

NOTEBOOK

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The Instruction on page 20 is reproduced by Kind Permission of Post Office Records.

Peter Bathe would very much welcome information from readers with Woolwich/ Plumstead/Shooters Hill material. In particular, he is interested in anything relating to Plumstead Common/Burrage Town which would extend the details in his article, also Sussex Place/Plumstead Road, on which he hopes to produce a similar potted history to the Burrage Town office. Finally, any details of Woolwich squared circles or Kraggs from the period 1920 to 1926

EDITORIAL

During the recent Stampex the Editor managed to purchase a number of items for his varied collecting interests, including one he found of particular interest which will provide some copy for the next ' Notebook '. Readers must have also had some luck in their browsing and we would all like to share in their pleasure, so please send a photocopy, plus a few details (or a ten page write up if you are that way inclined !).

The Editor has to offer his apologies to JACK ROUTH, who points out the cover on page 4 of Notebook 59 " FOUND IN F.N.O. / WITHOUT CONTENTS " is, in fact, his and not contributed by Michel Raguin. This is one of the constant nightmares for an Editor and to paraphrase his school reports he " hopes to do better ".

Two publications for your attention. The enclosed leaflet brings news of the long awaited London catalogue by Barrie Jay, whose knowledge of the subject matter needs little description for those who have had the pleasure of seeing his own collection displayed.

The second is " Squared Circle Postmarks of the London Suburban District Offices " by Stanley F. Cohen, in association with Daniel G. Rosenblat and ably assisted by several L.P.H.G. members including John Hine, Dr. R. Powell, Maurice Barette, Michael Goodman and Reg Sanders, with Reg - as members are aware, hard at work gathering and recording for the Handbook. It is hoped to be able to supply members at the special price of £2.50, post paid. Orders to the Editor please.

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

Members may be interested to know they can get regular postal sale catalogues from:

C.R. Edwards, 24 Wyngate Drive, Leicester LE3 OUS

R.K.C. Walters, Avon House, 35 Church Street, Hungerford, Berks. RG17 OJH

and the following member/dealers may be able to assist with your wants list :

F.E. Bennett, 7 Franklin Close, Lower Wick, Worcester, WR2 4DX.

Trevor Davis, P.O.Box 727, London SW20 ORP

Michael Goodman, 111 Green Lane, Edgware, Middx.

Michael Jackson, International Stamp Centre, King Street, London WC2.

A.H. Bainbridge Porter, I.S.C., King Street, W2

Kenneth Sargeant, 5 Ashburnham Gardens, Eastbourne, Sussex BN21 2NA

Martin Townsend, 8 Netley Dell, Letchworth, Herts SG6 2TF

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' Notebook ' is edited by : Peter Forrestier Smith, 24 Dovercourt Road, Dulwich,
SE228ST

The Hon. Secretary is Rev. A.J. Potter, 61 Popes Grove, Twickenham, Middx. TW14JZ

The Hon. Treasurer is Reg Sanders, 4 Windermere Gardens, Alresford, Hants. SO24 9NL.

The Packet Secretary is Brian Smith, 41 Cranleigh Drive, Swanley, Kent. BR8 8NZ, who will be pleased to add your name to the packet list and also to include your surplus material for sale.

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



GENERAL POST OFFICE

St Martin's Church.

Engraved by J. Wilson

Drawn by J. Wilson from a sketch by J. Wilson

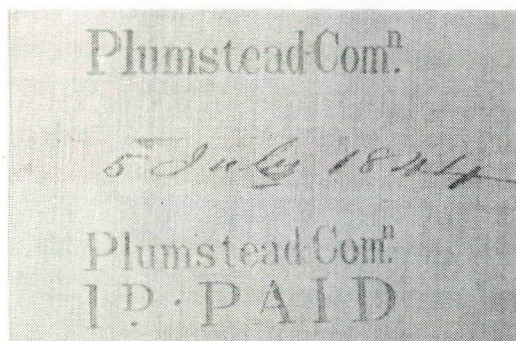
PLUMSTEAD COMMON - BURRAGE TOWN, by Peter Bathe

At the start of the 1840s, when the parish of Plumstead had a total population of 2,816, there were three main areas of habitation:

- + Plumstead village itself near the parish church
- + Colefields on the Plumstead Road next to the Arsenal - more or less an extension of the town of Woolwich
- + Plumstead Common at the top of Sandy Hill, near the Fox and Hounds.

One of the main reasons for the development on Plumstead Common was the presence of a clay which was used in a number of potteries, tile kilns and brickworks. While there were some houses in Plumstead Common Road and Sandy Hill, most of the dwellings at this time were in Princes Road, which ran southwards where the Barnfield Gardens estate is now.

A post office receiving house to serve this area was authorised on the 18th. June, 1844, with Stephen Cock appointed as receiver at a salary of £7 a year (Post 35/39/2892). This office - known as Plumstead Common - was the first new receiving house in the Woolwich and Plumstead region since the Plumstead village office was established some 40 years earlier. The exact location of this new office is not certain but it would appear to have been in Princes Road. Directories of the early 1850s put it there but with Joseph Cock as receiver. The 1842 Tithe Map shows Joseph Cock had a house in Plumstead Common Road, near Princes Road.



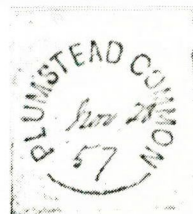
The first stamps for this office were issued on the 5th. July, 1844. They were the straight line name stamp and its companion 1D-PAID stamp. The paid stamp is known used in May, 1849, while the simple name stamp is recorded for 28th. June, 1851, though no doubt much earlier examples exist.

During the late 1840s and 1850s, much of the land to the north of Plumstead Common Road and east of Sandy Hill was built on - forming Burrage Town. By 1851 there were 8,373 people living in Plumstead, with the bulk of the additional population living in Burrage Twon.

While the last directory entry for the receiving house being at Joseph Cock's grocers shop in Princes Road was for 1858, the earliest editions of the British Postal Guide (April 1858) refer to the office as " Plumstead, Sandy Hill ". However, the same guide also refers to the Plumstead village office as " Plumstead. Agnes Place ", a designation which was not included in that office's hanstamps until the late 1860s. In all probability, " Sandy Hill " similarly was not included in the handstamp.

As late as the 28th. November, 1857, the office was issued with an undated (Champness Type C4) stamp reading PLUMSTEAD COMMON.


Some eighteen months later, on the 23rd. May, 1859 (Post 35/190/2677) it was recorded : " Under the peculiar circumstances stated in this report from Mr. Boucher, I submit that the Receiving House at Plumstead (Common) may be made a sub office under Plumstead, an arrangement which will obviate the necessity for the execution of a new Bond and enable the present receiver to retain his appointment. The small amount of Stamps required at this Office can be obtained from the Plumstead Office." This minute is endorsed " in 3471 ", which, in turn, states: " Plumstead Common : I submit this nomination for your Lordships approval 8 July 1859 " and is endorsed, " J. Watts appointed receiver." (Post 35/191/3471)



James Watts, a baker, then aged about 41, was born in Plumstead. His bakery was at 24 St. James Place - now known as Burrage Place - at the junction with Bloomfield Road. Watts - whose wife, Caroline, was born in Uxbridge, Middlesex, about 1820 - had at least two daughters, Emily, born about 1855 and Caroline, born about 1856. A third child, James, died of diptheria on the 31st. August, 1859, aged 18 months.

Plumstead Common - Burrage Town.....

At the time of Watts' appointment as receiver, the name of the office was changed to Burrage Town and stamps with that designation were issued on the 25th. June, 1860. The Burrage Town office was also made a money order office from about his time.

To what place	Date when sent	Stamps
<i>Burrage Town St John's Road 3 Mtr</i>	<i>June 25th 1860</i>	



Watts did not remain receiver for long, although he continued to run the bakery and, according to the 1871 census, was by then employing two men and a boy and had a general domestic servant, named Ann Coulter, living in.

