

NOTEBOOK

Number 157 January, 2004

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Continuing the publication of revisions for

'The British County Catalogue of Postal History, Volume 3 - LONDON'

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EDITORIAL.....

It should not be necessary to remind readers but experience teaches it may be so. The various revisions sections we are publishing are just that. It is for the reader to advise of all those details which make a catalogue, new finds relating the actual stamps, date extensions, ink colours, what might be curious use of marks or, indeed, the absence of marks. Please do not have material cheerfully annotated 'Not recorded by Jay' merely because you failed to report your discovery.

Now to another matter which is down to the individual member. Andrew Ford will be relinquishing his tenure as Hon. Treasurer at the end of the current financial year, the 30th. April next. Yes it will take some of your time, involve you in writing letters and keeping records but, as he will tell you, hardly a seven day week task. Please do not leave to 'the other member'. Drop the Editor a line if you would like to know more.

YOUR COUNTRY GROUP NEEDS YOU.

THE BIRTH OF THE POST

From earliest times it was necessary for the King to communicate with all parts of his kingdom, and official letters were, where necessary, carried by special messengers to their destination. In the early part of the sixteenth century, Sir Brian Tuke, the first 'Master of the Posts', organised a regular service along the more important roads out of London, thus starting what was to become a regular government service.

Before 1635, inland letters could be divided into two main groups: official letters on royal business which were usually carried by the Post, and private letters which were carried by various means, including travellers, friends, servants, carriers and, in some instances, by the royal post itself. These early letters seldom give any indication of their mode of carriage, although a few rare and interesting official letters, signed by one of a few high ministers of state and countersigned 'Haste Post Haste', are endorsed by the various postmasters along the route taken by the messenger.

The inland post was officially established for use by the general public in 1635, although few letters carried by the post are known before 1653. There is little doubt that a national postal service did not exist during the Civil War, and the few letters of this period with an apparent postal endorsement were almost certainly carried privately.

Except for the few rare letters mentioned above, the post as we understand it, available to the general public, started in about 1648, and a number of letters between this date and the inception of the Bishop mark in 1661 exist which were carried by the post.

Early letters to and from the continent of Europe were almost certainly handled differently, and readers are referred to the introduction to the Foreign Office for a summary of these early foreign letters. For early letters covered by the Franking Privilege, see that section.

The early inland letters, mainly to and from London, can be roughly classified into the following uncommon or rare groups:

Inland letters before 1545		
L i	with address panel	J
Inland letters between 1545 and 1601		
ii	with no evidence of mode of transmission	G
iiia	with evidence of mode of transmission	H
iiib	official letters (usually signed by one or more members of the Privy Council	J
iiic	'Haste Post Haste' letters, with a number of endorsements of times of arrival (price proportionate to this number)	L-L*
Inland letters between 1601 and 1635		
iii	with no evidence of mode of transmission	F
iiia	with evidence of mode of transmission	H
iiib	official letters	H
iiic	'Haste Post Haste' letters, as above	L
Inland letters between 1635 and 1647		
iv	no postal markings	F
iva	with postal markings, or marks suggestive of carriage by the post	K
ivb	letters concerning the Civil War	J
Inland letters between 1648 and 1661		
v	no postal markings	E
va	with marks suggestive or indicative of carriage by the post	J

For postal historians wishing to obtain a comprehensive range of early London covers, one or two examples of some of the above groups of letters are a desirable addition to their collection.

For further details of the Post before 1661, the reader is referred to the Appendix for a list of the more reliable sources of information.

INLAND OFFICE

General Post Date Stamps

'...And to prevent any neglect of the Letter carriers in the speedy delivery of Letters from the said office. it's notified that the dayes of the receipt of every letter at the Office is printed upon the Letters; and the Letter-carriers ought to deliver them the same day in the Summer, and the next mornings at farthest in the Winter; and if any fayler be complained of at the Post Office, it shall be redressed.'

The above Notice appeared in various numbers of Mercurius Publicus between 25 April and 19 September 1661, when Henry Bishop was Postmaster General. He ordered the first stamps to be struck on letters giving the month and day on which they were posted in London, or received there. This 'Bishop Mark' lasted for more than 100 years and was also used in Dublin and Edinburgh, as well as in a few overseas places. The original London Bishop Mark had serif letters, but in 1673 it became usually sans-serif, although FE, SE and DE frequently had serifs in later years. The earliest known Bishop Mark is dated April 19 1661.



1



2



2a



2c

Cat No	Description	Size	Colour	Dates	Rarity
L 1	Serif letters, month above day	13	Black	1661-73	
	1661 rarity K 1662 rarity J 1663 rarity H 1664 rarity H 1665 rarity J 1666 rarity G 1667-69 rarity F 1670-73 rarity E				
1a	N reversed in 'NO'	13	Black	1666, 1672	H
1b	S reversed in 'SE' SE/11	13	Black	1672	J
1c	Vertically oval	13x16	Black	1674	G
1d	Horizontally oval AV/10	15x12	Black	1668	G
2	Sans-serif letters, month above day	13-14	Black	1673-1713	
	1673-79 rarity D 1680-99 rarity C-D 1700-13 rarity C				
2a	N reversed in 'NO'	14	Black	1673-78	H
2b	N reversed in 'NO' NO/26	14	Black	1685	H
2c	9 reversed in IY/9	14	Black	1683	Z

In the 1680s and 1693/94 the Bishop Mark is occasionally found stamped in yellowish-black, the result of too much oil and not enough pigment in the ink (see also Foreign Branch, after L1001).



