

## 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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### PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE.....

Prices in Brackets are for non-members

District Post Cancellations 1840 - 1857 Part II, The Duplex. 75p. ( £1.05 )  
London's Date Stamp Codes, by the late W.G. Stitt-Dibden, supplemented by the work  
of Leon Dubus £1 ( £1.40 )

District and Branch Cancellations From December 1856:

Part II - Northern, North Western, North Eastern, Southern, South Eastern and  
South Western £ 2.60 ( £3.60 )

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Stamps of the Branch Office 1829 - 1857 75p £1.05 )

Suburban Offices From December 1856 - Part I: South East 95p. £1.35 )

4 ring binders for publications and ' Notebook ' £2. Postage for 1, 80p: 2 £1.30

All prices include post and packing and can be obtained from the Editor at

24 Dovercourt Road, Dulwich, London SE22 8ST

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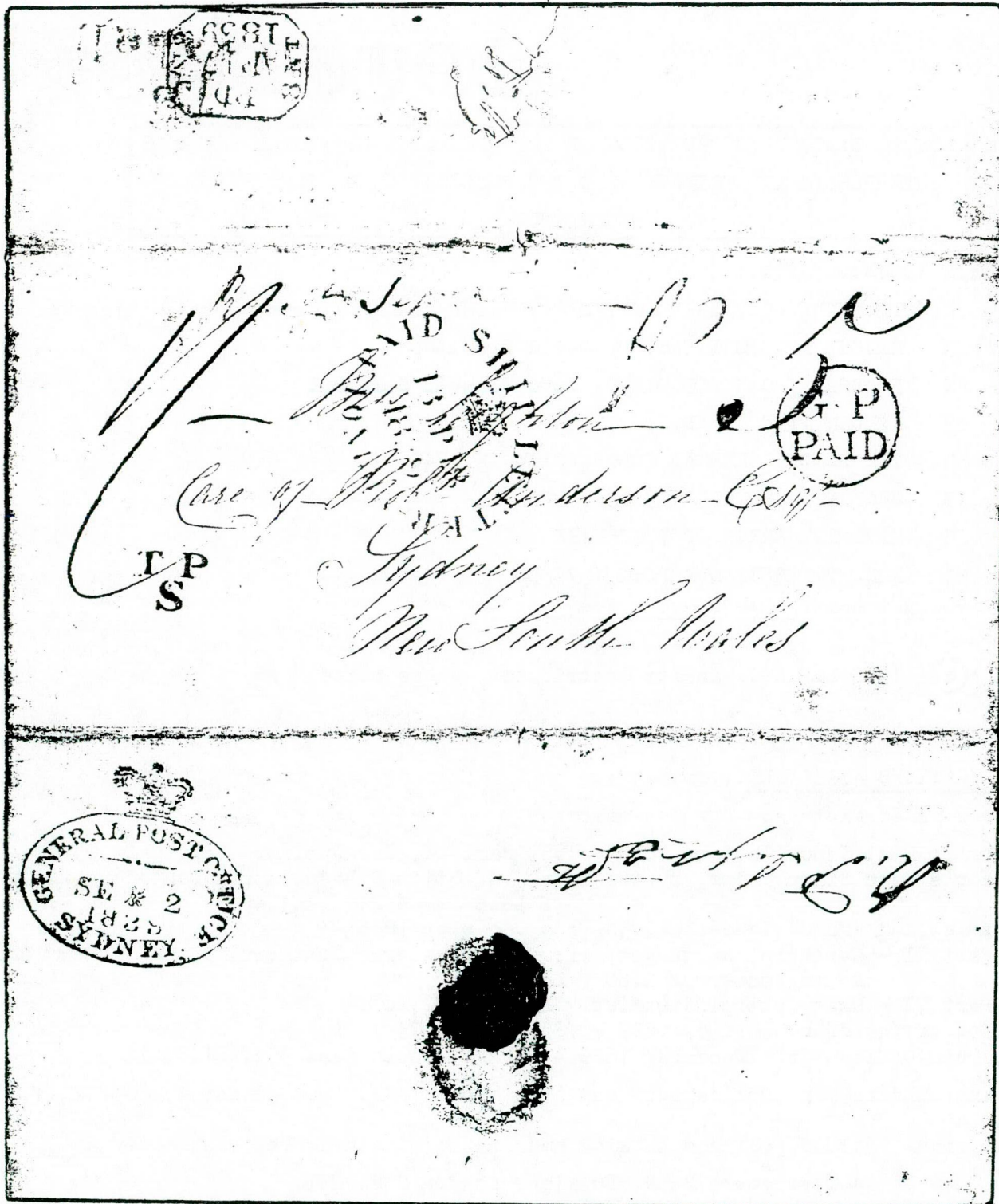
A number of sections on the Suburban Offices are at the printers and should be available in the course of the next few weeks.

Members are reminded it is information they can supply which will significantly enhance the value of the Handbook. As there is a policy of constant revision, corrections and additional information should be sent to the Editor.

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TWOPENNY POST SHIP LETTER: A FURTHER EXAMPLE, from Martin Willcocks



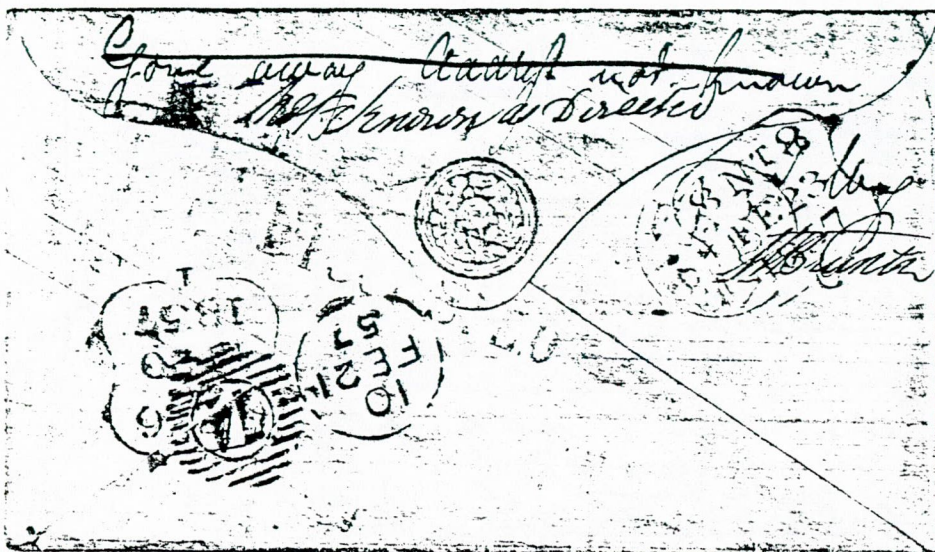
This very fine example of the TP/S handstamp was discovered recently. It is of great interest, being addressed to New South Wales. In Notebook No.39, David Lafford recorded five examples, but none to NSW. Also recorded is a similar item to NSW, but which lacks any TP stamp. Hopefully, there will be more on this anon.



RECENT ACQUISITIONS, by David Druett

On the basis that what interests one member may well be of interest to others the few items illustrated were sent to the Editor with comments, to which remarks have been added by him.

The first is a local London Post item from Fleet Street to " 2 Paper Buildings, Temple ". The 1d PS envelope is cancelled by Inland Office 17. It is not unusual, though not too common, to find this treatment on local mail though the reason is not understood.



What is of greater immediate interest is the back of the envelope. It has the General Post datestamp for FE 20 1857 in black, subsequently overstruck.

The LDP time stamp for 6Ev of the same day has been " cancelled " by the LDP duplex 74E in black on the following day, 21 February.

Two days later the LDP time stamp for 8 Nt was applied in black, which fits the pattern for the use of the use of black for time/date stamps on undelivered or delayed mail.

