

NOTEBOOK

EDITORIAL

Apart from being the first issue for 1975, this is also the first requiring the commercial price, although the cost has been kept as reasonable as possible by 'shopping around' and by finishing off the operation by hand. The question members must consider is whether they wish to retain offset printing and the obvious advantages it has in clarity of reproduction; the mix of offset and stencil is much less expensive but is less useful from a technical point. Several societies seem to cope quite happily with all stencil magazines, not the least the British Postmark Society. Since it will be your subscription paying and your use to determine the value, your views are of paramount importance. At present prices five issues a year will cost the Group at least £160 to print, over three times the previous cost. The sharp rise in paper prices at the end of last year distort the picture somewhat but the effect is much the same.

By now it is hoped all members will have their copy of John Parmenter's catalogue on the Horizontal Ovals. We mention this for two reasons. First there are, at the time of writing, but twenty two copies left and then the "sold" notice goes up; second, being a devil for hard work, John has sent the print master for the next catalogue and we have to resolve a problem of presentation. The A5 format has again been used, but should the catalogue be bound as the first, offered punched with two holes and with/without a suitable ring binder as the purchaser requires, or with flexible covers & with a slider binder. Sheer economics suggest twin hole, which also has the advantage of allowing the insertion of additional and correcting pages and the building up of much of a catalogue as the individual wants. Again the customer wants will largely determine the presentation and price, so your views are urgently needed.

And a reminder. The Annual General Meeting is on the 15th. March. For the benefit of those who have not attended before, all are assured that the informal session will be attempted for reports from Secretary and Treasurer and any discussion on the Group's activities, past, present and future will no doubt occupy most of the time. To encourage minimum chat, we are trying to get a guest speaker for the important part of the afternoon, namely for the study of the Railway Postal Markings. It has been suggested the Registration section of the programme be deferred till later and this seems most reasonable. As usual, members are asked to bring along anything they have which relates to the subject. A reminder that there is more to the subject than the very interesting portion which deals with T.P.O.s. Ward's book illustrates a number of marks connected with but never applied on railways.

PROGRAMME.....

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|---------------|--|
| May 17th: | London Exhibitions |
| August 9th: | Annual Auction |
| October 4th: | The Massey Trials and Squared Circles. |
| December 6th: | The Unpaid Stamps of London. |

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figs 1, 2, 3 and 5 on page 17 are taken from the P.H.S. publication No.17
" Early Stamp Machines ", by W.G. Stitt Dibden.

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VICTOR SWAN

It is with deep regret that I have to report the sudden death of Victor Swan on February 8th. at his home in Alton, Hants.

A generation of Collectors must have known Victor, as his interests covered such a wide field. He could talk as easily about Russian Locals or Chalons as the DLR shades on the Edward Fourpenny. During the '50s, he compiled and wrote his own Slogan Catalogues which were well praised by the Press. He made many important discoveries in his life time but I knew him best for his phenomenal knowledge of G.B. Postal History Cancells. He was an ardent researcher over the years and probed deep into many untouched areas. His work was always painstaking and thorough; his notes clear and concise. If he made a point, he could prove it with a detailed analytical study.

His death is not only a tragedy to his Family, but also a personal one to me and a sad loss to the purists of research in the Philatelic Field.

G.H.R. Homer - Wooff

COUNTRY SORTING OFFICES, by Barrie Jay

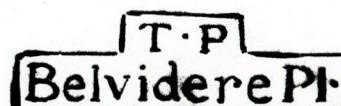
A list of Country Sorting Offices, which I compiled in 1971, was published in 'Notebook' No.6 (page 7). As a result of information received from several members of the LPH Group, it has been possible to enlarge this list and bring it up to date. Further additions or amendments will be most welcome.

Acton	1817 - 1840	Hounslow	1840 - 1848
Barnet	1838 - 1846	Islington	1815 - 1827
Bow	1813 - 1845	Kensington	1811 - 1846
Brentford	1811 - 1839	Kent Road	1811 - 1820
Bromley	1839 - 1846	Kingston	1848
Brompton	1813 - 1845	Mitcham	1830 - 1848
Camberwell	1812 - 1826	Mortlake	1815 - 1844
Camden Town	1824 - 1831	Newington	1815 - 1818
Carshalton	1841 - 1844	Paddington	1813 - 1846
Chigwell	1828 - 1840	Peckham	1823 - 1843
Clapham	1820 - 1840	Putney	1811 - 1838
Croydon	1842	Richmond	1810 - 1846
Denham	1823	Romford	1837 - 1849
Deptford	1812 - 1838	Sommerstown	1815 - 1819
Dulwich	1822 - 1848	South Lambeth	1827 - 1829
Edgware	1841	Stoke Newington	1814 - 1843
Edmonton	1812 - 1845	Stratford	1814 - 1842
Eltham	1836	Sydenham	1814 - 1846
Finchley	1815 - 1828	Tooting	1818 - 1842
Greenwich	1812 - 1846	Tottenham	1824 - 1849
Hackney	1820 - 1829	Walworth	1815 - 1828
Hammersmith	1812 - 1845	Wandsworth	1816 - 1828
Hampton	1814 - 1840	Whetstone	1832 - 1836
Hendon	1829	Woodford	1816 - 1821
Highgate	1815 - 1838	Woolwich	1814 - 1844

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BELVIDERE PLACE

John Adams sends a drawing of a further type of TP mark for this office. He writes "...it carries a Brumell fig. 105 in black dated 12 Nov 1836... it differs to your fig.1 somewhat...these markings cannot be common for either the General or Local Posts...the other type I have seen is a 2d paid, similar to the fig.2, struck in blue,dated 12.11.1849."



