

NOTEBOOK

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POST OFFICE ACT 1794

The rather magnificent copy of the 1794 Act which is issued with this edition of Notebook is due to the kindness of Les Roberts who displayed the original at the Charmouth meeting.

There are a few extra copies available at 20pence each, post paid.

INDEX TO NOTEBOOK

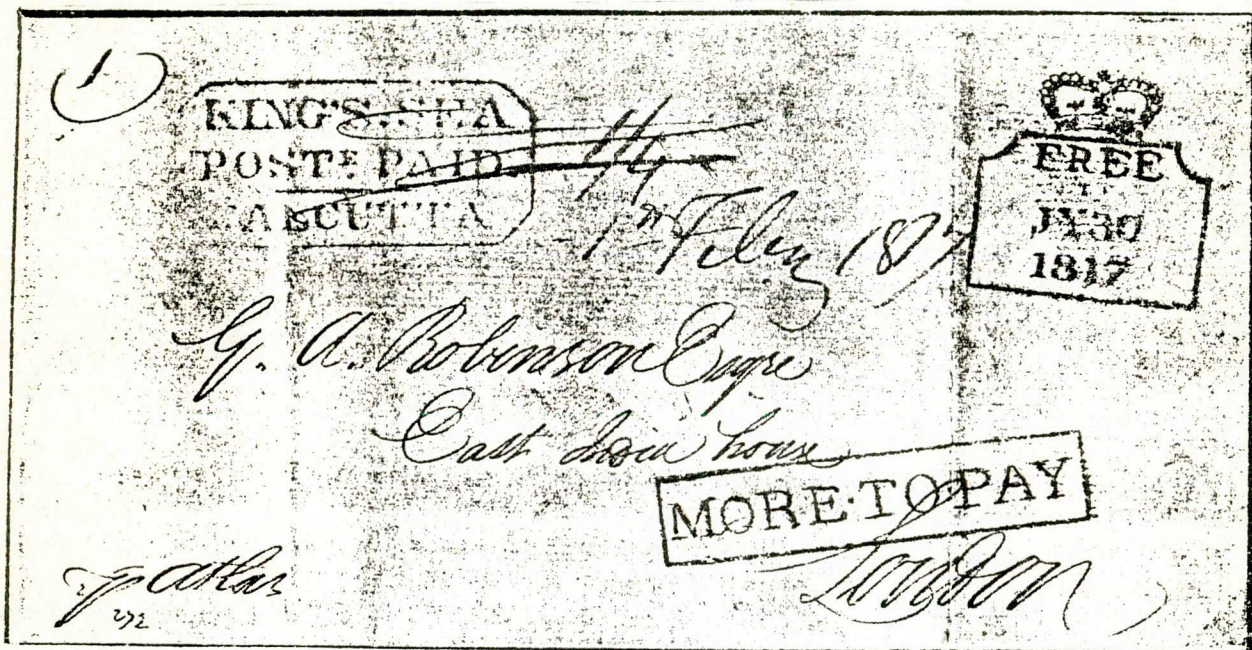
Our thanks to Alf Kirk for the compilation of the index for numbers 1 to 30.

It is surprising how the busy ones manage to fit in yet another well worth job!

AN UNRECORDED FREE

It is pleasant to note exchange of information between members. This is particularly useful when it results in the publication of a hitherto unrecognised rarity.

The contact was between Gavin Littaur and Jim Lovegrove. The item, with the write-up is shown below, followed by Jim Lovegrove's observations.

MARITIME MAIL

Letter wrapper written from India to England dated 4th. January, 1817

This letter was conveyed to England on the 1,200 ton East Indiaman "Atlas" employed for this journey as a 'Private' ship and not a Post Office Packet.

During the period of the KING'S POST, the sea postage on mail carried by private ships was fixed by the English Post Office Act of 1815 at 8d. for inward single letters, the charges to be payable to the British Post Office. Special handstamps appeared in India to indicate the arrangement. Note one of the handstamps used at Calcutta: "KING'S.SEA/POST PAID./CALCUTTA".

On arrival at the London Post Office, even though the letter appears prepaid (the handstamp in red denoted paid) the clerk has marked it "MORE TO PAY" and a double ship letter rate charge of "1/4".

However, this letter is addressed to a Director of the East India Company who, under sections 20-24 of the Act, was entitled to a concession of free postage. Note the manuscript charge has been crossed through and the special red handstamp "Crown/FREE/JY 30/1817" applied. (unrecorded).

AN UNRECORDED FREE, continued....

Comment, by Jim Lovegrove

From an inspection of the cover it is clear that the FREE mark could only have been the last handstamp applied. It follows, therefore, it must have been applied in London. Like the other Foreign Branch stamps it would almost certainly have been done in the Office of that name.

The details of the stamp are hitherto unrecorded. It is first of all three years earlier than the earliest record quoted in the journals. Secondly, the layout of the date symbols is different - in this case the day date is put in once, after the letters for the month, whereas in all the successors of the stamp, the day figures are repeated before and after the two letter month code. In this new stamp the date symbols are also set much lower in the frame, leaving a gap under the word FREE.

It is not absolutely clear to what area of postal charges the FREE applied except for the cancelled charge of 1/4d. It would appear from the write up that the item was prepaid. This is borne out by use of the MORE TO PAY stamp, but the manuscript charge of 1/4d suggests the opposite - that the money due to the British Post Office was not forthcoming and only the FREE application cleared the matter up.

THE LONDON PENNY POST RE-ORGANISATION OF 1794 -

THE RECEIVING HOUSE HANDSTAMPS

A New Discovery - LAMBETH, by Eric Quinn

When the London Penny Post re-organisation took place in 1794 handstamps were issued officially to the Receiving Houses. These first stamps were in straight lines of capitals, usually with a numeral 1, 2 or 3, either following the name, or placed centrally beneath it, and with a lozenge either side of the number.

In the " Notebook " Number 12 for April, 1973 our member Mr. Barrie Jay gave, so far as I know, the first really comprehensive listing of known Receiving Houses and the types issued to them. Since the list was prepared I have acquired a complete letter bearing the handstruck mark illustrated.

LAMBETH
- 1 -

This letter is headed: No 5 Paradise Buildings bottom of
Standgate Street Lambeth side
Westminster Bridge

and is dated April 22 1796

It is addressed to Doctor Blane
Sackville Street
Piccadilly

also bears the red Unpaid Date Stamp of the Westminster Office, Brumell type 42; in addition there is a manuscript endorsement in black ink indicating that a 1d on delivery.

SINGLE IMPRESSION KRAG MACHINES, by Derek Holliday

The GPO bought 32 of these machines, starting in 1927; these were in use by 1930. The Krag company had been very successful with continuous machines but these were not very popular with the public. As a result, the GPO purchased no more after 1918.

However, the company had considerable difficulty producing a machine acceptable to the Post Office and many trials were made. The main reference work about these machines is an article by Dr. J.T.W. Mann, which seems to have been used by Stitt Dibden in his books on the subject. The article refers to a trial in 1923 and the use of these machines from 1928.

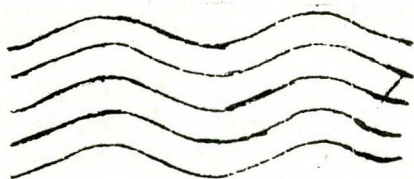


fig.179 The 1923 single impression trial

179.



fig.181 The double ring date die machine

Illustrations taken from "Early Stamps Machines" by Stitt Dibden and published by The Postal History Society

181.

It had surprised me that there should be such a long gap between the trial and the introduction of the machines at a time when the GPO were buying quite a number of machines. The answer found in the Post Office records is, of course, that there were several unsuccessful trials, the last trial apparently made in 1926. The first machines came into use for the Christmas rush in 1927. Willesden/N.W. 10 provides the earliest date I have noted, 9th. December, 1927.

The first trials of the Continuous impression machine were carried out at the West Central D.O. and so were those for the Single impression machine. These took place in October/November 1922 but proved too slow.

Between the third of July and twentyfirst September 1923 came the second trials. There is an impression on a Krag leaflet of 15 June but this was probably a proof strike prior to shipment. It was used on at least the following days:

July 3, 25 and 26; September 7, 8, 9, 10 and 21, according to the records. In addition to recorded examples for July 3rd and 26th is one for September 18th. This machine achieved a cancellation rate of some 620 per minute.

Another prototype was used in the next trial mentioned in records. According to this source the period was May - June 1925. My own sightings are dated June 8, 23 and July 9.

Between 18th. January and 8th. April 1926 came another trial. This achieved some 500 items per minute with an average of 2% misses. Marks dated February 4, 9, 10 and 15 believed to be from this series have been seen.

