

# NOTEBOOK

Number 168 December, 2007

## IN THIS ISSUE.....

|        |                                            |                 |
|--------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Page 2 | Richmond Country Sorting Office Date Stamp |                 |
|        | Halfpenny Book Post                        |                 |
| 4      | Carshalton Express Letter                  |                 |
| 5      | Some Machine Cancellations                 | Martin Townsend |
| 9      | Post Office Boundaries                     |                 |
| 11     | The Year is 1832                           | Antony Shine    |
| 13     | London District Telegraphs                 | John Fowler     |
| 14     | The Flat Topped Three                      | Peter Chadwick  |
|        | Verses to Queen Alexandra                  |                 |
| 16     | Explanatory Stamps of the                  |                 |
|        | Hounslow Cross Post                        | Peter Bathe     |
| 20     | Jay & Feldman Catalogues Update            | Peter Bathe     |

© 2007 L. P. H. G.

### EDITOR

Peter A Forrestier Smith, 64 Gordon Road,  
CARSHALTON, Surrey. SM5 3RE

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Don G.T. Franks

E-mail : lphgat64@aol.com  
www.londonpostalhistorygroup.com

## EDITORIAL.....

As can be seen from the listing above, much of this issue comes from the Editor, which he quite enjoys putting together but cannot reflect the wide range of material in readers' collections, as it should.

Most will manage to get to a stamp, postal history, post card fair from time to time. A small box of covers at a regular local fair, Beckenham, yielded "Verses to Queen Alexandra" and there can be no doubt similar, better, items to repay visits to nearby events.

Members are interested to hear from other collectors of acquisitions, items seen offered at auction, even if not secured, and those several gems which are particular favourites.

Do share.

.....

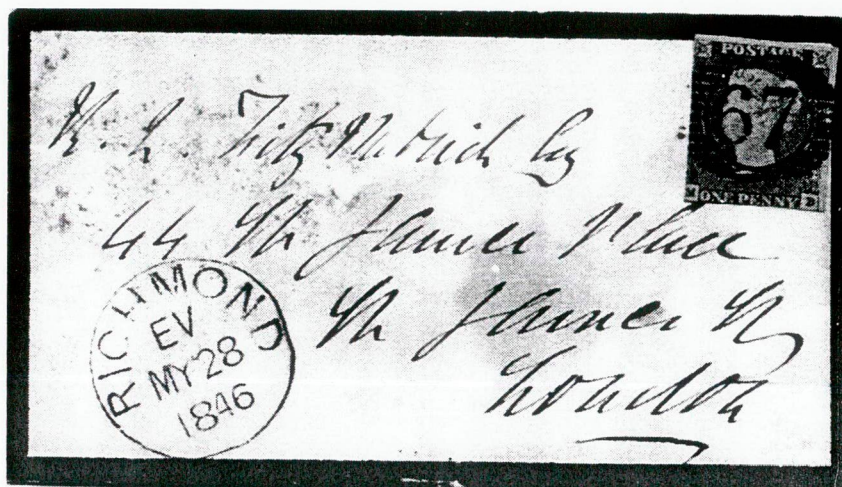
## RICHMOND COUNTRY SORTING OFFICE DATE STAMP

The third type of Country Sorting Office stamps showing the year in a straight line Sans - serif lettering

Although 1846 is the first year of use, there is already damage to the frame line. This does not appear to have been recorded before now.

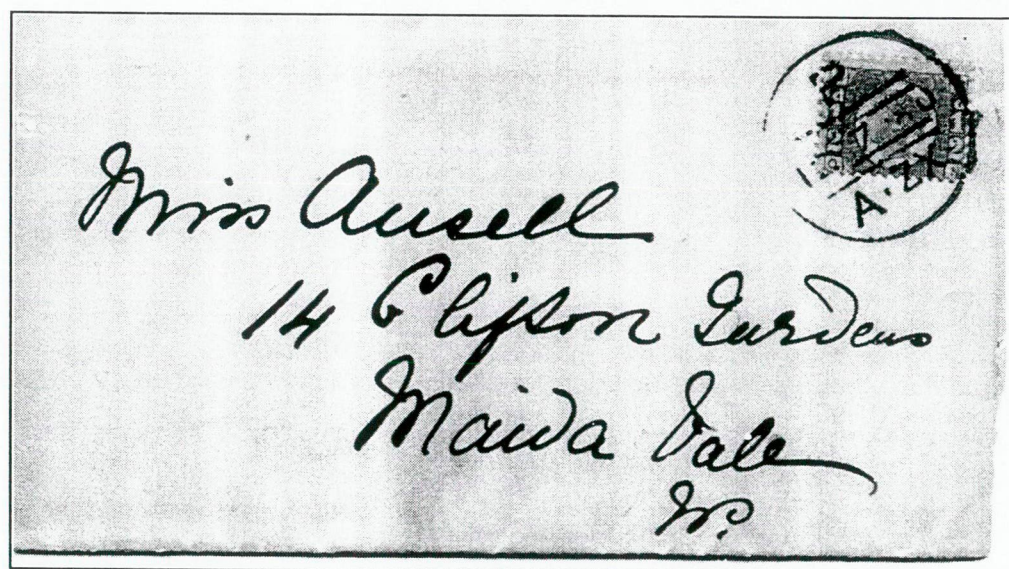
Although 1846 is the first year of use, there is already damage to the frame line.

Adhesive cancelled with the 67 of the London District Post with 10 F<sup>N</sup> 10 / MY 29 / 1846 / A date stamp on the reverse



## HALFPENNY BOOK POST

A curious problem of finding covers bearing the halfpenny adhesive with a Halfpenny Book Post cancellation is the remarkable number without such a cancellation. However, the item shown here carries one for Paddington. According to Stitt Dibden this office was first issued with Book Post cancellations on the 23rd. May 1876, some seven in all with codes A - G. The example here, Code A, is dated 12th. July 1880 and carries an advertisement for a concert in aid of the Hospital For Sick Children Great Ormond Street, this shown on the next page.



The Editor would be pleased to receive reports / scans / photocopies of examples of the Halfpenny Book Post cancellations, particularly when used with the Halfpenny adhesive.

AN EVENING CONCERT.....

STEINWAY HALL,  
LOWER SEYMOUR STREET, PORTMAN SQUARE.



AN

# EVENING CONCERT

WILL BE GIVEN ON

FRIDAY, JULY 23rd, 1880,

*To Commence at Eight o'Clock,*

IN AID OF THE

Hospital for Sick Children,  
GREAT ORMOND STREET.



The following distinguished Artistes have kindly promised their valuable assistance:

Madame CUMMINGS

AND

Miss ANNA WILLIAMS.

Mr. BARTON McGUCKIN

AND

Mr. PERCY BLANDFORD.

Mr. HERBERT E. THORNDIKE

AND

Mr. LUDWIG.

Violin.

Mons. JAQUINOT.

Pianoforte.

Mr. W. H. THOMAS.

A Recitation will be given by EDWARD J. OTTLEY, Esq.

Conductors.

Herr LEIPOLD and Mr. HENRY GADSBY.

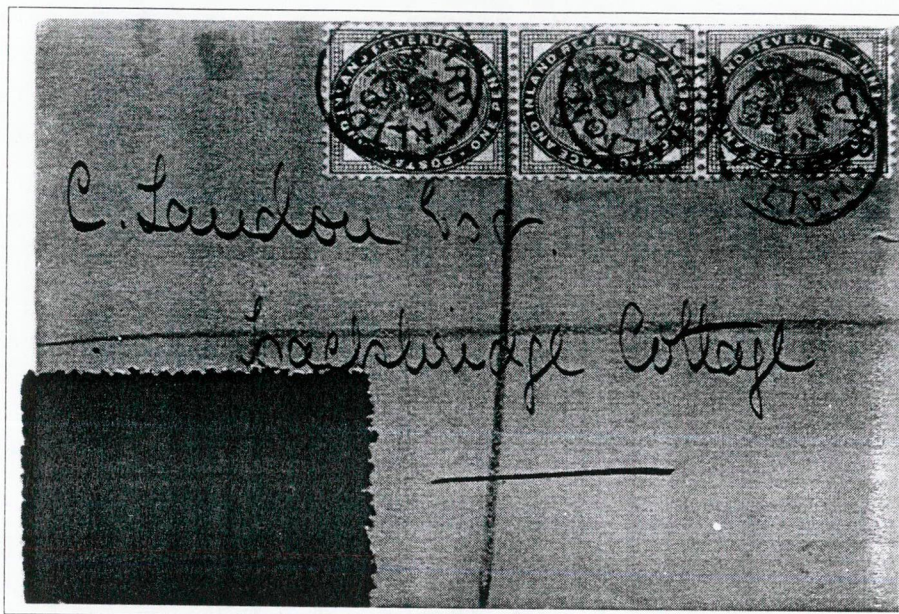


STALLS, 7/6.

