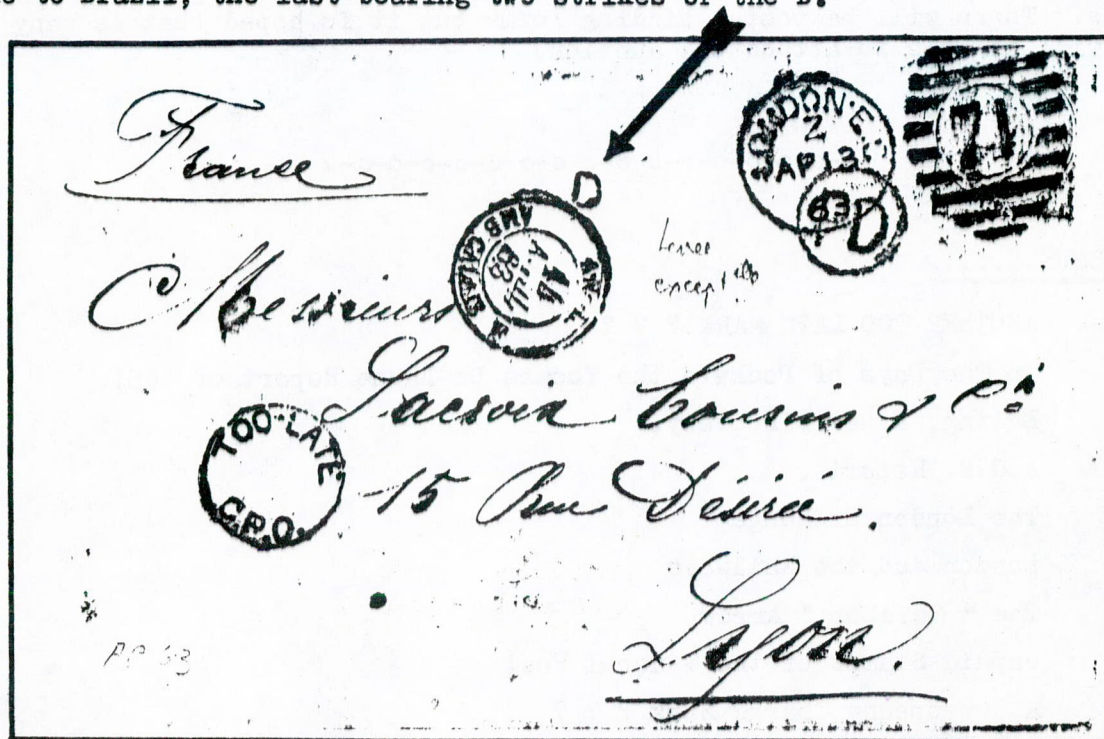


NOTEBOOK

ANOTHER TOO LATE MARK ? ?

Some little while ago Dr. Wytttenbach sent notes of a mysterious D which he had recorded on a series of eight covers. Of these, four went to France, 3 to Italy and one to Brazil, the last bearing two strikes of the D.



One feature in common to all eight is the TOO-LATE G.P.O. and Dr. Wytttenbach suggests the D is a forerunner of the L for London which Notebook has looked at from time to time. These marks were introduced in 1865 and Dr. Wytttenbach's covers date from April 1861 to September 1868. One in the Editor's collection is on a cover to Amsterdam and is dated 10.7.1860. The TOO-LATE G.P.O. is also present.

A quick check through the P.I.B. in P.O. Records shows two examples, but since the volume in question is a hotch-potch of undated cut outs there is no date of issue or reason for issue stated. However, many entries in this volume are to be found elsewhere with more detail and this may prove to be the case again.

Meanwhile readers are invited to forward full details of examples they may have.

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AUCTION.....the meeting on the 9th August is the annual auction. The catalogue will be issued early July which means that lots should be sent to the Auctioneer at the earliest possible opportunity.

With rising costs both in printing and postage it will be necessary to ask that

Auction, continued

contributors ensure they observe the modest requirements noted below:

1. The minimum value of each lot shall be 50 pence (value = reserve)
2. Each lot shall be described concisely.
3. Each lot shall have a reserve given by the contributor; failure to do this will result in the lot being offered at the minimum reserve.
4. The material and description to be sent to the Hon. Auctioneer, Derrick Muggleton, 21 The Tannery, BUNTINGFORD, Herts as soon as possible and not later than 10th. June.

The general rules covering the operation of the auction will be given with the catalogues. There will be postal bidding forms but it is hoped that as many as possible will be able to attend the auction.

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POSTAL HISTORY IS THE STUDY OF THE OPERATION OF POSTAL SERVICES, BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE FRUITS OF SUCH STUDY.
--

In 1681, Thomas De-Laune wrote his " Present State of London " and it included a chapter on the activities of Dockwra and the official post office. It has appeared before in various philatelic magazines, but for many, especially the newcomers or those who missed the item, it serves as a useful starting point for London postal history. Should anyone suppose 1680 is the earliest dating, we must add it is not, there being Mr. Bishop and his mark; that is another story.

Of the Penny-Post

This Ingenious Undertaking being so extraordinary useful in the facilitating of Commerce and mutual Correspondence, and consequently very serviceable to Traders, &c. shall be briefly handled; and, I hope, that what proceeds from me, who am no interested Person, will be resented Candidly, and Examined, as to the Argumentative part, according to the Solidity and Strength of the Reasons produced.