Another impression for 2nd. September 1924 is very similar to those from the 1925/6 series and may well be yet a further otherwise unrecorded trial.

SINGLE IMPRESSION KRAG MACHINES, continued...

A medium speed machine was tried at the N.W.D.O. in 1926 and was provided with the following.

Circular die inscribed London N.W.1, type for 1926, the months, 1 - 31 for the days and the times 1.15; 3.15; 5.15; 6.15; 7.15; 8.15; L;+ and two blanks, plus a triangular die with NW1. It was installed on 29th. September but I have not definitely identified any marks as having come from this trial. The regular machines at this office were a Universal G, Hey & Dolphin Flier and a Krag electric.

Most of the machines were used outside London. However, three were used in the Suburbs. Stratford E15; Willesden N.W.10; and Kilburn N.W.16. All had double ring dies though the Willesden die was originally a single ring.

BOOKSHELF.....

At the Charmouth meeting of the Group, Mr. Hake had the set of P.O. Acts now being offered by Britannia Stamp Bureau. The Chairman took the opportunity of drawing these to the attention of the meeting. He was fortunate in having a copy of the original compilation which covers the main part but had no hesitation in deciding to get this new edition, which deals with additional legislation.

The set of two are very well produced, being typeset on fine quality paper and the binding and presentation quite superb. For those who enjoy owning quality books these will be a pleasure to handle. For those interested also in postal history the quality of the production is a real bonus. At £34 post paid any purchaser has something to enjoy for a lifetime.

This may sound akin the " publisher's blurb ", no apologies. For a postal history collector to miss out on this would be near tragic. Here is something of the best for a most reasonable price.

P.A.F.S.

PHS CONFERENCE 1977

Group members have been invited to join PHS members at their annual conference which is to be held at Jesus College, Oxford, for the long weekend of 22 - 26 September.

Although the PHS agenda will be, in keeping with the needs of PHS members, wide ranging, the College has sufficient rooms for specialised sections to meet should they so wish.

The daily tariff (full board, with morning coffee and afternoon tea) is expected to be about £8 - and both single and double bedrooms are available.

Should any member be interested in this venture please contact

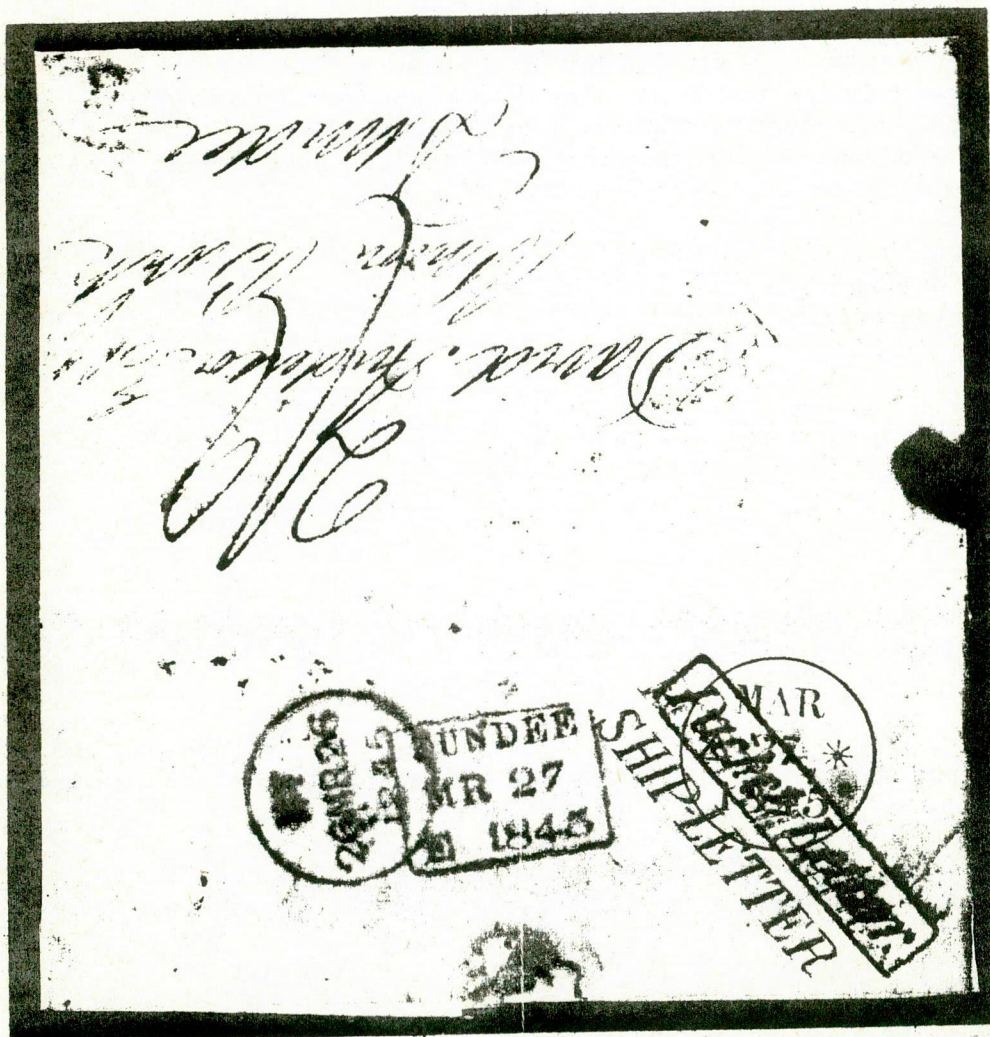
Mrs J. Farrugia
" Greenwood " Parsonage Lane,
North Cray, SIDCUP, Kent.

LONDON PACKET LETTER

The entire is one of those not too common private letters which have managed to Survive. It was written from Valparaiso on 7th. December, 1844 by a James Anderson to his brother David in Dundee. Without reproducing the contents in full, it may be of interest to learn that James was a man of a roving disposition. For the time being he was stuck in Valparaiso since the ship on which he served was not seaworthy. According to the Lloyds Agent "considered it was unfit when it left England". No-one seemed willing to make a move and the cost to the owners, some £30 a week (and two months had already elapsed), was piling up at an alarming rate. In finishing the letter he proposed, after reaching England, not to visit his family but sail off to New South Wales.

What is of postal marking interest, of course, is the use of the framed Packet Letter (P5) over the (S16) Portsmouth/Ship-Letter. The rate of 2/9 also gave some problems, since at that time the rate to South America appeared to be only 1/-.

Somewhat at a loss, I contacted Mr. Moubray, venturing the view that the letter may have been carried by a navy ship, rather than a private ship, hence the use of the Packet Letter.



LONDON PACKET LETTER, continued...

The reply by Mr. Moubray is reproduced below, not only for the detail but to demonstrate some of the problems in determining the facts behind a rate on a letter.

"As you are aware the normal route was by West Indian contract steamers Southampton to Grenada direct and thence by branch vessel to Chagres, the rate being 1/- under $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce. This is the only route given in the Post Office London Guide for 1845, except, of course, for Private Ship, 8d.

However, there is another far more detailed guide, published in October 1845, in the library at the "Royal" and we have no reason to believe there were any major changes in S. American mails in the first nine months of that year. This guide states that letters could be sent "via Chagres" with advantage if addressed c/o some person at Panama, otherwise they were liable to be determined for internal postage and it recommends Private Ship. A note states that mail can also be sent "via Santa Martha" if so addressed, rate 2/3.

The other route given is "via Brazil", rate 2/9, which operated from Falmouth, calling at Madeira and Canaries on the outward voyage to Rio, also calling at Pernambuco and Bahia on the outward voyage from August to January and on the homeward voyage from February to July. It does not say how mail passed from Brazil to Chile, or vice versa. (Incidentally, the rate to and from Falmouth was 2d. less.) The guide further states that letters carried by vessels in Her Majestys' naval or other service were charged with the Packet rate of postage, so it looks as if you are probably correct.

Could it not be that the letter arrived in Brazil with a naval vessel leaving direct, Rio - Portsmouth, before the monthly packet, which had to go up the coast and make two calls?"

According to Alan Robertson's masterpiece on the subject, Portsmouth did not have a packet letter stamp in use until 1847, which would explain the London over-stamping, in accord with the information given by Mr. Moubray. By way of a small extra, the dating in London, 26th. March, 1845, extends the period of use by two years.

May the opportunity be taken of inviting all those with London maritime material to check for any similar over stamping and indeed any date extentions.

P.A.F.S.

TWICKENHAM COMMON.....

Kenneth Sargeant recently forwarded an attractive envelope dated 12th. September 1855 with 'Twickenham Comⁿ' on the reverse, struck in a blue/black, straight line.

