

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

IN THIS ISSUE.....

- | | | |
|------|----|---|
| page | 2 | BLIND BAG, from Keith Romig |
| | 3 | THE FRANKING SYSTEM AND THE GENERAL POSTS, by Jim Lovegrove |
| | 5 | TWOPENNY POST CHARGE CANCELLED |
| | 6 | INLAND OFFICE UN-NUMBERED DIAMOND from Peter Day |
| | 7 | TWOPENNY POST SHIP LETTER |
| | 8 | NR CANNOT BE NORTH ROW by Martin Willcocks |
| | 9 | SQUARED CIRCLE CODING: from F.J. Bradley |
| | 10 | SUBURBAN AND PROVINCIAL CANCELLATIONS by Peter Bathe |
| | 11 | MACHINE CANCELLATIONS from Graham Homer-Wooff |
| | 12 | BLIND BAG further examples from Martin Willcocks |
| | | INLAND BRANCH: A NEW PEARSON HILL from J.F. Hine |
| | 13 | WHAT THE AUCTIONS TELL |
| | 17 | MAIL TO FRANCE 1871 from David Druett |
| | 18 | LONDON EXPERIMENTAL DOUBLE CIRCLE POST MARKS by Simon R.A.Kelly |

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"PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE" was notified on the recently issued subscription notice.
Readers' attention is drawn to the work on the Franking system, publications being:

		Price	plus	UK P&P
" HEREWITH MY FRANK "	(1975)	£4.00		£0.35
Supplement No. 1	(1978)	0.75		0.15
No. 2	(1979)	1.50		0.20
No. 3	(1980)	1.50		0.20
The complete set at		£7.50		£0.50

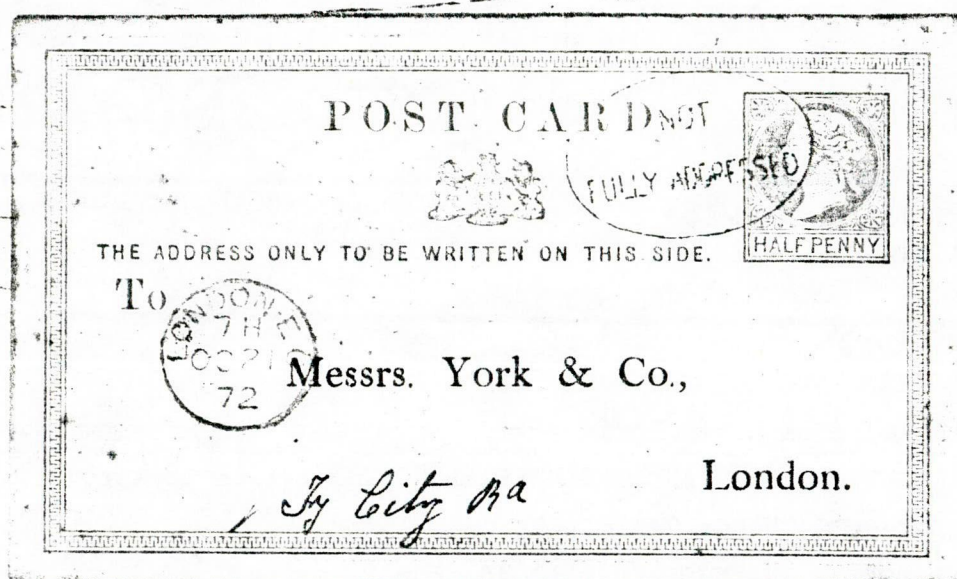
Orders and remittances to the author :

J. W. Lovegrove, Esq.,
Marlands, Headbourne Worthy,
WINCHESTER, SO23 7JJ, Hants.

The book remains the only general history published since 1936. In light of the material published in the Supplements, we suggest it is best to buy the set if not already in possession of the original work.

BLIND BAG, from Keith Romig

During the course of the International at Earls Court the item illustrated below came



The Space reserved in the P. & O. Steamer for Glasgow Goods being limited. Shippers are respectfully requested to engage now as early as possible so as to prevent disappointment.

'ANCHOR' LINE. — INDIAN SERVICE.

The Steamship "SIDONIAN"
WILL BE DESPATCHED

From GLASGOW for ALEXANDRIA, Direct,
(With leave to call at any Port or Ports on the way out),
On WEDNESDAY, 23rd OCT., 1872,
TAKING GOODS AND PASSENGERS FOR
ADEN, BOMBAY, KURRACHEE, BUSSORAH, BUSHIRE, BAGDAD,
COLOMBO, MADRAS, CALCUTTA, RANGOON, & MOULMEIN.

FREIGHT:
Cotton and Fine Goods to Bombay, ... 35/- per Ton Measurement.
Cotton Goods to Madras and Calcutta, ... 30/- per Ton Measurement.
With Tea per Cent. Freight.
Cotton Goods to Colombo, ... 65/- per Ton Measurement.
Cotton Goods to Rangoon and Moulemein, ... 70/- per Ton Measurement.
In full of Freight. Clyde dues additional.
All Freight Engagements to be by open agreement.
NO BILL OF LADING WILL BE SIGNED FOR A SUM THAN £115.

CABIN PASSAGE from GLASGOW to ALEXANDRIA, — £15 15s.
For Freight or Passages, apply to
WILLIAM MACDONALD, FRISVOLD, HAINES & CO.,
GLASGOW, O.K., 1872.

BB

Shippers are requested to send the full of destination and Gross Weight in each Parcel, and to add a declaration of content and value along with Bill of Lading.

my way and in view of the items which had appeared in ' Notebook ' in recent issues, to say nothing of the stamp used to ' cancel ' the ' stamp ' it was too good to miss. It appears to be Mackay's fig 3344, though the hyphen is not showing. Where it was actually applied is not obvious. The card was (one presumes) posted in Glasgow and it is quite likely stamping was not undertaken until it reached London. I would like to see examples of this explanatory stamp clearly demonstrated to be used either in London or Glasgow. It might be that a number of identical stamps were issued to many main offices.

Interestingly enough Michael Goodman reported another BB on an item also from Glasgow, being posted in that place on 8th. May, 1873 and arriving LONDON EC the following day. It carries the Insufficiently EC Addressed stamp already reported on other covers.

Despite the number recorded in ' Notebook ', this BB mark must be regarded as amongst the rarest of stamps; it will be of considerable interest to establish how many others come to light. Many dealers who have been approached have confessed the mark was not known to them outside the proof books.

(This contribution has been reconstructed from conversations between Keith and the Editor who must accept responsibility for the actual contents.)

THE FRANKING SYSTEM AND THE GENERAL POSTS by Jim Lovegrove

The details on the item illustrated I think all will agree approaches the unique in Postal History terms. It can be said to incorporate several features of the Franking System itself and the relationships between that and the General Posts, as they were in the early nineteenth century, in a way which exemplifies the regulations of the one against a background of the movements of the other.

The original letter is a single folded sheet sent from Scotland to London in May 1838. The message inside has a passing interest as a begging letter asking the recipient to accomodate a mutual friend in the sum of £500, but it is otherwise irrelevant to my case. The photocopy shows the item laid out flat to relate obverse to reverse but do not be confused by the two filing creases which must have been made much later.

The story of this item is amply described in outline by eleven handstruck and manuscript marks of the posts, which I have so numbered in the margins of the copy. In their proper sequence the numbers mark the pattern of events that follows.



274

Date 10/8/38

Received of £ 4 = 50

Mr J. Parmenter

the sum of

For auction receipts

Post Office Group

The Franking System and the general Posts.....

