

London Postal History Group

NOTEBOOK

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In This Issue

The Quartered Circle Stamps Issue to the Foreign Branch 1864 - 1900

by Michael Scott-Archer

[c] 1991 LPHG and Michael Scott-Archer

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EDITORIAL

This issue is devoted to the superb collection formed by Michael Scott-Archer on the "Quartered Circle Stamps" to be found on mail to and from overseas.

Many of the marks are, in collectors jargon "difficult" and the opportunity so generously afforded to see such a collection is greatly appreciated.

The whole collection is for sale at £750
which affords readers an opportunity to acquire
an outstanding study with information derived from many years study.

THE QUARTERED CIRCLE STAMPS ISSUED TO THE FOREIGN BRANCH
1864 - 1900

Four sets of stamps were issued at eight to twelve year intervals. The first two sets had interchangeable letters : "L", "D", "N" [or "Z"], though "D" is unrecorded with Set 2. Set 3 only used "L", as far is known, and this letter may have been fixed. Set 4 had two stamps, "I" and "H", both fixed.

These stamps had two distinct uses : as *bagging* stamps for two ports, Devonport and Liverpool and as *transit* stamps on foreign mail arriving unpaid, or underpaid. By 1864 the bulk of incoming mail arrived fully prepaid, so the use of these stamps with "N" [or "Z"] code is relatively uncommon and I have only one example of type 2, this in 1874.

This display illustrates all recorded types of use - some are uncommon. Only two of "I" type 4, only one of "N" type 2 and "H" type 4 are known. Two blank centres of type 2 exist - possibly omitted in error. "D" and "L" are less common in red than in black, "N/Z" are recorded only in red "H", "I" and blank seen only in black.

About 10% of covers to Liverpool for America or Madeira/West Africa have the *Bagging Stamp*. Possibly it was struck only on the back on the bundle, accompanied - after about 1870 - by the PLO Liverpool Ds [type 51 Robertson]. The "D" stamp on Devonport letters was joined by the dated cape packet/Devonport prior to sailing. Apart from size variations of a minor nature sets 1, 2 and 3 differ in the year and month settings only. They are illustrated below ; two indistinguishable examples of types 1 and 2 are in the Post Office Impression Books. I show one of each, only 3a is in the book, 3b is from actual examples. The sizes are outer and the inner circle diameters in millimetres. All were issued to the Foreign Branch.

Type 1 2 3a 3b 4

Date of Issue

10. 3. 1864

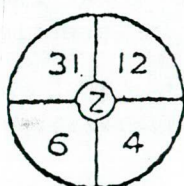
12. 2. 1872

1. 6. 1882

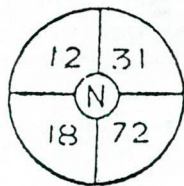
Not in PB

10. 10. 1894

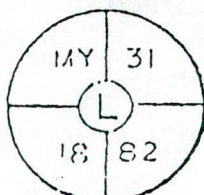
10. 10. 1894



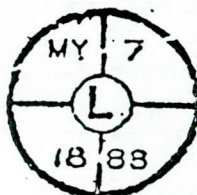
23 x 5
Diam mm



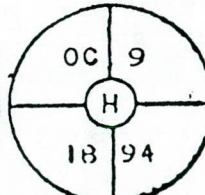
23 x 6



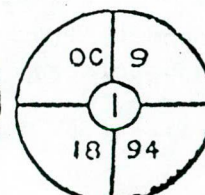
25 x 6.5



24.5 x 7.5



25.5 x 6.5



24.5 x 6.5

There is no clue from the Foreign Branch entry in the Impression Book as to the significance of the letters "H" and "I" in type 4.

THE LONDON FOREIGN BRANCH BAGGING STAMPS

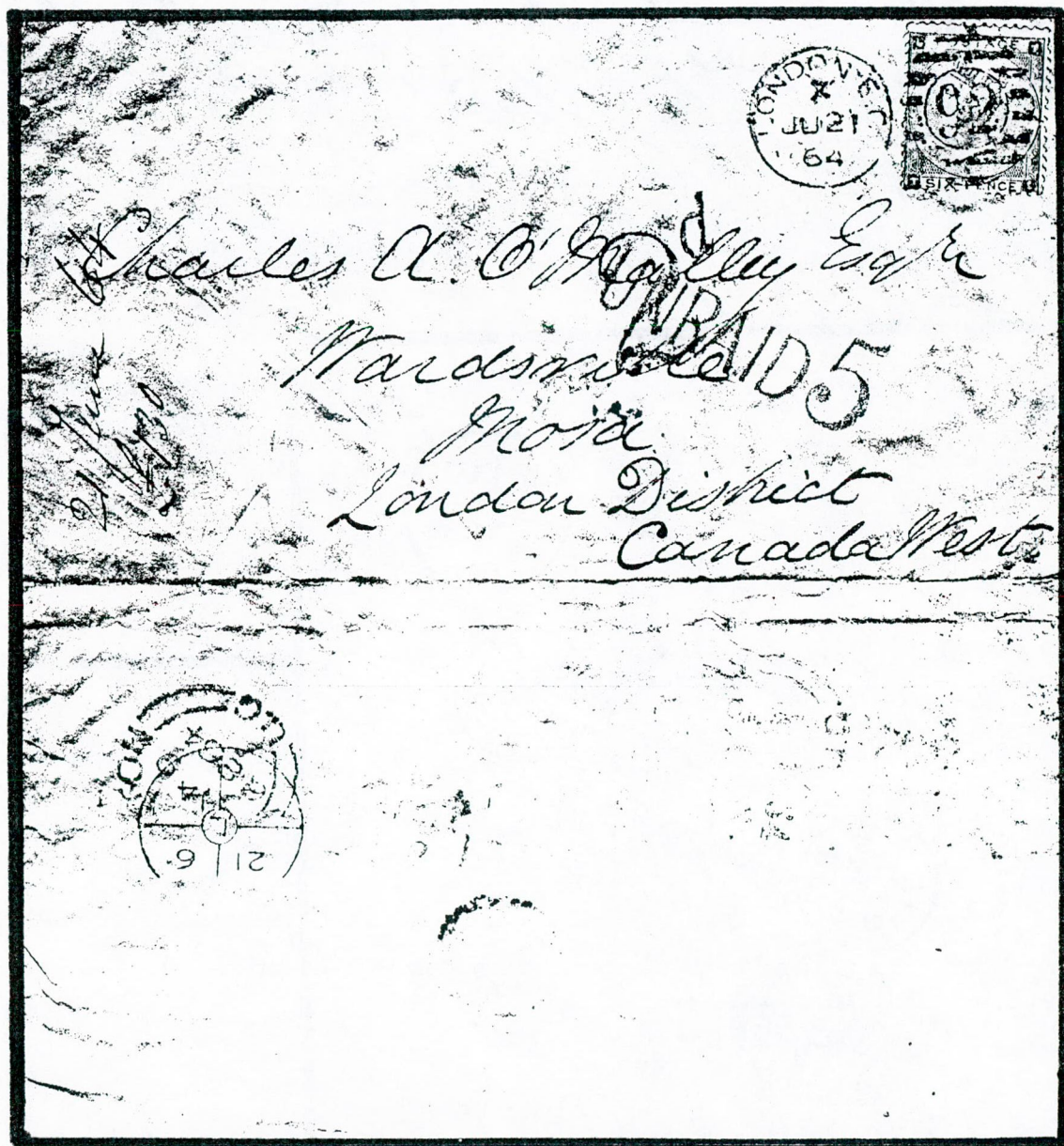
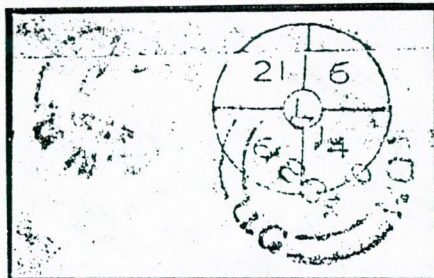
"L" Type 1 issued 10th. March, 1864 to February, 1872

London 21st. June, 1864 . 21 6 64 "L" [in black]

Paid 6d by J13, underpaid 2d for Lower Canada

Johnson type B 23a. Canada UNPAID 5.

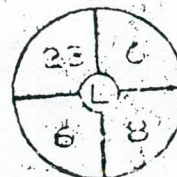
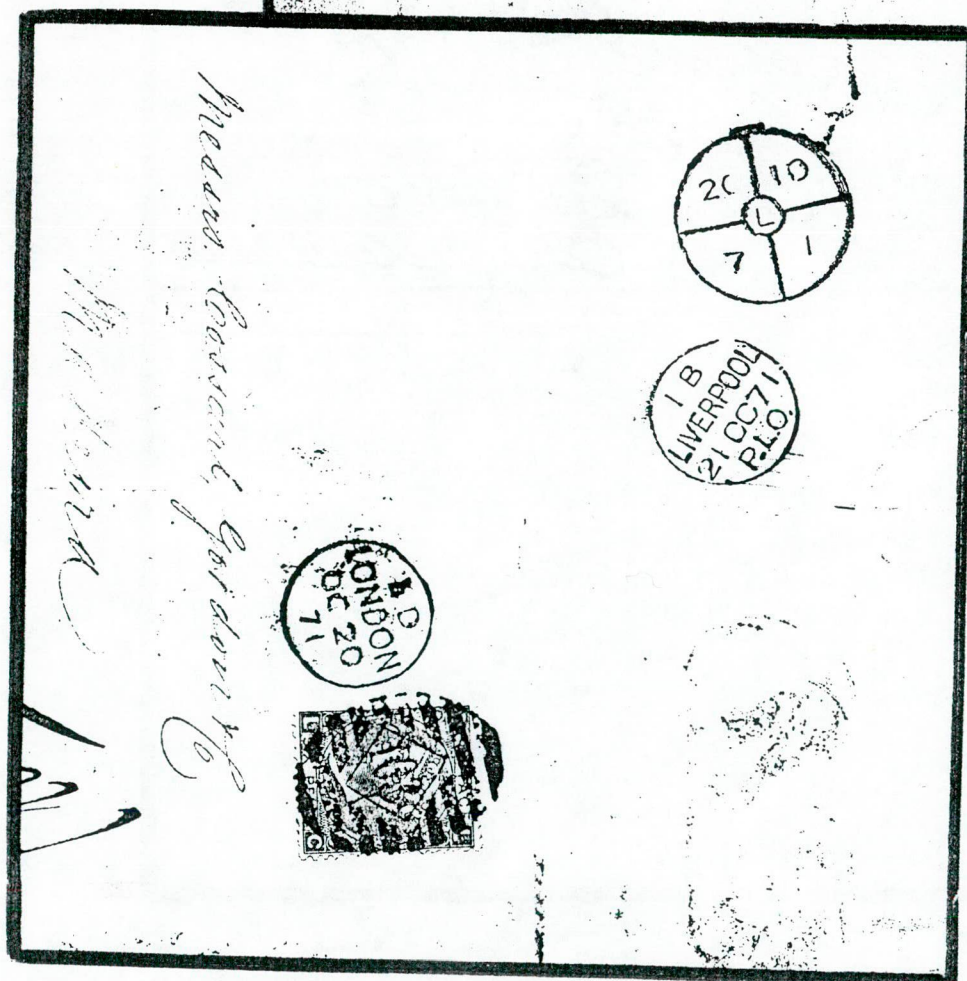
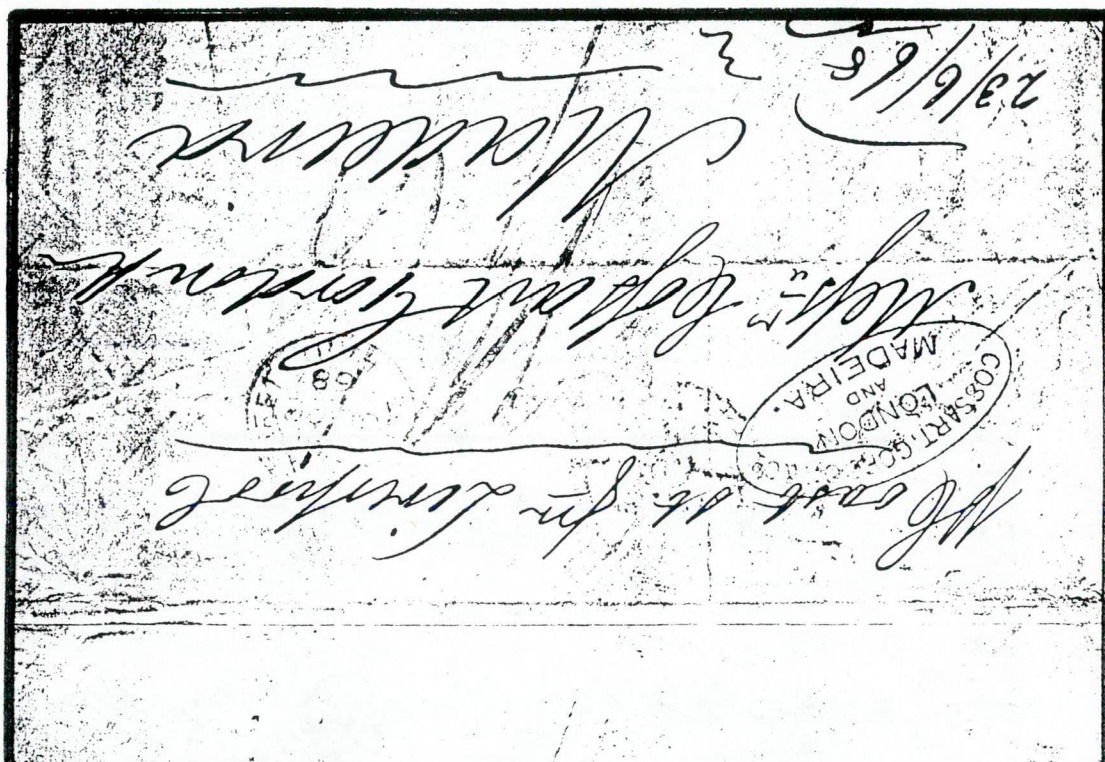
Faint TPO and UC d/s of 9th. July



