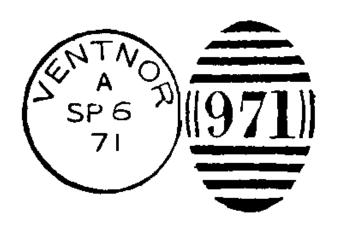
BARRED NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

JOHN PARMENTER, DAVID LUCKLY, KEN SMITH

PROF. CEDRIC PRYS-ROBERTS (WALES)



ISLE OF WIGHT

BARRED NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

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This download is from the six-volume edition published between 2011&2013 by John Parmenter 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU.

It incorporates the following:

- 1/ Status of the Offices that used barred numeral cancellations.
- 2/ A list of the Sub Offices of major Offices that used barred numeral cancels.
- 3/ The later numeral allocations that were made after barred numerals ceased to be issued.

Dates, codes and times in red are new to the published volumes.

Dates of a change in status are derived largely from the Post Office Guide for January of each year, if a change occurs in say the 1865 edition, it actually took place sometime in 1864.

Status of the Offices

Head Post Offices / **Post Town** collected, sorted, cancelled and distributed mail from and to a series of Subordinate Offices.

The address of mail sent to a place with a Head Office would end just with the name of the town i.e. Bedford.

Independent Sub Offices evolved in the second half of the 19th Century having an address that was independent of the nearest Head Office, most of their mail could come straight to them.

Mail sent to these addresses ended with S.O. and the county name.

i.e. Shefford S.O. Beds. (from 1873 to 1886)

Railway Sub Offices (R.S.O.)

These were offices that received and sent their mail to a travelling railway post office rather than a conventional head office.

i.e. Shefford R.S.O. Beds. (from 1886 to 1905)

When the term "Railway Sub Office" was abolished in 1905, these became Independent Sub Offices; in 1909 they became Post Towns. Although the term R.S.O. was abolished in 1905 it remained in use in many cds's for several years afterwards.

Subordinate Offices The address of mail sent there had to include the name of the Head Office:-

- i.e. Potton, Biggleswade. (1844 to 1854)
- i.e. Potton, St Neots. (1854 to 1872)
- i.e. Potton, Sandy. (1872 to present)

These normally received and sent most of their mail direct to a Head Office.

In the text the dates given are for the length of time that they were sub offices not the period of use of barred numerals.

A Sub Office in an urban environment, before 1892 was called a Town Receiving Office.

LETTER BOXES.

Pillar Boxes and Wall Boxes, did not normally have their own cancellation, exception were Late Fee Letter Boxes at Railway Stations. The cancellation was applied either in the Travelling Post Office, eg. Euston Square Station with its provincial style 964 cancellation, or in transit the Manchester/Liverpool/Leeds/ Bradford Late Box cancellations which were cancelled in London.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE CANCELLATIONS:

1844 type for the single obliterators issued to all the offices in the lists to 1850.



1844

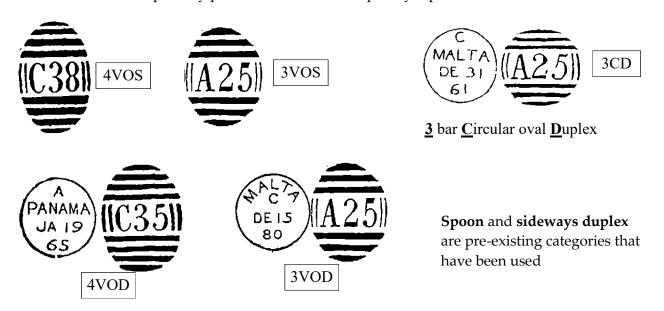
3HOS is a 3 Bar Horizontal Oval Single obliterator

The 3HOS replaced the 1844 type in the 1850's. They can sometimes be very similar in that the 1844's can have three bars at the top and base. The key characteristic to separate these from a subsequently issued 3HOS is the length of the uppermost and lowermost bars. These are long in the 1844 type and short and often convex in the 3HOS. The figure 4 almost always has a serif on the horizontal bar in 1844s and is always sans serif in the 3HOSs.



