

# London Postal History Group

## NOTEBOOK

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### EDITORIAL

By the time this issue reaches most readers we shall have started on our fourth year. Without anticipating the various Officers' reports, one may assert that the Group continues to grow with several new members joining and more managing to attend some of our London based meetings.

The study of and interest in British Postal History should receive significant encouragement with the formation of the G.B. 'section' of the Postal History Society. The very worthy aim is to stimulate study and enjoyment, not only by the provision of a magazine, but with meetings held in various parts of the country, in co-operation with and not in opposition to, the several regional organisations such as our own. It has been made very clear there is no wish to arrange a 'take over' of the regional groups; indeed many who may have failed to join the wider ranging P.H.S. may now become members of the GB Group and via them, members of the regional organisation which caters for their particular interest.

The inaugural meeting of the GB Group brought together a number of familiar faces and several greetings of 'surprise, surprise', all of which supports the hope of advantage for all concerned. It is the happy task of all members to encourage others to join us in the study of the almost unbounded subject of London Postal History. The range of articles in this issue of 'Notebook' should convince any potential collector/student that there is something of benefit for them. London material also has the advantages of generally being available and at a modest price, though the two do not of necessity always coincide!

### MEETINGS:

|                             |                      |  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|--|
| <u>Thursday</u> April 18th: | London's Local Posts | 2 for 2.30 p.m.  |
| <u>Saturday</u> May 18th:   | Foreign Branch Mails | 6 for 6.30 p.m. but if members wish this can be altered. |

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reprints of articles may be obtained at 4p. per page + postage.



**LETTER RECEIVERS AND POSTMASTERS WITHIN TWELVE MILES OF LONDON,**  
**compiled by Jeremy Greenwood.**

This information is abstracted from Pigot's Commercial Directory for 1822-3 and refers to an area outside the City i.e. roughly the country area of the Twopenny Post. Such information as is contained in contemporary publications is not always reliable, but on the other hand the compilers often used information about local private arrangements which was not known to the Post Office.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Acton                | T.P. R.H. at Thomas Colletts, grocer.   |
| Barking              | Letter box at the George Inn, John Chalk.   |
| Barnes               | William Goodfellow, postmaster.   |
| Battersea            | James Griffin, postmaster, letters through Wandsworth.  |
| Stratford le Bow     | T.P. R.H. at R.E. Crawleys, cheesemonger, High St.  |
| Brentford            | Philip Norbury, bookseller and printer, New Brentford;<br>Thomas Sewell, grocer, Old Brentford, postmasters.  |
| Brixton              | T.P. R.H., J. Cranbrook, grocer and R. Guntrip, baker.  |
| Brompton             | R.H.'s Thomas Cannon, 5 Brompton Rd.,<br>Joseph Jones, grocer, Brompton Rd.,<br>John Smith, grocer, 27 St. Michaels Place.  |
| Camberwell           | T.P. R.H. at Braithwaites.  |
| Carshalton           | Kings Arms Inn, Anne Brown, postmistress.   |
| Chelsea              | T.P. R.H.; to G.P.O. Gerrard St., Soho, from<br>Elizabeth Cade, 19 Paradise Row,<br>Thomas Walker, 5 Church St.,<br>Joseph Chadwell, 182 Sloane St.,<br>James Cooper, Little Chelsea,<br>Wisdom Williams, 6 Queen St. |
| Chigwell             | Letter box at Mrs Hillmans.   |
| Chipping Barnet      | George Hudson, High St.   |
| Clapham              | Henry Normanton Batten, Battersea Common,<br>Edward Oldis, Clapham Rise,<br>Charlotte Smith, High Rd., postmasters.   |
| Clapton              | T.P. R.H., N. Colson, baker, in Lower Clapton.<br>G. Kendall, in Upper Clapton.   |
| Dagenham             | Letter box at the Bull.   |
| Deptford & New Cross | Thomas Tanner, postmaster;<br>R.H.'s at Grove St., and the Broadway.  |
| Dulwich              | General and T.P., Elizabeth Dearsley, postmistress<br>and grocer.   |
| Ealing               | J. Blake, general dealer ( not a postmaster ).  |
| Edgware              | Elizabeth Stone at the White Hart.  |
| Edmonton             | T.P. R.H., E. Cooker, Fire St.  |
| Eltham               | James Pike, watch maker.  |
| Enfield              | T.P. R.H., J. Andrew, Silver St.  |
| Finchley             | Letter boxes at the Bald Faced Stag ( Henry Fulwood ) &<br>the Queens Head (William Parberry )  |
| Fulham               | T.P. R.H. at C. Griffin, baker, Waltham Green,<br>W. Sadley, glass dealer, High St.   |



|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Greenwich                 | George Edward Allen, Stockwell St.  |
| Hackney                   | T.P. R.H., Juditha Key, haberdasher, Mare St.,<br>William Charmont, Church St.  |
| Hammersmith               | T.P. R.H.'s at J. Russell, wax chandler, Broadway,<br>J. Thorns, carpenter, King St.,<br>J. Woodhouse, grocer, King St. |
| Hampstead                 | Letter box at Mrs Eleanor Lovells and at<br>The George ( J. Hoovey ).   |
| Hampton                   | James Downton, cheesemonger and grocer.   |
| Hanwell                   | John Butler, letters to Brentford.  |
| Harrow                    | Letter box at the Kings Head, John Archer.  |
| Hayes                     | Adam and Eve public house.  |
| Hendon                    | Letter box at Robert Youngs.  |
| Highgate                  | Letter box at Mrs Sibleys.  |
| Holloway                  | Letter box at Henry Taylors.  |
| Homerton ( near Hackney ) | T.P. R.H., Hannah Hayward, general dealer, High St.   |
| Hounslow                  | Ann Butler, stationer.  |
| Ilford                    | Letter box at Mr. Gatleys, baker.   |
| Kensington                | R.H.'s at John Kingston, High St;<br>Charles Rayner, Newland Terrace,<br>Francis Brewer, Kensington gravel pits.        |
| Kentish Town              | Letter boxes at James Bennets & James Eustaces.   |
| Leytonstone               | Letter box at John Johnstons.   |
| Lewisham                  | For G.P. and T.P., South - Elizabeth Jameson, grocer.<br>North - Thomas Richardson, grocer.                             |
| Low Leyton                | Letter box at Mr. Tilladams.  |
| Mitcham                   | T.P. R.H., G.Glover, corn dealer, horse post to Croydon<br>and places adjacent.   |
| Mortlake                  | Benjamin Page, East Sheen.<br>R.H. at William Taylors, grocer.  |
| Peckham                   | T.P. R.H., no name given.   |
| Pinner                    | Letter box at William Davis's, letters to Southwell.  |
| Ponders End               | T.P. R.H., no name given.   |
| Putney                    | Cross Roads, Phoebe Bradbury at the post office.<br>R.H. at the Bridge, Elizabeth Wilcox.                               |
| Rainham                   | Letter box at the Phoenix, letters to Romford.  |
| South Mimms               | Letter box at the White Hart.   |
| Stanmore                  | Thomas Lipman, letter box.  |
| Stockwell                 | James Smith, grocer, near the Swan and<br>Samuel Wicks, grocer and corn dealer.   |
| Stoke Newington           | T.P. R.H., Nathaniel Driver, grocer, High St.   |
| Stratford                 | Letter boxes at Thomas Gerre's and John Gibsons.  |
| Streatham                 | Robert Fisher, grocer.  |
| Teddington                | John Edwards, Duke of Clarence Arms, tavern.  |



