

NOTEBOOK

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 (c) 1986 L.P.H.G. and named contributor

EDITORIAL NOTE.....

Just a reminder. The date is when we hoped to issue, not the actual date, so please do not blame the Post Office for late delivery.

THE SQUARED CIRCLES OF MARK.LANE.E.C. by Maurice Barette

(See note at the end of article)

As with Lombard Street, initial eight hammers were proofed on DE 5 81, with various HI's, presented in the Proof Book according to the following order :



1st Proof



2nd Proof



3rd Proof



4th Proof



5th Proof



6th Proof



7th Proof



8th Proof

These HI's were altered prior to issue to A to H. This first group of hammers were followed by two further hammers proofed on JY 18 82 with HI's J and K and used in that manner. Normal usage of the 1881 proof group was 1881-1884, but I A-A and the two hammers proofed in 1882 had usage to 1886-1887.

Various Type II and III hammers have been recorded for MARK.LANE.E.C. in 1887-1905. Most strikes are incomplete on loose stamps and some are not very clear, but it appears that these hammers were recut from the 1881 ones. These hammers do not show any HI's and seem to have been used on special duties as they only have special codes such as 1., 2., 3. or blank, or BZ, these indicia being normal letters, or AX or BX, being either normal letters or smaller letter double indicia used on late duties. Though these hammers do not show any identification, they present some features distinctive enough to make possible a linkage with the original Type I A hammers. We give hereafter the most probable lines of descent.

It happens that some of these Type II hammers were also recut to another Type II or III. It may seem strange that SC hammers would have been recut to SC in the CT period. But these Type II and III hammers had special usages, very likely linked with late duties, and it is not illogical that such hammers might have been recut to the same style if necessary.

The Type I A-A hammer was proofed on DE 5 81. It has been identified with the 5th proof of the group, CB/DE 5 81. It has been recorded to mid 1887, as noted above. The I A-A hammer was recut to a 1st Type II, showing distinctive smaller letters, recorded 1900-1901. One strike from a 2nd recut Type II hammer has been reported in 1905.



Fig. 1
I A-A Proof



Fig. 2
I. A-A



Fig. 3
1st II



Fig. 4
2nd II

SC Usage only	Proof	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Type I A-A	DE 5 81 (Fig. 1)	JA 4 82	JU 6 87 (Fig. 2)
1st Type II	(Fig. 3)	FE 19 00	OC 16 01
2nd Type II	(Fig. 4)	SP 7 05	only

MARK.LANE.E.C. (Cont.)

The type I A-B hammer was proofed on DE 5 81. It has been identified with the 3rd proof of the group, EZ/DE 5 81. It was recut to a 1st Type II, showing a very large M and a large C, recorded 1888-1893. This one was recut to a 2nd Type II, recorded between 1900 and 1905.



Fig. 5
I A-B Proof



Fig. 6
I A-B



Fig. 7
1st II



Fig. 8
2nd II

SC Usage only	Proof	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Type I A-B	DE 5 81 (Fig. 5)	FE 17 82	OC 24 82 (Fig. 6)
1st Type II	(Fig. 7)	JY 10 88	OC 11 93
2nd Type II	(Fig. 8)	AP 5 00	JA ? 05

The Type I A-C hammer was proofed on DE 5 81. It has been identified with the 4th proof of the group, CX/DE 5 81. It was recut to a Type II showing a distinctive tall thin C. The recut hammer has been recorded 1888-1895.



Fig. 9
I A-C Proof



Fig. 10
I A-C



Fig. 11
II

SC Usage only	Proof	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Type I A-C	DE 5 81 (Fig. 9)	MR 27 82	FE 12 84 (Fig. 10)
Type II	(Fig. 11)	JY 14 88	AP 10 95

The Type I A-D hammer was proofed on DE 5 81. It has been identified with the 1st proof of the group, CB/DE 5 81. It was recut to a Type III hammer showing smaller letters. The Type III has been recorded from mid 1900 to 1905.



Fig. 12
I A-D Proof



Fig. 13
I A-D



Fig. 14
III

SC Usage only	Proof	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Type I A-D	DE 5 81 (Fig. 12)	JA 30 82	FE 22 84 (Fig. 13)
Type III	(Fig. 14)	JU 19 00	SP 11 05

MARK.LANE.E.C. (Cont.)

The Type I A-E hammer was proofed on DE 5 81. It has been identified with the 8th proof, DC/DE 5 81. It seems to have been recut to a Type II hammer followed by a Type III, but the latter may be a worn Type II instead of a true Type III, as previous evolution of wear of Type II might have led to final strikes appearing as Type III. See Fig. 18, worn Type II and Fig. 19, possible Type III.

It can be noted that late strikes of the Type II recut from I A-C hammer (4th proof) also appear as a Type III, with one arc and thick corners.



Fig. 15
I A-E Proof



Fig. 16
I A-E



Fig. 17
II



Fig. 18
Worn II



Fig. 19
III ?

SC Usage only	Proof	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Type I A-E	DE 5 81 (Fig. 15)	JA 11 82	AP ? 83 (Fig. 16)
Type II	(Fig. 17, 18)	AP 2 86	OC 17 90
Type III ?	(Fig. 19)	SP 12 98	only

The Type I A-F hammer was proofed on DE 5 81. It has been identified with the 7th proof of the group, ZX/DE 5 81. No recut hammer has been reported for it.



Fig. 20
I A-F Proof



Fig. 21
I A-F

SC Usage only	Proof	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Type I A-F	DE 5 81 (Fig. 20)	MR 27 82	NO 2 82 (Fig. 21)

The Type I A-G hammer was proofed on DE 5 81. It has been identified with the 6th proof of the group, EC/DE 5 81. It has been recut to a Type II, which looks very similar to the Type II recut from I A-B (3rd proof), but with a smaller C. It seems to have been recut to a 2nd Type II hammer recorded in 1905.



Fig. 22
I A-G Proof



Fig. 23
I A-G



Fig. 24
1st II



Fig. 25
2nd II

MARK.LANE.E.C. (Cont.)

<u>SC Usage only</u>	Proof	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Type I A-G	DE DE 5 81 (Fig. 22)	JA 10 82	AP 8 84 (Fig. 23)
1st Type II	(Fig. 24)	NO 11 95	AU 9 97
2nd Type II	(Fig. 25)	JY 18 05	OC 20 05

The Type I A-H hammer was proofed on DE 5 81. It has been identified with the 2nd proof of the group, BZ/DE 5 81. No recut hammers have been recorded for it.



Fig. 26
I A-H Proof



Fig. 27
I A-H

<u>SC Usage only</u>	Proof	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Type I A-H	DE 5 81 (Fig. 26)	AP 4 82	JY 23 83 (Fig. 27)

The Type I A-J hammer was proofed on JY 18 82, in the second proof group, with its definitive HI. No recut hammers have been recorded for it.



Fig. 28
I A-J Proof



Fig. 29
I A-J

<u>SC Usage only</u>	Proof	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Type I A-J	JY 18 82 (Fig. 28)	OC 14 82	MY 5 86 (Fig. 29)

The I A-K hammer was proofed on JY 18 82, with the Type I A-J. It has been recorded with this HI to mid 1887. It does not seem to have been recut.



Fig. 30
I A-K Proof



Fig. 31
I A-K

<u>SC Usage only</u>	Proof	Earliest Date	Latest Date
Type I A-K	JY 18 82 (Fig. 30)	DE 6 82	JY 6 87 (Fig. 31)

See on next page table of Relative Scarcity and Rarity Factors for Mark Lane HI's.

MARK.LANE.E.C. (Cont.)

Relative Scarcity and Rarity Factors of HI's (on 150 Strikes).

HI	%	RF	HI	%	RF	HI	%	RF
A	39.7	A	E	5.5	D	J	2.7	F
B	2.1	F	F	1.4	G	K	2.7	F
C	13	B	G	3.4	E	II	16.4	A
D	5.5	D	H	5.5	D	III	2.1	F

The above article on the Squared Circles of MARK.LANE.E.C. is taken from a forthcoming book entitled "Collecting British Squared Circles", by Stanley F. Cohen, Daniel G. Rosenblat and Maurice Barette. The authors hope that the work will be published late 1986 or early 1987.

The study will be divided into three volumes. The first one will be devoted to the squared circles of provincial offices, with a detailed listing for the majority of towns and only a summary for complex ones.

A number of the 2nd volume, which deals in detail with the squared circles of the London area, will be printed on loose perforated sheets intended for the binders of the LPHG Handbook.

The third volume will be a detailed study of the squared circles of major towns which were only shown in a condensed form in the first volume.

A few terms of the article may not be familiar to some readers. They will be fully explained in the introduction to the main volume. Let us just mention here :

"Hammer" : postal marking instrument which can be identified as unique and separate from all others.

"Hammer Identification" ("HI") : letter or numeral code included in the squared circle to identify the hammer.

"Special Code" ("SC") : letter or numeral code showing time of collections.

"Clear Time" ("CT") : time shown in the clear ; e.g. : 8.45PM (after 1895).

"Type I" : squared circle with 1 circle, 3 arcs and 1 corner.

"Type II" : squared circle with 1 circle, 2 arcs and 1 corner.

"Type III" : squared circle with 1 circle, 1 arc and 1 corner.

"Type I A" : Type I squared circle with "HI" shown at left of code line :
e.g. : Type I A-A = hammer with HI A, Type I A-B = hammer with HI B, etc...

New data and updates, preferably with photocopies of items, and questions about this article or the book, can be sent to the authors :

Stanley F. Cohen, La Alcazaba, Apartmento 2431, Nueva Andalucia, Marbella, Spain.

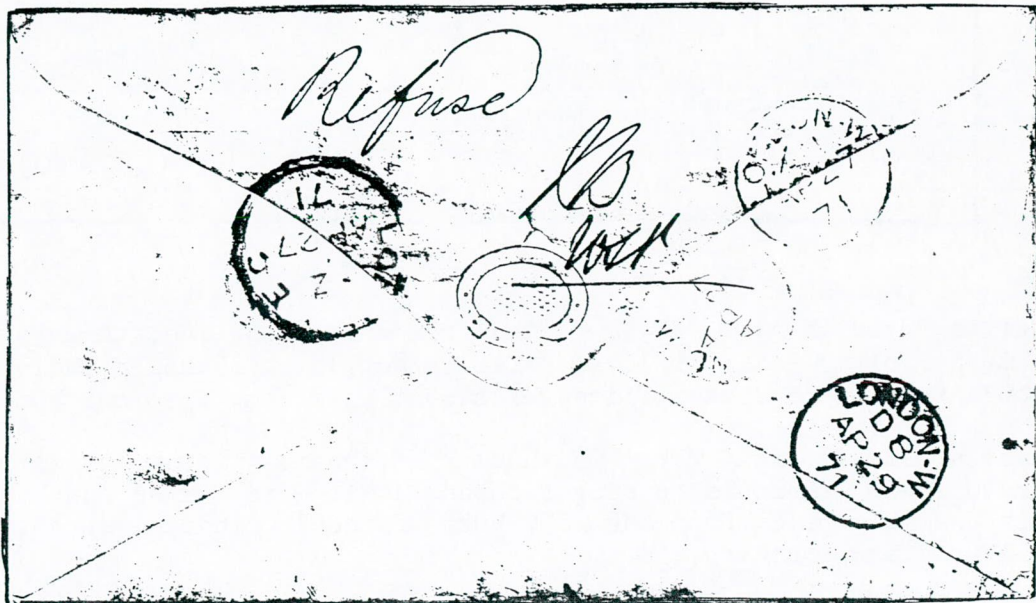
Daniel G. Rosenblat, 681 Willow Lake Road, Discovery Bay, Byron Ca 94514, USA.

Maurice Barette, 32 rue Jean de La Fontaine, 76800 St. Etienne du Rouvray, France.

The proofs are shown by kind permission of the Post Office Archives. Illustrations of other hammers have been traced from actual strikes.

A LETTER TO DISRAELI by Terence Jeram

It is of added interest to have material to or from leading politicians in ones collection, since it may be displayed in several alternative ways. The envelope shown here was sent to Disraeli with the address of the Junior Carlton Club.



Presumably it was delivered there, or was it? The reverse is endorsed "Refused" - by whom at what address? To start at the point of origin. The letter was posted in the Northern District, the duplex being the N18 obliterator, A7, for April 27, 1871. The obverse carries the Charing Cross datestamp for the same date. On the reverse is a London EC and two strikes for London W, also for the 27th. The final London W datestamp is for the 29th., which suggests the refusal was at Grosvenor Gate.

