

NOTEBOOK

Number 136 July 1999

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EDITOR

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EDITORIAL.....

We have, unfortunately, hit one of those gaps in publication, this being the second time since 1971. Members have been very tolerant of the situation and, subject to availability of time and, more significantly, material, it is hoped to produce our usual 100 pages by the end of the year.

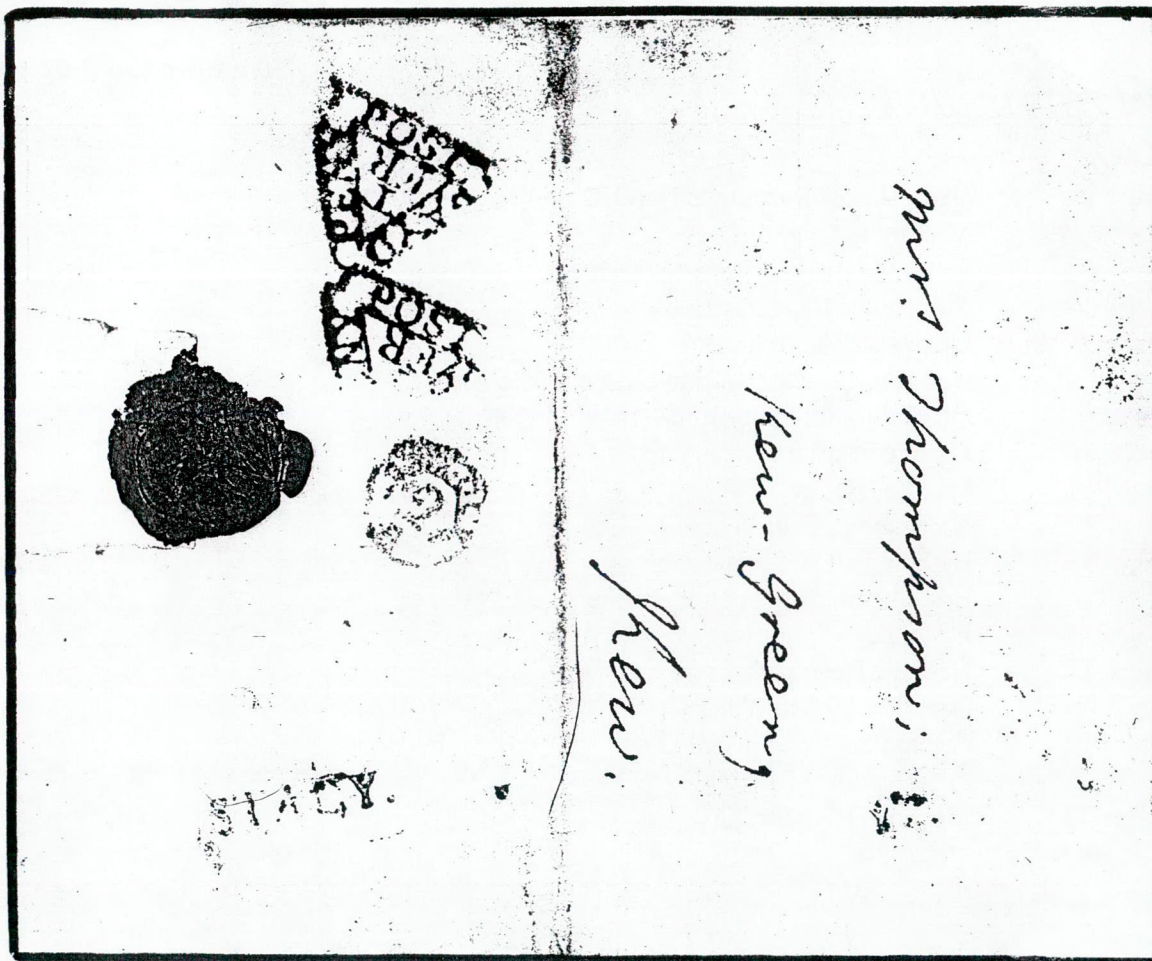
Readers may recognise several articles as based on lots from this year's May auction. There were indeed some very nice items, several of which realised very healthy returns for the vendors. The results are detailed on the reverse of the address panel. Other contributions are based on material/articles supplied by members but, with two exceptions, written up, to a greater/lesser extent, by the Editor.

The next publication of Notebook will be a study of Putney, as revealed through the collection of one of our members. It is considered such collection studies are well worth recording, if for no other reason than the return information from fellow collectors.

If you have such a collection, no matter how incomplete you might think it to be, do let the members have the opportunity of sharing your interest.

GENERAL POST RECEIVER'S HANDSTAMP : STACY

It must be admitted there is just a hint of the frame line to be seen but, given the strength of the name, either the frame has worn away, managed to miss leaving an impression or been removed by the Receiver following damage.



The letter is dated by the writer, Percival Stockdale, as 11th August, 1780 but, unhelpfully, just given his address as "London", proving no clue as to the location of Stacey's place of business. Mr Stockdale speaks of being in "rural retirement" and advises "shall leave Town next Week".

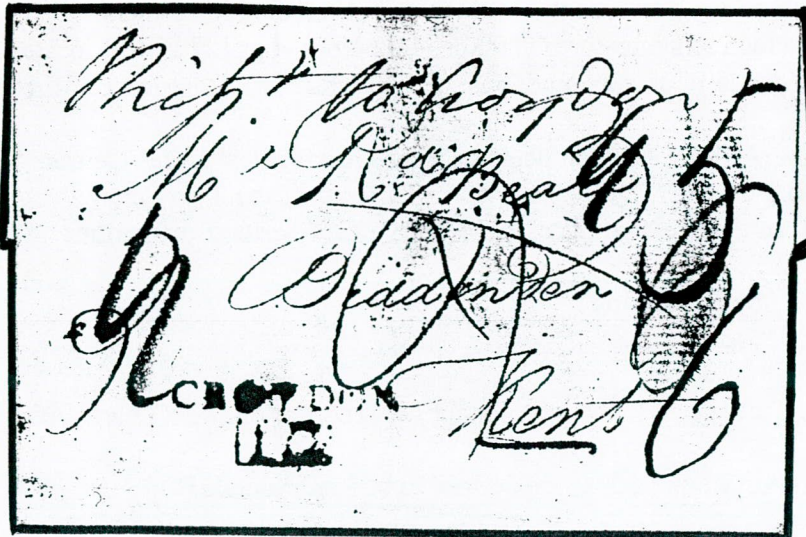
We have a double strike of the Dockwra - presumably the poor impression was deemed unsatisfactory. What a pity this was not the normal practice!

MISSSENT TO CROYDON

Andrew Ford

An entire letter, relating to the sale of sheep, from N^o 11 West Smithfield to Biddenden in Kent. The letter carries the writer's dating of the sale, by a *John Wood*, for the 2nd Aug^t 1802. On the reverse is the General Post date stamp (L.19) for 5 August 1802, which was the first day of the Twopenny Post for the Croydon Ride.

The address was incorrectly read as *Beddington*, so the letter went into the Croydon Bag. The error was detected at Croydon, the manuscript endorsement "*Miss^t to Croydon*" being entered across the top, with the Croydon Mileage mark.



On the obverse are several manuscript charge marks, rather too many. The initial charge appears to have been "3", the General Post rate to Croydon. Then, possibly, a clerk remembered that Croydon had a Twopenny Post bag, altered the charge to "2", in anticipation of it being transferred to that service. For some reason, there was a change of plans, the "2" deleted and another "3" entered.

The rate to Biddenden was 5^d (31 - 50 miles) but since it

should have gone from London this was corrected to 6^d, the rate for 51-80 miles. Perhaps one of the "6" charges, feint and overwritten by the "5" was the first, correct, charge

The attempt to apply the rate for the route actually taken from Croydon; remember there is only one General Post date stamp, suggesting a Cross Post route to Biddenden was in operation. In this case, the officer responsible for determining charges may have had third thoughts.

This was very nearly a first day cover .

LETTER CARRIER AND RECEIVER DEBTORS

From the almost apologetic tone of his letter, in 1803 the size of the debts of Letter Carriers and Receivers in the Two Penny Post department had caught Freeling on the wrong foot. The letter and a summary of the file is reproduced here.

POST 42 POST MASTERS GENERAL REPORTS

Vol. 23 Page 86

No. 39P

General Post Office

16th November 1803

My Lords,

In sending to your Lordships the Enclosed Papers from the Two Penny Post Office, being a list of Debts due from Letter Carriers & Receivers in that Department for a Quarter ended 10th October last, I am concerned to see that there is an Increase of £100 compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding year.