SOME NOTES ON E.C. BARRED OBLITERATORS, by John Parmenter

Prior to circulating a questionnaire on the E.C. District, I have cross checked Westley and Dubus against the P.O. Proof Books. The reasons for so doing are:-

1. Westley did not list many of the entries after the 1880's, Dubus relied on Westley for his dates of entry, as well as what was issued.
2. Dubus subdivides some of Westley's types; when this was done Dubus lists only what he has seen, whereas referring to the Proof Books and using Dubus' classification, a more complete list can be made.

Dubus type 5 Westley fig. 136

There are two sets in the records:-

- 22 Mar. 1858 - small letters
- 19 Apr. 1862 - large letters

However, the types with large letters were in use well before April 1862. There is too much variation of the letter size to effectively separate them for inclusion in the questionnaire.

Dubus type 8 Westley fig. 139

Westley does not include the early entry of number 92 in October 1860. Dubus thus states that 92 occurs prior to its entry in the Proof Books.

Dubus type 9 Westley figs. 140 and 149

D.9A



D.9B



D.9C

Dubus subtype A with 12mm diam. number circle:-

These are Dubus figs. 57 - 70. The following numbers are in the records: 1 - 10, 13, 15 - 18, 23, 56, 78. These were issued between Oct. 1862 and May 1870.

Dubus subtype A with 12.5mm diam. number circle:-

These are Dubus figs. 71 - 75. 1 and 26 of this type are entered in May 1892. In his type 9A, Dubus lists, in addition, the numbers 11, 12, 14, 63: these do not appear in the records.

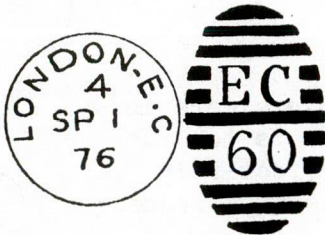
Dubus subtype 9B : none of these are entered in the records.

Dubus subtype 9C: there are three further subdivisions of this group:-

1. Numbers 1 - 50 issued between Feb. 1872 and Dec. 1873 with wide bars each side of the number circle.
2. Numbers 32, 33, 35, 36, 46, 50 - 64 issued between Feb. 1876 and Oct 1889 with narrow bars each side of the number circle.
3. Numbers 2, 35, 55, 58, 65 - 84 issued between Aug. 1897 and Oct. 1897, these have wide bars each side of the number circle. Only 2 and 35 overlap with group 1.

Dubus type 10 Westley does not figure this type

This does, in fact, occur in the records on 23 May 1902. It has full stops after the E. and C., unlike Dubus' illustration.

Dubus type 13 Westley fig. 142

Numbers 59 and 60 are in the records - neither Westley or Dubus lists them as being in the records. They were entered in June 1872.

Dubus type 17 Westley fig. 141

Dubus states the 86 listed by Westley as being entered on the 3rd. May 1870 should be included in his type 17. It has 5 bars at each side and therefore fits into type 18, (Westley fig. 145), which is Westley's allocation.

Dubus type 18 Westley fig.145

86 also occurs in this type - see note above.

Dubus type 22 Westley fig.147

59 and 60 do not occur in the records and probably were never issued. Westley confused them with his fig. 142/ Dubus type 13.

Dubus type 24 Westley does not figure them

Dubus states these do not occur in the records, whereas there are four entries:-

4 July 1894	A1, B1, C1, D1, L1
5 July 1894	F1, F2, G1, G2, H1, J1, K1, K2, K3, M1, N1, N2, N3.
May 1898	A2, B2, C2, K4, L2, M2, N4
Apr 1900	K2

This agrees with Brumell's list given by Dubus, except for one addition - N4 issued in May 1898.

Dubus type 29 Westley fig. 155

Westley, and therefore Dubus, list only the Proof Book entry for Nov. 1890; there were four further entries:-

Nov. 1890

- A 6 - 17, 19 - 24, 38 - 49.
- B 11 - 24, 41 - 49.
- C 11 - 16, 19 - 21, 23, 24, 41 - 49.
- D 12, 14 - 16, 46 - 49.
- E 12, 14 - 16, 46 - 49.

July 1894

- A 25 - 28, 33, 34, 51, 52, 57 - 59.

May 1898

- A 32, 36, 56, 65, 66, 72, 74 - 78, 81, 84.
- B 36, 39, 51, 84
- C 17 - 19, 36, 39, 40, 84.
- D 11, 13, 43 - 45, 84.
- E 11, 13, 43 - 45, 84.
- F 11 - 17, 43 - 49, 84.
- G 11 - 15, 43 - 47, 49.

Feb. 1900

- A 63, 64.
- B 63, 64.

Feb. 1901

- D 48.

Adding all of these together gives:-

- A 6 - 17, 19 - 28, 32 - 34, 36, 38 - 52, 56 - 60, 63 - 66, 72, 74 - 78, 81, 84.
- B 11 - 24, 36, 39 - 51, 63, 64, 84.
- C 11 - 24, 36, 39 - 49, 84.
- D 11 - 16, 43 - 49, 84.
- E 11 - 16, 43 - 49, 84.
- F 11 - 17, 43 - 49, 84.
- G 11 - 15, 43 - 47, 49.

