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NOTEBOOK

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EDITORIAL

Onet of the confusions suffered by the Editor in his old age is the ability to forget. In this respect he tends to get an 'A' grade all too often. Distractions by all manner of interesting, albeit not important, matters run a close second at 'A -'.

To add to these everyday difficulties, some half a dozen pages, replete with illustrations , had been prepared for this issue, when the Editorial concentration, such as it is, was interrupted by a number of distracting phone calls. A disastrous bye product was pressing wrong buttons on the key board resulting in all that work lost, including the contents of the recycle bin.

The consequence has been an inordinate gap since the previous *Notebook* and this issue, for which our sincere apologies.

We have been seriously considering having *Notebook* professionally printed, the major drawback being copy is required using Microsoft, whereas your Editor uses and prefers Lotus. He tried a couple of pages using the very little he knows of Microsoft and decided the need to purchase "Microsoft for Idiots " before attempting the change.

What came as an encouragement was the LPHG meeting in November. There were members there all day, morning only and afternoon only, which suggests the idea of having a whole day meeting might not have been such a bad idea.

You can help here. Please let us know which suits you, or does the idea of perhaps missing something if you cannot be there all day put you off attending? Please use e-mail if possible as it will afford the opportunity of building up the LPHG e-mail contact listing, for both speed and cost reduction.

.....

INDIA SHIP LETTERS : Continued from Notebook 169

Written as from Madras 24th. January, 1816 and an example of a double letter, confirmed by the writer.." *I have the pleasure to enclose you the first of Exchange of a Sett of Bills....."* (Fig. 1)

The practice of sending a copy of letters, a reflection of the perils of the sea journey from India to Great Britain, shown by the endorsement inside "*Original per Rose, Duplicate per Streatham*".



The obverse endorsed *per Rose.*

Arrived in London 8th. July, 1816 : Edinburgh on the 11th.

The double rate calculation
India - London (2 x 8d) 1s. 4d.
London - Edinburgh (2x 1s. 1d.) 2s. 2d.
Total 3s. 6d.
plus Wheel Tax in Scotland of ½d.

Fig. 1 Madras to Edinburgh 24th. January, 1816

The letter from Pernambuco, Brazil, to Manchester (Fig. 2) carries the date of receipt, hopefully made at the time and not a thoughtless collector's marking. Lower left has the ship's name *Bolivia*.

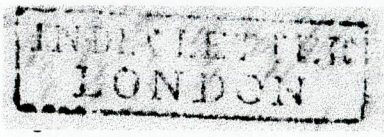


Fig. 3

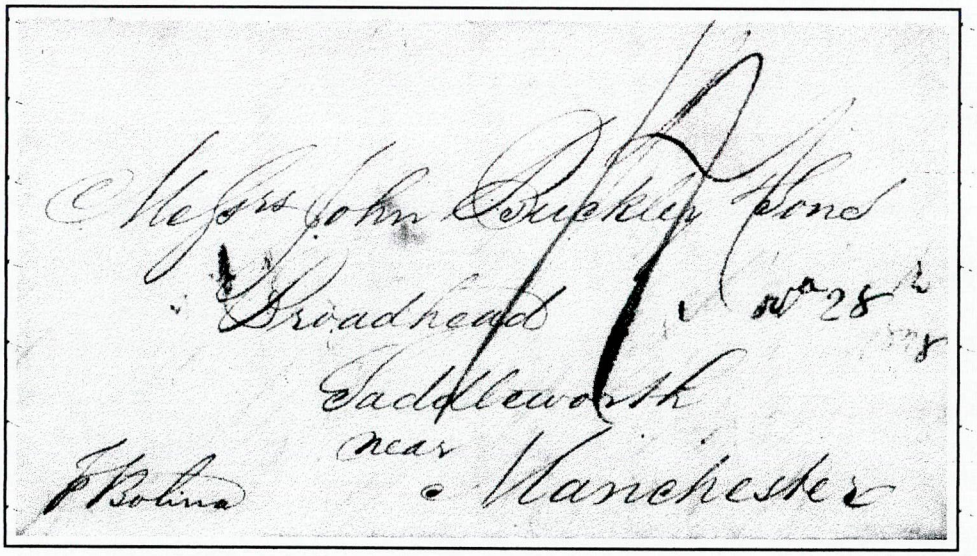


Fig. 2 : From Pernambuco (Brazil) to Manchester 20th. September, 1828

Other than the London INDIA LETTER (Fig. 3), there are no postal markings or clue as to whether the mail ship went via St. Helena or came directly to London.

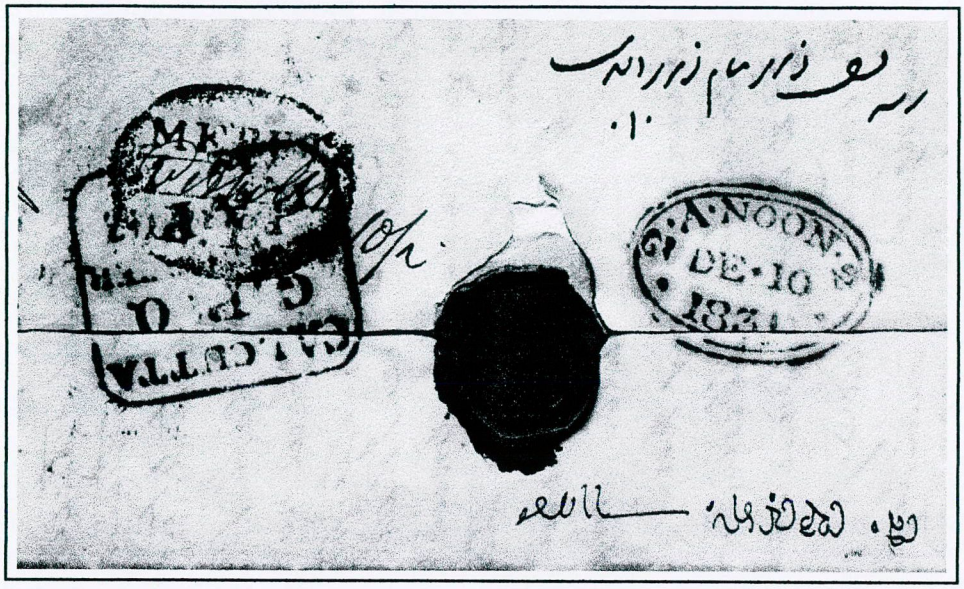
In 1828 the Post Office was running a Packet Service, the notice for which stated the SHIP LETTER facility was available only to (and presumably from) places away from the Packet route, Pernambuco was a Packet Port of Call.

Postage for London to Manchester was 11d. The Ship Letter rate from Brazil was half the Packet Rate plus the Inland rate from Falmouth in 1805, a total of 1s. 9d.

However, because the Post Office marked this item as an INDIA LETTER, a charge of 4d. would have been made.

This 4d may be the Post Office "squiggle" charge - alternative suggestions are welcome.

Only the second half, which provided the wrapper, has survived.



The reverse (Fig. 4) carries the oval framed MERUT P[t] P[d] and the framed CALCUTTA / G.P.O ./ SHIP LETTER, neither with a clear date of posting.
There are a local endorsements and charges..

Fig. 4 Reverse of letter Merut to London

The obverse shows the large 4 circular stamp. (Fig. 5)

The significance of this particular mark is not yet fully apparent. Despite a life of at least thirteen years, its occurrence is rare. The "4" represents the special sea-post rate from India to the port of entry in Great Britain and Ireland, in addition to which the Inland charges to destination, according to mileage, until uniform postage in 1840.

A letter to London would incur the 4d. charge and, if this stamp were regularly found on such letters, a conclusion could be drawn. But, at least three other "India Letter London" handstamps were in concurrent use between 1827 and 1840. India letters to London usually bear one of these with 4d. in manuscript. It should be noted the stamp is also found on mail to other destinations



Fig. 5

Robertson recorded none on Soldiers' letters but the Chadwick collection, sold by Robson Lowe on the 15 th. April, 1975, contained an 1840 example (Lot 1172)

The next item is dated by the writer 17th. December, 1830, no address survives from this final page of a large folded sheet. It carries the Merut datestamp for the 30th. December, the writer's initials *GJT* appear on a fine red seal on the reverse, along with the Merut datestamp, a framed Calcutta G.P.O. for the 16th, the framed SHIP LETTER / LONDON, `a General Post datestamp for the 19th. May, 1831.

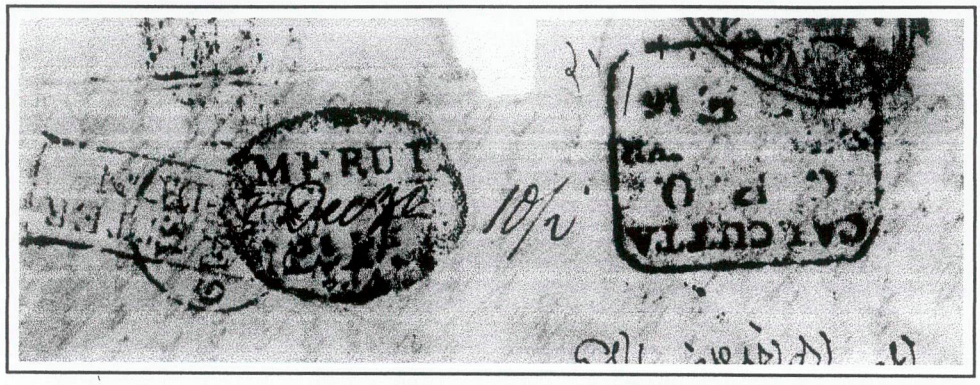


Fig. 6 One flap of the reverse

The lower half of the Twopenny Post date stamp

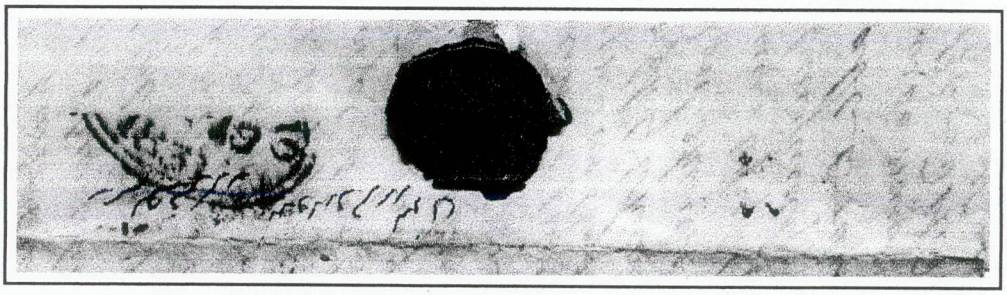


Fig. 7 The other flap with the fine red seal, initials *GJT*

The manuscript "4" is the Ship Letter rate introduced in 1819.

