London Postal History Group

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NOTEBOOK

[c] 1991 LPHG and Dr. med Wolf Hess

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In This Issue

Which is published mid 1991, despite the dating, we are taking the opportunity presented by *Notebook* of making a record of two of the Gold winning exhibitions by members at the 1990, which will be spread over several issues. The award winning entries were those of Dr. med Wolf Hess and Miss Grace Dove and contrary to convention, it is *Gentlemen First*.

LONDON

Postmarks of the Inland and local Offices 1661 - 10 January 1840

by Dr. med Wolf Hess

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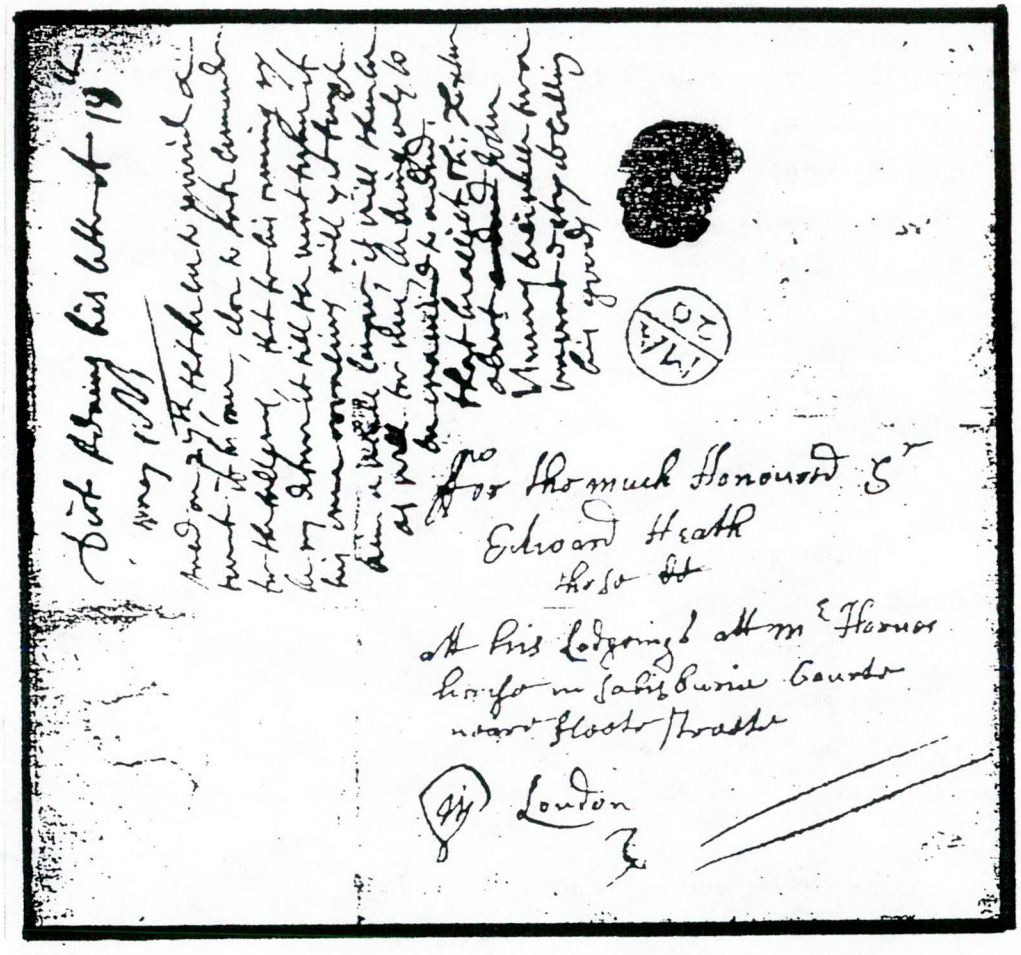
Twopenny Post Instructional Marks

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Free Franks in the Twopenny Post

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[1] The Bishop Mark



1661 - 18 May : Rutland to London, arrival MA/20, charged 3d

The first official London postal marking was introduced in 1661. On the Restoration in 1660, Henry Bishop was made Postmaster General [1660 - 1663]. He ordered these stamps to be struck on letters to show the month and the day on which they were received in London or posted there. The earliest recorded Bishop Mark is for April 19, 1661.

English Rates 1660 : 2d to 80 miles, 3d above. Ounce rates 8d. and 1/-
Scotland : 4d with 1/6d ounce rate.
Ireland : 6d with 2/- ounce rate.

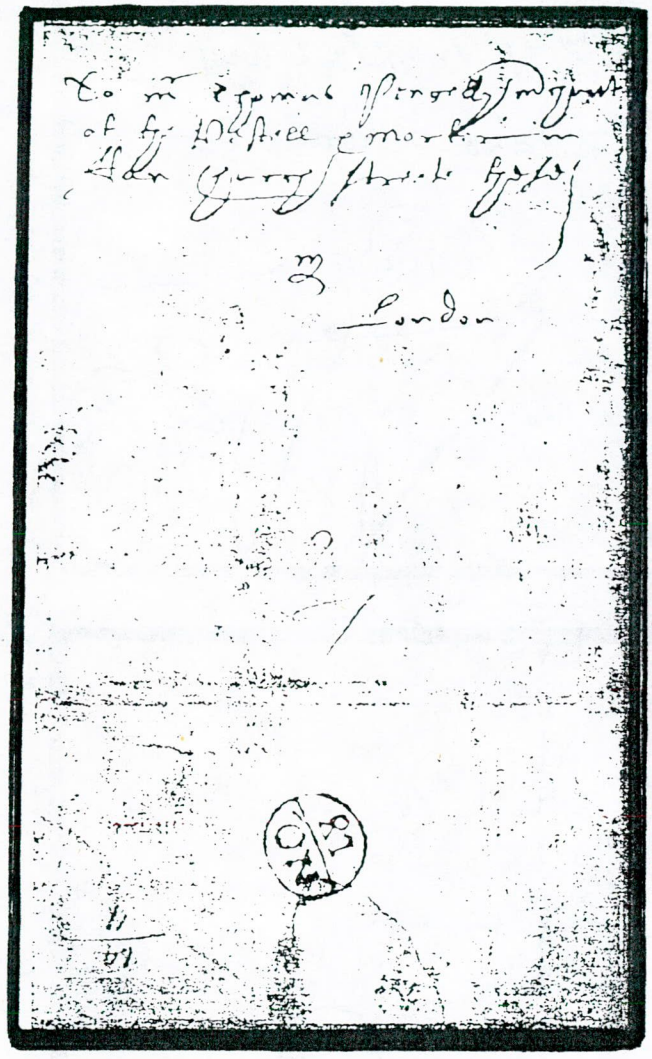
NO[vember]/18	OC[tober]/4
Diam 13mm	Diam 14mm
1661 - 1672	1673 -1713
Serif	Sans Serif

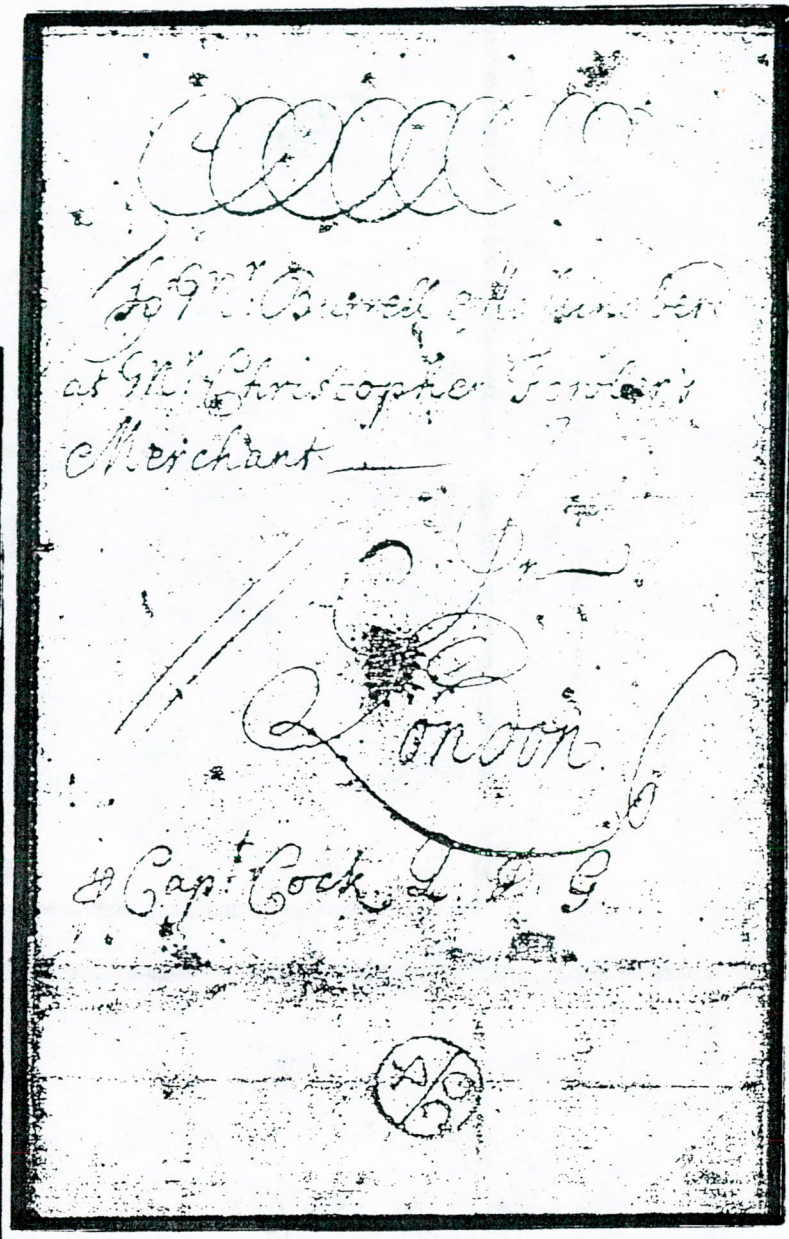
[1] The Bishop Mark

Forwarded to Falmouth - p. Capt Cock
Q. D. G. = Quem Deus Guard



18/NO(vember)
Diam = 13mm
1661-1672
Serif Letters





4/OC(tober)
Diam 14mm
1673-1713
Sans-serif Letters

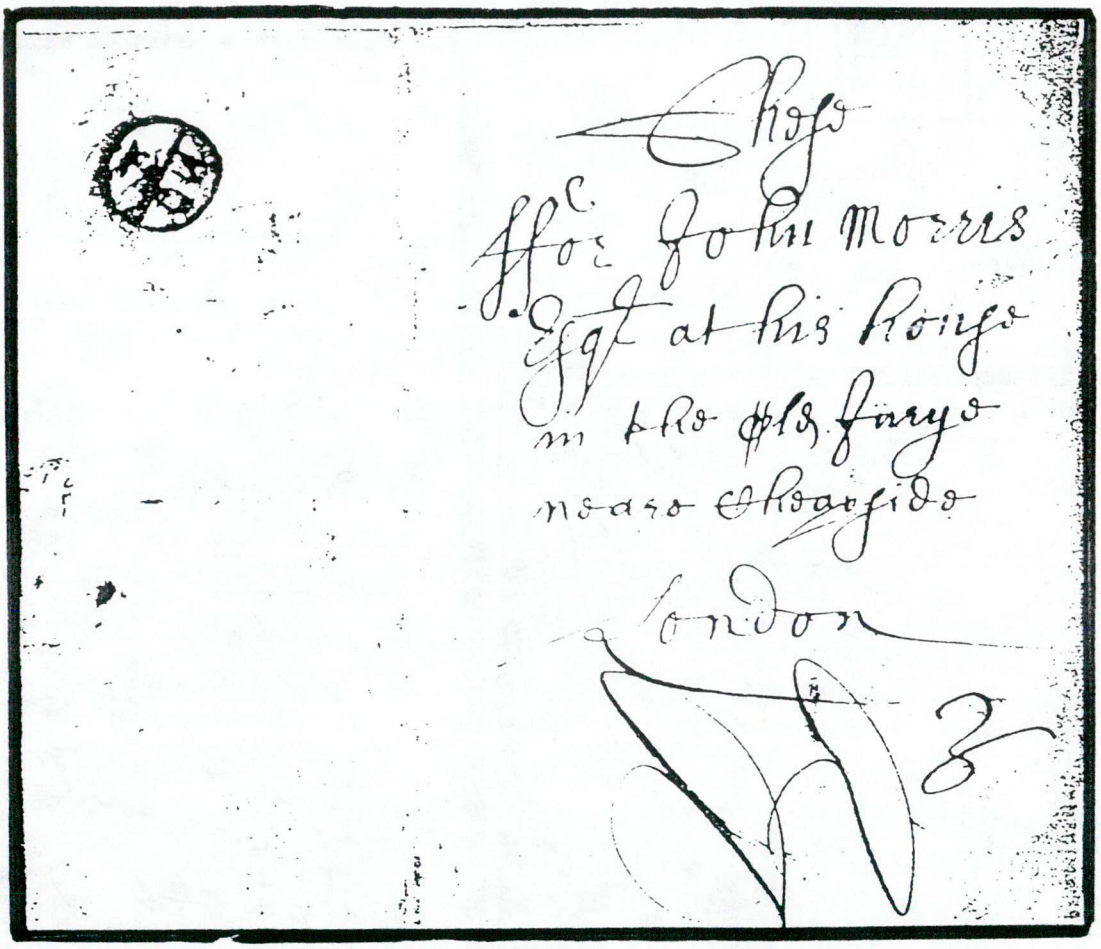


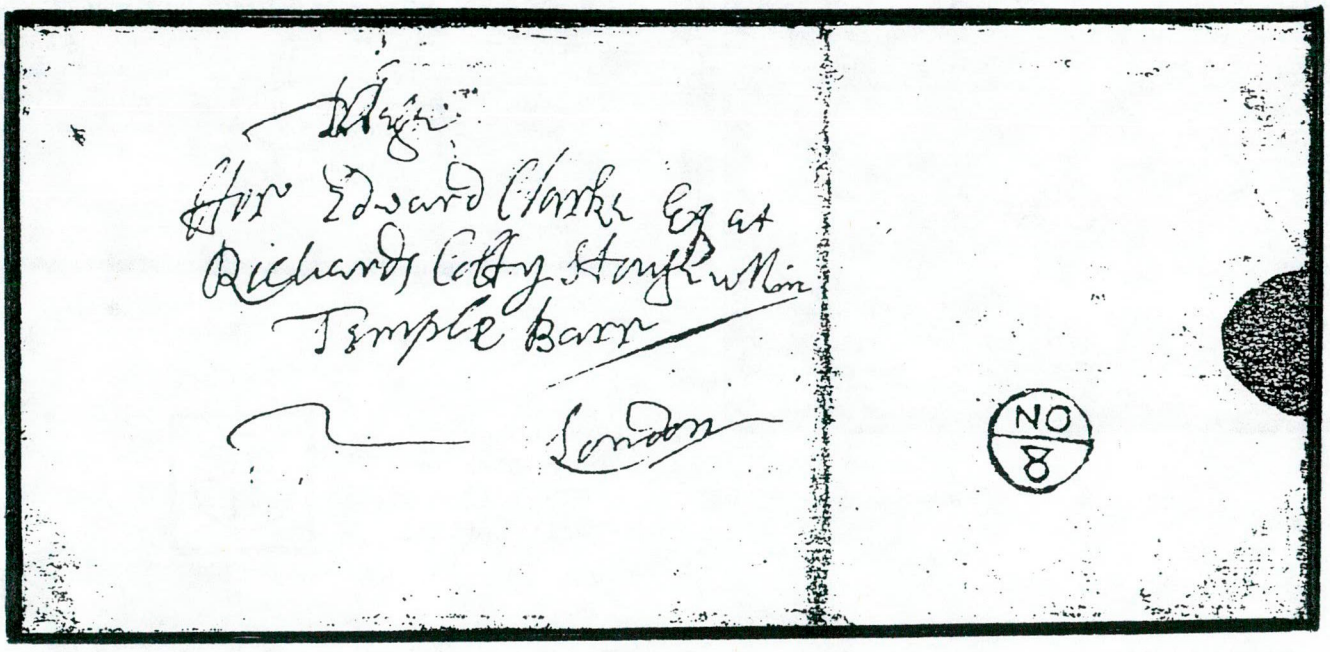
1663, 14 November, Exon to London c. 1682 , Charleston/South Caroline to
Arrival 18 November. 3d charge London. Charged 6d double from Falmouth

[1] The Bishop Mark

"N" Reversed

1674, 31 October, Chamberlaine to London. Arrived 2 November. Charged 3d



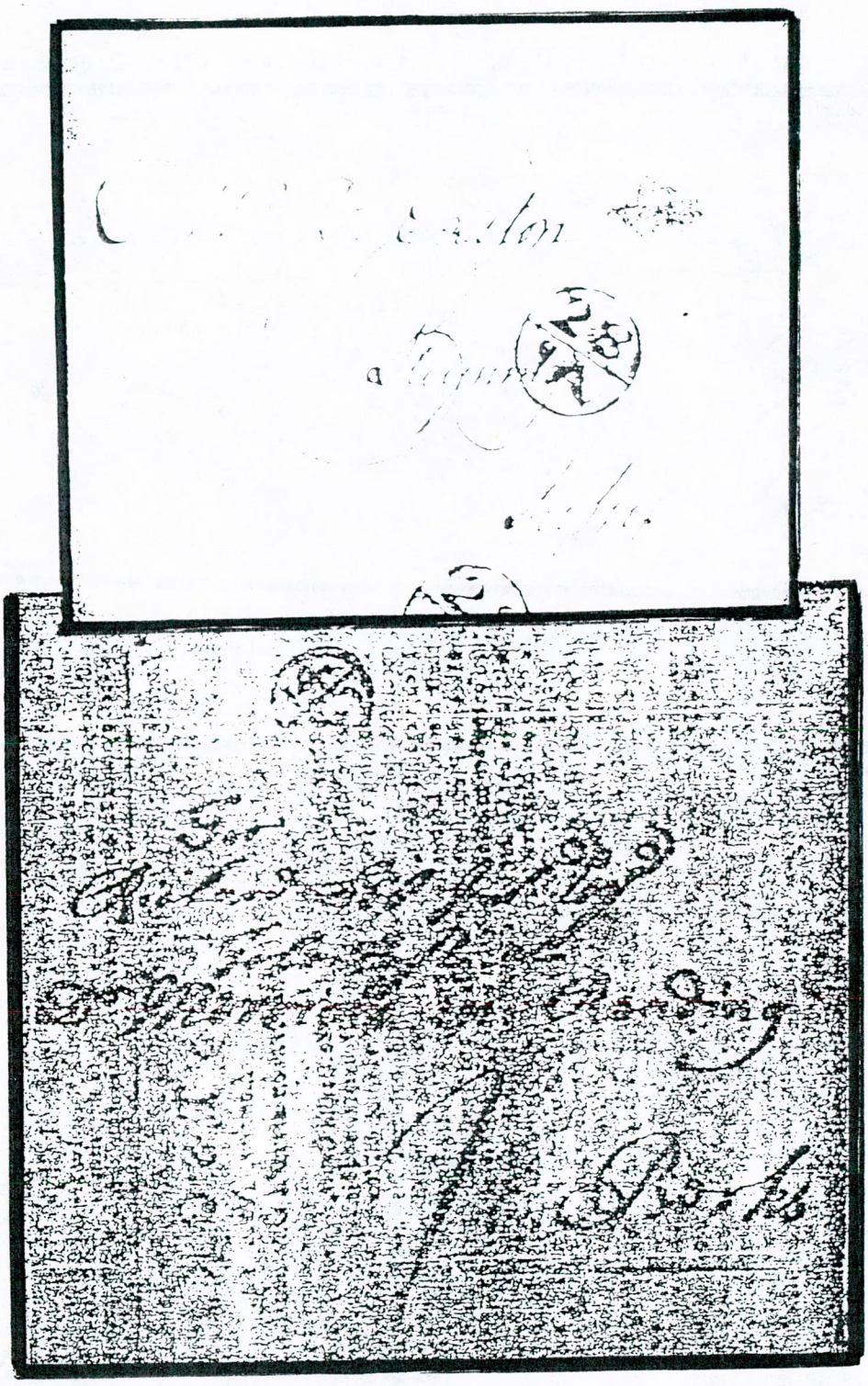


c. 1689 : to Temple Barr(sic), London. Charged 2d

[1] The Bishop Mark

1713 - 1787, sans serif letters, day over month, diam 14 - 20 **mm**

English Rates 1711: 3d. to 80 miles, 4d above.
1775, 28 January, London to Steyning, charged 3d



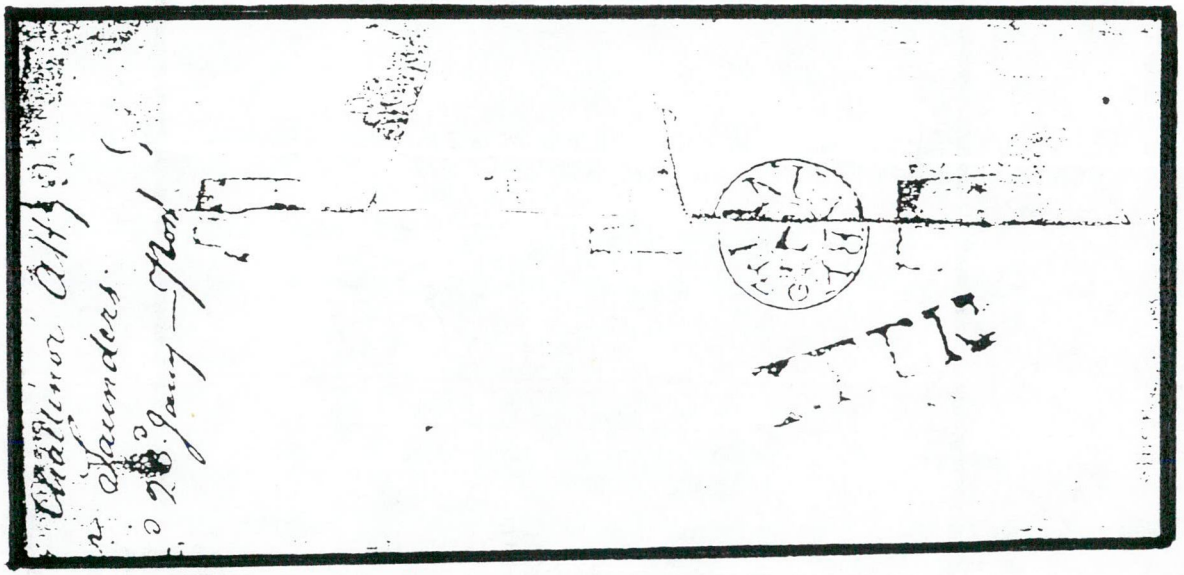
The Evening Post, Number 666
1713, 14 November, London to Roading. Newspaper Charge 1d
[the photocopy quality does not do this justice - Ed.]

[2] Experimental Date Stamps

The Inland Office Bishop Mark continued in use until the 30th. April, 1787, although an experimental date stamp was introduced on the 16th. January, 1787 on letters coming into London [morning duty].

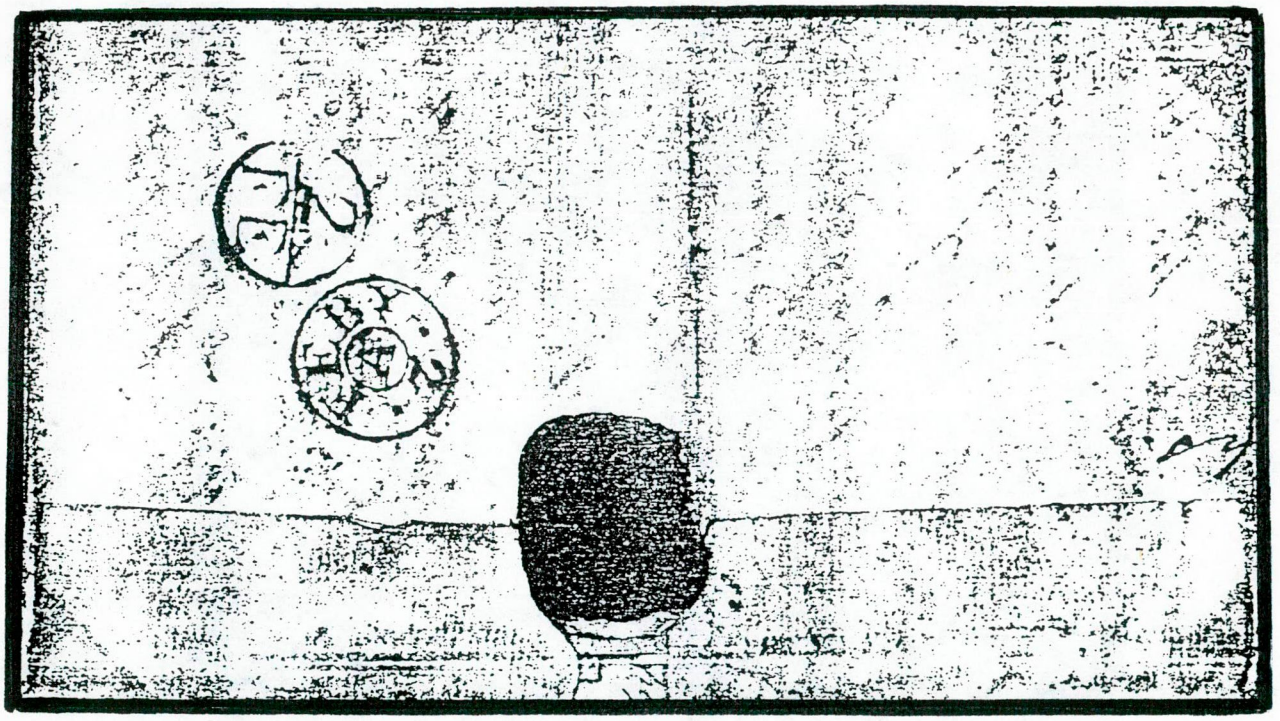
The letter inside the circle indicated the table at which the letter was sorted.

JANUARY - in use 16th. - 26th. January, 1787. Diam 21mm



1787, 21st. January, Leek to Piccadilly, London,
charged 6d., above 50 miles

FEBY - in use throughout the month



1787. 1st. February, Chideock to London, arrived 2nd February
Charged 10d for a double letter, rate to 150 miles

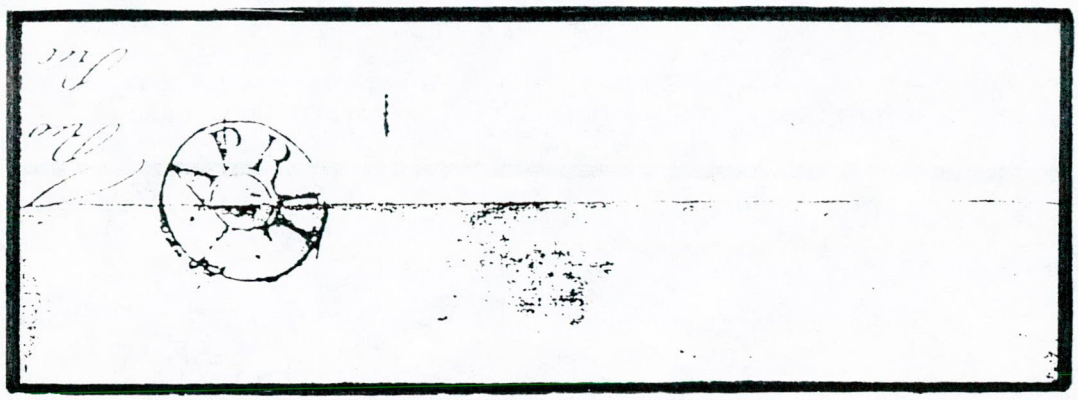
[2] Experimental Date Stamps

MARCH - in use throughout the month



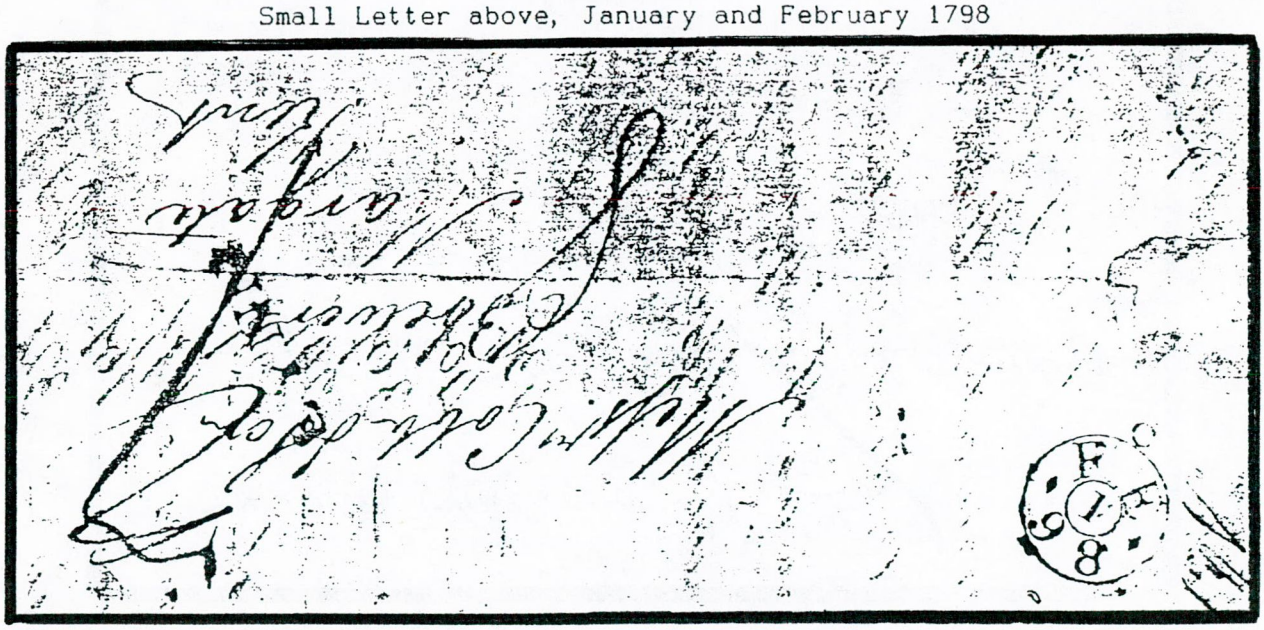
1787. 21st. March from Peterborough, through London [23rd] to Worcester charged 9d, 4d to London + 5d to Worcester

APRIL - in use throughout the month



1787, 6th. April, Ipswich to London, charged 4d, up to 80 miles

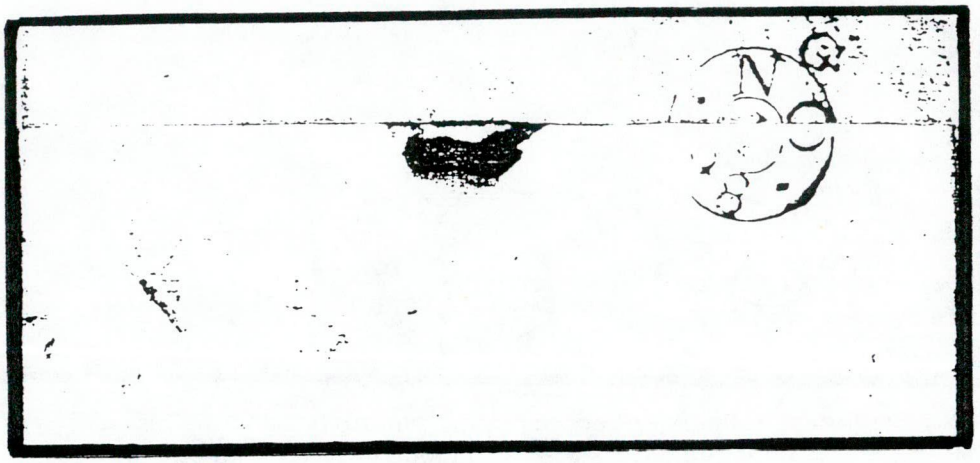
Small Letter above, January and February 1798



1798, 31st. January, Lynn through London [1st. Feb] to Margate, charged 7d to London + further 1d. for the above 150 miles rate.

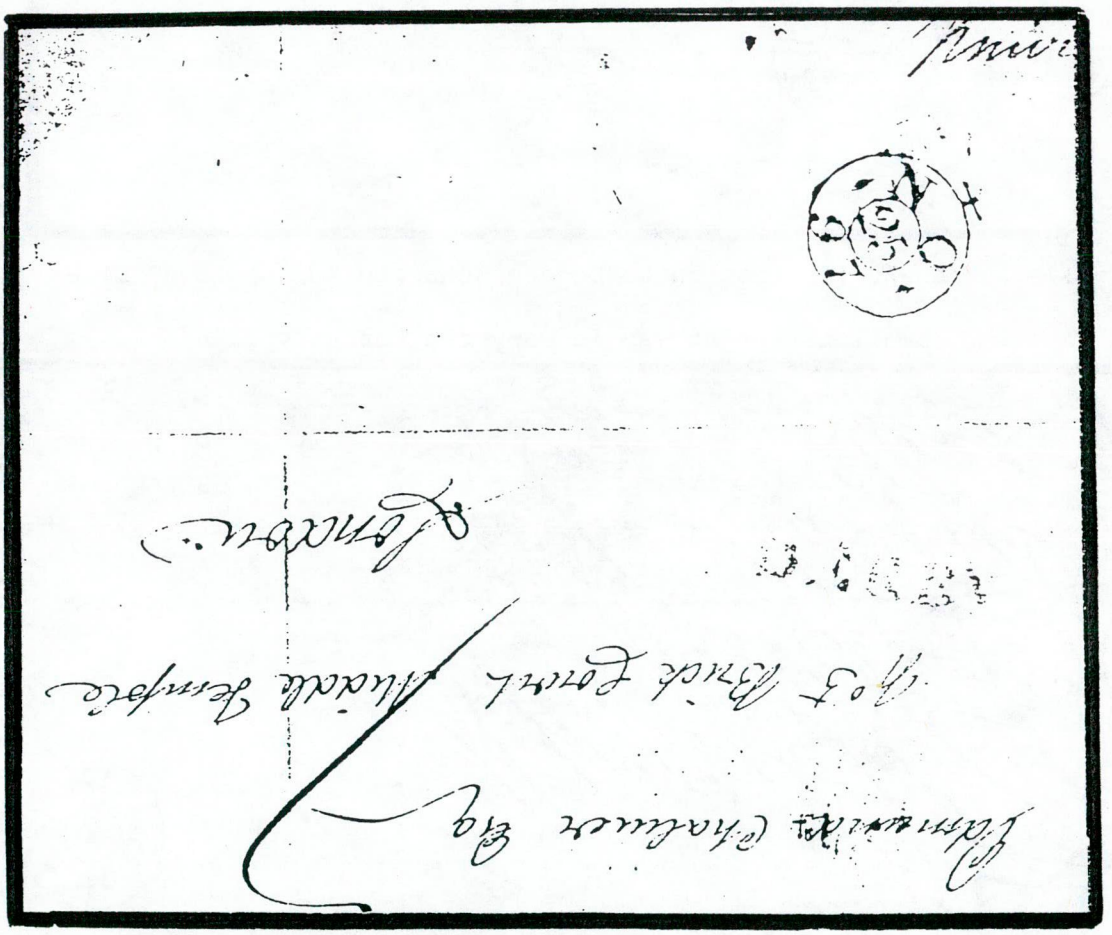
[2] Experimental Date Stamps

Large Letter Above
March 1798 - 1st. July, 1798



31st. October, 1798 from Epsom, through London to Windsor
Arrived London 1st. November
Charged 4d up to 30 miles + 1d to Windsor, 5d in all

Cross Above : may have indicated an extra table
November and December 1797 : recorded four times



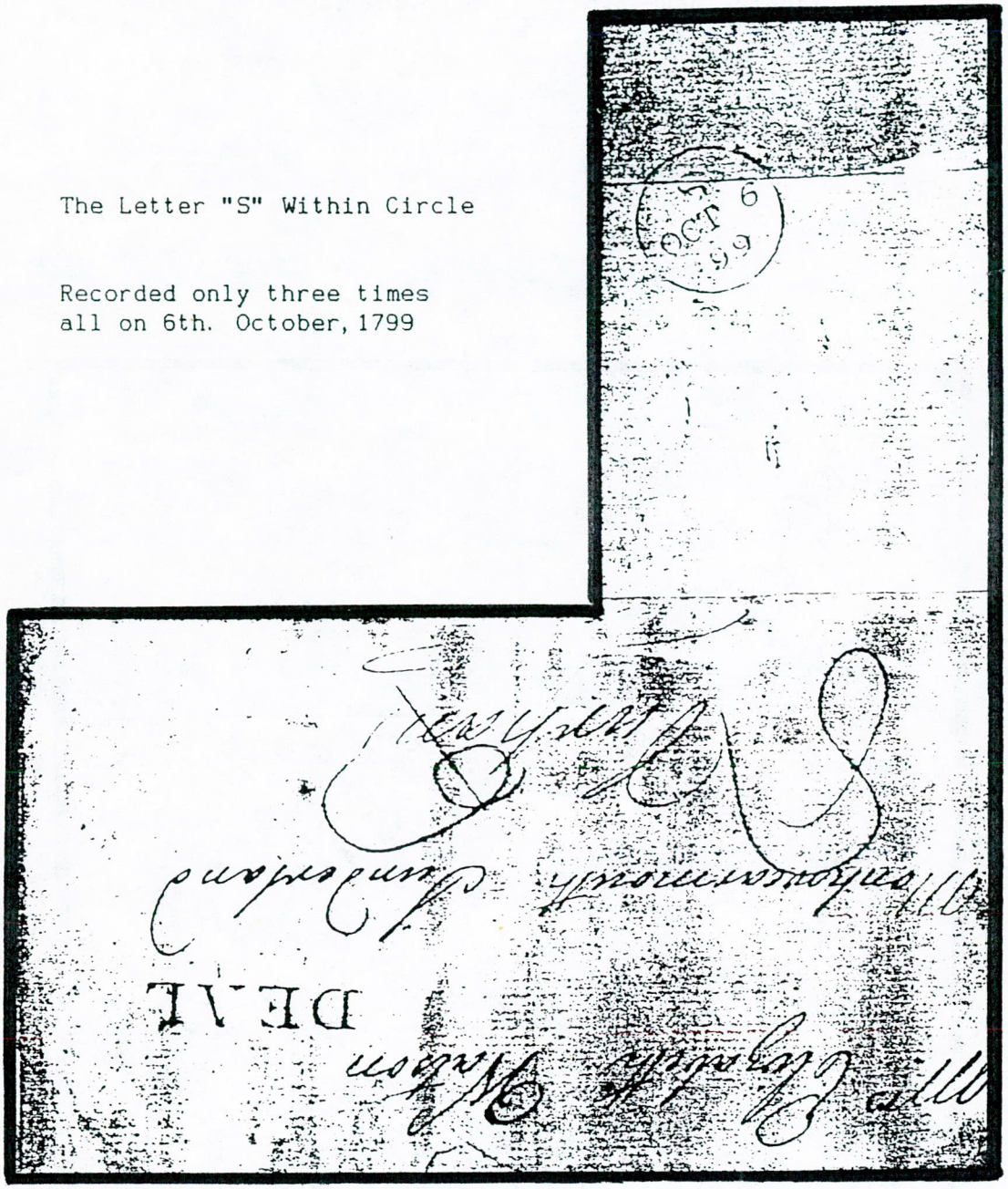
23rd. November, 1797 Derby to London, arriving 25th. November
Charged 7d rate to 150 miles

Sunday Date Stamps

Letters from Ireland, Scotland, certain English ports, official letters and those eligible for Franking, had these stamps applied when received at the GPO on a Sunday.

The Letter "S" Within Circle

Recorded only three times
all on 6th. October, 1799



5th. October, 1799 from Deal, through London, to Durham
Charged of 6d up to 100 Miles Deal to london
Amended in London to 8d, rate over 150 miles

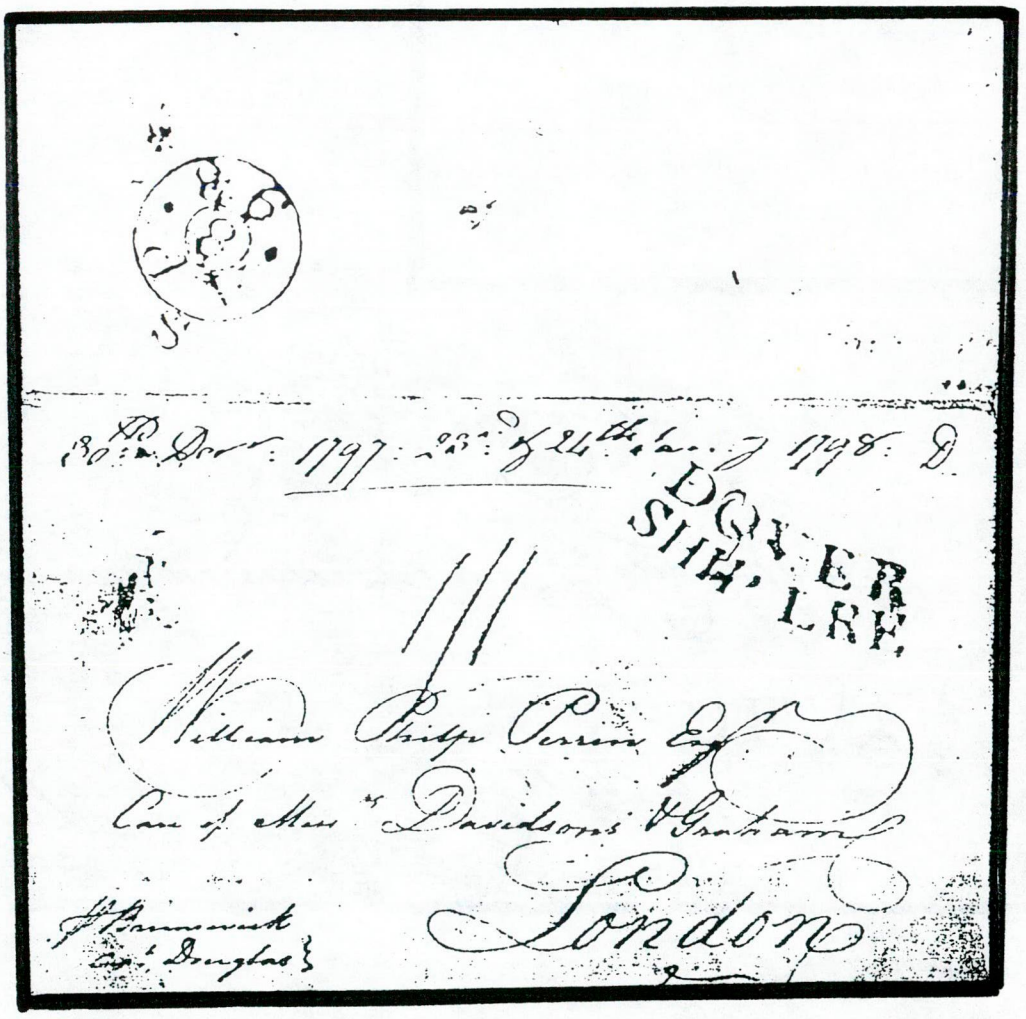
The Letter "S" Above the Circle
1798 - 1799

Dated from Jamaica 30th. December, 1797 and not arriving in London until the 8th. April, 1798, being landed at Dover.

