LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP
Established February 1971

ISSN 0989-8701

NOTEBOOK

Number 163 June, 2006

IN THIS ISSUE.....

We are featuring Jerry Miller's Gold winning material entitled

FROM HILL TO BICKERDIKE :
THE VICTORIAN ERA EXPERIMENTAL MACHINE POSTMARKS OF ENGLAND
1857 - 1901

The exhibit secured

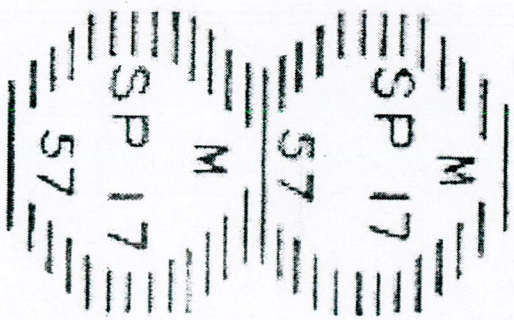
American Philatelic Society Gold
Postal History Society Medal : Best Postal History
Friends of WESTPEX Award : Best British Commonwealth
WESTPEX : Show Grand Award

The original article has been published before
in the United States in the April 2005 'Chronicle' of the Great Britain Collectors Club
and
in the September/ October 2005 issue of 'The GB Journal' of the Great Britain Philatelic Society.

We are indebted to the Great Britain Collectors Club and the Editor, Paul Pillips, of
'The B.B.C.C. Chronicle'
and to The Great Britain Philatelic Society and Editor of 'The GB Journal'
for their kind permission to base this issue on the information previously published by them.

We have been greatly helped by further information from Jerry Miller, John Parmenter, Gavin Littaur
Tim Schofield and, in particular, Michael Goodman for both material and constructive criticism
of the preliminary draught of this edition of *Notebook*.

EDITOR
Peter A. Forrestier Smith, 64 Gordon Road,
CARSHALTON, Surrey. SM5 3RE
E-mail : lphgat64@aol.com
Assistant Editor : Don Franks



Historical Background

Soon after the introduction of prepayment by means of the adhesive label in Great Britain & Ireland in 1840, the postal authorities recognised a need for clear and legible cancellations, as well as a need for conservation of ink and an improvement in the handling and postmarking of the ever increasing volume of mail. The Victorian age was a dynamic one, often referred to as the *Period of the Industrial Revolution*, where communication by mail, including the onset of advertising by post and the introduction of the postal stationery card were important aspects.

In 1853, Pearson Hill, son of Rowland Hill, so called father of prepayment by postage stamp and Secretary to the Post Office, became involved with the deficiencies existent with postmarking adhesives and other postal markings. By 1857 he had developed and patented the first rapid postmarking machine .

Between 1857 and 1912, the Post Office tested and / or evaluated no fewer than 18 machines, most of which were not of British manufacture and origin.

Pearson Hill Machine

Pearson Hill's machine (Fig.1) was treadle operated and postmark cancelled about 100 letters per minute, considerably slower than an experienced postal clerk, who could hand stamp at about 200 a minute, although a machine's durability and stamina surpassed that of a clerk. Nevertheless, in both cases the mail had to be faced, i.e. arranged and sorted with the front always facing the clerk for stamping or feeding into the machine for proper postmarking.

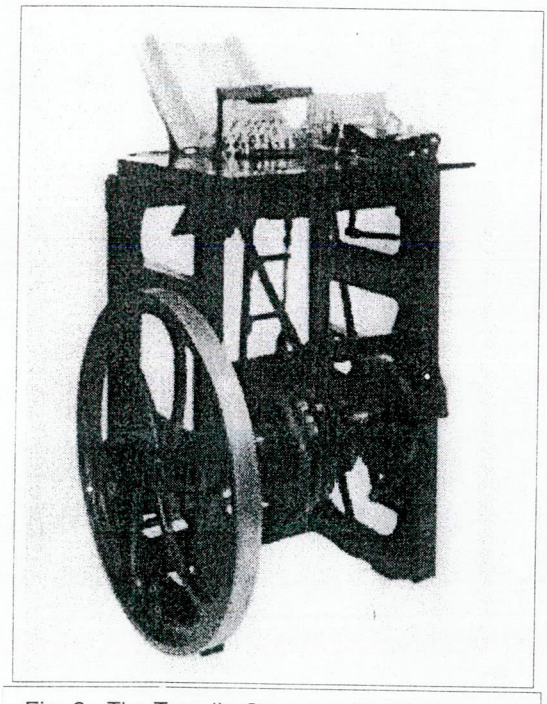


Fig. 2 : The Treadle Operated first field tested (Model 'A') Pearson Hill postmarking machine, which could postmark about 100 letters per minute.
Photo by courtesy of the British Postal Museum & Archive.

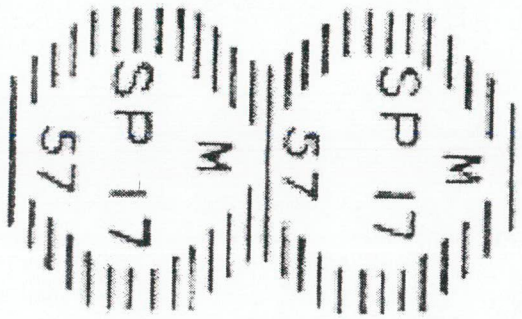


Figure 1a.

Demonstration of Hill's machine to the postal authorities took place on the 17th September, 1857. The die used for this demonstration was, most probably, made of wood (Fig. 1a). Two covers and three adhesives are recorded.

On the 21st September, 1857, a commercially built machine, with a rubber die, was delivered to the Post Office and commenced the field trial. The author has a loose adhesive with this trial date and a cover dated 21st September exists.

The Post Office commenced the full day (day and night) trial of the machine on the 25th September, 1857: postmarks, mostly on loose adhesives, are recorded to the 17th February, 1858.

All postmarks from Hill's first machine had the letter 'A' in the periphery of the postmark. However, between the 25th September, 1857 and the 17th February, 1858, several codes were used, placed above the date, which may, or may not, have reflected adjustments or alterations to the machine during the experimental test phase.

Code	Number of days of recorded use
'A'	25+
'M'	6
'2'	4
'3'	3
'4'	4

Except for 'A' (20+ covers recorded) and 'M' (two covers), no covers are known for the other codes, existing only on loose Penny Reds. All known covers are to inland destinations, except one example to France (Fig. 3)

The early dies were manufactured in rubber and, of course, could wear, resulting in potentially illegible markings. So, Pearson Hill improved his field test machine into a second type, which now used a metal die and having the postmark code 'B' (see Fig. 4, see page 4): the recorded use is from 21st March to 23rd April, 1858.

Typical for postmark impressions of Hill's first and second machine designs were the offset impressions, as shown in Figures 2 and 4. In an attempt to eliminate those,

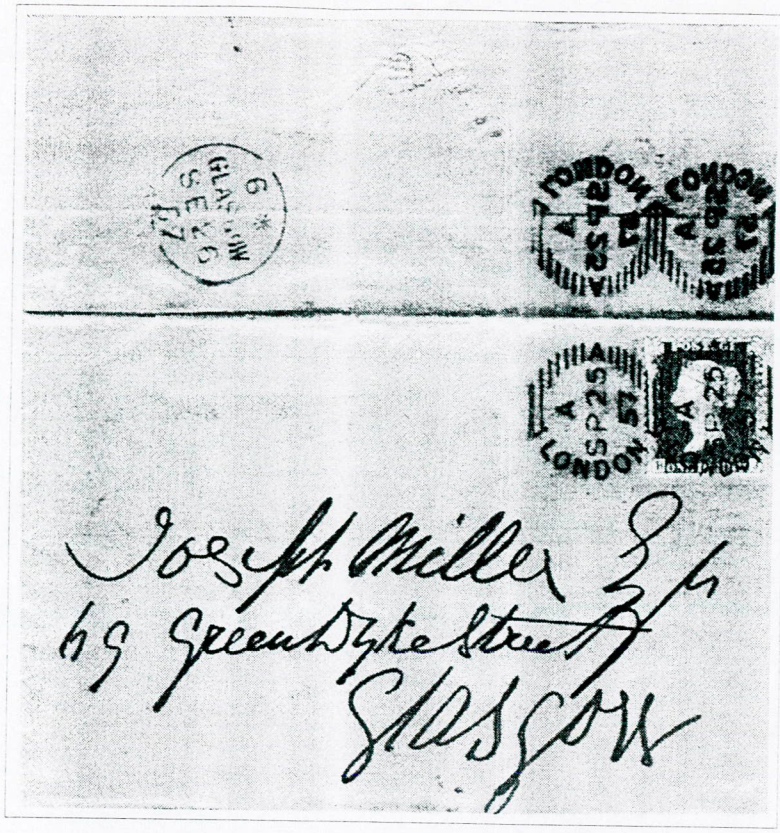


Fig. 2: The only known example from the first full day of post office field trial service using the *Pearson Hill* machine, 25th September, 1857.
The back of the folded letter illustrates the inking offset from the postmarking die. Note the letter 'A' at the periphery of the die as well as code 'A' within the postmark.

thereby achieving reduction in waste as well as a cleaner postmark, Hill placed an inked ribbon between the metal die and the mail to be postmarked. This eliminated the need for the *glue and treacle inking rollers* of the two previous machines. Thus, Hill's third machine, design 'C', was developed with a less ornate postmarking die consisting of two adjacent 19 mm diameter dated and coded single circle dials (Fig.5, see page 4). Known trial usage from the 8th to the 18th March, 1858.

This design, with an inked ribbon, was discarded by Hill at the end of March since he found the inking process using the early *glue and treacle inking rollers* better. This method would subsequently be used on Hill's *Parallel Motion* machine, which was much simpler and less bulky in design.

However, Hill altered the stamping die of his 'C' machine. One circular dater die only was now used to apply receiving postmarks to incoming mail, while the other was used for applying dispatch postmarks to outgoing mail, although a killer or obliterator was now added to the dater dial to form a duplex cancellation, which henceforth became a standard for postmarks on outgoing mail (Fig.6, see page 5).

The dater dials of the 'C' machine varied from 'CA' to 'CB' to 'CC'. The first ' was the code for the 'C' machine, while the next letter reflected the day of the week, the sequence repeating e.g. 'A' = Monday, 'B' = Tuesday., 'C' = Wednesday, 'A' = Thursday, 'B' = Friday, 'C' = Saturday (Fig.7, see page 5). No code required for Sunday, no mail being postmarked.