4VOS is a **4** Bar Vertical Oval Single obliterator **3VOS** is a **3** Bar Vertical Oval Single obliterator

Obliterators that were first issued as a 4VOS can through wear and local recutting become a 3VOS or indeed rarely a 2VOS. As these always derive from the original 4VOS they are placed in that category. The evidence is that the size of the figures and letters stay the same despite the reduction in the number of bars. True 3VOS's are separately proofed as such and frequently replace a 4VOS.



<u>4</u> bar <u>Vertical <u>O</u>val Duplex <u>3</u> bar <u>Vertical <u>O</u>val <u>D</u>uplex</u></u>

3VODX A distinctive pattern of 3VOD was sent to 21 towns on 10 MAY1873. In the Proof Books the cds and obliterator were separately entered, with the cds often at an angle and some distance from the obliterator. In use the cds and obliterator were also some distance apart, they were the first 3VOD cancels to be issued. They are often described as a 3VOS in the literature. Of the 21, three are common Birmingham, Manchester and Cheltenham, 11 are very rare, and 7 have never been seen. They might have been for use in an experimental new style of handstamp or cancelling machine. Whatever the nature of the experiment it appears to not to have been successful.

ILLUSTRATIONS

The majority of the illustrations are face different Proof Book entries. These have been photocopied from photocopies held in the Post Office archive.

There are very few examples of the 1844 type in the Proof Books, most examples in the catalogue have been traced from actual examples.

If there are two identical copies of a cancel entered at the same in the Proof Books this can often be shown to be the issue of two different cancels. The official stamping the entry found it easier to make two impressions of the same cancel rather than one of each.

DATE OF ISSUE

The date attached to each illustration is the first date of entry in the Proof Books. Just the month and year are quoted because of the ambiguities in the various possible dates: -

1/ The date a cancellation was sent to a Head Office, this was not always the final destination.

2/ The date in the cds of the cancellation, this is not always the same as the date sent. It can indeed be almost a year out. Volume 15 of the Proof Books consists of cut outs of cancellations, these are often duplicate entries of cancels that are in other Proof Books - however the cds date in volume 15 can often be much earlier in the year than the date in the other Proof Books. The earlier date is certainly the correct one.

3/ The date a cancel was proofed – this is in a column marked "sent" in the Proof Books.

In the literature any of these three sources could have been used for the "date of issue".

RARITY & PRICE

The rarity index ranges from A = abundant to H = very few recorded. H* has been used for proofed cancels that have only been recorded on loose stamp.

GPO means that the cancel has only been seen in the Proof Books.

Prices for coloured cancels have not been quoted, there is too much variation.

Prices have not been updated from those quoted in the six volume set issued 2011 to 2013 - i.e. they are at least 10 years old.

POST OFFICE LISTS

The list of numeral allocations comes from a combination of several sources:-

1/ The Official Lists held in various forms in the Post Office Archives and several that are privately held.

2/ Individual changes in allocation listed in the Post Office Circular, which was a set of weekly instructions to Postmasters.

The Official Lists that have been used:-

1844 – contained in Dendy Marshall's book. Thus seen by Brumell.

1845 - 1847 - 1855 - 1856 - 1857 contained in the relevant Post Office Directory.

1874 - 1882 - 1887 - 1892 - currently available in the Post Office Archives, in their file Post 55. The 1882 list is new, it was not seen or mentioned by Brumell.

1899 - Brumell mentions a list that he had not seen that was quoted by Whitworth (Southport 1905) as the "1899" list. Post Office Archives have an 1887 list with manuscript additions up to about 1900. This is certainly Whitworth's "1899" list.

1902 - seen and listed by Brumell, but there is no longer a copy in the Post Office Archives.

1906 - currently available in the Post Office Archives, in Post 55. This was the last list used by Brumell.

1924, 1929 and 1949 - these have recently become available in the Post Office Archives, in Post 55, called Post Office Form 1013. They were not available to Mackay.

1954, 1959 - listed by George Pearson in his 1959 publication. The lists are not in the Post Office Archives.