1. The letter, addressed to William Forbes Esq MP, London, was put in the Post on the 1st.May, 1838 at Perth. Manuscript details inside the cover confirm this. The town mark is in black.
2. Its passage through Edinburgh was recorded 2nd.May,1838 by a stamp of that Office in red.
3. On arrival in London it received the Franking Stamp of the Morning Duty of 4th. May, 1838, also in red as usual.
4. The Frank must have been cancelled before the letter left the Inland Office, for the next three moves to make sense.
5. The circular handstamp POSTAGE TO LONDON NOT PAID (Willcock 264) was applied, but in brown ink.
6. The single journey charge of 1/2 was imposed with an additional 1/2d., erroneously as I read it, to recover the Scottish wheel tax which was not exempted by the Frank and should have been prepaid.
7. At the House another hand in another ink has readdressed the letter to the recipient's home in Scotland.
8. Once again at the Inland Office this has obliged the staff to cancel the single journey charge and superimpose 2/4 for the journey both ways. This time wheel tax is excluded.
9. A final London handstamp was then applied. It is Willcock 20 but with the legend EX 4MY4 1838, again in brown ink.
10. Another red transit mark indicates passage through Edinburgh on 8th.May, 1838.
11. A thoroughly obscured town stamp of Falkirk marks arrival there on 9(?)May,1838.

I may be wrong about some points of detail in the above sequence, which will I hope become clear from further comment and contributions by members but the basis is sound.

Now for the explanation:

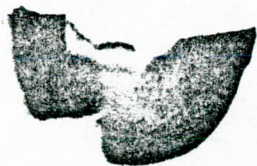
William Forbes Esq had been returned as the Member for Stirlingshire in the Parliament of 1 Victoria (1837) summoned 11th.September, 1837 and ultimately dissolved 23rd. June,1841. In Volume II of the Return of Members of Parliament published by Order of the House in 1878 there is a footnote which reads:

" Return amended by Order of the House dated 30 April 1838; by erasing the name of William Forbes Esq and substituting that of Lieut.Col.George Ralph Abercromby".

This is only by way of half an explanation: William Forbes Esq does not appear to have been a very important person and my limited resources of reference works have not provided him an identity. By the 1st.May, 1838 he had been sitting in the House for nearly six months. It is tempting to speculate but although rare it was not unknown in those times for election results to be examined and adjusted after the event for one reason or another. On the other hand his departure from Parliament could have been for one of several reasons either public or private. Perhaps again some of my colleagues can throw some light on the close of this story.

TWOPENNY POST CHARGE CANCELLED

The search of Post Office Records turns up a number of interesting detail and comment on the manner in which the various offices were staffed. Since the letter was sent to Sir Francis Freeling it should not have been stamped with the " 2 " and this was corrected.



The letter is addressed from
115 High Street,
Marylebone,
6 July 1835 and reads :

Sir,

I humbly solicit your kindness for the Two Penny Post Office in this District, Mrs Mullins of Charles Street being about to leave the Neighbourhood, who has at present the honor of being the Two penny Post Receiver, but Motives of some kind has induced her to change the position, relinquish the Post Office, as well as her other Business as Stationer, some Months since I did apply, to the proper source I was answered that no increase was requisite in this part, but this Lady being on the remove, I have consequently applied considering it my duty, my situation being more

*Sir Francis Freeling
Post office
Kinggate Street*

desirable, the thoroughfare more extensive, & as to integrity, honor, correctness &c., I believe is unnecessary to write upon, having been Clerk to Mr. Bovile (late of Merchant Tailors hall) 22 years - My father 42 years since had the honor of being a Receiver of Letters at Hampstead, when then a youth, conducted the business.

And am Sir

Most respectfully

Your hble Serv^t

Edw.Tho^s Young

Research has yet to establish if the office did go to My. Young.

H. E. YOUNG.
Bookseller & Stationer.

115 High Street, Marylebone.
Circulating Library.

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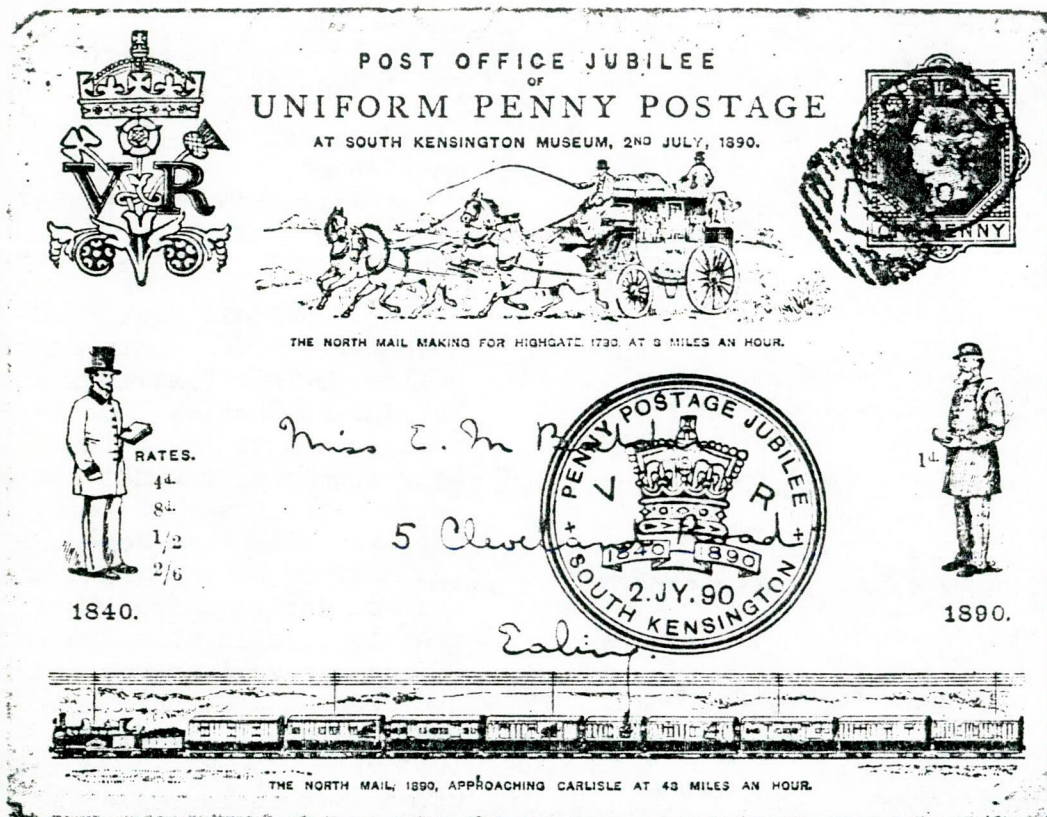
WANTED:

Material bearing stamps or originating from the Old Kent Road from any period; offers to the Editor please.

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INLAND OFFICE UN-NUMBERED DIAMOND from Peter Day

I have an interest in the Jubilee of Penny Postage, 1890. In this connection I recently came across what at first appeared to be a Jubilee envelope used one day prior to issue. This I am now certain was due to the incorrect date being left in the cancellation on the first stamping of the day (2nd. July). When this was noted, the



London Diamond without number was used to "cancel" this and the correct datestamp applied to the reverse. Curiously enough, this too has the Diamond applied but just clipping the edge as if to indicate the connection with the correction cancel on the obverse.

The missing number diamond appears in Dubus, I believe without specific details. (However, the Editor's copy, rather the Group's copy is on loan and this will have to be confirmed - Ed.) As far as I am aware, the use of the stamp has never been noted before this. In this case it clearly falls into the well established pattern of the use of Inland Office Diamonds to cancel incorrectly applied stamps. These have been featured from time to time in 'Notebook' and are no doubt familiar to most readers.

If I may broaden this slightly I would like to give my research in the Jubilee some airing. I am well into the postal aspects of the Jubilee but I very much want to locate other collectors with ANY material (however 'umble they might think it) to clarify or prove lines of enquiry. One particular line of research is whether or not one can actually find the 12 numbered Guilhall "star" cancellers (in two sizes of number) used on all three days, that is seventy-two different combinations. Also, does canceller number 11 really exist, etc.

I would welcome details of every single item the reader has of Jubilee material. The use of a photocopier cannot be too highly commended, being proof positive of the old saw of "a picture is worth a thousand words".

