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THE INTERNATIONAL GOLD MEDAL "TRAUDL" COLLECTION

OF LONDON POSTAL HISTORY

The record of the collection, prior to its disposal, has been provided by Martin Townsend, to whom we extend sincere thanks.

The article by Michael Bament, on the acquisition of some of the collection for the National Postal Museum, first appeared in *CROSS POST*, the Journal of the Association of the Friends of the National Postal Museum and is reprinted here by kind permission.

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS.....Gems from the Traudl collection

Michael Bament

This article first appeared in *CROSS POST,* the Journal of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum, reproduced ,by their kind permission, as an introduction to the complete collection.

In January last, the collection of London Postal History took a giant leap forward with the acquisition of selected material from the 'Traudl' collection. The 'Traudl Collection of London Postal History, 1661 to 10 January 1840' was the subject of a paper and display presented in the spring of 1994 to the Society of Postal Historians by Dr Wolf Hess. In Wolf's own words "The collection is devoted to my beloved wife Traudl. She had the original idea to deal with the London subject, being a teacher for geography and English language".

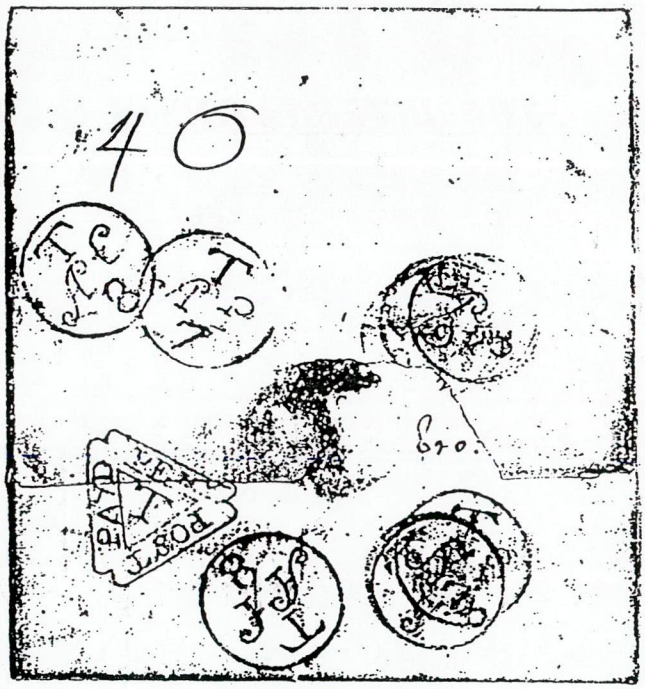


Figure 1

The Museum's London Collection has been largely shaped from several earlier collections including material presented by or purchased from some of the most eminent philatelists of the day - Frank Staff, Sydney Turner, Reginald M. Phillips and others. The intention is to build, for display and study, a good representative collection of handstamps, postal notices and other ephemera which will trace and illustrate the development of London's postal system embracing all aspects of Inland and Foreign mails. Acquiring part of the Traudl collection has helped to fill some gaps and provide a more comprehensive story. The figures which follow illustrate a handful of the choicest items from this exciting acquisition.

The Post Office after Dockwra

London's first penny post was a private venture set up in March 1680 by William Dockwra and others - principally Robert Murray and Dr Hugh Chamberlen. *Cross Post*, Spring 1998 illustrated the two original 'Dockwra' letters in the Museum's collection - one associated with the St. Paul's office, the other being handled by the Temple office. Dockwra's post was deemed to infringe a monopoly given to Royal Mail by Act of Parliament in 1660 and as such, following a trial against him in November 1682, his post was closed down, only to be reopened just three weeks later under Government control.

The Museum has been extremely fortunate to purchase from the Traudl collection a 'Dockwra' type handstamp from the early period of Government take-over which most beautifully complements the two original Dockwras in its possession. The item, shown in Figure 1, is an entire letter dated 9 May 1683 addressed as follows:

'These
For Sir John Heath his Maties
Attorney Gen^{rl} of ye Duchie at
his Chambers in ye Inner Temple
in London.'

The letter was handed in at the **TEMPLE** office and, in addition to the office handstamp, it shows no fewer than three time-stamps for **7, 8** and **9** o'clock **Af** (in the afternoon). This tells us the Temple office tried three times before successfully delivering the letter. The fact that a new time-stamp was applied before each delivery attempt demonstrates very clearly the determination of the Post office to avoid any accusation they were at fault for the delay in delivery of the letter.

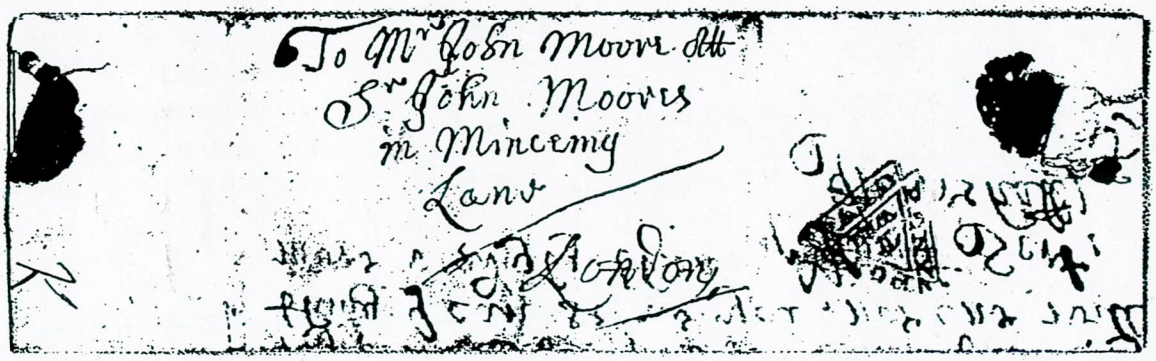


Figure 2 (reduced)

Another difficult stamp to find from the Government period is that in which the day portion is included and expressed in three letters. These have been recorded so far for 'MON', 'WEN', 'FRI' and 'SAT'. An example of this early handstamp for the **TEMPLE** with the lettering **'WEN'** (Wednesday) has now been added to the collection. Figure 2 shows this delightful acquisition on a letter dated 22 November 1698 addressed to 'John Moore' at his father's house in 'Minceing Lane'. The stamp has been recorded in use from 1692 to 1698. The initial 'K' on the reverse (and on the left of the illustration) is thought to belong to the Receiver.

The London collection includes many later examples of handstamps from the Government Penny Post period. A good representative holding of material existed for each of the principal offices, with one exception. Until now there was no example of a letter handled by the 'Hermitage' office which, under the Government post, was situated in Little Town Hill from 1684 until its closure in 1793. Hermitage office served a relatively small area around the Tower including Poplar, Blackwall, Stepney, Limehouse and the Isle of Dogs. Figure 3 illustrates a letter dated 5 August 1785 put in at the Hermitage office on that day - a **FRi**day. The Receiver's name, in manuscript, is just to the left of the handstamp.

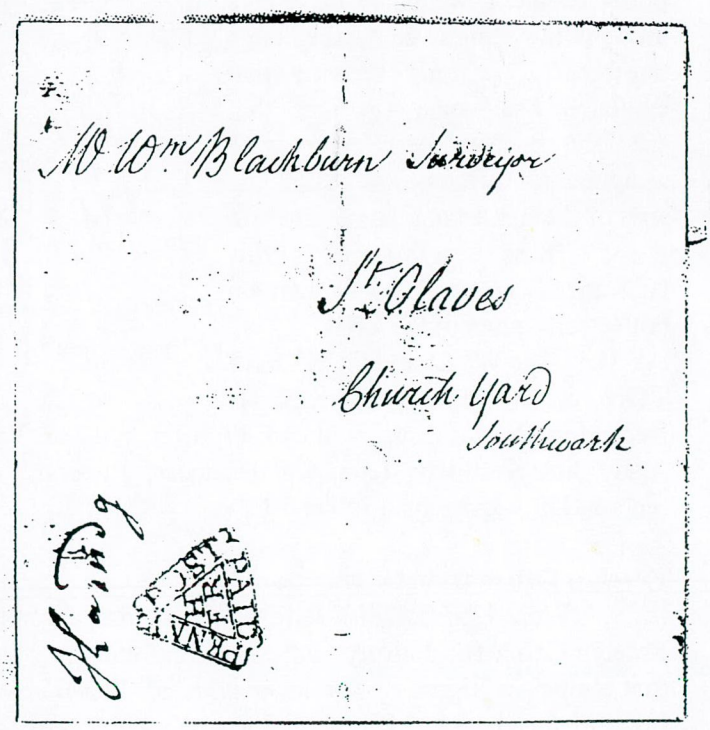


Figure 3 (reduced)

Post Office reorganisation of 1794

The Government penny post of 1682 was run for over a century, very much on the lines of Dockwra's private post, before being completely reorganised in 1794. At this same time, the London General Post was also reorganised but to a lesser extent. Evidence of the change to the General Post is known from three experimental Paid handstamps, examples of which

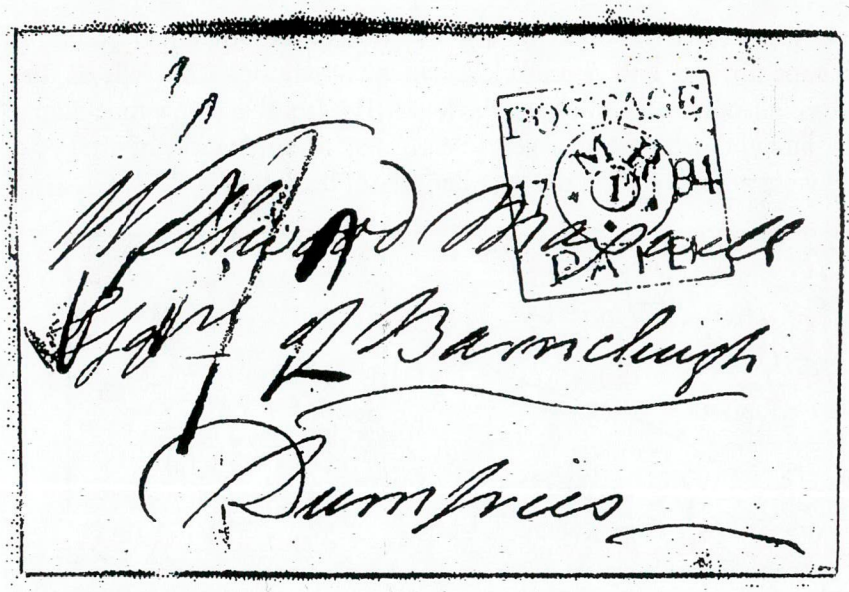


Figure 4 (reduced)

were also purchased from the Traudl material. One of these is illustrated in Figure 4 on a letter, dated 1 March 1794 (the first day of use), from London to Dumfries and charged at the double-sheet rate of 1/2d. The handstamp and manuscript rate are both in red confirming the item was prepaid.

Change in Penny Post Receivers

The 1794 changes to the London Penny Post brought about a series of place-name handstamps similar to the one shown in Figure 5. The new stamps generally take the form of an abbreviated name in one or two lines followed by a number, usually 1 to 3. For many years the meaning of these numbers was uncertain, some believing they were associated with Letter Carriers' walks, whilst others thought they might be sorting table numbers. It is only recently that evidence has come to light that strongly suggests the numbers were assigned to different offices in the area of the handstamp name.

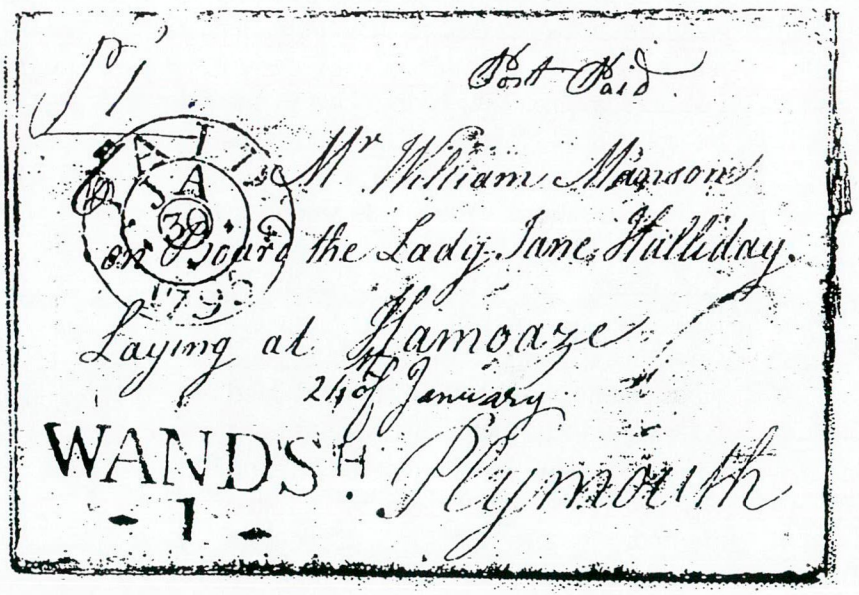


Figure 5 (reduced)

Three new stamps of this type have been added to the London collection - namely **'WAND^{SH} / -1-'**, **'W HALL / W^{T} 2'** and **' CATEA / TON / S^{T} -3-'**.. The Wandsworth -1- Receiving House stamp is shown on a letter dated 30 January 1795 from Wandsworth to the ship 'Lady Jane Halliday, Laying at Hamoaze, Plymouth'. This particular Receiver's stamp has been recorded in use during 1795 and 1796.

Foreign Office transfer stamps

From 1795 to 1801, letters arriving from abroad addressed to London and transferred from the Foreign Office for delivery by the London Penny or Twopenny Post, received a transfer stamp such as that shown in Figure 6. The letter is dated 20 January 1798 and was sent Cuxhaven in Germany to London, arriving on 5 February. The single-sheet postal rate (shown in manuscript) is 1/-d.

Letter Receivers of the General Post

On the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 the existing structure of the General Post and the London Receivers was virtually abandoned. The postal historian Hugh Feldman, in his detailed history *Letter Receivers of London 1652 to 1857*, suggests this was probably because 'the encumbent

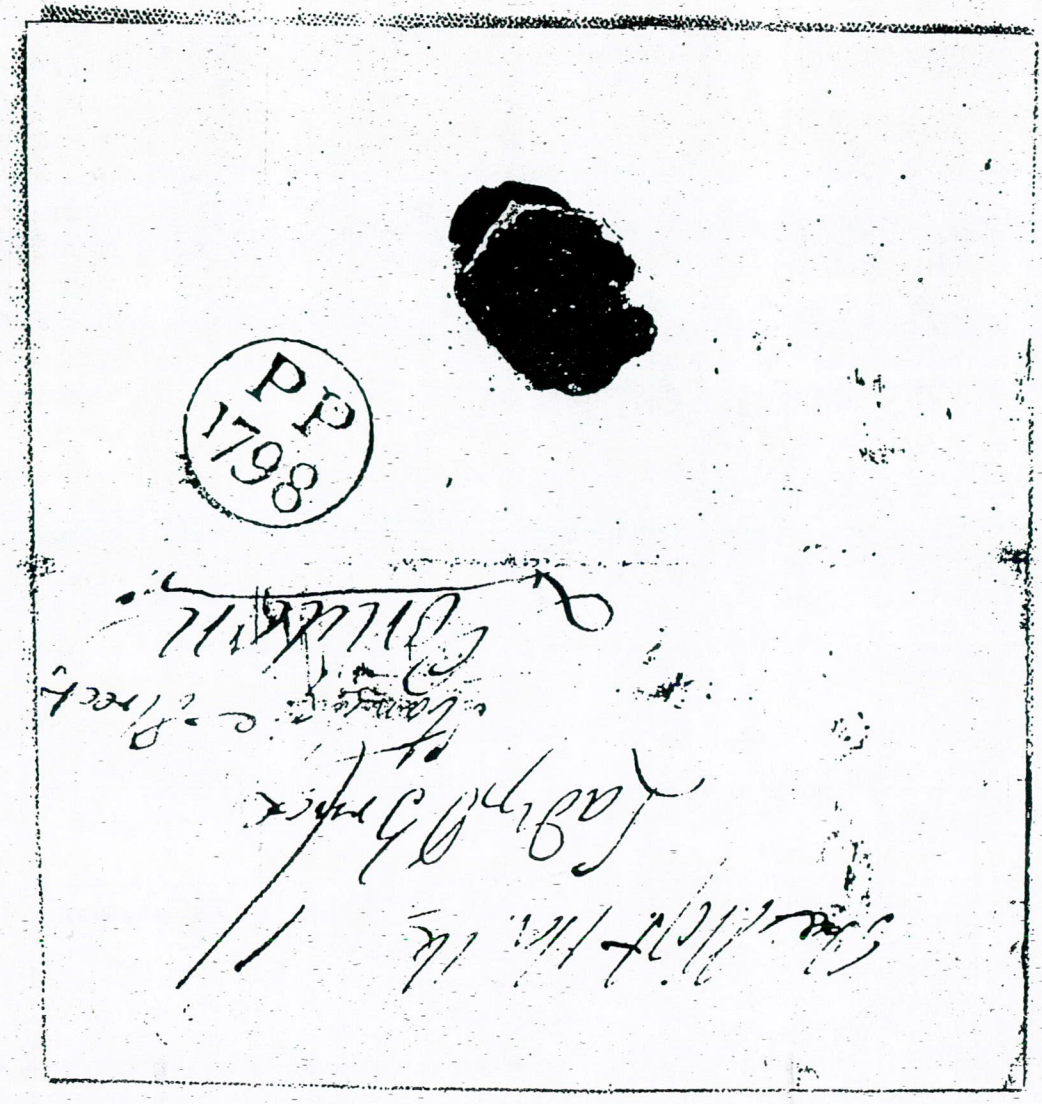


Figure 6

officers of the post were deemed to be untrustworthy by the new Cavalier Parliament, as they had been employed by the Commonwealth Post'. It is certainly true when Henry Bishop was appointed the first Postmaster General, there were only a handful of Letter Receivers in existence - Thomas Gardiner's *Survey of the General Post Office 1677-1682* lists only eight Receivers for the year 1677 and stamps bearing the numbers 1 to 7 are known to be allocated to London Receivers for this period.

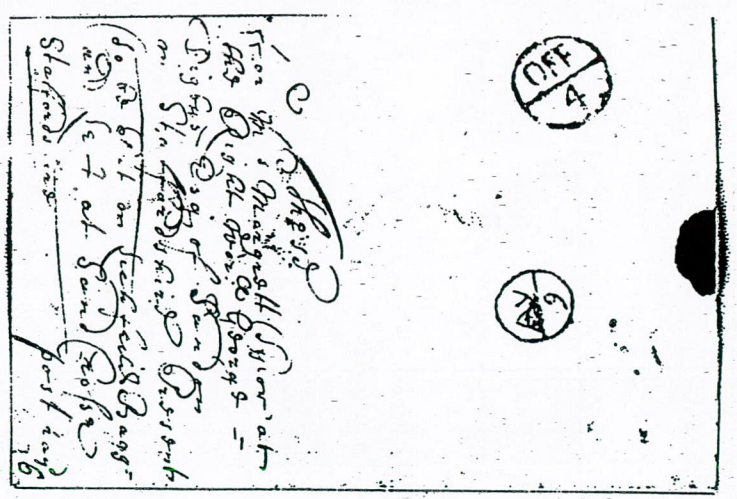


Figure 7 (reduced)

The '**OFF / 4**' handstamp (Office No. 4) illustrated in Figure 7 is on a letter dated 9 August 1674, posted in London and addressed to Sandon in Staffordshire. It also bears a nice Bishop mark for '**AV / 9**'. Stamps from the No.4 office are probably the least rare of the seven numbers known but, nevertheless, this is a very welcome addition to the collection.

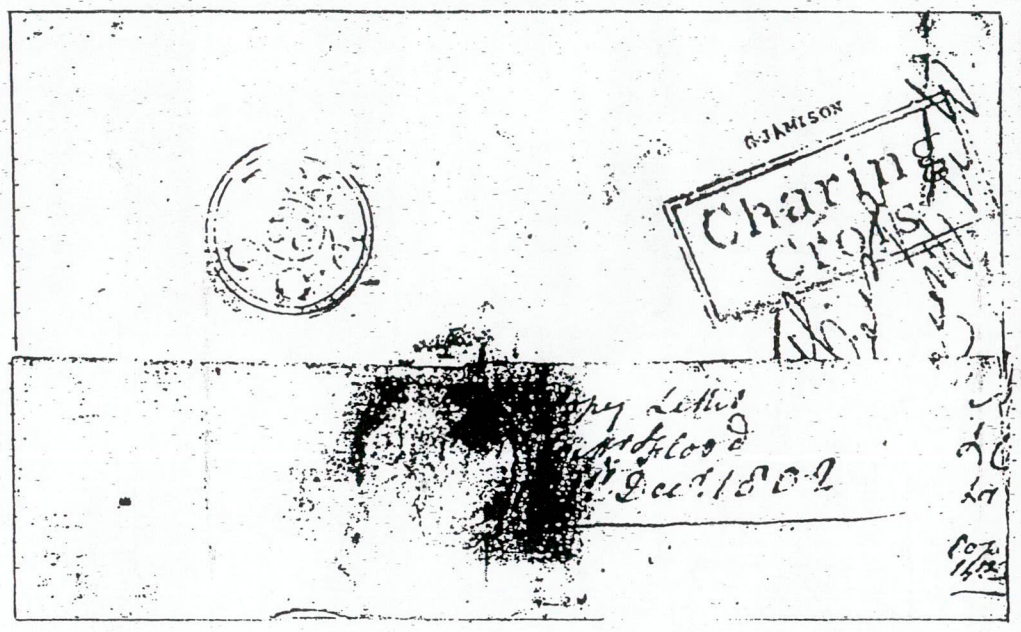


Figure 8

During the 18th and 19th centuries, the majority of General Post Receivers used handstamps showing just their initials. A very small number were exceptions, using their full names and occasionally their addresses in the stamps. Several of these have been added to the collection, among which are those of John

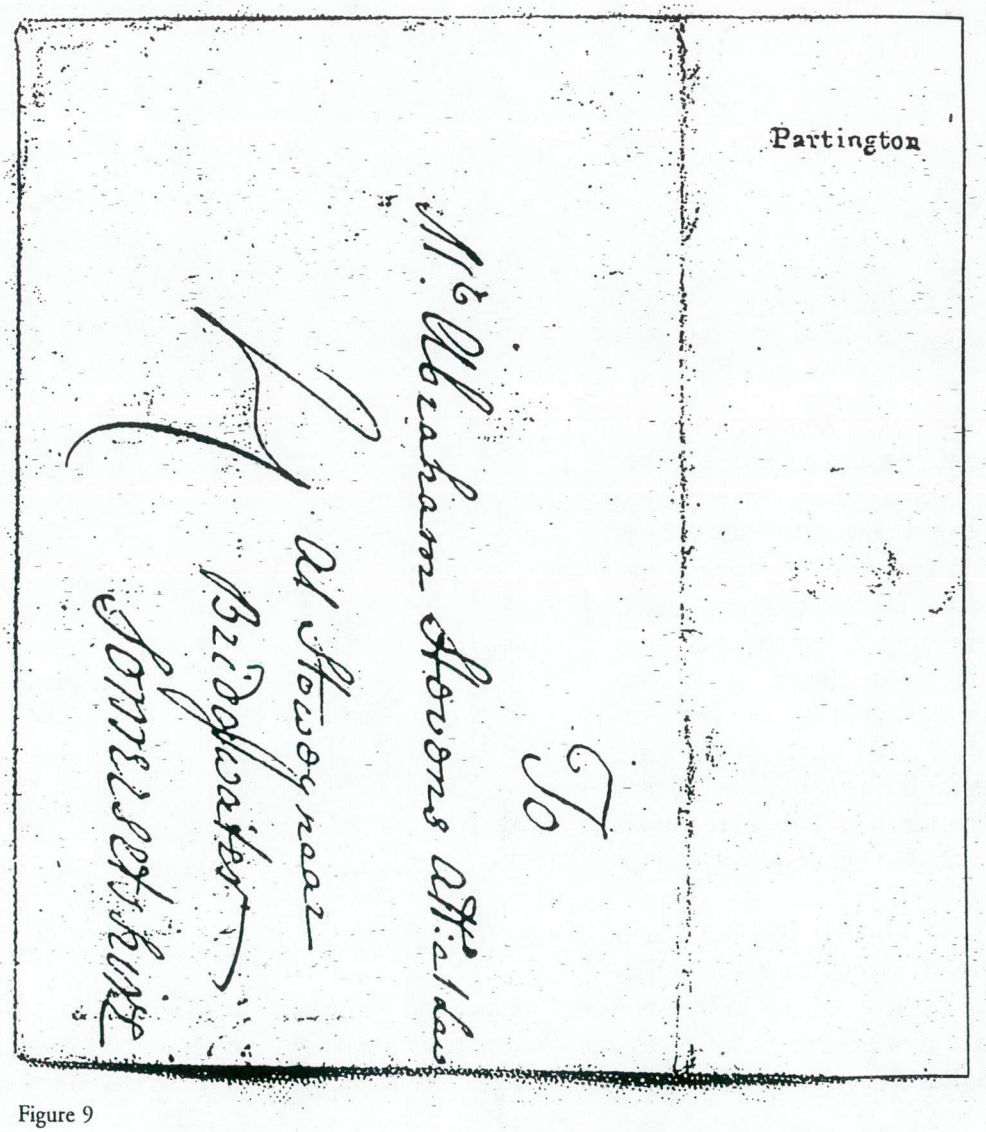


Figure 9

Crickett, Gt. Knightrider Street, G. Jamison at Charing Cross Receiving House and Richard Partington of Holborn Hill. Figure 8 shows the tiny handstamp of G. JAMISON on a letter from London to Exon dated 29 October 1802. Jamison was a General Post Receiver at his watchmaker premises at Charing Cross in 1802 and 1803. Richard **Partington** was a stationer with premises at 58 Holborn Hill from 1760 for over 20 years. His stamp, shown in Figure 9 is, like Jamison's, very small but because of his long tenure as a General Post receiver, the stamp is relatively common.

Window Letters

Letters wrongly put into the General Post for delivery within the London postal area were treated as 'Window' letters and stamped with a bold '**W**' placed within a circle. These letters were charged 2d during the London Penny Post period, increasing in cost in April 1801, when the London Penny Post became the London Twopenny Post. A minute in the President's Order book dated 4 April 1801 says .. 'All letters for London which may be accidentally or otherwise put in at this office in future be charged 3d instead of 2d, double 6d, treble 9d and so on to be stamped as usual with a 'W''. Figure 10 illustrates an unpaid letter of 25 August 1803 struck in red with a Window Letter handstamp which appears to have been pen-cancelled after second thoughts.



Inspectors' Crowns

Figure 11 shows a very pretty Inspector's Crown used at the London Office during the period 1765 to 1767. Crowns were used as official confirmation of the change in rate applied to a letter. This one is on a letter dated 8 Oct 1765 (first year of use), sent from Cambridge to London and it can be seen that the rate originally marked '**6**' (d) was corrected to '**9**' (d) and initialled 'JW' by the inspector. This acquisition provided the Museum with a bonus. On the reverse is a nice Bishop mark for '**8 / OC**' plus a straight line '**CAMBRIDGE**' name stamp (51 x 7mm) which extends the County Catalogue by some three years and closes an existing gap in the current edition of this popular catalogue. Details have been reported to the County Editor and have been acknowledged.

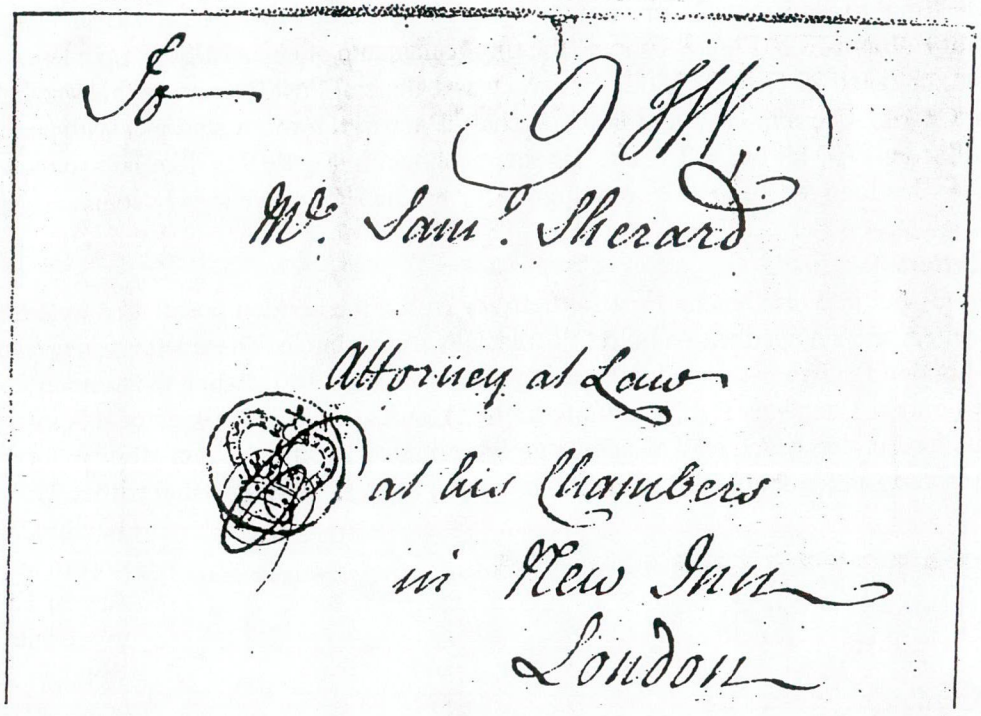


Figure 11

On matters of military mail

Letters written by prisoners of war were handled in London by the Transport Office. Recorded in use from 1804 to 1814, a special handstamp used for such mail contained the inscription '**TRANSPORT OFFICE / PRISONERS OR WAR**'. In the centre of the stamp are a crown and the initials 'G.R.'. Figure 12 shows an example of this stamp on a cover sent on 20 April 1814 by an English prisoner of war near Lamonier in France. On arrival in London it received the Transport Office handstamp before being put 'unpaid' into the London Twopenny Post at Bridge Street, Westminster.

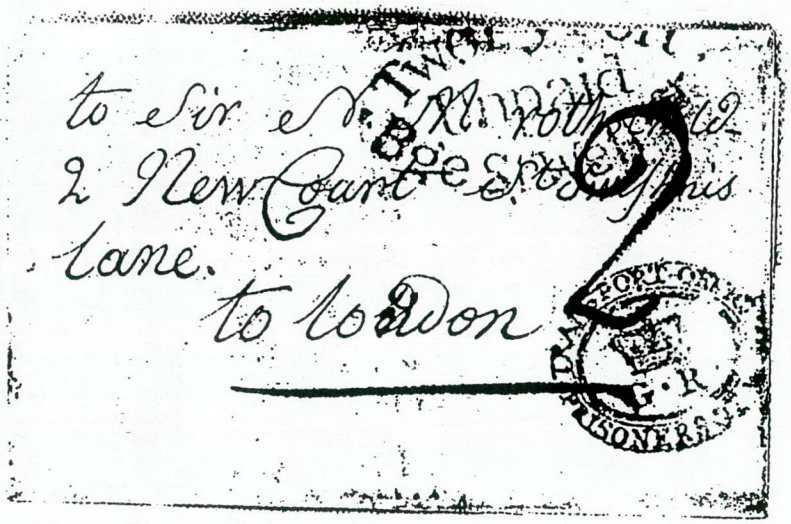


Figure 12

The cover was back stamped '**11 May / 1814 / 7 o'Clock NT**' on its arrival in London.

Instructional charge marks

From 1805, the rate for letters between Town and Country areas of the Twopenny Post was increased to 3d. The letter illustrated in Figure 13 is dated 5 June 1826 and was put into to Totteridge R.H. in the Country area of the London Twopenny Post. Hence the hand struck '**3**' and the framed '**Totteridge**' receiver's mark. The letter is addressed to 'Nanteas, Rhayader, S.W.' and it probable the 'S.W.', which of course meant South Wales, was mistaken for South West London. It appears the letter was redirected to a second London address which would explain the hand struck '5', which was used for redirected mail in London. It would also explain why both the Chief and Westminster Offices

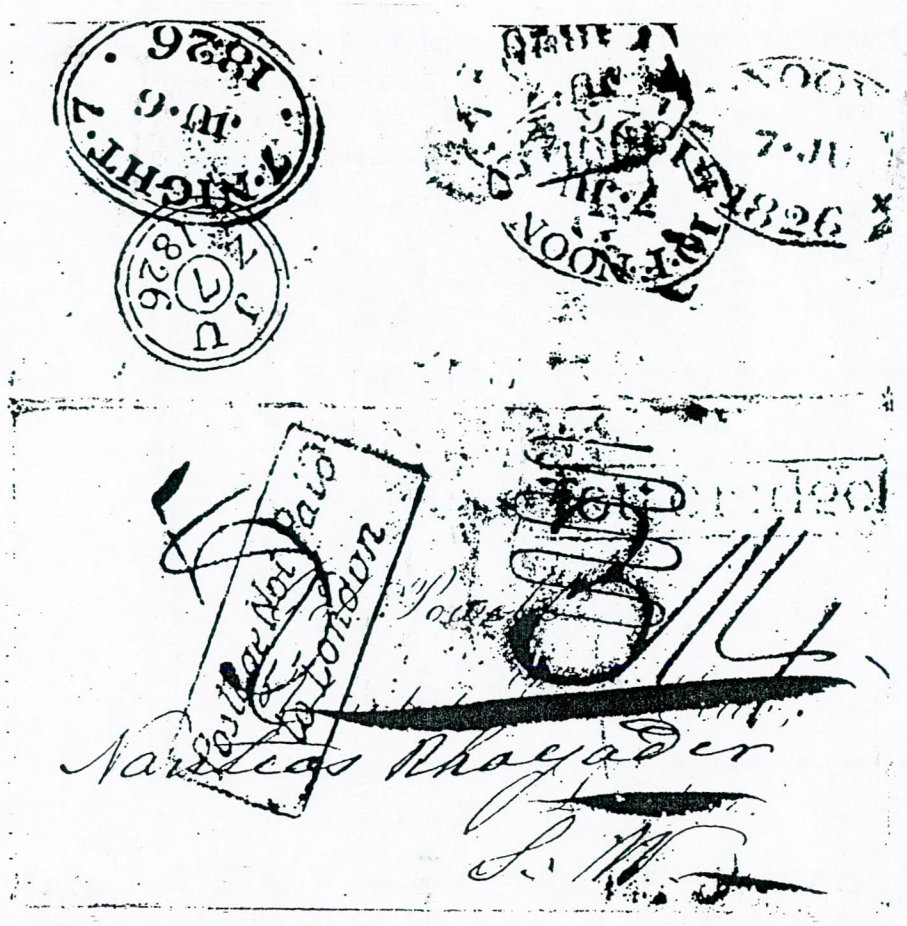


Figure 13

attempted to deliver this letter before its final redirection to Rhayader. Amongst the variety of handstamps is a nice 'spring' erasure used to cancel the hand struck '**3**' plus a framed '**Postage Not Paid / to London**'. The final charge of '**1/4**' (d) is made up from the General rate (London to Rhayader) of 11d (up to 230 miles) plus the unpaid 5d.

Country sorting office date stamps

In July 1809 the sorting offices in the Country area of the London Twopenny Post began to receive date stamps incorporating the names of the offices. This ensured any bye-letters, which did not go to one of the principal offices in the Twopenny Post would receive a date stamp.

Normally these stamps were struck in black ink, albeit a number of offices used red, blue and green. Several country sorting offices stamp were acquired from the Traudl collection, including those for **'PUTNEY' (blue), 'WOOLWICH'** red and '**MORTLAKE**' (black). The latter is illustrated in Figure 14 on a letter dated 7 Feb 1838 to Ixworth in Suffolk, charged 8d (up to 80 miles) + the local 2d = total cost of '**10**'(d) - marked in manuscript. The hand struck '**2**' is pen-cancelled.

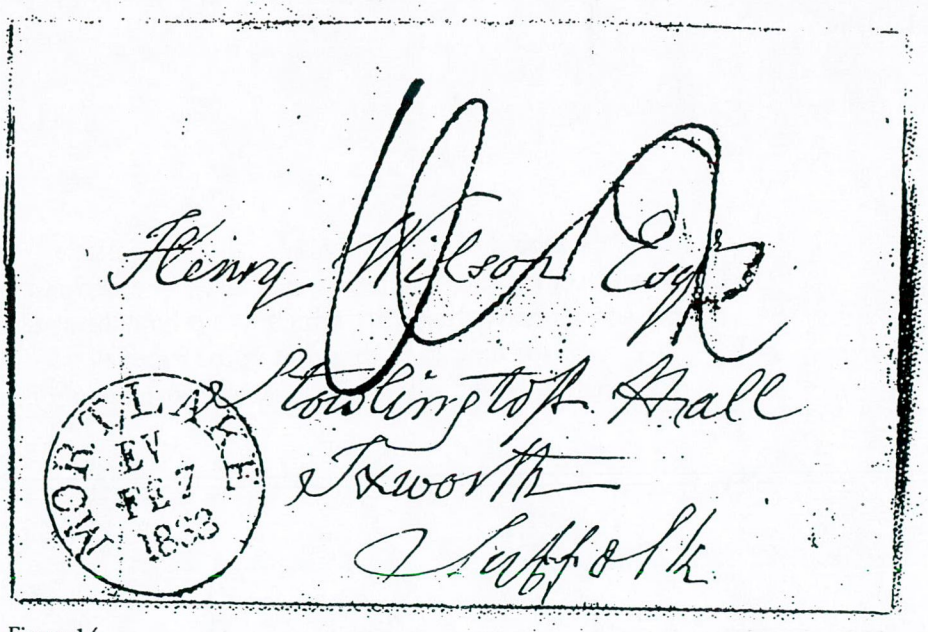


Figure 14

Ship Letters

Several London ship letters were added to the collection from the Traudl material, none more interesting than the one shown in Figure 15. The letter dated 15 June 1814 was sent under the franking privilege to the 'Hon[ble] Lady Hood, Madras' and sent c/o the 'Port Admiral's

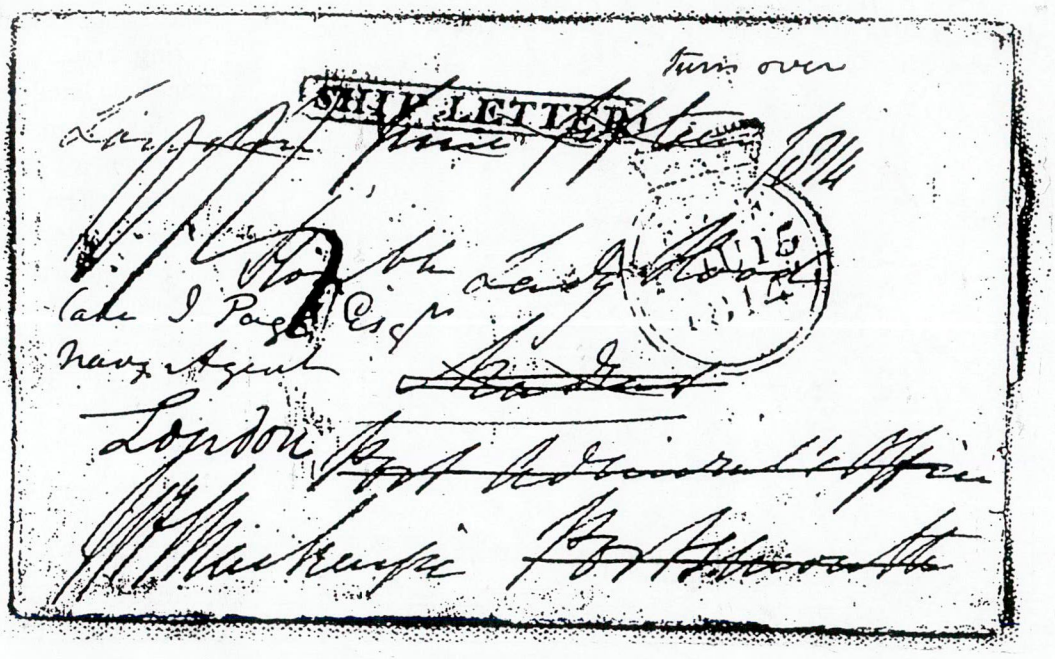


Figure 15

Office,Portsmouth'. On arrival in Madras, the letter was redirected back to 'J. Page Esq., Navy Agent, London' whose address at 45 Parliament Street is shown no the reverse together with a London c.d.s. for 25 Aug 1815 (14 months later !). The framed ship letter mark had a long life, having been recorded in use from 1814 to 1848. The manuscript postal rate of '**1/4**' is made up as follows: sent out FREE at no charge + incoming ship letter, double letter 2 x 4d = 8d + inland travel Portsmouth-London 8d; total 1/4d.

.....

The record of the *"Traudl"* Collection follows.
Due to an error made when the original material was photocopied,
the portrait of William Pitt, which was behind the material
made its way to the front of the material.
Curiously enough, it does not look too much out of place.

LONDON's POSTAL HISTORY



- FROM BISHOP MARK TO UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE -



The exhibit illustrates the development and variety of postal markings and services of the most important Post Office of the British Empire. It comprises letters sent to, from and within London by the Private and Public Posts from 1661 to 10th. January 1840, showing the handstamps impressed by the General Post on Inland and Foreign Mail, on Free-post and Ship Letters, by Dockwra's Private Post, by the Government Penny Post and the London Penny and Two-penny Posts. Handstamps and different services came into being to meet particular needs as they arose.

Contents:

I. INLAND OFFICE
1. General Post Datestamps
2. G. P. Paid Marks
3. Receivers and Receiving Houses
4. The 'Franking'- System
5. G. P. Instructional Marks

II. LOCAL POSTS
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2. Government Penny Post
3. Reorganized Penny Post
4. Twopenny Post

III. SHIP LETTER OFFICE
1. Ship Letter Handstamps
2. India Ship Letters
3. Instructional Marks

IV. FOREIGN OFFICE
1. Datestamps
2. Packet Letters
3. India Packet Letters
4. Instructional Marks

V. UNIFORM POSTAGE

INLAND OFFICE: On the restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, ***Henry Bishop*** was made Postmaster-General and was granted the Post for 21.000 £ a year dating from 25 June. In 1661 he introduced the *first* handstamp, being the root for the postmarks of all other countries. The section shows early Bishop marks and their varieties, followed by experimental and other datestamps, including those denoting Prepayment, Sunday posting, Late fee and posting at Branch Offices.
Receiving Houses: They were at first to identify by *Sloganpostmarks*, later by office numbers, Receiver's handstamps or the name of the Receiving House.
Franked Letters: From 1652 letters of Members of Parliament and Officers of State were carried free of postage, except in the local Penny and Two-penny Posts. In 1764 'Free' handstamps were introduced.
Instructional marks: Crowns were used to authenticate a change in the rate charged. Other handstamps gave informations to Post Office staff and the Public. The *'WL'* in circle is thought to be unique.

LOCAL POSTS: There was no organized service for local letters in London before 1680 when ***William Dockwra*** and others started a London Local Post based on Lyme Street. The initiated triangular Paid marks should denote that the Postage of one Penny had been paid. He also initiated heart-shaped marks to show the time at which the letters were sent out from the various offices.
Dockwra couldn't enjoy the fruits of his enterprise very long. In November 1682 an action was brought against him for infringing the Crown Monopoly of Postal Rights. He lost the case, was fined 100 pounds and his Post had to cease.
On 11 December, less than three weeks after closing Dockwra's Post, the Post Office established a similar Local Post which is known as the **Goverment Penny Post**, leading to **Reorganized-** (1794) and **Twopenny Post** (1801).
The section includes an *Original Dockwra* and two *1st. Type Government Penny Post* handstamps, besides varieties of the triangular Paid marks of the various Offices.

SHIP LETTER OFFICE: In 1799 the Ship Letter Office was opened under the *Inland Branch*. The section shows handstamps indicating whether the Postage was paid, unpaid or exempt, *Rebate*, Soldier's Concessionary Rates and special rates on letters to and from India, brought about by Acts of Parliament.

FOREIGN OFFICE: From 1661, letters from abroad received a Foreign Office Bishop mark. Until 1713, this was indistinguishable from the Inland Office Bishop mark. The section illustrates handstamps covering date and paid marks, Rebate, Franches and Registered marks besides the seldom seen *'Via Falmouth'*. The item of 1794 showing *'P. P.'* was discovered in 1986. Special attention is given to routes and rates. The section ends with handstamps illustrating the incredible high charges which contributed to the establishment of .....

UNIFORM POSTAGE (Four Pence from 5th. December 1839, One Penny from 10th. January 1840)

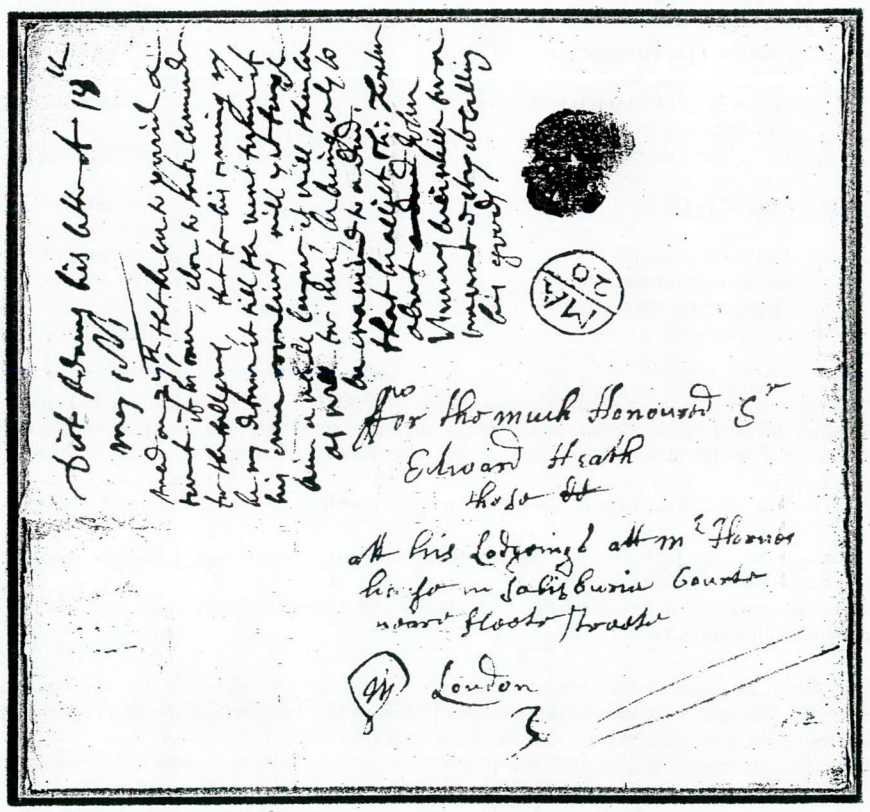
I. INLAND OFFICE

1. General Post Datestamps

On the restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, **Henry Bishop** was made Postmaster General (1660-1663). Complaints of delay led him to introduce the first datestamp worldwide - the **'Bishop Mark'** - in 1661. He ordered this stamp to be struck on letters to show the month and the day on which they were received in London or posted there.

***1st. Type* - MA(y) / 20; ∅ = 13 mm; 1661 to 1672; serif letters**

1st. year Bishop Mark



1661, 18th. May, Rutland to London, arrived 20th. May; charged 3 d.

(dated five weeks after the earliest known Bishop mark of the 19th. April)

Bibliography: "The Postmarks of Great Britain and Ireland." (RC Alcock and FC Holland, Cheltenham 1940); "The Franking System." (G. Brumell, Bournemouth 1936); "The Local Posts of London 1680-1840." (G. Brumell, Cheltenham 1938);"Herewith My Frank ..." (JW. Lovegrove, Bournemouth 1975); "The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps." Volume I., (R. Lowe, London 1952); "Postage Rates of the North Atlantic Mails 1635-1950." (MB. Montgomery, Southampton 1991); "A History of the Ship Letters of the British Isles." (AW. Robertson, Pinner 1955-64); "United Kingdom Letter Rates 1635-1900." (C. Tabeart,1989); "Englands Postal History to 1840." (RM. Willcocks, Perth 1975); "The British County Catalogue of Postal History." Volume 3 (RM. Willcocks and B. Jay, Perth 1983); "Marques De Passage." (J. Van der Linden, Luxembourg 1993) etc.
Edited by the exhibitor: "Postgeschichte London - I. Allgemeine Staatspost bis 1840." (1994); "Postgeschichte London - II. Die Ortspost 1680-1840." (1994); several Articles in British and German Journals

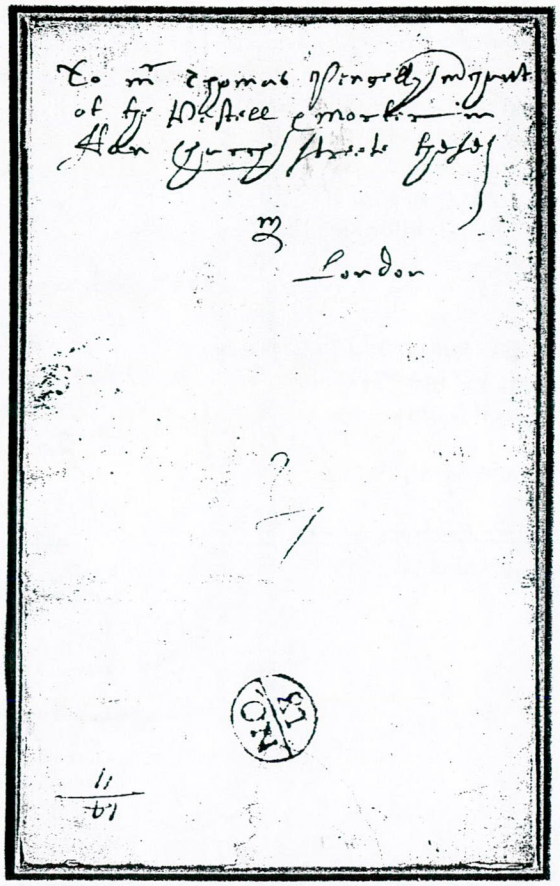
1.1. The Bishop Mark

The majority of inland letters of this period were unpaid, the charge being collected on delivery of the letter.
The *unpaid* letter travelled over 80 miles, therefore it was charged 3 d.. The *prepaid* one arriving from Dublin cost 6 d..

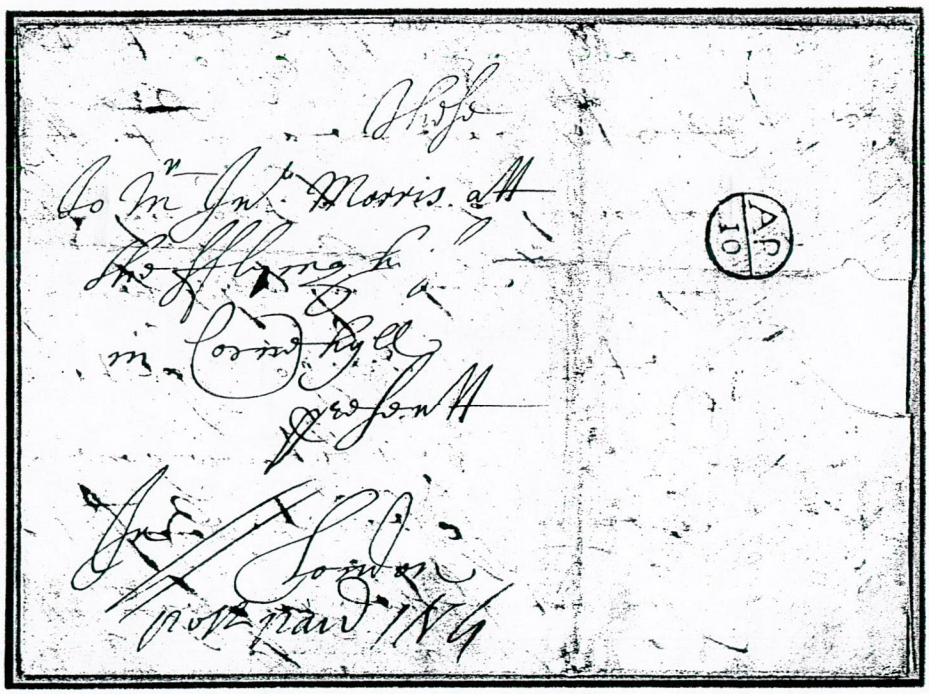
English rates 1660: 2 d. to 80 miles, 3 d. above; ounce rates → 8 d. and 1/- d.

Scotland: 4 d.; ounce rate → 1/6 d.

Ireland: 6 d.; ounce rate → 2/- d.



1663, 14th. November, Exeter to London arrived 18th. November, charged 3 d.



1662, 28th. March, Dublin to London, arrived 10th. April, *post paid* → 1/6 d. - treble letter rate

I.

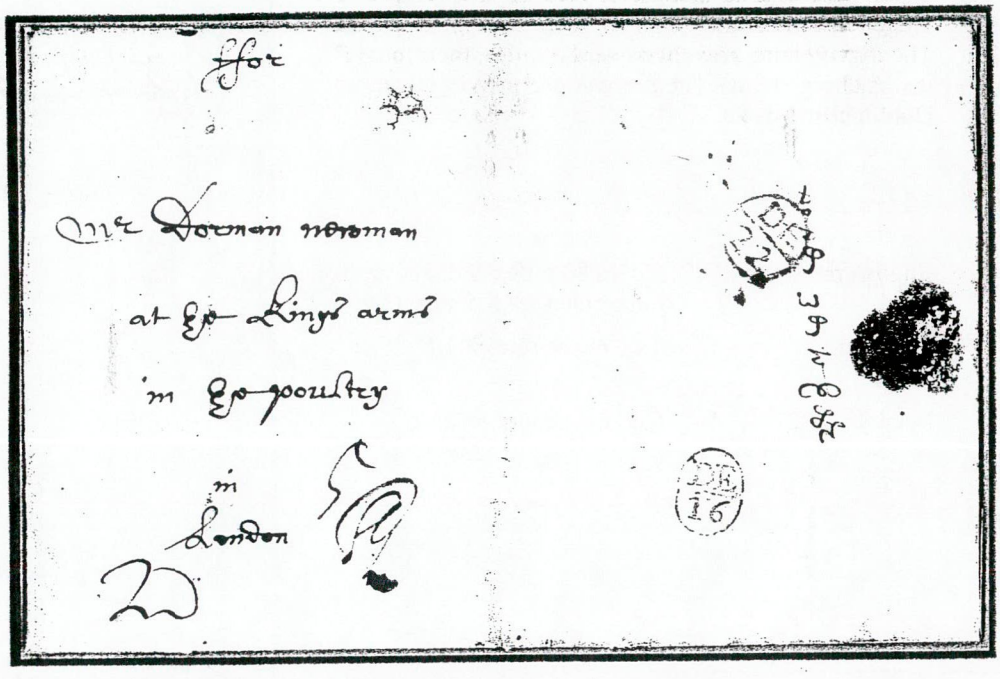
1.1. The Bishop Mark

Originally used only in London the Bishop Mark spread to other cities and countries. However Edinburgh's first Mark, from **October 1693**, was oval in shape and usually with a dividing bar - (sometimes not).

***2nd. Type* - DE(cember) / 22; ∅ = 14 mm; 1673 to 1713; sans-serif letters**

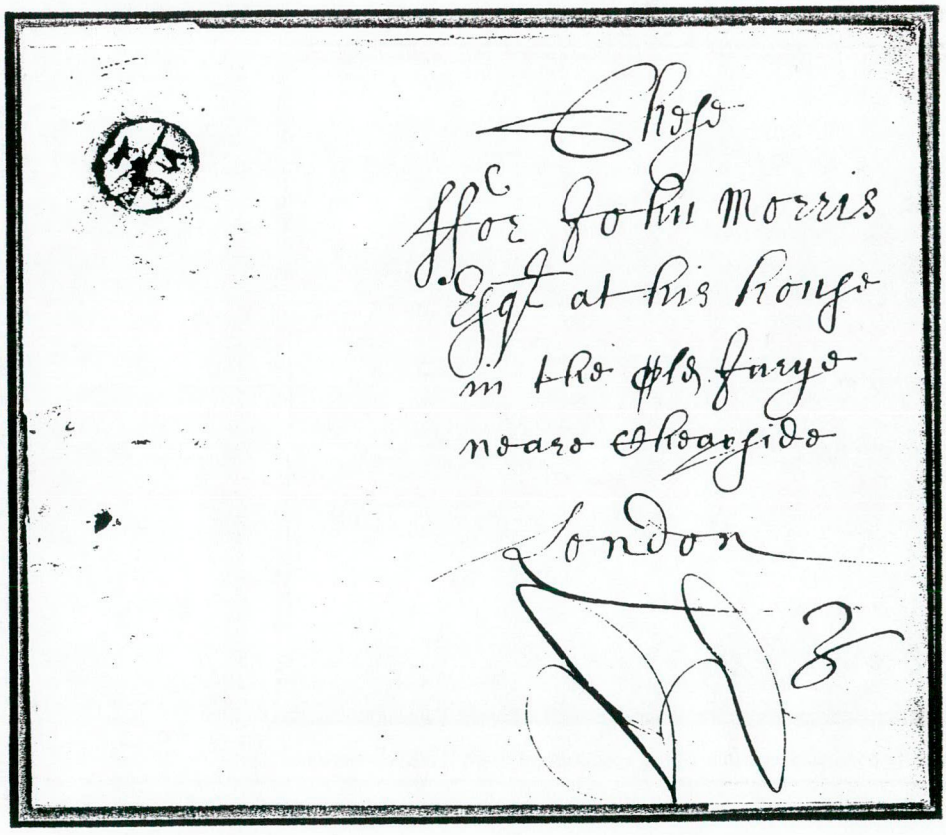
in combination with a

1st. year Edinburgh Bishop Mark



1693, 13th. December, endorsed at Aberdeen m.s. *Pt. Pd. 3 d. to Edr.*, arrived 16th. December; Edinburgh to London, London arrival - 22nd. December, charged → in all 5 d.

Reversed 'N' - Variety



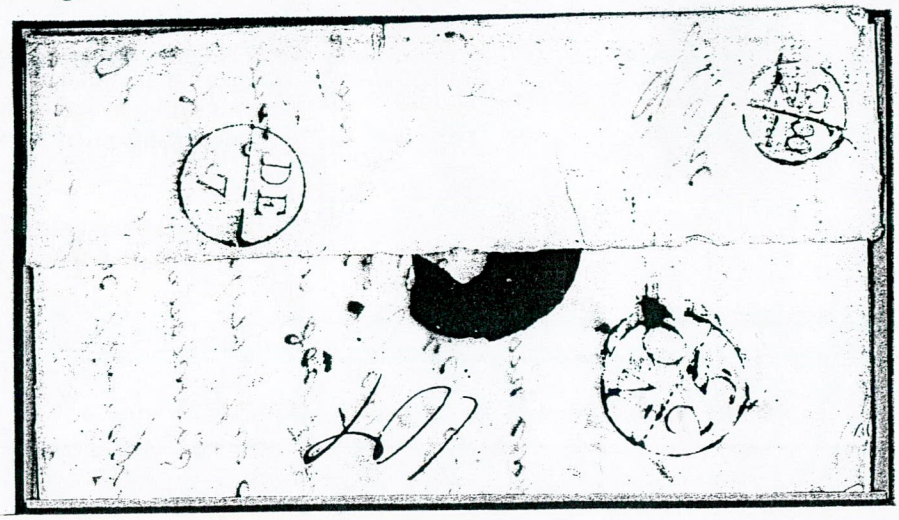
1674, 31st. October, Chamberlaine to London, arrived 2nd. November, charged 3 d.

1.1. The Bishop Mark

The third type of the Bishop Mark had the positions of month and day interchanged, while Edinburgh, Dublin and London Foreign Branch retained the original form. The handstamps in Dublin, and probably in Edinburgh as well, had the day fixed and the month movable, but London Bishops are thought to have been solid.

English Rates 1711: 3 d. to 80 miles, 4 d. above; London to Edinburgh or Dublin - 6 d.

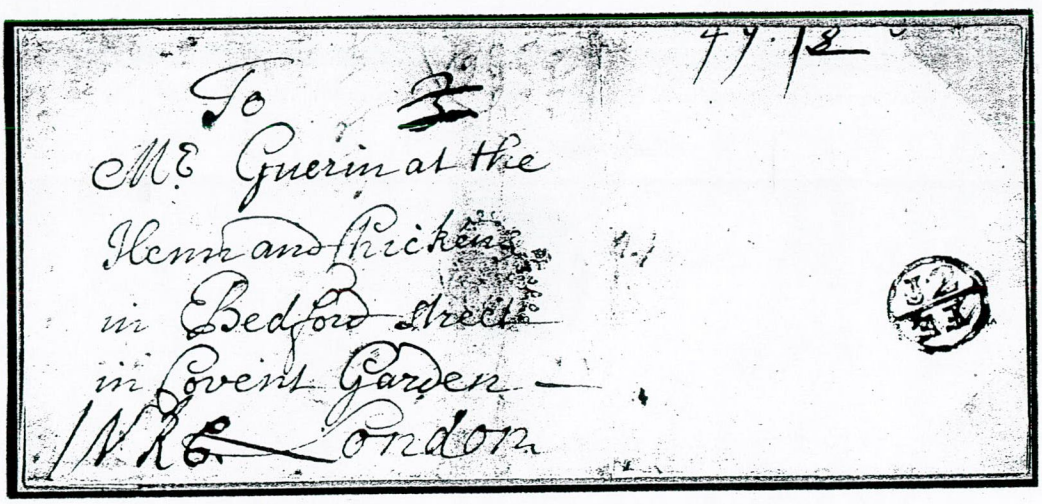
3rd. Type - **Foreign Office - NO(vember) / 18** in combination with **Dublin** and **Edinburgh** Bishop Marks



1782, 2nd. November, Spain via La Coruna or Vigo addressed to an M.P. in Edinburgh, but re-directed in London (NO / 18) to Dublin (NO / 25), then re-directed again to Edinburgh (DE / 7) and finally sent back to London

Charges: prepaid to La Coruna or Vigo → 10 Realos; to pay on arrival - Spain to London = 18 d. → 1/6 d. (1711 - *9 Anne c 10*); London - Dublin = 6 d.; Dublin - Donnagdee = 4 d.; Donnagdee - Port Patrick = 2 d.; Port Patrick - Edinburgh = 2 d.; from Edinburgh sent back to London → to pay on arrival = in all 38 d. → 3/2 d.

3rd. Type - **'J2 / FE' - Tête-Bêche Bishop Mark; ∅ = 14 - 20 mm; 1713 to 1787; sans-serif lettering; day above month**

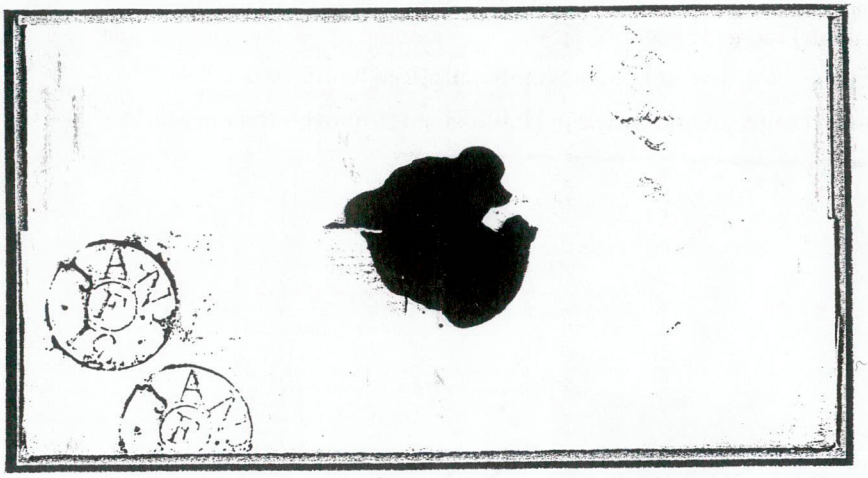


1717, 10th. February, Stamford to London, arrived 12th. February

Charges: initially charged 3 d.; on arrival found to be a treble letter and in addition the distance to Stamford was above 80 miles - consequently uprated to 1/- d. (Tariff of 1711)

(The 'RC' is the charge clerk's initials after 'IN' often used for 'one shilling', the rate change confirmed by Examiner's crown. The carver of this Bishop mark for 12th. February cut 'J' for the numeral '1' and cut the 'FE' upside down with the variety of serif lettering *- for the early period two handstamps are known for London with this variety, the other is dated 21/NO 1718; similar ones occured in the 1780s -*)

1.2. Experimental Datestamps

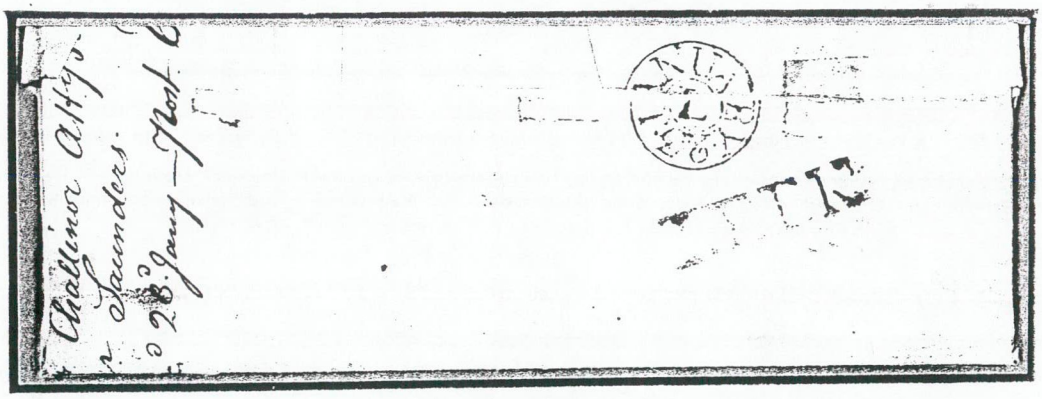


The Inland Office Bishop Mark remained in use up to 30th. April 1787, although experimental date stamps were introduced from 16th. January 1787 (up to 30th. April) on letters addressed to, or in transit through, London (*Morning Duty*).
The date stamps contained the month and day, and a central letter (A to M or O). At least 6 different letters were used eventually, presumably on different tables.

abbreviated 'JANY' -
27th. to 31st. January 1787; ∅ = 20 mm

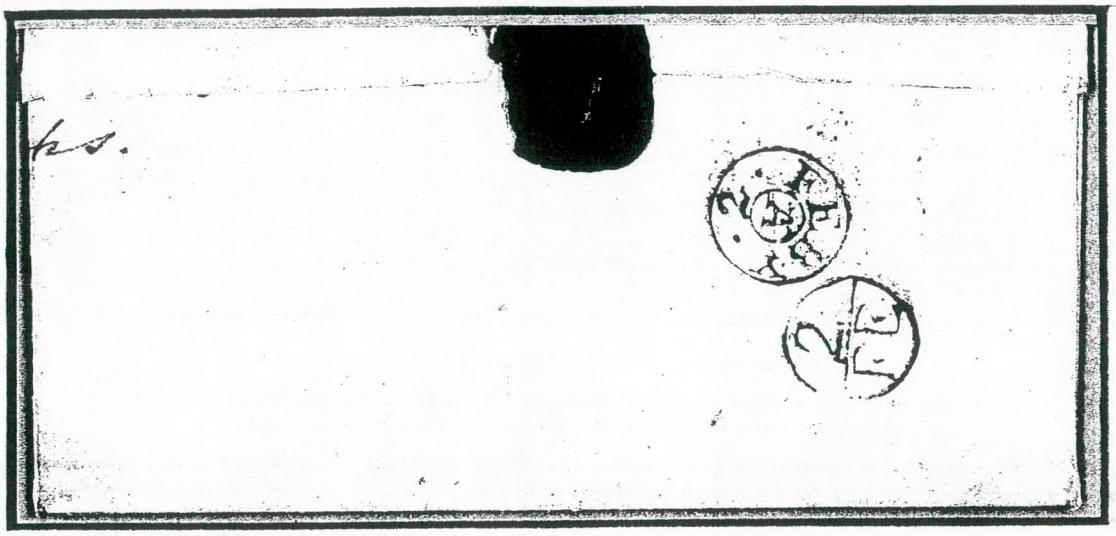
1787, 29th. January, CHIM / LEY / Devon to London, charged 6 d.

'JANUARY' in full - 16th. to 26th. January 1787; ∅ = 21 mm



1787, 21st. January, LEEK to Picadilly / London, charged 6 d. - above 150 miles (Tariff of 1784)

abbreviated 'FEBY' - 1787



1787, 1st. February, Chideock to Clifford Street / London, charged 10 d. - double letter up to 150 miles (Tariff of 1784)

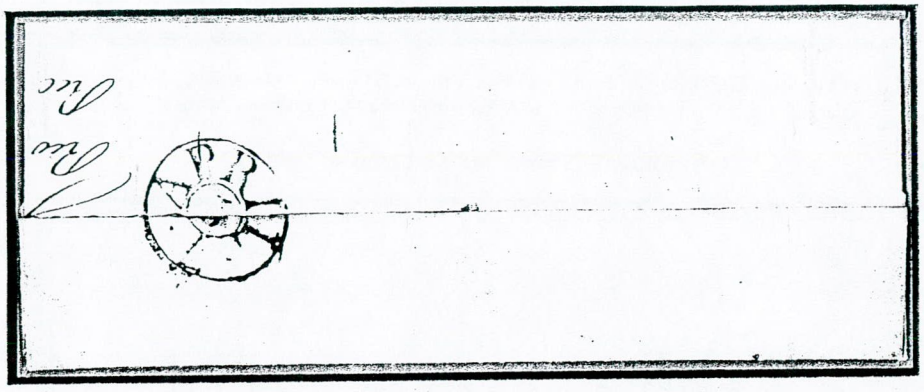
1.2. Experimental Datestamps

'MARCH' - 1787



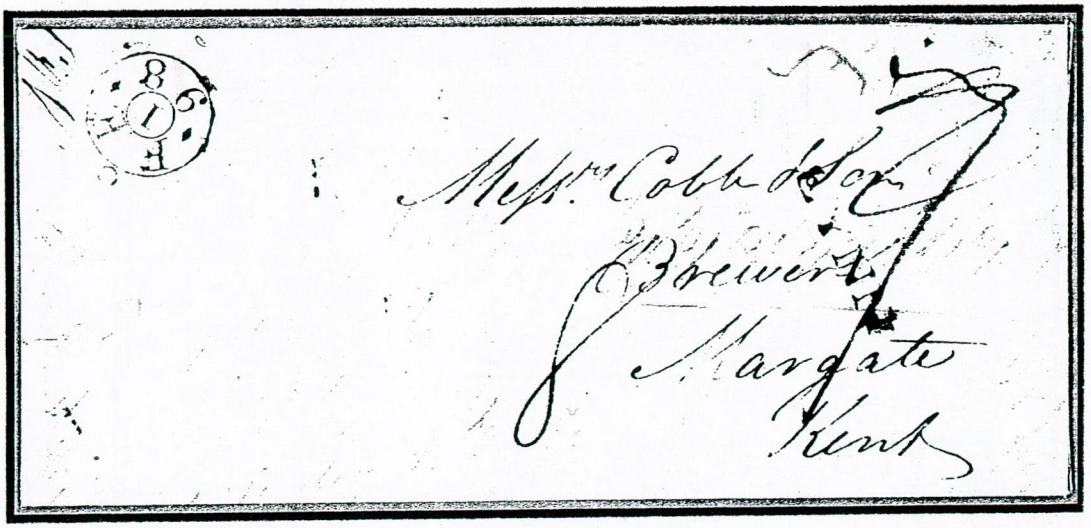
1787, 21. March, PETER / BOROUGH via London (23rd.) to Worchester
charged - in all 9 d.; 4 d. to London + 5 d. to Worchester (Tariff of 1784)

'APRIL' - 1787



1787, 6th. April, IPSWICH to London, charged 4 d. up to 80 miles (Tariff of 1784)

Small Letter 'c' above - January and February 1798

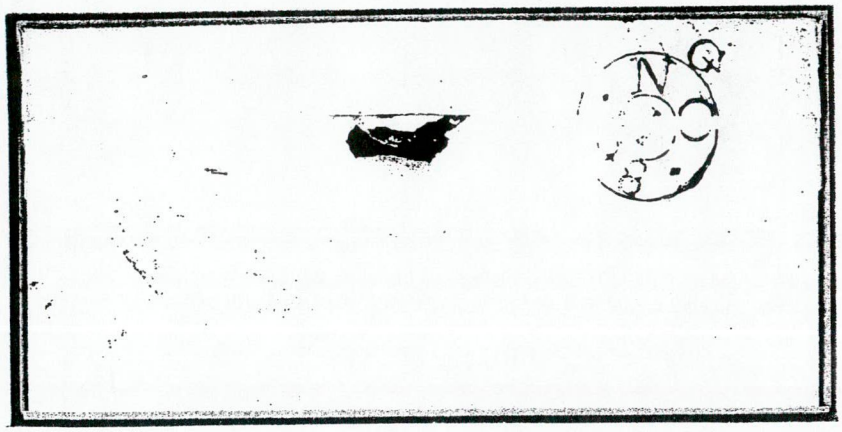


1798, 31st. January, LYNN via London (1st. Feb.) to Margate
charged 7 d. to London + 1 d. for the above 150 miles rate (Tariff of 1796)

1.2. Experimental Datestamps

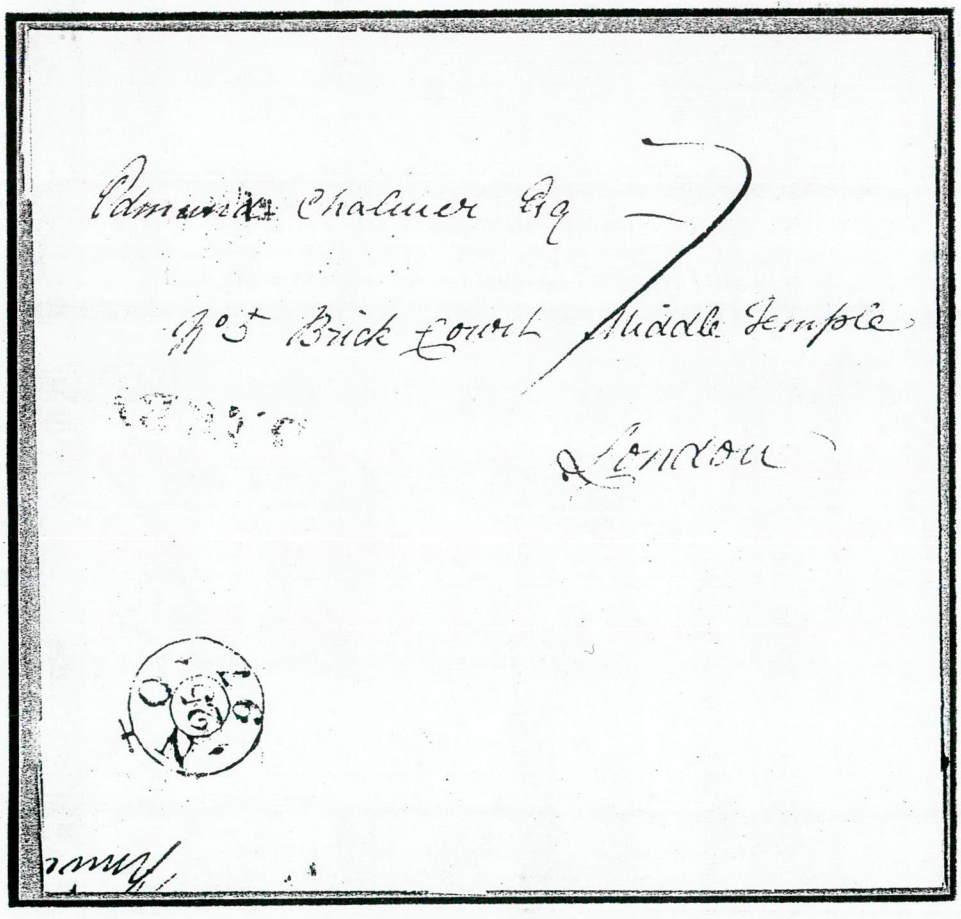
A change was made on 1st. January 1798 in the stamps for morning duty, the letters being placed outside the circle at the top. A few specimens are already recorded for 1797 with a cross above, which may have indicated an extra table.