3



3d



3f

3	Sans-serif letters, day above month	14-20	Black	1713-87
---	-------------------------------------	-------	-------	---------

1713-19 rarity C-D 1720-59 rarity B 1760-86 rarity A-B
 1787: Jan 1-15 rarity B Jan 16-April 30 rarity D

3a	as L3, but	17-20	Purple	1768-87	F
3b	as L3, but	18-20	Scarlet	1771-86	H
3c	Month above day on Inland letter	15	Black	1719-21	G

3a and 3b are often found with POST/PAID in the same colour as the Bishop mark.

The Foreign Office used a Bishop Mark with month above day on incoming letters from its inception until 1797 – see L1000-1002.

3d	Date inverted (tête-bêche)				
	12/FE, 21/NO	15	Black	1717-18	J
	21/IA, 2/IY, 17/IY, 21/SE	19	Black	1782-87	J
3da	second '2' inverted in 22/IV		Black	1783	H
3e	N reversed in 'NO' 13/NO	16	Black	1721	G
	N reversed in 'NO'	17	Black	1758-62	E
3f	Reversed '4' in 4/IV	17	Black	1759	G
3g	Serif letters, day above month (not FE, SE, DE)	15-17	Black	1717-23	F

The Inland Office Bishop Mark continued in use until 30 April 1787 although on Morning Duty (letters coming into London) an experimental d stamp (L4) was introduced on 16 January 1787.



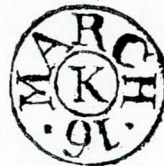
4



4a



4b



4c



4d

4	JANUARY	16-26 January	21	Black	1787	F
4a	JANY	27-31 January	21	Black	1787	G
4b	FEBY		20-21	Black	1787	E
4c	MARCH		21	Black	1787	E
4d	APRIL		20-22	Black	1787	E

This experimental stamp (L4-4d) is known with various letters in centre, several different letters between A and M being used on each of the days between Monday and Saturday when mail was received at the GPO. The significance of these letters is not known, although they may be indication of the number of sorting desks used on each day. A list of letters known on each of the days on which these stamps was used is given in an Appendix A.

On 1 May 1787, the Bishop Mark (L3) and the experimental date stamp (L4) were replaced by a new stamp showing day, month and year (L5). This was used for both morning (MD) and evening duty (ED) until it was replaced by L6 on 1 June 1791.



5



6



7



8

5	Single ring, MD and ED	19-20	Black	1787-91	A
5a	as L5, but	19-20	Red	1787-97	C
5aa	as L5, but	19	Claret	1791	D
5b	as L5, but	19-20	Purple	1790	D

5a and 5b are found on delayed, posted too late, and misdirected letters, and on letters with 'POST/PAID' in the same colour as the date stamp.

In the last 3 months of its use, L5 became more elaborate, with an increasing number of dots between month and year – at the end of May 1791 there were 5 on each side of the year.

6	Single ring, all duties, codes A-E	19-20	Black	1791-94	A
6a	MD, codes A-C, until 31 Jan 1798	19-20	Black	1795-98	A
6b	as L6, but	19	Red	1791-93	C

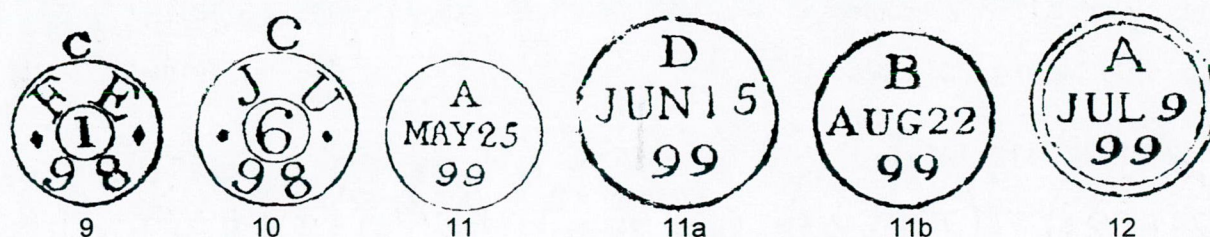
L6 and 6a are similar handstamps. L6 was used both on letters coming into London (Morning Duty – MD) and on those leaving London (Evening Duty – ED), while 6a was only used on Morning Duty. In addition, L6 is known with codes A to E, indicating the tables at which letters were sorted, while 6a is only known with codes A to C. L6b was used for Morning and Evening Duties, with codes A to E, on letters posted too late, delayed or misdirected.

7	Double ring, ED, codes A-F	22-23	Black	1795-99	A
7a	as L7, but	22-23	Red	1795-99	C

See note after L5b for Use of L7a

8	Single ring, cross above, MD, Nov-Dec	20	Black	1797	E
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The significance of the cross in L8 is not known; it may have indicated an extra table at which the letter was sorted. The size of the cross varies, indicating more than one handstamp in use.



9	Single ring, small letters A-G above circle. MD, Jan-Feb only	19	Black	1798	D
---	--	----	-------	------	---

Letter A first used 15 January, B 23 January, C 29 January. D-F were in use by 10 February. G was in use by 10 February on a combined table with West Indies Officers [POST 14/245]

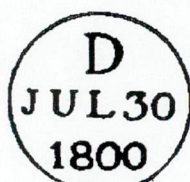
10	Single ring, large letters A-G above circle. March 1798-1 July 1799	21	Black	1798-99	C
10a	as L10, but	21	Red	1799	E

See note after L5b for use of L10a. For code S see Sunday Date Stamp L25.

The letter outside the circle in L9 and 10 indicated the table at which the letter was sorted.