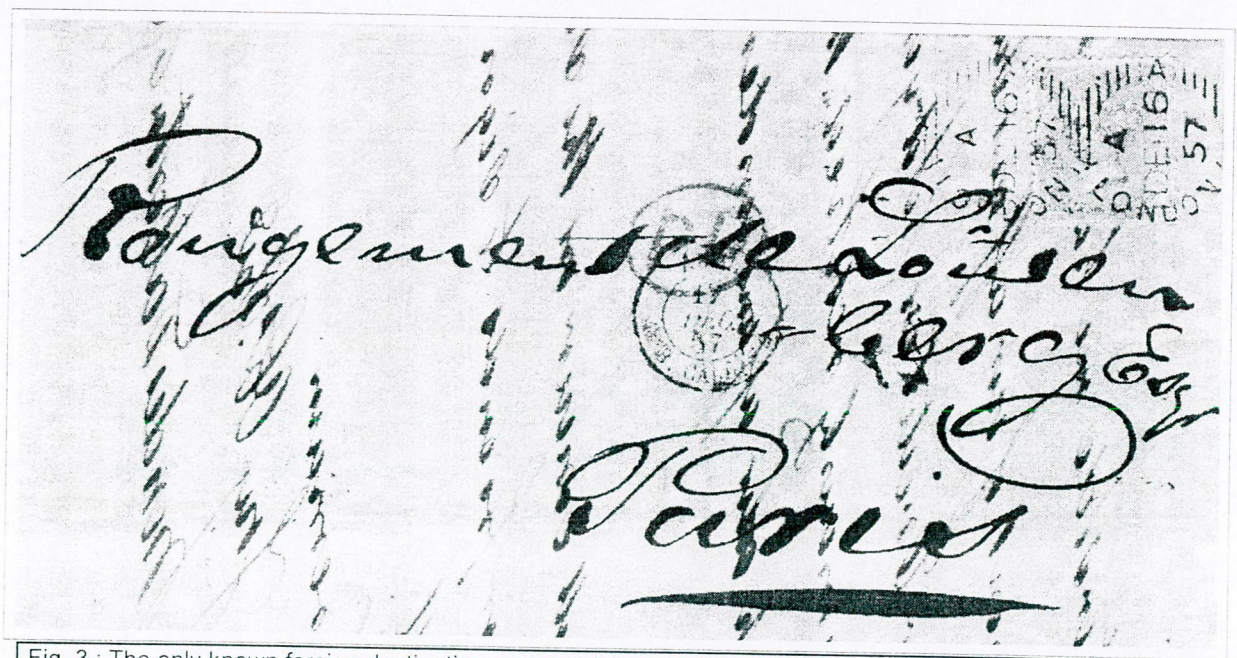


Fig. 3 : The only known foreign destination commercial cover. Dated 16thDecember, 1857 to France. 4d single weight letter rate. The cover has ink bleed from the written text.

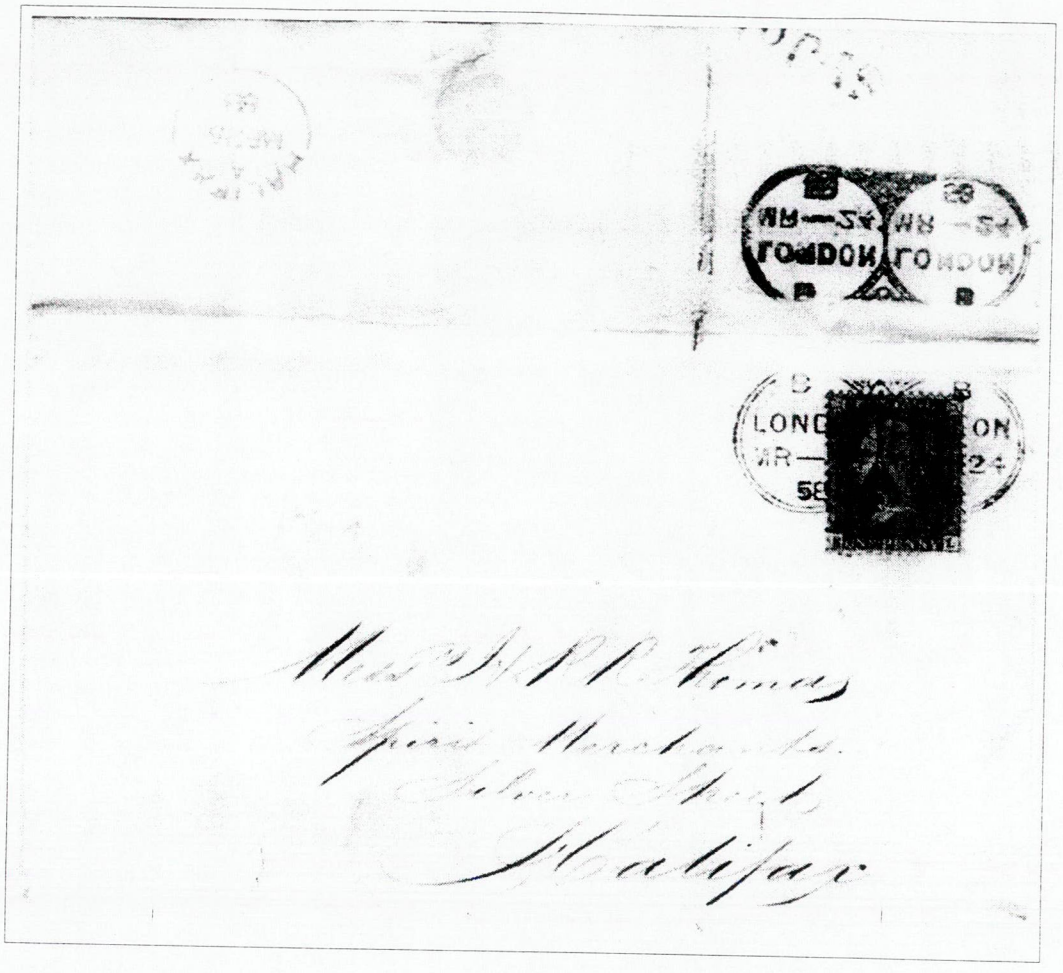


Fig. 4: Because of the unusual design, markings from Pearson Hill's second machine type ('B' die) became known as *Opera Glass* postmarks. This example, dated 24th March, 1858, is on a folded letter and illustrating the offset from the die.

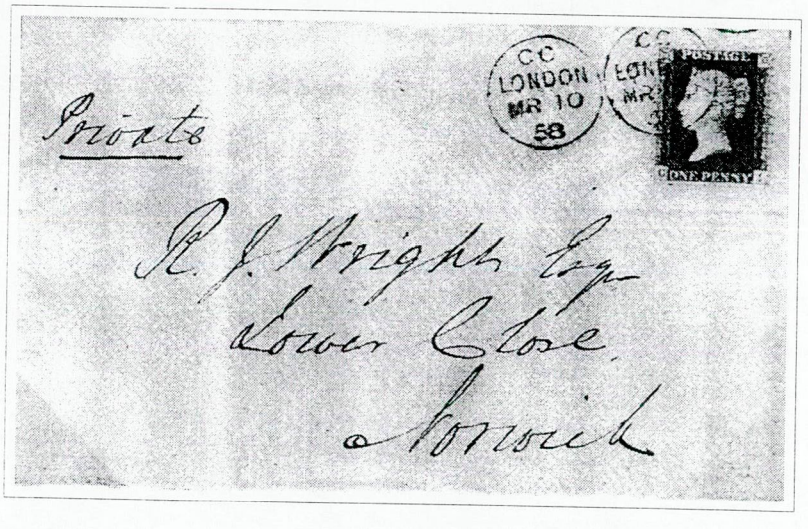


Fig. 5 : Example from Hill's 'C' machine. Dated the 10th March, 1858, addressed to Norwich, having Die 'CC'
(Gavin Littaur collection)

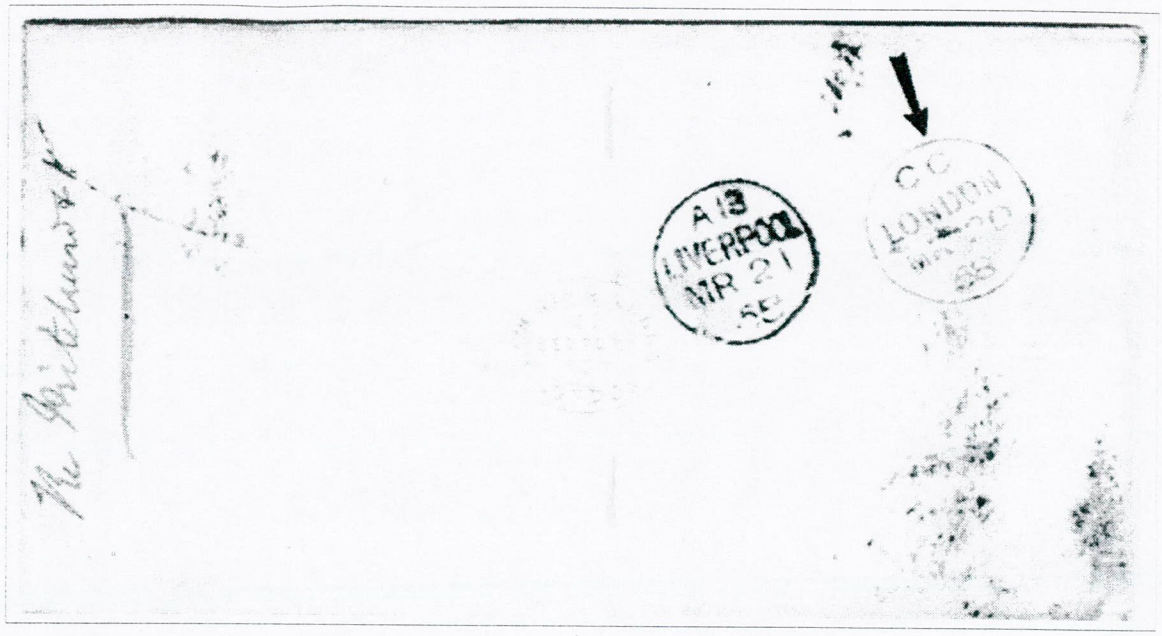


Fig. 6 : Pearson Hill 'C' Machine, arrival postmark on the reverse of a letter to London. The 19 mm single ring dater has code 'CC'. One of two recorded examples from the earliest dav of use. 20th March. 1858

Fig. 7 : Pearson Hill 'C' Machine postmark cancelling the adhesives on a letter to Hamburg. The 19 mm dater with the Inland Office 15 Diamond killer.
Only known cover illustrating the earliest date of use, 23rd March, 1858.

Charles Rideout Machine

In January 1858 Charles Rideout, a retired post office surveyor, offered to the London Post Office a new postmarking machine, patented in October 1857 by his son in law, George Beard. Two machines would be tested in 1858 and 1859.

Rideout's machines were of a compact design, which could be placed on a table and effectively apply receiving stamps on incoming mail at a rate of 160 strikes per minute and duplex cancellations on outgoing mail at about 85 strikes per minute. In contrast, the Pearson Hill 'A' and 'B' designs were large

and bulky and stood alone. Thus, in terms of design and capability, as tests showed, the Rideout machines appeared to be viable and important competitors to those of Hill.

Two postmark types were used with each of Rideout's machines (*Table 1, page 7*).

