4, 6, 8, 12, 13

London Postal History Group

NOTEBOOK

Number 17

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EDITORIAL

It is a matter of regret to have to report that the hard work put in by Robert Johnson on the Foreign Branch Charge Marks has been rendered abortive by a member or members retaining the circulating working papers he prepared and to which others have added information from their own collections and knowledge.

For the time being we must assume it is a case of ' dealing with it later ' and not an attempt to hold on to a valuable information source. It is just possible that hidden under some papers a reader has one or both these files which pressure of events have caused him to forget. Should the files be discovered please call at your nearest post office and send them on their much delayed way. We all appreciate the effort put into organising this type of operation and none could wish to discourage such a valuable contribution to our studies.

On a happier note your attention is drawn to the August meeting, which by a long established tradition, all of three years, will be an auction. Your rare, not so rare and even rubbish is anxiously sought for inclusion. Commission is a modest 10% of realisation, no lotting fee and only the expense of recorded delivery in the unlikely event of an item not selling. Material is not restricted to London or even postal history. Please send full details of the lots, the material and your reserve (please do NOT leave this to the Auctioneer, he may let your 1794 experimental go for 50 pence!) to

Mr. D.J. Muggleton,

21 The Tannery, BUNTINGFORD, Herts. SG9 9AR

not later than June 29th. This will allow time for lotting, printing and posting of catalogues, which should reach you by 20th.July. Postal bids to be received by first post 29th.July and the auction will take place on 3rd. August at Caxton Hall, to which you are warmly invited.

AUGUST 3rd AT CAXTON HALL.....ANNUAL AUCTION.....DETAILS ABOVE

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© 1974 The contributor, where named, other the London Postal History Group.

NOTICE.....

Would members please note the Group have a new Hon.Secretary

Derek Holliday

4 Darwin Road, London W5 4BD

who kindly offered to take over, this being confirmed at the Group meeting held on 18th.May.

POST OFFICE LOSSES IN THE GREAT FIRE

Jeremy Greenwood's article dealing with the location of the London Head Office (Notebook 13) clearly places that establishment " at the lower end of Threadneedle Street, by the Stocks ", and this is confirmed by Heath Tax Records.

In his detailed account of the Great Fire, Walter Bell quotes Cloak Lane Dowgate, though he admits this to be a deduction and not proved by documentary evidence. He makes it clear the office could not have been Bishopsgate as the fire never reached there and the record of James Hickes ' coughing departure is well known. However, he does relate that at one o'clock in the morning on September 3rd. when Hickes was finally forced to flee, the flames were but a few yards distant (State Papers Domestic). According to Bell the fire was " flaming up Dowgate ".

From the State Papers Domestic comes a letter from one J. Barker to Williamson which asks the address of the post office " that by the Stocks being destroyed by this unparalleled fire " (dated 4 September 1666).

Apart from loss of both Post Office and correspondence, the Government of the day suffered during this particular slum clearing operation from the loss of a device reputed to open and reseal letters without parties being aware of the malpractice. Many writers have this apparatus as one of the many figments of historical imagination which have been woven into postal folk lore and should be treated as such. It is true no records are known of (or admitted to by authority) showing the construction of the device and very naturally its use was not a matter gor Government announcements.

One may start the story with Charles II and the Restoration. Times were not at all easy for the Monarch who was beset with problems of distinguishing true friend from false. One of those he apparently trusted, although others - including Pepys - did not, was one Sir Samuel Morland. This Knight was a most under valued inventor of devices mechanical. Has he lived two hundred years later and retained a good patent lawyer he would no doubt have received proper recognition. Amongst his inventions were a calculating machine, the heavy anchor drum capstan, practical water raising equipment and not the least, the ' letter opener '. Some acknowledgement of his talent was made when, late in life, he was made Magister Mechanicorum by the King. Despite Charles' interest his reputation was not untarnished since he had held office under Cromwell as one of the Board of Examiners of the Post Office. The functions of this body included the opening of suspect letters!

Morland, however, was a Royalist, or at least kept up a correspondence with the Royalists overseas. When, by chance, he overheard a plot to lure Charles and others into an attempted landing on the Sussex coast, a warning in time caused Charles to abandon the scheme which was under active consideration. It is of interest to learn Morland escaped death at Cromwell's own hand at the meeting setting the trap by feigning sleep - which his superior sustained (unaware of the true case) by an assurance that Morland had been working for two nights in a row and was exhausted. After the Restoration Morland was one of the first to be knighted.

Having some knowledge of matters postal he continued in that office with Lord Arlington as his chief. For years the Spaniards had been regarded as past masters in the art of opening and resealing letters and Arlington learning of Morland's own skill agreed to take part in a demonstration of his art.

Arlington wrote a short note of some ten or twelve lines, sealed it well and handed it to Morland. Two days later the letter was returned, apparently free from any sign of tampering. He also received AN IDENTICAL LETTER IN EVERY RESPECT THE SAME, both as to seals and contents. Arlington was quite unable to

tell which was the original and which the copy. Clearly the possibilities were considerable. Charles was brought into the matter and being fond of matters mechanical and matters devious was most impressed by the combination of both activities. Indeed the King ordered two rooms at the General Post Office to be set aside for the installation of Morland and his device.

Three months after this Charles visited the two rooms to inspect the equipment which achieved the following results.

i. The opening and resealing of all types of seals, wafer or wax, without any trace.

ii. The counterfeiting of all types of seals, both wafer and wax, again without any danger of detection.

iii. The counterfeiting of all writings, again to perfection.

iv. The rapid and exact reproduction of writing. Two sides of a sheet closely written were reproduced in just over one minute.

The results, particularly the last in an age when photocopying was still over two hundred years away, were proof positive of Morlands skills. No doubt the only concern in the official mind was the adage that a good sword has two edges. With the blessing of the Monarch, Morland and his two rooms continued in operation until the fire destroyed everything.

One might resonably expect such a valuable part of the State's operation to be replaced at an early date, but this was not to be. Not until William was King and Morland an aging and near destitute man did the subject surface again. In an engaging letter to the Postmaster General, Morland stressed the advantages accruing from the employment of the equipment - and of Morland to operate it - in glowing and engaging phrases. William, however, was not a Charles and was not prepared to give his consent and believed the secret too dangerous and should die with Morland.

And so it did ????

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HOME DISTRICT POSTMARKS, Some Additional Data from Pat Harding.