|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Tooting               | T.P. R.H., J. Henderson, grocer, Upper Tooting.<br>T. Watkinson, grocer in Lower Tooting.   |
| Tottenham-High Cross- | T.P. R.H., T. Burgess, general dealer, Tottenham Green &<br>D. Blair, High St.  |
| Twickenham            | T.P. R.H., E. Humphries at the Crown Tavern and<br>Thomas Mortimer, bookseller.   |
| Walthamstow           | Letter boxes at Mrs Tause's, Mrs Wright's and<br>Mr. Thomas Godfreys.   |
| Walworth              | T.P. R.H., Elizabeth Nelmes, Alice Lambert and<br>Susannah Smith, Staveton Rd.  |
| Wandsworth            | High St., Whitfield Foster.<br>R.H. at East Hill, Elizabeth Smedley at the<br>French Horn Inn.  |
| West Ham              | Letter box at Mr. Gethings.   |
| Wimbledon             | Thomas Mason, grocer.   |
| Woodford              | Letter box at George Liddell's and at<br>Hayes, Woodford Green.   |
| Woolwich              | John Broad, High St., R.H. for G.P. and T.P. letters.<br>ditto at Margaret Colemans, bookseller in Thomas St &<br>James Stone in the High St. |

From the 1832 edition the following changes and additions are recorded:

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Brixton               | T.P. R.H., William Daws and William Woods, Brixton Rd.,<br>Richard Guntrips, Brixton Hill.  |
| Clapham               | T.P. R.H., Normanton, James Crichton in Balham Hill,<br>Oldis in Clapham Rise,<br>Charlotte Smith, High St.                         |
| Upper Mitcham         | P.O., Henry Phillips,<br>R.H. at Richard Saunders in Lower Mitcham.   |
| Merton                | P.O. at Sarah Hudsons,<br>R.H. at Keith Mortimers, the Kings Head.  |
| Morden                | R.H., John Walker.  |
| Wimbledon             | P.O., Thomas Mason.   |
| Kew                   | Henry Taylor, postmaster.<br>R.H. at John Lyfords, baker at Mortlake.<br>Benjamin Page at East Sheen<br>John Hall, baker at Barnes. |
| Peckham               | T.P., William Yeldham, High St.   |
| Putney and Roehampton | R.H.'s at Samuel Bradbury, Richmond Rd.,<br>Philip King, Windsor St., Putney.<br>John Baskett, Roehampton.                          |
| Streatham             | P.O., Mary Fisher; Norwood, Thomas Blunden.   |
| Wandsworth            | R.H., Sarah Foster, High St., and at<br>The French Hord & Half Moon, East Hill.   |



**THE TWOPENNY AND GENERAL POSTS AT KENSINGTON, by M.M. English.**

Several contributors to ' Notebook ' have described the background to an entire or cover in their collection and thereby demonstrated there is rather more than the immediate postmark to postal history.

One such item came my way a little while ago. An entire dated September 16th., 1836, written from Kensington Gravel Pits and addressed to a Dr. Charles Bishop in Oxford. It bears three handstamps and was prepaid 8d.

The first in Kensington<sup>U</sup> G.P., boxed in red, and as Brumell fig 106. This stamp, to which reference has been made in other articles, is something of a mystery as its use was limited to Country Receiving Houses on rides north of the Thames, with an exception of Kew, this being served by the Hounslow Ride. The mark shows no indication of its Twopenny Post connections.

Second is the Country Sorting Office stamp for Kensington, Brumell fig 94. The letter was transferred to the General Post at Hounslow en route for Oxford, without going into London.

Thirdly is the Hounslow/Py Post, boxed italic, Alcock and Holland fig. 328. Kensington was one of the fifty one sub offices of the Hounslow Penny Post - the villages were not provided with their own Penny Post stamps until 1838, and even then many were not thus served. At Hounslow, the letter - as noted above - was transferred to the Oxford coach. The ride from Kensington to Hounslow was operated by the Twopenny Post solely for the purpose of transferring letters to and from the General Post.

Of further interest is the prepaid postage of 8d., not the least for being pre-paid. The rate from Hounslow to Oxford was 7d., the additional penny paying for the journey between Kensington Gravel Pits, Kensington Sorting Office and the ' cross post ' to Hounslow.

The contents of the letter yields the final item of postal history and cannot pass unrecorded.....

" I wrote to you a post paid letter, all my franking friends having left town."  
( references to Brumell's ' Local Posts of London ' ; A & H 1940 edition of ' British Postmarks ' )

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

**ROYAL POSTMARKS**

Further information has come in from readers in connection with the ' VR ' scroll postmarks. Mr. Wooff draws attention to ' The British Postage Stamp ' by Robson Lowe, which illustrates some of the essays considered by the 1884 Stamp Committee. The type 2 ' V.R ' at the foot of the scroll was employed to cancel two of the three essays shown on page 240! Can a visitor to P.O. Records dig up anything on this usage?

Mr. Wooff also gives date extentions for the type 2. Code B is recorded 14.1.1884 and code C, 3.3.1884. Further code B sideways is noted for 19.3.1883.

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-



## MULREADY ASSURANCES, from W.B. Gledhill.

The very fine Mulready illustrated below and overleaf, mis-cancelled from London in December 1842 ( something over a year after the Government had withdrawn what what proved to be the postal howler of the decade, or so popular opinion held )

**RATES OF POSTAGE.—INLAND LETTERS** not exceeding half an ounce, are charged one penny.

Exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding 1 ounce, twopence.

