London Postal History Group

No.55 December 1981

NOTEBOOK

POSTAL HISTORY IS THE STUDY OF THE OPERATION OF POSTAL SERVICES BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE FRUITS OF SUCH STUDY

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Editor : Peter Forrestier Smith, 24 Dovercourt Road, Dulwich, London SE22 8ST

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THE NEW YEAR

is the time one is supposed to make resolutions, though this can so often be a repeat of previous efforts. After due consideration, we came to the conclusion that the only resolution which stands any prospect of achievement is the intention to continue to enjoy our collecting and to share own own material, through displays, to the enjoyment of others - and let it be admitted - to ourselves when we show some treasured item.

As a by-product of this, we can all share gems from our collections with other Group members through the pages of " Notebook ". It has been a very happy aspect of 1981 that more members are offering a page or two this way.

May this continue in 1982.

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THE POSTAL HISTORY OF WALWORTH, by A.J. Kirk

Walworth is a triangular area just to the south of the old Borough of Southwark. Much of it was marshy ground which probably sheltered the Britons when the Anglo-Saxons invaded the country after the Romans had left. Its ancient name Wealwyrd or Walecorde means ' the farm of the Britons '. The area is bounded on the east by the Old Kent Road, almost on the line of the old Roman road, Watling Street, up which the legionaries marched from Dover to London. To the west is the Kennington Road and Newington Butts, which follow the line of Stane Street, the Roman road from Chichester and the Sussex coast to London. To the south is the Parish of Camberwell. Since it was a marshy area this is probably the reason why, although it was so close to London, it was very slow to develop . A map of 1681 shows just one road running from north to south, Walworth Road. A few houses in the area of what is now known as the Elephant and Castle, a manor house surrounded by a few more houses, and the rest, common land, clay pits and fields. It is mentioned in Doomsday Book as being land for ploughing and growing corn, and " eight acres of meadowland for the cows ". By 1817 there were said to be about 336 houses in the area. As late as 1853 a certain Harriett Beeches Stowe stayed with the Rev. Thomas Binney at Rose Cottage, on the site of the present Town Hall. She found it " a charming retreat, with a view from the windows of sheep and lambs grazing in the meadow ".

From 1052 the area was owned by Canterbury Cathedral and even now some parts are still the property of the Churh Commissioners. Up until 1900, when it was transferred to the Borough of Southwark, Walworth was part of the parish of St.Mary Newington. St.Mary's Church was built near what is now the Elephant and Castle about 1212. After a number of moves it is now sited in Kennington Park Road.

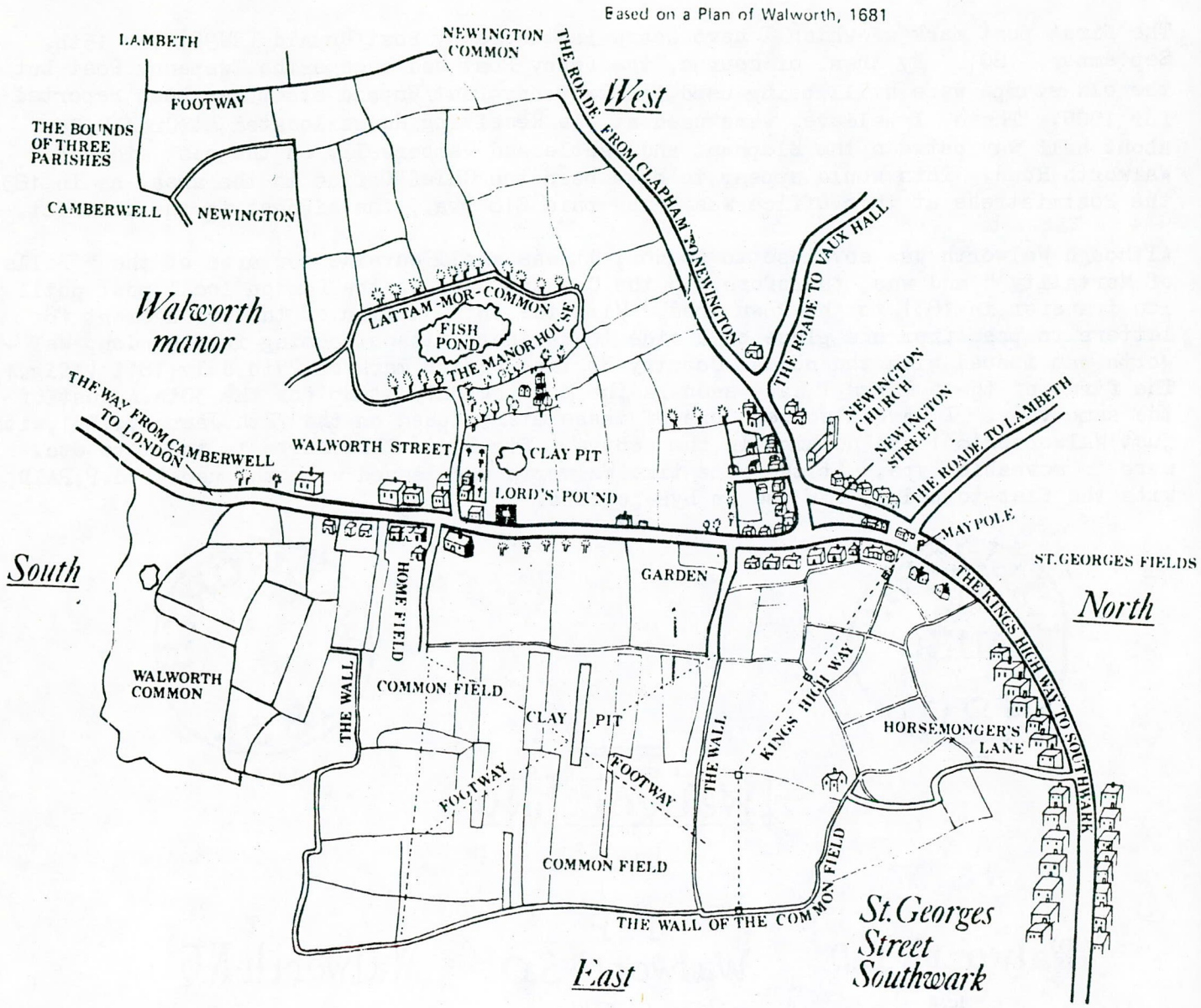
As a commentary on the difficulties of travel in the early days it is interesting to note, from the sketch map (overleaf) that in approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles there were three toll gates. The first was at St. George's Church, on the boundary with Southwark, the second at Newington Butts, at the junction of roads, now known as the Elephant and Castle, and the third at the boundary with Camberwell. The first and last of these toll gates had Receiving Houses quite close to them. The last of the gates was removed over one hundred years ago but the Newington Butts one is still preserved at a local museum.



Newington Butts, 1820

What of its postal services ? In view of the small population the early evidence is scanty. There must be some Post Office Dockwra marks of Southwark on letters written in Walworth but so far I have not seen any. On the reorganisation of the Penny Post

The Postal History of Walworth.....



in 1794 three Receiving Houses are shown, Walworth, Newington Butts and Newington Causeway (south of the turnpike), all with two collections and three deliveries each day. Whilst Newington Butts and Newington Causeway are not strictly Walworth they are in the Parish of St.Mary Newington and thus qualify for this article. The Newington Causeway office is particularly interesting. As the 1794 publication shows it was " south of the turnpike ". I have a letter dated 1838 which has a Walworth N.O. Receiving House and the writer's address is given as Post Office, Bridgehouse Place, Newington Causeway. It almost looks as though the writer is using a P.O. Box number, but why did he not post it at that Receiving House ? In 1857 this office is shown as at 2 Newington Causeway, Ed. Rathbone & Co., Corn and Coal Merchant. After the address is shown Queen's Bench (in the prison). Newington Causeway would appear to also have had a General Post Receiving House. I have seen a letter dated 1829 which has the boxed type General Post Receiving House mark. It was not usual outside central London to have General Post and Twopenny Post Receiving Houses and one wonders whether in this case the Receiving House was being used by both branches of the Post Office. In 1840 the Newington Butts Receiving House was at 22 High Street, opposite the " Plough and Harrow ". This would have been somewhere near the junction of Newington Butts and Kennington Park Road. By 1857 it had moved to 6 Newington Butts, J.G. Sturch & Co., Grocers.

The Postal History of Walworth.....

