

## NOTEBOOK

Number 122 June 1996

### *In This Issue.....*

page 2	Prison Coffee Houses	
4	The Franking System	John E. Colton
5	Hendon's Intoxicated Receiver	
6	Clapham C.S.O. Date Error	
	Missent to Romford	Martin Townsend
7	Missent to Deptford, Response from	Peter Bathe
8	Erasure Stamps	Mike Bolt
10	The 'In All' Marks	Alf Kirk
11	Mr Fox Orders Some Buttons	
12	Hinrichsen to Krag : a book by	Jerry Miller
13	London Fancy Geometric Postmarks	Maurice Barette
14	An 1883 Diary	Geoff Bentley
15	London Experimental Combined Stamps	Maurice Barette
16	Early Twentieth Century Carshalton	
	Circular Date Stamps	Don Franks
19	Auction 18 May 1996 Results	

© 1996 LPHG

Editor : Peter Forrestier Smith

64 Gordon Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey SM5 3RE

### **EDITORIAL**

We start on a sad note, recording the deaths, during recent weeks, of three of our long time members; Archie Batten, Jim Beveridge and Cliff Boas. All had contributed through the pages of "Notebook" and/or with displays at meetings over many years. Our sympathy to their families and friends.

Although we have a reasonably long item on Christmas mail and a number of other bits and bobs, the need for some hefty contributions has never been more urgent. As can be seen from a number of items in this issue, the particular study of one collector, be it a handstamp, an area or a combination of both can provide an interesting read, if for no other reason than to encourage others to put pen to paper/fingers to keyboard.

With the great number of local fairs (we hear tales of a return to the Royal Horticultural Hall by a new venture in March 1997) and the quantity - if not always the quality - of material on offer, there must be hundreds of items in those boxes in urgent need of a good home and a write up for all of us to enjoy. "Summer" is no excuse for wasting time on holidays when there is good postal history to be discovered !



## PRISON COFFEE HOUSES

Although the Editor's copy of Bryant Lillywhite's "London Coffee Houses" had been consulted many times to trace a particular establishment, it was not until recently did the possible use of coffee houses within the "Rules" as the "St. George's Field" Receiving House come to mind.

There are three coffee houses listed by Lillywhite; his entry reference numbers precede the coffee house name.

### **1111 - Rudkin's Coffee House** 'in the Rules of the Queen's Bench'

According to Timbs, Queen's Prison, Southwark, formerly the Queen's Bench, later known as King's Bench, was situated here in the reign of Richard II. Beasant says 'there was a prison from time immemorial'.

The prison stood in low and marshy ground, but had the advantage of open fields at the back, that were included in the Rules. The Rules of a Debtors' prison, were privileges for prisoners to live within three miles round the prison and to go out on day rules, are said first to have been granted in time of plague. Thus the Rules of the Queen's Bench permitted those prisoners who enjoyed the Rules to walk in the open country. Strype, 1720, gives a description of the King's Bench prison.

1702-14 In the reign of Queen Anne, when Rudkin's Coffee House is listed by Ashton, the Prison was on the east side of the High Road, where later was King's Bench Alley. In 1758, the prison was removed to the other side of the road.

**680. King's Bench Coffee House**, King's Bench Prison, St. George's Fields. An earlier house, known as Rudkin's Coffee-house in 1702-14, stood 'in the Rules of the Queen's Bench' but whether any connection here is unknown.

### **1754 King's Bench Coffee House**

first comes to notice in 1754, when listed in use for masonic meetings of a Lodge which lapsed in 1755. At this time the King's Bench Prison was on the east side of the High Road.

1755-58 In 1755-58 the Prison was removed. According to Besant 'to the other side of the road, opposite the church' and according to Wheatley: 'to a more open site, then a part of St. George's Fields, at the junction of Blackman Street with Newington Causeway, where later the Borough Road was united with those streets...' This removal would mark the end of the 1754 coffee-house.

... ..

1778 An Advertisement in the 'Morning Post' 15 Oct. 1778, is quoted by Sampson in 'History of Advertising': 'A Serious though Surprising Offer. FOR the compliment of One Hundred Guineas, any enterprising Gentleman or Lady may have revealed to them an eligible method of converting hundreds into Thousands, in a few weeks, and of continuing so to do yearly. The requiring so inadequate a consideration, is because the proposer is under misfortunes. Only letters with real names and residences will be regarded. Direct for W.W. at the King's Bench Coffee-House.'

The Prison was burnt in the Gordon Riots of 1780 and repaired soon afterwards. The mob first assembled in St. George's Fields under Lord George Gordon prior to marching through Southwark, over London Bridge, Cheapside, Ludgate Hill, Fleet Street and the Strand.



1793 In February, 1793, The Rev. Richard Burgh, John Cummings, Thomas Townley M'Can, James Davis and John Bourne, were convicted of a conspiracy to set fire the King's Bench Prison. In the evidence, a witness 'saw M'Can and Davis come out of the coffee-room' and Bourne 'who had a large quantity of gunpowder ready' was told by the witness that 'the neighbouring bake-house and coffee-room would be in danger and that poor Martin...would be killed'.

On 13 July, 1799, King's Bench Prison was partially destroyed by fire.

1806-08 A description of the Prison is given by Neild, 1806 and 1808: 'It is situated at the top of Blackman Street...the entrance to it from St George's Fields is by a handsome courtyard, where there are three good houses...In the passage from the entrance to the back of the building is a coffee-house where there was formerly an ordinary every day, at 2s. per head, with a pint of porter included. The marshal, I am told, receives an annual rent of £105 from the person who keeps it. Beyond the coffee-house is a bakehouse, which pays also a rent of 36 guineas per annum. And on the opposite side of the way is the public kitchen, where the prisoners may have their meat roasted and boiled gratis, before one o'clock....Between the coffee-house and the public kitchen, there are generally two or three butchers' stalls, a green-market, and persons selling fish; and in the further wing is a large tap-room, called the Brace, from its once having been kept by two brothers, whose names were Partridge....' The full description, quoted by Besant, 1902, makes interesting reading.

From 1814, Davis's Coffee House is known here.

### **337. Davis's Coffee House**

1814-17 Letters in my collection, dated 1st and 23rd September, 1814 are both redirected from Cecil-street Coffee House to Davis's Coffee-house. Another, dated 22 August, 1817, addressed to 'Mr Holloway, Davis's Coffee-house, Borough contains the following: '...I am sorry to find you still in K.B.P. - I was in hopes the decision of suit would have liberated you long ago.'

