

NOTEBOOK

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EDITORIAL by Peter Forrestier Smith

As you can see the Editor has moved, back home to Carshalton, after an absence of nearly thirty years. Needless to say the state of confusion which is normal in the study is compounded to the nth degree. We also have an Amstrad and number 88 is a transitional issue. More on this and your contributions in the next issue.

THE QUARTERED CIRCLE BAGGING STAMPS 1864 - 1900

by M. Scott Archer

Four issues of the stamps were made to the Foreign Office or Branch between 1864 and 1894. They occur in two colours, black and red. Where sufficient examples have been examined the evidence points to red being used in the morning, black in the evening.

The first two issues had interchangeable centre letters. The third issue is only known with L and in the fourth issue the letters were probably fixed.

The arrangement of the inserted date plugs distinguishes the first three types : the first has only the last two digits of the year in the two bottom quadrants, the second has all four of the digits and the third has the month in letters, not digits. One exception has been noted to the last of these which has the month still in digits - 13.12.1886 on type 3a to the U. S. A.

The following letters are recorded : L, D, N, Z, blank and H and I with type 4.

Letter L for Liverpool

This was applied to letters (or more probably to the top or bottom letter in a bundle) to be sent to Liverpool for places abroad: Madeira and West Africa, North America - possible other destinations. The 'L' stamps were used from March 10th., 1864 until after 1900, with types 1, 2, 3a and 3b.

Letter D for Devonport

Applied on letters (bundles?) sorted in London for the Cape Packet of the Union Steamship Company to South Africa. No examples have been seen after 1870 - certainly the practice would have ceased by 1876 when the Currie 'Castle' Line was sharing the South Africa mails but sailing from Dartmouth. It may have been dropped officially four years earlier when Currie started to take substantial numbers of Ship Letters for South Africa at less than the Packet rate and sailing from Dartmouth.

Letter N or Z

The evidence suggests this was applied to unpaid or underpaid foreign mail arriving in London. Types 1 and 2 have been seen used for this purpose; it has been seen in red only.

Blank Centre

Two examples only have been seen, in black, on letters to Madeira. Unless it was intended to signify a different port from the usual one at that time (Liverpool), one must assume the letter was omitted after a change of use.

Letters H and I

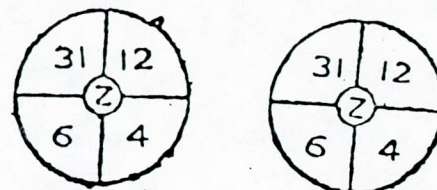
The purpose of these hand stamps has not been established. 'I' has been recorded on just two items, having one characteristic in common, they were addressed from or through London to North America, annotated 'via New York'. The details of these two are:

- (i) London AP/24 1895 'via New York' to Halifax N.S. arr. 3rd. May, 1895.
- (ii) Port Orotava - Southampton Feb. 4th., 1897, London FE/6 1897 'via New York' addressed to the Bahamas: arrival mark of Nassau, New Providence Feb. 13th., 1897.

An example of 'H' has yet to be reported to me.

All the following illustrations are reproduced, with acknowledgement, from the Post Office Proof Impression Books, except for 3b which has not been found proofed.

Foreign Office

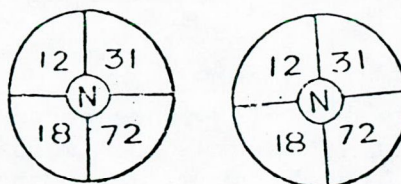


Type 1. Issued 10th. March, 1864

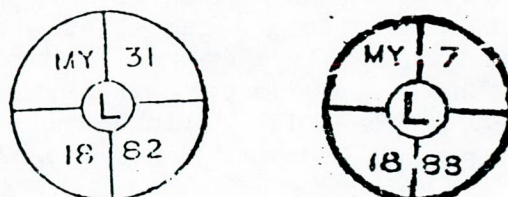
The two stamps are indistinguishable.

Size 23mm diam. outer circle x 5mm diam. inner circle

Type 2. Issued 12th. February, 1872
size 23mm x 6mm - the illustration on the left is distorted by the bend in the page in copying: the actual marks are indistinguishable.



Foreign Branch 1. 6. 82



3a

3b

Type 3a 25.0mm x 6.5mm - only one impression in Proof Impression Books

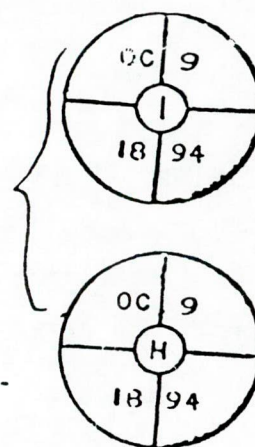
Type 3b 24.5mm x 7.5mm - taken from an actual letter

3a issued 1st. June, 1882: both marks seen used from late 1883

Sub. Controller

Foreign Bth G.P.O. Secy

10.10.94



Type 4 Both issued 10th. October, 1894, size 25.5mm x 6.5mm

Note Type 1 has not been seen used after 12th. February, 1872.

Type 2 L has been recorded once only after the issue of Type 3.

Type 3 was in use until 1900, presumably concurrently with both Type 4

Many readers will have at least one example of these stamps. Please report them to the Editor giving full details, not only of the quartered circle, but all other markings, stamps, adhesives, manuscript, not forgetting to note the colours.

THE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF POST SERVICES

by Andrew Ford

Although one often finds curious rates of postage signalled by the affixed adhesives, it seems some members of the public were well aware of the correct postal rates, including understanding of the late fee rates and times. The three post cards illustrated here are good examples.

The first two are cancelled with nice examples of the Highbury S.O. with index number 1, addressed to the same Miss Unwin in Ceylon, both posted to catch the 1.30 pm post on 23rd. January, 1905. As can be seen, the writer endorses one with "Printed matter only" and prepays with a halfpenny and the second is prepaid with one penny. The text is relevant.

"Thank you very much for the two pretty P.P.Cs you sent me. Do you mind putting on 6 cents if you write on the postcard, but if you do not write anything at all you can send it for 3 cents, as you will see I have done. 6 cents = 1 penny.

With love

G. Jacob "

the third card is within the U.K., the two halfpenny adhesives being cancelled with the typical "late fee" mark for 7.45 pm for 29th. September, 1906. Again the text makes the point:

Printed matter only.
POST CARD

For Inland Postage this space
may be used for communication.

The Address only to be
written here.



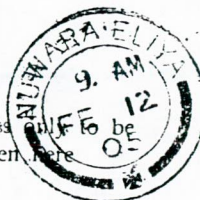
Miss Erene Unwin
Boslowick
Newera Eliya.
Ceylon.

"Canon" Series

POST CARD

For Inland Postage this space
may be used for communication.

The Address
written here.



Thank you very much
for the two pretty P.C.s
you sent me. Do you
mind putting on cents
if you write on the
postcard, but if you
do not write anything
at all you can send
it for 3 cents as you
will see I have done.
6 cents = 1 penny.
With love
J. J. & Jacob.

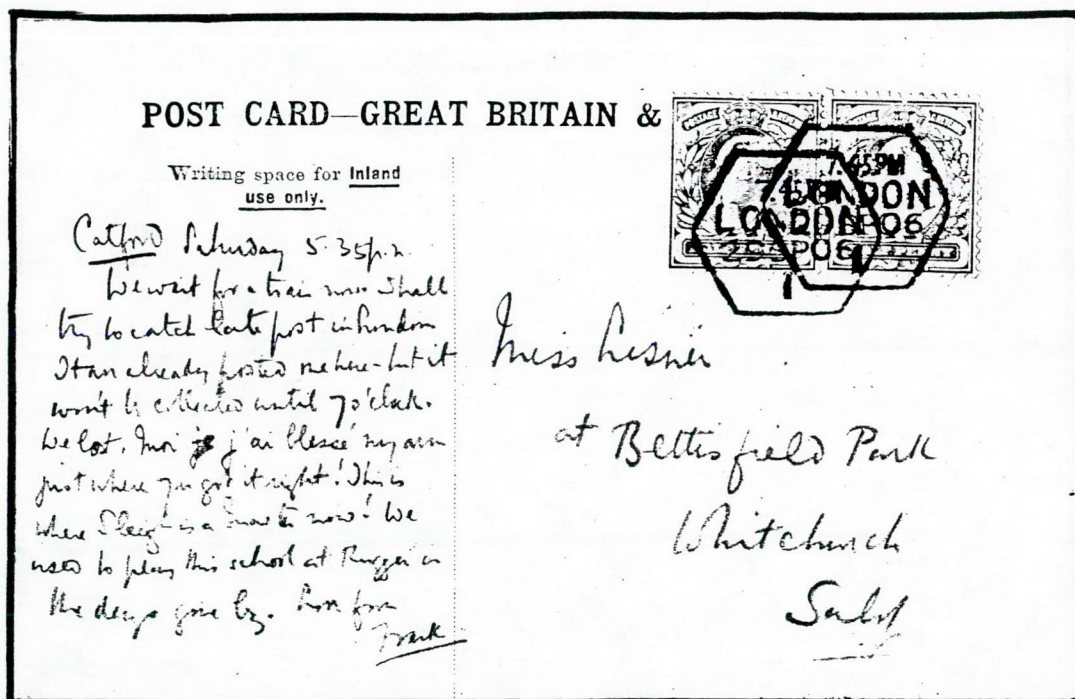
Miss Erene Unwin
"Boslowick"
Newera Eliya.
Ceylon.

