

NOTEBOOK

Number 131 March 1998

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EDITOR

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EDITORIAL.....

This spring has seen the absurd position of STAMPEX in one week with TREVEX, to give it a popular identification tag, following in the next week. This is a mess : the P.T.S., for reasons of its own, moved to Islington to a time and place unwelcomed by many collectors. The organisers of TREVEX, seeking to meet the clearly expressed demand of these collectors organised another event at the original venue. With the P.T.S. getting back to the original dates for STAMPEX, at least part of the objection has been met, so where does this leave TREVEX ? Added to the organisers' problems is the availability, at least in the London area, so many other stamp and postal history fairs, on which we have commented in the past.

Let there be no mistake. The changes by the P.T.S. caused an upset which TREVEX, very properly, attempted to alleviate. We understand discussions between the organisers of both events did not manage to remedy the current situation.

We can only hope some rationalisation takes place.

BERNARD GLEDHILL

It is with personal regret I record the death of one of our founder members, Bernard Gledhill, who died on Boxing Day 1997.

Bernard came into postal history almost by accident. He had purchased a solicitors practice in Wymondham and found, in an upstairs loft, great quantities of mail addressed to the practice; this material dated from the late 18th. century and was, he thought, a potential source of interesting local history. From this starting point, he went onto the outside of the covers, with their curious markings.

My first meeting with Bernard and his charming wife, in the early 1960s, was through the East Anglia Study Circle. Bernard had at least one meeting each year at his home, usually in January. Everyone worried about travelling in East Anglia in the winter but I do not recall any year when the attraction of the meeting did not outweigh any possible inconvenience of the journey.

The afternoon would be conducted in a leisurely fashion, with members showing material of the topic of the day. This would be followed by a tea, prepared by Mrs Gledhill - and sumptuous that was.

Then came Bernard's personal display of selected items "from the attic". The great pleasure he gave and had from this material was evident to all and it is this aspect of gentlemanly charm which will remain my abiding memory. That he had the self control to explore each bundle of material with great care, rather than search through everything for "gems", was characteristic.

His contribution to LPHG was in attending many meetings, as we wandered from venue to venue across Town, material for the packet and auction, with his continued interest in meeting fellow collectors and adding to his extensive collection, not confined to London where he excelled in experimental markings.

Bernard leaves a wife, Vivien, to whom deepest sympathy is extended.

Peter Forrestier Smith

.....
"PJ"

It is with great sadness I have to report that Mr. Elkins, or as we all knew him "PJ", died on the 23rd January, just two weeks before his 92nd birthday.

He obtained his first stamps when he was seven and throughout the years the interest grew, progressing to an all absorbing passion in Postal History. Although he collected world-wide, he formed good collections of China, Spain, The Balearic Islands and many areas of Great Britain, for which he was awarded a number of bronze and silver medals at STAMPEX, as well as the *H.R. Harmer Classic Trophy* in 1980 for an exhibit of Spain 1850.

He was a long-standing member of the L.P.H.G. and has given his support throughout. Always willing to show when asked he never failed to contribute something to our meetings, always of interest. I particularly remember his collections of Kew and Drury Lane but there was much more.

He was a member of many Societies, both local and specialist, writing articles for their respective magazines and for national stamp publications. He was also the Editor of the Isle of Wight and the Scilly Islands Sections of The County Catalogues, produced by Martin Willcocks. His book "The Post History of the Balearic Islands" remains a standard reference work. I have spent many happy hours looking at and talking about postal history with "P.J."; I shall miss that very much. Philately has lost one of its dedicated "Old Time" collectors.

He will be missed sadly by all who knew him.

Barbara Field

EARLY GB REGISTERS

Martin Willcocks

Registered letters before 1841 are rare but not great rarities. They sell for good prices because they are attractive and popular. However, until last November, all those recorded came *inwards*, from the Continent of Europe and no examples of *outwards* mail were known during a period of some sixty years to 1840.

A very abbreviated (in French) description of an 1822 letter from London to Paris came to notice. Although it was thought to be an inaccurate description and despite no time to get a photocopy, a good bid was made, just in case it was a London to Paris registered. Then the worrying started. It was not possible to contact the vendor by telephone, so another letter was sent, requesting verification of origin and, on the understanding this was forthcoming, a smart increase in bid was made.