Large Letter 'G' above; March 1798 to 1st. July 1799



1798, 31st. October, EPSOM (serpentine) in transit through London (1st. Nov.) to Windsor, charged 4 d. up to 30 miles + 1 d. to Windsor → in all 5 d. (Tariff of 1796)

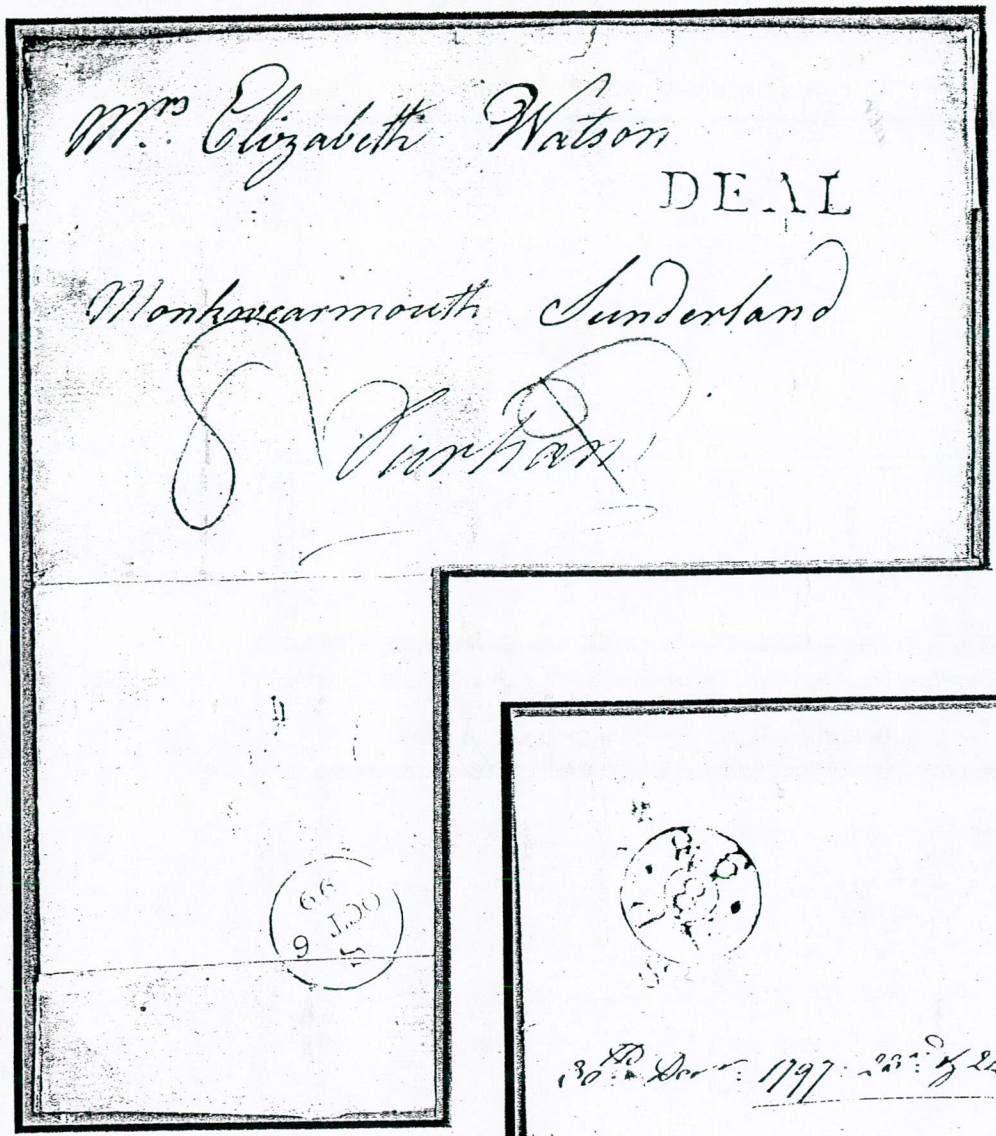
'CROSS' above - November and December 1797



1797, 23rd. November, DERBY to Middle Temple / London, charged 7 d. - up to 150 miles (Tariff of 1796)

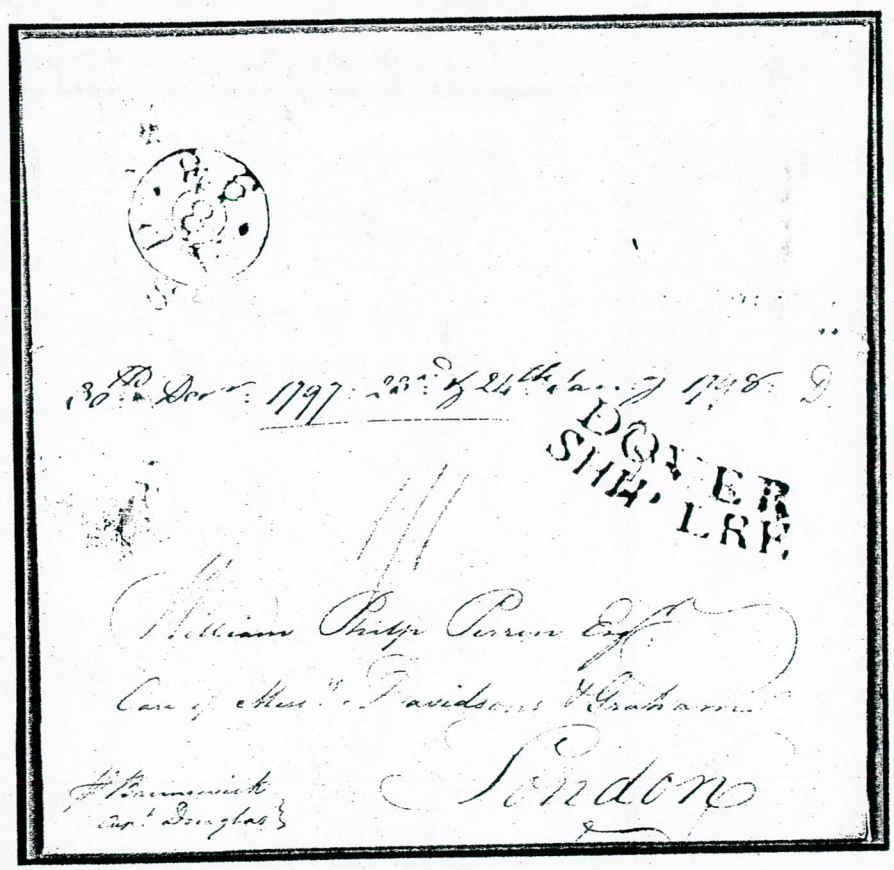
1.3. Sunday Datestamps

Letters from Ireland, Scotland and certain English Ports, official letters and those eligible for *'Franking'*, had these stamps applied when received at the General Post Office on Sunday.



Known for 6th. October 1799;
∅ = 21 mm
(only a few examples recorded)

1799, 5th. October, DEAL via London to Durham
charged → in all 8 d. = 6 d. to London - up to 100 miles + 2 d. for the above 150 miles rate to Durham
(Tariff of 1796)



Letter 'S' above circle
1798 - 99; ∅ = 21 mm

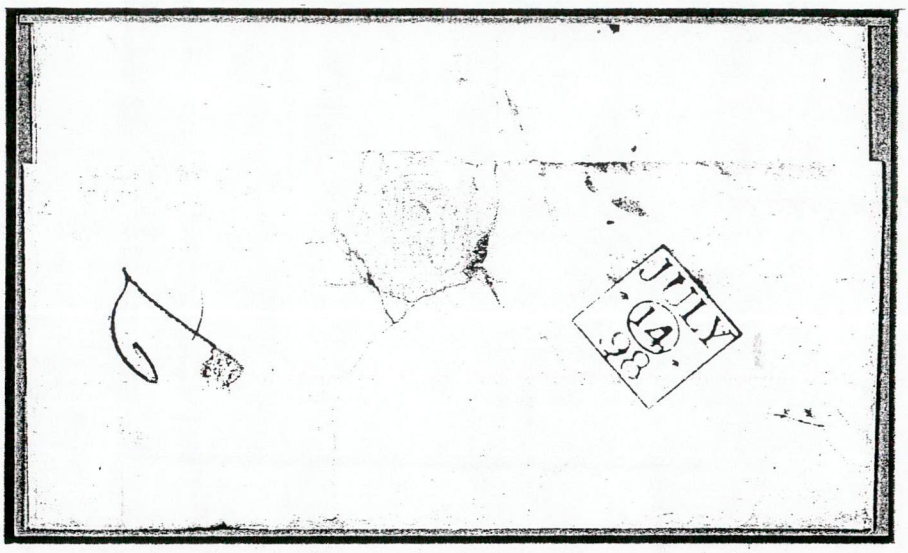
1797, 30th. December, Jamaica via Dover to London, forwarded per Capt. Douglas, by Ship 'Brunswick'

Charges: 1 d. Captain's fee (*5 Geo 3 c 25*), double letter to London - 2 x 6 d. - in all 1/1 d.

1.4. Prepaid Late Fee Marks

From 1797, letters handed in at the window of the General Post Office between 7 pm. and 7.45 pm., after the Office had closed, for despatch by the night coach, were received on payment of late fee 6 d.. Special handstamps were applied to distinguish them. From May 1797 to December 1798 a square stamp was used, which was replaced by a circular one in 1799.

May 1797 to December 1798; ∅ = 19 x 20 mm



1798, 14th. July, London to Aberfeldie / Perthshire, charged 7 d. up to 150 miles (Tariff of 1796)

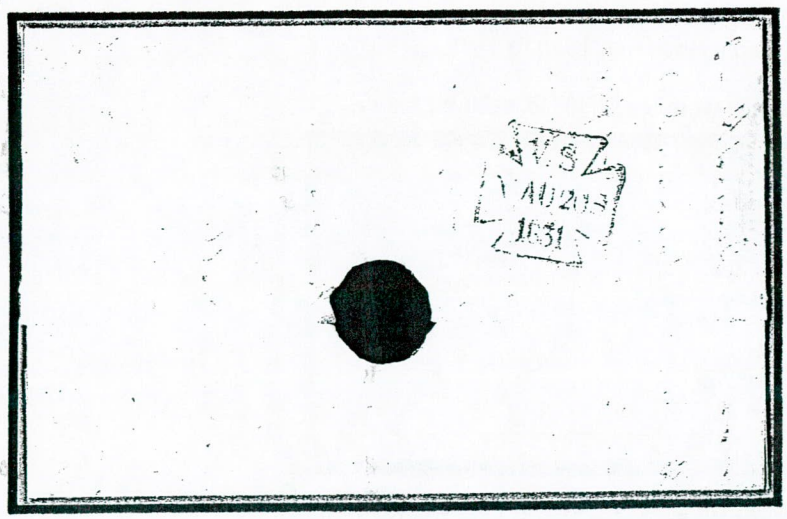
March to December 1799; ∅ = 25 mm (in mauve **)**



1799, 28th. March, London to Norwich, charged 7 d. up to 150 miles

1.5. Branch Office Datestamps

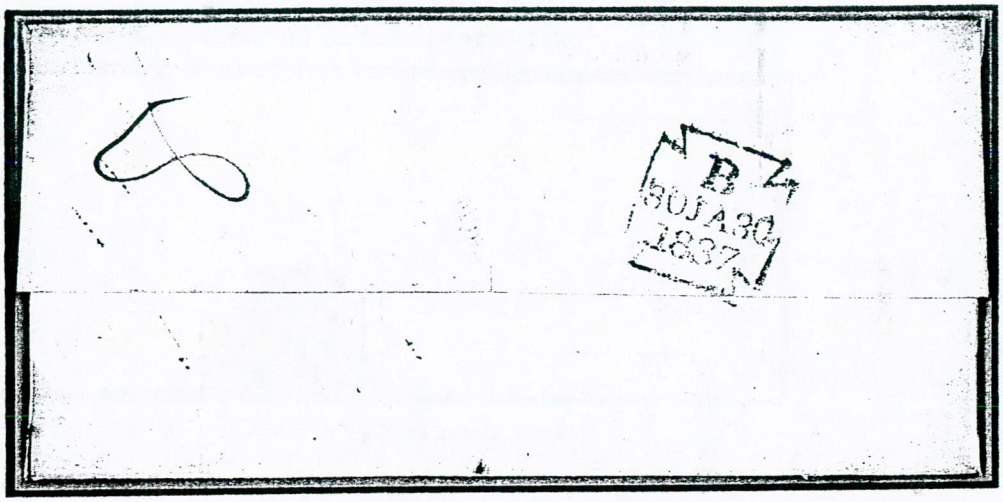
In 1829 Branch Offices were opened at Borough, Charing Cross, Lombard- and Vere Street to unburden the Chief Office. In consequence of their date-stamping time was saved when the letters from them were received at the Chief Office. The stamps employed at these offices were, with one exception, all based in shape on a *Maltese Cross*.



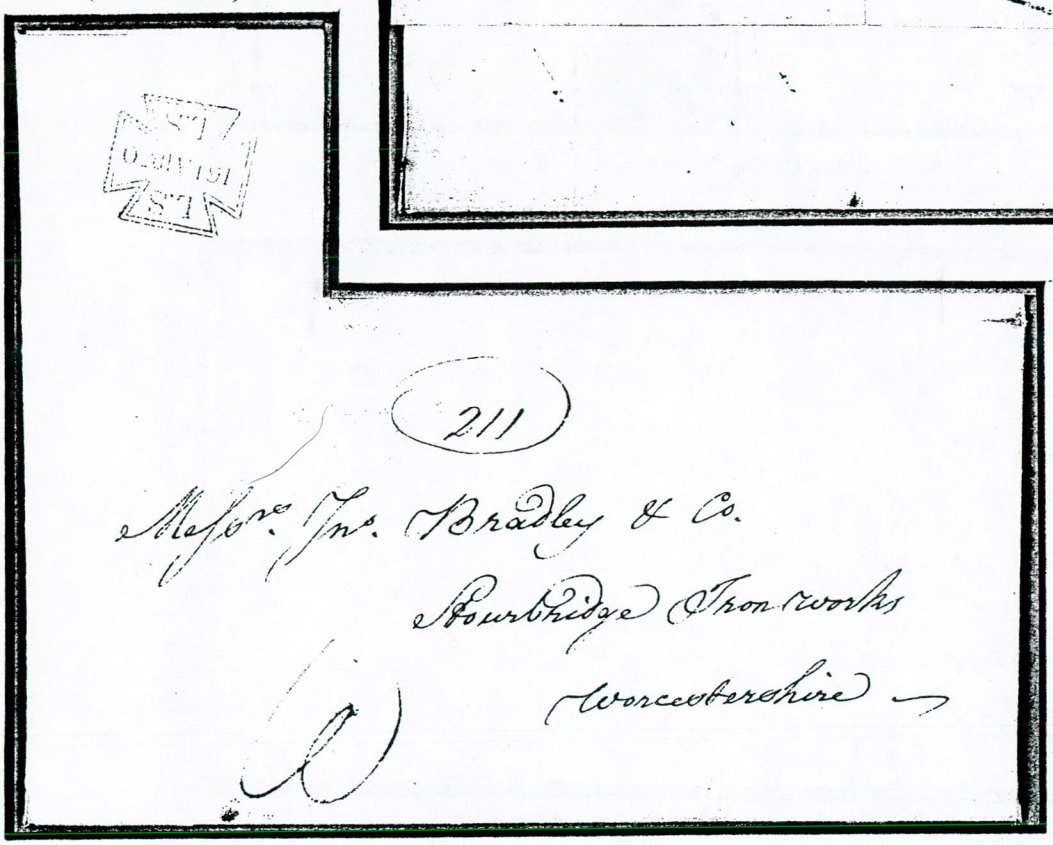
Vere Street; ∅ = 21 x 22 mm; 15th. July 1835 to 16th. May 1838

1831, 20th. August, Vere Street to Fitchley, endorsed 'Free'

Borough; ∅ = 22 x 23 mm; 15th. July 1835 to 16th. May 1838



1837, Borough to Maidstone / Kent, charged 7 d. - up to 50 miles (Tariff of 1812)



Lombard Street - double frame; ∅ = 22 x 21 mm; January 1830

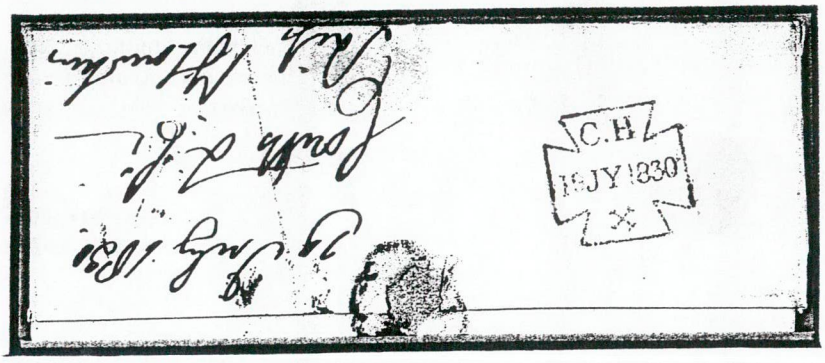
The busiest of the four Branch Offices was undoubtedly Lombard Street. This early double frame stamp in blue seems to be an additional stamp to relieve pressure at this office.

1830, 16th. January, Lombard Street to Stourbridge, charged 10 d. up to 170 miles

1.5. Branch Office Datestamps

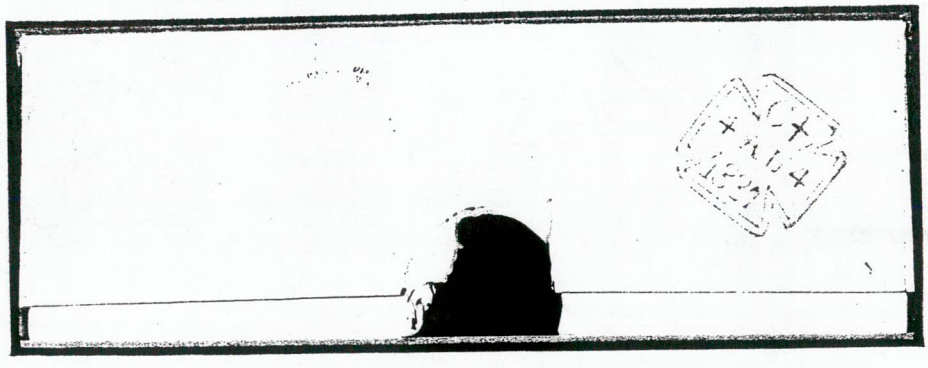
The next in importance was the Charing Cross Branch Office. In 1833 a circular date stamp with *CX* was used which is supposed to be experimental. In addition a double frame type appeared from 1836 to 1839.

18th. November 1829 to 30th. October 1830; ∅ = 20 x 21 mm



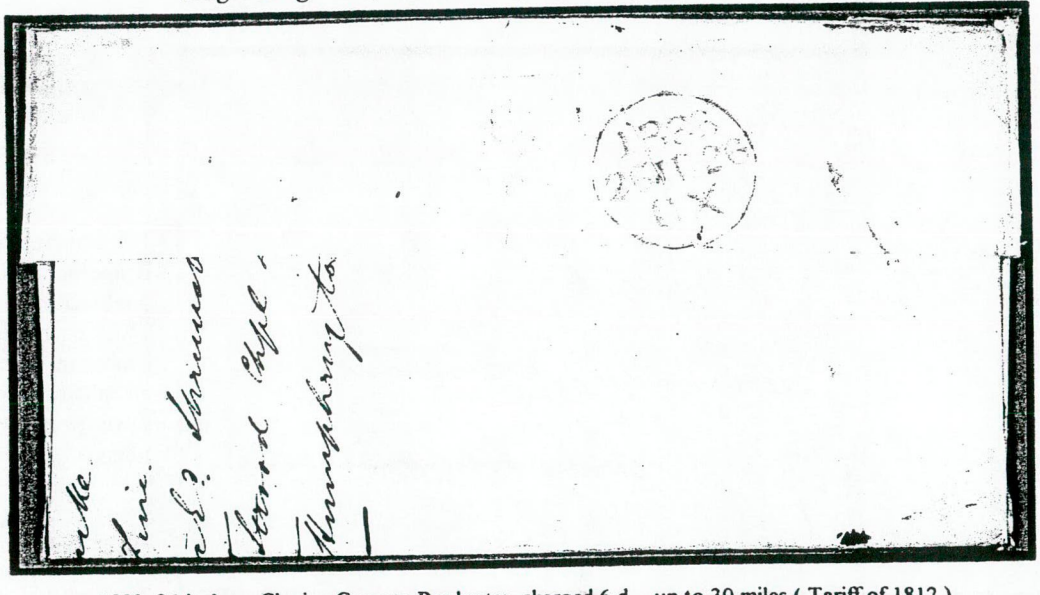
1830, 19th. July, Charing Cross to Plymouth, charged 11 d. - up to 230 miles (Tariff of 1812)

Double Frame - 14th. July 1836 to 29th. July 1839



1837, 4th. August, Charing Cross to Preston, charged 11 d.

Single Ring *'CX'*; ∅ = 25 mm; 3rd. May to 13th. July 1833



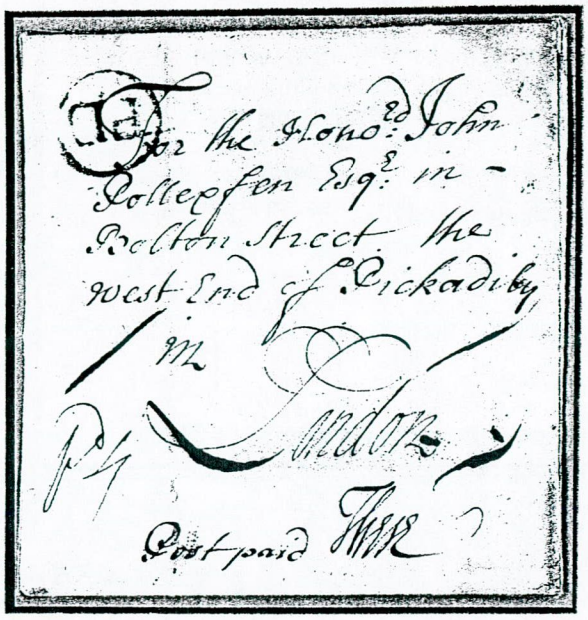
1833, 26th. June, Charing Cross to Rochester, charged 6 d. - up to 30 miles (Tariff of 1812)

2. G. P. Paid Marks

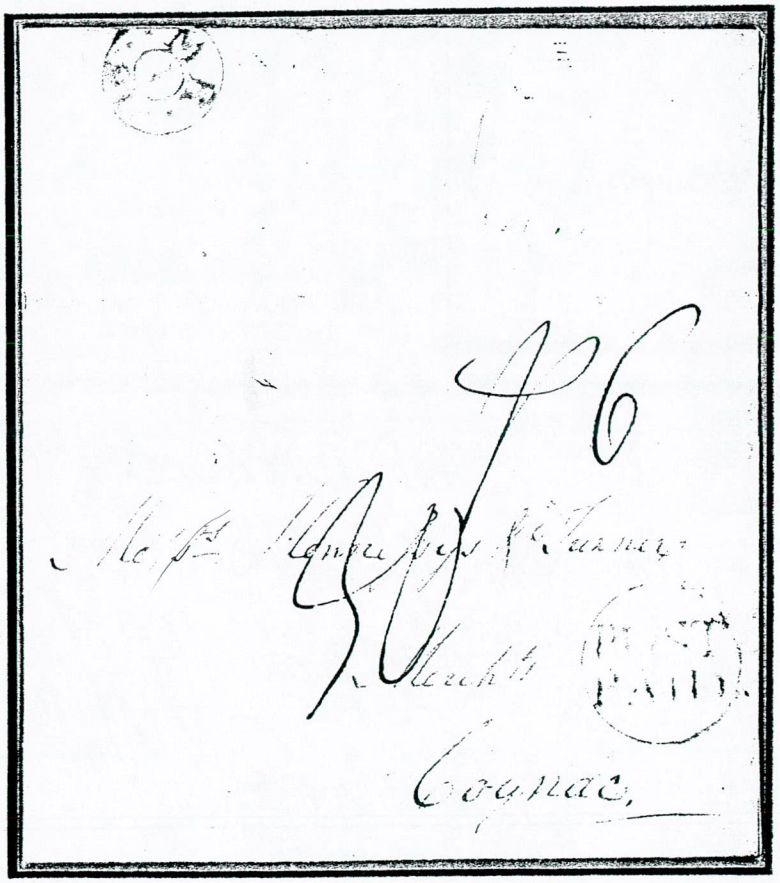
The majority of early letters were sent unpaid. Prepayment of inland post charge was required to London only; letters ex London went unpaid. This accounts for the relative scarcity of Paid handstamps. In addition there was always the necessity of prepayment for all letters going abroad. The first Inland Office Paid handstamp is recorded for March 1713.

'PD' in Circle; March 1713 to 1765; ∅ = 13 - 18 mm

(earliest usage recorded)



1712, 22nd. November, Brooking to London; arrived London 25th. November
m.s. *Post paid* and *P 4* - above 80 miles (Tariff of 1711)



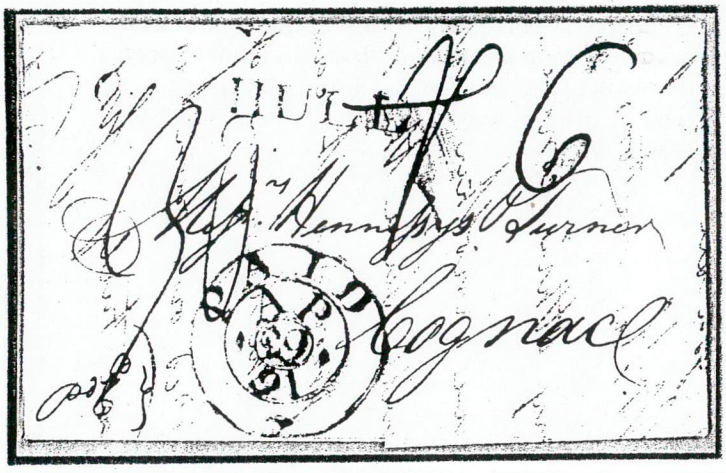
'POST / PAID' in Circle (in mauve 1790 only; in black - 1778 to 1790); ∅ = 24 - 28 mm

1790, 26th. February, HULL to Cognac, prepaid 6 d. for the above 150 miles rate (Tariff of 1784); to pay on arrival in Cognac - 30 Sous
(G.B. - Paris = 20 Sous + Paris - Cognac = 10 Sous (Tariff scale France 1759))

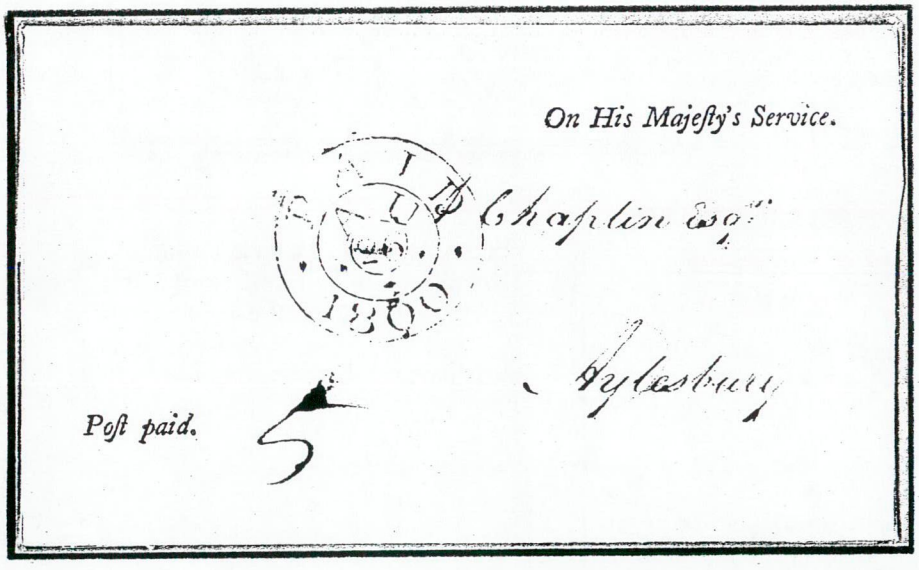
2.1. Paid Datestamps

In 1787 a dated paid type was introduced for evening duty on letters from London. This had an outer ring with the word PAID, and a central dated portion similar in design to the stamps used on unpaid letters. The rings and lettering vary in size.

'PAID'; Year in Inner Ring;
1787 to September 1791; ∅ = 30 - 34 mm



1791, 27th. April, prepaid at HULL - 6 d. (Tariff of 1784), London via Dover, Calais and Paris to Cognac; to pay on arrival - 30 Sous (Tariff scale France 1759)



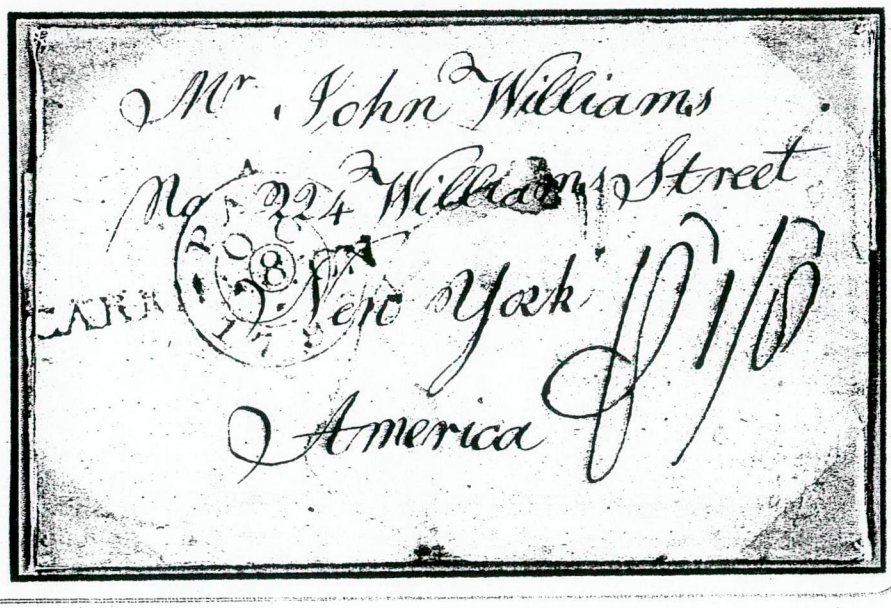
From 1791, the year began to be placed in the outer circle and since 1795 the year was given in full.

'PAID' - Year in Outer Ring;
1795 to 1801; ∅ = 32 - 35 mm

1800, 26th. August, London to Aylesbury, prepaid 5 d. - up to 60 miles (Tariff of 1796)

In 1798 a sorting table letter was added outside the ring at the top.

Small Letter 'A' outside;
January to August 1798; ∅ = 30 - 31 mm



1798, 6th. October, CARNARVON via London to New York

Charges: prepaid Inland Postage 8 d. - over 150 miles (Tariff of 1796) + 1/- d. to British North America (*37 Geo III c 18*) → in all 1/8 d.

2.2. Experimental Paid Marks

In 1794 there was an extensive reorganisation of the London Penny Post. At the same time the London General Post was re-organised at a lesser extent. The only evidence is the existence of experimental handstamps; at least three of them were adopted in two series.

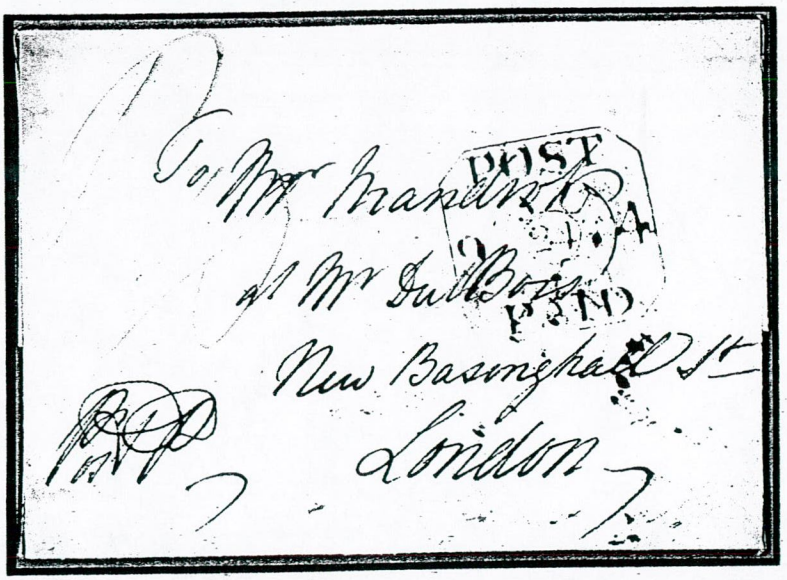
'POSTAGE PAID' in Square Frame; March 1794; ∅ = 34 x 34 mm

(first day of use)



1794, 1st. March, London to Dumfries, 1/2 d. prepaid - double letter to Scotland (Tariff of 1784)

'POST PAID' in Octagonal Frame; April to July 1794; ∅ = 32 x 32 mm

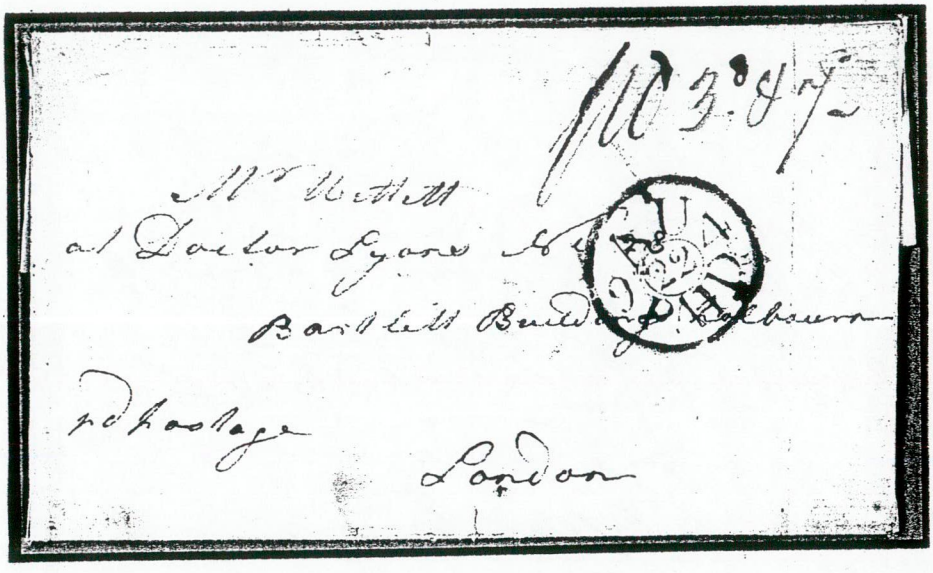


1794, 23rd. June, SALISBURY to London, double letter up to 150 miles - prepaid 10 d. (Tariff of 1784)

2.2. Experimental Paid Marks

Between August and December 1794 the third type of experimental Paid handstamp was in use.

'PAID' in Circle; August to December 1794; ∅ = 25 mm



1794, 17th. August, STIRLING via Edinburgh (19th. August) to London, prepaid 10 d.
Stirling to Edinburgh = 3 d. + 7 d. (should be 8 d.) to London (Tariff of 1784)

In addition there came a new short living single circle type in 1799 exactly the same as the unpaid type, except for the inclusion of the word PAID outside circle at the top.

'PAID' outside Circle; July to December 1799; ∅ = 25 mm



1799, 6th. August, BIRMINGHAM (reversed horseshoe) via London to Louth,
endorsed m.s. *Post Paid Double Letter* - 1/4 d., over 150 miles (Tariff of 1796)

2.3. Branch Office Paid Marks

With the establishment of the four Branch Offices in 1829, special stamps in red came into use there for paid letters.

'PAID / date / CX'; 2nd. March 1830 to 28th. November 1833; ∅ = 21 x 20 mm

(three months earlier than previously recorded)

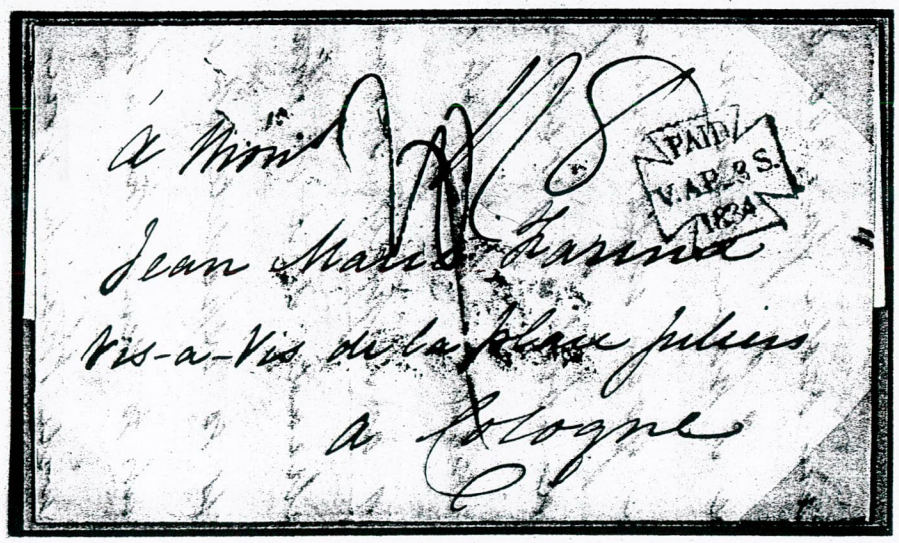


1829, 18th. December, *C*haring *C*ross to Mergentheim, prepaid 1/8 d. to Germany (POD London 1828)

Route: *A*ngleterre-*T*ransit-*F*rancais - Calais - Paris - Strasbourgh - Kehl - Mannheim - Mergentheim

Charges: Transit France (letters to 10 Grams - 1,5 x Porto) - 14 Décimes = 34 Kreuzer
Transit Baden = 12 Kreuzer
Mannheim - Mergentheim = 12 Kreuzer
to pay on arrival = 58 Kreuzer

'PAID / V. S. / date'; 8th. February 1830 to 11th. July 1834; ∅ = 21 x 20 mm



1834, 3rd. April, *V*ere *S*treet to Cologne

Route: London - Dover - Rotterdam (*Engeland / over Rotterdam*) - Liège - Aachen - Cologne

Charges: prepaid to Germany 1/8 d. - (packet-letter rate of 1828) → to pay on arrival - 7 S.gr.

1. 3. Receivers and Receiving Houses

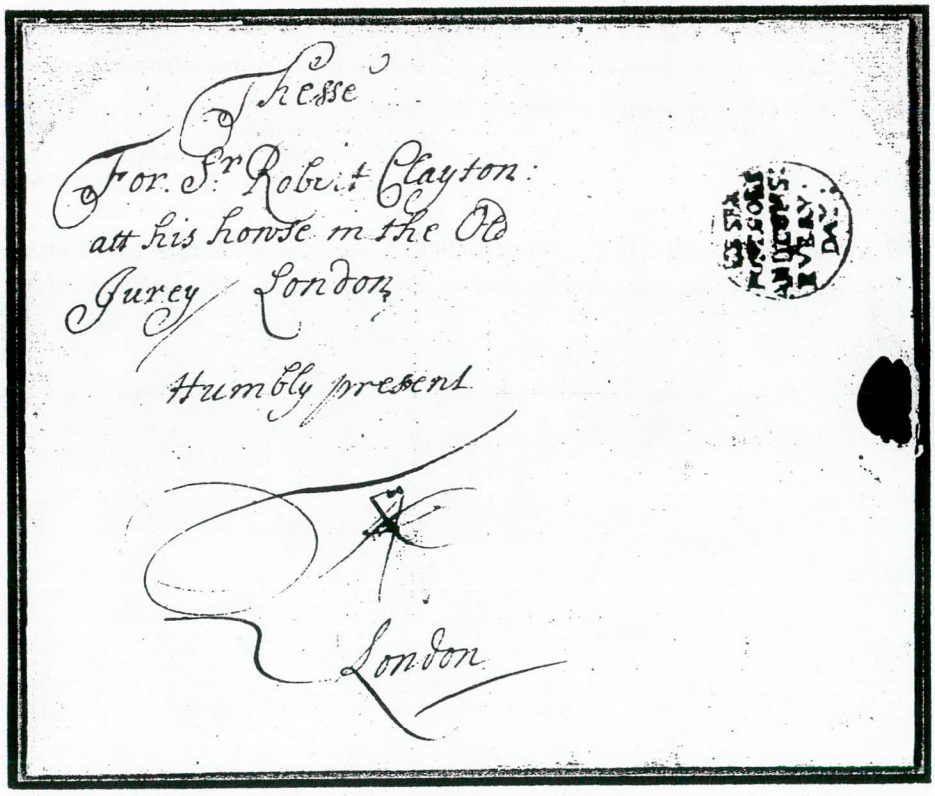
3.1. Slogan Handstamp

From earliest days Receiving Houses were set up for the mail on six main roads. Attractive slogan postmarks advertised the posts from London referring to Receiving Houses.

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.



1674 to 1675; ∅ = 20 mm



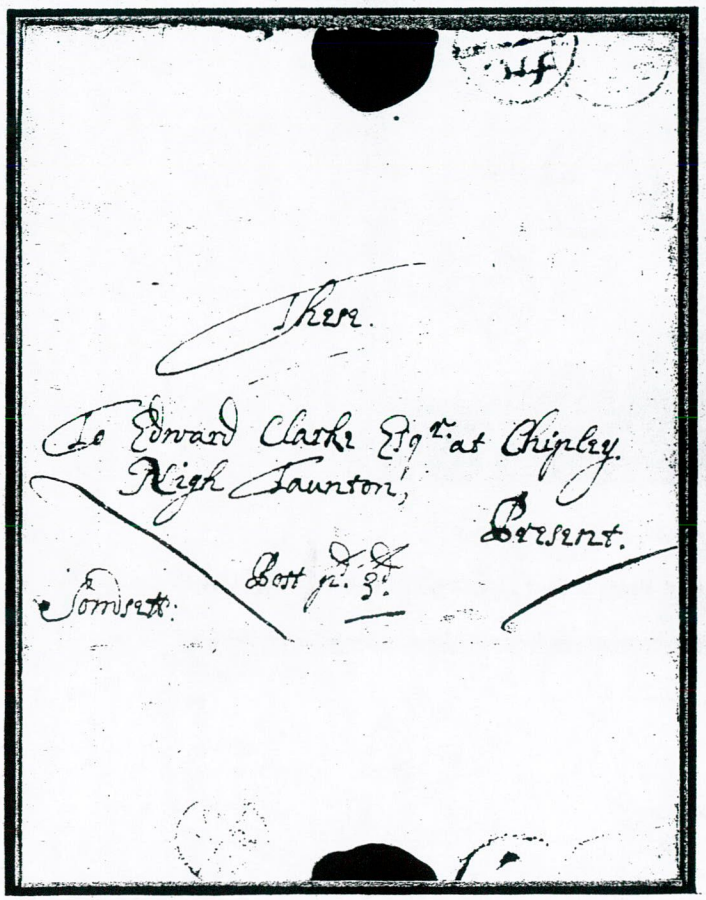
1675, 4th. November, St. Osyth to London
London arrival - 5th. November, charged 2 d. (4 d. deleted - single letter only)

3.2. Receiving Office Marks

The Receiving Houses were dealt by receivers. They had a stamp to indicate the place of posting, each receiver being allotted a particular number at first. At least there had been 7 receivers with different numbers in 1670.

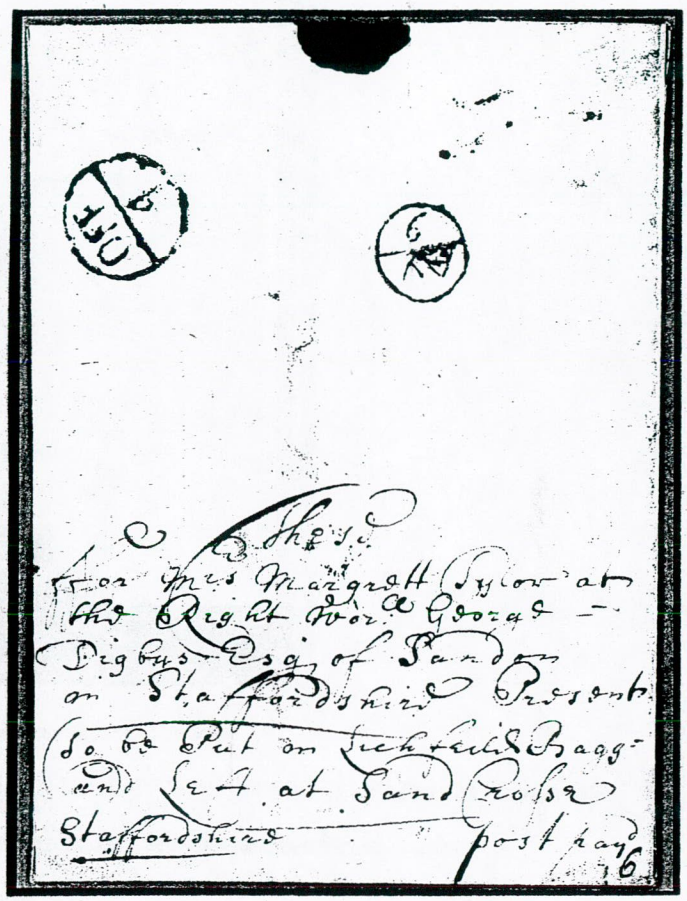


'2 / Off(ice)` ;1671 to 1674; ∅ = 19 mm



1672, 28th. January, London to Chipley, m.s. *Post pd. 3 d.*

'Off(ice) / 4`; 1671 to 1676; ∅ = 19 mm

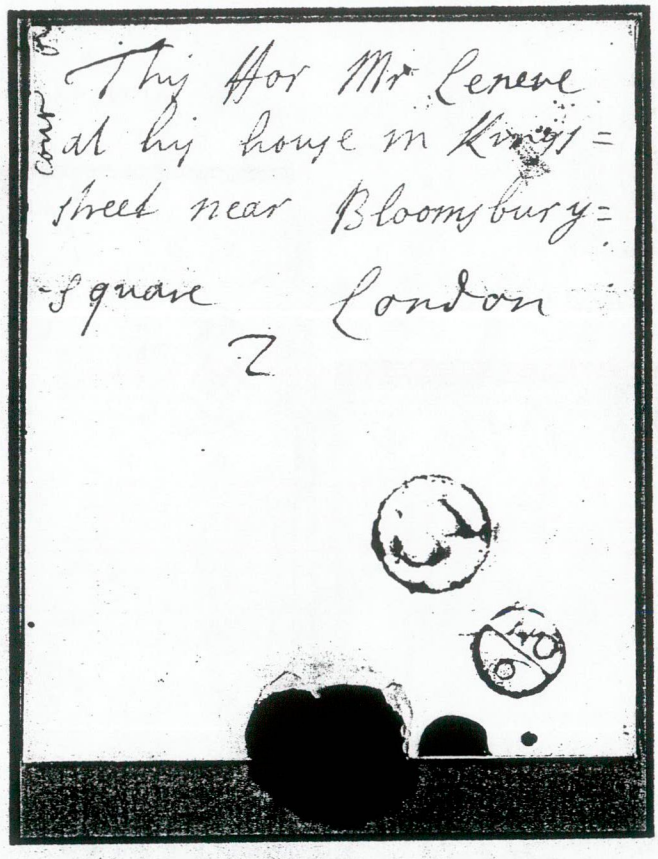


1674, 9th. August, London to Sandoss
m.s. *post payd* 6 d. - double letter

3.2. Receiving Office Marks

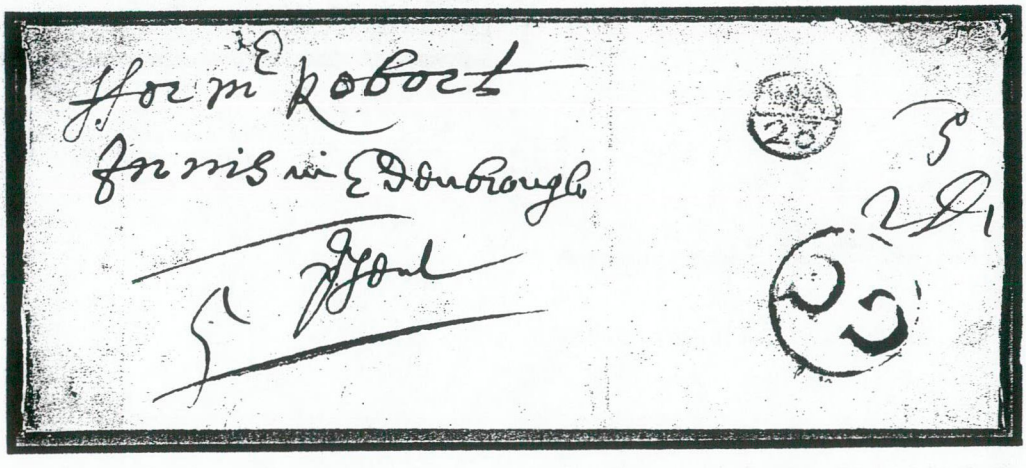
Towards 1674 these stamps changed to a number only and a few years later letters represented the initials of the receivers. No standard design was employed and so the handstamps vary in size and frame.

'3' in Circle; 1674 to 1688; ∅ = 17 mm



1689, 5th. November, London (6 / NO), charged 2 d.

Receivers' Initials - 'G C' in Circle - Gabriel Collins / Temple Bar; known from 1690 to 1706; ∅ = 22 mm

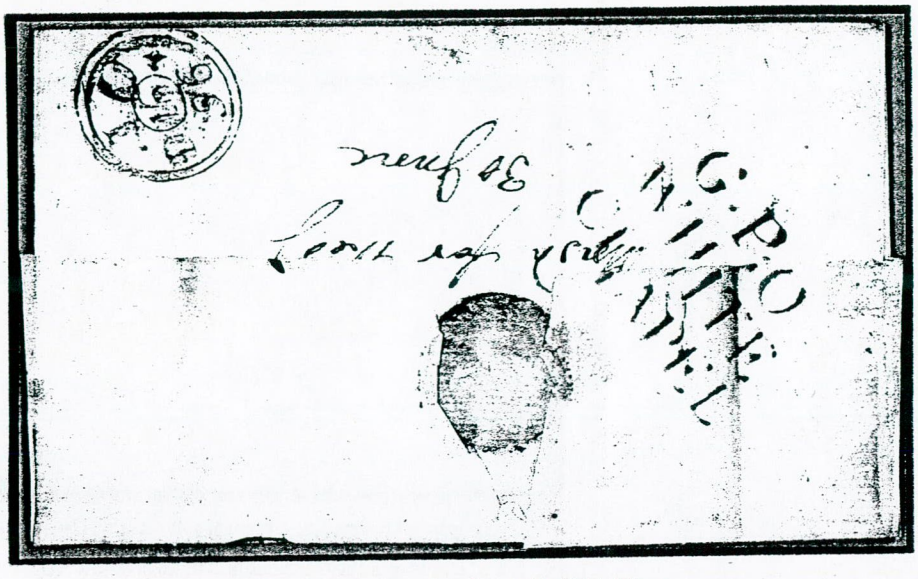


1692, 28th. March, London to Edinburgh, charged 5 d. (Tariff of 1668)

3.3. Receiving Houses

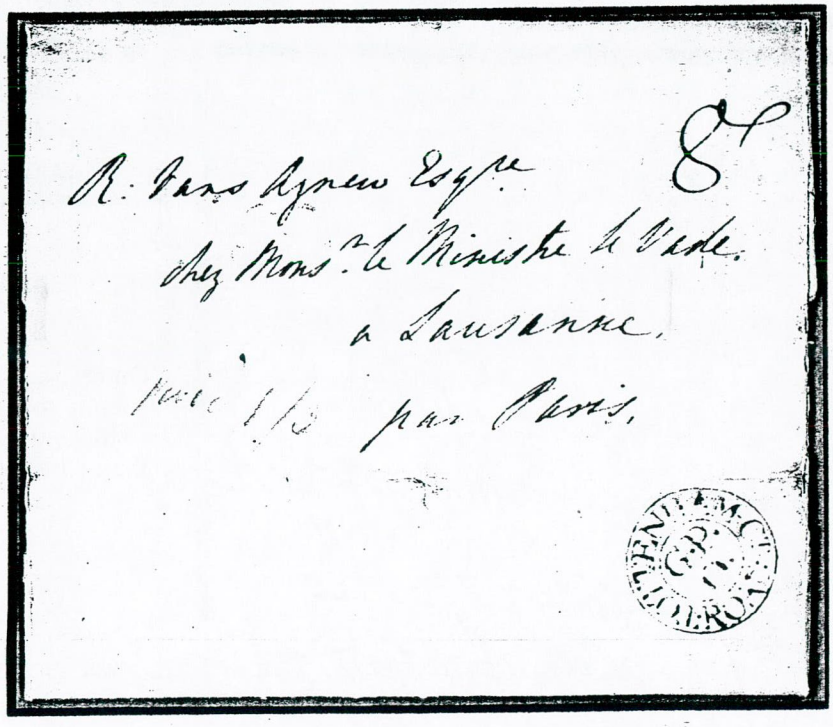
Although most General Post Receivers used handstamps consisting of initials in a circle, some applied more elaborate handstamps incorporating the name of their Receiving House to letters.

'G. P. O. / White / Chapel'; 1796 to 1797; ∅ = 41 x 25 mm



1796, 16th. January, London to Hatfield / Herts

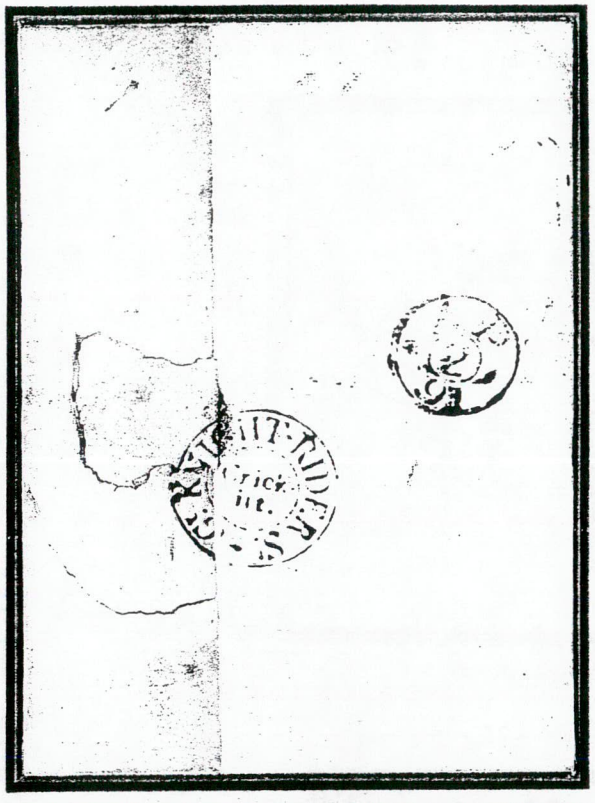
'Tottenham / Ct / Road'; 1791 to 1794; ∅ = 23 mm



1791, 8th. May, London *par Paris* to Lausanne

Charges: prepaid London to Paris = 10 d. + Paris to Geneva = 5 d.; to Swiss frontier in all - 15 d. = 1/3 d.
to pay on arrival: Geneva to Lausanne = 8 Sols (Tariff-scale 1759)

3.4. Receivers Name Stamps



minute 'G. Jamison`/ Charing / Crofs; 1802 to 1803
∅ = 40 x 22 mm

Receiver at Charing Cross Receiving House from 1799 to 1803.

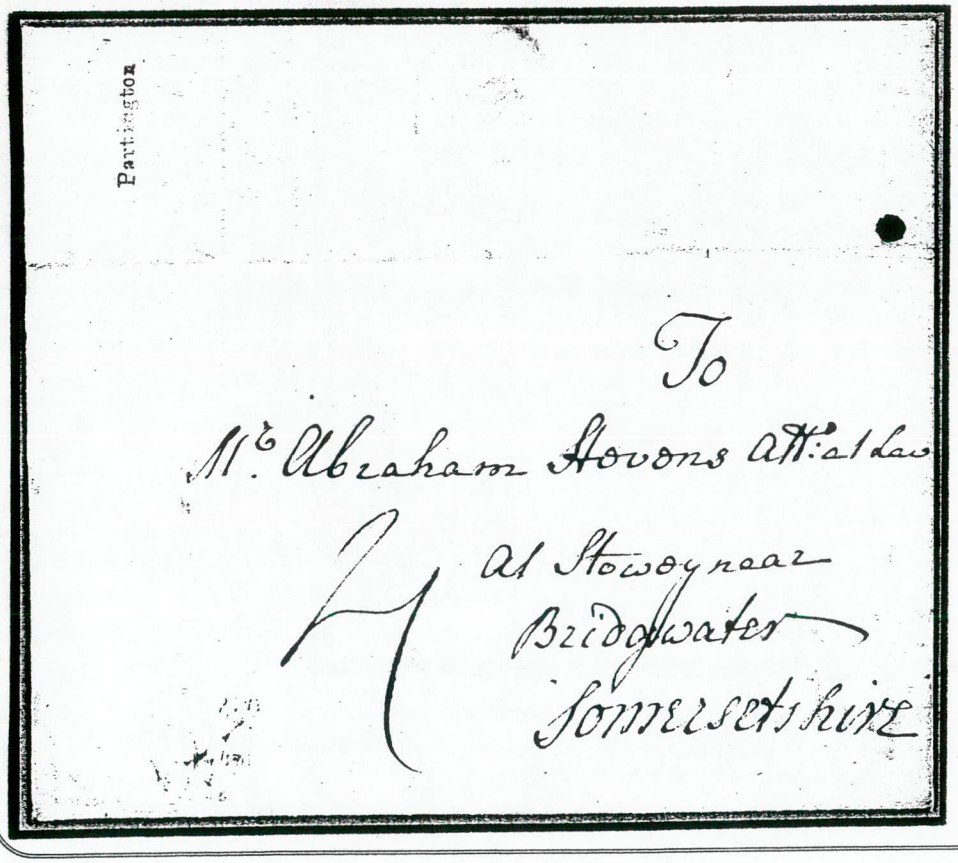
1802, 29th. October, London to Exon, charged 8 d. up to 170 miles (Tariff of 1801)



'Gt. Knight-Riders St. / Crick / itt`; 1790 - 91

John Crickitt was the Receiver in Knightrider Street
- Doctors Common, where he had a stationers´shop.

1791, 2nd. April, London to Mary Port / Cumberland
charged 6 d. over 150 miles (Tariff of 1784)



small 'Partington`; 1755 to 1782
∅ = 19 x 3 mm

(*first year in use*)

Richard Partington was a stationer of
58 Holborn Hill, Receiver from 1760 to 1781.

Other receivers even employed stamps of various designs, unframed, framed or in circle, with their names given in full.

1755, 26th. December, Bartletts Buildings
- London to Bridgewater,
charged 2/- d. - treble letter rate
up to 80 miles (Tariff of 1812)

3.3. Receiving Houses

From 1790 the various General Post Receiving Houses changed to a standard group of handstamps, consisting of the name of the Receiving House in upper or lower case. Rectangles with double as well as single outlines were in use.

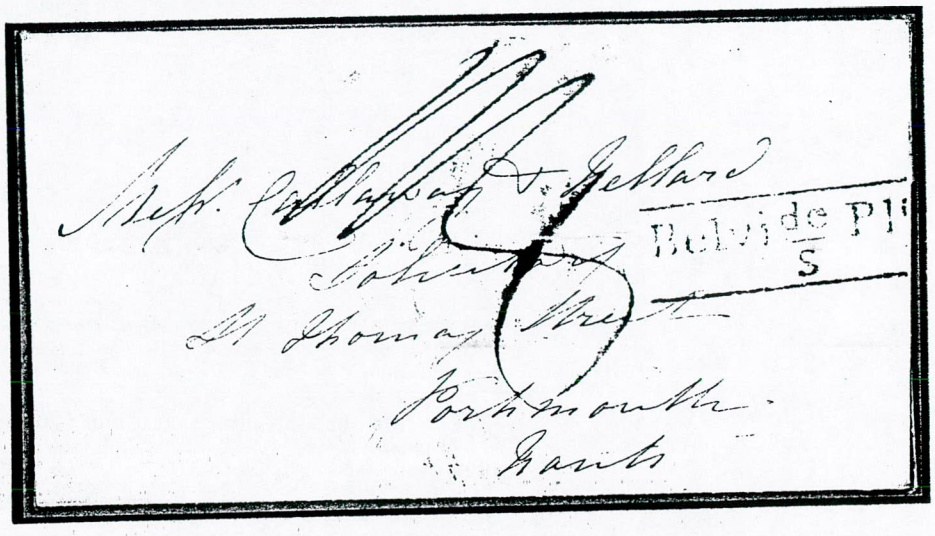


'St. George's F + s';
1812 in black and 1816 in red;
∅ = 50 x 13 mm

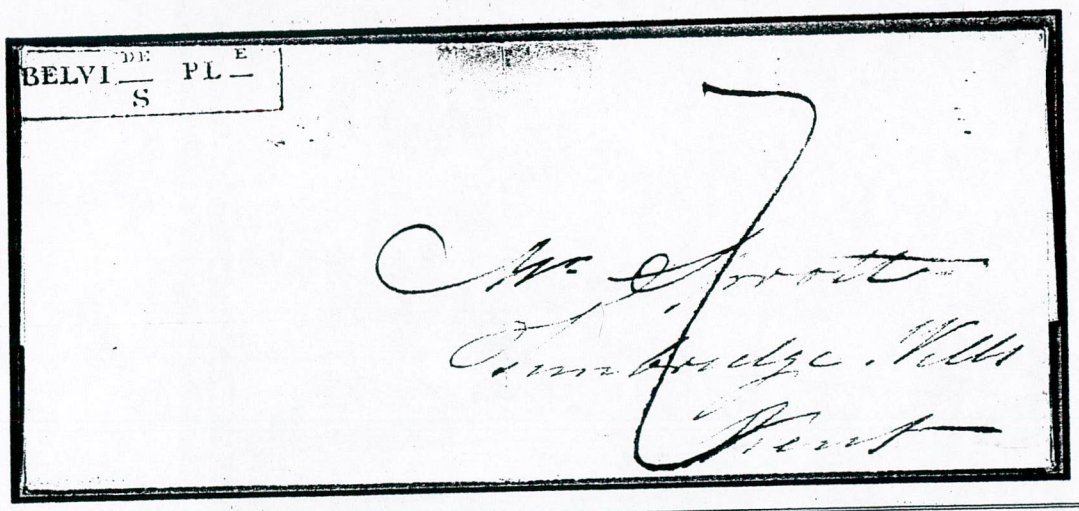
1812, 3rd. February, London to Brighton, charged 7 d. up to 50 miles (Tariff of 1812)

'Belvi / de / s Ple'; 1818 to 1838;
∅ = 46 x 15 mm

The Receiving House for the *Kings Bench Prison* and surrounding roads was located at *Belvidere Place*. The handstamp first used gave the location at *St. George's Fields* being the parish of Southwark and containing the prison. From 1818 stamps with the original name in two styles were applied to letters.



1836, 27th. August, London to Portsmouth, charged 1/4 d. - double letter up to 80 miles (Tariff of 1812)

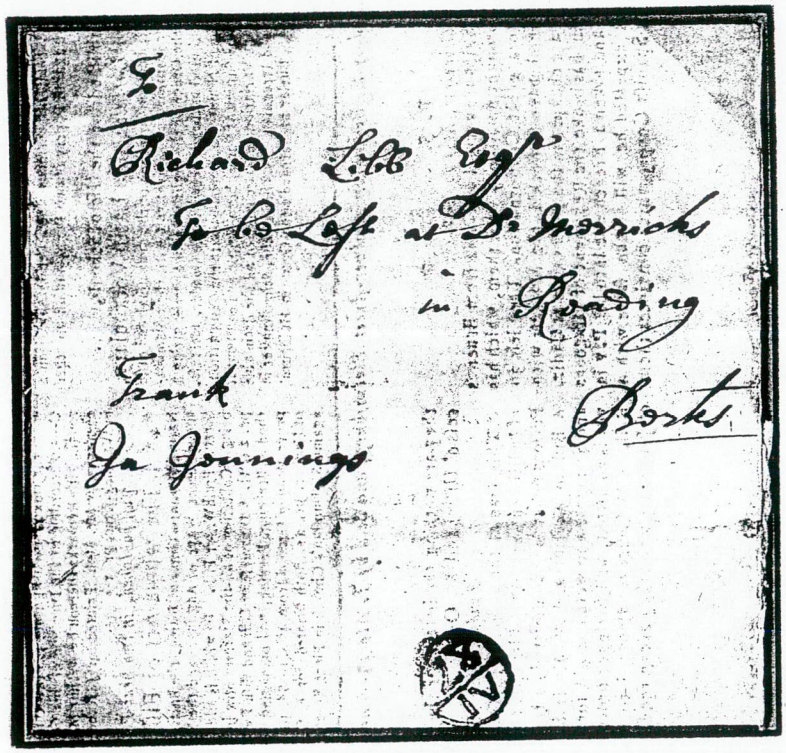


'BELVI / DE / S / PLE ;
1822 to 1830;
∅ = 41 x 10 mm

1823, 12th. February, London to Turnbridge Wells, charged 7 d. - single letter up to 50 miles (Tariff of 1812)

4. The 'Franking' - System

Letters from members of both Houses of Parliament, as well as certain other officials, were carried *free* of charge in the Post. This privilege was in operation from at least 1652, governed by certain rules which were, due to abuse, gradually added to. An endorsement with the word *Frank* or *Free* and signature of sender or one of his clerks was sufficient at first.



1715, 28th. June, 'The Evening Post' sent from London to Reading, endorsed 'Frank'

The first handstamp came into use in 1764.

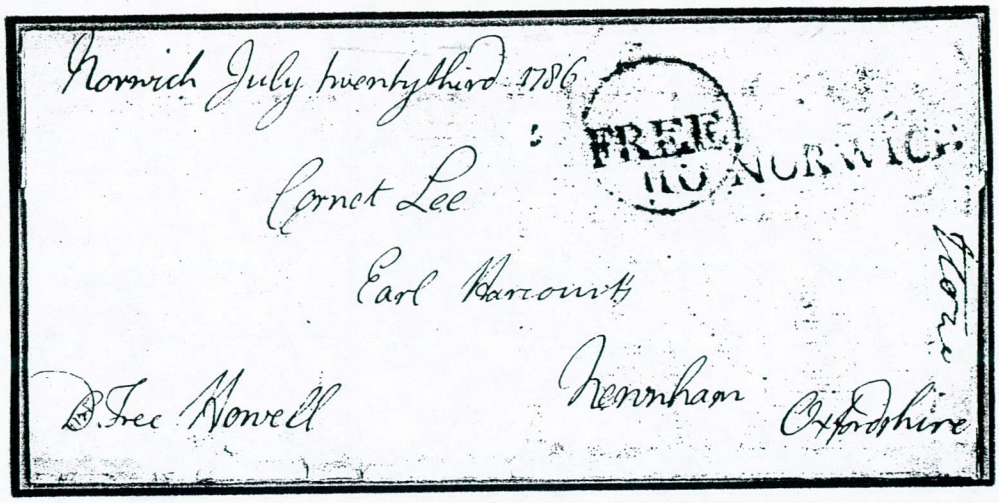
'F' taller than 'REE'; 1764 to 1765; ∅ = 18 - 20 mm



1765, 31st. January, London to Bristol, re-directed to London (4th. Feb.)

4.1. 'Free` - Handstamps

'FREE`; ∅ = 20 - 28 mm; 29th. August 1765 to 17th. October 1788



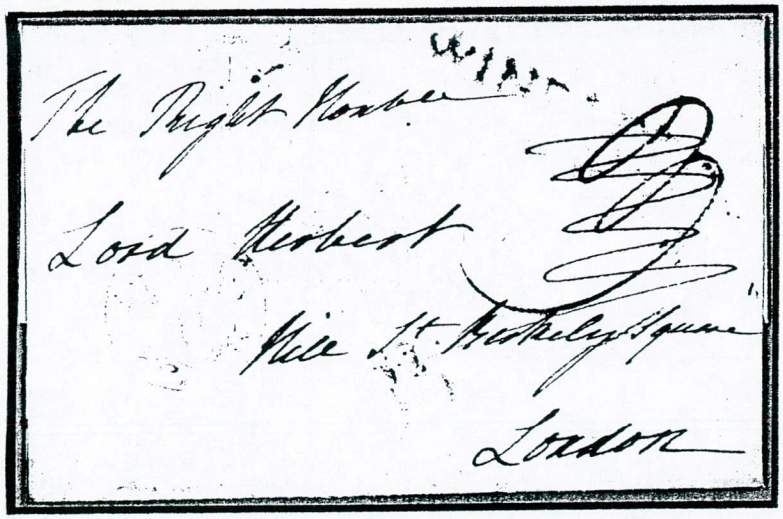
1786, 23rd. July, NORWICH / 110 (1st. type mileage mark in rarely used magenta ink) via London to Newnham

In 1787 came stamps of more decorative design. Various letters are found in the centre, these being the initials of different Inspectors of the Franks.

'FREE / S` = James Stafford; ∅ = 27 mm; 23rd. April 1787 to 12th. November 1789



1788, 11th. October, London to Kingsweston



'FREE / P' = John Palmer; ∅ = 25 mm; 15th. December 1789 to 30th. November 1790

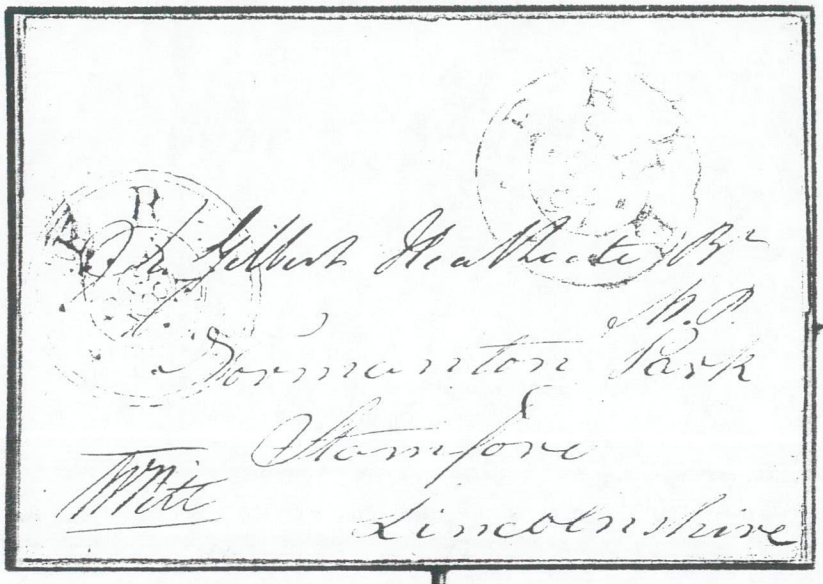
1790, 14th. January, WINDSOR to London

4.1. 'Free' - Handstamps

The double rim - FREE - handstamp was the first to differentiate between morning and evening duty.

