

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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(c) 1976 L.P.H.G.

OUR NEXT MEETING.....is on Saturday 15th. January at Caxton Hall, 2 p.m. and the subject will be " Middlesex in London ". Michael Goodman has agreed to show his comprehensive collection and hopes other members will bring along their own material.

DETAINED FOR POSTAGE

The Willcocks catalogue (686 to 689) mentions this range of stamps, recording dates 1840 to 1855. Alcock and Holland illustrate two types (figs 1745 and 1746) and both authorities state them to be in red, except for RMW 686 recorded also in black.



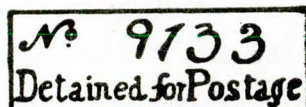
Fig. 1745



Fig. 1746

John Sharp raised an interesting query on a manuscript endorsement of numbers in the top left corner of an envelope, which he likened to an allied group of those above, namely the No. / Detained for Postage in a rectangular frame, not illustrated by A & H but noted by them as shown by Hendy in a straight line type.

Alan Robertson does give an example in " Supplementary Handstamps " Group 8 section of " The Maritime Postal History of London " and this is shown to the right.



The letter to which John refers is shown p. 20, together with notes on the various stamps, to which he adds the following.

The letter is headed - H.M. Ship " Cyclops " and is dated as from Spithead 13th December 1851, though it bears an impression of the Cowes datestamp for the 12th!

The cover received the London datestamp of 13th. December and five days later it appears to have been re-posted with the circular paid datestamp of the 18th, plus a blue " Pall Mall 1d Paid ". The re-direction was to Spike Island in Cork Harbour, the island just south of Great Island upon which is the naval station and seaport of Queenstown.

What is the number ? It seems unlikely to be more than a series entered either by the sender or receiver for record purposes in some sort of ' letter book ' or ' postage book ', much as is kept in many offices today. Since the ' detained for ' stamps were used in connection with mail requiring prepayment for transmission overseas and all Ireland was in 1851 part of the Crown's ' Home ' territories, that would hardly apply here.

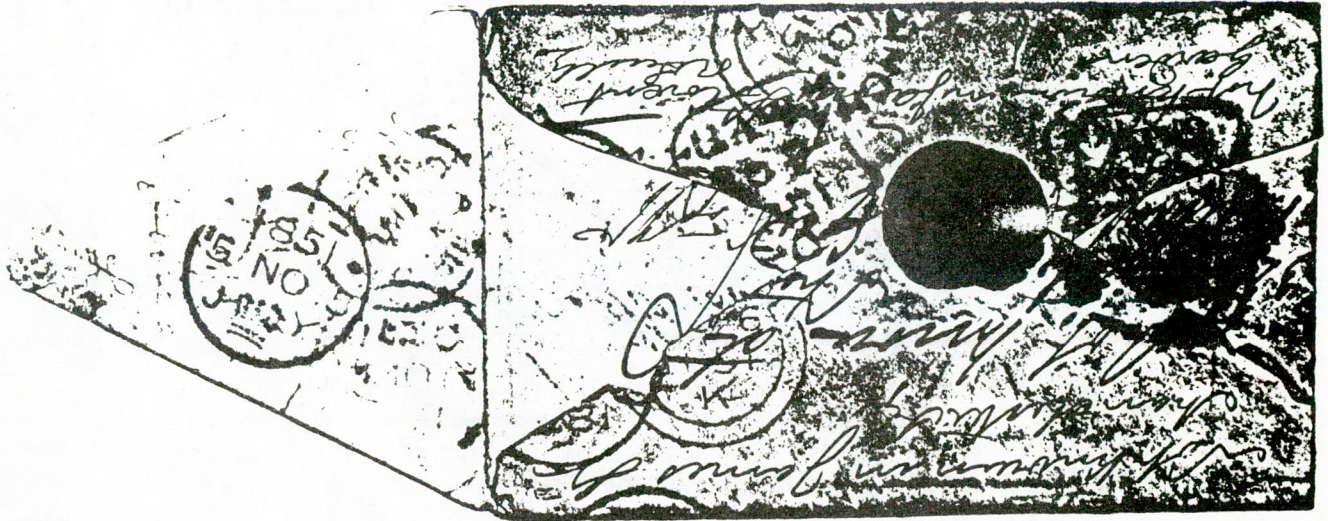
Never the less, if the explanation of the ' post book ' fits the bill, the item forms an important link in postal history.

THE SCARCE CRESSWELL.....

Keith Martin-Jones corrected the notion that there were no records of the Cresswell duplex with 80; from one of the Group meetings he had a note of one in December 1857 in the 3:7:3 format. Michael Goodman confirms this is so and that the stamp is extremely rare, even if it is recorded.

A COVER WITH A STORY

The envelope, as you will observe, is quite a mess, but then it is a rare example of one turned inside out and re-used, the inside bearing an address in Bristol with

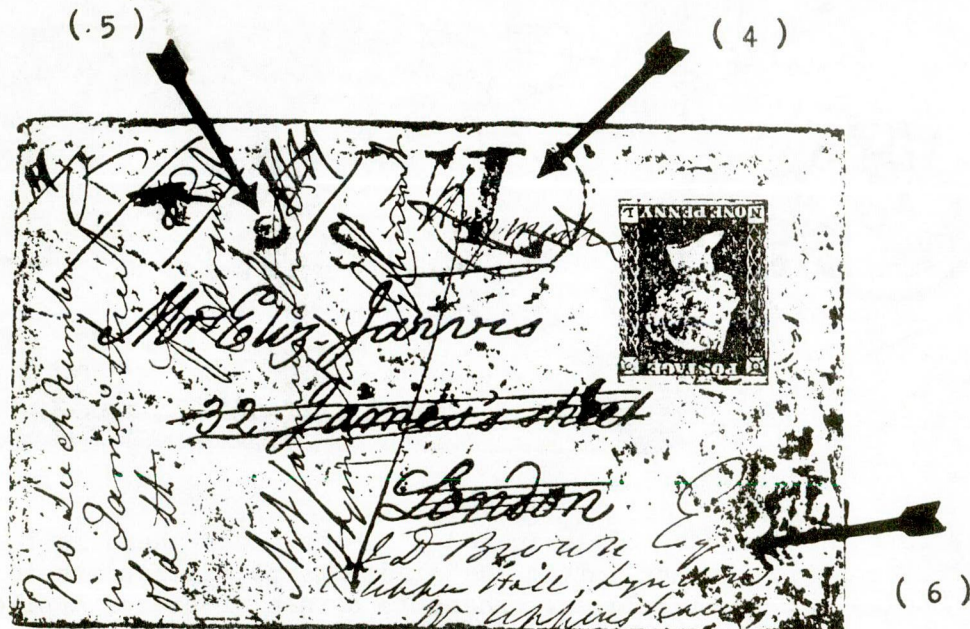


A & H fig. 49 for 5th. November, 1851 (in red) on the flap; there is the Bristol double arc for the following day. From the other stamps, it appears to have been sent back to London but one day later. There is a rash of stamps applied in London, including the 8 am time stamp(1) with an example of AH fig.47 (2) both for the 7th. After the various attempts to trace the addressee, or perhaps during the course of the attempts, AH fig.49 was applied this time in black(3). This is the third recorded example, the other two being for a piece dated March 1854 and an envelope dated 13th March, 1854.



Cover With a Story, continued.....

The markings on the obverse include AH fig.1841 of which they say...." The large L.. ..is known in red on letters of 1831 to 1856. The suggestion has been made by Mr. C.F. Dendy Marshall the ' L ' means 'Late ' and it was possibly the forerunner of the single ring L/Month,Day/Year stamp, AH fig.1792, which Hendy says was used on letters delayed by being missorted in the Letter Carriers' Office..." (4)



Which brings us neatly to (5), the PS of Portland Street in the sans serif variety recorded in Notebook No.17 as used on 16.1.1847

The effort made by the Postal Authorities is indicated by the number of endorsements.