Would members who are lucky enough to have early P.O. lists and/or other examples please advise the Editor of information relating to location and usage.

LONDON'S POSTAL HISTORY

As many members will be aware, one of the primary aims of the Group has been to gather together the fragmented publications on London which have appeared over the years and to encourage original research. In the writing of his "English Postal History" Martin Willcocks found many of the established 'facts' were more or less established folk-lore. The careless phrase "according to..." spattered the pages of what looked very much like rehashes of others' work, works which themselves relied all too much on the work of others. The result was guesses, originally offered as such, acquired the patina of fact by constant repetition. Only by going back to original material was Martin able to demolish many of these popular views, often to the concern of some!

With this lesson very much in mind, any reprinting of unchecked articles will be clearly identified as such in the Group's 'London's Postal History'. However, original research is what is required and here John Parmenter has set a very high standard, both as to checking and rechecking and his thoughtful approach. It is with this very individual approach there arises what might prove a major problem.

After much deliberation and asking members on an informal basis, the A4 loose leaf format has been chosen as meeting most requirements. To store the publication the Group have purchased a number of large capacity "D" ring, 4 hole, binders with LONDON'S POSTAL HISTORY and a modified Dockwra motive on both the spine and front. (The Notebook also fits these binders.) At £1.50 plus 50pence post and packing they will be very useful.

It is not the intention to attempt a total compilation before publication. In such an event, the year 2000 might be a suitable publication date! Rather, as contributors prepare sections, or parts of sections, these will be published. Members will, of course, be able to buy at cost. It is felt this approach will allow the individual who specialises in one particular aspects to select or reject as required, thus avoiding spending good cover funds on unwanted publications!

Needless to say, there should be a positive reaction from all purchasers with news of date extensions, other colors, errors, mis-use and comment. As this information is received, supplements will be published in Notebook and also be made available to non-member purchasers on the History at a nominal cost.

The one thing that is most apparent is the need for constant updating and publication of data.

In the past 40 years there have been three major works. The Alcock & Holland, and here the high price commanded for second hand copies testifies to the value attached; The Robson Lowe Part 1, again much sought after and the valued possession of many; most recently, Martin's work, which he makes very clear is in the nature of an introductory volume, with much detail left out. Incredible though it may be, that catalogue is now some five years old and additional data has been flushed out as a result of its publication. In passing, it is noteworthy that the pricing has achieved the status of a relative scarcity index - with one or two exceptions - holding good, despite the depreciation of the unit of currency.

To return to the Group's own efforts. Overleaf is a list on the contents for the History. Several sections have members attention, others require an editor/compiler and any reader with an particular interest is invited to contact Derek Holliday with an offer of help.

LONDON'S POSTAL HISTORY.....CONTENTS

Introduction

- A) A History of the Postal Services in London;
Organisation, circulation and postal rates.
 - B) General Post stamps 1660-1857,
including lists of Receivers and their marks.
 - C) The Local Posts, 1680 - 1840
Dockwra and the Government Penny and Twopenny Post.
 - D) District Post Cancellations 1840-1856
 - E) Inland Office Cancellations 1840-1856
 - F) Foreign Office/Branch (excluding Maritime marks)
 - G) Undated Receiving House Stamps 1840-1860
 - H) Datestamps, used other than as cancellations, from 1857
(Paid and Unpaid)
 - I) Inland Branch Cancellations from December, 1856
including Pearson Hill, Rideout, Azemar.
 - J) District and Branch Office Cancellations from December, 1856
 - K) Suburban Offices from 1856
 - L) Combined Date and Obliterators,
Squared Circles, Scrolls etc.
 - M) Machines Cancellations,
Ethridge, Hey & Dolphin, Boston etc.
 - N) Maritime Marks
 - O) Newspaper Branch, Book Post, Circulars
and other printed matter
 - P) Franking System and Official Paid Stamps.
 - Q) Parcel Post: Stamps and Labels.
 - R) Missort Stamps.
 - S) Registartion, Express and Special Delivery, Stamps, Labels
 - T) Special Stamps -
Events, Skeletons, Forces, Rail & Air, Cencus, Royal, Parliament etc.
 - U) Tax, Surcharge and Explanatory markings,
including Inspectors and Examiners.
 - V) Lists of Post Office, from 1855
- Bibliography

This contents schedule is subject to amendment in the light of comment from members and readers generally.

To achieve a degree of uniformity an editorial panel consisting of Michael Goodman, Derek Holliday and Peter Forrestier Smith will be offering every assistance to the section contributors. The outcome is very much the contributors' own thinking on his particular subject and the result should be a pleasing diversity of approach within a flexible framework, that is, the presentation will not be too restrictive or too wildly different, thus making problems for the user!

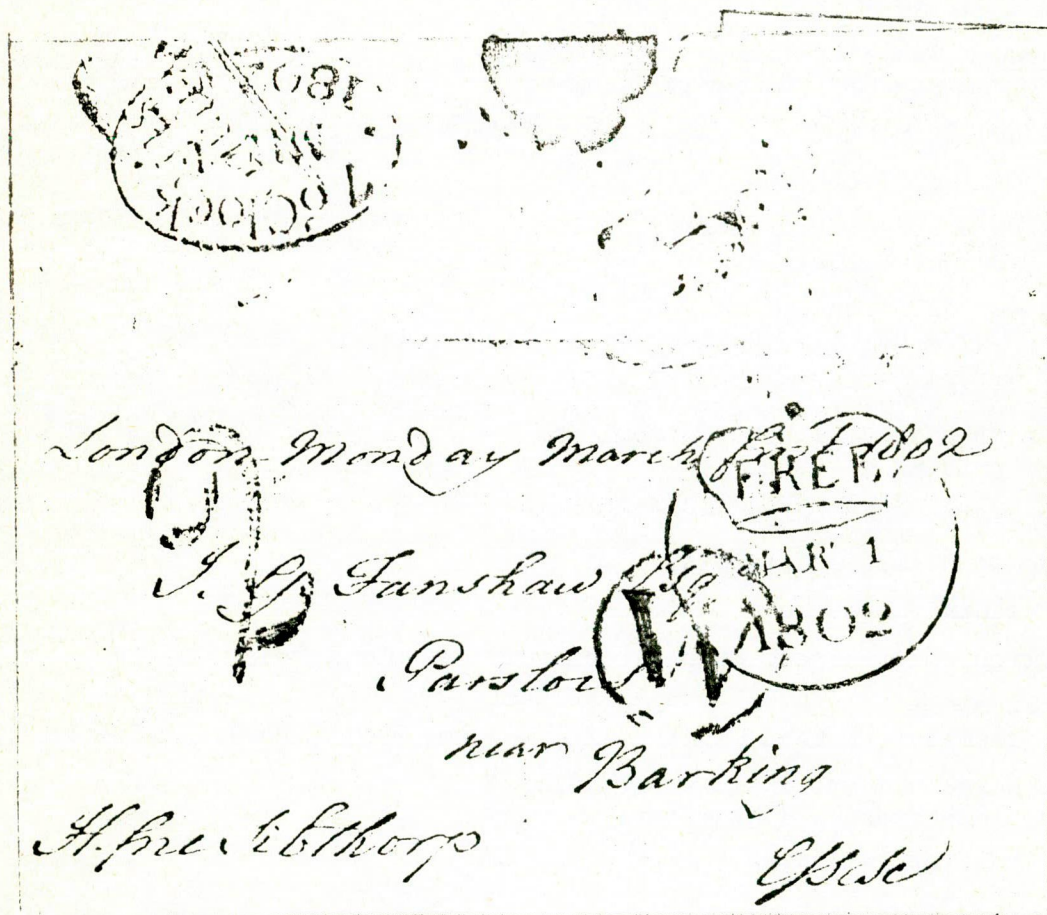
W for WRONGLY POSTED, from Derek Holliday.

Following the article by Barrie Jay in 'Postal History' No. 183 pp 316 et seq., here is another cover with the encircled W.

It has the Wimpole Street GP receiving house stamp, the TP Chief Office time/date stamp and the 2 charge mark, so fits in with the 'wrongly posted in the General Post for delivery in the Twopenny Post area', being addressed to Barking.

Somewhat unusual is that it is a franked letter, with JL19 FREE. None of those listed by Barrie Jay is franked and the date is later, extending the red W into 1802. The TP and FREE are both 1st.March; the TP stamp is usually the next day.

Members are referred also to Notebook 14 page 8 and No.15 page 4.



