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One of the important postal accounts not previously reprinted in *Notebook* is the *Account of the Penny Post from The Present State of London*, by Thomas De Laune, published in 1681. It is a most comprehensive contemporary description.

Of the PENNY-POST

This Ingenious *Undertaking* being so extraordinary useful in the facilitating of Commerce and mutual Correspondence, and consequently very serviceable to *Traders*, &c., shall be briefly handled: and, I hope, that what proceeds from me, who am no interessed Person, will be resented Candidly, and Examined, as to the Argumentative part, according to the Solidity and Strength of the Reasons produced.

I have heard this Undertaking disparaged by some Censorious Persons, and have examined the Reasons, with the quality of the Objectors, and have found it all along opposed by none but the Ignorant, or such as preferred some Particular Ends, before Publick Utility. To my knowledge I never saw nor corresponded directly nor indirectly with any of the Undertakers, till being very desirous to insert this Affair of the *Penny-Post* in this Book for Publick Information, I made an Address to one of the Gentlemen concern'd, who Courteously supply'd me with some particular Informations which I wanted, and for which I am beholding to him. This I speak, to satisfie the Objectors that I do voluntarily, and not by any inducement of their mention this Affair, which, in my opinion, is so far from being a prejudice, that the City, as well as the whole Nation, is beholding to them for their Ingenious Contrivance, and their Constancy and Generosity in minding the Publick Good so much as they have done; for 'tis certain that they have been at very great Expence to hold it up, under the Discouragements that some Persons have thrown upon them, and the necessary Charge to support it is yet very considerable. But to be more particular:

1. I will give some Hints of what this Undertaking is in Point of Practice.
2. Its general and particular Usefulness.
3. I will consider an Objection or two.

1. What I can say of this Undertaking in Point of Practice, is briefly what follows, only I would premise a few words as my opinion, and the opinion of impartial Persons of my acquaintance, as to the thing in general.

This useful Invention is little more than a year old, being begun in *April*, 1680. The chief Undertaker that introduc'd it into Practice, is one Mr. *William Dockwra* Merchant, a Native and Citizen of *London*, formerly one of His Majesties *Sub-Searchers* in the Custom-House of *London*, as in the List of those Officers appears. A Person, whose approved Reputation for Industry and Fidelity was well known to all for above ten years in that Office: And to whom the Publick is obliged, he having, with his Partners, spent much time, and a great Sum of money, to bring this Undertaking on foot, wherein they encounter'd with no small Difficulties, not only by *Affronts* and *Indignities* from the *Vulgar* sort, who seldom weigh any Publick or Generous Designs, but at the *Beam* of Little, Selfish, By-Ends, but also by more dangerous Attaques; for there have been Attempts made, by some Persons, to persuade his Royal Highness the Duke of *York*, that it intrench'd upon the *General Post-Office*, and damnifi'd it; whereupon many Actions were brought, and a chargeable Suit of Law follow'd: But, questionless, the Duke is better inform'd now; for it is most certain, that this does much further the Revenue of the *Grand Post-Office*, and is an universal Benefit to all the Inhabitants of these Parts; so that whoever goes about to deprive the City of so useful a thing, deserves no thanks from the Duke, nor any Body else, but to be Noted as an *Enemy to Publick and ingenious Inventions*.

It is with all Humility submitted to the Consideration of all worthy Citizens that happen to peruse this small Tract, that it becomes not the Honour of the City to suffer any of

its *Ingenious Natives*, especially Persons who have lived and do live in good *Fashion* and *Repute*, to sink under the carrying on of an Undertaking so advantageous not only to the Publick, but also to private Persons, since their industrious Service to their Generation deserves encouragement from their Fellow-Citizens, and all others, *viz.*,

(1) To discountenance petty Persons that would, for the profit of running of Errands, rob the Community (if they could) of this more than ordinary convenience for safe, cheap, and necessary Dispatches.

(2) To reject any INTRUDER that may attempt to set up another *Penny-Post*; because, if the thing be hereafter profitable, all the Reason and Equity in the world will plead for the Inventors, *viz.* that they ought to reap the Benefit. And it is a Note of consideration, that Mr. *Dockwra* has a numerous family of eight young Children; who being forsaken by some others soon after it began, and left to shift for himself, carried on this Undertaking singly, for above half a year at his own proper charge and hazard, against all the Difficulties, Oppositions and Discouragements that attended it, though now he hath several Citizens in partnership with him. But I am truly informed, that the Income does not yet amount to three-fourths of the necessary Charge to support it; therefore I am persuaded that this Honourable City will employ the *Inventers*, rather than an Invader, if ever such should be; And this 'tis much below such a Prince as his Royal Highness is, to desire the Ruine of such a Family.

I am the more large upon this Particular, because it would be a general Discouragement to the Contrivers of useful and profitable Inventions, if others should be encouraged to reap the Crop of what they with so much charge and labor have sown.

This Penny-Post is this Managed.

The Principal Office to which all Accounts, &c. are daily transmitted, is in *Lyme-street*, at the Dwelling-house of the said Mr. *Dockwra*, formerly the Mansion-house of Sir *Robert Abdy* Knt.

There are seven *Sorting-houses*, proper to the seven *Precincts*, into which the Undertakers have divided *London, Westminster,* and the Suburbs, situated at equal distances, for the better maintenance of mutual Correspondence.

There are about 4 or 500 Receiving-houses to take in Letters, where the Messengers call every hour, and convey them as directed; as also Post-Letters, the writing of which are much increased by this Accommodation, being carefully convey'd by them to the General Post-Office in *Lombard-street.*

There are a great Number of Clerks and poor Citizens daily employed, as Messengers, to Collect, Sort, Enter, Stamp and Deliver all Letters, every Person entertained giving Fifty pounds security, by Bond, for his Fidelity; and is to be subject to the Rules and Orders, from time to time, given by the Undertakers, who oblige themselves to make good anything deliver'd to their Messengers under the value of Ten pounds, if Sealed up, and the Contents Endorsed; And these Messengers have their Wages duly paid them every Saturday night.

By these are convey'd Letters and Parcels, not exceeding One Pound Weight, not Ten Pound in Value, to and from all Parts at seasonable times, *viz.* of the Cities of *London* and *Westminster, Southwark, Redriff, Wapping, Ratcliff, Lyme-house, Stepney, Poplar, and Blackwall,* and all other places within the weekly Bills of Mortality, as also the four Towns of *Hackney, Islington, South-Newington-Butts* and Lambeth, but to no other Towns, and the Letters to be left only at the Receiving-houses of those four Towns, for the said four Towns; but if brought home to their Houses, a Penny more in those Towns; nor any Letter to be deliver'd to them in the Street, but at the Receiving-houses.

They do now use *Stamps* to mark the hour of the Day on all Letters when sent out from their Office to be deliver'd, by which all Persons are to expect their Letters within one hour, (little more or less, from the time marked thereon, excepting such Letters as are to be convey'd to the Out-Towns, and Remotest parts, which will be longer) by which the cause of delay of

Letters may be easily discern'd, *viz.* whether it be really be in the Office, or their own Servants, (or others) with whom Letters are left.

The Marks they make use of for this purpose, are these:



Of which the First, signifies Eight in the Morning, the Last, Four in the Afternoon, and the Middlemost, is the Letter of the Chief Office in *Lyme-street*, each Office having its proper Letter, and an Acknowledgement that the *Penny-Post* is paid, to prevent the giving of anything at the Delivery.

All Persons are desired not to leave any Town-Letters after Six of the Clock in the Winter, and Seven in the Summer on Saturday Nights, because the many poor men employ'd, may have a little time to provide for their Families against the Lords-day, having no leisure all the week besides.

Upon three days at *Christmas*, two days in *Easter* and *Whitsontide*, and upon the 30 of *January (Ed: see note at end of article)* ,the *Penny-Post* does not go.

To the most Remote places Letters go four or five times of the day, to other places six or eight times of the day. To Inns of Court, and places of business in Town, especially in Term or Parliament-time, 10 or 12 times of the day. For better information of People where the Receiving-houses are, there are great Numbers of Printed Tickets dispersed from time to time amongst the Neighborhood, and Advertisements in the Publick Intelligences, which all concern'd may take Notice of, so that any body may be by the Neighborhood immediately inform'd where a Receiving-house is. Carriers and Stage-Coach Letters are to have Two-pence inclosed to each Carrier or Coachman, because they often reject them for want of money; Hundreds of such being return'd, which any Inquirer may have again upon notice, for they lie Alphabetically disposed of in the Chief Office for that end.

On all Post-Nights due Care is taken to call for, and convey to the general Post-house in *Lombard-street* all Post-Letters, whether Foreign or Inland, left in any of the *Penny-Post* Receiving-houses, at or before Nine of the Clock at Night. And I could wish, for Encouragement of the Undertakers, that all Persons would so far contribute to the continuance of this useful Design, as to send their Post-Letters by this Conveyance to the Post-Office in *Lombard-street*, which they do not Convey by themselves, or Servants.

If any Post-Letters be left without Money that should pay before-hand, they will be Returned to the Office, therefore such as send Money, are to indorse the Postage-money upon their Letters.

Such as inclose Money in Town-Letters, are to Indorse the true Sum on the Outside, and to tye fast and seal up, under a plain Impression, all Parcels, which may be one way to prevent Disputes, in case anything be lost. The Undertakers will not answer for any Contents unseen, unless sealed fast, and the Value Indorsed plain to be Read.

2. *Some brief Hints of the Usefulness of this Office.*

1. In and near this great and famous *Emporium*, is the usual Residence of our Kings, the High Court of Parliament, the fixed Seats of all the Courts of Judicature, and in it is managed a vast Trade, as was shew'd in the *Chapter* that Treats of it; now a cheap, frequent, and safe way of Correspondence, is very advantageous for all that are concerned in Commerce, or Business.

The principal Trade of *London* depends upon Navigation, and therefore the City and the Suburbs are situate along the River of *Thames*, extending in length, as was shew'd, pag.5, from *Lyme-house* to the end of *Tuttle-street* 7500 Geometrical Paces, that is seven Miles and an half; and from the end of *Blackman-street* , to the end of *St, Leonard Shoreditch*, 2500 Paces in Breadth, that is two miles; and the whole Circumference (as by Demonstration can be made apparent) is above 20 Miles, taking in all the Contiguous Suburbs and *Westminster*, so that it is the longest, if not the greatest and most populous City in *Christendom*. This extraordinary Length, though it adds to its Splendor and Beauty, yet it renders speedy Communication and Intercourse in Business very uneasie, and much more troublesom, than in such great Cities as *Paris*, which is almost of an orbicular Form. Now to keep up a necessary Correspondence, the way formerly used, was to hire *Porters* at Excessive Rates to go on Errands, and to send Servants or Apprentices, who, in the mean while, lost that time that should be spent to learn their Trades, and benefit their Masters, and would often loyter, and get vicious habits, and evil company, &c. (when they need not) to their own and Masters hurt; or else such as could not spare the Porter so much money, nor kept Servants, (as some poor Artificers and Labourers) have been forced to sweat and toil, and leave their work, for, it may be, half the day, to do that which now they may perform at the easie rate of a Penny.

But now all these Inconveniences are remedied by the *Penny-Post* with great Safety and Celerity, for which the Contrivers really deserve the Thanks of all who reap benefit by it; and I may be bold to say, that all the Inhabitants in general, and their Fellow-Citizens in particular, are already very sensible of the great Convenience thereof: For, among the innumerable Benefits of this *Penny-Post*, which for brevity we omit. Friends may converse with Friends, at any distance; Merchants, Shop-keepers and Tradesmen with their Customers, or such as deal with them; Clients may consult with Lawyers; Patients with Doctors' Poor Prisoners with Creditors, or Benefactors; and all Bills dispersed for Publication of any Concern; All Summons or Tickets conveyed; all Entries of Brewers to the Excise-Office; and many more, for *One Penny*.

3. *The Objections I have heard of, are,*

1. From some sort of *Porters*, viz. that it hinders their Livelihood.

Answ. (1.) 'Tis certain that this is a mistake, for their Livelihood never depended upon going on Errands, their Business being other laborious Work, and carrying of Burdens, &c. But some of the Free-Porters are now in the service of the Undertaking.

(2.) Most Business dispatcht by this Undertaking, was formerly either not done at all, or performed by other hands, to save Charges, (Porters Rates being so dear) and Persons themselves, or their Servants, went on their own Errands.

(3.) If the Porters, who are an inconsiderable Number, in respect of the whole Inhabitants of this great City, should suffer some small loss of Petty Employ by it, yet vast Numbers of poor People, and others, are exceedingly eased and benfitted thereby, which deserve as much, or more pity, than Porters: And a general and useful Undertaking, should not in Equity or Prudence be discountenanced, for the peculiar advantage of some few, and more than all the Pipes or Water-Conduits of the City should be destroyed, meerly for the Accommodation of Tankard-Bearers; Printing suppressed, to accommodate Writing Clerks; Guns, for Fletchers; Navigable Rivers, for Carriers; and the Trade of Jack-smiths, for Turnspits, &c. Nor have Porters any Authority to monopolize to themselves the Delivery of Letters, it being by Law free for any Person to use what Conveyance they think good for their Letters, within or without the Freedom. And Coach-men, Car-men, Water-men, &c. may as well be put out of their callings, as the Undertakers disturb'd in this Concern, because then the Porters may have more Burdens to carry. Neither is any prohibited or restrained by this Undertaking, but they may still employ a Porter if they please, so that this Objection is

causeless, and is level'd against the whole Body of Inhabitants, as well as the Undertakers in particular.

2. Others Alledge, That their Letters are not speedily answered and therefore say they miscarry.

Answ. **That may be, because the Party is not at home, and his servants do not produce his Letter as he ought, though punctually left by the *Penny-Post-Messenger* (this I have very often known to be my own Case, and some of my Friends.) Or the Party may not be at leisure, or not willing to write, or removed, or would pretend he received it not, when Dun'd for money, which he cannot, or will not pay. And indeed I am also inform'd, that abundance of Letters are so ill superscribed, or uncertainly directed, when frequently the particular Trade of the Party, the Sign, or what Noted Place is near, are omitted, that it is impossible to deliver such, which is the fault of the Senders, and not of the Office.**

To conclude this Subject. The Reader may expect hereafter a small Tract by it self, Printed for the Undertakers of the *Penny-Post.* What I have here inserted being briefly Remarkt, as my own Notions, concerning so laudable a Design, by way of *Specimen*, and as a thing suitable to my present Work.

Editor's Note:
January the 30th. is the anniversary of the execution of Charles I, hence the marking of the day by closing the Penny-Post.

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There is a small collection of articles on this subject dealt with by C.F. Dendy Marshall. The publisher of these is not known at present but thought to be the Postal History Society. Providing permission to reprint this material can be obtained, it is expected these will be published during the course of 1998.

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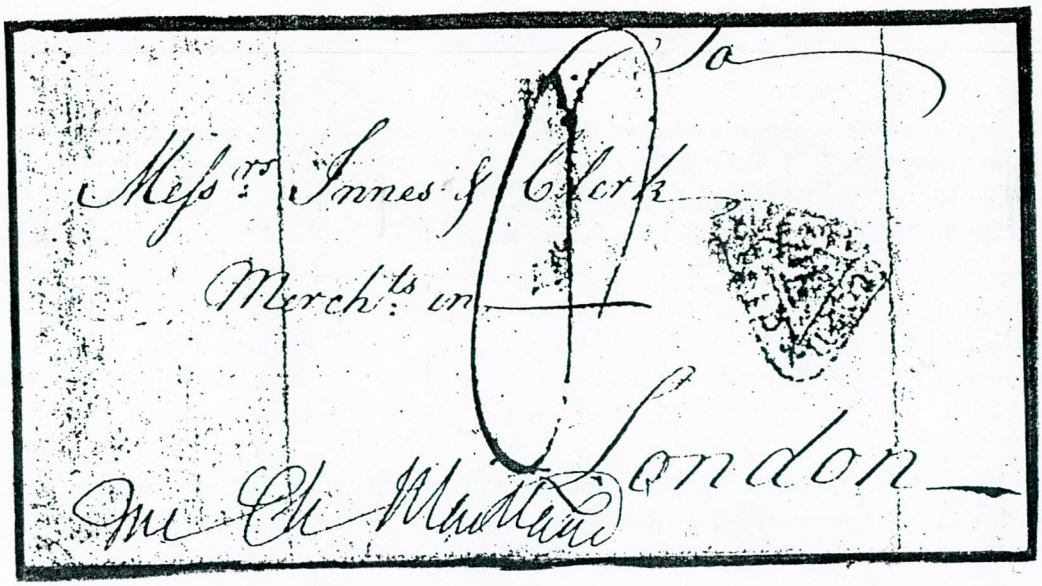
"HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL..."