'FREE / date' single- and double rim;
∅ = 34 - 37 mm;
both known for 1797 to 1799

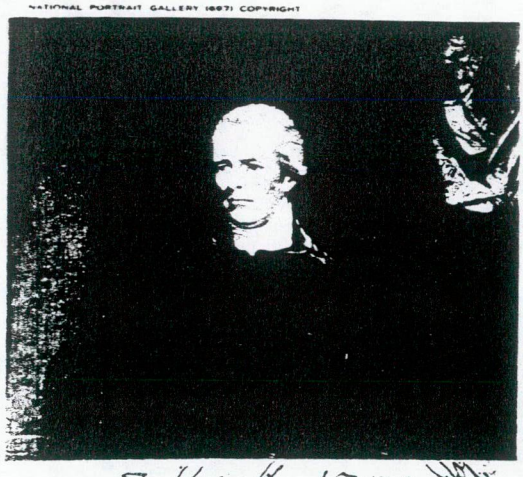
(first year of use)

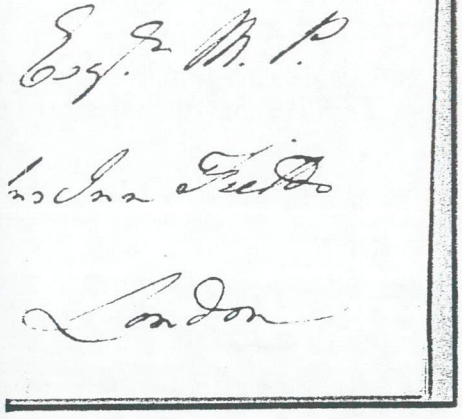


1797, 27th. September, London to Stamford
(signed by ***William Pitt***)

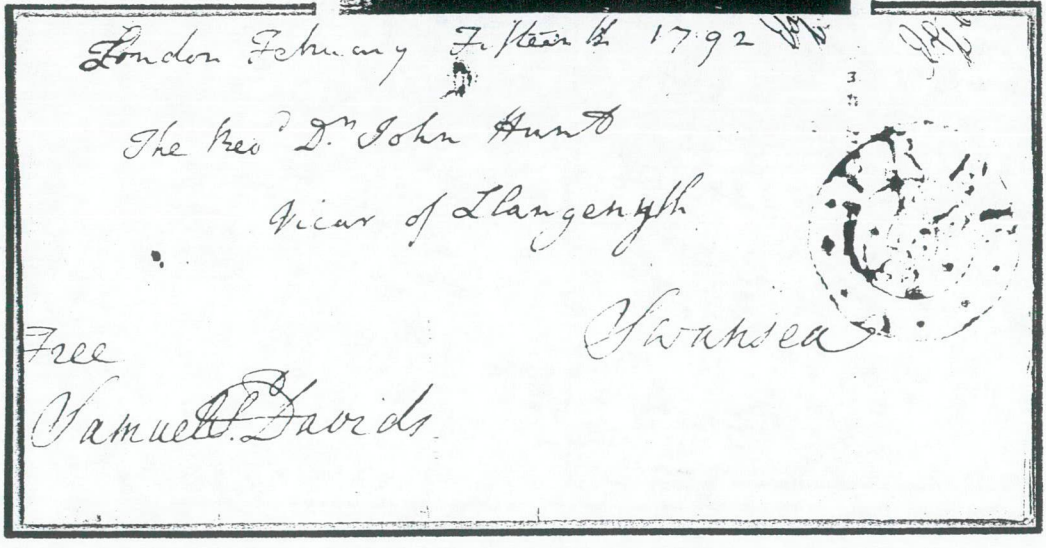
The year 1791 saw the introduction of dated Free stamps. Until a middle of 1797 these conti bear an Inspector's initial at t but after that date the initial placed by a small diamond.

'FREE / P'; 9th. March t September 1791; ∅ = 30





1791, 11th. May, FORRESS via (12th. May) to London (16th.



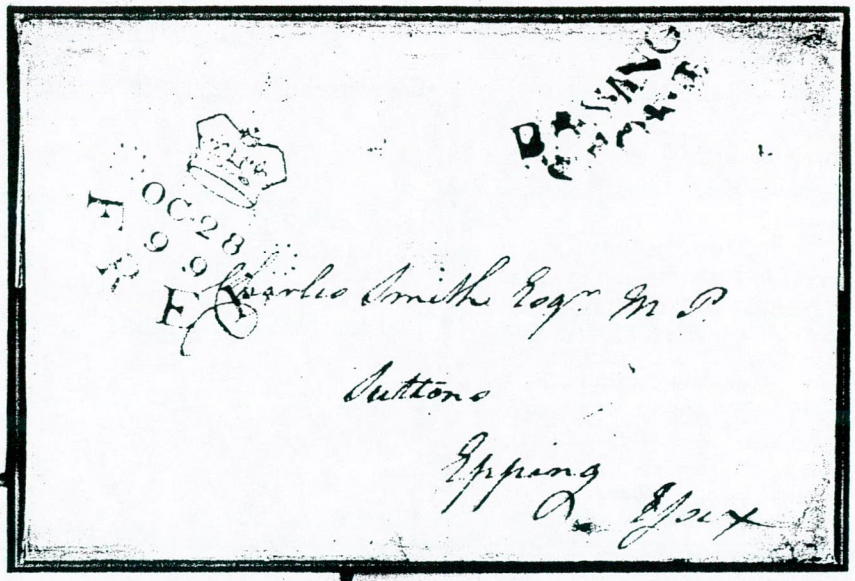
'FREE / A'
= William Addison;
28th. April 1791 to
4 th. August 1792;
∅ = 33 mm

1792, 15th. February,
London to Swansea

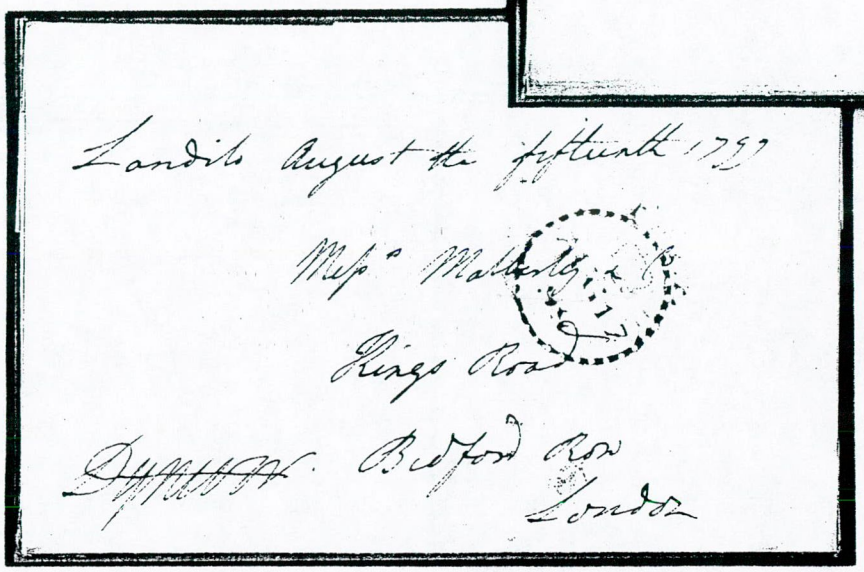
4.1. 'Free'- Handstamps

Then it followed a short period of 'experiments' with various designs. Perhaps the Office was trying out new alloys of metal. The experimental types seem to have been employed on morning and evening duty.

Experimental 'Crown / date / FREE'
25th. October to 31st. December 1799;
∅ = 34 mm



1799, 27th. October, BASING / STOKE
via London to Epping



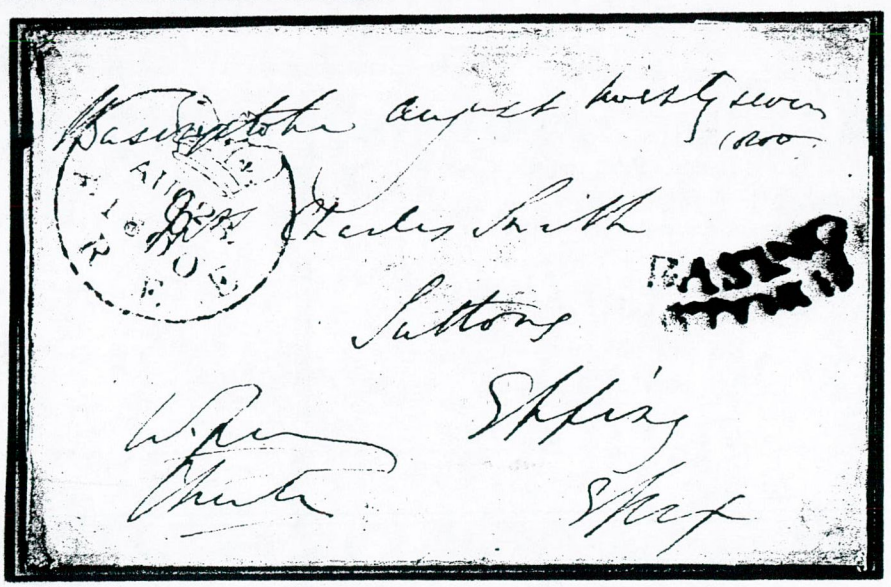
Experimental 'Dotted FREE'
26th. July to 26th. October 1799;
∅ = 25 mm

1799, 15th. August, Llandilo to London

The most complex designs often show blurred details or they rounded over to join because the metals used were not hard enough. It is believed that these earlier handstamps were made of brass.

'Crown / date / FREE'
28th. August to 30th. December 1800;
∅ = 37 mm

(first day of recorded use)



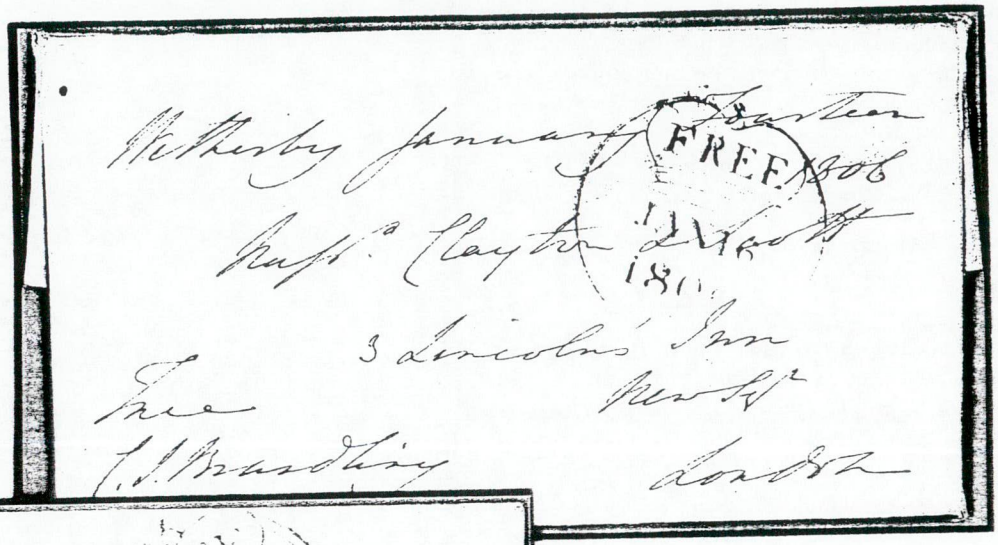
1800, 27th. August, BASING / STOKE
via London to Epping

4.1. 'Free'- Handstamps

At the beginning of 1800 the experimental types gave place to a 'crown in circle'- type which continued in use until July 1807.

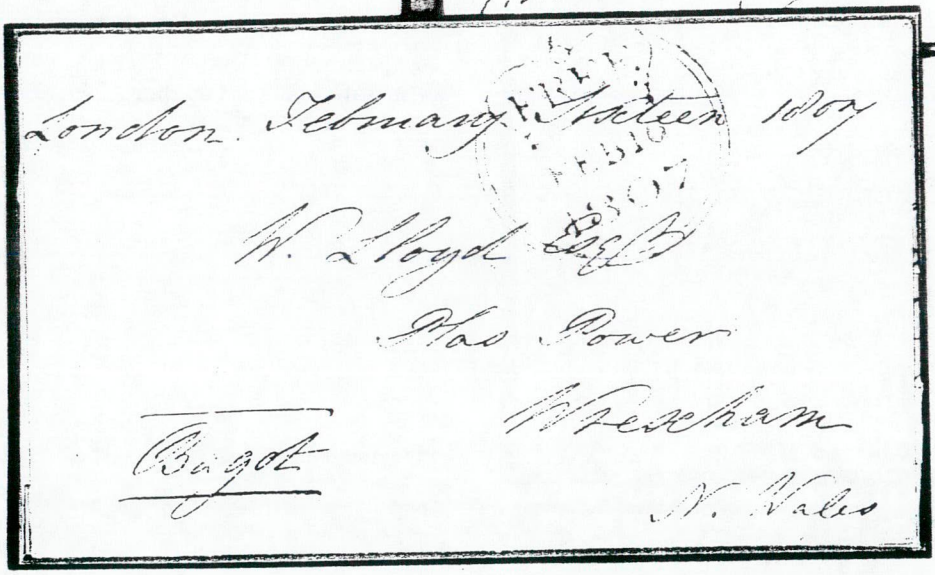
Morning Duty
'Crown / FREE / date' in Circle;
January to 28th. May 1806;
Ø = 39 mm

(crown with circlet band;
first month in use)



1806, 14th. January, Wetherby to London, arrived 16th. January

Evening Duty (double rim)
13th. June 1806 to 2nd. July 1807;
Ø = 39 mm

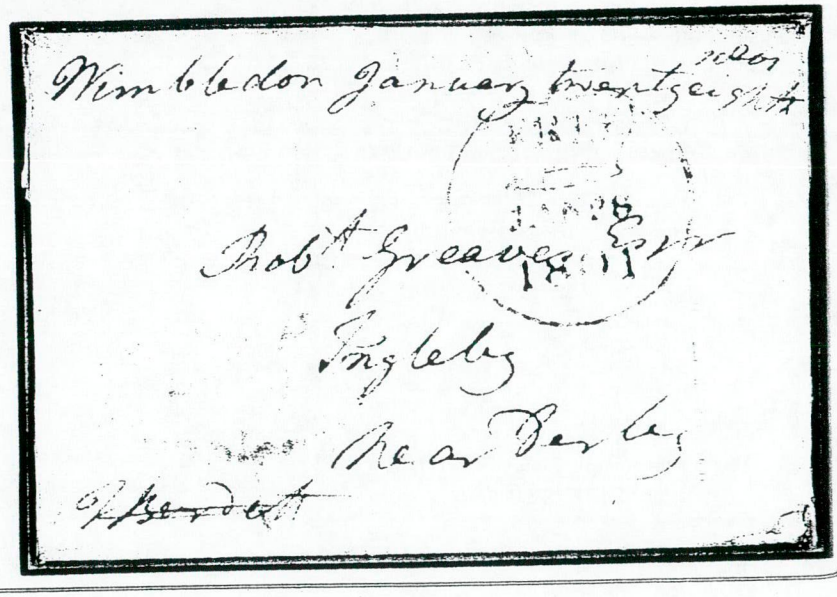


1807, 16th. February, London to Wrexham

The 'Franking-System' allowed free delivery for letters in the General Post, but these letters were liable to postage when carried by the local Posts (including the London Penny Post).

'Crown / FREE / date' in Circle
5th. January 1801 to 5th. July 1807;
Ø = 39 mm

(*first month in use*)



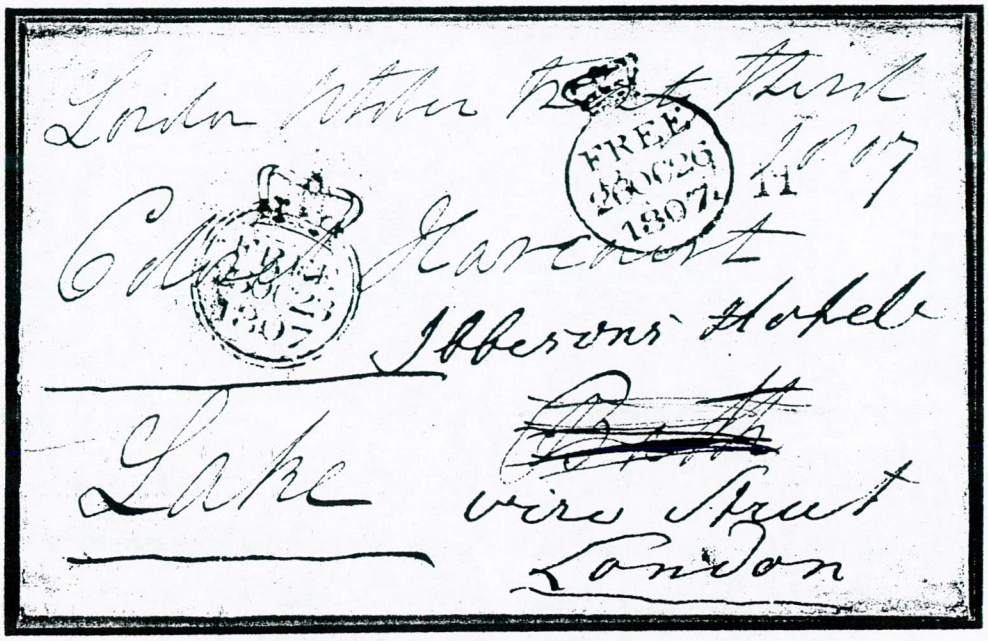
1801, 28th. January, posted in the Penny Post, Receiving House 'Wimbledon / 1 d.' prepaid, sent to Ingleby

4.1. 'Free`- Handstamps

In 1807 the Earls of Sandwich and Chichester succeeded the Earls of Buckinghamshire and Carysfort as Postmasters General. They ordered handstamps in a different design which seems in retrospect to have been a down-to-earth grappling with the whole range of Franking Stamps in daily use. From it derived a thirty-three years series of what are loosely described the 'Crown Circle Frees`, beginning with a stamp which was either experimental or filled a time gap → 'Crown on Ring`.

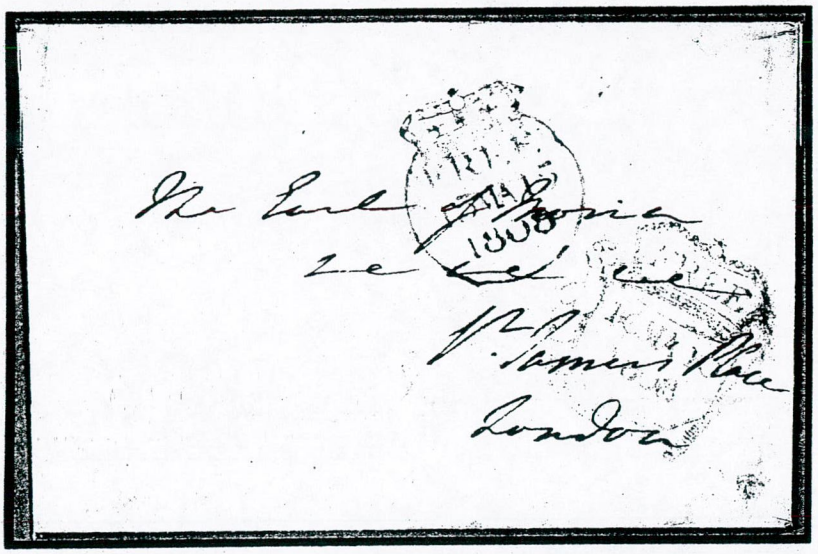
'Crown on Ring`; July to December 1807; ∅ = 25 mm

'Crown Hard Top`; August to December 1807; ∅ = 26 mm



1807, 23rd. October, London to BATH, re-directed to London

'Broad Crown`; 1st. January 1808 to 19th March 1812; ∅ = 27 mm



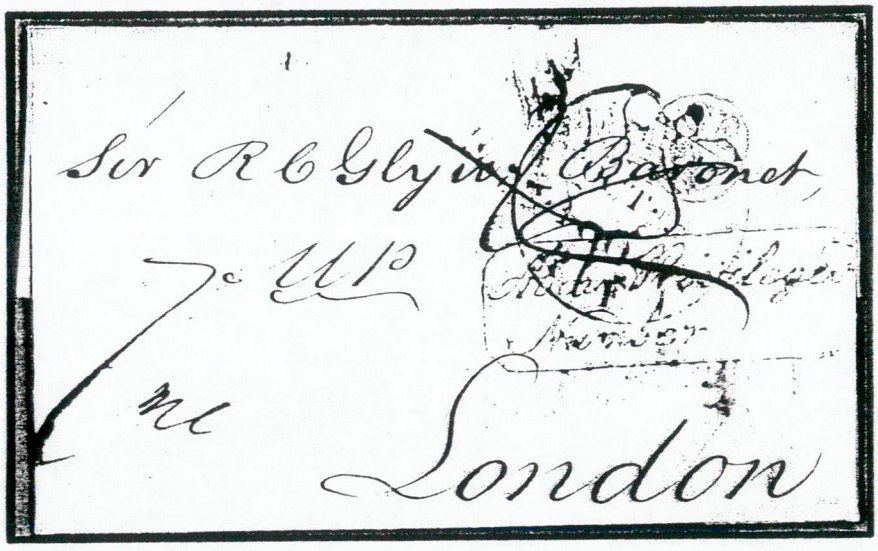
1808, 10th. May, Dublin (Mermaid Free) to London, arrived 15th. May

I.

4.2. Breaches of Regulations Stamps

Since 1705 - *Act 9 Anne Cap. 10* - several Acts set sterner measures on the Franking Privilege to avoid serious abuse. Another Franking Act in 1784 decided, that members of Parliament could only send up to 10 and receive up to 15 letters under Frank each day. Letters above 10 or 15 received a special handstamp and were charged the postage. In addition the member must now put on the post town and date and be within twenty miles of the stated town at the time of posting.

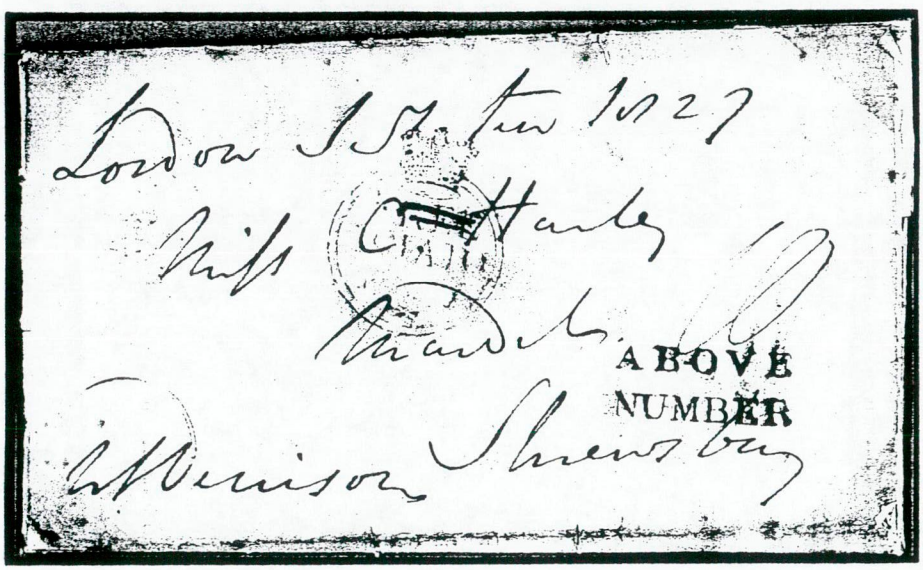
Boxed Octagonal Script *`Above Privileged / Number`* - in red; known for 1800 only; ∅ = 62 x 21 mm



1800, 30th. September, Falkirk via Edinburgh (SE / 30) to London (3rd. October)

(the letter was above the permitted 15 letters, consequently charged - 7 d.)

`ABOVE / NUMBER`; 1819 to 1828; ∅ = 28 x 12 mm



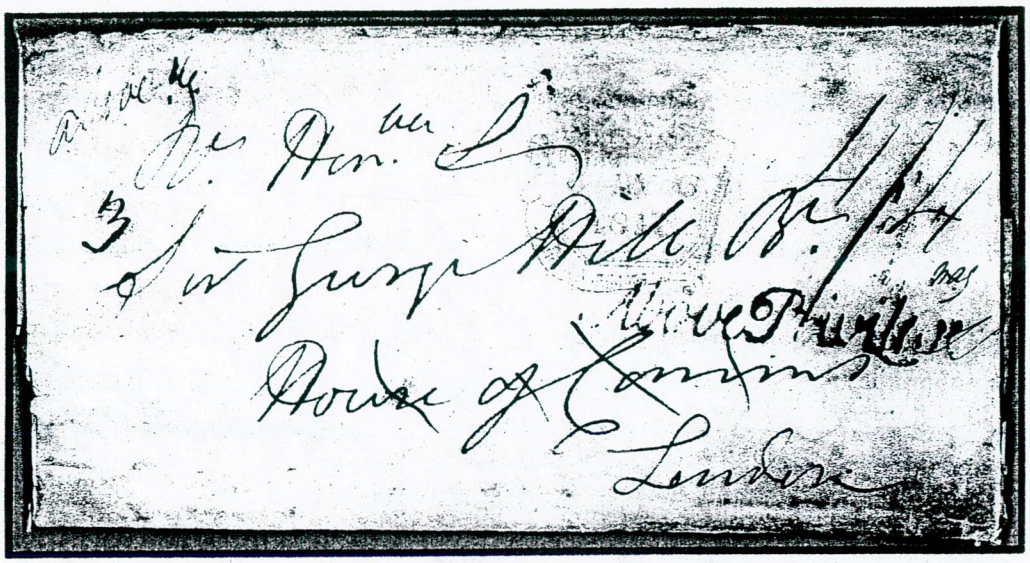
1827, 10th. January, London to Shrewsbury, charged 10 d.

(this letter was above the 10 allowed on this particular day)

4.2. Breaches of Regulations Stamps

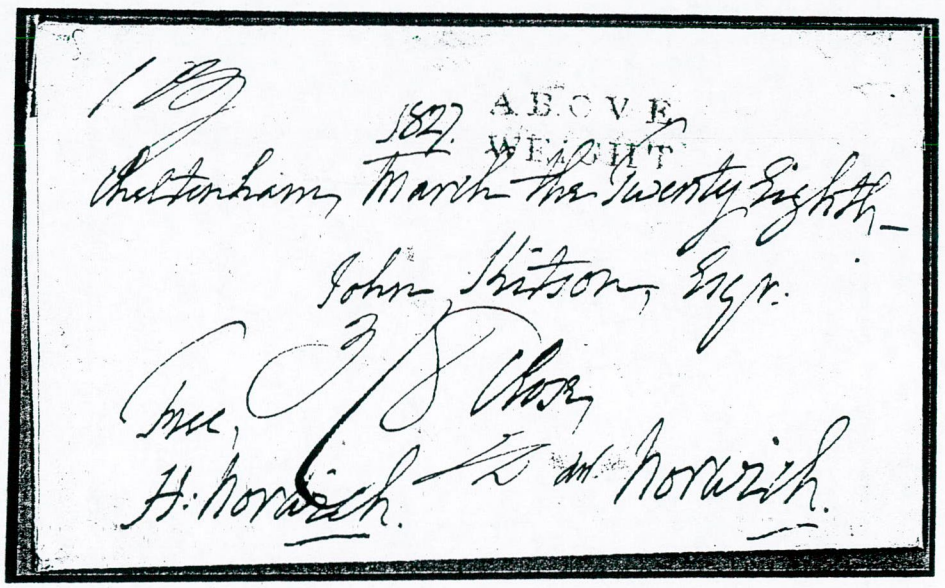
In 1795 a warrant laid down that each franked letter must not exceed one ounce in weight, otherwise a special handstamp was applied and the letters were charged the total postage.

Script *'Above Privilege'* ; 1802 to 1814; ∅ = 65 x 8 mm



1811, 5th. May, Dublin (Mermaid Free / 6th. May) to London, arrived 11th. May
(m.s. *'above Oz'* - the quadruple rate had been charged - 4 x 13 d. = 4/4 d. (Tariff of 1805))

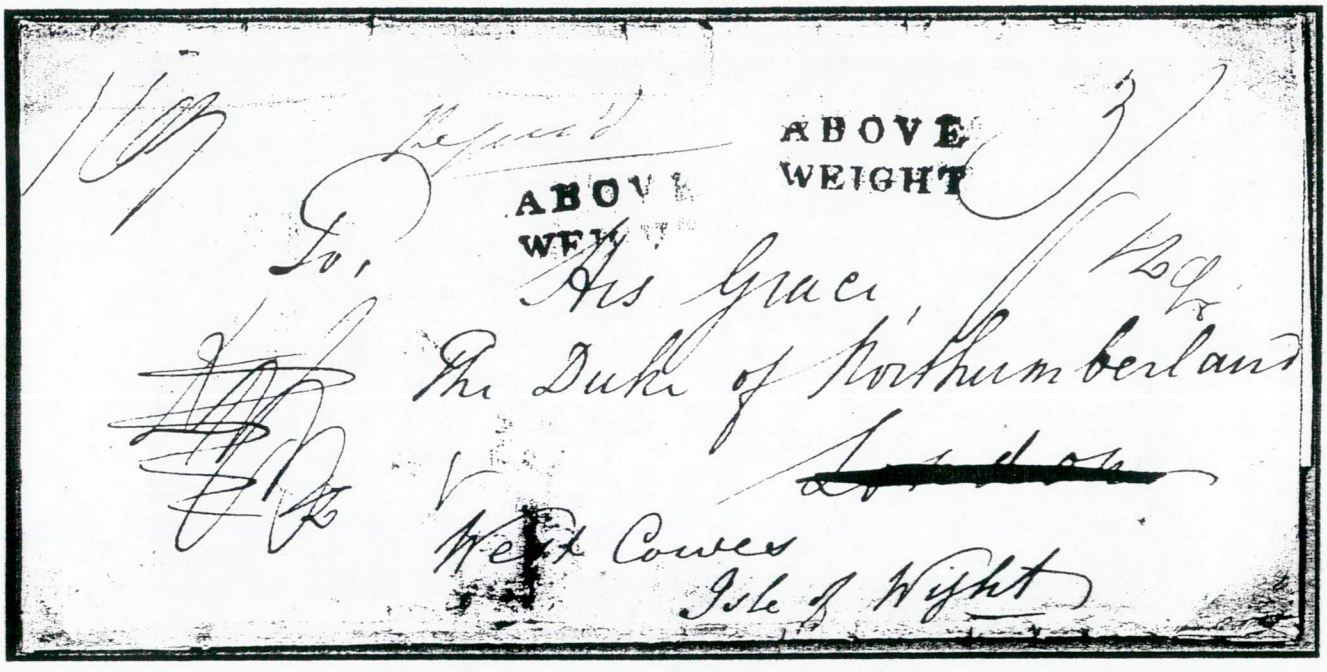
'ABOVE / WEIGHT' - in red; 1818 to 1827; ∅ = 30 x 11 mm



1827, 28th. March, CHELTENHAM via London (29th. March) to Norwich, (signed by the Bishop of Norwich)
(The letter enclosed "*three certificates and a paper from Mr. Cunningham*";
above 1 Oz in weight - the quadruple rate had been charged - 4 x 11 d. = 3/8 d. up to 230 miles (Tariff of 1812))

4.2. Breaches of Regulations Stamps

'ABOVE / WEIGHT' - in black; 1831; ∅ = 30 x 11 mm

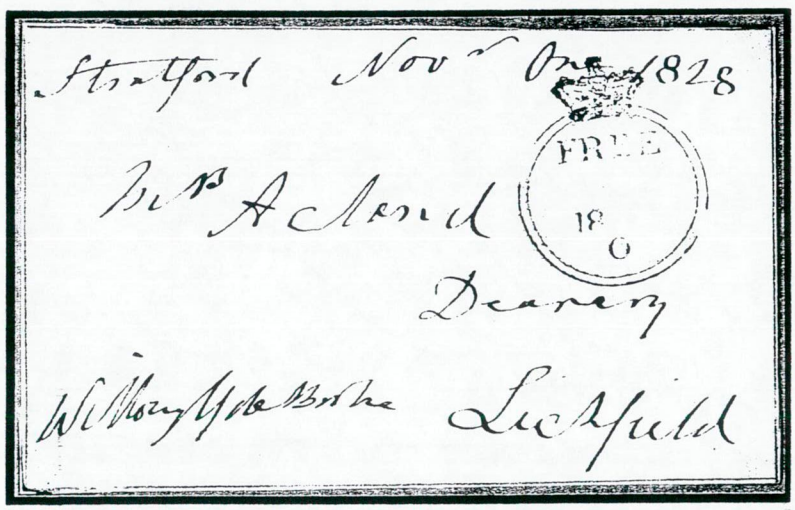


1831, 28th. September, DURHAM to London, re-directed to West Cowes / Isle of Wight, m.s ' *Refused* ' there

(*above 1 Oz* and consequently charged the total Postage - 4 x 9 d. = 3 /- up to 120 miles (Tariff of 1812))

All these regulations became necessary, because the cost burden of the Franks increased rapidly. Obscure abuses happened. There grew for instance a hobby amongst young ladies of collecting all the autographs possible. Franked letters were cut down by them to the address rectangle, for they were signed in the corner, and were mounted in their albums.

The mysterious **'O - Code'**, known from **1807 to 1840**



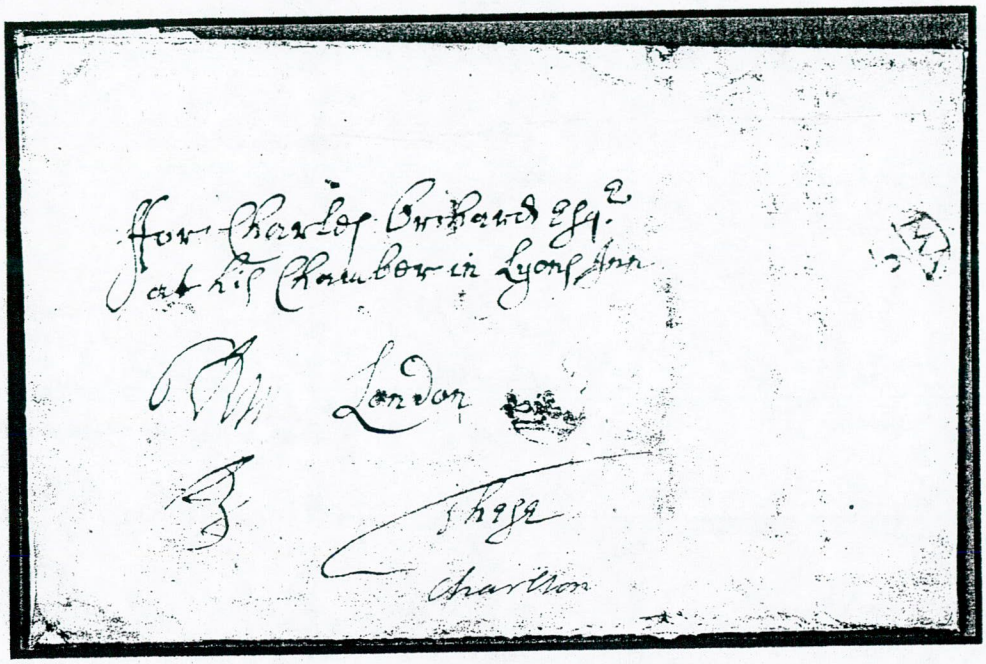
1828, 1st. November, Stratford to Lichfield

(This 'Free'-handstamp is obviously forged. A letter from Stratford to Lichfield would not pass through London, and it would not have received a Free - mark. Possibly the handstamp had been struck by a member of the P. O. - staff to oblige a lady who thought that stamped fronts looked better in her album.)

5.1. Examiner's Marks

In late 17th. century the General Post began to use instructional handstamps, some designed for public informations and others as instructions to the Post Office staff. Crowns were used as official confirmation of a change in the rate applied to a letter.

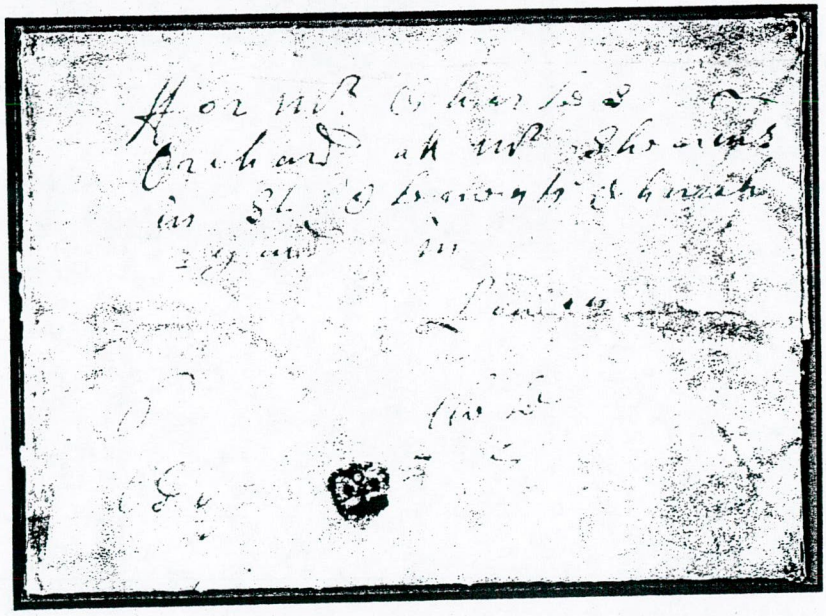
Small Crown; 1682 to 1705; ∅ = 8 x 12,5 x 9 mm



1687, 3rd. May, to Lions Inn / London, charged 3 d., rate changed to 6 d. - double letter

Crown; ∅ = 7,5 x 9 x 10 mm

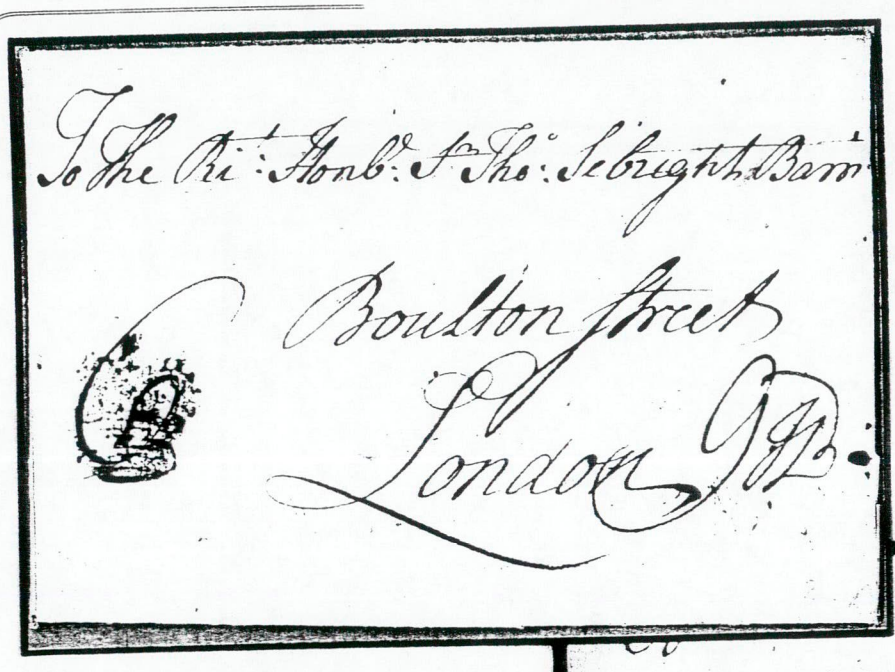
(*not previously recorded*)



1703, 15th. January, Sursby to London, 3 d.- rate deleted, charged 6 d. - double letter - over 80 miles (Tariff of 1657)

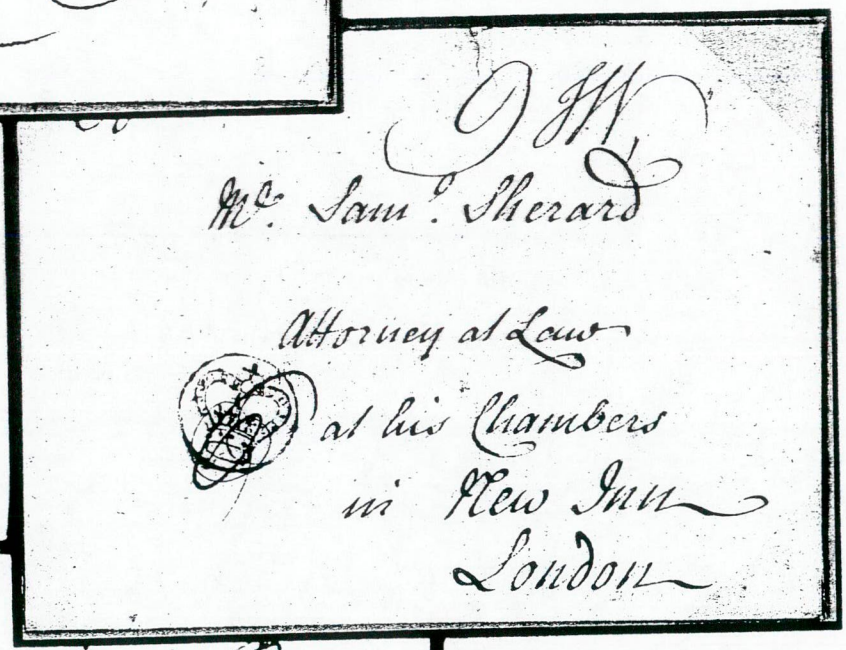
5.1. Examiner's Marks

Crown with Ornaments
1745 to 1764;
∅ = 14 x 23 x 22 mm

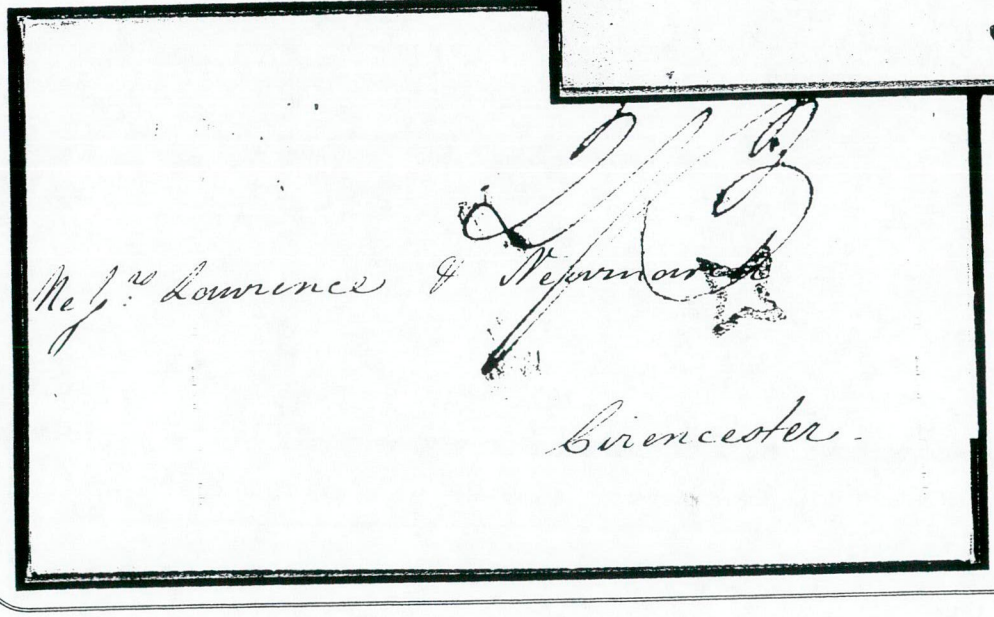


1761, 2nd. July, Worchester to London, charged double in first instance - 6 d., found to be a treble letter - 9 d.
(Tariff of 1711)

Crown in Circle
1765 to 1767; ∅ = 19 mm
(1st. year of use)



1765, 8th. October, Cambridge to London; 6 d. deleted, amended to 9 d. - treble letter
(Tariff of 1711)



The stars are said to have been used as an official confirmation of the correctness of rates.
(for Post Office staff)

Double Lined Star
1819 to 1838; rays -17 mm

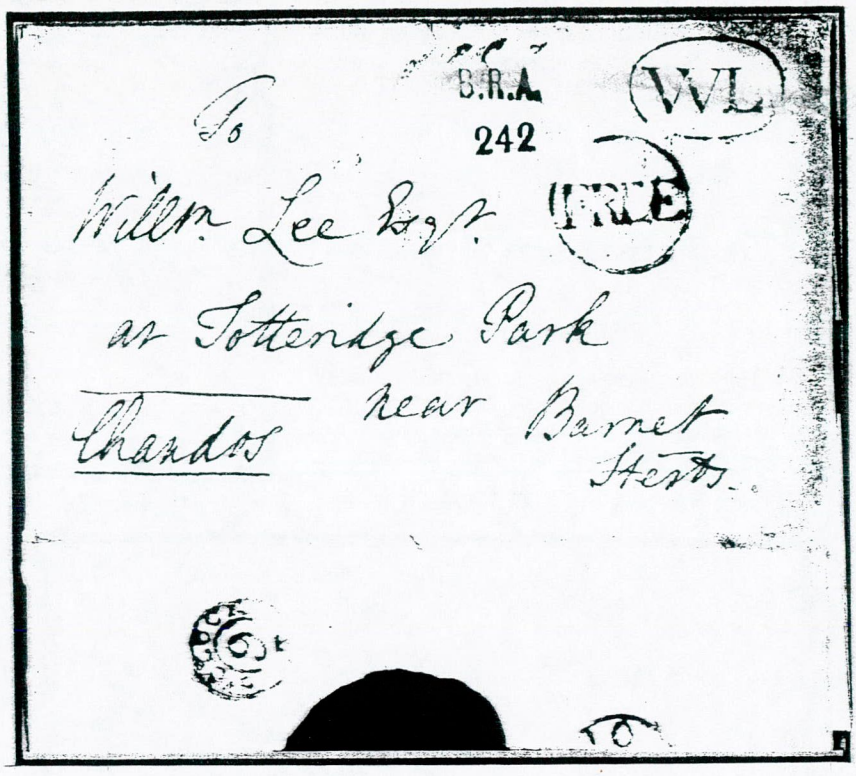
1834, 3rd. October, Doctors Commons / London to Cirencester, - 9 d. up to 120 miles, treble letter as documents were enclosed - 2/3 d.

5.2. Window Letters

Letters wrongly posted in the General Post for delivery within the London Postal area received the 'WL' - handstamp.

'WL' in Oval; 1777; ∅ = 24 x 16 mm

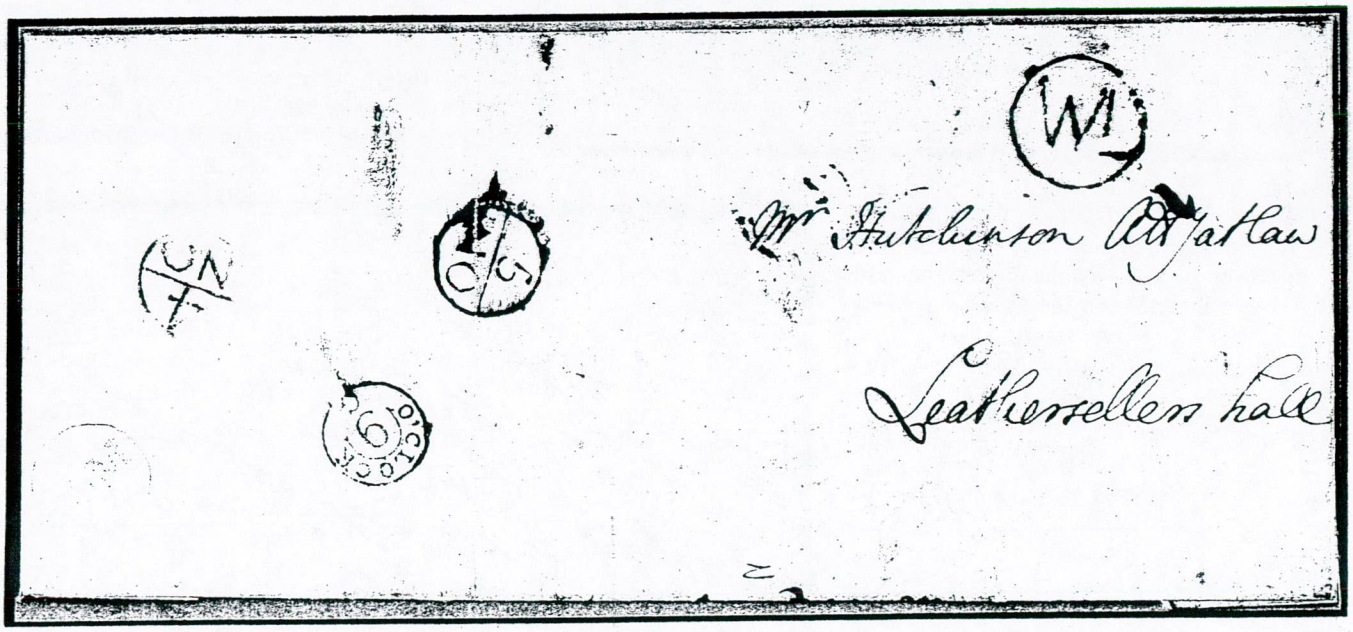
(4 years ealier than previously recorded)



1773, 19th. July, to Totteridge Park, endorsed 'Free', Bishop marks for 19th. and 21st. July → a sign for delayed mail, - transfer to the Penny Post, delivery time handstamp for 21st. July, 9 o'Clock morning - Temple Office.

'WL' in Circle; 1771; ∅ = 21 mm

(not previously recorded)

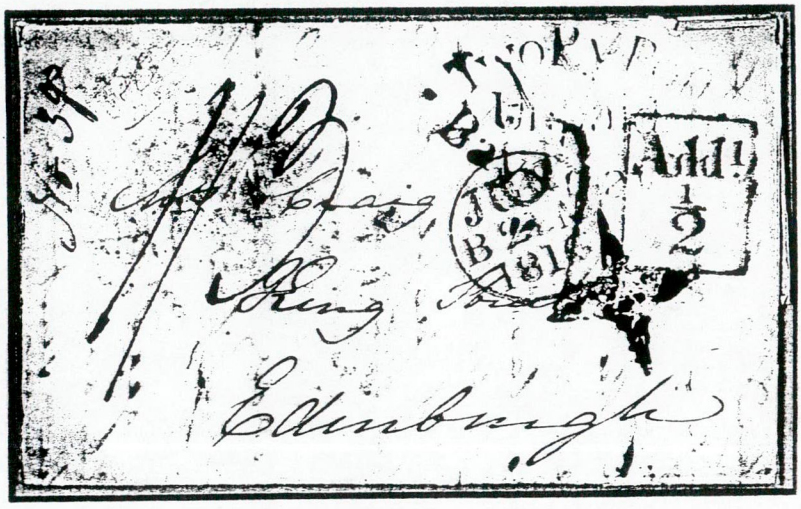


1771, 4th. November, New Inn - receiver 'G. M.' = George Mortimer (1763 to 1790) - to Leathersellers Hall; backstamped with Bishop marks for 4th. & 5th./ NO; transfer to the Penny Post on 5th. November - time of delivery - 9 o'Clock Chief Office

5.3. Additional 1/2 d. - Marks

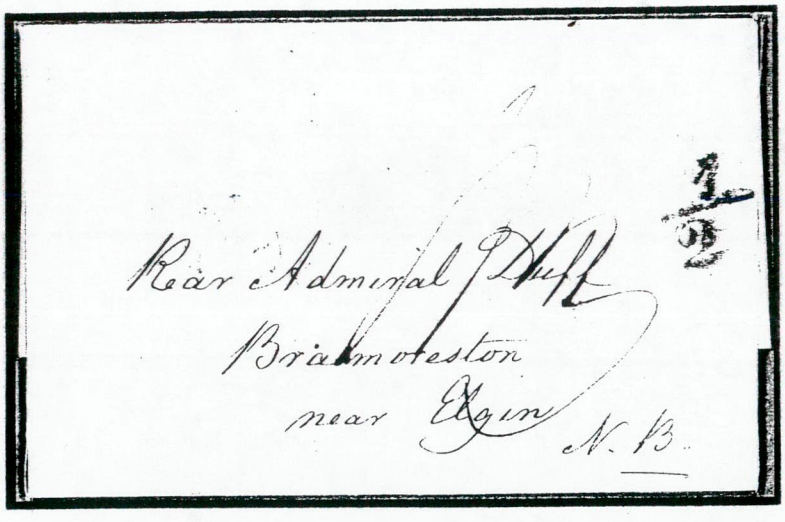
From 1813 all letters to Scotland carried by four-wheeled conveyances, except for those to certain border towns and soldiers' letters, were charged an additional 1/2 d.

1816 to 1817; ∅ = 23,5 x 19 mm



1816, 18th. June, Kensington, 'Two Py Post / Unpaid / Bayswater' to Edinburgh, charged 1/3 d. + 1/2 d.; Transfer to G. P. - rate confirmation by inspectors' star; arrived Edinburgh 21st. June

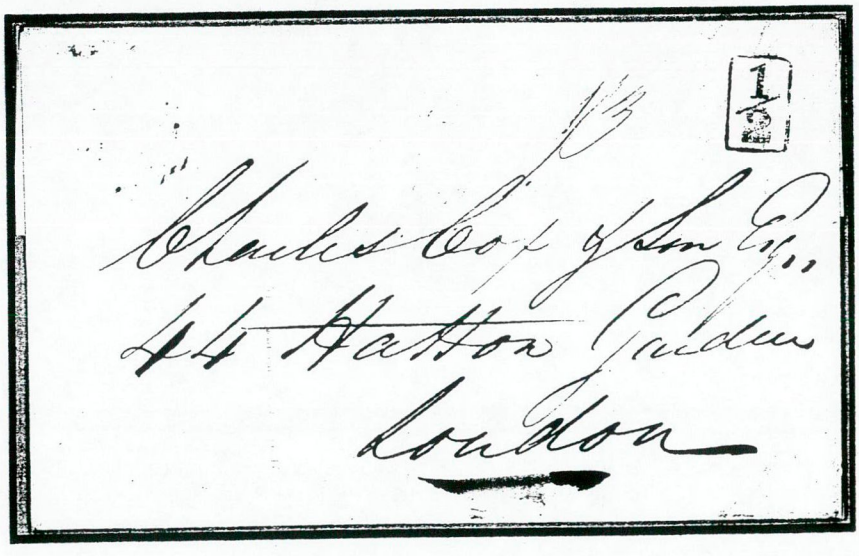
1838 to 1839; ∅ = 15 x 18 mm



1838, 27th. December, Charing Cross to Braamoreston, charged 1/3 d. (Tariff of 1812); arrived Edinburgh 29th. December

This scarce handstamp is known on redirected letters and on letters on which the additional 1/2 d.- handstamp had been forgotten. It is also discussed to be a special duty stamp.

1829; ∅ = 8 x 15 mm



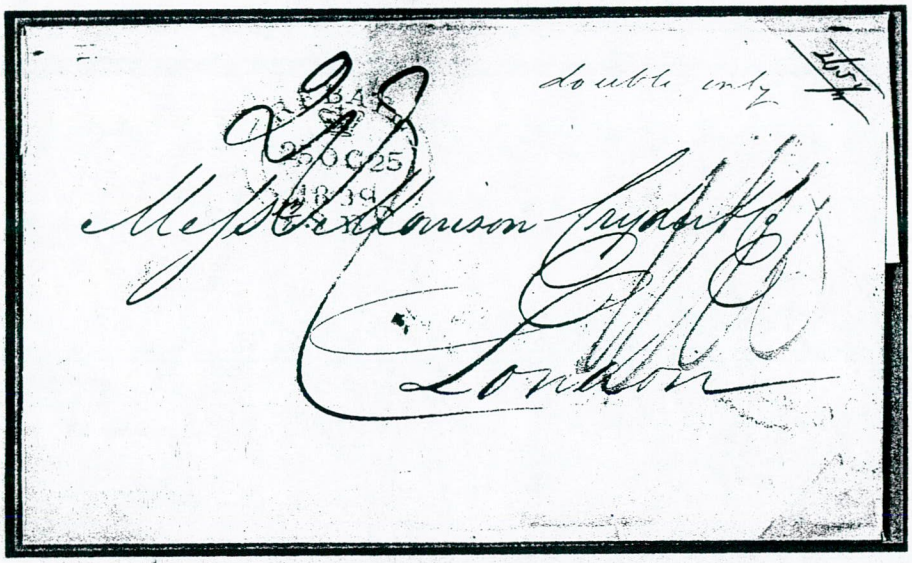
1829, 6th. July, OBAN via Glasgow to London, charged 1/3 d., arrived London 9th. July

5.4. Branch Offices

Certain larger banks and businesses kept accounts with the Post Office. Occasional letters were incorrectly overcharged and, when taken back to the Post Office for reassessment, were stamped with the special 'Rebate`- handstamp.

'REBATE` / L.S.B.O.; 12th. to 25th. October 1839; ∅ = 24 x 29 mm

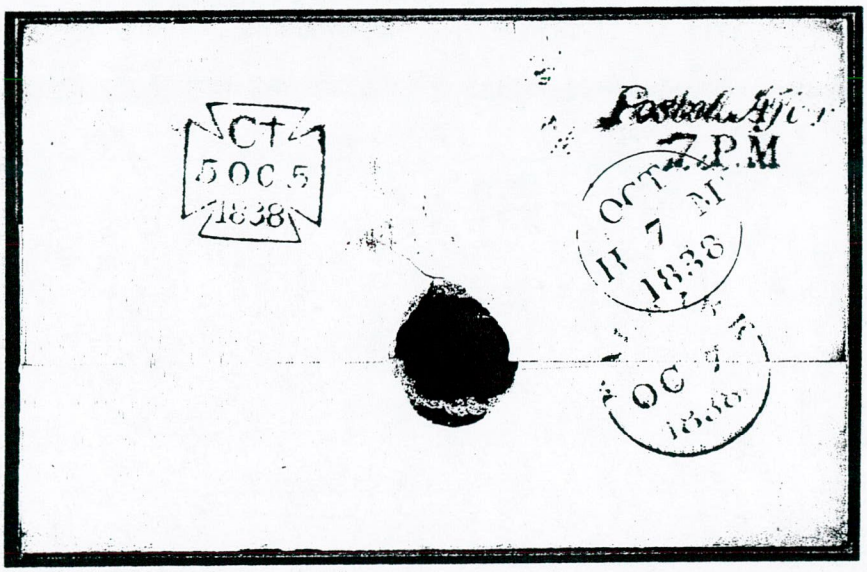
(last day of recorded use)



1839, 24th. October, Liverpool to London, charged treble letter in first instance - 2/9 d.; the letter being returned to the Post Office - m.s. *'double only'* and recharged - 1/10 d.; the original charge overstruck by the 'Rebate`- handstamp for 25th. October

Applied at the Branch Offices when the late fee was not paid.

***'Posted After* / 7 P. M`; 1838 to 1839; ∅ = 35 x 14 mm**

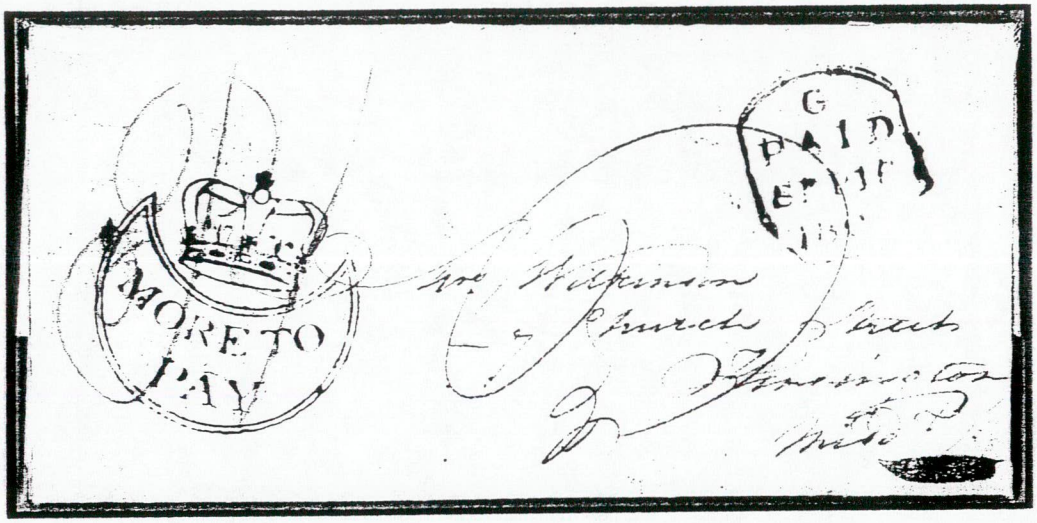


1838, 5th. October, London to Falkirk, put in at Charing Cross Branch Office, charged 2/4 d. + 1/2 d. wheel tax; Edinburgh arrival - 7th. October, arrived Falkirk the same day and delivered by 'Falkirk / Penny Post`

5.5. Surcharge Handstamps

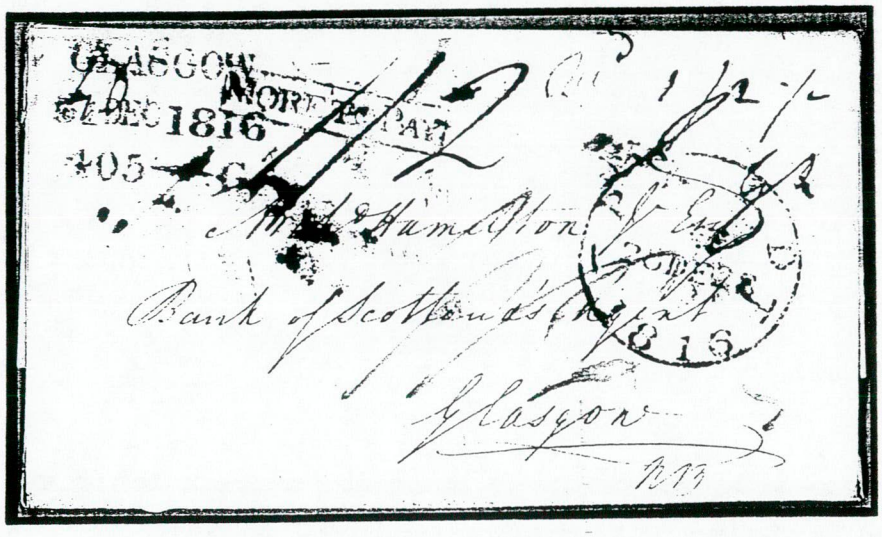
When the sender of a letter wished to prepay the postage it was not always easy for the amount to be calculated and mistakes were sometimes made.

Crowned 'MORE TO / PAY' in Crescent;
1800 to 1811; ∅ = 40 x 40 mm



1808, 14th. September, letter from an officer on board H. M. S. Christian VII at Spithead to Kensington, prepaid 1 d. for the 'Soldiers Concessionary Rate', but not accepted in London - 'More To / Pay'; recharged 6 d. (instead of 7 d., Tariff of 1805) for the journey PORTSMOUTH / 73 (15th. Sept.) to London (16th. Sept.) - delivery by the Twopenny Post - Chief Office, 1 o'Clock Noon

Boxed 'MORE TO PAY';
1810 to 1821; ∅ = 35 x 7 mm

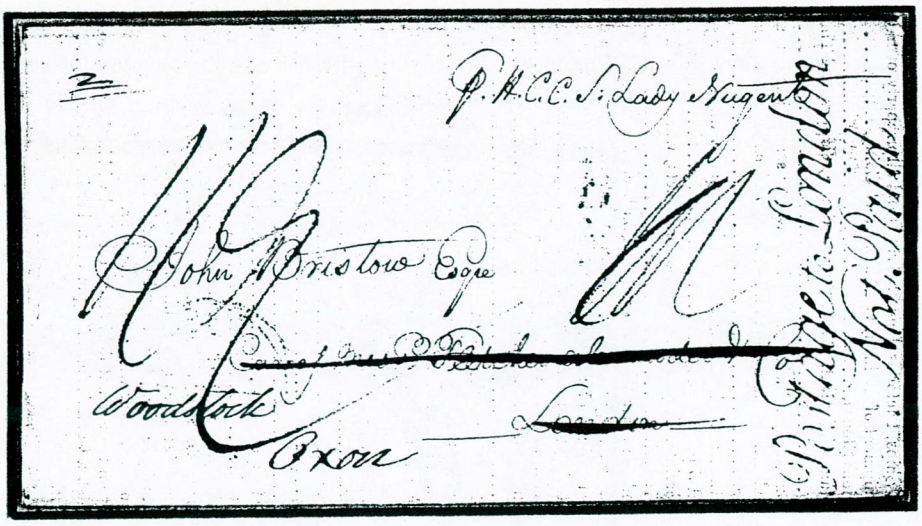


1816, 28th. December, London to Glasgow, prepaid 1/2 1/2 d. and recharged a double letter on arrival; showing PAID datestamp applied to prepaid letters posted in London for delivery to the provinces and GLASGOW / 405 - G. dated mileage mark

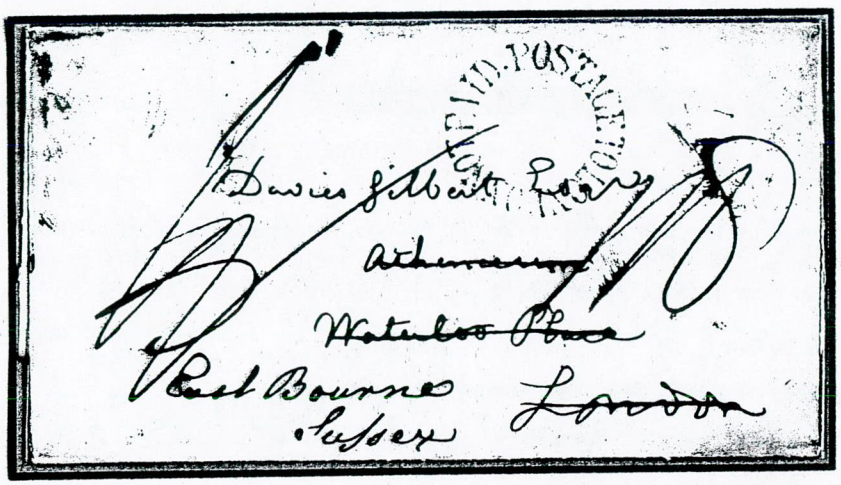
5.5. Surcharge Handstamps

Unpaid letters sent to London and subsequently redirected to another address were stamped with:

Script *'Postage To London / Not Paid'*; 1807 to 1832; ∅ = 68 x 22 mm



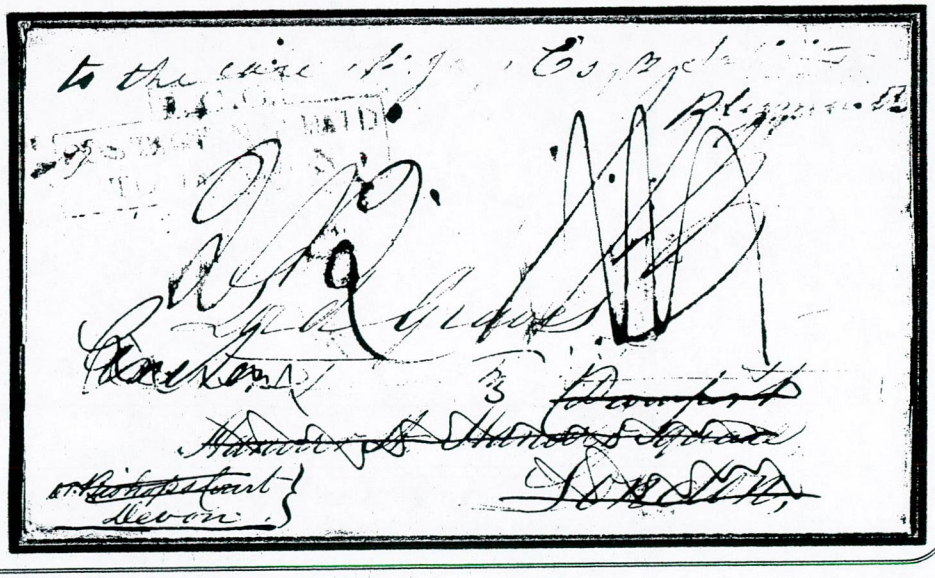
1830, 4th. March, Calcutta to London (22nd. Sept.), landed at Southampton, (*India Letter*)
Re-directed in London to Woodstock, charged 1/9 d.
= Southampton to London (up to 230 miles) - 11 d.
+ 10 d. to Woodstock (up to 170 miles, Tariff of 1812)



Circle 'POSTAGE TO LONDON NOT PAID'
1828 to 1838; ∅ = 28 mm

1834, 10th. April, BODMIN via London, re-directed to Eastbourne; charged 1/3 d. Bodmin to London + 5 d. for re-direction to Eastbourne

'L.C.O. (Letter Carriers Office) / POSTAGE NOT PAID / TO LONDON; 1833 to 1849; ∅ = 51 x 18 mm



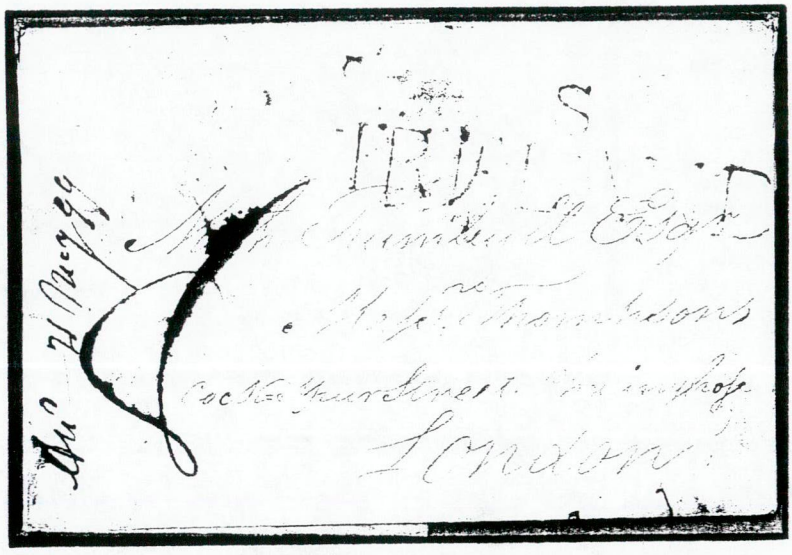
1837, 21st. October, Dublin to London, re-directed to Essex and finally sent to Plymouth; charged Dublin to London - 15 d.
+ London via Essex to Plymouth - 11 d.
= in all 2/2 d. (Tariff of 1812)

I.

5.6. Sunday Handstamps

Between 1798 and 1802, letters from Ireland which arrived in London on a Sunday, received the special handstamp

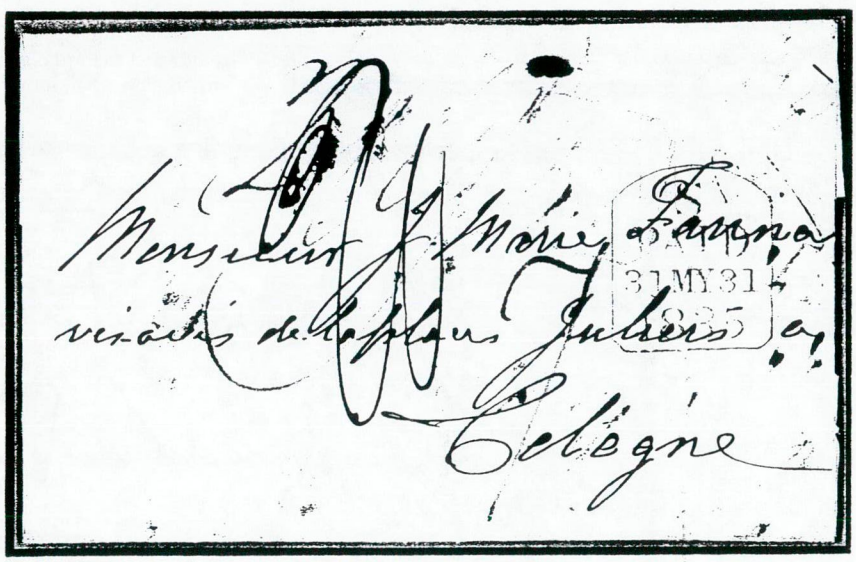
'S / IRELAND'; 1798 to 1802; ∅ = 65 x 20 mm



1799, 16th. May, Dublin to London, arrived on a Sunday - 19th. May - Sunday-date-handstamp ('S' above), charged 8 d. (Tariff of 1796)

The 'Tombstone'- Paid stamps were applied to all prepaid letters arriving in London from the provinces, either for delivery in London or for onward transmission. The single frame type with different Codes was used on all letters from 1800 to 1810 and on letters stamped between midday and midnight from 1810 onwards. The 'S'- Code was struck on Sundays.

Sunday Paid 'Tombstone' with 'S'- Code; 1816 to 1840



1835, 29th. May, Dublin to Cologne

Route: Dublin via Holyhead - Menai Bridge - London - Dover - Liege - Aachen - Cologne

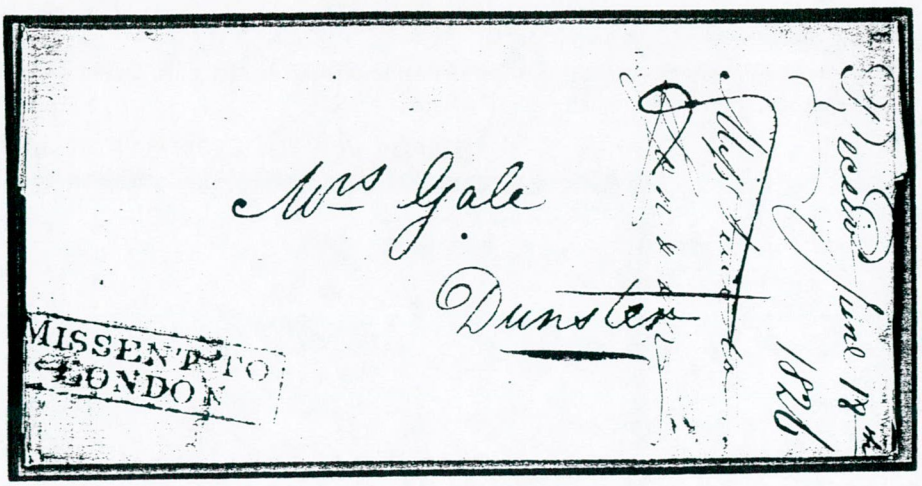
Charges: prepaid in Dublin 2/9 d. = 10 d. Dublin - London + 2 d. Holyhead Packet + 1 d. Menai Bridge + 1/8 d. London - Cologne
to pay on arrival - 7 S.gr. = 3 1/2 S.gr. Transit Belgium (20 Dutch Cents) + 3 1/2 S.gr. Transit Prussia Aix - Cologne

5.7. Various Instructional Handstamps

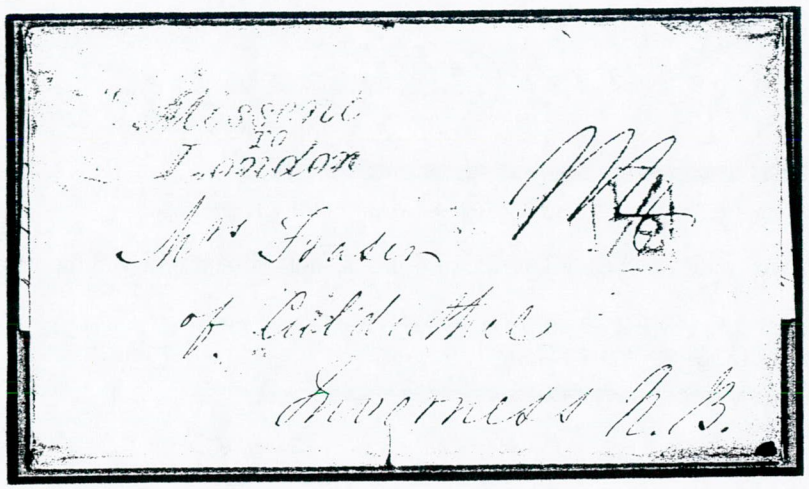
This stamp was applied to indicate that a letter had been delayed by journeying to the wrong office and that no second charge had to be levied.