I have seen M^r Freeman upon the subject, and as far as relates to the Form of these Accounts I have settled, that as many of the Debts were incurred near ten years since, the Solicitor shall be required to give his opinion upon such as may be irrecoverable; that the Letter Carriers & Receivers shall be classed under their respective Heads; and that instead of an Alphabetical List of Names, the Insertion shall be in the point of order of time in which the Debts were contracted.

The Account by having the irrecoverable Debts abstracted from it, will be much more creditable than it now appears to be, and in other respects will be improved both in precision & use.

I beg your Lordships to be assured that this whole subject has from time to time received my attention, and M^r Parker has been called upon to render his best assistance in recovering from the Sureties the full amount of the Debts in all cases & where there was a possibility obtaining it. I shall

again direct him to consider & report upon the best means of reducing so discreditable a Balance; and I have other means in contemplation, which when matured shall be laid before your Lordships, in the hope and expectation that they will effectually prevent any accumulation whatever to the Debt of the Two Penny Post hereafter.

Your Lordships well know that we have no such debts with the General Post Letter Carriers, not can there be any very good reason assigned why they should be suffered in the Two Penny Post Department for the future. Altho' I am aware that there have been many serious difficulties & obstacles to the prevention of it hitherto.

All which is humbly submitted / by F. Freeling

notes on cover ; All perfectly right in prospects ; & proper for further report at our next board AD CL

Mr Parker will report upon such as are deemed to be irrecoverable (?)

AD CL

The listing of debts due from Letter Carriers & Receivers at the Westminster Office the 10th October 1803 comprised some fifty seven names, with amounts ranging from as little as one shilling.

Armstrong	5 3 6	Bro ^t up	66 „ 4	Bro ^t up	£ 205 „ 5
Ashe	2 17 6	Green	2 6 2	½	
Abrea	. 19 3	Greening	„ 1 „	Teedman	2 19 6
B.....	1 1 5	Hathaway	13 3	Taylor	5 5
Best	1 9 8	Hodges	10 2 3	Walker	1 2
Biggoll	12 ...	Higgins	27 9 10	Williams	1 8 5
Buy	10 10	Hurley	9 16 3	Wilson G	6 5 3
Betts	17 6	Horn	6 5 3	Waldron	12 9 „
Brown	11 18 7	Hughes	7 13 2	Weaver	9 15 3
Bull	1 1 4	Lawrence	5 17 2	Watts / Ben/-	6 2 6
Bridgeland	10 6	Matthews	5 5 7	Watts / Tho ^s /-	8 „
Burrell	3 2	Mills	5 3 10	Wostley	1 5 11¼
Buckland	2 17 6	Pedder	10 7 4	Pancoast	3 1 4
Caldicourt	3 19 8	Read	1 1 10	Stonhill	1 „
Calf	4 11 5	Rook	3 15 „	Humphries	3 1? ?
Chambers	1 3 10	Reynolds	3 6 1	Neighbour	8 5
Conway	10 3	Reynolds H ^y	10 12 3		
Cook	7 6 1	Saunders	14 5		
Dickie	6 11 6	Searl	20 16 „		
Flood	4 2 7	South	3 10 10 ½		
Filling (?)	7 12 3	Skinner	3 1 3		
		Shurcty	13 „		
		Smithson	8 4		
			</		

THE LISTING FOR THE CHIEF OFFICE HAS NOT BEEN COPIED OUT

There were 221 names listed yielding a total of £773 4 6 with the following summary :

Amount of Debts due from Letter Carriers & Receivers to the
10th October 1803 from the 17th May 1794
Old Debts to 17th May 1794

£ 773. 4. 6
24. 10. 1

£ 797. 14. 7

Two - penny Post Office

Comparative Statements of Debts due from Letter Carriers and Receivers to 10th October 1803

Amount of Debts 10 th Oct ^r 1802	£ 952 .. 15 .. 8
.....Do..... 5 th April 1803	967 .. 19 .. 9 ³ / ₄
.....Do..... 10 th Oct ^r 1803	1050 .. 16 .. 2 ³ / ₄

SUBSTITUTES REMUNERATION

From the pages of the PMG Reports *, the curious case of the Substitutes Remuneration and how this came to be met from the Revenue, a very serious matter.

General Post Office
18 April 1805

My Lords,

A Claim of £15.8.3. was lately sent to me from the Comptroller of the Two Penny Post** as due to the Persons who had at different times between the 5th April and 10th Oct^r 1804 performed the duty of M^r Henry Brown, a Sorter, who sometime ago resigned without having satisfied the demands of his Substitutes, notwithstanding their repeated Applications & which cannot be renewed, as it is not known where M^r Brown is gone. On receiving that Paper, I naturally enquired why M^r Brown's Salary had not been stopped to satisfy the just claims which the Substitutes had on the Office, and the enclosed Letter from the Comptroller contains one from the Controller which admits that he had the orders of the former to stop the Money but that he deviated from them.

I cannot conceive anything like an excuse for an Officer in the situation of M^r Ferguson, (the Collector), thinking proper to use his own discretion contrary to the orders given by the Comptroller of the Department and as he suffered the opportunity of deducting M^r Brown's Official Debts to escape, it does not appear to me that your Lordships can now pay the Money from the Revenue. It seems necessary in consequence that M^r Ferguson should be responsible, and if your Lordships view the matter in the same way you will be pleased to give an Order that the £15.8.3. shall be forthwith paid to the several Parties by him without allowing him to take credit for it in his Accounts.

All which is humbly / submitted by / F. Freeling

18 April 1805

4ln (?) / I entirely agree in opinion with Mr Freeling, & consider the conduct of the Collector as lightly reprehended, when he is only required to pay the £15=8=3

Montrose (Duke of Montrose)

C Spencer (Lord Charles Spencer)

** see next page

General Post Office
April 13 1805

Dear Sir,

I do not think the enclosed Account can be sent to the Post Master General without further explanation, for their Lordships will naturally enquire why the Salary of Mr Brown was not stopped during the six months he was absent to satisfy the Claims of his Substitutes. 'Till that circumstance is explained I do not see how the charge of £15.8.3 can fall upon the Revenue.

I am Dear Sir / yours faithfully / F Freeling

C. Walcot Esq.

Twopenny Post Office

Account of Extra Duty performed by the following Officers, owing the absence of M^r Brown between the 5th April and 10th October 1804.

M ^r Cadman	4. 18. 5
M ^r Sumpter	- 10 -
M ^r Gosnell	- 9 -
M ^r Chillingworth	1. 14. -
M ^r Gorton	- 6 -
M ^r Furnefs	- 4 -
M ^r Cherer	3. 2. 6
M ^r Tyrrell	2. 11. -
M ^r Morland	1. 13. 4
	<hr/>
Ex ^d TB	15. 8. 3

Collectors Office
April 16th

Sir,

Agreeable to your request I proceed to state the reason & particulars for deviating from your Orders respecting M^r Brown & tho it may appear not perfectly justifiable yet I hope to show it arose entirely from a desire to serve all parties -

On your intimating to me that part of M^r Browns Duty had been performed by other Officers, & that his Salary was to be detained untill (sic) those demands were settled, I for some time resisted his application, but on his repeated stating his sincere wish to discharge those Claims & to be enabled to return to his Duty at the Office, which he assured me he should never be able to accomplish if the Salary was withheld, by this plausible tale & positively assuring me that every demand should be immediately settled I paid the Salary for the quarter, amounting to Fifteen Pounds, supposing I had secured the future opportunity of making any deduction which his sudden resignation I am sorry to find has prevented me--

I am / Sir / Y^r Ob^d Hum^{ble} Serv^t / W Fergusson

Cha^s Walcot Esq^r

Twopenny Post Office
April 16 1805

D^r Sir,

I inclose herewith the Collectors Letter which acknowledges the Accident of not stopping M^r Brown's Warrant which I may safely say was not occasioned by M^r Ferguson's Neglect but by too much Compassion for M^r Brown whose general Conduct was very reprehensible.