Edward Park

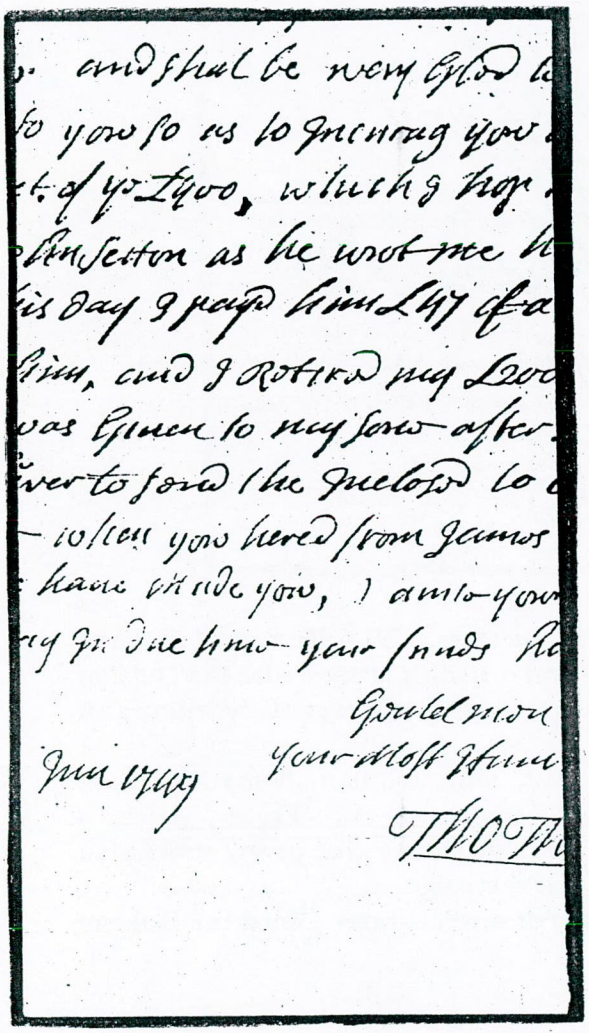
Donald Farmborough's article "In For a Pound..." in *Notebook* 123 encouraged the recounting of a similar experience.

The front, with text on the reverse, was discovered at a local fair, priced at £2: a real find which all collectors hope one day to secure at a bargain price. The stamp gave the impression of being a 1680 Murray/Dockwra Penny Post stamp. PAID, below the "L", faced outwards; the fleur-de-lis corner ornaments could be discerned - no doubts.
However, those doubts started. The part letter on the reverse had no place of origin and the date looked like "Jun 1749", although the "1749" was written in script: a friendly dealer





suggested it might be "January". Hope restored. When shown to various individuals at STAMPEX, reactions varied from cautiously favourable to total put-downs.



The paper was wrong for the period, the writing was of the 18th century, the ink of the stamp was seemingly fugitive; there was no obvious reason for it to be in the Penny Post. Conclusion - a forgery with someone experimenting with a cut potato.

The letter clearly originated outside London. It appears to be a privilege letter complete with an authorising signature. Furthermore, the position of the "mark" is in much the same position as on Donald Farmborough's letter. Dockwra's post delivered letters to the General Post Office; there is no evidence to suggest General Post letters coming into London were collected by the Dockwra organisation.

The paper, by the way, is cream laid and shows a watermark - a rampant crowned lion brandishing a scimitar within a paled fence with, over the top, partly cut but a readable PROPATRIA.

The writing of the letter appears like an item of 1665 with which it has been compared. The address is, however, more in keeping with late 18th and 19th century script but were there not clear writers in the 17th century ?

It would be delightful for an "authority" to rule this is, after all, an original and not a potato cut but for £2 at least it has proved to be a talking point.

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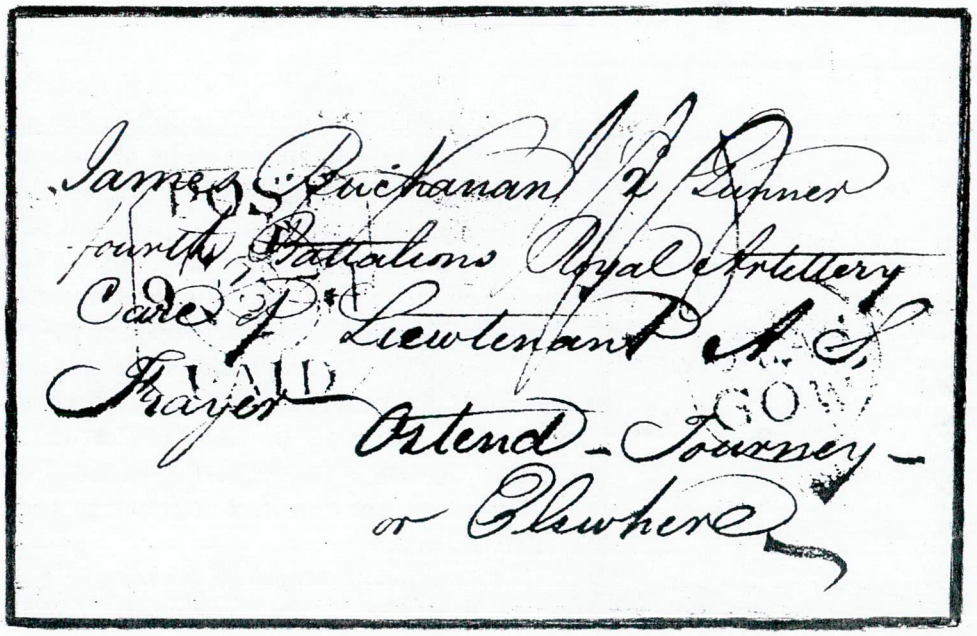
EXPERIMENTAL PAID STAMPS, 1794

Alistair Kennedy

In 1794 there was a major reorganisation of the London Penny Post. To a much lesser extent, the General Post also changed, though the only evidence of this was three new PAID stamps which were introduced. Willcocks and Jay (County Catalogues Vol. 3 - London) show four paid stamps used in 1794, the first having been in use from 1791.

L. 95	Circles	32 to 33 mm diameter	1791 - 1794
L. 96	POST PAID in a square frame	34 x 34 mm	March 1794
L. 97	POST PAID in an octagonal frame	32 x 32 mm	April to July 1794
L. 98	PAID in circle	25 mm diameter	Aug. to Dec. 1794

The example shown here of L. 97 but with the date JU 13 at a diagonal angle across the square. Another shown at the Silver Jubilee meeting on January 18th evidenced a complete blank where the year should be.



This is an example from the British Campaign in Flanders, 1793 - 95. France declared war on Holland and Britain on the 1st February, 1793 and a British army under the Duke of York was sent to the Low Countries. After early successes, the army was eventually withdrawn through Bremen in 1794.

This letter originated in GLASGOW 9th June, 1794, addressed to a James Buchanan 2d Gunner, fourth Battalions Royal Artillery, Care of Liewtenant A.S. Frazer, Ostend - Tourney - or Elsewhere. Postage was prepaid at 1/8 (a double letter) , the penny concession was soldiers not being introduced until after the end of this campaign.

The letter is on financial matters and the making of a will. Frazer joined the Duke of York's army in Flanders towards the end of 1793

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PENNY POST OFFICE RETURNED LETTER

Michael Goodman

The printed form from the Twopenny Post Office is well recorded. However, an example from the Penny Post Office is shown here. Although suffering from 200 years of mistreatment, the printed page contains a dating of the xxxxx 1ft, 1797 with the current Penny Post limits and times (n.b. reduced to 90%).

Penny-Poſt-Office,

THE encloſed has been opened by the proper Officer, and is returned to you for the Reaſon aſſigned thereon.

C. WALCOT, Comptroller.
E. JOHNSON, Depy. Comptroller.

Penny-Poſt Regulations. 1ſt, 1797.

There are *Two Principal Offices*, One in the *General Poſt-Office*, *Lombard-ſtreet*, and the Other in *Gerrard-ſtreet, Soho*. There are beſides, numerous Receiving Houſes for Letters, both in Town and Country.

There are SIX Collections and Deliveries of Letters in Town daily, (Sundays excepted) and there are Two Diſpatches *from* and Three Deliveries *at* moſt Places in the Country, within the Limits of the Penny Poſt.

The Hours by which Letters ſhould be put into the Receiving Houſes in Town, for each Delivery, are as follow:

For Delivery in TOWN.		For Delivery in the COUNTRY.	
Over Night by	8 o'Clock for the Firſt Delivery		
Morning	8 — Second	The preceding Evening by	5 o'Clock for the Firſt
—	10 — Third	Morning	8 — Second
—	12 — Fourth	Afternoon	2 — Third
Afternoon	2 — Fifth		
—	5 — Sixth		

But Letters, whether for Town or Country, may be put in at either of the Two Principal Offices at leaſt half an Hour later for each Diſpatch.

Letters put in on Saturday Evenings are delivered in the Country on Sunday Morning.

The dated Stamp, or, if there are Two, that having the lateſt Hour, ſhews alſo the Time of the Day at which Letters are diſpatched for Delivery from the Principal Offices.

The Poſtage of a Letter going from one Part of the Town to another — 1d.
To or from the Country, or from one Part of the Country to another — 2d.
To or from the General or Foreign Poſt Offices — 1d.

The Poſtage of Penny Poſt Letters may, or may not, be paid on putting in, at the Option of the Sender, but the Penny Poſtage for Letters to go by the General or Foreign Mails muſt be paid on putting in, and is not optional.

No Penny Poſt Letter muſt weigh more than Four Ounces.

The Penny Poſt Delivery includes all Places within the following Circle, which is alſo incluſive.

In KENT—Plumſtead beyond Woolwich; Shooter's-Hill; Eltham; Mottingham; South-End beyond Lewiſham; and Sydenham. In SURRY—Dulwich; Part of Norwood; Streatham; Mitcham; Morden; Merton; Wimbledon; Putney Heath; and Ham and Peterſham beyond Richmond. In MIDDLESEX and HARTS—Brentford; Ealing; Hanwell; Wembly beyond Willſdon; Kingſbury; The Hyde; Mill Hill and Highwood Hill beyond Hendon; Totteridge, Whetſtone and Eaſt Barnet beyond Finchley; Southgate; Winchmore-Hill, and Enfield. In ESSEX—Chinkford and Loughton beyond Walthamſtow and Woodford; Chigwell and Row; Barking Side; Chadwell beyond Ilford, and Ripple Side beyond Barking.

Caſh, in Gold or Silver, or other Articles of Value encloſed in Letters, (Notes or Draſts for Money excepted) to be mentioned to the Office-keeper at putting in; but Bank Notes, or others payable to Bearer, to be cut in Half, and the Second Part not to be ſent till the Receipt of the Firſt is acknowledged.

This Office is not liable to make good the Loſs of any Property ſent by Poſt.

N. B. Penny-Poſt Letters are frequently by Miſtake put into the General Poſt, by which Means they are unavoidably delayed in the Delivery: It is therefore recommended that they be put into the Penny-Poſt Offices or Receiving Houſes, in order that they may be regularly forwarded by their proper Conveyance.

Perſons having Occaſion to complain of Delay in the Delivery of their Letters, are requeſted to ſend the Covers incloſed, in a Line to the Comptroller or Deputy Comptroller, ſtating the preciſe Time of Delivery; as the dated Stamp will aſſiſt materially in diſcovering with whom the Neglect lies.

reduction to 81% of original

1798 NEW SORTING TABLES DESIGNATED BY LETTERS

Alistair Kennedy

The Order Book of the President of the Inland Office (POST 14/245) records the introduction of new tables in 1798, designated by letters in accordance with the stamps used at each table.

Table A was to be brought into use on Monday morning, 15th January; Table B on Tuesday morning, 23rd January and Table C on Monday morning, 29 th. January.

An entry, dated Saturday 10th February records Tables A to F and a combined Table G/West Indies Officers. Each table was staffed by ten men; 2 clerks, 2 assistants, 2 openers, 2 sorters and 2 messengers.

Willcocks and Jay (County Catalogue Vol. 3 - London) record the following lettered stamps for 1798 which would have been used at these tables.

Morning Duty :	**L. 9 Single ring date stamp, small letters A - G above circle**	**Jan. - Feb. 1798**
Morning Duty :	**L. 10 Single ring date stamp, large letters A - G above circle**	**March 1798 - 1799**
Evening Duty :	**L. 7 Double ring date stamp, codes A - F within circle**	**in use from 1795**
	(evidently not a new arrangement set up in 1798 : ALK)	
Sunday Duty :	**L.25 as L 10 but with letter S above circle**	**1798 - 99**
	(presumably a single table, sufficient for the limited load on Sundays : ALK)	

Paid Morning :	**L.101 Very small letters outside circle A - F**	**Jan. - Aug. 1798**
	L.102 Large letters outside circle A - E	**1798 - 1799**
Paid Evening :	**L. 99 No code letter**	**in use from 1795**
Paid Sunday :	**L.120 Letter S above circle**	**not until 1799**

Inspector's Crown : L. 166 : codes A - G above crown in circle — **1798 - 1811**



Letter from GOSPORT dated 19th April, 1798. Charged, in Gosport, at 6d, single letter, 60 - 100 miles. At Table G the letter was found to contain en enclosure, so the charge was doubled to 1/-, the alteration being authenticated by the crown handstamp with small letter G outside circle.

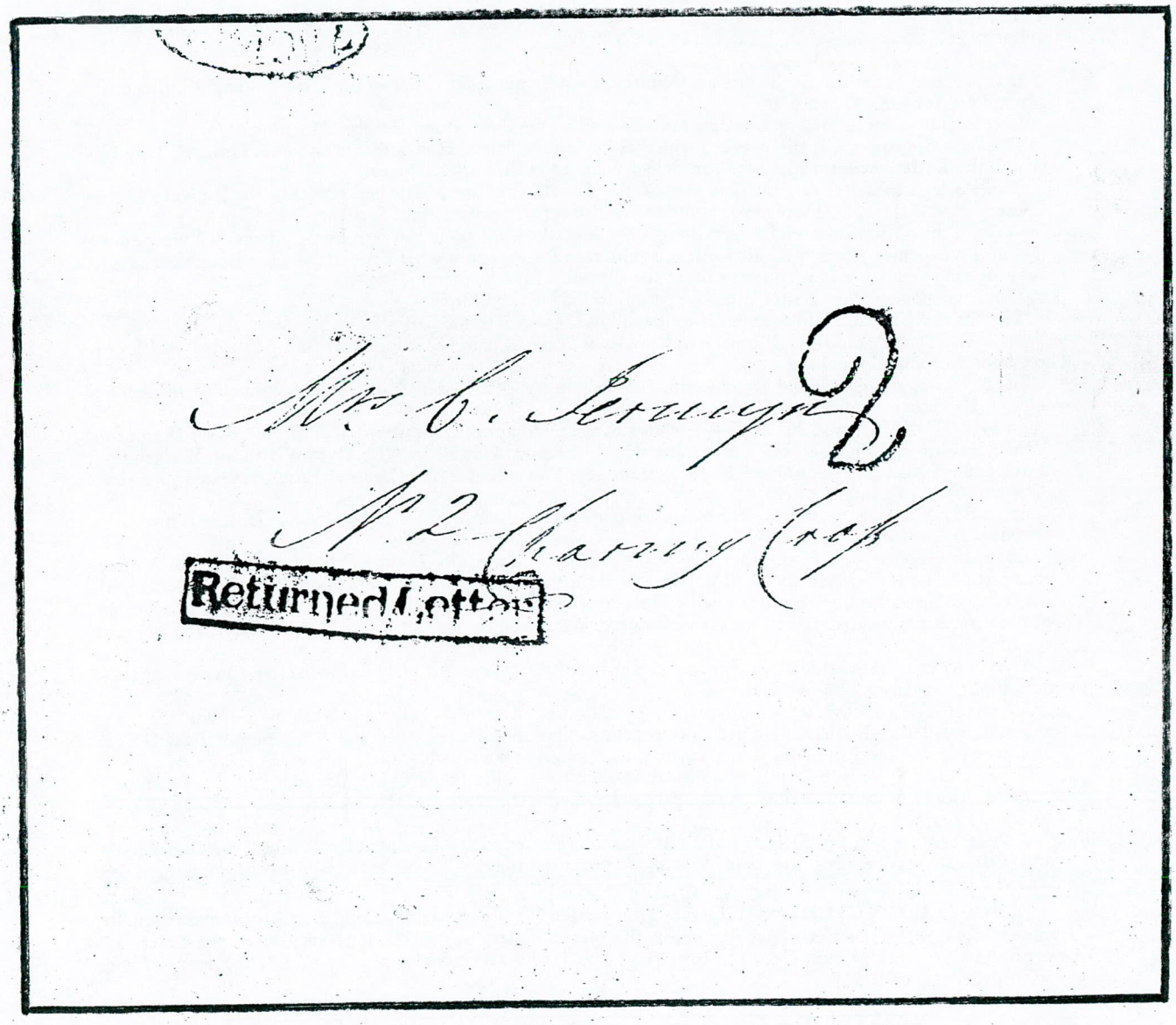
The date stamp on the reverse for AP 20 98 is L.10 ,G on circle.