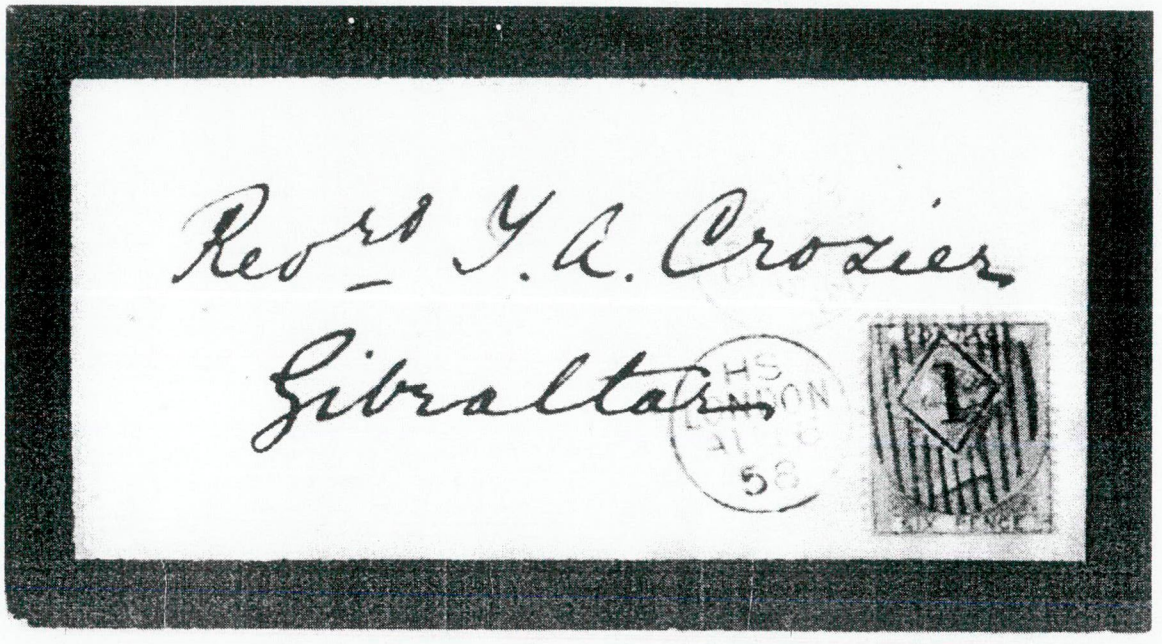


Fig. 8 : Postmark from Rideout's Test Machine, Type 1.
Mourning cover to Gibraltar. Single weight letter rate - 6d

Fig. 9 : Postmark from Rideout's Test Machine 2, Type 11.
Double weight folded letter, hence 2d postage,
to Edinburgh

TABLE 1

Rideout Machine Postmark Types

Machine 1

Type 1 : - 19 mm circular dater, code 'HS', 'LONDON' and date with '1' in a diamond in the duplex killer between 12 vertical bars.

Type 11 : - As *Type 1* but 11 vertical bars. Receiving marks (orange-red ink). 19 mm circular dater with code 'HS' with 'LONDON' and applicable date.

Machine 2

Type 1 : - 19 mm circular dater, code 'CR', 'LONDON' and date with '2' in a diamond in the duplex killer between 9 **thick** vertical bars.

Type 11 : - 19 mm circular dater, code 'RC', 'LONDON' and date with '2' in a diamond in the duplex killer between 9 **thick** vertical bars. Receiving marks (orange-red ink) 19 mm circular dater, code 'CR' with 'LONDON' and applicable date.

Pearson Hill 'Parallel-Motion' Machine

As mentioned, Hill's previous machines were large and bulk. Charles Rideout's compact and more flexible machine was both a challenge and motivation for Hill.

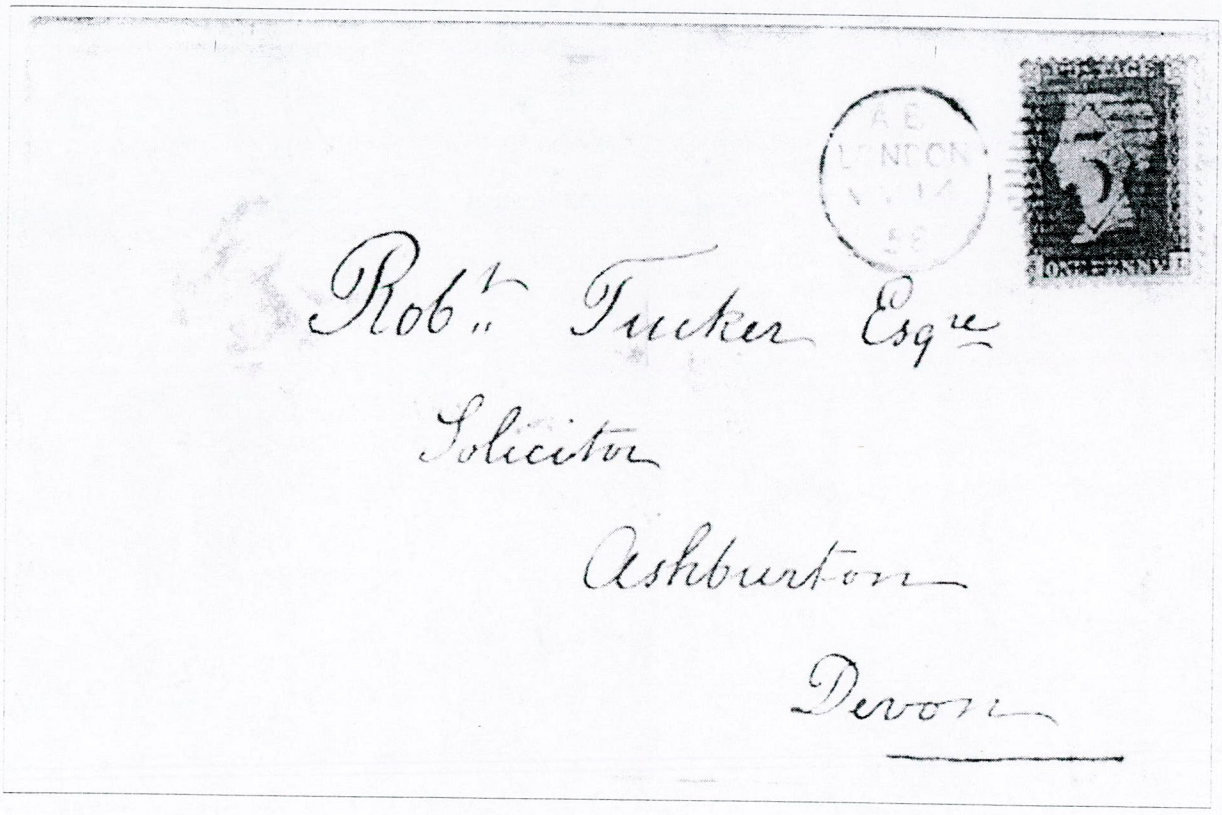


Fig. 10 : Postmark from Hill's *Parallel Motion* machine on a single weight cover, dated the 14th May, 1858 (earliest known usage) to Ashburton.
Postmark : 19 mm diameter dater with 'LONDON' 14 mm in length, obliterator, 1.75 mm from dater, Inland Office 3 in diamond, within 17 thin lines.

Fig. 11 : The third postmark from Hill's *Parallel Motion* machine, where the length of 'LONDON' in the dater is 16 mm (instead of 14 mm), with the 3 in diamond having 14 widely spaced horizontal lines around it (instead of 17 thin lines). Printed circular single weight letter, dated 10th August, 1859 to Shanghai, China, 9d franking.

However, it may be assumed Hill was already developing improvements on his 'C' machine design by the time Charles Rideout introduced *his* machine in January 1858. It was a few months later when Hill produced a much improved and more robust competitive machine of similar advantages, requiring only slight hand movement, with greater speed giving clear postmarks, machine portability and easy exchange of stamping dies. In addition, Hill's new machine also included a parallel linkage with a double roller inking design which was economical with ink and did not result in an offset marking on mail.

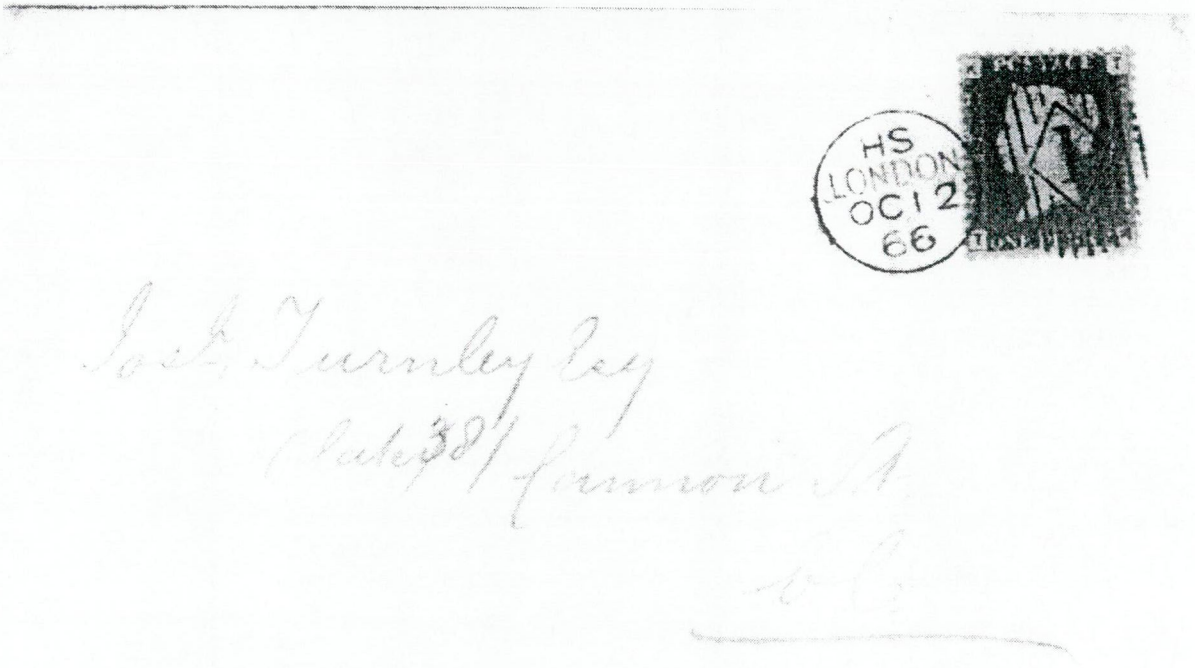


Fig. 12 : Postmark from Rideout's Second Trial. Machine '1' known on only two covers, dated the 10th & 12th October, 1866. This example shows the 19 mm dater with 'HS' and the obliterator with '1' in a diamond between 11 thin vertical bars.
This is the earliest known use, the 12th October, 1866, on a domestic single weight item.