RESERVED SEATS, 5/-      UNRESERVED AREA, 3/-

Tickets may be obtained of Mrs. DE QUINCEY CHILD, 8, Ladbroke Crescent, W.; Mrs. KENNETH JAMES, 7, Warrington Crescent, Maida Vale, W.; and at the Steinway Hall.

## CARSHALTON EXPRESS LETTER



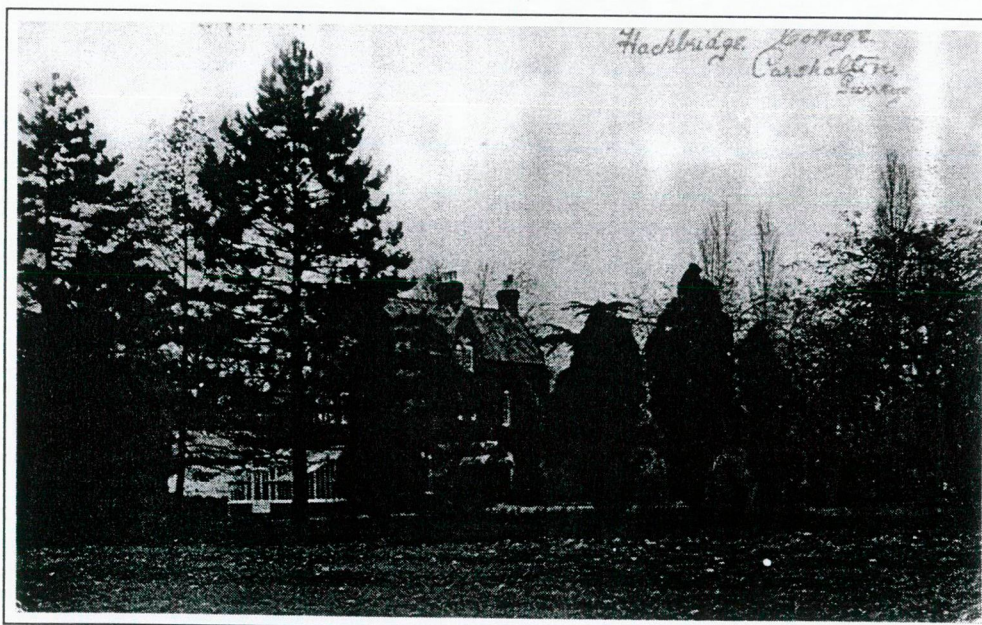
The Express Letter Service was introduced in 1891.

This example, using the first type label, (black print on red) is dated 20th. July, 1899.

From a notice issued to all Post Offices....

"The fee for Express Delivery will, in addition to the ordinary inland postage, be 2d. for the first mile and 3d. every succeeding mile or part of a mile, when a public conveyance (i.e. tramcar, railway or omnibus, &c) is available in both directions. When the distance exceeds two miles and a public conveyance is not available, a charge will be made, in addition to the postage and fee, of 1s. per mile for a special conveyance, or the ordinary cab fare. (If the sender wishes it, a special conveyance may be used for any less distance.)

Under the new Service Express letters and parcels transmitted by post to any Express delivery Office in the united Kingdom will, on arrival, be sent for delivery by special Messenger,."



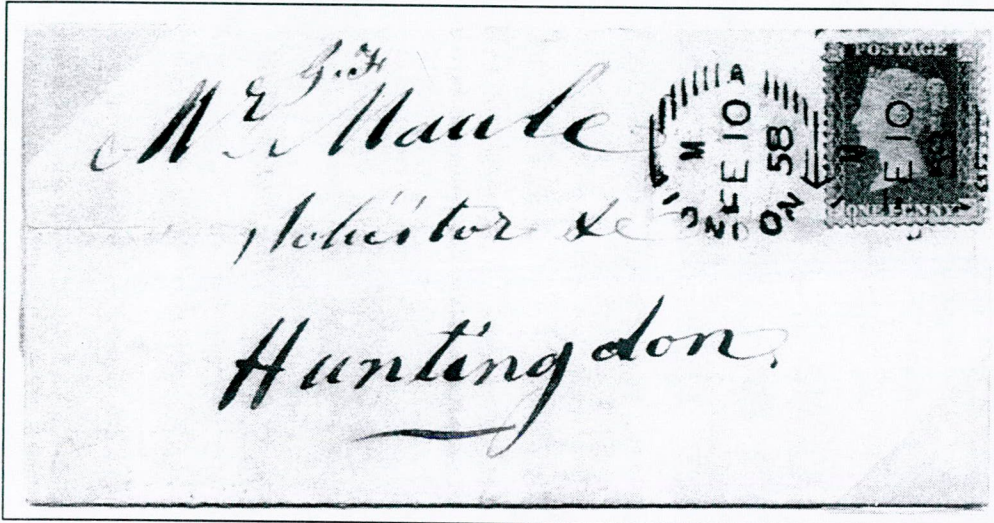
\*\* 'Hackbridge Cottage' - Victorian modesty ?

Don Franks recalls seeing it in 1937, derelict, with ceiling plaster cascading down the magnificent staircase.

## SOME MACHINES CANCELLATIONS.....

From the meeting held on the 17th. November in London, a few of the items shown, which were provided by Martin Townsend..

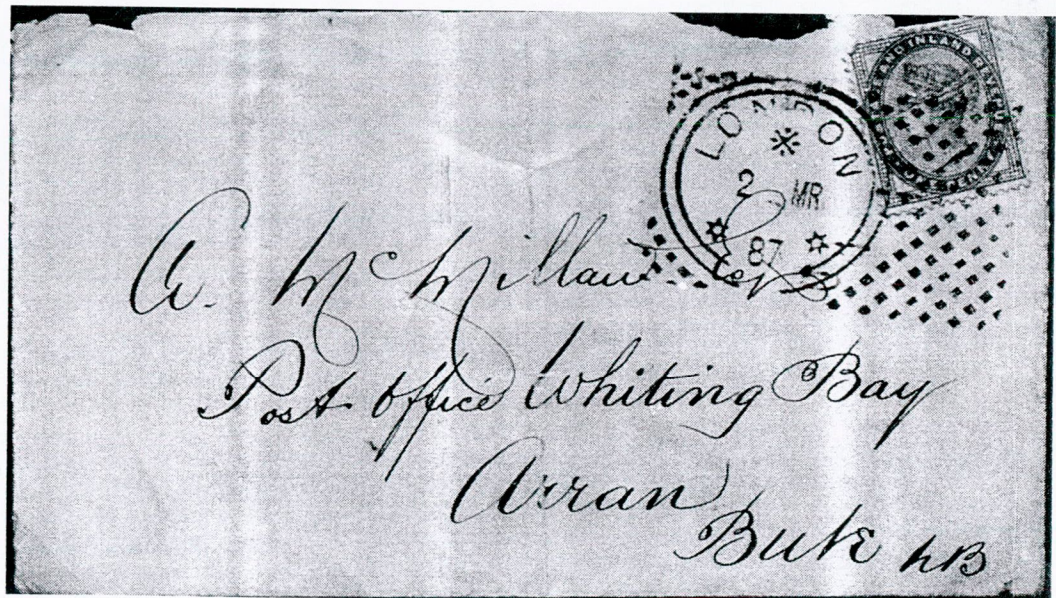
The Pearson Hill trial cancellation, code 'M' dated FE 10 / 58



