

**LONDON'S POSTAL HISTORY .....SECTION B**  
**STAMPS OF THE GENERAL POST BRANCH OFFICES**  
**1829 - 1857**

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Page 2	Introduction
	Notes on the tables which follow the illustrations
	The Illustrations
	Rarity and Price
3	Rarity Codes Used
4	Lombard Street
8	Charing Cross
10	The "Standard Series" for Lombard Street & Charing Cross
11	.....Lombard Street
12	.....Charing Cross
13	Borough
14	Vere Street and Old Cavendish Street
16	Associated Marks
	(i) The Franking System
	(ii) Examiners' and Inspectors'
	(a) The Capital Letter "A"
17	(b) The "A B C" Marks
18	(iii) Double-arc Date Stamps
	(iv) The "Cresswell" Date Stamps
19	(v) Initial Stamps of the District Post
	GPO Paid Stamp

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## LONDON'S POSTAL HISTORY

### STAMPS OF THE GENERAL POST BRANCH OFFICES

#### Introduction

The Branch Offices were established after the opening of the "new" General Post Office at St. Martin's-le-Grand on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1829. The "old" Office had been located in Lombard Street since 1678.

The stamps used at the Branch Offices were, with one exception, all based upon the shape of the Maltese Cross. They were both **Paid** and **Unpaid** varieties. In all cases, initials were used to indicate the name of the office and the date was always included. As a result of the date stamping being done at the Branch Offices, time was saved when letters they processed were received at the Chief Office.

With the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage, no alterations were made in the stamps of the Branch Offices. **Unpaid** types were used not only on unpaid letters but as date stamps on letters prepaid by adhesive postage stamps and postal stationery. No obliterating appears to have been done at Branch Offices.

The "**Maltese Cross**" date stamps of the Branch Offices continued in use until the division of London into ten districts, which was introduced in December 1856 and carried out during 1857 and 1858. However, few examples are known with 1858 dates.

#### Notes on the tables which follow the illustrations

The tables following the illustrations from each Branch Office are, hopefully, self-explanatory. The "**Date When Sent**", "**Date of Impression**" and "**Official Remarks**" are as recorded in the various volumes of "**Post Office Date Stamp Impressions (Steel)**". The recorded varieties of colour and periods of use are the results of a questionnaire sent out with *Notebook No. 29*, subsequent investigations and reported discoveries from L.P.H.G. members and other collectors.

A dash ( - ) in the "Rarity Code" column indicates the stamp was not included in the initial survey results: it is possible examples were included as very similar types.

A Cross ( + ) in the "Notes" column denotes information can be found following the end of the main table.

The abbreviation "S \_ T" under "Notes" indicates the possibility of a number of SubTypes recorded within the "Periods of Use".

Sometimes a reported date fell well outside the general period. This could be due to either an error by the reporter or the use of an old stamp by a postal clerk. To avoid confusion, such "rogue" dates have been omitted.

There is sometimes a concentration of reported dates within a much wider time span. Under "Notes" the letter "M" followed by a year indicates this. Thus, M. 1847 = majority recorded for 1847.

#### The Illustrations

The number system comprises two parts. The **letters** indicate the name of the office. Numbers below **100** have been used for **unpaid** stamps; number **100** upwards for the **paid** stamps.

#### Rarity and Price

To assess the value of an item by merely attributing a rarity code based on the numbers recorded would be unwise. Because few copies of a particular stamp have been recorded thus far does not, of necessity, make it a valuable item.

As already noted, it is possible a number of subtypes have been included within the range of a particular stamp. If every minor variety were recorded it would have a two fold effect :

- (a) to deter collectors from reporting "finds" by making the operation difficult and time consuming and
- (b) to produce types with a very high "rarity code" but of little collectable value.

New types reported in the initial survey, e.g. single copy only, require a dash ( - ) in the rarity column, see paragraph three of the above notes.



**Rarity Codes Used** - see Appendix "A" to "London's Postal History"

Code	Description	£ Price
A	Common	2
B	Average	3
C	Not easy to find	5
D	Difficult	7
E	Scarce	10
F	Rare	15
G	Very rare	20
H	Very few reported	30
GPO	Proof Book entry only	-

'Price' reflects the suggested cost of a clean item without other significant marks, adhesives, destination or other factors.

We wish to record our appreciation to Post Office Records  
for their kind permission to reproduce abstracts from the  
Proof Impression Books and the staff for their assistance.



# LOMBARD STREET

Initials L.S.

According to Post Office Records, the first date stamp was issued on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 1829, the day the General Post Office opened at the St. Martin's-le-Grand premises.

The early stamps were struck in blue ink but this soon gave way to red. However, at Lombard Street black ink replaced red for the **unpaid** stamps during 1834 and became the normal colour for the single outline stamps until the 1850's, when red ink came back into favour. The large double outline stamps always appear in red.

A second Foreign Branch Office was apparently established in London at Lombard Street between 1850 - 60. From an analysis of the material examined it appears LS 11 was used by the department handling foreign mail during what may have been a trial period. A number of covers to the continent have been recorded during the early 1850's bearing LS 11 in black. The use of red ink for this stamp seems to have been reserved for internal mail. A special stamp for foreign mail had the initials F.U. This stamp, LS 18, has not been recorded in use before 1855.

There are a few stamps belonging to Lombard Street with unexplained codes. Code B3 (LS 12); code B7 (LS 17) and code O (LS 20). Due to the scarcity of covers carrying codes "B7" and "O" it has not been possible to put forward theories as to their function. Examples of "B3", although more plentiful, give no clue for its use ; possibly a special sorting code ?

When London was divided into ten districts, Lombard Street became a Branch of the East Central District Office.

<u>Branch Office Ref</u>	<u>Date When Sent</u>	<u>Date of Impression</u>	<u>Official Remarks</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Recorded of From</u>	<u>Period Use To</u>	<u>Rarity Code</u>	<u>Notes</u>
LS 1	23. 9.29	12. 8.29		Blue	26. 9.29	30. 5.31	B	
				Red	28. 7.31	18.12.32	C	
LS 2				Blue	12. 1.30	16. 1.30	F	
				Red	5. 1.32		F	
LS 3	28.11.32	2.11.32		Black	4. 7.42		-	*
LS 3A				Red	3.12.32	13.12.33	D	
LS 4				Black	3. 1.34	12. 8.53	A	S-T M.1834-45
LS 5				Black	29. 5.39	9.11.52	A	S-T M.1848-52
LS 6				Red	16. 9.41	10. 3.42	-	Similar to CX 9
				Black	26. 5.42	15.11.42	-	
LS 7	21. 9.42	21. 9.42	Additional	Red	9.11.42	12. 2.56	A	M.1844-50
	21. 2.50	21. 2. 50	Recut (sans serif date)					
LS 8				Black	23. 9.44	11.11.52	A	M.1846-47
LS 9				Black	5. 7.47	26. 2.57	A	S-T M.1853-57
LS 9A				Red	14. 1. 56	13.12.56	E	
LS 10				Black	15.12.48		-	
LS 11	5. 2.49	5. 2.49		Black	5.10.49	6.10.53	B	*
	7. 9.55	8. 9.55	Recut	Red	21. 5.49	8. 8.57	B	
LS 12	21. 1.50	21. 1.50	New	Red	16. 9.50	5. 9.57	D	
	7. 9.55	8. 9.55	Recut					
LS 13	23. 1.50	23. 1.50	New	Red	28. 5.50	23. 6.55	B	Inner points distinctly rounded
	7. 9.55	8. 9.55	Recut					
LS 14	-	20. 7.55		Red	30. 4.51	9. 3.57	C	
LS 15				Black	27. 8.53	13. 2.55	-	
LS 16				Black	2. 3.53	27.10.55	A	
LS 17	15.12.55	18.12.55	L(ombar)d S(tree)t in the .....?..... Off(ice)	Red	9.10.57	25. 3.58	G	see illustration page 6
LS 18				Black	19.11.55	8. 1.58	C	*
LS 18A				Black	5. 9.57	26.7.58		
LS 19				Black	20. 4.57	6. 7.57	B	
				Red	8. 6.57	30. 6.57		
LS 20				Red	17.11.57	22. 2.58	G	*

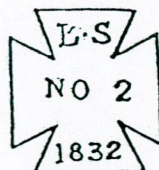




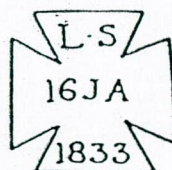
LS 1



LS 2



LS 3



LS3A



LS 4



LS 5



LS 6



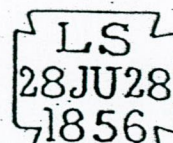
LS 7



LS7A



LS 8



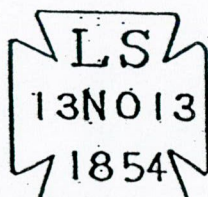
LS 9



LS9A



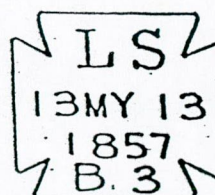
LS10



LS11



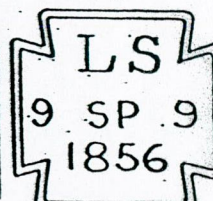
LS11A



LS12



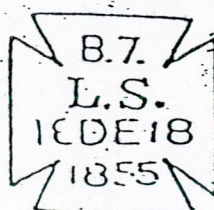
LS13

~~LS14~~ LS14

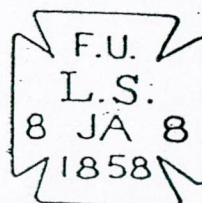
LS15



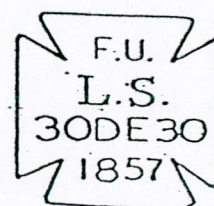
LS16



LS17



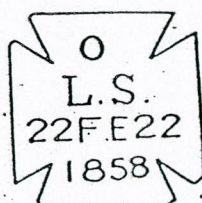
LS18



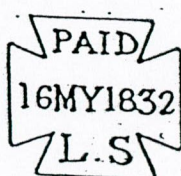
LS18A



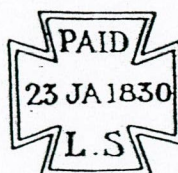
LS19



LS20



LS100



LS100A



LS101A



LS102



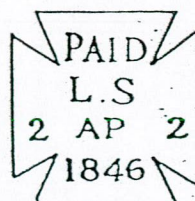
LS103



LS104



LS105



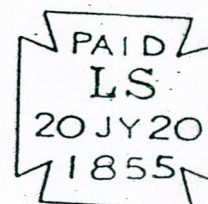
LS106



LS107



LS108



LS108A







Notes on Lombard Street Stamps

- LS 3 Impression copied from Post Office Proof Impression Books. No doubt the same stamps as LS 3A but with date plugs transposed.  
The 1842 recording in black requires verification.  
Month abbreviated **MA** signifies March
- LS 11 Refer to Lombard Street notes on page 4.
- LS 11A Variant - as LS 11 but year placed higher (1855 - 1857)
- LS 17 Refer to copy extract from Proof Impression Book : comment on the illegible ..?.. office would be appreciated.
- LS 18 Refer to Lombard Street notes on page 4.
- LS 18A No doubt the same stamp as LS 18 but with the outer points on the south east corner flattened, presumably damaged at some time.
- LS 20 Points on south east corner flattened as type LS 18A.  
An example reported was used on internal mail of no apparent significance.
- LS 100 On the original list reference was made to a double frame variety. An example has been reported; it has been included in as LS 100A in the table.
- LS 102 On the original list two sub types were included  
(i) one with stops after L.S. , the only recorded example of which has been reclassified as type LS 106  
(ii) the double frame variety, now shown as LS 107.
- LS 105 Similar stamps for Charing Cross (CX 102) and Vere Street (VS 103); all three dated 23.6.38.
- LS 107 This double frame stamps, with CX 103, was not included in the original questionnaire list. Both appear to be rather scarce.



**CHARING CROSS**  
Initials CHX, CX or C+

A date stamp in the Maltese Cross design was first recorded in the Proof Impression Books as issued for use at Charing Cross on the 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1830, although the illustration used here, which appeared in the 1940 Alcock & Holland publication *"The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland"*, shows 9 NO 1829.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1833 a circular stamp was issued with the year at the top, day month day, across the centre and CX below. From the small numbers recorded its use does not appear to extend beyond 1833. From August a similar stamp is noted but with C+. It is believed this circular stamp was an experimental type not considered sufficiently distinctive and was, therefore, not brought into use at other Branch Offices.

Another type peculiar to Charing Cross was of the Maltese Cross design but the two vertical sides were curved, CX 14. This stamp can be found in both red and black: the use of black ink at Charing Cross was restricted to this type. Examples on cover suggest some specialised duty but the lack of material in quantity prevents any definite conclusions.

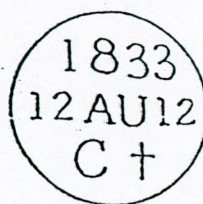
When London was divided into ten Districts, Charing Cross became a Branch of the West Central District Office.



CX1



CX2



CX2A



CX3



CX4



CX5



CX6



CX7



CX8



CX9



CX10



CX11



CX12



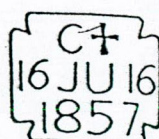
CX13



CX14



CX15



CX16



CX17



CX18

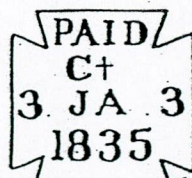




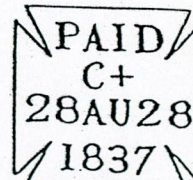
CX100



CX101



CX 101A



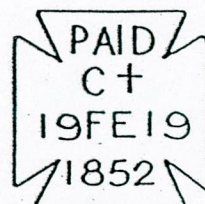
CX 101B



CX 102



CX103



CX104

Branch Office Ref	Date When Sent	Date of Impression	Official Remarks	Colour	Recorded of From	Period Use To	Rarity Code	Notes
CX 1	25. 1.30	22. 1.30		Blue	24.10.29	30.10.30	D	
				Red	23. 3.30	25.11.33	C	M.1831-33 *
CX 2	3. 5.33	3. 5.33		Red	1. 6.33	13. 7.33	G	*
CX 2A				Red	12. 8.33	11.12.33	G	
CX 3				Red	4. 1.34	25. 8.37	C	
CX 4				Red	13.10.37	5.10.38	-	*
CX 5	12. 3.36	12. 3.36	Second stamp to be used on & from 12. 3.36	Red	14. 7.36	25. 7.38	E	
CX 6				Red	14.11.37	30.12.39	E	M. 1839
CX 7				Red	6. 8.3(9)	2. 5.42	-	*
CX 8	12. 3.42		Old stamp addl. new figures	Red	3. 1.45	9. 7.46	D	*
CX 9				Red	23. 6.42	27.10.42	-	Similar to LS 6
CX 10				Red	10.10.43	5. 4.48	C	
CX 11				Red	19. 3.45	28. 1.54	B	S-T M. 1849-51
CX 12				Red	5. 4.46	20.10.48	B	
CX 13				Red	26. 1.49	2. 8.50	B	
CX 14	21. 2.50	21. 2.50	New	Red	23. 2.50	1. 5.58	E	*
				Black	22. 7.51	18. 6.57	E	
CX 15				Red	16.11.52	31.10.56	B	S-T
CX 16				Red	7.12.54	27. 6.57	B	M. 1857
CX 17				Red	7. 3.55	21. 1.57	-	
CX 18				Red	26. 9.56		-	
<b>THE PAID STAMPS</b>								
CX 100	25. 1.30	22. 1.30		Red	18.12.29	28.11.33	E	*
				Blue	5.11.30		-	*
CX 101				Red	30. 1.34	27. 5.37	E	S-T *
CX 101A				Red	3. 1.35	-12.35		
CX 101B					28. 8.37			
CX 102	-	23. 6.38		Red	1. 8.38	11. 6.47	C	
	22.12.43	18.12.44	Repaired (Wrong Year given)					
	14. 2. 45	4. 2.45	New figures					
CX 103	5.2.40	3.2.40						
	-	29.10.40	Repaired	Red	31. 5.41	8.10.45	-	*
			New figures 1 JAN 1843					
	10. 1.45	4.1.45	New figures					
CX 104	25.10.49			Red	19. 7.50	22. 2.56	D	*
	1.11.49							



### Notes on Charing Cross Stamps

- CX 1 Not to be confused with CX 8 which was used at a later period, generally with the day after the month. Four copies in BLUE recorded before "Date When Sent" !!
- CX 2 Refer to the notes on the Charing Cross Branch Office page 8.
- CX 4 Sides appear slightly curved.
- CX 7 Originally illustrated in *Notebook* as two distinct types. In one the year was wrongly identified as 1830, now shown to be 1839. The second variety was shown as a bulge on the right hand side, now thought to be due to either wear or application on an uneven surface causing distortion.
- CX 8 See notes on CX 1.
- CX 14 Refer to notes on the Charing Cross Branch page 8.
- CX 100 No doubt the example recorded in blue was a case of the wrong ink pad being used  
March abbreviated MA.
- CX 101 A single example reported with a double frame required verification: possibly type CX 103.
- CX 102 See note under LS 105  
The date of the Proof Book Impression record of the repaired stamp was 81 DE 18 1844.
- CX 103 See note against LS 107.
- CX 104 On the original list reference was made to a double frame type. To date no example has been recorded.

### THE "STANDARD SERIES" FOR LOMBARD STREET AND CHARING CROSS

It has been observed that, during the period 1834 - 1857, certain date stamps of Lombard Street and Charing Cross have similar features: it is interesting to note no record of issue dates for these can be found in Post Office Records.








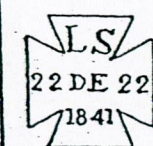






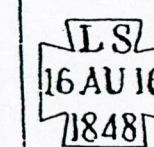

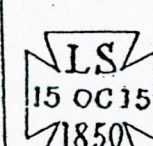





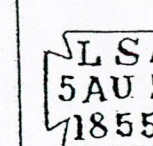
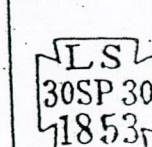
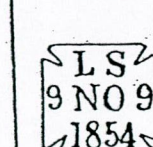

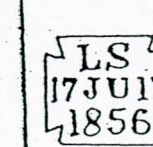

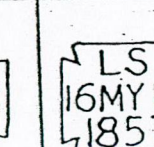
As insufficient examples were available during the initial study, it was not possible to categorize them as such. However, an extensive study of many examples has allowed Roy Hawkins to formulate a 'Standard Series' for the marks in question and he has kindly permitted the reproduction of his tables, which clearly illustrate the progression of styles in the years 1834 - 1857.

It will be obvious certain 'periods of use' records may be inaccurate as the original questionnaire did not include the variants and collectors' return of dates could have covered several subtypes. However, additional research has corrected much of this. Nevertheless, it would be useful to refer to the 'Standard Series' illustrations provided by Roy Hawkins.



# STANDARD SERIES : THE UNPAID MARKS OF LOMBARD STREET

Some authorities contend the type in the 'Standard Series' of unpaid date stamps was fixed, that is, a different stamp was used each day and, because of this, there are noticeable differences in form and size of frame from day to day. L.P.H.G. question the use of a different daily stamp and the conclusion Given the volume of mail handled we believe the variation reported is the result of there being several stamps used daily by each office. However, it is clear the design of the stamps underwent progressive changes from year to year between 1834 and 1857. Distinct stages in this evolution have been identified as variants: the demarcation between some subtypes, particularly E and F, is not always obvious. Changes are illustrated below.

TYPE A						
TYPE B						
TYPE C						
TYPE D						
TYPE E						
TYPES F, G						

SANS-SERIF

Reduced to 80% of original



# STANDARD SERIES : THE UNPAID MARKS OF CHARING CROSS

Some authorities contend the type in the 'Standard Series' of unpaid date stamps was fixed, that is, a different stamp was used each day and, because of this, there are noticeable differences in form and size of frame from day to day. L.P.H.G. question the use of a different daily stamp and the conclusion Given the volume of mail handled we believe the variation reported is the result of there being several stamps used daily by each office. However, it is clear the design of the stamps underwent progressive changes from year to year between 1834 and 1857. Distinct stages in this evolution have been identified as variants: the demarcation between some subtypes, particularly E and F, is not always obvious. Changes are illustrated below.

TYPE A						
TYPE B						
TYPE C						
TYPE D						
TYPE E						
TYPES F, G						

SANS-SERIF

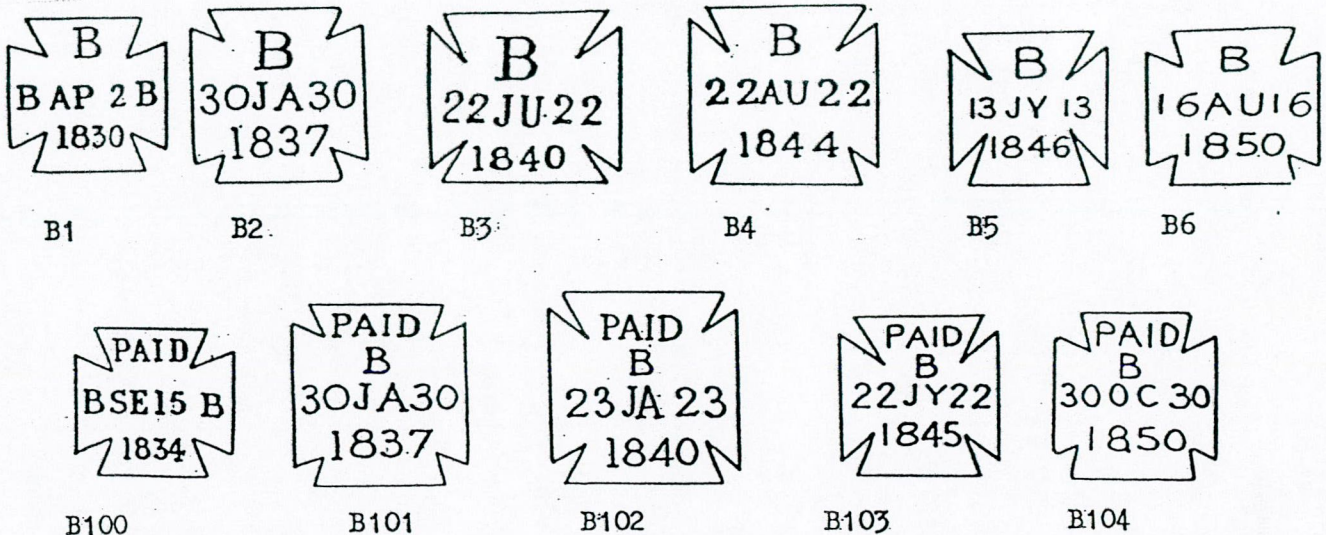
Reduced to 80% of original



**BOROUGH (in Southwark)**  
Initial B

The Borough Office was issued with a date stamp on 4<sup>th</sup> February, 1830. The first type can be found in blue with subsequent types in red, although black is occasionally found and, strangely, green has been noted under a particular type. The few examples recorded in black give no indication of specialised duty. As with the use of green ink, their use is no doubt irregular.

During March 1857 the office at 170, High Street, Southwark became the South Eastern District Office.



