

NOTES

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

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c 1980 Contributor. where named and L.P.H.G.

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

EDITORIAL

It will not have escaped readers' attention that we are one issue in arrears. This arises from domestic pressures which hopefully 1981 will see resolved. Meanwhile, the Number 50 is already in course of preparation. Since it will mark the tenth anniversary of the Group (and it is amazing how many of the first meeting are still very much with us) all readers are invited to submit at least one item (in photocopy or -graph) with a few notes as to why it is particular interest to them, as soon as they are able, to be included in the anniversary edition. We must admit to buying a number of items over the years which ought to have been reported but which for one reason or another failed so to do. Now is the opportunity for us all to correct the situation. It is hoped to go to press during February with the anniversary issue, which will carry a 1980 dating, so please do put material to copier and pen to paper.

THE LONDON GENERAL POST OFFICE IN 1840

In Notebook 47 we reprinted an abstract from Cruchley's "Picture of London". It would seem, however, Cruchley used a not overbright office boy to get his postal information and certainly no-one, including your Editor, checked. Happily, Martin Willcocks did and his valuable contribution serves to correct the mass of mis-information. By way of rubbing salt, as it were, it seems the picture used to head the item is not the 1829 Post Office, despite the street scene which fits the time. According to our informant, the picture is of the building which replaced the 'new' post office.

Martin wrote to the Editor, The Collectors Club Philatelist in the following terms:

Dear Sir,

The London Postal History Group reprinted from your journal of Sept. '79 an abstract from Cruchleys Picture of London. I have not seen the original, so am uncertain how much was abstracted but you may like to warn your members to be careful of it. The tables headed 'British Rates of Postage on Foreign Letters' seem a nonsense. These must be letters in transit through London, but the majority would never have come to London at all: if they did it seems probable the charge would have been the sum of the inward and outward charges. I cannot be definite here but I believe the first transit rates were in the Anglo-French Agreement of 1843. Who would send a Letter from France to Spain via London for 2/2d, Germany via France to Spain (3/6d), Gibraltar to Spain (4/1d), Switzerland to Portugal (3/8d), and so on. From 10th. January, 1840 and before that for some areas, London to Calais was 10d., to which was added the European charges by distance, varying from 5d. to 15d. inside France. Before 1846 a flat rate had come in for each country and I believe this was June 1st. 1843: in 1846 France and Algeria, Spain, Portugal, Sardinia, Tuscany, Prussia, Belgium and Holland were all British 5d., Foreign 5d., Total 10d.

The Ship Letter paragraph is equally dangerous. From the Inland rate of 1d. per 1/2 oz. the article must have been written after 10th. January, yet he chooses only one paragraph out of four, all of which had ended on that day. The other three gave W. Africa, St. Helena, Ascension, China, etc. as 1/-, most other parts as 8d. The Ship Letter charge he should have put was a flat 8d. inwards or outwards, from anywhere in G.B. to any port in the world.

Four paragraphs before these rates he describes at length how to collect overcharges yet there was little likelihood of overcharges after 10th. January with a uniform rate by weight. Overcharges arose from guessing how many sheets there were when they were not allowed to open it to check but anyone could weigh it; this is why the REBATE handstamp ended. Many articles then as now were written by hack journalists who cared not a fig for accuracy but just wanted a story to earn the rent: they should be carefully checked.

Yours sincerely,

Martin Willcocks.

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A TOPOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF LONDON

The Editor was recently allowed to browse through a fresh addition to a member's library and found the contents of the greatest interest to him and, one imagines, any collector of London P.H. Published in 1831 it contains a mass of information not the least being descriptive notes on many of the streets and byeways of the town. An example is for "GRACE'S-ALLEY", the postmark for which turned up during the year for member Mike Goodman. The directory locates this obscure area as "...Wellclose Square, is at the north-west corner, and leads into Well-street."

Wellclose Square gets quite a write up "...Ratcliff-highway, is between Cable-street and Parson's-street...."

For those not able to find an original, there was reprinted in 1978 at £9.95 an 1850 "Hand-Book of London" which contains very similar information and which has been the subject of a Notebook comment previously.

The following two articles have been also printed in "British Postmark Society Quarterly Bulletin" for October 1980 and the illustrations, for convenience, have been taken from that publication, with thanks.

RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIPS NO CHARGE TO BE RAISED by R.A.Keneally

During the First World War, 1914 - 1918, letters from Sailors on active service were cancelled in London on Columbia single impression machines. At the commencement of the Boer War servicemen's letters were charged at one penny. Later this practice seems to have been dropped, possibly due to the fact that no stamps were available on their ships or at their camps (Can a reader clarify this point - Ed.). The note regarding the penny rate was dropped from the Post Office Guide of 1917. I have examples of covers both with and without stamps.

Five, possibly six, machines were used at London over the period 1915 to 1920. My earliest impression of the special cancel is as Fig 1. and is dated APL 26 15E (used on the 'E' machine). Examples are found from machines 'A', 'B', 'C', 'D' and 'E'. In 1916 the box round the cancellation is dropped as in Fig.2. My latest impression for this cancellation is dated MAY 22 20B.

LONDON

MAY 1 15A

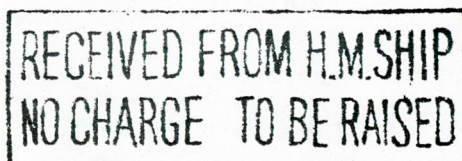


FIG. 1

LONDON

FEB 2 19D



FIG. 2

Information on these cancellations is quite scarce and it would be appreciated if members could fill in the enclosed questionnaire with details of any of these marks in their collections.

THE FIRST SLOGAN CANCELLATIONS USED IN THE U.K. by R.A. Keneally

The first slogan cancellations, the forerunners of the present day use, were introduced in the capital on 10th. December, 1917, when the Post Office agreed to help the war savings campaign by authorising the "Buy National War Bonds Now" slogan cancellation. This was followed by two other slogans on a similar theme and all were used in a variety of different types of cancelling machine. The illustrations on the following page show the various types which may be found :-

Fig.1 - Used on Columbia single impression machines in London from 10th. December, 1917 and the Provinces from 25th. December, 1917. It is said some 60 dies were used but only 32 different impressions have so far been recorded.

Fig.2 - Also from a Columbia machine but with a four line die box-second line blank, time in third line.

Fig.3 - Used on Krag continuous impression machine. Five short lines either side of an approx. 32mm box containing the slogan. Noted from 4th. January, 1918 to November, 1918. There are said to have been 100 different town dies used.

Fig.4 - From an Alma (or Bee) continuous impression machine. Differs from the Krag machine slogan in that the box measures only approx. 28mm. These machines were used at five offices only - London EC (4 machines), London SW, Woolwich, Kensington and South-end.