The reverse carries the circular undated

ISLINGTON - LOWER RD

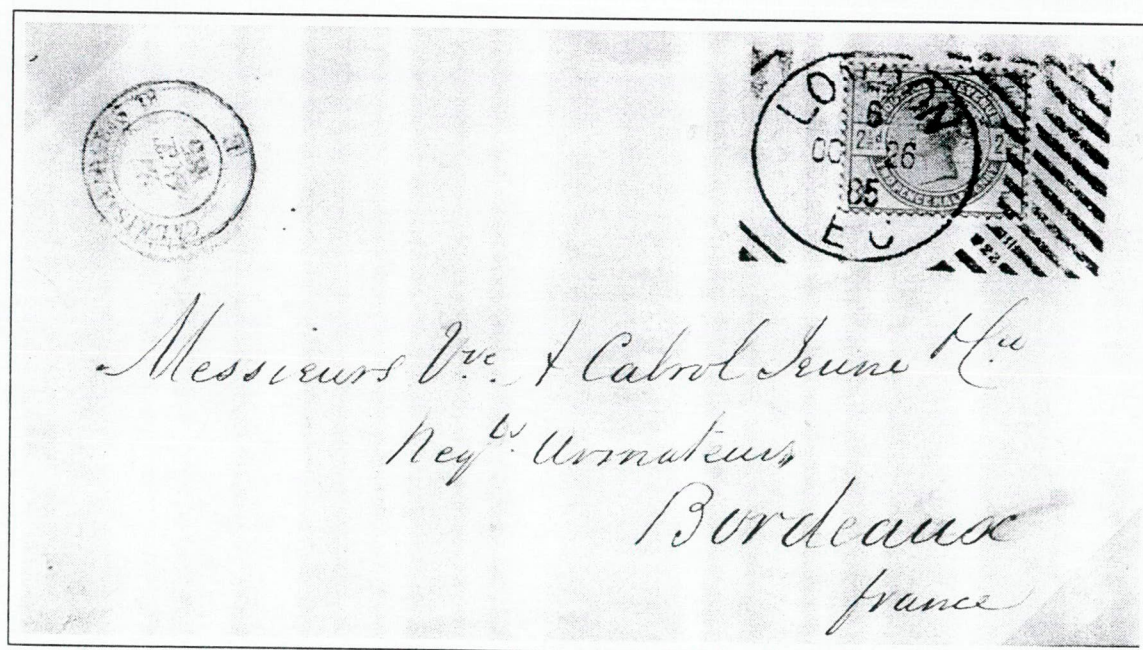
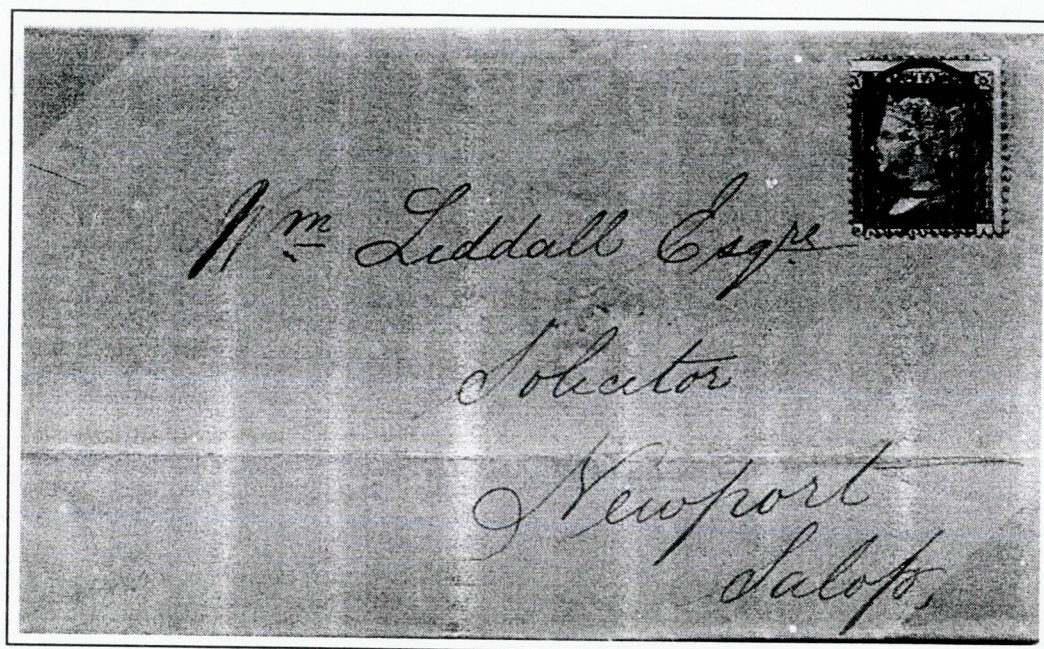
An example of the  
Hoster  
Type XIV  
dated 2 MR / 87



The following page shows a very fine example of the 683 'Salisbury Trial', actually used in London in 1858 and early 1859 before being transferred to Salisbury.

According to Dubus the centre had four pins, intended to pierce the cover and ink the holes. The degree of perforation was very slight to non existent. Despite this, there was a danger of damage to the letter and contents.

The reverse carries the London date stamp for the 18th. January 1859 and a Newport arrival for the following day.

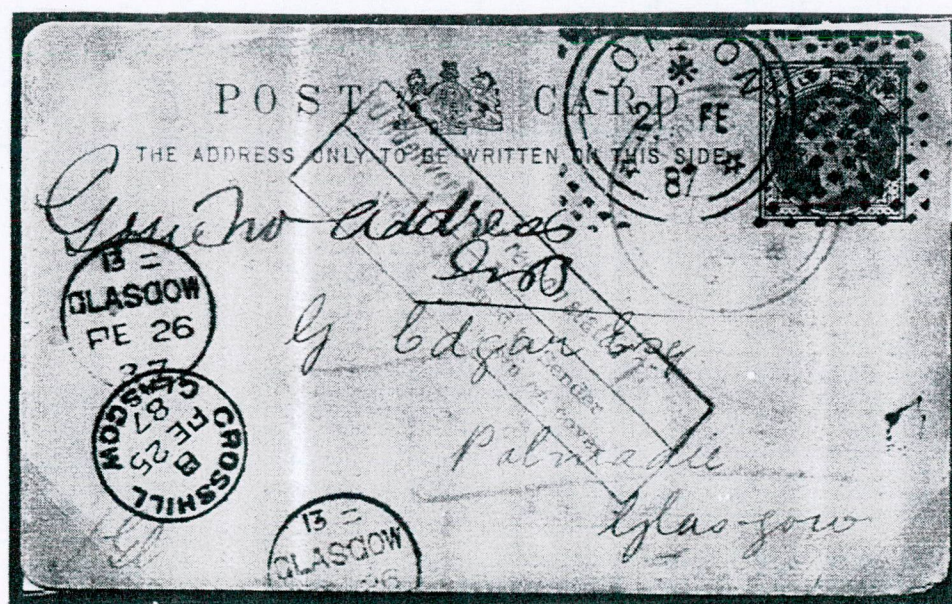


A clear strike of the Numbers inset in the lower bars,  
cancelling a 2½d Lilac to France



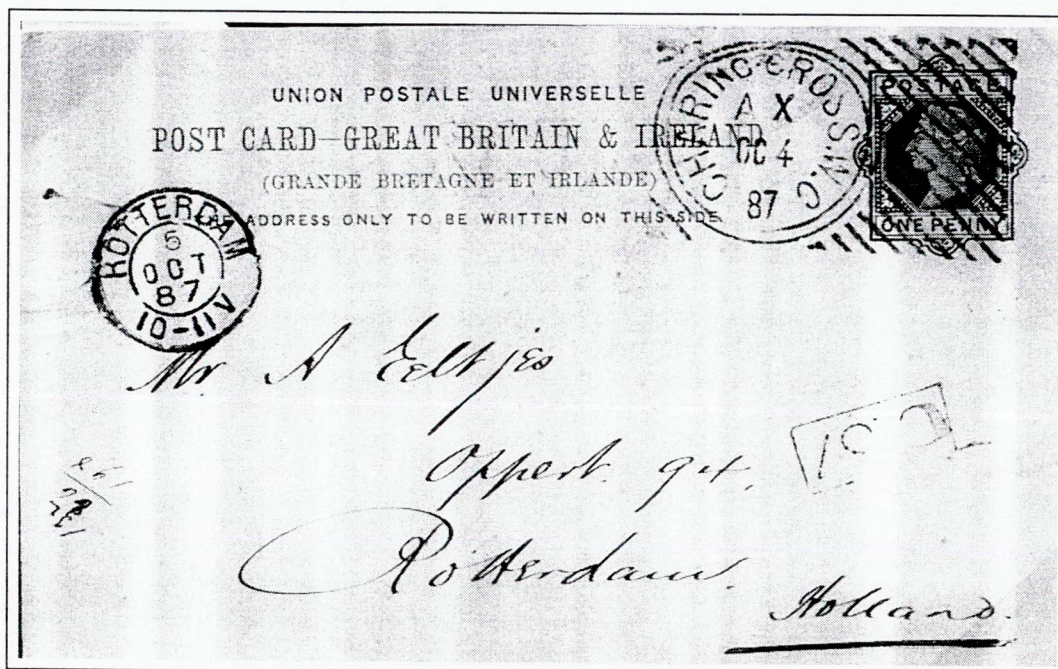
The Etheridge Machine received a favourable report in comparison with the Hoster but the cost of £200 was considered prohibitive. In addition, there was no saving in labour and too many had to be employed for sorting the mails.

This example is dated the 13th. December, 1886 from a trial which lasted from September, 1886 to April, 1887.



A rather 'tired' 1/2d PS card which is unusual in being cancelled by a Hoster on despatch with a dater portion Hoster used, in red, to mark the return to London.