"Canon" Series

"Catford Saturday 5.35 pm

We wait for a train now. Shall try to catch late post in London. Have already posted one here - but it won't be collected until 7 o'clock. We lost. Moi j'ai Blessé my arm just when you got it right! This is where Sleigh is a Master now! We used to play this school at Rugger in the days gone by. Love from

Frank



DELAYS IN THE MAILS 1987

During last year examples were seen of envelopes and parcels carrying a label indicating any delay in handling the item was caused by industrial action by Customs Staff. A letter from Mount Pleasant Letters District, Customer Services gave this information:

The labels were affixed by postal staff at this office to inform our customers of the delay to letters and packets from abroad caused by industrial action by H M Customs and Excise.

THE POST OFFICE APOLOGISE
FOR THE DELAY TO THIS ITEM
WHICH HAS BEEN CAUSED BY
INDUSTRIAL ACTION BY H M -
CUSTOMS AND EXCISE STAFF.

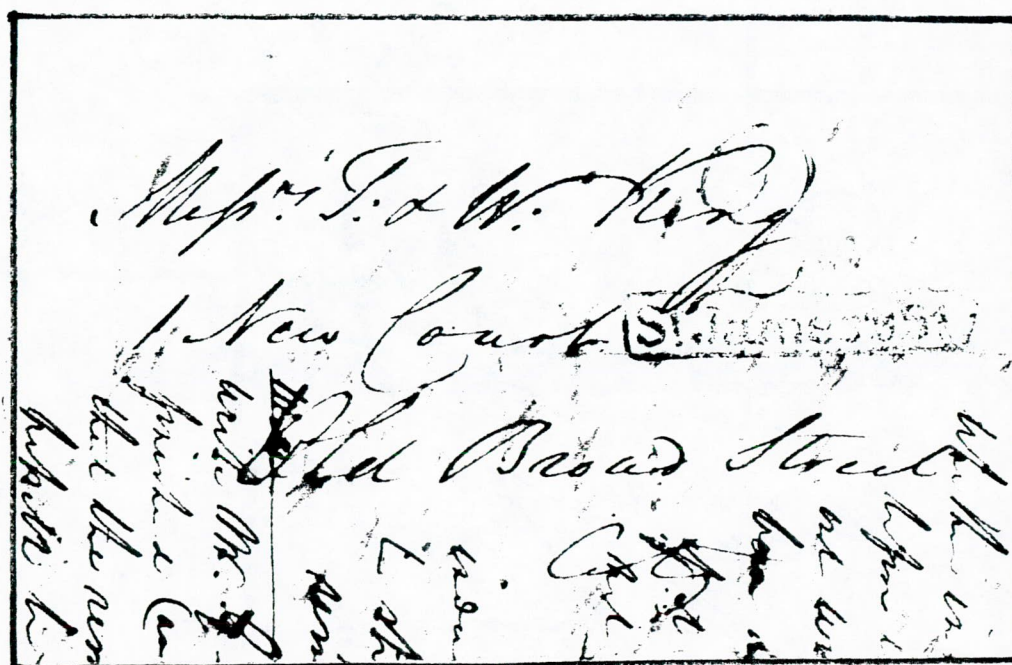
As you are no doubt aware all incoming mails from abroad are subject to the same Customs inspection as items brought into this country by any other means and we are legally bound to comply with requests made by H M Customs and Excise to present to them any items they may wish to examine. No handstamps were used at this office but it is possible that the London Overseas Mails Office, who deals with incoming Parcels may have used them at some stage. The label enclosed is the only type we used during the disruption which began on 6 April but which has now, I am happy to say, concluded. (letter dated 6 July 1987)

TOOTING RECEIVING HOUSE

Collectors of London Twopenny Post material will be familiar with the framed country receiving house marks (L503), recorded in use between 1818 and 1852. Alf Kirk points out that Tooting is listed as used in 1823 and, with the exception of Kew, are all said to be north of the river. Tooting most certainly is south of the river. Barrie Jay has confirmed the item as being recorded but unfortunately the source is not recorded.

If the originator of the recorded use is a reader would they please contact the Editor, with a photocopy provided if possible, giving as much detail as possible.

As a cautionary tale, we show below an item apparently bearing St. James's St in this format but very close inspection shows the merest suggestion of something above the centre of the rectangle which almost certainly is the remains of " T P " : pity.

JERMYN ST

Only a large piece, front and part back, but it shows the GP double frame upper case Jermyrn ST used for a London letter (addressed to Essex Street, Strand) and is dated 2nd February 1843.

The Jay catalogue shows only half a dozen GP stamps continuing in use after 1839, as follows :

Bridge St., Westminster	1839-43
Broadway, Westminster	1837-47
Crawford St.	1847
Grays Inn	1848
Great Russell St.	1826-50
Limehouse	1831-40

Would readers check their collections for any other examples ?

MORTLAKE : TWO C S O STAMPS

The Country Sorting Office date stamps were introduced in July 1809 to validate the bye-letters which otherwise would not be dated. Mortlake, and Richmond, have the only recorded type incorporating an unpaid narrative, also noted only in that first year, 1809. Over the years the size varied between 31 and 35 mm, getting smaller with the passage of time. In 1837 there was a change in the layout with the year in a straight line, serif letters. 1846 saw a further modification to sans-serif lettering.



The two letters shown here from Mortlake both went into the General Post, that of 1837 showing the year round the rim, that for 1838 in the straight line. The latter is curiously charged at ninepence. This appears also on the 1837 letter to Woburn but it comprising of the 7d for the 42 miles plus the 2d local charge country to General Post in London, is simply explained. Rickmansworth is 22 miles, 6d single plus 2d, giving 8d. With the 8d altered to 9d there might have been a local delivery 1d charge - does a specialised collector have any knowledge on the area?

The first item extends the Jay dating by two years. There are no doubt other such date extensions sitting in readers' collections: please do share the information with all others.

As a footnote, when checking for this note, the mileage given in Robertson's "Post Roads" is 18, which caused great confusion when trying to explain the charge. Have regard to the mileage used on the mileage marks, which account for the route of the mail, not the direct route.

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

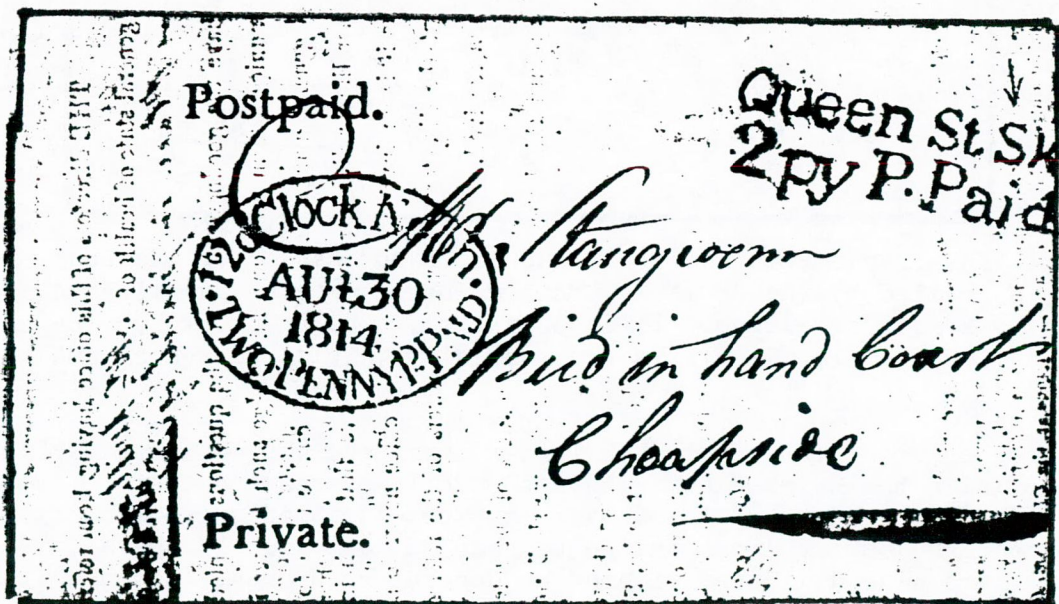
THE ETHERIDGE MACHINE

As long ago as Notebook 64 we illustrate a fine example of this machine and remarked on the limited knowledge on the period of use. It was in use from September 1886 to April 1887, though it is not clear this was a continuous trial. Mrs Ashworth sent in a copy of an example dated January 8th., 1887. Can we have some more dates please ?



A NEW RECEIVING HOUSE FOR SOUTHWARK from A.J. Kirk

This reproduction of a post paid item shows not only a really superb Chief Office Paid time stamp but a new Receiving House mark, not listed in Jay or any of the other reference works currently available.