The A 18 listed under Dubus type 29 is in fact Dubus type 30.

Additions to Dubus' type 29

- A 26, 27, 32, 36, 56, 64, 65.
- B 36, 39, 40, 50, 51.
- C 18, 39.
- D 11, 13, 43, 44, 45.
- E 11, 13, 44.
- F 12, 13, 14, 17, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49.
- G 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 43, 45, 46, 47, 49.

Numbers in Dubus' list, not in records

- A 18, this is type 30
- B 35 and E 24.

Dubus type 30 Westley does not figure this type



This does occur in the records, November 1890.

THE E.C. DISTRICT, a meeting report

Much of the notes contributed by John Parmenter formed the base for our January meeting, although material put on display was not confined to that area. We were careful to avoid too much of the Chief Office, Inland and Foreign Sections for although geographically correct would have made matters far too wide. As it was, one clear lesson to emerge is the need for several return visits and for possibly more precise defining of material when we next tackle an area.

A number of members had material which was regarded by the owners as 'not worth putting up', but from the way in which the specialists eagerly went through these little regarded collections, the view was not shared by all. In addition to these ad hoc study sessions, and displays of material relating to the items above, we were treated to a brilliant showing of Hosters which, among other delights, included the Type X of 14 rows of diamond shaped dots in the place of the lines. This effect, it was suggested, being achieved by the use of a saw or file across the lines, changing them into dots. Other displays on further aspects of the EC District served to stress the wide ranging material available.

When we tackle another London District, for this approach gives nearly everyone an opportunity to show, we shall have to be prepared for some very hard 'viewing'.

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THE LATE VICTOR SWAN

Mr. Homer - Wooff writes to say it was Victor's wish that he should dispose of the specialised collections on behalf of the Family.

As a start it is proposed to draw of a catalogue of the very extensive library built up over many years and containing a wealth of material. This will be sent, with prices, to members and the basis of first come, first served.

Following this, it may be possible to issue listings of sections or even individual items, again priced or through a special auction. This is to be discussed with Mr. Homer-Wooff soon and details will be announced shortly.

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LATE FEE OR NOT?...

was the heading given to a short note in the first issue of 'Notebook'. An 11/16ths. blue datestamp caused problems, being confused with the 5/8ths. Cresswell and an attributed morning duty in that color.

Three years later a direct quote from the Inland Branch notes by Dubus may clear the matter.

" Series 2 : 12 to 15, 52 to 65, 67 to 74 without date stamp. 12 in two types is found on covers going abroad, with or without LATE FEE.

It should be noted that Inland Branch LATE FEE covers have, at this time, a small blue circular date stamp struck on the back. These date stamps have two code letters. When the 12 obliterator is used, the first letter is M or N. The second letter is the day code from A to Z.

Covers without LATE FEE have a square date stamp with rounded cormers struck in black and without code letters.

13 is found mostly on LATE FEE covers. "



To deal with the blue backstamp first. As noted in the original article, the two items mentioned were franked with adhesives to the value of 2d., and cancelled with the 13; this would be LATE FEE PAID IN CASH. The blue stamps have ML/LONDON/MY-30/62 and NP/LONDON/JU-4/62 respectively.

Second point. The rounded corner square backstamp is also when the late fee is paid but IN CASH AND NO ADHESIVE ADDED TO THE COVER. To quote from an Order dated 3rd. October, 1858 from the Presidents Office of the Inland Branch.

" As from the 1st. November new date stamps come into use...the square stamp will supercede the one now used upon letters upon which a late fee of 6d. has been paid in money ".

The last three words define the matter clearly.

Hendy states the stamp being used in the evening between 7 and 7.30 p.m., which, as far as times of collection for late fee mail for overseas before 1865, was at the 6d. rate, the 1d. being for that at 7 p.m. (Dubus vol.2, p 277).

It might be illuminating for readers to inspect their examples of 12 and 13 cancellations to establish the other markings on the piece or cover and to have their findings recorded.

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THE APEX MARKS

Readers have been submitting a deal of data and as soon as Records and other sources have been consulted, it is proposed to issue a catalogue of these markings, which will no doubt bring forth a number of ' hitherto unrecorded ', as is almost inevitably the case!

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CONTROLLERS OFFICE CDS

Robert Johnson reports the cds illustrated in Notebook 19 can be found in the Post Office Proof Book, volume 46, page 358 as being issued to CO LPS GPO 15th. June, 1892.

REDIRECTION CHARGE

From a cover redirected twice comes another copy of the redirection 1. This item was addressed to South Street, Grosvenor Square and was sent on to an Elstree address. From thence back to Chesham Place, Belgrave Square, London.

The envelope carries a Plate 5 black, the step type framed T.P/Elstree and the 1.