No such number in James Street, Old St

Not James Street Haymarket

Not known in James St Manchester Sq

Not known at 32 James Street Buckingham Gate

Not Known in James St Covent Garden

However, there are no fewer than SIXTEEN ' James-street 's listed in the 1857 Post Office ' Principal Streets and Places in London..' this serving only to show how very difficult the careless public could be.

The final endorsement is J D Brown Esq, Upper Hall, Lyndon, Nr Uppingham, with the date stamp for that place on 15th. November 1851 to put the end to the Story. (6)

A DISTRICT PROBLEM

It is struck on a Plate 1 threehalfpenny adhesive and, with the arc to the left, might just be one of the duplex cancellations. But take another look. Is that arc not just a little too close to the district element for comfort? And what of that short curved line running from below the 0 of the 30, leftwards and down? In short, it would appear to be a single obliterator in use some time after 1st.October, 1870.



If one examines published data, namely M. Dubus' work, the number 30 turns up rather infrequently.

In the South West District series 6 had numbers 25 to 50 in a 3:2:1 format issued 12th.September, 1870, but apart from the thicker bars and the difficulty of relating S.W to what appears in the upper portion the 30 is a much smaller format.

The East district has a round top 30, but it is a combined stamp. It advances a little on the SW example in that the upper short bars leave a smaller gap than the lower.

Series 7B of the West District yields a single 30 with an 1870 dating, but how can one get a W to look like what is in the item illustrated?

The very active West Central cannot provide a single at all, though the easy rejection of the stamp being a duplex could be challenged, should one be so inclined.

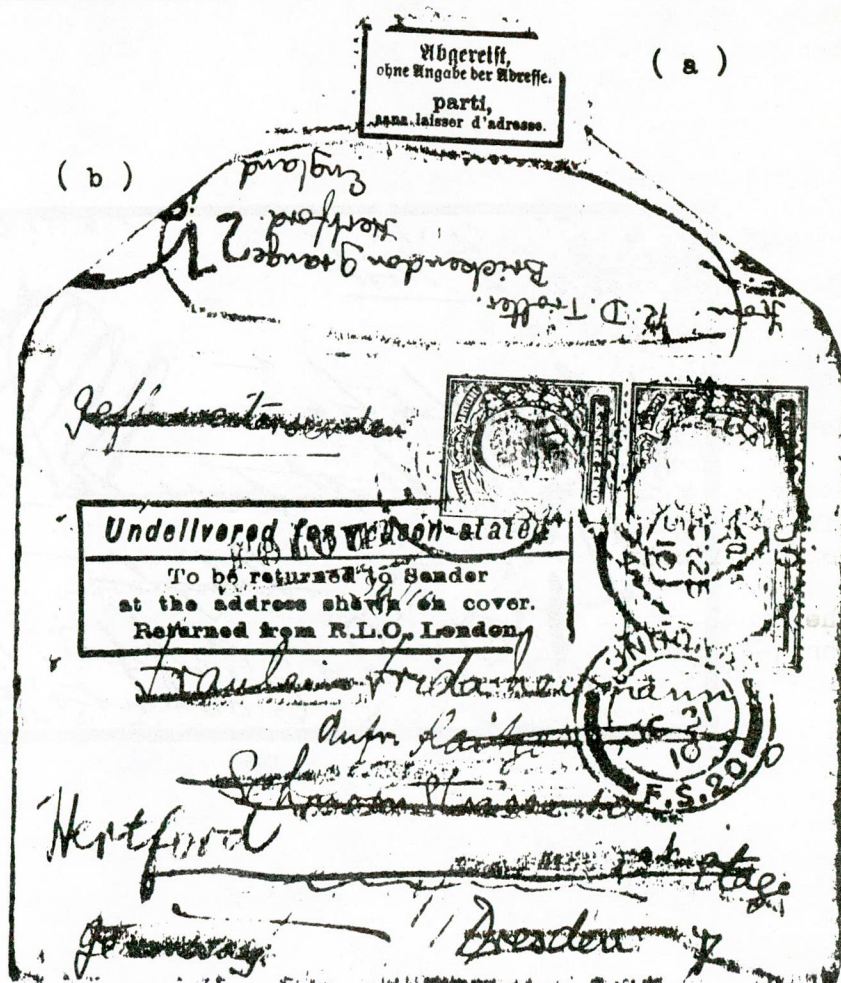
In any event, there is something to ponder over. An example on cover would resolve the problem. The provider of this puzzle is Martin Willcocks.

LONDON F S 20

The item shown alongside is provided by John Sharp and furthers the claim for FS20 as being employed in a specific function, namely associated with the handling of returned mail from abroad.

The label (a) is the perforated type with green border line and black lettering, which being translated reads "Gone away leaving no address". At (b) is a 27, unframed Inspector's stamp. The FS20 (c) is very clear.

Further confirmation is sought for this restricted and specific use.



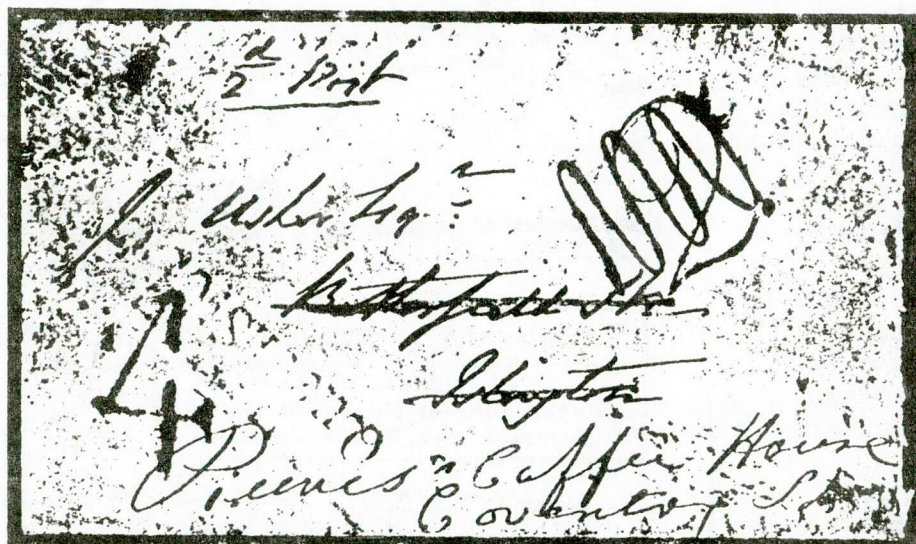
WHAT THE AUCTIONS TELL

This time there are just three items taken from the Robson Lowe sale on 2nd. July, 1976.