"L" type 1 issued 10th. March, 1864 to February, 1872

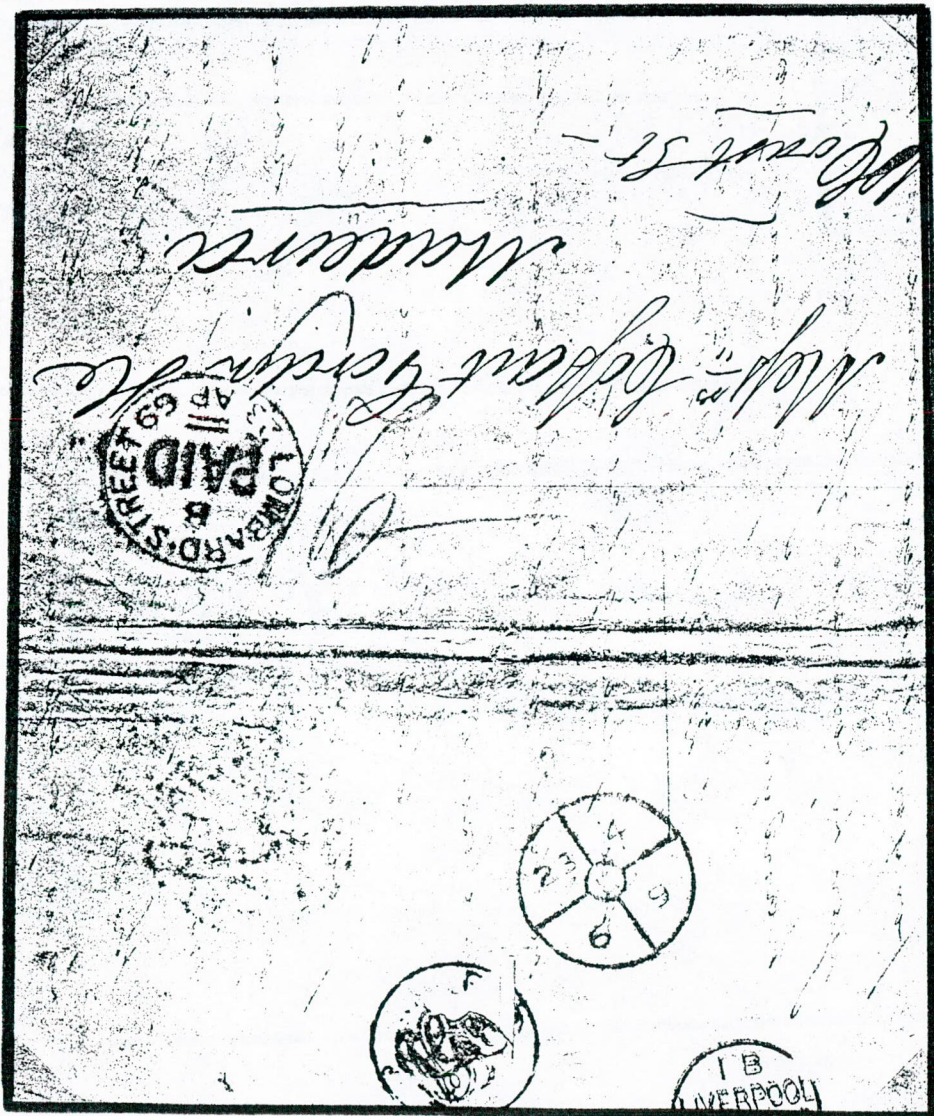
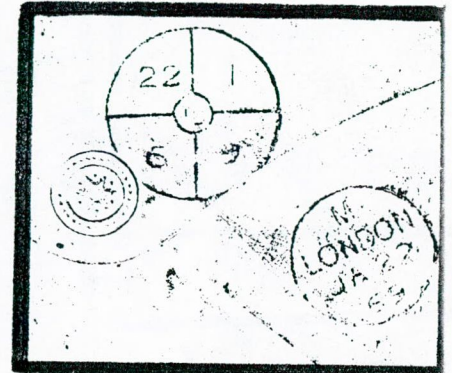
London 23.6.68 "L" [in black] Lombard Street paid 1/6 pr West African Packet
from Liverpool - Madeira 30th. June

London 20.10.71 "L" [in black] prepaid by plate 9 6d.
Liverpool 21st : Madeira 30th



Devonport 21st. January, 1869
London 22.1.69 "L" [in red] via Liverpool to New York
prepaid by paid of 4d pl 10

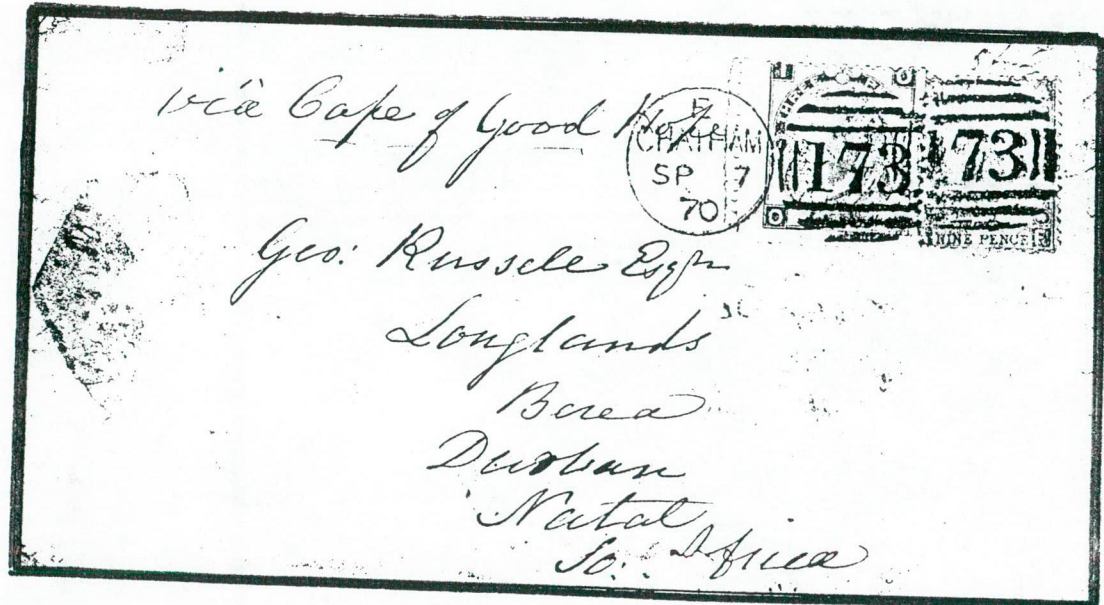
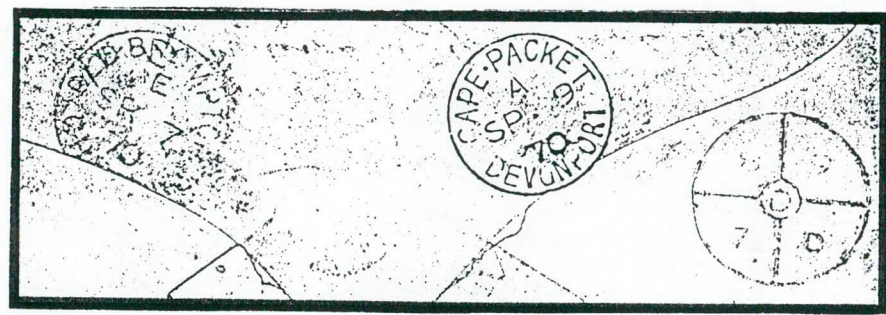
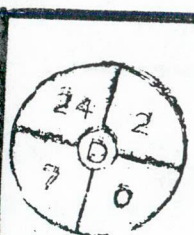
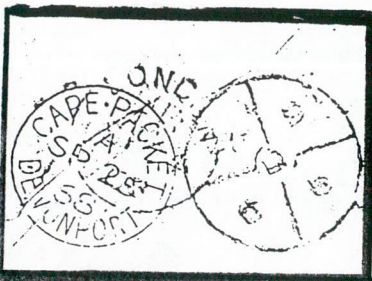
Lombard Street Paid 23rd. April, 1869, [mss 2/- in red] 23.4.69 "L" [in red]
Liverpool PLO 24th to Madeira, by West African Packet, arriving 30th



