

NOTEBOOK

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In This Issue

- page 11 **Alec Matthews - Obituary**
 The Reorganisation of 1875
- 15 St Paul's Dockwra
- 16 **Whitecross Street Receiving House** **A. J. Kirk and M. C. Champness**
- 19 HS or SH - A New Rideout Find R. G. Allum
- 20 Loss of Postal History Material Dr P. M. G. Bavin
- 21 **Skeleton Postmarks of England and Wales** - Review
- 22 **Mail Missing the Post** **A. J. Kirk**

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EDITORIAL

We start the year with an issue containing a long contribution on a postal reorganisation, this time of 1875. Probably not a widely known reform, it serves to demonstrate the Post Office effort to meet changing conditions and increased work loads. It is full of detail, of interest to the collector of both London in general and of any particular local area.

There has been a positive response to the appeal for material but do keep the up the flow to provide a range of articles covering the 300 plus years of London postal activity. For publications, we are looking forward to the long awaited "Hoods" from Simon Kelly and your Editor has the working paper on Maritime Mail at least started ! Those of you with a particular study might consider a monograph rather than a few pages in Notebook. The demand for these can be met by the controlled print facilities available to LPHG and all too many specialised studies never see the light of day. Do give this some thought.

The next meeting, on March 12th., is "Kent in London". Following the entertaining start to the year with "Middlesex in London", this promises to be worth a visit to the Union Jack Club. The Kent Postal History Group expect to have some of their members attending, adding a material source we do not usually enjoy.

STAMPEX will be upon us in the first week of March and this issue will appear before the free tickets are available. However, we trust you will be able to get these from another source and look forward to seeing you in those hallowed halls, uttering cries of delight at finding the long sought after gem.

ALEC MATTHEWS - OBITUARY

It is with sorrow I have to report the death of Alec Matthews, who died in his sleep on the 22nd. November, 1993, aged 90.

Alec was a member of L.P.H.G. for many years but was known, mainly, for his very fine collection of GB adhesives. His Victorian and Edward VII collections were memorable, containing a number of items rightly called unique. He had also a very fine Commonwealth collection, covering all reigns from Victoria to Elizabeth II.

Not so well known was his very fine Postal History material, this covering London, Scotland, Bristol and Hastings. Not often seen but containing many desirable items which would have graced anyone's albums. Altogether a complete collector.

A reserved and gentle man, he was always willing to display his collections to the many societies to which he belonged : he had a comprehensive knowledge of all his material and was always willing to share this with others.

I knew Alec for nearly forty years and we spent many happy hours browsing through his various collections: he will be sadly missed. A nicer and kinder man one could never hope to meet.

I am sure members will join me in conveying our sincere condolences to his family at their sad loss.

A.J.K.

THE REORGANISATION OF 1875

The following article is the result of research at Post Office records given to the Editor for publication. It comprises a mixture of abstract from and a precis of Minute. E7681/1878. Unfortunately, there is no indication of the author but the work must have been undertaken some time since as the material is typed on yellowing foolscap paper, held together by a rusting staple. It covers a period outside the Editor's immediate collecting interest and unremarked errors in transcription are always possible. The Editor, nevertheless, found the subject of considerable interest and commends the abstract for your attention.

Secretary Sir John Tilley considered reorganising the establishment of the London District offices in early 1875. His proposals were based on the value of work compared with Head Postmasters at provincial offices. The Postmaster vacancy arising at the East District Office decided him to call for a report on the London Offices. Mr Stow, the Metropolitan Surveyor, assisted by a Mr H. Jones, Provincial Surveyor, carried out an extensive survey.

For Mr Stow,

I am disposed to think that the present vacancy in the situation of Postmaster of the Eastern District of London affords an opportunity for reorganising the staff of the office with advantage.

There is, I should judge, scarcely sufficient work in what may be termed the clerical and primary management of the Office to call for the services of both a Postmaster (at the present rate of pay) and of a First Clerk as well. A capable officer, say of the rank and with about the pay of Assistant Superintendent's, should I imagine, be able to perform all the duties that are really necessary, at present

devolving on the Postmaster Clerk. On the other hand, I think it is desirable to strengthen the staff for the management of the Sorting Office and Letter Carriers duties and this I should be inclined to do by the appointment of a Chief Inspector in addition to 3 Inspectors on a scale rising from £200 by £20 to £300 a year.

I shall be glad if Mr Stow will consider and report on this suggestion, which it seems to me may probably be moulded into an arrangement timely to benefit the service materially.

The officer to be substituted for Postmaster might be termed "Officer in Charge" or "Clerk in Charge", unless Mr Stow can suggest some title that would be better - I am anxious to get rid of the title of "Postmaster" and the change of establishment would stand thus.

<u>Present</u>		<u>Proposed</u>	
Postmaster	£500	Officer in Charge	£400
with allowance for telegraphy	40	Chief Inspector	£200 by £10 to £300
Clerk	£260 to £350		

(Initials of Secretary)

March 30 1875

On the 13 April 1875 Mr Stow replied with a lengthy report, from which we give these extracts :

Eastern

Change of title agreed. Officer to be paid £400 as sufficient for the post at that Office for the management of the district. Suggest that "District Superintendent" would designate the grade and duties of the Chief Officer. It would fully mark his functions of Supervision over the whole District while admitting of as much independent action as now being (without disadvantage) left to the Town Sorting Office Inspectors and it would seem to have less of exclusive reference to the Head Office and its official names than the term "Officer in Charge".

The change in system should be followed by all other District Offices in the Metropolitan area.

Northern and North Eastern

Of no greater importance than the East. Their salary at present being £450 plus £40 Telegraphy Allowance. At both Offices an officer with the salary of £400 would meet requirements.

Mr Stow then continued "I do not hesitate to express an opinion derived from nearly 7 years experience of the District Offices as now contributed, that general administration would be greatly improved, the despatch of official business quickened and the Surveyors control rendered more direct and certain, if other Postal Districts were placed upon an equality with East, North and North West under charge of an officer of position similar to that proposed (though in some cases paid a rather higher salary) by

sub-dividing existing districts where the growth of population and correspondence has been most remarkable. the addition of the Telegraph and other business has made the Postmasters duties very different from what was contemplated when the present District system was set up and this consideration is, in itself, a very strong argument in favour of a general change ".

West Central

A change in the direction indicated is already approaching in the district which would be reduced by a third, if a new District Office were opened upon the proposed site in Hemming's Row Charing Cross, whence relief would also be affected to the South West Town District. A West Central District so reduced would be sufficiently provided for by an officer of Superintendent's rank but I would not propose a less salary than £400 (Although in importance the District would be far below East, North or North West) because the West Central Head Office Counter Duty entails heavy money responsibilities.