11	MD, date 3 mm high, 25 May-8 June, codes A and G	21	Red	1799	F
11a	MD, date 4.5 mm high, 5-15 June, code D	25	Red	1799	E
11b	MD, date 3.5 mm high, 4 July-31 Déc, codes A-G	22	Red	1799	C
For code S see Sunday Date stamp L26					
11c	Error - code C on side - JUL 19 99	22	Red	1799	D
12	?ED, double ring, 9 July 1799	24	Red	1799	F
13	Year in full, MD, codes A-G	23-24	Red	1800-09	A
13a	'V' instead of '5' in Jan, Feb, March, April, June 5th	24	Red	1802	G

13aa 'IV' instead of '4' in January 24 Red 1803 G
For code S see Sunday Date Stamp L27



13



13a



13aa



14



15

- | | | | | | |
|------|---|-------|----------------|---------|---|
| 14 | Single ring, day before & after month | 23 | Red | 1810-40 | A |
| | MD, codes A-G (H in GPO Proof Books 30.5.36) | | | | |
| 14a | Error – code G slanting – DE 13 1839 | 23 | Red | 1839 | C |
| 14aa | Error – 1181 for 1811 – 2 MR and 3AP | 23 | Red | 1811 | C |
| 14b | As L14, MD, codes A-Z, in use at same time as L15, at least until the end of 1843 | 23 | Red | 1841-43 | B |
| 14ba | L14 but no code (MD) 11AP11 | 23 | Red | 1815 | C |
| | For code S see Sunday Date Stamp L28 | | | | |
| 14c | as L14b, but | 23 | Black | 1841-43 | B |
| 14d | Cross instead of code | 23 | Red | 1823-41 | C |
| | ?supervisor's stamp – usually on letters with star (L179-181) | | | | |
| 14e | Code EX (extra table) on outgoing letters | 23-25 | Black | 1834 | C |
| 14f | as L14e on outgoing letters, but | | Greenish-Black | 1834-40 | B |
| 14fa | as L14f, but no code 14DE14 | | Greenish-Black | 1839 | C |
| 14g | as L14e, also on incoming letters, but | 24 | Red | 1838-40 | B |
| 14h | Code N (incoming letters by rail) | 24 | Red | 1837-42 | B |
| 14i | No code | 23 | Black | 1839-40 | D |
| 14j | No code | 23 | Red | 1840 | D |
| 14k | Code X 1 copy recorded | 23 | Red | 1811 | E |
| 15 | Double ring, MD, codes A-G | 27 | Red | 1810-40 | A |



16



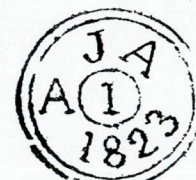
17



18



19



20

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|----|-------|---------|---|
| 16 | Sans-serif, MD, codes A-Z | 23 | Red | 1841-46 | A |
| 16a | as L16, but | 23 | Black | 1843-44 | A |
| 16b | Cross instead of code | 23 | Black | 1844 | A |
| 16c | as L16, but code EX | 23 | Black | | |
| | For code S see Sunday Date Stamp L29 | | | | |

- | | | | | | |
|------|--|----|-------|---------|---|
| 17 | 2 letters in code, MD | 24 | Red | 1844-49 | A |
| 17a | as L17, but | 24 | Black | 1844-46 | A |
| 17aa | as L17, but reversed N in NF/18MR18/1849 | 24 | Black | 1849 | B |

18 This handstamp, and similar ones with a cross or the letter 'I' below the year, were issued after 1840 and are outside the scope of this catalogue. They occur on official late mail, from the Houses of Parliament or to Government Offices. Similar stamps, but with letters on each side of the crown, are of normal usage.

- | | | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------------|-------|-------|---------|---|
| 19 | Double ring, year in 3 figures, ED | | | | |
| | codes A-C (code D known FE 5 808) | 21-24 | Black | 1800-22 | A |
| 19a | as L19, but | 22 | Red | 1800-21 | C |

20	Double ring, year in 4 figures, ED codes A-Z, until 12 July 1828	22-23	Black	1823-28	A
20a	as L20, but	23	Red	1826-27	C



21



22



22c



23

21	Circle around day omitted, ED codes A-Z, 14 July 1828-1 May 1830	23	Black	1828-30	A
21a	as L21, but	23	Red	1829	C
22	As L21, but month & code transposed, ED, codes A-Z, May 1830-Sept 1845	22-24	Black	1830-45	A
22a	as L22, but	22	Red	1829-32	C
22b	as L22, but	22	Blue	1832	D
22c	Errors: Reversed 'J.' - AU 30 1833, JU 20 1834 Inverted 'M' - JY 13 1831 Reversed 'S' - AP 4 1833 Reversed 'Z' - MY 26, JY 26, OC 10, OC 25 1838				

L19a, 20a, 21a and 22a are found on letters posted too late. They are often associated with the 'Put in after 7o'clock at night' stamp.

L22-22b are often found with a dot or a line between month and day.

23	As L22, but 2 letters in code	23	Black	1845-57	A
23a	as L23, but	23	Purple	1856	B
23b	as L23, but	23	Blue	1857	B

The General Post date stamps normally used for morning and evening duty between 16 January 1787 and 1840 (L4-L22) are summarised in the following table:

MORNING DUTY (into London)

16 Jan	1787-30	April	1787 L4
1 May	1787-31	May	1791 L5
1 June	1791-31	Dec	1794 L6
1 Jan	1795-31	Jan	1798 L6a
1 Jan	1798-28	Feb	1798 L9
1 March	1798- 1	July	1799 L10
1 July	1799-31	Dec	1799 L11b
1 Jan	1800-31	Dec	1809 L13
1 Jan	1810-		1843 L14

EVENING DUTY (out of London)

16 Jan	1787-30	April	1787 L3
1 May	1787-31	May	1791 L5
1 June	1791-31	Dec	1794 L6
1 Jan	1795-31	Dec	1799 L7
1 Jan	1800-31	Dec	1822 L19
1 Jan	1823-12	July	1828 L20
14 July	1828- 1	May	1830 L21
May	1830-	Sept	1845 L22

For an account of the sequence of Codes used in the above date stamps, see 'London Date Stamp Codes' by WG Stitt Dibden (Postal History Society: Special Series Publication No 6, 1958. Reprinted with minor amendments by the London Postal History Group, 1979).