A framed TP Rate 2 authorizes the 2d. charge for delivery.

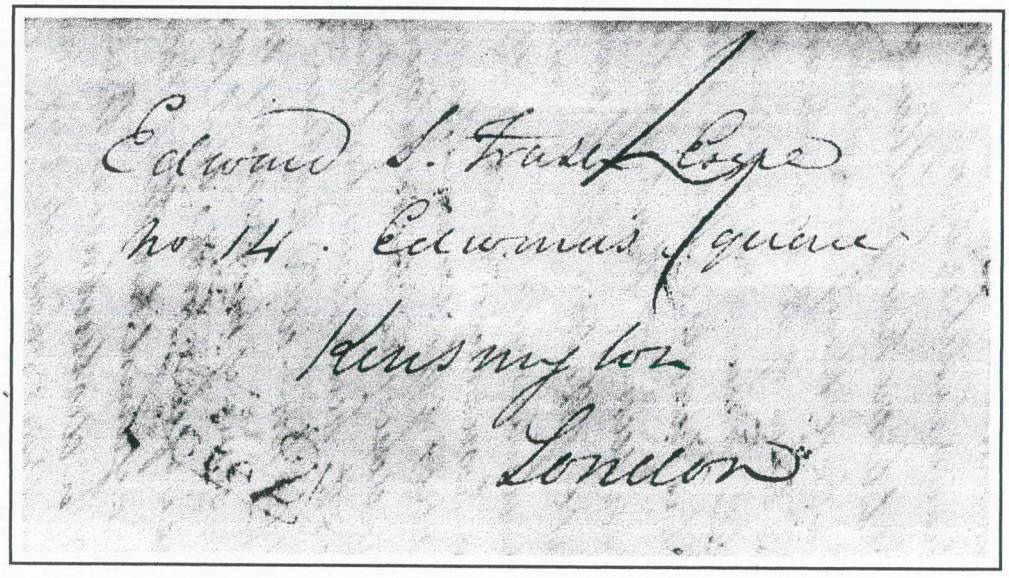


Fig. 8 The obverse with the Ship Letter Rate and Local London To Pay Charge

One of the great pleasures for the writer is to purchase material on the page written up by the late Alan Robertson. The one shown here has not only the cover but his very clear version of five of the postal markings.

This framed *India / LETTER stamp* (Fig. 9) is found only on letters landed at Romney.
Dr W.B. Parker wrote of this stamp: "About 12 examples are known and all are on Romney India Letters, between 1835 and 1839. The reason is obscure when the India Letter Romney (In 1) served its purpose."

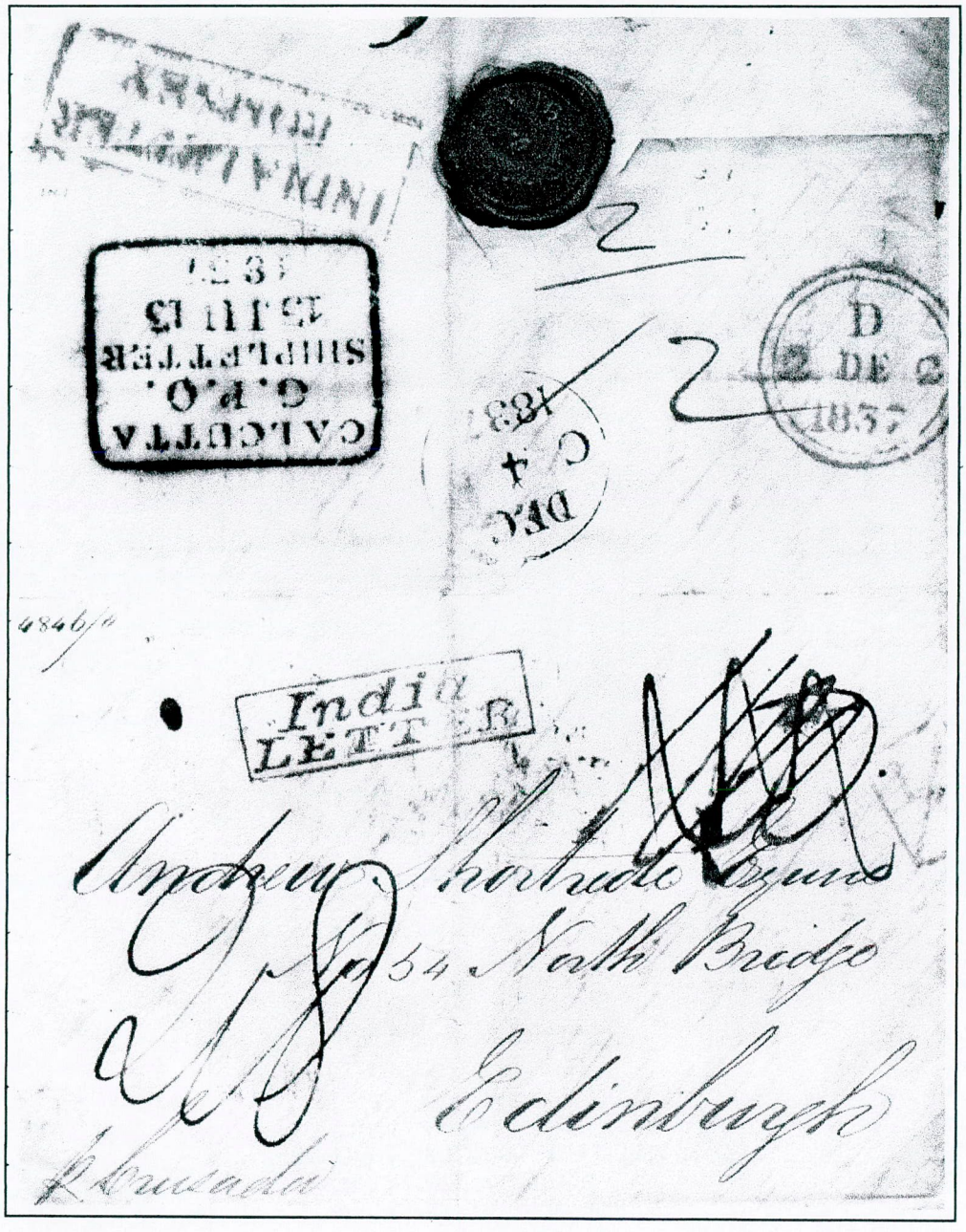


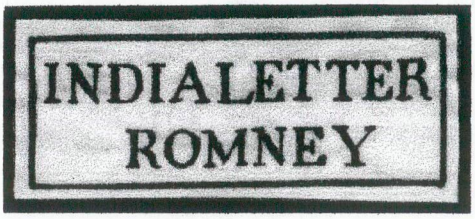
Fig. 9 : The rare framed " *India LETTER* "

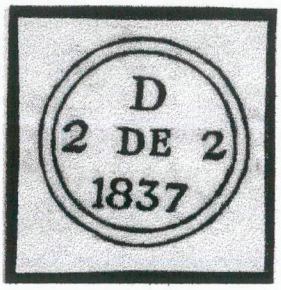
This letter was handled through the CALCUTTA ship-letter office on June 13th. 1837:
The private ship "Crusader" carried it to the Kentish port of Romney. : INDIA LETTER ROMNEY (In.1.) :
The framed INDIA LETTER handstamp is rare and is found only on letters entering the U.K. at Romney.
London transit date stamp 2.DE.1837. Edinburgh receiving datestamp DEC.4. 1837.....
Double rate (½oz) letter charges :- India letter (up to 3 oz) 4d. :
Inland Romney-London-Edinburgh 2 x 2/4. Total due 2/8

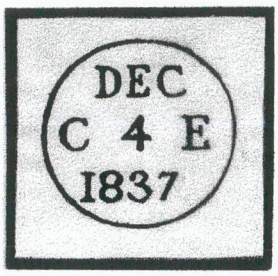
Alan Robertson's illustrations of the stamps on the letter. -



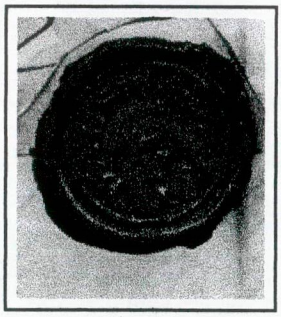








The fine red seal reading BAGSHAW



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Whether the letter (Fig. 10) was actually delivered on Christmas Day is not known but that is when it arrived in London in 1848, having been written at Agra on the 25th. October.

It would be interesting to know how the letter made such good time.

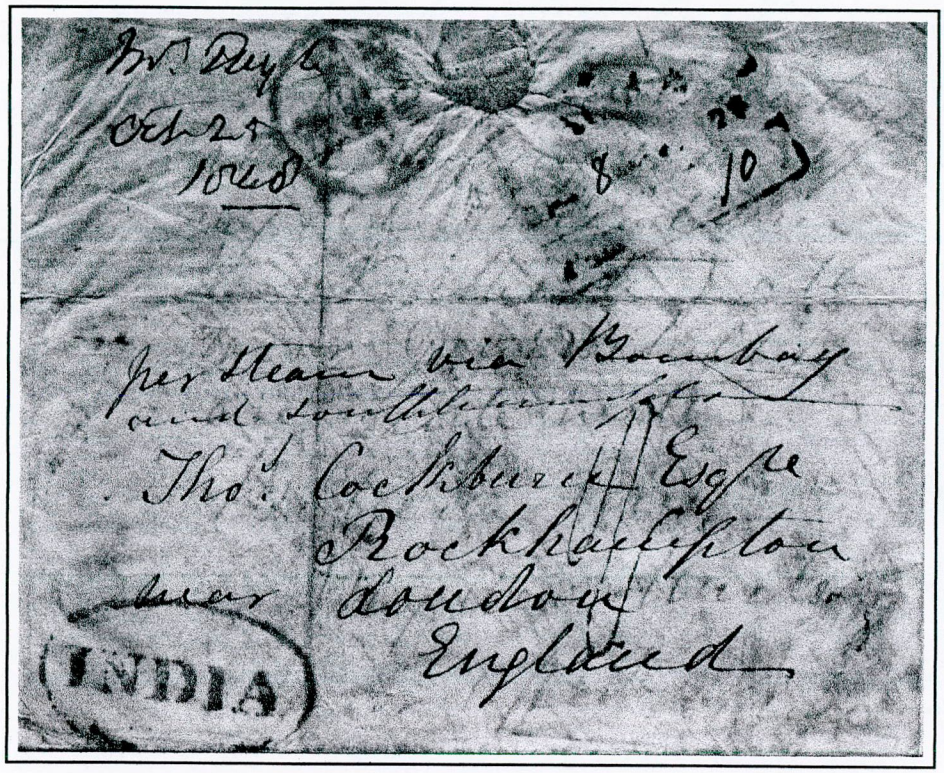


Fig. 10 : From Agra 25th. October, 1848.