The first post mark of which I have heard is the Penny Post/Unpaid (RW96) for 15th. September, 1801. By then, of course, the Penny Post had become the Twopenny Post but the old stamps were still being used. A Twopenny Post/Unpaid stamp has been reported for 1805. These, I believe, were used at the Receiving House located at Crosby Row, about half way between the Elephant and Castle and Camberwell, on the east side of Walworth Road. This would appear to have been the Chief Office in the area, as in 1832 the Postmistress at this Office was being paid £18 p.a., the highest in the district.

Although Walworth was so close to London, it was still outside the area of the " Bills of Mortality " and was, therefore, in the Country area of the London local post until its transfer in 1831 to the Town area. With the introduction of the arrangement for letters to pass from one place on a ride to another, without coming into London, Wal - worth was issued with the normal Country Sorting Office mark on 27th.July,1811 (fig.1). The first of these marks I have seen is the Morning Duty stamp for the 30th.August of the same year. I have also seen one of these stamps used on the 22th.January,1831,with just Walworth/1831 and nothing in the centre (fig.2). This suggests the date etc. were in moveable type. At the same time Walworth was issued with the usual 3d.P.PAID, with the flat-topped 3, for use on Bye-letters.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

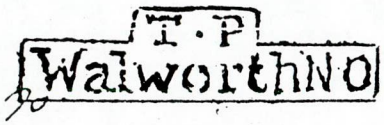


Fig. 3

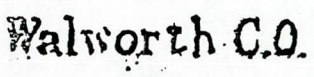


Fig. 4

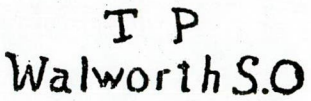


Fig. 5

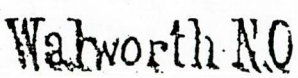


Fig. 6

By 1823 there were three Receiving Houses in Walworth. These were, going from north to south, at Staverton Row, Crosby Row and Baker's Row, all on the east side of Walworth Road. Strange to remark, they all had postmistresses. Elizabeth and Mary Nelmes had a dressmaking establishment at Staverton Road; Susanna Smith had a turnery warehouse at Crosby Row and the Baker's Row house was a bookshop run by Alice Lambert. These off - ices are known by their stamps. North Office (N.O.), Central Office (C.O.) and South- ern Office (S.O.) respectively. All marks I have seen bear one or other of these init- ials and this continued into the adhesive label period. They all used the step-type Twopenny post stamp, brought into use about 1809, both with and without the frame (see figs 3 and 5). Later the straight line type, without the ' T P ', was also used at all offices (figs 4 and 6). The mark for the Crosby Row office appears as both C.O. Walworth and Walworth C.O. The Country Sorting House mark issued 1811 has no initials and I therefore think this was used only at the Chief Receiving House. This I believe must have been at Crosby Row. The Country stamps have been seen only in red but a num- ber of the others have been recorded in black, blue as well as red.

The Receiving Houses mentioned above were the only ones in Walworth for some time. The N.O. and the C.O. offices seemed to stay more or less in the same place over a number of years but the S.O. office moved from site to site. In 1842 the N.O. was shown at 11 Black Prince Row, in 1842 at 5 Crown Row, with Mr. Wm. David Skinner, a tobacconist and in 1847 it was at 10 Staverton Row, this time under Charles A. Hopkins, chemist.

The Postal History of Walworth.....

Whilst these show a number of changes, they were more or less in the same part of the Walworth Road. The Crosby Road R.H., whilst changing its number, stayed at the same place right up to 1869, when it lost its Crosby Row title and became just 227 Walworth Road. It was closed fianlly in 1890 and moved across the road to number 96, when it became the Walworth District Office. The South Office seems to have moved about be - tween Williams Place on the west side of Walworth Road and Bolingbroke Row on the east side. In 1842 it was at 5 William Place, Sophia Renwick, Fruitiers but in 1847 it had moved across the road again to Collins & Pepprill, ornamental stationers, 13 Boling- broke. In 1850 it returned to 5 William Place, now a bookshop run by Mrs Mary Pollard. It continued to change location from time to time but by 1856 it had become firmly fixed at 24 Bolingbroke Row, a pastrycook shop owned by Mr. Thomas Butler. With the gradual expansion of the population, new Receiving Houses were opened at 26 Lorrimore Road, Alvey Street and East Street and by 1859, pillar boxes were standing in East Street and Berresford Place.

In the adhesive label period letters which did not receive one such, were stamped with the Walworth/1d.Paid stamp, with the office initials (fig.7); these are known used



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

until about 1853. At the same time letters which did not receive the adhesive are known with the unframed T.P./Walworth marks up to 1855 (fig.5). The last issue of marks signifying the Receiving Houses were the small undated type used on the back of letters; these were generally issued 1858/59. The Crosby Row Office had one issued to it on the 13th.October, 1859 (fig.9); Lorrimore Road had one with an ' S ' in the centre issued on 2nd.June,1859 and this is the only mark issued to that office. Boling- broke Row and Newington Causeway both had the rimmed variety; Newington Butts, however, was issued on the 18th.June,1857 with the unrimmed type.

With the formation of the Southern District Office on the 1st.September,1858, Walworth came under its control and from then on most letters would have received the Southern Office stamps. There was, however, one mark issued to Walworth and this was the single 30/B in an oval of bars (15th.May,1861). This, I believe, would have been used on letters which were purely local. Whilst in the Southern area, Walworth was issued, in May 1858, with the usual missort mark (fig.8). With the closure, on the 1st.April, 1868, of the Southern Office, Walworth was transferred to the South-Eastern District and the first new stamp issued to the district was the duplex with 42 in circle within an upright oval of bars (16th.May, 1883). Once again, I think this was used - at first - on local letters but later passed into general use. Known used 1898-1906. I cannot trace,in the Post Office Proof Impression Books,a missort mark being issued for the South-Eastern Office. In fact there would seem to be very few stamps issued to Walworth. No doubt being so near to the South East District Office in Borough High Street could account for this. In 1891 the well known " squared circle " was issued to Walworth and this remained in use well into the 20th. century. The only instruct - ional mark I have been able to find is " Liable to Letter Rate /42 " in a downward stepped frame, issued 8th.November, 1899 and the well-known ' R ' in an upright oval for use on Registered Letters was issued 26th.July,1890.

With the gradual expansion of the area in the 1870/80's, more post offices were opened but by then they did not have to postmark letters and their only marks are the counter stamps used on registered mail and Post Office Savings Accounts. These were issued in 1869 to 21 Walworth Road, probably the old Staverton Row R.H., in 1870 to 227 Walworth Road, 1891 to Alvey Road, 1892 to Lorrimore Square and 1895 to Rodney Road.

The Postal History of Walworth.....

Walworth has now lost its status as a separate office and has been incorporated into the Kennington Office.

References:

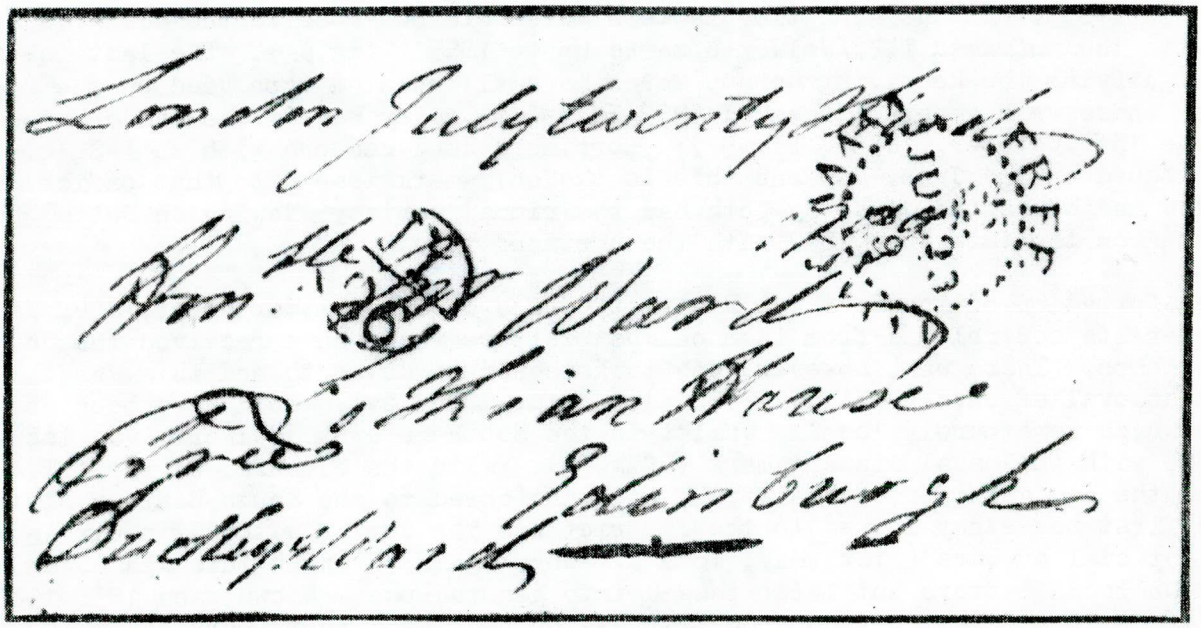
London and Counties Directory, Pigot.
Post Office Proof Impression Books.
Post Office Directories.
Kelly's Directories.
Notebook, L.P.H.G.
Unpublished material M.H.Bristow
The Story of Walworth, Libraries Dept., Borough of Southwark, to whom we accord our thanks for permission to reproduce the 1820 engraving and the 1681 plan of Walworth.