The following notes have been contributed by Michael Goodman in response to the article which appeared in Notebook No.16.

page 14. HOME DISTRICT - SOUTH POST EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS, used also 15 Dec 35

HOME DISTRICT - WEST latest date 11 Jul 1937

page 15. delete " I have no record of slogans in use at this office "
insert " The POST EARLY IN THE DAY (fig.5) slogan dated 11 Jul 1937 with fig.7 town die was used at this office."

page 16. HOME DISTRICT - NORTH. Latest date 12 Sep 37

The POST EARLY IN THE DAY (fig.5) slogan is also known to have been used on 27 Jun 1937 and 12 Sep 37.

delete: " The double circle handstamp is not recorded..."
insert: " A double circle steel handstamp worded HOME DISTRICT N./- (as fig.9) was used at this office."

In the summing up at the end of the article

delete: 2. A double circle steel handstamp at ' Home District-North '.

IRELAND IN LONDON

In the Irish section of the Willcocks catalogue under ' Undated Name Stamps of Dublin ' are three marks which attract a footnote to the effect that..... " There is evidence to suggest that these particular stamps may have been impressed in London on letters received from Ireland".

IRELAND

An article*by Dr. B. de Burca, M.B.E., which was traced in the Editorial cuttings, dealt with this in some detail and with additional information provided recently by Dr. de Burca, is the basis for the following information.

Before one assumes all such marks were applied in London, one must qualify with the note that the IRELAND and IRELAND S marks in black are of Scottish origin & are somewhat limited in numbers recorded.

The London applied stamps are always in colored ink and examination of some fifty examples has convinced Dr. de Burca of the correctness of the London attribution.

One such cover was written on Tuesday February 10th.,1801, but unfortunately the date of the Dublin Bishop mark is obscure. It had a London Dunday stamp for February 22nd. and an IRELAND S.

The travelling time of twelve days is somewhat excessive, the normal time was some six days, which allows for the IRELAND S to have been applied in Dublin on Sunday 15th. A five day delay in Dublin was not likely and the February state of English roads offers a more reasonable explanation.

Two other pointers. Many covers have the IRELAND and the London datestamps in exactly the same color, though this is not more than circumstantial. What is more interesting is that Sunday stamps for Dublin are not recorded before 1815 and a gap from 1802 to 1815 for any IRELAND S is curious.

The late Colonel Crouch once suggested these IRELAND S marks were applied in the Chief Office in London on letters delivered to callers up to 3 p.m. on Sundays during the Irish Rebellion of 1798 and continued thereafter. This was based on a single letter which was, however, redirected to Guildford and other with delivery fees marked thereon are recorded. It seems, therefore, the Sunday collection theory is not correct.

Assume these marks were applied in London, what was their purpose? There were different rates of postage in Ireland and England. Calculated at the English rates a shilling might be levied on a letter but this would be but eight pence if charged in Ireland. It was therefore necessary to indicate to an Inspector that the rate was calculated in the latter place and was correct.

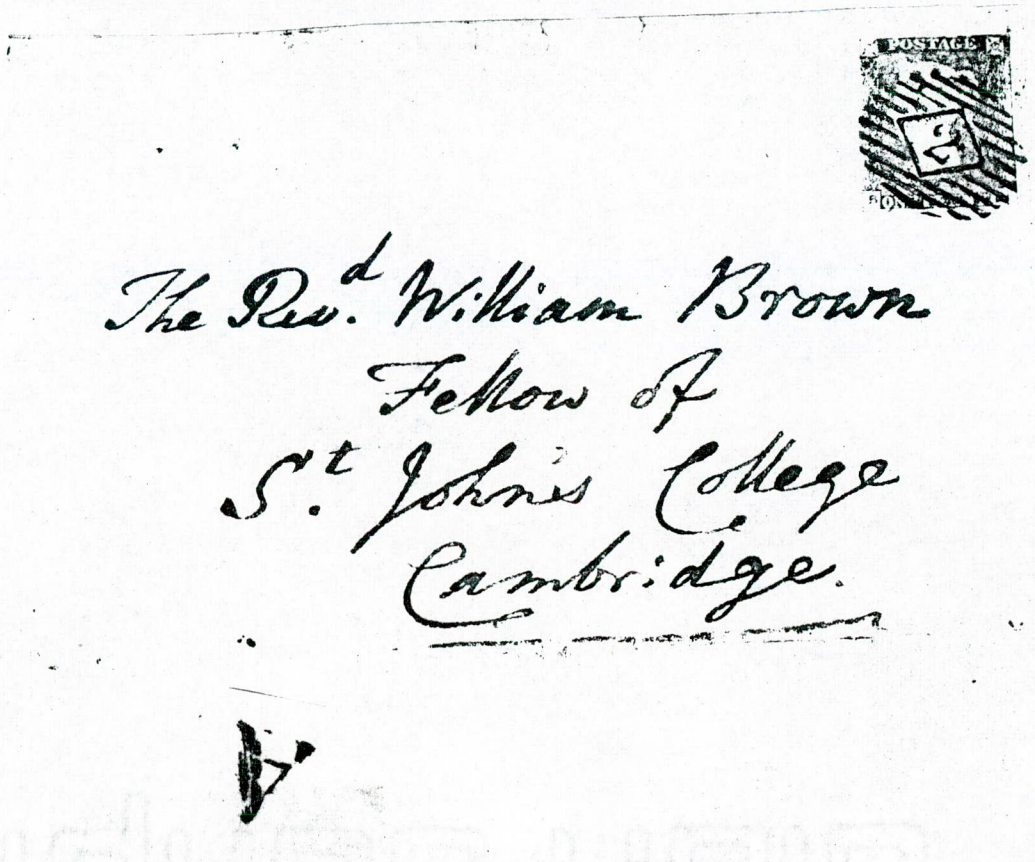
As for the COUNTRY handstamp which is included in the trio of marks, some twentysix covers were examined. A number suggested London application in particular two were the COUNTRY stamp appeared to have been struck over the London datestamp. This is not noted in the Willcocks catalogue.

COUNTRY

*Stamp Collecting, January 4th.,1957 with due acknowledgement and thanks.

THE CHARING CROSS " A ", by Michael Champness

For a number of years I had been puzzled by the initial letter " A " struck on certain letters in the late 1840's.



By chance, when examining the early proof impression books in the Post Office Records, I came across a strike of the serif capital " A " with the annotation " Charing Cross - new stamp for letters despatched before 8 AM ", issued on 16th. September, 1846.

The cover illustrated above is dated 29th. January, 1848 and bears the Charing Cross datestamp and the " A " struck in the same red ink.

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HOME DISTRICT MAP

In Notebook 16, the map attribution should have been to the late Stitt Dinden and not to Pat Harding, this resulting from a misinterpretation of the note on the map which the Editor took, by mistake, to be that of Pat Harding.

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LONDON TWOPENNY POST - LETTER COUNT, by M.M. English.