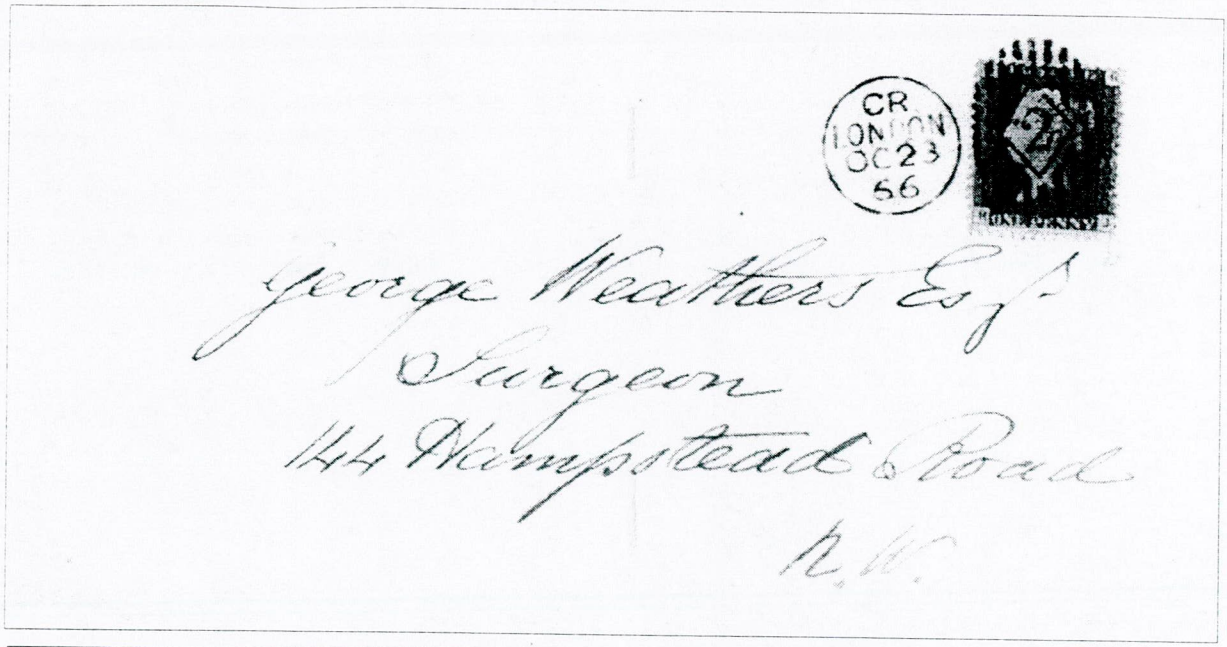


Fig. 13 : Postmark from Rideout's Second Trial in London. Machine '2' usage from the 23rd October, 1866 to 10th July, 1867. A 19 mm diameter dater with 'CR' and the obliterator with '2' in a diamond between nine thick vertical bars. This is the earliest known use of this postmark.

Hill officially introduced his new *Parallel Motion* stamping machine to the Post Office on 13 May 1858 and trials were started the following day, the earliest recorded usage. Testing continued from 1858 to 1860, with post experimental usage several years beyond and a number of postmark varieties recorded.

Hill versus Rideout

Although Pearson Hill's *Parallel Motion* machine had been selected in 1859 as the one to be purchased by the Post Office for field use, Charles Rideout pressed the Post Office for additional trials. Between October 1866 and July 1867 a second trial was conducted for Rideout on two improved machines which, however, ended in failure. Hill was determined his design would be more robust, more effective in stamping and field usage. Whether the influence of Rowland Hill, Pearson's father, had any influence in the matter is a matter for speculation.

Hill's machine and another version called the *Pivot* machine became widely used and mainstays in the British Post Office for many years. Despite such widespread usage the Post Office continued to evaluate other machine designs which, potentially, could improve the postmarking and handling of mail. Most of these machines were not of British design and manufacture.

Hinrichsen (Azemar) Machine

In 1856 two German inventors, Carl Fischer and J.C.E. Maas, applied, in England, for a patent on their new postmarking machine. Although initially unsuccessful, a patent was eventually issued in August 1867. Concurrently, Maas & Fischer were also attempting to interest the Hamburg State and Prussian Post Offices in their invention. These Offices initially tested the Maas & Fischer machine during 1866 and 1867, with subsequent trials of improved designs for a number of years thereafter.

It would, however, be a German, Robert Hinrichsen, who would become the owner and manufacturer of the Fischer-Maas invention. Hinrichsen's sales representative in Britain was J.C. Azemar who, in fact, contacted the Post Office in efforts to have them test and buy Hinrichsen's rapid postmarking machine.

The *Hinrichsen* or *Azemar* machine was unique at the time since it had three postmarking heads with mail being transported through the postmarking zone by a set of two or three needles. Thus examples of mail having *Azemar* postmarks will have traces of these needle marks on the reverse of covers. With each rotation of the stamping head, three postmarks could be applied to three individual pieces of mail, which offered a significant advantage and improvement over the Pearson Hill and Charles Rideout machines

The *Azemar* was treadle operated and could achieve a postmarking rate of 500 - 600 pieces of mail / minute. However, although the machine appeared to be ideal for the Post Office, it was ultimately rejected after three primary trials because it did not effectively postmark up to 10% or more of the mail which passed through it and it required a high level of maintenance.

The *Azemar* trial postmarks consisted of a 20 mm dater die with an obliterator having varied combinations of bar configurations of five basic types, as illustrated in Figs 14 - 16.

Fig. 14: Postmark from the first trial with a coded dater with 'YI' and a split obliterator (only known example). Single weight folded letter dated the 8th April, 1869.

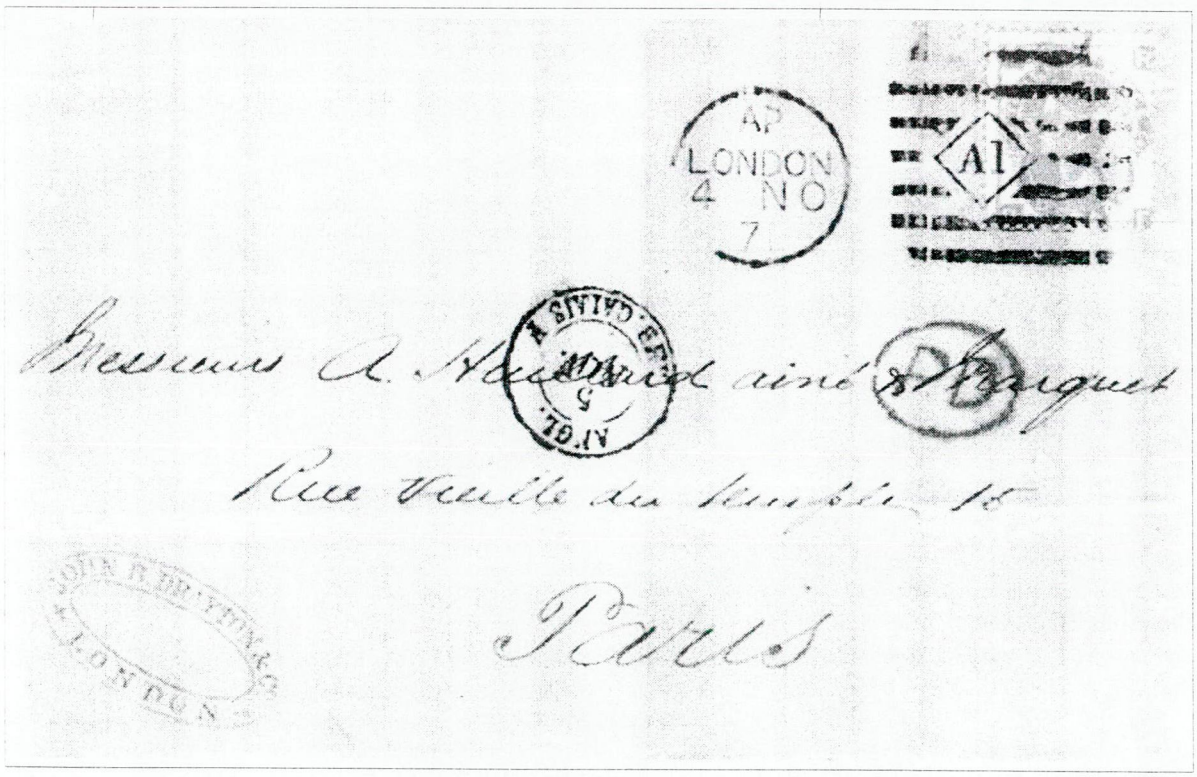


Fig. 15 : Postmark from the second trial with 'AP code in dater for the 4th November, 1871. Folded letter to Paris with the 3d single weight franking.
The only known example of this code.

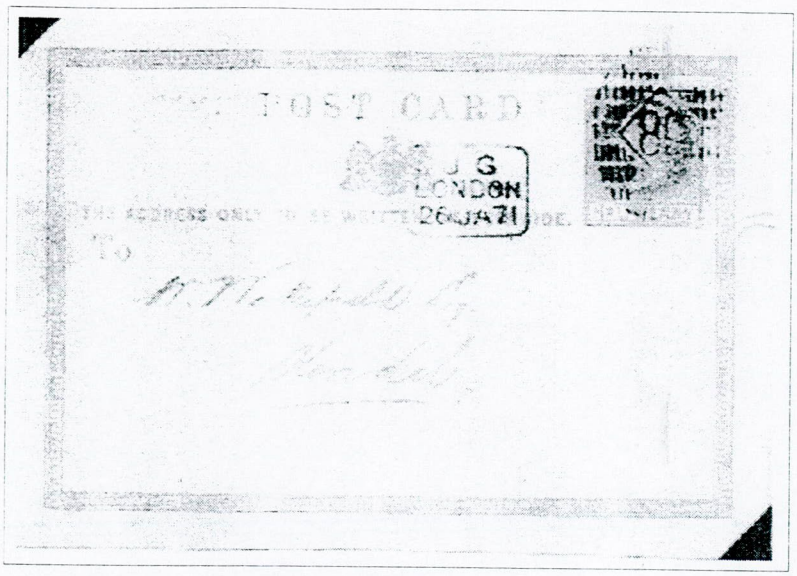


Fig. 16 : Postcard from the second trial, 4th January to 4th February, 1871, on postal stationery cards. Chamfered corner rectangular dater, code 'JG', the obliterator having '89' in a diamond, framed by vertical broken lines given an upright oval shape. This example dated the 26th January, 1871. (Tim Schofield collection.) The rectangular dater is similar to ones used in the German trials which had commenced in 1867.

Fig. 16a: The example of the 6th. January, 1871 trial showing the obliterator inverted, giving a number '68' . (Tim Schofield collection)

The three primary trials were:

First : 31st March, 1869 to the 24th June, 1869 on folded letters and envelopes. Dater dial code 'YI' (all three heads).

Second : 4th January to the 4th February 1871. Only on Post Office issue postal stationery postcards. Rectangular dater dial with '89' in the obliterator. An example with inverted dater reading '68' on piece is shown for 6th January, 1871.

From the 18th May to December 1871 on folded letters and envelopes. Dater dial codes 'AB', 'BB' and 'CB' (one for each die head) and 'AP' on one letter, going overseas, the only recorded item.

Code 'CR' for 1st July, 1871 has been reported.

Third: 17th May to the 8th November, 1872 on folded letters and envelopes. Dater dial codes 'AB', 'BB', and 'CB' (one for each die head). 'CR' for 29th October, 1872 has been reported.

Sloper Machine

With the introduction of the Halfpenny Post Office postal stationery card on the 1st October 1870, the need was for a device for effective postmarking of such cards in quantity. The Sloper perforating machine, which until now had been used for perforating business documents or applying perforated initials to postage stamps for security purposes, was initially tested in London and subsequently in the cities of Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh and Bradford.

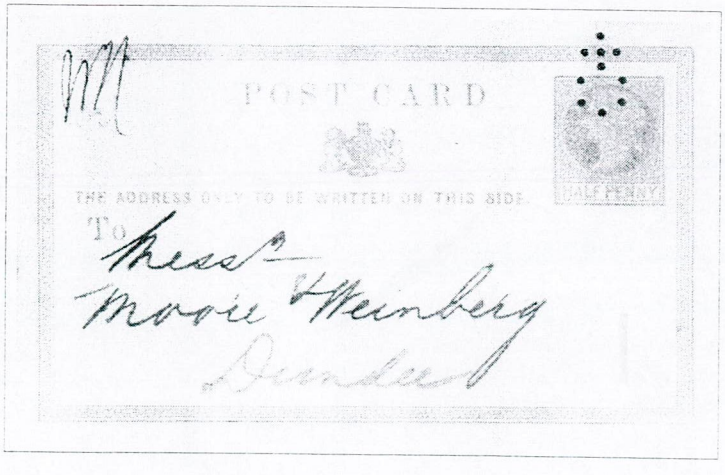


Fig. 17 : Sloper perforation *Standing Orb & Cross* on postcard,. Dated the 2nd November 1870. Earliest known example.