I am D^r Sir with greatest Respect / Your most obedient & most humble Serv^t / C Walcot / Comp^t

Francis Freeling Esqr Sec^y

* POST 42 POST MASTERS GENERAL REPORTS Vol. 24 Page 500 No. 14W

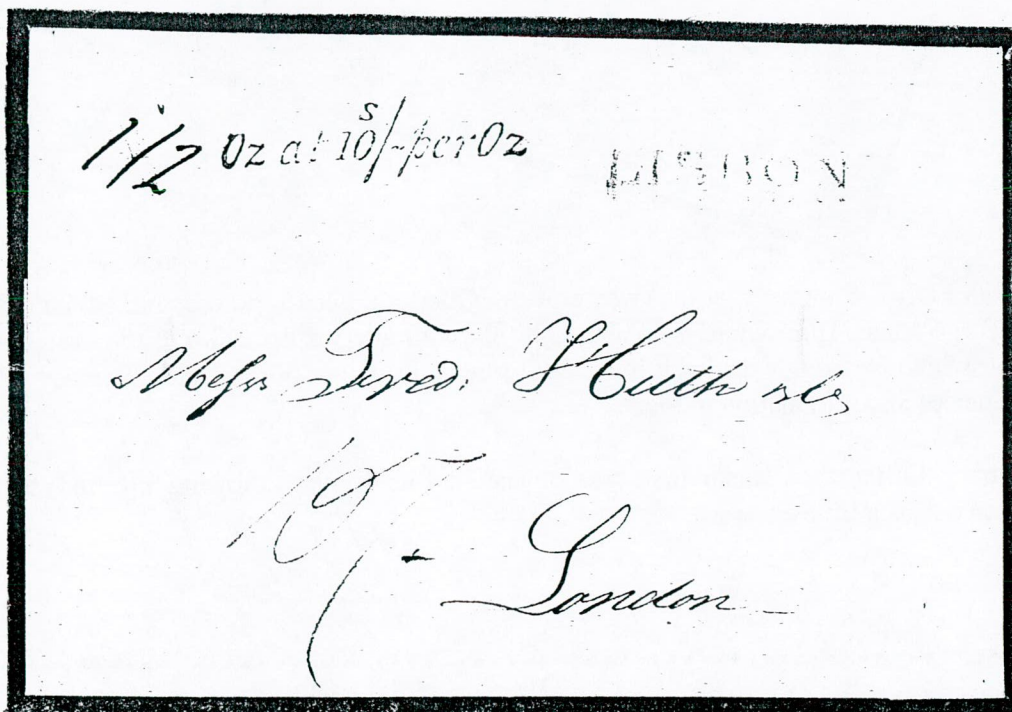
OZ PER OZ HANDSTAMPS

In "Postal History No. 287", Fred Goatcher and Barrie Jay demonstrate how much more there is to discover, recognise and report on, in London postal history. In this case it is the familiar "Oz at per Oz" handstamps appearing on incoming overseas mail. These are to be found in the Jay London catalogue as L.1035 and L.1036, the unframed and framed types respectively. The rates range from 4/8 (mail from France) to 14/- (South America) with the 10/- and 11/4 recorded in 1983 as unframed only.

According to the report, in the unframed type (L.1035) it was found there were two variants in most values. There are, it is true, slight size differences, described as being more apparent in some values than in others, but the most obvious was the stop after the first "Oz" in the earlier variant.

This earlier type was recorded 1815 to 1821, while the later variant occurs from 1822 (except for the 12/- value which we have seen in the first variant only and this up to 1828). Their studies revealed the 11/4; 12/- and 12/8 values in the first variant only; other values were noted with both variants. The 10/4 (not listed in the catalogue) should exist but neither author have neither seen nor heard of a copy).

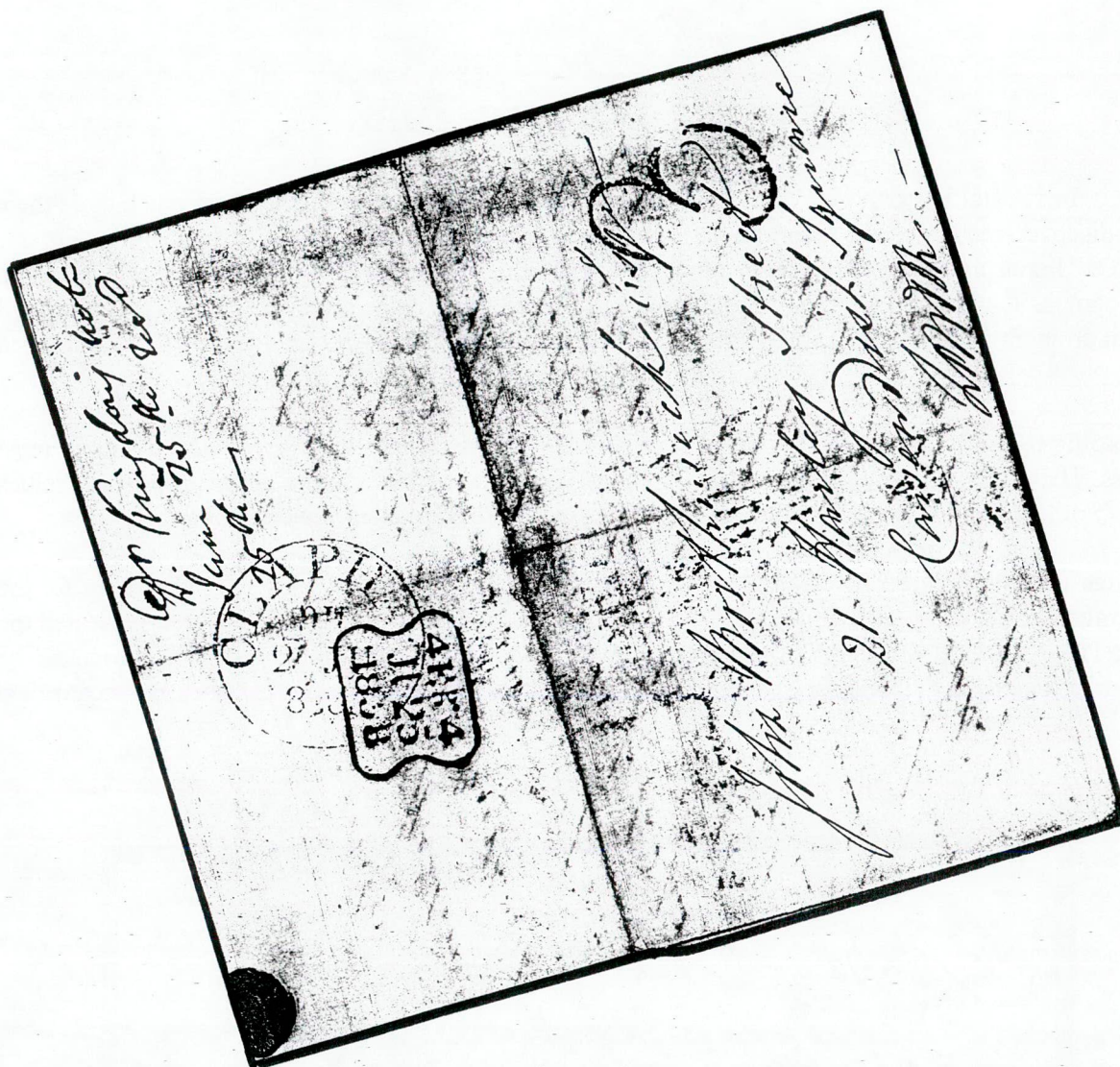
The example below, from the Editor's collection, is a second variant 10/-.



Given the period of use, 1815 to 1829, it is not unusual to discover there were replacement stamps produced during the 14 years. It only serves to demonstrate the foolishness of those who imagine there are no more discoveries to be made.

CLAPHAM COUNTRY SORTING OFFICE : DATE ERROR

The letter was written by a Dr Kingdom as from "Gothic House, Stockwell, 25th June 1838", of which person nor school or other learning establishment there is no trace in Pigot's 1839 Directory.



The letter, to a Father, comprises reasons why an extra Quarter's Fees should be paid, then graciously allowing to forgo same. This may have something to do with alleged ill-health of the Daughter while at the school, which is strongly denied !! Early departure of Daughter best for all concerned. This may explain absence of any information in Pigot.