A sample of some six hundred letters addressed to London was checked daily during the week ended 17th. February, 1838 and the number at each postage rate level duly recorded. The results were:-

	Single	Double	Treble	Above
Feb 12	534	44	19	3
13	540	50	9	1
14	516	64	9	1
15	528	47	20	5
16	535	44	20	1
17	526	47	19	8
	3186	296	96	19

Total letters posted FROM London during the same period compare.....

3182	294	113	11

Assuming that indeed the week was chosen at random, the relationship between incoming and outgoing letters is quite startling, to say nothing of the level recorded each day. The figures also highlight the value one may fairly attach to entires/covers showing postage at rates above the single. That the deluge of mail which took place during this week was not experienced in 1838 is also a self evident fact.

(Table taken from the First Report of the Select Committee on Postage, 1838.)

A further set of figures from the same report is also revealing when trying to establish relationships of scarcity and value.

Taken during the week commencing 15th. January, 1838, a letter survey showed:

	Paid	Unpaid	Total
Penny Letters (i.e. Soldiers')	379	-	379
2d. letters	32,112	121,778	153,890
3d. letters	18,412	59,219	77,631
	50,903	180,997	231,900

Readers are invited to calculate their own percentages!

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SIXTH REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ON THE POST OFFICE (1859), continued.

London Postal Districts

In most of the suburban parts of the Districts arrangements have been made for accelerating the deliveries and for giving additional facilities for posting; and, within six miles of London, a late evening delivery has been established.

In order to save the Letter Carriers from undue labour, this last delivery was at first accompanied with several restrictions; but the delivery is now made at all houses which are provided with Letter Boxes, or which, like hotels and retail shops, are usually open to the Letter Carriers, provided the letters be fully pre-paid.

Although there are already ten deliveries every day in London proper, I contemplate adding one more; an arrangement which, with the opening of the other new District Offices, the revision of the posts in the few rural parts of the suburbs which have not yet been dealt with, and some other minor alterations, will complete the scheme of London District improvement.

Stamping Machines

After many efforts some machines have at length been constructed which are found in practice to perform the work of stamping and obliterating more quickly and perfectly than by hand. Some of these machines have been in use for a considerable time, and many more are in course of construction.

Increase and Decrease of Correspondence in London.

The division of London into Postal Districts has brought to light some of the causes which there influence the increase and decrease of correspondence, and which could not have been ascertained had the circulation continued to be through one central office.

As may be supposed, the greatest variations are found in the two Central Districts and in the Western and the South Western; the first two being chiefly influenced by circumstances affecting the commercial community, and the two latter by the meeting of Parliament and by the London season.

A decrease in the London District correspondence occurred after Midsummer last year (as compared with the corresponding period in the previous year), and was apparently caused partly by the unusual number of persons who left town in consequence of the great heat of the weather; partly by the absence of the large number of election circulars posted in the previous summer; partly by a temporary check to trade, while this season in 1858 was one of unusual activity; and partly by the builders strike, by which many branches of trade were suspended.

Postal Effects of Parliamentary Elections.

As an example of the postal effect of a Parliamentary election in one of the metropolitan boroughs, it may be mentioned that the number of letters and circulars which passed through the post in reference to the Marlebone election was upwards of 70,000.

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THE LONDON L

From Charles Hahn of Winnetka, Illinois, comes a short listing of his London L items which is reproduced below. For the philatelists amongst readers, the note against Dubus 3 will be of interest.

(the illustrations of the Dubus types may be found on page 6 of Notebbok 12.)

Dubus 1.	1. 3.1869	Vera Cruz, Mexico	2/- adhesive
	7.10.1872	Italy	6d + 1d
	17.12.1870	Amsterdam *	4d
	13. 1.1873	Montpellier	4d
	31. 8.1874	Bordeaux	3d + 1d
	30.11.1874	Bost, Mass.	2 x 3d + 1d
Dubus 2.	2. 1.1871	Amsterdam*	4d + 1d
	12. 8.1875	Paris (L and 2 very thick)	3d + 2 x 1d
Dubus 3.	9. 3.1869	Azores	2 x 2d + 1/-+6d

The 6d is Gibbons Spec J76 used 4 days before the stated date of issue. This dating is confirmed by Azores and transit marks.

Dubus 6.	31.12.1870	Springfield,Mass	3d + 1d
	this struck in BLACK		
	25. 3.1874	Algiers	3d + 1d
	26. 5.1877	Milton, Mass	2d

All stamps are in red, except the one mentioned.

* these come from the same correspondence

Although nearly all the dates fall within the lmits given by Dubus, the condition of the type 3 with its late use in August '75 is worth noting, as is the use of the type 6 in RED which is two years later than the Dubus dating.

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KENSINGTON GRAVEL PITS...a note from Michael Champness

Mike English's interesting contribution on Kensington (Notebook 16, page 4) reminded me that I have a cover of 9th.March, 1858 backstamped with the Kensington Gravel Pits undated namestamp Type C4 in blue black.

The office was renamed Nottinghill Gate in 1857 and the P.O. guides after 1st.July that year omit all reference to the Gravel Pits, even though the undated namestamp in question is shown in the Proof Impression Books as issued 19.9.1857.



The office was certainly a small one - in 1854 the quarterly salary was only £3 and one Joseph Cook was the postmaster.

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POSTMARK NOTES, by Jeremy Greenwood.

Recently I was able to examine some proof impression books of the London E.C. Office which cover the period 1880 to date (intermittently). These are in the custody of Mr. A.R. de Righi, Curator of the National Postal Museum, by whose permission I was able to peruse these. They are different from the normal proof impression books as found in the Records Room of the Post Office in that they record the use to which each handstamp was put, together with many notes and memoranda.

The following extracts are based on these books.

Duplex



fig.1

Certain of the stamps used in the Pearson Hill ' machines ' had special uses. One (fig.1) with numeral 22 was for use on late fee letters received at the window at Mount Pleasant. Another, issued six months later on September 15th., 1880, with numeral 87, was for use on forward letters posted with stop letters at Chief Office. That with numeral 88 was for use in the Newspaper Branch at Mount Pleasant. Also two, with numerals 96 and 97, were to be made up each day, in the morning, for use as emergency handstamps. Stamps numbered 94 and 98 were issued to Mark Lane and Gracechurch St. respectively in May 1881.

On January 29th., 1894 a similar stamp with numeral 93 was issued for stamping correspondence posted at Waterloo for despatch by the Cape Mail.