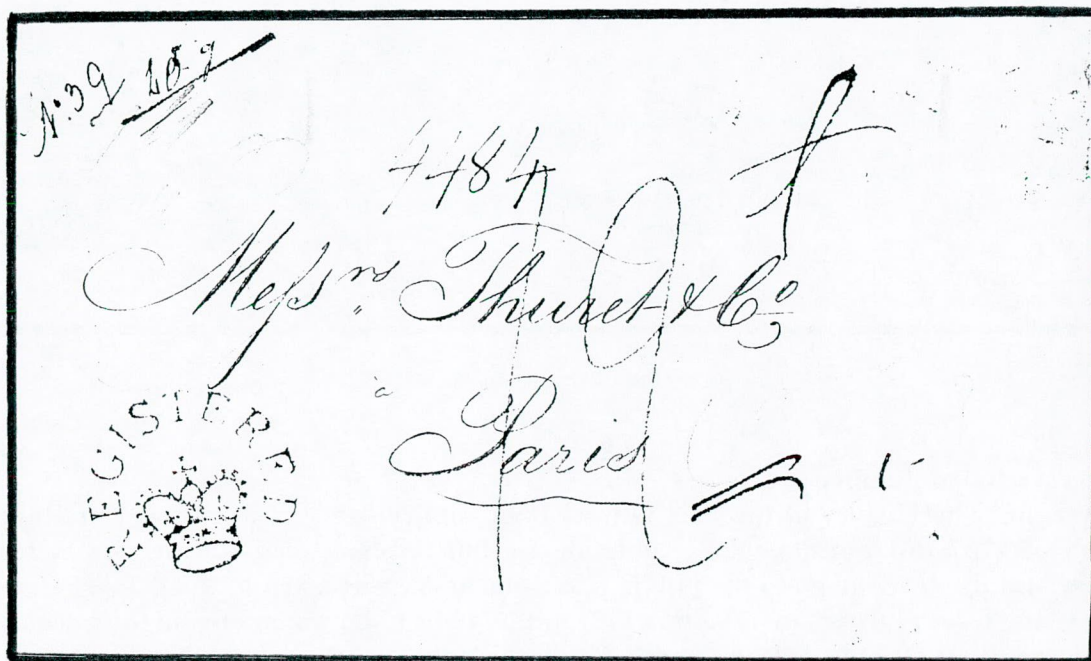


fig. 1

When the reply came, it included the letter - for the original bid - it was beautiful (fig.1).

In 1840 there was no security, for both Registers and Money Letters had been stopped: the Post Office was too busy with Uniform Penny Post. However, when material in the collection was checked, an example dated April 1840 was found, the first in this period, demonstrating Registered Letters were allowed inwards but not outwards. This 1840 example is addressed to Rothschild, has no letter inside but is endorsed "Danish Government" (fig.2).

The rarity is understandable, for the system to 1836 was fantastic, being run for the benefit of the Clerks in the Foreign Branch privately. Letters inwards paid 5/- on collection but outwards a charge of a guinea (£1.1.0 or £1.05 in current coin) was made; this equal to about £550 in today's depreciated currency. No receipt was given; there was no compensation for loss. Of this fee, the Controller received 10/6, his deputy 4/6 and the six clerks 1/- each. A curious feature was the guinea charge was not marked on the letter, only the postage of 5/10, which is 5 times 1/2 (the quarter ounce rate): 40g and 1 ¼ oz is marked at the top left corner. There is a "N° 39" above the weight marks; this is interesting for, assuming this is the number for this letter entered by the London Chief Office, it is very low but it is not known when the

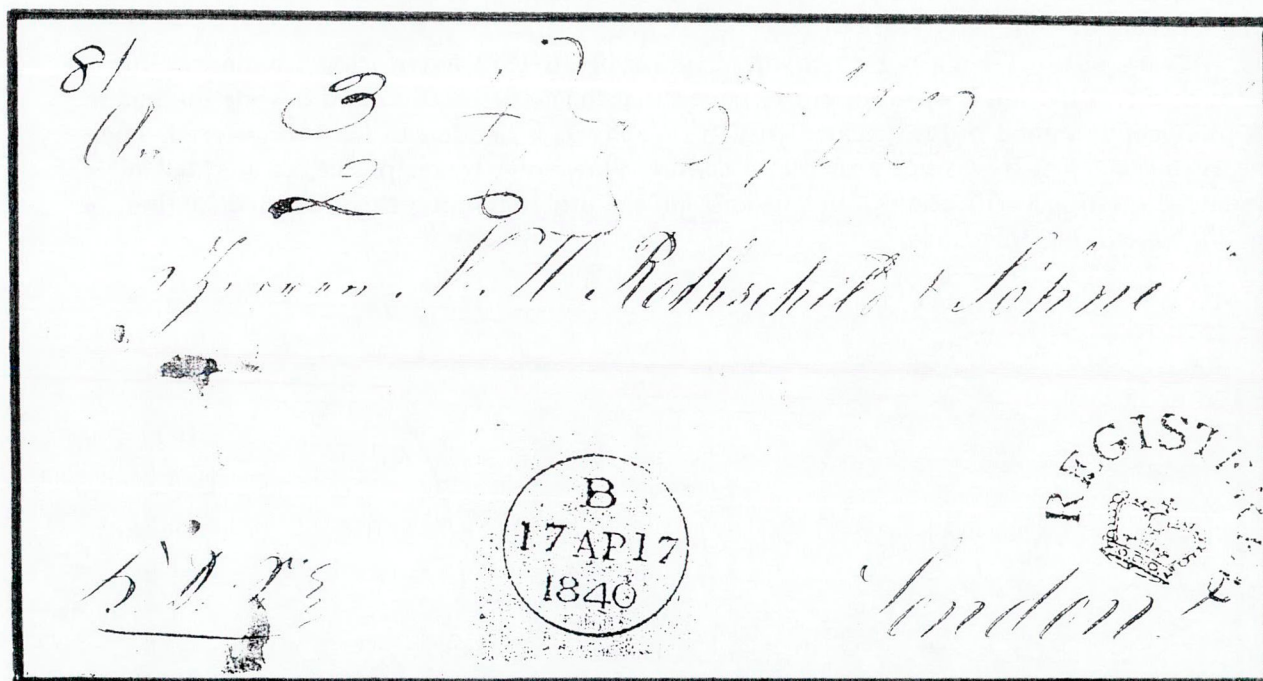


fig. 2

numbering reverted to number 1.