Postage:

Ship	4d
Gratuity	1d
Inland	6d
Total	11d

charged 1/1?



Late Fee Stamps

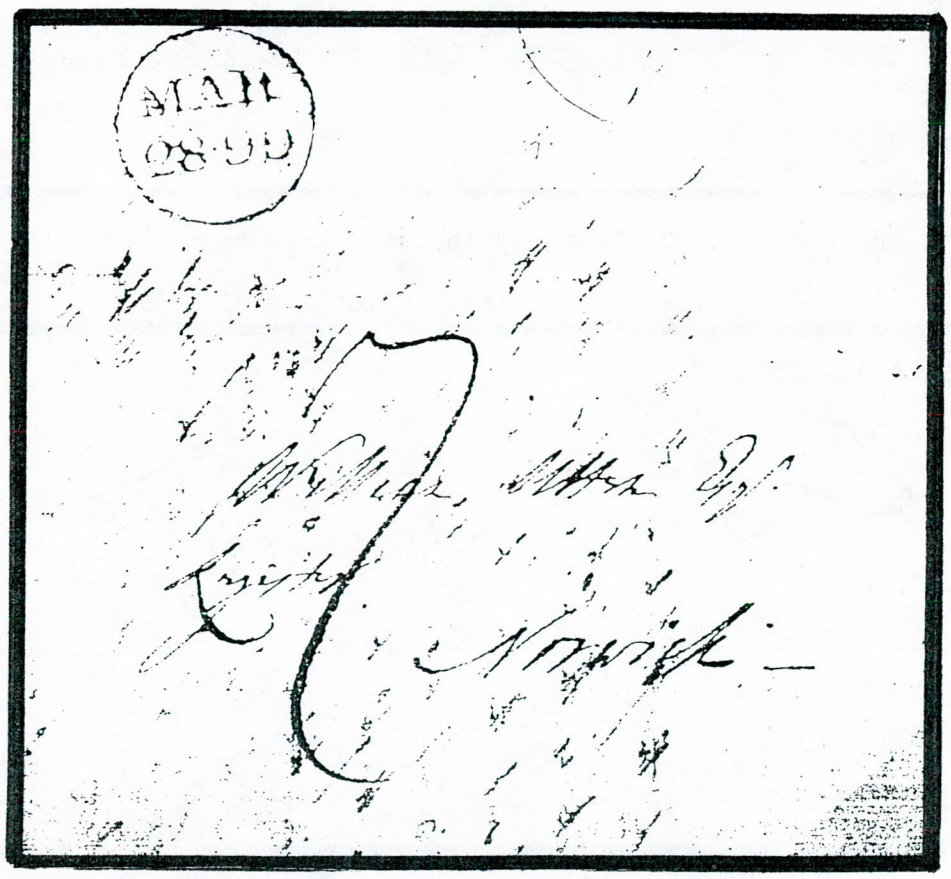
From 1797, letters handed in at the GPO between 7 pm and 7.45 pm on which a late fee of 6d had been prepaid, received a special stamp to distinguish them.

Used 5th. July, 1797 to 24th. December, 1798



14th. July, 1798, London to Aberfeldie Perthshire, endorsed FREE

Used March to December 1799 in Mauve



28th. March, 1799, London to Norwich: Postage 7d [up to 150 miles]

Branch Office Date Stamps

In 1829 Branch Offices were opened at Borough, Charing Cross, Lombard and Vere Street.

16th. February, 1830 to 13th. May, 1832



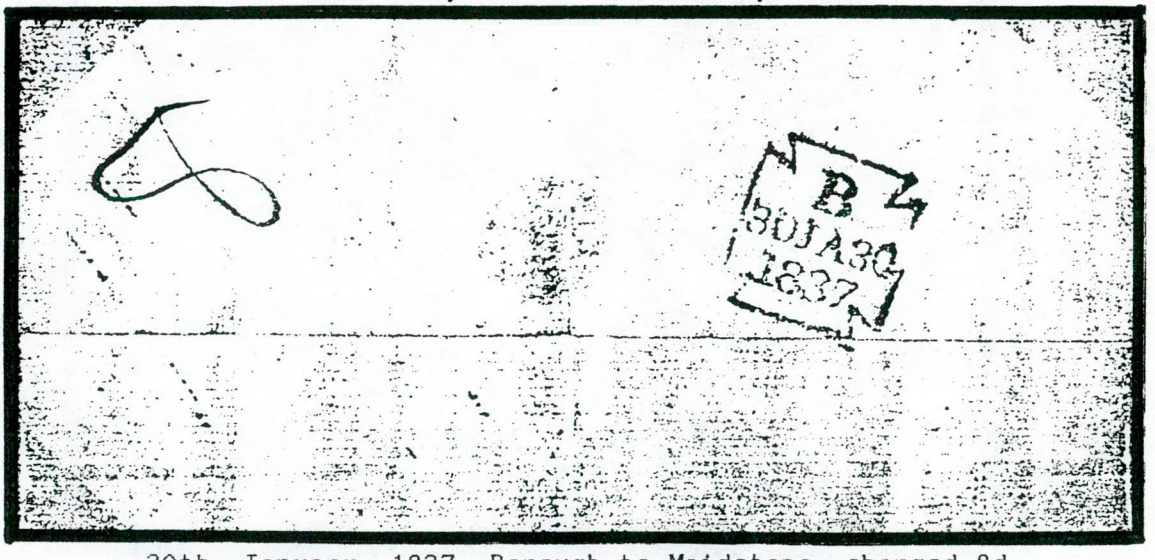
20th. August, 1831 : Vere Street to Fitchley, endorsed FREE

8th. December, 1832 to 20th. November, 1833



20th. November, 1833 [last day in use], Lombard Street to Marlborough

15th. July, 1835 to 16th. May, 1838



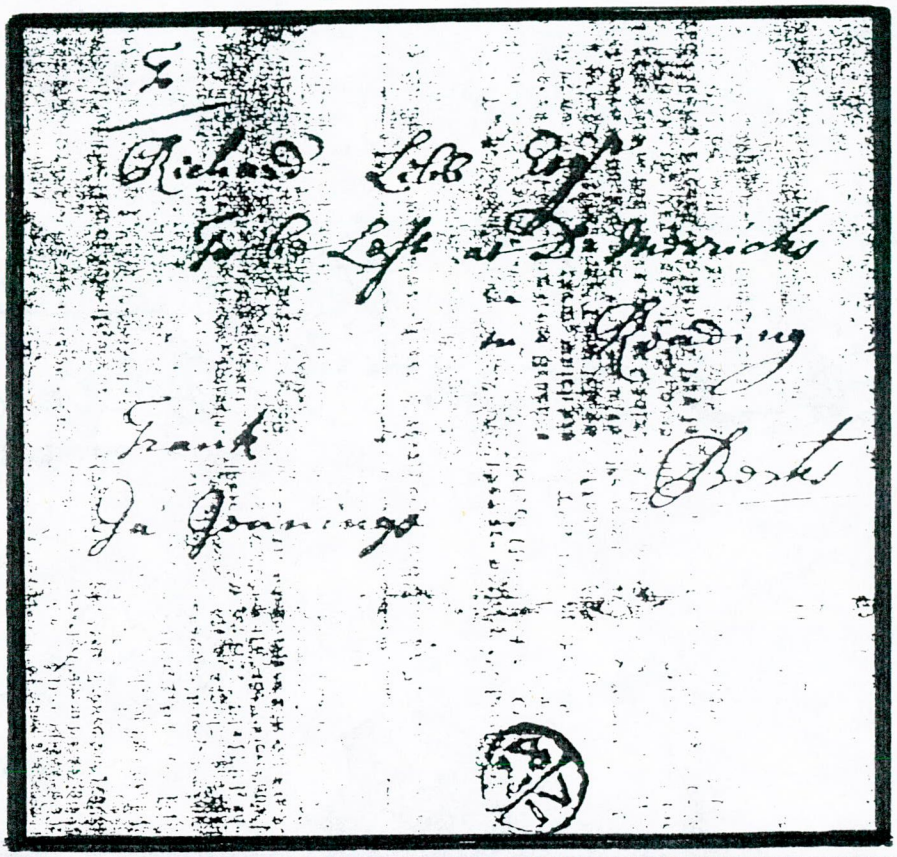
30th. January, 1837, Borough to Maidstone, charged 8d, including 1d for local delivery.

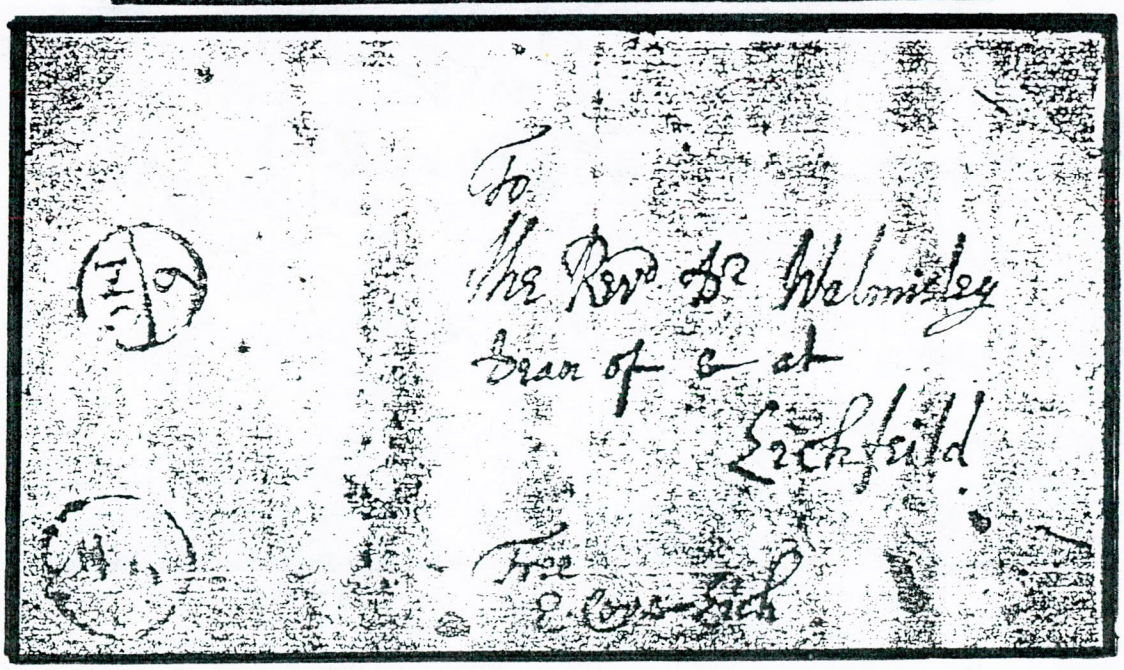
THE FREE FRANKS

Manuscript Endorsement

Letters from members of both Houses of Parliament, as well as certain other officials, were carried free of charge in the Post. These letters had to signed by the sender or his clerk.

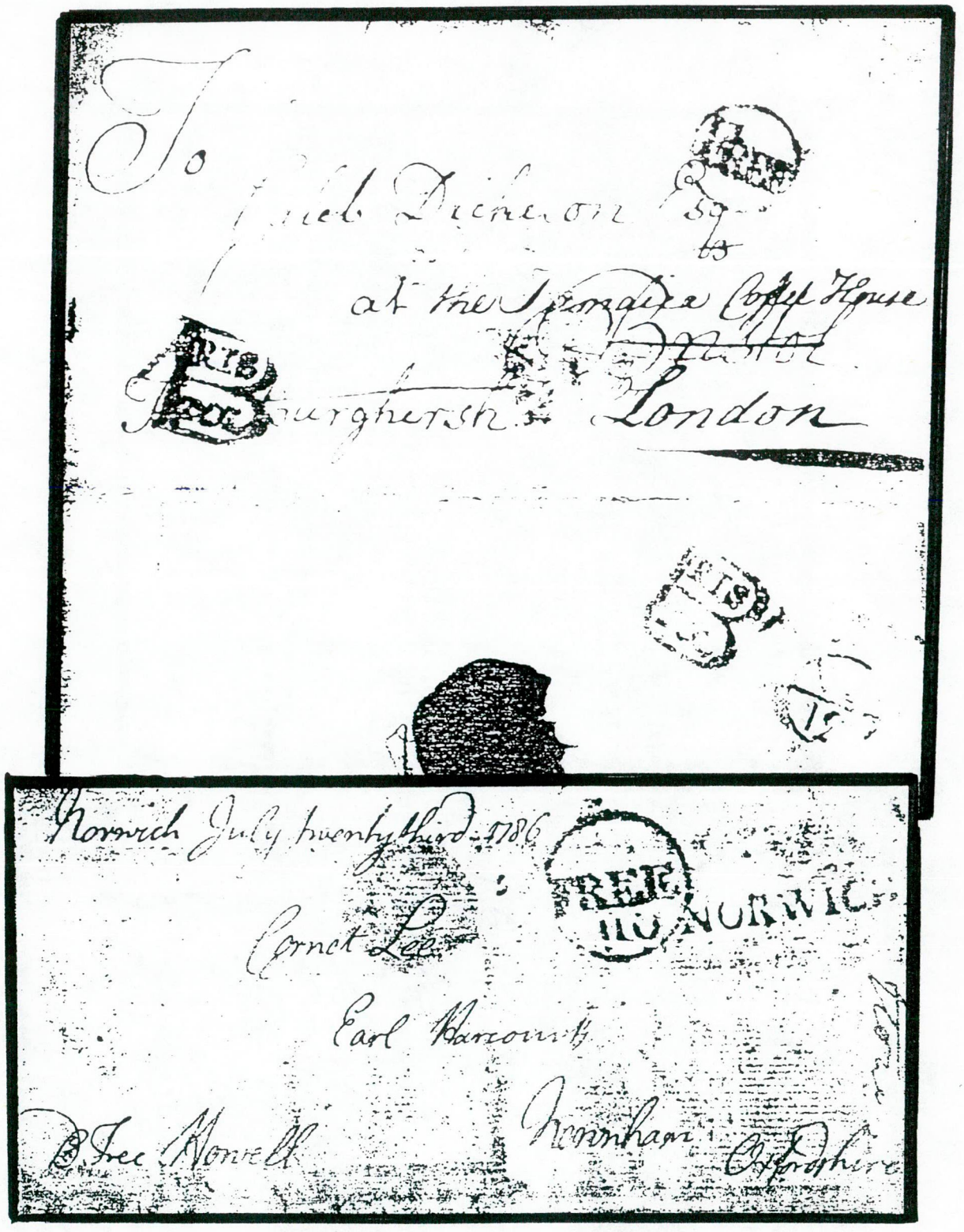
1715 - 28th. June, endorsed " Frank"
"The Evening Post", London to Reading





1712 - 6th. November, endorsed "Free" London to Lichfield

Free Handstamps
"F" taller than "REE" : 1764 - 1765
Diameter 18 - 20 mm
1765 - 31st. January, London to Bristol
Redirected to London 4th. February



"FREE" Equal size 29th August 1765 to 17th. October 1788
Diameter 20 to 28 mm
1786 - 23rd. July. Norwich to Newnham
showing 110 Norwich (1st. type mileage)
-92 : 16 -

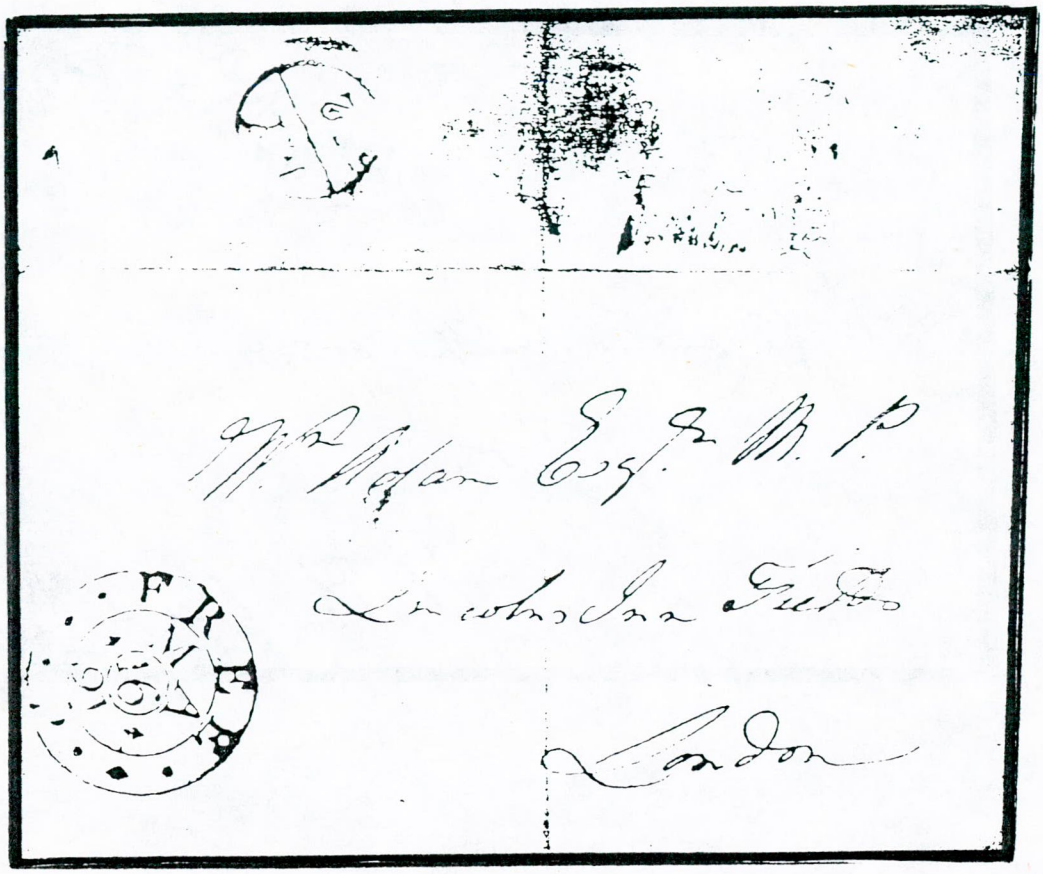
Free Handstamps

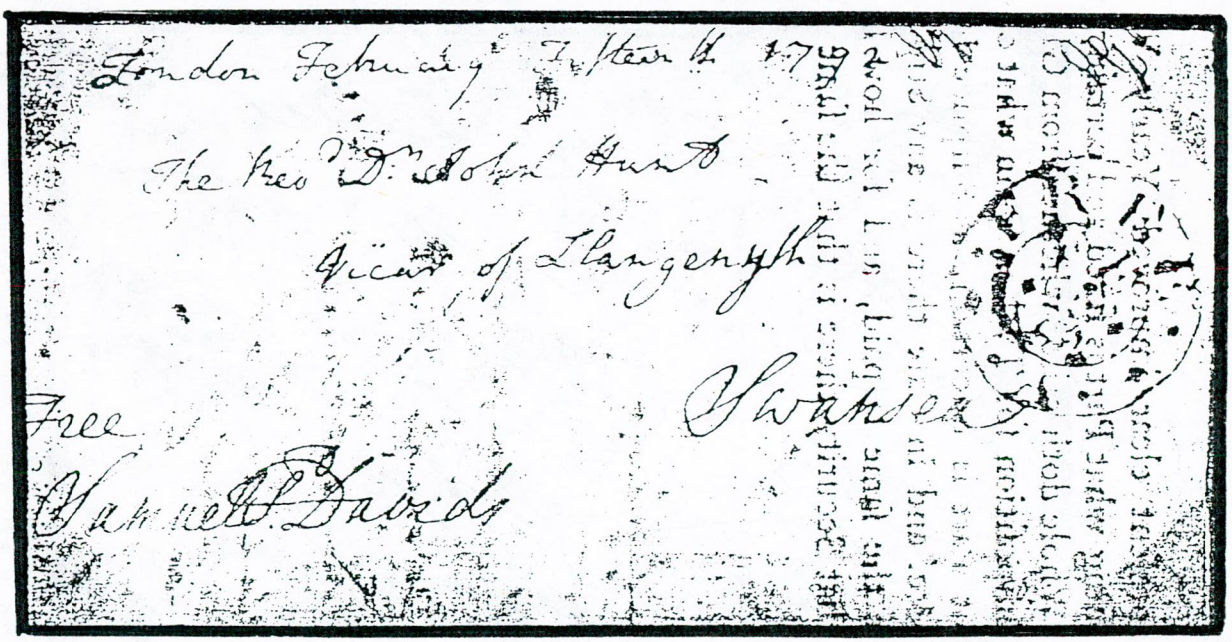
Inspector's Initial in Stamps

P= Palmer : 9th. March to 9th September 1791

Diameter 30mm

1791 - 11th. May, Forress - Dublin (MY/12) to London (16/MA)





A = William Addison - 28th. April, 1791 to 4th. August 1792

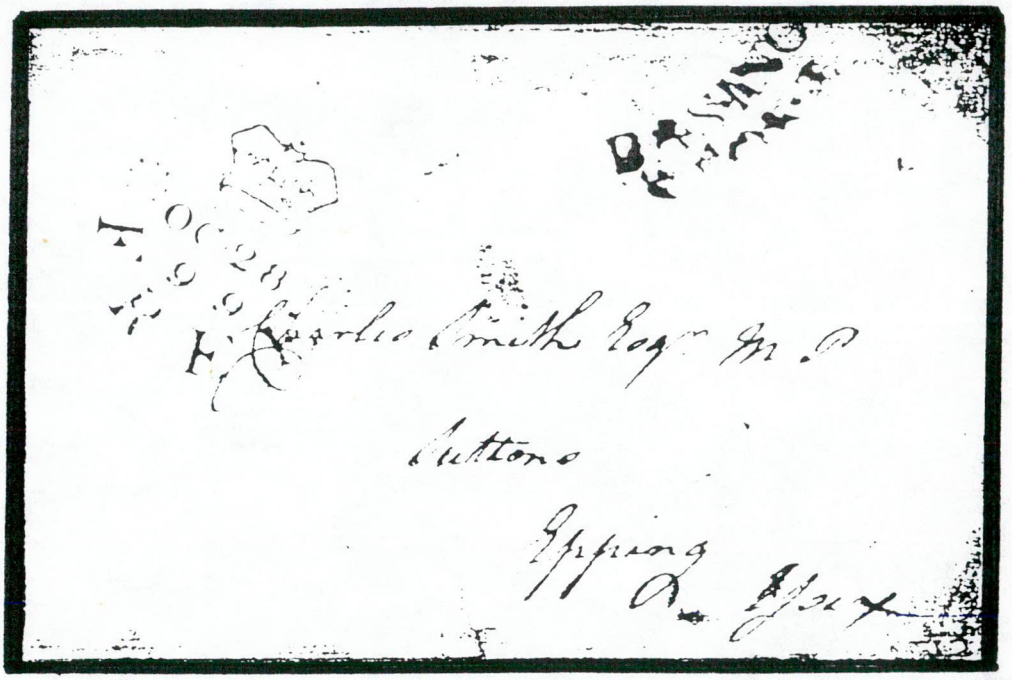
Diameter 33mm

1792 - 15th. February, London to Swansea

Free Handstamps

1799 - October to December : Diameter 34 mm

1799 - 27th October Basingstoke to Epping: arrival London 28th. October





1800 - July to December. Diameter 36mm

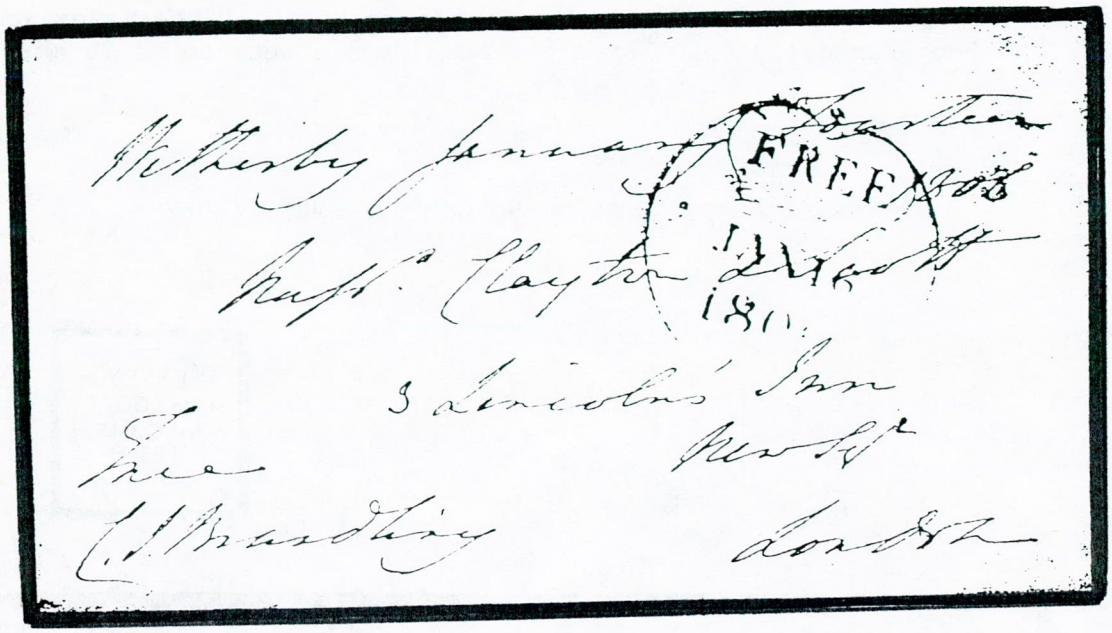
1800 - 27th August. Basingstoke to Epping, arrival London 28th. August

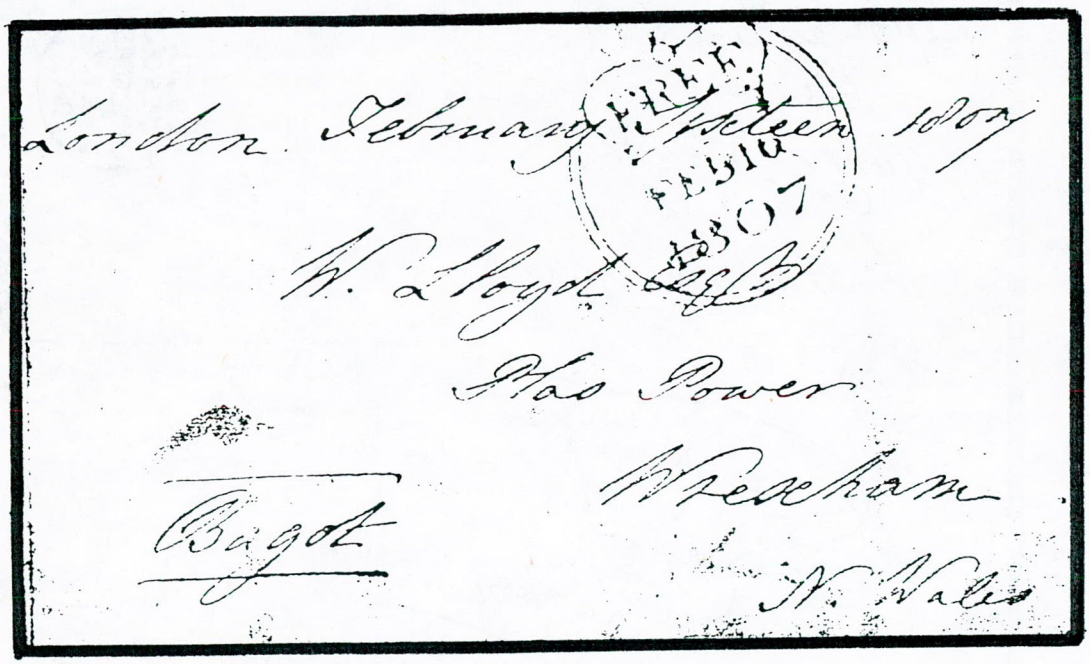
Free Handstamps

Morning Duty : 2nd. January to 19th. June 1806

Diameter 39mm

1806 - 14th. January, Wetherby to London, arrival 16th. January





Evening Duty (Double Rim) 11th. June, 1806 to 3rd. July, 1807

Diameter 39mm

1807 - 16th. February, London to Wrexham

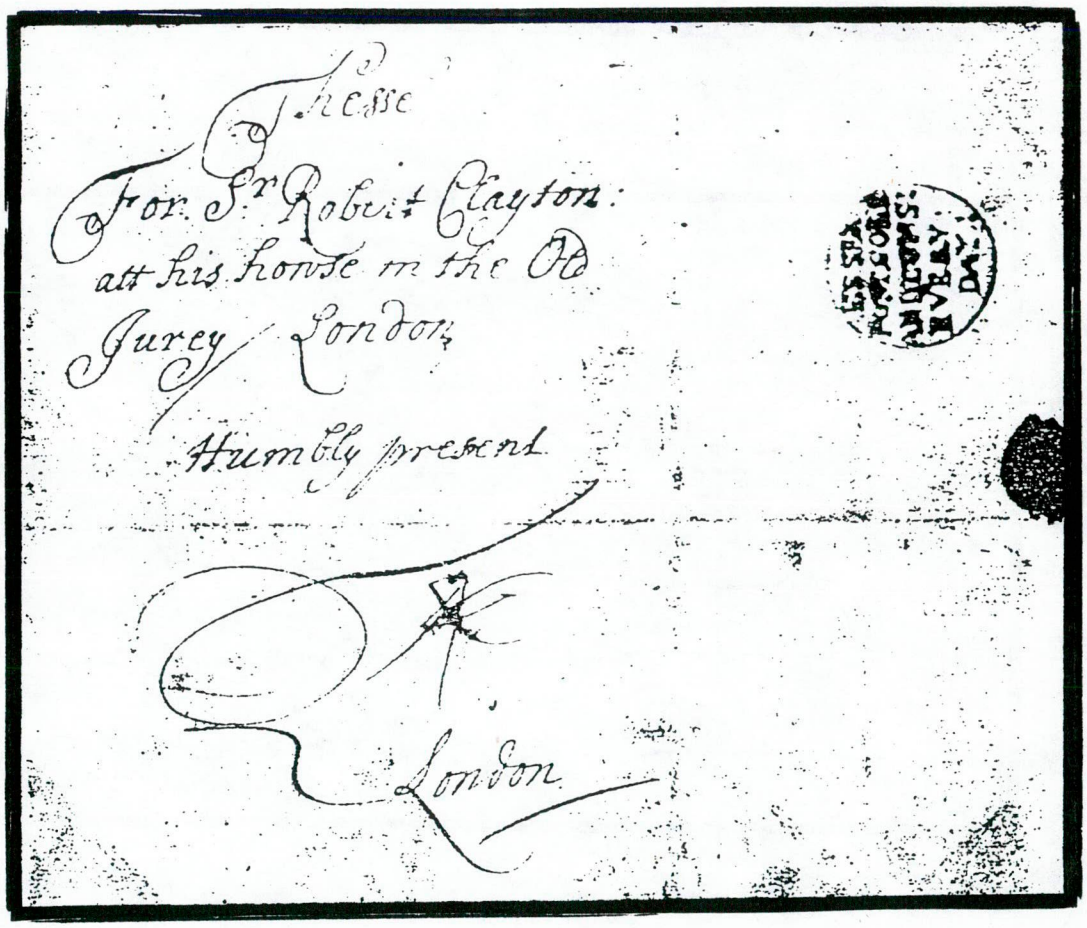
General Post Receiving Houses

Slogan Postmark

Advertising slogan mark for the Receiving House at the Essex Road.
The Post ran daily to Colchester and 3 days a week on to Yarmouth

"ESSEX / POST GOES / AND COMES / EVERY / DAY"
1674 to 1675



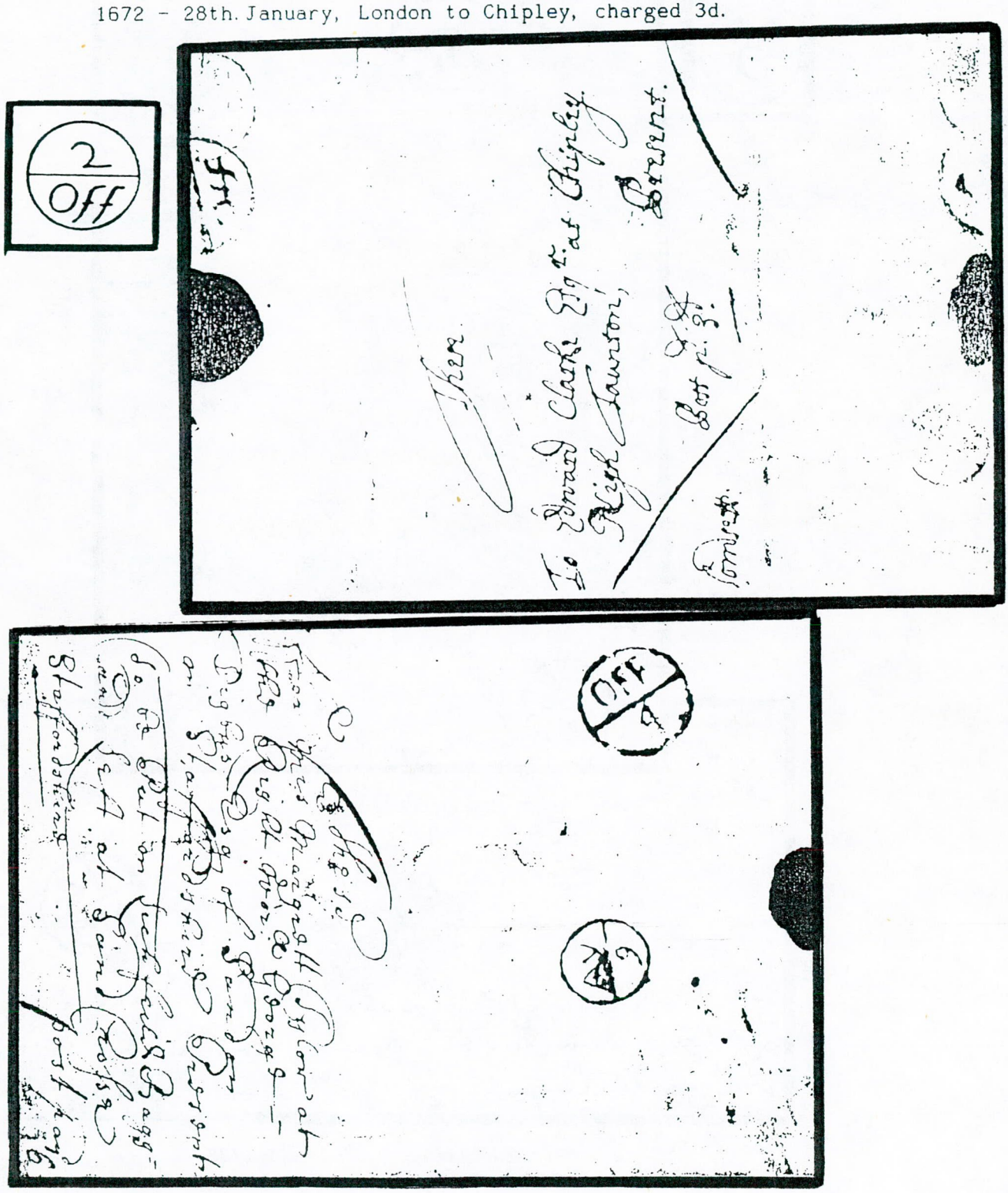


1675 - 4th. November. St. Osyth to London, arrival 5th. November
2d charge, the 4d being deleted, not a double letter

Office Numbers

Every Receiver had a stamp to identify the origin of the letters. At first these indicated the Office number; later the initials of the Receivers were used.

2/Off(ice) 1671 to 1674 Diameter 19mm
1672 - 28th. January, London to Chipley, charged 3d.