Fig.5 - This and subsequent types are with a new slogan, the word ' now ' having been

LONDON.W.C.
3.15 PM
JAN 1 188

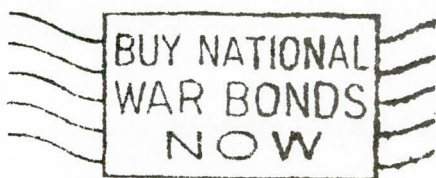


FIG. 1

GLASGOW
5. PM
MIR 4 180

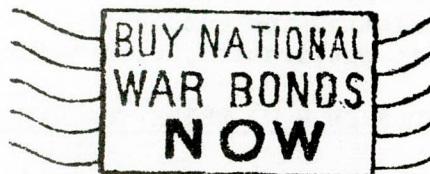
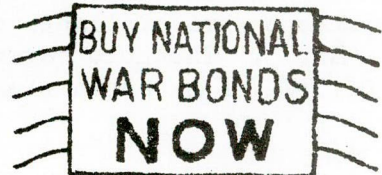


FIG. 2

LWYN BAY
— PM
JUN 18



COLWYN BAY
8. 1 - PM
26 JUN 18

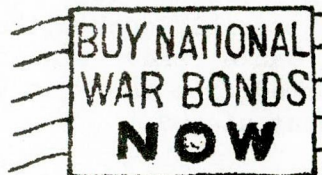
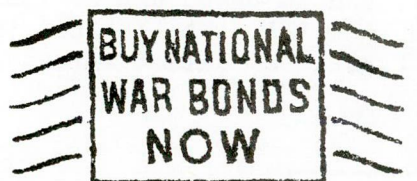


FIG. 3



SOUTHEAST-ON-SEA
4. 30 PM
26 JUL 18



FIG. 4

DUNFERMLINE
1215PM
AUG 5 18

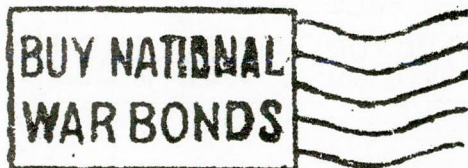
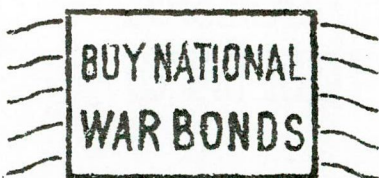


FIG. 5

L
S

SCARBOROUGH
3. 45 PM
23 AUG 18

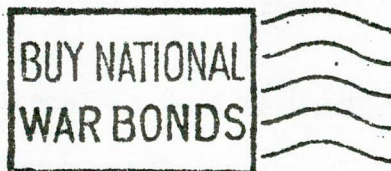


SCARBOROUGH
3. 45 PM
23 AUG 18



FIG. 6

CREWE
5. 30 PM
29 AUG 18



CREWE
5. 30 PM
29 AUG 18

FIG. 7

LONDON W.C.
OCT 22 18A
3. 15 PM

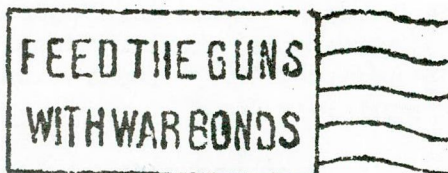
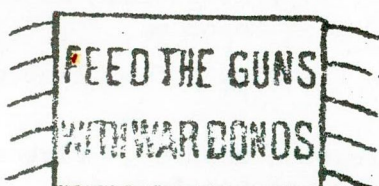


FIG. 8



LONDON W.L.
3. 15 PM
18 NOV 18

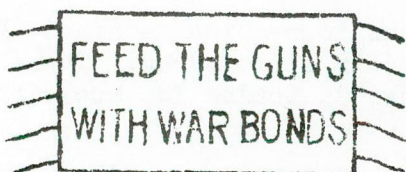


LONDON W.L.
3. 15 PM
18 NOV 18



FIG. 9

LONDON E.C.
3. 30 PM
7 OCT 18



LONDON E.C.
3. 30 PM
7 OCT 18



FIG. 10

The First Slogan Cancellations Used in the U.K.....

dropped. This type is from the Columbia machine and is known only from Dunfermline and Hull. It is scarce. Note lines at right of box only. A similar type (5A) but with a circular town die is even more scarce, being recorded at London (Mount Pleasant) only. This type is from a Universal machine.

Fig.6 - From the Krag machine, again with box size approx.32mm. Used from February 1918 at possibly 30 offices. A similar type (6A) has the town name (and in some cases the date also) replaced by +++++ or XXXXX security markings. It is generally thought some of these originate from Invergordon but members are asked to note any details (e.g. picture on card or written message) which may help to indicate the place of origin of a particular mark.

Fig.7 - This type differs from Fig.6 in that it has the town die adjacent to the box and five lines to the right of the box only. Recorded at four offices in Scotland and possibly 17 in England from February 1918 to October 1918.

Fig.8 - This and subsequent types are with another new slogan introduced in October 1918. The Chancellor decided to stimulate the sale of war bonds with a " Feed the Guns with War Bonds " campaign. (See also ' Notebook No.46 '). Impressions of the slogan are quite scarce as the Armistice was signed on 11th.November,1918, thus giving a maximum six week period of use. This type is from the Columbia machine. Although 40 dies were said to have been used it is so far only recorded at 8 offices.

Fig.9 - A Krag impressions with the box approx. 34mm long and five short lines on either side. Said to be 130 dies used but only 37 so far recorded. Also exists (9A) with security markings as type 6A.

Fig.10- This is from the Alma machine and differs from type 9 in that the box is wider, measuring 38mm. So far seen only from four out of a possible five offices.

On 12th.November,1918 orders were sent from London for all the slogan dies to be destroyed. However, some offices did not comply with this order immediately and impressions dated after the 12th. are known.

Again readers are asked to verify their own examples and record the details on the form provided.

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PACKET CIRCULATION

Members will no doubt be interested to learn the packet is being circulated again, indeed slowed rather than ceased altogether. After some problems being resolved Brian Smith is seeking contributions, from a single item to as many as you care to contribute. The commission is a modest 10% and affords potential vendors contact with immediate buyers.

Though obviously London material would be that for which most would be looking, it is unusual to find a postal history collector who looks for nothing else so items from all parts of the country are very welcome.

Should you wish to receive the packet, please contact Brian Smith at 41 Cranleigh Drive. Swanley, Kent. BR8 8NZ. Receipt is restricted to paid up members so do ensure you have paid the current subscription. On that particular tack, can we, for the record, clarify the position. Generally the subscription when first paid covers that year's issues of Notebook, making the next subscription due immediately following the next Annual General Meeting, that is, late May each year. Members joining between January and May run through to the next AGM plus one.

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Continuing the selection of items for the auction rooms of Robson Lowe.....

30.3.79

Valuation £75:Realisation£375

£85 : £280.

