

NOTEBOOK

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

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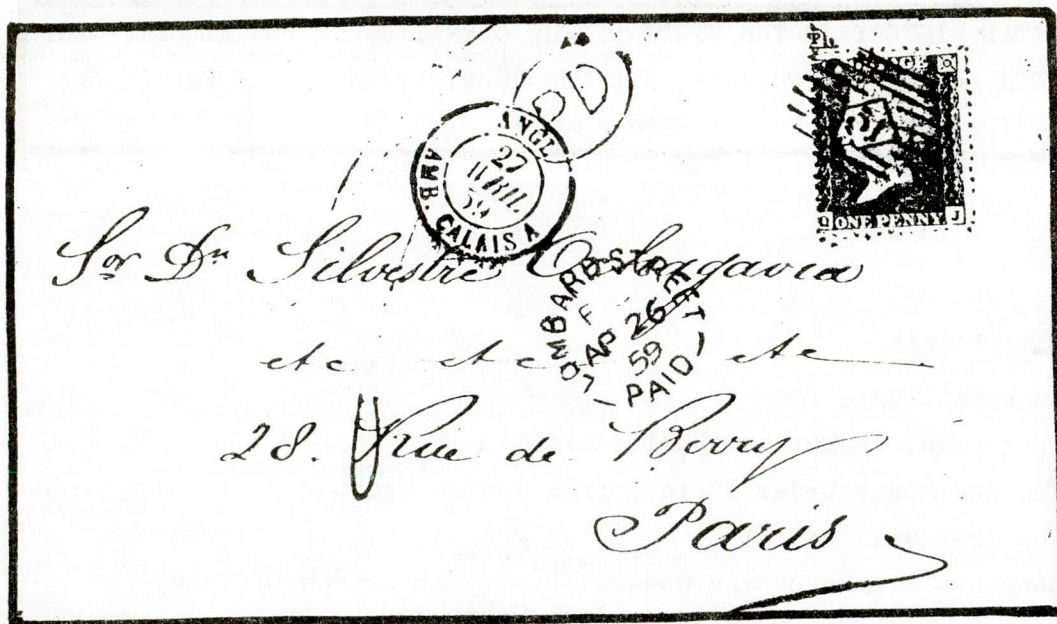
A Note From The Editor.....

It is nearly six years since ' Notebook ' started and in the first issue the policy that publication would be determined by readers' contributions announced; there would not be the appeals for material so often a feature in such publications. There is no change in policy, merely a comment to the effect that the delay in publishing this edition stems from a combination of material problems plus unusual loading of the time consuming hazzrd called work, both domestic (house painting) and business (the almost honest crust).

It is hoped to get another issue to you before Christmas.....

BULK MAILING

Amongst the purchases at B.P.E., from a fellow member, came the item illustrated, being an envelope addressed to Paris, with the Lombard Street PAID, the oval framed PD and a ONE PENNY ADHESIVE cancelled by a diamond 51.



This Inland Office item, Dubus Series 16, 247b -one of a number of very similar stamps - is described by M. Dubus in the following terms:

The obliterators 50 and 51 were used to cancel the correspondence of firms which had an agreement with the Post Office. The senders franked letters for abroad with a single 1d. stamp which was very often cancelled by one of these obliterators. The balance must have been paid on account. It is possible that they received a discount on the total.

Other cancellations were also used for the same purpose.

The obliterator 51 was used in red to cancel a PD applied in error. We have seen it on covers from 1860 -61.

To M. Dubus' notes one must add that the stamp has three lines above and below, but only four to the left and five to the right, as he illustrates, though states to be a five line to the left.

M. Dubus records a 51 from series 19, 274c, as being employed on the one penny covers and the 50 from the same series being used to cancel the PD incorrectly struck. He does not mention it but the Editorial example in black.

Now for the postal history. Can any reader turn up references to this facility and quote chapter and verse? Are there any overweight items carrying any special markings?

THE PROGRAMME.....

Would members please note a change for the November 20th meeting

The subject will be.... Herewith My Frank, by Jim Lovegrove

and the meeting is at Royal Overseas Society,
Park Street, St. James,
(off Pall Mall, north side) starting at 14.00 hours.

The nearest tubes are Green Park, Piccadilly Circus or Trafalgar Square. This will be a joint meeting with the GB Group of the PHS.

For 1977, the dates and subjects are:

January 15th. Middlesex in London

March 19th. Early London

May 21st. Annual General Meeting, followed by Registered Post

July 16th. Auction

September 17th Inland Office Diamonds

November 19th. Foreign Branch/Section

Date to be arranged: Forwarding Agents, a joint meeting with the PHS.

Members will see we have taken the third Saturday of the odd months and thereby hope to avoid too many clashes with other societies in which members have an interest.