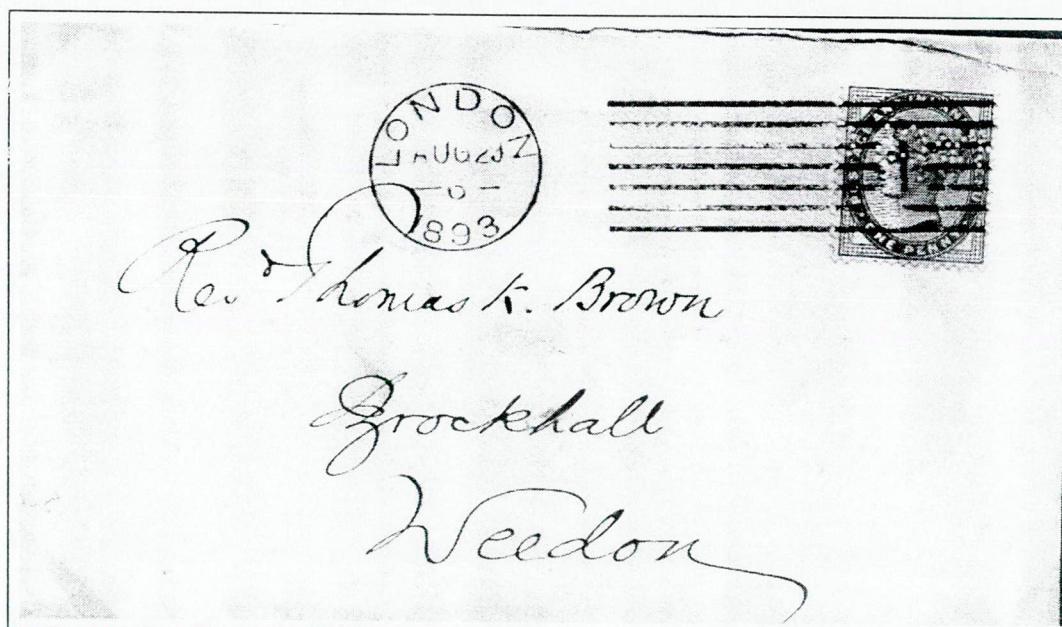
Note the initials, in red ink, in the lower left corner.



A final Hoster in this selection, for Charing Cross, classified as Dubus Type XV.

There are two versions,

- (a) a stop between CHARING and CROSS (b) a hyphen:  
this shows a dot.



The Post Office report on the machine read...

'a machine more rapid and perfect in working than anything tried here before.'

Despite this, and further trials in 1902 and 1911, it was rejected.

It needed very fine adjustment, was complicated with no saving in labour costs.

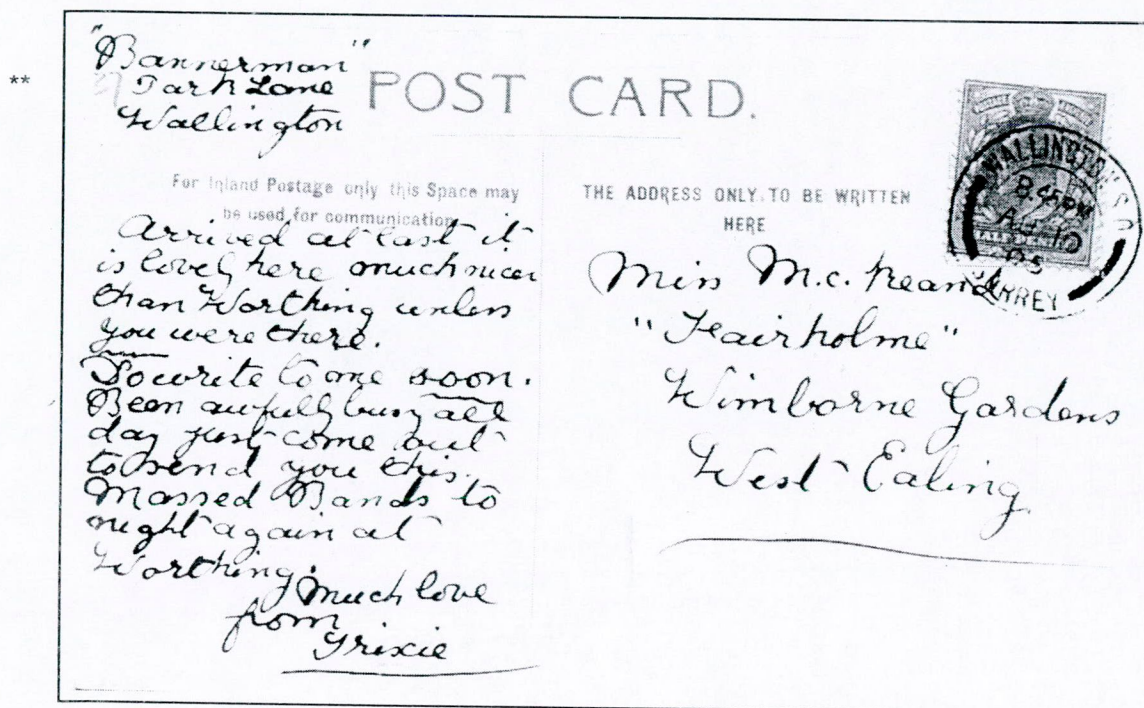
The rent required was considered too high.

## POST OFFICE BOUNDARIES

It appears the Post Office's disregard for the niceties of Parish boundaries was all too apparent in the early part of the 20th. century, at least as regards those between Wallington and Carshalton. In his book on the postal history of Carshalton, Don Franks makes reference to this.

"In October 1917 Sir Stuart Coats M.P. protested to the Postmaster General against a proposed reorganisation of postal services which would affect the status of the Carshalton post office. Part of the municipal area of Carshalton was being served from Sutton, another part from Wallington and the remainder from the Carshalton post office."

In one of its 'cunning plans' the Post Office, to save the cost of new premises to replace those condemned by the Medical Officer, in December, 1917 Carshalton was reduced to a scale payment Sub Office, delivery work was withdrawn and the postal address became CARSHALTON, SUTTON. This, possibly, had been the case for many years, as demonstrated by the cards shown below.



\*\*The pencil number in front of 'Park Lane' by the author

In 1905 the writer of the card from, what is now 37 Park Lane, accepted identifying her address as being Wallington, despite being on the Carshalton parish side of the road, demonstrating a well established practice.

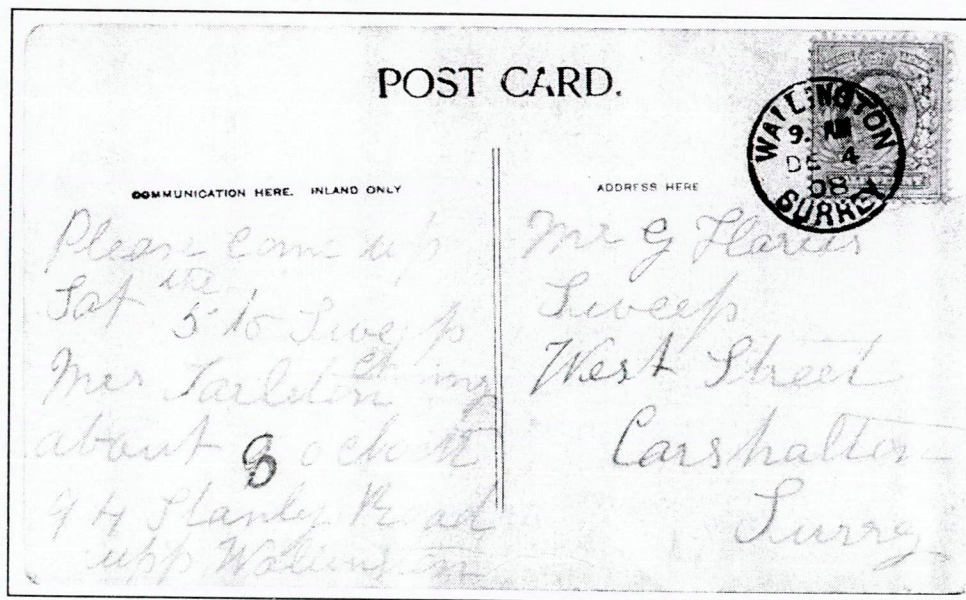
The second example, shown on the following page is a curious confection of writer's confusion and the extent of Wallington as the postal address.

The Haydon family were well established in Carshalton, being the village butchers for some two hundred years, prominent in local politics and affairs. Despite this, Connie Haydon - writing from Brixton - addresses her card to 'Mrs Picham, "Harston", Grosvenor Avenue, Carshalton Surrey.' From the dates of the stamps, it was the Carshalton office, to which the card had been sent for delivery, this they could not do, so they deleted the 'Carshalton', applied the Traveller date stamp and sent it to Wallington. The postman, at some stage, would have realised "Harston" was not in Grosvenor Avenue but in Park Avenue, a turning off Grosvenor.

Interestingly, as late as the 1937 local directory, Park Avenue was annotated "Wallington Postal District".



The next example demonstrating the residents of Carshalton were not as concerned about 'losing' their town identity as the local politicians, who had protested vigorously in 1890 when Upper Wallington post office became independent of Carshalton.