Branch Office Ref	Date When Sent	Date of Impression	Official Remarks	Colour	Recorded of From	Period Use To	Rarity Code	Notes
B 1	4. 2.30	1. 1.30		Blue	2. 4.30	25.10.30	E	
B 2				Green	5. 1.36	12. 7.32	F	day before month
				Black	1. 5.35	18.12.37	D	*
B 3	23 .6.38	24.12.41	Repaired on 6.1.42	Red	30.11.39	25 .2.43	E	reported, not recorded
				Green	11. 4.39	9. 5.39	E	
			Repaired on 25.2.43					
B 4	24.12.41	24.12.41		Red	28.12.43	22 .8.44	D	
B 5	22 .2.45	23 .2.45	Two new stamps (other being type B 103)	Red	27 .9.45	25. 4.49	D	
B 6	23. 1.50	23.1.50	New	Red	5. 6.50	29.11.51	D	
				Black	4. 4.51	1. 7.56	D	
<b>THE PAID STAMPS</b>								
B 100	4. 2.30	1. 1.30		Red	15. 9.34		-	
B 101				Red	23 .8.36	1. 3.38	-	
B 102		23 .6.38		Red	10.11.38	28.11.43	E	
B 103	22 .2.45	23 .2.45	Two new stamps - see B 5	Red	5. 4.45	22. 1.49	E	
B 104	23. 1.50	23 .1.50	New	Red	25. 9.50	30.10.50	F	

Notes on Borough Stamps

B2 - Reported in Yellow ink 1.10.35



**VERE STREET** and **OLD CAVENDISH STREET**  
Initials V.S.                      Initials O.C.S.

Vere Street was issued with a stamp on the same day as that issued to Charing Cross, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1830. However, from evidence of at least one report (*Notebook No. 132*), a stamp was in use by at least the 4<sup>th</sup> December 1829. Vere Street followed the pattern of the other Branches, with early stamps struck in the usual blue.

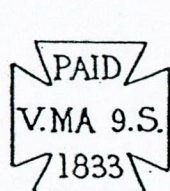
During 1842 Vere Street was superseded by an office in Old Cavendish Street, the latest recorded Vere Street stamp being dated 30<sup>th</sup> November, 1842. The first record in the proof impression books of a stamp issue to Old Cavendish Street is on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1842. Although the use of Vere Street as a Branch Office ceased with the introduction of the Old Cavendish Street Branch Office, Vere Street continued to be used for postal purposes. A circular date stamp "Vere Street W.D.O." is known on a registered cover in 1863. Of interest is the use of the W.D.O. designation (Western District Office) as these initials were also included in a circular date stamp of Old Cavendish Street issued in 1857<sup>1</sup>. In 1857 Old Cavendish Street became the Western District Office; presumably the premises in Vere Street were used as a branch of that office.



VS1

VS2

VS3



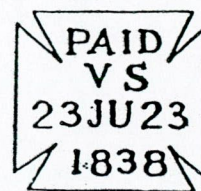
VS100



VS101



VS102



VS103

<b>Branch</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Date of</b>	<b>Official</b>	<b>Colour</b>	<b>Recorded</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Rarity</b>	<b>Notes</b>
<b>Office</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Impression</b>	<b>Remarks</b>		<b>of</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Code</b>	
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Sent</b>				<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>		
VS 1	25. 1.30	22. 1.30		Blue	4.12.29	21. 3.32	E	
				Red	9. 8.32	22. 2.34	D	
VS 2				Red	18. 4.35	12.10.36	E	
VS 3	1838	23. 6.38		Red	28. 1.37	30.11.42	E	
<b>THE PAID STAMPS</b>								
VS 100	25. 1.30	22. 1.30		Red	8. 2.30	3. 4.34	F	
VS 101				Red	19.11.35	6. 6.36	F	
VS 102			<i>DATES??</i>	Red			-	
VS 103		23. 6.38		Red	19. 2.39	20.10.41	-	*

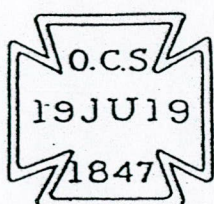
Notes on Vere Street Stamps

VS 3 \  
VS 103

Height of 'V S' varies 4 - 5 mm.  
See note under LS 105

<sup>1</sup> "Postal Cancellations of London" Westley, page 88: single arc date stamp

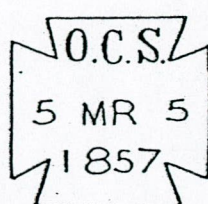




OCS 1



OCS2



OCS3



OCS100

Branch Office Ref	Date When Sent	Date of Impression	Official Remarks	Colour Recorded of From	Period Use To	Rarity Code	Notes
OCS 1	21. 9.42	21. 9.42	Additional	Red Black	26. 1.43 8. 3.52	21. 9.53 -	C M. 1843-51
OCS 2	15. 6.52	15 .6.52		Red Black	12. 2.54 25.11.52	17.10.56 26. 4.55	D -
OCS 3	Feb 1854	14. 2.54		Red	5. 8.54	5. 3.57	E
<b>THE PAID STAMPS</b>							
OCS 100	30.11.42		New - additional	Red	28. 7.43	2. 9.47	E



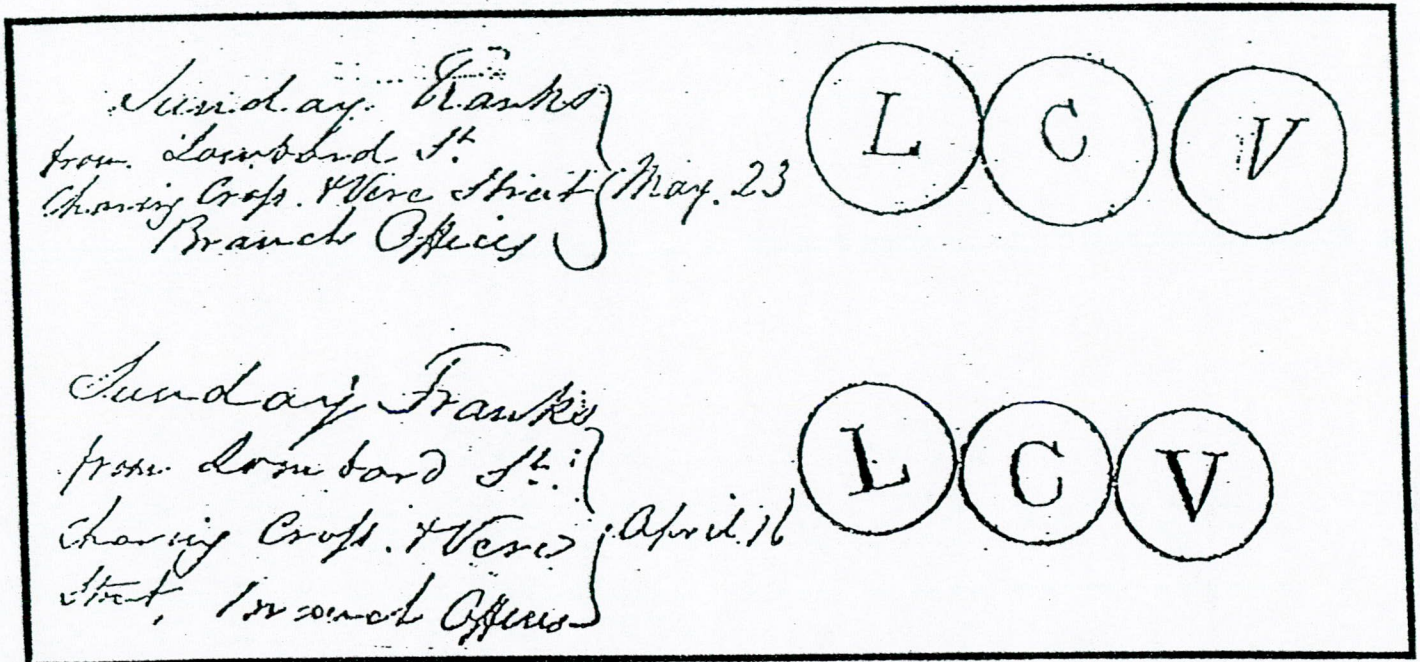
### ASSOCIATED MARKS

#### (i) Stamps Connected With The Franking System

From 1835 to the late 1840s, franked letters posted on Sunday at the Branch Offices of Charing Cross, Vere Street and Lombard Street were stamped with a C, V, or L within a circular frame. The mail was then sent to the Chief Office, where the Sunday stamps were applied.

Before one can speak of "known periods of use", other than in the general terms mentioned above, much more material requires recording: a rarity classification carries the same restriction.

An extract from the Proof Impression Books, Volume 2, page 130, dated 1835, is shown below:



#### (ii) Examiners' and Inspectors' Marks

(a) The Capital Letter "A" is recorded in the Proof Impressions Books, thus :

To what Place	Date when sent	Stamps
Charing Cross new House for } Others dispatched before 8. A. M.	1846 16 Sept	<b>A</b>

Examples on cover appear, generally, on the address side, with a Charing Cross date stamp, of the Maltese Cross design, on the reverse. Both are struck in the same red ink. Needless to add, at least one, from 1851, is known on the reverse.

In common with many other Inspectors' marks, examples are not easily found and a definitive period of use is, therefore, difficult to establish.



(b) The A. B. C. Marks

As with the capital "A", the examples recorded thus far have been in the same colour as the associated Branch Office date stamps. Again scarcity prevents conclusions as to the precise function of these marks. The range, as recorded in the various Steel Stamp Proof Impression Books, is shown below :

Issued To	Date When Sent	Stamps	Vol.No.
Charing Cross Stamp altered	21 Dec 1844	<i>B</i>	7
No name, date or comment	but page date of June 1853	<i>a B</i> <i>a</i> <i>B</i> <i>a B</i>	11
Old Cavendish Street	8 Nov 1857 (as written but all date stamps on the page are for 1856)	<i>1 B</i>	13
Borough	19 Dec 1856	<i>C</i>	13
Old Cavendish Street	19 Dec. 1856	<i>C</i>	13
Charing Cross	14 Jan 1857	<i>C</i>	13

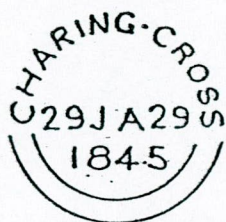
From some recent recordings, it appears a mixture of the A B C marks were used at the various offices:

- "a" - Vere Street, with VS 3 - 29. 1.42
- "a" - Borough B4 - 22.12.43
- "a" - Old Cavendish Street, with OCS 1 - 10. 3.46 & 12. 4.43
- "b" - Old Cavendish Street, with OCS 2 - 12.7.54 15. 8. 54
- "b" - Lombard St. - LS 9A - 7. 3.55
- "c" - Lombard Street, with LS 12 - 12.10.55; 5.11.56; 23. 9.57 & 6.11.57
- "c" - Lombard Street, with LS 108A - 12.12.57



### (iii) Double-arc Date Stamps

The double-arc date stamps, normally associated with Provincial Head Offices of Great Britain and Ireland, are known from several London offices, including the Branch Offices. Examples of these Branch Office stamps found in the steel proof impression books record their use for **Money Order** business, therefore, use on normal mail must be considered irregular. For this reason, the rarity coding has to be **Z** or **ZZ**. For convenience, space is provided to record any discovered in use.



DA1



DA2



DA3



DA4

Branch Office Ref	Date When Sent	Official Remarks	Colour	Recorded of From	Period Use To	Notes
DA 1	29. 1.45	New. For Money Order business		4. 8.55	27. 4.57	
DA 2	27.10.45	New. For Money Orders		25. 7.53	7.12.59	
DA 3	20. 4..46	New. Money Orders				
DA 4	22. 5.45	New stamp for Money Order Office				
<b>Date of Impressions</b>						
DA 3	30. 4.51	M.O.O.				
DA 4	10. 2.58	For Money Orders				written at side of date stamp see Westley, p.82

### (iv) The Cresswell Date Stamps

Lombard Street and Charing Cross used single-arc date stamps of the types known to collectors as "Creswells", during 1857-58.

Charing Cross - Examples recorded during the period August 1857 to September 1858.  
All are in red and have a single code letter.

Lombard Street - Examples recorded during the period July to September 1857.  
The majority have been recorded in black, with just one in blue, this latter colour being used for evening duty in other offices using the Cresswell stamping apparatus.  
Codes comprise two letters, the first being either A or B.

It is expected further recording will produce date extensions, other colours and codes.





(v) Office Initial Stamps of the London District Post

A number of stamps with just the initial letters or abbreviations were issued to several offices throughout London. These were primarily employed as a result of a letter being misdirected and applied to confirm routing through a particular office or offices.

Such stamps are known for Charing Cross and Old Cavendish Street. The following details have been taken from *Notebook No. 132* :

O.C.S.

7

CX

12

CX

13

Fig.	Initials		Office	Colour	Recorded of From	Period Use To
7	O.C.S	serif	Old Cavendish Street	Black	17. 1.55	28. 6.56
	O.C.S	sans-serif	Old Cavendish Street	Black	2. 6.56	
12	CX		Charing Cross	Black	12.11.50	26. 5.55
13	CX		Charing Cross	Black	15.12.45	25. 1.48

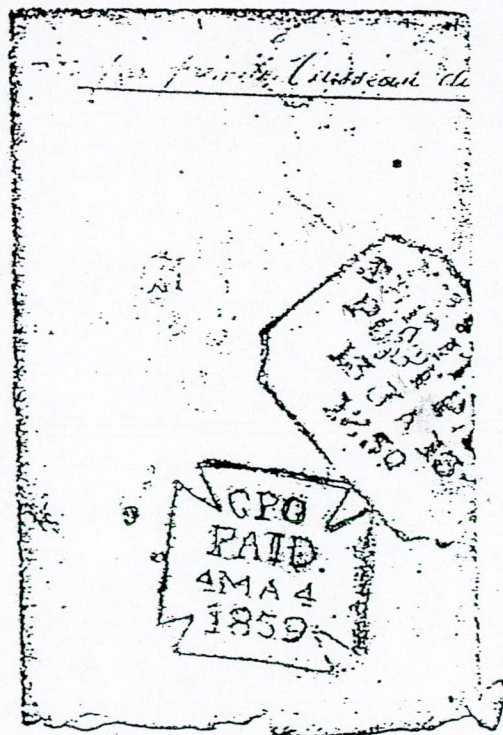
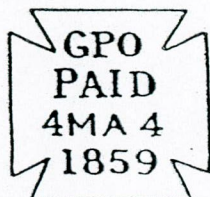
GPO PAID STAMP

ex *Notebook 46* by Norman Mounsdon

The piece illustrated is further evidence there are still stamps to be found. It carries the Post Paid Madras Ship Letter stamp of 13<sup>th</sup> January 1859 and a GPO PAID for 4<sup>th</sup> March 1859, which is about the right time for a fast run from India to England. The manuscript endorsement across the top reads "*par premier Voisseau de...*"

There appears to be no record of such a stamp in London for 1859, though readers will readily recognise the likeness to the Branch Office stamps format. It might be an Indian mark but why the great delay ? The loss of all but this small portion of the original is to be deplored, since it is quite likely the answer to the riddle appeared elsewhere on the cover.

Has a reader another example; perhaps a member of the India Study Circle could throw some light, should that country be the source ?



The only Branch Office paid stamp with the initials above "PAID" with a single outline frame is OCS 100 of Old Cavendish Street. The size and layout are very similar.



### Evaluation of Recorded Branch Office Date Stamps

The percentages of the total number of stamps for each office can be very misleading when assessing value since there are some date stamps within a high percentage group which are extremely scarce. One must, therefore, look to the rarity code as a guide to the status of a particular type. However, these percentages *of surviving material* do indicate the busiest of the Branch Offices was undoubtedly Lombard Street, with Charing Cross next.

Lombard Street	61%
Charing Cross	23%
Borough	5%
Vere Street	5%
Old Cavendish Street	6%

### Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to all those who filled in the original questionnaire and those who have submitted copies and continued to report their findings. The interest shown has been encouraging, for without the help of other collectors, this exercise would not have been possible. No doubt the publication of this revised edition will bring to light further reports of new stamps, date extensions and new colours. Please to not hesitate to forward any information to the London Postal History group who will be delighted to record your findings in the pages of the magazine *Notebook*.

The assistance of Roy Hawkins and his kind permission to reproduce his material on the "Standard series" of Lombard Street and Charing Cross.

Particular thanks to Post office Archives for permission to reproduce extracts from the Proof Impression Books and for the facilities for research they freely provide.

### Bibliography

Post office Archives : The Proof Impression Books

Alcock and Holland : The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland (1940)

J.W. Lovegrove: Herewith My Frank.....

H.C. Westley: The Postal Cancellations of London 1840 - 1900

R. Hawkins: Date Stamps of the General Post Branch Offices in London 1829 - 56

L.P.H.G. : *Notebook*



# The Stamps of the General Post London Branch Offices 1829 – 1858

## Contents:

- 1 Introduction
  - 1.1 - Opening dates
  - 1.2 - Locations
  - 1.3 - Main task
  - 1.4 - London local letters
  - 1.5 - Stamping peculiarities
  - 1.6 - New type designation system
  - 1.7 - Using the tables
  - 1.8 - Reported periods of use
- 2 The datestamps of Lombard Street (3 tables)
- 3 The datestamps of Charing Cross (2 tables)
- 4 The datestamps of Vere Street / Old-Cavendish Street (2 tables)
- 5 The datestamps of Borough (2 tables)

*- To be continued in one of the next numbers of NOTEBOOK: -*

6. “One-day“ datestamps of Lombard Street and Charing Cross
  - The “experimental“ circular datestamps of Charing Cross 1833
  - Single-frame Maltese Cross datestamps 1834 – 1857
  - Small single-arc “Creswell“ datestamps 1857 – 1858
  - Double-frame Maltese Cross datestamps of Charing Cross 1836 – 1840
- 7 Money Order, Rebate, Sunday, and other instructional stamps

## *Bibliography:*

LPHG, London's Postal History Section B: General Post Stamps (Part 2):  
Stamps of the Branch Offices 1829 – 1857. *London 1979*

R. Hawkins, Date Stamps of the General Post Branch Offices in London, 1829 – 1858. *London 1979*

B. Jay, The British County Catalogue of Postal History 3 – London. *2<sup>nd</sup> Edition London 2005*



## Acknowledgements:

2005, when I was asked to participate in an update of the 1879 LPHG publication on the early London Branch Offices Stamps, I appealed to LPHG Members for support. I have to thank John Sharp, writer of the 1979 LPHG booklet, for his helpful comments; Barbara Field for giving detailed informations from her Charing Cross collection; Michael Goodman for contributing many proving photocopies; and the late Antony Thompson for not only stating the Rarity Codes in the tables.

G.J.A. Dette

## Chapter 1 Introduction – General informations

### 1.1 Opening dates

In the Postal Archives we recently found a Notice of Francis Freeling, Secretary to the Post Office since 1798, to the Postmaster General, dated 18. September, 1829:

*“My Lord,*

*The Advertisement officially announcing our removal to the New P. Office on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Inst has appeared in all the Morning Papers of this day, I fear there is no avoiding the daily repetition of that Advertisement until the 22<sup>nd</sup> Inclusive, with the exception of tomorrow. The Expence will naturally be great, but as our Department is connected with all ranks and conditions, I think we are bound, both in justice to them and in good policy to spread to the utmost the knowledge of our removal.”*

**Advertisement, published in all London Daily Newspapers  
on 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of September, 1829, announcing the opening of  
the new Post Office Headquarters in St. Martin's le Grand,  
three Branch Offices in London  
and a Twopenny Post Receiving House in Cornhill:**

“General Post Office, 17. September, 1829. –

The Business of this department will be transferred to the new Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, on **Wednesday, the 23. of September.**

The hours for the receipt of Letters and Newspapers, and for the despatch of the Mails, will be the same as at present.

**In addition** to the ordinary Receiving-houses Branch Offices will, **on that day**, be opened at **Charing-cross, Vere-street**, Oxford-street, and in **Lombard-street**, for the receipt of Inland, Foreign, and Ship Letters, and where notice will be given of the arrival of Foreign Mails etc.

The ordinary Receiving-houses will be closed at the same hour as at present: the Letter Carriers will continue to collect Letters ringing their bells from Five to Six; and the Branch Offices at Charing-cross and Vere-street will be open for the receipt of Letters until a Quarter before Seven o'Clock p.m. The Office in Lombard-street will remain open until Seven o'Clock, after which hour no Letters can possibly be received except at the General Post Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand.

*- continued next page -*



On the Foreign Post Nights, viz., Tuesday and Friday, Foreign Letters will be received at Charing-cross and Vere-street until Eight p.m. No Letters can, on any account, be received at any of the Branch Offices later than the hours above specified.

Newspapers, to be forwarded by the Post of the same night, must be put into the Branch Offices before Five p.m.

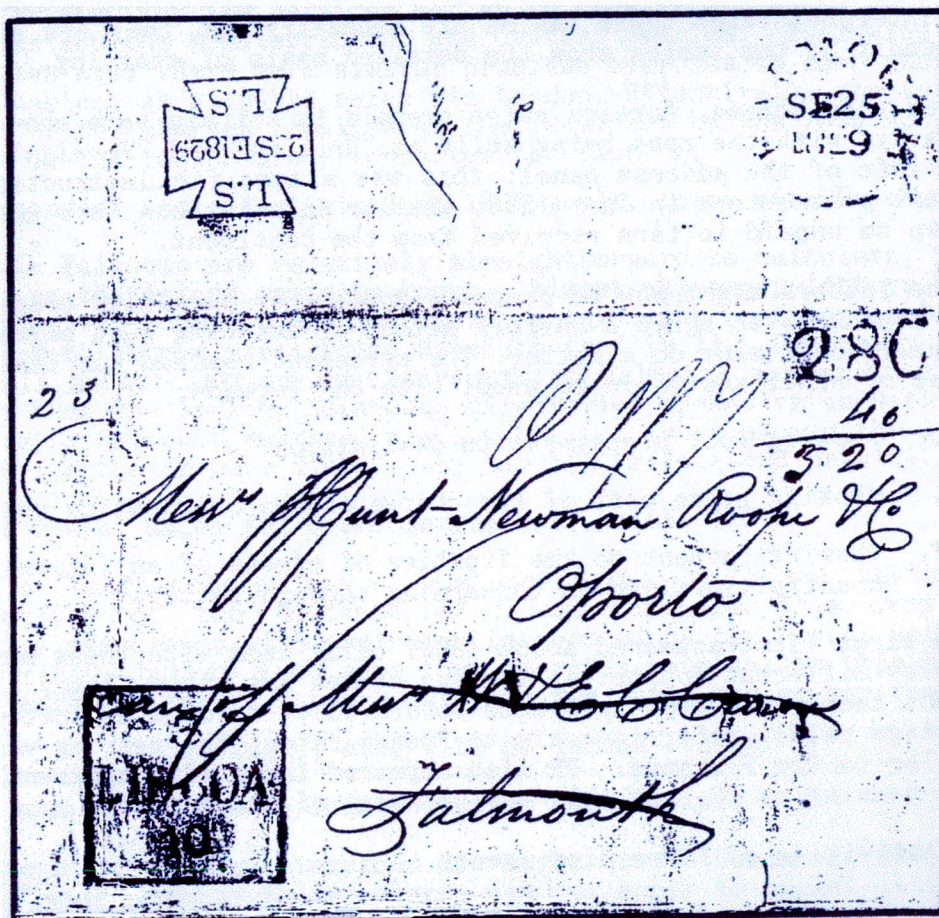
In consequence of the removal of the Twopenny Post to St. Martin's-le-Grand a new Receiving-house for Twopenny Post Letters will be opened in Cornhill.