Country Sorting Office date stamp first year of use in this format, showing inverted "MG" and "1838", which seems a little excessive

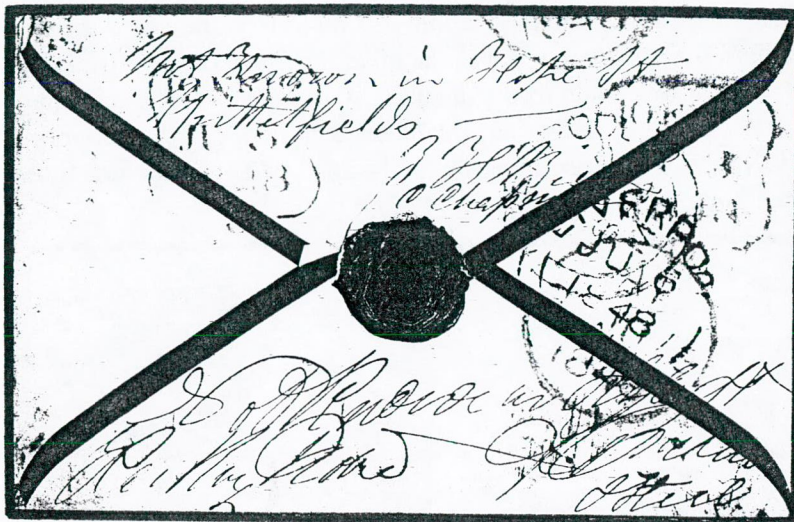
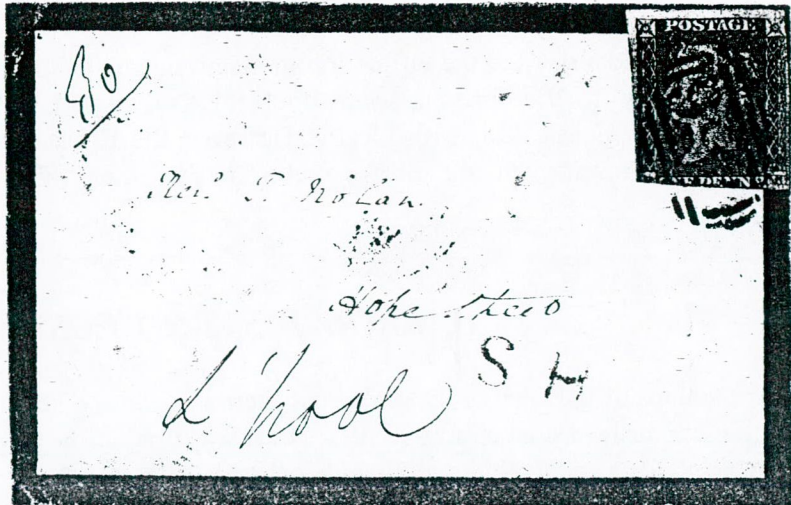
FOR SALE

David Trapnell has the complete run of "Notebook", number 1 to the end of 1997, plus the special issues for disposal and invites offers, with buyer to collect or pay cheapest post available.

Please contact him at WALLSWORTH HALL, TWIGWORTH, GLOUCESTER GL2 9PA.

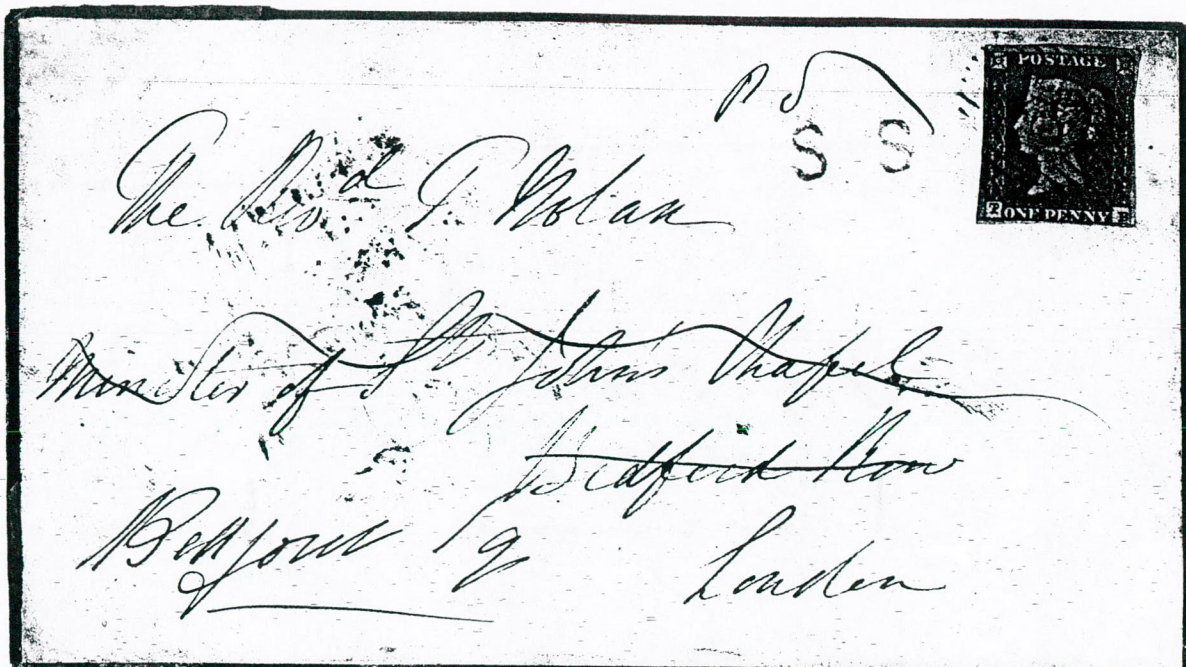
OFFICE INITIAL STAMPS OF THE LONDON DISTRICT POST

A much earlier dating for "SH", sans serif, has come to hand. The address of the letter, posted in Liverpool, is "Rev^d T. Nolan, Hope Street". The letter was carried to London, date stamps for June 3rd and 5th, where two endorsements "Not Known", each with two Letter Carriers signatures signalled the failure to find the cleric. A simple "L'pool", at which place the letter arrived on the 6th. June.



The only two *Hope Street* details in the 1857 *Principal Streets and Places* are just the two, *Hackney-road* and *Spitalfields*. These are shown as in the to be former North East District, whereas Stamford Hill was to be in the North District: presumably the District reorganisation accounts for this.

The second stamp is "SS", Sidmouth Street. The date of this example is 20th December, 1851, an earlier date than recorded



previously. The manuscript endorsement by the adhesive is probably an elaborate "Pd", though the more hopeful might opt for "PS" of Portland Street.

Whether the item merited the Office Initial stamp in this case, where the address was corrected from "Bedford Row" to "Bedford Sq. seems doubtful. One might have supposed the two places were close enough to have been dealt with locally. However, the PD stamp for 4 E^s with the unpaid for 6 E^s appear on the reverse, which indicates a return to the Chief Office for handling.

HARROW DISTRICT POST STAMP

In the stamps of the London District Post there is a quite distinctly different series of four numbers, 59 to 62 inclusive. Most curiously, 59, which was used at the Unpaid Letter Division, was thought to have no obvious connection with the other three, which were issued for use in Kilburn (60), Willesden (61) and Harrow (62). However, John Parmenter * has recorded the "59" used as a local cancellation at Paddington for 19th June 1854. In the Handbook, published before this discovery, he noted the 60 - 61 - 62 stamps made up another "road" in the same sequence as the other low number 1844 ovals. It has been suggested the oval around the figures was made to distinguish Dubus type 2 from the similar numbers in use at the Chief Office at the same time. However, this short series shows no overlap in dates of use, unlike the Unpaid Letter Division which used the standard format (59a) at the same time as the "flattened" oval (59D2) at the same time.



The Kilburn stamp is not recorded as used, Willesden with an uncertain dating of 1855 or 1856 and Harrow recorded February 1856 to March 1867. This last offices spread of dates is supported by the two covers shown here, with one for 19th November 1856 and then 9th March 1867. The change in the back stamps employed by Harrow reflects the development of date stamps during these eleven years.

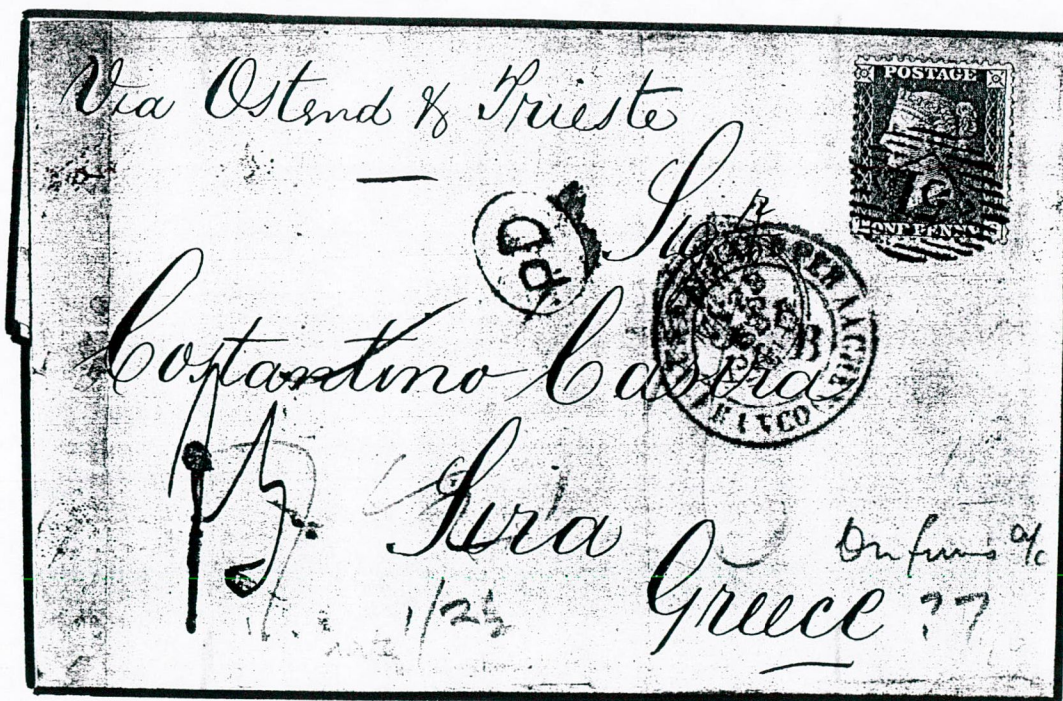
* John sent the following note when consulted about these two items : " The late date for 59D2 in the catalogue of May 1855 might be a Paddington usage - I didn't realise it could be anything but the Unpaid Letter Division at the time of writing the catalogue.