Charing Cross

The Charing Cross Postmastership, the Salary of which is now £400 would involve more work and even more money responsibility than the West Central office upon ordinary "District" duties being added. - I think £450 would be a proper salary and that for an increase of that amount the Postmaster, Mr Oakshott, would willingly take the designation of Superintendent, the control of Letter Carriers and the usual outdoor supervision.

Western

Greatly overgrown in every item of duty and I consider that its entire Suburban district should be placed at once under a Superintendent with a Salary of £400 and quarters at Paddington where the Railway system converges from every Sub. District. The Paddington Sorting Office is already upon the scale and carries on all the work of a District Office and the large house recently taken for the Telegraph and counter duty has unoccupied rooms available for a controlling officer and his Assistants. As things now are, the Postmaster at Vere St, a mile and a half away, (with no communication except by road) is expected to look after this most important Sorting Office and he necessarily does it to a great extent by deputy through his Suburban Inspector who is overburdened with work. A Superintendent on the spot would have the office under the same degree of immediate management as I contemplate in the case of the East Office (which would be a great improvement in the present system) and the Inspector would be able to devote himself much more to other Suburban Offices. I am confident that every office in the West District would gain by this change and that supervision everywhere would be more thorough than is possible now. The large Town District, of which Vere Street would remain the centre, would be of very high importance and sufficient to absorb the entire attention of a Chief Officer, as it would still include the principal transmitting Telegraph Office and (for Country Letters) the Chief Sorting Office in the West District and £500 would not be too high a salary for a Superintendent upon the Postmastership falling in hereafter. As regards the local designation, I think "Town and Suburban" or "Inner and Outer" would be sufficiently distinctive of the respective districts but, perhaps, "Bayswater District" would better indicate the new centre of control which I propose to create.

South Western District

At this office, as at the Western, there is too much concentration of business and, although the contemplated transfer of about 8 "walks" to a District Office at Charing Cross would necessarily make a considerable difference in the South Western Sorting Office, yet it will not relieve that Office to the extent which either present circumstances or prudent regard to the future seem to demand and it will not sufficiently lighten the Postmaster Writing Office or Suburban Inspector, who is greatly overworked. What is wanted in order to bring down the Sorting duty to limits proportioned to the size of the Sorting Office is the severance of a portion of the Suburbs; and my proposition is that South Lambeth, Clapham, Stockwell and Brixton shall be cut off and served by means of the large Sorting Office in the Kennington Road (formerly the Southern Office) which is now merely used by the Kennington and Walworth S.E. Letter Carriers and is but one quarter completed. Under such change no Suburbs south of the River would be left in the S.W. District, except those less important parts which are reasonably accessible from Victoria Station. Thus altered the S.W. District would be quite within properly manageable limits and much on a par with the proposed W. Town District in regard to the general duties of the Postmasters Office and it would be appropriate entrusted hereafter to an officer of Superintendent Rank with £500 a year.

In addition to the fast increasing S.W. Sub Districts named overleaf which, with Kennington and Walworth really form one compact Town, I propose to attach to the Kennington Road Office the S.E. Sub District of Camberwell, which forms part of the same unbroken stretch of houses. The name of South London is commonly applied to the whole of this large area (by Public, the Press and the Railway Companies - who have adopted it for the line from London bridge to Victoria) and I think no better designation could be found for the proposed Head Sorting Office and its Districts. As a starting point for the lines of the Mail Cart to the several suburbs in question the Kennington Office is far more convenient than the S.W. Office and the formation of a South London District would enable me to solve a difficulty of long standing in regard to the outskirts of Brixton Stockwell towards Dulwich, which in consequence of present boundaries, are in a very unsatisfactory state.

A Superintendent in charge of a South London District would be sufficiently remunerated with £400 a year.

South Eastern District

The South Eastern office has just been relieved of some work by the function of the independent Woolwich Office and district. It would be expedient to attach to a "South London Office" certain South Eastern Town Walks on the Lambeth side. These, with the Sub Districts of Kennington and Camberwell, would represent a further measure of substantial relief. The change would place the South Eastern District on much the same level with the South Western and Western and £500 a year would be a proper Salary for the Chief officer upon the Postmastership falling vacant.

Tables 1 and 2 show the various Districts arranged in the order of importance, as affecting the work of the Chief Officer and his personal assistants. It will be observed how evenly the Branch Offices would be distributed among the Eastern, Northern, North Western, Western, Bayswater, Charing Cross, South Western and South Eastern Districts. This in itself is no inconsiderable advantage, the Counter and Telegraph Clerks stationed in small groups at these various Branches are now left too much to themselves and the increased number of supervising officers will bring the female staff especially under more constant and strict supervision.

An important point in favour of the change of system is, that existing buildings now partially in disuse will be turned to full account as at Paddington and Kennington. At Charing Cross a new building is inevitable under any circumstances. In the same way no special expense can be charged against the alteration as regards sorting office force. If the South Western Office be not relieved by setting up a new Sorting Office at Charing Cross and Kennington, expenditure would have to be incurred in some other way to meet the growing necessities of the District. At Paddington the change would be absolutely without immediate effects in this respect as the Sorting Office already has its own indoor force.

But, perhaps, a still greater attendant advantage would be that with but £23 a year of additional expenditure, the Metropolitan Postmasters' Clerks could be redistributed among the increased number of supervising officers in such a manner as would enable the Department to meet the claims so repeatedly urged on the part of the Clerks to pay better and clearer prospects of advancement. The gains would be evenly distributed and all officers of standing would benefit. The total number of persons employed including assistants for riding work would not be increased but they would be brought nearer to their work and an adjustment would be effected in some cases where chiefly through the operations of the telegraphs a disproportion has arisen between the number of clerks and the amount of work - of which the Eastern Office is an example. It is almost certain that two District Postmasters would retire upon such a change being announced but the table (associated) is drawn up independently of that event which would increase the number of lucrative promotions and would lead to a further saving in immediate expenditure.

The table contemplates the abolition of the present new scale of £80 to £150 a year paid to certain Telegraph Writing Clerks and the substitution of a uniform scale for Junior Clerks rising from £80 to £200 which would supersede (as vacancies occur) the present Postal Clerks junior scale rising to £240. It also contemplates two scales for Senior Clerks, one rising from £250 to £350 (in line of the present £260 to £350 scale) for the First Clerks at the South Western, Western and South Eastern offices, where the Superintendents Pay would be £500; and the others rising from £210 to £300 for the Second Clerk at the South East Office (in consideration of the Receiving House Inspections and consequent retention of four out of the present five clerks there) and for the First Clerks of each of the remaining offices.

