

Number 110

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## NOTEBOOK

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### EDITORIAL

The end of a year which saw the celebration of our twenty first anniversary meeting with a pair of superb displays by Martin Willcocks and Barrie Jay and a celebratory lunch. The only regret is that the remaining meetings in the year were not as well supported by members.

The programme for 1994 is enclosed. The plan of taking the four quarters of London to provide the theme for four of the meetings has been well received. This leaves us all with the opportunity of providing material for display, be it one item or one thousand.

There is enough material in hand for much of the next issue of Notebook but after that it is up to you, as an individual, to send some copy to the Editor. As can be seen from the contents listing, a number of members do send material but rather more do not. There must be some treasure you can share, some bit of research or unpublished note with which to beguile other members. Please provide.



## CHANGES IN THE TWO PENNY POST 1801

The abstract from Post Office Records is given in its entirety. There is so much useful information for so many aspects of activity, it is feared a precis might omit that very piece of information for which a reader has been searching.

The report deals with proposed changes in the Establishment, i.e. staffing levels and duties, although their Lordships, the Post Masters General are not satisfied. The detail afforded by the Two Penny Post Comptroller does give much useful detail and explains a number of the methods employed in the Office for handling the mail in London in 1801.

Source : Post 42 Volume 20 page 484 ref 60F of 1801

General Post Office  
Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 1801

My Lords,

I have earnestly endeavoured to understand the enclosed Paper from the Comptrollers of the TwoPenny Post, drawn in obedience to your Lordships commands, to state their Opinion "as to what further Aid has become necessary to the due execution of the business of that Department, in the nature of a permanent Addition, and the Ground and Reasons of such Addition, distinguishing the old and new Extra Duties under their respective Heads, and arranging the whole comparatively".

The Statement is elaborate, and I am not certain that I do comprehend the whole of it, in that distinct manner, which is alone attainable where one is more conversant with the detail of the Duties than I can possibly be in this Case.

It appears that the Sums paid for Extra Duty in the Penny Post Office, previous to the 5<sup>th</sup> April last amounted to £496..16.. pr year.

That immediately after the 5<sup>th</sup>.April, on the commencement of a Two Penny Rate, the Extra Duty expense was encreased in the proportion of £637 pr year, which added to the former Extra Duty amounts to (at the rate of) £1,133..16 pr year.

The particulars of the New Extra Duties are stated in page 4 of the Paper enclosed - In Pages 3 & 5 the Comptrollers set forth what they think the Addition ought to be to their Establishment, to enable them to meet the exigencies of the Service hitherto performed, and paid for, under the (perhaps) objectionable head of Extra Duty.

I am much mortified to find that the expense is estimated at £1,310..16- being an increase upon the old & new Extra Duties of £176..10 pr year.

In the first Statement which the Comptroller presented to me, the increase was £200 more than that which the present Statement exhibits.

The remedy thus appears to be worse than the Decrease. ( ? Ed )

I sincerely wish I were competent to an Opinion upon the Expediency and Necessity of this great Additional Aid to the Twopenny Post Department.

One thing is extremely evident, that the change of the rate from One penny to Two pence, could not encrease the Duties of that office, and altho' the Late



extension of the General Post Delivery has not much Lessened the business of the Letter Carriers in the Two Penny Post, it has afforded an argument rather for reducing the encreasing the Expense. It is also to be observed that all this additional Aid has been afforded in a Quarter when (Take it altogether) there is less duty than in any other Quarter of the year.

I am constrained to these observations which are made more with a view to dispute the discretion of the Comptrollers in the enlarging (and at such a moment) the Assistance of that department, than to call into question either their motives or their Character.

In the several Interviews I have had with these gentlemen I have acted in strict conformity to your Lordships Directions, and in unison with my own earnest Disposition to keep down the Expenses of every Department, and this in particular where the charge of Management is already so large, compared with its Revenue.

The Comptrollers however assure me, in the most serious manner, that nothing short of the Establishment they have now proposed can secure the Public Confidence, its Accommodation or the real Interests of the Revenue, nor do they stop here, but in the large paragraph of their Report, they intimate that, from the great extension of the Buildings in the immediate Vicinity of London, more additional Letter Carriers will be wanted.

The number of Officers which they state to be necessary to put upon the Establishment is as under

	(	Two Sub Sorters	
These are now	(	3 Letter Carriers at 15/- pr week	
employed and paid	(	5 - ditto - at 14/- d°	
by "Extra Duty"	(	2 - ditto - at 3/6 d°	
	(	3 Porters at 15/- d°	
		£	
		4 Sorters at 60 pr year	
		4 Stampers at 60 - d°	

In these last Duties, Officers must be appointed,

I beg however to observe that I consider the Salary of Sixty Pounds pr year as proposed to the four Stampers is more than absolutely necessary.

The Comptrollers propose 16\*/- pr week for the Porters or Messengers, and I should think that £50 per year for the Stampers would be ample, and it seems to presence of difference between them and the Sorters.

Your Lordships, having the papers before you, with the small aid of these imperfect remarks, can decide whether the proposed Establishment in so full extent be necessary to be adopted, under the express Opinion of the Comptrollers that it is so necessary; whether that Establishment being more expensive than the extra Duty Bill, should be preferred to it, or whether an establishment short of that Proposed by these Gentlemen shall be consented to.

If their Plan can be carried into execution, it will appear that the Additional Tax on the Penny Post alone, producing £17,000 pr year will cost the Government £814 pr year to Collect, while the expense in all the other Departments of collecting £143,000 cannot I presume at the utmost exceed an additional £500 pr ann, exclusive of a Gratuity, which it will be necessary (as usual) to give to the Surveyors of £50 each for preparing the List of Distances, for all the Postmasters &c &c.



I am sorry to feel it a duty to repeat that no part of this Extra Duty in the first instance ought to have been imposed, until the reasons had been previously submitted to Your Lordships, and whatever may be the result of the present Discussion, it must I presume be an order to that Department never to incur any Material Expense without first submitting it to you.

I am happy to say no other of Our Officers have ever thought of incurring expense until they were authorized so to do by the previous approbation of the Postmaster General.

