

NOTEBOOK

IN THIS ISSUE....

- page 2 Letters Patent to John Edward Massey, contributed by Maurice Barette
- 9 House of Commons Franked Envelopes
- 10 Unclassified and Controversial Marks of London
Leadenhall Street One Penny Post Paid
- 11 Official Mail to the Cape of Good Hope,
A Correction from M. Scott Archer
- 12 The Postal History of Peckham, by A.J. Kirk
- 17 English Handstamps on Foreign Mail, 1667 - 1740, by David Cornelius
- 19 What Was It For ?
- 20 Posted Out of Course, from R.I. Johnson
Azemar Machine
- 21 Postal Bid Sale 21.1.1984 : Results
- c 1984 Contributor/L.P.H.G.
- Editor : Peter Forrestier Smith
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COMMENT

With the development of improved printing facilities, the equally remarked improvement in the quality of the illustrations has proved a most welcome feature of Notebook. With rather more care in the typing, the Editor hopes to improve also the print.

The improvements in print quality have lead to higher costs and the subscription from the existing membership no longer covers the cost of production and postage. Due to the support from the Auctions and other sources the accounts still show up in the right half of the Income and Expenditure Account, or at least it is hoped the Hon.Treasurer will be able to show this at the AGM in May.

This is a slightly fragile financial position and one way each of us can assist to resolve is by encouraging friends to join. Another hundred on the roll will make all the difference.

On another tack entirely, there must be a number of members who have collections and studies on a particular district in London. We have been fortunate in having the contributions from Alf Kirk in the past and, indeed in this issue. Can we not have some others allowing all to share in their pleasure of a local collection. Postal history is not confined to pre-adhesive, pre 1900 or to any dating other than the one chosen by the individual collector. A number have local 'modern' collections : can we not have sight of these ?

Apart from such work, please continue to send in queries, answers, single photocopies of treasured items. We hope to publish a centenary issue one day but don't delay until then.

LETTERS PATENT TO JOHN EDWARD MASSEY, contributed by Maurice Barette

We often hear, and use, the term 'Massey' to describe a particular handstamp impression. It is more correct to speak of the actual handstamp, not the cancellation with which most collectors associate the name. In his researches, Maurice has discovered a great deal of hitherto unrecorded material. Reproduced here is the Letters Patent dealing with one of Massey's many devices.

A.D.1875, 28th MAY. N^o 1957

Date and other Stamps.

LETTERS PATENT to John Edward Massey, of 17, Chadwell Street, Clerkenwell, in the County of Middlesex, Manufacturer of Patent Logs and Sounding Machines, for the Invention of "IMPROVEMENTS IN DATE AND OTHER STAMPS HAVING MOVEABLE TYPE, IN THE MODE OF SECURING OR FASTENING THE FACE TO THE BODY OF THE STAMP WHEN CLOSED, AND TO THE HANDLES THEREOF."

Sealed the 26th November 1875, and dated the 28th May 1875.

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION left by the said John Edward Massey at the Office of the Commissioners of Patents, with his Petition, on the 28th May 1875.

I, JOHN EDWARD MASSEY, of 17, Chadwell Street, Clerkenwell, in the County of Middlesex, Manufacturer of Patent Logs and Sounding Machines, do hereby declare the nature of the said Invention for "IMPROVEMENTS IN DATE AND OTHER STAMPS HAVING MOVEABLE TYPE, IN THE MODE OF SECURING OR FASTENING THE FACE TO THE BODY OF THE STAMP WHEN CLOSED, AND TO THE HANDLES THEREOF," to be as follows :-

Firstly. The usual hinge stamp, which is composed of two plates of metal, one of which being the face suitably constructed, pierced for reception of moveable type, and engraved for marking and impressing, and the other piece or plate being the body to which the first-mentioned plate or face is attached by means of a hinge joint to admit of the face being thrown or turned back to permit the required removal and change of type. In substitution of the mode hitherto adopted and applied for holding and securing the parts or plates together when closed and required for use I apply my improvements as follows :-

The edge of the face opposite to the hinge is formed of extra thickness, so as to cause an elevation or projection of metal above the back or outside of the body plate. In this projection is cut or sunk a semicircular channel, groove, or recess, so that the bed or lower inner surface of the channel, groove, or recess will form a perfectly flat level surface corresponding with the back or outside of the body plate of the stamp when closed. The body of the stamp is provided with a shaft or tang, on which is cut a screw thread. This is brought into connection with a circular disc of metal having in its center a similar screw thread. Portions of the edge of the disc are removed, and the remainder is turned to correspond and fill up the channel, groove, or recess sunk in the edge of the face plate, and so perfectly that when it is screwed home, viz., true against the body plate, no shake, motion, or separation of the plates can take place. To admit of the plates being opened, on the disc being moved backwards, describing a half circle, the portion of the disc misses the channel, groove, or recess, and so sets the face plate free, and allows it to be thrown or turned back. The outer edge of the disc is continued backwards forming a hollow cylinder, by means of which it is screwed or fastened to the handle. In the cylinder is cut a perpendicular slot, in which works a bar or sliding locking fitted into a circular collar moving up and down on the outside of the cylinder. When the screw shaft or tang of the stamp is run into the disc a nut is fixed on its extreme end to prevent its withdrawal. The nut and shaft or tang is cut or split in the part that corresponds with the perpendicular slot in the cylinder, so that the bar or sliding locking working on its outside can fall into the cut or split in the nut and shaft or tang, thus preventing any further motion of the parts.

Secondly. I also apply my improvements to the aforesaid hinge stamp as follows:- On the outer edge of the stamp, viz., the face and body, is sunk a suitable groove or ledge, and on the underneath of the stamp is planted a slide, catch, or lever,

Letters Patent.....

which connects the two pieces or plates. The body of the stamp is also provided with a shaft or tang, on which is cut a screw thread. This is brought into connection with a circular disc of metal having in its center a similar screw thread. The face of the disc is sunk so as to correspond with the groove or ledge on the outer edge of the stamp, and deep enough to embrace the said groove or ledge and slide, catch, or lever. The outer edge of the disc is continued backwards, so as to form a hollow cylinder, by means of which it is screwed or fastened to the handle for use. When the screw shaft or tang of the stamp is run into the disc a small nut or other suitable means is fixed on the extreme end to prevent its withdrawal.

SPECIFICATION in pursuance of the conditions of the Letters Patent, filed by the said John Edward Massey in the Great Seal Patent Office on the 27th November 1875.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, I, JOHN EDWARD MASSEY, of No. 17, Chadwell Street, Clerkenwell, in the County of Middlesex, Manufacturer of Patent Logs and Sounding Machines, send greeting.

WHEREAS Her most Excellent Majesty Queen Victoria, by Her Letters Patent, bearing date Twenty-eighth day of May, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, in the thirty-eighth year of Her reign, did, for Herself, Her heirs and successors, give and grant unto me, the said John Edward Massey, Her special licence that I, the said John Edward Massey, my executors, administrators, and assigns, or such others as I, the said John Edward Massey, my executors, and assigns, should at any time agree with, and no others, from time to time and at all times thereafter during the term therein expressed, should and lawfully might make, use, exercise, and vend, within the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the Channel Islands, and Isle of Man, an Invention for "IMPROVEMENTS IN DATE AND OTHER STAMPS HAVING MOVEABLE TYPE, IN THE MODE OF SECURING OR FASTENING THE FACE TO THE BODY OF THE STAMP WHEN CLOSED, AND TO THE HANDLES THEREOF," upon the condition (amongst others) that I, the said John Edward Massey, my executors or administrators, by an instrument in writing under my, or their, or one of their hands and seals, should particularly describe and ascertain the nature of the said Invention, and in what manner the same was to be performed, and cause the same to be filed in the Great Seal Patent Office within six calendar months next and immediately after the date of the said Letters Patent.

NOW KNOW YE, that I, the said John Edward Massey, 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 statements, and the Drawings therein referred to (that is to say):-

My Invention relates to certain improvements in date and other stamps having moveable type employed for general purposes of stamping letters, documents, or otherwise in the mode of securing and fastening the face to the body of the stamp when closed, and to the handles thereof by the formation and combination of certain mechanical contrivances or parts for holding together and more effectually securing and fastening the face and body plates of the stamps when closed, as also the stamps to the handles, thus obviating the objections to the means hitherto employed for those purposes, increasing the strength and durability, and affording additional facility in the operation of the removal and change of type when required for the alteration of the date or otherwise. The usual hinge stamp, which is composed of two pieces or plates of metal, one of which being the face, suitably constructed, pierced for the reception of moveable type, and engraved for marking and impressing, and the other piece or plate being the body to which the first-mentioned plate or face is attached by means of a hinge joint to admit of the face being thrown or turned back, and permit the required removal and change of type. In substitution of the mode hitherto adopted and applied for holding and securing the parts or plates together when closed and required for use I apply my improvements as follows:- The edge of the face plate opposite to the hinge is formed of extra thickness, so as to cause an elevation or projection of metal above the back or outside of the body plate.

Letters Patent.....