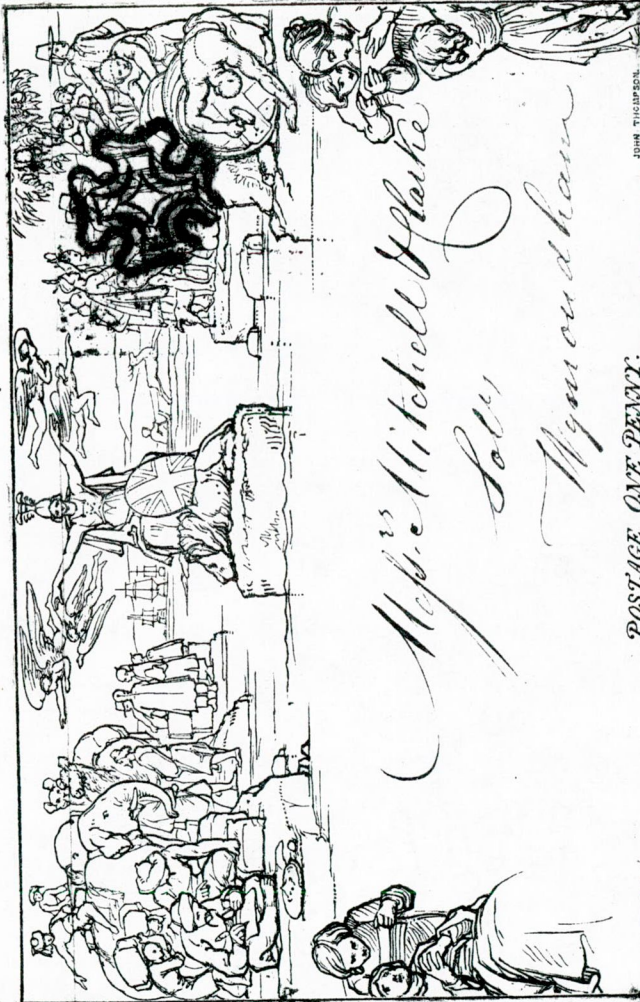
1 ounce 2 ounces, fourpence.

2 ounces 3 ounces, sixpence.

And so on an additional twopence for every additional ounce. With but few exceptions the weight is limited to 16 ounces. Unstamped Letters are charged double postage on delivery. Those insufficiently stamped, double the amount of such insufficiency.

**COLONIAL LETTERS.** If sent by packet, twelve times; if by private ship, eight times, the preceding rates. **FOREIGN LETTERS.** The packet rates are too various to be enumerated here. The ship rates are the same for Foreign as for Colonial Letters. As regards both Foreign and Colonial Letters, there is no limitation as to weight. All sent outwards, with few exceptions, must be prepaid by money, or by stamps; and those going by private ship must be marked "Ship Letter."

It is **REQUESTED** that all Letters may be fully and legibly addressed, and posted as early as convenient. Also that whatever kind of stamp may be used, it may invariably stand above the address, and towards the right hand side of the Letter.



POSTAGE ONE PENNY.

W. MULREADY R.A.



A78

**PRICES OF STAMPS.**

At a **POST OFFICE**.—Labels, 1d. and 2d. each. Covers, 1½d. and 2½d. each.

At a **STAMP DISTRIBUTOR'S**, as above, or as follows:—

Half-ream, or 240 Penny Covers, L1. 2. 4.—Penny Envelopes, L1. 1. 9.  
Quarter-ream, or 120 Twopenny Covers, L1. 1. 4.—Twopenny Envelopes, L1. 1. 1.

At the **STAMP OFFICES** in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh, as above, or as follows:—

2 Reams, or 960 Penny Covers, L4. 7. 0.—Penny Envelopes, L4. 5. 0.  
1 Ream, or 480 Twopenny Covers, L4. 3. 6.—Twopenny Envelopes, L4. 2. 6.

Covers may be had at these Prices, either in Sheets, or cut ready for use. Envelopes in Sheets only, and consequently not made up. No one, unless duly licensed, is authorized to **SELL** Postage Stamps.

The Penny Stamp carries half an ounce (Inland), the Twopenny Stamp one ounce. For weights **EXCEEDING ONE OUNCE**, use the proper number of Labels, either alone, or in combination with the Stamps of the Covers or Envelopes.

**MONEY.** Coin, if enclosed in Letters at all, should be folded in paper, sealed, and then fastened to the inside of the Letter; but, to avoid risk, a money order should be used whenever practicable.





would grace the pages of any collection. The position of the Maltese Cross is curious, suggesting that the postal clerk expected an adhesive label in that general area and was already unused to handling Mulready's. These should have been cancelled by a smart blow to Britannia.

## Atlas Assurance Company,

92, CHEAPSIDE, LONDON,

ESTABLISHED 1808.

### DIRECTORS,

Sir THOMAS TURTON, Bart. Chairman.

JOHN OLIVER HANSON, Esq. Deputy Chairman.

The Hon. Sir Courtenay Boyle,

Thomas Chapman, Esq.

William Laforest, Esq.

Donald Maclean, Esq.

Moses Mocatta, Esq.

James William Ogle, Esq.

Emanuel Pacifico, M. D.

William George Prescott, Esq.

Joseph Pulley, Esq.

John Peter Rasch, Esq.

*Auditors*—FRANCIS BLIGH HOOKEY, Esq. and JOSEPH PULLEY, JUN. Esq.

*Actuary*—CHARLES ANSELL, Esq. F. R. S.

*Solicitor*—J. B. DE MOLE, Esq. Merchant Taylors' Hall.

*Surveyor*—THOMAS HOPPER, Esq.

*Assistant Surveyor*—THOMAS LLOYD, Esq.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT.

**Returns.**—The Directors have the satisfaction of announcing to the Assured in this Office, that a Return of Premium at the rate of 20 per Cent. for the Five Years up to Christmas last, will be payable at the head Office, or through the Company's Agents in Great Britain, on all Policies for £300 and upwards, which were in force and had been so for one entire year at Christmas.

**Rent.**—This Office (independent of the Returns and the late Reduction in the Rates of Premium), offers to Persons effecting Assurances, the further advantage of an allowance for the loss of Rent on Buildings rendered untenable by Fire.

## LIFE DEPARTMENT.

The attention of the Public has, in the Advertisements and Proposals of this Company of late years, been called to a Table of Additions applicable to and expectant on Policies of particular dates and ages; the Directors now beg to submit a Statement of Sums *actually paid*, shewing the Sums respectively assured and the Bonuses thereon.

*Statement of Claims paid on Policies effected in London or through an Agent in Great Britain.*

| No. of Policy. | Name of Life Assured.           | Term of Years during which Bonus accrued. | Sum Assured. | Bonus. | Total Amount paid. | Bonus per Cent. on the Sum Assured. | Bonus equal to the undermentioned per Cent. per Annum on the Sum Assured. |
|----------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------|--------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 213            | His Majesty William IV.....     | 14  | £ 3000       | £ 1068 | £ 4068             | £. s. d. 35 12 0                    | £. s. d. 2 10 10  |
| 69 & 92        | His R. H. the Duke of York ..   | 7   | 5000         | 962    | 5962               | 19 5 0                              | 2 15 0  |
| 1458           | Mrs. N. Hyde .....              | 20  | 400          | 284    | 684                | 71 0 0                              | 3 11 0  |
| 1090           | Mrs. Mary Everitt .....         | 21  | 1000         | 714    | 1714               | 71 8 0                              | 3 8 0   |
| 5610           | Admiral Sir W. Sydney Smith..   | 8   | 1700         | 324    | 2024               | 19 1 2                              | 2 7 8   |
| 3422           | The late Duke of Argyll .....   | 14  | 5000         | 1453   | 6453               | 29 1 2                              | 2 15 2  |
| 3604           | The late Earl of Clarendon .... | 12  | 2500         | 1120   | 3620               | 44 16 0                             | 3 11 8  |
| 687            | M. S. (Berks) .....             | 21  | 400          | 437    | 837                | 109 5 0                             | 5 4 1   |
| 1202           | Sir John Deas Thomson, G.C.B.   | 21  | 500          | 308    | 808                | 61 12 0                             | 2 18 8  |
| 1103           | Rev. Job W. Baugh .....         | 21  | 1500         | 767    | 2267               | 51 2 7                              | 2 8 8   |
| 1578           | Rev. Thomas Crompton .....      | 20  | 500          | 350    | 850                | 70 0 0                              | 3 10 0  |

Persons assured for the whole term of Life in *Great Britain* or *Ireland* respectively, will have an **addition** made to their Policies every seventh year, or an equivalent **reduction** will be made in the future payments of Premium, at the option of the Assured.