The Editor can add a little to Derek's contribution since an item purchased from S.G. last year is also addressed to Mr. Fanshaw in Barking. The reverse, shown below carried the GP framed Temple, the double rim GP date stamp, code C, for November 19th and the TP Chief Office stamp for 7 o'clock Nt for the same day. The obverse carries the round top three. There is no W. It is curious that Mr. Fanshaw's correspondent had a habit of using the GP houses for what was very clearly an item for the local post.

POST OFFICE ACCOUNTS IN 1846 AND THEIR RELATION TO LONDON LETTERS, from R.I. Johnson

The complicated arrangements for the distribution of letters in the first half of the nineteenth century were reflected in the system of accounts.

Members may be interested to read this extract from the 1846 Instructions to Post - masters which deals with accounts and refers in some detail to letters for London or passing through London.

PART XI.

ACCOUNTS

Postmasters are required to pay the strictest attention to every particular in the following Instructions relating to their Accounts:-

London Paid and Unpaid Letters.

1. The Paid Letters to London, or passing through London, having been carefully told, are to be entered on the Letter Bill for that purpose, which must be properly Stamped and Signed by the Party making up the Mail, and transmitted with the Letters in the London Bag.

On the arrival in London, the Paid Letters are carefully retold; and if any difference be found, a notification is sent to the Postmaster, of the alteration, which cannot be reversed without the authority of the Secretary. The other items, also, in this Bill must be regularly entered and totalled. The Addresses of all " Registered Letters " are to be carefully entered on this Bill.

On the Receipt of the Unpaid Letters from London, the Postmaster having told them, will enter the Amount, as told by him, on the accompanying Letter Bill, in the Column for that purpose, whether it agrees with the Office Amount or not.

If there be any difference, the Letters must be at least twice told by him, and if any Letters should be undercharged, he must re-tax them, enter the additional Postage separately in his column, and add the two amounts together, with any additional Postage which may be charged by the Postmaster on Newspapers. He will then Stamp, Sign, and return the Bill by the First Post.

The daily amount of Paid Letters sent to London, and unpaid Letters received from thence, must be regularly copied into the monthly form for that purpose, and the amount of Fees having been inserted, the three totals must be carefully added together, and the account transmitted within five days from the expiration of each month, and if the Postmaster make up more than one Bag for London in a day, he must enter the amount of Letters forwarded in each Bag in separate Monthly Forms.

Bye Letter Bill

2. In the Bye Letter Bill, the Postmaster is to insert in the Column headed "Amount Sent", the Amount of Letters sent to the corresponding Postmaster, both Paid and Unpaid. The Amount is, in all cases, to be told and inserted with the greatest possible care, and copied into the " Sent " side of the Monthly Voucher. No entry is to be made of the Number of Forward Letters; but they are to be tied in separate bundles.

The Direction of any Registered Letter is to be entered on this Bill.

The Column, headed " Amount Received ", is intended for the Postmaster to insert the Amount of the Letters charged on him, and the paid also; both of which he is carefully to tell, and put down the sums, if they agree with the amount sent.

If they disagree, he must tell the Letters as often as may be necessary, to be certain he is right, and then insert the amount as told by him, by which entries

POST OFFICE ACCOUNTS IN 1846, continued.....

he is to stand. In checking the Paid Letters from a corresponding Office, care must be taken to include only those Paid at that Office, and not the Forward Letters paid at other Offices, which may be easily distinguished by the Stamps.

The Letters having been told and the amount entered, the Taxes on the Letters are to be examined, and all undertaxed are to be re-charged, the Postmaster's Initials being placed against such New Tax, and the additional Postage set down to his debit in the part of the Bill assigned for it, and entered in the Monthly Account, in one sum, at the bottom of the column to which it relates. Every Postmaster who has a Clerk or an Assistant, must have the Signature or Initials of the Clerk or Assistant, as well as his own, placed to this entry in the Bill, to verify it, and also to the entry of the " Amount Received ", when the telling does not agree with the " Amount Sent ".

The Bills being filled up in this manner, the Postmaster's own entries of "Amount Received" are to be transferred to the " Received Side " of the Monthly Account, observing that when he has more than one communication per day, to or from any Town, the daily Letter Bills of the same date from such Town, are to be added together, and one entry only made on the Monthly Voucher.

When any differences arises from wrong telling, either in the Paid or Unpaid Letters, all the Bills relating to the entry are to be transmitted to London with the Accounts, to show the accuracy of the Postmaster's entries therein, and his own entries of the " Unpaid Received " will be considered the true amount, and be placed to his debit, in all cases when he shall receive no notice to the contrary.

Bye Letter Monthly Accounts

The Bye-Letter Monthly Account or Voucher, signed by the Postmaster, is to be enclosed in the printed cover and transmitted within three days after the 5th of each Month; the Postmaster being careful to insert the total Amount of Bye Letters, including the Short Letter Account (if any), in the space assigned for that purpose in the printed cover.

The Postmasters, being a check on each other for the Security of the Bye Letter Revenue, will see the necessity of being very careful in their entries. The Bills must be preserved for Twelve Months at least, to be produced, if called for by the proper Officers; with the exception of such Bills as may have been transmitted to London, in cases where the Accounts of the two Postmasters disagree.

Short Letter Bill

3. The Short Letter Bill has Two Columns; the first is for the Daily Account between the Postmaster and the Sub-Deputy; the second is for that portion of the Amount entered in the first, which constitutes the Short Letters, and for which the Postmaster is separately accountable.

Explanations on the Different Items in the Short Letter BillOutwards

" LONDON AND BYE LETTERS UNPAID " are Letters arriving at a Post Town " Unpaid ", for Delivery at the Sub-Town; the Postage of such is to be entered in the first or Sub-Deputy's column. The second column is dotted through, to shew there is to be no entry there.

POST OFFICE ACCOUNTS IN 1846, continued.....

" SHORT LETTERS UNPAID ".- These are Letters passing between a Post Town, and its Dependent Sub-Town.

Unpaid means not Post Paid at the Principal Office. The Postage of such Letters is to be entered in the First Column, to the charge of the Sub-Deputy, who collects it, and in the Second to the Postmaster, who is ultimately accountable for it to the Revenue.

" SHORT LETTERS PAID " - In this case, the Sub-Deputy not being chargeable with the Postage, his column is dotted through; but the amount is to be entered in the Postmaster's Column, who delivers the Letters and receives the Postage.

" OVERVHARGED AND RETURNS ".- These are to be deducted in the First Column from the charge on the Sub-Deputy; but not in the Second, as they are claimed by the Postmaster in the Dead Letter Accounts.

" LONDON AND BYE LETTERS PAID ".-

INWARDS

" LONDON AND BYE LETTERS PAID ".- These are to be entered in the First, or Sub-Deputy's Column, but not in the Second, as the Postmasters account for them in another way.

" SHORT LETTERS UNPAID ".- Are Letters sent " Unpaid " from the Sub-Office, and are, therefore, entered only in the Second Column to the charge of the Postmaster.

"SHORT LETTERS PAID ".- Are Letters " paid "at the Sub-Office for the principal Town, and its own delivery only, which are to be entered in both Columns.

" SURCHARGES MADE EITHER ON LONDON BYE OR SHORT ROAD LETTERS ".- This is for the Amount of any Surcharges it may have been found necessary to make on the Letters received, which must be entered in both Columns.

The Two Columns in the Bill are to be carefully added, and the amount of the Second transferred to the " Monthly Short Letter Vouchers, A. and C, " which Forms, having been duly cast up and signed, are to be sent to London in the same Cover with the Monthly Bye Letter Voucher.

PENNY POST TOWN DELIVERY

4. The Town Delivery Penny Post Bill, is for Letters delivered at the Window, or to Callers in any other way, or sent in Private Pouches, or distributed by Letter Carrier within the Free Delivery.

The First Column is for the total number of such Letters " Unpaid "; the Second for the total number " Paid ". In the following space the signature of the Sorting Clerk or Letter Carrier is to be made, together with that of the Postmaster.

GENERAL REGULATIONS RESPECTING PENNY POST BILLS.

The Daily " Penny Post Bills", and " Town Delivery Penny Post Bills ", are to be sent to the General Post Office, in London, at the end of each Month, with the Monthly Penny Post Accounts, arranged according to their dates, and tied in a parcel, flat; the name of the Town from whence they are sent is to be written in the Corner of the Direction.

Where there is more than one corresponding Town or Village, the names are to be inserted in the right hand margin of their respective Vouchers.

POST OFFICE ACCOUNTS IN 1846, continued.....ACCOUNT OF POSTAGE STAMPS

5. The Monthly Form for the Account of Postage Stamps must be carefully filled up, in accordance with the various items printed therein, and transmitted to the Accountant General's Office, immediately after the 5th of every Month.

The Account must be sent as a Letter, according to the superscription on the back, unscaled, with the name of the Post Town written outside.

