

LONDON

District Post and
Inland Office

POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

NOTEBOOK

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Editor:

P.A. Forrestier Smith
6 Church Manor
Bishop's Stortford,
Herts.

to whom all correspondence should be addressed

EDITORIAL.....

This issue may tend to confirm some member's worst suspicions being concerned mainly with postmarks and very little Postal History as such. No apologies are made for this state of affairs since it reflects the work at our first two meetings which started the exploration of the vast field of the District Post and the Inland Office. The use of the postmark as a starting point seems an obvious one and at least most of those at the two meetings had something of interest to offer. This 'Notebook' reflects this introduction with a request from the Study Co-ordinators for further information. There will be a further edition of 'Notebook' in the very near future with the wider P.H. content restored. In the meantime you are invited to examine and report on your own material.

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Inland Office..The Diamonds.

Introduction.....

During the early 1840's the volume of mail being sent increased considerably, undoubtedly due to the postal reforms of the 1830's and the eventual introduction of the use of adhesive postage stamps. The number of letters passing through the post increased from less than 200 million a year in 1840 to more than 300 million a year by 1846. The expected expansion within the Post Office had to be met by improved facilities and a general tidying up of the system commenced. One of the early revisions, which axed perhaps the most elegant collection of obliterations we have had, was the decision to use a series of obliterations from which the office where it was applied could be distinguished.

The New Designs.....

Based on an idea by Mr. Francis Abbott, the new series showed five variations, each having numbers surrounded by different formations of horizontal bars. These were issued to England and Wales, Ireland, Scotland, the London District Post and the Inland Section of the London Chief Office. The latter, more readily recognised by the title " The London Inland Office " was issued in May, 1844 with a series of marks taking the form of a diamond bearing an identifying number surrounded by bars which formed an oval. The height of the mark was shorter than the width and for purposes of identification from a later series they can be called the " horizontal diamonds ".

The Various Issues.....

As may be expected from a range in use for more than twenty years there were considerable variations. The opening series issued in May, 1844 only comprised of the numbers 1 - 20 and as further offices were opened the lists were extended. Some obliterations were issued for specific purposes e.g. No. 22 with numerous bars was issued to the Ship Letter Office in 1847. The highest known used number in the " Horizontal Diamond " range is No. 78 which was issued as a " Too Late " duplex form obliterator. Westley mentions a range of double stamps bearing Nos. 75 - 85 and triple stamps numbered 94 - 99 but doubts their use.

I have found the easiest form of recognition of a mark is by reference to the number of lines comprising the obliterator, divided between the unbroken lines above and below the diamond and the broken lines on each side of the diamond. A reference to Westley will show while there were either 2 or 3 above and below, the broken lines varied between 4 and 10 (apart from the special multi-lined issue to the Ship Letter Office). I have shown an example with 11 lines broken, 2 above and below; perhaps someone can add to this series. The broken lines are not always consistent in number on both sides (see Westley, figs. 24, 25 and 27), similarly the bars above and below differ (see Westley, figs. 26, 30, 35, 37 and 47). I have shown an example of No. 42 which does not line up with Westley's examples.

The diamonds vary in size and although Westley's drawings give a reasonable picture I would advise against using them for size comparisons. The intensity of the inking on actual examples can distort the dimensions. In fact for each type heights and widths can be given with a 1mm tolerance. I have noted heights from 8 - 12mm and widths of 10 - 17 mm. Similarly, the numerals vary in height ranging from 4 - 7 mm. A series is known with sloping numerals as distinct from the normal upright type.

Mr. Martin Jones reports there are various combinations of lines within each series e.g. Westley, fig. 2 has been seen with 2/3 bars above or below and 9 - 12 lines at the sides.

Future Research.....

Westley has listed dates when each series was officially issued but no doubt some obliterations were not put into use straight away, if ever at all. Perhaps members would notify me of dated copies of any of the diamonds as depicted by Westley giving date, figure number, rate of postage on cover, postal address and any other distinguishing marks.

~~There are~~ possibly many series of marks not shown by Westley (Dubus shows but a few in his book). If you have any examples I would appreciate a sight of the stamp. piece or cover to record the relevant details. In particular the period between 1844 and 1850 seems to have had some unrecorded issues.

Can anyone add to Westley's list of numbers against fig. 17?

In H.L. Ewen's priced catalogue of the Postmarks of the United Kingdom issued in the late Nineteenth Century, he offers the Horizontal Diamonds in red, violet or blue at 20/-, 15/- and 15/- respectively, so no doubt these are very rare. I have yet to see any in these colours and would be interested to hear from members who have examples or record of examples from catalogues or articles.