1962 - an original list seen and quoted by Mackay. Given by him in 1990 to the Post Office Archives, but no longer available. A privately held copy has been downloaded from the GBPS website.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

George Brumell, *British Post Office Numbers* 1844 – 1906. R.C.Alcock Cheltenham 1946 and 1971. The collectors "bible", the first edition had a section on postmarks, which was unfortunately left out of the later 1971 edition. It also contained a good description of earlier books published on Post Office numbers.

George Pearson, *List of Index Numbers used in Surcharge Explanatory and other Stamps in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.* Privately printed 1959. The only source for the 1954 and 1959 lists. A rare publication. James A. Mackay, *British Post Office Numbers 1924 to 1969.* Published by the author 1981. A good summary of what information was available at that time.

Marshall, Dendy *The British Post Office from its beginnings to the end of 1925*. Oxford University Press 1926. An interesting collection of information on the history of stamp issues and an index of people, places and items associated with British Postal history. Contains a good annotated bibliography.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This has been a cooperative effort, with over two hundred and fifty correspondents over the last forty years. Their input varies from a making a few additions to complete editing of whole chapters.

Particular help has been provided over many years by Grahame Blackman and David Tolfrey.

Post Office Archives: Many thanks for all their help in the past, although under the current regime research is becoming increasingly difficult. This follows a general tendency amongst archivists to make preservation the all-pervading priority and making access secondary.

ISLE OF WIGHT INDEX 225

BRADING C54 COWES 223

EAST COWES C16 - 24 - 289

FRESHWATER STATION H06 - 296

GODSHILL C52 NEWPORT 560 ROOKLEY C53

RYDE 666 - D88 - F43

SANDOWN B88 - 677 SCHOOL GREEN H06 SHANKLIN B89 - 682

Totland Bay 988 **VENTNOR 971**

WOOTTON BRIDGE C55

WROXALL D50 YARMOUTH 486

24 East Cowes

East Cowes was allocated number C16 in the 1882 to 1906 lists then 289 in the 1924 to 1952 lists and then finally number 24 in the lists from 1952 to 1962.

225 COWES

Head Post Office 1844 onwards.

Cowes was allocated number 225 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.

Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- C16 East Cowes 1844 to 1896.



1844 APR1844



3HOS MAY1851



3HOS JUN1851

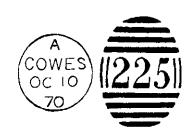
1844 Used from 21 JUN1844 to 4 FEB1851 Price E £20 **3HOS** Used from 5 APR1852 to 15 AUG1872 Price B £6



3VOS JUN1873

3VOS Used from 17 APR1875 to 28 MAY1881 Price D £12





4VODA OCT1870

ISLE OF WIGHT 225-486



4VODB JUL1872



4VODB (Curved Cowes) Used from 12 AUG1872 to 7 SEP1879 Code: C Price B £4



3VOD Used from 20 AUG1879 to 24 APR1881 Code: C Price G £40

Squared Circles in use: DEC1881 to OCT1898

289 East Cowes

East Cowes was allocated number C16 in the 1882 to 1906 lists then 289 in the 1924 to 1952 lists and then finally number 24 in the lists from 1952 to 1962.

296 Freshwater Station See H06

486 YARMOUTH

Sub Office of Lymington 1844 to 1855, Sub Office of Southampton 1855 to 1865, Sub Office of Newport 1865 to 1866. Railway Sub Office 1866 to 1905. Independent Sub Office 1905 to present Yarmouth was allocated number 486 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.



1844 APR1844



3HOS FEB1858

1844 Used from 4 JUN1845 to 15 SEP1857 Price G £50

1844 in blue Used in MAR1849

1844 with 3 bars top and bottom Used on 16 SEP1849

1844 with 3 bars top and bottom, in red-brown Used from 3 SEP1850 to 18 SEP1850

3HOS Used from 4 MAR1858 to 31 AUG1863 Price G £50



4VOS APR1866



3VOS MAY1873



3VOS JAN1882

4VOS Used from 9 OCT1866 to 29 NOV1874 Price G £60+

3VOS Used from 1 JUL1873 to 11 NOV1896 Price F £30

ISLE OF WIGHT 486-560



4VOD NOV1875



3VOD FEB1882

4VOD Used from 3 JAN1876 to 20 DEC1881 Codes: A B Price E £20

3VOD Time in code Used from 18 JAN1883 to 22 NOV1897 Codes: A B C 6 Price C £4

3VOD Time in full Used from 23 JUN1898 to 8 JAN1905

Times: 10AM 1145AM 12PM 1245PM 615PM 630PM 645PM Price A £3

560 NEWPORT

Head Post Office 1844 onwards.