A reminder.....we have a Packet Secctary, Brian Smith, who is always keen to get more material for the packet. If not already on the list of those who receive the packet, drop him a line. Contributions of material are not a condition for getting the packet but it is rather useful if you can send something with remittance slips.

London's Postal History, the Group's major publication undertaking, has inched on with the ordering of the binders. The several offers of Editorship have been taken up and a full listing will appear in the next issue of Notebook. If you can assist please do not hesitate to contact the Chairman.

Publications.....

Britain's Post Office, by Howard Robinson (1953 edition) can be obtained from the Chairman at the give away price of £1 plus postage to cover 500 g.

AUCTION.....

We hope to be running another auction very shortly. The usual postal lists will be issued and, as it will be limited to about 100 lots, will start off one of the Saturday afternoon meetings at Caxton Hall listed above.

Readers who have material they wish to see included should send a description, reserve BUT NOT THE MATERIAL as soon as possible to the Chairman who will advise when the material should be forwarded.

JAN. 17, 1846.]

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

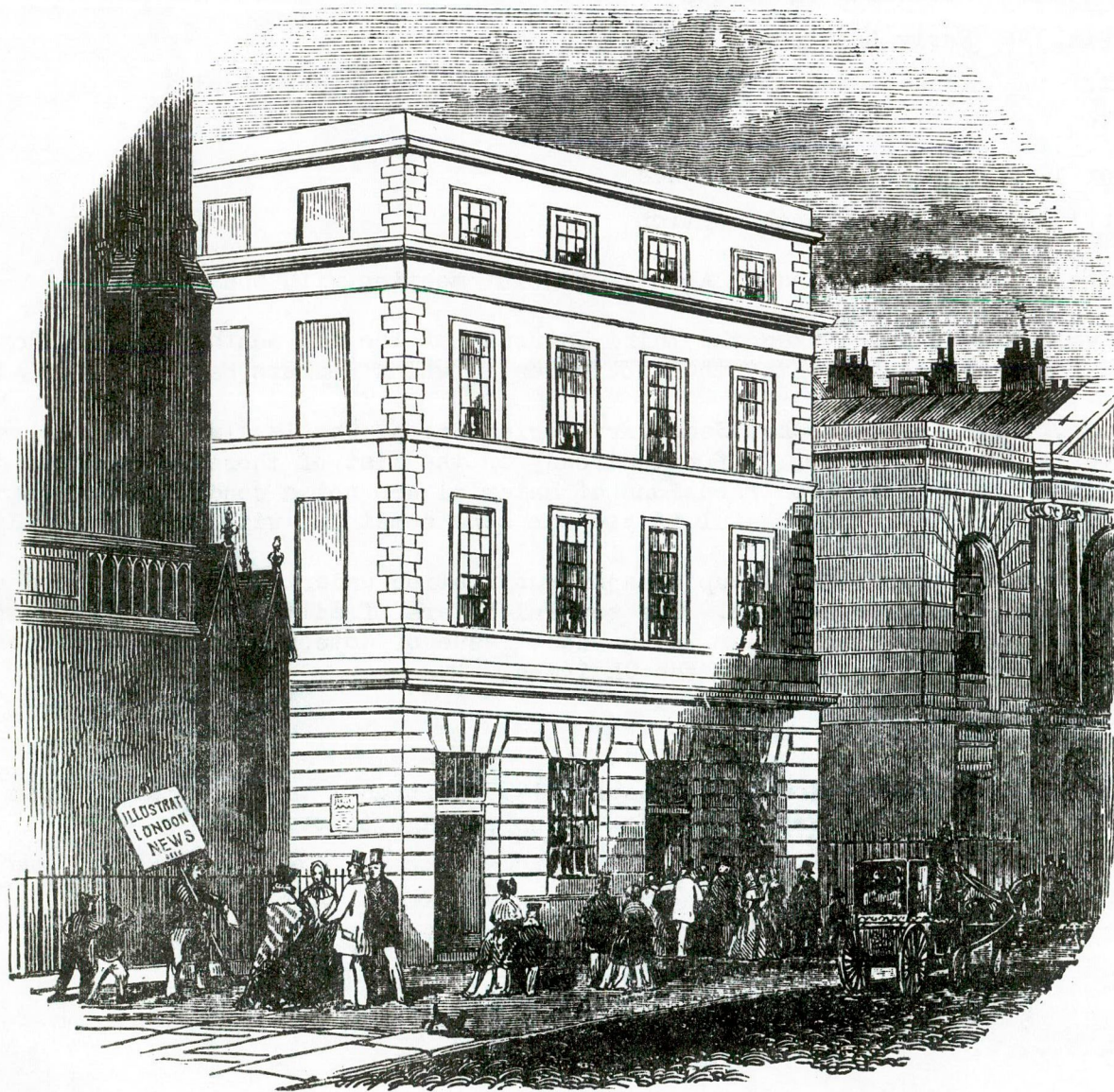
the vacant colonelcy.