In this projection is cut or sunk a semicircular channel, groove, or recess, so that the bed or lower inner surface of the channel, groove, or recess will form a perfectly flat level surface corresponding with the back or outside of the body plate of the stamp when closed. The body of the stamp is provided with a shaft or tang, on which is cut a screw thread. This is brought into connection with a circular disc of metal having in its centre a similar screw thread. Portions of the edge of the disc are removed, forming a gap, and the prescribed limit of the disc's motion (as shewn in Figure 4 on the accompanying Drawings), and the remainder of the disc is turned, so that the required part thereof corresponds and fills up the channel, groove, or recess sunk in the edge of the face plate, and so perfectly that when it is screwed home, videlicet, true against the body plate, no shake, motion, or separation of the plates can take place. To admit of the plates being opened, on the disc being moved backwards, describing a half circle, the portion of the edge misses the channel, groove, or recess, and so sets the face plate free and allows it to be thrown or turned back and the stamp to be opened to admit of the moveable type being changed when so required. A stud pin to act as a stop is inserted in the back of the body plate (as shown in Figures 1, 5, 6, 10, and 12 on the accompanying Drawings) which controls the disc, and prevents its withdrawal from the shaft or tang. The outer edge of the disc in continued backwards, forming a hollow cylinder, by means of which it is screwed or fastened to the handle instead of by the means hitherto used for attaching and securing the stamps to the handles. In the cylinder is cut a perpendicular slot, in which works a bar or sliding locking with piston-shaped head fitted into a circular collar moving up and down on the outside of the cylinder. The end of the shaft or tang is cut or split in the part that corresponds with the perpendicular slot in the cylinder, so that the bar or sliding locking working on the cylinder can enter or fall into the cut or split in the shaft or tang when the cut or split is brought into the fitting position through being coincident with the perpendicular slot in the cylinder (as shewn in Figure 3 on the accompanying Drawings), thus preventing any motion of the parts.

The action of the bar or sliding locking may be improved by inserting a small wire spiral spring in the cylinder between such bar or sliding locking and the end of the handle of stamp.

My above-mentioned improvements may be used either with or without the said bar or sliding locking. I prefer using it, as affording additional security. Or the face plate may be dispensed with on the body plate being suitably constructed, pierced for reception of type, and engraved for marking and impressing, and then the hinge is not required (as shown in Figures 9 and 10 on the accompanying Drawings; or the body plate may be dispensed with, the face plate being provided with the shaft or tang, as shown on Figures 11 and 12 of the accompanying Drawings; or instead of being so provided it may be connected with the disc, so as to allow it to swing or turn partly round horizontally by means of a stud screw or pivot passing through the disc and face plate opposite to the edge of such plate having the above-mentioned thickness, elevation, or projection with the semicircular channel, groove, or recess cut or sunk therein, and then the bar or sliding locking with piston-shaped head is continued through the disc into a recess or hole in the face plate, as shown in Figures 13 and 14 on the accompanying Drawings.

And it may be necessary to note that my said improvements may be employed in connection with the double or obliterating mark used for postal purposes, and that the face plate may be constructed and fashioned to any required shape or design.

I also apply my improvements to the aforesaid hinge stamp as follows: - On the outer edge of the stamp, viz., the face and body, is sunk a suitable groove or ledge, and on the underneath part of the stamp is planted a slide, catch, or lever, which connects the two pieces or plates. The body of the stamp is also provided with a shaft or tang, on which is cut a screw thread. This is brought into connection with a circular disc of metal having in its centre a similar screw thread. The face of the disc is sunk, so as to correspond with the groove or ledge on the outer edge of the stamp, and deep enough to embrace the said groove or ledge, and

FIG. 1.

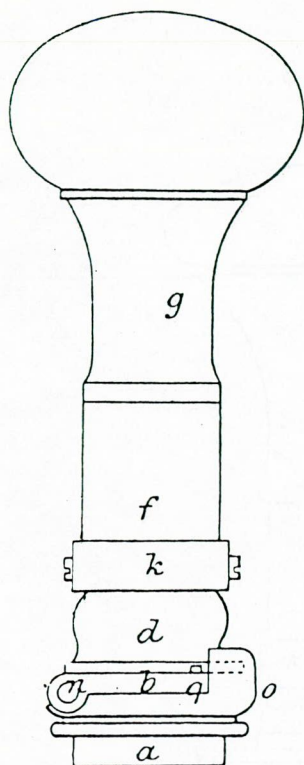


FIG. 2.

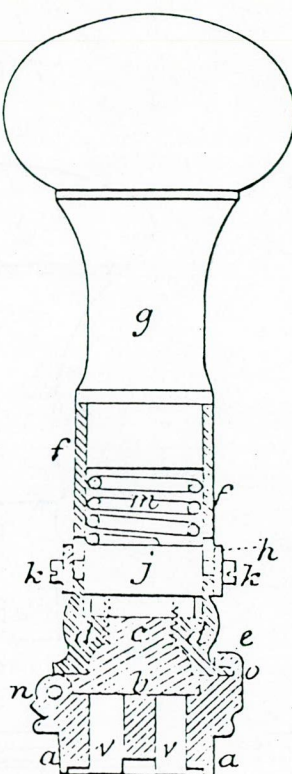


FIG. 3.

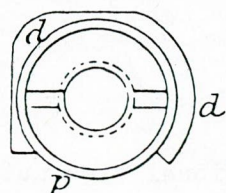
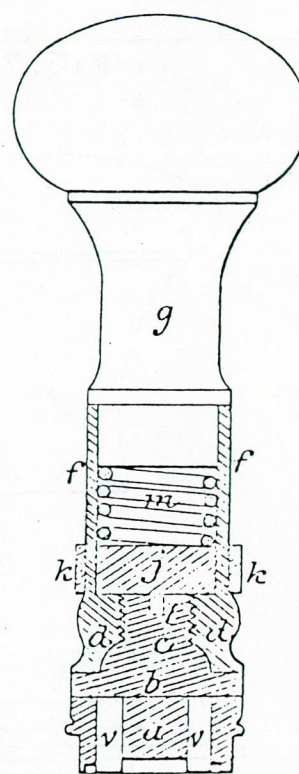


FIG. 4.

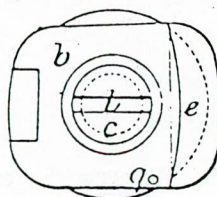


FIG. 5.

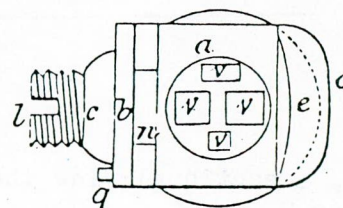


FIG. 6.

slide, catch, or lever. The outer edge of the disc is continued backwards, so as to form a hollow cylinder, by means of which it is screwed or fastened to the handle for use. When the screw, shaft, or tang of the stamp is run into the disc, a small nut, screw, or other suitable means is fixed on the extreme end to prevent its withdrawal. Such last-mentioned application of my said improvements to the aforesaid hinge stamp are shewn in Figures 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19 on the accompanying Drawings; and the same may be used either with or without the slide, catch, or lever.

In order that my said Invention may be more fully understood and readily carried into effect, I have hereunto attached a Sheet of Drawings as examples of the arrangements and application of my said Invention to date stamps, reference being had to the letters and figures thereon marked, such letters of reference being marked on corresponding parts of all the figures alike.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.

Figures 1, 7, and 8 represent side views of my improved date stamp. The two Figures 1 and 7 show such stamp when closed ready for use, and the Figure 8 the stamp when

FIG. 7.

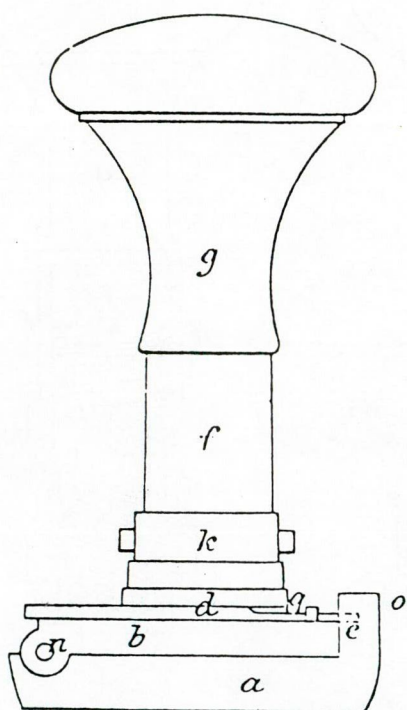
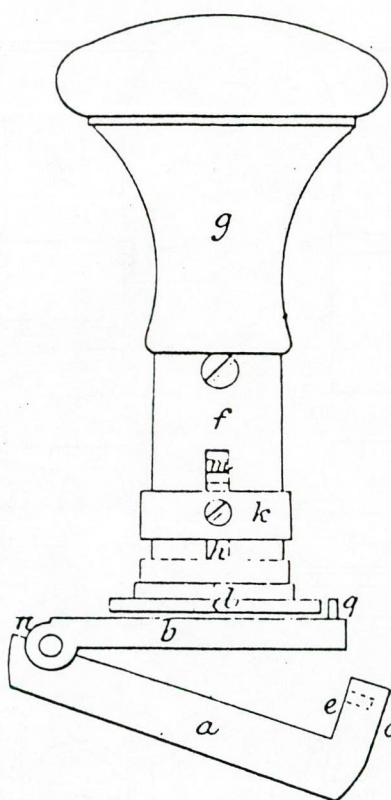


FIG. 8.



open; Figure 2, a sectional view thereof; Figure 3, a sectional view cut at right angles to Figure 2.