Curiously enough an example of 74A for AU 2 1853 was purchased at the May meeting of the Group. This too applied in black was used to cancel a time stamp but the item lacks the interest of the various endorsements shown above. Is it possible 74 was used for this purpose ? No doubt readers will be able to offer a range !

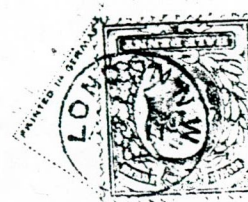
The second item is dated 1854 and of interest this time is the receiving office which is Richmond K Rd in blue. This is not listed in ' Principal Streets and Places ' of 1857, though there are a number of Richmond Roads: Caledonian-road, Shepherd's Bush, Dalston, Bayswater and Richmond Road East, Hackney. Later directories show one in Kensington. Could this be the ' K ' ?

In his abstract from the EC duty impression books, Jeremy Greenwood recorded the many double ring handstamps used. Curiously enough, it is not so simple to get these demonstrating the duty. the portion shown on the right is from a view card which received what a clerk considered an inadequate machine cancellation. In accordance with the record he used LONDON EC 76, recorded as being " Unobliterated correspondence out of collections " ( Notebook 20, page 11 ).



A rather common handstamp for LONDON in connection with Maritime Mail is the small near thimble size issue. However, though no doubt similar types were used in other London offices, they are not as regular in the finding as one might anticipate.

This particular example is used on an ordinary London view card, the front of which is interestingly endorsed with " S.S. Cargo Bonito 11.4.07 ", though the address does not contain " England " which is the normal vital clue to an item which can rightly be regarded as Maritime Mail.

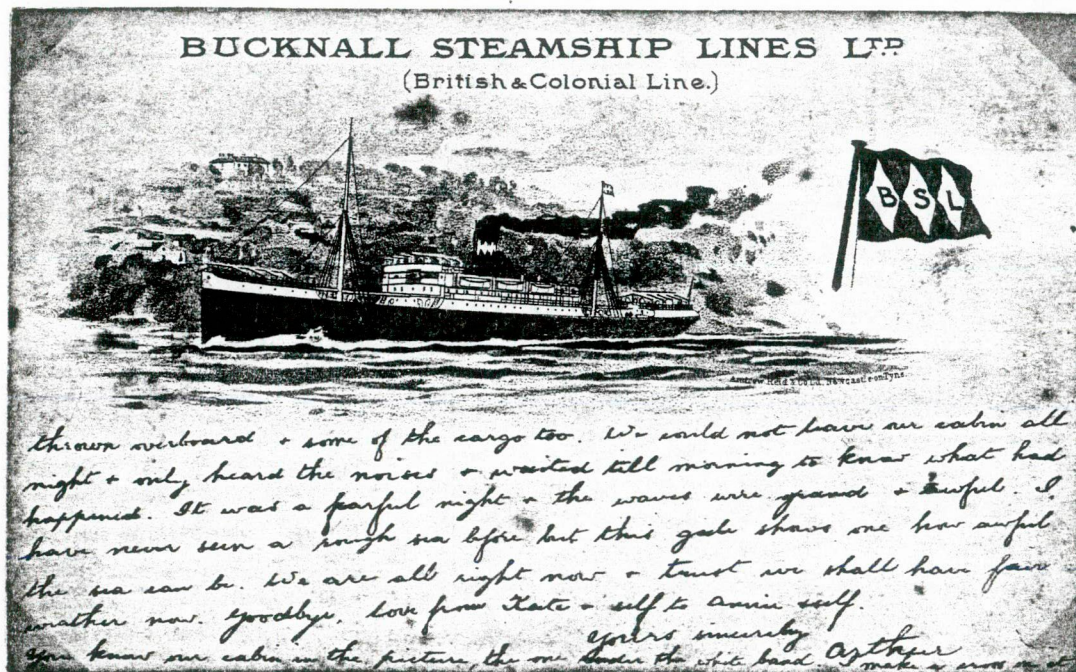


The datestamp is also for AP 11 04.



Recent Acquisitions, continued.....

The fifth item is a rather fine card, the front of which is shown. The adhesive is cancelled by the LONDON FS 15. The long message starts "We are now at sea, near Madera where this will be posted...." As an afterthought the writer adds across the top of the card "Let me know if this does not pass for 1d Postage".



I will be very interested to have readers' comments on these few items and, as remarked earlier, I hope that which I have found of interest is also of interest to others.

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LONDON E.C. CANCELLATIONS

KENNETH SARGEANT recently sent three examples of stationery cut-outs with hand struck cancellations in red. One a double rim, the other two single rim.

As it is red on red and may not reproduce too well (there's a challenge to the printers!!) the details are:

Single rim:

LONDON - E.C / D K / MY 27 / 81

LONDON - E.C / D C / FE 3 / 81 (not shown)

Double rim:

LONDON • E.C. / A Z / NO 30 / 81



It is probable the use of these handstamps was confined to missed items but it will be of value to get the reaction of readers and details of examples of which they have knowledge to clarify this aspect of comparatively 'modern' postal history.



GARDEN TIME. by P.J. Elkins

Although winter looms as I write this, being an optimist and fond of the garden it means Spring is that much nearer. Those who are unlucky enough to have no garden but live in a London flat can visit the many public gardens available to them.

One of the most popular, and very important to Horticulturists, are those of the Royal Botanic Gardens situated in the London suburb of Kew on the banks of the River Thames. Kew Gardens has Royal connections and one of the few places to have a Post Office named after it.

Originally the Gardens were part of Kew Palace, Royal residence of George III and his consort Queen Charlotte. About 1759 Augusta, the Dowager Princess of Wales, started a Botanic garden of about nine acres. George III ascended the throne in 1760 and during his reign enlarged the garden significantly. In 1841 the Gardens were given to the nation and extended to the present 200 acres.

Although the Royal mail would go by Special Messenger, ordinary mail would probably have been handed in at Kew, which was a London Three-penny Post Receiving Office under Brentford and used a boxed straight-line 'KEW' 35 x 9mm ( Fig.1 ).

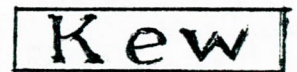


fig.1

Recently I purchased a small bundle of Postal Stationery cards used from the Botanic Gardens offices dated from 1892 to 1921 and all were addressed to " Jardin Botanique, Brussels ". The early ones had the normal provincial type duplex of KEW / 496 ( Fig.2 ). At present I do not know when KEW GARDENS Post Office was opened but the earliest date-stamp on the cards is a double-circle 26mm outer and 16mm inner, with KEW dot GARDENS at the top, Maltese Cross at the bottom and heavy spacing bars, dated May 31, 1897 ( Fig.3 ).



fig.2



fig.3



fig.4



fig.5



fig.6

About 1905 a new die was used, the same type but medium replaced the heavy spacing bars and the dot became a hyphen between KEW and GARDENS ( Fig.4 ). The stamp was changed in 1908 to a slightly smaller die, 24mm, thinner letters and spacing bars and back to the dot between KEW and GARDENS ( Fig.5 ). The last cards was dated 1921.

All the cards had the double-circle cds but a single-circle cds was in use concurrently, I have a PPC of 1910 with it as a cancellation, diameter 22mm and small letters with a dot ( Fig.6 )



fig.7



fig.8

A single-circle cds 22mm with letters 2.5mm and with the hyphen again was used for counter work, my examples are from 1902 to 1918 ( Fig.7 ). In the 1920's another change; the diameter is now 26mm, letters 3mm with a blank between KEW and GARDENS and RICHMOND SURREY placed at the bottom ( Fig. 8 ).



Garden Time,.....

This was changed again by 1935 to a smaller one; 24mm letters, 2.5mm ( Fig.9 ). All these cancellations had time in the clear but the counter stamps had an asterisk or a blank.

