the number of "book packets," exclusive of newspapers, which now pass through the London office, is at the rate of about 1,400,000 per annum, being an increase of more than a million, or of 273 per cent. on the number in 1854, and that the average weight of each packet is from 4 ozs. to 10 ozs.—it is quite clear that the application of machinery to this purpose must prove a desirable acquisition.

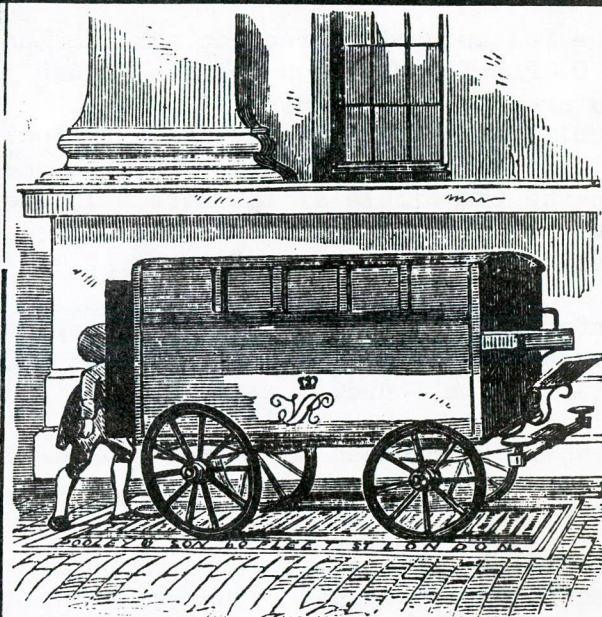
This new machine is placed opposite the superintendent's office at the north end of the building, in the track of the vehicles on leaving the yard. The platform is 12 ft. by 8 ft.; it is of cast iron, and is surrounded by a cast-iron kerb, which is secured to granite blocks by holding-down bolts, and forms a bond to those blocks, as well as a guard against their slipping and wearing away by the action of the vehicles passing over it. The platform and its kerbs are formed with projecting steads and ribs in such manner as to prevent the feet of horses from slipping, in whatever direction they are driven over it.

The steelyard which indicates the weights, is sustained by an iron frame composed of two pillars with connected base and entablature, and is placed across the window of the office in the Guards Department; where suitable desk and other fixtures are arranged for convenience of the clerk in charge.

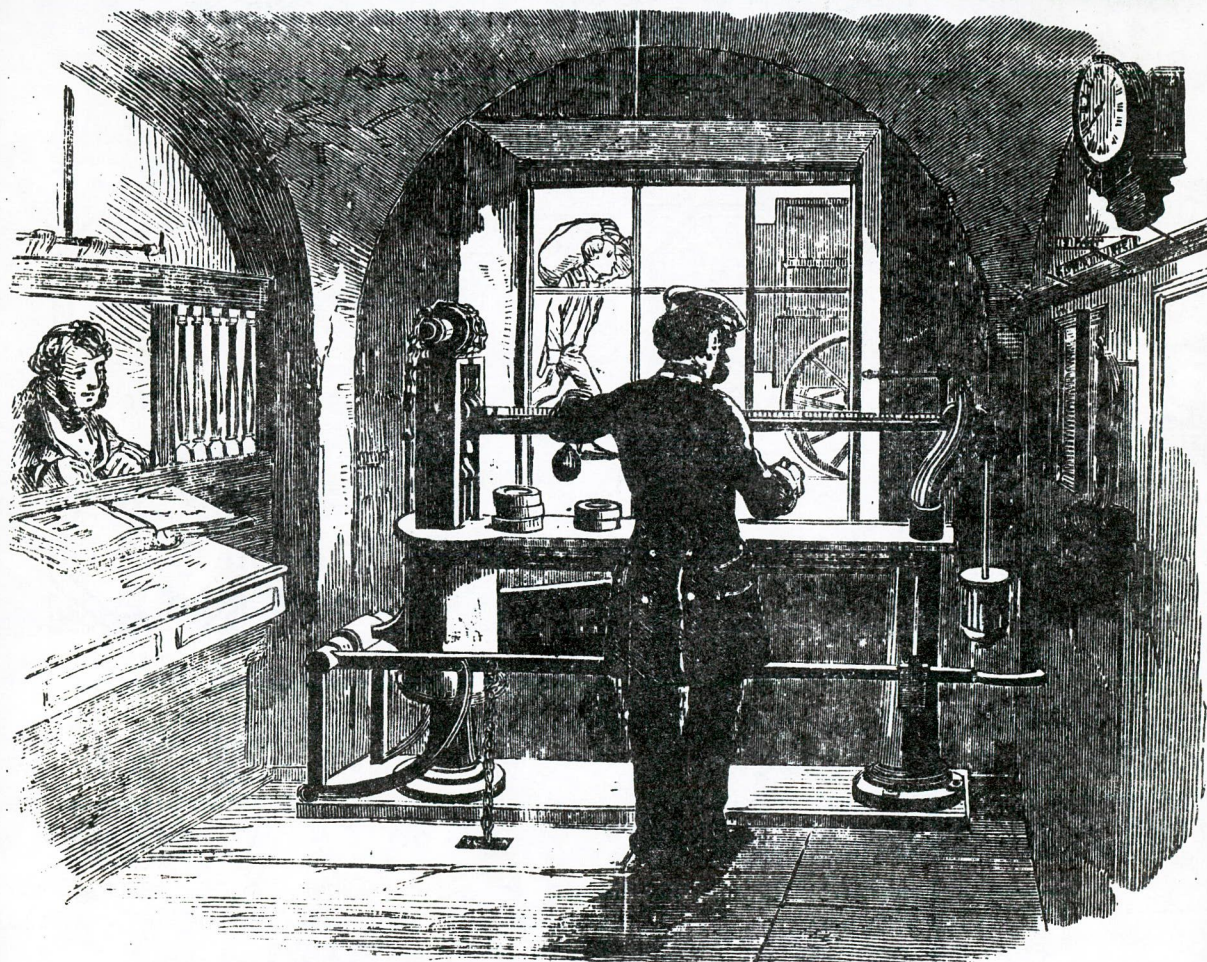
its construction and working, and takes up so little room as to offer no obstruction to the ordinary work of the office. The operation of weighing is brief and exact.