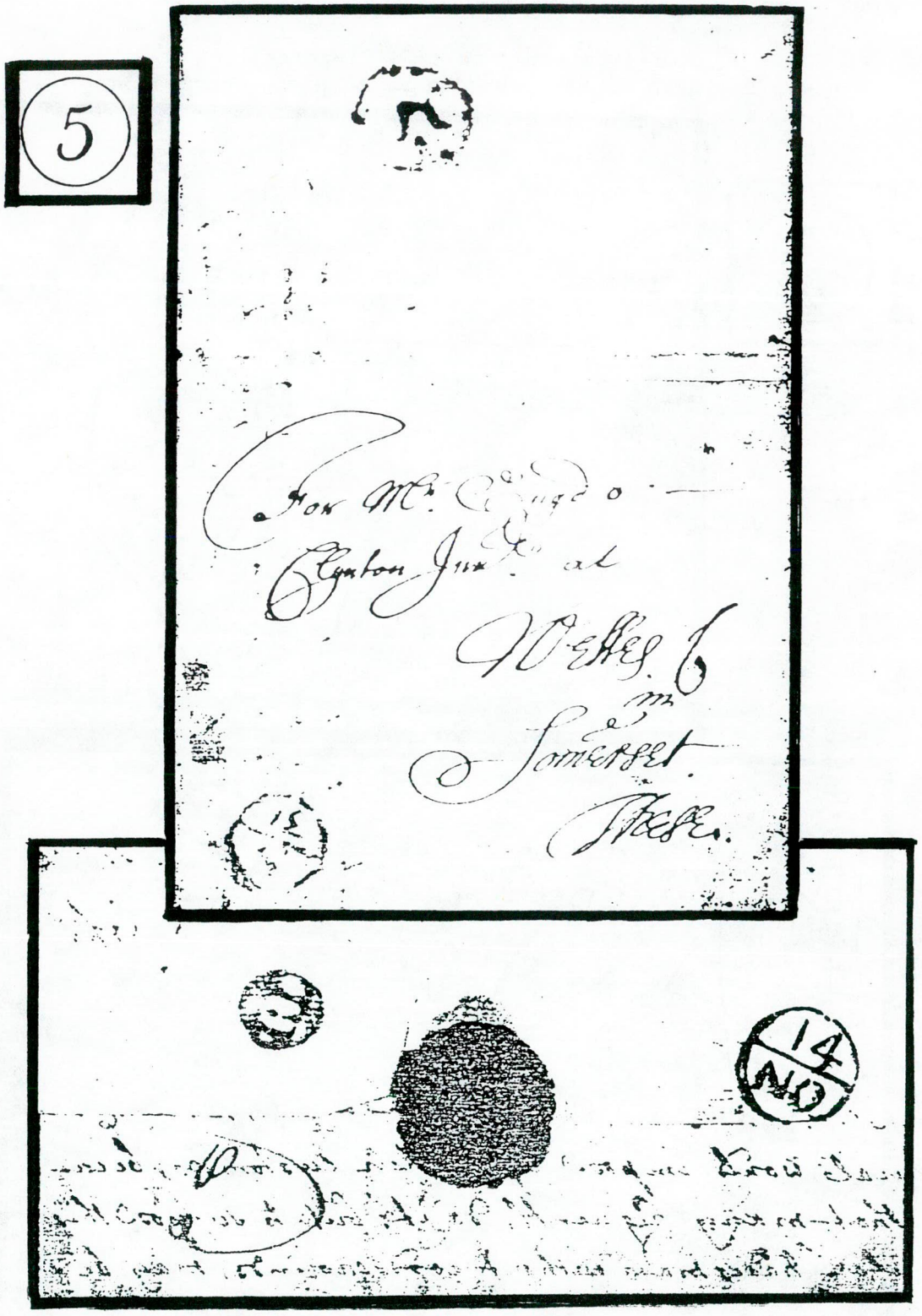


OFF/4 1671 to 1676
1674 - 9th. August, London to Sandoss, charged 6d - double letter

Office Numbers and Initials

"5" in circle. 1673 to 1677. Diameter 17mm

1674 - 31st. July. London to Welles (sic) Somerset
charged 6d, double letter



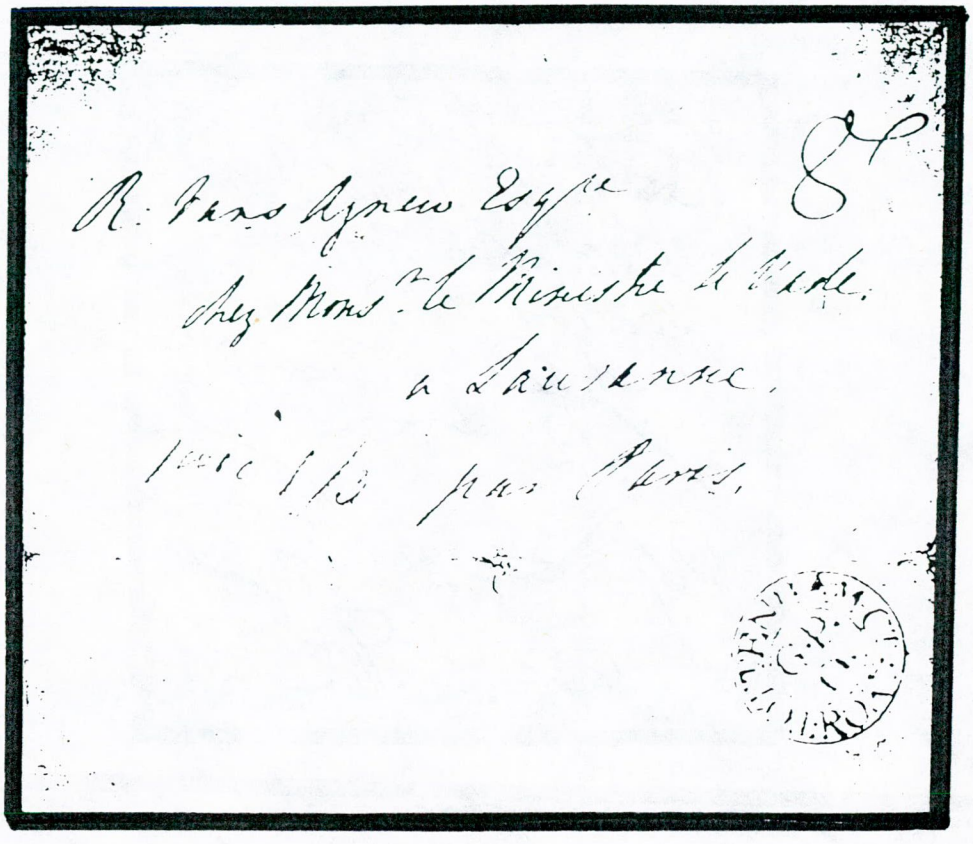
"TI" in circle. 1767 and 1768

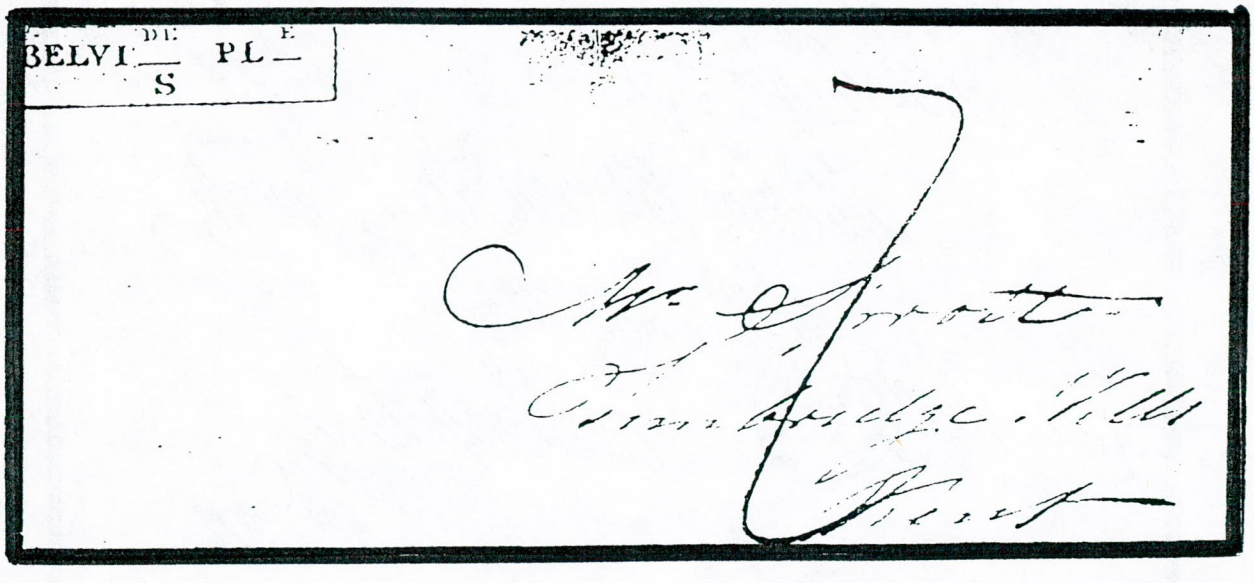
Thomas Jones, Grays Inn Lane

1771 - 14th. November. London to Wardour Castle, near Salisbury
charged double, 8d

Receiving House Namestamps

TOTTENHAM/CT/ROAD : 1791 to 1794
1791 - 8th. March. London to Lausanne "par Paris"
Prepaid London to Paris, 10d. Paris to Geneva, 5d
To pay on arrival : Geneva to Lausanne, 8 Sols (tariff - scale 1759)



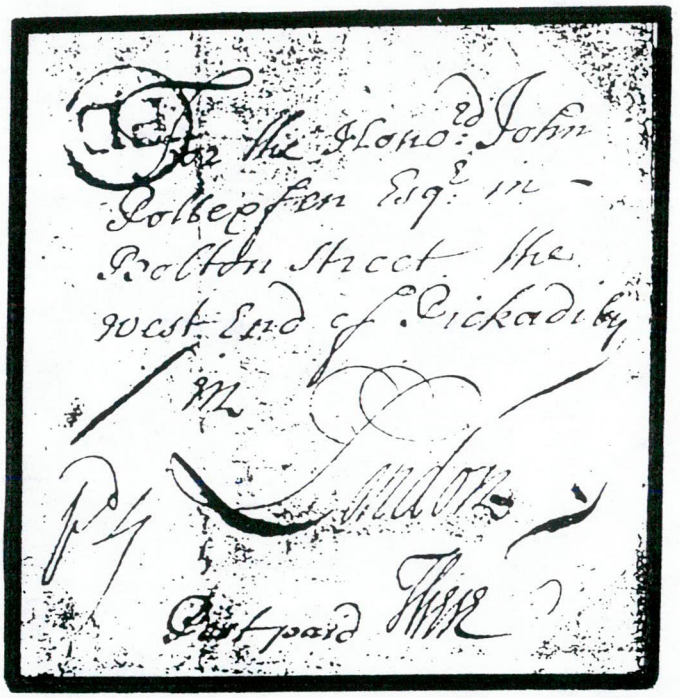


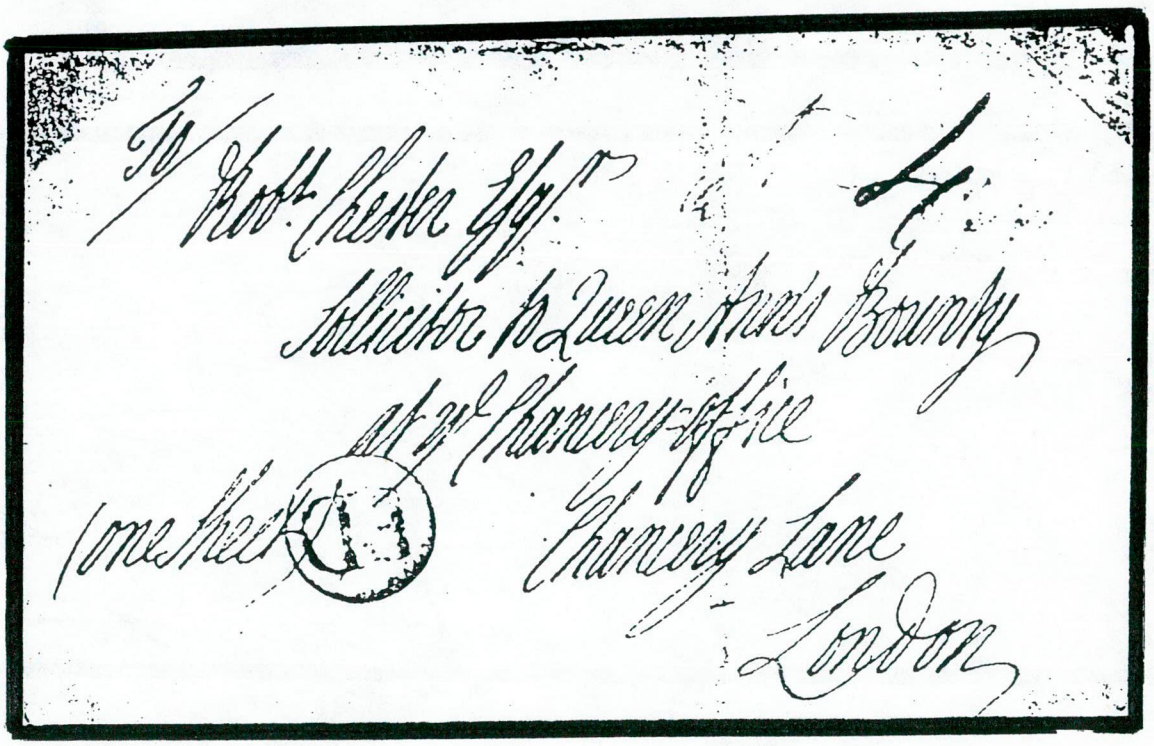
BELVI/DE/S PL/E : 1822 to 1830
1823 - 12th. February, London to Tunbridge Wells,
charged 7d (to 50 miles)

General Post Paid Stamps

The majority of early letters were unpaid, although prepayment was allowed. The first GP Paid handstamp is listed used March 1713.

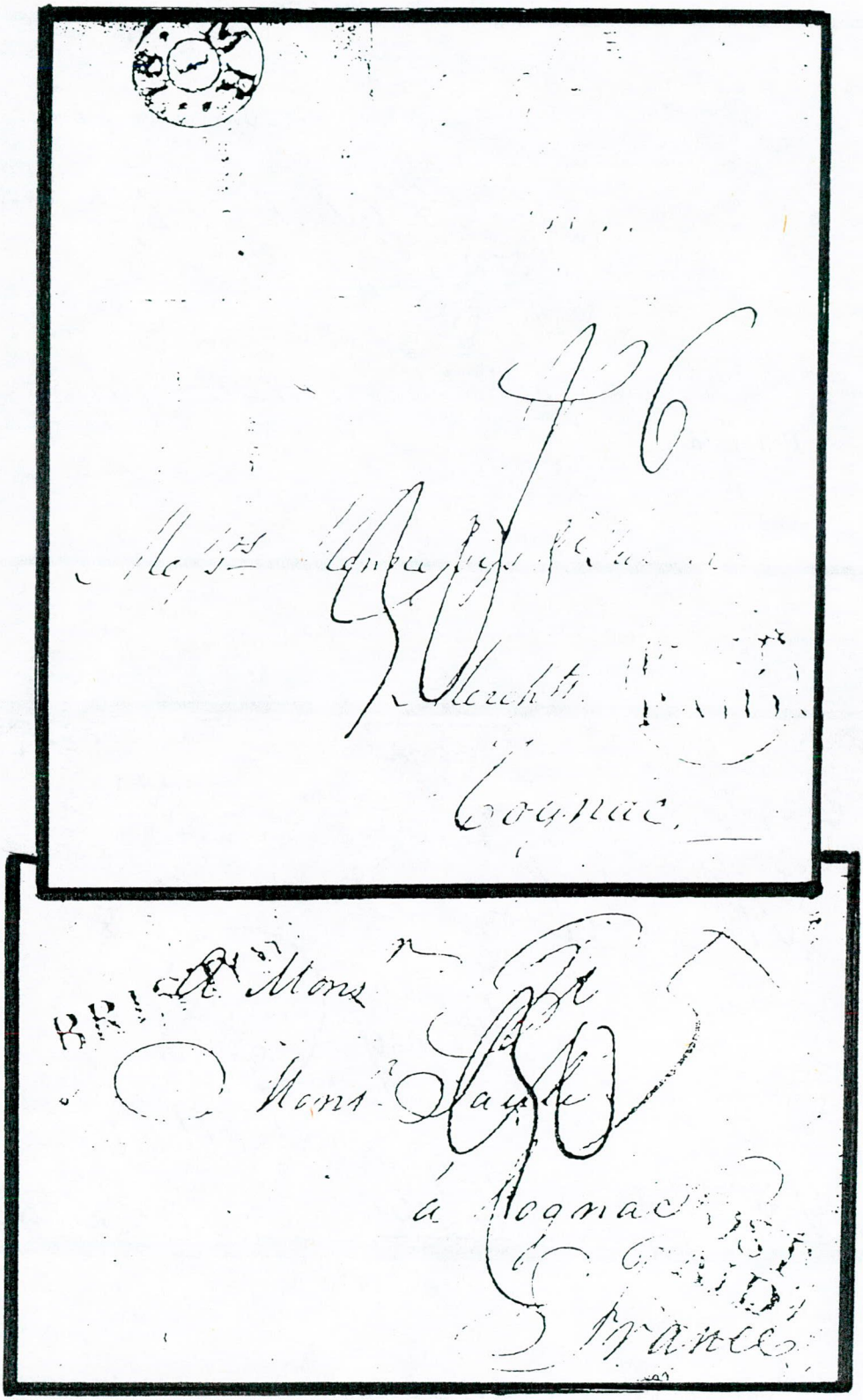
"PD" in circle : 1713 to 1765 : diameter 13 to 18mm
This example 1712 - 22nd. November
Brooking to London, arrival London 25th. November
mss Post paid "P4" - above 80 miles





1764 - 26th. November, Worcester to London
arrival London 28th. November, paid 4d

General Post Paid Stamps
"POST PAID" in circle
Mauve 1790: Black 1778 to 1790; diameter 24 to 28mm
1791 - 26th. February, Hull to Cognac, paid 6d, above 150 miles
to pay on arrival in Cognac 30 Sous (Tariff scale 1759)

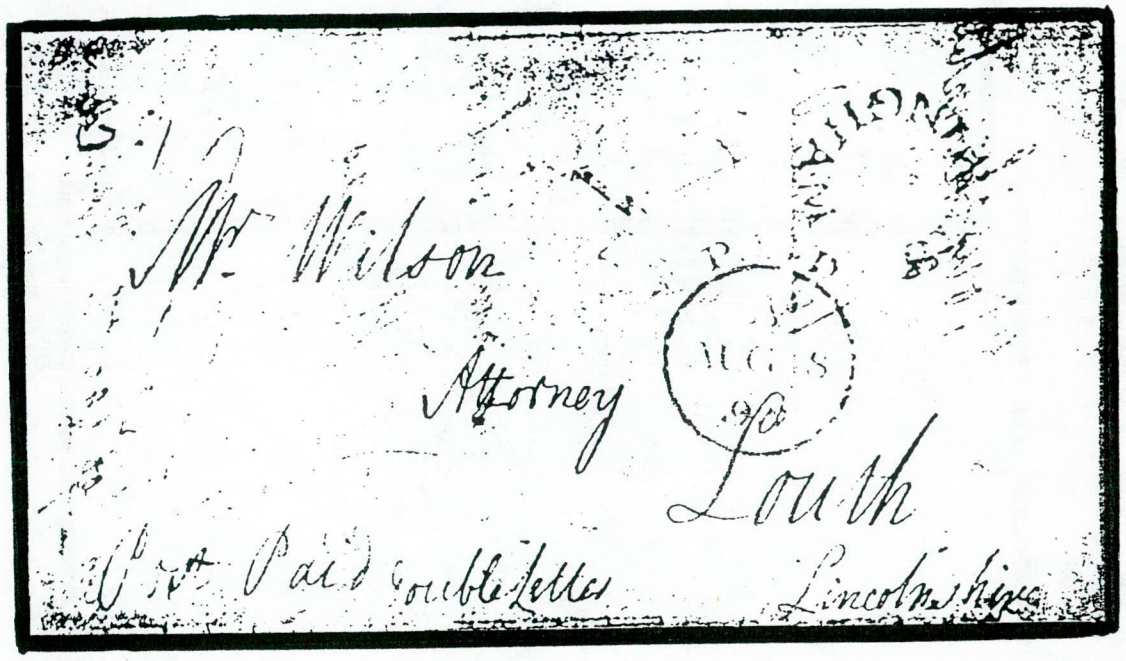


1787 - 8th. January, Bristol to Cognac, paid 5d to 150 miles
to pay on arrival in Cognac 30 Sous

General Post Paid Date Stamps

"PAID" year in outer ring : 1795 to 1801 : diameter 32 to 35mm
1800 - 26th. August, London to Aylesbury, 5d paid to 60 miles (1796)

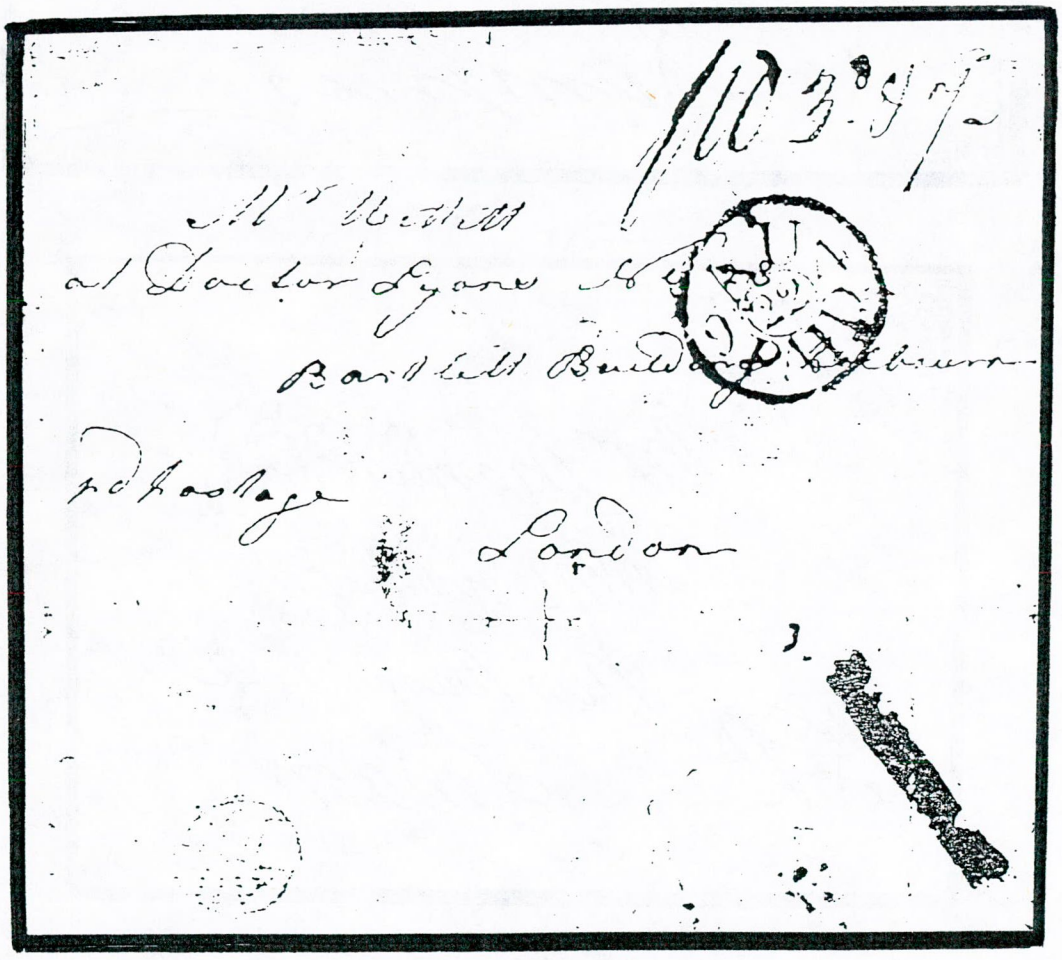




"PAID" outside circle : July to December 1799 only : diameter 25mm
1799 - 6th. August, Birmingham (reversed horseshoe), via London
to Louth, endorsed "Post Paid double Letter" 1/4 (7d to 150 miles)

General Post Paid Date Stamps
"PAID" year in inner ring
December 1790 to September 1791 Diameter 30 to 31mm
1791 - 27th. April, prepaid at Hull 6d to Cognac
to pay on arrival in Cognac 30 Sous



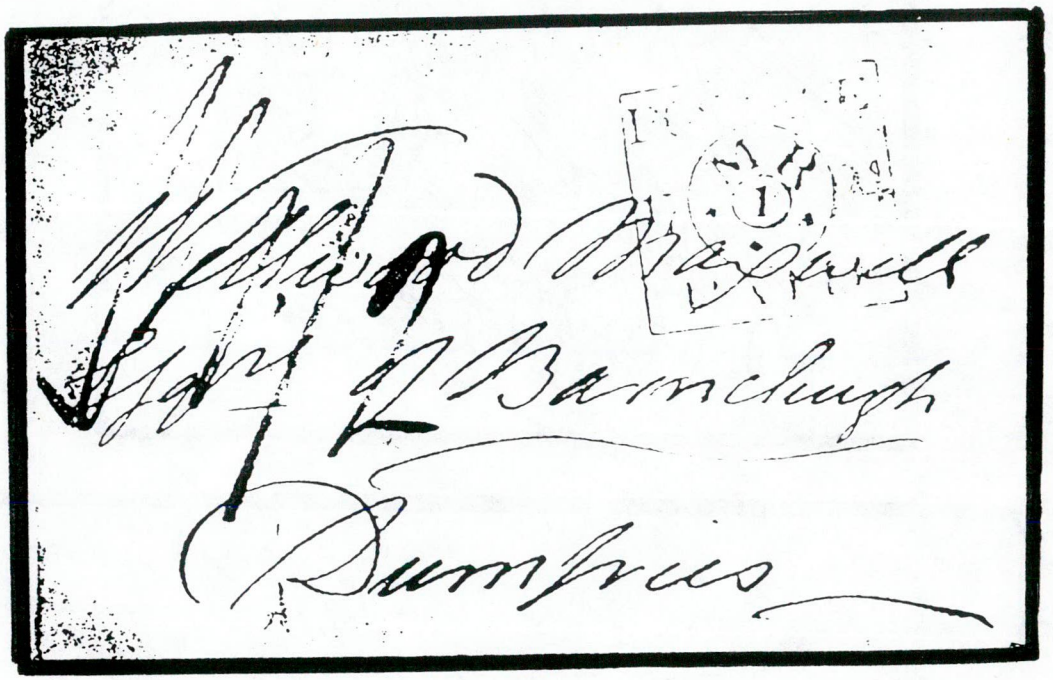


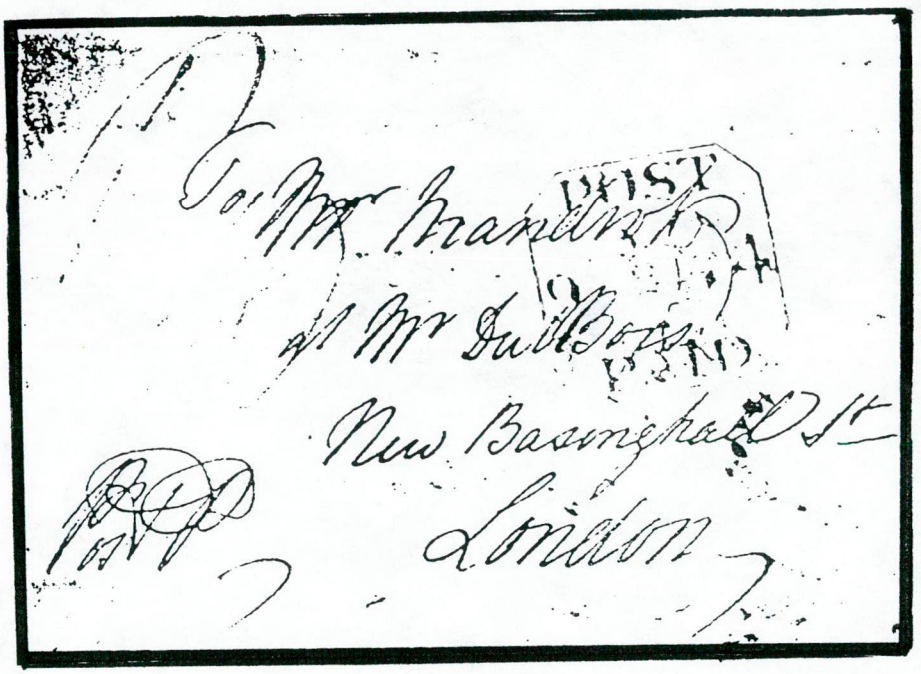
Experimental "PAID" August to December 1794 only: diameter 25mm
1794 - 17th August, Sterling to London
endorsed 1/10 3d & 7d [should be 8d]

Experimental Stamps

In 1794 there was an extensive reorganisation of the London Penny Post.
At the same time, the General Post was also reorganised to a lesser extent.
The only evidence is the existence of the experimental Paid handstamps

"POSTAGE PAID" in square frame 34mm x 34m March 1794
1794 1 st March [supposed to be the first day of use]
London to Dumphries, double letter, paid 1s 2d





"POST PAID" in octagonal frame 32mm x 32mm
April to July 1794
1794 23rd June. Salisbury to London. Double letter paid 10d

Branch Office Paid Stamps

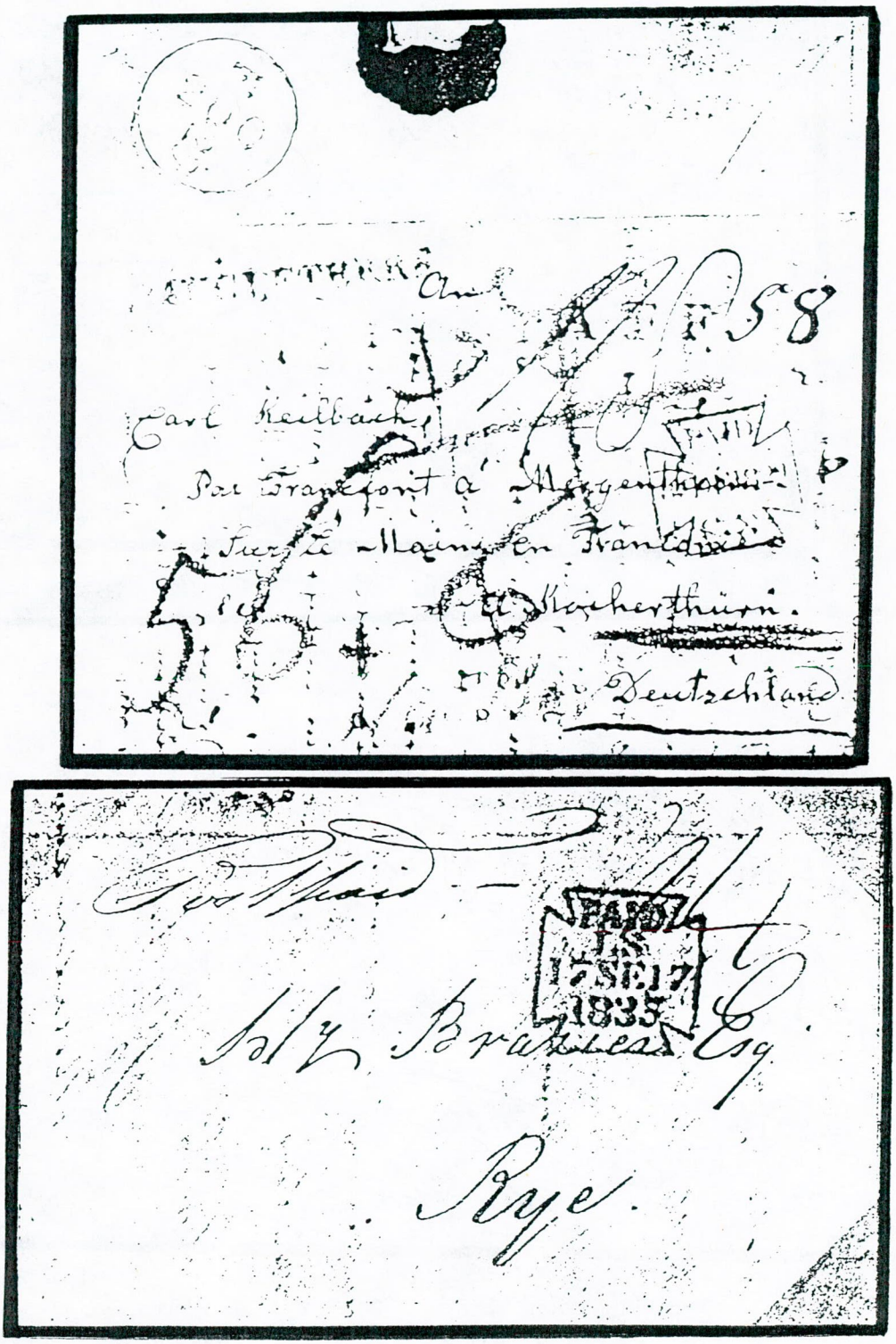
Charing Cross. First Type 18th December, 1829 to 28th. November, 1833

1829 18th. December, 1829 Charing Cross to Mergentheim

Paid 1s 8d to Germany

A[gleterre]T[ransit]F[rancais]

Transit France [letters to 10g - 1.5 x Porto = 14 Decimes =	34 Kreuzer
Transit Baden	12 Kreuzer
Mannheim - Mergentheim	12 Kreuzer
to pay on arrival	58 Kreuzer



1835 17th. September Lombard St to Rye, double letter, paid 1s4d

General Post Instructional Marks

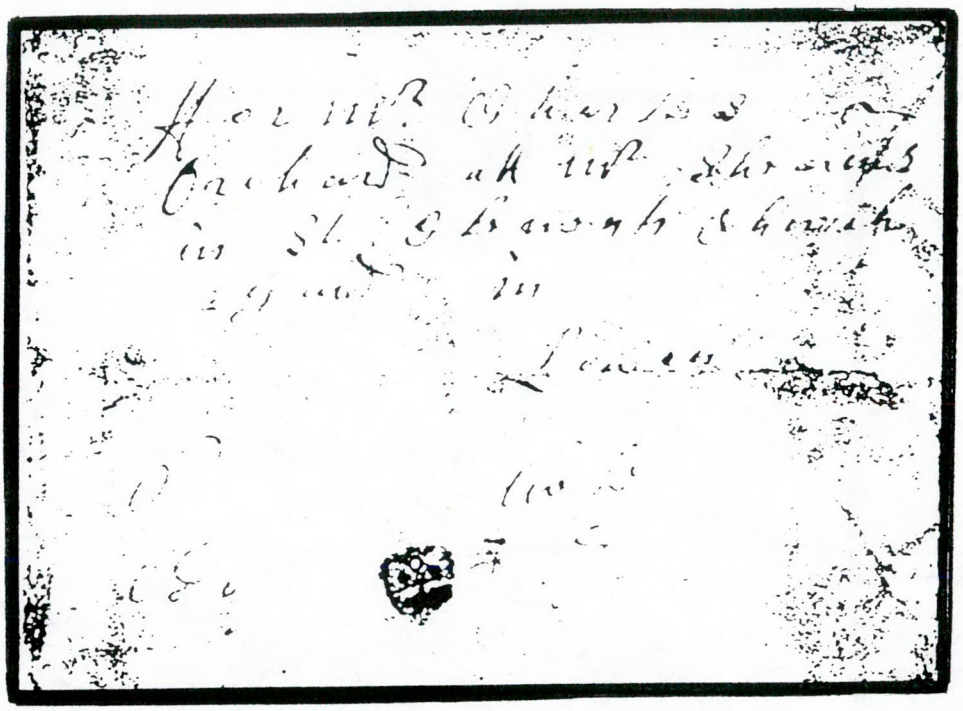
Inspectors' Marks

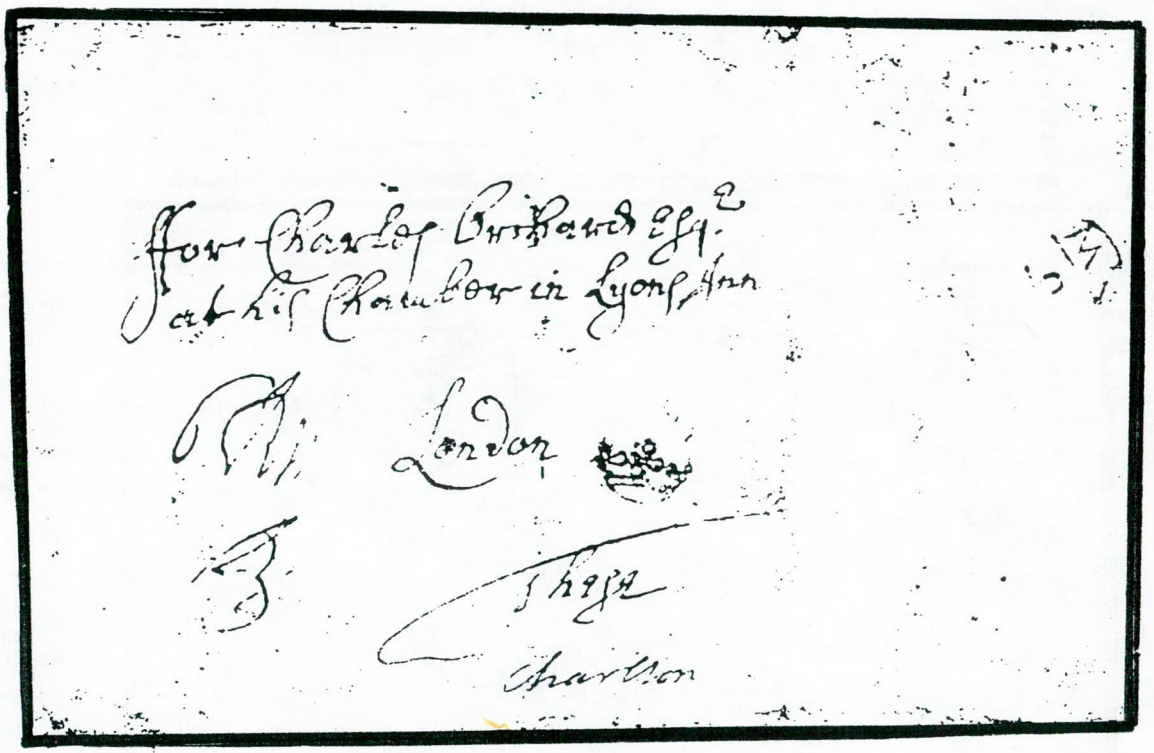
Crowns were used as official confirmation of a change in the rate applied to a letter

apparently hitherto unrecorded 7.5 x 9 x 10mm

1703 15th. January, Sursby to London, double letter

originally charged 3d, increased to 6d





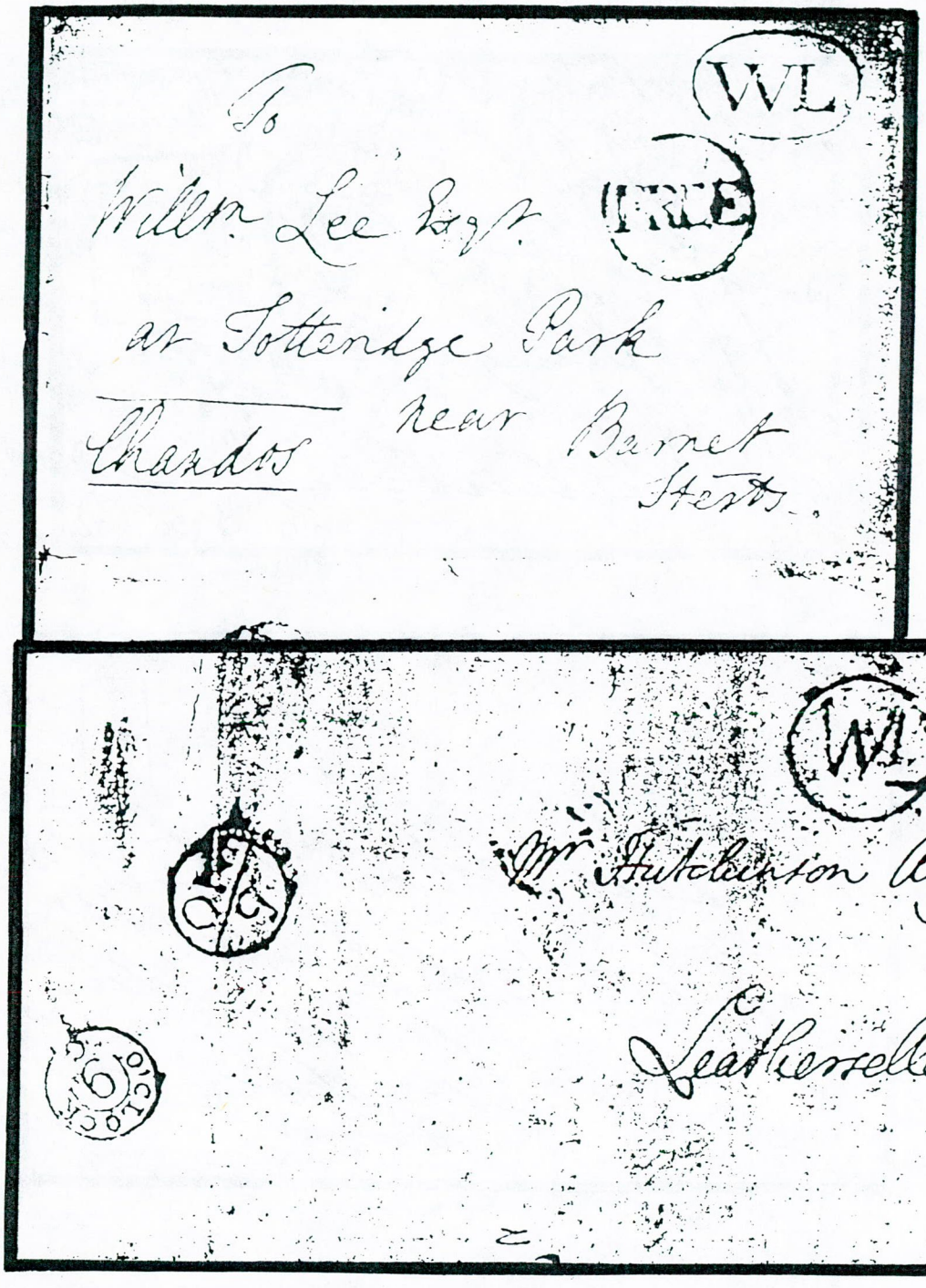
small crown 1682 - 1705 8 x 12.5 x 9mm

1687 3rd May, addressed to London

charge of 3d, changed to 6d as a double letter

Window Letters

Letters wrongly posted in the General Post for delivery within the London Postal area
the oval framed WL stamp 24 x 16mm
this example 1773 19th July [hitherto recorded 1777 only]
to Totteridge park, stamped FREE, Bishop Marks for 19th and 21st July.
Transfer to Penny Post with 9 o'clock morning T[emple]



the hitherto unrecorded circular framed WL 21mm diameter
1771 4th. November. New Inn, receiver GM [George Mortimer 1763-1900]
to Leathersellers Hall.
Bishop marks for 4th and 5th November, transfer to Penny Post with 9 o'clock morning G[eneral]

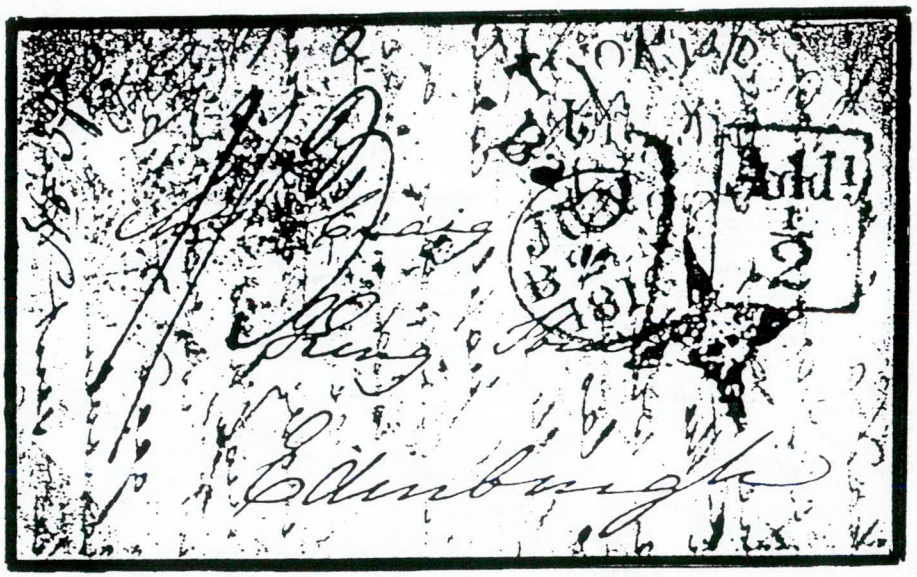
Additional Halfpenny Marks

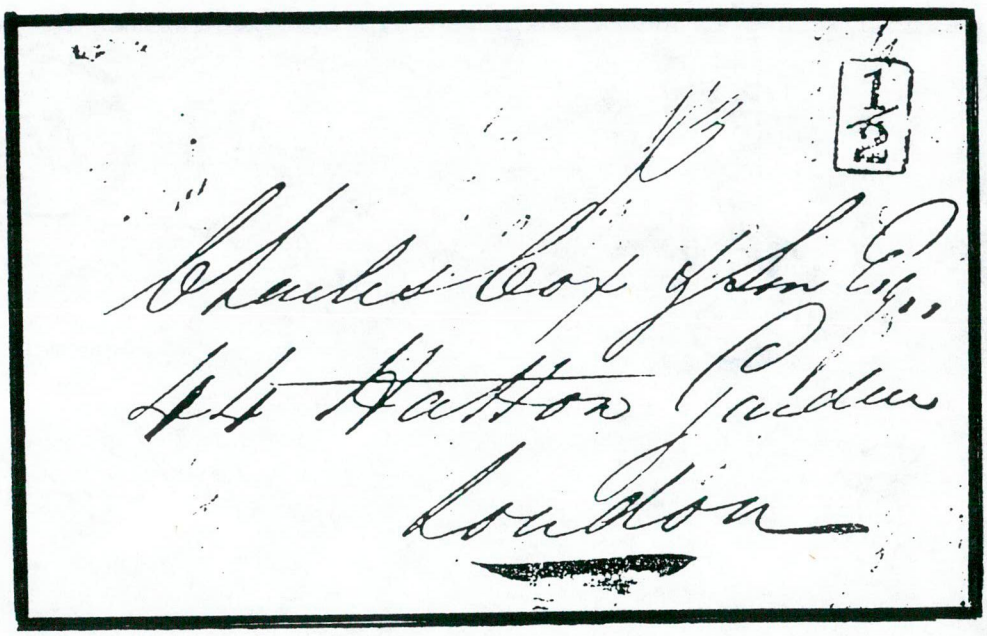
From 1813 all letters to Scotland, except for those to certain border towns and soldiers letters, were charged an additional halfpenny

1816 - 1817 23.5 x 19mm

1816 18th June Kensington, Two Py Post/Unpaid/Bayswater to Edinburg, charged 1s3d + ½d. Transfer to GP