PARCEL POST labels had the Telegraph Codes of KAU for KEW, the stamps being cancelled with the KEW counter stamp ( Fig.10 ). Kew Gardens office was under RICHMOND SURREY with code KKG. The office stamp is Kew Gardens counter stamp but the cancellation is an Undated Circular Rubber ( Fig.11 ).



fig.9

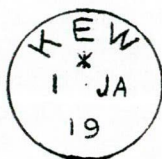


fig.10

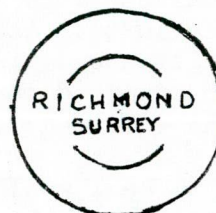


fig.11

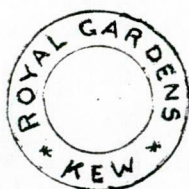


fig.12



fig.13

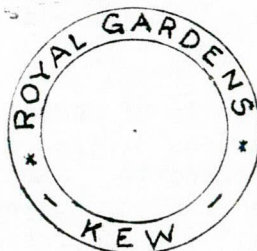


fig.14

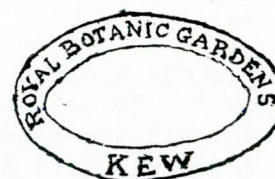


fig.15

The Kew Gardens rubber cachets, although private, I found interesting. The earliest has an outer ring 18mm and inner ring 14mm with ROYAL GARDENS at the top and KEW at the base with a star each side ( Fig.12 ). The next is much larger, 31mm outer and 22mm inner circles with corresponding sized letters, serified ( Fig.13 ). Another is the same size but the lettering is much larger, nearly filling the space between the two rings and the stars have open centres. This is followed with one of the same size but with block lettering and normal stars. There are two varieties with the second showing hyphens as well as stars ( Fig.14 ). All these have the date in m/ss. The last one is entirely different being oval in shape 35mm x 23mm with an inner oval 27 x 14mm. The wording is now " ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS " at the top and KEW at the bottom ( Fig.15 ) and the date is typed in.

All are stamped in purple.

To complete the story, last spring a Commemorative Postmark was used on F.D.C. of the British Flowers issue, showing a bunch of Daffodile surrounded by ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS KEW RICHMOND SURREY with 21 MARCH 1979 across the centre, all in an unframed circle of 32mm.

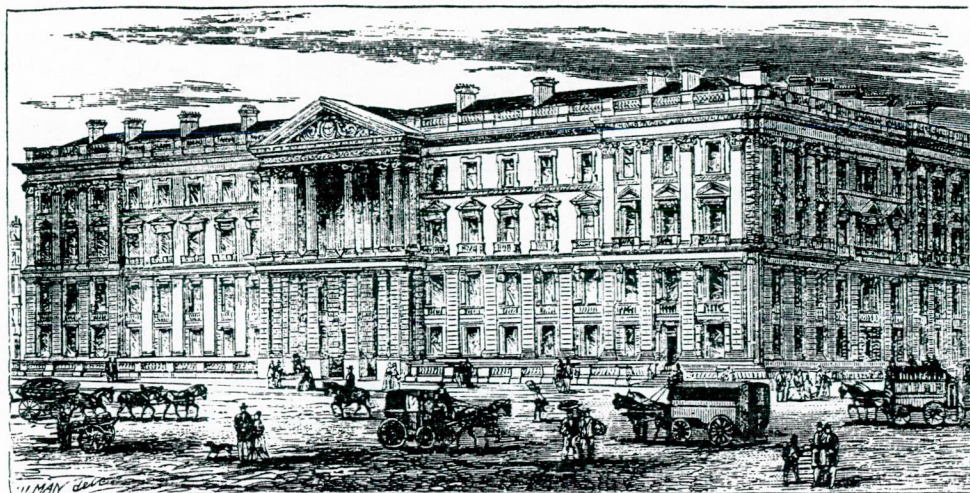
If any reader has Kew area material for disposal I can find a good home for it !

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



**THE LONDON GENERAL POST OFFICE IN 1840**

Abstracted from Cruchley's " Picture of London " and reprinted from " The Collectors Club PHILATELIST ", Volume 58, Number 5, dated September 1979.



ST. MARTIN'S LE GRAND, of which Sir Robert Smirke was the architect, is a magnificent building, erected in the latter end of the reign of George the Fourth, and opened for public business the 23rd. of September, 1829. It presents a striking proof of the amazing extent of our intercourse with the world at large; foreigners and strangers will regard it with pride and wonder. But however it may impress by its grandeur and the beauty of its architecture, its interior arrangements are no less surprising, and well deserve attention. So far as the public are concerned, the arrangements have been formed with a view to convenience, the many different departments being made to communicate with the great hall, which forms a splendid thoroughfare from St. Martin's le Grand to Foster Lane. This hall, eighty feet in width, sixty in length, and fifty in height, is supported by six Portland stone columns of the Ionic order. On the north side are the newspaper, inland, and foreign offices; on the south side are the money order, receiver-general's, and accountants' offices; at the south-eastern end, in a line with the foreign office, is the penny post department; and at the western, on each side of the grand entrance, are boards, containing lists of persons to whom letters have been addressed, and whose abodes are unknown. A person seeing his name has only to write his address with a pencil on the remainder of the line, and the letter will be presented at his residence the following day.

North of the centre, is the hall where the bags are received from the mails, and this hall communicates with the inland sorters' office, and letter carriers' office. These offices are upwards of 100 feet long, and the immense number of drawers, boxes, and pigeon holes with which they are fitted up, in order to meet the necessities of this department, must be seen to be duly appreciated. Under the great hall is a tunnel, in which is placed some very clever machinery, constructed by Mr. Barrow, for the purpose of conveying letters to and from the opposite offices of the establishment. At the eastern end of the hall, on the north side, is a staircase, leading to the letter bill, dead letter, mis-sent and returned letter offices, which, together with board room, secretaries' rooms, assistant secretaries' rooms, assistant secretaries' rooms, &c., occupy the first floor. The second floor and upper story contain, and are almost exclusively occupied by, sleeping rooms for clerks of the foreign department. In the basement story, which is rendered fire-proof by brick vaulting, is the mail guards' room and armoury. Immediately under the portico are two large gas meters, capable of registering 4000 cubic feet of gas per hour; and some curious machinery has been introduced for supplying water to the upper parts of the building in case of fire, and for the raising of coal from the cellars to the different floors.

A stranger possessing any curiosity will find great pleasure in witnessing the departure of the mails for all parts of Great Britain and Ireland, which takes place every evening, at eight o'clock precisely. They generally collect in the enclosed space adjoining the building, a quarter of an hour earlier, to receive their bags, &c., so



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that, at the striking of the clock, their last parcel is handed up, and off they set, one after another, sweeping out in quick succession; a sight for a philosopher indeed, the horses in full vigour, gaily prancing off, seem conscious of the importance of their burden; and the horns loudly and merrily sounding from the different quarters into which they diverge, as they take their respective directions, give a lively illustration of Fame with her hundred tongues. By a judicious calculation preserved through all the contracts, it is so arranged that the mails from all parts shall arrive at a certain early hour; and severe fines are levied on the guard for any delay for which he is not able to assign a satisfactory cause: he is not only obliged to arrive in London at a fixed hour, but on his way-bill is marked the moment at which he should reach each place of any consequence on his route. Besides his weapons of defence, he is provided with a time-piece as his guide, by consulting which he is able to direct the speed of the driver, so as neither to overstep his time, not over fatigue the cattle. To accelerate the delivery of letters for distant parts of the Metropolis, the postmen are conveyed in long, light vehicles to the verge of their districts, at which they arrive fresh for their work. Each accelerator carries fourteen men, with their bags; the man belonging to the nearest walk which they are to reach sits next door, so as to descend without occasionally (sic) any stoppage. The doors are at the end of the vehicles, and are supplied with swinging handles, to prevent accidents.