The patentees and manufacturers are Messrs. Henry Pooley and Son, of 89, Fleet-street, and the Albion Works, Liverpool.

The machine, we understand, is now in full operation.



THE POST-OFFICE WEIGHING MACHINE.—THE VAN PASSING OVER THE TRAM.



THE WEIGHING MACHINE AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

SQUARED CIRCLES OF LONDON FROM THE POST OFFICE PROOF IMPRESSION BOOKS,

by Ken Willington

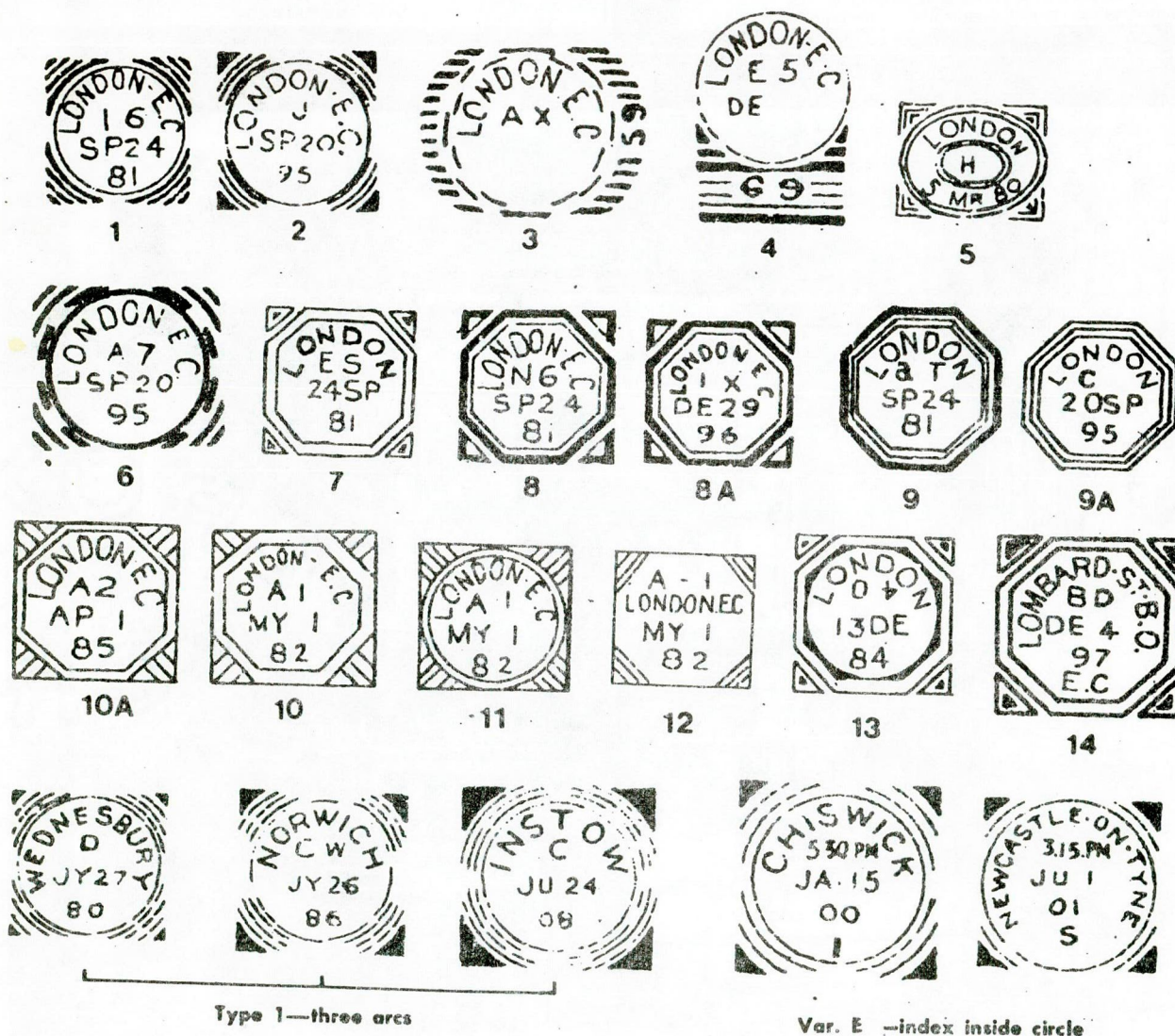
The following list records all the London Squared Circles shown in the relevant P.O. Proof Impression Books - Volume 39, 43 and 46. The Types referred to in Vol. 39 are the experimental strikes shown in "Squared Circle Postmarks" by Stitt-Dibden published by the British Postmark Society - henceforth referred to as S - D. The other strikes are all Type 1, with one sub-type, Type 1E (with the index number inside the circle at the bottom), see S - D, page 9. It will be seen there are several strikes not previously recorded with FINCHLEY/EAST END S.O.N. being a completely new sub-office.