Joyce, in "The History of the Post Office" 1893, confirms this great rarity. The Royal Commission of 1787 did not state the regulating fee but recommended the private system should cease and the revenue go to the public purse - no notice was taken of this!. Joyce states the total revenue from registers in 1793 was £121 and £240 in 1784, which one might calculate to represent less than 50 outward and about 300 inwards for the whole year. The problem is made slightly worse because only letters to London had the Crown/Register stamp. The one or two recorded addressed to Edinburgh had "FO" in a dotted circle (it is suggested this is a London stamp); those to other places had no registered stamp at all struck in G.B. Three letters from one correspondence (1812-14) have the lovely big Stuttgart grille: two to London have the Crown/Register but one to Oxfordshire has nothing.

This raises the question of survival, a problem which Postal Historians must consider. What proportion of mail in various periods has survived - a complicated matter. On all evidence it is surprising the 1822 letter survived, although Rothschild must have sent a number. It is truly remarkable one to Oxfordshire from 1813 should turn up. Peter Forrestier Smith in Notebook 128 talks about scarcity of the Government Type 2 Dockwra 1683-1706 but does not tackle the subject. Survival varies enormously. One large find can disrupt an area (the Charing correspondence in Kent) or by date (Clayton/Moore correspondence) but

generally early letters have a much lower survival rate. It is proposed in the period 1780 - 1840, the sixty years alluded to already, less than one in a hundred thousand is on the market today. It will be very interesting to have the views of other members.

OVERSEAS REGISTERED MAIL TO THE PROVINCES

Reading an account (46W dated 18th May 1805) in the Postmasters General Reports, reproduced here by kind permission of the Post Office Archives, one cannot escape from the feeling that Freeling and the Post Office Establishment were bent on discouraging the public from receiving registered letters from abroad, there being no significant benefit "to the revenue". The account includes a fine example of the REGISTERED Crown stamp with examples of the Foreign Office date stamp. The several letters are arranged in date order, finishing with one from Freeling and the Post Masters General comments.

From the numbering of the pages in the account it would appear the cover for the

Foreign Letter Office
Gen^l Post Office
May 13:1805

Sir,

You are required to take great care in the delivery of the enclosed Packet, which came Registered on the Hamburg Letter Bill of the 8th instant received in London this morning - The underwritten receipt to which it is necessary you should obtain the signature of the Party; accompanied with the Fee of Five Shillings which you are to demand over and above the Postage, you must not fail to transmit to me immediately.

I am / Sir / yours &c &c / HD

May 9th 1805

Received of the Post Master of Bristol a Packet addressed to me which came Registered on the Hamburg Letter Bill of the 8 instant .

above was that shown in fig. 1 (page 131.8). It is simply addressed to "Postmaster of Bristol", headed Registered Packet, carries the endorsement "Foreign Office Official HD" and yet was charged 4/4 postage.

The next letter, the cover of which is at fig. 2 (page 131.9), is addressed to "Mr Smith Merch^t Bristol", with the endorsement "Letter of advice Foreign Office" and carries no postal charge.

Foreign Letter Office
Gen Post Office
May 13 : 1805

Sir,

A Hamburg Mail which arrived in London this morning having brought a Registered Packet addressed to you, for which it is necessary that a receipt should be obtained, the same has accordingly been consigned to the particular care of the Post Master of Bristol who on application will deliver it to you or any person authorised by you to receive it.

The next letter, dated the following day, the 14th, mentions the intention of the five shilling fee to discourage the use of Registration on mail from overseas and proposes the extension of the system to all parts of the country, it having been restricted to London up to that time. The tone of his letter implies the one addressed to Mr Smith from the previous day may not, in fact, have been sent and it is, rather, what Stanhope would propose to say when dealing with any letter destined for the provinces.

Foreign Letter Office

May 14th 1805

My Lords,

Your Lordships having been pleased to approve, & continue to sanction the practice that has so long prevailed in this Office of requiring a Fee of 5/- on each Packet that comes regularly registered from the Post offices on the Continent, addressed to persons in London in order as much as possible to discourage its being resorted to so frequently, as to impede the general, and ordinary duties of the department;- I beg My Lords to suggest to your Lordships on the same principal to extend it to all such Packets of value which may hereafter come regularly registered on any of the Foreign Letter Bills for places in the Country which hitherto has not been demanded owing to the difficulties that were apprehended would arise in procuring proper receipts from the Parties. and for the want of such regulation great inconvenience frequently occurs, on applications from abroad as to the delivery of such packets. I have therefore on your Lordships suggestion considered a mode which appears to me best calculated to effect the Object in question; and will I trust meet with your Lordships approbation - I enclose copies of the Forms of Letters that will necessarily be registered to facilitate the business; if backed by your Lordships Orders, and Instructions to the deputy Post Masters; I do not foresee the smallest difficulty likely to arise from the adoption of the mode I take the liberty of pointing out & recommending to your Lordships consideration - I am

My Lords / Your Lordships / Most Obed H Sevr

W Stanhope

Comp^r

The Right Honble

The Post Master General

&c &c &c

Then follows the Freeling memorandum, in which he - as usual - summarises what has been said in the other letters. His recommendation, for once, lacks his usual certainty. He admits "some force" in the case for extending the scheme to the whole country and then places the final resolution very firmly with their Lordships. This contrasts markedly with his usual phrasing "Your Lordships will doubtless agree etc. etc." or not as the case may be. That their Lordships were not prepared to take the decision without further consultation is made most clear.