INCIDENTAL CLAIMS

6. All Incidental Claims must be transmitted with the Receipts, to the Secretary, in the Form for that purpose, properly certified by the Surveyor of the District, or Superintendent of Mail Coaches, before or at the expiration of the Quarter.

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MULREADY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

A little while ago we received a request from an organisation bearing this title, operating from California. Frankly, the Editor was somewhat sceptical about the request for information which appeared to be a potential problem in several ways. However, at a recent stamp fair, the opportunity of meeting Mr. Lowe occurred and the records so far built up were examined. It appears to be a totally genuine attempt to record and publish information on the Mulready, which surprisingly has large gaps in its record thus far. Although the SG lists a number of items printed with advertisements many were from notes only and no copy or photocopy existed in any records. Many more have come to light.

As a matter of security it is proposed that readers who have mulready material and who wish to add to the store of knowledge should route their data through Derek Holliday. The compilation from readers will go forward under the LPHG name and actual ownership will be given only at the written authority of the owner.

The information wanted falls under the following headings:

1. Stereo or control number
2. Mint or used
3. Maltese Cross Color or
if cancelled by other than MX give details.
4. Date mailed
5. Posted from
6. Posted to
7. Advertisement: SG cat no. if known
8. Stitch watermark
9. Other postal markings
10. Remarks.

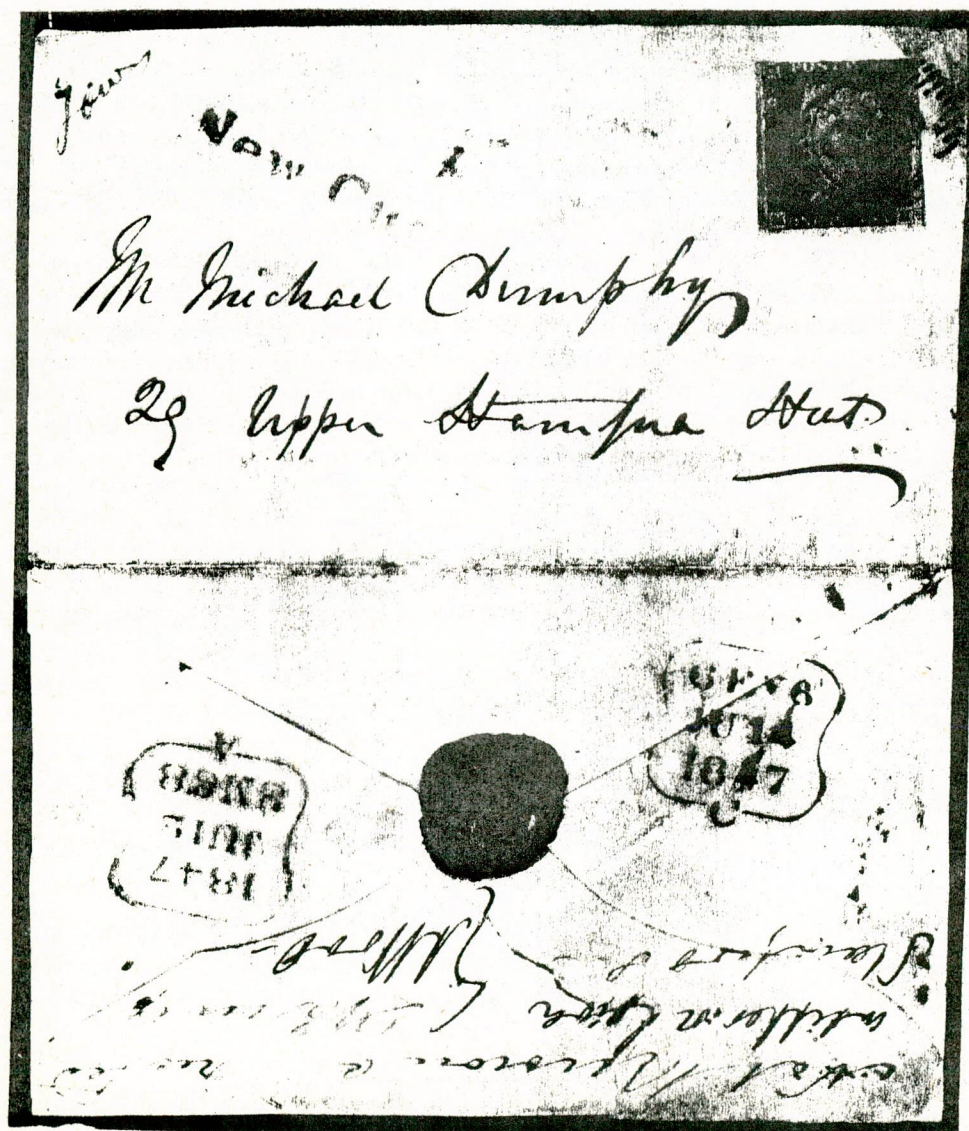
Where the reader has an advertising Mulready please forward a photocopy EVEN IF IT IS ALREADY LISTED IN SG. There are several versions of what appears, at a glance, to be the same and it would be useful (!) to record all.

LONDON DISTRICT POST: NOT KNOWN AT....

One of the problems for the collector of lesser regarded items is the stamps he seeks to acquire appear on covers with other 'desirable' - hence expensive - markings or adhesives. Such can be the dated backstamps of the London District Post so it was with some relief that the item illustrated commanded no great premium for the endorsement "Not known as directed Upper or Lower Stamford St" and the signatures of two letter carriers, Burns and Wood.

As can be seen the item carries the (normal) not too good example of New Cut and two dated stamps. 1847/JU 12/ 8 Mg 8 code A in red and 6 EV 6/JU 14/1847 code C in BLACK. This is duly noted against RMW 172 for the earlier type of the local post and no doubt continued in LDP.

Since this area is oft overlooked, would readers please check through and let the Editor have a note of LDP datestamps in their collections. The types are those illustrated. Full details please, including any stray full stops, if the lettering is upper or lower case, serif/sans serif etc. And the color.



THE DOUBLE RIM STAMP OF 1795


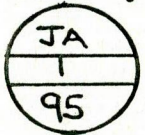
In the section on the Unpaid Stamps, Alcock and Holland have the following to say:

" Early in 1795 another change was made. Hendy tells how the trial of the sorter, Russell Farmer, in December, 1794, on a charge of stealing a letter showed that in order to establish definitely the identity of the person who stamped a particular letter, it would be necessary to distinguish the handstamps used on the morning duty from those used in the evening. This was done by retaining the single circle stamps for morning duty and introducing a double rim type for evening duty (Fig.23)."

From a set of records called the Presidents' Order Books comes the following. It is undated but immediately follows an entry on 20th. December, 1794.

Alteration of Stamp

A question was asked upon the Trial of Rufsel Farmer and it was understood by the Counsel that it can at any time be ascertained whether a Letter is stamped upon the Morning or upon the Evening Duty - the fact is not so, as in the case of Farmer - on the 29th July in the Morning he stamped the Country Letters, and with that identical stamp on the Evening. Marshall stamp'd the Letters Outwards - A Man's life may be at stake upon the proving this fact, and as it was upon a former examination in a Scotch Case where I was subpoenaed that a Stamp Book suggested itself to my mind as highly necessary to be kept in order to receive the Impressions of Stamps and the signatures of the Person making use of such Stamp in order that he might with safety be a Witness to any cause, particularly to Underwriters who oftener are in the habit of contesting stamps than any other class of Merchants.

I am now firmly persuaded of the necessity there is for a distinction being made between the stamps used for Letters Inwards and for Letters Outwards and that the persons so employed should not on any account be sent out on Errands or otherwise employed so as to subject the Stamp falling into two hands - therefore I propose that on and after 1st. of January 1795 which should be recorded in our Minutes that an obvious alteration in the Stamp should take place either by a different made socket(?) so as of a Morning to make one rim as thus  or that the Morning Stamps delivered up to the Presidents by the  up in their presence or that and on Evening two shall also be Stampers themselves they should be burned.

That this alteration do extend to the Paid & Free Stamps - that the Stamp Drawers be locked up & the keys to be one in the hands of each Sen^r Mefsen^r & one in the Presidents.

D.S. (Stowe)

The significance of the proposal to burn the stamp after each duty will not escape the reader.

That the stamp did not appear in the form suggested by Stow is not without interest, the Paid type did not acquire the double rim for many years. Jim Lovegrove (JL13) records the double rim FREE from 8th. June, 1797, again something of a delay.

THE 1794 REFORMS.....

From the Presidents' Order Books comes the following.....

Regulations for operation of New Ireland Office

General Post Office

26 Sept 1794

Mr. Lords.

