BARRED NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

JOHN PARMENTER, DAVID LUCKLY, KEN SMITH

PROF. CEDRIC PRYS-ROBERTS (WALES)



NORTHUMBERLAND

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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

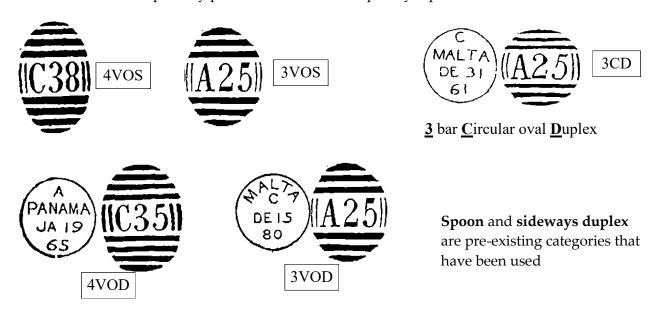
3HOS is a 3 Bar Horizontal Oval Single obliterator

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.

ACKLINGTON 979 HALTWHISTLE 166 & G62 ALNMOUTH 101 HAYDON BRIDGE 350

ALNWICK 8 Heaton 545A
Ashington 549 HEXHAM 360

BARRASFORD D61 LESBURY G35
BEAL B55 MORPETH 537
BEBSIDE B77 NEDDERTON B78

BEDLINGTON B75

Newbiggin by the Sea 548
BELFORD 62 & 44

NEWCASTLE 545

BERWICK 66 NEWCASTLE STATION A16

BILTON C18 Newcastle, Western District Office 545D

BLYTH B74 & 113 NORHAM E82 CAMBO J72 NORTH SHIELDS 573

CHATHILL 038 NORTHUMBERLAND DOCK F91

 CORBRIDGE 135 & 215
 ROTHBURY G04 & 672

 COWPEN B76
 WALLSEND J59 & 959

COWPEN B76 WALLSEND J59 & 959
COWPEN LANE B77 WEST WOODBURN 672

CRAMLINGTON B54 WHITLEY J61
DUDLEY C89 Whitley Bay 886

FELTON 298 WILLINGTON QUAY J97
Forest Hall 545E WOOLER 63 & K03

FOURSTONES 719 WYLAM B73

Gosforth 545C

8 ALNWICK

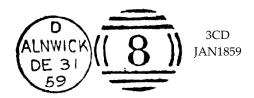
Head Post Office 1844 to 1968, Salaried Sub Office 1968 to present. Alnwick was allocated number 8 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962. Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- 63 Wooler 1854 to 1888.





3HOS OCT1857

1844 Used from 23 JUL1844 to 8 JUL1857 Price A £5 **3HOS** Used from 6 NOV1857 to 20 DEC1858 Price G £25





3CD DEC1861





4VODA (Straight Alnwick) Used from 16 MAY1866 to 6 NOV1882

Codes: C D E Linv P 7 Price D £6





4VODB (Curved Alnwick) Used from 26 JAN1873 to 29 DEC1879 Codes: C D F Price A £3



3VOD Time in code Used from 11 AUG1879 to 14 JUL1894

Codes: CEFHIK Price D£4

3VOD Time in full Used from 28 FEB1895 to 22 NOV1900 Times: 445PM 5PM 530PM 6PM 915PM 915 Price C £3

44 Belford

Belford was allocated number 66 in the lists from 1844 to 1906 and 44 from 1924 to 1962.

62 BELFORD

Head Post Office 1844 to present.

Belford was allocated number 66 in the lists from 1844 to 1906 and 44 from 1924 to 1962. *Sub Office (that used barred numerals):-* 63 *Wooler 1844 to 1854.*

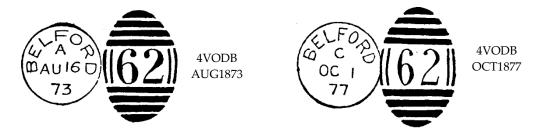




1844 Used from 10 AUG1844 to 4 JAN1853 Price D £6 **3HOS** Used from 14 JUL1859 to 16 JAN1871 Price G £15



4VODA (Straight Belford) Used from 25 OCT1871 to 2 JAN1873 Code: B Price G £35



4VODB (Curved Belford) Used from 27 DEC1875 to 11 OCT1911 Codes: A B D E F G Price A £8 on cover, £3 on ppc.



3VOD Used from 8 JUL1888 to 26 JUN1902 Codes: B D E Price E £10

63 WOOLER

Sub Office of Belford 1844 to 1854, Sub Office of Alnwick 1854 to 1888, Railway Sub Office 1888 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to present.

Wooler was allocated number 63 in the lists from 1844 to 1906. Number 63 was later allocated to Bargoed (Glam) in the 1924 to 1962 lists.





1844 Used from 14 SEP1844 to 20 NOV1879 Price G £50
Occurs with a Wooler cud. and a Belford transit cds
3VOD Used from 17 SEP1896 to 18 SEP1910 Codes: A B C D none Price A £3

66 BERWICK

Head Post Office 1844 to 1969, Salaried Sub Office 1969 to ? Branch Office to Franchised Post Office in 1993, closed from 2003 to 2005.