Rate confirmation by Inspector's Star. Arrival 21st June



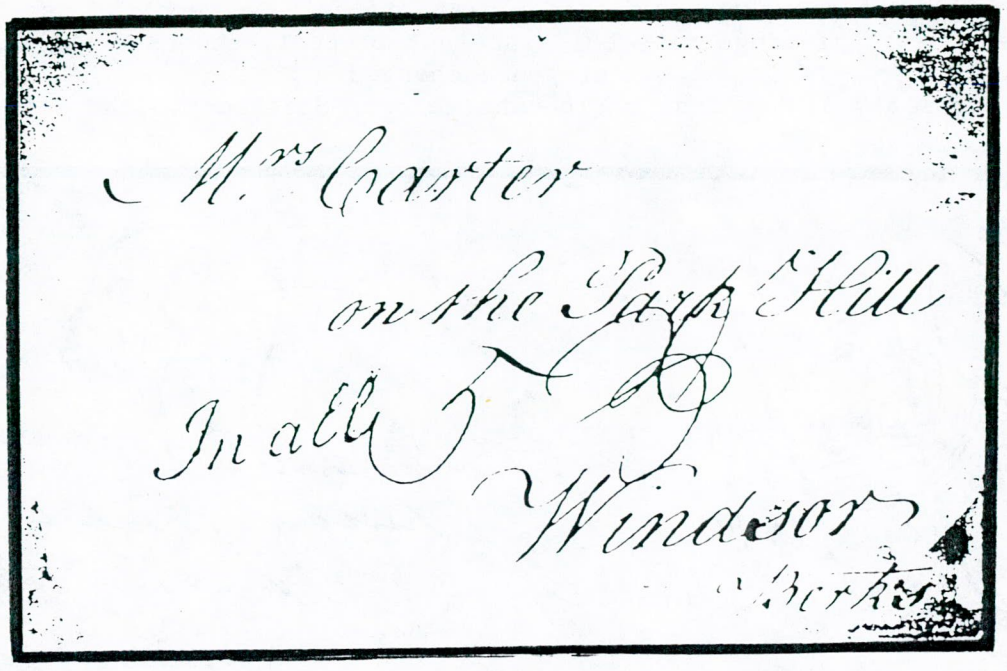


1829 8 x 15mm

only known on a redirected letters or those failing to show the stamp [reported twelve times]

1829 6th. July Oban to London. Charged 1s3d. London arrival 9 July

Other Instructional Stamps
"In All" 1760 to 1781
applied to General Post letter to show the total postage
1780 8th. December Hitchin to London 3d + 2d to Windsor "In All" 5d

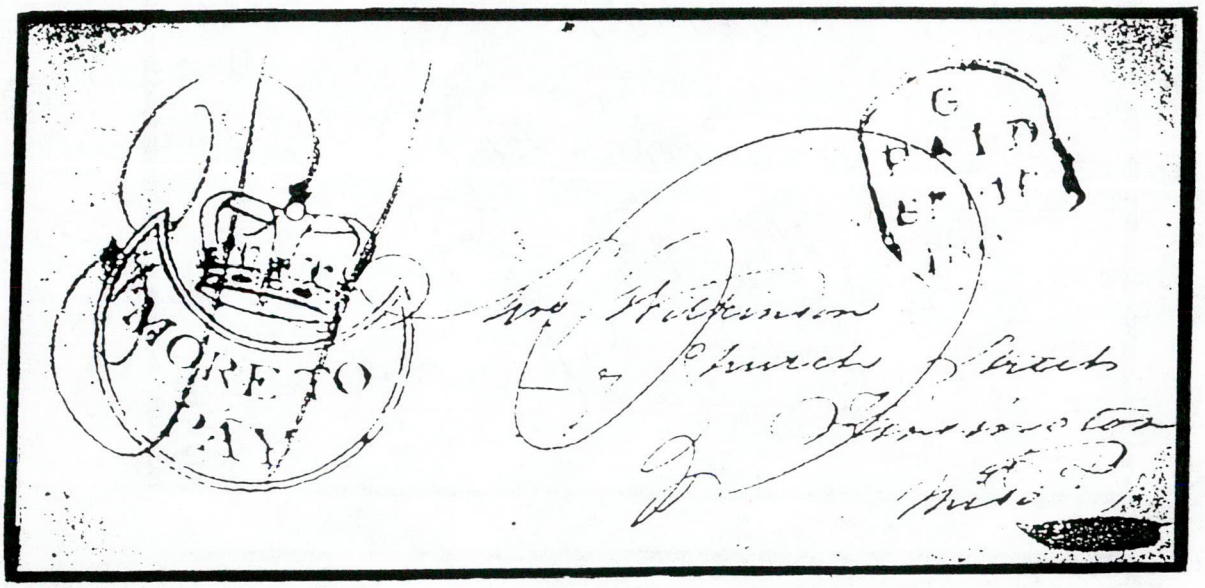


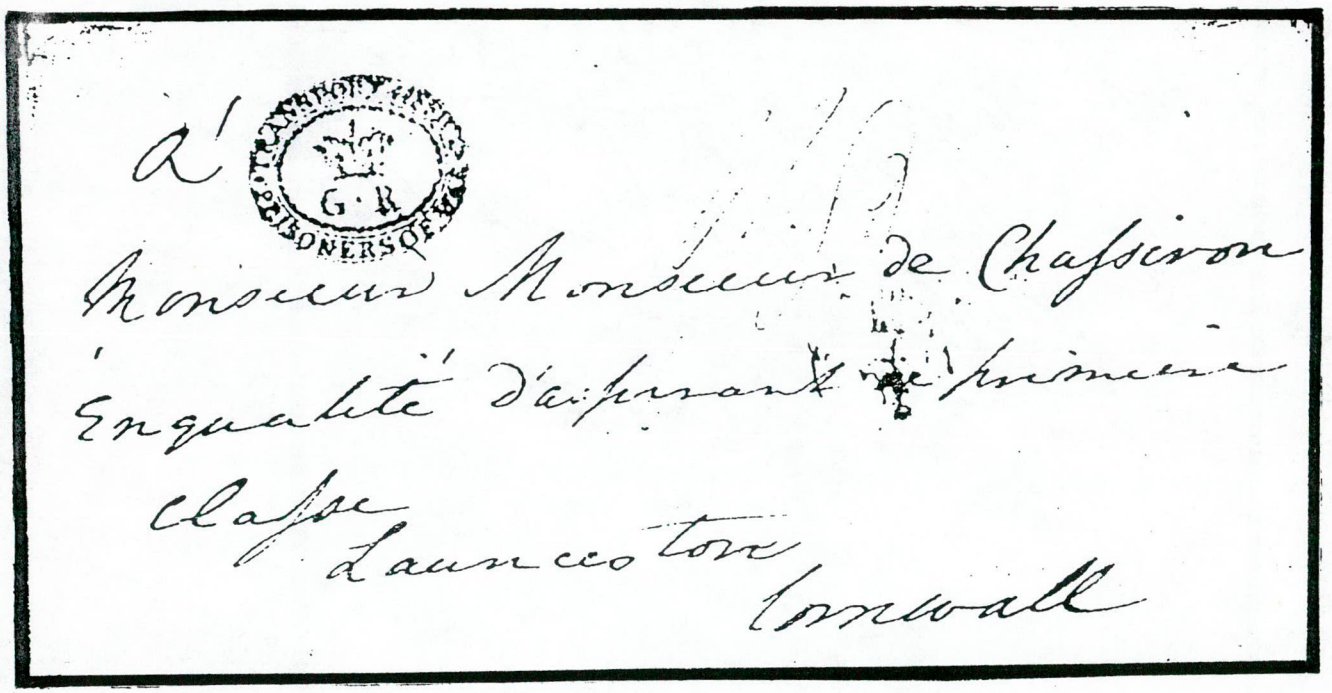


Between 1777 and 1810, letters from Ireland, passing to or through London received the "IRELAND" handstamp 43 x 6 mm
1795 14th. May, Dublin to London, double letter charged 1s 6d, changed to 9d for single letter. London arrival 18th. May

Other Instructional Stamps

Crown/MORE TO/PAY 1800 to 1811 40 x 40mm
1808 14th. September, from an officer on board HMS Christian VII at Spithead to Kensington
Prepaid at one penny, which could an officer's attempt to use the sailors' privilege rate but since not properly endorsed the extra sixpence charged
[possibly a Navy Post Office Charge from Spithead to the Point?]





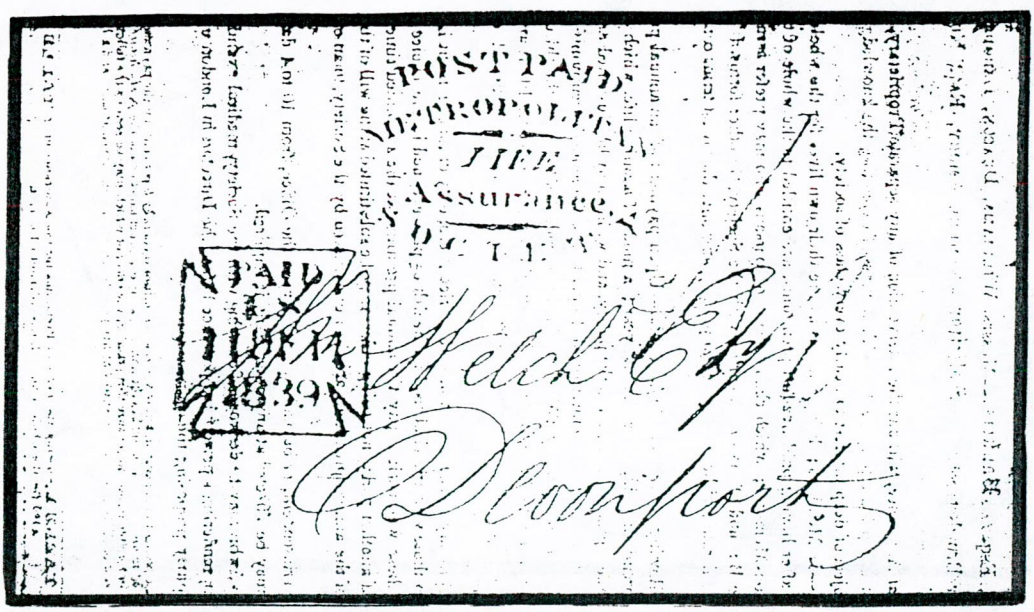
TRANSPORT OFFICE PRISONERS OF WAR
1804 to 1814
Transport Office cachet applied to letters written by prisoners of war although known also on civilian mail
1807 7th. January Uckfield via London to Launceston
Double letter charged 1s 8d [230 miles]

Uniform Fourpenny Postage

Letters, not exceeding half ounce, were charged 4d, irrespective of distance; 8d. the ounce and each additional ounce, while the General Post retained the 2d rate below eight miles. The new regulations began on the 5th. December, 1839, ended 9th. January, 1840

1839 5th. December, London to Edinburgh



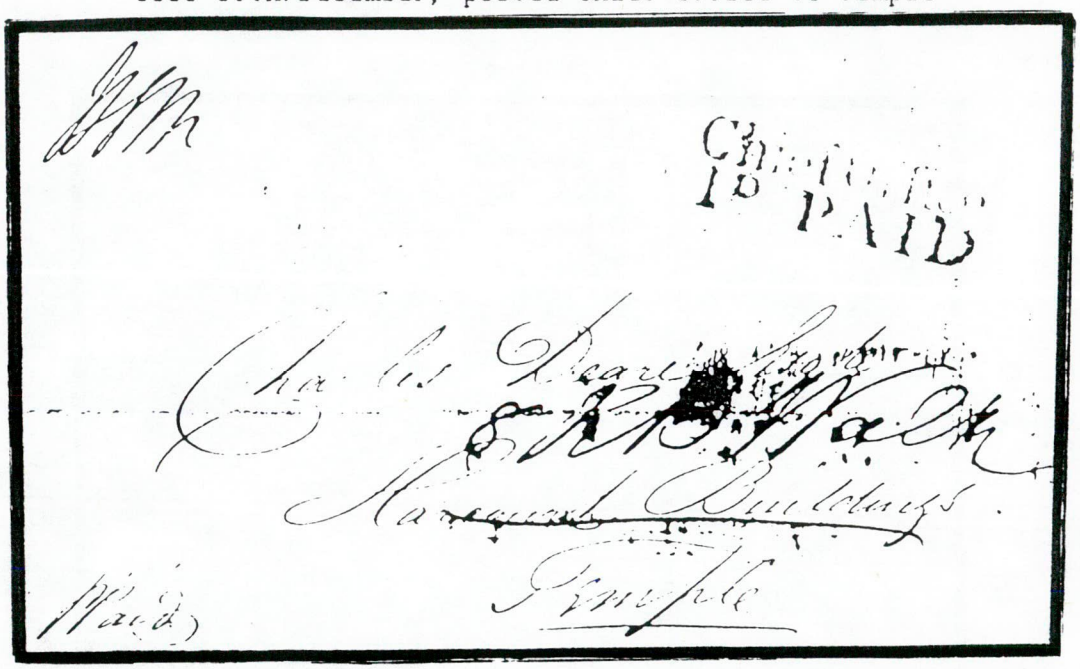


1839 16th. December, reply Devonport to London, mss 4d in black unpaid
1839 11th. December, London to Devonport, mss 4d in red, prepaid

Uniform Penny Postage

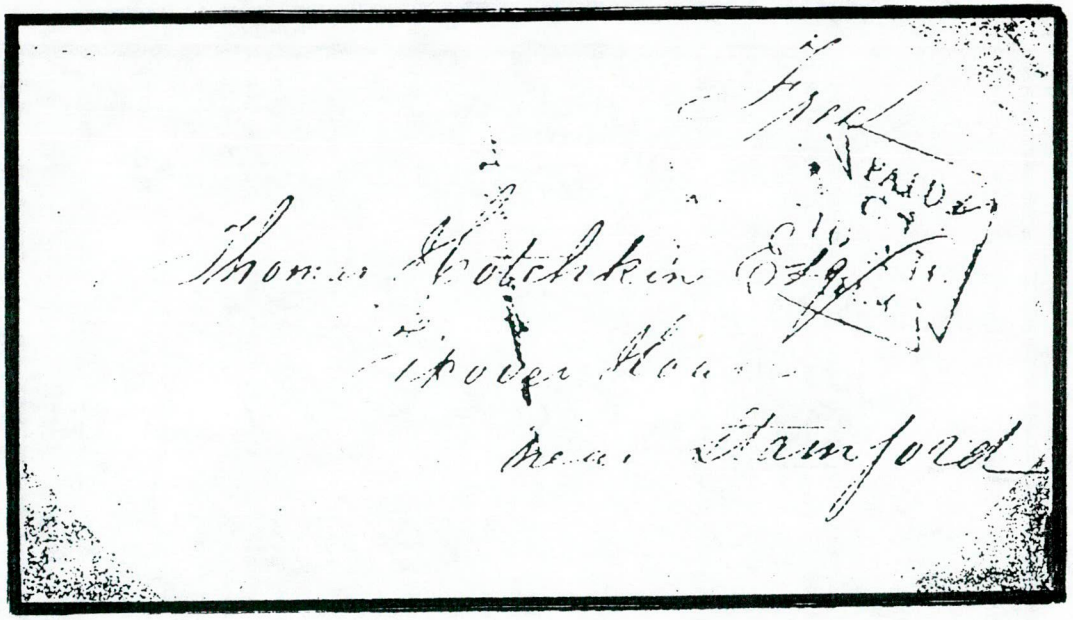
By resolution of the Treasury 12th. November, 1839, there was a local "Uniform Penny Postage" on prepaid letters not exceeding one half ounce, from 5th. December, 1839 to 9th. January, 1840

1839 30th. December, posted Chief Office to Temple



At the instigation of Rowland Hill and the resolution of the High Court of 28th. December, 1839, national Uniform Penny Postage came into effect on 10th. January, 1840 for prepaid Inland Letters not exceeding one half ounce.
Unpaid letters were charged 2d.

1840 10th. January : Charing Cross to Stamford



Endorsed "Free"
1840 10th. January
Charing Cross to Stamford

Dockwra's Private Post

Although the system of the General Post was operated nationally, there was no service for local letters in London.

On 27th. March, 1680 Dockwra, and others, started a London local post based on Lyme Street.

Murray started a rival post in December 1680, using triangular paid marks. Dockwra copied the idea, though with less ornate designs.

July 1681 to September 1682

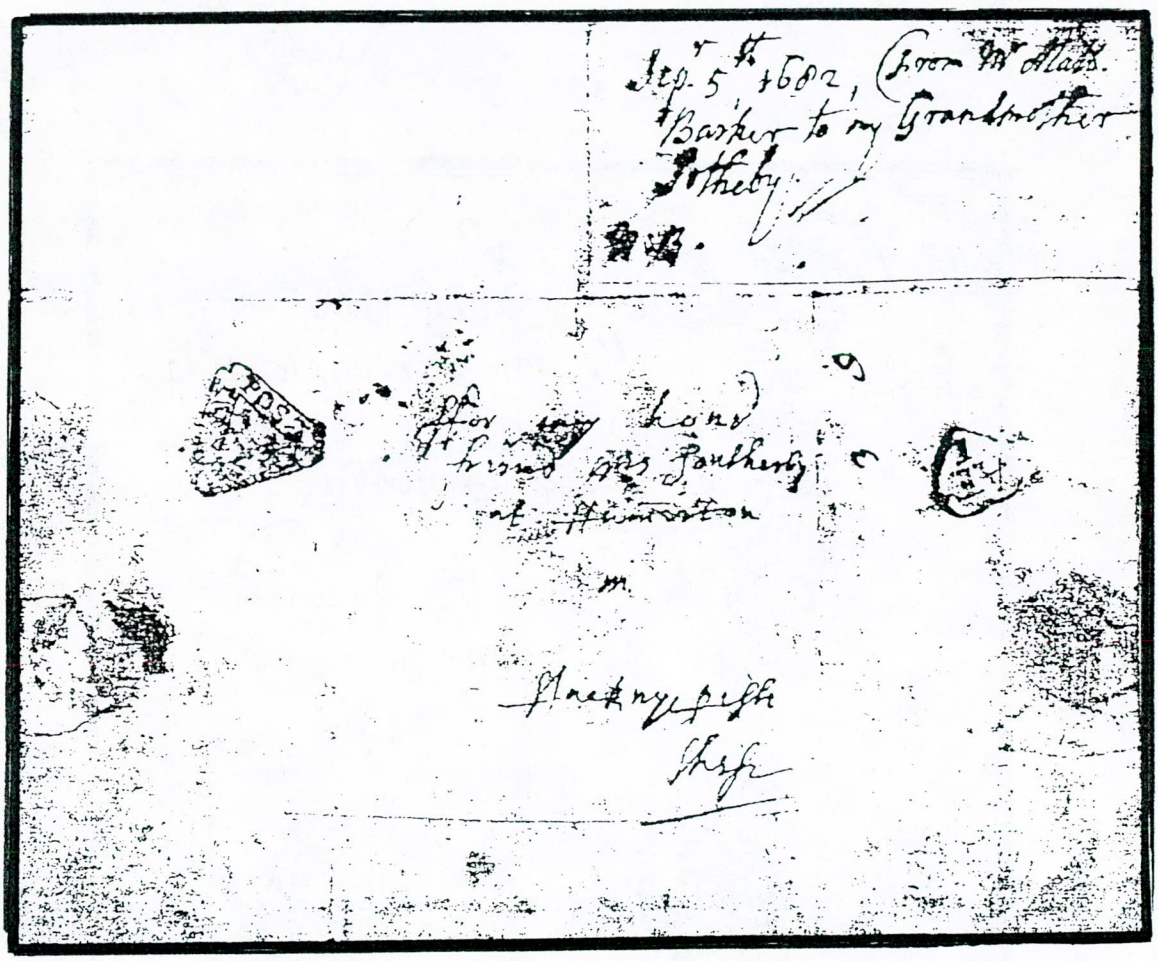
The Dockwra chief office was at his house in Lyme Street = L

Other offices were W = Westminster; P = St Pauls; T = Temple

B might have stood for Borough







1681 - 1682 L = Lyme Street

Four recorded, this the only example in private hands

The time stamp AF I hitherto not recorded

1682 5th. September, to Hackney

Government Penny Post

Westminster Office

In November 1682 Dockwra was sued for carrying letters around London. He lost the case, was fined just £100 but the Post had to cease. On the 11th. December, three weeks later, the Post Office re-opened the service, run on much the same lines as before, with the triangular marks adopted for use.
Two further offices, Hermitage and Southwark, were opened.

First Type
11. 7. 1683 to 14. 8. 1684
"PAYD" faces inwards
[seven examples for Westminster, twenty three for all offices, of this type recorded, six of these being in private hands]



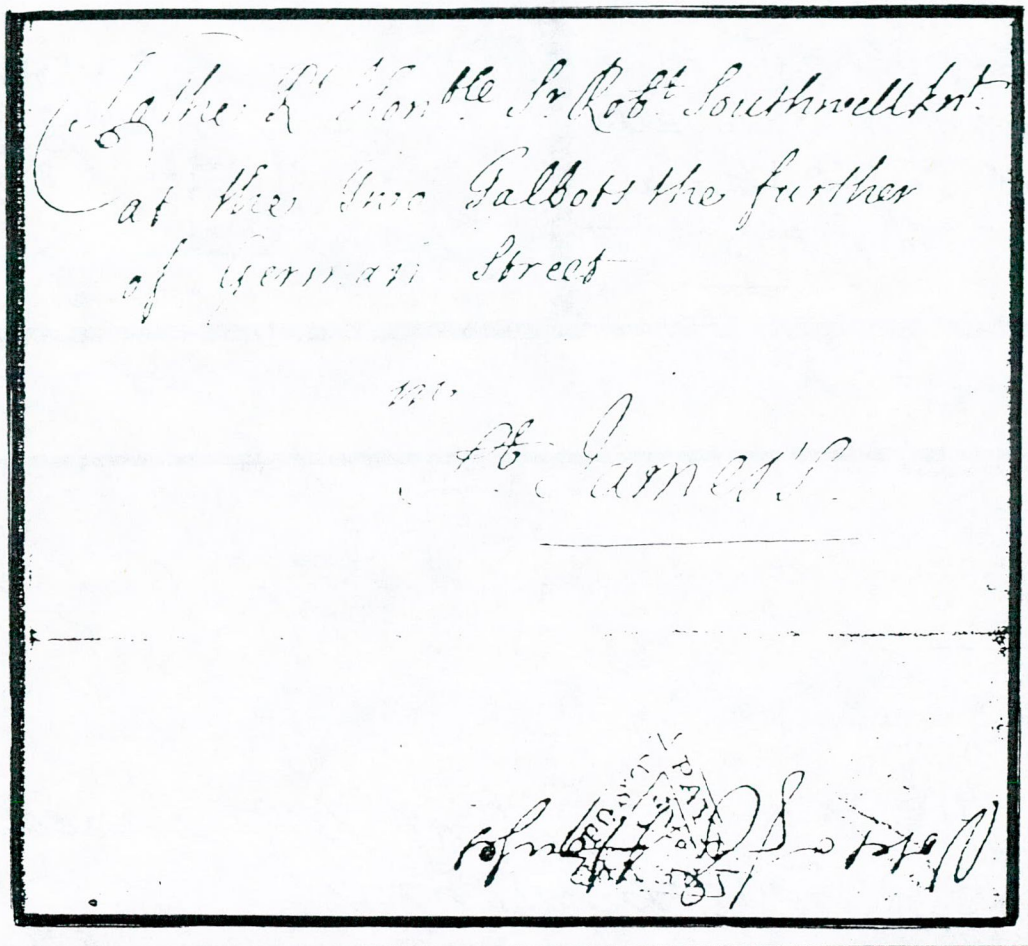


1684 9th. June Rushmore Hall Common to Hatton Garden
-92 : 38 -

Westminster Office

The Westminster Office was situated near Charing Cross, later in Coventry Street. It covered a large area to Brentford, The Hyde and Mill Hill

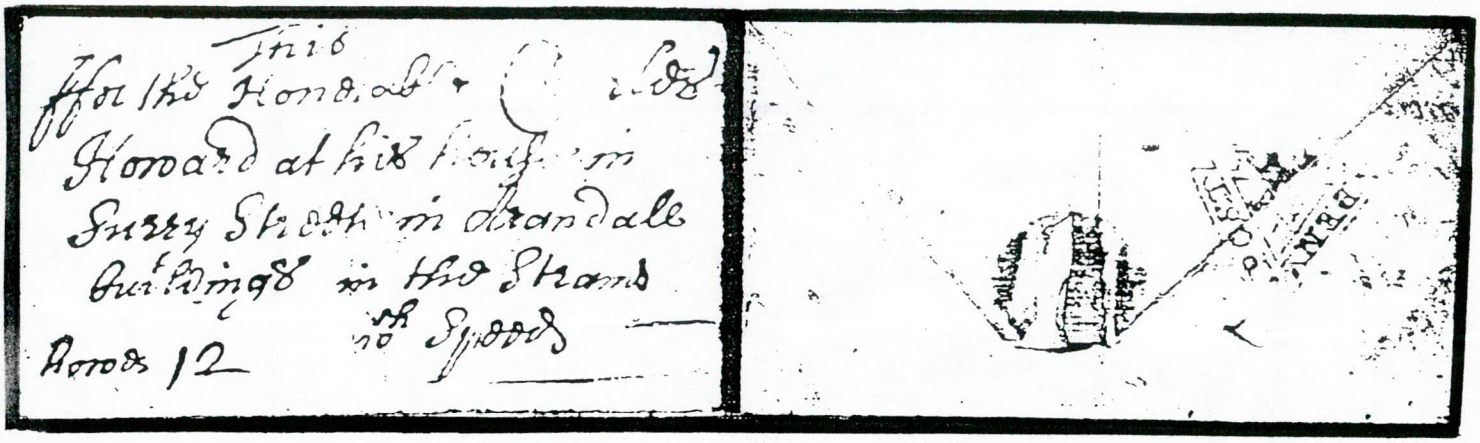
PENY POST PAID / W / SAT [1685 - 1705]
1689 20th. April House of Commons to St James's

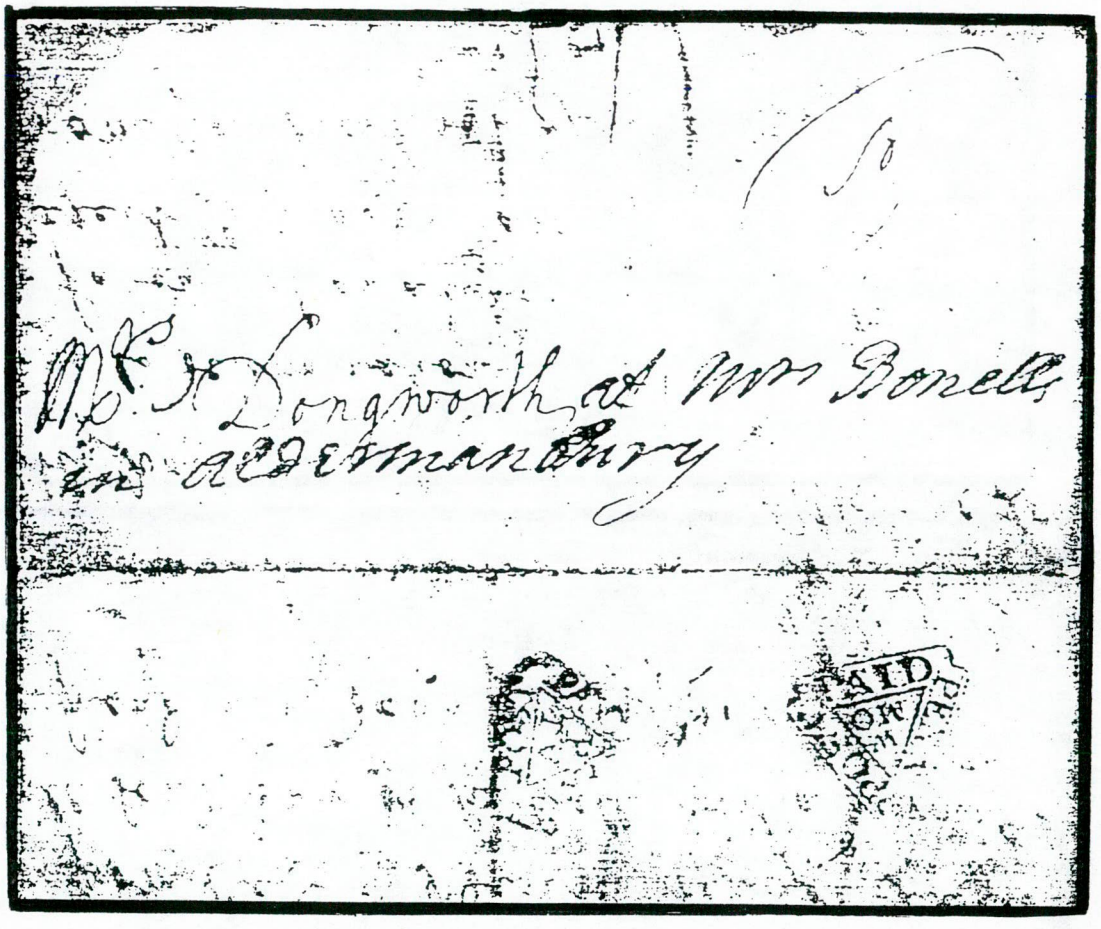


PAYD PENY POST / W / TH [1702 - 1706]
1706 12th. December, Villiers Street to Chelsea: mss receiver "St."

Westminster Office

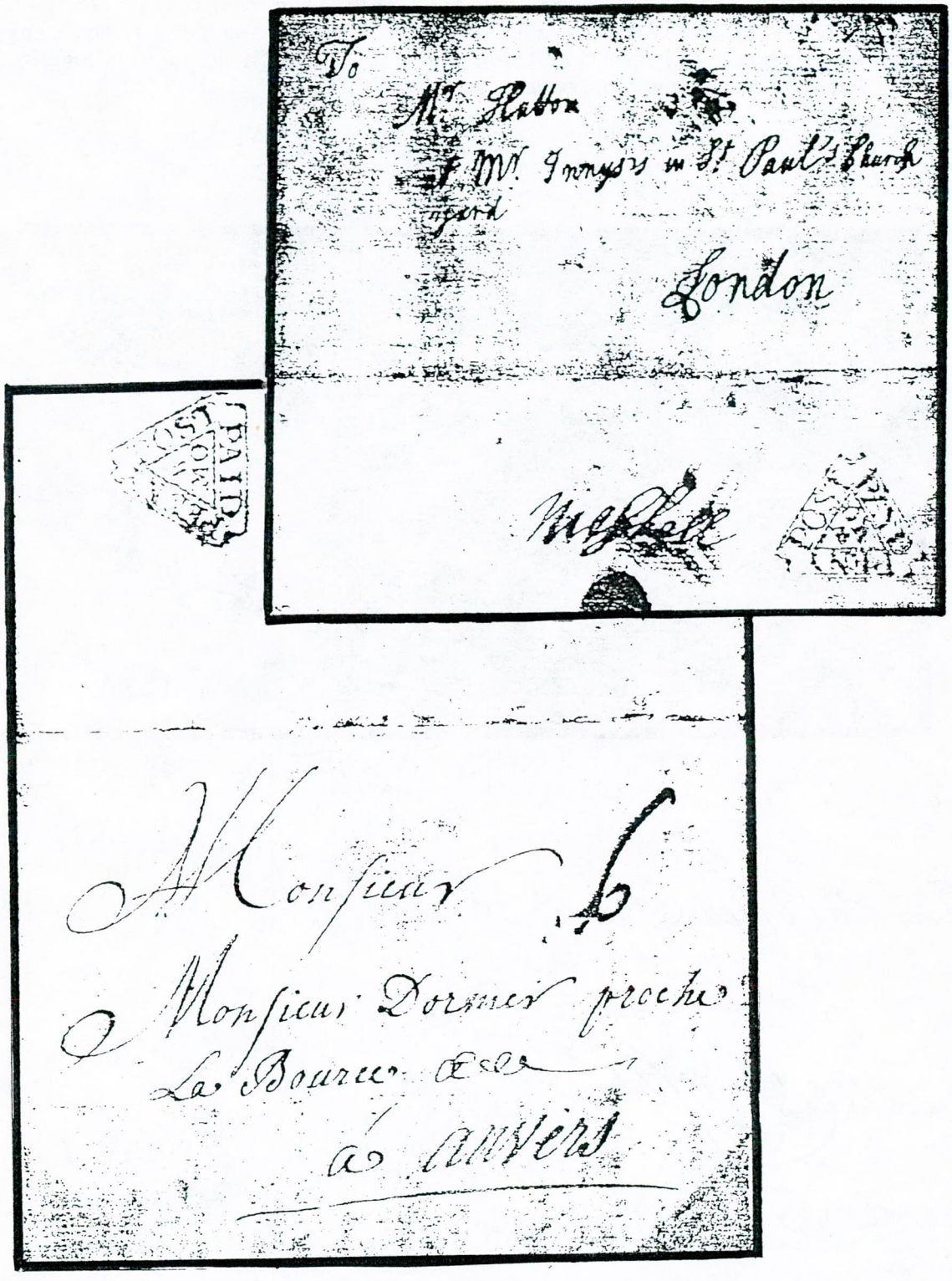
POST PAYD PENY / W / WEN [1686 - 1702]
1699 30th. January, to Surrey Street in the Strand





PENNY POST PAID / W / MO [1755 - 1787]
A second paid mark of the St. Pauls office "P/TU" has been struck instead of the delivery time stamp, thought to be the only recorded example. c. 1755 EL to Aldermanbury

PENY POST PAYD / W / MO [1723 - 1747]
c. 1736 to St. Paul's Churchyard : mss receiver "Maghall"

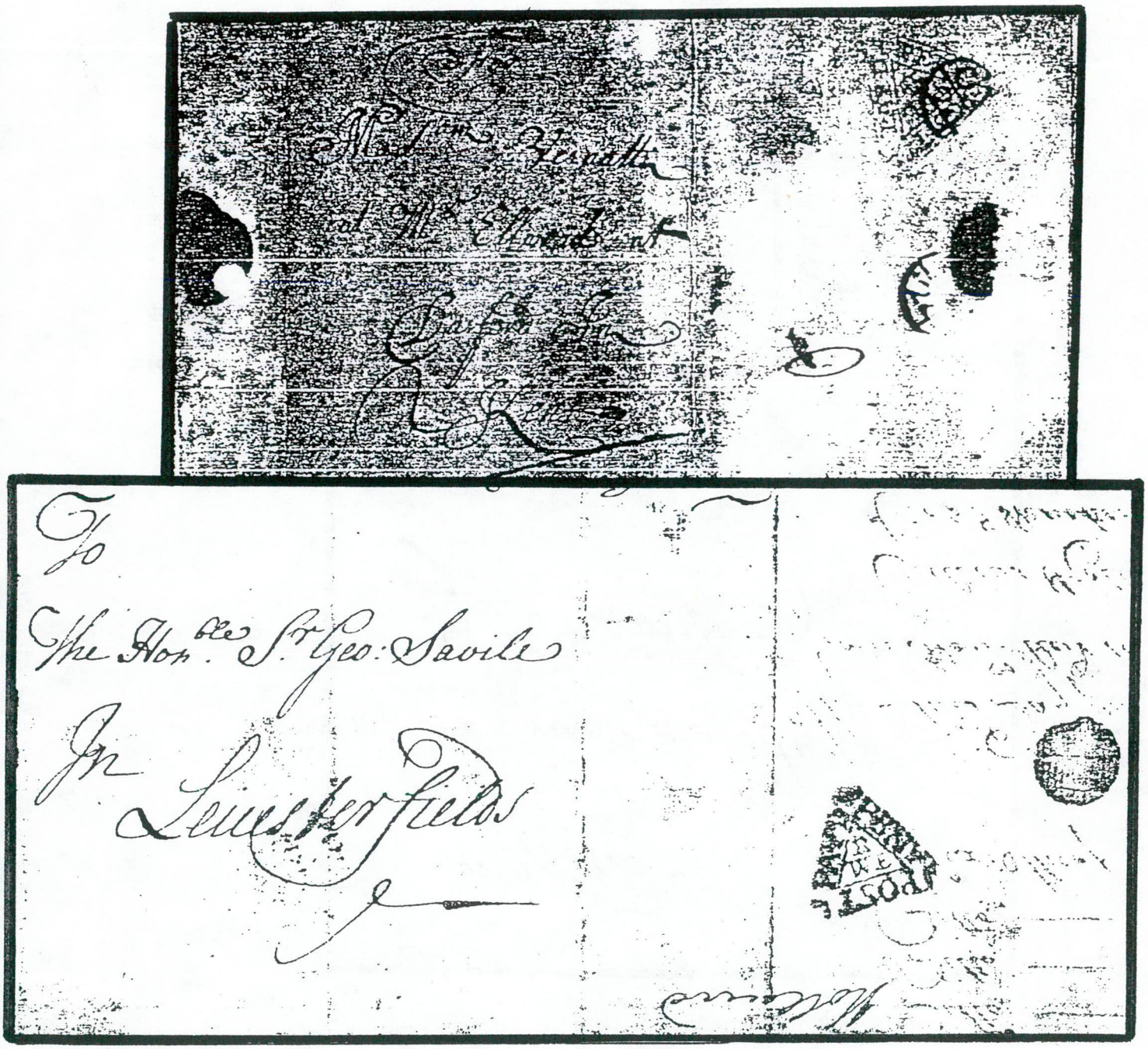


PENNY POST PAID / W / MO [1755 -1787]
only a few letters bearing these paid marks going abroad known
1753 1st. September London - Dover - Ostende - Ghent to Antwerp
Tariff [1699] Turn & Taxis : to pay on arrival 6 Sols

General Office

The Chief Office was originally situated in St. Michaels Alley in Cornhill. It moved in 1684 to Crosby House in Bishopsgate Street, then, in 1723, to Threadneedle Street and finally, in 1772, to Throgmorton Street, where it remained until the reorganisation in 1794. At first, the Chief Office used handstamps with a "B" in the centre [Bishopsgate Office] and then, from about 1723, gradually changed to using handstamps with a "G" [General Office].

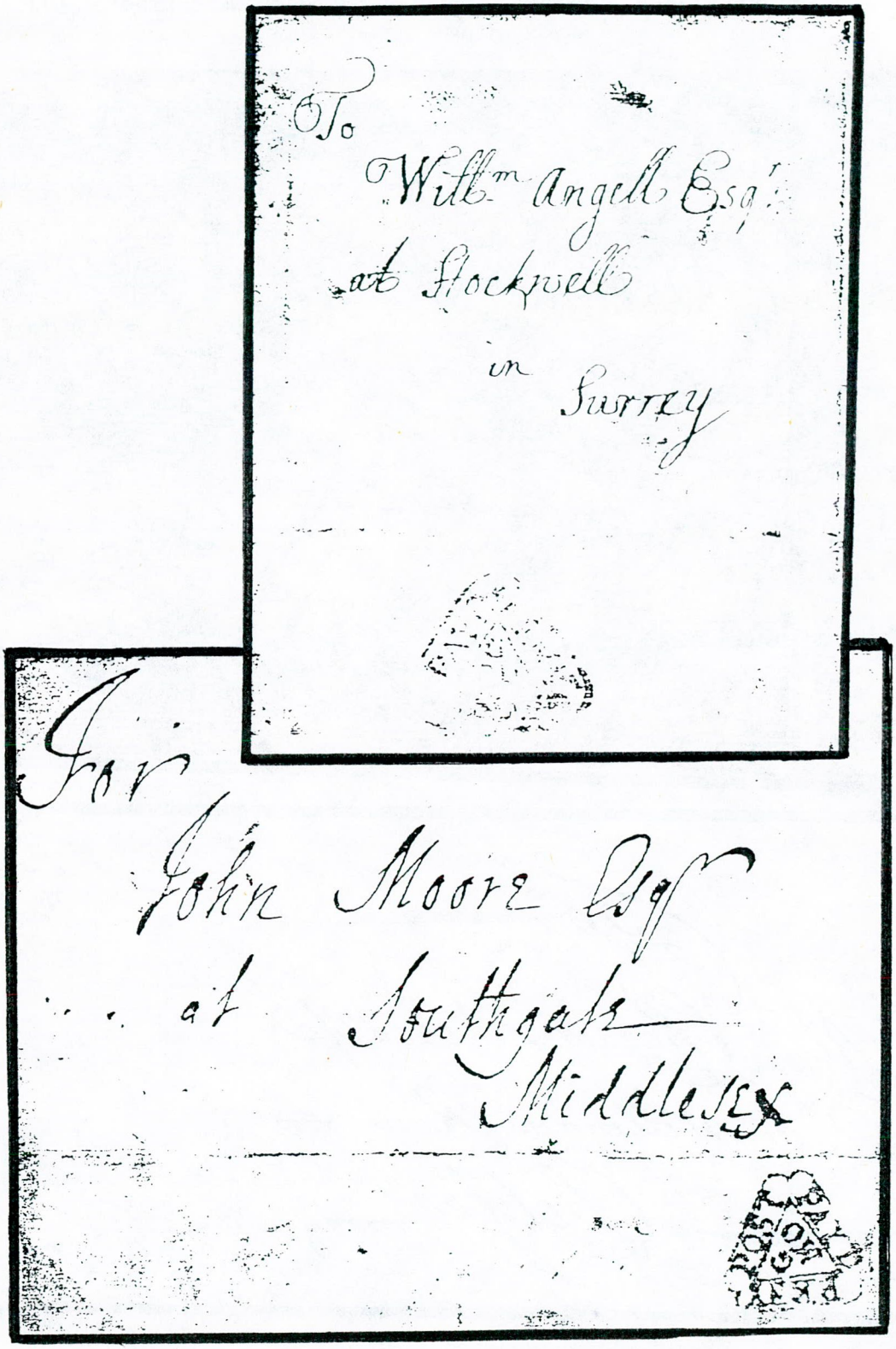
PAYD PENY POST / B / TH [1685 - 1706]
1700 23rd. October, Hackney to Dartford Inn Kent
Transfer to General Post, Bishop Mark OC/24



PAYD PENY POST / B / WE [1706 - 1731]
1731 28th. April, to Leicester Fields. mss receiver "Holland"

General Office

PAYD PENY POST / G / TU [1723 - 1730] round corners, large dots
1726 21st February, to Stockwell in Surrey



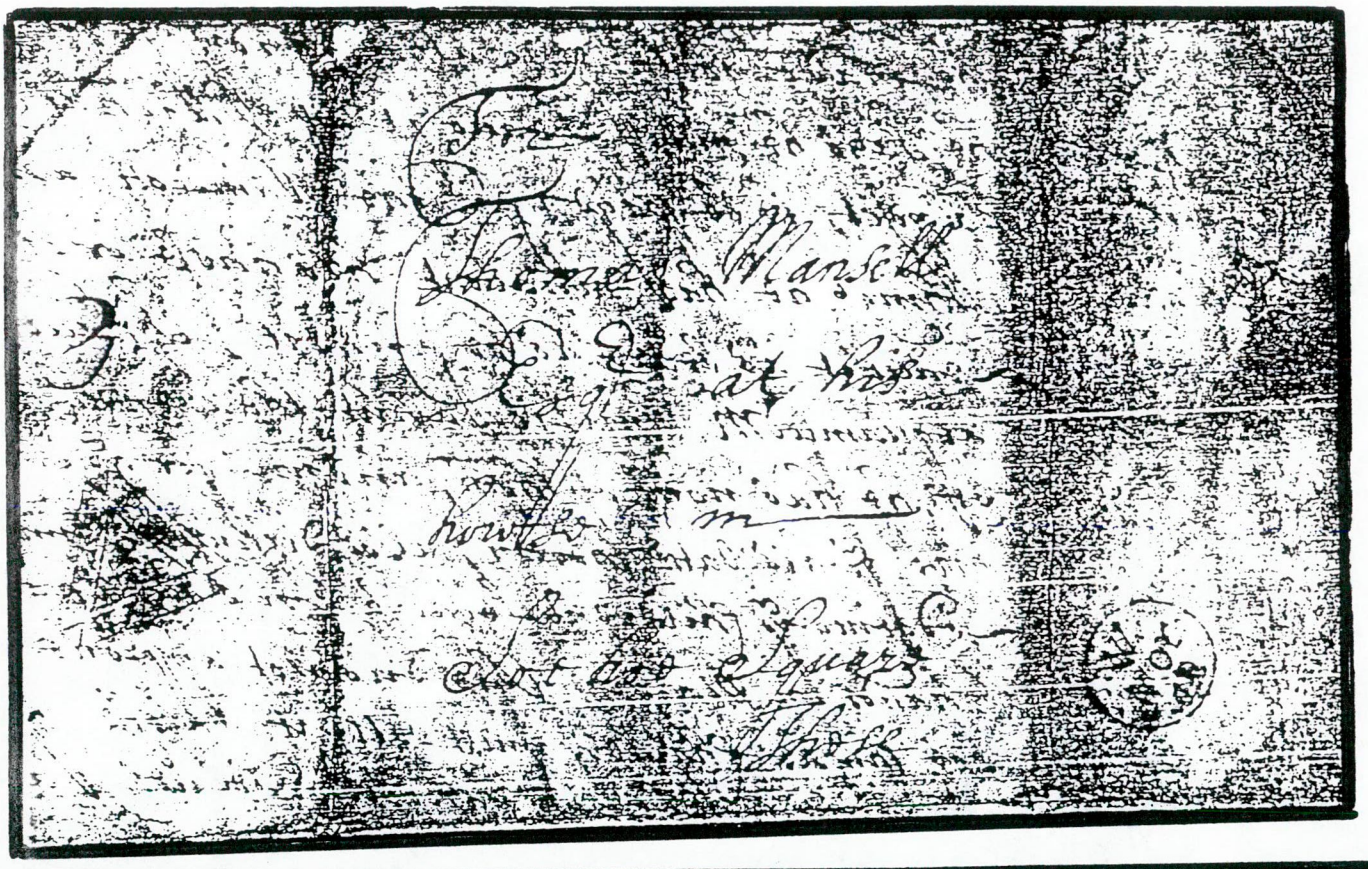
PENY POST PAYD / G / MO [1707 - 1757]
1753 16th. April, Mincing Lane to Southgate

St. Paul's Office

It was situated in the Royal Bagnio Coffee House in Newgate Street but, by 1690, it had moved to Queen's Head Alley, Paternoster Row, where it remained until closure about 1765.

