

NOTEBOOK

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NEW HON, SECRETARY.....

In order to concentrate on Handbook work, Derek Holliday has resigned as the Hon. Secretary but not before securing the services of Tony Potter to carry on the job. Will members please note the revised details on the back page of the issue and in the

PROGRAMME FOR 1979.....

Has been printed, hopefully in convenient wallet size, and is enclosed with this issue. Our new meeting place is the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, which is near Holborn Tube Station and not that far from our venue in 1978.

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

INSPECTORS MARK A & H 1841, by O.F. Embery

Various interpretations have been offered as to the likely meaning of the 13mm. high L in a circle hand struck in red and found on letters passing through London in the General Post during the period 1831 till 1856.

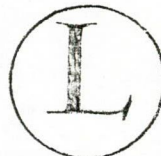


Fig. 1841

To date no single theory has been suggested which would explain each and every recorded instance of the use of this mark. Some letters bear evidence of delay at the Chief Office due to difficulty in establishing the correct address. Others are on letters returned to the Chief Office with the original London address amended for redirection to another address in London. The occasional letter has nothing about it to explain why it merited the attention of an Inspector.

However, in every instance of the use of this mark coming to my notice, at some stage of their travels the letter has been transferred from the General Post into the London Twopenny Post (which became the London District Post in 1844), that is from General to Local. Furthermore, the delivery address when being transferred is always in the Town area and never the Country area.

On this evidence it would appear reasonable to suggest this Inspectors' mark served simply AS A TRANSFER STAMP FROM THE GENERAL TO THE LOCAL POST. If this is the case, it explains why it is recorded in use only till 1856, being the year of the London Post re-organisation.

The mark generally accepted as the Transfer stamp for letters from the General Post into the Twopenny Post is the G:P in use during the same period but its application differs from that of the 'L' stamp in two respects.

G:P

G:P

Firstly, the G:P stamp I have seen accompanied by the 10 AM date/time stamp of the Twopenny Post, whereas the 'L' stamp occurs on letters which show evidence of being transferred into the local post at all times of the day from 10 AM ONWARDS.

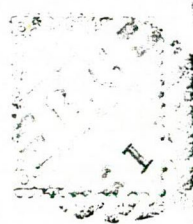
Secondly, the G:P mark is generally held to have been applied to letters transferred for delivery to addresses in both Town and Country areas, whereas the 'L' appears only on letters for delivery in the Town area.

Examples of A & H 1841 are more numerous after 1840 and my observations are based on mail sent from 1839 to 1856. It would be valuable to hear from readers of examples in the collections which add to the story, especially those prior to 1840.

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

BETHNAL GREEN RARITY.

Although it does not photocopy too well members might be interested in knowing an example of the hitherto unrecorded on cover 1D1 of Bethnal Green. The original is a very fine example and will grace any collection of London postal history.



TWOPENNY POST TRANSFER STAMPS, abstracted from The Presidents Order Books by
Vivien Sussex for LPHG.

note: the typed note at the foot is, in fact, a manuscript note on the original which space required such maltreatment. The dating is 26th. December, 1817.

The significance of the note will not escape readers. It is the first time the Editor recalls seeing an Official statement to that effect, though most reference assert the matter with an authority one suspects has not been founded on more than observation.

This, if nothing more, corrects that particular aspect.

On and after the 26th Instant
all Unpaid Letters paying two
the Twopenny for delivery by
the General Post will have one
of these Stamps at the back in
Black. Such Letters will be
liable to a Charge of two Pence
in addition to the General Post
Rate. Any Letters bearing a
2d. Tag in front and not
having one of these Black
Stamps at the back must not
be charged with the 2^d rate.



No Black stamps will be used in the Two Penny Post Office, but to denote that the Letters are chargeable

CHELSEA HOSPITAL AND POSTAGE CHARGES

Whilest researching for Twopenny Post information, a reference was found to the arrangements for Chelsea and Greenwich Hospitals and the various papers are quoted in full below.

Before that, it is worth quoting from ' England's Postal History ' by Martin Willcocks. The complex arrangements he records serve to show yet a further aspect of the folly of the franking system.

"...An interesting case to illustrate the difficulty of drawing a line is Chelsea Hospital, which normally had no privilege but received hundreds of letters from out-pensioners, many living in Ireland. Chelsea forwarded their charged letters to the Adjutant General, whose mail was free, and the charge was erased. Thus, these charged letters were delivered to Chelsea who endorsed ' on official business ' and signed it, readdressed singly each one and returned them to the Post Office for delivery in Whitehall, from whence they must be carried again to Chelsea. Can you wonder the Post Office developed a creeping paralysis ? Later, Chelsea and Greenwich Hospitals had the franking privilege....."

Post 42 Vol.51 No.341

(There was clearly previous correspondence to that retained in the files. The first, in order of dating, is on a scrap of paper, which which we start.)

The earliest entry in my Book is Decr 3 1806 when directions were given to the President to allow the sum of £148.16.0 for returned Covers to the Treasurer of Greenwich Hospital. This practice has ever since continued.

DS (a)

Mr. Stow will be so good as to state by whom the entry in the Book was made and whether there was any authority from the Secretary, or any Correspondence with him upon the subject.

23 March (b)

The above entry was made no doubt under an authority from the PMG exhibited at the time by the proper Officer from Greenwich Hospital - I have some recollection of the representation (I think from W. Lockyer) to our Board.

DS (a)

See Letter to Mr. Bate 3 Decr 1806 (c)

Notes: (a) Daniel Stow commenting on an entry in the Presidents' Order Book
(b) This entry in another hand, unsigned.
(c) Yet another hand, unsigned, written across a space at the foot of the page.

The next entry to be recorded is unsigned, clearly an instruction :

Mr. W. Peacock who will be good enough to advise whether under the Acts of Parliament it is necessary that the letters on the business of Chelsea & Greenwich Hospitals should be addressed to " Treasurer " or " Deputy Treasurer " to entitle them to pass free.

Is it the practice at present to charge letters addressed to the Person holding the Office (Colonel Spicer for example) and to return the Postage on a Certificate that the Contents were official.