Unfortunately this cannot be a complete list as the microfilms of the Proof Impression Books for London end with 1892 and there are undoubtedly further unrecorded items still to be found.

I shall be pleased to record your discoveries: please send to

6, Three Corner Drive, Old Catton, Norwich NR6 7HA

The illustrations are taken from the Squared Circle Postmarks, by Stitt Dibden, recently republished by Harry Hayes, 48 Trafalgar Street, Batley, Yorkshire, as shown in Notebook No.24.



Volume 39

Page	Detail	No. of Stamps	Date	Notes
48	LONDON EC	3	27.11.79	
49	LONDON EC	3	27.11.79	
64	LONDON		6. 3.80	Type 5
	LONDON EC		6. 3.80	Type 7
71	LONDON EC	2	17. 4.80	
72	LONDON EC		17. 4.80	
82	LONDON		13. 7.80	Type 13
83	LONDON	2	13. 7.80	Type 13
92	NORWOOD SE		11. 9.80	
98	LONDON	6	29.11.80	Type 9
125	LONDON		31. 5.81	Type 9
137	CHARING CROSS WC	6	18. 8.81	
138	LONDON N.	2	24. 8.81	
153	MARK LANE EC	5	6.12.81	
154	MARK LANE EC	3	6.12.81	
163	LONDON		27. 1.82	Type 13
176	LOMBARD ST BO/EC	2	25. 4.82	Type 14
177	LOMBARD ST BO/EC	6	25. 4.82	
178	LOMBARD ST BO/EC	2	25. 4.82	
198	MARK LANE EC	2	19. 7.82	

Volume 43

46	LOMBARD ST BO/EC		17. 9.83	
113	LONDON EC	6	18. 6.84	
114	LONDON EC	6	18. 6.84	
144	HORNSEY N.		30.12.84	
145	LONDON W/47.48.52.		28. 1.85	Type 1E None in S-D
155	CHARING CROSS WC		21. 4.85	
157	LONDON SW		14. 5.85	
158	LONDON SW	6	14. 5.85	
159	LONDON SW	2	14. 5.85	
	LEE SO/SE		16. 5.85	
161	CAMBERWELL SO/SE		12. 6.85	
165)				
166)	LONDON SE/27.28.29.30.31.32		10. 7.85	Type 1E
166	LONDON W/60.61.62.63		23. 7.85	Type 1E
167	LONDON W/64.65.66.67.68.69.70		23. 7.85	Type 1E
168	LONDON W/71		23. 7.85	Type 1E
189	HIGHBURY SO/N		22. 9.85	
191	LONDON NW	6	3.10.85	
192	LONDON NW	2	3.10.85	
195	HERNE HILL SO/SE		22.10.85	
	LONDON WC	4	28.10.85	
196	FINCHLEY/EAST END SO.N		29.10.85	Not in S-D
197	BLACKHEATH SO/SE		7.11.85	
200	LONDON SE/24		24.11.85	Type 1E
206	NEW CROSS SO/SE		11.12.85	
207	LONDON SE/1.2		17.12.85	Type 1E
208	LONDON WC/CX	2	17.12.85	
209	LONDON WC/CX	3	17.12.85	
218	LONDON WC	2	3. 3.86	
219	LONDON WC	3	3. 3.86	
223	PLAISTOW SO/E		4. 5.86	
234	LONDON W/72.73.74		21. 5.86	Type 1E

Squared Circles of London, continued.....