.....

UNRECORDED HAND STRUCK BOXED "Returned Letter"

By courtesy of Cavendish Philatelic Auctions we illustrate below the uncatalogued Two Penny Post handstamp *"Returned Letter"* within a frame, 54mm x 9mm. This is struck on the obverse of a printed returned letter advice, reproduced on the next page. There has been some slight trimming along the edge showing the time stamp, this without loss of text. There is no postal dating but the form carries the printed year "1820"

As with all these newly recorded items, one must hope there is at least one postally dated example out there somewhere. Would Agent Mulder make enquiries please?



TWO-PENNY POST-OFFICE.

THE enclosed has been opened by the proper Officer, and is returned to you for the Reason assigned thereon.

E. JOHNSON, Comptroller.

REGULATIONS.

There are *Two Principal Offices*, One in the *General Post-Office Yard, Lombard-street*, and the other in *Gerrard-street, Soho*. There are, besides, numerous Receiving Houses for Letters, both in Town and Country.

There are SIX Collections and Deliveries of Letters in Town daily, (Sundays excepted) and there are Two Dispatches *from* and Three Deliveries *at* most Places in the Country, within the Limits of this Office.

The Hours by which Letters should be put into the Receiving Houses in Town, for each Delivery, are as follow:

For Delivery in TOWN.			For Delivery in the COUNTRY.		
Over Night by	8 o'Clock	Delivery for the First			Delivery
Morning	8	Second	The preceding Evening by	5 o'Clock	for the First
	10	Third	Morning	8	Second
	12	Fourth	Afternoon	2	Third
Afternoon	2	Fifth			
	5	Sixth			

But Letters, whether in Town or Country, may be put in at either of the Two Principal Offices an Hour later for each Dispatch.

Letters put in on Saturday Evening are delivered in the Country on Sunday Morning.

The date Stamp, or, if there are Two, that having the latest Hour, shews also the Time of Day by which the Letters were dispatched for Delivery from the Principal Offices.

The Postage of a Letter from one part of the Town to another, both being within the Delivery of the General Post-Office, is Two pence; and to and from parts beyond that Delivery Three-pence; and the Postage of this Office on each Letter passing to or from the General or Foreign Post-Offices, is Two-pence.

The Two-penny Postage of all Letters, such as are for Parts out of His Majesty's Dominions excepted, may or may not be paid at putting in, at the Option of the Senders.

No Two-penny Post Letter must weigh more than Four Ounces.

The Delivery of this Office extends to the following and intermediate Places.

In KENT—Woolwich; Plumstead; Shooter's Hill; Eltham; Mottingham; South End; Lewisham; Beckenham; and Sydenham.

In SURREY—Croydon; Beddington; Carshalton; Mitcham; Morden; Merton; Wimbledon; Ham; Petersham; and Richmond.

In MIDDLESEX and HERTS—Twickenham; Teddington; Hampton; Hampton Court; Hampton Wick; Sunbury; Whitton; Isleworth; Brentford; Ealing; Hanwell; Wembly; Willsdon; Kingsbury; The Hyde; Mill Hill; Highwood Hill; Totteridge; Whetstone; Friern Barnet; East Barnet; Southgate; Winchmore Hill; and Enfield.

In ESSEX—Chingford; Sewardstone; High Beach; Loughton; Chigwell and Row; Wanstead; Ilford; and Barking.

Cash, in Gold or Silver, or other Articles of Value enclosed in Letters (Notes or Drafts for Money excepted) to be mentioned to the Office-keeper at putting in; but it is recommended that Bank Notes, or others payable to Bearer, be cut in half and sent at twice, the Second Part not to be sent till the Receipt of the First is acknowledged. This Office however is not liable to make good the Loss of any Property sent by Post.

It is earnestly requested that Persons receiving Letters will not detain the Letter-Carriers at their doors longer than can be avoided.

Letters for this Delivery are frequently by mistake put into the General Post, by which they are unavoidably delayed; It is therefore recommended that they be put into the Two-penny Post Offices or Receiving Houses, in order that they may be regularly forwarded by their proper conveyance.

BYE POST. A Bye Post is established on each Road within the Country-Delivery of this Office, by which Letters are transmitted from one part to another of the same district, direct, and without coming to London.

Any irregularity in the Delivery of Letters communicated to the Comptroller will be duly attended to, and if the Covers bearing the date Stamp are produced they will assist materially in discovering where the fault lies.

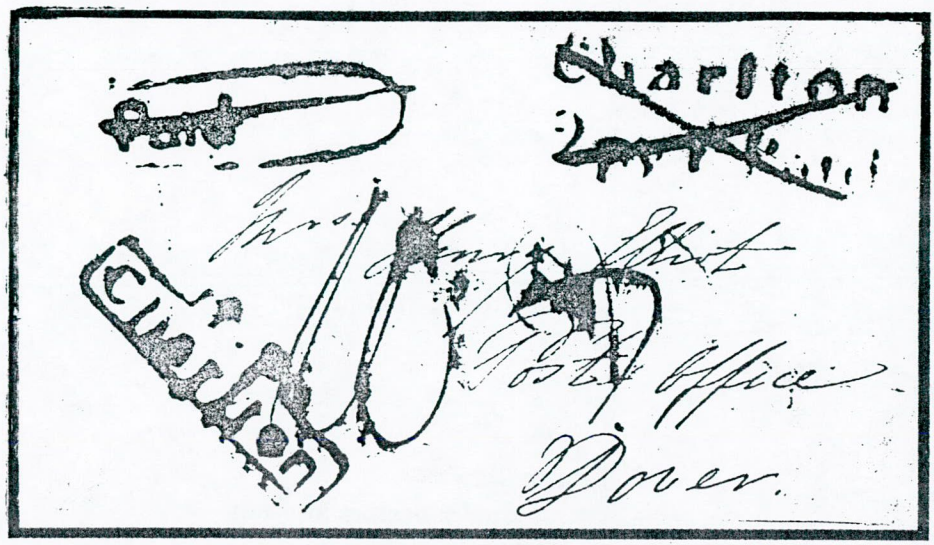
Illegal conveyance of Letters: By the 9th Queen Anne, cap. 10. "Any Person illegally conveying Letters, incurs a penalty of £5. for every offence, and £100. for every week the practice is continued." And by 42d. Geo. III. cap. 81. "The Sender also incurs a penalty of £5. for every offence with full Costs of Suit."

1820.

Printed by J. Harmell, Wine-office-court, Fleet-street, for His Majesty's Stationery Office.

CHARLTON

A long time ago the item shown here was sent to the Editor; since then any accompanying notes have been lost and we are left with the need to interpret from a position of ignorance of the area and the routing of mail between Charlton and Dover, to which place the letter is addressed.



Fortunately a pencil note on the copy gives the information of a Chief Office time stamp for 7 Night JU 7 1824, with the General Post stamp for the same day.

Whether the sender changed his mind about paying or whether the Receiver made an error we do not know. One cannot but suspect a change of mind since two stamps were struck before it was deemed to be an unpaid item.

The Charlton / 2 py P Paid (L. 507), not recorded in Jay or the Feldman working papers, with the Charlton oval framed Paid (L. 552) were deleted and the framed T·P/Charlton substituted. The "2" charge for Country to General Post charge appears, deleted, with the "10" total (General Post 50 - 80 miles 8d).

Perhaps a clue is given by the actual address : *Mrs Henry Elliot ,Post Office, Dover.* Did the sender imagine this might pass through without charge being addressed to the Post Office, possibly the Dover Receiver ? The change of mind by the sender seems more likely.

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PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS

F.E. Bennett

The transcript below of a letter from the Freeling correspondence reveals an enquiry from Compton Domville, a Dublin M.P., regarding non-receipt of Parliamentary Papers.

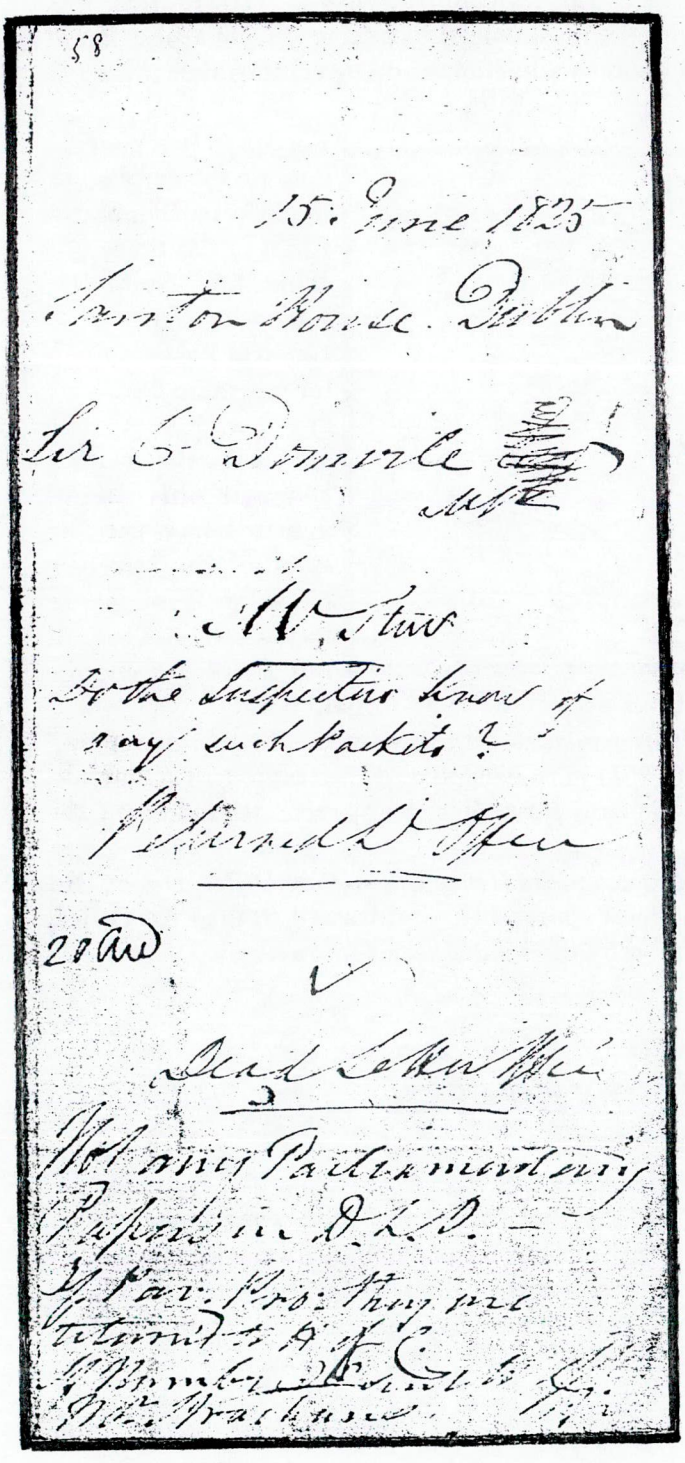
The notes on the back of the letter show the course of the letter within the Post Office and indicates what happens to such papers returned undelivered. It does seem, at first, nobody knew what to do to trace the Papers.

Santon House, near Dublin
15 June

Sir,

As perhaps there may be accidentally some Parliamentary papers directed for me lying in your Post Office, May I request if there should be, that you will cause them to be transmitted to me.

*Your Obed^t^ Ser^t^*
Compton Domville


58

15. June 1825

Canton House Dublin

Sir G. Drummond MP

Mr Stow
Do the Inspectors know of any such Packets ?

Returned L[r] Office

20 Au

Dead Letter Office

Not any Parliamentary Papers in D.L.O. -
If Par: Pro : they are returned to H of C

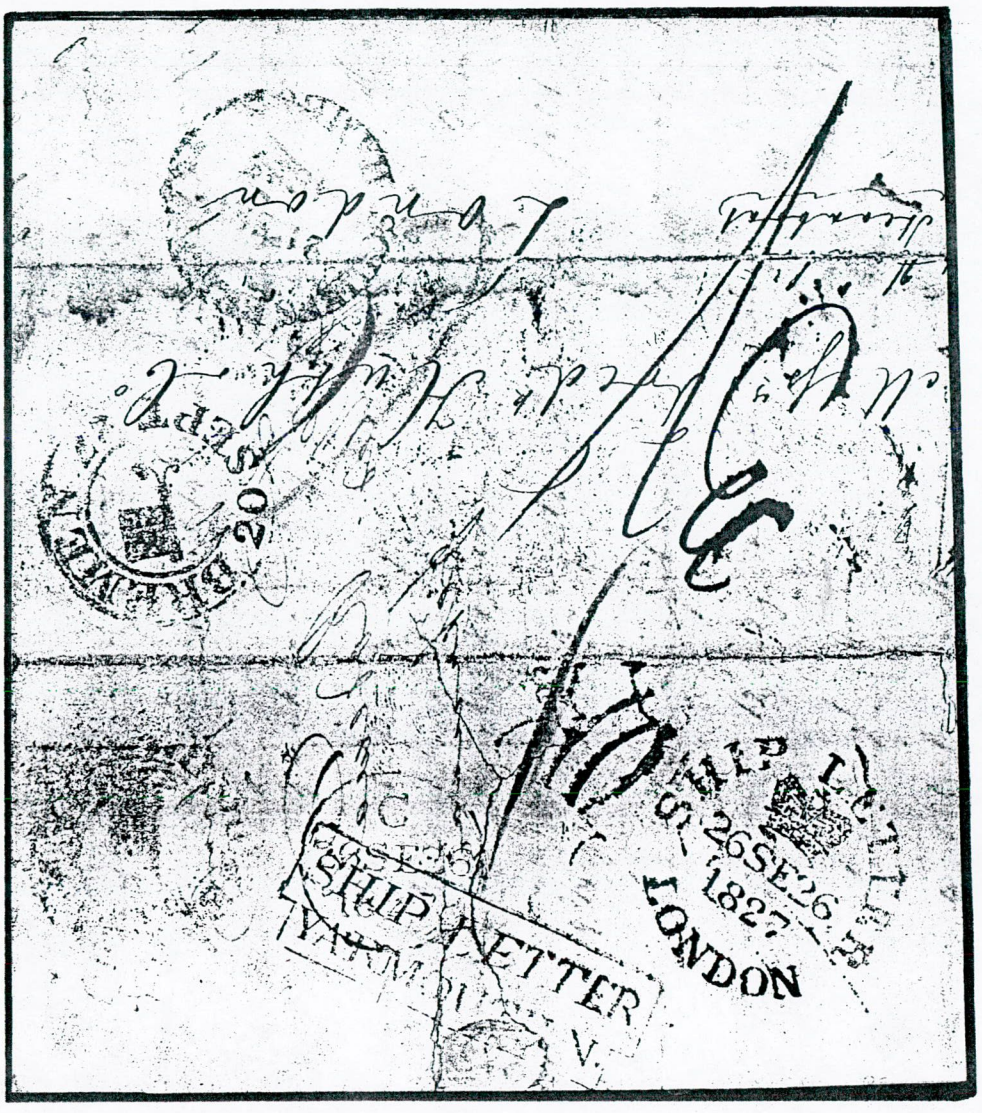
If Numbered, sent to Mr Strachams

note deletion of "Esqr" for MP

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LONDON SHIP LETTER OFFICE INSPECTOR'S CROWN

The letter started its journey with the Bremen date stamp for 20 SEPT 27, followed the next day by the Hamburg Ship stamp; there is a manuscript endorsement *Hamburg Steamboat.* It is very clearly addressed to Huth & Co London but, for some reason apparently arrived in Yarmouth, where it received the inverted step SHIP LETTER stamp.