In a map of 1799 the modern Union Street was divided into four sections. Running from west to east these were Charlotte Street, Duke Street, Queen Street and Union Street. Queen Street, King Street, Old Gravel Lane and Queen Street, King Street, Borough - both the same place I suspect - are listed in the 1824 edition of Pigot. By 1832 there had been quite dramatic changes in the area and Union Street was just two parts, Charlotte and Union.

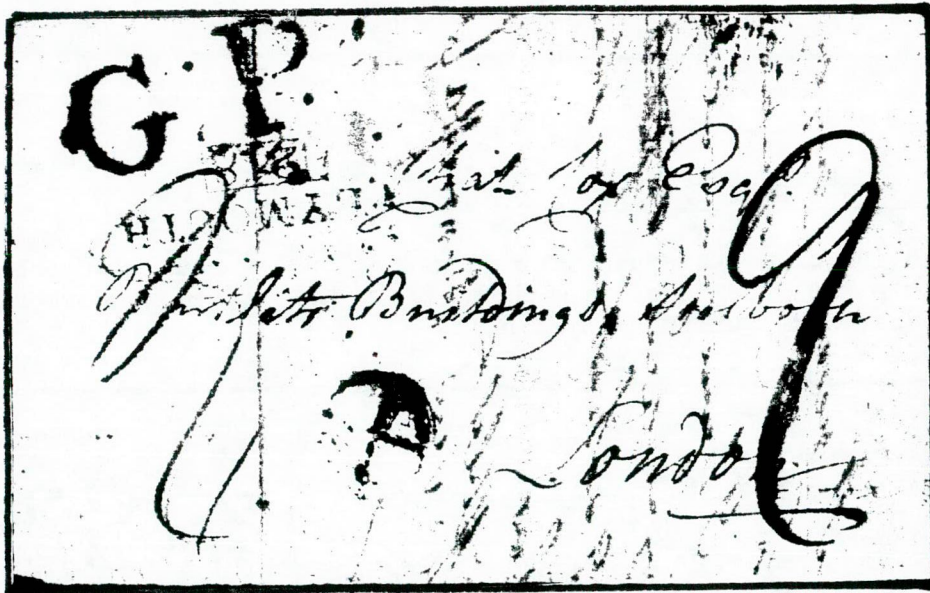
In one listing of Receiving Houses, the accuracy of which I cannot verify, the address given is 139 Union Street, which would put it nicely into the erstwhile Queen Street. Is it possible Queen Street Sk was the stamp for the subsequent Union Street office? However, Union Street marks are recorded from 1821 so this may not be the case.

Has a reader another example of Queen St. Sk, perhaps not realising Sk equates to Southwark, to extend the usage?

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

GENERAL POST STAMP : NOT LISTED from John Beveridge

The entire comes from Plymouth, it carries the Plymouth 218 boxed mileage and the mss " 9 " for the 170 - 230 mile rate of the 1801 Act. What looks a little like 1/4 on the left does not match any rates of the time. Appearing also is the ' hot cross bun ' used on mail transferred from the General Post to the Local Post and suffering a delay. However, this is not supported by the date and time stamps of the General and Twopenny Posts, both show August 31 and the latter is for 10 in the morning. It is likely it arrived in London too late for the GP men to handle and was, therefore, passed over to the TP staff. The ' bun ' may have been applied at this time to signal the delay was to do with the postal authorities.



As part of the arrangements was there should be no charge for the Local Post delivery, signalled by the GP mark. This appears to be an addition to the range shown in the London catalogue. It is 32 x 15mm, vide L676 but has the stops in the form of L680. This clearly is not the latter, which is a much smaller mark, 19 x 9mm only.

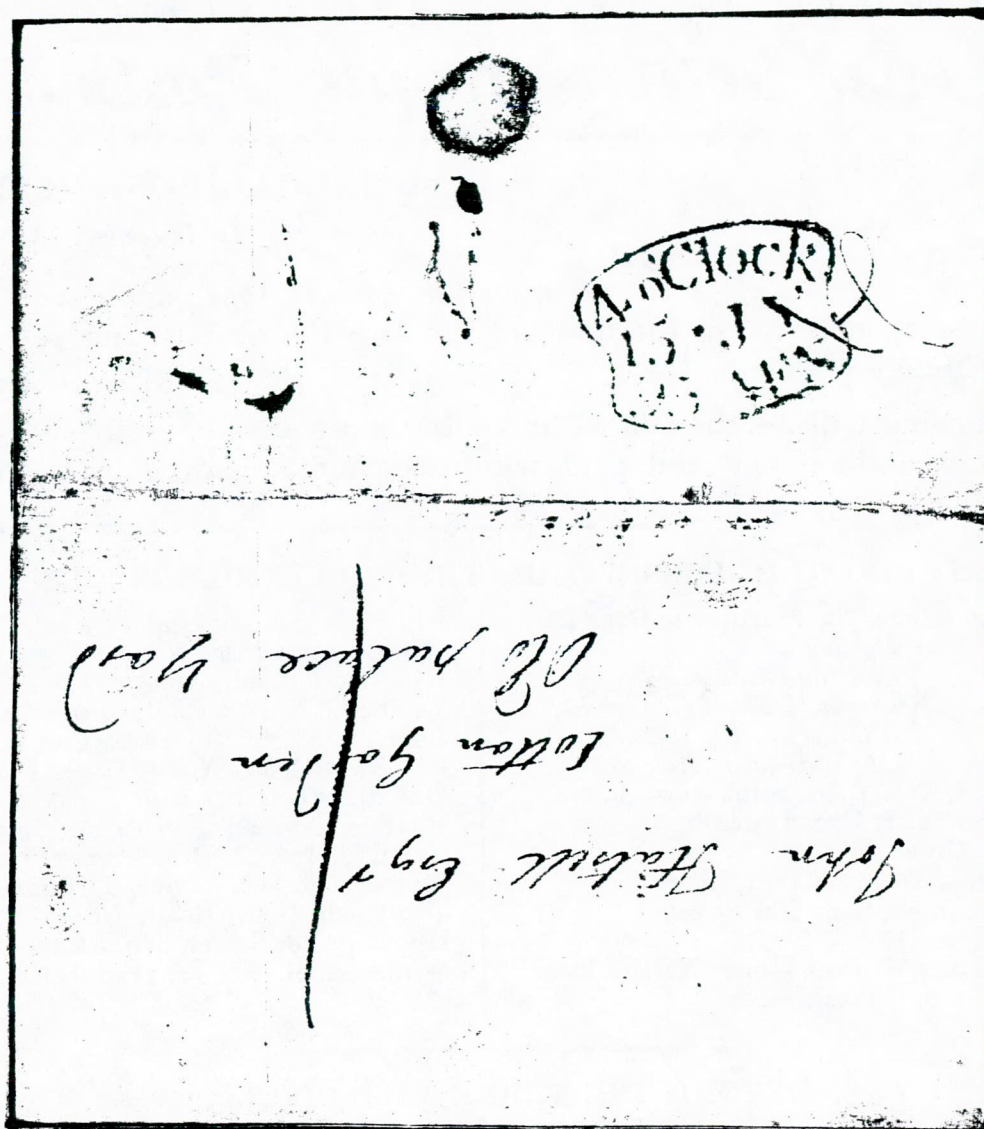
It may be of interest to note the TP letter carriers, who delivered GP letters to areas outside the GP area but within the TP Town area also served the places where continuous building extended over the Town limit into the Country area and which, by a High Court ruling, had to be charged as Town. It seems these same Letter Carriers also delivered within the General Post area, as shown with this example. Were all late arrived letters of the General Post dealt with in like manner by the Boundary Ride carriers?

The addressee is Chas Cox, a name associated with military and naval matters - a Chas Cox and Son of 44 Hatton Garden appear in a list of Army and Navy Agents in the 1824 Pigot - which may have caused special treatment.

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

TIME STAMP DETAIL by John Beveridge

The London catalogue in the section on The Reorganised London Penny Post 1794 - 1801 (L 434) list the Westminster Office time stamps with the 4 o'Clock with a question mark. The item shown here clearly shows AFN, this in contract to the normal EVEN appearing on all the other time stamps, in one form or another.



A mss ' 1 ' suggests that even at this early date the required prepayment had already been disregarded not only by the public but by the post officials also.

The address is Cotton Garden, Old Palace Yard, which I take to be the one in Westminster but I can find no reference to the Cotton Garden element. It was written by a Mrs Milner, wife of a Colonel Milner. She mentions her son on board the " London " in Lord Bridport's fleet, from Orchard Street, Westminster, so it was a very local letter.

There is a mss marking, part overstruck by the time stamp which may have nothing to do with the postal treatment: could it be a Receiver's initials ?

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

TWOPENNY POST CONTINUED

Members sometimes ask what was the local post in London called after the introduction of the U.P.P., since it was no longer the Twopenny Post ?

As we show on the poster reproduced on the next page, as far as the Post Office was concerned, in December 1840, it was still the " Two-Penny Post ".



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC, *And Instructions to all Postmasters.*

GENERAL POST OFFICE,

1st December, 1840.

ON and after the 14th Instant, additional Receiving Houses will be opened within the limits of the Two-Penny Post, for the issue and payment of Money Orders.

The following will be the Offices (including those already established) at which Money Orders can be issued and paid, within the limits of the London Two-Penny Post.

RECEIVING HOUSES WITHIN THE THREE MILE CIRCLE.