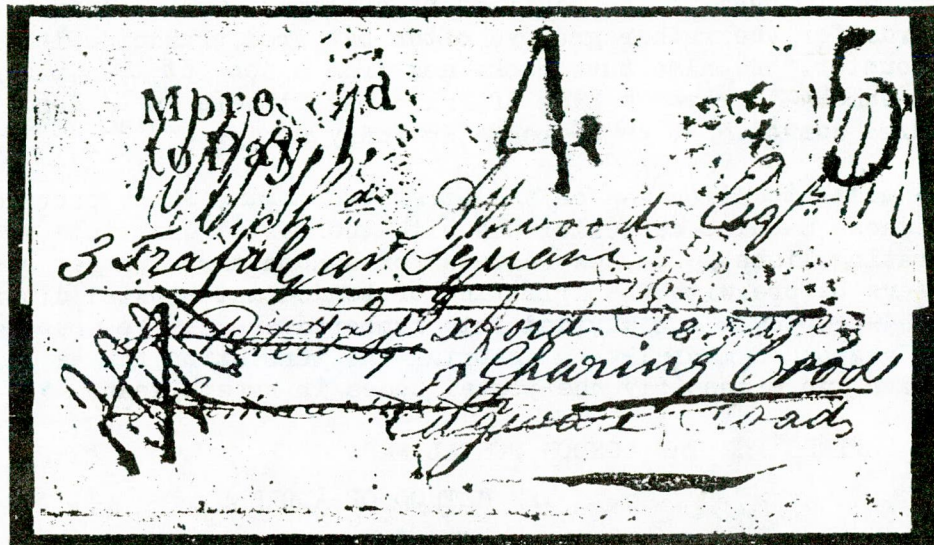
- 1324: 1824 part E. to Finsbury Square, re-directed to Fleet Street, with h.s. " 2 " cancelled by zig-zag erasure mark and replaced by large " 4 " with " In All " (W358) and similar to Yarmouth in 1825 with h.s. " 2 " only. (£ 48)
- 1325: E.L. to Islington, re-directed to ' Prince's Coffee House, Coventry St. ' with h.s. " 2 " cancelled by serpentine erasure mark and replaced by " 4 " of a different size and type from the previous lot. Somewhat stained. (£ 26)



1324

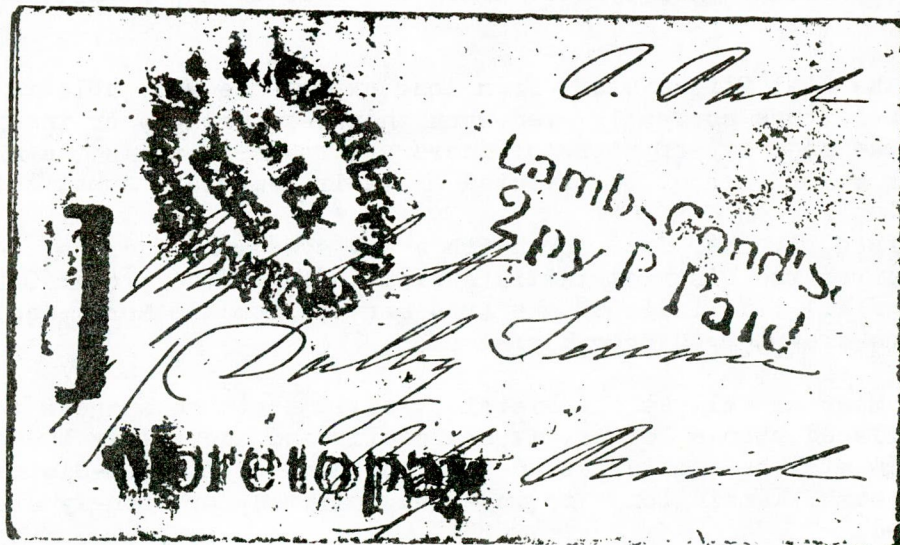


1325

What the Auctions Tell..(continued)

1330

1838 E.L. from Wilmington Square to Edgeware Road, re-directed first to Hammersmith and then to Trafalgar Square, showing a variety of transit marks including an unusual " More/to Pay 1d " (an unframed type we have not seen before) h.s. "4"(2) and "5", all except one of the "4" having been deleted by a serpentine h.s.(W356, W357 etc), mainly *** and full of character. realisation £100



NOT an auction lot, but this provides another illustration of what must be a rather uncommon chrage mark.

A WARTIME MEASURE....

The local junk shop, you know the type, "buys junk, sells antiques," has a very friendly owner, quite used to the oddities of customers who distain his superb unused post cards for the rather grubby, often battered, random selection he keeps on the counter. He also buys books and from a job lot thus put on vulgar display came a somewhat frayed "List of Principal Streets in London" for March 1917 at the large sum of 5/-, or 25 pence in funny money.

What attracted most attention was on the first two pages, which provides the background to those machine cancellations with the postal districts wrote large in the obliterating lines. The new feature for London marked a new step on the plans of 60 years before with the splitting of London into postal districts; now these districts were to be sub divided into numbered areas. No doubt the Great British Public responded manfully by ignoring the innovation for as long as possible, as they have, more sensibly, the postal codes in recent years.

LETTERS FOR THE LONDON POSTAL AREA**NEW METHOD OF ADDRESS**

I wish to appeal to the public in London, and to their correspondents in the Provinces to adopt a simple system which will improve the Postal service at the cost of very little trouble to themselves. By so doing they will be helping to save labour and money, which the country requires for War purposes.

Many people suppose that a letter to London is correctly and sufficiently addressed if it bears the District initials - S.W., E.C., &c. - after the name of the street. Sometimes this is so, but more often it is not. London, owing to its large area and vast postal traffic, requires 112 separate Delivery Offices. In the S.E. District, for example, there are 27 Delivery Offices, and the Post Office sorter c can only determine from memory or by reference to street lists to which these 27 offices a letter, addressed simply S.E. after the name of the street, should be sent.

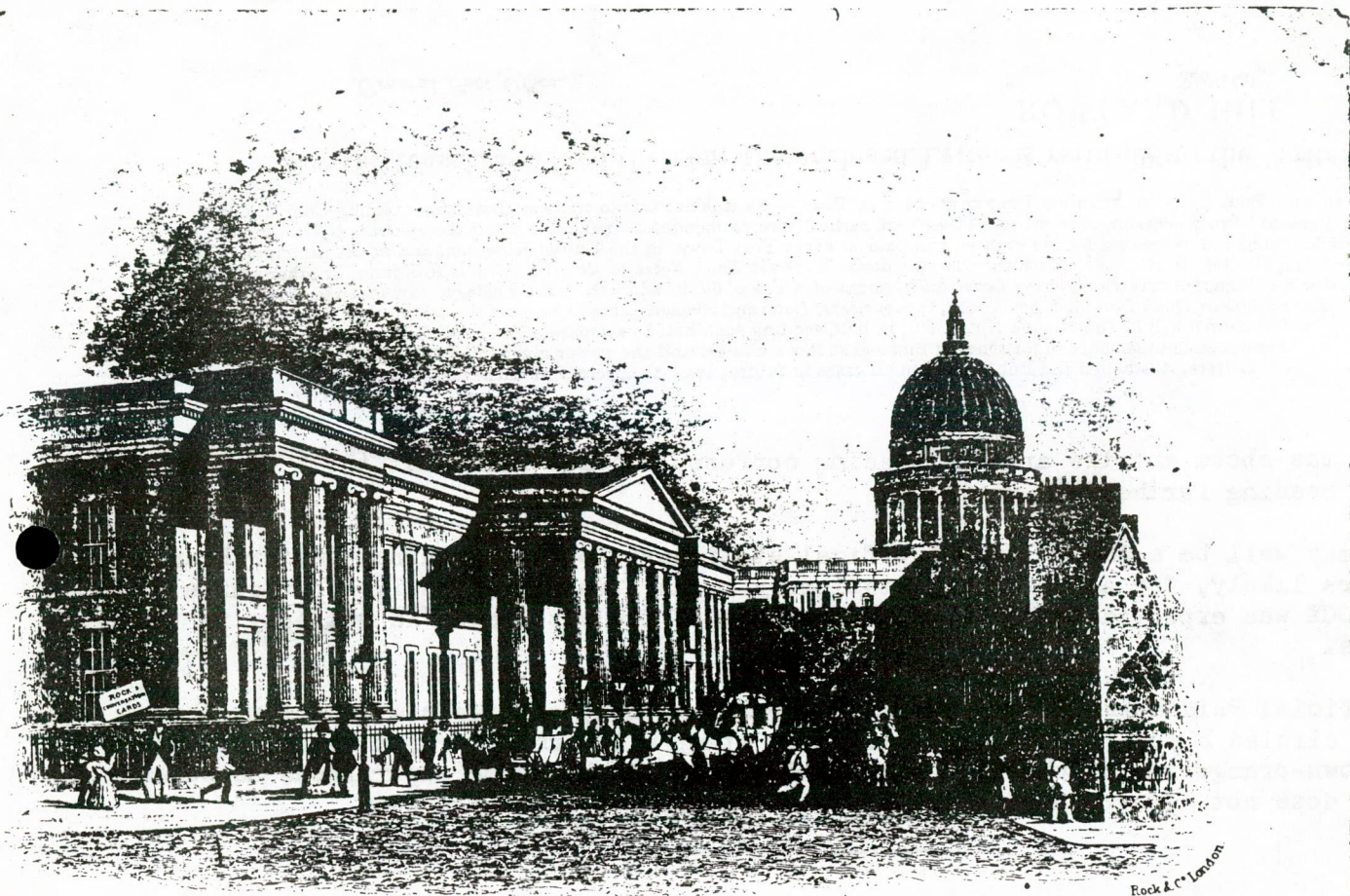
Before the War, the Post Office staff from long experience were able to sort the greater number of letters correctly even when they were wrongly or insufficiently addressed. But the majority of these officers are now serving in the Army, and the same skill or memory cannot be expected of their temporary substitutes.