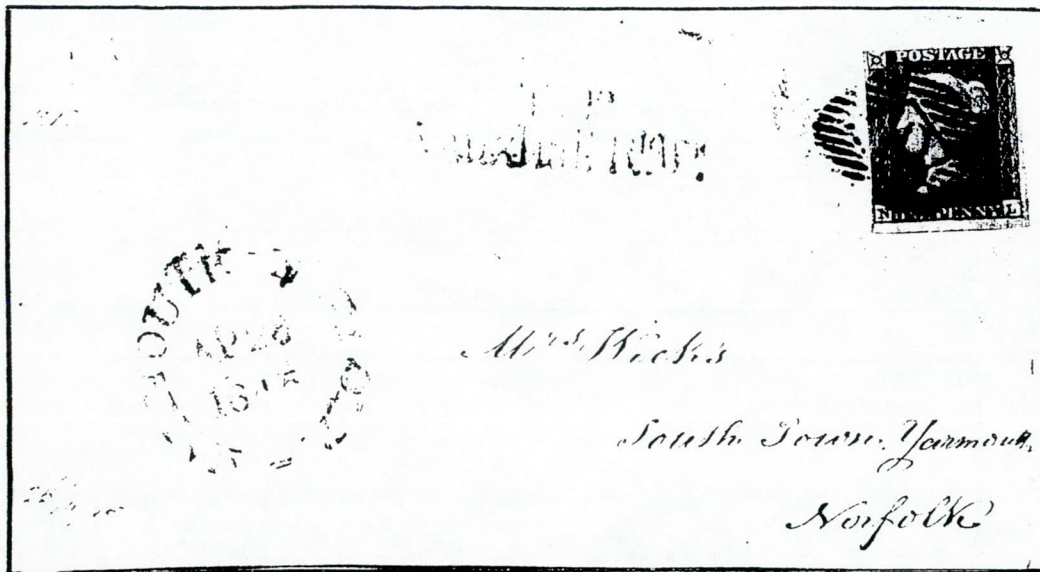
The penny redirection charge poses yet another problem. It is deleted in red ink, the color of the "Pd 1d" which partially covers the Charing Cross stamp on the left of the envelope. Why should the postage due on re-direction mark have been applied when a penny was paid on redirection? It is possible the red ink was used both at the counter by the clerk who took the letter and the penny (so why not put an adhesive on?) and another clerk failed to see the payment endorsement

A Letter to Disraeli.....

and applied the postage payable on redirection stamp, then realised his error, used the same red ink to cancel the stamp ?

All this seems unusually complicated but if a reader can produce a more likely sequence of events, the Editor would be pleased to hear.

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

LONDON TWOPENNY POST : ANOTHER OFFICE

The item is dated 25 April 1845, routed from a local office, through the Inland and on to Norfolk. It is ~~the~~ local office stamp which, although unclear, provides what would seem to be a new office which must have come into use before 1840.

The stamp appears to read T P / Vauxhall R*W*, where * represents a letter too unclear to read. There is no such recorded listing as far as one knows, so what could it possibly be ? From the 1857 Post Office " Principal Streets and Places " the following are found :

Vauxhall, Lambeth
 Vauxhall-bridge-road, Pimlico
 Vauxhall-gardens, Lambeth
 Vauhallow-row, Vauxhall-bridge
 Vauxhall-street, Lambeth
 Vauxhall-walk, Lambeth

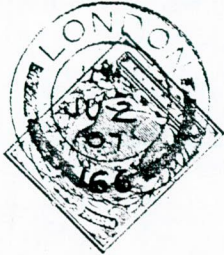
so what price Vauxhall R*W* twelve years before ?

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

SHIP LETTER CANCELLATIONS

Readers of Notebook will be familiar with the Naval Mail cancellations of London, featured in Notebook 62. However, the numbers apparently extend further than shown in Postman's record (172 - 177), which was was a specific dating in 1917. The stamps are well outside that single year ranging from the middle 1900's (generally about 1906/7) through to the end of the War.

Discussing these stamps with Mike Goodman recently he believed the numbers start from 165, rather than 172. The 166 shown here is on a view card of Main Street Camp Aden but the message makes no direct reference to Naval vessels.



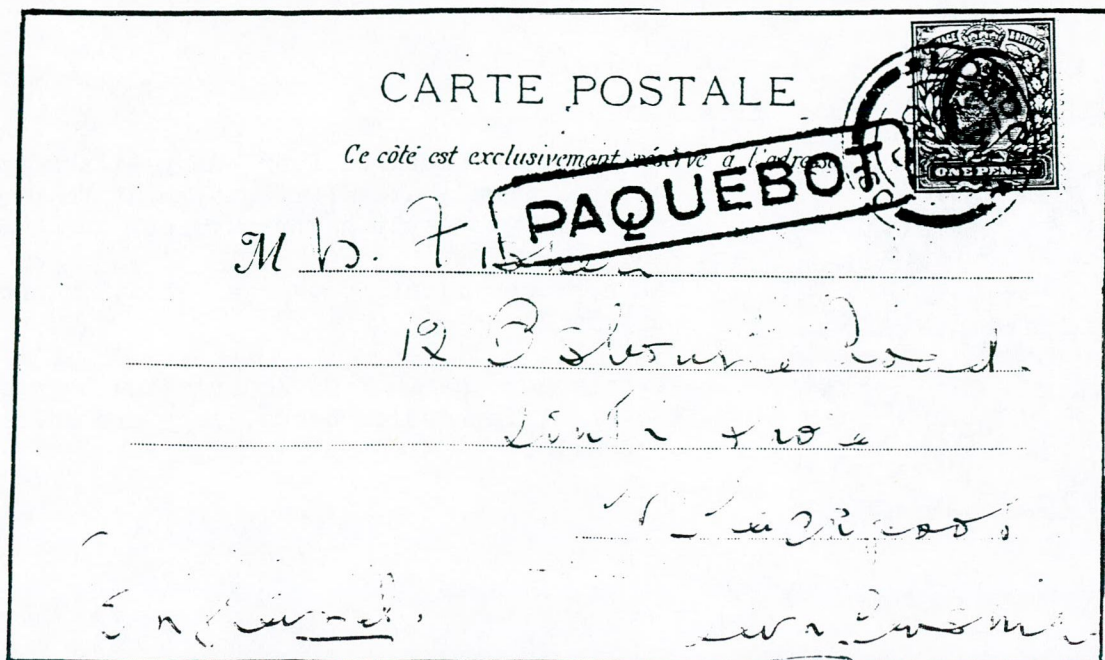
Extending the upper limit of code numbers is a view card of Sydney which had the adhesive cancelled by a ' 205 ' whereon the time is replaced by an ' S ', which may be for ' Ship '. The ' S ' is thought to be the only alpha time coding and is amongst the least common of cancellations in the group. It may be from quite another series, given the gap between 172 and 205.

The use of this type for cancelling Ship Letters, for that is what we have here, not Paquebot service, was thought to have finished with the end of the War but an obviously Naval view card posted as from Greece, dated 21.2.25, was cancelled in London 3 March with a stamp bearing a ' 9 '. The card carries the senders ship's name ' H.M.S. Sandhurst '.

It looks as if the next visit to Freeling House has the subject matter firmly established. Watch this space.

STOP PRESS from Chris Pearce.....

The numbers clearly start from 160, or earlier, as is shown by this card, clearly from abroad but it is, of course, not a ' Ship Letter '. Also offered is a view of Chatham with the 1/2d adhesive cancelled LONDON 207. Here both the rate and the address make it a home posted card but the possible Naval connection is clear.



ARMY MAIL 1799

from the " Evening Mail " from Wednesday September 11 to Friday 13, 1799

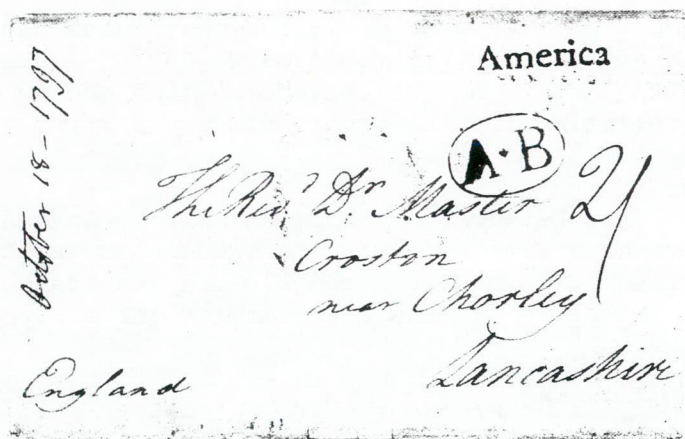
GENERAL POST-OFFICE, Sept. 11, 1799

NOTICE is hereby given, that LETTERS addreffed to Perfons ferving with the Army under the Command of Field-Marfhal His Royal Highnefs the Duke of YORK, will be received at the **Ship Letter Office** on Thursday in each Week, and that such Letters will be forwarded in Bags fealed up, by the firft Conveyance.

A Half Rate of Poftage, under the Act of the 39th of his prefent Majefty, will be demanded upon all Letters addreffed to Officers and Others; - but thofe directed to Private Soldiers will be forwarded for One Penny each Letter, under the Act of the 35th of his prefent Majefty.

By Command of his Majefty's Poftmaster-General

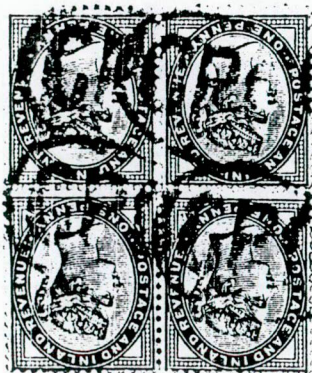
FRANCIS FREELING, Sec.



The straight line "America" cover of 1797; the first example of this mark, and of the oval framed "A. B" of London, to be recorded. A spectacular Transatlantic item sent from Baltimore to England during the Anglo-French Revolutionary War period, in beautiful condition.

This item is reprinted from an Argyll Etkin house publication which featured some of the very fine material they handle. The Editor would like to have the skill to give it the 'write-up' so richly ~~deserves~~ but lacks the skill. May we have a contribution please?

CANCELLATION QUERY from Chris Pearce



It is just a block of four penny lilacs very much detached from whatever it was meant to prepay, if indeed it was meant as prepayment.

Can a reader identify the cancellation and its purpose?

Perhaps someone in P.O. Records can locate it in the Proof Impression Books, they are a long way from Cornwall !!

AUCTION RESULT 10 MAY 1986

76/11

Lot	£p	Lot	£p	Lot	£p	Lot	£p	Lot	£p
1	7	3	6	4	4	5	18	7	6
8	6	9	3.50	10	2	11	8	12	12
13	3	14	3	15	2	16	4.50	18	5
20	40	21	5	22	30	23	4	26	8
27	9.50	28	190	30	5	31	4	32	20
34	5	35	10.50	38	20	40	5	41	5.50
42	8.50	43	7.50	44	6.50	45	7.50	46	8
47	8	48	5	49	15	50	17	51	15
52	6.50	53	6	56	5	57	6	58	5
59	6	60	5	61	5	62	5	63	8.50
64	5.50	68	15	69	4	70	5	71	10
73	7	77	5.50	79	6.50	82	35	83	3
87	3	89	4	93	12.50	99	5.50	100	7
101	6	102	4	103	7	104	6	106	4
107	4	109	5.50	112	7	113	5.50	116	7
121	3	122	8.50	126	12	128	20	129	8
131	5	132	6	133	9	134	8.50	135	8
136	5	137	5	138	6	139	3.50	140	5
141	4	142	4	143	3.50	144	12	145	12
148	6	149	4	150	4	153	10	156	22
157	8	158	8	160	25	161	3	164	40
165	6.50	166	6	167	7	168	8	169	8
170	8	171	7	172	5	173	6.50	174	6
175	5	177	6	178	10	181	20	182	6
184	5	186	6	187	3.50	189	5	190	5
194	4	195	4	197	6	198	8	200	10
201	8	204	3	207	8	209	23	213	33
214	17	215	19.50	218	9	219	6	220	10
222	11	225	5	226	2	229	2	230	22
231	14	235	11	236	8.50	238	15.50	239	40
240	125	241	5	243	5	245	9	246	8
247	4	248	8	249	15	254	6	255	8.50
256	5	257	11.50	258	25	259	12	260	6.50
261	6	262	5	263	5	264	6.50	265	5
267	6	268	2	270	25	272	90	273	4
275	4	276	15	277	7.50	278	8	279	8
281	3.50	282	4.50	283	10	284	2	285	5
286	4	288	3.50	289	8	290	25	291	3.50
293	15	294	6	296	12	297	1.50	298	5
299	7	302	5	303	3	304	2.50	305	4
306	3	307	10.50	311	5	312	9	313	7.50
314	8	316	5	318	8	322	12	323	9
325	28	331	30	332	6	336	20	342	6
343	15	344	30	347	10	348	10	349	12
350	8.50	351	45	352	10	354	15.50	355	5
356	10	357	10.50	358	6.50	359	8	360	10.50
363	10.50								

Gross £2467.50

Thank you for your support

THE USAGE OF RED OFFICIAL PAID STAMPS IN 1937 by W.A. Wiseman

Early in 1937 my father, then Assistant Secretary in the Dominions Office (not Dominion Office as so often rendered) received the CMG (Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George) in the first Honours list of the new reign. Naturally letters of congratulations came rolling in from his colleagues in the Civil Service, which he had first joined in 1909. He kept most, if not all, of these in their original envelopes and it is these that form the basis for this article.