Newport was allocated number 560 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.

Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- 486 Yarmouth 1865 to 1866.



1844 APR1844



3HOS MAY1857



3HOS MAR1859



3HOS APR1859

1844 Used from 12 JUN1844 to 22 DEC1856 Price A £5

1844 in blue Used from JUL1847 to DEC1850

3HOS Used from 3 SEP1857 to 23 AUG1875 Price D £10



3VOS OC-T1879





3CD JUL1862

3VOS No dated copies recorded Price H* £60+ (Price if found on dated cover)

3CD Time in code Used from 23 FEB1863 to 21 FEB1894

Codes: A B C D E F Price A £5

3CD Time in asterisk code Used from 31 JUL1894 to 28 FEB1895

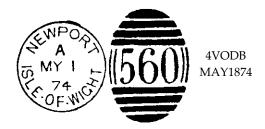
Codes: HI*A MD*A CF*P F*P GF*P Price G £15



4VODA **DEC1864**

ISLE OF WIGHT 560-666

4VODA (Newport I-W. in cds) Used from 22 MAR1865 to 30 AUG1872 Code: D Price G £50





3VOD FEB1880

3VOD Time in code Used from 21 DEC1880 to 31 JUL1882 Codes: A E Price D £6

3VOD Time in asterisk code These are all 3CD's

3VOD Time in full Used from 2 MAY1886 to 17 NOV1905 Times: 1230AM 430AM 7AM 730AM 845AM 10AM 1030AM 1045AM 11AM 1130AM 1145AM 1230PM 1PM 245PM 4PM 430PM 445PM 545PM 730PM 8PM 1130 Price A £3

666 RYDE

Head Post Office 1844 onwards.

Ryde was allocated number 666 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.



1844 APR1844



3HOS FEB1857



3HOS MAY1858



3HOS JUL1861



3HOS NOV1862

1844 Used from 18 MAY1844 to 13 SEP1856 Price A £6 **3HOS** Used from 18 MAR1857 to 15 AUG1867 Price D £10





ISLE OF WIGHT 666

3VOS Used from 13 AUG1876 to 27 AUG1927 Price F £30 20th C. £20



3CD MAR1859



3CD FEB1867

3CD Used from 9 JUN1859 to 1 APR1868 Codes: A C D E Price A £4



RYDE | 666

E RYDE MR 15 71

JAN1867

4VODA JUL1869 4VODA MAR1871

4VODA (Straight Ryde) Time in code Used from 26 MAR1867 to 12 OCT1891 Codes: A B C D E F L none Price B £4 Five were proofed between JAN1867 & MAR1871 **4VODA** (Straight Ryde) Time in full 24 OCT1896 to 27 DEC1897

Times: 1230PM 545PM 630PM 830PM Price F £8



4VODB MAY1872



4VODB JUL1872

4VODB (Curved Ryde) Time in code Used from 18 JUN1872 to 12 DEC1894

Codes: A B C D E F G I J M N T none Price A £4

4VODB (Curved Ryde) Time in asterisk code Used from 31 JUL1894 to 14 JUL1903 Codes: FI*A I*A IH*A II*A LF*A A*P AF*P CF*P DF*P HF*P IF*P MC*P ME*P

Price D£8



ISLE OF WIGHT 666-971

3VOD Time in code Used from 21 SEP1893

Code: F Price H £8

3VOD Time in asterisk code Used from 16 OCT1895 to 15 OCT1895

Codes: FI*A AF*P BI*P DF*P HC*P HF*P ME*P Price D £8

3VOD Time in full Used from 17 JUN1904 to 5 JUN1913

Times: 645AM 11AM 1215PM 330PM 515PM 530PM 830PM Price A £3

This has much thinner bars than the previous 3VODs

Squared Circles in use: SEP1880 to FEB1901

677 Sandown was allocated B88 in the lists from 1874 to 1906 and 677 from 1924 to 1962. 682 Shanklin was allocated B89 in the lists from 1874 to 1906 and 682 from 1924 to 1962.