I would beg to point out there would no difficulty in immediately beginning to give practical effect to the proposed general alterations. The Eastern Office having been six months "in charge" it is desirable at once to fix the position of the future Chief Officer and allot his clerical force. The Division of the Western District into Town Suburbs may be a speedily effected and there are urgent reasons why so no time should be lost in with-drawing work from the South West Sorting Office to Kennington. The establishment of a District Office at Charing Cross is likely to be feasible within the present year for, although the houses in Hemmings Row are still practically tenanted, the site is already the property of the Crown and without waiting for the new building the Chief office at Charing Cross could relieve the South West Office at once of some supervising duties - and relieve the West Central Office also if it is thought fit so to employ them.

G.E. Stow

(Tables 1 and 2 are shown on the following pages)

101

Proposed Salary of Superintendent	South Western	Western Town	South Eastern	Charing Cross	Eastern	Western Suburbs	Northern	North Western	South London	West Central	Totals	
											Letters	Office
	500	500	500	450	400	400	400	400	400	400		
Letters to Town delivered per week	217, 110	585, 696	193, 401	360, 499	152, 981		160, 345	162, 964		273, 000	2, 105, 996	
Subn	393, 482		321, 048		329, 476	489, 244	214, 408	182, 124	285, 031		2, 405, 313	
Total	610, 592	585, 696	514, 449	360, 499	482, 457	489, 244	374, 753	345, 088	285, 031	273, 000	4, 511, 309	
No of Officers of all classes on the Post	447	380	436	182	397	282	331	262	281	173		3171
Telegrams	62	69	57	63	41	35	30	39	10	26		432
Postage	97	76	113	94	110	72	71	79	46	38		776
Total	606	525	606	339	548	389	432	380	337	237		4, 399
No of Sub Sorting Office	13		17		13	9	16	8	7		8	83
No of Money Order Rm	56	23	80	7	79	48	62	45	43	18		461
No of Branches in Civil	8	6	6	7	8	7	7	7	2	2	Total	604
Public Branches (including Telegraph Office)												
No of (Funding	18	6	22	7	24	15	22	15	10	3		
Telegraphs	30	24	23	5	21	23	16	17	13	12		
Offices	48	30	45	12	45	38	38	32	23	15		
											326	
No of Forwarded	4177	5442	3112	6109	3104	3527	2202	2633	1232	2504	34042	
Telegraphs	5310	5349	4475	5047	3896	4193	2637	3119	2065	2535	38626	
Messages												
Total for one week	9487	10,791	7587	11,156	7,000	7,720	4839	5,752	3,297	5,039	73,668	

Postmasters and Clerks						Present distribution		
Dates approx.	Name	Scale, or Rate of pay	Sal. allow.	District		District	Rank of Officer	Name
				Recent	Proposed			
	<u>Postmasters</u>							
27 Dec 1838	Angell, J. W.	600	75	SW	SW	Western	Postmaster	Milton
29 Dec 1838	Milton, J.	600	75	W	W Town			Smith
16 May 1838	Lawson, J.	550	50	SE	SE		Clerks	Sadler, F.
7 Aug 1837	Tuck, Geo	500	40	WC	WC			Laurie, E.
1 June 1839	Wilson, A.	500	40	N	N	5th Western	Postmaster	Pitt, B.
11 Aug 1841	Potts, J. W.	500	40	NW	NW			Angell, J.
1 June 1838	Oakeshott, J.	400	-	C. Cross	C. Cross			Read, W. J.
	Lawford, J.	200	-	House of Commons			Clerks	Carver, H.
	<u>Clerks</u>							Prebble, C.
20 Oct 1845	Smith, E.		45	W	W Sub	Home of Commons		Greer, J.
5 Nov 1850	Read, W. J. W.	£260 to £310	40	SW	St London	Postmaster		Greater London
24 May 1853	Matthews, W.	£350.	-	E	E	St Eastern	Postmaster	Lawford, J.
3 Dec 1853	Hill, F.		35	SE	SE			Lawson, J.
5 Dec 1860	Somerfield, A. H.		-	WC	W Town		Clerks	Hill, F.
15 Dec 1860	Salmon, A. H.	£200 to £310	25	N	N			Hooper, J.
24 Dec 1863	Bell, J. W.	£300.	25	NW	NW			Gibson, J.
6 Aug 1861	Carver, H.		-	SW	SW	West Central	Postmaster	Ball, R.
17 Dec 1863	Cooper, W. J.		-	WC	WC			Batley, R. H.
5 May 1864	Prebble, C. E.		-	SW	St London			Tuck, Geo.
23 June 1864	Hooper, J.	£80 to £106	-	SE	SE		Clerks	Somerfield, A.
11 March 1865	Naylor, J.	£240.	-	N	C. Cross			Cooper, W. J.
11 May 1865	Sadler, F. C.		-	W	W Sub	Charing Cross	Postmaster	Lorraine, J.
26 March 1866	Summers, S.		-	E	E	Eastern	Postmaster	Haddon, J.
29 Aug 1866	Lorraine, J.		-	WC	WC			Oakeshott, J.
10 Oct 1868	Gibson, J. K.		-	SE	SE			Vacancy
28 Feb 1870	Ball, R.		-	SE	SW		Clerks	Matthews, W.
5 Dec 1870	Greator, J.	£80, after 2 years	-	SW	C. Cross			Summers, S.
4 Jan 1871	Laurie, E. H.	£7.10 to £140.	-	W	W Town	Northern	Postmaster	Laurie, E. S.
5 Feb 1872	Pitt, B.	£10 to £240.	-	W	W Town			Elliott, J.
2 Oct 1872	Page, E. F.		-	NW	NW		Clerks	Wilson, J.
20 Oct 1873	Elliott, J.		-	E	E			Salmon, A.
1 Dec 1872	Clarke, W. E. M.		-	N	N	North Western	Postmaster	Naylor, J.
10 Feb 1873	Laurie, E. H.		-	E	St London			Clarke, W. E.
2 Oct 1873	Greer, J.	£80, after 2 years	-	SW	SW		Clerks	Potts, J. W.
13 Feb 1874	Haddon, J. M.	£15 to £150.	-	WC	N			Bell, J. W.
1 July 1874	Batley, R. H. W.		-	SE	SE			Page, E. F.
30 Jan 1875	Adeney, A. E.		-	NW	W Sub		Writing assistants	Adeney, A.
1 Aug 1875	Mosey, C.	£140 to £160	-	WC	E			W. J.
1 Aug 1875			-					SW
1 Aug 1875			-					SE
1 Aug 1875			-					E
1 Aug 1875			-					W. J.
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Comparison between the present and proposed staff including the
mean maximum writing assistants

Present	£10,225.3.6 - £12,079.10.-
Proposed	9,748.9.7 - 11,256.5.-
	£78,13.11 £821.5.-

(vide slip attached)

CIRCULATION TO SUBURBAN DISTRICTS WHICH ARE UNDER THE
CONTROL OF THE WEST POSTMASTER
LIST OF SUB DISTRICTS

Turnham Green	Paddington W
(Home and Suburban Division)	Kensal Town W
	Maida Hill W

To Turnham Green the general circulation is direct from Inland Branch (Home and Suburban Division) but there is a Bye Bag three times a day from the West Office.

