

NOTEBOOK

Number 153 September, 2002

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EDITORIAL.....

We are nearing completion of Notebook 151 and hope to issue in the not too distant future and trust you will be able to enjoy.

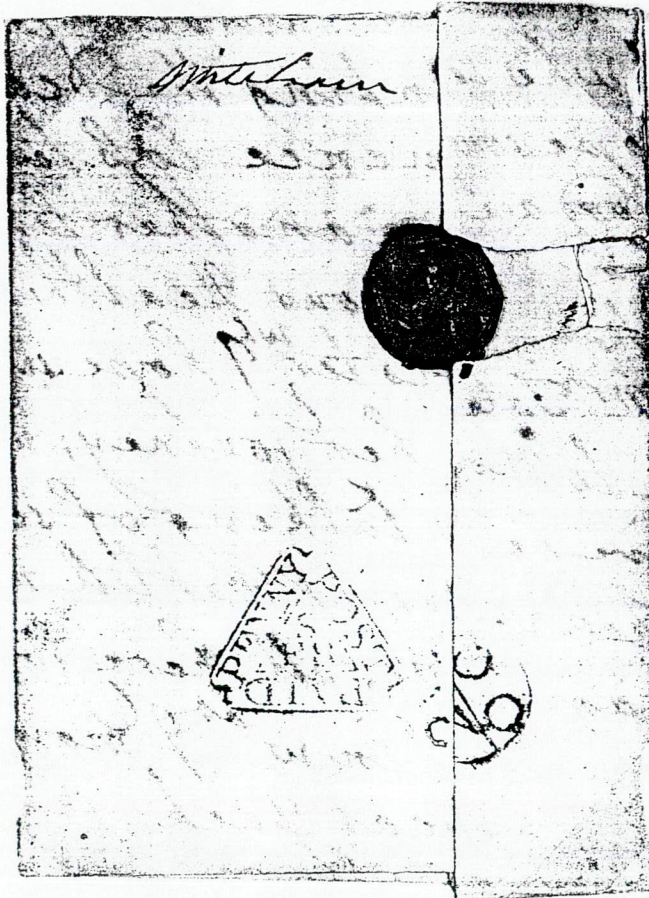
The new address for the Packet Secretary is on the next page. He writes to say the amount of material received for circulation in the last twelve months was the lowest for twenty five years: please make an effort to submit, say, have a dozen interesting items for the enjoyment of your fellow members.

MITCHAM RECEIVING HOUSE

In the work on Receiving Houses, Hugh Feldman makes this observation about Mitcham....

"...a Penny Post receiver's handstamp has not previously been recorded for Mitcham."

This letter may explain why.



The letter is addressed

To
Captⁿ Johnson
of the 1st Reg^t of Guards
to be left at M^r Filletts
at the Bear Inn
Bath

The writer heads her letter

Mitcham oct^r y^e 21st
(the date being corrected from 22nd)
No year is noted anywhere on the letter.

Assuming the Bishop Mark is for the 21/OC

The Southwark Friday Dockwra is Type 4
Recorded Use 1752 - 1786

There are no events of national matters in the
family affairs letter by which one might
determine the year which could be

1757; 1763; 1768; 1774; 1785
all these having October 21st a Friday.

The all important element is the manuscript "Mitcham"

The Packet Secretary has moved.....

Would members please note Brian
Smith's new address:

Mr B.T. Smith
Stonybank, Church Lane,
Brightwell-cum-Sotwell,
WALLINGFORD
OX10 0SD

WORTLEY : RECEIVER'S STAMP

Mike Burt

Hugh Feldman lists WORTLEY (1768) in Appendix 4, page 73, in the work on the London Receivers but, at the time of publication, was not able to identify the office. Here is an example dated 20 Nov:1767 with the writer giving his address as 'Wimple Street, Tuesday night'.

It is tempting, since no such street could be found when consulting London directories, that the writer intended to write 'Wimpole Street'. If this is correct it seems not unlikely Wortley was the Receiver immediately prior to William Rouse, identified as occupying that office 1770 to 1785.

In support of the writer's erratic rendition of the street name, is the spelling of the letter:

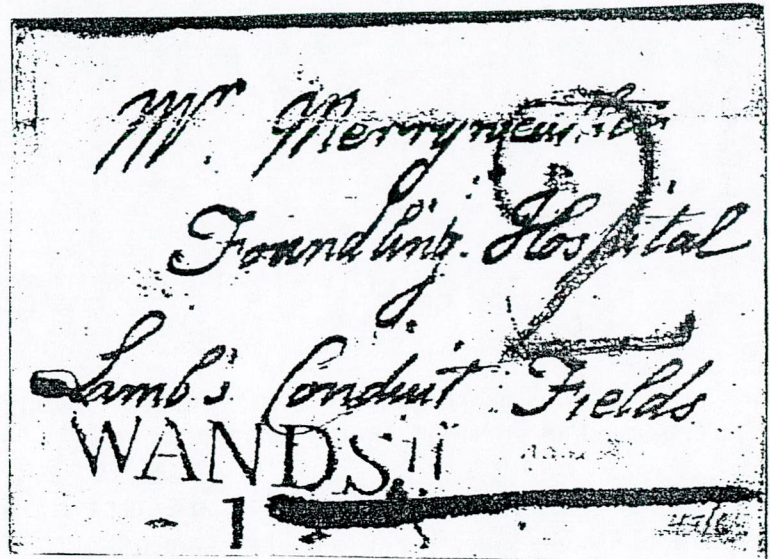
I acquainted Mr Williams Concerning Reuben Wilk's Cloaths, he desir'd me to let you know it would be more agreeable to see him in a Frustian Frock & Waistcoat than the Uniform of the House, you'll please to let Mr Williams know if Customary for him to send for the Boy, or You to send him, the sooner he comes the better.

I am, Sir, your humble Ser^t / Ja^b Torban

THE EXPERIMENTAL PERIOD

An Item From Gavin Littaur

The letter, dated 5th March, 1795, carries the Wandsworth - 1 - receiving house stamp and, most curiously, a version of the large '2' which does not appear to have been recorded before this. As can be seen, the base line of the '2' is flat, with an angled serif at the end. Compare this with the listed figure, which shows the very curved base.



The item was discovered in an accumulation and it would appear to have

been acquired many years ago, given the manuscript price of 47/6 in the lower right hand corner. This suggests the previous owner failed to make any study of the purchase or to announce the oddity to the postal history world.

2

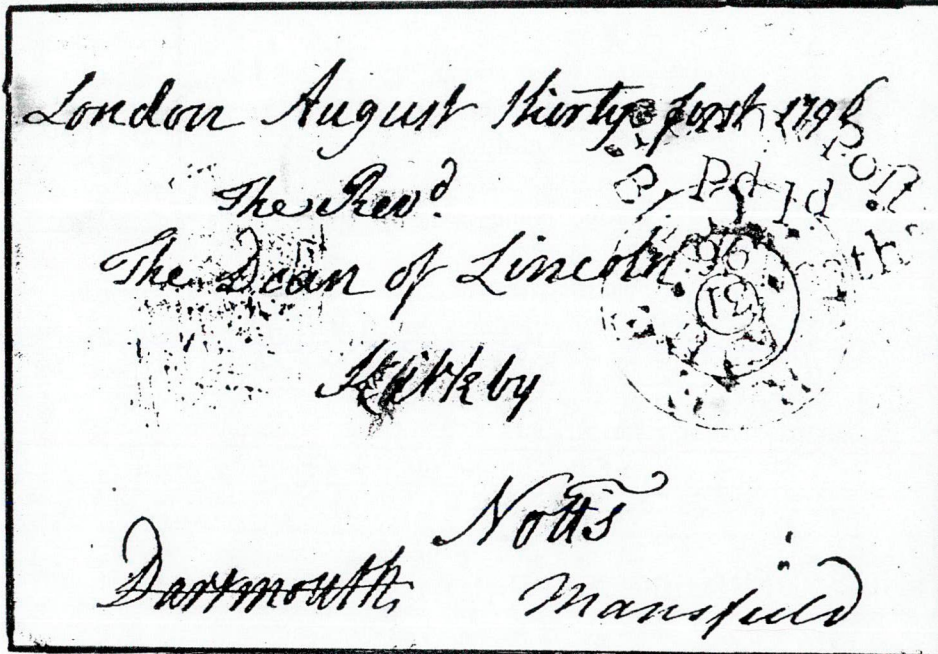
L. 594
28 x 42 mm

Your Editor recalls having seen such a mark but when and/or where eludes. Any reader with another example, or knowledge of this one, please advise.