I propose, therefore, to introduce forthwith a new system of address, under which a NUMBER placed after the District initials will indicate the proper Office of Delivery. Thus, N.W.1 will indicate the area served from the North-Western District Office, N.W. 3 the area served from Hampstead.

If the correct number as well as the District initials of the address to which it is directed are placed upon a letter, it can easily and accurately be sorted to the proper office. It will be immaterial whether the name of the sub-district - e.g., Hampstead, Blackheath, Kensington - is inserted, omitted, or wrongly stated, because it will be ignored.

The list annexed shows the proper District initials and number for each of the principal streets in London, and copies are obtainable free of charge at any Post Office in London or through any of the larger Offices in the Provinces.

I appeal especially to every resident in London to help, by putting the new form of address on his stationery, and by drawing the attention of his correspondents to the change, and I would urge everyone, whether resident in London or not, to put the correct district initials and number on any letter, parcel, postcard, or other postal communication sent to a London address.

ROCK'S CONVERSATION CARDS.....*Post Office, London*

Should you wonder what the heading has to do with the above engraving, your attention is drawn to the figure third from the left who displays the slogan on a suitably large board and to the name at the bottom right. The item clearly was intended as a rather attractive piece of advertising.

Brian Smith very kindly sent the item in some time since and with his usual felicity of touch the Editor managed to misplace it for several nail biting months; we both hope the wait was worth while and invite any readers with other examples of London Post Offices, on post cards or as engravings, to contact the Editor; surely more than St. Martins exists !

A Wartime Measure, continued

You will thereby save labour in the Post Office, and you will reduce the risk of delay to your own correspondence. Letters which bear the new District numbers will not be delayed for those which do not bear them.

(Signed) ALBERT H. ILLINGWORTH,

His Majesty's Postmaster-General

RETURNED BOOK PACKET

Secretary.
ROWLAND HILL,

General Post Office.

For the reason assigned thereon, the enclosed Letter is returned to the Writer.

CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC, AS TO SENDING PROPERTY BY THE POST.—As it is not safe to transmit Letters containing Coin through the Post, Persons having occasion to remit small Sums are earnestly recommended to make use of the *Money Order Office*. Money Orders for Sums not exceeding £5, are granted and paid at every Post Town in the United Kingdom, and at the principal Receiving Houses in London. Persons who may desire to remit *Bank Notes* or *Drafts*, payable to Bearer, or other valuable Property, may Register the Letter on payment of a Fee of 6d. in addition to the Postage. In the case of *Bank Notes* or *Bank Post Bills* being sent, the *Numbers*, *Dates* and *Amounts*, should be carefully taken; and the safest course will be to cut such Notes, &c., in half, sending each half by a separate Post. With the great convenience thus afforded for sending Sums at so low a charge, and the power given of Registering Letters, it is hoped the Public will, in all cases in future, avail themselves of these methods.

Should the above and the article heading confuse, a quick glance at the next page before reading further may assist.

There may well be a check list of official stationery for the Returned Letter Branch or, more likely, for all official stationery - can a reader advise ? - but quite what BOOK was expected to fit into an envelope of the size shown is not easy to imagine.

The Official Paid datestamp is straight forward enough, but again a question, what is the circled B for ? One associates this stamp with *Inspector*; this is struck in the brown-orange-red of the Paid stamp and appears to be quite superfluous as such a mark does not appear on any of the limited number of envelopes seen.

HEREWITH MY FRANK : AN IMPORTANT CORRECTION

Jim Lovegrove (who gave a most interesting display at the Royal Overseas for the joint meeting - Ed.) writes to correct his references to type C/4a shown in Notebook 28 for August 1976.

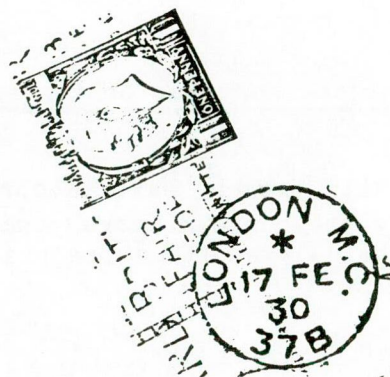
The type is NOT a stamp of the London Office at all. With another more circular one it can be seen in Volume IV of Robson Lowe's *Encyclopedia* in the section on New South Wales. The state of Victoria also had Free Franks of an oblong type.

Robson Lowe has confirmed that the stamps shown as C/4a most often occurs on purely domestic letters of New South Wales. In fact it is rarely found elsewhere and he had not known of the stamp on covers to and from the U.K. It was this unknown use which led into the trap of identifying the stamp as from London, when instead it was used only for the overland journey inside NSW.

LONDON M.C.

This appears on a post card addressed to Westbourne Grove Bayswater W2. There is no apparent cause for a mis - direction to Nottinghill Gate, but the question is, just what does M.C signify ?

No prizes for the correct answer - John would just like to know (and so would the Editor).



ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

Returned Book Packet.



H. Kendall Esq.

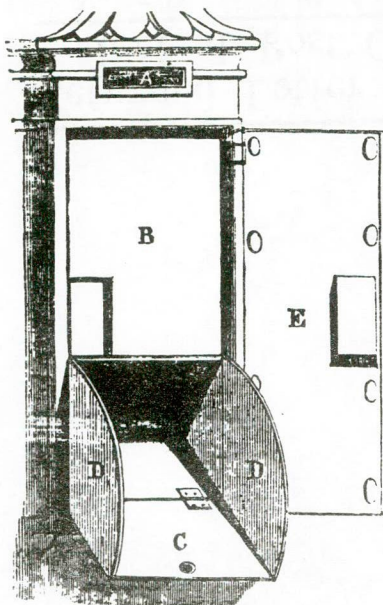
Returned Letter Branch,
General Post Office.

(No. 7.)

Blandford
Dorset.