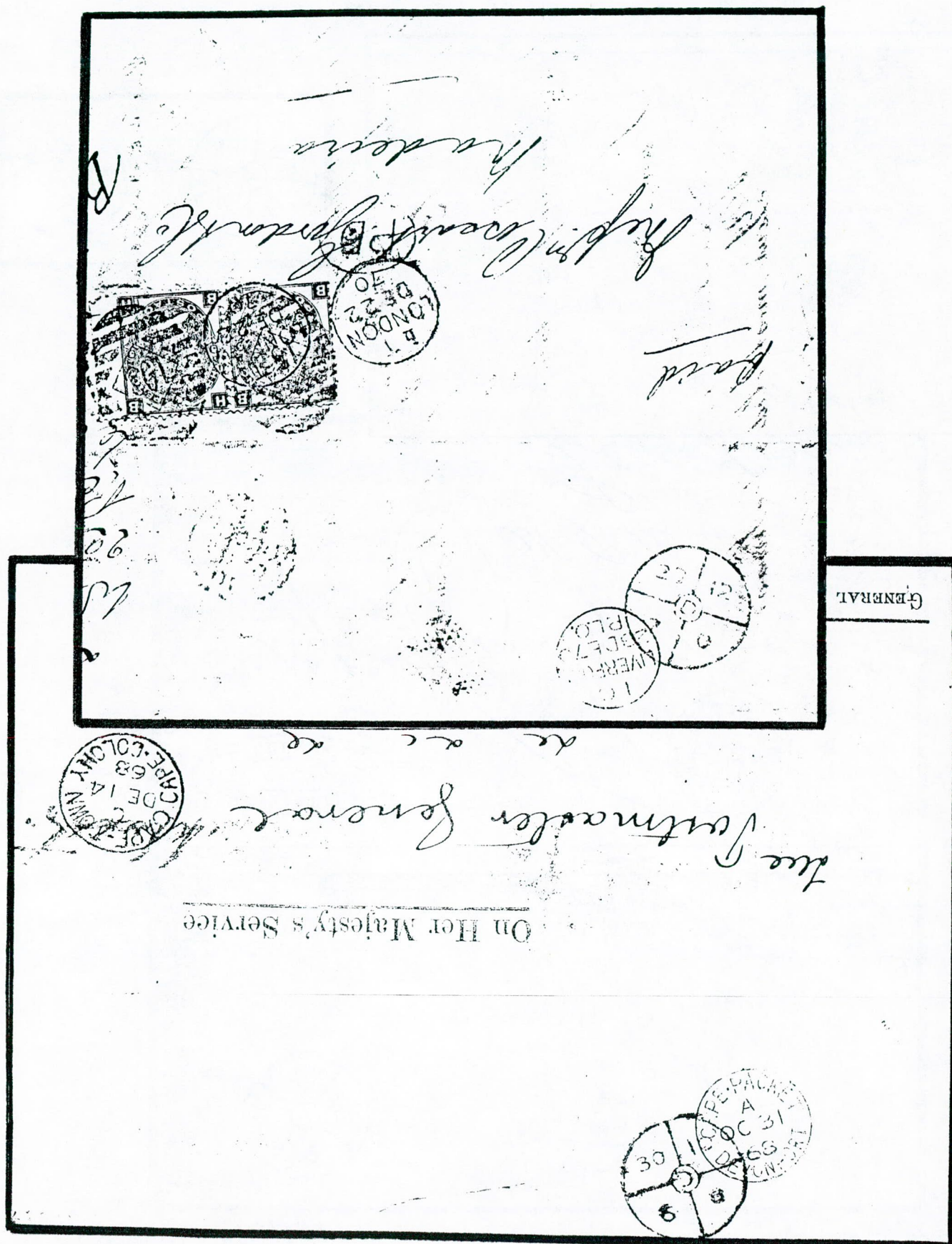
"D" Type 1

Derry 23rd. September, 1868, prepaid by 6 x 1d Plate 90
 London 24 9 68 "D" [in black] Cape packet A SP 25 68 Devonport
 also piece 24 2 70 "D" [in black]

Old Brompton E SP 7 70, prepaid 9d. pl 4 plus 3d pl 6 for 1/- rate
 for ½ to 1 oz cancelled by Chatham duplex
 8 9 70 "D" [in red]
 Cape Packet A SP 9 70 Devonport



London 30th. October, 1868 30 10 68 inverted "C" for "D" in black
Cape Packet A OC 31 68 Cape Town arrival 14th. December



"N" Type 1 Unpaid or Underpaid Foreign Mail

Florence 3rd. November, 1864, Torino 5th.

8 11 64 "N" [in red]

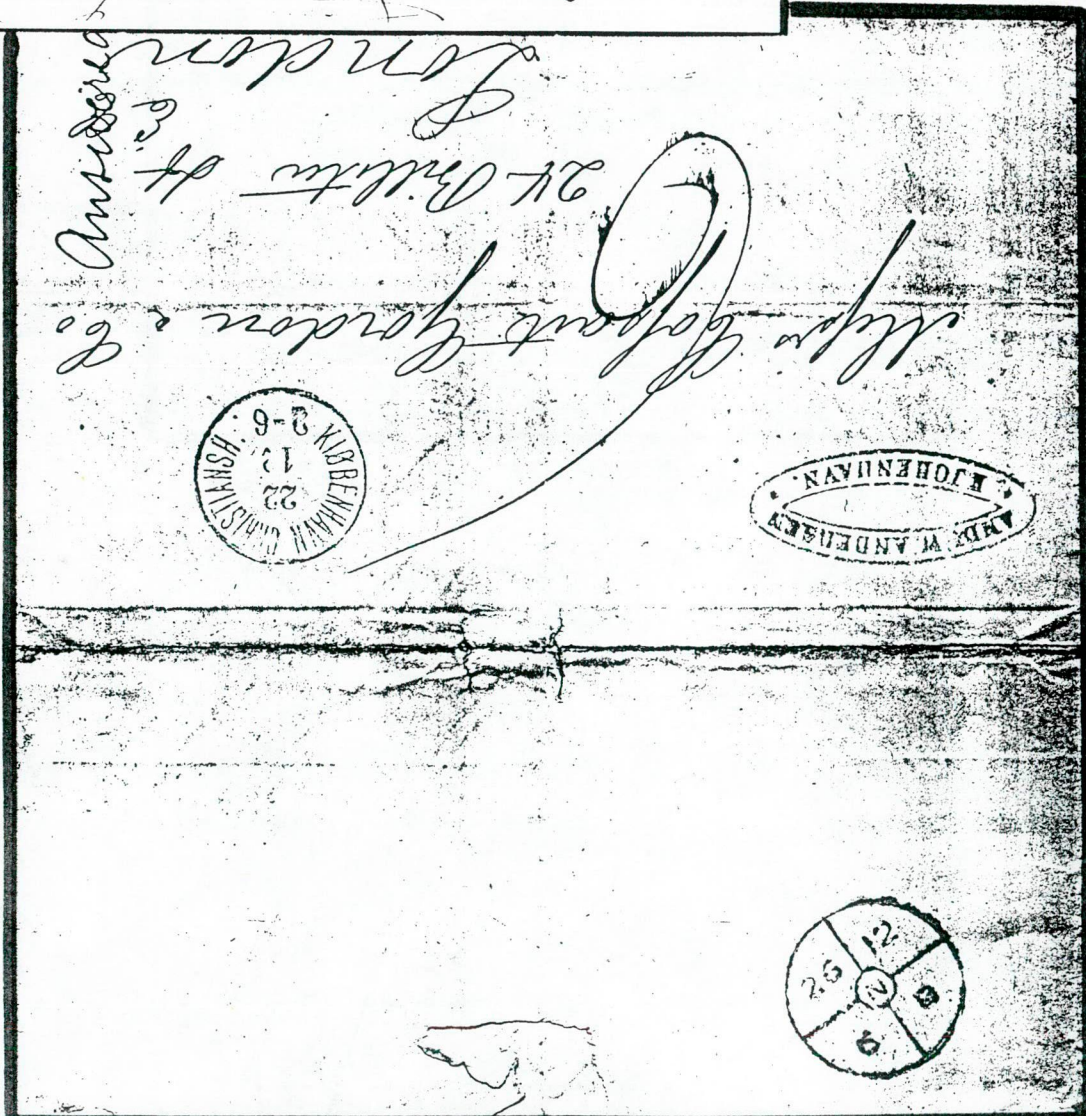
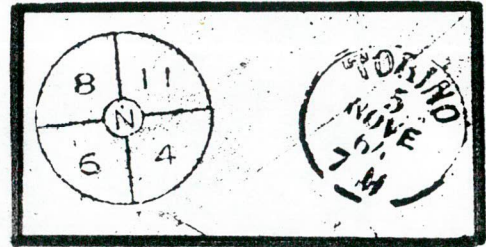
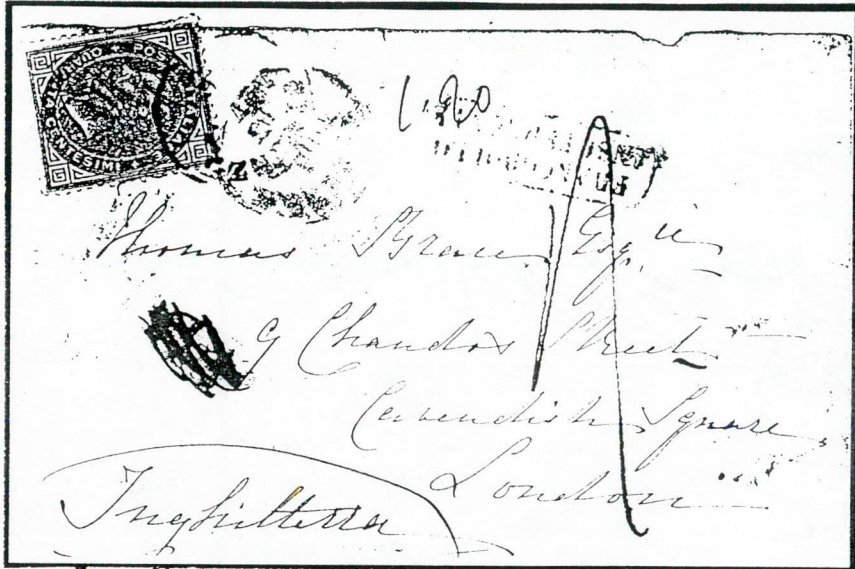
prepaid 40 centesimi, PD obliterated. Deficiency 60c = 6d

1/- [double deficiency] indicated as due

Copenhagen 22nd. December, 1868

26 12 68 "N" [in red]