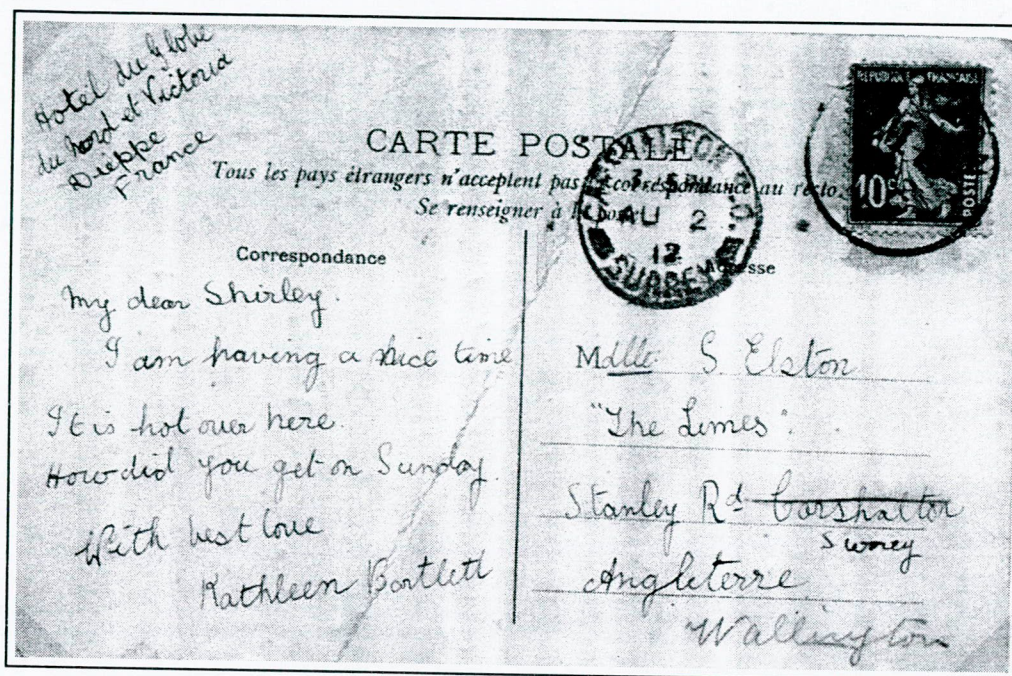
The card addressed to  
 'Mr Harris,  
 Sweep,  
 West Street, Carshalton,  
 Surrey'

with the writer putting

'94 Stanley Road  
 'Upper Wallington'.

In 1918 the Postal Authorities recognised there had been complaints and the post office established in Stanley Park Road had the name changed to 'Carshalton -on-the-Hill'

The polite description of the item is 'tired', the crease running diagonally across not enhancing what, otherwise, would be an attractive card from someone enjoying a summer break in Dieppe. The circular MB is the type London used from 1895 to 1935, cancelling the 10c French Sower. The writer places Stanley Rd. in Carshalton, whereas, as already noted, this was not so according to the Post Office. However, in this case the Carshalton office were content to use 'Wallington' rather than 'Upper Wallington', when transferring the card for delivery.



WANTED.....

Details of any items in your collection, or noted when viewing dealers' stocks, relating to the Post Town prescribed by the Post Office which replaces, in part at least, the geographical and / or political boundary. Carshalton cannot be the only place within the London area (i.e. inside the 12+ mile limit) where this has happened.

## THE YEAR IS 1832.....

Antony Shine

Occasionally an hour or so will be spent searching Ebay; sometimes something turns up which looks interesting, such as the auction item entitled 'GB 3 Penny Salway Academy to Shadwell (King Family) 1832'. The precise detail of the write up was impressive and was an enticement to read the whole piece.

The year is 1832 and young John Oliver King has completed beautifully, in 'copperplate' script, what was undoubtedly an exercise set the Gibbins, proprietors of the Salway House Academy in Woodford, aimed at convincing his parents young John was in good hands and, no doubt, they should be happy to cough up next terms fees as he, John, wrote '*hoping that the time you have been so kind in bestowing on me in cultivating the different Branches of Education, may contribute to my future welfare and your comfort....*'.

Attempts to find further mention of Salway Academy, or the King family of Shadwell, were unsuccessful. It may be the Academy would have been one of the large mansions on Salway Hill (Swept away to make the High Road in the late 19th, century) and the home of No. 1 Griffin Street

would have been lost when the London Docks were extended eastwards to make the Shadwell basin.

What was found was a report of the trial at the Old Bailey, in 1832, of a young man named John Williams who was caught stealing a silk handkerchief from the pocket of a marine, William Charles Maberly, his address being Griffin Street, Shadwell. No doubt the incident would have been discussed in the King household, not least the sentence handed down: "transported for life".

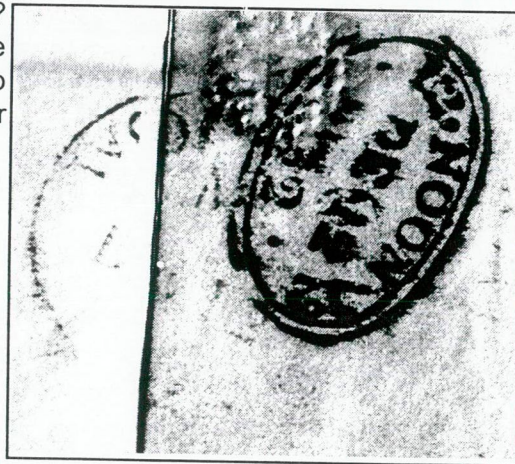


**The Folded Cover** is nicely addressed and has the handstruck '3' for the three pence postage rate on the obverse (there is a smudge of red, presumably from another letter being put on top). On the reverse is a red oval '12 Noon' dated '12th. Dec 1832'. The cover opens out to 9" by 15" (just the top of the letter is shown, it extends to two pages). The writing is very fine looking as if done with a very fine steel nib dip-pen, with no smudges or crossings out. The paper has the watermark of G & R

Turner 1832. One can imagine the proud Mum keeping the letter, unfolding and reading it from time to time, with some of the fold creases starting to split. The cover is 'tanned' from age. There are two mounting tapes, left in situ and this suggests the letter has also been kept in a collection for some of its 175 year life.

There was a rather sharp double take at the mention of the letter being sent from Woodford, of particular interest as the subject of a local collection. It passes from Essex to London, depending where the Post Office decided it should be at the time. Could this be a nice addition for the collection or just enough to encourage a purchase of something not needed? No reference to Salway Hall in Woodford was found, as the seller acknowledged. The front of the cover gave no indication and enquiries to the vendor if there were other postmarks on it received a negative reply.

A bid of £4.50 was made, the auction ended and the item was secured, paid for and arrival awaited. A few days later it was carefully excavated from the packaging, probably the safest, most secure packing ever used. This is great but not so good when faced with the excitement of trying to see what had been bought. The obverse of the cover was as the photo above. On turning it over a faint Woodford Country Sorting Office date stamp was seen, not the best but clearly Woodford and can go into the collection. It is possible to make out the 'M' for the morning duty and is the first example of a morning duty secured.



Now to see if some more can be discovered about Salway Hall.

# LONDON DISTRICT TELEGRAPH

John Fowler

Readers might be interested in some information on the London District telegraph which Michael Goodman illustrated in Notebook No. 165 on page 4.

This commenced business in 1859, using the new premises of the British & Irish Magnetic Telegraph Company at 58 Threadneedle Street, on the site of the Baltic Coffee House\* and adjacent premises. At the end of 1860 they moved into their own headquarters at 90 Cannon Street (now renumbered 101 Cannon Street).

The tariff was 4d. for ten words, until 1861 when it was increased to 6d for 15 words. Some telegrams were now subject to portage charges.

In 1866 the charges were increased to 1s. for 15 words, reduced later in the year to 6d and finally increased, in 1867, to 1s. for 20 words.

At first red envelopes were used with the company's insignia but these were changed to simple brown envelopes, marked only with the word "Telegram".

The number of stations at its highest was 84, including one (at Greenwich to relay the time signal) outside their original 4 mile radius from Charing Cross. They had plans to extend to 20 miles radius and in 1861 they stretched as far as Kilburn, Hamstead, Stratford, Blackheath, Clapham and Shepherd's Bush.

In 1867 the company changed its name to the London and Provincial Telegraph Company. The company's assets were transferred to the Post Office after the close of business on the 4th. February, 1870.

There is no mention of taking adverts in the envelopes but probably this happened during the 1860s.

The above information is from "*Telegraphs in Victorian London*" by John Durham, published by the Golden Head Press of Cambridge in 1959, with additions from "*Electric Telegraph*" by L.J. Kieve, published by David and Charles of Newton Abbot.

Editor's note:-

\*Bryant Lillywhite's "*London Coffee Houses*" gives a detailed account from which the following information is taken.

The site at 58 Threadneedle Street was sold, by auction, for £65,000. Lillywhite records the Post Office allocated a distinctive 23mm cud handstamp, for use at the Baltic Coffee House (the name was retained despite it no longer being a coffee house).

It would be of great interest if a reader could provide a copy of the telegram form showing this.

The illustration by Lillywhite appears to be an assisted impressio we are waiting for permission to reproduce this.

