

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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- © 1982 L.P.H.G. and , when named, the contributor

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The majority of members have paid their subscriptions
some, however, still have to pay, either in part or
in full.

If there is an amount in the box alongside, would you
please send it as soon as possible to the Treasurer,

Reg Sanders, 4 Windermere Gardens, Alresford, Hants.S0249NL

PROGRAMME FOR 1982

The room at the Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC has been booked for
six meetings in 1983, always on Saturdays, starting at 2, through till 5.
Since the room is available from 1 p.m., there is every reason to get there
early for sale and exchange. The detailed programme will be issued with
the next Notebook, hopefully to be issued before Christmas.

POSTAL BID SALE SATURDAY 20TH.NOVEMBER.1982

Provisional Results:

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
4	3.00	5	8.50	6	5.00	7	1.00	11	24.00	15	3.50
17	3.00	18	3.00	19	2.25	20	2.25	21	3.25	22	2.00
23	2.00	24	2.75	25	1.50	26	4.50	28	3.50	30	4.00
31	2.50	35	4.00	38	3.00	40	1.00	42	19.00	43	5.00
45	1.00	46	1.00	53	22.00	54	1.00	62	4.50	63	15.00
68	2.00	72	2.00	77	5.00	78	30.00	79	2.25	80	9.00
81	2.25	86	2.50	87	1.00	89	2.25	90	4.50	94	1.75
96	4.00	99	3.00	100	1.00	102	4.00	103	5.00	105	1.75
108	7.00	109	4.00	110	8.50	111	7.50	112	4.00	115	3.50
117	3.00	124	21.00	125	13.50	126	19.00	127	15.25	129	7.75
130	44.00	131	10.00	132	5.00	134	5.00	135	8.00	136	4.00
138	20.00	139	22.00	140	4.50	141	8.00	142	10.50	143	5.00
146	3.00	147	4.25	148	6.00	149	6.00	152	3.00	153	5.00
155	3.00	161	4.00	164	4.00	167	3.50	172	3.00	175	4.00
177	2.75	178	4.00	179	3.00	181	5.00	182	7.00	183	3.00
184	7.00	185	5.00	186	5.00	187	4.00	189	6.50	190	5.00
192	5.00	193	2.50	195	2.50	196	4.00	198	3.00	202	7.75
203	6.50	204	9.00	205	8.00	206	4.50	207	3.00	208	6.00
209	16.00	210	3.25	211	10.00	214	25.00	219	6.75	223	4.50
230	100.00	235	3.50	236	6.50	237	2.25	245	3.00	252	11.00
256	25.00	257	45.00	258	4.00	261	4.50	262	5.50	263	3.00
265	4.00	266	4.00	267	7.00	268	12.50	269	10.00	270	8.00
271	4.50	272	4.00	274	5.00	275	4.00	276	6.00	279	11.00
280	2.75	286	16.50	287	8.25	292	3.00	293	2.00	294	2.25
295	2.00	296	6.50	297	4.50	298	2.00	299	4.50	302	7.75
306	7.00	308	3.00	310	6.00	312	6.00	315	5.00	317	4.00
319	3.50	322	3.00	323	5.00	324	8.75	328	2.00	329	4.00
332	2.00	336	6.25	341	25.00	343	12.00	350	2.25	353	3.00
356	4.00	362	10.00	364	20.00	365	38.00	367	8.25	368	50.00
369	4.00	371	4.50	372	15.00	373	23.00	374	4.00	376	6.00
389	6.50	381	11.00	382	13.75	384	3.00	385	25.00	386	10.00
388	24.00	389	15.00	390	30.00	391	28.00	394	25.00	396	22.00
397	17.00	399	50.00	400	34.00						

Total £1698.50

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PROVINCIAL TYPE DATE STAMPS

There has been only one response to the article in Notebook 58, with Michael Jackson sending in photocopies for an example for Richmond, or rather two.

The first, struck on the obverse, of an item addressed to Chancery Lane and has the adhesive cancelled by the 65 oval. The stamp reads RICHMOND EV NO 24 1847. The second, also on the obverse, is on an item to Biggleswade, with the adhesive cancelled with the 8 in diamond. In this case, the stamp reads RICHMOND MG SP 12 1849.

The remark made about recording the cancellations from 1856 needs correction!

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WANTED - any material relating to the Old Kent Road, in its various guises as it made its way from the Borough towards New Cross. Postal markings, Post Cards, headed notepaper, all the bits and pieces which delight the local area collector and seem to displease some of the more "learned & serious". The Editor would be pleased to hear from you.

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WILTSHIRE AND ITS POSTMARKS

by Dr John Siggers.

This book describes 4,234 postmarks of Wiltshire, covering the period 1705 to 1982, in a degree of detail not previously attempted, illustrates 2,921 of them and refers the remainder to diagrams for easy recognition.

The early marks are all illustrated individually, as are the barred ovals, duplexes, squared circles and skeletons, which have so many individual variations. Included are all the Wiltshire postmarks from the Post Office Records Steel and Rubber Impression Books from the Records Office in St.Martin's le Grand. There is a short description or "thumb-nail" sketch of each town and village and some fairly detailed information on their postal history and their "Penny Posts". Each are priced. There is also a reference map and 52 other maps of Wiltshire, 13 town plans and 33 other illustrations in the 736 pages.

The maps include a full set of Ogilby's road maps from his "Britannia" of 1675 and a full set of his road maps from "Britannia Depicta" of 1731, as far as Wiltshire is concerned, with the Wiltshire maps of Christopher Saxton (1576), John Bill (1626), Pieter Van den Keere (1605 & 1627), Matthew Simon (1635), William Kip (1637), John Speed (1646), Jan Jansson (1646), John Blaeu (1648), Richard Blome (1673), Philip Lea (1689), Robert Morden (1695), John Seller (1695), Jas.Cox (1720), Herman Moll (1724), Badeslade & Toms (1742), Thomas Kitchin (1747), Emmanuel Bowen (1755), R.W. Seale (1762), Augustus Walpole (1784), Carrington Bowles (1785), John Harrison (1788), William Tunicliff (1791) and many others.