This article first appeared in The British Mailcoach, September 1979 and is reprinted with acknowledgement and thanks.

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WHAT THE AUCTIONS TELL...contributed by John Harrison

This very fine item was in the " James Postal History Auction " in Norwich on the 5th. September, 1981. It was given lot number 84 and the description reprinted below.



1799 (23rd. July) clean free franked cover to Edinburgh signed " Dudley Ward " showing a good red strike of the zenith rated " FREE " with triangular rays (JL 14) and a good arrival Bishopmark on the obverse. Reverse has a near good boxed " Park Street " G.P. receiving house stamp over join. The only other known example of the JL 14 handstamp (which was only in use for 3 days) is on a front dated the following dat. Est £200 - £250.

It sold for £1000.

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THE " TOMBSTONE " PAID STAMPS OF LONDON. by Neil Blair

with additional material from Roland Greenhill, George Crabb and Tony Clark.

Readers should be under no false illusions as to my qualifications to write about the London " Tombstones ". All I have done, over the years, is to jot down dates and de - tails of various " Tombstone " stamps while studying material for other than London Postal History purposes. Having, as a result, collected a certain amount of information on these particular Paid stamps, it seemed a pity not to put this data in writing. So I hope these notes will be of use to anyone studying these marks in more detail than I have been able to do.

It is appreciated this contribution overlaps to some extent with the study by John Harrison which appeared recently in ' Notebook '. However, since his work was specifically linked to a particular aspect of the organisation, rather than a survey of the stamps and was limited to a particular period, I am sure many readers will have material which is associated with,but outside the scope of, his immediate requirements. This will serve to " bridge the gap ".

Distinguishing Letters

Every letter of the alphabet, except " Q ", has been seen. A few had no distinguishing letter; one had two letters, namely " KA ".

With three exceptions, i.e. " O ", " N " and " S ", no clue has been found as to any special purpose for any particular letter. In the case of " O ", those few examples seen have been either on letters addressed to places abroad, or on letters which originated outside Great Britain. It would, though, be risky to draw any conclusions without more evidence, as the total number I have seen cannot exceed ten.

The " N " code is reputed to have some connection with mails brought to London by rail. This view is expressed in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia Volume 1. This claim is also stated in the Alcock and Holland work, with dates from 1837 to 1842, when they consider it lost its special significance. One such, reported by George Crabb, is dated 1841 from Ireland to Fitzroy Square, London but it does not appear to be significantly related to handling by rail, though by that date one might fairly assume such processing would be routine.

The " S " for Sunday relationship is well known and has been dealt with very thoroughly by Francis Granville in several articles in the philatelic press. The Willcocks cata - logue makes the use very clear. Curiously enough, all the examples seen by me came from outside England (Scotland, Ireland and the Channel Islands for example).

Day of the Month

All the later stamps introduced after 1812 had the day of the month both in front and behind the month.

Shape: Size: Color of Ink

With one notable exception,produced by George Crabb and illustrated below, neither shape nor size varied to any major degree over the whole period studied.

The ink ranged from red to orange. Some examples which were brown or almost black were thought to have been discolored by oxidation. The Willcocks catalogue also does not record any in true black.



Lettering

The lettering before 1840 in nearly every case was serifed. After then, it changed - generally - to sans-serif.

The " Tombstone " Paid Stamps of London.....



"P..D" Variety

Tony Clark provided examples of a curious variety showing P D in place of the full PAID. These were culled from a pile of offcuts with Lancaster connections which had in them two such stamps.

Both are code ' C ' and both dated 1st.April, 1843 - I do not attach too much significance to the date!

Conclusion

These notes and the following table are based on a study of between 750 and 1,000 examples of this " Tombstone " type. In view of the comparative availability and low cost of the post 1840 material (even the earlier items are not too expensive) this may provide an additional stimulus to record and report on these hitherto neglected stamps which, as John Harrison has pointed out, provide the opportunity for an interesting study.

Table of Survey Results

Distinguishing Letter		" Date Bracket " of those so far seen Single Frame		Double Frame	
A		1840		1819	1845
B		1816	1842	1820	1843
C		1823	1840	1815	1846
D		1832	1842	1825	1843
E		1816	1849	1820	1843
F		1813	1849	1823	1845
G		1808	1830	1819	1840
H		1845		1840	1845
I		-		1843	
J		1844		1845	
K		1843	1844	1843	
L		1811	1849	-	
M		1843		1843	
N	*	1842	1844	1843	1844
O		1857		1840	1843
P		-		1844	
R		1844	1849	1844	
S		1826	1842	-	
T		1840		1843	1846
U		1845		1843	1846
V		1844		-	
W		-		1844	1845
X		1843		1846	
Y		1844	1849	1844	
Z		1817	1847	-	
KA	**	1861			

* known 1841 to 1846 but unclear if single or double frame

** one stamp only known.

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POST OFFICE BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTIONS IN LONDON

One of our German members, Werner Bauschke,spends much of his holiday time in and around London, recording on film post office buildings, letter boxes and anything which catches his eye as being connected with the post office and which he finds pleasing to see. In view of the proliferation of the functional designs in recent years, he tends to concentrate on earlier examples, which in any event are being lost in the general redevelopment of the capital.

In a visit to the Editor this year this project was discussed at some length. One of the major problems is to combine limited time and the maximum number of fruitful site visits which can be made within that restricted period. Pillar and letter boxes are listed in Jean Farrugia's first class publication (though many have since no doubt been removed). It is the buildings which have no listing by age. To merely work through the current London Post Offices publication would be of little value.

Would readers have a look at any post office buildings, letter boxes etc in their own area and/or when they travel around London and note the type of building in which the offices,or other facilities, are to be found. For example, the sub post office set in a spanking new shopping scheme, a local sweet shop or a purpose built edifice clearly dated 1901 or whatever. The dating is of considerable interest and if the reader can spare a further few minutes either a look at the building, which may carry a date, or local enquiries to establish one, will add greatly to the effectiveness of the pre-recording survey. If you also have the PO. ' London Post Offices and Streets ', please give the reference number and address as shown and, very important, the date of your copy of the publication.

By way of indicating something of the results so far, this page and the next show one or two examples from the film record. the first, fig.1, is of Prentis Road, Streatham, which although no longer listed as a post office, clearly has the necessary connections, shown by the arms above the centre window. Fig. 2 in Venn Street,Clapham might again fool recorders since there is no such address listed, though the PO link is obvious. This reinforces the oft repeated request not to merely look in the obvious place when researching! Fig. 3 is Notting Hill, in need of a good scrub but a good example of its period. Fig 4 can be found in Lollard Street, Lambeth - useful item of information after a hard day with camera and a bus pass.