However, since this particular correspondence was selected solely on the grounds of the postal markings included on the covers held in the record, the final outcome of this particular proposal by Stanhope can only be guessed. In his book on registration, Mackay devotes several pages to the subject of foreign registered letters. He states, clearly, the forwarding of registered mail to other parts of the country was not permitted until 1836, which makes the 1805 proposal a long time in coming into practice. However, Mackay must be in error here. There are examples recorded by Martin Willcocks to Edinburgh and Chipping Norton.

General Post Office
18th May 1805

My Lords,

Upon the enclosed Application from the Comptroller of the Foreign Office that the Fee now paid upon the Enregistered Packet from the Post offices on the Continent for London may be extended to those addresed to Places in the Country, which hitherto has not been demanded, and pointing out a mode in which the Enregistered packets can in such case be forwarded to the Parties.

I have to observe that the practice as it already obtains with respect to the Enregistered Packets for London, has been strongly arraigned by a Mr Kellner, whose Letter was laid before your Lordships some time since.

It is true that the Arguments urged by the Officers of the Foreign Department, and inforced by myself induced your Lordships very properly to confirm that practice as far as it has gone. But I have strong doubts whether there be any great or urgent, or good reasons for extending the practice to the Country, certainly no such reasons have yet been afsigned.

As far as relates to the Country, it would be to establish a new fee, and I am of opinion that this should never be resorted to unlefs a very strong Case be made out. At all times and with the best reasons to justify demands of this sort, they are liable to misconstruction and cavil, even if they have long usage in their favor, in addition to other recommendations.

I must however in candour admit that there is some force in the argument that if the Fee attached to the delivery of Enregistered Packets in London it is not unreasonable that it should extended to the Country.

Having said thus much your Lordships will find no difficulty in dealing upon the Application now before you.

All which is humbly / submitted by / F. Freeling

the PMG comments.....

I think all letters should be safely delivered within (scratched through, unreadable) & Ireland; the work proposed would take up much time if carried to a great extent, & tho' perhaps convenient for foreign Packets & even Letters is not I think a desirable practice to be established in the Interior. At least so it strikes me at present.

On this subject I will however converse with Mr Freeling.

It is suggested at least two of the letters and covers included here never left the Post office for Bristol and the postal markings were solely by way of illustration for the report.

Mackay affords a clue for the scarcity of registered mail from the early part of the nineteenth century. He quotes Freeling (1834??) who thought that fewer than one a week was registered outwards with 14 or 16 a week registered inwards.

A very curious feature from this correspondence is the presence of a third cover (fig.3). Addressed to Mr Smith, carrying the Foreign Office date stamp for 13 May, the same date as the other to the same addressee; there is also a fine REGISTER Crown stamp, a 3/- charge erased and 4/4 (as on the letter to the Bristol Post Master) entered.

This cover appears to offer an alternative treatment to fig. 2, which it should be noted is part of the sheet of paper on which the letter to Mr Smith is written. The fig.3 letter (page 131.9) appears to have been sealed and opened, being "distressed" in several places.

If indeed the endorsement is "4/4", why should the Post office charge itself for what was clearly an official letter, duly authorised by the originating Post Office department and addressed to a Post Master? One can understand Mr Smith being charged, it was his mail causing all the work.