Figure 4, an end view of the cylinder, disc, and collar.

Figure 5, an end view of my improved stamp when closed.

Figure 6, an end view of such stamp with the plates separated or open.

Figure 9, a side view of my said improved stamp when the face plate is dispensed with; Figure 10, a horizontal section of same.

Figure 11, a vertical sectional view of my improved stamp when the body plate is dispensed with; Figure 12, a horizontal section of same shewing the perforations for type.

Figure 13, a vertical sectional view of my improved stamp when the body plate and shaft or tang are dispensed with; Figure 14, a horizontal section of same on line 1,1, Figure 13.

Figures 15, 16, and 17 are side views of my said improved stamp having a groove or ledge on the outer edge thereof, and slide, catch, or lever, the Figures 16 and 17 showing the disc in elevation; Figures 18 and 19 are plans of the same, the Figure 18 showing the slide, catch, or lever closed, and the Figure 19 with it open

FIG. 9.

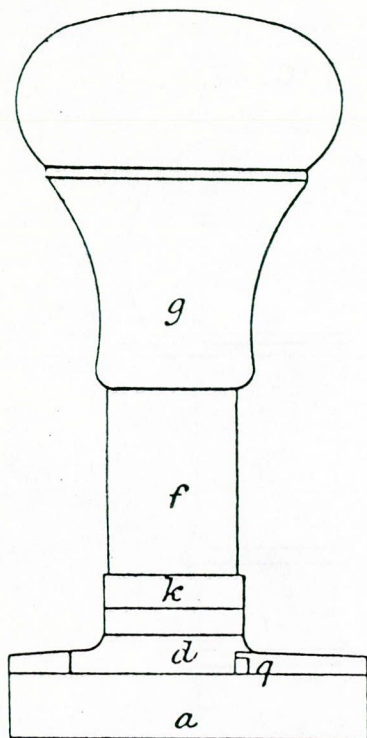


FIG. 11.

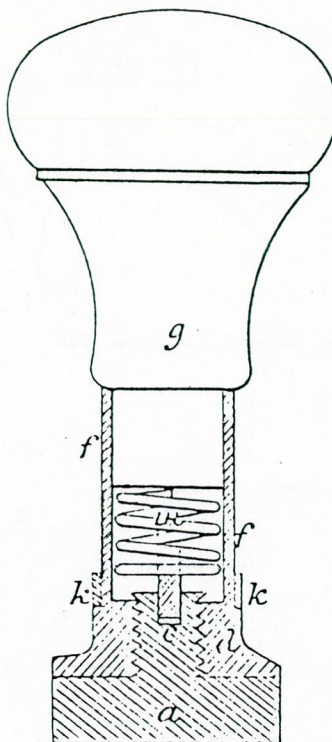


FIG. 13.

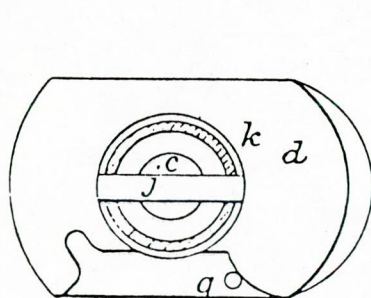
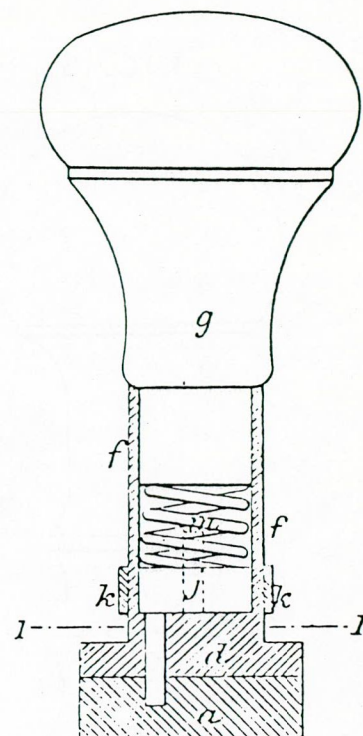


FIG. 10.

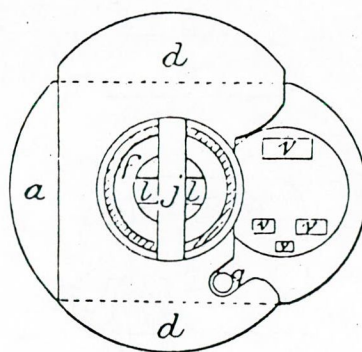


FIG. 12.

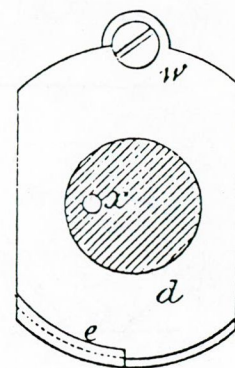


FIG. 14.

In the whole of the above Figures, a represents the face plate; b, the body plate; c, the shaft or tang; d, the disc; e, the channel, groove, or recess; f, the cylinder; g, the handle; h, the perpendicular slot; j, the bar or sliding locking; k, the circular collar; l, the cut or split in the shaft or tang; m, the spiral spring; n, the hinge joint; o, the thickness, projection, or elevation of face plate; p, the disc with portions thereof removed; q, the stud, pin or stop; r, the outer groove or ledge; s, the slide, catch, or lever; t, the sunk groove in disc; u, the nut screw; v, the perforations for moveable type; w, the screw, stud, or pivot; x, the recess or hole.

The dotted lines on the disc, in Figure 1, represent the turned circular part of the disc, which, entering into the channel, groove, or recess formed in the face plate, prevents the face plate separating from the body plate.

The dotted lines on the semicircular channel, groove, or recess formed in the thickness, projection, or elevation of the edge of the face plate, in Figure 5, indicate the depth of such channel, groove, or recess.

Having described the nature of my said Invention, together with the method of carrying

FIG. 15.

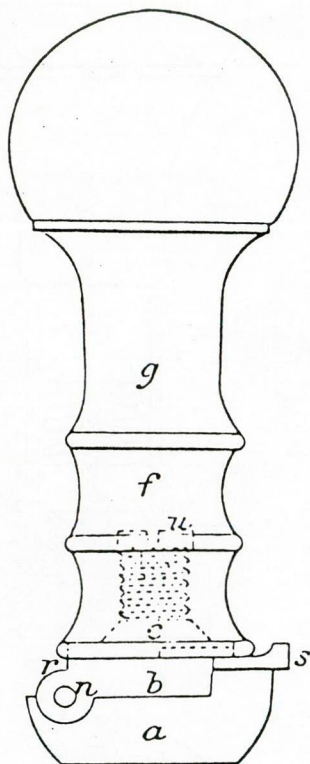


FIG. 16.

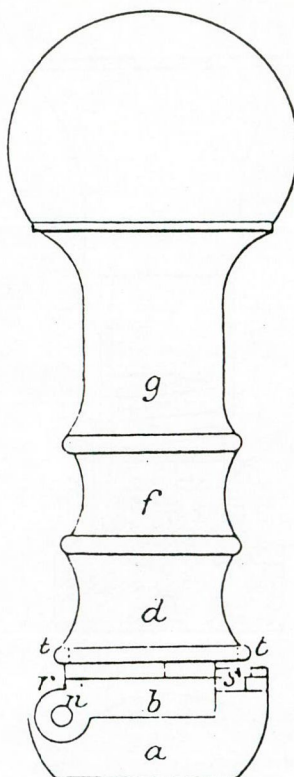


FIG. 17.

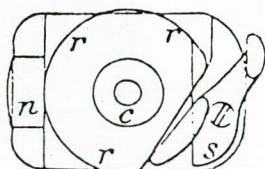
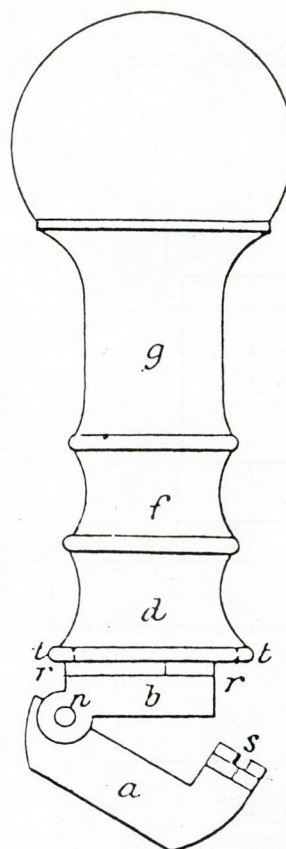


FIG. 18.