NEW STREET LETTER-BOXES

THE accommodation at the Post Receiving Houses in various parts of the metropolis, has long been of a very imperfect kind. Formerly a Receiving House was denoted by a richly-embazoned pane, in which the time-honoured British lion shone in full national emblazonry; and here and there the tutelar animal's mouth was the receptacle of letters; just as the famous Lion's head at Button's coffee-house, received contributions for the *Guardian*. Few shop-fronts, however, bore so distinctive a feature; but the letter-mouth might be seen at various levels—rarely, as an artist would say, "on the line"—so as to render its discovery somewhat perplexing when the mixed topography of shop-windows is considered. Then came the mean-looking iron crown upon the top of the nearest street-lamp, which did not much enlighten the public in their pursuit of a post-office under difficulties. Next, the example was set by the French Post-office authorities of having cast-iron pillars set up in various streets of Paris, for the reception of letters; and this experiment having been found successful, a similar plan has been adopted by the authorities in St. Martin's-le-Grand. At stated points have been erected cast-iron letter-boxes, one of which—that at the corner of Fleet-street and Farringdon-street—is shown in the accompanying Illustration. It is much less ornamental than the Paris pillar. Our Letter-box is a stove-like design, reminding one of the latest of the London conduits. An outer panel



INTERIOR OF NEW LETTER-BOX.

sign, reminding one of the latest of the London conduits. An outer panel of the box bears this inscription:—

LETTER BOX

FOR STAMPED AND UNPAID LETTERS ONLY.

Newspapers posted here will not be forwarded.
Letters containing Money or Valuable Articles should be Registered at a Post-office.
THE NEAREST POST-OFFICE IS AT 101, FLEET-STREET.

GENERAL POST LETTERS.

For the Morning Mails, are collected here, 5 a.m.; for the Evening Mails, 5.30 p.m.
Letters bearing an Additional Penny Stamp may be Posted for the Evening Mails, 6 p.m.

LETTERS FOR LONDON AND SUBURBAN DISTRICTS.

Hours of Collection.	Delivery in London Commences at	Dispatched from the Chief Office to the Suburban Districts.
9 a.m.	10 a.m.	12 at Noon, to places having four or more deliveries daily.
11 "	12 Noon.	4 p.m. to places within twelve miles of the General Post-office.
12 Noon.	1 p.m.	6 p.m. to places within six miles of the General Post-office.
1 p.m.	2 "	8 p.m. for delivery next morning 8 a.m.
2 "	3 "	
3 "	4 "	
4 "	5 "	
5 "	6 "	
6 "	7 "	
10 "	8 a.m.	

The Town Delivery is complete in about 1½ hours.
The Suburban Delivery takes from 1½ to 2 hours from the time of dispatch according to distance.

The material is cast iron; and the manufacturers are Messrs. H. and M. D. Grissell, of the Regent's Canal Ironworks, Eagle Wharf-road, New North-road, Hoxton. The front of the Letter-box is shown in the Engraving; and the accompanying Diagram shows the interior contrivance for taking out the letters:—A, opening for letters; B, inner wooden front of box; C, flap, which opens and forms an inclined plane with the bottom of the box, by which means the letters are shot into the postman's bag; D, D, slides to the flap, to prevent the letters falling over; E, inside of iron door. The locks are the "patent detector," by Messrs. Chubb, St. Paul's Churchyard.

THE RUSSIAN MEDAL.—On the bodies of numbers of the Russian soldiers who recently fell before Eupatoria were found the silver medal of the decoration of St. George. On one side is engraven the Russian eagle with two heads, holding in its talons the terrestrial globe and the sceptre of the Sovereign; over the eagle is the Imperial Crown of Russia, surmounted by the benedict dove, and round these figures is the following motto, in the Russian language—"Fall on your knees, idolaters, for God is with us." On the other side of the medal is the following motto, also in Russian—"For the submission of Hungary and Transylvania;" which sufficiently indicates its origin.

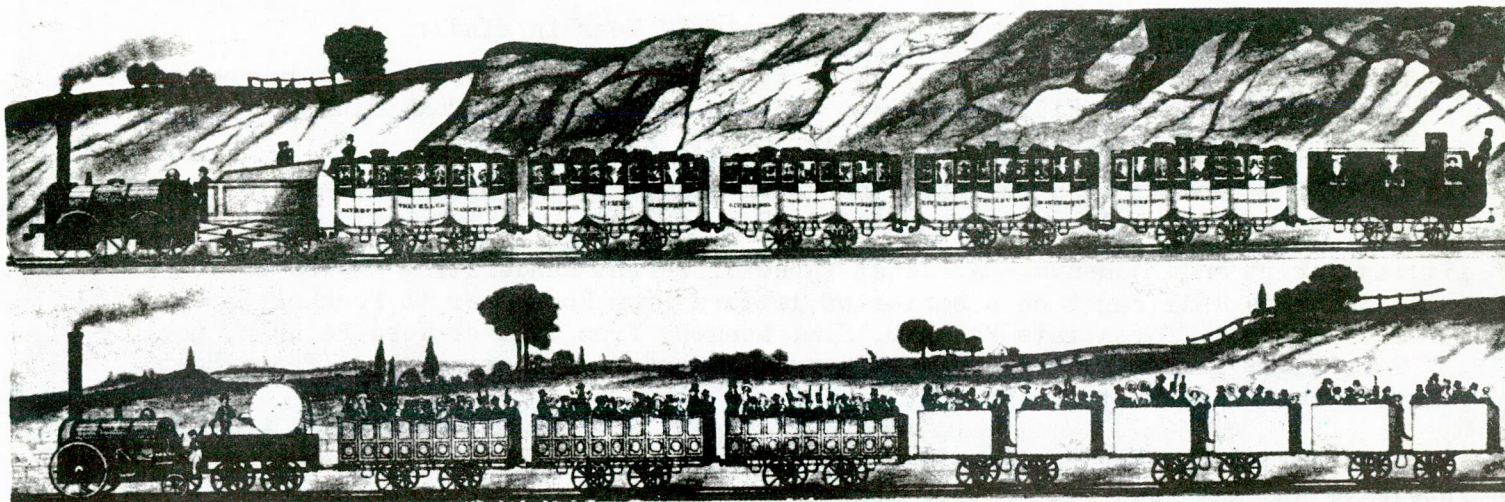
THE temporary huts for the encampment of 20,000 men on Aldershot Heath are ordered to be ready for the troops on the 1st April. The nearest station to the Camp is Farnborough.

PRINCE MENSCHIKOFF.—The disgrace of this commander is more complete than was signified in the first accounts from St. Petersburg. An order of the day dated the 4th inst., removes him, under the form of accepting his resignation, not only from the command in the Crimea, but from the post of Chief of the Naval Staff, and from the Governor-Generalship of Finland. He retains only the titular appointments of Aide-de-Camp General and Councillor of State. Therefore, in addition to Rokassowski and Dannenberg, we may now put down Menschikoff in the list of the Generals to whom the war has cost their command. Prince Menschikoff's removal into inactivity has been by no means accompanied by any bestowal of laurels. The Prince, it is true, undertook, with 50,000 men, to defend the Taurian peninsula against any enemy; but by degrees the conviction has gained ground that any other Russian General, with such a *terrain* as that of the Crimea, and with such fortifications as those of Sebastopol, could in all probability have done as much. In every case where he attempted to do more than just defend himself his enterprises failed. Alma and Inkerman are his witnesses, and now Eupatoria. No acknowledgment, no approbation of these operations—only encomiums on the bravery with which the soldiers fought at the bombardment of Sebastopol and various actions—proceeded from the deceased Emperor. The Grand Duke Nicholas was commissioned to hint to Prince Menschikoff that the state of his health, which has been ruined in the service, might perhaps make it desirable for him to recruit it; and that, in the meantime, the supreme command could be made over to Prince Gortschakoff. Prince Menschikoff understood the hint, and forwarded to the by that time deceased Emperor his request to be allowed to retire. The present Emperor accepted it, and, on the 4th inst., relieved the Prince of all his offices.



THE NEW POST-OFFICE LETTER-BOX, AT THE CORNER OF FLEET-STREET AND FARRINGTON-STREET.

Nov. 1855.

POST CARDS FROM THE MUSEUM.....**TRAVELLING ON THE LIVERPOOL AND MANCHESTER RAILWAY.**

A Train of the First Class of Carriages, with the Mail,

A Train of the Second Class ^{also} for outside Passengers.

