

## 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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### PROFESSOR HOWARD ROBINSON

Many readers will be aware of the valuable contribution made to Postal History by Howard Robinson. At the age of 91 he died on January 26th. in Oberlin, U.S.A.

From the notice in the "Times" come these notes on his life and career:

" He was at Oxford for two years before World War II...he taught English history at several American universities, at McGill University, Montreal and at the University of Queensland, Brisbane....his earlier books include " A History of Great Britain " ....His " The British Post Office "(Princeton UP 1948 ) was widely acclaimed and led to his spending considerable time in England and the publication of "Britain's Post Office" (OUP 1953) and "Carrying British Mails Overseas" and to an appointment to New Zealand's Post Office staff in 1960-61 where he wrote " A History of the Post Office in New Zealand"....



# THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEVICES FOR APPLYING CANCELLATIONS AND OTHER POSTAL MARKINGS

Conducted by F.M. Johnson, C.Eng., F.I.Mech.E.

This article appeared in STAMP MONTHLY and permission to reprint has very kindly been given by the author, to whom our thanks. There is an urgent request for information from readers.

His address is: - " Brackens ", Church Road,  
West Lavington, Midhurst,  
Sussex. GU29 0EH

If there is information available, surely it must be with " Notebook " readers!

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

During the first years of the use of the adhesive stamp considerable thought was given to methods for ensuring that they could not be reused.

The well known Maltese Cross used from 1840 to 1844 was followed by the so-called numeral type with specific designs of England, Scotland and Ireland ( Fig.1 ). The 1844 type was a step forward as it included the number of the office of origin. In both the 1840 and 1844 types a second handstamp was usually applied, more often on the reverse of the letter, to indicate the date and other coded or direct data giving information on time and/or sorting position. This second handstamp usually included the town name in addition.



Fig. 1  
1840-1844 Maltese Cross and 1844  
Numeral-English Type.



Fig. 2  
'Duplex' or combined cancellation and  
office date stamp.

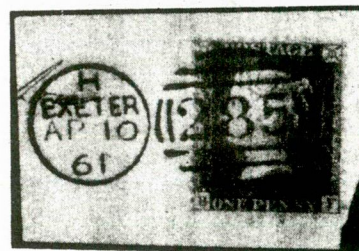
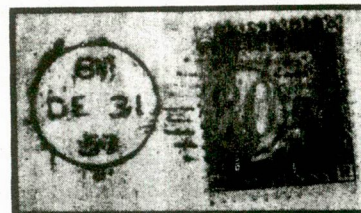


Fig. 3  
'Creswell' cancellations-  
London 16.5mm and  
Exeter 15.5mm c.d.s.

The logical development to the application of both a cancellation for the adhesive stamp plus a further detailed handstamp was a combined or Duplex type system ( Fig.2 ) which would serve all functions with one operation.

Readers of the GB Collector series will no doubt recall the article of October 1974 ( Ref.1 ) briefly detailing the experimental Duplex type handstamped or machine operated cancellations produced by mechanisms suggested by Pearson Hill and Charles Rideout.

Over the past few years many more of these early Duplex type cancellations of London have been examined and also a study made of other relevant developments of the same period.

As a result of these data it would appear that a fresh appraisal should be made in regard to some of the cancellations, particularly those marks referred to as "Creswells" ( Fig.3 ).

During the period under consideration, 1853 to 1860, the postal system had rapidly



The Development of Devices.....

expanded and the use of cancelling devices and associated apparatus had become quite an important consideration to the general economy of the Post Office operations. They had also received numerous complaints regarding the poor legibility of the handstamps on letters, particularly in respect to dates.

It is not surprising, therefore, that new apparatus was tried out, not only in methods of applying a cancellation or handstamp, but also in the development of better dies and inking devices for applying them.

In this context it is interesting to record the Post Office was finding the consumption of ink used on the inking pads was becoming excessive due to increased use and, not least, evaporation.

One problem was the ink tended to thicken due to evaporation and, unless the stamping dies were regularly cleaned, they would give poor impressions due to solidified ink. Considerable attention was given to this subject in late 1856 and early 1857 and details of many discussions which took place may still be found in the records ( Ref.2 ).

Early in 1857 for instance, the suppliers of ink for the London area were changed in order to obtain a better ink with more consistent qualities.

In the same year, at a meeting of senior Post Office officials ( then termed Surveyors ) from many areas of the country, the subject of the application of postal markings and cancellations was the main consideration and from the Post Office Records ( Ref.2 ) the minuted document of this meeting setting out the recommendations is reproduced in full here.

" Surveyors Meeting - March 18th., 1857 "  
Stamping and Stamping Pads

We have fully described the subject of stamping letters and have witnessed experiments with various descriptions of stamping pads which have been submitted to us.

We find that most of them if carefully used and kept in good condition will answer the purpose, so as to ensure clear and legible stamping and it is difficult to select any one which we can recommend for general adoption.

The Cylindrical pad suggested by Mr. Creswell is the only one which exhibits a new principle, its peculiarity being that it is self-priming, a property which renders it well adapted for use in Sub Offices and at small Post Towns, where the stamp is in use only for a short period each day. At such offices it is difficult to keep the pad in proper condition, the ink having so great a tendency to dry when exposed to the air.

None of the ordinary means of laying on the ink ensures that it may be applied evenly and in the proper quantities. Mr. Creswell's plan keeps the pad regularly and evenly supplied with ink and preserves the ink of a proper consistency enabling the person who uses the pad to obtain a-fresh a newly primed surface whenever it may be required.

All waste of ink is avoided and, as the surface of the pad which is not actually in use is preserved from exposure to the air, it cannot become clogged with dried composition.

An important point in regard to this pad is that it is accompanied by a stamping cushion of a very good construction which is as essential as a pad to the proper performance of the stamping duty.

We think that the advantages offered of this pad render it well worthy of a fair trial and we beg to recommend that Mr. Creswell be authorised to furnish a few of these pads and cushions, with certain improvements which have been suggested, to each Surveyor to be used experimentally for a few months when we shall be able to report fully of their efficiency and as to the propriety of introducing them more generally.

We do not consider it desirable to supply stamping pads at the expense of the Revenue, we think it sufficient to leave it to each Surveyor to furnish, at the



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cost of the Postmaster, to any office where it may be required, a pad of the construction which he may consider best adapted for the purpose.

We deem it most essential that the dated stamp should be made of metal of a harder and superior quality to that now used and that the letters and figures be cut sharper. The stamps should be smaller than those now supplied and the letters should be wider apart.

We need hardly allude to the necessity for the ink supplied being of the very best quality as otherwise every effort to produce perfect stamping will be fruitless.