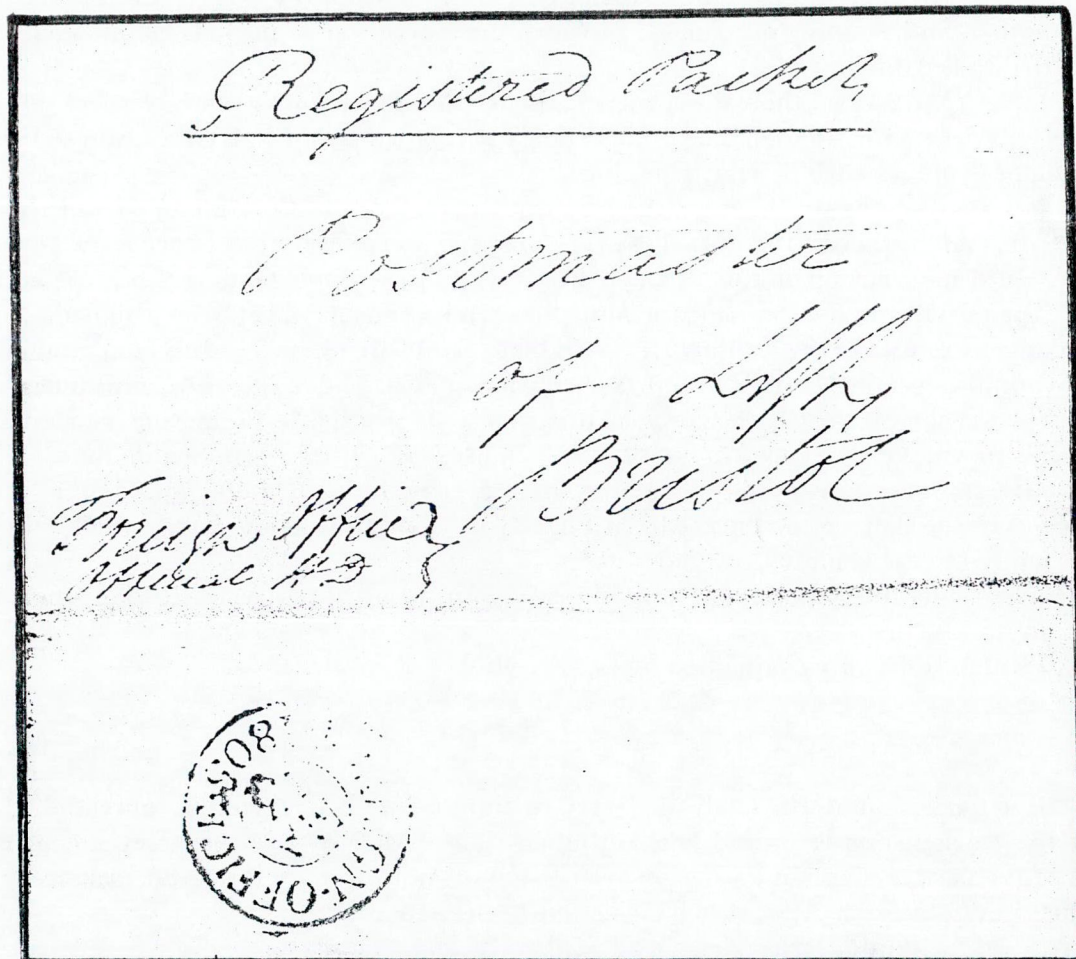


fig. 1 : "Postmaster of Bristol"

In any case, the single rate to Bristol in May 1805 had just increased to 9^d and there was no Inland registration in operation. The letter to the Bristol Postmaster would have contained both the instructional letter with the sample receipt and the Registered Packet from abroad. Perhaps the three shilling charge on fig. 3 was the ounce rate but how was this recalculated the four shillings and four pence? Here, again, these rates may well have been by way of illustrating covers and were never meant to indicate an actual charge.

This is a curious and interesting example of the use of "dummy" covers and postal markings in a report to the Postmasters General, the first to come to attention in *Notebook*. It seems unlikely this is the only example and others digging through the wealth of information in Post office Archives are invited to report any further discoveries.

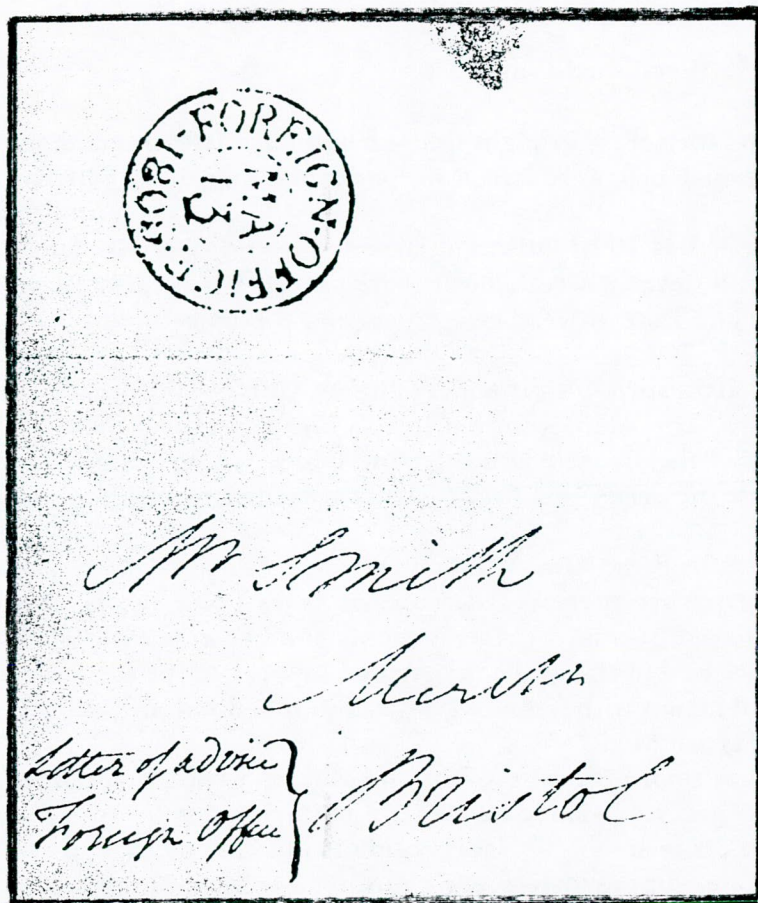
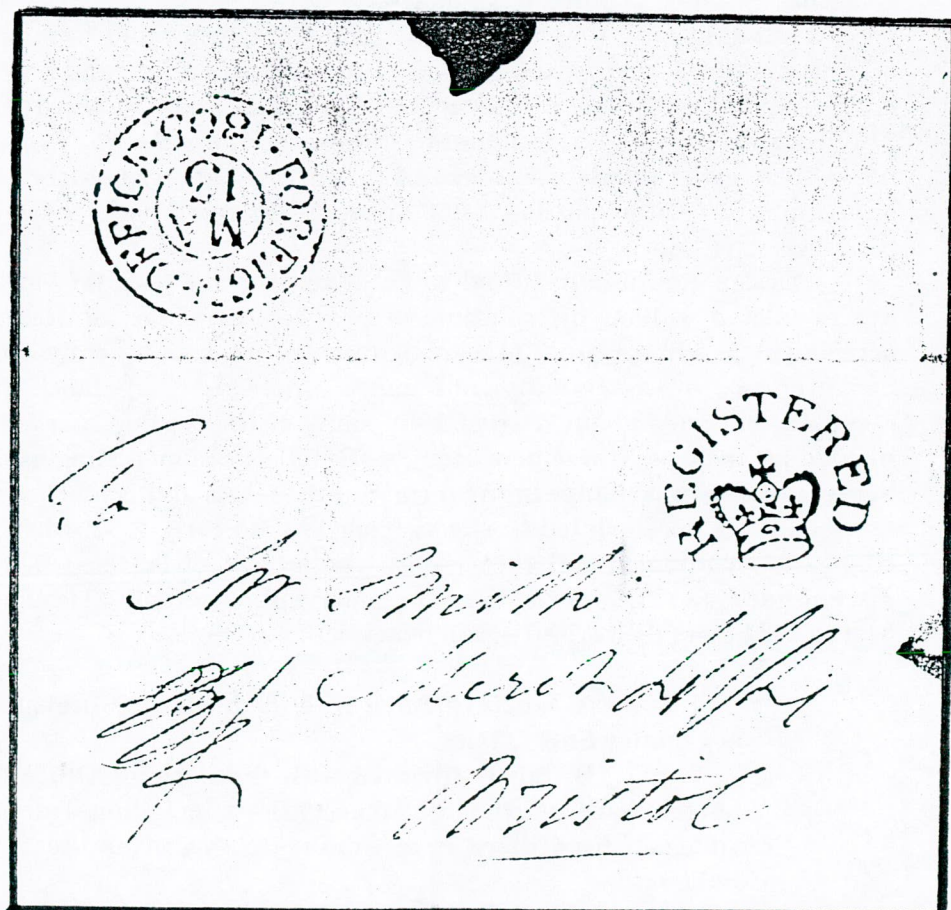