Boxed 'MISSENT TO / LONDON'
1830 to 1833; ∅ = 43 x 12 mm

(in black - four years earlier than recorded)



1826, 15th. June, WIVELSCOMBE / 179 to Dunster, missent to London (17th. June), re-directed to Dunster (m.s. 18th. June), charged 11 d. - above 170 miles (Tariff of 1812)



Script *'Missent / To / London'*
1837 to 1838; ∅ = 37 x 14 mm

1838, 18th. January, BATH to Inverness, missent to London; London arrival 23rd. January, re-directed via Edinburgh (25th. Jan.), charged 1/4 d. + additional 1/2 d. wheel tax

Between 1777 and 1810, letters from Ireland passing to or through London received the handstamp

'IRELAND'
1777 to 1798; ∅ = 43 x 6 mm



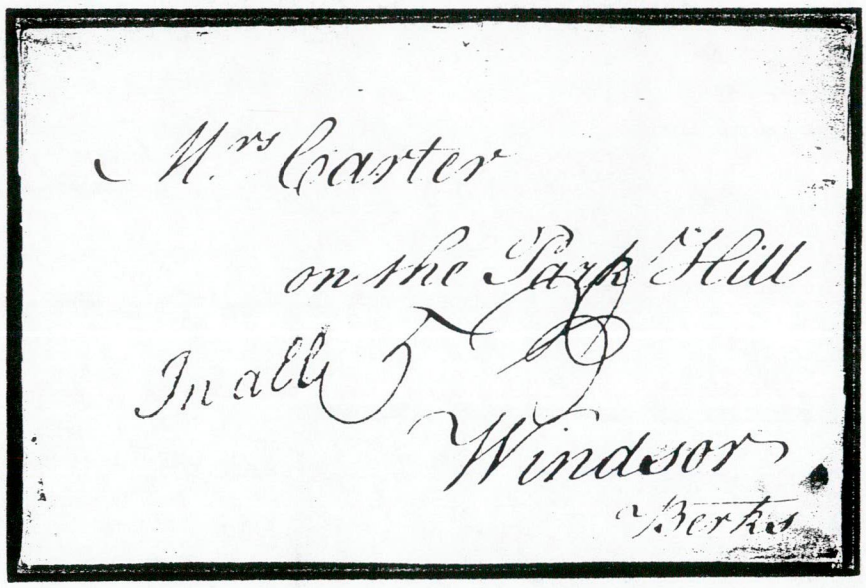
1795, 14th. May, Dublin to London, charged treble letter in first instance - 1/6 d., on arrival in London (18th. May) - stated a single letter only and recharged - 6 d. (Tariff of 1711)

I.

5.7. Various Instructional Handstamps

A letter was sometimes subject to more than one charge. In this case a special handstamp was applied to G. P. letters to indicate that the total postage had been charged.

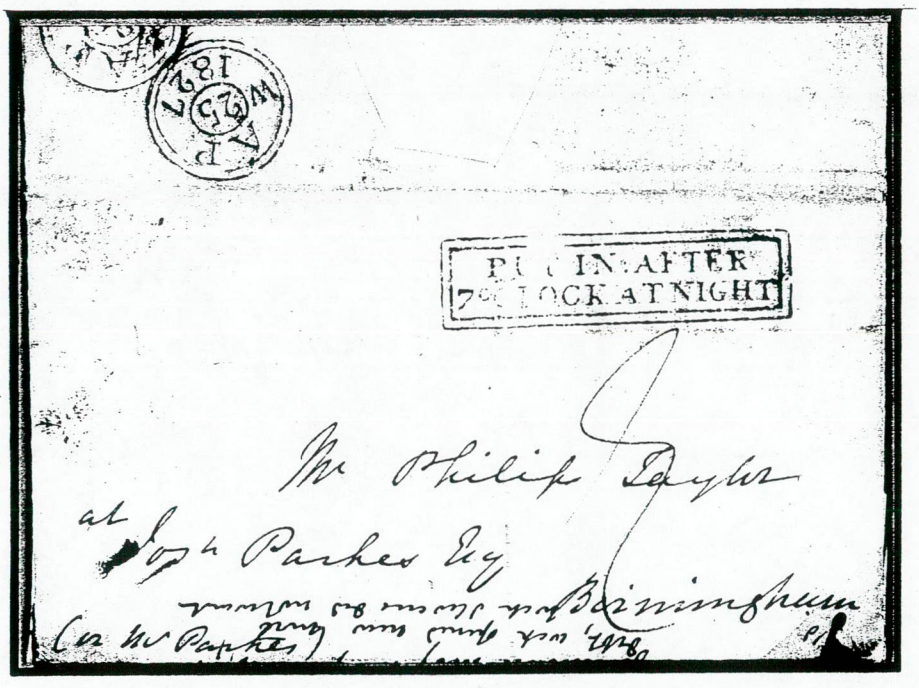
Script '*In all*'; 1760 to 1781; ∅ = 30 x 10 mm



1780, 8th. December, HITCHIN via London (9th. Dec.) = 3 d. + 2 d. to Windsor → '*In all*' - 5 d. (Tariff of 1765)

Letters handed in at the GPO between 7 and 7.45 pm., and on which a late fee of 6 d. was not prepaid received the handstamp:

Boxed Double Rim 'PUT IN AFTER / 7 o'CLOCK AT NIGHT'
1817 to 1830; ∅ = 53 x 14 mm



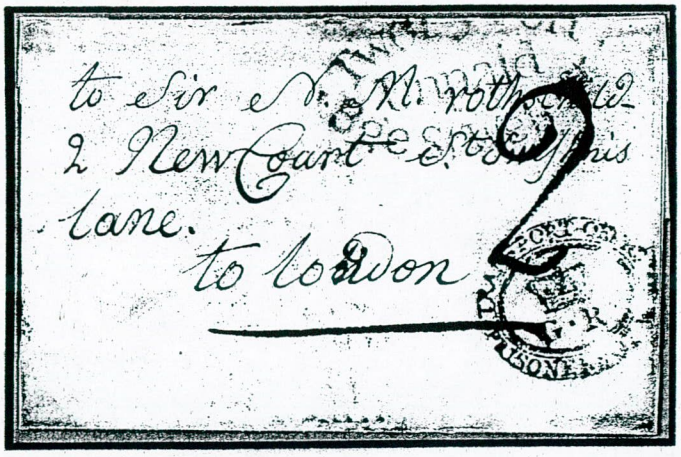
1827, 25th. April, London to Birmingham, endorsed on 25th. and delivered on 26th. April; charged 9 d. up to 120 miles (Tariff of 1812)

5.8. On Military Concerns

Letters written by prisoners of war were handled by the Transport Office.

'TRANSPORT OFFICE / PRISONERS OF WAR / crown / G . R`; 1804 to 1814; ∅ = 27 x 25 mm

(last year of use)



1814, 20th. April, sent from an English prisoner of war transport from a British P.O.W. near Lamonier / France to London and posted unpaid at 'BRIDGE STREET / WESTMINSTER` receiving house, backstamped '11th. MAY / 1814 / 7o' CLOCK NT'



1814 to 1835; ∅ = 52 x 13 mm

This handstamp was applied to letters which did not qualify as being 'soldiers letters' according to the act of 1795 (*35 George 3, Cap. 53*). The Act reduced the Postage on letters to or from soldiers & sailors to 1 d., irrespective of where they were posted. Starting point was during the French Revolutionary War.



1820, 16th. February, KINGUSSIE / 668 / E., via Edinburgh (17th. Feb.) and London to Canterbury, 1 d. prepaid, disallowed in transit at London, Sunday - Paid arrival date stamp, - 'More / To / Pay` - 1/4 d., confirmed by the inspectors' signature

(Initials of a regiment were not accepted for privilege rates - 1811 Post Office Notice No. 13)

II. LOCAL POSTS

1. Dockwra´s Private Post

Although the system of the General Post - Inland Office was well organized in 1680, there was no service for local letters in existence. On 27th. March 1680 Dockwra and others organized a London Local Post based on Lyme Street. Murray started a rival Post in December 1680 and created types of triangular Prepaid-marks. This idea was copied by William Dockwra with similar but less ornate stamps from July 1681 to September 1682.

The Dockwra Chief Office was at his house in Lyme Street, the other Offices were situated in
W = Westminster, **P** = St. Paul´s, **T** = Temple and **B** = might have stood for Borough.

Original Dockwra Handstamp

1681 to 1682
L = Lyme Street

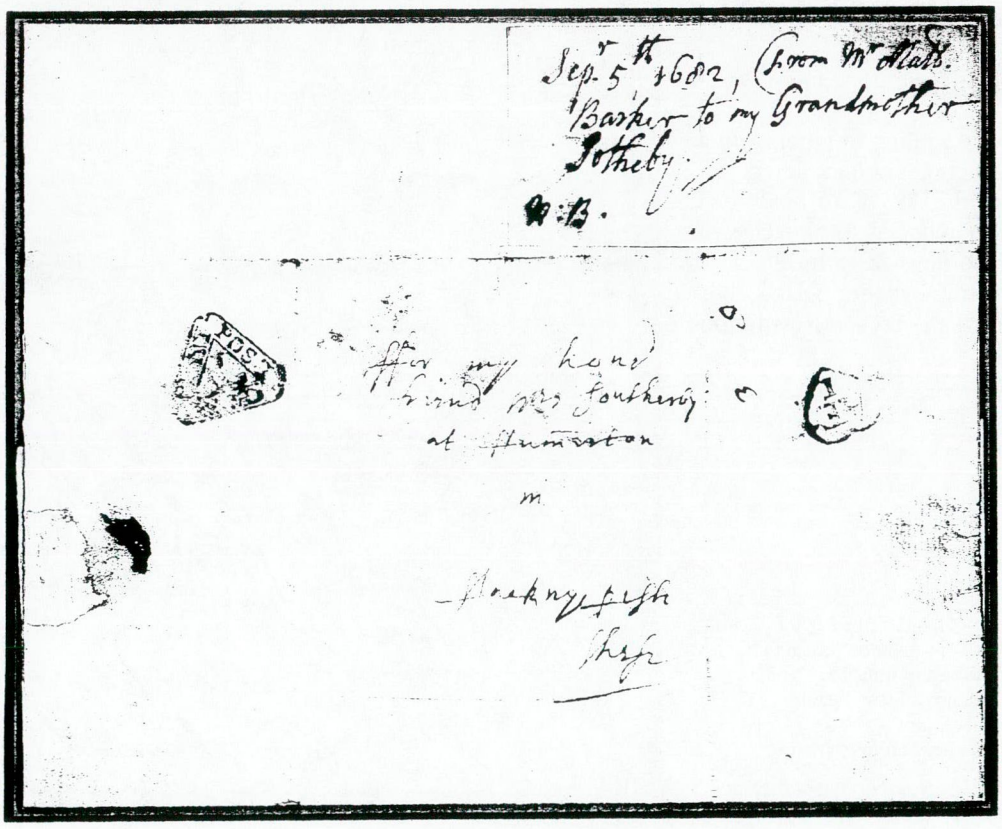
(four copies recorded; only one other example in private hands)



1681 to 1682
Time-handstamp - delivery

(with large 'F' and 'I' o'Clock not recorded)





1682, 5th. September, London to Hackney

2.1. Westminster Office

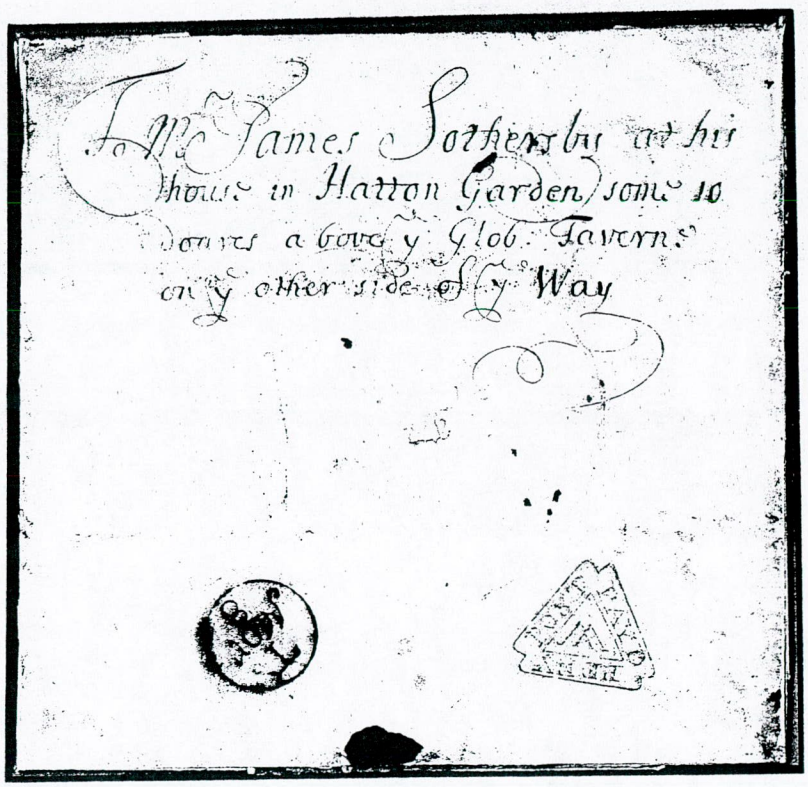
In November 1682 Dockwra was sued for carrying letters around London. Having suppressed Dockwra, the Post Office continued the organisation, offices and receiving houses from 11th. December 1682. The Government Penny Post ran therefore much on the same lines as the Post under Dockwra did, the triangular Paid-marks were adopted, two further Offices were installed in Hermitage and Southwark.

1st. Type

11th. July 1683 to 14th. August 1684
'Payd' faces inwards

(seven copies recorded;
23 examples 1st. Type are known of all the Offices;
in all only 6 of these are recorded to be in private hands, the others in archives or museums)



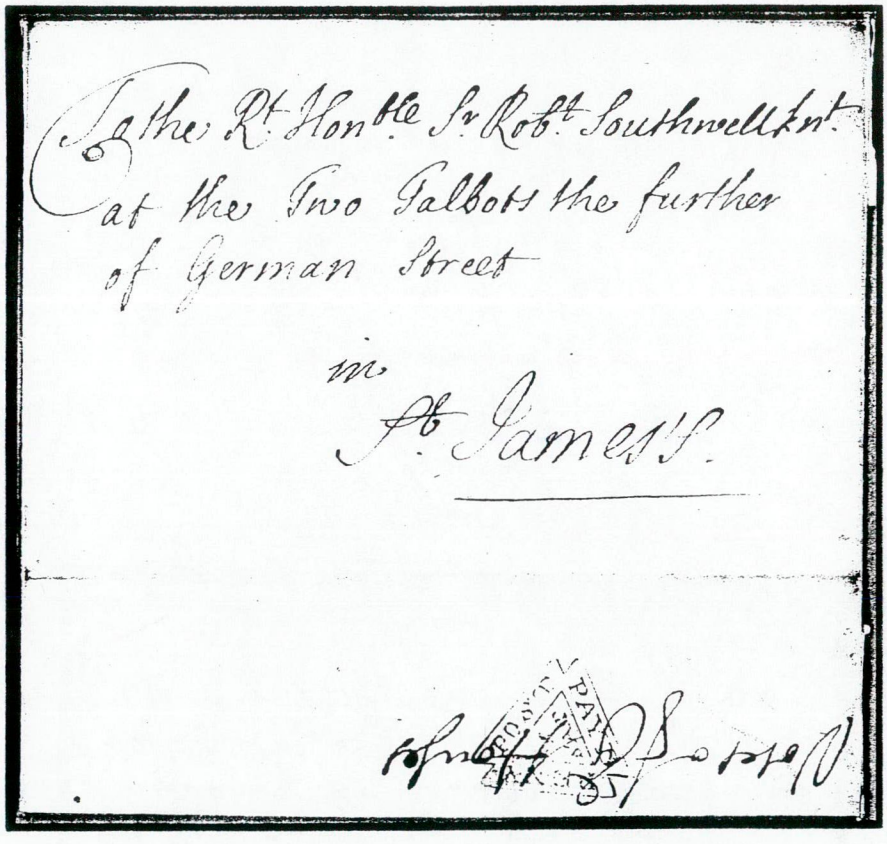


1684, 9th. June, Rushmore Hall Common to Hatton Garden
'above Ye Globe Tavern on Ye other side of Ye Way'

2.1. Westminster Office

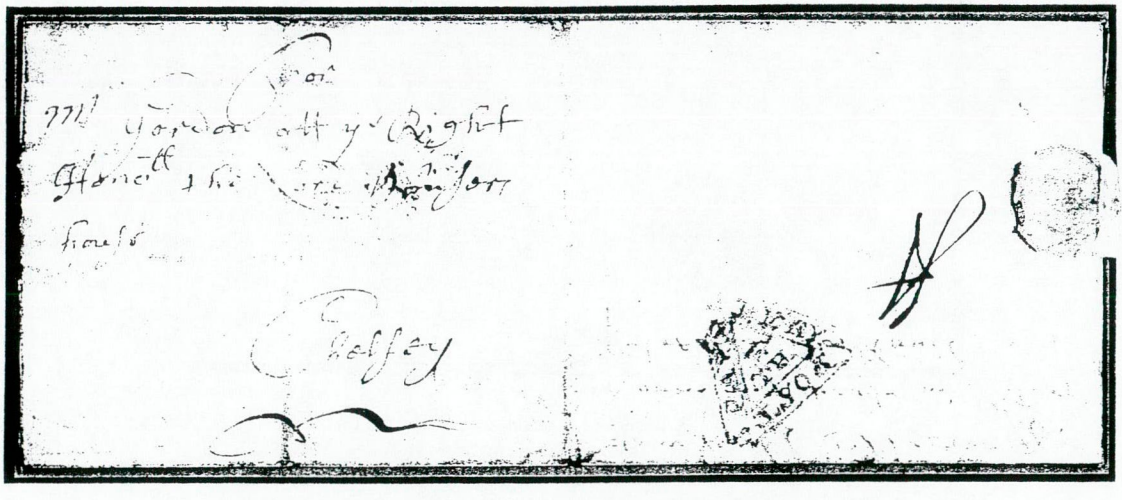
The Westminster Office was situated near Charing Cross, later on in Coventry Street.
This Office covered a large area to Brentford, The Hyde and Mill Hill.

'PENY POST PAYD / W / SAT'; 1686 to 1705



1689, 20th. April, from House of Commons to German Street, St. James's

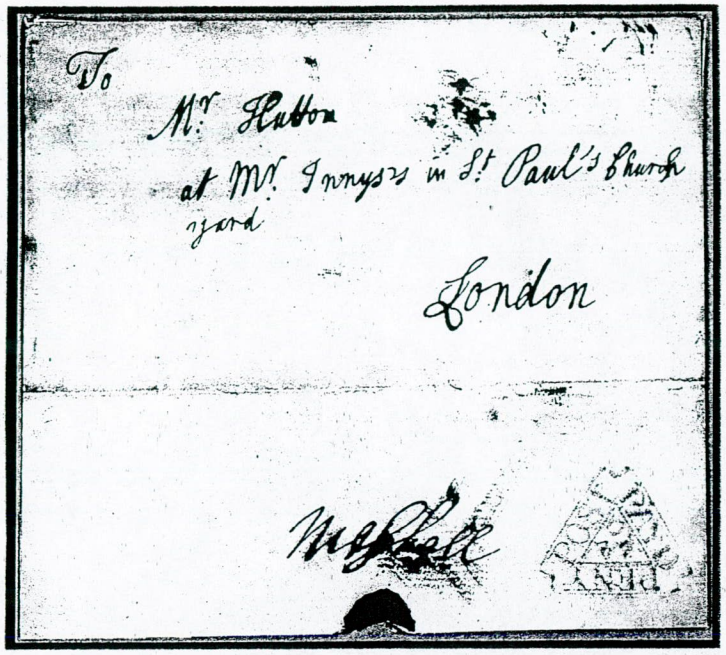
'PAYD PENY POST / W / TH'; 1702 to 1706



1706, 12th. December, Villiers Street / Yorkbuildings to Chelsea; m.s. receiver *'St'*

2.1. Westminster Office

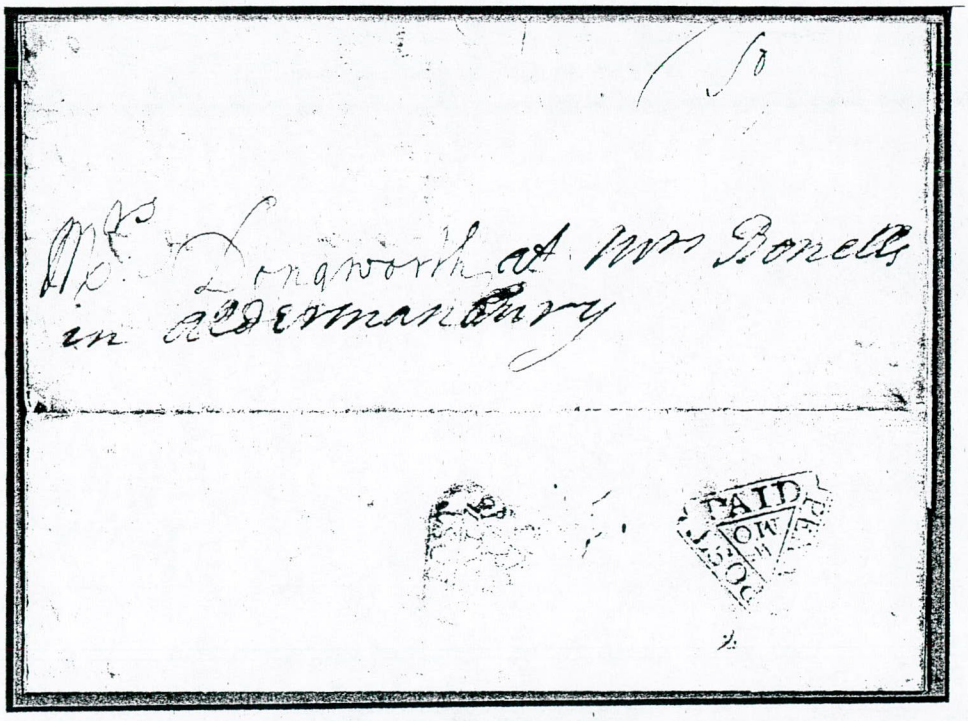
'PENY POST PAYD / W / MO`; 1723 to 1747



c. 1736, to St. Pauls Churchyard, m.s. receiver *'Maghall'*

'PENNY POST PAID / W / MO`; 1755 to 1787

(A second triangular Paid-mark with ' P / TV ' had been struck by error instead of a time-handstamp; supposed to be the only existing example)

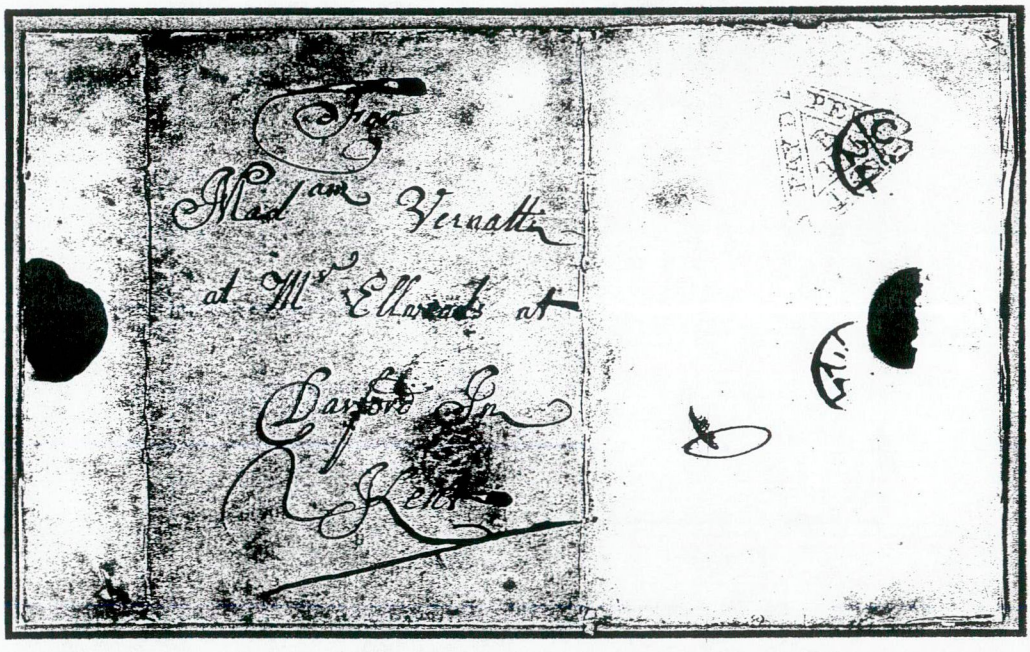


c. 1755, complete letter to Aldermanbury

2.2. General Office

The Chief Office was originally situated in St. Michels Alley / Cornhill. It moved in 1684 to Crosby House - Bishopgate Street, then in 1723 to Threadneedle Street and finally 1772 Throgmorton Street where it remained until the reorganisation in 1794.

'PAYD PENY POST / B / TH`; 1685 to 1706



1700, 23rd. October, Hackney to Darford Inn / Kent; transfer General Post - Bishop Mark for 'OC / 24'

'PAYD PENY POST / B / WE`; 1706 to 1731



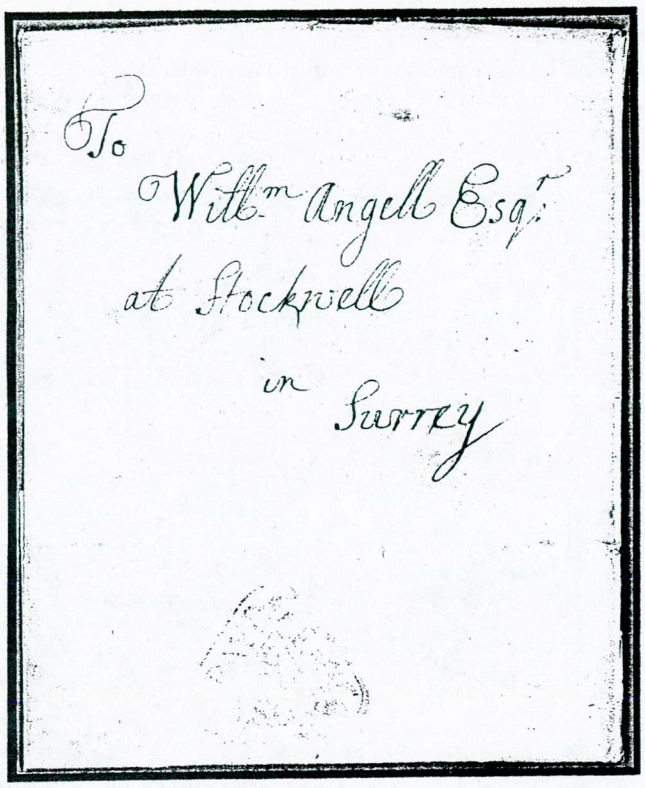
1731, 28th. April, to Leicester Fields, m.s. receiver name '*Holland*'

2.2. General Office

At first handstamps were used with a 'B' in centre for Bishopgate Office and then, in about 1723, gradually changed using handstamps with a 'G' for General Office, perhaps because of the move to Threadneedle Street.

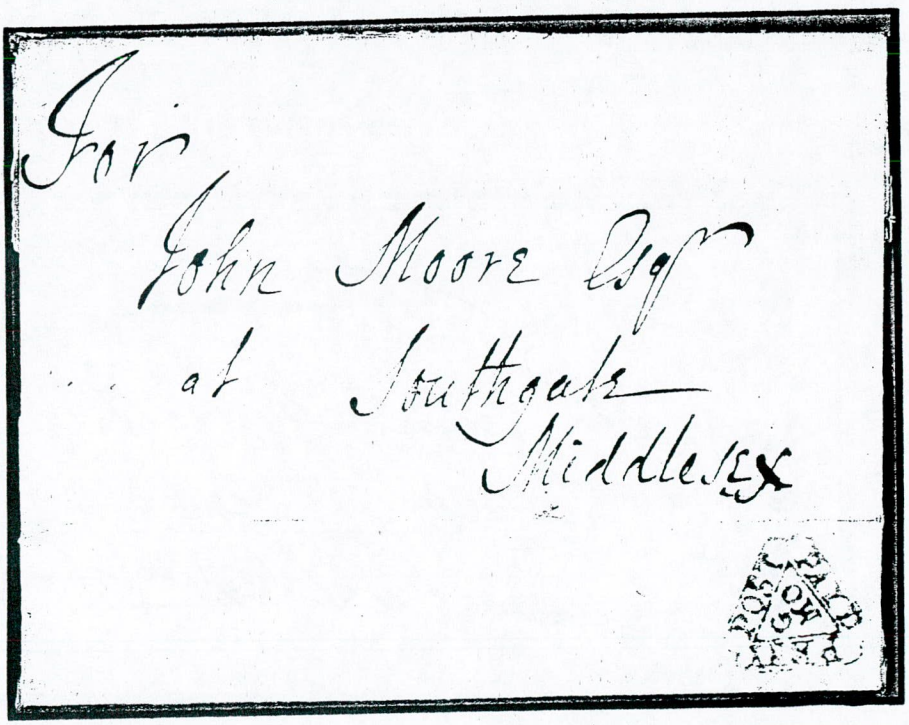
'PAYD PENY POST / G / TU'; 1723 to 1730

Variety with round corners and large dots



1726, 21st. February, London to Stockwell / Surrey

'PENY POST PAYD / G / MO'
1707 to 1757



1753, 16th. April, Mincing Lane to Southgate

2.3. St. Paul´s Office

This Office was situated in the Royal Bagnio Coffee House / Newgate Street, but in 1690 it moved to Queen´s Head Alley / Paternoster Row, where it remained until its closure in about 1765.

´PENY POST PAYD / P / SAT`; 1685 to 1712



1694, 26th. January, to Soho Square, delivered by Westminster Office / 12 o´Clock Morning

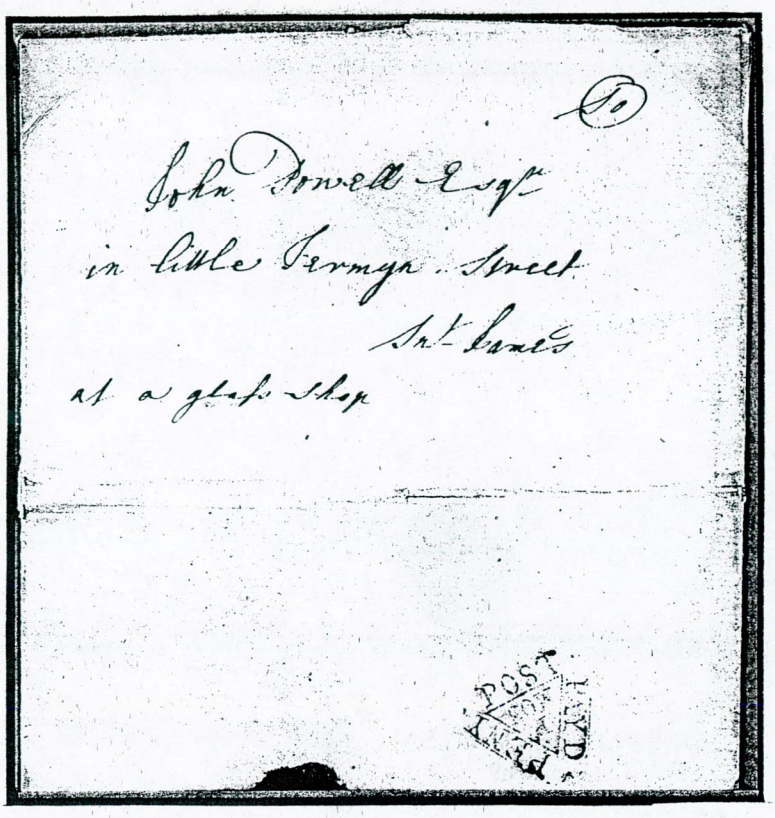
´PAYD PENY POST / P / TH`; 1703 to 1752



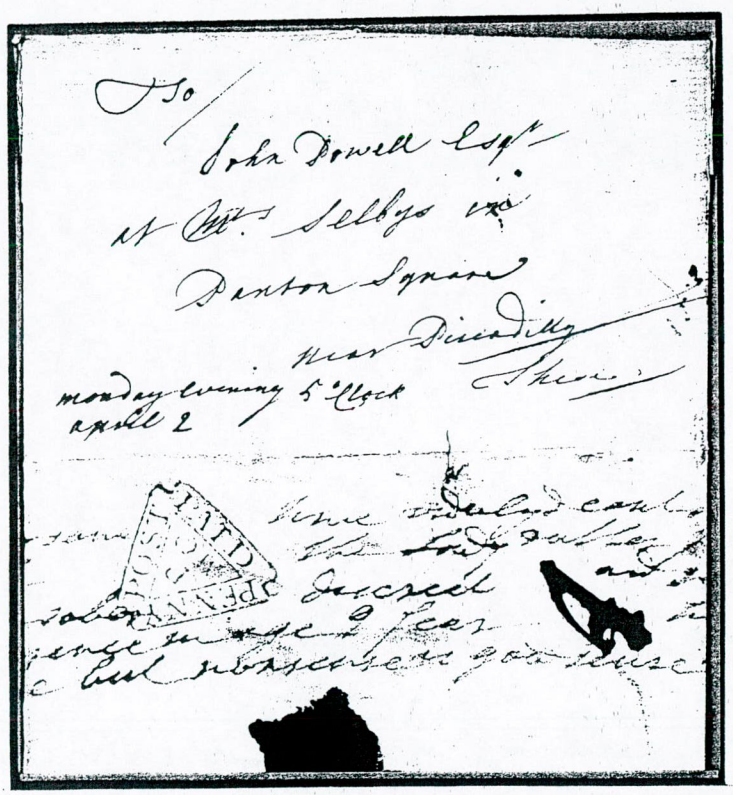
c. **1729**, to Millmans Row / Chelsea, receiver m.s. *´Boxley´*

2.3. St. Paul's Office

'PAYD PENY POST / P / MON'
('MO' with 'N')
1703 to 1752



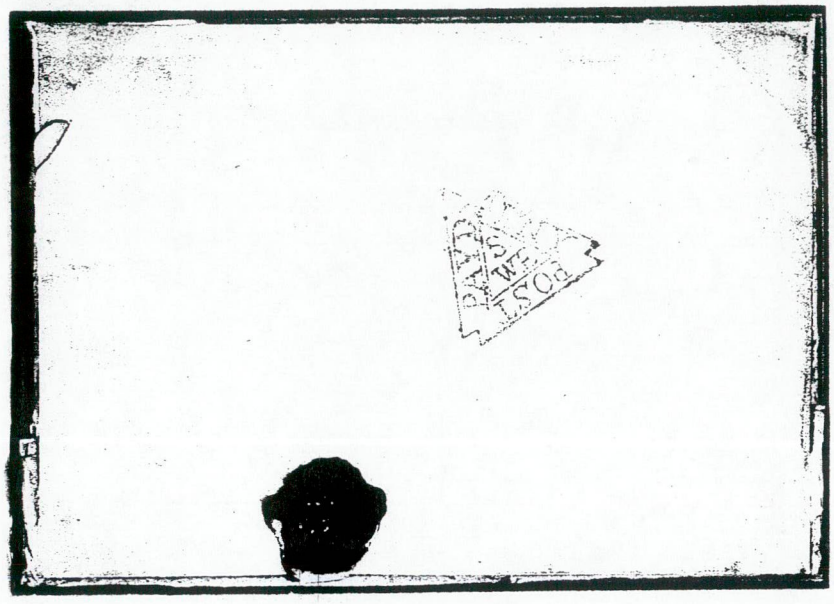
c. 1752, to Little Jermyn Street / St. James's *'at a glass shop'*, delivery 8 o'Clock monday



'PENNY POST PAID / P / MO'
('MO' without 'N')
1759 to 1765

1759, 2nd. April, m.s. endorsed - *'monday evening 5 o'Clock'* - to Penton Square / Piccadilly

2.4. Southwark Office



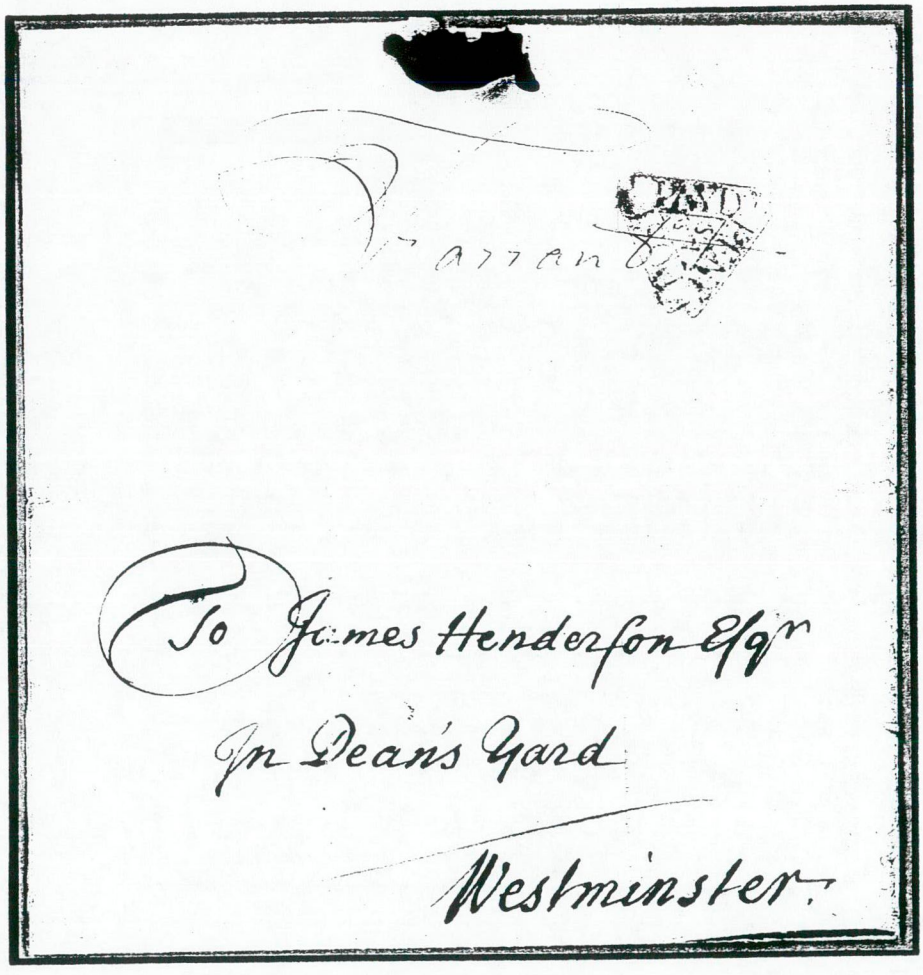
The Southwark Office covered South London from Woolwich to Roehampton and Kew and appears to have remained in the new Buildings in Fowlane near the Borough from 1684 to its closure in 1794. Its address is also quoted as being in Green Dragons Court or St. Mary Overy's Church.

'PAYD PENY POST / S / WE'
recorded for 1716 to 1752

(11 years earlier than previously recorded)

1705, 28th. August, Richmond to Chancery Lane

'POST PAID PENY / S / SA'
1741 to 1769
'Inverted Centre'- Variety



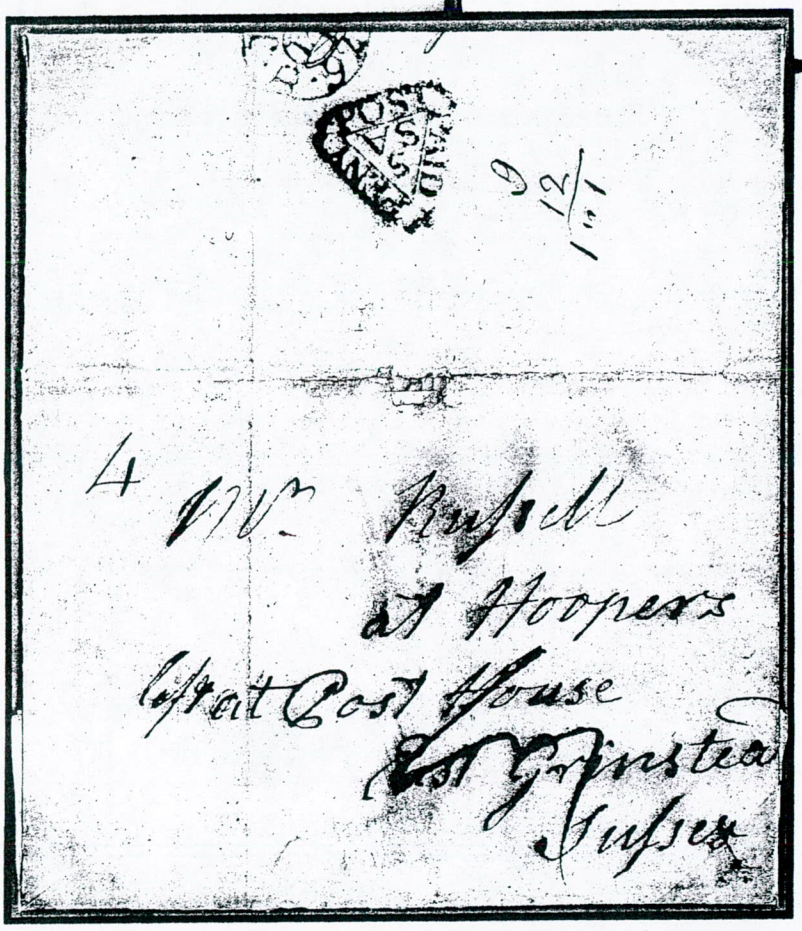
1745, to Dean's Yard / Westminster
receiver name m.s. *'Farrant'*

2.4. Southwark Office

'PENNY POST PAID / S / TH'
1784 to 1794
- Variety -
'distinctive narrow margins type'



1787, 23rd. February, Deptford to Bishop Gate Street, receiver's name handstamp 'WOODCOCK' (1782 to 1787) delivery by 'G' = Chief Office / 5 o'Clock



'PAID PENY POST / S / TH'
1781 to 1792
- Variety - 'PAID for PAYD'

1792, 14th. January, Clapham to East Grinstead,
transfer to General Post, charged 4 d.
up to 80 Miles (Tariff of 1784)

2.5. Temple Office

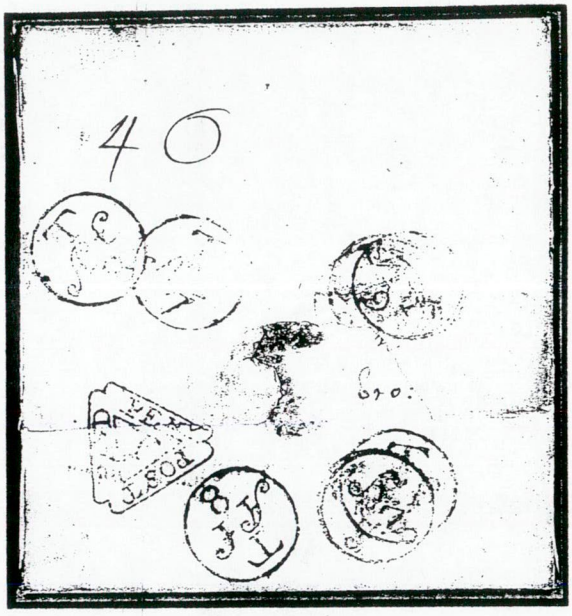
The Temple Office was in Chichester Rents / Chancery Lane from 1684 to 1765. From 1772 to its closure in 1794 it had moved to St. Clements / Blackmore Street. The Office covered the North of London out to East Barnet and Whetstone.



1st. Type

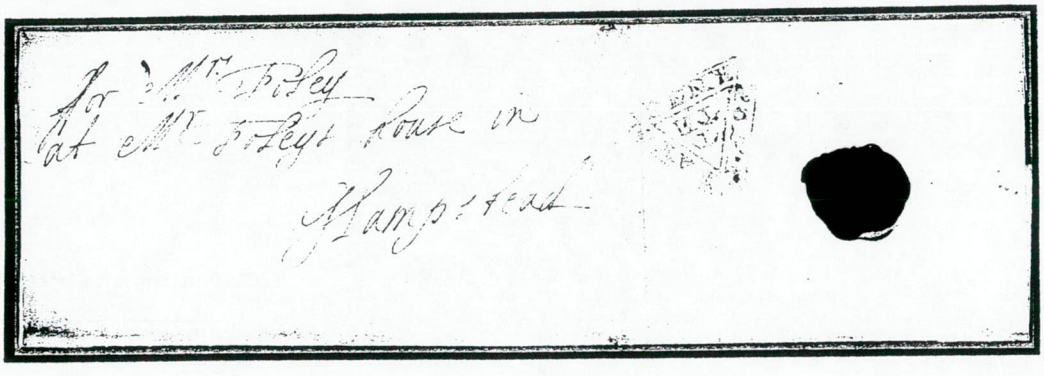
15th. January 1683 to 15th. February 1684

(seven handstamps recorded;
two copies are known to be in private hands)



1683, 9th. May, from Oxford, privately brought to London and posted in the Government Penny Post; directed to Inner Temple; three attempts to deliver the letter - time-handstamps for 7, 8 and 9 o'Clock Af (ternoon)

'POST PAYD PENY / T / TH'; 1688 to 1699



1693, 17th. May, to Hampstead

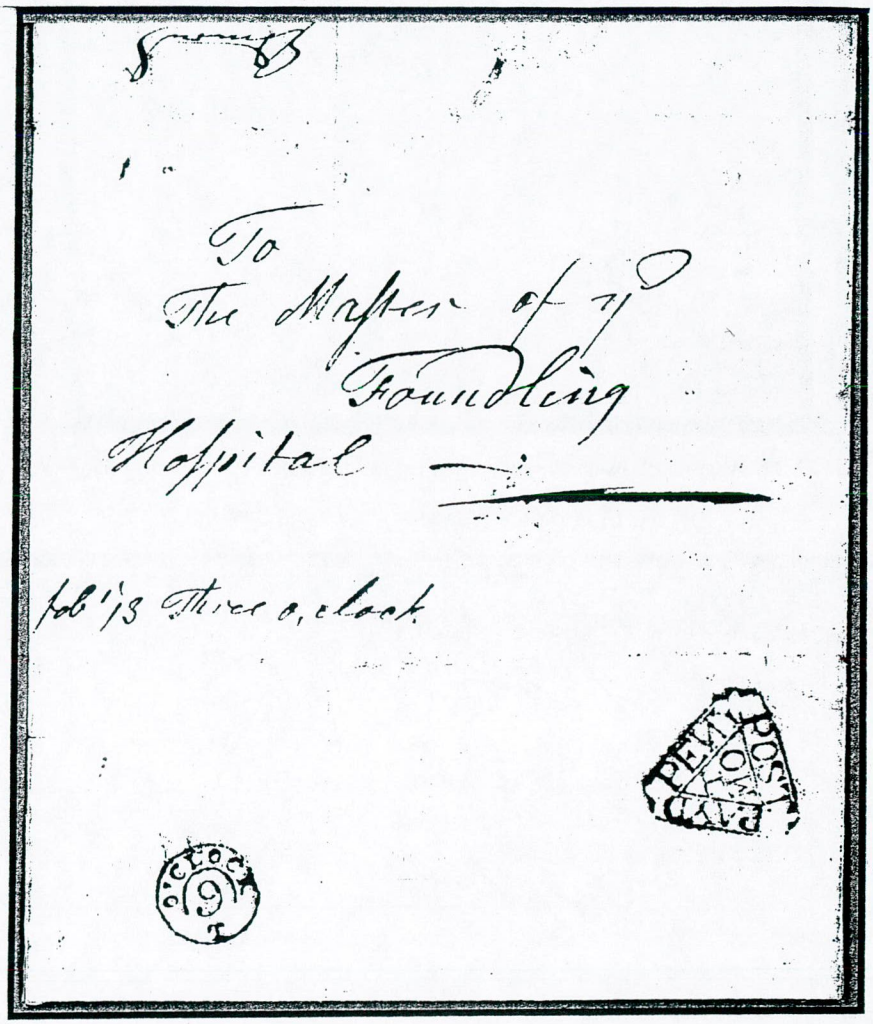
2.5. Temple Office

'PENY POST PAYD / T / WEN'; 1692 to 1698



1698, 22nd. November, Sculpons to Mincing Lane, receiver's initial *'K'*

'PAYD PENY POST/ T / MO'; Variety - 'N' reversed in 'PENY'; 1760 to 1793



1769, 13th. February, Fleet Street to the Foundling Hospital; delivered 9 o'Clock; m.s. receiver's name *'Edmonds'*

2.6. Hermitage Office

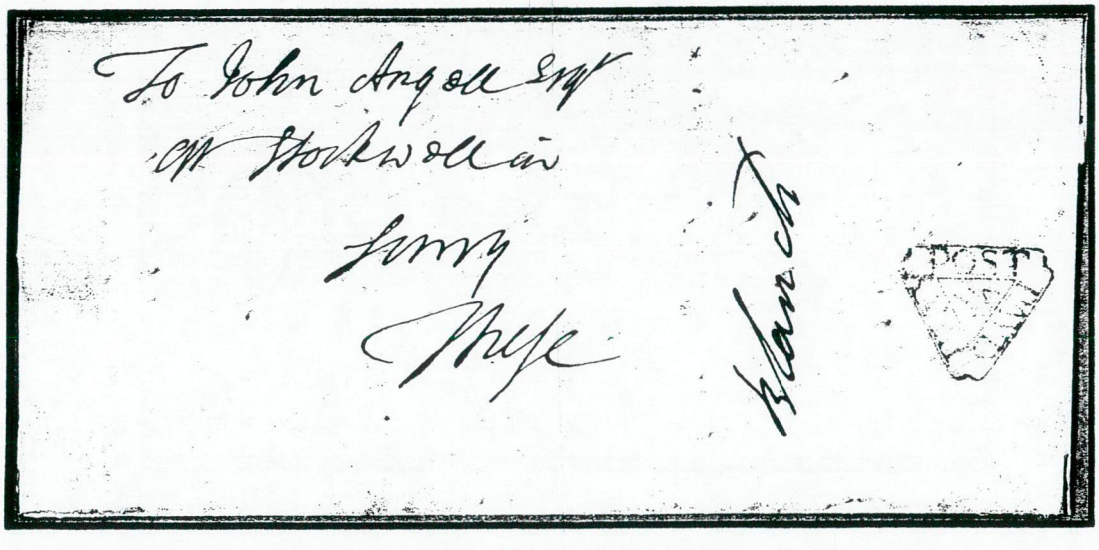
The Hermitage Office was situated in Little Tower Hill from 1684 to 1794. It covered only a small area around the Tower, Poplar, Blackwell, Limehouse, Stepney and the Isle of Dogs.

'PENNY POST PAID / H / FR'; 1753 to 1793



1785, 5th. August, Shadwell to the churchyard of St. Olaves, m.s. receiver *'Haindg'*

'PENY POST PAYD / H / SA'; 1745 to 1746



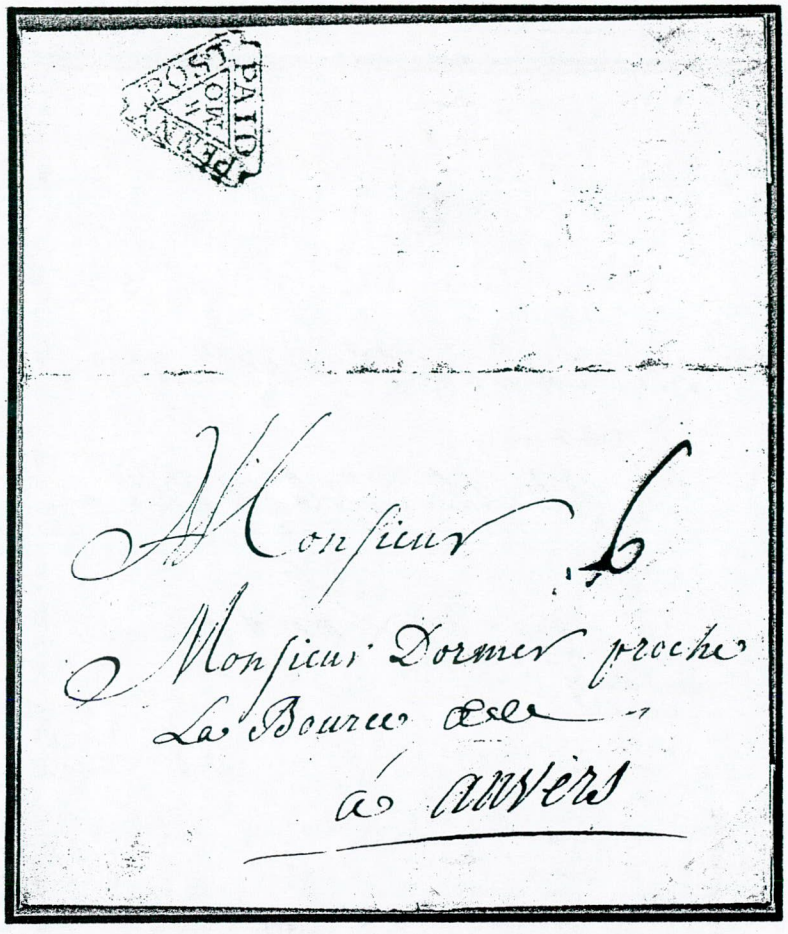
1746, 22nd. August, to Stockwell / Surrey, receiver's name m.s. *'Blanch'*

2.7. Dockwra Type Marks to Abroad

Only a few letters are known having been posted in the Government Penny Post directed to addresses abroad. Letters privately brought to London and posted there are more common.

'PENNY POST PAID / W / MO'
1755 to 1788

(two years earlier than previously recorded)



1753, 1st. September, London to Antwerp,

Charges: prepaid local charge 1 d.;
to pay on arrival - 6 Sols (Tariff of 1701;
Postal Convention with Th. & T. from 1699)

'PENNY POST PAID / S / TU'; 1752 to 1786



1781, 19th. June, Greenwich to Basel, posted at the Southwark Office

Route: London - Dover - Ostend - Malines - Aachen - Cologne - Frankfort - Mannheim - Kehl - Freybourgh - Basel

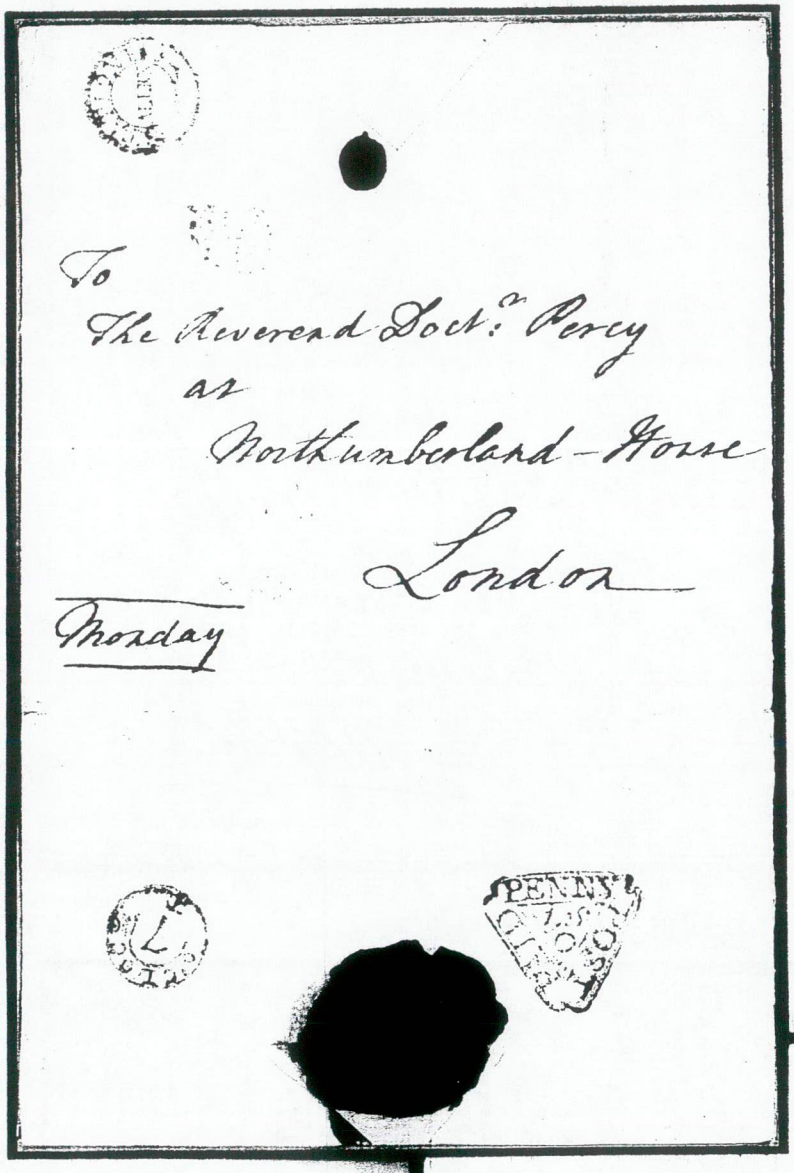
Charges: prepaid in London 1/1 d. = 1 d. local charge + 1/- d. to Germany (to the border with the Austrian Netherlands)
to pay on arrival - 22 Kreuzer (treaty between Th. & T. and Basel of 1742)

2.8. Penny Post Receivers

There were probably several hundred Penny Post Receivers. Most of these signed their names on letters handed in at their Receiving House, only a few used handstamps incorporating their names or numbers.

'ALLEN / STATIONER'
1767 to 1791; ∅ = 17 mm

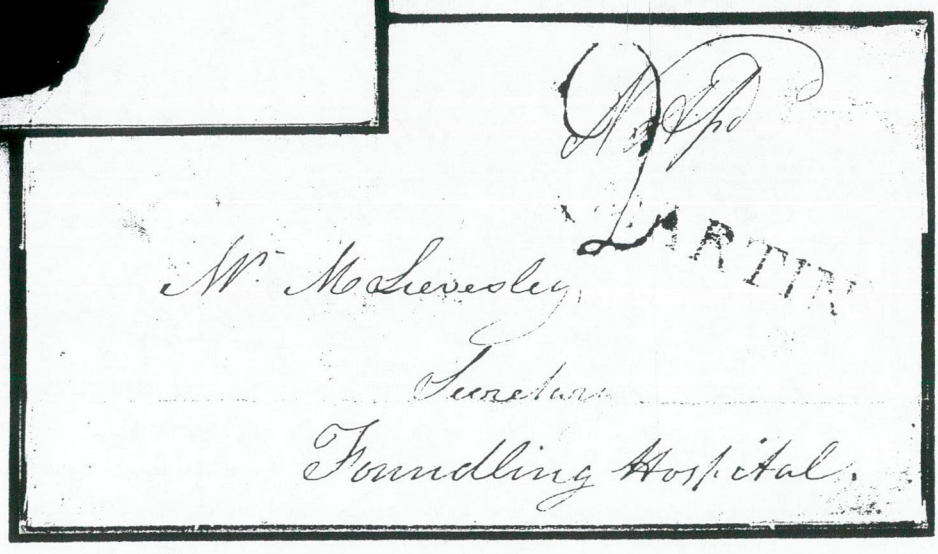
Allen was the Receiver in Greenwich.



c. 1772, posted in the Southwark Office - 'PENNY POST PAID / S / MO'; delivery by the Temple Office - '7 o'Clock / T' to Northumberland House

'MARTIN'
1785 to 1799; ∅ = 42 x 6 mm

He was a Chelsea Receiver.



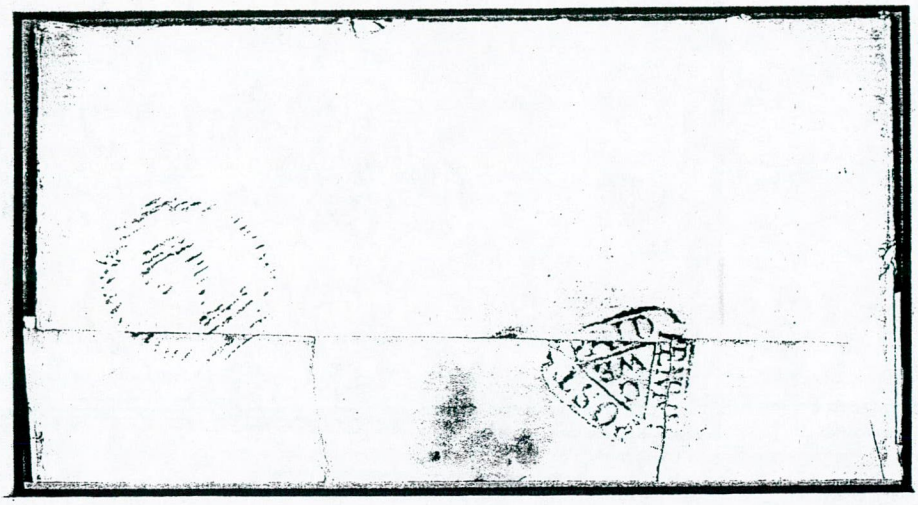
Martin was one of three receivers who continued to use his handstamp after the Reforms in 1794 as well.

1799, 29th. October, sent locally in Chelsea to the Foundling Hospital; delivered by the Westminster Office on 30th. October 7 o'Clock Night

2.8. Penny Post Receivers

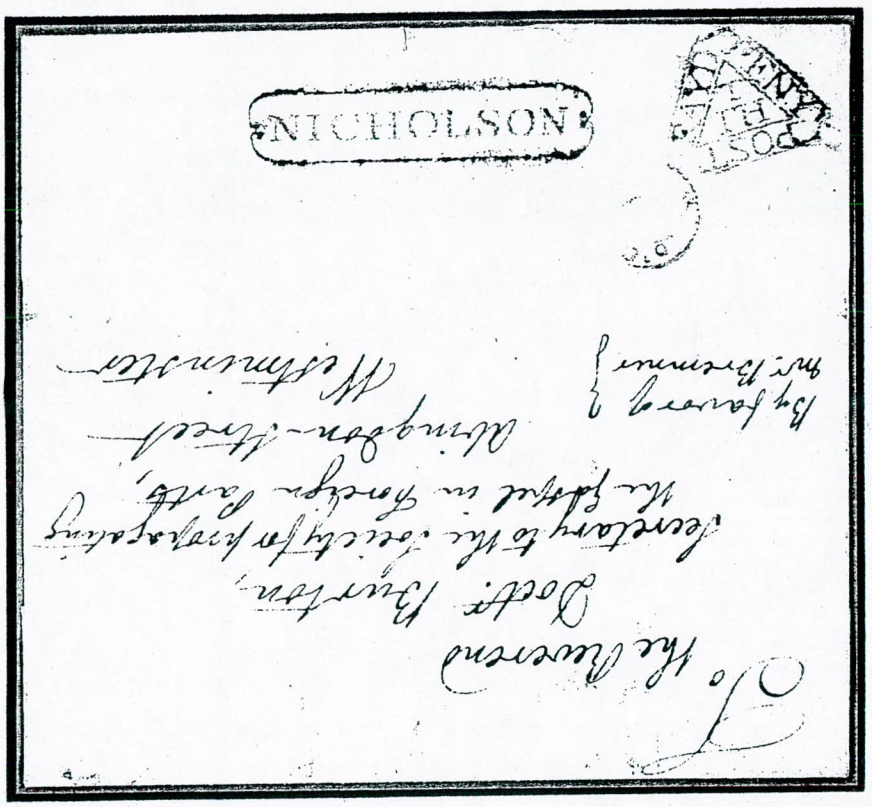
The '2' **in Circle with short horizontal lines** is supposed to stand for a receiver dealing with both the General and the Penny Post. A charge mark is discussed as well, showing the second penny charged for delivery in the Country area, legalised by the Post Office Act of 1731 and usually paid by the addressee.

(at least five examples known)



1786, 25th. October, Birkin Lane / Covent Garden to Hackney, posted in at the Chief Office - 'PENNY POST PAID / G / WE'

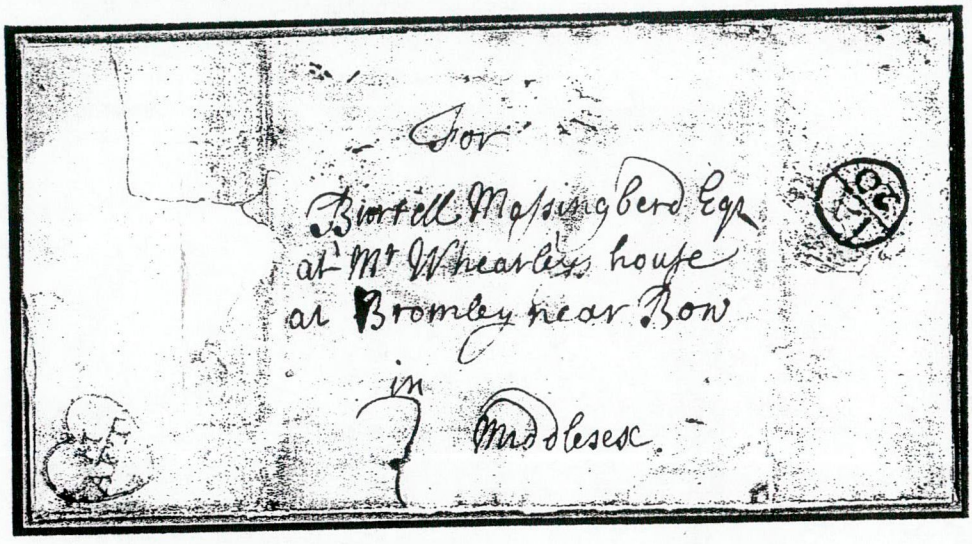
framed 'NICHOLSON'; 1769 to 1776; ∅ = 52 x 10 mm



1769, 31st. August, New Jersey, privately brought to London *'By favour of Mr. Bremner'*;
posted in the Temple Office - 'PAYD PENY POST / T / TH' and delivered by the Westminster Office to Abingdon Street

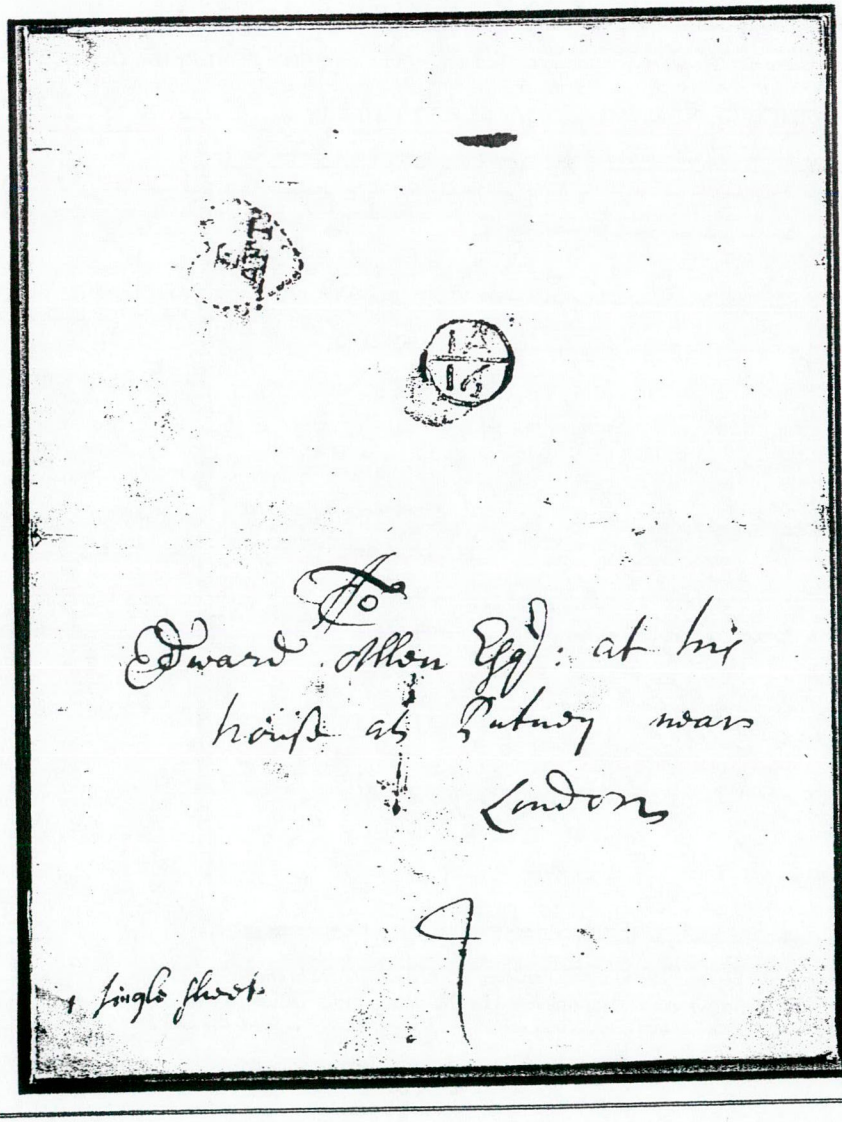
2.9. Handstamps on Unpaid Letters

'Solid Heart'
1687 to 1702
M (onday) Aft (ernoon)



1701, 18th. January, Cambridge to Bromley, charged 2 d. up to 80 miles

'Dotted Heart'
1702 to 1710;
F (riday) Aft (ernoon)



In the early period, letters transferred from the General Post for delivery by the London Penny Post received a heart - shaped hand-stamp.

1707, 14th. January, to Putney, charged 2 d. up to 80 miles
(Tariff of 1657)

2.9. Handstamps on Unpaid Letters

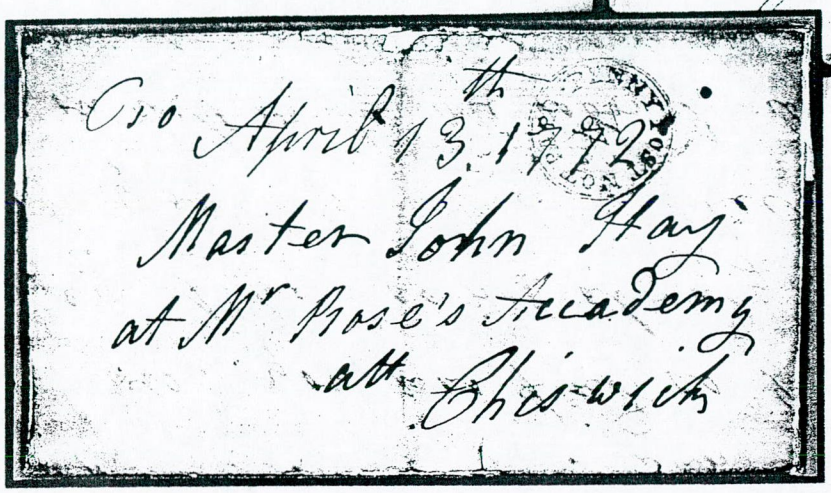
These marks were applied to unpaid letters passed from the General Post to the Government Penny Post for delivery.

'S / PENNY POST NOT PAID
1784 to 1787; ∅ = 24 mm

(extends recorded use by six years)



1793, 25th. May, Cirensce / Italy, privately brought to London, put in unpaid at the Southwark Office, backstamped with General Post datestamp for 31st. May

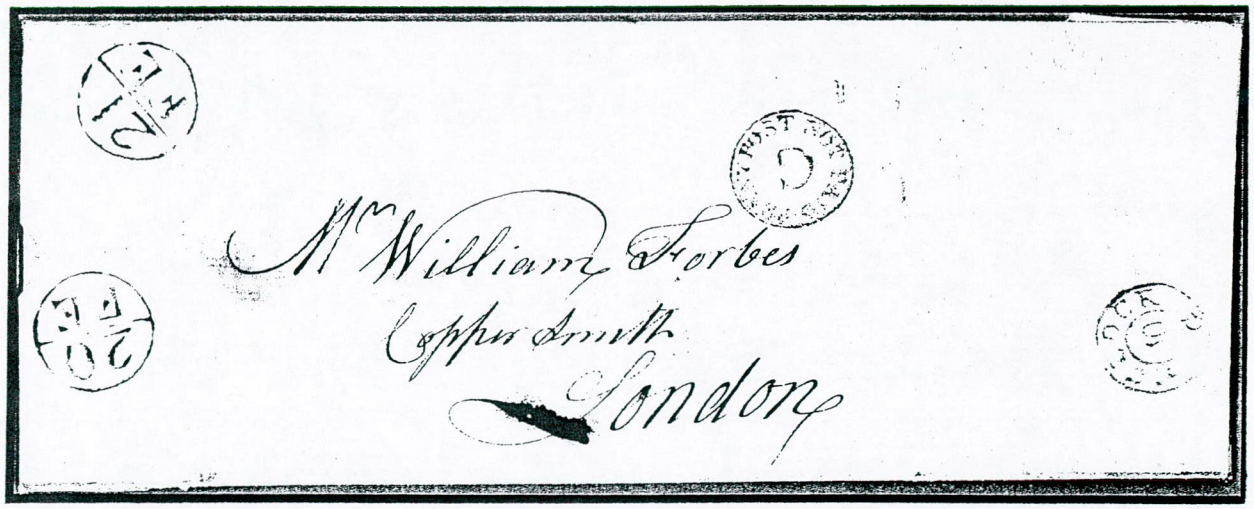


'W / PENNY POST NOT PAID`
1778 to 1794; ∅ = 22 mm

(earliest usage known)

1772, 13th. April, to Chiswick, Bishop mark for 15th. April, delivered by Westminster Office at 2 o´ Clock

'G / PENNY POST NOT PAID`; 1776 to 1790; ∅ = 19 mm



1778, 12th. February, Aberdeen, privately brought to London, posted in the General Post - Bishop marks of the.20th. and 21st. February → indicating - too late for the transfer to the Penny Post; delivered by the General Office on 21st. February at 10 o´Clock morning

3. Reorganized Penny Post

Penny Post-Office, September 8th, 1794.

G R

HIS MAJESTY's POSTMASTER-GENERAL, in carrying into Effect a more frequent and expeditious Delivery of Letters by the PENNY-POST, have established the following Regulations :

INSTEAD of Five Principal Penny-Post Offices in London as heretofore, there are now Two Principal Offices only, namely the CHIEF, which is removed to and held in ABCHURCH-LANE, Lombard-street, and the WESTMINSTER, removed to and held in GERRARD-STREET, Soho.

From these Offices, by Two Sets of Letter Carriers being employed upon the Town Walks, each Set going out alternately, and by a considerable Addition to the Number of Letter Carriers, both in Town and Country, as also by the Letters being conveyed to and from the Country Letter Carriers Twice a Day by Riding Messengers, and a Third Time Outwards by the Mail Coaches, SIX DELIVERIES of LETTERS are given to all Parts of the Town, and THREE DELIVERIES and TWO RETURNS of POST, to most Parts of the Country; and General Post Letters arriving in Town by the Mails in the Morning are also dispatched the *same* Morning to all Parts of the Penny-Post Delivery.