The letter then came to London, where it was stamped with both the General Post and Ship Letter marks and a black Inspector's crown, similar to those used in the Inland Office; these are reported as struck only in red.

It is worth noting the crown and Ship Letter date stamp are close and both appear to be in the identical black ink. It is appreciated this is not invariably a sound guide but in this case the ink comparison is telling. The General Post date stamp is the only one on the letter in red.

The 3/ rate may be interpreted as the 8^{d} Ship Letter plus the General Post 10^{d} (Yarmouth to London 123 miles), then charged for a double letter.

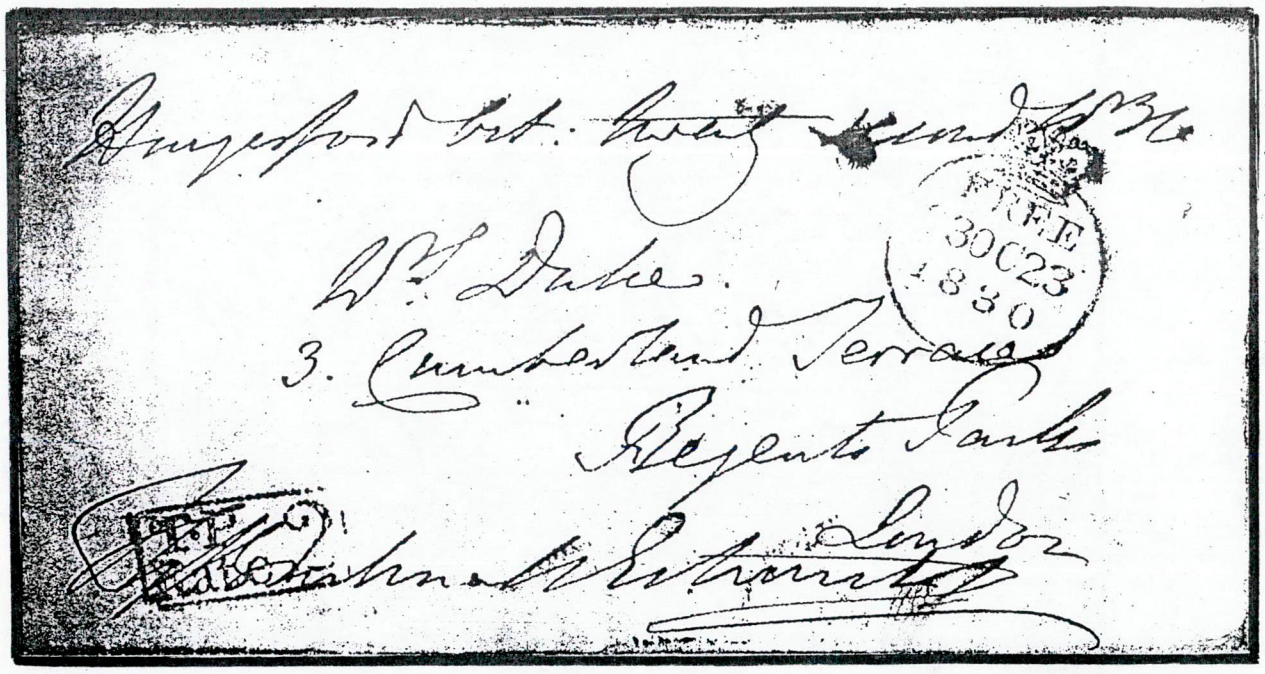
.....

FRAMED TP / Rate 2 Stamps

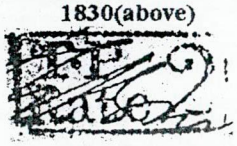
A.A. Thompson

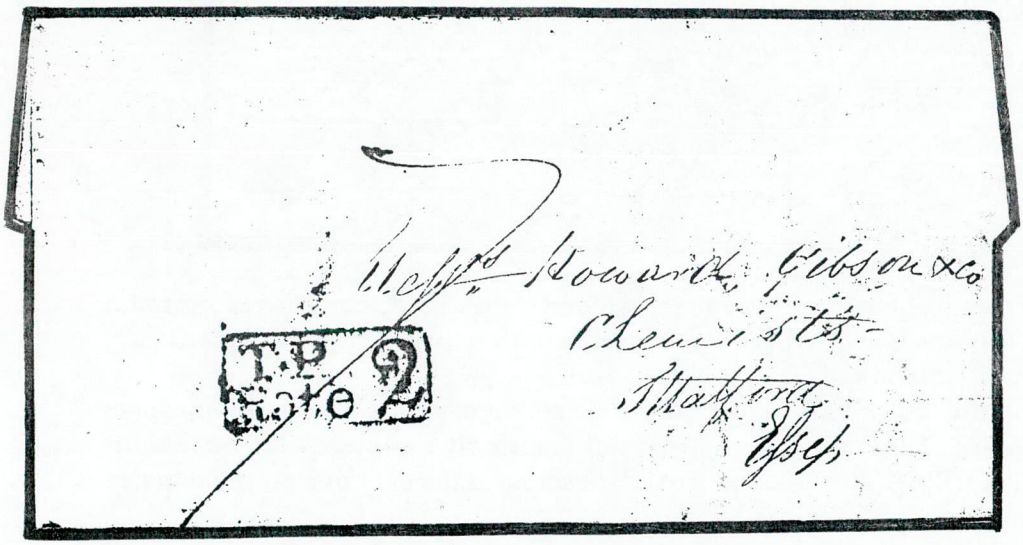
***Notebook* 116 on page 13 featured two quite distinct versions of this stamp (L.690), an apparently badly worn example being replaced some time in 1835/36., this being slightly smaller and with a distinctly different "2".**

However, in much the same manner as the earlier article was originated, these notes arose from the rewriting of a page for display.



1830(above)





1835 (at left)



1835 (ex 116.13)



1836 (ex 116.13



The stamps were introduced in 1830 and this, it is suggested, would be the first type.. Although this does not show the boldly curved foot in the "2" of the example from 1835, the overall size is the same (as in Jay) of 27mm x 13mm. Since the 1835 example had a damaged frame line it could be the wear also damaged the "2".

The second example here is also dated 1835. It too is 26·5mm x 12·5mm (the size quoted in 116/13 is wrong) but the "2" is quite different. As can be seen from four examples shown what we have here is evidence, not so much for a replacement stamp, but for there being more than one stamp in use at any time. This echoes the comments in " A Stamp is Invented" in *Notebook* 128.18. In any busy office, there is every probability of there being more than one stamp of purportedly the same design in use at any one time. It is necessary, therefore, to distinguish between the various types, which have been shown here, and the uniqueness of a, singular, stamp.

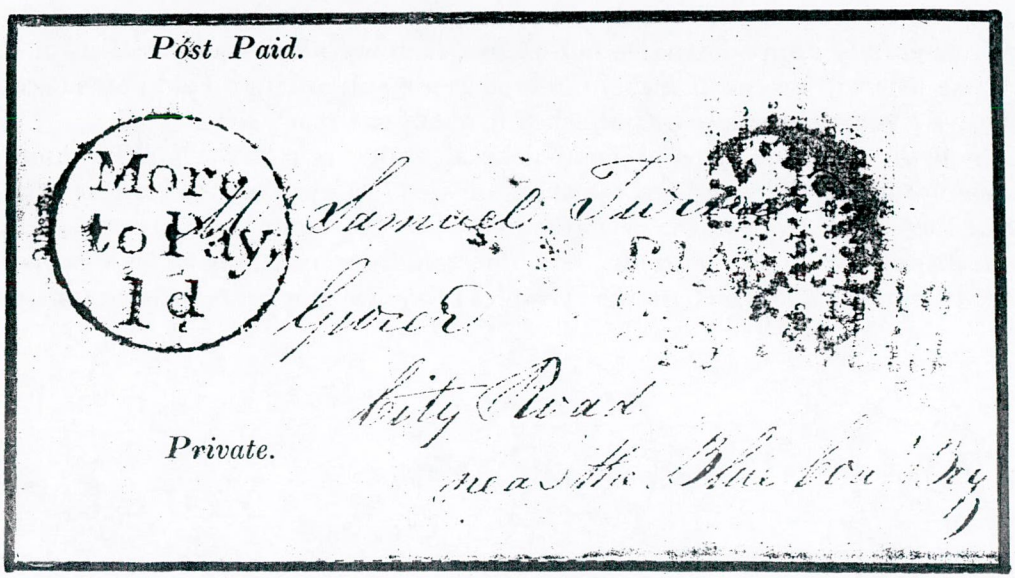
Those who produce catalogues have, sometimes, stated "sizes vary" but it is suggested a specialised work should go further than this with all sizes and dates. There can be little doubt the stamps used in both Chief and Westminster Offices will require further study. Perhaps a series of research articles to which users might be directed is the answer. This has the merit of providing a sound, basic listing and allows the pursuer of fine detail to seek further information, even to publish their own findings in *Notebook*.

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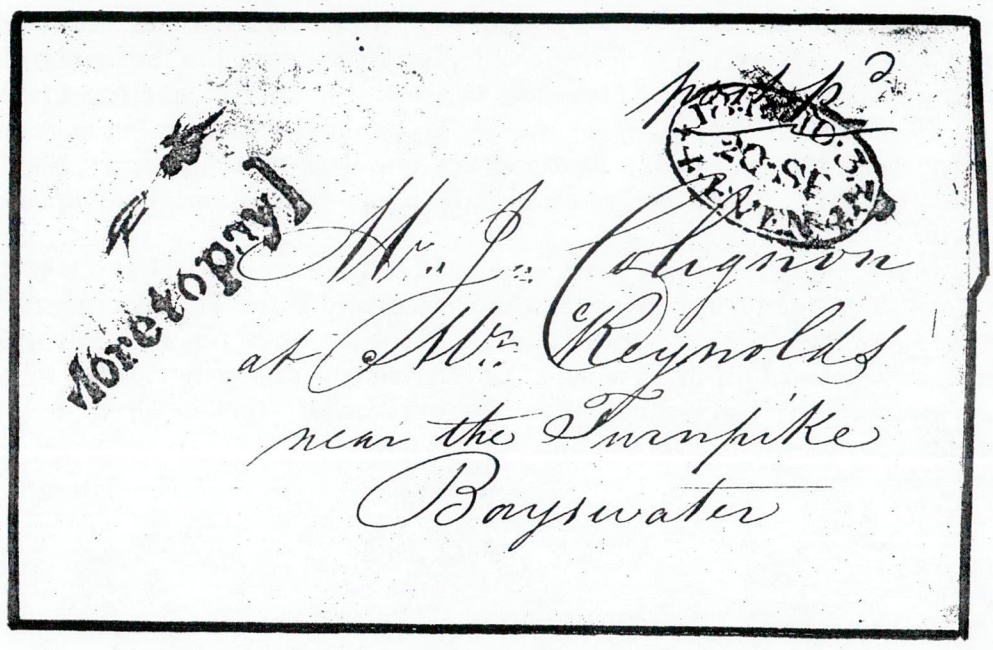
MORE TO PAY 1d

At the Cavendish sale on 26th September this year, two lots of "More to Pay" stamps were listed as being unrecorded:

2047 THE UNRECORDED CIRCULAR FRAMED "More / to Pay / 1d" MARK; 1st Sept. 1823 local E (slight toning clear of 1d mark) to "City Road" with fair red "Rl Arcade / 2 py P. Paid" and very fine large black "More / to Pay / 1d " in circle" (NOT RECORDED BY JAY; 31 mm diameter) nicely placed on the front.
Exhibition quality and an important addition to the record.



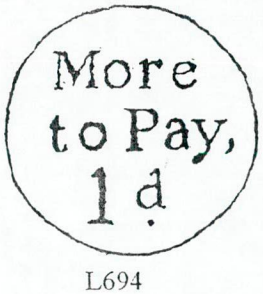
2048 THE UNRECORDED ALL-IN-ONE "More to pay 1" MARK; Attractive 20th. Sept. 1833 EL to Bayswater with near fine red "Charles St Soho / 2 py P. Paid" on the front, besides a very fine "More to Pay 1" mark that is similar to Jay L695/695a, but the "1" is part of the mark (c.f. Jay L636), and is UNRECORDED THUS. Rare; Exhibition quality.
(illustration page 18)



It was widely rumoured , in the case of the circular framed type, it was "omitted from catalogue" rather than unrecorded. Enquiries to Barrie Jay confirmed this and even the straight line type had been seen since the listing had been prepared. Barrie has submitted a revised page for this group of stamps , prefaced by:

"I have started revising volume 3 of the County Catalogue (London) which will take me a few years to complete. I, therefore, thought it would be helpful if I shared with you a few of the amendments I expect to include. Any additions to the catalogue, or amendments to these listings will be greatly appreciated. Do not, please, send me additions to the lists of Receiving Houses. These lists will be considerably updated as a result of Hugh Feldman's excellent and comprehensive 2 volume work, to be published in about one year's time.

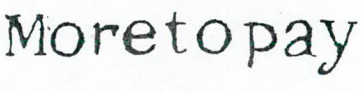
One of the few hand stamps omitted accidentally from the original volume 3(I had several examples in my collection but somehow "missed" it) was the More to Pay 1^{d} in a circle. This will be L694 and :694a in the revised edition, the two versions differing very slightly in size and in disposition of the lettering. The other handstamp in this series discovered since volume 3 appeared is L696 which, in the examples I have seen, appears rather crudely made.



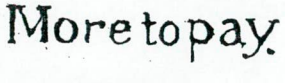
L694



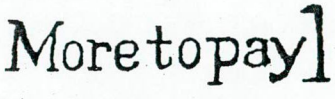
L694a



L695



L695a



L696



L697

L 694	More to Pay 1[d]	33	1813-17
694a	More to pay 1[d]	31	1823-36
695	More to pay	49 x 9	1818-27
695a	More to pay	35 x 5	1826-28
696	More to pay 1	41 x 9	1833-34
697	More to Pay 1[d]	36x16	1838-39

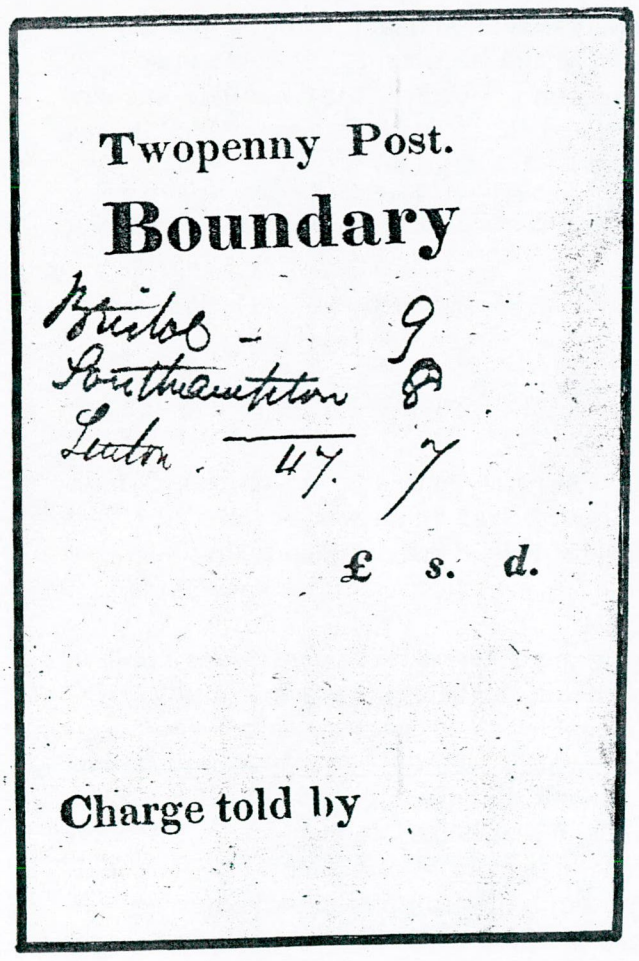
All recorded to date, in black.