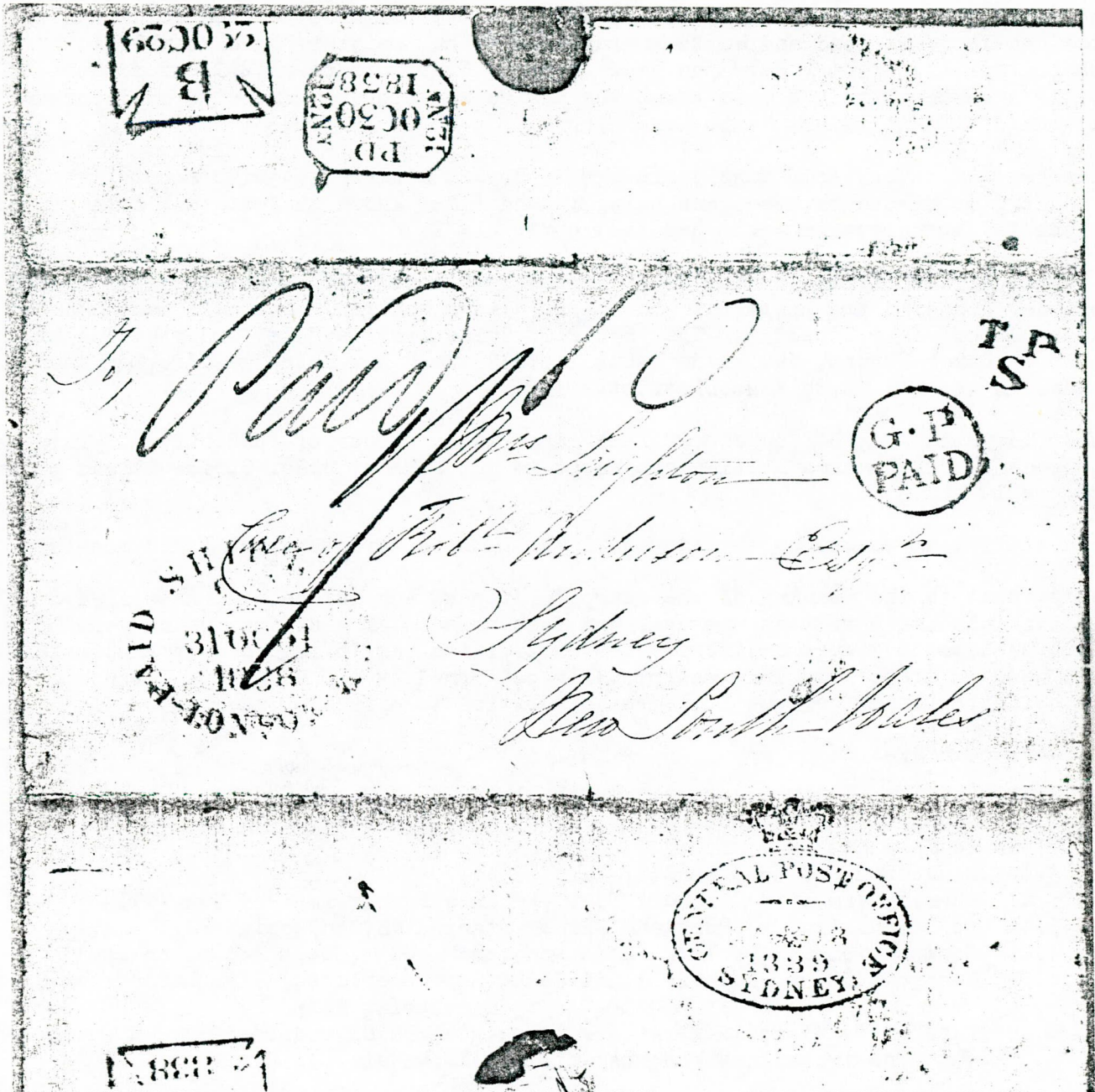
Please drop me a line at

c/o P.O. Box 29, Bognor Regis,
West Sussex, PO21 5UH.

Thank you.

TWOPENNY POST SHIP LETTER

Now comes another which appears to throw a spanner in the works.



As can be seen instead of the usual, and to be expected, Twopenny Post handstamp there is the Borough Branch Office date stamp for 29th. October, 1838 some weeks before the offices of the General and Twopenny Post were amalgamated. Despite this, the circled G.P /PAID was (according to Brumell) " almost certainly applied in the Chief Office of the Twopenny Post ", tends to support the use of the TP/S - and although no doubt known to the better informed readers, the Editor would like some explanation of the use of the Borough date stamp.

The photocopy routed through Martin Willcocks from Kevin Ashworth, to whom our thanks.

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MARITIME POSTAL HISTORY OF LONDON::: the section of London's Postal History relating to Maritime Mail is reaching the stage of preliminary drafting. Readers are urged to write to the Notebook Editor with details of all the stamps they have right up to date. Photocopies would assist. Please quote Robertson's ref. numbers if possible. From and to, rate of postage, dates of despatch and arrival, other stamps, colors etc.

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NR CANNOT BE NORTH ROW by Martin Willcocks

When Charless Hahn sent a photocopy with NR on the front I trotted out North Row, then from curiosity, looked to see where it was. In the 1857 Post Office Guide two are listed, Earls Court Road and North Audley Street, but neither had a Post Office. The North Audley Street entry gave the nearest Money Order Office as 210 Oxford Street. NR being a comparatively common stamp the office was probably one with an important one so it would seem it is not North Row.

I remember the cover, sold many years ago to Bryant Lillywhite, with about five stamps all identified on the reverse, one being NR and ' Not known at North Row ' in manuscript. Thus the fallacy crept in - who has that cover now ?

The only possible office was New Road, listed by Brumell with a note " later called Alsops Buildings in the lists but the stamps always had New Road until name changed again to Upper Baker Street ". The 1856 P.O. Guide lists a Money Order Office at " 54 Upper Baker Street, New Road ", but in 1857 the " New Road " was dropped when included in the new North West District.

Another New Road Post Office was 22 Tonbridge Place, corner of Judd Street. This is just opposite St. Pancras Station but as it is not a Money Order Office it was probably quite small.

I then started to check how this worked in with the covers to which I had access.

Firstly, what is the meaning of the stamp ? Without any evidence, I have always felt these initials had more than one use, but most were to show offices which were tried without success to secure delivery. The Post Office was logical and if successful there was no need to stamp it. This was probably confirmed by the NR covers I could check, but complicates study because it bears no relation to origin or address.

The covers seen are:

1. 9.1.51 London - Cambridge forwarded to Sloane St., Eaton Square.
2. 11.8.49 Cornhill to Charlwood St., Belgrave Rd., with stamped NR and manuscript CX
3. 7.7.55 to John St.
4. 23.9.45 Osnaburgh St. to High St., Marylebone.
5. 23.5.47 Charing Cross to Cornwall Terr., Regents Park, forwarded Tun. Wells
6. 19.5.45 to Devonshire St., Portland Place (stamped NR, manuscript PS)
7. 21.9.46 Southampton St. to York Place, endorsed Leeds (Leeds c.d.s. on rev)
8. 9.6.52 Moorgate St. to Davies St., St James Sq (underlined) with handstruck CX and manuscript NR
9. 14.10.45 Farnham to Victoria Terrace, Pimlico, stamped CX, endorsed Try NR (crossed out) and two signed endorsements Not Known at.....Pimlico.

Of these, numbers 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6 are correctly addressed by the P.O. Guide, whilst 3 and 7 have not enough detail - there are 31 John Streets listed and 9 York Places. However, both have both have one at New Rd., Baker St., so there was good reason to try that location. 1 and 2 have no apparent connection at all, so were probably missent during the search, but 4, 5 and 6 are all reasonably close to New Road.

8 and 9 are exceptional in every way. Both have a manuscript NR only, the handstamp being CX. They are the only ones addressed to streets not listed and neither could be near Charing Cross.