I have called upon the Comptrollers to exhibit the progress of the Revenue and Expenditure of the Penny Post from the 5<sup>th</sup> April 1794 when it was new modelled, to the 5<sup>th</sup> April last, when the additional rate was laid on.

I enclose that Statement which affords opportunity for much observation.

The Gross Revenue has increased from £20,805 to £38,442, the Net Revenue has more than doubled itself, the Salaries are encreased about one third, & the Weekly Wages nearly twothirds within the Period of 7 years.

It must however be admitted that it is scarcely fair to take the first year as a ground for comparison, for that was a year of experiment and it was intended to be the criterion of what the new establishment ought to be.

The Riding Work explains itself, the Extra Duty has been sufficiently canvassed, and the encrease of the "Tenths" of course bear a proportion to the encreased Revenue.

The "Tenths" are one penny for every Ten Letters collected by the Receivers in Town, in addition to their Salaries. This Custom has been coeval\* with the Establishment of the Penny Post, and on its new formation in 1794 the Lords of the Treasury concurred with the Post-Master General on the propriety of its continuance.

I am not however persuaded that as Vacancies happen it may not be better to pay a certain sum to each Receiver for his trouble, than thus to appropriate a tenth part of what is due to the Revenue to that purpose more especially as I have never heard any strong argument in favor of paying the Tenths.

All which is humbly submitted / by / F. Freeling

\* coeval = contemporaneous with

.....

(The response from their Lordships is a separate and lengthy minute - quite unusual)

Sept 16

We must suspend our decision on these papers till Mr Freeling shall have procured the further details of information which were mentioned at our yesterdays Board, in order to satisfy us that the duties are so much increased as to warrant the proposed augmentions.

In the meantime it cannot be conceal'd that there prevails at the Treasury, in Parliament, & in the public, a very general belief of that the current expense at the Twopenny Post Office is already amply sufficient for the duties. - We do not adopt that opinion; - but on the other hand we want grounds to satisfy us that a great increase in the establishment is necessary either for the public accommodation



or for the interest of the Revenue - "Prima facie" it is somewhat singular that the inclosed representation should come forward so very immediately after an increase of salaries; and also after a decrease of services: for it must not be omitted that some of our late arrangements respecting the general delivery have tended (& with some expense) to lessen the Twopenny Post delivery.

Under these impressions we were looking with due jealousy to the extra expenses prior to the last twelve months, which amounted to nearly 500£ pr Year. When, at once, an addition is made of 637£ without our consent & indeed without any notice - We called with some dissatisfaction for an account of these charges amounting to 1133£: & we are answered\* that it will be expedient to swell them still further, & that the whole must be 1310£.

\*written as "concerned" in Post 42 summary

It may be so ! - but assuredly such an addition cannot be warranted, nor indeed can it be proposed to the Treasury without a very serious preparatory examination.

A (Auckland) S (Spencer) (The joint Post Masters General)

It is a small point of remark but the 6<sup>th</sup> page of the enclosed report says that "the taxes being now marked by a stamp instead of the pen as before the duty has so much increase'd as to require four additional Stampers". Is it meant that the operation of stamping is more tedious than that of writing -

.....

Addressed to F. Freeling

Two Py Post Office  
Sept. 5 1801

Dear Sir

In obedience to the Post Master Generals commands we have to state our opinion as to what farther aid has become necessary to the due execution of the business of this department in the nature of a permanent addition, and the ground and reasons of such addition, which, distinguishing the Old and new extra Duties under their respective heads and arranging the whole comparatively, is as follows

Old Extra Duties, being those not inserted in a late report

	Amount pr Annum £ S D
2 Subsorters employed at the Westminster Office in Assisting to sort the letters for the 7 o'clock Delivery, in consequence of the pressure of Duty at that period, Each pr Week 4 <sup>s</sup> /6 <sup>d</sup> , being pr Annum	23, 8, 0
2 Supernumerary Letter carriers employed as Extra Subsorters, at pr Week each *8/- and in conveying the Missorted letters at night from Office to Office at p/week each *6/- together pr week *14/-	72, 16, 0
2 Letter carriers employed every evening at 8 o'clock for conveying the Country Letter Bags from Gerrard Street to the Mail Coaches in Picadilly and Oxford Street at pr week each 3/- or together pr Annum	15, 12, 0
7 Letter carriers employed on as many Walks in assisting the regular Letter carriers, Three of the Second Class at *15/- pr Week and Four of the Third Class at *14/- each being in all pr Week £4, 4, 0 or pr Annum	262, 12, 0

(schedule continued page 6)



2 Assistants to Country Letter Carriers each pr Week *3/6 <sup>d</sup> or together pr. Annum	18,, 4,, 0
---	------------

3 Supernumerary Letter carriers acting as Porters, Two at pr Week each *14/- and one pr Week *9/- and an additional allowance of £8 pr Annum, being together pr Annum	104,, 4,, 0 ----- 496,, 16,, 0
---	--------------------------------------

Further Aid necessary to the Due execution of the business of this  
Department in the nature of a Permanent addition.

	Amount pr Annum £    S    D
The duty now performed by the Two Subsorters as stated on the opposite page might be performed by Two of the Four new Sorters hereafter to be named, in addition to their other duty, and thus two distinct Officers for this particular service would be unnecessary.	

2 Subsorters - If the Two Supernumerary Letter carriers alluded to on the opposite side were to be appointed Sub-Sorters. They might perform the inter- change of Missorted letters as a part of their regular duty, and thus any extra pay for that service would be unnecessary Suppose each at a salary of £60, being the lowest now allowed to any Officer, the expense would be pr Annum	120,, 0,, 0
--	-------------

The conveyance of the Country letter bags to the Mail Coaches might be  
performed by two of the additional Stampers as a part of their regular  
duty and by this means any extra pay for that service might also be avoided.