Fig. 18: Sloper perforation *Inverted Orb & Cross* on a postcard.
Dated 17th November. 1870.

Several perforation or mutilation methods were used during the five year trial period. A *Cross & Orb* perforation design was the first used in London. Examples from that trial are very scarce and known from the 2nd & 3rd November, 1870 for the *Standing Orb* and from 17th to 21st November, 1870 with a further example reported for the 16th February, 1872, for the *Inverted Orb*.

Vaille Machine

Having been unsuccessful in 1874 in selling his new postmarking machine to the New Zealand Post Office, Robert Vaille of Auckland, patented his machine in England in January 1877. With the assistance of high placed individuals in British Society, Mr Vaille was able to successfully demonstrate his machine to the Post Office in London during April 1878.

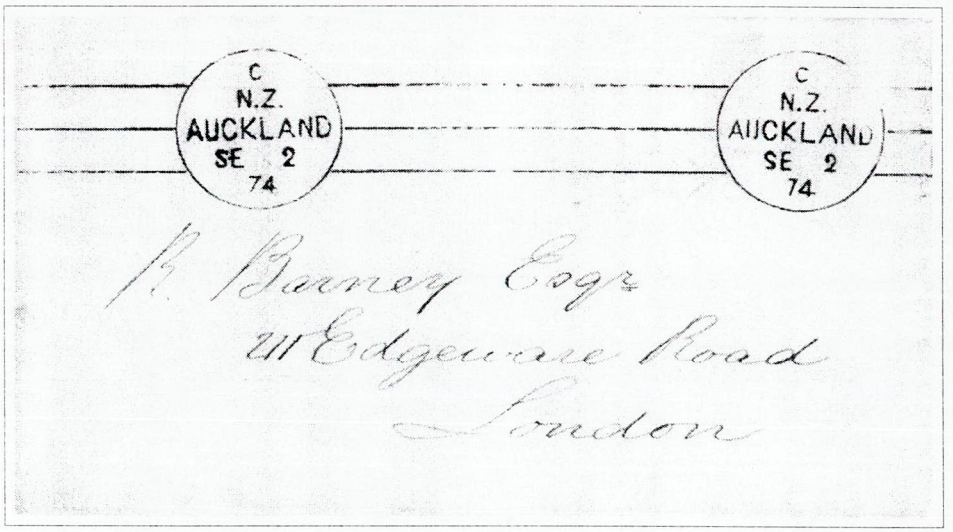


Fig. 19: One of five reported surviving examples in private collections from the Vaille postmarking machine trial of April 1878 and the only known example having the postmark design shown here.
This cover shows a 'shadow' offset of the zigzag pattern obliterator from the same trial.

For that demonstration, 'dummy' letters or postal stationery cards were prepared and used on which three different postmarks were tried:

1. A three line continuous bar obliterator having two dater dials (Fig. 19).
2. A two line continuous bar obliterators having two dater dials.
3. A zigzag continuous pattern obliterator having two dater dials.

Despite the trial having taken place in London in 1878, all dater dials showed 'C / N.Z. / AUCKLAND / SE 2 / 74'. However, no mail was actually processed for delivery. Only seven recorded examples from that demonstration have survived, two of which are in the British Postal Museum & Archive.
For reasons unknown, the machine was reported as rejected on the 17th May, 1878.

Hoster Machine

In 1883, Albert Hoster, a German national, acquired the assets of Haller & Company in Germany. The Company was a manufacturer of postmarking machinery and had received a contract to supply the German Post Office with fifteen machines, which were intended only to apply receiving marks to in bound mail. This was the primary interest at that time for the German Reichspost. However, Hoster's new company had the technical ability to modify the Haller machine design to apply 'dispatch postmarks' to out going mail,which was a main interest of the British Post Office.

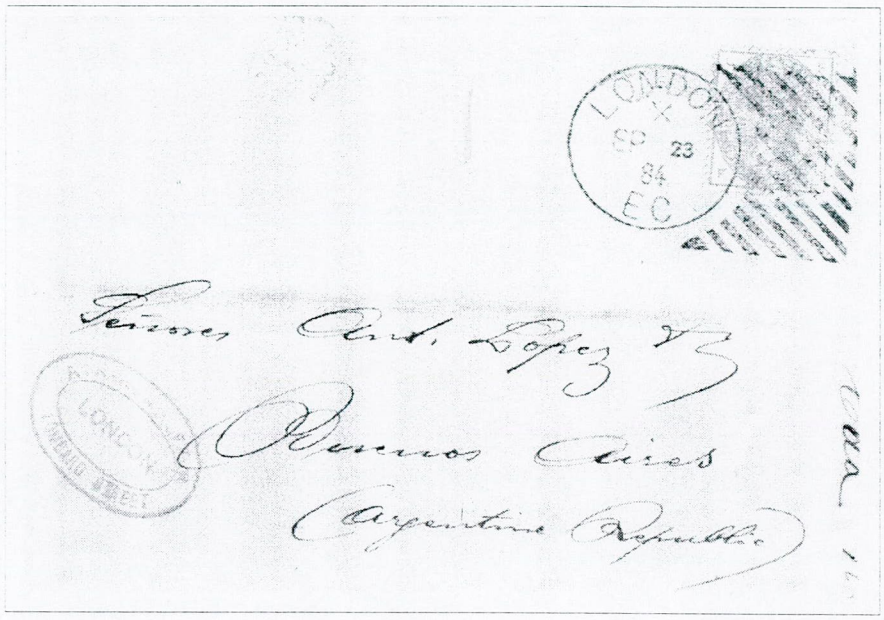


Fig. 20: Example of an early Hoster, dated the 23rd September, 1884 on a cover to Buenos Aires. The only known Hoster postmark to that destination.
4d single weight rate.

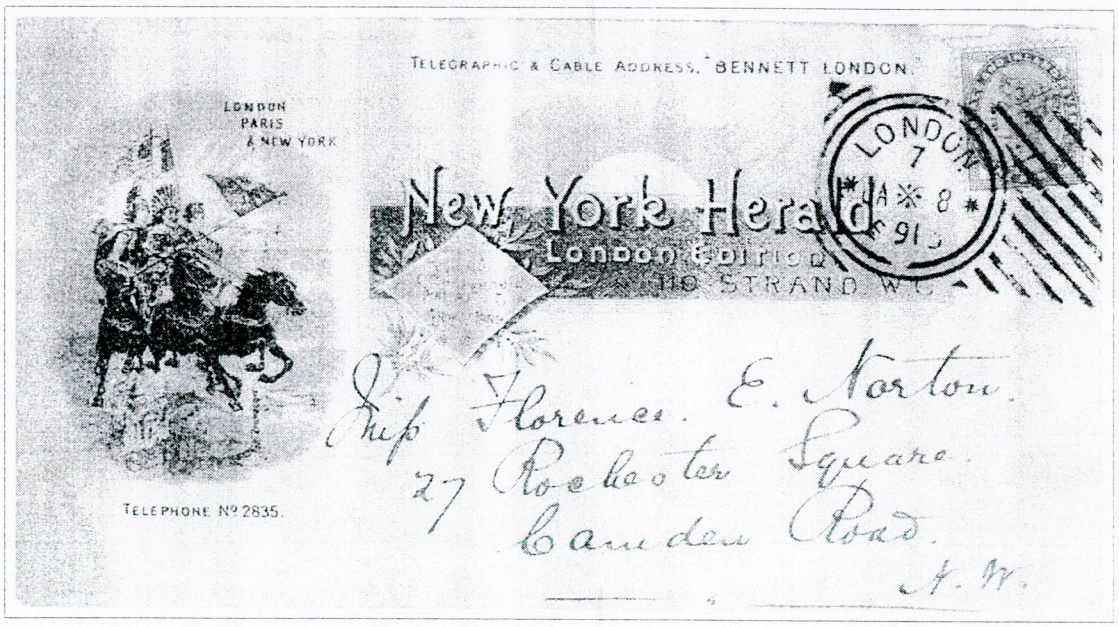


Fig. 21: Example of a Type X11 Hoster marking for the 8th January, 1891, on an early local advertising cover sent from the London Office of the *New York Herald* newspaper.

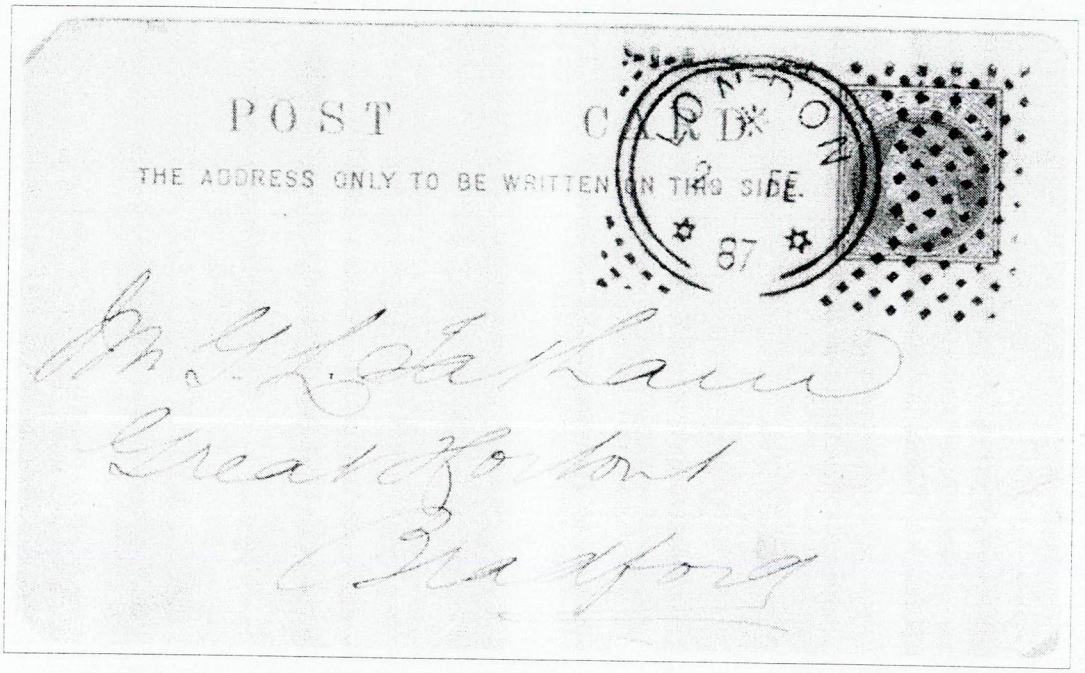


Fig. 22 : Not included in previous publications, a posting on the 2nd February, 1887, the earliest recorded usage date.
On a rounded corner postal stationery postcard to Bradford.

Albert Hoster recognized the potential sales to the Post Office in England and, in 1883, established the Postal Stamping & Patent Machinery Company Limited in London. Between 1883 - 1886, the company sold eight *Hoster* machines to the Post Office.