The operation of the new arrangements on rates of postage within the United Kingdom, and to all parts of the world, is exhibited in the following Regulations:

Letters received at the receiving-houses till five o'clock in the afternoon; by the letter carriers ringing bells ( on payment of one penny with each ) from four till five in the afternoon; at the Branch Post-offices at Charing Cross, Cavendish Street, and 266, High Street, Borough, till forty-five minutes past five; at the General Post-office, and at Lombard Street, till six; and at the General Post-office, St. Martin's-le-Grand only, from seven till half-past seven, by paying sixpence with each; and from half-past seven until twenty minutes before eight, by paying the postage and sixpence additional.

Rates of Postage. - Inland letters not exceeding half an ounce, are charged one penny.

Exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding 1 ounce, 2d.

Exceeding 1 ounce, but not exceeding 2 ounces, 4d.

Exceeding 2 ounces, but not exceeding 3 ounces 6d.

And so on an additional twopence for every additional ounce. With but few exceptions the weight is limited to 16 ounces. Unstamped letters are charged double postage on delivery. Those insufficiently stamped, double the amount of such deficiency.

#### MORNING MAILS

Letters and Newspapers forwarded by the morning mails to Brighton, Dover, Cheltenham, Oxford, Southampton, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Carlisle, Glasgow, York, Scarborough, and all intermediate post towns.

Newspapers; Supplements to Newspapers; and Publications not strictly Newspapers. - It is not compulsory to send newspapers by the post; but those that are intended to be so transmitted, and are entitled to pass free, must be put into the receiving-houses before five o'clock in the afternoon; at the branch post-offices, before half past five; or at the General post-office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, before six. Each newspaper given with a penny to the letter-carriers ringing bells before five o'clock in the afternoon, or put into one of the late newspaper windows at St. Martin's-le-Grand from six until half-past seven with a halfpenny, will be despatched the same evening.

Stamped Publications, not strictly Newspapers, not exceeding the weight of two ounces,



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and published periodically, circulate free by post as well to the United Kingdom as to the Colonies and Foreign parts; but as the mere affixing a newspaper stamp on any new periodical publication will not entitle it, as a matter of course, to pass free by the post, those who may be about to publish, for the first time, any such paper, should submit a copy to the Postmaster General, in order that it may be determined whether the publication is of a nature that will entitle it to pass free of postage.

When there are large arrivals of Foreign or ship letters, when the period of commencing and concluding the delivery is unavoidably retarded for a space varying from thirty to sixty minutes. Letters from all those places to which despatches are conveyed by the Birmingham Railway morning mail, likewise arrive by the same route at half-past two o'clock in the afternoon. They are delivered in Upper Thames Street, St. Paul's Church-yard, Newgate Street, Cloth Fair, Aldersgate Street, Redcross Street, Finsbury Place, Eldon Street, New Broad Street, Bishops-gate Within, Houndsditch, Minories, Haydon Square, and Tower Hill, and in all places within the limits of those streets by the general post letter carriers; and the delivery is completed within an hour and a half from the time of arrival of the mail. All depatches by the railway, for places beyond the above limits, are sent out by the four o'clock penny-post delivery. The despatch from Canterbury, Chatham, Dartford, Dover, Faversham, Gravesend, Rochester, and Sittingbourne, which arrives by the mid-day Dover mail at four o'clock; Brighton, Crawley, Cuckfield, Lewes, Reigate, Shoreham, and Worthing, which arrives by the mid-day Brighton mail at a quarter past four o'clock in the afternoon, are sent out by the penny-post six o'clock delivery. Foreign mails arriving after the morning despatch of the letter carriers, are ( provided they arrive before two o'clock in the afternoon ) sent out within the before-mentioned limits by the general post letter carriers, who complete their deliveries within an hour from the time of their despatch. For places beyond those limits, all foreign letters arriving subsequent to the morning despatch of the letter carriers, are delivered by the penny post letter carriers, as are all letters which arrive later than two in the afternoon by any foreign mail.

Delivery of Letters. - The morning delivery of General post letters ( including despatches from every port, town, and place in the United Kingdom, and those foreign, ship, and packet letters which have arrived in sufficient time ) commences in every district, within three miles of St. Martin's-le-Grand, rather before nine o'clock in the morning, and is completed within an hour and a half, except on Mondays, or on other days (sic). (Ed - something seriously adrift here with the typesetting.)

Bank Notes and Drafts.- Persons wishing to send bank notes and drafts by post are advised to cut such notes or drafts in halves, and send them at two different times, waiting till the receipt of one half is acknowledged before the other half is sent.

The Money-order Office. - Being now carried on by the post office on the public account remittances by means of money-orders can be made by application at the Money-order Office, at the south side of the hall of the General Post Office; or the several branch offices in Lombard Street, Charing Cross, Old Cavendish Street, and High Street, Borough. The charge for such orders will be sixpence on sums of two pounds and under, and one shilling and sixpence on sums between two and five pounds. To avoid trouble, it must be understood that the party in whose favor the order is drawn, must attend personally to receive it. No orders will be given for sums beyond this amount.

Money-orders will be given on all post towns in England and Ireland, and to the principal ones in Scotland. They can also be drawn by these on each other and London, but those drawn on London can only be paid at the General Post Office.

The following receiving houses around London, are likewise empowered to pay and grant money-orders, viz: Edmonton, Greenwich, Hammersmith, Limehouse, Richmond, and Woolwich.

Overcharges returned between the hours of ten and five, on presenting the overcharged letters at the window in the hall of the General Post Office. Overcharges may likewise



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be obtained at the branch office, Lombard Street; or the letter may be sent to the office by the letter carrier of the district, and the overcharge will be returned with the letter in two days.

The receiving houses for letters are no longer distinct; letters may indiscriminately be put into any of them.

Soldiers and Sailors' letters, when received from parts beyond the seas, without the postage of one penny having been prepaid, ( the present restriction to half an ounce in weight remaining in full force. ) are subject to a rate of twopence only. Soldiers and Sailors' letters are not liable to any additional postage on re-direction.

Soldiers and Sailors' letters when sent or received by private ships, are liable to the ship-letter gratuities, in addition to the postage.

BRITISH RATES OF POSTAGE  
UPON FOREIGN LETTERS

- 1st. Between France and the countries and places undermentioned.
- 2nd. Between Germany ( via France ) or Holland or Belgium.
- 3rd. Between Germany ( not via France ), Denmark, Sweden, or other parts of the north of Europe, or any country through Belgium, or Holland, or Germany.
- 4th. Between Switzerland ( via France ).
- 5th. Between Spain, Italy, Sicily, Venetian Lombardy, Turkey, the Levant, or Archipelago ( all via France ).

	1st		2nd		3rd		4th		5th	
	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.	s.	d.
Spain	2	2	3	6	3	10	3	4	3	9
British North America and the U.S. of America	1	0	2	4	2	8	2	2	2	7
Gibraltar	2	6	3	10	4	2	3	8	4	1
Malta, the Ionian Islands, Greece, Syria, Egypt, and the East Indies	2	6	3	10	4	2	3	8	4	1
Portugal	2	7	3	10	4	2	3	8	4	1
Madeira	2	8	3	11	4	3	3	9	4	2
Brazil	3	7	4	10	5	2	4	8	5	1
Buenos Ayres, Chili, and Peru	3	0	4	9	5	1	4	7	5	0
Mexico, Colombia, and Cuba	3	2	4	5	4	9	4	3	4	8
St.Domingo	2	4	3	7	3	11	3	5	3	10
Jamaica and the West Indies	2	3	3	6	3	10	3	4	3	9

- 1st. Letters arriving at any Port in the United Kingdom, and forwarded thence, without passing through London, between British North America or the United States of America, and the countries and places following.
- 2nd. Between the West Indies and

		1st		2nd	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
Spain	Spain	3	2	3	5
	Portugal	2	7	2	10
	Brazil	3	7	3	10
	Buenos Ayres, Chili, and Peru	3	5	3	8
	Mexico, Columbia, and Cuba	3	1	3	4
	St.Domingo	2	3	2	6



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- 1st. Letters arriving at any port in the United Kingdom, and forwarded thence, without passing through London, between Gibraltar and the countries and places under-mentioned.
- 2nd. Between Malta, the Ionian Islands, Greece, Syria, Egypt, or the East Indies ( not via France ), and the countries and places under-mentioned.