1829 Allen, describing the King's Bench in 1829, in History of Surrey, says; '...within the walls are a coffee-house and two public-houses...'

A Print entitled 'Interior of the King's Bench prison' published 13 August, 1823, by J. McShee, 11, Borough Rd., Southwark, depicts a building suspiciously resembling a coffee-house or similar place of refreshment.

Following several Acts in the reign of Queen Victoria, abolishing arrest for debt, the prison was closed, and later used as a military prison, though found unsuitable. The buildings were sold in 1879 and the site cleared. During the reign of Queen Victoria, the Prison is referred to as the 'Queen's Prison'

.....

The extract above is taken from

*London Coffee Houses* by Bryant Lillywhite © 1963 George Allen and Unwin Ltd

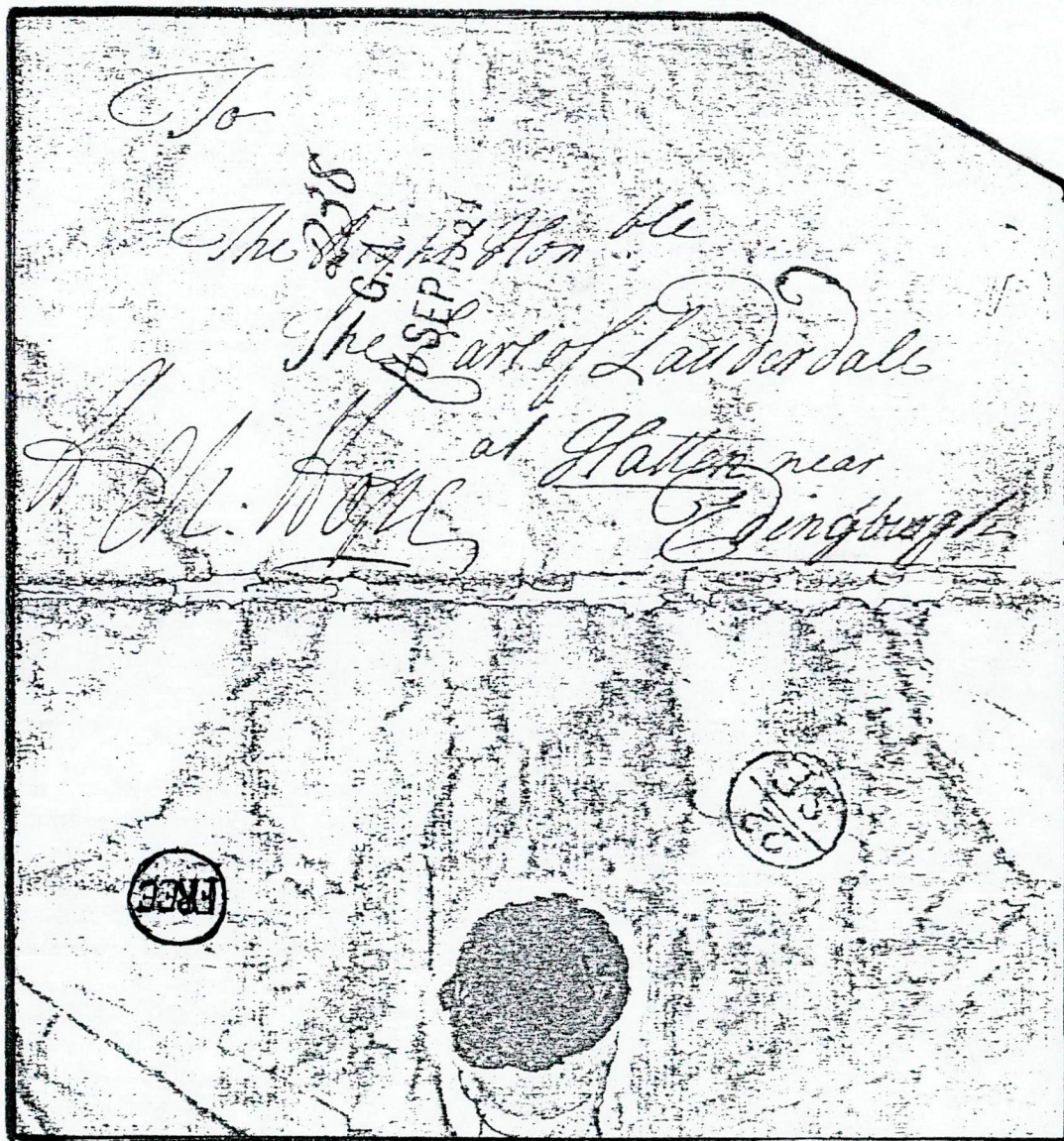
.....  
Readers are invited to forward details of material they have containing  
references to coffee houses and with prison connections.  
.....



## THE FRANKING SYSTEM

John E. Colton

A recently acquired grubby cover carries what might fairly be described as a new "FREE" stamp, unusual after all these years of study. The photocopy has been "assisted" due to paper staining and the, otherwise, faint impression. The circle diameter is 13mm and the letter height 5mm; as can be seen all letters are the same height. The ink of the "FREE" is the usual red-brown.



Unfortunately there is no date on the wrapper but it is thought to be between 1764 and 1784. The Bishop is 16mm diameter but the Jay catalogue offers no advice on a size/date correlation. A specialist in this field might be able to offer some thoughts on a date range.

Both Jay<sup>1</sup> and Lovegrove<sup>2</sup> specify two basic types of "FREE" stamps; one with the "F" taller than the other letters, the other with all letters the same height. There is an overlap of dates for these two basic types.



Lovegrove gives the latest date of 26.5.1766 for the first type and the earliest for the second as 28.8.1765. This give some 15 months concurrent use.

As already noted there is no date on the wrapper. Can the addressee detail or the sender's endorsement afford any clues ? Perhaps a devotee of autographs can assist. There is an archive record note across the address panel - does this help?

The important quest is for another example of this small "FREE". There is no reason to suppose it is anything other than genuine but to have a record of another does not come amiss.

As the several supplements to the second edition of the Lovegrove book testify, there is always something to add to the published word. Date extensions are favourite and the mass of information on size variations demonstrates, all too clearly, the hazard of presuming a catalogue listing is all that has been recorded. It would be of no small interest to attempt to continue the task of adding detail to the record. Jim Lovegrove remarks it took from 1963 to 1975 to warrant the first edition and a further fourteen years for the second. A third edition with a 2000 plus dating would be a tribute to the past years of study.