When the new arrangements are completed the Post-Master-General hopes that the delivery of Letters, by the General Post Letter Carriers, may be finished in all Parts of the Metropolis by Eleven o'Clock, Monday excepted.

By command of his Majesty's Post-Master-General

F. FREELING, Secretary."

This advertisement was published on 18., 21. and 22. September in all London daily newspapers, and once in all weekly magazines, as we know from a later notice of Freeling. So we are sure, that the Branch Offices **Lombard Street**, **Charing Cross** and **Vere Street** were also put into operation on September 23, 1829.



**First day cover** (from: David Robinson, for the Port and Carriage of Letters), sent unpaid on 23. September, 1829 from Lombard Street to Falmouth, from Falmouth forwarded on 25. September to Portugal.

**Borough** was not yet mentioned in the advertisement. This Branch Office was – due to difficulties in finding a suitable location – not ready to serve until about January 1830.



## 1.2 Locations

Each of the four Branch Offices underwent at least one removal during the years 1829 – 1858:

**Lombard Street:** A temporary Office was operated west of St. Mary at Nr. 2 / 3 Lombard Street, until the rooms assigned for it in two stories of the old GPO building were altered. From 1835 King William Street was built through that area, and we find L. S. at Nr. 4 Lombard Street, then east of St. Mary, western corner of Post Office Court. From 1855 the Branch Office was also at Nr. 10 Lombard Street (east corner of Post Office Court), probably the Foreign department, which before had been on the upper floor of Nr. 4.

**Charing Cross:** A temporary Office was operated at Nr. 1 Strand, next to Northumberland House, until it removed to the ground floor of Morley's Hotel, which was erected 1831 – 1833 on the other side of The Strand, after in 1830 many buildings had been demolished north of Charing Cross and The Strand, to make space for Trafalgar square and its new surround.

The installation of a Twopenny Post Branch Office (Letter Carriers' Station) on the same floor of Morley's Hotel, separated from the General Post Branch, enabled the Post Office to close the Westminster Principal Office in Gerrard Street in 1834.

**Vere Street:** We could not detect the exact first address of this Office. It is assumed, that it was very close to Oxford Street. In 1839 the Office removed to Nr. 1 Old-Cavendish street, corner of Oxford street. From 1855 we find the O.C.S.-Office at Nr. 19 Old-Cavendish street, where it was transformed to the Western District Head Office in 1857.

**Borough:** The smallest Branch Office had numerous removals: It was located at Nr. 266 High Street, Borough (1830 – 1833), Nr. 182 High Street (1834 – 1841 ?), Nr. 108 Blackman Street (1845 ? – 1847) and at Nr. 1 Stones' End from 1847, until it was superseded in 1857 by the South-Eastern District Head Office at Nr. 170 High Street, Southwark.

## 1.3 Main task

The purpose of the installation of the four Branch Offices was to release the General Post from the increasing amount of routine works of letter circulation from London to outside the Local Post limits. Following Freeling, besides giving notice of the arrival of Foreign Mails in London, the main duty was the receipt of Inland, Foreign, and Ship Letters from the Public in the same manner as the several Letter Receivers.

There were no deliveries of incoming mail from the Branch Offices.

Concerning the undated Initials handstamps of Charing Cross and Old-Cavendish Street:

CX      C X      O.C.S

Such stamps were used by Branch Offices (Letter Carriers' Stations) of the Twopenny Post (London District Post) and put on missorted letters.

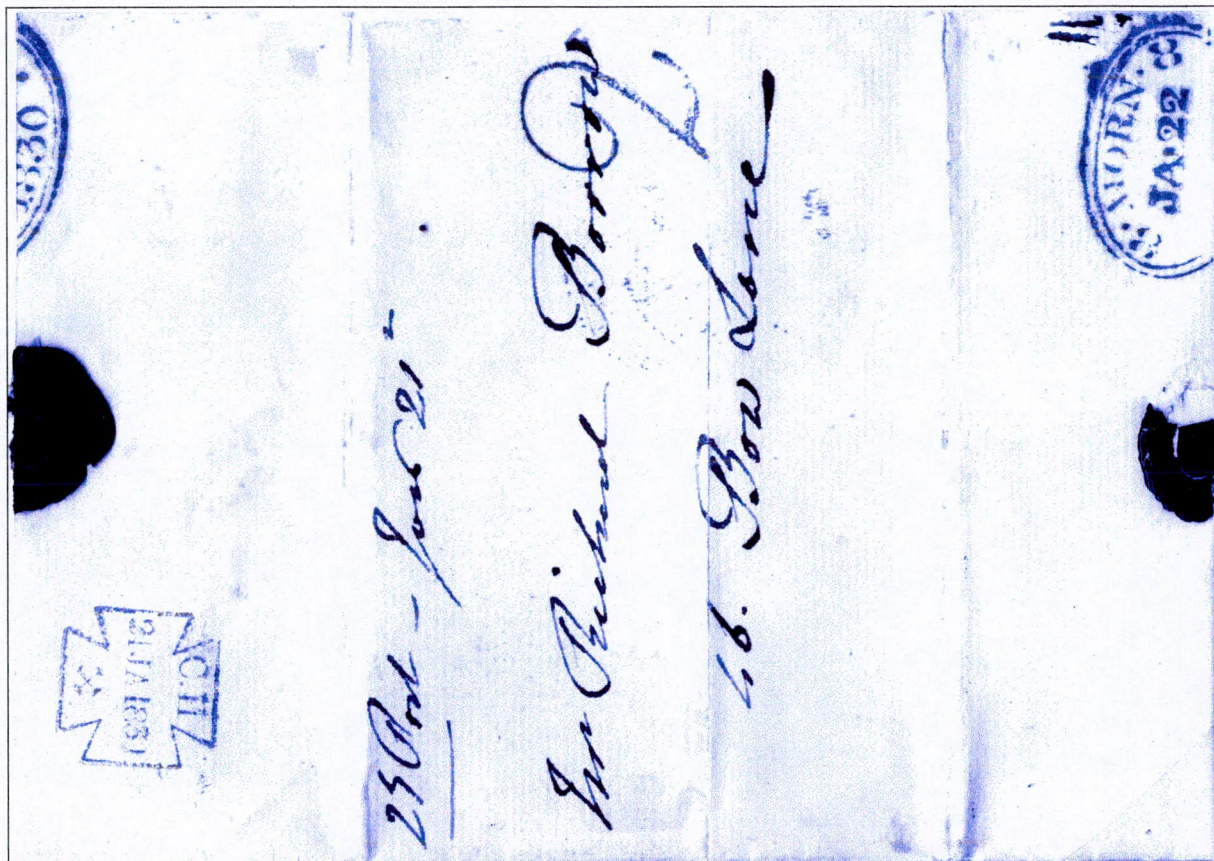
The CX Letter Carriers' station was from 1834, when the Westminster Principal Office was closed, located on the same Premises as the GPO Branch Office in Morley's Hotel, Trafalgar Square.

The OCS Letter Carriers' station succeeded the Portland Street station, from where it moved in about 1855 to No. 19 Old-Cavendish street, while the OCS Branch Office moved from No. 1 to the same premises.



## 1.4 London local letters

London local letters were excluded from the Branch Offices' scope, though from the beginning such letters were occasionally posted here and delivered by the Twopenny Post, in the beginning mostly delayed:



London local letter from Charing Cross to Bow Lane,  
posted unpaid 21.01.1830, delivered 22.01.1830  
(Posted at a TP Receiver, the letter would have been delivered the same evening,)

In the writer's collection of more than 1.340 covers, there are not less than 47 London local letters = 3.5 %, five of them (0.3 %) being dated 1830 – 1838, before the GP and the TP Letter Receivers in London were amalgamated under the Twopenny Post.

The local letters' ban from being received at the Branch Offices continued until the beginning of 1857, when the first London District Head Offices came into operation. The OCS Branch Office (Western District) was already closed before April 1857, followed by Borough (South Eastern District) before July 1857.

Of the remaining two Branch Offices, Lombard Street was the first one officially open for the posting of London local letters. The British Postal Guide 1<sup>st</sup> July 1857 reads:

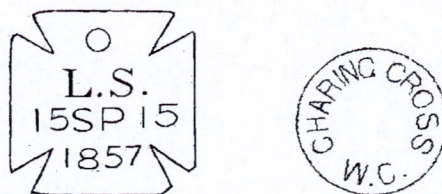
*"Letters for delivery within the London District limits can be posted as at the Town Receiving Houses. Care should be taken to deposit them in the proper box."*

while Charing Cross still remained *"for Inland, Colonial & Foreign letters only. Letters for places in the London District delivery should be taken to the Receiving House at No. 15, Charing Cross"*.

From 1<sup>st</sup> October 1857, Charing Cross also officially received London local letters.



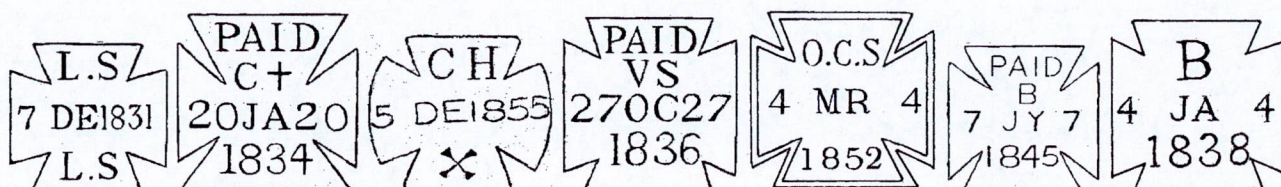
Both Branch Offices Lombard Street and Charing Cross used special handstamps for local letters, but different ones:



Lombard Street, using a datestamp (Type 15 A with a small District Post circle), sent their local letters to the Chief Office (E.C.) in St. Martin's-le-Grand for obliterating and delivery, while Charing Cross, using an undated circular stamp like a Receiving House, sent their letters to the W.C. Chief District Office in High Holborn for date-stamping, obliterating and delivery (the letter-carriers had been transferred to the W.C. District).

### 1.5 Stamping peculiarities

From their origin the four General Post London Branch Offices were, differently from the Letter Receivers, authorised to datestamp all outgoing letters they received from Monday to Saturday either at their counter, if the letters were paid cash, or from their Unpaid Letter Boxes, which also contained, from May 1840, letters bearing adhesive postage stamps. With some minor exceptions, all datestamps used from September 1829 until July 1857, had a Maltese Cross frame:



“Paid” datestamps are generally impressed in red on the front. “Unpaid” datestamps were normally impressed on the reverse in blue, red or black. From the 1840’s Foreign letters, which were posted unpaid, were also datestamped on the front.

### 1.6 New type designation system

Both LPHG and Hawkins used different methods to designate the several shapes of frames and inscriptions of the BO datestamps in a shortened form. Since new ‘types’ were found in the past, and others recognized not justified, a new variant of designation was chosen, which still contains some important details from both original publications.

To facilitate the identification, the tables contain a column showing the 1979 LPHG type designation beneath the new one.



## 1.7 Using the tables

The uniform 9 tables of Paragraph 2 contains data in 7 columns:

- **Type:** The new designation to be used in the future
- (1979) The respective designation in the 1979 LPHG paper
- colour Colour of the stamp normally impressed; deviating colours may be found. Please report to the Editor!
- spec. Characteristics Mainly the features different from the type in listed before
- earliest The earliest date of a type known or reported used
- latest The latest date of a type known or reported used
- rarity The rarity code (in this case: A to H) loosely reflects the market price as follows:

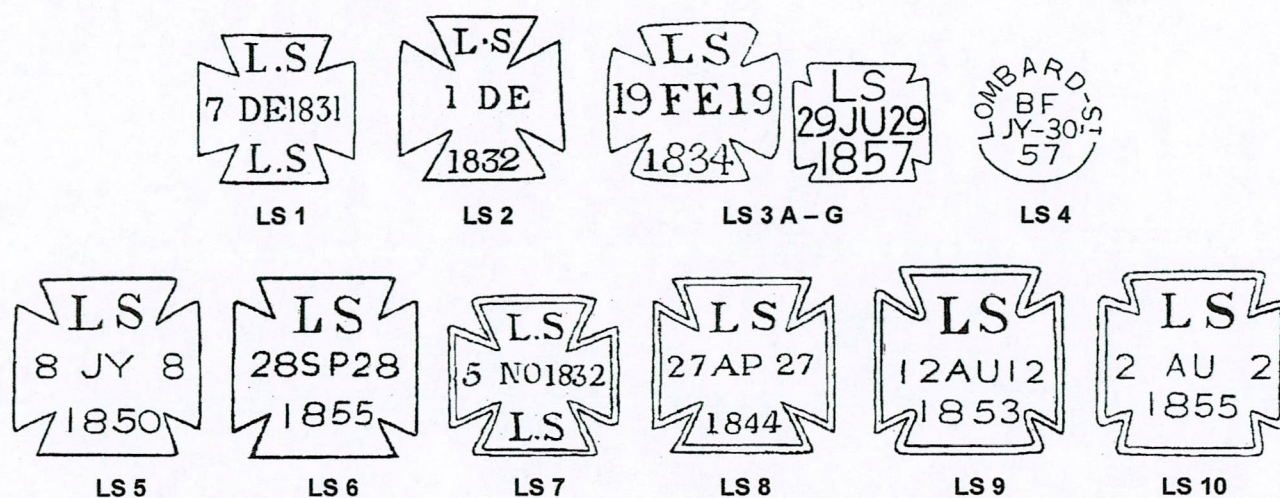
Code	Description	£ Price
A	Common	4
B	Average	6
C	Not easy to find	10
D	Difficult	15
E	Scarce	20
F	Rare	30
G	Very rare	40
H	Very few reported	60

## 1.8 Reported periods of use

It is assumed that the span between the earliest and the latest dates reported is the time of a type to be used. Indeed there are shorter or longer gaps between the end of use of a type and the earliest date of the next type to come into use instead. That means the two date columns have to be updated from time to time by new finds.



**Table 2.1** Lombard Street – Unpaid Stamps Part 1



Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
LS 1	LS 1	blue	Initials LS on top and bottom, flat topped 3	23.09.1829	30.05.1831	C
		red	from JA to MY 1832 round topped 3	21.07.1831	20.11.1832	C
LS 2	LS 3A	red	Initials LS on top only, year on bottom	01.12.1832	21.12.1833	B
LS 3A-G	see note	black	see Chapter 6 "One-day" datestamps .....	18.01.1834	07.07.1857	A
		red		1840	1857	C
LS 4	Creswell	black	see Chapter 6 "One-day" datestamps .....	10.07.1857	Sept. 1857	C
		red		20.07.1857		H
		blue		27.08.1857	28.08.1857	H
LS 5	LS 11	black	sans-serif date & year, year deep in frame	04.04.1849	26.04.1858	B
		red		30.07.1849	08.11.1853	B
LS 6	LS 11	red	"LS" altered, year high in frame	28.09.1855	26.04.1858	B
LS 7	LS 2	blue	double frame, additional to LS 1	12.01.1830	07.04.1831	G
		red		01.10.1831	05.11.1832	F
LS 8	LS 7	red	additional to LS 3, serif characters only	19.10.1842	23.01.1850	A
LS 9	LS 13	red	additional to LS 5, year lower in frame	28.01.1850	09.09.1855	B
LS 10	LS 14	red	additional to LS 6, year higher in frame	02.08.1855	09.03.1857	B

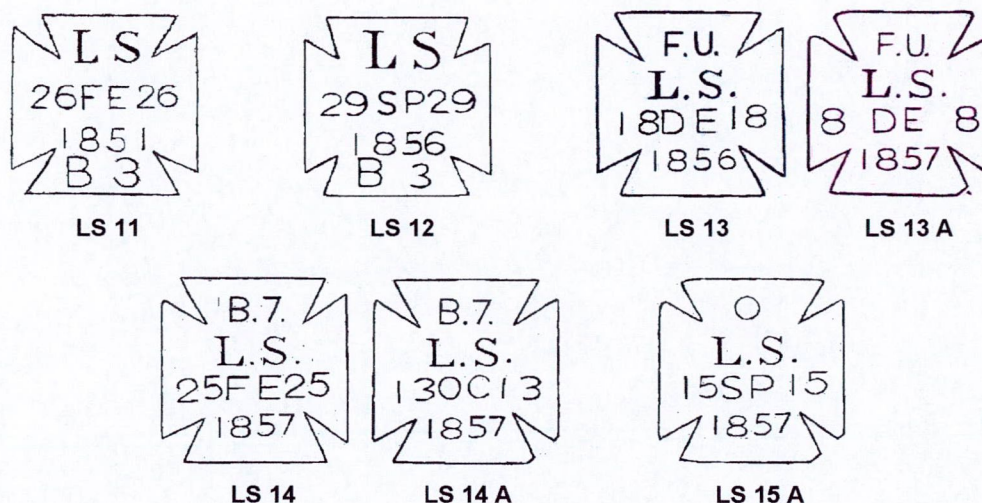
*LS 3 A - G* Comprise 10 Ref.-Nrs. of the 1979 handbook: LS 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 9A, 10, 15, 16 & 19. See Chapter 6.

*This "Standard" series of variants was regularly struck in black. From the introduction of adhesive labels in 1840 these stamps are found in red colour on late letters.*

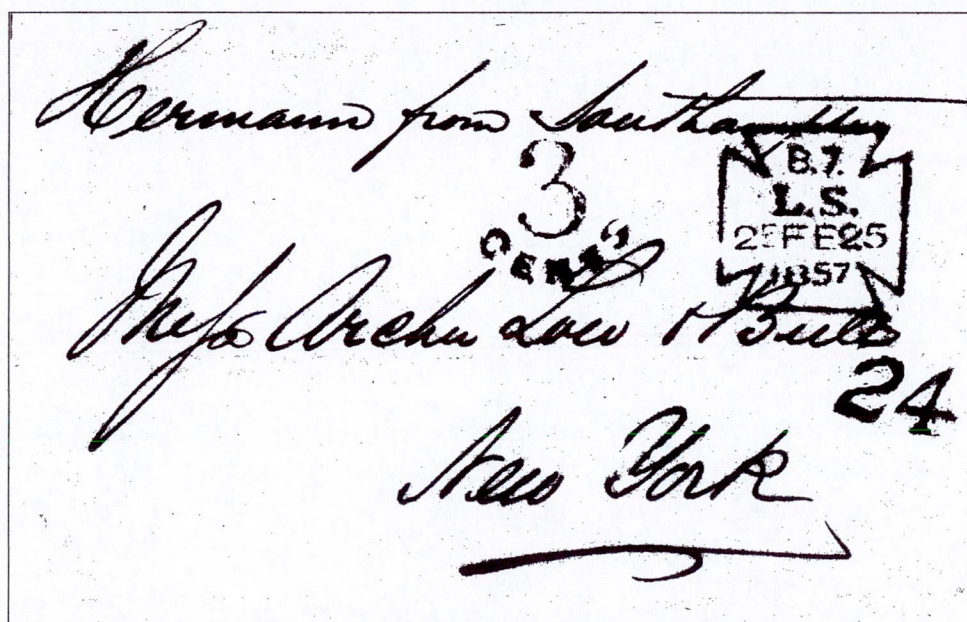
*In July 1857 this series was superseded by 16 mm single-arc "Creswell" datestamps.*



**Table 2.2** Lombard Street – Unpaid Stamps Part 2



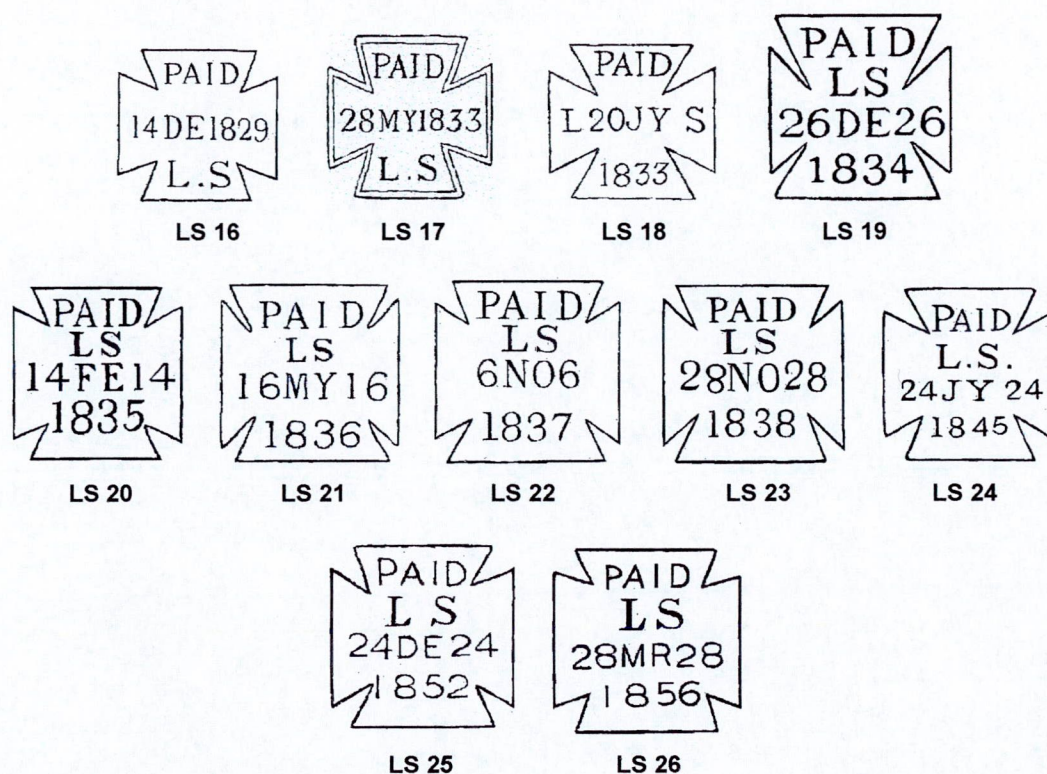
Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
LS 11	LS 12	red	Code B 3 on bottom, same height of B and 3	14.06.1850	12.10.1855	D
LS 12	„	red	Height of 3 in code smaller than B	08.07.1856	28.11.1857	E
LS 13	LS 18	black	Code F.U. on top	19.10.1855	07.08.1857	B
LS 13 A	LS 18 A	black	„ , SE corner repaired	01.09.1857	26.07.1858	B
LS 14	LS 17	black	Code B.7. on top	25.02.1857	25.02.1857	H
LS 14 A	„	red	„ , SE corner repaired	09.10.1857	25.03.1858	F
LS 15	LS 20	red	Code O (circle!) on top	not reported		
LS 15 A	„	red	„ , SE corner repaired	15.09.1857	22.02.1858	G



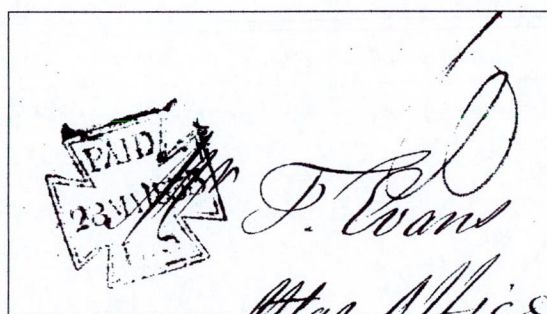
**Black LS 14** on unpaid letter 25.02.1857 from Lombard Street via Southampton per American Packet Hermann to New York.