There are also items on Coach Roads, Camps, including American and Australian Wartime camps in Wiltshire and Italian and German P.O.W. camps, Meter Marks, Slogan Postmarks, Code Letters, Machine Cancellations, Collecting Little Blue Dots, Parcel Post Labels, Postal Numbers, Border Changes, Railways, Air and Military Postmarks and Cachets, Scandal, Mail-bag Seals, Measurements, Cross Road, Time Codes, Numbers in Circles, "Skeletons", Willcocks' Types, The Wheel Dimensurator, The Gregorian Calendar and The Wooler Curricule.

The Foreword is by Martin Willcocks.

Published by SANDCLIFFE PRESS, 21 Northgate St., Divizes, Wilts, SN10 1JU
Size : 10 x 8 x 2½ ins. Weight 4 lb. Price £28 plus Post £1.57

Available from the Publishers : readers in London might try at Vera Trinder's.

A Review by Denis Vandervelde

This mammoth publication, meticulously researched, is an important milestone in local British postal history. Never before has a whole County been tackled, from its earliest posts to modern times, with every postmark either illustrated or identified precisely by reference to a key-type.

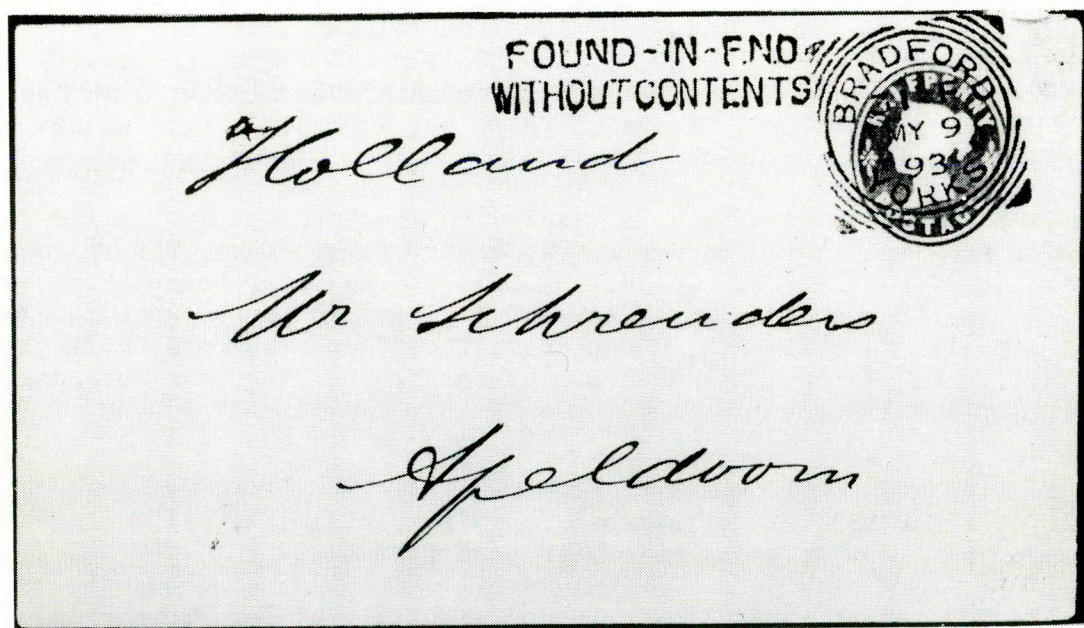
It is, in every sense, a great book. Weighing in at four pounds, it is a remarkable compendium of dermatographical and social as well as postal information. Every town and village which ever had a post office in Wiltshire or was under a Wiltshire office, is described, often from the Domesday Book entry onwards; while the many maps, -52 of the county alone - provide an invaluable service not otherwise available to those out of reach of the Map Room of the British Library. But the real joy for most specialists is the attention to detail in the illustrations of postmarks. Dr. Siggers is a craftsman, too conscientious to "improve" on his originals. Where possible, he has worked from the Proof Books; and where a mark could not be found there - and he has scrutinised every volume - he has worked from examples in several collections, as well as his own, to produce as exact a replica of an actual strike as exists.

Nonetheless, there are a few omissions - the cursive 'Wilton' of 1837-1847 was recut (I think) late 1843, with a shortened 'n' and a full-stop below it - but these are of minor importance and will be included in a Supplement already planned. Your reviewer has had the pleasure of working with the author on some aspects of his magnum opus and is amazed at the energy and scholarship brought to bear on the project over a gestative period of fifteen years.

Collectors of Wiltshire material will need no urging to buy this work - its price looks remarkably reasonable for the sheer volume of information it contains and in any case should easily be recoverable in purchases in the knowledge of Dr. Siggers' rarity factors. But, equally, no collector of parochial British postal history should neglect an opportunity of buying and studying this work; it will serve as a model for all who aspire to do for other counties what Dr. Siggers has so triumphally achieved for Wiltshire.

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FOUND-IN-F.N.O. WITHOUT CONTENTS from Michel Raguin



A halfpenny envelope, Post Office issue, cancelled at Bradford on 9th. May, 1893 and addressed to Apeldoorn (Holland) where it arrived on 15th. May. The hand stamp poses the question, what was " F.N.O. "? Dr. Whitney, in ' Collecting British Post Marks ' thought this might be ' French Night Mail ' but I offer ' Foreign (Branch) Newspaper Office '. Can a reader provide the details please ?

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BRANCH STAMPS : A NEW DISCOVERY

The Lombard Street illustrated in Notebook 58 has attracted a number of comments, in most cases not accepting it to be any more than a smudged version of the usual stamp. David Trapnell sent in several examples, one showing a ' smudge ' serif horizontal into the centre of the letter. One can get such added lines from accidental marks and unless we can record further clear cut examples, the ' new discovery ' will have to be relegated to the ' might have beens '. Pity.

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LONDON SQUARED CIRCLES - a note from Reg Sanders

I have now completed the listing of some 5,000 copies of squared circle cancellations from the London area and it hoped this can soon be added to the Group ' Handbook '. Before finally closing the lists there are two areas of research in which I would be grateful for assistance from members.

1. A surprising number of Stitt-Dibden's listings have not been seen by me or recorded in the lists sent by members. The hammers concerned are named below and if any of you have examples of them, I would be grateful for the information requested at the end of this note. Naturally we all want the handbook to be as complete as possible.

2. I have photo-copies of all the London Squared circles registered in the Post Office Proof Books. These are all SD Type 1 (3 arcs between the cds and the corner) and are all Coded Time. There are well over a hundred registered, yet very few are recorded as having been used. Examples of this are :

NORTH D.O. 9 in the Proof Book ; none of these have been seen.
11 seen, none of which are in the Proof Book.