Many Letters purely official are directed to Clerks or Agents on or connected with the Treasurer or Deputy Treasurers Office - The postage is also returned upon these on a similar Certificate.

Mr. Peacock's opinion is requested first as to the Law of the Case and next as to the discretionary practice which has obtained.

31st.March, 1830

(Endorsed " Col Spicer 19 Apr)

Chelsea Hospital and Postage Charges.....

The following is undated. It was signed, apparently by a drunken spider who was ' of opinion ' he was Mr. Peacock, but one hesitates to endorse the attribution other than by reference to the contents of the note over the ' signature '.

I am opinion that all letters addressed to the Treasurer of either Chelsea or Greenwich Hospitals upon the business or affairs of such hospitals are entitled to pass free of postage whether addressed to " The Treasurer " or to the person holding the Office.

The privilege does not seem to extend to Letters addressed to the Deputy Treasurer of Chelsea Hospital.

Such a privilege was given by the 49 G 3 c 123 but appears to have been taken away by the 54G 3 c 86.

By the 7G4 c16 all Letters addressed to the Secretary of Chelsea Hospital or sent to or delivered at his office upon the business of the Hospital are entitled to pass free of postage.

The best mode of ascertaining whether the letters be official is, I think, to require them to be produced.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

The next in date order are two letter from Colonel Spicer at the Royal Hospital Chelsea:

Royal Hospital Chelsea
15th. April, 1830

Sir.

With reference to my letter of the 25th. Ultimo, I request that you will have the goodness to give directions for the Return of the Covers and the payment of the amount to be refunded, as early as convenient, in order that the Accounts for the Quarter just ended may be closed.

I am Sir
Your most obedient Servant
N H Spicer

T.M. Musgrove Esq.,
Twopenny Post Office,
Gerrard Street

This carries the following endorsement:

I beg leave to submit this application to Sir J (?) with reference to the former..?... (cases ?)

T.M. Musgrove

T.PPO
16 April

Royal Hospital Chelsea
20 April 1830

Sir.

I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th. Inst and to acquaint you that the Act of Parliament which applies to the letters alluded to in my communication of the 15th. Inst is the Act 54 Geo 3 Cap 86 Sec 32 by authority of which all letters addressed to me relative to Prize Matters or other business connected with this Hospital are to be received free of postage. I have the honor to add that the system of transmitting to the Post Office at the end of each Quarter the covers of letters on which postage has been charged (such covers having my signature affixed thereto) and of being allowed the amount of such charge, has been acted upon ever since the passing of the Act above referred to, and adopted in consequence of an arrangement with yourself, which arrangement is recognised in your letter of 16th. Jan'y 1819.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your most obedient Servant
N H Spicer

Chelsea Hospital and Postage Charges.....

As was his habit, Freeling summarised the important detail into a covering report.

General Post Office
28th. April 1830

My Lord,

On receipt of the usual applications from Greenwich and Chelsea Hospitals for the return of postage charged upon Letters relating to the business of those Establishments, for the Quarter ended the 5th inst, I thought it right to satisfy myself that we were proceeding upon the correct principal, in returning such large sums of the Public Revenue, and your Grace will see by the enclosed papers that I have been in communication with the proper Officers, and with the Solicitor upon the subject.

The question was discussed in the year 1819 when it was decided the best and safest course would be to charge all the Letters addressed to the Hospitals, is the first instance and to return the postage on the production of the Covers with a Certificate from the Treasurer, or Deputy Treasurer, that they were on Official business, as in most instances the Acts of Parliament, giving the privilege of receiving such Letters free to certain Officers were not strictly complied with, and the Acts themselves not very clearly defined.

I am glad to see that the practice has been continued in strict conformity to the rule there laid down, the Covers always being sent with a certified list; - The same principle is observed in the other Public Departments, where the letters are through the ignorance or misconception of the Writers addressed to individuals in those Departments, not having a privilege to receive them free, instead of to those who have that privilege - And the Solicitor is of opinion that under all the circumstances it is the best mode to pursue - Your Grace will be pleased to understand that the matter has not been agitated at this moment on account of any remonstrance against the present regulation, from either of the Hospitals, but solely at my own instance, and in some desire to satisfy myself that in a case where the Revenue is so materially concerned, no laxity had crept into the system.

I should certainly be glad if these Establishments could conveniently claim the sums in their own official Incidents the result however as to the Public Revenue generally is the same and if your Grace see no objection, it can be understood that the existing practices to be continued, while the circumstances which have given rise to it remain the same.

All which is humbly submitted by

F. Freeling

Approved: Manchester

The Presidents Order Book, Post 14, 262 Volume 25 was examined, and are recorded above, there is indeed an authority to repay postage:

December 3^d 1806

The President will be pleased to Allow the Window by Monday next £148.16.0 for returned Covers, Addressed to the Treasurer of Greenwich Hospital.

Mr Stow therefore proposes that to enable the Gentlemen at the Paid Lre Office to refund that Sum on Monday they shall be allowed £37.4.0 each Night 'till Saturday inclusive, which will make the above Amount.

by D. Holliday and B.P. Pask

The Machine

The reference letters to be used for the individual types of machine are:

- A typical example of the use of this element of the classification is provided by the Universal Model G machine inscribed ' Glasgow A '. This could be referred to by the letter ' U ' indicating a Universal machine, followed by ' G ' indicating that the model is G. Since it was the 15th of this type of machine to be installed, the full

A Comprehensive Reference and Classification System for British Machine Marks, cont....

reference would be UG15. The manufacturer's machine number is known to be 580 and if this were included, the reference becomes UG15(580).

The Town Die

There are two requirements for this part of the classification - to provide a unique reference for each individual town die and to describe the town die. The description can be further divided into three sub-elements, the style of the die, the fixed inscription (i.e. office name, etc.) and the variable data (i.e. date, etc.).