£100:£170



£50:£42

£75:£90

6.7.79

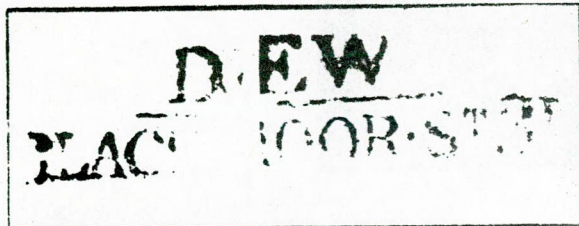
£70:£125



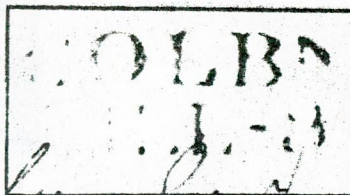
£60:£65

What The Auctions Tell.....

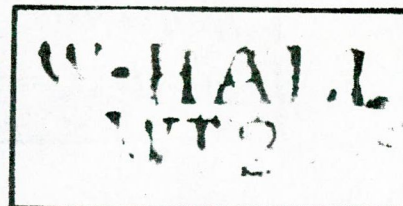
- 315 1794 (Nov) E.L. showing oval "Penny Post/B/Paid"(W.165)** though slightly smudged, not affected by crease and small hole £40:£27
- 326 1795 (July) E.L. showing oval "W.Hall.ET/P^d 1^d/Penny Post", a type we cannot recall seeing before, with red time stamp (W.200):mainly*** £30:£48



328



332



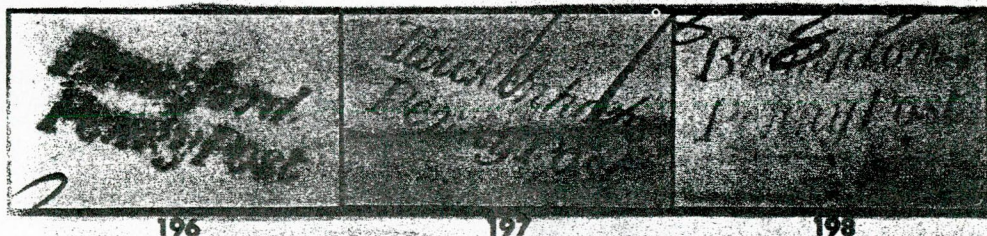
335

- 328 1796 E. showing the scarce "DW/BLACKMOOR-ST. 3^m" ** to *** across flap: rather stained and discolored. £100:£110
- 332 1796 E.L. showing "HOLBN/HILL 3^m", * to *** £60:£56
- 333 1796 E.L. showing "Penny Post/P^d 2^d/Kentifh Town SO^m" *** in red, some oxidisation of ink. £25:£38
- 335 1797(c) E.L. (in German) to Stroud showing, across the join, "W-HALL/W^T 2" ** to *** and d.s. (W.177) £100:£80
- 339 1800 E. to Enfield with oval "Penny Post/P^d 2^d/Bermondsey St."(W.226) almost *** and red time stamp alongside £25:£34
- 340 1802 E.L. (creased) from Aldgate to Strand with oval "Two-Penny/P^t Paid/Milk St" almost *** (W.228) and red time stamp alongside £20:£21
- 341 1804 Bill for a Coach and Equipment to Wanstead showing oval "Two-Penny/P^t Paid/Hackney Rd"*** (W.228) with red time stamp alongside £25:£30

London Cross Posts

8.9.78

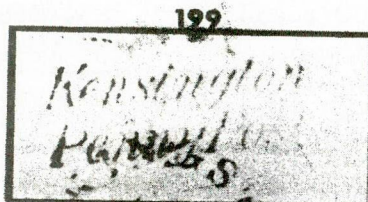
- Lot 196 1839 (13 Jun) E.L. to Andover showing "Brentford/Penny Post"(***) but slightly oily) and Kingston c.d.s. £40:£52.50



- 197 1839 (27 Jun) E.L. to Bagshot showing "Twickenham/Penny Post"(mainly*** in black but creased), "T.P./Hampton" and Hampton c.d.s. with Kingston c.d.s.: some small stains. £60:£65
- 198 1839 (19 Nov) E.L. to Salisbury showing "Brompton/Penny Post"(** in red) "T.P./Brompton" and Kingston c.d.s. £50:£67.50

What The Auctions Tell.....

- 199 1844 Postal stationery 1d. env. cancelled "38" in oval of bars, addressed to Basingstoke and showing "Kensington/Penny Post"(** to *** over flap) Kingston and Basingstoke c.d.s. £40:£60



361

30.3.79

- 360 1839 E.L. from Fulham to Devon showing "Hammersmith/Penny Post" and "T.P./Hammersmith E.O." both * to **, with poor Kingston c.d.s. Some discolorisation and small stains. £40:£58

- 361 - a similar E.L. but h.s. mainly ***, though overinked £45:£46

2.11.79

- 344 1839 E.L.(2) to Devon, showing "TP/Hammersmith E.O." and Kingston c.d.s., * to **: some stains and discoloration. £35:£20

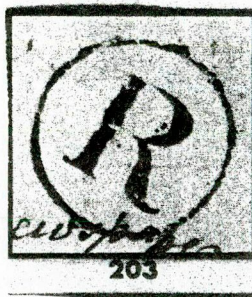
London Instructional

8.9.78

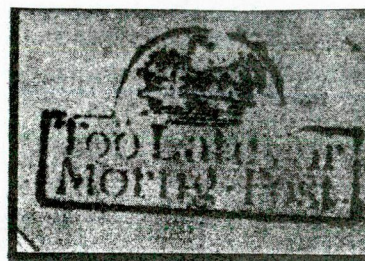
- 200 1794 and 1796 E.L. to London, from Nairn and Hamburg respectively, each showing circular framed "W" (W.255) * to ** and ***, the latter also showing h.s. "2" £30:£41



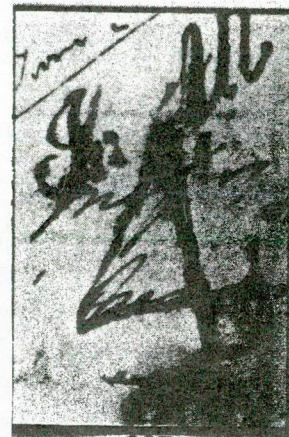
202



203



204



207

- 202 1809 E. to London showing large crowned crescent-framed "MORE TO/PAY" in a slightly watery reddish purple;*** for this (W.303) £100:£310
- 203 1810 E.L., slightly repaired, from Wiveliscombe to London with "MILVERTON/172", endorsed on the reverse, "Refused" and showing a large circular framed "R" in red, which we cannot recall seeing before. £30:£57.50
- 204 1814 franked E.L. from Calne to Streatham showing, on the reverse, framed crowned "Too Late for Morning Post" in red (W.330)***. A few closed tears around seal. £40:£80
- 207 1826 E.L. to Fleet St. endorsed "Not known at 190 Fleet St." and re-directed to the Strand, with h.s. "2" cancelled by zig-zag erasure mark and replaced by large "4" with "In All" (W.358) £40:£54

What The Auctions Tell.....