Page	Detail	No.of Stamps.	Date	Notes
235	LONDON W/75.76.77		21. 5.86	Type 1E
236	LONDON W		21. 5.86	
237	PADDINGTON W	(2)	22. 6.86	
238	PADDINGTON W	(5)	22. 6.86	
241	LONDON E	(5)	27. 7.86	
242	LONDON E	(2)	27. 7.86	
243	LONDON E	(2)	27. 7.86	
244	LONDON E	(2)	27. 7.86	
<u>Volume 46</u>				
26	KENTISH TOWN NW		23.11.86	
27	LONDON SE/33.34.35		24.11.86	Type 1E
28	LONDON SE/36.37.38		24.11.86	Type 1E
29	PECKHAM SO/SE		4.12.86	
	CAMBERWELL SO/SE		4.12.86	
31	BROCKLEY SO/SE		16.12.86	
44	LONDON WC		16. 2.87	
46	LONDON SE/3.4.5.11		18. 2.87	Type 1E
47	LONDON W/74.75.76		22. 2.87	Type 1E
49	HIGHGATE/N		2. 3.87	
78	LONDON/N		12. 8.87	
89	EAST FINCHLEY SO/N		10.11.87	
	HIGHGATE/N		12.11.87	
90	FINCHLEY/CHURCH END N		14.11.87	
	NORTH FINCHLEY/N		14.11.87	
	WOOD GREEN/N		14.11.87	
92	HORNSEY/N		18.11.87	
97	TOTTENHAM SO		12.12.87	
99	UPPER EDMONTON SO		23.12.87	
103	LONDON WC	(2)	25. 1.88	
104	LONDON WC	(4)	25. 1.88	
110	LONDON N	(2)	20. 2.88	
112	LONDON N		15. 3.88	
	LONDON SE/12		20. 3.88	Type 1E
115	LONDON N		9. 4.88	
122	LONDON W/77.78.79.80.81		11. 6.88	Type 1E 80 not in S-D
123	LONDON W/82		11. 6.88	Type 1E
124	HIGHBURY SO/N		22. 6.88	
125	PECKHAM SO/SE		26. 6.88	
128	WILLESDEN SO/N		8. 8.88	Type 1, no in S-D
131	WHETSTONE SO/N		27. 8.88	
	PALMERS GREEN SO/N		27. 8.88	
135	LONDON SE/3.4.5		11. 9.88	Type 1E
140	NEW SOUTHGATE		6.11.88	
141	BOW SO/E		16.11.88	
	THREADNEEDLE ST BO/EC		17.11.88	
143	FINSBURY PARK SO/N		23.11.88	
144	STOKE NEWINGTON SO/N		23.11.88	
148	LONDON E	(2)	24.12.88	
150	UPPER HOLLOWAY SO		22.12.88	
154	LONDON N		5. 2.89	
	THREADNEEDLE ST BO/EC		8. 2.89	
155	NORTH WOOLWICH SO/E		9. 2.89	
157	LONDON N		13. 3.89	
158	LONDON/SW	(3)	27. 3.89	

Squared Circles of London, continued.....

Page	Detail	No. of Stamps.	Date	Notes
159	LONDON/SW	(6)	27. 3.89	
160	LONDON/SW	(3)	27. 3.89	
164	WEST KENSINGTON W/1.4		29. 3.89	Type 1E
165	WEST KENSINGTON W/2.3.5		29. 3.89	Type 1E
	PADDINGTON W		29. 3.89	
166	THROGMORTON AVENUE F/EC	(3)	30. 3.89	Not in S-D
167	THROGMORTON AVENUE F/EC	(3)	30. 3.89	Not in S-D
	STOCK EXCHANGE/E		3. 4.89	Not in S-D
168	STOCK EXCHANGE/E	(3)	3. 4.89	Not in S-D
173	LONDON E		8. 5.89	
176	DEPTFORD SO/SE		5. 7.89	
179	NOTTING HILL/W		21. 8.89	
183	FOREST HILL/SE		5. 9.89	
187	STRATFORD SO/E		11.10.89	Type 1, not in S-D
	WINCHMORE HILL SO/N		11.10.89	
189	CHISWICK/1.2		8.11.89	Type 1E
190	THREADNEEDLE ST B0/EC		12.11.89	
191	CHISWICK/3		18.11.89	Type 1E
196	LONDON/E	(6)	12.12.89	
197	LONDON/E		12.12.89	
	LONDON SE/1.2		13.12.89	Type 1E
198	LEYTONSTONE SO/E		14.12.89	Type 1, not in S-D
202	CAMBERWELL SO/SE		24.12.89	
214	CLAPTON SO/E		22. 3.90	
215	EALING W	(2)	31. 3.90	
217	LONDON SE/3.4.5.		30. 4.90	Type 1E
218	LONDON SE/6		30. 4.90	Type 1E
224	PADDINGTON W		4. 7.90	
	PLAISTOW SO/E		10. 4.90	
225	CHINGFORD SO		23. 7.90	
231	WOODFORD & SOUTHFORD/ESSEX		13. 8.90	
232	STOKE NEWINGTON SO/N		10. 9.90	
234	LONDON SE/7.8.9		20. 9.90	Type 1E
241	LONDON E/4.6		30.10.90	Type 1E
242	LONDON E/1.3.7.9.10		30.10.90	Type 1E; 10 not in S-D
243	LONDON E/2.5.8		30.10.90	Type 1E
245	LONDON SE/18.19.20.23		1.11.90	Type 1E
246	BEDFORD ST SO/WC		7.11.90	
255	KENNINGTON SO/SE		1.12.90	
	SHEPHERDS BUSH W/1		3.12.90	Type 1E
256	SOUTH TOTTENHAM SO	(3)	3.12.90	
261	SOUTHGATE/N		17.12.90	Type 1, not in S-D
262	BOW SO/E		23.12.90	
263	WIMBLEDON	(2)	23.12.90	
265	LEE SO/SE		22. 1.91	
267	LOWER EDMONTON SO		14. 2.91	
268	STRATFORD SO/E		25. 2.91	
270	NEW CROSS SO/SE		17. 3.91	
	GREENWICH SO/SE		18. 3.91	
273	LONDON E	(5)	20. 3.91	
274	LONDON E	(2)	20. 3.91	
	LONDON/41		20. 3.91	Type 1E; nit in S-D
275	MAIDA HILL/W		24. 3.91	
276	HORNSEY/N		31. 3.91	