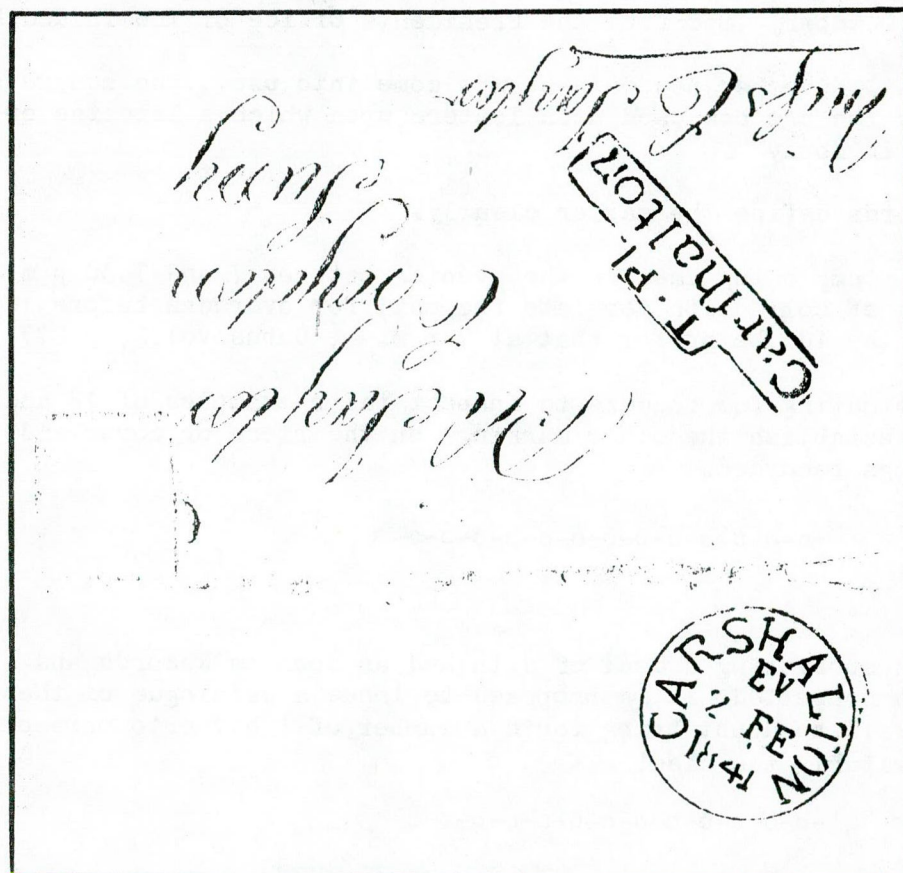
It is dated December 1840.



COUNTRY OFFICE STAMPS

George Crabb forwarded the item illustrated below, which in turn triggered off a request to Barrie Jay for a revised listing of these stamps. This appears on page 4.

This particular example is the more modest 28mm diameter, against the 31mm of the Brumell fig. 93 in his 'Local Posts of London'. Fig. 94, the earlier mark despite the numbering, is some 35mm diameter. When checking through Barrie Jay's list, readers might care to verify sizes in their collection and establish if the change was gradual or at a specific point in time. Meanwhile, these stamps have to be added to the growing list of items marked for research in the Proof Books.



SEVENTH REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL ON THE POST OFFICE (1860)

Improvements in the London Postal Service

In further accomplishment of the measures which for the last four or five years have been in progress for improving the postal service of London and its environs, the following among other changes were made last year :-

1. Within the " town limits ", an additional delivery of letters, with a collection preceding it from Receiving Offices and Pillar Boxes, causing upwards of 70,000 letters weekly to reach their destination an hour earlier.
2. An acceleration of the second delivery of the day, in connection with the altered time of arrival of the French and Irish Mails.
3. An acceleration of the deliveries generally both in London and the suburbs, with a provision for delivery at the large number of new houses built during the year, amounting to about 7,500.
4. Longer time has been given in some of the suburbs for posting letters for the Provincial Night Mails.
5. The new building in Vere Street, erected for the Chief Post Office in the Western District, and similar new offices in the South-Western and North-Eastern Districts have been completed and brought into use.

With few exceptions, the recommendations originally made, many years ago, for the improvement of the postal arrangements of the Metropolis, have now been carried into effect. These arrangements, with many details connected therewith, are stated in the Appendix to the Postmaster-General's Second Annual Report, and may be briefly enumerated as follows:-

1. The division of London and its suburbs into Postal Districts and the erection in each of a District Office.
2. An abolition of the distinction between General Post and London District Letter Carriers; a distinction which caused much waste of labour, and was attended with great inequality in the rate of wages, &c., without any corresponding inequality in the amount of labour.
3. An increase in the number of deliveries.
4. An acceleration of the General Post Delivery in and around London.
5. The complete disposal of local letters in the district in which they are posted; dispensing thereby with the necessity for their transmission, after collection, to a distant central office to be subsequently brought back to their original locality for delivery.
6. The employment of letter carriers to assist in the stamping and sorting duties.
7. The primary sortation of the provincial mails on the lines of railway, or in the country Post Offices.
8. The re-arrangement of the Mail Cart routes.
9. A general revision of the duties of the officers attached to the Circulation Department, by which additional accommodation has been secured to the public, and the duties of those employed have been equalized and placed on a much fairer footing than formerly.

In maintaining the earlier time for completing the morning General Post delivery in London, a difficulty is experienced from the practice, still persisted in by a portion of the public, of addressing letters to firms, without adding either the number of the house or even the name of the street. More than 20,000 letters now arrive daily, bearing only the name of an addressee with the simple addition of " London "; a practice which, besides retarding the sorting, not infrequently causes delay in their delivery.

Extension of Postal District System

The marked success which has attended the establishment of the Postal District system in London having suggested an extension of that system to some of the large provincial towns, it has been determined to apply it in the first instance

to Liverpool, and for this the necessary arrangements are in progress.