**Table 2.3** Lombard Street – Paid Stamps



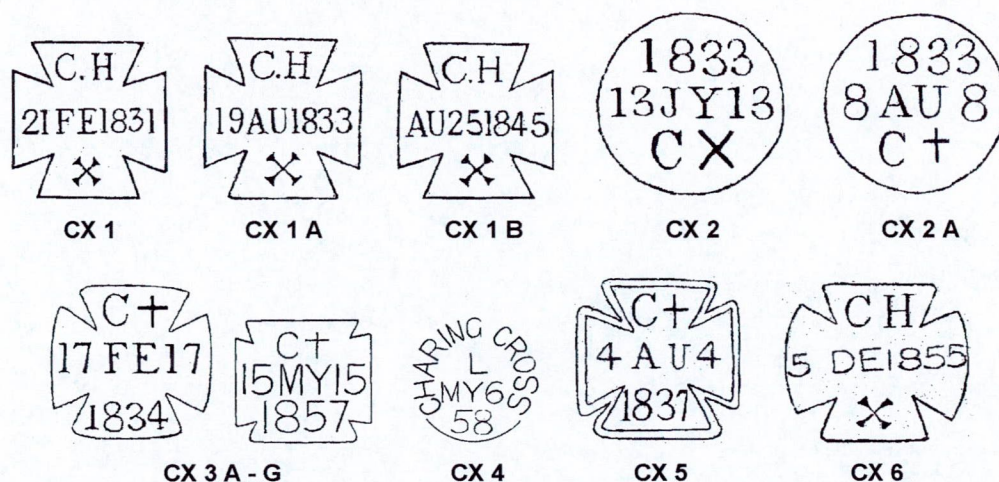
Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
LS 16	LS 100	red	Initials L.S on bottom	14.12.1829	10.11.1832	D
LS 17	-----	red	As LS 16, but double frame	23.01.1830	28.05.1833	F
LS 18	LS101A	red	Initials L on left, S on right of date	20.02.1833	05.12.1833	E
LS 19	LS 102	red	Initials LS on top, large upper wing	13.01.1834	26.12.1834	F
LS 20	LS 103	red	Large angle corners , year high in frame	03.01.1835	21.11.1835	E
LS 21	LS 104	red	Very small angle corner cut-outs, year low	07.01.1836	25.11.1836	D
LS 22	-----	red	Larger angle corner cut-outs, large PAID	03.01.1837	05.05.1838	D
LS 23	LS 105	red	Small angle corner cut-outs, small PAID	27.07.1838	04.03.1842	C
LS 24	LS 106	red	Small serif characters	08.07.1842	25.09.1849	C
LS 25	LS 108	red	Except LS all characters sans-serif	02.03.1850	20.05.1855	D
LS 26	LS108A	red	Smaller PAID, larger LS, larger angle corners	28.03.1856	12.12.1857	D



LS 17 on 10 d prepaid letter 28.05.1833 from Lombard Street to Hereford.



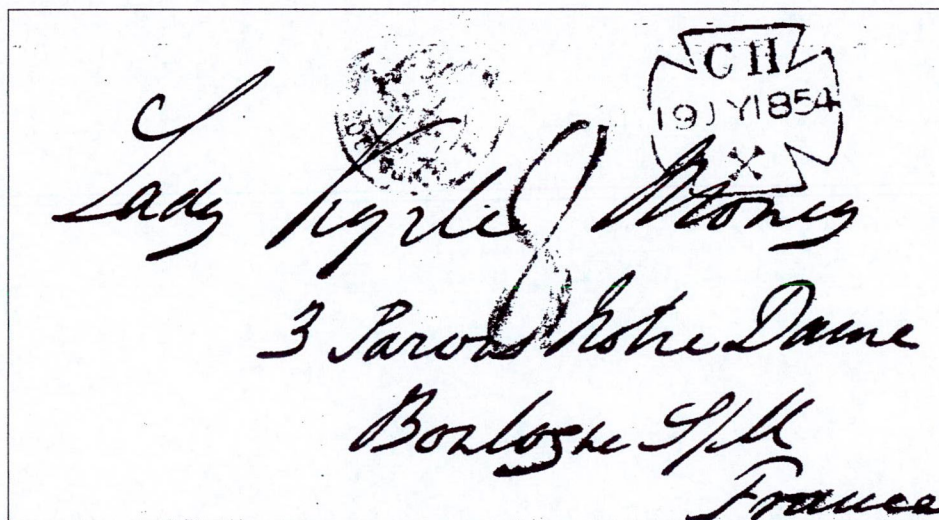
**Table 3.1** Charing Cross – Unpaid Stamps



Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
<b>CX 1</b>	CX 1	blue red	Length of X beams 4 mm, flat topped 3.	12.10.1829 20.11.1830	30.10.1830 03.01.1832	E C
<b>CX 1 A</b>	CX 1	red	Length of X beams 5 mm, round topped 3.	02.02.1832	25.11.1833	C
<b>CX 1 B*</b>	CX 8	red	'Old stamp', used additionally to CX 3.	03.01.1845	15.10.1849	D
<b>CX 2</b>	CX 2	red	see Chapter 6 "One-day" datestamps .....	03.05.1833	19.07.1833	G
<b>CX 2 A</b>	CX 2A	red	" " "	22.07.1833	11.12.1833	F
<b>CX 3*</b>	see note	red	" " "	04.01.1834	01.07.1857	A
<b>CX 4</b>	Creswell	red	" " "	13.07.1857	14.09.1858	C
<b>CX 5</b>	CX 5+6	red	see Chapter 6 "One-day" datestamps .....	07.05.1836	03.01.1840	D
<b>CX 6</b>	CX 14	black red	Left and right frame lines curved, date sloped.	23.02.1850 04.07.1851	01.05.1858 18.06.1857	C E

*CX 1B* Usually month before day. 1849 examples show day before month.

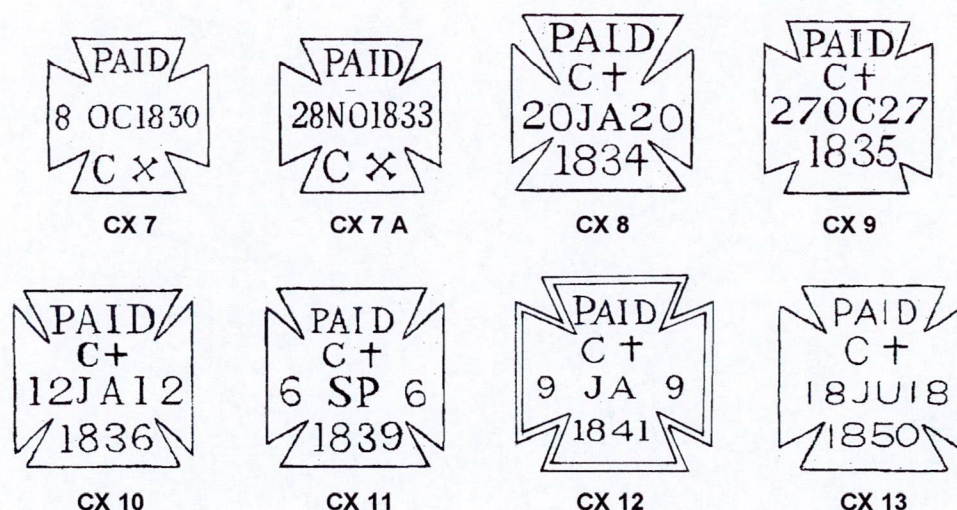
*CX 3* Comprises 12 Ref.-Nrs. of the 1979 handbook: CX 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17 & 18. See Chapter 6. This "Standard" series of variants 3 A – G was generally stricken in red. Some black examples are reported from mid 1844. In July 1857 this series was superseded by 16 mm single-arc "Creswell" datestamps CX 6.



**Black CX 6** on unpaid Foreign letter from Charing Cross 05.12.1855 to Boulogne-sur-mer/France.

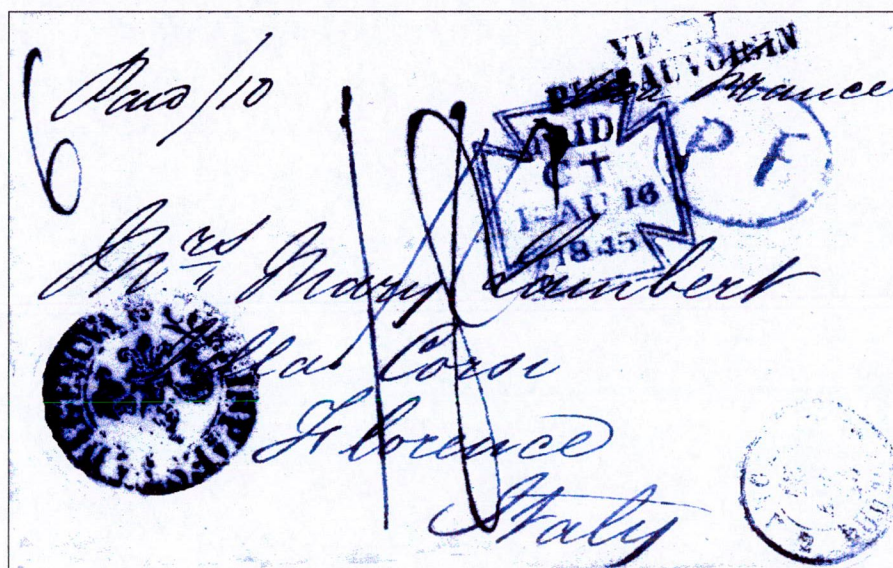


**Table 3.2** Charing Cross – Paid Stamps



Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
<b>CX 7</b>	CX 100	red	Characters 3.4 mm high.	08.12.1829	02.01.1832	E
<b>CX 7 A</b>	CX 100	red	Characters 3.8 mm high.	02.02.1832	18.12.1833	E
<b>CX 8</b>	CX 101	red	Long upper wing.	20.01.1834	23.10.1835	E
<b>CX 9</b>	-----	red	Large angle corners, year high in frame.	27.10.1835	27.10.1835	F
<b>CX 10</b>	-----	red	Small angle corners, large PAID, C+ = 6.5 mm.	12.01.1836	29.09.1837	E
<b>CX 11</b>	CX 102	red	Smaller PAID, C+ = 8 mm.	01.08.1838	01.08.1849	C
<b>CX 12*</b>	CX 103	red	Double frame.	22.10.1840	08.10.1845	D
<b>CX 13</b>	CX 104	red	Sans-serif characters.	13.11.1849	15.02.1858	D

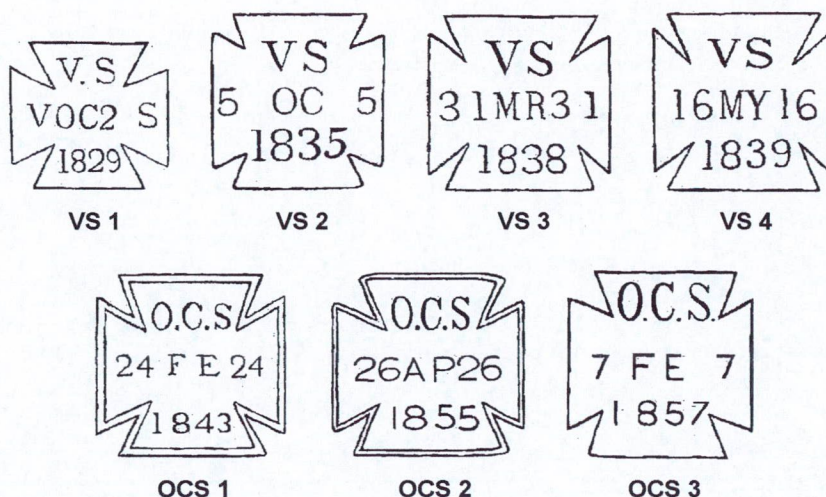
*CX 12: Occurs with 'day – month' (second day number omitted).*



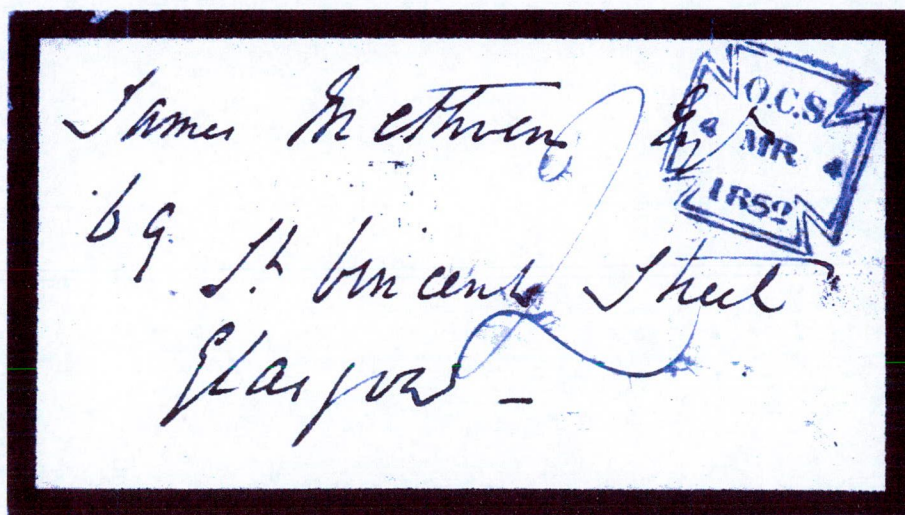
**CX 12** on 10 d prepaid (to French outer frontier) letter from Charing Cross 16.08.1845 via France (Boulogne – Via di Pt. Beauvoisin) and Genoa/Sardinia to Florence/Tuscany.



**Table 4.1** Vere Street / Old-Cavendish Street – Unpaid Stamps



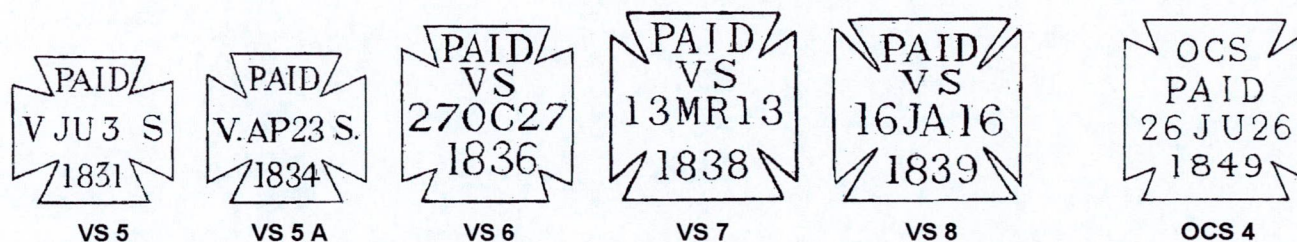
Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
VS 1	VS 1	blue	Initials VS on top, V on left , S on right	02.10.1829	30.03.1832	E
		red		09.05.1832	06.08.1834	D
VS 2	VS 2	red	Initials VS on top only, large angle corners	05.01.1835	23.11.1836	E
VS 3	VS 3	red	Small angle corners, height of VS 5 mm	28.01.1837	29.05.1838	F
VS 4		red	Small angle corners, height of VS 4 mm	28.09.1838	30.11.1842	E
OCS 1	OCS 1	red	Double frame, serif characters	21.12.1842	21.09.1852	B
		black		04.03.1852	08.03.1852	H
OCS 2	OCS 2	red	Double frame, sans-serif date	28.02.1853	27.10.1856	D
		black		25.11.1852	26.04.1855	D
OCS 3	OCS 3	red	Single frame, sans-serif date	05.08.1854	10.03.1857	E



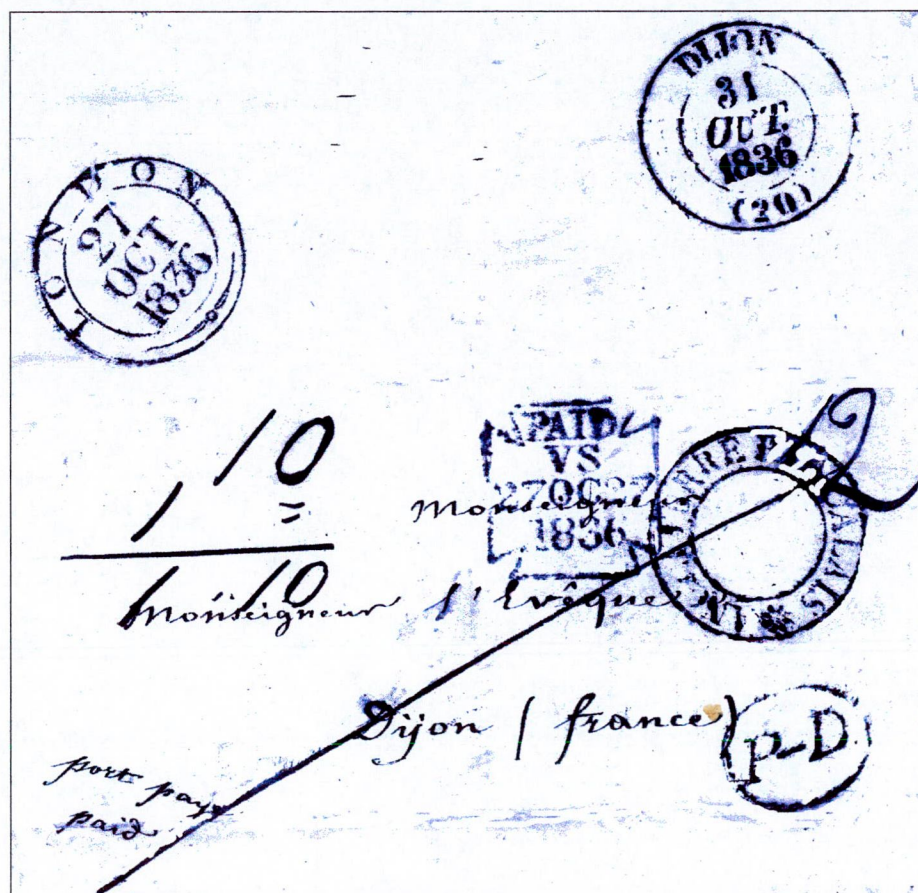
**Black OCS 1** on letter posted unpaid (double rate) from Old-Cavendish Street  
4<sup>th</sup> March, 1852, to Glasgow.



**Table 4.2** Vere Street / Old-Cavendish Street – Paid Stamps



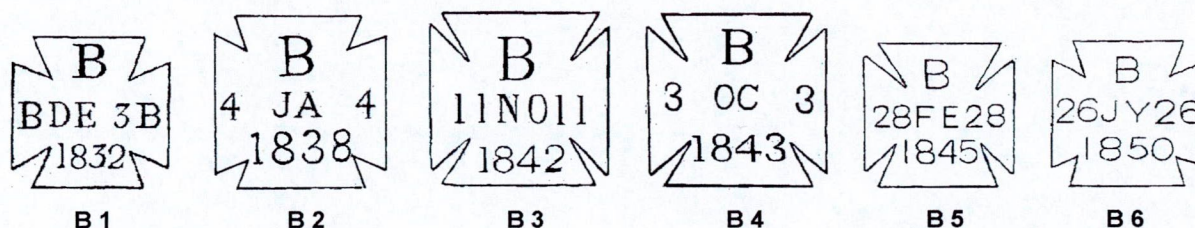
Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
VS 5	VS 100	red	Initials V on left , S on right, no dots	08.02.1830	14.09.1831	F
VS 5 A			Dots after Initials V and S	09.08.1832	23.04.1834	E
VS 6	VS 101	red	Initials VS above date, large angle corners	09.09.1835	27.10.1836	F
VS 7	VS 102	red	Smaller angle corners, large PAID & VS	07.07.1837	13.03.1838	G
VS 8	VS 103	red	Very small angle corners, small PAID & VS	29.08.1838	24.01.1842	D
OCS 4	OCS 100	red	Initials OCS above PAID, large angle corners	05.04.1843	18.03.1854	E



VS 6 on 1 Sh 10 d prepaid to destination Foreign letter from Vere Street 27<sup>th</sup> October, 1836 to Dijon / France.

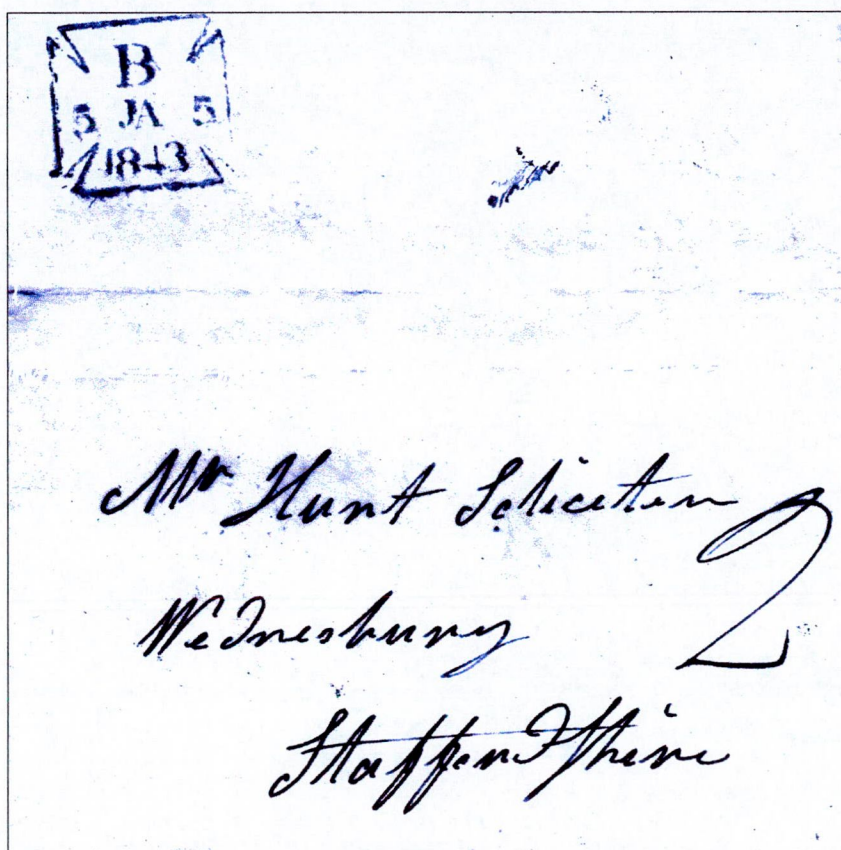


**Table 5.1** Borough – Unpaid Stamps



Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
<b>B 1*</b>	B 1	blue	Initial B on top, left & right	02.04.1830	21.10.1834	E
<b>B 2</b>	B 2	blue	Initial B on top only, large angle corners	12.02.1835	12.02.1835	H
		black		15.06.1835	26.05.1838	D
<b>B 3</b>	B 3	black	Small angle corners, large B	22.08.1838	02.10.1839	E
		red		30.11.1839	05.01.1843	D
<b>B 4</b>	B 4	red	Initial B smaller, year higher in frame than B 3	26.07.1843	22.08.1844	E
<b>B 5</b>	B 5	red	Sans-serif characters, small angle corners	27.02.1845	26.11.1849	D
<b>B 6</b>	B 6	red	Sans-serif characters, large angle corners	05.06.1850	10.01.1851	E
		black		04.04.1851	10.03.1857	D

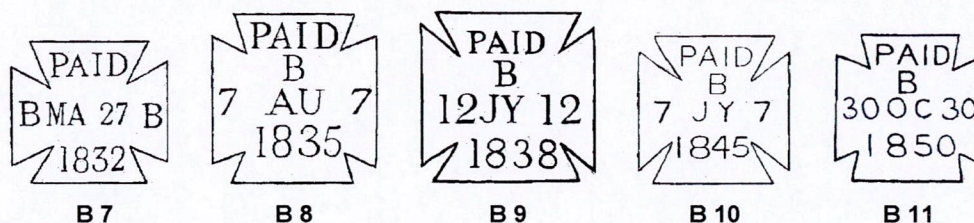
*B 1: Regularly month before day, but day before month also reported.*



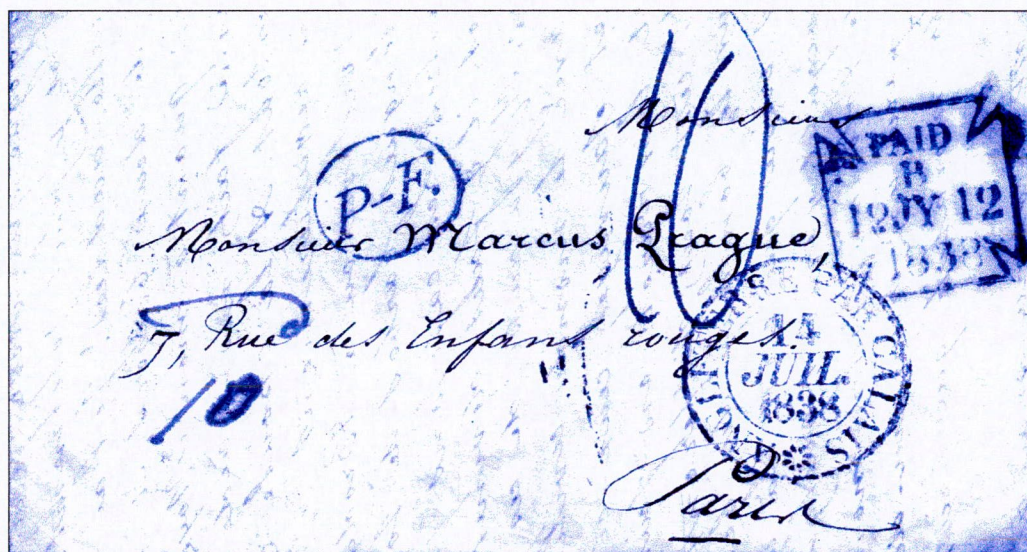
**Red B 3** on reverse of a poor woman's begging letter, posted unpaid (double rate), from Borough 05.01.1843 to Wednesbury.