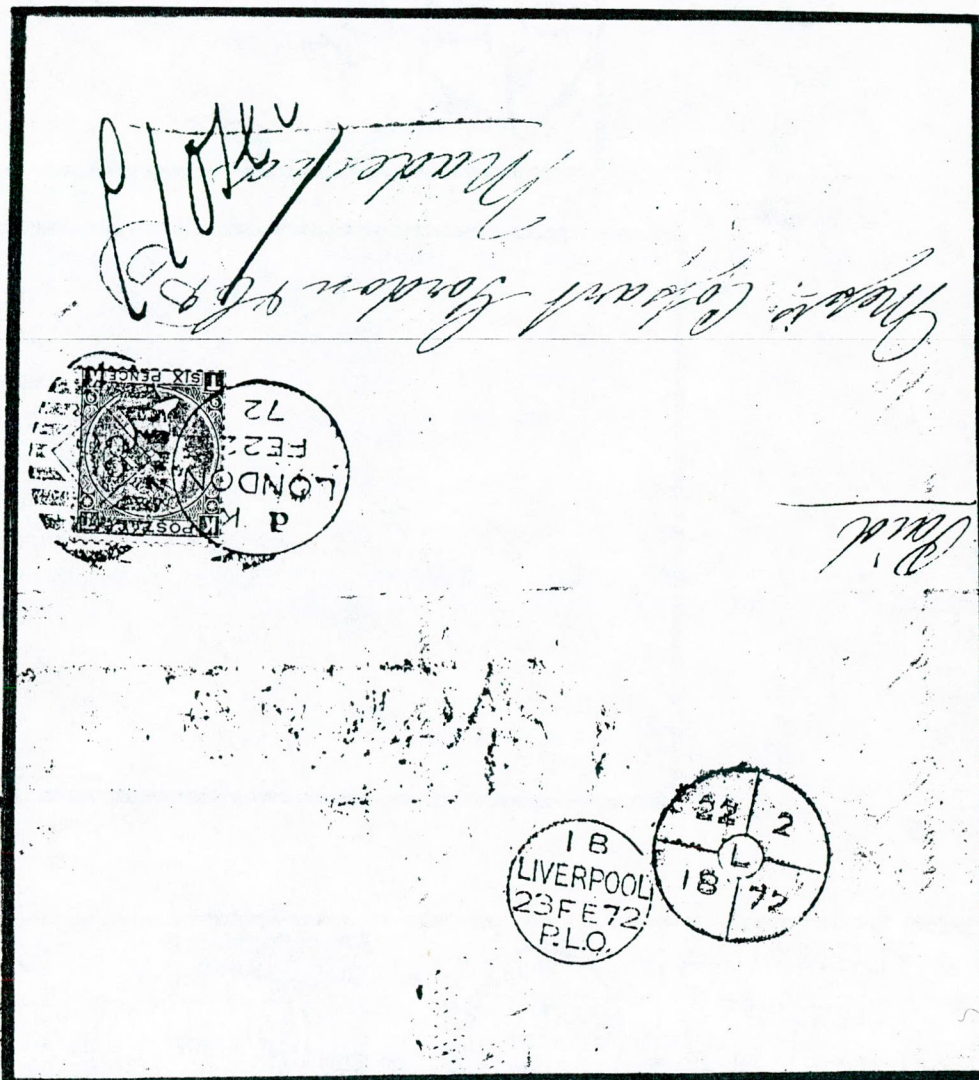
unpaid : rated 6d as Ship Letter from Denmark



prepaid 6d. pl 9. Liverpool PLO 23rd, African Packet. Arrived Madeira 3rd. March

prepaid 6d. pl 12. Liverpool PL0 29th.

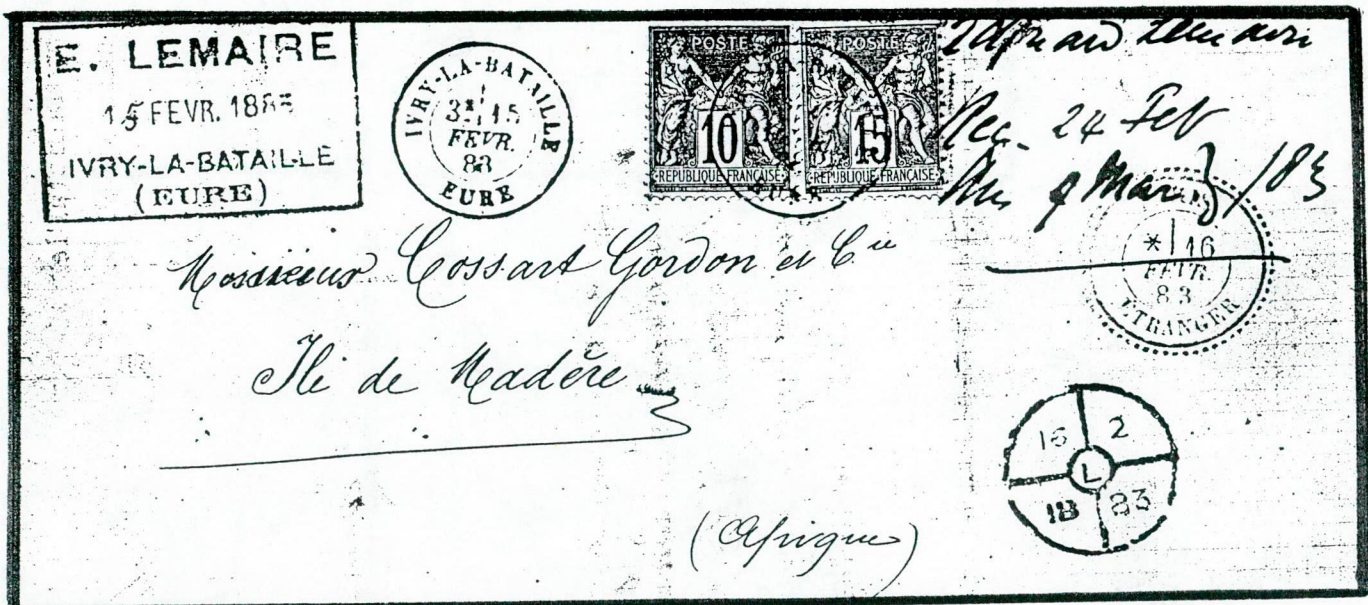
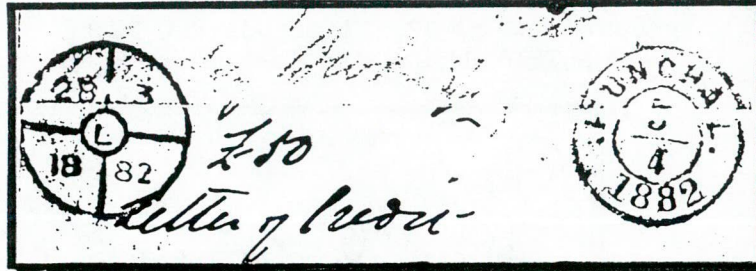
NOTE 5 days delay in London



"L" Type 2

London 28th. March, 1882 28.3.1882 "L" in black
prepaid 2½d. pl 22 arriving Funchal 5th. April

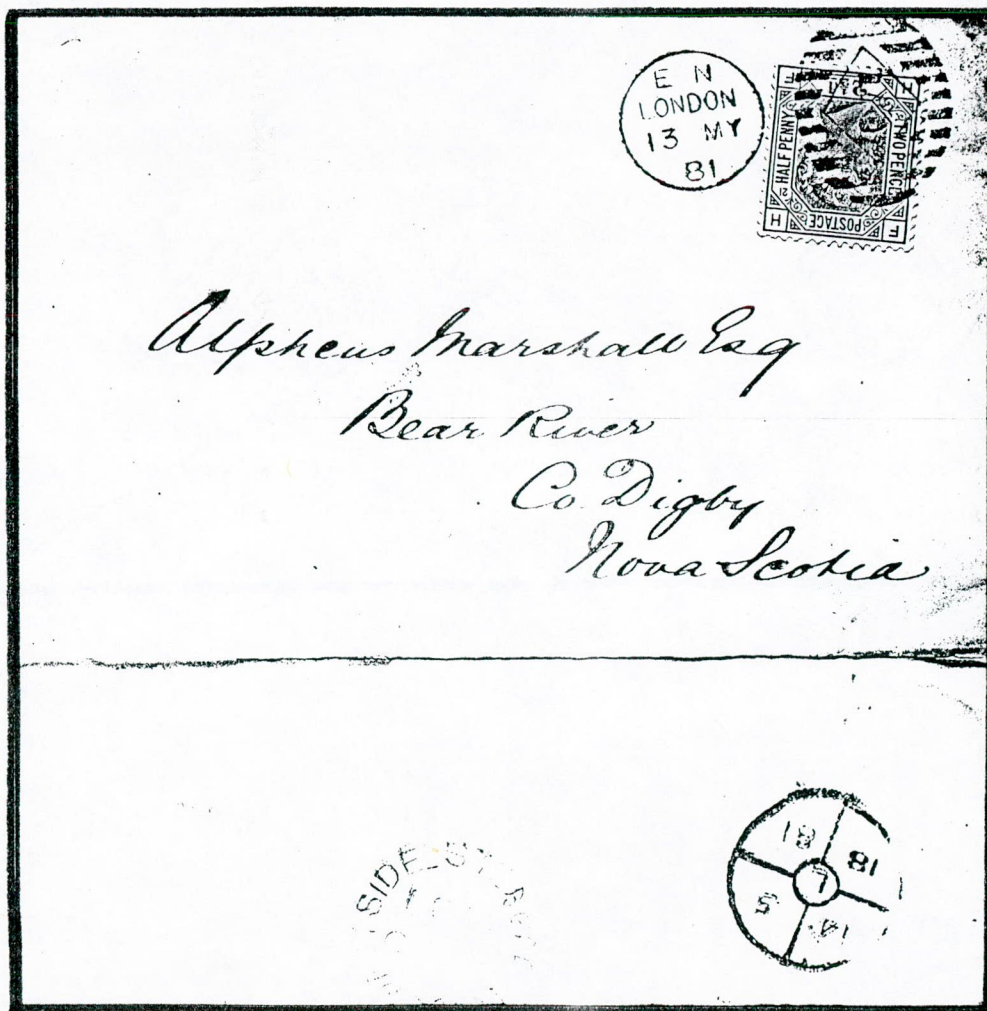
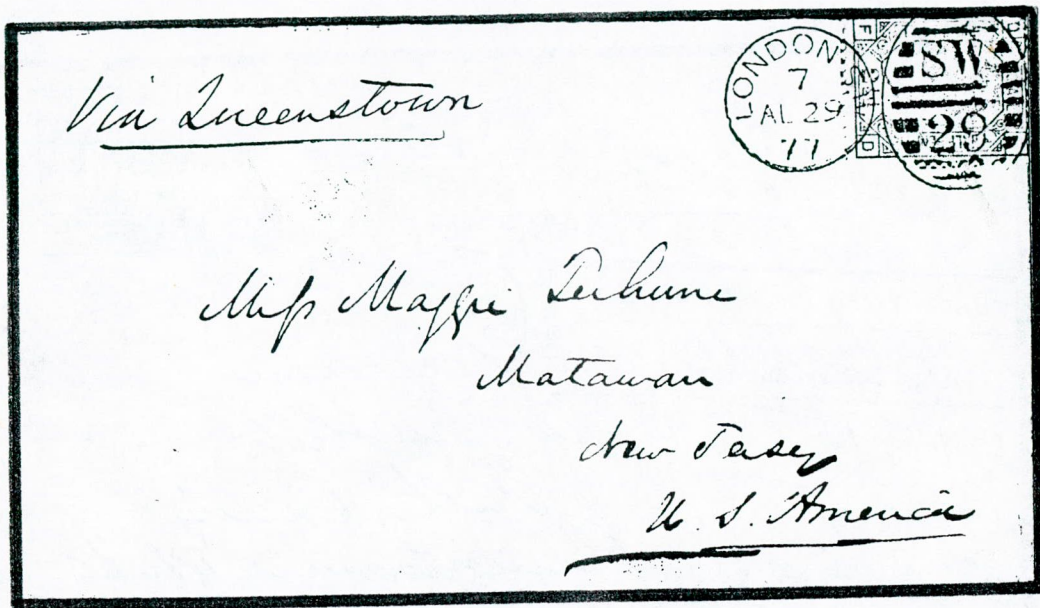
Ivry-la-Bataille 15th. February, 1883, Paris 16th.
16 2 1883 "L" [in black] used AFTER issue of type 3 in May 1882



