

LONDON

Country Sorting Offices
Maps and Lists.....

POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

NOTEBOOK

April 1972
No.6

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EDITORIAL.....

The Postal History Society has attempted to define Postal History thus:

" Postal History is the study of Letter Sheets, covers, cards and related items in reference to written communications transmitted by recognised means. "

The report in " Stamp Collecting " of March 2nd., continues by further clarification...' " Related items " includes: Postal Markings, Postal rates, Decrees and Documents pertaining to postal service, Censorship of Mail, Military Mail, Field Post, Siege Mail and V-Mail, P.O.W. and Concentration Camp Mail, Disaster and Disinfected Mail, Ship letters, Postal Propaganda and collateral material. It is also understood that the subject matter of Postal History properly includes the development of routes, the administration of postal affairs, Postmasters and postal personnel, postal buildings and equipment and Postal statistics. '

Whilst many might agree this is a noble effort, one cannot but feel unhappy that the real meat is contained in the clarification. As a very junior part of Postal History may " Notebook " suggest...." Postal History is the study of the operation of postal services, both public and private, and the publication of the fruits of such study. " In one short sentence this covers the full range from the organisation and administration of the services to the collection of postmarks.

The debate will, no doubt, continue.....

THE LONDON EXCHANGE.....

A suitable title, which might be disputed by already established organisations, for a page in Notebook on which will appear members wants and items for disposal. The only cost will be that of writing in with the details. As " Notebook " goes into a number of reference libraries you might well make the necessary contact to enhance your collection.

WANTED --- to buy, beg, borrow or exchange!!!

Any Local Penny/ Twopenny/ Threepenny Post Receiving House marks of:

Beckenham; Bexley; Bromley; Chislehurst; Crayford; Foots Cray; Hayes;
St. Mary Cray; South End; Sydenham; West Wickham.

PLEASE contact..Michael English, 50 Somerden Road, ORPINGTON, Kent. BR5 4HT

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FOR SALE (or exchange)

Various HOSTER cancellations on clean envelopes (with contents). Please send a note of wants to Michael English.

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WANTED....strictly *** examples of CANADA &c.ART 12 and FOREIGN COUNTRIES
ART-20...offers to Peter Forrestier Smith, 6 Church Manor,Bps.Stortford,
Herts.

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WANTED..INFORMATION.....

LONDON TWOPENNY POST RECEIVING HOUSE UNDATED NAMESTAMPS.

In active course of preparation is a preliminary listing of the above interesting range of markings. From the great quantity of material studied thus far, it appears that the following Brumell types are far from common.

fig 95	Two Penny/Post/Old Brentford
97	Two Penny/Pt. Paid/ W.O. Chelsea
99	Deptford Bge/3py P. Paid
102	Cornhill/3d Paid
106	Hanwell (with single line frame)

In particular, 97 and 102 are very thin on the ground and members are urged to contact the Co-ordinator if they have not done so already. It is a poor consolation to be able to mutter darkly about the unrecorded items in one's own collection!

EXPERIMENTAL MARKS OF THE RE-ORGANISED LONDON PENNY POST,
by C. J. Adams.

The re-organisation of the London Penny Post was authorised in March 1794 and heralded a new era for local postmarks. Prior to this date London had been divided into five postal areas:-

Chief Office (including St. Pauls, amalgamated around 1769); Westminster; Hermitage; Temple and Southwark.

Each area had a main Sorting Office and these were the only places issued with Official P.O. handstamps. As the place of " putting in " should be indicated on letters, Receivers either supplied their own name or initial handstamp or added their mark of identification in manuscript.

Although in the transitional period, and for some while later, this practice by the Letter Receivers continued, it was gradually dropped as Official handstamps were issued.

The re-organisation effectively reduced the five areas to two, these being:

1. Chief Office for the City of London, situated at Lombard Street and,
2. Western Office for the City of Westminster at Gerrard Street.

The period immediately following produced a series of what are termed " experimental " markings. These are extremely scarce and much sought after by students of the period.

The earliest yet seen, dated 14th. March, 1794, is illustrated below. It carries a "W" in the rim, indicating handling at the Westminster Office. This type is not recorded by the few published works covering the subject, but three others are known, two dated 29th. March, 1794 and the other the 31st. The example illustrated is interesting in that it is the earliest known mark of the London re-organised Penny Post and also the first known local postmark to carry the full date, including day, month and year.



31mm diam.

The central section showing the date is reversed when compared with later examples. It could well be that a similar handstamp was employed at the Chief Office, with "C" in place of the "W".

This mark is in dull purple or mauve ink, struck on the reverse of a letter addressed to a Mr. Holmes Jnr, Coachmaker, Long Acre.

No other marks of postal handling (or otherwise) appear on the outside of the letter. Whether prepaid or unpaid is not indicated. It was written from Grosvenor Square and requests the coachbuilder to send a man around at 9 o'clock the next morning.

It is not certain that the letter was handed in direct at the Westminster Office, but may have been put in at a Receiving House. In view of the fact that Long Acre is so near to Gerrard Street (within a few hundred yards) and could have, therefore, been delivered by hand without much trouble, a Receiving House at or near Grosvenor Square seems a more likely answer.

If any member has an example(s) of this mark, full details would be much appreciated.

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AUCTION.....