- 263 1811 E.L. from Lincolns Inn to Hackney readdressed to Knightsbridge with "Two Penny/Unpaid/Lincoln's Inn"*** "3" cancelled by zig-zag and replaced by "In All" and large "6" with three attendant date stamps, a little soiled, creased and damaged but with some character £50:£38



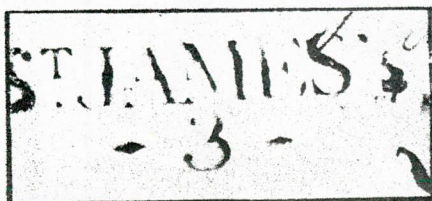
263



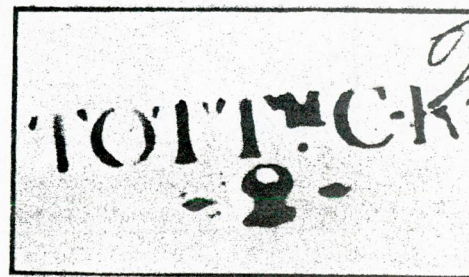
266

- 266 1835 E.L. to Craven Street readdressed to Wardour Street and showing framed "T.P./Southampton.C.O." "2" cancelled by six bars and replaced by "4" £40:£70

- 267 1836 E (2) with "Cornhill/3D PAID" mostly ** in black also showing "POST PAID/METROPOLITAN/LIFE/Assurance/SOCIETY" cachet ** to ***: and boxed "T,P,/Isleworth" with "3" £25:£16



305

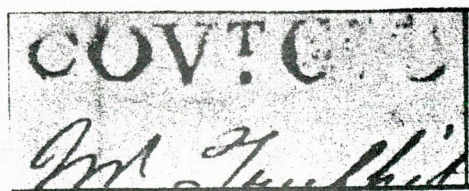


310

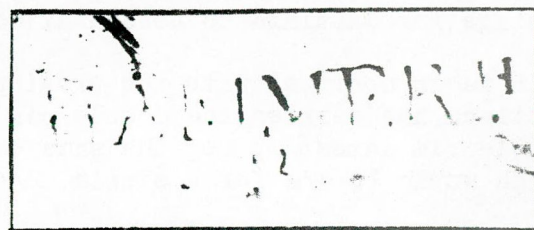
2.11.79

- 305 1794 E.L. from Hanover carried privately and posted in London, showing "ST JAMES'S/-3-", almost *** and, on the reverse, experimental d.s.(W.166) mainly ** £120:£260

- 310 1794 (19th June) E.L. showing "TOTTM C-R/-2-" very *** though slightly over-inked, crowned "PAID"(W.162) in purple, ** and, on the reverse, d.s.(W.161) superb. Small hole in address panel. £150:£150



311



314

- 311 1794(Aug) E. showing "COVT GN 3" mainly *** in black but creased, and "crown/PAID"* in red. £80:£50
- 313 1794(Oct) E.L. from the Royal Military Academy showing "WOOLWH-2-" mainly ** to *** and the rare, circular framed "PY POST/PAID" with crown (W.164) * to ** but with ink smudge and creased. £140:£150
- 314 1794(Nov) E. showing "HAMMER^H/-3-" *** with experimental d.s.(W.166) *** on rev. £90:£155

LONDON PAID SHIP LETTER, from Martin Willcocks

The Ship Letter item shown below is but one of a pair that carry the curious double rim date stamp which readers may recall from the pages on ' Notebook '. These two covers



raise a lot of problems. The 8 in red is the postage from Hastings, so the sender is not shown as having paid the 2d. for Ship carriage - why not ?. What I do believe to be of importance is that double rim datestamp: I believe it must be the date of sailing but it was entirely against the rules for London to hold a letter for a month without having datestamped it. No arrival date from Hastings but the letter is dated by the writer 30th. September, 1819

The second cover is written from Hastings 8th. August and dated 11th. August and again has no other London date stamp or a Hastings mark of any sort but shows the correct postage for Hastings to London at 8d.

This is in contrast with the previously recorded item, also addressed to India but from Scotland and carries the double rim Paid tombstone for 11th. October 1819 and the black double rim datestamp for the same day. There is a manuscript 2/6; postage from Edinburgh would be 1/2 for a single, 2/4 the double plus the 2d. Ship Postage, making 2/6.

There is at least one other of this mark known, rather similar in detail to the last one above but there must be more. It would seem clear they have a special connection with Maritime Mail and the curious treatment of the first two suggests connection with the sailing date for India. 1819 was a significant year for the Post Office and the East India Company with the sea postage becoming a modest 2d after a high of 3/6.

As ever, information is sought.

(This contribution culled from telephone conversations and letters - Ed.)

SHOOTERS HILL AND OTHER OFFICES, a letter from Peter Bathe

I think I told you why I believe Shooters Hill was issued with a provincial number in 1844 relating to the cross post. It is obvious - to me at least - that once the cross post ended, there was no need for Shooters Hill to have an obliterator until, that is, it became a sorting office in the 1870s.

In 1870 a separate sorting district of Shooters Hill was created and two years later, a sorting office established. There appears to be more than a subtle difference in these two terms but so far I have not found any reference by any of the "authorities" as to what this might be.

From other snippets I would suggest the creation of a sorting district just meant the SEDO and any other office which sorted for Woolwich (where the letters had previously been sub - sorted for the Shooters Hill walk) would send Shooters Hill letters direct to the receiving house on the Hill instead, thus devolving all inward sorting duties to Shooters Hill.

These inward sorting duties would be :

- (i) backstamping with an arrival handstamp
 - (ii) dealing with missorts
 - (iii) breaking down into the walks
- and then after the delivery
- (iv) dealing with re - addressed and other undelivered letters.

These duties required the use of various handstamps. The proof books show a dated namestamp (presumably for use as an arrival backstamp) was issued to Shooters Hill in the same year as the sorting district was set up (1870), as well as a cross-in-a-circle mis - sort mark, code AW.



Shooters Hill
30/9/1870



Shooters Hill
30/9/1870



As you know, the cross-in-a-circle mark, other than for the head office, are not common on cover and the AW code must be one of the rarest, so naturally I would be very interested to know

if anyone actually has an example. I would also like to hear of any Shooters Hill arrival marks - any after 1870 - so I could check the stamp issues then was the one used: any pre-1870 will disprove my theory!!

With regard to the re-directed and undeliverable letters presumably Shooters Hill would have been issued with a standard set of charge and explanatory marks of that period - whatever that " standard set " may have been. The trouble is I cannot find any " authority " publishing a check list of what explanatory marks - if any - were issued to the letter carriers offices around London. The only mark I have found in the proof book - issued on the same day as the Shooters Hill missort mark - was a small circle topped with a crown with RL in the centre. I had assumed this was for Redirected Letters on which there was no additional charge, remembering what I had read in Notebook 36 by David Trapnell, and his more recent update in PJGB (Sept 1980). But then - SHOCK ! HORROR ! He was talking about R-in-a-circle and when I turned up my photocopy of the proof book impression, as can be seen, the Shooters Hill stamp reads RL. I can find no direct reference anywhere to "RL" (other than the earlier Ride Letter) though the similarity to the 'R' mark is obvious. Anyone any ideas ?