Mrs Beatrice Smith (37), a widow, was appointed receiver on the 12th. May, 1862 (Post 35/220/2094) and the office was moved to the haberdashers shop she ran with her spinster sister, Marion Bee, at 58 St. James Place. Because of the numbering of this street, Smith & Bee's shop was in fact almost opposite the Watts' bakery, although the 1864 Ordnance Survey map puts the office at number 57. In contrast to Watts, both the new subpostmistress and her sister were born in Scotland.

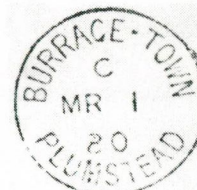
A dated stamp was issued in 1870 which included the district initials, S.E. By this time, the office was also a Savings Bank Branch.



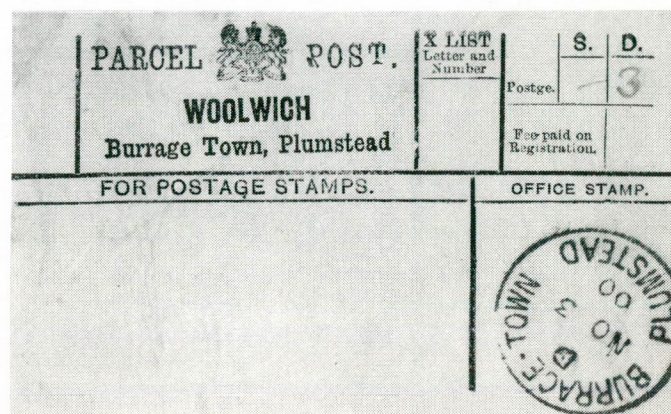
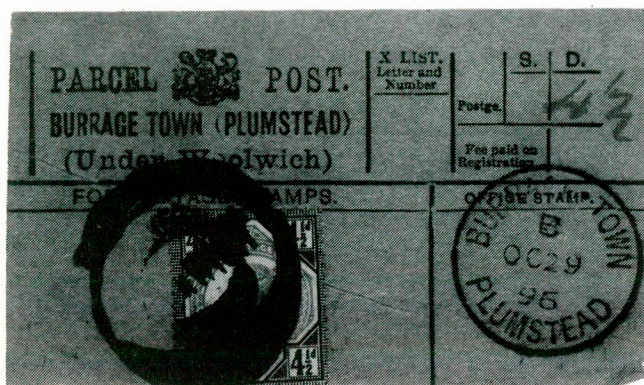
Once the Post Office had taken over the telegraph companies in 1868, there was a move to make most of the suburban offices telegraph offices. It was decided to make Burrage Town a telegraph office on the 19th. January, 1871. However, within a few years, this facility was withdrawn.

In 1875 Woolwich and its dependent offices, including Burrage Town, were transferred from the London District Post to the provinces and gradually, as new office stamps were required, they were issued without district initials.

On the 2nd March, 1880 Burrage Town was issued with a new stamp, the Proof Book strike reading the day before.



Just before this, the office moved back into the bakery when William Henry Hughesdon, who had taken over the business from Watts, was appointed subpostmaster on the 8th. March, 1879 (Post 35/391/1459). The Burrage Town sub-office has remained at No. 24 until the present time, although the shop ceased to be a bakery during the 1960s and is now a general store.



Plumstead Common - Burrage Town.....

Hughesdon left the bakery around 1913 and Alfred F. Sims became sub-postmaster. In 1913 Woolwich was returned to the South Eastern District of London and new stamps were issued to all offices during August. Again, the Proof Impression records the date stamp earlier than issued, in the case shown here, for 31st.July, 1913.



Sims remained at the office till about 1917. He was followed by James Albert Miles until round 1946.

The local bakery firm of A.J. Chadwell & Son took over after the second world war. They had six shops in the area, two of which were sub-post offices. One was at 123 Plumstead Common Road, the other the branch in Burrage Town. In 1962, the Chadwells sold out to Tip Top Bakery and Mrs F.R. Robson became sub-postmistress. In 1973, the present postmaster, Nalin Patel, took over. On the 1st.January, 1938, St. James Place was re-named Burrage Place but the system of numbering was unchanged.



24 Burrage Place, Burrage Town sub-post office, photographed in August 1974.

The stamp vending machine has been inserted in the gap left when an A-size wall box was removed, probably in the late 1920s. The 1933 Woolwich Borough Guide listed a stamp vending machine at the office. The pillar box now at the office is an A-size McDowall Steven GR box of the same period.

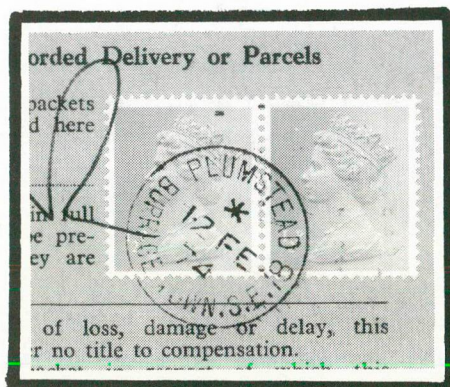
58 Burrage Place photographed in December 1974, nearly 100 years after the post office was removed from Smith & Bee's haberdashery.

It is not clear what the brickwork scar might be, possibly repointing after the removal of a letter box, though it seems to be rather too high.



In 1917, as a war-time measure, each postal district was given a number, Woolwich being issued with S.E.18.

The handstamp in current use at Burrage Town incorporates this number.



SQUARED CIRCLE : THE EXPERIMENTAL ISSUES

Although the early types are fairly well known and recorded, the quantity which appear on the market is not as great as one might think probable.

This example of SD 11 has code A 3 and is dated JY 14 93.

According to Stitt * the range of code letters in this type is " A " plus a number between 1 and 6, although a code 12 is noted as reported.

The Editor has an example with code AX and it may be presumed the usual AZ

and AZZ codes might have been deployed. This, and the other early types, form part of the work Reg Sanders is co-ordinating on Squared Circle studies and a record of examples in readers' hands please to him.

As with much postal history, it is the non-postmarked side containing the message. This one reads :

" Excursion to Hampton Court on Sunday next July 16th., 1893. / Departure from Angel (Islington) / at 9.45 a.m. / In the event of rain the brake will / be covered / Dinner arranged (2/6 each) / Yours faithfully / Swiss Mercantile Society / For the Entertainment Committee / 14/7/93 A Hofer President "

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

SUBURBAN OFFICES : SYDENHAM

The First Supplement to the Handbook records one example of 25E, November 1891, the original Handbook entry showing it as un-recorded. Yet another has come to hand and is on offer. It appears on a Halfpenny PS Envelope with " CRYSTAL PALACE DISTRICT GAS CO. / With the Secretary's Compliments " inside the flap. There is a receipt dated 8 MAY 1893 from them for gas supplied "LADY-DAY" Quarter last. The envelope is fragile around the flap, there being some staining thereon, not visible from the front. There is a part back stamp for " FOREST: HILL S.../ C / MY". It goes without saying these cancellations are distinctly rare and this one is offered at a very reasonable £5.50.