**The fourth septennial valuation** will be made up to Christmas 1844.

**Assurances for Short-periods** may now be effected in this Office at considerably reduced rates of Premium.

The Company's Rates and Proposals may be had at the Office in London or of any of the Agents in the Country, who are authorized to report on the appearance of Lives proposed for Assurance.

92, Cheapside, Nov. 1842.

HENRY DESBOROUGH, SECRETARY.

H. Baynes, Printer, 9, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, London.



**THE DIVISION OF LONDON INTO POSTAL DISTRICTS 1856 - 7,****PROPOSED DISTRICT LABELS AND ENVELOPES,** by M.V.D. Champness.

As an exercise in public relations the division of London, at the end of 1856 into ten autonomous Postal Districts, each responsible for its own collection, sorting and distribution, brought many problems. Not the least significant was the education of the public to incorporate their district initials in their address and to ensure that those who wrote to London added these to the address on the envelope.

Apart from the introduction of district initials into a completely new set of postmarks provided for the newly established and redesignated offices, the public were subjected to a major effort of re-education. Notebook No.1 contained details of difficulties experienced with streets of the same name throughout London. Many houses were unnumbered and certain individuals had the disconcerting habit of taking their brass numbers with them when changing residence and re-erecting them outside their new home, regardless of any existing numbering.

In an endeavour to smooth over the transitional period, a number of suggestions were put forward to the Postmaster General. The P.M.G.'s minute books of the period in P.O. Records contain several novel ideas which are worth recording.

The first such minute is set out below:

No. 6458 ( PMG Minutes, Volume 176, page 130 )

1. The extensive use of such labels as Mr. Kelly suggests would no doubt greatly facilitate the operations of the Post Office, though I am somewhat inclined to think that to a person writing, it would be less trouble to give the District initials at the end of his address and add a few explanatory words ( as for instance " Please address me as above - " ) than to have to seek a label and affix it to his letter.
2. Be this as it may, I consider it undesirable for the Post Office to undertake to provide and distribute such labels. Should there be any extensive demand for them, a supply will doubtless be furnished by stationers, as a matter of business, and I am led to understand that Mr. Stanford of Charing Cross ( who supplied District maps for official use ) intends issuing something of the kind.
3. The enclosed envelopes bearing the district initials on a coloured ground, which have been sent to me, shows the readiness with which the trade takes up such matters.

R(oland) H(ill)

24th.Decr 1856

The PMG's note alongside reads as follows:

" I think we must trust to the Trade for supplying further facilities for the Public - the request to send a letter with a label to each of one's correspondents is one which would never be extensively complied with " Dec 26 1856

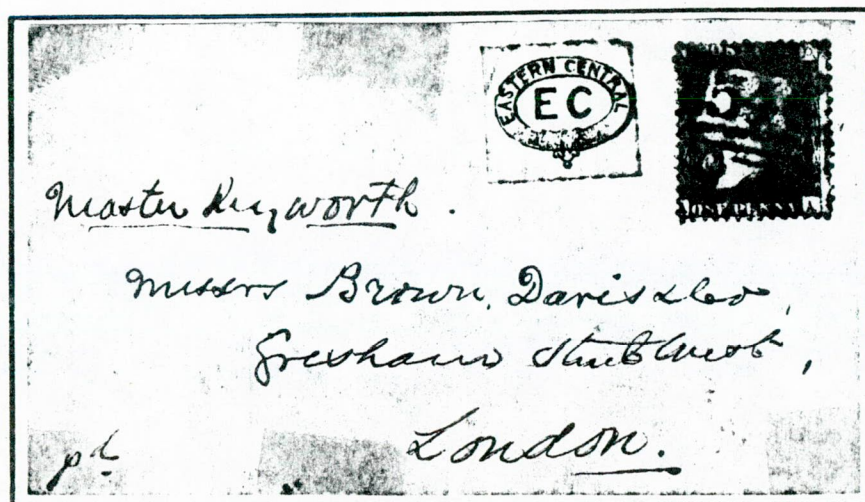
A (uckland) "

The matter was not allowed to rest however, for a month later suggestions from Mr. Archer ( minute 388 ) and M.le Lorief ( minute 389 ) along the same lines were turned down for similar reasons.

Letters bearing examples of these labels are very scarce, for there is no doubt



that the novel idea had little chance of taking the public's fancy. Indeed the



only example seen reposes safely within the confines of a leatherbound volume in the Author's collection and is illustrated in the hope readers may recognise and report any others which may have survived the years.

As for the district envelopes, surviving examples are not known to the writer. Certainly there are none in P.O. Records or the National Postal Museum.

It is sad that the backing material for this and many other interesting subjects has been destroyed by G.P.O. archivists of yesteryear. Whilst one may sympathise with their problems of coping with the vast organisation and its attendant paper-work, how much more satisfying it would be if the complete story were available.

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

#### CAUSE AND EFFECT.....

from ' Smith's Current Intelligence ' March 27 - 30, 1680

On Saturday last the Projectors for Conveying Letters to any part of the City or suburbs for a peny the letter, opened their offices, whereof the three chiefest are in Lime-street, about Charing Cross, and Temple Bar; besides several inferior Offices; at which they have hang out Tables to advertise people of the thing; but the Porters ( not without good reason ), supposing that it will be a great diminution, if not the absolute ruin of their employment, have shewed their resentment thereof by taking down and tearing the said Tables wheresoever they meet with them. "

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-



**SIXTH REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ON THE POST OFFICE ( 1859 )****London Office**

Further improvements have been made in the office in St. Martin's-le-Grand, and others are in progress. Great relief too has been obtained by the transfer to the District Offices of much of the business previously transacted at the Central Office; so that, with reference to the quantity of work performed, the Central Office is now more commodious than it has been for many years. I may add that there has been a corresponding improvement in its lighting and ventilation.

It is fortunate that the original construction, although in many respects very defective, allowed of very considerable additions being made to the available room, and that at a very moderate cost; while, whether by an additional story, or by carrying the building over the area reserved for the railway vans, abundant space may be obtained for all requirements within the extremest range of probability.

When the District Offices are completed, instead of possessing, as formerly, only one Post Office at which mails are despatched and received, and letters sent out for delivery, London will have ten such Post Offices.