Thus, five of the seven envelopes with NR stamped have a good reason to try New Road, Marylebone and the other two were probably missent in attempts to find the people. I think we can be fairly confident NR is New Road, Marylebone, now Upper Baker Street.

But what about others ? PC in a rectangle (in 1878) is forwarded from Peckham Rye and SK to Blackfriars Road (1855) would probably be Southwark (and Peckham ?). But how about SH in 1856 to Moorfields (endorsed, No Such Street) with Stepney written above - I'd love to think it was Shooters Hill. A large slanting B.W. to Maida Hill

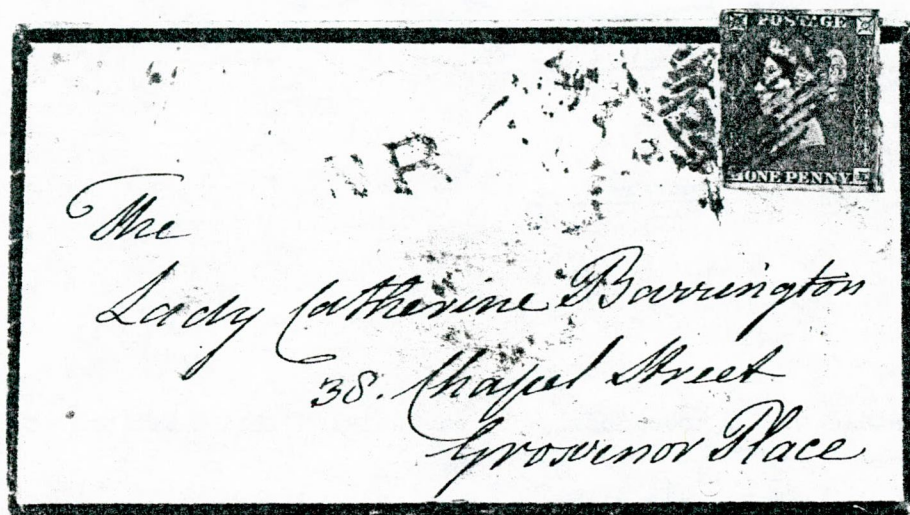
NR Cannot Be North Row.....

endorsed " Paddington " in 1854 and S.S to Grays Inn Square in 1849 are other problems. No prizes offered for OCS.

Has anyone an NR later than 1855 - it is probable they stopped using it - but is there one for Upper Baker St ?

Editor's Note:

The Northern Railway Office attribution for NR has long since been discredited though it was shown as such in No.16 Notebook.



The example of an NR above is from Tunbridge Wells 8th.June,1850 and is most clearly addressed to 38 Chapel Street, Grosvenor Place - which is quite correct and appears as such in the April 1857 'Principal Streets and Places in London'.

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SQUARED CIRCLE CODING: from F. J. Bradley

It is a deceptively simple query. A halfpenny item, addressed to Bavaria in 1893.



Although the photocopy is rather dark it is the S/C for LONDON NW on 7th.April,93 and in place of the usual time in the clear it has 197.

What is the significance of this ? From the EC Impression Books it is apparent such numbering had a duty significance when it formed part of the handstamp. In this case one must presume the 197 to be of moveable type.

Any reader with knowledge of such codings or who can offer a considered theory, please put pen to paper. As a matter of interest, who has other examples ?

This query has been going the rounds a little before publication, no luck. Ed.

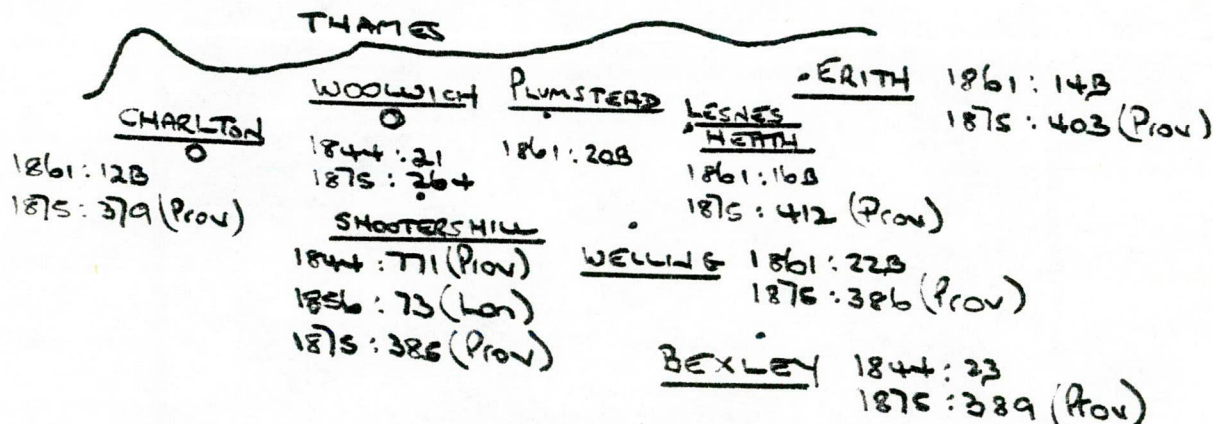
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SUBURBAN AND PROVINCIAL CANCELLATIONS, by Peter Bathe

With my particular interest in South East London, I found John Parmenter's Section K, SE part, very interesting *. However, I had hoped he might have explained one or two little puzzles.

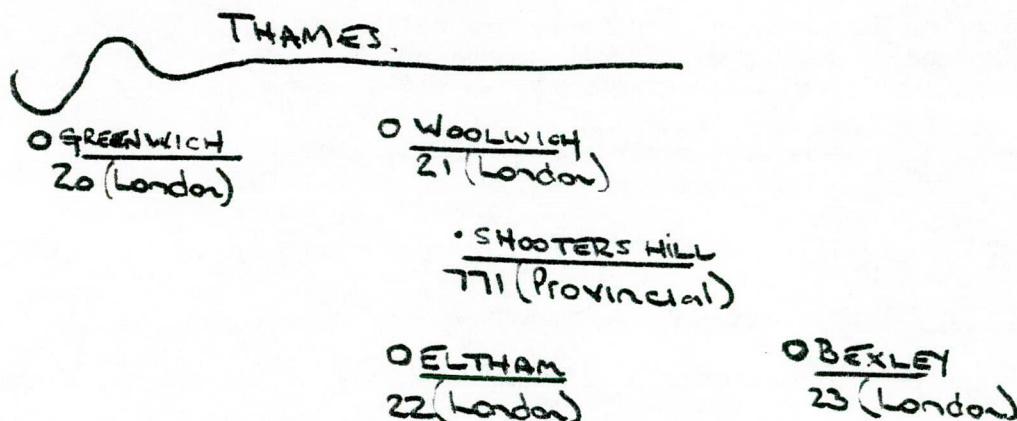
For example, the towns and villages which became part of the Woolwich District in 1875, were all issued with suburban cancellations in May, 1861 - and then with provincial cancellations upon joining the newly formed Woolwich District in 1875. All except Plumstead, which retained the Suburban 20B designation into the 1887 lists (according to all the experts in such matters).

A quick look at the sketch map below shows how very odd this is.



As can be seen, Plumstead was surrounded by " Provincial " cancellations after 1875 yet, apparently, retained its " London " status.

Shooters Hill is another oddity but I think I can explain it. The next sketch map shows the issue of cancellations in 1844.



This office appears to be the reverse of Plumstead in 1875 - that is, an enclave of " Provincialism " within London. However, when the numbers were allocated in 1844, Shooters Hill was classed as a Post Town - it was still operating the famous Cross Posts (readers may recall it was suggested it be called a " Voucher Post " when the organisation of these was discussed). One brief month after the issue of the Provincial cancellation the cross post ended. Shooters Hill became a ' London ' office in 1856 with the establishment of the South East District Office.