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TWO PENNY POST. BOUNDARY

Barrie Evans

One of the lots in a recent sale comprised a working book from Robert Partridge, Inspector in the Inland Department. It was his personal copy of "A List of Post - Towns and Principal Places; with the Postage of a single Letter to or from London, According to the Actual Routes of the Post", bearing his signatures and two strikes of his "star" hand stamp (1830).



Found loose in this book were three pieces of paper. Two of them were headed "Dover" (this printed), the other "Poole" with another column headed "Chester". Under each of these headings a list of Post Towns with a mileage. Many of the distances entered do not agree by the odd mile or two with the value shown on the mileage stamps Does the dating of these entries as 1830, the year following "mileages removed" have any significance ? Were there some official corrections ? The third piece of paper is shown adjacent but the precise function of this is not known.

On the reverse of the other Dover piece, this with the Post Town printed and the mileage entered by hand, is a short list, hand written, headed T.P.P. , comprising a short tabulation of Kent offices, thus:

Bexley Plendon Crayford Erith N[o] Cray
Welling

There is no other writing so the purpose of this listing will require someone with a knowledge of the area to offer some explanation.

.....

PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS IN THE 1830s

The Kingsland country receiving house stamps are well documented. Two covers, one dated 1831 carry the stamp in the black; the other, dated 1834, appears with a red mark. However, it is the contents of the two letters, providing a wealth of contemporaneous information on rent levels, which are reproduced here, rather than the stamps.

Warwick Road 21st May 1831

Sir,

A Mr. Measam of N° 12 Aldgate wishes to take the House (late Henchman) near Warwick Road, and agrees to give £50 a year and put it into repair, or £60 and you repair it.

Winterborn the Shoemaker is fearful of opening the Door of Wostenholmes the Hatters, and we cannot get pofsefsion, but I think this day or tomorrow to find where he has moved to - I am also to meet Mr Haum upon the Premises of Jackson's at nine tomorrow, to take an account of the necefsary repairs & wanting.

Yesterday I was again at the Crescent to meet a Person to take the first Cottage at £30 - he was head Waggoner to a large Distiller for 5 years, where he has just left, and gives a reference there, which I will enquire after, he wishes to Build a Shed in the back Corner of the Garden next the Privy for 2 Cows, and if it answers to enlarge it and lay out and plant the front Garden, he promises to keep everything very clean and respectable, the Cows to go in at the back entrances. Mr R.D. Tyfsen wishes to accept him a Tenant if his Character answers tomorrow. I am also in treaty with a Family from Vauxhall about N° 3 there - Mrs Ellis has paid me her Interest - the arrears and of hers I will not fail to attend to -

I am Sir / your Obedt Servt / Saml Large

* Tyfsen Terrace - Hackney
23d Septr 1834

Sir,

I called at Mrs Kennedy's, but found she was gone into the Country - have therefore wrote to her Solicitor but at present have not received an answer - I saw Berresford on Monday who promised me Cash next week. Doggetts' Friend has declined taking his farm, he is very anxious to obtain another Customer -

Mr Bird greatly objects to his paying any Interest for the advances made in Buildings, I have therefore pafsed the £120 to his Credit, the balance to remain until I have your answer - Mr Griggs at the *Tyfsen Arms, has applied to me to communicate to you his wish to have his Lease extended - it has now 37 years unexpired at £52·10 a year, and says he has expended in Building &c, more than 1000£ and that it shall never go out of his Family - as he finds it such a good, and pleasent (sic) a Situation and would like it to be made for 55 years.

Eastham has paid me £37·1 which balances his Rent to Midsummer 1833. Ramsdale has been very ill and is with his Brother in the Boro: but is now considered out of danger, and is fast recovering. Adamson says this is now his Seed time and hopes to do something towards his Rent very shortly - I wish you would direct Mr Evans to write to Mrs Turner, as I much fear she is in some trouble - On the 16th Inst I paid into Mefsrs Child & Co £187·8 and on the 20th into Mefsrs Hopkinsons £50·15·0 Sutton the Butcher, that bought Easthams House, wished me to Draw upon him at 3 Months, from the end of next week, for the balance due Eastham, which

I will attend to - he has also Sold the other House for £30 - the same will be handed over to me on Signing the Lease.

Burch will give you a good Bill first of next Month.

Geo. Baker promises as usual, but the Cash I cannot get, he certainly has spent a deal on his Premises, but his word has been a great many times forfeited Rofs Mr Evans will explain to you - I have paid the £45 to Kenning on his Building on Doggetts Ground at Shaklewell - Mr Baden Powell has not yet paid anything to your credit at Mefsrs Hopkinsons - I have several offers about the Houses at Dalston Rise &c, but they will never let until they are completely repaired. Eastham will get his Estimate ready as soon as pofsible which shall be sent to you -

I am Sir / your most obedt Servt / Saml Large

A postal history note.....

Both letters are addressed to Wm Geo: Daniel Tyfsen * Esqre

The 1834 letter carried Kingsland in red. The "Feldman Papers" recorded it red only and the black 1831 example has been reported to Hugh. The letter was originally addressed to Tyssen at "Foulden Hall Norfolk" and carries the endorsement "favord by Mr Evans". However, this endorsement was deleted and "Stoke Ferry" added to the address. It would appear Mr Evans was not able to take the letter and decided to post it, prepaying by way of apology ?

* Current London maps show a Tyssen St and a Tyssen Rd, off the Dalston Road, a short step from Kingsland High Street, junction with Balls Pond Road, where the Receiving House stood.

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CARSHALTON DUPLEX - "A" CODE RECORDED

Don Franks

John Parmenter is revising for a second edition of his five volume work on the numeral cancellations. Apart from major finds, there is the nitty-gritty of codes and dates which requires revision. Two examples of code "A" in the 3VOD are come to hand and these, with the dates of others known to the writer are listed.

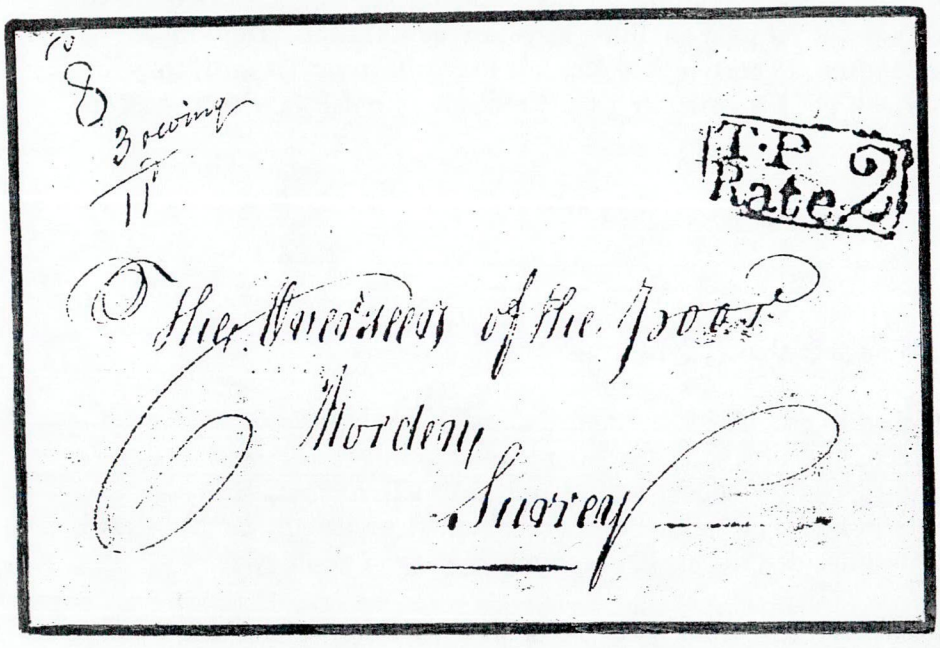
"A" : NO 3 85 - JY 25 86 "B" : AU 12 85 "C" : MY 5 99
"D" : DE 13 85 - JY 22 95 "E" : AU 14 97

No doubt all readers with any numeral cancellation material will make sure all their "unrecorded by Parmenter" items are reported in time for inclusion in the revised volumes.

.....

"3 owing"

Although very precisely over struck by the General Post date stamp for 26th June 1832, the undated REIGATE can be discerned. Addressed to "*The Overseers of the poor Morden, Surrey*", with Reigate at 21 miles from London, a 6d General Post charge was incurred. With the 2d charge for delivery into the Country area, a total of 8d. All very fine and this charge appears in the top left hand corner with the curious "3 owing", giving a total to be collected of 11d.



One can admit such a person as the local Mr Bumble is not likely to run away but what is most curious is the apparent arrangement whereby the post to that worthy person could be delivered "on tick", as it were. Quite why the 3d was owing we shall never know.

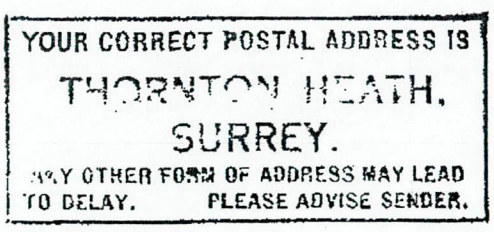
This does raise a number of interesting questions. As far as the accounting for the Twopenny Post Letter Carriers goes, there are no records of any authority given to them to operate any form of "post on account", even for small amounts. One can only conclude the Letter Carrier on the route to Morden was willing to finance this particular "customer" out of his own pocket in the sure knowledge he would be reimbursed 'ere long.

May we have reports of any other such happy arrangements please ?

.....

SURREY IN LONDON

Arthur Moyles


YOUR CORRECT POSTAL ADDRESS IS
THORNTON HEATH,
SURREY.
ANY OTHER FORM OF ADDRESS MAY LEAD TO DELAY. PLEASE ADVISE SENDER.

A current map of London will show Thornton Heath very much buried in London, yet the Post office retain the "Surrey" element in the postal address .
The somewhat broken impression taken from a letter addressed, quite wrongly, to LONDON SW16 4NL. It should have been THORNTON HEATH CR7 6JG.

.....

WALTHAM CROSS PENNY POST

Two examples of London Cross Post mail routed through Waltham Cross; one incoming, the other out ward bound.

Addressed from "*Stamford hill 15 of 9 mo 1836*"
to
Sam[l] Barnard, S & D Railway Office, Darlington
and relates to purchase of shares in the Stockton and Darlington Railway.



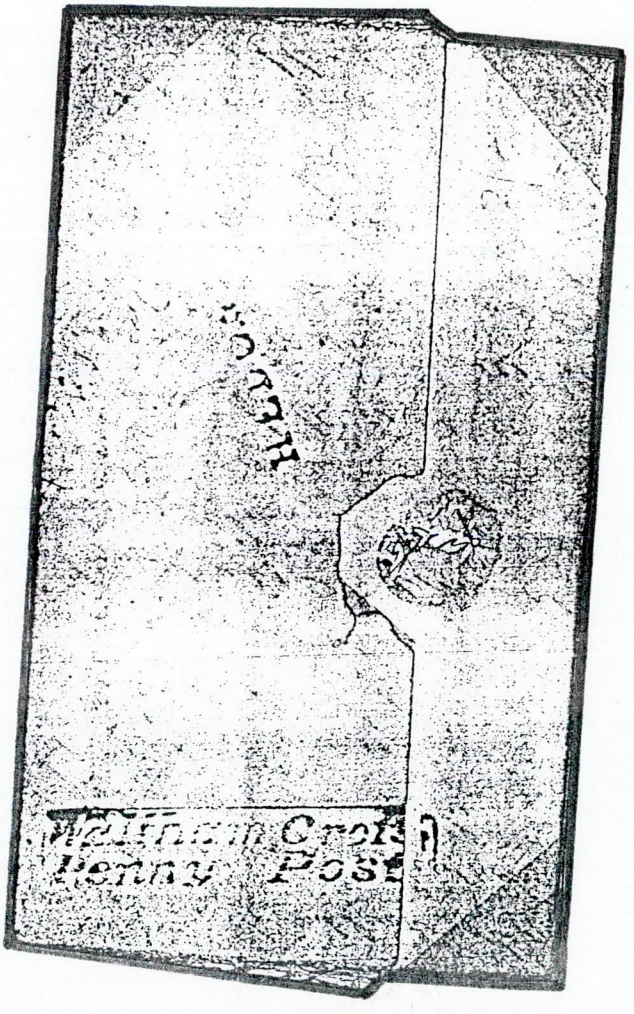
Stoke Newington C.S.O. EV date stamp
Carried by the Cross Post to Waltham Cross where it received the normal Penny Post stamp, this being replaced in November 1838.
Charge 1/1 entered, being 1/- for the General Post plus one penny for the Cross Post.
The 1·7·6 annotation may be the total cost of mail received in this particular delivery.

Written as from "*Ridgmont 7th Month 20th 1837*"
Carried the HEDON mileage erased.
Addressed to Tottenham, near London.

Mail from Hedon, near Hull, would have come down in the coach to Waltham Cross, where it would be off loaded, to be treated as a Cross Post item.

It received the framed *Waltham Crofs / Penny Post* stamp (Oxley type 3), not listed by Jay as a type used for the London Cross Post service.

The County Catalogue, London, shows this Penny Post stamp in use 1834-36 only.



There is a post charge of 11^{d}., this being the 10^{d} General Post (charged only to Waltham Cross, under 170 miles) plus the 1^{d} for the Cross Post.

A long, chatty letter, part cross written, starting "My Dear Sister...", although the letter is addressed to "John Hodgkin Esqr".

A John Hodgkin appear in the 1839 directory as one of the *Gentry and Clergy,* residing in *middle ward.*

Peter Bathe had the following comments to make (edited to use Hertfordshire County Catalogue references) :

The letter from Hedon with the framed Waltham Crofs Penny Post stamp is of great interest. (He was sent several examples from different places.) Waltham Cross had at least five different penny post marks, the earlier ones issued in connection with a "traditional" penny post established in 1820. The County Catalogues for Hertfordshire gives dates spanning the period 1820 to 1839, thus

HE 549	type 42	WALTHAM CROSS/Penny Post	45 x 11	1820-27
550	45	Waltham Crofs/Py Post	50 x 11	1828-33
551	44	Waltham Crofs/Penny Post	51 x 11	1834-36
552	43	Waltham/Crofs/Penny Post	40 x 16	1836-38
553	47	Waltham Cross/Penny Post	35 x 15	1838-39

Of these the London catalogue lists only L741 = HE 552 and L 742 = HE 553, used in connection with the Cross Post in 1839 only. The one from HEDON is HE 551 and in not in Jay.

Cross Post towns with existing "traditional" penny Posts used whichever penny Post stamp they had at the time for cross post letters . Shooters Hill never had a penny post, other than the cross post. The so-called "village" Penny Post marks were not issued generally until 1838-9, as HE 553 above. London appears to have anticipated the type for most offices.

At the start of its cross post (5 March 1836), Waltham Cross did the same as the other offices and used its existing PP stamp. I think it was generally assumed the current stamp at that time was the three line version: it was certainly used in 1836 as the letter to Darlington

shows. What the Hedon letter indicates, though, is the previous stamp was not discarded when the three line stamp was issued and, occasionally (indeed, perhaps only ever on this one occasion) it was brought back into use.

This recording extends the date use for collectors of Hertfordshire material as well as makes the first record in the pages of *Notebook* for London Cross Post use.

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THE NINTH REPORT

The full title to this valuable document is :

TO THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HER MAJESTY'S TREASURY.
NINTH REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS appointed to inquire into the Management of the POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

For a long time it has been your Editor's dream to attempt to transcribe his copy to the pages of *Notebook* or, rather, to produce the separate publication such a work deserves.

Barrie Jay has made a start with this monumental task, the main text of the Report comprising some 11 pages in transcription plus over 100 pages of Appendix, each page slightly over A 4 size and packed with information.