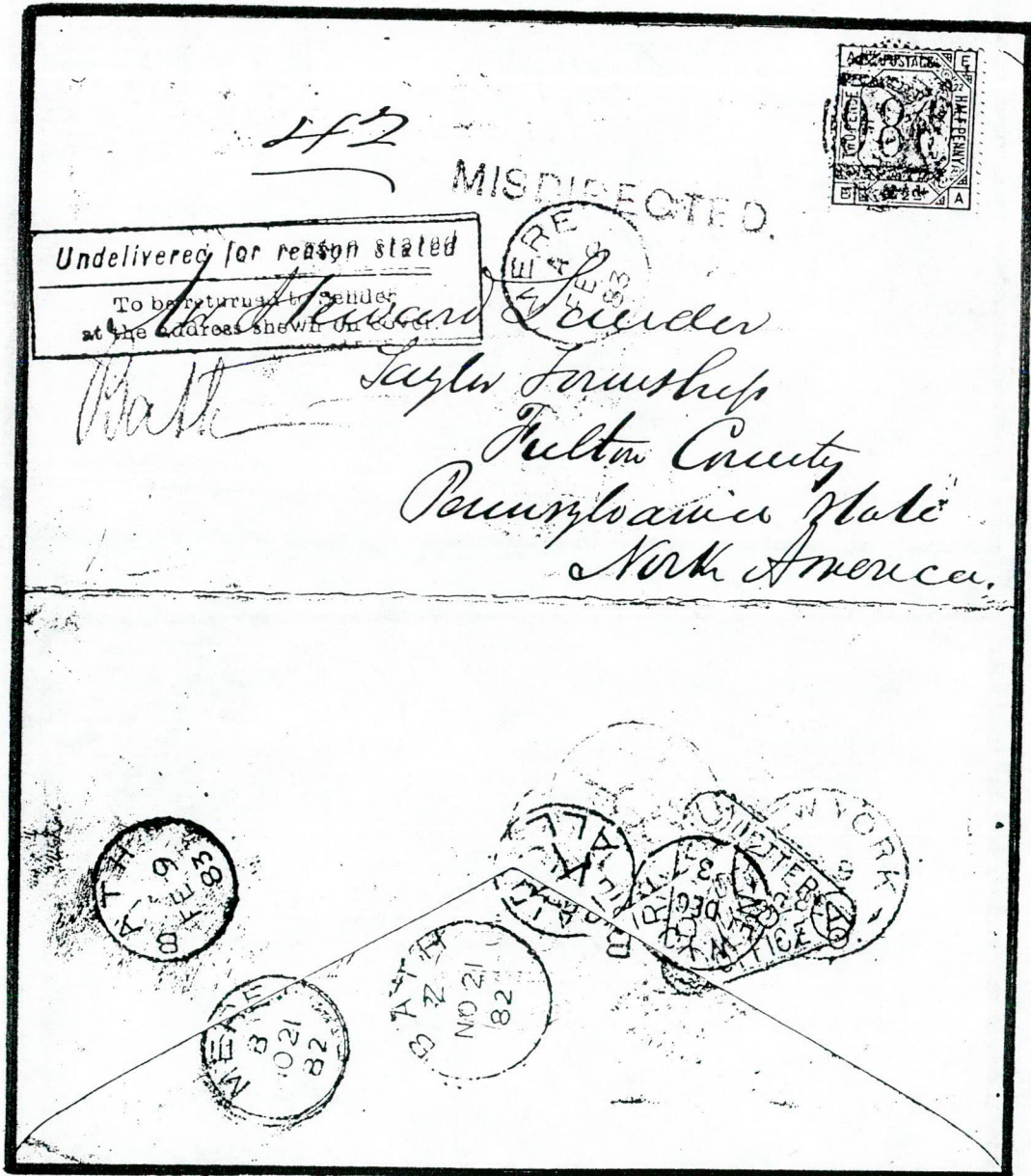
"L" Type 2 in Red

London 29th. August, 1877 29 8 1877 "L"
prepaid 2½d. pl 8 to New Jersey, no arrival mark

London 13th. May, 1881 14.5.1881 "L"
prepaid 2½d pl 21
Halifax NS 29th; Bear River West Side NS 30th.



L Type 2 Late Use After Issue of Type 3
Mere B NO 21 82; Bath Z NO 21 82; 22.11.1882 "L" [in red]
New York Paid All K Dec 3 [duplex]; -New York- Dec 9;
DEAD LETTER/OFFICE USA; December 11th & MISDIRECTED
Bath FE 9 83; Mere A FE 9 83.
prepaid 2½d. pl 22 obliterated by single 984 VOL.
"Undelivered for reason stated", mauve, probably Bath.



BLANK CENTRE Type 2

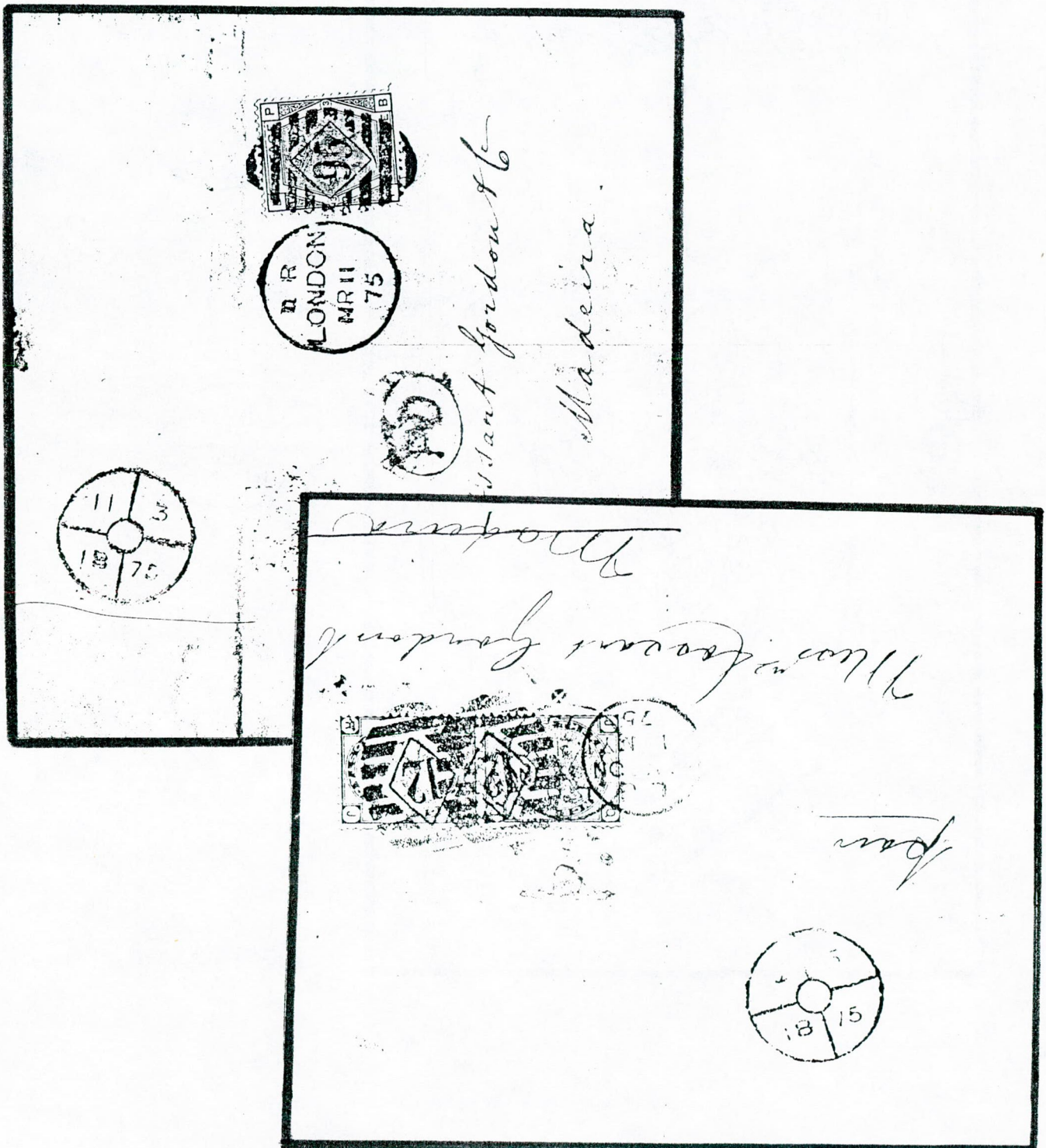
Two examples only known.

The code letters were interchangeable. At this time the "*British and African Steamship Company*" was still taking Madeira mails regularly every 6 days and there is no reason to believe these letters did not go from Liverpool.

It is assumed, therefore, the "L" was omitted in error.

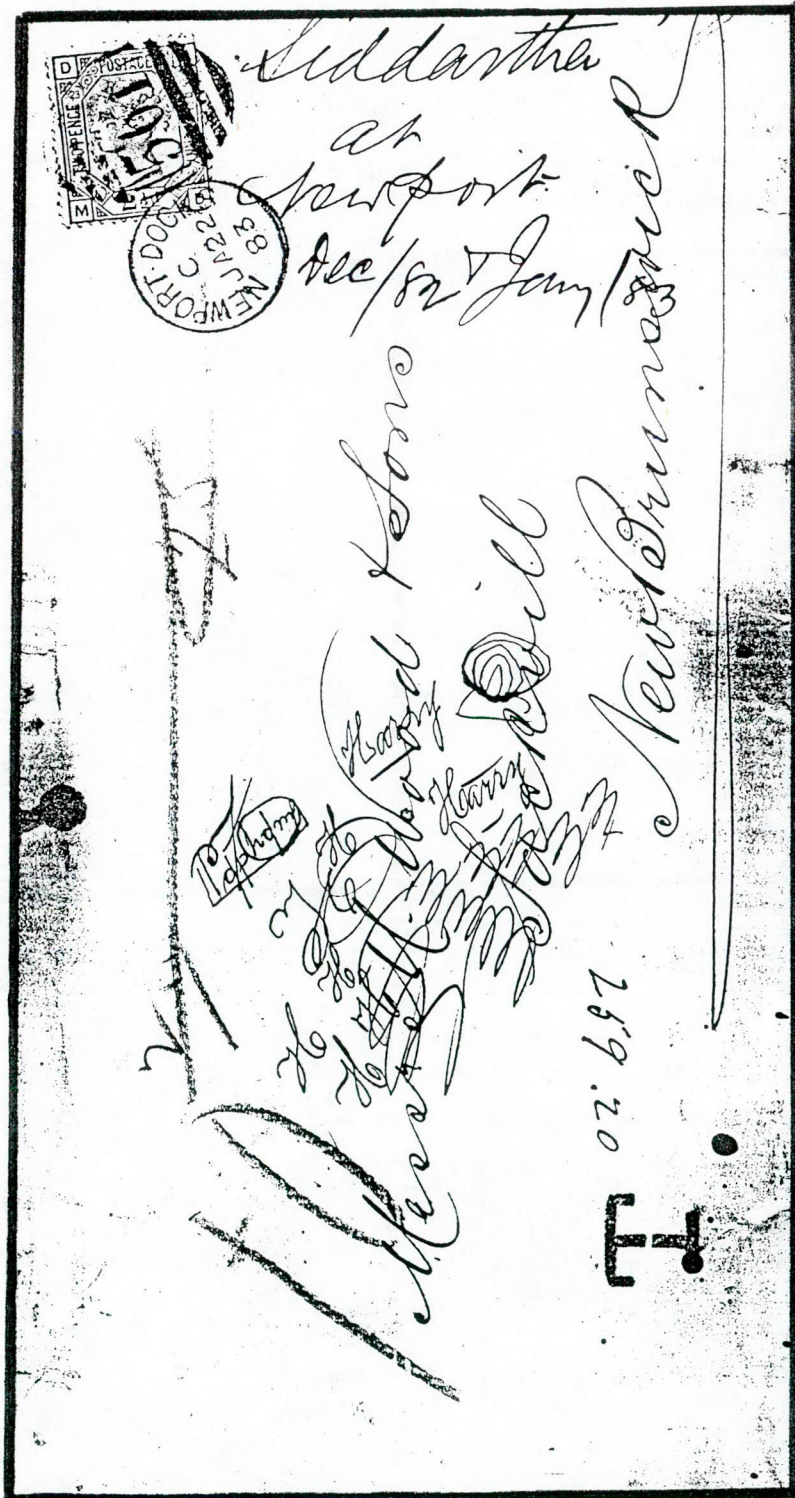
London 11th. March, 1875 11 3 1875 [in black]
prepaid 6d pl 13, arriving Madeira 19th.