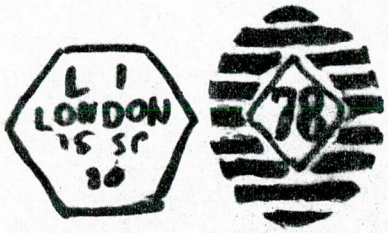


Fig 2

Another (fig 2) was issued in 1880 for cancelling foreign letters misposted in country boxes at Mark Lane, Gracechurch St. and Ludgate Circus branch offices after 6 p.m. and received at Mount Pleasant with letters from the provinces.

Squared Circle

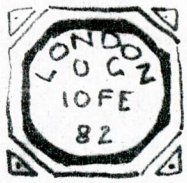
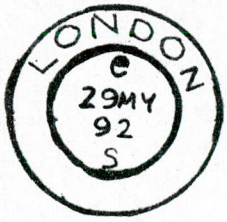


Fig 3.

Three stamps (fig.3) were issued for trial purposes on July 30th.,1880. This was presumably successful as on February 11th., 1882 another was issued for use on late fee and ship letters but not on foreign late fee letters.

Another series, with different codes, was for use in the E.C. office for the mid-day duty.

Circular Date Stamps.



Figs.

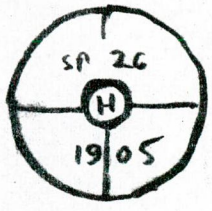


Fig6

Another type (fig 5) was issued there for stamping correspondence properly posted for despatch by the Sunday night mail. An identical handstamp, but code ' f ' was issued for the same purpose except that it was only for use on letters posted out of course.

The next type (fig 6) is familiar, but is mentioned here as it was transferred from the Foreign Branch to a section of the E.C. office in September 1905. The

central code letter was an indication of the service, the letters from which it was used to stamp viz. H for London and Holyhead, I for London and Queenstown and L for London and Liverpool. The mail was taken in special boxes along these routes from London.



Fig 7.



Fig 8



Fig 9

The next type (fig 7) has just the short note beside it ' new stamp for unpaid correspondence '.

Finally a handstamp (fig 8) that was used on late fee letters received from a special box from Manchester Station. This stamp was actually applied in the London E.C. office hence the E and C at the sides of this one which was issued in 1901. However, the previous types - without the E.C. - were also employed at London for the same duty, as was the scroll type Liverpool one.

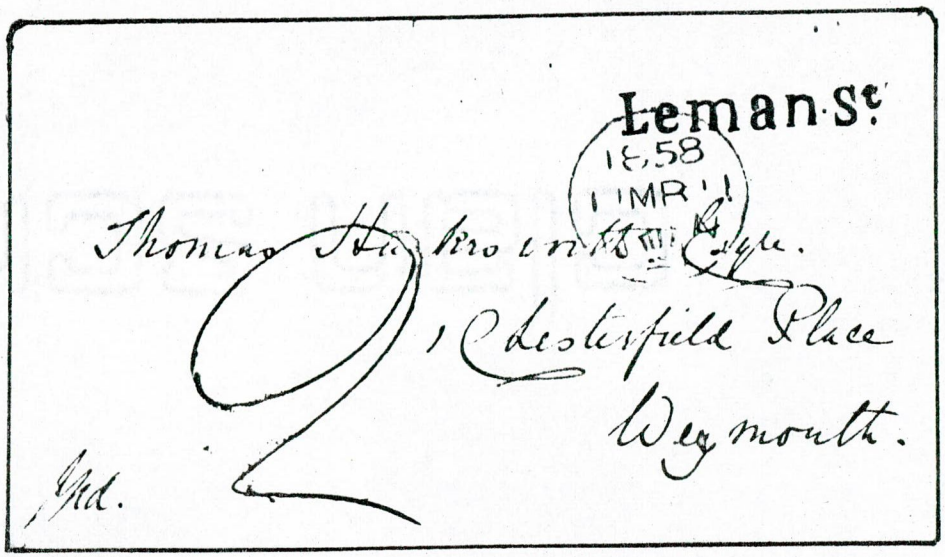
Trial Machine

Also illustrated in the proof book is an impression (fig 9) of " The Post Office rapid changing wheel dating stamp " (sic) submitted by Pritchard and Andrews of Ontario for trial in October 1891. The outcome of this was obviously unsuccessful but I have been unable to find any more details of this.

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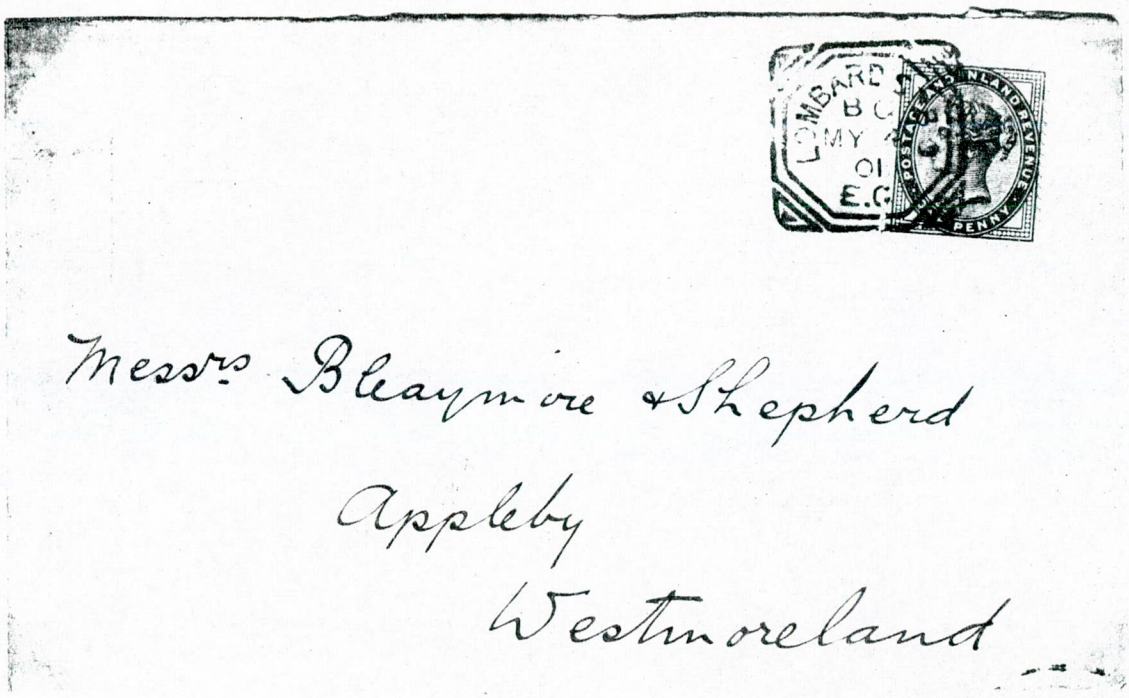
LEMAN ST.