The recent Questionnaire showed an overwhelming request by members for an auction and arrangements are in hand to hold one, relating to Postal History material but not confined to London, at our meeting in August. Postal bidding will form an essential element.

Several members have indicated they will be able to contribute material and the following rules for contributor's guidance have been prepared.

1. Material must reach the Hon. Secretary by THURSDAY 15th. JUNE.
2. Vendors should provide a short description of the lot(s) and MUST state a reserve; in addition, a valuation may be given.
3. Single item lots would be preferred, but small groupings of several items are also welcome. The minimum reserve for each lot is 25p.
4. Commission of 10% will be charged on all realisations. There will be NO Lotting Fee.
5. Postage and Insurance/Registration charges are for the vendor's account, in addition to the Commission charged.
6. Unsold lots will be returned by Recorded Delivery unless specifically requested otherwise.
7. Every care will, of course, be taken with lots entered, but the Group its Officers and Committee cannot accept any responsibility for any loss sustained.

If members can suggest additions/alterations to these rules please contact the Hon. Secretary.

REPORT OF MEETING...29TH. JANUARY

The subject matter was the Undated Receiving House Name Stamps, the period of use being from the early 1790's to the late 1850's. Due to a sudden bout of flu suffered by John Adams, it was not possible to cover the Twopenny Post items as thoroughly as had been hoped, although a representative selection was presented.

The display commenced with some of the very elusive early marks of the General Post in 1794, amongst them being a delightful example of " Strand " which looked so similar to the last of the 2d. Post types (Brummel 108) that it caused considerable comment. The difference between the General and Local Post R.H. marks still cause the Editor some problems, as before the meeting he was quite convinced it was simply a matter of the double frame types being General Post and the single frame the Local. Alas, this simple state of affairs is not the case, as was fully illustrated. A more detailed analysis will be presented in the next edition of " Notebook ".

Penny and Twopenny Posts were illustrated, although due to the additional information contained in the handstamps, there was some doubt expressed as to whether they truly formed part of such a study. This has to be resolved.

It is hoped in the near future to make an exhaustive study of these most interesting, and in many cases elusive, marks. To facilitate study, a classification of types, along the lines already agreed between many PH students has been prepared by Michael Champness and will also be included in No.7, with a spare copy for members to use with their working papers.

REPORT OF MEETING...18TH. MARCH

It was a great pleasure to see so many members attending the AGM, this time the distance record going to a traveller from Bristol, by courtesy of the M4!

The Officer's Reports having been circulated before the meeting and there being no observations, apart from an enquiry as to whether the ' uneven tenor ' observed by the Chairman referred to a member's singing, they were approved. The Programme for the ensuing year was discussed in some detail, as was the possibility of securing a larger room for meetings in the future. It was agreed that the Secretary should locate and book such facility at an early date. The programme, which will be issued on a wallet size card, is given overleaf. It is stressed that the auction in August will be both Postal and " Present " bidding, thus allowing the maximum participation by members. The obvious need for material for inclusion in the sale was stressed.

The Officers elected for the ensuing year were:

Chairman: Peter A. Forrestier Smith
Hon. Secretary: Michael M. English
Hon. Treasurer: John A. Grimmer

PROGRAMME.....

1972. May 27th. Experimental Cancellations, both Machine and Hand, pre 1900.
This is to cover from the 1794 period, through the various early machines to the Squared Circles and the rather interesting double ring and hooded circles of the 1880's and 1890's.
- Aug 12th. Auction. The preliminary details for submitting lots is given on page 3. The general rules covering the conduct of the sale will be issued with the catalogues.
- Oct 14th. The Twopenny Post 1801-1839
This covers all the marks and services in the area up to the famous 12 mile limit (actually 12¹/₃rd, but an Official erred).
- Nov 25th. Explanatory, Charge and Other Marks.
This may be best defined as the material dealt with by section K of the Alcock and Holland 1940 'Postmarks', but relating only to those applied in London.
- 1973 Jan 20th. Inland Branch Upright Diamonds
Although Westley uses the term 'Ovals' for these, it seems much clearer to speak of 'Diamonds'.
Westley pp 36-42 refer.
This will be followed, time permitting, by an introduction to the subject of " Ship Letters ", which will have a full study session later in the year.
- Mar 10th. Second Annual General Meeting, followed by a study of " Official Paid ", including the interesting cachets which often accompany these.
- May 5th. General Post Towns Within the London Area and Their Cross Posts with a report on the low number suburban ovals.

The meetings on May 27th, August 12th and October 14th will take place at
The B.P.A. Board Room, Strand (Opposite Charing Cross Station), 2 for 2.30 p.m.

All meetings from and including November 25th will be at
Caxton Hall (nearest tube station St. James), again 2 for 2.30 p.m.

(AGM Report continued)

The question of advertising the Group in the National Philatelic Press was considered and it was agreed that the matter should be investigated by the Officers.

There being no other ' official ' business, the meeting passed on to the study subject for the session which was the Country Sorting Offices and the Suburban Upright Ovals, a curious combination arrived at by two slight changes in the programme during the first formative year and which, it is hoped, will be avoided by the published programme.