Please forward any information however unimportant it may seem.

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This article by Brian Smith served as an introduction to the study of the Horizontal Diamonds. The next section of ' Notebook ' is his follow up after the Group meeting.

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LONDON INLAND OFFICE - HORIZONTAL DIAMONDS.....

Since the last Group meeting when we had our opening discussion on the London Inland Office " Horizontal Diamonds " several members have submitted covers and stamps for recording.

Perhaps the most interesting items have come from J.T. Pickering of Co. Durham which included a pair of 2d. blue stamps and a similarly stamped cover both bearing the No. 24 mark. These are reproduced as Figs. 3 and 4. The obliterator is narrow in width and the numerals short which would eliminate them from Dubus series 3 or 5. The next Dubus listings of No. 24 are within series 6 and 10, the latter of which was not issued until 1853 and would indicate the obl iterators in question formed part of the series 6. However, No. 24 has not been seen in any form by Dubus so perhaps this is our first " hole " to be filled. An interesting point to be observed is that both marks are used on the 4d or Registered letter rate which might account for its rarity.

Mr. Pickering also sent an example of No. 25 (Fig. 2) on a cover dated 6/3/1849 (Dubus series 3). This is used two months earlier than the example seen by Dubus. A cover (Fig. 1) bearing a very fine example of No. 24 from the same series shows a break below the figure 4 which could be a useful identification mark for this particular obliterator.

Mr. Pickering advises that he has a No.11 in RED, but this is in safe deposit and I am therefore unable to provide further information. However, it does substantiate my remarks in my initial notes.

At our last meeting, Mr. Martin-Jones produced a list of the variety showing the horizontal lines touching the diamond. This is shown in Brumell (Fig. 7) and although not mentioned by Dubus, corresponds with his Series 6. Several additions have been notified and perhaps an up-to-date list will be of some use.

<u>No.</u>	<u>Dates Seen</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Dates Seen</u>
1	6. 1.1853	13	5.11.1852
2	undated	14	25. 1.1853
3	not seen	15	22. 6.1852
4	not seen	16	17.11.1852
5	not seen	17	undated
6	undated	18	19. 9.1852-31.3.53
7	not seen	19	19.11.1852-22.3.53
8	not seen	20	not seen
10	undated	21	not seen
11	20. 5.1853	22	not seen
12	22.11.1852	23	not seen
		24	not seen

No.19 appears with both 2 and 3 horizontal bars below the diamond.

Among covers submitted by Mr. D. Muggleton was one bearing No. 26, Dubus series 11, No. 173, which had not been seen on cover by Dubus. The date of use was 23.3.1855.

The following lists show dated marks which fall outside the range of dates given by Dubus (E = earlier; L = later):

	Dubus			Dubus		
	No.	No.	Date Seen	No.	No.	Date Seen
Series 1.	18a	2	16.11.1844L	26	10	28. 5.1844E
	19	3	11.11.1844E	32a	16	2. 6.1844E
	22	6	25. 9.1846L	34a	18	5. 2.1845E
	23a	7	18.11.1844L			
Series 3.	39	3	27. 5.1847E	52a	16	14. 4.1848L
	40	4	30. 8.1847E	53	17	11. 4.1847E
	46	10	5. 3.1847E	54b	18	24. 1.1851L
	48a	12	22. 6.1847E	61	25	6. 3.1849E

n.b. the dated copy of No. 10 above was used only 3 days after the date the series was officially issued.

Series 5.	93	13	14. 5.1852L	102	22	1.12.1851L
Series 6.	114	3	18.12.1854L	126	16	17.11.1852L
	122	12	17. 9.1853L	129	19	22. 3.1853L
	124	14	24. 5.1853L			

I would be very pleased to have sight of further covers from any members who can extend this record.

Brian Smith

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

INLAND BRANCH, THE UPRIGHT OVALS by K. Martin-Jones.

With the upright ovals, we find more agreement between Dubus and Westley, but M. Dubus has added 2 to fig. 77 and 7 to fig. 83. In addition, he has listed a formidable amount of re-cuts for those who are interested in this detailed and rewarding work.

Westley does not mention the cancellations with LONDON round the circle. The large 103 is a re-cut of Dubus' series 12.

Dubus' series 23 has figures usually smaller than his series II, the oval is also smaller and the time is no longer in code. These are found chiefly on the Jubilee issue and on the 1d. lilacs.

Now apart from figs 76, 80 and 81 Westley does not mention

any cancellations used without date stamps except where he writes that very often the cancellations were used without date stamps. Dubus' series 4 I am sure is an example of this. His series 5, 9 and 24 are completely new types, the figures of 5 and 9 being so much smaller than anything produced before. Dubus admits there are probably more of these series. I have 41 in series 5 and both Mr. Parmenter and I have 7 and 10 in series 24.