We do not consider the appointment of a travelling Inspector of Stamps necessary, or that the plan suggested by Mr. Creswell in his report of 15th. January for instructing Postmasters in the duty of stamping, need be resorted to, it being, we think, quite in their own power, without any such aids to effect such improvements as will render the stamping in his County as nearly perfect as possible.

Wm.T.Gidby  
Chairman

As a result of the recommendations of the Surveyors' meeting, attention was focussed on the following:

- 1) Quality of the stamping ink
- 2) Cleanliness of stamping dies and apparatus applying ink to dies
- 3) The development of an improved inking pad, particularly for the smaller offices
- 4) The development of improved stamping dies of smaller size and harder material

The first item had already been the subject of considerable discussions in the London area and an improved ink obtained.

Item 2 was a matter of Post Office discipline and mentioned in several notices with other relevant instructions during this period.

The third item was of considerable importance with specific mention in the March 1857 meeting minutes of an improved inking pad of Mr. G.H. Creswell, of Devonport, Devon.

In this apparatus, the area of the pad used for inking the dies was kept to a minimum, to reduce loss or coagulation of the ink through evaporation and hinged covers enabled the pad to be completely encased when not in use. The first few boxes were tried out in his own area and in London early in 1857.

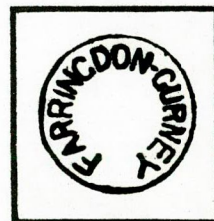
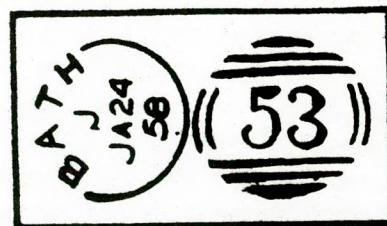
During 1857 many more boxes were sent out to offices throughout the country including, in October 1857, a modified version with a bigger diameter cylinder. It is interesting to record Pearson Hill suggested improvements to these boxes to incorporate a flatter inking pad.

Reports on the trials from many places are still to be found in Post Office Records; it was generally considered an improvement for the smaller offices.

In no instance during these trials of 1857 was there any reference to special dies being made to be used with the Creswell inking pads. Several examples of impressions from the particular office handstamp were included with the trial report and were the normal Duplex type cancellation of that time, the smaller single circular sub-office handstamp ( Fig.4 )

Creswell was eventually awarded ( 1862 ) £400 for the patent rights, which were taken over by the Post Office. The pads continued in use for sometime at the smaller offices but when the requirement for handstamping mail

Fig.4



Duplex and single sub-office handstamp impression using Creswell inking pad



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( not cancelling adhesives ) at the smaller offices was withdrawn, the need for them was considerably reduced. In a later trial in London, in April 1858, they were considered too hard for use for handstamping at busy offices.

This leads to the most important aspect of this article and listed in Item 4, the development of improved dies and later, the association of these improved dies with the Pearson Hill ' machine ' and ' Parallel Motion ' cancellation and stamping devices.

It should also be explained that the Pearson Hill experimental ' machine ' and the later hand operated devices incorporated self-inking mechanisms to the stamping dies as, in all instances, they were designed to speed up the work in the main offices.

In the same period being considered, 1856/8, improvements in the actual dies used were apparent and produced mainly by a firm of printers and engravers, D.G. Berri of 36 High Holborn, London W.C.

Some idea of the coverage of this firm in their work for the postal authorities is shown in Figs. 5 and 6 ( Ref. 3 and 4 ). It does seem Berri had been made aware of the various suggested improvements since, from about 1855, the ink bearing surfaces of the dies became progressively more legible. It certainly appeared that the use of hardened steel in place of wood or brass enabled thinner sections to be used for the lettering etc., giving clearer impressions.

There was a marked change in 1857 and many of the Duplex type stamps and the single circular sub-office stamps began to appear in a more compact form. Two of these, Fig. 3, have become known as ' Creswell ' handstamps, although the only definitely known association these smaller handstamps had with Creswell was that he did exhibit his cylindrical inking pad at the same meeting, when among the various recommendations, smaller dies and harder material were suggested.

It would seem Berri was the originator of most of the dies, including the smaller ones and, as reported by Hendy ( Ref 5 ), recommended a standardisation of sizes for the date stamp based on the number of letters of the particular town ( Fig. 7 ).

Other improvements initiated by Berri included the hinged Duplex Stamp ( Fig. 6 ) which enabled the date and code section to be changed more readily.

( figs 6 and 7 overleaf )

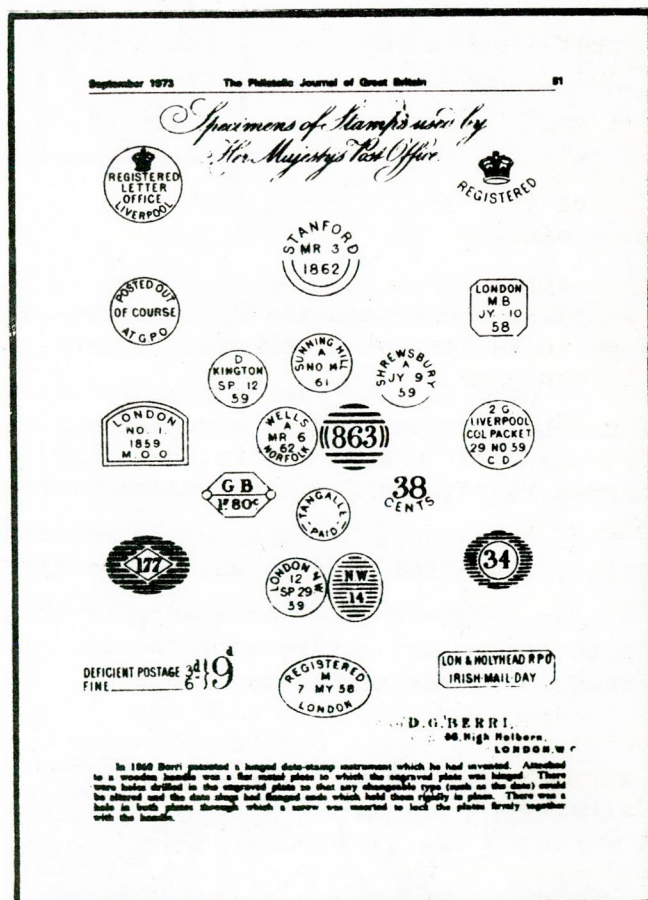


Fig.5



The Development of Devices.....