NORTH SUBURBAN 28 in the Proof Book ; none of these seen.
15 seen, none of which are in the Proof Book.

NORTH - WEST D.O. 30 in the Proof Book ; only 2 seen.
10 further seen, none of those in the Proof Book.

Can anyone offer an explanation why so few of those registered as issued have been recorded as being used and why so very few of those recorded as being used were registered ?

A further query arises from the examples recorded in the Proof Books. It is generally considered the Coded Time issue had a fixed index, as in the SD Types D & E and this was one or other of the two letters or figures used. Yet the Proof Books show registration of up to 16 different letters or figures for the same index. On the face of it these were different hammers but it may be each time-pug was individually registered. However, the hammers sometimes differ slightly in size. In one series the codes 16, 26, 46 were issued with 39. One would assume this was an inverted 6 but according to theory this should be a fixed index, not moveable.

Comment would be welcome !

The following are recorded in Stitt-Dibden but, thus far, I have no reports of them :

W.C. SD 1D Index 3,4,21,23 (seen only as SD 2 but not so listed)
SD 2D Index 22, 27, seen only 2 arcs at top, 3 arcs at the base.
SD 2D Index 28 seen only 3 arcs at top, 2 arcs at the base.
No index, seen with 1 arc at top, 2 arcs at base. (Not in SD but seen)
- do - 3 - do - 2 - do - - do -
Index 22,23,29 with 2 - do - 3 - do - - do -
Index 29 (28?) with 3 - do - 2 - do - - do -

NORTH SD 2D Index 9 seen; not in SD

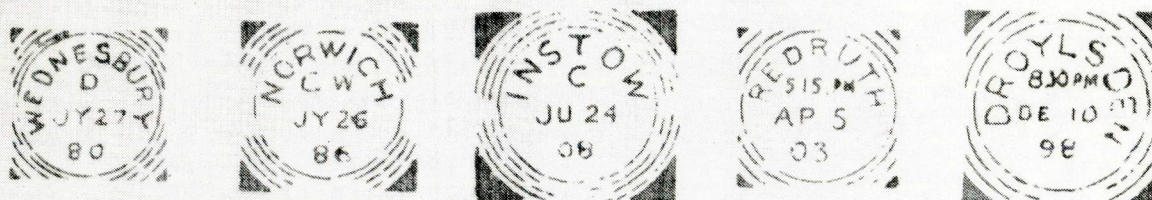
N.W. SD 1D Index 6,18 not seen
SD 1F " 2 " "
SD 2D " 16 " "

S.WEST SD 1D Index 3,7,10,11,20 not seen
SD 1F " 4 (the 4 touches cds ; seen)
SD 1F " 6,8, not seen
SD 2D " 23 " "

LONDON SQUARED CIRCLES.....

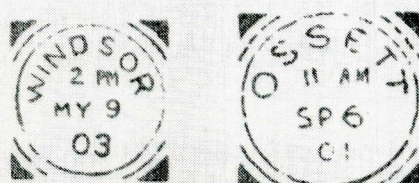
Classification of Squared Circles by the late W.G. Stitt Dibden

Type 1.	Three arcs.	Three sizes of stamp illustrated
Type 2.	Two arcs.	Two sizes of stamp illustrated.
Type 3.	One arc.	Two sizes of stamp illustrated.
Type 4.	Three added circles.	One stamp illustrated.
Type 5.	Two added circles.	One stamp illustrated.
Variety D.	Index in corners.	Three sizes of stamp illustrated.
Variety E.	Index inside circle.	Two sizes of stamp illustrated.
Variety F.	Index below circle.	Two sizes of stamp illustrated.
Variety G.	Index in break to arcs and circle.	To sizes of stamp shown.



Type 1—three arcs

Type 2—two arcs

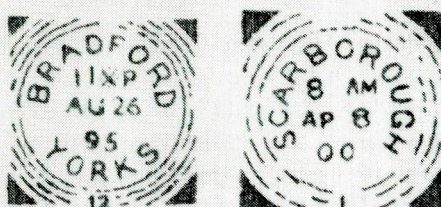


Type 3—one arc

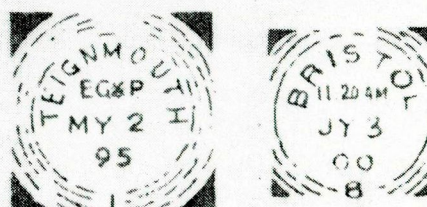
Type 4
3 added circlesType 5
2 added circles
1 row of arcs

Variety D—index in corners

Var. E —index inside circle



Var. F—index below circle



Var. G. Index in gap

LONDON SQUARED CIRCLES.....

EAST SD 1D Index 32,33 not seen
 SD 1E " 6,10 " "
 SD 2D " 2 " "

S E SD 1D Index 3 reported seen but confirmation required
 SD 1D " 9 not seen
 SD 1E " 15,17 " " (listed in Whitney)
 SD 2D " 6 " "
 SD 2E " 1 " "
 SD - " 6 in corners, variety D
 and Index 4 in base of cds, variety E
 Seen; any others recorded ?

WEST SD 1D Index 12 not seen
 SD 1E " 34 clear time not seen
 SD 1E " 35,50,60 not seen
 SD 1E " 64,68 clear time, not seen
 SD 1E " 77 coded time, not seen
 SD 1E " 78,79 not seen
 SD 1E " 80,81,82 coded time not seen
 SD 2D " 7 not seen
 SD 2E " 56,61 not seen
 SD 2E " 62,70,71 seen clear time, not coded time.
 SD 2E " 63 seen coded time, not clear time.
 SD 2E " 72,75,80 not seen
 SD 2E " 87 not listed but reported seen, confirmation required.
 SD 2G " 33 not seen

PADDINGTON

SD 1D Index 67 not seen
 SD 1D " 72 " "
 SD 1E " 52,59,60,64 not seen

SUBURBANNORTH

EAST FINCHLEY	SD 1	not seen (n.s)
FINCHLEY/CHURCH END	SD 1D	n.s
FINCHLEY/East End	SD 1	n.s
FINSBURY PARK	SD 2D, Index 6,	n.s
HIGHBURY	SD 1	n.s
LOWER EDMONTON	SD 1	n.s
NORTH SOUTHGATE	SD 1	n.s
NORTH FINCHLEY	SD 1D Index 1,	n.s
TOTTENHAM	SD 1D " 1,	n.s
UPPER EDMONTON	SD 1	n.s
UPPER HOLLOWAY	SD 1	n.s
WHETSTONE	SD 1	n.s
WOOD GREEN	SD 1	n.s