Sunday Date Stamps

From 1798, letters from Ireland, Scotland, and certain English ports, as well as certain official letters and letters eligible for the Frank, received a special date stamp when received at the GPO on a Sunday. The following special Sunday date stamps are known:



25



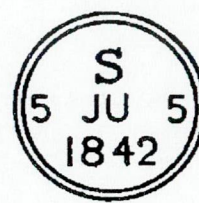
26



27



28



29a



30



31

L 25	L10, but with letter S above	21	Black	1798-99	H
26	L11b, but code S, OCT 6, NOV 16	21	Red	1799	H
27	L13, but code S	23-24	Red	1800-09	F
28	L14, but code S	23	Red	1812-42	E
	the height of the 'S' apparently varies between 3 and 4 mm				
28a	but date error: 29JA29 1822 error for 1832	23	Red	1832	G
29	L16 (sans-serif), but code S	24	Red	1841-44	E
29a	Double ring	26	Red	1842-43	G

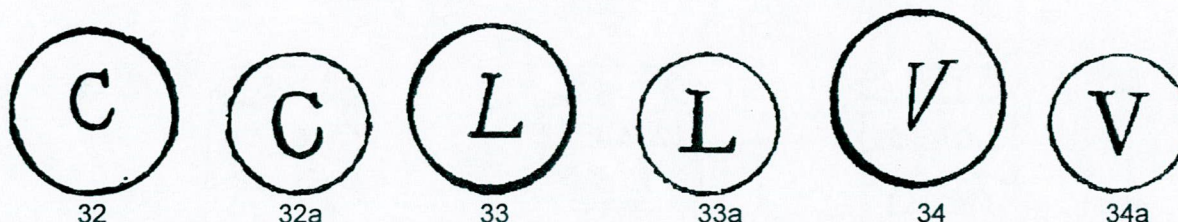
L29 and 29a should be checked for date with a perpetual almanac to make sure they are Sunday dates.

30	Sunday 'SUN' serif letters	various	Red	1832-55	B
30a	but		Black	1850	G
31	Sunday 'SUN' sans-serif letters	various	Red, Blue or Black	1857-68	D

Letters were accepted at the Chief Office, Lombard Street, Vere Street and Charing Cross on Sunday, but were not sorted until Monday. As Free letters had to be endorsed with the date of posting, the Sunday 'SUN' (L30-31) was struck on them to confirm Sunday posting. C, L or V in a circle were used on the reverse of some of these covers to show the Branch Office at which they were posted (Charing Cross, Lombard Street, Vere Street). Those without a stamp on the reverse were posted at the Chief Office.

32	C in circle italic letter	22	Red	1835-36	C
32a	as L32, but non-italic letter	18	Red	1836-46	B
33	L in circle italic letter	22	Red	1835-36	D
33a	as L33, but non-italic letter	18	Red	1836-48	C
34	V in circle italic letter	22	Red	1835-36	E
34a	as L34, but non-italic letter	18	Red	1836-45	D

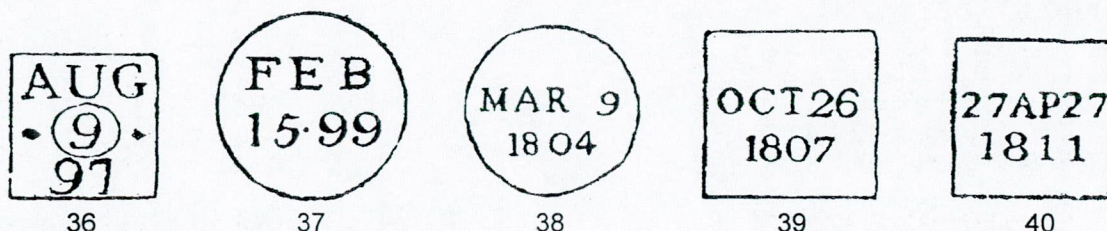
L32, 33 and 34 have italic letters while 32a, 33a and 34a have upright letters. Members of each pair of handstamps can be separated if the two types are together. (For 'L' in circle, 'L' 13 mm high, see L195.)



Articles on the Sunday Date Stamps appeared in the Postal History Society Bulletin, Nos 25-27 (1943) and 161 (1969).

Late Fee Stamps

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



L 36	Known 5 July 1797 to 24 Dec 1798	19x20	Black	1797-98	G
37	Jan to Feb & Jun 7 1799	25	Black	1799	H
37a	March to Dec 1799	25	Mauve	1799	G
38	No code	23	Mauve	1800-01	F
38a	as L38, but	23	Black	1802	F
38b	as L38, but	23	Mauve	1803-07	E
39	Day after month only	23x23	Mauve	1807-09	E
40	Day before and after month	22x22	Mauve	1810	E
40a	as L40, but	22x22	Black	1810-15, 1822	D
40b	as L40, but	23x23	Red	1815-43	C
41	Letters sans-serif	23x23	Red	1843-52	B

See also 'Late Fee and Too Late Stamps' by WG Stitt Dibden (Great Britain Philatelic Society, 1966).

General Post Branch Offices

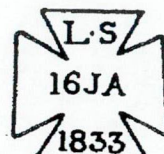
The Branch Offices were opened in 1829 at Borough, Charing Cross, Lombard Street and Vere Street and, with one exception (L49), used handstamps in the shape of a Maltese Cross. The Vere Street Office was replaced by one at Old Cavendish Street in 1843.