Notebook No.15, page 14, asked about the office in Leman Street, and although no information as to location has been forthcoming, John Sharp sends a neat cover



showing the Leman Street handstamp together with the unpaid datestamp of 11th. March, 1858 on the front, together with a manuscript ' 2 ' in black ink. This is in spite of the sender's assurance, noted bottom left ' ppd '.

MASSEY TRIAL STAMPS AT LOMBARD ST B.O., by Derek Holliday



The squared circle postmark had a number of experimental forerunners, of which few appear to have offered any prospect of long term effective usage. The study of these combined datestamps and some of the odd late recordings is an example of interest in ' modern ' postal history.

The item reproduced above is the only experimental type to be used in a sub-office. There were two stamps issued on the 24th. April, 1882 and examples have been recorded up to December 1904. It has been suggested they did duty on late fee, extra fee, overseas and ordinary mail - which seems to cover most eventualities! At least one, and probably both handstamps, were recut in the late 1880's, this being shown by the slightly smaller letters in the name.

It should be remembered that whilst this mark was employed Lombard Street had also the more conventional squared circle, the double ring, the duplex(and others?) in brisk employment. Clearly anyone who takes up a study of only the postal markings of this very busy office will find much of interest.

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THE ' GERMAN ' HOSTER

There have been two comments received on the item illustrated in Notebook 16.

Charles Taylor reports a similar Hoster with " 29 " in the NW corner and with a " 2 " or " Z " in the lower SW corner. This is confirmed by Michael Goodman with an example of 15th.February 1886 with a "2" in the lower SW corner and a fair "29" (though it could be a "22" in the NW). In addition he mentions one dated 3rd. February 1886 and another 5th.March 1886 showing traces of numerals, with two further covers showing traces of numerals dated 11th.May 1886. However, the item shown in Notebook 16 if a very fine example at an early date without any blurring at the corners, is not a ' German ' Hoster, but adds another type to those described in Stitt Dibdens work on modern machine cancellations.

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WITH LOVE FROM FLO...by W.V. Evans



The vanity of some is amazing and the lady pictured above really took the postal biscuit when writing....

15/10/07

Dear Kit

I am sending you one of my P.C.'s trusting you will like it & let me know if you receive it alright. Should be very pleased to see you trusting you & Charlie are well love from Flo.....

One of Flo's curious vanities lies in assuming that she and her friends are so very well known to the Post Office since she manages to omit any reference to the address of Kit and Charlie, to say nothing of herself. Despite this the Post Office did cancel the ONE PENNY(???) adhesive she thoughfully placed on the card, though quite what the process was for the delivery or return of such an ill conceived message is something of a mystery. How it found its way into the Postal History field could yield some inter - esting speculations. Perhaps readers would care to offer thoughts on the matter?



CHARGE AND EXPLANATORY MARKS - an answer from Ian M. Warn.

In response to Mr. Sharp's letter, I can offer some information on the CH in circle stamp, which was used at BRISTOL by an Inspector dealing with unpaid or underpaid letters.

The type is known between 1858 and 1906 and in the first period was used on any letters apparently not conforming with regulations, so can be found with or without an accompanying charge or surcharge mark.

Later the use of the stamp progressed from simply indicating that a letter had been inspected to confirming that a charge was properly due. The latter condition is exemplified particularly on second rate mail from Europe between 1903 and 1906, where the surcharge is normally that of the Foreign or Inland Branch and would appear to require no further authority.

The stamp reproduced in ' Notebook ' shows the characteristic chamfer at the top right of the letter " H " which appears on all the examples seen with 20th. century dates. The latest date of use known to me is August 1906.

I believe the stamp was used at the Station Office at Temple Meads, where West & North Mails were sorted and forwarded, and it has been recorded on mail from Scotland to the West Country, on inward and outward Bristol letters and local material.

Foreign postcard rate to (and presumably from) Europe was 1d. from 1879 to 1922 so the reason for the surcharge could be associated with one of the many small infringements of the regulations, such as size of card, the addition of decorative material to the printed surface or the application of a photograph within a printed frame. Examples seen with the F.B. surcharge do not suggest any relationship between the letter beneath the FB and the country of origin.

As a footnote to this, Dr. Trapnell advises that he classifies five types of this mark which with its more general GB, as opposed to London, application will probably be the subject of a detailed article in " The British Mailcoach " in due course.

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OFFICE INITIAL STAMPS OF THE LONDON DISTRICT POST

The Michaels Champness and Goodman have kindly supplied additional data as a result of the article appearing in Notebook 16.

Fig.1	K^{sn}	Kensington	25. 8.1855
2	BW	Bagnigge Wells	19. 6.1856
5	S.H.	Stamford Hill	21. 8.1858
11	BRN	Brixton	8. 4.1857
12	C.X.	Charing Cross	13. 9.1854 - 11. 2.1854
13	CX	Charing Cross	2.12.1846 - 25. 1.1848
14	PB	Pimlico Branch	30. 7.1852 - 17.12.1853
15	SK	Southwark	26. 8.1854 - 24. 1.1856
16	SS	Sidmouth Street	2. 5.1853

continued at foot of page 13.....

WHAT THE AUCTIONS TELL..... REALISATIONS

R.L. G.B. Sale 15th. May, 1973

Lot 7 1840 Houses of Parliament envelope front dated 31st.Jan 1840 signed by Frederick Pollard MP for Huntingdon £ 20

158 Number in Cross, " 1 to 12 ", a set of twelve, all with good clear strikes, the stamps mainly fair to good £ 17

R.L.G.B. Sale 12th.September, 1973

Lot 466 Pearson Hill 1857 (17th.Sept) the very rare double handstamp cancellation (Alcock Fig.1056) with the index letter " M " a complete and fine strike used on cover (stained and flap torn) to Chiswick. Very scarce. £1050

467 Pearson Hill 1857 (21st.Sept) R.L. Ency type 30 a very fine and complete example on cover to Reigate, code letter " A " believed to be the earliest known date for this cancellation £ 240

471 Pearson Hill 1858 (9th.Apr.) a virtually complete strike of the very scarce " Opera Glass " a type on cover (slight crease) to Plymouth,believed to be the latest date of use £ 850

481 1885 wrapper with original document bearing 1884 ½d blue (perfin) cancelled by the rare "NPB" included in the London circle which is undated Hoster machine cancellation, fine £ 140

R.L.G.B. Sale 13th.December, 1973

Lot 1214 A rare experimental London type (Alcock's fig 1008) with " 89 " in diamond with oval surround of very short bars and framed " LONDON/30 JA 71 " datestamp used on piece of ½d lilac stamped postcard. Very scarce. £ 120

R.L.G.B. Sale 12th.February,1974

Lot 132 The rare Opera Glass type, a very fine almost complete strike on 1d. rose-red on envelope to Cheltenham £ 650

134 1857 (6th.Nov) R.L.Ency type 30, a very fine and complete example on cover to Bishop's Stortford,Herts,code letter 'A' £ 190

138 Rideout Machine cancellation with cds and numbered "1" in diamond in oval of bars on 1d rose-red on cover dated 26th Oct 1858 with code letters HS and a similir cover with "2" in diamond dated 22nd Oct 1859 with code letters "CR" £ 75

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

continued from page 12

Fig 18 P.S Portland Street 13. 7.1852

in addition to the original list are the undernoted....