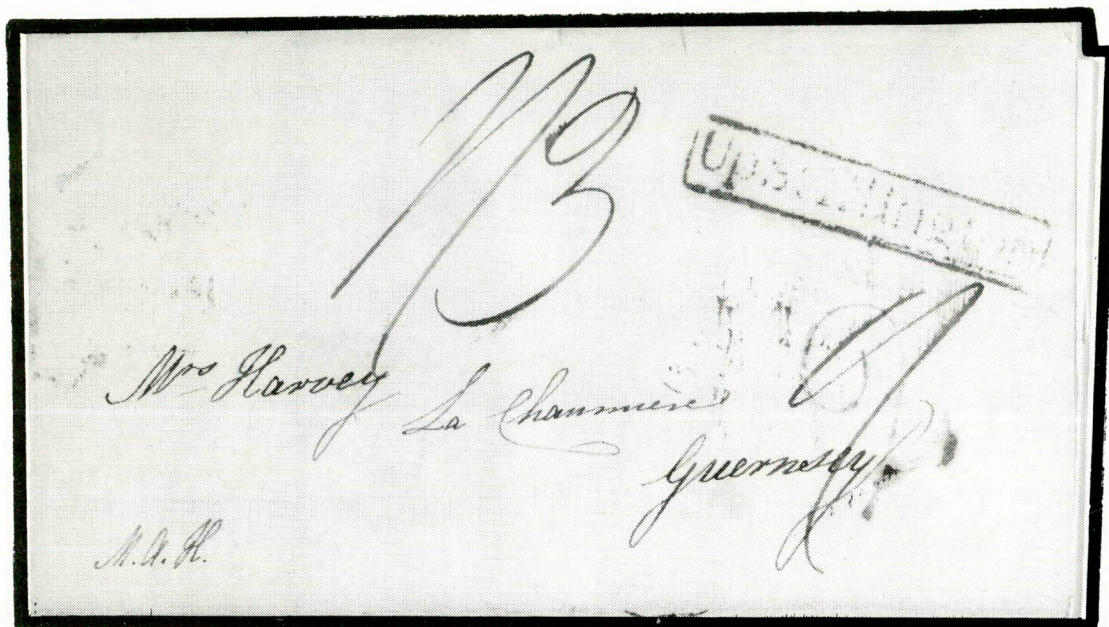
Offers to buy to the Editor please.

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

LONDON TO GUERNSEY IN 1832

The entire shown is one of a series purchased some time since and is part of a family correspondence relating, in the main, to the forthcoming marriage of one of the daughters of the house. Anyone who thinks the Dickens portrait of the cold-blooded attitude of some middle and upper class folk, shades of Grimes and Nickleby, is in for a shock. If anything he understated the case, certainly for this particular family. However, to matters of postal history.

London to Guernsey in 1832...



Before any reader gets too excited, there are no Channel Islands stamps of any description on any of the letters, all of which were dated 1822. According to Alan Robertson, there were no Maritime stamps extant at that time, other than one struck on letters coming from Guernsey on the Packet to Weymouth, designed to advise the officials in London that the item was not from an overseas territory.

What stamps are shown relate to London. On the obverse is the short lived and rare boxed stamp for Upper Street Islington, recorded by Brumell in 1822 only. the transfer stamp for 7(?) o'clock Night for September 20 and the General Post evening duty stamp for the same day. The deleted handstruck '2' is the Country to General Post charge. All these stamps are in black.

There is no indication on the entire to show how the item was treated once it had been transferred to the General Post, save the manuscript charge of 1/3. This would be made up of :-

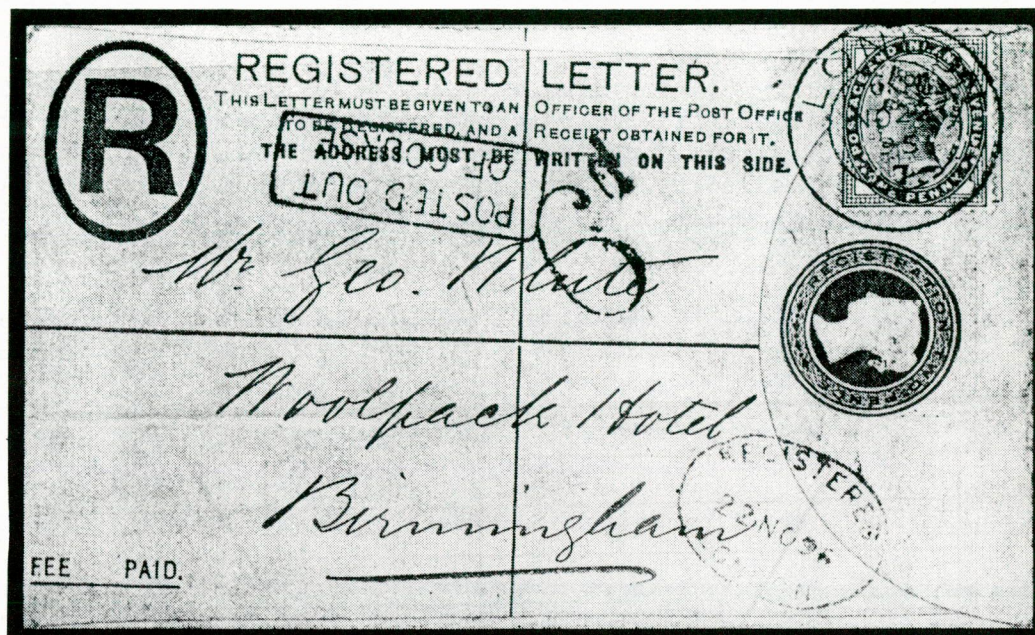
Twopenny Post charge, Country to G.P.	2d.
London to Weymouth, 127 miles	10d.
Weymouth Packet to Guernsey	3d.

This Weymouth Packet, operated at that date by the Post Office, was the paddle steamer "Ivanhoe", introduced onto the route in 1819. It was also on the Holyhead Packet Service, vide Robertson. By 1822 the service was twice a week.

In view of the absence of stamps, other than London, one might presume mail was bagged in London and not checked en route in any way. Being a Packet Letter, the query seems to be, why no 'Packet' handstamp? Was this because the mail was under the control of the British Postal Authorities throughout and the postage, therefore, could be collected on delivery. This in sharp contrast to mail which passed out of their control and which had to be pre-paid. The answers seem to be clear. Yes, the British Post Office did exercise control throughout and it, therefore, did not need to know what charge was to be paid in advance and the payment by the addressee would find its way into the Revenue directly. The same applies, at this time, to mail for Ireland. There were Ship Letters stamps, though for some curious reason not in 1822, but these were for use on mail carried by private ships, not Post Office Coastal Water Packets.

POSTED OUT OF COURSE from John Forbes-Nixon

The registered envelope was posted, without the formality of waiting at the counter to obtain a receipt. Such behaviour caused the application of the framed " POSTED OUT / OF COURSE " and the handstruck " 6d ". The 1d. adhesive is cancelled with a very fine example of the experimental AH 1207, but with time in the clear at 6pm for NO 22 /95 with code 7.



This particular " POOC " handstamp, or something very like it, remained in use for many years (the Editor has a very worn example in April 1972) but it will require some research to discover when the charge stopped. On modern registered covers which are just posted, one normally gets a manuscript endorsement and no surcharge. This is comparatively a modern treatment. A very attractive cover to add to a London collection.

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

TWOPENNY POST : THE G:P TRANSFER STAMP

Under the heading of " Miscellaneous Stamps ", Brumell discusses the function of the GP stamp, his figures 134 and 135, see also RMW cat 344 and 345.

Brumell begins by references to the " Too Late for Mornng.Post " stamps, which he says "...were, for a period, used on certain General Post letters transferred to the Two - penny Post which had suffered delay in some way, generally on account of the late arrival of mail coaches....." He then records..." A letter of 1821 bears the stamp shown in Fig.134 in addition to that shown in Fig 131 (i.e. the " Too Late..."), and later letters of the same class are found with it (presumably 134) alone, or with its successor, shown in Fig.135." The implication from this is for the "GP" to be associated directly with delayed mails for some time.

Brumell then deals with the second use of the GP stamp. " These...are found also on another class of letter, namely General Post letters delivered by the Twopenny Post in that area which, in April 1831, was added to the old delivery area of the General Post (equivalent to the town area of the Twopenny Post) to form a circle of 3 miles radius from the General Post Office. General Post letters to this added area were always delivered by the Twopenny Post letter carriers, no extra charge being made for the service."