44



44b



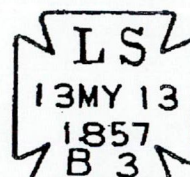
45



46



46c



47

LOMBARD STREET

L 44	L.S./5N01829/L.S. 26.9.29-9.6.31	21x20	Blue	1829-31	C
44a	as L44, but red 16.9.31-14.11.32	21x20	Red	1831-32	B
44b	Double frame 12.1.30-7.4.32	22x21	Blue	1830-32	D
44c	Double frame 14.1.32-5.11.32	22x21	Red	1832	C
45	L.S./8DE/1832 8.12.32-20.11.33	21x21	Red	1832-33	B
46	LS/22MR22/1834 18.1.34-25.4.57	various	Black	1834-57	A
46a	as L46, but red 7.8.40-5.8.57	various	Red	1840-57	A
46b	Double frame 25.5.44-9.3.57	various	Red	1844-57	A
46c	Sans-serif 20.4.57-6.7.57	20x18	Black	1857	B
46d	Sans-serif 11.5.57-6.7.57	20x18	Red	1857	B
47	LS/13MY13/1857/B3, 20.4.50-3.10.57	25x24	Red	1850-57	B
47a	B.7./L.S./18DE18/1855 various codes 19.11.55-1.2.58	various	Black	1855-58	B
47b	as L47a, but red 8.6.57-25.3.58	various	Red	1857-58	C



48



49



50



50a



50b



51a

CHARING CROSS

L 48	C.H/20001830/X 18.11.29-30.10.30	20x21	Blue	1829-30	D
48a	as L48, but red 20.11.30-2.11.33	20x21	Red	1830-33	B
49	1833/3MY3/CX 3.5.33-13.7.33	25	Red	1833	F
49a	1833/7AU7/C+ 22.7.33-11.12.33	25	Red	1833	E
50	C+/17FE17/1834 4.1.34-10.6.57	various	Red	1834-57	A
50a	Double frame 11.5.36-29.7.39	various	Red	1836-39	C
50b	Sans-serif 7.12.54-27.6.57	18x16	Red	1854-57	A
51	CH/JY5 1845/X 5.7.45-22.4.46	21x20	Red	1845-46	C
51a	CH/28JU1851/X 23.2.50-1.5.58	24x22	Red	1850-58	C
51b	as L51a, but black 28.6.51-18.6.57	24x22	Black	1851-57	C



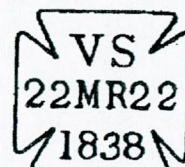
52



53



54



55

BOROUGH

L 52	B/BDE3B/1832 2.4.30-14.4.34	21x20	Blue	1830-34	D
53	B/23DE23/1835 15.7.35-9.5.39	various	Black	1835-39	C
53a	as L53, but red 30.11.39-1.1.48	various	Red	1839-48	C
53b	as L53, but	Green			D
53c	Sans-serif 5.6.50-11.1.51	21x20	Red	1850-51	C
53d	Sans-serif 4.4.51-12.12.55	21x20	Black	1851-55	C

VERE STREET

L 54	V.S/VOC13S/1830 4.12.29-13.5.32	21x20	Blue	1829-32	C
54a	as L54, but red 30.4.32-22.2.34	21x20	Red	1832-34	B
55	VS/23DE23/1835 18.4.35-20.11.42	various	Red	1835-42	C



57



57b

OLD CAVENDISH STREET

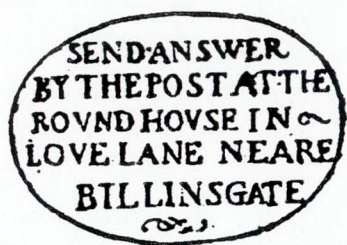
L 57	O.C.S/19JU19/1847 12.12.42-21.9.53	26x25	Red	1842-53	A
57a	as L57, but black 25.11.52-26.4.55	26x25	Black	1852-55	B
57b	Single frame, sans-serif 5.8.54-5.3.57	25x24	Red-	1854-57	C

For the PAID stamps of the General Post Branch Offices, see L130-L144.

A detailed listing of the various subtypes of the General Post Branch Offices can be found in the London Postal History Group Publication 'Stamps of the Branch Offices 1829-57'.

General Post Receiving Houses

In 1660 the General Post probably ran only on the six main Post Roads. Attractive slogan postmarks are known advertising the posts from London which ran every day on the Kent and Essex roads.



60



61



62



63

L 60	SEND ANSWER/BY THE POST AT THE/ROUND HOUSE IN/ LOVE LANE NEARE/BILLINGSGATE 7.5.61-1.8.61, 6.5.62-10.2.63	44x31	Black	1661-63	L*
61	THE POST/FOR ALL KENT/GOES EVERY/NIGHT FROM/ THE ROVND HOVSE IN LOVE/LANE & COMES/EVERY MOR/(NINGE) 11.8.61-22.1.62	34	Black	1661-62	L*
62	ESSEX/POST GOES/AND:COMS:/EVERY/DAY: 25.1.74-28.2.75	22	Black	1674-75	L*
63	SX/POST GOES/& COMES/EVERY/DAY/1675 8.4.75-28.10.75	24	Black	1675	L*

In the 1652/53 broadsheet, which announced that the post was again carrying letters, there were 21 receivers listed, yet in 1661 there were only five General Post Receivers named in the advertisement that appeared in Mercurius Publicus. This number had been increased to eight in 1677, each receiving an annual salary. Every Receiver had a stamp so that the origin of their letters could be identified. At first these indicated the office number (L65-67); later the initials of the Receivers were used.