To Paddington. By all despatches save those of early collections from North Western, Eastern and South Eastern, all London District Offices and Charing Cross send their letters direct. Letters for Maida Hill and Kensal Town are also circulated to Paddington.

Provincial letters for Paddington reaching the Circulation Department unsorted are sent direct through the East Central Office.

The Irish Night Mail makes up a direct bag for Paddington.

With these exceptions, letters for Paddington from the Provinces go through the Western Office.

The Circulation Department in its Inner Suburban Division has since 8 June last (1874) made up a complete set of Bags for the West Suburban Districts for the first delivery.

In the evening, the Inner Suburban Division makes up no Bags with these exceptions the circulation to West Suburban Districts is through the Vere Street Office.

G.E. Stow

On receipt of this report, the Secretary asked Mr Stow to examine the sorting offices respecting the sorting done for London offices in the Provincial offices and the possibility of improving it. (New sorting lists and materials were distributed throughout the country, providing sorting offices with helpful means for correct Postal Division Sorting.) A great deal of mis-sorting was occurring and there were fears of increased theft. The Secretary considered the increase in the number of District Offices would be unwise but, if Mr Stow could say he was satisfied there would be an improvement in this way, he would consider the case. He asked Mr Stow if there were any further observations to his report of the 13th. April, 1875

(date given for the above - 2nd July, 1875)

Mr Stow replied he found the Provincial offices had mis-sent postal divisions to London; it was excusable with the change and frequency of new addresses but the sorting books and charts had made improvement. Missorting at London District Offices was considered serious and the hurried despatch of collections did not allow examination of addresses. the proposed new districts would equalize the work at each point for better handling and examination. All future cases will be treated, for purpose of record and discipline, in exactly the same way as any other kind of missending. One other step was to make proficiency in sorting a more prominent item for qualification and improved teaching. there should be no more difficulty in sorting to nine, ten or eleven divisions of London than there was when the district system was introduced in 1856.

The Kennington Office as a Head Office was proposed the following staff:

		Annual Cost	
		Immediate	Mean
1.	7 new Indoor Assistants 4 new Bag Sorters 1 new Office Porter and 6/- each to two Overseers	£ 525	£ 700
2.	2 new Assistant Letter Carriers Raising 20 Letter Carriers from Suburban to Town Scale	£ 530	£ 745
		-----	-----
		1055	1445
3.	Additional Mail Carts	£ 300	

		£1355	

The remainder of indoor force will be made up of transfer of existing establishment from the town offices of South Eastern and South Western.

Although the proposed outdoor force is brought about by the change in postal divisions, in any case the necessity arises for the increase in force due to the excessive overtime now costing to cover the walks. All furniture of the old head office at Kennington has now been distributed to other offices and therefore new will have to be found. At Paddington no new expenditure will be incurred for sorting office but the rooms above the Public Office will be required to be furnished.

23 July, 1875

The Secretary's notes end with a statement of circulation of letters. Items for Western Suburbs to pass via the West District Office to Paddington and, with the partial re-establishment of the old Southern District Office, the number of District Offices would be as before all the changes - ten.

The Secretary was not entirely in agreement with the term 'Superintendent' being applied in all circumstances, including the East Central and, therefore, he proposed the term 'Sub Controller', with classes for the more important and less important, with the liability to move from one office to another. As there were already 'Sub Controllers' in the Circulation Office there might be difficulties in adopting the term. he asked Mr Boucher, Surveyor and General Controller, for his views on the whole issue of change of designation of Postmasters.

Mr Boucher said that since 1867-8, when the status of Metropolitan District Postmasters last was changed, all districts had increased business.

To quote : "One of the chief objects of the revision of '67 was that the Districts should be treated as though they were so many separate Post Towns, with a district staff of officers and men for each, under the immediate control of a Postmaster instead of an Assistant Controller.

The Treasury having approved this arrangement, the officers and men selected for employment in the Metropolitan Districts were transferred from this Department and a separate establishment was formed for each District and, since that time, all questions relating to the duties, wages, promotions and pensions of the men employed have been dealt with by the Postmaster.

Not only have these officers been responsible for the management of their establishments but (in consequence of their severance from this Department) it has been necessary each Postmaster should account daily to the Receiver and Accountant General for all Revenue collected and for all payments made of salaries, allowances, rents, rates, taxes and the various incidental charges for Postal and Telegraph purposes in their respective Districts and, as the Postmasters frequently held large Revenue balances, they are now required to give covering security for the amount for which they are responsible.

They also have the supervision and examination of the accounts for the several Town and Suburban Branch Offices and Receiving Houses in their Districts and they report direct to the Secretary on all ordinary enquiries and complaints from the Public in dealing with which much tact and care is often required.

Although I am not surprised to find that Mr Stow desires to revert to the status quo ante '67, yet before any decision is arrived at for converting Postmasters into Superintendents, with lower salaries for future holders and for applying the prospective saving in improving the position of the Clerks, it is very necessary to consider whether the important duties which have since devolved upon the Postmasters would be well performed by officers of a lower rank.

Mr Stow has not in his report taken up this part of the question nor has he alluded to the measures he would recommend for improving the supervision of the District Offices.

I observe that one of Mr Stow's proposals is that the District Superintendents should be liable to be shifted at any time to duties of a similar class elsewhere but although this course was occasionally adopted when the Assistant Controller and Clerks were borne on the Central Establishment, it will be seen from the brief sketch I have given of the duties they have now performed by these officers as Postmasters that the circumstances are greatly changed and I much doubt if the removal of an officer holding so responsible a position from one office to another would be of advantage to the Service.

There can, I think, be no doubt that frequent changes in the organisation and control of large offices not only tend to weaken authority but to impair the efficiency of the Service and, whilst admitting the great importance of saving expense when it can be safely effected, yet taking into account the rapid growth of business of the probable future requirements, I am not satisfied it would be expedient to lower the status of Postmasters in order to make provision for improving the position of their Subordinate offices.

THOS. BOUCHER

Circulation Office
5 August, 1875

.....

There then followed an examination of the workings of the London District offices by Messrs. H. James and G.E. Stow and their findings were made known to the Postmaster General on the 31st. May, 1878.