7 Letters carriers, Three of the Second Class at *15/- pr Week each and Four of the Third Class at *14/- pr Week each, being together pr Annum, as at present	262,, 12,, 0
---	--------------

2 Assistants to Country Letter carriers each pr Week *3/6 <sup>s</sup> , as at present, or pr Annum in all	18,, 4,, 0
---	------------

3 Porters for various services within the Offices, two for the Chief Office and one for the Westminster, each pr Week suppose *16/- presuming that allowance, tho more than their present pay, may not be considered as un- reasonable, or too high, for Officers who have no promotion to expect, This will be pr Annum	124,, 16,, 0 ----- 525,, 12,, 0
--	---------------------------------------

New Extra Duties, being those explained in a Late Report

(4)	Amount pr Annum
4 Sorters of Transferable Charges each pr Week £1,, 1,, - or together pr Annum	218,, 8,, 0
2 Sorters employed in Inspecting and Checking the Town Collections in the Evening at the Chief Office each pr Week 6*/- or together pr Annum	31,, 4,, 0

(schedule continued page 7)



4 Stampers employed in Stamping the Tax on Unpaid letters, and assisting in the General Stamping Duties. Two at p <sup>r</sup> Week each "9/- and Two at "4/6 <sup>d</sup> each being together p <sup>r</sup> Annum	70,, 4,, 0
1 Extra Messenger employed in conveying the Letters from Lombard Street to Gerrard Street every evening at 6 o'clock, at p <sup>r</sup> Week "12/- or p <sup>r</sup> Annum	31,, 4,, 0
16 Letter carriers of the 4 o'clock Delivery employed in assisting to Deliver at 7 and collect at 8 o'clock, by Extra Duty, at p <sup>r</sup> Week each "6/- being together p <sup>r</sup> Annum	249,, 12,, 0
1 Additional Letter carrier at Clapham at p <sup>r</sup> Week "14/- is p <sup>r</sup> Annum	36,, 8,, 0
	-----
	637,, 0,, 0
Add to which the Amount of Old Extra Duties as on the other side	496,, 16,, 0
	-----
And the Total expense for the Duties is ;	1133,, 16,, 0

Further Aid necessary to the Due execution of the business of the Department in the nature of a Permanent addition,

	Amount p <sup>r</sup> Annum £ S D
4 Sorters to assist in the general Duties of the Office, in which to be included the sorting of the Transferable Charges and Inspecting and Checking the Town collections, Likewise the Duty now performed by the Two Subsorters as mentioned under the head of Old extra Duties, which will render any separate allowances for the Two latter duties unnecessary, Each p <sup>r</sup> Annum being together	240,, 0,, 0
4 Stampers to assist in the General Stamping Duties including that of the Taxes, Likewise the Duty on conveying the bags to the Mail Coaches now performed by Two Letter carriers as stated under the head of Old Extra Duties and by which any extra pay for that Duty may be avoided, Each at p <sup>r</sup> Annum £60 will be together	240,, 0,, 0
The extra conveyance of letters to Gerrard Street may be performed by one of the Country Riders on his return to Town at a less expense than the present by £12,, 10 p <sup>r</sup> Annum, Mr Holding to whom we have applied, having stated that altho the distance exceeds Two miles he will undertake it as Two Miles of Riding Work, at the usual allowance of £9,, 7,, p <sup>r</sup> Mile, which will be in all p <sup>r</sup> Annum	18,, 14,, 0
As no other means of providing for the opposite Duties equally convenient with the present, without incurring a much greater expense, occurs to us, we recommend a continuance of this Extra Duty, and in that case the expense will remain at p <sup>r</sup> Annum	249,, 12,, 0
1 Additional Letter carrier at Clapham at p <sup>r</sup> Week "14/-	36,, 8,, 0
	-----
	784,, 14,, 0
To which add the Amount of Permanent addition as on the other side	525,, 12,, 0
	-----
And the Total expense of Further aid as a Permanent addition will be	1310,, 6,, 0
From which Deduct the present expense	1133,, 16,, 0
	-----
And the additional expense to be incurred by the above augmentation to the Establishment will be	176,, 10,, 0



But, that the preceding statement of Permanent addition may be more distinctly seen at one view, we repeat it in the following order, omitting, for the reasons which will hereafter appear(?), the article of Extra conveyance and that of the 16 Letter carriers,

			£	S	D
4 Sorters each	at £60 p <sup>r</sup> Annum		240,,	0,,	0
2 Subsorters	D <sup>o</sup> £60 Do		120,,	0,,	0
4 Stampers	D <sup>o</sup> £60 D <sup>o</sup>		240,,	0,,	0
3 Letter carriers	D <sup>o</sup> s15/- p <sup>r</sup> Week is p <sup>r</sup> Annum		117,,	0,,	0
5 Do	D <sup>o</sup> s14/- D <sup>o</sup>	D <sup>o</sup>	182,,	0,,	0
2 D <sup>o</sup>	D <sup>o</sup> s3/6 D <sup>o</sup>	D <sup>o</sup>	18,,	4,,	0
3 Porters	D <sup>o</sup> s16/- D <sup>o</sup>	D <sup>o</sup>	124,,	16,,	0
			-----		
			1042,,	0,,	0

The ground and reasons for this addition are as follows.

That in consequence of the increase of Duty and that the Duty in General may be performed with the necessary regularity and dispatch, and in order that by correctness and expedition in the delivery of the letters the Public confidence in this office, so much increased of Late and by which the revenue has been so much benefited, may be preserved and extended, the duty hitherto performed by extra attendance is material and necessary.

That part which was performed by the Four Sorters, namely, the previous sorting of the Transferable Charges, tended to this advantage that is expedited considerably the dispatch of the letters for delivery and by those charged being twice sorted at the Office where first collected instead of once at each Office, errors in the first sorting were corrected in the second, and the Missending and detaining many letters of each collection was prevented. But if this Duty should be provided for by the establishments these officers need not be confined to sorting the Transferable Charges but they may assist in the General Duties and wherever their services are most requisite.

That of the two Subsorters is to assist (one at each Office) in the General Sorting Duties. The Two Letter carriers before mentioned have, in consequence of the great increase of letters, been a long time employed in these duties.

For a considerable time past the Stamping Duty has also been more than the number of Stampers provided by the Establishment were adequate to, and Extra hands have in consequence been employed to assist them, but the Taxes being now marked by a Stamp, instead of the Pen as before, the duty has so much increased as to require four additional Stampers and we have accordingly inserted that number in the foregoing list.