General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand.

Branch Offices. { *Borough.*
Charing Cross.
Lombard Street (for issuing
Orders only).
Old Cavendish Street.

Battle Bridge, No. 1, Pleasant Row.

Bloomsbury, No. 1, Broad Street.

Camberwell Green.

Camden Town, No. 98, High Street.

City Road, No. 36, near Old Street.

Dockhead, No. 11.

Gray's Inn Lane, No. 43, Upper North Place.

Hackney, No. 8, Church Street.

Islington, No. 86, Upper Street.

Kennington Cross, No. 4.

Kingsland Road, No. 4, Orchard Place.

Lambeth, No. 33, Mount Street.

Limehouse, No. 44, Three Colt Street.

Old Kent Road, No. 4, Dover Place.

Oxford Street, No. 210.

Pimlico, No. 28, Queen's Row.

Ratcliffe, No. 77, Broad Street.

Strand, No. 180, corner of Norfolk Street.

Tottenham Court Road, No. 103.

Upper Baker Street, No. 54.

Whitechapel, No. 72, High Street.

BEYOND THE THREE MILE CIRCLE.

Barking.

Barnet.

Bexley.

Brentford.

Bromley, Kent

Brompton, Middlesex.

Chelsea.

Clapham.

Croydon.

Deptford.

Dulwich.

Edgeware.

Edmonton.

Enfield.

Foot's Cray.

Greenwich.

Hammersmith.

Hampstead.

Harrow.

Highgate

Hounslow.

Kensington.

Kingston.

Lewisham.

Norwood.

Paddington.

Putney.

Richmond, Surry.

Romford.

Shooter's Hill.

Southall.

Stanmore.

Stratford.

Sydenham.

Tooting.

Waltham Cross.

Woodford.

Woolwich.

When a Postmaster is applied to for a Money Order, for the Metropolis, he will be careful to ascertain in what part of London the person whose favor the Order is granted wishes to have it paid, so that the Money Order may be drawn upon the Office which is most convenient to him, and the Postmaster will direct the Letter of Advice to the Office on which it is drawn, as at that Office alone it can be paid.

A Money Order granted upon London, without specifying any particular Office in London, can only be paid at the General Post Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand.

By Command,

W. L. MABERLY,

Secretary.

HORIZONTAL OVAL 49 - SIDMOUTH STREET OR GREENWICH? by Keith Romig

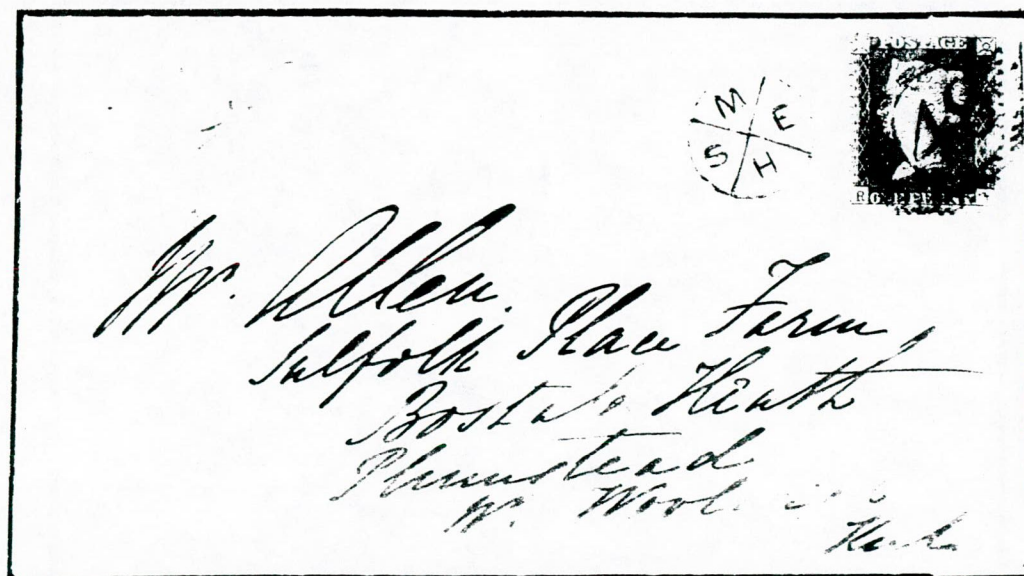
The low number horizontal ovals have long been recognised as " difficult " to find on cover, with perhaps the exception of 37 and 41. Numbers 42 to 49 are hard to get on adhesive, never mind cover.

I recently acquired a small correspondence to Kent in which were three envelopes bearing penny stars cancelled with the 49 numeral. This number is listed as being allocated to Sidmouth Street but on the evidence of these three covers, plus one later format 49, it would appear 49 was transferred at some time to Greenwich, Royal Hill.

The covers are dated between September 1859 and January 1860, all addressed to Bostall Heath, Plumstead, near Woolwich. On two of the covers the last two places have been crossed out and Lessness Heath substituted. In addition they have misprint marks (quartered circle type) M/SE/H (Eltham) and M/SE/S (Rotherhithe). The backstamps on each are a small circular framed undated GREENWICH / ROYAL HILL and a London SE cds.

To confirm 49 as a Greenwich stamp, a later 49 upright oval is listed in the Handbook (page K/SE/12) as 49B, with the note : " Number 49 was allocated in the 1874 and 1887 lists as being Greenwich Royal Hill. No cancellations have been seen used there, however there is an undated and unlabelled cancellation in the Proof Books that may have been sent to Greenwich. "

This is indeed so as a cover came to light last year where the upright 49 is cancelling a penny plate on a local envelope addressed to South St, Greenwich. On the reverse is a cds Greenwich-Royal-Hill for JA 21 67. It is interesting to note the use of this later format on a local letter, just as the earlier horizontal ovals were intended for use on local bye-post and cross post letters. This is a very local letter - the map shows Royal Hill as a turning off South Street. The writer could have easily delivered the letter by hand, saved the postage and failed to generate a rare local cover.



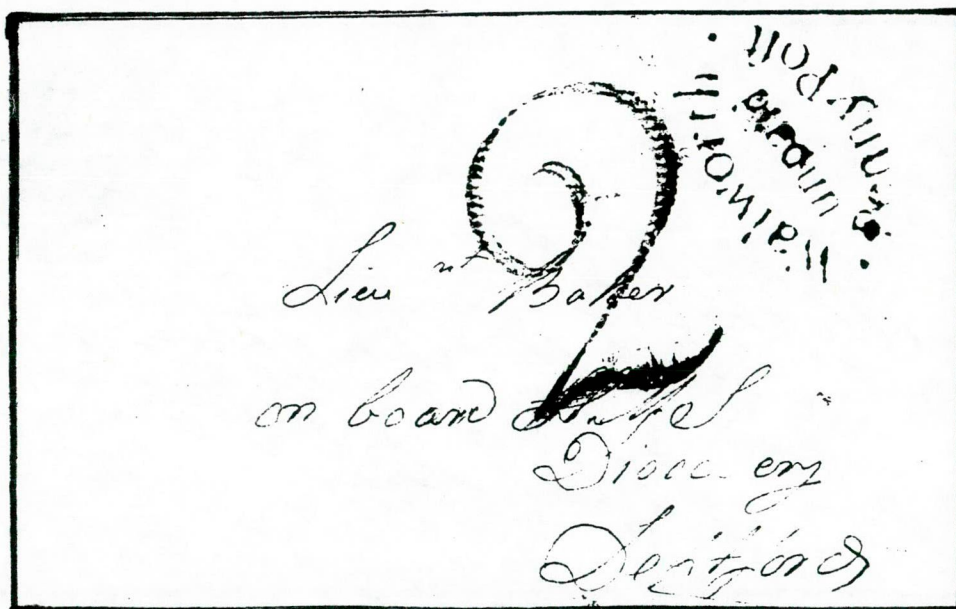
Cover dated 30 Jan., 1860

Horizontal Oval 49 - Sidmouth Street or Greenwich?.....



PENNY POST : THE LARGE FIGURE 2 by Grace Dove

The large hanstamp of the figure " 2 " (L594) is recorded during the first year or two of the reorganised Penny Post. As far as I am aware, the few of these



marks which have been recorded come on items originating in the west of London. The one shown here is quite different with a Walworth unpaid Penny Post stamp on a letter addressed to an officer on board H M S Discovery, Deptford. The Chief Office time stamp, on the reverse, is for 7 o'Clock / OC 26 / 95 EVEN (L430). It provides no explanation for the use of the large " 2 ", other than that local letters were optionally prepaid and the use of the large figure 2 may have been intended to make the point of it being unpaid very obvious.

TWOPENNY POST OFFICE

Morning Post 22nd January, 1835

" The Following new regulations, which have been for some time in progress, have just been issued by command of the Postmaster-General, Lord Maryborough : -

" The principal office is at the General Post-Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, where letters may be put in one hour later than at the receiving-houses; but for the accommodation of the public at the west end of the town letters will be received at the office at Charing-cross, corner of Craig's-court, and at the office in Regent-street, near Langham-place, half an hour later at each despatch than at any of the other receiving-houses. There are now six deliveries and six collections of letters in London daily, and by this new regulation the seven o'clock delivery has been extended to all places in the environs of town within the circle of three miles from the General Post-office, most of which at present will have five deliveries and five despatches daily. The country delivery of the Twopenny Post has been extended from nine miles to a circle of twelve miles from the General Post-Office.