It had been obvious to the Secretary all was not well with the control of District Offices by Postmasters and management of the Surveyors Office under Mr Stow. A great deal of District work was still carried out by the Surveyor was increasing.

The proposals put forward were as follows:

Abolition of eight Clerkships and one Boy Sortership

SWDO	1 Clerk £ 80 x 5 -	150
SWDO	1 Clerk £ 80 x 5 -	£150
"	1 Boy Sorters 12/-	
SEDO	1 Clerk £ 80 x £7 10 -	£240
	to £140 then by £10	
"	1 Clerk £ 80 x 5 -	£150
WCDO	1 Clerk do	do
"	1 " £ 80 to £240	
EDO	1 " £ 80 to £240	
NDO	1 " £ 80 to £150	
NWDO	1 " do	

(The schedule is reprinted as shown in the original abstract. The "x 5" means the level of increment with the last figure being the scale maximum. Ed.)

Five officers hitherto attached to the Surveyors Office, 2 Assistant Supervisors, 1 Overseer, 2 Writers whose work is to be transferred to D/PMRs will likewise be transferred.

Three Districts now too large to be reduced.

South Western District

To reduce the area of the District first by the creation of a Postmastership of Putney with a subordinate District comprising Fulham, Waltham Green, Mortlake and Barnes; second by the subordination of Tooting and Streatham to the present office at Wimbledon.

The Postmasters of Putney and Wimbledon would each have a salary of £200 a year which would constitute their entire official remuneration.

South Eastern District

A large measure of relief by the creation of a Head Postmastership of Norwood with a subordinate District comprising Lower Norwood, South Norwood, Sydenham, Anerly, Forest Hill, Dulwich and Herne Hill. The salary at Norwood to be £300 a year. (This area has 147,000 letters delivered per week.)

Western District

Relief is most needed. First by a Head Office at Ealing with a subordinate District of Acton and Hanwell; second to create for the purpose of control a separate District consisting of the remainder of the Western suburbs via Paddington, Kensal Town, Maida Hill, Nottinghill, Kensington, Hammersmith, Shepherds Bush and Turnham Green. Salary of the Postmaster of Ealing to be £150 a year.

For the Superintendent at Paddington which will be very important District the salary recommended to be £300 a year.

West Central District

To transfer the Postmaster from there to the Charing Cross office to obviate the necessity for a separate Postmaster for that office - a saving of £400 a year.

The new officer for the future Paddington District office to be like others designated "Superintendent". the next in command to be "Assistant Superintendent". Instead of reducing their salary to maintain it until vacancies occur when such business will not be allowed for by extra money.

	Old	New	
SW	675	600	per year plus £75 charged a Telegraphy allowance
W	675	600	75
WC	500	500	40
SW	500	500	40
E	500	500	40
N	540	400	40
NW	500	500	40
PADD		500	

The Clerks to be known as Assistant Superintendents with the following salaries.

	Present			Proposed	
	1st Clerk	Allow Teleg	Clerks	Teleg- Clerks	Asst. Supt Clerks Triennial
*SW	£260x10+£350	£40	£80x£7.10 10-£240	£80x5=£150	£300x10=£350 £90x15=250
*WC	"	"	"	"	"
*SE	"	£35	"	"	"
W	"	£45	"	£80x£7.10 =£140 then x £10=£240	"
*E	"	"	"	£80x£5=£150	"
*NW	£200x10=£300	£25	"	"	£250x10=£300 £90x15=£250 Triennial
*N	"	£25	"	"	"

* Situations vacant and proposed to be abolished

.....

The Postmaster General's letter to the Lords of the Treasury of the 30th. August, 1878 provided information on all the proposals made by the Surveyor, Mr Stow, and his Clerk, Mr James. Additional return statements were prepared by the Secretary, among them a return of letters delivered for the years 1869 and 1877.

(continued on the following page)

LONDON MARITIME MAIL

PLEASE do let the Editor have your name and address if you have any London Maritime Mail and would be willing to complete the Maritime Working Paper now being prepared.

Return of letters delivered in the years.

	1869	1877	Increase %
Western	725,000	1,292,000	78
South Western	539,000	1,075,000	99
South Eastern	474,000	787,000	66
West Central	343,000	503,000	47
Eastern	331,000	543,000	67
Northern	244,000	466,000	91
North Western	235,000	395,000	68
<hr/>			
	2,891,000	5,061,000	75

Treasury authority papers 14392/78 refer. The papers were submitted on the 11th. September, 1878. Certified Letter received 16th. September, 1878.

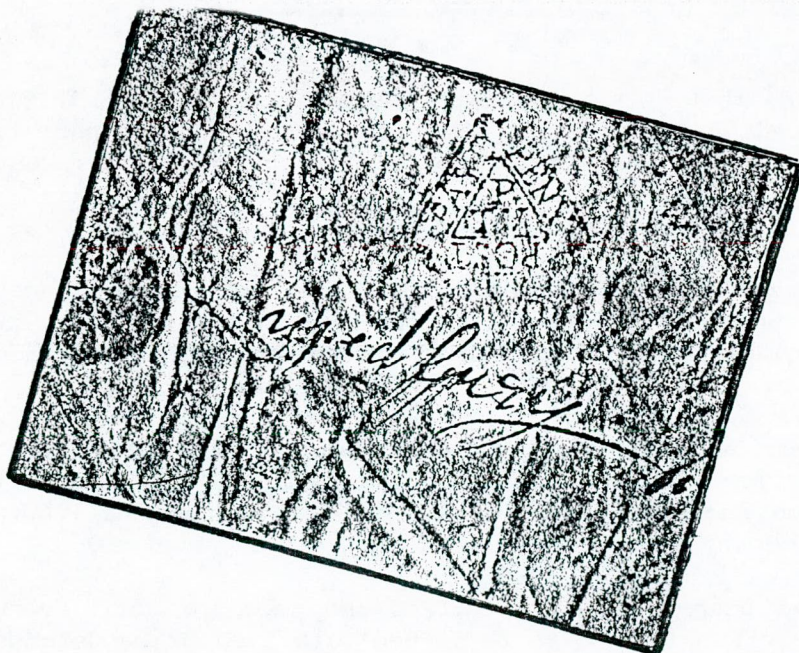
The first indication of the new Districts in operation is given in the Post office Guide for 1879.

Putney April edition
Norwood July edition
Paddington April edition

Editor's note:

The text has been modified in several instances as it was thought to be less than clear in the original and some initials have been shown as complete words.

ST PAUL'S OFFICE DOCKWRA



A rather crumpled entire showing a hitherto unrecorded P/TV of the type 3a Dockwra for the St Paul's office.

There is no date stamp as such but the letter is dated by the writer for August 1740.