They fall into three groups. The first comprises nineteen covers. These were first sent from the originating office to the Dominions Office by hand. Hence they did not bear any postal marks at that stage, nor cachets (more correctly but less elegantly called ' certifying stamps '). However, my father was at home when the announcement was made on February 1st. and they were immediately sent off there by post. Hence they all came from one office and went to the same address. All bear either the Colonial Department (16) or Dominions Office (3) cachet and a red official paid stamp.

The second group comprises eight covers. These were all posted from the originating offices and then forwarded on to my father's home address. Hence some of them have two red official paid stamps, one for the first posting and the other as a result of being forwarded from the Dominions Office. Some of the red stamps on these are strictly comparable with those on the first group. The covers mostly bear cachets of the originating offices. All but one of them is recorded by Holman (H) * and/or MacKay (M) **, though one or two differ in details. These, and those from Group 1 are Admiralty (M117), Air Ministry (H17, M137), Secretary of State, Colonial Department (roughly H14, M173, 174, but see fig.1), Secretary of State, Dominions Office (nearly H66, M224, but see fig 2), Ministry of Health (M92, M262), the Treasury (H103, M474) and the High Commissioners of Canada (similar to M153) and New Zealand (M357).

One cover in Group 2 had no cachet and one was from the Mines Department which has an unusual cachet (fig. 3), with no Crown, Coat of Arms, nor device.

The third group comprises four covers, all from abroad and sent by diplomatic bag or bulk mail as there are no postal markings. They arrived when my father was back at work and hence there are no internal postal markings either.

There are two other covers associated with this event, one from the Earl Marshal's Office with the cachet, as shown, and one from the office of the Order in Downing Street. They can be called a fourth group.

The nineteen covers comprising Group 1 were mostly forwarded on February 1st., but a few on the 2nd., 3rd., and 4th. Of these, three were franked with the hand struck single ring circular date stamp similar to MacKay 781, timed at 11.45 am. Eight have machine square die stamps, MacKay type 1039, timed at 2.45 pm. Both 781 and 1039 are from the South West District Office and show London SW1. Seven have machine square die stamps MacKay type 987, all timed at 6.15 pm., code E(6) and F(1). The last cover is also franked with a machine square die MacKay 986 stamp, timed at 7.15 pm, code F. MacKay, p.113, states that by 1937 the wavy lines of 986 had been broken up to produce die 987. This shows this is incorrect. This example of 986 does not have a line under 1937 and hence cannot be a variant of 987 (fig 2).

The message of the above stamps is clear. Different types were used at different times of the day. Furthermore, while things were slack, mail was sent to the SW DO where in the early period of the day there was leisure enough even to use hand struck stamps. When the real rush began, everything went to the Inland Section, types 987 and 986. The pattern is confirmed by some of the posted covers. Thus the Air Ministry and three others bear 1039, timed at 2.45 pm, while the Treasury cover bears 781 at 11.45 am. It seems as the dies wore out they were pensioned off, as one might say, to less arduous areas, but it will be interesting to see

Fig 1

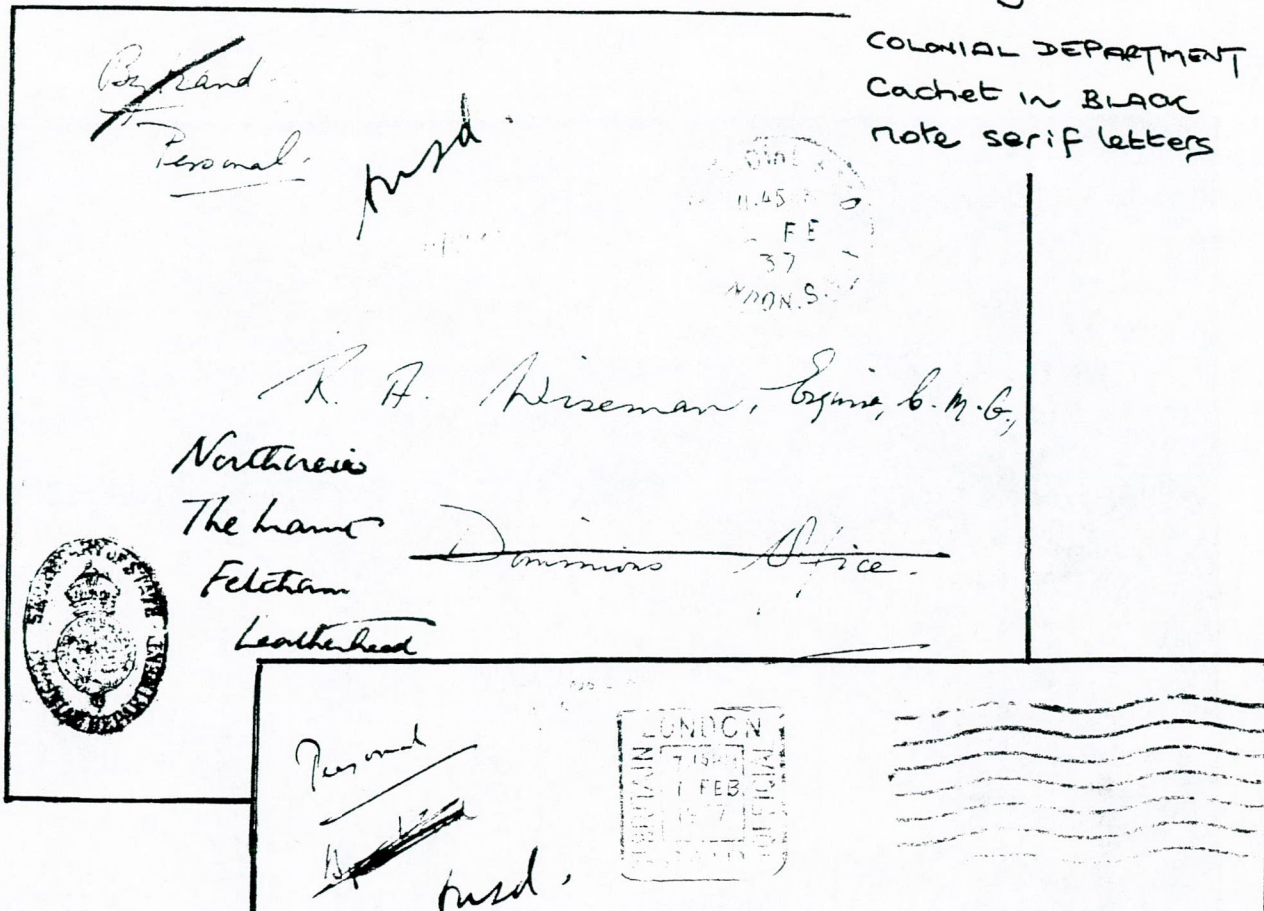
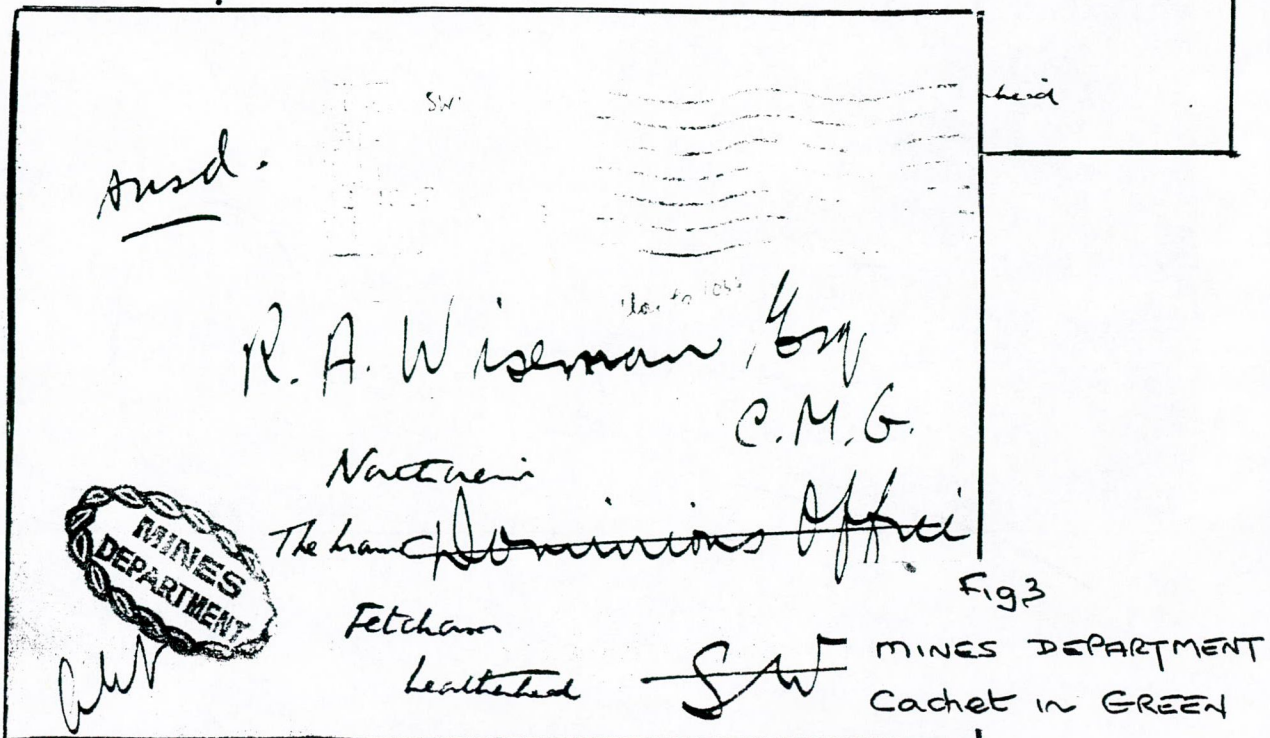
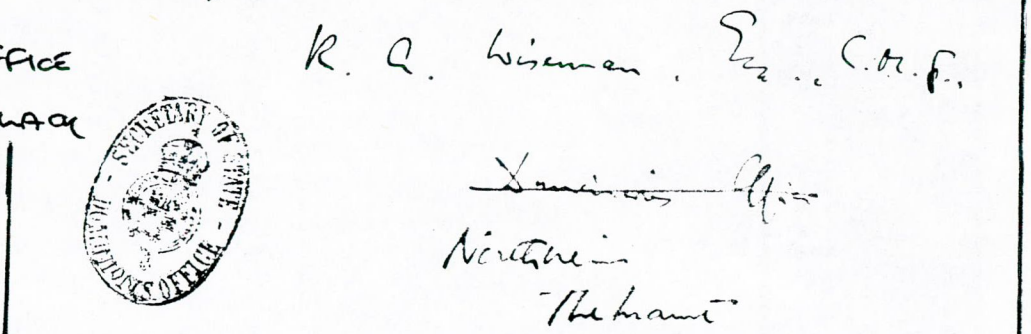


Fig 2

DOMINIONS OFFICE
Cachet in BLACK



Or: His Majesty's Service

RECEIVED
PAID

R.A. Wiseman Esq. C.M.G.

Dominions Office

Downing Street

Sw. 1.

Fig 4
EARL MARSHAL'S OFFICE
Cachet in BLACK



Earl Marshal's Office

The Usage of Red Official Paid Stamps in 1937.....

if others can confirm this or a similar pattern. These covers represent a snapshot of things as they were over a short period in 1937. The scene was forever changing, so other periods might show something different. It was felt worthwhile to present the pattern shown here, although generally one cannot regard this impersonal stampless official mail with any great enthusiasm.

One or two of these covers do show slight departures from the above in that the Mines Department cover was franked at 7.15 pm with 1039 and the Admiralty with the same type franked at 12.45pm. They show times on the dies were sometimes changed but ~~that~~ tends to support the view that by and large the times on this type of frank are important for their understanding.

Four covers show the machine square die London EC stamps, timed at 6.15 pm three code B and one code C. None has a line under 1937 but they are otherwise similar to MacKay 1100. Clearly they are unrecorded. The Ministry of Health cover has frank MacKay type 1099, timed at 7.15 pm, code A, also from London EC.

There is just one other curiosity to mention. Of ~~the~~ nineteen covers, the first group, all correctly addressed to the Dominions Office, all but three were sent on by post with the Colonial Department cachet and not ~~that~~ of the Dominions Office, whose cachet appears on but three covers. The Dominions Office grew out of the Colonial Department. But it is odd.

References:

- * Holman, John. Stamp Monthly, April 1983, p.63, October 1982, p.66, June 1983 p.62, March 1984, p.70.
- ** MacKay, James A. Official Mail of the British Isles, published by the Author in 1983.

ABBOT LUTZ

Members who had the good fortune to know Abbot Lutz and his work on postal history, he made several contributions to the pages of 'Notebook', may be unaware he died last December, on the 7th, in a New York City Hospital.