**London Postal Districts**

Although the Postal District system ( which was fully described in the Second Annual Report ) has now, in London, been in operation to a greater or less extent more than three years, it is not yet complete there, notwithstanding the progress made each year since its commencement. The chief difficulty has been to procure good sites for the District Offices; but this difficulty is now nearly surmounted, and in most of the Districts a new office is not completed has been commenced, while in every case a temporary office, at least, has been provided.

In each District the morning delivery within London proper and the despatch to the suburbs are now made from the District Office, the mail bags being brought to it direct from the railway stations, instead of being first conveyed, as formerly, to the General Office in St. Martin's-le-Grand; and the result is greater punctuality in the deliveries, and diminished labour to the Letter Carriers, who are no longer required to come on duty at so early an hour as when they were all required to assemble at the General Office.

The facilities afforded by the District system for the rapid interchange of letters between one part of London and another has enabled the Department still further to abridge the time between the posting of a letter and its delivery; so that there is now no difficulty, so far as the Post Office is concerned, in a person in London writing to a friend there, obtaining a reply, and sending a rejoinder, all in the same day.

Any letter posted in the town portion of either of the districts just before the box is cleared for delivery in the same district, is despatched by the Letter Carrier within thirty minutes of the time of posting.

With few exceptions every resident in London is now within a furlong of a Post Office or a Road Letter Box, and within a quarter of a mile of a Money Order Office.

**Initial Letters and Door Letter-boxes**

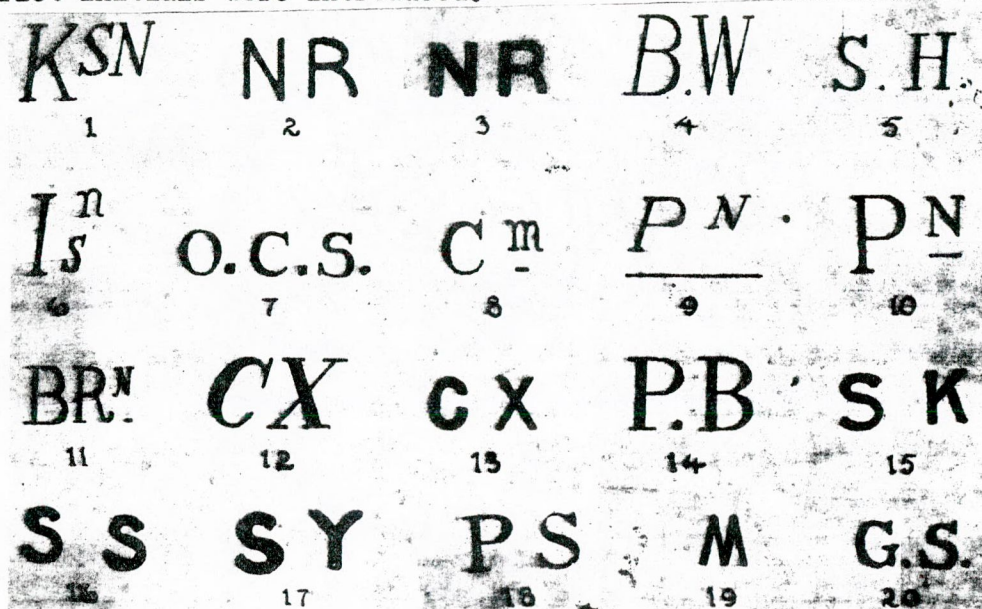
I have again to acknowledge, with thanks, the co-operation afforded by the public in the rapid sorting of letters, by placing upon them the initials of the district; and the assistance given to the Letter Carriers by the more general use of door letter-boxes.



## OFFICE INITIAL STAMPS OF THE LONDON DISTRICT POST

One of the features of the postal service in the nineteenth century was the concern and care taken by the Postal Authorities in trying to establish the cause of any complaint from the public concerning delayed mail by means of post-marks being applied at all points of a letter's travels. Methods of speeding up the mails were ever under consideration, a prime example being the division of London into ten districts. The public were bombarded with information on the subject and urged with most powerful rhetoric to use these new fangled postal codes. This no doubt strikes a familiar cord.

The great British public, however, exhibited its usual attitude towards any innovation and it was a number of years before official concern changed to relief as the district initials became commonplace on the mail. Until that time, letters which were incorrectly designated, or which carried no initial at all, tended to pass from one office to another in attempts to effect delivery. In order to trace these wanderings, many London offices were issued with distinctive initial handstamps, the period of use running from the early 1850's both before and after the District initials were introduced.



These can be found in the Proof Impression Books of the Post Office, and no doubt there are many more than the twenty listed below.

|        |        |                         |             |          |
|--------|--------|-------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Fig. 1 | Ksn    | Kensington              | Proof Book  | 30. 5.55 |
|        |        |                         | Recorded    | 3. 1.55  |
| 2      | NR     | Northern Railway Office |             | 2.12.47* |
| 3      | NR     | Northern Railway Office |             |          |
| 4      | BW     | Bagnigge Wells          |             | 30. 5.54 |
| 5      | S.H.   | Stamford Hill           |             | 1. 8.55  |
| 6      | Isn    | Islington               |             | 3.12.55  |
| 7      | O.C.S. | Old Cavendish Street    |             | 17. 1.55 |
| 8      | Cm     | Cambridge Road          |             | 2. 7.56  |
| 9      | Pn     | Paddington              |             | 6. 6.54  |
| 10     | PN     | Paddington              | Cover known | 24.11.58 |
| 11     | BRN    | Brixton                 |             | 8. 7.56  |
| 12     | C.X.   | Charing Cross           |             | *        |
| 13     | C X    | Charing Cross           | Cover known | 19. 1.48 |
| 14     | PB     | Pimlico Branch          |             | *        |
| 15     | SK     | Southwark               |             | *        |
| 16     | SS     | Sidmouth Street         |             | *        |
| 17     | SY     | Stepney                 |             | *        |
| 18     | PS     | Portland Street         |             | *        |