The Time by which Letters must be put into the Penny Post, as also the Time by which they are delivered, both in Town and Country, is as follows :

For the TOWN Delivery.

	If put in at any of the Receiving Houses in Town. H. M.	At either of the Two Principal Offices. H. M.	Or at the Principal Office for the same District of the Town in which the Place is situated. * H. M.		They are delivered in general between the Times under-mentioned.
Over Night by	8 0	9 0	9 30	For the 1st Delivery	½ past 7 and 9 o'Clock
Morning	8 0	8 30	9 0	2d ditto	½ past 9 — 11
	10 0	10 30	11 0	3d ditto	½ past 11 — 1
Noon	12 0	12 30	1 0	4th ditto	½ past 1 — 3
Afternoon	2 0	2 30	3 0	5th ditto	½ past 3 — 5
	5 0	5 30	6 0	6th ditto	½ past 6 — 8

* The Town is divided between the Two Principal Offices thus, all Parts to the Eastward of Gray's-inn-lane, Holborn-bars, Chancery-lane with its Communications, Temple-bar, Narrow-wall Surry, Lambeth-marsh, and the Asylum, are in the District of the *Chief Office* ; — and all Parts to the Westward of these Places inclusive, are in the District of the *Westminster Office*.

For the COUNTRY Delivery.

At Places having Three Deliveries.

	If put in at any of the Receiving Houses in Town. H. M.	At either of the Two Principal Offices. H. M.	Or at the Principal Office to which the Place is attached. H. M.		They are delivered in general between the Times under-mentioned.
The preceding Evening by	5 0	5 30	7 0	For the 1st Delivery	[illegible] 9 o'Clock
In the Morning	8 0	8 30	9 0	2d ditto	10 — 1
Afternoon	2 0	2 30	3 0	3d ditto	4 — 7

At Places having but Two Deliveries.

In the Morning by	8 0	8 30	9 0	For the 1st Delivery	10 and 1 o'Clock
Afternoon	2 0	2 30	3 0	2d ditto	4 — 7

At Places having but One Delivery.

The Morning by	8 0	8 30	9 0		10 and 1 o'Clock.

The Principal Office to which the several Places in the Country are attached is pointed out by the Letters C and W in the following List, which signify the *Chief* and *Westminster Offices*.

LIST of PLACES in the DELIVERY of the PENNY-POST,

Shewing also to which of the Two Principal Offices each Place is immediately attached, the Number of Deliveries a Day given to each, and the Time fixed for the Departure of the Post *from* such where Receiving-Houses are established.

N.B. Those having no Time of Departure specified, are such as have no Receiving Houses.

Places Names.		Principal Office	No. of Deliveries	Time of Departure from the under-mentioned Places. Morning H. M.	Afternoon H. M.
ACTON, & East do	Midd.	W	3	8 30	3 30
Bagnige Wells *	Midd.	C	3		
Balham	Surry	C	3		
Bag's Pond	Midd.	C	3		
Barking	Essex	C	3	8 0	3 0
Barnes	Surry	C	3	8 30	3 30
Battersea	Surry	C	3	9 0	4 0
Battle Bridge	Midd.	C	3		
Bayswater	Midd.	W	3		
Bethnal Green	Midd.	C	3	7 45 / 11 45	4 45
Blackheath	Kent	C	3	9 15	4 15
Blackwall *	Midd.	C	3	7 0 / 11 0	4 0
Bow	Midd.	C	3	9 45	4 45
Brentford	Midd.	W	3	9 0	4 0
Brixton Causeway	Surry	C	2		
Bromley	Midd.	C	3		
Brompton	Midd.	W	3	9 15	4 15
Bush Hill	Midd.	C	3		
Camberwell	Surry	C	3	9 15	4 0
Cambridge Heath	Midd.	C	3		
Camden Town	Midd.	C	3	9 30	4 30
Charlton	Kent	C	2	9 0	4 0
Charlton New	Kent	C	2		
Chelsea, & Little ditto	Midd.	W	3	9 [illegible]	[illegible] 0
Chigwell	Essex	C	2	8 15	3 15
Chingford *	Essex	C	1	—	3 30
Chiswick	Midd.	W	3	9 0	4 0
City Road near the Turnpike	Midd.	C	3		
Do near the Shepherd and Shepherdess *	Midd.	C	3		
Clapham	Surry	C	3	9 30	4 30
Clapton	Midd.	C	3	9 15	4 0
Colney Hatch	Midd.	C	2	8 15	3 15
Crouch End	Midd.	C	2	8 45	3 45
Cuckold's Point *	Surry	C	3		
Dalston	Midd.	C	3		
Deptford	Kent	C	3	9 15	4 15
Deptford Lower Road near China Hall *	Surry	C	3		
Dog and Duck Road, St. George's-fields	Surry	C	3		
Dulwich	Surry	C	2	8 30	3 30
Ealing	Midd.	W	3	8 15	3 15
Ealing, Little	Midd.	W	2		
East Barnet	Herts	C	2	7 30	3 0
East Ham	Essex	C	3	8 30	3 30

Places Names.		Principal Office	No. of Deliveries	Morning H. M.	Afternoon H. M.
East Sheen	Surry	C	3	9 0	4 0
Edmonton	Midd.	C	3	9 15	4 15
Eltham	Kent	C	3	8 0	3 0
Enfield	Midd.	C	3	9 0	4 0
Ditto Highway	Midd.	C	3	8 15	3 15
Finchley	Midd.	C	3	9 0	4 0
Fryern Barnet	Midd.	C	2	vide Colney Hatch	
[illegible]	Midd.	W	3	8 30	3 30
Grange, Bermondsey *	Surry	C	3		
Gray's-inn-road near the Welch School *	Midd.	W	3		
Golder's Green	Midd.	C	2		
Greenwich	Kent	C	3	9 0	4 0
Greenland Dock *	Surry	C	3	7 0 / 11 0	4 0
Hackney	Midd.	C	3	9 15	4 0
Ditto Road near the Nag's-head *	Midd.	C	3		
Haggerston, or Agaston *	Midd.	C	3		
Ham	Surry	C	3	8 15	3 15
Hammersmith	Midd.	W	3	9 15	4 15
Hampstead	Midd.	C	3	9 0	4 0
Hanse Town	Midd.	W	3	9 15	4 15
Hanwell	Midd.	W	2	8 0	3 0
Hendon	Midd.	C	2	8 0	3 0
Highgate	Midd.	C	3	9 15	4 15
Highwood Hill	Midd.	C	2		
Holloway Down	Essex	C	2		
Holloway	Midd.	C	2		
Holsden Green	Midd.	W	1		
Hornsey	Midd.	C	2	vide Crouch End	
Hommerton	Midd.	C	3	9 15	4 0
Hoxton near the Hare *	Midd.	C	3	7 45 / 11 45	4 45
Hyde	Midd.	W	1	—	2 30
Ilford	Essex	C	3	8 30	3 15
Ilford, Little	Essex	C	2		
Islington	Midd.	C	3	10 0	5 0
Kennington	Surry	C	3	9 30	4 0
Kensington	Midd.	W	3	9 30	4 30
Ditto Gravel Pits	Midd.	W	3	9 0	4 0
Kentish Town	Midd.	C	3	9 15	4 15
Kent-street Road	Surry	C	3	10 0	5 0
Kew	Surry	W	3	8 30	3 30
Kilborn	Midd.	W	1		
Kingsbury	Midd.	W	1		
Kingsland	Midd.	C	3	10 0	5 0
Do Road near the Ironmongers Alms-houses *	Midd.	C	3		

Places Names.		Principal Office	No. of Deliveries	Morning H. M.	Afternoon H. M.
Kingsland Crescent	Midd.	C	3		
Knightsbridge	Midd.	W	3	9 45	4 45
Lambeth, South of Church-street *	Surry	W	3	7 45 / 11 45	4 45
Lee	Kent	C	2		
Lewisham	Kent	C	3	8 30	3 30
[illegible]	Essex	C	2	[illegible]	[illegible]
Leytonstone	Essex	C	3	9 15	4 15
Limehouse *	Midd.	C	3	7 45 / 11 45	4 45
Loughton	Essex	C	1	—	2 30
Marsh Gate	Surry	C	3		
Maryland Point	Essex	C	3		
Merton or Martin	Surry	C	2	8 30	3 30
Mile-end Road, East of the Green *	Midd.	C	3	7 45 / 11 45	4 45
Mill Hill	Midd.	C	2	8 0	3 0
Mitcham	Surry	C	3	9 0	4 0
Morden	Surry	C	1		
Mortlake	Surry	C	3	8 45	3 45
Muswell Hill	Midd.	C	2		
Neasden	Midd.	W	1		
New Cross	Sur. & Kent	C	3	9 40	4 40
New Grove	Midd.	C	3		
New Road, Marybone *	Midd.	W	3	7 45 / 11 45	4 45
Newington Butts	Surry	C	3	10 0	5 0
Newington Causway, South of the Turnpike	Surry	C	3	9 30	4 30
Newington Stoke	Midd.	C	3	9 45	4 45
Newington Green	Midd.	C	3	9 30	4 15
Nine Elms	Surry	C	3		
North End, Fulham	Midd.	W	3		
North End, Hampstead	Midd.	C	2		
Norwood	Surry	C	1		
Old Ford	Midd.	C	3		
Paddington	Midd.	W	3	9 15	4 15
Palmers Green	Midd.	C	2		
Pancras	Midd.	C	3		
Parson's Green	Midd.	W	3	8 [illegible]	[illegible] 15
Peckham	Surry	C	3	9 15	4 15
Pentonville	Midd.	C	3	9 30	4 30
Petersham	Surry	C	3	8 30	3 30
Pimlico beyond the Fire Engine *	Midd.	W	3		
Plaistow	Essex	C	3	9 [illegible]	[illegible] 30
Plumstead	Kent	C	1		
Ponder's End	Midd.	C	3		
Poplar *	Midd.	C	3	7 30 / 11 30	4 30

Places Names.		Principal Office	No. of Deliveries	Morning H. M.	Afternoon H. M.
Putney	Surry	C	[illegible]	[illegible] 0	4 0
Richmond	Surry	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible] 0	4 0
Roehampton	Surry	[illegible]	3	8 45	3 45
Shackelwell	[illegible]	C	3		
Shepherd's Bush	Midd.	W	2		
Shooter's Hill	Kent	C	3	8 0	3 0
[illegible]	[illegible]	C	3	9 0	4 0
Sommers Town	[illegible]	C	3	9 15	4 15
South End, Eltham	Kent	C	2		
South End, Lewisham	Kent	C	1		
Southgate	Midd.	C	2	8 30	3 30
South [illegible]	Surry	C	3		
Stamford Hill	Midd.	[illegible]	3		
Stockwell	Surry	[illegible]	3	9 30	4 0
Strand under Green	Midd.	[illegible]	3		
Stratford	Essex	C	3	9 30	4 30
Streatham	Surry	C	3	9 0	4 0
Sutton, Little	Midd.	W	2		
Sydenham	Kent	C	2	8 0	3 0
Tanner's End	Midd.	C	[illegible]		
Tothill-fields *	Midd.	W			
Tooting	Surry	C	3	9 15	4 15
Tottenham	Midd.	C	3	9 15	4 15
Tottenham Ct. Road, North of the New Road *	Midd.	[illegible]	3		
Totteridge	Herts	C	2	7 45	2 45
Turnham Green	Midd.	W	3	9 0	4 0
Vauxhall	Surry	C	3	9 30	4 0
Union Crescent Road, St. George's-fields	Surry	C	3		
Upton	Essex	C	3		
Walcot Place	Surry	C	3		
Walham Green	Midd.	W	3	8 30	3 30
Walthamstow	Essex	C	3	[illegible]	[illegible]
Walworth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wandsworth	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wanstead	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wembly	[illegible]	W	[illegible]		
West [illegible]	Midd.	[illegible]	[illegible]		
West [illegible] Abbey	Essex	C	[illegible]		
[illegible]	Midd.	[illegible]	[illegible]		
White Cross	[illegible]	C	3		
[illegible]	Midd.	W	1	—	3 0
[illegible]	Surry	C	2	8 30	3 30
Winchmore Hill	Midd.	C	3	8 45	3 45
Woodford	Essex	C	3	8 30	3 30
Woodford Bridge	Essex	C	2	9 0	4 0
Woolwich	Kent	C	3	9 0	4 0

Letters dispatched from the Country in the Morning, are delivered in all Parts of London between ½ past 11 and 1 o'Clock the same Day ; and those dispatched in the *Afternoon* are delivered between ½ *past 6 and 8 the same Evening*. Letters going through London, for Example, from *Enfield* to *Mitcham* or *Richmond*, and *vice versa*, and put in to go by the Morning Post, are delivered the same Evening ; and if put in to go by the Afternoon Post, they are delivered between 7 and 9 o'Clock next Morning, or if going to Places having less than Three Deliveries, between 10 and 1 o'Clock next Day.

Also, Letters dispatched from Town by the Mails on Saturday Nights are delivered in all Parts of the Country, within the usual Rounds of the Letter-Carriers, on Sunday Morning.

* Places marked thus * in the above List are served by the Town Letter Carriers, but are too distant from the Principal Offices to be served more than Three Times a Day, the Time therefore by which Letters must be put in for such Places, is that fixed in the above Table for the First, Third and Fifth Town Deliveries, in which they are included; and the Departure of the Post also from such Places, corresponds with the First, Third and Fifth Time of Departure, from the Town Receiving Houses, (viz. that of Eight in the Morning, Twelve at Noon, and Five in the Afternoon,) but is something earlier, as a Reference to each will shew, on Account of their Distance, as is also the Delivery in proportion later for the same Reason.

POSTAGE.

By an Act passed in the late Session, entitled, " An Act for regulating the Postage and Conveyance of Letters by the Carriage called the Penny Post" the Rates of Postage for Letters passing by that Conveyance, are as follow :

	d.
For every Letter or Packet passing from any Part of the Cities of *London* or *Westminster*, the Borough of *Southwark*, and their Suburbs, to any other Part of the said Cities, or Borough, &c.	1
For every Letter or Packet passing to, or from, Parts within,—to, or from, Parts beyond the Cities of *London* or *Westminster*, the Borough of *Southwark*, and their Suburbs, and within the District of the Penny Post, such Letters or Packets not passing to or from the General Post	2
For every Letter or Packet passing from any Part beyond the Cities of *London* or *Westminster*, the Borough of *Southwark*, and their Suburbs, and within the District of the Penny Post, to any other Part beyond the said Cities or Borough, &c. and within the said District	2

In any of the above Cases the Postage may be paid either at putting in, or on Delivery, at the Option of the Writers.

	d.
* For every Letter or Packet put into the Penny Post, to be forwarded to the General Post Office, and from thence to be conveyed by that Post	1

In the latter Case the Penny must be paid at putting in, and is not left to the Option of the Writer.

For every Letter or Packet, first passing by the General Post, and then passing by the Penny Post (over and above the General Postage) - 1

N. B. No Letters or Packets, exceeding Four Ounces in Weight will be sent by the Penny Post, unless such Letters or Packets shall first have passed by, or shall be intended to pass by the General Post.

, Persons applying at the Chief Office in Abchurch-Lane, Lombard-Street, or at the Westminster Office, in Gerrard-Street, Soho, may be furnished with a Copy of this Advertisement.

CHARLES WALCOT, [illegible]
EDWARD JOHNSON, [illegible]

(Announcement - Poster for the ***Penny Post-Office****, September 8th. 1794: original size - 19.7 25,4 inches: the original is in possession of the exhibitor)*

3.1. Experimental Datestamps

Based on the proposals made by **Edward Johnson**, a reorganized Penny Post started in May 1794. The Chief- and the Westminster Office replaced the previous five offices. There were six deliveries a day in the Town area and three in the Country area. The second Penny due for the delivery of letters to the Country area now went to the Revenue. Penny Post letters from Country to Town were charged twopence. The option of paying the postage or not was given to the public.



Chief Office
(month before day)
August to November 1794;
∅ = 34 x 25 mm

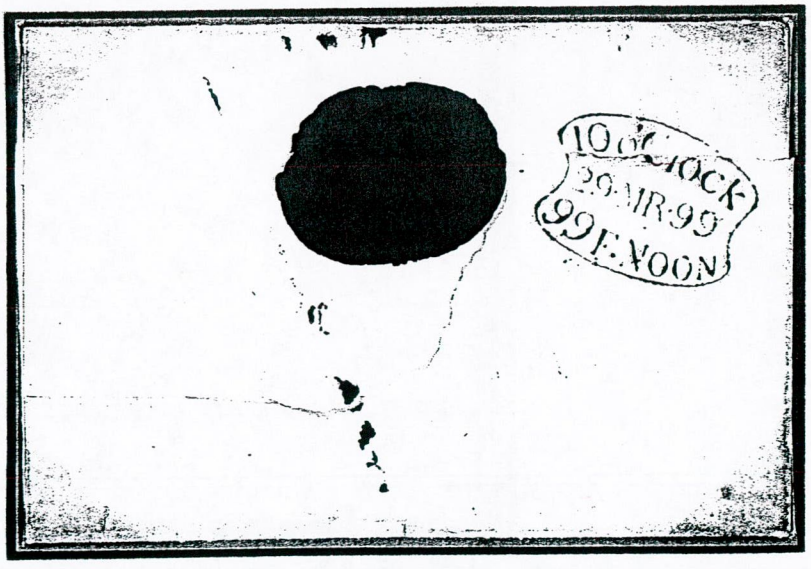
(first day in use)

'C. O.' - Chief Office
in black 1794 only;
∅ = 31 x 12 mm

1794, 2nd. August, to Streatham - Country area, charged 2 d.

Westminster Office - year twice; 1795 to 1799

The triangular prepaid-marks were discontinued. Handstamps with an *intended* frame giving the date in full were brought into use. To distinguish the marks of the Chief Office from those of the Westminster Office, the former had the month before the day in its stamps, while the latter had it after the day.
At first the marks were stamped in black but later appeared in red. With certain exceptions, red became henceforth the usual colour of all date-stamps.



1795, 10th. January, Norfolk Street to St. James´s, charged 1 d.

3.2. Experimental Paid Marks

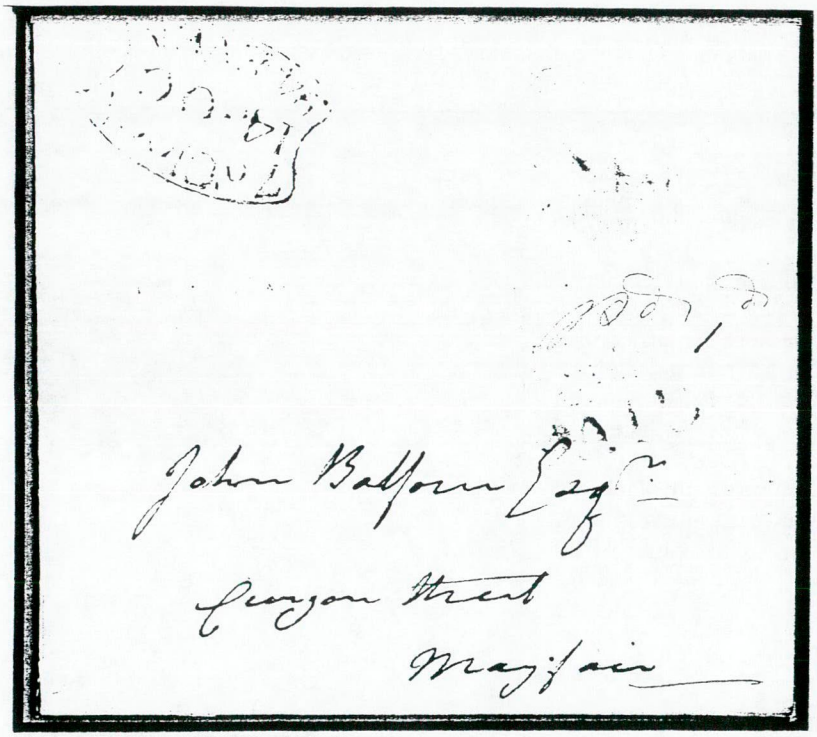
The intended frame date-stamps didn´t indicate whether the postage on a letter had been paid or not, additional stamps became necessary leading to Experimental Paid-handstamps for Chief- and Westminster Office.

´Crown / P. POST / PAID´ in Circle; June to October 1794; ∅ = 31 mm



1794, 16th. June, Spanish Town / Jamaica to Tottenham Court Road, privately brought to London

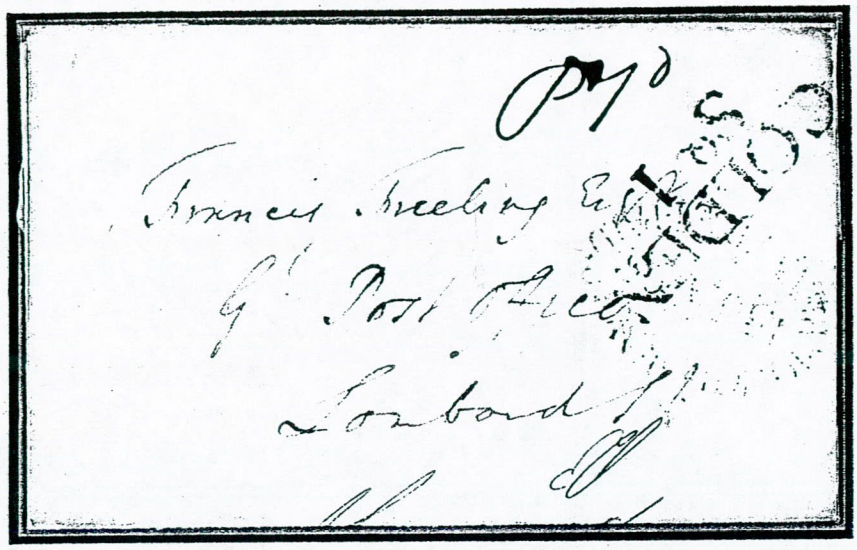
´Crowned PAID`, Westminster Office; May to October 1794; ∅ = 25 x 23 mm



1794, 14th. October, Islington Street to Mayfair, 1 d. prepaid - Town delivery,
Westminster Office experimental datestamp (day before month) - delivery 7 o´Clock Evening

3.2. Experimental Paid Marks

'PENNY POST PAID' in mauve; December 1794 to January 1795; ∅ = 40 x 29 mm



1795, 15th. January, Receiving House 'GOLDEN / SQ 1' to the General Post Office

(The addressee was Sir Francis Freeling, who played a considerable part in the running of the first mail coach in August 1784. He was probably the only great man produced inside the Post Office during the 200 years to 1840, being secretary since 1798 for nearly 40 years.)

'Penny Post / B / Paid'; October to December 1794; ∅ = 31 x 22 mm

(The 'B' is thought to stand for the 'Borough of Southwark)



1794, 29th. October, to Dean's Yard, delivery by the Westminster Office at 4 o'Clock Afternoon

3.3. P. P. Receiving Houses

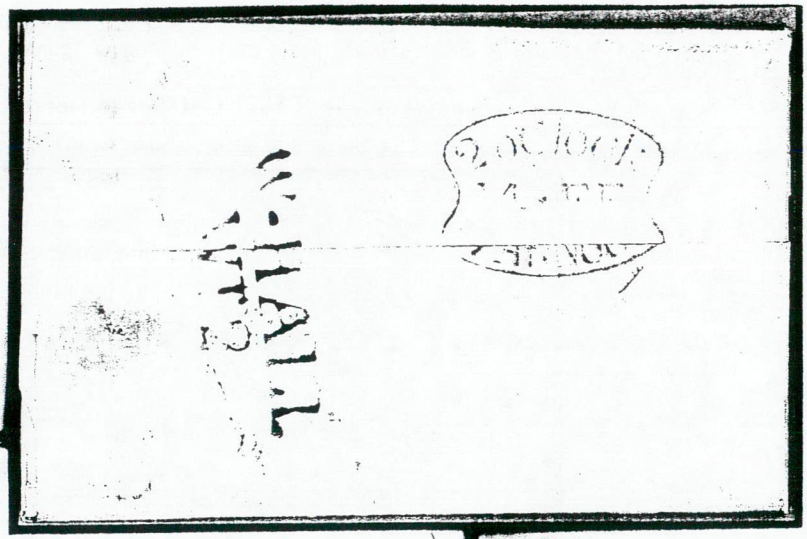
The official Receiving House stamps at first appeared with the name of the office accompanied by a number. It is suggested that the numbers distinguish different offices of the same locality, but the exact meaning of the numbers is still unsolved.

'WANDSH. / 1'; 1795 to 1796



1795, 30th. January, Wandsworth to a ship *'Laying at Hamoaze / Plymouth'*; prepaid 1 d. local charge + 6 d. to Plymouth - over 150 miles (Tariff of 1784)

'W - HALL / WT 2'; 1794 to 1797



1797, 4th. February, White Hall to Strand, charged 1 d

'CATEA / TON - ST. 3'
1797

(extending usage back by one year)

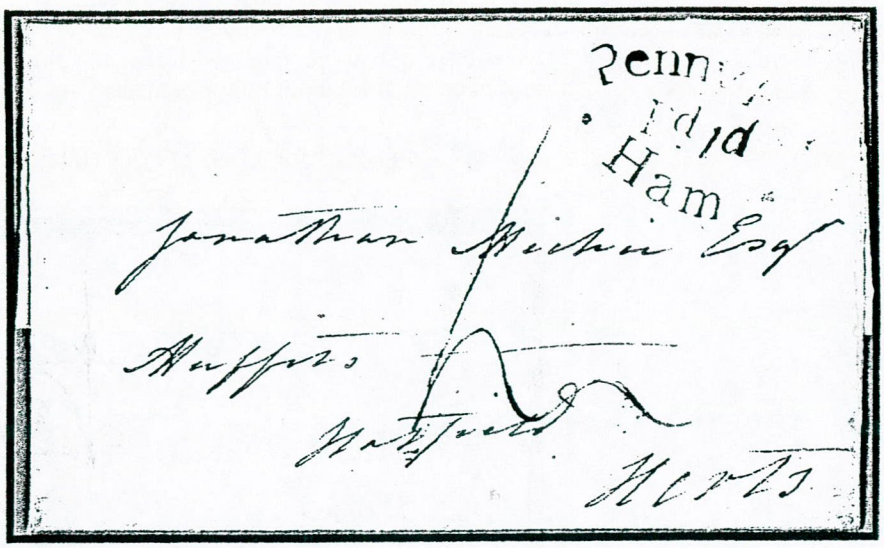
1796, 19th. January, King's Arm Yard to Craven Street / Strand, charged 1 d.

3.3. P. P. Receiving Houses

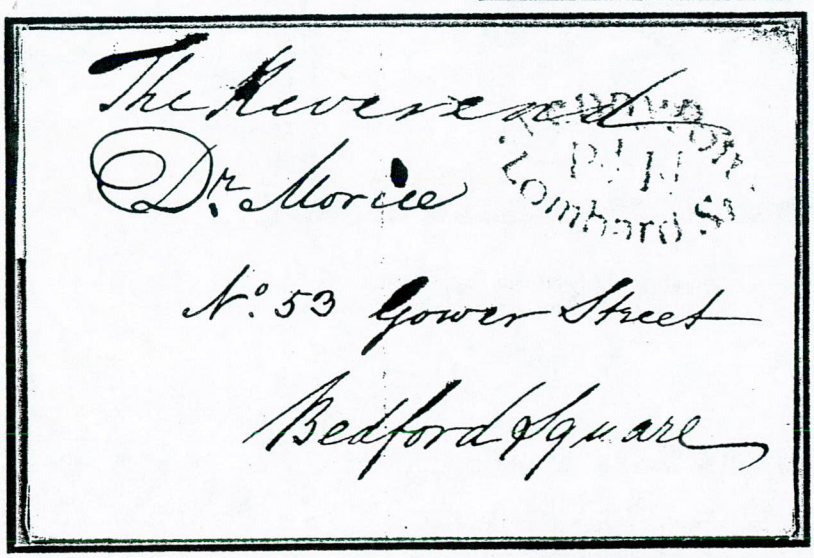
The straight line Receiving House type was replaced at the end of 1794 by entirely new stamps of which there are paid and unpaid varieties.

'Penny Post / pd. *1* (manuscript !) / Ham'
1794 to 1799

(only known for Clapham Com., Ealing Town, Eltham, Ham and Shooters Hill)



1797, 30th. March, Ham to Hatfield / Herts, prepaid 1 d. local charge, transfer General Post - 4 d. up to 30 miles (Tariff of 1796)



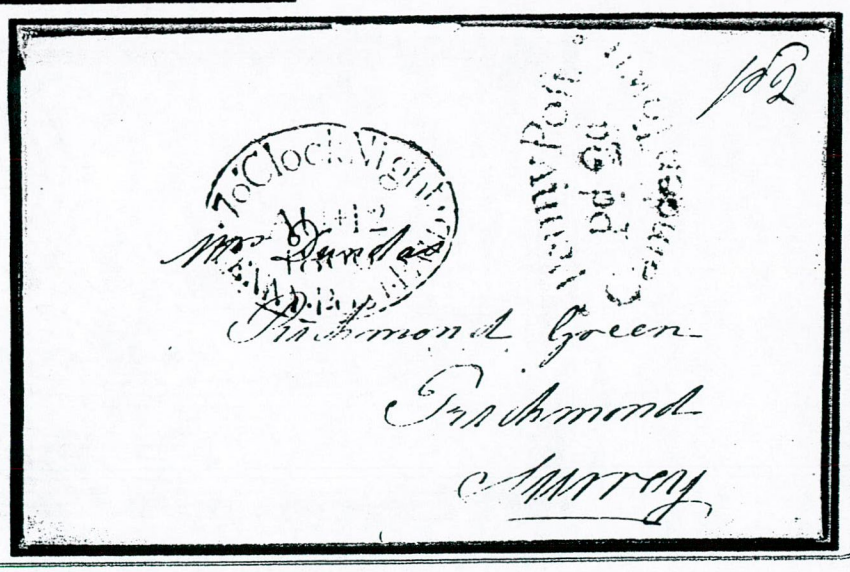
'Penny Post / pd. 1 d. / Lombard St.'
known for 1797 only

(extends recorded use by one year)

1798, 14th. December, to Gower Street / Bedford Square, 1 d. prepaid

'Penny Post / pd. 2 d. / Camden Town'
1795 to 1800

The *'2 d.'*-type was used on letters carried in the country area of the Penny Post.

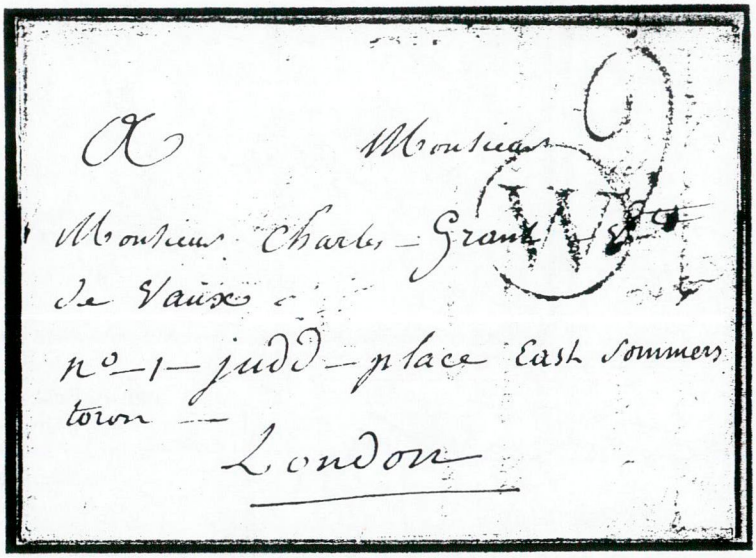


1800, 12th. August, Camden Town to Richmond, showing 'Penny Post Paid' time / datestamp of the Chief Office - delivery at 7 o'Clock Night

3.4. Window Letters

The 'W' in circle was applied to letters put in at the Window of the General Post instead of a Penny Post Receiving House for delivery in London and handled throughout by the General Post. These letters received the 'W' in black.

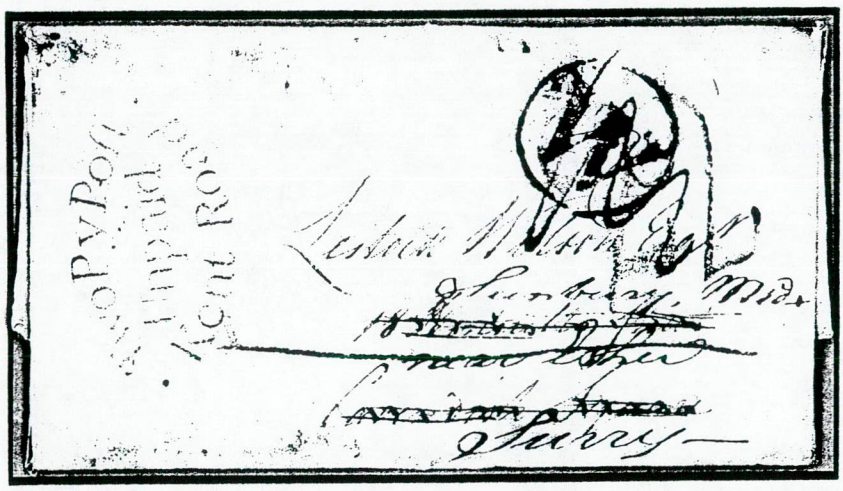
'W' in black 12 mm high; 1791 to 1804; ∅ = 25 - 26 mm



1796, 27th. July, Hamburgh, privately brought to London;
posted in the General Post for local delivery → date handstamp for 10 / SE / 96

Letters put in at the Window and then transferred to the Penny- or Twopenny Post were marked with the 'W' in red.

'W' in red; 1799 to 1804; ∅ = 24 mm



1803, 25th. August, 'Two Py Post / Unpaid / Kent Road' to Asher, re-directed to Sunbury

Two-penny Poſt-Office.

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

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

Regulations.

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

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

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

For Delivery in TOWN.

		Delivery
Over Night by	8 o'Clock for the	Firſt
Morning	8	Second
	10	Third
	12	Fourth
Afternoon	2	Fifth
	5	Sixth

For Delivery in the COUNTRY.

		Delivery
The preceding Evening by	5 o'Clock for the	Firſt
Morning	8	Second
Afternoon	2	Third

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

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

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

The Poſtage of a Letter to or from any Part of this Delivery, to or from any other Part of it, w Town or Country, as alſo the Poſtage of this Office on each Letter paſſing to or from the Gene Foreign Poſt Offices, is Two-pence.

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

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

The Delivery of this Office includes all Places within the following Circle, which is alſo incluſive.

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

In SURRY—Dulwich; Part of Norwood; Streatham; Mitcham; Morden; Merton; Wimbledon; Putney Heath; and Ham and Peterſham beyond Richmond.

In MIDDLESEX and HARTS—Hampton; Sunbury; Teddington; Twickenham; Whitton and Dean; Worton; Iſleworth; Brentford; Ealing; Hanwell; Wembly beyond Willſdon; Kingſbury; The Hyde; Mill Hill and Highwood Hill beyond Hendon; Totteridge, Whetſtone and Eaſt Barnet beyond Finchley; Southgate; Winchmore-Hill and Enfield.

In ESSEX—Chinkford and Loughton beyond Walthamſtow and Woodford; Chigwell and Row; Barking Side; Chadwell beyond Ilford; and Ripple Side beyond Barking.

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

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

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

It is reſpectfully requeſted, that Perſons receiving Letters will not detain the Letter Carriers at their Doors longer than can be poſſibly avoided.

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

January 16, 1803.

Printed by March & Teape, Tower-hill, for His Majeſty's Stationary-Office.

(Notice of the Two - Penny Post-Office to all Postmasters, giving informations about the new regulations appearing in the Twopenny Post.)

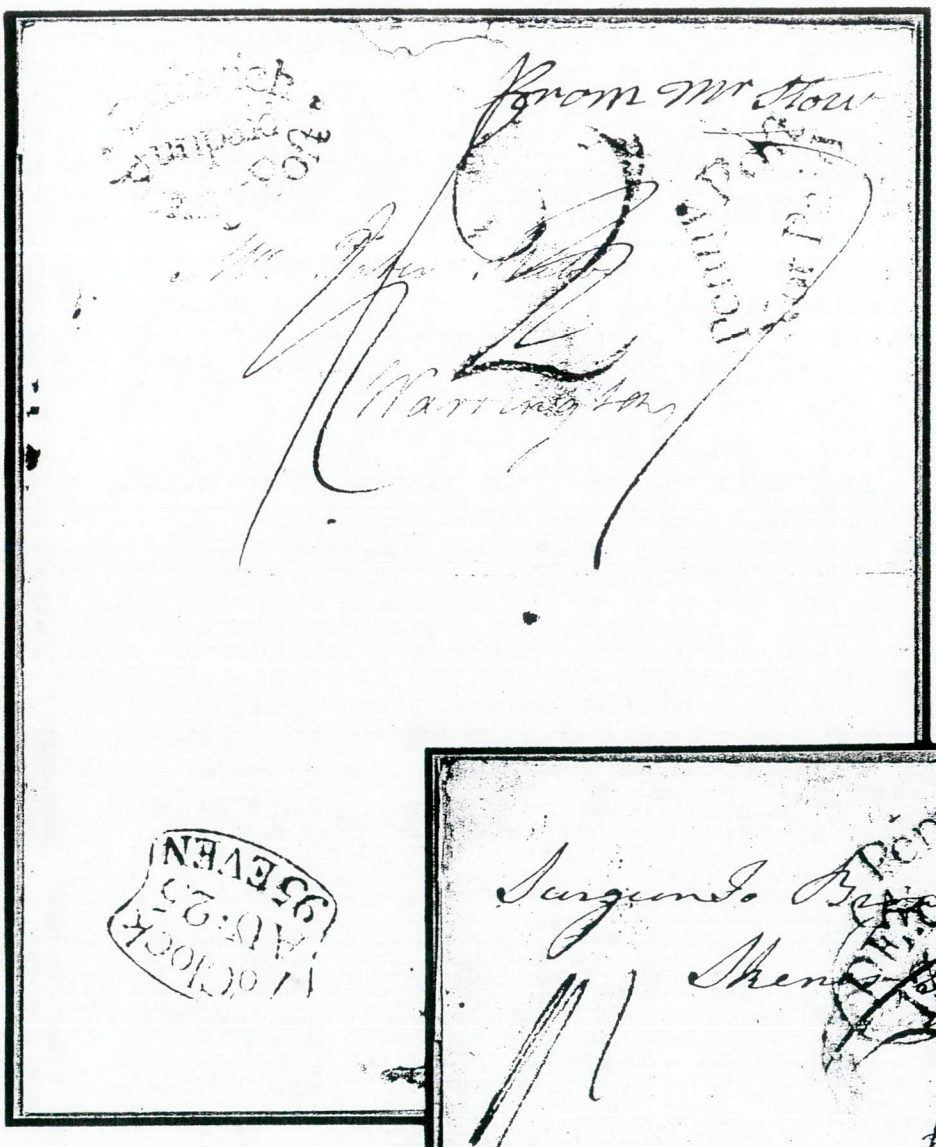
3.5. Transfer Mark

From 1796 the Penny did not have to be prepaid on letters transferred to the General Post; the regulation introduced in 1794 that on these the Penny Post rate must be prepaid apparently had soon been dropped. If the Penny was not prepaid, the open triangular handstamp 'Penny Post / Not Paid' was applied.

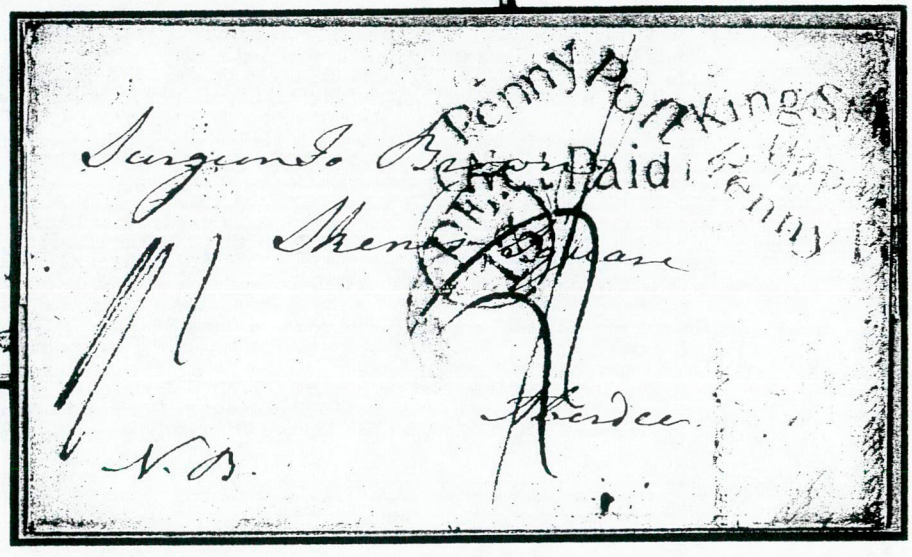
'PENNY POST / NOT PAID'; 1796 to 1801; ∅ = 38 x 23 mm

(extending recorded usage back one year)

'Dulwich / unpaid / Penny Post'(*unrecorded*) and the 'Large 2' known for 1795 to 1796



1795, 25th. August, Dulwich to Warrington, Chief Office date-stamp '7 o'Clock Even'; → transfer to General Post; charged 5 d. up to 150 miles + local charge 2 d. (Tariff of 1784)

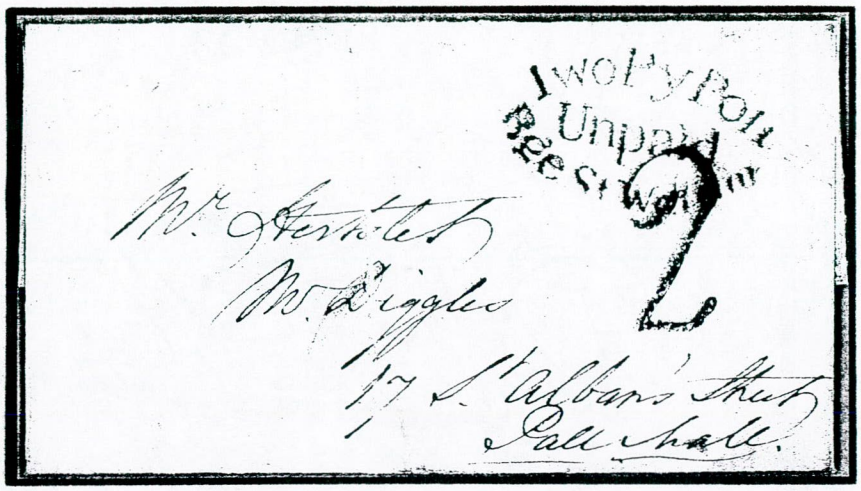


1799, 10th. December, 'King Street Westminster / Unpaid / Penny Post' to Aberdeen → transfer to General Post, arrival - Edinburgh Bishop Mark for 13th. December; charged 1/- to Scotland + 1 d. local charge (Tariff of 1796)

4.1. Charge Marks

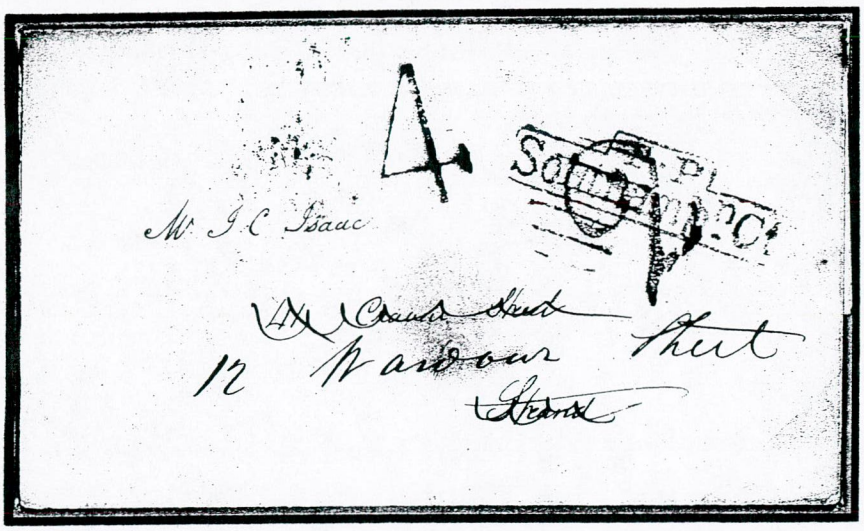
Within the Town area for 120 years, letters had been transported for 1 d. only. In April 1801 the charge was raised to 2d. for all letters carried by the London Post. This was caused by the inflation brought about by the War with France. There was no change in organisation, but from 1805 the rate for letters between Town- and Country areas and for those within the Country area was increased to 3 d..
The Penny- and the Twopenny Post usually used handstruck numerals on unpaid letters charged between 2 d. and 6 d.. The handstruck ´4`, ´5` and ´6` were only used on re-directed letters which were charged both for the original journey and re-direction.

Handstruck ´2` (pointed toe); 1799 to 1818; ∅ = 15 x 32 mm



1817, 28th. November, ´Two Py Post / Unpaid / Bridge Street Westminster` to Pall Mall

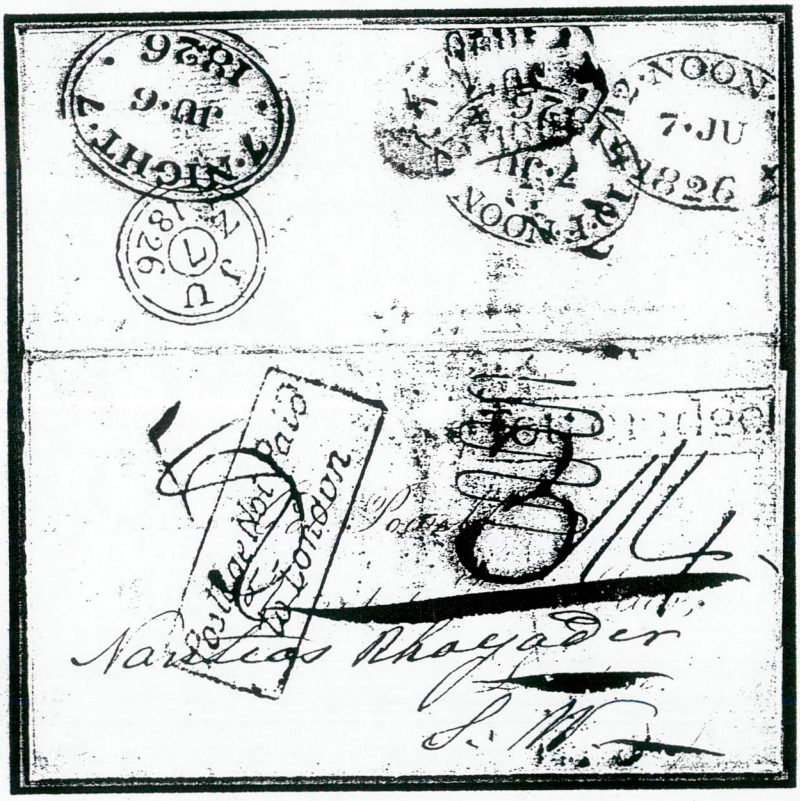
Handstruck ´4`; 1835 to 1840; ∅ = 14 x 23 mm
and Handstruck ´2` (blunt toe); 1824 to 1838; ∅ = 15 x 23 mm



1835, 19th. November, ´T. P. / Southampton Court` to Strand, re-directed to Wardour Street - Town area

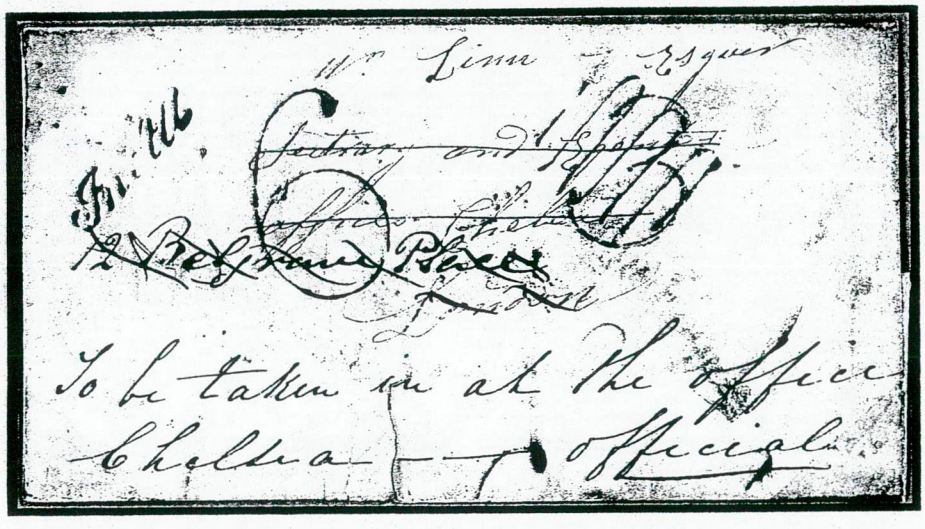
4.1. Charge Marks

Large ´5`; 1815 ; ∅ = 19 x 31 mm (*extends recorded use to 1826*)



1826, 5th. June, 'Totteridge` to a London address, then re-directed to a second London address. The original postage rate of 3 d. amended to 5 d. for re-direction and amended again to m.s. 1/4 d. after the transfer to General Post → boxed *'Postage Not Paid / to London`* (1824 to 1828). Several attempts to deliver the letter by Chief- and Westminster Office on 6th. and 7th. June. (S. W. in the address meant South Wales, possibly mistaken for South West London)

Handstruck ´6`; 1828 to 1831; ∅ = 17 x 32 mm;
script 'In All`; 1810 to 1832; ∅ = 35 x 11 mm



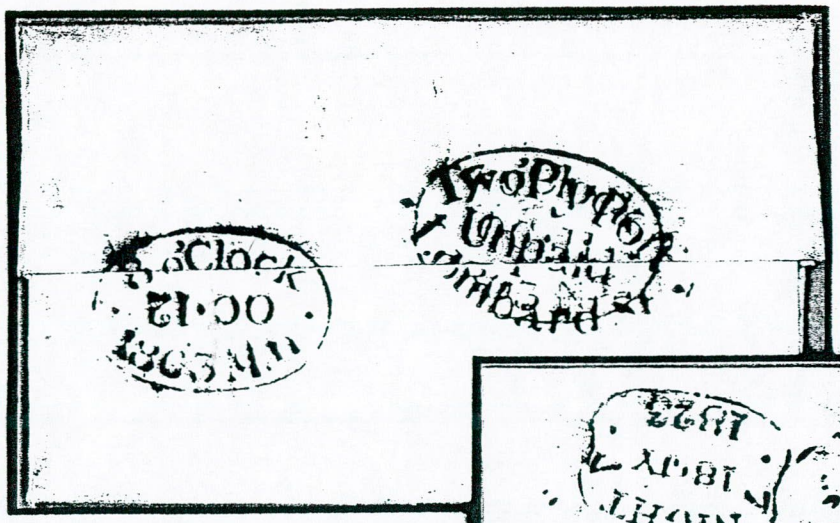
1831, 14th. October, Lime House to Cheltenham - Country area, re-directed to Belgrave Place
m.s. inspectors correction: *'To be taken in at the Office Cheltenham - official'* - the total charge being deleted

No change was made in the date-stamps used on unpaid letters. They continued in use until the end of 1822 without alterations.

Chief Office - Complete Date Reversed and Inverted

(not previously recorded)

1803, 11th. October, Lombard Street to Sergeants Inn; charged 2 d.

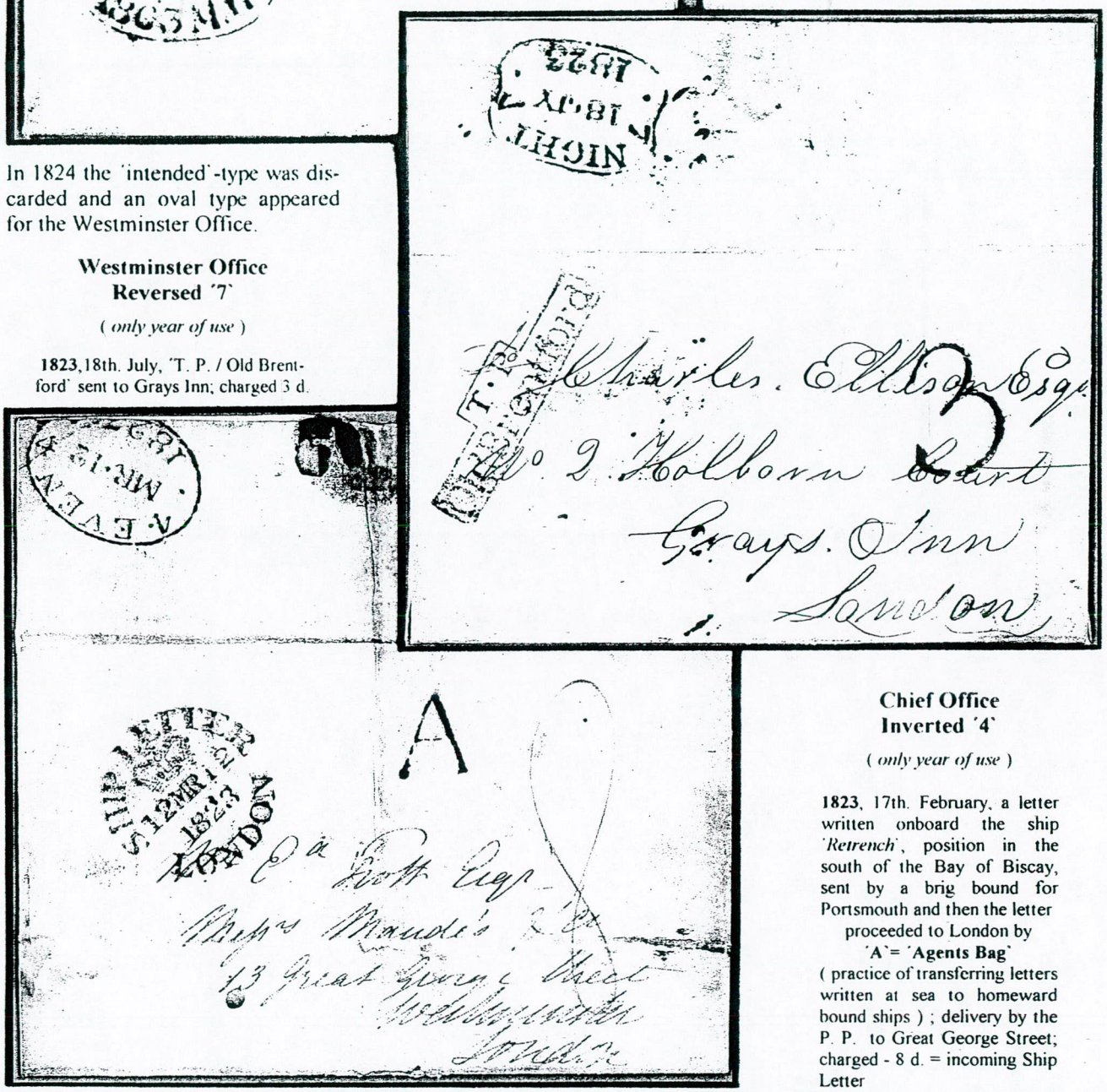


In 1824 the 'intended'-type was discarded and an oval type appeared for the Westminster Office.

Westminster Office Reversed '7'

(only year of use)

1823,18th. July, 'T. P. / Old Brentford' sent to Grays Inn; charged 3 d.



Chief Office Inverted '4'

(only year of use)

1823, 17th. February, a letter written onboard the ship *'Retrench'*, position in the south of the Bay of Biscay, sent by a brig bound for Portsmouth and then the letter proceeded to London by

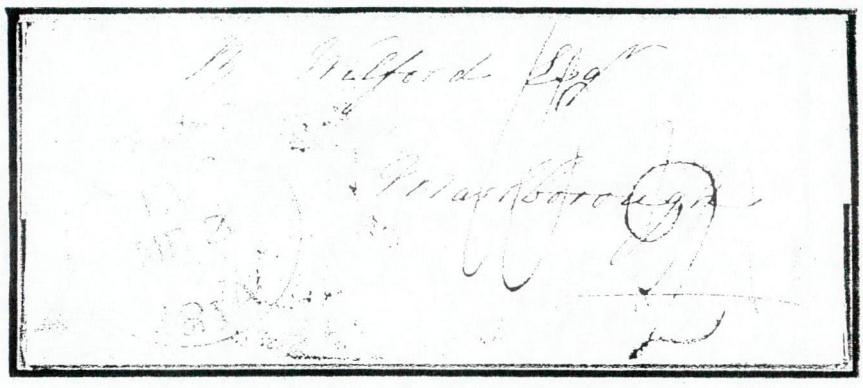
'A'= 'Agents Bag'

(practice of transferring letters written at sea to homeward bound ships) ; delivery by the P. P. to Great George Street; charged - 8 d. = incoming Ship Letter

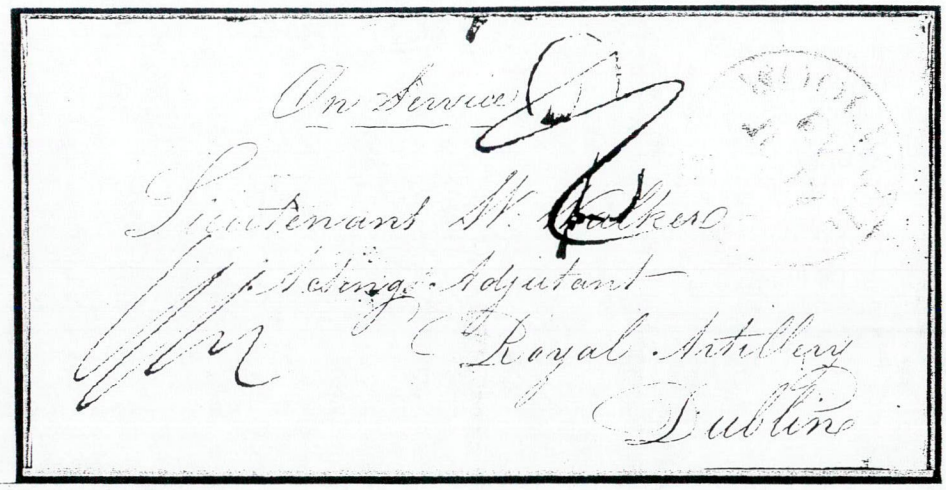
4.2. Datestamps - Country Offices

The date-stamps at the sorting offices in the country area came into use in July 1809; they were introduced in order that *bye-letters* should receive a date, for such letters did not go to London and so could not be date-stamped in one of the Principal Offices. They were also used on letters going by the *cross-post* later on.

Year in curved Line;
1809 to 1837; ∅ = 35 mm

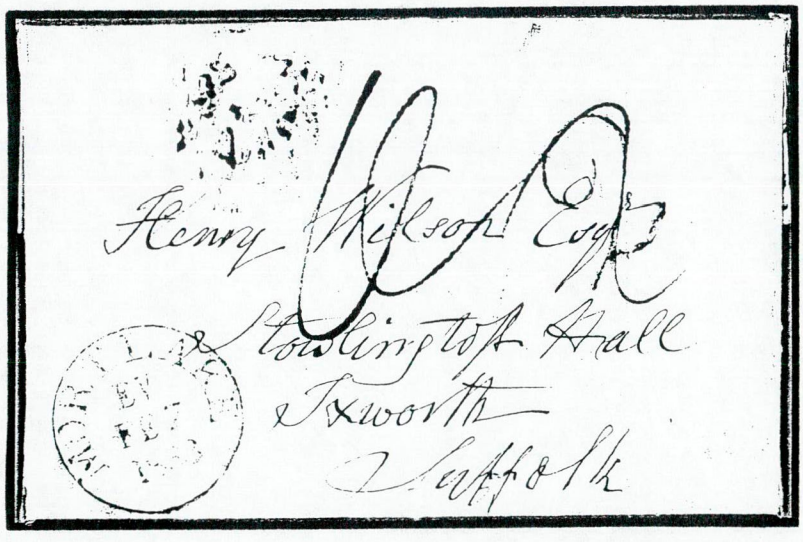


1814, 3rd. March, Putney to Marlborough, charged 8 d. up to 80 miles + local charge 2 d.



1815, 17th. June, Woolwich to Dublin, endorsed *'On Service'*; charged 14 d. to Dublin (Tariff of 1813) + local charge 2 d.

Year in straight Line; 1837 to 1847; ∅ = 29 mm

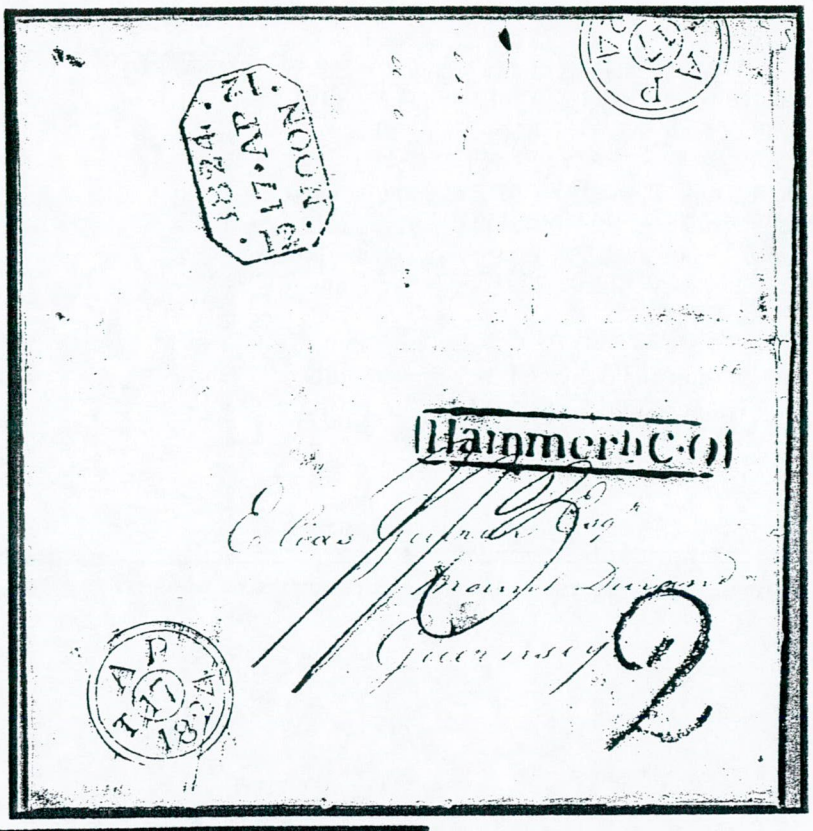


1838, 7th. February, Mortlake to Ixworth / Sussex, charged 8 d. up to 80 miles (Tariff of 1812) + 2 d. local charge

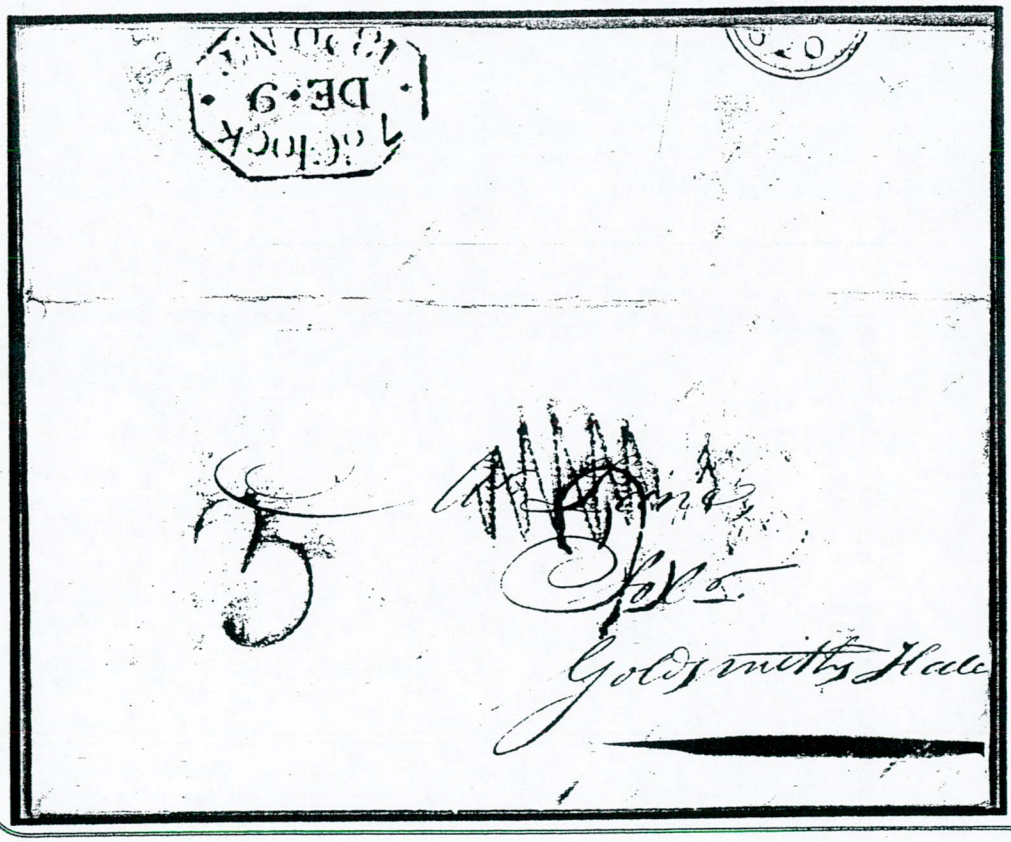
4.2. Datestamps - Transfer

In 1817 an entirely new series of date-stamps was introduced in the two Principal Offices for use on unpaid letters transferred to the General Post. These handstamps in black ceased to be used on transferred letters from the town area from April 1831, when the charge of conveyance of such letters by Twopenny Post to the General Post was abolished, the ordinary stamps for unpaid letters being generally used. For letters from country area the use of these special handstamps was continued.

Westminster Office
1823 to 1825; ∅ = 31 x 22 mm



1824, 17th. April, 'Hammersmith *C*entral *O*ffice' to Guernsey; charged 2 d. local + 10 d. to Warmouth + 3 d. sea rate
(*datestamp on front - uncommon*)



Chief Office
Octagonal frame;
1817 to 1822;
∅ = 35 x 25 mm

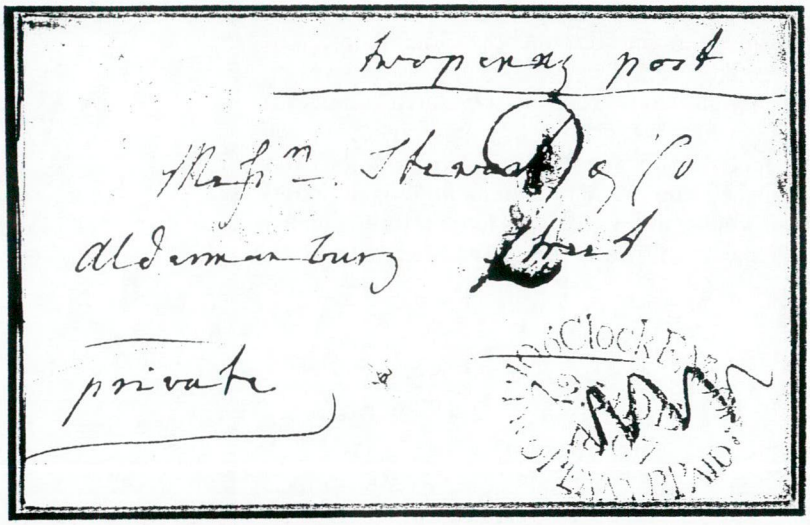
They were normally impressed in black and had an octagonal frame at first. The design was modified to a smaller frame in 1823.

1820, 9th. December, Islington (Country area) to Goldsmith Hall (Town area) - transferstamp; the 2 d. struck by error → 2 d. deleted; charged 3 d.

4.3. Paid Marks

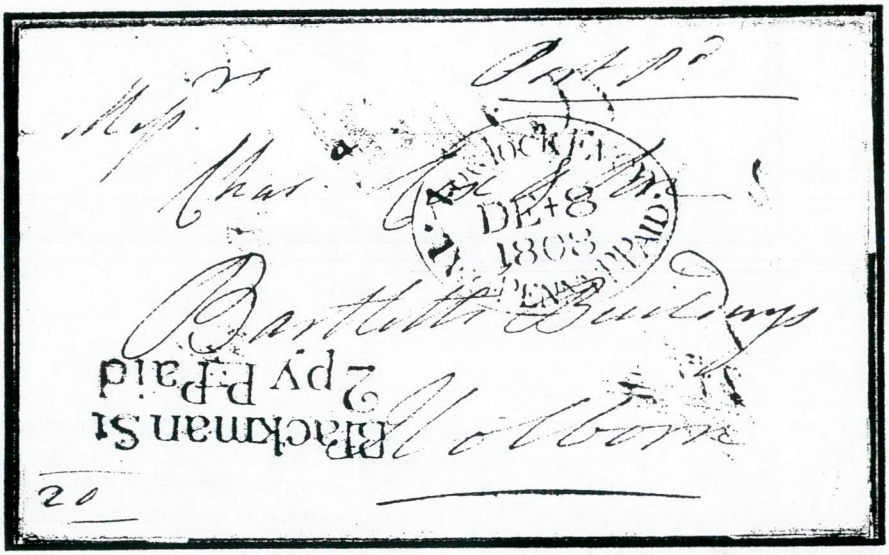
The Paid date stamps didn't change much in comparison with those of the Reorganized Penny Post. Only the year was given in full now. Beside the the 'TWO PENNY P. PAID' these handstamps showed the date and the time of delivery. They were scheduled for 8 o'Clock Morn., 10 o'Clock F. Noon, 12 o'Clock Noon, 2 o'Clock Af.Noon, 4 o'Clock Even and 7 o'Clock Night.

Westminster Office - date before month
Unframed; 1801 to 1818; ∅ = 37 x 30 mm



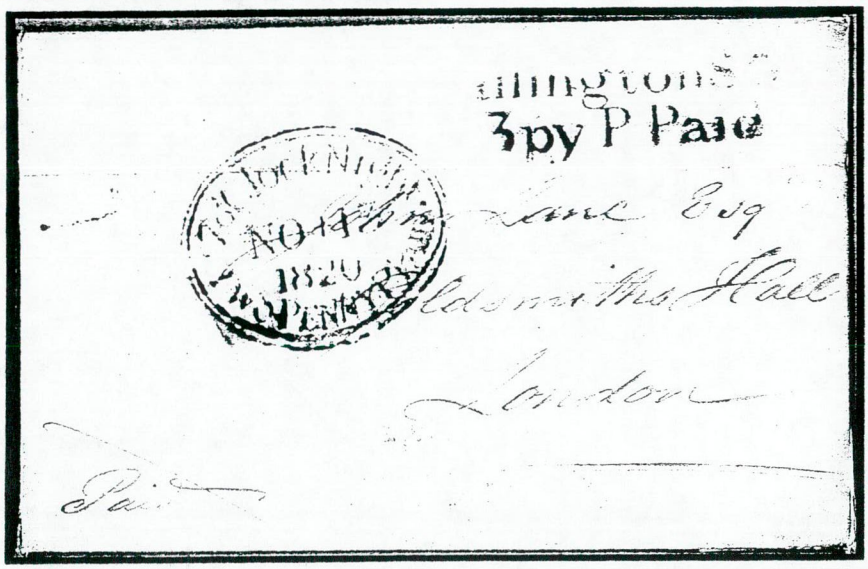
1807, 25th. December, Arbon House to Aldermanbury Street, delivered at 10 o'Clock F. Noon

Chief Office - month before date
Single Frame; 1801 to 1818;
∅ = 40 x 32 mm



1808, 8th. December, 'Blackman St. / 2 py P. Paid' to Holborn, 4 o'Clock Even (ing)

Chief Office - Double Frame
1819 to 1822; ∅ = 42 x 32 mm

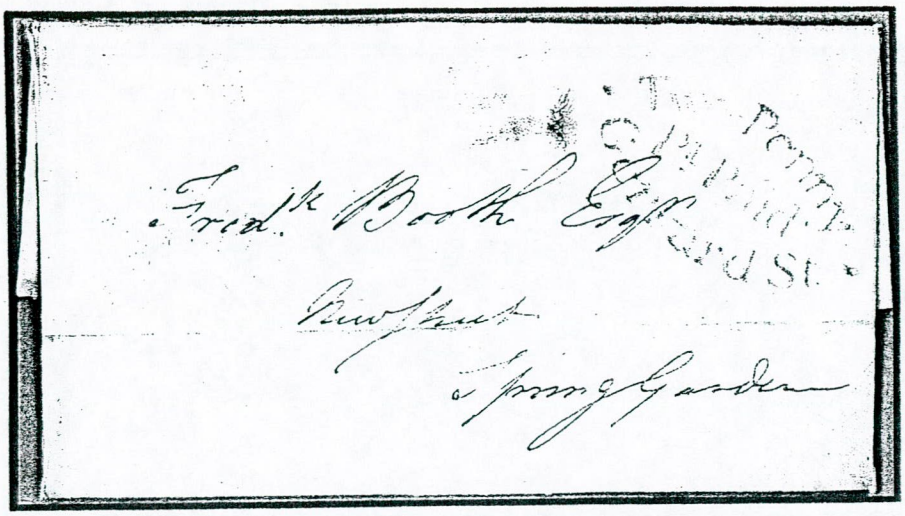


1820, 13th. November, 'Islington Southern Office / 3 py P. Paid' to Goldsmith Hall, 7 o'Clock Night

4.4. T. P. P. Receiving Houses

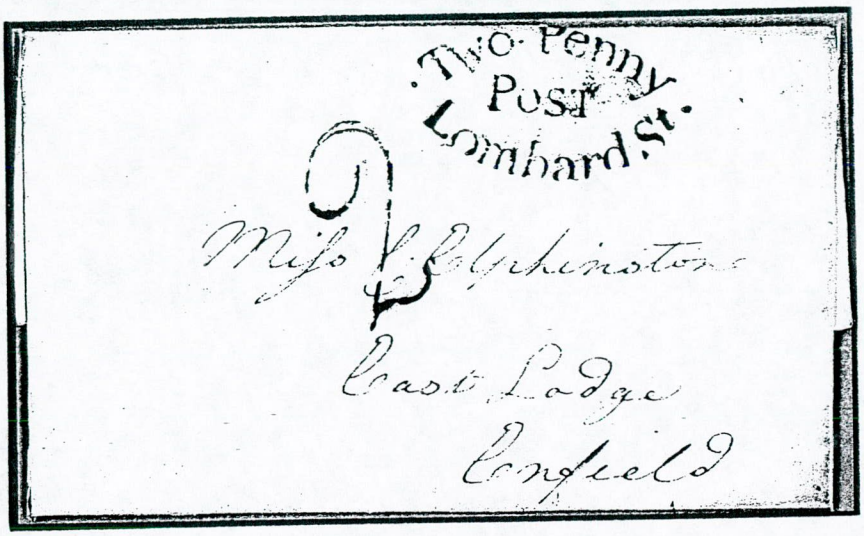
The Receiving House name stamps were also similar to those of the Penny Post, the inscription only slightly changed at first on unpaid and prepaid letters respectively, having 'Pt. Paid', 'POST' or 'Unpaid' in their centres.