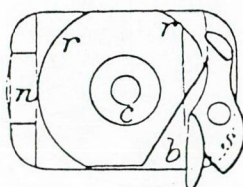


FIG. 19.

the same into practical effect, I would have it clearly understood I do not claim the exclusive use of the several parts herein-before mentioned and referred to, except when the same are employed for the purposes of my said Invention; and I would remark in conclusion that although I have shewn various applications of my Invention to date stamps I do not wish to confine myself to the precise and exact mode herein shown and described, as the same may be varied to meet different arrangements and constructions of date stamps, with or without the hinge, without departing from the essential features of the Invention, but what it is my desire to claim and secure is, the arrangement, combination, and construction of parts herein-before described and set forth in connection with date and other stamps having moveable type, and particularly the combination of the circular disc and hollow cylinder in connection with or unconnected with the shaft or tang, as well also the sliding locking for more effectually securing and fastening the face and body plates of the stamp when closed, and also the stamps to the handles thereof, whereby the objections to the means hitherto employed for the purposes are obviated, and the other before-mentioned objects, viz., increased strength and durability are acquired, and additional facility in the operation of the removal and change of type when required also afforded.

HOUSE OF COMMONS FRANKED ENVELOPES

For those who collect Parliamentary Mail, it may be of interest to learn that the material they have, or wish to have, is from time to time a matter for Questions in the House. On 9th.March, 1984, there was an exchange of questions and answers between Mr. Skeet, Mr. Beith and Mr. Biffen.

Mr. Skeet asked the Lord Privy Seal what are the current stocks of House of Commons stamped envelopes on issue to hon. Members and in stores; and what is the quantity expected to remain with the Stationery Office at the end of March. To this, Mr Biffen replied that it was not possible to estimate the current stocks of old (that is Official Paid) envelopes held by hon. Members. These could continue to be used for correspondence up until the 31st.March, 1984. He further stated there were about 79,450 envelopes of the type held in stores. There could be additions from members' returns. There were no stocks held by H.M.S.O.

A futher question from Mr. Skeet was then addressed to Mr. Beith, as representing the House of Commons Commission. What, he wanted to know, in view of the practice of charging for franked House of Commons envelopes before they are issued, what loss the House is expecting to incur through their withdrawal on the 31st.March, 1984.

In response, Mr. Beith noted that the introduction of a new format of prepaid envelope for the use of Members came about as a result of the more general withdrawal of the older style of " Official Paid " envelopes from all other users in April, 1982. Members of Parliament would then be the only users of a withdrawn type of stationery and delays and difficulties in handling of mail were anticipated. The older type of envelopes were originally due to be withdrawn between April and October 1983, during which period both old and new styles would be valid, in order to allow stock to be run down without undue waste. Subsequently, the period was extended to the 31st. March, 1984, to allow further time to use up the old envelopes. As to the point on any losses on unused envelopes, it appears arrangements had been made to recover the already paid postage from the Post Office. He concluded by pointing out it very much depended on members returning envelopes.

One imagines Mr.Skeet to be a collector for he proposed to the Lord Privy Seal that the existing stocks of envelopes could perhaps be overprinted. To this Mr. Biffen was obliged to refer Mr. Skeet to the arrangements already made to recover costs from the Post Office. Any overprinting would not, therefore, be likely to save anything for the public purse.

He clearly had never heard of limited issue first day covers!!

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

Letters Patent....

In witness whereof, I, the said John Edward Massey, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this Twenty-third day of November, in the year of our Lord One thousand eight hundred and seventy-five.

JOHN EDW.^D MASSEY. (L.S.)

Witness,

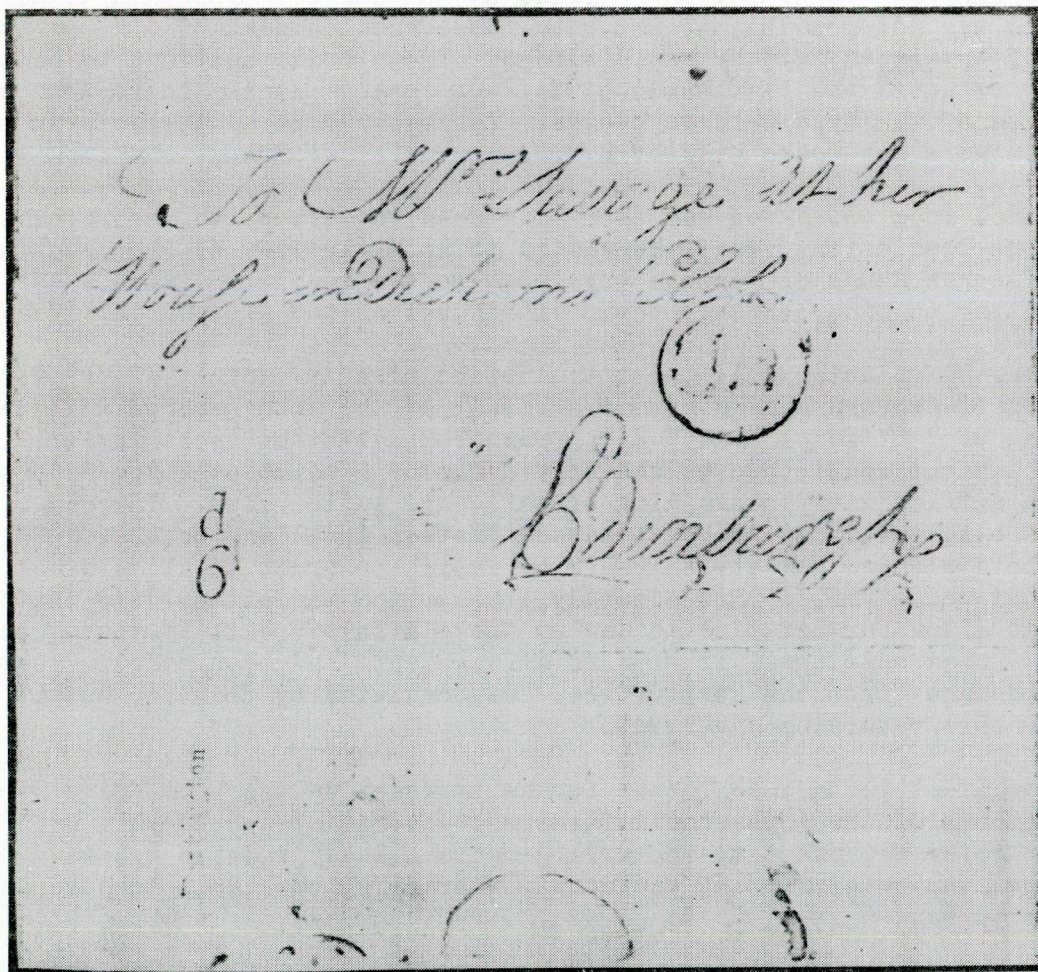
J.H. ADAMS

LONDON

Printed by GEORGE EDWARD EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty
1875

UNCLASSIFIED AND CONTROVERSIAL MARKS OF LONDON

Under this heading, Barrie Jay has listed and illustrated a number of marks about which there is some doubt as to their postal use. In the case of our friend Partington, the stationer who use a handstamp of such clarity and neatness as to cause much speculation (at one time in some circles) as to the " correctness " of the marks, there are two charge marks, d/6 and d/9. The d/6 was illustrated in " Postal History " No. 189 and is reproduced here with grateful acknowledgement.



Now readers have had the opportunity of examining the London catalogue in some detail, perhaps they will write to the Editor with photocopies and notes on any of the stamps listed on pages 167 and 168. Is the Partington Charge Mark, if that indeed is what it is, amongst the treasures of a Group member ?

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

LEADENHALL STREET ONE PENNY POST PAID

This item, which comes via Martin Willcocks, from Michael Scott Archer, is yet further cause to thank the Huth organisation for retaining its mail so well.

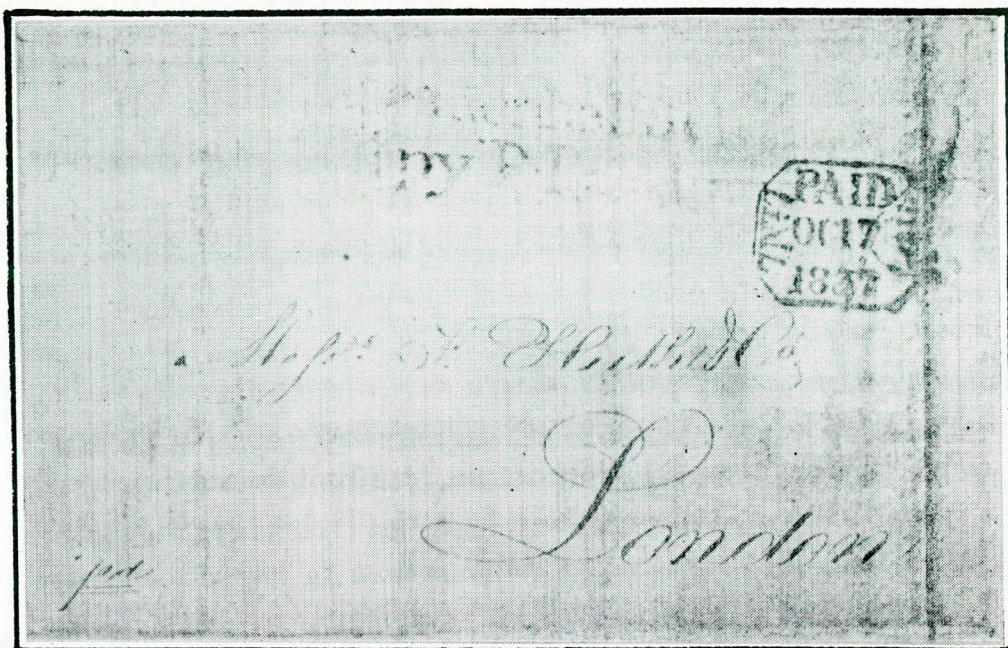
The strike, which it is understood is of the same quality as the photocopy, is clear enough to see it is the very rare 1py P Paid in use before 1839.

