

NOTEBOOK

IN THIS ISSUE.....

- page 1 London " PAID " Tombstones
- 2 The Receiving Houses of Southwark, by A.J. Kirk
- 3 A Problem For The Foreign Section, from P.J. Elkins
Post Office Notice 1817
- 4 Book Review: The First Slogan Cancellations in Great Britain 1917-18
Queen Victoria Street
- 5 Hon. Treasurer's Report: Year Ended 30th. April, 1981
- 7 Woolwich: A Postal History, by Peter Bathe
- 12 Meeting Report : London Favourites, by Keith Romig
- 13 David Garden Berri and " An Improved Date Stamp ", by John Parmenter
- 16 Found Loose...from P.J. Elkins
- 17 Bedford Row, by Brian Smith
- 18 Returned Letter, from Robert Johnson
- 19 Too Late F.B.G.P.O. from Ted Wilcock
Too Late F.B.G.P.O. from Robert Johnson
- 20 London District Post : Unpaid Letter Division

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Editor: Peter Forrestier Smith, 24 Dovercourt Road, Dulwich, SE22 8ST.

LONDON " PAID " TOMBSTONES

In his display at the March meeting, John Harrison showed a study which included these handstamps. Part of his accompanying talk was to advance the idea that the codes in the handstamps between the years 1800 and 1840 had a direct relationship to the towns from which the letters were posted.

To make it clearer, these tombstones were applied only on mail coming from outside London. In an article appearing in " Stamps " for October 1980, John wrote..." Examination of these codes used in relationship to the towns at which the letters bearing them were posted shows that letters arriving from a particular post town are usually struck with a stamp bearing the same code, regardless of the type of stamp used." He goes on to explain why, but this will be kept for a subsequent article.

In addition, there has been some considerable correspondence and a number of articles in " The British Mail Coach " over the years on the subject upon which ' Notebook ' can draw but what is very much needed is information, as ever, from the reader. This should not be confined to the pre-adhesive period.

Please advise (even if you have but a single example)

Date; Single Rim or Double Rim; Serif or non-serif; Code ; Color; Place of Origin; Destination; Other postal markings.

The Paid stamp is, obviously, quite common after 1840.

THE RECEIVING HOUSES OF SOUTHWARK, by A.J. Kirk

Recently I acquired two letters, one with " Gt.Surry St / 1d Paid " dated 1845 and the other with " Surrey St " within a double rectangle frame, this 1831. I soon discovered these were both part of what later became Blackfriars Road. It is interesting to note both letters were written in Doctor's Common, in Queen Victoria Street. No doubt they were posted by a clerk on his way home, having crossed Blackfriars Bridge. It was only when I came to try and trace these addresses that I ran into trouble. In 1823/24, a Twopenny Post Receiving House is shown at 152 Gr.Surrey St. In 1838, the address appears as 152 Blackfriars Road. Brumell says this office was closed 31st. December, 1838 although a General Post Receiving House at the same address was continued. Also in 1838, a Receiving House is shown at 44 Blackfriars Road. Was this the General Post Receiving House " Surrey St. " ? In 1842 and again in 1845, two Receiving Houses are shown at 111 Blackfriars Road, the other at 231. Were these both changes of addresses, or just alterations in the numbers of the houses ?

I shall be obliged if members with copies of either of these marks would let me have the following details :

- i. Type of mark and date
- ii. Address from which letter was written
- iii. Address to which letter was sent
- iv. Any other marks on the letter

I am now in the process of gathering information regarding the Receiving Houses of Southwark. There were, of course, both General Post and Twopenny Post ones in the area and should members have any items showing marks of the Receiving Houses listed, similar details (and photostats if at all possible) would be most helpful.

General Post Receiving House

Borough
Newington Causeway
Belvidere Place
Surrey St. (note: spelling varies)

Twopenny Post Receiving House

44 Blackfriars Road
111 Blackfriars Road
152 Blackfriars Road
152 Great Surrey Street
Blackman Street
Borough
Union Street
London Road
Belvidere Place
New Park St.
Sussex Place (Old Kent Road)
Tooley Street
York Place
Providence Bldgs (New Kent Road)

(The Editor would add : if readers have contemporary prints of any of these places a note of these would, I am sure, add to the value of Alf's researches.)

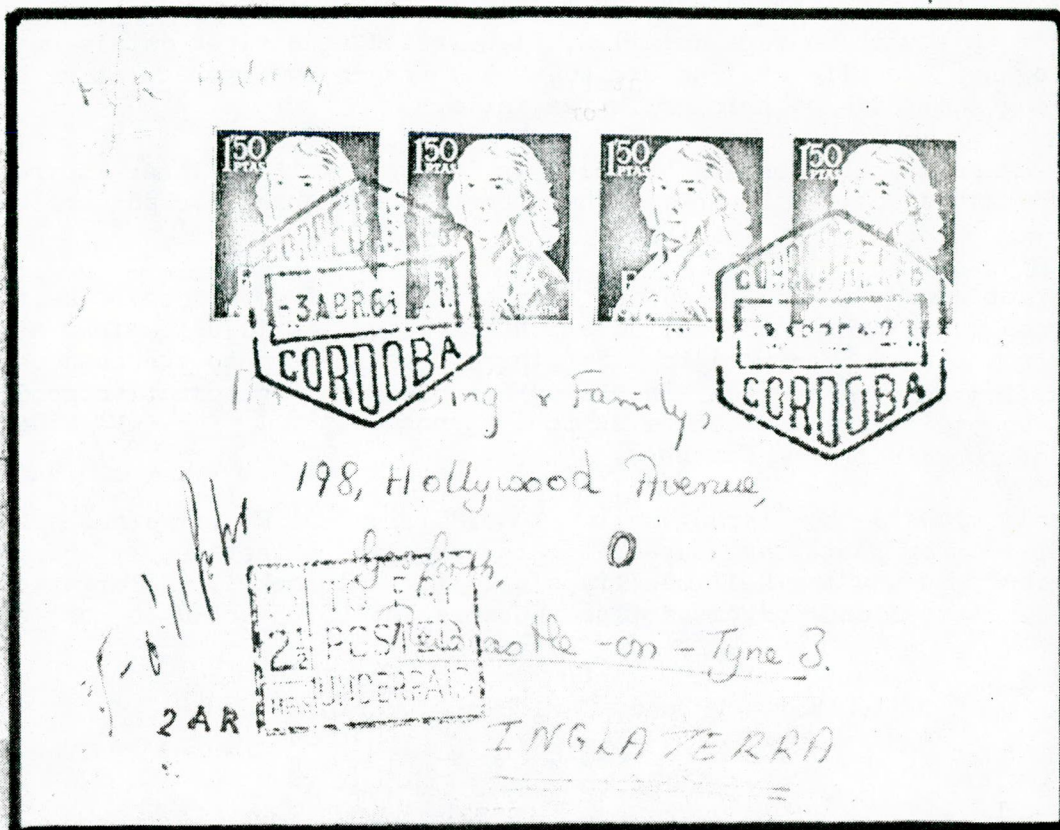
By way of pushing my luck, a note of any Southwark Dockwrass would be appreciated.

All information will be acknowledged and, of course, any costs refunded.

Details to A.J. Kirk, 123 Benhill Road, London SE5 7LZ.

A PROBLEM FOR THE FOREIGN SECTION, from P.J. Elkins

Following the article in Notebook No. 42, comes a similar puzzle for Postal Historians.