Nov 1831.

The black and white of Notebook fails to do justice to the above, now available from the Postal Museum, London for the price of 7 pence. For any TPO it is surely a 'must' and suitably overprinted would make a superb greetings card.

EARLY LETTER BOXES

On page 12 is a reproduction from the Illustrated London News of March, 1855 (kindly supplied by George Crabb) and it seems opportune to draw the attention of readers to the "Letter Box Study Group". This interesting aspect of postal history - in the fuller sense of the expression, first received serious attention in 1969 when Jean Farrugia's "The Letter Box" was published. Here, then, is a group carrying on the good work and should further information be sought the secretary is

W.L. Morton, 11 Morven Road, Bearsden, Glasgow. G61 3BU

CROSS POSTS

Peter Bathe is busily researching Cross Posts and by combining the membership of the Kent Post and Notebook readers hopes to draw sufficient data to add to his own to produce a piece of good, solid, informative writing.

First he hopes to up-date information on the Shooters Hill Cross Post and then to cover the Deptford Cross Post, so readers who have material from either area should contact Peter. Also look out for New Cross stamps on Kent/Sussex mail (or Continental) to or from S.E. London. The period is from May 1844 to July 1862 when the mail contract was lost by the South Eastern Railway on its line from London Bridge through New Cross, Redhill, Tonbridge to Dover to the London, Chatham & Dover Railway on its line from Victoria through Crystal Palace and Bromley to Dover. Peter points out the need to get involved in railway history as part of the research on postal history and wonders just where one draws the line!!

Cross Posts, continued.....

When looking through anything you may have, please bear in mind :

- i) Marks used at Shooters Hill and dates (at least three different types recorded thus far - Shooters Hill/Penny Post 1835 to May 1839; SHOOTERS/HILL December 1839 a double circle dated stamp from July 1840 to March 1844.
- ii) where from and to (so far half the known examples came up the Dover Road from Kent/Europe and half went down it from S.E.London
- iii) manuscript endorsements - at least three different handwriting styles of ' Shooters Hill Bag ' on a series of letters from Rochester to Peckham, presumably to differentiate Peckham, S.E. London, from East or West Peckham, near Tonbridge; plus a MS " Missent to " written before a Shooters Hill/Penny Post with the Penny Post crossed out.

As a footnote would any reader ploughing a lonely furrow remember the pool of both knowledge and material with fellow members.

THE RAIL ROAD BOOK OF ENGLAND

The other month, a delay between trains caused the opportunity to examine some of the W.H.S. book offers and a reprint of an 1851 travellers companion was purchased. The reader will no doubt be familiar with the coach users companion volumes which sought to draw the attention of the traveller to places of note and interest along the way - if nothing else it relieved a little of the tedium and discomfort. This publication deals with the view from the train and it includes a brief history of the various rail companies, numerous delightful engravings and is packed with information. If you spot it on offer, do yourself a favor and buy.

The Rail Road Book Of England 1851, by E. Churton, originally published in 1851 and now by Lewis Reprints Ltd for Sidgwick and Jackson Limited, Travistock Chambers, Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SG.

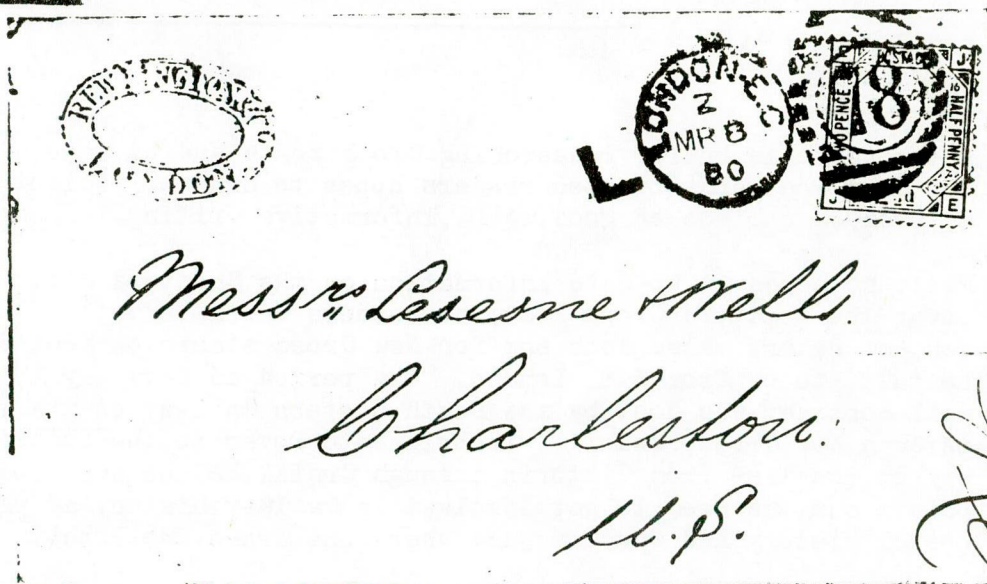
Try any of your local W.H. Smith bookshops, or any of the numerous ' remainder ' shops which are such a useful source of books nowadays.

ANOTHER L ? from Charless Hahn

The item shown on the right provides evidence that there is something new to be found, no matter how much has already been recorded.

The L has the smallest possible spot of red, its own color, to the right just under the edge on the London EC rim line, but not enough to identify.

Can you ?



AN E.C. TELEGRAPH MESSENGER

Last year the postcard on the right was printed in the " Courier ", the Post Office ' house ' journal, in an effort to identify the young lad. This proved not possible but there were two most interesting letters from a P.O. pensioner, which are re-printed.

From Fred Claro (formerly E.C.D.O.)

" The messenger shown is an E.C. Telegraph messenger, who belonged to the famous E.C. Bugle band.

" The brass badge on his right arm - a bugle horn - was peculiar to the band. Other districts wore a drum or bugle by permission of headquarters Secretary's Office.

" Additions to uniforms without permission were frowned upon by the G.P.O. at the period.

" The photo was taken some time in the winter months, as he has short leggings. These were a post office issue with two pairs of leather boots. One pair with toe caps, the other plain. These were worn on alternate days, by order of the rule book.

" Carefully checked by the Inspector in charge before signing on for duty. If you had the wrong pair on you were likely to be sent home to change them and then reported for being late for duty.

" Several firms had young messengers at the period in addition to the Post Office. There was the district messenger service. These lads wore a smart blue uniform, with a pillbox hat and the side of the head and cross belt with pouch at the back. They could be booked for standing in theatre queues until the ticket holders turned up. Journeys to any part of the country were undertaken. One youngster, name of Jagers, was booked to travel to the United States with a parcel during Victorian days.

" Most of these firms dismissed the lads at sixteen but the Post Office gave a chance for a senior appointment at 18 years. "

In a subsequent letter Mr. Claro gave some details of the time when he worked at the Post Office.....

" I am one of the very few Post Office pensioners who worked in the Famous G.P.O. St.Martins le Grand built for the horsed mail coaches in Victorian days.