fig. 2 "Mr Smith" :
No charges,
part of the letter sheet.

fig.3
"Mr Smith" - with a
REGISTERED Crown
stamp and every
appearance of having
passed through the mails;
cover is "distressed"



DESIGNATION NUMBERS ON REGISTRATION LABELS

R.L. Woodward-Clarke

Serially numbered registration labels were brought into use in the United Kingdom on the 18th February 1907. The registration labels were issued in four types, known as patterns 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'.

1. The 'A' labels were for use at Head Offices of large towns and districts. There were also for use at Post Offices of small towns where 3,000 or more packets were registered in each year and where there was only one Post office. These labels had the name of the Post Office printed on them.

2. 'B' labels were for use at Branch Offices and Town Sub-Offices where 3,000 or more packets were registered each year. These labels were printed with the name of the town followed by a number, which identified the Branch Office or Sub-Office. These designation numbers should not be confused with the serial numbers (usually preceded by 'No') which appear below the office name.

3. 'C' labels were for use at Branch Offices, Station Offices, Postmen's Offices and Town Sub-Offices where under 3,000 packets were registered each year. These labels were printed with the name of the town followed by a line. Before a supply of labels could be issued to an office of this class the Head Office had to stamp the designation number of the sub-office on this line. For this purpose a special stamp with rubber type was supplied but, in practice, the number was often hand written or typed in.

4. 'D' labels were for use at some offices in towns and villages where the number of packets registered was under 3,000 per year. These labels were not printed with an office name and had to be stamped with the office stamp, the labels being double the normal size to accommodate this. The postal clerk was supposed to remove any time or date slugs before stamping the labels but this was not always done.

In addition to Post Offices, 'B' and 'C' labels could be supplied to certain firms and organisations. To qualify, the firms had to use posting lists and post more than 1,000 or more registered packets per year. They affixed the labels and numbered the posting lists themselves. The firms were allotted a designation number in the same way as for post offices but this was normally a higher number than any of the subordinate post offices in the same town. 'B' labels were supplied to firms posting 2,000 or more registered packets per year; under 2,000 packets 'C' labels were issued.

Designation numbers had to be advised to the Secretary of the Post Office and could not be altered without his consent. In practice there was no need to alter the numbers but occasionally a number given to a subordinate office, subsequently closed, was later allotted to a newly opened office. Initially, not many offices used 'B' labels (just over 300 have been recorded) but from about August 1909 many of the existing users of 'C' labels had 'B' labels printed for their use (these new users of 'B' labels can be distinguished from the original users because there was a change in the format of the labels at this time).

Labels were printed in sheets from 1907 to early 1931, when the Post office decided to change to printing in roll form. With the advent of labels issued in rolls, 'C' labels were discontinued and 'D' labels were for emergency use only. The Post Office Circular of 25th March 1931 gives the revised arrangements:-

1. 'A' labels (printed with the name of Office) are used at Head Offices and at Country Sub-Offices.

2. 'B' labels (printed with the name of Office followed by a designation number) are used at all other Offices, including Town Sub-Offices in towns or villages where there is a Country Sub-Offcie, also by firms with Registration Labels.