BLACKEATH PENNY POST 1796

From Ray Haffner

Amazing how things continue to turn up, despite all the recording which has taken place in the past. One wonders just how many other 'unrecorded' items are sitting undisturbed in the collection of the 'loners'.



Struck in black, the fact it is a front which, unfairly in the Editor's opinion, depresses the value with collectors reacting by saying 'Oh, ONLY a front', as if it carries a deadly infection.

Addressed to the Dean of Lincoln, the signature 'Dartmouth' appears to have been deleted and 'Mansfield' substituted but this may be an illusion as Mansfield is more likely the

destination Post Town whereas 'Kirkby' probably refers to what is now called East Kirkby, a village some 4 mile south west of Mansfield.

PERCIVAL ST RECEIVING HOUSE

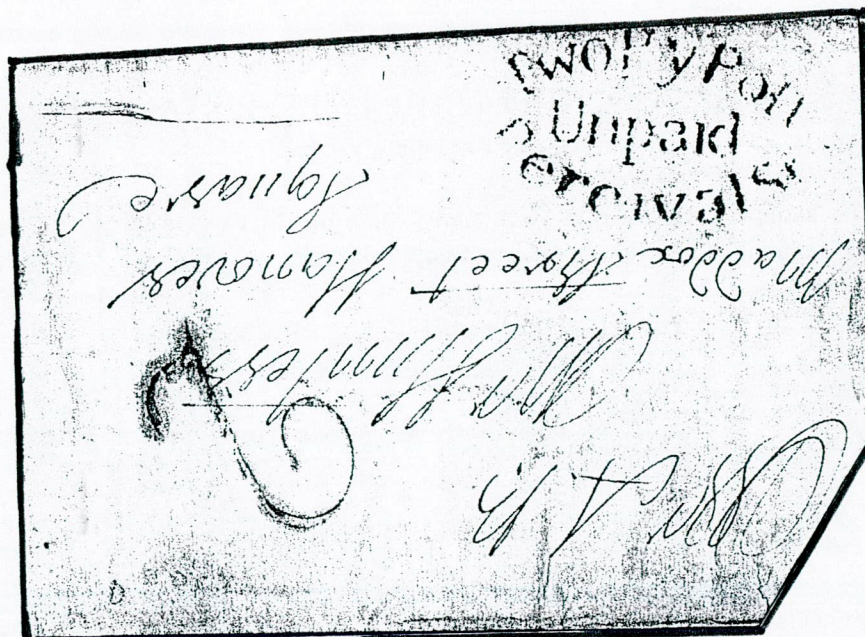
From David Shaw

This came to David Shaw's attention from a collector in Australia and it is not recorded, as far as can be discovered, in any of the standard reference books.

The letter is written from No 16 Wynyatt Street Goswell St and is dated Dec 4 1810 and caught the 4 o'Clock evening mail en route to Maddox Street.

In researching the item, the following information came to light and may be of interest, though it does not explain why no-one has, hitherto, seen and reported the mark.

The road was apparently named after Spencer Perceval (the initial spelling of the road), a cousin to the Marquis of Northampton, the person owning land in the area and a great developer of land into houses.



There were receiving houses quite close in Goswell Street / Goswell Street Road. It may be that at the request of a Marquis, an office was opened for a very short time but the Post Office would not, despite his status, keep open an office so close to an established facility. Given the writer's address, might it be the Goswell Street office was, again briefly, renamed at the request of such a distinguished person?

Dec 4 1810 Tuesday Morn^g

*Elizabeth Carr acquaints M^r A.B. that She is the only Sister of M^r Ann Kember..
 that She is Married and as three Daughters
 the Eldest Daughter M^r Winslow is a Widow and has Three Childn.
 the next Daughter is M^r Starling, she is Married has no Children.
 the Youngest Daughter is M^r Thompson She is Married and has Two Children
 She lives at the Lamb...woods Rents.
 dont Immediately know were M^r Whitehead Lives
 but will Endeavour to gain Information.
 No 16 Wynyatt Street Goswell St.*

The 'Rents' address is a little unclear, so Mrs Carr letter is reproduced below showing her writing in the hope that a reader can more accurately transcribe.

*She lives at the Lamb. Mill-
 woods Rents. Dont. Immediate*

Would someone kindly visit Freeling House and do some research, please?

THE FIRST LONDON SHIP LETTER STAMP

S 1 : Recorded in Black 1766-91

This particular stamp proved elusive over many years but this example came to hand at a local stamp fair. Curiously, a second example was offered two weeks later.

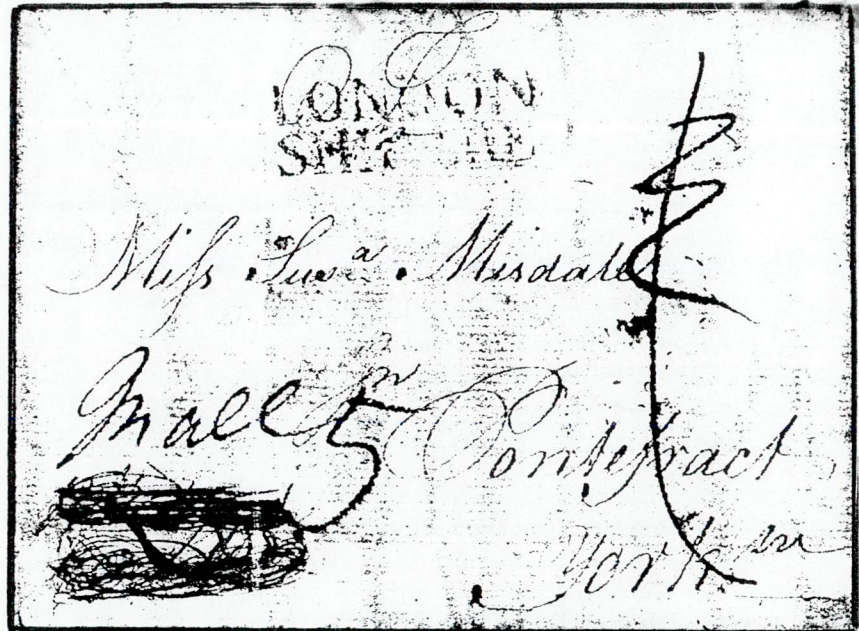
Written from Pensacola 6th August 1768
British Capital of West Florida

Written by John Mirvale to his sister.

The ship name endorsement has been scored through in what appears to be the same ink as the

In All 5

Bishop mark for 15/NO on reverse.



The Ship Letter charge of One Penny deleted and added to the Four Pence for conveyance above 80 Miles.