5 SH (but without serifs) Stamford Hill 24. 5.1852

7 O.C.S. (but without serifs) Old Cavendish St. 2. 6.1856

18 P.S (but without serifs) Portland Street 16. 1.1847

21 PT Park Terrace 13. 3.1855

MAIL UNDELIVERED IN TIME OF WAR, by R.I. Johnson

This is the third supplement on the subject. It is put forward on the basis that all the handstruck marks illustrated were applied in London; in some cases the belief stems from the likelihood of the provision of services in London as a centre for mail for troops, prisoners of war and foreign mail in general.

This supplement can be divided into two sections:

(a) The Admiralty element

(b) The return of mail in bulk (as opposed to individual items on first suspension of services at the outbreak of war) due to a breakdown of communications in the course of a war.

Fig.1 This mark is recorded in Hopkin's " Wreck Covers ". My copy is on a letter addressed to a leading signalman on H.M.S. ' Good Hope ' posted in London on the 28th.September, 1914.



Fig.1

H.M.S. Good Hope was Admiral Craddock's flagship in the South Atlantic. Craddock took her round Cape Horn with H.M.S. Glasgow to continue the search for the Dresden. H.M.S. Good Hope was sunk with the loss of all hands (about 2000) in the battle off Coronel Chile on the 1st.November,1914 which preceded the Battle of the Falkland Islands.

The mark was probably applied late in 1914 or early in 1915. Violet ink.

Fig.2 The mark complements the second World War mark illustrated as fig.27 in Notebook 7. The mark is on a letter addressed to a stoker on H.M.S. Pheasant care of the G.P.O. London, which was posted in Liverpool on the 4th,March, 1917. I have not yet established the fate of H.M.S. Pheasant.

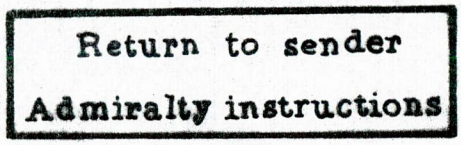


Fig.2

Figs. 3 & 4

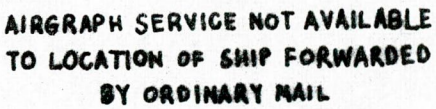


Fig 3.

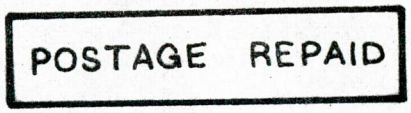


Fig 4.

These two marks are on the original of an airgraph form and explain why the original has survived. Equipment to reproduce airgraphs was not always available at each place named as the address on the forms or at every port. This was the reason for the service not being available. Fig.4 was applied once on the face of the form and for a second time over the two 1½d stamps paying the fee on the reverse of the form. Violet ink.

In this case the airgraph was addressed to a midshipman of the United States Navy stationed in Miami, Florida and was given to the Post Office for transmission late in September, 1942.

Fig.5 This manuscript endorsement is in red ink on the reverse of an envelope addressed to a stoker on H.M.S. Sheffield care of the G.P.O. London. The endorsement is explained by the fact that coalmining was a reserved occupation in the Second World War and the industry's manpower was supplemented by members of the armed forces on release as the need occured.

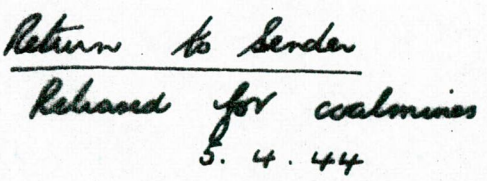


Fig.5

The letter was posted in December 1944. The date in the endorsement is the date of release. The endorsement may have been made at Chatham.

Fig.6 This mark is on the reverse of an envelope posted in Liverpool on the 27th.March,1945 to a member (British) of Stalag 357/R4. Violet ink.

The British Army captured Cologne on March 7th.,1945. The mark explains itself.

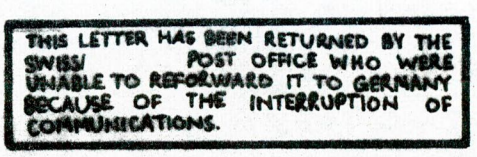


Fig.6

Fig.7 This mark is on a Post Office prisoner of war official 2½d.blue airmail letter form. The letter was posted in Petersfield on the 29th. August, 1943 and was addressed to an RAF officer in camp RG 5 PM 3100 in Italy. The Allies invaded Sicily in July 1943. The mark explains itself. Violet ink. The park that the Red Cross and the Swiss played in forwarding prisoner of was mail must be read elsewhere.

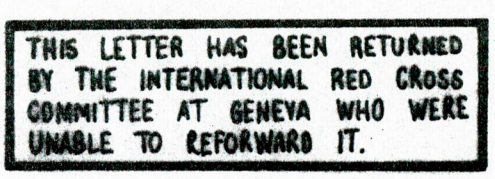


Fig.7

Fig.8 This mark is on a Post Office prisoner of war official 2½d blue airmail letter form. The letter was posted in Bournemouth on the 22nd. February,1945 & was addressed to a leading signalman in Stalag VIIIA in Germany. Violet ink.

The British army reached the Rhine February/March 1945.

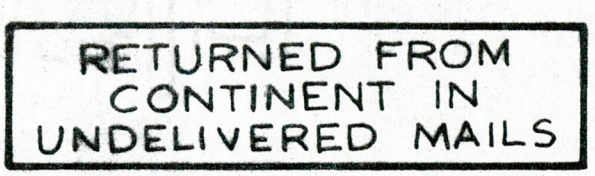


Fig. 8

Fig.9 This mark is on an ordinary envelope posted in Cardiff in December 1944 addressed to a sergeant in Stalag VIIIC. Violet ink. Same considerations as under fig.8.