I should be very much obliged if any member who has any other numbers in these series would let me know. Also I should like to know if anyone has seen 74 as Westley fig 79. Dubus has seen 72 and 73, while I have 71 and 72. Another query is 105 of Westley fig 89. Dubus has not seen it, neither have I. Has anyone????

COMPARATIVE LIST OF WESTLEY AND DUBUS, TOGETHER WITH NOTES.....

WITH DATE STAMPS.

<u>Westley Nos.</u>	<u>Dubus Series</u>	<u>Notes</u>
72	4	Agree
75(1-33)	6	Agree
75(87-97)	7	Agree
75(97-98)	8	Agree
75(100-107)	10	Agree
77	14	2 added
79	15	80,81 added(see note under fig.79)
82(85-98)	11	Agree
82	6	24 and 26) small date circle
	23	86) with name round
	12	99-104) circle
83	17	7 added - diamond is "square"
84	18	Agree
85,86,87	19	Agree
88	20	1, 7, 9, 12, 18, 21, 22 added
89	21	Agree, but 105 not seen
90	22	Agree, but 2 types of 105
82	23	85-98. Smaller figs and oval

WITHOUT DATE STAMPS.

76	2	Agree	
80,81	16	Agree	
82 (1-10)	4		) Not mentioned by Westley
82 (13,15-17,19,20,23-27,30,40-44)	5		
82 (26-39)	9		
(1-5,7,9,10,11)24	24	Rough ovals with 1 line top and bottom	

Illustrations for the Horizontal and Upright Ovals.