Squared Circles of London, continued.....

Page	Detail	No. of Stamps	Date	Notes
285	LONDON WC		26. 5.91	
290	ALDGATE BO/E	(2)	25. 6.91	
303	WALTHAMSTOW		1. 9.91	
307	FINSBURY PARK SO/N	(2)	15. 9.91	
310	HOMERTON SO/E		19. 9.91	
311	LEYTON SO		26. 9.91	
318	TOTTENHAM SO		4.11.91	
321	WALWORTH SE		14.11.91	
322	NORWOOD SE	(2)	20.11.91	
323	POPLAR SO/E		23.11.91	Type 1, not in S-D
326	WEST NORWOOD SE		14.12.91	
327	PADDINGTON W		19.12.91	
332	LONDON W/18.19.33		20. 2.92	Type 1E
333	LONDON W/34.36.37.38.41		20. 2.92	Type 1E
334	LONDON W/55.57		20. 2.92	Type 1E
339	LONDON NW	(6)	30. 3.92	
340	LONDON NW	(10)	30. 3.92	
341	LONDON NW	(3)	30. 3.92	
348	PADDINGTON W		7. 5.92	
353	LONDON E/11.12.13.14.15		21. 5.92	Type 1E, 15 not in S-D
354	LONDON E/16		21. 5.92	Type 1E
368	EALING DEAN/W		23. 9.92	
370	CATFORD SO/SE		1.11.92	
371	FOREST GATE SO/E		11.11.92	
374	VICTORIA DOCKS SO/E		18.11.92	
	MANOR PARK SO		21.11.92	

—O—

A FOREIGN OFFICE QUERY.....(Notebook 27, page 12)

First a text correction; the cover description should read.." the A.T.F. cancelled by C.T.F....."

Although not a British postal marking, GB collectors may well have examples which call for a 'write-up'.

Alf Kirk received advice from the Secretary of the France & Colonies P.S. that a French Postmark Catalogue published in 1903 states the initials to be: Austria Transit Francais; E.T.F. = Espagne Transit Francais and PB = Pas-bas for the Netherlands.

Further correspondence with Dr Wyttenbach confirms the original recording in the following terms:

The CTF and ATF were stamps used at the French Ports for incoming mail from England (A) or the overseas Colonies (C), while in transit to other European countries (e.g. Switzerland); it is a TRANSIT MARK. As soon as I can locate a more recent reference article it should be possible to have a fuller note of the stamps.

FOREIGN SECTION HANDSTAMP.....

It is quite amazing how often one can have a curious aspect of postal marking in front of one before anything registers. Such has been the case with what had been taken as just another FS handstamp.

The proof impression books of Post Office Records are, alas, far from complete and the gaps, generally between the 1890's and 1930's give rise to many difficulties. Add to this the lack of functional designation with each issue and the speculative power of postal historians is given freedom to an alarming degree. However, Jeremy Greenwood in locating the EC stamp receiving book has signalled one source of data namely, locate these records for all the offices.

Pending this happy, though not hopeful, outcome for the Foreign Section, let us speculate a little on the function of the FS 20 stamp. From the few copies in the range available at present, a distinct common factor emerges. The list is:

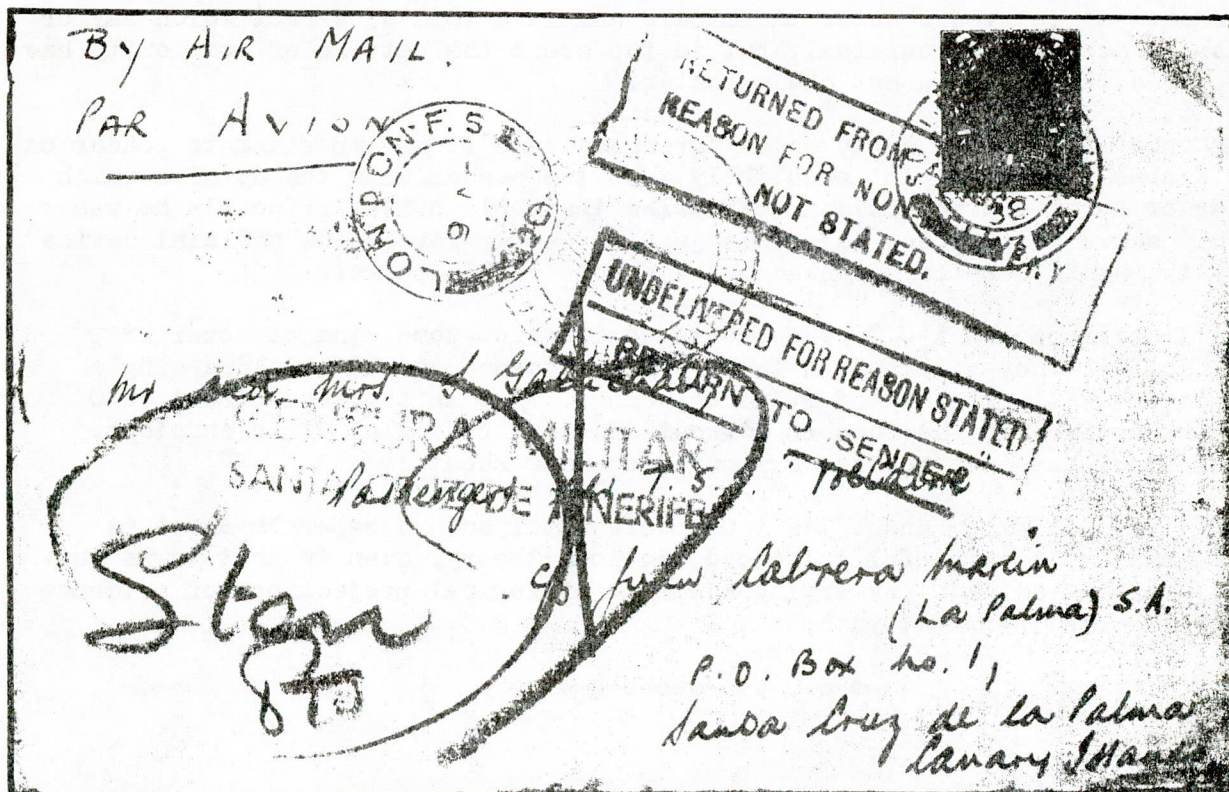
- | | |
|--|------------|
| 1. On a post card cut out, but apparently returned from abroad | 13. 6.1911 |
| 2. Similar item | 24.10.1911 |
| 3. WC District bulk mailing to India, returned to sender | 15.10.1935 |
| 4. Similar item | 1. 1.1936 |
| 5. Registered item to Barcelona, returned | 9. 7.1937 |

These five have the stamp reading LONDON at the top, FS 20 at the foot

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 6. Air mail to Canary Islands, returned | 9.11.1938 |
|---|-----------|

This item has LONDON FS at the top with 20 at the foot, illustrated below.

It seems too much of a coincidence that all these returned items, and that is why they were collected, should have the FS 20 stamp as the receiving mark. Would readers check their own returned material for the same - hopefully - or another FS number.



Herewith My Frank.

One piece of new evidence in the ' O ' code story has far reaching implications. A front of 1819 has turned up in auction - a year not previously represented.

Dated from London the 4 February, it is addressed to Mr. John Mitchell at Tewkesbury. The franking signature is also that of J Mitchell, in the same hand as the address, and it is clearly a self addressed letter.

This is the third of such items to be found, the other two being of John Atkins in July 1802 and Robert Williams in 1803. From 1820 onwards all the ' O ' code examples discovered, thus far, are addressed to persons other than the signatories.

It is now possible to venture upon certain limited lines of speculation, based on the above.

The ' O ' code system, whatever its purpose was, appears to have origins in the early 1800's, to have retained a simple form of s.a.e. principles up to 1819 and to have undergone some change in 1820. Following this change, it further appears that the earlier items from 1820 to 1830 are all addressed to professional houses. Then, for a brief moment, a Mrs. Wright appears as the addressee - hardly a professional in the strict sense of the word, but mysteriously it turns out she is not resident at the address or in the district of the address - a feature which becomes a common factor among many later items.

In 1831 comes the first example involving the unequivocal agent in the person of the paid civil servant, William Ince. From then on the patterns of relationship between senders and receivers in increasingly complex, though with a continuing preponderance of agency at work in a wider sense. The number of ' O ' code specimens increases as the years enter the middle and late 1830's, a fact which may or may not be an accident of survival, but in the event the pattern of complexity has the stamp of a rather drawn out chain-letter.

Returning once more to the early self-addressed items it is important to ponder on how they probably worked. It is unlikely that the sender knew the details which the letter or cover was to contain, otherwise the whole s.a.e. principle he was using would serve no purpose. He could just as easily forego the official device and carry the stuff home in his head or by a note in his pocket.

So in all likelihood the ' O ' code fronts derive from some kind of cover or wrapper. Whether they remained in that form or became used as a folded single sheet we cannot tell for lack of evidence, except that in the case of one 1840 item it has survived in the form of a front and part back flap of an envelope. At least in that case the message was on a separate sheet.