—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—O—

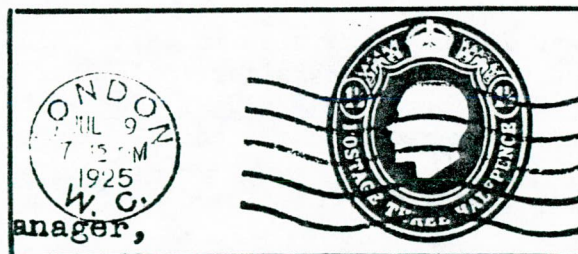
* Readers are reminded that if they purchased the SE section prior to the publication of the remainder of Section K they can obtain the balance when ordering Section K IF THEY SPECIFICALLY MENTION THEY ALREADY HAVE THE SE PORTION.

MACHINE CANCELLATIONS from Graham Homer-Wooff

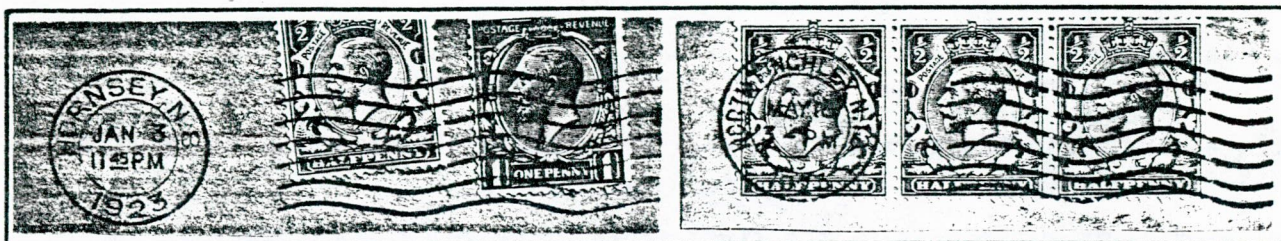
I enclose a few notes and comments on the recent article on machine cancellations which will, I hope, be of interest.

London WC Trials

A further two dates to add to those given.
One for JUN 8 1925 and the other, on the right, JUL 9 1925.

Golders Green NW11

In 1975 an article of mine in "Mailcoach" reported this and for several other offices.



Hornsey N.8.

N.Finchley N 12.



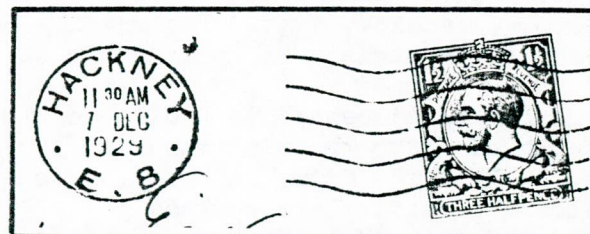
S.Lambeth SW 8.

Golders Green NW 11.

I do not think it is a trial cancellation, merely the issue of a machine to Golders Green like Hornsey, North Finchley and S. Lambeth which are illustrated above

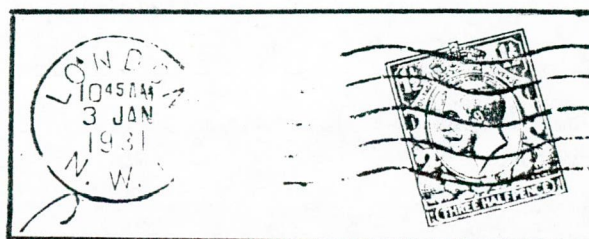
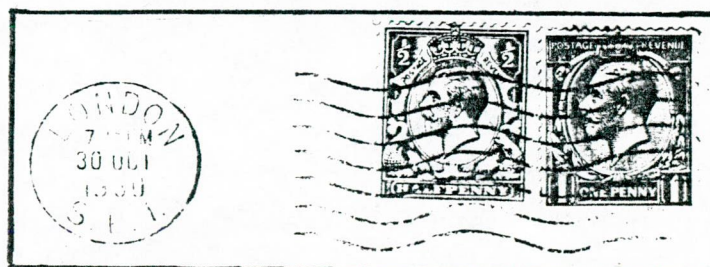
Hackney E 8

This is rather like the W.C. Trial (?) in appearance but, as with the W.C. version, I rather suspect it is a regular issue.

London Districts Circa 1930

These three examples are probably new dies issued to the SE1 and NW1 offices around 1930.

As with the Hackney example above I would welcome any clues/comments.



Machine Cancellations.....The No. 7 - G Code

The Rev. Jordan's articles in the " Philatelic Adviser " brilliantly solve the coding changes which occurred after 1861. Suffice to say after some temporary adjustments a NEW SERIES began in FEBRUARY 1862 with code H - 87, making way for the new No. 7 machine which required the code G - 7 to keep it in series.

The code letter " G " was used as follows:

July 7th., 1860 to September, 1860	G - 92
September, 1860 to February, 1862	G - 87
February, 1862 on	G - 7

It was issued as a ten-bar killer but changed later to the new very heavy eleven bar type. The first ten bar killer was of course on the No.4 machine (an article of mine in " Stamp Collecting " January 1976 refers) identified by me as the FEB 1860 No. B - 4, issued in the format 2 - 6 - 2. It had a VERY short life as by MARCH 1860 is appeared in the 3 - 5 - 3 format.

Brigadier Viner's example is in the first month of usage, a very nice item indeed.

(The above is an edited version of a letter).

In connection with the Golders Green cancellation, Brian Smith writes:

" with reference to your article in Notebook 46 in conjunction with Mike Goodman's 'rarities' I am pleased to advise that I have found a Golders Green Hey & Dolphin 'trial' dated 14 May 1923 - I wouldn't have known but for the article."

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

BLIND BAG, further examples from Martin Willcocks

Two further examples have been reported by Martin, who sadly admits to cherished the hope BB stood for Blackheath Branch until he came across his second example!

One is posted from Basingstoke on NO 12 70 addressed to Messrs Thorne & Co, Distillers, Greenwich, Kent. The reverse contains a battery of stamps, including the BB and seven signatures, presumably of the Greenwich Letter Carriers.

The other is addressed to Dublin and is posted from London JA 19 1874 where it apparently ran into trouble immediately with several London datestamps on the reverse and the BB. The " try Dublin ", presumably a suggested destination by the Blind Office appears to have worked.

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

INLAND BRANCH: A NEW PEARSON HILL: from J.F. Hine

The new type Pearson Hill from Brigadier Viner spurred me to look at my own collection and surprisingly another copy of 7 with 10 horizontal bars was there. Details are:

Date stamp comprises GL / LONDON / MR 26 / 62 with the obliterator 7 in 2/6/2 format BUT the cds is only 19mm NOT 22mm as noted by Brigadier Viner.

The next " 7 " is the collection is the normal 2/5/2 with GR/LONDON/SP 19/64.

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

WHAT THE AUCTIONS TELL.....

The following have been culled from the Robson Lowe Postal History Auctions over the past eighteen months or so. They comprise the Editor's selection so if the treasured item you bought is not included it will merely demonstrate his lack of taste.