Pensacola 6th August 1768

My Dear Sister,

I have the pleasure to acquaint you that I have this place to embark for England in a few days, so that soon after this letter reaches your hands, God willing, I shall have the happiness to see you -

I have had pretty good success for the time I have been away, so that I do not take Charles Town in my Rout as I proposed, but go direct by Flame in the same Vessell I came out in -

I hope you have seen my good friends Mess^{rs} Deighton & Oxley, they promised to call on you in one of their Journeys; I am more beholden to them than I can describe, for they put me in the situation I am now in - As to M^r Blackwell thank God I have done with him. he & his Wife are now here, she has her health but poorly - M^r Haigh you wrote me about is on this place as a Butcher & concerned only in that Business with M^r B the poor Man will kill himself with toil - I go frequently to see them & will always keep on good terms - My dear Sister, Till I have the pleasure to see you, which God send may be soon, Adieu, & believe me with great sincerity,

Y^r Sister

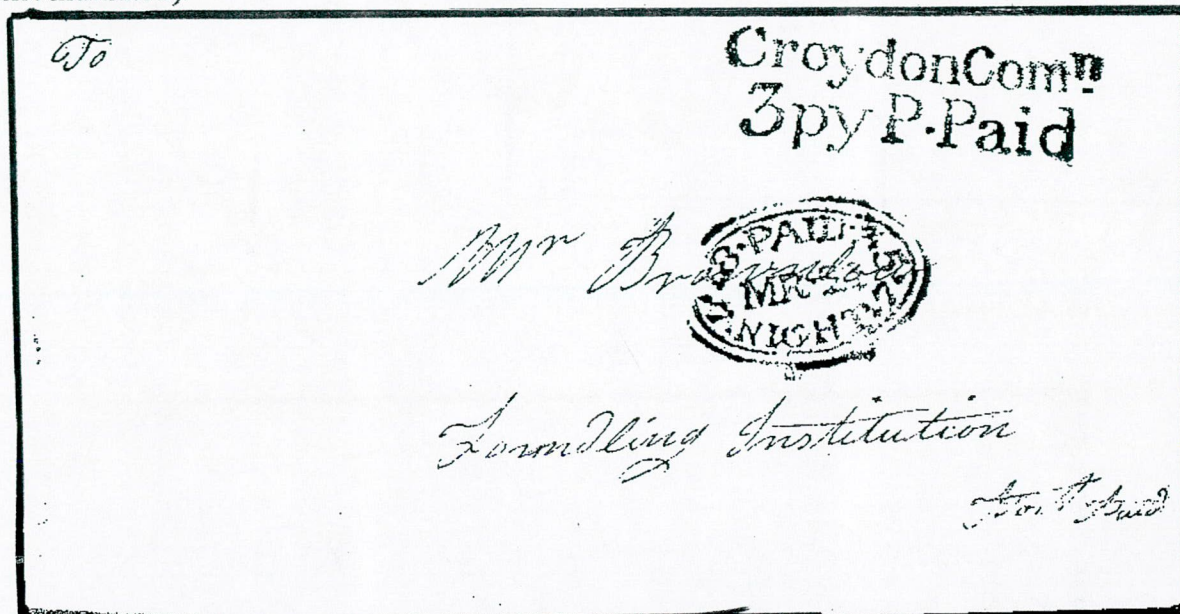
Y^r Lov^s & Aff^e Bro
John Mirvale

Conact was made with the Pensacola Local History Society who, despite a thorough search of their records, were unable to trace any of those named in this letter; at least they have a copy of this to add to their archives.

CROYDON COMMON

From Arthur Moyles

Written with the address 'at Mr Emdens Croydon Common' and dated March 20 1835, the letter carries a very fine example of the Croydon Comⁿ / 3 py P. Paid (L.508 - noted by Feldman as 'recorded but not illustrated').



The letter, addressed to the Foundling Institution it carries a mother's concern for her child. 'Having received a letter from the person who has the care of my child saying from circumstances they cannot keep it longer as placed me in a very unplascent situation for if I am compeled to take it I shall lose my place you will therefore confer a great obligation on my by letting me know when its probable the child will be received in the institution by so doing you will oblige your humble servant / Ann Edwards.'

NEWGATE STREET ROUND TOP THREE

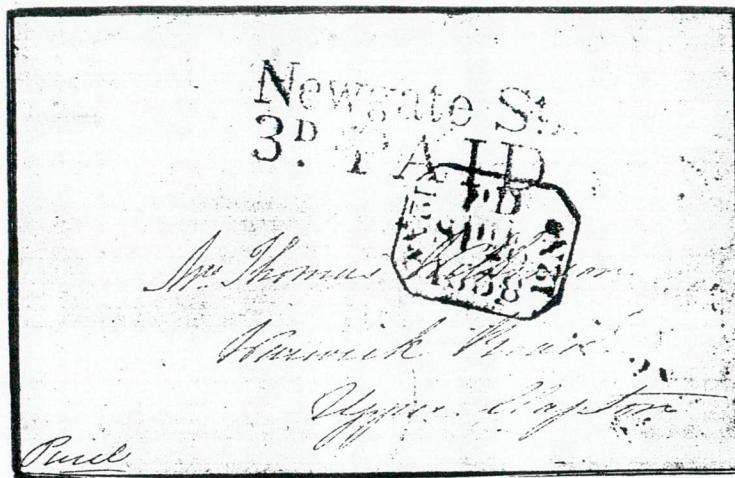
The tale has been told before but is well worth repeating. As LPHG was being launched over thirty years ago, a well established and reputed postal historian remarked something to the effect 'Cannot understand why you have started a new group for London: there is nothing new to find'.

How wrong he was.

In 2002 it is encouraging to record a new stamp for Newgate Street. Not just 'another Twopenny Post mark' but a round top three in red (L.513a): this example dated September 26th 1838.

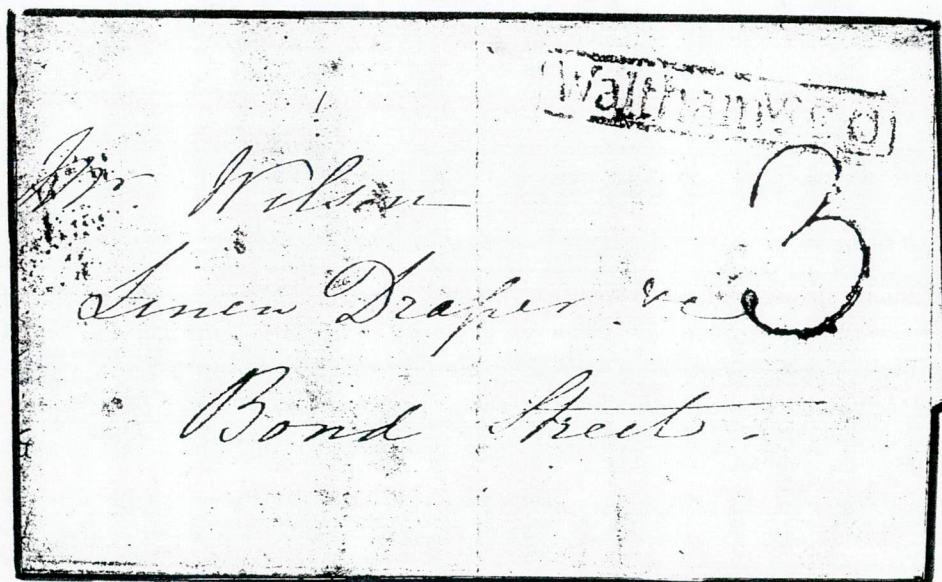
Feldman illustrates only two stamps for Newgate Street, this example therefore adding to the record. The office, in 1838 (apparently closed in the same year) is listed as at 117 Newgate Street, with a confectioner, Henry Notley, the Receiver.

Feldman remarks 'The reason for so few recorded handstamp varieties from this location is not understood at the time of writing.'



A miniature envelope, addressed to Upper Clapton, which was in the Country Area, hence the 3^d charge.

WALTHAMSTOW : WOOD STREET - THE EAST OFFICE



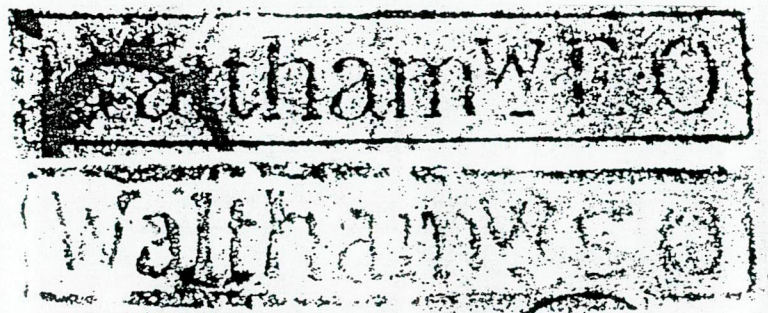
M^r E Wigram will thank M^r Will to send 6 Yards of Flannel to match the enclosed Pattern, tomorrow before 2 o'Clock, to 68 Portland Place, with the account.