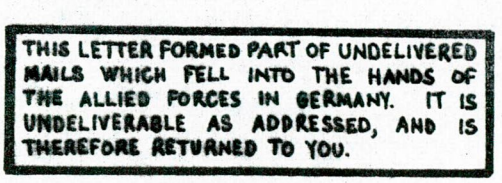


Fig.9

Fig.10 This mark is on a Post Office prisoner of war 3d. violet aircard posted on the 19th. February at Chesham addressed to a gunner in Fukuoka prisoner of war camp in Japan. Violet ink.

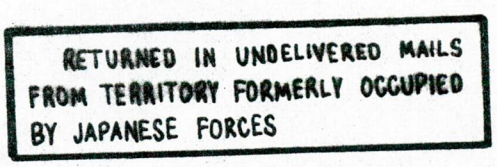


Fig.10

The aircard was delayed in by the Japanese. The atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on the 6th. August and the Japanese surrendered on the 14th. August, 1945. The mark was applied late in 1945.

Fig.11 This mark is on a Post Office prisoner of war 1½d brown aircard posted and addressed as under fig.10 but on the 25th., July, 1945. The essential difference between this and fig. 10 is that the latter card was handled by the Japanese, whereas this one in all probability never reached territory held by the Japanese.

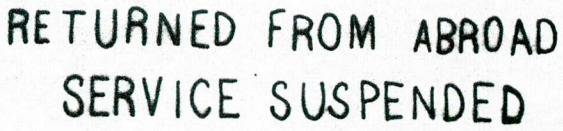


Fig.11

Fig.12 This mark is one a Post Office prisoner of war 1½d brown aircard posted in Andover on the 10th.August,1945 addressed to a member of the RAF imprisoned by the Japanese in Java.

Violet ink. This card did not leave the country.

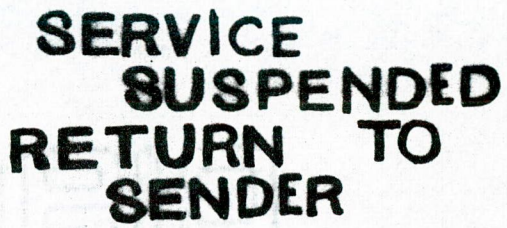


Fig.12

Fig.13 This is a machine mark in black ink on the reverse of a Post Office prisoner of war 2½d blue airletter addressed to an army driver in camp PG 53 Setti G7 and was posted in Newport, Isle of Wight on the 23rd.August, 1943. In this case I presume that the prisoners were moved anticipation of the advance of the Allies in Italy and that their mail was detained in the confusion of the advance.

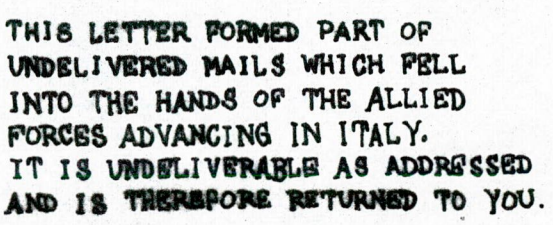


Fig.13

Fig.14 This mark is on a letter sent from an officer prisoner in 3 Oflag VIID in Germany to Bristol and the letter is an official German prisoner of war letter form. It was posted on the 13th. February,1945.

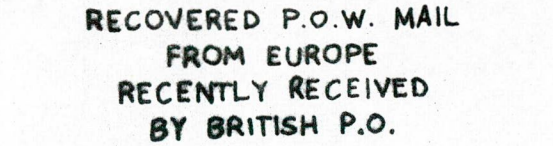


Fig.14

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

RJ 51

From Abbot Lutz comes this intriguing little item. The purpose, function, what you will is unknown hence the somewhat off title to this note.



Can a reader produce an example on cover or dated piece or tell its use; does it form part of a series ?

SUBURBAN OFFICE CANCELLATIONS, THE SUBSIDIARY CODES.

Group member W.V. Evans in commenting on the Suburban Handstamp duplex with a subsidiary number in the lower bars, quoted from Westley's " Postal Cancellations of London ". In a very short paragraph Westley says..." In the late nineties, a type, as shown in fig.134a, was introduced into a number of the Suburban Offices it had one of the lower bars cut away to admit a subsidiary number. I have not found any of these in the records(Editor's underlining), and cannot give any information about them ".

Fortunately, Leon Dubus has done a great deal of work on these - as part of the total - when preparing his " London Cancellations " and with his permission we list below an abstract of these marks. He indicates there is much still to be done and since it is, in part, when one might hope to have a reasonable amount of material, perhaps members can add to the record.

The dates included have been supplied by John Parmenter except where the year alone and these are quoted by Leon Dubus.

When describing the number of bars in the obliterator (apt title) one usually sees

3
4 4 which clearly takes up a great deal of room. In the schedule
3 the number of bars is recorded 3434, reading from the top in a clockwise direction. .... means no data in the original Dubus listing.

Size codes are the initials of the french as follows:

p	petit	mg	moins grand
p et l	petit et large	tg	tres grand
g	grand	gr et p	gros et petit

For the convenience of reporting,a reference number is given after the office details; please use this when giving dates of use or additional information.

Office No.	Office	Ref No.	Killer Bars	Subsidiary No. Size	No.	Dates Noted
4	Hampstead	1	3535	p	1	Aug 96 - Dec 02
		2	3535	p	2	Mr 98 - Apr 05
		3	....	p	3	
		4	....	p	4	
		5	3525	g	5	1898 - Oct 05
		6	3525	3	6	Dec 00 - Sep 06
7	Stoke Newington	7	2525	p	1	Mar 99
		8	....		2	
		9	....		3	
		10	2525	p	4	Aug 98 - Oct 03
8	West Brompton	11	3535		1	May 95 - Jan 01
		12	2525		2	1899 - Nov 00
		13	2525	p	3	1898 - Mar 99
		14	2424	g	3	1901 - Jun 06
		15	2525		4	1897 - Sep 04