General

8.9.78

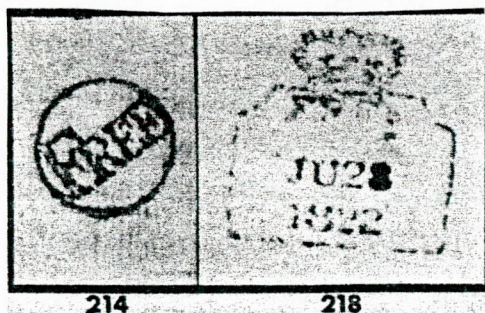
- Lot 123 1568 treasury warrant for the payment of John Tailor, one of Elizabeth I's messengers, for journeys into Buckinghamshire; signed "Winchester". In fairly good condition. Estimate £150: Realisation £250

1.12.1978

- Lot 256T 1590 two E.L. from London to Venice with seals and original threads. One letter contains reference to the fact it might travel via Hamburg and then overland. 50 and 51 days in transit. £100:£240
- Lot 264T 1671 E.L. from Christon "For his much esteemed friend Mr. John Morris at his house in Auston ffreyers in London, with a box" - the letter reads " I have pr. Bristoll carrier tendered my Acknowledgement...by a small remembrance of what our barren country affords - a cheshire cheese". An interesting example of a carrier's letter and parcel service. £ 40:££44
- Lot 265T 1672 E.L. carried privately from Bermondsey Churchyard addressed "To the faire hands of the Lady Clayton these with any Due service humbly present" which accompanied " a small taste of the fruits" from "a little spott of ground" purchased by a loan from Sir Robert Clayton (one time Lord Mayor of London). No postal markings or endorsements. £ 30:£26

2.11.79

- Lot 216 1630 vellum deed whereby lands of Thomas Passion (a minor) in Dean, Hants were sold to King Charles I to establish a " POSTE HOUSE " by Francis & Joan Passion, with two tapes and Francis's seal attached. £50:£40

Frees

8.9.78

- 214 1765 E.L. from 'Achterblair' to London showing the scarce small "FREE" h.s. (W.61, 18mm.)*** with Edinburgh Bishopmark. £50:£65
- 218 1822 E.L. from Winchester, Virginia, addressed to "His Most Excellent Majesty George 4th King of England" with transit marks of Baltimore and Liverpool and showing two different "FREE" d.s. one being the rare rectangular type with scalloped corners (W.82, Lovegrove G/1), mainly ** to ***. A little soiled and torn at top. £120:£115

1.12.1978

- 328T 1831-40 F.(4), with an apparently genuine "0" code "FREE" showing unusual frame damage (some small stains and creases, not affecting the h.s.): the forgeries (Lovegrove types 47 & 48): and the "sideways 0" (Lovegrove 49), all mainly *** £60:£180

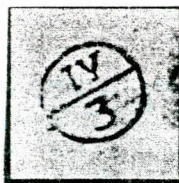
What The Auctions Tell.....

6.7.79

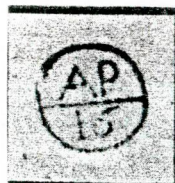
- Lot 433 1764 E. to the Earl of Loundoun in London, redirected to Edinburgh: showing circ. framed "FREE" with large "F" (W.61, the scarce small type, 18mm. diameter) **, London Receivers initial h.s. and Bishopmark. Valuation £60: Realisation £85

2.11.79

- 435 1764 (Dec.) E.L. from London to Derby showing the scarce 18mm "FREE" with large "F" (W.61, first year of use, mainly ***) endorsed on the flap "Please to return this cover, it being charged d4": also showing Receiver's initial h.s. and London Bishopmark. Also a print c.1805 £75:£95
- 436 1765 E.L. from Edinburgh to London showing circular framed "FREE" with large "F" (the rare 18mm type - W.61) *** though just touched by a very light filing crease. £70:£75
- 440 1800 E.L. fro, Carron (Scotland) to London showing the scarce "FREE" d.s. (W.75) ** overstruck by framed "Above Privileged/Number" ** to *** in red. £25:£40
- 441 1800 (17 Nov) to Edinburgh signed "Jekyll" and showing the scarce "FREE" c.d.s. with crown inside the frame (W.75) **. Some wear at folds and discolorisation. £25:£32

London Date Stamps

158



161



167



302

8.9.78

- 158 1663 E.L. (repaired) from Dublin to John Morris at the "Flying horse in Cornhill, London" showing London Bishopmark for "IV/3" very ***. Interesting contents include "On Thursday last, 5 of ye plotters, vizt. Col. Warren, Mr. Jephson, Capt Chambers and Mr. Lockey, were brought before the Kings Bench barr & arraigned..." £125:£140
- 159 1665 (Sept) E.L. from Brocklesby, Lincs to Houghton near Dunstable, endorsed "Leave this with ye Post Master of Dunstable to be sent according to direction" with manuscript "2", "3" and "in all" 5d" and showing "SE/19" Bishop mark, mainly **. The letter contains references to the Plague and has been skillfully repaired in places. £120:£100
- 160 - another from the same correspondence (Oct) but from London, the "OC/29" Bishop mark almost *** but more extensively repaired. £100:£100
- 161 1668 E.L. from London to Exeter with "AP/16" Bishop mark, very ***. Part of inside page torn away. £50:£75
- 162 1669 E.L. to London, rated "3" and showing "IV/26" Bishop mark, ** to *** £50:£72.50
- 167 1689 E.L. from St. Germans to London with "AP/25" Bishop mark and heart shaped "F/AFT" (W.145) *** Somewhat creased and soiled and re-inforced at the folds. £45:£90

1.12.78

- 302T 1661 (Jun) E.L. from Yarmouth "To Mr. Thomas Pengelly, Merchant at the pestall and mortar in fan church street London" with superb Bishop mark for "IV/3" crossed by filing crease with does not affect appearance. A very early date. £500:£800

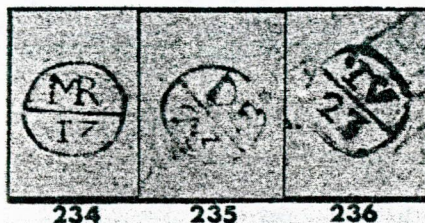
What the Auctions Tell.....

30.3.79

- Lot 253 1669 E.L. from Lady Bridgeman "ffor My Honed.Cozen Miss Shuckbrough at Capp. Shuckbrough house in Worall neare Berkett at Upton Cheshire" with m/s "3" and "AP/22"*** (Ex Aston and related correspondence) £50:£80
- 284 1787 E.L. to London showing "CRE/DITON"* to *** and the experimental London d.s. "FEBY/3/E"(W.10)across flap,maily *** £35:£50
- 285 1787 E.L. to Aylesbury showing London Bishopmark for "3/AP" mainly **. (The scarce continued use of the Bishopmark during the experiments with new d.s.: see under W.3) £20:£18



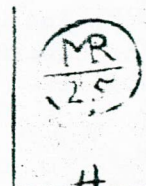
253



234

235

236



268

6.7.79

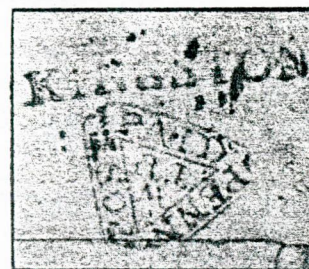
- 234T 1662(14 Mar) E.L. to " Sr. Edward Hurley, Kt of the Bath, att his Lodgins over against Corks in Bow Street in Coven Garden in Westminster" showing small Bishmark "MR/17" very ***. The letter is dated 1661 (14 Mar) under the Julian calendar. Some discolorisation but early and attractive. £300:£340
- 235 1664 from one brother to another "at ye Red Lyon in Brington (?) " and marked "pr 3d" ***"DE/23" Bishop mark, a trifle soiled and creased £60:£60
- 236 1668 E.L. to Yarmouth with "IV/23" *** on one panel,another panel slightly torn, very slightly soiled. £75:£80

2.11.79

- 267 1663 E.L. to York showing London Bishop mark for "IV/23" * to ***. Some grime but a neat small E.L. £90:£95
- 268 1665 E.L. apparently from Snaith to Leicester, endorsed "pt.pd 3d" and showing London Bishop mark for "MR/25" almost ***: a scarce Plague Year Letter. £125:£350
- 276 1787 E. to London showing "92 CIREN/CESTER" **, the experimental d.s. "JANUARY/23/E" * to ** and London Bishop mark for "23/JA" ** to *** in purple. The scarce late use of the Bishopmark: and we do not recall having previously seen the Bishopmark used with the experimental d.s. on the same letter. £50:£56

London Receiving Houses

174



288

8.9.78

- 174 1672 E.L. addressed to Hugh Boscawen "To be left at Troro, Cornwall", showing faint Bishmark and circular framed "OFF/4" mainly *** (W.26) £100:£410

What the Auctions Tell...