NORTH WEST

KENTISH TOWN	SD 3D, Index 3, 7,	n.s
St.JOHN'S WOOD	SD 1 Code 3 6 or 3 9,	confirmation
WILLESDEN	SD 1D Index 2,	n.s

EAST

CHINGFORD	SD 1	n.s
MANOR PARK	SD 1	n.s
NORTH WOOLWICH	SD 1	n.s
NORTH WOOLWICH	SD 1D, Index 2,	n.s
WALTHAMSTOW	SD 1	n.s

LONDON SQUARED CIRCLES.....

<u>WEST</u>	CHISWICK	SD 1 Index 3, n.s
	WEST KENSINGTON	SD 1 n.s
<u>SOUTH WEST</u>	WIMBLEDON	SD 1 Code C, n.s
<u>SOUTH EAST</u>	BLACKHEATH	SD 1D Index 1, n.s
		SD 2D " 2, n.s
		SD 3D " 2, n.s
	CAMBERWELL	SD - 1 top arc, 2 base arcs seen, confirmation needed.
	DEPTFORD	SD 1 n.s
	PECKHAM	SD 1 n.s

The details which are needed are :

Square	Height and width
c.d.s.	Diameter
Letters	Height
Index	Height
Code Letters	
Clear Time	
Date	

If you can provide photocopies, especially of anything unusual, these would be much appreciated.

My very sincere thanks to all those who have helped so far. I am particularly concerned at the number of gaps in the information, despite the volume of material recorded to date. The Group hope to publish the Handbook section on Squared Circles in the New Year so please make a check of any you have.

Information to : Reg Sanders, 4 Windermere Gardens, ALRESFORD, Hants SO 24 9 NL

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FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN (MAIL CENSORSHIP)

Although probably not of direct consequence to collectors of London material, it may be of interest to record some recent exchanges in the House of Commons on the subject of mail censorship during the Falklands campaign.

Mr. Dalyell, M.P. for West Lothian, asked the Secretary of State for Defence what rules pertained in the Falklands task force for the censoring of officers' mail and the censoring of naval ratings' mail. In a written answer on the 10th. November, Mr. Wiggin replied : Private mail was not subject to censorship but personnel were reminded of the vital importance of security.

For some reason, Mr. Dalyell was not satisfied. On the 22nd. November another written answer appeared in response to a further question: " In what circumstances in the Royal Navy Officers' and ratings' mail is censored." The reply came: " Private mail from Royal Navy personnel may be subject to censorship in times of conflict in the interests of operational security and of minimising the risks to those involved. In addition, the mail of personnel serving sentences of detention may be subject to censorship.

In my answer to the hon. Member on 10 November, I said that private mail was not

(continued at foot page 20)

FOUR HUNDRED YEARS OF LONDON POSTS

Meeting Report from Keith Romig.

Some thirty five members and their friends gathered for the March meeting at which Barrie Jay was the specially invited speaker with some two hundred sheets covering more than four hundred years of London Posts.

The first covers to be shown were Venetian Merchants letters sent from London to Venice in the fifteenth century, including one with an attractive merchant's mark. After seeing letters sent during the Civil War period, the next item was a genuine 'Post Haste' letter sent by Sir Robert Cecil from London to Chester, correctly endorsed with postmasters' signatures and times of despatch at each staging post. A complementary item to this was an exchequer warrant for such a letter from London to West Chester.

Early letters without postmarks were next and then we came to the year 1661 and the introduction of the Bishop Mark.

The earliest one shown was for May 17th., 1661 on a letter from Yarmouth to London, as well as one sent exactly one year later, May 17th., 1662. An interesting sequence of errors were represented by examples of SE 11 (1672) with reversed 'S', NO 2 (1674) and NO13 (1721), both with reversed 'N'. A later Bishop of 1759 had the '4' reversed in the date 4 IV. Finally, came extremely scarce examples of London Bishop Mark struck in red for 1784 and 1785.

We then moved to the General Post Receivers marks from 1670 - 1794. The first material shown comprised the encircled 1/OFF, 2 OFF, 4OFF & 5OFF (W.25), after which the number only 3, 4 or 5 (W27). Then came the first Receivers' initials, usually in a circle, although GC in a diamond was displayed, also SH in fancy type in a circle. A small number used a stamp with their name in full and the receiving house and we saw the stamps for Crickett, Knightrider St; Streething, Charles St Soho and M.Ellis/Borough, in a circle. The various G.P. receiving house office stamps were well in evidence, with the straight line type (W32) of Gt.Surry St/B.F.R.; King St/Tower Hill; Wapping: White/Chapel; PALL MALL / GPRH; the circular type (W31) for GPO Tottenham Court Road, Temple and Vigo Lane were shown, as was also the unusual upright oval type Receiving House/1A/Wapping.

Part three dealt with the London Local Post and the "star" item for me was the first type Government Dockwra of St.Pauls office used in 1683. Other early examples were shown, including Hermitage office type 2a 1696/7, Bishopsgate type 2a, Westminster 1689, Southwark 1699/1700 and two Southwark varieties - 1741 with inverted centre and 1791 with narrow margins. The circular Penny Post Not Paid types were represented by examples from the General, Southwark, Temple and Westminster offices and were followed by the Heart shaped marks (W145/6), both the dotted and solid outlines.

The next part concerned the Reorganisation of 1794 with some very attractive covers including the straight-line type (W210/3) in black for TOOTING/-3- and in red for MORTLE/-3-. Several varieties of the Penny Post marks were shown - unpaid, Pd.1d and Pd 2d. in varying shapes and sizes, some almost circular, others long ovals. One particular cover had the scarce framed oval (W227) Penny Post/Pd 1d/Wandsworth and another Penny Post Clapham Commⁿ with Pd 1d in manuscript in the centre. Covers bearing the large encircled 'W' (W255) are well known to collectors, the mark coming in black or red and these were shown. For good measure, one cover carried two strikes of the stamp, one in black, the other in red!