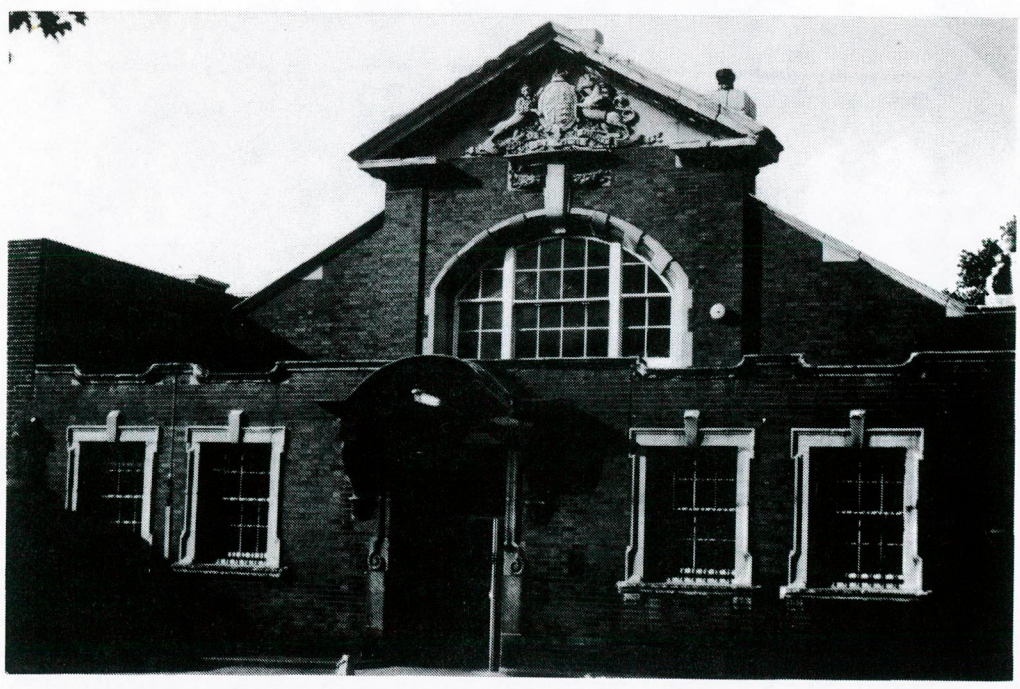


Fig. 1

Post Office Buildings...in London....



Fig. 2

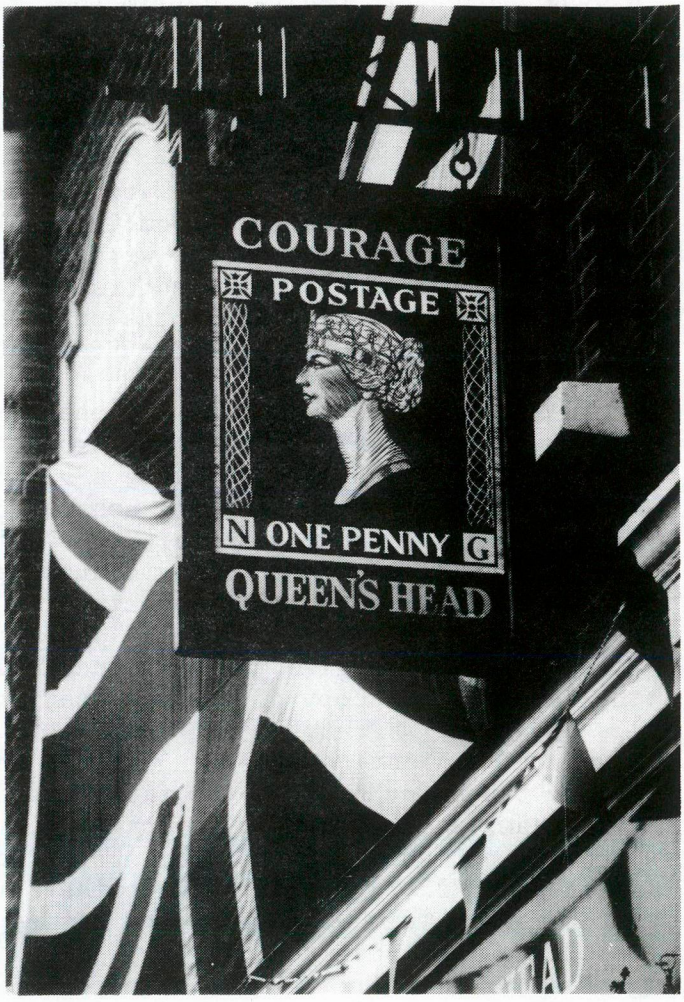


Fig. 4

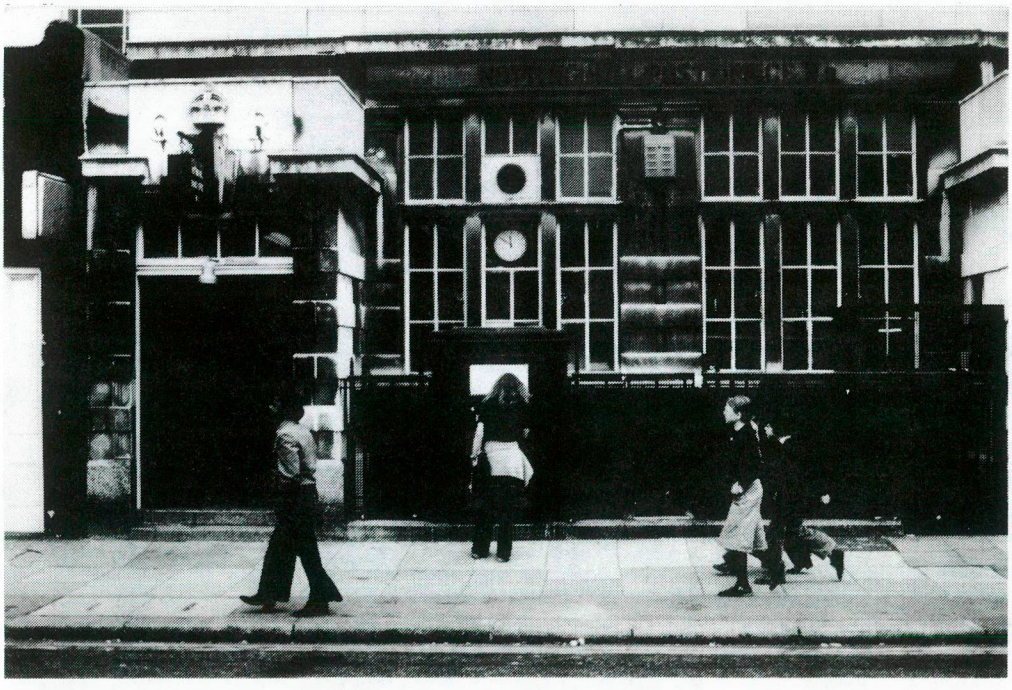
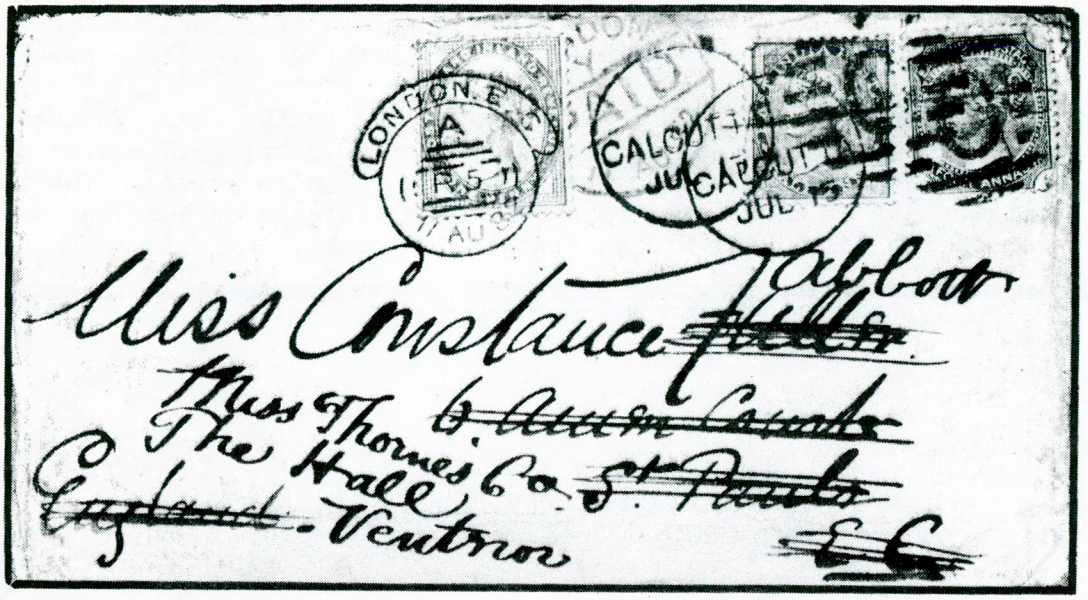


Fig.3

THE LONDON SCROLL: A REDIRECTION CANCELLATION from John Chandler

A trunk full of ' junk ' which I was asked to sort out recently has yielded an item which will, I think, be of interest. It is dusty and crumpled but its story is clear.