1.12.78

Lot 305T 1678 E.L. from London to Edward Clark at Chiply, endorsed "To be left with Mr. Tymewell at the Lambe in Taunton, Somerset", showing London Bishopmark for "MR/30"*** (M & R joined) and circular framed "G" ** to ***. An early example of a Receiver's h.s. Rather soiled. £35:£26

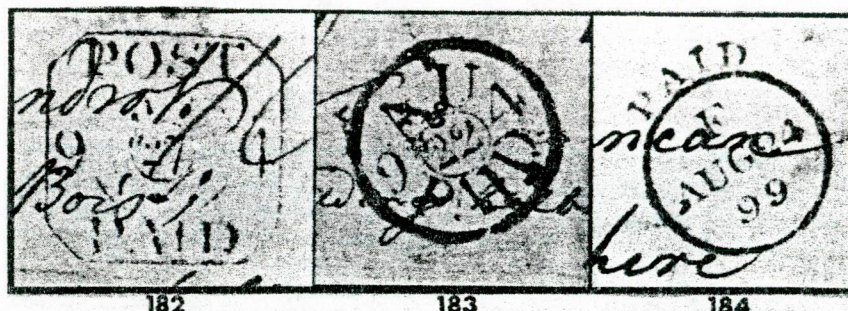
306T -(Sep) similar E.L. from the same correspondence, the London Bishopmark * to ** only. Some discolorisation. £35:£32

30.3.79

288 1771 E.L. from "Kensington Gravel Pits" showing "PENNY/POST/PAID" for "W/TU", with Receiver's h.s. "KINGSTON" and London Bishopmark at ** to ***: contents include "...the air of this place, which is esteem'd the Mountpel-lier of England". Slight wear and discolorisation, and a wormhole, but attractive. £75:£95

6.7.79

247 1685 E.L. from London to Rotterdam showing Receiver's initials "PA" in circle *** on flap, but no other markings. Unusual, but soiled at reverse edge. £25:£55

London Pre-Paid Stamps

8.9.78

182 1794 E.L. from Gillingham, Dorset to London showing the experimental "POST/PAID" octagonal d.s. ** to *** (W.48) £60:£80

183 1794 E.L. from Stirling to London with the experimental "PAID" c.d.s. (W.49) for "AV/22", almost *** £79:£80

184 1799 Sailor's E.L. to Scotland headed "Torbay on Board the Queen Charlotte" endorsed and signed by officer, with manuscript "P1" and showing the rare c.d.s. summounted by "PAID" (W.52), superb. Somewhat stained but a very early privilege rate cover. £60:£120

1.12.78

310 1791 E.L. prepaid to Bolzano showing "ROCHDALE" ** to *** in black and the scarce 33mm diam. London "PAID" d.s. (similar to W.33, ** to *** in claret) £30:£20

to be continued

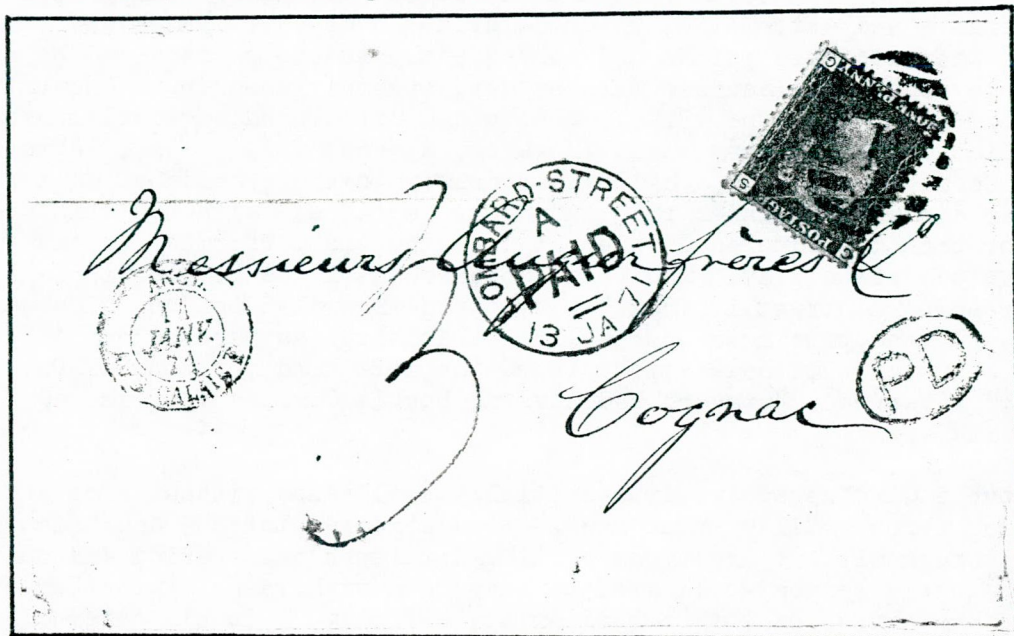
Note:

'T' after the lot number means the amount of realisation is subject to VAT, so add 15% to the amount quoted.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

MAIL TO FRANCE 1871, from David Druett

The item shown is an example of the use of the 1d. adhesive on mail to France but it does not seem to fit the usual pattern.



The cancellation of the adhesives is usually an Inland Office diamond. Quite a range of numbers are recorded used for the purpose, 50 and 51 being noted by Dubus and the Editor has a "1" and a "4", both of these from the very early 1860's.

The PD (Paid to Destination) is usual, though not inevitable, as is the addition of a manuscript amount. In the case of the item above this is a " 3 ".

Probably because of the commercial interest many appear to have the Lombard Street Paid datestamp in one form or another.

What makes this that significant bit different is the use of the " P " in a diamond. Many readers will appreciate the long discussions over the meaning of the lettered diamonds. In summary, it is probable - almost certain - the stamps were made for a very specific purpose, which has yet to be established by postal historians some one hundred years on. What is very clear is the stamps were used for a great many jobs which might be fairly summed up as " casual ".

Never-the-less, this is the first the Editor recalled seeing used for this particular purpose and I would be interested to hear of other examples being used on this type of accounting mail where the firms merely applied a one penny adhesive and sorted out the deficiency afterwards, all by arrangement.

In the course of researching the archives has anyone located one of these agreements or any references to the operation of the scheme? The reference books over the years give an impression of this curious arrangement but never the details of the operation of the scheme and what exactly, apart from a slight delay in paying for the postage, the advantages were for the business having such an arrangement.

This particular letter, written in French, is an acknowledgement of monies remitted on the London account, dealing with francs converted to pounds and very specific to the firm to whom the letter is addressed.

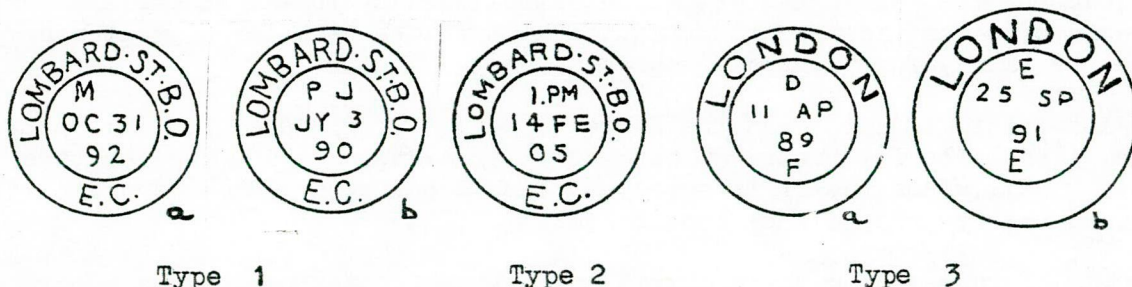
LONDON EXPERIMENTAL DOUBLE CIRCLE POST MARKS, by Simon R.A. Kelly

Initial trials of combined date and obliterator stamps commenced with the Massey trials in 1880 (Stitt Dibden, Squared Circle Postmarks, 1974) and were followed by the Double Circled and Hooded postmarks in 1882. The Massey and Hooded types bore sharp corners and extremities which sometimes damaged packages and were subject to extra wear at these points and consequently had to be repaired or replaced at considerable cost. The Squared Circles were commonly used up to about 1910 with their final appearances in the 1920s. The Hooded Circles had a similar story as far as cancellation of ordinary mail. However, special types, e.g., Registered, continued up to at least 1979. The logical answer to the problem of damage and wear was a circular die with an inner ring and no projections. Although this was less of an obliterator than the Squared Circle, it nevertheless performed its task efficiently & was used extensively. The first appearance of the Double Circle type in London is for Lombard Street in 1882, with others inscribed London which were first used in 1885. In the provinces Double Circles appeared as far back as 1857 for cancellation of mails but these appear to be the left hand portions of Duplex type obl iterators. Liverpool, however, had several Double Circle types issued in the early 1890s with arcs.

