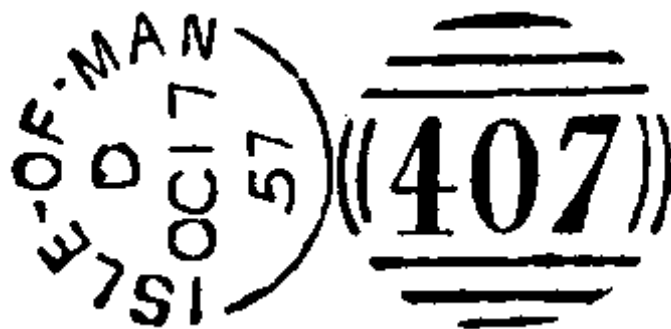


**BARRED NUMERAL
CANCELLATIONS
OF
ENGLAND
AND
WALES**

JOHN PARMENTER, DAVID LUCKLY,
KEN SMITH

PROF. CEDRIC PRYS-ROBERTS (WALES)



ISLE OF MAN

BARRED NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

JOHN PARMENTER DAVID LUCKLY KEN SMITH
WITH
PROF. CEDRIC PRYS-ROBERTS (WALES)

This download is from the six-volume edition published between 2011&2013 by
John Parmenter 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU.

It incorporates the following:

- 1/ Status of the Offices that used barred numeral cancellations.
- 2/ A list of the Sub Offices of major Offices that used barred numeral cancels.
- 3/ The later numeral allocations that were made after barred numerals ceased to be issued.

Dates, codes and times in red are new to the published volumes.

Dates of a change in status are derived largely from the Post Office Guide for January of each year, if a change occurs in say the 1865 edition, it actually took place sometime in 1864.

Status of the Offices

Head Post Offices / Post Town collected, sorted, cancelled and distributed mail from and to a series of Subordinate Offices.

The address of mail sent to a place with a Head Office would end just with the name of the town i.e. Bedford.

Independent Sub Offices evolved in the second half of the 19th Century having an address that was independent of the nearest Head Office, most of their mail could come straight to them.

Mail sent to these addresses ended with S.O. and the county name.

i.e. Shefford S.O. Beds. (from 1873 to 1886)

Railway Sub Offices (R.S.O.)

These were offices that received and sent their mail to a travelling railway post office rather than a conventional head office.

i.e. Shefford R.S.O. Beds. (from 1886 to 1905)

When the term "Railway Sub Office" was abolished in 1905, these became Independent Sub Offices; in 1909 they became Post Towns. Although the term R.S.O. was abolished in 1905 it remained in use in many cds's for several years afterwards.

Subordinate Offices The address of mail sent there had to include the name of the Head Office:-

i.e. Potton, Biggleswade. (1844 to 1854)

i.e. Potton, St Neots. (1854 to 1872)

i.e. Potton, Sandy. (1872 to present)

These normally received and sent most of their mail direct to a Head Office.

In the text the dates given are for the length of time that they were sub offices not the period of use of barred numerals.

A Sub Office in an urban environment, before 1892 was called a Town Receiving Office.

LETTER BOXES.

Pillar Boxes and Wall Boxes, did not normally have their own cancellation, exception were Late Fee Letter Boxes at Railway Stations. The cancellation was applied either in the Travelling Post Office, eg. Euston Square Station with its provincial style 964 cancellation, or in transit the Manchester/Liverpool/Leeds/Bradford Late Box cancellations which were cancelled in London.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE CANCELLATIONS:

1844 type for the single obliterators issued to all the offices in the lists to 1850.



1844

3HOS is a 3 Bar Horizontal Oval Single obliterator

The 3HOS replaced the 1844 type in the 1850's. They can sometimes be very similar in that the 1844's can have three bars at the top and base. The key characteristic to separate these from a subsequently issued 3HOS is the length of the uppermost and lowermost bars. These are long in the 1844 type and short and often convex in the 3HOS. The figure 4 almost always has a serif on the horizontal bar in 1844s and is always sans serif in the 3HOSs.



3HOS



3TH.HOS

4VOS is a 4 Bar Vertical Oval Single obliterator

3VOS is a 3 Bar Vertical Oval Single obliterator

Obliterators that were first issued as a 4VOS can through wear and local recutting become a 3VOS or indeed rarely a 2VOS. As these always derive from the original 4VOS they are placed in that category. The evidence is that the size of the figures and letters stay the same despite the reduction in the number of bars. True 3VOS's are separately proofed as such and frequently replace a 4VOS.