It is based on the reference number for the machine in which the die is used. The first die to be used in the machine takes the number of the machine; subsequent dies take the same reference number with suffix letters added. A two-tier system of suffix letters will be used. Broadly it is intended that dies with different wording will be distinguished by capital letters and different dies with the same wording by additional small letters. Where necessary illustrations are to be used to distinguish similar dies.

For example, the Universal machine at Hastings (UD3) used dies worded " HASTINGS/- " and " HASTINGS/-SUSSEX- ", with more than one die of each wording. Using a broad classification these two sets of dies would be referred to as UD3 and UD3A. The individual die would be UD3a,b etc and UD3Aa,b etc. This reference is independent of the office at which the machine is used. Thus the Single Krag machine at Hockley (SK1) was later moved to Birmingham and then to Workington. The references to the town dies would be SK1, SK1A (Hockley); SK1B (Birmingham Head Office); SK1C (Workington).

Apart from ordinary town dies there are a number of specialised dies, usually in use concurrently with the ordinary die. These can be divided into four groups, each of which are referenced in the same way as the ordinary dies but in separate series:-

- (1) Paid or " Great Britain " dies - distinguished by the letter P after the number.
- (2) Official Paid dies - distinguished by the letter Q after the number.
- (3) Triangle dies - distinguished by the letter T after the number.
- (4) Various dies used for special purposes (e.g. for mail from other offices, paquebot mail etc.) - distinguished by an asterisk after the number.

Most offices also have a diamond shaped census die and, although it will not normally be worthwhile to identify individual dies of this type, this could be done in the same way using the letter X after the number. Typical examples might be :

- (1) Paid die used in the Hastings Universal - UD3(P)a
- (2) Triangle die used in the Workington Single Krag - SK1C(T)
- (3) Darwen town die used in the Single Krag machine (SK6) at Blackburn- SK6*

The first element of the description of the town die is intended to be used in conjunction with its reference; all that is needed here is a broad indication of basic styles. This will be self explanatory from the list of codes to be used:

- S - Single circle die
- Si - Single circle type die with incomplete circle
- Sh - Single circle die in two halves (as on Bostons and Bickerdikes)
- D - Double circle die

Diameters in mm can be added in brackets, thus " S(21) "; " D(23.5/14.5) ", if required.

- B - " Boxed " type die (i.e. straight line type die with bars at top and bottom) as used on early Columbias
- 3 - Three line type die (as used in Krags/Columbias)
- 4 - Four line type die (as used in Krags)
- 3L) - Three or four line type die with die letter added AS PART OF YEAR PLUGS IN BOTTOM LINE
- 3L - Three line type die with die letter added AT BOTTOM BELOW DATE (as in a few early Krags)

A Comprehensive Reference and Classification System for British Machine Marks, cont.....

(The die letter will be indicated as part of the inscription but separated from it by a double stroke, thus - " LEEDS//A "; " LONDON E.C.//G ")

PS - Single square type paid die
 PD - Double square type paid die
 PH - Oblong type paid die as used in Hey & Dolphin machines
 Q - Oval type paid die as used in Totometer machines
 T - Triangle die
 X - Census diamond

(Dimensions in mm can be added in brackets, thus " PS(20,23) "; " PD(20,23/11,13) "; " Q(50/24) ", if required)

There may be a very limited number of cases where it will be useful to classify specialised town dies in greater detail, or even identify individual dies. In these a small letter will be added after the code and explanation of its meaning, with illustrations of the dies, will be given in the appropriate place.

It is not the intention to classify the second element of the town die, the fixed inscription, since the actual wording will invariably be quoted as necessary in accordance with accepted conventions. This, in conjunction with a reference to the style of the die, will give as effective a picture of the layout as any classification system. (For those who feel a lay-out classification is a valuable shorthand, the Kneill-Parsons method used in the past by the B.P.S., is effective for Universal and Krag dies. It can be adapted for other types of machine die.) It is recognised some sort of classification of lettering style would be useful but the only effective system known to the writers (the Peachey system, see BPS Bulletin p.10/52) is limited in its scope. It is, therefore, our intention whenever there is a need to differentiate between dies with identical inscriptions, to use the unique reference numbers for the dies in conjunction with an illustration.

At this stage it is not proposed to deal with the variable data in town dies. It is recognised there may be a requirement for this in the future. Revision is made in the classification for a description, using abbreviations, of the variable data to be shown in brackets after the description of the die. Within the brackets strokes would be used to separate the individual lines of the data, blank lines being included. Abbreviations which could be used are:

T - Time	Y - Year	P - Paid
D - Day	- - Straight bar	1 - First
M - Month	A - Cash amount	2 - Second

Code letters, either on their own or in bars, can be shown in quotes, thus, " DP "; " -A- "; etc.

Some typical examples might be:

- (1) Universal die (three lines of data) - (T/DM/Y)
- (2) Square paid die (three lines of Data) - (A/MD/Y)
- (3) Krag die (two lines of data) - (T/DMY)
- (4) Bulk Post paid die (three lines of data) - ("DP"//Y)
- (5) Krag Bulk Post paid die (two lines of data, different data in the two dies) - (P2/"R") (/)

The Cancellor

These can be divided into three groups - (1) sets of parallel bars of various shapes, (2) slogans and (3) various odd types, normally peculiar to one type of machine.

The first group can be described by stating the number of bars, indicating their shape and detailing any special features. The number of bars can simply be indicated by a number (normally 5, 6 or 7 , although there are odd examples of other numbers) and the shape by S - straight, W - wavy or Sp - split (the type used in Universal machines since the mid 1930's in which the central section is removable). Further classifi -

A Comprehensive Reference and Classification System for British Machine Marks, cont....

cation within this group can be achieved by adding a small letter after S or W as appropriate. There are two general cases where this will be done. Where an inscription is included within the bars the letter ' i ' will be used and the inscription shown in brackets, after the description. Thus some early Columbia cancellers could be described as 6Si(No.1), indicating six straight line bars with the inscription " No.1 " within the bars. Normally cancelling bars are cut square at each end but in some early machines they were shaped to fit round a circular town die - this will be indicated by a small letter ' s '. In a few cases where it is considered necessary to identify two different types of canceller with the same basic description, small letters a, b, etc. will be used. Thus, for example, the two different types of five wavy line cancellers used in Single Kraggs will be referred to as 5Wa and 5Wb. There will also be a very small number of cases where the same arrangement will be adopted to identify individual cancellers. Where these letters are used an explanation of their meaning and relevant illustrations will be given in the appropriate place.