In the London catalogue, Barrie Jay remarks it is found only on Soldiers' (and Sailors') letters. To this one must add the almost impossible to find newspaper. According to Brumell, the 1805 Act specified newspapers from London to the country area should be charged at one penny. He states ' a change was made some time before 1837...those carried within the Twopenny Post only were charged 1d."

As can be seen for the item shown on the following page, is something which very clearly

Leadenhall Street One Penny Post Paid....

neither a soldier's letter nor a newspaper. The inside is in a very fine printed script, addressed from Liverpool, No.1 Hanover Street, with a dating of 30th. September, 1837 and informing the addressee his partnership " with Mr.F. W. Sack, under the firm of Sack, Weber & Co. is dissolved, and that I shall continue the business of Ship Broker in the name of my former firm C.G.Weber & Co." The ' signature ' is C.G. Weber.



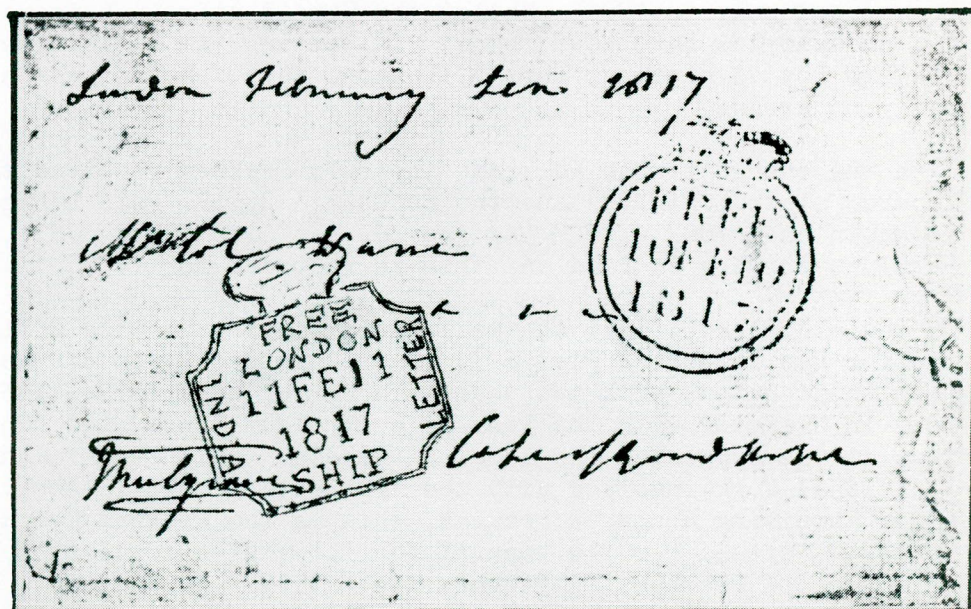
Presumably a batch of such letters for addresses in London were brought by hand and then posted in bulk. All very well but why a one penny paid stamp? Readers may be aware of the use of a penny adhesive appearing on mail addressed to Europe, cancelled by the 50 in diamond, at a time when the normal postage was higher. There was a special rate for printed circulars and it is possible such an arrangement existed in 1837, the only handwriting inside is the address repeated so it may be such a missive would qualify as printed. The Editor has not been able to trace any direct reference to this, although samples and patterns, according to the 1805 Act, could be sent for one penny. Is this the connection and authority for the 1d stamp?

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

OFFICIAL MAIL TO THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE, by M. Scott Archer

As explained in my article the handstamp fig.1 was very faint on the original and my attempt at reading the wording was unconven-
cing in the eyes of one or two experts. They suggest, & a re-examination confirms, it is more likely to read the same as fig.2, but with SHIP at the foot. The pent-ultimate paragraph, line 4 should be amended to read: "...:Free India Letter London Ship "

I omitted also an acknowledgement of generous help from Mr. P.B. Boyden, Department of Archives, National Army Museum, London.



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

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF PECKHAM, by A.J.Kirk

" Ep's Lisoicensis ten'de epo' PECHEHA " ; that is how the village of Peckham is mentioned in the Domesday Book. It was assessed at 2 hides, the arable land was two carucate, there was one villan, 3 borders and two acres of meadow. The whole village was rated at thirty shillings. Not a very large place in those days. The early history of the place is shrouded in mystery. Evidence of Roman occupation has been found and the Roman road, Watling Street, was close by. The real meaning of the word Peckham is not known although it has been suggested it means ' village by the hill '.

From the early 17th. century Peckham was controlled by the Camberwell Vestry. It was a village in the country of Surrey, up to 1889, when it came within the jurisdiction of the London County Council. In 1900, on the formation of the Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell, it became part of that borough and under the London Government Act of 1965, Peckham, Bermondsey, Camberwell and Southwark were joined together to form the London Borough of Southwark. There was no Anglican Church in the village until 1814, when St.Chrysoston's was built in Hill street (it no longer exists). In the days when one had to attend church on Sundays, the inhabitants of Peckham were obliged to walk the mile or so to worship at St. Giles, Camberwell.

Information about the postal arrangements of the area seem to be as scanty as our knowledge of its early years. Peckham was in the London Penny Post area, just within the three miles limit and under the control of the Southwark Office. It is reported that a man named Handcock, a victualler, either died or absconded owing the Post Office in 1685. Any letters, up to 1794, would have received the Post Office Dockwra mark of Southwark only. A map of 1697, by Ralph Blackhall, a collector of the Penny Post, would seem to indicate letters from Peckham were routed through Camberwell. From as early as 1684 it would seem there was a Receiving House in Peckham, no doubt in the High Street, where there is still the main Post Office.

With the re-organisation of the London Post Office in 1794, the Penny Post was brought into line with the General Post and letters could now be sent either paid or unpaid. Peckham, at this time, is shown as having three deliveries a day and collections at 9.15 a.m. and 4.15 p.m.

The earliest known postmark of Peckham is the well known PECKHAM/1 stamp but this is recorded only for 1795 (Fig.1). This type of stamp is, of course, known for a number of places but so far their precise function has not been discovered. With the re-organisation Paid and Unpaid stamps were brought into use. Penny Post / Pd 1d / Peckham is recorded from 1796 to 1801 (Fig. 2). Penny Post / Pd 2d / Peckham is known used only in 1801. Whilst the Unpaid stamp was issued also at this time, so far no examples have been found. In passing, it is interesting to note that, according to Postal History, Part 3, London, very few of these stamps are recorded for the outlying areas.

With the change to the 2d. rate in 1801, Peckham received the Two Penny Post / Unpaid / Peckham stamp (Fig.3) and the Peckham / 2py P. Paid (Fig.4). The Unpaid stamp is known used 1802 - 1820 and the 2d. P. Paid, 1803 - 1831. There is also known, but rarely seen, 3py P. Paid and this is recorded for 1837.

On the 6th. April, 1811 the well known Country Sorting Office stamp was brought into use for Bye letters (Fig. 6). There are two types of these. The first was about 31mm in diameter, with the year in a curve, used 1817 - 1830, in red. The second is 28mm in diameter with the year in a straight line, used 1839 - 1843, in red. At this time it was suggested the local Postmaster would be paid an extra £5 p.a. for the additional work involved with the Bye Letters. It is about this time we hear of another Receiving House in Peckham, this is the Peckham Rye Receiving House. This was, no doubt, opened for the benefit for the rising population of well to-do people in this area of Peckham. A Peckham Rye / 3 py.P.Paid stamp (Fig. 7) is known for 1830. Although the Post Office notice of 1811 does not mention the sub offices in relation to this mark, they must have been issued, as I have seen a number of them for other sub-offices in London.

The Postal History of Peckham....

PECKHAM
- 1 -

fig.1

penny Post
Pd. 1d
Peckham

fig.2

Two Py Post
Unpaid
Peckham

fig.3

Peckham
2py P. Paid

fig.4

J.T. PL
Peckham Rye

fig.5

PECKHAM
M8
DE 9
1830

fig.6

Peckham Rye
3py P. Paid

fig.7

Peckham-N-T^m
1^d PAID

fig.8

Peckham-N-T^m

fig.9

PECKHAM
JA 3
1855
A

fig.10

18
B

fig.11

67

fig.12

PECKHAM
AZZ
JA 1
72
S.E.

fig.13

PECKHAM
HIGH-ST.

fig.14

PECKHAM-RYE
A
DE 23
59
S.E.

fig.15

PECKHAM
B
FE 8
99
S.E.

fig.16

PECKHAM (S.O.) S.E.
615 PM
JU 28
95
1

fig.17



PARCEL		POST.	X LIST. Letter and Retailer	S.	D.
PECKHAM, B.O.			Postage		
London. S.E. (PBH)			Fee paid on Registration		
FOR POSTAGE STAMPS.					

fig.18

Liab. Co Letter Rate
67

fig.19

The Postal History of Peckham....