PENY POST PAYD / P / SAT [1685 - 1712]

1694 26th. January to Soho Square: delivery W[estminster Office] Mor[ning] 12 [o'clock]



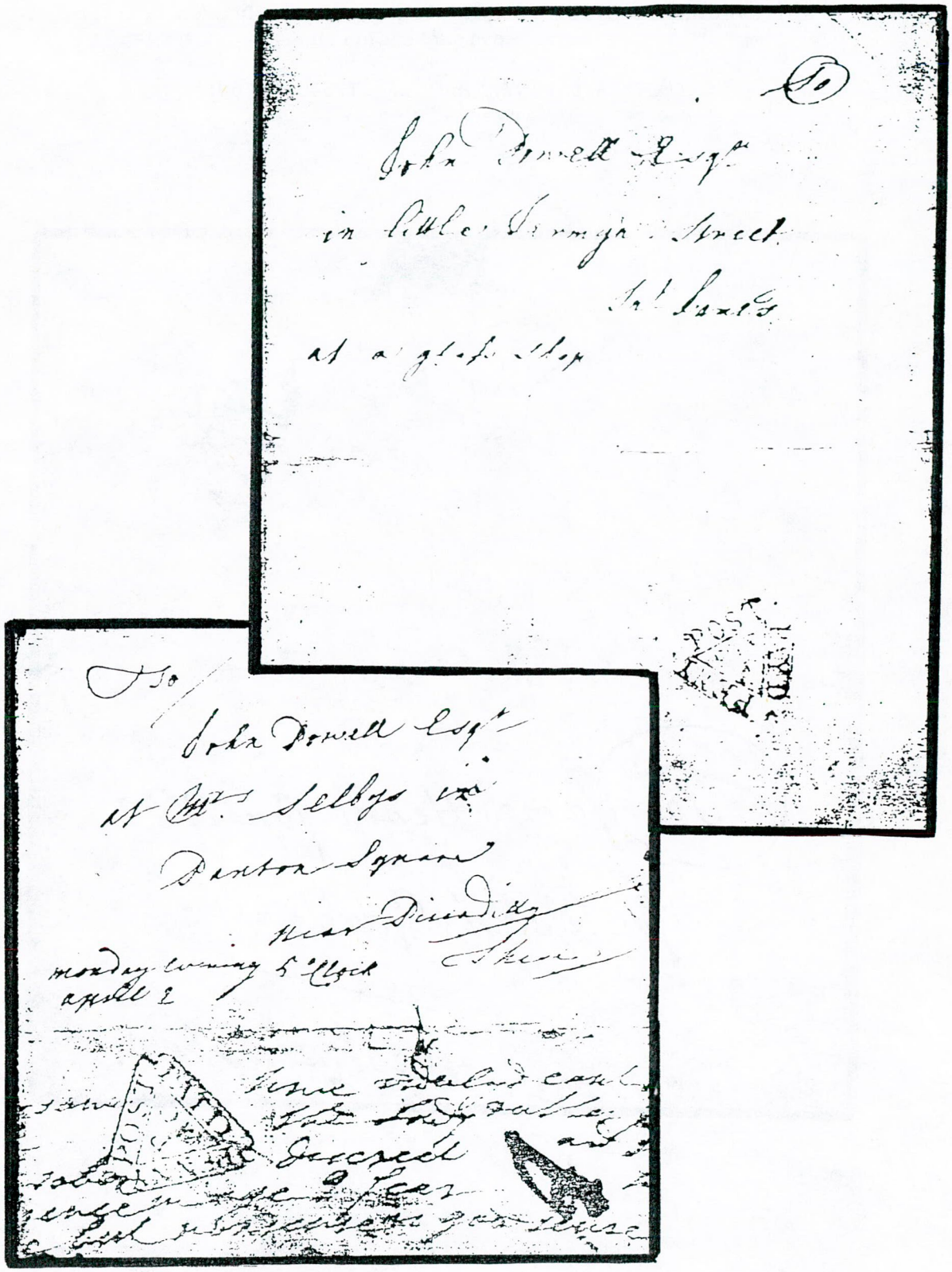


PAYD PENY Post / P / TH [1703 - 1752]

c. 1729 to Millmans Row, Chelsea: mss receiver "Boxley"

St. Paul's Office

PAYD PENY POST [MON = Monday] 1703 - 1752
c. 1752 to Little Jermyn Street

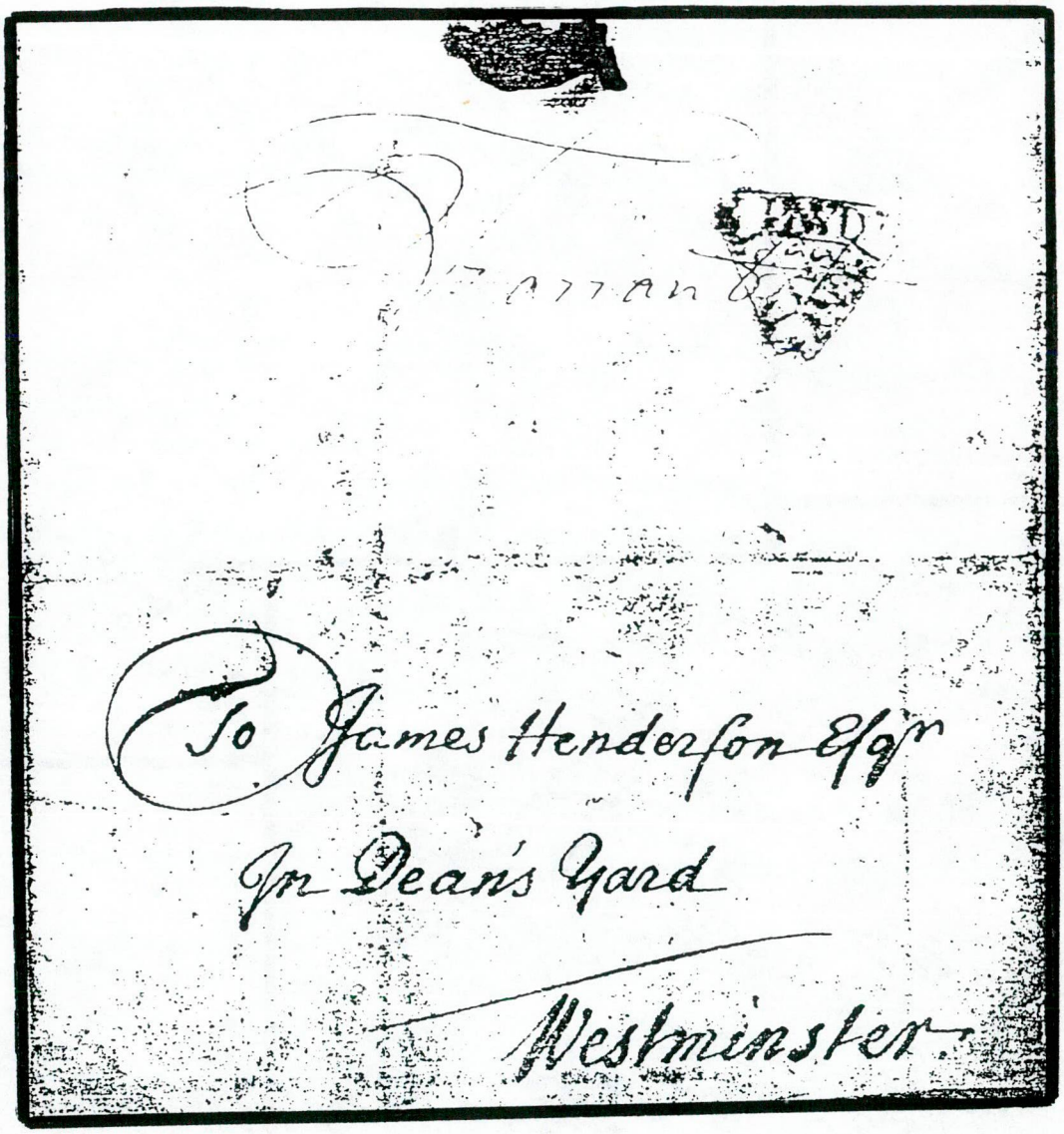


PENNY POST PAID [MO = Monday] 1759 - 1765
1759 2nd. April, to Penton Square, Piccadilly

Southwark Office

The office covered south London from Woolwich to Roehampton and Kew. It appears to have remained in the new Buildings in Fowlane near the Borough, from 1684 to closure in 1794. Some, however, believe the location to have been in Green Dragon Court or St. Saviour's Church.

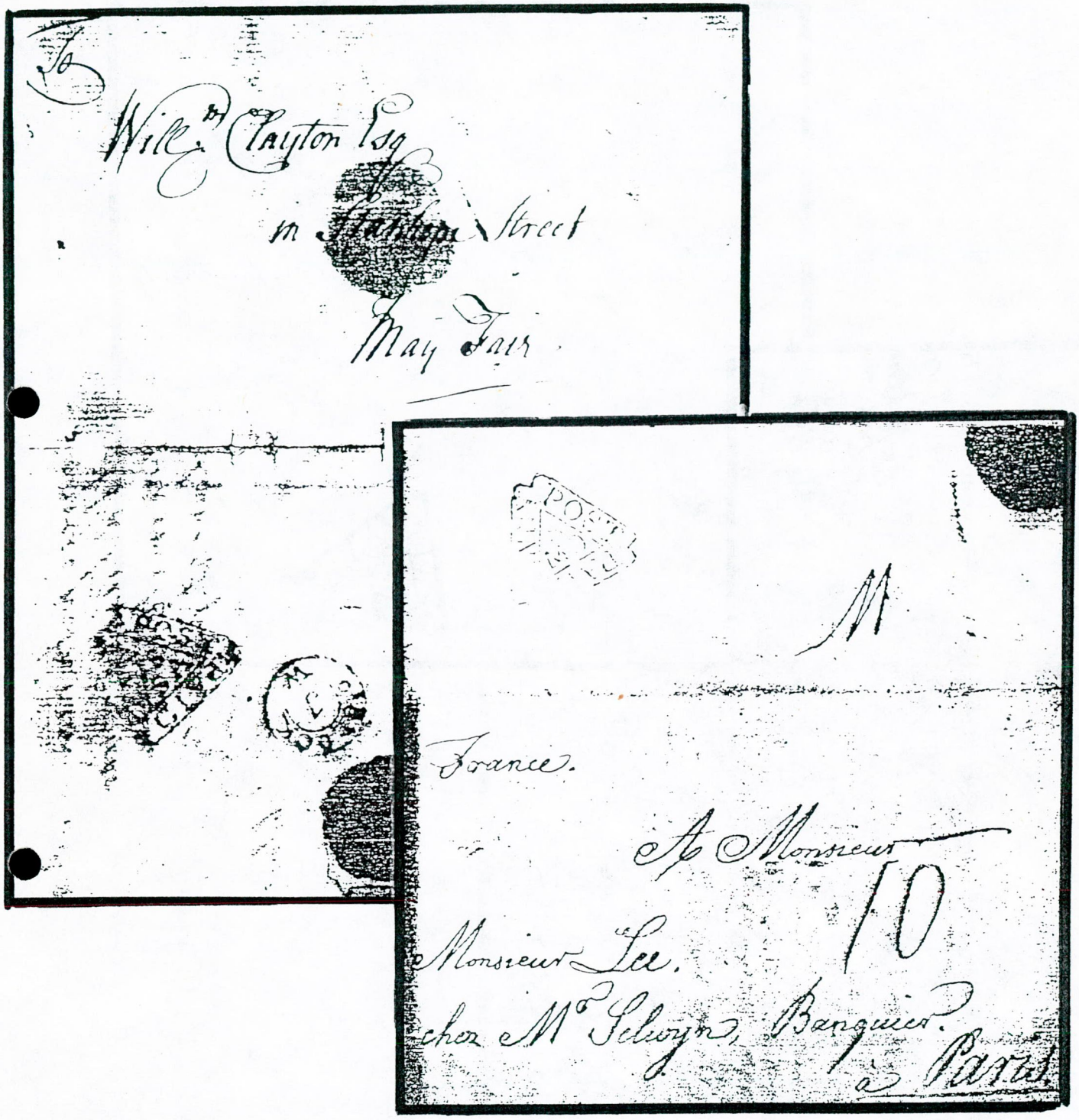
POST PAYD PENY / S / SA [1764 - 1769]
Inverted Centre



c. 1745, to Dean's Yard Westminster. mss receiver "Farrant"

Southwark Office

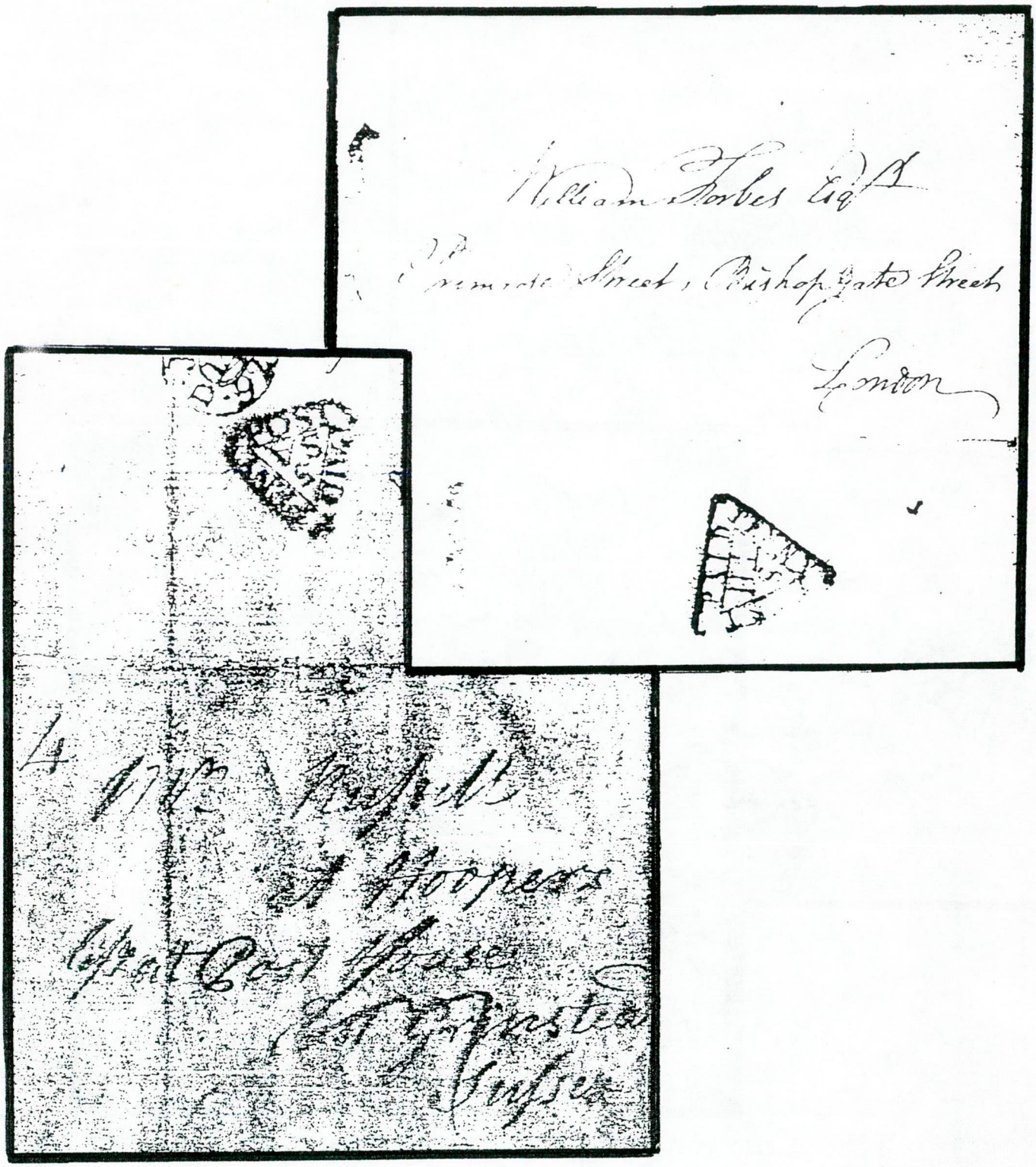
PENNY POST PAID / S / SA [1752 - 1786]
1765 3rd. May, to Stanhope Street, May Fair
Westminster Office 1 o'clock delivery stamp



PENY POST PAID / S / MO [1752 - 1786]
1751 23rd. August Battersea to Paris: mss receiver initial "W"
Few letters to addresses abroad recorded
Transit route : London, Dover, Calais
Convention England - France [1698] Tariff Scale of 1704
Single letter rate 10 Sous

Southwark Office

PAID PENY POST / S / SA [1781 - 1792]
23rd February, 1787 Deptford to Bishopsgate Street.
"WOODCOCK" receivers handstamp [1782 - 1787]

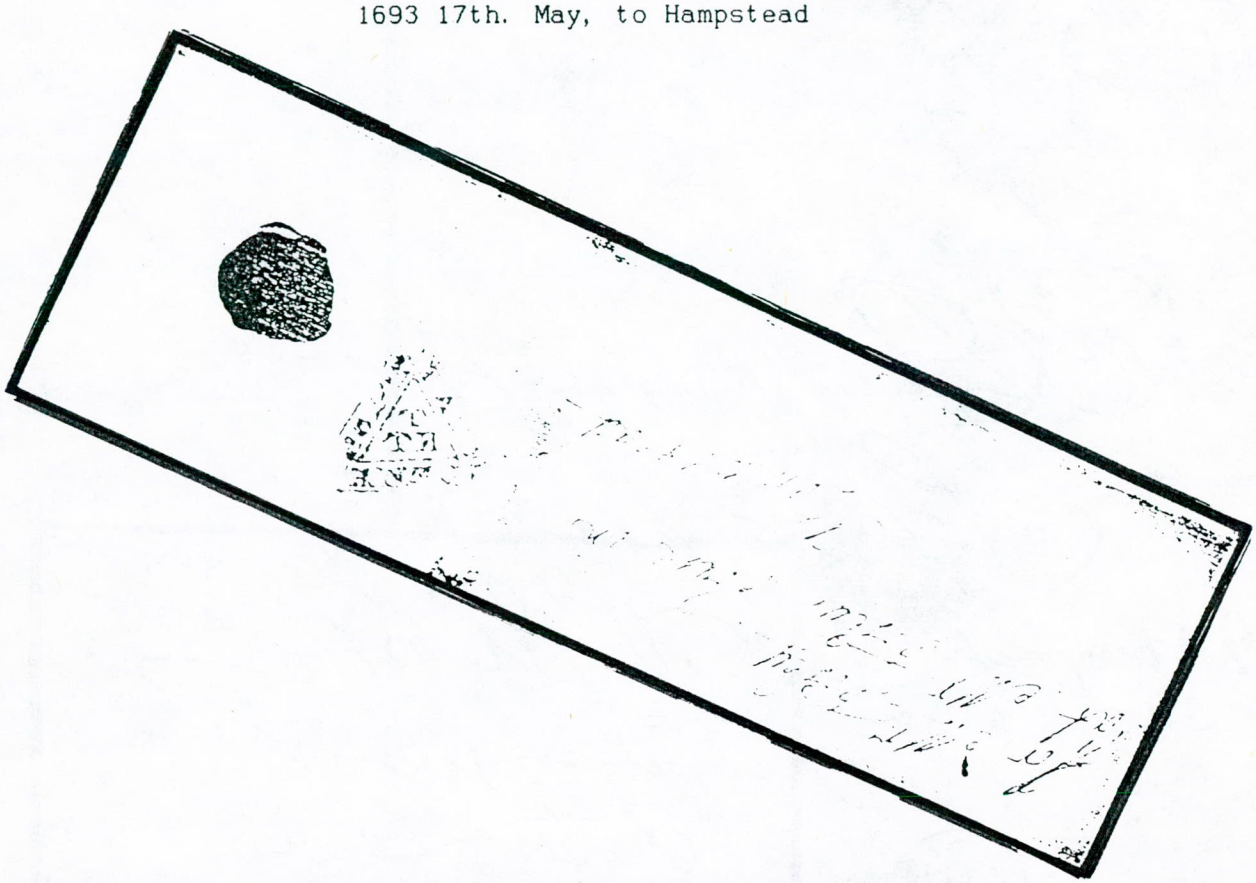


PENNY POST PAID / S / TH [1784 - 1794]
Distinctive narrow margins
1792 14th. January, Clapham to East Grinstead
Transfer to General Post, charged 4d to 80 miles

Temple Office

The Temple Office was in Chichester Rents, Chancery Lane from 1684 to 1765. From 1772 to closure in 1794 it was at St.Clements, Blackmore Street.
It covered the north of London out to East Barnet and Whetstone.

POST PAYD PENY / T / TH [1685 - 1699]
1693 17th. May, to Hampstead

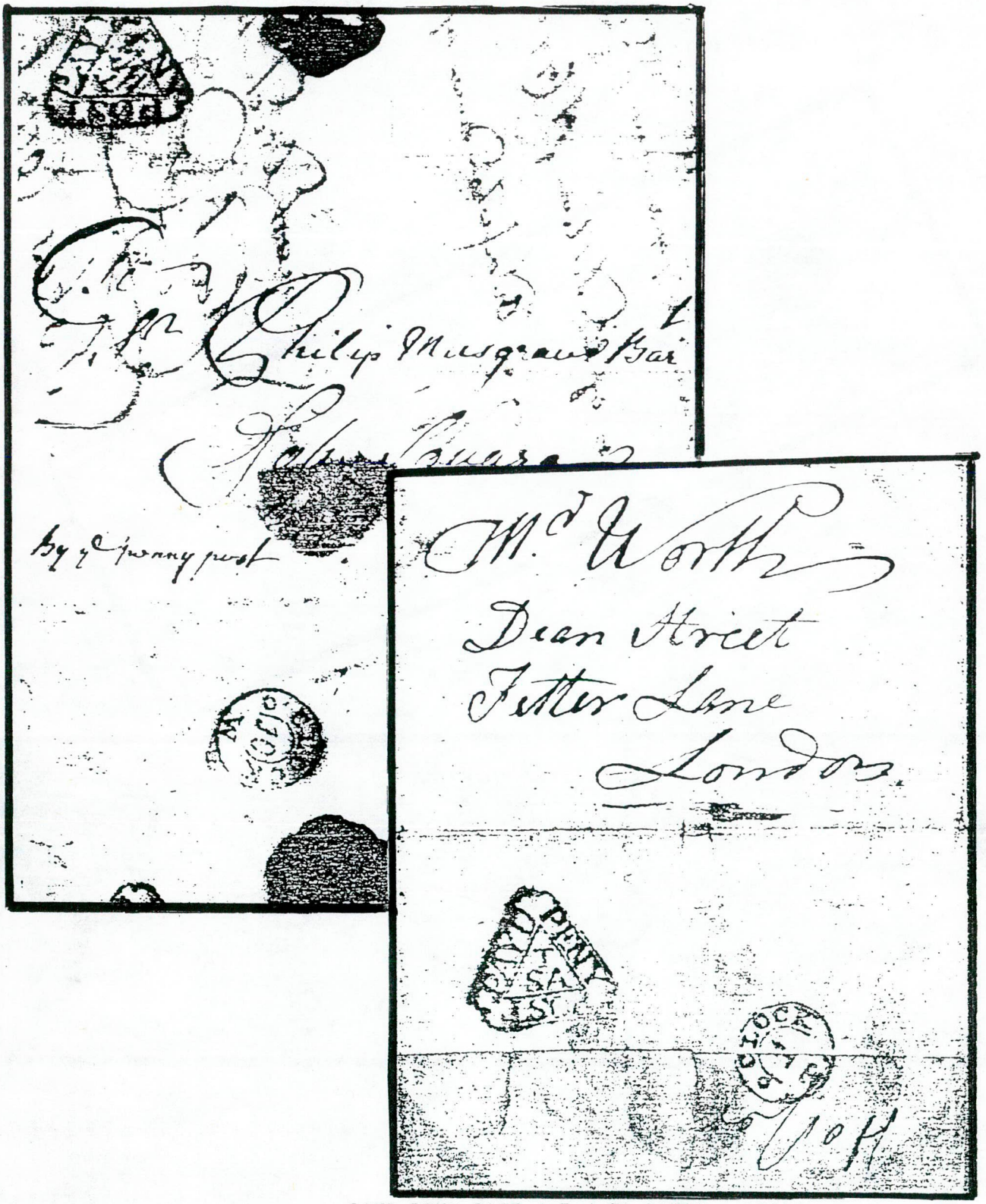




PENY POST PAYD / T / WEN [1692 - 1698]
1698 22nd. November, to Mincing Lane: mss receiver's initial "K"

Temple Office

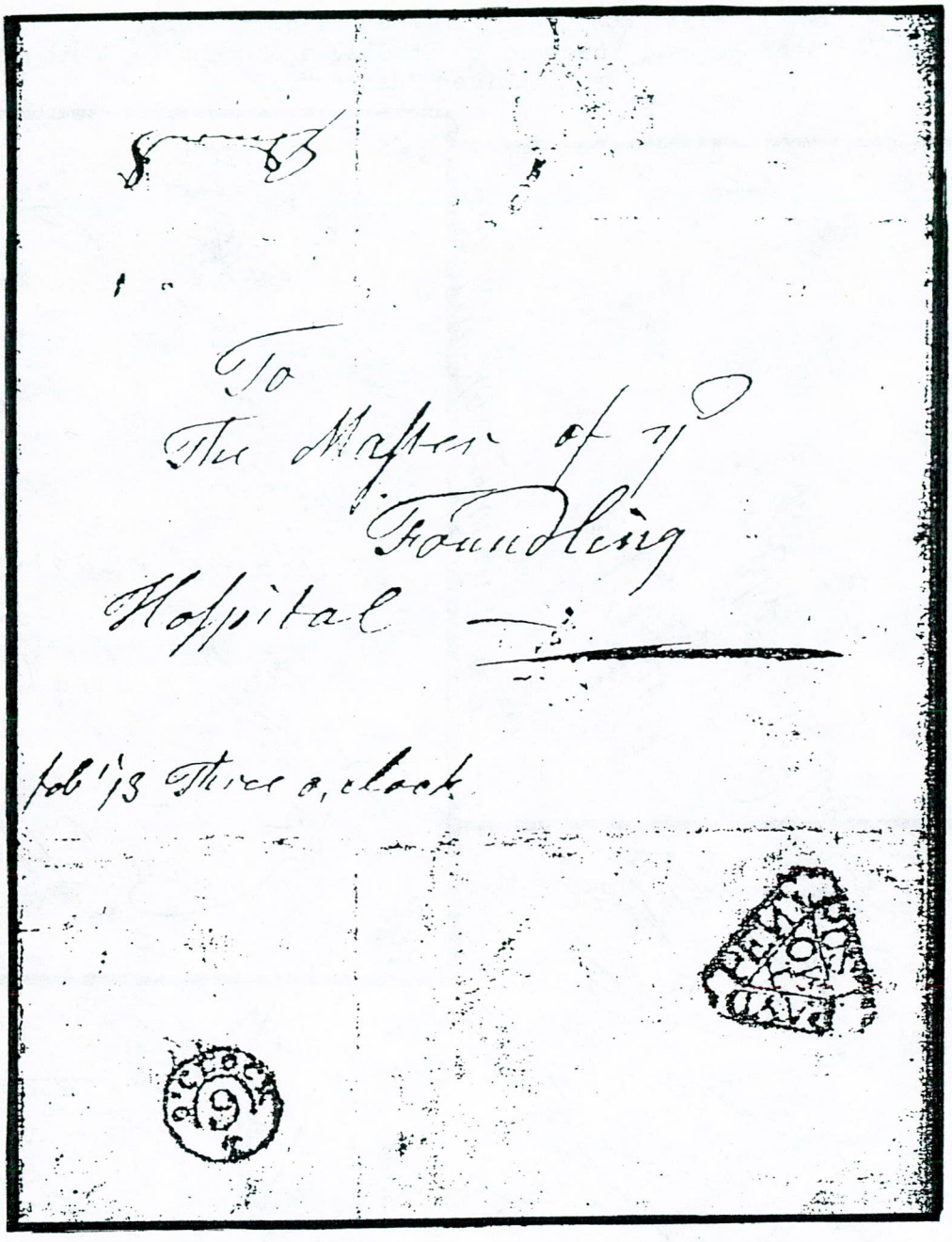
POST PAYD PENY / T / WE [1754 - 1793]
1767 5th. May, to Soho Square: mss " By y^m^ penny post"
Westminster Office delivery stamp for 10 o'clock



PAYD PENY POST / T / SA [1703 - 1791]
c. 1772 to Dean Street Fetter Lane
mss receiver "Hooper" Temple Office delivery stamp for 1 o'clock

Temple Office

PAYD PENY POST / T / MO [1760 - 1793]
"N" of "PENY" reversed



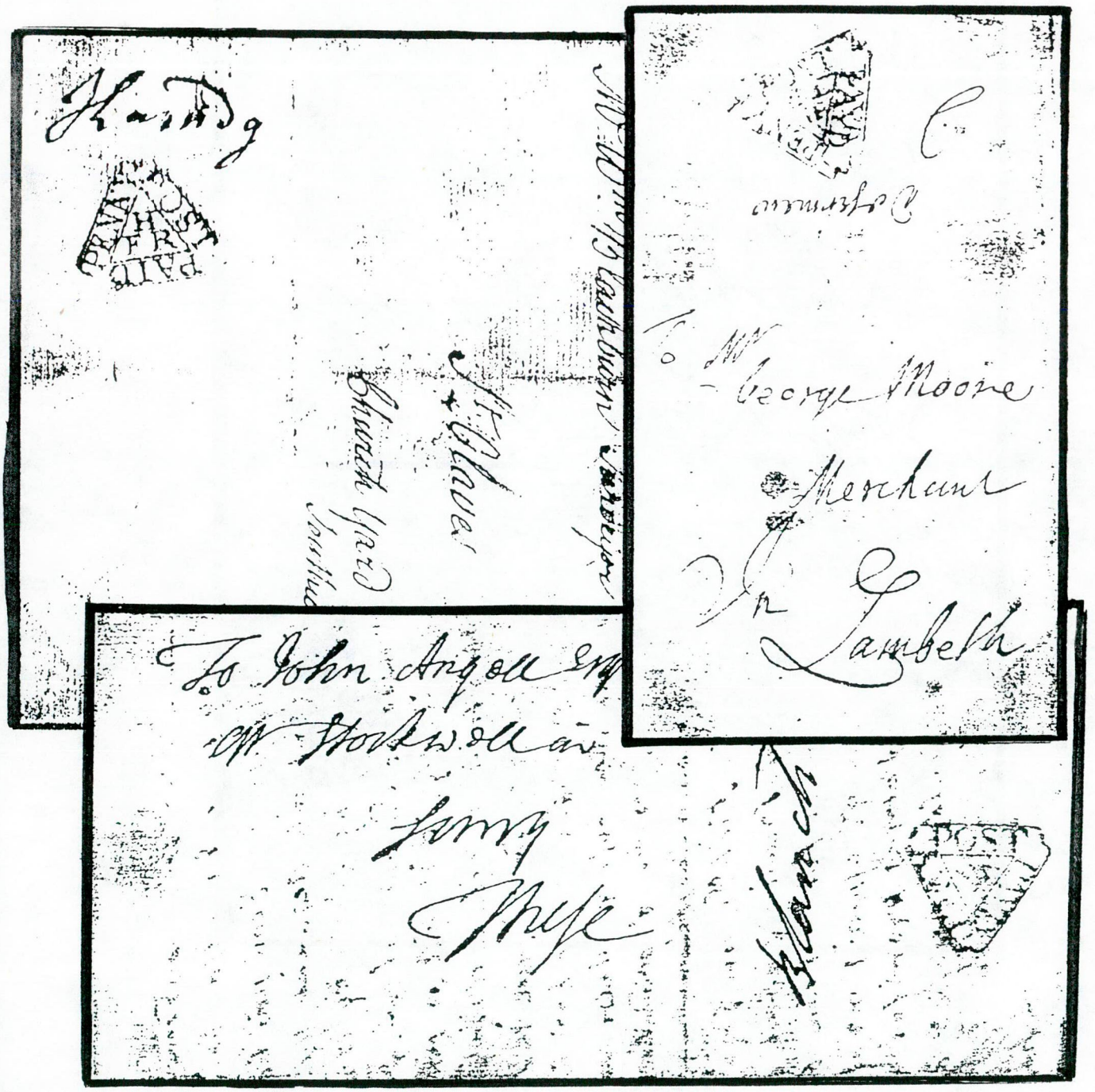
1769 13th. February. Fleet Street to Foundling Hospital
mss "feb' 13 Three o, clock" and receiver "Edmonds"
-92 : 51 -

Hermitage

The office was in Little Tower Hill from 1684 to 1794.
It covered a small area around the Tower, Poplar, Blackwall,
Limehouse, Stepney and the Isle of Dogs.

PAYD PENY POST / H / TH [1712 - 1747]
18th June, 1718 to Lambeth: mss receiver "Deferman"

PENNY POST PAID / H / FR [1753 - 1793]
1785 5th. August, Shadwell to St Olaves Churchyard Southwark
mss Receiver "Haindg"[?]

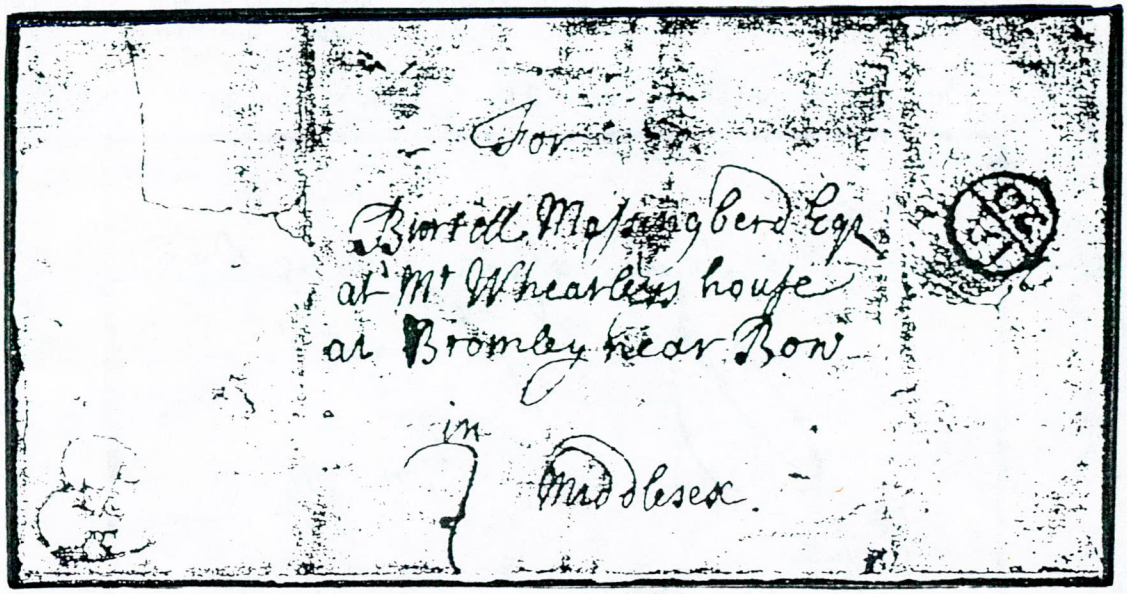


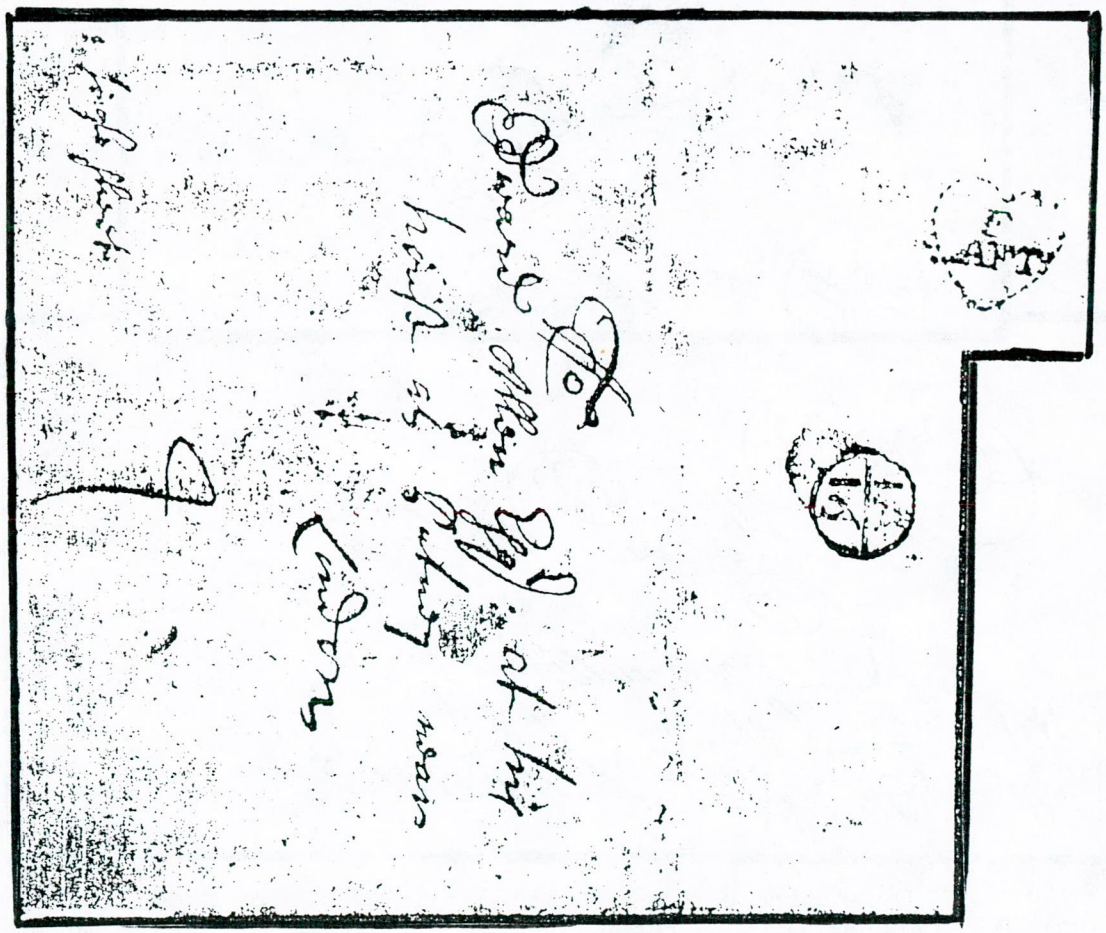
PENY POST PAYD / H / SA [1745 - 1746]
1746 22nd August, to Stockwell in Surrey: mss receiver "Blanch"

Time Handstamps

In the early period, letters transferred from the General Post for delivery by the penny Post, received a heart-shaped handstamp

Solid Heart [1687 - 1702] [M]onday [AFT]ernoon
1701 18th. January: Cambridge to Bromley: charged 2d. to 80 miles



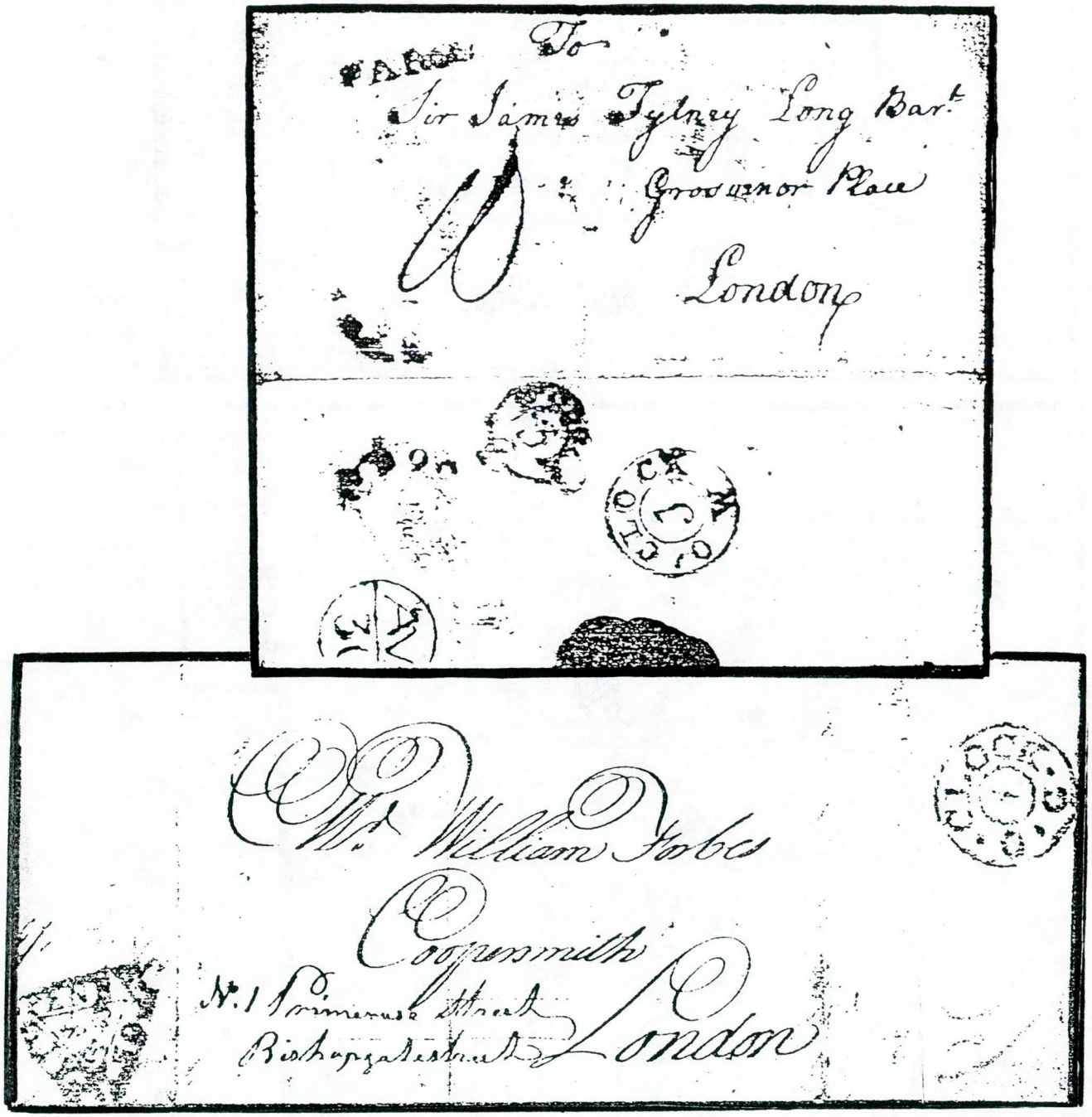


Dotted Heart [1702 - 1710] [F]riday [AFT]ernoon
1707 14th. February, to Putney: charged 2d. to 80 miles

The later stamps are circular with "o'clock" and the Office initial and the time in the centre

Inner circle incomplete [1763 - 1794] two sizes, 16 & 21 mm

1776 25th. August Paris to London with a Foreign Office Bishop for 30th. August. Transferred to the Penny Post, showing Westminster timestamps for both 1 and 3 o'clock.
10d postage payable, the Paris to London charge for 7½g.