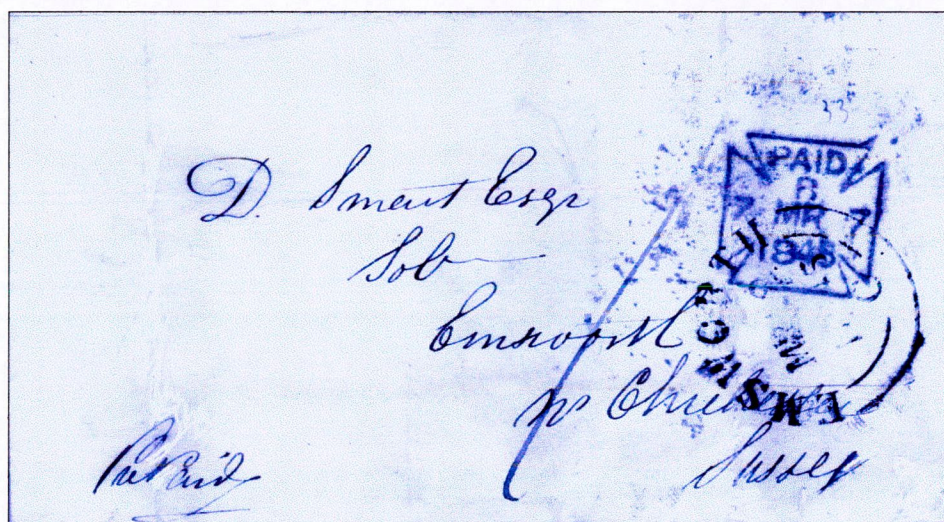
**Table 5.2** Borough – Paid Stamps



Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
<b>B 7</b>	B 100	red	Initial B on left and right	06.05.1830	30.12.1834	E
<b>B 8</b>	B 101	red	Initial B above date, large angle corners	06.03.1835	10.09.1836	E
<b>B 9</b>	B 102	red	Small angle corners, year deep in frame	12.07.1838	28.11.1843	F
<b>B 10</b>	B 103	red	Sans-serif characters, small angle corners	07.03.1845	01.01.1848	D
<b>B 11</b>	B 104	red	Sans-serif characters, large angle corners	25.09.1850	30.10.1850	G



**B 9** on 10 d prepaid to Calais (*P – F*) letter 12.07.1838 from Borough to Paris.



**B 10** on 1 d prepaid letter 07.03.1845 from Borough to Emsworth/Sussex.



London Postal History Group

- John Parmenter, Hon. Chairman,
- Peter A. Forrestier Smith, Hon. Secretary and Editor

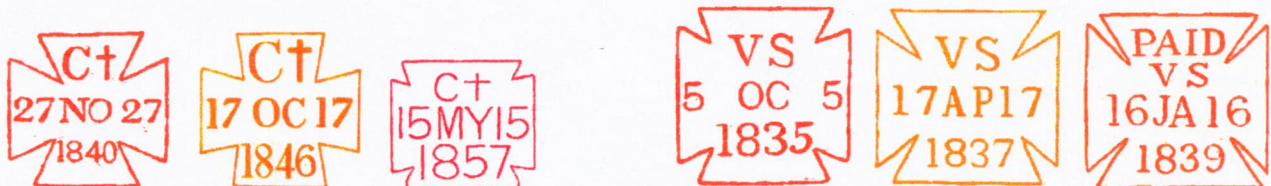
### GPO London Branch Offices 1829 – 1858

Essen, 15. March, 2004

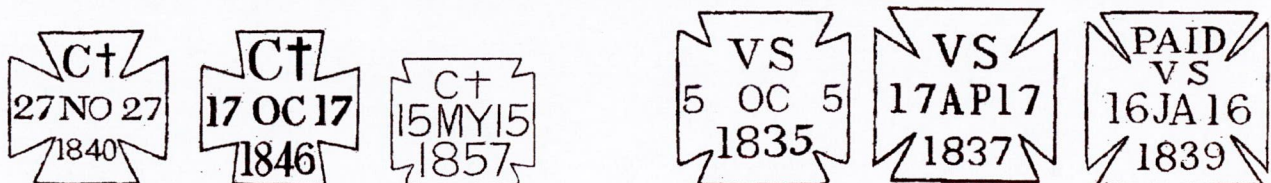
Gentlemen,

as a result of that constructive meeting last Saturday you decided to print the actualized paper in black und red. Since I was asked to do the main job, I need your further advise how to handle the red colour for the printing draft. I see three methods to do the job:

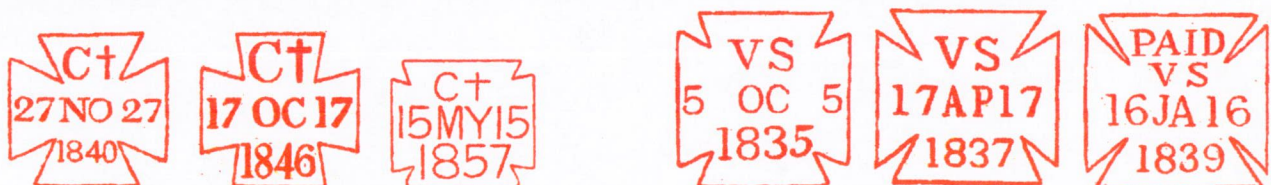
1. Varying red shades as originally scanned and stored on hard disc stamp by stamp:



2. Varying red shades to be converted stamp by stamp into black (few examples done until now):



3. Black colour again to be converted stamp by stamp into a uniform red shade:



Please have the kindness to ask the printer, which of the three alternatives shown above is the best to reduce printing costs and let me know in time what I have to do.

Best regards



GUNTHER DETTE

1  
Dammstr. 11  
D – 45279 Essen  
Germany

Gunther Dette, Dammstr. 11, D – 45279 Essen, Germany

Mr. John R. Sharp  
27 Greenview Close  
GB – KEMPSTON BEDFORD MK42 7BG  
England / U.K.

Circular to Michael Goodman, John Sharp & Tony Thompson;

**Timing of finalizing my list on London GPO Branch Offices**

Gentlemen, this is for your information as far as I'm involved in finalizing my datestamp list. Since I have to display 192 album sheets showing two of my London PH collections at the German National Show „NAPOSTA“ in Hanover this week, I will continue work on our paper as follows:

Update of earliest & latest known dates of use, based on a lot of photos sent by Michael by **10 June**,  
send the updated list on 10 June to John for comments based on his collection by **24 June**,  
update the list again based on Johns comments by **30 June**,  
send this „final“ list to Tony for adding Rarity Indices, which I cannot feel responsible for, and  
have the final draft ready not later than **20 July, 2005**. This will be sent definitely before the end of July to the Editor of LPHG.

Concerning the paper as a whole, we four working men should agree on:

- The 16 mm and the 19 mm **Creswell** datestamps of Charing Cross & Lombard Street should **remain** in the list, for they appeared in a direct line between the unpaid „Standard“ MC type and the circular single rim Standard datestamps of 1858 – 1860's, and parallel to the use of some other still MC shaped datestamp types.
- The London District Post **Missort** Stamps „C X“ and „O.C.S“ should be **excluded** from the paper. The LDP (former TP) „letter carriers' station“ at Charing Cross was established when the Westminster Principal Office in Gerrard Street was closed in 1834, together with Portland Street, Southwark and Stepney, and located together with the General Post Branch in Morley's Hotel at Trafalgar Square, because there was space for both Offices! And the Portland Street LDP Branch was superseded and moved to Nr. 19 Old Cavendish Street in about 1855, together with the OCS General Post Branch Office, which moved there from Nr. 1 Old Cavendish Street.

The GP Branch and the LDP Branch Offices concerned remained strictly separated until the new London Western District Chief Office was established about March 1857 in Nr. 19 Old Cavendish Street and the new London Western Central District Chief Office was opened in Nr. 126 High Holborn in September 1857, taking over the whole amount of letter carriers from C X, while the GP Charing Cross Branch Office remained at Morley's Hotel.



After I will have sent the July 2005 updated list to PFS, I can start to work on scanning many of the datestamp impressions submitted by Michael, and send you some paper sheets showing the development of certain types of MC shaped datestamps and some circular types.

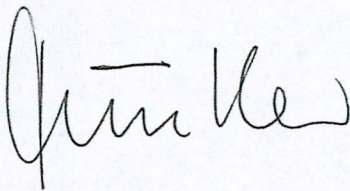
My original list which I presented at the LPHG meeting in March 2004, was already amended several times based on comments and new finds reported by

- Barbara Field,
- Tony Thompson,
- Michael Goodman,
- and myself.

It would be helpful to get comments from John Sharp as well, who has done a giant work in the past, and has got a lot of experience and a remarkable collection.

Gentlemen, you will hear from me again after the Hanover Stamo Show!

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Sharp', written in a cursive style.



GUNTHER DETTE

Dammstr. 11  
D – 45279 Essen  
Germany

Gunther Dette, Dammstr. 11, D – 45279 Essen, Germany

Mr. John R. Sharp  
27 Greenview Close  
GB – KEMPSTON BEDFORD MK42 7BG  
England / U.K.

Essen, 10. June, 2005

### London GPO Branch Offices

Dear John,

having sent some weeks ago a circular letter to Tony Thompson, Mike Goodman and yourself, part of which read

*„My original list which I presented at the LPHG meeting in March 2004, was already amended several times based on comments and new finds reported by*

- *Barbara Field,*
- *Tony Thompson,*
- *Michael Goodman,*
- *and myself.*

*It would be helpful to get comments from **John Sharp** as well, who has done a giant work in the past, and has got a lot of experience and a remarkable collection.“*

I have the opportunity to submit to you (sorry, half day delayed) a new revision of our said list, updated as far as I was able, and containing a provisional column showing Rarity Codes which I got from Tony Thompson as his personal suggest. PFS will deal with these proposals.

I would be pleased, if you could go through the list and note earlier or later dates of use and other deviations seen from your splendid collection.

If you find any datestamp features (shapes, colours, lettering etc.) please report. 1:1 photocopies would be a great help in this case, and if black/white, please note the colour

As to Hawkins unpaid type 3 A – G and the 16/19 mm Creswells of Charing Cross and Lombard Street, I am preparing a bigger survey, proving or disproving my assert of being made and used for one day only. This demands photocopies of each weekday from Monday to Saturday for the period January 1834 – September 1858 (ca. 18.000 datestamps !). I will refund you for the costs, if you help us with some copies from your collection.

Dear John,

Please find some sketches from my collection on next page:





You see, there's still a lot to do.

Following the time table, that I set up for myself, I would be pleased to have your reply not later than the end of this current month (30 June).

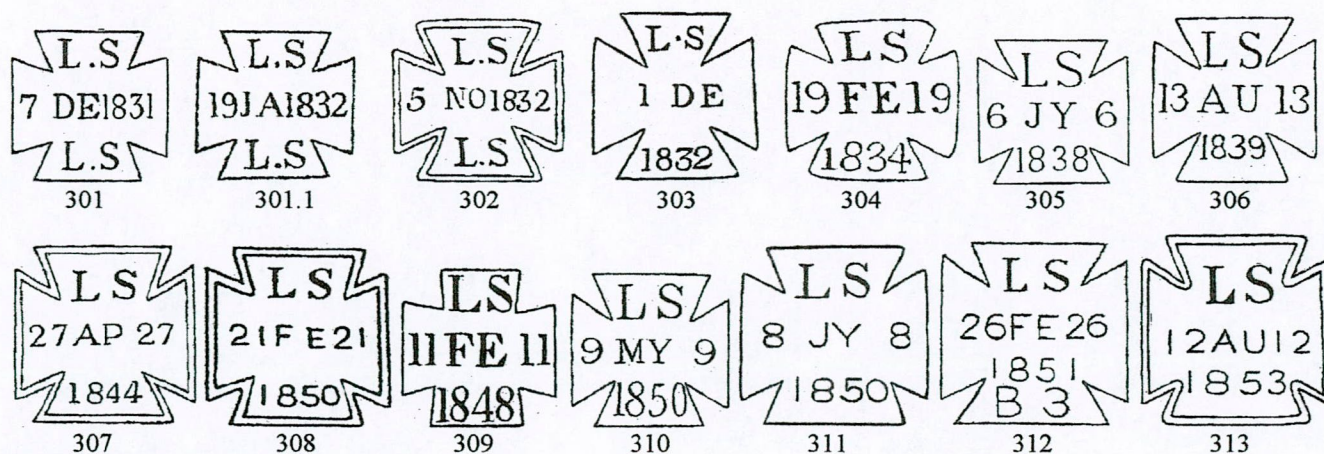
Looking forward to hearing from you soon I remain

*Yours truly*

Annex: New revision June, 2005



### 3. Lombard Street Branch Office



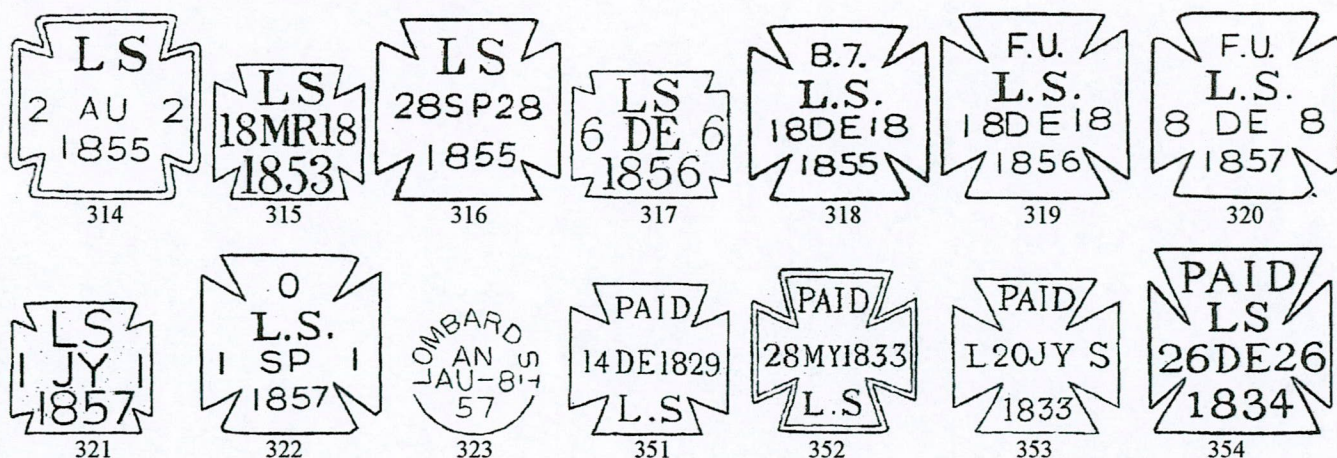
Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
301 a	LS 1	1 A	blue	Initials LS on top and bottom, flat topped 3	26.09.1829	30.05.1831	C
301 b	„ „	1 A	red	As 301 a	21.07.1831	18.12.1832	C
301.1	„ „	1 B	red	Within period of 301 b, but round topped 3	19.01.1832	30.05.1832	C
302 a	LS 2	-----	blue	As 301, but double frame	12.01.1830	16.01.1830	G
302 b	„ „	-----	red		03.10.1831	05.11.1832	F
303	LS 3A	2	red	Initials LS on top only, year on bottom	01.12.1832	21.12.1833	D
304	LS 4	3 A	black	Variable, outer lines more or less curved, large year	03.04.1834	09.06.1836	A
305	LS 4	3 A	black	Variable, straight lines, large year deep in frame	13.09.1836	06.07.1838	A
306	LS 6	3 B	black	Variable, deep corners, small year high in frame	04.12.1838	19.10.1842	A
307	LS 7	4 A	red	Only serif characters	09.11.1842	09.11.1849	A
308	LS 7A	4 C	red	Sans-serif date and year, year deep in frame	28.01.1850	23.06.1855	A
309	LS 8	3 C	black	Variable cruciform	27.02.1843	03.10.1848	A
310	LS 5	3 D	black	Variable square shape, large year deep in frame	30.03.1849	23.08.1850	A
311 a	LS 11	5 A	black	Sans-serif date, year deep in frame	01.10.1849	19.10.1853	B
311 b	„ „	„ „	red	*) 1	21.05.1849	17.07.1855	B
312	LS 12	-----	red	Code B 3 in bottom	16.09.1850	28.11.1857	D
313	LS 13	4 B	red	Inner corner lines rounded, year high in frame	28.05.1850	23.06.1855	D

\*) 1 Later dates see Ref. Nr. 316 on next page.

*contd. next page*



# **Lombard Street Branch Office (contd.)**



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
314	LS 14	-----	red	Inner corner lines pointed, year higher in frame	02.08.1855	19.03.1857	B
315	LS 16	3 E	black	Variable oblong shape, large date	22.07.1852	29.08.1854	A
316	LS 11A	5 B	red	As 311 b, but year higher in frame	18.09.1855	26.04.1858	B
317 a	LS 9	3 F	black	Variable oblong shape, corner cutouts very small	05.07.1847	16.03.1857	A
317 b	LS 9A	„ „	red		01.11.1855	07.01.1857	C
318	LS 17	6 C	red	Code B.7. on top	09.10.1857	25.03.1858	F
319	LS 18	6 B	black	Code F.U. on top *) 2	19.11.1855	30.06.1857	B
320	LS 18A	6 B	black	As 319, but SE corner damaged and grinded *) 2	01.09.1857	26.07.1858	B
321 a	LS 19	3 G	black	As 317, but sans-serif characters	20.04.1857	06.07.1857	C
321 b	„ „	„ „	red		08.06.1857	30.06.1857	C
322	LS 20	-----	red	Code O on top	30.09.1857	22.02.1858	G
323 a	AH 1299		black	*) 3	17.07.1857	17.08.1857	C
323 b	„ „		blue	*) 3	27.08.1857	28.08.1857	H
323 c	„ „		red	*) 3	20.07.1857		H
351	LS 100	1 A/B	red		14.12.1829	10.11.1832	D
352	LS 100A	4	red	As 351, but double frame	23.01.1830	28.05.1833	E
353	LS 101A	2	red		20.02.1833	05.12.1833	E
354	LS 102	3 A	red	Very large upper wing	16.01.1834	26.12.1834	F

\*) 2 Type LS 18 / 18A examples seen on outgoing Foreign unpaid letters only. Code F.U. means Foreign Unpaid.

\*) 3 First letter of the code is A or B. The second code letter of this Creswell stamp follows Stitt Dibden Code A 3.

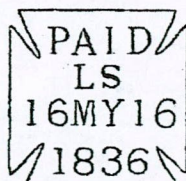
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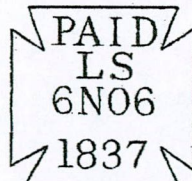
# **Lombard Street Branch Office (contd.)**



355



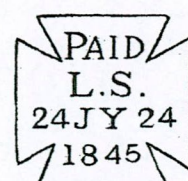
356



356.1



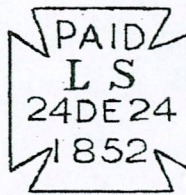
357



358



359



360



361



362

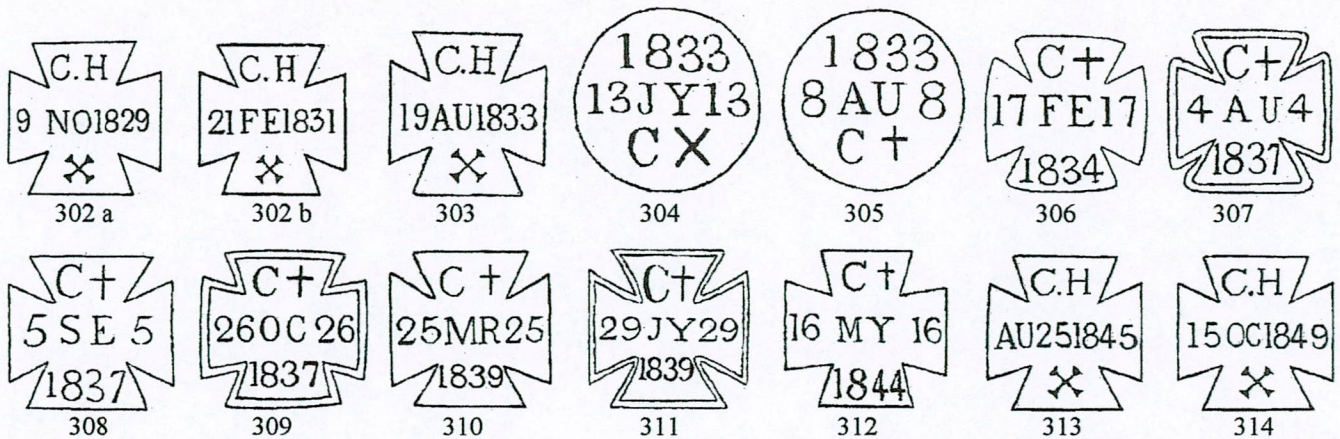
Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
355	LS 103	3 B	red	Larger angle corners, year high in frame	03.01.1835	21.11.1835	E
356	LS 104	3 C	red	Small angle corners, large PAID, small LS	05.02.1836	25.11.1836	D
356.1	(LS 104)	-----	red	Larger angle corners, year higher in frame	31.08.1837	05.02.1838	D
357	LS 105	3 D	red	Smaller PAID, smaller angle corn., year high in frame	28.11.1838	11.02.1842	C
358	LS 106	3 E	red	Stops after L and S, small date	08.07.1842	25.09.1849	C
359	LS 107	-----	red	LS above „PAID“, double frame *) 4	-----	-----	GPO
360	LS 108	3 F	red	Except initials sans-serif characters, LS 8 mm	07.05.1850	20.05.1855	D
361	LS 108A	-----	red	Smaller PAID, LS 7 mm, larger angle corners	28.03.1856	12.12.1857	D
362	AH 1349	-----	red	*) 5	06.11.1858	1860's	C

\*) 4 No dates of postal use reported. Proof books show images of October 1842 and September 1855.