In the section on transfer stamps in the RMW catalogue, against nos 344 and 345 is the note " G.P. letters, not charged for delivery in the T.P ".

Twopenny Post : The G:P Transfer Stamp.....

From these two sources one gets a very clear impression that the " GP " stamp was used on mail FROM the General Post and being handled BY the T.P.

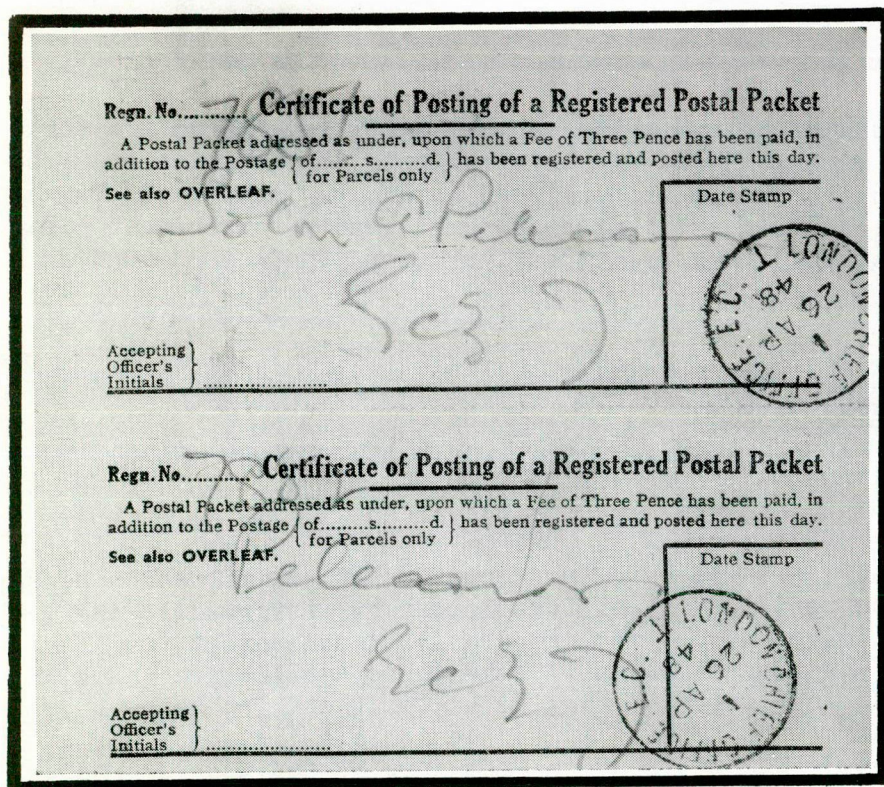
However, there is, or are, extant an example, possibly more, from a much earlier period than 1799, which shows a large " GP " on mail going OUT of London. Whilest remounting some material recently, the Editor came across a similar treatment in 1839, as shown by the item above.

It is addressed from " Hackney Clapton Square 14 May 1839 ", carries the unframed TP / Hackney NO in blue as the office of receipt. It is addressed to Rotherham. In the first instance, the handstruck 3 was applied, despite Hackney being a town office by that date. This was cancelled by a " snake " and the correct rate of tenpence shown. Also applied is the 10mm high " G:P ". The back carries the 8 Nt time stamp of the 2d.Post and the GP date stamp F/MY-14/1839.

Can readers offer an explanation for this, assuming it is not a " Fred " and, rather more important at this stage, can they provide details of the GP stamp on mail going OUT of London ?

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

' T ' FOR TELEGRAPH ? A Query from Kenneth Sargeant



The letter ' T ' has a habit of meaning ' Telegraph. ', especially in those circular date-stamps we sometimes find on superb used Q.V. Surface Printed adhesives. They are usually from those forms sent for pulping which happened to have " fallen off the back of a lorry ".

But this example is from 1948 and appears on a receipt for a registered letter. There is a long counter at the London Chief Office. Would one of the clerks behind the sign marked ' Telegrams Only ' have taken pity on someone and accepted his registered letter.

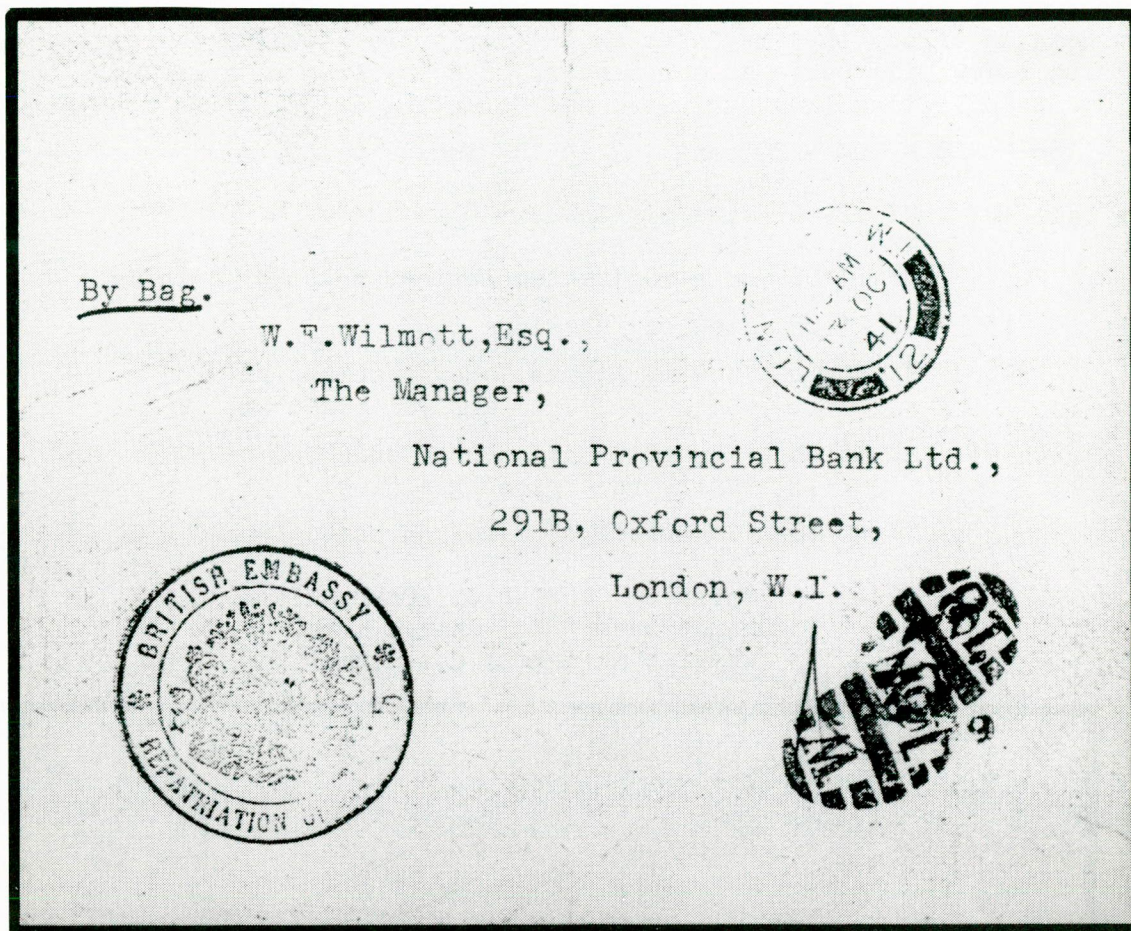
Or have I got it all wrong and this c.d.s. can be found lettered ' A ' to ' Z ' ?

One thing struck the Editor as he was playing around with the layout for this item namely, the slightly off centre positioning of the letter ' T '. Could there be any significance in this, other than the counter clerk's lack of care ? It is also just that fraction heavier than the other lettering, suggesting it is proud of the rest. Since the date stamp appears on the receipt, it was probably used in cancelling the prepayment on the letter. Any examples ?