Although not as clear as one might wish, the photocopy does show several marks of interest. Posted from Spain, it carried the Mount Pleasant Inland Section charge mark 2½d " TO PAY / POSTED / UNDERPAID ", which is straight forward enough, and a number of less obvious stampings. The MPIS is in a deep green, as is also the 2AR and the O, which makes it seem all three were struck in MP. This appears to be in very sharp contrast to the advice given by the Post Office and it is, I suggest, not very likely either are the result of Post Room recordings.

Perhaps readers would look at some of the ' modern ' material in their own collections and any seen offered for sale to verify if these could be regularly used but unre - marked postal markings, either from the UK or overseas.

Editor's Footnote.

This contribution, with the other to be found in this issue dealing with a parcel post label, has a sad twist. In an effort to secure a clearer impression for use in Notebook, the original material was sent. Although he hates to admit the fact, the Editor must own up to, bluntly stated, losing both items. He still entertains the fond hope of discovering the ' safe ' place in which the item is yet to be found but pending the happy day, would very much appreciate the assistance of any reader who can offer like material with which he can replace.

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POST OFFICE NOTICE OF 1817

THE POSTMASTERS are to add to their Rates on Letters for Foreign Mails made up in London, a sum 2d less than the Inland Rate from their Offices.....

This was spotted on an exhibit at Stampex this year: have readers examples ?

BOOK REVIEW:

" THE FIRST SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN 1917-1918 " by member Roger Keneally is a thirty three page detailed, illustrated and priced catalogue of the War Bond Slogans. He offers it as excluding any imaginary or speculative offices in the listing and that the pricing is realistic.

Readers will recall enquiries and articles in ' Notebook ' and those who responded will have the satisfaction of knowing their contribution has reached publication so quickly.

The Editor, not known for his speed in grasping layout of reference books, took his own advice and read through the introduction, checking the illustrations as he went. These illustrations are confined to first three pages, extra to the catalogue proper, which makes finding them simple. The layout is clear and reproduction good. It is stapled between thin card and can be suitably punched to fit the four ring binders available for the Handbook / Notebook.

This usual addition to the library sells at £3.25 plus P & P. It weighs just over 100g, so 19pence for post plus, say 6p for the envelope (they really are pricey nowadays unless you use the self seal type used for Notebook). A large A4 size envelope duly stamped and addressed plus the straight £3.25 would be most convenient!

The address is:

368 Warwick Road, Carlisle, Cumbria

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QUEEN VICTORIA STREET

In his ramblings around Post Office Records, John Parmenter came across the record we reprint below, by kind permission of P.O. Records. The importance of this record

Issued to the
Sub.Controller,
Circulation Dept.
15.6.94



is the explanation is offers to the poser put by George Brumell in his work "British Post Offices Numbers ". In his listing of ' Numbers Given To Offices In The London District ', the number 16, in the list of 1887, he shows " Victoria St., E.C.". A footnote states...

"Victoria Street E.C. is a mystery, as I can trace no Post Office of that name nor
"can I find that there was one in Queen Victoria St. An office was opened in
"Victoria St., S.W. in 1882."

47 Cannon Street was still the Branch Office in 1924, though no longer at that number. It would certainly seem to provide the answer to this old question. For a reason yet to be established, the Post Office referred to the office at 47 Cannon Street as Queen Victoria St.

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HON. TREASURER'S REPORT : YEAR ENDED 30th. APRIL, 1981

1979/80	<u>INCOME</u>	£	£	£
£	<u>Subscriptions</u>	Number		
	Paid in Advance	6	18.00	
	Collected during year	172	515.00	
453	Arrears carried forward	7	21.00	554.00
	Membership 1980/81 (151 1979) (+20 new paid 1981/2)	185		
	<u>Publications</u>			
	Sales		1192.30	
	Stock 1st.April,1980	669.00		
	Printings at cost	1093.37		
		1764.37		
	<u>less</u> Stock 30th.April,1981	1099.00	665.37	
339	NETT INCOME FROM SALES		526.93	
	<u>less</u> advance costs of new publications		134.64	392.29
	<u>Packet</u>			
33	Commission, less expenses		34.93	
	Insurance deficit		10.40	24.93
63	<u>Auction</u> Commission, less expenses			94.84
24	Buntingford (not this year)			-
34	<u>Building Society Interest</u>			60.10
946				<u>£1125.76</u>
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
35	Meetings (hire of room)		67.00	
442	Notebook		586.63	
60	Posts, Phones & Sundry Expenses		52.90	
5	Bank Charges		3.17	
13	Printed Programme Card		18.00	
13	Membership List		-	
534				727.70
378	<u>Surplus</u> for the Year			<u>398.06</u>
946				<u>£1125.76</u>

- Notes
1. Last year the new publications were paid for from the loans sent to us for that purpose. This year the cost of additions has been made from income, as have costs already incurred for future publications.
 2. Sales again have almost doubled: there is a corresponding increase in stocks, which now tie up considerable resources. We now stock seven publications, Notebook and binders.
Three years ago, sales were less than £100.
 3. Membership is now over 200 - recruitment from Exhibitions and publication reviews have added over 50 this year. Arrears are now under control and some written off were recovered. Renewal notices in ' Notebook ' seems to get overlooked and separate subscription requests will be issued this year. In view of the high costs of postage, members are asked to pay promptly.

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT : YEAR ENDED 30TH. APRIL, 1981

1979/80

ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance at 1st.May,1980
add arrears written off, recovered

£ 1211.66
12.00

1223.66

1211 add Surplus for year 1980/81

398.06

1621.72

279 LOAN FUND

274.03

1490

£1895.75

REPRESENTED BY

66 Cash in hand and at bank

173.95

592 Deposit Account (Nationwide Building Society)

779.86

214 Publications Fund

36.85

872 CASH RESOURCES

990.66

43 PREPAYMENTS AND DEBTORS

55.65

STOCK OF PUBLICATIONS

- Binders

390.00

669 - Handbook and Notebook

709.00

1099.00

1 LIBRARY (Nominal value only)

1.00

Subscriptions in Arrears

30.00

15 less written off

9.00

21.00

1600

2167.31

less Provision for next Notebook
subs for 1981/82 in advance

170.00

81.00

110 Creditors

20.56

271.56

1490

£1895.75

I recommend the subscription be kept at £3. This should meet most of the cost of " Notebook ". Auction Commission and the Packet cover other expenses. Income from publication sales should provide the cash flow for new publications and the stocks generated.

9th.May,1981

REG SANDERS
Hon.Treasurer.

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WANTED

Postmarks and cancellations from the 1790's up to 1900 from Leyton, Leytonstone, Walthamstow, Whipps Cross, Chingford, Snaresbrook. Also required any postmarks from " London in Essex ", including Barking, Barkingside, Buckhurst Hill, Chadwell, Chigwell, Chigwell Row, Dagenham, East Ham, High Beech, Ilford, Loughton, Plaistow, Rainham, Romford, Wanstead, West Ham, Woodford.

Will purchase, or have selection of postmarks of other areas for exchange.....

Keith Romig, 47 Liverpool Road, Leyton, E10 6DN

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WOOLWICH : A POSTAL HISTORY, by Peter Bathe

The first record of the Penny Post in Woolwich is in 1685 in a Treasury List of Penny Post receivers who had " absconded or died owing money ", which included a " Colegate, vintner, of Woolwich ". As yet, it has not been possible to discover more about this vintner and indeed the records of postal services in Woolwich are notably absent for about a hundred years after that lone entry.