We beg permission to report to your Lordships our progress in carrying into execution those regulations which we had the honor of proposing to the PMG on opening the new Office.

The Official duties of the Assist^s to the Presidents have been clearly ascertained; on the Evening Duty they regularly inspect the Boxes at the Division after the Letters have passed the hands of the Clerks and their Assistants and likewise the sorters, by this Inspection the sorters at the Tables are gradually trained to a correct execution of their duty, many of the errors of the Clerks and their Assistants in the Taxing, Telling and Mifsending of Letters are immediately pointed out, and many Letters of Peers and Members are preventing (sic) being charged. (1)

Their Morning Duties are to instruct the Young Officers Bag openers in the several branches of Taxing and telling the Letters Inward and to give the true state of them and enter any error of the Deputy Post Masters on a Report sheet provided for that purpose for the information of Mr Freeling and the Presidents.

The several good effects of these regulations particularly with respect to the Deputies have been acknowledged by the Resident Surveyor.

As the new American Office is nearly compleated we propose to submit to your Lordships consideration very shortly a plan for the internal arrangement and for the performance of that duty in future.

Since the Receipt & Disbursement of the Stationery & Mail Bags for this Department have been by the PostmGenl committed to the Presidents some savings have been made & particularly in that of Bags a duplicate of that account for the last and preceding quarter is transmitted herewith for your Lordships' information (2).

There not having been any regular method of receiving & investigating complaints relative to the Lofs of Letters containing Bills or Money the Mifsending of Letters & the Application of Persons having such complaints have sometimes been directed to one office, sometimes to another; in consequence Officers from want of the proper documents, incompetent to the full investigation of the subject, have been address(ed?) the injured parties have seldom been satisfied with the ifsue of such desultory enquiries and the measures most necefsary for the detection of persons guilty of the embezzlement have been neglected. Complaint of a lofs so high as 500£ in Bank Notes have been answered without reference to this department or some more effectual means of a handbill which might have been circulated thru' the Kingdom in fortyeight hours and probably would have led to a detection of the party who embezzled them or his accomplice.

(n.b. hardly any punctation in the original makes ready difficult; the odd comma has been inserted in the text not shown in the original Ed.)

As a remedy we propose to direct Mr Lloyd, Clerk of the Money Book, whose attendance under the Presidents in this department is from Six to Ren in the Morning & from five to eight in the Evening to attend from Six in the Morning to three in the afternoon to receive & register in a Book prepared for this purpofe all complaints of which immediate investigation will take place by the presidents. Assisted by Documents in their possession and the examination of Officers if on the Spot and the best possible answer given which the nature of the complaint will admit - such complaints as require a more detailed investigation and time to trace the Letters Lost are after a full enquiry answered by a Letter either from the Resident Surveyor or the Presidents, by these judicious means the Public are fully satisfied that every Official assistance

The 1794 Reform, continued.....

is readily given whenever they apply.

Should the complaints respect other departments the business is given over to the head of the proper Department.

As the PMG have been pleased to commit the Control of this department to the Presidents we flatter ourselves your Lordships will approve the regulations we have now the honor to propose more particularly as by this measure Mr. Lloyd will be relieved from any further attendance in Mr. Bonnors Office as the whole of his Duty will then be performed under the direction of the Presidents and the whole of his time dedicated to the Money Letter Book and the other important matters intended to be committed to his care. We pledge ourselves that this Plan will be executed to the satisfaction of the PMG and the interest of the Public and we have great hopes by adopting prudent and progressive regulations of either discovery or preventing such numerous embezzlements of Bank Notes and Money Letters entrusted to Post Conveyance.

All which is humbly submitted

Edm^d Barnes
Dan Stow

(1) Sept 27

The proposed regulation which Mr. Lloyd is to carry into effect seems very proper one. PMG will always see with pleasure and support with zeal every endeavour on the part of the Presidents to check abuses and to prevent if possible the numberless losses of Money Letters.

Ch.
Sept 29
Certainly Lei.

(2)

The order given on 5th April 1794 for the usual stock was for Bags of different sorts 63 doz.

It appeared on the 5th July there remained in stock 9 Dozen of which 8 Doz charged at 10/- ea £48; 1 Doz at 3/6 ea 2.2 total 50.2.0

RETURNED LETTER

by Robert Johnson

Although it is possible to get a great deal of information from the proof impression books, this otherwise useful source rarely indicates the reason for the issue of a particular stamp, or for that matter, whether it was ever used.

The stamps illustrated will be the basis for a section of the History and all readers are urged to provide details of any they may have. There may well be others not illustrated in readers' collections and these, of course, will be of utmost value.

All information to me at

65 Manor Park, Redland, BRISTOL BS6 7HW

*RECHARGED. Cannot
be allowed at the-
DEAD-LETTER-OFFICE
without an AUTHORITY.*

fig.1

SENT-BACK-TO-ENGLAND
WITHOUT-A-REASON
FOR-NON-DELIVERY

fig.2

UNCLAIMED

fig.3



fig.4

BEING IN THE SPANISH LANGUAGE
THIS PAPER IS PROHIBITED FROM
CIRCULATION IN SPAIN

fig.5

Not allowed to circulate
through the Post
in Russia

fig.6

RETURNED-TO-THE-SENDER
THERE-HAVING-BEEN-NO-MEANS
OF-FORWARDING-IT

fig.7

fig	Issued to	Date
1	Dead Letter Office Brass stamp	17. 2.1846
2		April 1854
3	RLB	19. 4.1859
4	RLB ignore date of cds	19. 4.1859
5	Foreign Office	26. 3.1859
6	Foreign Office	(Dec)1864
7	RLB	1.10.1859

SENT-BACK-TO-ENGLAND
WITHOUT-A-REASON
FOR-NON-DELIVERY

fig.8

SHIP-PAID-OFF

fig.9

RLB.
REGISTERED

fig.10

UNCLAIMED

fig.11

NO BOOK-POST TO

fig.12

R.L.O.
CONTAINS A COMMUNICATION
OF THE NATURE OF A LETTER

fig.13

R.L.O.
CLOSED AGAINST INSPECTION

fig.14

CANNOT BE SENT.
EXCEEDS 1/2 OZ.

fig.15

fig	Issued to	Date
8	RLB	11.10.1860
9	RLB	Sept 1861
10	RLB	9. 5.1861
11	RLB	11. 4.1865
12	RLB	25.11.1863
13	RL0	17.10.1872
14	RL0	17.10.1872
15	RL0	20. 6.1873

POSTED-AT UNDER
COVER-TO-THE-POSTMASTER-OF

fig.16



fig.17



fig.18

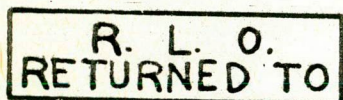


fig.19

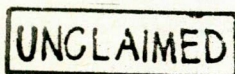


fig.20



fig.21

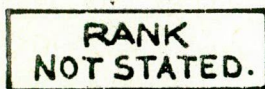


fig.22

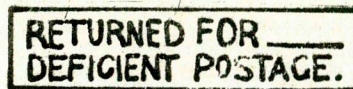


fig.23

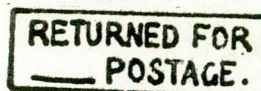


fig.24



fig.25



fig.26

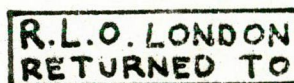


fig.27

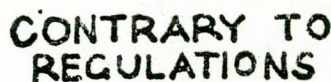


fig.28



fig.29



fig.30

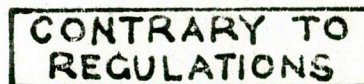


fig.31

fig	Issued to	Date
16	DLO	March 1857
17	RLB	October 1866
18	RL0 Westley - P.I.B.	Jan 1868 April 1869
19	RL0	28.11.1870
20	RL0	30. 3.1871
21	RLB	29. 4.1871

fig	Issued to	Date
22	RL0	20. 6.1873
23	RL0	20. 6.1873
24	RL0	20. 6.1873
25	RL0	16.10.1874
26	RL0	28. 5.1875
27	RL0	10.12.1877
28	RL0	26. 4.1878
29	RL0	26. 4.1878
30	RL0	26. 4.1878
31	RL0	17. 8.1878