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

WEST DISTRICT : LATE USAGE from Chris Pearce

The item shown is of 18D11 in use to cancel a charge mark. The cover sent " By Bag "



carries the cachet of the British Embassy and comes from Cairo. On arrival in the South West District Office, a 5d. postage due stamp was struck, the " 79 " below can just be made out, this in turn being deleted in the West District Office with two strikes of the W 18. The extent of the late usage is shown by the LONDON W1 date stamp 13th. October, 1941.

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

MACHINE CANCELLATIONS FROM THE 1890's

A brief note on the meeting held on the 19th. March, which to the surprise of several members for whom anything after the preadhesive period is somewhat suspect, was very much enjoyed by all. There are a number of gems to be illustrated in future Notebooks but the purpose here is to highlight for our members how possible it is to collect material which can be found by careful searching and purchased at no great cost, if you are lucky enough to have done your homework and the vendor has not!

What was very clear to the Handbook Editors was the need to produce at least an introductory chapter on these machines of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There have been a number of first class publications over the years and a recent addition, which covers the UK, " Machine Marks " by Jack Peach provides a contribution, though it, of course, ranges much wider than the area to be dealt with in the Handbook. Would members with an interest in this field write to the Editor with brief details of their particular area and we will try and get this under weigh.

LONDON MARITIME MAIL : LONDON DOUBLE RIM DATESTAMPS, from Chris Pearce

Readers may recall some time ago " Notebook " the question of the use of a particular series of numbers on mail from Forces overseas was considered. It was fairly clear from all sources of information there was indeed such a series. To encourage readers to send in details of any they may have as a contribution towards the Handbook, I hope the few listed below will serve as a reminder. I noted from an article by the Alex - anders in Stamp Collecting they suggested the following as being the most common :

160 - 163 - 166 - 203 - 204 - 207 and 172 to 177 inclusive.

Date Stamp Code	147	MY 12 06	View of Athens:
		MY 16 06	View of Athens
		MY 14 06	on a redirected letter, no other details
	155	AU 24 05	View of Barcelona
	166	MY 16 06	View of Athens, showing Ormskirk arrival MY 17 06
	171	AU 26 05	View of Oran: obverse endorsed "Northern Africa Nr Algier"
	172)	MR 8 10	View of Vigo: card addressed from " K E VII Vigo
	174)		Saturday 5th."
			Carries " POSTED ON BOARD SHIP ABROAD / I.S " and handstruck " 1 " charge mark. Why two different datestamps ?



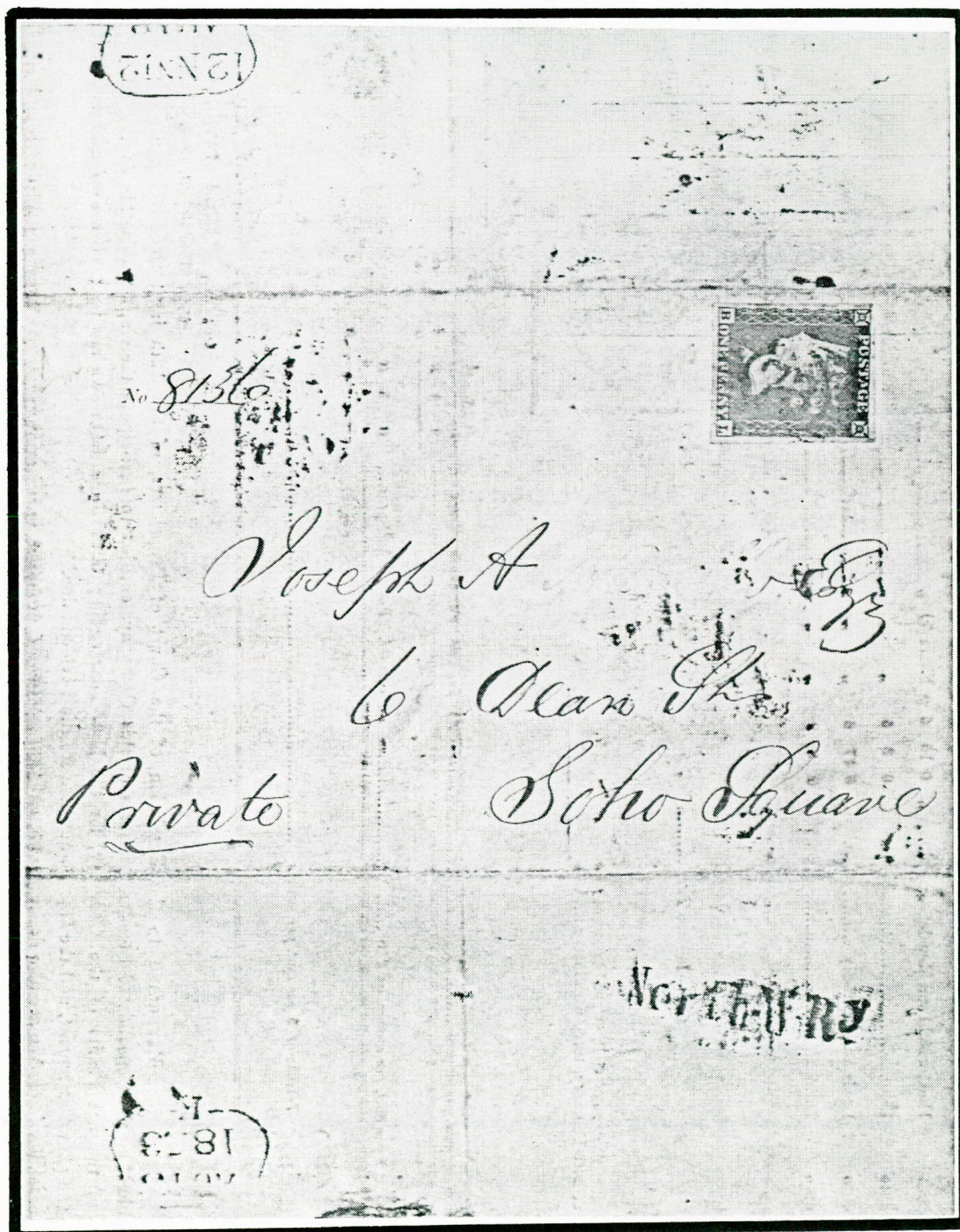
172	24 JU 14	View of Kristania:
		"We arrived here Monday 15th and are leaving next Tuesday for Copenhagen ". Carries " Posted on Board Ship Abroad / I.S " with handstruck 1D over IS/A and two x 1/2d postage dues.
172	SP 21 06	View of Argostoli
173	15 SP 14	View of Dover
176	DE 21 07	View of the Highlands: message starts " I am at present in the Highlands..."
177	JA 19 09	View of Naples: "....hope to see you soon."
216	14 JY 24	Birthday card: address includes " England "
225	22 AP 14	View of Aden.

MAIL GUARD HANDSTAMPS, by M.H. Bristow

With reference to the display of T.P.O.'s by Michael Goodman at the Group meeting on the 19th. September, the item shown comes from my own collection.

The letter, from the London & North Western Railway, deals with interest on Company Shares and was sent as from the Company Office, Euston Station, 19th. August, 1853. The letter is prepaid by a penny imperf, plate 132, and this is cancelled by the Chief Office 73 in circle.

The query is : how and/or why did a letter (presumably) starting from Euston Station and never actually being dealt with by a Mail Guard, get itself stamped with the Mail Guard stamp " North W RY " ?



Editor's Note:

Readers are referred to the write up in Notebook 35, page 3, on the duties of the Mail Guards and the use of these stamps. It is worth noting these men would be used even when not on the train. Could it be he would stamp up all letters when he was merely acting as the Post Room Junior ?