Walthamstow

Aug^t 23^d Thursday

Twopenny Post time stamp for 8 N^t 8 / AU 23 / 1838 on the reverse.
Addressed to Bond Street, so charged three pence Country to Town rate.

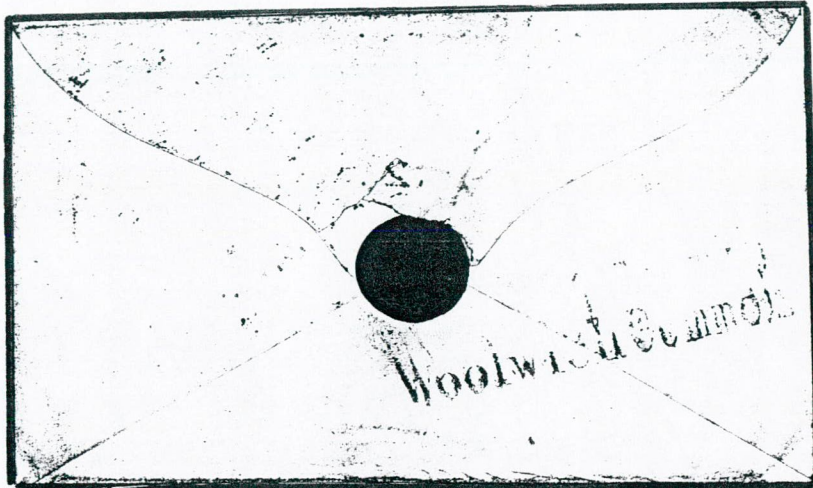
Of particular interest is the discovery of a second version of the Country Receiving Office stamp. These two copies show this clearly, especially in the shape of the second "a".



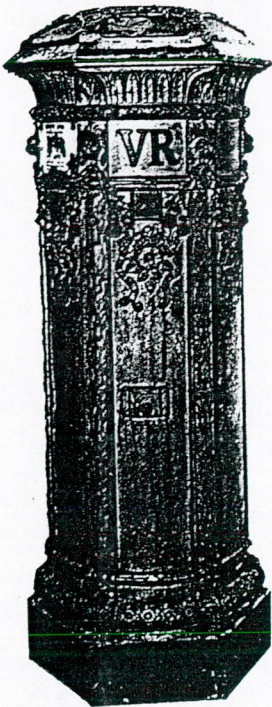
WOOLWICH COMMON

Peter Bathe

By the mid 19th century the eastern boundary of Woolwich Common, along the line of the road from Woolwich to Eltham, had a number of imposing terraced houses used by Army officers and their families as well as prosperous trades people from Woolwich. The first probable reference to a receiving house on Woolwich Common was in March 1854, when an additional office for Woolwich was sanctioned. The location of this additional office was not stated but a straight line namestamp (L514) inscribed Woolwich Common was issued on the 14th February 1856 and it is known used on four dates in that year - 11 June; 8 September; 7 November and 8 December. No record of a corresponding paid version (L510) has been found thus far.



Woolwich Common 8th December, 1856



From 1857, however, The Post Office Guides refer only to a pillar letter box at Woolwich Common and there is no other reference to a receiving house in the area for another fourteen years. The pillar letter box at Woolwich Common was one of the first to be set up in the London suburbs and would have been of the 'London Ornate' style.

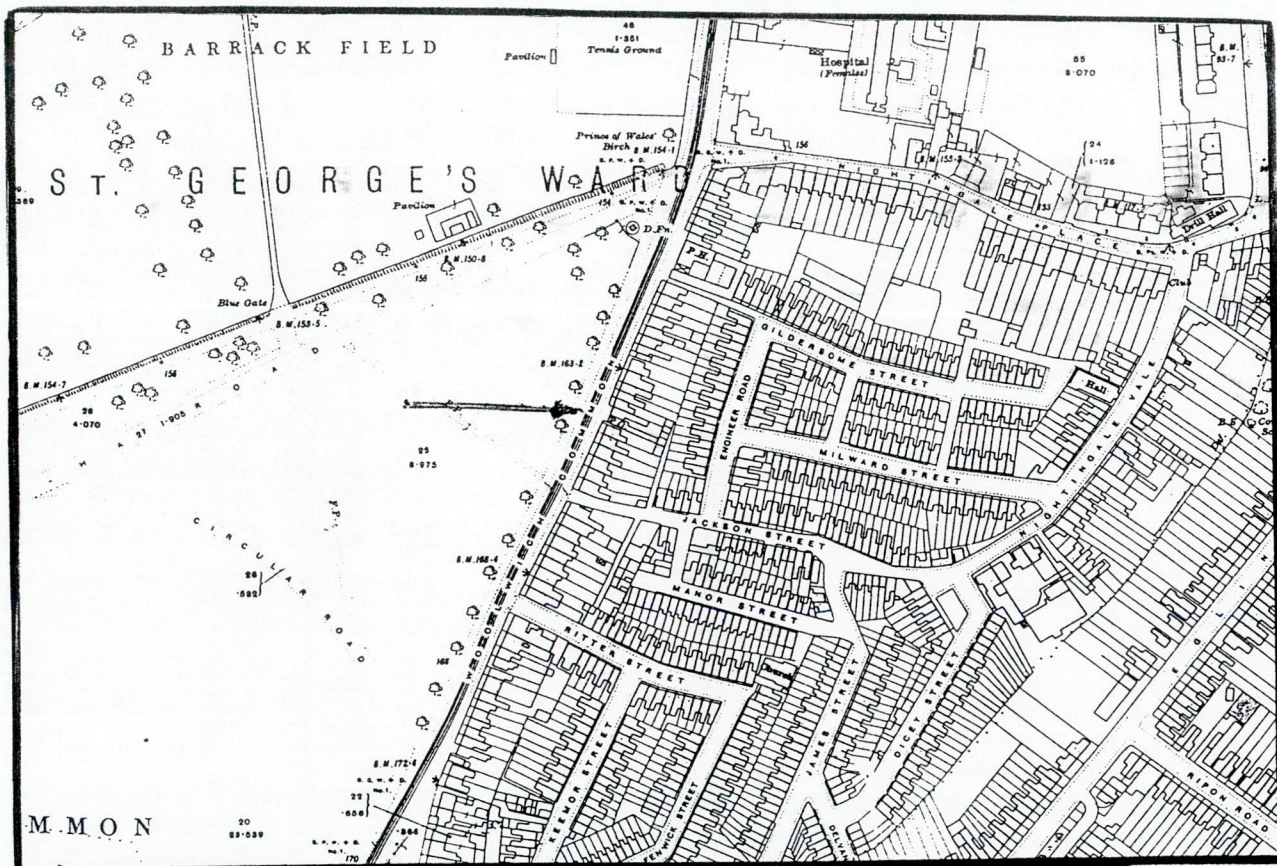
On the 10th November, 1871, John Rastrick, the receiver at the Church Street office for many years, retired to the Common and was appointed receiver at an office 'to be opened' at Woolwich Common.

A handstamp was issued at this time, reading
22-WOOLWICH-COMMON / S.E.



Proof Book entry 21 November 1871

Miss Fanny Rastrick was appointed receiver on the 4th August, 1874 and, with her brother, Robert, she ran her father's chemist shop, until 1880, when, on the 27th November, George Crocker was appointed.