65



65a



65d



65e



65f



65g

65	1/Off	19	Black	1670-72	J
65a	2/Off	19	Black	1671-74	J
65b	3/Off	19	Black	1671-73	J
65c	4/Off	19	Black	1671-75	J
65d	5/Off	19	Black	1670-74	J
65e	5/Off	19	Black	?	J
65f	6/Off	19	Black	?	K
65g	7/Off	19	Black	1670-71	K

5 reversed



66



67

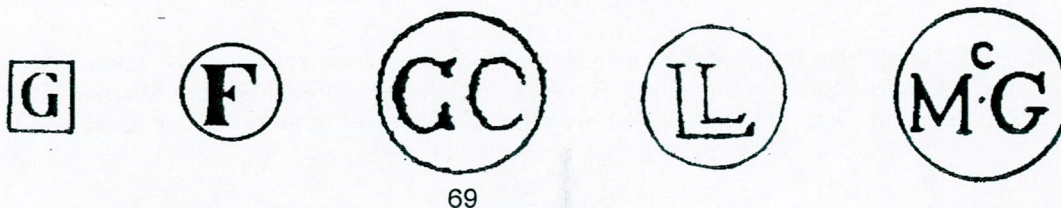


67b

66 OFF/4

67 3
67a 4
67b 5

19	Black	1671-76	J
18	Black	1674-89	G
	Black	1687-89	H
17	Black	1673-78	G



69

69 A wide variety of initials is known, usually in a circle, occasionally in a diamond or a square. Two initials are common, one is uncommon, three are rare.

69a SH [Samual Harding] – others may exist

various	Black	1670-1791	A
15	Red	1736	D

Since the publication of the *British County Catalogue*, volume 3, London in 1983, Hugh Feldman has written his monumental work, *Letter Receivers of London, 1652 to 1857* (Postal History Society, 1998). In his Appendix 1 there is an up-to-date list of General Post Receivers, superseding Table 1 in the County Catalogue.

In contrast to the Penny Post Receivers, who usually signed their surname and only occasionally used handstamps (L375), the General Post Receivers almost always used handstamps, and only rarely signed their name. George Clemson, the GP Receiver in Berkley Square from 1761 to 1785, was particularly unusual both in signing his name and in using his handstamp (GC in a circle) on some letters.

Although most General Post Receivers used initials, Partington and Walter were exceptions, using their full surnames in their stamps. Richard Partington, a stationer, of 58 Holborn Hill, was the GP Receiver from 1760 to 1781 (or 1782). George Walter, a leather seller, also at 58 Holborn Hill, was the GP Receiver from 1782 to at least 1792.



71 Partington
71a d6
71b d9

19x 3	Black	1761-82	C
4 x14	Black	1761	G
4 x14	Black	1764	G

L71a and 71b were originally numbered L1412 and 1412a. Each is known on a letter which has also received L71 and would appear to be private charge marks applied by Partington at his Receiving House.

72 WALTER known Nov-Dec
72a WALTER known 1 April, 29 August

23x 8	Black	1782	F
27x 4	Black	1783	G

In the period around 1790, when the General Post Receiving Houses changed from using stamps with the initials of the Receivers (L69) to framed stamps with the name of the Receiving House (L86), a number of provisional handstamps were used at various offices in London.

74 Gⁱ KNIGHT-RIDER Sⁱ/Crickitt
74a CHARLES-STREET-SOHO/Streeting
75 M.ELLIS/BOROUGH

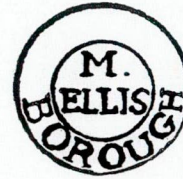
24	Black	1790-91	G
25	Black	1789-91	G
25	Black	1790	H



74



74a

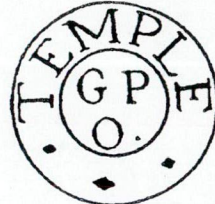


75

John Crickitt (or Crichet) was the Receiver in Knightrider Street, Doctors Common, where he had a stationer's shop. George Streeting was the Receiver in Charles Street, Soho. Michael Ellis, the proprietor of the Spur Inn, Borough High Street, was the GP Receiver from 1785 to at least 1792.



76



76a



76b

76 TOTTENHAM C^T ROAD
76aa as L76, but
76a TEMPLE
76b VIGO LANE
76c UNION STREET-BOROUGH

23	Black	1791-94	G
23	Purple	1792	H
28	Black	1792	G
29	Black	1792-03	F
22	Black	1790	H

G.P.O.
FINSBURY
SQUARE

77

G. P. O.
G^T SURRY ST
B. F. R.

77a

G.P.O.
KING ST
TOWER HILL

77b

G. P. O.
WAPPING

77c

G.P.O.
WHITE
CHAPEL

77d

PALL MALL.
PRH.

77e

G.P.O.
HAYES'S CT

77f



79



81

77	GPO/FINSBURY/SQUARE	46x20	Black	1794-95	H
77a	GPO/G ^T SURRY S ^T /B.F.R	43x20	Black	1793	H
77b	GPO/KING S ^T /TOWER HILL	45x20	Black	1794-95	H
77c	GPO/WAPPING	35x15	Black	1793-94	H
77d	GPO/WHITE/CHAPEL	41x25	Black	1796-97	H
77e	PALL-MALL/?PRH	49x15	Black	1797	H
77f	GPO/HAYES'S C ^T	50x15	Black	1794	H
79	White/Chapel	23	Black	1792	G
81	RECEIVING HOUSE/WAPPING/I+A	32	Black	1792	H
L81 was the handstamp of John Allen, the GP Receiver at King Edward Stairs, Wapping					
83	Receiving House/Borough framed	?	Black	1795	H

From 1790 the various General Post Receiving Houses in London changed to a standard group of handstamps, consisting of the name of the Receiving House in upper or lower case (or mixed case), in a single or double framed rectangle (rare examples are unframed).