However, we can get some clues as to the names of the receivers before 1794 from their signatures from surviving letters. A letter of 1777 had the receiver's signature of " Hamborne " and I have a record of another for 1783 signed " Bennett ". What is slightly misleading is the postal markings. The " Hamborne " letter carries the penny post stamp for Hermitage and the " Bennett " letter a similar mark for the General Office. It would seem both letters were posted on the north bank of the Thames. It is worth recalling that until the rearrangement of the London Boroughs in 1965, part of Woolwich was on the North bank of the river. Letters posted in Woolwich town, that is, south of the river, would normally receive the Southwark stamp.

In 1792 there appears in minutes kept in P.O. Records.

" Mr. Freeling will write to Mjr Genl. Broome and tell him the Post Masters General know nothing of a vacancy of the receiving house at Woolwich but if there is one his application will deserve & shall have the greatest attention.
October 23, 1792. "

Freeling to PMGs:

" My Lords,
I am sorry to inform your Lordships that on the day Lord Walsingham received Major Genl. Broome's letter requesting the nomination of a receiver at Woolwich the appointment was filled up.

I wrote to the General by the Post Masters General's directions to say that every proper attention should be paid to his representation if there was a vacancy which I stated that your Lordships then knew nothing of. It is necessary I should now explain the circumstances which I shall do by letter to the General this evening and which I hope your Lordships will approve.
October 27, 1792 "

" The Post Masters General cannot understand how the receivership at Woolwich can have been filled up unknown to their Lordships. Lord Walsingham understood from Mr. Walcot that the person recommended by the General was appointed.
October 28, 1792 "

(Major General Broome was a senior military officer at the Woolwich garrison.)

Unfortunately, nowhere in this series of minutes is the name mentioned of either the General's nominee, or the person who was actually appointed.

In 1794 Edward Johnson, deputy comptroller of the Penny Post, undertook a series of important reforms, including an increase in the number of suburban receiving houses.

Originally Johnson proposed there should be four offices in Woolwich but later he amended the scheme to just three offices, dividing the proposed salary for the fourth office between the other three. It is difficult to see where the fourth office would have been located and there are no records of where Johnson intended it to be.

Before 1794 Woolwich had only one receiving house, which was sited in the civic centre of the town - the High Street. However, the town had long been an important centre for both naval and military activity. To the west of the town was the Royal Dockyard, founded by Henry VIII. To the east was the Warren, an area of ground which was the home of the embryonic Royal Arsenal, the Royal Artillery and the Royal Military Academy. It was to serve these two important government establishments on either side of

Woolwich : A Postal History.....

the town that Johnson opened the two additional offices - the West Office, sited in Church Street, almost opposite the Dockyard Gates, and the East Office, in New Road near the Warren Gates. The office in the High Street became known as Woolwich Central Office.

Johnson had originally set the salaries for the four offices at £4 10s a year but once he had decided not to proceed with the fourth office, this was increased to £6. As receivers' salaries were based on a tenth for each letter taken in, Johnson was expecting each of the three offices to be handling some 14,400 letters a year.

With the establishment of the additional receiving houses throughout London in 1794, came the first receiving house namestamps. These are still a mystery when they have numbers after the name, from 1 to 3. Various theories have been propounded but none fit every known example, particularly within the town area, that is, within three miles of the Chief Office. Examples are known for Woolwich with the figures 2 and 3 but, thus far, none have been reported with Woolwich 1.

My own theory - and it very much my own - is that the numbers had a different significance in the town area from that when used in the country. What the stamps from the town area mean I do not know but in Woolwich, a typical country area, I believe the numbers probably refer to the three receiving houses. Even though, by the Post Office calculations referred to above, some 43,000 letters were handled each year in Woolwich, the survival rate for these early marks is very small. Only a dozen or so examples of the two Woolwich numbers are known. In 1979 a WOOLWH/2 mark sold for £150 at a Robson Lowe auction.

I believe the numbers refer to the three offices as follows:

WOOLWH/1	East Office
WOOLWH/2	Central Office
WOOLWH/3	West Office

but must stress this is my own theory and postal historians have yet to discover a definitive Post Office statement in the records for the purpose.

The East Office was declared redundant and closed in 1799. As a result, the closure at Woolwich Central Office was given a pay rise of £2 a year to compensate for the additional work he would have to do. This valued the amount of traffic through the East Office at less than 5,000 letters a year, well below the 14,000 or so originally estimated and this may well be why no examples of the WOOLWH/1 stamp have survived. Examples of the WOOLWH/2 are known for 1794 and 1795, while the WOOLWH/3 is recorded for 1795. As a type, the RMW catalogue gives a time span from 1794 to 1801 for Number 1's, but only to 1797 for 2's and 3's.

WOOLWH
• 2 •

Soon after Woolwich East Office was closed at the end of the 18th. century, several officers from the Warren petitioned for its re-opening but the request was denied. In 1800, however, the wars with France were hotting up again and the military establishment at Woolwich was increasing, so the office was re-established, with a Mrs James as receiver. This office was at the Warren Gate - slightly nearer to the military than its original location in New Road. It would appear it was granted a salary of £6 a year again but the central office salary was not reduced. Indeed in 1804, the central office salary was increased dramatically to £24 a year - three times its previous level - indicating a total correspondence from Woolwich of over 86,000 letters a year, of which 57,600 went through the central office.

The population of Woolwich in 1801 was just under 11,000 but rose to 17,000 by 1811,

Woolwich : A Postal History.....

remaining at about this level until the 1830s. Besides the civilian population, many of whom worked in either the Dockyard or the Arsenal, there were the military personnel, sailors from the ships which moored in the Thames off Woolwich and the inmates of the prison hulks, also moored in the river off Woolwich. There were about 400 - 600 prisoners on the hulks in the early 19th. century, most of whom were put to work in both the Dockyard and the Arsenal.

With the introduction of the bye-posts and the creation of a country sorting office at Woolwich Central Office in April 1811, the Receiver, James Stone, was given an additional £6 a year for the duties involved in operating the bye-post. This gave him a total salary of £30 a year. Despite this, in 1813, Stone petitioned for a further increase in the following terms :

" That from the increased number of Inhabitants the additions to the establishments under His Majesty's Board of Ordnance, Admiralty and Navy and other circumstances the number of letters coming to and going from your Memorialist are most surprisingly increased in number within these last few years and are likely to continue increasing.

" That in addition to the usual business of the post office there is no less than seven persons to attend to three times every day one of whom comes from each of the following persons or departments The Admiral - The Commanding Royal Engineer - The Royal Artificers - The Royal Marines - The Royal Artillery Drivers - The Militia - And the Ships at Anchor.

" That he is obliged to keep a book and to enter every letter coming to the Convicts on board the hulks therein.

" That it requires six persons to sort the letters three times each day for whom he has to provide a Room and Fire in Winter Time. "

Besides all this, Stone pointed out rent and taxes had increased and he had done a lot for the service - at his own expense.

Above £24 a year, receivers no longer received a tenth of penny per letter but a fixed sum. In Stone's case, he was awarded a salary of £36 a year - but Post Office Records include a note from Johnson that if Stone had been paid on the tenths basis, he should have had between £50 and £60 a year, which meant Stone was handling well over 100,000 letters a year.