Of the Three Letter carriers at Fifteen Shillings p<sup>r</sup> Week, two are for walks which by the Establishment were unprovided with Letter carriers of that Class but which now require them. One of those Walks in the District extending from Russell Street Bloomsbury to the One Mile Stone on the Hampstead Road and the other consists of Putney, Roehampton and Wimbledon. The Third Letter carrier is the Lewisham Assistant who like the above is paid from the incidents accounts but is inserted here in consequence of his employ being now permanent.

The Five Letter carriers at Fourteen Shillings p<sup>r</sup> Week are for the various Town and County walks (including that of Clapham) where there were originally but two Letter carriers but where in consequence of the increase of Inhabitants and Correspondence a third has become necessary.



The two at Three and Sixpence p<sup>r</sup> week are employed in the Country and districts which are thinly inhabited and which lay so wide and inconvenient that the Principal Letter carriers without this Assistance could not deliver the letters in the more populous parts in time to be answered by return of Post. Those persons having leisure time from their other occupations which this fills up and living on the spot are thereby enabled to perform this service at so low a rate.

The Three Porters are requisite for offices partly of a Domestick and partly as an Official nature - two at the Chief Office, to sweep and dust the Sorting and other Offices, carry coals to the different apartments, set up candles and various occupations of this kind, and among those more official, to convey the several parcels of letters passing in the morning and evening to and from the Inland Office; to pack and unpack the Saddle Bags &c &c which together furnishes ample employ for two men. The other is at the Westminster Office where the opening and shutting (of) the Office, cleaning Lamps and Candlesticks, Assisting to clean the Officers, and similar duties, furnish employ for one person. Those who now perform the Office of Porters are, at the Chief Office, two infirm Letter carriers who, tho not competent to a Letter carrier's duty, are qualified for this service. And the person employed at the Westminster Office is one selected from many of the Letter carriers being of decent behaviour and appearance and believed to be perfectly honest.

The Assistance of the Sixteen Four o'clock Letter carriers to Deliver at 7 and Collect at 8, is not merely essential but indispensable, as without their assistance the letters dispatched at 7 could not be all delivered the same evening and if delayed till next morning would interfere with the Morning Delivery and answers to such as were from the Country could not be received till the evening of that day. Having given this subject every possible consideration we are opinion that it is not advisable to recommend any addition to the number of Letter carriers for the performance of this Duty as a less number than Sixteen in general would be insufficient and at other times of the day their services would not be wanting. The Duty is also liable to vary as to the precise number of hands it may require and to the particular walks requiring them according as the pressure is more or less on one evening, or on one Walk than another. But besides this being the most convenient method it is by far the less expensive than that of appointing an additional number of Letter carriers adequate to the same service. We therefore have omitted to invest in the foregoing List any article providing for Extra deliveries and Collections in question, as we have also for that of the Extra Conveyance of letters to Gerrard Street, which may be mainly an addition of Two Miles of Riding Work to the present Rides.

We cannot however but add that we feel some satisfaction in the result of our deliberations as to the number of Officers necessary for the Duties in question as we were at first of opinion that more were requisite to be added to the establishment than we now find the following arrangement are equal to the performance of those Duties.

The Arrangement is that the Four new Sorters and two Subsorters shall, beside their attendance Three days in the Week agreeably to the present custom, attend also during the sorting of the Letters from the Country in the Morning and Evening on the other Three days, that is from 10 to 12 in the Morning and from 5 to 7 in the Evening, which will completely provide for the Duties now performed by the Two Sorters and Two Subsorters in extra attendance of an evening, and will render any further expense for those duties unnecessary, whilst it will of great benefit at the pressure of the Morning duty which at present has not the advantage of any extra aid.

By similar means we also provide for the Conveyance of the missorted letters and for that of the Bags from the Westminster Office to the Mail-Coaches, that is by proposing that it may be a part of the regular Duty of the New Subsorters



to convey from Office to office the Missorted letters, and that of the Stampers to convey to the Mail-Coaches the Country letter bags. For altho the present Officers would, and perhaps with some reason, consider such Extra Services with extra pay a hardship, yet new Officers coming to Duties already so arranged could have no reason for complaint, for to them no part of such Duty could be considered as an extra. Thus all additional expense for those duties will likewise be avoided whilst they may be performed with equal facility and regularity as at present.

A small saving of twelve pounds two shillings <sup>per</sup> Annum will also arise from the extra conveyance being performed by one of the returning Riders instead of the Post messenger, as before stated.

In addition to the advantage already described as arising from the extra Duty the following is pointed out by Mr Harris, one of the most experienced and best informed Officers, as being of the most essential kind, namely, that by the aid of the two extra officers in the Evening, in checking the Town receivers Paid letters the Revenue is in that part effectively guarded from loss to which it was before greatly exposed. But the recent regulation of Taxing the letters by a Stamp which has relieved the openers of bags from that occupation contributes materially to the same effect throughout the day and at both offices; as those Officers are now less hurried in checking the Paid letters than they were and can therefore pay more attention to that very important part of their Duty than they formerly could; and this advantage will also be embraced by the intended augmentation.

With regard to the Ten additional Letter carriers named in the foregoing List, it may be proper to observe that as that addition will be merely such to the establishment of the office and not to the Actual number at present employed it will not provide for any future increase of duty, and altho at present the number employed is sufficient we have reason to think that in the ensuing Winter, in consequence of the great increase of Inhabitants at Holloway on the Road between Islington and Highgate and the same in the neighbourhood of Walworth, an additional letter carrier at Islington and one at Walworth will be necessary, and it may also be expected that, shortly, two or three additional hands will be requisite in the district between Tottenham Court Road and Grays Inn Lane, where a great number of New Buildings are erecting and many are already finished and inhabited.

Respectfully submitting the above  
we remain

Dear Sir

Your Ob<sup>dt</sup> H<sup>le</sup> Serv<sup>ts</sup>

C. Walcot

Comp<sup>tr</sup>

F. Johnson

Dept Comp<sup>tr</sup>

.....