London 1st. May, 1875 ? 5 1875 [in black]
prepaid by two 3d pl 17, arriving Madeira 14th. May.
Sailings from Liverpool were 6th., 12th. etc so appears to have been
delayed in London for about five days.



L Type 2 Late Use on Underpaid Letter
Newport Docks 561 duplex cancelling 2½d. pl 23
23 1 1883 "L" [in red]

London "T", Johnson type N1 but with centre gap, "2" and "25" in blue deleted
10 [cents] in mauve to pay [= 5d, double deficiency for ½ - 1 oz]
What is the significance of the "2" and "25" presumably entered in London
and deleted in Canada. Halifax N.S. C FE 6 83, Sackville FE 7 83

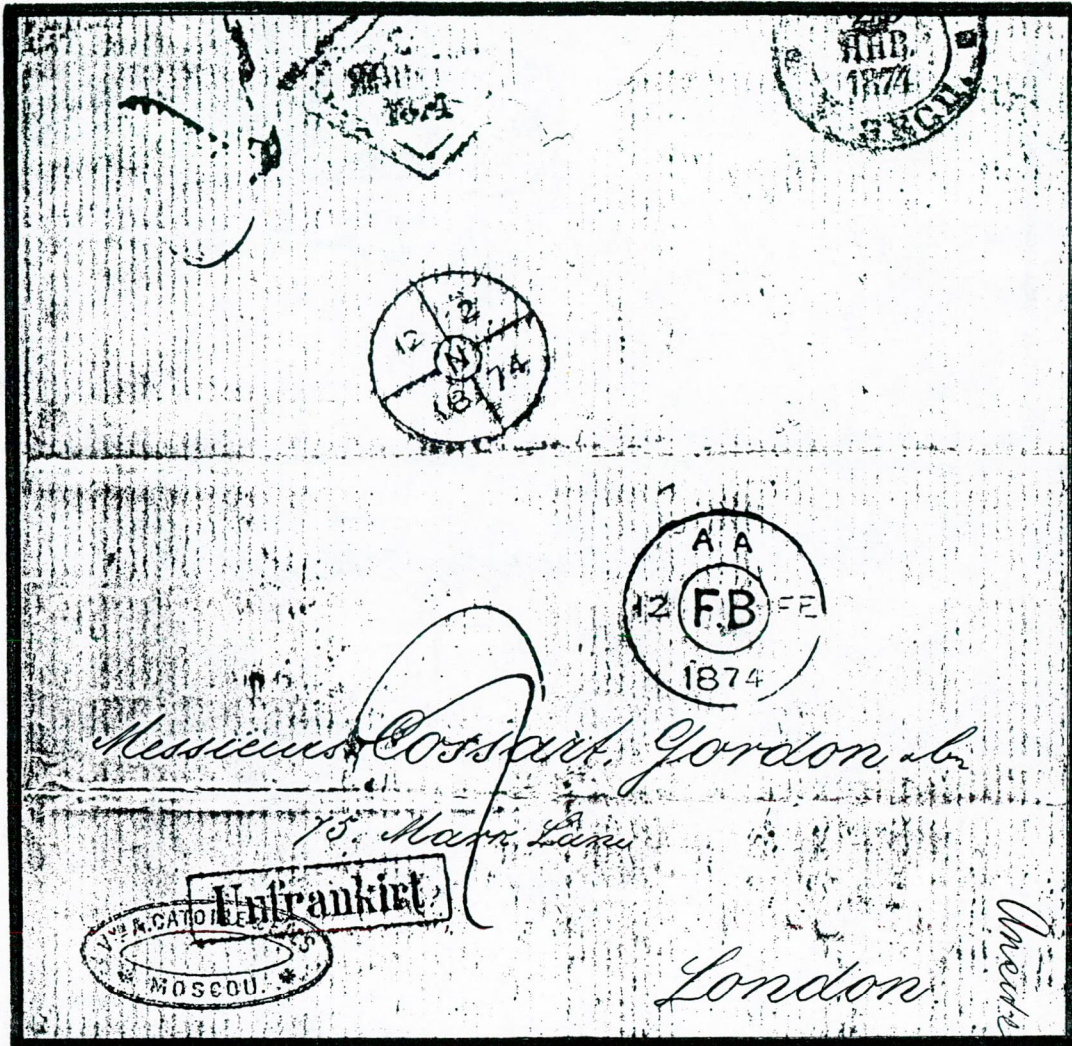


"N" Type 2 Unpaid Incoming Mail

Moscow 4th. February [25th January old calendar] 1874

Framed "Unfrankirt" [in black] F.B AA 12 FE 1874; 12 2 1874 "N" [in red].

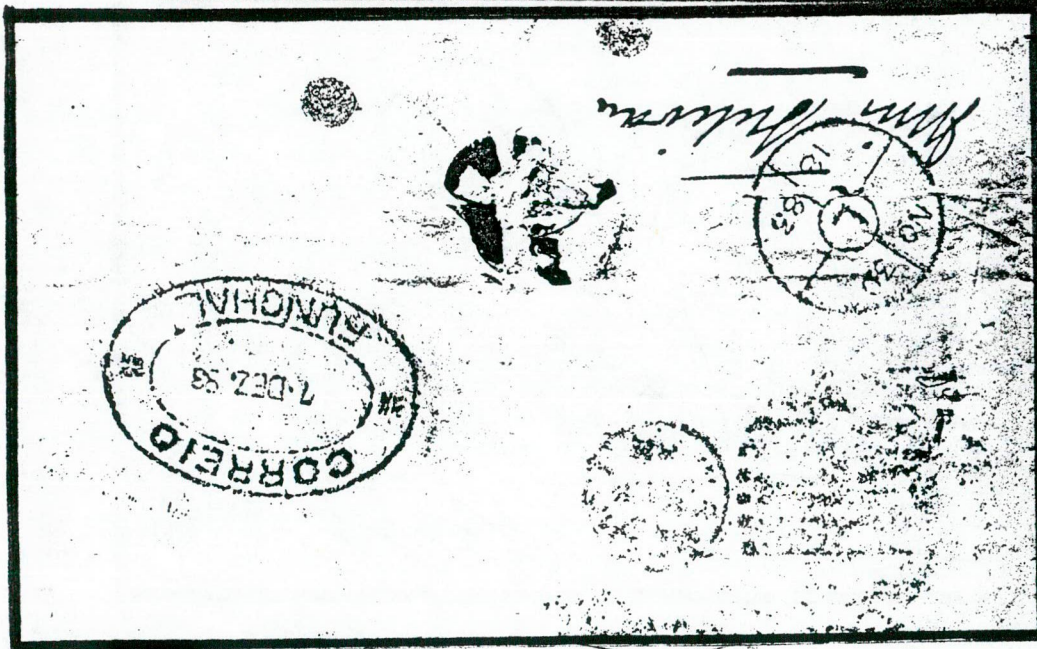
The paid rate after 1870 was 6d., with a fine of 3d. per increment -
charged on arrival 9d.



"L" Type 3a Issued May 31st.. 1882

London 30th. November, 1883 : NO 30 1883 "L" [in black].
prepaid 2½d. arriving 7th. December

Edinburgh 31st. August, 1883 SP 1 1883 "L" [in red]
All [inverted] Liverpool 1 SP 83 P.L.O
prepaid 4d. pl 18



"L" Type 3a Month Before Day

London September 10th., 1883, prepaid 2½d pl 23

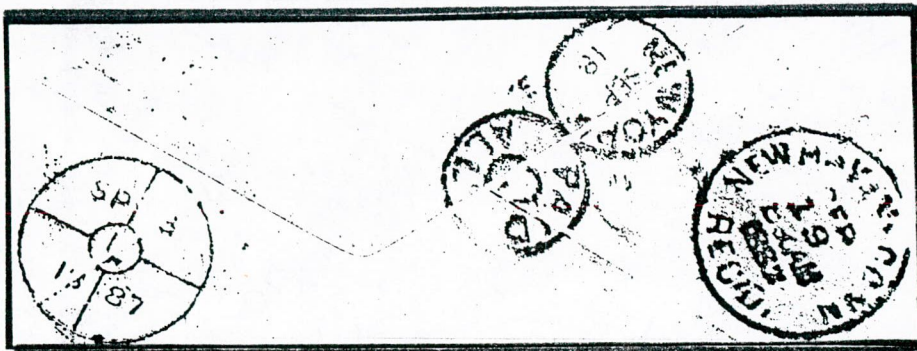
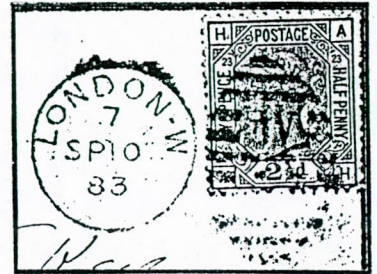
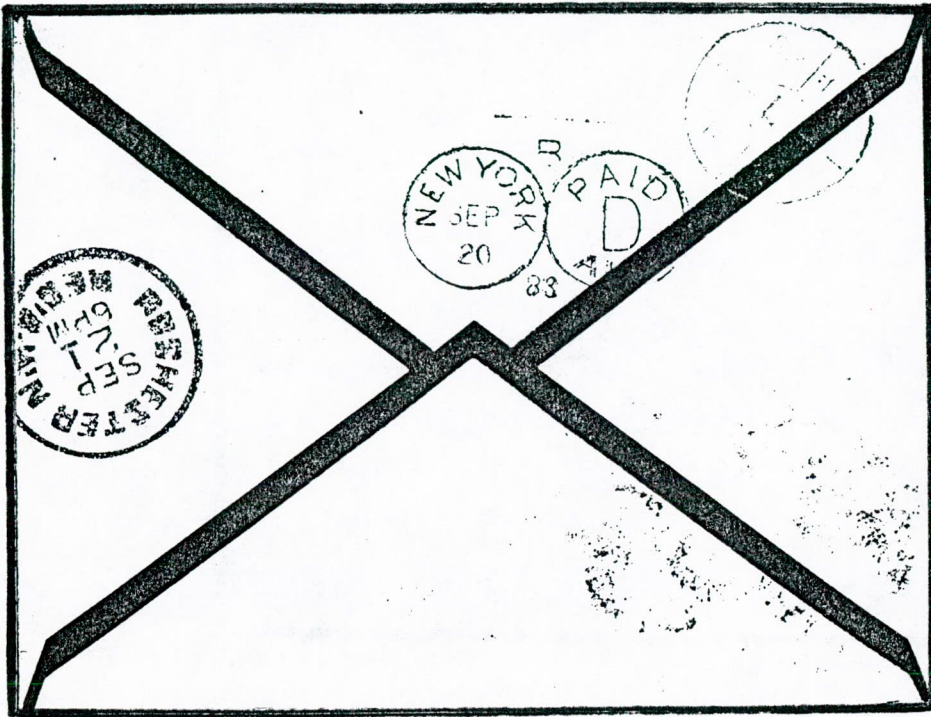
SP 10 1883 "L" [in red]

New York SEP 20 B 83 Paid All D duplex, Rochester 21st

London 8th. September, 1887, prepaid 2½d.