Fig. 19  
20M  
GSMarylebone  
Park Street, Grosvenor Square

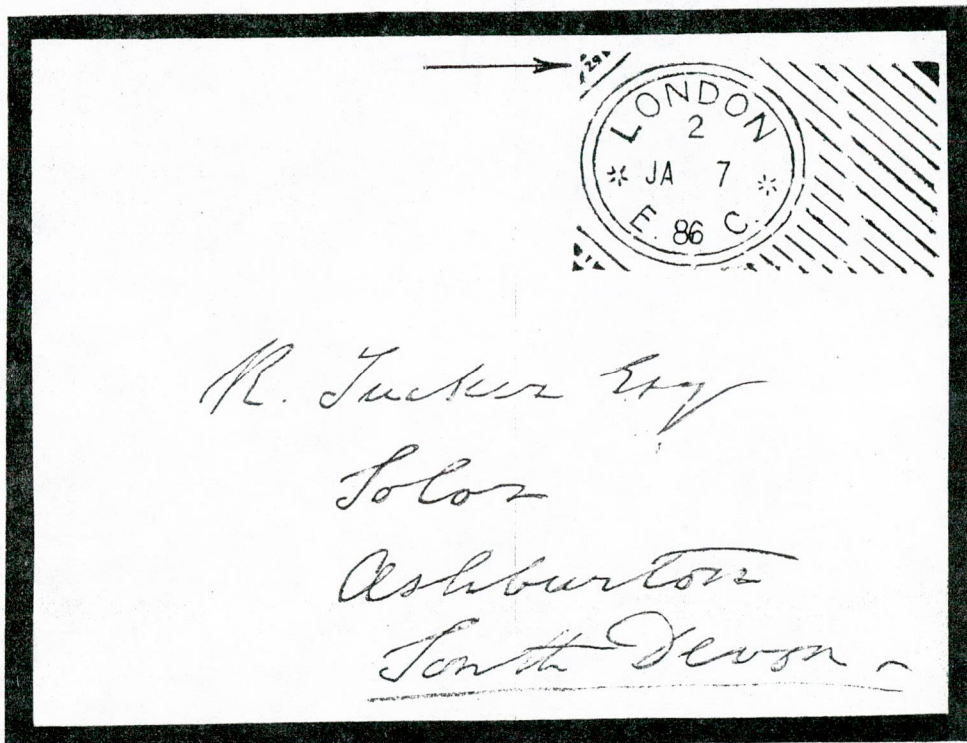
The items marked \* are recorded as all being on ONE cover which was addressed " Seymour J. Blair, Esq., London " and which made its Grand Tour in May 1854, without apparently being delivered. None the less, it perfectly illustrates the efforts made by the Post Office to effect delivery.

( Based on information contained in an article by the late W.G. Stitt Dibden in the ' Strand Stamp Journal ', vol. 9, pp 169 et seq. )

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

AN UNRECORDED HOSTER, from Brian A. Cheason.

At the January meeting on machine cancellations, the item illustrated below caused no little interest.



1886. The ' Hoster ' machine. Type VI/ Fig. 7  
Figure ' 1 ' cut into lower left corner bar &  
a figure ' 29 ' cut into upper left corner bar.

It is quite unlike any British Hoster recorded so far, but bears a striking likeness to the German dies in that they have the number in the top left corner.

Perhaps a reader can produce the German dies with a run of numbers either side of the ' 29 ', which would support the notion of a German ' outer ' being supplied with a London ' inner ' in error. Any reports of further copies with the ' 29 ' ( or any other number ) would be much appreciated.

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-







HOME DISTRICT CANCELLATIONS 1934 - 39, by Pat Harding.

The man who knew most about the ' Home District ' cancellations was the late W.G. Stitt-Dibden. He wrote an article, which was published in ' The Stamp Collectors Fortnightly ' on the 23rd. June, 1956, on the subject.

Unfortunately, I have not the time to research the subject further at P.O. Records. A letter I had from Mr. H. Sims back in February 1972 said he had spent some time in the Records Office, only to find the essential file 1930 - 39 was missing, believed destroyed by enemy action. I must, therefore, rely on S.D.'s article and material in my own collection.

For several years a scheme was in use in the London Postal Area for the quicker delivery, without extra fee, of mail posted on Sundays, Bank Holidays and Good Friday. No distinctive postmark was used so it is impossible to identify mail cancelled under this scheme.

It was decided in 1934 to extend the scheme to an area around Croydon which was called ' Home District-South '. There was a further extension to ' Home District West ' and ' Home District-North ' and finally, on 9th. June, 1935, to ' Home District-East '.

By collecting the mail earlier it could be cancelled, sorted and despatched to arrive by first post next morning to all but the most distant parts of the British Isles. The arrangement did not accelerate the delivery of letters for the London and Home Counties areas; the ordinary late collection continued to serve this purpose.

HOME DISTRICT-SOUTH

|   |                                 |                     |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Head Office: CROYDON                          | Time slug in cancelling machine | 6. <sup>30</sup> PM |
| Outlying offices and times of collection.     |                                 |                     |
| Addiscombe - Chiselhurst - Cobham, Surrey - } |                                 | 4.00 p.m.           |
| Gravesend & Thornton Heath                    |                                 |                     |
| Lower Kingswood & Mitcham                     |                                 | 4.15 p.m.           |
| Walton-on-the-Hill                            |                                 | 4.30 p.m.           |
| Chelsham Place & Warlingham                   |                                 | 4.45 p.m.           |
| Beckenham - Bromley - Chelsham - Leatherhead  |                                 | 5.00 p.m.           |
| Caterham & Sutton                             |                                 | 5.30 p.m.           |
| West Wickham                                  |                                 | 6.00 p.m.           |
| Croydon & Shirley                             |                                 | 6.15 p.m.           |

HOME DISTRICT - WEST

|   |                                 |                          |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Head Office: RICHMOND                       | Time slug in cancelling machine | 6. <sup>PM</sup> or 6 PM |
| Outlying offices and times of collection.   |                                 |                          |
| Englefield Green                            |                                 | 4.00 p.m.                |
| Sunbury                                     |                                 | 4.15 p.m.                |
| Esher                                       |                                 | 4.45 p.m.                |
| Staines & Surbiton                          |                                 | 5.00 p.m.                |
| Ashford - East Molesey - Feltham & Kingston |                                 | 5.15 p.m.                |
| Hampton & Hounslow                          |                                 | 5.30 p.m.                |
| Richmond                                    |                                 | 6.00 p.m.                |



HOME DISTRICT - NORTH

|  |                                 |           |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Head Office: HARROW                      | Time slug in cancelling machine | 6.-PM     |
| Outlying offices and times of collection |                                 |           |
| Cockfoster - Rickmansworth & Wembley     |                                 | 4.00 p.m. |
| Hatfield & Stanmore                      |                                 | 4.30 p.m. |
| Potters Bar                              |                                 | 4.45 p.m. |
| Barnet                                   |                                 | 5.00 p.m. |
| Uxbridge                                 |                                 | 5.15 p.m. |
| Pinner - Ruislip - Watford               |                                 | 5.30 p.m. |
| Boreham Wood                             |                                 | 5.45 p.m. |
| Harrow                                   |                                 | 6.00 p.m. |

HOME DISTRICT - EAST

|   |                                 |           |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Head Office: ILFORD                       | Time slug in cancelling machine | 6.-PM     |
| Outlying offices and times of collection. |                                 |           |
| Tilbury                                   |                                 | 4.00 p.m. |
| Buckhurst Hill                            |                                 | 4.15 p.m. |
| Enfield & Loughton                        |                                 | 4.30 p.m. |
| Waltham Abbey                             |                                 | 4.45 p.m. |
| Barking & Waltham Cross                   |                                 | 5.00 p.m. |
| Romford                                   |                                 | 5.15 p.m. |
| Ilford                                    |                                 | 6.00 p.m. |

HOME DISTRICT - SOUTH

Two cancelling machines were used at Croydon Head Office. The town die on one machine was worded HOME DISTRICT.S./---(fig. 1); the other had HOME DISTRICT S./---A--- ( fig. 2 ). Both used seven wavy line obliterator bars to cancel the stamp(s). There was not dot after DISTRICT in the ' A ' die.