Correspondence through the other two offices was also increasing at this time. In the second half of 1808, the receiver at the West Office, Robert Horne, kept a log of all letters handled by him every day for about five months. This he did to support his claim for a pay rise. His figures, which are preserved at Post Office Records, show he was handling about 23,000 letters a year, a figure which the Post Office more or less accepted as he was granted a salary increase to £9 a year - equivalent to 21,600 letters.

As the East Office was intended primarily to serve the military establishments at the Warren the office was moved, when the new Artillery Barracks were built, to the south of the town on Woolwich Common. The new East Office was opened in 1804 at Mr. Dale's circulating library in Green's End. George Dale continued to be paid the £6 a year awarded in 1794 until his death in 1814, when his brother-in-law, Robert Hardcastle, took over. Dale was buried at Plumstead on 25th. May, 1814 and Hardcastle succeeded to the business on 1st. January, 1815 but failed to inform the Postmaster General of Dale's death until 6th. March!! And this was only when he felt the need to ask for a pay rise. His petition again throws light on the special problems inherent in Woolwich:

" I....humbly beg leave to call your Lordships attention to my particular Situation as to Extra attention necessary at this Office; in consequence of our being situated

Woolwich : A Postal History

in the centre of all the Barracks, the Soldiers paying One Penny with each Letter, employs almost the whole of One Persons time....." (At that time, of course, soldiers and sailors were allowed to send letters any distance for just 1d., if the letter was countersigned by the Commanding Officer.)

Johnson ordered an account be kept of letters put in at Woolwich East Office and eventually reported there was a far greater number going through the office than he had expected to find. He therefore recommended a salary of £18 a year - equivalent to 43,200 letters a year.

By the end of the Napoleonic wars correspondence through Woolwich had reached the figure of between 170,000 and 200,000. Despite this, the survival rate is very low.

Examples of most of the Penny and Twopenny Post receiving House types illustrated by Brumell are known for each of the three Woolwich offices. These show the abbreviations C.O., W.O., and E.O. for the Central, West and East Offices. In addition, some of the types are known showing just Woolwich for the office name. These stamps were probably issued to the Central Office.

Brumell reports a stamp in 1835 with Woolwich S.O., indicating the establishment of a South Office. There are no Post Office records (discovered so far) of a South Office in Woolwich and I can only suggest it was issued, as an error, to the East Office. This office was in Green's End, which was not only to the east of the town

but also to the south, as can be seen from the sketch map. It is just possible the office was briefly designated as the South Office.

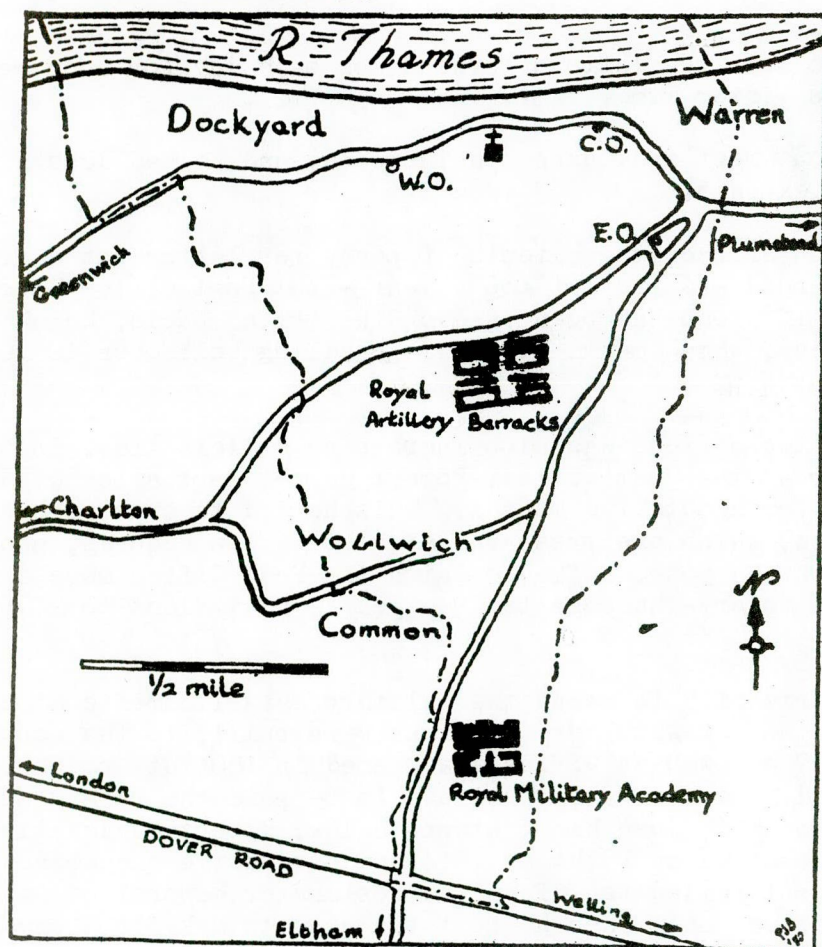
Recording the many receivers, who they were and when they held office is not always possible.

At Woolwich East Office, for example, there is no record of the first receiver, before the office was declared redundant in 1799. Nothing is known of Mrs James, who was appointed when the office was re-opened in 1800, or whether she was the last receiver before the office was moved in the train of the military, to the office near the Barrack Field, in Green's End, in 1804. However, it is possible to trace quite accurately the various receivers from that date until the 1870s.

As already noted, George Dale with the circulating library, was appointed receiver in 1804 when the office was moved, dying in 1814. His

brother-in-law, Robert Hardcastle, took over, though the appointment did not become official until the Spring of 1815. Hardcastle had married Rebecca Dale in 1812 in

Parish of Woolwich. c 1810



Woolwich : A Postal History.....

the neighbouring parish of Plumstead. George Dale was buried in Plumstead so it is possible the Dales were from Plumstead rather than Woolwich, though it was quite fashionable for the middle classes of Woolwich to use the parish church in Plumstead, rather than their own. Plumstead was then still a very rural community with a population around 2,000, whereas the Woolwich parish church was in the poorer part of that place.

Hardcastle last appears in the ratebooks for Woolwich in September 1821 and the next entry for the library/bookshop, in November 1821, gives William Thomas Coleman as the ratepayer. Directories of this period suggest it was Coleman's wife, Margaret, who was the receiver. A Post Office minute shows that in July 1828 a Mr Jones was to succeed Mrs Coleman as receiver.

Edward Jones continued to run both post office receiving house and library for many years and was the printer for the Kentish Independent, a local newspaper, which is still published. He eventually retired in 1854 and the post office was moved to the chemist shop of Henry Parkes.

There is no certainty as to who was the first receiver at Woolwich West, established in 1794/5. In 1809, the then receiver Robert Horne, applied for a pay rise. He stated he had kept the office for about 12 years but this would take us back only to 1796/7. Horne's early life has not been fully researched but it is clear he married at least twice. In 1812 there is an entry in the Woolwich registers that Robert Horne, a widower, married Sarah Cox, a widow. Five years later Horne's name disappears from the rate books and an entry in Post Office records shows a John Broad was appointed receiver. Broad, a haberdasher, took over Horne's house about this time.