"on Tweed" added in 1908

Berwick was allocated number 66 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.

Station Sorting Office established in 1848.

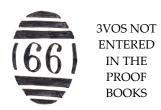
Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- E82 Norham 1844 to 1870.







1844 Used from 28 MAY1844 to 13 APR1860 Price D £8 £25 with station office backstamp **3HOS** Used from 21 MAY54 to 8 OCT1860 Price D £4



3VOS Used from 10 NOV1893 to 31 OCT1967 Price H £40 on cover, £15 on ppc.





3CD Used from 13 JUN1860 to 11 APR1868 Codes: A B C G Price A £3



4CD (Berwick Station in cds) Used from 23 JUN1863 to 30 DEC1865 Codes: A B none Price F £40



4VODA JUN1868



4VODB JAN1872

4VODA (Straight Berwick) Used from 19 JAN1870 to 14 NOV1884

Codes: A B C D E F G U Price D £4

4VODB (Curved Berwick) Used from 30 NOV1872 to 21 OCT1892

Codes: A B C D E F H K M Price B £3
Squared Circles in use: MAR1886 to OCT1900

101 ALNMOUTH

Sub Office of Alnwick 1844 to 1864, Sub Office of Bilton RSO 1864 to 1874, Railway Sub Office 1874 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1954, Sub Office of Alnwick 1954 to present. 3VOS issued in 1874 when Alnmouth became a RSO.

Alnmouth was allocated number 101 in the lists from 1874 to 1906.





3VOS Used from 26 MAR1875 to 12 FEB1893 Price G £50

4VOD Used from 8 FEB1878 to 19 MAY1907 Codes: A B C Price A £8 on cover, £3 on ppc.

113 Blyth

Blyth was allocated number B74 in the lists from 1874 to 1924 and 113 from 1925 to 1962.

135 CORBRIDGE

Sub Office of Hexham 1844 to 1855, Sub Office of Gateshead 1855 to 1856, Sub Office of Carlisle 1856 to 1857, Sub Office of Gateshead 1857 to 1864, Railway Sub Office 1864 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to present.

Corbridge was allocated number 135 in the lists from 1892 to 1906 and 215 from 1924 to 1959.

Number 135 was allocated to Caxton (Cambs) 1844 to 1874, Ton y Refail (Glam) 1882 to 1887 and later to Brockenhurst (Hants) 1924 to 1962.

3VOD Time in code Used from 26 SEP1892 to 12 JAN1900 Codes: A B C D Einv Price F £12

3VOD Time in full Used from 21 OCT1901 to 20 NOV1906

Times: 1101AM 1110AM 215PM 330PM 515PM 715PM 745PM Price B £3



3VOD NOT ENTERED IN THE PROOF BOOKS

166 HALTWHISTLE

Sub Office of Carlisle 1844 to 1902, Railway Sub Office 1902 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to present.

Haltwhistle was allocated number 166 in the lists from 1844 to 1902 and also G62 from 1882 to 1906 i.e it had both numbers 166 and G62 in the lists from 1882 to 1902.

Number 166 was later allocated to Camberley (Surrey) 1925 to 1962.





1844 Used from 17 JAN1845 to 9 FEB1855 Price G £50

Occurs with a Haltwhistle cud. and an Alnwick transit cds **3VOS** No dated copies recorded Price H* £80 (Price if found on dated cover)

215 Corbridge

Corbridge was allocated number 135 in the lists from 1892 to 1906 and 215 from 1924 to 1959.

298 FELTON

Head Post Office 1844 to 1849, Sub Office of Acklington 1849 to 1870, Railway Sub Office 1870 to 1872, Sub Office of Acklington 1872 to 1877, Railway Sub Office 1877 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to 1923, Sub Office of Morpeth 1923 to present.

Felton was allocated number 298 in the lists from 1844 to 1906.

Number 298 was later allocated to Elland (Yorks) 1924 to 1962.





1844 Used from 27 JUN1844 to 30 AUG1849 Price G £40

1844 in blue Used in 1847

4VOS Used from 14 AUG1880 to 29 MAY1890 Price G £40



3VOD Used from 28 SEP1890 to 3 DEC1902 Codes: A B C Price E £20

350 HAYDON BRIDGE

Sub Office of Carlisle 1844 to 1846, Sub Office of Gateshead 1846 to 1855, Sub Office of Carlisle 1855 to 1870, Railway Sub Office 1870 to 1872, Sub Office of Carlisle 1872 to 1902, Railway Sub Office 1902 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1937, Sub Office of Hexham 1937 to present.

Last cancellation recorded in JUL1858, despite being in all the lists to 1906. Haydon Bridge was allocated number 350 in the lists from 1844 to 1906.

1844 Used from 8 OCT1844 to **14 JUL1858** Price G £100

APR1844

1844 Used from 8 OC 11844 to 14 JUL 1858 Price G £100 **1844 in blue** Used on 15 APR1847

360 HEXHAM

Head Post Office 1844 to present.

Hexham was allocated number 360 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.