4VOS



3VOS



3CD

3 bar Circular oval Duplex



4VOD



3VOD

Spoon and sideways duplex are pre-existing categories that have been used

4 bar Vertical Oval Duplex 3 bar Vertical Oval Duplex

3VODX A distinctive pattern of 3VOD was sent to 21 towns on 10 MAY1873. In the Proof Books the cds and obliterator were separately entered, with the cds often at an angle and some distance from the obliterator. In use the cds and obliterator were also some distance apart, they were the first 3VOD cancels to be issued. They are often described as a 3VOS in the literature. Of the 21, three are common Birmingham, Manchester and Cheltenham, 11 are very rare, and 7 have never been seen. They might have been for use in an experimental new style of handstamp or cancelling machine. Whatever the nature of the experiment it appears to not to have been successful.

ILLUSTRATIONS

The majority of the illustrations are face different Proof Book entries. These have been photocopied from photocopies held in the Post Office archive.

There are very few examples of the 1844 type in the Proof Books, most examples in the catalogue have been traced from actual examples.

If there are two identical copies of a cancel entered at the same in the Proof Books this can often be shown to be the issue of two different cancels. The official stamping the entry found it easier to make two impressions of the same cancel rather than one of each.

DATE OF ISSUE

The date attached to each illustration is the first date of entry in the Proof Books. Just the month and year are quoted because of the ambiguities in the various possible dates: -

1/ The date a cancellation was sent to a Head Office, this was not always the final destination.

2/ The date in the cds of the cancellation, this is not always the same as the date sent. It can indeed be almost a year out. Volume 15 of the Proof Books consists of cut outs of cancellations, these are often duplicate entries of cancels that are in other Proof Books - however the cds date in volume 15 can often be much earlier in the year than the date in the other Proof Books. The earlier date is certainly the correct one.

3/ The date a cancel was proofed – this is in a column marked “sent” in the Proof Books.

In the literature any of these three sources could have been used for the “date of issue”.

RARITY & PRICE

The rarity index ranges from A = abundant to H = very few recorded. H* has been used for proofed cancels that have only been recorded on loose stamp.

GPO means that the cancel has only been seen in the Proof Books.

Prices for coloured cancels have not been quoted, there is too much variation.

Prices have not been updated from those quoted in the six volume set issued 2011 to 2013 - i.e. they are at least 10 years old.

POST OFFICE LISTS

The list of numeral allocations comes from a combination of several sources:-

1/ The Official Lists held in various forms in the Post Office Archives and several that are privately held.

2/ Individual changes in allocation listed in the Post Office Circular, which was a set of weekly instructions to Postmasters.

The Official Lists that have been used:-

1844 – contained in Dendy Marshall’s book. Thus seen by Brumell.

1845 - 1847 - 1855 - 1856 - 1857 contained in the relevant Post Office Directory.

1874 - 1882 - 1887 - 1892 - currently available in the Post Office Archives, in their file Post 55. The 1882 list is new, it was not seen or mentioned by Brumell.

1899 - Brumell mentions a list that he had not seen that was quoted by Whitworth (Southport 1905) as the “1899” list. Post Office Archives have an 1887 list with manuscript additions up to about 1900. This is certainly Whitworth’s “1899” list.

1902 - seen and listed by Brumell, but there is no longer a copy in the Post Office Archives.

1906 - currently available in the Post Office Archives, in Post 55. This was the last list used by Brumell.

1924, 1929 and 1949 - these have recently become available in the Post Office Archives, in Post 55, called Post Office Form 1013. They were not available to Mackay.

1954, 1959 - listed by George Pearson in his 1959 publication. The lists are not in the Post Office Archives.

1962 - an original list seen and quoted by Mackay. Given by him in 1990 to the Post Office Archives, but no longer available. A privately held copy has been downloaded from the GBPS website.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

George Brumell, *British Post Office Numbers 1844 – 1906*. R.C.Alcock Cheltenham 1946 and 1971. The collectors "bible", the first edition had a section on postmarks, which was unfortunately left out of the later 1971 edition. It also contained a good description of earlier books published on Post Office numbers.