I have heard this Undertaking disparaged by some Censorious Persons, and having examined the Reasons, with the quality of the Objectors, and have found it all along apposed by none but the Ignorant, or such as preferred some particular Ends, before Publick Utility. To my knowledge I never saw nor corresponded directly not indirectly with any of the Undertakers, till being very desious to insert this Affair of the Penny-post in this Book for Publick Information, I made an Address to one of the Gentlemen concern'd, who Courteously supply'd me with some particular Informations which I wanted, and for which I am beholding to him. This I speak, to satisfie the Objectors that I do voluntarily, and not by any inducement of theirs mention this Affair, which in my opinion, is so far from being a prejudice, that the City, as well as the whole Nation, is beholding to them for their Ingenious Contrivance, and their Constancy and Generosity in minding the Publick Good do much as they have done; for 'tis certain that they have been at very great Expence to hold it up, under the Discouragements that some Persons have thrown upon them, and the necessary Charge to Support it is yet very considerable. But to be more particular:

1. I will give some Hints of what this Undertaking is in Point of Practice.
2. Its general and particular Usefulness.
3. I will consider an Objection or two.

1. What I can say of this Undertaking in Point of Practice, is briefly what follows, only I would premise a few words as my opinion, and the opinion of impartial Persons of my acquaintance, as to the thing in general.

This useful Invention is little more than a year old, being begun in April 1680. The chief Undertaker that introduc'd it into Practice, is one Mr. William Dockwra Merchant, a Native and Citizen of London, formerly one of His Majesties Sub-Searchers in the Custom-House of London, as in the List of those Officers appears. A Person, whose approved Reputation for Industry and Fidelity was well known to all for above ten years in that Office: And to whom the Publick is obliged, he having, with his Partners, spent much time and a great Sum of money, to bring this Undertaking on foot, wherein they encounter'd with no small Difficulties, not only by Affronts and Indignities from the Vulgar sort, who seldom weigh any Publick or Generous Designs, but at the Beam of Little, Selfish, By-Ends, but also by more dangerous Attaques; for there have been Attempts made, by some Persons, to persuade his Royal Higness the Duke of York, that it intrench'd upon the General Post-Office, and damnifi'd it; whereupon many Actions were brought, and a chargeable Suit of Law follow'd: But, questionless, the Duke is better inform'd now; for it is most certain, that this does much further the Revenue of the Grand Post - Office, and is an universal Benefit to all the Inhabitants of these Parts: so that whoever goes about to deprive the City of so useful a thing, deserves no thanks

In the Days of Dockwra, continued

from the Duke, nor any Body else, but to be Noted as an Enemy to Publick and Ingenious Inventions.

It is with all Humanity submitted to the Confederation of all worthy Citizens that happen to peruse this small Tract, that it becomes not the Honour of the City to suffer any of its Ingenious Natives, especially Persons who have lived and do live in good Fashion and Repute, to sink under the carrying on of an Undertaking so advantageous not only to the Publick, but also to private Persons, since their industrious Service to their Generation deserves encouragements from their Fellow-Citizens, and all others, viz.

1. To discountenance petty Persons that would, for the profit of running of Errands, rob the Community (if they could) of this more than ordinary convenience for safe, cheap and necessary Dispatches.
2. To reject any INTRUDER that may attempt to set up another Penny-Post; because if the thing be hereafter profitable, all the Reason and Equity in the world will plead for the Inventors, viz. that they ought to reap the Benefit. And it is a Note of Consideration, That Mr. Dockwra has a numerous Family of eight young Children; who being forsaken by some others soon after it began, and left to shift for himself, carried on this Undertaking singly, for above half a year at his own proper charge and hazard, against all the Difficulties, Oppositions and Discouragements that attended it, though now he hath several Citizens in partnership with him. But I am truly informed, that the Income does not yet amount to three fourths of the necessary Charge to support it; therefore I am persuaded that this honourable City will employ the Inventors, rather than an Invader, if ever any such should be; And that 'tis much below such a Prince as his Royal Highness is, to desire the Ruine of such a Family.

I am the more large upon this Particular, because it would be a general Discouragement to the Contrivers of useful and profitable Inventions, if others should be encouraged to reap the Crop of what they with so much charge and labor have sown.

This Penny-Post is thus managed.

The Principal Office to which all Accompts, &c are daily transmitted, is in Lyme-street, at the Dwelling-house of the said Mr. Dockwra, formerly the Mansion-house of Sir Robert Abdy Knt.

There are seven Sorting-houses, proper to the seven Precincts, into which the Undertakers have divided London, Westminster and the Suburbs, situated at equal distances, for the better maintenance of mutual Correspondence.

There are about 4 or 500 Receiving-houses to take in Letters, where the Messengers call every hour, and convey them as directed; as also Post-Letter the writing of which are much increased by this Accommodation, being carefully convey'd by them to the General Post-Office in Lombard-street.

There are a great Number of Clerks and poor Citizens daily employed, as Messengers, to Collect, Sort Enter, Stamp and Deliver all Letters, every Person entertained giving Fifty pounds security, by Bond, for his Fidelity; and it is to be subject to the Rules and Orders, from time to time, given by the Undertakers, who oblige themselves to make good any thing deliver'd to their Messengers under the value of Ten Pounds, if Sealed up, and the Contents Endorsed; And these Messengers have their Wages duly paid them every Saturday night.