971 VENTNOR

Head Post Office 1844 to? Branch Office to Modified Scale Post Office in 1993. Ventnor was allocated number 971 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.



1844 JUN1848



3HOS NOV1857

1844 Used from 2 AUG1848 to 20 FEB1865 Price C £20 for early covers, £8 for later. **3HOS** Used from 14 DEC1857 to 14 DEC1869 Price D £10



3VOS JUN1877



4VODA

APR1865

3VOS AUG1879

3VOS GPO



4VODA (Straight Ventnor) Used from 1 AUG1865 to 10 JUN1871 Codes: A B D Price B £4

ISLE OF WIGHT 971-B88



4VODB SEP1871



4VODB NOV1874

4VODB (Curved Ventnor) Time in code Used from 13 AUG1872 to 2 APR1894

Codes: A B C D E F H I J K Price A £3

4VODB (Curved Ventnor) Time in asterisk code Used from 12 MAY1894 to 30 JUL1895

Codes: HK*A KI*A BF*P CH*P DI*P FG*P H*P K*P MF*P Price C £6

4VODB (Curved Ventnor) Time in full Used from 5 SEP1895 to 11 MAY1913

Times: 1230AM 845AM 9AM 10AM 1045AM 1145AM 1230PM 230PM 330PM 345PM 415PM

430PM 445PM 630PM 645PM 730PM 8PM Price A £3

988 Totland Bay allocated 988 in the 1924 to 1949 lists.

B88 SANDOWN

Sub Office of Southampton 1844 to 1865, Railway Sub Office 1865 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to? Branch Office to Modified Scale Post Office in 1992. Sandown was allocated B88 in the lists from 1874 to 1906 and 677 from 1924 to 1962. Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- C54 Brading 1866 to 1867.





4VOS MAY1872

3HOS Used from 26 AUG1865 to 1 FEB1872 Price H £60+ **4VOS** Used from 5 JUL1872 to 17 JAN1876 Price D £20



3VOS AUG1876



3VOS JAN1877

3VOS Used from 26 JAN 1877 to 19 FEB1895 Price D £15 Squared Circles in use: JUL1880 to FEB1906

ISLE OF WIGHT B89-C52

B89 SHANKLIN

Sub Office of Southampton 1844 to 1865, Railway Sub Office 1865 to 1905, Independent Sub Branch Office to Modified Scale Post Office in 1993.

Shanklin was allocated B89 in the lists from 1874 to 1906 and 682 from 1924 to 1962.



3HOS JUN/ AUG1863



3VOS APR1874

3HOS Used from 23 OCT1863 to 22 SEP1873 Price F £50 **3VOS** Used from 1 JUL1874 to 31 MAR1880 Price F £50 Squared Circles in use: JUL1880 to FEB1908

C16 EAST COWES

Sub Office of Cowes 1844 to 1896, Railway Sub Office 1896 to 1905, Independent Sub Office from 1905.

East Cowes was allocated number C16 in the 1882 to 1906 lists then 289 in the 1924 to 1952 lists and then finally number 24 in the lists from 1952 to 1962.



Number C16 had been previously allocated to Chorley (Lancs) for a limited period between the 1857 and 1874 lists.

3VOS Used from 21 MAY1880 to 11 JUL1891 Price G £80+

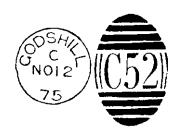
C52 GODSHILL

Sub Office of Newport 1844 to 1856, Sub Office of Southampton 1856 to 1865, Sub Office of Niton 1865 to 1866, Railway Sub Office 1866 to 1886, Sub Office of Wroxhall RSO 1886 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1934, Sub Office of Ventnor 1934 to present. Godshill allocated C52 in the 1874 to 1906 lists.

Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- D50 Wroxall 1865 to 1886.