The Broad household is somewhat complex and again not fully researched. A directory of 1823 gives John Broad as receiver and shopkeeper, while in 1827 Ann and Martha Broad are listed in both roles. In 1832 the shop is known as Broad & Hodder. In the year before the ratepayer changed from John Broad to William Hodder. In 1836 it changed again, now to John Broad Jr., possibly son of the first of that name.

Sometime in the late 1830s the receiving house was moved from the Broad's shop at 23 Church Street to the chemist shop of John Alfred Rastrick next door at number 21. Rastrick remained the receiver (later sub-postmaster) in Church Street until 1872, when he "retired" to Woolwich Common. Far from retiring, he opened a new chemist business and a new sub-post office. Rastrick was an important local politician and a member of the Woolwich Local Board of Health, the forerunner of the borough council. Strangely his successors in the Church Street post office, George Champion and his son Arthur, corn chandlers, were both members of the first Woolwich Borough Council at the end of the 19th. century.

The Central Office receiver at the end of the 18th. century is not known. The first name I have is that of James Stone, who had a grocery business at 108 High Street from at least 1801. A directory of 1811 first mentions Stone as receiver. At the beginning of 1827 there are two minutes in Post Office records:

22 January 1827. Woolwich. Mr Stone deceased. The widow appointed.

" I presume your Lordship will humanely approve of the widow who is stated to be respectable."

29 January 1827. Woolwich. Receiver deceased. Mr Robt Fuller appointed.

" This is an affecting circumstance. The poor widow survived her Husband but a few Days. The applicants appear to be highly respectable and it is an object not to remove a receiving house unless strong reasons can be assigned for it. "

It is not surprising Stone's widow did not long survive him. James Stone was 72 when he died and his widow, Sarah, was 83!!

Woolwich : A Postal History.....

The next receiver does not appear to have had a strong constitution either for he died in December 1828 and William Stone Robinson appointed in his stead. It is presumed from his name he was related to James Stone. According to the 1841 and 1851 census returns, Robinson was born in 1801 in the parish of St. George's East (Southwark). The burial register of St.Mary's, Woolwich, states that when Robert Fuller died, his body was carried to St. George's for burial and it is possible Fuller and Robinson were also related.

In the Woolwich rate books the two were listed together as taking over as ratepayers for Stone's shop.

Robinson remained receiver at the High Street Office until 1868 when the post office was removed to John Vine's shop nearby and Frederick Pilkinton Robinson took over his father's shop.

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This contribution is a revised and edited version of a two-part article published " Stamp Collecting " on 11th. and 18th. December, 1980.

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MEETING REPORT: LONDON FAVOURITES by Keith Romig

Nineteen members attended the meeting held on March 21st. when the subject was ' London Favourites '. Ten people brought along their favourite items - maybe the others had no favourites and like all their covers equally. It certainly can be difficult to choose which appeal most and why. Perhaps it is a long sought after postmark or cancel or a bargain picked up when least expected.

Four members showed machine cancels. Norman Mounsdon displayed a Rideout No.2 on cover and a nice example of the Wilkinson Experimental cancel commercially used after the first day of use. John Parmenter showed examples of the Rideout cancels enhanced by copies of the plans of the stamping machine from the Patent Office. Maurice Bristow's Rideouts were very attractively written up and a nice cover with the No.1 cancelling a 6d. surface printed caught the attention. Tony Potter brought a range of machine cancels from the Pearson Hill type 2 and Opera Glass, Rideouts, Azemars to Hosters and Slopers.

John Harrison showed a very attractive collection of London Provincial handstamps comprising both unpaid and paid stamps of a.m. and p.m. duties and with all the code letters from A to G, plus S for Sunday duty, and Inspectors' stars. The quality of all these markings were superb. Martin Willcocks entertained us all with a selection of early newspapers including the emergency issue of ' The London Gazette ' printed just after the Great Fire of London and ' The Protestant Domestic Intelligence ' with the advertisement for Dockwra's Penny Post with examples of the stamps in the margin. Peter Forrestier Smith's London Maritime Mail was very interesting and outstanding was a superb example of the large circular ' India Ship Letter London ' with 4 in the centre. Also noted was a very nice ' Soldiers & Seamen's Letter by Ship 4 ' on an 1852 cover.

Alf Kirk showed double and triple stamps of the Inland Office, numbers 45 - 47 and 47 - 50, Reg Sanders letters which had originally included cheques and my own miscellany of General and Local Post covers rounded off the afternoon.

The afternoon passed very quickly and members appeared to have enjoyed the varied and interesting selection of the material on show.

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DAVID GARDEN BERRI AND "AN IMPROVED DATE STAMP" by John Parmenter

Whilest working through the files in the Patent Office I have discovered a number of references to matters connected with the Post Office and cancelling devices. One such the Berri date stamp. For a number of years up to 1869 he supplied stamps to the Stationery Office, who then supplied them to the Post Office. This was changed to a direct ordering system until 31st. March, 1871 when Berri was discovered to have lent money to Officers in the Post Office. He immediately lost the contract.

The Patent is illustrated below.

FIG. 1.

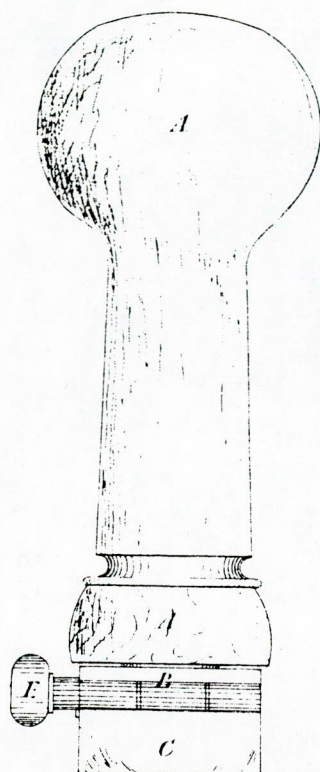


FIG. 2.

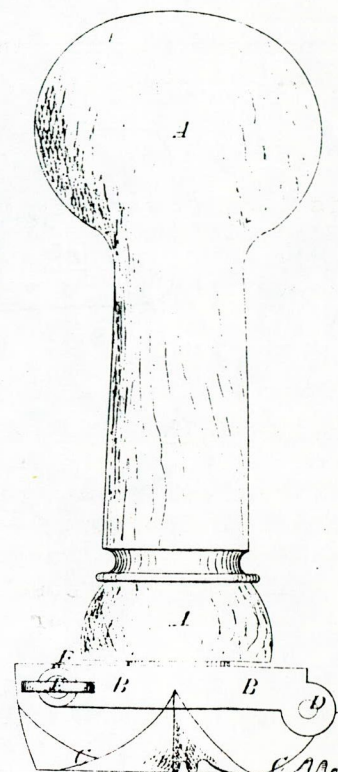


FIG. 3.

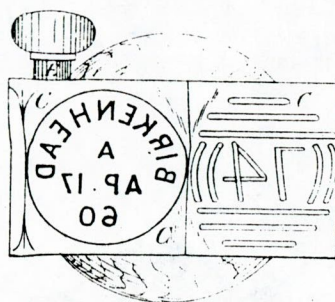


FIG. 6.