We hope to start printing this Report and some material from the Appendix next year, as part of *Notebook*, with the complete work as a separate publication, in a loose leaf format.

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LONDON DATE STAMP CODES

The following is an edited version of correspondence between Mr F.E. Bennett and the Editor concerning the B2 codes and an apparent error by Stitt Dibden (Notebook 123.16 refers).

The listing of date stamps and their codes provided by Mr Bennett has generated some interesting points.

The original article proposed the listing of the B2 code prepared by Stitt Diben was incorrect: this was clearly shown to be the case „with the start date and code not matching.

A further schedule of the dates and codes on the basis of 29.4.44 = A was prepared by the Editor which confirmed the revised codes and dates match in the original article.

The listing provided by Mr Bennett, which goes well beyond the end of the B2 code system, on 10.4.46, gave the following:

1844	MY 25	OX Black	agreed
	AU 4	TF Red	Sunday date with Saturday code
1845	MY 5	CC Red	not agreed, could in be CG ?
	AU 24	FX Red	Sunday date with Saturday code
	AU 28	KB Red	agreed

A definite feature of the B2 code is that it only works if Sundays are treated as non postal days. Could it be the Post Office correctly dated Sunday worked mail but, for some

reason, used the Saturday code, there being none for Sundays? In his listing for January 1859 of the C2, C3 and C4 codes, Stitt shows Sundays without code letters.

The various B codes identified by Stitt cover the period to 1858, although there were several different stamps, with different purposes, in use during the period. The Editor has very little General Post mail. As a consequence there has been no need for him to examine and verify any of Stitt's listings until now.

Dubus detailed Inland Branch codes from 1859, these were included in the reprint of Stitt's book. If time permits, it should be possible to set up daily schedules for the years of the B codes and then see how later examples in Mr Bennett's list fit the pattern.

It is always a puzzle to understand the need of the Post Office to put a date code and the date. This seems a total waste of time and resources, unless it was intended as a belt and braces job in case of queries. That the system broke down several times and many errors have been recorded rather give the lie to this. It may be an edict from on high which no-one had the courage to challenge - a tale often seen in large bureaucratic organisations to the present day.

Perhaps the use of Saturday codes with Sunday dates might be further explored, also the CC or CG coding for May 5 1845. As ever, more information sought.

.....

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.
GENERAL POST OFFICE , 23rd December, 1843

On and after the 27th inst., General Post Letters will be received at the London Receiving-houses until 5.30 p.m., and at the Branch-offices at Charing-cross, Old Cavendish Street, and the Borough until 6 p.m. General Post Letters will, however, be received at these three Branch-offices until 6.45 p.m., upon the payment of a fee of One Penny each, which fee, as well as the postage, must be paid by stamps affixed to the Letter.

At the Lombard street Branch-office, the Letters Boxes will be closed at 6 p.m., but General Post Letters will be received at that Office until 7 p.m., upon the payment of a fee of One Penny each, which fee, as well as the postage, must also be paid by stamps affixed to the Letter.

Upon Foreign, Colonial, or Ship Letters, the postage and fee may be paid by stamps, or in money, at the option of the sender.

It must be distinctly understood, that this arrangement does not extend to Newspapers.

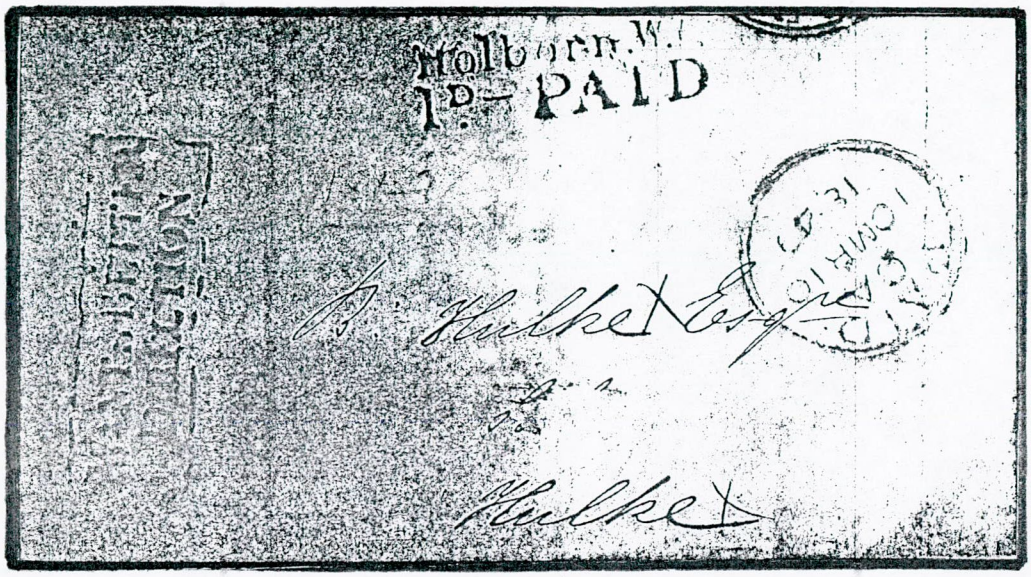
By Command,

W.L. MABERLY, Sec

WANTS BETTER DIRECTION

Michael Jackson

The Country Catalogue, Vol. 3 - London at L. 309 records this stamp used in black in 1815 only. This example, which appears from the photocopy to be marginally smaller at 46 x 15 than that listed. Apart from being thirty-two years later, 1847, this one is struck in RED.



The reason for the failure to deliver is due to the writer repeating the person's name as the post town.

.....

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.—POSTAGE STAMPS.
NEW PENNY STAMPED HALF SHEETS OF PAPER.
GENERAL POST-OFFICE, April, 1844.

PENNY stamped Half Sheets of Paper being about to be issued for the purpose of Postage, in addition to the Postage Envelopes and Labels now in use, the following are the Prices at which they will be sold to the Public, viz.:—

For a Half Ream, containing 240 Half Sheets .. .. £1 2s. 3d.
For a Quire, containing 24 Half Sheets .. .. 0 2s. 3d.
For a Single Half Sheet .. .. 0 0s. 1½d.

it being understood that these Half Sheets, when sold in parts of a Quire, or in any quantity under a Quire, will be charged at the rate of 1½d. each, but that when purchased in Half Reams or Quires, no advance will be made on the respective prices of £1 2s. 3d. in the former and 2s. 3d. in the latter case.

It is essential that these Half Sheets should be so folded that the Stamps shall be above the address and on the right-hand side of the Letter, and particular attention is requested to this point, as if this precaution is neglected, the Letter will be probably charged with Postage.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.
GENERAL POST-OFFICE, April, 1844.

ON and from the 1st May there will be Ten Deliveries in London instead of Seven daily, and they will be made at the following Hours:—

MORNING.	AFTERNOON.	
8 o'clock	1 o'clock	5 o'clock
10 —	2 —	6 —
12 —	3 —	8 —
	4 —	

In addition to the accommodation that this will afford the Metropolis, the time for posting Letters to be delivered in the Country Districts of the London District Post the same night, will be extended from TWO to THREE o'clock, and the time for posting Letters for delivery the same evening, at places within Six Miles from the General Post-Office will be extended from FOUR to FIVE o'clock.

When this change comes into operation, the present regulation of allowing Letters to be posted Half an Hour later at the Receiving Houses, Cornhill, Charing-cross, and Regent-street, will be discontinued, and the hours of despatch from these Offices will be the same as at other Receiving Houses.

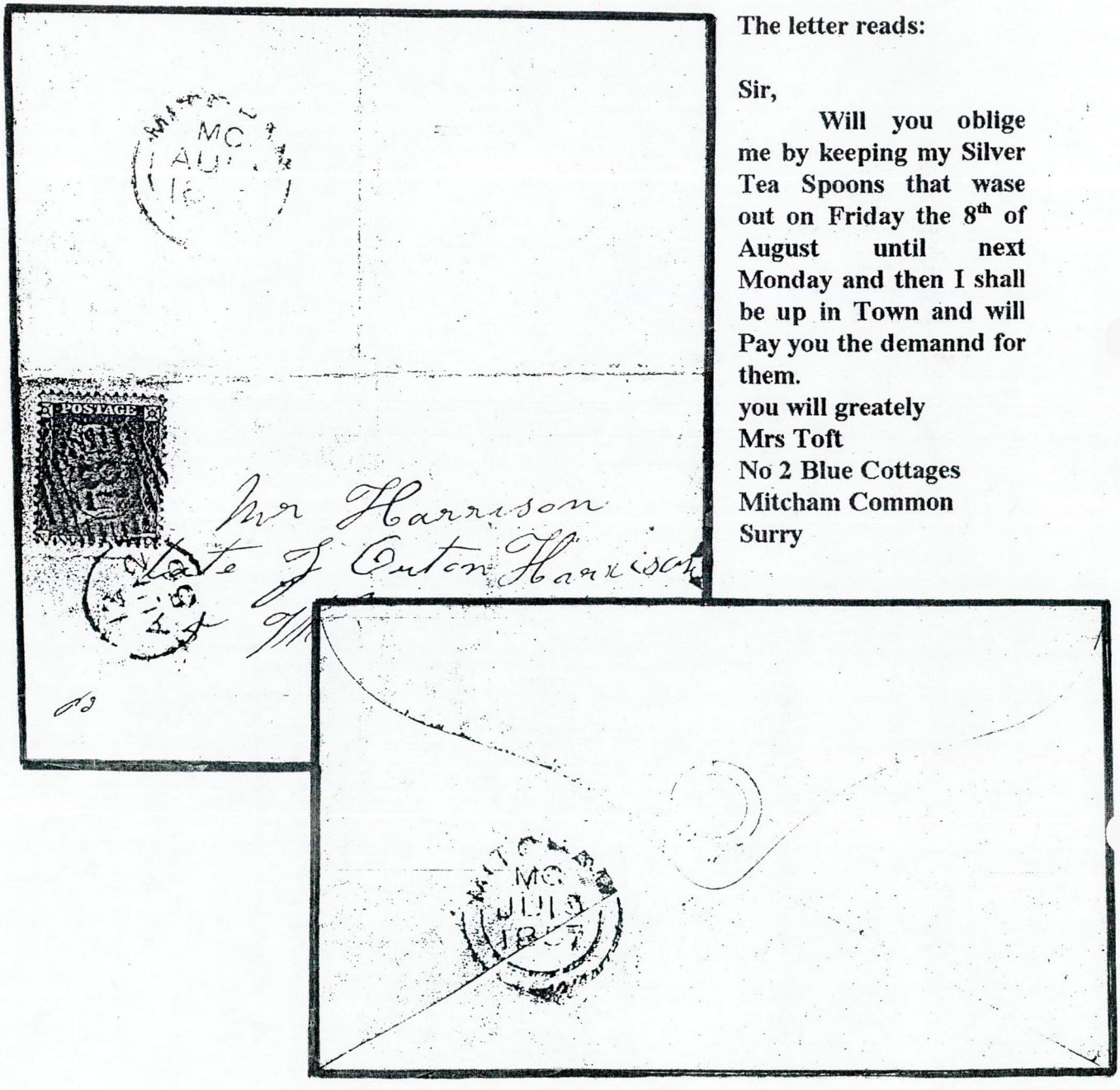
At present Letters can be posted at the principal Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, One Hour later than at the Receiving Houses, but when the additional Deliveries take place at the 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 o'clock despatches, the time allowed will only be Three Quarters of an Hour, as the Box must close fifteen minutes before each despatch. At the other despatches there will be no alteration.

W. L. MABERLY, Secretary.

MITCHAM PROVINCIAL STYLE DATE STAMP

In common with several other offices, often former Country Sorting Offices, Mitcham received a Provincial General Post type date stamp. This retained the MG/EV time formerly used in the C.S.O. stamps.

In the examples here, that for 1856 is struck in purple, for 1857 in green.



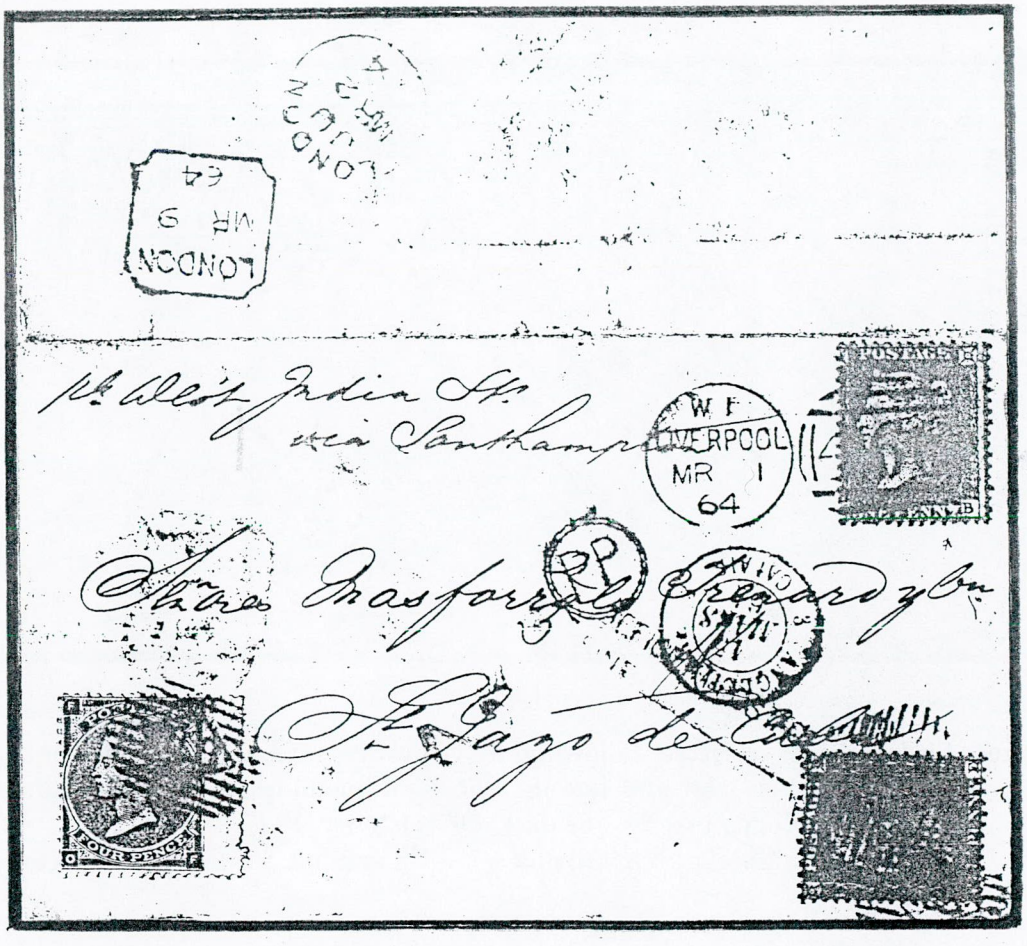
The letter reads:

Sir,

Will you oblige me by keeping my Silver Tea Spoons that wase out on Friday the 8th of August until next Monday and then I shall be up in Town and will Pay you the demannd for them.
you will greately
Mrs Toft
No 2 Blue Cottages
Mitcham Common
Surry

The writer prepaid one penny. Was this because [a] he thought the item qualified for this rate under the heading "Registered Newspapers and other Publications with Newspaper Privilege"; [b] he had a local "arrangement" to pay just the penny (late fee?) at the time of posting, with an account settled at agreed intervals, this option being well recorded as a practice at London offices, or [c] he absent mindedly stuck on the usual 1d. adhesive ?

Whatever the reason for the single penny prepayment, Liverpool office appeared content to accept the item without comment and it arrived in London on March 2nd., the day after posting.



According to the "British Postal Guide" (1865 - there was no entry in either 1863 or 1864, reason unknown at present), the letter postage for Jago de Cuba was 1/- to ½ oz, 2/- to 1 oz. Registered Newspaper rate a 1d. up to 4oz. Why, then, did a clerk in London apply the DEFICIENT POSTAGE _ / FINE_____ and levy a further five pence. The manuscript "5" can be seen just to the left of "FINE". The delay in collecting this charge is shown by the indented corner date stamp for the 9th. March. The double rimmed PP = Port Payee indicates this was now paid in full, a total prepayment of only 6d. Did this total include a "fine" and, if so, how much was "fine", how much "postage" ? The only 6d. rate was for unregistered newspaper, otherwise referred to in the Guide as "other printed Papers", 4 to 8 oz.