3. 'D' labels (no printed name of Office) are used in cases of emergencies only.

Some 8,200 office of origin designation numbers have been identified but there are still many gaps in the number sequences where users have not been identified, thus giving scope for doing much more work on the subject. There are two ways in which users may be identified :-

a. Head Postmasters were required to keep a record of designation numbers for their area and this would appear to be an easy way to obtain the information. However, virtually all enquiries have led to a negative response on the grounds the information is confidential.

b. As the postage stamps on registered letters are cancelled by the counter stamp of the receiving office which affixes the registration label, this has proved the most effective means of identification.

Designation numbers used by firms are more difficult to identify. Usually, no means always, the designation numbers used by firms are *higher* than any used by a sub-office in the same town.

If the designation number *belongs to a post office* then return addresses on the back of the letters handed in at that post office will be nearly all different.

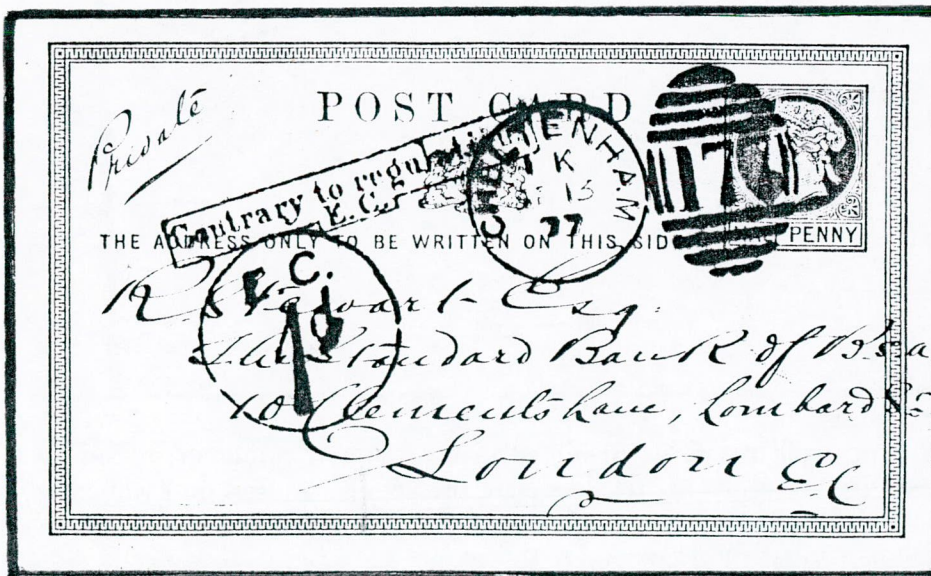
However, if the designation numbers *belongs to a firm*, then the return address on the letter will always be the *same firm* for that *particular designation number*.

It would be appreciated if collectors would examine any registered covers in their possession and forward identified for any designation numbers. Details to the writer at