Mr. Barrie Jay led with a superb display of the maps of the Country Sorting Offices, together with material to match, the various items being linked by a thoughtful talk. The datestamps which were introduced, to give byeletters a date, in July 1809 (Brummel figs 93 and 94) started with a 34mm dia., this being reduced later. Not confined to Byeletters, the marks were also applied to the little known Cross Posts - this to be the subject for May 5th.1973. One interesting feature not previously appreciated by many present was the significance of the flat topped 3, as a charge mark, this indicating a bye letter. The Chairman, on returning home that evening, hastily scanned his few items of the period and was pleased to record two! For the benefit of readers in their studies a series of maps, with notes, has been prepared by Barrie Jay and are included on the following pages.

From these early 19th. century marks we went to the duplex suburban ovals, which although comparatively common still provide a number of elusive items (The Secretary would like to be assured that 13B - Chislehurst - and 15B - Foots Cray - actually exist!!).

John Parmenter gave a report on the work so far in connection with the horizontal oval single cancellations and circulated a provisional check list together with a preliminary report on the earliest and latest dates, plus a frequency of "sightings" note. As soon as a little more detail is to hand, a report will be published on the work to date. The point was made that merely because P.O. Records showed a mark as being issued does not mean it was ever put into service; quite a number appear to fall into this category. The question of confirming these as ' issued not not used ' was posed..... but not answered.

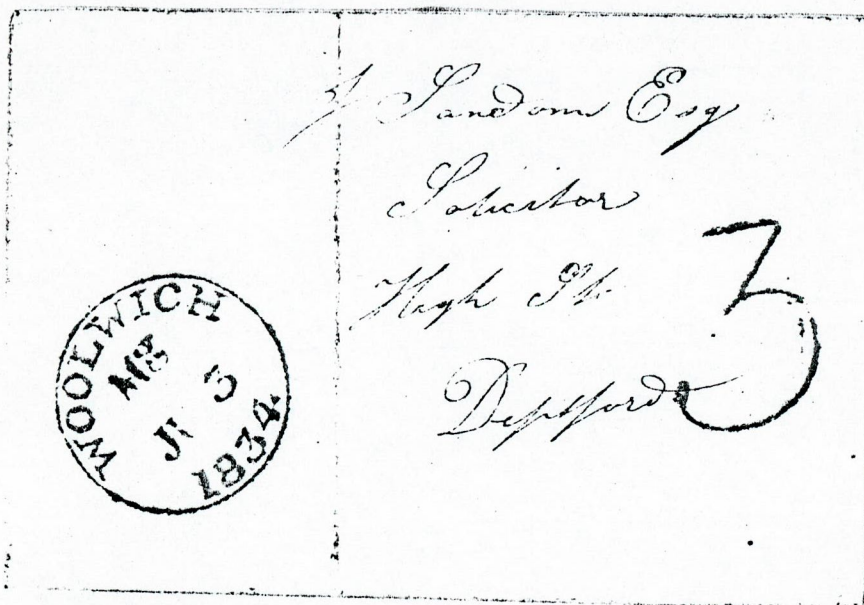
-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

COUNTRY SORTING OFFICES

A list of Country Sorting Offices, compiled by Barrie Jay, at which the circular date stamp (Brumell 93-94, Robson Lowe 123) has been recorded. Additions to this list would be welcomed by the Editor.

Acton	1817-1840
Barnet	1838-1846
Bow	1831-1844
Brentford	1812-1839
Bromley	1839-1844
Brompton	1813-1842
Camberwell	1819-1826
Chigwell	1828-1840
Clapham	1823-1840
Denham	1823
Deptford	1812-1837
Dulwich	1848
Edgware	1841
Edmonton	1812-1843
Finchley	1827
Greenwich	1812-1846
Hackney	1829
Hammersmith	1812-1845
Hampton	1814-1816
Highgate	1815-1837
Hounslow	1840-1848
Islington	1821-1827
Kensington	1811-1846
Kent Road	1811-1820
Mitcham	1830-1848
Mortlake	1816-1844
Paddington	1813-1846

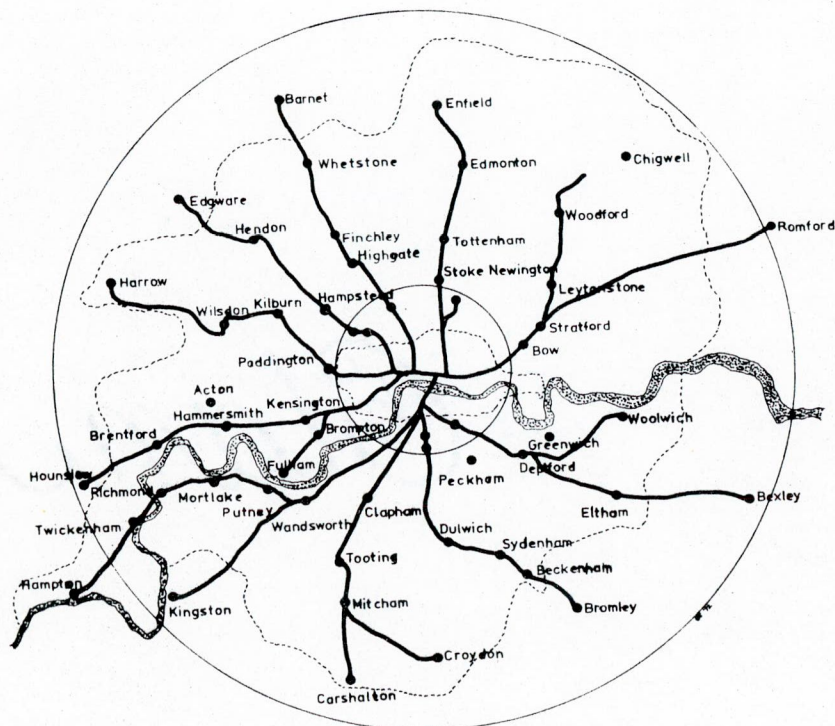
Peckham	1823-1825
Putney	1811-1837
Richmond	1812-1846
Romford	1837-1849
Sommerstown	1815-1819
Stoke Newington	1827-1841
Stratford	1814-1842
Sydenham	1814-1846
Tottenham	1824-1847
Walworth	1815-1828
Wandsworth	1816
Whetstone	1835
Woodford	1821
Woolwich	1814-1844