#### SUNDAY OPENING POST OFFICE

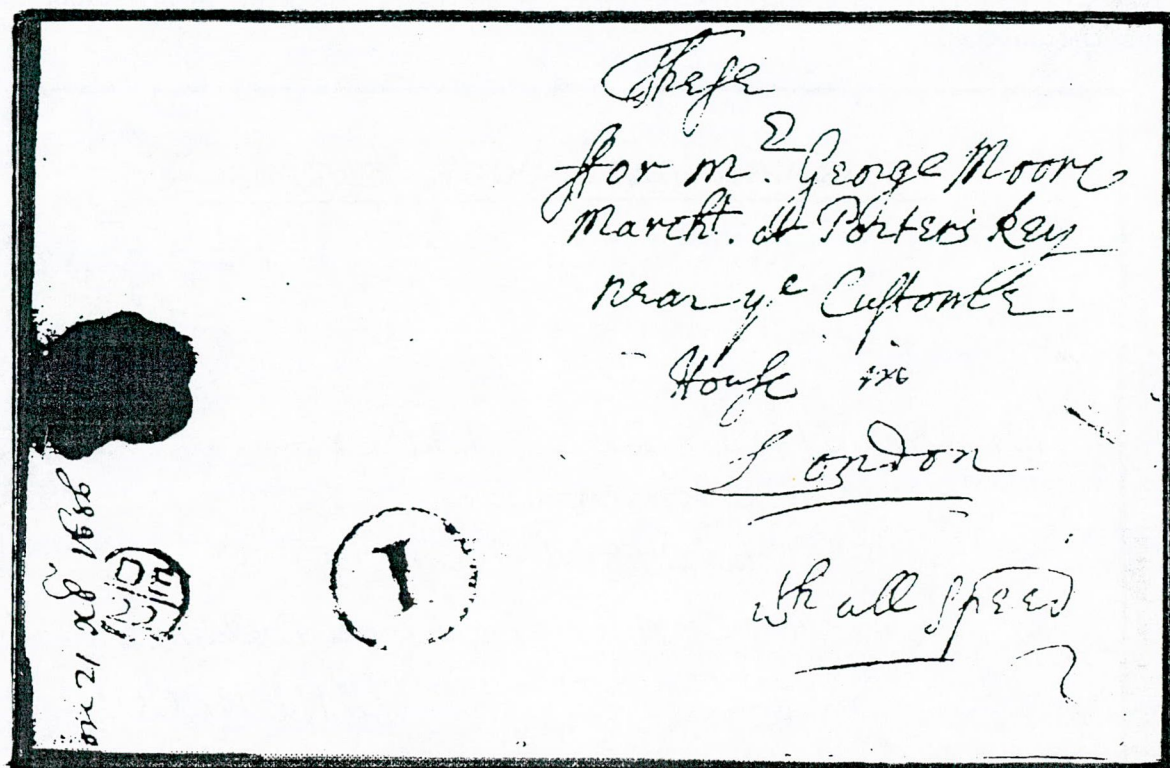
The opening and closing of post offices may not be regarded by all postal historians as of major significance, unless it happened 150 years ago and the records are so incomplete that no one is quite certain of the date. Happily, there are today some who keep an eye on these matters for both now and the future.

For the record, Carshalton had a change on the 22nd November, 1993 when the ROSEHILL office moved to the local CO-OP with the added benefit of Sunday opening. Your Editor has not yet had cause to sample the delights of this facility but wonders how many post offices operate on Sunday. Do let him know if you are aware of any, particularly if in the London area.



A LONDON GENERAL POST RECEIVER'S HANDSTAMP  
that probably isn't

from Barrie Jay



In the British County Catalogue, volume 3 (London), page 15, one of the handstamps included for General Post Receivers is an 'I' of 1686. This was listed because of its occurrence on this cover, dated 21st. December, 1686, from Worplesdon (Surrey) to London. It was originally believed this letter must have been carried privately to London, where it was then posted in a General Post Receiving House. Two other covers with this handstamp are known to exist and the appearance of one of these in the Cavendish Auction No. 476, lot 1194, made me review the situation.

It seems probable Robert Tayer, the Chichester postmaster, farmed the Chichester road and used the 'Hot Cross Bun' handstamp on letters from various places between Worplesdon, Farnham and Chichester between 1681 and 1686<sup>1</sup>. This handstamp would appear to have been used to identify letters farmed by Tayer. In December 1686 and in 1687 the 'I' in circle handstamp is known to have been used on letters from Worplesdon to London and it is reasonable to assume this handstamp was used by Tayer to identify letters from this area of Surrey and Sussex.

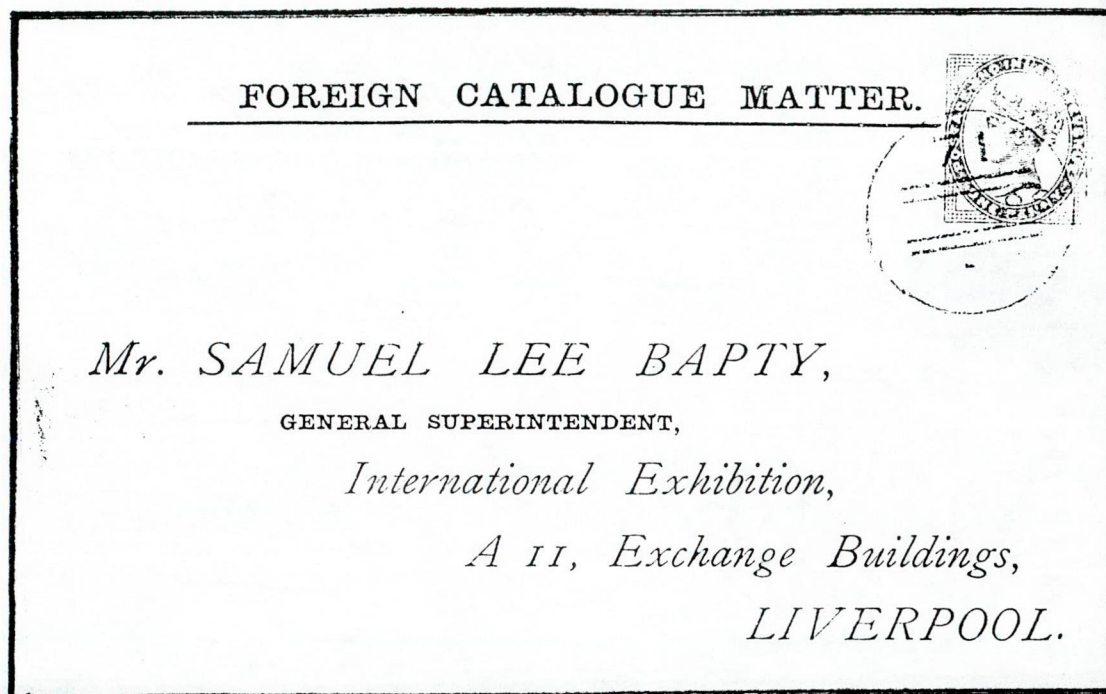
<sup>1</sup> For further information see: Greenwood J., - The Posts of Sussex, the Chichester Branch 1250-1840 and Willcocks R.M., - England's Postal History



**A BOOKPOST PRE CANCEL ?**

At the 1992 auction the item illustrated below was offered. It is quite different from items hitherto recorded.