The *Hoster* was hand operated, having two postmarking dies able to postmark two pieces of mail with each rotation of the hand wheel. During the field trials and usage years 1883 - 1893, Hoster machines applied a number of different dispatch markings to out going mail and receiving marks to inbound mail.

Ethridge Machine

Based on a design and patent held by Martin V.B. Ethridge, the American Postal Machines Company of Boston, Massachusetts, furnished the Post Office in London with one of their steam powered postmarking machines for testing in 1886. Although the machine trails were conducted over a reasonable period of time, the Post Office rejected the machine because of its size, its high cost and little or no advantage compared to Hoster machines being concurrently tested.

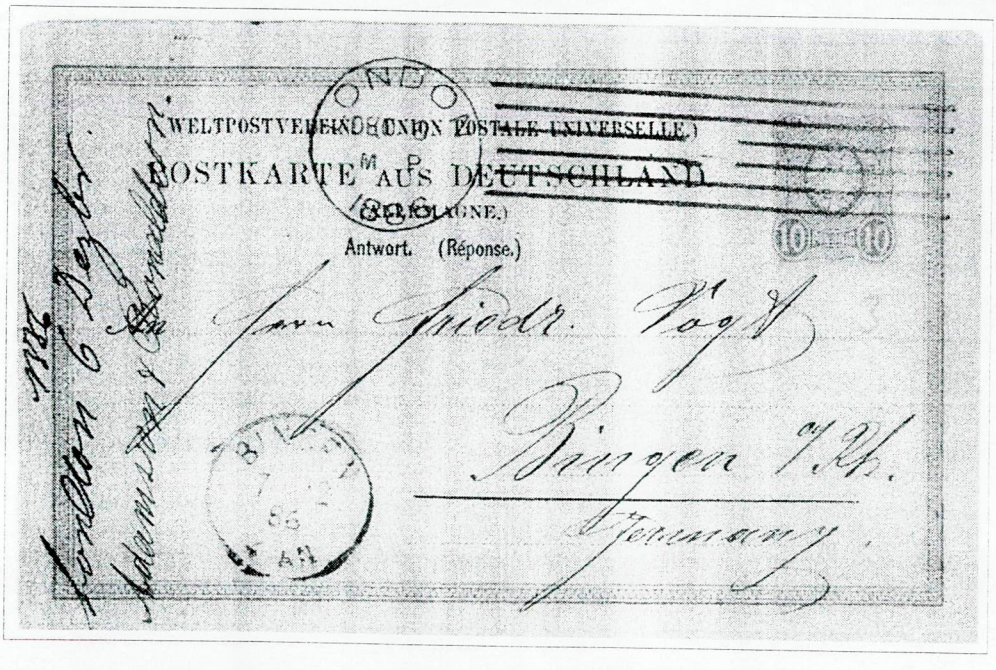


Fig. 23: Ethridge postmark applied to a German postal reply card returned to Germany on the 6th December, 1886. Only recorded Ethridge postmark on a reply card.

The *Ethridge* machine, as it is known in Britain *(American* machine in North America) was the first postmarking machine to apply a postmark having horizontal obliterator lines. The full postmark consists of a 25 mm dater dial with six horizontal lines in the centre of which is an open space reserved for a machine number. This was never used in Britain unlike the U.S.A.

Malin

Intermittently between the 30th September, 1890 and the 12th February, 1891, a 'six month' trial was held with the Malin machine. Little is found today in British postal archives about this machine, other

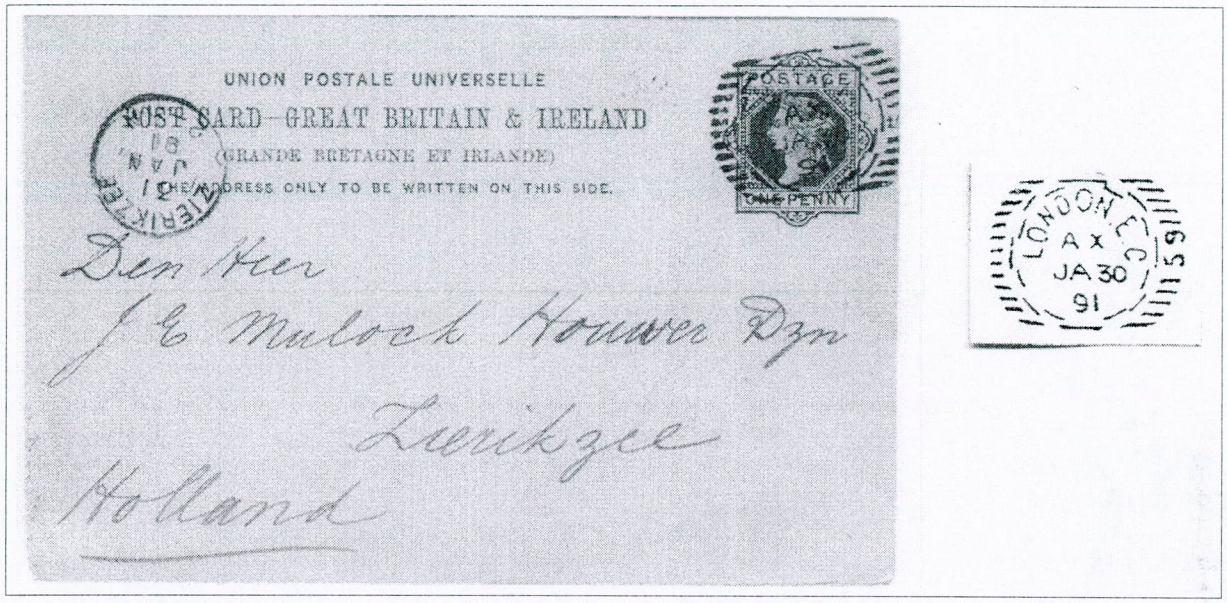


Fig. 24 and (inset) Fig. 25 : The *Malin* postmark on a One Penny postal stationery card to Holland.

than it was rejected from consideration by the Post Office since it could only postmark a maximum of 100 letter / minute.

From the four recorded examples, it appears the Malin machine may have been dedicated to apply dispatch postmarks to outgoing mails with overseas destinations.

International Machine
('Hey and Dolphin Machine')

In August 1893, G.W. Hey & M.J. Dolphin, founders of the 'International Postal Supply Company' of New York, furnished the Post Office with a postmarking machine for trials, which took place between the 25th August and the 14th September, 1893. According to reports, the electrically operated machine generally functioned well and effectively. However, it was subsequently rejected by the Post Office because of the need for regular maintenance for letters of different thickness or size, as well as its high rental cost.

The postmark applied by the 'International Machine' had a 22 mm diameter single circle dater dial, what some believe to be a die code, others a time, above the year and the seven line (52 mm length) having the numeral '1' on the right hand side.

An example is given on the following page.

Fig. 26: International Machine postmark on a halfpenny postal stationery envelope, the only known example with the latest recorded usage date, the 14th September, 1893,

Imperial Machine

Fig. 27: Example of an early Imperial Machine Union Jack postmark design applied in trial use in Canada, the 11th to 22nd April, 1896. This cover carries the first date.

In July, 1896 the Imperial Mail Marking Machine Company of Canada offered the Post Office their *Imperial* machine for evaluation and trials. Similar machines were already in field use in Canada and effectively applied markings to both inwards and outward mails.

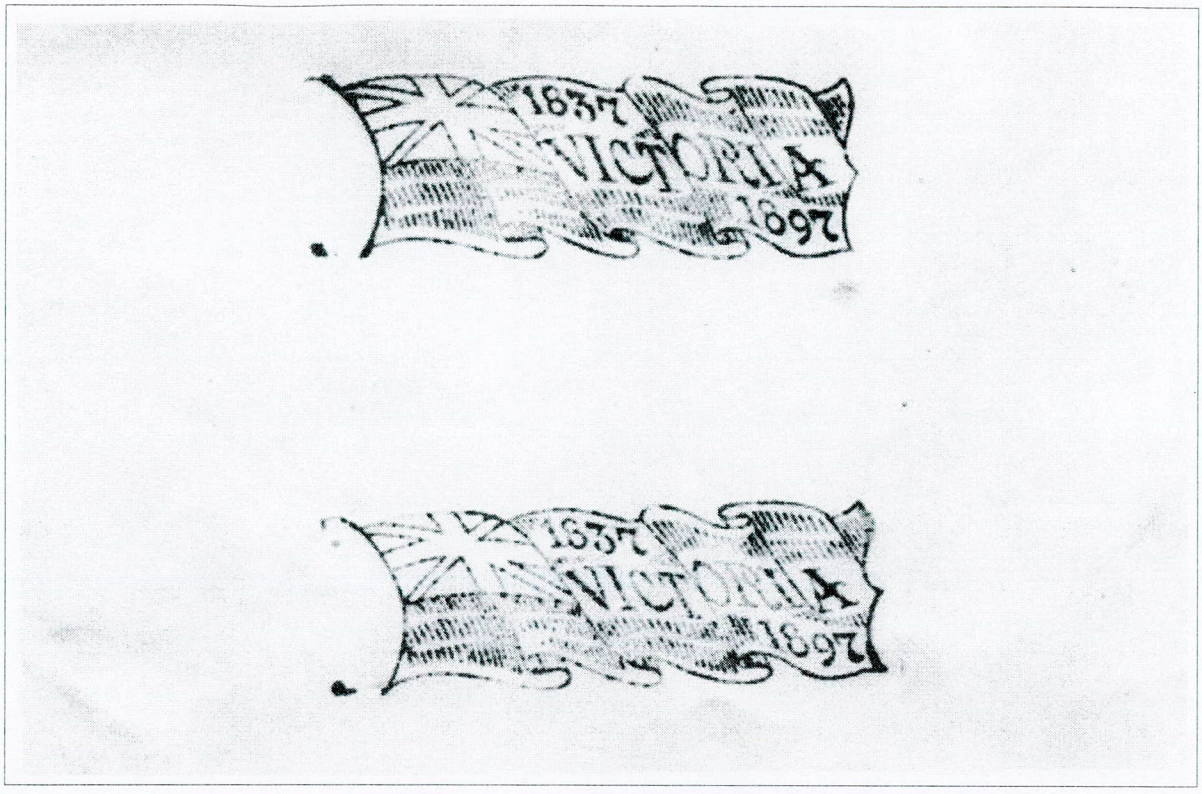


Fig. 28: Imperial Machine proof postmark (violet ink) intended for British machines which were never purchased. One of two postmark proofs known.

It would be 1897 before the British Post Office would consider the machine and its postmark, which had a beautiful, clear marking commemorating the Queen Victoria's Jubilee 1837 - 1897: similar postmarks were applied by field use machines in Canada. No mail was processed during the testing of the machine but two proof examples are known of the postmark (Fig. 28) The Imperial machine was not accepted, or seriously considered, since the Post Office had already commenced tests with another, more promising, Canadian built machine, the *Bickerdike.*

Bickerdike Machine

In March 1897, an agent for the Canadian Postal Supply Company of Montreal, Canada, approached the British Post Office to offer, at no charge, their electric powered *Bickerdike* postmarking machines for trials in London, to which the Post Office agreed.