"The illustration in the catalogue page D / 5 / 7 of 59D2 Dec. 1853 went to the Unpaid Letter Division - sometime after this it was transferred to Paddington."

LATE FEE PENNY

The use of a single penny adhesive on covers going abroad has promoted much speculative comment, It now appears the definitive answer may be reported, the straight forward compliance with Post Office regulations which required the prepayment of the LATE FEE to be made by means of the adhesive label. In *Notebook* 134/5 of December 1998, John Parmenter spells this out very clearly ; "The payment of the Late Fee in cash was rare. Rowland Hill did not approve a payment in cash and, except for the Chief Office at St. Martins le Grand, it was increasingly rare from the mid 1840's. In November 1858 Hill sent out an internal notice to say that any employee accepting cash over the counter for Late Fee mail would be dismissed. Thus covers, certainly after 1858, should show the extra stamp or stamps to cover the Late Fee charge.

The cover here demonstrates this penny prepayment and an arrangement involving postage going onto a firm's "account" (more of which when this interesting "arrangement" has been properly researched) to countries other than France.



The penny star adhesive is struck with the Inland Office 51 diamond, in itself a common cancellation for this type of mail. There is no evidence of normal postage prepayment but the mail handling officer has applied the LONDON PAID date stamp for 1863 : the actual day month being obscured by the

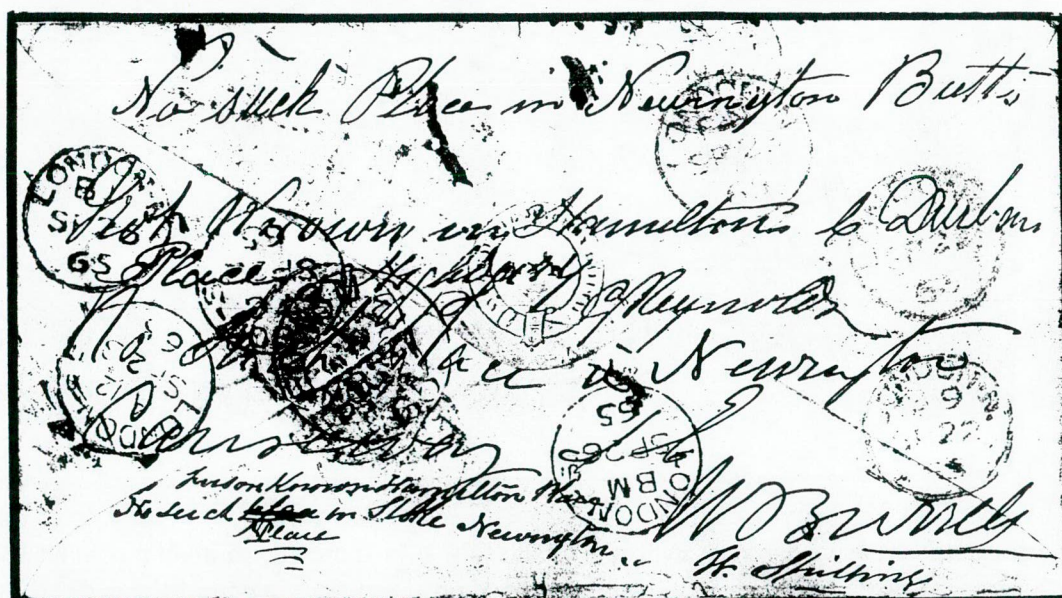
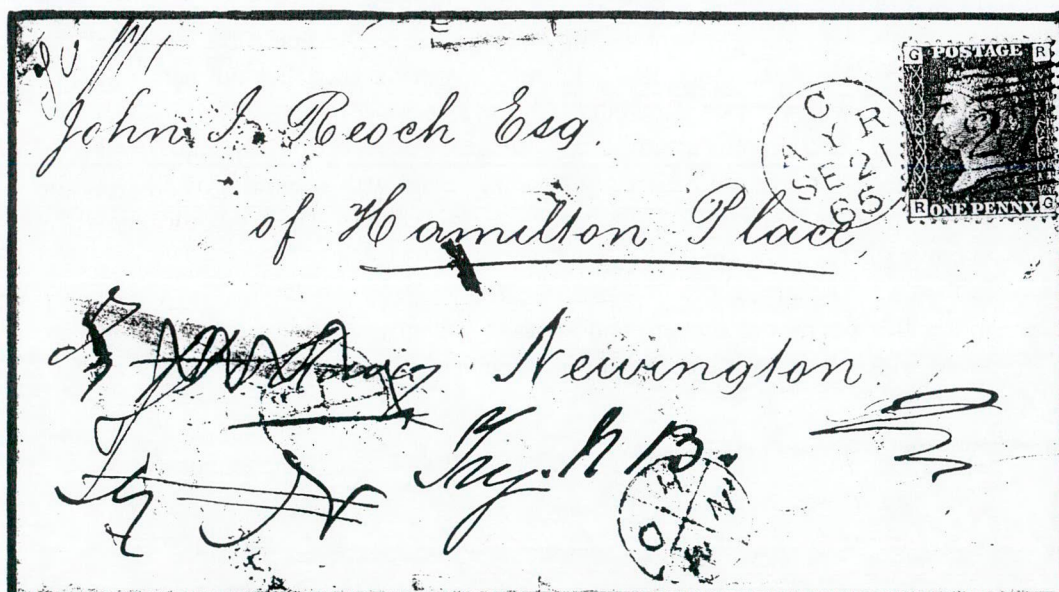
transit mark, both in red, as is the PD oval. A pencil note gives a rating of 1/2½^d with the added comment "On firms a/c ???"

The Greek address shows how extensively was this practice of "post on account" recognised as properly authorised by the British Post Office. At least one to America is known with just the single Late Fee penny prepayment.

NEWINGTON - BUTT WHERE ?

Andrew Ford

The letter, with the Penny Plate cancelled with the Ayr duplex is addressed to *Hamilton Place, Newington*. It was taken to London, where several attempts to locate *John J Reoch Esq* were made. On the obverse is the North District missort "H". According to the listing in *Notebook* number 19, the "H" was used at Ponders End, 1858; Finchley Church End, 1884 and Holloway, 1886.

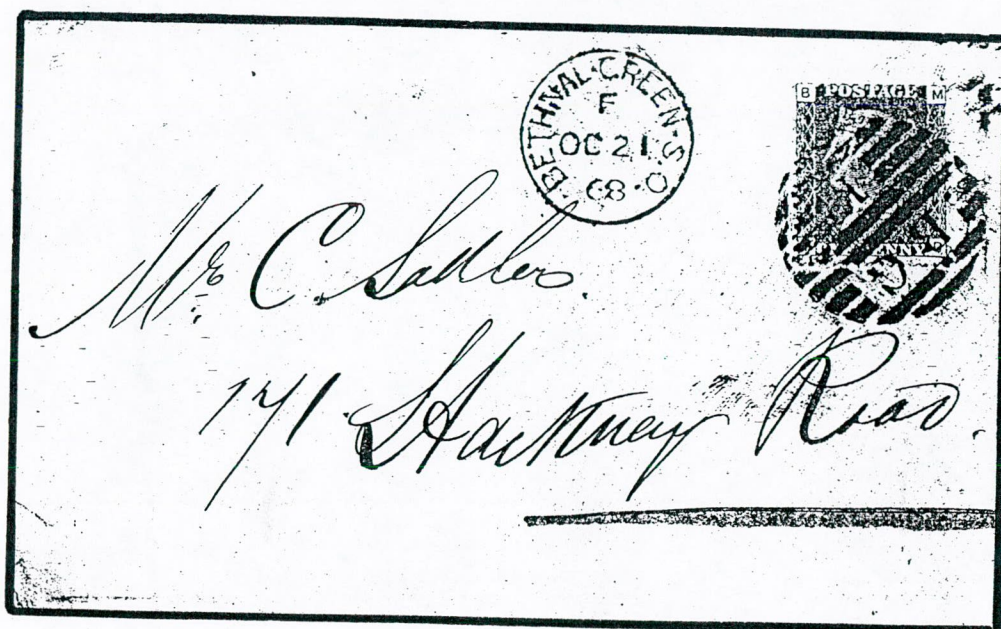


The Post Office appears to have concentrated its efforts at the Newingtons north and south of the GPO and ignored the four *Hamilton Place* addresses listed in the 1857 place names publication. After the "try Holloway" and "Try N" had been exhausted, "Try NB" was entered. The Newington in the address was, most likely, that near Edinburgh.