<sup>1</sup> "The British County Catalogue Volume 3 - London" Willcocks and Jay (1983)

<sup>2</sup> "Herewith My Frank..Second Edition" Lovegrove (1989)

.....

#### **HENDON'S INTOXICATED RECEIVER**

In 1803 the Receiver at Hendon finally went too far in copy book blotting and was dismissed. Freeling's report to the Postmasters General largely repeats, as usual, the contents of Johnson's report: in consequence, only the latter appears below.

Two Penny Post Office  
Sept 30 1803

Dear Sir,

I have caused repeated and very strict enquiry to be made both in the Lombard Street and Gerrard Street departments after the misfiring letter put in at Hendon on the 8<sup>th</sup> Inst<sup>d</sup> addressd to Mr Burnett Hosier, 5 Westminster Road Lambeth which contained a £1 Note and which was sent by a Lady on a visit to Mr<sup>e</sup> Begbie at Hendon, but I am concerned to add, without succfs, as not any information can be gained of it.

In consequence of Mr Begbie's representation respecting the conduct of the Letter Receiver I have been to Hendon to enquire into it and I find Mr Begbie has not been misinformed. I learnt that the woman is much in the habit of intoxication and very incompetent in general to take the Proper postage with letters to be paid with. I therefore looked out for another house to remove the office to and Mr Henry Manners, Shopkeeper, being named to me as a person of good Character and his house being in a proper situation I beg to recommend to their Lordships he be appointed Letter Receiver at Hendon in the room of the present Receiver, Mrs Gibson.

I am Dear Sir / Your Ob<sup>d</sup><sup>t</sup> hb<sup>t</sup> Serv<sup>t</sup> / J Johnson

Source :Post 42 Volume 22 page 687 ref 84.0



### CLAPHAM C.S.O. DATE ERROR

The incorrect preparation of all date stamps must have been common but the requirement to enter an example in the office day book, which was to be checked by a supervisor ensured the occurrence in use be limited.



In the example shown here, which comes on the reverse of an EL addressed to Robert Graham Esqr Treasury Whitehall and charged the threepenny rate for Country to Town, has at least one, if not two, errors.

As is clear from both the contents and the time stamp, the date of posting was OC 9 1834.

The CSO stamp shows the OC inserted inverted. Possibly the circular shape of both letters with an inverted "6" for the "9" - for surely that is what the day slug was sufficient to slip past the check. Another item of interest is the use of *Italic* type for the day and month; there is no mention of this in the Jay listing.

The letter is purely personal, regretting missing each other the day before and expressing the hope to meet on the coming Saturday. The post script carries the proverbial sting in the tail :

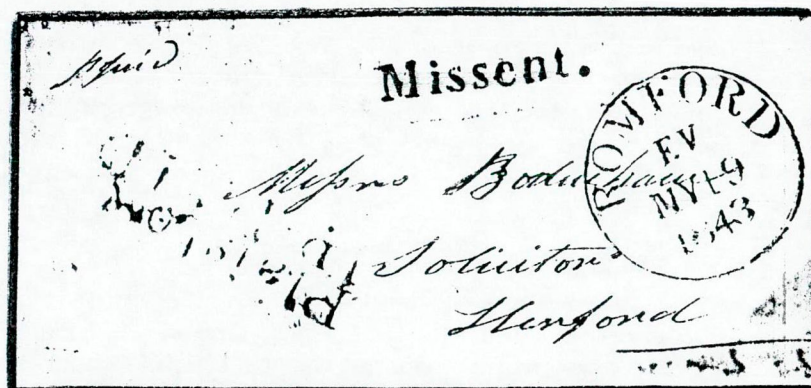
"Pray oblige me by getting the enclosed Letters franked & dispatched."

.....

### MISSENT TO ROMFORD

Martin Townsend

The small 1843 envelope shown here provides the first example to come to notice of the simple "Missent" stamp being applied within the confines of the London Twopenny Post area.



The Plaistow Receiving House stamped their 1<sup>st</sup> PAID, in blue, (L509 - not recorded), rather thoughtlessly upside down, and managed to bag it out to Romford, instead of Hereford.

Romford, however, signalled the arrival of this letter by applying the "Missent" stamp - in red - and, since it carried no name, struck the Romford Country Sorting Office stamp for MY 19 1843, also in red, though



probably not in that order ? On the reverse is the London transit stamp, in red, with the Hereford arrival struck in black.

There are several instances, over the years, where the Post Office made a general issue to many places of a stamp which carried no name but gave information to the recipient on the handling of the letter. The "Too Late" stamps, despite many local variations to be found, come to mind.

What is of particular interest is such a stamp should be found within London at this time. Was it, in fact, a general issue stamp and - if so - why has it not been recorded before now ? Given the circumstances it is more likely to have been of local manufacture and use.

Mackay, in his book on postmarks since 1840<sup>1</sup>, illustrates several "Missent to" (without a name) stamps but, oddly enough, none reading "Missent" only.

Discoveries such as this tend to raise problems seemingly beyond resolution but there might be a collector with specialist knowledge of this type of mark or of Romford who can assist.

<sup>1</sup> "English & Welsh Postmarks Since 1840" James A. Mackay (1980)

.....

### ***MISSENT TO DEPTFORD***

A response from Peter Bathe

In Notebook 121 came news of a new Deptford stamp and I would start by reminding all readers to, please, let me have a note of anything they have on Deptford and the Cross Posts: with tongue in cheek, it also helps to scan the book published by LPHG !

Two basic questions were posed: what was the routing and why have a missent stamp made ? The second question is the easier to answer. In 1844, Deptford became the centre for a network of cross posts between the south east London suburbs on the old Woolwich ride (Deptford itself plus New Cross/Peckham, Greenwich/Lewisham/Blackheath and Woolwich/Charlton/Plumstead/Shoeters Hill) and Post towns in Kent, Sussex and Surrey served by the London, Brighton & South Coast and the South Eastern Railways. Examples are known from as far afield as Guildford, Hailsham, Maidstone, Tonbridge and elsewhere in Kent.