The patent hinge  
double stamp for stamping  
the name of the town and  
obliterating the postage stamp  
with one impression

Fig.6

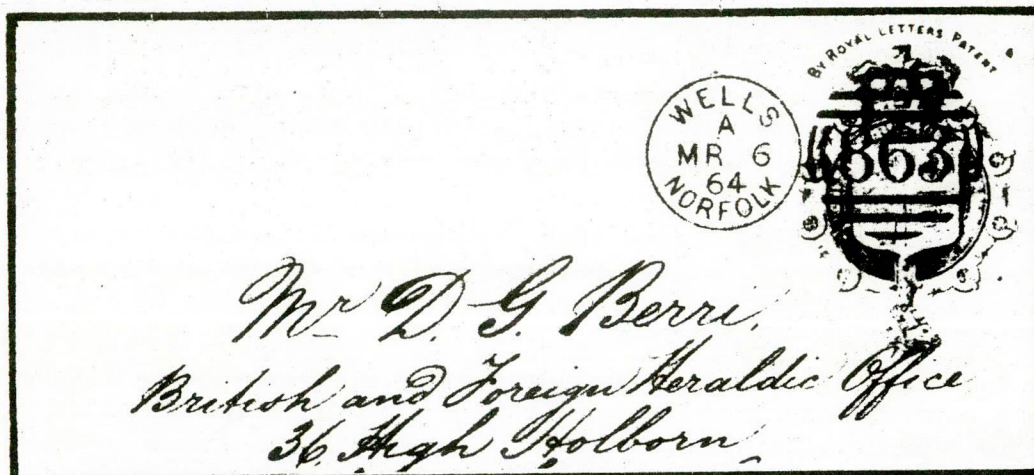
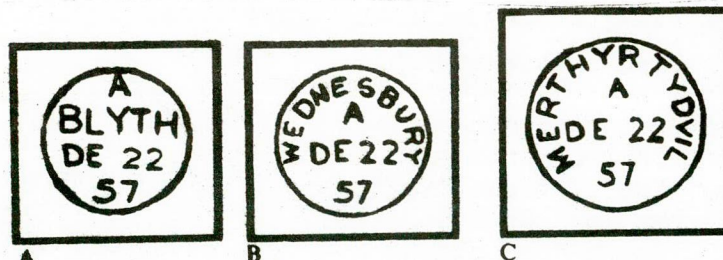


Fig.7

Standard designs of date stamps  
suggested by D. G. Berri for towns of A. 3  
to 7 letters (19 mm dia.) B. 7 to 12 letters  
(19 mm dia.) C. over 12 letters (21.5 mm  
dia.)



It will have been seen the Duplex type device had become almost universally used for the cancellation of adhesive stamps.

The very busy offices were hoping for further improvements to speed up the operation and the London Head Office were already experimenting with 'machines' for cancellation purposes (Ref.6). An important adjunct to the Pearson Hill experimental machines was the self-inking system of the cancellation die.

The most successful of these early mechanisms was the Pearson hill 'Parallel Motion' machine, so-called because of its geometry of construction.

It was as a result of a close examination of some of these experimental cancellations on both stamps and covers over the past few years that it seemed a fresh appraisal of these early marks was required.



Fig.8

Fig.9

The most interesting of those used in London in 1858 were in use for only a matter of days or weeks (Figs.8 & 9).

From recent observations it does seem the twin circular date stamp cancellation (Fig.8), often referred to as the 'rare Creswell', is in fact the first trial of the Pearson Hill 'Parallel Motion' machine fitted with two similar Berri manufactured dies.

In addition, the other Duplex or small diameter cancellation and handstamps (Fig.3), also referred to as Creswells, were again made by Berri but reduced in size to conform



The Development of Devices.....

with the recommendations set out in the Surveyors meeting of March 1857.

The so-called ' rare Creswell ' shown in Fig.8 has always been rather a mystery and both Westley ( Ref.7 ) and Stitt-Dibden ( Ref.8 ) considered it to be associated with the Creswell inking pad trials.

The dates on which this twin circular date stamp cancellation have been recorded are for three or four days from 10th March, 1858, which seems too late for it to be connected with the Creswell inking pads trials which largely took place in 1857.

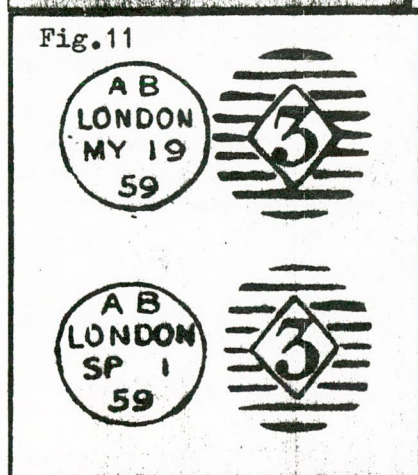
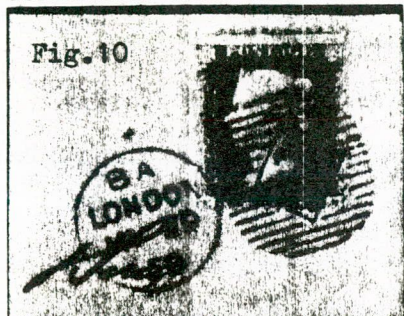


Fig.12

The earliest date recorded until recently of the Pearson Hill ' Parallel Motion ' with the No.3 impression ( Fig.10 ) was 13th.May, 1858 and it was this type which was originally used to compare with the twin circular ' Creswell '.

It was found that the two components of the twin ' Creswell ' differed slightly from each other but since the date plugs were changeable and the dies hand made this was understandable. The circular date stamp component of the No.3 Duplex(Fig.10) was, however, also very nearly identical to the twin ' Creswell ' (Fig.8), suggesting a link between the two marks. In both cases the characteristic letters and figures of a Berri produced die were present, particularly the shape of the 5 in 58 with its large lower loop.

The problem was to find further evidence and, if possible, some similar cancellations used between the dates 12th.March, 1858 and 13th. May, 1858.

A remarkable find made earlier this year was a cover used from London and addressed to Hamburg ( 8d. rate ) with four 2d. adhesives cancelled with the Pearson Hill No.3 type dated 23rd. March, 1858 and in a form not previously recorded ( Fig.9 ).

The cancellation very obviously had been unacceptable as it was underinked and had received further strikes of the normal London Inland Office diamond No.15 ( Dubus I.O. Type 304c. ), see Fig.12.

It will be seen the circular date stamp component of this cancellation ( Fig.9 ) is identical ( apart from the date ) to one of the twin circular components of the so-called Creswell and even has the same code, CB, above ' London '.