THE NEW MONEY-ORDER OFFICE, GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

The admirable system of Registering Letters at the General Post-office, provides a secure mode of transmitting, by post, Bank Notes, Bank-post Bills, Drafts, &c., by means of what are termed "Money Orders;" and so largely has the benefit of this Department been felt by the public, that the business of the Money-Order Office has increased co-extensively with that of the Penny Postage System. Accordingly, it has been found requisite to extend the accommodation of the office; and, with this view, the edifice shown in the annexed Engraving, is now in course of erection, opposite the Castle and Falcon, in Aldersgate-street. It is a handsomely finished elevation, the lower story channelled: the interior is commodiously fitted for extensive business, as are the vaults for the reception of stores, account-books, &c.

Some idea of the extent of the Money-Order Office, with a brief account

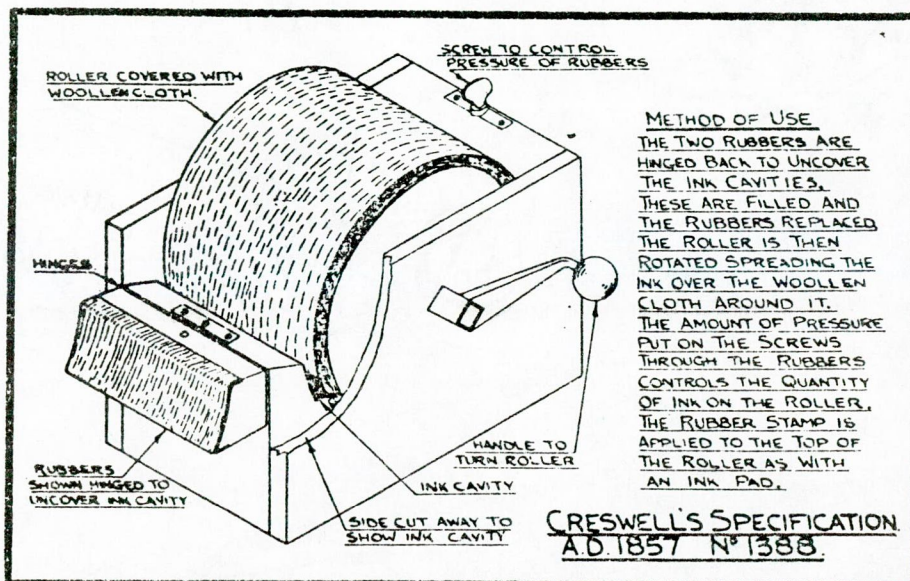
of the duties of the officers, is given in the following extract from a recent return to an order of the House of Commons, it appears that there are appointed to perform the duties of the Money-Order Office, at the present time, the following staff of officers:—One president (Wm. Barth, Esq.), one chief clerk, fifteen senior clerks, twenty-five junior clerks, fifty-three probationary clerks, two provisional clerks, nineteen extra clerks, five messengers, and one porter, which number, we understand, will be considerably increased when the new office is finished. The annual cost for salaries to the above officers amounts to £10,612 12s., independently of 10½d. per hour paid for all extra duties, when required.



NEW MONEY-ORDER OFFICE.

THE CRESSWELL PATENT

In Notebook No.9 Michael Champness provided, by courtesy of John Lobo, an example of the very rare twin circle used to cancel adhesives. The date range was extended to 10th.March, 1858 by an item from a Robson Lowe auction recorded in Notebook 14, page 14. This particular stamp was the result of some experimentation by Cresswell



to which he refers in a letter replying to suggestions for design modification put for by Pearson Hill, himself busy with cornering the market in one particular area. His suggestion was that the cylinder should be turned into a barrel shape with a number of flat sides to it. Cresswell's reply (dated 2nd. December, 1957 was:

The prismatic form had occurred to me but did not appear a very manageable one and I preferred such an enlargement of the Cylinder as would reduce the curvature to a point which would offer no impediment to rapid stamping.....a flat surface...is a desideratum....I am glad to report I have succeeded beyond my expectations (in devising a cylindrical arrangement with flat surface advantages*). I submit a specimen which I believe combines every requisite that can be desired.

* Editorial insertion between the brackets.