The cancellation comprises the usual format. "71" is shown as Catford in the list of 1874 but the remaining information, or rather lack of information, is what creates the interest.



The date is confined to the year "96" with no code, other than what appears to be an almost horizontal very short line. The envelope with "FOREIGN CATALOGUE MATTER" and the pre-printed address, coupled with the dating by year only, strongly suggests a precancellation of a batch of covers, subsequently filled with whatever the sender wished to distribute. This belief is supported by the presence of most of the gum on the flap, albeit badly cracked plus no trace whatsoever of sealing marks on the envelope. In short, this item had not been sent through the post.

Can readers produce examples of similar precancels using this halfpenny book post and perhaps offer alternative theories [or better proof] of the function of this cancellation.

.....

RLD SEALING

from Keith Romig

By way of demonstrating postal history is *now*, the piece shown on page 13, sent in by Keith Romig, shows a stamp with two interesting points. In place of the time slot appears to be a duty identification code "4DD" and "RLD SEALING" as the duty/department involved. A letter from the Customer Care section at Mount Pleasant provided the official explanation.



" I have been in touch with City of London who tell me that when a registered item is received broken or damaged in the Registered Letter Division (RLD) it has to be resealed and the duty doing this work is called the RLD Sealing Duty. The 4DD is an old title for the Fourth Division Distribution Officer. "



.....

#### POST OFFICE RECORDS

Despite the number of postal history collectors in the London area, it is disappointing to see how few use the facilities now available at Post Office Records, or rather Archives to be accurate.

The research room at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London EC1 (rear of Mount Pleasant) requires a very short walk from numerous bus services which connect with London main line stations (no nonsense about inadequate public transport services please). Once inside, there are comfortable chairs and large tables upon which to place material for study. Staff are MOST helpful and although many of the original documents are on micro film, the viewing system is simple to operate. There are many originals which can be inspected directly and specific files are usually available upon request. DO get your name in the visitors book.



R. L. B. P

from Andrew Ford

The polybagged damaged item accompanied an official (undated) letter, this explaining the curious "R.L.B.P." appearing in the date stamp : "Returned Letter (Office) / Broken Packet". There would seem to have been either a print error or change in telephone number.

South Western District Office,  
53 Nine Elms Lane,  
London,  
S.W.8 5BB

Dear Postal Customer,

I regret that the enclosed item of mail has been damaged during handling by the Postal Service.

I appreciate the importance of your mail and you have every right to expect it to be delivered in a good condition.

Although every effort is made to prevent damage to mail, occasionally this does occur because of the rapid processing methods which are used. The Post Office is constantly striving to eliminate even these rare incidents of damage.

Please accept my sincere apologies for the damage and any inconvenience you may be caused.

Yours faithfully,

Manager,  
Customer Services Branch  
(RLO/Broken Packet)  
01-239 6049 }

(damaged item is shown on the insert page opposite )

.....

#### BANGKOK GOLD MEDAL WINNER

We are pleased to record one of our Belgium members, Leon H. Janssen, secured a Gold (with 92 points) at the Bangkok International Exhibition in October this year. The subject, "The Packetletter Per Royal Mail 1679-1853".

.....



Lonsdale Garage Ltd,  
42-46 Lonsdale Road,

SW13 9JS



20p  
add

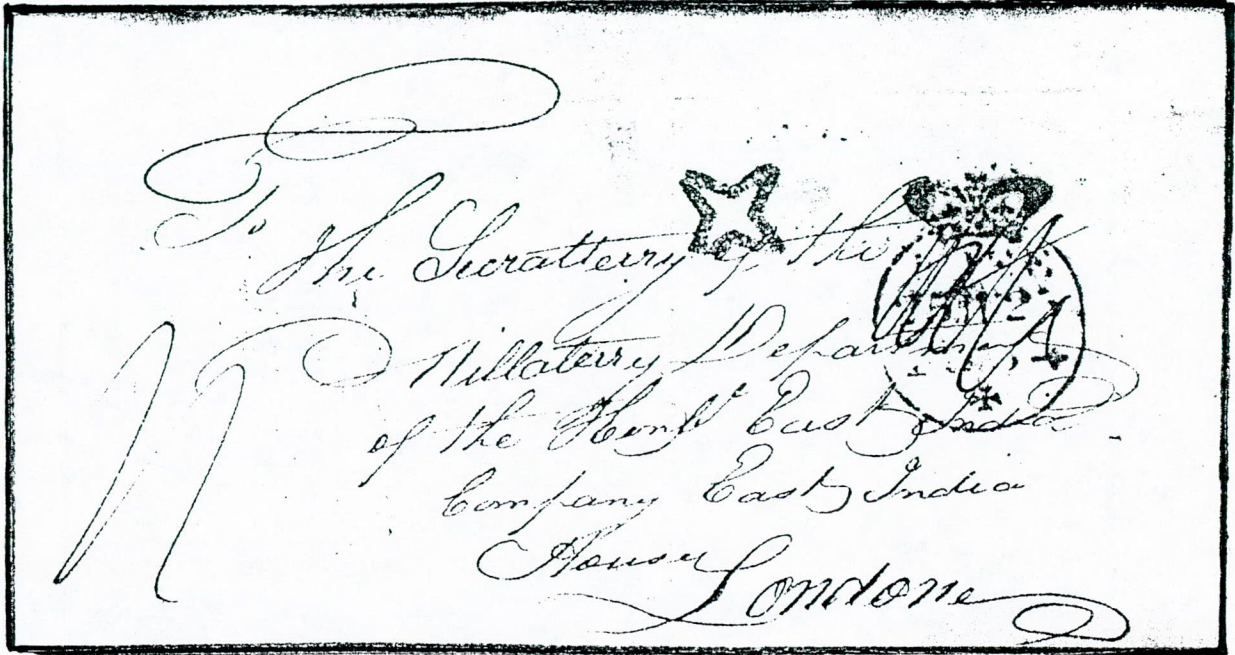




## FREE CONFUSION

from Stan Harrod

The item illustrated here serves to demonstrate the confusion which existed, even in the Post Office, over the status of the East India Company. As the well informed members of LPHG know, the East India Company was not entitled to free postage within the British Isles. In this case, perhaps, the address caused the Clerk to make a mistake.