No one will be much wiser about the ' O ' code until such a separate sheet is found. Meanwhile it is useful to record cautious theory, even if that turns out to be mistaken in the end. By trying a number of logical projections of evidence we may strike upon the right path.

J.W.L.

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

DEAR FATHER, DEAR SON, or A MORAL TALE

Dear Father

I Wright you these few lines to Inform you that I have (.....) you down In the Ship this time which I Beg Parden for But I Dont think I shall Like to go aney More I will Be much Obliged to you if you will Call as I want to see you Purticular and I will Be obliged to you if you will Settel will (?with) Mr Sames as we Doe want some things for wat coming into this world as it will & do Be Long first please god (?) and I am Sorey that things is turned out so Bad as they are at Preasend But if you could Doe any thing for me as to (...) Some place I will Return you in aney thanks for it Mrs Wade sends her Best Resticts you Both

I Remain

ps Please to come your
self or send a letter to me

your Dutiful Son
W Wade

The response was written on the reverse.....

Wm

I am sorry I am under the necessity of writing again to you your words & promises are not to be taken or trused to the last time I was under the painful necessity of writing to you about your Last Bad conduct wherby you as much disoblige your Fahter & Freind you than promise your Father & me also that for the future your conduct should be such has might gain our respect & esteem we gave you credit for what you said & should have been happy is you had prove'd yourself so But O to your shame & our greif you have prove yourself unworthy our esteem or regard - nay of our displeasure & your Father - so far condended to take you in to his favour & place you in a suitiation Wherby you might you might maintain'd yourself & Family with Credit & your Father (had you behave well) would have given you every Incoragement - But alass sorry I am to say your likes the Dog to his Vomit or the sow to her wollowing in the mire - you are putting it out of your own power & your Friends to do you any good wile your given to that cursed Sin of Drinking for you thereby Incompasetate yourself for Business - has to your talking of your Fathers getting you place what place to you think your fit for - when your Father has put such a trust in your name & you cut such an Unfaithfull & Base past - for Shame - Willm let it never more be said a son of such a kind Father - should set such an unbecoming a part its well for you that I am not your Father Instead of an Unkle else you might have expected severe treatment - But this you must expect if you do not mind Your Business you will in a short time come to miseary & want you are now got the concerns of a Family & therefore you are not to Act a Boys part - if you have any value for yours soul or Body for your Wife or Friends for Gods sake abstain from Drink beg of God to give you Grace for this End if you do not you are Ruin'd for Ever Remember what the wise man said the Way of transgressors.....

I am.....

Editor's Note.....

There was but one address and set of postal markings on the ' double ' entire, that of William Wade Esq, Almshouses, Mile End Road and carried a round top 3 and a date stamp for 26th.June 1806. It could be that the son was ' named ' for his father, so the direction of the movement through the post in unclear. What cannot be disputed was the use, or rather abuse, of English by both the son and the 'Unkle,' replying for the father.

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

THE BATTERSEA CANCELLATION, by Michael English

Since writing an article about the peculiar cuts found in cancellations of Battersea around the turn of this century (Notebook No.8), I have obtained the collection of these items from the late Vic Swann and can now extend the dates and types mentioned.

The Wandsworth District Office was moved to Battersea and renamed the Battersea District Office on 19th. November, 1897. The first three handstamps - all identical - had been sent out from the Chief Office on 23rd. June, 1897 (fig.1). In the Proof Impression Book the entry has a manuscript note : " S.W.D.O. in error - sent to Wandsworth by Postmaster S.W.D.O. ".

I have found no evidence of the use of these handstamps before they were marked. They are first seen with 1, 2 or 3 cuts, surely to denote " ownership " of the three stamps: before the advent of numbers at the foot of the stamp.

A	1 cut	(fig.2)	23. 2.1898 - 25. 1.1900	{ cuts inner circle } { cuts both circles } { cuts inner circle and SOMETIMES outer circle }
B	2 cuts	(fig.3)	28. 8.1897 - 6. 2.1900	
C	3 cuts	(fig.4)	5. 8.1897 - 3. 8.1900	
After 1899 a stamp with NO cuts appears - not recorded in Proof Impression Books, so presumably a recut of A.				
D	No cuts	(fig.1)	3.10.1899 - 9.10.1900	



fig. 1

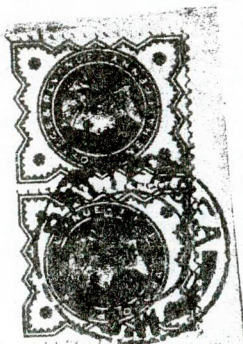


fig. 3



fig. 4



fig. 2

The Battersea Cancellation, continued.....

fig.5



fig.6



fig.7



fig.8

Different stamps with 2 and 3 cuts reappear in 1901:

E	2 cuts (fig.5)	28.10.1910 (1 item only)	probable recut of B; this is on 1d.lilac so could be date error for 1901.
F	3 cuts (fig.6) (15 items)	19. 9.1901 - 1. 3.1905	similar to C, but only 24mm and different cuts.
The series of stamps with BATTERSEA S.W. at the top and numbers at the bottom was issued, commencing in 1900. Two of the number codes, 1 and 4, were marked with a ' tick ' (figs. 7 and 8).			
G	'Ticks' Code 4 (fig.7)	14. 6.1906 - 21.12.1909	issued 5. 5.1904
H	'Ticks' Code 1 (fig.8) (2 items)	15. 9.1910 - 9. 6.1921	issued 31.3.1900 known used unmarked 24. 9.1903 - 28. 8.1905.
The 1921 example has been recut to show " S.W. 11 "			

To summarise these dates:

1 cut	A	23. 2.1898 - 25. 1.1899
2 cuts	B	28. 8.1897 - 6. 2.1900
	E	28.10.1910 -
3 cuts	C	5. 8.1897 - 3. 8.1900
	F	19. 9.1901 - 1. 3.1905
Ticks	G	14. 6.1906 - 21.12.1909
	H	15. 9.1910 - 9. 6.1921



figs 3 and 6 from the original article

The Battersea Cancellation, continued.....

The number series are known, without cuts, with the undernoted codes:

Wording	Code	Dates Recorded	Proof Impression Book
BATTERSEA.S.W.	1	24. 9.1903 - 28. 8.1905	31. 3.1900
	2	2. 3.1905 - 31.10.1910	31. 3.1900
	3	19.10.1904 - 25. 3.1916	28. 3.1907
	4	11. 4.1904 - 2. 5.1910	5. 5.1904
	7	22. 3.1908 - 19. 9.1910	3. 3.1906
	8	30. 3.1908 - 31. 8.1912	13.12.1906
	9	-	3. 1.1907
BATTERSEA.S.O.S.W.	5	30. 6.1908 - 11. 5.1910	1. 8.1905
	6	20. 1.1908 - 20. 6.1910	1. 8.1905
BATTERSEA.S.W.11.	7	15. 1.1922	

In conclusion, observant readers may have noted the lack of reference to figs.3 and 6 in the original article. These remain solitary recorded items in an earlier article and I now conclude they are wrong illustrations of type B (fig.3) and type G (fig. 7).

Should you have any extensions of date or types, please let me have details for inclusion in the record and future publication.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

OFFICE INITIAL STAMPS OF THE LONDON DISTRICT POST

These appeared in Notebook 17, page 12 following an article in Number 16. An ealier dating is advised for fig.12 Charing Cross, namely 12th.November 1850

ORMOND/STREET.....

An entire dated 1708 addressed to Leeds carrying a bishop and the straight line stamp which has caused something of a stir recently. According to notes there are now 3 or 4 of these now known. That such a hitherto unrecorded item should have yielded, say, four copies gives slight pause for thought; that they are apparently addressed to different parts of the country and have been brought together again may be taken as illustrating the lonely furrow some collectors follow, to the great loss to postal history research.

Diligent enquiries have so far failed to produce identification of the office site and this again may well be shown on some unregarded map in a collection of one not interested in postal history.

If nothing else the moral of the story is to record findings as they appear, even if publication is restricted.

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1	1.00	6	1.00	9	2.60	10	5.10	11	3.00
12	5.80	19	3.00	21	5.00	22	2.00	25	3.50
26	3.80	27	2.80	29	3.50	32	4.00	34	1.00
40	3.00	41	2.60	44	1.00	47	12.00	48	1.00
49	1.60	50	1.60	51	1.00	52	3.10	53	1.25
55	3.00	56	2.70	57	2.10	58	2.60	59	3.00
60	2.60	61	6.50	62	8.30	63	14.50	65	2.00
66	8.00	67	3.00	70	3.00	71	1.00	72	9.00
73	1.00	74	2.50	75	2.70	79	1.25	82	2.30
83	2.10	84	1.00	85	1.00	89	2.40	90	1.30
91	1.60	93	7.50	96	4.00	97	1.00	98	3.00
99	1.50	100	1.50	101	4.10	103	1.00	106	1.00
107	1.00	108	2.00	113	1.60	115	1.50	117	1.50
118	5.10	119	1.50	120	1.50	122	1.00	123	3.30
126	7.20	127	3.00	129	5.00	130	1.50	131	2.80
132	2.60	134	1.50	137	2.70	139	1.40	140	1.35
141	1.25	143	1.25	146	2.50	147	1.90	148	2.60
149	1.25	152	2.60	153	1.65	154	4.40	155	1.80
156	2.20	157	4.00	158	1.50	159	2.00	162	2.00
165	1.40	166	1.75	170	1.00	171	7.00	172	10.10
173	4.50	174	5.00	175	6.00	176	13.10	179	2.10
180	2.10	181	2.50	182	4.10	192	1.90	193	2.90
194	3.00	195	3.00	196	2.90	197	8.10	198	1.25
199	2.50	200	2.30	201	1.70	202	1.00	203	2.50
204	1.00	205	1.25	207	5.20	208	1.00	209	1.00
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