30mm.dia.WOOLWICH, together with a flat topped 3, a Bye Letter to Deptford

COUNTRY SORTING OFFICES

Country Sorting Offices were outside the Town area boundary, shown on the map by the inner broken line prior to April 1831, and by the inner continuous line from that date.



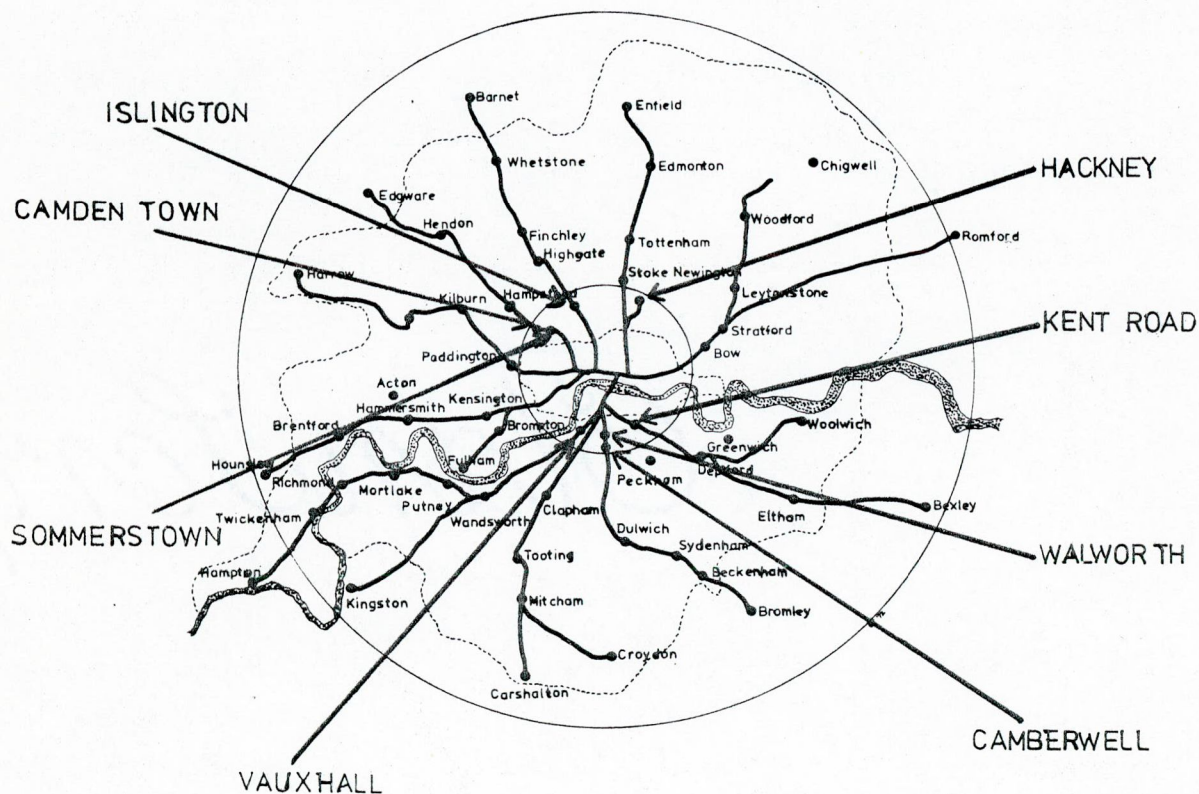
The outer limit of the Country area is indicated by the outer broken line prior to November 1833, and by the outer continuous line from that date.

Hampton and Romford, although outside the 12 mile line, were within the London Country area.