In 1823 we find the first mention of two Receiving Houses in the area. One was at Mount Place, Peckham Rye, and the other in High Street, Peckham : here the Postmaster was named as a Mr. Joseph Scrivens. Spanning this period we have information of a letter Carrier named George Hurst, who was appointed in 1792 for the Peckham district. He trudged about the lanes of the area for some 50 years and died in his 95th year in 1852.

By the 1830s stage coaches were running regularly to and from the City of London with at least 15 per day to Gracechurch Street alone. These coaches nearly all carried 6 passengers inside. They must have been running from an early period, as in a letter I have of 1798 it is stated " we have stages pass to and from Town several times a day".

We now reach the era of the framed and unframed T.P. marks. Fig.5 shows the framed type, known used at Peckham 1821 - 1837 and at Peckham Rye 1830 - 1836. The unframed mark is known for Peckham 1839 - 42 in black and 1844 - 1847 in blue. So far no unframed type has been recorded for Peckham Rye. With the coming of the adhesive label in 1840, a new Receiving House appears on the scene and this reads Peckham N.T., which would indicate New Town. It was at 6 Park Terrace, which was in Park Road, now Peckham Park Road. The actual location of this Terrace is not shown on any map I have seen but I believe it was about half way along Park Road, between Peckham and the Old Kent Road. The unframed mark is known for this Receiving House in blue, 1846.

At the time of the adhesive, a new mark was issued for letters paid in cash not using the adhesive (Fig.8). This is known used at Peckham 1840 -43 in black and 1843 -44 in green; at Peckham Rye it is recorded 1844 in red and 1850 in green, with Peckham New Town showing 1845-46 in black. By 1843, on letters with adhesives, there appeared a straight line stamp, omitting the 'T P ', these are known for Peckham 1852 in blue, Peckham Rye 1843 - 45 in black, 1851 - 54 in blue and for Peckham New Town, 1846 - 50 in black.

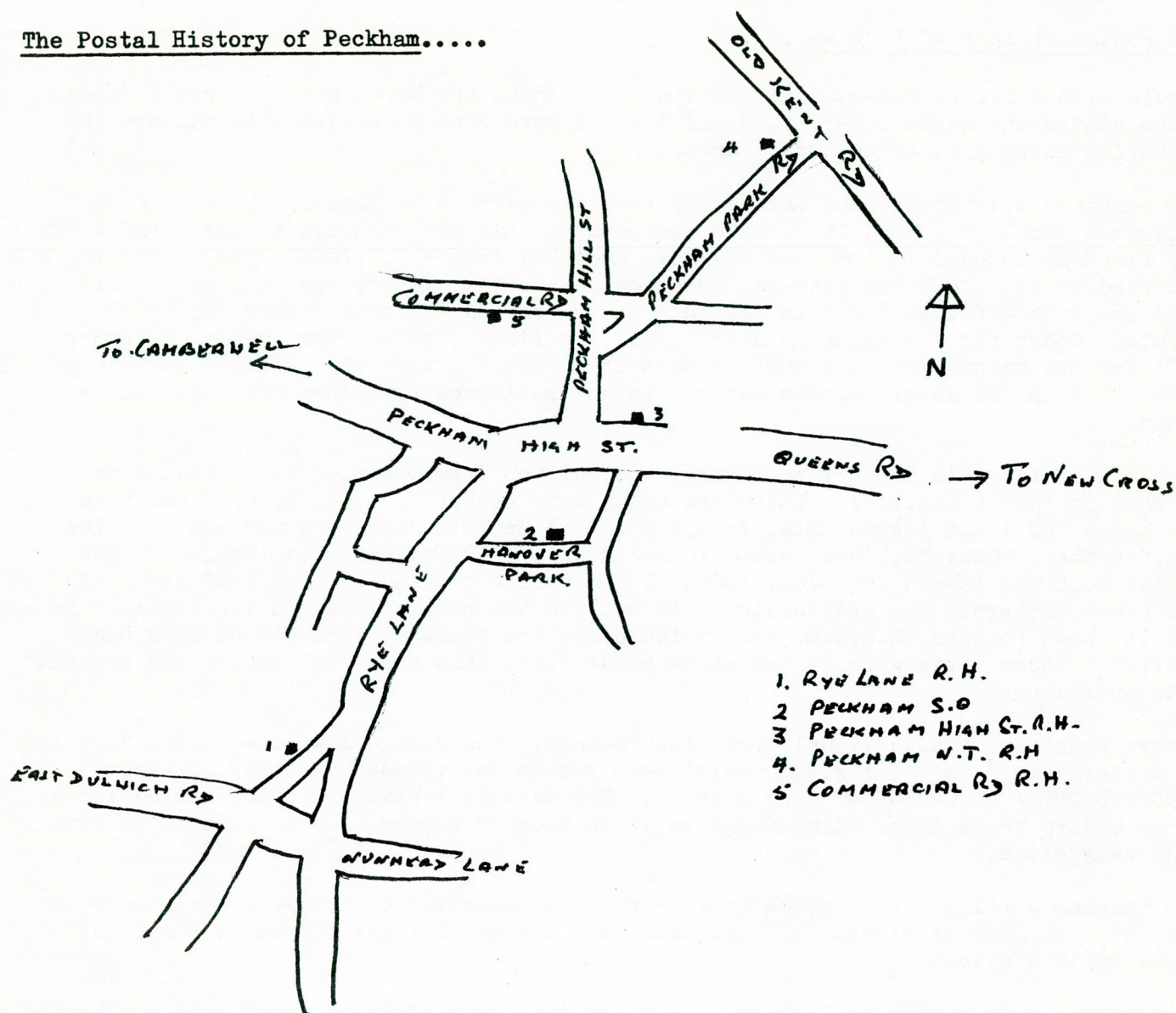
From the 1840 period comes more information about the Receiving Houses and their owners. In 1845 we find the main office is still in the High Street. The Postmaster is shown as Mr. Wm. Yeldham, a tobacconist who was paid, in 1849, £18 per annum. Mr. Yeldham had held the position of Postmaster since at least 1832. The Peckham Rye Receiving House was in the hands of Mr. Joseph King, a plumber, who received £10 per annum and Mr. James Robbins, a grocer, ran the Peckham New Town office. By 1849 this last had been taken over by Mr. Henry J. Waters, who was paid £8 per annum. By 1855, the High Street office (now numbered 106) was being run by Miss Sarah Yeldham, probably the daughter of William; the shop is still a tobacconists. Her rate of pay was £26 p.a. The Peckham Rye office, still at Mount Place, was now run by Mr. John Turner, a baker.

The straight line marks as Fig. 9 were issued in the early 1840s. They are known in blue for Peckham, 1852, Peckham Rye in black, 1843-5, blue 1851-4 and Peckham NT in black, 1846 - 50.

A new Receiving House was opened in the early 1850s. This was at Commercial Road, which runs parallel to Peckham High Street. In 1854 the Postmaster is shown as Mr. Wm.L. Kelly, who was apid £7 p.a. It is known that this office was issued with the straight line type (Fig. 9) reading Peckham C.Rd., but neither Brumell nor Jay mention any use of it and so far there is no record of its use.

In 1855 a new postmark was issued to Peckham (Fig.10) and this, I presume, was used as a backstamp to record the date of receipt. By about 1856/7 Receiving House marks ceased to appear on the front of letters, to be replaced, in Peckham, in 1858 with a small circular type (Fig.14). This, used as a backstamp, was issued to Peckham High Street 19.3.1858, to Peckham Comm¹ Rd., 14.5.1858 and Peckham Park Road (formerly Peckham New Town) 11.6.1858. Counter stamps, as Fig.15, are known for Peckham, Peckham Rye and Commercial Road, the first two being issued as early as 1859, the latter in 1870.

The Postal History of Peckham.....



With the formation of the London Districts in 1856, Peckham came within the South East area and the first cancellation issued for use after that date was 18B within a circle and frame of horizontal bars (Fig.11). Whilst this is recorded in the Impression Books as issued in May 1861, to my knowledge it is not known on either adhesive or on cover. It was, I think, issued for use on local letters which did not have to go to the main office, which at that time was at 170 High Street Southwark. In 1869 a new number was allocated to Peckham, 67 (Fig.12). Once again I think this was intended for local letters as it is very rare. The normal ' hot-cross bun ' type mis-sort mark was issued to Peckham, with the letter ' S ' in the base. These were, I believe, only issued for use at the main office, for by this time, the practice of posting one's letters at a Receiving House was ended as pillar boxes were now fairly common in the streets of the area.

In 1862 the main Post Office was still at 106 High Street, the Postmistress now being Mrs Eliza Bull, stationer and fancy goods. The Peckham Rye office was now being run by Mr Henry Foster, stationer, and the Park Terrace office by Mr Samuel Curtis, grocer. Of course, by this time the Receiving Houses had become sub-offices and did not normally postmark or cancel letters.