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Earliest date | 11 MCH 1934 |
| Latest date   | 12 SEP 1937 |

The ' A ' die appears to be the scarcer of the two town dies and examples can be found of both dies being used on the same day, i.e. 22 SEP 35.

Mail too bulky for the cancelling machine or which missed cancellation in error was dealt with by a double circle steel handstamp which was inscribed HOME DISTRICT/---S--- ( fig. 3 )

Slogans were known to have been used with fig. 1 town die, namely,

|           |                          |            |
|-----------|--------------------------|------------|
| 20 Dec 36 | POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS | ( fig. 4 ) |
| 12 Sep 37 | POST EARLY IN THE DAY    | ( fig. 5 ) |

HOME DISTRICT - WEST

Two cancelling machines were used at Richmond Head Office, with the town dies worded HOME DISTRICT.W./---. They may be distinguished in that one machine die had a wide PM ( fig. 6 ) after the ' \_ ' of the time code, whilst the other had a narrow PM with a dash between the ' \_ ' and the narrow PM ( fig. 7 ). Initially there were only five wavy lines in the obliterator, this being changed to seven at a later date.

|               |                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| Earliest date | 6 Jan 1935                     |
| Latest date   | 12 May 1937 ( Coronation Day ) |



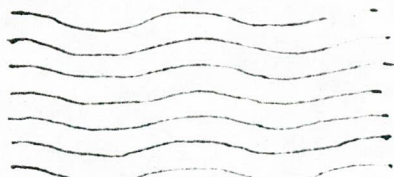


fig.1

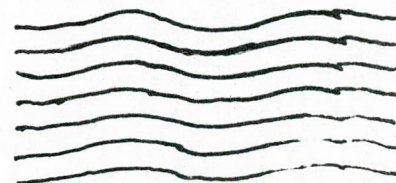


fig.2

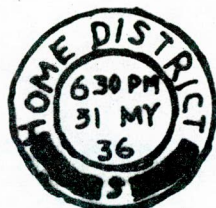


fig.3

POST EARLY  
FOR  
CHRISTMAS

fig.4



fig.5



fig.6

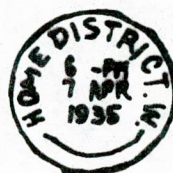


fig.7



fig.8

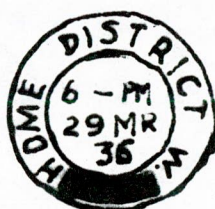


fig.9

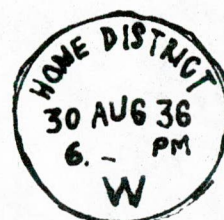


fig.10

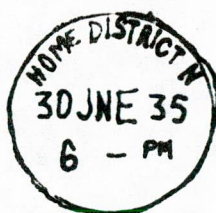


fig.11

HOME DISTRICT E.

fig.12

Two double circle steel handstamps inscribed HOME DISTRICT W./--- were also used ( figs. 8 and 9 ). These can easily be distinguished by the space between HOME and DISTRICT.

A single circle rubber handstamp ( fig. 10 ) inscribed HOME DISTRICT/W was used.

I have no record of slogans in use at this office.



HOME DISTRICT - NORTH

Two machines were used at Harrow Head office, with the town dies worded HOME DISTRICT.N./---. It is not easy to tell them apart, however there is a slight variation in the letter setting and the distance between the words. Five obliterating bars were employed.

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Earliest date | 30 Dec 1934 |
| Latest date   | 28 Jly 1937 |

A single circle rubber handstamp inscribed HOME DISTRICT N./ ( fig. 11 ) was used to cancel any ' missed ' mail or items too bulky for the machines.

The POST EARLY IN THE DAY ( fig. 5 ) slogan dated 25 Jly 1937 was used at this office.

The double circle steel handstamp is not recorded from Home District North.

HOME DISTRICT - EAST

Two cancelling machines were used at Ilford Head Office. One was a Universal with a normal circle town die worded HOME DISTRICT.E./--- with seven obliterating bars. The other was a continuous Krag, with the top line worded HOME DISTRICT E. in a straight line ( fig. 12 ).

|               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| Earliest date | 9 Jun 1935  |
| Latest date   | 20 Jun 1937 |

Also used were a double circle steel handstamp worded HOME DISTRICT E./--- ( as fig. 8 ) and a single circle rubber handstamp worded HOME DISTRICT/E ( as fig. 10 ).

The POST EARLY IN THE DAY slogan dated 20 Jun 1937 was used at this office.

It is worth recording that the Krag cancellation is very difficult to find.

Late in 1937 the ' Home District ' town dies and handstamp ceased to be used for cancelling mail, but the scheme continued until the outbreak of war in 1939.

I must make it clear that the earliest and latest dates are those I have recorded and no doubt readers will be able to extend these and also other dates of use for the slogans. Of particular interest would be news of the use of:

1. A single circle rubber handstamp at ' Home District-South '.
2. A double circle steel handstamp at ' Home District-North '.

Finally, if anyone has a KRAG cancellation for the ' Home District-East ', I would very much appreciate first refusal for my collection.

-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-



**MAIL UNDELIVERED IN TIME OF WAR, by R.I. Johnson**

This is the second supplement on this subject. It gives illustrations of nine further marks, with a brief description relevant to each. Information about other covers with any of the marks dealt with to date would be much appreciated.

Fig.1

On a postcard posted in DENMARK on the 11th. February, 1916, addressed to BELGIUM. Denmark was neutral in the First World War and Belgium was invaded in August 1914 by Germany. Why did the card come to England??? Violet ink.

**UNDELIVERABLE  
ENEMY COUNTRY  
RETURNED TO SENDER**

Fig 2.

A well known mark and illustrated and written up on pages 132 and 133 of Hopkins Wreck Covers.

Fig.1

My examples are on two covers from the NETHERLANDS to England and Wales, one posted on the 7th. and the other on the 9th. November, 1916. One in violet ink, the other in blue. One mark ' Z ' for German censorship, the other ' Unter Kriegsrecht geoggnat ' ( Opened under right of War ). Also a third cover posted in Greece on the 4th. October, 1916, this time in black ink.

**PART OF A MAIL CAPTURED  
BY GERMANS AND DELAYED**

Fig.2

**UNDELIVERABLE  
(ENEMY COUNTRY)  
RETURN TO SENDER**

Fig.3

Fig. 3

On a letter from LONDON to PLAUE in GERMANY, posted on the 16th. May, 1919. In green ink. Addressed to a commercial firm with a white Prisoner of War Censor label.

**Picture Post-cards**

**are returned  
by the Censor.**

Fig.4

The Post Office Circulars for 1919 show a restricted service to the

Rhineland territory occupied by the Allies only. The Circulars also show that the restricted service started in April 1919 and that correspondence addressed to places in Germany not in Allied occupation would not be forwarded. The peace treaty at Versailles was signed on the 28th. June, 1919.