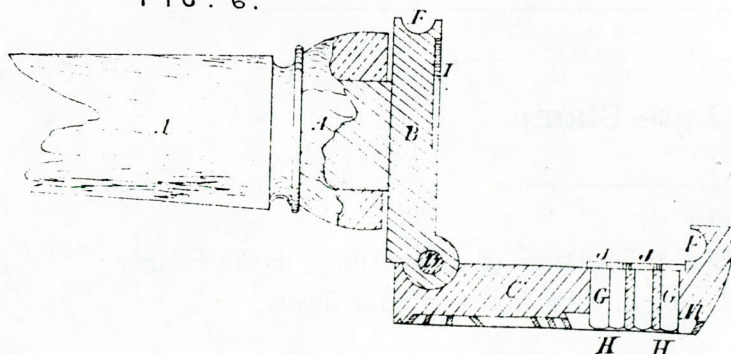


FIG. 7.



FIG. 8.



FIG. 9.

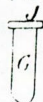
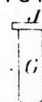


FIG. 10.



David Garden Berri.....

FIG. 4.

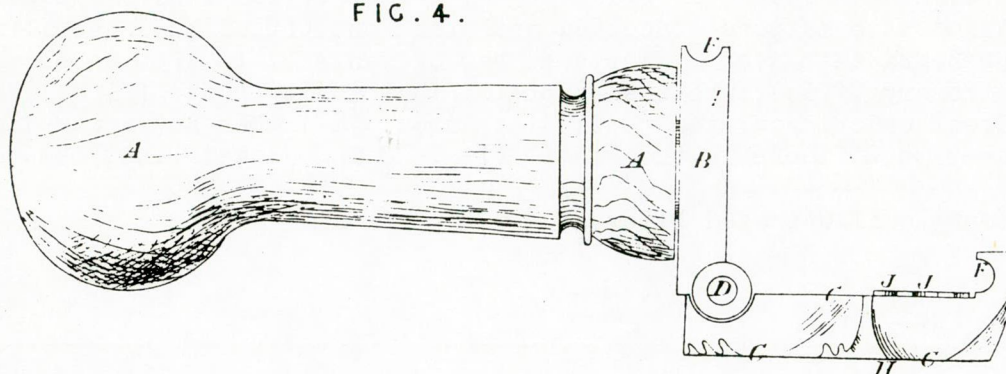
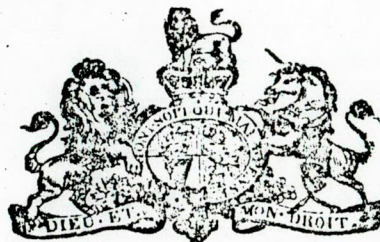
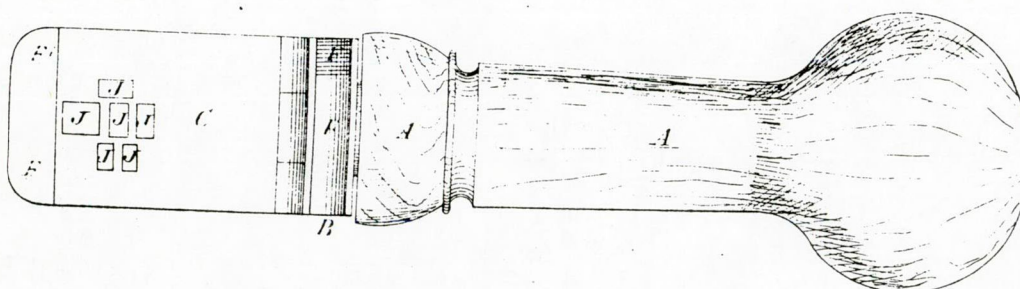


FIG. 5.



A.D. 1860, 24th APRIL. N° 1020.

Date Stamp.

LETTERS PATENT to David Garden Berri, of Bloomsbury, in the County of Middlesex, for the Invention of "AN IMPROVED DATE STAMP."

Sealed the 27th September 1860, and dated the 24th April 1860.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION filed by the said David Garden Berri, at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition and Declaration on the 24th April 1860, pursuant to the 9th Section of the Patent Law Amendment Act, 1852.

David Garden Berri.....

5 TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, DAVID GARDEN BERRI, of Bloomsbury, in the County of Middlesex, send greeting.

WHEREAS I, the said David Garden Berri, have petitioned Her Majesty to grant unto me, my executors, administrators, and assigns, Her Royal Letters Patent for an Invention for "AN IMPROVED DATE STAMP."

10 NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said David Garden Berri, do hereby declare the nature of my said Invention, and in what manner the same is to be performed, to be particularly described and ascertained in and by the following statement, and the Drawings therein referred to (that is to say):—

My Invention, which has reference to an improved date stamp to be
15 employed for the general purposes of stamping letters, documents, or otherwise, whereby any alteration, by means of moveable type, may be made with greater facility than hitherto, consists in the lower portion or face of the stamp or plate being connected to the body of the same by means of a hinge joint and screw fastening, in such manner that the said face may be thrown or turned back, and admit of the removal of the type for the purpose of changing the same when required for the alteration of the date or otherwise.

But in order that my said Invention may be more fully understood and readily carried into effect, I now proceed to describe the same by the aid of the 5 accompanying Drawings, reference being had to the letters and figures thereon marked (that is to say):—

Fig. 1 represents a vertical end view of my improved date stamp; Fig. 2, a side view thereof; Fig. 3 a plan or underneath view, showing the face of the stamp or engraved plate as applied to postal purposes; Fig. 4, a side view of 10 the same, showing the application of the hinge opening joint, and the manner in which the type are to be removed or changed; Fig. 5, a top or plan view thereof; Fig. 6, a longitudinal section taken through the dotted line in Fig. 5; Figs. 7 and 8, detached front and side views of the thumb-screw for securing the face to the body of the stamp; and Figs. 9 and 10 corresponding views of 15 one of the type. In each Figure the same letters of reference denote similar corresponding parts.

A, A, the handle of wood, or otherwise; B, B, metallic hinge plate or body of the stamp to which the handle is attached; C, C, engraved face or plate from which the impression is taken; D, D, pin or hinge joint for enabling the 20 stamp to be opened or separated for the removal or changing of the type, as represented at Figs. 4 and 5; E, E, thumb-screw or pin for holding or securing the parts together when closed and required for use; F and F¹ semicircular openings and tap or nut in the upper and lower plates, forming when closed the hole or socket, in which the screw or pin is secured; G, G, moveable type; 25 H, H, openings or perforations in which the same are placed; I, I, recess or cavity fitting over the flanged heads or tops J, J, of the type.

In conclusion to the foregoing description, it may be here necessary to note, that my improved date stamp may be employed, either in connection with the double or obliterating mark, as represented, or separately in conformity with 30 the usual requirements, the stamp being used in the ordinary way, and the

David Garden Berri....

operation of changing the type effected by the removal of the pin or thumb-screw, so as to admit of the plates being opened or separated, as shown at Fig. 4, and the type removed and others substituted, as required.

Having now described the nature of this my said Invention, and the manner 35 in which the same is to be performed, I would have it clearly understood that I do not claim the exclusive use of the several parts herein-before mentioned and referred to, except when the same are employed in and for the purposes of my said Invention, which I hereby declare to consist in the construction and employment of a date stamp, in which the engraved portion of the stamp is hinged to the upper plate or body of the same, so as to admit of the separation of the plates, and facilitate the changing of the type.

In witness whereof, I, the said David Garden Berri, have hereunto set
5 my hand and seal, this Twenty-first day of April, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and sixty.

DAVID GARDEN BERRI. (L.S.)