Then, disregarding the writer's instruction, the Post Office routed the item through Calais, where it arrived on the 15th. . The day for making up the bag for the route via Southampton was the 2nd. each month. Was this routing adopted to catch mails via France, for which bags were made up on the 14th. and 15th., to compensate for the delay between the 2nd. and the 9th. ?

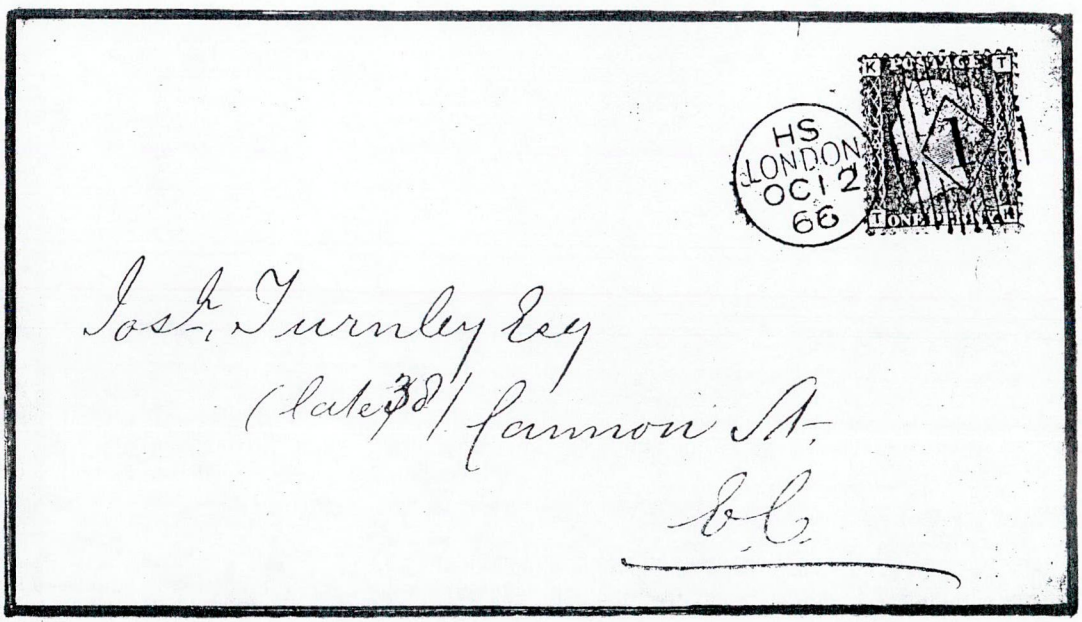
There had been a British Post Office at St. Jago de Cuba since 1841; did the Post office clerk imagine some special rate applied ? From a glance through the Colonial & Foreign Postage Schedule in the P.O. Guide, mail for several territories in the area were all charged at the 1/- rate, with apparently no concession for mails to British Postal Offices or Agencies abroad.

There are more questions than answers here but perhaps there is a simple explanation, other than "clerks error".

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SECOND TRIAL OF THE RIDEOUT MACHINES

Jerry Miller



Having had his machines rejected following the Boucher report of 28th November 1859, Rideout pressed for another trial and late in 1866 both machines were tried again without success. The Handbook records just the one date , 10th October, 1866.

The above example, purchased at a small US auction, shows the 12th October.

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PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS

Post Office Guide 1857

Printed proceedings of the Imperial Parliament, sent without covers, or in covers open at the ends, may circulate within the United Kingdom at the following rates of postage :-

Weighing not more than 4 oz.	- - - -	1d.
„ more than 4oz. but not exceeding 8 oz	- -	2d
„ more than 8 oz. „ „ „ 12 oz	- -	3d
„ more than 12 oz. „ „ „ 16 oz	- -	4d

and so on; one penny being charged for every additional 4 oz.

WEST DISTRICT TOO LATE

No doubt recorded in a note elsewhere, the TOO - LATE of the West District, code CC, Dubus 44D8, appears in the Handbook as "Rarity G.P.O."



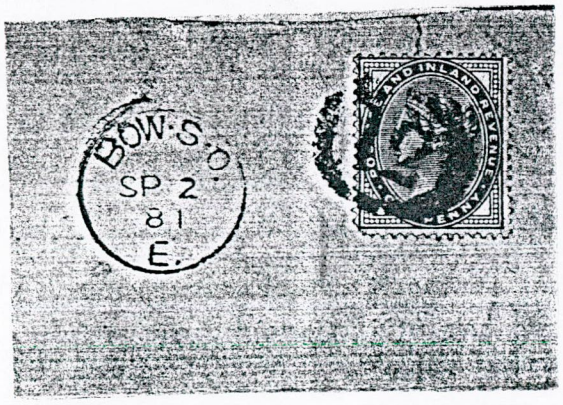
The Proof Book date is September 1867. This example is dated December 16th ,1868.

This item would have the Post Office framed FOUND LOOSE stamp on it.
Perhaps the originator would advise the Editor so due credit may be given.

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LONDON DISTRICT POST : BOW "12"

Tony Potter



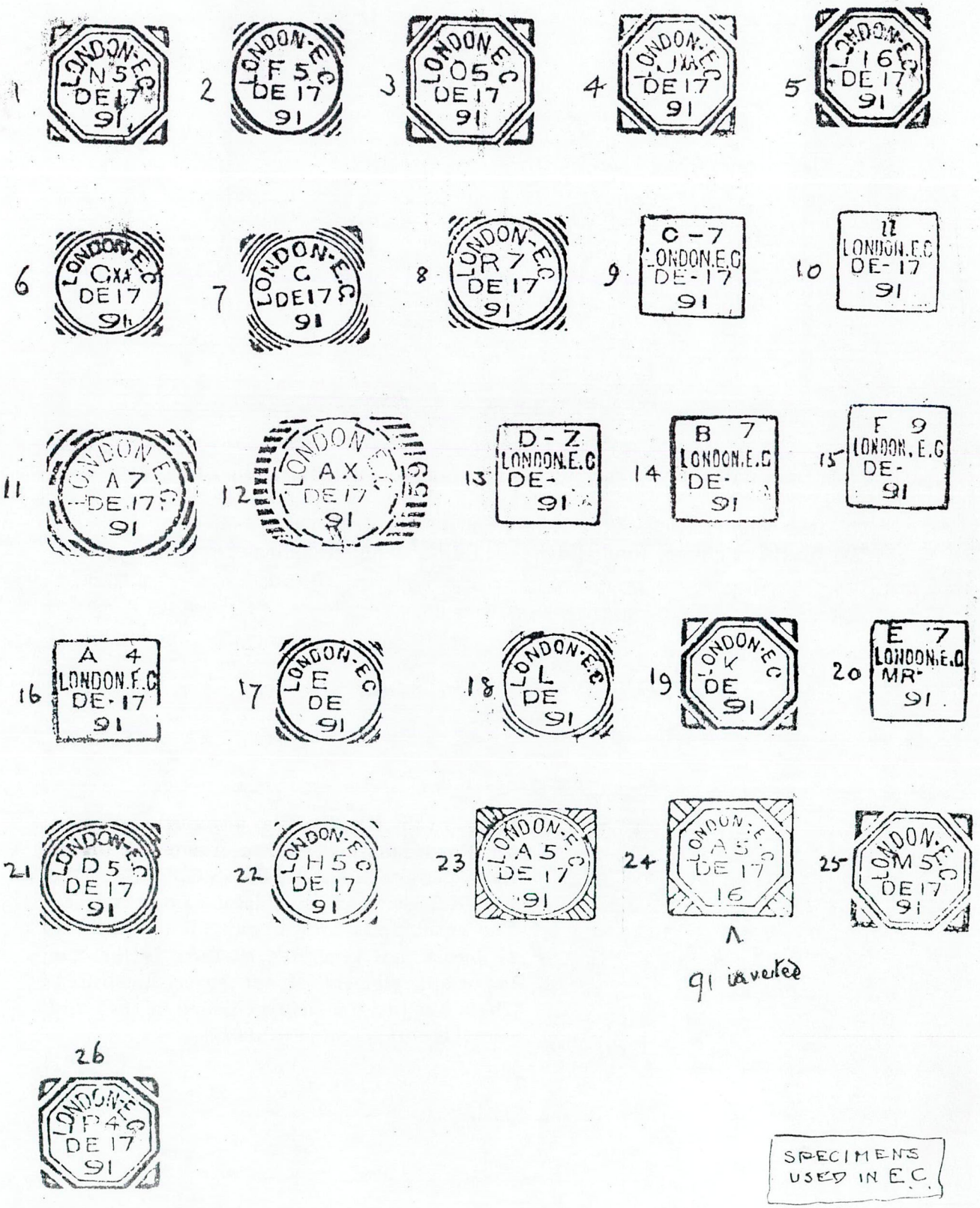
Listed in the Handbook as unrecorded, though this was a long time ago, an example of a local Bow letter, posted at the Bow S.O. for 361 Mile End Rd, Bow. About as local as one can get. The envelope is brown, with all the copying problems that generates, so there is just the important segment of the cover illustrated. There was just the one type issued in 1844 and here it is still in service in 1881.

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SQUARED CIRCLE "PROOF" SHEET

Michael Goodman

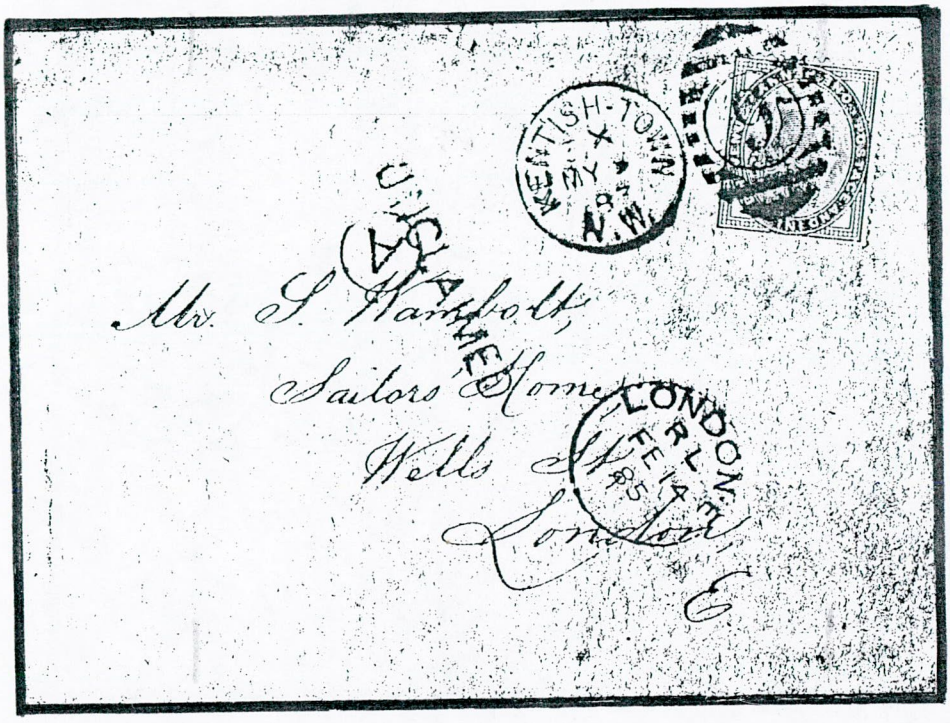
One of those fortunate survivors from what may have been anything from an official record, a postal clerk keeping a note for personal use or a straight "grace and favour", which seems unlikely in 1891. All struck in red ; quite fun.



LONDON E. - UNCLAIMED STAMP

Michael Goodman

Posted in Kentish Town 9th. May, 1893 and addressed to "Sailors' Home, Wells St, London, E" it seemingly stayed there for the best part of two years.



The LONDON E R(eturned) L(etter) date stamp is for 14th. February 1885, which office presumably stamped the item UNCLAIMED. May one presume the encircled A Inspector's stamp was also struck at the East District Office ? Perhaps there were local enquiries as to the reason for the long delay in sending it back as unclaimed. Who knows ?

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LONDON'S MARITIME MAIL : "ROBERTSON REVISITED"

Very much a *STOP PRESS* correction to the original note occupying this spot. The published book arrived with the Editor's mail as the final touches were being made to this edition of *Notebook*.

There has not been time for a full review but entitled *"Robertson Revisited"* the opus deals with the actual listing and quite a lot more. Priced at a very reasonable £40, there may still be time for a Christmas extra.

As with the original work, it is hoped to be able to produce a separate reprint of the London section, perhaps allowing for time for those who did not send information originally to do so, thus allowing updates on the revised edition.

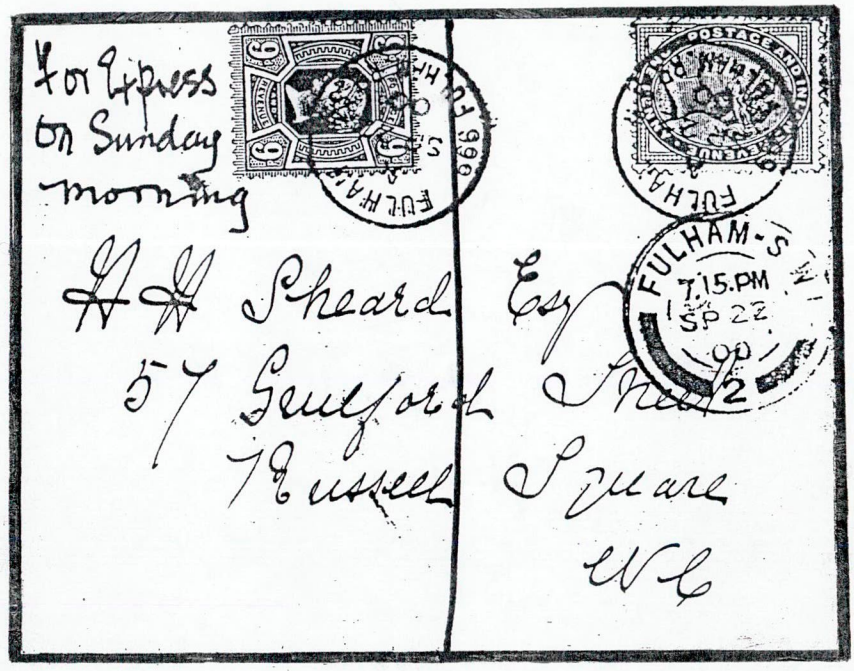
The opportunity is taken to ask readers to let the Editor know of any examples of London S.1 seen, in their collections, other collections, a stock list, stock or reported in other journals.

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SUNDAY EXPRESS DELIVERY

Alistair Kennedy

Despite the problems associated with work on Sundays, the Post Office had an express delivery for Sundays.



This letter was posted at 666 Fulham Road, S.W. on Saturday 22nd September 1900, with an endorsement "For Express on Sunday morning" at the top left. A fee of 9d was paid in addition to the ordinary postage of 1d .

A new service for London was introduced in August 1891 where the fee in no case exceeded 3d. UNLESS delivery were effected from the G.P.O. or Head District Post Office to an address *outside* the postal delivery of those offices, when full fee was charged.

In July 1893 the charge for the three different letter services * available was 3d. a mile, with a special weight charge , this last was abolished in 1900.

Presumably the letter would have gone to the G.P.O., from which place a messenger would have delivered the letter on Sunday morning, as directed. This would have been within the 9d charge from the London W.C. Head Office; there was a special charge of 6d in the West Central District. There are no markings to suggest it was routed through the W.C. Head Office and it may have been the Fulham clerk was unaware of the service, it being introduced as recently as 12th February the previous year.