An ordinary envelope bearing two East Indies stamps (4 = ½ annas), posted in Calcutta on the 15th.July,1882 and addressed to " Miss Constance Fuller, 6 Amen Court, St.Pauls, E.C., England ", it received the London PAID stamp, in red, dated 11 AU 82, code ' Y '.

It seems to have been delivered that morning, for it is redirected, the lady's surname being altered to " Abbott " and the address to " Miss Thorne's Co. The Hall, Ventnor ". The redirection fee was paid by the addition of a G.B. 1d lilac adhesive and this is cancelled with the London Scroll short lived experimental type, code R5 and dated for 11 AU 82; the envelope is backstamped Ventnor c.d.s. AU 12 82.

The change of name makes one wonder if the lady had just married and was on honeymoon on the Isle of Wight, although her " Miss " status was not altered. Perhaps, in view of the actual fresh address, she was a member of Miss Thorne's Concert Party, appearing in Ventnor, with " Abbott " as her stage-name.

Social specualtion aside, what is of major interest is the very definite use of this particular scroll cancellation. It is very clearly struck (possibly by machine ?) and may one indulge in the proposition for " R5 " to indicate a redirection at 5 o' clock ? I must stress I do not have any official interpretation for these codes and speculation is only that and no more. It is to be hoped Simon Kelly's detailed researches will provide a pattern which will improve " speculation " to " probability ".

Editor's Note:

Certain liberties have been taken with the original text of John's letter which has provided the solid base for this contribution. Although quite a few examples of this type have now been recorded, all too many on adhesive or small piece, this is the first example used on a redirection duty, and at an early date.

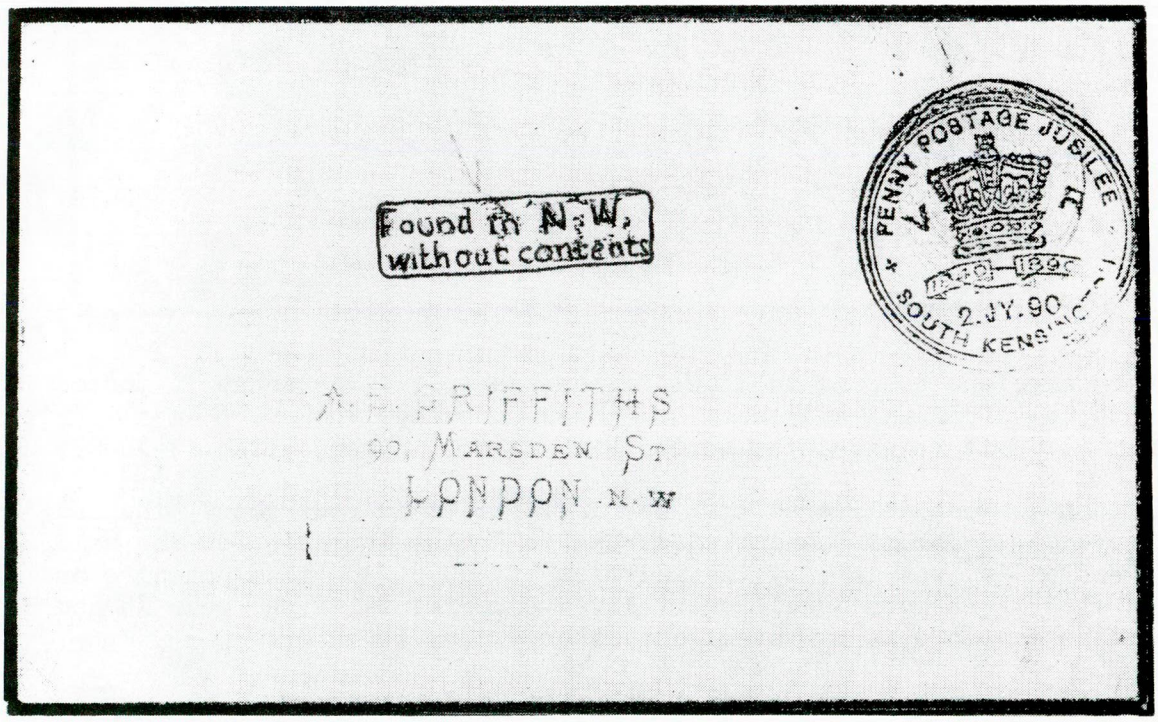
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DEPTFORD COUNTRY OFFICE DATESTAMP

A further twist to the report in Notebook 51/18: a report has been received of the stamp with no code for Ap 9 1838, the date running straight across!!

FOUND, WITHOUT CONTENTS, from Jack Routh

It is often claimed the Post Office does not understand collectors, despite the number - and value - of the issues since the floodgates were opened in the early sixties. It is not surprising that empty envelopes, posted to secure examples of special postmarks, should cause the average clerk to assume the contents had been lost in the post. Indeed, it would be unwise to presume otherwise. Two examples are shown here for readers interest.
The first is a penny pink envelope (ES11) cancelled by the Penny Postage Jubilee special stamp for 2nd July 1890 and addressed, as can be seen, with what looks very much like a fancy handstamp, rather suggesting its philatelic nature. The post office in South Kensington either missed the absence of the contents or were quite used to such mail, whereas the North West Office went by the book.



The second example, shown overleaf, is dated later in the month on 24th.July,1890. As can be seen, it is one of the special envelopes sold at the Exhibition for 1/- and cancelled with 1D9C (14mm), itself rarity H-E, backstamped by the sender(?) with his business cachet - the same as the address - and then stamped with three post office devices. In red is the LONDON/JY 24/90 in the square frame, the LONDON E.C./Z/JY24/90/L and the " Found in..." cachet. In addition, might one presume the intials are those of the postal official dealing.

Editors Note:

A similar item was received many years ago in like circumstances when some covers from remoter parts of South Africa with their curious cancellations were being collected. In this case, there was no cachet but an official printed letter requesting the return of the envelope to the post office to enable them to attempt to trace the non existant ' missing ' contents.

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WANTED

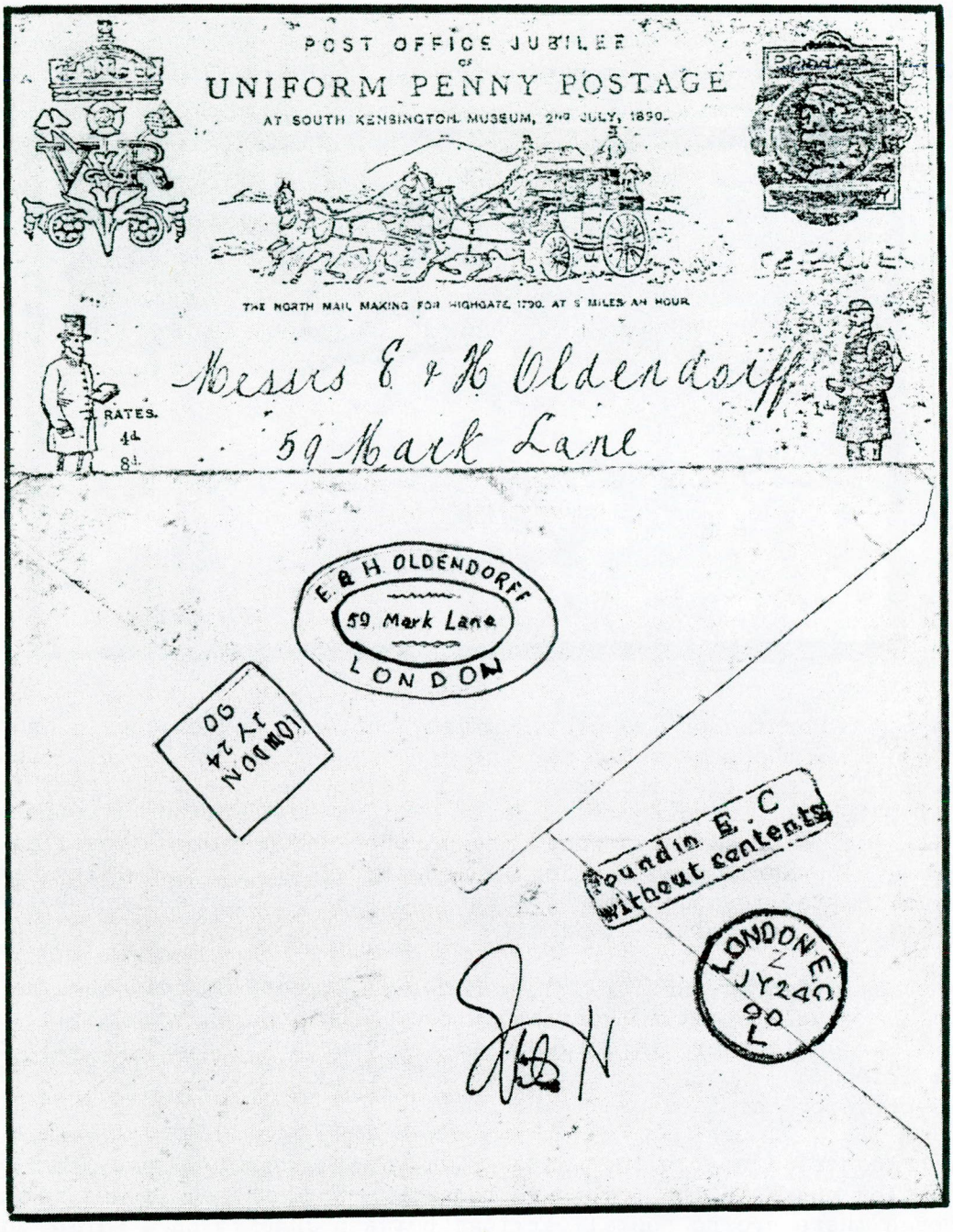
Postmarks and cancellations of Beddington, Wallington (J63), Upper Wallington (J63), and South Beddington. Any period of interest.