\*) 5 Reported to be used on Foreign letters until the 1860's. First letter of the code always F = Foreign. Second letter (day code) does not follow Stitt Dibden A3 as Ref. Nr. 319/320 does, but its run is shifted by about 2 weeks.



## 2. Charing Cross Branch Office



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
302 a	CX 1	1 A	blue	Frame 20,5 mm	12.10.1829	30.10.1830	E
302 b	„ „	„ „	red	Frame 20,5 mm, X beams 4 mm, flat topped 3 *)1, 2	20.11.1830	03.01.1832	C
303	(CX 1)	1 B	red	Frame 21 mm, X beams 5 mm, round topped 3 *)1	02.02.1832	25.11.1833	C
304	CX 2	2 A	red	Variable, office initials C X	10.05.1833	13.07.1833	F
305	CX 2A	2 B	red	Variable, office initials C +	22.07.1833	11.12.1833	F
306	CX 3	3 A	red	Variable, outer lines more or less curved, year large *)3	04.01.1834	25.08.1837	A
307	CX 5	4 A 1	red	Double frame, outer corners rounded, year 5 mm *)6	07.05.1836	04.08.1837	D
308	(CX 4)	3 A	red	Variable, straight lines, large year deep in frame *)3	13.10.1837	05.10.1838	A
309	---	4 A 2	red	Double frame, large angle corners, year 4,5 mm *)6	26.10.1837	14.11.1837	H
310	CX 7	3 B	red	Variable, outer frame lines straight, year small	03.05.1839	22.10.1842	A
311	CX 6	4 B/C	red	Double frame, outer cornrs pointed, year 3 – 3,5 mm *)6	15.12.1838	03.01.1840	E
312 a	CX 10	3 C	red	Variable “Cruciform“	10.02.1843	29.07.1848	A
312 b	„ „	„ „	black	Black colour occurs in mid 1844 *)5	25.03.1844	16.05.1844	H
313	CX 8	1 C	red	Re-appearance of 303, but month before day	03.01.1845	06.04.1847	D
314	(CX 1)	1 B	red	As 313, but day before month *)4	15.10.1849	15.10.1849	A

\*) 1 Dates before 30.10.1830 are believed to be stamper's mistake, not within period of use.

\*) 2 The transition from 302 to 303 to be found out.

\*) 3 CX 3 and CX 4 both belong to Hawkins Variant 3A. 308 has straight lines. See also Lombard Street ref. 305

\*) 4 Examples of this later period should be reported here.

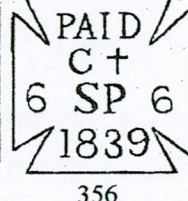
\*) 5 Both dates reported are on local London letters.

\*) 6 The double framed unpaid stamps seem to have been variable in size.

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# Charing Cross Branch Office (contd.)



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
315	CX 11	3 D	red	Variable square shape, large year deep in frame	19.03.1845	02.08.1850	A
316	CX 13	3 E	red	Variable oblong shape, large year, small date	09.08.1851	26.01.1852	A
317 a	CX 14	5	red	Initials CH, left and right lines curved, date sloped	23.02.1850	01.05.1858	E
317 b	„ „	„ „	black	*)7	22.07.1851	18.06.1857	E
318	CX 15, 17	3 F	red	Variable oblong, large date, small corner cutouts *)8	16.11.1852	31.10.1856	A
319	CX 16	(3 G)	red	As 318, but sans-serif characters.	15.05.1857	27.06.1857	C
320	AH 1299		red	Variable, 16 – 17 mm diameter	13.07.1857	07.08.1858	C
321	(AH 1299)		red	Variable, 19 mm diameter	07.09.1858	14.09.1858	D
322	AH 1300		red	Single rim 22 mm, Charing-Cross-W.C. *)9	18.10.1858	18.11.1858	B
351 a	CX 100	1 A	red	Small characters, flat topped 3	08.12.1829	19.12.1831	E
351 b	„ „	„ „	blue	*)10	05.11.1830		H
352	(CX 100)	1 B	red	Larger characters, round topped 3	21.06.1832	18.12.1833	E
353	CX 101	2 A	red	Very large upper wing	20.01.1834	23.10.1835	E
354	CX 101 A	2 B	red	Large angle corners, year higher in frame	27.10.1835	Dec. 1835	F
355	CX 101 B	2 C	red	Small angle corners, larger PAID, C + 6,5 mm	12.01.1836	29.09.1837	E
356	CX 102	2 D	red	Smaller PAID, C + 8 mm	01.08.1838	24.10.1848	C

\*) 7 Found on redirected inland and foreign unpaid mail only (?)

\*) 8 Type CX 18 also belongs to this group.

\*) 9 The standard CX datestamp until March 1866 (introduction of Charing-Cross-W.C. duplex stamps).

\*)10 Stamper's mistake (wrong pad), no period of use.

*contd. next page*



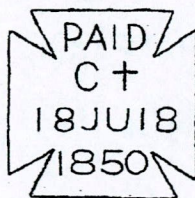
# **Charing Cross Branch Office (contd.)**



357



358



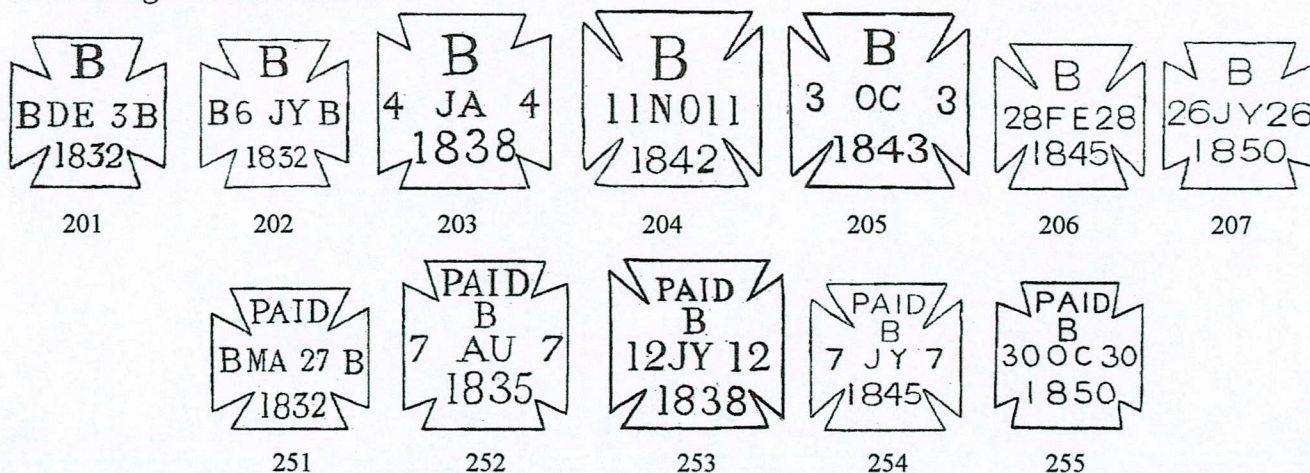
359

Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
357	CX 103	3	red	Double frame (additional series), double day	09.01.1841	08.10.1845	E
358	(CX 103)		red	As before, but single day after month *)11	18.11.1842	14.10.1844	H
359	CX 104	2 E	red	Single frame, but sans serif characters	13.11.1849	15.02.1858	D

\*)11 Stamper's mistake.



## 1. Borough Branch Office



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
201	B 1	1 A	blue	Month before day, flat topped 3 *) 1	02.04.1830	21.10.1834	E
202	B 1	(1 B)	blue	As 201, but day before month *) 1	06.07.1832	12.07.1832	H
203 a	B 2	2 A	blue	Large angle corners	12.02.1835	12.02.1835	H
203 b	„ „	„ „	black	*) 2	15.06.1835	16.05.1838	D
204 a	B 3	2 B	black	Small angle corners, large B *) 2	22.08.1838	02.10.1839	E
204 b	„ „	„ „	red		30.11.1839	05.01.1843	D
205	B 4	(2 B)	red	As 204, but smaller B, year higher in frame *) 3	03.10.1843	22.08.1844	E
206	B 5	2 C	red	Sans-serif characters	27.02.1845	01.01.1848	D
207 a	B 6	2 D	red	Large angle corners	05.06.1850	11.01.1851	E
207 b	„ „	„ „	black		04.04.1851	10.03.1857	D
251	B 100	1	red		27.03.1832	30.12.1834	E
252	B 101	2 A	red	Large angle corners, year high in frame	06.03.1835	10.09.1836	E
253	B 102	2 B	red	Small angle corners, year deep in frame	12.07.1838	28.11.1843	F
254	B 103	2 C	red	Small angle corners, sans-serif characters	07.03.1845	01.01.1848	D
255	B 104	2 D	red	Large angle corners, sans-serif characters	25.09.1850	30.10.1850	G

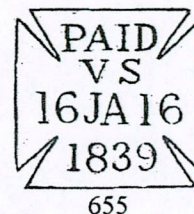
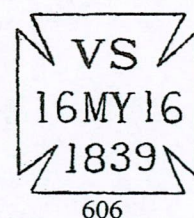
\*) 1 "Day before month": Stamper's mistake or a certain period of use within B 1? All B 1 dates found should be reported.

\*) 2 "Black" colour means a range of shades from greenish to grey and black.

\*) 3 This variant was mentioned, but not designated by Hawkins.



## 5. Vere Street Branch Office



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
601	VS 1	1 A	blue	Month before day, flat topped 3	02.10.1829	24.02.1831	E
602	„ „	(1 B)	blue	Day before month, round topped 3 *) 1	13.03.1832	30.03.1832	H
603	„ „	1 B	red		19.05.1832	04.04.1834	D
604	VS 2	2 A	red	Large angle corners	05.01.1835	13.10.1836	E
605	VS 3	2 B	red	Small angle corners, height of VS 5 mm	28.01.1837	29.05.1838	F
606	(VS 3)	2 C	red	Small angle corners, height of VS 4 mm	22.01.1839	30.11.1842	E
651	(VS 100)	(1)	red	As 552, but without stops after initials	08.02.1830	14.09.1831	F
652	VS 100	1	red		09.08.1832	11.07.1834	E
653	VS 101	2 A	red	Large angle corners, year high in frame	09.09.1835	05.12.1836	F
654	VS 102	2 B	red	Small angle corners, height of PAID 4 mm	13.03.1838	13.03.1838	H
655	VS 103	2 C	red	As 554, but height of PAID 3.5 mm	29.08.1838	14.07.1842	D

\*) 1 "Day before month": Period of use or stamper's mistakes?



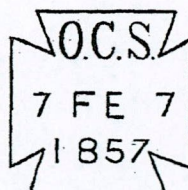
#### 4. Old Cavendish Street Branch Office



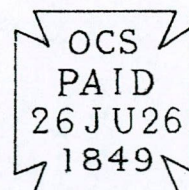
501



502



503



551

Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
501 a	OCS 1	2 A	red		21.12.1842	21.09.1853	B
501 b	„ „	(2 A)	black	*) 1	04.03.1852	08.03.1852	H
502 a	OCS 2	2 B	red	As 501, but sans-serif	12.02.1854	17.10.1856	D
502 b	„ „	(2 B)	black	*) 1	25.11.1852	26.04.1855	D
503	OCS 3	1	red	Only OCS single frame unpaid stamp	05.08.1854	05.03.1857	E
551	OCS 100	1	red	Only OCS paid stamp	19.05.1843	10.07.1851	E

\*) 1 Black colour occurs on unpaid (non-adhesive) letters.



Reply.

27, Greenview Close  
Kempston  
Bedford  
MK42 7BG  
England / U.K.

21 June 05

Dear Gunther

**London – General Post Branch Offices**

Thank you for your recent correspondence concerning the above.

I enclose a copy of a letter addressed to Peter dated 11 August 04 concerning a possible first day of use for **LS 1**. I note your current list still quotes 26 September 1829.

Latest known dates – I believe these should be disregarded for the ‘Standard Series’ as there are obviously sub-types included in the results obtained from the initial survey which have exaggerated the period of use and are thus unreliable.

Latest known dates for positive types should still be acknowledged.

You have implied that some stamps were cut new each day. However, some stamps can be seen to have been in use for some time. I give just two examples –

- **LS 18A** which shows damage to the SE corner (ex **LS 18**) and its subsequent use as **LS 20** with the ‘O’ code.

Incidentally, I wonder if the code F.U. in **LS 18/18A** really does signify ‘Foreign Unpaid’, it’s a convenient assumption but is it correct?

- **CX 14** shows progressive wear and breaks in the curved sides of the outer frame.

I recently obtained a copy of the publication ‘The History of the Postmarks of the British Isles from 1840 to 1876’ by J. G. Hendy. Illustrated on page 18 is **LS 17** (code B.7.) and **LS 20** (code O).

Under **LS 17** (Hendy Fig. 84) – ‘Used on letters posted in country boxes at Lombard Street, B.O., between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m.’

Under **LS 20** (Hendy Fig. 85) – ‘Used (similarly to Fig. 61) on letters posted between 7 and 10 p.m.’

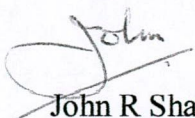
Under Fig. 61 – ‘A steel stamp, used in black in Inland Office’.

I cannot quite understand the connection in this respect.

I have used the LPHG Branch Office references above. The lists that you submitted show the same 300 series of numbers for both Lombard Street and Charing Cross, which I find rather confusing.

Trust the above observations and comments are of some interest.

Yours sincerely

  
John R Sharp



GUNTHER DETTE

Dammstr. 11  
D-45279 Essen  
Germany

London Postal History Group  
The Hon. Secretary  
Peter A. Forrestier Smith  
64 Gordon Road  
Carshalton, Surrey SM 5 3RE

CC.: Barbara Field  
Antony Thompson  
Michael Goodman  
John Sharp

Essen, 23.07.2005

Dear Peter,

having difficulties with my health, and starting a fortnight journey to the Polish Baltic Sea to-night, I try to post this letter before take-off:

As promised to the above mentioned LPHG Members, I enclose my finally updated and corrected list of Branch Offices date-stamps.

The whole is separated into five paragraphs in alphabetical order:

- **1 Borough**, Reference Numbers from 201 onwards (unpaid) and from 251 onwards (paid);
- **2 Charing Cross**, Ref. Nrs. from 301 (unpaid) and from 351 (paid);
- **3 Lombard Street**, Ref. Nrs. from 401 (unpaid) and from 451 (paid);
- **4 Old Cavendish Street**, Ref. Nrs. from 501 (unpaid) and from 551 (paid);
- **5 Vere Street**, Ref. Nrs. from 601 (unpaid) and from 651 (paid).

Some Reference Numbers were altered, some sketches added, some omitted. Manxy earlierst and latest known dates were amended. For the „Standard“ Hawkins Type 3 A to 3 F of Charing Cross and Lombard Street the earliest known dates of 3 A only and the latest known dates of 3 F only were given; the other dates were replaced by the year.

You may amend everything you want. If you want me to make a new layout, I could do this after my return from Poland in mid August.

I tried to do my best. And I thank the Members mentioned above for their konstruktive and helpful comments and work.

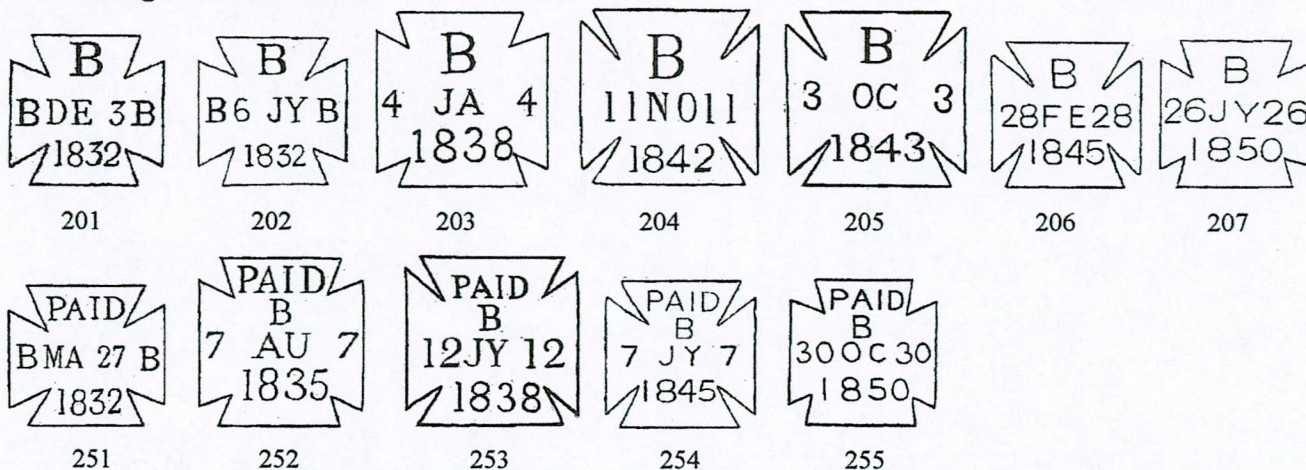
Looking forward to hearing from you and to meeting you again some day I remain

Yours truly

Enclosure



## 1. Borough Branch Office



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
201	B 1	1 A	blue	Month before day, flat topped 3 *) 1	02.04.1830	21.10.1834	E
202	B 1	(1 B)	blue	As 201, but day before month *) 1	06.07.1832	12.07.1832	H
203 a	B 2	2 A	blue	Large angle corners	12.02.1835	12.02.1835	H
203 b	„ „	„ „	black	*) 2	15.06.1835	16.05.1838	D
204 a	B 3	2 B	black	Small angle corners, large B *) 2	22.08.1838	02.10.1839	E
204 b	„ „	„ „	red		30.11.1839	05.01.1843	D
205	B 4	(2 B)	red	As 204, but maller B, year higher in frame *) 3	03.10.1843	22.08.1844	E
206	B 5	2 C	red	Sans-serif characters	27.02.1845	01.01.1848	D
207 a	B 6	2 D	red	Large angle corners	05.06.1850	11.01.1851	E
207 b	„ „	„ „	black		04.04.1851	10.03.1857	D
251	B 100	1	red		27.03.1832	30.12.1834	E
252	B 101	2 A	red	Large angle corners, year high in frame	06.03.1835	10.09.1836	E
253	B 102	2 B	red	Small angle corners, year deep in frame	12.07.1838	28.11.1843	F
254	B 103	2 C	red	Small angle corners, sans-serif characters	07.03.1845	01.01.1848	D
255	B 104	2 D	red	Large angle corners, sans-serif characters	25.09.1850	30.10.1850	G

\*) 1 "Day before month": Stamper's mistake or a certain period of use within B 1? All B 1 dates found should be reported.

\*) 2 "Black" colour means a range of shades from greenish to grey and black.

\*) 3 This variant was mentioned, but not designated by Hawkins.



## 2. Charing Cross Branch Office



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
301	CX 1	1 A	blue	Frame 20,5 mm	12.10.1829	30.10.1830	E
302	„ „	„ „	red	Frame 20,5 mm, X beams 4 mm, flat topped 3 *)1, 2	20.11.1830	03.01.1832	C
303	(CX 1)	1 B	red	Frame 21 mm, X beams 5 mm, round topped 3 *)1	02.02.1832	25.11.1833	C
304	CX 2	2 A	red	Variable, office initials C X	10.05.1833	13.07.1833	F
305	CX 2A	2 B	red	Variable, office initials C +	22.07.1833	11.12.1833	F
306	CX 3	3 A	red	Variable, outer lines more or less curved, year large *)3	04.01.1834	1837	A
307	CX 5	4 A 1	red	Double frame, outer corners rounded, year 5 mm *)6	07.05.1836	04.08.1837	D
308	(CX 4)	3 A	red	Variable, straight lines, large year deep in frame *)3	1837	1838	A
309	- - -	4 A 2	red	Double frame, large angle corners, year 4,5 mm *)6	26.10.1837	14.11.1837	H
310	CX 7	3 B	red	Variable, outer frame lines straight, year small	1839	1842	A
311	CX 6	4 B/C	red	Double frame, outer cornrs pointed, year 3 – 3,5 mm *)6	15.12.1838	03.01.1840	E
312 a	CX 10	3 C	red	Variable “Cruciform“	1843	1848	A
312 b	„ „	„ „	black	Black colour occurs in mid 1844 *)5	25.03.1844	16.05.1844	H
313	CX 8	1 C	red	Re-appearance of 303, but month before day	03.01.1845	06.04.1847	D
314	(CX 1)	1 B	red	As 313, but day before month *)4	15.10.1849	15.10.1849	A

\*) 1 Dates before 30.10.1830 are believed to be stamper's mistake, not within period of use.

\*) 2 The transition from 302 to 303 to be found out.

\*) 3 CX 3 and CX 4 both belong to Hawkins Variant 3A. 308 has straight lines. See also Lombard Street ref. 406

\*) 4 Examples of this later period should be reported here.

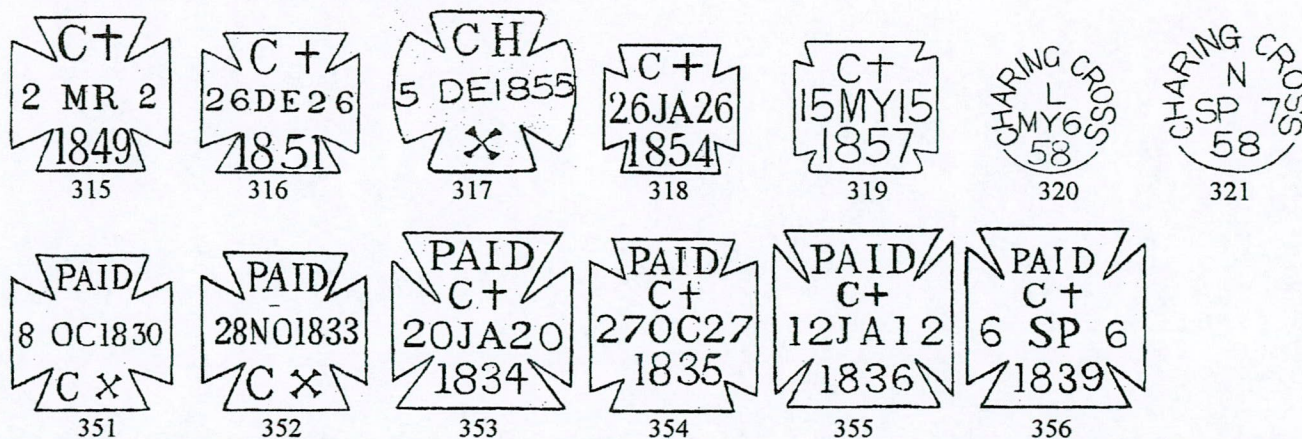
\*) 5 Both dates reported are on local London letters.