By these are convey'd Letters and Parcels, not exceeding One Pound Weight, nor Ten Pounds in Value, to and from all Parts at seasonable times, viz. of the Cities of London and Westminster, Southwark, Redriff, Wapping, Ratcliff, Lyme-house,

In the Days of Dockwra, continued

Stepney, Poplar, and Blackwell, and all other places within the weekly Bills of Mortality*, as also to the four Towns of Hackney, Islington, South-Newington-Butts and Lambeth, but to no other Towns, and the Letters to be left only at the Receiving-houses of those four Towns, for the said four Towns; but if brought home to their Houses, a Penny more in those Towns; nor any Letter to be deliver'd to them in the Street, but at the Receiving-houses.

They now do use Stamps to mark the hour of the Day on all Letters when sent out from their Office to be deliver'd, by which all Persons are to expect their Letters within one hour, (little more or less, from the time marked thereon, excepting such Letters as are to be convey'd to the Out-Towns, and Remotest parts, which will be longer) by which the cause of delay of Letters may be easily discern'd, viz. whether it be really in the Office, or their own Servants, (or others) with whom Letters are left.

The Marks they make use of for this purpose, are these:



Of which the First, signifies Eight in the Morning, the Last, Four in the Afternoon, and the Middlemost, is the Letter of the chief Office in Lyme-street, each Office having its proper Letter, and an Acknowledgment that the Penny-Post is paid, to prevent the giving of anything at the Delivery.

All persons are desired not to leave any Town-Letters after Six of the Clock in the Winter, and Seven in the Summer on Saturday Nights, because the many poor Men employ'd, may have a little time to provide for their Families against the Lords-day, having no leisure all the week besides.

Upon three days at Christmas, two days in Easter and Whitsontide, and upon the 30 of January, the Penny-Post does not go.

To the most Remote places Letters go four or five times of the day, to other places six or eight times of the day. To Inns of Court, and places of business in Town, especially in Term or Parliament-time, 10 or 12 times of the day. For better information of People where the Receiving-houses are, there are great Numbers of Printed Tickets dispersed from time to time amongst the Neighborhood, and Advertisements in the Publick intelligences, which all concern'd may take Notice of, so that any body may be by the Neighborhood immediately inform'd where a Receiving-house is. Carriers and Stage-Coach Letters are to have Two-pence inclosed to each Carrier or Coachman, because they often reject them for want of money; Hundred of such being return'd, which any Inquirer may have again upon notice, for they lie Alphabetically disposed of in the chief Office for that end.

On all Post-Nights due Care is taken to call for, and convey to the General Post-house in Lombard-street all Post-Letters, whether Foreign or Inland, left in any of the Penny-Post Receiving-houses, at or before Nine of the clock at Night. And I could, wish for Encouragement of the Undertakers, that all Persons would so far contribute to the continuance of this useful Design, as to send their Post-Letters by this Conveyance to the Post-Office in Lombard-street, which they do not Convey by themselves, or Servants.

* Districts within London in which weekly statements of deaths were published. The custom became general following a plague in 1592. Bills of Mortality continued to be published until 1836 when they were superseded by the returns of the Registrar-General under the Births and Deaths Registration Act.

In the Days of Dockwra, continued

If any post-letters be left without Money that should pay before-hand, they will be Returned to the Office, therefore such as send Money, are to indorse the Postage-money upon their Letters.

Such as inclose Money in Town-Letters, are to Indorse the true Sum on the Outside, and to tie fast and seal up, under a plain Impression, all Parcels, which may be one way to prevent Disputes, in case any thing be lost. The Undertakers will not answer for any Contents unseen, unless sealed fast, and the Value Indorsed plain to be Read.

Some brief Hints of the Usefulness of
this Office.

In an near this great and famous Emporium, is the usual Residence of our Kings, the High Court of Parliament, the fixed Seats of all the Courts of Judicature, and in it is managed a vast Trade, as was shew'd in the Chapter that Treats of it; now a cheap, frequent and safe way of Correspondence, is very advantageious for all that are concerned in Commerce, or Business.

The principal Trade of London depends upon Navigation, and therefore the City and Suburbs are situate along the River of Thames, extending in length, as was shew'd pag.5. from Lyme-house, to the end of Tuttle-street 7500 Geometrical Paces, that is seven Miles and an half; and from the end of Blackman-street, to the end of St. Leonard Shoreditch, 2500 Paces in Breadth, that is two Miles; and the whole Circumference (as by Demonstration can be made apparent) is above 20 Miles, taking in all the Contiguous Suburbs and Westminster, so that it is the longest, if not the greatest and most populous City in Christendom. This extraordinary Length, though it adds to its Splendour and Beauty, yet it renders speedy Communication and Intercourse in Business very uneasie, and much more troublesome, than in such great Cities as Paris, which is almost of an orbicular Form. Nown to keep up a necessary Correspondence, the way formerly used, was to hire Porters at Excessive Rates to go on Errands, and to send Servants or Apprentices who, in the mean while lost that time that should be spent to learn their Trades, and benefit their Masters, and would often loyter, and get vicious habits and evil company, &c. (when they need not) to their own and Masters hurt; or else such as could not spare the Porter so much money, nor kept Servants, (as some poor Artificers and Labourers) have been forced to sweat and toil, and leave their work, for, it may be, half the day, to do that which now they may perform at the easie rate of a Penny.