'Two-Penny / Pt. Paid / Gerrad St.'
1802



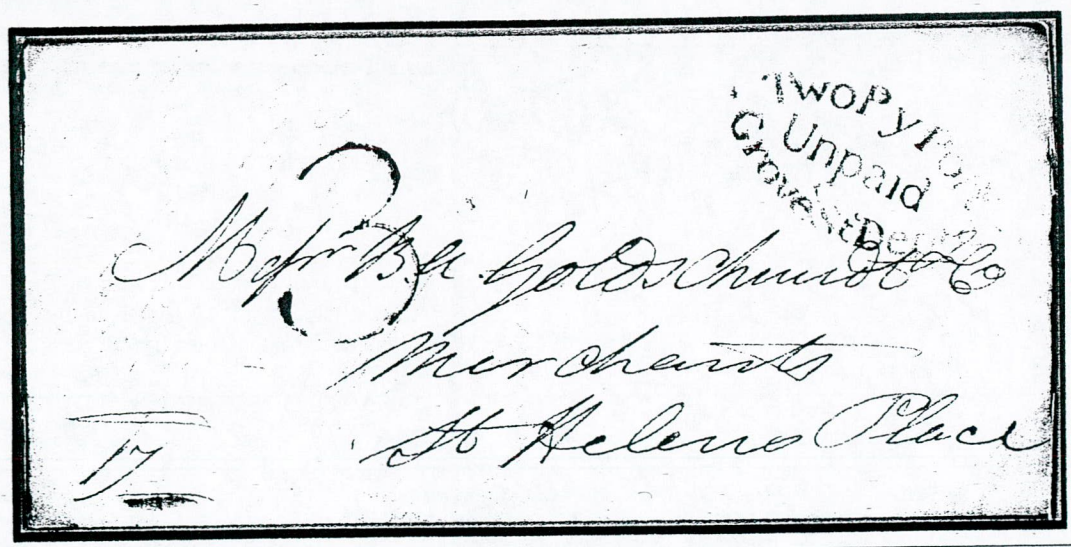
1802, 18th. March, 'Pt. Paid / Gerrad Street' to Spring Garden, delivery at 4 o'Clock Even

'Two Penny / POST / Lombard St.'
1801 to 1802



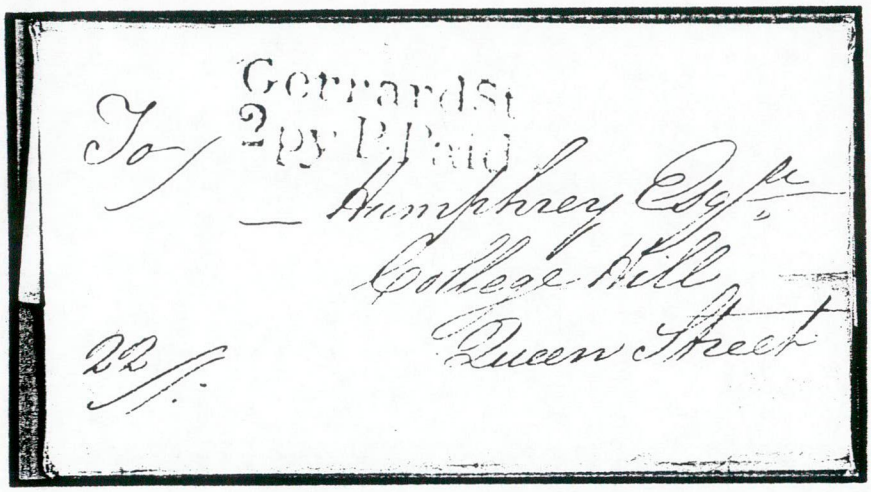
1802, 22nd. October, Lombard St. to Enfield

'Two Penny / Unpaid / Grove St. Deptf.'
1805 to 1809;
(extends recorded use by four years)



1813, 16th. December, Grove Street Deptford to St. Helens Place

4.4. T. P. P. Receiving Houses

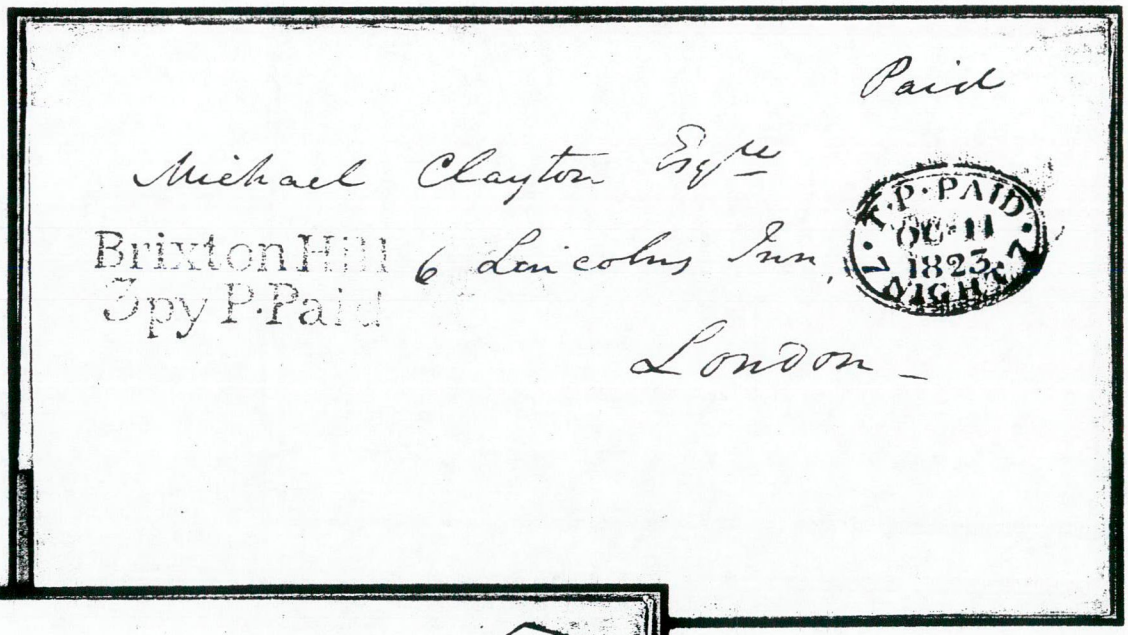


The Receiving House paid stamps were very soon changed, for by 1802 these handstamps appeared for the town area. When in 1805 the 3 d. rate was introduced for letters carried in the country area a similar handstamp with 3 came into use.

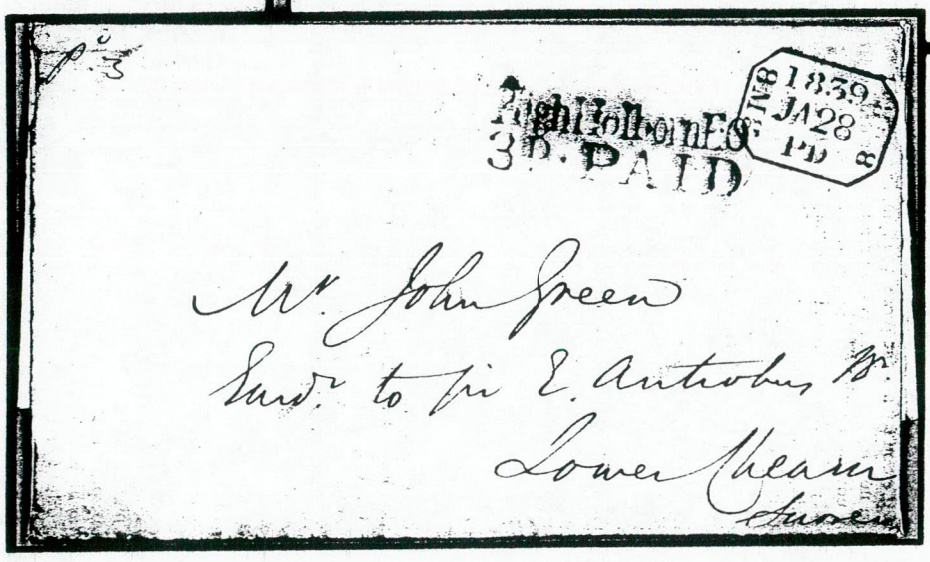
'Gerrard St. / 2 py P. Paid'
1806 to 1832

1827, 22nd. February, 1 Bury Street City, posted and prepaid at Gerrard St. to Queen Street

'Brixton Hill
3py P. Paid'
1823 to 1838



1823, 11th. October, Brixton Hill to Lincolns Inn; time- T.P. - PAID- handstamp Chief Office with double frame (1823- 1825)



'High Holborn E.O.
3 D. PAID'
1838 to 1839

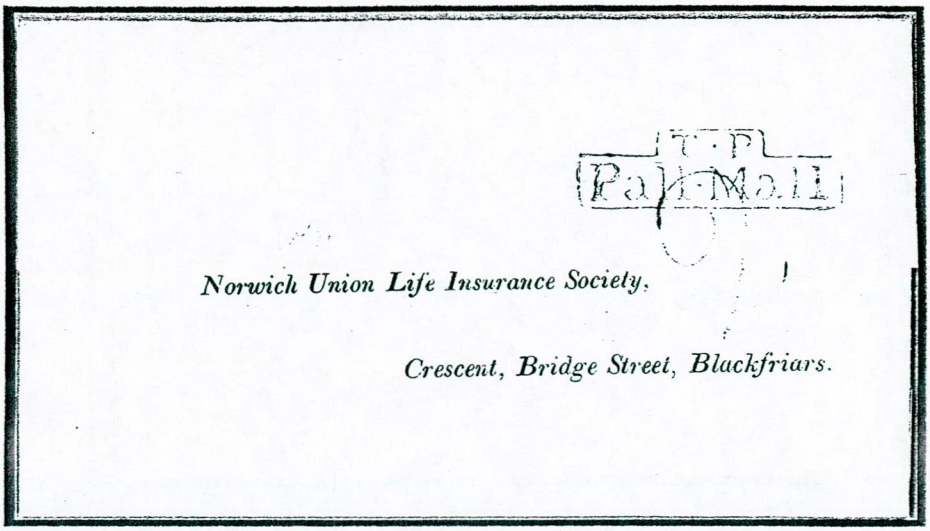
The 'round-topped 3' is known for a few Offices only - for instance → Charing Cross, King Street CG, King William Street, Princes Street LS, Stockwell Green and Strand D..

1839, 18th. January, Regent Street to Sussex (Outer District) - 3 d. prepaid

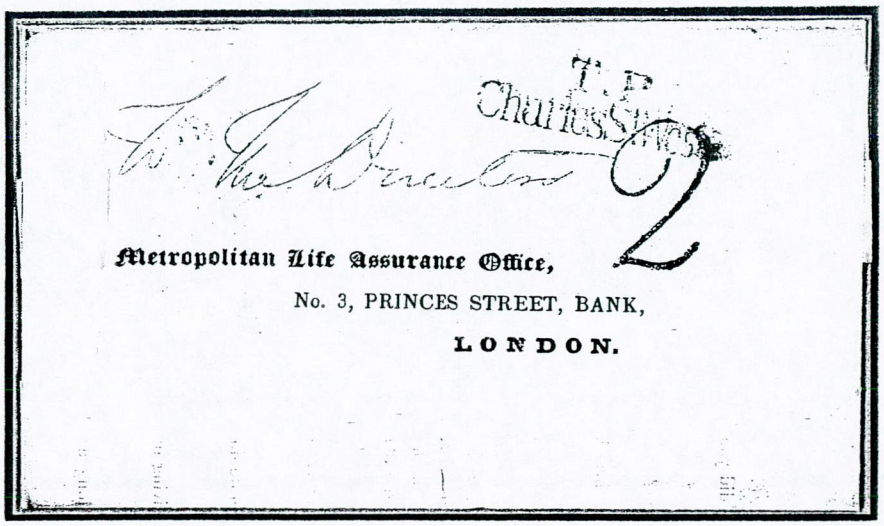
4.4. T. P. Receiving Houses

From about 1811 a framed 'step type' was used at the Receiving Houses on unpaid letters.

Step type Framed; 1811 to 1845



1825, 2nd. July, 'T. P. / Pall . Mall' to Bridge Street



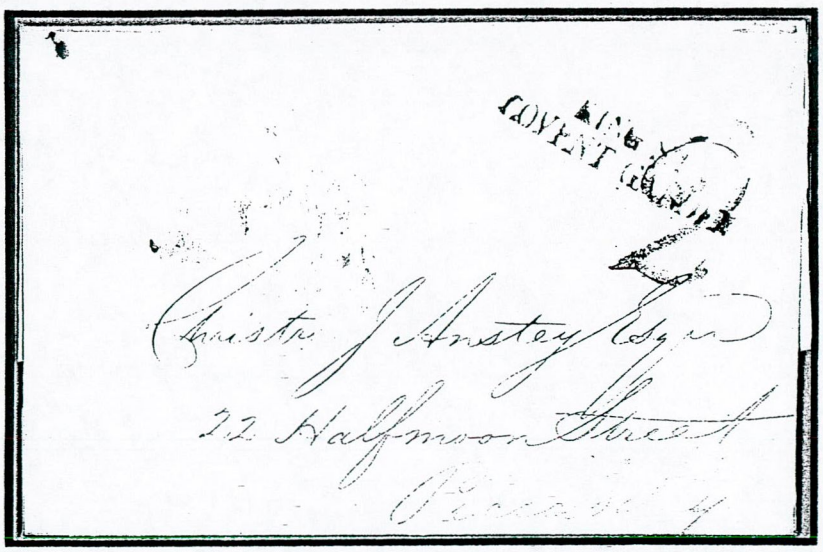
A similar frameless type became common in 1836.

Step Type Unframed; 1835 to 1857

1839, 25th. November, 'T. P. / Charles St. Westm.' to Princes Street

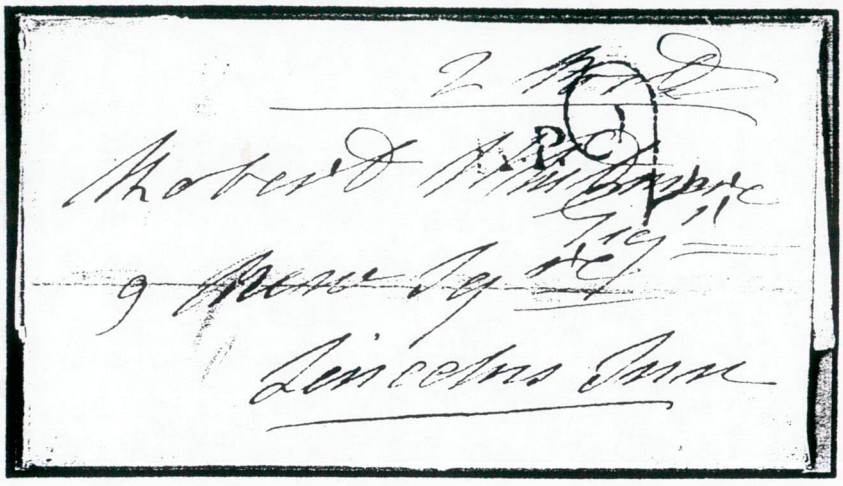
After 31st. December 1838, the Receiving Houses of the Twopenny- and the General Post were amalgamated. A new Type without the letters T. P. began to appear.

Unframed Type; 1838 to 1857



1839, 22nd. May, 'King Street / Covent Garden' to Halfmoon Street

4.5. T. P. P. Instructional Marks

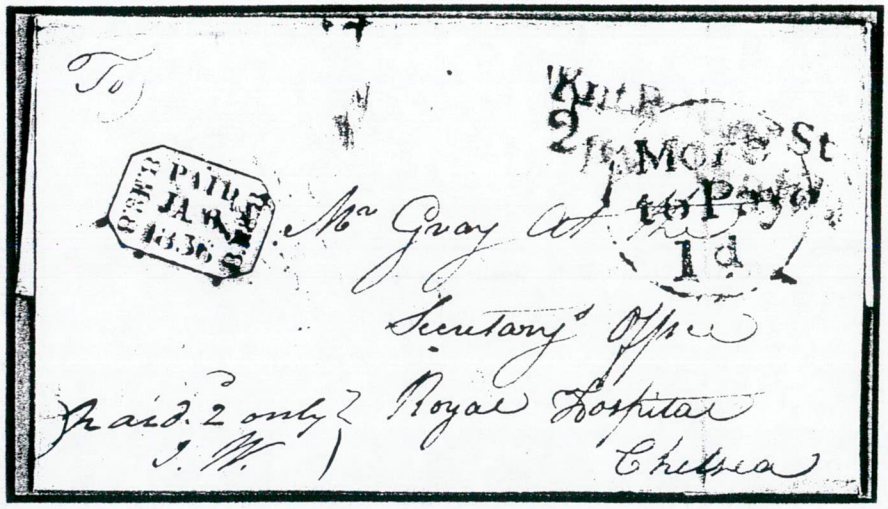


The first strictly parliamentary postmark was the handstamp 'H P'. A letter put in at *H*ouses of *P*arliament T. P. P. Receiving Office received this handstamp.

Small 'H P'; 1820 to 1834; ∅ = 14 x 7 mm

1826, 14th. April, Houses of Parliament to Lincolns Inn

'More / to Pay / 1 d.'
1829 to 1837; ∅ = 32 mm



1836, 6th. January, 'Knt. Riders St. / 2 py P. Paid' to the Royal Hospital in Chelsea;
- octagonal time - PAID - datestamp for the Chief Office (1836-1837);
charged an additional penny for the journey to the Outer District → More / to Pay / 1 d.



The Erasure marks were applied over charge stamps that had been incorrectly struck on letters or needed amending, respectively on date- or paid handstamps that had been incorrectly applied.

Large 'Star'
1816 to 1824; ∅= 28 x 28 mm

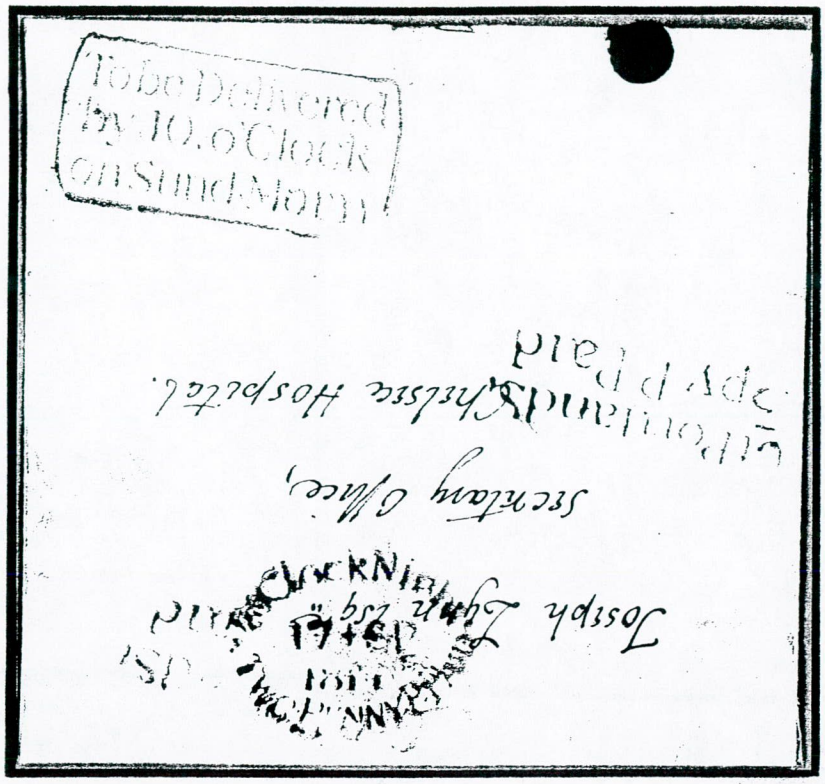
(earliest usage known)

1815, 2nd. November, 'Two Py Post / Unpaid / Coventry St.' to Grays Inn Square
(Inner District)

4.5. T. P. P. Instructional Marks

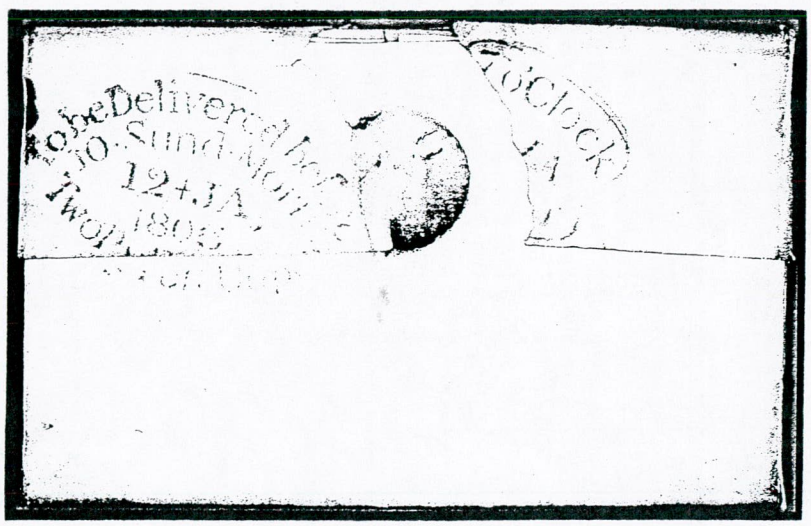
Letters which were sent to Country Offices on Saturday night were delivered on Sunday morning. To avoid accusations that Sunday work prevented Letter Carriers from attending Church services these Sunday Stamps were introduced.

Large boxed - 'To be Delivered / by 10. o'Clock / on Sund. Morn.'
1797 to 1809; ∅ = 49 x 26 mm



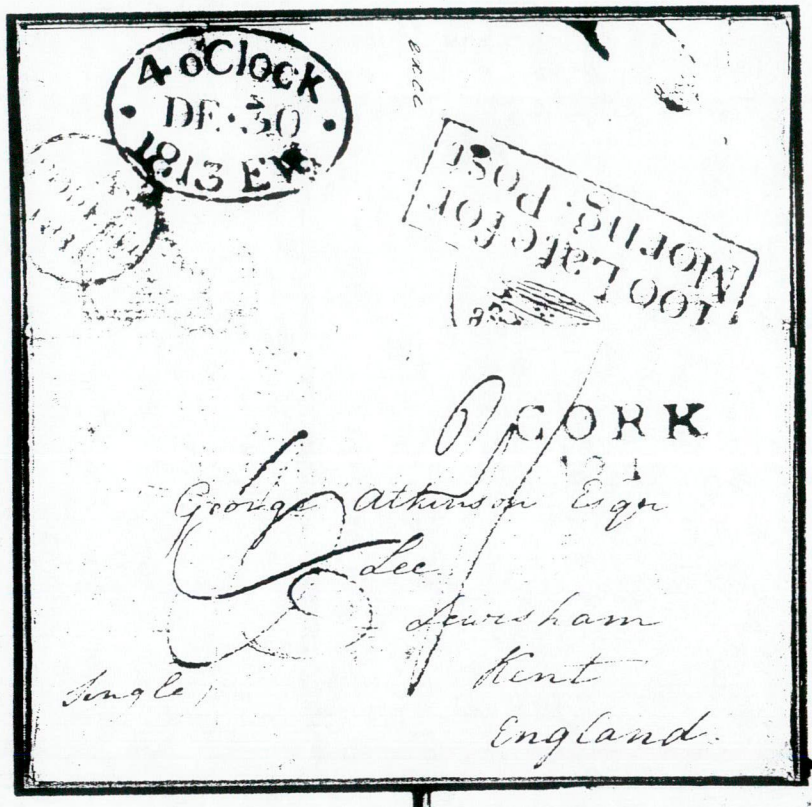
1814, 17th. September, 'Gt. Portland St. / 3 py P. Paid' to Chelsea Hospital

Oval unframed - 'To be Delivered before / 10. Sund. Morn. / date / TwoPyPostUnpd.'
1803 to 1811; ∅ = 54 x 31 mm (*only a few legible copies known*)



1806, 11th. January, 'Two Py / Post / Parliament Street' to Edgeware Road

4.5. T. P. P. Instructional Marks



Two Bishop marks on consecutive days on a letter imply - *Too Late* - at an earlier period. London did not use a plain 'Too Late' - handstamp, but a scarcer *'Too Late for Morning Post'*.

Large crowned
'Too Late for / Morning Post';
1814 to 1819; ∅ = 53 x 36 mm

(earliest usage recorded)

1813, 24th. December, CORK / 124
to Lewisham / Kent, London arrival 29th.
December - transfer to T. P. P. Chief Office
- delivery 4 o'Clock Evening

Charges: Cork to Dublin - 10 d. above 100 miles
(Tariff of 1813) + 14 d. to London = 2/- d.
including 2 d. to Holyhead

Small crowned
'Too Late for / Morning Post'
1813 to 1815; ∅ = 42 x 24 mm



1814, 12th. November, Kingston / Jamaica
(showing Jamaica *'Fleuron'*)
via Falmouth to Nottingham,
re-directed to London;
London arrival 6th. January 1815
- transfer to T. P. P. Chief Office
- delivery at 4 o' Clock Evening

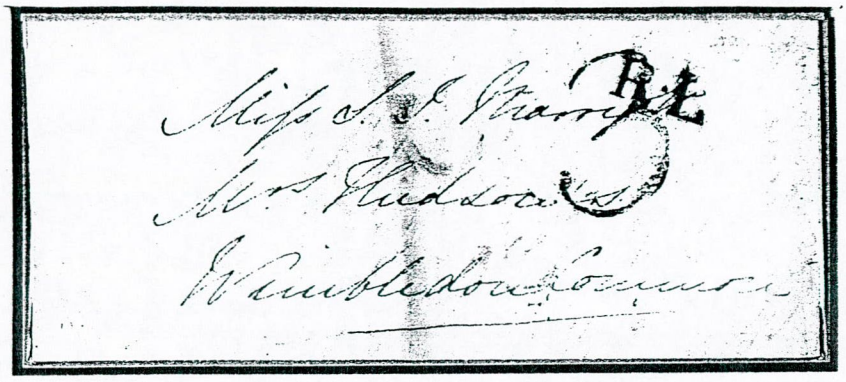
Charges:

GPO - Notice of July 1812:		
incoming Packet letter		15 d.
Falmouth to London - 267 miles	+	12 d.
London to Nottingh. - 122 miles	+	10 d.
returned to London		0 d.
London Twopenny Post	+	2 d.
		39 d.
m.s. *'paid Receiver'*	=	3/3 d.

4.5. T. P. P. Instructional Marks

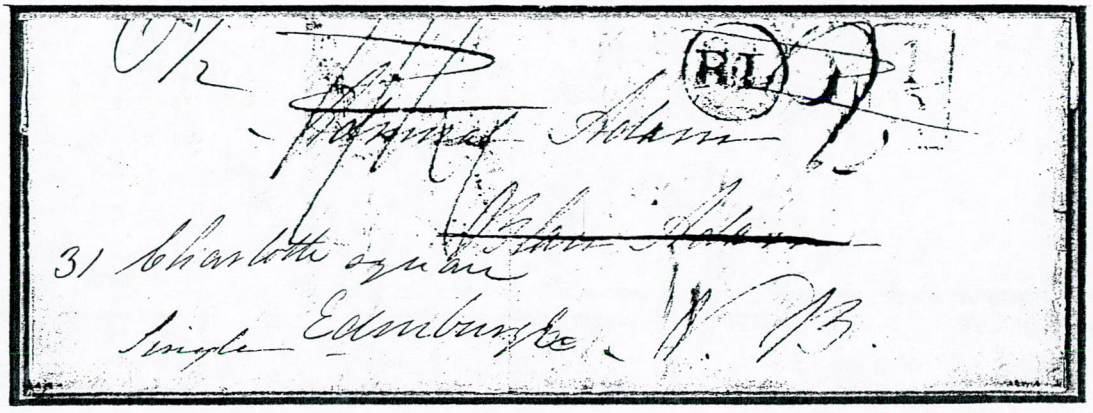
Letters struck with the '**R. L.**'- handstamp were *'Ride Letters'* handed to letter carriers on a Country Ride and not put in at a Receiving House. They were charged 3 d. if for delivery within London and 2 d. if for transfer to the General Post.

Unframed; 1836 to 1848; ∅ = 15 x 6 mm



1836, 15th. October, Outer District London to Wimbledon Common, charged 3 d.

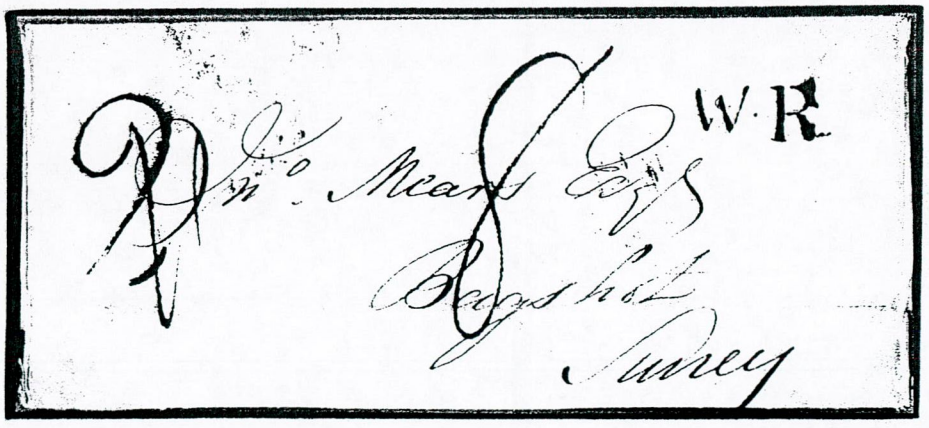
in Circle; 1829 to 1836; ∅ = 16 mm



1829, 18th. March, Outer District London to Blair Adam, re-directed to Edinburgh

Unframed 'W. R.'; 1818 to 1827; ∅ = 20 x 9 mm

This handstamp is suggested to be used on the Western Road or on the Willesden Ride, but the exactly use is still unknown at present. In existence were the same regulations as for the 'R. L.'- handstamps.

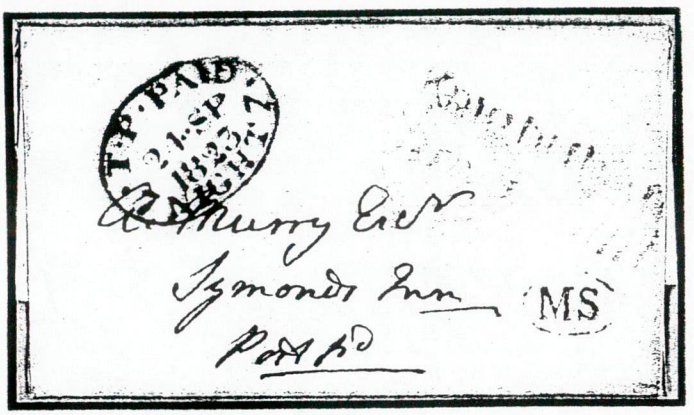


1818, 2nd. November, Brentford to Bagshot; charged 8 d. - local charge 2 d. + G. P. 6 d. up to 30 miles (Tariff of 1812)

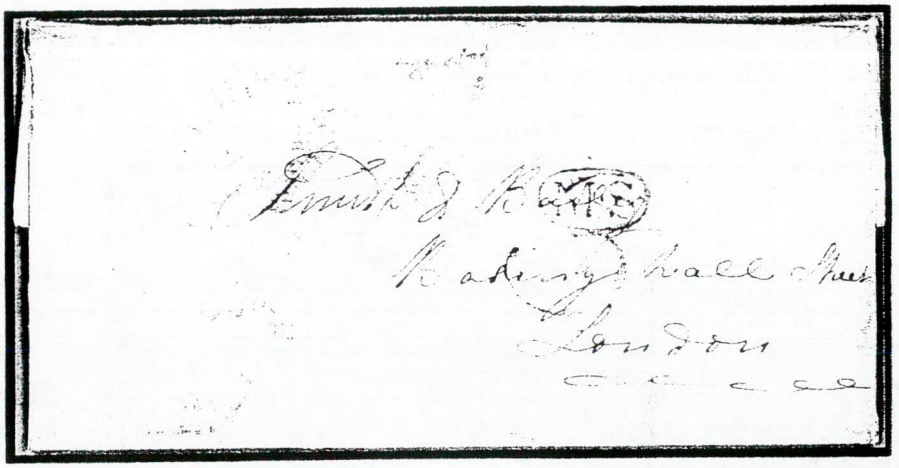
4.5. T. P. P. Instructional Marks

The 'M.S.- handstamp may have indicated - *'missorted'*.

'M.S.' in Oval
1821 to 1823;
∅ = 14 x 10 mm



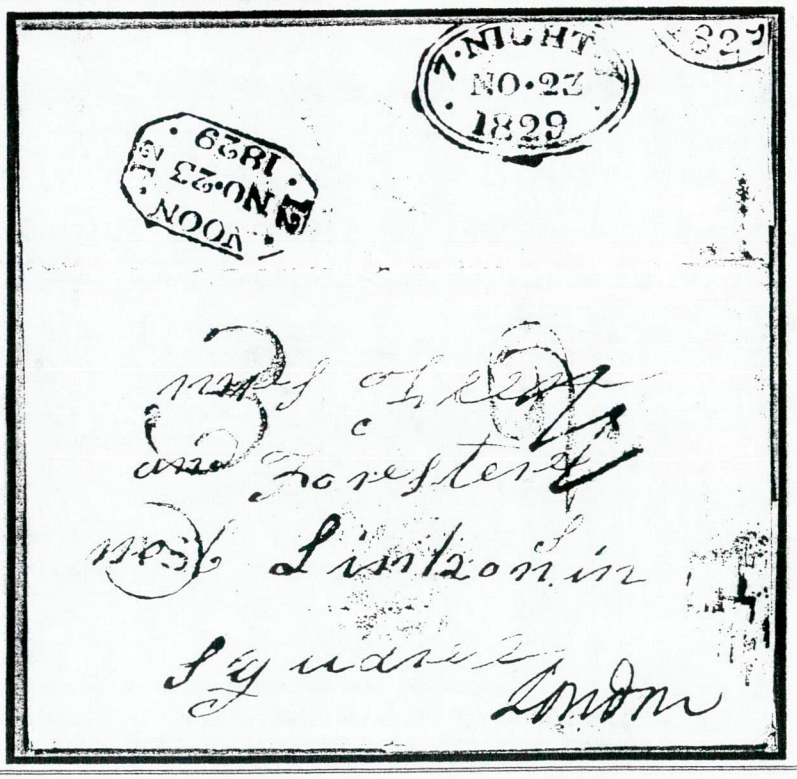
1823, 24th. September, 'Knightsbridge / 3 py P. Paid' to Symonds Inn



'M.S.' in Oval
1832 to 1833;
∅ = 17 x 9 mm

1833, 7th. March, Hammersmith to Basinghall Street

'M.S.' in Circle
∅ = 15 mm
(previously unrecorded)



1829, 23rd. November, 'T. P. / Walworth C. O.' to Lincolns Inn Square, transfer to the General Post by mistake at 12 o'Clock NOON - delivered on the same day by the Chief Office at 7 o'Clock / NIGHT;
the initial charge of '2' d. deleted by Zick-Zack-Erasure-handstamp and changed to '3' d. → outer district

4.5. T. P. P. Instructional Marks

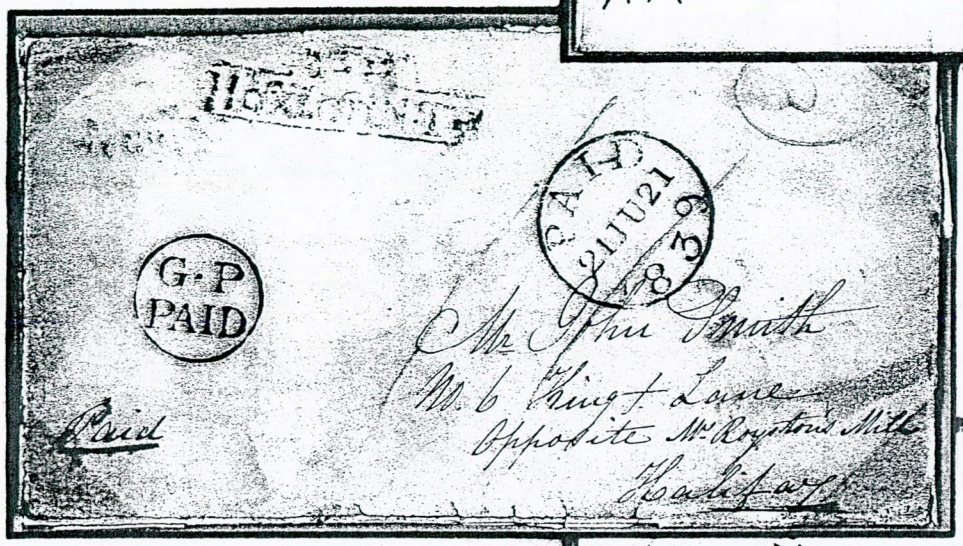
This handstamp was used in the Country Offices on letters which were to be transferred to the General Post and which had the General Post charge prepaid.

'PAID' in oval Frame; 1800 to 1833; ∅ = 42 x 11 mm

(not previously recorded in red)



1810, 2nd. January, 'North Lewisham / 2 py P. Paid' to Whitchurch / Salop; prepaid 10 d. - up to 230 miles (Tariff of 1805)

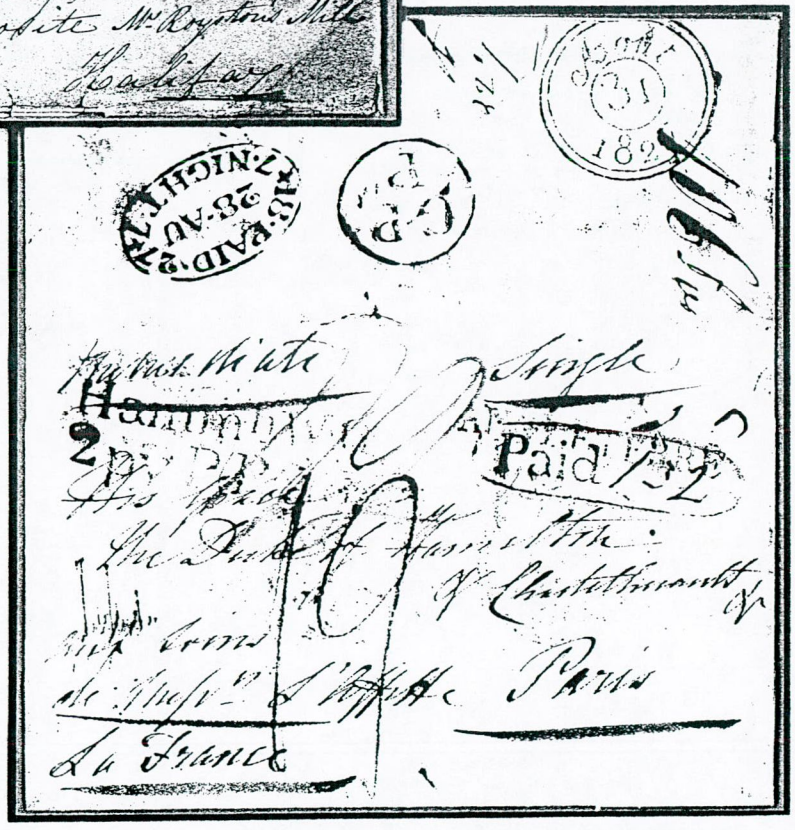


'G. P. / PAID' in Circle 1835 to 1840; ∅ = 20 mm

1839, 21st. June, 'T. P. / Hoxton New Town' to Halifax; prepaid 11 d. - up to 230 miles (Tariff of 1812)

The 'G : P / P' and the 'G. P / PAID' - handstamps were struck on letters transferred from the Twopenny Post to the General Post on which the General Post charge had been paid.

'G : P / P'; 1799 to 1834; ∅ = 20 mm



1827, 28th. August, 'Hammersmith Western Office / 2 py P. Paid' to Paris

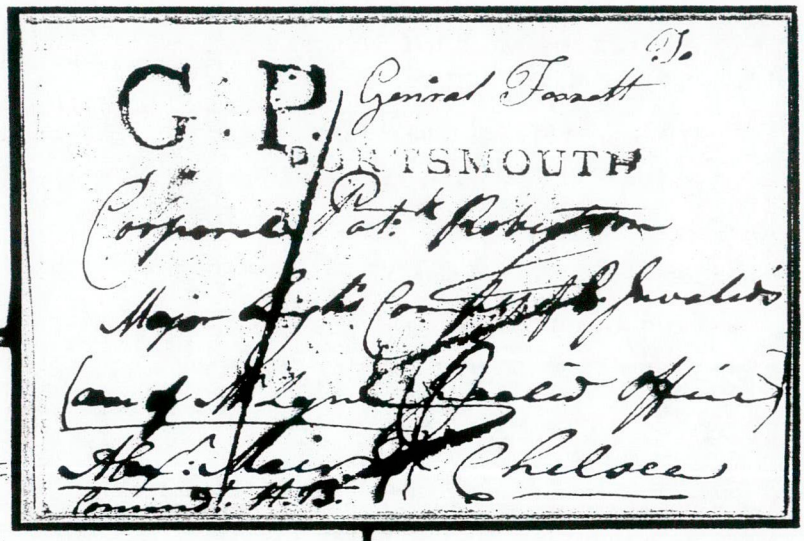
Charges: prepaid 1/2 d. - single letter (Tariff of July1812) → to pay on arrival 12 Décimes - London to Paris = 10 Décimes + Paris local - 2 Décimes

4.5. T. P. P. Instructional Marks

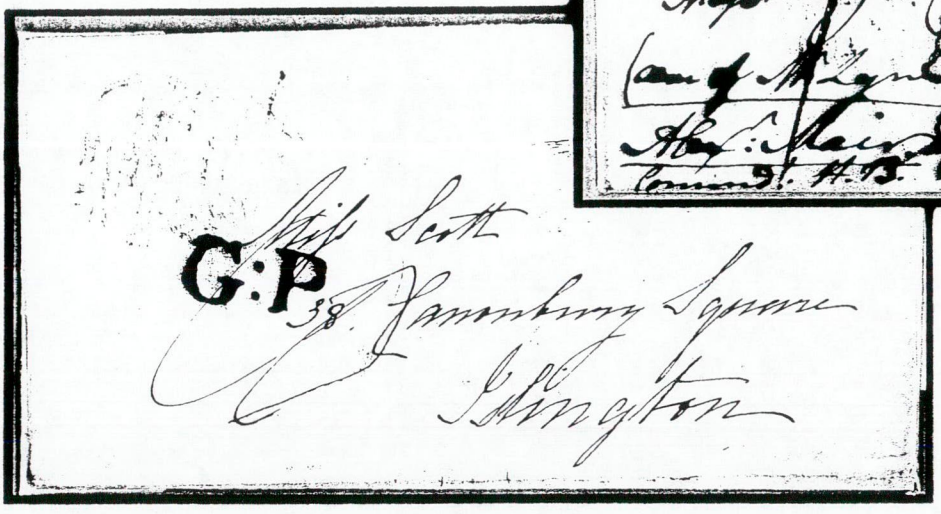
'G : P.' = General Post was applied to letters transferred from the General to Local Post on which no local post charge was due.

Large 'G : P.'; 1799 to 1831; ∅ = 32 x 15 mm

Small 'G : P.'; 1831 to 1832; ∅ = 22 x 10 mm



1801, 3rd. July, PORTSMOUTH to a 'Corporal' in Chelsea, posted unpaid and charged 6 d. in first instance. The charge was changed to 'mere' 1 d. (the Soldier's concession rate was legal if unpaid TO a soldier from 1795 to 1806 - *35 Geo III c 53*)



1832, 18th. September, Hereford to Islington; charged 8 d. up to 80 miles + 2 d. local; arrived London 19th. September - delivery time-handstamp Chief Office '10 F. NOON'

The 'F. P.'- mark = Foreign Post appears to be the equivalent of the above 'G : P'- mark on letters to the Twopenny Post for delivery. *A previously unrecorded Twopenny Post handstamp.*

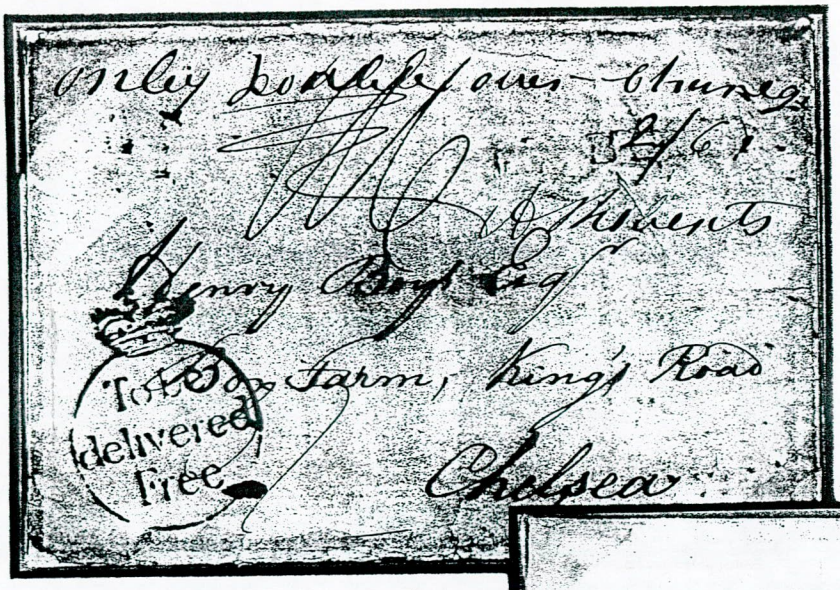
unframed 'F. P.'
1827 to 1828;
∅ = 14 x 8 mm



1827, 24th. December, Paris to London; dotted F.B.O. -arrival datestamp for 28th. December and time-datestamp from the Twopenny Post Chief Office - delivery 12 NOON

Charges: to pay on arrival - 1/2 d. → single letter (compulsory rate since July 1812 - *52 Geo III c 88*)

4.6.1. Free Handstamps



Crown 'To be delivered Free' in Circle Chief Office; 1799 to 1837; ∅ = 30 x 37 mm

1812, 3rd. June, LISBOA to Kings Road / Chelsea - *Sailors' letter*; backstamped by datestamps for Westminster Office: 4th., 9th. and 10th. July, delivery by the Chief Office on 10th. July

Route: LISBOA via Coruna and Falmouth

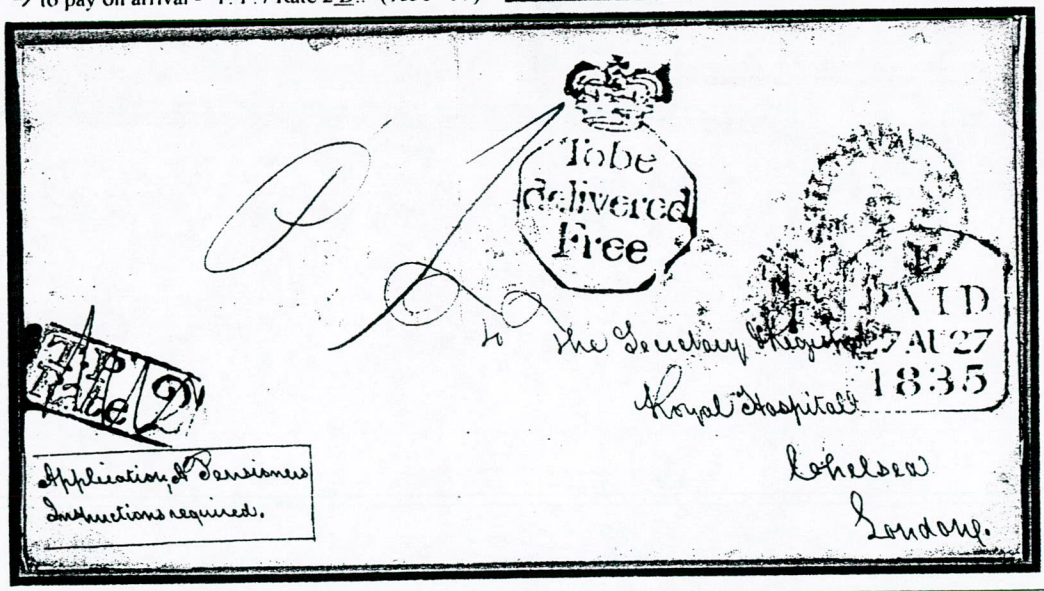
Charges: by Falmouth Packet single letter - 1/6 d., double - 3/- d. (Tariff of 1711 - *9 Anne c 10*) m.s. - *double only*, erasure of the wrong charges 1/6 d. and 2/6 d., corrected to 3/- d.; although not prepaid the letter passed 'Free' the London Local Post



The 'To be delivered Free'- handstamps were used for odd administrative purposes, secured free delivery for letters from a few *Postal Officials* and for *Soldiers* - and *Sailors* - letters which were delivered for an inclusive fee of 1 d. and which were not liable to the London Local Post charge.

Crown 'To be delivered Free' in Oval; Chief Office 1837 to 1840; ∅ = 31 x 40 mm

1839, 15th. July, Liverpool to Chelsea, 'FREE' - handstamp General Post, local 'Free' - handstamp struck by error and consequently erased m.s.; the letter was liable to the local charge
→ to pay on arrival - 'T. P. / Rate 2 D.' (1836 - 39)



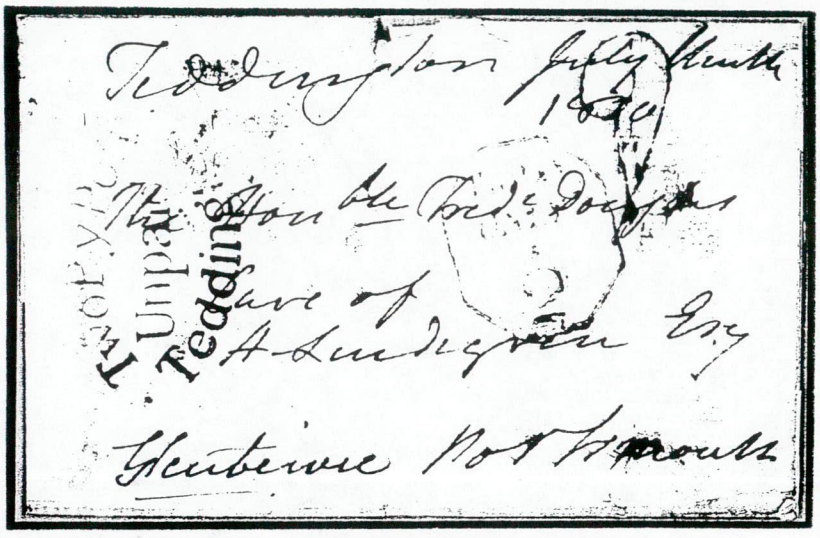
Crown 'To be delivered Free' in Octagonal; Westminster Office; 1816 to 1840; ∅ = 27 x 38 mm

1835, 23rd. August, Manchester to Chelsea, *Soldiers* letter, - 1 d. prepaid

4.6.2. Local Post Charges

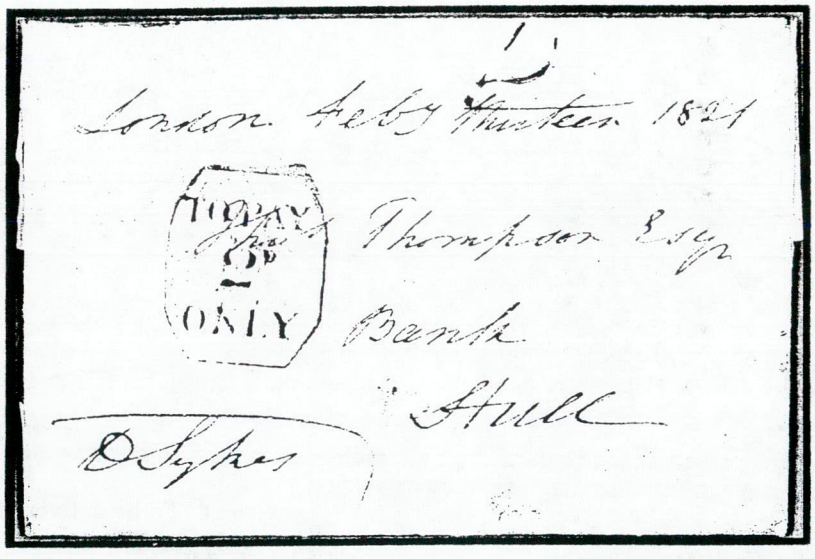
Franked letters posted unpaid in a Receiving House of the London Twopenny Post were charged 2 d. for transmission to the General Post, just as ordinary letters were. When the 2 d. fee was not paid by the sender, octagonal stamps with the 'TO PAY / 2d. / ONLY' were used in place of a 'FREE'- handstamp to show that, although they were free of any General Post charge, the fee of the Twopenny Post had to be collected from the addressee.

'TO PAY / ONLY / D / 2'
1803 to 1817; ∅ = 26 x 31 mm



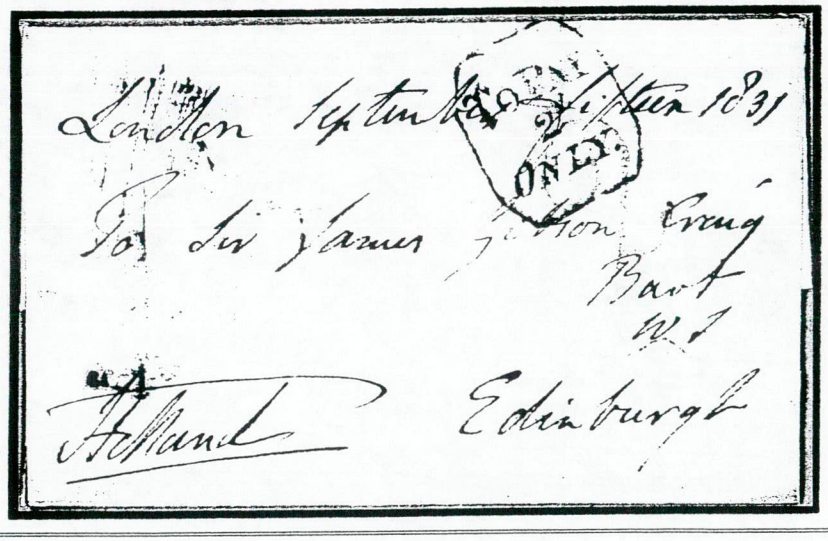
1810, 9th. July, 'Twopenny Post / Unpaid / Teddington' to Portsmouth

'TO PAY / 2 D / ONLY'
1818 to 1829; ∅ = 25 x 30 mm



1821, 13th. February, 28 Grosvenor Place to Hull

'TO PAY / 2 *d.* / *ONLY*'
1828 to 1832; ∅ = 25 x 30 mm



1831, 15th. September, Kensington to Edinburgh

4.6.2. Local Post Charges

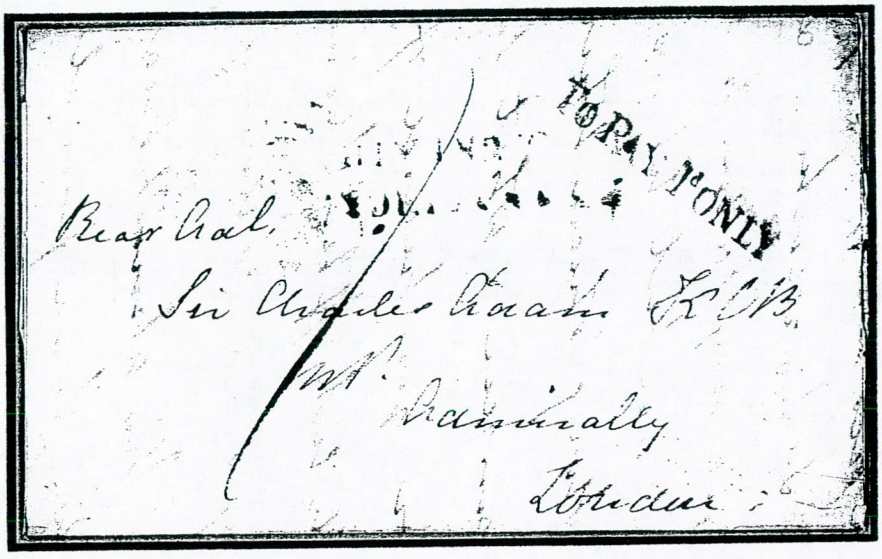
Franked letters posted in a Provincial Penny Post were liable to the Penny Post charge. If unpaid, these letters received: 'TO PAY 1D ONLY' instead of a 'FREE' - handstamp.

Red Boxed 'TO PAY 1D. ONLY'
1817 to 1829; ∅ = 55 x 11 mm



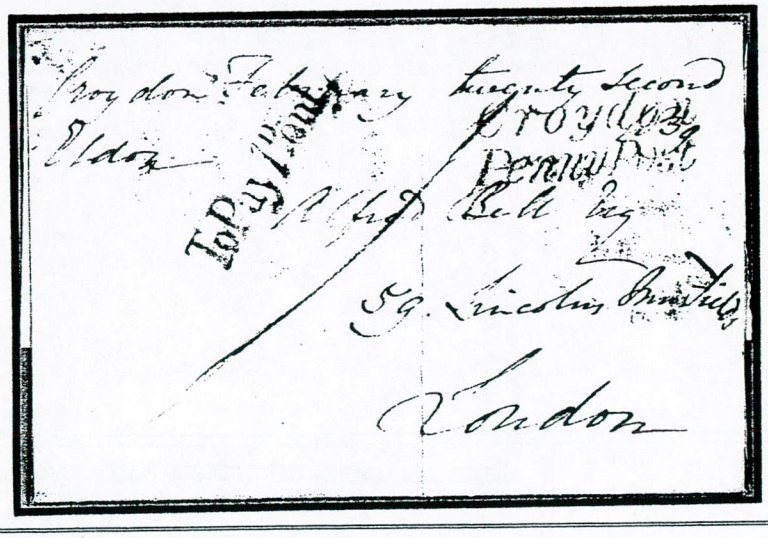
1827, 5th. December, 'HORSHAM / Penny Post' (*Oxley Type 1*) to Great Russel Street

Single Line 'TO PAY 1d. ONLY'
1835 to 1838; ∅ = 42 x 5 mm



1836, 10th. July, 'HYINGTON / Penny Post' to the Admiralty / London

Single Line 'To Pay *1D.* only'
Nov. 1838 to Dec. 1839; ∅ = 37 x 7 mm



1839, 22. February, *'Croyden / Penny Post'* to Lincolns Inn Fields

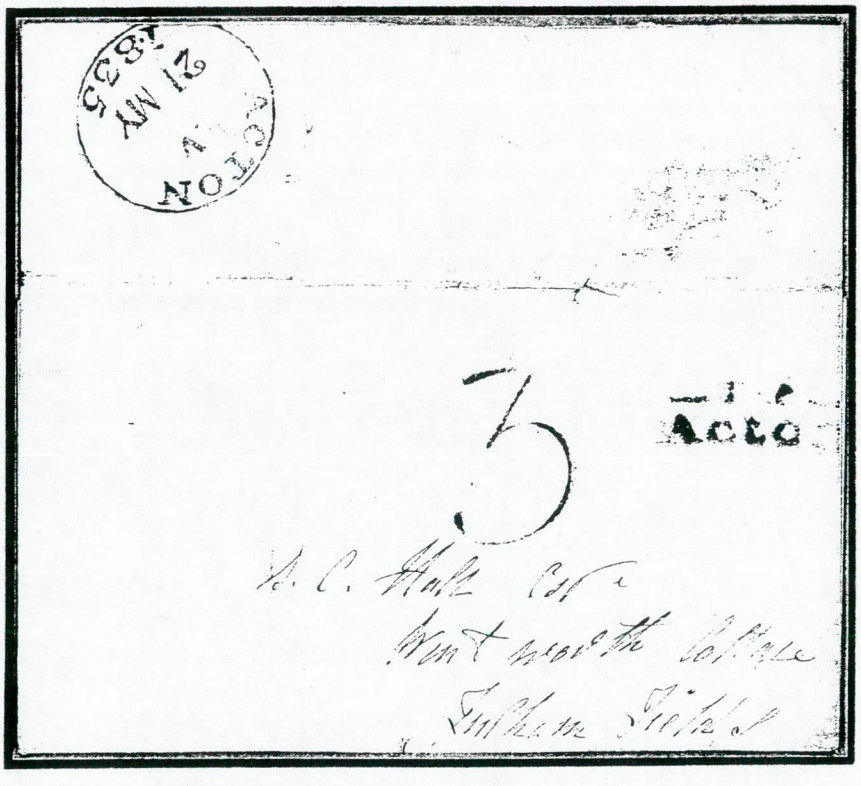
II. 4.7. London Cross and Bye Posts

4.7.1. Bye Posts

The London Cross and Bye Posts were introduced to eliminate the delay in handling those letters addressed to places short of London to go first to the Chief Office and then out again. The 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. Unpaid Bye letters carried the **flat topped '3'**.



1823, 9th. September, 'BROMPTON / Mg' - 'Sloane St. *Southern Office*' to Kensington

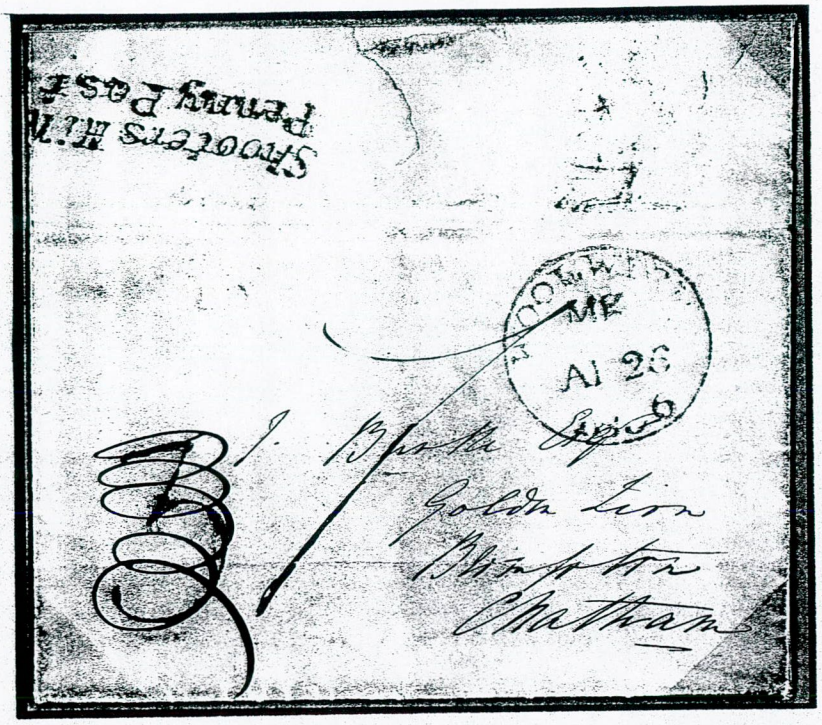


1835, 21st. May, 'ACTON / EV.' - (Country Sorting Office) 'T. P. / Acton' to Fulham Fields

4.7.2. Cross Posts

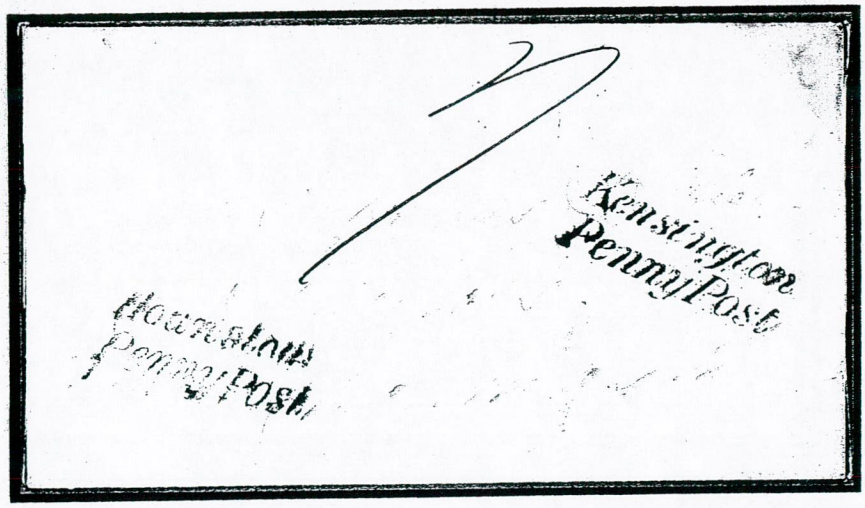
The Bye Post of 1809, established to speed local mail grew by 1834 into a Cross Post inside London to process General Post letters, further speeding delivery. The Penny Post charge was also payable on these London Cross Post letters in addition to the General Post charge. Cross Post arrangements were made for Hounslow - Bristol Road (1834), Shooters Hill - Dover Road (1835), Barnet - Holyhead Road (1835), Waltham Cross - Great North Road (1836), Croydon - Brighton Road (1836) und Kingston - Portsmouth Road (1839).

Shooters Hill - Cross Post



1836, 26th. April, 'WOOLWICH / Mg' via 'Shooters Hill / Penny Post' to Brompton / Chatham, the 'flat topped 3' struck by error, because the letter was supposed to be directed to Brompton / London, → G. P. charge 6 d. + 1 d. local for Cross Post Shooters Hill

Hounslow - Cross Post



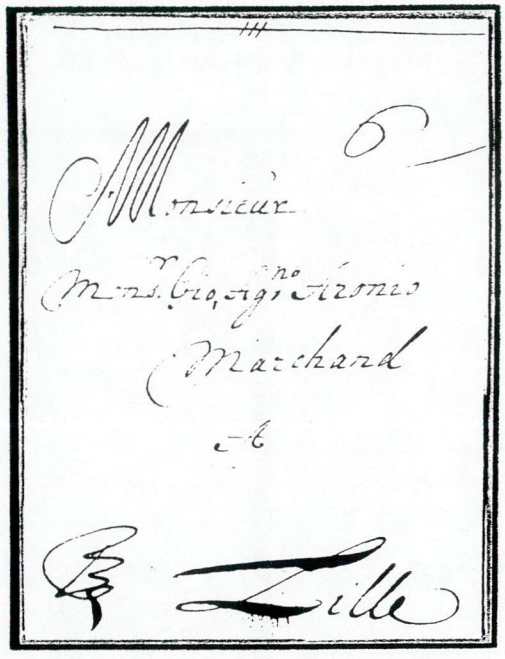
1839, 11th. November, 'Kensington / Penny Post' via 'Hounslow / Penny Post' to Monmouth; charged 10 d. General Post + 1 d. local (*use of two different Penny Post handstamps*)

III. SHIP LETTER OFFICE

1.1. Unpaid Ship Letters

Following the Acts of 1657 (His Highness the Lord Protector) and 1660 (12 Car c. 35), incoming Ship Letters had to be handed in at the first port of call and were subject to the Inland Postage to their destination. Ship letters were carried by private ships (other than Post Office Packets) usually via routes over which no packet services were available to the public.
There was no special handstamp for Ship Letters up to the mid of the 18th. century when the first handstamps started to be issued. Ship Letters were carried always under the Inland Branch. When in 1799 a Ship Letter Act gave the Post Office power to receive and send letters by private ships at half the usual or estimated packet rates (39 Geo III c. 76), a Ship Letter Office was set up which came under it for administration.
With the introduction of uniform postage in 1840 the duties of the Ship Letter Office diminished, and in 1847 it was transferred to the Inland Office again.

Ship letter without handstamp



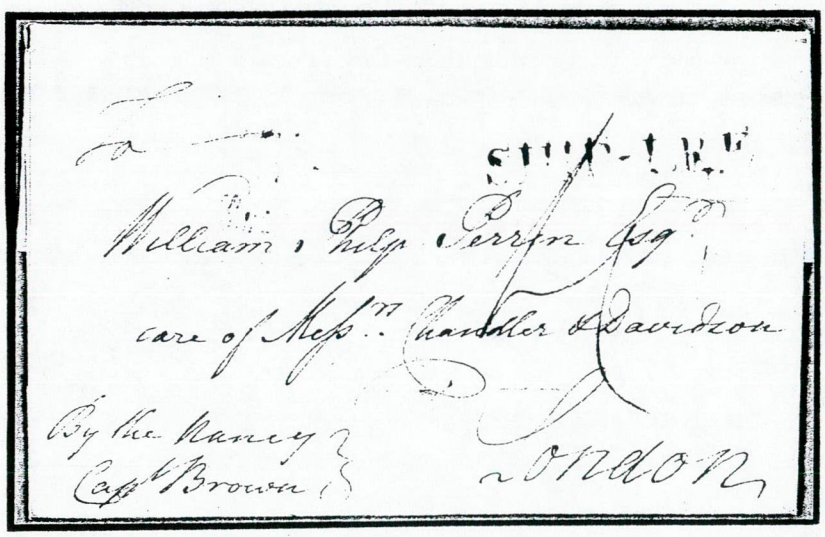
Ship letters handed over to the Post Office Officials at the ports were forwarded to London, and initially the only charges involved were the Captain's gratuity of 1 d. plus inland rate.

1674, 30th. June, London via Dover and Calais to Lille

Charges: French postal rules; the *'Declaration du Roi'* of 9th. April 1644 says: single letter from England to Lille → 6 Patars

'SHIP - LRE'; 1782 to 1800; ∅ = 40 x 6 mm

(Port of entry other than London, but handstamped in London; seven years earlier than previously recorded)



1775, 24th. January, Jamaica *'By the Nancy / Capt. Brown'* to London; Bishop mark on arrival for 22nd. April; presumably landed at a small port which did not have a SHIP LRE - handstamp

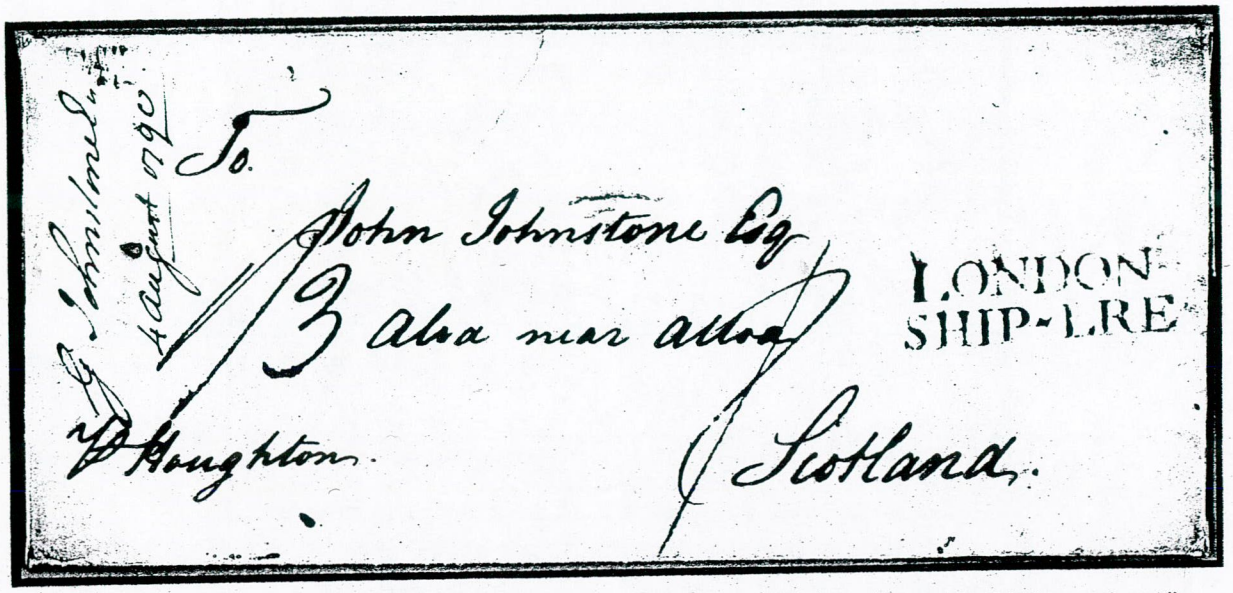
Charges: incoming Ship letter = 1 d. Captain's Pence (1711 - *9 Anne c 10*)
harbour to London = 3 d. up to 80 miles (Tariff of 1765) → in all = 4 d.

1.1. Unpaid Ship Letters

In the 1760's the Post Office began to issue individually named ship-letter handstamps. The purpose was to identify the letter as a ship-letter and also name the specific port of entry, so that the inland postal charges on the mileage basis could be accurately assessed. The main London ship mark up to 1799 was the two-line LONDON / SHIP LRE struck in black..

'LONDON / SHIP - LRE'; 1772 to 1799; ∅ = 42 x 16 mm

(handstamp struck in rarely used magenta ink)



1790, 4th. August, Lucknow / India per *'Houghton'* via London (23rd. January 1791) and Edinburgh (25th. January) to Alloa

Charges	incoming Ship letter	= 1 d. Captain's Pence (1711 - *9 Anne c 10*)
	+ London to Edinburg - double letter	= 14 d. → in all 1/3 d. (Tariff of 1784)



1798, July, Madras via London (13th. July 1799) and Edinburgh (16th. July) to Moy by Torres

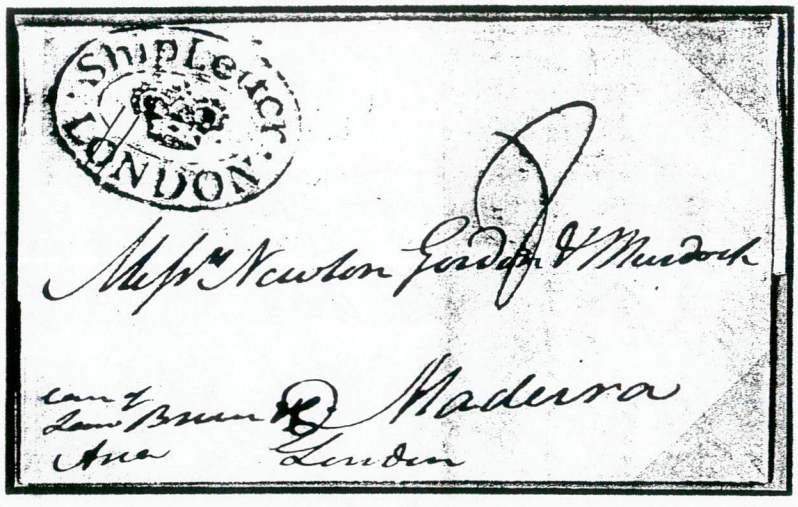
Route: Ceylon - Mauritius - Cape of Good Hope - Madeira - London

Charges:	incoming Ship letter	= 1 d. Captain's Pence (1711)
	London to Edinburgh - double letter	= 16 d. (Tariff of 1796)
	Edinburgh to Moy - double letter	= 12 d. (up to 120 miles)
	to pay on arrival	= 29 d. → in all 2/5 d.