1844 Used from 11 MAY1844 to 29 MAR1848 Price F £10

1844 in blue Used from SEP1844 to 3 OCT1844

3HOS Used from 11 JUL1851 to 21 JUN1872 Price D £6



4VOS Used from 26 NOV1873 to 10 DEC1873 Price H £25
4VODA (Straight Hexham) Used from 8 NOV1856 to 23 DEC1871 Codes: B C D E F Price B £3



4VODB (Curved Hexham and a flat top three) Used from 7 FEB1872 to 8 FEB1878

Codes: C D F Price E £10



4VODC (Curved Hexham and a round top three) Used from 20MAR1875 to 16 MAY1876

Code: D Price H £50



3VOD Time in code Used from 8 DEC1882 to 24 DEC1895 Codes: B C E F G I J Price C £2 **3VOD Time in full** Used from 17 MAY1900 to 24 DEC1906 Times: 515PM 9PM 945PM

Price G £10

Squared Circles in use: APR1888 to AUG1894

537 MORPETH

Head Post Office 1844 to? Branch Office to Franchised Post Office 2002 to 2005, Company Franchised Post Office 2005 to present.

Morpeth was allocated number 537 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.

Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- G04 Rothbury 1844 to 1887.





3HOS "SENT" TO PYLE (GLAM) IN NOV1853 BUT IN FACT USED AT MORPETH IN ERROR

1844 Used from 3 JUN1844 to 8 SEP1847 Price G £40

3HOSX (Error of number 121) Used from 9 FEB1854 to 21 JAN1857 Price G £100





3HOS DEC1862



3HOS OCT1862

3HOS Used from 6 FEB1857 to 24 SEP1862 Price G £40



3VOS GPO





3CDX NOV1861 CORRECT NUMBER OF MOLD (FLINT) USED IN MORPETH IN ERROR

3CD Used from 24 NOV1859 to 1 NOV1868 Code: A Price F
 3CDX (Error of number 531) Used from 21 NOV1861 to 9 FEB1864 Codes: A B C Price F £60



4VODA APR1864



4VODB OCT1871 4VODA AUG1868

4VODA (Straight Morpeth) Used from 16 AUG1864 to 22 AUG1871 Codes: A B C D Price E £15



4VODB (Curved Morpeth) (Round top three) Time in code

Used from 10 JUL1872 to 14 MAR1879 Codes: C E Price F £6

4VODB (Curved Morpeth) (Round top three) Time in full

Used from 10 SEP1896 to 28 SEP1902 Times: 1230PM 145PM 5PM 515PM 530PM 545PM 810PM 830PM 10PM 11PM Price D £4



4VODC (Curved Morpeth) (Flat top three) Time in code

Used from 17 JUN1875 to 23 JUL1888 Codes: C D H L Price D £5

4VODC (Curved Morpeth) (Flat top three) Time in full

Used from 29 AUG1898 to 25 SEP1903 Times: 1230PM 1245PM 1PM 3PM 5PM 8PM 830PM 9PM 10PM Price D £4



3VOD JAN1874



3VOD NOT ENTERED IN THE PROOF BOOKS

3VOD Time in code Used from 29 DEC1877 to 18 MAR1889 Codes: C H L Price F £6 **3VOD Time in asterisk code** Used on 3 MAY1894 Code: HFinv*P Price £25

3VOD Time in full Used from 10 OCT1898 to 10 JAN1905

Times: 11AM 3PM 5PM 515PM 6PM 630PM 830PM 9PM 10PM Price D £4

Squared Circles in use: JUL1889 to JUL1903

545 NEWCASTLE

Head Post Office 1844 to? Branch Office to Modified Scale Post Office in 1995.

Newcastle was allocated number 545 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.

Sub Offices (that used barred numerals):- G94 Ebchester 1872 to 1889, F77 Lintz Green 1882 to 1889 and F77 Lintz Green Station 1872 to 1882.



1844 APR1844



1844 ARP1846



1844 JUN1847

1844 Used from 1 MAY1844 to 10 MAR1850 Price A £3 **1844 in green** Used in MAR1849 **1844 in blue** Used on 13 AUG1850



3HOS FEB1850



3HOS AUG1853



3HOS DEC1854



3HOS AUG1857



3HOS UNDATED

3HOS Used from 27 NOV1850 to 3 MAY1874 Price C £3 Fourteen 3HOSs were sent between FEB1850 and JUL1860



4VOS DEC1870



3VOSA DEC1874



3VOSB NOV1877

4VOS Used from 6 APR1871 to 30 JUL1872 Price H £40

3VOSA (Serif on 4) Used from 8 NOV75 to 5 NOV1883 Price G £30

3VOSA (Serif on 4) Used on 10 OCT1879

3VOSB (No serif on 4) Used from 21 APR1879 to 4 MAY1943 Price H £40 19thC £15 20thC







SDWYS II Used from 22 FEB1855 to 22 FEB1860 Codes: A B C Csdwys D E F G Ginv N Price A £6

Nine proof Book entries occur between FEB1855 and OCT1858 the width of the cds. varies from 24mm to 27mm. It has been reported with the outer arc missing.