But now all these Inconveniences are remedied by the Penny-Post with great Safety and Celerity, for which the Contrivers really deserve the Thanks of all who reap benefit by it; and I may be bold to say, that all the Inhabitants in general, and their Fellow-Citizens in particular, are already very sensible of the great Convenience thereof; For, among the innumerable Benefits of this Penny-Post, which, for brevity we omit, Friends may converse with Friends, at any distance; Merchants, Shop-keepers and Tradesmen with their Customers, or such as deal with them; Clients may consult with Lawyers; Patients with Doctors; Poor Prisoners with Creditors, or Benefactors; and all Bills dispersed for Publication of any Concern; all Summons or Tickets conveyed; all Entries of Brewers to the Excise-Office; and many more, for One Penny.

The Objections I have heard of, are

1. From some sort of Porters, viz, that it hinders their Livelihood.

Ans. (1) 'Tis certain that this is a mistake, for their Livelihood never depended upon going on Errands, their Business being other laborious work, and carrying of Burdens, &c. But some of the Free-Porters are now in the service of the Undertaking.

(2) Most Business dispatcht by this Undertaking, was formerly either not done at all, or performed by other hands, to save Charges, (Porters Rates being so dear) and Persons themselves, or their Servants, went on their own errands.

(3) If the Porters who are an inconsiderable Number, in respect of the whole Inhabitants of this great City, should suffer some small loss of Petty Employ by it, yet vast Numbers of poor People, and others, are exceedingly eased and benefited thereby, which deserve as much, or more pity, than Porters: And a general and useful Undertaking, should not in Equity or Prudence be discountenanced, for the peculiar advantage of some few, any more than all the Pipes or Water-Conduits of the City should be destroyed, merely for the Accommodation of Tankard-Bearers; Printing suppressed, to accomdate Writing Clerks; Guns, for Fletchers; Navigable Rivers for Carriers; and the Trade of Jack-Smiths, for Turn-spits,&c. Nor have Porters Authority to monopolize to themselves the Delivery of Letters, it being by Law free for any Person to use what Conveyance they think good for their Letters, within or without the Freedom. And Coach-men, Car-men, Watermen, &c. may as well be put out of their Callings, as the Undertakers disturb'd in this Concern, because then the Porters may have more Burdens to carry, Neither is any prohibited or restrained by this Undertaking, but they may still employ a Porter if they please, so that this Objection is causeless, and is level'd against the whole Body of Inhabitants, as well as the Undertakers in particular.

2. Others alledge, That their Letters are not speedily answered and therefore say they miscarry.

Answ. That may be, because the Party is not at home, and his Servants do not produce his letter as he ought, though punctually left by the Penny-Post Messenger, (this I have very often known to be my own Case and some of my Friends) Or the Party may not be at leisure, or not willing to write, or removed, or would pretend he received it not, when Dun'd for money, which he cannot, or will not pay. And indeed I am also inform'd, that abundance of Letters are so ill superscribed, or uncertainly directed, when frequently the particular Trade of the Party, the Sign, or what Noted Place is near, are omitted, that it is impossible to deliver such, which is the fault of the Senders, and not of the Office.

To conclude this Subject. The Reader may expect hereafter a small Tract by it self, Printed for the Undertakers of the Penny-Post. What I have here inserted being briefly Remarkt, as my own Notions, concerning so laudable a Design, by way of Specimen, and as a thing suitable to my present Work.

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EALING, A NEW DISCOVERY

Derek Holliday has reported a new and exciting find which we illustrate on the right.

Within a double ring (24mm x 15mm) is ELM GROVE above and EALING BELOW. A small* is placed between. The date of this example is 18 FEB 56.

On the reverse is an Ealing in serif lower case lettering, struck in green. The London date stamp is a single ring GU/FE-18/1856, black, and a Birmingham double arc FE 19 1856 A, green. The 18 Inland Branch diamond cancels the adhesive.

Information as to other examples please.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1975

With the usual informality of these affairs, aided and abetted by the early arrival of our guest speaker, the A.G.M. went at a very crisp pace. The Chairman's Report, given below, and the Treasurer's Report, already circulated, were approved. Other matters agreed upon were:

1. The annual subscription would remain at £2 for 1975, though should printing and postage costs continue to increase at the rate seen in 1974, there would have to be an increase in 1976.
2. ' Notebook ' to continue in offset litho, also other publications for sale. Notices, auction catalogues and working papers to be stencil produced.
3. A suggestion for the Group to buy Postal History for resale to members was not accepted.
4. Expenditure up to £25 on publications for the Group library were authorised; in connection with this, the Secretary would investigate the possibility of establishing a Group postmark record from films available at P.O. Records, this to be part of the £25.
5. A brief printed, on card, programme for 1976 season to be produced.
6. Members bourse from 2 to 2.45 p.m. at the start of each meeting, it being up to those attending to bring material for sale or exchange.
7. Members to be invited to join a speakers panel for displays to other societies throughout the U.K.
8. The 1976 programme to include:

Registered Mails

South and South East District

London Penny Post 1680 to 1801

The Branch Offices

Auction

The Military in London; a joint meeting with the Forces Postal History Soc.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 1974/5

1. I do not intend to spend a deal of time today, especially as we have a guest speaker, Mr. Mackenzie Smith, who will be showing London Railway material.
2. We have in the past year, on the credit side, increased membership and an almost embarrassing success with John Parmenter's ' London Ovals '. Apart from a few copies kept for overseas members, the ' sold ' sign went up this morning with a copy sent to Guyana.

The meetings have seen some first class material displayed and this alone has repaid the effort of coming into London. Contributions to ' Notebook ' have allowed a reasonable run to be produced in 1974.