" The following is the time letters should be put into the receiving house for each delivery of the day in town, and that by which they are despatched : - If put in at eight, ten, and twelve in the morning, two, five, and eight in the afternoon, they are sent for delivery at ten and twelve in the morning, two, four, and seven in the afternoon, and eight o'clock next morning. Letters can be put in one hour later than the above at the General Post Office, and each delivery should be completed generally in about one hour or one hour and a half after they are despatched. From London to the country, if put in by eight o'clock in the morning, two or five in the afternoon, they are despatched at ten o'clock in the morning, four and seven in the afternoon. To places having but two deliveries a day letters are sent off at the above hours of ten in the morning and four or seven in the afternoon. Those that go off at ten o'clock are delivered at noon; those at four are delivered the same evening; and those at seven o'clock are delivered early next morning. To places having only one post a day they go off at ten o'clock, and are delivered the same day at noon. Letters from the country to London if put into the post in time for the morning despatch arrive in town between ten and eleven o'clock, and are sent out for delivery at twelve; if the afternoon despatch at seven o'clock. The postage of each letter or packet passing from one part of the three miles circle to another is only twopence. To all places beyond this circle, being within the limits of this office, it is threepence.

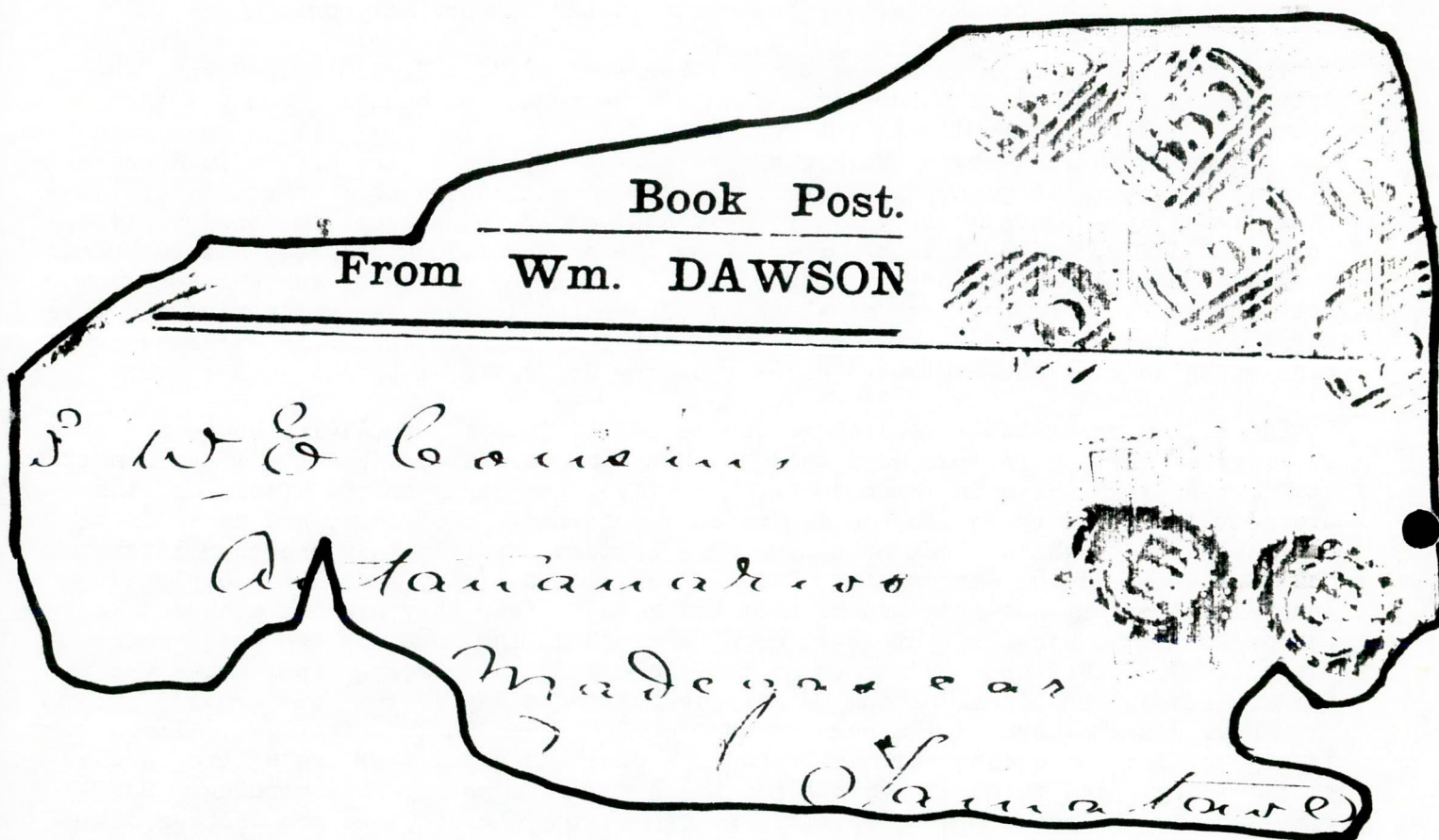
" The postage of this office on each general or foreign post letter or packet to or from places beyond the three miles circle, is twopence in addition to the general or foreign post rate. Newspapers, if put into any Twopenny Post Office within the circle of three miles from the General Post Office, will pass to the country districts of this office, if in covers open at the ends, for one penny each; but from one part of the circle to another, or from the country to any part of the circle, or one part of the country to another, the postage is the same as for letters. No letters or packets exceeding the weight of four ounces can be sent by this post, except such as have first passed by or are intended to pass by the general or foreign mails. To prevent delay the public should be very particular with letters intended to pass through the Two-penny Post that they are put into the proper receiving-houses, as it too frequently happens that letters are put into a general post receiving-house by mistake, whereby they are unavoidably delayed in their delivery. "

Contributed by Barrier Evans of " Messengers ".

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

MAIL VIA MAURITIUS by A.L. Kennedy

In the 1880s, mail from England to Madagascar could only be prepaid as far as Mauritius. From there the mail was despatched to the care of the British Consul

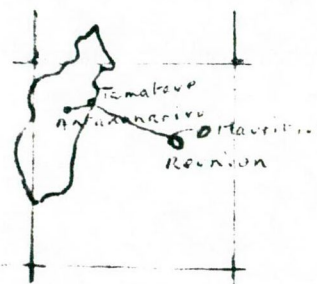


at Tamatave, who arranged distribution and collected from the addressee the forwarding charges from Mauritius, represented by the addition of Mauritian postage stamps.

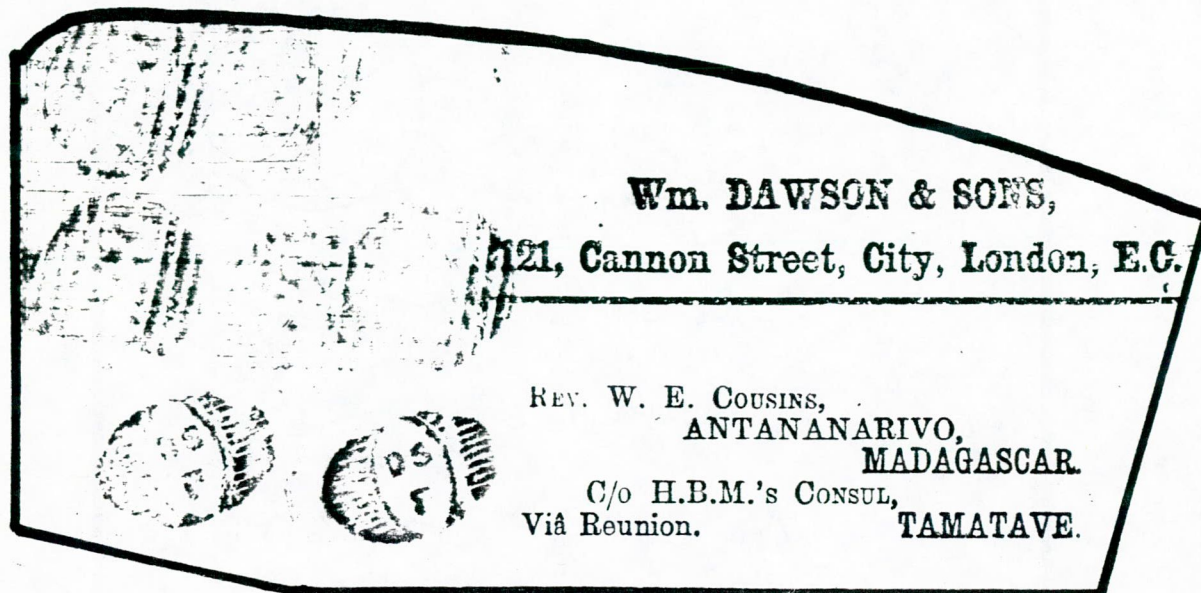
The British Post Office Guide of 1st. January, 1885 shows the letter rate as 4d per half ounce and printed papers and book post as 1d per two ounces for Tamatave, with higher rates for other parts. There is no mention of additional charges from Mauritius but surviving mail shows this to have been at the rate of twenty five cents (= 6d) per half ounce for letters and four cents (= 1d) per two ounces for book post.