1.1. Unpaid Ship Letters

Letters arriving by private ships produced revenue for the Post Office from the inland charge only. This was changed by the Act of 1799 (39 Geo III c. 76), which authorised the charge of 4 d. on incoming ship-letters, being the first definite standard ship-letter charge, and was in addition to the master's gratuity, now raised to 2 d..
Not at least these innovations led to the establishment of the SHIP LETTER OFFICE on 13th. September 1799 and an entirely new type of oval handstamp was introduced with the opening of the Office.

'SHIP LETTER / crown / LONDON; 1799 to 1805; ∅ = 40 x 30 mm

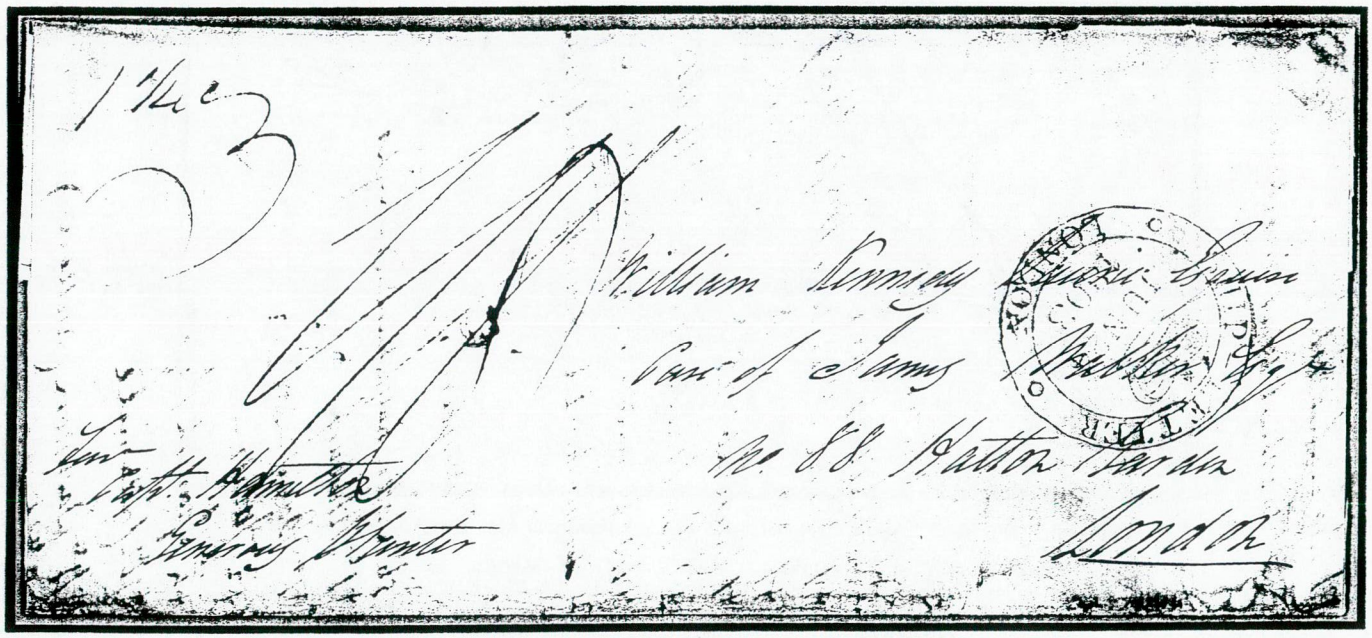


1802, 11th. March, Bombay by the *'Ana'* via London to Madeira

Charges: incoming Ship letter = 4 d. (Tariff of 1799)
outgoing Ship letter = 4 d. (half the Packet rate)

The oval handstamps were followed by circular framed and unframed handstamps from 1802.

double ring 'SHIP-LETTER / crown / date / LONDON'; 1802 to 1805; ∅ = 38 mm



1803, Calcutta to London, arrived London 24th. June

Charges: incoming Ship letter - weight 1 1/4 Oz - 5 x 4 d. = 1/8 d. (Tariff of 1799)

1.1. Unpaid Ship Letters

The Ship Letter Office had to handle incoming and outgoing ship-letters exclusively. The regulations were to be enforced with penalties for evasion, particulary those forbidding the 'breaking of bulk' until all letters had been handed over to the Post Office. These provisions led to an steady increase of revenue, the success of the new Office was reasonably assured.

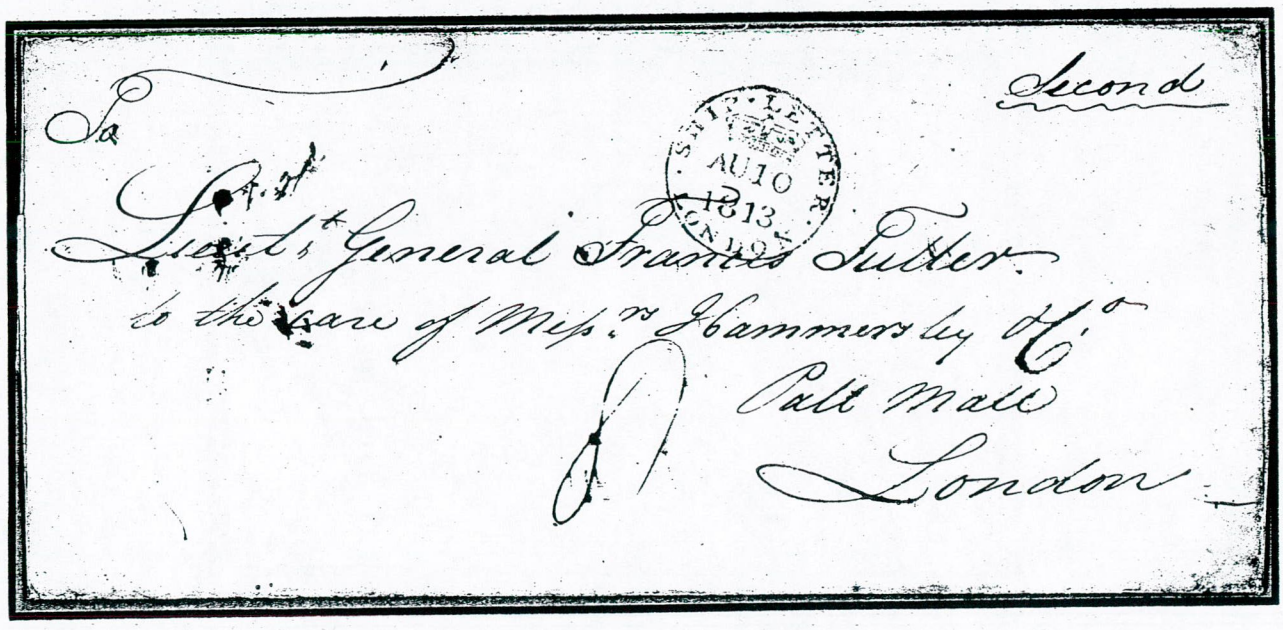
large single ring 'SHIP-LETTER / crown / date / LONDON'; 1804 to 1807; ∅ = 36 mm



1807, 5th. March, Calcutta via Bombay and London (16th. Nov.) to Edinburgh (19th. Nov.)

Charges: single Ship letter = 4 d. (Tariff of 1799)
London - Edinburgh = 12 d. (Tariff of 1805) → in all 1/4 d.

small single ring 'SHIP-LETTER / crown / date / LONDON'; 1807 to 1822; ∅ = 26 - 28 mm



1812, 31st. December, Calcutta to London, arrived 13th. August 1813

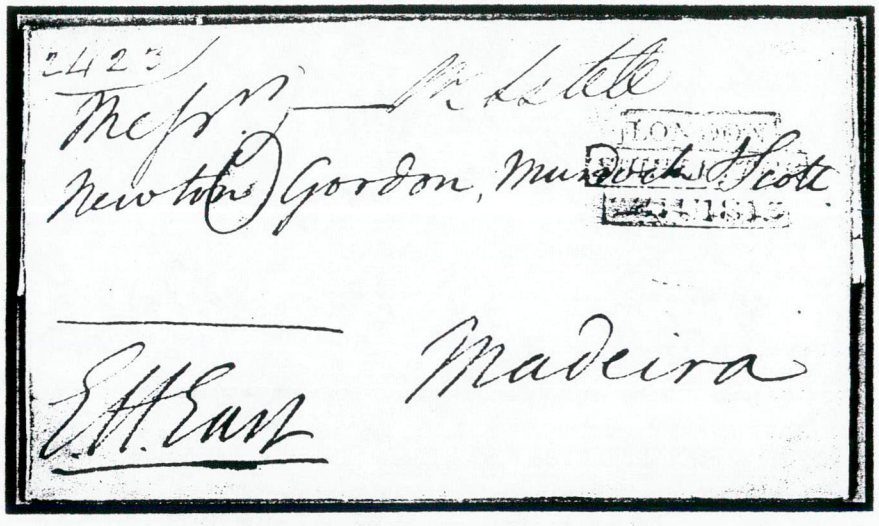
Charges: double Ship letter to London → 2 x 4 d. = 8 d.

1.1. Unpaid Ship Letters

Outgoing and incoming letters were carried by arrangement with ships' masters until 1814, when it became compulsory for all Ship Masters to carry such mail as was tendered by the Post Office (October 1814 - 54 Geo III c. 169 and GPO Notice). At the same time the preceding oval type of handstamp was withdrawn and replaced by the third series of Post Office ship-letter handstamps. The wording was within a rectangular frame, with two- or three panels, generally known as the 'step' type, very shortliving as far as it concerns the London Ship Letter Office.

Step Type 'LONDON / SHIP LETTER / date'; 1815 to 1816; ∅ = 34 x 18 mm

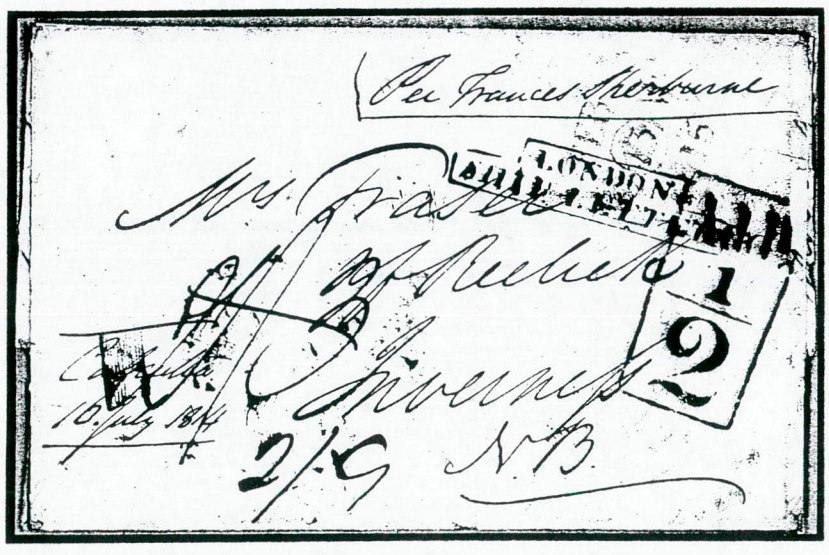
(this London datestamp in red ink on unpaid letters was very shortlived, perhaps because strikes were almost always unclear)



1814, 27th. December, Calcutta via London to Madeira, arrived 18th. July 1815

Charges: incoming Ship letter - 4 d. + 1 d. Captain's Pence (Tariff - GPON October 1814)

Step Type 'LONDON / SHIP LETTER'; 1814 to 1815; ∅ = 43 x 10 mm



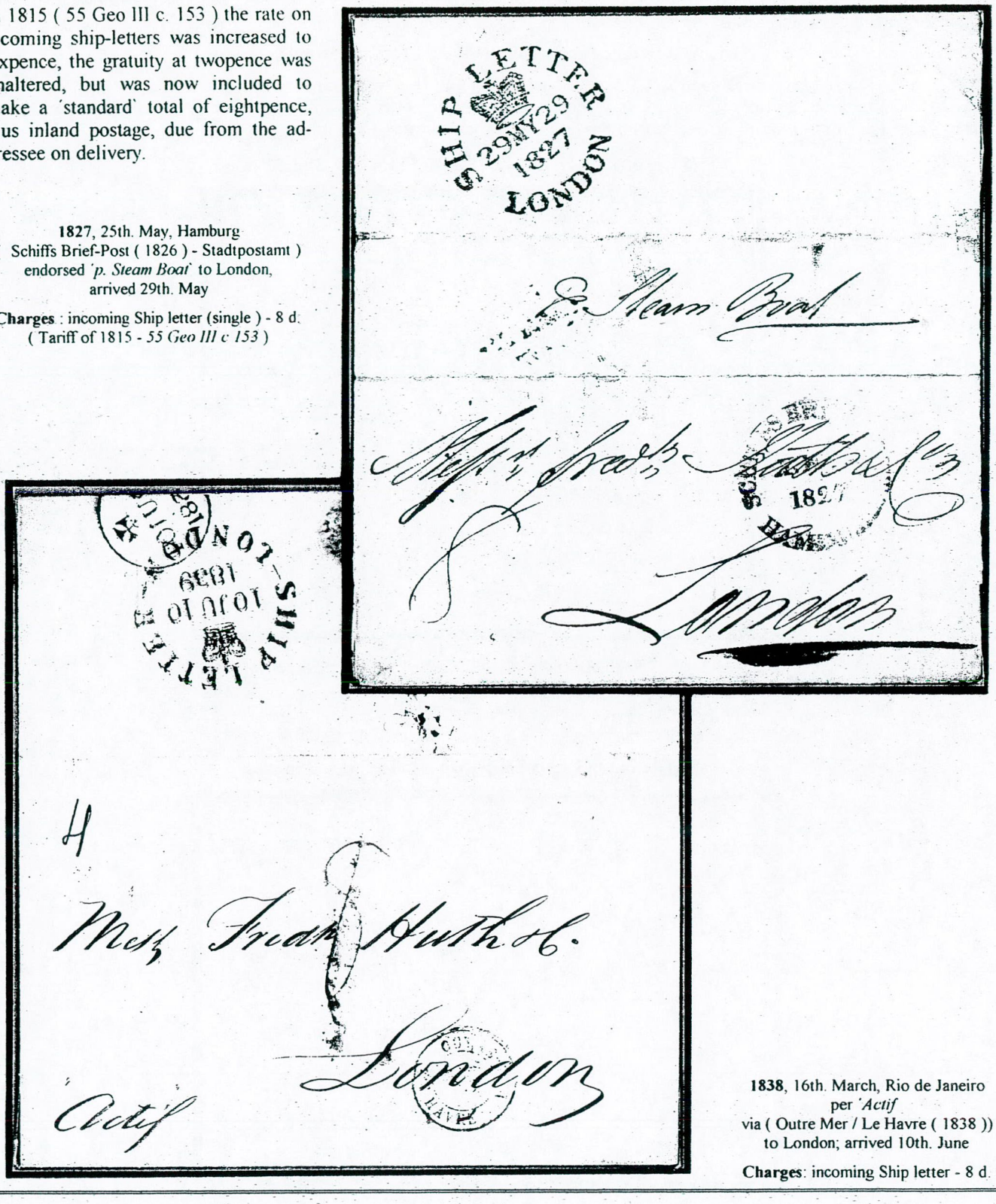
1814, 16th. July, Calcutta per *'Frances Sherburne'* via London (10th. Feb. 1815) and Edinburgh (13th. Feb.) to Inverness

Charges:		
	incoming Ship letter	= 8 d.
	London - Edinburgh	= 13 d.
	Edinburgh - Inverness	= 10 d.
	+ Road Tax	= 1/2 d. → in all = 2/7 1/2 d.

1.1. Unpaid Ship Letters

'SHIP LETTER / crown / date / LONDON'; in black - 1820 to 1846, in red - 1834 to 1847; ∅ = 35 mm

In 1815 (55 Geo III c. 153) the rate on incoming ship-letters was increased to sixpence, the gratuity at twopence was unaltered, but was now included to make a 'standard' total of eightpence, plus inland postage, due from the addressee on delivery.



1827, 25th. May, Hamburg
(Schiffs Brief-Post (1826) - Stadtpostamt)
endorsed *'p. Steam Boat'* to London,
arrived 29th. May

Charges : incoming Ship letter (single) - 8 d.
(Tariff of 1815 - *55 Geo III c 153*)

1838, 16th. March, Rio de Janeiro
per *'Actif*
via (Outre Mer / Le Havre (1838))
to London; arrived 10th. June

Charges: incoming Ship letter - 8 d.

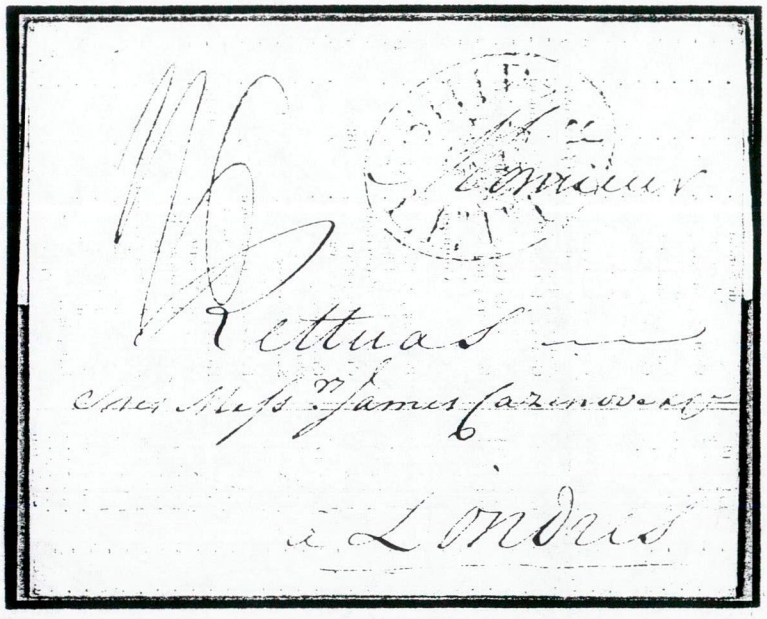
1.1. Unpaid Ship Letter

In addition, there was a unnamed group of ship-letter handstamps in existence for letters, which were not handstamped at the port of entry for some reasons.

Smuggled letters during the Prussian French (Napoleon) war

Between May and July 1807 the Postmaster of the Grand Duchy Berg in Hamburg received the Post coming from England. He forwarded these letters to France, Italy and Turkey for 6 d.. This letter was received by the Central Office of the Grand Duchy Berg. The Postmaster there exchanged the letter to France with the Hamburg Local Post.

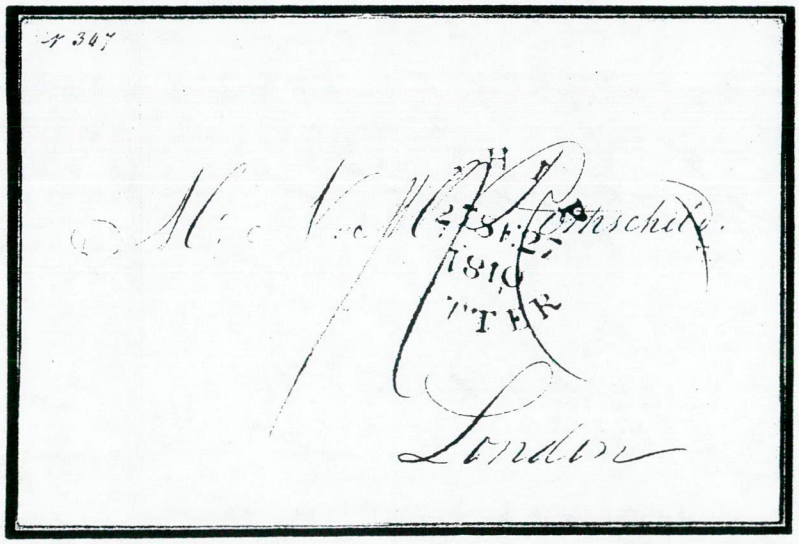
'SHIP / crown / LETTER'; 1801 to 1815; ∅ = 38 x 31 mm



1807, 10th. June, Rotterdam via Hamburg-Altona to London, arrived London 20th. June

Charges: incoming Ship letter → ounce letter (1799 - *39 Geo III c 76*) = 16 d.
Captain's Pence (1799 - *39 Geo III c 76*) = 2 d.
to pay on arrival = 18 d. - 1/6 d.

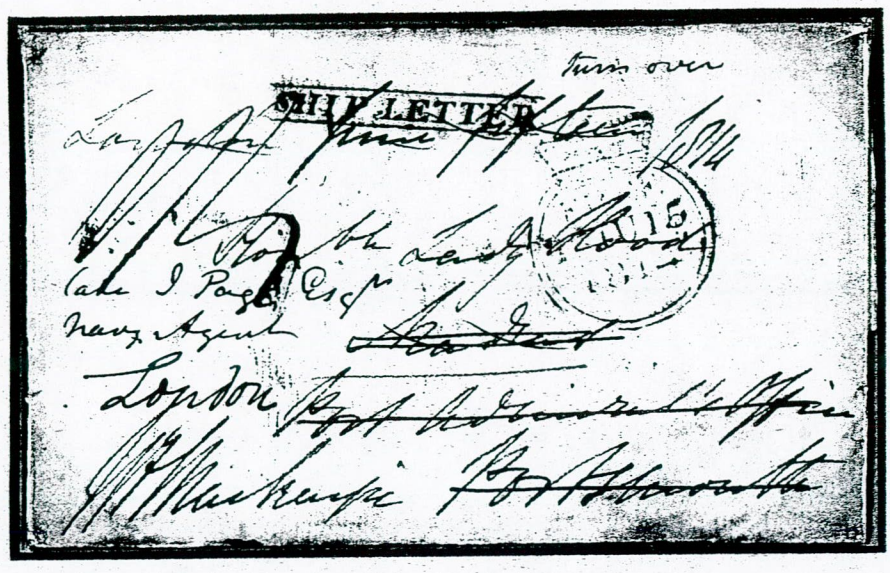
'SHIP / date / LETTER'; 1810 to 1811; ∅ = 28 mm



Letter from occupied Germany, arrived London 27th. September **1810**, charged 1/6 d.

1.1. Unpaid Ship Letters

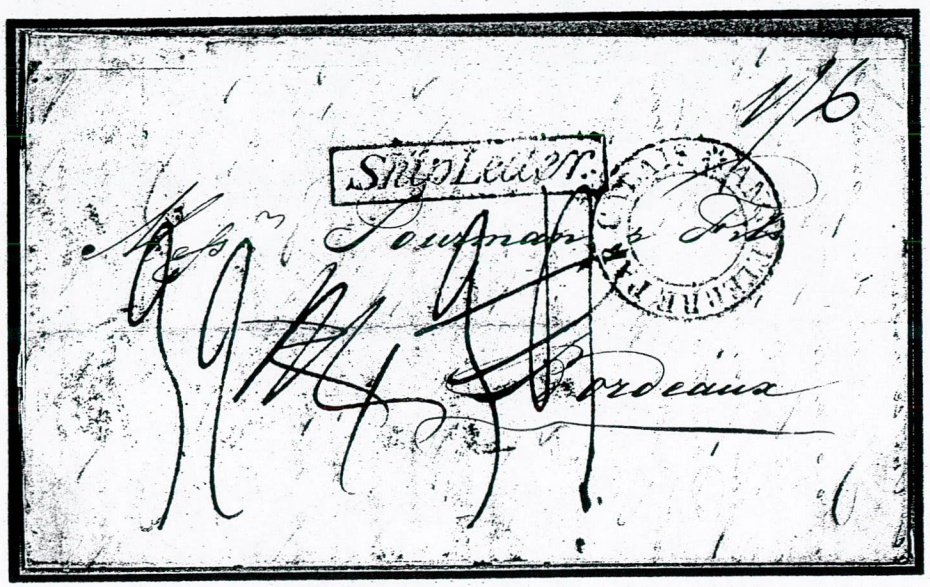
Framed 'SHIP LETTER`; 1814 to 1848; ∅ = 41 x 5 mm



1814, 15th. June, London to Madras, sent out FREE; re-directed via Portsmouth to London, arrived London 15th. August 1815

Charges:		
	incoming Ship letter	= 8 d.
	Portsmouth - London	= 8 d. up to 80 miles (Tariff of 1812)
	to pay on arrival	= 1/4 d.

Boxed *'SHIP LETTER`*; 1838 to 1849; ∅ = 42 x 9 mm



1836, 25th. July, Valparaiso to Bordeaux, arrived on 26th. November 1836

Route: Valparaiso - Deal (SHIP LETTER / DEAL) - London - Calais (Angleterre Par Calais (1836)) - Paris - Bordeaux

Charges:		
	incoming Ship letter	= 8 d.
	London to Paris (per Packet Ship since 15th. June 1836)	= 10 d.
	The British Post sold this letter to the French Post	= 1/6 d. → 18 Décimes
	Calais to Bordeaux	+ 14 Décimes
	to pay on arrival	= 32 Décimes

1.2. Prepaid Ship Letters

The prepayment of the Inland Postage to London, if posted elsewhere in the kingdom, and the Ship-Letter charges on such outgoing letters was compulsory by the Act of 1799. They were charged not less than half the packet rate (39 Geo III c. 76). In spite of it, handstamps incorporating the word 'PAID', were brought into action not before 1800. The first five of them contained the word 'POST' before 'PAID SHIP LRE'.
Nevertheless , relatively few outgoing ship-letters were handed to the Post Office, the public preferred to send by arrangement with ships' masters. The current 'POST PAID Ship Letter London' handstamps were the only outward ship-letter handstamps used in the British Isles.

'POST PAID SHIP LRE / crown / LONDON'; in black - 1800 to 1816, in red - 1819 only; ∅ = 38 x 34 mm



1801, 26th. March, London *'P. H. M. S. Falcon'* via Lisbon to Madeira

Charges: Ounce-letter - half the packet rate = 4/4 d. (1799 - *39 Geo III c 76*)

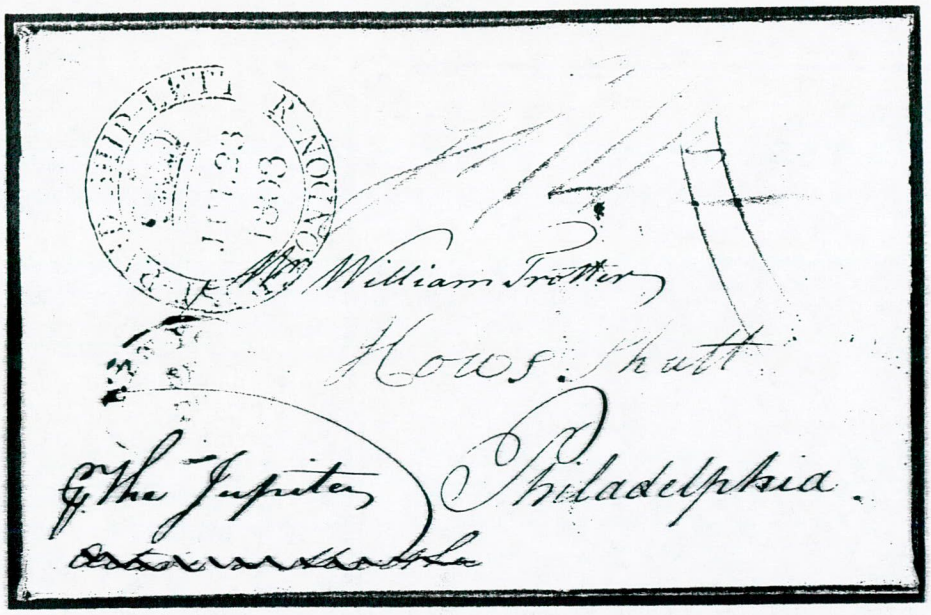


1819, 15th. November, Amsterdam via London to the Cape of Good Hope, arrived 27th. April 1820

Charges: carried by private ship to London - double incoming Ship letter → 1/4 d.
By the Act of July 1819 (*59 Geo III c 3*) a seapostage rate of 2 d. up to 3 Oz was established on letters from London to the Cape. The practice was, that the Post Office advertised letters held at the G. P. O. for payment. An agent of the sender therefore paid the total of 1/6 d. to the Ship Letter Office. On 11th. December (London harbour date handstamp on reverse) the S. L. O. despatched the letter onwards.

1.2. Prepaid Ship Letters

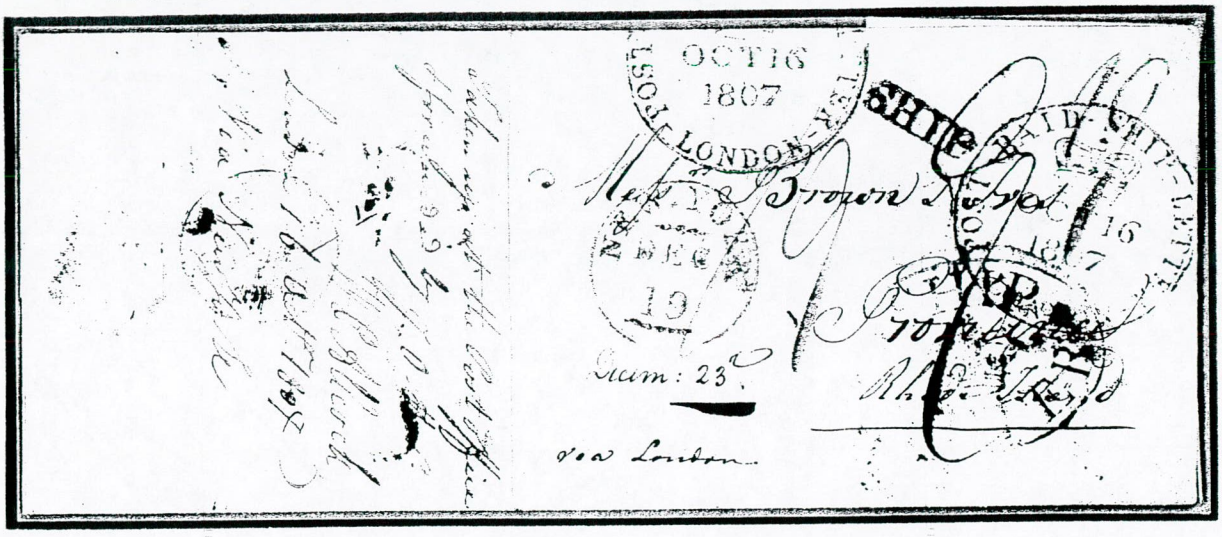
'POST PAID SHIP LETTER / crown / date / LONDON'; 1802 to 1805; ∅ = 38 mm



1803, 23rd. July, London per *'The Jupiter'* via New York (23. Sept.) to Philadelphia

Charges: prepaid to America = 11 d. (1803 - GPO - Instructions)
U. S. Inland = 12 1/2 Cents (Tariff of 1. 6. 1792 - between 100 and 150 miles)
delivery Tariff = 2 Cents (Tariff of 8. 5. 1794)
to pay on arrival - 14 1/2 Cents

'POST - PAID - SHIP - LETTER / crown / date / LONDON'; 1805 to 1807; ∅ = 37 mm

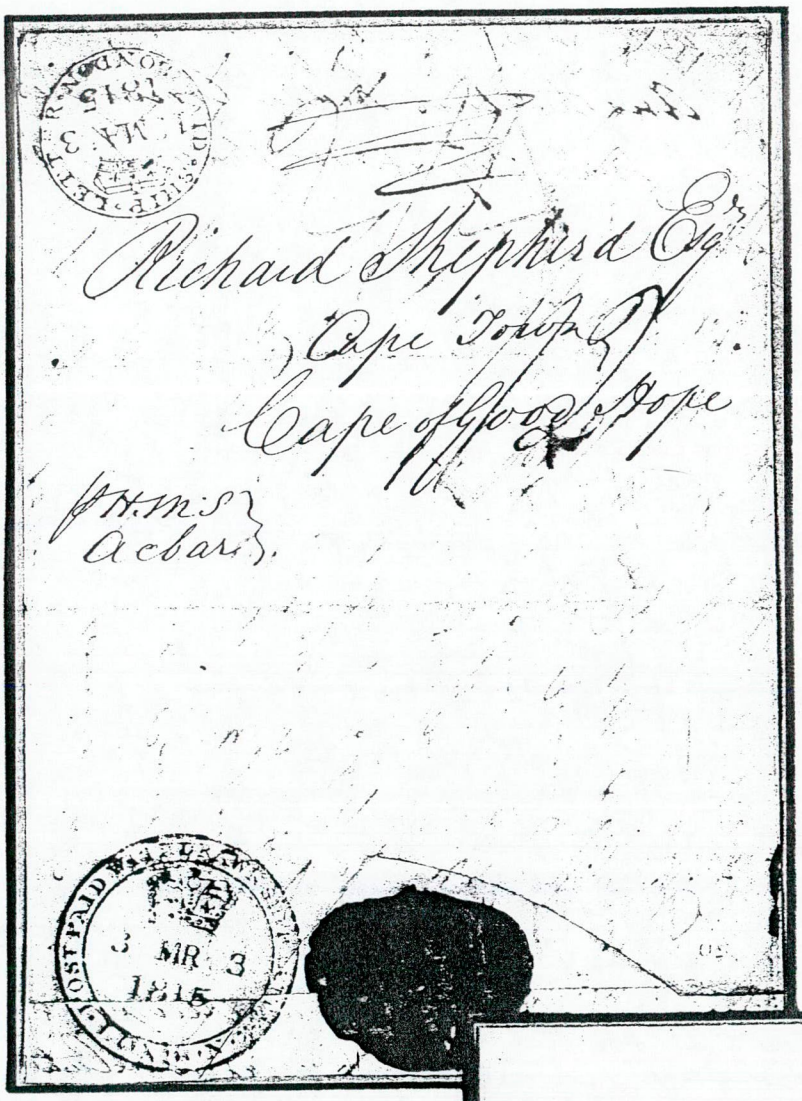


1807, 26th. August, Rotterdam via London to Providence / Rhode Island

Charges: Smuggled by private ship (*Napoleonic Wars*) and landed at one of the smaller southern England ports. London arrival - 30th. September, charged 9 d. (4 d. ship letter fee + 5 d. for the journey to London). The letter could not be forwarded abroad unpaid, and was therefore advertised, being collected on October 16th. by the Forwarding Agent W. P. Allcock. The agent reposted the letter pre-paying the 1/9 d. postage from Rotterdam (+ 1/- d. = single letter - 1801 - *41 Geo III c 7*) to New York by private ship at half concurrent packet rate. Upon arrival at New York on December 19th. the 'SHIP'- handstamp was applied and 19 Cents (up to 300 miles - 17 C. - U.S. Act - 17.4.1799) + 2 d. (for the conveyance by the post to another place - U.S. Act - 2.3.1799) charged.

1.2. Prepaid Ship Letters

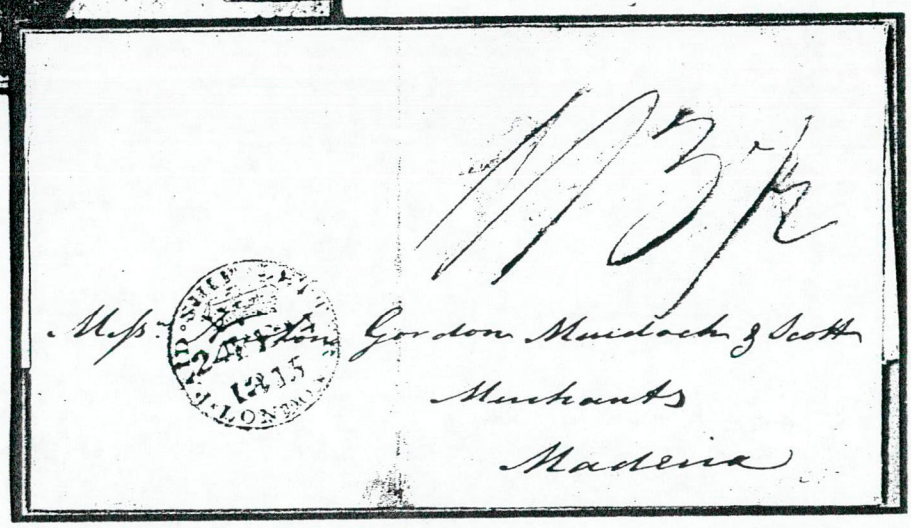
'PAID. SHIP. LETTER / crown / date / LONDON'; 1809 to 1819; ∅ = 26 mm



From 10th. October 1814, under 54 George III c. 169, an attempt was made to prevent outward ship letters by-passing the Post Office, and this produced one of the most bizarre episodes in British Postal History.
It now became illegal to place an outward-bound letter onto any ship privately, unless the item had first been taken to the Post Office. There a fee had to be paid, equal to → *one third of the rate* (inland and sea postage combined) *chargeable if the letter had been sent by inland post and packet boat.*
For this fee, the Post Office marked the letter 'POST PAID WITHDRAWN SHIP LETTER', and handed straight back.
The masters of all ships were forbidden to carry letters not marked by the Post Office as having fee paid, and draconian powers of search were enacted.

1815, 3rd. March, London per *'H. M. S. / Acbar'* to the Cape of Good Hope

Charges: prepaid one third of the packet rate → 1/2 d.
(Tariff of 10th. Oct. 1814 - *54 Geo III c 169*)



1815, 24th. February, London to Madeira

Charges: packet letter rate (POD - 1813)
- single letter = 2/7 d.
half the packet rate
- single Ship letter - 1/3 1/2 d.

1.2. Prepaid Ship Letters

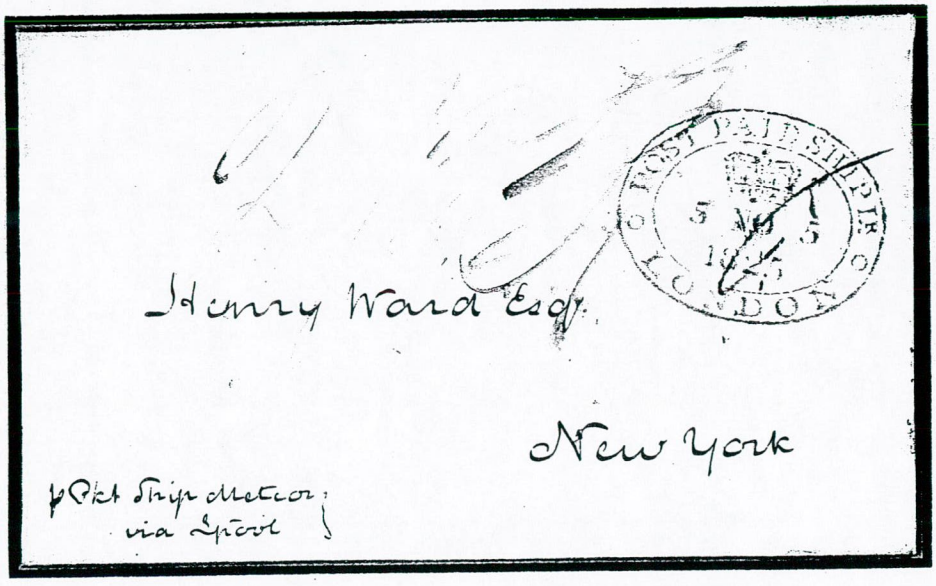
By the 1815 Act the Post Office gained effective control of outgoing ship-letters. But the old custom of private arrangement with ships' masters died hard, and for the first five years, although the volume grew steadily, doubtless just as many letters went privately as went through the Post Office. But with the event of the paddle steamship, of which the Post Office was quick to take advantage, the public was offered a much better service, and the number of letters handed in to the Post Office increased enormously.

'POST PAID SHIP LR / crown / date / LONDON'; 1818 to 1825; ∅ = 42 x 34 mm



1825, 22nd. December, WARWICK / 107 via London to Poonah / India, arrived 1st. June

Charges: prepaid 1/- d. - Warwick / 107 = 8 d. (should be 9 d.; Tariff of 1812)
single Ship letter = 4 d. → in all 1/- d.



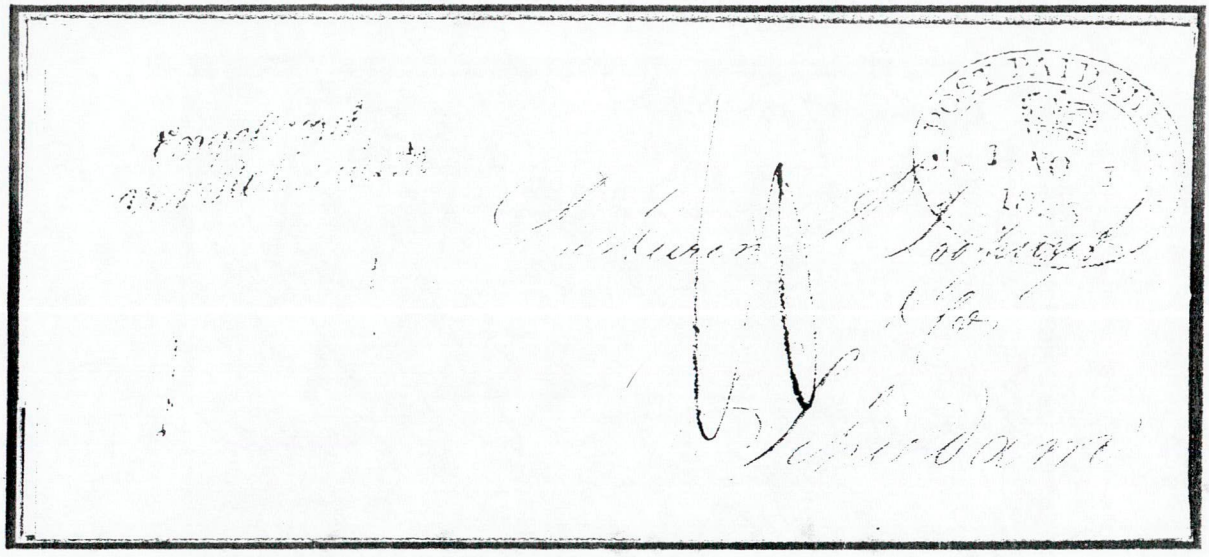
1825, 5th. November, London via Liverpool per *'Meteor'* to New York

Charges: double Ship letter to America = 2/2 d. (GPON - 25. 4. 1814)
U. S. Inland = 6 Cents (up to 30 miles - Tariff 3. 3. 1825)

III.

1.2. Prepaid Ship Letters

In 1818 the old circular London 'PAID' ship-letter handstamps were replaced by series of the large oval 'POST PAID SHIP LETTER LONDON' handstamps. They had different crowns in the centre in a double oval or they were unframed.
All outwards ship-letters still went via London, and from 1820 to 1847 these oval handstamps were the only official Post Office ship letter handstamps used on letters leaving the British Isles by private ship.



1825, 1st. November, London via *'Engeland / over Rotterdam'* (1823) to Schiedam

Charges: prepaid - half the packet letter rate = 8 d.; from receiver → Uniform Inland Postage Netherlands = 10 Stuivers

unframed 'POST PAID SHIP LR / crown / date / LONDON'; 1826 to 1832; ∅ = 38 x 29 mm



1831, 25th. June, London to Wohlen / Swizzerland

Route: London - *'Engeland / over Rotterdam'* - Arnheim - Emmerich - Coblenz - Mannheim - Basel

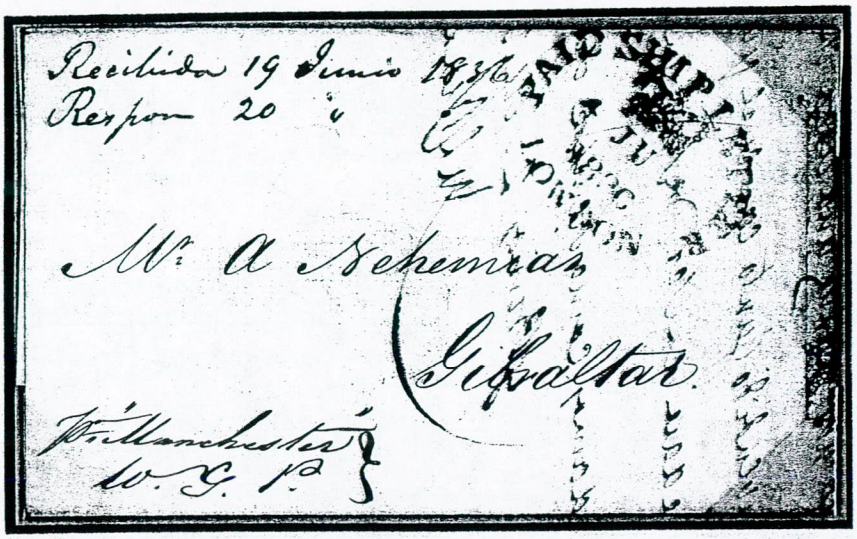
Charges:	prepaid in London - half the packet letter rate	= 10 d.
	Transit Holland - 20 Cents	= 4 S. Gr. (*to pay Prussia to the Netherlands*)
	Transit Prussia	+ 2 S. Gr.
	Transit Baden	+ 2.5 S. Gr. = 8.5 S. Gr. → 38 Kreuzer
	+ Basel to Wohlen = 6 Kreuzer → to pay on arrival	= 44 Kreuzer

1.2. Prepaid Ship Letters

These are early examples of the Peninsular Steam Navigation Company (P.S.N.C.); their voyages took place before the Postal contract from 22nd. August 1837. The company was the first independant Co. to take over a contract route of the Admirality Packets. All vessels were at this date owned or chartered by Captain *Richard Bourne* but operated by the P.S.N.C..

unframed 'PAID SHIP LETTER / crown / date / LONDON'; 1833 to 1847; ∅ = 40 x 31 mm

1836 - Voyage; per Ship "Manchester" - Gravesend (3rd. June) - Falmouth (5-6th. June) - Lisbon (11th. June)



1836, 3rd. June, London to Gibraltar - arrived 19th. June; prepaid 1/- d. (1835 - *5/6 William IV c 25*)

1837 - Voyage; per Ship "Braganza" - Falmouth (9th. July) to Malaga (18th. July)

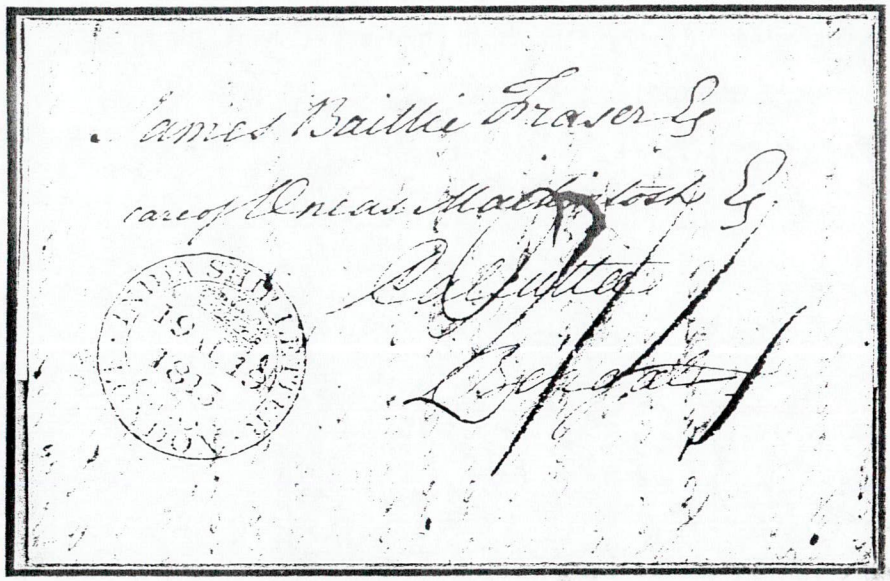


1837, 7th. July, London to Porto, landed at 'BARRA/ DO /PORTO';
posted at the Branch Office in Vere Street, transferred to the Ship Letter Office

Charges: prepaid in London - 1/- d. for the single letter (1835 - *5/6 William IV c 25*)
to pay on arrival - 160 Reis

2. India Ship Letters

'INDIA SHIP LETTER / crown / date / GPO / LONDON';
1815 to 1820; ∅ = 33 mm



The ***East India Company*** had always had its own army and carried all the mail in its own ships to this country. The Post Office found it uneconomical to run its own packets to India and therefore used the ships of the Company. There had been quarrels between these institutions since 1799 concerning the charges, and when the Post Office took new powers to stop Ship Letters outwords, the Company refused to carry Post Office bags of letters.

1815, 19th. August, London to Calcutta

Route: London - Madeira - Cape of Good Hope - Mauritius - Ceylon - Colombo - Calcutta

Charges: 1815 to 1819, article of the *'India Ship letter Acts'*
single letter = 1/2 d.; double letter = 2/4 d.

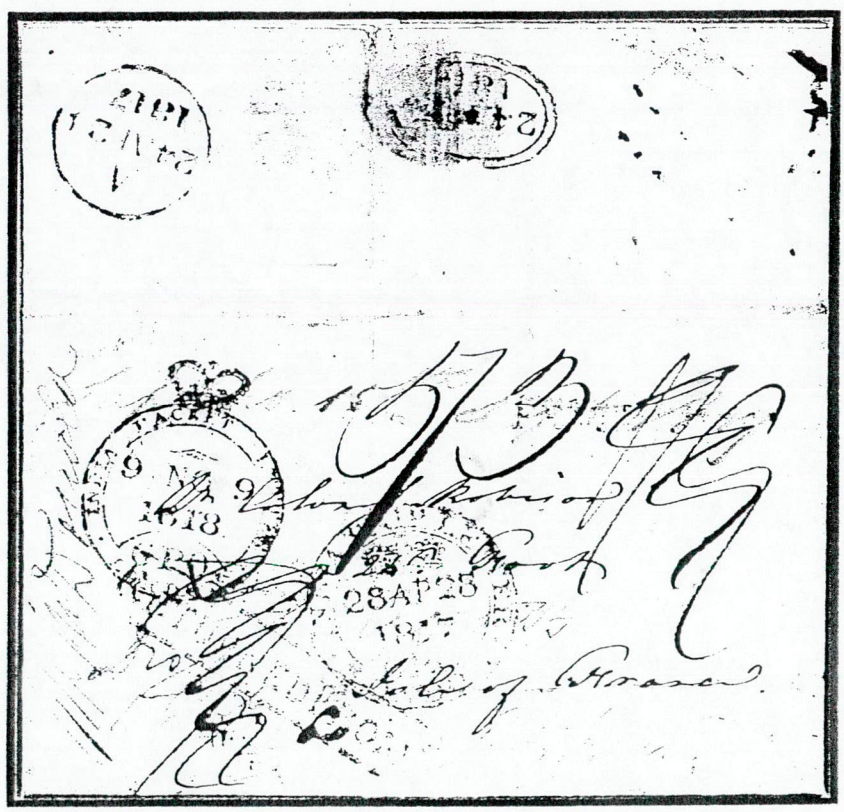
This led to the 'INDIA SHIP LETTER ACTS' of 1814 (54 Geo III c. 169) and July 1815 (55 Geo III c. 153) respectively. To identify the special rates to India, new handstamps were issued.

Oval 'London Harbour' datestamp;
1818 to 1819; ∅ = 27 x 18 mm

(earliest use recorded)

Boxed 'RETURNED FROM';
recorded since 1824; ∅ = 45 x 10 mm

(extends recorded use back 6 years)



1817, 28th. April, London to Mauritius

The return to London from *Isle of France* was marked by the application of the '**Returned From**' and the amendment from 1/9 d. (outgoing Ship letter charge = half the packet rate) to 5/3 d. for the packet charge (3/6 d.) on return, witnessed by the India Packet letter stamp for 9th. November 1818.

2. India Ship Letters

'INDIA. SHIP. LETTER / 4 / LONDON'; 1827 to 1840; ∅ = 43 mm



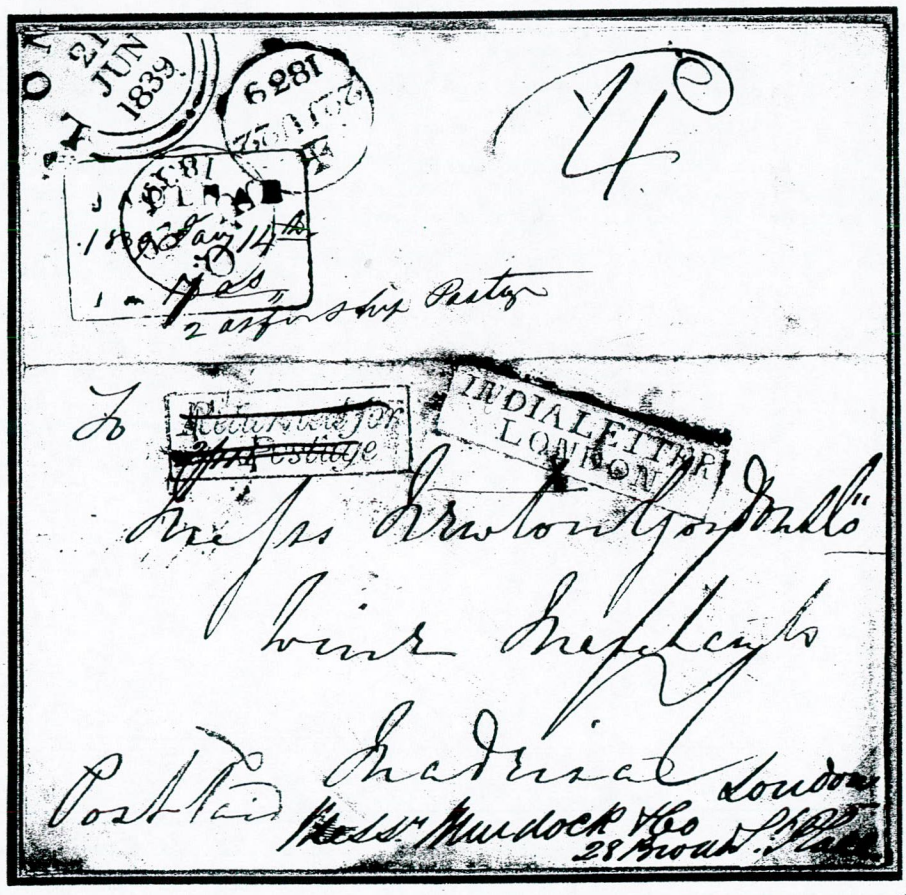
The 4 d. rate from India = sea postage per letter under 3 oz was defined by *59 Geo II c 111* on 12th. July 1819. This rate was different from the incoming ship letter rate from the rest of the world and required separate treatment at the port of arrival. This was done by INDIA LETTER handstamps. The marks were phased out in 1840 when the special rate from and to the Indies was repealed.

1831, April, Calcutta G.P.O. to London, carried *'per City of Edinburgh'*, arrived 10th. December and re-directed to Cheltenham.

Charges: 1/6 d. - double letter to Cheltenham (95 miles - 9 d. Tariff of 1812) + the sea postage being also doubled, making the 2/2 d.

(This example where the '4' is deleted and a double charge levied might be unique)

Boxed 'INDIA LETTER / LONDON' in red 1830 to 1839; ∅ = 44 x 12 mm



1839, 14th. January, Jaulnay via London to Madeira, arrived London 20th. June 1839

Charges: prepaid 9 Annas → Indian Ship- and Inland Postage to the harbour of embarkation

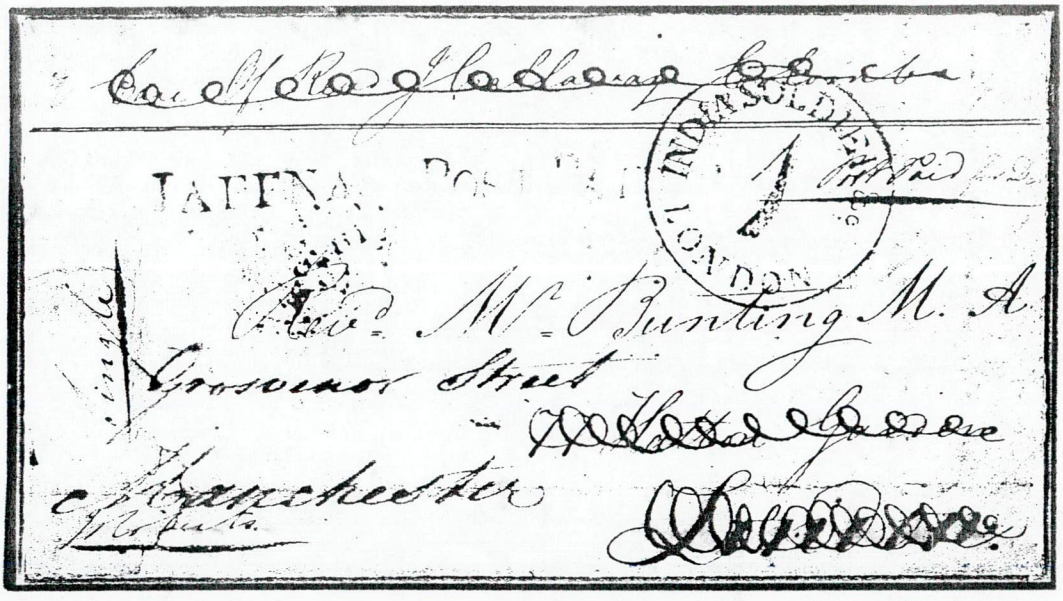
From receiver: 4 d. → This postage was payed by the forwarders (Messrs. Murdock & Fills London). They also prepaid the postage from London to Madeira - 4/- d. (per Brazil Packet).
(The boxed handstamp *'Returned for / Postage'* was stamped, because the letter was posted unpaid (by the forwarders) in the first instance.)

III.

2. India Ship Letters

Letters from Soldiers and Seamen serving in India were subject to privilege rates in operation elsewhere since 1823. The reduced rates went up to a rank of a sergeant. But because they were carried in company with the public mail by ships operating within the special ' INDIA and PACKET LETTER - SYSTEM` , they had to be identified as coming from India. For this purpose special 'India Soldiers' & Seamen's letter by ship` - handstamps were issued.

'INDIA SOLDIER & c / 1 / LONDON`; 1824 to 1827; ∅ = 38 mm

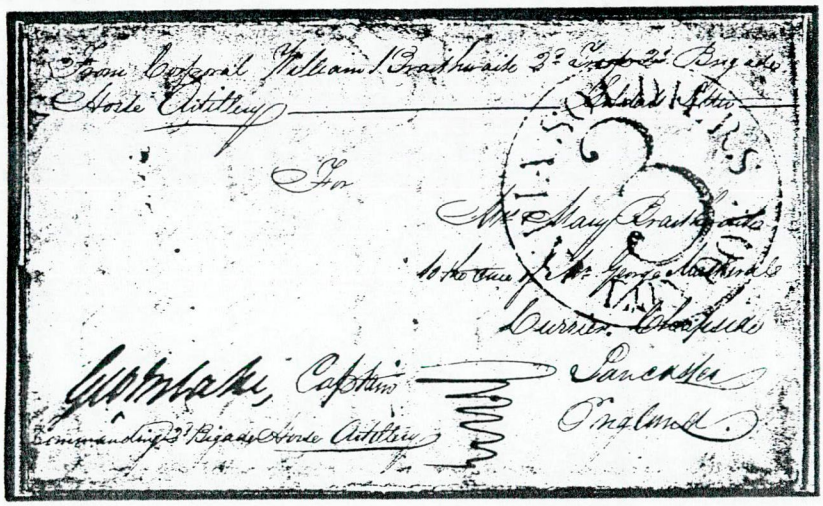


1826, 1st. April, Jaffna via Colombo *'Care of Revd. J. Callaway, Colombo'* - prepaid 1 d. - JAFFNA POST PAID

(The letter is from a missionary who has headed his letter in a distinctive way, which seems to have been mistaken for a soldier's letter by the Post Office, in addition re-directed without extra charge to Manchester. The use of the 1 d. handstamp here appears in any case to be struck by error; the letter was prepaid and posted in India, not in London, it should therefore bear the '3 d.' priviledge rate handstamp.)

'INDIA SOLDIERS / 3 / LONDON`; 1823 to 1848; ∅ = 42 mm

The sea-postage was 2 d. and the Inland-postage 1 d.,
irrespective of the number of miles from London to the destination.



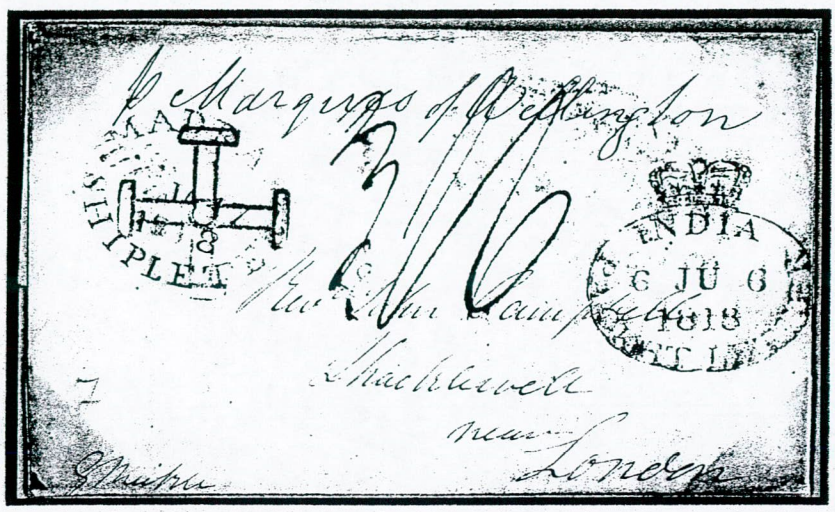
1836, 6th. July, Cawnpore to Lancaster

Route: Cawnpore - Calcutta (G.P.O. / SHIP LETTER 18 JULY) - Colombo - Ceylon - Mauritius - Cape of Good Hope - Madeira - London - Lancaster

3. Instructional Marks

The ship-letter rate was charged according to the ship-letter handstamp struck on the letter at a port. Sometimes the incorrect handstamp was applied, which if left uncorrected would have resulted in the letter being wrongly charged. When rectifying such mistakes, the incorrect handstamp was struck with the 'Crutched Cross`, and the correct handstamp applied.

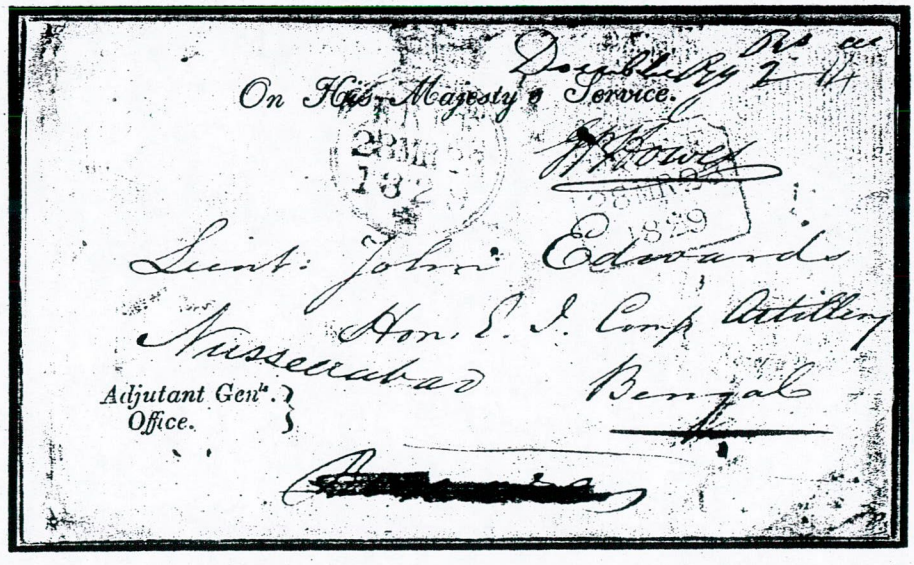
'Crutched Cross`; in black - 1819; 26 x 26 mm



1818, 6th. June, India *'p. Marquis of Wellington`* via Madras to London;
wrongly handstamped by 'Madras Ship Letter`, although it was a Packet letter → 'Crutched Cross` and corrected by
a 'Crowned India / Packet Letter` handstamp applied in addition; charged → single Packet letter from India - 3/6 d. (1815 - *Geo III c 153*)

The handstamps known as the 'Foreign Branch Free` stamps since several decades, were reclassified some years ago by *Prof. B. Jay* as Ship letter handstamps. These appeared on letters going or coming from abroad, but never received a Foreign Office date stamp. The conclusion is, that Free letters passing the Foreign Office only received an Inland Office FREE handstamp, while those that went through the Ship Letter Office received one of the 'square` Free handstamps.

'Crown / FREE`; 1820 to 1831; ∅ = 25 x 30 mm
(upper corners concave with sharp points)



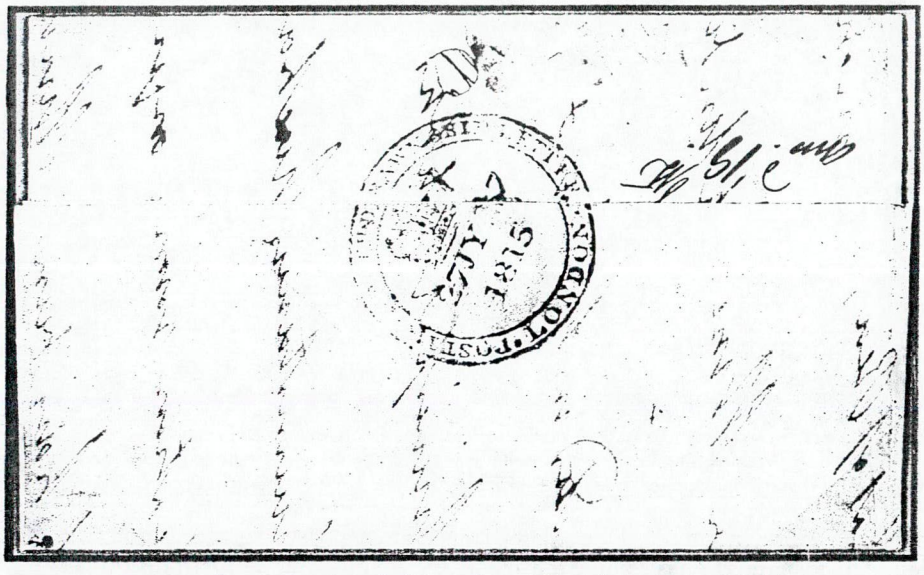
1829, 29th. March, Adjutant Generals Office London to Bengal, 'Free` of charges (Inland and Foreign)
(on reverse → Calcutta/GPO twice in red; GPO/date/BSPS in black; redirected to Benares with oval date handstamps Dum Dum twice in black and redirected again to Nusserabad with oval dated"Rajpootana/Bear" in black - *earliest usage reported*)

Route: London - Madeira - Cape of Good Hope - Mauritius - Colombo - Calcutta

3. Instructional Handstamps

This special handstamp was applied to letters on which one third the packet letter rate (the rate for carriage by private ship; 1814 - 54 Geo III c 169) had been paid, the letters then being returned to the sender who could forward them to any vessel other than a packet-boat. This was to prevent the letters being confiscated if the ship was also carrying letters illegally. The handstamp was always struck over the join to prevent a subsequent addition of any enclosures.

'POST PAID WITHDRAWN SHIP LETTER / crown / date / LONDON'; 1814 to 1815; ∅ = 38 mm

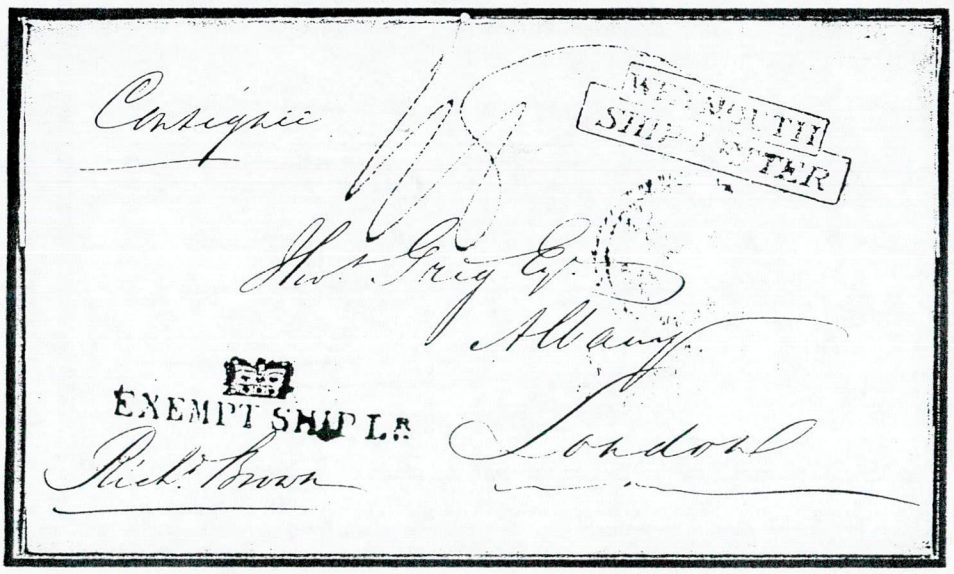


1815, 27th. July, London via Falmouth per *'Alnwick Packets'* to Madeira

Charges: single letter to Falmouth - 12 d. (Tariff of 1812 - up to 300 miles) + 1/6 d. to Madeira (POD - 1813 and 1815)
→ prepaid one third of the packet rate = 10 d.; to pay by receiver → 40 Reis

Letters sent by owners, charterers or consignees, carried by the ships in which the goods travelled, were *exempt* from the ship-letter-charge; full Inland-Postage was, however, charged.

'crown / EXEMPT SHIP LR.'; 1835 to 1845; ∅ = 45 x 12 mm



1839, 14th. April, St. Vincent via Weymouth (WEYMOUTH/SHIP-LETTER; step type - 1818 to 1841) to London; arrived 22nd. May

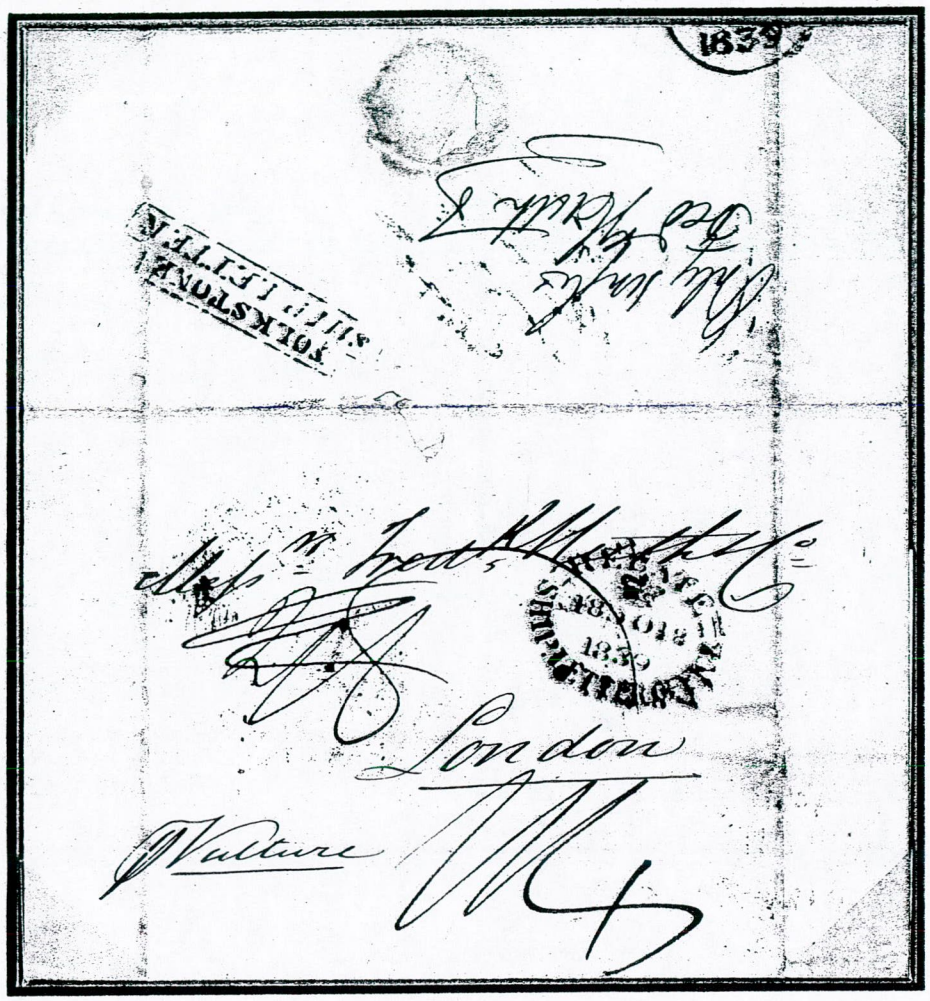
Charges: endorsed *'Consignee'* - the letter was therefore carried exempt from Ship-letter-charge;
to pay on arrival → 2 x 10 d. for the inland-journey up to 170 miles → double letter = 1/8 d. (Tariff of 1812)

3. Instructional Marks

Certain larger banks and businesses kept accounts with the Post Office before introduction of cheap Uniform Postage. Occasional letters were incorrectly overcharged and, when taken back to the Post Office for reassessment, were stamped with the special *'Rebate'* handstamp.