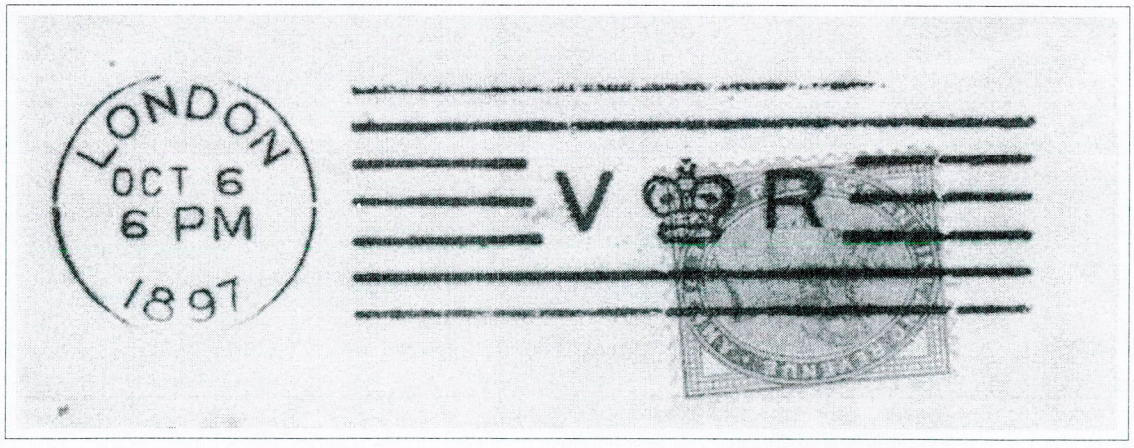


Fig. 29 : Two postmark designs were used for the trials, one type for each machine. One had the VR without serifs, above, the other with serifs. Fig. 30 on the next page.

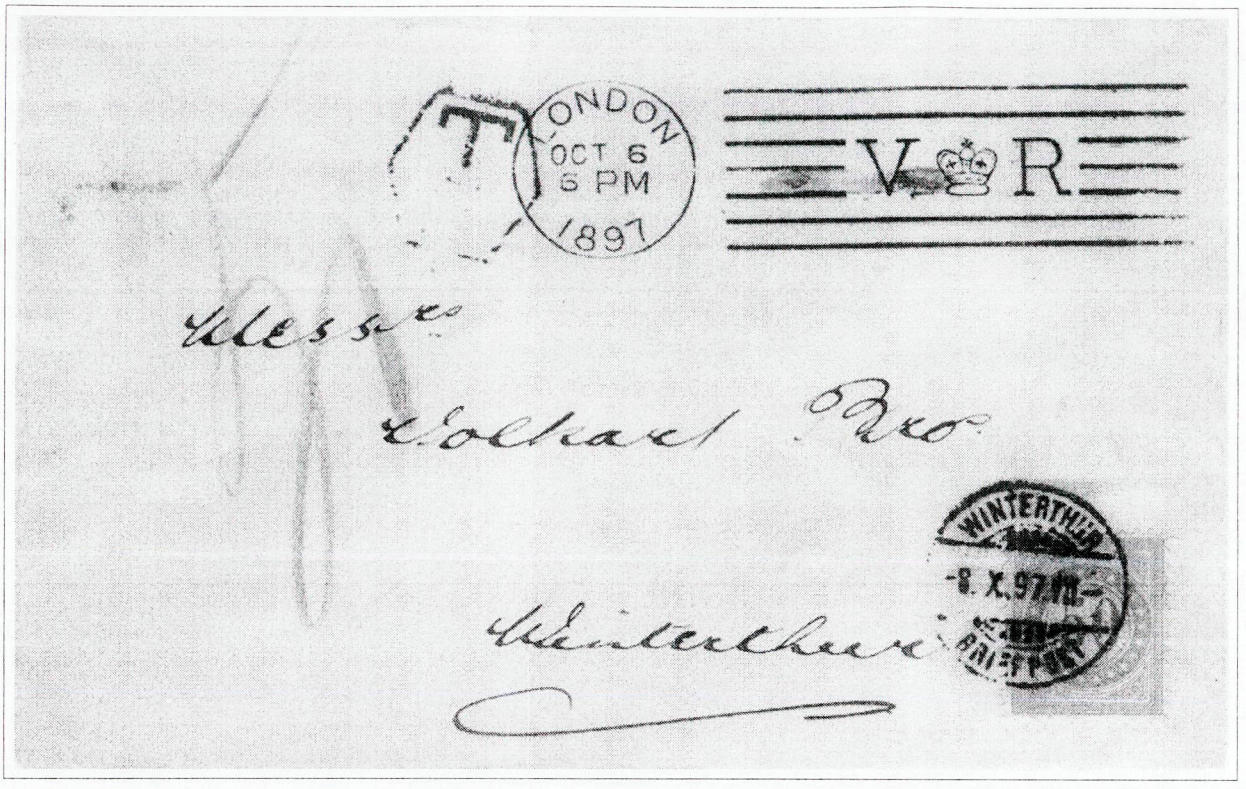


Fig. 30 : Postmark dated 6th October, 1897 on an unpaid cover to Switzerland. Taxe stamp struck in London for the 2½d postage due adhesive applied.
Only recorded example of an overseas from the Bickerdike trial period.

In September, 1897 four machines were delivered to the London Post Office with test runs using two machines for about three months. Very little mail was used. That which is available is very scarce. Recorded postmark examples are from the 5th October to the 26th November, 1897.

Empire Machine

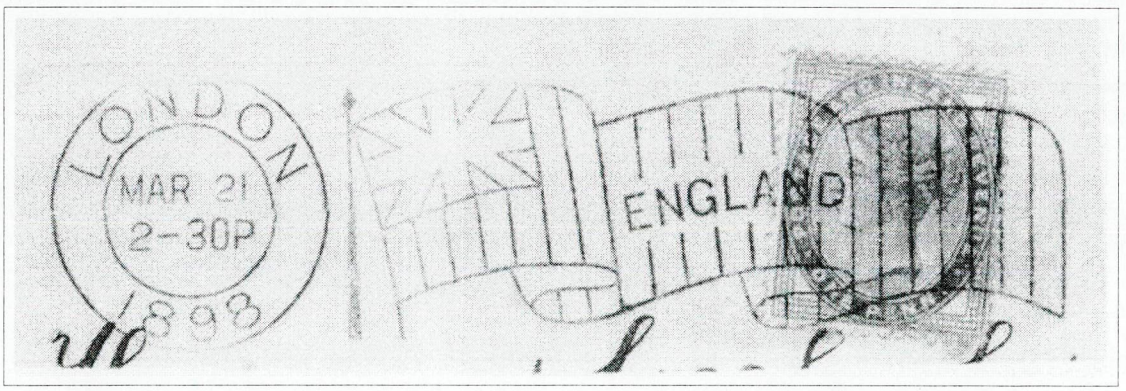


Fig. 31 : *Empire Machine* postmark 21st March, 1898. One of five recorded examples.

Mr Martin V.B. Ethridge, previously affiliated with the American Postal Machines Company which had submitted their *Ethridge Machine* for trials in 1886, approached the British Post Office in 1898 and attempted to sell them his rapid postmarking machine manufactured by his new company, Empire Cancelling Machine Company.

Trials for the machine were held on only four days, the 15th. 17th, 18th and 21st of March, 1898 for just one hour each day. Although the *Empire Machine* looked and functioned similarly to the *Bickerdike*, tested a few months earlier, its performance was inferior to the *Bickerdike* and was rejected for additional consideration by the Post Office.

Boston Machine

Soon after the *Bickerdike Machine's* first trial was completed in November, 1897 a disagreement on purchase terms for those machines arose between Post Office and the Canadian Postal Supply Company. However, shortly before those trials commenced, the American Postal Machine Company of Boston had submitted their new *Boston* machine to the Post Office for testing. This took place between the 27th August and the 30th September. 1898. The *Boston* machine was basically the same as the *Ethridge* machine but was powered by steam, whereas the *Boston* machine was electrically operated.

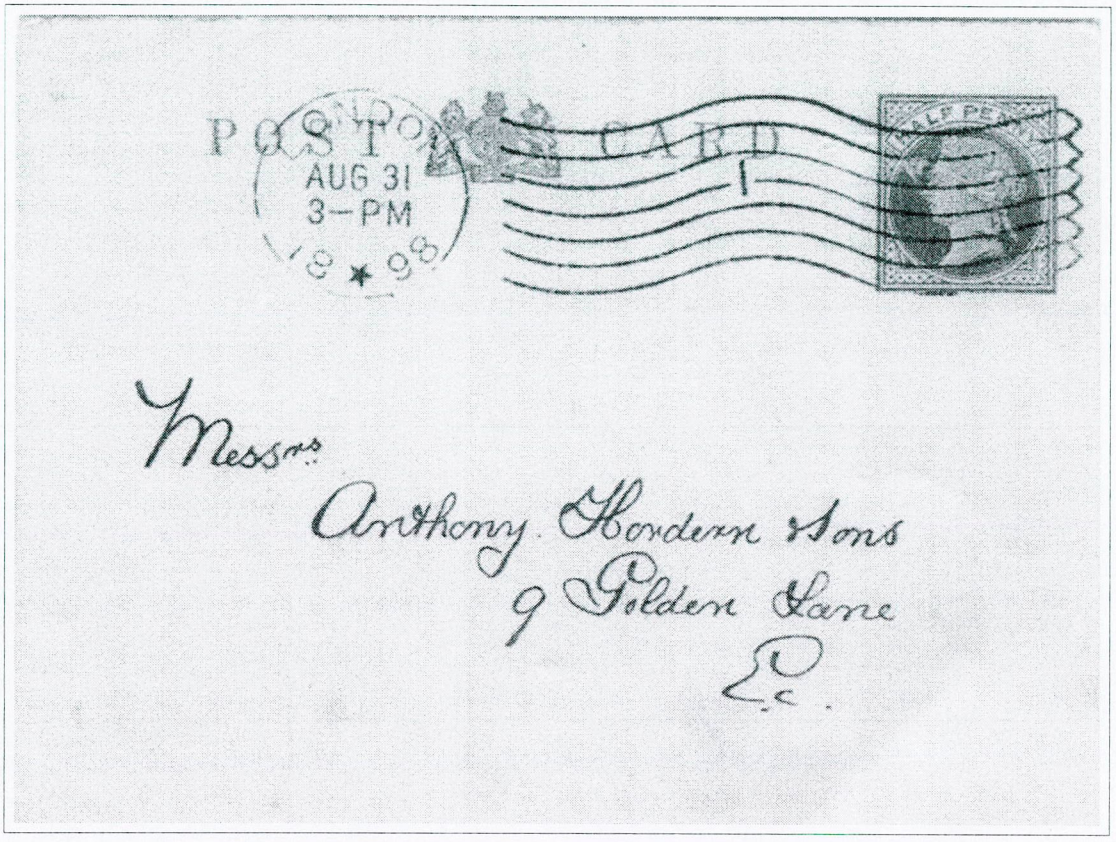


Fig. 32: *Boston* machine postmark dated 31st August, 1898 from the trial period, on a postal stationery post card.

The American Postal Machines Company of Boston offered to supply the Post Office twelve of their machines at a very favourable price and conditions. Learning of this and since the Post Office was quite satisfied with the outcome of the *Bickerdike* trials, the Canadian Postal Supply Company matched their competitor's offer, resulting in the Post Office deciding to lease six machines from each company. Those machines, now referred to as *Bickerdike* and *Boston* machines, were subsequently tried for another year and were successful.