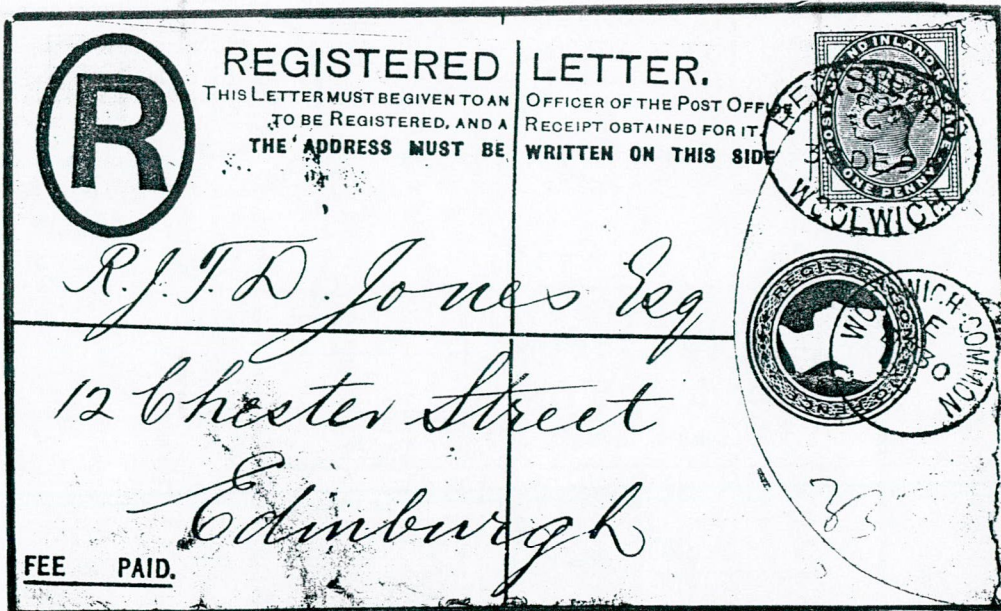
Ordnance Survey 1914 : 25" = 1 mile

Early in 1880, a new handstamp had been issued. This stamp, which did not have district initials included, was in use until at least 1912

To what Place.	Date when sent.	Stamps.
Woolwich	3. 3. 80.	

Proof Book Entry 3 March 1880

Examples of this stamp showing code E or no code letter on the following page.



WOOLWICH-COMMON / E / DE 30 / 95
REGISTERED / C / 30 DE 95 / WOOLWICH

PARCEL POST. Woolwich WOR (Woolwich Common)	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">X LIST Letter and Number.</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="font-size: small;">Registration and Express Fees.</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> </table>	X LIST Letter and Number.		Registration and Express Fees.		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="font-size: small;">POSTAGE.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; font-size: x-small;">S.</td> <td style="width: 50%; font-size: x-small;">D.</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> </tr> </table>	POSTAGE.		S.	D.												
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PARCEL POST. Woolwich WOR (Woolwich Common)																						

WOOLWICH-COMMON / AP 16 / 08

WOOLWICH-COMMON / JA 3 / 12

Two points to note with these parcel labels. The date stamp, unlike that appearing in the Proof Book or on the registered letter, carries no code. Most interestingly, the 1908 example carries the note *Redirected unpaid* - which suggests this was a further label affixed on redirection.

In 1913, the area was returned to the South Eastern District of London and new counter handstamps and Parcel Post rubber stamps were issued to all the office in Woolwich: these stamps, once again, included the district initials.

Proof Book Entries: -



30 August 1913

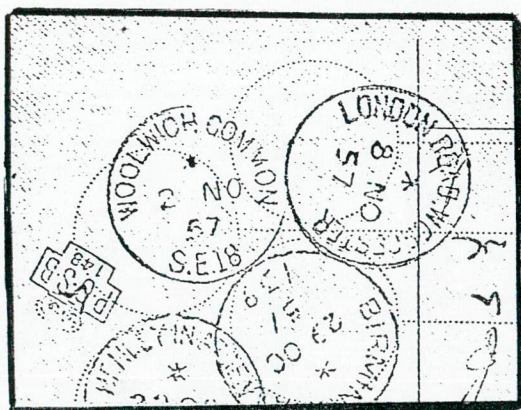
25 August 1913



WOOLWICH-WOOLWICH-COMMON S.E.

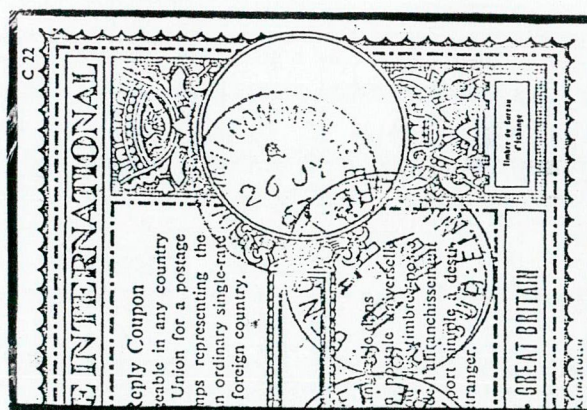
* / 19 DE / 16

Counter handstamps of the later period in the life of the office



WOOLWICH COMMON / S.E.18

* / 2 NO / 57



WOOLWICH COMMON. S.E. 18

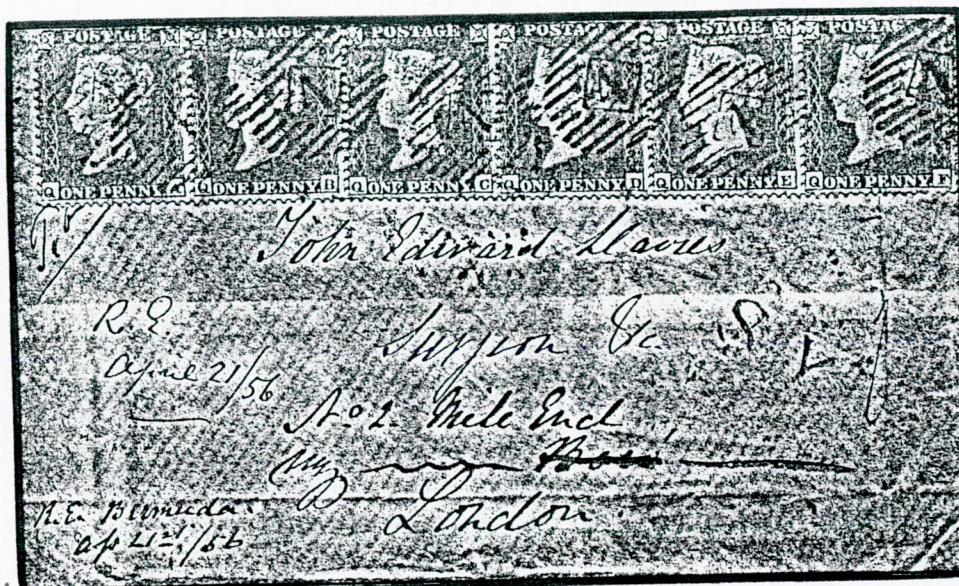
A / 26 JY / 67

The sub postmasters at the office were Alfred Smart (appointed 1882), Herbert Richard Adams (from 1888), James Taylor Palmer (appointed 1895), Francis Ernest Simpson (appointed 1905) and James Patterson (from c. 1929). All were pharmacists with their practices based in 22 Woolwich Common. In the 1930s, a ladies hairdressing salon was established at 22A Woolwich Common and, after a few years, the sub postmaster's wife, Mrs N. Patterson, took over the hairdressers. From 1964, Lynn's ladies hairdressers occupied number 22, while Woolwich Common Drug Stores - and the post office - were in number 22A under J.R. Brooks. The office closed on the 5th February, 1969 and the building demolished for redevelopment.

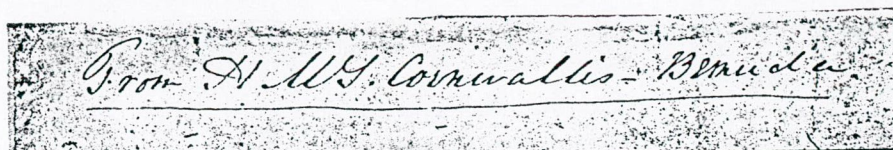
OFFICE INITIAL STAMPS - STEPNEY

A Cover from Geoffrey Osborn

April, 1856, at the Dockyard, Bermuda
From Assistant Surgeon Richard Evans, serving in
H.M.S. Cornwallis, (60 gun screw steam ship, 1.788 tons)
This vessel, previously in the Baltic during the Crimean War, was visiting Bermuda.