Strand

S^T GEORGE'S F²S

Oxford St
277

Regent
Street

FLEET-MARKET

Broadway
WESTMINSTER

86

G·JAMISON

Charing
Cross

86b

Belvide Pl^e
S

86c

BELVI^{DE} PL^E
S

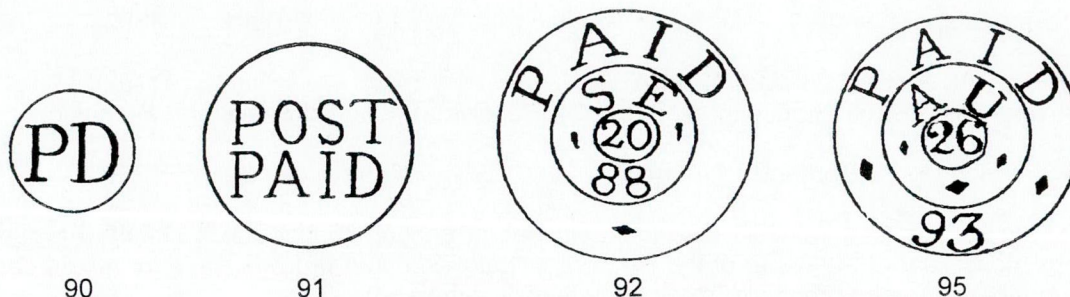
86e

86	various	various	Black	1790-1851	A
86a	as L86, but		Red	1817-37	E
86b	Charing Cross, with minute G.JAMISON above frame	40x22	Black	1802-03	F
86c	Belvide Pl ^e /S	46x15	Black	1818-38	E
86d	as L86c, but	46x15	Red	1818-27	G
86e	as L86c, but in capitals	42x11	Black	1822-30	E

An up-to-date list of these General Post Receiving House handstamps (L86 & varieties) can be found in Hugh Feldman's *Letter Receivers of London, 1652 to 1857* (Postal History Society, 1998).

General Post Paid Stamps

The first London General Post Paid handstamp is on a letter dated 22 November 1712, from Brooking to London. The majority of the early covers with L90 are to places abroad, but there are several examples of internal letters with this stamp. The majority of early letters were unpaid, although prepayment was allowed. This accounts for the relative scarcity of the 'Paid' handstamps as compared with the unpaid.



L 90	PD	13-18	Blackish Purple		
90a	as L90, but		Black	1712-65	D
			Purple	1761	E
91	POST/PAID	24-28	Red	1766-91	C
91a	as L91, but	24-28	Black	1778-90	D
91b	as L91, but	25	Purple	1790	D
91c	as L91, but	25	Claret	1791	E

The claret and blackish-purple inks used for the later strikes of L91 were water based, in contrast to the red ink which was oil based.

92	PAID, year in middle circle	34	Blackish Purple		
				1787-88	F
92a	?reuse, known November 1791	34	Red	1791	G
93	as L92, but	30	Blackish Purple & Claret	1789-91	E
94	as L92, December 1790-October 19 1791, but	30-31	Red	1790-91	E
95	Year in two figures in outer circle	32-33	Red	1791-94	C
95a	Absent middle ring, MR 27 92	32	Red	1792	D
95b	OC inverted, OC 11 93	32	Red	1793	D

In 1794 there was an extensive reorganisation of the London Penny Post, and at the same time the London General Post was reorganised to a lesser extent. The only evidence of this change in the General Post is the existence of the following three experimental Paid handstamps (L96-98).

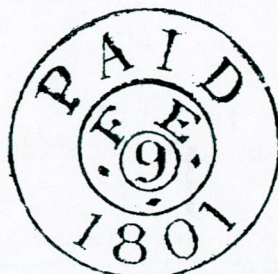


96	POST PAID in square frame, March	34x34	Red	1794	K
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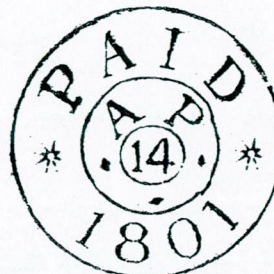
97	POST PAID in octagonal frame, April-July	31x31	Red	1794	H
97a	as L97, but centre missing, 1 July	31x31	Red	1794	J
98	PAID, August-December	25	Red	1794	G
98a	as L98, DE 5 94, but	25	Purple	1794	H



99



99a



99b

99	Year in 4 figures, diamonds between PAID and year	32-35	Red	1795-1801	B
99a	as L99, but no ornaments between PAID and year	35	Red	1801	C
99b	as L99, but stars between PAID and year	36	Red	1801	C
99c	as L99, but circles between PAID and year	36	Red	1800	C

L99a was used early in 1801 while L99b is only known for April 1801. L99 (and varieties) was used for morning (MD) and evening duties (ED) until the end of 1797; thereafter its use was confined to evening duty until 1 May 1801 when it was replaced by L109.



100



101



102



103

100	as L99, but + outside circle, DE 30 (see note after L8)	32	Red	1797	G
101	as L99, but very small letter outside circle codes A-G, January-August, MD	30-31	Red	1798	F
102	as L99, but large letters outside circle codes A-E & G, MD (see note after L10a)	33	Red	1798-99	F

In L100-102 the cross or letter is central between 'A' & 'I'.

For code S see Sunday Paid stamp, L120

103	PAID outside circle, codes A-G, July-December, MD	25	Red	1799	F
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104



105



105e



106

104	Day after month, codes A-G, Jan 1 1800 to 1810	various	Red	1800-10	B
	For code S see Sunday Paid stamp, L121				
105	Day before and after month, codes A-G, MD	various	Red	1810-41	A
	For code S see Sunday Paid stamp, L122				
105a	as L105, deformed frame, A/30MR30/1829	26x23	Red	1829	C
105b	as L105, code N	various	Red	1838-42	B
105c	as L105, code X	?	Red	1840	C
105d	as L105, but	various	Black	1816-30	C
	L105d is used with 'Too Late' or 'More to Pay' stamps				
105e	as L105 double frame, codes A-H, ED				
	(code H 3 DE 1840)	26x30	Red	1810-41	A
105f	as L105e, code N	26x30	Red	1840	C
105g	as L105e, code X	26x30	Black	1840	D
105h	as L105e, but	26x30	Black	1821	C

(beware of oxidised red)

Code N, when used before 1843, was applied to letters carried to London by the railway.