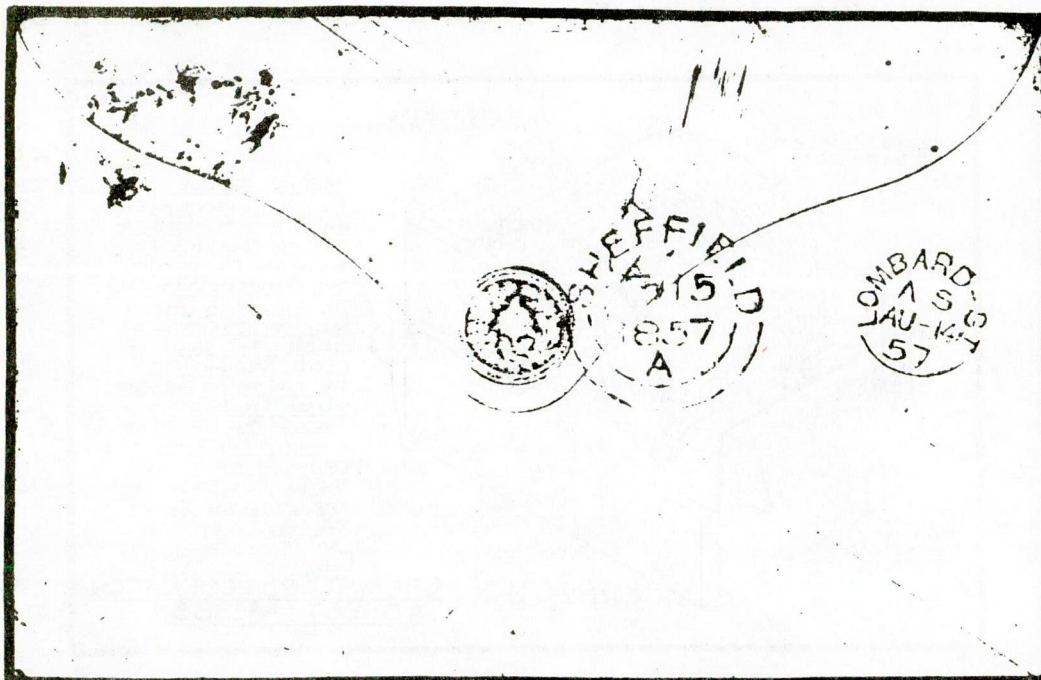
The four days 10th to 13th.March provide the only known examples after which the two 19mm stamps were separated and used independently for back stamping, examples of which may fairly be described as ' difficult '.

What started this off was the purchase at B.P.E. - the most ill timed event of the year some assert - was the item illustrated below, also a Cresswell. The Lombard St. is in black but there is also a scarcer Charing Cross, in red. Both these are in the correct time period and of the correct sizing for Cresswells, but reservations as to the proven inclusion in the range have been made.

The other usual backstamp is that noted in Notebook No.1, appearing in blue, red and black. The late Stitt Dibden attributed these to morning, mid day and evening respectively, though Alcock and Holland have blue for the evening, red for the morning and merely note the use of black and violet. The large number of blue seen would suggest an evening use, if for no other reason than business letters tended, and still are, towards the evening posting. A point on the size; Westley states very firmly that except for the small $\frac{3}{4}$ " of London, Rugby and Exeter, the date circle was exactly $\frac{3}{4}$ " diameter for place names up to twelve letter and exactly $\frac{7}{8}$ " for place names of more than twelve letters.

The Cresswell Patent, continued.....

With apologies for going back to the small dated stamp, Stitt Dibden noted the issue of the type to Barking and High Holborn on 30th.July, 1857.



The London Creswell duplex was issued in September 1857, after the start of the E.C. Office. Both Westley and Dubus include the series under London District Post but it is suggested it more correctly falls to the later periods when London had the ten districts. However, whichever slot one uses, the fact remains that these stamps are 'getting difficult' and of the numbers 71 to 80, has anyone a copy of, or for that matter ever seen, number 80 ?

John Parmenter, in studying this period, is currently devoting his attention to the Cresswells. For those who have been working their way through the last set of comprehensive working papers, or have yet to tackle them, please add Cresswell to the list when going through your material. Of interest are dates, codes, colors and anything that might have a bearing on the stamp and its use.

Just a final point. The stamp, with its very identifiable size was not of itself anything special. It was the ink saving machine which Cressell deemed such a size best suited and this makes what we have today a bye-product rather than the main event.

Sources:

Cresswell's Patent, by W.G.Stitt Dibden, Stamp Collecting May 31st., 1963
Postal Cancellations of London 1840-1890, H.C. Westley
London Cancellations from 1840, L. Dubus
Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland, Alcock and Holland.

LONDON -

STAMPS OF THE GENERAL POST: THE BRANCH OFFICESPrepared by John Sharp

To date the most comprehensive listing of the Branch Office marks in the Maltese Cross design is by Alcock and Holland in their book "The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland". As this great work has long been out of print and very difficult to obtain, I have used their information on the following pages. A couple of articles from this journal are included.