	1st.		2nd.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
United States of America	2	11	3	3
Brazil	4	6	4	10
Buenos Ayres, Chili, and Peru	4	4	4	8
Mexico, Columbia, and Cuba	4	0	4	4
St.Domingo	3	2	3	6

SHIP LETTER OFFICE.- Letters forwarded through this office to the Cape of Good Hope, Isle of France, East Indies, &c., to pay the full inland rate of postage to the port where the ship may be, and twopence sea postage for every letter not exceeding three ounces, and one shilling per ounce for every ounce above.

Newspapers and price currents that have paid stamp duty, are forwarded to India, if made up open at the ends, at one penny per ounce.

All letters and newspapers forwarded through this office, except those between ports in Great Britain and Ireland, must be paid for at the time they are put in.

There are seven deliveries and seven collections of letters in London daily and by a recent regulation, the eight o'clock delivery has been extended to all places in the environs of London within the circle of three miles from the General Post Office. These places have now five deliveries, and five despatches daily.

## FOR TOWN DELIVERY LETTERS PUT IN -

	Receiving Houses Hours	Principal Office Hours	Sent out for Delivery at Hours
Morning	8	9	10
Ditto	10	11	12
Ditto	12	1	
Afternoon	2	3	2
Ditto	4	5	4
Ditto	6	7	6
Ditto	8	9	8
Next Morning			8

## LONDON TO THE COUNTRY.

	Receiving Houses Hours	Principal Office Hours	They are Despatched From the Latter at- Hours
Morning	8	9	10
Noon	12		
Afternoon	2	1	2
Ditto	6	3	4
Ditto		7	8

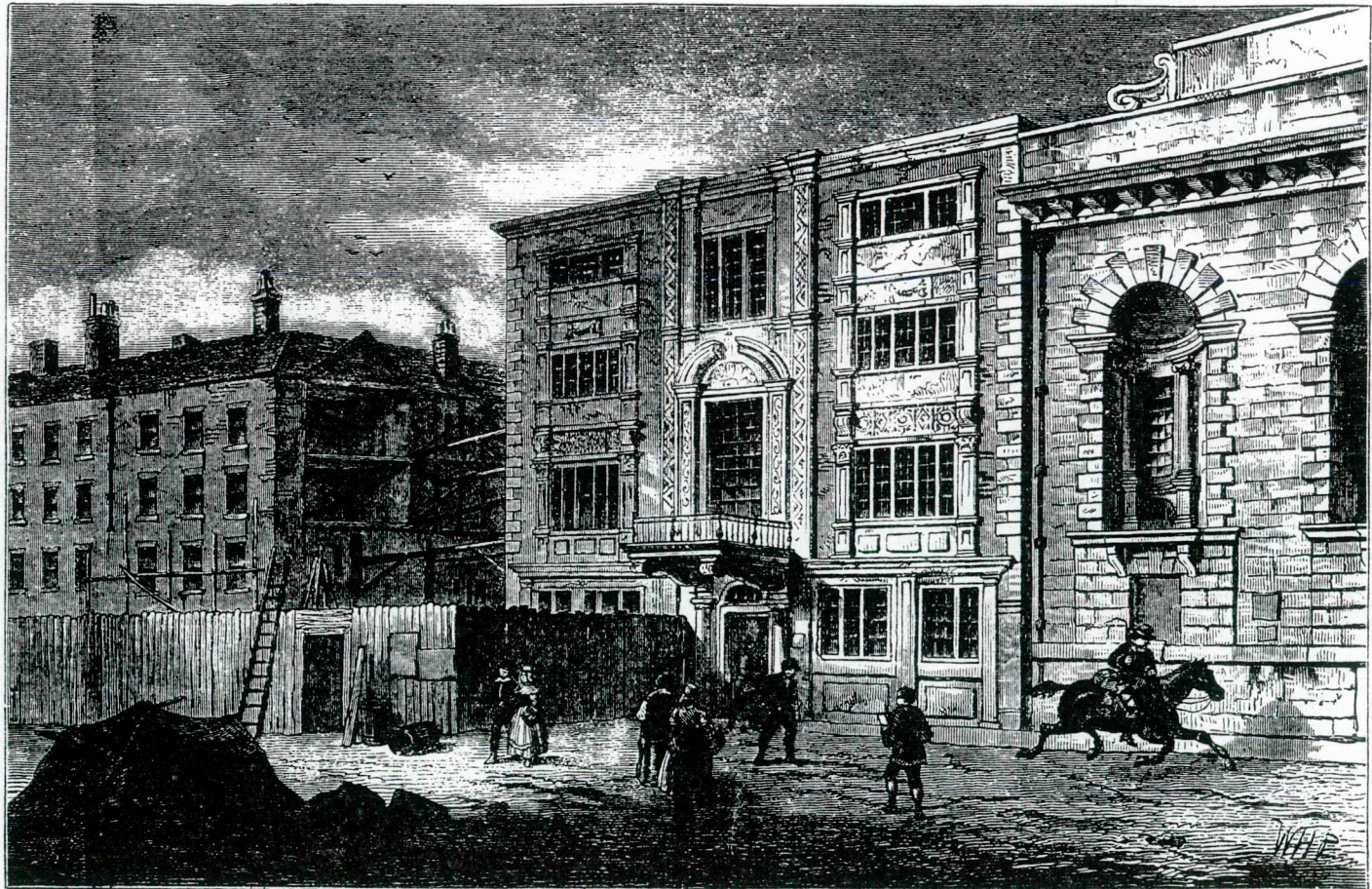
But letters, whether from town or its environs, may be put in at the principal office three quarters of an hour later for each despatch.



The London Post Office in 1800.....

Letters put in before eight o'clock on Saturday evening are delivered in the country on Sunday morning. The dated stamps, or if there are two, that having the latest hour, shows the time of day at which letters were despatched from the principal office. The postage of this office may or may not be paid at the time of putting in, at the option of the sender. Newspapers pass free by the London Two-penny Post, except in those cases where they shall be posted and delivered within the limits, for the time being, of the General Post delivery, where the postage is one penny on each newspaper.

An irregularity in the delivery of letters, communicated to the comptroller, will be dult attended to; and if the covers bearing the date stamp, are produced, they will serve to discover where the fault lies.



The Old Post Office on Lombard St. as it looked in 1800.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Abstracts from magazines, both current and from the past, are most welcome. There must be very many articles, reprints, comments and notes relating to London which go unrecorded in the pages of ' Notebook '. Most such journals are content to give permission to reprint without charge, as indeed they are to use ' Notebook ', subject to the usual conditions of source acknowledgement.

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



**GEORGE D. BREED - POSTMAN**

In January this year, the Editor received a letter from a lady living at Cannon Hill. Her late father in law it appears, " was for many years a member of the Postal Service before and after the first World War, until he retired. I have a large bundle of his papers which I think might be of interest ".

Frankly not a great find was not expected but an examination of the papers proved how wrong this poor expectation had been.