SP 8 1887 "L" [in black]

New York SEP 18 Paid All C; Newhaven 19th



Seymour C. Loomis Esqr,
87 Church St.,
New Haven
U. S. A. Conn.

"L" Type 3a Day Before Month

London 13th. December, 1886

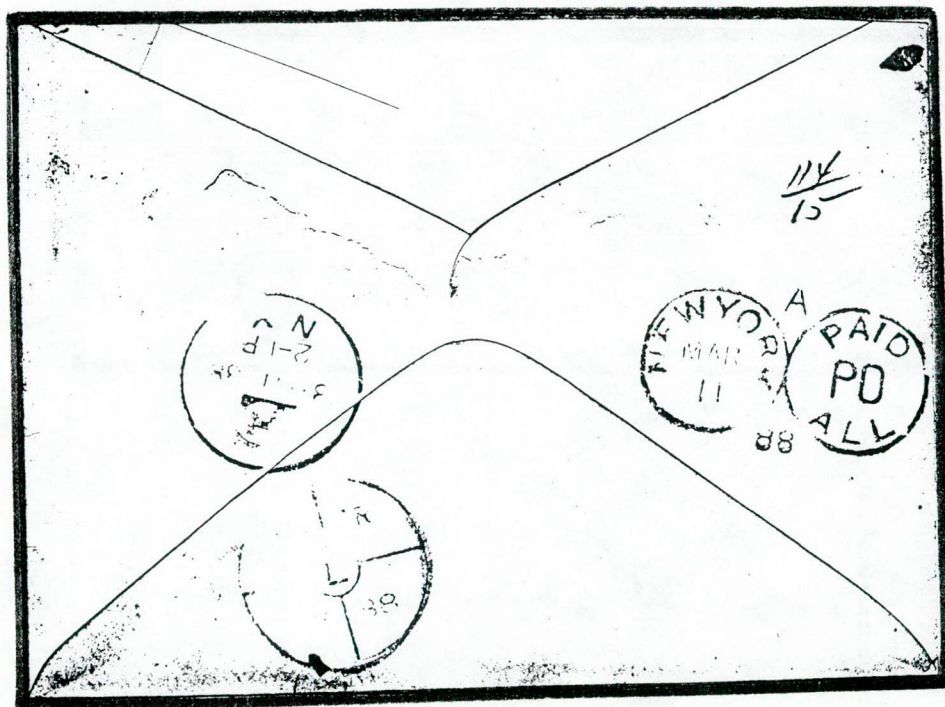
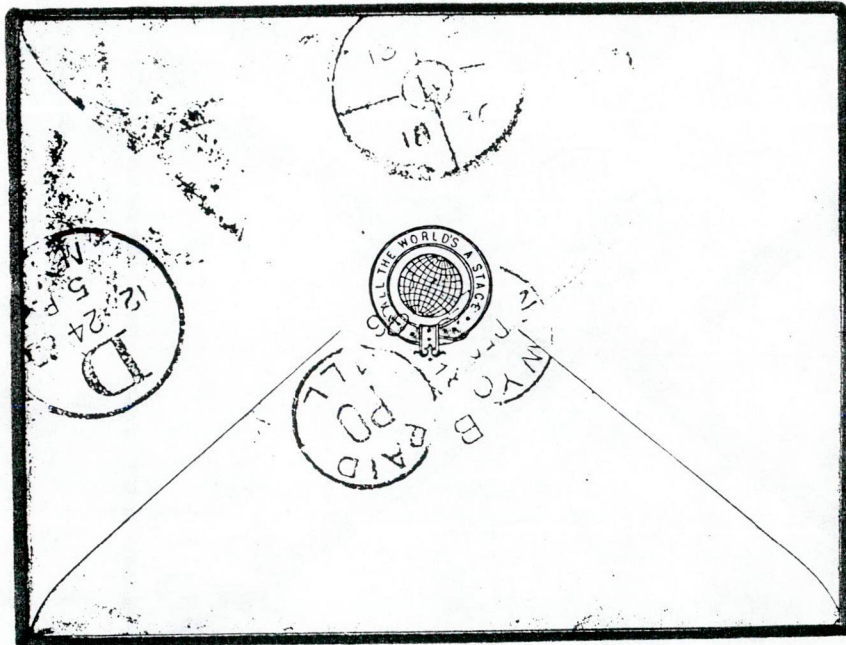
13 DE 1886 "L" [in red]

prepaid 3 x 1d [overpaid ½?] New York Dec 24 B 86 Paid All PO

London 29th. February, 1888

1 MR 1888 "L" [in red]

prepaid 2½d New York MAR 11 A 88 Paid All PO



"L" Type 3b [Not in Post Office Impression Books]

Lymington 25th. August, 1883

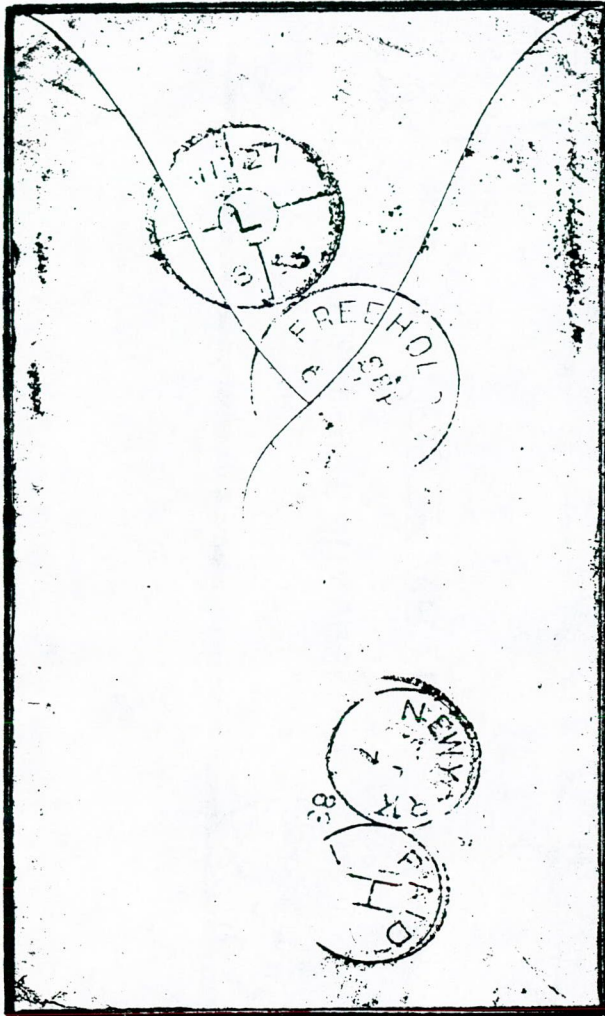
AU 27 1883 "L" [in red]

prepaid two x 2½d pl 23 New York SEP 7 ? 83 Paid All H: Freehold ? September

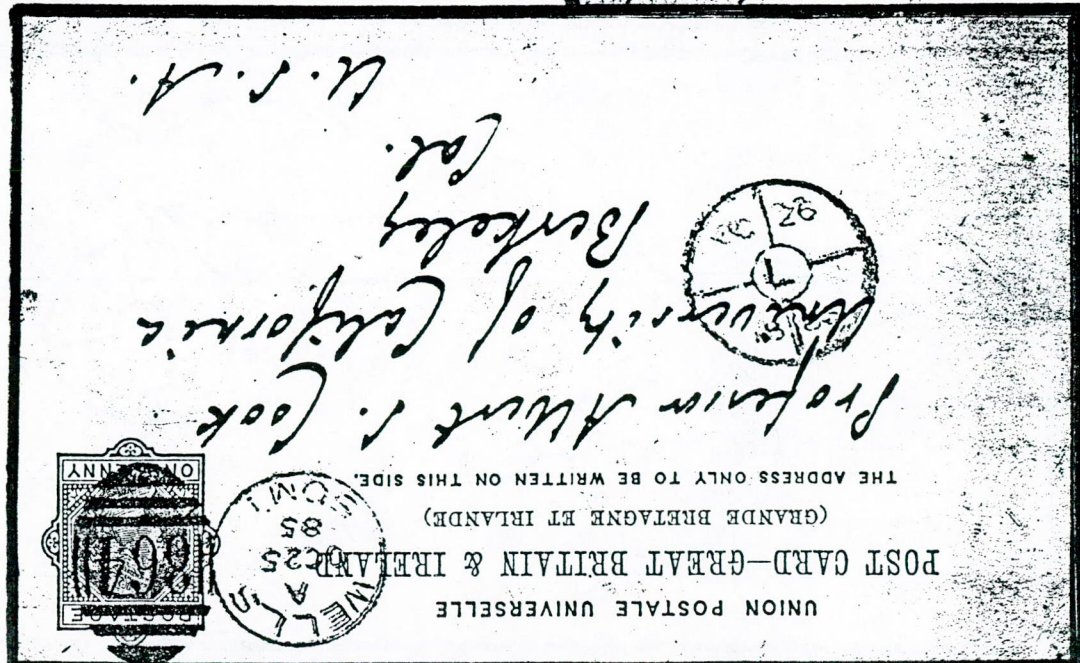
Gloucester Station 26th. October, 1885

OC 27 1885 "L" [in red]

arriving Madeira 6th. November. UPU PC 1d.