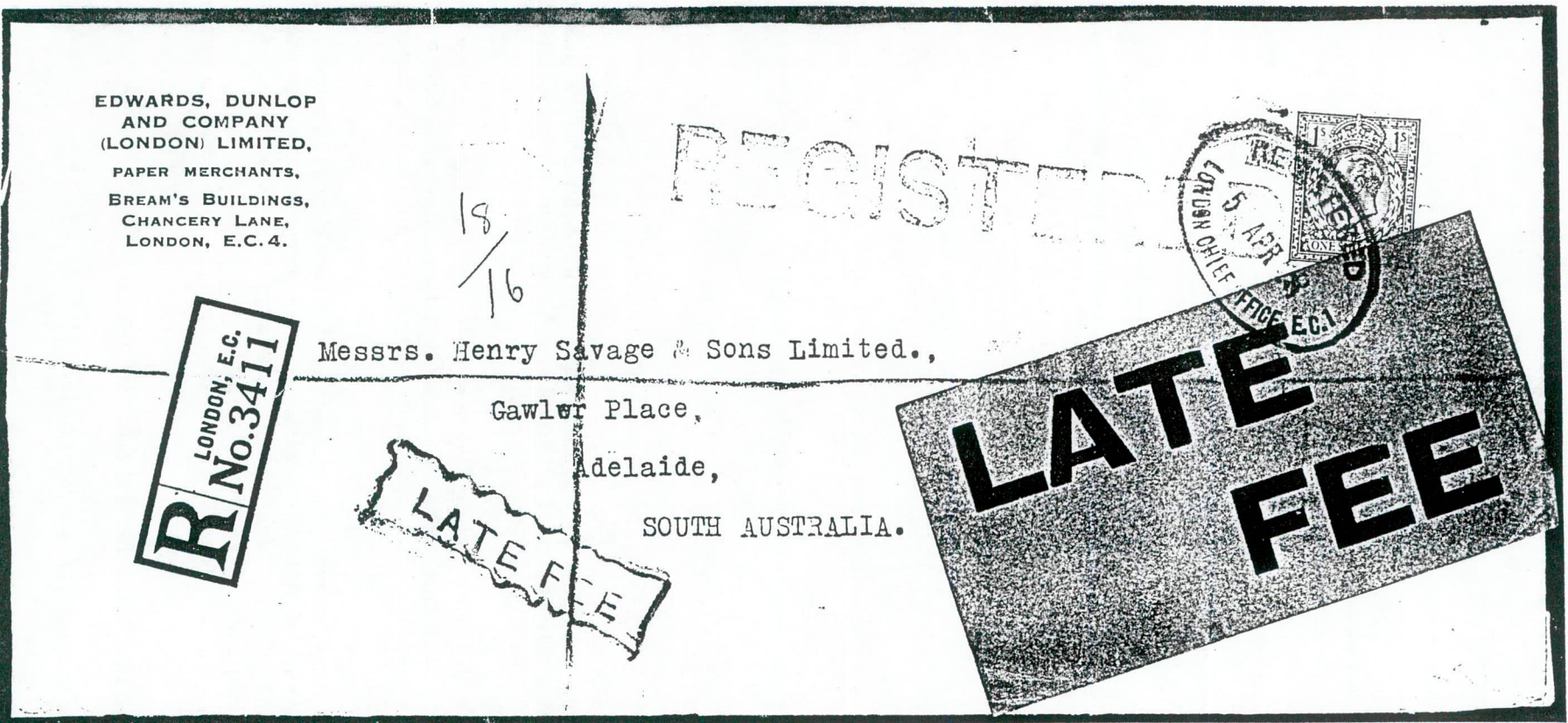
According to family members and friends he suffered a mild stroke last spring (1985). He went back to his stamp business after this but was again back in hospital a few weeks before his death. His business was an an autioneer, agent, appraiser, broker and experiser.

In terms of collecting, he was best known for his early London cancellations, and these were often ~~the~~ subject matter of his articles. He was very active as the secretary of the Collectors Club of New York and had been on the board of governors for more than ten years. He was an accredited judge of the American Philatelic Society. In 1982 he won the Dorothy Colby Award for the best short article.

He is survived by his wife Eleanor, whom he married in 1957.

Based on a report in Stamp Wholesaler for January 1986.

76/16



This quite superb cover combines two aspects of postal history much sort after nowadays, Late Fee and Registration.

However, just how many of the labels and other marks are of Post Office origin ?

We can safely agree with both the Registration label London EC No 3411 and the London Chief Office Registered stamp are P.O. but what of the others.

Although not illustrated by Mackay the curved edge rectangular framed LATE FEE is of a type usually associated with the P.O. and, besides which, that splendid label just clipping the adhesive is, it is suggested, put on by the company, as is the large REGISTERED stamp across the top.

But is the LATE FEE label a company sticker ? It has been suggested the Post Office would not accept it placed as it is and also part cancel it if it were not theirs.

This seems a little far fetched but it most surely is not in accordance with the regulations for a private label to be used in this fashion.

Whatever the case, and it is hoped a reader can provide a definitive answer a very nice item thanks to Michael Jackson.

Editor's Note :

Would any reader with a copy of the work by S.D. drop him a line, it is a gap on the research shelf which causes problems from time to time.

UNDERPAID INSURED PARCEL

Mention was made in a recent Notebook of the Dutch scheme for the prevention of delay in forwarding. To prove the arrangement has been around for some time, here Michael Jackson shows a Post Office form, duly completed. Note the print number which is for 1941, and that a revision. This particular item has a 12/47 dating.

433

IMPERIAL AND FOREIGN LETTER AND PARCEL POST.

OE 13
(Rev'd. 34709/41.)

Irregular Acceptance Unpaid or Underpaid of Parcels, Registered Air Mail Packets, Insured Letters and Boxes.

This Form is to be filled up at the Office of Exchange and sent (accompanied by form P 29H when that form is appropriate) in an envelope to the Head Postmaster of the District in which the packet was posted.

Description of Packet (e.g., Ordinary or Insured Parcel, Registered Air Mail Packet, Insured Letter, Insured Box) **INSURED 1st Parcel**

Nature of the Irregularity **Short Paid**

Accepting Office (in full) **Sturgeson, Victoria Rd. N.W.10**

Origin designation as shown on } **Willesden 3.**
origin or registration label

Date of Posting and Index Letter in Stamp **7-12-49** No. of Packet **1537**

Full address of Packet **D. J. Thomas %blikembalage Fabriek Thomaassen**
Drijver N.V. Diverden Holland. Route marking (if any)

Name and Address of Sender **Metal Box Co Ltd Technical Engineering Divn**
Sturgeson Rd. Willesden N.W.10

Weight { Over **11 lb** Value of postage stamps on cover **N/A** d.
Under **12 lb** Deficiency **6 s. 6** d.

Postage recorded on } **6 s. 6** d. Weight checked by **W.D.O.**
cover or despatch
note (parcels only)

Signature of Reporting Officer **W.D.O.**

The Head Postmaster **N.W.D.O.**

The packet described above has been put in order and sent forward. The cover bears no evidence that postage stamps have been detached from it.

This form should be given a registered number and after completion it should be filed locally with any other relative papers.


19 _____ Signature **Divisional Controller.**

L.P.R., Mount Pleasant Office of Exchange

Postage stamps for the amount of the deficiency to be affixed here and cancelled.

N.B.—Any officer who causes loss to the Revenue by his negligence is liable for the amount so lost.

E1845 Wt.31109-P.5495 150 Pads 12/47 Gp. 58 F. & C. Ltd., London



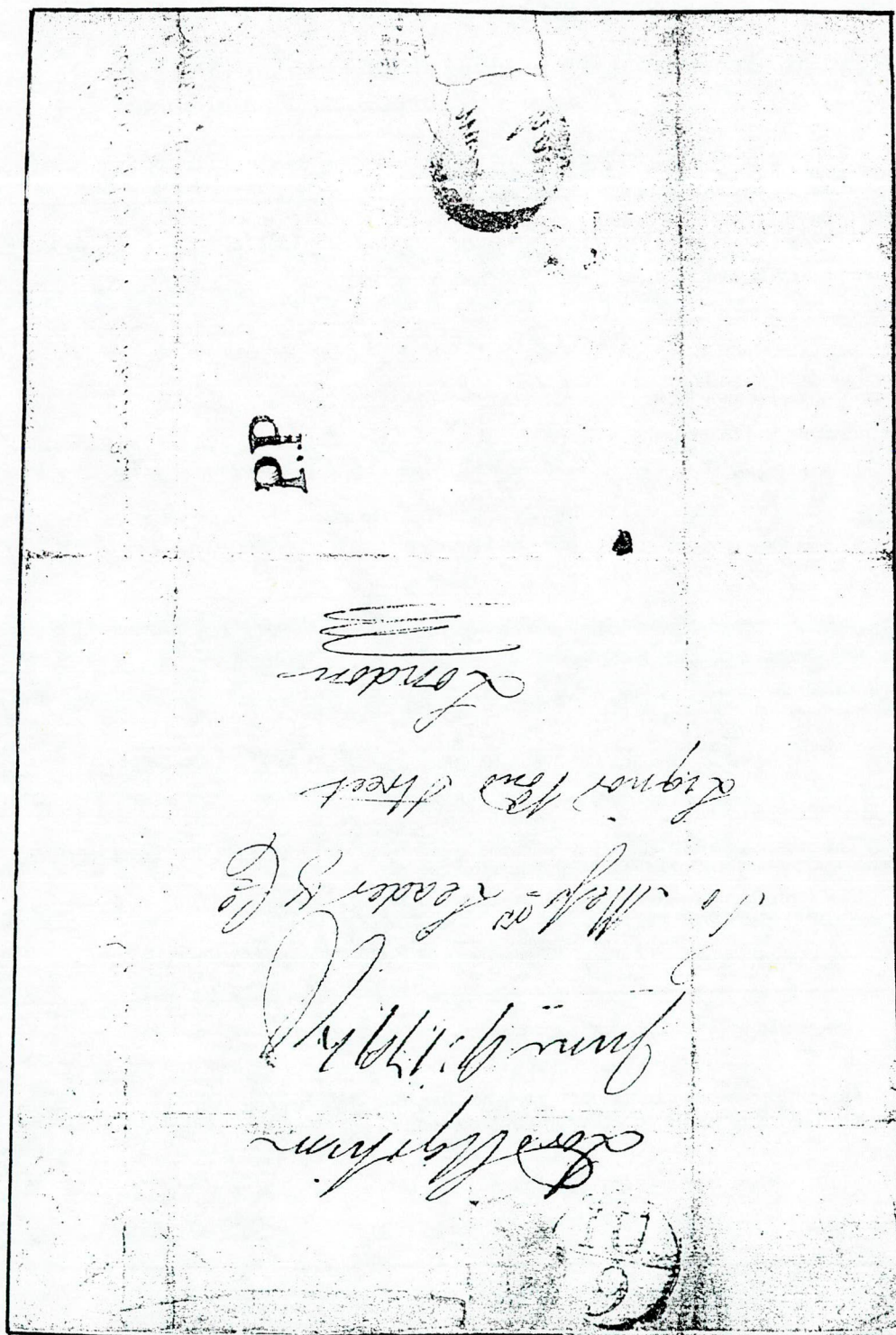
This example is dated 14 Dec 49. Although these items must be exceedingly scarce perhaps readers can offer earlier examples of this useful Post Office facility?

Letter sent from Rotterdam to London.

Until 1797 Bishop marks in black ink were used, but unlike the inland Office these had the month in the upper segment.



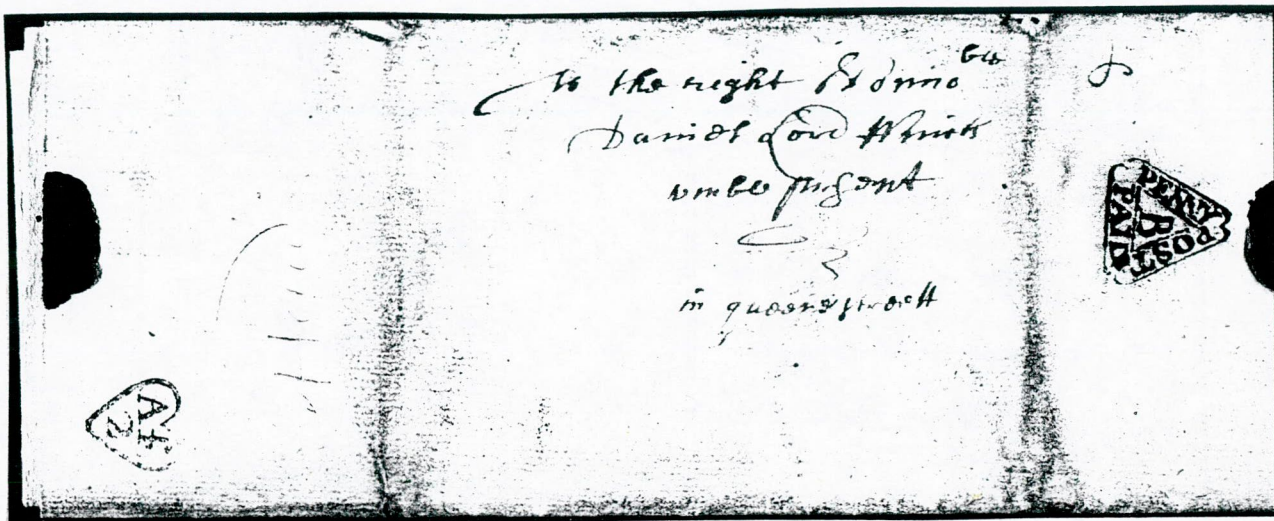
9th June 1794.