However, my immediate interest is in collating information on the Branch Office marks listed under Sections A(1) and A(13). The illustrations I have placed in tabular form these mainly from A & H, plus additional examples and notes. Rather than create cross references and a complicated listing, I have taken Alcock & Holland's illustrations as a basis, further types being referred to as variations of the recorded examples. No doubt there are many unrecorded types used during the period, September 1829 to late 1857 (or early 1858 in some cases) and, therefore, to establish " periods of use " it would be helpful if readers would record their examples on the enclosed form. The inclusion of accurate illustrations of any new types being more than welcome.

Editor's Note:

The 1857 Cresswell's in use at the Branch Offices, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, might be added to the end of the listing.

Section A(1) Stamps of the Branch Offices; Unpaid.

Hendy states the Branch Offices opened in 1829 at Borough, Charing Cross, Lombard St. and Vere Street, though he included Old Cavenish Street in error. A stamp of that office is known dated 12th. December, 1842 so one may assume it replaced Vere Street. From the datings recorded it has been established there is no overlapping and there is little chance of two Branch Offices so close together operating at the same time. A Post Office list of 1845 mentions O.C.S., but not Vere Street, in the Branch Offices. Hendy attributes the stamps with "C.H." and a cross to the House of Commons but there can be little doubt these stamps belong to Charing Cross.

The stamps employed at the Branch Offices were, with one exception, all based on the Maltese Cross, at least until 1857. There were both paid and unpaid issues. (The Proof Impression Books in P.O. Records often show both varieties issued together -Ed.) In all cases initials were used to indicate the names of the offices and the date was always included. As a result of the Branch Office date-stamping, there was a time saving at the Chief Office. The first varieties are illustrated in figs. 58 to 61, a blue ink being employed.

Charing Cross provided the exception to the Maltese Cross rule, when in 1833 the single ring (fig. 62) was issued; there is a variety with " C + " in place of the " C X ". Brumell suggested it was an experimental design not considered not distinctive enough to be retained or brought into general use.

Figs 63 to 67 show the general run of stamps brought into use at the Branch Offices during the 1830's; fig.65 can be found with the day after the month instead of in front.

As already noted, blue was used at first but this was soon changed to red which was thereafter the usual color for the unpaid stamps at Borough, Charing Cross and Vere Street. Black is also known, apparently on too late letters and, perhaps, other exceptional cases. Lombard Street used black ink after the blue until the 1850's, at which time red ink was employed. Fig.63, Borough, is seen in green from time to time.

The volume of mail was heaviest at Lombard Street with the next in importance being

London, Stamps of the General Post; the Branch Offices, continued.....

Charing Cross. The pressure of the work is probably reflected in the early use of a double frame stamp, in blue, at Lombard Street with a similar, later, stamp for Charing Cross(figs. 68 and 69).

With the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage the change in the stamps was in their use, not design. The unpaid stamps were used for unpaid letters and as datestamps for those prepaid by adhesives. No obliterating appears to have been done at these Branch Offices.

Figs. 70 to 73 show new varieties of the single frame stamps with serif lettering which came into use at Charing Cross and Lombard Street with fig. 74 showing a variety of the double frame type from Lombard Street to be found in the 1840's. The first stamp at Old Cavendish Street, established 1842, was the double frame type (fig.75)

During the late 1840's and 1850's block lettering came into use, either for the whole of the lettering or the date alone, figs. 76 to 81. There were two special duty stamps at Lombard Street, figs. 82 and 83. (The F.U. has been attributed to Foreign Unpaid but it is well known on PAID letters Ed.)

These Maltese Cross stamps of the Branch Offices continued in use till the division of London into Postal Districts, but Lombard Street continued into 1858, seemingly for special duty purposes only, late letters etc.

The double arc stamps associated with the Provinces, fig. DA/1, is known from Old Cavendish Street in 1856 and Charing Cross in 1857, and the Cresswell patent stamps for both Lombard Street (black) and Charing Cross (red) from 1857, fig.1299.

The PAID stamps follow much the same pattern.

Red ink was used at the Branch Offices; figs 710 to 716 show typical examples. It should be noted figs. 712, 713 and the later issue 718, occur with the double frame line. Fig.714 has a variation showing stops after "L" and "S".

Again, the introduction of U.P.P. made no difference to the stamps, although the serif lettering was, as with the unpaid stamps, replaced by sans-serif. a representative selection are illustrated by figs. 717 to 720. A & H report NO paid stamps on record with dates later than 1857.

A & H make the point that the privately applied Paid stamps with which the reader is no doubt familiar, form no part of this aspect of postal history, though very much part of postal history.

The Franking System,

From 1835 to 1848 (RMW dating) franked letters posted on Sundays at the Branch Offices of Charing Cross, Vere Street and Lombard Street were stamped with a C, V or L respectively, then sent to the Chief Office where the Sunday Stamp was applied, very early Monday morning. It is interesting to note that the dating given in RMW catalogue goes well beyond the end of the Franking system.