The whole number of letters, general and local, delivered in the London District last year, was 137 millions; being an increase of 6 per cent, on the number in 1859.

Registered Letters

The number of registered letters last year was nearly 1,500,000, or one registered letter to about 400 ordinary letters. This number shows an increase of about 6 per cent. on the previous year, while the increase in ordinary letters was only $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

The increase of registered letters in the London Local Post last year was yet greater; being upwards of 20 per cent.; but the proportion of such letters is still very small, being only one registered letter to about 1,700 ordinary London District letters. The increase was caused partly by the distribution of medals from the War Office, partly by the notices now served by the Commissioners of Police to the occupants of dilapidated buildings, and no doubt in part also by the new and more conspicuous caution plates, which were issued at the commencement of last year, and placed over the aperture of every letter box.

Notwithstanding this increase, however, it is still to be lamented that very many letters, containing coin and other valuable property, are posted in London and elsewhere, without being registered.

Two instances deserving special remark occurred lately. In one an uncrossed cheque for 650£. was sent in an unregistered letter from Edinburgh to London, and was stolen and cashed, though fortunately the thief was detected, and most of the money recovered. It is true that the cheque was made payable to order; but this precaution is obviously insufficient, since the name of the payee can readily be forged, as was done in this instance.

The subjoined case is still more to be lamented. An unregistered packet was sent from a country bank to a bank in London, containing among other money, two whole Bank of England notes of 100£. each. This packet was stolen.

The non-registration of such packets, whether attributable to heedlessness, or to a calculation that the risk of an ordinary letter is so small as to be more than counterbalanced by the registration fee, causes sore temptation, and is much to be regretted.

Several improvements have been made in the management of registered letters, so as, without any sacrifice of security, to save both time and labour. In effecting this, use in many of the larger offices is made of the manifold-writer.

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POST OFFICE COURIER

Are readers aware that the Post Office Staff Magazine ' Courier ' is available to anyone who cares to invest the princely sum of 30pence a year? Drop a note to the Editor, Courier, Ground Floor, 23 Howland Street, London, W1P 6HQ, stating which of the three London editions you want; H.Q.; London Postal Region; or London Telecoms Region. Each is identical except for the centre pages which have ' local ' news.

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THE TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS OF HER MAJESTY'S POST OF LONDON

contributed by Jeremy Greenwood

During the 16th. century the main job of the post of the City of London was to provide post horses for the officials of the Court. There was a great reluctance on the part of the inn-keepers to provide such horses owing to the ill - treatment which they often received from such persons riding post.

One particular incident in 1591 led to the Privy Council addressing the following letter to John Stanhope (Master of the Posts) and Thomas Wrothe, " We are informed by Thomas Eagles, Her Majesty's post for the City of London, that of late having occasion to furnish Sir John Norreis with post horses, one Calverley, with others, by his instigation did not only openly withstand his commission for the taking up of horses signed by us, but in more contempt did disobey and withstand a warrant signed by Her Majesty for the French Ambassador and threatened to beat the said Eagles and his servants in executing his said office. Their contemptible dealing they seem to maintain and justify (as is informed) by virtue of a privilege granted to the coiners in the Mint within the Tower, affirming they be coiners there, notwithstanding they keep hackney horses which they let to the dearest hire at their own pleasure, yet do deny to serve Her Majesty upon never so hasty and urgent an occasion, to the great hinderance of Her Majesty's services and to the utter undoing of the poor accustomed hackney-men, who are forced by this means to give over keeping horses and the suppliants enforced to take up horses in inns and such like places, to his own great danger and hinderance and to the great disquiet of such an ordinarily travel... and to enjoin the rest, by they coiners as is pretended or others, if you shall find they keep any horse to hire, not to refuse or resist the Post in taking up the said horse by virtue of a commission at any time directed unto him, as occasion shall be offered. And if any coiners shall resist hereafter or disobey, you shall commit to prison such as shall be found faulty therein ".

(Acts of the Privy Council 1591.119)

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Tony Clark has been posted abroad, in sense of place of employment rather than method of transmission!!

His new address is c/o Watermeyer, Legge, Piesold & Uhlmann,
P.O. Box 2496,
Kitwe,
Zambia.

John Parmenter suggests that if members want to send any completed enquiry returns they should use the following address:

c/o Esso Exploration Norway Inc.,
Post Box 560,
4001 Stavanger,
Norway.

It seems the practice in Norway is to employ the external letter boxes of an American type, which have several disadvantages, not the least being their size.

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LONDON " SKELETON " POSTMARKS, by George Crabb

Our Editor has reminded me that in my monograph which the British Postmark Society published in 1960, in which I attempted to establish a method of recording the " Temporary ", " Travelling " or " Skeleton " handstamp marks by types, I included a short list of those found used in London. He also said it would be a good idea to bring it up to date, with which I agree. Whilst I have not been slavishly recording all skeleton handstamp marks since that date, I can add to the list and hope other members will further improve the record.

Once Receiving House marks were introduced and multiplied through the 2d. and 1d. Posts, a vast field of collecting was opened up which these days is unmanageable as a whole, even without the restriction imposed by current prices for those marks which are now in pounds for what was previously shillings.

It is inevitable, I think, that one day we, or later collectors, will be dealing with London by Postal Districts or by such areas as " Fulham " or even " Streets " i.e. " Fleet Street " & environs, the Strand or Oxford Street. A skeleton for " Battersea SW " could then be a much more desirable item for a particular collector than one for, say, " South Norwood ".