The London Double Circles evolve from initially small dies without arcs and progress to larger forms still without arcs. Arcs appeared in 1889 and became disused after 1900 although without arc types continued through this period and on to about 1905, when the whole series would seem to have been withdrawn. Two other experimental Double Ring types of this period exist. Firstly, a double outer circle type which appears to be the left hand part of Duplex obl iterators (Dubus type 19 / Westley figs. 85 - 87). Finally, there is the Hammer type, which was issued to London and London E.C.

It is clear from the Steel Proof Impression Books many of the Double Circle dies, alongside the contemporary Squared Circles and Hoods were designed for use in the Pearson Hill ' Pivot ' type stamp cancelling machines (Parsons, Mailcoach 20, p7).

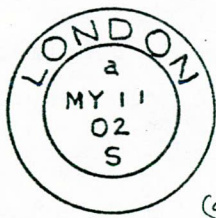
All the experimental Double Circles were eventually replaced by the Dulwich type with arcs which was first issued to West Dulwich in 1894 and had telegraphic time code. Dulwich types inscribed London with code numeral at base appeared at the turn of the century. With minor modifications, this type continues to be used up to the present.



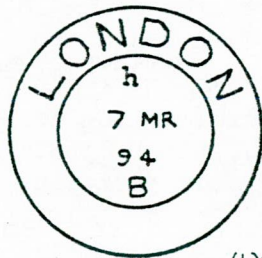
Type 1 : Lombard St. 4 dies issued 24 May 82; 1 die issued 24 Sept 83. Single (a) and double (b) letter codes used into 1900s. Outer circle 24-26 mm; inner 14-16 mm.

Type 2 : Lombard St. As type 1, but time in clear.

Type 3 : London. 6 dies issued 6 May 85; 3 dies issued 4 Dec 86. 6 dies issued 29 Dec 86; 3 dies issued 21 Sep 87. Progressive increase in size of circles with time (a - b) - outer circle 25-29 mm; inner 16-18 mm. Single upper and lower code letters sans serif. No arc.

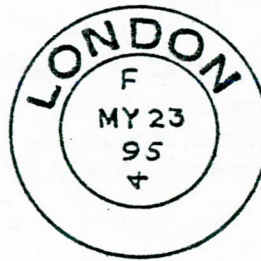
LONDON Experimental Double Circle Post Marks, continued....

(a)

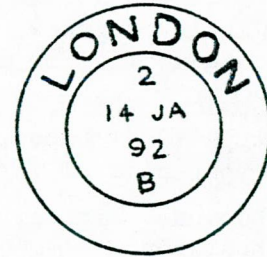


(b)

Type 4



Type 5



Type 6

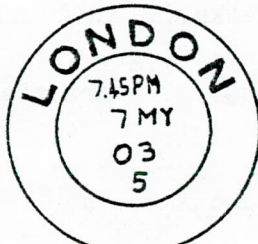
Type 4 : London. 6 dies issued 28 Apr 88 with outer circle 32.5 - 33 mm: inner 20 mm. (b) Smaller dies also used (a) outer circle 27, inner 17. Distinguished from type 3 by having serified lower case letters in upper code position. No arc.

Type 5 : London. Outer circle 32.5 mm., inner 20 mm. Single letter in upper code position. At base turning number code (? time code). No arc.

Type 6 : London. Outer circle 32.5 mm., inner 20 mm. Numeral in upper code position. At base single letter. No arc.

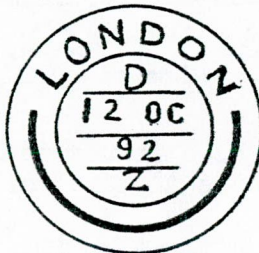


(a)



(b)

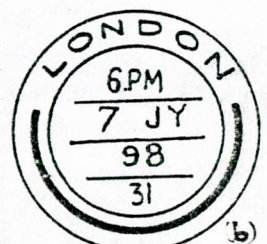
Type 7



Type 8



(a)



(b)

Type 9



(c)

Type 9



Type 10



Type 11

Type 7 : London. Outer circle 27-33 mm.; inner 17-20 mm. Smaller dies may have the inner circle broken at the top to accommodate time in clear. Numeral in lower code position. No arc.

Type 8 : London. 10 dies issued 24 Apr 89. Outer circle 32.5 mm: inner circle 20mm. Single letters in upper and lower code positions. Horizontal lines separating four rows in the inner circle. Single arc.

Type 9 : London. 10 dies (numbered at base 26-35) issued 29 June 95. Outer circle 32 mm; inner 20 mm. Time in clear at top. This series seems to have been recut - earlier examples have arc 2mm wide (a), later examples are reduced to 1mm (b). It is interesting to note the numbering sequence 26 - 35 of the original issue corresponds exactly to the gap in the numbered series of the Hooded Circles. Derek Holliday (Notebook 24,p5)

LONDON Experimental Double Circle Post Marks, continued.....

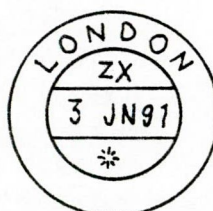
- Type 9 : records 25 in the Double Circle Series but comments it is rarer than others.
(cont.) I have examples of Hooded series 25 (c) up to MR 30 98 and the earliest 25 in the Double Circle MR 5 00. It, therefore, seems 25 in the Double Circle series was issued at some point between these two dates. Members records will no doubt close this gap and, hopefully, not cause an overlap.
- Type 10 : London. Dies, perhaps from the left hand side of the double circle Duplex type 19 of Dubus. Outer circle 25 - 26 mm., inner circle 23 - 24 mm. Upper code of two letters. Blank in lower code position.
- Type 11 : London. Similar to type 10 but time in clear and numerals in lower code position.



Type 12



Type 13



Type 14

- Type 12 : London. Hammer type with vertical bars in inner segments. Code numbers 1 - 6 at base between 5-pointed stars. Date at left centre and time in clear at right centre. Watch out for frame breaks in the horizontal lines especially.
- Type 13 : London E.C. Similar to type 12 with modified upper inscription. Numerals 1 - 6 at base.
- Type 14 : London. Rubber Stamp. Two dies issued to Mount Pleasant on 2 June 91. It is likely to have been used as a packet stamp and may, therefore, have been used with colored ink.

This listing is based upon the provisional article by Derek Holliday (Notebook 24, p. 5) and amplified by the author's own meagre accumulation. The Post Office Records are gratefully acknowledged for access to Proof Impression Volumes for steel and rubber stamps.

It is hoped the enclosed questionnaire will be completed as far as possible by as many members as possible. The results will appear as part of Section L of the Encyclo - paedia. It would be of particular value if members could record all examples they have and if possible the usage to prepare as report as complete as possible.

Many thanks in anticipation!

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

WANTED: HOODED POSTMARKS.

Complete covers, cut-outs, ancient to modern; cancellations or transit marks; Registered Paid, T.P.O., Late Fee, Royal, Parcel Post, Military etc.

London especially but also Ireland, provinces and foreign.

Dr. Simon R.A. Kelly, Dept. Geology, Sedgwick Museum, Downing Street, Cambridge.CB2 3EQ

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