'REBATE / crown / date / SHIP LETTER OFFICE'; 18th. October to 7th. December 1839; ∅ = 24 x 30 mm

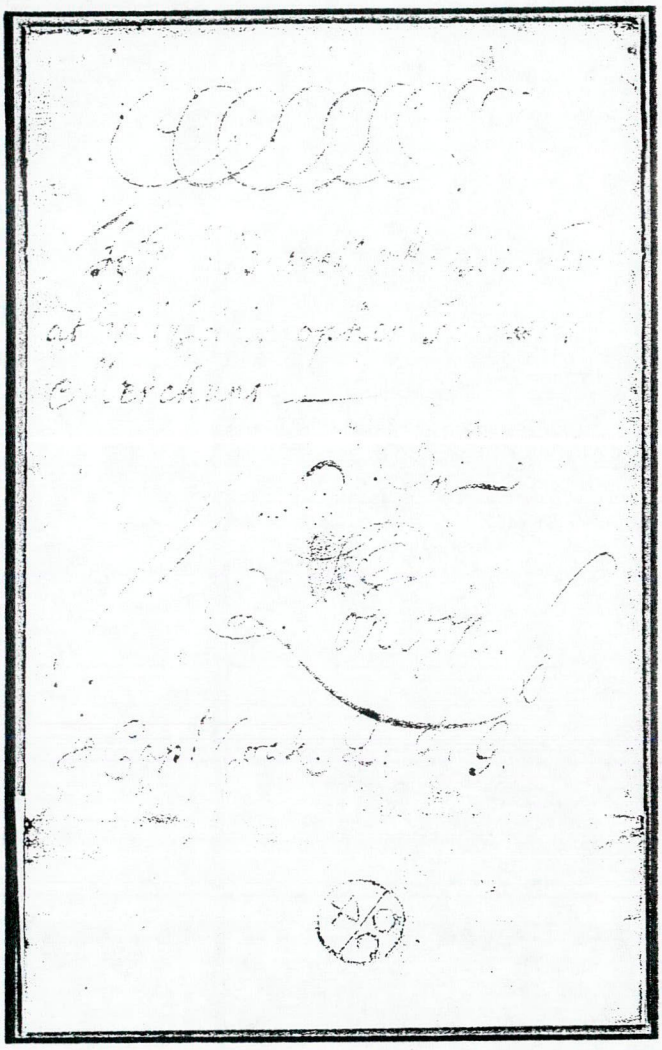
(1st. day of recorded use with the Variety 'OC' reversed in the date; the variety makes this handstamp at least unique)



1839, 7th. August, Rio de Janeiro *'per Vulture'* via Folkstone (FOLKSTONE / SHIP LETTER; step type - 1815 to 1845) to London; arrived London 18th. October

Charges:	incoming Ship letter - double letter	= 16 d.
	Folkstone to London, double letter up to 80 miles (Tariff of 1812)	= 16 d.
		2/8 d.
	Huth returned the letter to the Post Office - it was a single letter only → half the rate	= 1/4 d.

1.1. Inward Datestamps



In 1632 the overseas post was placed in the sole charge of **William Frizell** and **Thomas Withering**, who were appointed the Postmasters for Foreign Parts. From 1661 letters from abroad handled by the Foreign Office received a Foreign Office Bishop Mark, indistinguishable from the Inland Office Bishop Mark.
Since 1713 the Foreign Office used a Bishop Mark with the month above day while the Inland Office continued to use a Bishop Mark with the day above month.

***2nd. Type* - Foreign Office Bishop Mark**
1673 to 1713; ∅ = 13 - 14 mm

forwarded to Falmouth - *'p. Capt. Cock / Q. D. G.'*
= Quem Deus Guard (Conservet)

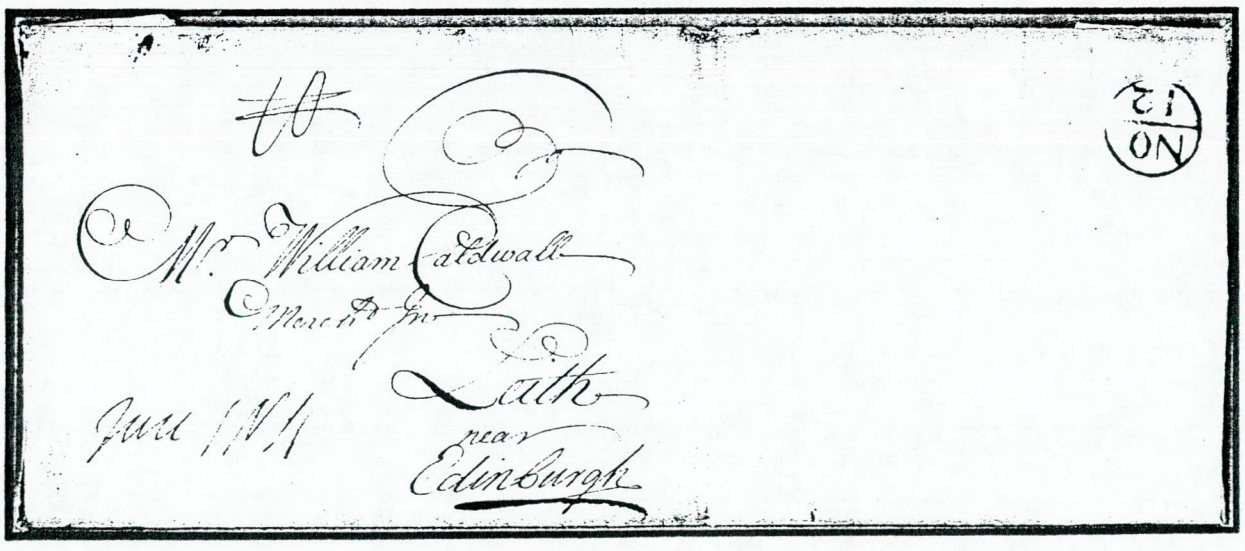
c. **1682**, Charleston / South Carolina to London, arrived OC(tober) / 4

Charges: 6 d. - double letter from Falmouth

***3rd. Type* - 1714 to 1797; ∅ = 14 - 20 mm**

1725, 2nd. November, Rotterdam via London (NO / 12) to Edinburgh

Charges: to pay on arrival → Rotterdam - London = 10 d.
(Tariff 1711 - *9 Anne c 10*) + London - Edinburgh = 6 d.
(Tariff of 1711) → in all 1/4 d.



1.1. Inward Datestamps

The Bishop date-stamps continued in use on incoming letters until early in 1797, when new circular stamps replaced the the Bishop Marks. At first the year was indicated by the last two figures only, from 1800 the year was given in full up to the end of 1802. Then, in January and February 1803 an experimental type appeared and was discharged by a smaller circular date-stamp including FOREIGN only.

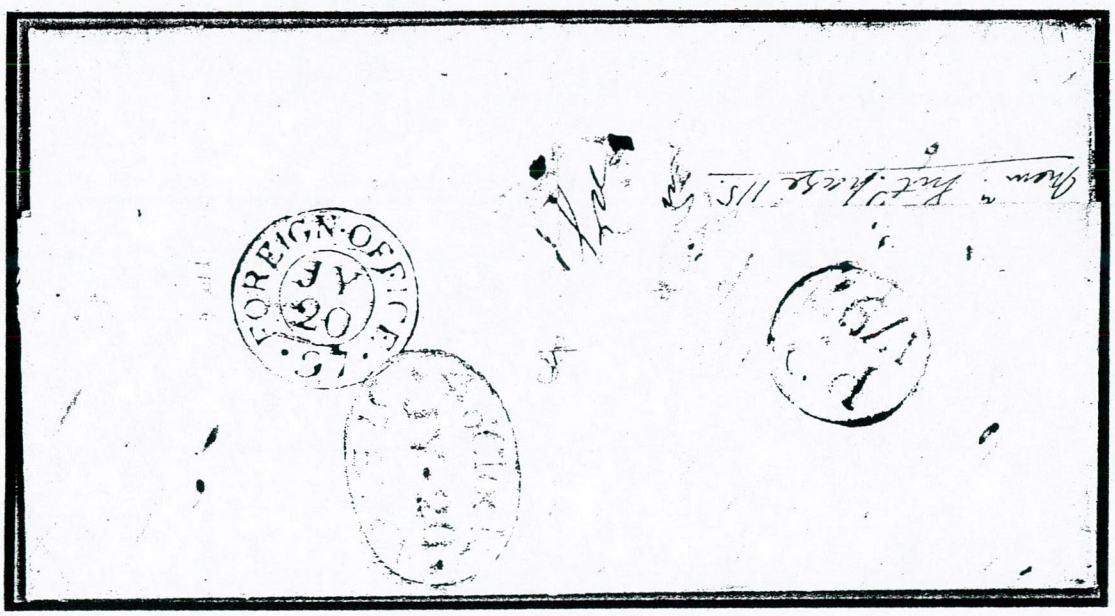
Double Rim 'FOREIGN OFFICE / date' - year in two figures; 1797 to 1799; ∅ = 32 mm

(*first year of use*)



1797, 24th. September, RIGA via Hamburg (3rd. Oct.) to London
(*The letter privately brought to Hamburg and posted there.*)

Charges: 3/- d., treble letter to England (1765 - *5 Geo III c 25*)



1797, 17th. June, Gibraltar to London, arrived 20th. July;
transfer to the Penny Post (P. P. / 1797) and delivered by the Chief Office at 4 o'Clock Even

Charges: 3/- d. - double letter (1711 - *9 Anne c 10*)

1.1. Inward Datestamps

Experimental FOREIGN OFFICE - January and February 1803; ∅ = 33 mm



1803, 11th. January, 'P. PAYE' PARIS' to London, arrived 17th. January

Charges: prepaid 6 Décimes = Paris - Calais, letterweight between 7 - 10 Grams = 1 1/2 Postage (Tariff of 1801) = 1 1/2 x 4 Décimes = 6 Déc.; to pay on arrival → 1/8 d. double letter from France (1801 - *41 Geo III c 7*)

'Roman V for 5' Variety

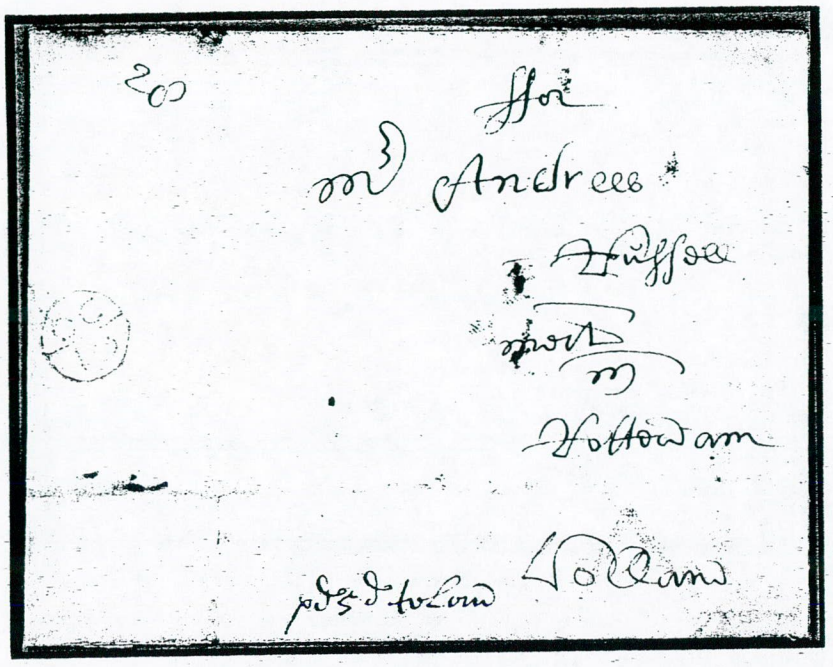


1803, 5th. January, Naples m.s. *'via France'* and London to Birmingham

Charges:		
	Naples - London (1801 - *41 Geo III c 7*)	= 1/7 d.
	London - Birmingham - up to 120 miles (Tariff of 1801)	= 7 d.
	to pay on arrival	- 2/2 d.

1.2. Outward Datestamps

Any Bishop Mark on outward letters up to 1797 must have been used in the Inland Office. Between 1680 and 1690 the Bishop Mark is occasionally found stamped in yellowish-black or a reddish tone, the result of too much oil and not enough pigment in the ink. It was not intended to be yellow or red.



1692, 30th. September, Glasgow via London (10th. Oct.) to Rotterdam; to pay on arrival 10 Stuivers (Tariff of 1667); m.s. *'pd. 5 d. to Lond'* = Glasgow - Edinburgh 1d. + Edinburgh - London 4d. (Tariff of 1657)

3rd. Type - Bishop Mark - (*but serif lettering*) - 1719 to 1722

(*extends recorded use back two years*)

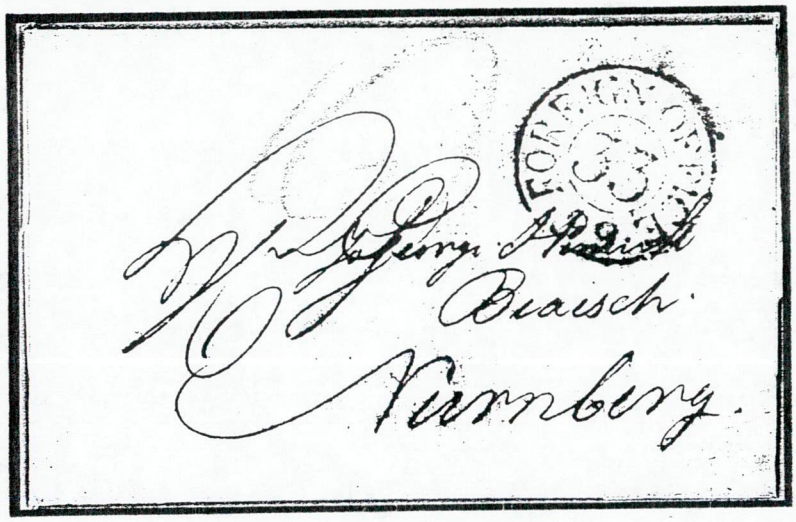


1717, 4th. January, Leeds via London to Brussels; to pay on arrival - 6 Sols (Postal Convention with Th. & Taxis 1699, Tariff of 1701); prepaid (PD - handstamp) double letter to London - m.s. *'pd. 8 d.'* (Tariff of 1711)

1.2. Outward Datestamps

The first special Foreign Office datestamp on outward letters was issued not until 1797.

'FOREIGN OFFICE`- year in two figures; 1797 to 1799; ∅ = 29 mm



1799, 11th. November, London to Nuremberg

Route: London - Yarmouth - Cuxhaven - Hamburg via Hannover - Nuremberg

Charges: London - Hamburg (Guide to London - 1777) = 1/- d.
forwarded by T. & Th. Post via Hannover - letter up to 1 Loth → two times the postage (Tariff of 1st. July 1750)
to pay on arrival - 2 x 8 Kreuzer = 16 Kreuzer

'LONDON / date / F.B.O.`; 1838 only; ∅ = 30 mm



1838, 7th. March, London via France (A.T.F. = Angleterre Transit France) to Roveredo

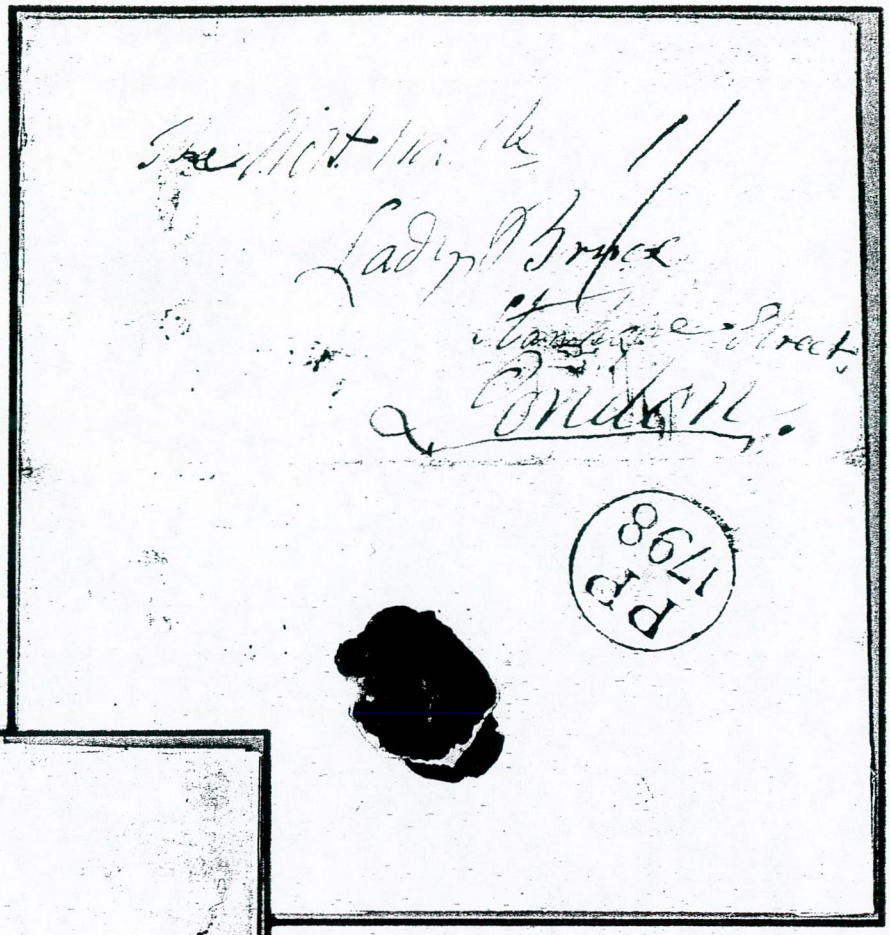
Route: London - Dover - Calais - Paris - Lyon - Turin - Milan - Roveredo (15th. March)

Charges: prepaid - 1/7 d. - to Turin (Tariff 1837 - POD London; - covers 8 Décimes Transit France)
to pay on arrival - 10 Soldi
(The Postal contract from 1836 between England and France said in article XIII: The transit postage through France shall continue as fixed by article IX of the Convention of the 17th May 1802.)

1.3. Transfer Marks

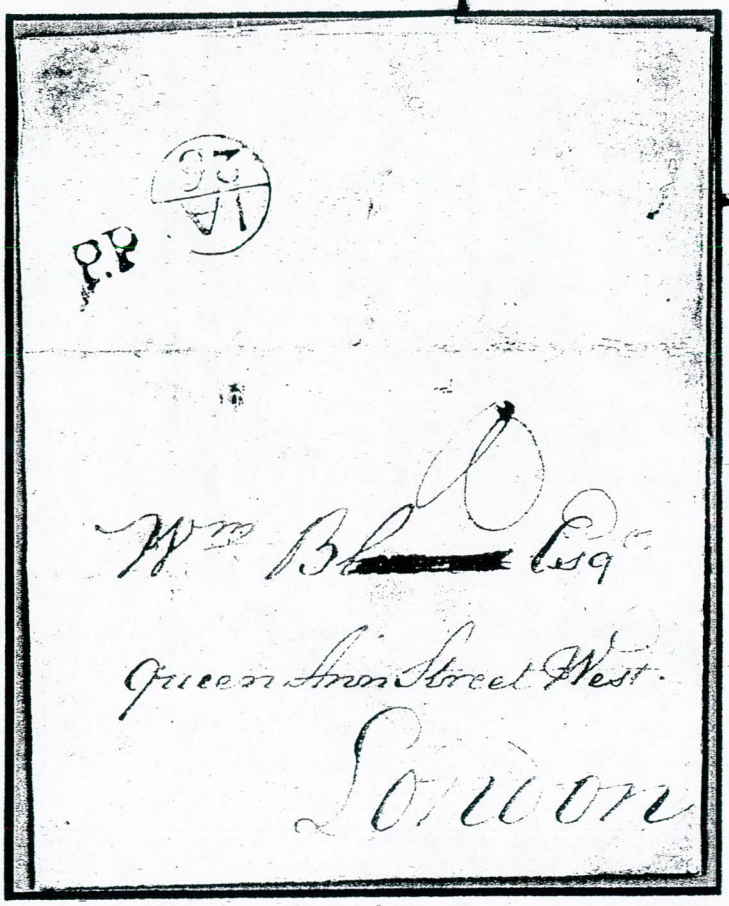
Letters from abroad, addressed to London and transferred from the Foreign Office to the London Penny or Twopenny Post for delivery by a Penny or Twopenny Post Letter Carrier received this handstamp between 1795 up to 1812.

'PP / 1795 - 1801';
Ø = 23,5 - 24,5 mm



1798, 20th. January, Cuxhaven to London, double rim Foreign Office arrival mark for 5 th. February

Charges: 1/- d. - single letter
(1765 - *5 Geo 3 c 25*)



The **'P P'** -mark was only used for a short period in 1795 prior to the introduction of the **'PP / 1795'** - mark, showing the transfer to London Penny Post.

'P.P'
January to May 1995;
Ø = 10 x 8 mm

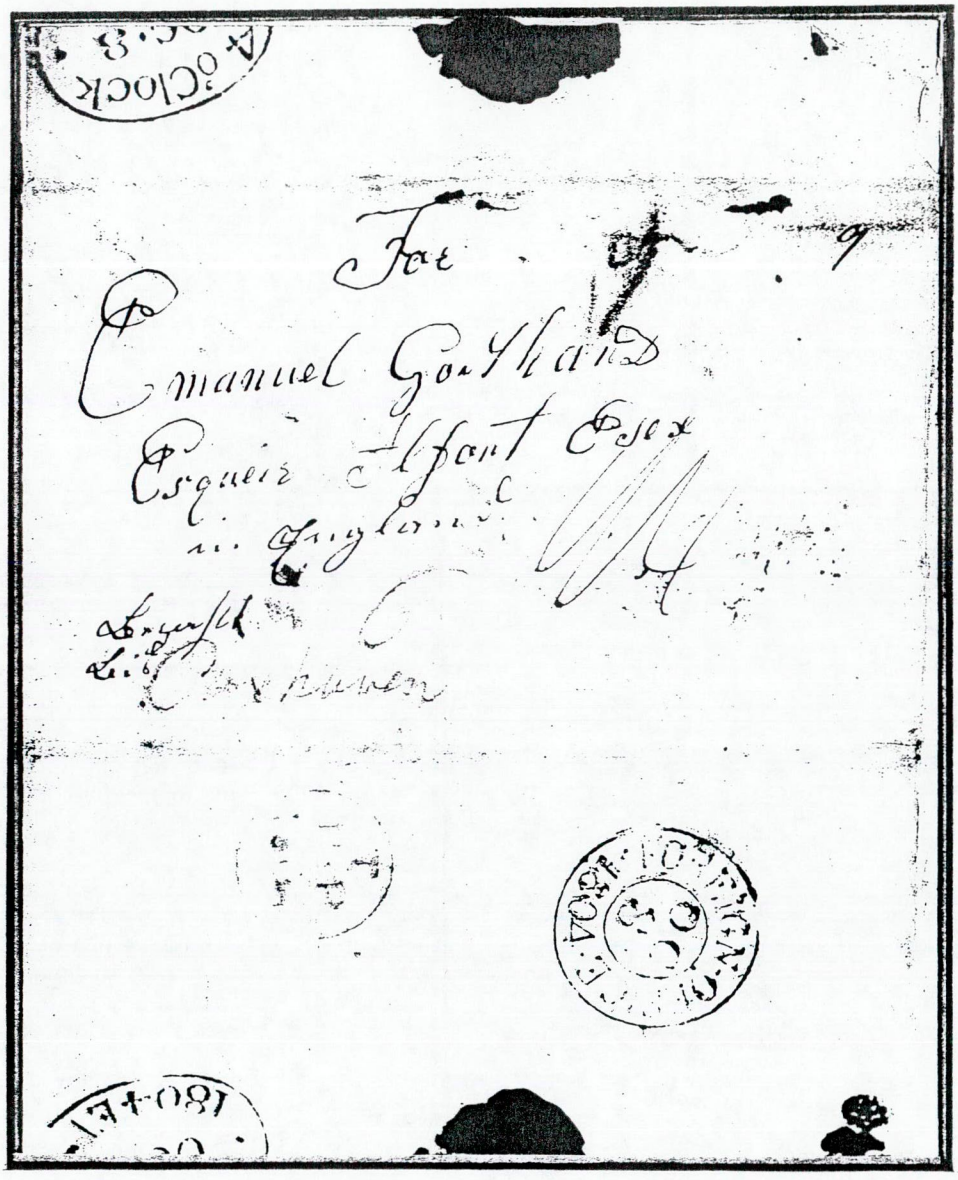
1795, 20th. January, Amsterdam to London, arrival → Bishop Mark for 26th. January

Charges: single letter from Amsterdam - 10 d.
(1711 - *9 Anne c 10*)

1.3. Transfer Marks

'T. / P. P. / 1804'; in red 1804 to 1806; ∅ = 24 mm

(always a weak strike in red; only few examples recorded)



1804, 23rd. September, Lengenfeld / Saxony to Ilford / Essex,
Foreign Office arrival mark for 8th. October; delivery by T.P.P. Chief Office at 4 o´Clock EV.

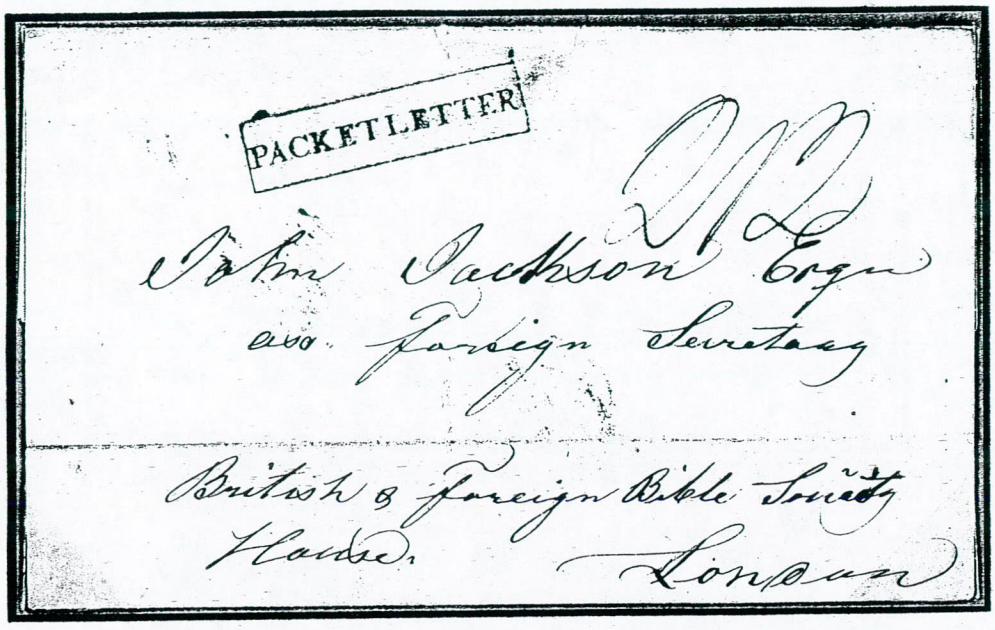
Route: Lengenfeld - Hamburg via Cuxhaven - London - by Twopenny Post to Ilford

Charges: prepaid to Cuxhaven - 6 Gute Groschen;
to pay on arrival - 1/4 d. (5th. April 1801 to 5th. April 1805 the single sheet - POD London)

2. Packet Letters

The term 'Packet' derived from the French word *'pacquet'* and was used with reference to the transport of letters on board of contracted ships. The British Post had vessels under contract since the convention period (1633) for Continental mails based on Dover and Harwich, and at the end of the 17th. century, they ran also a small number of Packet-Ships to other destinations. These were expensive to maintain, but they guaranted a quick delivery of letters. A corresponding increased charge was due therefore. Not before the beginning of the 19th. century handstamps were struck to identify these letters.

boxed 'PACKET LETTER'; 1818 to 1847; ∅ = 43 x 10 mm



1835, St. Thomas / West Indies via Madeira - Lisbon and Southampton to London

Charges: following the Post Office Directory of 1828 → 2/2 d. a single letter to G. B.

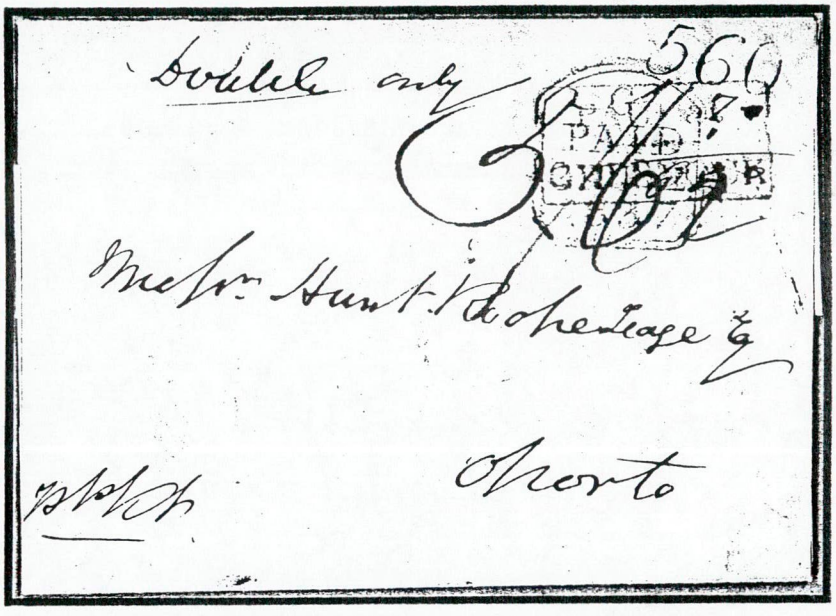
boxed *'PACKET LETTER'*; 1836 to 1843; ∅ = 48 x 10 mm



1839, 20th. August, Guayaquil via St. Thomas (forwarding agents endorsement) - Southampton - London and Calais to Marseille

Charges: charged in first instance 2/2 d. - deleted; handed over from Inland to Foreign Office and sent out for 2/3 d. (1827 - *7 / 8 Geo IV c 6*); to pay on arrival: 2/3 d. = 27 Décimes + 5 Décimes to French border + Calais to Marseille - 11 Décimes → in all 43 Décimes

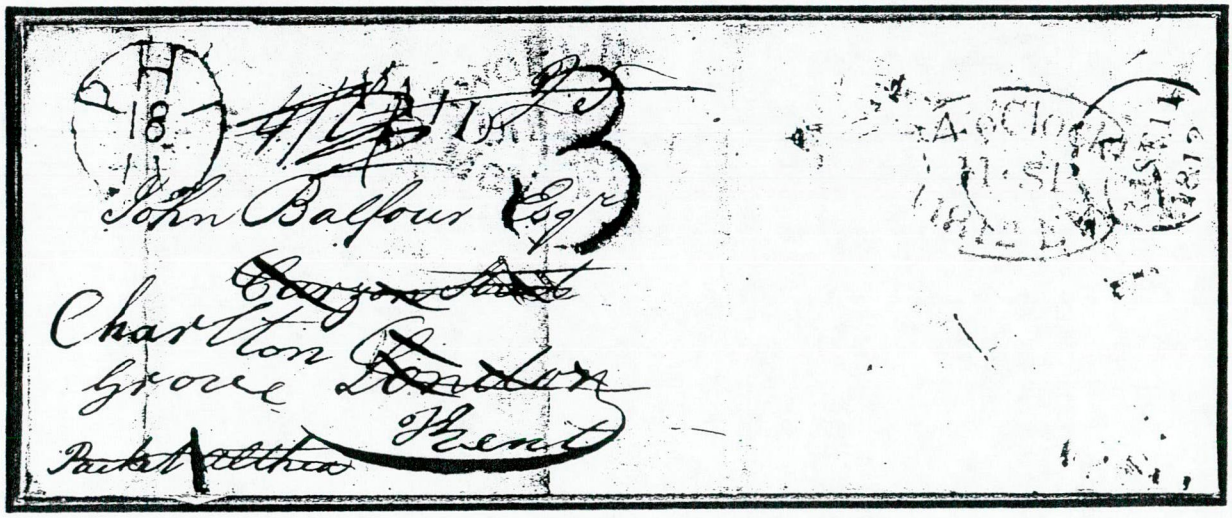
2. Packet Letters



1837, 30th. November, GREENOCK via Glasgow, Carlisle, Bristol (Cross Post) and London per Falmouth Packet to Oporto, LISBOA arrival on 10th. December 1837
(*as sent via London, the letter should have been charged 2 d. extra*)

Charges:

single letter - 598 miles	= 1/3 d. (Tariff of 1812)
less discount	= 1 d.
	= 1/2 d.
Falmouth - Portugal	
Packet rate	= 1/7 d. (1837 - *1 Vic. c 34*)
	= 2/9 d.
double letter x 2	= 5/6 d.
plus road tax	= - /1/2 d.
prepaid in Greenock	= 5/6 1/2 d.
to pay on arrival	= 560 Reis



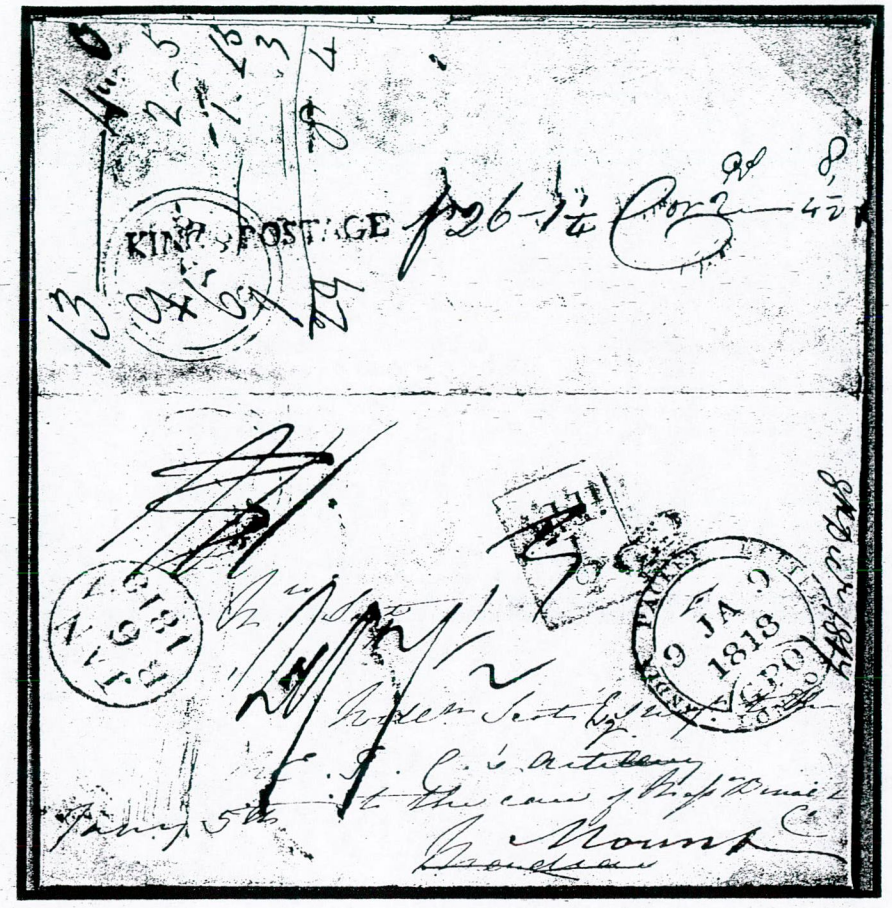
1812, 18th. July, Philadelphia via New York and Falmouth, per Packet-Ship *'Altea'* to London

Charges: prepaid U.S.A. Inland - 25 Cents (double sheet 90 - 150 miles, Tariff of March 1799); to pay on arrival - 4/4 d. = double Packet-letter - 2 x 1/3 d. (GPON - July 1812) = 2/6 d. + Falmouth - London = 24 d. (Tariff of 1812), abated 2 d. (1812 - *52 Geo III c 88*) = 1/10 d. → in all 4/4 d.;
further 3 d. charged for 'Twopenny Post / May Fair', outer district, re-directed to Charlton Grove / Kent

3. India Packet Letters

Since the 17th. century the *East India Company* had their own charges between 2/6 d. and 10/- d. per letter for private delivery by the Company's servants in the London area. This service was quite independent from any Post Office service. The extending influence of the Post Office, in its endeavours to gain revenue, began more and more to affect these long established practices and privileges of the powerful East India Company and it finally led to the Acts of 1814 (54. Geo. III. Cap.169) and 1815 (55. Geo. III. Cap. 153). It became necessary to differentiate between ordinary ship and packet letters, and those arriving from the *East Indies*, *India*, *Mauritius* and the *Cape*. Between 1815 and 1819 these letters were handled by the Post Office in London, and the first 'India' identification handstamps were issued in London only.

'crown / INDIA PACKET LETTER / date / GPO / LONDON'; 1816 to 1819; ∅ = 30 mm



1816, 6th. January, Edinburgh (Receiving House KING POSTAGE) via London (9th. January) to Mount / India

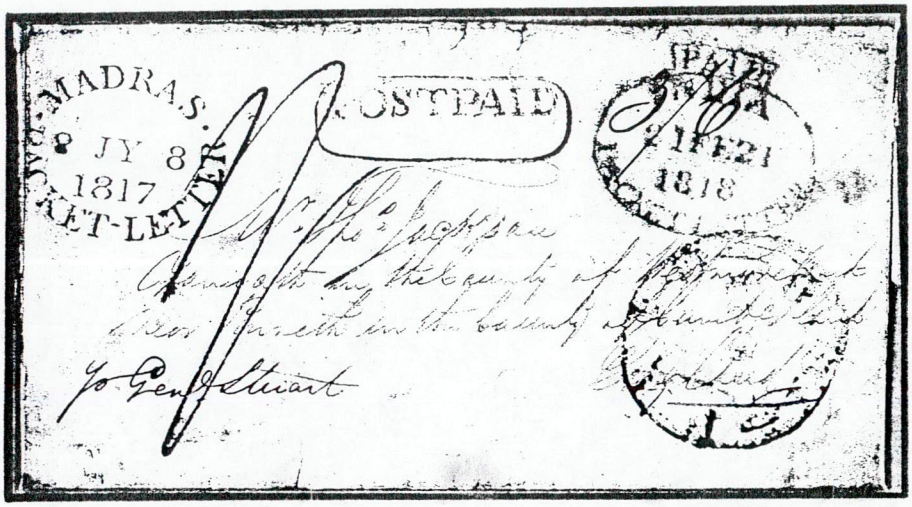
Route: Edinburgh - London - Madeira - Cape of Good Hope - Mauritius - Colombo - Calcutta

Charges:	Edinburgh - London	=	13 d. (Tariff of 1812)
	long distance reduction	-	2 d.
	additional 1/2 d. (frontier Scotland)	+	1/2 d.
	London - Mount	+	20 d.
	to pay on arrival	=	31 1/2 d. → 2/7 1/2 d.

3. India Packet Letters

The objections of the East India Company against the new regulations were removed by these concessions: (a) Bringing into use H. M. Ships of War and other vessels as Packets; (b) Paying the Company a reasonable sum for letters carried in the capacity of Packets; (c) Repealing the 'search and penalty' clauses, and restrictions on 'breaking bulk'. The definite packet rates to and from the United Kingdom became 3/6 d., one ounce 14/- d., and so in proportion for other letters.

'PAID / INDIA / date / PACKET LETTER'; 1816 to 1819; ∅ = 34 x 30 mm

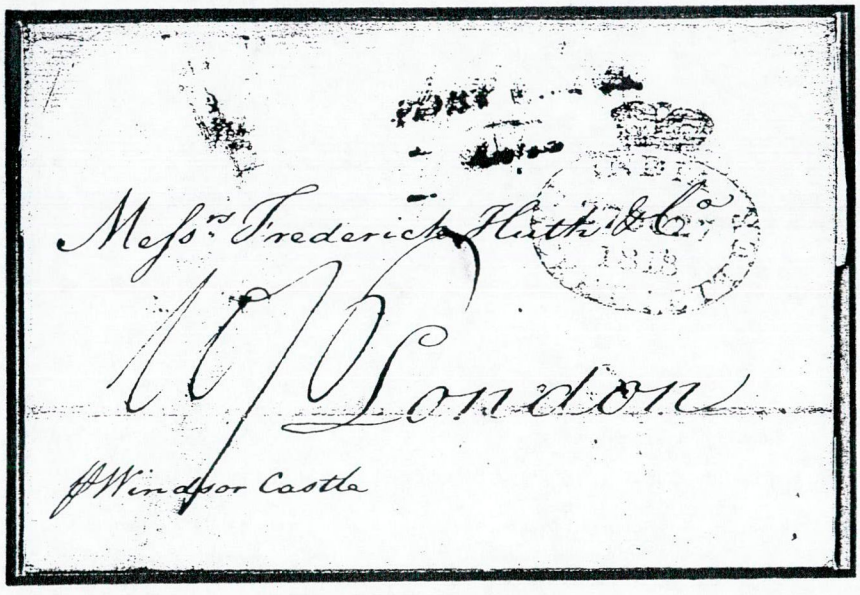


1817, 8th. July, Madras (Packet Letter) *'p. General Stuart'* via London (21st. Feb. 1818) to Penrith

Route: Ceylon - Mauritius - Cape of Good Hope - Madeira - Lisbon - London - Penrith

Charges:		
	prepaid	- 4/6 d.
	Packet letter rate from India	= 3/6 d. (1815 - *55 Geo III c 153*)
	London - Penrith	= 1/ - d. (Tariff of 1812 - up to 170 miles)

'crown / INDIA / date / PACKET LETTER'; 1817 to 1818; ∅ = 34 x 35 mm



1818, 17th. July, PORT LOUIS / Mauritius *'p. Windsor Castle'* via Réunion, Madagascar and the Cape to London, arrived 27th. October

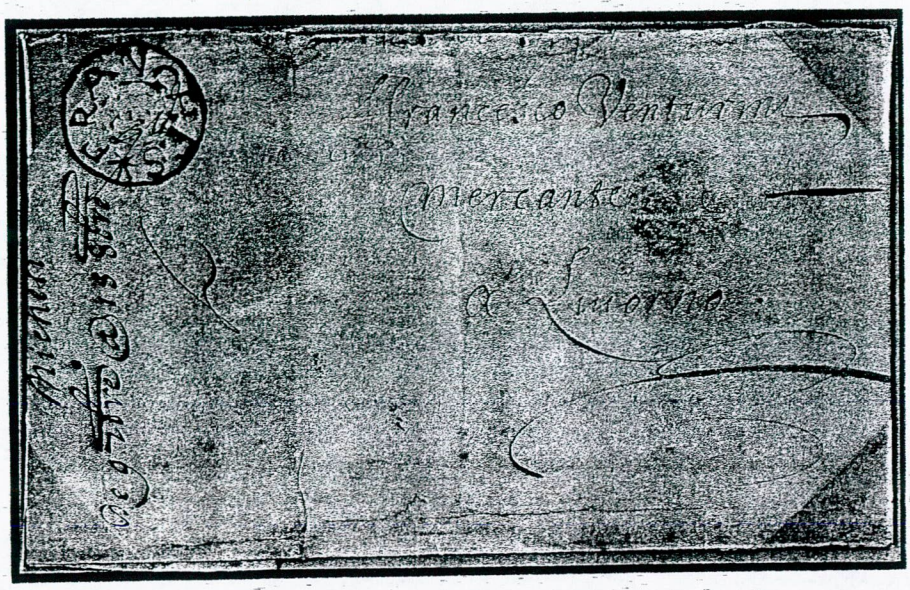
Charges: Post Office Acts of 11th. July 1815 (*55 Geo III c 153*): From the port of London or any other port in Great Britain to the Cape of Good Hope and the Mauritius - 3/6 d.; → treble letter = 10/6 d.

4. Instructional Marks

Letters from the last part of the 17th. and the first part of the 18th. century going to the Continent of Europe have the manuscript charge obliterated with the 'FRANCHES'-mark to show the whole of the postage had been paid and to hide the charge from continental Postmasters.

'FRANCHES' with Tudorrose; 1675 to 1695; ∅ = 24 - 25 mm

(five years earlier than previously recorded)



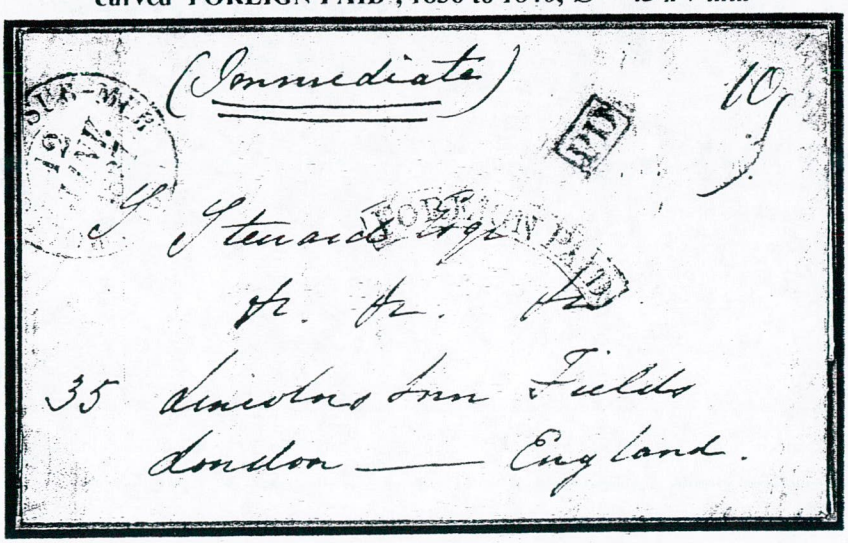
1670, 9th. September, London to Livorno

Route: Antwerp - Roermond - Cologne - Frankfort - Augsburg - Venice - Mantua

Charges: prepaid to Mantua → 9 d. for the single letter (1660 - *12 Charles II c 35*)
to pay on arrival → 7 Soldi for the journey from Mantua to Leghorn

While this curved handstamp showed, the 'PD'-mark as well, that the total Postage to destination had been paid,

curved 'FOREIGN PAID'; 1836 to 1840; ∅ = 43 x 7 mm

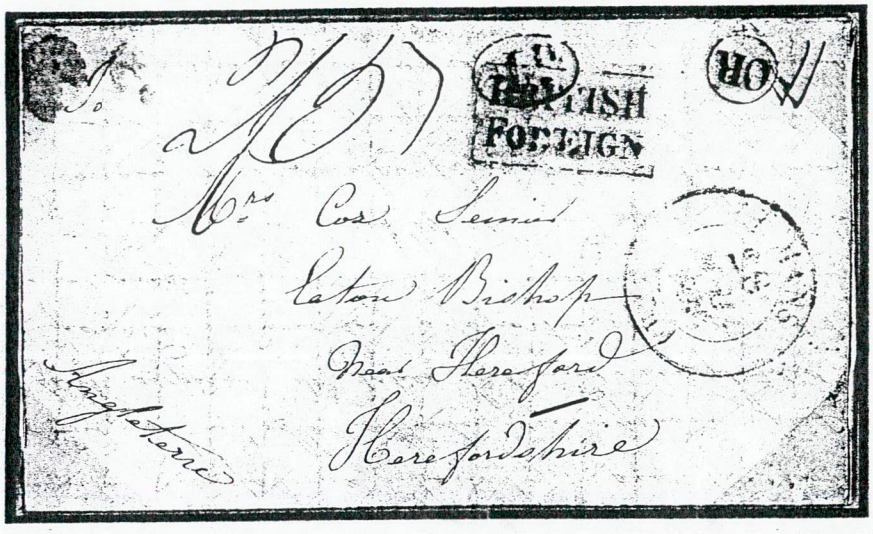


1837, 12th. January, BOULOGNE-SUR-MER to London, arrived 13th. January

Charges: prepaid in Boulogne-Sur Mer - 15 Décimes = Boulogne - Calais 5 Décimes + Calais - London 10 Décimes
- France to pay to the British Post 10 Décimes = 10 d. (arrangement between France and England of 1836)

expressed the boxed handstamp 'British Foreign`, that the whole charge could not be claimed by the British Post Office.

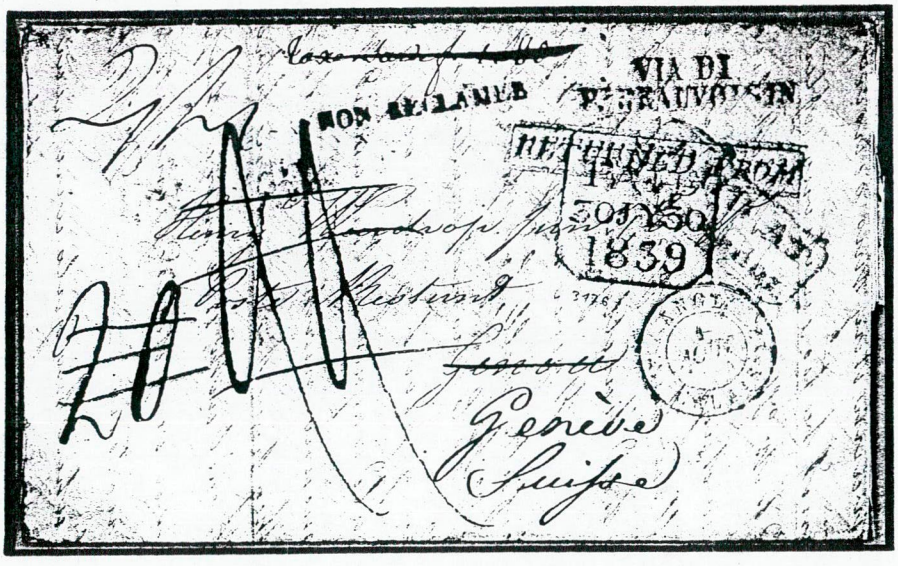
boxed 'BRITISH / FOREIGN`; 1836 to 1839; ∅ = 28 x 15 mm



1836, 28th. July, Le Mans via Calais to London, arrived 1st. August; to pay on arrival - 2/5 d.

Charges:	posted in a small village near Le Mans - 'OR` = Poste Rurale	= 1 Décime	French border to London	+ 10 d.
	France charged Le Mans - Calais	= 10 Décimes	London - Hereford	+ 10 d.
	(Postal Convention of 15th. July 1836)	= 11 Décimes = 11 d.	long distance reduction	- 2 d. = 29 d.

'RETURNED FROM`; 1841 to 1842; ∅ = 45 x 7 mm



1839, 30th. July, London to Genova, re-directed to Geneva and then sent back to London; prepaid in Liverpool - 2/4 d.

Route: London - Dover - Calais - Paris - Lyon - Pont di / Beauvoisin (1839) - Chambery - Genova

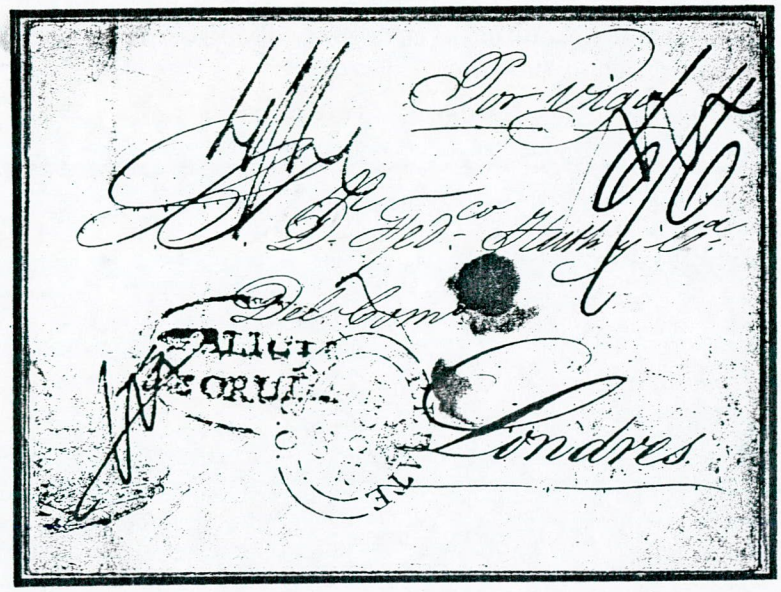
Charges:	Liverpool - London (up to 230 miles - Tariff of 1812)	= 11 d.
	long distance reduction	- 2 d.
	London via France to Italy (1837 - *1 Vic c 34*)	+ 19 d. = 28 d.

To pay on arrival: Transit France 'Calais - Turin` - 1 F. 88 = 20 Soldi + Poste Restante - 2 Soldi = 22 Soldi
The Post Office in Genova changed the address → the letter wasn't collected by the receiver and sent it out to Geneva - m.s. erased 22 Soldi. At the Swiss frontier the charge was changed to 20 Kreuzer = Paris - Ferney - 7 Décimes = 18 Kreuzer + Ferney - Geneva = 2 Kreuzer. This was possible for letters prepaid in England for Paris. The addressee was unknown in Geneva - 'NON RECLAME` - the letter went back to London.

4. Instructional Marks

´REBATE / crown / date / F. B. O.`; 12th. October to 8th. November 1839; ∅ = 24 x 30 mm

(*first day of recorded use*)

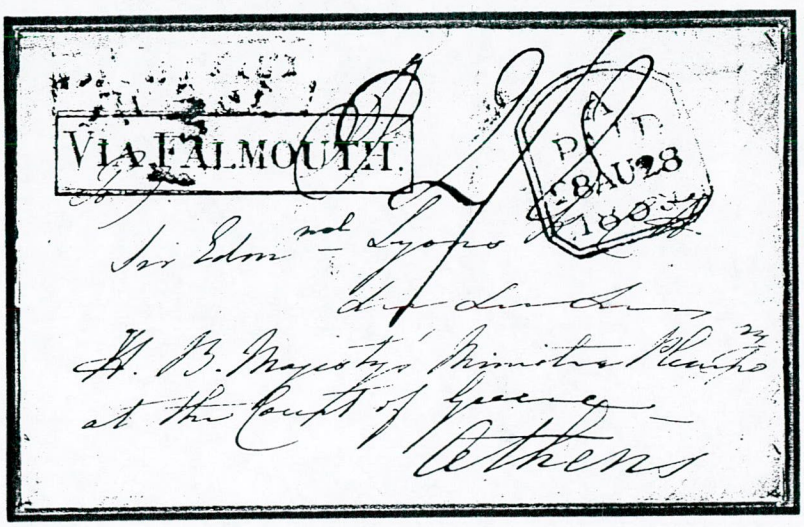


1839, 29th. September, sent overland from GALICIA / (LA) CORUNA to Vigo,
then by British Packet Boat directly to London → arrival - 12th. October

Charges: charged in first instance treble letter rate - the letter being taken back to the Post Office and re-charged - the initial charge of 6/6 d. deleted - confirmed by examiner´s crown - double letter only - 4/4 d. (July 1812 - P. O. N. under *52 Geo 3 c 88*)

This handstamp was issued to the Foreign Branch for mail to Southern Europe or the Mediterranean, which was to travel by FALMOUTH PACKET and not overland via France.

´VIA FALMOUTH`; 1838 to 1840; ∅ = 55 x 12 mm



1839, 28th. August, Honiton via London and Falmouth to Athens

Route: Honiton - London - Falmouth - by Packet-Ship to Athens

Charges: prepaid 2/8 d. - Honiton to London (up to 50 miles) = 7 d. (Tariff of 1812)
the letter went through London → discount of 2 d.; Packet letter rate to Greece - 2/3 d. (1837 - *1 Vic c 34*)

4. Instructional Marks

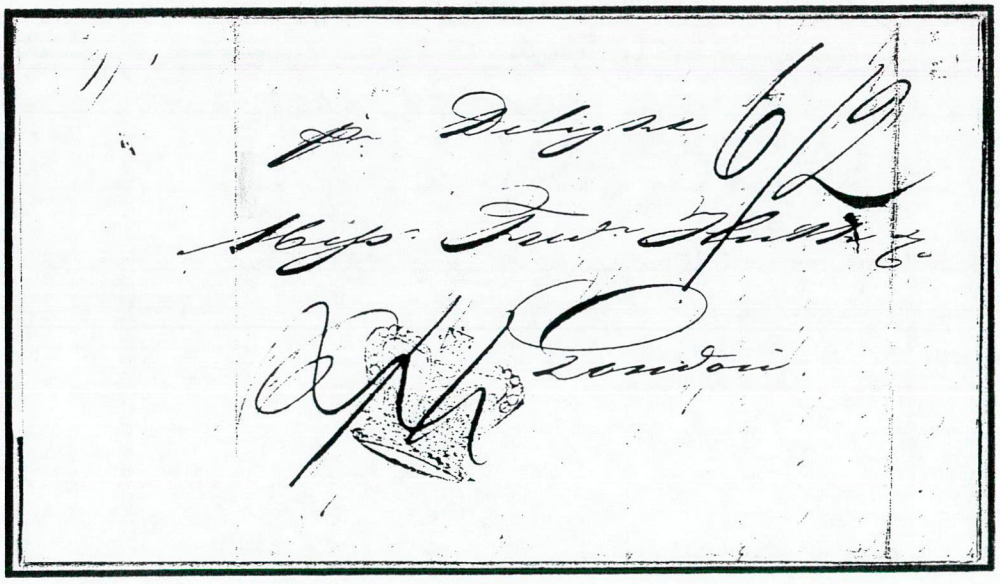
The main purpose of the 'crown' handstamps was unquestionably that of a cancelling device, whereby an incorrectly written manuscript postal charge was officially nullified, and amended to the correct amount. This was the form which was mostly used on maritime mail. There were variations in of the type and size of crown. The ink used prior to the 19th. century was usually black; after 1800 the crowns were mostly struck in red ink.

Examiner's 'Crown'; recorded for 1815 to 1840 only; ∅ = 22 x 22 mm



1797, 20th. May, LISBON via Falmouth to London, arrival Foreign Office date handstamp for 5th. June (*1st. year in use*)

Charges: Packet letter charge → 1/- d. (1711 - *9 Anne c 10*)
+ Falmouth - London = 8 d. (Tariff of 1796 - over 150 miles) → to pay on arrival = 1/8 d.
(the original charge of 2/4 d. deleted, confirmed by Examiner's Crown)



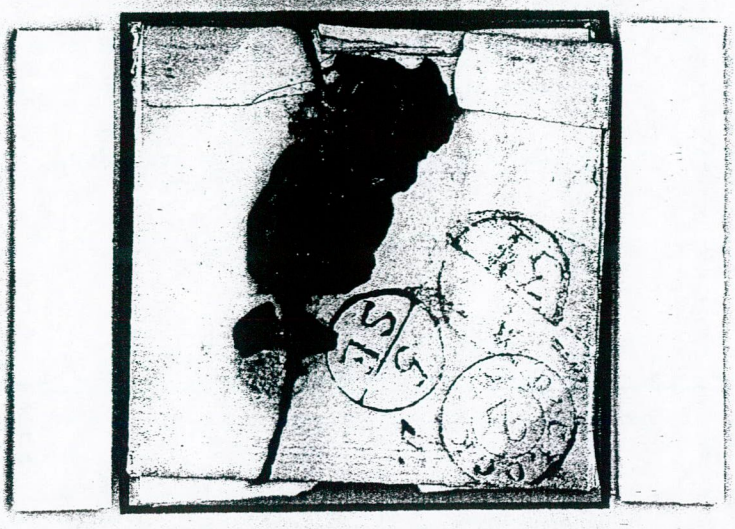
1838, 30th. April, Tampico / Mexico per *'Delight Packet'* via Falmouth to London (3rd. June)
(the original charge of 6/1 d. deleted, confirmed by Examiner's crown)

Charges:		
	double letter to Falmouth	= 4/2 d. (1837 - *1 Vic c 34*)
	Falmouth - London	= 2/2 d. (Tariff 1812 - over 300 miles)
	abated 2 d.	= 2/- d.
	to pay on arrival	= 6/2 d.

4.1. Registered Letters

The Foreign Branch introduced registration handstamps about 1816, but others state that system had run since at least 1783. From 1836 to 1839 the fee of 2/6 d. was due on registered inward letters. There is none registration known for inland letters until 1841.

Early method of safeguarding the contents of a letter. The red thread sealed then used is represented today by the blue lines on a Registered Letter.



1774, 29th. August, CASHEL via Dublin (AU / 31) to London (5 / SE);
delivery to addressee at 2 o'Clock by the Westminster Office;
charged 9 d. to London + 1 d. local charge - 10 d. (Tariff of 1765)

'REGISTERED / crown`; 1833 to 1840; ∅ = 29 x 22 mm



1837, 30th. April, WEIMAR to Barchfeld, re-addressed to Windsor Castle, London arrival 9th. May
(The letter was written by a Russian Duchess to a member of the Royal Household.)

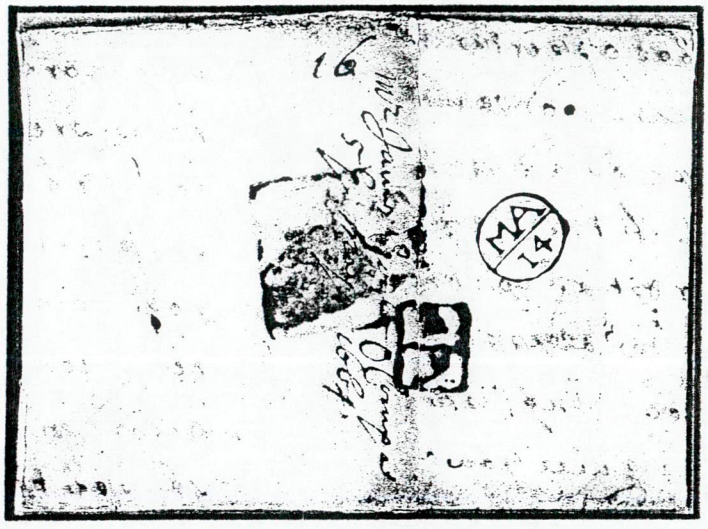
Route: Weimar (black chargé) - Barchfeld - Frankfort (blue chargé) - per T. & Th. Post
Transit 'ALLEMAGNE / PAR / FORBACH' (1832) - London - Windsor

Charges: single letter from Germany (Tariff of 1837 - POD London) - 1/8 d.
+ registration fee = 2/6 d. → in all 4/2 d.

4.2. Charge Marks

Rate handstamps used in the early period of the Foreign Office for charging at the rates according to the 1660 Act - 12 Charles II., cap. 35 → rate for a single letter from Italy - 9 d.

Charge Stamp `D / 9`; 1663 to 1667; ∅ = 10 x 14 mm

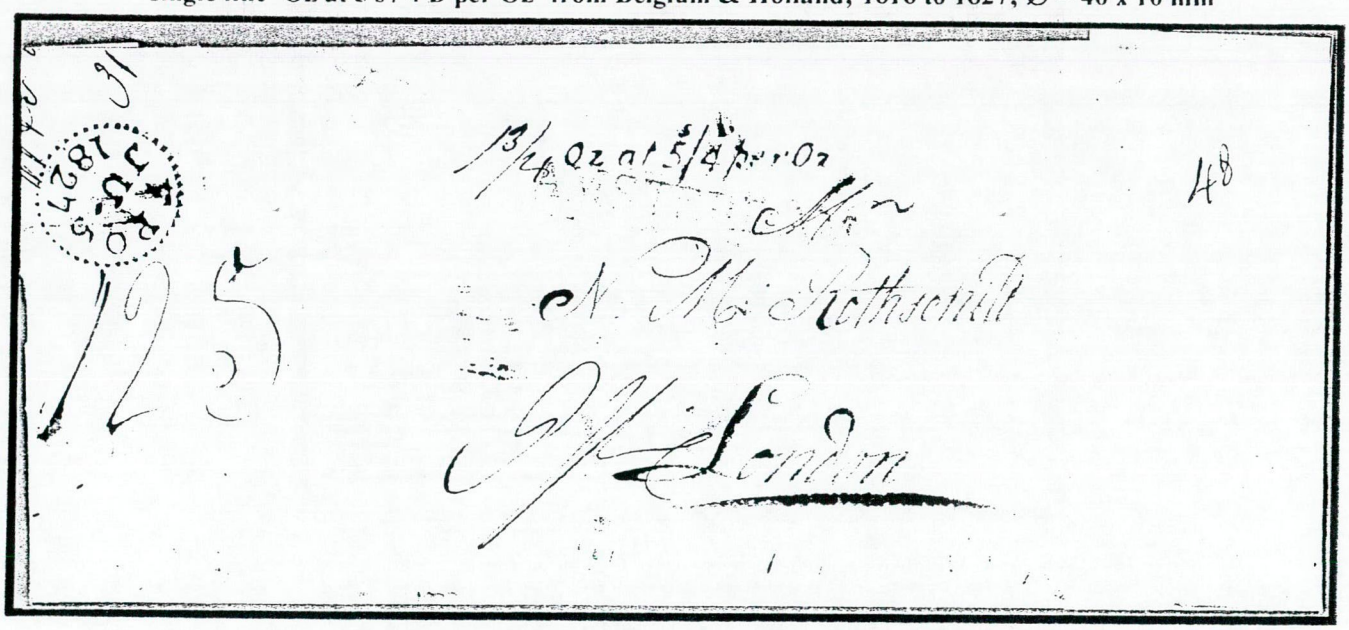


1664, 5th. May (= Gregorian, 15th. May Julian calendar), Leghorn (Livorno) to London, arrived 14th. May

Route: The short transit time of only 9 days leads to the suggestion, that the letter took the route by sea from Leghorn to Marseilles and then by land via Paris to Calais, packet to Dover, and thence to London.

Further charge marks occured in 1815. Single line stamps appeared on letters weighing one ounce or more showing in detail rates at which they were conveyed. At first they were unframed, from the late 1820s a rectangular frame of dots was used.

single line `Oz at 5 s / 4 D per Oz` from Belgium & Holland; 1816 to 1827; ∅ = 40 x 10 mm



1827, 31st. May, Amsterdam to London, arrived 5th. June

Charges: prepaid in Amsterdam, letterweight 48 Gr. = 125 Cents → including the journeys - Amsterdam - Brielle - 20 C. x 3 1/2 = 70 Cents + Ship letter charge - 15 C. x 3 1/4 = 52 1/2 Cents;
to pay on arrival, letterweight 1 3/4 Ounce → 7 x 16 d. = 9/4 d. (Tariff of 1817 - GPON London)

4.2. Charge Marks

single line ´Oz at 14 s /- per Oz` for letters from South America; 1817 to 1828; ∅ = 41 x 10 mm

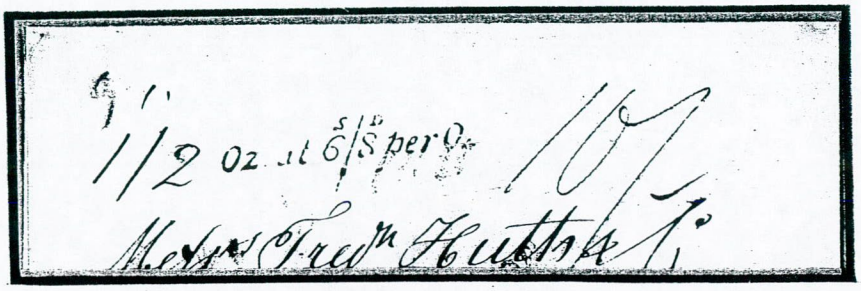


1828, 16th. November, Montevideo per *´Nocton Packet´* via Boston and Halifax to London, arrived 29th. January 1829

Charges: Letterweight 1 1/4 Ounce - 5 x 3/6 d. = 210 d. = 17/6 d. (Tariff of 1828 - POD London)

single line ´Oz at 6 s / 8 D per Oz`; 1818 to 1828; ∅ = 40 x 10 mm

(for letters from Germany, Scandinavia, Austria and Russia via Channel ports)



1820, 12th. December, Hamburg to London, arrived 20th. December

Charges: prepaid 3 Sh. Hamburg Courant Mark
to pay on arrival - letterweight 1 1/2 Ounce - 6 x 20 d. = 10/- d. (Tariff 1813 - POD London)

dotted framed ´Oz at 6 s / 8 D per Oz`; 1829 to 1831; ∅ = 44 x 13 mm



1831, 14th. June, Cologne via *Duitsch - Grensk:/ te Arnhem* (1816) to London, arrived 20th. June

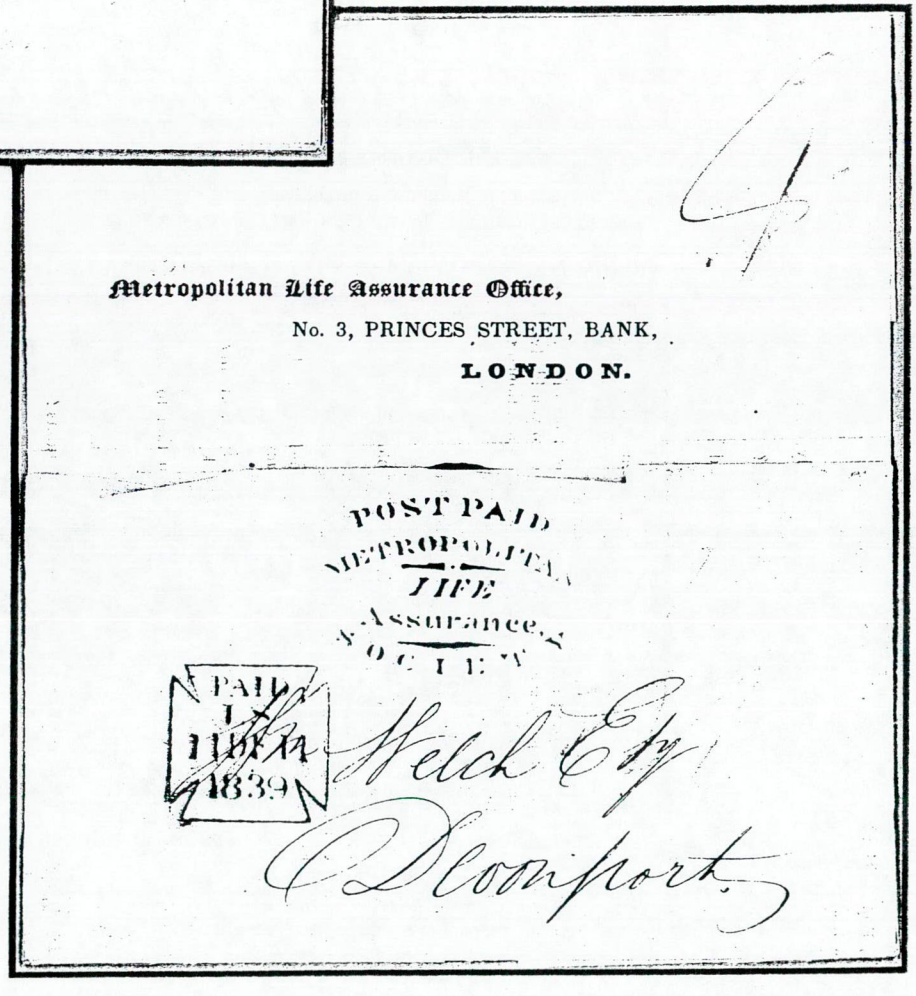
Charges:		
	letterweight 3 Loth - 3 1/2 x 3 S.gr.	= 10 1/2 S.gr.
	Transit Holland x 3 1/2 = 70 Cents	= 12 S.gr.
	prepaid in Cologne, letterweight - 55 1/2 grams	= 22 1/2 S.gr.
	to pay on arrival, letterweight - 1 1/4 Ounce	- 5 x 20 d. → 8/4 d.

1.1. Uniform Fourpenny Postage

The high charges, which are shown in the chapter before, led to a gradual revolt e-specially by merchants, solicitors, and traders. They had the largest proportion of letters. Not at least this protest started the reforms of 1839, beginning with ***Uniform Fourpenny Postage***.
Letters, not exceeding half ounce, were charged 4 d. irrespective of greater distances, 8 d. the ounce and each additional ounce, while the G. P. retained 2 d. rate below eight miles. The new regulations began on 5th. December 1839 and ended on 9th. January 1840.



1st. day Uniform Fourpenny Postage
1839, 5th. December, London to Edinburgh



Turned & re-used letter, paid one way & unpaid the other.

1839, 11th. December, Devonport to London, turned and re-posted unpaid on 16th. December

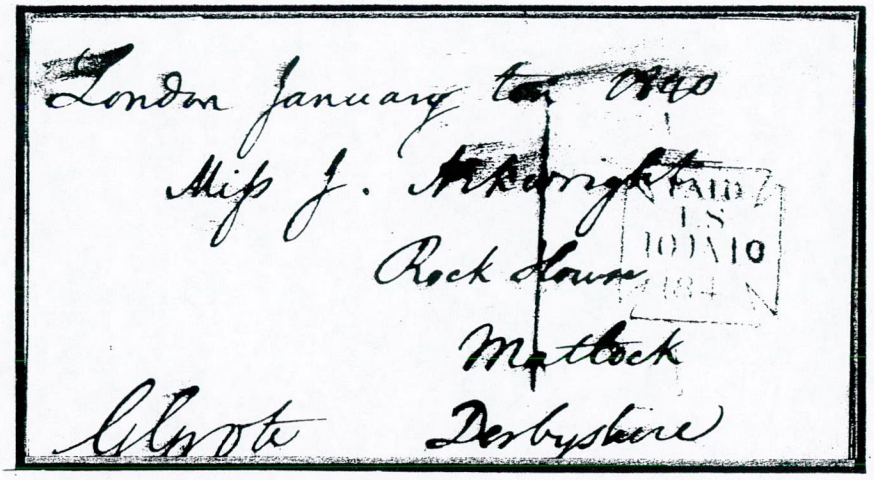
1.2. Uniform Penny Postage

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



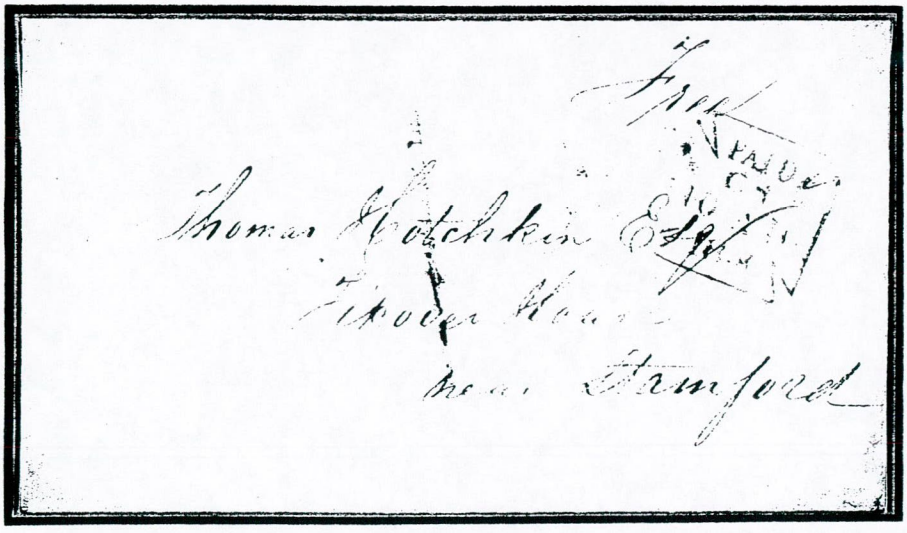
1839, 30th. December, 'Chief Office / 1 D. Paid' to Temple

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



1st. Day Uniform Penny Postage

1840, 10th. January, 'Paid / Lombard Street' to Matlock
(last page from a Lady's album on FREE-handstamps)



1st. Day Uniform Penny Postage

1840, 10th. January, 'Paid / Charing Cross' to Stamford