Bickerdike and Boston Machine Field Trials

As indicated, six machines of each type were leased with testing for a year over 1899 to 1900. In 1900 the Post Office purchased all twelve machines, as well as two more from each company for trials at the Liverpool Post Office.

The postmarks of each machine tried in London and Liverpool were numbered, this number being incorporated in their respective obliterators.

Upon the death of Queen Victoria on the 22nd January, 1901 the Post Office ordered the alteration of the Bickerdike obliterators from 'VR' to 'ER', Edward now being King. This change took place mid year 1901. However, although the initials changed, the *Victoria Crown* remained in use with the initials 'ER' until it too was altered by September 1901.

The *Bickerdike* remained in field use for a number of years. The 'patriotic' postmarks from the six machines are collected in terms of their impression, by use and destination.

Subsequent to the turn of the century a number of other machines, having higher speeds as well as unique designs were tested and accepted for field use by the Post Office. However, the machines and markings described here reflect the 'classical Victorian period' for experimental postmarking machines in Britain.

Bibliography

Miller, personal research and notes from visits to the British Post Office Archives & Records Centre and the National Postal Museum (formerly at King Edward Street, London), Mount Pleasant, London.

Parmenter, London's Postal History, Section I, London Postal History Group, England 1981

Peach, UK Machine Marks, British Postmark Society, England 1982

Stitt-Dibden. Early Stamp Machines, The Postal History Society, Special Series Publication No. 17, England, 1964

Whitney, Collect British Postmarks, Seventh Edition, Chapter 10, British Postmark Society, England 1997.

Zeitlow, Die fruehen Maschinenstempel im Vereiningtren Koenigreich Grossbritanien Forschungsgemeinschaft Grossbritanien e.V , Germany,1985

LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP
Established February 1971

ISSN 0989-8701

NOTEBOOK

Supplement to Number 163 June, 2006

AN APOLOGY and CORRIGENDUM

The Editor offers his very sincere apologies to Jerry Miller for failing to obtain his approval to the many changes to the contents to the original publication by him entitled

From Hill to Bickerdike:
The Experimental and Early Machine Postmarks of England
1857 - 1901

which appeared in the April 2005 'Chronicle' of the Great Britain Collectors Club and in the September / October 2005 issue of ' The GB Journal' of the Great Britain Philatelic Society.

The title of his 7-frame exhibit is

From Hill to Bickerdike :
The Victorian-Era Experimental Machine Postmarks of England
1857 - 1901

Changes included modifications to the text, added information and the replacement of some illustrations with examples from other collectors, who were not part of the research or authors of the original article, as well as deleted illustrations, which were not acceptable to the Editors of the previous publications nor approved by the Author who holds the ultimate copyright

and for publishing, without his approval, the version which appeared in Notebook 163 of June 2006.

In retrospect I agree with Jerry Miller the best way would have been to ask the others to have their information added as a follow up to make clear who was providing which information.

EDITOR
Peter A. Forrestier Smith, 64 Gordon Road,
CARSHALTON, Surrey. SM5 3RE
E-mail : lphgat64@aol.com

Corrections
page 1:
The Great Britain Collectors Club journal tile should read 'The G.B.C.C. Chronicle'
page 2.
Fig. 2 should read Fig. 1

The Jerry Miller covers which were replaced at Figs. 5 and 16 and illustrations 33, 34 & 35 which were omitted and should have appeared under **Boston & Bickerdike Machine Field Trials** on page 19.

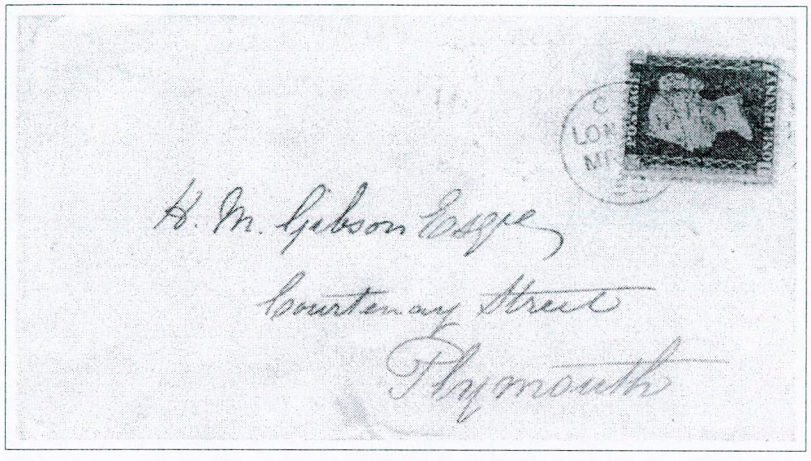


Fig. 5: Example from Hill's 'C' machine. Dated the 11th March, 1858, addressed to Plymouth having Die 'CA'.
One of four covers recorded.

Fig. 16: - Postmark from the Second Trial on postal stationery cards (one month duration , 4 January to 4 February, 1871) having a rectangular dater and an obliterator having '89' in the centre.
The rectangular dater is similar to ones used in the German trails which had commenced in 1867.

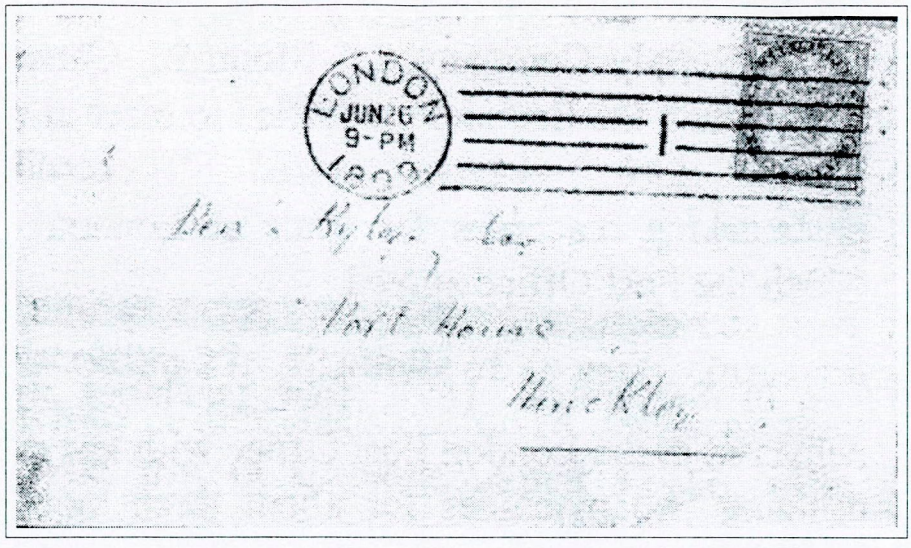


Fig. 33 - 'Boston Machine' Postmark from the second trial period of 1899 - 1900 with number in the obliterator.

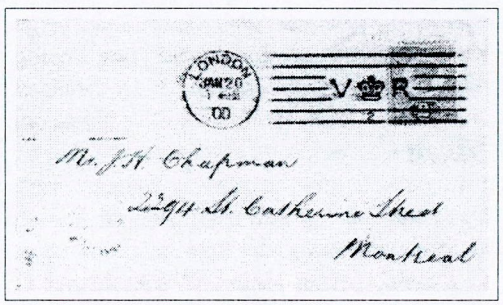


Fig. 34 : 'Bickerdike Machine'. Postmark from the second trial period of 1899 - 1900 with number in the obliterator.

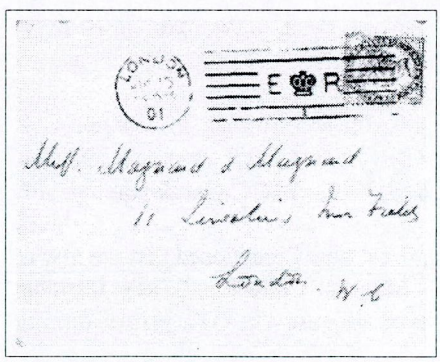
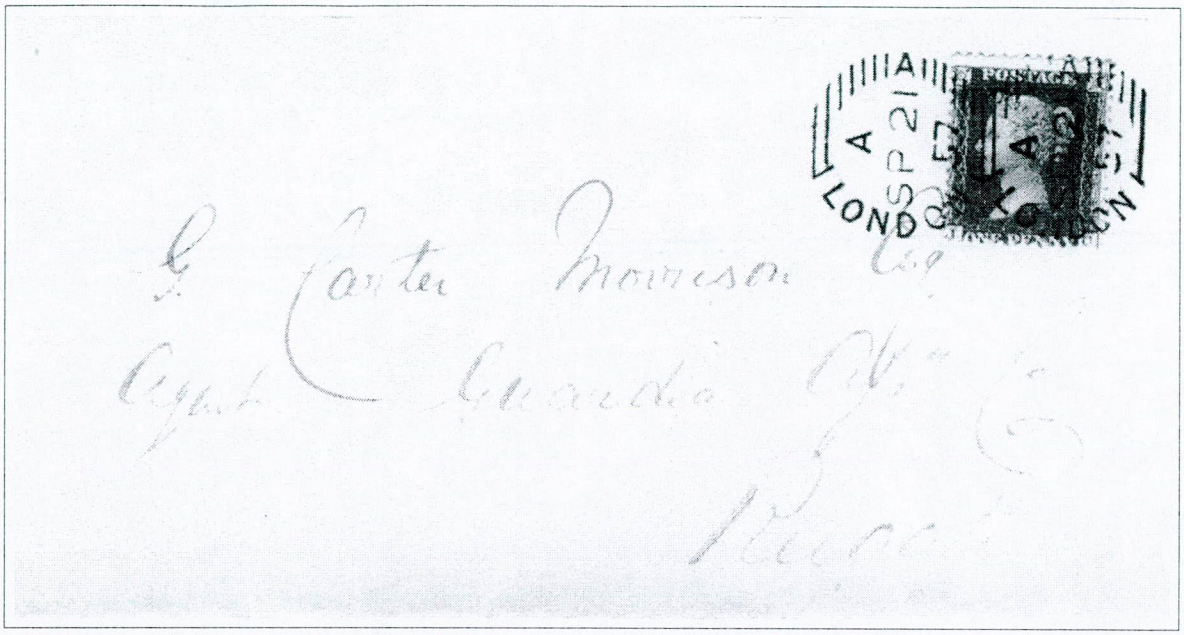


Fig. 35 : 'Bickerdike Machine'. Postmark example with 'ER' in the obliterator but with 'Victoria Crown' on a domestic cover dated 15 July 1901.

On page 161 - 2, relating to the Pearson Hill Machine, paragraph 3, a note was added "and a cover dated 21st. September exists"

A photocopy of the cover is shown here:



Correction: page 2. The table of days of recorded use, delete 4, insert 3

To be noted: page 7, Table 1 the original showed roman number I and II. Unfortunately 'Arial' typeface cannot type roman numbers, but see below..

Correction: page 8. The text with Fig. 12 last line - delete 'earliest', insert 'latest'

Correction: page 9. Hinrichsen Machine. First line should read " In 1865....."

New information Jerry Miller advises new research would have the last line reading "One of two examples recorded for this code."

To be noted: Figure 21 should read "Type XII" (using the letter L in lower case Arial solves the problem.

To be noted: This is a cover owned by Jerry Miller but not the one originally illustrated.

Correction : page 15, Ethridge machine. Delete last sentence "This was never used...."