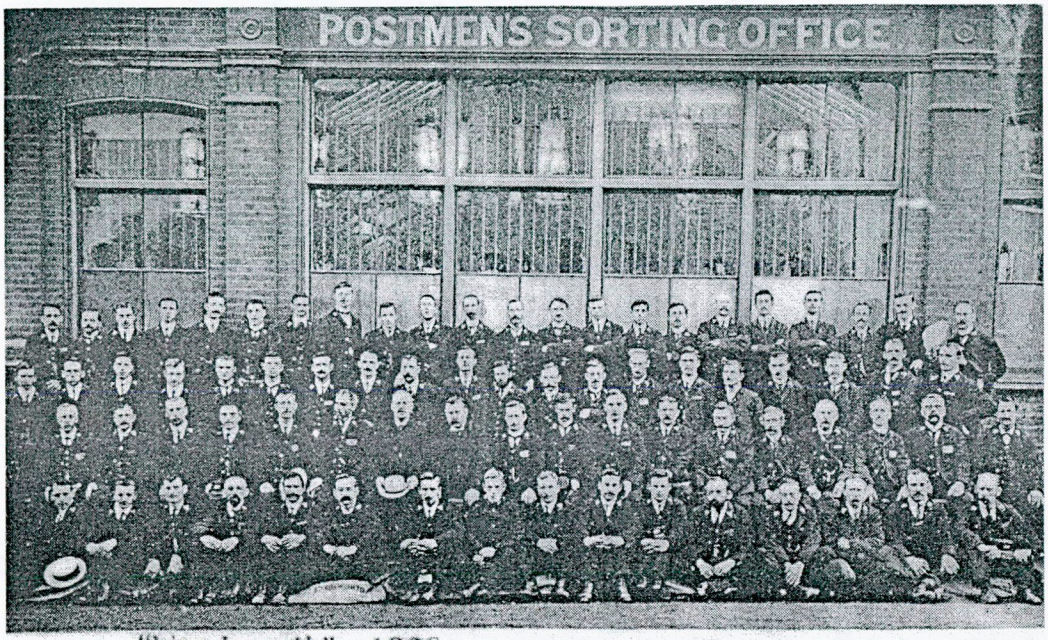
*** Service I (March 1891) Express by Post Officer messenger all the way;**
Service II (August 1891) Special Delivery at the request of the sender;
Service III (July 1893) Express Delivery at the request of the addressee

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POST OFFICE HISTORY ON POST CARDS

Arthur Moyles

Whatever the "purists" might think, there can be little doubt a display, which includes ephemera, is much appreciated by the viewers. Other than views of post office buildings, one can find pictures of staff, on and off duty, engaged in non postal activities and generally affording another aspect to collecting. Two such cards, requiring no explanation, are shown.



"Wandsworth". 1906.



This Band, which is mainly composed of Ex-Army and Territorial Army Troop Bandsmen engaged in the Postal Service, seeks engagements at GARDEN PARTIES, CONCERTS, and other PUBLIC FUNCTIONS.
The Orchestral Section of the Band (Uniform or Evening Dress) is also open to engagements at CINDERELLAS, BALLS RECEPTIONS, SOIREES, Etc.
Application for terms, etc., should be made to the Hon. Sec., Croydon Postal Band, Post Office Croydon.

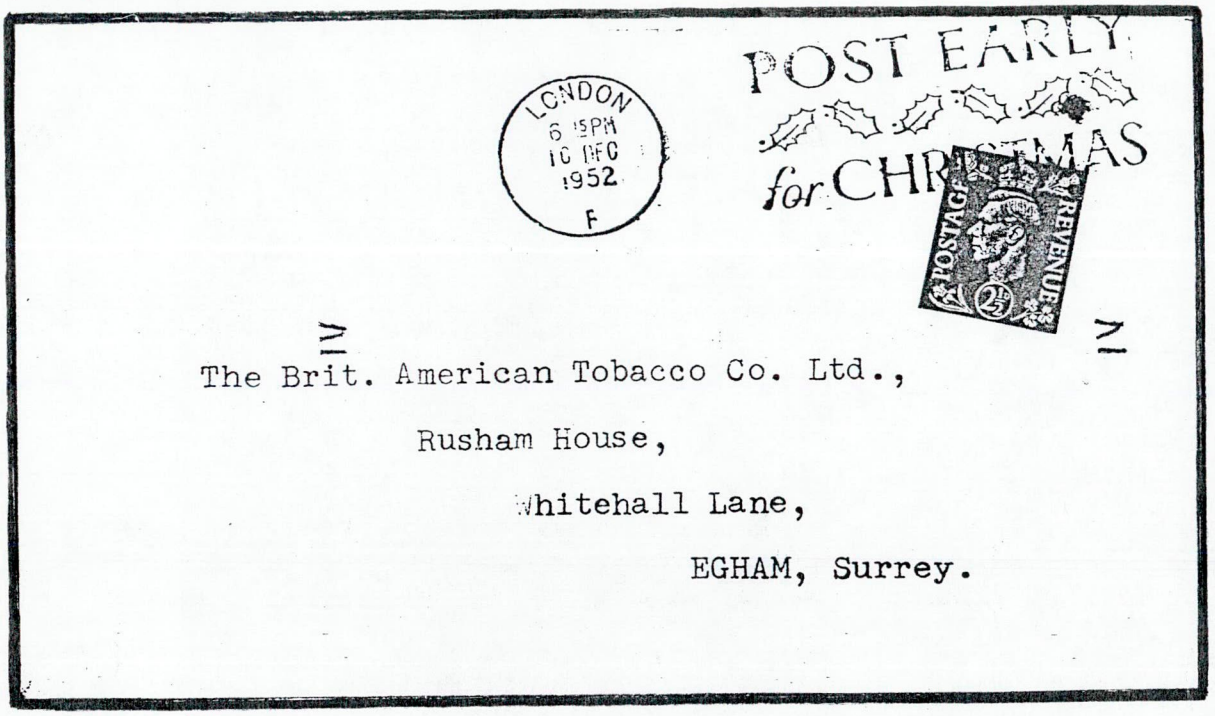
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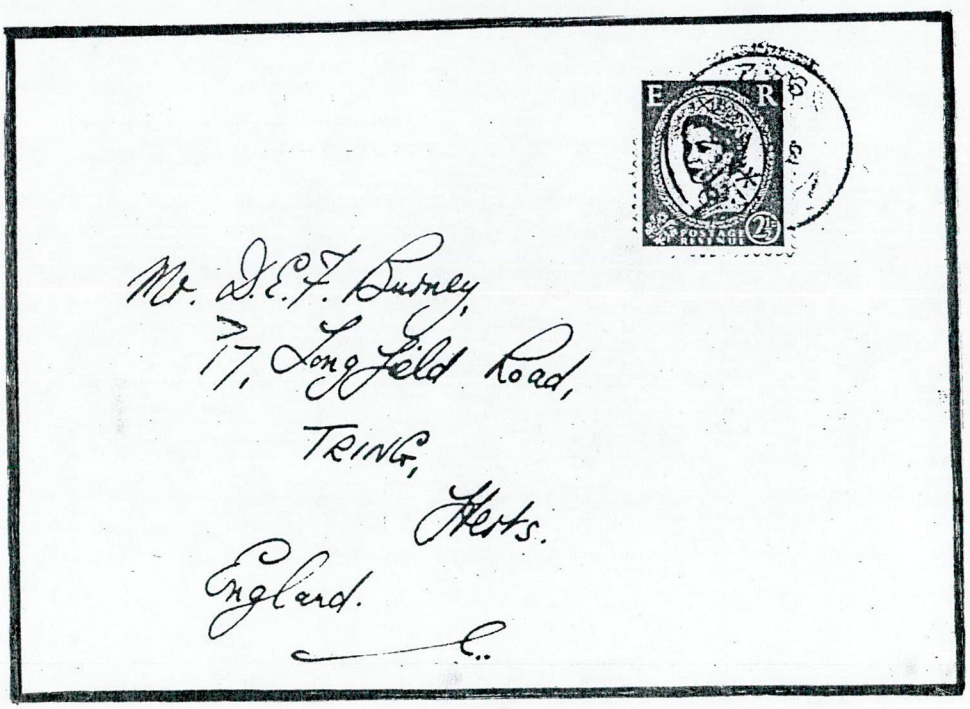
undated

SIX POSITION LETTER SORTING MACHINE TRIALS

Alistair Kennedy

Trials were made during the period 1952 - 1956 at Mount Pleasant of a letter sorting machine with six operators - letters being directed electronically to one of 120 sorting boxes, as keyed by the operators.





Cancellation is FPO 942 (Shaibah, Iraq), 30 MR 54

Operator Idents, Roman numerals I to VI, appear on mail sorted on this machine.

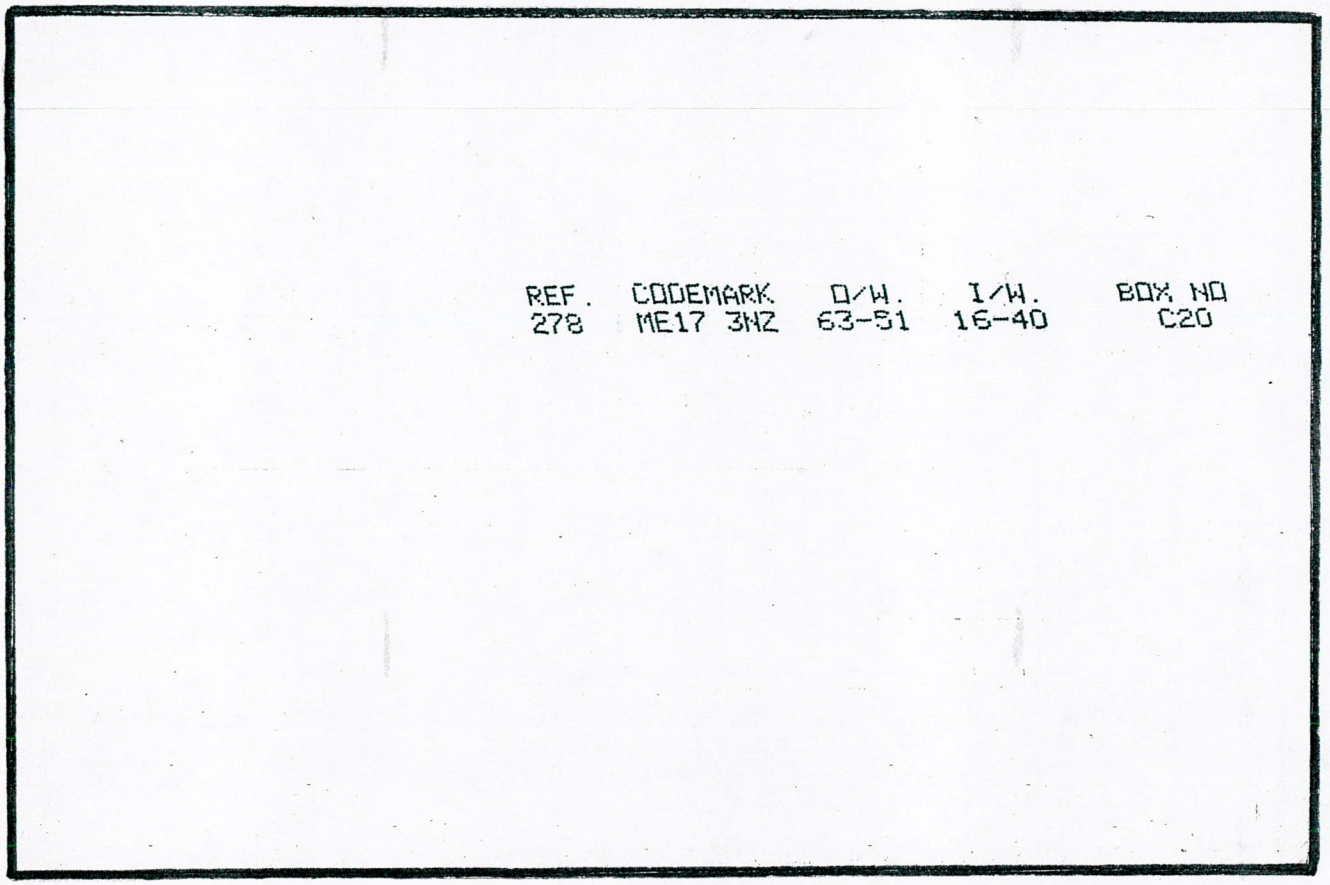
It appears it was used only occasionally for sorting "live" mail.

Ident codes of IV and V respectively.

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FOREIGN SECTION DUMMY MAIL

Following the closure of the London Foreign Section in July 1996, the sorting of mail was transferred to Mount Pleasant Sorting Office. Much of the equipment in use in the Foreign Section was scrapped; this included several E40 letter sorting machines.



When these had been commissioned at the Foreign Section, a large quantity of dummy mail was used to test the various sorting plans, mail being sorted into 150 bins or pigeon holes. The envelopes were in three sizes, approximating to C6, DL and C5.

Two large boxes of this dummy mail were passed to the National Postal Museum to deal with as though appropriate. Some were in their original bundles; however, most were loose.

The example illustrated above came with a newsletter from the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum, to whom we are indebted for the information. Members who would like an example of this trial should write to the Editor, who may be able to get these, at a small charge to cover post and packing costs incurred by the Museum.

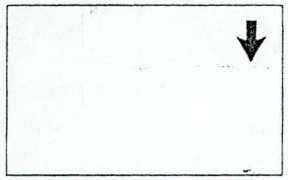
.....

L.P.H.G. Members who wish to become a Friend are invited to contact the Secretary and Treasurer

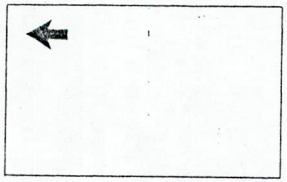
R.G. Pottle, P.O. Box 40, UCKFIELD, East Sussex. TN22 2ST

THE LANGUAGE OF STAMPS

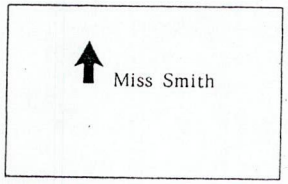
Should you wish to convey a secret message with your mail, perhaps you could revive the Language of Stamps. This cypher was kindly provided by Rev. Christopher Beaver writing in the Midland Mail, to both due acknowledgement and thanks.



My heart is given to another, write to me no more.



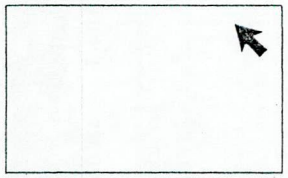
I love you.



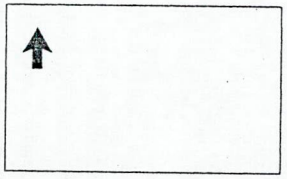
Accept my love.



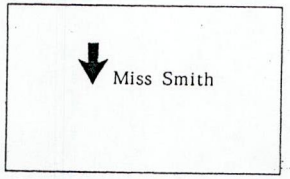
Write soon.



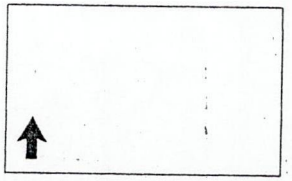
Do you love me dearest?



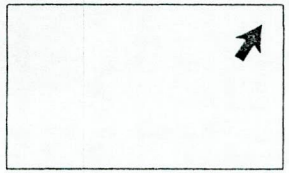
Goodbye for the present.



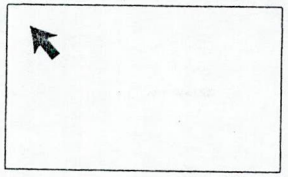
I am already engaged.



I long to see your face once more.



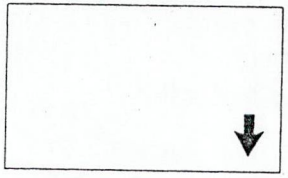
A kiss.



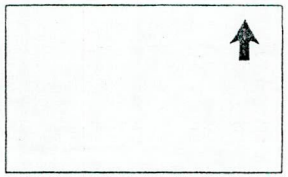
My heart belongs to another and I can never be yours.



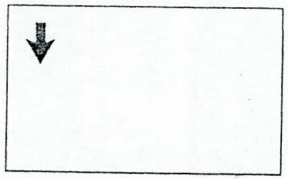
Do you love me ?



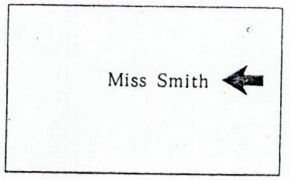
No.



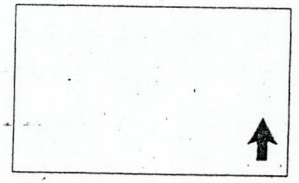
Business.



I love you.



I wish for your friendship and no more.



Yes.