Ship Letter Services

It is convenient to mention here that the ship letter service to foreign countries, suspended on the 13th. October, 1914, was resumed on and after the 29th. July, 1919. Incoming ship letter mails were dealt with under prewar conditions.

Fig. 4

This is a similar mark to the one which appeared in Notebook No. 7, as fig 7. Comparison will show the words " addressed to neutral countries " excised. My



copy is on a postcard from LONDON to SWITZERLAND posted on the 15th. May, 1918.

Post Office Circulars of December 1915, August and September 1916 show the start of restrictions placed by the War Office on the despatch of pictures and photographs of all kinds to foreign countries, that is neutral and enemy countries.

The wording of the 1915 notice is " The War Office has announced that picture - postcards addressed to neutral countries will be stopped by the Censor. This restriction should be brought to the notice of persons tendering picture - postcards for despatch to neutral countries; but such cards should not be refused, and if posted should circulate in the ordinary course. "

The 1917 Circulars gave a list of the Countries for which the despatch of certain items of which photographs were one was prohibited. Switzerland was one of these. Permits were available to enable persons to avoid these regulations. The 1917 Circulars did not refer to " neutral " countries.

The 1918 Circulars ( particularly 21 May 1918 ) showed revisions. Postcards ( picture variety ) could not be sent without a War Office permit to any prisoner of war abroad or to neutral European countries or to Russia, Roumania, Greece and islands off the West Coast of Africa but could be posted in the ordinary way to any other places abroad.

( continued on next page )

#### EXPERIMENTAL HANDSTAMPS

Mr. Hewlett has sent our statistics into a spin by forwarding a further eighteen of the " England & Wales " London scrolls. On a 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. plate 23, a none too clear year 82, seems to push back the date of earliest use by six years on that shown in Notebook 13. A very clear 6.45 PM JA 12 00 certainly moves the latest date some five years on. Other centre codes noted are R6 and RZZ.

Will all readers exercise their usual vigilance, especially for those all too elusive covers.

--O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O--

#### TWENTYTWO DIAMOND

The report of the twentytwo diamond given in Notebook 15 is no longer alone. From Michael Goodman comes another, dated 23rd. December, 1844 on an item addressed to Yeovil.

Yet another oft quoted series of dates must now be revised and the ' 1 to 20 ' being the only numbers issued in 1844 is not longer valid. It is, perhaps, too much to hope that a slight footnote qualification will appear in future publications, but we can all assist by drawing the attention of Editors and Authors to the information unearthed by members.

Who will be first with number twentyone?????

--O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O--



Fig.5

This mark appears on two items in my collection; when I wrote the first article, I was not sure that it was a G.P.O. mark, but this now appears to be the case.

The first cover was sent from LONDON to a prisoner of war on the 31st. October, 1918. The letter was re - directed from one camp in LANGENSALZA to another in MERSEBURG, a town 95 miles southwest of Berlin. The Armistice was signed on the 11th. November, 1918. In purple.

The second cover is not dated and is addressed to Moscow. I would guess that the date is during the Russian Revolution in 1918, since the cover also bears the ' Service Suspended ' mark ( fig.10 in first article ). The adhesive is obliterated with a large F.B. in a circle. In black.

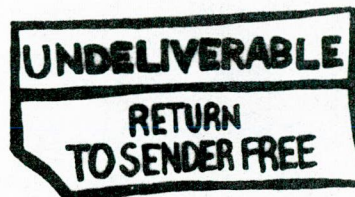


Fig.5

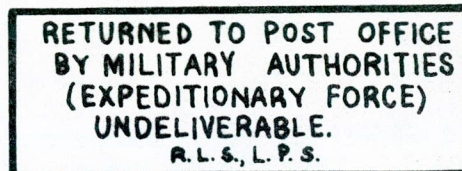


Fig.6

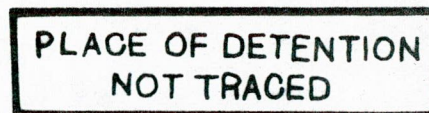


Fig.7

Fig.6

This is struck on a cover posted in MANSFIELD on the 19th. October, 1914. It is addressed to a member of the Sherwood Foresters in the Expeditionary Force and also bears the framed ' Unable to trace Army Post Office Expeditionary Force. It is prepaid 2½d. In violet.



Fig.8

Fig. 7

Applied to cover posted in LEICESTER on the 14th. June, 1914, addressed to a member of the Black Watch held, or thought to be held at BURG bei MAGDEBURG. It has on it German marks ' Not in Prisoner of War Camp Burg bei Burg., Censored in the Censor Office of the Camp Commander Burgb.M. ' and a label ' Place of residence not ascertained therefore returned to sender '. It is endorsed G.P.O. London and appears to have been returned in the summer of 1916. In violet.

Fig. 8

The cover on which this large mark, in violet, appears was registered at the FINSBURY PAVEMENT Post Office in LONDON on the 1st. August, 1914. It was addressed to VIENNA and contained a ten kroner note.

I believe the ' fixture list ' was like this:

|                   |                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 28th. July, 1914  | Austria v. Serbia            |
| 29th. July, 1914  | Austria v. Russia and France |
| 1st. August, 1914 | Russia v. Germany            |
| 3rd. August, 1914 | Germany v. France            |
| 4th. August, 1914 | Germany v. Belgium.          |



Midnight 4/5th. August, 1914 Britain v. Germany and Austria

This cover must have been in transit on the 4/5th. August, 1914 and was routed to the Returned Letter Section London Postal Service, whose official label is on the back of the cover.

Fig. 9

I believe this to be a mark of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force Records Office in London, as their c.d.s. appears on the reverse of the cover bearing this mark. It is addressed to LONDON but from where I do not know. It has been re-directed twice and has two normal LONDON c.d.s. and is endorsed in manuscript 'Not with unit in England'.

**NOT IN THE UK**

Fig. 9

—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—

CHARGE AND EXPLANATORY MARKS, some queries from John Sharp.

I recently acquired a postcard sent from GIBRALTAR to HAMBROOK, nr. BRISTOL. It is franked by two Ed.7 halfpenny stamps, but instead of being cancelled by the Gibraltar handstamp, this appears below them and the 1d./F.B./G has been used, apparently twice. According to R.L. Encyclopaedia, page 366..." British stamps could be used for some time after the Colonial issues appeared..." and the Ed.7 ½d is listed as one of those so authorised. This being the case, why not have them cancelled in Gibraltar? Is the 'G' under the charge mark indicative of Gibraltar, or does it merely identify the clerk/stamp employed?

A further mark is the encircled CH (Alcock and Holland fig.1740). According to their 'Short History and Guide'..." Until 1891 a second charge was made for the redirection of letters, cards, newspapers, etc., to an address outside the same delivery area". Since the Gibraltar stamp is 29 NO 05 and that of Hambrook 9.15 AM/DE 4/05 this cannot be the function in this case.

No doubt readers will be able to explain and answer these various points.

1<sup>D</sup>  
F.B.  
G.



T