JUL1865





4VOD NOV1875

ISLE OF WIGHT C52-C54

3TH.HOS Used from 12 MAR1866 to 6 SEP1875 Price F £60 **4VOD** Used from 3 MAY1876 to 25 FEB1898 Codes: A C Price D £15



3VOD Used from 13 MAY1885 to 31 DEC1930 Codes: A B C none Price A £15 on cover £3 on ppc

C53 ROOKLEY

Sub Office of Southampton 1853 to 1865, Railway Sub Office 1865 to 1886, Sub Office of Wroxall RSO 1886 to 1905,

Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1935, Sub Office of from Ventnor 1934. C53 3TH.HOS issued when Rookley became a RSO.

Rookley allocated C53 in the 1874 to 1906 lists.

3TH.HOS Used on 7 FEB1875 Price H £100++



3TH.HOS JUL1865

C54 BRADING

Sub Office of Southampton 1844 to 1865, Railway Sub Office 1865 to 1866, Sub Office of Sandown 1866 to 1867, Railway Sub Office 1867 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1933, Sub Office of Sandown 1933 onwards.

C55 3TH.HOS issued when Brading became a RSO.

Brading allocated C54 in the 1874 to 1906 lists.



3TH.HOS JUL1865



3VOS AUG1878



3VOS SEP1878

3TH.HOS Used from 23 MAY1869 to 12 APR1877 Price G £60+ **3VOS** Used from 21 MAY1881 to 13 SEP1905 Price E £25



3VOD NOT ENTERED IN THE PROOF BOOKS

ISLE OF WIGHT C54-H06

3VOD Used from 17 OCT1894 to 13 SEP1907 Codes: A B C

Price A £8 on cover, £3 on ppc.

C55 WOOTTON BRIDGE

Sub Office of Ryde 1844 to 1853, Sub Office of Southampton 1854 to 1865, Railway Sub Office 1865 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1910, Sub Office of Ryde 1910 to 1920, Post Town 1920 to 1934, Sub Office of Ryde 1934 to present.

C55 3TH.HOS issued when Wootton Bridge became a RSO.

Wootton Bridge allocated C55 in the 1874 to 1906 lists.

3TH.HOS Used from 21 NOV1867 to 9 NOV1899 Price F £60+



3TH.HOS JUL1865

D50 WROXALL

Sub Office of Southampton 1856 to 1865, Sub Office of Godshill 1865 to 1886, Railway Sub Office 1886 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1934, Sub Office of Ventnor 1934 to Present.

Wroxall allocated D50 in the 1882 to 1906 lists

Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- C52 Godshill 1886 to 1905.

3VOS No dated copies recorded Price H* £100++ Squared Circles in use: OCT1884 to OCT1907



3VOS MAR1881

D88 Ryde

D88 used in charge marks sent to Ryde in Dec1920 & Jan1921, probably sent on to a subordinate office.

F43 Ryde

A charge mark was sent to Ryde with the number F43 in Jan1921, probably sent on to a subordinate office.

H06 SCHOOL GREEN

Closed c.1848, reopened 1872, Sub Office of Newport 1872 to 1875, Sub Office of Yarmouth RSO 1875 to 1884, Railway Sub Office 1884 to 1892.

Renamed Freshwater Station in 1892.

School Green allocated H06 in the 1887 list.





3VOS GPO

3VOD Used from 26FEB1886 to 28 MAR1892 Codes: A B Price G £80+

ISLE OF WIGHT H06

H06 FRESHWATER STATION

Prior to 1892 a small office at Freshwater Bay was called "Freshwater".

Originally School Green, changed in 1892 to Freshwater Station Railway Sub Office.

Railway Sub Office 1892 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1933.

Renamed Freshwater in 1933 i.e. dropped the word Station. H06 allocated to Freshwater in the 1892 to 1902 lists and Freshwater Station in the 1906 list.



3VOD NOT ENTERED IN THE PROOF BOOKS

This was in error and should have been Freshwater Station from 1892. Freshwater Station was later allocated 296 in all the lists from 1927 to 1962, despite having it's name changed in 1933 back to Freshwater!

3VOD Time in code Used from 25 AUG1892 to 18 JUL1903 Codes: A B C Csdwys Price A £20 on cover, £8 on ppc

3VOD Time in full Used from 22 JAN1904 to 11 MAY1907 Times: 930AM 1145AM 12PM 545PM 6PM 645PM Price A £20 on cover, £8 on ppc