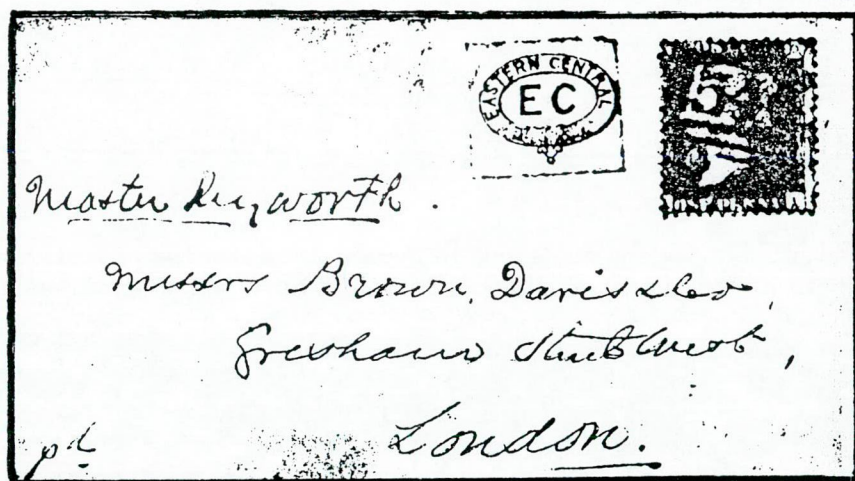
There is no writer's address but the bonus of a manuscript Receiver's signature appears.

WHITECROSS STREET RECEIVING HOUSE

from Alf Kirk

I read with interest the article by Keith Romig (Notebook 108) and must at once exclaim 'Mea Culpa'. There was a Whitecross Street in Southwark and two prisons in the area. I jumped to the conclusion that the Receiving House was the one mentioned as being 'within the prison'. I was wrong. I have since found out that the Receiving House mentioned in Brumell's 'Local Posts of London' was in the City area and the prison was Newgate. Having corrected this mistake, I turn to the article.

In 1856, as we know, London was divided into ten districts, each one being designated by the initial letters, i.e. S.E. etc. This would allow the writer to quickly and simply include the district in the address. The printed sheets of District Initials are well known, the purpose was to allow the writer to add the appropriate District Initial to the address in a striking manner. The concept seemingly was a failure. Michael Champness recorded only one such (Notebook 16, page 8) . (Another was seen at Spring Stampex 1993 - Ed)



My initial belief was that Keith's envelope was another variety , this time with the District Initial printed on the envelope flap, the Receiving House name being fortuitously juxtaposed to "create" a two line stamp. As is now shown, this was not the case.

.....and from Michael Champness

Keith Romig's discovery of the E.C. Whitecross S^t receiving house namestamp in lower case lettering, used on the flap of an envelope, posted on the 24th. March, 1857 is the first reported example of this extremely elusive undated mark issued at the start of the introduction of the London Postal District system.

Only two offices are recorded in Proof Impression Book Volume 14(2) as having been issued with this type with the prefix of the district, N.W./Pancras Vale and E.C./Whitecross S^t, both on February 17th., 1857. (The pages from the P.I.B. are shown on the following two pages by kind permission of Post office Archives).

No other handstamps bearing district letters are recorded until February 26th., when a number of other offices began to be issued with type B2 handstamps in sans serif capitals, with the appropriate district initials, always as a suffix on the second line. On March 4th both Pancras Vale and Whitecross St were amongst those receiving houses issued with replacement namestamps in the new type B2. This followed a decision to change the form of lettering on all London receiving houses namestamps. A month later, on April 7th., both offices were issued with new straight line namestamps (type B1) without district initials. Since most offices which had been

Pimlico-Branch
June 16/54

Parsons-Green
June 16/54

Pimlico-W.O.
July 18/54

Paddington-W.O.
July 18/54

Paddington
N.W.
July 18/54

Pancras-Vale
July 17/54
PANCRAS VALE

N.W.
PN

PUTNEY WINDSOR ST

S.V. 10/54

PANCRAS RD

N.W. 12/54

PIMLICO-BRANCH

PANCRAS W 18/54

PUTNEY N.O.

PANCRAS VALE

PANCRAS-ROAD

PORTLAND-TOWN-N.O.

June 16/54

May 16/54

PIMLICO
June 16/54

CONDUIT ST. NOLDS
June 16/54

POTTERS BAR
Sept 11/54

PANCRA
SP23
57

PUTNEY
10/54

PLAISTOW
10/54

PORTLAND-TOWN
10/54

PIMLICO
Oct 10/54

PANCRA
Oct 19/54

PETERSHAM
21/54

PIMLICO RANELACH
Dec 5/54

PENTONVILLE
Dec 5/54

READ

CT-PORTLAND
16/54

ARK-ST-CRO
16/54

PALL MALL OPERA
16/54

DOPLAR-PENNYFELD
57

PIMLICO-ECCLESTON-ST
10/54

PIMLICO-QUEENS-ROW
10/54

PIMLICO-LUPUS-ST-NO 105
10/54

PIMLICO-CAMBRIDGE-ST
10/54

PIMLICO-LUPUS-ST-NO 5
10/54

PIMLICO-CHURTON-ST
10/54

POSTED-IN-PILLAR-DETAINED-LETTER-BOX

POSTED-IN-PILLAR-DETAINED-LETTER-BOX

POSTED-IN-PILLAR-DETAINED-LETTER-BOX

POSTED-IN-PILLAR-DETAINED-LETTER-BOX

POSTED-WITHIN-0.3-MILES-OF-C.P.O.
2d
N.W.

POSTED-WITHIN-0.3-MILES-OF-C.P.O.
2d
W.C.

POSTED-WITHIN-0.3-MILES-OF-C.P.O.
2d
W

POSTED-WITHIN-0.3-MILES-OF-C.P.O.
2d
S.E.

PORTLAND-TOWN-HENRY-ST
10/54

PORTUGAL-ST
10/54

18

Woolwich-E.O.
Jan 7/1857
Willesden

Whitechapel
Jan 10/1857

Woolwich-C.O.
Jan 12/1857

Woolwich-W.O.
Jan 26/1857
E.C.