A minute in 1872 states an allowance was to be made to the receiver at Shooters Hill for use of a room for a sorting office and in April that year, Shooters Hill was issued with an obliterator - No 73 - in the London series. This was why the issue to Shooters Hill was so late (relative to the other offices in the area): the sorting office was not established (or re-established if you count the cross post duty pre May 1844) until then.

With the creation of a sorting office not only were the inward sorting duties performed

Shooters Hill and Other Offices.....

but also the outward sorting duties. The outward duties would, I imagine, involve:

- (1) sorting out letters for delivery from Shooters Hill office
- (2) cancelling the adhesives on these letters (hence the need for an obliterator).

Possibly there was also

(3) sorting out letters for delivery from Woolwich and other nearby offices but I am not certain about this. At one time everything was sent to the SED0 except for mail for delivery from the same office and I have not found out when all that changed. Letters under (3) would also need cancelling with the new Shooters Hill Obliterator.

- (4) all other letters would have been sent - uncanceled - to SED0.

Even if letters under (3) are included, the total cancelled at Shooters Hill were probably very few, hence the fact John records the rarity as "GPO" in section K. In any case the life of the stamp was but three years for in 1875 Woolwich and several dependent offices were taken out of London and given provincial style stamps.

I think I have now answered the question of why Plumstead did not get a provincial obliterator at that time. In the same year, 1875, a new sorting office was opened in central Woolwich and the sorters at the Church Street office ' Woolwich West in TP days which had been the sorting office since the 1850s) and at the Plumstead sorting office were transferred to the new office AND PLUMSTEAD SORTING OFFICE WAS ABOLISHED. The minutes appear to indicate the plans for this central Woolwich Sorting office had been laid a couple of years earlier, so it was known the Plumstead would not need a provincial style stamp, unlike the case with the Shooters Hill 1844 stamp.

The next question is: Has anyone an example of the Shooters Hill provincial obliterator, 385 ? I have not found yet when the sorting office was removed from Shooters Hill - I should think it was in the 1890s when it appears another new sorting office was opened in Woolwich. The 385 obliterator should have had a reasonably long enough life for some examples to have survived.

Another 1872 minutes says the allowance for indoor work was reduced (from 6/- to 2/- a week). This was presumably the allowance to the letter carrier(s) who had performed the inward sorting duties (with respect to missorts etc) from 1870. I assume with the creation of the sorting office most of those duties would then fall on the sorter(s).

That there were at least two post office employees at Shooters Hill, one letter carrier and one sorter (possibly more of either or each) is hinted at in a minute of 1874, which refers to the " officer in charge " at Shooters Hill, who had an allowance of £7.11/-.

Besides any notification from people with examples of the marks I've mentioned, I would very much like to hear from anyone prepared to comment on my suppositions about the duties and differences between a sorting district and a sorting office.

Please send any information on these and on the cross post letters, see earlier Notebook references, to me c/o the Editor. Date, to and from, ink used and any other markings which appear. Many thanks.

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

RATES OF POSTAGE

How many times have you read or heard it stated that after a treble letter, the postage was determined by the weight, at least for the General Post? The various tables which are so carefully consulted when attempting to interpret the "squiggled" rate on an item of postal history.

At present the Editor is working through a series of volumes entitled "Statutes at Large" for the various Acts or sections with reference to the Post Office in Great Britain (the Irish going their own legislative way in most instances). Whilst transcribing the 1801 Act, which deals with the instant 100% inflation rate for London's Local Post, it was interesting to discover the bland assumption for items over a treble rate i.e. more than three sheets, in the General Post was not immediately followed by the Ounce charge. To quote:

" For the Port and Conveyance of Letters by the Post above Fifteen measured Miles, and not exceeding Thirty Miles, within Great Britain,

for every single Letter Four-pence
 for every double Letter Eight-pence
 for every treble Letter
or other Letter under an Ounce in Weight One Shilling
 for every Ounce in Weight,
and for every Packet not exceeding an Ounce in Weight,
 One Shilling and Four-pence;
 and so in proportion for every other Letter or Packet of Greater Weight than an Ounce.

From this two largely overlooked facts are apparent.

First, one should be able to find an entire containing several receipts say, but which weighing less than an Ounce, charged at the treble rate and secondly, and rather with similar prospects as one searching for the Holy Grail, a Packet under one Ounce which would be charged as for a letter of one Ounce in weight.

These rates do not, of course apply to London's Local Post and would apply only to mail going from, to, or through, which is as good a reason as any for including an item with a non-London interest in a London study! It would be interesting to learn if a reader has made a study of the various rates over the years. It is suggested the survival possibility for a multiple letter under one ounce remaining intact or a packet weight under one ounce must place them in a rarity grouping akin to early Dockwras, even if the collector's interest is not as obvious.

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HANDBILLS AND POSTERS

At last the Post Office have discovered the material in their archives has a market value, even when reproduced. For the 1980 Exhibition a set of 19th. Century Handbills and Posters were printed by The House of Questa for the Post Office and put on sale at £1.50 for ten. Whilst one might be inclined to suggest the launch set might have included a different selection, at 15pence each, the average collector should seize the opportunity of getting in on the ground floor and encouraging any faint hearts in St. Martins to offer further sets.