3. On the debit side I am far from happy about the numbers able to get to the meetings; despite the favorable comparisons one can make with other postal history organisations. I fear my reporting of meetings due rather to lack of expertise than content has not done justice; this will, I trust improve

Chairman's Report, continued

with time. The contents of ' Notebook ' have, I believe, been generally of interest, but it operates on something of a shoestring for articles. This may be helped by better Editorial access to London records following a change of employment.

4. Organisation of meetings - as my school teachers were apt to comment, " room for improvement ".
5. It is usual to make polite noises about help received during the year and I do not intend to indulge myself. My appreciation is sincere and well merited by the efforts of everyone to make this Group fulfil its function of researching and reporting London Postal History.
6. What of our fifth year? Programme we discuss shortly. I hope to see ' Notebook ' articles coming in a little faster and more members getting to meetings. At least two further publications in our catalogue series and that I enjoy Postal History in 1975/6 at least as much as the previous twelve months, this echoed no doubt by all members.

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THE LONDON EXCHANGE

FOR EXCHANGE....circular undated 131 KING'S-ROAD S.W. almost *** on envelope dated MR 30 1859; NOTTINGHILL HALL-TERR ** on envelope dated DE 8 59; CHANCERY LANE single arc on envelope dated MR 5 58; WESTERN-CENTRAL-D.O.- undated missort on envelope dated 24 MR 58..... looking for similar items E.C. district; offers please to Peter A. Forrestier Smith.

WANTED.... South London (i.e. Southwark, Walworth, Camberwell, Bermondsey etc) Covers and marks prior to 1900 (or thereabouts). Will swap for your wants wither PH or adhesives, G.B. or other countries, or pay with UK cheque.....
C.H.W. Lilley, P.O. Box 3137, Fitzroy, New Plymouth, New Zealand.

FOR EXCHANGE..for German material, on or off cover, London Penny/Twoopenny Post or covers with London E.C. or W.C. cancellation. Will pay with UK cheque if preferred.....
E. Shaw, 2082 Uetersen/Holst.,Hafenstrasse 8, West Germany.

WANTED..... London District Post barred oval No. 26 (Beckenham) to buy or exchange other numbers. Also Twopenny Post items from Beckenham, Bromley, Chislehurst and West Wickham.....
R.N. Haffner, 91 Hazelwood Road, Oxted, Surrey.

ON LOAN....."THE POST OFFICE etc 1857 "; streets, districts,maps..invaluable.
" The Instructions for the Guidance of Letter Receivers in the UK 1846 "....both packed with information for the student and available from.....
M.R. Hewlett, The Hermitage, Village of Box, Chippenham,Wilts.SN149DT

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LONDON AND THE RAILWAYS

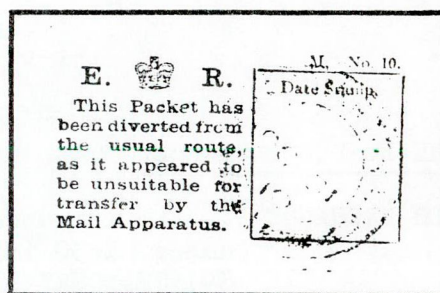
Following the A.G.M., C. Mackenzie Smith produced what he all too modestly described as a small selection of material which had ' London connections '; for one who has but a handful of such material the awful (in the true sense) problem of selecting one or two for comment is quite alarming.

There were delightful examples of the E/NR and M/NR in circle, as issued to the Inland Office, also the small rectangular I.O. with initials, e.g. L & C/S C.

The NW/RPO/M in circle appeared on a sailor's letter signed as from H.M.S. Albatros (J. McLachlan) China Station. Concessionary rate mail with the adhesives duly cancelled with the stamp in red. It appeared, to the writer, to be Ward's E35, described by him as being authorised in 1859 and known as late as May 1885.

A superb example of the B34 numeral cancellation dated June 1861 complete with a Euston Station Irish Mail back stamp; London Canadian cancel on adhesive; Liverpool and London TPO Squared Circle and the FRAMED SEST (Sunday Sorting Tender). In order to speed the mails they were at first put on TPOs going AWAY from London, sorted on their way, and then sent back to London. Crazy though this might appear, it greatly relieved the pressure on the London Offices and in fact accelerated the mails.

One which the novice could easily miss; a script stamp reading Blackwall RV in black; this was applied to mail handed to the train Mail Guard. It could easily be misread for a straight line receiving mark - so check your collection.



Others present followed with items from their own collections and from these, one type in particular. What appears to be a conventional oval REGISTERED mark but with small letters F.D.M. or F.N.M. under Registered. They stand for French Day Mail and French Night Mail and again could be missed.

Michael Goodman kindly lent the item illustrated above. One such but bearing a T.P.O. mark was included in the Mackenzie Smith display, which was rather nice.

This all too brief report cannot do justice to a fascinating ' small selection ' and it regretted that not more managed to get to the meeting.

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THE " SCRUBBS " ARROW

Notebook 13, page 16, illustrated a card from Grenada to Crouch End London N. Dated DE 29 04 on despatch it carried a FB charge mark and an arrow. No further information came to hand until another was recently bought. Again it carried the FB charge mark, hollow T, a Cricklewood SO NW 11.45 AM/26SP/07/2 cds and the arrow.



This would seem to confirm it as a London mark since the second card originated in Europe.

Thus far it has not been traced in the Proof Impression Books in the Records Office.