Where it is necessary to do so the depth of cancelling bars can be indicated by adding this measurement in brackets after the type. For example a typical Columbia might be 6S921,5). In general the length of cancelling bars is not significant and will vary slightly due to distortion in printing. Similarly the thickness of the individual bars is not normally significant. However, if it is necessary to indicate these features then they can be shown in mm in brackets after the type with the small letter ' l ' or ' t '. Thus the bars in the first Alma machine can be described as 6S(1.22). The experimental thicker bars used in some Kraggs in the early 1920's can be described as 5W(t.1.0).

The split bars represent a special case in that the impression they produce is variable. The indication 7Sp on its own will indicate that the central removable section of the bars is included in the impression. Where it is removed an abbreviated description of what replaces it can be added in brackets after the type. Suitable abbreviations would be :

An amount (e.g. 4d) and Paid	- 4d/P	1st PAID	- 1/P
POSTAGE PAID	- P/P	2nd PAID	- 2/P
POSTAGE R PAID	- P/R/P	OFFICIAL PAID	- O/P

For example 7 line split bars on a bulk post item indicating postage of 3d paid could be described as 7Sp(3d/P).

The use of slogans generally will indicated by the letters S1. If further qualification is required the letter ' T ' can be added in brackets to indicate a transposed slogan. Alternatively, to identify individual slogans, references from the slogan catalogues can be added in brackets. According to the requirements of the particular circumstances this could be either the catalogue number or the type number prefixed by the letter T. Thus the Voters List slogan could be identified by its type number as S1(T.98). If the 1976 use of this slogan was to be specified then the reference would be S1(2903).

The remaining types, consisting largely of the cancellers used in the early and trial machines, will be indicated by specific letters. In a number of cases where a group of different cancellers of the same basic style can be identified , a small letter can be added to give a more detailed classification (e.g. the Bickerdike cancellers) or to identify specific cancellers (e.g. the various multiple bar types used on some E.C. Columbias). These bars will be illustrated and the letters used explained as necessary. The list below details the letters used and summarises the more general descriptions given earlier :-

S	- Straight line bars	} preceded by a number } indicating the total } number of bars
W	- Wavy line bars	
Si)	- Straight/wavy line bars with an inscription	
Wi)	- included within the bars	
Ss	- Straight line bars shaped to fit round circular town die	
Sp	- Split bars	}
S1	- Slogan	

A Comprehensive Reference and Classification System for British Machine Marks, cont....

- A - Azemar type canceller
- H - Hoster type canceller
- F - " Flag " type canceller as used in Imperial machine
- B - Bickerdike type canceller incorporating Royal Cypher. Machine number included within bars will be shown in brackets, thus, " B(6) " where appropriate.
- M - Multiple type bars as used in some E.C. and Mount Pleasant Columbias
- Z - No canceller, i.e. town die used on its own

Color of Inscription

British machines have normally used only two colors, black and red, although violet is known on a few marks from Post Office Savings Bank machines. Where it is necessary to indicate the color, the letters B, R or V can be added as a separate element to the classification.

Usage

This can be indicated by a fifth element, using one of the abbreviations below, which are self explanatory :-

- S - Stamp cancelling
- P - Franking paid mail
- Q - Franking official paid mail
- BS - Backstamping on receipt
- M - Misort mark
- X - Census mark

The use of the reference/classification system in machine listings is well illustrated by its use in the article on early Krag machines which appears later in this issue of " Notebook ". One point to be noted particularly is that the reference in the left hand column is no longer an adequate shorthand for the entry, since it refers only to the town die. It is now necessary to add the canceller type. Thus, the entries for the Chelsea machine could be briefly as KH1/6Ss, KH1A/6S and KH1A/5W.

To round off with a few examples of the use of all elements of the classification, below are full references for some of the marks illustrated as part of the Krag article:

- Fig. 1 - KT1 (D) LONDON/-W.C- (DMYT) / 6S(17) / B / S
- Fig. 2 - KT3 (3) KENSINGTON.W (MDY/T) / 6S / B / S
- Fig. 3 - KM2A (S(23)) LONDON E.C. / 1907 (M/D/T/"AM") / 6Ss / B / S
- Fig. 4 - KM3 (3) LONDON.E.C. (T/MDY) / 6Si(3) / B / S

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

MORE TO PAY

It may well be quite common but recently the MORE TO PAY illustrated on the right, was spotted and it was not as familiar as perhaps it should have been.

The two quoted by A & H, figs 1682 and 1683 have, in the case of the former two dots in place of the crosses; the latter, the code letter at the foot between short lines. A & H state 1682 occurs in black between 1847 and 1862 with 1683 in red 1849 to 1868.

The cross type is from Staines to Cornhill dated 17th. February, 1869. It may be a local Staines variety. Can a reader produce further examples, particularly of one confined to the London area, thus confirming the type as used in London.



THE FIRST KRAG MACHINES, by D. Holliday and B.P. Pask

The Krag machine is probably one of the most difficult British cancelling machines to document fully. This is not so much because of the large numbers (although nearly 300 had been purchased by 1917), but because of the frequency with which they have been moved from to office. Since well over a hundred of these machines are still in use today and in many cases their stay at a particular office has been very short, it is obvious that there are probably several thousand different impressions to record. However, the early machines are fairly well documented and as an introduction to the machine these notes will give a detailed account of the trials and the small number of machines purchased prior to 1909 / 10 (when the first large scale purchases were made).

The first trial of a Krag machine took place in 1905 at London W.C.D.O., since the electricity supply at E.C.D.O. (the normal trial venue) was unsuitable. The impression produced by this machine (listed as KT1) is distinguished by the unusual design of town die, similar to datestamps used by some continental countries.