SDWYS II in blue Used on 3 SEP1856

SDWYS III Used from 15 MAY1857 to 15 DEC1859 Codes: C D E F Finv G Price C £10





3CD Used from 31 MAY1859 to 9 JUN1871 Codes: C Cinv D E F Finv G H I J Price A £2 Total of 16 proofed (5 duplicates) between APR1859 and JAN1870 The bars become thicker in the 1860's



3SD (Scottish type duplex) Price A £12:-

3SD (Year in 4 figures) Used from 2 AUG1857 to 21 NOV1861 Codes: CDEFGHIP

3SD (Year in 2 figures) Used from 17 JAN1862 to 30 AUG1865 Codes: C D F H I J Linv P The cds. can be up to 90° to the obliterator.









4VOD NOV1874

4VOD Used from 27 SEP1865 to 21 OCT1884 Codes: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O R T U Price A £3

Thirty one similar entries between Sep1865 and Nov1877.



4VODN NOV1871



4VODN SEP1874

4VODN (Neville St. Newcastle in cds) Used from 15 NOV18711 to 24 DEC1884

Codes: A B C D F G H Price C £8



4VODQ OCT1871



4VODQ AUG1873



4VODQ OCT1877

4VODQ (Quayside Newcastle in cds) Used from 12 DEC1871 to 25 JUL1882 Codes: A B C D E F Price A £6





3VODX MAY1873

Similar 3VODXs were issued to 21 towns on 10 MAY1873. Of the 21, three are common Birmingham, Manchester and Cheltenham, 12 are very rare, and 6 have never been seen. They might have been for use in a new style of handstamp or cancelling machine. What ever the nature of the experiment it appears to have been a failure.

In the Proof Books the cds and obliterator were separately entered, with the cds often at an angle and some distance from the obliterator. They were the first 3VOD cancels to be issued. **3VODX** Used from 26MAR1874 to 14 SEP1874 Codes: G K M Price H £100



3VOD OCT1873



3VOD Used from 16 OCT1873 to 8 JUN1889 Codes: F G H I K M N S T U V Y Price A £2





3VODN (Neville St. Newcastle in cds) Used from 30 AUG1879 to 29 SEP1882

Codes: F G Price H £50

3VODQ (Quayside Newcastle in cds) Used from 5 DEC1881 to 23 FEB1883

Codes: D F Price G £40



3VODA MAR1883



3VOD6 NOV1885

Letters and numbers at the base of the cds:-

3VODA (A at base cds) Time in code Used from 11 APR1883 to 14 DEC1885

Codes: FNTW Price D£5

3VODA (A at base cds) Time in full Used from 12 APR1897 to 10 MAY1897

Time: 945PM Price G £12

3VODC (C at base cds) Used on 1 NOV1884 Code: N Price H£15

3VOD1 (1 at base cds) Time in code Used from 15 DEC1884 to 5 MAY1893

Codes: CDHKMNTVWYZ Price B£3

3VOD1 (1 at base cds) Time in full Used from 27 AUG1895 to 14 DEC1896

Times: 115PM 145PM 445PM 615PM 7PM Price F £6

3VOD2 (2 at base cds) Time in code Used from 13 OCT1884 to 9 SEP1895

Codes: CDGIKMNPTVXY Price C£3

3VOD2 (2 at base cds) Time in full Used from 20 NOV1900 to 21 OCT1902

Times: 2PM 615PM 95PM 945PM 10PM Price E £5

3VOD3 (3 at base cds) Used from 22 MAR1885 to 27 AUG1895

Codes: I N P R T V W Y Price D £5 (Later examples have single side arcs)

3VOD4 (4 at base cds) Time in code Used from 7 JUL1885 to 10 AUG1895

Codes: HKNUVY Price C£3

3VOD4 (4 at base cds) Time in full Used from 14 OCT1896 to 16 OCT1901

Times: 945AM 145PM 5PM 615PM 915PM 945PM Price D £3

3VOD5 (5 at base cds) Time in code Used from 14 MAY1885 to 3 JUL1895

Codes: KTUVY Price D£4

3VOD5 (5 at base cds) Time in full Used from 27 DEC1895 to 10 DEC1898

Times: 945AM 315PM 445PM 945PM Price F £6

3VOD6 (6 at base cds) Time in code Used from 27 NOV1884 to 23 APR1895

Codes: N Y 6K 6M 6P 6T 6V 6Y Price F £6

The new early date is before the first Proof Book entry

3VOD6 (6 at base cds) Time in full Used from 1 AUG1895 to 19 DEC1896

Times: 1230PM 315PM 615PM 915PM Price G £8

3VOD7 (7 at base cds) Time in code 6 SEP1893 to 7 NOV1895

Codes: 7K 7P 7N 7T 7V 7W 7Z Price E £5

3VOD7 (7 at base cds) Time in full Used from 27 NOV1895 to 21 SEP1899

Times: 1045AM 1145AM 1230PM 145PM 7PM 1145PM Price F £6

3VOD9 (9 at the base cds) Used on 14 OCT1896 Time: 145PM Price H £20

3VOD14 (14 at base cds) Used from 12 APR1897 to 22 SEP1897 Time: 945PM Price G £12