Will purchase or exchange for other areas.

Andrew Ford, 5 Clarence Road, Wallington, Surrey SM6 OEW

FOUND, WITHOUT CONTENTS.....

The covering notes appear on the previous page.



POST OFFICE PRIVILEGE

Postal Privilege (Suspension) Order 1981 (No.1483) (30), made under the British Telecommunications Act 1981 (c.38) s.69; operative on November 7, 1981; suspends until 2006 the exclusive privilege of the Post Office with respect to the conveyance of letters so as to permit other persons to convey them if a minimum charge of £1 is made for each letter conveyed.

(source: Current Law November 1981)

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OFFICE INITIAL STAMPS OF THE LONDON DISTRICT POST

These stamps have been recorded in ' Notebook ' over a number of issues and, as is usual with postal history, more items come to hand which seem to add further dimensions to the study.

Two such are illustrated here: in both cases the Office Initials appear in manuscript.



The address is 28 Mornington Crescent, Camden Town. As can be seen, Camden town has been deleted and in the same color ink the " P.S " (Portland Street) added next to the adhesive. The only postal marking on the reverse is the time stamp for 3 afternoon for 14th.July, 1853. According to readers' advices to ' Notebook ', the Portland Street initial have been recorded only twice. The serif type on a much travelled cover dated May 1854 and a sans serif much earlier in January 1847. This, falling between the two dates, one is tempted to speculate upon but the risk of such comment being taken as fact causes this to be confined to asking " Why in manuscript ? ".

What is far from clear is, if " P S " is Portland Street, how did such an obvious address did the envelope get to Portland Street,Soho , which presumably is the source of the " P S ". Until there is evidence to the contrary, this item will be dealt with as if it is indeed a manuscript version of the Office Initial. A heartening support for this is given by the item overleaf.

The item started off from Dublin, addressed to Castletown, Carlow. Seemingly, Castle-town was deleted and Palatine , this in red ink. From thence it was redirected to London, though there are no postal markings between June 13 on a Carlow date stamp and the London District Post time stamp for June 16th. Was it brought to London and there posted ? Before considering this further, it is worth noting the item carries on one of the flaps (not shown)**a straight** line serif capital Palatine name stamp. Although not a sure guide, the Barts Gazetteer text gives a popluation figure of 75 !! The frequency of use of a name stamp with that sort of population, unless there was a very active writer whose letters were retained in toto, must surely put it in the very rare class.

Back to London. The Crawford St. receiving house name stamp appears, and the 1d red on the left, cancelled '54' suggestes this was not redirected via the post office but brought to London a reposted. The address is clear enough " No.11 Park Street, St. James." The Letter Carrier (no relation to the Editor ?) one F. Smith, duly recorded " Not known at No 11 Park St. St James Park Westr."

This, however, left plenty of scope for the Post Office to attempt further deliveries,

OFFICE INITIAL STAMPS OF THE LONDON DISTRICT POST.....

since (according to an 1857 Directory) there were no fewer than ten streets with a " Park " prefix, in five postal districts. Given " P.B. " means Pimlico Branch, may one assume it was applied when the 1851 version of " FS " reported the absence of Richard Burton (yet another early relative ??).



The important question which links this item with the first in the " CX " in manuscript. Is it Charing Cross or what. The color of inks can mislead as well as instruct, so it is merely noted it is in the same intense black ink as the postal endorsement. Careful inspection of the two addresses does suggest that what the Post Office in London took for the " St. " of " St. James " is nothing of the sort but rather " Sth ", being a direction for Casteltown, Sth, Carlow. A little far fetched possibly, but Castletown is described in the gazetteer as being S.E. of Carlow. This " Sth ", or whatever, is in a very similar hand to the first address

Since there is but one further London time stamp, for the 17th.June, it can be presumed the Post Office found the correct Park Street. In the course of this, did a postal official endorse a second set of office initials for Charing Cross ?

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Post Script.....

Which office actually applied the " P.B. " ? Were the more obvious ones, such as Charing Cross actually applied at Charing Cross ? It would be intesting for some kind reader to check through P.O. Records and list to which offices these were issued, (doesn't PROVE use there but at least it would be a start.)

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RETURNED LETTER DUTY HANDSTAMP ?? from John F. Hine

I have recently been studying a series of seventeen envelopes which were undeliverable for various reasons. All were posted in the London East District during 1878 and 1879 and all written to addresses within London.

The envelopes show a standard pattern of handling as follows:

1. The LONDON E duplex cancellation.
2. The arrival stamp, normally in red for the same day or one day later, on the reverse.
3. The reason for the failure for non delivery on the reverse. For example " Empty house ", " Gone away " and " Refused ", plus the signatures, usually two, of the unsuccessful postmen.
4. On the top left hand front of the envelope some initials, possibly a postal official at the East District office ?
5. A distinguishing handstamp, on the front for the East District, the reverse for the others (EC, N, SW and W.)

Two of the items are shown. The full details are -

1. Duplex E33 dated MR 27/78. Backstamped LONDON E/AL/MR 28/78 in red and BETHNAL GREEN-S.O. E/MR 28/78. Endorsed on reverse " Not known without a No." plus FOUR signatures.

   On front LONDON.E RL/MR 30/78

2. Duplex E30 dated AP3/78. On reverse no stamps but endorsed ' Not known 'struck through and ' Gone away ' substituted, plus two signatures.

   On front LONDON.E RL/AP5/78

3. Duplex E34 dated AP 26/78. On reverse LONDON-E AN/AP 27/78 in red. Endorsed on reverse " Gone Away " plus two signatures.

   On front LONDON.E RL/AP 29/78

4. E/39 Duplex dated AP 26/78. On reverse LONDON-E AN/AP 27/78, endorsed " Not known " plus two signatures.

   On front LONDON.E RL/AP 29/78

5. E/30 ? Duplex dated AP 30/79. On reverse no stamps but endorsed " Gone Away " plus two signatures.

   On front LONDON.E RL/MY 2/79

6. E/30 Duplex dated NO 13/79. On reverse part strike BETHNAL GREEN B/?/?. Endorsed on reverse " Not known as directed in Old Montague St - No Montague Street " " Osbourne St." plus two signatures.