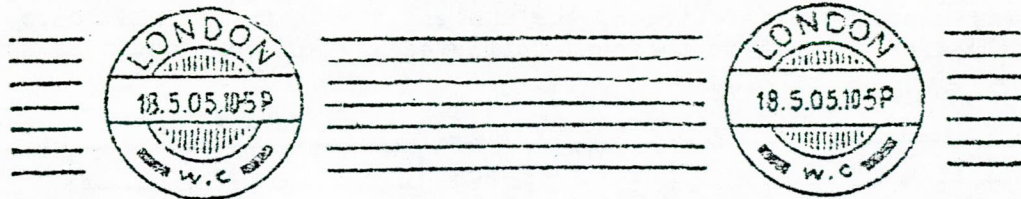
A second trial was held at E.C.D.O. in 1906, the machine being installed on 21st. August and tested (probably on dummy mail) on 23rd. A second machine must have been installed at about the same time since impressions with both five and six line cancelling bars and differences in the town dies are known concurrently from late 1906. These machines had definitely been purchased by the end of that year and are listed as KM1 and KM2. A " hand operated " machine (in fact activated by means of a treadle) was installed at Chelsea in 1907. This was presumably a trial but the machine remained at the office for some time (it is listed as KH1). Substantial numbers of this type figures in following post office orders. These first three machines differed from the later standard in using circular town dies. The year appears to have been part of the town die, which would thus have been changed each year. However, one example (the KM1 die for 1906) is known which was modified for use the following year. This same die was also modified a second time, the E.C. of the inscription being altered to F.S. when the machine was moved later in 1907.

Three further machines (KM3-5) were purchased in 1907 and a fourth (KM6) in 1908 and were installed at E.C.D.O. (displacing the original machine which went to F.S.), W.D.O., E.D.O., and Paddington. These machines introduced the familiar three line town die normally associated with Krag's. Three of these four machines also had four line town dies for use on paid mail. These were frequently used for stamp cancelling even in the early days instead of the three line die. When so used, the second line of the die, intended for the wording " PAID " was, of course, blank. The three line type die eventually appeared in the earlier three machines as well. The bars in the machines at E.C.D.O. and W.D.O. were non-standard in having a figure 3 included in them; the significance of this is not known. A peculiarity of the early three line dies of the two E.C. machines was the machine letter (F or G) beneath the town die. This machine letter was later incorporated in the year plug, an arrangement which had been used on Columbias from 1908, later to become standard for Krag's.

After the beginning of 1908 there were no immediate developments, although what are assumed to be two trials were carried out at E.C.D.O. and Kensington. No information on these trials has been found in Post Office records; it is not even certain they were Krag machines. However, the similarity of the impressions to those of Krag's suggests they may be, so for convenience they are included here as KT2 and KT3.

During 1909 the Post Office placed an order for 18 electric Krag machines, the first of these being put into service from September that year. Also, according to one source, six hand operated machines were delivered in 1910. These represent the beginnings of the bulk purchase of Krag machines. However, it is relevant to point out here they continued the standard established with the previous machine of three line town dies with six straight line cancelling bars. The five wavy line cancellers later associated with Krag machines did not become general until after 1912. They had been tried on a few London machines as early as 1910. The table below takes the first seven machines up to this stage, i.e., it includes the various early patterns of town dies and bars and continues to the appearance of wavy line cancellers on these machines.

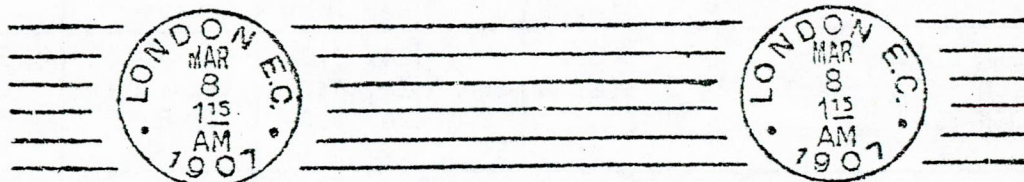
The First Krag Machine, continued.....



KT1/65

=====	KENSINGTON.W	=====	KENSINGTON.W	=====
=====	JAN 7 11	=====	JAN 7 11	=====
=====	1-15 PM	=====	1-15 PM	=====

KT3/63 (KT2 IS SIMILAR)



KM2A/655

=====	LONDON.E.C.	=====	LONDON.E.C.	=====
=====	1. 15 AM	=====	1. 15 AM	=====
=====	APR 22 07	=====	APR 22 07	=====

KM3/652 (3)

=====	LONDON.E.C.	=====	LONDON.E.C.	=====
=====	12. 30 PM	=====	11. —	=====
=====	APR 5 11	=====	26 NOV 13F	=====
=====	F.	=====		=====

KM2B

KM2C

=====	PADDINGTON.W	=====
=====	9. 30 PM	=====
=====	MAY 16 11	=====

KM6

=====	LONDON.W.	=====
=====	8. 30 PM	=====
=====	FEB 20 08	=====

KM4A

The First Krag Machines, continued.....

In view of the considerable variation in prices asked for some early Krags, it is perhaps worthwhile commenting on their scarcity. The 1905 trial is definitely rare, although several examples are known for most recorded days of use. The two trials of 1907/8 and 1910/11 are scarce. The circular town dies are not common but, apart from the London E.C. machine with five straight line bars (KM2) and its replacement with the 23mm. die in 1906, are not difficult to find. In particular, contrary to the view expressed by Stitt-Dibden, the Chelsea die is not at all scarce. The remaining early dies are all to be found fairly easily and some could be said to be common.

Trial Machines

Ref.	Inscription	Town Die.	Bars	Dates		Notes
				Earliest	Latest	
KT1	LONDON/-W.C-	D	7S	18. 5.05	24. 5.05	1
KT2	LONDON.E.C./9	4	6S(18)	17.12.07	30. 9.08	
KT3	KENSINGTON.W	3	6S(18)	30. 9.10	7. 1.11	

Notes - 1. Examples known for 18,19,29,22,24 May 1905.