Part of a book post wrapper from Wm Dawson & Sons of London to Rev W.E. Cousins, Antananarivo, Madagascar (which would care of HBM Consul) Tamatave (which would be via Reunion). British postage 3/- (i.e. 4½ lb at 1d per two ounce). The 6d and 2/6 adhesives are perforated D.S and are cancelled with the FB of the London Foreign Branch. In Mauritius, six 25 cent adhesives were added (although 4 cents was taken as equalling 1d., the rate was, in fact, 1 rupee = 2 shillings, or 25 cents = 6d.)

The item is undated but the 6d adhesive was current from April 1884 to the end of 1886, which gives an approximate dating.

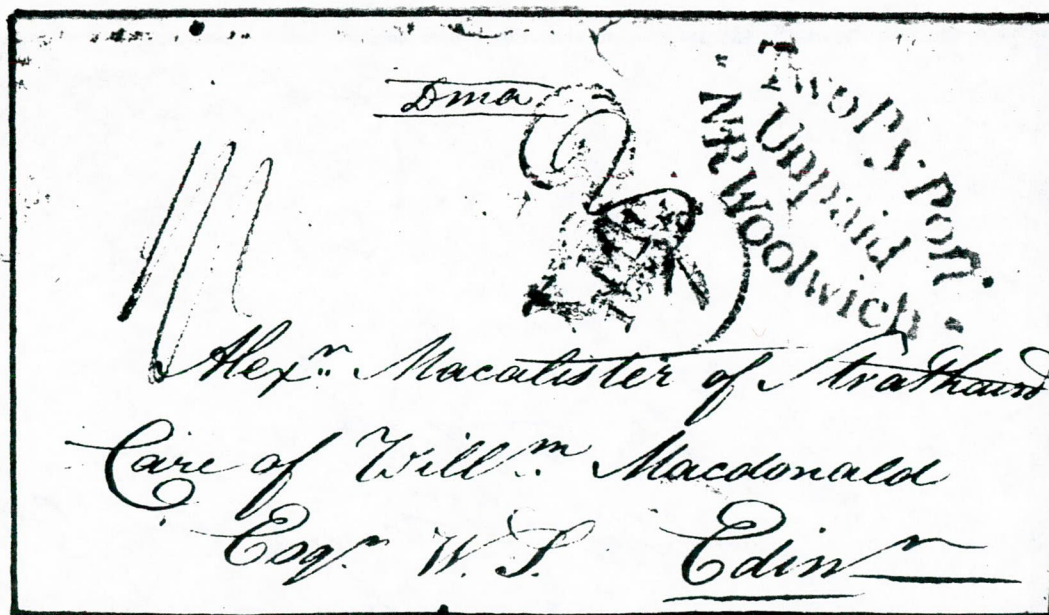


The second example has the address printed, with the routing instructions shown. Again the GB adhesives are perforated D.S. but now cancelled by the DS/F obliterator used by Wm Dawson & Sons as a precancel on newspapers and magazines sent overseas from 1880. The postage of 5d covered the book post for 10 ounces at 1d per 2 ounces. As before, Mauritian adhesives were added to deal with the local delivery. No dating anywhere as before but approximate dating is afforded by the GB adhesives, issued 1st April 1884 and used to 1st January 1887.



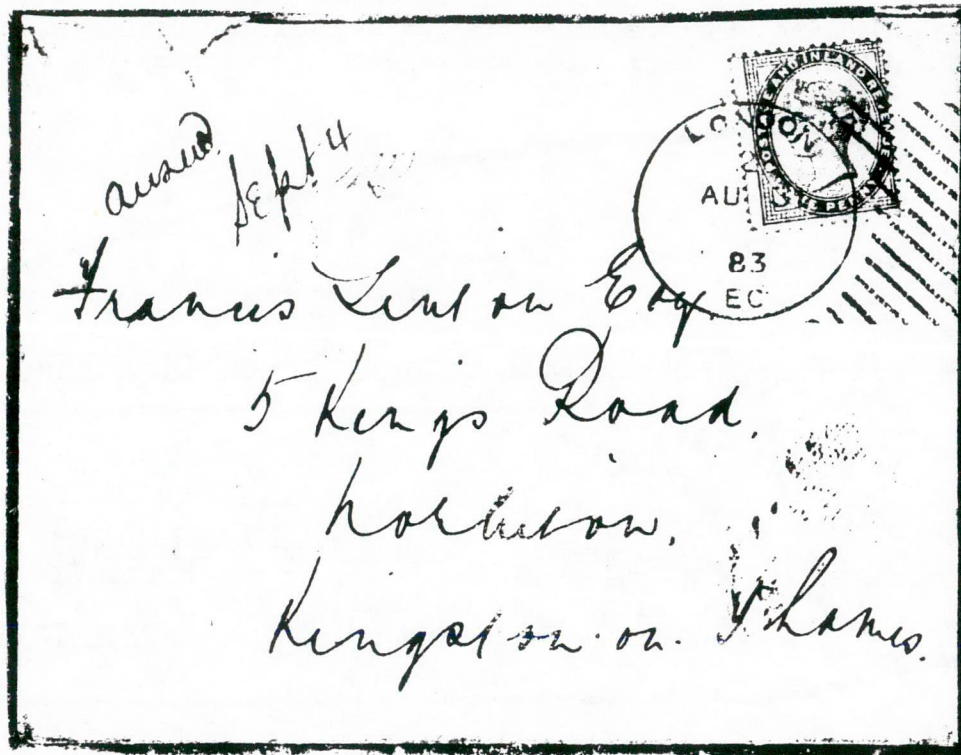
M R WOOLWICH, from Peter Bathe

Readers may recall in August 1985 Derek Holliday provided the first recorded example of what was a rather puzzling stamp. In February 1986 I gave for first reactions and said how much depended upon the dating of the letter.



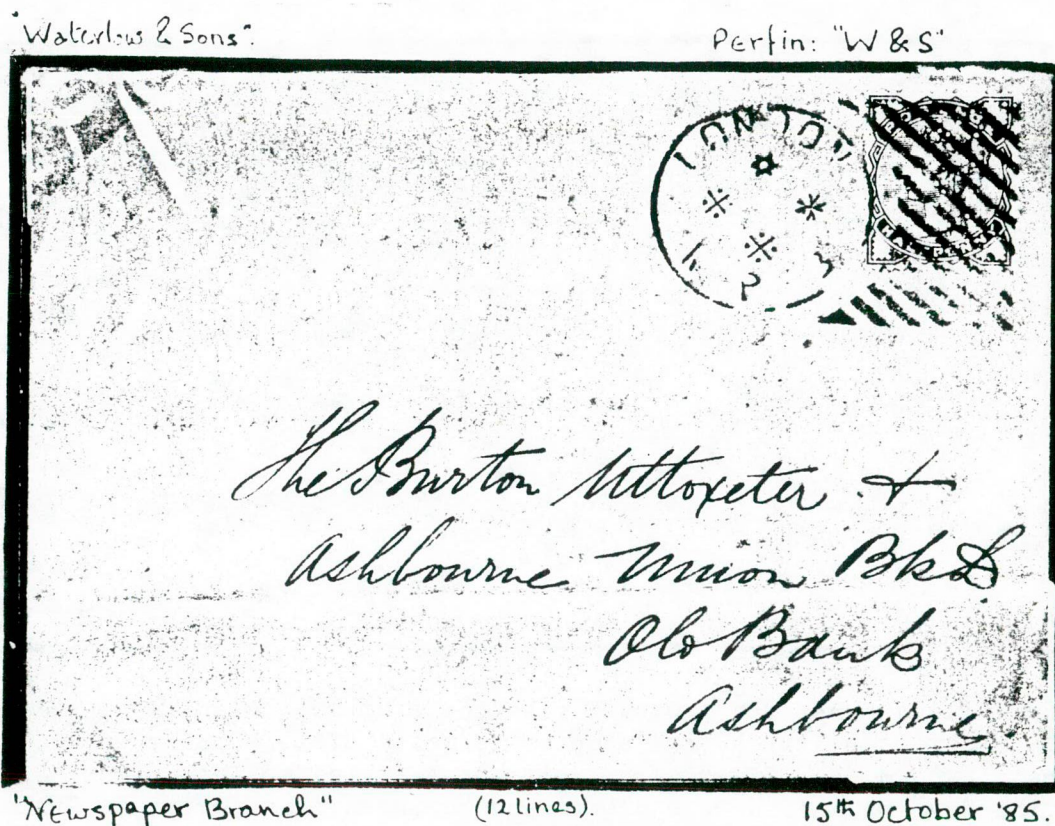
Martin Willcocks has now produced a second example, this time dated 2nd. March 1805. I now understand Derek's cover is dated 21st. February, 1806. As I said before, I would have expected examples to be dated no later than September 1804 when the New Road office was closed and business transferred to Green's End. The evidence of these two appears to show the stamp was used after the office moved.