George Pearson, *List of Index Numbers used in Surcharge Explanatory and other Stamps in Great Britain and Northern Ireland*. Privately printed 1959. The only source for the 1954 and 1959 lists. A rare publication.

James A. Mackay, *British Post Office Numbers 1924 to 1969*. Published by the author 1981.

A good summary of what information was available at that time.

Marshall, Dendy *The British Post Office from its beginnings to the end of 1925*. Oxford University Press 1926.

An interesting collection of information on the history of stamp issues and an index of people, places and items associated with British Postal history. Contains a good annotated bibliography.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This has been a cooperative effort, with over two hundred and fifty correspondents over the last forty years. Their input varies from a making a few additions to complete editing of whole chapters.

Particular help has been provided over many years by Grahame Blackman and David Tolfrey.

Post Office Archives: Many thanks for all their help in the past, although under the current regime research is becoming increasingly difficult. This follows a general tendency amongst archivists to make preservation the all-pervading priority and making access secondary.

ISLE OF MAN INDEX 407

Baldrine 068
 Ballasalla 070
 Ballaugh 069
CASTLETOWN 037 - 172
 Crosby 071
DOUGLAS 407
 Kirk Michael 072

Laxey 073
 Peel **D51** & 596
 Port Erin 642
 Port St Mary 074
RAMSEY 036
 St Johns 075

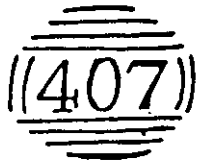
172 Castletown
 Castletown was allocated number 172 in the lists from 1924 to 1962.

407 DOUGLAS

Head Post Office 1844 onwards.

Douglas was allocated number 407 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.

*Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- 037 Castletown 1846 to 1869. D51 Peel 1846 to 1886.
 036 Ramsey 1846 to 1886.*



1844
 APR1844



3HOSA
 NOV1850



3HOSB
 OCT1854

1844 Used from 31 JUL1844 to 20 APR1850 Price F £40

3HOSA (5.5mm high figures) Used from 11 JAN1851 to 11 AUG1854 Price F £30

Seen in green Used on 24 MAR1852

3HOSB (7.0mm high figures) Used from 30 JAN1855 to 12 OCT1857 Price F £30

Seen in green Used on 30 JAN1855



4VOS
 JUL1869



3VOS
 MAR1879

4VOS GPO
 3VOS GPO



SDWYSVIII
 OCT1857

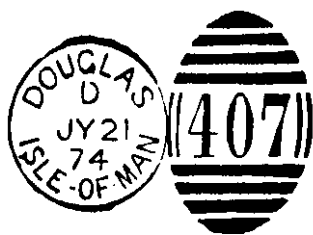


3CD
 MAY1860

SDWYS VIII Used from 21 NOV1857 to 12 JUL1860 Codes: A B Price G £120++

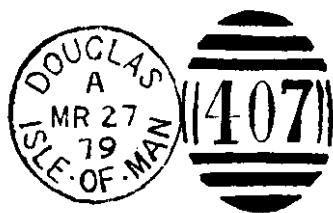
3CD Used from 7 JAN1861 to 16 JUL1888 Codes: A B C D Price A £20

ISLE OF MAN 407-036



4VOD
JUL1874

4VOD Time in code Used from 4 JAN1875 to 27AUG1889 Codes: A B C D Price B £15
4VOD Time in full Used from 28 JUN1896 to 1 MAR1897 Times: 7AM 8AM 830AM 6PM
730PM Price F £15



3VOD
MAR1879

3VOD Time in code Used from 27MAR1880 to 10 SEP1902 Codes: A B C D E F H I K
Price A £8
3VOD Time in full Used from 16 SEP1896 to 27 DEC1904
Times: 7AM 830AM 845AM 9AM 1PM 2PM 230PM 245PM 3PM 315PM 330PM 345PM 4PM
5PM 530PM 645PM 830PM 10PM Price A £8 on cover, £5 on ppc.
Squared Circles in use: JAN1892 to JAN1909

596 Peel

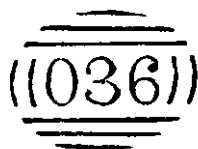
Peel was allocated number 596 in the lists from 1924 to 1962.

642 Port Erin

Port Erin was allocated number 642 in the lists from 1924 to 1962.

036 RAMSEY

Sub Office of Douglas 1846 to 1886, Independent Sub Office 1886 onwards.
Ramsey was allocated number 036 in the lists from 1855 to 1962.