Numbers in basal bars:-

3VOD8 (8 in basal bars) Used from 28 DEC1895 to 8 SEP1896

Times: 1230PM 445PM 1030PM Price G £12

3VOD10 (10 in basal bars) Used from 30 APR1896 to 16 JUL1896

Times: 445PM 615PM Price G £12

3VOD12 (12 in basal bars) Used from 3 JUN1898 to 8 MAY1900

Times: 145PM 315PM 445PM 615PM 7PM 8PM 945PM Price D £3

3VOD13 (13 in basal bars) Used from 20 AUG1897 to 11 NOV1898

Times: 1215PM 1230PM 145PM 315PM 615PM 945PM Price F £8 **3VOD14 (14 in basal bars)** Used from 22 SEP1897 to 27 DEC1900

Times: 1045AM 1215PM 145PM 445PM 515PM 615PM 7PM 945PM Price C £3

Squared Circles in use: APR1886 to AUG1905

545A Heaton

Heaton was allocated number 545A in the lists from 1925 to 1962.

545C Gosforth

Gosforth was allocated number 545C in the lists from 1959 to 1962.

545D Western District Office Newcastle

Western District Office was allocated number 545D in the lists from 1959 to 1962.

545E Forest Hall

Forest Hall was allocated number 545E in the lists from 1959 to 1962.

548 Newbiggin by the Sea

Newbiggin was allocated number 548 in the lists from 1950 to 1962.

549 Ashington

Ashington was allocated number 549 in the lists from 1924 to 1962.

573 NORTH SHIELDS

Head Post Office 1844 to present.

North Shields was allocated number 573 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.





3HOS OC-T1851



3HOS JUN1858

1844 Used from 28 JAN1845 to 11 APR1851 Price E £12 **3HOS** Used from 28 JAN1852 to 8 APR1867 Price E £10



4VOS DEC1870



3VOS DEC1873

4VOS GPO

3VOS Used from 9 JAN1875 to 6 OCT1959 Price H £30



SDWYS II Used from 19 FEB1857 to 5 SEP1859 Codes: B C Cinv E F H Price D £15









3CD Used from 7 DEC1859 to 27 NOV1871 Codes: A C D E G Price D £4 Four were proofed between SEP1859 and MAY1868.



4VODA (Round top three) Used from 6 MAR1869 to 17 JUL1877 Codes: C B D E Price F £20





4VODB AUG1877

4VODB (Flat top three) Time in code 8 FEB1872 to 6 SEP1894

Codes: A B C D E F J O P Price B £3

4VODB (Flat top three) Time in full Used from 31 AUG1897 to 12 JAN1904

Times: 330AM 130PM 330PM 415PM 430PM 545PM 7PM 745PM 830PM 1015PM Price C £3



3VOD Time in code Used from 24 MAR1880 to 25 JAN1894

Codes: A B C D E F G H I J K Price A £3

3VOD Time in asterisk code Used from 14 DEC1894 to 21 JUL1897

Codes: IC*A L*A LI*A AF*P CH*P DK*P EK*P FF*P FL*P H*P HG*P K*P L*P MI*P Price F £12

3VOD Time in full Used from 14 JUN1900 to 7 SEP1905 Times: 6AM 615AM 645AM 915AM 945AM 1015AM 1145AM 1245PM 115PM 145PM 215PM 230PM 330PM 4PM 415PM 430PM 445PM 515PM 530PM 545PM 6PM 615PM 630PM 745PM 10PM 1015PM Price A £2

672 WEST WOODBURN

Sub Office of Hexham 1847 to 1876, Railway Sub Office 1876 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1920, Sub Office of Newcastle 1920 to 1921, Independent Sub Office

1921 to 1937, Sub Office of Hexham 1937 to present.

3VOS 672 issued in 1876 when West Woodburn became a RSO.

West Woodburn was allocated number 672 in the lists from 1882 to 1906.

Number 672 was previously allocated to St Mawes (Corn) 1844 to 1857 and later to Rothbury 1925 to 1962.

3VOS Used on 2 MAY1881 Price H£100++



3VOS MAY1876

672 Rothbury

Rothbury was allocated number G04 in the lists from 1874 to 1924 and 672 from 1925 to 1962.

719 FOURSTONES

Railway Sub Office 1876 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1920, Sub Office of Newcastle 1920 to 1921, Independent Sub Office 1921 to 1937, Sub Office of Hexham 1937 to 2009, closed 2009.

Fourstones was allocated number 719 in the lists from 1882 to 1906

4VOD GPO



4VOD SEP1876

886 Whitley Bay

Whitley Bay was allocated number 886 in the lists from 1924 to 1962.

959 Wallsend

Wallsend was allocated number J59 in the lists from 1892 to 1924 and 959 from 1928 to 1962.

979 ACKLINGTON

Head Post Office 1844 to 1889, Railway Sub Office 1889 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to 1922, Sub Office of Morpeth 1922 to 1998, closed 1998.

Mail from Acklington was cancelled in Felton in 1890.

Acklington was allocated number 979 in the lists from 1850 to 1906.

Number 979 was later allocated to Sandy (Beds) 1928 to 1962.

Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- 298 Felton 1849 to 1877.





3HOS JUN1862

3HOS Used from 4 OCT1850 to 8 MAR1885 Price F £20





3CD Used from 30 MAR1860 to 30 JUN1869 Codes: A 2 Price G £30 **4VOD** Used from 23 NOV1871 to 3 NOV1883 Codes: B C Price D £12



3VOD Time in code Used from 31 JUL1884 to 28 APR1894 Codes: A B C D Price E £6

3VOD Time in full Used from 12 AUG1895 to 7 JUN1907

Times: 545AM 6AM 1PM 345PM 4PM 5PM 530PM 545PM 830PM 930PM Price A £3

038 CHATHILL

Head Post Office 1855 to 1892, Railway Sub Office 1892 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 2000, closed 2000.

Chathill was allocated number 038 in the lists from 1857 to 1962.





3HOS Used from 18 NOV1855 to 2 OCT1881 Price G £40





3CD Used from 15 DEC1865 to 27 DEC1869 Code: A Price F £25 **4VOD** Used from 5 NOV1872 to 19 SEP1885 Codes: A B Price C £5



3VOD Time in code Used from 3 JUL1886 to 28 AUG1899 Code: A B Price F £6

3VOD Time in full Used from 11 OCT1900 to 7 NOV1930

Times: 1PM 4PM 415PM 5PM 530PM 915PM 930PM Price A £3

A16 NEWCASTLE STATION

Sorting Office from 1858, date of closure unknown, certainly in or after 1880. Newcastle Station was allocated number A16 in the lists from 1874 to 1902.



3HOS APR1858



3VOS JAN1877



3HOS Used on 20 JAN1869 Price H £250 **3VOS** Used on 13 MAY1880 Price H £250

B54 CRAMLINGTON

Sub Office of Newcastle on Tyne 1847 to 1861, Railway Sub Office 1861 to 1905. Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to present.

B54 3HOS was issued in 1861 to Cramlington when it became a RSO.

Cramlington was allocated number B54 in the lists from 1874 to 1906.





3HOS Used on 13 MAR1865 Price H £60+

4CD Used from 20 MAR1873 to 20 DEC1888 Codes: A B Price F £25



3VOD Used from 23 NOV1888 to 7 FEB1907 Codes: A B C Price A £12 19thC £4 20thC

B55 BEAL

Sub Office of Berwick 1855 to 1861, Railway Sub Office 1861 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to 1950, Sub Office of Berwick 1950 to 1977, closed 1977.

B51 3HOS was issued in 1861 to Beal when it became a RSO.

Beal was allocated number B55 in the lists from 1874 to 1906.







3HOS Used from 2 DEC1863 to 15 SEP1867 Price D £8 3VOSA (9mm high figs) Used in FEB1875 Price H £60 3VOSB (7mm high figs) 17 FEB1877 to 8 JAN1878 Price G £40



3VOD Used from 15 FEB1881 to 22 SEP1902 Code: A B Price C £5

B73 WYLAM

Sub Office of Newcastle on Tyne 1848 to 1855, Sub Office of Gateshead 1855 to 1863, Railway Sub Office 1863 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to present. B73 3HOS was issued in 1863 to Wylam when it became a RSO. Wylam was allocated number B73 in the lists from 1874 to 1906.





3VOD NOT ENTERED IN THE PROOF BOOKS

3HOS Used from 14 DEC1870 to 2 JUN1872 Price H £50
3VOD Used from 23 SEP1892 to 13 AUG1908 Codes: A B C D none Price A £6 19thC £3 20thC

B74 BLYTH

Sub Office of North Shields 1844 to 1856, Sub Office of Morpeth 1856 to 1863, Railway Sub Office 1863 to 1873, Head Post Office 1873 to present.

B74 3HOS issued in 1863 to Blyth when it became a RSO.

Blyth was allocated number B74 in the lists from 1874 to 1924 and 113 from 1925 to 1962.





3HOS Used from 2 FEB1864 to 1 APR1865 Price H £60

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





4VODA (Blyth Northumberland in the cds) Used from 12 AUG1869 to 10 FEB1873

Codes: A C Price E £15

4VODB (Blyth in the cds) Used from 24 FEB1874 to 3 APR1889

Codes: A B Price F £20



3VOD Time in code Used from 3 FEB1890 to 3 FEB1907

Codes: A B D E F G H I J Price D £5

3VOD Time in asterisk code Used from 1 FEB1895 to 22 JUN1902

Codes: GL*A IC*A LF*A KC*A AF*P BI*P DI*P DK*P FC*P H*P I*P IB*P MC*P

Price B £6

3VOD Time in full Used from 5 SEP1902 to 30 DEC1906

Times: 6AM 1015AM 1115AM 1215PM 130PM 245PM 445PM 515PM 6PM 615PM 9PM

1015PM 1045PM Price A £3

B75 BEDLINGTON

Sub Office of Morpeth 1844 to 1863, Railway Sub Office 1863 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/ Post Town 1905 to 1921, Sub Office of Bedlington Colliery 1921 to 1936, Sub Office of Bedlington Station 1936 to 1964, Post Town 1964 to present.