Under the strip of six 1^d reds is the inscription shown below. The postage stamps were supplied by the Purser on the Cornwallis, who would affix them, in this case over the writer's annotation. On arrival in London, they were cancelled with the horizontal Inland Office '4': this type of cancellation was also used by the Foreign Office.



The sixpenny Navel Officers' privilege rate was granted in July, 1854 (Post Office Instruction No. 44, 1854). The letter travelled in the Cunard 'Merlin', sailing May 1st to Halifax, where it arrived May 5th. Transferred to the 'Arabia', leaving on May 8th, to Liverpool on the 15th. There is no Liverpool transit mark but the reverse includes a London General Post date stamp for the 17th and London District Post date stamps for the 20th and 21st.

As can be seen, the writer merely addressed the letter to 'John Edward Davies, Surgeon &c, with what appears to be another hand entering N° 2 Mile End, Boro, London. The 'Boro' is deleted and then, presumably, the letter goes over the river to Stepney, whence came the 'SY' mark.

The manuscript endorsements show the attempts to deliver. *Left at Mr Davie's Surgeon of No 2 Mile End Road and Returned not for him and Not known in the Bow delivery near Mile End*. Given the letter was first directed to the Borough, one might expect to see some stamp or manuscript note from that office: perhaps the redirection address referred to above was their contribution.

The Post Office Guides carry the following regarding the postage stamp supply.

1867 to 1872 :

129. Naval officers, marines, and seamen serving abroad are allowed to prepay such of their letters as are conveyed in their ship's bag, with English postage stamps.

1875 to 1879:

4. British postage stamps, though available for all letters, &c. going out of this country, are not, as a general rule, available for letters, &c. coming into it; the principal exception being in the case of letters posted by naval officers, marines, and seamen serving abroad, which, if posted in the ship's bag, must be prepaid by means of British postage stamps.

The correction to *British* rather than *English* postage stamps should be noted.

The Instruction to all Postmasters reads:

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
JULY, 1854.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having been pleased to extend to *Officers in the Royal Navy, serving abroad*, the privilege granted, in 1850, to Seamen employed on board Her Majesty's Ships on Foreign Stations, of pre-paying, by means of *Postage Stamps*, Letters forwarded by them to the United Kingdom, all letters from Naval Officers which may hereafter reach this country in bags made up on board any of Her Majesty's Ships are to be delivered free, provided the postage to which such letters are liable for conveyance from the place where they may originate to the United Kingdom, be duly paid by Postage Stamps of the proper value being affixed to them.

These Instructions relate especially to Postmasters at the *Outports* to which Mails are brought from abroad by Packet or by Private Ship.

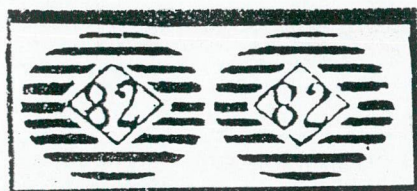
Of interest are the sources of the information.

From the Navy Lists, the details on Assistant Surgeon Richard Evans.

The log of the *Cornwallis* is at the Public Records Office, Kew.

The *Bermuda Royal Gazette* provided information on the *Merlin*.

Winters *North Atlantic Mail Steamships* provided details of the crossing to Liverpool.



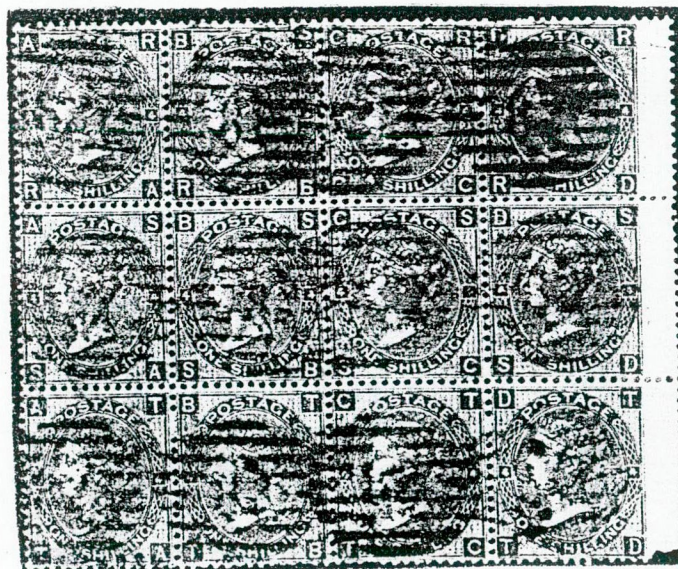
A DOUBLE DIAMOND

Tony Potter

Purchased some time since, the block of twelve SG 101 1/- is cancelled with the 'double diamond' 82, which, as Brian Smith points out in his book on the subject, were issued to the Foreign Office on the 20th February, 1860; he adds 'purpose unknown'.

The Plate 4 Shilling was issued in 1867.

This block suggests the function was to cancel large blocks, (accounting purposes?)



INLAND BRANCH KILLER

From Michael Goodman

Despite the recent publication 'Barred Numeral Cancellations of London' by John Parmenter, Michael Goodman has recorded another version of the Inland Branch, similar to Dubus Type 25, seven bars round the diamond and two above and below.



However, the figures '41' and size of the bars differ from the illustration and the item has a London date stamp for NO 16 / 71 by way of a very useful bonus.

The enlarged illustration of the cancellation shows the extended line of the cross bar on the '4' and the slight differences in the position of the of the diamond in relation to the bars each side of the diamond. The appearance of the rim containing the bars is, of course, due to it being slightly proud.

WANTED.....

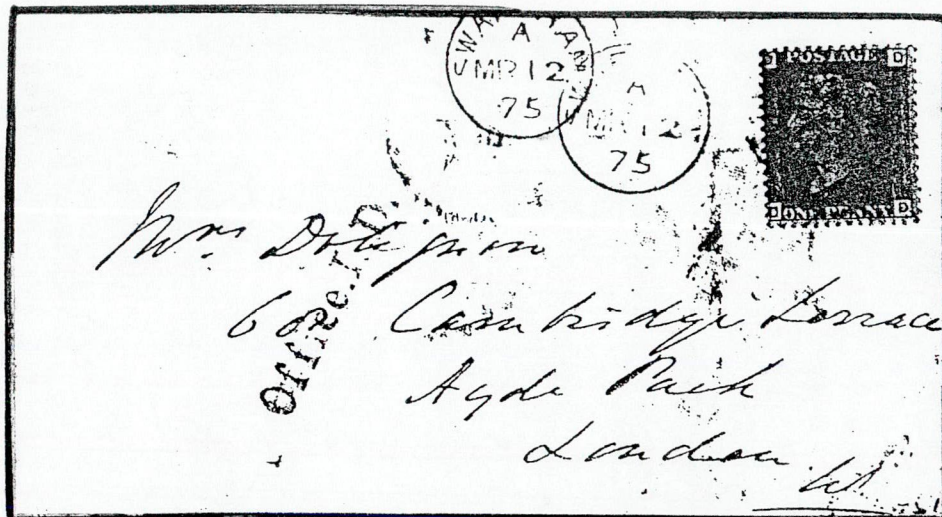
Any material from Carshalton, Norwood and Walthamstow. Even if you do not wish to sell the material a record of what you have may help towards three local study projects.

PLEASE drop a note to the Editor.

OFFICE I.D.

A cover from Mark Samwell

The envelope is from Swaffham and is addressed to 68 Cambridge Terrace, Hyde Park, London W'. There is a faint circular stamp, apparently over the Swaffham date stamp, looking like in single large initial, suggesting an Inspector's stamp.



The address of Cambridge Terrace is interesting. According to the London Directory of 1857, 'Cambridge Terrace' is shown with 'Camden Town N.W.'; 'Edgware-road W'; 'Kingsland N.E.' and 'Regent's-park N.W.'. Note the address on the envelope gives the District Initial 'W'.