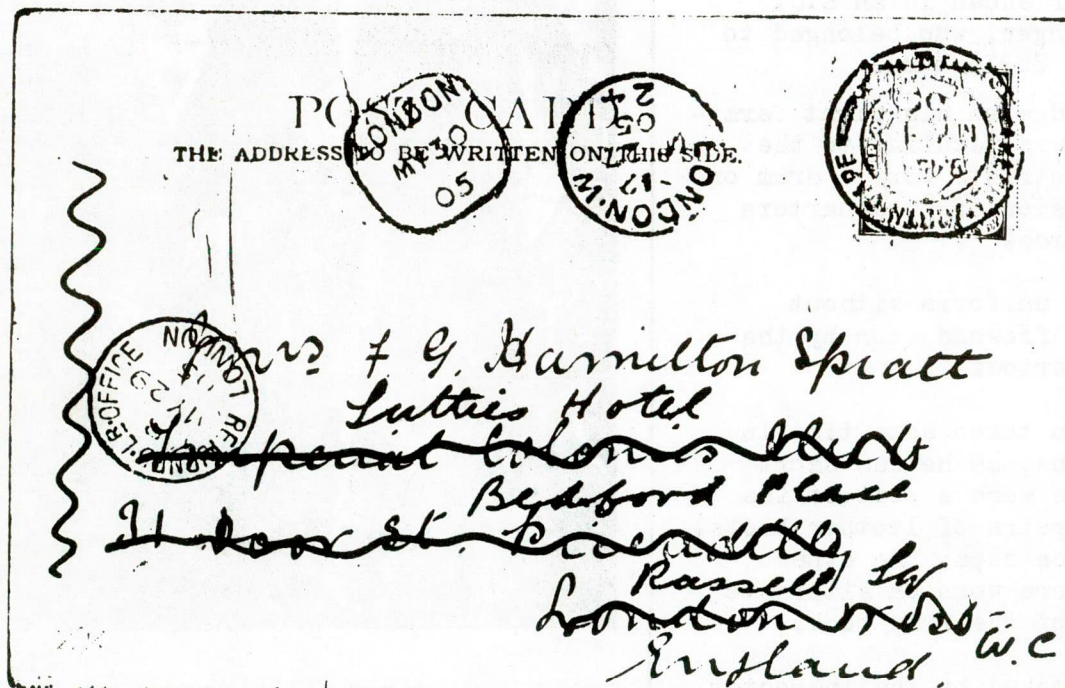


THAT ROUNDED CORNER STAMP.....

The delightful item shown in Notebook 29 on page 18 produced a little additional information. Robert Johnson, who knew the item, advises a comment from Francis Granville, some time since, to the effect that it was a rarely used mark kept in the RLO for cancelling previously unobliterated adhesives. Robert adds he eventually traced the stamp in the Post Office proof impression books.

Keith Martin-Jones have an example on a O.H.M.S. Return Postal Packet dated JU 13 99, with a charge mark of 2d.

John Sharp sent a copy of the post card reproduced below.

An E.C. Telegraph Messenger, continued.....

" I started in 1908 as a youth of 14, in the basement (vaults from the former church); all the postmens' and sorters' kitchens were in this basement. Gloomy places lined with small lockers about 15 inches square. Wet coats and oilskins hung up on the walls of the passages in the winter. The young messengers were well looked after by the ' powers that be ' at the Secretary's Office, now Headquarters Building.

" The were Institutes in all London districts and evening classes were compulsory.

" The Blackwood Holiday Home Ramsgate catered for messengers 14 to 17. 8s 6d. a week full board. Named after Sir A. Blackwood, one of the former P.O. Chiefs who took an interest in the younger staff. This held about 25 growing lads, from all the London districts - all had good appetites. The villa still stands in Grange Road, Ramsgate."

The letter had this P.S.

" I have a group photo of London sorters of the thirties, many of them chess and drafts experts, brainy past times instead of the four ale bar of dominos and darts of today. "

CHARGE AND SURCHARGE MARKS

Mention was made in Notebook No.29, when discussing the bulk mailing, of the use of the 50 and 51 in a diamond to cancel PD stamps. The item shown below offers a new twist to the use of Inland diamonds.



Some raving idiot reduced the value by removing what must have been a not very valuable adhesive from the top left hand corner, which from the traces on the envelope, must have been sadly damaged in the process.

As can be seen, it is addressed the Holland from Cape Colony (what would the postage rate to UK have been ?) and received the PAID-ONLY/TO ENGLAND stamp in a dull blue/green. The 11d is in red, whereas the 2 and 1/1 (?) in black contrast. The adhesive might have been removed by the sender who paid in cash, the 11d, with London opting for a shilling rate, which was that from UK to the Cape. There was a change of heart and the MORE TO PAY and the m/s 2 overstruck with the diamond 22.

Presumably the PAID h/s is from the Cape, though it fits very nicely with the general format of sans serif block capitals in use in London at the time. However, culling through the Proof Impression Books - for something quite different - one could but not help noting, with alarm, the frequency of UK type handstamps going off to the most unlikely places abroad. It is reasonable to assume a degree of standardisation throughout what might term the Empire.

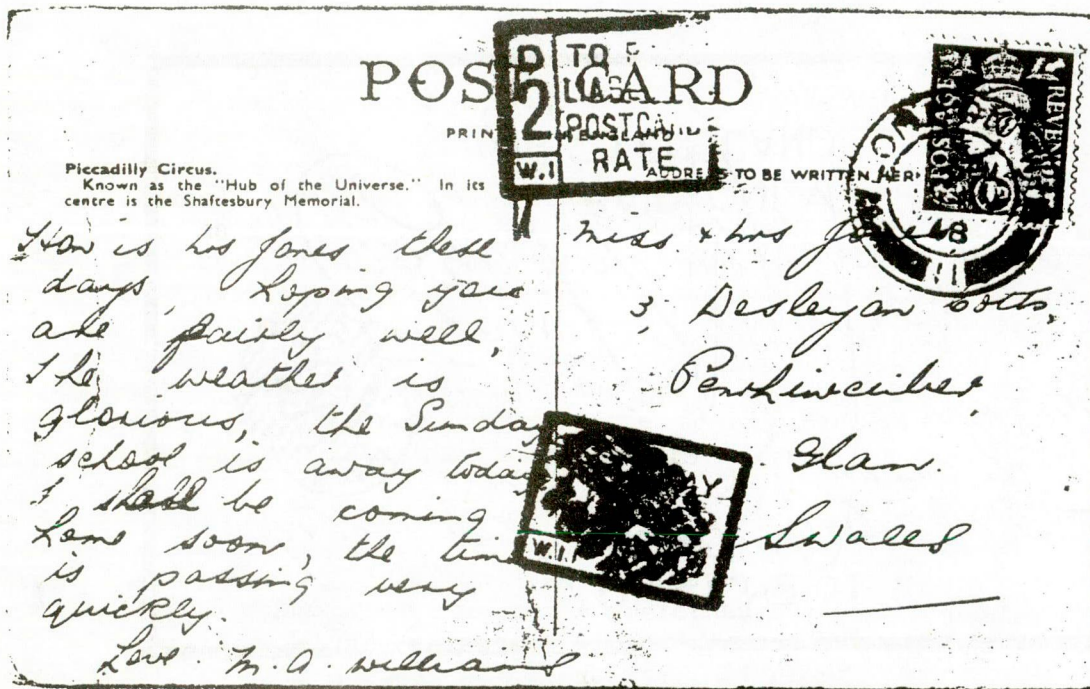
Answers to the queries, or just theories, very welcome, not to mention the return of the adhesive - or a suitable replacement!

BULK MAILING....

Monsieur Meunier records two covers, a Dubus 247b in red on a letter to Amsterdam with the London double rim and Amsterdam backstamps for April 19 1859 and 21 April respectively, and on the second a Dubus 274c, backstamp dating 11th. December, 1861.

LATE USE OF SINGLE OBLITERATOR.....

The post card below demonstrates a very late use of the single obliterator W18, or at least that is Brian Smith's attribution.



It was used to obliterate, in no uncertain terms, the incorrectly applied "To Pay Posted Unpaid", leaving the "To Pay Liable To Postcard Rate". The correct rate in 1948 was 2d; for this piece of information, there is available from Post Office Records "A History of Inland Postage Rates Through The Ages" (reference HQG.1624/68/JH) which is - at least used to be - available at no charge upon application. Readers are urged to apply for a copy should they not already have one.