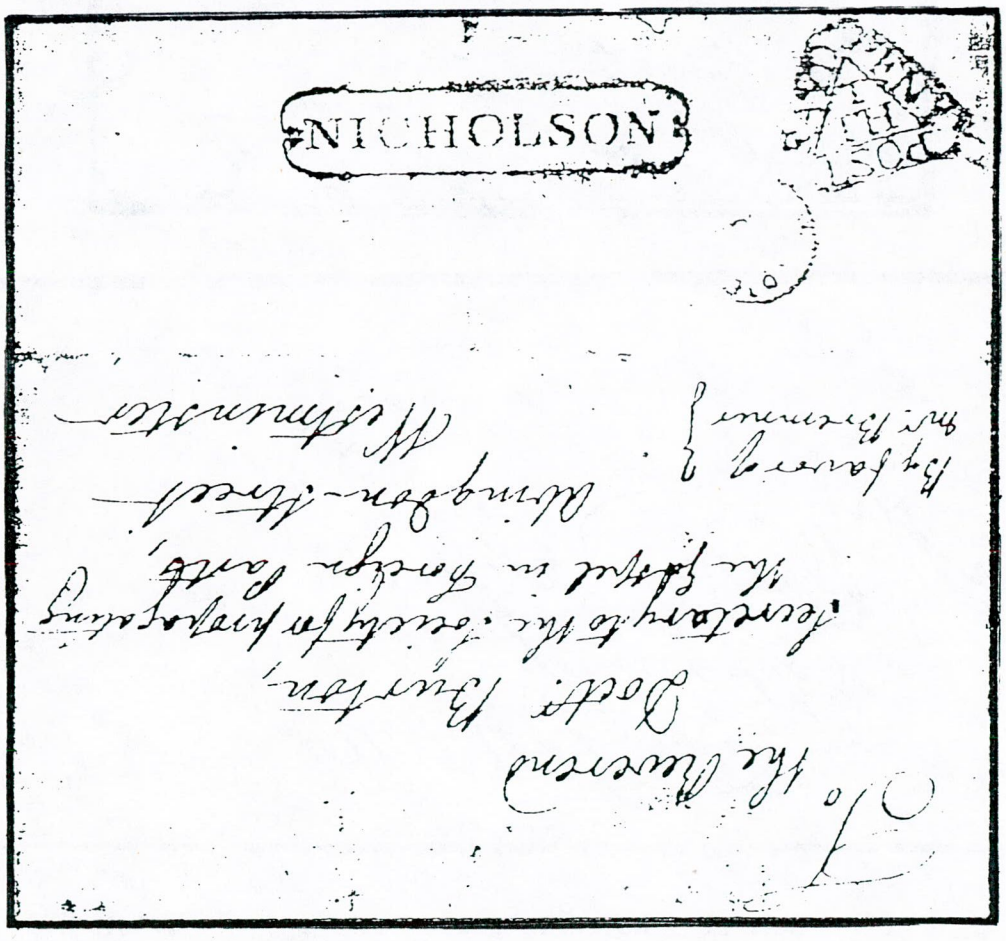
Inner circle complete [1763 - 1793] : diam 25mm
1781 9th. October from Aberdeen, brought privately to London, with the full address in a different hand. Posted in the General Office on Wednesday with a 1 o'clock timestamp.

Penny Post Receivers

There were probably several hundred Penny Post Receivers. Many endorsed letters handed in at their office with their name, a few used namestamps.

The "2" in circle is thought by some to indicate a receiver who dealt with both General and Penny Post mail. It is known on Penny Post letters, some from the Provinces and one example to London from Gothenburg.
1786 25th. October : Birkin Lane Covent Garden to Hackney.





NICHOLSON [framed] 1769 - 1776
1769 31st. August from New Jersey, privately brought to London where it received the Temple Office paid stamp and the Westminster timestamp.

Handstamps on Unpaid Letters

These were applied to unpaid letters transferred from the General Post to the Penny Post.

S / PENNY POST NOT PAID : diam 24mm [1784 - 1787]
This example extends the recorded use to 31st. May, 1793

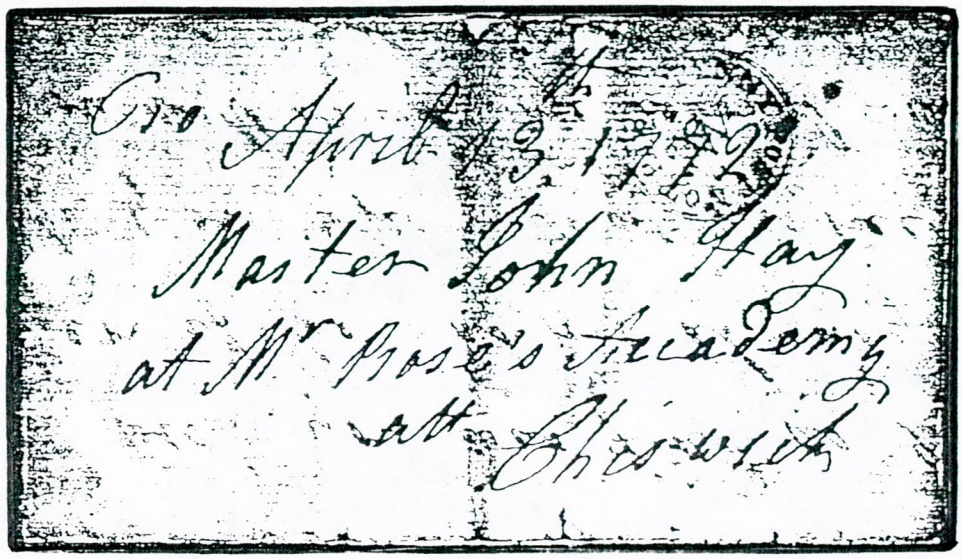
1793 25th. May from Italy, privately brought to London, with Bishop for 31st. May and Southwark transfer stamp.





G / PENNY POST NOT PAID ; diam 19mm [1776 - 1790]
1778 12th. February from Aberdeen, privately brought to London with Bishops for 20 and 21st. February, indicating too late for transfer to the Penny Post on the evening of the 20th. General Office transfer stamp with 10 o'clock timestamp for the 21st.

W / PENNY POST NOT PAID diam 22mm [1778 - 1794]
This example extends recorded use to 15th. April 1772
Endorsed by writer "April 13th 1772", Bishop for the 15th and Westminster
delivery timestamp for 2 o'clock



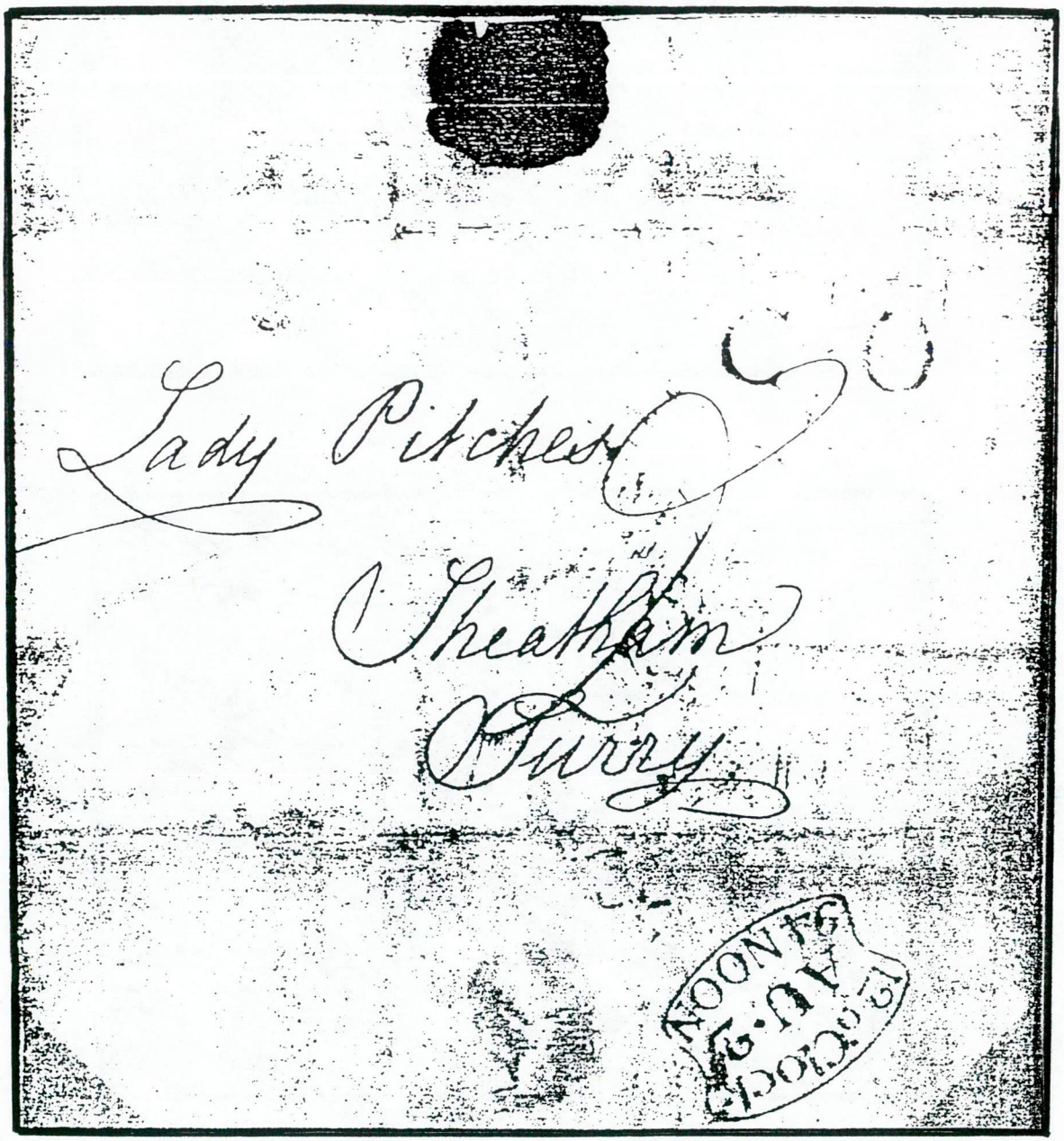


T / PENNY POST NOT PAID diam 21mm [1779 - 1793]
1790 29th. June to Totteridge near Whetstone Herts
Bishop for 29th June and Temple Office delivery timestamp for 5 o'clock

The Reorganised Penny Post
Experimental Date Stamps

Based on the proposals made by Edward Johnson, a reorganised Penny Post started in 1794. Two Principal Offices, Chief and Westminster, replaced the previous five offices. There were six deliveries a day in the Town area, three in the Country. The second penny due for the delivery of letters to the Country area went to the Revenue. Penny Post letters from Country to Town were charged twopence. The option of paying the postage or not, if they wished, was given to the public.

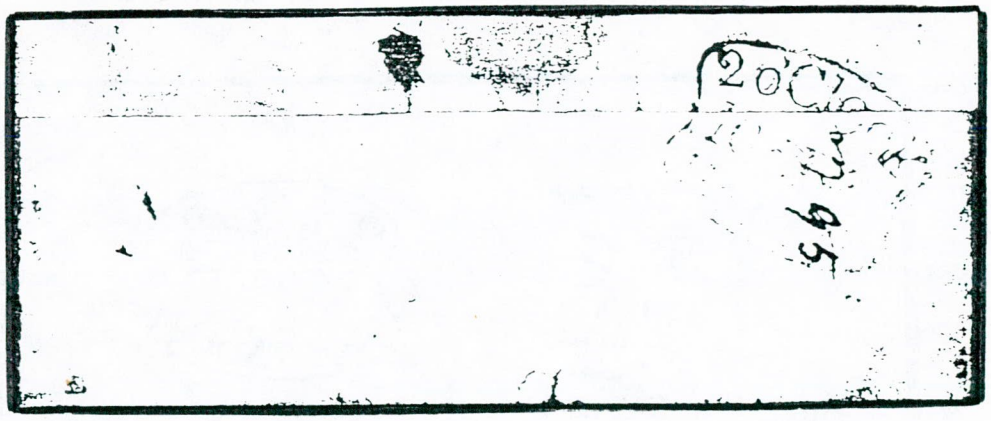
Chief Office [month before day] August to November 1794.



1794 2nd. August, to Streatham in the Country area: mss 2d.
C O = Chief Office

Date Stamps

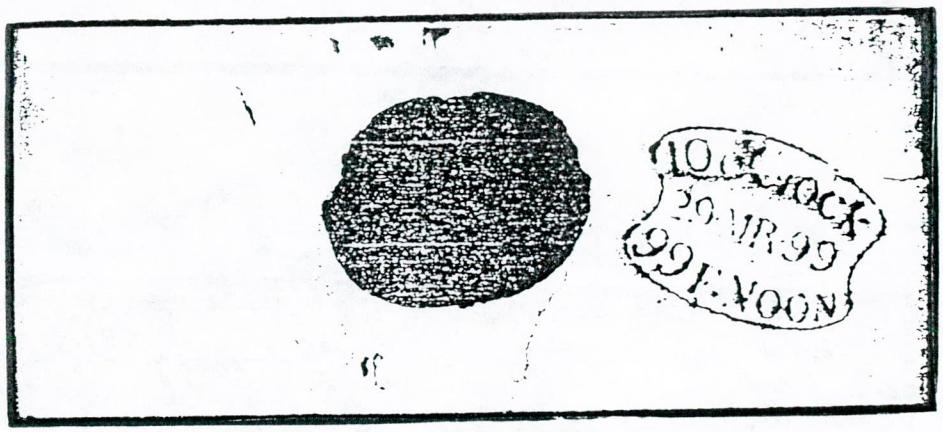
Westminster Office - in black [8th. January - 12 February 1795]



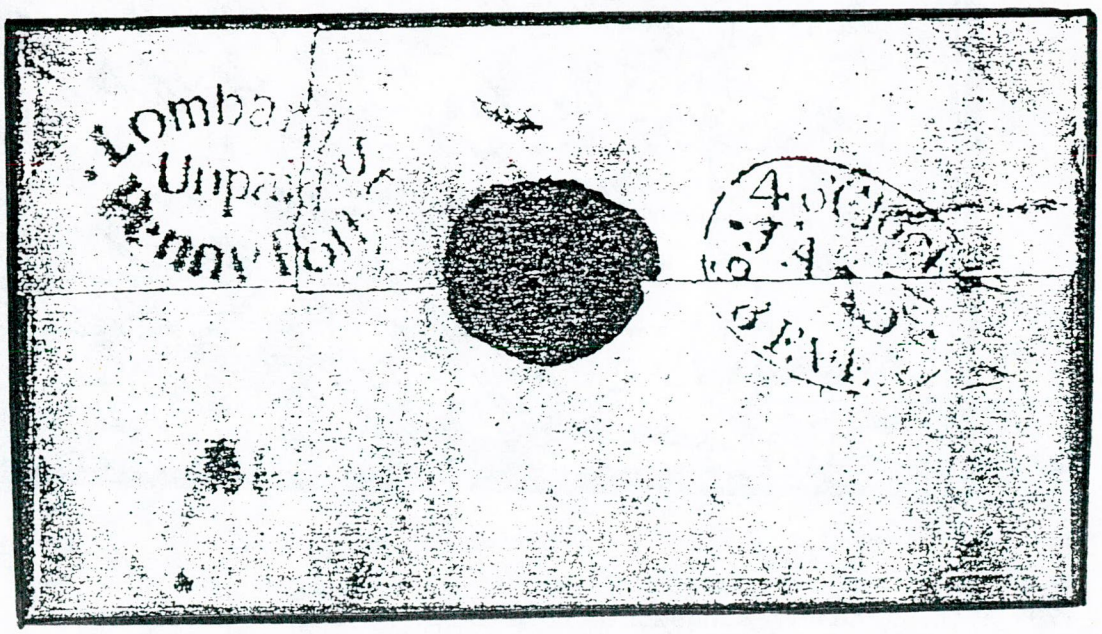
1795 10th. January, Norfolk St. to St. James's : mss 1d

Westminster Office - Year Repeated [1795 - 1799]

1799 29. March, Pall Mall/Unpaid/Penny Post to Portman Square : mss 1d



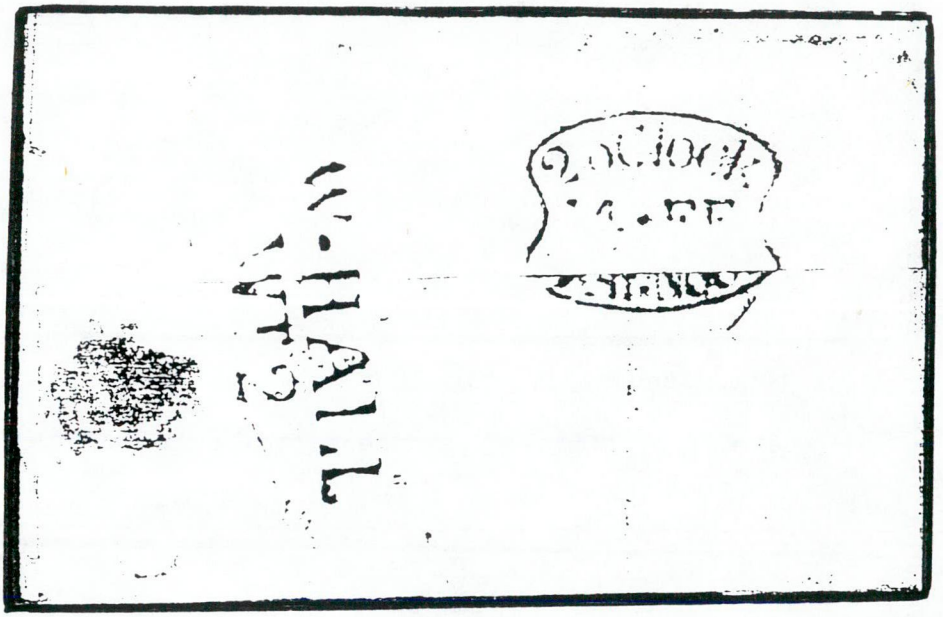
Chief Office [1796 - 1799]



1798 3rd. January, Lombard Street to Strand : mss 1d

Receiving House Stamps

W - HALL/WT 2 [1794 - 1797]
1797 4th. February, White Hall to Strand : mss 1d



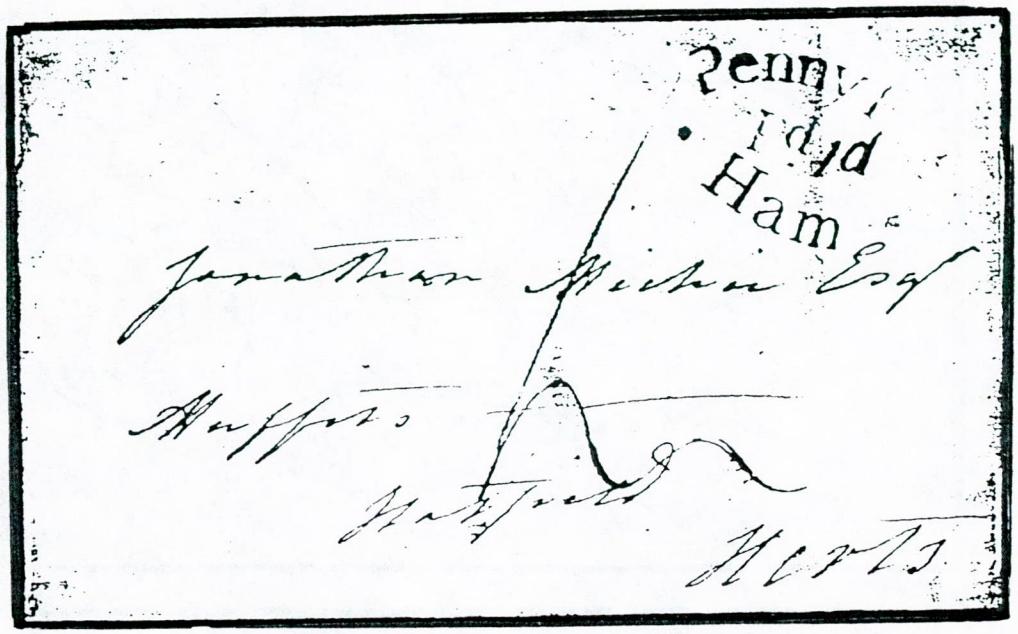


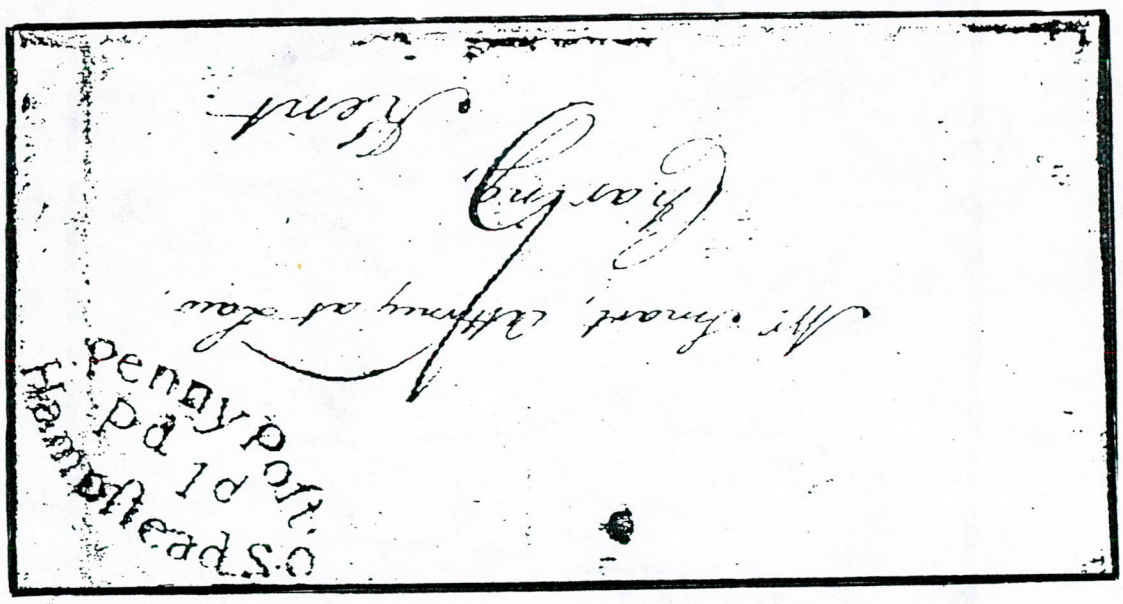
WANDSH. / -1- [1795 - 1796]
1795 30th. January, Wandsworth to a ship "Laying at Hamoaze, Plymouth
Prepaid 1d local charge plus 6d [over 50 miles] to Plymouth
-92 : 60-

Receiving House Stamps

Penny Post/pd. 1d [manuscript]/Ham [1794 - 1799]
[recorded at Clapham Common, Ealing Town, Eltham, Ham and Shooters Hill]

1797 30th. March, Ham to Hatfield Herts. Local charge 1d.
plus 4d to 80 miles

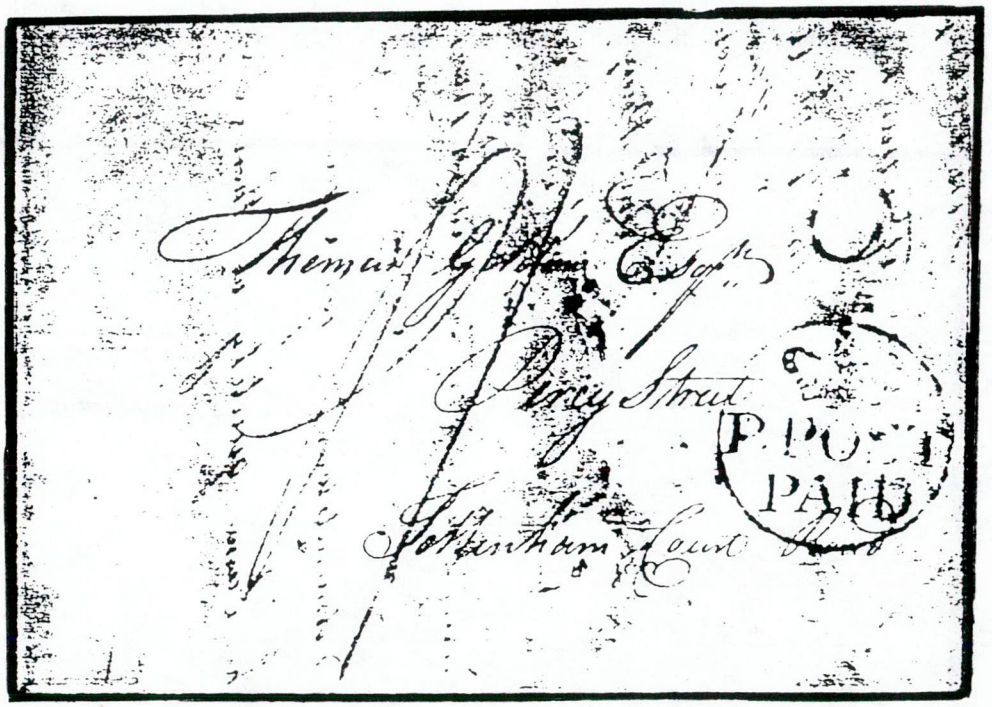


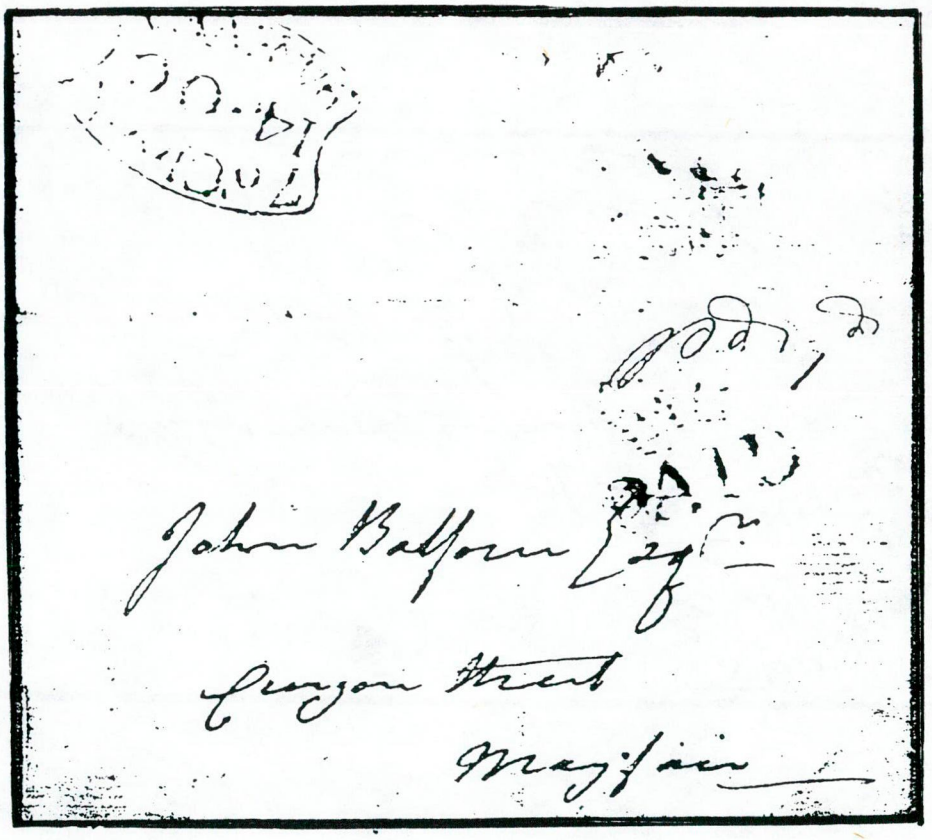


Penny Post/Pd. 1d./Hampstead S.O.
[not previously recorded]
1798 22nd December, to Charing, Kent
local charge 1d plus 5d [30 to 60miles]

Experimental Paid Stamps

Crowned P. Post Paid in circle diam 31mm [June - October 1794]
1794 16th. June from Spanish Town Jamaica, privately brought to London

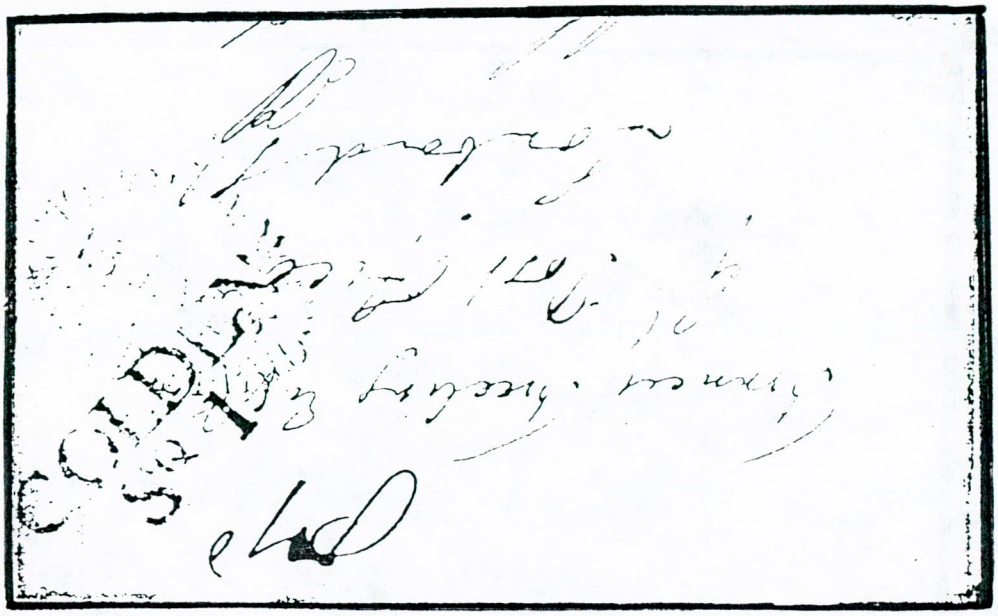


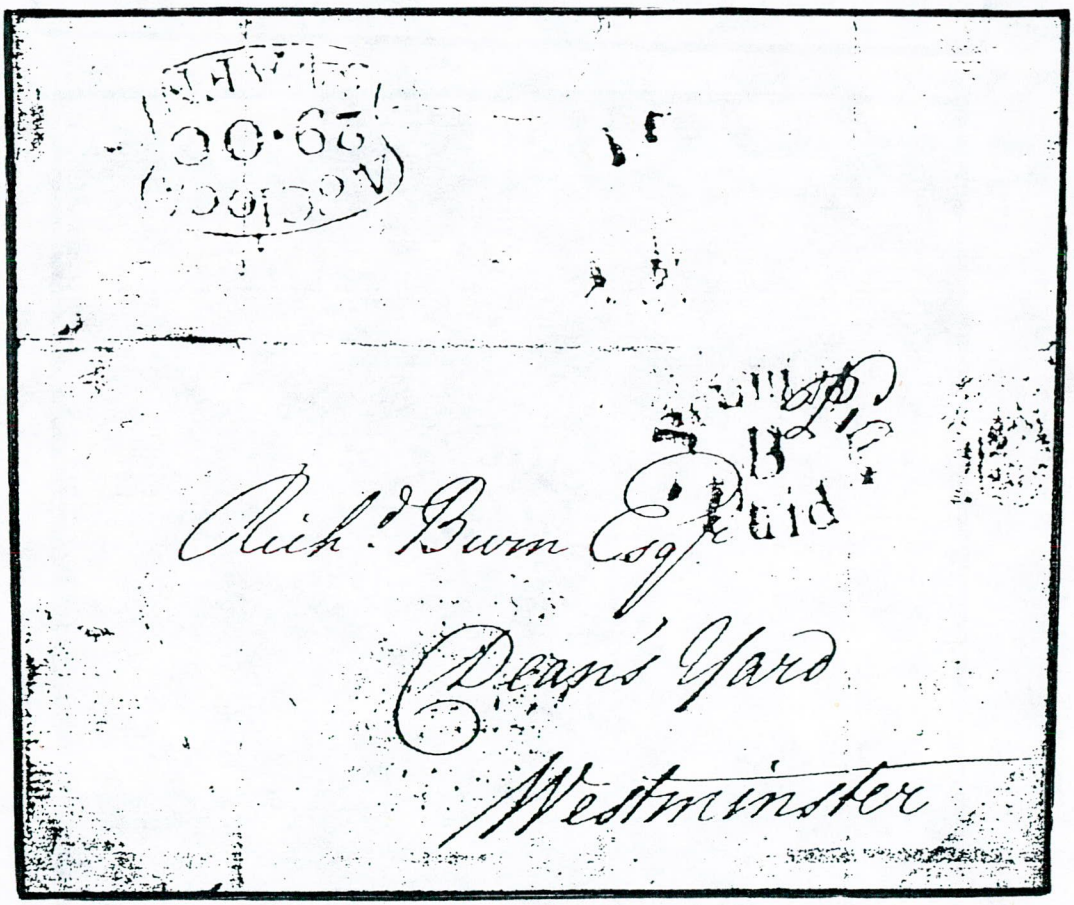


Crowned paid - Westminster Office 24 x 23mm [May - October 1794]
1794 14th October. Islington Street to Mayfair: mss 1d for Town delivery
Westminster Office date stamp [day before month] 7 o'clock delivery

Experimental Paid Stamps

Penny Post Paid [mauve] 40 x 29mm [December 1794 to January 1795]
1795 15th. January. Receiving House GOLDEN/Sq 1
Addressed to Francis Freeling Gl Post Office Lombard St





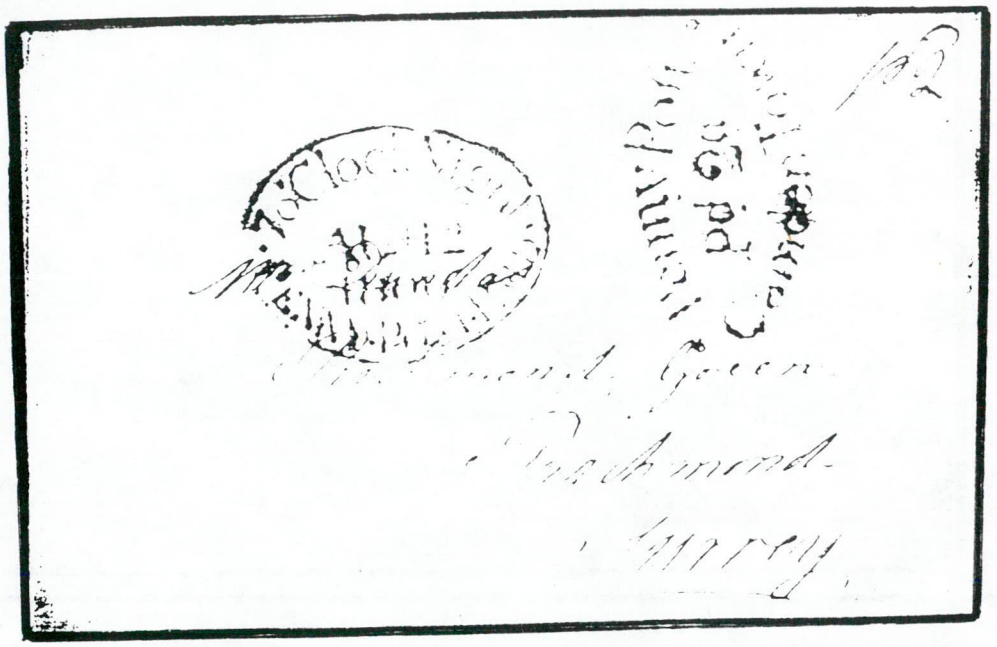
Penny Post/B/Paid 31 x 22mm [October to December 1794]
The Letters B G M and N are recorded. Some attribute "B" to Borough.

1794 29th. October, to Dean's Yard, Westminster. 4 o'clock delivery

Paid Stamps

Penny Post/pd. 2d./Camden Town [1795 - 1800]

1800 12th. August, Camden Town to Richmond
Chief Office time stamp with year in four figures [1800-1]



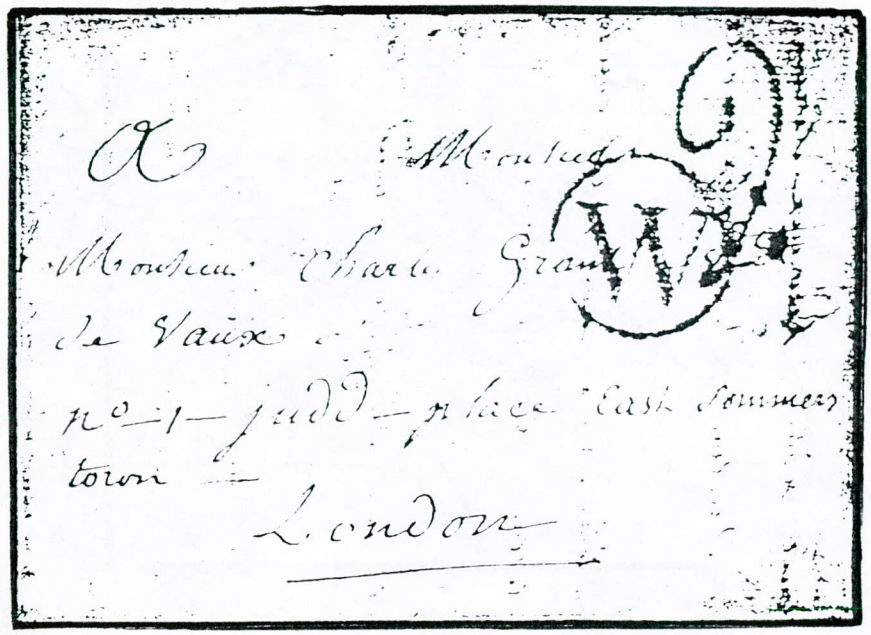


Chief Office 41 x 30mm [1794 - 1796]
1795 10th. July, to Temple : C O = Chief Office
-92 : 64 -

Window Letters

The "W" handstamp in a circle was used on letters treated as "Window" letters. These were letters handed into a General Post Receiving House for delivery in London. These letters should have been handed into a Penny Post receiving House. Those letters handled entirely by the General Post carry the stamp in black. Letters transferred to the Local Post are struck in red and slighty different size and design.