The reverse of the envelope shows three London date stamps. Paddington / 5, code 'Z'; the square framed London EC date stamp in red and a faint circular date stamp 'LONDON W'. All date stamps, Swaffham and London, read March 12 1875.

Office I.D.

The most interesting stamp is that reading ' ? Office. I.D.', in black. There is an imperfectly struck letter or letters in front of 'Office'. Sheer speculation but given the stamp at the top is an

Inspector's mark, could the straight line stamp be an internal one, applied by 'Fred' from the P(addington) Office I(spection) D(epartment)?

Further theories and comment requested.

LONDON DISTRICT OFFICE CHIEF SURVEYOR'S OFFICE

A page from Mark Samwell

The letter 'S' is not illustrated by John Parmenter (pp 293/4) in his 'Barred Numeral Cancellations of London'. The items illustrated came from one album page, part of a fine 'old time' cancellation collection, entitled 'London District Chief Surveyor's Office'. The use on the Ten Shilling high value and Three Shilling Telegraph may point to some special use. The previous owner classification was they were used on communications and / or accounts relating the Mr Cunningham, the Chief Surveyor at one time.



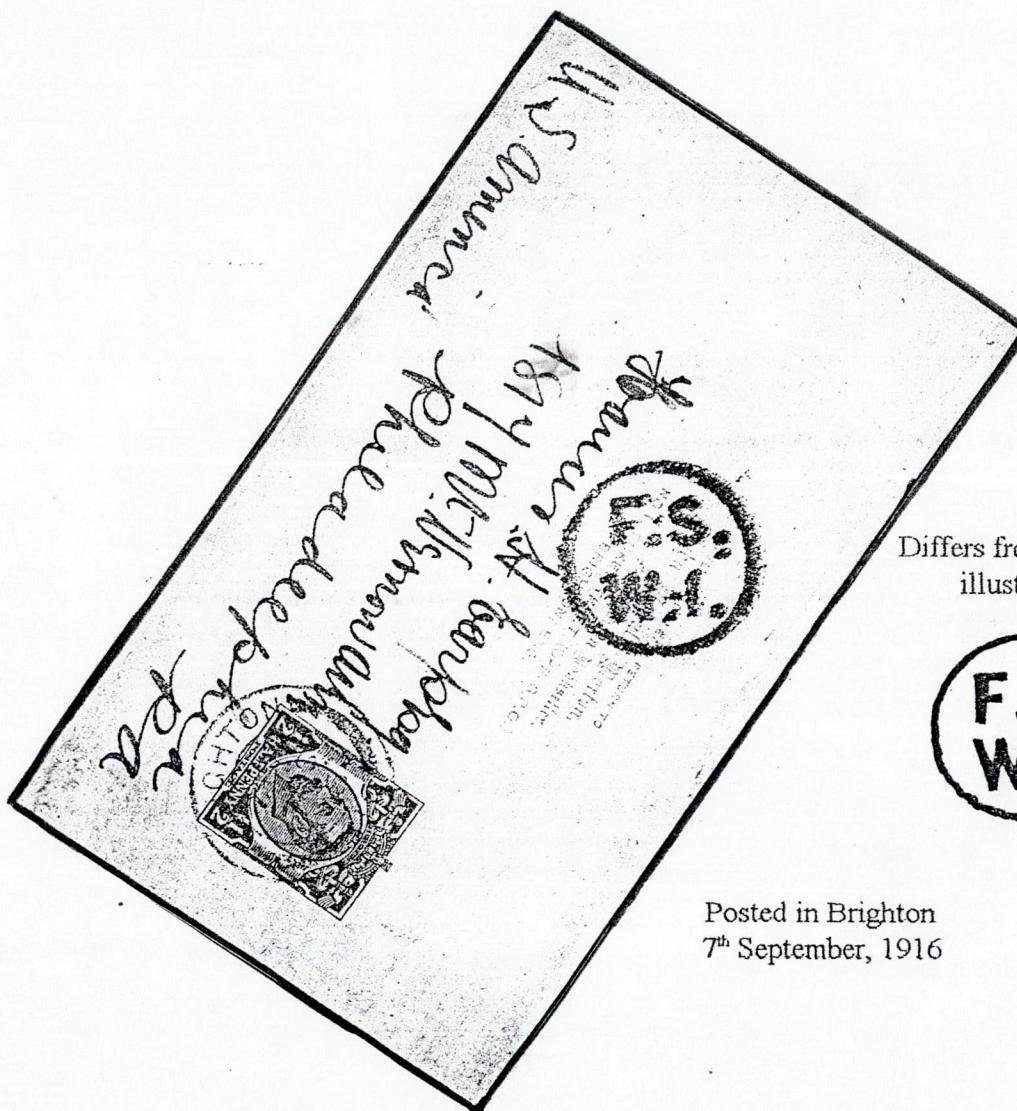
This is, of course, all speculation but these marks do not appear to have been recorded. Some positive identification would be much appreciated.

NEWSPAPER BRANCH - FOREIGN SECTION

Writing on the use of his type 52 (Newspaper Branch Cancellations : Section 4b, page 25) Stitt Dibden confessed himself uncertain about the use of the cancellation. He wrote 'This die is a mystery to me. A conjecture would be that it was used on mail destined for the West Indies. However, I have no proof of this. I have copies of it used only on piece on values of 1½d. upwards and only on Edward VII wrappers.'

This example, which differs slightly from the SD illustration of type 52, is on a Geo. V ½d. wrapper sent to the United States from Brighton, where it was posted 7th. September, 1916.

The illustration appears on the following page.



Differs from the SD
illustration

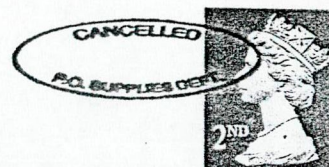


Posted in Brighton
7th September, 1916

LONDON EC CANCELLATION

Brenda Franks

From the contents this envelope can be dated for 27 June, 2002. It carries the two lines of coding bars, in red, the adhesive is cancelled by the undated oval framed 'CANCELLED / P.O. SUPPLIES DEPT'.

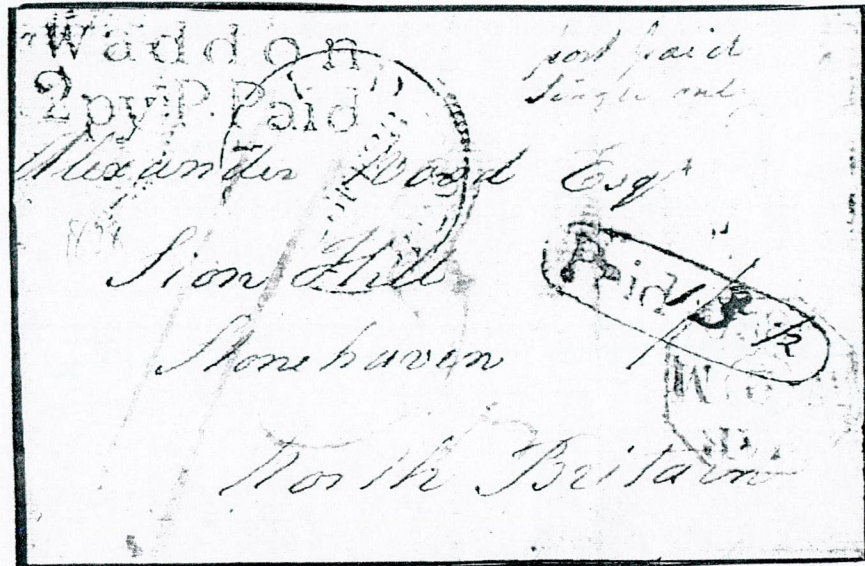


A letter to the Post Office has failed to produce any explanation for the use of what appears to be an internal 'house' cancellation: the matter will be pursued.

WADDON TWOPENNY POST

Arthur Moyles

Waddon
2py P. Paid



The cover is addressed to Alexander Wood Esq., Sion Hill, Stonehaven, North Britain. On the obverse is a clear 'Waddon/2py P Paid', struck in black, a red PAID CD, an oval Paid handstamp, in black, with 1/3½ inserted and an octagonal arrival stamp for 2nd March, 1820.