It does seem, therefore, that the twin circular cancellation was the forerunner of



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the Pearson Hill ' Parallel Motion ' machine ( perhaps a trial while waiting for the manufacture of the ' 3 ' in diamond component, i.e. the cancellation component ) and that it was a Berri production.

The first No.3 Duplex was in the form illustrated in Fig. 9 but it was altered to its later form ( Fig.10 ) to reduce the possibility of breakage and/or damage to letters due to the small lines at top and bottom of the cancellation component; additionally, it was unnecessarily long. In the first few weeks of these trials Pearson Hill was known to have been attempting to improve the self-inking devices which on the Hamburg cover had obviously given trouble. In the P.O. Records it is minuted that he did adjust the self-inking pads particularly to increase the ink flow to the cancellation component.

During this investigation several other important discoveries were made in connection with the Pearson Hill machine cancellations, including the following :-

1. The die for the ' Opera-Glass ' mark ( Dubus Type 3 ) was made in three sections and caused variations in the overall length of the recorded examples.
2. The No.3 cancellation, as illustrated in Figs 9 and 10, exists in at least three forms showing differences of the cancellation section, different codes, ( CB, BA and AB ) and with different distances between the cancelling and date stamp components.
3. The first ' production ' type No.3 Pearson Hill ' Parallel Motion ' machine die with the 2.5.5.2. line configuration exists also in two types, the first having a similar c.d.s. to the earlier type ( as Fig. 10 ) and the second with larger letters and spacing of ' LONDON ' ( Fig.11 ).

Ref 1. Stamp Monthly, October 1974, Vol.5, No.5

Ref 2. Post Office Records. E/2093/1863

Ref 3. The British Philatelist, Sept.1937, by kind permission of Mr. H. Nissen.

Ref 4. The Art of Printing, by D.G. Berri, 1864 : FMJ Library.

Ref 5. The History of the Postmarks of the British Isles. Hendy 1909. Stanley Gibbons, Limited.

Ref 6. Experiments with early Duplex cancelling machines. Stamp Monthly. Oct.1974.

Ref 7. Postal Cancellations of London 1840-1890, by H.C. Westley. H.F.Johnson 1950.

Ref 8. Creswell's Patent 1857. W.G. Stitt-Dibden. Stamp Collecting. 31st. May and 14th. June, 1963.

The writer would like to thank Messrs. Stanley Gibbons Ltd. and R.C. Alcock of Cheltenham for the loan of material to illustrate this study.

The Editor of Notebook would like to express his appreciation for the opportunity to reprint this valuable contribution and hopes readers will echo this by writing to the author, with both notes on any material they have - or have recorded - and with any comments.

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

WANTED.....

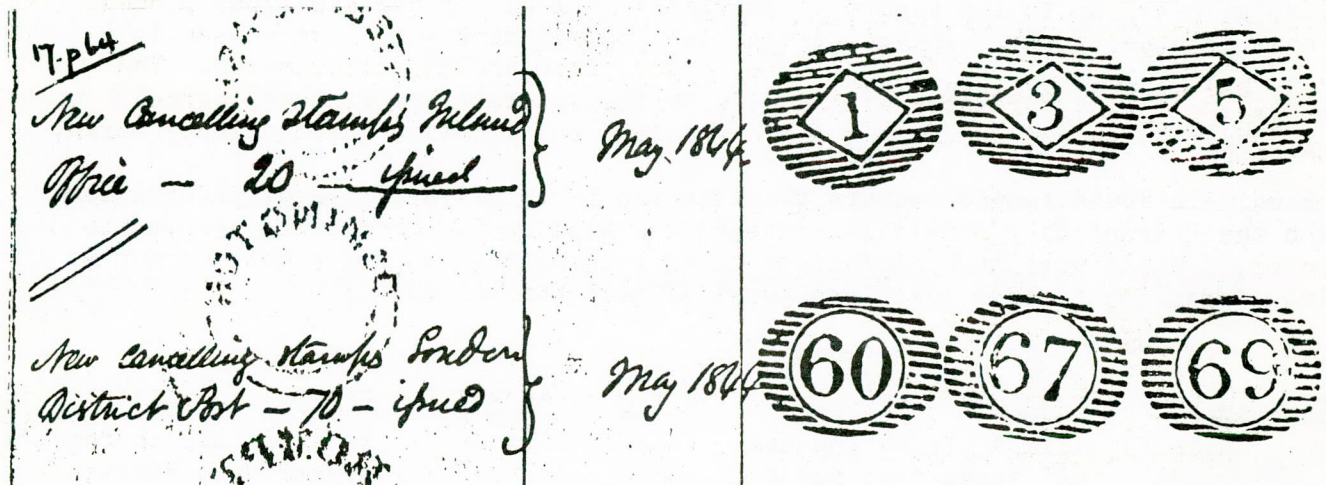
EL's, handstamps etc relating to LONDON PENNY POST 1794 to 1801. Price & details to

R.D. Green,  
3 Clovelly Road,  
Sunderland,  
SR5 3LR



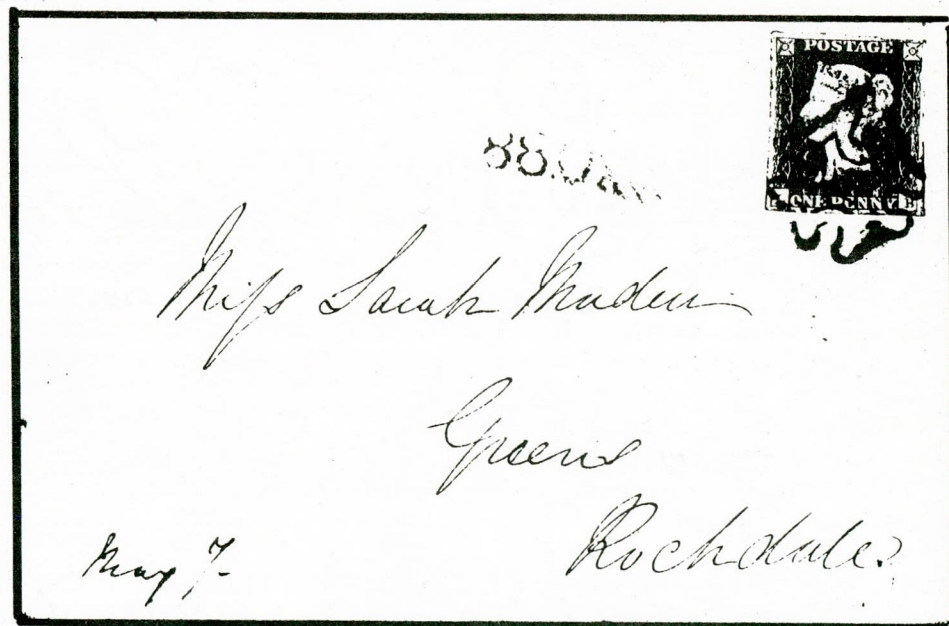
UN-NUMBERED MALTESE CROSSES IN LONDON

Notebook has made comment on the use of the numbered maltese cross and it must be admitted, possibly careless reading has somehow conveyed the impression that these only were in use in London's Chief Office. Crosses were issued to many Provincial Offices and one must ask if they were also issued to important offices in London.