At first it had been thought the material might best be placed with collectors but further consideration suggested all might benefit more if the newly formed Postal History unit, located in the depths of St. Martins-le-Grand, should have first refusal of the bulk, with several cards and correspondence for collectors. Due to the time necessary for the 1980 Exhibition it was not until June could time be found to give the careful consideration merited.

The purpose of this is to highlight just a few details from the career of George Breed, illustrated by a small selection from the papers saved for researchers and collectors. Amongst the items acquired for Records are two very important items. Students, quite properly, spend much time trying to establish the function of a particular handstamp. George Breed, officially or otherwise, prepared a personal booklets of stamps in use in the Inland Section where he worked and carefully noted the purpose for which they were to be used. The second item is a detailed working sheet for postal arrangements to handle mail destined for King Edward Seventh when he was out of London. Both these will be reprinted in the next issue of Notebook.

What of George Breed ? The postcard and photograph show a rather serious looking young man. The card is probably from his early days ( the floral arrangement was still in use in the days of the Editor's formative years, which were rather later than contemporaneous with those of Postman Breed ). A letter dated 30th December, 1905 seems to date the photograph, it reads :

" Dear George,

We are delighted with the photo & thank you so much for sending us one. It is very good of you in both ways, I mean the thoughtfulness of the photo. Rosa wonders that " with care " in the front is a joke, or whether you, having a slight knowledge of the Post Office ways of dealing with fragile things, thought it best to remind them to be careful. She does not think you are very fragile. We like that circular way of setting the picture. Trust you had a jolly time at Xmas, as I am glad to say we did, & hope that your Mother is very well, also Fanny & yourself.

Our united love to all of you, not forgetting from our boy Allan, who is just five.

Your sincere friends, Frank & Rosa "

Entry into the Post Office was by examination by 1895 and having secured a pass he took up a position in the Inland Section. His security pass with the conditions of service ( reproduced overleaf ) is dated 2nd. September, 1895, presumably being on or near the day he started work.

Another letter dated 26th. March, 1902 from Frank is a very fine example of moral tone setting rightly associated with the period and provides interesting social comment on thinking at the turn of the century. One cannot help reflecting though unfashionable to modern ears there is a disquieting element for urgent application nearly eighty years later.

" Dear George,

Since leaving you this morning I cannot get either you or the subject we were talkinf of out of my mind & I am constrained to write to you on the subject. You



George D. Breed - Postman.....





George D. Breed - Postman.....

" will forgive me I am sure, but I feel so anxious about your welfare & progress in life. To me mind, & when I say this you know me well enough to know that I am not given to flattery, you are a young man of exceptional ability, some of which has reached the surface, but a great deal is still to be brought out & when I tell you that many is the time when listening to you I have wished for what you possess & which to me is so very hard to get, you must admit that I have been observing your goings-on for some time. I do not for one moment presume to dictate what you should do, but I do beg of you with all the energy & enthusiasm that I can command to make the most of life. Fill up every moment with something useful & do much for others. There are plenty of " don't cares " in life without you thinking of swelling the ranks. Aim high & then even if you do not reach the point you started for you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you did your best. Think of the time you have each day, & plan out every hour what you will try to do. Don't let others best you without a struggle. Have some end in view. I feel as I write these words how frail they are & how little they convey what I really feel. You are not one of those fellows who want drumming to get a thing into your head, naturally intellectual & quick at grasping things you should get on well, & soon be at the top. For the sake of those around you do try & get out of this don't care way you say that you have got into. Disappointments may have an effect on some people, but if you have had any don't let them affect you. Live above them & get & do something.

" Try to make the most of life  
Lose no honest way  
Time will never bring again  
Chances passed away."

You have talents above the ordinary run of men, try to improve them & also increase them. " To him that hath shall be given, & to him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath." which of course means that if you do not use the talents you possess & increase, you gradually lose the whole & then life is not worth much. I should be so glad if I could assist(sic) or if this poor letter will make you think out things & then act with determination.

I am your sincere friend

Frank

**REGULATIONS.**

1. You must attend punctually at the time specified on the appointed days.
2. You must not send a substitute in the event of your being unable to attend.
3. You must send timely written notice to the Superintending Officer of the Section in which you are employed, when you find you will be unable to attend by reason of detention at your Office, Sickness, or otherwise.
4. It is imperative you should apply personally to the Wages Overseer for money due on account of Extra Duty on the Friday in the week after the duty was performed, or, at the latest, on the following Wednesday. In the event of your being unable to attend for this purpose, owing to absence from your regular employment, on Annual Leave, through Sickness, or otherwise, you must send to the Wages Overseer a receipt, on the printed Post Office Form, by Saturday. (The Extra Duty Money can be obtained of the Wages Inspectors, in the Inland and Newspaper Section, on Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m., Saturdays from 7 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, from 4 to 4.45 p.m.; in the E.C. Office on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 6 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 3 to 6 p.m. on Fridays; in the Registered Letter Section on Fridays from 3 to 5 p.m., and on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 3 a.m. to 8 p.m.)
5. You must be prepared to perform any duty that may be required of you, whether Facing, General Sorting, Sub-Dividing, Tying, Finishing, or carrying out bags.
6. You must show to the Doorkeeper this official card of admission on entering the Office, and give it up at the termination of your engagement.
7. This card must be renewed before the end of the term for which it is given, if attendance be necessary after that time.

*George D. Breed*  
Signature of Holder.

G. & S. 168 [6558] 1000 11 94ca

C.O. —No. 856.  
I.B.

*Book Inspector JB*

Mr. *GD Breed* *295-11-15*  
*9/95-11-15*  
to the *Inland* Section

OF THE  
**CIRCULATION OFFICE, G.P.O.**

From *2 Sept* AVAILABLE 1895, to 1895

Sub-Controller.  
[OVER]



George D. Breed - Postman.....

There is an interesting copy of correspondence of a pay enquiry made in 1908. The rate of pay is noteworthy.

The Superintendent

I beg to ask I may be informed how the amounts paid to me as wages etc during my Annual Leave - weeks ending April 24th. May 1, 8, and 15, were made please.

G.D. Breed

Sorter

Through Duty IS 25/5 '08

Wages No 1278

Mr Breed,

The amounts were made up as shown on the attached paper

GA Dudd

Asst Superintendent II

Wages Duty IS 25th May '08

Mr. Breed

The amount were made up as follows

Week ended		£	s	d
24th apl	Wages	2.	8.	5
	Good Friday		12.	0
		<u>3.</u>	<u>0.</u>	<u>5</u>
1 May	Wages	2.	8.	5
	Bank Holiday.		3.	9
	arrears on Extra duty			6
		<u>2.</u>	<u>12.</u>	<u>8</u>
8 May	Wages	<u>2.</u>	<u>8.</u>	<u>5</u>
15 May	Wages	2.	8.	5
	Wages adjustment under the New Revision on and from the 9 May ( 9 May Future date of Increment )			3
		<u>2.</u>	<u>8.</u>	<u>8</u>

On 6th.December,1909 a formal printed notice was sent giving his status as -  
" Sorter, London Postal Service, Inland Section ".

1202

GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON,  
6 December 1909

Sir,

I AM directed by the Postmaster General to inform you that your application to be allowed to adopt the provisions of the Superannuation Act, 1909, has been considered, and that the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury are pleased to grant your application.

I am, / SIR, / Your obedient Servant,/ A.F. KING,/ Acting Secretary

G & S 40m/9/09-(3025) 40m 10/09ss



George D. Breed - Postman.....

From a memorandum dated 3rd. August, 1918 we learn " Mr.G.D. Breed of the General Post Office, Mount Pleasant, has received official permission to join His Majesty's Forces." His brief career in the forces is given on a summary, prbably prepared by himself.