Whitecross St
Feb 4/1857
WHITE CROSS ST

E.C.
WALTHAM CROSS
March 14/1857
WAPPING

E-10/1857
WESTMINSTER-BRIDGE
March 31/1857
WAPPING WALL

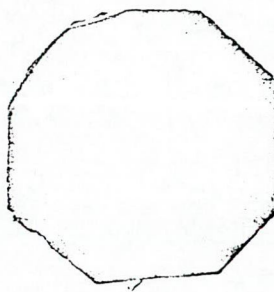
E-11/1857
WAPPING-WALL
April 1/1857
WHITE CROSS ST
April 7/1857
WAPPING
April 14/1857

~~WAPPING-WALL~~
WESTMINSTER BROADWAY
April 14/1857
WALTHAM-CROSS
April 21/1857
WHETSTONE
May 1/1857

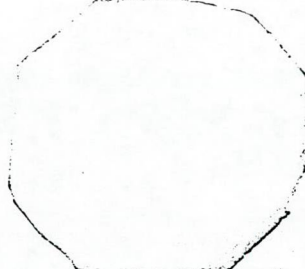
WALWORTH-EAST
June 26/1857
Office 5

WESTERN-D.O.

WALTHAM-ST.
Office 5



WALTHAM-ST.
Office 5



WALTHAM-ST.
Office 5

WESTERN-CENTRAL
Office 5

WALTHAM-ST.
Office 5

WALTHAM-ST.
Office 5

WOLWICH
Office 5

WESTBOURNE PARK
Office 5

WHITE CHAPEL
Office 5

WOLWICH
Office 5

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issued with type B2 (with district initials below) during late February and March had also been sent replacements in type B1 on or after April 7th., it would appear the the earlier stamps' construction was not considered sufficiently robust.

A study of the dates of issue of the various types of handstamp used by London receiving houses between February 1857 and the end of the year reveals many were in use only for very limited periods, some as short as the fifteen days involved with Pancras Vale and Whitecross St. This is borne out by the relevant pages 18 and 24 of Volume 14(2) of the Proof Impression Books. It should be remembered that research has revealed a number of receiving house namestamps issued to London offices which do not appear in the extant Proof Impression Books, whilst some contain cut out impressions mixed with direct strikes.

Sadly, no extant examples of these two early district initials issued on February 17th., 1857 had been recorded when the classification of undated namestamps was abstracted from Notebook No.8 (as long ago as August 1972). As a result they were not given a Classification type at that time. Since Type F2 has already been defined as "one straight line of upright lower case lettering with TP above unframed", we are faced either with a new sub-type, or alternatively an alteration to the definition of Type F2 by adding, after TP, the words "or district initials". You "pays yer money and you takes yer choice" but I would prefer the latter.

Can anyone report an example of the N.W./ Pancras Vale handstamp used in this very limited period or provide examples of either office using Type B2 in the short period from March 5th. to April 7th., 1857. from the late date of use of Keith Romig's E.C / Whitehouse S^c - March 24th - they must be very scarce indeed, if they exist at all.

It would appear the two February 17th. handstamps were issued before authority had been given for replacement stamps to be made with sans-serif lettering and, in the confusion prior to the general introduction of district initials, these two offices "beat the gun".

.....

HS or SH - A NEW RIDEOUT FIND

A follow up from R.G. Allum

In Notebook 90 of August 1989, John Hine listed a range of the Rideout stamps dated between 5 February 1858 to 23 October 1866 covering the four formats R1A, R1B, R2A and R2B. The item illustrated was the first, of which he was aware, with the lettering reversed to read "SH"; the date was 21 April 1858, the format R1A, eight lines above the central diamond. Now, a second example, dated AP 16 / 59 in format R1B, coded SH has turned up. It appears on a pair of plate 7 2d, blues.



which fortunately had never been split over the near 135 years since being used. The "SH" reversal has the "S" just over the vertical perforations and splitting would have given two attractive singles of limited postal history interest.



It is curious this is only the second example of the error, despite the time lapse since the first report.

What is of great interest to me is to record all the dates of use of not only the error but the normal ordering. For the convenience of readers, the detail given in the Handbook and in John Hine's article is reproduced below.

Number 1 in diamond.

R1A format	2.8.7.2	code HS	from 5 Feb 1858 to 14 Oct 1858
		code SH	21 Apr 1858
R1B	2.7.7.2	code HS	22 Oct 1858 Dec 1859
			(unconfirmed reports for 14 and 16 Oct 1858)
		code SH	16 Apr 1859
R1C	2.7.7.2	code HS	10 Oct 1866 only

Number 2 in diamond

R2A	2.5.5.2	code CR	27 Dec 1858	3 Dec 1859
R2B		code RC	9 Feb 1859	5 Jun 1859
R2C		code CR	23 Oct 1866	10 Jul 1867

Please do send in details of any examples you have which extend these dates. In particular, any dates as close as possible to 21 Apr 1858 and 16 Apr 1859. Were these two just "two of those things" as it were, or not ?

.....

LOSS OF POSTAL HISTORY MATERIAL

from Dr P.M.G. Bavin

In October 1991, the Sarawak Specialists' Society held its AGM and Annual Weekend at the Hospitality Inn, Southport, for which I was the Conference Secretary. I reported in the Society's journal I had lost my meeting notes and a journal but, during the past few weeks, I have discovered the loss of a box of postal history material. The main reason for the long delay in realising this is that in the mass of material, contained in a great many boxes, one going missing when there was no immediate cause to look for the material therein, stays missing ! It was not until I was preparing for a display the loss came to light.

The overall value is probably in excess of £2,000 but the loss, as you will appreciate, is in the difficulty in replacing even inexpensive items. I offer a listing of some of the material in the hope you might have seen or may see some of it. Any information leading to recovery, in part or complete, will be much appreciated and rewarded.

An incomplete listing, bit vague in places, but do look through it :

Boxed GRIMSBY/SHIP LETTER, black, sl. oversize env, on front, Iceland adhesive, 1930s.
 PAQUEBOT, black, Swedish adhesives on PC from Grimsby to Cleethorpes, late 1960s, addressed to Barber, Letchworth, v rare commercial use by a Swede returning home from an ICL course. Three env. each with Paquebot in a triangle, apex at top, applied at Boston. I think all three had German adhesives and ships' chops. Accompanying them were letters to Boston shippers, who arranged for the envelopes to be delivered at Boston Post Office and a letter, asking the postmaster to have a paquebot stamp prepared.

Two post cards, each with circular Missent to Boston, mass.

Sl. oversize env. straight line Missent to Lincoln, Nebraska.

Boxed Missent to Boston, early 1840s, possibly unique.

Handstruck 2 in black, with date stamp showing towns of use : Louth and Grimsby, 1855-65 as near as I can remember. Very rare, possibly unique ?

Env, probably 1d pink stat, used from Boston with duplex canc., carrying what looks like a 1d red torn across, actually halves of two stamps. With passage of time they have faded to different degrees.

At least two covers, 1840s, adhesives canc at Stamford but showing on the front CUD of Rutland offices, Ketton and Empingham. There may be items from Barnack and other offices in Northants.

At least three real photo PCs :

W H Smith stall on Sleaford station, Smith and rail staff assembled.