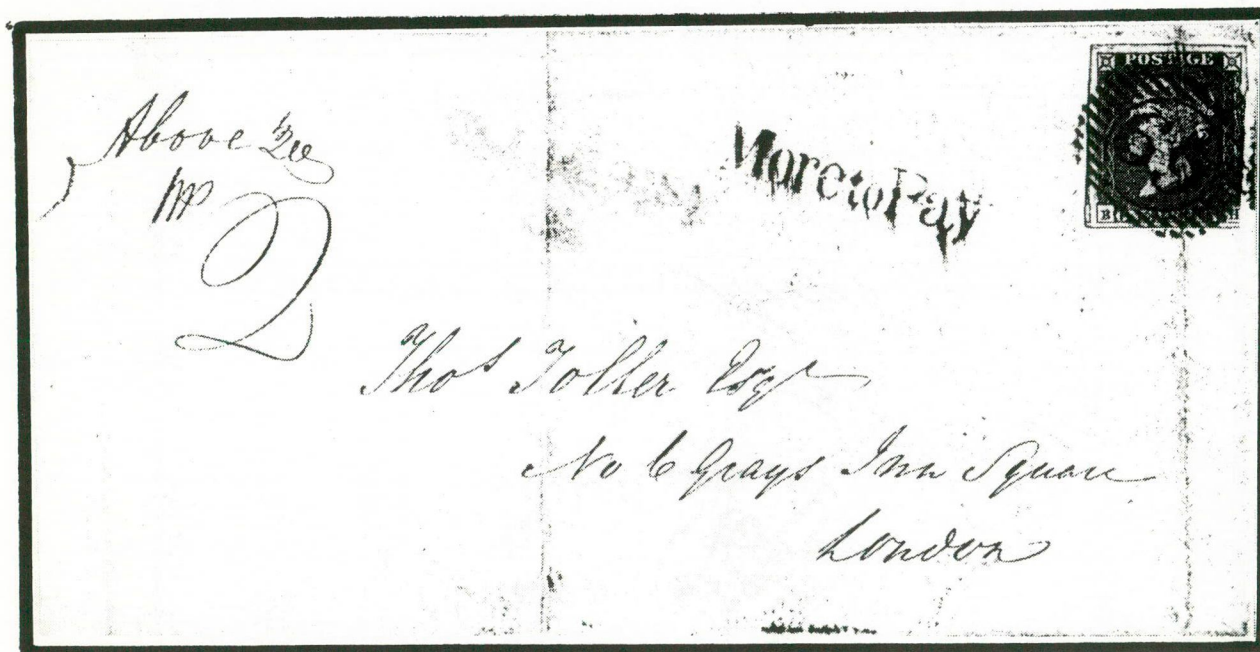
LONDON DISTRICT POST: TWO COVERS, from Michael Goodman

Collectors of London District Post material will be aware that some numbers, other than



those of the outer offices, are 'difficult' to find on cover. Two such are shown here. The 59, on a cover dated 17th. August, 1848, cancels two penny stars on an item addressed to the Home Office. The 'Handbook' notes '59' was sent to the Unpaid Letter Division, though it can occur also on registered and ordinary covers.

The '69' is rather more of a mystery. Although the 'More to Pay' item here might suggest it was reserved for that particular purpose, examination of a range of such covers will show '69' is not normally employed. Why it should be so hard to get on cover is a puzzle yet to be resolved, meanwhile it might be of interest to know they



can be found. With any luck, L.P.H.G. members, aided by 'Handbook' will be able to get their copy as a 'normal'. There are a number of the higher number London District Post cancellations which are scarce, without us yet knowing the reason for this. Somewhere in Post Office Records there must be information which will give a lead, if not the whole story.

Start looking.

PRINCES STREET, LEICESTER SQUARE, from John Lobo

Now and again one comes across an item which is attractive for any number of reasons, one such being shown here. As can be seen, it was posted in London and is addressed



to Wolverhampton. The fine Penny is cancelled by a Maltese Cross and, partly, by the " Too Late ". The London date stamp, and the one for Wolverhampton, is dated 12th. May, 1841; apparently, it was posted late the previous evening (presumably the " Too Late " would not be struck in any other circumstances). What is really adding to the interest is the receiving house handstamp " Princes St. Lr. Sq ", one which was new to me and, seemingly, to several others to whom the item has been shown.

Brumell lists the office as in the town area under dates of 1793 and Jan 1.1839, with the note " Previously Gen.Post Recg. House."

Can any readers offer further examples ?

Editors Note:

The article is derived from reported conversations between several parties and the Editor must accept responsibility for the contents, other than the delightful cover.

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PROVINCIAL TYPE DATE STAMPS, from John Brindley

Not another office but another example of Bow to record, this being dated 9th. Dec., 1854. It is not very clear so I cannot tell if the timing is EV or otherwise. There must surely be more than just the two offices with these !

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TWOPENNY POST : LINE OF DELIVERIES

An interesting entire was discovered at Showpex this year showing the erasure of the hand-struck ' 3 ' and the substitution of the ' 2 '. Nothing remarkable about that but what turned it into an item of research and comment was the consideration of the error cause and the possibility of the post office clerk making the correction being wrong so to do.

The entire, addressed from Shoreditch Workhouse on the 25th. September, 1839, was put into the Kingsland Road TP Receiving House and was time stamped, not clearly, during the 26th. September. It was addressed to No.9 Shards Square, Peckham New Town. As a digression, it so happens the Editor knows of a Shards Square in that general area and presumably this might be a remnant of the earlier development. Peckham was in the Country area and this, no doubt, caused the ' 3 ' to be applied. Why then was the ' 2 ' substituted ?

Brumell's ' Local Posts ' lists Peckham New Town, with the qualification it was one of those opened after the list of January 1st., 1839 but which is known to have used stamps associated with the Twopenny Post. However, close inspection of the detailed map prepared by Derek Holliday, of the location of T.P. office locations gives no indication of such an office. The three mile Town limit is clearly shown running north of the Peckham office, as one would expect, but seemingly south of where one might find, or rather have found, Shards Square in 1839. Since the present Shards Square is but a minute from the line of the Old Kent Road, was it likely to have been served from that office rather than from Peckham?

The mine of information comprising the 9th Report of the Commissioners on the Management of the Post Office, published in 1837, provided the probable answer. Appendix 32, which deals with proposals to change the method of collecting and distributing mail and is a superb example of official stonewalling when faced with change, makes two references which help to resolve the matter. Under the details of the proposed changes is a heading and listing of Sorting Offices and their areas. The Old Kent Road Office, to be sited near the Bricklayers Arms, is described as having one limit at Peckham New Town, presumably including that area. Another section, detailing the existing arrangements which the officials wished to retain, listed the Old Kent Road Sorting Office as near Surrey Square, on the same side as Shards Square of today and less than a mile away.

It would appear most likely that the developing Peckham New Town was served from the Old Kent Road and the sharp eyed postal clerk really knew his business. Town to town delivery at twopence was correct after all.