"W" in black 12mm high diam 25-26mm [GP] [1791 - 1804]
1796 27th. July. Hamburg, privately brought to London with GP datestamp for 10th. September 1796



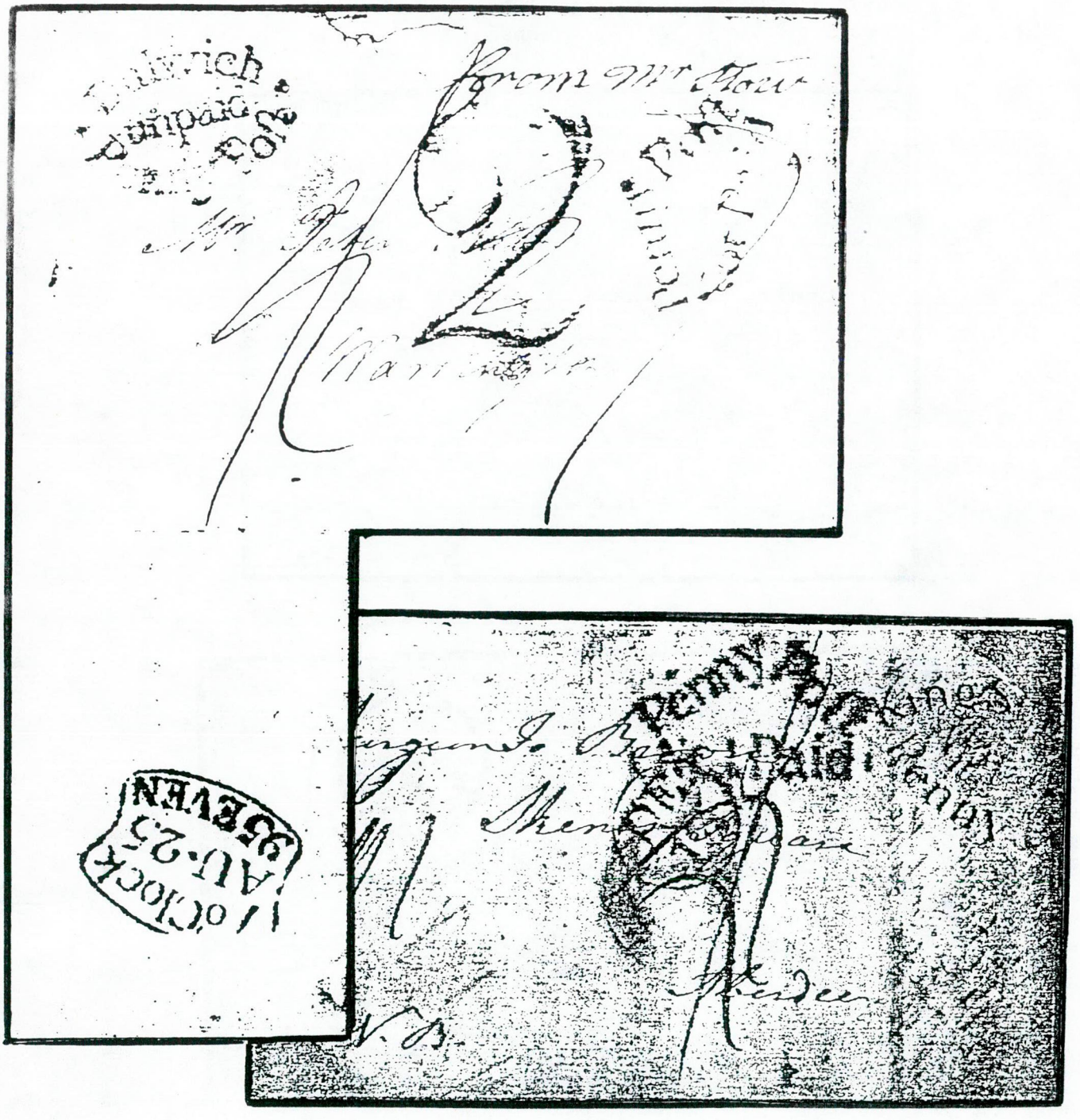


"W" in red 13mm high [TP] [1794 - 1804]
1803 25th. August, redirected through Kent Road Receiving House

Transfer Stamps

From 1796 the penny did not have to be prepaid on letters transferred to the General Post. If the penny was not prepaid, the "Penny Post / Not Paid" stamp was applied.

PENNY / POST / NOT PAID [1796 - 1801]
1795 25th. August [extends recorded period of use] Dulwich to Warrington
Large "2" and hitherto unrecorded "Dulwich / unpaid / Penny Post"
Charge 5d up to 150 miles plus 2d local.



1799 10th. December. King Street Westminster to Aberdeen.
Transfer to General Post, arrival Edinburgh stamp DE/13
Charge 1/- to Scotland plus 2d. local

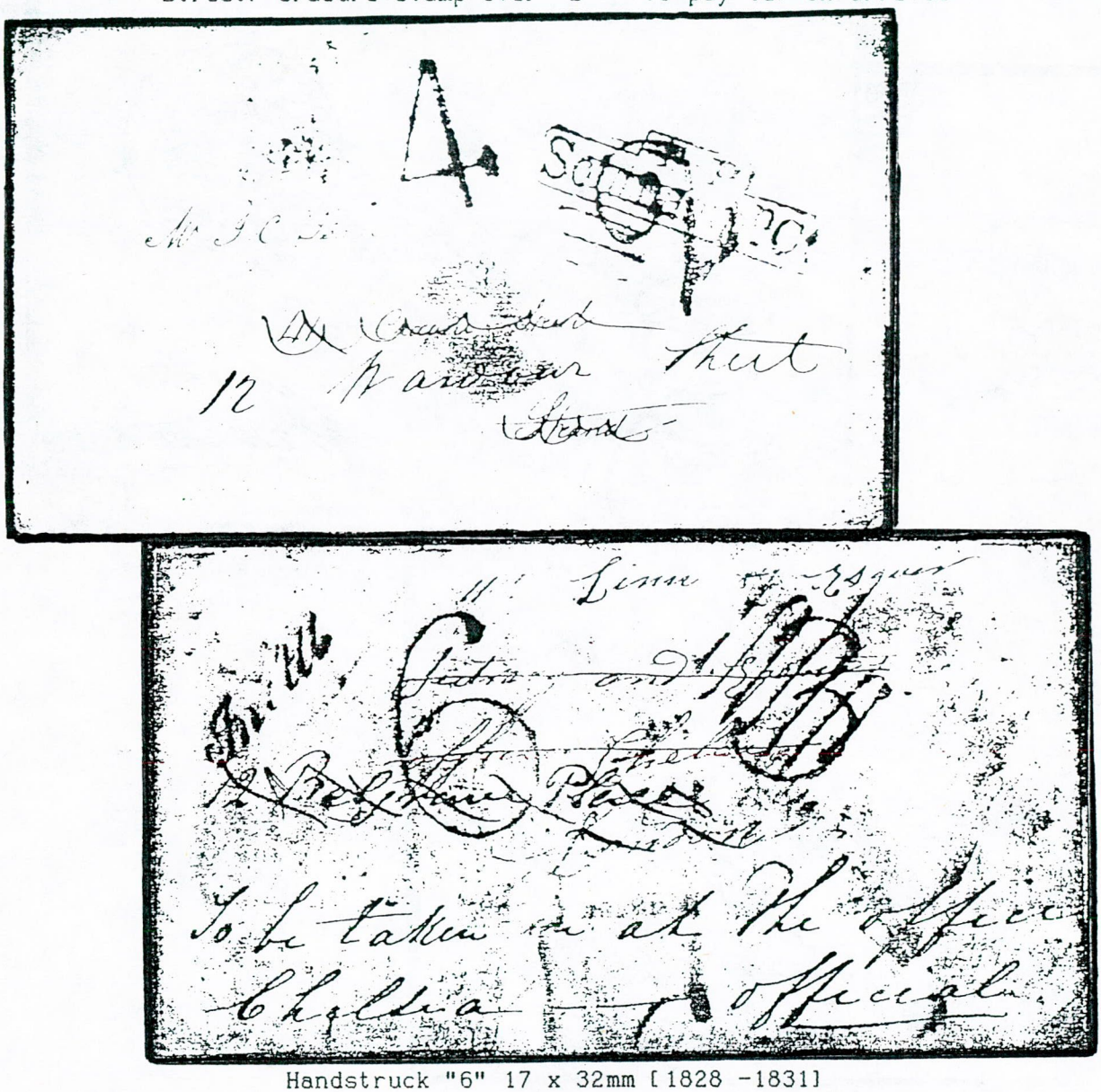
Charge Stamps

Between 1794 and the establishment of Uniform Penny Postage in January, 1840, the Local Post usually used handstruck numerals on unpaid letters charged between 2d. and 6d. In the early part of the Twopenny Post period [1801 - 1805], letters within the Town area, within the Country area and between Town and Country areas, were all charged 2d. From 1805 the rate for letters between Town and Country area, and for those within the Country area, was increased to 3d.

The handstruck "4", "5" and "6" were used on redirected letters which were charged both for the original and redirection journey.

Handstruck "4" 14 x 23mm [1835 - 1840]

1835 19th. November. TP Southampton Court to Strand, redirected to Wardour Street: erasure stamp over "2" - to pay 4d. on arrival



Handstruck "6" 17 x 32mm [1828 -1831]

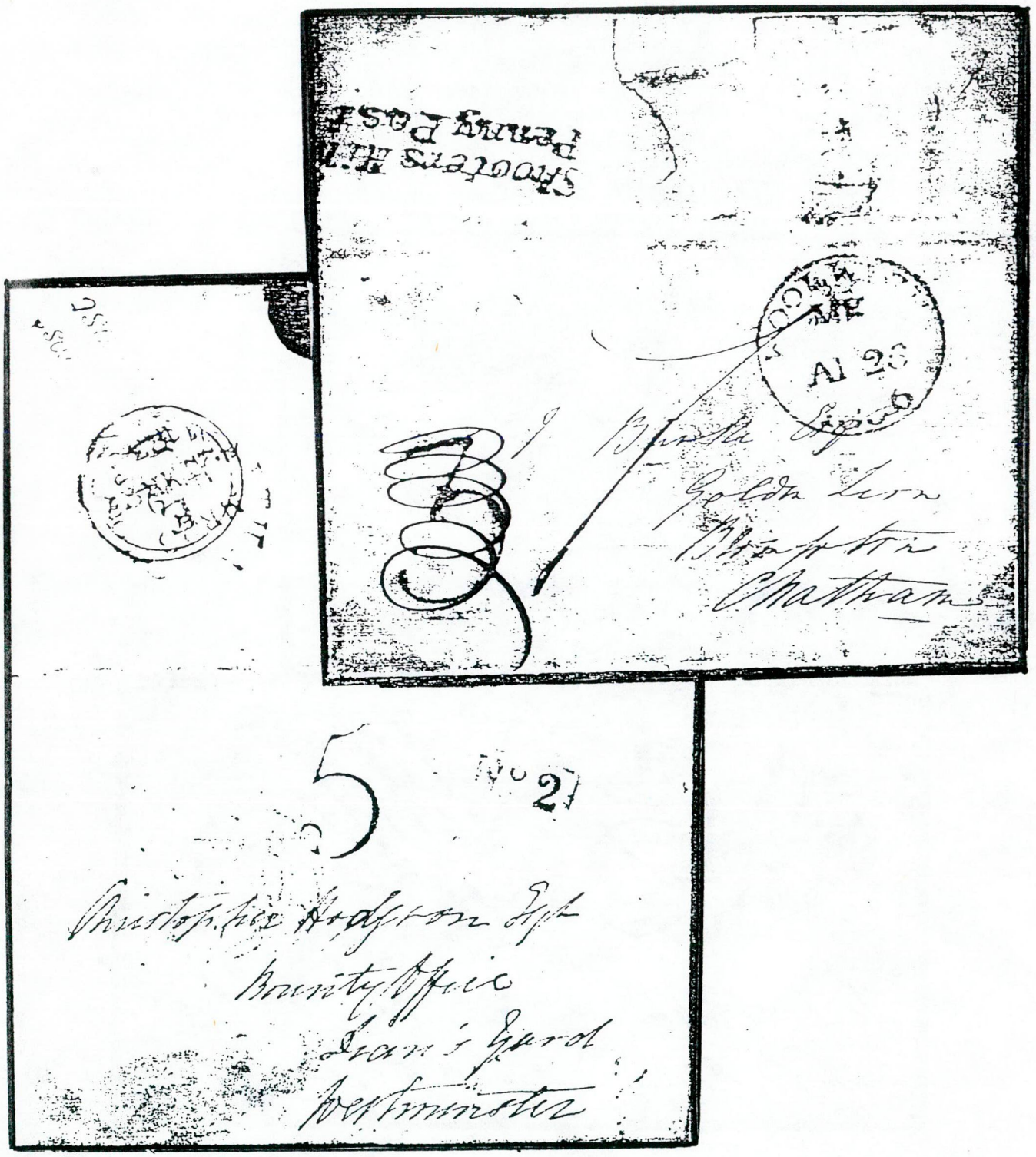
"In All" 35 x 11mm [1810 - 1832]

1831 14th. October, Lime House to Cheltenham, redirected to Belgrave Place. Erasure stamp over 3d. "In All" and "6" to pay on arrival

Endorsement "To be taken in at the Office Cheltenham -official"

Charge Stamps

"Flat topped 3" 19 x 26mm [1812 - 1839]
1836 26th. April, Woolwich to Brompton Chatham
Bye letter flat top 3 deleted:
General Post charge 6d plus local 1d for Shooters Hill Cross Post

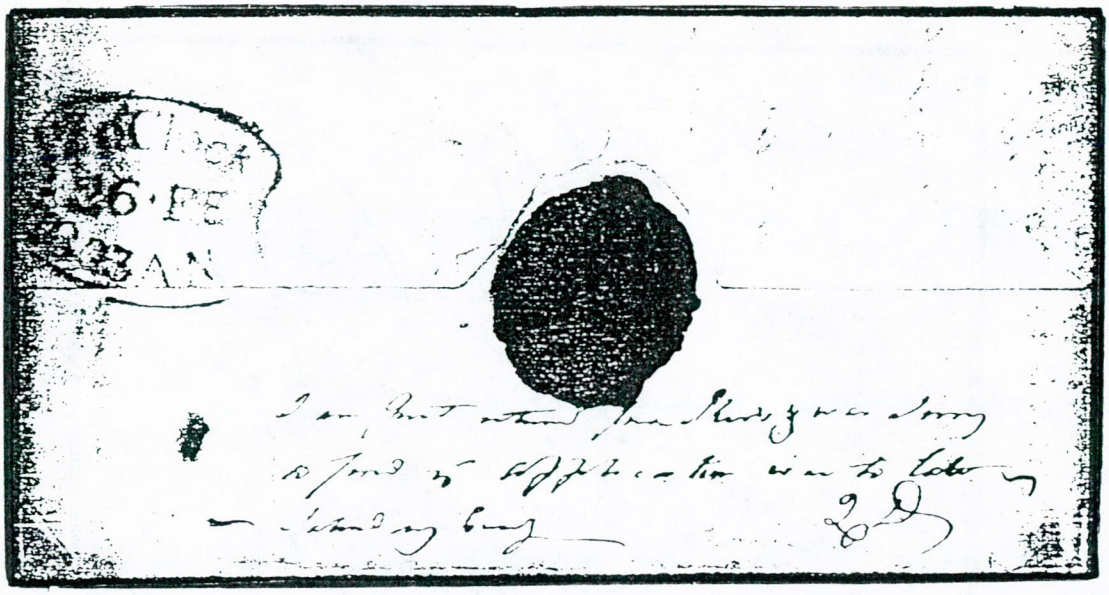


Waltham Cross Handstruck "5" 13 x 23mm [1836 - 1839]
1839 26th. March, Waltham Cross / Penny Post and No 2 Office stamp
to Dean's Yard, Westminster: General Post 4d plus local 1d

Date Stamps

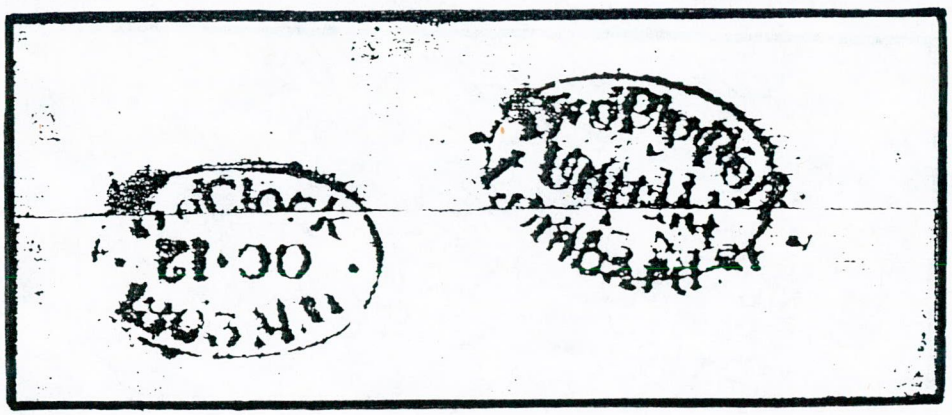
Westminster Office [day before month]

1803 26th. February, Great Marylebone Street to Cheapside



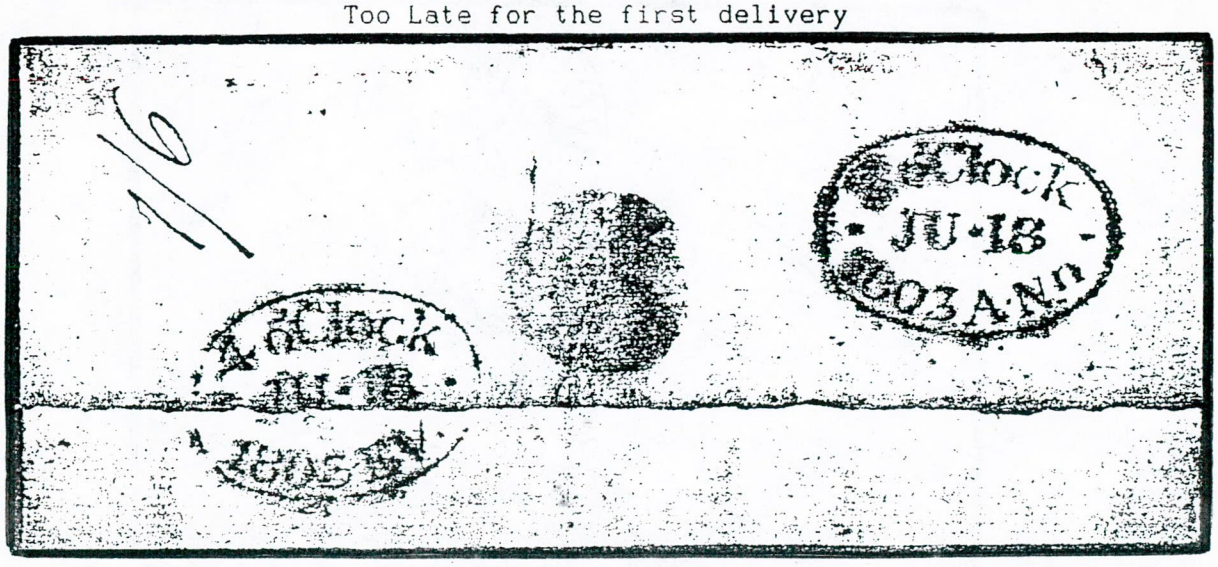
Chief Office [month before day]

1803 11th. October, Lombard Street to Sergeants Inn: inverted date



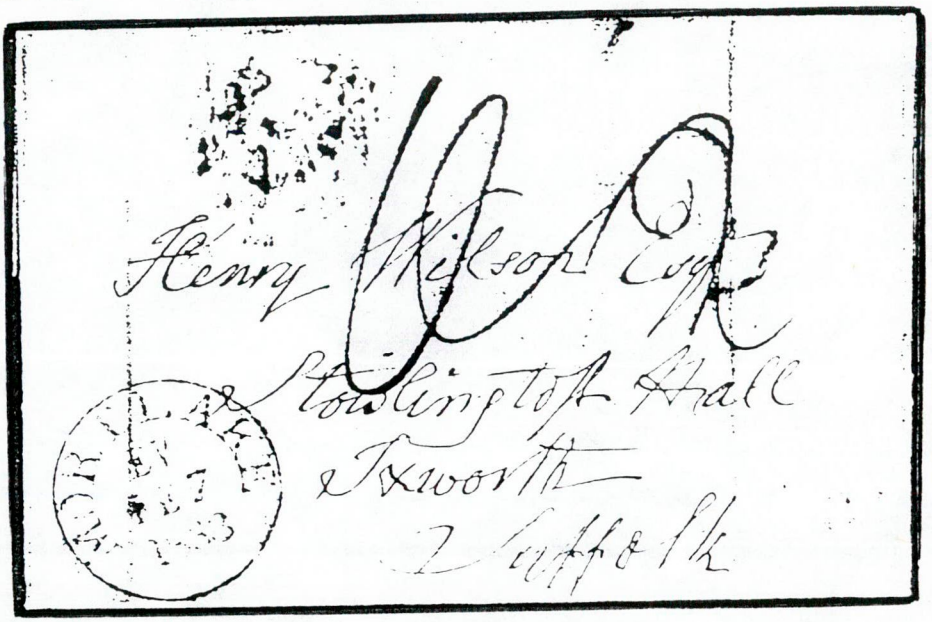
1803 18th. June, Lombard Street to Peckham: two datestamps

Too Late for the first delivery

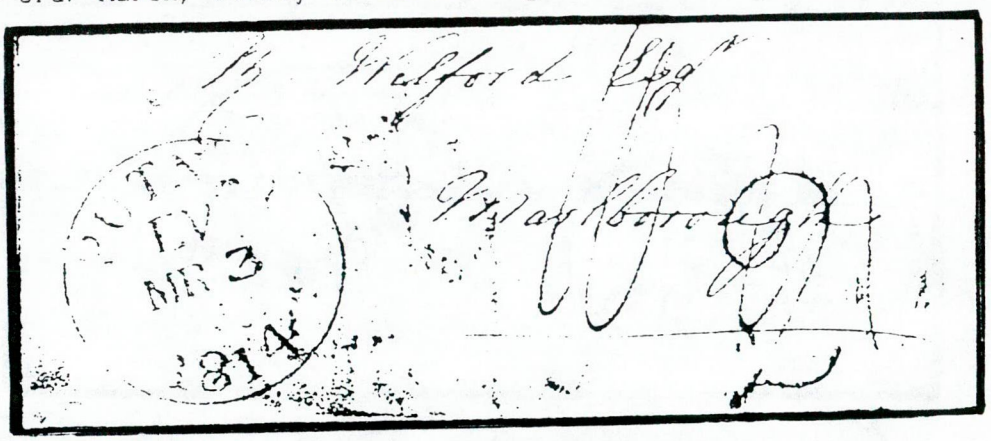


Country Office Date Stamps

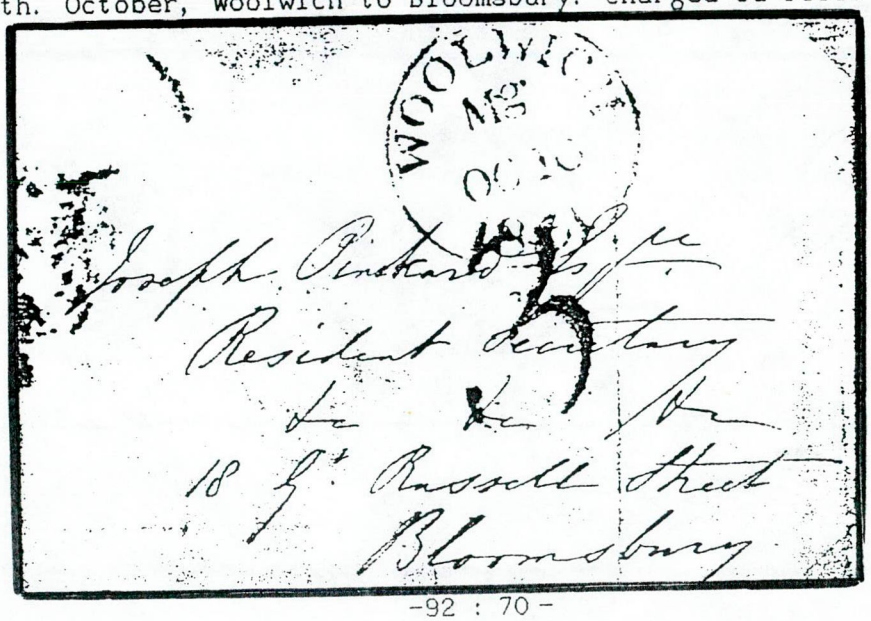
1838 7th. February, Mortlake to Ixworth, Suffolk [1837 - 1847]



1814 3rd. March, Putney to Marlborough: 8d to 80 miles plus 2d. local



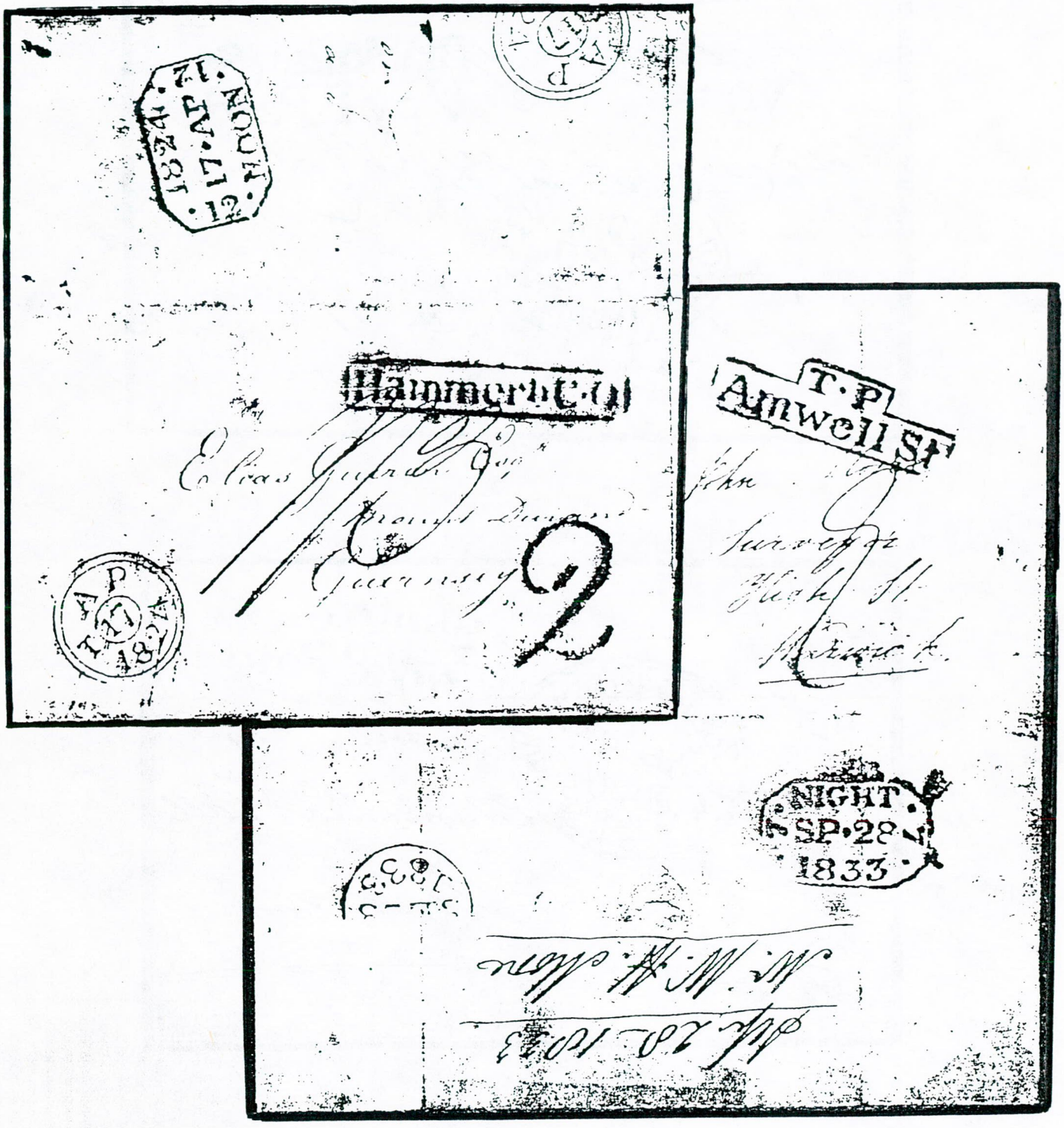
1831 10th. October, Woolwich to Bloomsbury: charged 3d [1810 - 1837]



Transfer Date Stamps

The date stamps on letters transferred to the General Post

1824 - 1825 Westminster Office [day before month]
1824 17th. April, Hammersmith CO country Receiving Office, to Guernsey
2d local plus 10d General Post [to Weymouth] plus 3d sea post charged
Showing the GP date stamp on the obverse, uncommon.



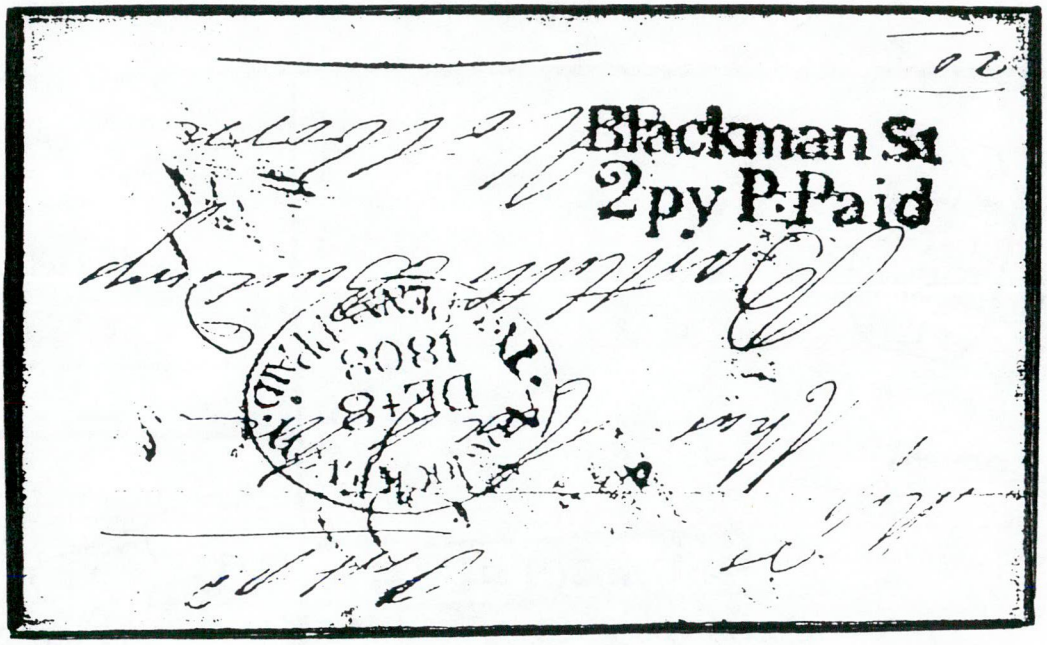
1831 - 1834 Chief Office [month before day]
1833 28th. September. Posted TP Amwell St [Town area] to Harwich [71 miles]
GP charge should be 8d, no 2d Post Town to GP from 1831 [?]

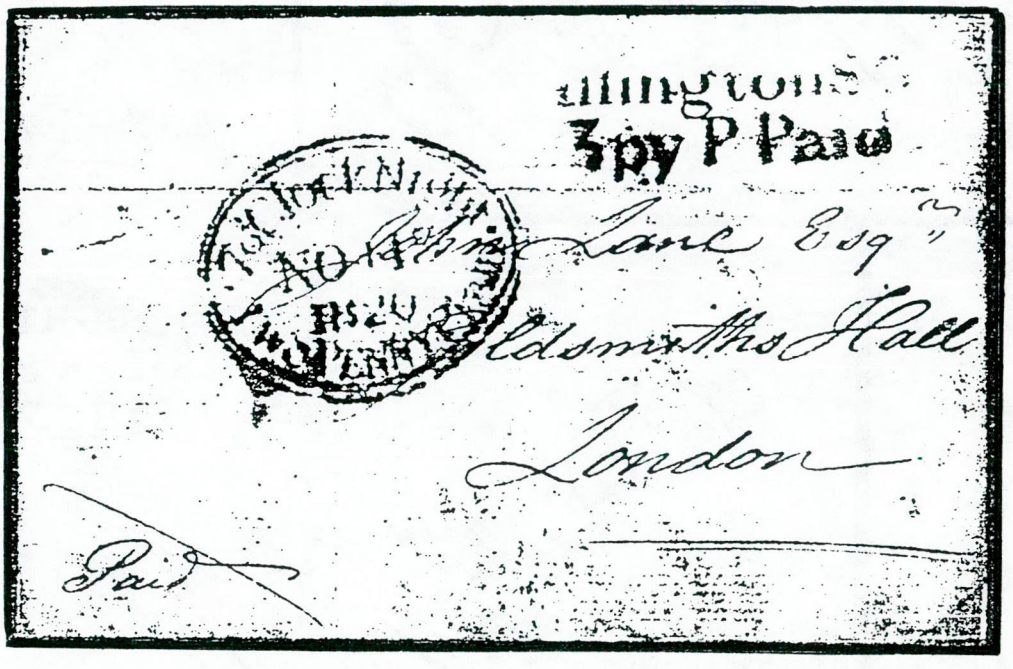
Paid Date Stamps

Chief Office [month before day]

Single frame 40 x 32mm [1801 - 1818]

1808 8th. December : Blackman St to Holborn, 4 o'clock Even[ing]





Double frame 42 x 32mm [1819 - 1822]

1820 13th. November, Islington to Goldsmoths Hall, 7 o'clock Night

Paid Date Stamps

Westminster Office [day before month]

Unframed 37 x 30mm [1801 - 1818]

1807 25th. December. Paid stamp deleted and "2" to pay substituted endorsed "twopenny post": Paid stamp for 10 o'clock F Noon

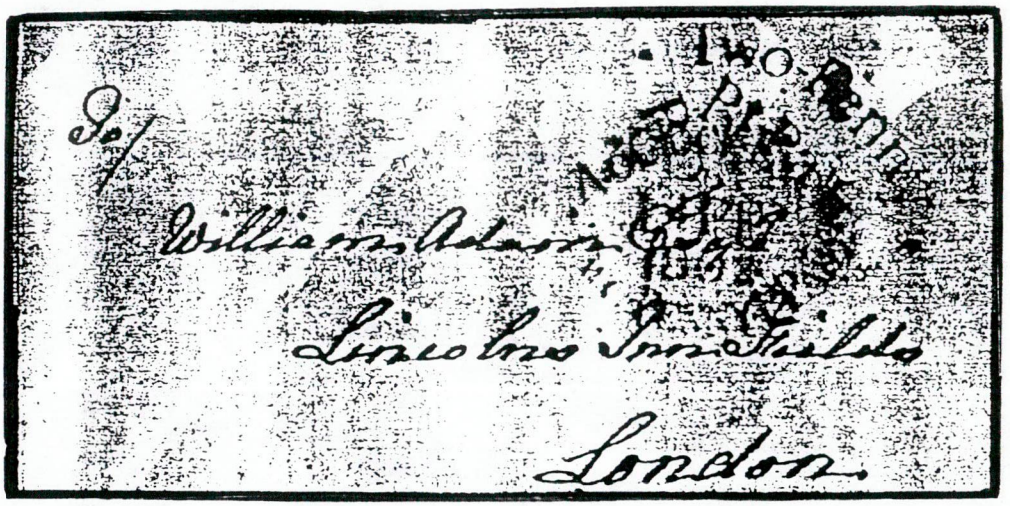




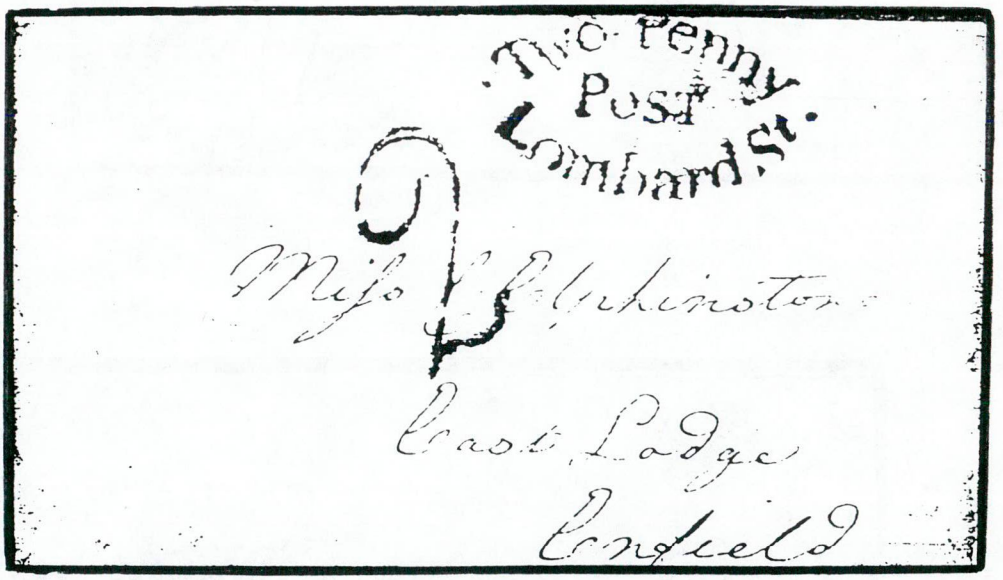
single frame 39 x 31mm [1816 - 1822]

1820 5th. June. Cockspur Street to St. Martins Lane. 7 o'clock Night

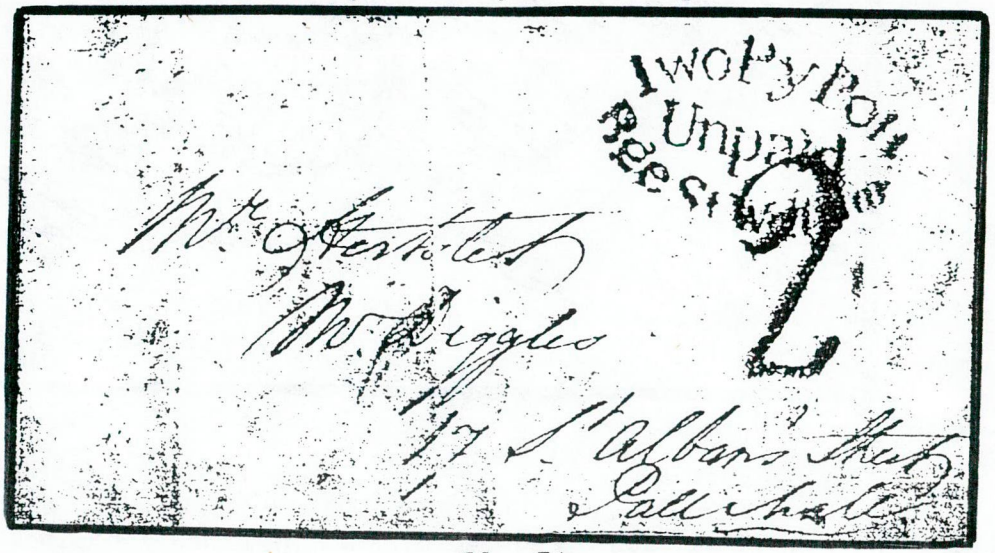
1802 14th. February : Two Penny/Pt. Paid/Bond St [1802 - 1803]



1802 22nd: Two Penny/Post/Lombard St [1801 -1802]



1817 28th. November: Two Py Post/Unpaid/B[rid]ge St Westmr [1814 -15]