COUNTRY SORTING OFFICES

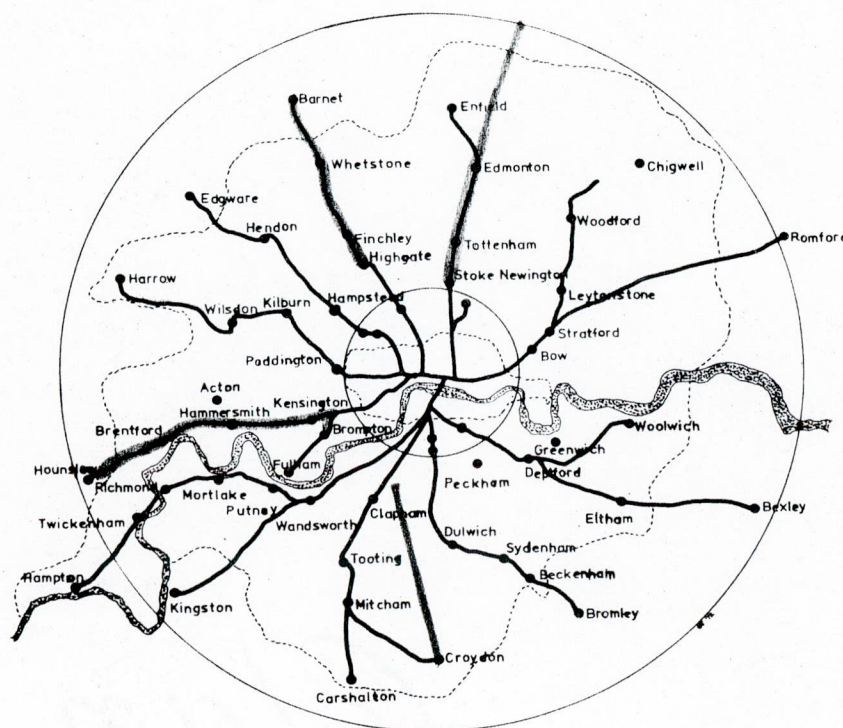
Certain of the Country Sorting Offices were transferred to the Town area when the Town boundary was extended to three miles from the General Post Office in April 1831.

Islington had been transferred from Country to Town in 1829.



LONDON CROSS POSTS

In December 1834 arrangements were made for stopping General Post letters brought by the mails passing through Hounslow intended for places short of London. These were delivered under a Penny Post arrangement, thus being delivered about three hours earlier than if they had to pass to the General Post Office and were only charged at the rate of postage they actually travelled.



In addition to the Hounslow-Brompton Cross Post, the following cross posts are recorded in the Ninth Report on the Management of the Post Office(1837).

Barnet to Highgate

established July 1835

Waltham Cross to Stoke Newington

established March 1836

Croydon to Brixham

established May 1836

In March 1835 a Sub-Office was established at Shooter's Hill for stopping letters brought by the Dover Mail intended for places short of London and in July 1835 an arrangement was made for stopping General Post letters at Hounslow intended for Richmond.

GENERAL POST HANDSTAMPS IN P.O. RECORDS PROOF IMPRESSION BOOKS

compiled by Michael English.

Post Office Records has a set of books containing specimen impressions of handstamps issued to offices throughout the country from about 1825. The following is a list of those London **General Post Receiving House Namestamps** shown in Volume 1. They cover the period 1825 to 1831, and it is hoped to list extracts from later volumes in future editions of " Notebook ".

Those marked * are single framed rectangular; all others are double framed rectangular. Upper and lower case lettering is indicated by typeface used.

* Belvid ^e ple	1. 7.28
Bermondsey/Street	17. 6.26
Borough	25. 3.26
Bridge/Street	1. 7.28
Bridge Street/Westminster	22. 7.30
Broadway/Westminster	26. 4.29
* Broadway/WESTMINSTER	5. 4.31
Chancery/Lane	25. 3.26
Charles/Street	30.11.27
* CHARLOTTLE/STREET	4. 7.31
City/Road	1.10.30
Commercial/Road East	15. 6.29
* DEVONSHIRE/STREET	24. 5.31
Dorset/Street	21.12.27
Farringdon/Street	13. 3.31
* FLEET STREET	4. 6.31
George/Street P.S. (Portman Square)	23. 9.28
* GOODGE/STREET	26.10.31
(STREET in italics)	
Goswell/Street	27. 8.25
* GRAYS INN	13. 6.31
Great Russell/Street	23. 9.28
Great Surrey/Street	18. 4.26
Hereford/Place	17.11.27
* HIGH HOLBORN	18. 5.31
High Street/Shadwell	27. 8.25
High Street/Shadwell	21. 2.27
Holborn	4. 8.28
Houghton/Street	12. 6.27
Kings Branch	1. 7.28
* KING STREET/COVENT GARDEN	24. 5.31
* KNIGHTSBRIDGE	17. 5.31
Leigh/Street	8. 4.28
* LIMEHOUSE	20. 4.31
(italics)	

* MARGARET/STREET	24. 5.31
* NEW BOND/STREET	5. 4.31
* NEW CUT	6. 6.25
Newington/Causeway	26. 8.25
* NORTON FOLGATE	28.10.31
Oxford St/277	14. 6.28
* 277 OXFORD/STREET	12. 9.31
Oxford St/438	5.10.30
* 438 OXFORD/STREET	12. 9.31
(in Proof Book, No.4 is on its side to the right)	
Pall Mall	31. 8.29
* PALL MALL	24. 5.31
* PARK STREET	30. 5.31
Regent/Street	11. 8.26
Rosamond/Street	27. 8.25
Smithfield/Bars	18.10.26
Smithfield/Bars	30.11.27
* SOUTHAMPTON/ROW	28. 1.25
Southampton/Row	9. 3.26
Stepney	30. 3.26
Store Street	26.12.28
104 Strand	18. 2.30
104 Strand	22. 1.31
* 104 STRAND	4. 7.31
* 180 STRAND	25. 7.31
Torrington/Place	20. 5.30
Tottenham/Court Road/240	3. 1.27
Tottenham/Court Road	6. 6.29
* TOTTENHAM-C.T. RD	24. 5.31
Upr York/Street	14.11.29
Whitechapel	19.12.28

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AN UNUSUAL GENERAL DUTY MARK, by A.J. Kirk

The usually General Duty Mark of 1787-91 consists of a rough circle, dia. 20mm., and a date ellipsis with axis 9mm x 8mm. This one dated 28th. May, 1791 is an unusual size. The outer part is also an ellipse with axis 20mm x 19mm, and the date plug, also an ellipse, has axis 10mm x 7mm. The formation of dots on either side of the figures for the year are also different from the normal. Instead of one dot on either side, this mark has five. Have other members copies of this mark?