Points of interest are the address and the total lack of discretion as to the contents.

The letter is endorsed *per Steamer via Bombay* and in a different hand, ink rather feint through age "*and south.....*" Lower left is the oval framed INDIA stamp, attributed by some as originating in India, others say in London: opinions sought. The charge mark - a handstamp ? - is an ornate 1/-, the Packet Rate via Falmouth, which also covered the Inland postage,

The address is curious, "Rockhampton near London England". There is a Rockhampton in Gloucestershire, not many miles from Bristol. There are no British postal markings, other than a London datestamp. It appears the Post Office assumed the writer intended to put "Roehampton near London".

My Dear Uncle,
It was very kind of you to ask Sir J. Hobhouse for a Cadetship for Willey & we feel very grateful perhaps as they are talking of Annexing the Punjab and making a great increase in the Army - that you w^d not find it so difficult to get one -
I therefore write this to let you know that an en crease (sic) *is talked of - a large army is being collected on the NW Frontier - no battle has been fought - It is expected that something will be done now soon as the Troops have nearly reached (* the writer fails to say where ! *)and Lord Dallhousie is on his way up the Country and hoping yourself and my old friend Toni, Mr Northcote & all your Grandchildren are quite well*
Believe me / Mr Dear Uncle / Y Affect Niece / T J Taylor
62 Cantonment / Agra Oct^r 25^th / 48 -

Sir John Hobhouse was, in 1848, the MP for Harwich and President of the Board of Control.

In a letter of 1828 (Fig. 11) the writer states *"The Post Office has no Packet to India "*, which surely must be incorrect, or misleading at best.

To quote Alan Robertson:
" The Falmouth Post Office Packet Services never extended to the Cape or India. Instead the British Government sought to use the many ships of the East India Company in a similar capacity. Because of the inconvenient restrictions and regulations, the Company refused to co-operate in a matter they considered to be in their exclusive domain, until the Act of 1815. This established a Packet Rate of 3/6, and empowered the P.M.G. to send mails by "any ship in the service of the United Company" or any of H.M. Ships of War and to charge packet rates thereon. Special packet handstamps were issued to London only for use on such letters, from 1816 until 1819, when the new special sea-post rate was enacted."



Fig. 11: 1828 Kensington to Stanwell in the General Post

Written as from Kensington Saturday Morning 29 March 1828, to Stanwell Staines (16 miles) General Post charge 5d. The letter reads:

Dear Ascough,

I had the pleasure of duly receiving your favor 25th Inst - you are rather premature in wishing to get the burial place of a person, who perhaps has not yet made up his mind where he would like it should be the Mr Hale who lived at 26 Bung Street now resides at No° 51 Albermarle Street, Piccadilly, and altho' old & infirm so as probably not able to attend to or transact much busineſs yet I do not hear that he does not know what he is about, that is not mentally incapable I believe he at times goes to the Royal Institution, in that same street of course I did not see him. -

The Post Office have no Packet to India, but letters now go from there by the Ship Letter Office & I sent the one you inclosed on which pd 10d say tenpence which goes by the Ganges apth Lloyd to sail in a few days & there will be others to Calcutta at various times in all April, Petty & Wood have a friend going in the Prince Regent to be in the Downs 2nd May, & another in the Asia to be in the Downs 3rd June. -

I am sorry the two Travellers have not yet quite recovered from the fatigues of their Journey - all here desire to be remembered but none of us yet awhile can embrace the opportunity you obligingly offer of visiting Stanwell -

I remain Dr A -
Yours sincerely
G. Scott

The first of the Packet Letters, issued during the comparatively short time they were in use, appears on a somewhat muddled letter written from Madras on 8th. August, 1816, addressed to Dublin. (Fig. 12) A line from the letter expresses the attitude of those living there "A frigate is just about to sail for old England....".



Apart from the sentiment, this line provides evidence of letter writers being well aware of the system of the Post Office use of warships to carry the mails.

The Madras office used the Packet Letter datestamp, with the date 8 AU 8 (the second 8 inverted) 1816. Prepayment from Madras was optional , should be 3s.6d but, for an inexplicable reason, the Madras seems to have charged just 1/4, this being written over the datestamp.

Fig. 12 8th August, 1816 Madras to Dublin

On arrival in London, the INDIA PACKET LETTER was applied, over stamped with the double rim MORE TO PAY. The deleted "1/2" covers the charge for London to Holyhead (267 miles, 1s) plus the Holyhead to Dublin 2d. The charge remaining on the letter is "3/6". It would be interesting to discover how the postal clerk in London came to this figure. It is suggested the "back of the envelope" figures should have read:

India Packet Letter	3s. 6d.
London to Holyhead	1s. 0d.
Holyhead to Dublin	2d.
Total	4s. 8d.
LESS Paid in Madras	1s. 4d.
Postage due	3s. 4d.

The letter arrived in Dublin on the 12th. December and the recipient paid 3s.6d.

For further study see:

The Maritime Postal History of the British Isles, by Alan W. Robertson in three volumes
2nd Edition (reprint) 1973
Published by Harry Hayes.

The Maritime Postal History of London by Alan W. Robertson
Published on the occasion of
The London International Exhibition
9th. - 16th. July, 1960
by Robson Lowe Ltd.

Robertson Revisited, by Colin Tabeart
First Published 1997

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Quotes and illustrations from them in this issue of Notebook are acknowledged as such, with thanks for authority to use them.

A very "busy" letter written from India 6th. February, 1812, although as can be seen, another hand amended this to 1813. There are no marks from India or any place outside Great Britain, making the progress in the mails unclear. It took February 1813 to July 1816 to reach the final destination.

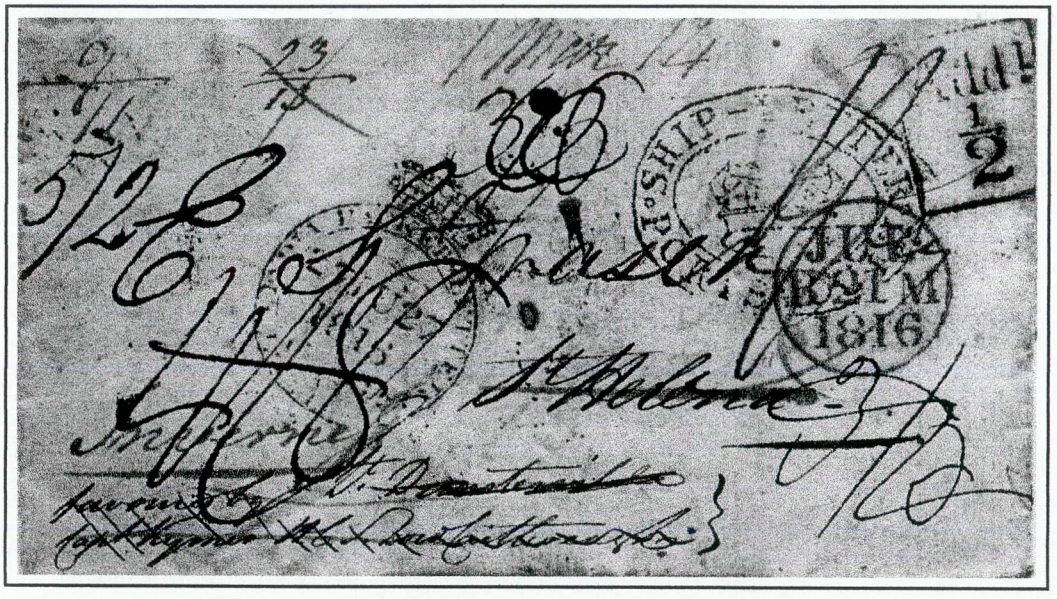


Fig. 13 : Dated by writer as 6 Feby 1812, later correction

The first stamp on Fig. 13 is the SHIP LETTER PORTSMOUTH, recorded no later than 1814.
On the reverse is a London datestamp, single rim, red, for 28th February, 1814.
Next the London INDIA PACKET LETTER for 27th. June, 1816
Several weeks later, a London double rim, black, for 18th. July, 1816

It may be the letter was sent to St. Helena in 1814 ,then returned to London.
Finally, the Edinburgh transit mark 21st. July, 1816.

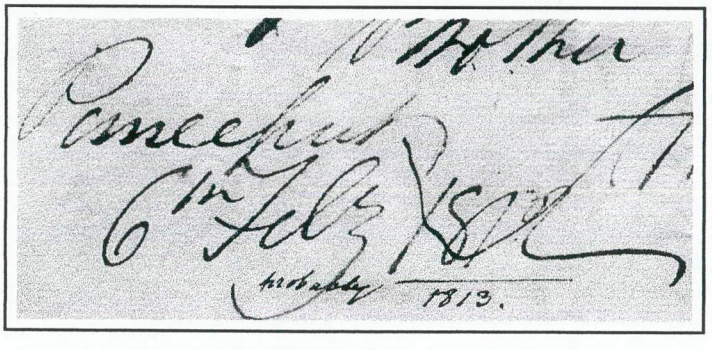


Fig. 14 : Later correction to writer's dating

There are two(?) endorsements on the obverse, part reading
"favors by Capt. Kymer..."

Who was responsible for the correction to the date entered by the writer we will never know.

The usual suspects include the collector who did not use a pencil !

Of the charge marks, the one readily understood is the Scottish ½d Wheel Tax
There are two deleted 3/6 rates (the packet rate India to London)
4/8 deleted
5/2 being the final charge.

Across the top, two fractions 9 over 11 and 23 over 13 with 1 Mar 14, all in red ink, as is the deletion of "St. Helena".



Fig. 15 Letter to Bengal, from Edinburgh September 3rd., 1817

For a change, a letter ***to*** Bengal. Written from 25 Heriot Row, Edinburgh, September 3rd., 1817

The Receiving House in unclear but the Edinburgh transit seems to be for the 8th and the London Packet Letter the 9th of September.. This cannot be correct, since, even with the best will and skill of the Mail Coach drivers, Edinburgh to London in 1816 took rather longer than a single day.