In my original list I called London Skeletons Type 10 and these were described as " London office at top and district letters generally at bottom " and I listed the only eight examples I had seen. At this date I can add another 22, some of which are further dates of usage of those in the original list.

Actually the use of skeleton handstamps in London has increased in recent years for a reason which did not occur so frequently in the late 1800's and early 1900's. To explain this I will recount an incident which happened to me one hot summer Saturday afternoon.

I was happily (or maybe unhappily!) engaged in some " gardening " when my wife called my from the house " The police want you on the phone! " With mixed feelings and even forgetting to remove ' those ' shoes, I went to the phone to hear a voice ask my name and inform me that it was the C.I.D. East Grinstead and did I know someone named ' F.H. ' and what sort of chap was he ? I replied I did know him and as far as I was concerned he was 100% o.k. - why did they ask? ' Well, the voice replied, ' we've picked him up at a sub Post-Office at East Grinstead. " At which I said " Ah, yes, I'll tell you what happened. " The voice, rather surprised said " Well, what ? ".

" This chap turned up at a sub Post-Office at which a robbery recently had taken place, presented a batch of stamped envelopes and asked the sub postmaster to postmark them. "

" Yes, that's exactly what did happen, but what is it all about? "

I then explained to the ' law ' that no doubt the handstamp at the sub office had been stolen to be used on the postal orders taken at the same time and all the poor bloke wanted was examples of the temporary handstamp which had been supplied to the sub office, for no other reason than to add to his collection of postmarks, or to that of other collector friends. The ' voice ' was surprisingly convinced by my ready explanation and volunteered that the subpostmaster was suspicious and whilst keeping my friend waiting had called the CID. Thus I got my friend ' F.H. ' off the hook. What dangers are involved in innocently operating on the fringe of philately!

The frequency of use of skeleton datestamps following robberies at post offices is staggeringly large over a number of years. Currently there are up to 15 hand stamps in use for this particular reason. Few examples of these postmarks come

to collectors in the normal mail as being sub-office handstamps are mainly used for internal matters, savings books, telegrams, postal orders and, of course, registered mail. Friend ' F.H. ' therefore, at the risk of being ' pulled in ' on each 'operation ' was doing philately in general, and local postmark collectors in particular, a good turn in obtaining examples of these shortlived postmarks.

The present list of London Skeletons is given below and we will be pleased to publish additions as notified. Illustrated overleaf are one or two typical examples of London Skeletons, the last two of 1963 and 1964 examples following robberies, obtained from me by friend ' F.H. '.

<u>Inscription</u>	<u>diam (mm)</u>	<u>date used</u>
Barbican B.O./EC	32	24. 5.1895
Battersea/SW	31	1. 8.1899 27. 2.1900 5. 4.1903 22-27. 8.1903 8-21. 9.1903
Registered/47 Cannon St	33	27. 1.1900
Catford SO/SE	34	8.10.1902
East Dulwich/SE	34	5- 6. 8.1900
East Sheen SW14	29	6.12.1919
Forest Hill/SE	36	14. 4.1899
Greenwixh/SE	32	2. 5.1914
Lewisham SO SE13	29	23. 3.1920
London/D0 78 A	30	1. 5.1906
New Southgate/N	32	4- 6. 5.1909 9. 9.1909
Parliament St/B0	32	12. 5.1919
South Norwood	32	20-30. 1.1901
Stoke Newington High St/N	37	20. 4.1912
Waterloo Stn S Rly/SE1	28	10. 5.1929
Wilton Rd/Hudson Pce.SW1	30	31.10.1934
Wimbledon/SW	30	1.11.1899

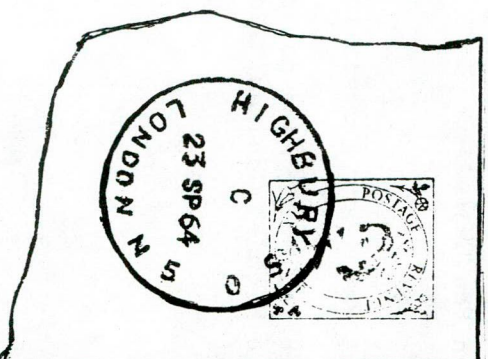
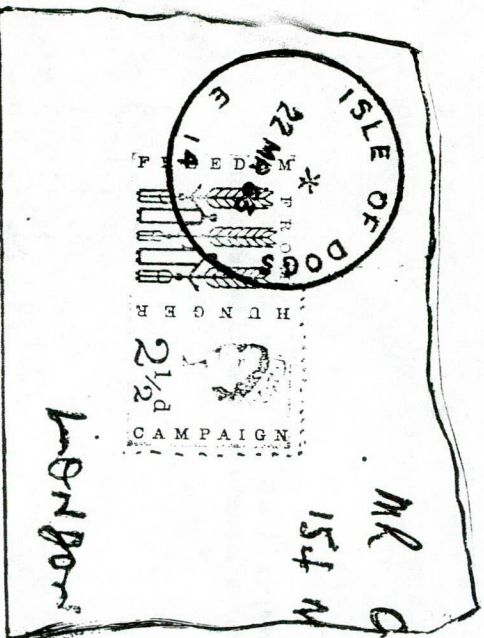
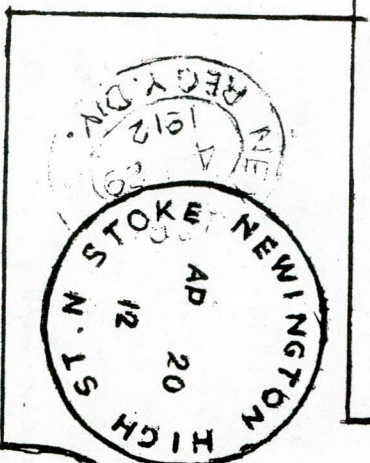
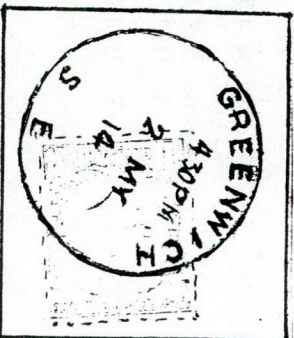
The war and post war years are not included.