THE ORIGINAL DOCKWRA ' B ' FOR ?????? by A.J. Kirk

Some years ago I had the pleasure of talking to the late Tom Todd in respect of the ' B ' on the original and, as is mentioned in the London catalogue, he suggested the letter ' B ' might have indicated Borough, not Bishopsgate, there being no evidence an office existing in the latter location before the start of the Government operated service.

We know ' L ' indicated Lime Street, which was just off Bishopsgate and it does seem odd there should have been another main office in Bishopsgate using a different mark during the same period as the ' L '. At the same time one wonders why no mark with an ' S ' for Southwark is known, when that district was one of the main offices of the Dockwra post.



As far as is known there are only three examples of the ' B ' mark known, two in the Public Records Office and a third illustrated by Argyl Etkin in a recent brochure and reproduced above, with thanks. I have seen all these marks but, apart from one in the Records Office, the letters do not show where they were written. However, the one with some indication as to source shows it was written on board a ship moored in the Thames. The recently discovered item refers to property on the banks of the Thames. Is it not possible both these letters were brought up the river and landed in Southwark? If this supposition is right this could indicate the ' B ' means Borough, the well known short name for the Borough of Southwark.

It might be Mr. Todd was reight.

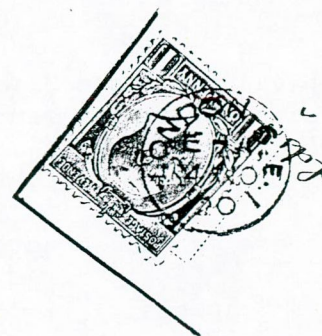
Anybody with any other idea ?

-o-o-e-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

LONDON SE DATESTAMP ODDITY

Appearing on a birthday pictorial card from a fond father to his daughter comes this curious cancellation. In case it is not too clear in reproduction it reads LONDON- S.E. round the upper rim, code E - A with 4 NO 20 as the date.

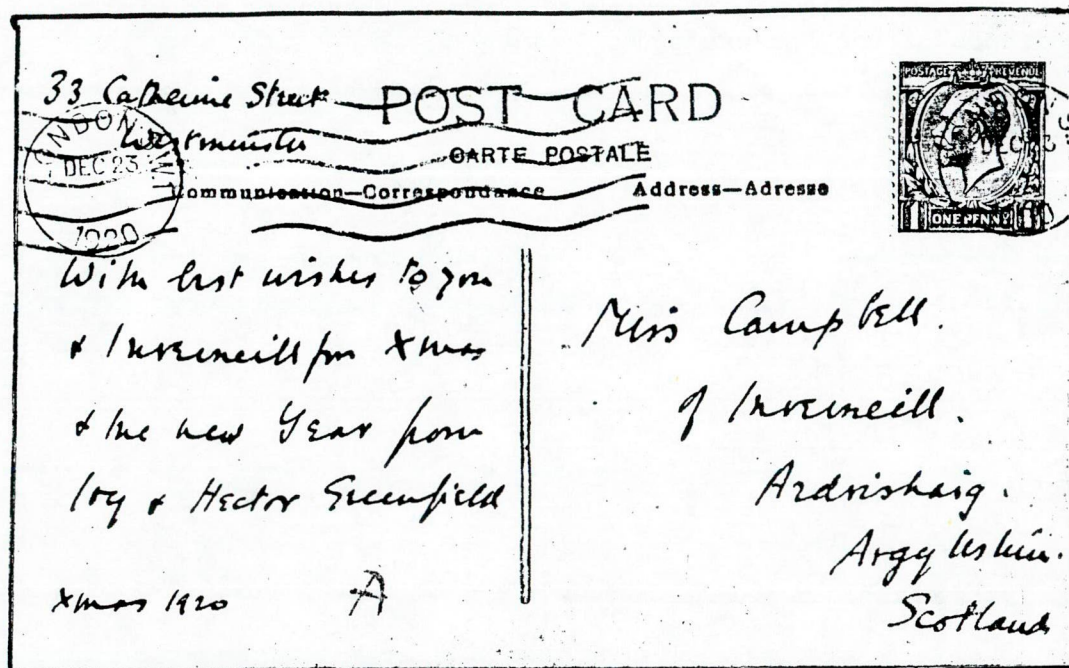
What is the extra ' 1 ' between the ' E ' and ' O ' ??



HEY AND DOLPHIN : A SCARCE EXAMPLE, by Douglas Collard

The post card shown here could turn up almost anywhere, in a card or stamp fair and probably be dismissed by nearly everyone as a not very presentable example of a very ordinary cancellation.

However, in this case they would all be wrong. It is what I consider to be a very scarce example of the Hey and Dolphin for London SW1. It is dated DEC 23 1920, part of the Christmas rush, though the sepia scene of a tree lined avenue in high summer which appears on the other side is hardly appropriate.



According to the British Postmark Society Quarterly Bulletin, Volume 21, 1978, p page 10..." A minute of 18th January, 1921 states that the machine at the S.W.D.O. was working from 23rd December to the end of the month using an old die previously used for experimental purposes but was then out of use some time. There was no 1921 die ". Jack Peach, in his book on UK machines, makes the point that the year was an integral part of the dater die and was not replaced.

In 1978 the earliest recorded example was for Christmas Eve but Derek Holliday has confirmed just one other first day known, which still makes this a rather useful F.D.C. to have in one's collection.

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

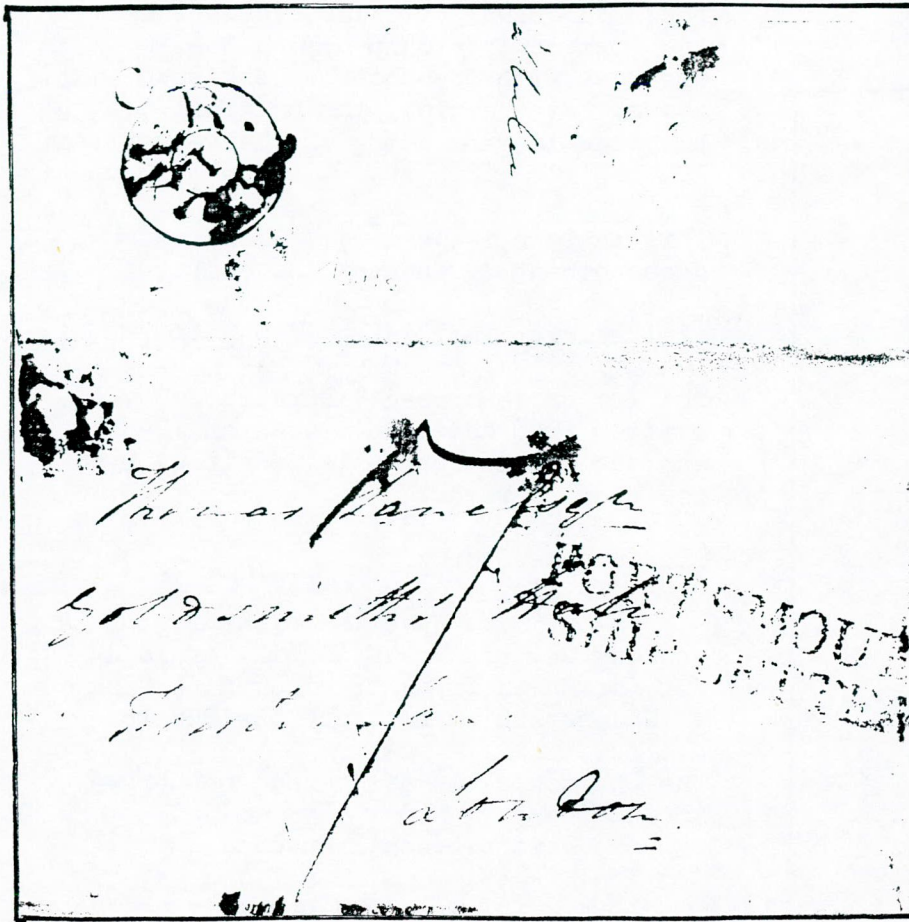
In his letter with the card, Douglas Collard has kindly offered to act as co-ordinator for the 'Dulwich' type cancellations featured in an article by Alf Kirk which offer the Editor is most pleased to accept.

Apart from those with a + at the base, there appear to have been examples with a code letter, for example Wood Green N. with a 'C' for 12.06.08 and a Putney SW 15 of 03.09.1917 with a '1' for the +. Apart from anything else, this is quite an early date for the postal district to appear.

Please do send a note of all the Dulwich types you have to Douglas. His address is

"Roselea", 1 Culgarth Avenue, Cockermouth, Cumbria, CA 13 9PL.

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

CROWNED ON A SUNDAY by M. Scott Archer

From January 1798 the letter codes allocated to different tables for sorting letters in London were included on the top of the datestamp (L.9, letters A to G). The very small letters were, on March 1st.1798, changed for larger ones (L.10) and these continued in use until July 1799. The code letter ' S ' (L.25) was used for the limited range of letters handled on a Sunday.

I recently acquired two letters from Madeira; the first was sent on 21 January 1798, re - received the Portsmouth Ship Letter mark S5 and in London an over-linked March 1st(L.10) Code C - ? first day of the large code letters. The letter was rated 7 - no ship letter charge, just the Captain's 1d plus 6d, Portsmouth to London. The second letter, sent from " off Madeira " on 15 March 1798 bears Portsmouth Ship Letter

S7; the London (L.10) of May 13 1798, code S, was applied as May 13 was a Sunday and ship letters were a category of mail entitled to Sunday handling. However, the initial rate on the letter was 6; this was amended to 7 to include a captain's penny. Then it was realised the letter contained an enclosure - the contents refer to the inclusion of a ' Bill of Lading ', so the 7 was deleted and 1/1 written just to the left of the deleted 6 ($2 \times 6d + 1d = 1/1d$).

To authenticate this change, a bright red Inspector's Crown was struck over the deleted 7. In 1798 these crown stamps were issued with the sorting table codes A to G (L.166) but this is with an ' S ', as is the date stamp (L.25).

As far as I am aware this is the first report of the ' S on Crown ' version of L.166. The scarcity of all the table coded Inspectors' stamps may be due to the introduction in 1800 of the more commonly found uncoded type (L.168).

The reproduction on the next page really does not do justice to this discovery. The red S Crown is quite outstanding ' in the flesh ' and is an item I am very happy to have in my collection.

The ' L ' references are to the Willcocks and Jay London catalogue.

Crowned on a Sunday.....

On the reverse is the Sunday date stamp for May 13 1798, a little smudged but clear enough.

The S on Crown partially overstrikes the Portsmouth / Ship LRE on the obverse, with the postal clerk's second attempt at charging, the original 6d plus the 1d generating the large written 7.

This in turn is deleted: all of which does nothing to enhance the clarity.

At the lower left is the final 1/1.

The letter, endorsed " Duplicate " was written from Madeira 15th. March, 1798 and the double charge is confirmed by the opening words.

Thomas Lane Esqr.