The postage is made up as:

Scottish Penny Post	1d.
Edinburgh to London, 396 miles	1s. 1d.
Wheel Tax	½d
Total, deleted in London	1s. 2½d
Packet Rate to India	3s. 6d.
Final charge	4s 8½d

One of the marks applied in India on the reverse

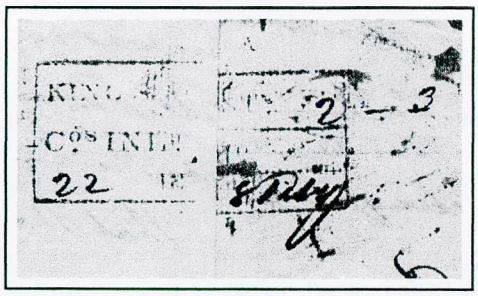
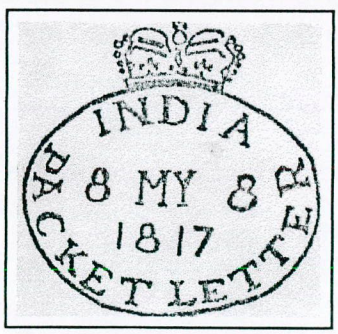


Fig. 15A

The quality of the Packet Letter datestamp is poor, hence a copy of an illustration by Alan Robertson; the mark he describes as "very scarce".



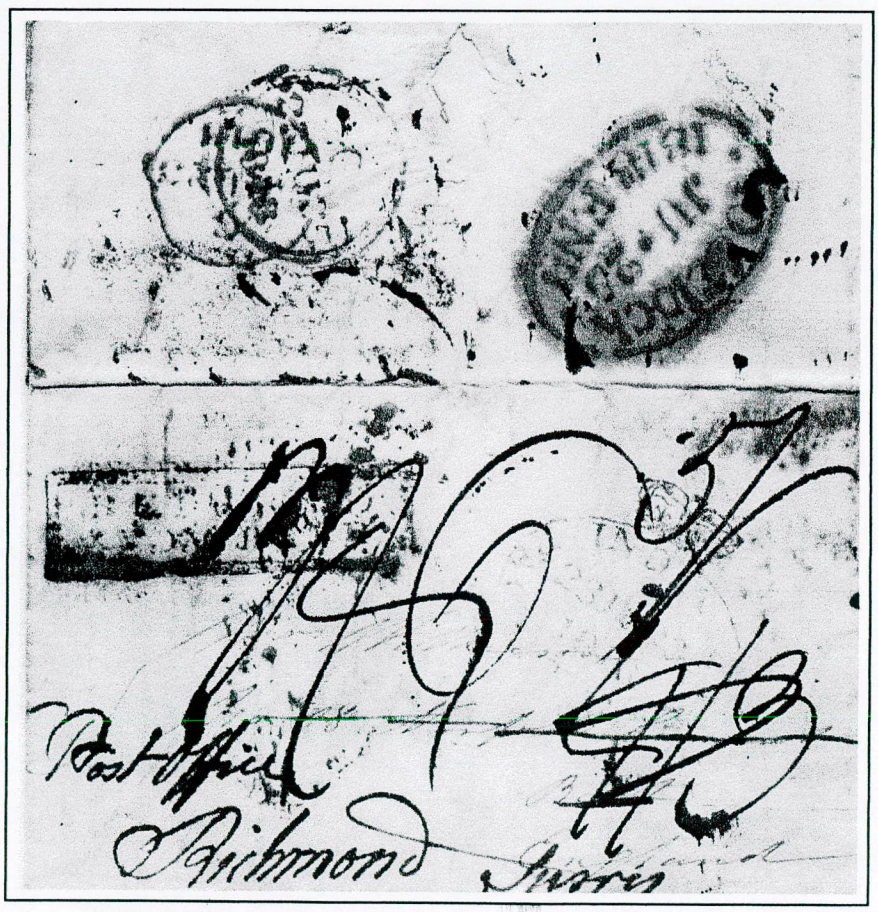


Fig. 16 : From Tippenot 28th. September, 1817

A lady , who signs the letter to her sister in a very formal manner, "S Manwaring", wrote from Tippenot on the 28th. September 1817:-

My dear Elizabeth,

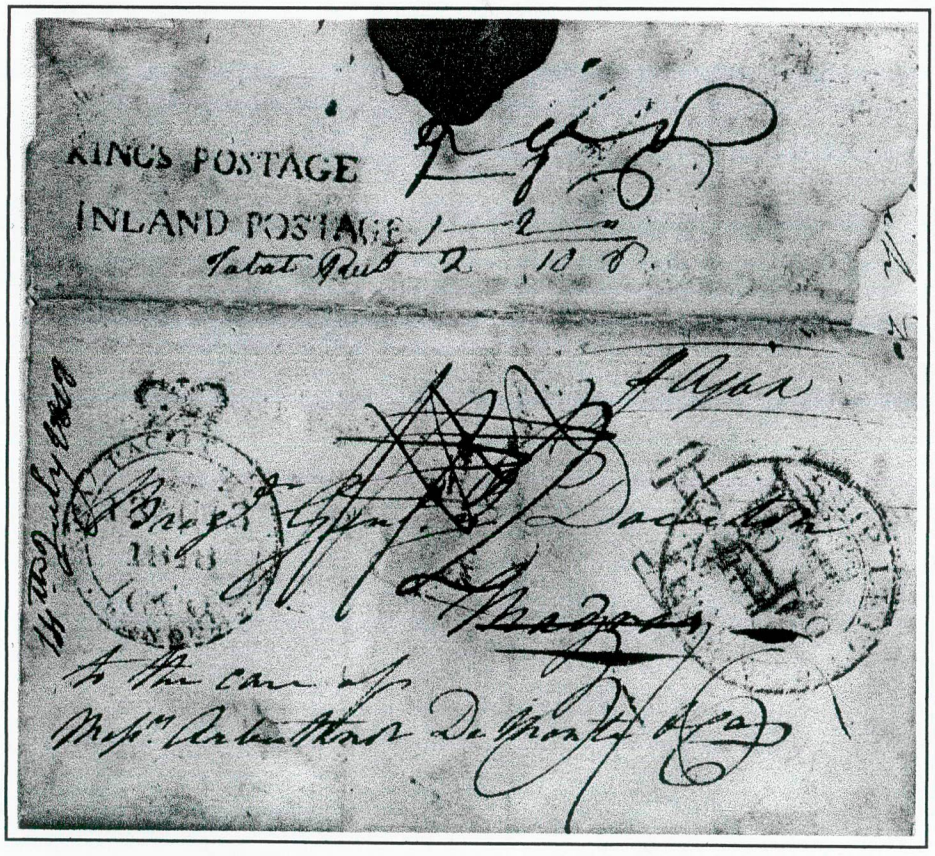
Mrs Patterson will convey this to you, I mentioned her in former letters as a friend of ours, who had been so unfortunate as to lose her husband and little Boy almost at the same time, any little kindness you are able to show her on arrival at Bath, shall be considered by me an additional obligation to what you have already conferred upon me. (the letter continues)

Whatever Mrs Manwaring intended, Elizabeth did not carry the letter to Bath. It arrived in London 23rd. June, 1818 and was sent to Bath. It was re-addressed from there to Richmond Surry and shows the afternoon Twopenny Post time stamp for the 25th. The framed RETURNED / FROM BATH, in black..

The charge totally 5s.0d is made up by the	Packet Rate from India	3s. 6d.
	Post to Bath	9d.,
	Giving the	4s. 3d.
	Return to London	9d
	Making the total	5s. 0d.

As noted elsewhere, the Act of 1815 (55.Geo.III.cap 153) gave the Post Office the right to force any ship to act as a packet. The ship letter rate - one third of the packet rate - has been deleted as was the India Ship Letter mark. the latter by the "Crutched Cross" The "3/6" packet rate charge is shown.

In the letter (Fig. 17), written on the 14th. July 1818, endorsed "pr Ajax", with a Ship Letter stamp for the 20th and the final Packet Letter stamp on the 13th. August, the writer, the Brigadier General's brother "Jack", with "London" as the only address, writes "*I am happy to tell you that Gabriel has been Elected for Lancaster, though not without a sharp & expensive Contest, I understand not less than ten thousand Pounds.*"



Allowing for changing money value since 1818, in 2008 money, something in excess of £600,000!

Although "Jack" knew and named the ship he wished to have the letter carried by, it would seem the Post Office were unable to oblige, sending it - at three times the cost - some three weeks later, achieving an odd, if unintended, symmetry to the mailing.

On the reverse flap a clear strike of the handstamp accounting for the charges raised in India, not £2. 10s. 8d. which the charge appears to read at first glance but 2 annas 10 pies.

Fig. 17: 1818: London to Madras, Post Office use the Packet

The final cover in this group of Packet Letter, shown below, demonstrates most clearly rank does not always have privileges, at least as far as the Post Office was concerned.

To
His Excellency The Most Noble
The Marquis of Hastings
Governor General &c &c &c
Calcutta

A very feint Ashby mileage mark can, in a good light, be seen buried under the Packet Letter datestamp, which is where, no doubt, the "10" charge was entered..

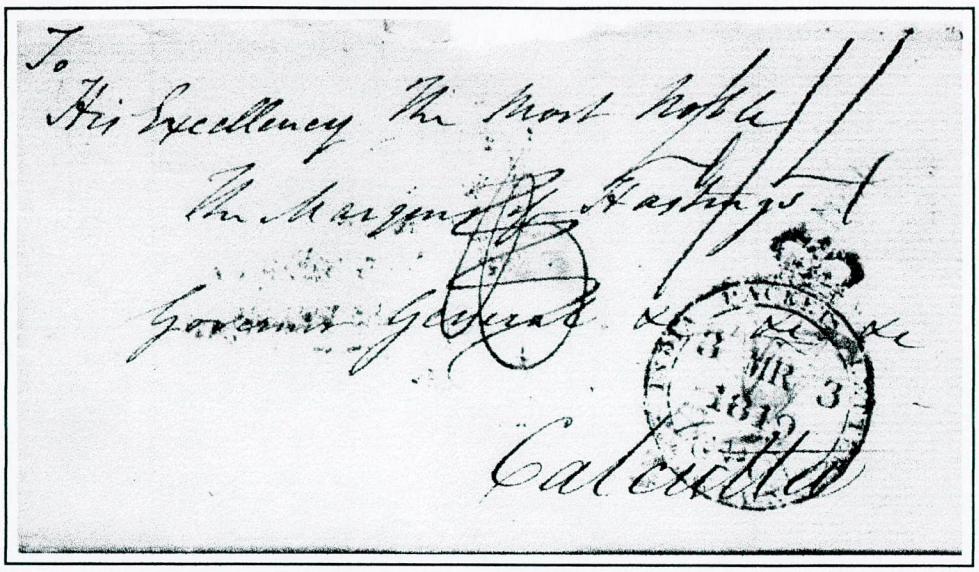


Fig. 18 : 1819 Ashby to Calcutta showing postage charged all the way

In 1819 this was the single letter rate for 120 to 170 miles. This charge included in the final tally of 4/4, the Packet Letter rate 3/6 plus the Inland postage 10d., Ashby to London.