\*) 6 The double framed unpaid stamps seem to have been variable in size.

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# Charing Cross Branch Office (contd.)



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
315	CX 11	3 D	red	Variable square shape, large year deep in frame	1843	1851	A
316	CX 13	3 D	red	Variable oblong shape, large year, small date	1851	1852	A
317 a	CX14	5	red	Initials CH, left and right lines curved, date sloped	23.02.1850	01.05.1858	E
317 b	„ „	„ „	black	*) 7	22.07.1851	18.06.1857	E
318	CX 15, 17	3 E/F	red	Variable oblong, large date, small corner cutouts *) 8	1852	21.01.1857	A
319	CX 16	3 G	red	As 318, but sans-serif characters.	15.05.1857	27.06.1857	C
320	AH 1299		red	Variable, 16 – 17 mm diameter	13.07.1857	07.08.1858	C
321	(AH 1299)		red	Variable, 19 mm diameter	07.09.1858	14.09.1858	D
351 a	CX 100	1 A	red	Small characters, flat topped 3	08.12.1829	19.12.1831	E
351 b	„ „	„ „	blue	*) 9	05.11.1830		H
352	(CX 100)	1 B	red	Larger characters, round topped 3	21.06.1832	18.12.1833	E
353	CX 101	2 A	red	Very large upper wing	20.01.1834	23.10.1835	E
354	CX 101 A	2 B	red	Large angle corners, year higher in frame	27.10.1835	Dec. 1835	F
355	CX 101 B	2 C	red	Small angle corners, larger PAID, C + 6,5 mm	12.01.1836	29.09.1837	E
356	CX 102	2 D	red	Smaller PAID, C + 8 mm	01.08.1838	24.10.1848	C

\*) 7 Found on redirected inland and unpaid (non-adhesive) foreign mail.

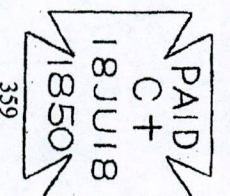
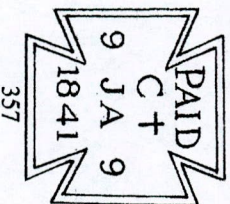
\*) 8 Type CX 18 also belongs to this group.

\*) 9 Stamper's mistake (wrong pad), no period of use.

*contd. next page*

## Charing Cross Branch Office (contd.)



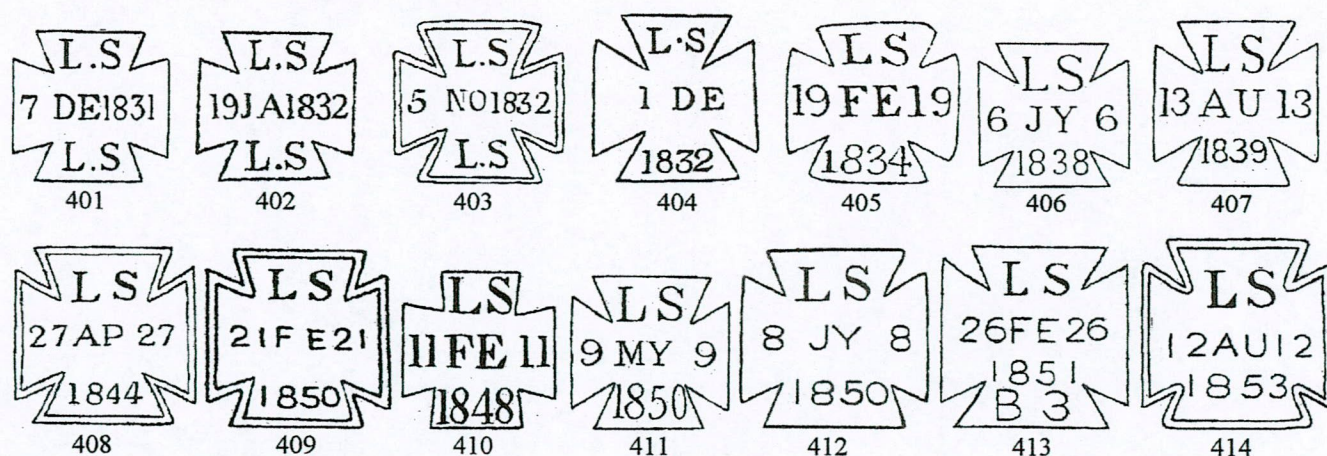


Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
357	CX 103	3	red	Double frame (additional series), double day	09.01.1841	08.10.1845	E
358	(CX 103)		red	As before, but single day after month *)10	18.11.1842	14.10.1844	H
359	CX 104	2 E	red	Single frame, but sans serif characters	13.11.1849	15.02.1858	D

\*) 10 Stamper's mistake.



### 3. Lombard Street Branch Office



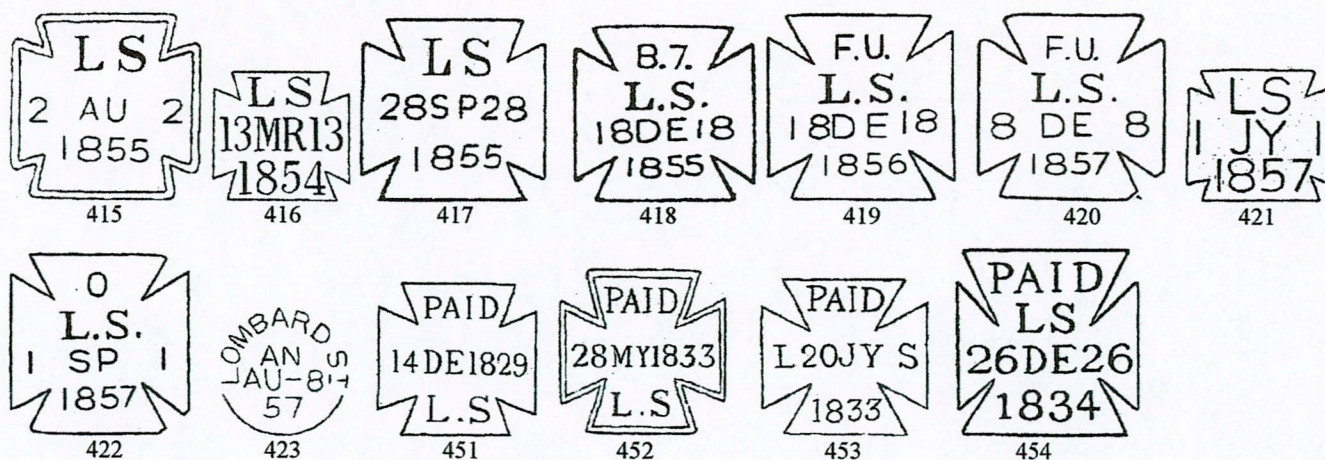
Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
401 a	LS 1	1 A	blue	Initials LS on top and bottom, flat topped 3	23.09.1829	30.05.1831	C
401 b	„ „	1 A	red	As 301 a	21.07.1831	18.12.1832	C
402	„ „	1 B	red	Within period of 301 b, but round topped 3	19.01.1832	30.05.1832	C
403 a	LS 2	-----	blue	As 301, but double frame	12.01.1830	16.01.1830	G
403 b	„ „	-----	red		03.10.1831	05.11.1832	F
404	LS 3A	2	red	Initials LS on top only, year on bottom	01.12.1832	21.12.1833	D
405	LS 4	3 A	black	Variable, outer lines more or less curved, large year	03.04.1834	1836	A
406	LS 4	3 A	black	Variable, straight lines, large year deep in frame	1836	1838	A
407	LS 6	3 B	black	Variable, deep corners, small year high in frame	1838	1842	A
408	LS 7	4 A	red	Only serif characters	09.11.1842	23.01.1850	A
409	LS 7A	4 C	red	Sans-serif date and year, year deep in frame	28.01.1850	23.06.1855	A
410	LS 8	3 C	black	Variable cruciform	1843	1848	A
411	LS 5	3 D/E	black	Variable square shape, large year deep in frame	1849	1851	A
412 a	LS 11	5 A	black	Sans-serif date, year deep in frame	07.09.1849	19.10.1853	B
412 b	„ „	„ „	red	*) 1	21.05.1849	17.07.1855	B
413	LS 12	-----	red	Code B 3 in bottom	16.09.1850	28.11.1857	D
414	LS 13	4 B	red	Inner corner lines rounded, year high in frame	08.02.1850	23.06.1855	D

\*) 1 Later dates see Ref. Nr. 417 on next page.

*contd. next page*



# Lombard Street Branch Office (contd.)



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
415	LS 14	-----	red	Inner corner lines pointed, year higher in frame	02.08.1855	19.03.1857	B
416 a	LS 9, 16	3 E/F	black	Variable oblong shape, large date, small corner cutouts	1852	26.02.1857	A
416 b	LS 9A	3 F	red		1855	30.01.1857	C
417	LS 11A	5 B	red	As 311 b, but year higher in frame	18.09.1855	26.04.1858	B
418	LS 17	6 C	red	Code B.7. on top	09.10.1857	25.03.1858	F
419	LS 18	6 B	black	Code F.U. on top *) 2	19.11.1855	30.06.1857	B
420	LS 18A	6 B	black	As 319, but SE corner damaged and grinded *) 2	01.09.1857	26.07.1858	B
421 a	LS 19	3 G	black	As 317, but sans-serif characters	20.04.1857	06.07.1857	C
421 b	„ „	„ „	red		08.06.1857	30.06.1857	C
422	LS 20	-----	red	Code O on top	30.09.1857	22.02.1858	G
423 a	AH 1299		black	*) 3	17.07.1857	17.08.1857	C
423 b	„ „		blue	*) 3	27.08.1857	28.08.1857	H
423 c	„ „		red	*) 3	20.07.1857		H
451	LS 100	1 A/B	red		14.12.1829	10.11.1832	D
452	LS 100A	4	red	As 351, but double frame	23.01.1830	28.05.1833	E
453	LS 101A	2	red		20.02.1833	05.12.1833	E
454	LS 102	3 A	red	Very large upper wing	13.01.1834	26.12.1834	F

\*) 2 Type LS 18 / 18A examples seen on outgoing Foreign unpaid letters only. Code F.U. means Foreign Unpaid (?).

\*) 3 First letter of the code is A or B. The second code letter of this Creswell stamp follows Stitt Dibden Code A 3.

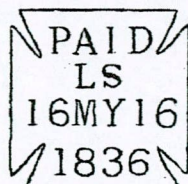
*contd. next page*



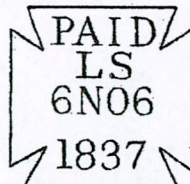
# **Lombard Street Branch Office (contd.)**



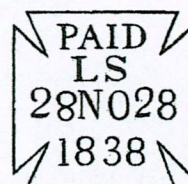
455



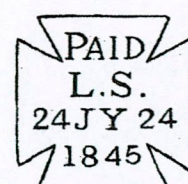
456



457



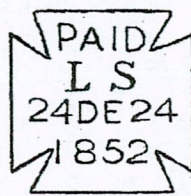
458



459



460



461



462

Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
455	LS 103	3 B	red	Larger angle corners, year high in frame	03.01.1835	21.11.1835	E
456	LS 104	3 C	red	Small angle corners, large PAID, small LS	05.02.1836	25.11.1836	D
457	(LS 104)	-----	red	Larger angle corners, year higher in frame	31.08.1837	05.02.1838	D
458	LS 105	3 D	red	Smaller PAID, smaller angle corn., year high in frame	28.11.1838	11.02.1842	C
459	LS 106	3 E	red	Stops after L and S, small date	08.07.1842	25.09.1849	C
460	LS 107	-----	red	LS above „PAID“, double frame *) 4	-----	-----	GPO
461	LS 108	3 F	red	Except initials sans-serif characters, LS 8 mm	07.05.1850	20.05.1855	D
462	LS 108A	-----	red	Smaller PAID, LS 7 mm, larger angle corners	28.03.1856	12.12.1857	D

\*) 4 No dates of postal use reported. Proof books show images of October 1842 and September 1855.



#### 4. Old Cavendish Street Branch Office



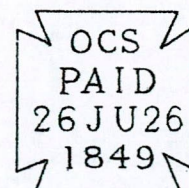
501



502



503



551

Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
501 a	OCS 1	2 A	red		21.12.1842	21.09.1853	B
501 b	„ „	(2 A)	black	*) 1	04.03.1852	08.03.1852	H
502 a	OCS 2	2 B	red	As 501, but sans-serif	12.02.1854	17.10.1856	D
502 b	„ „	(2 B)	black	*) 1	25.11.1852	26.04.1855	D
503	OCS 3	1	red	Only OCS single frame unpaid stamp	05.08.1854	05.03.1857	E
551	OCS 100	1	red	Only OCS paid stamp	19.05.1843	10.07.1851	E

\*) 1 Black colour occurs on unpaid (non-adhesive) letters.



## 5. Vere Street Branch Office



601



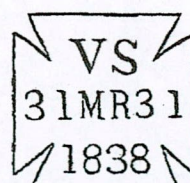
602



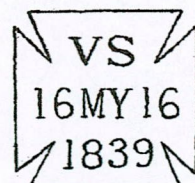
603



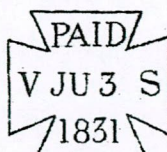
604



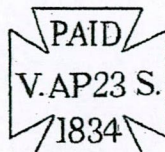
605



606



651



652



653



654



655

Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Rarity Code
601	VS 1	1 A	blue	Month before day, flat topped 3	02.10.1829	24.02.1831	E
602	„ „	(1 B)	blue	Day before month, round topped 3 *) 1	13.03.1832	30.03.1832	H
603	„ „	1 B	red		19.05.1832	04.04.1834	D
604	VS 2	2 A	red	Large angle corners	05.01.1835	13.10.1836	E
605	VS 3	2 B	red	Small angle corners, height of VS 5 mm	28.01.1837	29.05.1838	F
606	(VS 3)	2 C	red	Small angle corners, height of VS 4 mm	22.01.1839	30.11.1842	E
651	(VS 100)	(1)	red	As 552, but without stops after initials	08.02.1830	14.09.1831	F
652	VS 100	1	red		09.08.1832	11.07.1834	E
653	VS 101	2 A	red	Large angle corners, year high in frame	09.09.1835	05.12.1836	F
654	VS 102	2 B	red	Small angle corners, height of PAID 4 mm	06.07.1837	13.03.1838	H
655	VS 103	2 C	red	As 554, but height of PAID 3.5 mm	29.08.1838	14.07.1842	D

\*) 1 "Day before month": Period of use or stamper's mistakes?



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Essen, 1 March 07

**London GPO Branch Offices**

Dear John,

after two years of busy silence please allow me to return to our earlier correspondence in 2005.

I will have a date with Peter to-morrow forenoon at Stampex, where I will present to him two specimen pages of my final proposal for a new edition of your handbook of 1979. Copies of these sheets are enclosed. Your opinion would be important to know.

Shortly: I have renumbered all stamps in a new order:

- Unpaid single frame, no codes
- Unpaid double frame
- Unpaid single frame, codes
- Paid single frame
- Paid double frame.

To avoid confusion with the old system, I combined all stamps with the relevant Jay Catalogue type.

I propose to arrange the Chapters of the new edition as follows:

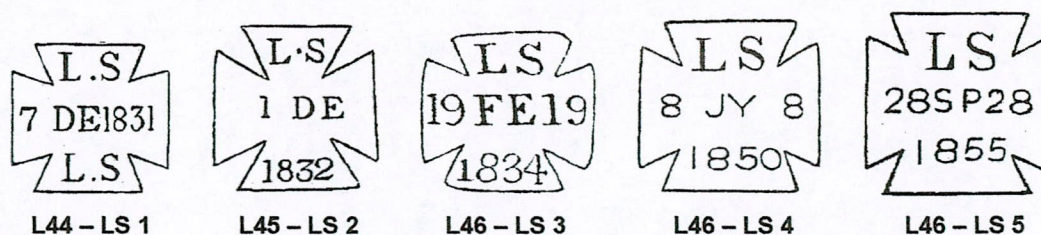
0. General informations
1. The Maltese Cross datestamps of Lombard Street
2. “ “ “ datestamps of Charing Cross
3. “ “ “ datestamps of Vere Street / Old-Cavendish Street
4. “ “ “ datestampsof Borough.
5. The ephemeral unpaid stamps of Lombard Street and Charing Cross
6. a-b-c-stamps, A-stamps, Money Order stamps etc.

Referring to your letter dated **21 June 05**: I never thought, that LS 14, 18/18A or 20 were made new every day. What I now call “ephemeral datestamps” comprises LS 4, 5, 6, 8, 9/9A, 10, 15, 16 and 19.

*p.t.o.*



**Table 2-1 Lombard Street unpaid stamps (single frame, no codes):**

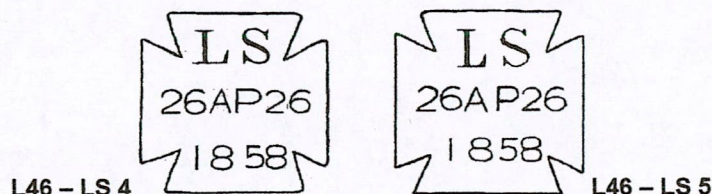


Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
L44 - LS 1	LS 1	blue	"LS" on top and bottom, flat topped "3"	23.09.1829	30.05.1831	C
		red	round topped "3" from JA to MY 1832	21.07.1831	05.10.1832	C
L45 - LS 2	LS 3A	red	"LS" on top only, year on bottom	01.12.1832	21.12.1833	D
L46 - LS 3*	see note	black	see Chapter "The ephemeral datestamps"	18.01.1834	07.07.1857	A
L46 - LS 4**	LS 11	black	sans-serif date, year deep in frame	30.07.1849	08.11.1853	B
		red		21.05.1849	26.04.1858	B
L46 - LS 5***	LS 11	red	"LS" altered, year high in frame	28.09.1855	26.04.1858	B E?

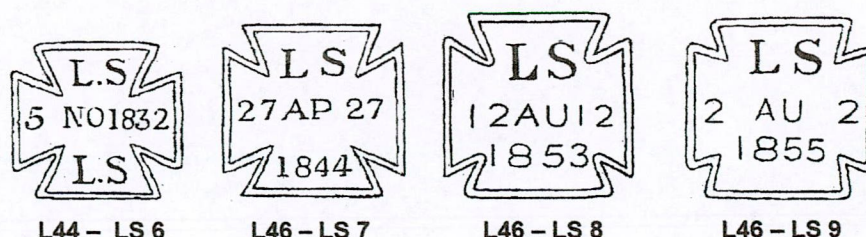
\*) L46-LS 3 comprises 10 Ref.-Nrs. of the 1979 Handbook: LS 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 9A, 10, 15, 16 and 19.

\*\*) The great majority of L46-LS 4 in black colour was used on unpaid letters to foreign countries. Of 23 covers in our collection only one was sent to an inland destination (Lombard Street to Bala 30.11.1849), while all red images of L46-LS 4 are on inland letters, London District included.

\*\*\*) Until now we had no explanation for the reported overlapping of use of L46-LS 4 and L46-LS 5, but we could collect a matching pair of proving covers of the same day: 26.04.1858! One is a „Registered“ letter Lombard Street to Macclesfield, while the other (Lombard Street to Evesham) bears an a-b-c-stamp (too late for a certain mail?):



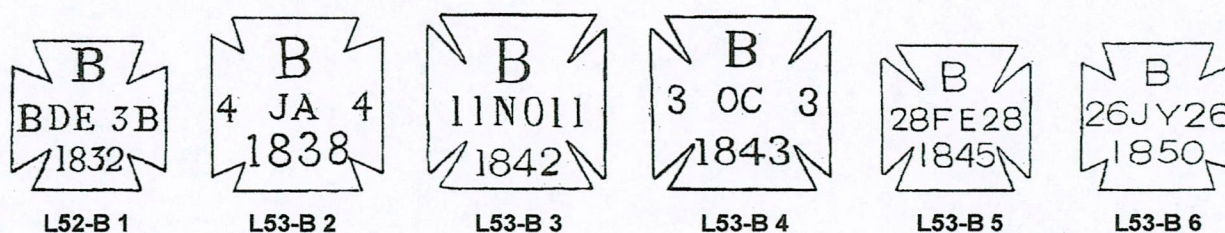
**Table 2-2 Lombard Street unpaid stamps (double frame):**



Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
L46 - LS 6	LS 2	blue	as L44 - LS 1, but double frame	12.01.1830	07.04.1831	G
		red		01.10.1831	05.11.1832	F
L46 - LS 7	LS 7	red	serif characters only	19.10.1842	23.01.1850	A
L46 - LS 8	LS 13	red	inner corner lines rounded, year high in frame	08.02.1850	23.06.1855	D
L46 - LS 9	LS 14	red	inner corner lines pointed, year higher in frame	02.08.1855	09.03.1857	B



**Table 5-1 Borough unpaid stamps**

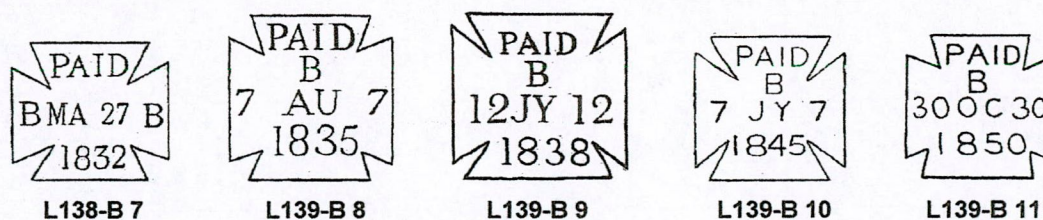


Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
<b>L52 – B 1</b>	B 1	blue	“B“ on bottom, left and right, month before day	02.04.1830	21.10.1834	E
			* as L52-B 1, but day before month	06.07.1832	12.07.1832	H
<b>L53 – B 2</b>	B 2	blue	large angle corners	12.02.1835	12.02.1835	H
		black**		15.06.1835	26.05.1838	D
<b>L53 – B 3</b>	B 3	black**	small angle corners, large “B“	22.08.1838	02.10.1839	E
		red		30.11.1839	05.01.1843	D
<b>L53 – B 4</b>	B 4	red	as L53-B 3, but smaller “B“, year higher in frame	03.10.1843	22.08.1844	E
<b>L53 – B 5</b>	B 5	red	sans-serif characters, small angle corners	27.02.1845	26.11.1849	D
<b>L53 – B 6</b>	B 6	red	sans-serif characters, large angle corners	05.06.1850	11.01.1851	E
		black		04.04.1851		G ?

\*) Day before month: stamper's mistake, not certain period of use.

\*\*\*) “Black“ colour means a range of shades from oily greenish to vapid grey and black.