" *LONDON Coffee Houses - A reference Book of Coffee Houses of the Seventeenth, Eighteen and Nineteenth Centuries*" by Bryant Lillywhite. Published 1963 by George Allen & Unwin Ltd.

James Norris has been scanning the maps from facsimiles of Standfords Library edition 1863.

Whilst studying the results he noticed there are two instances of 'SDS' Post Offices.

There is one at Paddington Station,  
the other at Wandsworth on the Wandsworth Road,  
which later became St. John's Hill.

Can a reader advise the meaning of 'SDS' ?

### THE FLAT TOPPED THREE.....

Peter Chadwick is undertaking a study of the use of the Flat Topped Three  
, to be found in use on Bye Letters.  
He is most interested to have details of any a readers has, either in a collection, a record  
from an auction catalogue or a note from a dealer's stock.

The Jay catalogue shows two sizes, the smaller measuring 15 x 22 mm and recorded for  
1839 only. The larger, 19 x 26 mm has been found in black, 1812-26, red , 1814-38 and  
blue, 1828-39.

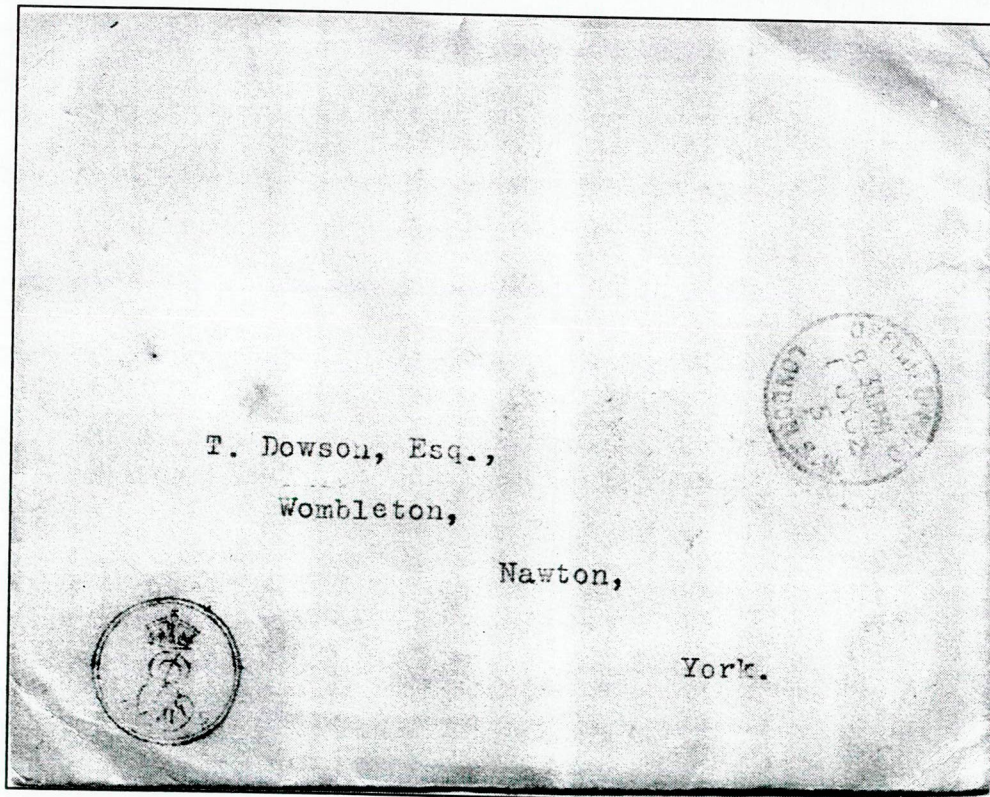
Please send a copy, scan or photo, giving colour, all other postal markings, date and  
destination and, with ELs, the address of the writer.

Please send to :  
Peter V. Chadwick  
1 Seymour Grove, Eaglescliffe, TS16 0LB  
or e-mail with scan(s) attached to PVChadwick@gmail.com

### VERSES TO QUEEN ALEXANDRA

It is, yes, battered but, given it came from a "£2 each box", one should not complain too much as  
it afforded several hours of interesting background research.

The Royal cypher is the first of two issued for King Edward VII.<sup>A</sup>



The design was approved by the King on the 2nd. May 1901, introduced on or about the 16th. It was made in steel by His Majesty's Jewellers. There were six such stamps by the end of the year, of which two were for use by the King, three for the Court Telegraphist and one for Sandringham.

A seventh was produced in 1903 for use on the Queen's mail when she was not with the King. The stamp was kept by the Court Telegraphist when the King was absent.

When at Windsor Castle the "Privy Purse" Stamp was used on the Queen's Mail.

The Official Paid date stamp is for 9.30 p.m. on the 1st. July, 1902, the date being that on the letter, on the following page The type ribbon is a delightful purple and the letter signed by Sidney Greville.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

1st July, 1902.

Sir,

The Queen has received your letter;  
and I am commanded to thank you  
for the verses you enclose.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

T. Dowson, Esq.

It is possible this was  
Sir Sidney Robert Greville (1866  
- 1927) who was, by way of  
patronage duties,  
President of  
West Hove Golf Club between  
1923 and 1927.

The envelope carries a York  
date stamp for 10.30 a.m. and  
one for Pickering at 5.30 p.m.,  
both the 2nd July.

Located in the Vale of Pickering, the village of Wombleton is some 2½ miles south west of Kirkby Moorside - post office is called Kirkby Moorside, with Pickering about 6 miles to the east. It is characterized by its mix of architectural styles. Rows of sturdy stone cottages stand alongside modern houses and bungalows. However, Wombleton's origins are medieval, as its single main street and field patterns clearly indicate. Several buildings are of cruck<sup>B</sup> construction.<sup>C</sup>

<sup>A</sup> The detail on the Cypher comes from 'ROYAL HOUSEHOLD MAIL' by Glen H. Morgan, published by The British Philatelic Trust in 1992

<sup>B</sup> CRUCK: the main supports consist of oak crucks or trunks, which support the roof. The roof consists of counter tie beams and branch rafters, laid with heather turf, and thatched with rye straw. The original walls would be of clay or turf, but are now built with rubble and lime mortar. (Information from the Cruik Cottage Heritage Association website)

<sup>C</sup> The paragraph is a direct quote from the Country Publications Ltd website 'dalesman.co.uk - 'Country Walks'

## EXPLANATORY STAMPS OF THE HOUNSLOW CROSS POST

Peter Bathe

Two discoveries connected with the Hounslow and Kingston double cross post have surfaced in quick succession in recent months, shedding some light on the complexity of the operation.

The first was found by Howard Hughes and is a copy of the Twopenny Post receivers' sorting list for the revised Hounslow cross post; the second was in a Cavendish auction and is an example of the Missent stamp sent to Hounslow at the beginning of 1839.

To recap on this portion of the London Cross Post system:

1. **Prior to December 1834:** All General Post letters posted in Twopenny Post offices in the country area were sent to the Chief Office in central London for onward dispatch.
2. **5th. December 1834:** Twopenny Post receivers on the ride through Brompton, Kensington, Hammersmith, Acton and Brentford started forwarding GP letters, for the Western Mails, to Hounslow and inward letters from the west were dropped at Hounslow for delivery in the TP villages.
3. **10th. April 1845:** TP receivers at the western end of the Richmond ride (including Richmond itself, Twickenham, Ham, Petersham, Hampton, Hampton Court and Sunbury) also started sorting their Western Mails for dispatch via Hounslow, using a short ride set up between Hounslow and Twickenham.
4. **15th. December 1838:** Poole, Exeter and Devonport mails transferred from coach route through Hounslow to London & Southampton Railway through Kingston. The Hounslow-Twickenham ride was extended to Kingston to preserve cross post facilities and the Portsmouth mail, which also went through Kingston, was added to the system.
5. **19th. December 1838:** Issue of "village style" penny post stamps to Hounslow, Brentford, Brompton, Hammersmith, Kensington, Twickenham and Turnham Green (site of the Acton sorting office), plus Too Late stamp to Hounslow.
6. **5th. January 1839:** Within a few weeks of the service starting, Kingston and Hounslow were issued with "Missent" stamps (Fig.1). Such stamps were needed to explain any delay which might result if a Twopenny Post receiver sent letters to the wrong cross post town.