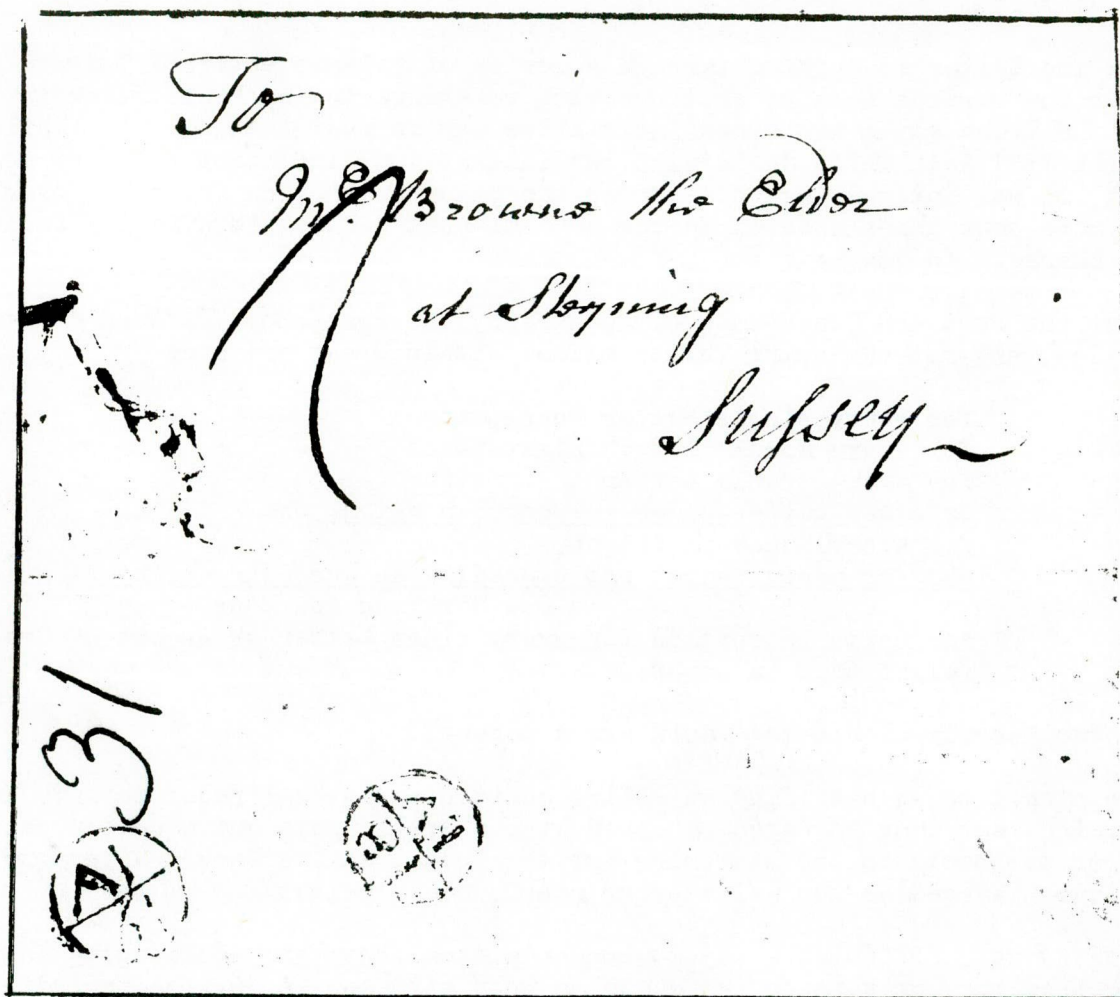
Two suggestions, entirely selfish, from the Editor would be a set on Twopenny Post matters and Maritime Mail, both of which would enhance his own collection no end.

These sets can be obtained from the National Postal Museum at £1.50 plus (presumably) Post and Packing, say another 50pence

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BISHOP MARK " TOO LATE " from John Brindley

The item below is a letter dated 18th.June,1773 with Bishop Marks for the 18th and 19th.June. Such dating does turn up from time to time but I do not recall seeing one



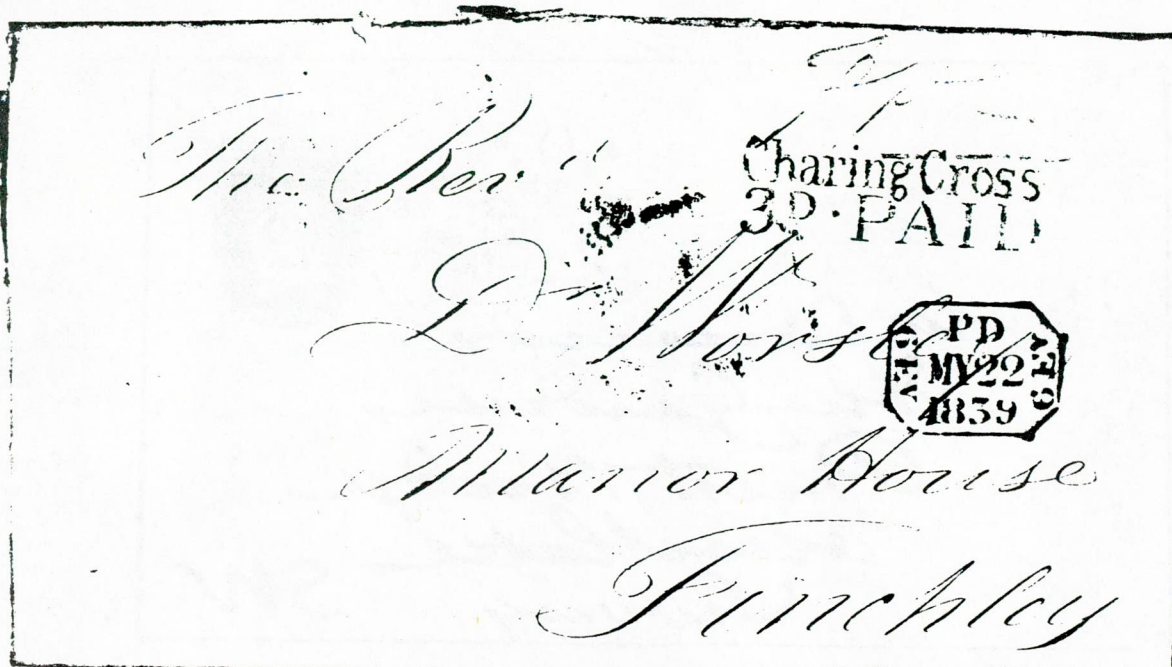
from this early date. It has not been possible to find any reference to when this double stamping commenced or the Post Office instruction to record the delay in this manner, though is it entirely consistent with the policy of advising the user of the Posts of any delay in handling the mails.

In this particular case the letter offers the reason for being late as it starts: " I was this evening served with an Appointment....." and, as noted, is dated 18th. June, which would mean a late posting and missing the mail to Sussex till the following morning.

Martin Willcocks has just this to say " Two Bishop marks of consecutive days on a letter probably imply Too Late in London at an earlier period;..." but gives no date for the start of the practice. As part of Alf Kirk's researches into the Bishop, this particular use would be of some significance and a dating for the introduction by reference to collection records would be valuable. Can you assist ?

TWOPENNY POST: THE ROUND TOP THREE PAID STAMP

We show a further example of this apparently overlooked type, this time for Charing



Cross, which surely must have been in fairly heavy use. Quite why such a busy office has passed unremarked before this must reflect on the lack of observation by collectors. The Editor has a memory of owning one such item many years since. It was used after 1840 and did not (then) fit his rather limited collecting tastes. What a pity we do not always learn without making the mistakes!!

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G.D. BREED: SOME MORE ITEMS OF INTEREST

In the course of tidying up the effects of the late Mr. Breed, some further material has come to light which may well be of interest to readers.

The most attractive item is a Certificate of Retirement dated London 1937 and signed by the Postmaster General G.C. Tryon, expressing appreciation for the 41 years service given by Mr. Breed.

Another, of historical interest, is an item dated 25 October, 1915, signed by the then PMG Herbert Samuel, extolling the virtue of volunteering for service in the army. In the style of the day the letter concludes....

" We are now in the most critical stage of the War. It is essential that the whole strength of the British Empire should be exerted if victory over the Germans is to be secured. The call for more men is urgent.