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THE BRITISH QUEEN : Research Project by Michael Jackson

The Editor, whilst chatting with Michael, happened to touch upon the subject of ship names appearing on covers. It seems this is something of no small interest to Michael who is currently researching the sailings and mail from the " British Queen "

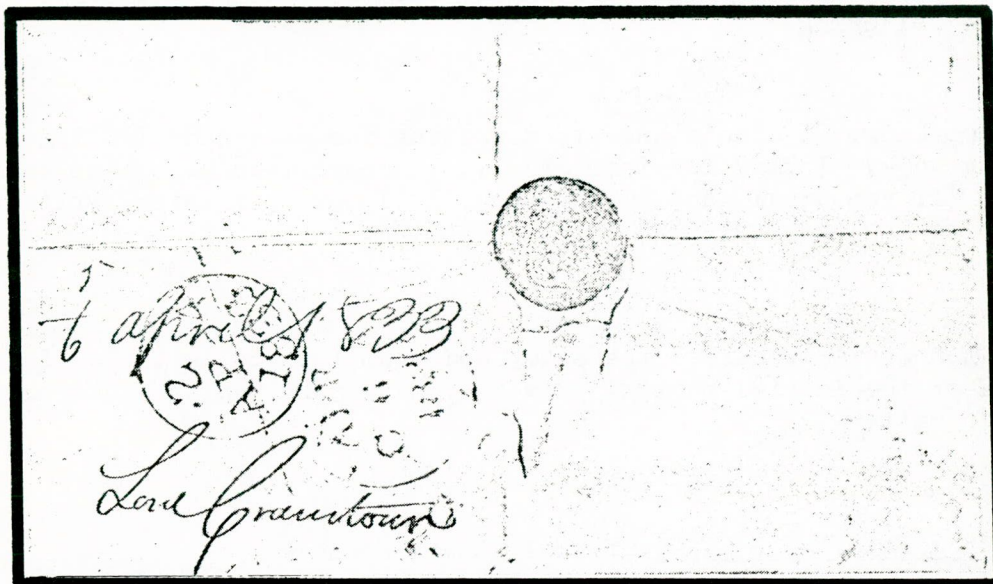
What is of particular interest is any mail readers might have which they can identify as being carried by that steamship between the years 1839 and 1841. Mail to the U.K. appears to be consigned to arrive at Portsmouth, Deal or London.

Should you have any such material, please send a photocopy of the covers, fore and aft, as it were, with brief note on the markings, address from which it was written and to whom written (even if this is clear from the copy). Should you be in London you could always drop into King Street Centre and show him the original(s) as well.

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' S ' FOR SUNDAY ? from Grace Dove

The Sunday coding is something of a minefield, despite the many articles which have appeared on the subject (Notebook 10, page 3, for example). If one reads through the text in the RMW catalogue on page 15, there are several date stamps which may be Sundays but with the exception of RMW 365, all are described as being in red. Indeed, the ordinary date stamps of 1810-1840 ' fig 6, day repeated, single or double ring ' are listed as red. One has to take into account the limited listing which is made very clear in the Introduction (should the user read this important part of the book) there will be many gaps and should an item appear to be as not recorded in Willcocks it does not mean it is a howling rarity.



It is, perhaps, unfortunate not all collectors have the Alcock and Holland work which makes the amount of material from this period which is not listed rather less likely to cause heart burn on discovery.

A & H fig.32 comprises a single ring stamp with Code / Month Day / Year in four figures around the lower rim and almost always struck in black. What they do not give any hint of is the item shown here with the clearly reversed ' S ', struck in black. It is not a Sunday date, being posted in London on Thursday and arriving in Edinburgh on the Saturday. On the obverse is an Inspectors Crown over what would seem to be a large boxed additional halfpenny stamp. The letter was rated at 2/2.

Apart from the error in the coding, which is the one noted in " London Date Stamp Codes " and is something of a rarity, it does point up the fallacy of the oft made assumption of " S " means " Sunday ".

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FOUND-IN-FNO WITHOUT CONTENTS, a response from John Brindley

Regarding Jack Routh's cover in Notebook 59, SNAP !

I obtained my copy of this mark some years ago in Venlo, amongst a collection of GB Postal Stationery. Much of this material was addressed to Messrs. D.E. Shreuders at The Hague; others to Mr. Shreuders himself at Apeldoorn.

It would seem Mr. Shreuders was an avid collector (? dealer) of postal stationery and stamp dealers like Whitfield King of Ipswich would send him different combination p.s. covers on the same day, these to the company office at The Hague; others would send to him personally at his ? residence in Apeldoorn.

My first reaction on seeing this identical cover was that the F.N.O. mark, like some of the postal stationery, was philatelically inspired but on second thoughts whilst

Found-in-FNO Without Contents.....

collecting postal stationery was one of the " in things " in those days, postmarks were not. I think what happened was that his friend/dealer in Bradford sent him some ½d. envelopes and, as they were for philatelic purposes, they, like the Whitfield King envelopes, were empty (similarly I have postcards with no message). As astute post office sorter spotted they were empty and applied the F.N.O. cancellation. Because they were the ½d. rate, I would agree with the interpretation of Foreign Newspaper Office as being the most likely answer.

A reply card, sent on the same day from Bradford to Mr. Shreuders, written in Dutch gives a clue as to the nature of the posting of all the postal stationery. A translation gives the following :

" Dear Friend,

Hey, that's working. I didn't know that writing the same name 140 times was such nerve-racking work. I paid together 6/7d....postcard....6/9d½ Keep this in part payment (??). If you still want 60 big ones, I'll buy them later, write this to the Bank. I go to England every two or three months.

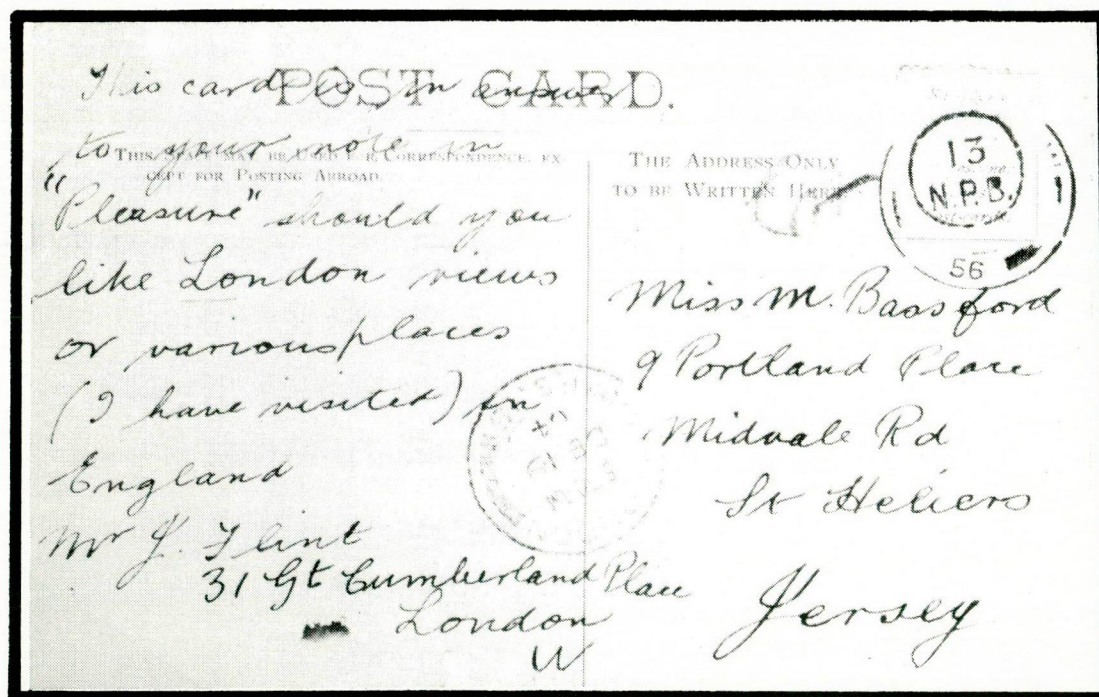
Greetings....."

If the whole batch of 140 received the stamp and went into collections, I suppose that gives some idea of the initial rarity. How many have survived the intervening ninety years is another matter.

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NEWSPAPER BRANCH : EXAMINER'S STAMP, from Alistair Kennedy

A picture post card, showing Conway Castle, was sent to Jersey in 1904 in response to what seems to have been a request for view cards. It is written as from West London but this cannot be confirmed by the cancelling stamp since the adhesive was torn off, after receipt by the postal authorities and cancellation, itself a curious



feature and surely calling for some explanatory stamping by the Post Office. This was not done. However, what seems to be an Inspector's stamp (see Mackay fig.2374 and his notes thereon) was applied in the gap. As a matter of interest, can any reader with an interest in West London confirm the use of LONDON W / 56, which is all one call see ?