Witness,

10 T. R. DARKIN CAMPBELL,
Clerk to Messrs. Weatherdon & Co.,
77, Chancery Lane.

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

FOUND LOOSE... from P.J. Elkins



The parcel post label shown carries two stamps which are new to me, though others may be well aware of them.

The first is the framed " FOUND LOOSE IN MOUNT / PLEASANT DEPOT LONDON / P.O.DATE..... "

and the second the ' hammer ' type date stamp reading " GPO LONDON/ 2 FEB 98 / PARCEL POST DEPOT "

No doubt evident at the time, the label and its markings do not indicate what was ' found loose '. Presumably this

would have been just the wrapping for the parcel, the contents having gone astray. With the label suitably stamped at least the addressee could contact the sender, if there was a return address or knowledge of who might have sent the parcel.

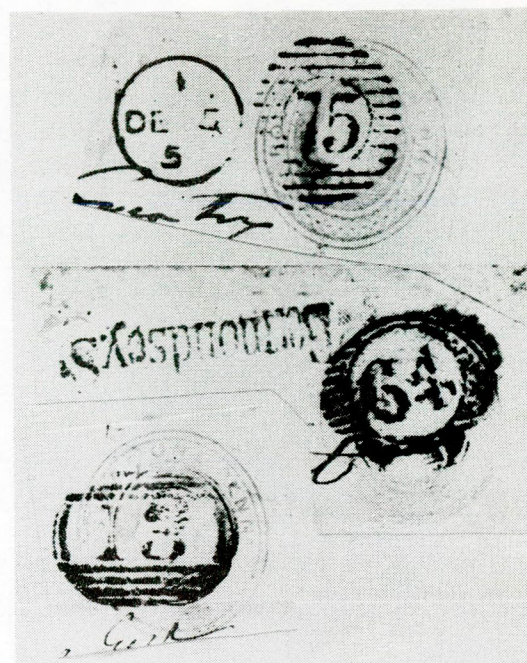
One wonders what might be the treatment by the Post Office in 1981 ?

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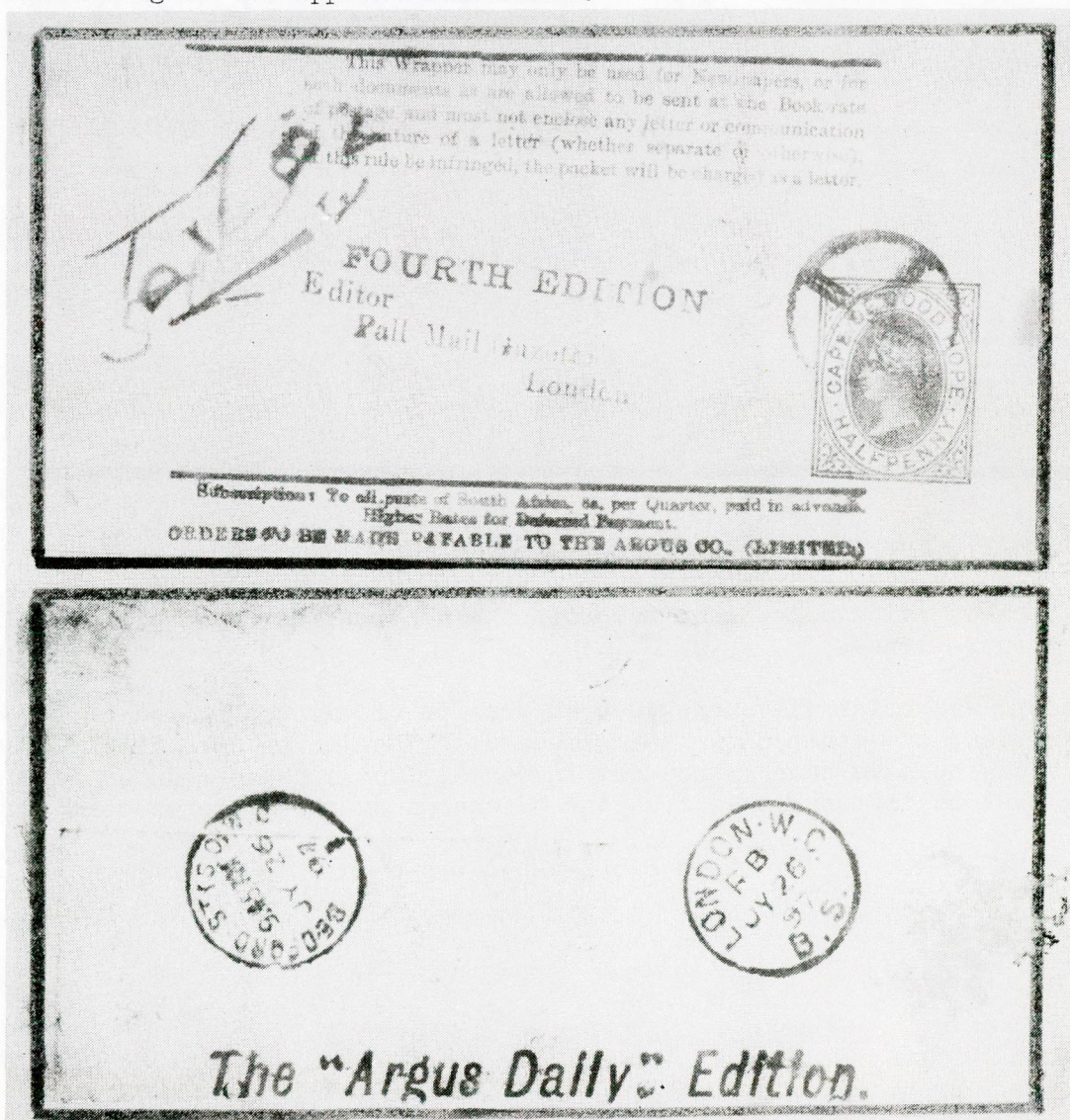
FOR SALE.....

Three envelopes. 1d pink PS, mainly fine/good condition, pmks only being illustrated.....

1. The "Creswell" duplex code 1 (not listed) year incomplete but otherwise clear; rev of envelope showing GROSV^R-PLACE. CHAPEL.ST in blue...offers in excess of £25 sought
2. LDP Bermondsey St. alongside Chief Office 64a with 6EV DE14 1847 code B time stamp on the reverse. Staining in centre of the front does not greatly detract. Must be worth at least £2.50....
3. Ambleside 13 cancelling with the cds for May 6 1858 and Liverpool on reverse not London but could interest at £2.00

BEDFORD ROW, by Brian Smith

One is used to newspapers wrappers originating in London, some to destinations within the U.K., others, and more rarely, to destinations outside the U.K. from whence they have survived to return to collectors today. Rather less frequently, possibly since dealers would put them under the country of origin rather than destination comes an item travelling in the opposite direction.