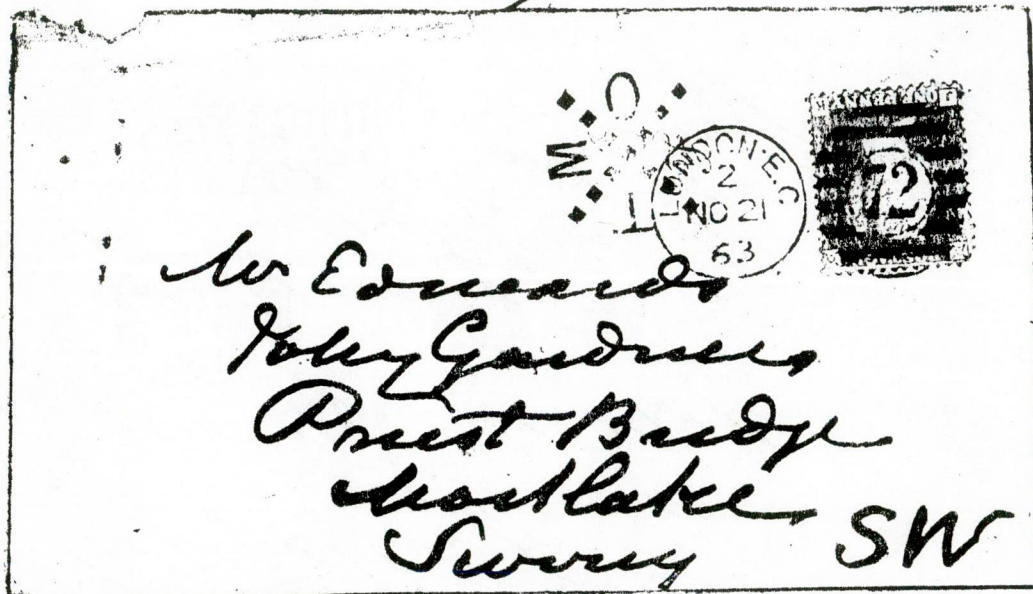
There are many who say " I will wait till the Governemnt tell me they want me; then I will go." On behalf of the Government I tell you now that you are wanted, and I ask you to come forward.

The remainder of the items comprise P.O. memos and personal letters from friends, which with like items previously discovered add much to a collector's range. If any readers are interested in any of these items, please contact the 'Notebook' Editor.

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HOUSE MARK OR WHAT ?

It is not unusual to be shown a postal marking which is not known - there are, happily - a great many yet to cross the Editor's desk. One such marking, shown below, presents



a very fine example of problem and speculation. As can be clearly seen it consists of two diagonals of seven small squares, the fourth being common to both. In the four segments created appears O £ T M, reading as it is seen struck. Telegraph and Money Office ? or what ? There is no clue from the reverse of the envelope.

No doubt a reader can inform and perhaps produce an example demonstrating the exact purpose of the mark.

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POST TOWN

Writing from San Francisco, Russ Sanford drew attention to para 47 of the Post Office Act 1st. VICT. Cap.36, which seems to have escaped those who have taken part in the debate on the meaning of the term " Post Town ".

The interpretation laid down is.....

"....: and the term " Post Town " shall mean a Town where a Post Office is established (not being a Penny or Twopenny or Convention Post Office); "

A " Convention Post " is also defined, should the reader be disposed to ask, as :

"... and the Term " Convention Posts " shall mean Posts established by the Postmaster General under Agreements with the inhabitants of any Places; "

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TWOPENNY POST OFFICE: COUNTRY LETTER RECEIVERS

The notice printed below contains one item which, as far as we know, has never been

TWO-PENNY POST-OFFICE,
January 1, 1820.

General Instructions to Country Letter Receivers.

FORMS AND USE OF THE STAMPS.

The two first to be used at Sorting Offices only, and the third at those nearest Town; the fourth at other Offices, and the remainder at all Country Offices.



This Form (when the proper Dates are fixed) to be marked on all Letters put into the Sorting Offices, and all Letters for the Bye-Post brought in from other Offices of the same District.

3

This to be marked on the Front of all Unpaid Letters going by the Bye-Post only.

Put in after 1/2 pt 4

This on Letters for Places upon the same Ride, which are put in too late for the Bye-Post, and are to be sent to Town.

T.P.
Pentonville

This on all Unpaid Letters, of every Description, put in at Receiving-Houses, which are not Sorting Offices, and upon all Receivers Letter-Bills against the entries therein.

Penton-Ville
3py P.Paid

This Form to be marked on the Front of all Three-penny Paid Letters.

Penton-Ville
2py P.Paid

This on the Front of all General or Foreign Paid Letters, in addition to the one next following.

Paid

This, as well as the last-mentioned Stamp, to be marked on all General and Foreign Paid Letters; the General or Foreign Postage to be entered in the blank space following the Word "Paid."

Penton-Ville
1py P.Paid

This, on all Single Letters sent by, or to, Sailors or Soldiers, with which One Penny is paid at putting in.

E. JOHNSON,
Comptroller.

It is at the Sorting Offices only that Bye-Post duty is performed; Instructions for which are given in a separate Paper.

seen on a piece, letter alone cover or entire. No reward for identifying the mark but appreciating the frugal approach of the Post Office, it must have been expected there was a demand for one reading " Put in af-/-ter 1/2 pt 4 " with the explanation " This on Letters for Places upon the same Ride, which are put in too late for the Bye-Post, and are to be sent to Town."

Thanks the Gavin Littaur for providing the copy.

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FEED THE GUNS WITH WAR BONDS: Interim Report from Roger Keneally

The response to the request for information contained in " Notebook " 46 has been rather poor, there being but ten replies - and one of those from France. If this response is at all representative of the material available, far from the " third " slogan being scarce, it appears all are scarce, especially London.

The results analyse thus :

Columbia	London	3	
	Provinces	2	5
Continuous			
Krag	London	6	
	Suburbs	8	
	Provinces	16	
	Security	1	31
Continous			
Alma or Bee	London	3	3

From this one might conclude

1. They are rare indeed
2. Members have none in their collections (if this is the case a NIL return would be appreciated)
3. Members have not attempted to check their material and complete the form.

Since the success, or otherwise, of any such enquiry depends on each and every reader taking the time (a commodity in short supply I fully appreciate), I would repeat my request for information.

Editor's Note:

Much to my chagrin, some were spotted in the auction lots and the form hastily completed after receipt of the above!

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BOER WAR material is wanted. Entirets with interesting contents, including cards.
Patrick Squire, 7 Tyne Place, Durban North 4051, Republic of South Africa.