Uxbridge Wing Armament School : Part II Orders No. 60 dated 11/3/19

Remusterings : The undermentioned Airman is remustered from Assistant Armourer to Clerk ( General ) with effect from 25/10/18

285325 Pte 2 Breed G D

( Authority : - oi/c Records Letter, B11/23496 dated 27/2/19 )

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Part II Orders 109 dated 31/12/18

To be Clerks 2nd Class from dates stated :-

285325 3/Clk Breed G.D. Clerk Gen 1/11/18

To be Clerks 1st Class from dates stated :-

285325 2/Clk Breed G.D. Clerk Gen 2/11/18

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Hillingdon ( Cadet ) Wing Armament School RAF, Uxbridge: Part I Orders No.69 d 21.3.19

To assume rank of Corp<sup>l</sup> for purpose of discipline with effect from 21.3.19

285325 LAC Breed G.D.

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Form Z. 518 " Certificate Of Employment During The War " shows his rank as Corporal at the Armament School Uxbridge with R.A.F. Trade as Clerk. The form is dated 2nd May 1919, this being confirmed in a letter written by him in July 1919 seeking a transfer.

Inland Section  
10th. July '19

The Superintendent,

I beg to apply for transfer in connection with the announcements relative to the Treasury scheme for staffing new Government offices.

I have been employed on clerical work in the Sorting Office directly under the Asst Supts and Superintendents on Through Duty since 1900 except for such time as I spent on Writing Duties in the Asst Controllers Office under the old scheme and whilst mobilised during the late war. With confidence of a favorable report I ask for reference to the Supts and Asst.Supts under whom I served on any question of my industry, initiative, sense of and willingness to accept responsibility and general common-sense in my work.

Prior to entering the Postal Service as a Sorter by Open Competitive examination in 1895 I had several years experience of office work in ordinary business life and find that the training and experience of business methods I gained then is still of practical value and use in Service life.

During the recent war I was mobilised for a few months only. During that time I was employed on clerical duties at the Headquarters of the R.A.F. Cadet Wing to which I was attached from Oct 1918 till I left there on the 2nd May '10 for demobilisation. I was there promoted in that period through the grades of 3rd, 2nd and 1st Class Clerk to Actg Corpl. Clerk in March '19 and received verbal assurance with gratifying commendation that I should have had paid rank as Corporal but for the pending demobilisation. I submit it is not an undue claim to make that my advancement in this manner proves my adaptability to clerical conditions of which I had no previous experience and indicates my ability to advantageously carry out whatever duties are allotted to



George D. Breed - Postman.....

notwithstanding that my age ( 42 on the 30th. April last ) is slightly above the limit announced.

George D. Breed

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The Asst Controller

Submitted Mr Breed fulfils all the requirements stated in the notice exhibited in the Sorting Office apart from age. He is a man of quite exceptional ability and would I am confident do well in any other Government Dept.

Mr. Breed is of good address and has character for doing things well particularly clerical work.

W. Brewer  
I.S. 10 July ' 19

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The Supt I.S.

In view of the age limit that has been fixed for these appointments I much regret that I could not recommend Mr Breed's application. In these circumstances he will no doubt not wish me to send it to the Controller and if he so desires he may withdraw his application.

HN 10 July '19

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The attractive certificate reproduced below shows him still in the Inland Section.

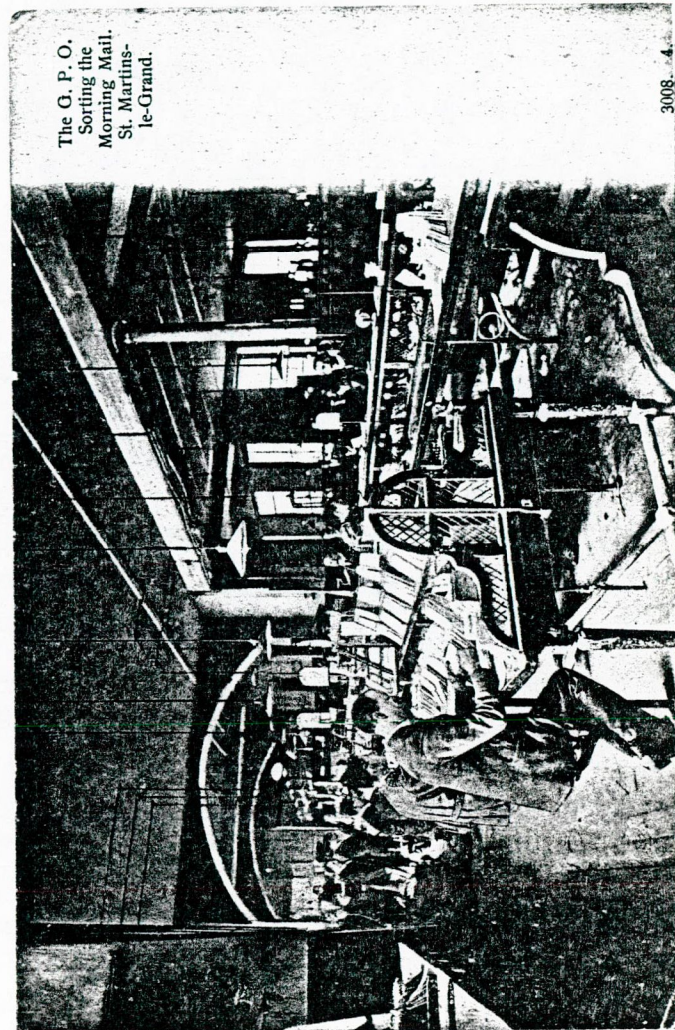




George D. Breed - Postman.....

Part of his spare time activity is recorded in a mass of papers and post cards related the the Cygnet Rowing Club. It is hoped to find a suitable home for this material in postal archives, be it the postal history, the club or some similar body.

The four cards shown and the items listed are on offer to readers of Notebook on the basis of best bid received by the end of the month following that of publication.



a.

b.

- a. Chaplin card ( slight foxing and creases ) Christmas 1915
- b. The G.P.O. Sorting the Morning Mail.St.Martins-le-Grand
- c. The G.P.O. A Sorting Table at Mount Pleasant.
- d. Seventy Years of Progress in The Railway Post Office ( 1934 Exhibition )
- e. 1907 Dog Licence postmarked MERTON RUSH.
- f. 1923 Interim Licence ( 15/- ) for radio postmarked Wimbledon
- g. 1924 Broadcast Receiving Licence ( 10/- ) postmarked Battersea Lavender Hill 202
- h. 1851 Map of London issued by Sydney, Wells & Manduell, tea merchants; packed with information in the borders to the map.

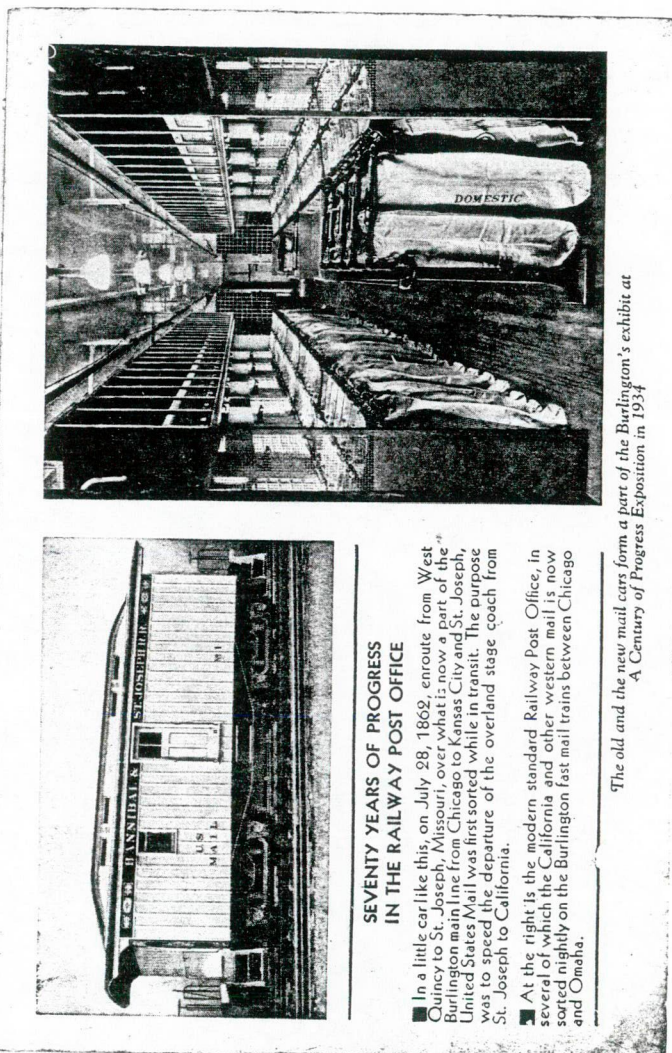


George D. Breed - Postman.....