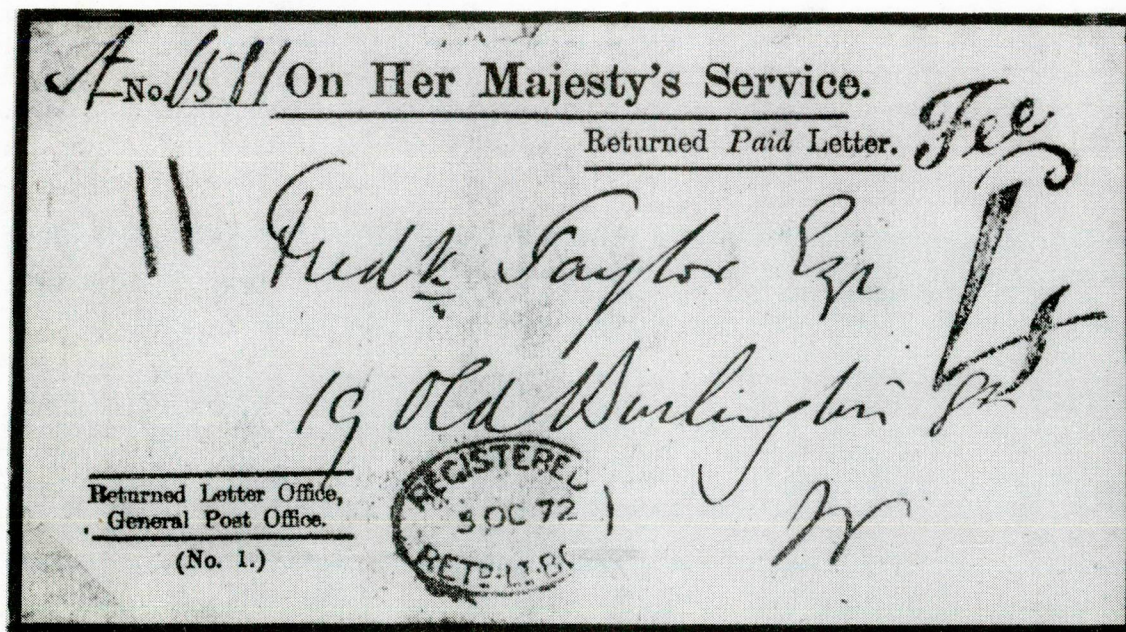
Bedford Row.....

The " Argus Daily " starts off from the Cape of Good Hope but the paper incurred the displeasure of both postal authorities and, no doubt, subscribers, by economising in the use of the correct overseas rate of wrapper in favor of the domestic $\frac{1}{2}$ d version. Presumably the curious device is of South African origin but the charge mark is from London. Of interest to me are the two backstamps, not the least that there are two. The Bedford St. (S O) W.C. seems straight forward enough. What is the LONDON W.C. FB JY 26 97 B.S. ? Could this be Foreign Branch/Bedford Street or just a coincidence of date code ?

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

RETURNED LETTER. from Robert Johnson

By way of a reminder to readers to send any information they have on the use of the comprehensive range of stamps shown in Notebook No.32, this rather interesting item is presented.



This official cover was used to return an envelope which, when opened, was found to contain an item of value and which, according to Post Office regulations, had to be registered when returned.

As the envelope was originally unregistered the fee of 4d. was raised on the compulsory registration, the stamp shown being issued to the RLB on 29th. April, 1871. The fee of 4d. seems to have been introduced in March, 1864 and was reduced to 2d. in '78. The 4d. fee must be distinguished from the 8d charge on unregistered coin letters.

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TOO LATE F.B.G.P.O. from Ted Wilcock

It does not require much explanation, except to ask if there is any particular reason



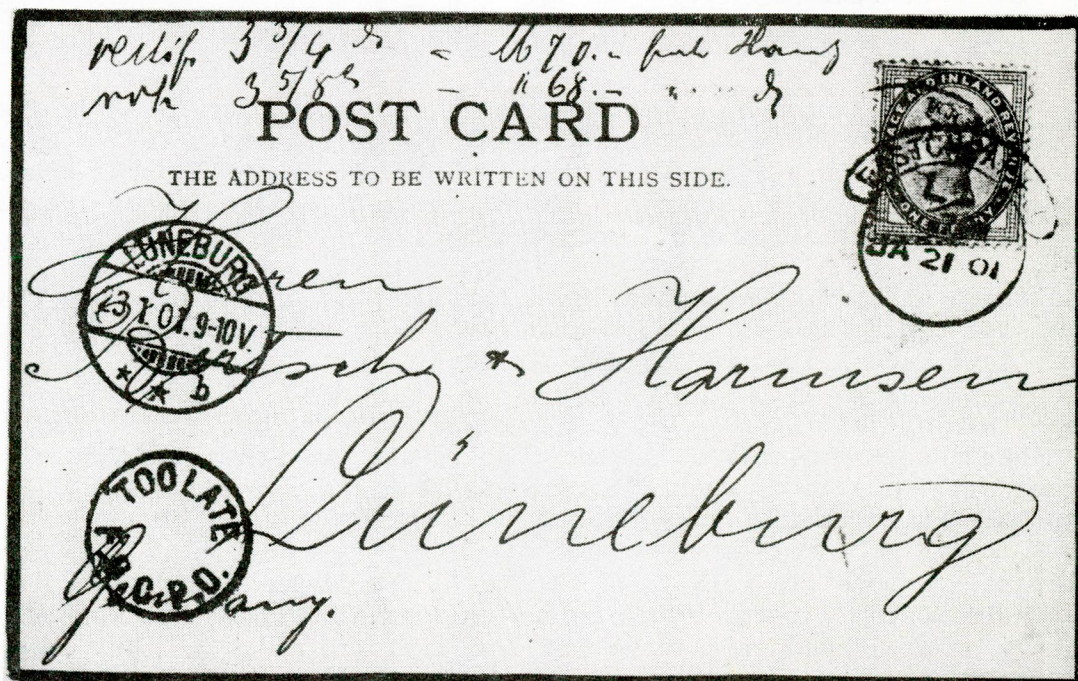
why, after all this time, a variety in the mark, the inclusion of a crown in the centre, should have come to light. Messrs R.C. Alcock have no record of such a stamp and the recent publication by James Mackay fails to mention it.

Further examples from readers collections for the record please to 'Notebook'.

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TOO LATE F.B.G.P.O. from Robert Johnson

A very neat EASTCHEAP hooded circle with the L1 for JA 21 01 on a post card to Luneberg adds to the record of the apparent contradiction of a late fee payment with the



Too Late handstamp. I do not recall this particular combination before.

LONDON DISTRICT POST: UNPAID LETTER DIVISION

The oval framed 59 (Parmenter 59D2) is not the scarcest of the trio which comprise the Unpaid Letter Division cancellation 59. Despite this, they do not come as often



as might be supposed, especially as there are usually additional postal markings which add to the interest of the item, one such being that above.

What makes this particular example, is the use of the handstruck ' 2 ' applied to the adhesives, apparently by the office first noting the underpayment for close examination suggests they were in turn overstruck by the ' 59 '. It is not thought there is any significance in 2 x 2 being 4d, which is the deficient postage (over 2oz being a charge of 6d.). The manuscript ' 8 ' endorses this.

The item has the 8 night time stamp for 25th. April, 1853, a little before the early date given in the handbook. However, the Editor's copy has a pencil note 20.1.1852, so presumably this latest item is not the earliest date.

The (casual) use of the figure ' 2 ', or for that matter, any other charge mark, to cancel the adhesives is probably a ' Fred ': do readers have examples, or record, of the use of such cancelling methods when all that was required was to ensure the letter was forwarded to the Unpaid Letter Division.

Also of interest are possible variations in the ' More to Pay ' handstamp. ' Notebook ' featured a ' More to pay ' (lower case 'p') used in 1818 under the Twopenny Post and it seems likely several handstamps were employed over the years in the London District Post, as distinct from those used in the General Post (RMW 303 to 305). It may be these were used in the local post, so there is another part of the readers' collection to be checked.