The next two letters are addressed to the East India Company in London and relate to solder's concerns and did not travel to or from India.

Written from Greenwich, the writer endorsed the letter *On Service* to no avail, the handstruck "2", indicating postage due, being applied. The cover extends the use of the Greenwich stamp by a year.

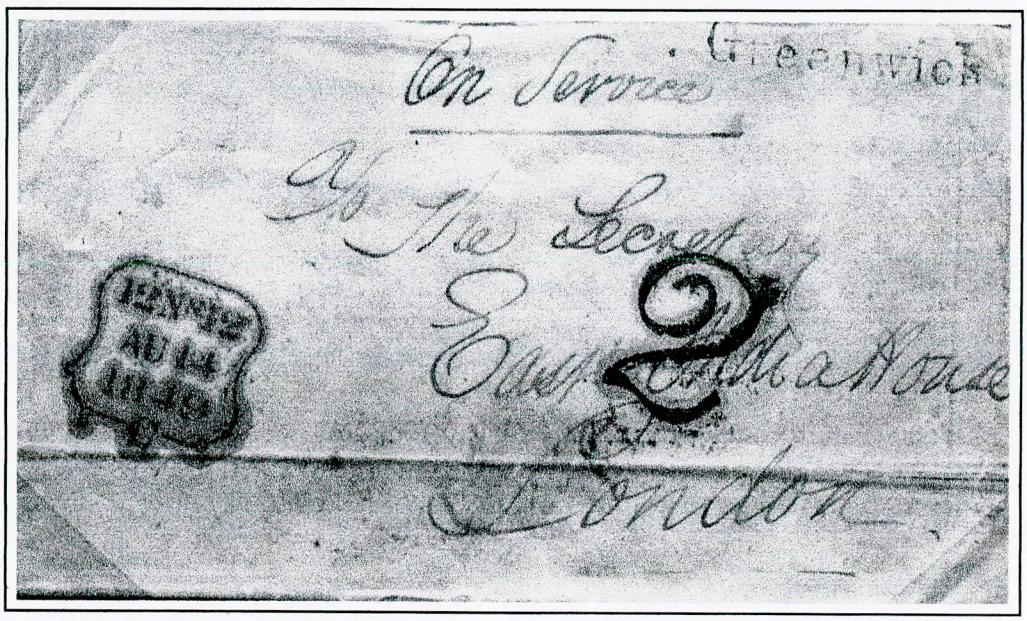
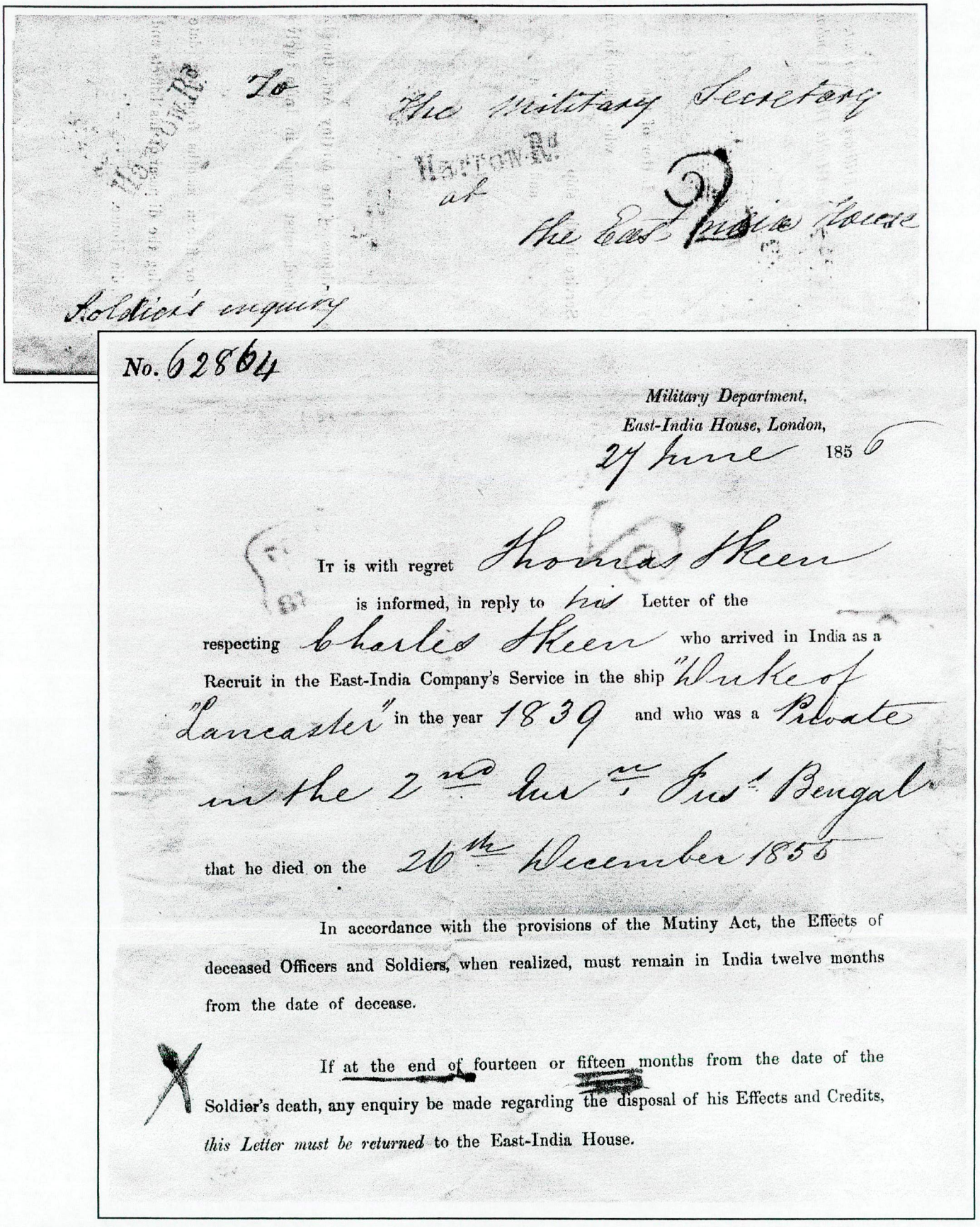


Fig. 19: 1849 : To the Secretary, East India House . Reporting arrival in England

To the Secretary, East India House

Sir,
I have the honor to report my arrival in England per ship "Suttey" from Calcutta on Sick Certificate on the 11th of August 1849. I obtained leave from the Supreme Government on the 6th of March 1849. An Extract from the GO I delivered at the India House to-day & also the Paper containing my leave. My Pay Certificate I have not yet received, but I expect it in a few days from Scotland (where I ordered my Agents to remit it) when I shall send it to the East India House.

I have the honor to be, Sir, / Your most Obedt Servant, / A Robertson Bremner, Liut 41st Regt MHI



To
The Military Secretary
at
The East India House

Soldier's enquiry

No. 62864

Military Department,
East-India House, London,
24 June 1856

It is with regret Thomas Skeen is informed, in reply to his Letter of the respecting Charles Skeen who arrived in India as a Recruit in the East-India Company's Service in the ship "Duke of Lancaster" in the year 1839 and who was a Private in the 2nd Bn. 2nd Bengal that he died on the 26th December 1855

In accordance with the provisions of the Mutiny Act, the Effects of deceased Officers and Soldiers, when realized, must remain in India twelve months from the date of decease.

If at the end of fourteen or fifteen months from the date of the Soldier's death, any enquiry be made regarding the disposal of his Effects and Credits, *this Letter must be returned* to the East-India House.

Fig. 20 : This item is half the original document. From the datestamps it seems there were further enquiries - note the underlining above - but these enquiries were on the detached half .

The other side of this part has the address to the Military Secretary, with District Post date stamps for 1857. As can be seen, the above form is dated 1856.

GENERAL POST OFFICE NOTICE OF AUGUST 1828.
(relating to the letter rate for seamen and soldiers)

"Single letters from seamen and soldiers, superscribed as directed by the 46 Geo 3 C 92. are to be delivered in Great Britain and Ireland, to the persons to whom they are addressed, upon payment of Two-pence for Sea Portage and One Penny for the inland Postage, making three pence for each single letter. But if such Letters shall be delivered to any Post-office in Great Britain or Ireland, free of Expense to the Revenue of the Post Office, the
same shall be chargeable with Inland Postage of One Penny only."



This has been described as a "proving letter" bearing this circular handstamp.
From Rough Rider R. Webb, 2nd. Troop, 1st. Brigade Bengal Horse artillery.

Written at Cawnpore, 4th., July, 1828 and addressed to Atworth, near Bath, the letter front is endorsed by Lt. Col. H. Clark, Commanding 1st. Brigade.
[A Rough Rider is a rank under the Riding Master and instructs recruits and breaks young horses.]