The Deptford cross post replaced the Shooters Hill cross post, which we know was handling 50,000 letters a year in 1837 - and this number was just from the towns on the Dover Road. By 1852 there had been massive increase in correspondence following the introduction of Uniform Penny Post. Add to this Deptford covering a much larger out-of-town catchment area: it follows there must have been several hundreds of thousands of cross post letters passing through Deptford each year. Even if the percentage of missorts was tiny, the actual number would have warranted a special stamp.

Even at Shooters Hill, with only 50,000 letters a year, missorts happened, although this was not, apparently, in sufficient numbers to require a special stamp. Misdirection indication by a combination of manuscript and the standard Penny Post stamp is known.

Missorting was clearly expected once the railways started being used for cross posts (presumably the railway timetable put extra pressure on



sorters down the line) for "missent to" stamps (of various styles) were sent to Barnet, Hounslow and Kingston in 1838/9 when their respective cross posts transferred to the railways.

The question should not be why did Deptford have a missent stamp, rather why should it be of the unique (?) design? Has any reader an example in the design from anywhere else?

Before considering the routing, a comment on timing. The letter is dated June 8 at Dartford, June 9 at Deptford and noon on June 9 in central London: that fits, the cross post was overnight. The letter would have left Dartford on the evening of June 8 and been handled at Deptford at crack of dawn on the 9th for delivery (if it had been a real cross post letter) at 7.30 am at the south London suburbs. Because it was a missort, this meant dealing with it separately and forwarding it to London at the earliest opportunity, the noon delivery at Holborn. Nothing unusual there. The missorting was probably accidental, "Holborn" does not like any of the dependent offices of Deptford.

Now to the routing. The North Kent line was built in 1849, allowing a mail direct from Dartford to London Bridge along this line (which passes through New Cross where the Deptford cross post exchanged letters with the railways). However, no record of mail being dropped by the North Kent trains at New Cross has (yet) been found, only the Brighton and Dover trains. Perhaps a specialist in Kent material or T.P.O.s in the area could advise if Dartford, Gravesend and other places did use that line or had to send their mail bags south by road to meet with the Dover railway at Tonbridge or send them direct to London by road. There was a Gravesend mail cart involved in an accident while crossing Shooters Hill (on a route that presumably would have passed Deptford) as late as 1860. That cart could have been put into use after 1852, perhaps with the changes brought about when the Deptford cross post ceased c. 1859.

Finally, a note on the Deptford date stamp on the back on the cover. This is the now the latest date for the first type, issued when the Deptford cross post started, on 1 July 1844. The second type, with larger lettering, is known from 1853.

.....

### ERASURE STAMPS

Mike Bolt submitted copies of the erasure marks from his collection and this presented the opportunity of providing readers with a tentative updating of the information given in the Jay catalogue.

One of the problems encountered has been the apparently different sizes encountered for the same (?) mark. One can afford to ignore the odd millimetre but, in several instances, the measurements given in the catalogue are not reflected in measurements of material in both Mike Bolt's collection and in the Editor's. These varying records are included in the tabulation which, as is obvious, is in the same format as the catalogue.

The sizes read horizontal x vertical in mm. Illustrations are taken directly from the catalogue. The apparent size differences have not been given a catalogue number.

Col = Colour - B for Black; R for Red; E.K.D. = Earliest Known Date;  
L.K.D. = Latest Known Date (all in 1800s);



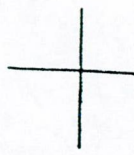
S = Source ; A = Jay Catalogue; B = John Adams ; C = Mike Bolt ; D = Editor  
E = the late Maurice Bristowe



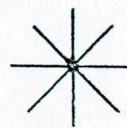
645



646

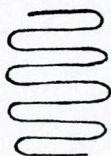


647



649

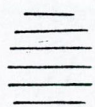
Cat No.	Used at	Size	Col.	E. K. D.	S.	L. K. D.	S
L 645	Westminster Office - 6 rays	24 x 25	B	xx. xx. 09	A	xx. xx. 10	A
	Westminster Office	30 x 30	B	20. 06. 03	D	19. 07. 10	C
L 646	Westminster Office - 6 rays	27 x 22	B	xx. xx. 12	A		
	(used in RED by Foreign Branch - see L1042-3)						
L 647	? - 4 rays	26 x 29	B	xx. xx. 11	A		
	Westminster Office	24 x 28	B	06. 04. 11	D		
L 649	Westminster Office - 8 rays	25 x 25	B	xx. xx. 19	A	xx. xx. 24	A
		25 x 28	B	14. 10. 31	D	01. 10. 33	C



652



654



656



658



658b



tight angle

L 652	Westminster Office - 9 bars	21 x 31	B	xx. xx. 24	A	16. 03. 25	C
L 654	Westminster Office - 7 bars	22 x 23	B	20. 03. 26	C		
		24 x 24	B	09. 09. 34	E		
L 654a		22 x 23	R	xx. xx. 34	A		
L 656	Westminster Office - 6 bars	17 x 19	B	xx. xx. 28	A	16. 05. 33	D
L 658	Chief Office - 12 bars	24 x 31	B	xx. xx. 15	A	24. 02. 28	C
L 658a		24 x 31	R	xx. xx. 24	A	13. 07. 26	D
		21 x 31	R	06. 02. 18	D		
	Very tight angle at one end	22 x 29	R	20. 11. 09	C		
L 658b		26 x 33	R	xx. xx. 33	A		



660



662



664



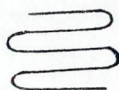
664b

Cat No.	Used at	Size	Col.	E. K. D.	S.	L. K. D.	S
L 660	Chief Office - 10 bars	22 x 27	B	xx. xx. 21	A	xx. xx. 22	A
		21 x 30	B	21. 10. 15	C		
L 662	Chief Office - 5 bars	16 x 16	B	08. 09. 28	D	xx. xx. 31	A
L 664	Chief Office - 7 bars	20 x 17	B	xx. xx. 30	A	xx. xx. 34	A
		22 x 17	B	07. 09. 35	C		
L 664a		20 x 17	R	xx. xx. 31	A		
		18 x 18	R	26. 08. 35	D		
L 664b		16 x 16	B	18. 11. 35	C	xx. xx. 36	A





666



668



670

Cat No.	Used at	Size	Col.	E. K. D.	S.	L. K. D.	S
L 666	Chief Office	21 x 21	B	xx. xx. 32	A	xx. xx. 36	A
		22 x 23	B	18. 04. 33	C		
		24 x 21	B	17. 03. 31	D		
L668	Chief Office - 5 bars	23 x 16	B	xx. xx. 35	A		
L670	7 bars - diff. shape from L 654	19 x 21	B	08. 08. 36	C	26. 09. 39	D
L670a			R	22. 11. 37	D	23. 06. 39	E

.....