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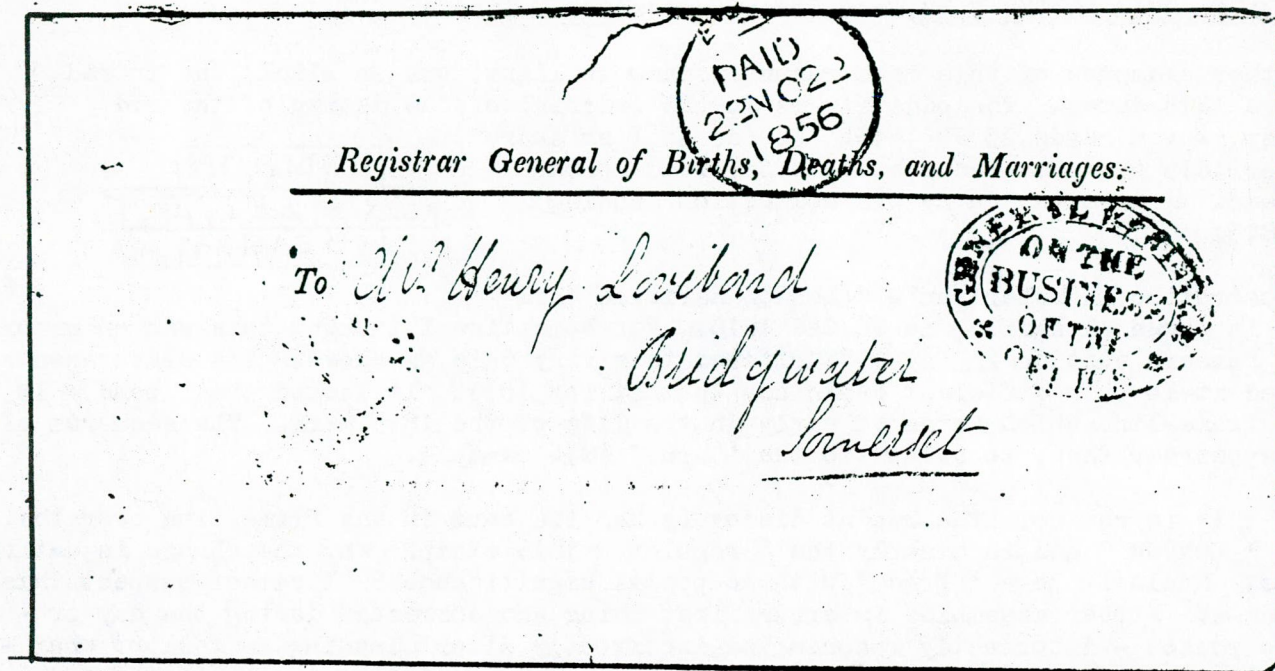
KILBURN SORTING OFFICE. by John Brindley

I have a dozen or so letters from Rothbury to 86 Priory Road, West Hampstead NW in the early 1880s, all of which follow more or less the same pattern of several backstamps - Morpeth, next day London in red, London EC in red, the odd Inspector's mark, London NW in black - except one which just has Morpeth and Kilburn Sorting Office, which I have never seen before or have any knowledge of ? Is this an unusual mark, for Kilburn or as a general type? Ant information on this both as to frequency and function will be most welcome.



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AUTHORISING CACHET: OFFICIAL PAID MAIL from Norman Mounsdon



Although it is not as clear as one would wish, the General Register Office cachet on the item above is uncommon enough to merit inclusion. It contained a standard letter, part printed, part typeset, which is reprinted below.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,
Somerset House
London 22nd Novr 1856

Sir,

I BEG leave to acknowledge the receipt of your written application dated the 21st instant for a Certified Copy of the Register of the death of John Tuttiett; and I am to inform you, by direction of the Registrar General, that it is not consistent with the practice of this Office to furnish a Certified Copy of any Register deposited therein, unless the application for the same be made personally by the Party requiring it, or by some person on his behalf, and be accompanied by payment of Fees which may become due in respect thereof, under the 37th Section of the " Act for Registering Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England, " extracted below.

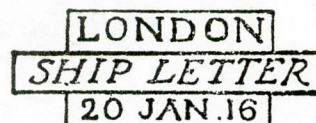
Your Postage Stamps, value 2s/6d, are returned enclosed.

I am
etc etc.

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

LONDON DATED SHIP LETTER S.32, from Peter Forrestier Smith

Two further examples of this mark recently came to light, one in black, one in red. Both have 1815 dates. The oddity is in the ordering of the dating of the red handstamp, which reads 23 JU 1815. As far as I am aware all other 1815 examples recorded thus far read Month - Day - Year. I have one in my own collection reading JU 23 1815.



The illustration in Robertson's "London Maritime Mail" - which is shown alongside, is 20 JAN. 1816. For some time I thought this was an error but the Harpers auction in May 1978 offered this very date as shown. Its measurements confirmed it to be a different handstamp to that for 1815. It lacked the 'bend' in the top frame line which appeared early in the life of the 1815 mark. The sequence of dating appeared, then, to relate to the 'new' 1816 example.

Clearly this is not so. The recent discovery has the bend in the frame line over the "ND" on "LONDON" and is clearly the 'regular' 1815 stamp. Why the change in dating sequence. Could it be a 'Fred' with no postal significance? I rather suspect this is the case. Either assembled in error first thing and corrected during the day or - for some reason - incorrectly reassembled incorrectly after cleaning, a fall or what - ever. This indeed might be the reason for the sequence on dating in the (so far) single example for 1816.

Just for the record, both letters are from India to Scotland. The black is dated MR 27 1815 (the first date recorded, there is another for the same day), the cover has a type 1A additional $\frac{1}{2}$ d and a Scots arrival mark MAR 30 1815. There is a m/s endorsement "per Cornwall". The red is endorsed "per Astell", also the Type 1A London additional $\frac{1}{2}$ d arriving in Scotland 1st. July. The usual problem with the post rate endorsed. The black has a final 2/9, the red 4/1, all very curious.

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COMMENT from A. Bruce Auckland

In Notebook 48 you ask about NR. I have none later than 1845. In fact the only one I have is dated 14th. February, 1845. You will see from the tracing alongside that the type of lettering, though still sans serif, differs in size and shape from the one illustrated. It originated in Edinburgh, addressed to 9 Sussex Place, Regents Park and was redirected to "Ellis Hotel, St. James Street" - another definite redirection.

NR

Keith Romig's post card endorsement page 2 of Notebook 48. I have this oval "Not Fully Addressed" on a cover from Sunderland dated 28th. January, 1875, addressed to "St. Andrew Square, London" endorsed in red ms "Try Edinburgh". It has the Edinburgh date stamp of 30th. January, 1875 and a small encircled B to one side of a small circle 9mm diameter - I wonder is the encircled B is the Edinburgh equivalent of the "BB" or whether it is a London variant of the encircled BB.

Notebook No 45, page 20. The crown in circle datestamp "The Scottish origin is not substantiated". This is definitely an Edinburgh mark. I have it struck on at least two Edinburgh local letters. A larger sized "Paid" mark with the crown protruding from the upper circle appeared in 1857 on some Official letters. This was changed to the smaller one in 1858.

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