The First Seven Machines

Ref.	Inscription	Town Die.	Bars	Dates		Notes
				Earliest	Latest	
KM1	LONDON E.C./.(year)	S(21)	6Ss	24. 8.06	6. 5.07	2
KM1A	LONDON F.S./.(year)	S(21)	6Ss	24. 5.07	15. 1.09	2
KM1B	LONDON F.S.	3	6S	26. 3.09	4. 6.15	3
			5W	22. 8.18		4

Notes - 2. 1906 town dies modified for use in 1907 and again for use at F.S.
New F.S. town dies produced by 1908.

3. Paid mark with straight line canceller seen 21. 2.18
4. Paid mark with wavy line canceller seen 29.10.17.

Ref.	Inscription	Town Die.	Bars	Dates		Notes
				Earliest	Latest	
KM2	LONDON E.C./.(year).	S(21)	5Ss	30. 8.06	5.12.06	5
KM2A	LONDON E.C./.(year).	S(23)	6Ss	12.12.06	27. 1.09	
KM2B	LONDON.E.C.//F	3L*	6S	16. 3.09	25. 9.12	
			5W	21. 3.11	13. 4.11	
KM2C	LONDON E.C.//F	3L	6S	26.11.13	3. 8.15	6
KH1	CHELSEA.S.W./.(year).	S(23)	6Ss	29. 4.07	26. 9.11	7
KH1A	CHELSEA.S.W.	3	6S	7.11.11	25.11.11	
			5W	8. 7.12	onwards	
KM3	LONDON.E.C.	3	6Si(3)	15. 4.07	28. 2.08	7
			6S	7. 4.08	15. 4.08	7
			6Si(3)	11. 2.09		7
KM3A	LONDON.E.C.//G	3L*	6S	16. 4.09	3. 7.11	5,7
			5W	15. 7.10	13. 3.11	
KM3	LONDON.E.C.	3	6S	31. 8.11		7
KM3B	LONDON.E.C.//G	3L	6S	17. 7.13	14.12.18	6
KM4	LONDON.W.	3	6Si(3)	12. 4.07	27. 9.07	5
			6S	21.10.07	6. 6.08	
KM4A	LONDON.W./	4	6S	20. 2.08	6. 8.08	
KM4	LONDON.W.	3	6Si(3)	12. 9.08		
KM4A	LONDON.W./	4	6Si(3)	15. 9.08	7.10.08	5
KM4	LONDON.W.	3	6S	22. 4.09	24.12.10	

The First Krag Machines, continued.....

ref.	Inscription	Town Die	Bars	Dates		Notes
				Earliest	Latest	
KM4B	LONDON.W.D.)/	4	6S	12. 9.11	27.11.11	
KM4C	LONDON.W.D.O.	3	6S	13. 8.12		
KM4A	LONDON.W./	4	6S	11. 7.13		
KM4D	LONDON.W.//A	3L	5W	1. 8.14	onwards	
KM5	LONDON.E.	3	6S	23.12.07	22.11.10	} 5
KM5A	LONDON.E./	4	6S	24. 7.08	12. 8.09	
KM5	LONDON.E.	3	5W	31. 5.13	onwards	
KM6	PADDINGTON.W.	3	6S	30. 1.08	7. 4.13	} 5
KM6A	PADDINGTON.W./	4	6S	4. 8.09	26. 5.11	
KM6	PADDINGTON.W.	3	5W	20. 6.13	onwards	
KM6A	PADDINGTON.W./	4	5W	10. 7.13	onwards	

Notes - 5. Concurrent use.

6. Not recorded with wavy lines (except as shown in 1910/11).
May well have continued with straight lines until replaced
by other machines.
7. Special care is needed in distinguishing dies KM3 and KM3A,
since the die letters on the latter are sometimes so poorly
printed as to be unnoticeable. A useful distinguishing
feature is that the bottom of the date is level with the bottom
bar of the canceller with KM3 but about 2-3mm above it with
KM3A.

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LUFTHANSA CARRIAGE OF AIR MAILS

The Dulwich P.S. had a first class display by Ian Nutley on Graf Zeppelin mails, a quite remarkable evening and strongly recommended to any reader who is a programme organiser for his local society.

In the Editor's somewhat rambling collection there is a section on 'FS' stamps, for reasons which contain at least one very obvious one. At an early ' Showpex ' an FS 20 handstamp, used to stamp a returned cover was purchased. This was shown on page 15, Notebook No.28. Was this really a 'Graf' cover ?

It appears not. Ian Nutley very kindly supplied the following information:

The weekly British Service to Las Palmas on Imperial Airways, calling at Paris and Seville, was suspended in December, 1936 due to the Spanish Civil War. This does raise the question of cause for the decision, that is, was it practical or political? In any event from 23rd. December, 1936 mail from GB was carried on the weekly German Lufthansa service en route to South America, which called at Las Palmas. Postage rates for British mail remained at 2½d for postcards, 4d. for letters. He has not been able to discover when, if at all, the British service was resumed.

The GB mail carried by Lufthansa was marked with the circular mark " Deutsche Luftpost Europa - Südamerika " and usually underwent military censorship.

No doubt other London collectors have these marks on covers; this note may provide them with something to add to their notes and something to look for in the case of readers lacking such an item.

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HEREWITH MY FRANK: Supplement No. 2 - THE " CROWN FREES " of 1807 to 1840

from Jim Lovegrove.

The first phase of this undertaking is now complete. I have examined 1446 specimen strikes of sufficient quality to obtain detailed dimensions and put these on record. It appears so far about 200 handstamps were issued over the whole period; there is evidence one or two were extra to the theory of one for each half year of each type.

On the other hand, it is clear that in the earlier years, stamps of some duties were maintained for the whole twelve month period.

This is not to suggest the survey is nearing completion. I have to check each selected group of dimensions of each issued stamp, for the alternative could be I make a number of mistakes and the whole purpose of the work is dissipated in endless argumentative correspondence.

Once again, I would ask readers to check over the following ' wants ' list: even where there is just one example in a collection, it could be an important, but unregarded, link.