The first duplex stamp was issued to Peckham on the 1st. January, 1872. This, once again, showed the figure 67 in an upright oval of bars, with Peckham S.E. in the date circle (Fig. 13) They are known with Peckham S.O. in the date circle, Peckham S.O. with S.E. in the base of the circle and an unrecorded item with No.5 in the bottom of the date circle. These duplex marks were later issued with a cut in the bar under the number

The Postal History of Peckham.....

circle with a figure inserted within the cut. These are known with figures 3 and 4. Dubus states the numbers were 1, 2 and 3 but I have seen no evidence to support the use, let alone use, of numbers 1 and 2.

The combined obliterator and date stamp were the next to be issued, the well known " squared circle " (Fig. 16). Two examples of this are recorded in the Proof Book. The first is dated 3.12.1886 and is known used 5.1.1887 - 7.9.1888. The second is recorded on 25.7.1888 but this has not been seen used. The two variations to this type are with a figure ' 6 ' in the bottom corners and the same figure inside the circle. Cohen reports these as being used, the first type October 1896 to November 1901 and the second, February 1902 to September 1903. I have also seen an example with ' 5 ' in the lower corners but this is not mentioned by either Stitt-Dibden or Cohen.

The last of the 19th.Century postmarks, the Dulwich Type, started to be issued to Peckham in 1895 (Fig.17). These are known with number 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 in the base. No.1 was issued 28th. June, 1895; No.3 on 10th.July, 1902 and again on the 8th.November, 1906; No.7 was issued 10th.January, 1899 and again on 17th.July, 1907, whilst No.8 was issued 29th.July, 1908. I was unable to find the dates of issue of the other numbers. The obliterator with No.7 in the base appears in two styles. In one it shows Peckham (S.O)S.E. and in the other the brackets around S.O. have been omitted. These types were in use up to about 1911, when the Krag machine was brought into operation.

I have found two instructional marks for Peckham. The upside down step type, "Liable to Letter Rate / 67 " (Fig.19) but I have yet to see it used. Another mark was " POSTED OUT / OF COURSE 67 " in a frame. The example I have, on a Registered letter, shows a wavy frame line, which suggests it is made of rubber. Once again it is not seen very often.

The Peckham Sorting Office which took over the postmarking of letters, was opened in the 1890s in Hanover Street, off Rye Lane: the present Sorting Office is still quite close to this site.

To complete this survey of Peckham, I mention the issue of Parcel Post Labels (Fig.18) The types I have seen were those issued in 1892 and I have copies for Peckham B.O., which would be the old High Street Office, Rye Lane, Peckham to which the Peckham Rye Office had been removed and Peckham S.O., the Sorting Office.

At the start of my story, Peckham was a country area surrounded by hedges and fields. It is reported that when one descended from the stage coach after going through the Green Man Turnpike, no doubt in the Old Kent Road, one then needed an armed guard as escort for the twenty minute walk to Peckham. Today the area has changed completely, as all suburban areas have. The one redeeming feature of Peckham today is Peckham Rye and its Park, which still manages to retain some of the character of a country area.

References:	Post Office Directories Pigots Commercial Directory 1822/3 Notebook of the L.P.H.G. British County Catalogue (3) London, by Willcocks & Jay Story of Peckham, The, by L.B. Southwark Libraries Story of Camberwell, Ye, by W.H.Blanch London Cancellations, by Leon Dubus Local Posts of London, by G.Brumell Postal Cancellations of London, by H.C.Westley Squared Circle Postmarks, by S.F. Cohen Squared Circle Postmarks, by W.G.Stitt Dibden Unpublished Material of M.H.Bristow	Post Office Impression Books Kelly's Directories Postal History Journal
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Illustrations by courtesy of London Borough of Southwark Libraries Dept
 Figures 6,8,9,10,14 and 19, by courtesy of Post Office: Figs 11,12,13 by courtesy of John Parmenter (Suburban Offices from Dec.1856): all other items, collections of late M.H.Bristow and Author.

ENGLISH HANDSTAMPS ON FOREIGN MAIL, 1667 - 1740 by David Cornelius

I have recently examined some early letters, c.1719 - 40, bearing handstamps which were completely new to me and which, apparently, were not listed in any previous references. The clue to their origin and use came with the realisation that, in all cases, they were on mail to overseas destinations and were always struck across the English rate charge on the flap of the letter. They are, I now believe, the successors to the "FRANCK" and "FRANCHES" types listed by Barrie Jay as L.1078 and 1078a. The letters came to me from three unrelated and reputable sources and, through the kindness of both Barrie Jay and Martin Willcocks, I have since seen photocopies of other marks in the same series.

Before listing the new marks, I think it is necessary to review the background to the earlier recording of the "FRANK" and "FRANCHES" types, W.673 and L.1078, 1078a. These were unknown to, or at least ignored by, the early postmark collectors and postal historians: if they were known, they were probably assumed to be of foreign origin and of no interest to a collector of British markings. The first published reference to these types (that I have been able to trace) came in June 1939 when L'Estrange Ewen reported an example of the "Franches" type on a letter of the 6th. August, 1667. He suggested it signified the letter was to be delivered without "further or any charge".

The following year, Messrs. Alcock and Holland referred to the Ewen report, noted examples of the "Franck" type used during the 1680's, that they were always struck over the manuscript charge figures and suggested these were applied by the London Foreign Office to show the whole of the postage had been paid. Also in 1940, the two main types were listed by Robson Lowe in the third edition of "Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire" and attributed to the London Foreign Office with a datespan of 1677-85. The "1677" is possibly a type error for Ewen's record of the 1667 example.

In 1942 Foster Bond wrote a short article in the Bulletin of the Postal History Society and noted he had 37 examples of the "FRANCK" or "FRANCHES" types but only 9 of these were legible, the remainder being very blurred impressions. Most, but not all, of the strikes were made on top of manuscript postage charges. He also recorded a further type, possibly in the same series, "being a complicated design with the letters "R.R." in the centre". At the same time he noted all the examples he had seen were on Merchants letters and suggested the handstamps might have been used at the Foreign Office in connection with some scheme whereby the merchants' postage was charged to a running account.

Supplement No.4 to the Alcock & Holland handbook was published in 1943 and noted the Foster Bond article. At the same time recorded dates of use of the "FRANCK" type were extended to the period "late 1670's to the early 1690's", and a new type was reported on a letter of 1721.

Later catalogues and writers have noted or mentioned these handstamps but it is only with the recent publication of the British County Catalogue Vol.3 (London) that an important attribution has been made. In 1958, Foster Bond edited the P.H.S. Special Series publication No.5, a reprint of Thomas Gardiner's Surveys of 1677-82. A footnote to BCC (Jay) L.1078 quotes an extract from this survey, the full passage reading:

"... the franque letters sent outward, which are all past unto the Forrain Post-masters, under the heads of single, double and ounces: so that if a treble letter doth weigh but $\frac{1}{4}$ of an ounce, it ought to pass unto them for a double letter only, although the sender from hence shall have paid the port of a treble one."

In other words, the agreement between the (British) Postmaster General and the (European or Foreign) Postmasters allowed for the carriage of letters at single,

English Handstamps on Foreign Mail...

double or per ounce charges. The British system, however, included a classification of "treble postage": and to prevent complaints from abroad that the agreement was being misused, the postage rate prepaid on such letters had to be hidden.

The Survey continues: "For this end, there is a stamp constantly applied to the part of the letter where the port is exprest to have been paid, to obscure the notice from the Forrain Postmasters abroad."

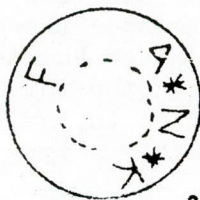
To hide the occasional treble rates, ALL manuscript prepaid charges were to be overstruck with a particular handstamp.

With just one exception, all the letters, reported by earlier writers, with these handstamps have originated in Great Britain and have been outward to foreign addresses: the exception is the item recorded by Ewen in 1939, which is from Bruges inwards to London. In this case, the manuscript Charge (1/4d) is on the front of the letter and is overstruck by a "FRANCHES" handstamp.

The listing and illustrations (by tracings) are taken from some 20 letters, including eight photographs from a collector in Europe. There are, I am sure, many more than the 11 types illustrated and noted.



1



2



3

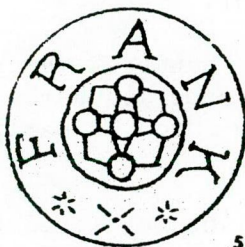
Fig. 1 : Illustrated by L'Estrange Ewen, (1939), on 1667 (6 Aug.) letter FROM Bruges to London. The illustration is reduced and noted as ";91 actual size".

2 : 1693 E.L. to Cadiz.

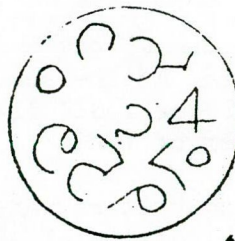
3 : 1694 (13 Aug.) E.L., London to Bilboa



4



5



6

Fig. 4 : 1719 (19 June) E.L. to Geneva. Listed BCC 3 (London) as no. 1432, with a date bracket of 1720 - 38. This last date is based on lot 359 in R.L. P.H.A. of 13th.May, 1959 but it is possibly a type error in the description for 1718. Both this item, and an earlier item of 1720 (sold as lot 319, 12th.December, 1956) were to Venice.

5 : 1721 to Venice. Recorded A & H Supplement 4.