The examples shown here have been provided by Rev. Tony Potter. They are good, clear copies which, as many readers will know, was far from common with the Hoster. As soon as the machines were speeded up, the rather unpleasant stampings, so often found nowadays, as 'good', were the result.



Dubus type II, Crouch type Ib, was recorded in Notebook No.8 for 3rd. August 1883, in Peach's 'Machine Marks' is illustrated for 3rd. September, 1883. The item here is for 31st. August.

The Newspaper Branch example cancels a halfpenny adhesive with the perfin "W & S"



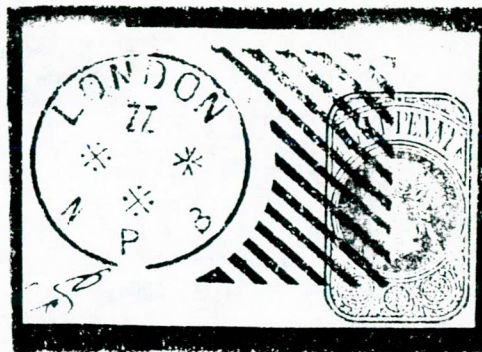
"Newspaper Branch"

(12 lines).

15th October '85.

for Waterlow & Sons and happily carries a backstamp, providing the dating of the 15th. October, 1885. Notebook No.8 generated a dating for 1st. December, 1886, Peach gives no dates other than in the illustrations.

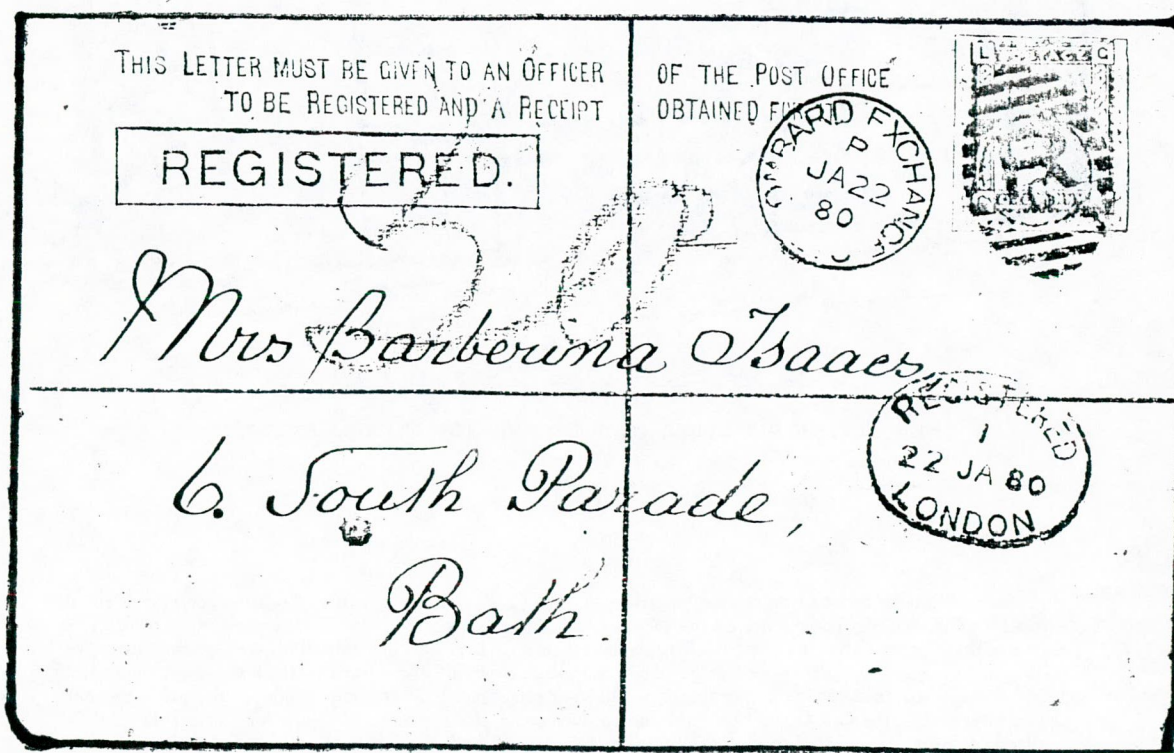
Another undated item, which may well be the only one 'in captivity' is shown here. Instead of the star-like device under London, is the 'ZZ' normally associated with the late, too late, late fee. It is a very fine example, which might indicate early usage.



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

LOMBARD EXCHANGE from Norman Mounsdon

One would have thought the sheer volume of mail would have ensured markings of the



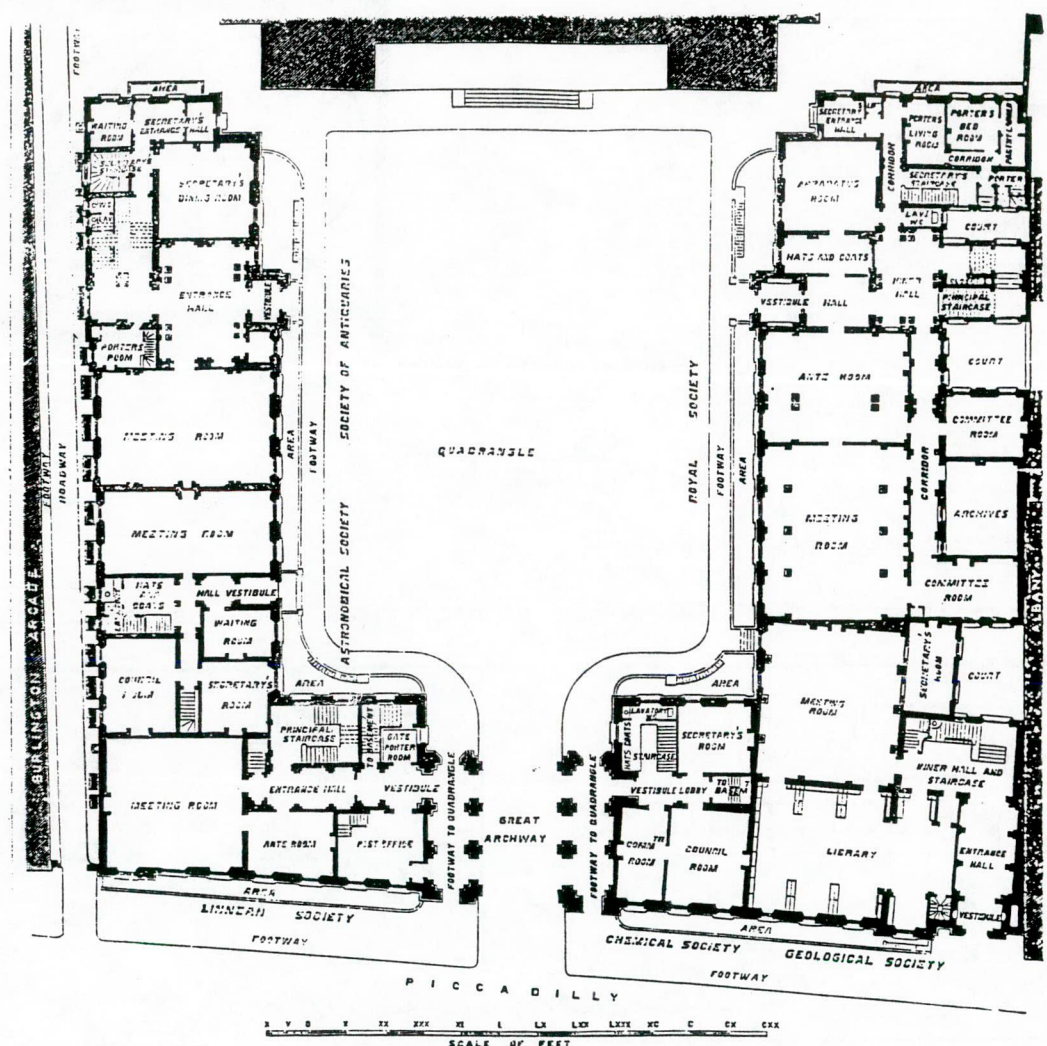
Lombard Exchange should be plentiful but this is not the case. Apart from what I suggest is a very scarce local office mark, is a really fine example of the registration R/6 on an oval of bars. These are so often poor or just on adhesive. MacKay records them as being issued between 1866 and 1880 but does not give a period of use.

Would members let the Editor have a note of their examples which can be dated. I suspect there was no specific duty function but it would be as well to give the various of marks and destination, one never knows!

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

THE LINNEAN SOCIETY

From the March 1988 "Newsletter and Proceedings of The Linnean Society"



NEW BURLINGTON HOUSE: THE HOME OF THE LEARNED SOCIETIES.
Plan of Ground Floor

Fig. 13.

Footnote: When we moved into our new quarters in 1873 part of what is now the Executive Secretary's room was a Post Office designed to serve all the societies in the quadrangle (Fig. 13). Today there is an impressive entrance door immediately on the left of the archway coming in from Piccadilly, with well worn stone steps leading up to it and a V.R. wooden postbox to the right. The Post Office closed in 1904 and from then until 1969 we supplied (unknowingly) electricity to the two telephone boxes on either side of the archway. Mr O'Grady wrote to the G.P.O. in 1970 to try to recover some of the money, but with no success, the G.P.O. even asked to be reconnected to our supply, for which they offered us a nominal payment of £1 per annum! On our refusal they approached the Ministry of Works who at that time supplied the electricity for the quadrangle. As Mr O'Grady commented, it is a pity the Post Office no longer controls the telephones, otherwise we could have asked for a few free sheets of Bicentenary stamps.