Do enjoy working through the many stamps and endorsements.

BETHNAL GREEN CANCELLATION

All too often the rarities, unappreciated at the time, were struck in a most unfortunate manner. One such is a rare surviving example of the Bethnal Green singleton (1D1) on a local letter, a rarity, albeit unappreciated at the time, was applied most inconsiderately by the postal official concerned, in this case on an envelope addressed to 171 Hackney Road.



The stamp was issued on October 1868 and, on the 21st, used to cancel the penny plate. By way of recompense, the Bethnal Green date stamp alongside is almost perfect. Surely this must be the earliest recorded date ?

EAST DISTRICT SINGLE OBLITERATORS

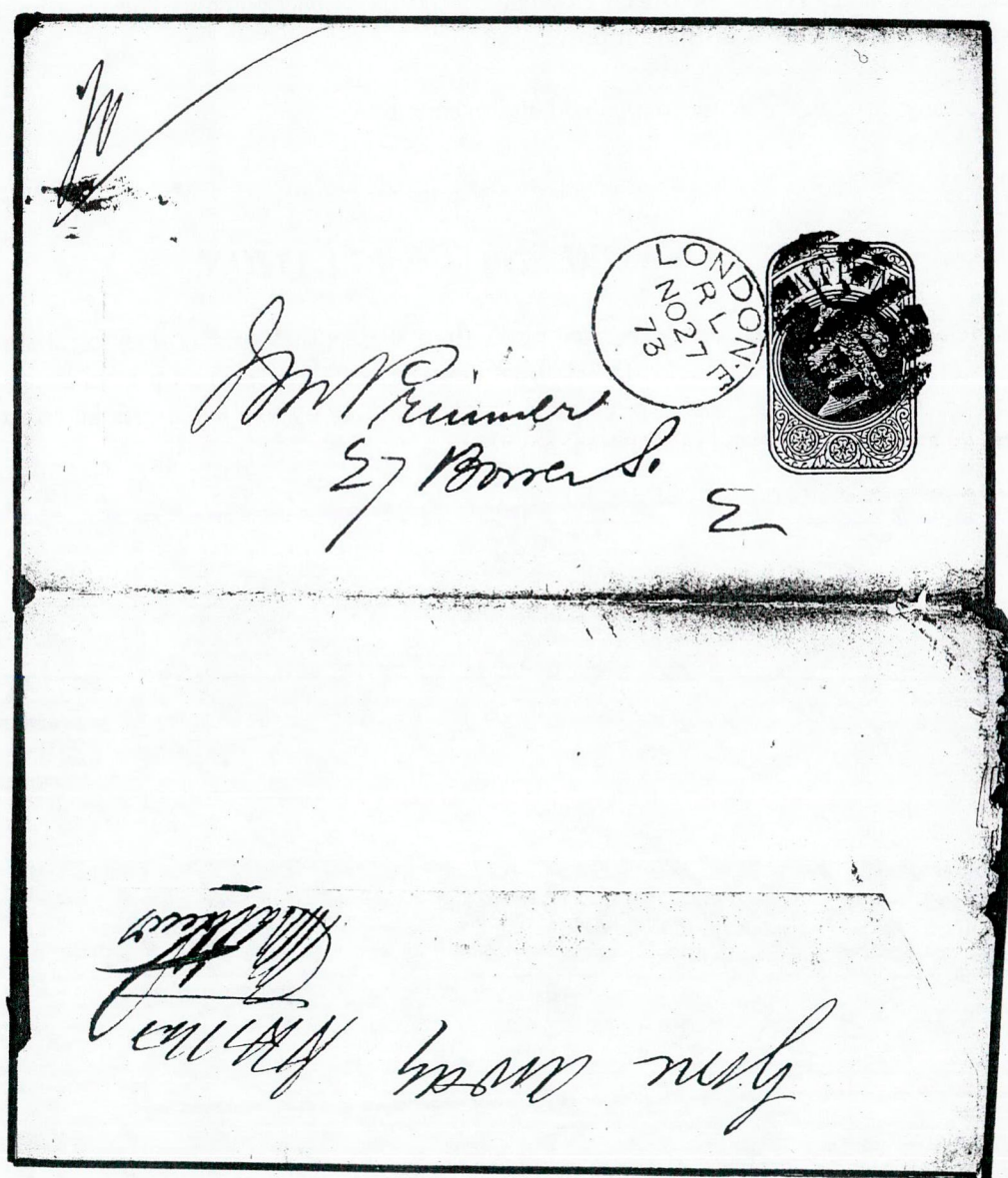
According to the *Handbook*, the six single obliterator Dubus type 8 (Westley fig 13) numbered 1 to 6 were issued on the 8th September 1873. The great problem with these stamps is their use, mainly on wrappers. As is readily appreciated, these were ripped off the contents and thrown away. Fortunately, sometimes the addressee could not be found and the item returned to the sender who, for some reason, retained the wrappers intact.

The two shown here carry the reason for their survival on the reverse, both "Gone Away"



*Six Stamps Suppl^d
1. to . 6 respectively
8 Sept 1873*

The real bonus are the "RL" date stamps for 27th November 1873, shown below and on page 15. Apart from noting there is no illustration of E/4 in *Handbook*, further comment is not necessary.



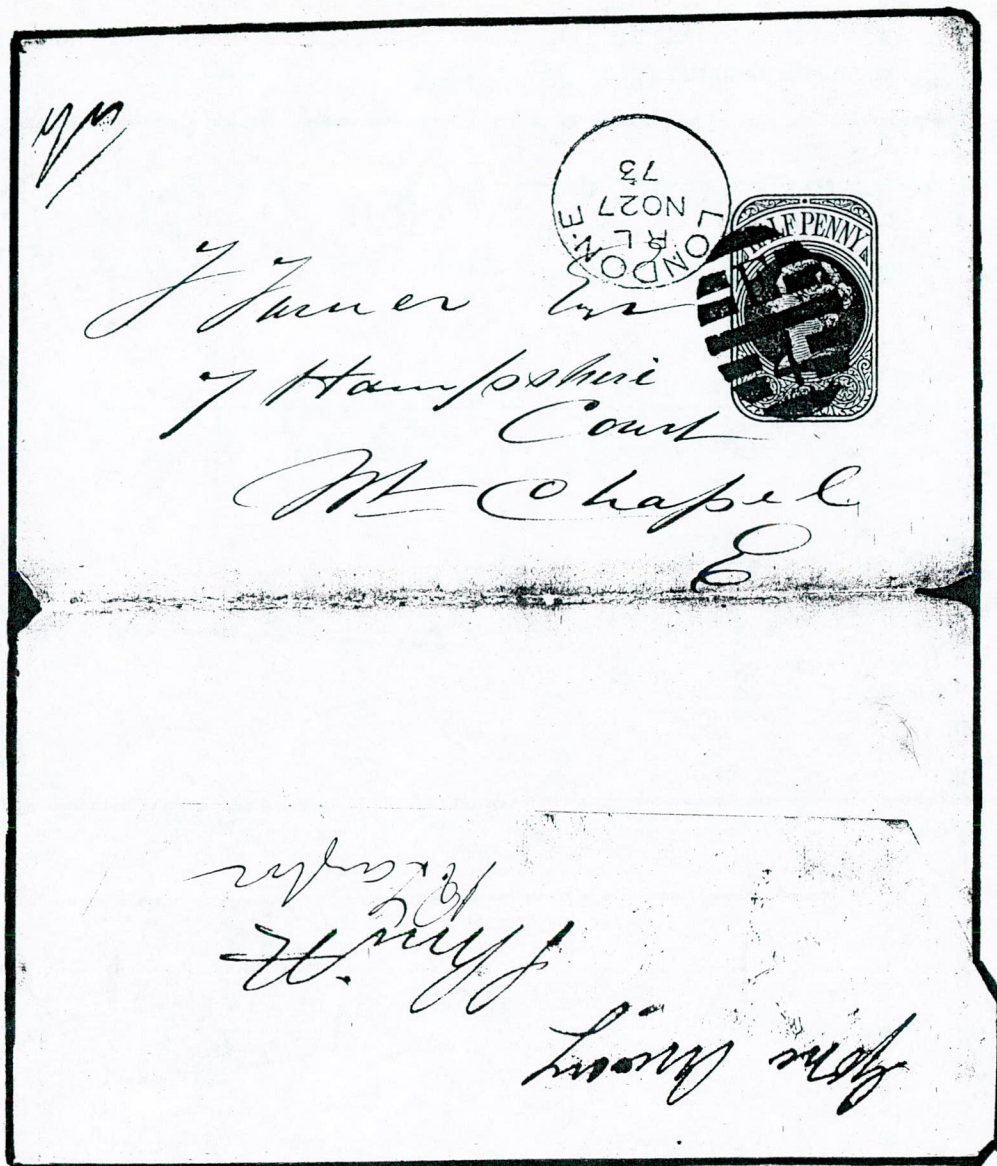
1D8 (Dubus Figure 56) Unrecorded in *Handbook*

WANTED.....