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GENERAL POST RECEIVERS IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES, by Michael English.

During the period up to the end of the eighteenth century, letters posted at houses or shope belonging to persons known as Receivers were marked with the signature, name, initials or other mark to denote the Receiver.

The only definitive list of names of Receivers during this period was compiled, from Records, By Miss F. Bagust in her book " Some Notes on the Small Post Offices of London ", which was published in 1937.

Some of Miss Bagust's findings have been questioned by eminent Postal Historians, but I believe the lists should be republished as a guide and in the hope they may be brought up to date through the medium of " Notebook ".

Part One.....

Name	Situation	Source
.....Adams	Porter of Gate of Savoy	P.O. Ad. 1652
Charles Adams	The Marygold against Fetter Lane	P.O. Ad. 1652
John Allins	White House, Fleet St.	P.O. Ad. 1652
John Abrahams	Temple	P.O. Lists 1788-93
William Atkins	Staple Inn, Holborn	P.O. Ad. 1652
John Allen	King Edward Stairs, Wapping	P.O. Lists 1788-93
George Bowen	Ludgate Hill	P.O. Lists 1788-93
Hugh Brockett	Hart St., Bloomsbury	P.O. Lists 1788-93
Laurence Blacklocks	Temple Bar	P.O. Ad. 1652
Lionel Booth	Duke St., Portland Place	P.O. Lists 1788-93
John Bonnet	Vigo Lane	P.O. Lists 1788-93
Richard Best	Craises Inn Gate, Holborn	P.O. Ad. 1652
William Book	High Holborn	P.O. Lists 1788-93
William Bumstead	Jermyn St.	P.O. Lists 1788-93
Ann Cooke	Queen St., Mayfair	Hendy's List 1782
George Cross	Strand	P.O. Lists 1788-93
John Chalfont	St. John St., W. Smithfield	P.O. Lists 1788-93
Samuel Champness	Tothill St., Westminster	P.O. Lists 1788-93
William Craig	Chandos St.	Hendy's List 1782
.....Dangerfield	Berkeley Square	P.O. Lists 1788-93
Mary Davis	Sackville St., Piccadilly	P.O. Lists 1788-93
Matthew Days	Lyons Inn (Strand)	P.O. Ad. 1652
Norah Day	Parliament St.	Hendy's List 1782

LONDON RECEIVER'S HANDSTAMPS - BEFORE 1840, by Michael English.

The Group meeting on 29th. January was on the subject of London Receiver's handstamps. In the period before 1840 the London Receiving Houses were distinctly divided into Local Post and General Post. The Local (Twopenny) Post will be the subject of a future meeting and articles in "Notebbok ". Research into the types of handstamps used at the 2d.post R.H.'s is being co-ordinated by John Adams and members are encouraged to contact him with details of their relevant material. The Brumell handbook " The Local Posts of London 1680-1840 " is a very good introduction to the subject and is available, on loan, from the writer.

The first General Post Receiver's stamps, where employed, usually consisted of the Receiver's name or initials (figs 1 and 2). With the re-organisation in 1794, the local post Receivers were issued with Office namestamps, the General Post Receivers enjoying the same improvement earlier than this. With the amalgamation of the General and Twopenny Post Receiving Houses in December 1838, there appears to have been some indiscriminate use of both General and Local handstamps on the mails.

Some of the more unusual items shown at the meeting included the following:

Belvedere Place (fig 3) had three varieties. This mark was associated with the King's Bench Prison (not to put too fine a point on it). Those prisoners with sufficient funds could live outside the prison and even carry on a business.

G.P.O./Wapping (fig.4), also known for King St and Tower Hill. These marks with " G.P.O. " were used for a very short time in the early 1790's. Alcock and Holland (their fig. 39) illsutrate GP/0 within a circle, with the office name in an arc at the top within another circle (our fig 5). Also recorded in this type is " Vigo Lane ".

A most unusual type of " White/Chapel " within a single circle was recorded in use in 1792.

PALL MALL/P.R.H. was illustrated with an example dated 1797(Penny Receiving
House??)

FLEET-MARKET dated 21st. April, 1818, but unframed, and apparently very scarce in this type, was accompanied by a " Strand " in black and dated 22nd. March, 1800, also unframed.

The type illustrated in fig. 6 were related to Country Receiving Houses on certain rides, which with the exception of Kew, lay north of the Thames. The other offices were apparently never issued with the type.

The illustrations are given on page 16.