In addition, the following were noted at Stampex this year, as they were in the stock of one Michael Goodman. Not having a measure, the diam were not recorded. (Ed.)

Battersea/SW	19.11.1898 15. 7.1899 16. 1.1901 29. 6.1903 29. 6.1906
New Cross SO	13. 8.1910
New Southgate/N	10. 8.1909

n.b. always carry a mm rule!

Mr. A. W. St. Leonard
 7 St. Leonard Road
 Golders Green



THE BICKERDIKE MACHINE CANCELLATION, by Derek Holliday

These machines were made by the Canadian Postal Supply Co. They are a descendant of the machine invented by the Ethridge Bros., as are the Boston and Imperial Mail Marking machines. According to Stitt Dibden four machines were installed for trials in September 1897. Two different dies were used, both V crown R, one with large serif letters, the other with small sans serif letters. The trials continued until late November and were satisfactory but the Post Office did not consider that, at the price asked, they would be economic.

The serif die is known used on October 6, 8, 12, 15 and November 23, 26 (fig.1)

The sans-serif die on October 5, 6, 7, 12, 15, 18 and on a dummy item dated Nov 25 with a flag die from the Imperial Mail Marking machine from what was probably a comparative trial. This die is slightly scarcer (fig.2).

Six machines were brought into use at the London E.C. office on 24 April 1899. An example from machine No.2 is known for this date. The machines were initially on hire and their purchase was not authorised until 24 July, 1900 (fig.3). Two machines were also in use in Liverpool, the earliest recorded date being December 20, 1899.

The dies used were similar to the sans serif V crown R of the trials. They are differentiated by a number (1 - 6) between the lower pair of cancelling bars under the crown.

There is one copy known dated 25 Sep 1899 with a sans serif V crown R without and number and with a different design of crown (fig.4).

Although Queen Victoria died on January 22, 1901 these dies remained in use until at least 12th June. As an interim measure, the old dies were modified by altering the V to an E but retaining the Victorian crown. This was carried out in London in June; the latest date recorded for the V is the 12th and the earliest for the E is the 29th. These dies had a very short life in this form, the latest date recorded being July 24. Dated examples exist for machines 1, 2, 3 and 6 and an undated piece for number 4. It is, therefore, almost certain that machine 5 was altered also, unless it was under repair at the time.

The new dies with the Edward crown were brought into use from July 29. These also had distinguishing numbers (fig.5).

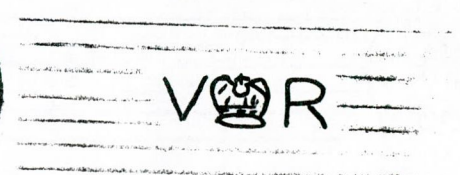


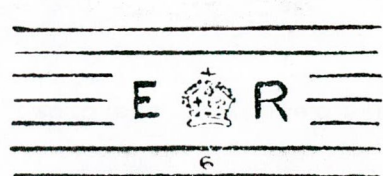
fig.1

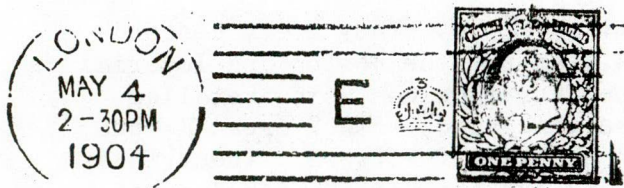
fig.2

fig.3

fig.4

fig.5



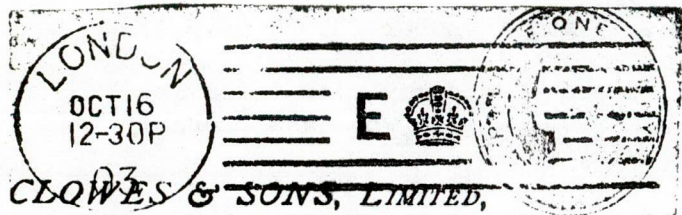


Type A

Narrow crown (7mm)

Small pearls; 10 at left, 8 at right.

Wide spacing of bars 5/6 at left.



Types B - F, all have 6 pearls on each side. Types B - D have even spacing of the bars.