The final section dealt with the Foreign Office and started with the early postage due marks (W672): D/9 and S/1 were shown. A cover with FRANCHES obliterating the amount of postage paid was displayed, along with an array of covers from abroad showing the charge marks (W678). Rates shown per ounce were 4/8, 5/4, 6/8, 8/8, 10/-, 11/4, 12/1 and 14/-. A nice example of the scarce large cds FOREIGN OFFICE JAN 22 1803 (W 656) was next followed by the very rare group of Rebate stamps introduced in 1839 and which consequently had a very short life. The final items were registered covers

Four Hundred Years of London Posts.....

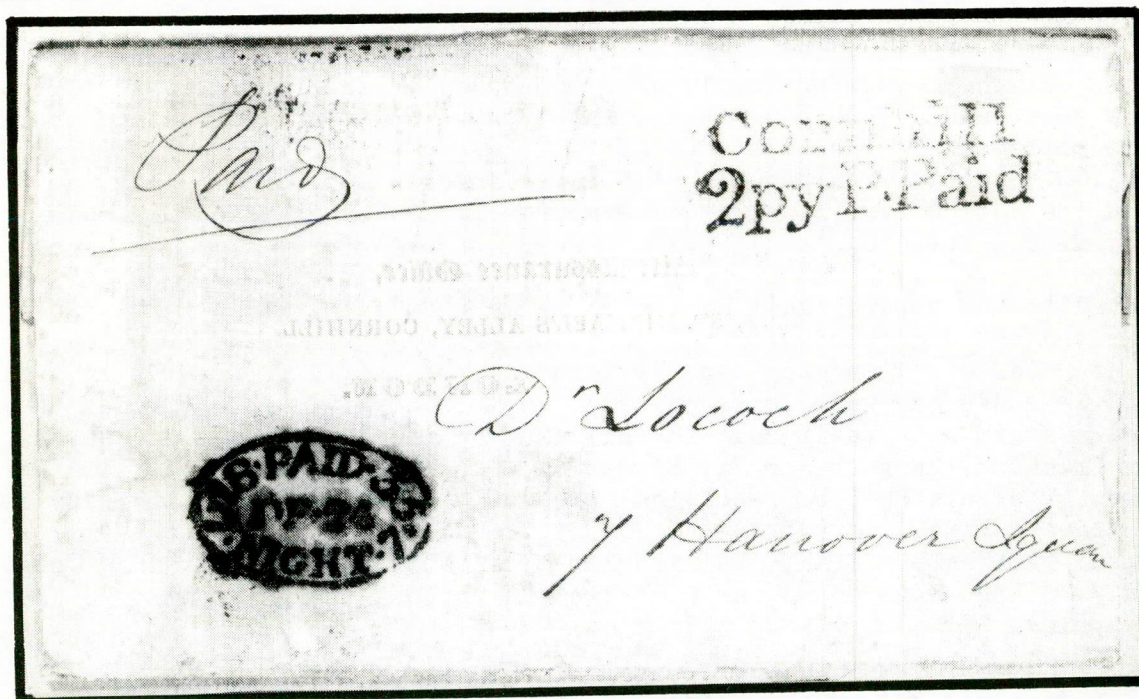
from abroad and items shown included Crown Registered in red and black; Prussia Registered and REGISTERED FROM HAMBURG.

So ended a fascinating afternoon, with superb material backed up by an informative commentary which was enjoyed and much appreciated by all those present.

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TWOPENNY POST : PAID TIME STAMP

Stan Harrod recently showed the Editor the item reproduced below, the significance of which is the format of the Paid time stamp. If we refer to " Local Posts " page 53,



no such design is shown. The Willcocks catalogue gives the impression the double rim type was immediately followed by the chamfered corner rectangle type, introduced in January 1836.

The answer would seem to be it is incorrect to show the double rim type as extending into 1835 for although Brumell makes no mention under the Paid time stamps section - which may account for the confusion - he had the following to say under the Unpaid time stamps; it is suggested it must apply also to Paid stamps.

" In 1834 the double rim was given up and the only distinction between City and Westminster stamps was in the method of expressing the date - a difference always observed. The Westminster office in Gerrard Street was closed in July: the exact date is not known, but from the evidence of available specimens it probably took place on the 24th. "

Readers might care to make a note in their copy of " Local Posts " *

* The Local Posts of London 1680 - 1840 by George Brumell which is available from Vera Trinder at the incredible price of a mere £2 !!

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London Maritime Mail : Exempt Ship Letter.....

My reasoning on this, which I have never bought out in print before, is this handstamp was one which went along with the Post Paid Withdrawn Ship Letter handstamps of that period, which would have been necessary to complete the group as it would have been manifestly (no pun intended) unfair to charge the sender of a bill of lading of goods a fee for sending this bill along with the merchandise on a private ship rather than on a government packet. I am sure some provision must have been made in the interpretation of the Act for such letters. That it is struck across the fold, as are all Post Paid Withdrawn Ship Letters ought to be lends " verismilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative ".

The answer to your final question ; the color of the strike is black....."

Editor's note:

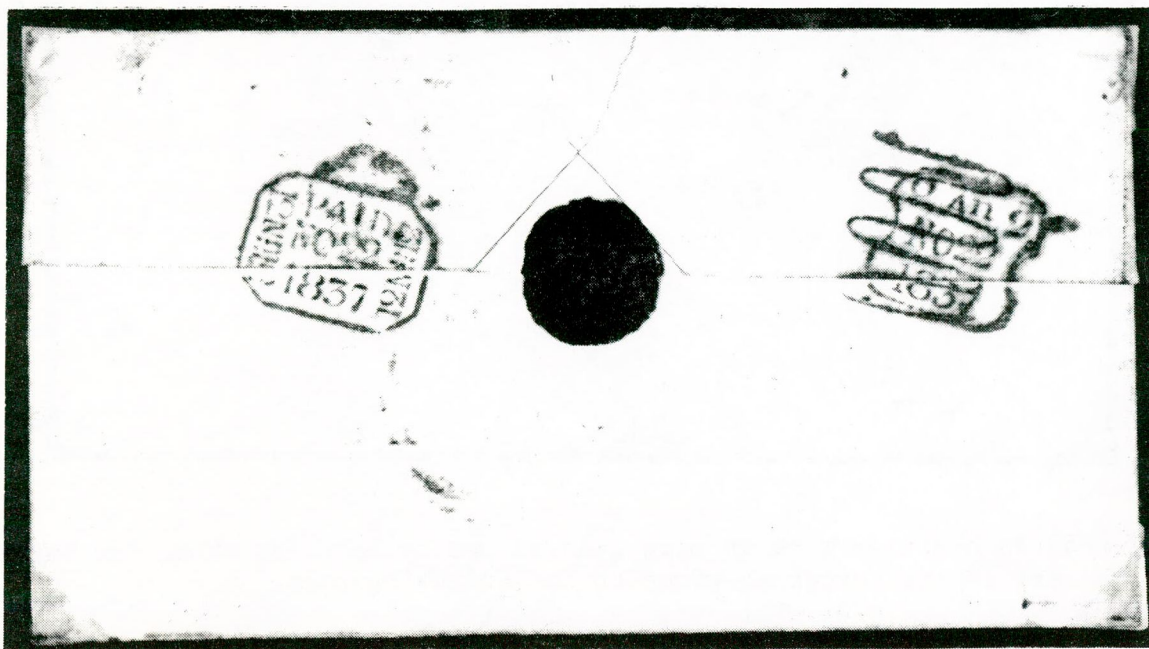
Alan Roberston showed (page D33 of the Opus) this crown and from the brief detail is seems likely the Charless Hahn item is ex-Robertson. AWR argues that from the type of crown it was doubtless a Cape handstamp. Why the Cape should have such a stamp so many years before London seems odd but this is not sufficient evidence to reject such use. Why London took so long to introduce a stamp when the facility had been available to shippers since George I is an equal mystery. How were such items marked by the postal authorities to show they were not to have charges raised ? The most telling point for the item not being a London stamp is the original Act itself, wherein the provision relates to " Merchants Accounts etc sent to and from places beyond the seas, not within the King's Dominions ". To and from would cover outgoinf mail but what about ' not within the King's Dominion ' ? Presumably subsequent Acts, or a more liberal interpretaion would cover this point. Given this to be so, it would seem logical for the British postal authorities to signal exemption to the receiving postal authorities. That there is only one such extant is no bar to its validity. The pencil dating is, as ever, slightly suspect, the Editor having been caught out by this in the past.

Perhaps a reader with Cape material in 1814/1815 can supply information on the use of this. Even better, is there an example on a dated enetire yet to be published ?

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HANDSTRUCK ERASURE MARKS OF THE TWOPENNY POST.

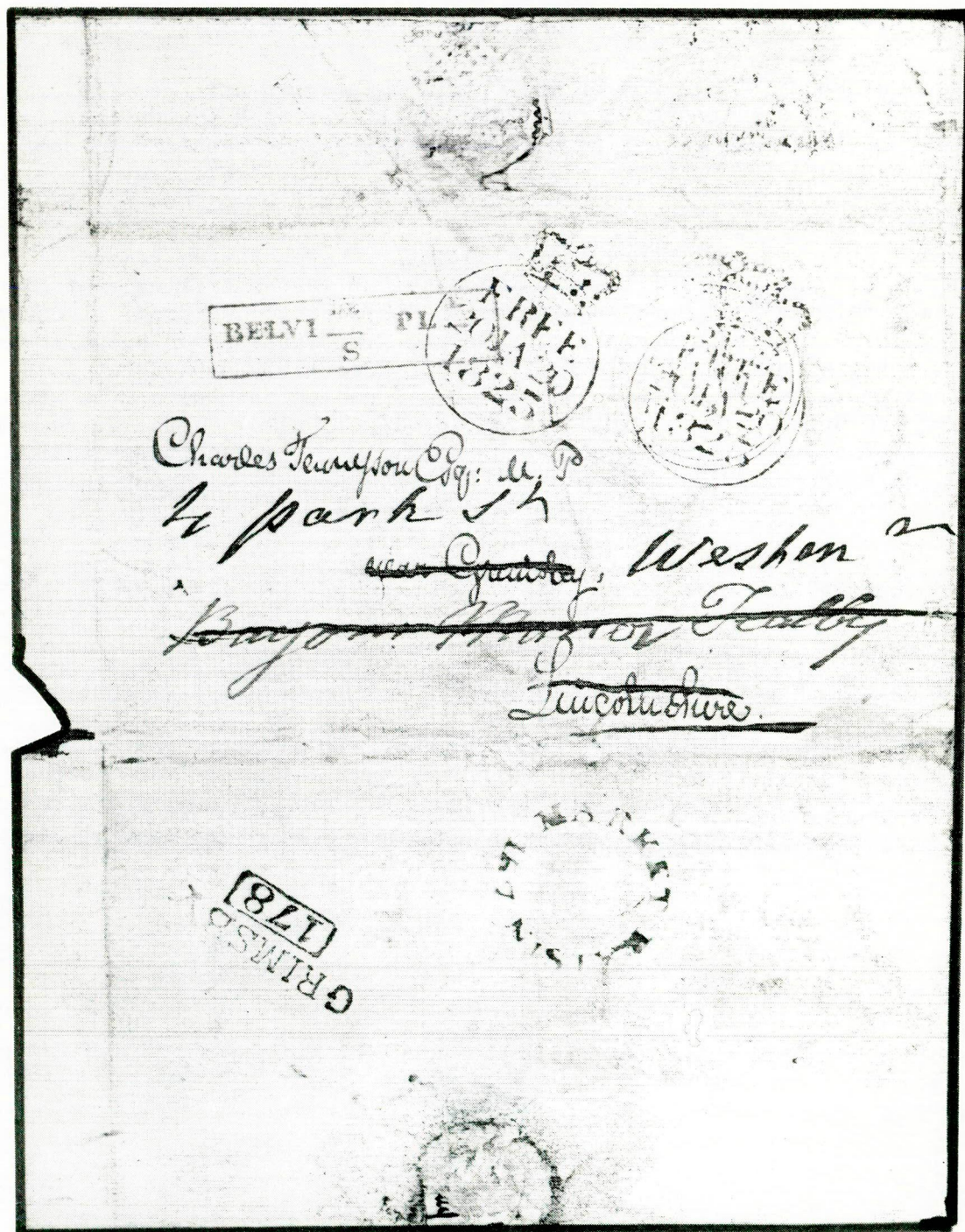
The use of the prepayment option in the Twopenny Post is reflected in the comparative scarcity of the Paid to Unpaid stamps. It is a particular pleasure to show this item which demonstrates the use of the cancelling or erasure stamp on such a paid letter.