Sir,

We have the pleasure to enclose Captain Vicary's bill of loading for seven pipes of wine and a Cask of Malmsey shipt on board the Phaeton

.....
The Phaeton calls at Grenada on her way to Jamaica

NewtonGordon & Murdock

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-

Editor's Note

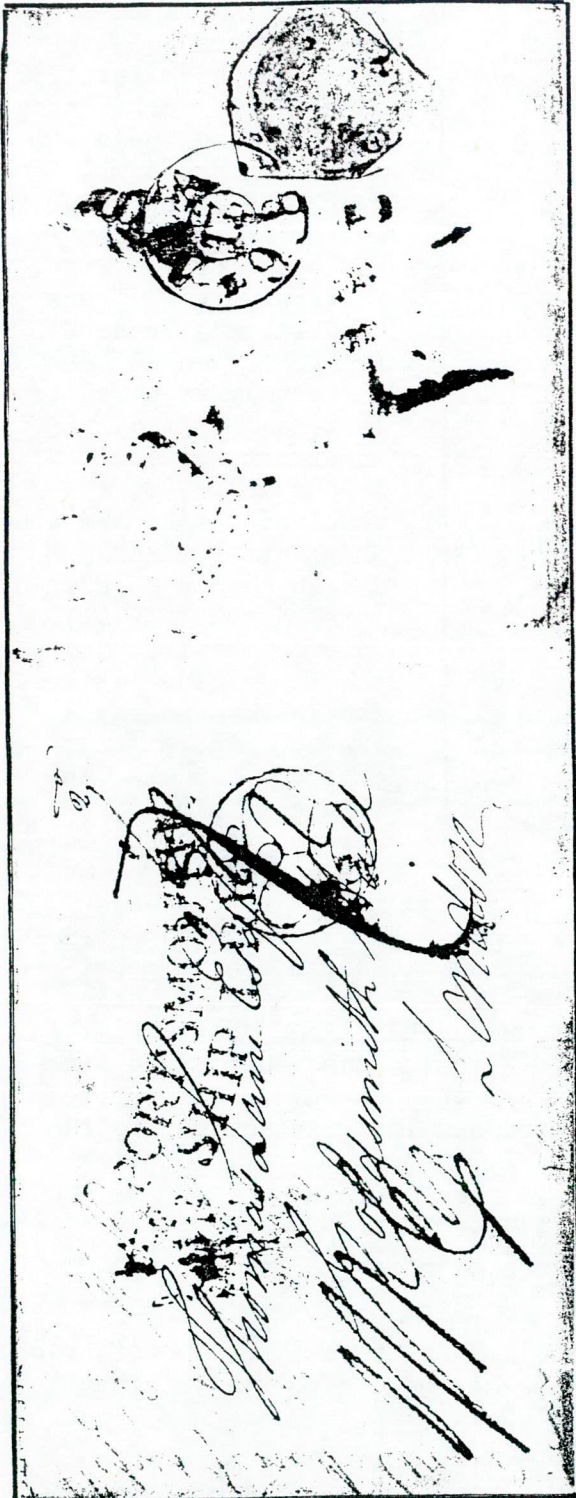
When I received this contribution I called to mind a comment seen in the journal of a long established body to the effect LPHG would have difficulty in finding something fresh to write about.

From time to time, when the stock of articles runs nearly dry, I wonder if it might be true, then something quite remarkable appears.

There are many gaps in the record and although the store of material as yet to be seen by collectors must be slight a great many are already in the hands of collectors who have no idea what they have. It comes to light only when their collections come onto the market through a dealer who really knows his business.

I trust no members fail to record their rarities.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-



GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTICES.....

We reproduce another PO notice from a newspaper, such a valuable source of information for postal historians. There must be many of these newspapers in readers hands, purchased for the interest of the notices. Sometimes the paper is worn or faded it does not photocopy very well and this means the owner will have to type or write it out for reproduction in Notebook.

Please put pen to paper or key to ribbon if you do have any such notices with a link to London postal history.

GENERAL POST OFFICE, Aug 31, 1799

NOTICE is hereby given, That on and after the 10th of September, their Lordships the POSTMASTER-GENERAL will proceed to carry into execution the purpose of an Act, intituled " An Act for the more secure conveyance of Ship Letters, and for granting to his Majesty certain rates of Postage thereon; "

by which it is enacted,

" That it shall and may be lawful for his Majesty's Postmaster-General, and his Deputies, in his and their discretion, to collect and receive Letters and Packets of Letters, directed within his Majesty's dominions, and also to any of the kingdoms and countries beyond the seas, and to forward the same by any ships or vessels that he in his discretion shall think fit, (although not packet boats).

" And also that it shall be lawful for such Postmaster-General, and his Deputies, to demand and take for every letter and packet which shall be delivered to him or his Deputies for conveyance in the manner before specified, a sum not less than one half part of the duties payable by law for such letters and packets if the same were conveyed by packet boats. And in cases where no rate of postage is already established, then to demand and take for such letters and packets, rates as near as the same can be ascertained, equal to one half of what is now paid for letters sent beyond the seas.

" And that it shall be lawful for such Postmaster-General to demand and take for every letter and packet which shall be brought by ships and vessels (other than packet boats) from places within his Majesty's dominions and from all countries beyond the seas into Great Britain, to be conveyed by Inland Postage or carriage, Fourpence for every single letter, and so in proportion for packets, in addition to and inland or internal postage which may arise upon the inland conveyance of such letters and packets.

" And for the encouragement of the Masters of such ship or vessels, it shall be lawful for the Postmaster-General to allow all such Masters the sum of Twopence a letter or packet upon all such letters and packets as they shall have or take on board such vessel or vessels, provided such letters and packets shall have been delivered to them from the Post Office ; - And in like manner on their arrival from parts beyond the seas, on their delivering unto the Deputy or Deputies of the Postmaster-General for such place or post town at which they shall arrive, it shall be lawful to pay such Masters of ships and vessels Twopence a letter or packet, for all such letters and packets as they shall have on board, provided that such letters and packets shall have been regularly delivered unto the Masters by the Deputies of the Postmaster-General, or any other persons to be authorized by him at the place or post town from whence such ships or vessels have sailed or departed. "

An Office, to be called a SHIP LETTER OFFICE, will therefore be opened at the GENERAL POST OFFICE, on the 10th. September, where attendance will be given from 10 in the morning till 6 in the evening, (Sundays excepted) to receive such letters as may be brought for conveyance under this Act, and to give all necessary information to the Public. Letters will also be received and bags made up at the following Coffee-Houses : LLOYD'S - JAMAICA - NEW ENGLAND

By Command of his Majesty's Postmaster-General FRANCIS FREELING, Sec.

The Post Office

Postal Headquarters

76/24

Post Office Archives

Date

Freeling House
23 Glasshill Street
LONDON
SE1 0BQ

Your reference

Our reference

Telephone 01-261 1145

Dear Secretary

POST OFFICE RESEARCH STUDENTSHIP

I thought your members would like to know that in 1985 the Post Office Board decided that it would like to set up a Post Office Research Studentship to mark the 350th anniversary of the Post Office; and that, to mark the connection between University College London and Dr Martin Dauntton, author of the Post Office's recent official history "Royal Mail : the Post Office since 1840", it would like to base this Studentship on UCL.

The intention is to sponsor post-graduate research into Post Office history for a period of about 26 years, when the results of individual Research Studentship projects can be utilised for a new, updated definitive history planned for c 2016; and when records unavailable to Dr Dauntton under the '30 year rule' will be available to the author of the new commissioned work.

The Post Office sees the objectives of the Studentship as being to:

- a) make the Post Office's contributions in the fields of social and economic history better known in the academic world and to historians generally and to promote a greater knowledge of its history on the part of the public.
- b) consider not only the Post Office's history within Great Britain but also further afield.
- c) consider all aspects of the Post Office's history since 1635 except the development of telecommunications and the girobank service, except where necessary to include these as a relevant part of a particular study, since these themes are likely to become the subject of commissioned research elsewhere.

Invitations to post-graduates are currently being sent out by UCL and further information on the selected student and his or her chosen subject for research will be sent to you as soon as this is available.

Yours sincerely

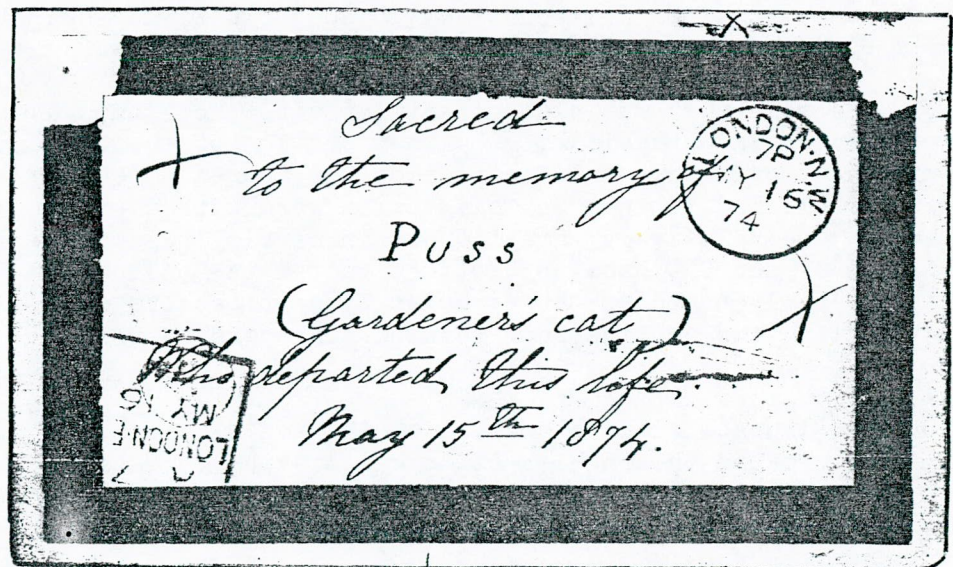
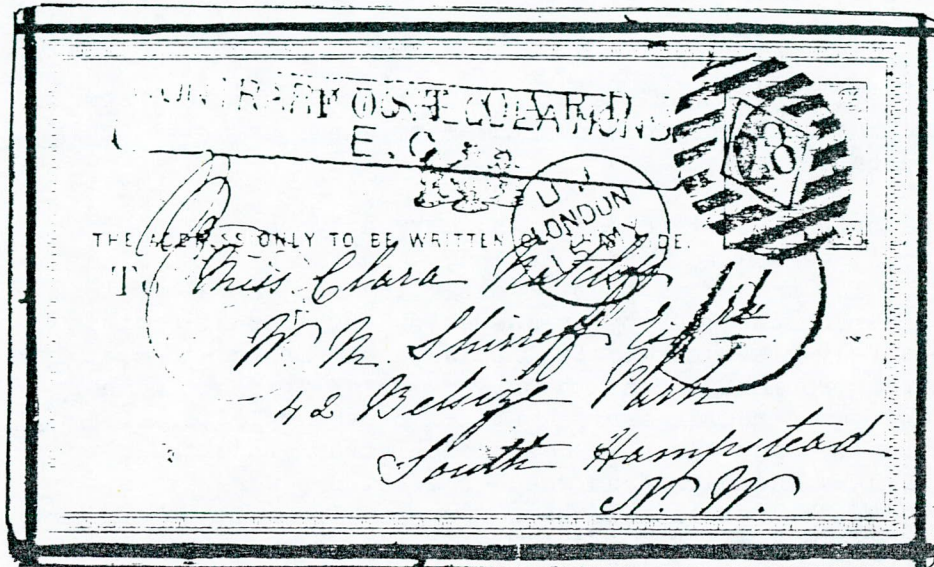
Jan Kungu
Archivist



CONTRARY TO REGULATIONS, by P. Andrews

This item was found at a local fair. It shows a marked lack of animal welfare concern by the Post Office! On the obverse is a fresh dating for the 'H' rating Inland duplex, a fair example of the boxed CONTRARY TO REGULATIONS / E.C. and the encircled 1d charge mark. The black borders appear to be ink ink.

On the reverse is what would seem to be the offending element of the sad card. The black strips for the mourning card are stuck on paper strips. The two date stamps are square framed London EC struck in red signalling the EC office handling of the item, with the London NW, struck in black, the arrival.



There is a very faint London EC date stamp on the obverse to stress the routing of the card, where the hard hearted post office clerk decided the rules had to be applied despite the message. One wonders if the addressee was amused by the combination on the messages from the sender and the Post Office.

INSPECTORS' MARKS IN THE TWOPENNY POST

A compilation from an exchange of correspondence with John Harrison and the Editor relating to the item on page 12 of Notebook 73.

The item illustrated is of special interest to me because, as you know, I have done a great deal of research into the London " Inspectors' marks " as part of my " London Provincial Stamps " study which has even appeared in Notebook !!
(Number 54 - Ed.)

After a great churning of the ' little grey cells ' I have to conclude there is a 99% certainty this item is the result of someone having cut what they thought to be an appropriate ' inspectors ' type stamp from a cork and applied it to the face of an otherwise low value item to give it some ' value ' to an unsuspecting collector.

One way of checking is to establish whether the item came from an original source or whether it has been ' around '. Unless discovered as original material, this tends to confirm the mark to be a forgery.

This letter is of provincial origin, it is clearly and correctly rated 11d, the charge for a single sheet from Dawlish to London in 1837. The undated Dawlish handstamp is, you say, very faint and it is just possible the sorting clerk took the item out of normal routine for checking by an Inspector but I consider this to be so unlikely as to be safely discounted. It should be remembered that, prior to 1840, letters arriving from provincial post towns were normally dealt with by the same desks (which is why the circular arrival stamps of these letters from any particular town also normally show the same desk code letter) and the clerks working there would have known by the bags from which the letters were taken where they came from. Further, they would have been very familiar with the marks of the towns with which they dealt day after day. These had, by and large, been unchanged for twentyfive years. In my opinion this letter went through the system in the normal way, was struck with the circular ' A ' code arrival mark and thence to the Twopenny Post for delivery. No inspector's mark was applied or needed. It was added by some unscrupulous person in very recent times.