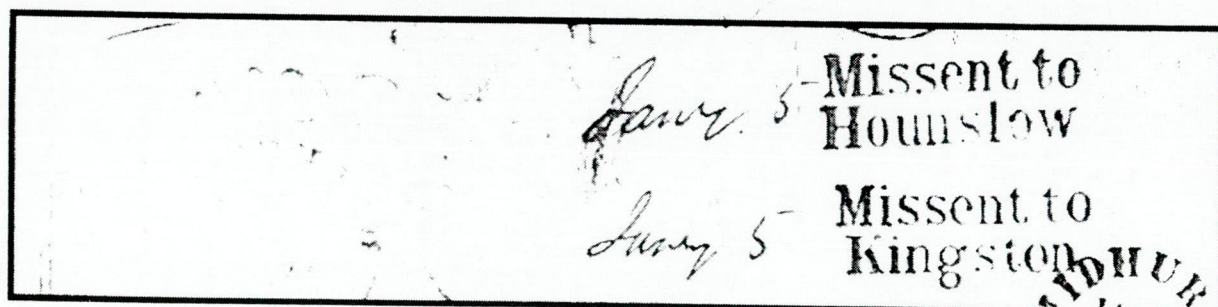


Fig. 1

Errors of this type were probably quite common, at least in the early days of the double cross post. After four years of operating the original Hounslow scheme, the receivers were just about used to selecting their GP letters for the West Country mails and sending them to Hounslow; now they were being asked to divide the cross post letters between those for the Great West Road and those for the London & Southampton Railway. They needed to know which parts of the various western counties were served by one group of mails (and therefore one cross post) and which parts by another.

## TWO PENNY POST OFFICE.

List of Post Towns and Places, the Letters for which are to be forwarded to Hounslow by the Penny Post, instead of being sent in the London Bag.

| TOWNS                      | Rate of Postage | Correc-tions | TOWNS                     | Rate of Postage | Correc-tions | TOWNS                        | Rate of Postage | Correc-tions |
|----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Abergavenny .....          | 10              |              | Haverford West .....      | 1               |              | Oxford .....                 | 7               |              |
| Aberayron .....            | 11              |              | Hay .....                 | 10              |              | Painswick .....              | 9               |              |
| Abingdon .....             | 7               |              | Henley .....              | 6               |              | Pembroke .....               | 1               |              |
| Bampton (Oxon.) .....      | 7               |              | Hereford .....            | 9               |              | Pembroke Dock (or            |                 |              |
| Banbury .....              | 9               |              | Highworth .....           | 8               |              | Pater .....                  | 1               |              |
| Bath .....                 | 9               |              | Hultherstone .....        | 1               |              | Pewsey .....                 | 8               |              |
| Bedwin .....               | 8               |              | Hungerford .....          | 3               |              | Pontypool .....              | 10              |              |
| Berkeley .....             | 9               |              | Isley .....               | 9               |              | Pontefrith .....             | 11              |              |
| Bicester .....             | 8               |              | Kidwelly .....            | 11              |              | Pyle .....                   | 11              |              |
| Blakeney (Glo'ster.) ..... | 9               |              | Kingscote .....           | 9               |              | Ragland .....                | 10              |              |
| Bradford (Wilts.) .....    | 10              |              | Lambourne .....           | 8               |              | Ramsbury .....               | 8               |              |
| Brecon .....               | 10              |              | Lampeter .....            | 11              |              | Reading .....                | 6               |              |
| Bridge End .....           | 11              |              | Langhorne .....           | 1               |              | Ross (Hereford.) .....       | 9               |              |
| Brigewater .....           | 10              |              | Lea .....                 | 9               |              | Shepton Mallet .....         | 10              |              |
| Bristol .....              | 9               |              | Leachlade .....           | 8               |              | Sedbury .....                | 9               |              |
| Builth .....               | 10              |              | Ledbury .....             | 10              |              | St. Clears .....             | 11              |              |
| Burford .....              | 8               |              | Lidney .....              | 9               |              | Stroud (Glo'ster.) .....     | 9               |              |
| Calne .....                | 8               |              | Llandaff .....            | 11              |              | Swansea .....                | 11              |              |
| Cardiff .....              | 10              |              | Llandillo .....           | 11              |              | Swindon .....                | 8               |              |
| Cardigan .....             | 1               |              | Llandovery .....          | 11              |              | Tenby .....                  | 1               |              |
| Carlisle .....             | 10              |              | Llanelli .....            | 11              |              | Tetbury .....                | 9               |              |
| Caernarthen .....          | 11              |              | Llangadock .....          | 11              |              | Tewkesbury .....             | 9               |              |
| Chepstow .....             | 9               |              | Llantropant .....         | 10              |              | Thornbury .....              | 10              |              |
| Chippenham .....           | 9               |              | Maidenhead .....          | 5               |              | Trecastle .....              | 10              |              |
| Cheltenham .....           | 9               |              | Malmesbury .....          | 3               |              | Tregony .....                | 1               |              |
| Cirencester .....          | 5               |              | Marlborough .....         | 8               |              | Trowbridge .....             | 3               |              |
| Clifton .....              | 9               |              | Melksham .....            | 8               |              | Uley .....                   | 9               |              |
| Coleford .....             | 10              |              | Merthyr Tydfil .....      | 11              |              | Upton-on-Severn .....        | 9               |              |
| Colnbrook .....            | 2               |              | Milford (Pembroke.) ..... | 1               |              | Usk .....                    | 10              |              |
| Cow Bridge .....           | 10              |              | Minchinhampton .....      | 9               |              | Wallingford .....            | 7               |              |
| Crickhowell .....          | 10              |              | Mitchel Dean .....        | 9               |              | Wantage .....                | 7               |              |
| Cricklade .....            | 8               |              | Monmouth .....            | 10              |              | Wellington (Somerset.) ..... | 19              |              |
| Cross .....                | 9               |              | Nailsworth .....          | 9               |              | Wells (Somerset.) .....      | 9               |              |
| Deddington .....           | 8               |              | Narberth .....            | 1               |              | Weobly .....                 | 10              |              |
| Devizes .....              | 8               |              | Neath .....               | 11              |              | Westbury (Wilts.) .....      | 8               |              |
| Dulverton .....            | 9               |              | Nettlebed .....           | 6               |              | Wickwar .....                | 10              |              |
| Dunkirk (Glo'ster.) .....  | 6               |              | Newbury .....             | 7               |              | Winchcomb .....              | 6               |              |
| Dursley .....              | 9               |              | Newcastle (Caerm.) .....  | 1               |              | Windsor .....                | 4               |              |
| Fairford .....             | 8               |              | Newent .....              | 10              |              | Witney .....                 | 5               |              |
| Farringdon .....           | 8               |              | Newnham .....             | 9               |              | Wokingham .....              | 5               |              |
| Fishguard .....            | 10              |              | Newport (Glo'ster.) ..... | 9               |              | Woodstock .....              | 8               |              |
| Frome .....                | 10              |              | Newport (Monmouth.) ..... | 10              |              | Wootton Bassett .....        | 8               |              |
| Gloucester .....           | 9               |              | Newport (Pembroke.) ..... | 10              |              | Wootton-under-edge .....     | 9               |              |
| Great Marlow .....         | 6               |              | Northleach .....          | 8               |              |                              |                 |              |

*N. B. One Penny in addition to the above Rates to be taken with every Paid Letter.*

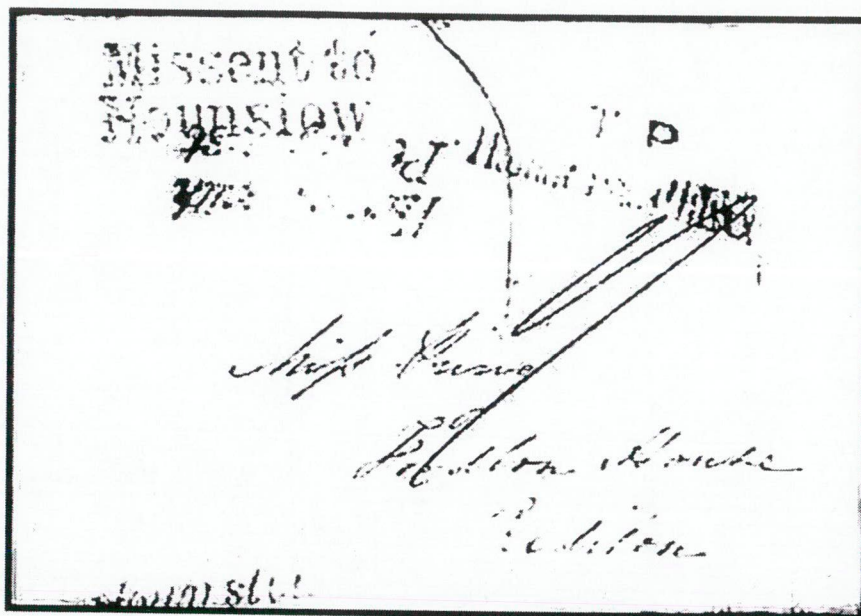
**R. SMITH,**

*Superintending President.*

Fig. 2 (reduced to 67%)

TP Superintending President Robert Smith had produced new sorting lists for the receivers - Howard's find (Fig.2) is the one for the new Hounslow cross post and, presumably, there was a similar one for the Kingston cross post. Mistakes still happened. Indeed, the sorting list itself seems flawed, as will be discussed later. The Hammersmith receiver, Mary Woodhouse, was one culprit in missending letters but it is very likely the other receivers also erred at times. The example appearing in Cavendish (Fig.3) is a letter written at North End, Fulham, dated 26th. April 1839 and addressed to Crediton, Devon. It was sent to Hounslow instead of Kingston and, therefore, needed the "Missent" stamp.