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UNPAID STAMPS OF THE GENERAL POST

This group of stamps is to be the subject matter for a meeting at the end of the year. It is proposed to issue a guide working paper to allow everyone to send details of - or bring along - items from their own collections.

There is, however, one section of these stamps which is of particular interest and which Alcock & Holland are currently collecting data about. Since any information they obtain will be of interest to Group members, there will be what politicians call a "full and frank exchange", no doubt to mutual benefit.

Fortunately the Proof Impression Books contain a number of these stamps and the dates of issue are included below. The illustrations are taken from the 1940 edition of the Alcock and Holland publication on British postmarks, with thanks.



A & H fig. 50

Issued 17 Jan 1844 (PIB vol.7, p.18)

Recorded 1844 to 1857

Color: Red and black



A & H fig. 2224

Issued ??

Recorded 6 Sep 1842

Color: Black

Lettering: serif



A & H fig. 47

Issued 11 Nov. 1845 (PIB vol.7.,p.188) Codes A to Y, less Q.

Recorded 1846 - 1858

Color: Red, red/brown, orange



A & H fig.48

Issued 11 Nov.1845 (PIB vol.7.,p.189) codes A & B only.

Recorded 1846 - 1858

Color: Black

Use: evening duty on unpaid letters or large letters needing special treatment.



A & H fig. 51

Issued 22 Apr. 1847 (PIB vol.9.,p.31) noted as for
'official letters '

Recorded: from 1848

Color: Red and black



A & H fig.49

Issued 24 Feb.1851 (PIB vol.10,p.281)codes from C (7 issued)

Recorded from 1851 to 1858

Color: Red, with one in black in 1854

Unpaid Stamps of the General Post, continuedA & H fig. 47 further issue

Issued: 21. July 1851, though the impression is dated 2 MR 1851 code V. Issued with a PAID stamp. Not clear how many of each type; mention of 22 sets of additional type + box for the type. A to V less Q is 22.
(PIB vol.10,p.282)

A & H fig.51 has a sub type with ' I ' in place of the cross. Not yet noted in the PIB (Proof Impression Books).

In No.4 issue of the A & H " Discoveries and New Information ", they note an example sent to the Solicitor of H.M. Customs dated August 1857. Another dated 1856 franked by three 2d plate 5 adhesives, addressed to Sir John Login, Roehampton, bearing the signature " Breadalbane " on the front and two strikes of the ' I ' code type. The seal of the Lord Chamberlain's Office appears on the envelope flap. A further item, apparently from Mexico though not put into the post till it reached London, has a m/s "2" charge mark with a May 1852 date of A & H 51 in black. There is also note of a September ' OHMS ' cover from the Colonial Land and Emigration Office in London.

In the original publication and the supplements there is note of the ' Library House of Commons ' seal and one was recently purchased. The envelope, with rare luck, still contained the letter.

The 1d red is cancelled with a poor Inland Office diamond, number unclear. It is addressed to a Richard Almack Esq., Long Melford, Suffolk, and the reverse bear the Sudbury double arc date stamp of MR 2 1850 A, in blue. It has also A & H 51 in black for March 1st., and a good LIBRARY HOUSE OF COMMONS seal. The letter, dated March 1st 1850 is from an Alfred Hervey M.P. making politically careful noises about supporting a Bill proposed by a Mr. Fitzroy to extend the jurisdiction of the County Courts.

This supports the theory of Parliamentary connections.

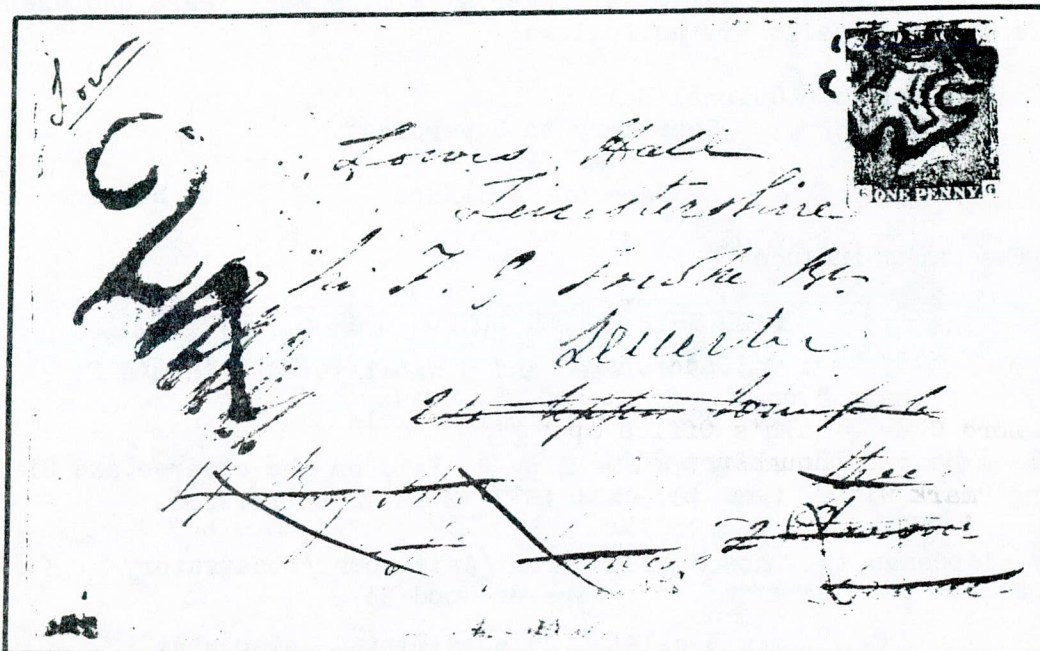
STOP PRESS: AH 2224 ...After the article had been drafted for printing, PIB Vol 4, page 37 yielded a much earlier issue dated 31st August 1840. Alongside is a very similar stamp, but E in place of the crown. Both have serif numbers and lettering.