Would readers please forward details of these marks in their collections, with a photocopy - if possible - where the size differs or the cover is of particular interest.

.....

### THE 'IN ALL' MARKS

A. J. Kirk

These marks are well known but not a lot is known about them. Before the advent of the Cross Post System, letters across the country had to come into London on one of the Post Roads and then out on another. These letters were, until 1797, treated as if making two quite distinct journeys and were charged accordingly, i.e. the rate for each part was calculated and the sum of the two "journeys" charged. From 1797 the charge was determined by reference to the total mileage. It is common to see the charge to London, presumably entered at the place of posting, deleted and the total charge, calculated in London, substituted. This would be often be preceded by an "In All" mark.

The first such stamp of this appears as a General Post item (L.210), recorded by Jay 1760-1781.

*In all*  
210

The Foreign Office had two *In all* stamps (L.1089, 1090). These are formed by a series of dots with L.1090, which is not illustrated in Jay, being within a dotted frame.

*In All 4*

636

*In All*

638

*In All*

639

The stamps used in the Twopenny Post are dated between 1803 and 1830, shown at L.636; 638; 639. The "In All 4" is almost impossible to find although examples of the other two are not uncommon. Not in Jay is a further "In All" with a dotted outline but this is known only from a GPO entry.



Before these stamps appeared came the manuscript marks and it is these which seem to have been unremarked by collectors and are of no small interest.

The first known to the writer appears on a 1702 letter from Newcastle to Oxford. The letter was originally charged at 3d., the rate for 80 miles and over covering the Newcastle to London element and then 2d. for London to Oxford. This letter, interestingly, has two Bishop Marks and two manuscript "In All 5" entries. The letter went through London en route to Oxford on the 12th. October; it was refolded and reposted to Newcastle, returning through London on the 15th. October.

The next letter, Oxford to Newcastle, passing through London on the 15h. September, 1703 and carries a manuscript "In All 5". A third item, dated 10th. February, 1704, was treated in the same manner. Curiously, all the manuscript entries appear to be in the same hand.

On 23rd. February, 1718 a manuscript "In All" with 2/- is noted on a letter from Ogbuston (?) to Horncastle with an "In All 8" on a letter to the same place from Leicester. A recent acquisition, again Leicester - Horncastle and "In All 8" is endorsed, very oddly, 'Monday 1727' - no day or month - and 'By way of London', as if the writer thought there might be an option.

These few examples must be but a drop in the ocean. Examples in readers' collections might provide evidence of the change from manuscript to hand stamp and demonstrate how letters after 1839 were treated. As ever, photocopies will be much appreciated as well as any written detail.

.....

#### **MR FOX ORDERS SOME BUTTONS**

"Mr Fox will thank Mr Collis to send 2 Grofs of Large Livery Buttons & 1 Grofs of Small to Mr Grants (Tailor) 3 Blenheim St., Bond St., London.

"Mr Fox hopes they will be sent as soon as Mr Collis can forward them.

"Mr Fox (late of Osmaston Hall Derbyshire) now resides at Kendall Hall, Elstree, Watford, Herts, Where Mr Fox will thank Mr Collis to direct the account of the buttons when they are sent off to Mr Grant.

Kendall Hall Feby 2<sup>nd</sup>

Mr Fox prepaid his letter with with a penny red adhesive and posted it so as the have it stamped by the Receiving House at Elstree, whose Receiver still employed the old Twopenny Post framed stamp, probably black ink, now slightly oxidised. The Feldman working papers show this stamp in use until 1847. The letter then received the sans serif EDGEWARE / EV / FE 2 / 1846, this in red. Then, for reasons no longer known, the adhesive was cancelled with the local post Edgware number "6" in an oval, black ink. The address is clearly "Mr Collis, 8 Church St. Birmingham": surely this should have had the Inland Office cancelling the adhesive. The London date stamp is for the following day; could





it be the Receiver at Edgeware was in the habit of processing mail too late for despatch for the final London post ?

#### HINRICHSSEN TO KRAG

Member Jerry Miller has produced a book detailing the postmarking machines used in Germany. A glance at the list of contents shows why this should be of interest to those who collect British machine cancellations, since several of the machines listed will appear also in a British listing.  
(Hinrichsen = Azemar)

Chapter and Machine	Time Period	Trials/Usage
1. Hinrichsen	1867-1873	1874-1881
2. Haller	1882-1883	1883-1905
3. Hoster	1885-1887	-----
4. Bickerdike	1898-1901	1901-1916
5. Columbia	1901	1902-1924
6. International	1902	-----
7. Ruettger	1904	-----
8. Krag	1905-1906	1907-1920's

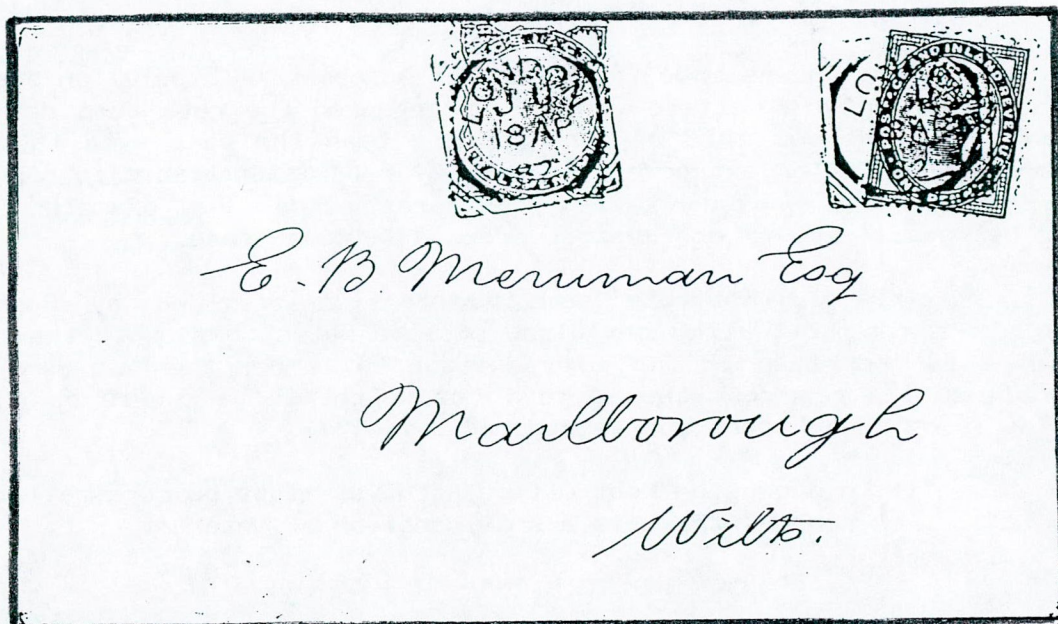
The Book (price not advised) is obtainable from  
Vera Trinder Ltd.,  
Bedford Street,  
LONDON WC2E 9EU  
0171-836-2365/8332