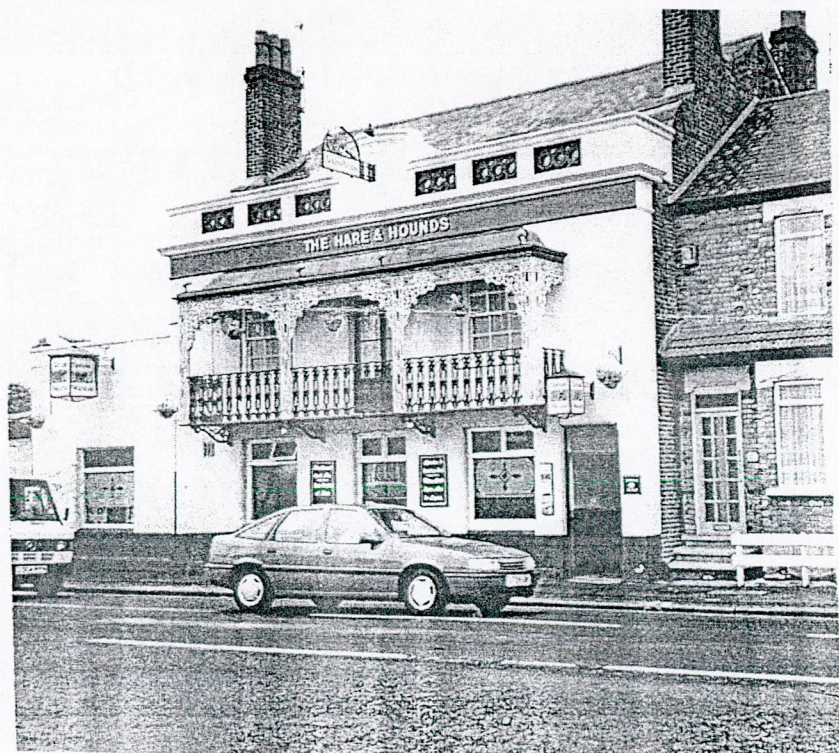
On the reverse is the Country Sorting Office date stamp 'CROYDON/EV/FE 28/1820' and a partial strike, in red, of the Twopenny Post time stamp. Noted in a different hand, presumably the recipient's, is 'Waddon near Croydon/Surry/England/28 Feb 1820/Mrs Elmsey/recd. 4th and 6th March '20' Would this annotation record two days before or after this one?

To date the record for this stamp recorded.

Letters with Waddon handstamps seem to be extremely scarce, although from 1807 to 1836 it was the Sorting Office, where letters to and from Croydon, Carshalton, Beddington and Sutton were received and collected.

The building where the office was situated still exists - the 'Hare and Hounds', Waddon.

A current photograph shows rather different passing traffic to the period being discussed.

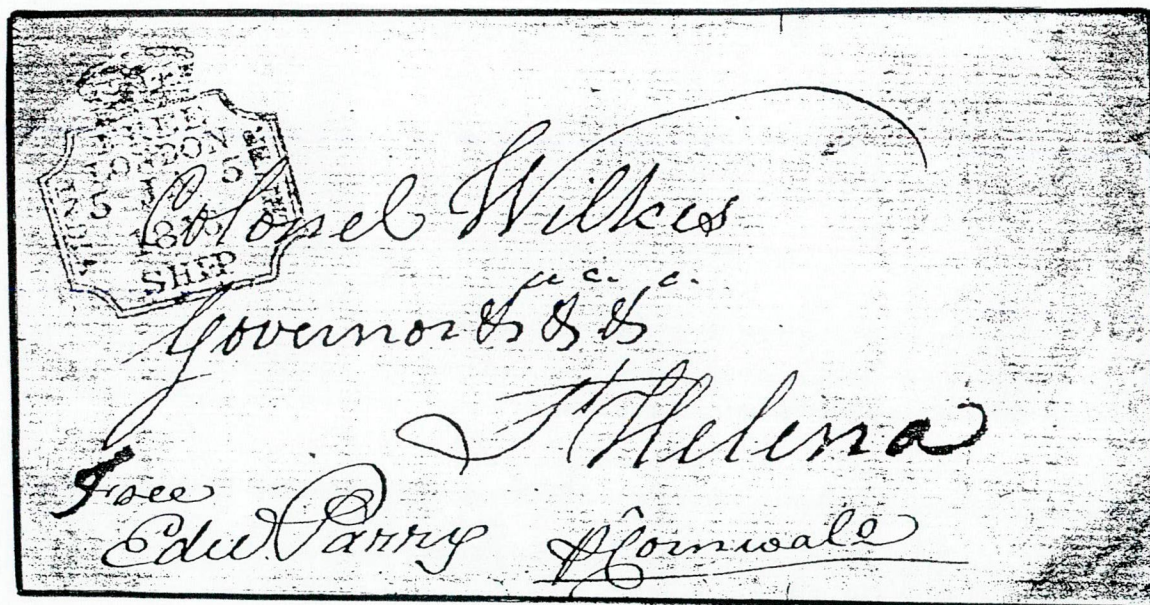


LONDON SHIP AND PACKET FREE STAMPS

Photocopies provided by Gavin Littaur

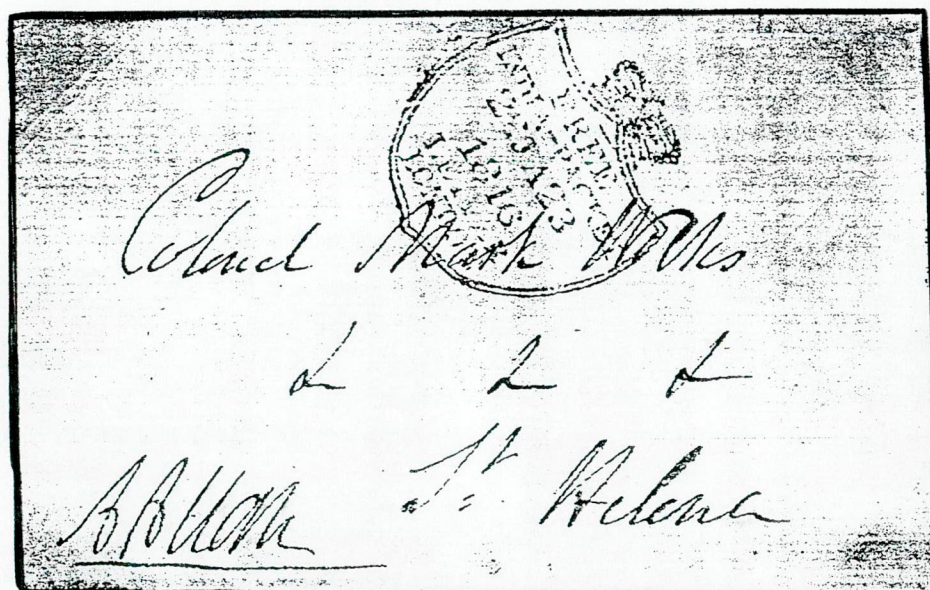
In a recent Spinks auction a small group of ship letters, addressed to St. Helena, was offered with the estimate given as £500 to £1000. Anyone versed in auctions, even knowing nothing about the lot, would have been puzzled by such a spread in the estimate. It appears the material came in 'off the street' from someone who found the batch of letters and, not being a collector, sought to dispose of them.

Apart from the historical interest of letters to St Helena in the early nineteenth century, the description of the two items shown here aroused considerable interest, resulting in a realisation somewhat in excess of the estimate, no doubt to the delight of the vendor.



The note in 'Robertson Revisited' reports but one FREE / LONDON / SHIP, heavily improved, on a front from London to the Cape of Good Hope. It is dated 11 February, 1817.

The copy above, in red ink, is dated 5 January 1816.



With the FREE/INDIA-PACKET the only other example previously recorded is dated 15 October 1816 and this is based on the finely executed drawing in Alan Robertson's original work on ship letters: he does not illustrate a cover.

This example, in red, is dated 23 January 1816