Page 106 of ' England's Postal History ' by Martin Willcocks states.." A series of backstamps that is well known, but has not previously been connected with Parliamentary mail, is recognisable by having only a crown above the date...From late 1841 to January 1844 the two letters of the month have serifs, but from 1844 to 1858 the month becomes sanserif. From 1847 to 1855 another stamp in the same series has + below the year and from 1855 to 1858 this was changed to I. All are known in black or red, and occur on mail from the Houses of Parliament and to government offices..."

From what has so recently been published it is clear that there is considerable scope for further research into the issue and use of backstamps. That the significance of AH 51 was apparently appreciated by so few for so long is proof that there yet remains a great deal to be explained, and even more important, getting the explanation across to collectors everywhere so that they to may enjoy the pleasure of a ' find '.

A SEVENPENNY CHARGE MARK ???

Most readers will be aware of the fabled FRED and CHARLIE in postal history. For those not acquainted with the delightful story, the brief version is that a FRED is the result of an overworked postal clerk making a simple mistake and a CHARLIE the postal history 'expert' who builds a quite fantastic castle of postal history from the result of FRED's activities.



Whether the item illustrated falls into the category of a FRED and the writer a CHARLIE is left for readers to decide. There will be a straight forward report on facts and the theories will be left to others, though none the less welcome for all that.

The letter was addressed to 24 Upper 'squiggle' Street, which must have given something of a headache to the sorting office in the first place. In any event, the addressee was not there, where-ever it was ; then re-addressed to 17 Bury St., St. James.

According to the endorsement 'Not known at the Second Address in Bury St. St. Jame's H Farmer' and the third 'Not known at the third address in Hanover Square P. Feltham H. Burnie (?)' the Post Office could not be charged with failing to make every effort. The fourth attempt seems to have met with success since the Leicestershire address at the top of the envelope carried neither deletion nor endorsing references.

What is odd about the whole thing, apart from charging twopence for three re-directions, is what appears to be a mis-shapen seven charge mark, deleted and the two mark substituted.

There are seven backstamps running from 9th to 16th August (9;10;11;14;16 plus two unclear) with a further single ring sans-serif black stamp H/16 AU 16 /1841.

For those who know about these matters is the question, was there a seven charge mark and if not, what is the curious device ?

THE TWOPENNY POST SHIP LETTER

Francis Granville, who we are pleased to learn is recovering from several months of illness, writes to record two more examples of the TP/S mark first reported in Notebook No.20 and followed up in No.21.

He writes....." I purchased a similar cover at R.L.'s many years ago when two were on offer. The details are as follows:

My copy addressed to Colonel Bell
 Secretary to Government
 &c &c
 Cape of Good Hope On Service, at top
 left

The marks include:

PAID SHIP LETTER LONDON 6 MR 6 1837
 m/s 3 deleted and 5 substituted with m/s P
 RL 289 G.P PAID in circle
 Woolwich SO/ 2 py P. Paid on the obverse and RL 278
 (RMW 197) MR4 1837 12 nm 12 on reverse.

Second copy addressed to Thos Maclean Croft/Astronomer/Observatory
 Cape of Good Hope

m/s 3 deleted, 5 substituted, also what
 looks like a 4

Greenwich/2py.P.Paid

RMW 197 NO 1 1836 7 Nt 7 on reverse

Smith Elder forwarding cachet Numbered 790

The description for the first item reads...." An 1837 item from Woolwich to the Cape also shows an example of the mysterious "TP/S" in red,***, unchronicled in the G.P.O. Records Room, London, which might possibly be " Twopenny Post, Southwark " in abbreviated form or the " S " may stand for " Ship " (but definitely not for " Sundays " - see Postal History Society's Bulletin No.45 of Sept. 1948, page 82)."

The evidence now points towards it being "S" for "SHIP", which since the item handled by Gibbons is now in the Editorial collection has been hastily moved into Maritime from Twopenny Post.

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

JOHN DICKINSON AND HIS SILK-THREAD PAPER.....

As one of the bye-ways of postal history, the production of the envelopes must surely form a vital part of the story. H. Dagnall has written and published a neat monograph which should delight all those who enjoy exploring the history of postal affairs, despite some exhibition rulings on the subject.

Without getting involved in that particular digression, readers are assured of a good buy at £1.90, which as a bonus has an exmple of John Dickinson's work inside the back cover. The Editor's purchase included a neat undated Sonning on the obverse, which, as they say, ' can't be bad '.

Harris Publications at 41 Maiden Lane, Strand have (or had) stocks, which are well worth looking through any time you are in that part of the world.

THE L OF LONDON, contributed by Derek Holliday

Readers are referred to Notebook No.12, page 6

These stamps were issued to most of the main District Offices and a number appear in volume 33 of the Proof Impression Books in P.O. Records.