Whoever added this mark was also unfamiliar with the stamps used in London on letters arriving in or dealt with by that section of the GPO handling incoming mail from the provinces. When inspection was deemed necessary and later found to be in order, cleared letters on this section were marked with the four pointed star stamp. The relatively rare ' cross in circle ' was the equivalent used by that section of the GPO handling letters posted in London only. This apparent forgery is clearly based on the circular type inspectors mark of the ' posted in London ' section and not the four pointed star version used on mail from the provinces.

In the almost inconceivable situation of the postal clerk or inspector requiring to improvise because the regular stamp was missing (imagine the uproar that would cause) it would almost certainly have been cut from the cork in the shape of the misplaced device, the shape being a signal to postal officials as much as a written note.

(Editor's note : meanwhile a second example had been sent in by James Grimwood-Taylor. This appears on a Free front from Bath, also addressed to St. James.)

The Free front alters the position I take only slightly. It is worth quoting from James MacKay who illustrates what looks very much like the stamp at fig 3541 on page 197. Although he writes of the post 1840 period, it does serve to explain why one can find a cover with what might be called an Inspector's mark with no apparent reason for it. On page 195 we read:

" The majority of the examiners' marks used after 1840 comprised a cross in a circle. Figures 3539-40 were, in fact, issued to Liverpool...and were probably intended for the unobtrusive marking of letters subjected to a snap inspection.

INSPECTORS' MARKS IN THE TWOPENNY POST.....

This has been the case with the later marks of the genre. It would be wrong to assign any specific reason for the use of these stamps (a series of cross marks) since they have, at various times, been employed for a wide variety of purposes.



Because some examples have been seen on letters which were obviously missorted it must not be assumed they were exclusively used for this purpose, or they denote delay in the post, or letters requiring surcharge. It may often have been the case that letters subjected to the snap inspection were found to be underpaid and were subsequently surcharged but there is no direct and obvious link between the one and the other. Figure 3547, for example, caused considerable speculation among students of Tristan da Cunha's postal history because it was found on the back of an envelope emanating from that island in 1929 and all manner of fanciful theories were advanced to explain its presence. It is now known, however, that a snap inspection of Tristan mail was sometimes ordered in London when mail arrived from the South Atlantic, in view of the well-publicised intentions of certain misguided individuals to overprint British stamps in a bid to force the Colonial Office into sanctioning the issue of distinctive stamps for the island. But this examiner's mark was not used exclusively on Tristan mail arriving in London by any means."



All through the text makes it clear the marks are post 1840. If one refers to the catalogues from Robson Lowe, Martin Willcocks or Barrie Jay show this as a pre-adhesive mark and, in my opinion, they are correct in leaving it out. It will need rather more than these two ' finds ' to warrant its inclusion. There might be a case for including it under ' Unclassified or Controversial Marks of London ' in the Jay catalogue but, again, I would prefer to see more examples even before taking that step.

I must admit to some doubts about the fake theory in light of the second example but I would still hold this is the correct designation for this mark appearing on these pre-adhesive covers. That they are both addressed to ' St. James, London ' is interesting, the odds on the same address appearing on two such disparate items are very great. Purely speculation but perhaps the improver/faker though there could be some local link but since the two would never have gone through the local office, he would have been mistaking in attempting to ' prove ' they belonged there.

It seems reasonable for me to propose that having examined many thousands of letters without seeing the mark does not mean it did not exist. We are all very much aware of authenticated items coming to light despite all the studies and experts in the field. Noevertheless it seems reasonable to doubt the correctness of such an easily manufactured item.

As MacKay indicates and I have already mentioned, the Post Office had a very well

Inspectors' Marks in the Twopenny Post.....

defined pattern of use with particular marks. The letters would be taken out of the system for inspection, found to be in order and replaced. The marks served to indicate both the inspection and explained any delay. Where there were additional charges to be made then the Crown stamp would be applied.

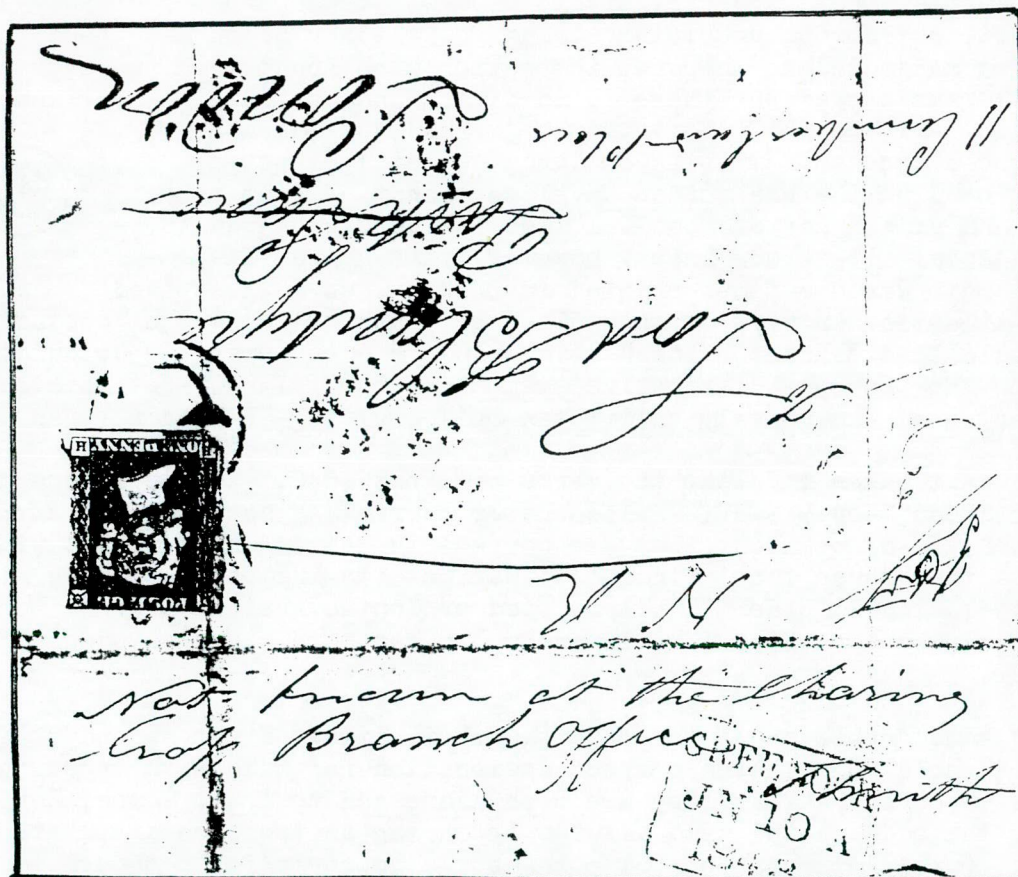
The mark appearing on the Free seems quite wrong. Free's would not need inspection marks in the normal course. All such letters were subjected to close scrutiny before being allowed to pass as free and receive the authorising mark of the FREE handstamp. Of course one can find the occasional disallowed Free after authorisation and those few I have seen merely had the FREE stamp scored through, in ink, and a ms note sometimes added by way of explanation but never an inspector's mark.

In summary we now have two examples recorded of this out of time cross mark which I believe to be a fake in its use pre adhesive. At best it might merit a listing as an Unclassified type but only when some more are recorded. If nothing else I hope all this has made it clear why one can find these marks, genuinely used, on covers which show no apparent reason for inspection, the spot check.

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

DISTRICT OFFICE INITIALS from Chris Pearce

Going back a long way to Notebook 55, page 15, was the query "is the CX in manuscript Charing Cross", to which the item illustrated here would seem to say 'yes'.



Despatched from Greenock to Park Lane it gets a redirection to Cumberland Place. In the course of its travels there were two Twopenny Post time stamps applied to the reverse, both for June 12, 1843 (yes, no longer 2d Post but the stamps began life as such). One is for 12 noon, the other for 2 p.m. What is significant is the annotation "Not known at the Charing Cross Branch Office/ F. Smith", the same gentleman involved with the earlier item. This would seem to provide enough evidence to settle the matter.

The 'NR' is, presumably for North Row ???

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

TWOPENNY POST : NEW DISCOVERIES, a response from Peter Bathe

The August 1985 issue of Notebook with the contribution from Derek Holliday with a Woolwich item found a new hole in my collection of that place. There was no date for the piece and one should make it clear the listing in Jay indeed has only two Woolwich marks CO and WO, but these are for stamps with the initials-first format. There was another office, EO, whose marks are only known in the initials-last format. In fact CO used both formats at various times. Unfortunately the otherwise excellent Jay catalogue doesn't differentiate as to which marks appear as Woolwich C.O and which as C.O Woolwich, or whether the same type of mark is found with both formats at different times.

I think it is the EO office which used the " ?R " mark. This, I believe, could be NR for New Road, which is where the East Office at Woolwich started life in 1794. Strangely enough, the Penny Post marks of 1797-99 used the initials EO according to Jay and I have seen a Twopenny Post mark (L499 Two-Penny/POST/Woolwich E,0) for 11 March 1802 but no other EO marks are recorded before 1809.

A lot depends on the date of Derek's find. The type L501 marks, which the " ?R " is, tended replace the type L499, I would expect the cover to be post - March 1802, but only just.

On September 13, 1804, Johnson reported: " Having received information that the Letter Receiver at the Warren Gate Office at Woolwich had quitted his house and that all the Officers and corresponding people who used to reside in the Warren having removed to the New Buildings at the Barracks an office nearer to the Barracks field would be more convenient....I beg to recommend...that the East Office at Woolwich may be removed from the Warren Gate which it now is to Mr. Dale's circulating library near the Barrack Field." Dale's office was in Green's End.

If Derek's cover is dated between March 1802 and September 1804, then it's probably New Road. If not, I will have to think again but there is no record of another office in Woolwich - either at Post Office Records or locally at Woolwich.

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POSTMARKS FROM A PRISON (a cautionary tale) by A.J. Kirk

In Notebook 20, page 2 is shown a sketch map of the area surrounding The King's Bench Prison. This was taken from an article by the late W.G. Stitt-Dibden in Stamp Magazine, March 1957. The map would appear to have come from " Plan of the Rules of the King's Bench Prison 1822 ". I have seen the same sketch map in two collections, including my own.

Looking at it recently I spotted an error which does not appear to have been seen before. The positions of Newington Road and the Marshalsea Prison have been transposed. What is shown as Newington Road is, in fact, Blackman Street and the letter ' C ', indicating the Marshalsea, should have been in Borough High Street, which was a continuation of Blackman Street.

I note also in S.D.'s article he says that with the building of Southwark Bridge Road, Belvedere Place disappeared for ever. This is not so as there is to this day a Belvedere Place in the same location as previously.

Thus we see how important it is for those who carry out research to make sure those who wrote in the past were correct in their assumptions.

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

HAVE YOU THE LONDON CATALOGUE ?

We are afraid you have missed the special price for LPHG members but at that for normal mortals of £15, plus 80 pence post and packing, it is marvellous value - you cannot lose on good books and catalogues. One cover found could pay for it. In addition, Volume 1 (published at £6) has been seen selling at £16 - if you can find one, after a year out of print.

Barrie has done a wonderful job listing every handstamp known up to 1840 - 43, a task which could never be done now with material more widely scattered. He also included a most helpful explanatory section and an accurate price guide throughout over two hundred pages. It is estimated that in small tabulation sections alone there would be 30,000 dates if it filled in such detail. The price per page is less than catalogue 2, despite rising costs.

Send your order with £15.80 to :

Vale Stamps, 21 Tranquil Vale, Blackheath, SE30BU.

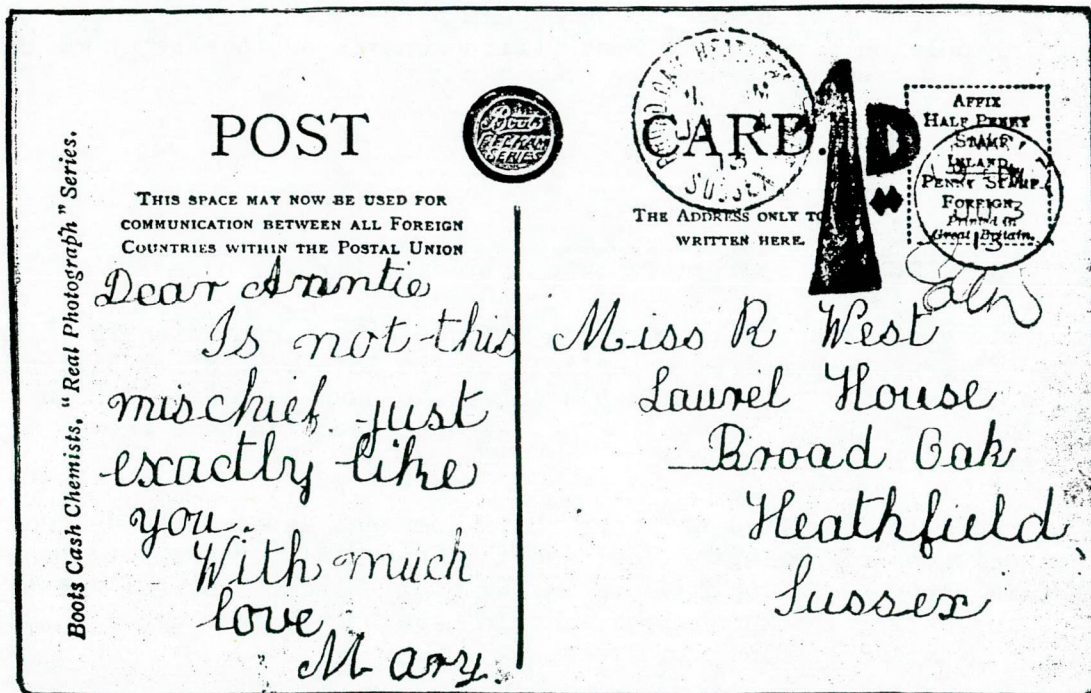
n.b.