Type B

Wide crown (9mm) but narrow base



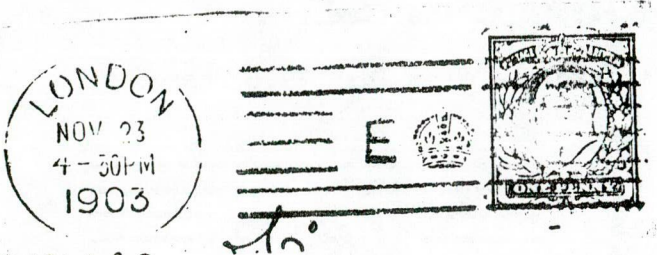
Type C

Wide crown (9mm) but wider base



Type D

Crown (8mm)

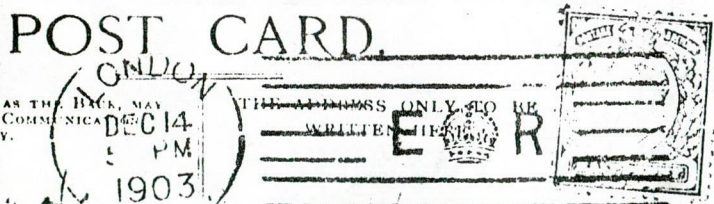


Types E & F have close spacing of bars 2/3 and 5/6

Type E

Crown (8mm)

Line extends under only 5 of the pearls on the left.



Type F

Crown (7½mm)

Smaller line at base than type E

The measurement of the crown is ACROSS its widest part.

Another set of E crown R dies replaced these. The crowns were different and there were no distinguishing numbers. This was done in October and November 1903. There is some overlap of usage with the previous type. Six different (shown on page 18 as types A to F) have been found.

The machines carried on until 1 August 1907 when they were scrapped as they were worn out.

The Liverpool machines are recorded using the V crown R to August 28 1901 but by October 14 they had ER and they continued with these dies without further change until at least July 14, 1905.

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

A COLORFULL PIECE

In Notebook No.20 an item bearing TP/S was featured which yielded two replies.

The first suggested, rather ingeniously, it was the result of a partial strike of the normal unframed step type with the TP above and a capital S underneath appearing with the rest of the stamp, for some reason, not appearing.

Strange to relate, the whimsical suggestion of a Twopenny Post Ship letter receives support from no less an authority than Alcock & Holland's 1940 edition of ' British Postmarks '.

..." It is known on a letter of 1836 written in Portsmouth Harbour and addressed to the Cape of Good Hope. It may indicate a letter received by the London Twopenny Post that needed to be forwarded to the Ship Letter Office"...

Since there are now at least two recorded usages the possibility of a specifically designed stamp seems to be strengthened.

The item formerly with Gibbons has now been sold and should a reader be the new owner we shall be very pleased to hear of it.

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

THE LONDON EXCHANGE

Wanted: London District Post No.26 (Beckenham) to buy or exchange other numbers. Also Twopenny Post items from Beckenham, Bromley, Chislehurst and West Wickham.....R.N. Haffner, 91 Hazelwood Road, Oxted, Surrey

Wanted: to purchase (or exchange for German material on or off cover) London Penny/Twopenny Post or covers with a London E.C. or W.C. cancellation. Payment by UK cheque....E. Shaw, 2082 Uetersen/Holst.,Hafenstrasse 8, West Germany.

Wanted: London District Postmarks on adhesives and or covers..details to Gero Schmitz-Le Hanne, 4150 Krefeld 1, Jentgesallee 53, West Germany (Chairman of the Study Group Great Britain of the German Philatelic Soc.)

On Loan: " The Post Office etc 1857 " streets,districts ,maps..invaluable
" The Instructions for the Guidance of Letter Receivers in the UK 1846 "

both PACKED with useful information and available on loan from....

M.R. Hewlett, The Hermitage, Village of Box, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 9DT.

THE 1905 POSTMARKS OF LONDON E.C., (continued), by Jeremy Greenwood.

Another series of stamps recorded, with their uses, in the London E.C. proof impression books, is illustrated on the right. These had different numbers at the base and were employed for the following duties.



- 3 correspondence left behind from the caller division.
- 4 provincial mails from collections 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. Also for those letters left behind from the 8.30 p.m. delivery.
- 5 provincial mails 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.
- 8 - 10 reserve for the foreign mails.
- 12 provincial mails 2.15 p.m.
- 13 provincial mails 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.
- 14 charge takers stamps.
- 15 correspondence left behind each delivery.
- 17 on official mail-back stamping by the states postman.
- 18 - 22 on arrivals from District Offices.
- 23 - 24 on provincial bundles.
- 25 correspondence from blind duty, between 12 midnight and 5 a.m., date before month.
- 26 express duty.
- 30 - 40 foreign mails; for Sunday duty, the date and month positions were reversed.
34 was lost in 1908 and a substitute made
- 41 reposted correspondence.
- 42 charge takers 7.15 a.m. to 10.15 a.m. also on reposted letters 12.15 a.m. to 8.30 p.m.
- 43 on correspondence left behind after the second delivery from caller division - 10.15 a.m.
also correspondence by the charge taker, with dead clock time.
- 44 provincial mails.
- 45 provincial mails for 2nd and 3rd deliveries, then on pouches.
- 46 Irish mail at 8.30 p.m.
reversed date and month for use on provincial bundles.
- 47 provincial mails from 8.30 a.m.
- 48 provincial mail at 8.30 p.m. then by charge takers - pre dated - no clock time shown.
- H from pouches, 8 p.m. collection.
- M sealing table for broken packets.
- N reposted letters out of 1.15 p.m. collection.

The above details were compiled from proof books by kind permission of the Curator of the National Postal Museum, Mr. A.R. de Righi.