INSUFFICIENTLY
PREPAID

fig.32

OVER ___ OZS

fig.33

EXCEEDS AUTHORIZED
WEIGHT OF 8 OUNCES

fig.34

CONTENTS INJURIOUS
TO CORRESPONDENCE

fig.35

CONTAINS MANUSCRIPT
NOT ALLOWED TO BE SENT

fig.36



fig.37

NOT PREPAID
FOR THE ROUTE INDICATED

fig.38

POST CARDS TO THIS ADDRESS
CANNOT BE FORWARDED

fig.39

POSTED TOO LATE
FOR THE ROUTE INDICATED

fig.40

NOT TRANSMISSIBLE
ABROAD

fig.41

OUT OF DATE

fig.42

NO PRESENT OPPORTUNITY OF
FORWARDING BY PRIVATE SHIP

fig.43

No present opportunity of
forwarding by private ship

fig.44

OF THE NATURE
OF A LETTER

fig.45

ADDRESSED-TO-A
BRANCH-POST-OFFICE
CONTRARY-TO-RULE

fig.46

THE RETURNED LETTER OFFICE IS FOR THE PRESENT
IN TELEGRAPH STREET MOORGATE STREET E.C.

fig.47

Insufficiently addressed
R.L.O

fig.48

RETURNED TO ENGLAND AS
BEING ABOVE AUTHORIZED SIZE

fig.49

fig	Issued to	Date
32	RLO	17. 8.1878 and 28. 8.1878
33	RLO	17. 8.1878 and 28. 8.1878
34	? RLO	3. 1.1872
35	? RLO	3. 1.1872
36	? RLO	3. 1.1872
37	RLO	30. 7.2874
38	? RLO	10. 6.1875
39	? RLO	6. 7.1875
40	? RLO	10. 8.1875

fig	Issued to	Date
41	? RLO	5. 1.1876
42	? RLO or MOO	24.11.1876
43	? RLO	20. 2.1877
44	? RLO	6. 3.1877
45	RLO	19.12.1874
46	?	6. 3.1875
47	?	7. 8.1875
48	Controller RLO	Sep/Oct 1876
49	Controller Circulation Dept	8. 4.1879

THE RETURNED LETTER OFFICE IS SITUATED
AT 27, ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD (SOUTH SIDE)

fig.50

SENT BACK TO ENGLAND
WITHOUT A REASON
FOR-NON-DELIVERY

fig.51

UNCLAIMED

fig.52

UNCLAIMED

fig.53

SENT BACK TO ENGLAND
WITHOUT-A-REASON
FOR-NON-DELIVERY

fig.54

R.L.O.

fig.55

A

fig.56

REGISTERED
C
JULY 7 86
RET'D-LT. OFFICE

fig.57

$1\frac{1}{2}$ D
TO PAY
RLS

fig.58

4 D
TO PAY
RLS

fig.59

Adressé à un Bureau de Poste
où il n'y a pas de Poste Restante.

Addressed to a Post Office
where there is no Poste Restante.

fig.60

Renvoyé en Angleterre sans
cause de non remise.

Returned to England without
a reason for non-delivery.

fig.61

Adressé sous initiales
contraire aux règlements.

Addressed to initials
contrary to rule.

fig.62

Trouvé sans adresse.

Found without address.

fig.63

Maison n'existe plus.

Firm dissolved.

fig.64

fig	Issued to	Date
50	RLO	6. 8.1880
51	RLO	27. 5.1881
52	RLO	27. 5.1881
53	RLO	9. 6.1881
54	RLO	9. 6.1881
55	The Housekeeper G.P.O.	30. 6.1881
56	RLO	1. 7.1881
57	RLO	8. 7.1886

Fig	Issued to	Date
58	RLS	18. 8.1921
59	RLS	18. 8.1921
60	RLO	12. 8.1887
61	RLO	12. 8.1887
62	RLO	12. 8.1887
63	RLO	12. 8.1887
64	RLO	12. 8.1887

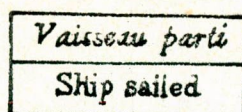


fig.65



fig.66

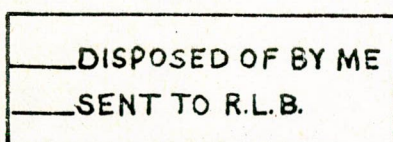


fig.67

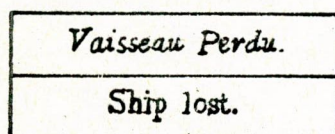


fig.68

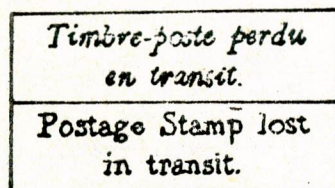


fig.69

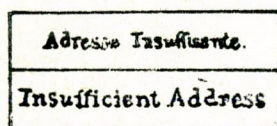


fig.70

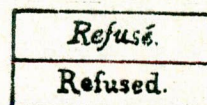


fig.71

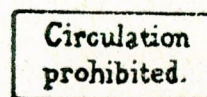


fig.72

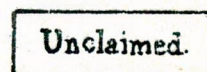


fig.73

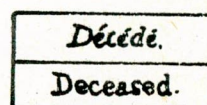


fig.74

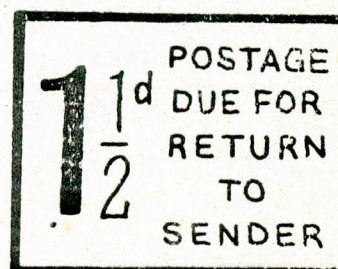


fig.75

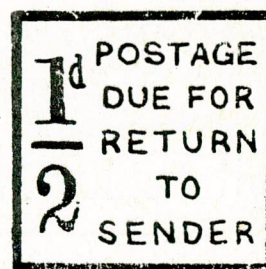


fig.76

fig	Issued to	Date
65	RL0	12. 8.1887
66	RL0	12. 8.1887
67	LPS Dept	2. 7.1887
68	RL0	20.11.1888
69	RL0	20.11.1888
70	RL0	20.11.1888

Fig	Issued to	Date
71	RL0	27. 6.1894
72	RL0	27. 6.1894
73	RL0	27. 6.1894
74	RL0	27. 6.1894
75	Controller RL0	24. 1.1895
76	Controller RL0	28.12.1894

IF THE CORRECT ADDRESS BE FURNISHED WITHIN
SIX DAYS AND IT IS WITHIN THE DELIVERY OF
THE SAME POST OFFICE AS THE ORIGINAL
ADDRESS, NO FURTHER POSTAGE WILL BE CHARGED

fig.77

Prepayment of foreign
correspondence can only
be effected by means of
Postage Stamps.

fig.78

*Recu en mauvais etat dans le Bureau
des Rebutis de Londres.*

Received in damaged condition in
the Returned Letter Office, London

fig.79

REGISTERED
FROM
RETURNED LETTER OFFICE
TO
REGISTERED LETTER DIVISION

fig.80

<u>Fig</u>	<u>Issued to</u>	<u>Date</u>
77	Returned Letter Office Mount Pleasant EC	30.12.1892
78	RL0	7.12.1892
79	RL0	7.12.1892
80	The Controller RL0 Mount Pleasant EC	9. 2.1893

Non Réclamé.
Not called for.

fig.81

Parti.
Gone away.

fig.82

Inconnu.
Not known.

fig.83

Seized by the Metropolitan Police and
sent to the Post Office for return to
the Sender.

*Saisie par la Police et livrée au Bureau
Central des Postes pour être renvoyée
à l'expéditeur.*

fig.84

THE RETURNED LETTER OFFICE IS AT
MOUNT PLEASANT, CLERKENWELL, E.C.

fig.85

THIS PARCEL WILL BE RETURNED TO YOU OR
SENT ON TO THE CORRECT ADDRESS WITHOUT
FURTHER POSTAGE DURING THE NEXT SIX DAYS

fig.86

IF THE CORRECT ADDRESS BE FURNISHED
WITHIN SIX DAYS AND IT IS WITHIN THE LONDON
DELIVERY NO FURTHER POSTAGE WILL BE CHARGED

fig.87

<u>Fig</u>	<u>Issued to</u>	<u>Date</u>
81	RLO	20.11.1888
82	RLO	20.11.1888
83	RLO	20.11.1888
84	RLO	27. 8.1892
85	RLO	29.10.1892
86	Returned Letter Office Mount Pleasant EC	25.11.1892
87	Returned Letter Office Mount Pleasant EC	25.11.1892

ADRESSE INSUFFISANTE
INSUFFICIENT ADDRESS.

fig.88

PARTI
GONE AWAY

fig.89

INCONNU
NOT KNOWN.

fig.90

RETURNED FOR
BETTER ADDRESS

fig.91

1^D
-
RLO

fig.92

2^D
-
RLO

fig.93

1^D TOTAL
2 TO
PAY.

fig.94

Liabile to Letter Rate
R.L.O.