6 : 1732 (24th.March) London to Venice

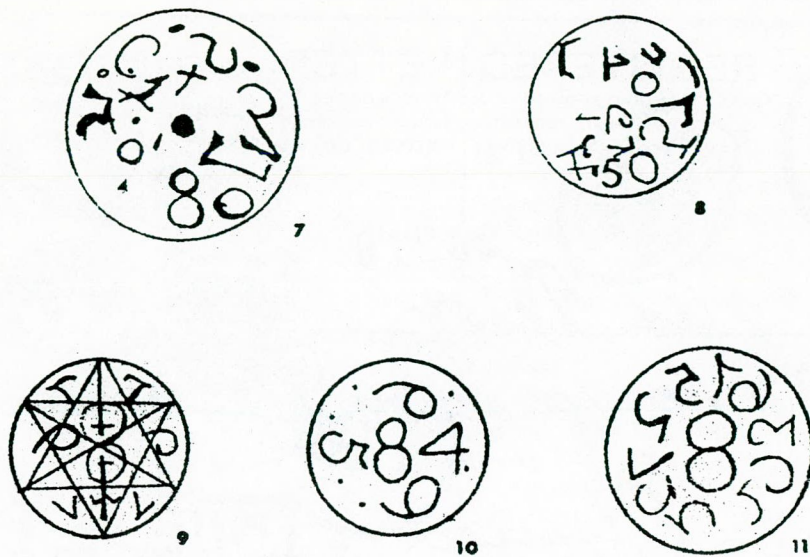


Fig. 7 : 1733 (28th.December) + (4th.January) London to Venice.
 8 : 1737 (22nd April) - do -
 9 : 1737 (27th.May) - do -
 10 : 1738 (11th.August) - do -
 11 : 1739 (28th.December) - 1740 - do -

The early and late dates so far noted for the family are interesting. Ewen remarked, correctly, that the " FRANCK " types appeared very soon after the boxed " D " and " S " types (L.1030 - 1032) were, apparently, taken out of use. The types are not, however, related, since the earlier series were used on inward mail and the latter on outward letters. Following the change of authority at the Post Office in 1667, it is likely any existing postal agreements with European countries were re-negotiated and resulted in the system described by Gardiner in his " Surveys ". We do not know, yet, if the use of these handstamps did end in 1740, or continued after that date. Can anyone produce an example, even smudged, of a handstamp over the manuscript rate after 1740 or an early, uncanceled, rate ?
 When were the Postal Treaties re-negotiated ?

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

WHAT WAS IT FOR ?



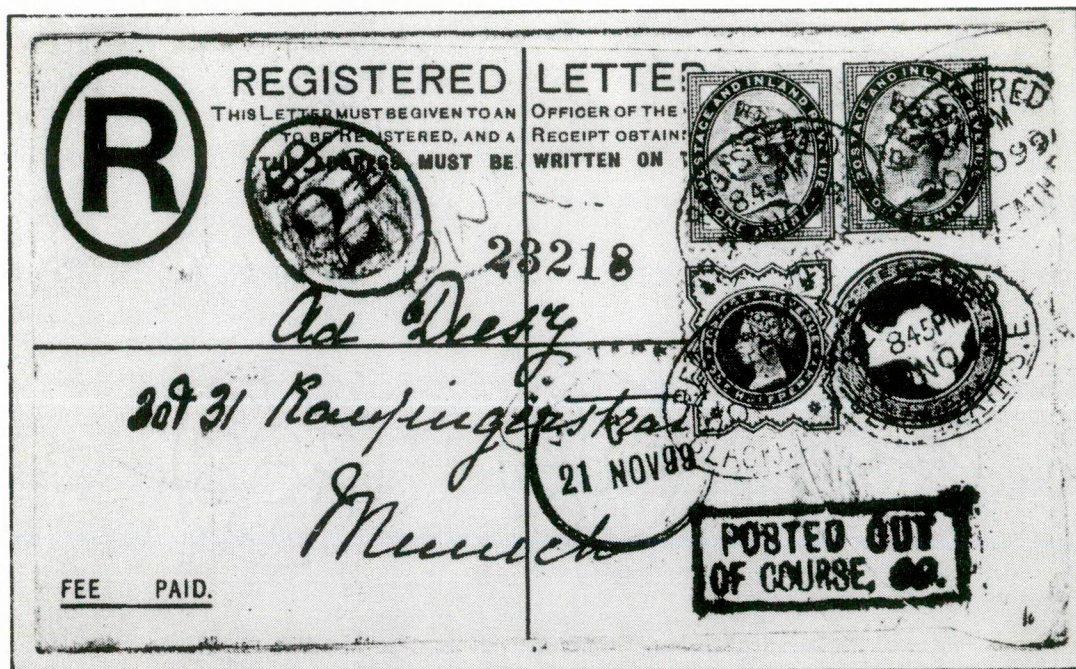
*Four Supplied to
Reg L^r Branch 19. 7. 73*

Martin Willcocks produced this item at the January meeting with the question " What was it for ? ". The first reaction from most present was to airily announce it was an Inspector's stamp, very convenient. However, read the narration. " Four Supplied to / Reg L^r Branch 19.7.73 ". If just an (singular) Inspector, why did he need four stamps, at the same time?

Apart from any theories, can a reader produce a cover showing the stamp in use ?

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

POSTED OUT OF COURSE, from R.I. Johnson



Registered letters had, by regulation, to be handed over the post office counter for registration. If they were not, a fine was imposed. In this case the oval 69/2d of Blackheath, itself something of a rarity, was struck on the cover, only to be deleted at the South Eastern District Office, as the letter was going abroad to Germany.

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

AZEMAR MACHINE

Several members have responded to the item in Notebook 65, with some dates extended though there seems to be some doubt over the February dating quoted by Dubus and other sources.

It appears this dating may be due to a partial strike of a June datestamp, showing only the 'E'. Readers will recall June was rendered as 'JE'. Unfortunately, it is possible this was overlooked and until a clear 'FE' appears, we much assume March 30th. represents the earliest dating. According to Michael Scott-Archer, the machine was submitted to the Post Office on the 4th. of February 1869 for trials, so it is quite possible dates from that month were produced. Whether any have survived, or whether any were more than 'in-house' experiments until March has yet to be determined.

The second period is extended by some three days to the 8th. Decmber, 1871, this news from Dr. C.J.O. Taylor, who also provided a further example for the third period of the 17th. May, 1872. However, Michael Champness notes the first date of the 10th. May : can any reader provide a photocopy of the cover ?

In terms of dates, the position thus far is -

First Trial	30th. March, 1869	-	11th. July, 1869
Second Trial	15th. May, 1871	-	8th. December, 1871
Third Trial	10th. May, 1872	-	18th. November, 1872

For the moment, it is the dates which are getting all the attention, though of no small importance are the codes and the arrangements of the sections which made up the obliterating bars. More on these later.

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

POSTAL BID SALE 21ST JANUARY, 1984 : RESULTS

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	12	2	8	3	8	5	9	6	15	7	20.50	8	9
10	8	11	5	12	6	15	5.50	16	2	19	3.50	21	25
22	27.50	23	17.50	24	6	25	3.50	26	3	27	2.50	28	4
33	19	34	9	36	24	40	9	42	15	43	4	44	6
45	6.50	47	15	48	30	49	10	51	15	52	10	59	61
60	15	61	3	69	7	72	16	75	15	77	12	78	10
79	35	83	3	86	4	89	8	90	12	91	15	93	27.50
95	5	96	9	100	2	103	5	104	8	105	9	108	8.50
111	3	113	7.50	114	4	116	4	117	4	118	4	119	4
120	4	125	3	127	2.50	128	2	129	2.50	130	2.50	133	4
134	3	135	4.05	136	4	139	4	140	11	141	3	142	4
143	3.50	144	3.75	145	5	147	5.50	148	3	155	12.50	156	10
157	8	158	8	159	5.50	160	7.50	161	7.50	162	7.50	163	4.50
164	4	165	7	169	8	170	3	172	4	177	5	178	4
180	20	182	4	183	3.50	184	4.50	186	10	188	25	189	6
190	3	191	6.50	192	12	193	4	194	4	195	3.50	196	5.50
197	4	198	3	199	3	200	4	201	3	205	4.50	206	7
207	4	208	4.50	209	8.50	210	6.50	211	5.50	212	6.50	213	2
215	2	218	2	221	2	223	3.50	224	3	229	2	234	12
236	5	237	7	238	3.50	241	8.50	242	6.50	243	6	246	10
248	8	250	25	251	46	256	15	257	3.50	258	5	260	7
263	27.50	265	10	266	7	267	7.50	268	6	269	22	270	11
272	9	273	19	274	20	275	9	276	7	278	9	279	8
280	7.50	281	8.50	282	12	283	23	284	26	285	8	286	16.50
287	4	290	10	293	13	294	4	295	4	297	3	298	6.50
299	5	301	40	303	7	304	8	305	14	306	10	307	53
308	15	309	31	311	38	313	50	314	13	315	10	317	80
318	30												

Total Sales £1,955.80

The July Auction is already incourse of preparation. Members with material for sale should send a listing, brief details plus reserve price. The material can follow in due course. Latest date, Saturday 5th.May. This will give time to get the listing printed and distributed.