B75 3HOS was issued in 1863 to Bedlington when it became a RSO.

Bedlington was allocated number B75 in the lists from 1874 to 1906.





3HOS Used on 5 JAN1872 to 14 APR1877 Price H £60

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



3VOD Time in code Used from 23 NOV1889 to 28 NOV1892 Codes: A B C Price F £10

3VOD Time in full Used from 19 JUN1897 to 26 APR1906

B76 COWPEN

Sub Office of Morpeth 1854 to 1863, Railway Sub Office 1863 to 1892, Sub Office of Bebside RSO 1892 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to 1914, Sub Office of Blyth 1914 to present.

Rural to Town Sub Office by 1963.

B76 3HOS was issued in 1863 to Cowpen when it became a RSO. Cowpen was allocated number B76 in the lists from 1874 to 1906.

3HOS Used from 13 FEB1868 to 18 NOV1871 Price G £80+



3HOS APR1863

B77 COWPEN LANE

Sub Office of Morpeth 1854 to 1863, Railway Sub Office 1863 to 1891, Became Bebside RSO in 1891

Cowpen Lane was allocated number B77 in the lists from 1874 to 1887.

B77 3HOS issued when Cowpen Lane became a RSO in 1863.

3HOS Used from 12 DEC1871 to 12 APR1891 Price F £50+



3HOS APR1863

B77 BEBSIDE RSO

Was Cowpen Lane Railway Sub Office.

Became Bebside Railway Sub Office in 1891 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to 1914, Sub Office of Newcastle 1914 to 1921, Post Town 1921 to 1937, Sub Office of Blyth 1937 to 1958, closed 1958.

Bebside was allocated number B77 in the lists from 1892 to 1906.

3VOD Used from 20 JAN1896 to 9 JUN1915 Codes: A B C none Price D £20



3VODB NOT ENTERED IN THE PROOF BOOKS

B78 NEDDERTON

Sub Office of Morpeth 1847 to 1863, Railway Sub Office 1863 to 1883, Sub Office of Newcastle on Tyne 1883 to 1921, Post Town 1921 to 1942, Sub Office of Bedlington Station 1942 to 1964, Sub Office of Bedlington 1964 to 1977/83, closed 1977/83.

Nedderton was allocated number B78 in the lists from 1874 to 1906. B78 3HOS issued when Nedderton became a RSO in 1863.

3HOS Used from 22 JUL1872 to 21 JUN1881 Price H £100+



3HOS APR1863

C18 BILTON

Was a Railway Sub Office 1864 to 1874.

Replaced by Lesbury RSO in 1874.

Bilton was allocated number C18 in the lists from 1874 to 1902! C18 3TH.HOS issued when Bilton became a RSO in 1864.

3TH.HOS Used from 27 JUL1866 to 10 JUL1872 Price F £50+



3TH.HOS MAY1864

C89 DUDLEY

Railway Sub Office 1866 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to 1973, Sub Office of Cramlington 1973 to present.

Dudley was allocated number C89 in the lists from 1874 to 1906.





4VOS Used from 22 MAY1869 to 31 JUL1871 Price H £50
4VODA (Dudley North^d. in cds) Used from 8 SEP1873 to 12 OCT1882 Codes: A B Bsdwys Price H £40



4VODB JUN1877

4VODB (Dudley Northumberland in cds) Time in code

Used from 23 JUL1877 to 11 DEC1893 Codes: A B Price F £15

4VODB (Dudley Northumberland in cds) Time in full

Used from 19 SEP1895 to 19 MAR1915 Times: 545AM 1130AM 130PM 545PM 6PM 9PM 915PM Price A £2

Becomes a 3VOD through wear and recutting by 1915.

D61 BARRASFORD

Sub Office of Hexham 1854 to 1878, Sub Office of Wall RSO 1878 to 1880, Railway Sub Office 1880 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to 1920, Sub Office of Newcastle 1920 to 1921,

D61 3VOD was issued in 1880 to Barrasford when it became a RSO. Post Town 1921 to 1937, Sub Office of Hexham 1937 to present. Barrasford was allocated number B73 in the lists from 1882 to 1906.

4VOS Unknown allocation but not Barrasford, used on mail from overseas, possibly in London.

3VOD No dated copies recorded Price H* £100++ Squared Circles in use: FEB1887 to FEB1916



3VOD APR1880

E82 NORHAM

Sub Office of Berwick 1844 to 1870, Railway Sub Office 1870 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1914, Sub Office of Berwick 1914 to 1920, Independent Sub Office 1920 to 1956, Sub Office of Berwick 1956 to 2009, closed 2009.

Norham was allocated number E82 in the lists from 1874 to 1906.





4VOS Used from 25 SEP1873 to 11 NOV1885 Price H £60

3VOD Time in code Used from 6 DEC1888 to 29 AUG1897 Codes: A B Price F £12

3VOD Time in full Used from 6 JUN1901 to 4 NOV1912

Times: 330PM 530PM 745PM 8PM PM Price A £3



F91 NORTHUMBERLAND DOCK

By 1872 a Sub Office of North Shields, a Town Branch Office by 1885, closed 1929.