Postman on shaggy pony, captioned The --- Flier, near Grimsby and either Immingham or Humberstone.

Postman on mailcart outside Beckingham post office (nr Newark)

Fine clean env with Rly Letter Stamp, probably from Sleaford, 1930s

Letter, about 1850, cud Bargate, first sub office of Boston

The above were mounted on a mixture of Senator medium leaves, black pen writing; white card, same size, pen or typed, on green card, some highlighted.

Also 20-30 Senator album pages of apex at top triangular marks, containing two or three letters, starting with A and B, possibly a few with C. Env, wrappers, mainly cut outs. All mounted on black card, town names in black ink.

Please contact me through the Editor with news of any sightings.

.....

SKELETON POSTMARKS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Colin Peachy has taken a listing initially compiled by James Mackay and produced some 142 pages (softbound) packed with information. There are four introductory pages, which must be read carefully before plunging into the listings. There are some thirty source references cited plus a host of individual and society contributions acknowledged.

The work falls into two time periods. The early material 1838-1858, plus a stray Bickley station of 1868 and the "modern" section starting with Evesham in 1869, then 1880s to date, including 1993.

The lists are strictly alphabetical and the County codes are for the actual location of the office, not the head office under which it might operate. For collectors of London material, they will find LONDON must appear in the address and those who collect, say, "Surrey in London" will have to work through all the SY (Surrey) items to complete their own particular needs. For collectors of a County or a post town on the edge of a county, the same requirement obtains. Having said that, since the listing is alphabetical, those familiar with the area in which they have an interest should have no problems.

Colin Peachy and The British Postmark Society are to be congratulated on producing a clear and very worthwhile reference on these interesting stamps and it is strongly recommended for all Postal History collectors who recognise that the world did not stop in 1840 (n.b. skeletons existed even then !)

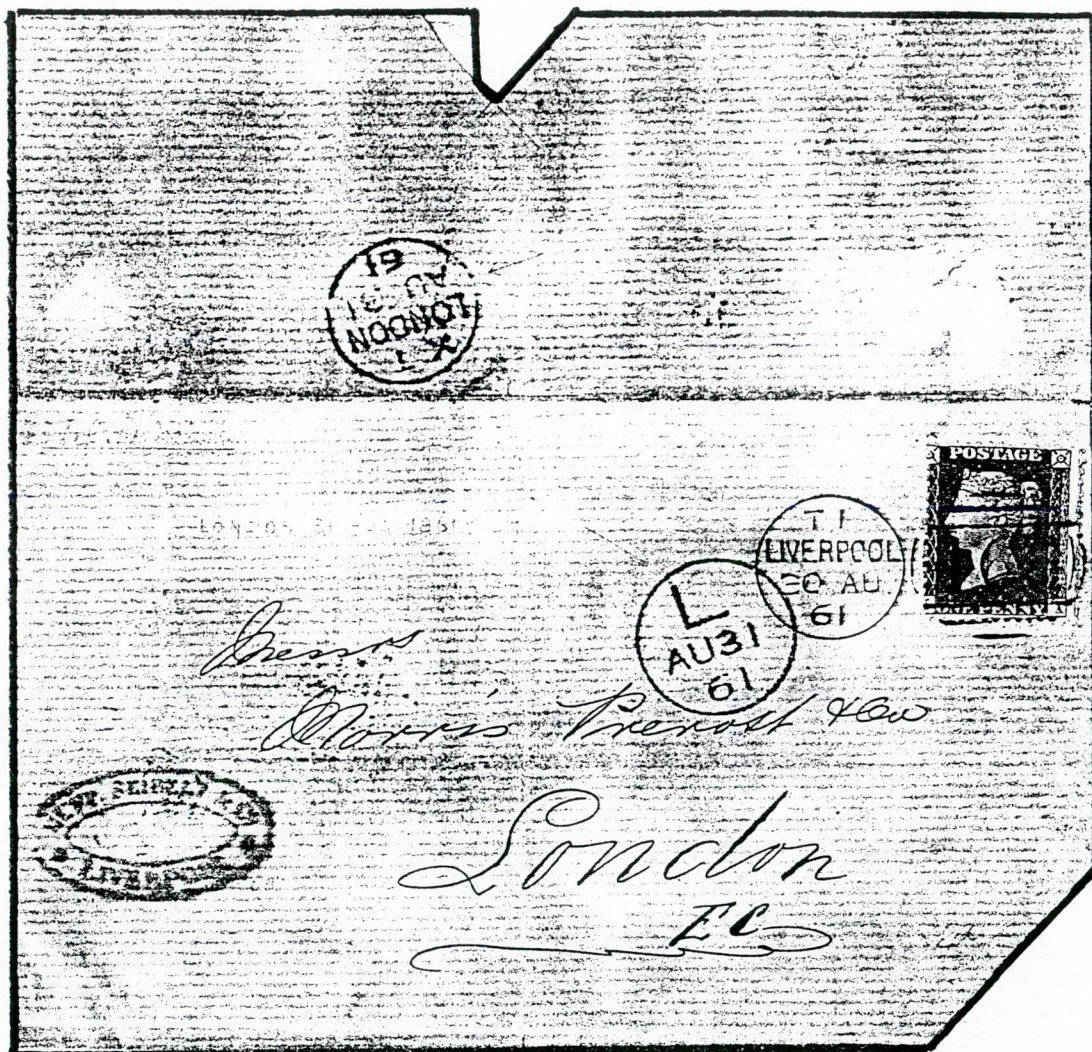
Obtainable from : British Postmark Society,
19 Moorland Road,
Hemel Hempstead, Herts. HP1 1NH
at £10 post paid UK
£12.30 post paid Overseas
plus £ 5 if not paying with a UK cheque

or your local bookshop (also stocked by Vera Trinder) at £8.50

MAIL MISSING THE POST

from Alf Kirk

The photocopy below is of a cover I acquired early in 1993 and I have been prompted to report it, having seen the article by J.W. Parsons (Notebook 108, April 1993, page 17).



The example here is also posted from Liverpool but, in this case, on a Friday. The London dates stamps are, of course, Saturday. This eliminates the "intervening Sunday" theory, unless it arrived too late for delivery on the Saturday and was held over till the Monday for delivery ?

Is this a late arrival of mail and consequent non delivery till Monday ? Clearly we need many more examples to come to any form of conclusion. I say "many more" but Robert Smith in 1843 on late arrival of mail said "...but it is very seldom the case".

Mackay in "English & Welsh Postmarks since 1840" is specific " A small circular datestamp with a large 'L' above the date (2106) was used from 1857 and was applied to letters delayed through mis-sorting in the Letter Carriers' Office". Unfortunately no source for this statement is given.