N R Woolwich continued from page 88.17

Possible explanations are:

- i. The stamp had only just been issued to the New Road office and so remained in use to save expense.
- ii. New stamps were issued at the time of the move (the Johnson report I quoted previously suggests an hiatus in the service when old stamps could have been lost) and someone wrongly ascribed the title "New Road" to the East Office when ordering the stamps - quite possible as the terms "New Road" and "East Office" seem to have been used synonymously in some earlier minutes.

Can anyone produce a third example before September 1804 ?

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August 1988

THE MERCANTILE PAPERS TO FEATURE IN HARMERS SEPTEMBER 21 GREAT BRITAIN AUCTION

The Mercantile Papers provide a fascinating insight into the early Victorian campaign for postal reform. An extremely vociferous lobby was set in motion by the Mercantile Committee on Postage in 1838. Two years later the goal of Uniform Penny Postage was successfully achieved, almost immediately followed by the birth of the world's first adhesive postage stamp. Assembled by the Committee's Treasurer the Mercantile Papers provide a probably unique opportunity to purchase ephemera that graphically illustrates the fight for cheap postage and an efficient form of prepayment.

The 70 lots comprise pamphlets, letters, many posters, petition notices, meeting reports, Whiting's letter-sheet essay in green, Chalmers stamp essays (4) on sheet, 13 different copies of the extremely rare Committee newspaper "The Post Circular" - No.4 illustrating Chalmers essays (2), No.12 with Whiting's letter-sheet essay in blue, etc. etc.

The sale of the Mercantile Papers provides an outstanding chance to obtain material of enormous interest to the ephemera collector as well as to the postal historian and philatelist. We are pleased to be offering the Papers on behalf of The Postal History Society.

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DATE-STAMPS AND NAME-STAMPS USED OTHERWISE THAN AS CANCELLATIONS FROM 1857
ONWARDS

The following is a reprint of Section F of "The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland" by Alcock and Holland and the kind permission of R.C. Alcock Ltd. for this is gratefully acknowledged.

We have already shown earlier in the book how the use of date-stamps and name stamps continued at dispatching offices after the introduction of postage stamps in May 1840. Incoming letters for delivery direct from a Head Office or from one of its sub-offices were also date-stamped at the Head Office. For a considerable period it was the practice for letters to be given a date-stamp also at any intermediate office at which they were handled.

On letters prepaid in money, an ordinary date-stamp accompanied the written or stamped amount of the fee paid when a dispatching office did not employ a special dated paid stamp. The treatment of these letters prepaid in money was the same at the delivery and intermediate offices as that of those prepaid by postage stamps.

In the 1840s the name-stamps of the smaller offices and the date-stamps of the larger offices appear in many cases on the back of letters and covers. Frequently, however, the delivery date-stamp is found on the front of the letter. In the 1850s the introduction of the duplex and the double stamps did away with the necessity for a separate date-stamp to be impressed on the back of the letters when the postage stamps were cancelled. Name-stamps and date-stamps of delivery offices were continued and usually appear on the back of the envelopes, but after a time the custom of impressing a date-stamp at intermediate offices was discontinued. Even when the various kinds of combined date and obliterator stamps were introduced, delivery office date-stamps were still employed. In fact their use seems to have been general until the end of the nineteenth century, after which in the first decade of this century they were sometimes omitted. Their omission gradually spread, and just before the Great War letters were seldom date-stamped at the delivery offices. There has been no subsequent revival of the practice.

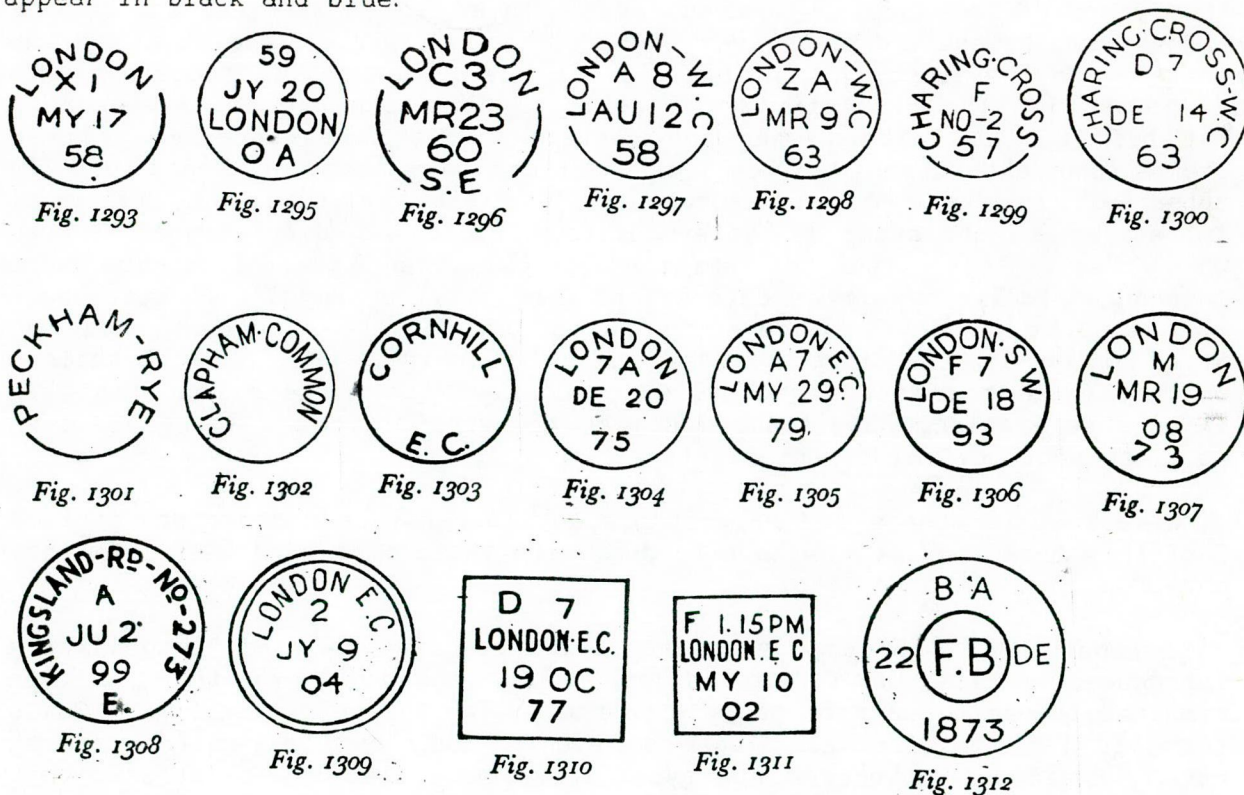
The early date-stamps and name-stamps have already been described in Part I of this book, and we now have to deal with those that were used from 1857 onwards.

(1) *London.* In 1857 improved date-stamps bearing the word "London" were introduced at the G.P.O. in London, though survivals of the old type remained in use for a time along with them. The type shown in Fig. 1293 is found in various sizes in black for evening duty and in red for morning duty. Besides this broken arc type, there were also new circular stamps (Figs. 1294 and 1295). The type shown in Fig. 1294 was normally employed in blue for evening duty and in red for morning duty, but we have seen specimens also in black and in violet. There is also a variety with the month on the right instead of on the left. For a time there was a special variety for midday duty with the year at the top (Fig. 1295). This we have seen in red only. As the earlier midday type with the crown above the date

occurs with dates of 1858, it is possible that the new midday type appeared later than the types shown in Figs. 1293 and 1294.

Broken arc date-stamps similar to Fig. 1293 were introduced at the hEad District Offices in 1857. There are variations in size and the District initials sometimes follow the word "London" and sometimes break the arc at the foot (Figs. 1296 and 1297). We have seen some stamps with "London EC" at the top and a distinguishing letter breaking the arc. There were also single circle date-stamps for these offices. In these stamps, the word "London" and the District initials are placed in a curve at the top instead of in a straight line across the stamp as in type shown on Fig. 1294. Fig. 1298 illustrates the single circle type with District initials. We have seen these early Head District Office stamps in red only.

The same alterations were made in 1857 in the stamps of the Branch Offices and sub-offices. Broken arc and single circle stamps were issued to these offices, those of the Branch Offices being dated (Figs. 1299 and 1300) and those of the sub-offices at first undated (Figs. 1301 to 1303). In some of the single circle sub-office stamps, the name is given across the circle instead of round it as in Fig. 1302. After 1859 the date appeared in all stamps that remained in use in London or the provinces. We have seen the Branch Office stamps in black and red, while those of the sub-offices appear in black and blue.



This reprint is the original, uncorrected version. Members will appreciate A & H have themselves published further information and the pages of both "Notebook" and the "Handbook" cover some parts in considerable depth. We look forward to a comprehensive display from members at the September meeting.