At the foot of page 9 the two issues, in 1835 and 1836, of the circled initials are shown; the finer sloping type issued in 1835 is possibly less well known to readers. Of no small interest is the unusual endorsement

" Sunday Franks from Lombard St Charing Crows & Vere Street Branch Offices "; this rather suggests it might be a record of stamps already in use, otherwise it would no doubt read " for ".

Stamps of the General Post: Branch Offices, continued..

Examiners' and Inspectors' Marks

CX

Fig. 1856

A

Fig. 1857

Figs 1856 and 1857 illustrate two marks which come under this heading, though the " A " is NOT in the same series. Notebook 16 and Notebook 17 give full details of the Office Initial type (fig.1856) in which Old Cavendish Street and Charing Cross are to be found.

Old Cavendish Street comes both with and without serifs, the former being recorded on 17.1.1855, the latter 2.6.1856.

Charing Cross, again with and without serifs, is recorded 13.9.1854 to 11.2.1854 (clearly a transcription error - will the owner reader please advise correct dates) and for the smaller sans serif variety dates 2.12.1846 to 25.1.1848.

These stamps are for mis-directed mail and serve a quite separate function to that of the Charing Cross " A " which the Proof Impression Books state " new stamp for letters despatched before 8 AM ". It was issued on 16.9.1846.

The illustrations are on the following pages.

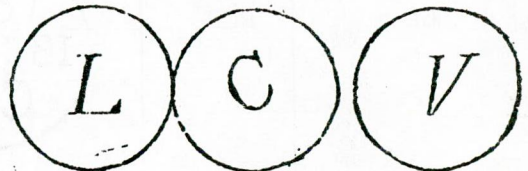
Our appreciation to Alcock and Holland and acknowledgement of our debt to them for the slightly paraphrased text above for the unpaid and paid stamps and for the illustrations.

That nearly forty years later postal historians still turn to their work for reference is both a tribute to their effort, and a comment on those who have followed ?

Vol.2 p 130

1835

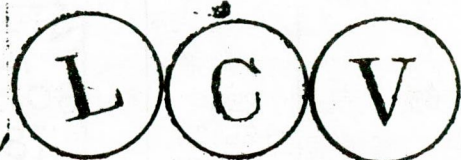
*Sunday Funks
from Lombard St.
Charing Cross & Vere Street
Branch Offices* } May. 23



Vol.2 p 134


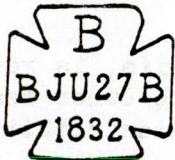

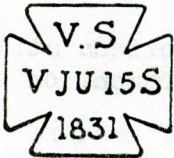
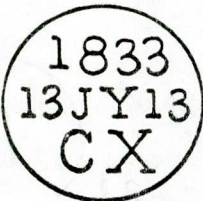
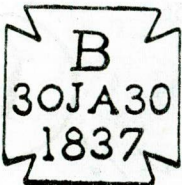
1836

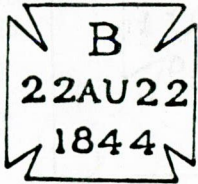






*Sunday Funks
from Lombard St.
Charing Cross & Vere
Street Branch Offices* } April 16


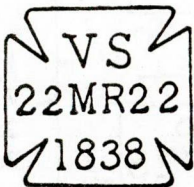












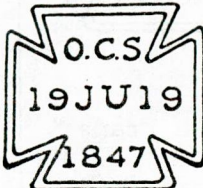
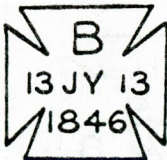

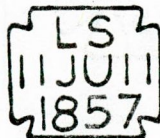
LIST OF TYPES

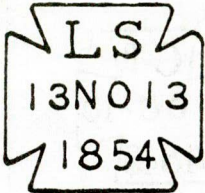
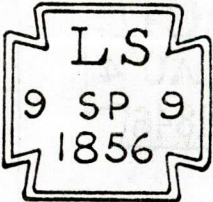

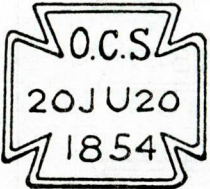
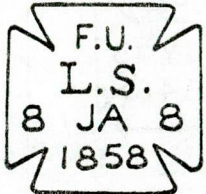
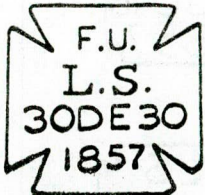
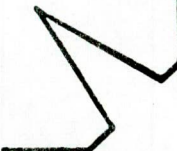
Listed below under Ref. No. are the types recorded by Messrs Alcock & Holland together with other variations. (The variations being likened to A & H types and noted thus:- Fig No./V)