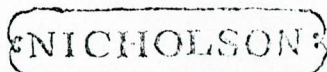


fig 1



fig 2

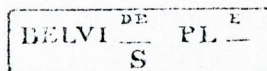
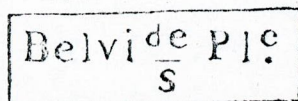


fig 3: two of the types mentioned in text

G. P. O
WAPPING

fig 4

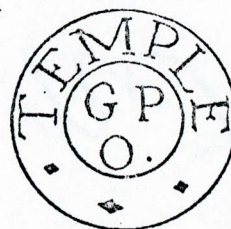


fig 5

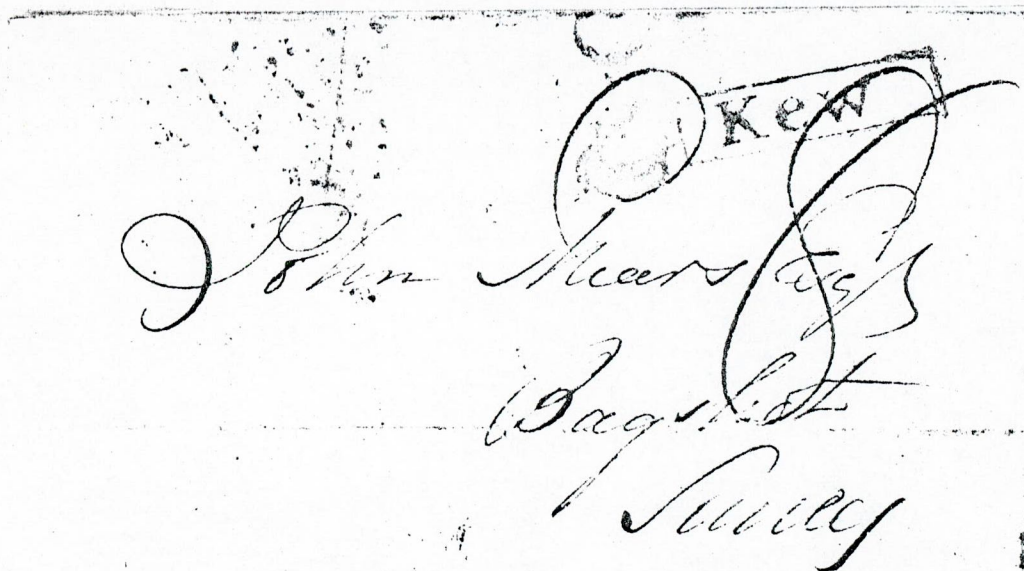


fig 6: the exception to the " North of Thames " rule
Backstamped double rim, code C, in black, OC 20 818

(figs 1 to 4 are taken from R.L.: fig 5 from the A & H)

USE OF OBLITERATORS TO CANCEL THE EFFECT OF CHARGE MARKS,

by R.I. Johnson.

Mr. K.J.A. Smith in his article in issue number 4, mentions two covers in his collection where "PD" or "Paid to Destination" marks have been cancelled by London Diamonds in red because the letters were underpaid and were incorrectly assessed.

The use of the crutched cross on pre 1840 ship letters to change a ship letter into an India letter or vice versa is well known. The practice of using obliterators to cancel paid or charge marks lasted, in the main, from 1840 until the 1870's.

Readers will find illustrated in the June 1971 issue of the P.J.G.B. a cover sent through the post in London on May 6th., 1840. A charge of 2d. was raised on this because the 1d. black on the back was not noticed. The 2d. charge mark (in London the old handstruck marks of the London 2d. Post continued to be used) was cancelled with a Maltese Cross. An example of an Irish Diamond used to cancel a charge in 1855 is illustrated in Robson Lowe's Postal History catalogue 15th. April, 1969, lot 600.

The London covers in my possession where the London Inland Office Diamond has been used in this way are as follows:

1. the most interesting is the use of number 30 (2-8-2) in black in Sept. 1866 to cancel the G.B. 2 franc accountancy mark on a letter from Madeira to France via London. Does this lead to any conclusion as to the use of number 30 in the Foreign Office of the Inland Branch?
2. a cover from Ireland to Switzerland in October 1864 marked "Insufficiently Prepaid" in black and PD in oval in red. The PD has been cancelled with a number 30 (2-8-2-) of a slightly larger type, in black.
3. a cover from Bradford, Yorkshire, to Paris in August 1865 marked " Insufficiently Prepaid " in black and PD in circle in red. The PD has been cancelled with a number 50 (2-8-2) in black.
4. a cover from London to Copenhagen in April 1873 marked " Insufficiently Prepaid " in black and PD in oval in red. The PD has been cancelled with a mark similar to Westley type 85, without the date stamp, number 12 in black.
5. a cover from Keighley, Yorkshire, to France in September 1862 passing through London marked " Insufficiently Prepaid " in black and PD in circle in red. The PD has been cancelled with the T01 barred oval

similar to the English 1844 type. Is this a good point to start arguing whether the "TO" marks were London marks, or at least London based?

I would be grateful if any members with covers showing charge marks cancelled with any type of obliterator could write to me with all relevant details. From what Mr. Smith and I have recorded it would seem there is no doubt that postage paid on outgoing letters was checked again after the application of the PD mark, but I do not know why Mr. Smith's marks should be in red and mine in black, unless the person applying the PD mark corrected his own mistake and used the same ink for Diamond as for his PD mark.