The 'tombstone' PAID stamps (L104-105) were applied to letters which arrived at the London GPO from the provinces, either for delivery in London or for onward transmission to another provincial town. The single frame type was used on all letters from 1800 to 1810 and on letters stamped between midnight and midday from 1810 onwards. The double frame type (L105e) was used on letters stamped between midday and midnight from 1810 onwards.

For a further account of the 'tombstone' stamps and of the significance of the code letters used, see 'The London Provincial Handstamps' by John Harrison (Stamps, October 1980, reprinted in the London Postal History Group Notebook, No 54, pages 9-13).

106	as L105, but sans-serif, codes A-G, MD	25x28	Red	1841-42	B
106a	as L106, but no code	25x28	Red	1842	C
	For code S see Sunday Paid stamp, L123				
106b	as L106, but double frame, codes A-E, ED		Red	1841-42	B
107	as L106, but serif letters, codes A-Z, Jan-Déc, MD	24x26	Red	1843	B
107a	as L107, but no code	24x26	Red	1843	C
107b	as L107, double frame, codes A-Z, ED	24x26	Red	1843	B
107c	as L107b, but 'A' of 'PAID' missing, 17 AU	24x26	Red	1843	C
108	as L106, sans-serif, codes A-Z, MD	25x27	Red	1844-50	A
108a	as L108, but no code	25x27	Red	1846-57	A
108b	as L108, but two letters in code	25x27	Red	1851-	A
108c	as L108, but double frame, codes A-Z, ED	25x29	Red	1844-54	A
109	Day after month, no ornaments, May 1801-1805, ED	32-33	Red	1801-05	B
109a1	as L109, but stars on each side of year	32-33	Red		B
109a2	as L109, but circles on each side of year	32-33	Red		B
109a3	as L109, but lines on each side of year	32-33	Red		B
109b	as L109, but 'V' for '5' in Feb 5	33	Red	1802	F



109



109a1



109a3



109b



110



111



112



113

- 110 Day before and after month,
circles or lines on each side of year
110a as L110, but no ornaments

32-33	Red	1810-21	A
26-33	Red	1814, 1822-40	A

The circular PAID stamps (L109-110) were applied to prepaid letters posted in London (at the GPO or in General Post Receiving Houses) for transmission to provincial towns. (See also note after L105.)

- 111 as L110a, but sans-serif letters, ED

27-28	Red	1841-44	A
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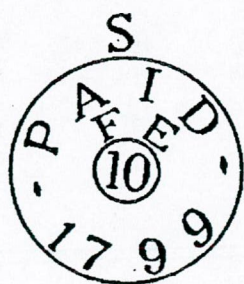
- 112 as L111, but two code letters below PAID
112a as L112, but double frame

27-28	Red	1846-58	A
28-30	Red	1846-58	A

- 113 as L112, but code and year transposed

27-28	Red	1851-58	A
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Sunday Paid Stamps



120



121



122



123

- 120 L102, but with code S
120a L120, but with additional ring between PAID & JY 15
121 L104, but with code S
122 as L121, but day before and after month
123 as L122, but sans-serif

33	Red	1799	J
33	Red	1799	J
various	Red	1801-09	G
various	Red	1816-40	E
25x29	Red	1841-42	F

General Post Branch Offices, Paid Stamps



130



131



132



133

LOMBARD STREET

130	PAID/16MY1832/L.S	10.5.30-25.8.32	21x21	Red	1830-32	B
130a	as L130, but double frame	23.5.33	22x22	Red	1833	C
131	PAID/LNO10S/1832	day after month	22x21			GPO
132	PAID/L10MYS/1833	10.5.33-5.12.33	21x20	Red	1833	B
133	PAID/LS/26DE26/1834	30.1.34-5.7.49	various	Red	1834-49	A
133a	as L133, but double frame		25x25			GPO
133b	as L133, but sans-serif	9.7.50-12.12.57	25x25	Red	1850-57	A



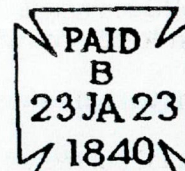
135



136



138



139

CHARING CROSS

135	PAID/21MY1830/CX	2.3.30-28.11.33	21x20	Red	1830-33	B
135a	as L135, but blue	5.11.30	21x20	Blue	1830	C
136	PAID/C+/22AP22/1834	11.1.34-22.6.47	25x24	Red	1834-47	A
136a	as L136, but double frame	31.5.41-19.7.45	26x25	Red	1841-45	A
136b	as L136, but sans-serif	3.4.51-24.8.53	25x25	Red	1851-53	A

BOROUGH

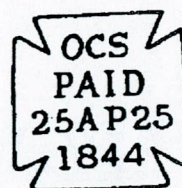
138	PAID/BSE15B/1834	26.11.30-15.9.34	21x19	Red	1833-34	C
139	PAID/B/23JA23/1840	6.3.35-28.11.43	various	Red	1835-43	B
139a	as L139, but sans-serif	12.4.45-30.10.50	21x21	Red	1845-50	B



142



143



144

VERE STREET

142	PAID/V.MA9.S/1833	8.2.30-11.7.34	21x20	Red	1830-34	B
143	PAID/VS/1FE1/1837	19.11.35-26.8.41	various	Red	1835-41	B

OLD CAVENDISH STREET

144	OCS/PAID/25AP25/1844	25.4.44-10.10.53	25x25	Red	1844-53	B
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A detailed listing of the various subtypes of the General Post Branch Offices can be found in the London Postal History Group Publication 'Stamps of the Branch Offices 1829-57'.

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