Written from Manchester, the letter was addressed to "The Secretary of the Millaterry Department of the Honb<sup>e</sup> East India Company East India House London" and an over generous Clerk applied the FREE stamp for the 25th. June 1825. However, an observant Inspector spotted the error, deleted the FREE, applied the Inspector's star. In this case the star appears to be an over inked single frame but, in fact, is the double framed 17mm L179a, in red and the first year recorded. The postage was 11d (the 170-230 mile range) and this was written to the left of the address.

### LONDON'S TWOPENNY BYE POSTS

Edmonton Ride

Thursday 10th. August, 1811 saw the opening of the bye post on the Edmonton ride. Only four offices were used, one being based on Hackney. Hackney was transferred to the Town area in 1831.

This EL, written as from Bruce Grove March 16 1830, carries the Country Sorting Office date stamp for the 17th., which extends the recorded use a further year

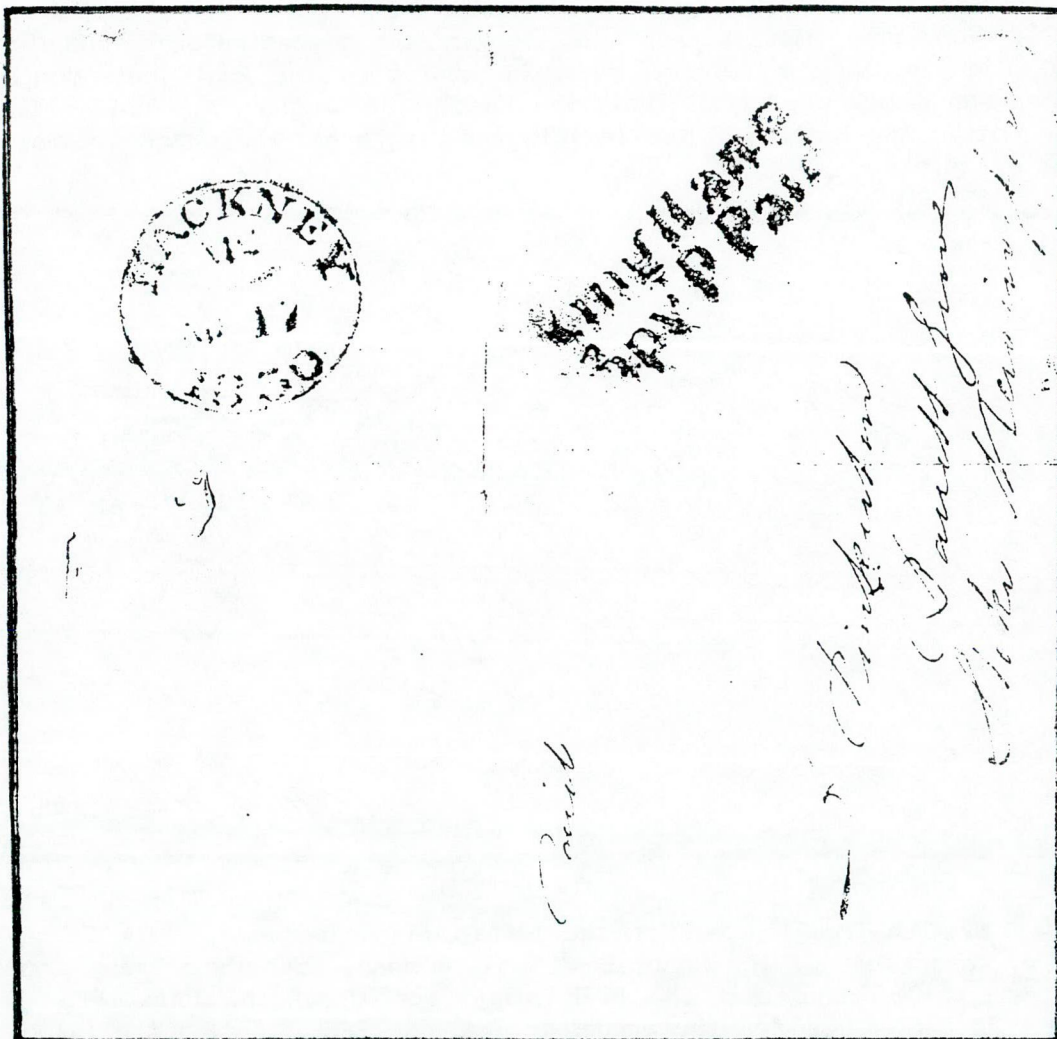
Unusually a prepaid item it, therefore, carries no flat top three, rather the Kingland / 3py P Paid, in black, (L508, not recorded by Jay) : the Editor has noted another example for 20.5.28

Illustrated on page 16.



LONDON'S TWOPENNY BYE POSTS

Edmonton Ride



UPPER MITCHAM TO BRUTON, SOMERSET

October 26<sup>th</sup> 1829

A long and somewhat rambling letter re a debt of £17.9s.4d. which is offered for settlement by a Bill at six months or £10 cash in hand, the former preferred.

Prepaid at Upper Mitcham Receiving House, 2d., cost for transfer to the General Post, plus 9d. for the General Post charge to Cheltenham (101 miles).

The addressee received the letter, scribbled a note thereon and sent it to his solicitor at Tewkesbury, apparently not prepaid, hence the "5" in black ink. Tewkesbury is only 8 miles direct from Cheltenham but, presumably, the Cross Post route was between 15 and 20 miles.