   On front LONDON.E RL/NO 15/79

7. Duplex E/30 dated MY 9/79. On reverse endorsed " Not known as addressed " plus two signatures.

   On front LONDON.E RL/MY 13/79

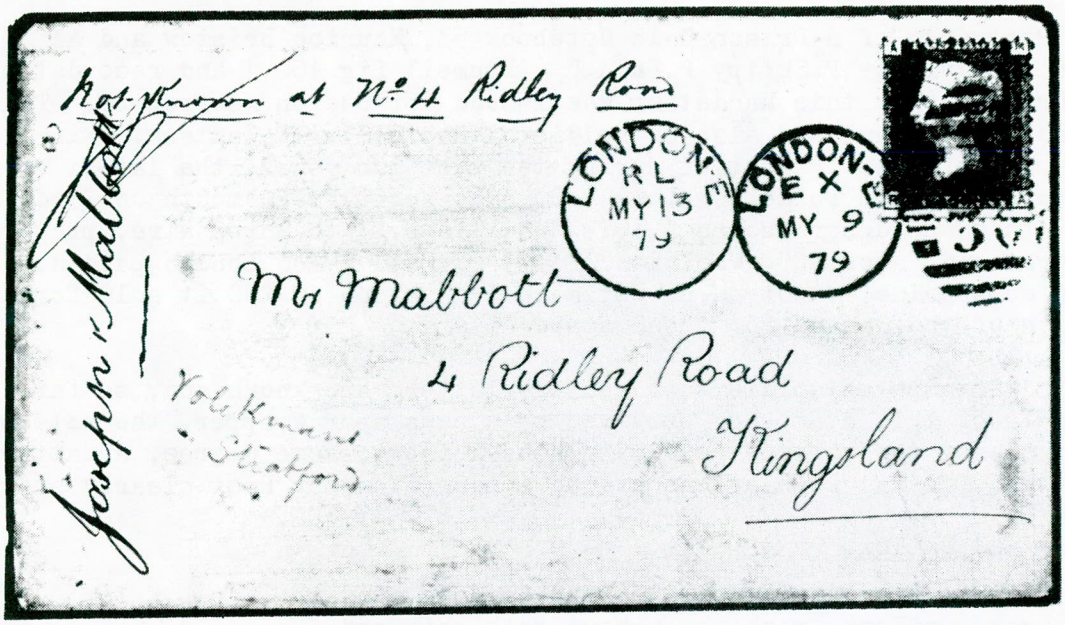
8. E/30 ? Duplex dated NO 14/79. On reverse endorsement " Empty house as directed " plus two signatures.

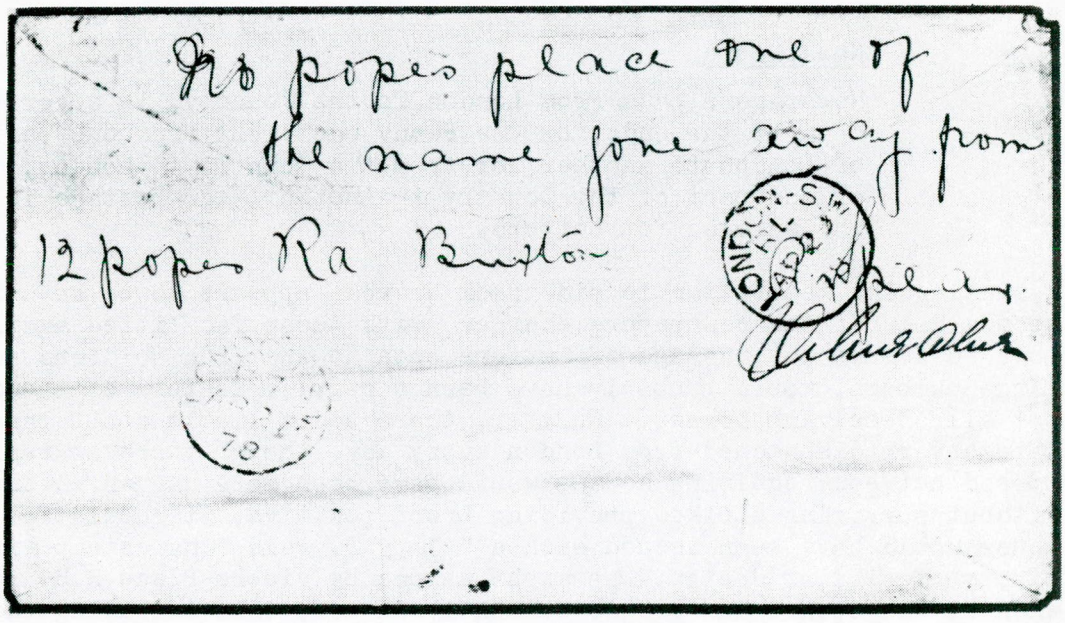
   On front LONDON.E RL/NO 17/79

9. E/30 ? Duplex dated NO 20/79. On reverse endorsed " Empty House " plus two sig - natures.

   On front LONDON.E RL/AP 29/79

Returned Letter Duty Handstamp.....





In addition to the LONDON E RL stamps, there is one for LONDON SW, which is shown. Other covers for the East and West Districts in the batch do not show these stamps.

Given these nine were all addressed to London East, all were undeliverable and all received the same coded handstamp, I think it reasonable to assume the code had a special significance. Coupled with the LONDON SW RL used on a similarly processed item I must conjecture RL means RETURN(ED) LETTER, or can a reader offer another explantion ?

Is it possible the RL stamp use is restricted in some way, since it was not used on the East Central and West District items (Ed.)?

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THE " 1 py P. PAID " AND SIMILAR STAMPS OF THE TWOPENNY POST

by John H.S. Harrison

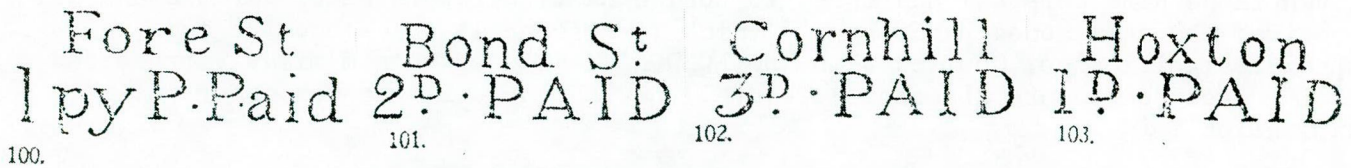
In their article " Postmarks of a Prison " in Notebook 53, Maurice Bristow and Alf Kirk refer to the use of " Belvidere P.Sk/1py P.Paid " (Brumell fig 100) and record the statement made by Brumell that this handstamp was issued for use on newspapers. This may well be the case but it was used also on soldiers' and sailors' letters. Examples of such usage have been offered in auction during the past two years, the latest of which I have seen being lot 685 in Robson Lowe P.H. auction at Bournemouth on 23rd. October this year. This was described as " 1829 Soldiers E.L. to Shropshire, properly endorsed and countersigned, showing ' Woolwich C/1 py P. Paid ' and London paid d.s. Slight creasing and some grime ". Given an estimated valuation of £30 it sold for £100 which is a reflection of the demand for these scarce items.

As so few of these handstamps on soldiers or sailors letters are known and, so far as I am aware, no example of this stamp has survived on a newspaper wrapper, the extent of the issue to and use by the various receiving houses is, to some degree, a matter of conjecture*,but the official regulations of the London Twopenny Post clearly state:

> Soldiers and Sailors
>
> Single Letters From or To Soldiers and Sailors, under certain restrictions, pass throughout both this and the General Post, or either, for One Penny only, if paid at putting in.
>
> Newspapers
>
> Newspapers pass From London To the Country, in covers open at the ends,for One Penny each: but from one part of London to another, or from the Country to London, or one part of the Country to another, the Postage is the same as for Letters.

Resisting the temptation to sidetrack on what appears to be an unfair anomaly in the second half of the newspapers charges, with these facilities available, it is reasonable to assume the passage of letters both to and from soldiers and sailors, if not in large numbers, would probably have been a regular feature of the daily work of most,if not all, receiving houses. Further, there seems little doubt large numbers of news - papers were dispatched from London every day, though there is reason to suspect the spread between receiving houses would have been more uneven in the case of these. Even without surviving strikes providing proof positive, it should follow every receiving house would have been issued with a " 1 py P. Paid " handstamp with the 2d and 3d stamps of similar design. One might assume Belvidere Place R.H. received a full ' set ' when it was opened in 1820 as currently in use, this including the 1d. value.

As collectors will appreciate, with the introduction of universal penny post in 1840 the use of this 1d. stamp appeared in quantity. Although this was a ' new ' rate for ordinary letters, it is obvious many, if not most, examples of this mark show consid- erable wear, clearly indicating extensive earlier use.



100. 101. 102. 103.

The later Brumell figs 101, 102 and 103 started to appear,in replacement of the earlier stamps, in 1836. With its customary prudence at that time, this replacement would seem to have been made only when the earlier stamps were worn and the individual receiver requested it. Apart from insurance documents, the " 3D PAID " variety is of some rar- ity. It had a comparatively short life of 4 years, there being no 3d rate after 10th January, 1840. The use of Brumell fig.103, the later type of the 1d value, is prob - ably even rarer before this date.

* LPHG will be publishing a detailed listing in due course in ' Handbook '

The " 1 py P. Paid " and Similar Stamps of the Twopenny Post.....

From the evidence of dates os use shown in " Postmarks of a Prison ", it would seem the Belvidere Place receiving house received their fig.103 stamp in replacement for the earlier fig.100 type sometime between 21st.July and the 19th.August, 1843.