The Halfpenny Book Post introduced a further series of cancellations containing the District Post numbers and the various District initials (SE, SW etc.)

These can be found used on many duties outside what one might consider book post but appear, in many cases, on stationery wrappers.

The Editor will be pleased to have the opportunity to buy any material you have for sale.

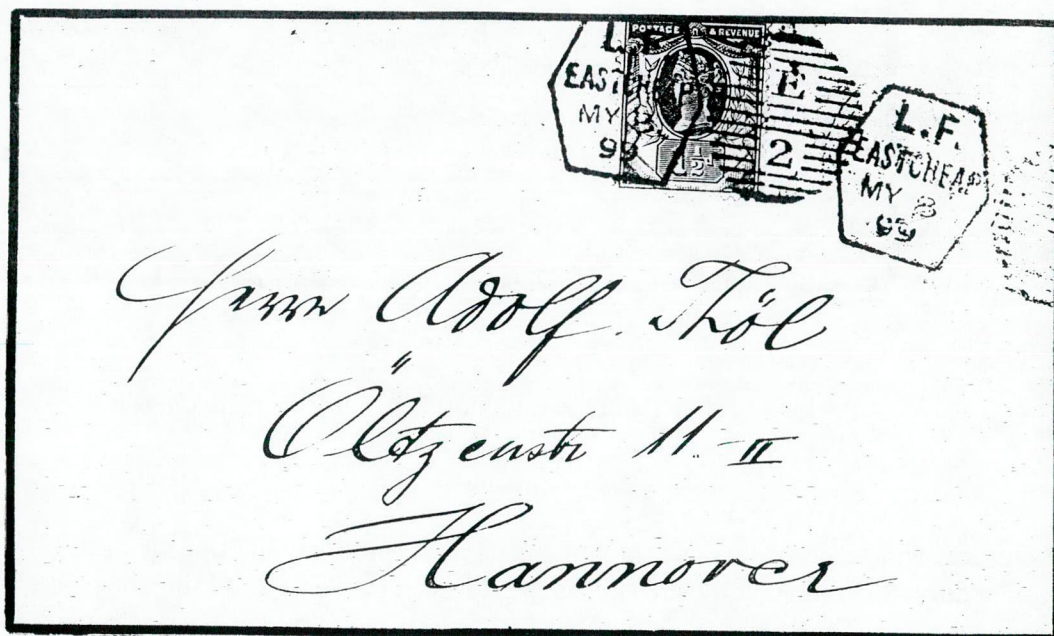


4D8 (No Dubus Figure) Unrecorded in *Handbook*

Readers will be conscious of contributions rarely fit precisely into a page or pages. There is that gap of a dozen or so lines at the end. Sometimes this can be used for starting the next item but very often, as in this case, it was better to keep the following article on the one page. Apart from using the gap for the Editor's "wants" notices, a few lines a text, short enquiry, stamp illustration and comment will fill the space and inform the reader to much better effect.

EAST CHEAP DUPLEX

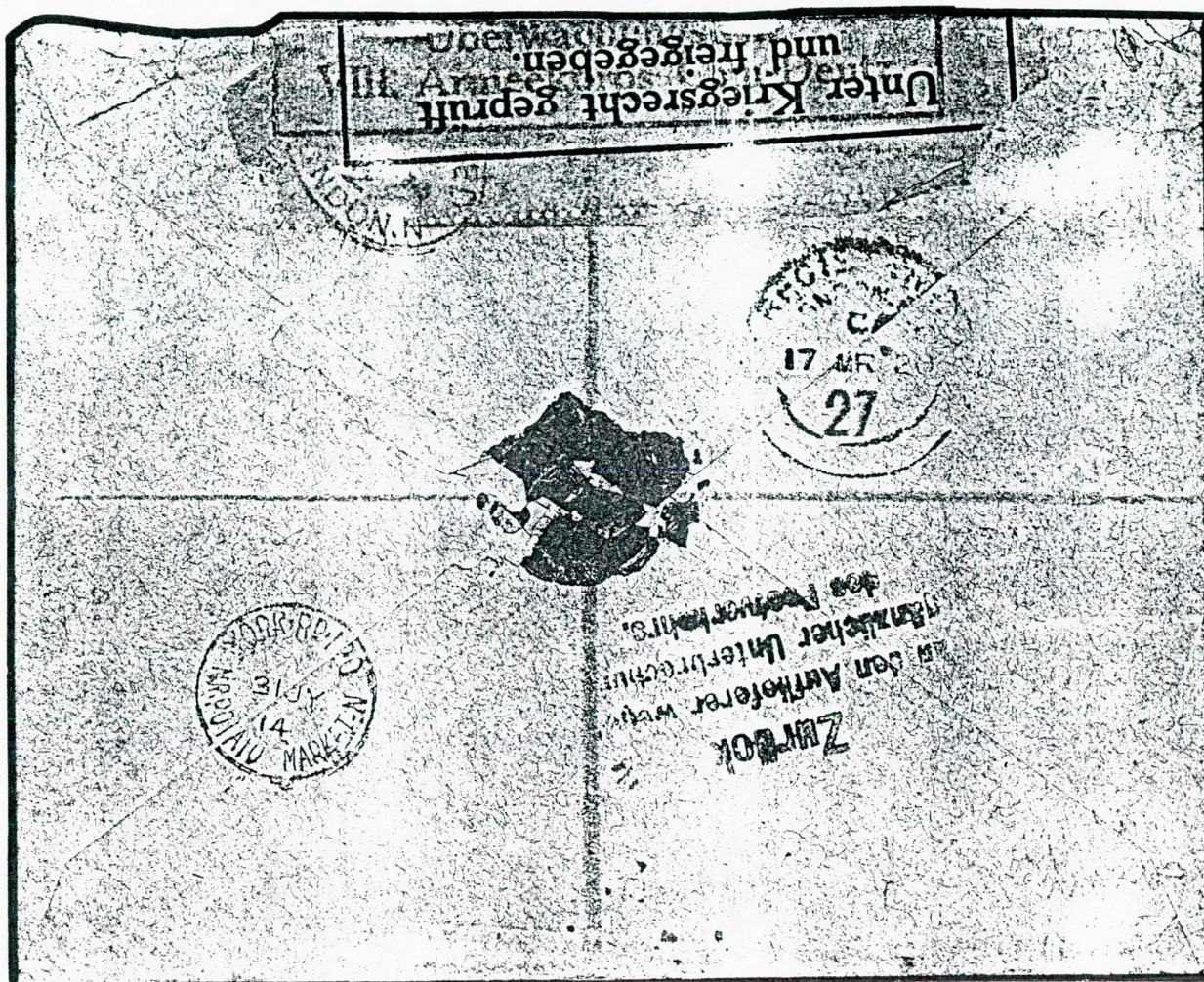
Below are examples of the East Cheap 1D2 and 2T4 hexagonal stamps used in 1900 and 1899 respectively. It is interesting to note the 1D2 of 1900 is the last date in the Handbook but the 2T4 is some ELEVEN years later than recorded.



Perhaps these two fine examples will encourage readers to send in details to John Parmenter of any unreported thus far.

NEAR THE POTATO MARKET

The photocopy was sent in by Robert Johnson many years ago following the publication of Werner Bauschke's work on photographing extant London Post Offices (Notebook 78 & 79).



The registered item was posted on the 31st July 1914 at 120 York Road post office, near aforementioned Potato Market and was eventually returned to England, as can be seen from the Registered scroll on the 127th. March 1920.