REDIRECTED LETTER FROM KING'S BENCH PRISON, from Michael Bavin

The entire was written from King's Bench Prison on the 14th. January, 1825, addressed to Charles Tennyson Esq., M.P., near Grimsby, Lincolnshire, re-addressed at Grimsby to Bayons Manor, Tealby and then back to London, No.4 Park St. In the course of its travels the entire acquired the framed Receiving House mark and a frenzied attack with the FREE datestamp for January 20th., 1825. Presumably this was because of the very bad result from the first attempt rather than a double stamping at different times. It is, however, curious no other datestamps were applied on its travels.

The late use of the boxed Grimsby mileage mark is worth noting and contrasts with the



more usual undated circular type in more general use by then and shown for Market Raisen. The text of the letter is given on the following page.

Redirected Letter From King's Bench Prison.....

26 in 10 King's Bench Prison
January 14th 1825

Sir,

Ever grateful for former acts of benevolence I have experienced yet I humbly tho confidently trust the extreme distress and painfully deplorable situation I am now placed in will palliate my trespassing once more on your urbanity and compassionate consideration. I am by the persecutions of a faululent (sic) Creditor immured in this Prison, afflicted with an illness that confines me to my sorry couch, enduring privations amounting to absolute want and all the horrors and pains and penalties of Incarceration and that too, most cruelly and unmeritedly. Could I by the contributory and charitable bounty of a few benevolent public characters like yourself raise a fund (about £28) to get the Rules of the Bench I could by intense application of my little talents to some periodical and popular work live; but here otherwise I must die and starve and by the contributory bounty of Mr. Hume, Mr. Wyvile and Sir W.B. Guise I have a portion towards it and I trust Sir that my assiduous exertions for 30 years by my writings and large pecuniary sacrifices to promote the nationally vital "Retford" will induce its friends not to let me die thro want in a prison, and I hope my having in part thro my Petitions on the abuses and oppressive Imports on legal Stamps and proceedings (as presented 12th March and 11th June by Mr Hume and Mr J Williams) will entitle me to a better fate. I throw myself on your mercy and if in your compassionate charity a mite is in the dread hour of need and heavy affliction extended to me I will under no circumstances again intrude on your bounty.

I have the honor to be Sir, with Esteem,

Yours obliged and Humble Servant

W Hanyward Yate

PS

Most painful indisposition attendant on a fractured leg; must plead for my employing an Amanuensis and I venture to send an original letter from George Phillipps Esq M P as a testimonial and I hope recommendatory passport to your commiserating benevolence and bounty and the enclosed prospectus will shew how cruelly and oppressively I have been used. Have the goodness to return Mr G Phillipps letter also a letter from Lord Dacre sent you ~~some~~ month's back.

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Handstruck Erasure Marks of the Twopenny Post, continued from page 15

The obverse carries a manuscript " Paid " and '2d Post'. The handstamp is Brumell fig. 98 for the Chief Office, struck in red. As can be seen, the unpaid time stamp for 2 AN 2 / NO 22 / 1837 is erased with the Adams type 4b and the correctly applied paid time stamp for the same day, though curiously for 12 NOON . All these in red.

Several examples of red erasure marks have been recorded since the original listing. This use to cancel time stamp was mentioned by John in his article, though they are not as rare as many once thought. Despite this, they are less frequently seen in action for time stamps, demonstrating the care normally taken.

Readers are reminded to keep the flow of information on London items, not the least for passing on to the Handbook and for the Willcocks catalogue for London.

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BREACH OF REGULATIONS, from Robert Johnson

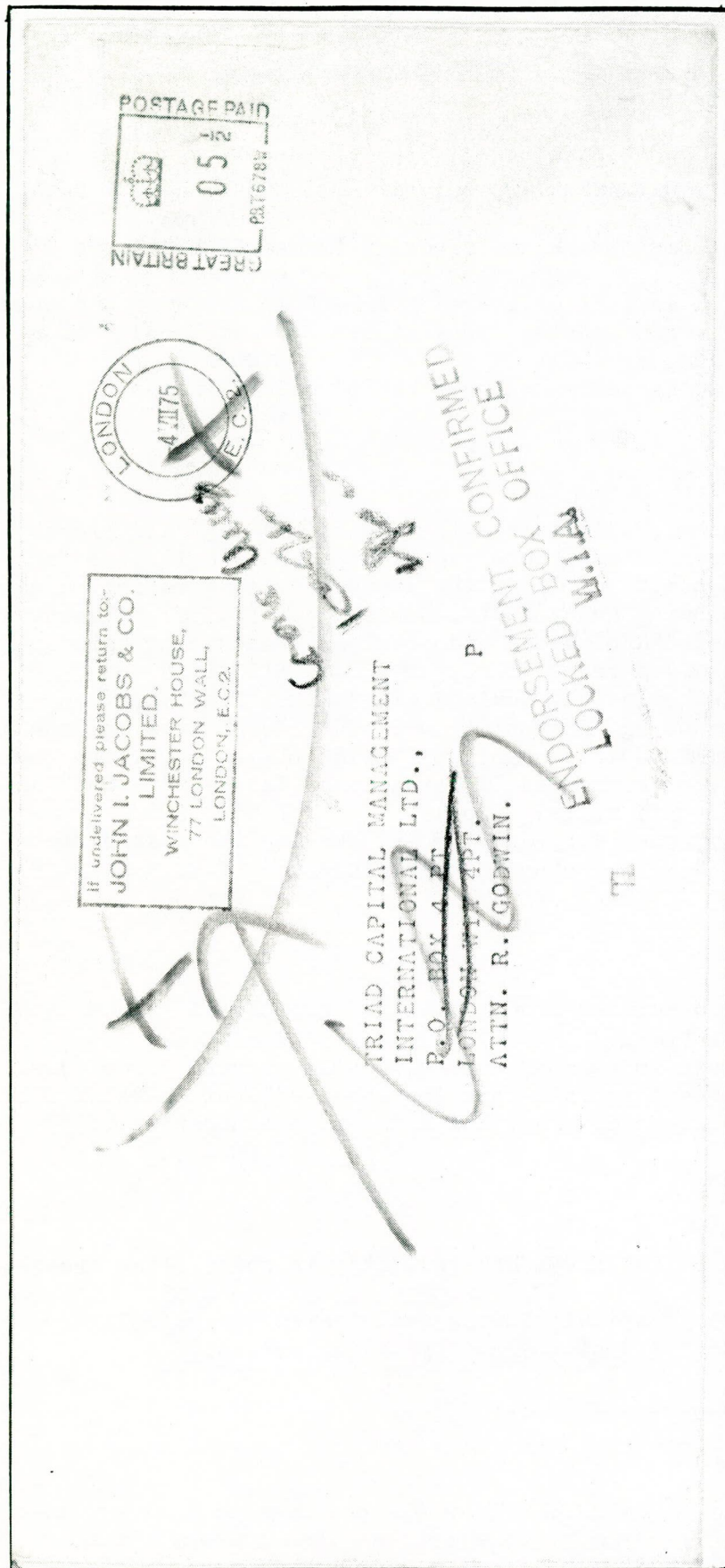
The care taken by the Post Office to advise the public of the cause of a delay is shown very clearly by this item. The LONDON/61 datestamp no doubt has a specific duty function: can any reader quote from official sources ?