fig.95

R.L.O.
CLOSED AGAINST
INSPECTION

fig.96

Liabile to Letter Rate

RLS

fig.97

Closed against
Inspection

RLS

fig.98

1^D
-

RLS

fig.99

2^D
-

RLS

fig.100

3^D
-

RLS

fig.101

5^D
-

RLS

fig.102

1^D
-

R.L.S.

fig.103

2^D
-

R.L.S.

fig.104

3^D
-

R.L.S.

fig.105

5^D
-

R.L.S.

fig.106

Fig	Issued to	Date
88	RLO	22. 4.1887
89	RLO	22. 4.1887
90	RLO	22. 4.1887
91	Sub Contractor Foreign Branch GPO East	2. 2.1894
92) 93)	RLO	22. 8.1901
94	RLO	June 1903

Fig	Issued to	Date
95	RLO	June 1903
96	RLO	June 1903
97	RLS	Nov. 1913
98	RLS	Nov. 1913
99 to 102	RLS	Nov. 1913
103 to 106	RLS	10.12.1913

LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

Revenue Account: Year to 31 January 1977

	<u>1976/77</u>		<u>1975/76</u>	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
Subscriptions		315.00		208
"Notebook" - sale of back numbers		19.35		45
Publications sales	249.73		162	
Less: Production costs	<u>184.17</u>	65.56	<u>129</u>	33
Packet Commission, less expenses		60.11		112
Auction commission, less expenses		5.36		13
Share of Joint Auction with EAPHSC		9.68		5
Donations and other income		3.11		1
Interest, Building Society account		<u>8.23</u>		<u>13</u>
TOTAL INCOME		<u>486.40</u>		<u>430</u>
		-----		-----
EXPENDITURE				
Room hire	25.00		15	
"Notebook" production and distribution	286.17		216	
Subscription, BPA	4.00		3	
Printing	19.59		34	
Postage, stationery and Officers' expenses	29.48		35	
Giro charges	<u>5.58</u>		<u>8</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		<u>369.82</u>		<u>311</u>
		-----		-----
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>116.58</u>		<u>119</u>
		=====		=====

Schedule - Publications

	Stock from last year	1976/77 Expenditure	Less Stock at 31.1.77	Net Cost	Sales
Parmenter 4	176.92	12.25	5.00	184.17	249.73
Parmenter - unpublished works	10.00	*72.40	82.40	-	-

*Costs are net after a contribution of £56 from the author

LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP


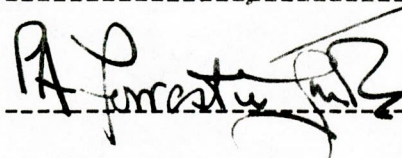
Balance Sheet as at 31 January 1977

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1976</u>
	£	£
ASSETS		
Deposit, Nationwide Building Society	262.25	54
In hand, National Giro Account	157.49	185
Prepays: Room Hire	30.00	25
Packet insurance	10.00	10
Costs of February 1977 "Notebook"	50.96	-
	<u>90.96</u>	<u>35</u>
Library, at nominal value	1.00	1
Stock of books at cost or valuation	87.40	187
Stock of other publications, at nominal value	1.00	1
Debtors, book sales	-	112
Printing deposit	40.00	40
TOTAL ASSETS	640.10	615
Less LIABILITIES		
Subscriptions received in advance	27.00	34
Receipts from Packets not yet dealt with	86.28	155
Creditors - publications costs	-	27
other	24.00	13
	<u>137.28</u>	<u>229</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	502.82	386

Represented by:-

ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance 1 February 1976	386.24	267
Add: Surplus for year	116.58	119
	<u>502.82</u>	<u>386</u>


 ----- Hon. Treasurer

 ----- Chairman

LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

Honorary Treasurer's Report

for the year ended 31 January 1977

In reviewing the Revenue Account on Page 1, we can take satisfaction in noting that subscriptions have increased over the previous year's figure by virtually exactly the amount of increase in the rate of subscription. The increase of 50% in the subscription rate led to a very small loss of members and this loss has been made good by new members coming in. The Packet commission, which was a big item in the previous year's figures, has unfortunately reduced substantially and this is due to the smaller flow of material offered by members. When one bears in mind the sharply-rising prices of Postal History material, it is likely that the reduction in quality and quantity of material flowing to packets is even more pronounced than the figures suggest. The other principal item of income is the net receipts from publication sales and this has doubled. A schedule at the foot of the page explains the derivation of the figures. Other items show little change in aggregate and we have total income of £486.

Our Expenditure for the year shows a steep increase in the cost of "Notebook", as was forecast a year ago; the justice of the increase in subscriptions is evident from this item.

Total Expenditure shows an increase over the previous year of £59, leading to a surplus for the year, slightly reduced on last year, but still very good at £116.

The Balance Sheet shows a number of changes between different classes of assets, as stocks turn into debtors, which turn into cash, which is put on deposit with the Building Society. Our total cash in the Building Society and in our Giro account is now £420 and, although part of this is needed to discharge the liabilities shown, we are building a Fund which will enable us to finance future publications, and thus make a significant contribution to Postal History.

John A. Grimmer, F.C.A.

Honorary Treasurer

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on 21st.May. With the usual brisk disregard for formality, other than more or less following the agenda, several items raised raised and settled. The Officers' reports are given below and on the following pages.

One decision was not to continue Group membership of the reconstituted BPA. The case for and against was put and on a show of hands it was resolved not to support the new body.

The Officers were re-elected for another year; both the Chairman and Hon.Treasurer advised this would have to be the last year in those posts, for the time being at least.

Programme for 1978 was considered and a range a subject matter agreed, with the final detail left with the Hon. Secretary. The Charmouth " awayday", having been so well supported was to continue.

Officers' Reports.Chairman:

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Derek Holliday, John Grimmer and Brian Smith for their contribution to the operation of the Group during the year. Thanks also to those who took part in the various displays during the year, both those who provided to main display and those who supported. The meeting with the GB section of the PHS had been a particularly memorable event with a gathering together of material well above standards normally achieved at Internationals.

As noted in the Hon. Treasurer's report, membership had been maintained and indeed there are now some 121 on the Notebook distribution list.

Publications, other than Notebook, continued with the first part of John Parmenter's Districts. Research papers for Suburban Offices and District Part II were sent out during the year. At present, the London District Post Duplex book is at ' press ' and it is hoped to make this the first element of the London's Postal History project. The bunders for this have been purchased and are now available.

Contributions for Notebook are always in demand. No matter how small the item or query it will be very welcome.

Members' attention id drawn to the plea of the Hon.Packet Secretary for more material. This is very much a problem which only members can resolve.

The Chairman concluded by hoping that members had enjoyed the Group offerings during the past year and the forthcoming year would provide something of interest for all.

Packet Secretary:

There has been a marked decrease in the volume of material made available during the year and the quality has also deteriorated. Perhaps members have been restricted in their purchasing due to the ever increasing prices in the Postal History market, with the consequence that very little is being released for resale and the few regular subscribers are having to scrape the barrel to keep the packet alive.

The number of members receiving the Packet has remained about the same as the previous year, some dropping out, no doubt, because of the increasing postal charges and/or the offer of poorer quality material. Nevertheless, it has been possible to send out one packet a month, which has brought some pleasure to the recipients and income to Group funds.

It would seem likely this figure will drop during the current year unless more subscribers can be found.

B.T. Smith.

London Postal History Group

" Notebook " is printed five times a year and is issued free to members.

Individual copies, where available, can be supplied at 50 pence each,
U.K. Post Paid.

Publications, other than " Notebook ".....

1. Classification of Types of Undated Namestamps of England, Wales and Ireland 1840 - 1860, by M.V.D. Champness (1973) 20 pence
2. Horizontal Oval Cancellations of London, by John Parmenter (1974)
(Out of print)
3. District and Branch Cancellations of London 1857 - 1900, Part 1 ,
by John Parmenter (1975).
Unbound copies only now available. £1.75 plus 35pence post & packing.
(Members £1.20 plus p & p)

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24 Dovercourt Road,
Dulwich, London. SE22 8ST

Hon.Secretary Derek Holliday,
4 Darwin Road,
London. W5 4DB

Hon.Treasurer John Grimmer,
48 York Road,
New Barnet, Herts. EN5 1LJ

There is a packet circulated to those who apply to:

Brian T. Smith,
41 Cranleigh Drive,
Swanley, Kent. BR8 8NZ

Contributions for the packet are always wanted; anything from a single item to a bundle of cards.

Members' Bourse.....before every meeting; there is ample opportunity to buy and sell. No ' table fee '.

The annual subscription to L.P.H.G. is £3; there is no joining fee.

Also available:

Howard Robinson's ' British Post Office ' at the bargain price of £1 plus 60 pence post and packing.

All publications obtainable from the Editor.