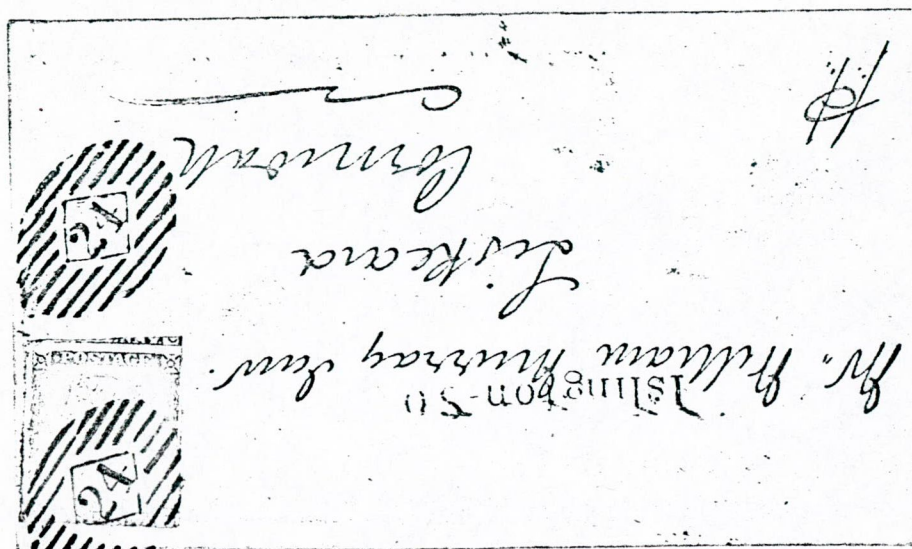


Fig 1

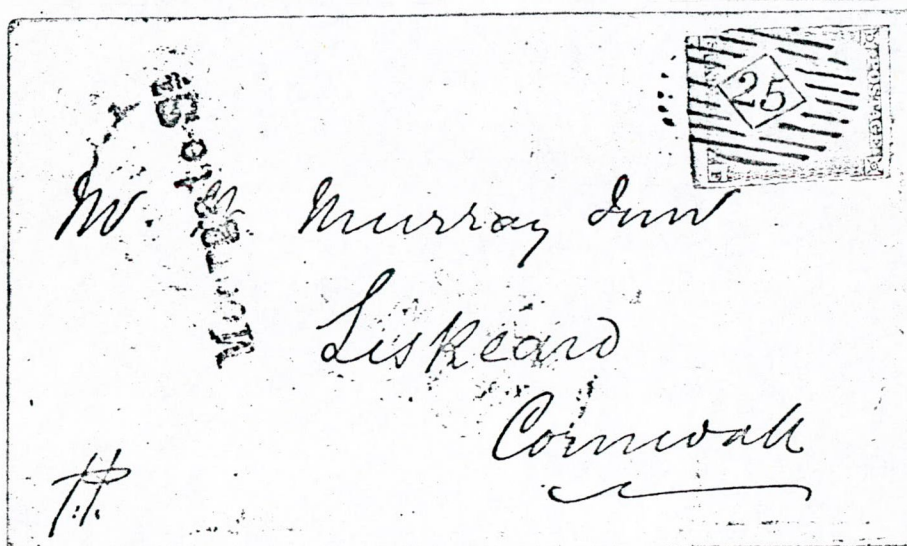


Fig 2

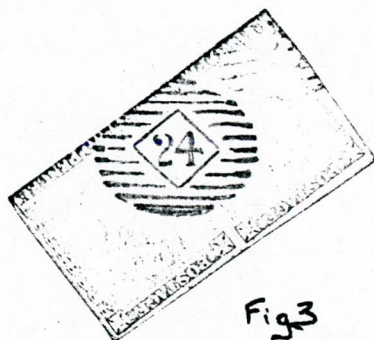


Fig 3



Series 9.



Series 24.

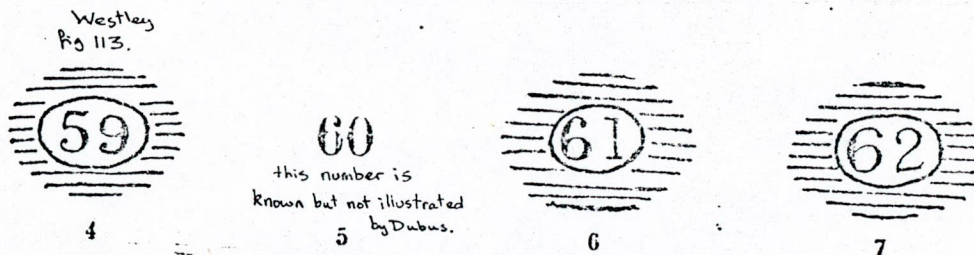
LONDON DISTRICT POST MAY 1844-1856

Following the initial meeting which covered some aspects of the District Posts, the Co-ordinator, Mr. J. Parmenter, has prepared some information relating Westley and Dubus and asks members to cull through their collections, particularly for dated examples. Please enter the information on the forms provided.

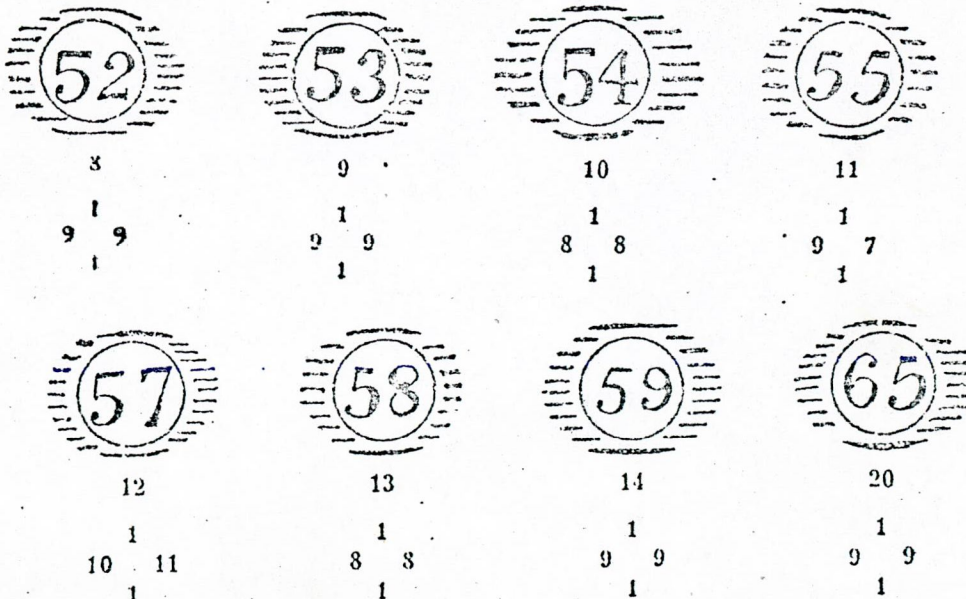
Please use Form A for types not shown in the illustrations. We are much indebted to M. Dubus for permission to use illustrations from his recent publication.

WESTLEY fig. 112 DUBUS Type 1. 14mm dia circle (for 14mm circle see Dubus type 3). Take Westley p. 50 - 51 as normal and if you have any of these, enter data on sheet B. If you have any of the later re-engraved types enter data on Sheet A.

WESTLEY fig 113. DUBUS Type 2. Horizontal ovals Aug. 1850



WESTLEY fig ?? Dubus Type 3 - Always one bar top and bottom, 14mm dia.
circles 1851-1853.