It was then redirected, not readdressed, to Bruton and prepaid a further 9d. Since this is all in a distinctive red ink, included the rating, it may have been redirected by the Tewkesbury Receiver. The 9d prepayment would have covered 80 to 120



miles, with the letter using a West Country Cross Post.

Other marks include the Mitcham CSO, London PAID, the "In all" oval, Cheltenham date stamp and the London MORE TO PAY, seemingly applied en route to Cheltenham.



letter, An alternative explanation for the mss red "9" is payment for a double in response to the MORE TO PAY : the first analysis is preferred.

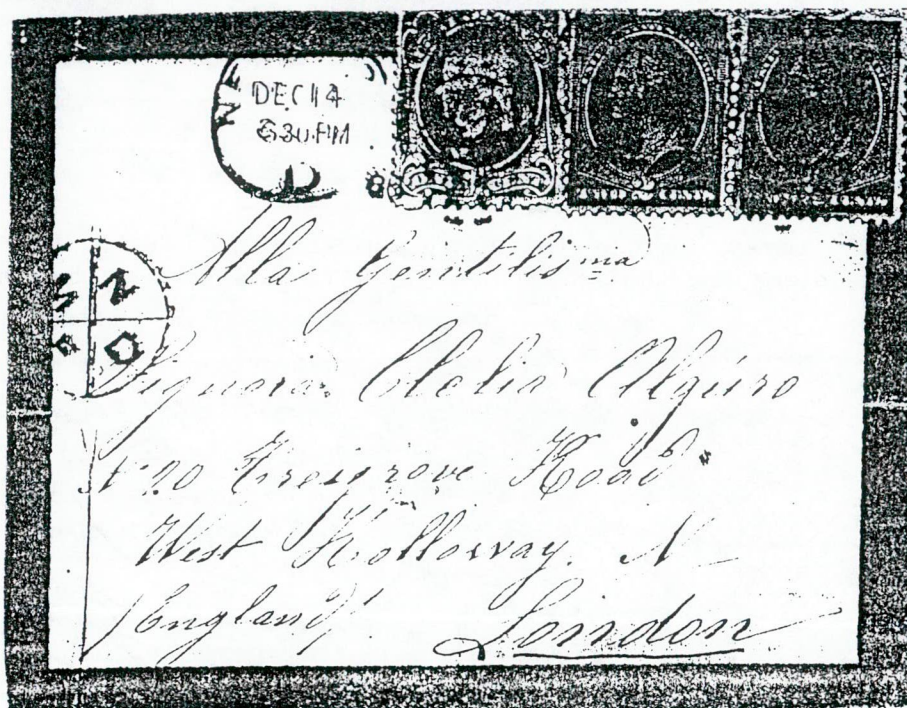
.....  
QUARTERED CIRCLE ERROR

from Michael Goodman

The quartered circle markings for mis-sorted mail are well known and "Notebook" has listed these (see 19/5 and 20/7). It was, therefore, something of a surprise to find in my collection, while it was being shown at a LPHG meeting this year, I had what - so far - appears to be an unique error.

Written from New York on the 14th. December, (no year in date stamp) and lacking a London arrival mark of any sort other than the quartered circle. It should have "M" in the upper quarter and the "N" in the left quarter: they are, in fact, transposed.





Quite why the stamp was applied, error or no, is unclear. "N" is shown as the District in the rather ornately written address, although "West" Holloway is a postal fiction. The actual street is difficult to read so it might be the mis-sort mark was applied to indicate problems in locating the addressee rather than a genuine mis-sort.

#### V1 and V2 REAPPEAR and PEARSON HILL MACHINES

from F.M. Johnson

For many years I have been searching for some of the rare Branch Office cancellations and the V2 Lombard Street mark Mr A.J. Kirk illustrates (part only) in Notebook 100 was my first sight of this particular item.

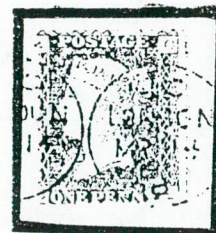
Some years ago I spotted a lot in a small PH auction sale which described a registered cover used internally from London to Edinburgh. It was dated March 12th., 1870, carried a 6d (SG 109) tied by a London vertical oval LA/ST(?). There was a poor illustration of this item which, when reversed, showed quite a good strike of the scarce LS/V1.

This verified its use on registered mail as alongside was a light strike of the "Registered - Lombard Street " c.d.s. in red.

At this period, covers bearing adhesives above 1d or 2d, even if for late fee or registered reasons, usually prove to be of some particular interest and this one was no exception.

The article by Jerry H. Miller regarding early Pearson Hill machine cancellations (Notebook 100, April 1992) caught my eye in that the Type PHT3, with a date of March 14th., 1858, illustrated on a "piece" appears to be cancelling an adhesive which was not issued until at least April 1864.

The photocopy, reproduced on the right, is not sufficiently clear to detect signs of a forgery but it certainly shows the adhesive with letters in all four corners. (SG 43/44)





Modern copying machines make forgery of postal markings a much easier proposition than in earlier times. As this particular cancel is rare it usually commands a high price. When on a piece only, it would seem advisable to obtain an Expert Committee certificate before purchase.

The perpetrator was no doubt unaware of the code/date relationship.

The other item illustrated by Mr Miller shows a type PHT8 in use as late as December 19th., 1859, which extends the recorded use a further six or seven weeks from the latest date in the Handbook. It is recorded 'ref.1', however, the four experimental machines (so-called) were withdrawn from service in November 1859 (actual day ?) on the instructions of a Mr Boucher, Deputy Controller of the Circulation department, in order to evaluate the relative performance. The four machines were the Rideout Nos 1 & 2 and the Pearson Hill Nos 3 & 4. The Boucher report on the findings was issued on November 28th., 1859 and favoured the PH machines.

It now seems the PHT8 was brought back into use after the Boucher report and could have been used in early 1860 or when replaced by later Dies and/or new machines. The December 19th., 1859 cover with AB code is still in accordance with the Homer-Wooff An-Co coding (Notebook 51, February 1981) for PHT8.

Information of the use of these four machines being used in November 1859 will be most interesting.

ref.1 "The Pearson Hill Obliterating Machines" series in "Stamp Collecting", commencing December 1961, by W.G.Stitt Dibden.

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