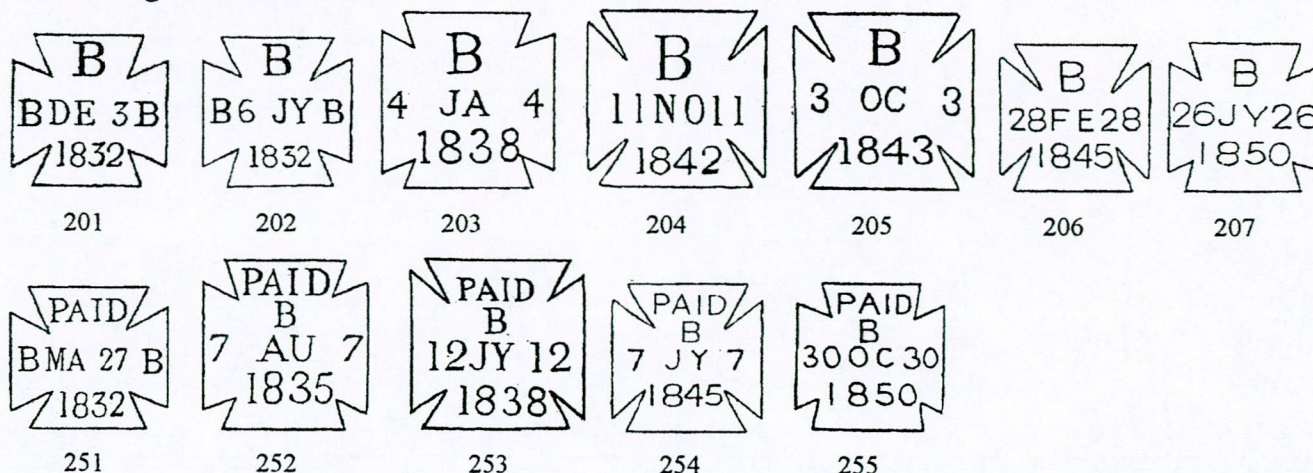
**Table 5-2 Borough paid stamps**



Type	(1979)	colour	specific characteristics	earliest	latest	rarity
<b>L138 – B 7</b>	B 100	red	“B“ on left and right	07.03.1832	30.12.1834	E
<b>L139 – B 8</b>	B 101	red	large angle corners, year high in frame	06.03.1835	10.09.1836	E
<b>L139 – B 9</b>	B 102	red	small angle corners, year deep in frame	12.07.1838	28.11.1843	F
<b>L139 – B 10</b>	B 103	red	small angle corners, sans-serif characters	07.03.1845	01.01.1848	D
<b>L139 – B 11</b>	B 104	red	large angle corners, sans-serif characters	25.09.1850	30.10.1850	G



# 1. Borough Branch Office



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Footnotes
201	B 1	1 A	blue	Month before day, flat topped 3	02.04.1830	11.04.1834	1)
202	B 1	(1 B)	blue	As 201, but day before month	06.07.1832	12.07.1832	1)
203	B 2	2 A	black	Large angle corners	06.12.1836	16.05.1838	2)
204 a	B 3	2 B	black	Small angle corners, large B	22.08.1838	02.10.1839	2)
204 b	„ „	„ „	red		30.11.1839	05.01.1843	
205	B 4	(2 B)	red	As 204, but maller B	03.10.1843	22.08.1844	3)
206	B 5	2 C	red	Sans-serif characters	28.02.1845	01.01.1848	
207	B 6	2 D	red	Large angle corners	05.06.1850	11.01.1851	
251	B 100	1	red		27.03.1832	15.09.1834	
252	B 101	2 A	red	Large angle corners, year high in frame	07.08.1835	07.08.1835	
253	B 102	2 B	red	Small angle corners, year deep in frame	12.07.1838	19.11.1841	
254	B 103	2 C	red	Small angle corners, sans-serif characters	07.03.1845	01.01.1848	
255	B 104	2 D	red	Large angle corners, sans-serif characters	25.09.1850	30.10.1850	

- 1) "Day before month": Stamper's mistake or a certain period of use within B 1? All B 1 dates found should be reported.
- 2) "Black" colour means a range of shades from greenish to grey and black.
- 3) This variant was mentioned, but not designated by Hawkins.



## 2. Charing Cross Branch Office



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Footnotes
302 a	CX 1	1 A	blue	Frame 20,5 mm	24.10.1829	30.10.1830	
302 b	„ „	„ „	red	Frame 20,5 mm, X beams 4 mm, flat topped 3	20.11.1830	03.01.1832	1) 2)
303	(CX 1)	1 B	red	Frame 21 mm, X beams 5 mm, round topped 3	02.02.1832	25.11.1833	2)
304	CX 2	2 A	red	Variable, office initials C X	10.05.1833	13.07.1833	
305	CX 2A	2 B	red	Variable, office initials C +	23.07.1833	11.12.1833	
306	CX 3	3 A	red	Variable, outer lines more or less curved, year large	04.01.1834	25.08.1837	3)
307	CX 5	4 A 1	red	Double frame, outer corners rounded, year 5 mm	07.05.1836	25.07.1838	6)
308	(CX 4)	3 A	red	Variable, straight lines, large year deep in frame	13.10.1837	05.10.1838	3)
309	---	4 A 2	red	Double frame, large angle corners, year 4,5 mm	26.10.1837	26.10.1837	6)
310	CX 7	3 B	red	Variable, outer frame lines straight, year small	06.08.1839	02.05.1842	
311	CX 6	4 B/C	red	Double frame, outer cornrs pointed, year 3 – 3,5 mm	14.11.1837	03.01.1840	6)
312 a	CX 10	3 C	red	Variable “Cruciform”	10.10.1843	05.04.1848	
312 b	„ „	„ „	black	Black colour occurs in mid 1844	25.03.1844	16.05.1844	5)
313	CX 8	1 C	red	Re-appearance of 303, but month before day	03.01.1845	09.07.1846	
314	(CX 1)	1 B	red	As 313, but day before month	15.10.1849	15.10.1849	4)

1) Dates before 30.10.1830 are believed to be stamper's mistake, not within period of use.

2) The transition from 302 to 303 to be found out.

3) CX 3 and CX 4 seem to be identical. 308 has straight lines. See also Lombard Street ref. 305

4) Examples of this later period should be reported here.

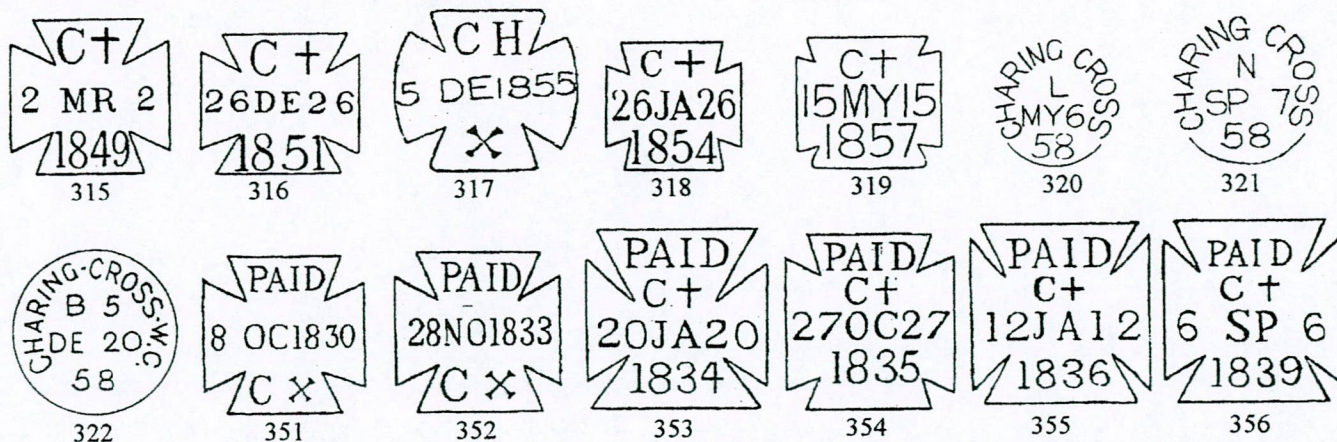
5) Both dates reported are on local London letters.

6) The double framed unpaid stamps seem to have been variable in size.

*contd. next page*



# Charing Cross Branch Office (contd.)



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Footnotes
315	CX 11	3 D	red	Variable square shape, large year deep in frame	19.03.1845	02.08.1850	
316	CX 13	3 E	red	Variable oblong shape, large year, small date	09.08.1851	26.01.1852	
317 a	CX 14	5	red	Initials CH, left and right lines curved, date sloped	23.02.1850	01.05.1858	
317 b	„ „	„ „	black		22.07.1851	18.06.1857	7)
318	CX 15, 17	3 F	red	Variable oblong shape, large date, small corner cutouts	16.11.1852	31.10.1856	8)
319	CX 16	(3 G)	red	As 318, but sans-serif characters.	15.05.1857	27.06.1857	
320	AH 1299		red	Variable, 16 – 17 mm diameter	13.07.1857	Sept. 1858	
321	(AH 1299)		red	Variable, 19 mm diameter	07.09.1858	07.09.1858	
322	AH 1300		red	Single rim 22 mm, Charing-Cross-W.C.	11.11.1858	---	9)
351 a	CX 100	1 A	red	Small characters, flat topped 3	08.12.1829	19.12.1831	
351 b	„ „	„ „	blue		05.11.1830		10)
352	(CX 100)	1 B	red	Larger characters, round topped 3	21.06.1832	28.11.1833	
353	CX 101	2 A	red	Very large upper wing	20.01.1834	???	11)
354	CX 101 A	2 B	red	Large angle corners, year higher in frame	03.01.1835	Dec. 1835	
355	CX 101 B	2 C	red	Small angle corners, larger PAID, C + 6,5 mm	12.01.1836	29.09.1837	
356	CX 102	2 D	red	Smaller PAID, C + 8 mm	01.08.1838	05.08.1848	

7) Found on redirected and foreign unpaid mail only (?)

8) Type CX 18 also belongs to this group.

9) The standard CX datestamp until March 1866 (introduction of Charing-Cross-W.C. duplex stamps).

10) Stamper's mistake (wrong pad), no period of use.

11) Later dates than 1834 should be proven by photocopy sent to the Editors.

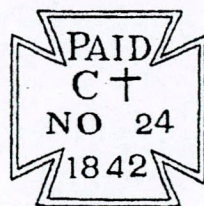
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# Charing Cross Branch Office (contd.)



357



358



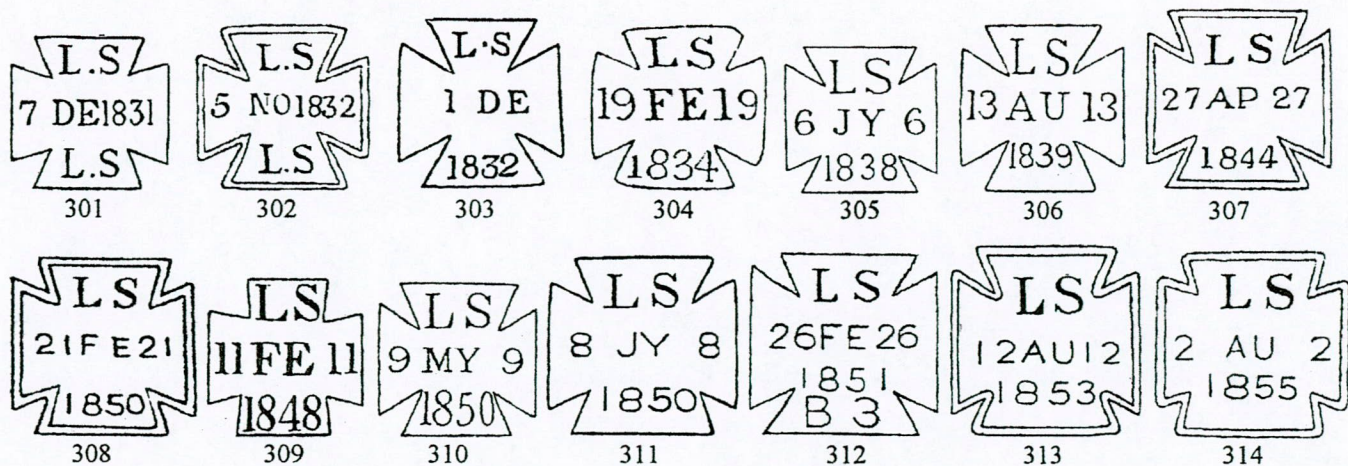
359

Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Footnotes
357	CX 103	3	red	Double frame (additional series), double day	09.01.1841	08.10.1845	
358	(CX 103)		red	As before, but single day after month	24.11.1842	14.10.1844	12)
359	CX 104	2 E	red	Single frame, but sans serif characters	18.06.1850	15.02.1858	

12) Stamper's mistake or a certain period of use within CX 103. All dates found should be reported.



### 3. Lombard Street Branch Office



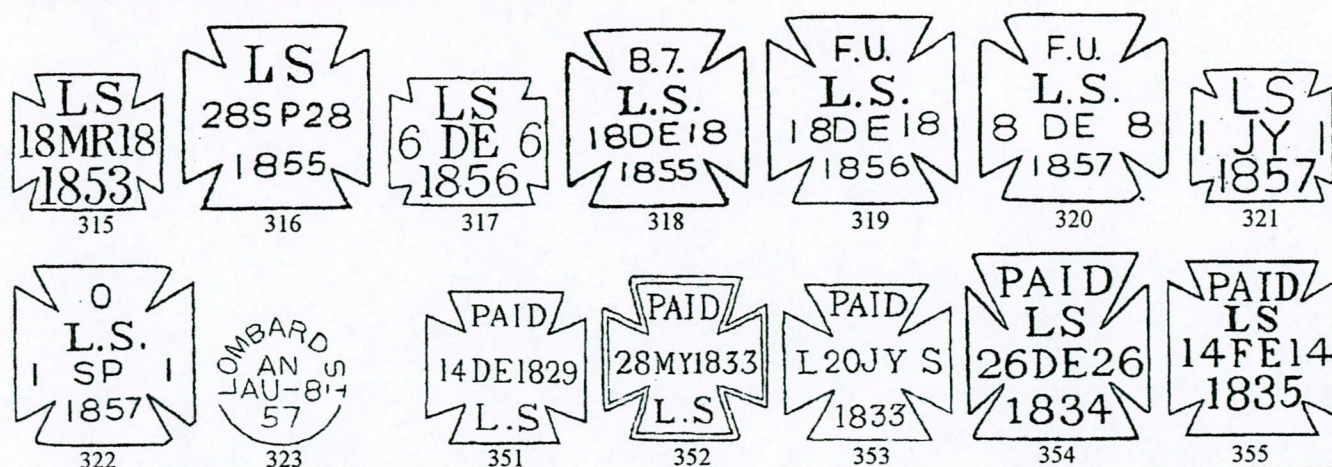
Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	footnotes
301 a	LS 1	1 A	blue	Initials LS on top and bottom	26.09.1829	30.05.1831	
301 b	„ „	1 A / B	red		28.07.1831	18.12.1832	1)
302 a	LS 2	-----	blue	As 301, but double frame	12.01.1830	16.01.1830	
302 b	„ „	-----	red		05.01.1832	05.11.1832	
303	LS 3A	2	red	Initials LS on top only, year on bottom	01.12.1832	13.12.1833	
304	LS 4	3 A	black	Variable, outer lines more or less curved, large year	03.04.1834	09.06.1836	
305	LS 4	3 A	black	Variable, straight lines, large year deep in frame	13.09.1836	06.07.1838	
306	LS 6	3 B	black	Variable, deep corners, small year high in frame	04.12.1838	19.10.1842	
307	LS 7	4 A	red	Only serif characters	09.11.1842	09.11.1849	
308	LS 7A	4 C	red	Sans-serif date and year, year deep in frame	???	???	
309	LS 8	3 C	black	Variable cruciform	11.11.1843	11.03.1848	
310	LS 5	3 D	black	Variable square shape, large year deep in frame	30.03.1849	23.08.1850	
311 a	LS 11	5 A	black	Sans-serif date, year deep in frame	01.10.1849	19.10.1853	
311 b	„ „	„ „	red		21.05.1849	17.07.1855	2)
312	LS 12	-----	red	Code B 3 in bottom	16.09.1850	05.09.1857	
313	LS 13	4 B	red	Inner corner lines rounded, year high in frame	28.05.1850	23.06.1855	
314	LS 14	-----	red	Inner corner lines pointed, year higher in frame	02.08.1855	09.03.1857	

- 1) Round topped 3 from January 1832 to May 1832.  
 2) Later dates see ref. nr. 316 on next page.

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# Lombard Street Branch Office (contd.)



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Footnotes
315	LS 16	3 E	black	Variable oblong shape, corner cutouts larger than 317			
316	LS 11A	5 B	red	As 311 b, but year higher in frame	18.09.1855	26.04.1858	
317 a	LS 9	3 F	black	Variable oblong shape, corner cutouts very small	05.07.1847	26.02.1857	
317 b	LS 9A	„ „	red		01.11.1855	07.01.1857	
318	LS 17	6 C	red	Code B.7. on top	09.10.1857	25.03.1858	
319	LS 18	6 B	black	Code F.U. on top	19.11.1855	17.06.1857	3)
320	LS 18A	6 B	black	As 319, but SE corner damaged and grinded	01.09.1857	26.07.1858	3)
321 a	LS 19	3 G	black	As 317, but sans-serif characters	20.04.1857	06.07.1857	
321 b	„ „	„ „	red		08.06.1857	30.06.1857	
322	LS 20	-----	red	Code O on top	17.11.1857	22.02.1858	
323 a	AH 1299		black		29.07.1857	08.08.1857	4)
323 b	„ „		blue		27.08.1857		4)
351	LS 100	1 A/B	red		14.12.1829	10.11.1832	
352	LS 100A	4	red	As 351, but double frame	23.01.1830	28.05.1833	
353	LS 101A	2	red		20.02.1833	05.12.1833	
354	LS 102	3 A	red	Very large upper wing	27.01.1834	26.12.1834	5)
355	LS 103	3 B	red	Smaller wings, larger angle corners, year high in frame	03.01.1835	21.11.1835	

3) Type LS 18 / 18A examples seen on outgoing Foreign unpaid letters only. Code F.U. means Foreign Unpaid.

4) First letter of the code is A or B. The second code letter of this Creswell stamp follows Stitt Dibden Code A 3.

5) Later dates than 1834 should be proven by photocopy, sent to the Editors.

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# **Lombard Street Branch Office (contd.)**



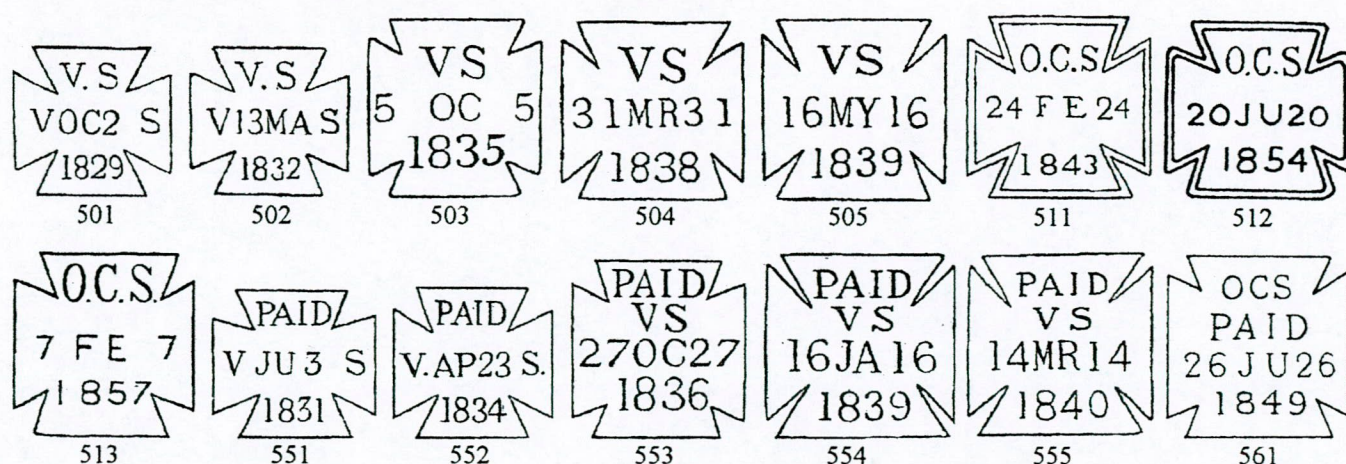
Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Footnotes
356	LS 104	3 C	red	Small angle corners, large PAID, small LS	05.02.1836	06.11.1837	
357	LS 105	3 D	red	Smaller PAID, larger LS, year high in frame	28.11.1838	11.02.1842	
358	LS 106	3 E	red	Stops after L and S, small date	08.07.1842	25.09.1849	
359	LS 107	-----	red	LS above date, double frame	-----	-----	6)
360	LS 108	3 F	red	Except initials sans-serif characters, LS 8 mm	07.05.1850	???	
361	LS 108A	-----	red	Smaller PAID, LS 7 mm, larger angle corners	28.03.1856	12.12.1857	
362	AH 1349		red		06.11.1858	-----	7)

6) No dates of postal use reported. Proof books show images of October 1842 and September 1855.

7) Reported to be used on Foreign letters until the 1860's. First letter of the code always F = Foreign. Second letter does not follow Stitt Dibden A3, but its run is shifted by 2 weeks.



#### 4. Vere Street / Old Cavendish Street Branch Office



Reference Number	Type LPHG	Type Hawkins	Colour	Characteristics	Earliest known	Latest known	Footnotes
501 a	VS 1	1 A/B	blue	Month before day	02.10.1829	21.03.1832	1)
501 b	„ „	1 B	red	As above	30.06.1832	22.02.1834	
502	(VS 1)	(1 B)	blue	Day before month	13.03.1832	30.03.1832	2)
503	VS 2	2 A	red	Large angle corners	05.01.1835	12.10.1836	
504	VS 3	2 B	red	Small angle corners, height of VS 5 mm	28.01.1837	29.05.1838	
505	(VS 3)	2 C	red	Small angle corners, height of VS 4 mm	22.01.1839	30.11.1842	
511 a	OCS 1	2 A	red		26.01.1843	21.09.1853	
511 b	„ „	(2 A)	black		04.03.1852	08.03.1852	3)
512 a	OCS 2	2 B	red	As 511, but sans-serif	12.02.1854	17.10.1856	
512 b	„ „	(2 B)	black		25.11.1852	26.04.1855	3)
513	OCS 3	1	red	Only OCS single frame unpaid stamp	05.08.1854	05.03.1857	
551	(VS 100)	(1)	red	As 552, but without stops after initials	08.02.1830	03.06.1831	
552	VS 100	1	red		???	23.04.1834	
553	VS 101	2 A	red	Large angle corners, year high in frame	19.11.1835	27.10.1836	
554	VS 102	2 B	red	Small angle corners, large PAID	29.08.1838	16.01.1839	
555	VS 103	2 C	red	As 554, but small PAID	29.02.1839	20.10.1841	
561	OCS 100	1	red	Only OCS paid stamp	19.05.1843	26.06.1842	

1) “3” in date at first flat-topped, from February 1832 round-topped.

2) “Day before month”: Period of use or stamper’s mistakes?

3) Black colour occurs on unpaid (non-adhesive) inland letters.



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[illegible]

\*) Special service e.g.: Foreign, Registered, Notice, Packet, unpaid (no adhesive), redirected.  
Destination e.g.: London, Inland, Foreign Country, Brit. Overseas Country.