DAMAGED BY SEA WATER - 1917 ??

Hopkins* recorded four ships lost in 1917 which received some form of cachet or endorsement on arrival. One of these, attributed to the loss of the *Laconia* by enemy action, is a straight line DAMAGED B SEA WATER , 42mm x 5mm, (the "Y" had not printed on the example Hopkins illustrates).

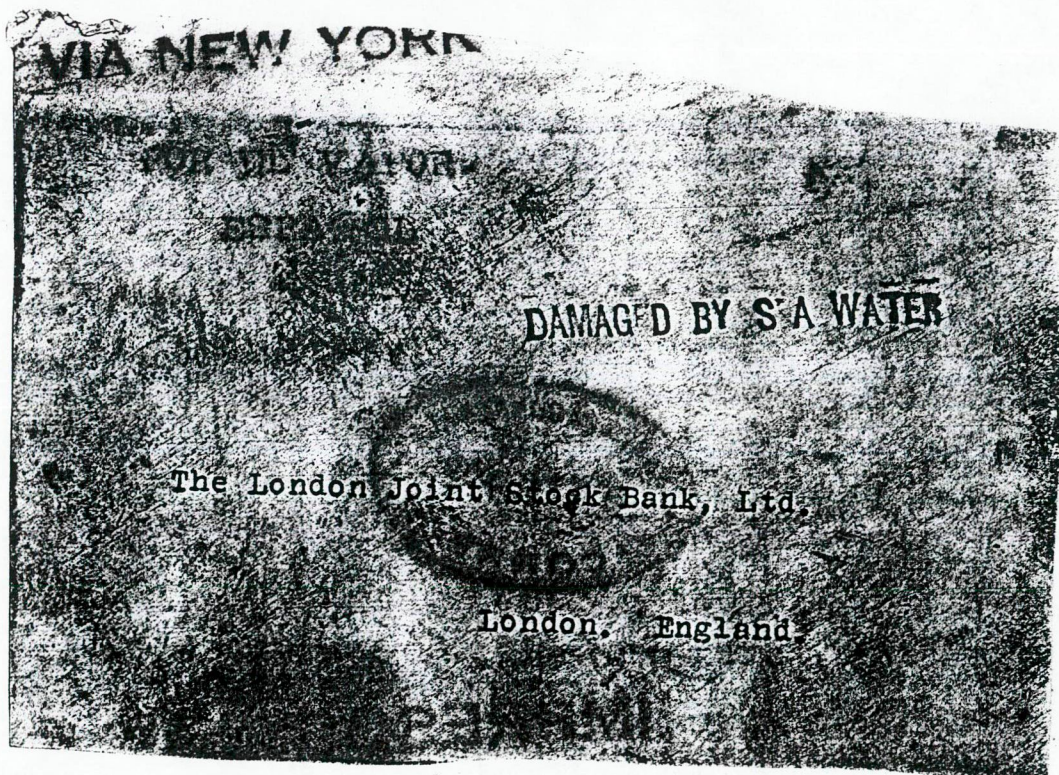
One piece, well stuck ("Lift Off" has no effect) to a grey card, has a similar mark, this time with the "E" of "SEA" adrift and measures 54mm x 4mm. A reduced size newspaper picture cutting shows yet

another example, the envelope being dated Feb... 1917, which fits in with Hopkins for two other covers in his collection with New York departures of 26th February 1917.

SALVED FROM A TORPEDOED SHIP?



Marked "damaged by sea water," this letter, posted in the United States, has just been delivered in London.



The endorsements of VIA NEW YORK and POR ?? VAPOR / ESPANOL, plus some indistinct marks which appear to have soaked through from the back on the (presumed) envelope afford no clues as to the date of the item shown here, only serving to strengthen the Spanish language connection.

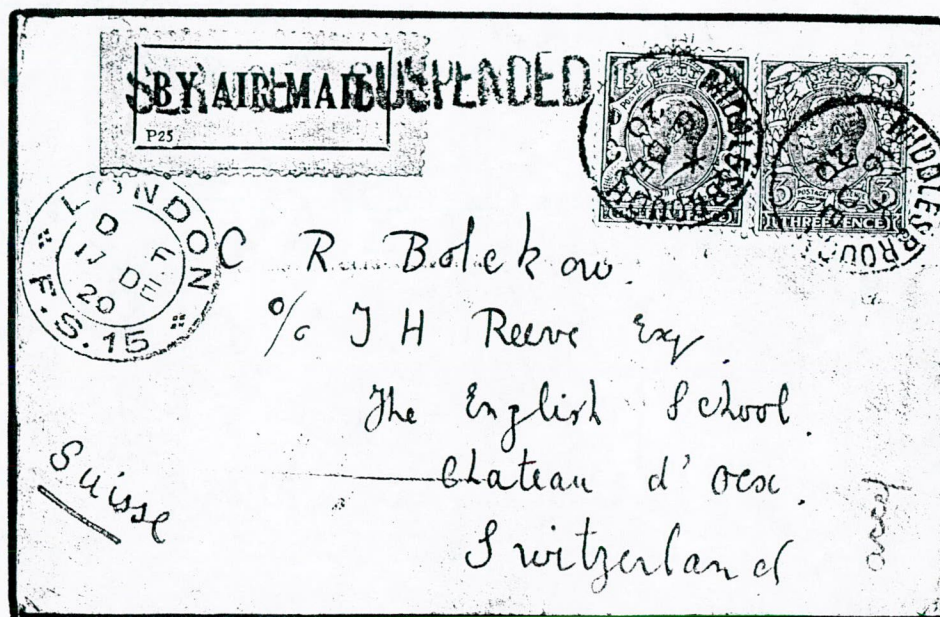
May we have reports of similar worded cachets please ?

Hopkins* "A History of Wreck Covers" A.E. Hopkins Third Edition

FOREIGN SECTION SPECIAL DUTY

In Notebook 71 the special duty hand stamp reading LONDON FS 15 was illustrated and subsequently one other example was recorded.

The use shown here has, what must be, a scarce SERVICE SUSPENDED air mail letter to Switzerland with the FS date stamp affording a "trail" in the event of enquiries.



Perhaps a reader with knowledge of early air mail services can provide the background ?

Editor's note:

Robert Johnson supplied this item many years ago; it has just now bubbled to the top of the stock pot - low oven !!

FRAGILE RETURNED LETTER

There are two more of the diagonal crossed letters reported. Michael Goodman has one dated 1901, very similar to that illustrated previously but featuring the envelope reading "Returned Letter Office, General Post Office, London No. 13", layout modified slightly. It carries a FRAGILE label.

The second, from Bill Hogg, is rather different. As can be seen, the FRAGILE WITH CARE, red and white is quite different. In the lower left is a purple, two-line stamp reading REGISTERED / FRAGILE WITH CARE. He confirms the diagonal lines go OVER both the red and white label as well as the adhesives, thus demonstrating the lines are added by the Post Office during their handling, rather than applied by the sender.

Despite having had several examples reported in *Notebook* it should be noted these covers are of considerable rarity and well worth looking for and additionally appear to offer varying examples of associated markings and labels.

FRAGILE WITH CARE

R LONDON, W. 74
No 4843

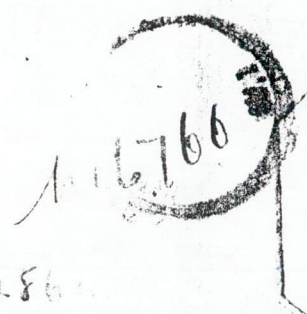
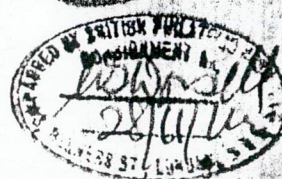
WAR OFFICE
PERMIT No. C16

51 Lde R. C. Kiltyan.

Leinavady R. A. F.

913
Co Derry.

Northern Ireland



REGISTERED
FRAGILE WITH CARE

MEETING DATES FOR 2000

The meeting dates for next year have been rearranged to avoid, it is hoped, some of the clashes with other societies which have occurred in 1999. Please make a note now in the "dates for next year" section of your current diary (or the one for 2000 you have already).

All meetings will be on *Saturday afternoons* at the *Union Jack Club, Sandell Street, Waterloo*. The room is available from 1 p.m. but to allow time for any necessary pre-meeting refreshments and the opportunity for the "bourse browse", meetings start at 2.30 p.m., finishing by 5 p.m.

15th January	Burns Room
18th. March	Reserved Bar Lounge
20th. May	Reserved Bar Lounge
15th July	Burns Room
16th September	Burns Room
18th November	Burns Room

Your suggestions for the subject for each meeting will be most welcome.