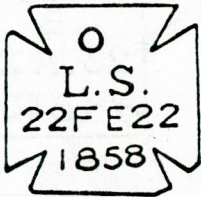
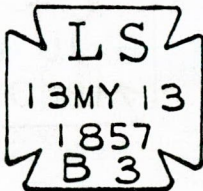

Ref. No.	Colour		Notes
58	BLUE RED		The early stamps were blue Red Ink later superseded blue (1831/1832)
59	BLUE RED		
60	BLUE RED		
61	BLUE RED		
62	RED		Possibly an experimental design
62/V1	RED	C+ instead of CX	Also 1833
63	RED BLACK GREEN		

Ref. No.	Colour		Notes
63/V1	RED		
63/V2	RED		Vere Street - Similar Design to Borough Type 63
64	RED		
64/V1	RED		Later stamp being basically the same size as No.64
64/V2	RED		Variation on No. 64/V1
65	RED		
65/V1	RED	Day after month	
66	BLACK		At Lombard Street black ink replaced red ink for the unpaid stamps in 1834 and was the normal colour until the 1850s when red ink came back into favour (See also No. 74)


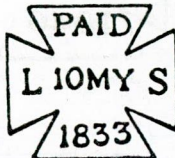


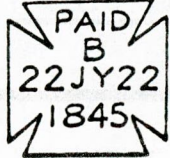


Ref. No.	Colour		Notes
66/V1	BLACK		Slightly smaller than No. 66
67	RED		Example seen dated 30th November 1842 (Note date recorded under No. 75)
68	BLUE		
69	RED		
69/V1	RED		
70	BLACK		The only Charing Cross stamp to be normally found in black ink. Examples on cover often suggest specialised duty.
71	RED		
72	BLACK		



Ref. No.	Colour		Notes
72/V1	RED		Prominent cross as Lombard Street No. 72
72/V2	RED		Variation on No. 72/V1
73	BLACK		
74	RED		Red ink was generally used for the double outline type although black ink was still used for those with a single outline
75	RED		Stamp of Old Cavendish Street recorded by A & H dated 12th December 1842 (Note date recorded under No. 67)
76	RED		
77	RED		
78	BLACK		

Ref. No.	Colour		Notes
79	BLACK RED		Some examples in black have been noted on covers addressed to the United States of America. Seen in red on registered cover dated 27th May 1858
80	RED		
80/V1	RED		Inner points distinctively rounded
81	RED		
81/V1	RED	Single Frame	Introduced 1855/56 date Sansserif as No. 81
82	BLACK		Used on outgoing mail 1857/58
82/V1	BLACK		 <p>Outer points on S.E. Corner flattened</p>

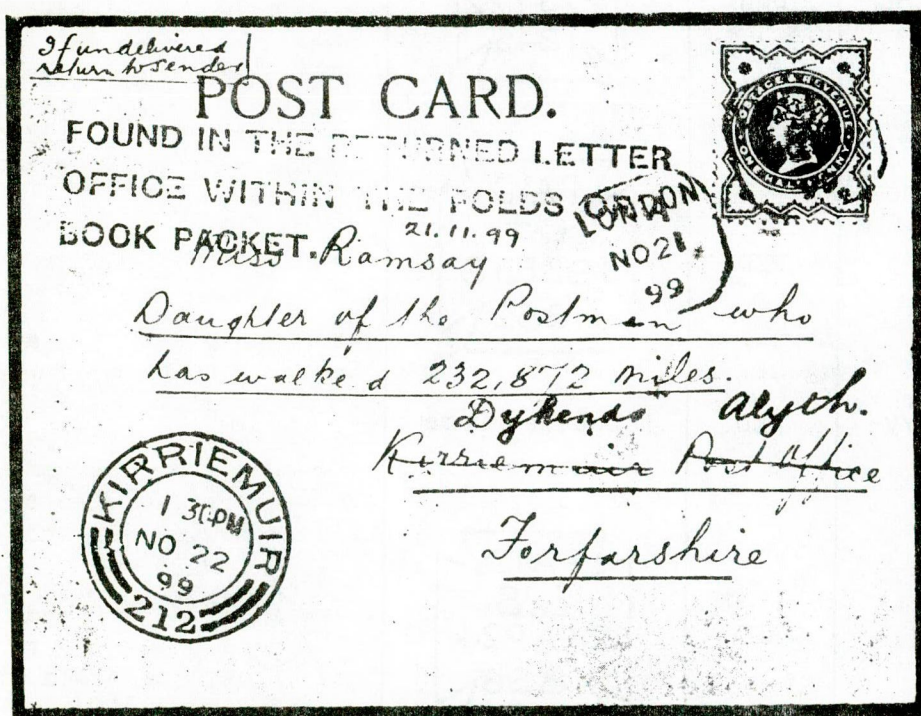
Ref. No.	Colour		Notes
82/V2	RED		Code 'O' found used on internal mail Points on S.E. corner flattened as No. 82/V1
83	RED		May have been used on mail requiring special treatment
DA/1	RED		
DA/2		Old Cavendish Street	Recorded used in 1856 by A & H