In conclusion, it is interesting to note Brumell lists a " St.George's Fields " re - ceiving house which does not appear in any of the published lists he tabulates. He commented " Stamps recorded 1801 - 1806, perhaps for Recg. House listed as Belvidere Place (K.B. Prison) ". Although not referred to in either of the articles on the subject (Notebooks 20 and 53), the caption to the picture in No.53 does specify St.George's Fields as being the place to which the prison was removed in 1755 - 58. For those collecting prison material, it would seem essential to have an example of this earlier stamp.

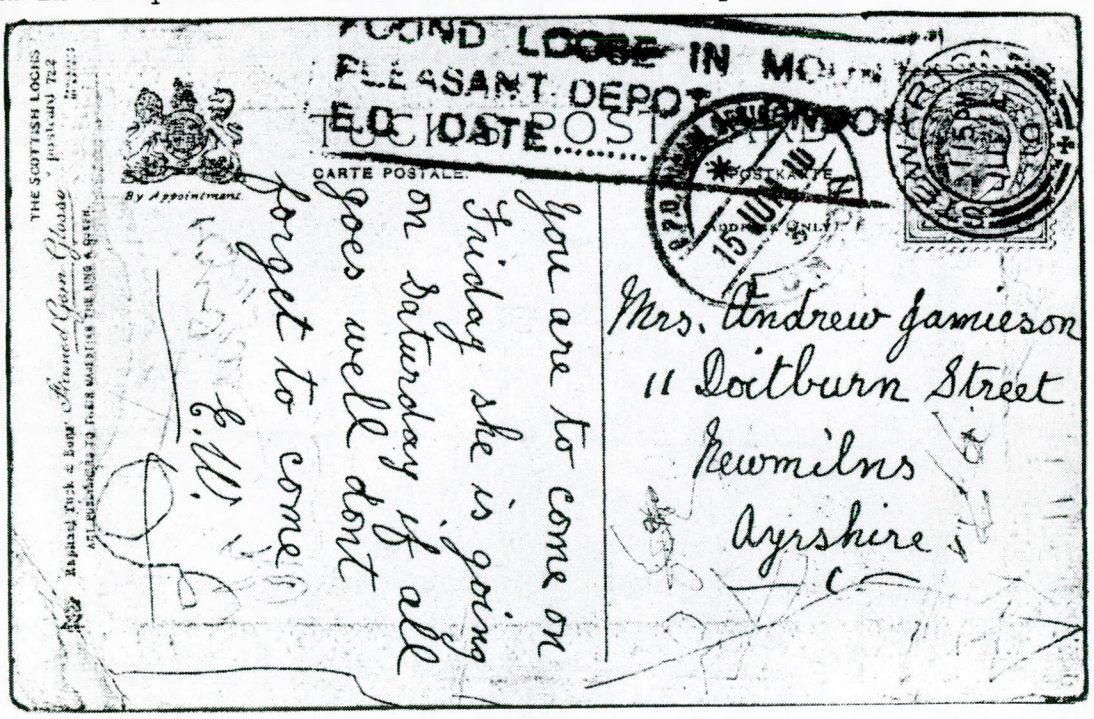
Editor's note:

It is understood from the Bumblepuppy students in St.Martins-le-Grand, the map in Notebook 53(and 20) in not totally accurate and they have promised to provide one for readers shortly.

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FOUND LOOSE....from Ronald Doig

In Notebook 52, page 16, was an illustration of a parcel post label with the'Found Loose' cachet. The item shown here is a postcard from Stewarton, Ayrshire to New- milns in the same county and was posted on the 14th.June,1910. How it managed to be found in the parcels at Mount Pleasant is not explained.



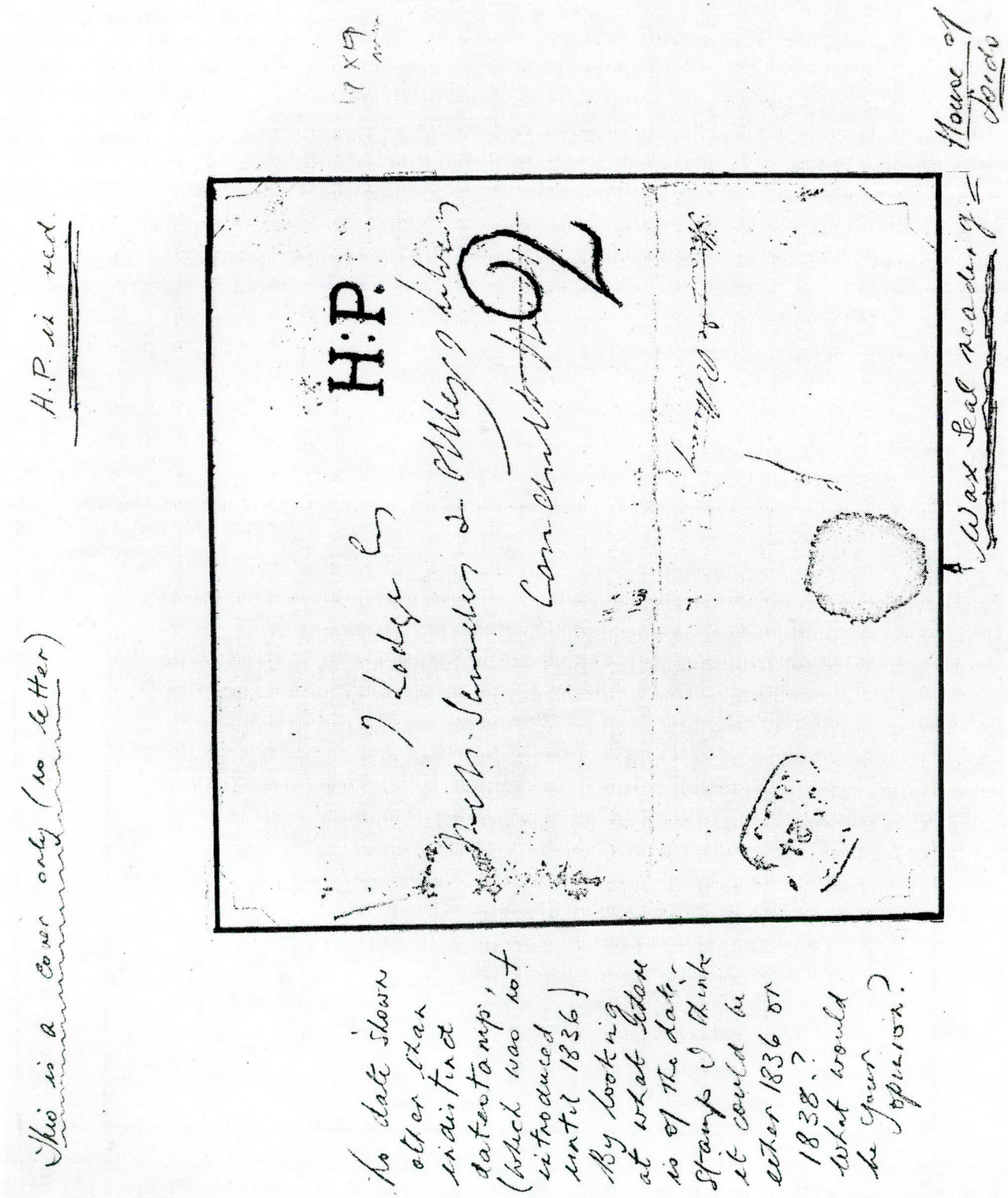
As in the parcel post label example, the dating is not entered into the handstamp in manuscript but with a handstamp, this differing from that used in 1898. This reads G.P.O. PARCEL OFFICE/LONDON the * above and 3 below the centre date of 15 JUN 10. It ought to be noted the cachet, third line, reads E.C. DATE..... and not P.O. DATE as stated previously.

The card was posted on a Tuesday, handled in London on Wednesday: Did Mrs Jamieson pay her Friday visit ? There is no final datestamp, itself unusual.

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THE TWOPENNY POST AND PARLIAMENTARY MAIL

The item reproduced below comes from Dr. Trapnell. As can be seen, it is an annoted photocopy which he has had for some time. He, unhappily, cannot recall the original owner and would be very pleased to renew contact. Can a reader recognise either the item or the writing ?



The meeting produced a number of very interesting items within the general heading of Royal and Parliamentary. One discussion related directly to the use of the ' HP ' handstamp. The general opionion rejected ' House of Peers ', a term never met with in any parliamentary connection. ' House(s) of Parliament ' was deemed more acceptable.

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