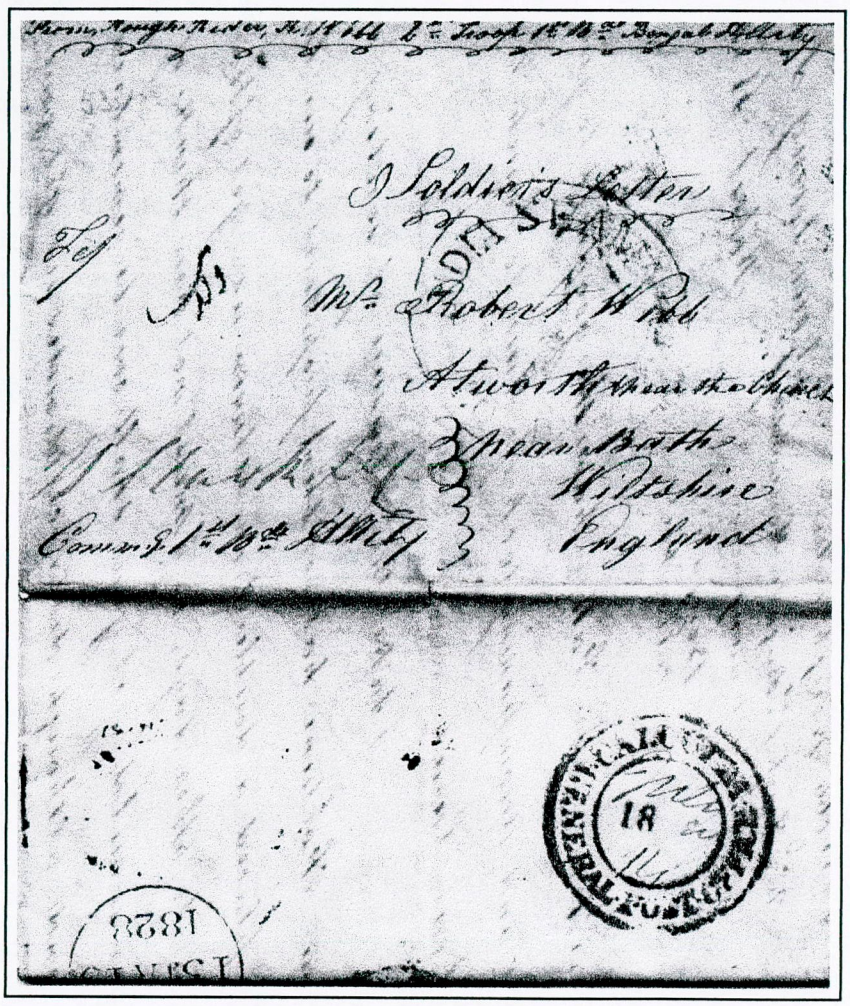


Fig. 22 : From Cawnpore, 4th. July, 1828
The letter was carried privately to London and was charged " the Inland Postage of One Penny Only"

Why did London use the INDIA SEAMAN& handstamp?
The answer is in the wording on the matching INDIA SOLDIER& stamps.

Both are followed by '&', the missing word being SOLDIER or SEAMAN,
making the full wording for this example 'INDIA SEAMAN & SOLDIERS' .

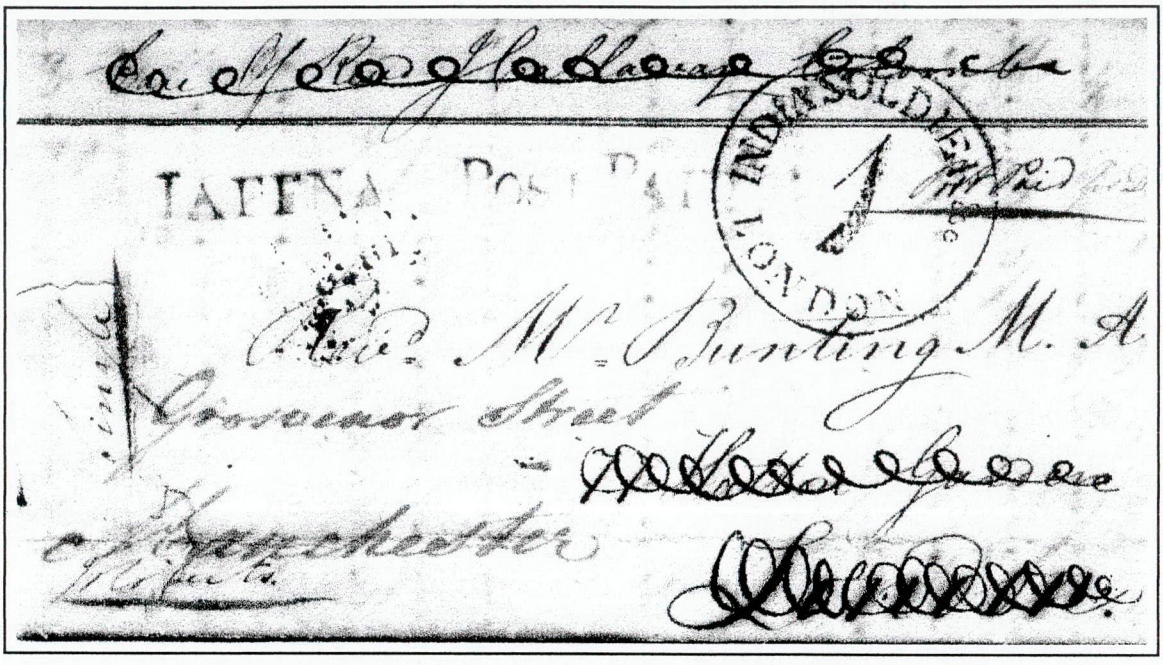


Fig. 23 : 25th. October , 1825 : from Ceylon INDIA SOLDIER &c (SAILOR) Penny stamp
It shows the JAFFNA and POST PAID stamps in black

An earlier **INDIA SOLDIER &c** dated from Jaffna (Ceylon) 25th. October, 1825. addressed, initially, to Hatton Garden. The London arrival stamps is for the 1st. April, 1826. Re-addressed to Manchester with a double rim General Post datestamp for the 8th. April.

The letter was carefully prepared as if it were a Soldier's letter but, in fact, was written by a missionary, the(not entirely) Revd. J. Roberts

Interestedly, the redirection deletion was also applied to the inscription across the top : conscience?

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A similar mark but showing the number "3", one of the privilege rates for those serving in the East Indies, Mauritius and the Cape. The three pence is the through rate to addressee, to be paid by the addressee irrespective of the number of inland miles the destination was from London.

Across the top of the obverse *To be Forwarded by the first Ship direct to England*, which according to another hand was *p^r Gilmore*. As can be seen, this letter fails to give any indication of the military rank and, again, carefully prepared to create the impression the letter was entitled to the special rate.

The letter, a large single sheet some 18" by 14½", cross written - a common practice designed to reduce weight and / or number of sheets used, requiring a keen eye and patience to be read.

One stamp, not normally found on this type of letter, is the *In All* in the centre. Whether this was applied by an over enthusiastic postal clerk to ensure the charge mark, introduced only the year before, is recognized as meaning "paid to destination", we cannot know.

The Calcutta Post Office date stamp, the century only being part of the design, both year (24) and day (21) being entered in ink.

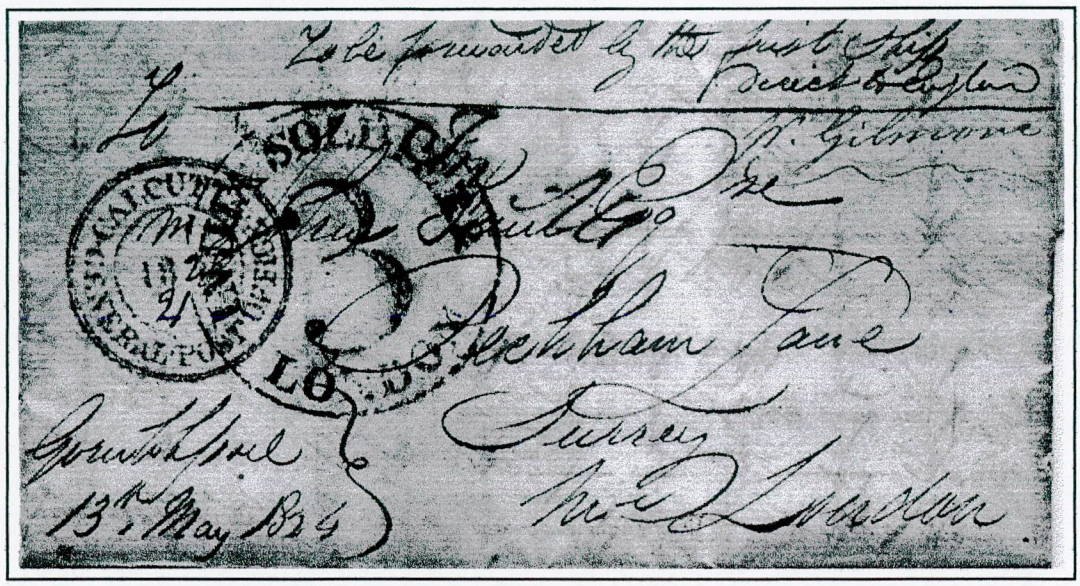


Fig. 24 : 1824 Another irregular layout to secure the special rate

The letter's posting at GORUCKPOOR POST OFFICE on the 13 May 1824 recorded by the large double ring stamp.
There is an endorsement "Post P^d 18 ··"

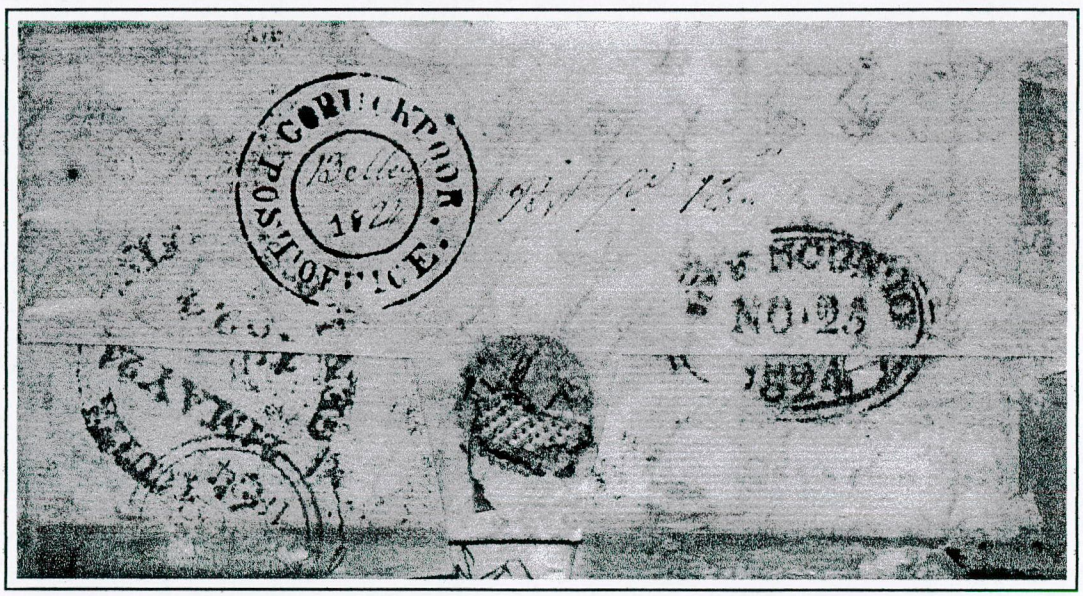


Fig. 25 :The Calcutta datestamp for 21 MAY 1824 above, as was also that on the obverse,
The London Twopenny Post time stamp for 10 F Noon No ·25 1824.