The London District Post numbers were issued to many offices; did these have their own MX? If so, as with mail receiving the LDP number, did they handle only local mail? It is suggested this was so.

From Carroll Boyce, of New York, comes something of a poser.



The year, obtained from the date stamps on the reverse, is 1844. The writer, very happily, put May 7 on the front of the envelope, posted at 88 Oxford Street, carries a Plate 32 CB, cancelled with an un-numbered MX. As readers will be aware, it has not been possible to advance the earliest date for diamonds beyond 18th May, 1844.

The question here is quite simple: why the use of the type 2 London Maltese Cross?

**Editor's Note:**

Is this a case of something so ordinary that the significance has been missed? He has no example of un-numbered cross in his London collection, but then he was not looking for one - were you?



THE NEWSPAPER AND BOOKPOST, by R.I. Johnson.

This further listing is a start and by no means a definitive work. It will give some idea of the range.

It is, as ever, up to the reader to provide some meat for the skeleton: I need to have details of any ( and all ) examples you may have - or have access to - and a xerox copy would be ideal. Date, color, from and to, other marks. The next batch of illustrations will deal with the Returned For Postage, Parcel Post Charge Marks and the Fine ( i.e. deficient postage/fine ) accountancy marks.

In passing I would remind members that the two lists of this type of information which were circulating some time since went " missing ". Should they happen to turn up, I would very much appreciate their return; no need for a note or anything, forwarded " under plain wrapper " if more convenient.

<u>fig</u>	<u>issued</u>	<u>remarks</u>	<u>fig</u>	<u>issued</u>	<u>remarks</u>
1	March 45	Inland Office for use on Canada Newspapers	4	Oct 46	presumed use on foreign newspapers. Foreign Division.
2	Sept 45	Lombard Street for use on India Newspaper	5	Jan 47	as fig 4
3	Jan 46	Lombard Street for newspaper	6	Mar 49	believed newspaper use Foreign Division



fig.1



fig.2



fig.3

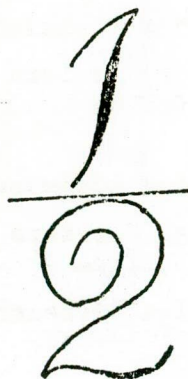


fig. 4



fig.5



fig.6



The Newspaper and Bookpost, continuedUNSTAMPED  
PUBLICATION

fig.7

NOT-ACCORDING-TO  
ACT-OF-PARLIAMENT

fig.8

CONTAINS AN ENCLOSURE

fig.9

OUT-OF-DATE

fig.10

STAMP NOT  
VISIBLE

fig.11

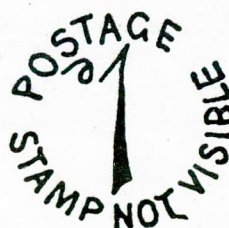


fig.12



fig.13

UNSTAMPED  
PUBLICATION-F.D

fig.14

STAMP-NOT-VISIBLE

fig.15

OVER 4 OZ

fig.16

REGISTRATION  
NOT-RENEWED

fig.17(a)

NOT-REGISTERED

fig.17(b)

SEALED-AS  
A-LETTER

fig.18

<u>fig</u>	<u>issued</u>	<u>remarks</u>	<u>fig</u>	<u>issued</u>	<u>remarks</u>
7	Nov 1847 Nov 1850 Jul 1855	GPO for Letter Carriers Office	8	Jan 1849 Nov 1850 May 1858 1864	Letter Carriers Office Foreign Office
9	May 1850	Letter Carriers Office	10	Oct 1853	Foreign Division
11	Jun 1855	to 2 named London OFFICERS ? Inland Office	12	Jul 1855	Letter Carriers Office
13	Jul 1855	L D Branch	14	Jul 1855	Foreign Division
15	Aug 1855	Ship Letter Division	16	Oct 1855	Letter Carriers Office
17	Sep 1856	Foreign Division ( Newspapers were regist- ered at the GPO for certain reasons )	18	Oct 1856	Foreign Division



The Newspaper and Bookpost, continued

(a)



(b)



fig.20

ABOVE-4-OZ

fig.22



(c)

fig.19



(d)

NO BOOK-POST TO

fig.21

DEFICIENT-POSTAGE  
ADDITIONAL-RATE

fig.23



fig.24

NEWSPAPER REGULATIONS  
NOT COMPLIED WITH

fig.25

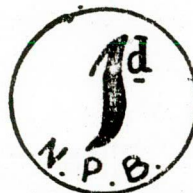


fig.26

NOT A SAMPLE. N. P. B.

fig.27

N.P.B.  
CLOSED CONTRARY TO  
REGULATIONS

fig.28



fig.29



fig.30



fig.31

N.P.B.  
CONTAINS INFORMATION  
OF THE NATURE OF A LETTER

fig.32

*Received open and  
resealed in N.P.B.*

fig.33

<u>fig</u>	<u>issued</u>	<u>remarks</u>	<u>fig</u>	<u>issued</u>	<u>remarks</u>
19	Mar 1857	Inland Office	20	Sep 1859	SWDO
21	Nov 1863	Returned Letter Office	22	Mar 1865	London S. Office
23	Jun 1865	Inland Branch	24	1868	Inland Office
25	Jul 1870	Inland Branch	26	Dec 1870	NPB
27	Dec 1870	NPB	28	Nov 1870	NPB
29	Dec 1870	NPB	30	Dec 1870	NPB
31	Dec 1870	NPB	32	Feb 1871	NPB
33	Aug 1871	NPB			



**The Newspaper and Bookpost, continued**FOUND-IN-N.P.B.  
WITHOUT CONTENTS

fig.34

FOUND IN N.P.B.  
WITHOUT A COVER

(a)

RECEIVED IN N.P.B.  
UNADDRESSED

fig.35

(b)

N.P.B.

fig.36

A  
N.P.B.  
AU 30  
73

fig.37

A

fig.38

C

fig.39

N.P.B.  
N  
9 JA 78

fig.41

N.P.B.  
 $\frac{1}{2}D$ 

fig.42

N.P.B.  
6<sup>D</sup>Improper enclosure  
N.P.B.