"A PENNY WELL BESTOWED"

As one of those invited to attend the opening of the current exhibition at the National Postal Museum on 15th. December, I had an early opportunity of seeing a comprehensive and well displayed selection - the lack of space ensures it must be a selection - and meet some of those concerned in the arrangements. London items are well in evidence and the show starter (and stopper) is the section with two examples of SUPERB 1682 private service Dockwra stamps. To add further to your pleasure, do read the letter of the item from the Records archives; it is a fine example of the informer network so active at the time.

Tempting as it is to dwell overlong, the first frame is but one of several well worth close study and should serve as a reminder that the Museum can arrange for the postal history student to examine most of the material they have available; the bulk of which can be displayed so rarely - that lack of space again. The Museum have prepared a six page pamphlet (PHQ 4511M.200.11.76ED) and a portion relating to the London Penny Posts 1680-1801 is reproduced below.

If you have yet to visit the Museum, here is one New Year Resolution worthy of early action.

LONDON'S PENNY POSTS 1680 - 1801

The state postal service began in 1635, when Charles I, short of funds, opened to general use the Royal posts operating along the main roads out of London. Postage rates were high, ranging from 2d for a single-sheet letter sent up to 80 miles to 8d and 9d for a single-sheet letter to Scotland or Ireland; the postage was doubled or trebled if 2 or more sheets of paper were used for the letter.

But until 1680 London itself enjoyed no internal postal service for its local letters - just a number of receiving houses for country letters carried by the General Post operating outside the metropolis. To send a letter in London people would use their own servant, or hire a porter for the purpose. In 1680 however two enterprising Londoners - Robert Murray and William Dockwra - set up a local Penny Post, with a Head Office in Lime Street, 7 sorting offices to serve the cities of London and Westminster and the Suburbs and some 500 receiving houses, at which the Penny Post messengers called hourly for letters and parcels for local delivery, or carriage to the General Post Office in Lombard Street, on the prepayment of a penny.

The idea of a local " penny post " was not new. Such a service - " La Petite Poste de Paris " - appears to have been tried out, unsuccessfully, in Paris in 1653, with prepayment of postage and regular collections from street posting boxes.

" For a Penny Well Bestowed " the organisers of the new London Penny Post promised to send out letters for addresses within the City at least 15 times a day and to make deliveries to the remoter parts of London at least 5 times a day. The Penny Post used a small heart-shaped handstamp denoting morning (MOR) or afternoon (AF) and a figure signifying the hour. Other, triangular, handstamps inscribed " Penny Post Paid " also showed the initial letter of the sorting office. These stamps served as a check on the messenger, should a letter fail to be delivered without little more than an hour from the time shown.

The undertaking quickly prospered; but in 1682 it was declared illegal and an infringement of the Post Office's monopoly. On 11th. December, 1682 - just a few days after a High Court judgement against the private undertaking - the London Penny Post was re-opened, as a Government service.

The Government managed the new London Penny Post on much the same lines as those of the original undertaking and similar handstamps, with variations, were used. By the 1690's it extended to towns and villages as far out as 20 miles; but later in 1711 its area was restricted to a 10 - mile radius, to prevent conflict with the General Post, also operating on the roads into London. From 1710 until 1846 bell-ringing letter carriers of the General Post rang the streets after the closure of the receiving houses, gathering in late letters for the Night Mails from London for a penny fee - which they kept to supplement their low wages.

In 1794 a general reform of the Penny Post took place. The frequency of collections and deliveries was increased; date stamps showing the time in full were introduced and the receiving houses given their own named handstamps. Dockwra's original rule, that items should be pre-paid, was waived in favour of optimal pre-payment. But the most important change was the extra penny to be charged on letters coming into the City or Westminster from the suburbs as well as on those going out from central London.

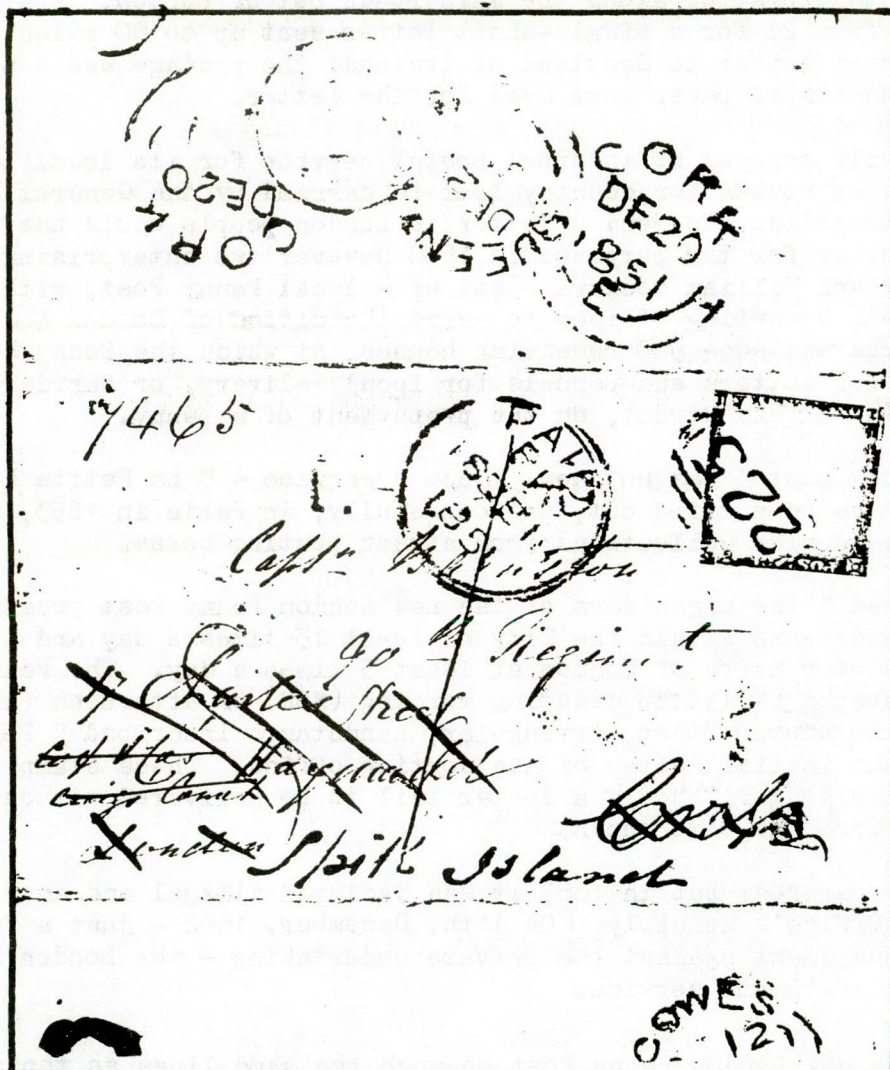
London's Penny Post became the London Twopenny Post in 1801, when the cost of the prolonged wars against the French led to an increase in postage rates.

Detained For Postage, continued from page 2

(6) (2) (7) (5)

(3)

(4)



(1)

Cowes d.s. in Blue

(2)

London d.s. in red

(3)

PAL MALL/1^D PAID in Blue

(4)

London Paid in red

(5)

Cork d.s. in Green

(Code E)

(6)

Code d.s. in Green

(Code M)

(7)

Queenstown d.s.
in Blue

(1)

London Postal History Group

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Publications, other than ' Notebook '.....

1. Classification of Types of Undated Namestamps of England, Wales and Ireland 1840 - 1860 , by M.V.D. Champness (1973) 15 pence
2. Horizontal Oval Cancellations of London, by John Parmenter (1974)
(Out of print.)
3. District and Branch Cancellations of London 1857 - 1900, Part 1,
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