Dubus type 4	Inland Branch	25.11.1875
	St.Martins Pl.	23. 5.1876
	Charing Cross W.C.	26. 4.1876
	S.E.D.O.	26. 4.1876
	E.D.O.	26. 4.1876
Dubus type 5	Inland Branch	25.11.1875
	Inland Branch	13. 1.1876 (thicker)
Dubus type 5 bis	E.D.O.	31. 3.1873
Dubus type 6	W.D.O.	16. 9.1872
	W.C.D.O.	9. 5.1876

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

ANY ANSWERS? ? ?

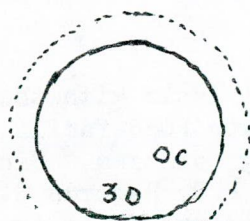
The three items shown below have been sent in by a reader in the hope that another might be able to supply some information.



found on the Waterlow £1 value.
heavy Q in the London cds.

29 SEP 1917
CANCE

on all D.L.R. values.
'Cancelled' in purple in heavy sans-serif
Separate (?) rubber date stamp



three examples of this.
all are just as poor as the illustration.
appearing on the later Bradburys
32mm dotted outer ring

Mr. F.A.S. Page of ' White House ', Bosbery, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1PZ
would be very interested to hear from anyone with any sort of an answer.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

EIGHTH REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ON THE POST OFFICE (1861)

Inland Service - London District

The plan of the London District Offices has been further developed; and the large and steady increase in the number of London local letters continues to afford evidence of its beneficial results.

Letters in London

The number of letters delivered in the same district in London in which they were posted increased by as much as 10 per cent, affording an addition last year of nearly a million and a quarter.

Prepaid Letters

Less than one per cent of the letters posted in the United Kingdom were charged additional postage on account of their not having been prepaid. Nevertheless, at the Chief Office in London, including the small offices in the Eastern Central District, as much as 25,000£ was received last year for unpaid postage.

Registered Letters

Notwithstanding the frequent appeals made by this Department to the senders of letters containing money or other articles of value, to resort to resistration, if not for their own interest, yet for the sake of Letter-carriers and other persons through whose hands such letters must pass, a great number of un-registered letters with valuable enclosures are still posted; and under these circumstances I thought it necessary to apply for the authority which your Lordships have granted, to take fresh means for preventing the continuance of such a practice.

Beginning with the London office, all unregistered letters which unquestionably contain coin will be selected from the mass, treated as registered letters and subjected to a double registration fee.

As an additional encouragement to registration, the fee, as your Lordships are aware, is about to be reduced from 6d to 4d *. In reference to this subject, I may state that not fewer than 6,380 bankers' parcels were lately delivered in London in a single day; and that of these only 482, or about $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, had been registered.

(* The reduction from one shilling to sixpence was effective on and from 28th. March 1848 - Instruction No.9; 1848 - for some obscure reason many writers give this as a vague .." late 1840's " - Ed.)

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

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK

1861 saw the introduction of the P.O.S.B. and the 8th. Report deals with the event in some depth, including a complete listing of all offices with POSB facilities and date of opening. London is mixed in with the surrounding counties. Since such detail might be of limited interest, a copy was made by P.O. Records Staff for the Group and should a reader require details of a particular office or selection of offices please do not hesitate to ask the Editor.

With further research into this most significant social innovation, it may be thought a useful addition to postal history records for a limited edition publication, but this will be a matter for members to determine.

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

LONDON SKELETONS

Michael Goodman has supplied a listing a skeltons, to be added to the original supplied by George Crabb. The hasty additions at the foot of the previous article on page 15 of Notebbok 21 should be deleted.

<u>Inscription</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Size</u> mm	<u>Remarks</u>
Battersea/SW	JU 29 03 AU 5 03 JY 15 99 MY 19 99 AP 28 04	31 34	
Blackheath SO/SE	NO 19 98 DE 14 98	31	
Brockley SO/SE	JY 15 04 JU 25 04	31	
Catford SO/SE	MR 2 08 FE 27 08		
East Dulwich/SE	JU 30 10 JY 4 10 AU 15 10 AU 16 10	34	
Fleet ST/EC	MR 27 1906	23	year in full very small diam
Forest Hill SO/SE	FE 19 09	31	
Gloucester Rd 15/SW7	5 FE 27	28	
Gt Russell ST/WC	AP 14 94	30	
Greenwich/SE	19 MY 04	32	new date
Lee SO/SE	DE 21 05 DE 5 05 DE 1 05 NO 22 05	23	
Lower Edmonton	MY 12 00	32	
Mill Hill SO/NW7	9 FE 20	34	
New Cross SO/SE	AU 13 10 AU 24 AU 6	36	
New Southgate/N	AU 10 09 MY 1 09 JY 28 09 NO 5 06	31 32 36	 new
New Southgate/N2	AP 11 05	33	new
Rotherhithe SO/SE	JA 12 00	32	
South Norwood/SE	JA 16 01 JA 1 01 DEC 21 00	31	not same size as original list; could be different handstamp.

This extends considerably the original data; both contributors, however, would state very firmly it is not exhaustive and further dates and places for the record would be appreciated.

London Postal History Group

" Notebook " is produced 5/6 times a year and is issued free to members.

Individual copies, where available, can be supplied at 40 pence each post paid (UK and surface rate; air extra)

Publications, other than " Notebook "

1. " Classification of Types of Undated Namestamps of England, Wales and Ireland 1840 - 1860 ", by M.V.D. Champness (1973) 15pence.
2. " Horizontal Oval Cancellations of London ", by John Parmenter (1974) (out of stock)

Other catalogue publications are in course of preparation.

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