Does not appear in the Post Office Guide until 1883, despite the first cancellation being issued in 1872 and the first listing in 1874.

Nothumberland Dock was allocated number F91 in the lists from 1874 to 1902.

3VOS GPO

G04 ROTHBURY

Sub Office of Morpeth 1844 to 1887, Railway Sub Office 1887 to 1889, Head Post Office 1889 to 1925. Sub Office of Rothbury 1925 to present.

Rothbury was allocated number G04 in the lists from 1874 to 1924 and 672 from 1925 to 1962.





4VOD Time in code Used from 3 JUL1873 to 6 MAR1897 Codes: A B C Cinv D Price D £5

4VOD Time in full Used from 9 DEC1895 to 15 SEP1904

Times: 730AM 1115AM 415PM 545PM Price C £4

3VOD Used from 14 JUN1898 to 11 MAY1907

Times: 730AM 1115AM 230PM 415PM 545PM 6PM 545 Price A £3

G35 LESBURY

Sub Office of Alnwick 1854 to 1864, closed, replaced by Biliton Railway Sub Office.

Reopened in 1873, Railway Sub Office 1873 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to 1939, Sub Office of Alnwick 1939 to 1946, Sub Office of Alnmouth 1946 to 1954, Sub Office of Alnwick 1954 to present.

Lesbury was allocated number G35 in the lists from 1874 to 1906.





4VOD Used from 30 JUL1874 to 13 MAY1887 Codes: B C D Price F £30

3VOD Time in code Used from 26 MAR1890 to 28 MAY1901 Codes: C D Price E £6 **3VOD Time in full** Used from 23 MAR1904 to 21 JUL1905 Times: 3PM 5PM 9PM 930PM

Price D£3

G62 HALTWHISTLE

Sub Office of Carlisle 1844 to 1902, Railway Sub Office 1902 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/ Post Town 1905 to present.

Haltwhistle was allocated number 166 in the lists from 1844 to 1902 and also G62 from 1882 to 1906. Haltwhistle thus had both numbers 166 and G62 in the lists from 1882 to 1902.

3VOD Time in code Used from 30 AUG1886 to 28 DEC1896 & 16 MAR1905 to 4 DEC1907

Codes: A Ainy B C D Price D £6 19thC. £2 20thC.

3VOD Time in full Used from 7 JUL1899 to 11 JAN1913

Times: 1015AM 1030AM 11AM 245PM 345PM 545PM 615PM

7PM 815PM 830PM Price A £8 on cover £3 on ppc



NOV1882

J59 WALLSEND

Sub Office of Newcastle on Tyne 1844 to 1889, Railway Sub Office 1889 to 1905, Independent Sub Office/Post Town 1905 to present. Wallsend was allocated number J59 in the lists from 1892 to 1924 and 959 from 1928 to 1962.

3VOD Time in code Used from 2 FEB1893 to 20 NOV1900

Codes: A B C D E Price D £6

3VOD Time in full Used from 1 MAR1901 to 20 SEP1906

Times: 9AM 10AM 1245PM 1PM 345PM 4PM 6PM 615PM

845PM 9PM Price A £3



3VOD NOT ENTERED IN THE PROOF BOOKS

J61 WHITLEY

Sub Office of North Shields 1845 to 1873, Sub Office of Newcastle 1873 to 1889, Railway Sub Office 1889 to 1902, Renamed Whitley Bay Railway Sub Office in 1902 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to? Branch Office to Franchised Post Office in 1997. Whitley was allocated number J61 in the lists from 1892 to 1906.

3VOD Used from 22 JAN1891 to 30 SEP1901 Codes: A B C D E Price B £8.



J72 CAMBO

Sub Office of Morpeth 1845 to 1855, Sub Office of Newcastle on Tyne 1855 to 1879, Railway Sub Office 1879 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1908, Sub Office of Morpeth 1908 to 2004, closed 2004.

Cambo was allocated number J72 in the lists from 1892 to 1906.

3VOD Used from 29 DEC1890 to 12 MAR1913 Codes: A B C Price A £10 on cover £3 on ppc



3VOD NOT ENTERED IN THE PROOF BOOKS

J97 WILLINGTON QUAY

Sub Office of Newcastle on Tyne 1851 to 1891, Railway Sub Office 1891 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to 1942, Town Sub Office of Wallsend 1942 to 2003, closed 2003.

Willington Quay was allocated number J97 in the lists from 1892 to 1906.

3VOD Used from 31 OCT1891 to 22 SEP1907 Codes: A B C D E Price A £15 on cover £8 on ppc



3VOD NOT ENTERED IN THE PROOF BOOKS

K03 WALKER

Sub Office of Belford 1844 to 1854, Sub Office of Alnwick 1854 to 1888, Railway Sub Office 1888 to 1905, Independent Sub Office 1905 to present.

Walker was allocated number K03 in the lists from 1892 to 1906 **3VOD** Used from 3 SEP1893 to 3 FEB1904 Codes: A C D E Price A £10 on cover £4 on ppc



3VOD NOT ENTERED IN THE PROOF BOOKS