The FREE FRANK details I require are:-

Overall diameter; diameter of inner ring (where applicable.

Overall width and height of the crown.

Number of pearls in the crown top.

Width and height of the letters FREE taken as a whole.

The stamps in question are.....

1815, first half - AMD (additional morning duty) - if indeed it existed!

1816, first and second half AMD; second half ED (evening duty).

1818, first half AMD; second half AED (additional evening duty).

1819, first half AMD.

First and second halves of the following years, all AMD: 1820 - 1821 - 1822 - 1824 - 1826 - 1827 - 1828 - 1829 - 1831 - 1834.

First half AMD for the following: 1822 - 1832 - 1833 - 1836.

Second half AED for : 1823 - 1830.

Please give your readings to the nearest quarter of a millimetre. I appreciate this is a very high degree of accuracy but vital for the exercise. As all readers will readily appreciate, the need is for VERY clear copies and no guesswork.

Many thanks.

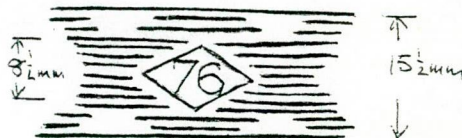
-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

LONDON ROLLER CANCELLATION, from John Chandler

Re: Notebook No.38 (August 1978) p.10 - I have a single 1d red stars with a part strike which agrees very well with the description of the 76 roller cancellation. The continuous line is repeated at the bottom too.

My postmark is very thinly struck but this makes the lines very clear under a glass.

Only the two outer lines are continuous; the next two lines on each side are broken.



ADVERTISING LETTER SHEET, from John Chandler

The advertising letter sheet reported in the March (No.36) Notebook reminded me that I have a couple of similar items, viz:-

The Half-penny Letter Co.Ltd.,Patent Envelope, 101 Leadenhall St.,London,E.C.

They seem to have agents in other towns for my specimen contains adverts from Dublin traders. In addition to the publishers name and address, it bears "DUBLIN^NSERIES WM.HICKEY, Agent 199, Mary Street, Dublin." (there is an - between N and A).

The sketch shows the layout and just the first page is reprinted.

A similar item bears London traders' adverts on the one side and mainly those from Rye (Sussex) traders on the other. This carries the imprint " Henry Court's Patent Safety Envelope WITH A PENNY POSTAGE STAMP AND DOUBLE SHEET OF LETTER PAPER is able to be sold for ONE HALFPENNY, solely by arrangement with the firms advert - ising in it; who in return solicit your patronage and recommendation. Any other firms wishing to join in its advantage, can learn terms by applying to THE HALF-PRICE CLOSED LETTER COMPANY, Limited 85 ACTON VALE, LONDON, W. OR ANY OF ITS DULY LICENSED AGENTS.

Each side of the address is repeated SERIAL NO. L.G. 7

This advice appears on the flap of the side shown in the lower of the two in the sketch; the advertising material from the upper of the two is reprinted.

This second example has a special flap marked " COURT'S PATENT SAFETY NO. 9953 " and the Rye adverts have been printed on a separate sheet and pasted down.

Further light on this side line is given by an article which appeared in Harry Nissen's BRITISH PHILATELIST, Vol 37, pp 36-38 (July 1946) and this is reprinted below

FARTHING LETTER CARD COMPANY

Our publishers have shown us a copy of the prospectus of this Company which was formed in 1888 and details of which are interesting. Whether the Company operated successfully we do not know. We have not yet seen any specimens of the advertisement cards, other than that illustrated on the prospectus.

PROSPECTUS

The idea of selling a halfpenny stamped postcard for a farthing, has now been worked steadily for some months past, until the business has assumed dimensions which are thought to justify the formation of a public company to further develop the invention.

Agents for the sale of cards have been appointed in leading centres of commerce. The sale of post cards in the United Kingdom reached last year a total of 189,000,000.

By means of advertisements placed round the card, for which Royal Letters Patent have been granted, as per the specimen herewith, it is possible to sell the stout card, stamped with a halfpenny stamp ready for use, for one farthing, and yet make a handsome profit.

The cards are printed in a series of 100,000, and an advertiser who has extensive use for cards can, by buying 15,000, have his advertisements on 100,000 for nothing, as the saving in the price of the cards more than pays for the cost of the advertisement.

The business will be taken over as from the 1st.October, and an agreement has been entered into with Messrs. Shelley & Co., Advertising Contractors, of 5, Leadenhall Street, E.C., for letting all the advertising spaces on the cards, they agreeing to take a minimum number of 100,000 cards a week for three years from the 15th.October, 1888, subject to a penalty. The amount receivable under this contract and from the sale of the cards, will be sufficient to pay 15 per cent. dividends on the whole of the capital from the first. A copy of this agreement can be seen at the Company's offices.

Advertising Letter Sheet.....

The consideration to be paid for the patent, goodwill, and other assets connected with the business, is 100 founders' shares, carrying half the profits after 20 per cent. has been paid on the ordinary shares, and the sum of £15,000, payable as to £3,000 in cash, and the balance in cash or shares at the option of the Directors.

The Directors have allowed for £4,975 for working capital.

The Shareholders will be asked to assemble for their Statutory Meeting as early as possible after allotment, for the purpose of appointing an Auditor, one of whose duties it will be to check and certify the number of postcards stamped and issued by the Post Office authorities on behalf of the Company.

The following Contracts have been entered into:

A Contract dated the 4th. October, 1888, between The Public Medium Company, Limited, of the one part, and the Company of the other part; a contract dated September 24th, 1888, between L.M. Burt, of the one part, and the Public Medium Company, Limited, of the other part; and a Contract dated October 4th., 1888, made between the Farthing Letter Card Company, Limited, of the one part, and Shelly & Co. of the other part.