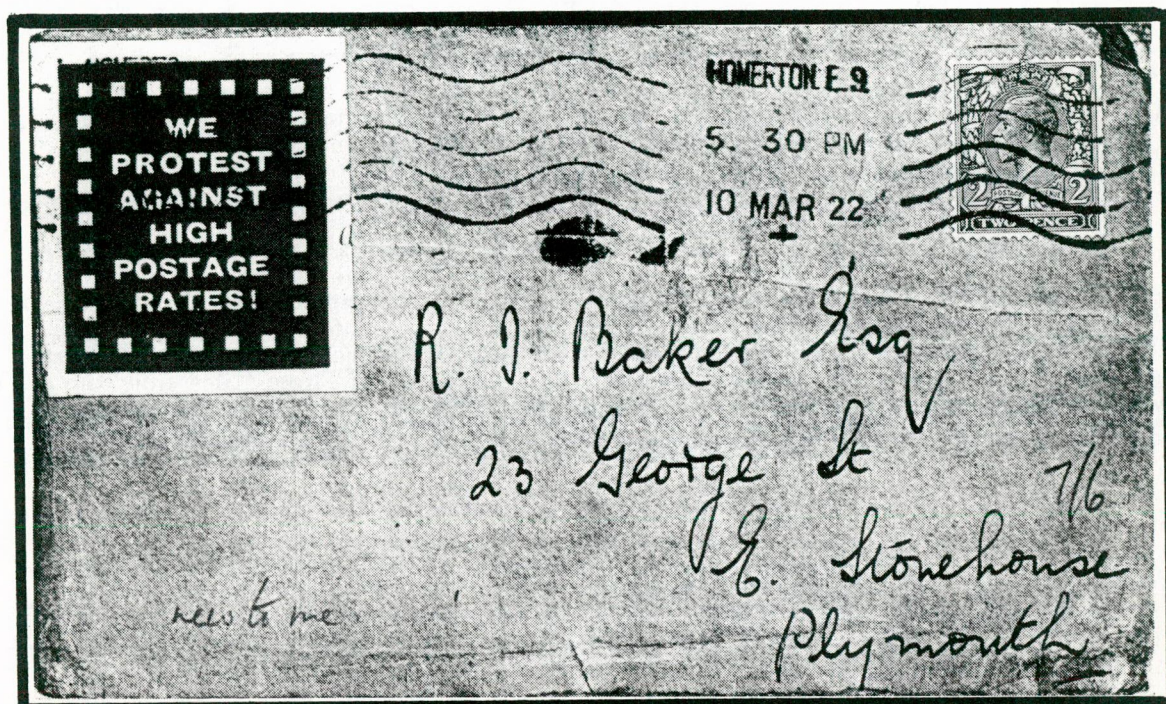
Newspaper Branch : Examiner's Stamp...

Adding further to the puzzle of the card's routing through the London postal organisation is the use of the Foreign Section 15 datestamp at 5.30 AM on DE 19 / 04.

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POSTAGE RATES UP AGAIN

Martin Willcocks sends in this amusing item, with which most could well agree, the prospect of the first class rate rising to only 16pence (nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ d to older folk) in the very near future.



Unlike possible events of the 1980's, the Post Office in the 1920's were forced to take action on the issue. In June 1918 the 1-oz rate of 1d was abolished, the first step being made 4-oz at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. Two years later on 1st June, 1920, the weight limit was reduced to 3-oz and the price increased to 2d. There was something of an uproar over the continuation of what the public had hitherto accepted as a form of war tax but it was not until 29th May 1922 the 1-oz rate at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d came in. Whether the user of the sticker in March of that year was satisfied we probably shall never know but the Post Office, on 14th May, 1923, increased the weight step to 2-oz for the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d rate.

There seems little prospect of any beneficial price reductions or weight increases nowadays, indeed there is the prospect of a weight reduction from 60g to 50g, by way of tidying-up the ' new fangled ' metric in use.

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THE OLD KENT ROAD material is wanted for a small study collection or just a note of any items you have and wish to retain. It is not just material reading O K R but any of the variants as listed in " Local Posts " or your new copy of Barrie Jay's catalogue on offer with this issue of ' Notebook '.

p.s. O K R offers to the Editor please.

INSTRUCTIONS

To those Letter Receivers, who will have to separate the General from the Twopenny Post Letters.

THE New Arrangement for Consolidating the General and Twopenny Post Receiving Houses, will take place on the 11th day of December next; the Letter Receivers will therefore, on and from that day have to despatch Letters to the Twopenny Post Office, at the following hours:—

MORNING.	AFTERTHOON.
8	2
10	4
12	6
	8

The Unpaid Letter Box is to be cleared out at the above hours; and all Unpaid Letters posted up to Two o'clock, are to be Stamped on the front, and sent to the Twopenny Post Office; but after that hour, and up to Six o'clock, the General Post Letters are to be separated from the Twopenny Post; the latter to be sent to the Twopenny Post Office at the Four and Six o'clock despatches, and the former to be retained and sent to the General Post Office.

With regard to receiving Paid Postage on General, Foreign, and Ship Letters, the General Post Receivers are to pursue the same course as they have already done; but Twopenny Post Letters are to be Stamped on the front with the proper Stamps; they will be furnished with Lists of the Twopenny Post Rates of Postage; it will, however, assist them, by bearing in mind, that the Postage of a Letter, to be delivered within the circle of Three Miles from the General Post Office is Twopence, and beyond it Threepence.

The Twopenny Post Receivers, who will, under the new arrangement, have to take in Paid General, Foreign, and Ship Letters, will be furnished with proper Lists for their guidance; such Letters are to be Marked in Red Ink in large Figures, and the letters "*Pd.*" must also be Written, except in the case of Letters paid to France, or passing through France; then the Postage is to be Marked in small Figures in the left hand corner of the Letter, and the British rate to be distinguished from the Foreign rate. The Printed Instructions will give full information on this point.

The numbers of Paid and Unpaid Letters sent to the Twopenny Post Office, are to be told up, and entered on the Bills, that will be furnished them for that purpose; at the Eight o'clock Evening and Eight o'clock Morning despatches the General Post *Paid Letters* are to be sent to the Twopenny Post Office, told up with the Twopenny Post Paid Letters, and entered in one amount on the Bill; but at the other despatches the *General Post Paid Letters* are to be retained till called for by the General Post Mail Cart at Four and Six o'clock.

To accelerate the duty, and prevent the Letter Carrier being unnecessarily detained, the Letter Receivers must commence preparing the Letters for their collections a few minutes before the time for despatching the Letters arrives; they must, however, be particularly careful to look in their Letter Boxes when the full time has expired, that no Letters may be left behind.

The Postage received for Paid Letters is to be retained by the Letter Receivers till called upon to make their payments to the Receiver-General, which will be every Fortnight or every Four Weeks; of this they will have due notice, with instructions how they are to pay their money.

Each Letter Receiver will be furnished with Abstracts, on which they are to copy from the Letter Bill, the number of Letters and the amount of Postage they send off at each despatch; they will see that there is a distinct place for entering those sent to the General Post Office. These Abstracts are to be sent in with the Eight o'clock Morning Collection, properly cast, signed and dated.

No General Post Letters, posted after Six o'clock, can be forwarded to the Country the same night; and General Post Newspapers, put in after Five o'clock, must be retained till the Eight o'clock Collection; but those posted up to Five o'clock, are to be sent to the General Post Office. Each Letter Receiver must, therefore, clear his Letter Box at Five o'clock, to see that no General Post Newspapers are improperly forwarded.

Newspapers, for the Twopenny Post Delivery, may be forwarded up to Six o'clock.

W. L. MABERLY,
SECRETARY.