## LONDON FANCY GEOMETRIC POSTMARKS

Maurice Barette

Tim Schofield sent a photocopy of a cover with two strikes of the hitherto unrecorded Inland Branch Type II C showing the "J" hammer ident. This example confirms the usage for Late Fees note in the 11th. February, 1882 instruction <sup>1</sup>.



Late fee payment 18 AP / 82

The details of the Type II C - R hammer ident <sup>2</sup> in terms of instructions were not known but here again, Tim Schofield has eliminated this omission. The stamp, which had been left in reserve, was for Midday Duty, as were P and Q, already used for that purpose since 1882.

The page with this instruction may have been torn, long since, from the Inland Branch Date Stamp Impression Book, recovered from obscurity about 1980 by the late Tony Rigo de Righi, then Curator of the National Postal Museum.



*Brought into use 30<sup>th</sup> October 1890 for the purpose of stamping correspondence rec<sup>d</sup> from Branch Offices and Receiving Houses during the Midday duty.  
By order of the Sup<sup>t</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> p. 51 London Fancy Geometric Postmarks (1994) Maurice Barette

<sup>2</sup> p. 69 *ibid*



## AN 1883 DIARY

Geoff Bentley

One of the entries in the diary related to the new Parcels Post service. Although not restricted to London, there is a nugget of information on the service which relates to the organisation: "The parcel post (*note the use of the singular*) will not arrive with the letter post but it is hoped to make the delivery as certain, in respect of the time, as the newspaper now is. Generally the rules covering railway parcels will govern post parcels."

Mention was made in an earlier Notebook (117 p.10) on the curious system of charging Ship Letters whereby it appeared the rate rose dramatically at a certain weight and this appears to have been the case with the ordinary letter post. "Any Letter exceeding the weight of 12-oz is liable to a postage of 1d for every ounce, beginning with the first ounce. For example: a letter weighing between 14 and 15 oz. must be prepaid fifteen pence."

This is not the same information provided by Post Office Archives. In their publication on Inland postage rates they quote the charge at 1 oz. 1d; 2 oz 1½d; then ½d for each 2 oz up to 12 oz, then a penny for *each additional* oz. The rate for the 14 to 15 oz weight letter would be only seven pence. The 12 oz break point was introduced 5.10.1871.

It is suggested Post Office Archives might be more reliable.  
For London, there is a small section of interest.

### LONDON DISTRICT POST DELIVERIES

Within the Town limits there are 11 deliveries daily; the first or general despatch is made from St.Martin's-le-Grand at about 7.20 a.m. and the delivery is generally completed throughout London by 9 o'clock, except on Mondays or when there are large arrivals of letters from abroad. The last despatch is made at 7.45 p.m.

### COUNTRY MAILS

The Evening Mails from London leave the Post Office at 8 p.m. and Letters must be posted at the Receiving Houses and Pillar Letter Boxes, Before 5.30 p.m.

At the Branch Offices - Before 6 p.m.

In Pillar Boxes with an additional 1d stamp.....Before 6 p.m.

At the Branch Offices with additional ½d stamp.....Before 7 p.m.

Letters are received at St.Martin's-le-Grand for Provincial Mails,  
by an extra ½d. stamp, .....until 7.45 p.m.

For Foreign Mails by an extra 1d. stamp .....until 7 p.m.

By two extra stamps until 7.15 p.m.

By three extra stamps - until 7.30

Letters for the early Morning Mails to the provinces or the first Town delivery, may be posted in the pillar boxes and district offices up to 3 o'clock a.m.: if posted at any of the receiving houses, must be posted before 9 the previous evening.

From 8 p.m. until 8 a.m. and on Sundays Letters can only be posted, in London, in the Pillar Boxes.



## SUBURBAN DELIVERIES

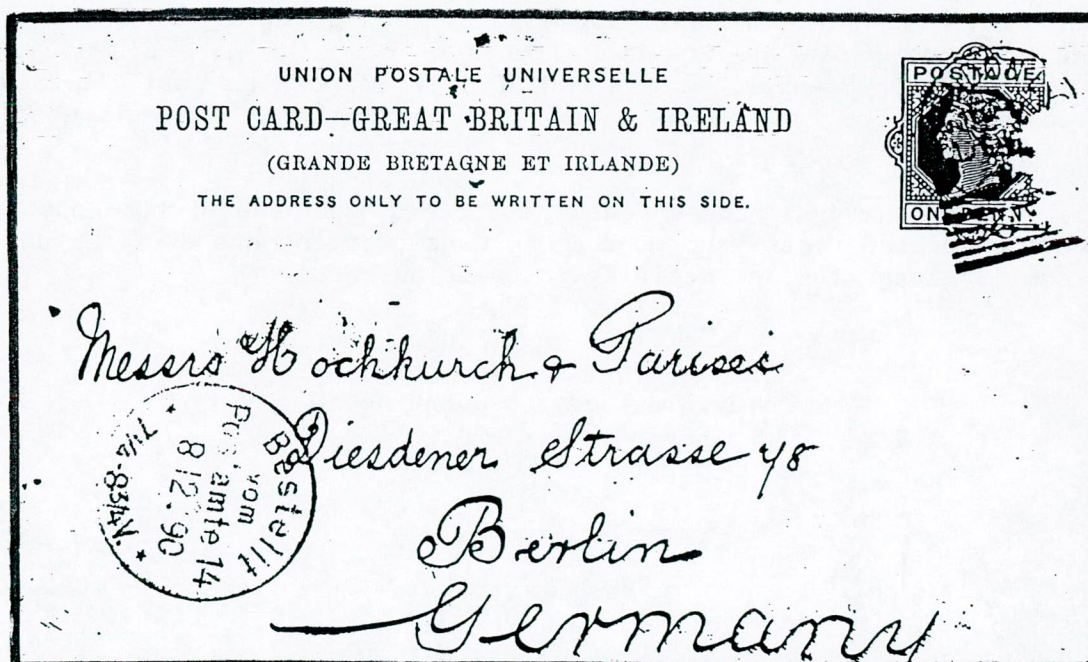
There are six deliveries within the Suburban Districts only. The first in from London at 6.30 a.m. to all places within the London District limits: the remaining despatches to the Suburban Districts are made at 9.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m., 2.30 p.m., 4.30 p.m. and at 7 p.m. Letters for this despatch posted before 6 p.m. to receiving houses or pillar letter boxes are delivered the same evening within 6 miles. the deliveries commence from one or two hours after the time of despatch.