The Public Medium Company, Limited, who are the promoters, will pay all legal and other expenses attending the negotiation of the purchase and the incorporation and registration of the Company, and also all brokerage, advertisement, legal and other expenses attending the formation of the Company up to and including allotment. In relation to these expenses, certain arrangements have been entered into with various persons, which may constitute contracts within the meaning of the 38th. Section of the Companies' Act, 1867; there are also various Contracts connected with the business, &c., as a going concern, which, from the nature of the business, it would be injudicious to publish. There is nothing special or unusual in any of these arrangements or Contracts. Applicants for shares must therefore be deemed to waive the insertion of dates and names of the parties to any such Contracts, and to accept the above statements as a sufficient compliance with Section 38 of the Companies Act, 1867.

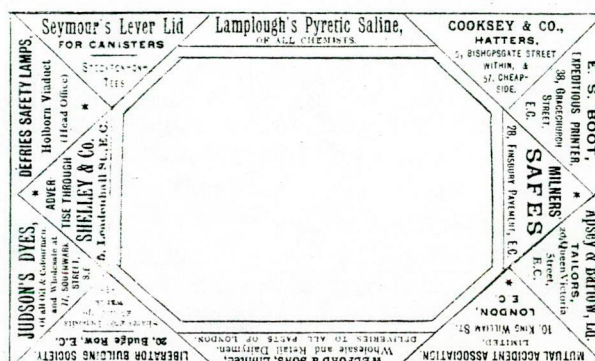
The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Company, together with a copy of the first-named Contract, and the Contract with Messrs. Shelley & Co., may be inspected at the Offices of the Solicitors to the Company.

Applications for Shares should be made on the accompanying form, and should be forwarded to the Company's Bankers, accompanied by a remittance for the amount of the deposit, and if paid by cheque, then payable to the order of the Bankers, to whom the same may be sent, or they may be sent direct to the Secretary at the offices of the Company.

If the whole amount applied for by any applicant be not allotted, the surplus amount paid on deposit will be appropriated towards the sum due on allotment. Where no allotment is made, the deposit will be returned in full.

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained of the Bankers, Brokers, or at the Offices of the Company, and the Solicitors.

The Letter Cards will be as under:-



LONDON, 5th. October, 1888

THE LONDON EXCHANGE

FOR SALE.....



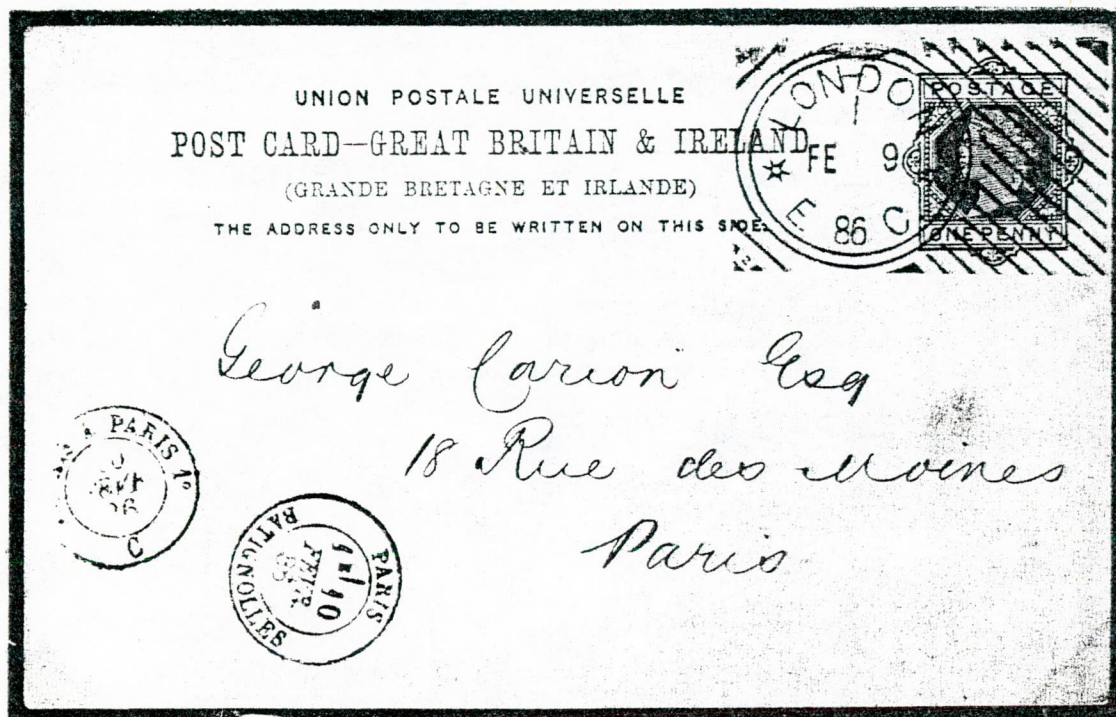
2D5/5



8D5/5

2D5/5: Rarity GPO - this is the first recorded example; although not very bright, it (in the original, is clearly identifiable. Offers around £2.50

8D5/5: Rarity H. clean example £1



Very fine example of the type 7, not seen too often. Best offer over £9 secures.
Time limit 31.1.1979.
apply to the Editor.

WANTED: Preferably on 1d. plates: North District Nos. 1 - 10;
NE District 1 - 12;
E District 1 - 10;
S District 1 - 14

In exchange can supply all positions of imperf 1d reds either MC or 1844 cancels.

John S. Saylor, Jr., 31 Overhill Road, Wyomissing Hills, Pennsylvania 19609, U.S.A.

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Several publications are now out of print and are not listed.

Those available are:

LONDON'S POSTAL HISTORY Section D, Part 2, District Post Cancellations 1840-57
The Duplex. (John Parmenter) 45pence + 15pence P & P.

RULES FOR RECEIVERS AT PROVINCIAL TOWNS IN ENGLAND (HMSO 1869)
50 pence PLUS 12 pence post and packing.

Copy of Hogarth print ' The Times ' Plate 1, showing fire fighting and a post office sign: dated September 7th., 1762. 15 pence post paid.

Large capacity 4 ring binders, printed LONDON'S POSTAL HISTORY (white on blue)
A4 size, to take " London's Postal History " and " Notebook ". £1.75 plus
66 pence post and packing (Non-members at £2.50 + P & P)

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