Because of the timings of the cross post, once a missorted letter had been found in one post town, there was no time to get it across to the other town in time for that night's mail. The delay had to be accounted for, hence the "Missent" stamp.



The letter carries the unframed TP Hammersmith EO stamp in black, the Hammersmith Penny Post mark in deeper black, a part strike of the Hounslow Penny Post stamp in a grey-black with, on the reverse, the Hounslow dated circular stamp (26th. April) in the same shade of grey-black. Finally, there is the "Missent to Hounslow" stamp in a slightly pinky red.

There are no other marks so it is not possible to say what happened after the missorting was discovered or how long the letter was delayed. A filing reference would indicate it did eventually reach Crediton. It must be assumed it was re-routed via Kingston because, if it went via the Chief Office, surely there would have been a host of other marks. There is a strange device on the reverse, which

looks like a double strike of some charge mark. If anyone could identify this it would be much appreciated. Interestingly there is also a smudge of red which appears to be an offset of the "Missent" stamp - so probably there were at least two missorted letters on the 26th. April !

The inclusion of a "corrections" column in the Hounslow sorting list found by Howard is intriguing. There are two types of errors in the list as it appears: wrong postage rates and the inclusion of places which should have been sorted at Kingston.

A look at the post towns in Pembrokeshire indicates a couple of major mistakes in rates. As all seven towns were more than 230 miles from Hounslow, the rate should have been 1/- but both Newport at 10d and - most notably - Fishguard at 8d. are clearly wrong. There are similar errors.

Of the places which should have not been on the list, Tregony in Cornwall is again a clear example. However, as it is possible the two west Somerset towns of Dulverton and Wellington should not have been included either. If these two towns were being served via Bristol (and therefore Hounslow) rather than from the Exeter road (via Kingston) then other towns in the area, Taunton for instance, should also have been included.

With errors in the instructions to receivers (assuming Howard's find is not an uncorrected proof), it is a wonder there are quite a few "Freds" around?

### Too Late

Going back through the files and past *Notebooks* to glean information on the "Missent" stamp also promoted a re-examination of another stamp issued to Hounslow at this time: a "Too Late" stamp. A large number of such stamps were issued to various offices towards the end of the 1830s. Unfortunately they were virtually all of a standard design, so as with the majority of Maltese Crosses, it is almost impossible to distinguish stamps from different offices merely by appearance. However, the proof book shows a stamp was issued to Hounslow at the same time as a new Penny Post stamp in December 1838 (Fig.4).

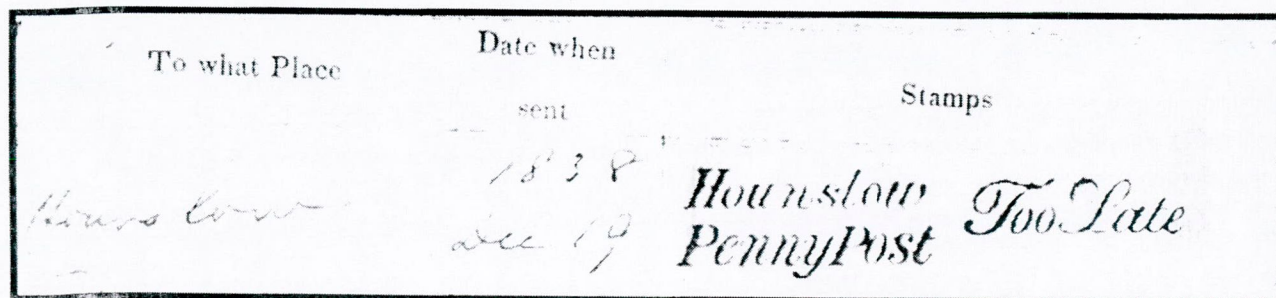


Fig. 4

The coincidence of so many Too Late stamps being issued, at a time when the railways were taking over from coaches for the carriage of the mails, might imply the postal service was being subjected to some pressure from the railway companies unwilling to delay trains for tardy branch mails. However, at Hounslow, there was already a problem with late mail coaches - long before the switch to rail.

This was noted in the second winter after the extension of the cross post to Twickenham. Post Office Secretary William Maberly told the PMG on the 2nd. December 1836 : "The occasional late arrival of the Bristol Mail at Hounslow in the Winter Season throws out the arrangement for the delivery of the Cross Post L<sup>rs</sup> circulating through that Town for Richmond, Twickenham, Brompton &c as the dispatch of the P.P. Messenger cannot be delayed without interfering with an important objective viz<sup>t</sup> his arrival at Twickenham in time for a distribution of the L<sup>rs</sup> by the first delivery."

"To Remedy the delay of these Letters, which on such occasions are sent to London & returned in the Evening, The President of the T.P.P. recommends in the enc<sup>d</sup> Report that the Postm<sup>rs</sup> of Hounslow may be directed to forward the Letters by a second Messenger who would be able to reach Twickenham in time for the noon or second T.P.P. Delivery & as this appears to be a very proper arrangement which it will only involve a trifling expense of 3/- a journey occasionally in the Winter Season, I beg to submit it for your Lordships' authority."

Unfortunately the "enclosed report" is no longer enclosed but, in the minute book, there appears under this entry: "Welch 7 Feb 37" and "Again 16 Feb 37" which could note two occasions when the

extra messenger was employed. "Welch" could be the messenger's name, or noting the fact it was the Welsh coach (the Carmarthen coach via Bristol) which was late ??

The extra messenger was only needed for the Twickenham bags as there was not other link with Hounslow. Mails fro Brentford, Hammersmith etc. arriving at Hounslow too late for the 6.20 am cross post ride could be taken by the normal TP ride which left Hounslow at 8.45 am. While the earlier ride would reach the TP villages on the road to Brompton in time for the first delivery of the day, the latter ride would not. Late letters would be delayed until the noon delivery. If this were happening with any frequency, then again a stamp would be needed to account for the delay.

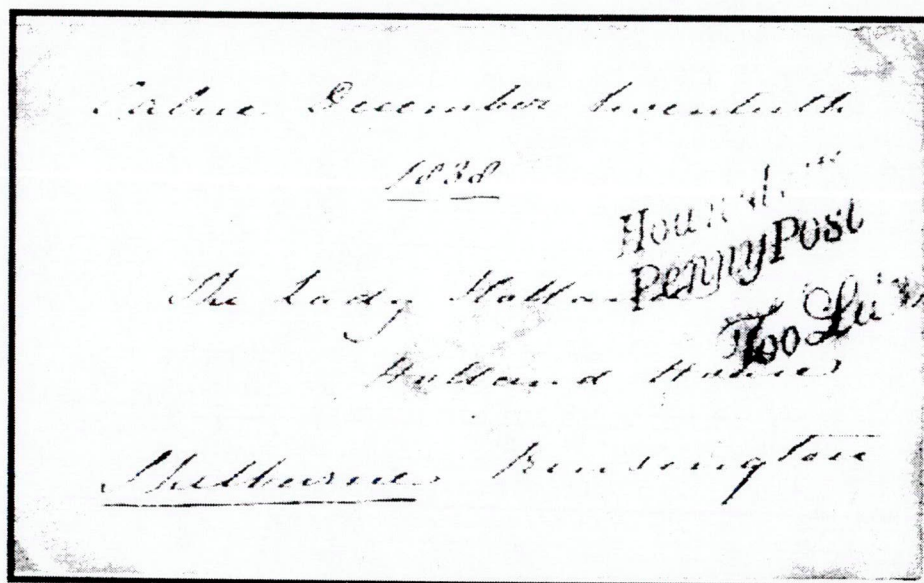


Fig. 5

Only two examples of a "Too Late" stamp on Hounslow cross post letters have been reported in *Notebook*\*. Both have "winter" dates ( 21st. December 1838\*\* [Fig. 5] and the 9th. January 1840); both are from the Bristol road (Calne and Chippenham), both are addressed to towns on the Hounslow ride (i.e., not needing to go via Twickenham). Thus they both fit very well the criteria of the occasional late running Bristol mail.

Of course it would be foolish to built too much on just two examples. Both are also free franks and while, perhaps, that is not significant in this context, there could be a connection. When the later example was first reported in *Notebook*, it was asserted the "Too Late" mark was applied at Chippenham. Indeed, without forensic analysis of the inks, it is not possible to determine where the "Too Late" stamps were applied in either case. It was suggested the "lateness" was more to do with the fact it was a frank signed on the 9th. January 1940 just as the franking privilege was ending.

Other examples would help to clarify the position - are there any out there ?

\* Notebook 71 (March 1985) and Notebook 151 (March 2002 - The Jay Collection)

\*\* Two days after the stamps were issued.

An unrelated **Feldman and Jay catalogues update** from Peter Bathe;

L 509 Woolwich WO /1D PAID struck in red,  
on the 23rd. March 1843.