## LONDON EXPERIMENTAL COMBINED STAMPS

Maurice Barette

A Belgium collector, M. Ludo Billen, sent a photocopy of a postal stationery postcard, the condition of which almost ensured it might have rested unregarded in a dealer's junk box until scrapped. Fortunately this did not happen.

The post card carries the experimental stamp<sup>1</sup> dated DE 5 90, tragically damaged by the misapplication of what may have been some form of sticky tape. This is the first recorded use of the stamp, on what has every appearance of a commercial post card. For collectors, this suggests the possibility that other examples might remain to be found, hopefully in better condition.



The stamp was known only by a strike on the "SP 95 List" in Post Office Archives. This "list" is an inventory, dated September 1895, of all handstamps and machine dies (in use or not) existing at that date in the Inland Branch, London E.C. and other London offices. Alongside can be seen impressions of Stitt Dibden 6 and 3, of which a few examples have been recorded.

<sup>1</sup> London Fancy Geometric Postmarks, Maurice Barette 91994) p. 13 fig. 29





SD 6



SD 3

E 15080/1897  
file XVII



SD 4

Part of a page (edited) of the "SP 95 List", with SD 3, 4 and 6 (P.O. Archives)

# EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY CARSHALTON CIRCULAR DATE STAMPS

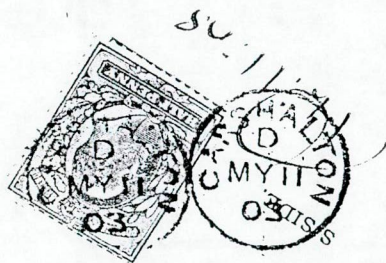
Don Franks

A small but reasonably comprehensive review of the circular date stamps used to cancel Carshalton mail in the early 20th Century has been made. Probably this type of study is feasible [and cheap!] for a number of 'local' areas of London - especially if the area, like Carshalton, was attractive enough to warrant a large production and local sale of picture post cards.

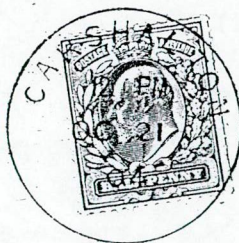
This 'London village' was selected for investigation for several reasons. The Carshalton Post office discontinued using the D97 duplex towards the end of 1906, replacing it with a range of circular date stamps to cancel the outgoing mail. However, at the end of 1917 the office lost its status as a salaried sub office and mail, other than such items as registered letters handed in over the counter, was cancelled at Sutton.

Furthermore, these years coincided with the picture postcard boom era and much of the first War. Hence many cancellations are still extant - often on visually attractive and socially interesting cards.

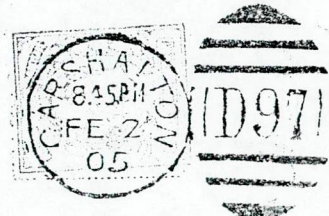
Date stamps seen on outgoing mail.



CARSHALTON 19/20mm  
Fig 1

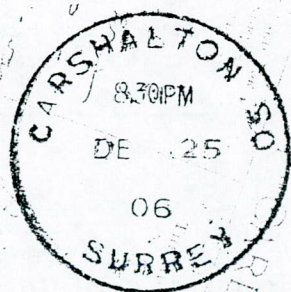


CARSHALTON 31mm  
Fig 2

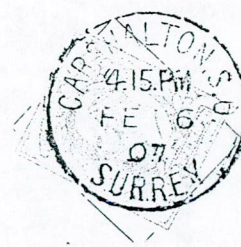


D97 Duplex  
Fig 3

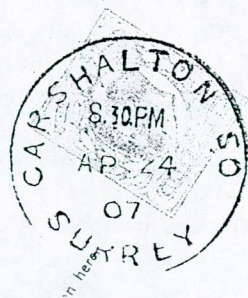




CARSHALTON S O SURREY 36mm  
Fig 4



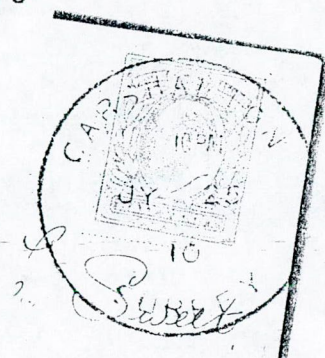
CARSHALTON S.O. SURREY 26mm  
Fig 5



CARSHALTON S O SURREY 31mm  
Fig 6



=CARSHALTON. S.O. = SURREY 26mm & 25mm  
Fig 7



CARSHALTON SURREY 36mm  
Fig 8



CARSHALTON 34mm  
Fig 9

# Checklist and Notes

Arranged in Date Order

Date	Year	Datestamp Fig No.	Comments and Note Number.
MY 11	1903	Fig 1	Counter cds. Note 1
OC 21	04	Fig 2	'Skeleton' Note 2
OC 24	04	ditto	
JU 5	06	Fig 5	On Parcel Label Note 5
SP 29	06	Fig 3	Last recorded dates
OC 4	06	ditto	of the Duplex. Note 3
OC 15	06	Fig 4	'Skeleton' Note 4
to DE 25	06	ditto	Continuous use