WESTLEY fig. 114 DUBUS Type 4

9 2 9
2 2

Two Series: 1st. 1851-53
2nd. 1854-55

first

second

first

second.



21 a
1853



21 b



22 a



22 b
1851



23 a
1852



23 b
1851



24 a
1853



24 b
1854



25 a
1852

75

unknown to
Dubus.

25 b



26 a
22 déc. 1851



26 b
1851

westley fig
114



27 a
1853



27 b
2-1-54 / 1-5-54



28 a
1852



28 b
1851



29 a
1852



29 b
1855

WESTLEY fig. 115 DUBUS Type 5

2
13 13
2

July 1855-63



31
1856



32
1858



33
1856-59

westley fig 115.



34



35
1856



36



37
1857



38 a
1858



38 b
8 ouvert

DUBUS Type 6. Types with cds

24 Feb 1853 - Mid '56

Both Dubus and Westley agree there were 3 issues - their dates are in general agreement. Of Westley's 3 illustrations, 2 fall in one of Dubus' groups. On the whole, Dubus has figured much more material than Westley and with a complex group such as this, that is what one needs to do.



42
2
10 9
2
1853-54



43
2
9 9
2
1853-54

Westley
fig
116.



44
3
6 6
3
1853-54



45
3
7 7
3



46
3
6 6
3



47
3
7 7
3



48
3
6 6
3
1855



49
3
6 6
3
1856



50
3
7 7
2
1856

DUBUS Type 7

1855 - end 1857



51
3
6 6
3
juil.-sept. 57



52 a
3
8 7
3
gros chiffres
avr. 53 - août 56



52 b
3
7 7
3
chiffres maigres
juil. 55 - janv. 57



52 c
3
6 6
3
avr. 57



53 a
3
8 8
3
juil. 55 - juin 57



53 b
3
7 7
3
petit 73
janv. 56 - avr. 57



54 a
3
7 7
3 - 2 in drawing
janv. 55



54 b
3
7 7
3
petit 74
mai 56 - fév. 57



60
3
6 6
3
juil. 56



55
3
6 6
3
déc. 55 - sept. 57



56
3
6 6
3
juil. 56 - sept. 57



57
3
6 6
3
juil. 56 - sept. 56



58
3
7 7
3
juil. 56 - fév. 57



59
3
7 7
3
fév. 56

DUBUS Type 8, with cds.

1857



61 a

3
7 7
3

petit cercle
intérieur
fév. 57



61 b Westley
fig 118.

3
7 7
3

cercle intérieur
plus grand
oct. 57



62 a

3
7 7
3

7 et 2 étroits
cercle plus près
du 3^e trait du bas



62 b

3
7 7
3

7 et 2 larges
tête du 2 large



63

3
7 7
3

nov. 57



64 a

3
7 7
3

cercle très près
du 3^e trait du bas
fév.-déc. 57



64 b

3
7 7
3

cercle et chiffres
légèrement
plus grands
déc. 57



65 a

3
7 7
3

cercle et chiffres
petits
fév. 57



65 b

3
7 7
3

nov. 57



66 a

3
7 7
3

cercle et chiffres
petits



66 b

3
7 7
3

oct. 57

DUBUS Type 8, continued.



67 a

3
7 7
3

77 penché
mai - sept. 57



67 b

3
7 7
3

77 droit
nov. 57



68 a

3
6 6
3

cercle très près
du 3^e trait du haut
avr. - sept. 57



68 b

3
7 7
3

cercle éloigné du
3^e trait du haut
déc. 57



69

3
6 6
3

mai 57
westley fig
117

LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

Chairman: Mr. P.A. Forrestiér Smith,
6 Church Manor,
Bishop's Stortford,
Herts.

Hon. Secretary/
Treasurer Mr. M.M. English,
50 Somerden Road,
Orpington,
Kent. BR5 4HT.

Study Co-ordinators:

Twopenny Posts Mr. C.J. Adams,
' The Lowe ',
Worfield,
Bridgnorth,
Salop.

District Posts Mr. J. Parmenter,
3 Ashdown House,
17 Rydens Road,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey.

Inland Branch/
Office Mr. B.T. Smith,
42 Canterbury Avenue,
Sidcup,
Kent.

Examiners Marks,
Missorts and
Similar Marks Mr. B.R. Smith,
19 Bentley Way,
Woodford Green,
Essex.

Cresswell and
Similar Apparatus Dr.D.H. Trapnell, **
"Brendon"
Lyndale,
London, N.W. 2.

**
to be confirmed, information only at present.