Ref. No.	Colour		Notes
710	RED		
710/V1	RED		
711	BLUE RED		Example in Blue Recorded 5 NOV.1830
712	RED		
712/V1	RED	Double Frame	
713	RED		
713/V1	RED	Double Frame	
714	RED		
714/V1	RED	Stops after 'L' and 'S'	

Ref. No.	Colour		Notes
715	RED		
715/V1	RED		Lombard Street type varies from Vere Street No. 715 by having day before month
716	RED		
717	RED		
717/V1	RED		Sharper inner points than No. 717
718	RED		
718/V1	RED	Double Frame	
719	RED		

Ref. No.	Colour		Notes
719/V1	RED		Serif letters and figures
720	RED		

DELAYED MAIL : AN UNRECORDED STAMP ?



Used to enhance the front cover for the July PH Auction by Robson Lowe, there was no comment on the rounded corner 'square' London marking.

This is often found in conjunction with delayed mail though is apparently not recognised as for that particular service.

Can readers support this function allocation ?

CANCELLATION QUERIES, AN ANSWER

The previous edition of Notebook carried a query from M. Pernin on four stamps with which he was unfamiliar. From Graham Homer-Wooff and John Chandler came the answer to the first two (answers which caused the Editor to recall it himself, thus proving how fallible is memory). John, in one of his many contributions to ' printing the fruits ' had an article in Stamp Collecting on 30th.August,1957 under the title of ' Barred Circles ' had more than the mere recording of the stamp to offer.

From a report to The Secretary of the Post Office prepared by the Circulation Dept. and dated 20th.June, 1878 comes the following...

" Certain large newspaper agents have the privilege of posting their papers half-an-hour later than the general public, on condition that, the wrappers already addressed, and having affixed to them a half-penny stamp or bearing the half-penny embossed stamp are presented and stamped at this office at a comparatively early hour. For instance all wrappers so presented for stamping before 3 p.m. are forwarded, after the papers have been enclosed, by the night mails of the same day; and all wrappers presented after 3 p.m. are, when the papers have been enclosed in them, forwarded by the midnight or early morning mails.

The stamps used for this purpose effect the obliteration and dating all at once, although they are unlike any other stamps in use. Impressions from them are enclosed."



fig.1



fig.2



fig. 3



fig.4

There is a further file reference:

" Impressions of the stamps now used in London for the preobliteration of Newspaper Wrappers are given in the margin.

J.W. Badcock, 3 March, 1905 "

*

Again there is no reason for the very contrasting types of barred circle and milled edge, but the milled edge variety had been extended into several sub types over the years; the barred circle, however, was as before.

The barred circle is very much scarcer than the milled edge type. John Chandler writes,

" The "barred circles" were, I think, always used for postings after midnight - a distinctive design so that big agents like WHS who were sending out a series of papers at different times during the night and early morning should have no difficulty in using the right wrappers. As most papers would be away before midnight this type is scarce. Note that in the P.O. reports these " barred circles " are dated the next day e.g. while figs a and 2 are 20 June, figs 3 and 4 are 21 June. By the time of the second report*some of the other " milled edge " postmarks were in use for this purpose too.

The two stamps, figs 3 and 4, were issued on 24 Oct 1876. Die A is 22mm diam and Die B is 23mm. Stitt Dibden (Strand Stamp Jnl Apl 1957 p.197) says both were replaced by fresh stamps on 23 March 1893 with diameters of 23mm. I have recorded this variety with code A only (on 3 Sep 1896) when the A is set much higher and nearer the rim with a diameter of 24mm. I have not seen code B in this variety but the

Cancellation Queries, continued.....

original stamp I have recorded from 27 Oct 1876 to Feb 18, 1904, so possibly the second pair were additional stamps, rather than replacements. "

Whilst on the subject of cancellation the wrappers, reference must be made to the article appearing in Stamp Collecting on 5th April, 1957 by Stitt Dibden in which the various types of the 'milled edge' stamps. This it is proposed the currently known data should be reviewed and an article to appear in Notebook, but for the moment it is worth drawing attention to a point made by Graham Homer-Wooff, namely these stamps came about following the Post Office re-organisation for Newspapers.

Worth stressing is the PRE CANCEL aspect of the operation; the late Vic Swann held that many of the single killer stamps for the places outside London were employed for the purpose, but that is a matter for the PHS rather than the London Group!

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