This letter was inadvertently stopped in the post among correspondence which infringed the regulations. Any inconvenience caused in the matter is regretted.

Returned Letter Section

London Postal Service.

RETURNED TO SENDER

Let us admit straight away the cover does not say this but the effect was just that.

The reverse carries a slightly blurred LONDON W1/66 date stamp for 11 AM/11 JY/75 and nothing else.

As can be seen the obverse carries what appears to be a Post Office stamp reading

ENDORSEMENT CONFIRMED
LOCKED BOX OFFICE
W.1.A.

struck in purple.

A manuscript endorsement in blue pencil/crayon "Gone Away" and what appears to be two signatures.

There are two coding entries, the letter 'P' and the figures '77' with a single phosphor dot in line with the figures.

Although this is new to the Editor the incorporation of the District reference at the foot of the hand stamp suggests there could well be similar stamps in use at other offices.

As always with items of this type, that is something new to this journal, readers are asked to send in details of similar marks of which they have a record or in their collections.

It seems opportune to remark, once again, how this cover demonstrates that postal history does not stop at any date; that the letters which come through the letter box this morning are themselves, part of the continuing tale of postal history.

For younger members, in collecting rather than age, there is no need to despair of building up a collection of note without recourse to great expense, the mail of today provides much of interest.

One of the reasons for the great rarity of the stamps of yesteryear is the owners did not keep their 'modern' covers.

FREE LETTERS AND FRANKS : SOME ITEMS FROM THE ROBSON LOWE P.H.A.

A number of members are interested in this particular facet of postal history which still provides plenty of scope for the collector for new discoveries and is well supported by published information, as with Jim Lovegrove's opus.

25th. June, 1981

Lot	Detail	Valuation/Realisation
345a	1765-1839 (c.) E.L., F.(93) and pieces(2), the collection of "FREE" h.s. and d.s. in one album including types W.63 and 64(7), 65(5), 66(4), 71, 72(3), 79(4) and 80(2), and town h.s. incl. 1789 "HUNTING/DON", "WITHAM", 1799 curved "BRIGHTON" and 1801 Bath mileage h.s. Many ** (86)	£100/£135
346	1765 E. to London showing Scottish Bishopmark and circular framed "FREE"(large "F", 18 mm. diameter, W.61, *** in red).	£ 75/£ 90
348T	1828 and 1839 E. and E.L. showing " To be / delivered / Free " in circular and oval frames (W.83 and 85), mainly ***: and undated front signed by " Richmond " showing a part strike of the similar h.s. W.84	£100/£ 70
349T	1839 printed "Par.Pro ", wrapper to Exeter, showing " FREE " d.s. with code E, very ***	£ 35/£110

23rd. October, 1981

427	The accumulation of 19th. Century Env., F., letters with crested headings and pieces (124) in a stock book or pasted down on scrapbook pages, apparently collected for the autographs (which include signature of Gladstone) and showing a variety of " free " h.s. with other h.s. including Penny Posts, London " 4 " (W.356), "Missent to / Huntingdon ", the scarce boxed "FREE"(W.82) and a few with manuscript "missent" Most of the env. have had the adhesives removed. Approx 950.	£150/£130
428	1804-39 E.L., E., Env., and F. (3, two signed by Rowland Hill) with "Free" h.s. in - cluding codes "E"(3) and "N", one showing "Potton/Penny Post" and one from Maidstone endorsed "Not for Southwold Suffolk", "Not at" against "SOUTHWELL/129" h.s. and showing "G.P." (W.344 ** to ***). Also 1861 F. printed "International Exhibition 1862" with h.s. of F.R. Sandford and official paid c.d.s. (26)	£ 75/£110
430	1826 free F. from London to Bombay, franked by Canning and showing the scarce rectangular framed "FREE" d.s. crown above and upper corners indented (W.82, mainly ***)	£ 40/£ 32

18th. February, 1982

301	1809-30 (c.), a small bound album containing a collection of fronts, all franked and many showing crowned " FREE " h.s. (212)	£ 40/£ 52
302	1821 (c.) - 1839 F. (351), stuck down in a bound volume, mostly showing "Free" d.s. many **, other h.s. including "Missent/to/Bath", and one endorsed "sent to BAGSHOT by mistake of the P.M. (at) Farnham", Also 1839 Env. and a two page manuscript (353)	£ 80/£ 70

28th. May, 1982

338	1824 franked E. to Cardiff, showing "ABOVE/WEIGHT" (W.93, ***, in red). Filing crease, not affecting h.s., attractive	£ 30/£ 65
339	1838 E.L. from Devonport to Chelsea Hospital showing oval framed "To be/delivered/FREE" with crown above 'W.85, ** to ***, just touched by filing crease.)	£ 50/£ 95

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FALKLANDS CAMPAIGN, continued from page 8...

subject to censorship during the Falklands campaign. It has since emerged that censorship was in fact imposed in one ship of the task force, for less than a week. This was in order to protect information, leakage of which would have put lives at risk and prejudiced the success of the operation. I regret that the previous answer, which was given in good faith, was incomplete.

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