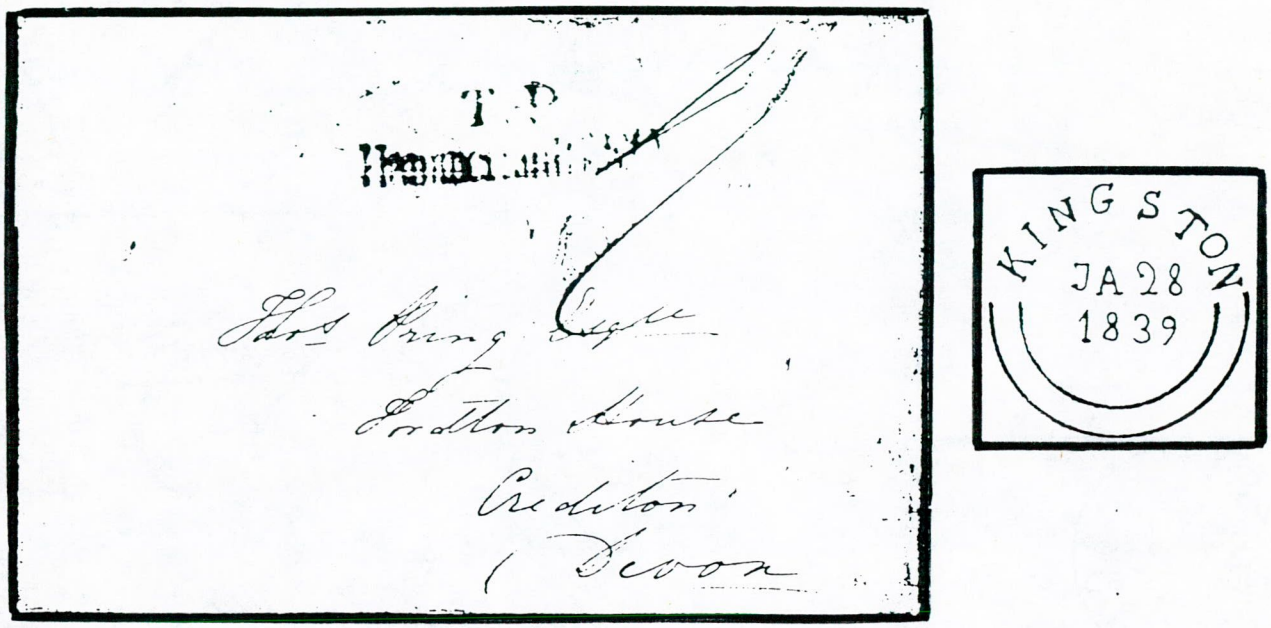


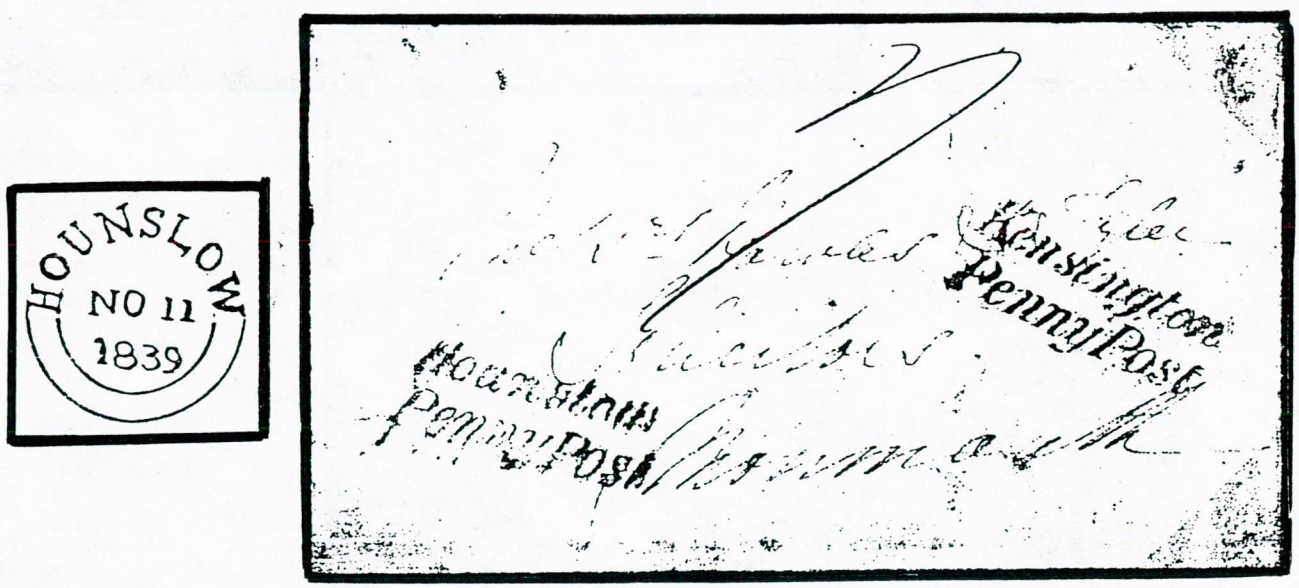
London Cross and Bye Posts

Cross Posts

Letters handled by the London Cross and Bye Posts must be to or from an address in the London Country area, must not have passed through the General Post Office in London and must be to or from a Provincial address. The Cross Post arrangements were made for the Hounslow - Bristol Road [1834]; Shooters Hill - Dover Road [1835]; Barnet - Holyhead Road [1835]; Waltham Cross - Great North Road [1836]; Croydon - Brighton Road [1836] and Kingston - Portsmouth Road [1839]

1839 28th. January, through Hammersmith EO, Kingston, Crediton
11d General Post to Crediton plus 1d local: total 1/-



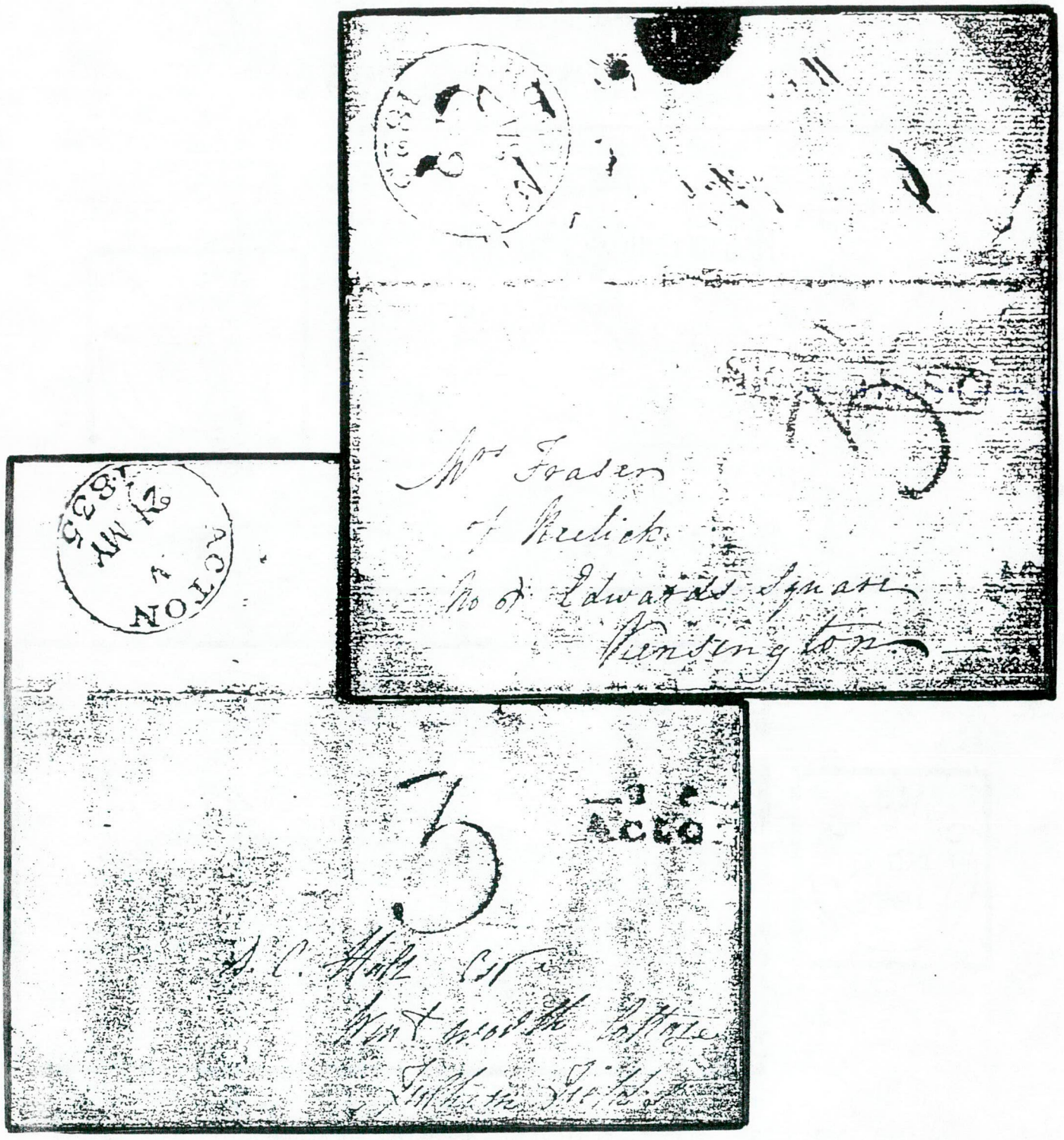


1839 11th. November : Kensington, Hounslow to Monmouth
10d General Post plus 1d local : total should be 11d
Interestingly showing Penny Post stamps for both Kensington and Hounslow

Bye Posts

The London Bye Post system started on the 5th. July, 1809. Letters from one place to another on the same Ride in the Country area did not go through the Chief Office, thus saving time. The flat topped "3" appears on these letters.

1823 9th. September : Sloane St Country Receiving House, Brompton/Mg
Country Sorting office date stamp: to Kensington



1835 21st. May : Acton TP Receiving House, Acton Country Sorting Office
date stamp: to Fulham Fields

Twopenny Post Instructional Marks
Missort Handstamps

The "MS" mark may have indictaed "missorted"

1823 24th. September MS 14 x 10 [1821-3]

1833 7th, March: MS 17 x 9mm [1832-3]



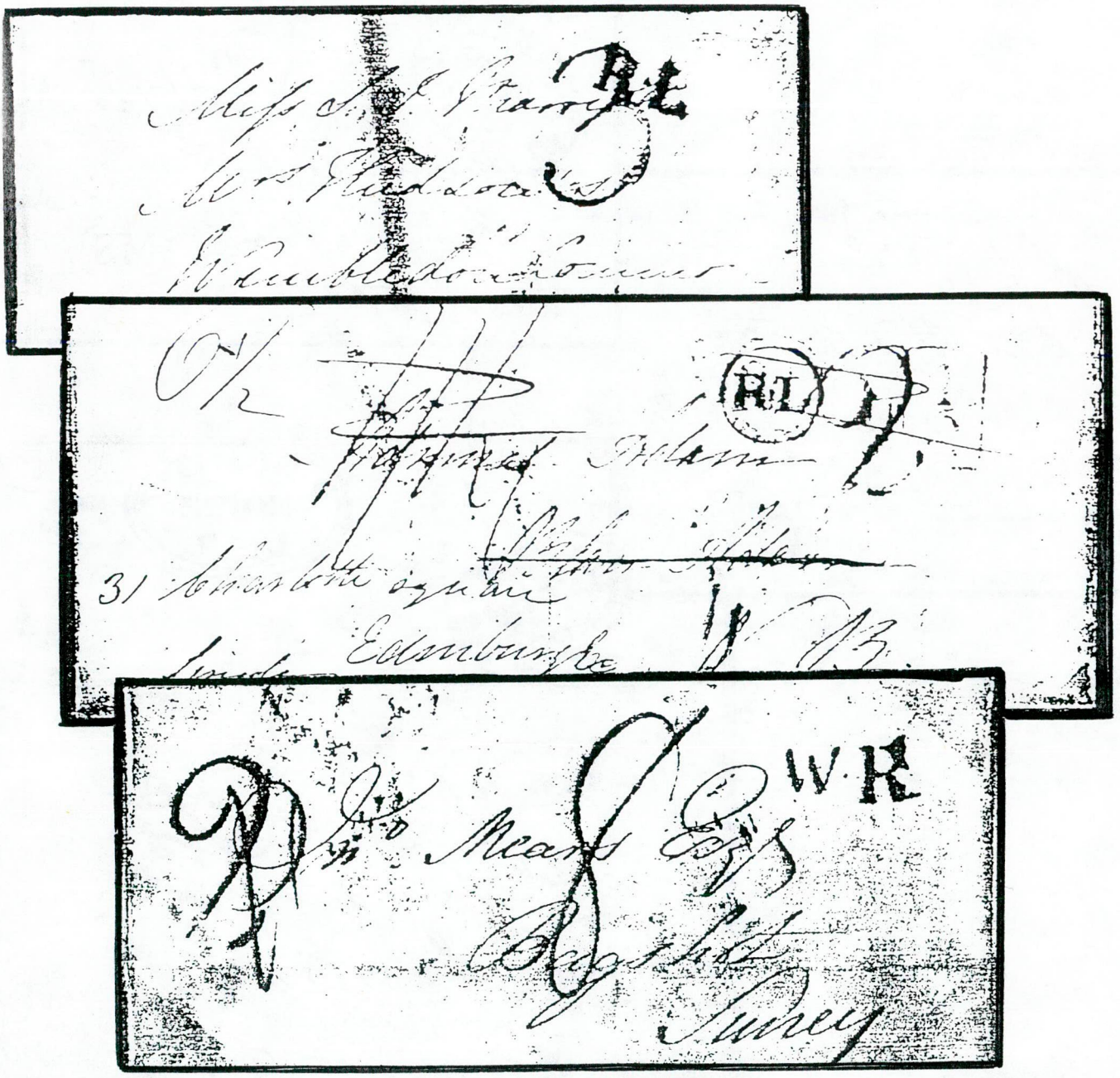
1829 23rd. November: MS in 16mm circle, not previously recorded

Ride Letters

Letters struck with the "RL" handstamps were probably "Ride Letters", that is, letters handed to letter carriers on Country Rides. These letters do not show a Receiving House stamp, they come from the Country Area and were charged 3d if for delivery in London, 2d if transferred to the General Post.

Unframed 15 x 6mm [1836 - 1848]
1836 15th. October addressed to Wimbledon Common

Circular frame 16mm [1829 - 1836]
1829 18th. March addressed originally to Blair Adam



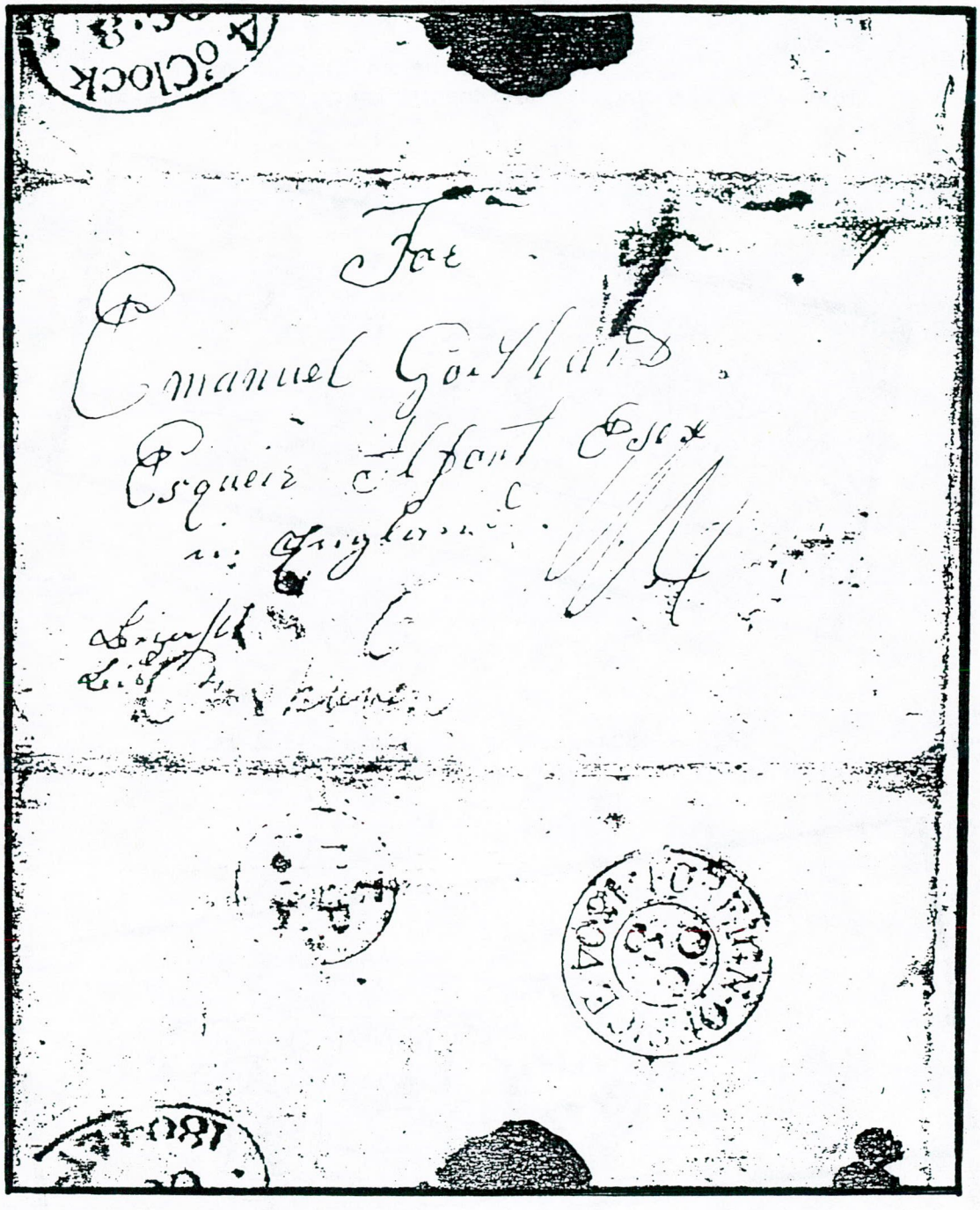
The "WR" Stamp
Suggestions this was used on the Western Road or the Willesdon Ride are contradicted by several letters carrying the mark.

1818 2nd November. From Brentford to Bagshot [26 miles]
General Postage 6d plus 2d Local.

Transfer Stamps

Foreign Office - Twopenny Post

1804 : Diam 24mm
in red
often a weak strike



1804 23rd. September from Lengenfeld/Saxony to Ilford Essex
Prepaid : 6 Gute Groschen to Hamburg
Charge 1/4 single rate from Germany, not via France

Sunday Delivery

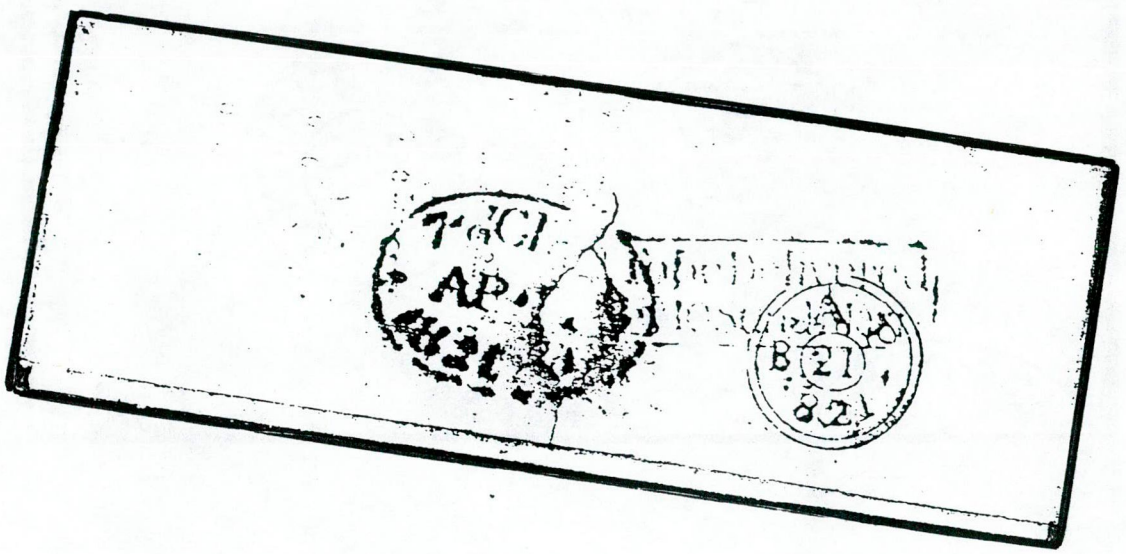
To Be Delivered by 10 o'Clock on Sund. Morn

Letters which were sent to Country Offices on Saturday night were delivered there on Sunday morning. They were stamped before leaving the Chief Office to prevent the allegation that the Post Office were preventing letter carriers going to church

1803 - 1811 Oval unframed 54 x 31 mm
1806 11th. January : Parliament Street to Edgeware Road



1822 - 1824 Rectangular framed 42 x 14mm
1821 21st. April : Stamp Office, Somerset Place to Hampton Court



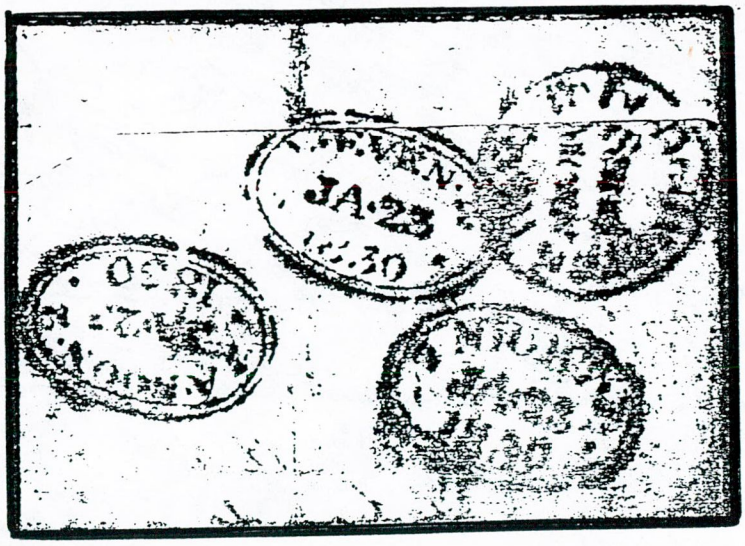
Sunday Delivery

To Be Delivered by 10 o'Clock on Sund. Morn

1797 - 1809 Rectangular framed 49 x 26mm
1813 19th. June : Islington to Stratford



1822 - 1832 Circular framed 30mm1830
23rd. January : Holborn Hill to Hampton



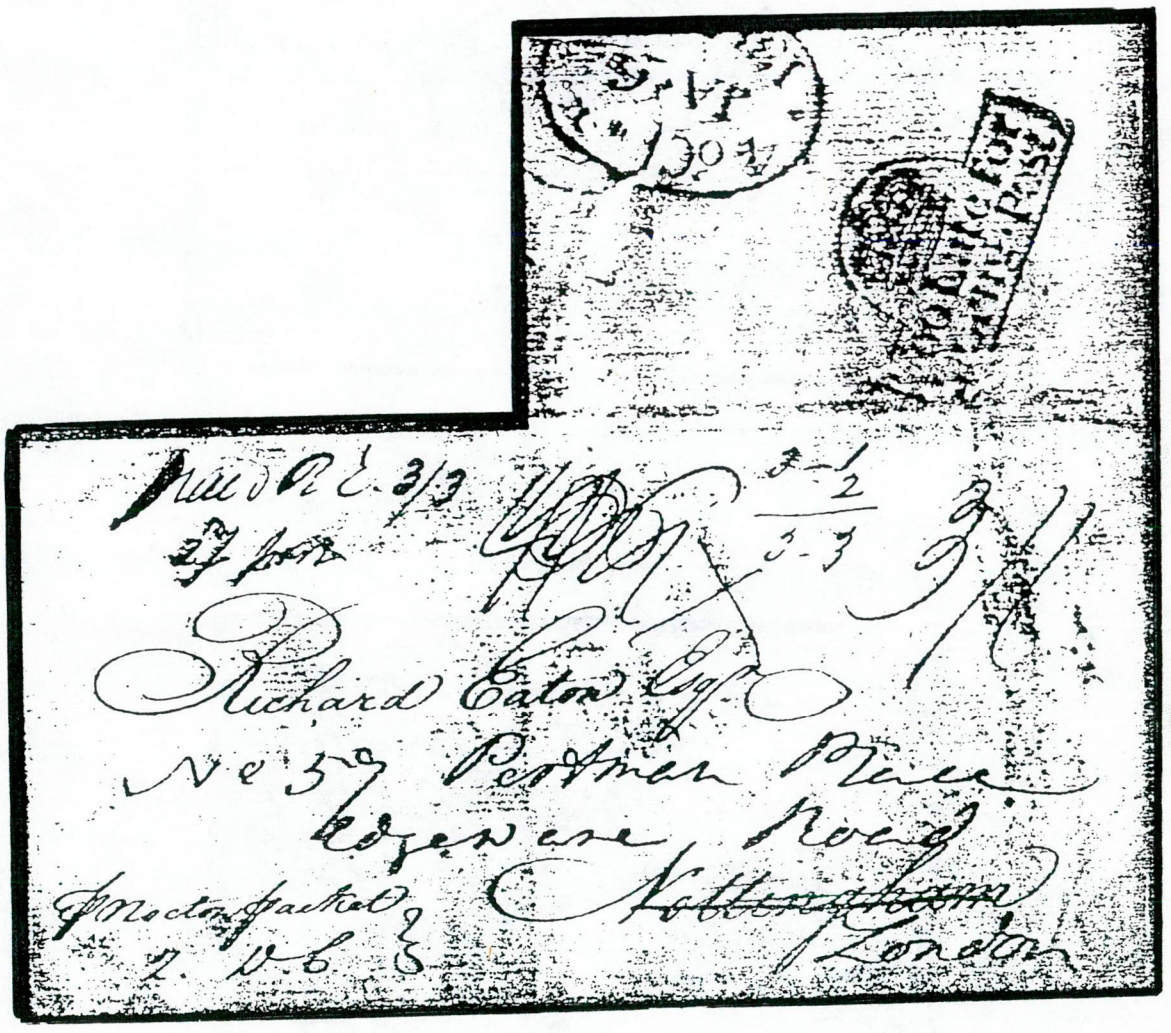
Too Late for Morning Post

Small Crowned Rectangle 42 x 24mm : 1813 - 1815

1814 12 November from Kingston Jamaica to Nottingham and Redirected to London

Charges appear to comprise :

Packet Letter rate from West Indies to Falmouth		1/2 [1813 Act]
General Post Falmouth to Nottingham, 395 miles		1/1 [1812 Act]
General Post on redirection to London		10 [1812 Act]
Total	[noted on letter]	3/1
Twopenny Post charge	[noted on letter]	2
"Paid R[eceiver]r 3/3"		3/3



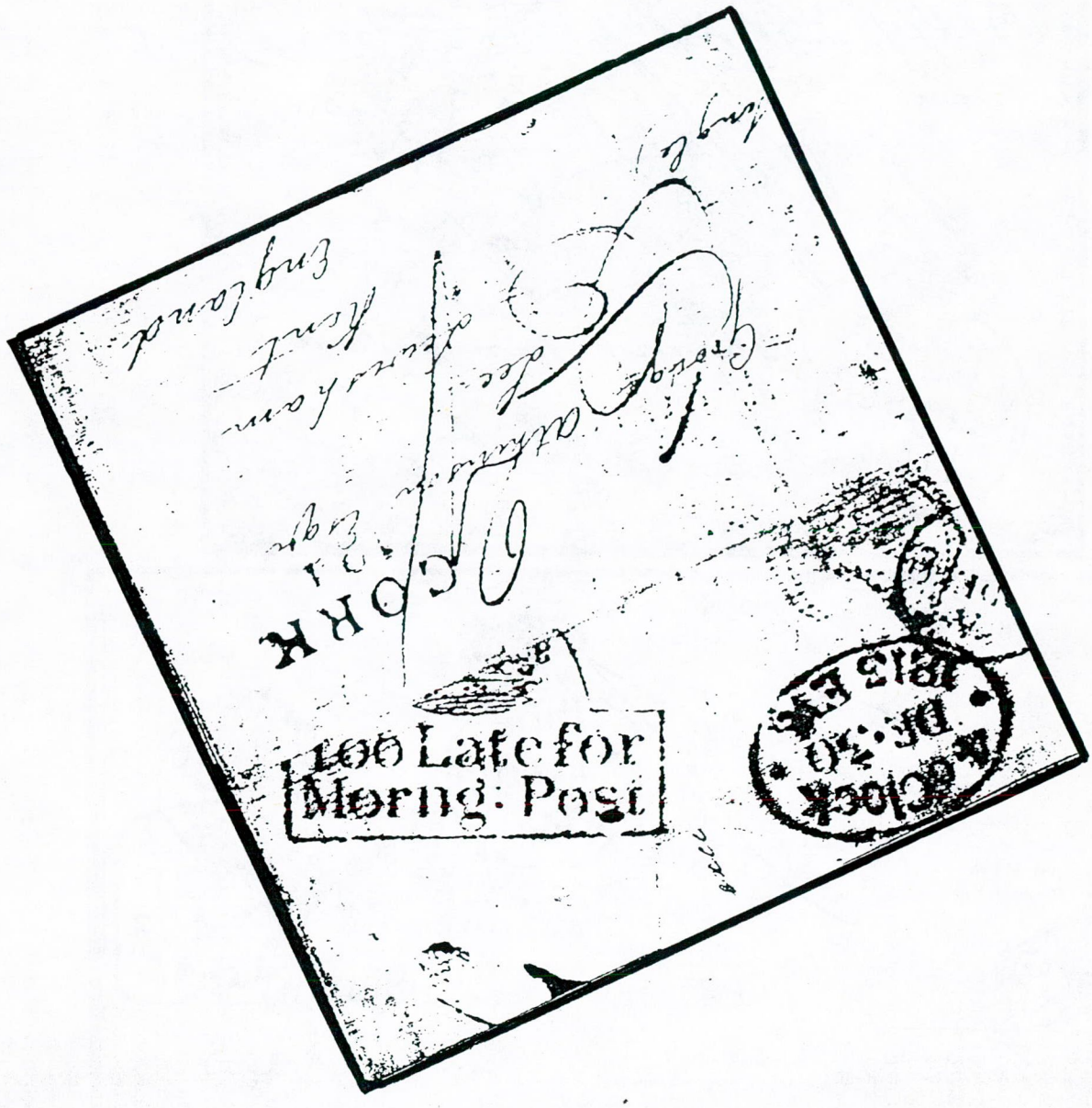
Too Late for Morning Post

Large Crowned Rectangle 53 x 36mm [1814 - 1819]

Date extension to 30th. December, 1813

1813 24th. December from Cork to Lewisham

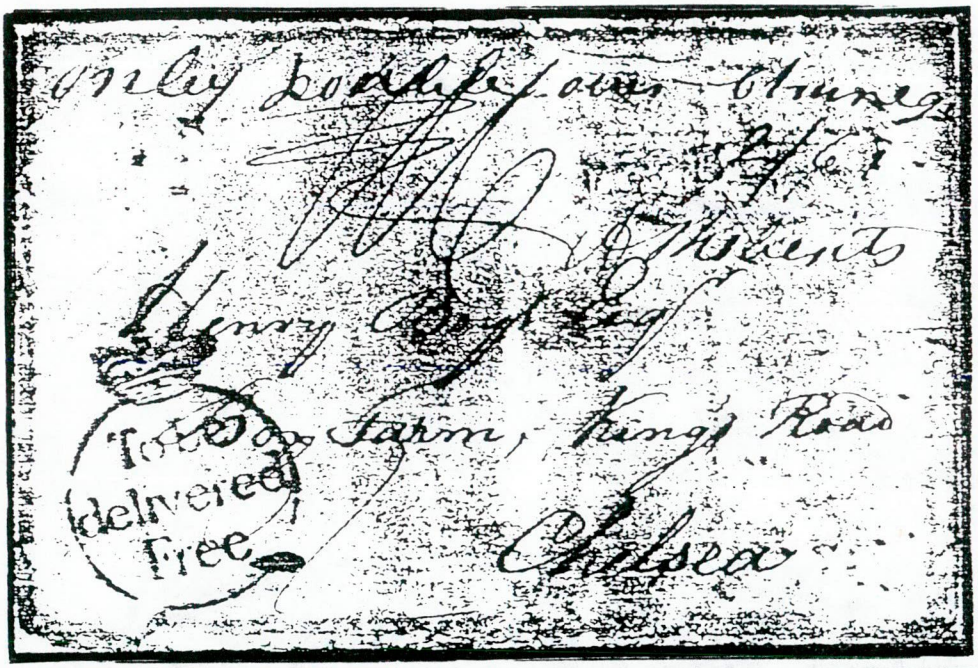
Charges :	Cork to Dublin, over 100 miles	10d
	Holyhead to London	1/-
	London 2d Post to Country area	2d
	Total	2/-

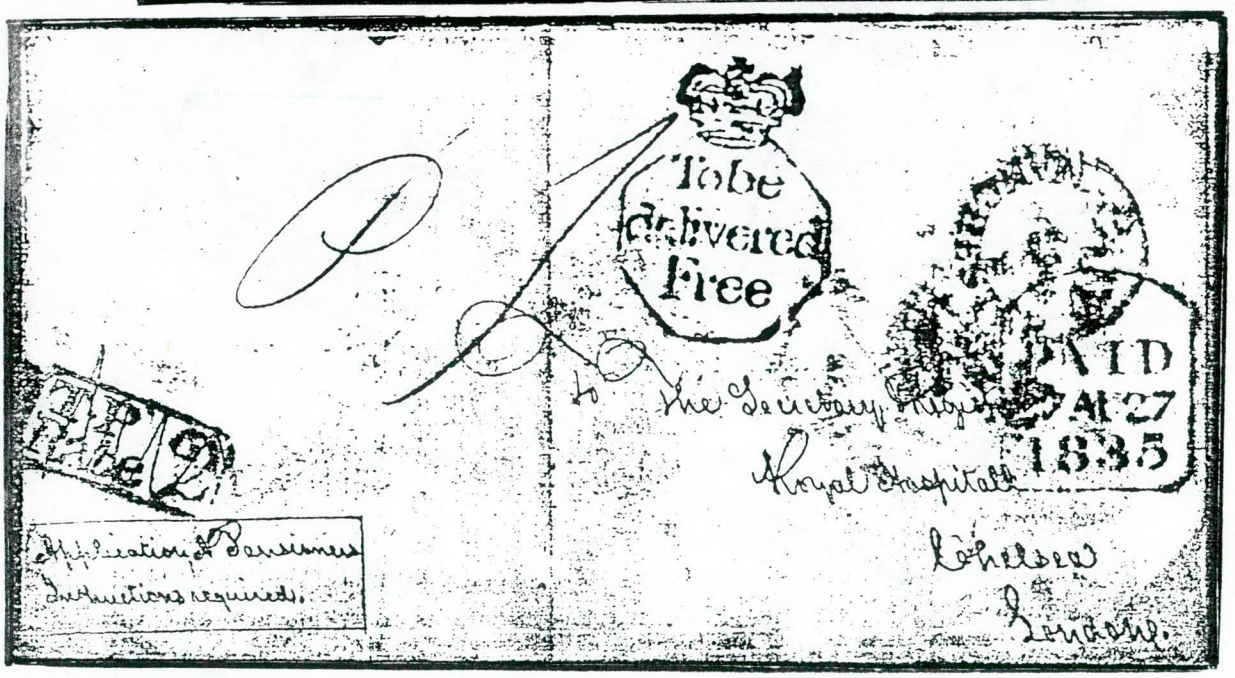


Free Franks in the Twopenny Post
To Be Delivered Free

These handstamps were applied in the London Twopenny Post to secure free delivery of official letters of a few postal officials and on "soldiers" and "sailors" letters, these were carried for an inclusive fee of 1d. and were not liable to a London local charge.

1799 - 1837 30 x 37mm Chief Office
1812 3rd June from Lisbon to Chelsea : a sailor's letter
The 1d. was correctly prepaid and the attempted charge cancelled
Westminster date stamps for the 4th., 9th., and 10th., July
Chief Office delivery date stamp for 10th. July





1816 - 1840 27 x 38mm Westminster Office
1835 23rd. August from Manchester to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea. The 1d. was prepaid, the TP Rate deleted. Paid London date stamp for 27th. August.

Free Franks in the Twopenny Post
To Be Delivered Free

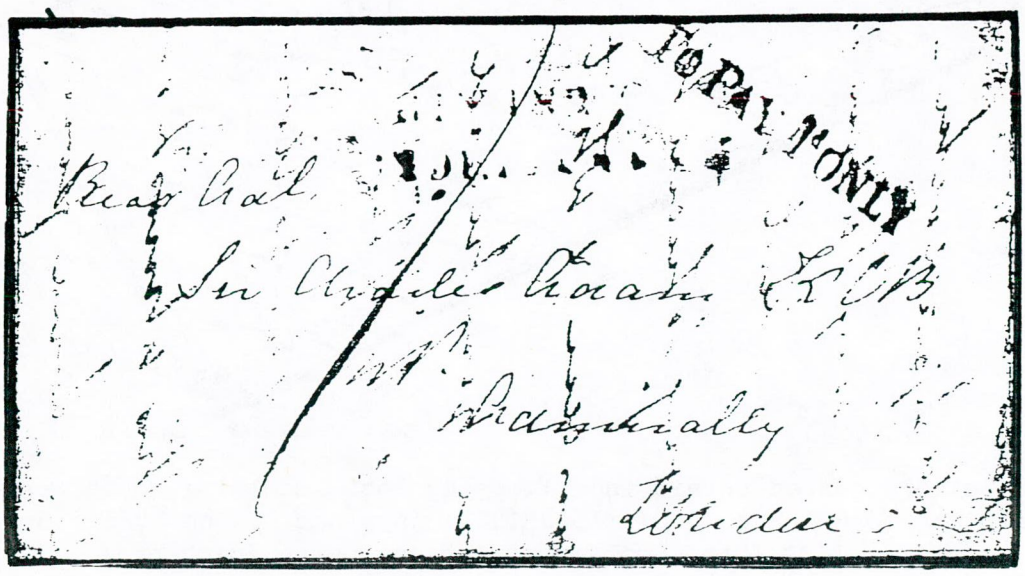
1837 - 1840 31 x 40mm Chief Office
1839 15th. July from Liverpool to Chelsea
The General Post Free date stamp for 16th. July
The To Be delivered Free stamp deleted
and the TP Rate 2D applied
This contrasts with the treatment of the item from 1835



Local Post Charges

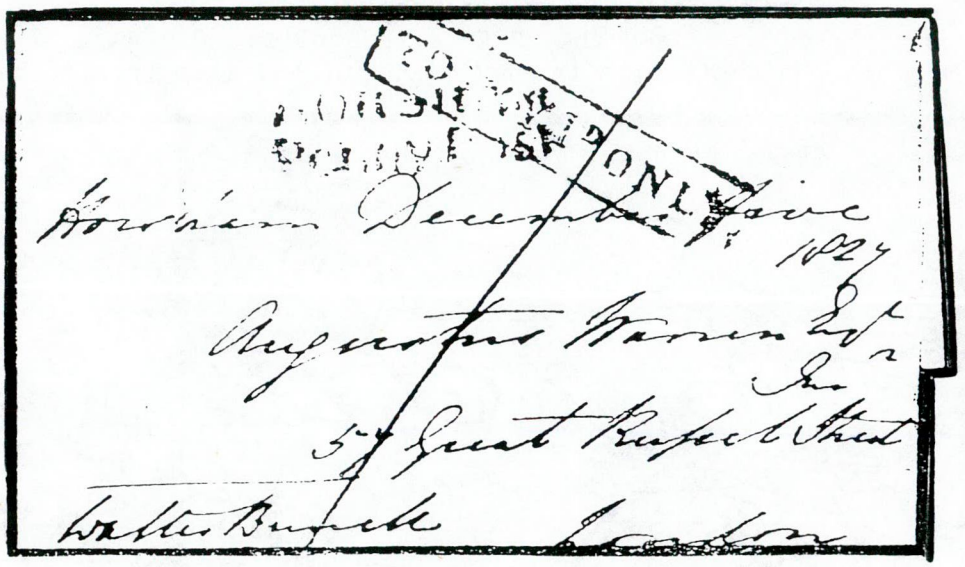
Franked letters posted in a Provincial Penny Post which were to be treated as Free, were subject to the local Penny Post charge. Unpaid letters were stamped with TO PAY 1 D, ONLY 1835 1838 and not the FREE handstamp.

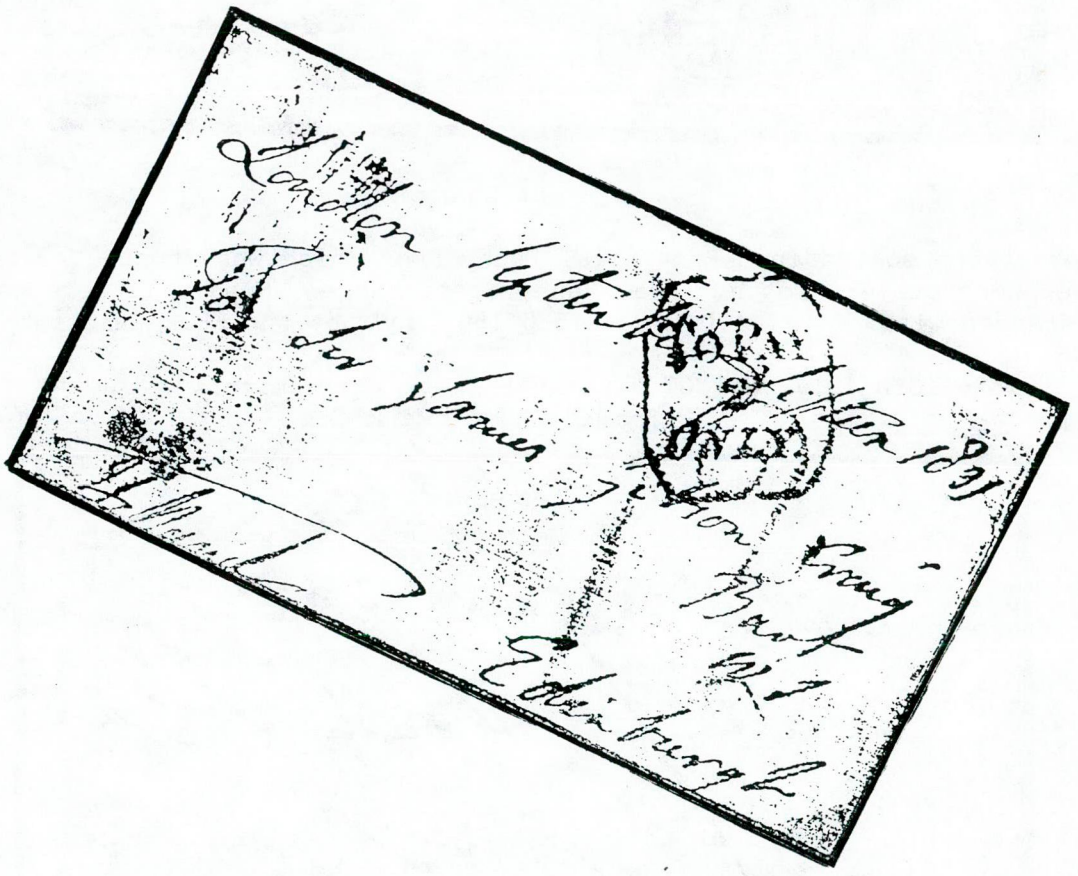
1836 10th July. HYINGTON/Penny Post to the Admiralty, London
Unframed Charge Mark



Local Post Charges

1827 5th. December. HORSHAM/Penny Post to London, correctly endorsed
Framed Charge Mark





Franked letters posted unpaid in a Twopenny Post Receiving House were stamped with the TO PAY/2 d./ONLY (1828-1832) in place of the FREE stamp
1831 15th. September, Kensington to Edinburgh