3HOS OC-
T1854



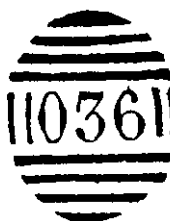
4VOS
JUN1869

3HOS Used from 30 JAN1855 to 7 JUN1864 Price F £40+
4VOS GPO

ISLE OF MAN 036-037



4VODA
AUG1865



4VODB NOT ENTERED
IN THE PROOF BOOKS

4VODA (Round top three) Used from 20 SEP1865 to 4 APR1878

Codes: A B C Price C £20

4VODB (Flat top three) Used from 17 NOV1879 to 11 JUL1895

Codes: A B C E F I Price C £15

4VODB (Flat top three) Used from 5 JAN1897 to 6 JAN1899

Times: 530AM 6AM 1PM 315PM 415PM 8PM 1045PM 11PM Price E £15



3VODA
AUG1879



3VODB
JUN1886

3VODA (Isle of Man in cds) GPO

3VODB (I-of-Man in cds & 8mm figs) Used from 30 AUG1895 to 10 JUN1907

Codes: J K O Q R Price E £15



3VODC
JUN1886

3VODC (I-of-Man in cds & 9mm figs) Used from 5 JUL1888 to 24 AUG1906

Codes: A J K N R Price B £10 on cover, £6 on ppc

Squared Circles in use: APR1892 to JUL1920

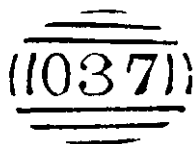
037 CASTLETOWN

Sub Office of Douglas 1846 to 1869, Independent Sub Office 1869 to onwards.

Castletown was allocated number 037 in the lists from 1855 to 1906 and then 172 from 1924 to 1962.

Number 037 was later allocated to Stanford le Hope (Essex) 1959 to 1962.

ISLE OF MAN 037-D51



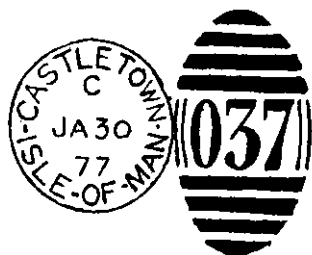
3HOS
OCT1854



3VOS
NOV1876

3HOS Used from 30 OCT1863 to 2 OCT1874 Price G £80+

3VOS Used from 10 NOV1879 to 27 MAY1881 Price H £80+



4VODA
JAN1877



4VODB NOT ENTERED
IN THE PROOF BOOKS

4VODA (9mm high figs) Used from 6 FEB1877 to 15 SEP1896 Codes: A B C D Price B £25

4VODB (8mm high figs) Used from 14 MAR1898 to 18 JUN1905

Times: 7AM 715AM 1PM 2PM 245PM 330PM 415PM 430PM 645PM 7PM 915PM 10PM
1030PM 1145PM Price A £15 on cover, £5 on ppc

068 Baldrine

Baldrine was allocated number 068 in the 1963 list

069 Ballaugh

Ballaugh was allocated number 069 in the 1963 list

070 Ballasalla

Ballasalla was allocated number 070 in the 1963 list

071 Crosby

Crosby was allocated number 071 in the 1963 list

072 Kirk Michael

Kirk Michael was allocated number 072 in the 1963 list

073 Laxey

Laxey was allocated number 073 in the 1963 list

074 Port St Mary

Port St Mary was allocated number 074 in 1963/4

075 St Johns

St Johns was allocated number 075 in the 1963 list

D51 PEEL

Sub Office of Douglas 1846 to 1886, Independent Sub Office from 1886.

Peel was allocated number D51 in the lists from 1882 to 1906 and then 596 from 1924 to 1962.

ISLE OF MAN D51



3VOS
MAR1881



3VODA NOT ENTERED
IN THE PROOF BOOKS

3VOS No dated copies recorded Price H* £60+ (Price if found on dated cover)

3VODA (Peel Isle of Man) Used on 24 DEC1891 Code: F Price H £100++

A new type with "Isle of Man" in the cds.



3VODB
NOV1884

3VODB (Peel I of Man) Used from 16 JUN1886 to 31 AUG1914 Codes: A B C D F

Price B £15 on cover, £5 on ppc

Squared Circles in use: FEB1894 to AUG1919