Date	Year	Datestamp Fig No.	Comments and Note Number.
JA 16	07	Fig 5	Note 5
several examples to MR 27	07	ditto	
AP 4	07	Fig 6	'Skeleton' Note 6
MY 22	07	ditto	
JY 5	07	Fig 7	Note 7
to DE 1	09	ditto	[ '07' inverted Note 7] Continuous use
FE 26	10	Fig 7	On Parcel Label Note 7
MR 5	10	Fig 5	On Parcel Label Note 7
MR 15	10	Fig 7	Continuous use
JU 15	10	ditto	
JY 23	10	Fig 8	'Skeleton' Note 8
JY 25	10	ditto	ditto
SP 15	10	Fig 7	Note 8
to AU 29	11	ditto	Some 'inner ring' Note 8
MR 29	12	ditto but with '12' inverted and strong inner ring	
AU 20?	12	Fig 9	'Skeleton' Note 9
SP 17	12	ditto	ditto
NO 8	12	Fig 7	Note 9
to MR 14	15	ditto	ditto
AP 26	15	Fig 2	As in 1904 Note 10
JU 17	15	ditto	ditto
JY 24	15	Fig 7	Note 10
AU 24	15	ditto	
AP 29	16	Fig 5	Note 11
JA 16	17	ditto	
MY 22	17	ditto	

#### Notes

- [1] Generally the D97 Duplex, Fig 3, was used but this 19/20 mm c.d.s. counter office c.d.s., Fig 1, ( frequently seen on parcel labels ) was put a on locally addressed card. Probably no particular significance.
- [2] General use of D97 Duplex in this period, e.g. SP 4 04 but 31mm 'Skeleton' Fig 2, recorded OC 21, OC 22, OC 24. Perhaps Duplex was used on these days as well but none recorded to date.
- [3] Last recorded dates of D97 Duplex, both on 'redirects'.



- [4] Numerous examples recorded but no D97 Duplex seen.
- [5] General use of 'new' c.d.s. Fig 5 but this seems to be the same datestamp as used on June 5th 1906 on a Parcel Post Label i.e. as a counter office mark. Perhaps the Carshalton office became tired of using the 'skeleton' and wanted to bury it!
- [6] Another 31mm 'Skeleton' Fig 6. Perhaps usual c.d.s., Fig 5, was also employed, but none are recorded.
- [7] A 'new' c.d.s. Fig 7 with heavy arcs replaced the Fig 5 c.d.s. This type [and see Note 8] was in continuous use to cancel mail until 1915, excepting interruptions as recorded. The Fig 5 c.d.s. seems to have been returned to counter office duties, e.g. on a Parcel Label in March 1910. However, the heavy arc c.d.s. Fig 7 is also recorded used on a Parcel Post item, dated FE 26 10.
- A quite rare error by the Carshalton office is seen early on in the use of the 'new' c.d.s. Fig 7; on July 12th 1907 the '07' part of the date slug was inverted.
- [8] It is suggested the 36mm 'Skeleton', Fig 8, was used for only a short time. When the type Fig 7 datestamp reappeared, it measures 25mm and an 'inner ring' becomes noticeable. Perhaps the original stamp was 'refurbished' or renewed - hence the use of the 'relief'. August dated material would be welcome.
- [9] The 34mm 'Skeleton' Fig 9 was, possibly, brought in as a 'relief' whilst the 25mm type Fig 7 handstamp was 'refurbished'. On return, the 25mm c.d.s. produced a constant clear inner ring.
- [10] What appears to be the first 31mm 'Skeleton' handstamp, used in 1904 has been dug up and employed. On return of the 25mm type Fig 7 the inner ring, on the few known examples is very weak.
- [11] The original Fig 5 c.d.s. - from under the counter - there's a war on! December 1917 delivery work withdrawn.

.....

### AUCTION 18 MAY 1996 RESULTS

The realisations read across the page.

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	3.00	2	5.00	3	5.00	4	5.00	5	3.00	6	3.00
7	3.00	8	4.00	9	3.00	10	5.50	11	3.00	12	3.00
14	3.00	16	3.50	17	11.00	18	3.50	20	4.50	21	3.00
22	8.00	23	3.50	25	13.00	26	30.00	27	3.00	28	12.00
29	6.00	30	5.00	31	8.00	32	5.00	33	3.00	34	3.00
35	6.50	36	9.00	40	15.00	41	4.00	42	3.50	43	8.00
45	9.50	47	16.00	48	8.00	49	8.00	50	48.00	52	22.00



The realisations read across the page.

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
53	8.00	55	25.00	56	12.00	57	4.00	59	6.00	60	12.00
61	12.00	62	26.00	63	39.00	64	15.00	65	16.00	66	8.50
67	12.00	68	22.00	69	5.50	70	11.00	71	15.00	72	15.00
72	15.00	73	12.00	74	15.00	75	5.00	76	8.50	78	6.00
81	6.50	84	10.00	85	3.00	89	42.00	90	8.00	91	7.00
92	6.00	94	85.00	95	3.50	97	12.00	100	3.50	101	8.00
106	5.00	107	5.00	109	5.00	110	5.00	111	4.00	126	7.00
127	4.00	133	8.00	140	11.50	141	10.00	143	10.00	148	3.00
149	3.00	150	3.00	152	5.00	154	3.00	156	5.00	157	3.00
158	4.00	159	7.50	160	6.00	162	8.00	164	15.00	167	8.00
168	8.00	169	7.00	171	4.00	173	9.00	177	13.00	181	17.00
188	13.00	189	15.00	194	8.00	196	8.00	198	6.00	199	6.50
200	5.00	207	6.00	208	4.00	211	3.50	215	12.00	222	5.50
227	35.00	228	13.00	229	10.00	233	14.00	238	8.00	239	10.50
241	5.00	243	7.00	250	6.00	252	9.00	253	8.50	255	25.00
260	17.00	261	8.00	265	27.00	266	30.00	271	10.00	272	10.00
273	8.00	278	10.00	279	18.00	285	20.00	286	20.00	301	12.00
305	30.00	312	10.00	315	10.00	316	15.00	318	10.00	319	10.00
331	16.00	332	10.00	334	30.00	339	10.50	340	50.00	341	54.00
342	15.00	346	5.00	348	20.00	350	4.00	A	50.00	B	180.00

Total realisations £ 2005, of which £1332.50 was to postal bidders

As can be seen, the results were curiously patchy but it is clear the item which is a bit different commands interest, as well as the obvious bargains !

Meanwhile, we would remind potential vendors of the Packet which has the advantage of allowing members to browse through material in their own homes as well as allowing vendors a further opportunity to dispose of surplus material.

Do contact      Brian Smith,  
                      Clwyd House, 54 Broad Lane,  
                      Wilmington, DARTFORD  
                      DA2 7AG