(a)

Contains a communication  
of the nature of a Letter  
N.P.B.

(b)

Closed contrary  
to regulations  
N.P.B.

(c)

Of the nature  
of a Letter.  
N.P.B.

(d)

More to pay  
above \_\_\_\_\_ oz  
N.P.B.

(e)

Insufficiently addressed  
N.P.B.

(f)

Contrary to regulations  
N.P.B.

(g)

More to pay  
above \_\_\_\_\_ oz  
N.P.B.

fig.43

ADDRESS INCOMPLETE.  
WHEN FOUND IN N.P.B.

fig.44

N.P.B.  
1<sup>D</sup>

b

N.P.B.  
6<sup>D</sup>

fig.45

<u>fig</u>	<u>issued</u>	<u>remarks</u>	<u>fig</u>	<u>issued</u>	<u>remarks</u>
			34	Oct 1871	NPB
35	May 1872	NPB	36	Apr 1873	NPB
37	Aug 1873	NPB	38	Oct 1873	NPB
39	Oct 1873	NPB ( A to H supplied )	40	Jul 1876	Inland Branch
41	Jan 1878	NPB	42	Jun 1882	NPB ( 1d; 1d; 2d; 3d; 4d; 5d; 6d )
43	Apr 1883	Circulation Dept	44	Mar 1885	NPB
45	Nov 1885	NPB ( 1d; 2d; 3d; 4d; 5d; 6d )			



**LONDON TWOPENNY POST: COUNTRY RECEIVING HOUSE STAMPS**

compiled by John Adams, being a revised listing cancelling and replacing that given in Notebook No. 31

<u>Receiving House</u>	<u>Earliest</u>	<u>Latest</u>	<u>Color</u>
Acton	Jy.1822	Ja.1827	Black
Battle B-ge	Mr.1827	Sp.1831	Red
Baywater	Jy.1824	-	Black
Brentford End	Jy.1823	Fe.1827	"
Brompton	Ap.1819	No.1822	Red
"	Oc.1835	-	Black
Camden T <sup>n</sup>	Mr.1834	Ju.1835	"
Chadwell	Sp.1821	Jy.1834	"
Chelsea C.O	Sp.1819	-	"
E.O Chelsea	Sp.1824	1836	Red
Chigwell	Ap.1821	Mr.1827	Black
Chigwell Row	Ju.1844	Au.1844	"
Chingford	Sp.1833	Ap.1837	Red
Chiswick	Sp.1820	Au.1839	Black
N.O Clapton	Fe.1839	-	"
Colney Hatch	Ja.1820	No.1825	"
Eaft Ham	Ju.1820	-	Blue
Edgware R <sup>d</sup>	Mr.1830	My.1833	Red
Edmon <sup>n</sup> S.O	Sp.1822	-	Black
Enfield	Ja.1819	Ap.1819	Red
"	Ja.1825	-	Black
Enfield H-way	Mr.1820	No.1839	"
Finchley	1831	-	"
Fulham	Ap.1819	Au.1836	"
Goswell St R <sup>d</sup>	Sp.1824	Mr.1834	"
N.O Hackney	De.1822	-	"
Hammer <sup>h</sup> C.O	Ja.1820	Mr.1825	"
Hampfthead N.O	Sp.1819	My.1830	"
Hampstead N.O	Fe.1836	-	"
Hanwell	Ja.1819	De.1837	"
Hendon	Oc.1822	My.1840	"
Holloway	Ju.1831	Ju.1838	"
Hommerton	Au.1831	-	Red
Hornsey	Oc.1820	Ja.1825	Black
Ilford	Sp.1823	My.1835	"
Iflington S.O	Sp.1822	Ju.1837	"
Kenfington	Sp.1836	Mr.1838	"
Kenfing <sup>g</sup> G.P <sup>s</sup>	Ap.1834	No.1836	Red
Kentifh T <sup>n</sup> N.O	Au.1819	Au.1823	Black
S.O Kentifh T <sup>n</sup>	My.1827	Ap.1838	"
Kew	Oc.1818	Oc.1832	"
Kingsland	Ja.1835	1836	Red
Kings R Chelsea	My.1835	Jy.1835	Black
Leyton	Au.1821	No.1825	"
Leytonftone	Jy.1819	Au.1824	"
Lit Chelfea	Jy.1827	Ju.1836	"
Lit Ealing	Ap.1827	-	"
Loughton	Au.1823	Sp.1835	Red
Mill-Hill	De.1828	No.1847	Black



London Twopenny Post; Country Receiving House Stamps, continued...

<u>Receiving House</u>	<u>Earliest</u>	<u>Latest</u>	<u>Color</u>
New Brentf <sup>d</sup>	Oc.1839	1840	Black
Newing <sup>d</sup> G <sup>d</sup>	My.1828	Oc.1828	"
N-End Fulham	Jy.1837	De.1837	"
Old Brentford	Ap.1819	-	"
Pancrafs	No.1822	-	"
Parfons G <sup>d</sup>	De.1827	Fe.1836	"
Queens Elm	My.1820	Fe.1821	"
Sloane St.S.O	Jy.1819	Mr.1824	"
" " "	Au.1831	-	Red
SO Sommers T <sup>n</sup>	Sp.1821	No.1835	"
Sommers T <sup>n</sup> NO	De.1827	No.1835	"
Totteridge	Ap.1820	Fe.1831	"
Turnham G <sup>d</sup>	Fe.1821	Mr.1824	Black
Walham G <sup>n</sup>	My.1823	-	"
Waltham <sup>y</sup> E.O	Ja.1820	Jy.1840	"
W.O Waltham <sup>y</sup>	De.1818	Au.1832	"
Whips Crofs	Mr.1820	-	"
Whitton	Fe.1831	Au.1845	"
"	Oc.1851	Au.1852	Blue/Green
Woodford N.O	Mr.1820	Fe.1821	Black
Worton	Sp.1826	-	"

## Note:

The Norton Folgate recording previously listed has been omitted; there is some doubt as to whether the mark is of the General Post or 2d.Post.

Date extentions, colors and alternative spelling information please.

HOIST WITH ONE'S OWN.....

A letter from Michael English points out how easy is the slip between what one hopes to achieve and the actuality.

Readers may recall that in the item on London's Postal History, much was made of the need to distinguish 'kite-flying' from hard fact and the dangers of generating yet another series of " according to ", which acquire the sheen of respectability with time.

Then in the " W for Wrongly Posted ", came the reference to the article by Barrie Jay.