This item is a very "tired" outer but worth showing, being a genuine use of the facility of the 3d. rate.

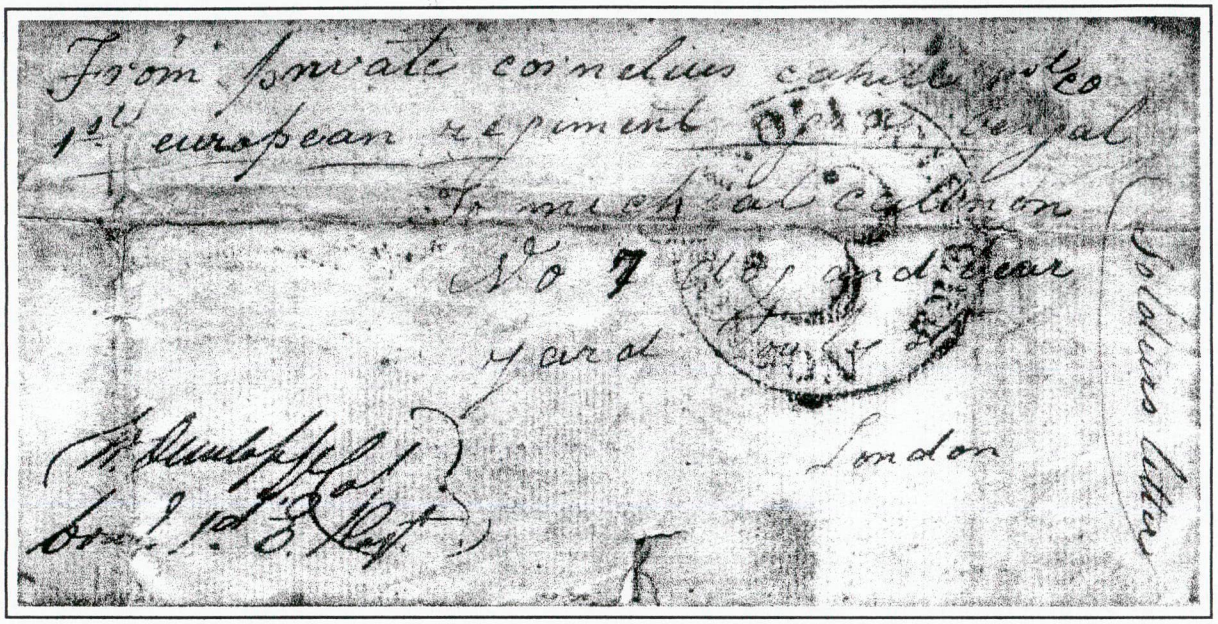


Fig. 26 :Letter stamped Calcutta 19th. October, 1829, arriving London 2nd. March, 1830.

Written by Private Cornelius Cahill, 1st. Co 1st European Regiment and addressed to
Michaell Callnon / No 7 dog and bear yard / Tooley St / London.
On the right is the endorsement *Soldiers letter*, authorized by the Commanding Officer, lower left.

The late Martin Willcocks was of the opinion the four penny handstamp was connected with the new P & O Contract of 1841. However, the 4d. rate for Soldiers and Sailors was enacted 1st September, 1840 and Alan Robinson linked the stamp the that event..

There are two versions of this mark, very similar.



Straight Cross Line



Curved Cross Line

The "ordinary" version has a straight cross line in the figure 4,
whereas the "one known" shows a curved line.

To speak of one as being "more frequently seen" conveys quite the wrong impression,
there being very few of one design and just one of the second version.

A letter from Belgaum to Tunbridge Wells took from August 18th, date written to 6th. November, 1852 to reach the destination. The obverse also carries a strike of the oval framed INDIA in 'browned' red.

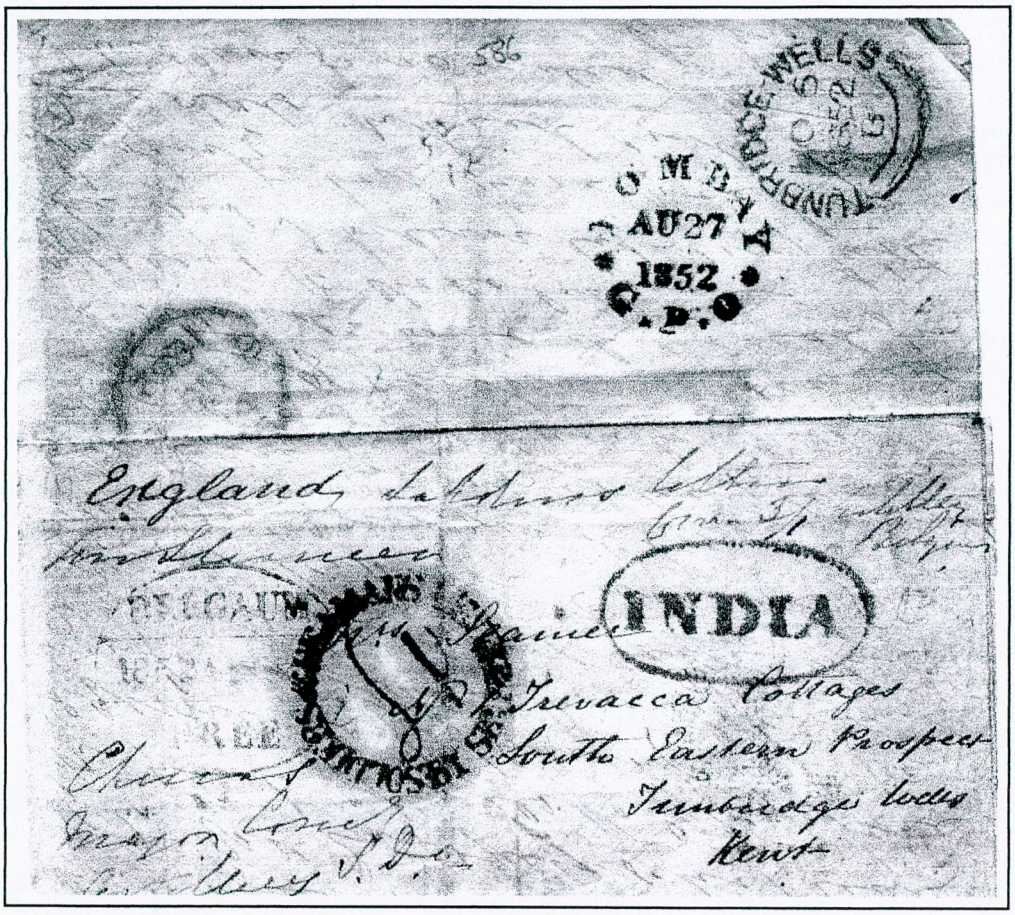


Fig. 27 : From Belgaum 18th. August, 1852. The straight cross line 4

The Belgaum mark, struck in red, partially over struck by the Fourpenny stamp, has FREE on the third line. Why a FREE was used is unclear as it cannot relate to carriage to Great Britain though it may relate to postage to Bombay.

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Auction catalogues from several leading houses were examined to establish how many of the second design of this stamp (Robertson In. Sol 7a) had been offered for sale.

Although several listed stamps purporting to be 7a, they were not. This description error may arise from the transposition of reference numbers in Robertson's book when illustrating both marks on two pages..

No illustrations of the genuine 7a appeared in any catalogues until the Cavendish sale of 23rd. September, 2007.

Cavendish very kindly provided a scan of the lot, which was just a front. The illustration and lot description are reproduced here.

Lot Number 360.

HONG KONG P.O. "ARMS MARK IN COMBINATION WITH THE RARE LONDON "SOLDIERS & SEAMENS LETTER/BY SHIP/4 MARK: The famous c. Aug. 1843 front addressed to Ireland, headed & countersigned for the Soldier's Concession Rate for a Private Mooney of 18th Royal Irish Regiment ", having a very fine (for this) red oval " HONG KONG POST OFFICE / [Arms]" mark in red beside a very fine strike of the equally rare London circular "SOLDIERS & SEAMENS LETTER / 4 / BY SHIP" mark, along with a very fine 22 Nov. 1843 London arrival "PAID" Tombstone d.s. and a cancelled manuscript "2/8" charge. This famous item - the only such combination of the Hong Kong "Arms" mark with a Concession Rate charge of which we are aware - is illustrated in Lobdell & Hopkins (1949; pl.6) Webb (1961; pl.12) Robertson (1960, p.188B) and Scamp (p.181) The fragment of the contents gives a fascinating glimpse of what must have been an important Campaign Letter; "Hong Kong. Dear Mother...on our arrival...[?] at Njankin we were greatly [?surprised to find a flag] of truce flying on its [?walls]..." Unique? Important and attractive Exhibition Item. PHOTO - see plate no. 13.