The Inland Branch Diamonds were also used to obliterate impressions which had been wrongly entered in the P.O. Proof Books. The strikes were in red on all the following examples. Pen obliteration and other marks were used as well.

Vol 19 page 17 1859	Lower Edmonton cds cancelled by a large number 3 in diamond (1844 type)
Vol 19 page 143 1862	Berkeley cds cancelled by a number 1 in diamond, the 1844 type
Vol 20 page 10 25.2.1860	Burton on Trent cds cancelled by a number 42 in diamond, 1844 type
Vol 20 page 10 3.7.1861	Shoreditch cds cancelled by a number 40 in diamond 1844 type
Vol 21 page 21 1861	Rowley Regis cds cancelled by a number 17 in diamond 1844 type
Vol 21 page 103 Nov 1864	Hartlepool cds cancelled by a number 13 in diamond upright type

These particular proof books show.....

Vol 20 page 6	Diamonds of the 1844 type numbers 65 to 84 inclusive " Received in Foreign Office Feb 20 1860 " Numbers 85,86,31 to 37 inclusive, 48 treble and 49 treble " Received in Foreign Newspaper Office Feb 20 1860 ".
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Volume 20 also shows the issue of the T.O.1 to T.O. 6 marks to which I have referred earlier as having been sent to the Foreign Office on April 30th., 1860. The best explanation is given on page 84 of " English TPO's " by C.W. Ward, where he suggests these obliterations were used in the Ostend carriage, the marks being sent to the Foreign Branch on the same day as the Continental Mail commenced. He also makes the point that the Foreign Branch controlled the London & Dover (Continental) SC at that time. (T.O. being for Travelling Office.)

The " Ellora " marks to which Westley refers on page 9 are to be found in volume 20 page 74. I suggest it would be a good idea if all references to the proof books could be by volume and page.

Note: By 1844 type I mean marks similar to Westley Fig 16 or 18, and by upright, Westley fig 75, without the cds part.

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

In Notebook No.3 reference was made to upright ' ovals ', as indeed this is the term used by Westley. However, this appears to cause confusion with the marks of the London District Post, and I would stress it is the upright DIAMONDS of the INLAND BRANCH with which my queries were concerned.

Thus far I have received only one reply in connection with these. A report of a 71 as Westley fig. 79, dated 30 July 1886, with L3 in the hexagonal date stamp on two 9d. adhesives; this was shown in a German catalogue.

In Dubus series 5 (Westley fig 82, without date stamp) I have found a copy of 46. Dubus writes that " it is possible that the series was continued". Has anyone seen 45 or numbers higher than 46 with the small figures of this series?

The next query is Dubus series 20 (Westley fig 88). This I have never seen and would welcome any information. Westley records 13,14,16,17 and 26, while Dubus adds 1, 7,9,12,18,21 and 22. Perhaps between us we can fill in some of the ' holes '

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KEEPING THE RECORD STRAIGHT.....

It has been a pleasure to note the growth recently of Stamps Fairs in different parts of the country with the opportunity of meeting dealers with whom one may have been corresponding, to say nothing of looking through their stocks. One can often find inexpensive and delightful items of particular interest for one's own collection but most important, the opportunity of checking dates of use of material, and the actual usage of the stamp in question.

Apart from a "wants list", why not take along pad and pencil for jotting down dates and usage you think of interest and then send them to the co-ordinator for that particular subject.

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WHAT THE AUCTIONS TELL YOU.....

Robson Lowe:22nd. September, 1971

Lot	Description	Valuation	Realisation
1022	1760(1st.Aug)E.L. to London from an Officer at Warburg, written the day after the battle and stating.."I have just time to tell you that we yesterday, on this ground, defeated Monsieur, who commanded above thirty thousand French. The British Cavalry has received deservedly the greater praise." Shows Dockwra type "PAYD/PENY/POST" ** to *** of Temple Office.	£15	£31
1026	1825 Soldier's letter to England written on board a troopship, showing circular framed "INDIA SOLDIER &c/3/LONDON " ** to *** and on the reverse a faint step type " ship letter", possibly Hastings. Somewhat stained.	£14	£12
1277	1834 Soldier's letter from Madras, faded and a little ragged, endorsed " Packet 4d" and showing circular framed "INDIA SOLDIER &c/3/LONDON" ** to ***.	£15	£15

Robson Lowe:8th.December, 1971

1232	1697-1838 E. and EL showing a variety of London marks including circular framed "FREE"(Eur.421) Receivers h.s.(2 different), crowned "To be/ delivered/Free"(Eur 447):"Too Late for/Morning Post"(81b);unframed "G.P.";four of the double ring d.s.(Eur 4) and others;mostly**to*** (12)	£28	£72.50
1244	FREE MARKS:1782-90 E.L. from the same correspondence to London showing circular framed "FREE"(2 different);"FREE/P"with laurels and similar for "C" and double ring "FREE/C",also town h.s. including "RYE"(2);"TOTNES" and a faint"97/CHIPPEN/HAM":mostly ** (5)	£18	£24
1574	FORWARDING AGENTS CACHET..1850 E.to Geelong, Aust.showing the scarce framed"FORWARDED FROM/ THE JERUSALEM/LONDON"(R7)***though partly struck over some ink smudges, and on reverse, cachet of Marshall & Edridge***in green.	£30	£31

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Similar Apparatus "Brendon", Lyndale, London N.W. 2

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