Michael cites evidence that the Post Office regarded the "W" as relating to a "Window" letter. Whilst the "W" = "Window" is not yet proven, it is very probable. The point of this all is that we must try and make theory and documented evidence clearly set apart.

There is no doubt something lurking in P.O. Records to sort out the full story; as Michael's letter concludes - " perhaps a couple of days in P.O. Records will provide all the necessary! ".

Volunteers please.



**BRANCH OFFICE STAMPS: FURTHER INFORMATION,** by John R. Sharp.

( Readers are referred to Notebook 29, page 7 )

Rather than repeat the full text and illustrations, this note publishes the further information received following the original article. Work has begun on the Proof Impression Books in Post Office Records. This, when completed, plus readers help will be the basis for a section of 'London's Postal History'.

There are two further pages of illustrations and there appear overleaf.

There are the following corrections and amendments to the tabled data:

Ref.No.	Branch Office	Color	First & Last Recorded Dates		Nos. Recorded	Remarks
58	L.S.	Blue	29. 9.29	30. 5.31	13	
58	L.S.	Red	8. 2.32	14.11.32	5	
60	C.X.	Red	23. 3.30	2.11.33	9	
60/V1	C.X.	Red	AU 1 45	AP 22 46	3	Late type with month before day; other date MR 23 1846
63	B	Black	31.12.36	26. 9.37	2	
64/V2	C.X.	Red	19. 3.45	28. 1.54	8	
64/V3	C.X.	Red	13.19.37		1	
66	L.S.	Black	14. 6.34	12. 8.53	24	
66/V1	L.S.	B	29. 5.39	9.11.52	25	
67	V.S.	Red	28. 3.36	30.11.42	5	
69/V1	C.X.	Red	14.11.37	17. 6.39	3	Other date 23.2.39
69/V2	C.X.	Red	6. 8.30		1	Possibly 1839
70	C.X.	Black	25. 8.51	2. 5.57	4	
71	C.X.	Red	16.11.52	31.10.56	11	
71/V2	C.X.	Red	26. 8.56		1	
71/V3	C.X.	Red	21. 7.55		1	
72	L.S.	Black	23. 9.44	11.11.52	18	
72/V1	C.X.	Red	10.10.43	5. 4.48	7	
72/V2	C.X.	Red	4. 8.46	20.10.48	5	
72/V3	C.X.	Red	27.10.42		1	
73	L.S.	Black	5. 7.47	26. 2.57	25	
73/V1	L.S.	Red	21. 4.56	13.12.56	3	Other date 17.6.56
74	L.S.	Red	26. 7.44	12. 2.56	17	
75	O.C.S.	Red	26. 1.43	21. 9.53	11	
76	B.	Red	27. 9.45	16. 8.50	5	
77	C.X.	Red	7.12.54	27. 6.57	11	
79	L.S.	Black	5.10.49	6.10.53	10	9 on mail to overseas
79	L.S.	Red	21. 5.49	27. 5.58	9	
80	L.S.	Red	30. 4.51	9. 3.57	5	
80/V1	L.S.	Red	12. 8.50	2. 8.53	11	



**Branch Office Stamps, continued.....**

Ref.No	Branch Office	Color	First & Last Recorded Dates		Nos. Recorded	Remarks
82/V1	L.S.	Black	13.10.57	30.12.57	5	Two recorded in 1851 (3rd & 6th Dec)
82/V2	L.S.	Red	22. 2.58		1	
DA2	OCS	Red	3.12.51	14.11.56	3	
710	B	Red	(23. 1.40)	19. 8.40	1	Listed by collector under 710
	C.X.	Red	(28. 1.37)			
710/V1	C.X.	Red	1. 8.38	11. 6.47	5	New Type?Double Frame
713	L.S.	Red	26. 6.30	25. 8.32	5	
714/V2	L.S.	Red	31. 5.41			
716	V.S.	Red	19.11.35	31. 3.40	3	
719/V1	L.S.	Red	8. 7.42	16. 4.47	4	
719/V2	L.S.	Red	5. 2.36		1	
720	O.C.S.	Red	(25.4.44)	2. 9.47	3	

Apart from date extensions and numbers recorded note also the following:-

- a) 60/V1 derived from type 60 as in use during a later period but with the month before the day.
- b) 64/V3 new illustration.
- c) 67 last recorded date should read 30.11.42
- d) 69/V2 new illustration. Year given as 1830, but this may be 1839 as the example examined was not clear.
- e) 70 add color ' red ' to original listing.
- f) 71/V2 )
- g) 71/V3 ) new illustrations
- h) 72/V3 )
- i) 73/V1 illustration of example in red ink
- j) 77 latest date should have been 27.6.57 NOT 56
- k) 79 majority use on Foreign Mail.
- l) 82/V2 Earliest, and only, date should have been 22.2.58 NOT 53.
- m) DA2 further example recorded for 1851.
- n) 710 below ' B ' for Borough, CX/Red added beside 28.1.37
- p) 714/V2 'Double Frame ' type added to remarks
- q) 719/V2 new illustration

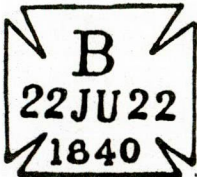



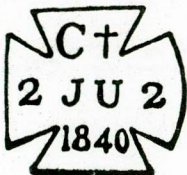
With the Autumn season of Exhibitions, would readers record anything they see in stocks when browsing and send in the information to

John L. Sharp, 23 Bury Road, Shefford, Beds SG17 5AP

DO NOT assume it is not important or has been already recorded!!










Branch Offices.....

Ref. No.	Colour		Notes
60/V1	RED	AS 60 BUT DAY AFTER MONTH	IN USE MID 1840's
63/V3	RED		SIMILAR TO 63/V1 BUT WITH LARGER INITIAL LETTER 'B'
64/V3	RED		SIDES SLIGHTLY CURVED, AS TYPE 64 BUT LARGER C+
66/V2	BLACK		SMALL HANDSTAMP
69/V2	RED		SIMILAR TO 69/V1 BUT SINGLE OUTLINE FRAME. (YEAR INDISTINCT ON EXAMPLE COPIED - POSSIBLY 1839)
69/V3	RED		SLIGHTLY SMALLER C+ THAN 69/V2 BULGE MAY BE DUE TO WEAR OR APPLICATION ON UNEVEN SURFACE THUS CAUSING DISTORTION.



Branch Offices.....

Ref. No.	Colour		Notes
71/V1	RED		
71/V2	RED		
72/V3	RED		SMALL FIGURES
72/V4	RED BLACK		AS 72/V3 BUT LOMBARD STREET
73/V1	RED		
73/V2	BLACK		DEEPER PENETRATING POINTS THAN 73
719/V2	RED		



HANDSTRUCK ERASURE MARKS OF THE LONDON TWOPENNY POST -  
some general observations and notes by John Adams.