We still have available : England's Postal History at £11 + £1.20
County Catalogue 2 at £9.75 + 50 pence

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A POSTAGE DUE MARK QUERY from A.J. Kirk

Can any reader give any information on the postage due mark shown here ? The c.d.s. on the left is for Broad Oak, Heathfield, Sussex, 4th. June, 1913. This overstrikes



the due mark, from which I presume the mark cannot be for Heathfield. Unfortunately the thimble mark on the right, the office of posting, is illegible as to the name, though the date of the 3rd June can be seen. There is a "WS" at the top of the mark, with three other letters each side, a total of eight. The postage due '1' is so crude it would appear to be almost home made. I have been unable to find any reference to it in the Post Office Date Impression Books.

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76/31

THE LONDON EVENING-POST : G.P.O. Notice

ONE HUNDRED POUNDS REWARD

GENERAL POST OFFICE

Friday, Dec.16, 1796

THE General Penny Post-Office, in Gerrard-ftreet, Soho, having been burglariously broke open on Thurfdlay Night, the 8th Infant, and an iron cheft, containing a confiderable fum in money, and Bank Notes, taken away.

Whoever fhall apprehend the Perfon or Perfons concerned in the faid Burglary and Robbery, will be entitled to a Reward of

ONE HUNDRED POUNDS,

payable upon Conviction, over and above the Reward given by Act of Parliament.

If an Accomplice will furrender himfelf and make difcovery, whereby one or more of the Perfons concerned may be apprehended and convicted, he will be entitled to the faid Reward of ONE HUNDRED POUNDS, and will alfo receive his Majefty's moft gracious Pardon.

By Command of the Poftmafter-General,
ANTHONY TODD, Sec.

The cheft has been found in the New River, near Sadler's Wells.

The under-defcribed Bank Notes were taken away:

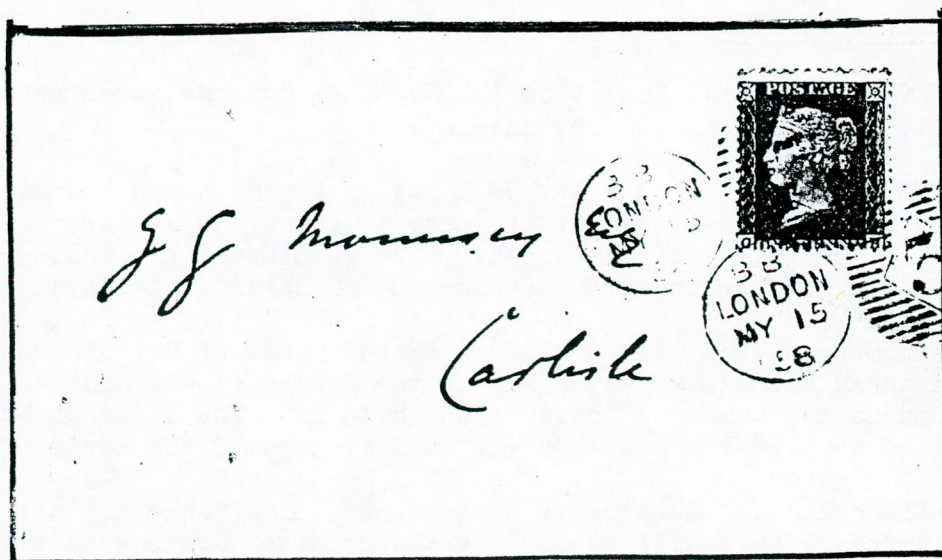
£	No	
50	511	October 6th, 1796
20	2161	Nov.24th, 1796, wrote on F. Prior, P.P.O.
5	9728	Nov. 3d, 1796
5	4588	Nov.18th, 1796, ----- F. Prior, P.P.O.
5	3318	Oct.11th, 1796, ----- F. Prior, P.P.O.
5	8189	June 23d, 1796, ----- F. Prior, P.P.O.
5	4186	Aug. 22d, 1796, ----- F. Prior, P.P.O.

All the above Bills were endorfed --- A. Jones

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FOR SALE.....

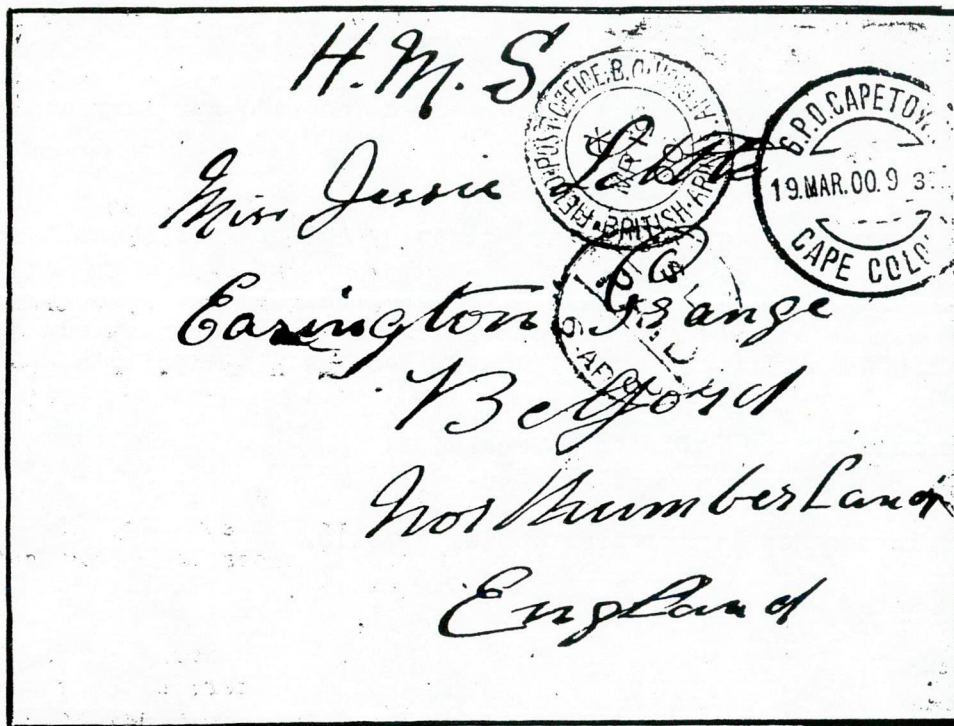
An attractive front with a good example of the PHT6B with code BB and listed at £50 in the Handbook (published 1981)



Best offer over £10 received within three weeks will secure !!

THE LONDON S.L. PAID STAMP

Some time ago Robert Johnson posed the question ' Did the S.L. stand for ' Soldier's Letter ' ? The answer was, unhappily, a resounding ' NO '. However, there is no doubt more to this stamp than meets the eye, or at least one person is beavering away.



The item shown here comes from Andrew Pavey. It is dated 1900 and as can be seen carries the three date stamps in a neat group.

The Field Post Office stamp and the Cape Town transit would seem to be fairly standard for this period (perhaps a specialist can comment further).

The S.L. stamp is dated 6 April, the mail having passed through Cape Town on 19 March.

It may be recalled that the Post Office had levied postage dues at one time

on mail from those serving in the war but eventually the regulations were changed to allow mail to pass without prepayment or charge, a concession illustrated by this item.

Would members with examples of the S.L. date stamp please write the Andrew Pavey at 10 Sullivan Road, Broadfields, Exeter, Devon EX2 5RD.

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

MAIL IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

From the pages of the Official Report of the House of Commons comes news on the handling of mail, post marking and new envelopes:

MR PETER BRUINVELS asked the Lord Privy Seal how many post boxes are cleared by the staff of the House of Commons Post Offices; if he will give separately the numbers (a) within the Palace of Westminster, (b) within the precincts of the House of Commons and (c) within outbuildings; and if he will make a statement.

MR BIFFEN : The number of post boxes cleared by the House of Commons Post Office staff is 28 and these are all situated within the Palace of Westminster. Within the House of Commons the number of boxes cleared is 21. The House of Commons Post Office staff clear no post boxes within the outbuildings of the House of Commons.

MR PETER BRUINVELS asked the Lord Privy Seal if he will arrange for all mail posted in parliamentary outbuildings used by the House of Commons to receive a House of Commons postmark; and if he will make a statement.

Mail in the House of Commons.....

MR BIFFEN : I am advised that it is not practicable for mail posted in the parliamentary outbuildings to be brought into the House of Commons in order to receive a House of Commons postmark.

MR PETER BRUINVELS asked the Lord Privy Seal how many items of mail were handled (a) inwards and (b) outwards by the House of Commons Post Office; and what information he has as to the amount of mail originating in parliamentary outbuildings used by the House of Commons taken direct to other offices in London SW, in each of the last three years for which figures are available.

MR BIFFEN: (a) Approximately 5 million items of inward mail are delivered to the House of Commons annually and are handled by the House of Commons Post Office. (b) Approximately 3.5 million outward items, all posted within the Palace of Westminster, are handled by the House of Commons Post Office annually. (c) Approximately 2 million items of outward mail in the Palace outbuildings are cleared direct to the south-west mechanised letter office at Nine Elms annually. Figures for each of the last three years could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

(Written Answers 17 March, 1986)

MR PETER BRUINVELS asked the Lord Privy Seal if, pursuant to his answer of 17 March to the hon. Member for Leicester, East, he will state the reasons why it is not practicable for mail posted in the parliamentary outbuildings to be brought into the House for postmarking; and if he will make a statement.

MR BIFFEN : I am advised that the House of Commons Post Office can deal efficiently with the amount of mail posted within the Palace of Westminster; but the level of Post Office accommodation within the House is such that additional mail from the outbuildings could not be handled. The passage of mail from the outbuildings direct to the south-west mechanised letter office has proved a satisfactory service over a number of years. However I am aware that this mail does not receive the House of Commons postmark.

(Written Answers 20 March, 1986)

South-West Mechanised Letter Office -

MR PETER BRUINVELS asked the Lord Privy Seal, pursuant to the answer of 20 March to the hon. Member for Leicester, East, Official Report, column 294, if he will initiate discussions about the installation of a House of Commons postmark facility under secure arrangements, at the south-west mechanised letter office; and if he will make a statement.

MR BIFFEN : I shall reply as soon as possible.

(Written Answers 26 March, 1986)

MR BIFFEN (pursuant to his reply, 26 March, 1986); I have asked that this matter be referred to the Accommodation and Administration Sub-Committee of the Services Committee.

(Written Answers 15 April, 1986)

SELF-SEALING ENVELOPES.....

MR TEDDY TAYLOR asked the Lord Privy Seal what steps he is taking to provide hon. Members with self-sealing envelopes; and if he will make a statement.

MR BIFFEN : I understand that the Accommodation and Administration Sub-Committee of the Services Committee approved the permanent introduction of three types of self-seal white post paid envelopes at their meeting on 19 May. An order has been sent to Her Majesty's Stationery Office and deliveries are expected within eight weeks.

PACKET SECRETARY'S REPORT 1985/86

Only 8 packets were completed during the year and sales dropped by some £240. In addition, percentage sales were lower than in previous years. The nett income this year is only nominal due to two factors. Firstly my own move which necessitated reprinting of stationery and secondly the insurance premium increasing from £15.25 to £25. The latter was inevitable, as we had enjoyed a low premium for some years. However, members are now contributing towards the charge and most should be recovered during the year.

The current year shows an improvement as five packets are already on circuit and two are waiting to go out. Contributors are always required to keep up the flow of packets.

Problems have arisen during the year through members retaining packets for too long and consequently stacking has occurred. In some instances three packets have been arriving at the same address and this has caused considerable administrative problems trying to re-route packets. In future any member found to be the culprit will be removed from the list. It is essential holiday dates are advised well in advance to avoid non-deliveries.

Brian T. Smith

Packet Income and Expenditure Account
For the Year Ended 30 April, 1986

<u>INCOME</u>	Packet Sales - Commission on £657;27		£ 78.82
Less <u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
	Secretary's expenses (incl. 99p short)	15.90	
	Printing	30.36	
	Insurance	25;00	
	less recovered	1.90	23.10
			<u>69.36</u>
<u>NETT INCOME</u>			<u>£ 9.46</u>