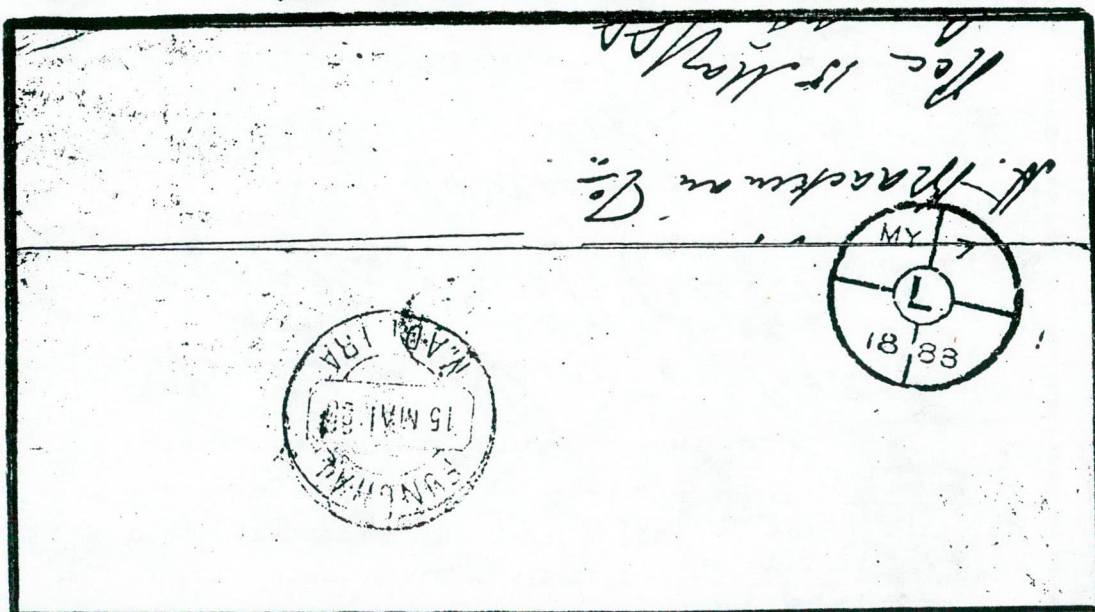
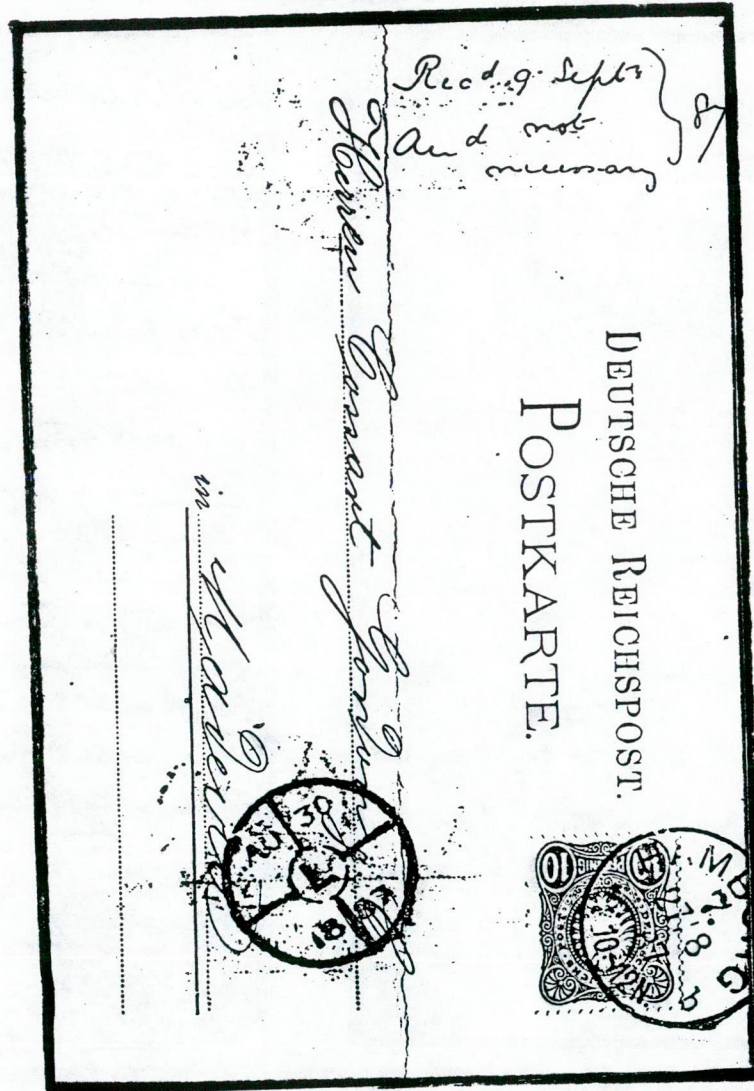
20 October 1885.
I wrote fully to L.C.C yesterday.
I omitted to say that if any
German or other books, by post,
have reached your hands, since my
departure, I shall be thankful
to have them forwarded, well-
secured, by book post, to my % to H. H.
I think that I personally asked to
have such retained by you: until
I wrote for them. If no such book
from Germany have come, would
you kindly send a inquiry at that O.
I do not wish for any special answer
to this - as silence will probably
convey the answer. To day is
23rd in my warm bed room, although
fine like. But the room has had good
fire for 3 days, I see a chance of
some temporary resting place. J. H.



"L" Type 3b

Hamburg 7 27 8 87 prepaid 10 pf, arriving London 29th.
AU 30 1887 "L" [in black]
arriving Madeira 9th. September

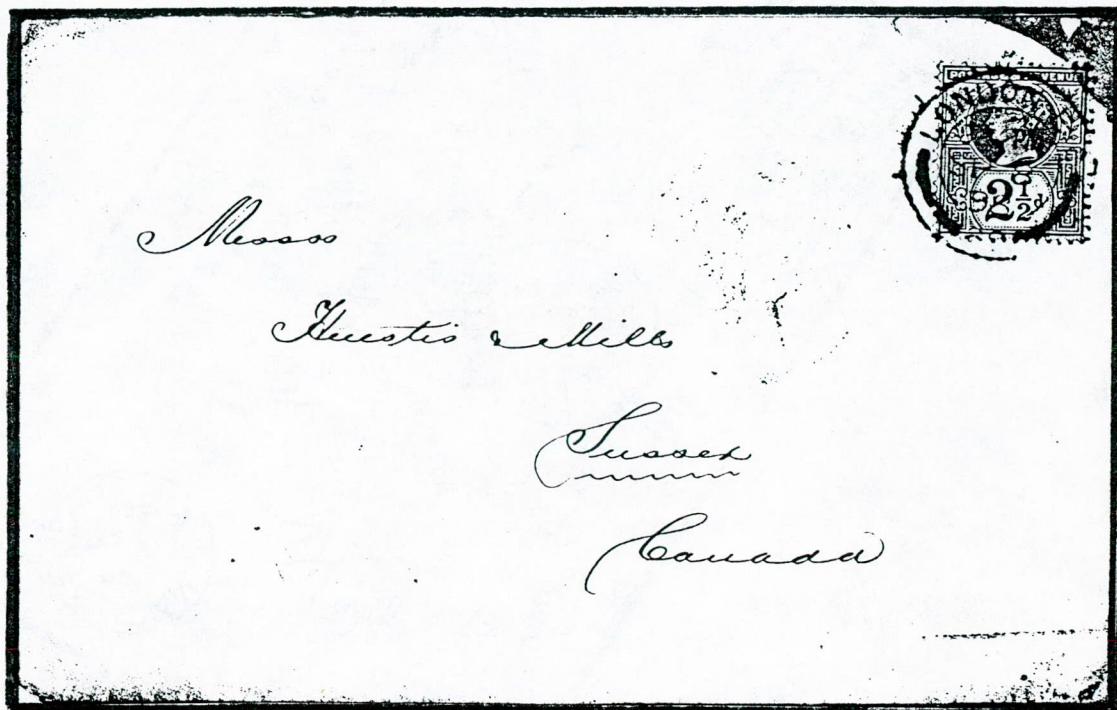
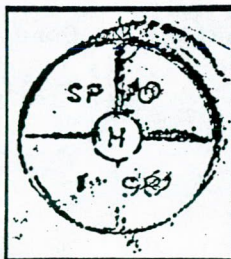
Rotterdam 4th. May, 1888
MY 7 1888 "L" [in red]
arriving Madeira 15th



H Type 4 Issued 9th. October, 1894

Only Recorded Example

London 8th. September, 1898 prepaid 2½d to Sussex Canada
SP 10 1898 "H" [in black]



I Type 4 Issued 9th. October, 1894

Paddington 24th. April, 1895

AP 24 1895 "I" [sans serif, black]

endorsed "via New York" Halifax Canada C MY 95 arrival

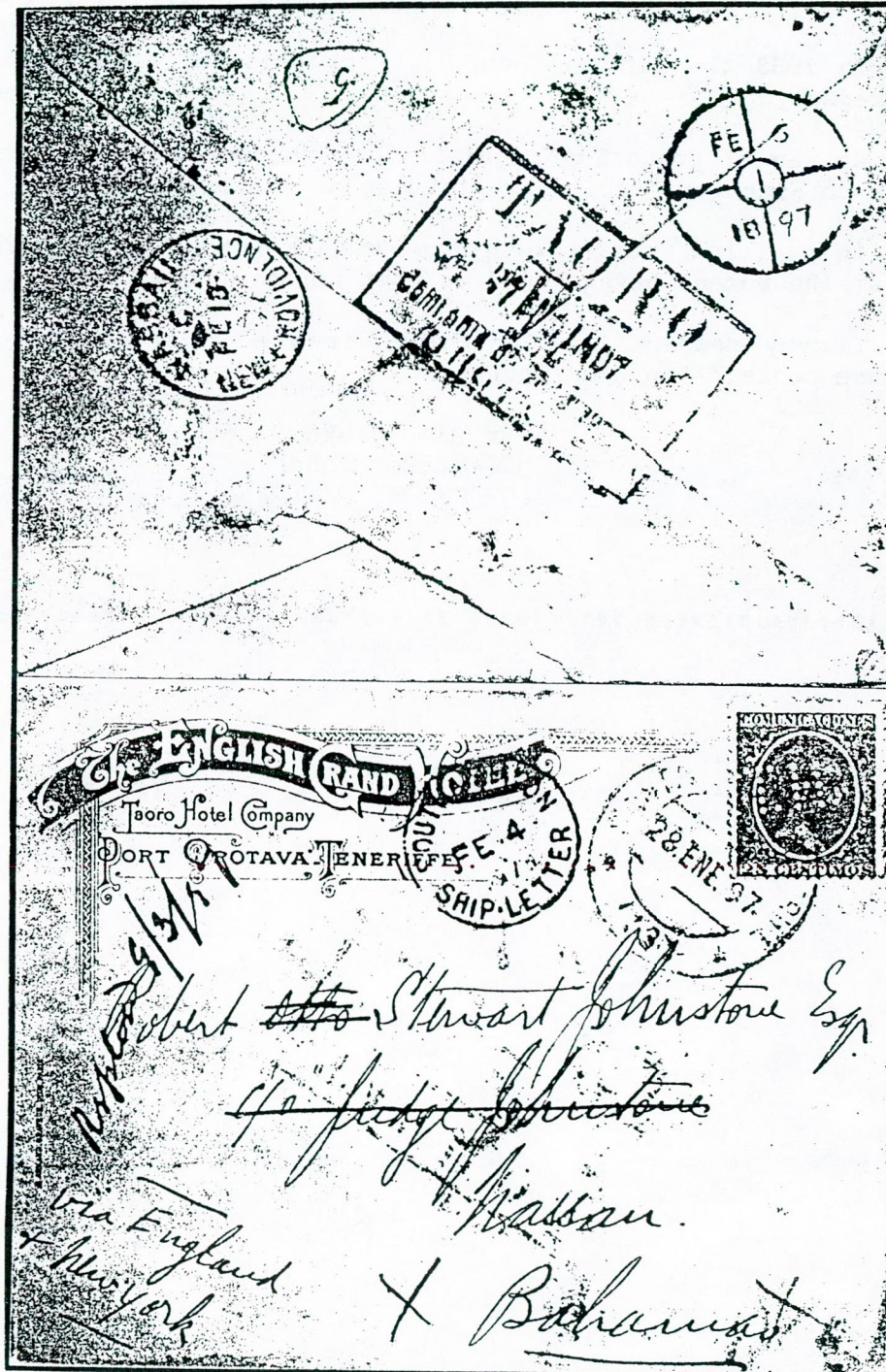
Possible routing to Cord - "I" for "Ireland"



I Type 4 Issued 9th. October. 1894

Photocopy of only other recorded example
Teneriffe to Bahamas. endorsed "via England 7 New York"
Southampton FE 4 97 Ship letter
FE 6 1897 "I" [sans serif]
arriving Nassau 18th

Possible routing to Cork - "I" for "Ireland"



FINCHLEY AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

In 1993 the Finchley and District Philatelic Society celebrates its 50th. anniversary.

By way of producing a celebratory card or document, they are seeking information on Finchley, including pictures or photos of Finchley post offices.

In addition, copies of postmarks are urgently required, the earliest available at the moment being found on post cards of the 1900s.

If any readers have anything, from a single item to a full scale study, please contact the Hon. Secretary -

Mr A. J. Drake,
12 Chandos Road,
LONDON N2 9AP