The G. P. O. A Sorting Table at Mount Pleasant.

d.



The old and the new mail cars form a part of the Burlington's exhibit at A Century of Progress Exposition in 1934

SEVENTY YEARS OF PROGRESS  
IN THE RAILWAY POST OFFICE

■ In a little car like this, on July 28, 1862, enroute from West Quincy to St. Joseph, Missouri, over what is now a part of the Burlington main line, from Chicago to Kansas City and St. Joseph, United States Mail was first sorted while in transit. The purpose was to speed the departure of the overland stage coach from St. Joseph to California.

■ At the right is the modern standard Railway Post Office, in several of which the California and other western mail is now sorted nightly on the Burlington fast mail trains between Chicago and Omaha.

e.

George Breed retired from the post office with over forty years service. His career from the papers remaining, was not spectacular and indeed it looks as if his considerable talent was never utilised. Never the less, his career typifies all that was good and reliable in the days when the penny post still operated and public opinion yet had an influence on the conduct of the post office.

Those postal historians who have extended their interest to the wider subject of the operation of the post office and the staff who were employed have every cause to be thankful that the papers were saved to amuse, interest and delight many years later.

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KENT ROAD: ERROR OF POST MARK

The infrequency of errors in postal markings has been remarked upon in the pages of 'Notebook' in the past. Quite by chance one such came the Editors way, unseen by either the dealer or himself at the time of purchase.

A 34mm diameter C.S.O. stamp for KENT ROAD EV / JA 20 / 1829 has both the EV and the JA inverted. In passing, it may be worth remarking that despite looking for some months this was the first KENT ROAD found; it cannot be that scarce surely?

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



HON. TREASURER'S REPORT - 1979/1980

The accounts presented at the last Annual General Meeting covered fourteen months ( to bring the account year-end nearer to the AGM so they are more up-to-date when received by members. The comparative figures in this year's accounts are thus for the longer period.

SURPLUS: This year shows a very substantial surplus of £677 ( against £300 in 1978/9 before writing down stocks of publications ). The surplus arises almost entirely from doubled sales of publications - £676 against £315.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: The obtaining of these is more than ever a cause for concern. Each year more than half are unpaid at the end of October - they are due when the year starts in May. Reminders have to be sent out to a third of the members but ten subs. are still outstanding for 1978/9 and 27 for 1979/80. In addition, a more thorough examination of the membership records I took over showed four still owe for 1977/8. In all arrears total £124. During all this time these unpaid ' members ' have been getting ' Notebook ' and the other privileges of membership. Of the £124 arrears, £109 has been written off, in addition to the £80 written off last year and the names have been removed from the circulation list.

I am sure arrears arise more from forgetfulness than intent and the non-receipt of " Notebook " may well result in requests for re-instatement, which will gladly be made on payment of arrears,

PUBLICATIONS: Two new publications at a cost of £860 have been partly financed from the Donations and Loans so kindly provided by members. The Editor now has stocks of seven different publications ( nearly 2,000 items in all ). Four of these were published in 1979/80. The work involved in sales has increased from £98 to £676 in two years. The Editor's meticulous accounting has been a great help to me in what is now quite complex recording. The publication successes have a spin-off in that the favorable reviews bring in new members so that despite the drastic pruning, we have now 151 members ( 153 last year ).

1980/81 SUBSCRIPTION: I recommend this be kept at £3. The substantial resources of the Group are largely in, or committed to, publications. The Loan Fund will finance one further publication, after which the sales and bank balance will be the major sources of finance for the further sections of the LONDON POSTAL HISTORY. The subscription now only meets the cost of ' Notebook ': auction commission and the packet cover our other expenditure.

Reg Sanders

AIB, F.ComA., F.T.Com, F.R.EconS.

Hon.Treasurer

Accounts given on the following pages.....

WHAT THE AUCTIONS TELL.....

It was intended to include a survey of auction results in this issue. However, as readers will see, this issue of ' Notebook ' is rather packed with other material resulting in the contribution being held over to the next issue.

Readers are reminded they may have information of interest to others from the auctions they enjoy, not reported thus far in these pages. Why not prepare an article, or even a short abstract ?

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HON. TREASURER'S REPORT - 1979/1980 YEAR ENDED 30TH. APRIL, 1980

1978/9

£	<u>INCOME</u>	£	£	£
	<u>Subscriptions</u>			
	Paid in advance	13	39.00	
	Collected during the year	133	399.00	
	Arrears carried forward	5	15.00	
480	Membership 1979/80	151		453.00
	<u>Publications</u>			
	Sales		676.60	
	Stock 1st. May, 1979	145.70		
	Additions at cost	861.13		
		1006.83		
	Stock at valuation 30th. April, 1980	669.00	337.83	
33	NETT INCOME FROM SALES			338.77
	<u>Packets</u>			
	Commission, less expenses		42.53	
22	LESS, deficit on Insurance		9.97	32.56
	<u>Auctions</u> , Commission, less expenses			
	LPHG		62.55	
153	Buntingford		24.75	87.30
6	<u>Building Society Interest</u>			34.56
-	<u>Publication Funds Transfer</u>			300.00
694				1246.19
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
36	Meetings		35.50	
368	" Notebook "		442.63	
117	Posts, Phone and Sundry Expenses		60.39	
5	Bank Charges		4.52	
8	Printed Programmes etc		13.00	
-	Membership List		12.50	
534				568.54
160	Surplus			677.65
694				1246.19
160	Surplus			677.65
	LESS Subscription arrears			
	pre 1978/9		12.00	
	1978/9		31.00	
	1979/80	81.00		
	Less carried forward	15.00	66.00	
60	Arrears written off			109.00
100	Surplus transferred to Accumulated Funds			568.65



HON.TREASURER'S REPORT - 1979/1980      YEAR ENDED 30TH.APRIL,1980BALANCE      SHEET

1978/9

£

£

Accumulated Fund

Balance at 1st.May,1979

628.02

add

unpresented cheque written back

2.99

631.01

pre 1978/9 arrears taken into account

12.00

Surplus for year 1979/80

568.65

628

Balance at 30th.April, 1980

1211.66

109

Publications Reserve

nil

373

Loan Fund

279.0311101490.69Represented By :

131

Cash in Hand &amp; at Bank

65.60

332

Deposit Account ( Nationwide Bldg Soc.)

592.42

373

Publications Fund ( Abbey National BS.)

214.19

836

Cash Resources

872.21

Prepayments

20

Room Hire

36.00

10

Insurance

7.50

43.50

Stock of Publications

142

Binders

50.00

4

Publications

619.00

1

Library ( Nominal )

1.00

670.00

Subscriptions In Arrears15.00

1600.71

LESS

Provision for next ' Notebook '

74.00

Subscriptions Paid in Advance

21.00

Creditors

15.02110.0211101490.69