Office No.	Office	Ref No.	Killer Bars	Subsidiary Size	Subsidiary No.	Dates Noted
9	Kentish Town	16	....		1	
		17	2525	p	2	Jun 01 - Sep 02
		18	2424	g	2	Mar 04 - Nov 05
10	South Kensington	19	2525	p	1	Mar 95 - May 95
		20	2525	l	1	Feb 99 - Jul 99
		21	2525	p	2	1893
		22	2525	l	2	98 - Dec 99
		23	3535	p	3	Feb 98
		24	3535	p	4	May 97 - Dec 98
		25	2525	p	2	Jul 98
		26	2525	g	5	Dec 99
		27	2525	p	6	Jun 97
		28	2525	g	6	1902 - Oct 04
		29	2525	p	7	1897 - Mar 99
		30	2525	p	8	Nov 97
		31	2525	p	9	1898
11	Chelsea	32	....	p	1	
		33	2525	p	2	Mar 98
		34	2525	p	3	Dec 97 - May 00
		35	2424	g	3	Mar 05 - Nov 05
		36	2525	p	4	Oct 95
		37	2525	l	4	Jan 98
		38	2525	p	5	Oct 96
		39	2525	g	5	Nov 98 - Feb 00
		40	2424	tg	5	Dec 03 - Oct 05
		41	2525	p	6	Dec 96
		42	2525	p	7	1897 - Aug 02
		43	2424	l	7	Mar 05 - May 05
12	Bow	44	3535	p	1	1898 - Jun 99
		45	3535	p	2	Oct 99 - 1902
		46	2424	tg	1	Aug 04 - Dec 04
		47	2424	tg	2	Jan 04
17	Leytonstone	48	2525	gr et p	1	Aug 95 - Jan 98
		49	2525	p	2	Jul 99 - Aug 02
		50	2525	g	1	1900 - Mar 04
		51	2424	g	2	Aug 04 - Jan 06
19	Finsbury Park	52	....		1	
		53	2525	p	2	Oct 01
		54	2424	l	2	Nov 03 - Feb 04
		55	....		3	
		56	2525		4	Jan 96 - Sep 04
20	Greenwich	57	2525		A	Aug 98 - Feb 00
		58	....		B	
		59	2525		C	
		60	2424		C	Mar 05 - Jan 07
23	Brockley	61	....		1	
		62	3535	g	2	Mar 01 - Oct 03
		63	2424	mg	2	Aug 04 - May 06

Office No.	Office	Ref No.	Killer Bars	Subsidiary Size	Subsidiary No.	Dates Noted
27	Clapham	64	2525	p	1	1899
		65	2525	g	1	Jul 99 - Sep 04
		66	2525	g	2	Feb 00 - Apr 05
		67	2525	p	3	Sep 98 - Sep 08
		68	2525	p	4	Apr 00 - Apr 01
		69	2424	l	4	Sep 05 - Oct 05
		70	2525	g	5	Jan 00 - Mar 06
29	Forest Gate	71	2525	p	1	Aug 99 - Oct 03
		72	2424	l	1	Apr 05 - Oct 06
		73	2525	p	2	Oct 04 - Jun 07
		74	2525		1	Dec 98
		75	2424	p	2	1899
		76	2424	g	2	1902 - Feb 03
		77	....		3	
		78	....		4	
		79	2424		5	1898
34	Earls Court	80	2525	p	1	Dec 00
		81	2525	p	2	May 01
		82	2525	g	2	1900
		83	2525	p	3	1898
		84	2525	g	3	Mar 02 - Dec 05
		85	2525	p	4	May 99 - Oct 05
		86	2525	p	5	Apr 00 - Jun 05
35	Bethnal Green	87	2525	p	1	1899 - Apr 01
		88	2424	g	1	1905 - Sep 09
		89	2525	p	2	1905
		90	2525	p	3	1901
38	Kensington	91	2525	p	1	Jun 97 - Oct 00
		92	2525	p	2	
50	Victoria Docks	93	2525		1	Nov 98
		94	2525		2	Feb 99
		95	2424		2	May 05 - 1908
53	Homerton	96	2525	p	1	Feb 01
		97	2424	g	1	1904
60	Kilburn	98	2525	p	1	Jul 97 - Jul 98
		99	2525	p	2	Mar 98
		100	2424	g	2	Apr 01 - Jul 02
		101	2525	p	3	Jan 98 - Sep 00
		102	2525	p	4	Jan 99
		103	2525		4	Sep 04
		104	2424	p	5	Dec 98 - Feb 02
		105	2424	g	5	Feb 01 - Jul 04
		106	2424	g	6	Nov 99 - Aug 00
		107	2525	g	7	Nov 99 - May 01
65	Camberwell	108	....		1	
		109	3535		2	1900 - Sep 07
		110	....		3	
		111	2424	p	4	Mar 03
		112	2424	g	4	Sep 04 - Jan 05

Office No.	Office	Ref No.	Killer Bars	Subsidiary No. Size	No.	Dates Noted
65	Camberwell	113	2525	g	5	1900 - Oct 05
66	Lewisham	114	....		1	
		115	2525		2	1900
		116	2525	p	3	1902 - May 03
		117	2323	tg	3	May 04 - Jun 04
		118	2525	g	4	Feb 04 - Mar 04
67	Peckham	119	....		1	
		120	....		2	
		121	3535		3	May 02
68	Kennington	122	3535	p	1	1906
		123			2	
		124	2424	p	3	1896
		125	2525	p	4	Jul 05 - Aug 06
		126	2525	p	5	1899 - Jul 05
76	New Cross	127	2424		1	Jun 04

The following have the B <u>under</u> the number, without a bar between.

5B	Holloway	128			1	
		129			2	
		130	3434		3	May 99
		131	3535		4	May 00 - 1904
6B	Clapton	132	3535	p	1	Jul 95 - Dec 08
8B	Hackney	133	3535	g	1	1899 - Mar 03
		134	3535	p	2	May 99
		135	2424	g	2	Sep 03 - Oct 04
11B	Poplar	136	2525	p	1	Oct 96 - 1899
		137	2525	p	2	1899 - Nov 00
		138	2525	g	2	Jan 04 - May 05
		139	2525	p	3	Jun 99 - 1902
21B	Rotherhithe	140			1	
		141			2	
		142	2424	g	3	Sep 05 - Mar 08
23B	Brixton	143	2525	p	1	Aug 98
26B	South Lambeth	144	2525	p	1	Jan 96 - Jan 97
		145	2525	p	2	Mar 97
		146	2525	p	3	Jan 96 - 1897
		147	2525	g	3	Mar 98 - 1899
27B	Stockwell	148			1	
		149	2525		2	
		150	2525		3	Apr 98 - Sep 98
34B	Acton	151	2525		1	Nov 00 - Dec 04
37B	Notting Hill	152			1	
		153			2	

Office No.	Office	Ref No.	Killer Bars	Subsidiary No. Size	No.	Dates Noted
37B	Notting Hill	154			3	
		155			4	
		156	3535	g	5	Mar 00
46B	Fulham	157			1	
		158			2	
		159	2525	p	3	Sep 99 - 1902
		160	2424	g	3	Jan 04 - Jul 05
		161	2525		4	1900 - Dec 02
		162	2525	p	4	Dec 98
		163	2424	g	4	May 04 - Aug 04
		164	2424	g	5	Dec 04 - Feb 05
53B	Upper Holloway	165			1	
		166	3535		2	Aug 96 - Mar 02
		167	2525	p	3	Aug 98

Readers are invited to report any of these they may have, albeit just one item.