Est £500

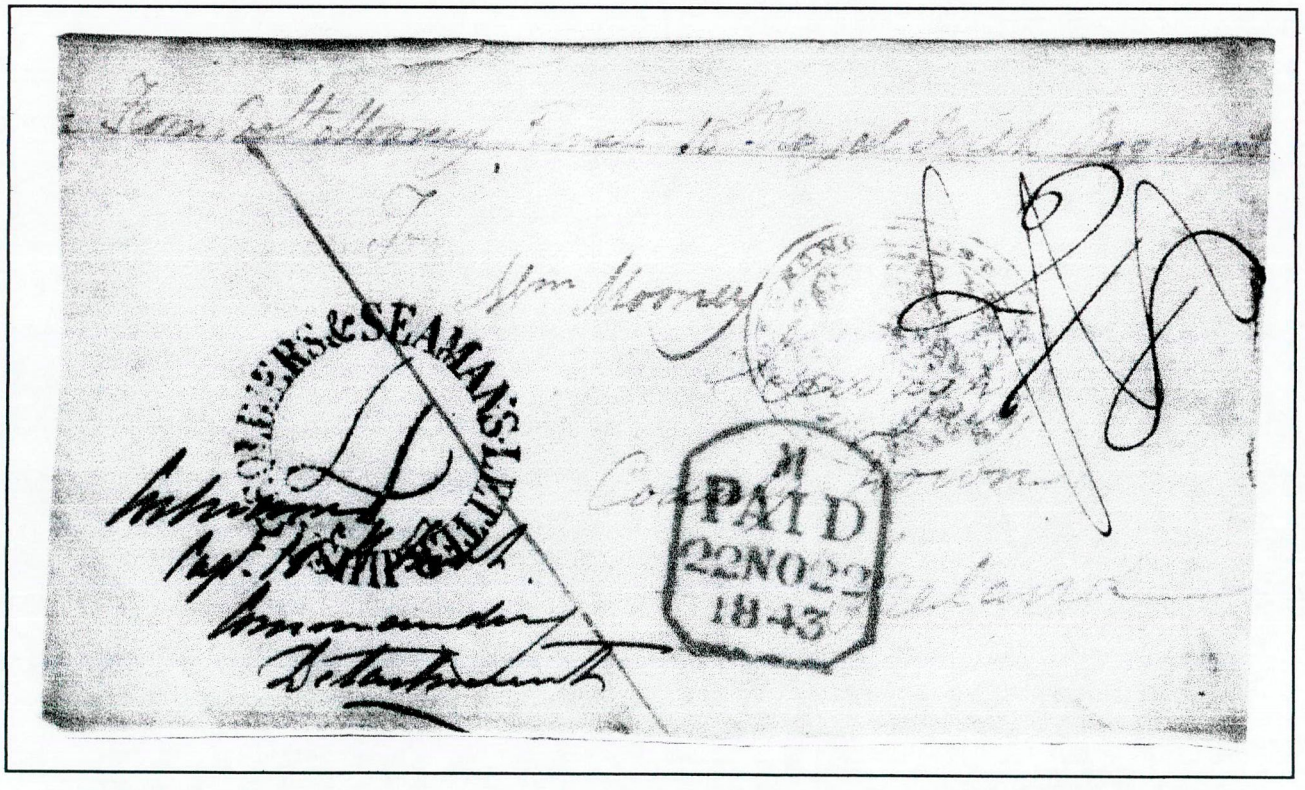


Fig. 28 : The only recorded example of In. Sol. 7a - The reproduction shown here is larger than the original.

If a reader knows of another example of this charge mark,
please send the details with, if possible, a scan or photocopy
and full details of the source

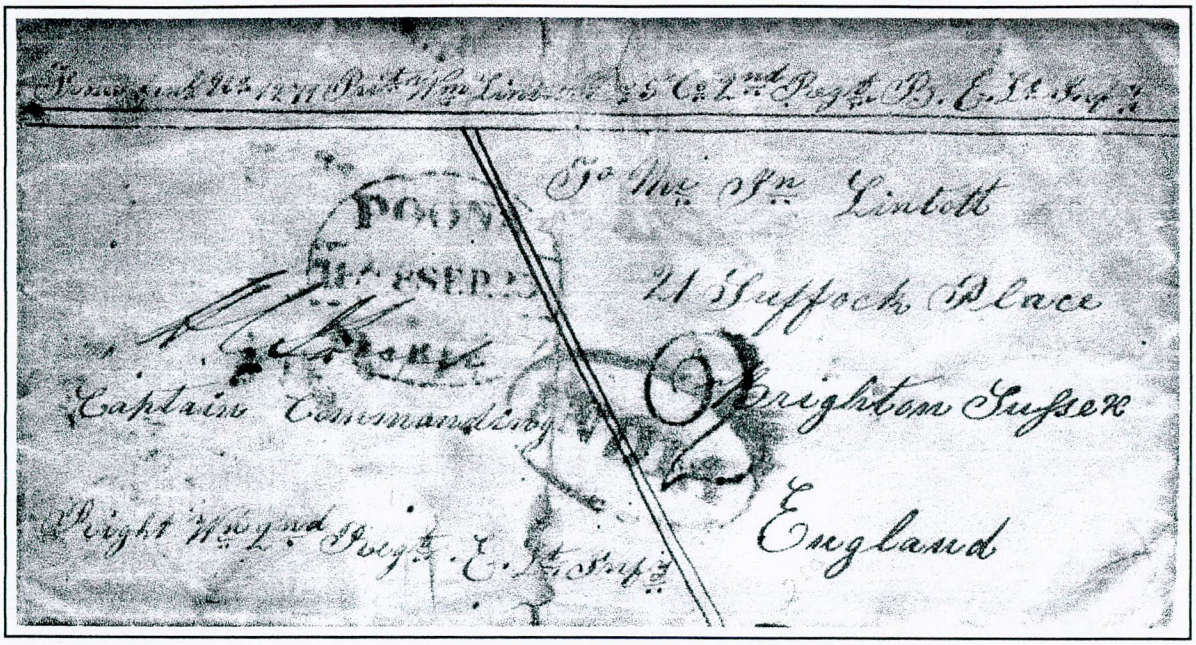


Fig. 29 : 1848 Soldier's letter "by the book"

Martin Willcocks recorded (RMW 635) the hand struck "2" used to charge Service Letters on arrival from 1841, although Barrie Jay did not mention this specific application. He records the use as 1844-52 as "UPP Unpaid", which would include delivery of Service Letters.

The "Instructions For Guidance of Postmasters in U.K." Section 5, Reg.5 states:

"Letters from Soldiers or Seamen, received from any part beyond the sea, upon which the 1^{d} has not been prepaid, are liable to a charge on delivery of 2^{d} each. And if received by private ship to a charge of 4^{d} each."

The example was prepared very much "by the book", with the writer's details across the top, double underlined, with provision for the authorizing signature and details in a carefully sectioned off part of the obverse.

It is dated from Poona 23rd. September, 1848 and arrived in Brighton, via London, on the 24th. November, 1848. The Poona datestamp was placed, carefully for a change and has the oval framed INDIA stamp: the use of this mark has been discussed earlier.

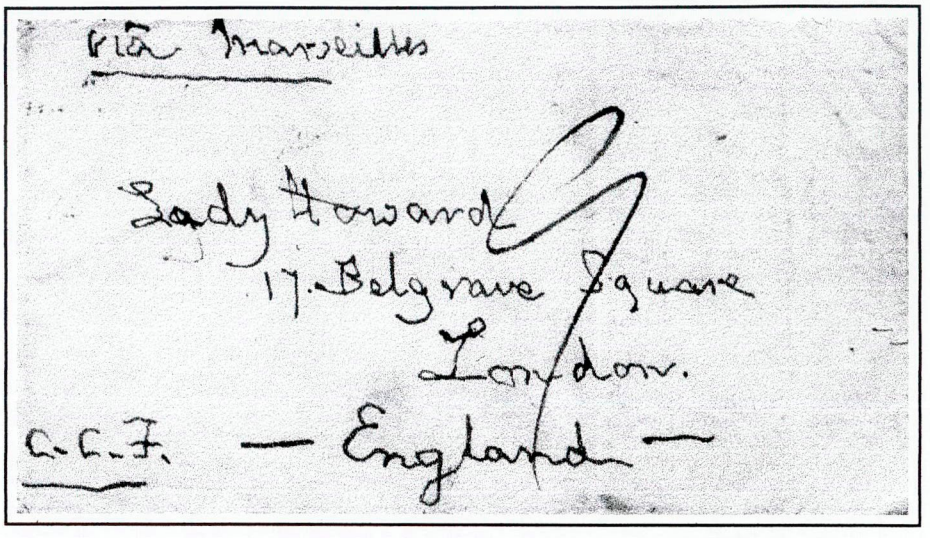
The almost constant call from Editors of journal such as Notebook.....articles urgently needed.

The Editorial Stock pot is virtually bare and he urgently needs your input.

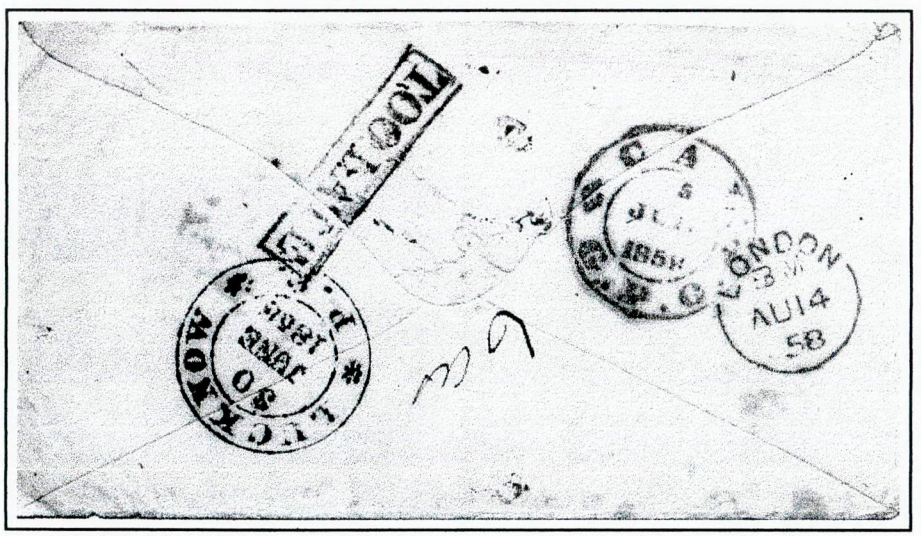
It does not have to be the size of the India Mails material, though such contributions will be most welcome, especially if the illustrations are scanned, which will afford scope for arranging the material.

As always, single items, queries on an item seen or recently acquired, your write up on such material, in short if it is of interest to you, it will interest others.

The final item came to England vis Marseilles, the overland route, relected by the lack of other markings and the travelling time..



It is an envelope, posted in Lucknow on the 30th. June, 1858, addressed to London, which place applied a datestamp for the 14th. August, a transit time of a few weeks, rather than the several months taken by items travelling by sea.



The framed TOO LATE was struck in Lucknow with the date stamp for the 30th. June, 1858..

The second postmark, reads "CAL G.P.O".

This is a Cacutta stamp, confirmed by Prestige Philately in their auction of the 11th. July, 2008, lot 378.

Prestige describe the letter to Cacutta and mention the CAL/GPO struck in red on arrival.

.....

OPENED BY CENSOR



The reason for showing this large piece is the delightful "wobble" frame of the Foreign Section cancellations.

Dated 16 OCT 39, handstamp number 34 was used to cancel the adhesives for 3s 4d used to prepay the Post Office Express Air Mail rate to South Africa.

Only a few weeks into the war and the censor was busy making sure he knew what was being sent out of the country.

In this case the Ministry of Information, Control Division, Press Section were responsible for checking the contents which they, in this case, "Passed for publication"

.....