These general observations, with the appended table of seen or reported examples of London 2d. Post erasure markings, are cast into the postal history pond in the hope of causing a few ripples of interest, the emergence of further information & perhaps a little controversy- at least from members of a Group concentrating on the study & collection of London P.H. !!

The collated results could, hopefully, produce a record in depth on one of the many facets of the local London posts that have been somewhat skipped over in the past.

Unfortunately, although not rare or even scarce, letters with erasure marks are by no means common & examples come to light only too infrequently. Nevertheless, I feel sure there must be a number of collectors with the odd example or two in their collections. I will be very happy to have details of these - with a photocopy, if possible, - in order to expand the study.

These markings are, of course, closely associated and linked with others and to cover the subject thoroughly they should also be investigated further, the results being integrated with the erasure mark conclusions. I am thinking, in particular, of the higher value charge handstamps used for amending redirected letters and the " In All " script type handstamps sometimes found with them.

From a purely personal viewpoint, I am not happy about the entitlement " erasure marks ". Obliterator sounds more apt but has the same dictionary definition, i.e. to remove. Perhaps " deletion mark " would be a more fitting term.

It is difficult to understand why these special handstamps should have ever been supplied and used at all. The General Post, as far as I know, made any similar alteration merely by crossing through in manuscript, followed by an indication to record the authority. In my experience of T.P. examples seen, by far the majority have involved a correction, rather than an amendment. It seems brash to emphasise a fundamental error by applying such an obvious and elaborate device.

Erasure marks have been noted to cancel :-

charge marks incorrectly applied

charge marks requiring amendment due to letters being redirected

date/time stamps incorrectly applied, i.e. paid types on unpaid letters or visa versa.

Although these stamps could not have been subjected to a great amount of work, most examples seen have been very poorly struck, giving the impression of being either over or under inked, worn and even broken. Further, although their existence is quite obvious they are invariably struck over a previous stamp, making it most difficult to trace an accurate profile.

Referring to the column headed " Apparent Principal Office Used At " in the accompanying table of recordings, unless a letter's transit has been restricted within the area of one Principal Office only ( or transferred to the General Post ) it is not safe to allocate the use of a particular erasure stamp specifically to one Principal Office. So many of the letters carrying these marks have passed through both Principal Offices and these can be used only as supporting an otherwise un - challenged allocation.

There are undoubtedly more major types than reported by Brumell. In the case of fig.1 ( Br. 121 ) two different sizes have been noted, in use concurrently. Similarly with fig.2 ( Br.122 ). A further breakdown may eventually be established of these types. Figs 3 and 4b are certainly distinct as major types. Each has been recorded enough times to classify them as such. As noted in the table, a photocopy



Handstruck Erasure Marks.....

of fig.6 has been examined and the opinion formed this must be entered as a distinct type.

The table of marks is given overleaf.

All information and comment will be most welcomed by

John Adams,  
" The Lowe "  
Worfield,  
Bridgnorth, Salop. WV15 5NS

I would like to give due acknowledgement to John Harrison for his recordings and assistance.

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THE UNDATED NAMESTAMP - LATE USE

According to the information on undated namestamps by Michael Champness, the undated namestamps were withdrawn during 1859 - 60.

Ay Showper this year a Crystal Palace SE was found on an envelope bearing a 4d adhesive, cancelled by the SE13 duplex dated DE 27 61; this is confirmed by the ANGL AMB CALAIS, which is dated the following day.

The undated stamp was not issued until 1859 and the next recorded stamp does not appear until 1870, in the proof impression books at least. Could the undated for this one office have continued in use for eleven years? The office, as such, was not open to the public, other than as a letter box; it is not certain that mail was even cancelled there, the District Office being speculated as the scene of action.

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OFFICE INITIAL STAMPS OF THE LONDON DISTRICT POST

Some date extentions:-

fig 2. NR 27th. August, 1850  
fig.3. NR 6th. June, 1850  
fig.14. PB 8th. July, 1853 to 12th. November, 1856

( figure references Notebook 16, page 10 )

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POST PAID WITHDRAWN SHIP LETTER

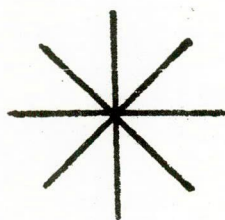
One often hears the complaint of the scarce and very collectable stamps being applied over the letter join, often marring an otherwise very fine appearance. Just for the record it was quite deliberate, designed to stop further enclosures being slipped inside after being returned to the sender.

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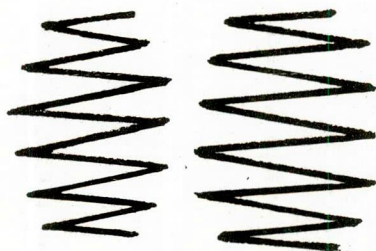


**HANDSTRUCK ERASURE MARKS OF THE TWOPENNY POST: TABLE OF RECORDINGS TO DATE**

Fig	Brumell Ref	Reported Dates Of Use Early                      Late		Reported Colors	Reported Number	Apparent Principal Office Used At.	Notes
1	121	Mar.1812	May.1833	Black & Red	9	Westminster	There would appear to be two variations of this type, one 27mm.across, the other 22
2	122	May.1812	Feb.1830	Black & Red	15	Chief Office	There are almost certainly at least two different handstamps of this type. Both have the same profile but one is larger
3	-	Dec.1830	Aug.1835	Black & Red	5	Chief Office	It is suggested this type could well have been created by a modification of fig.2 ( most probably to the smaller ). Support for this theory lies in the fact that the dates of use reported are all later than any for fig.2
4a	123	Sep.1825	Dec.1835	Black	3	Chief Office	
4b	-	Dec.1837	Apr.1839	Black	8	Chief Office	
5	-	Nov.1828	-		1	Westminster	These are one off's as reported. A photocopy of fig.6 has been examined and shows a very good impression as illustrated
6	-	Jun.1831	-	Black	1	Chief Office	



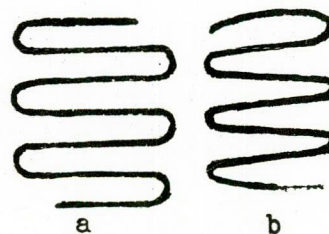
**Fig.1**  
(spider)



**Fig.2**  
(corkscrew)



**Fig.3**



**Fig.4**  
(snake)



**Fig.5**



**Fig.6**