215 Lichfield Road, SUTTON COLDFIELD, West Midlands B74 2XB

UNDERPAID MAIL

R.I. Johnson

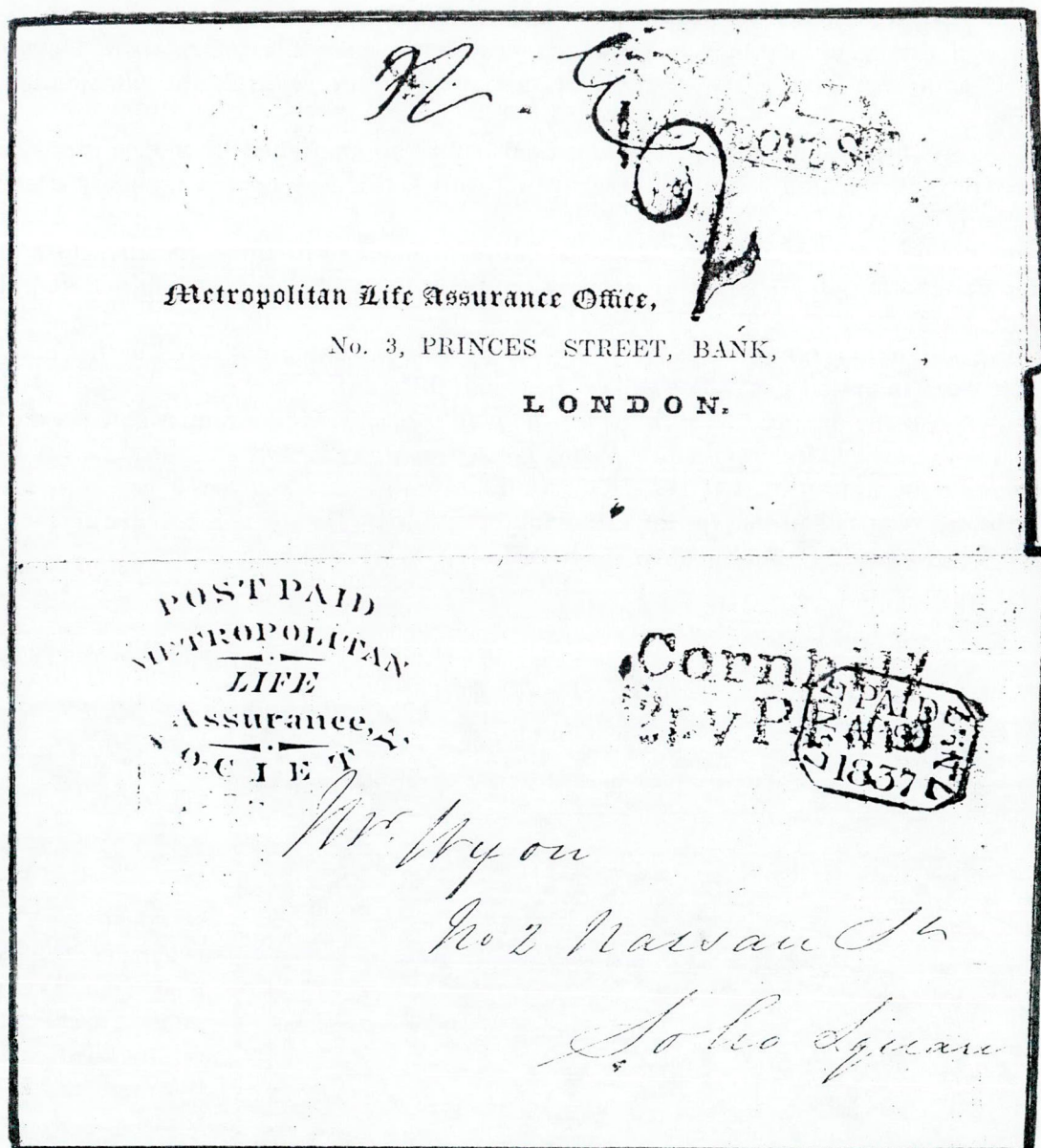


This is the standard government issue post card. Written on the reverse is "a communication in the nature of a letter".

The reason for the charge and the "Contrary to regulations / E.C." must the endorsement on the obverse "Private"; the regulations stipulated nothing other than the address should appear and this indication the card was not related to the bank's business cost the recipient double the deficiency for the letter rate demanded.

GREAT NEWPORT STREET

Writing, rather rewriting, a collection, allows the opportunity of revising what has been noted before. In the case of the Cornhill cover, it was decided to open it up to show both the initial address and the return panel.



The quality is poor but, from the table provided in the London catalogue, it can be identified as "G Newport St" (G = Great). Struck in green, the stamp - indeed no Twopenny Post stamps for that matter - is recorded by Jay and none were shown in the original Feldman working papers. This item, dated April 28th 1838, is a first.

A copy has been sent to Hugh Feldman who, as late as early March, was still managing to insert additional information into the proof stage copy. Should you have even just a single unreported item there may yet be time to amend the record. At least, it can be included with any published additional information.

TWO PENNY POST BOUNDARY

Ray Jeal

The article in Notebook 129.19 by Barrie Evans triggered a response from Peter Bathe. These few comments take into account Peter's remarks plus a few of my own observations.

It is most unlikely Mr Partridge would have had advance knowledge concerning the extension of the London Two penny Post area some three years before the event. In the absence of any further information, it must be this piece of paper was simply a reminder to him of the places which adjoined the Two Penny Post area and, therefore, letters for those places should be sent to Dartford. Even a man holding the position enjoyed by Mr Partridge would probably have had little knowledge of what were, at that time, tiny villages at the other end of the County. This, of course, assumes the piece of paper was written the same time as the entries in the book.

One correction is required : the second location in Mr Partridge's list is not Plendon but BLENDON. The villages listed were not all actually on the Dover Road, only Crayford and Welling were, but all were served, in 1830, from Dartford and, therefore, relied on the Dover Road for their mail. Of course things changed dramatically in 1833 when the London Two Penny Post limit extended. All the listed villages were then able to get their mail to Bexley and take advantage of the Ride which formerly ended at Eltham.

In understanding the postal arrangements in this area prior to 1833 we are blessed with a couple of very helpful documents in the Post Archives, one in 1805 and another some 20 years later. From these it is clear that, in principle, the villages were served by a Fifth Clause Post, not a Penny Post. The only significant Penny Post from Dartford was to Stone, Swanscombe and Greenhithe on the Gravesend Road, established in 1830. However, a penny Post was also set up from Dartford to Bexleyheath and Welling in 1839, although an example has yet to be seen. This stemmed from a situation discussed the 1825 document mentioned above, as a result of which a Fifth Clause Post was set up from Dartford to Bexleyheath and Welling and the 1839 penny Post was no more than a conversion exercise.

The background to these events is well described in the 1825 document which shows the letter carrier covering the area between Dartford and the London Two Penny Post boundary had to walk "upwards of 20 miles" in the course of his delivery. This embraced Crayford, Bexley, North Cray, Lamorbey, Welling, Bexleyheath and Belvedere and this led to complaints from those towards the end of the walk of the late arrival of their mail. The solution referred to in the 1825 papers was the creation of the direct link to Bexleyheath and Welling. As indicated above, when the Eltham Ride was extended to Bexley in 1833, a Two Penny Post Receiving House was set up there, which presumably accepted mail from Two Penny Post Receiving Houses at Bexleyheath, Welling, Erith, etc. There was, however, no question of villages being transferred to the Two Penny Post. As in other similar locations (e.g. Bromley) the inhabitants had the choice of using either existing General Post arrangements or the new London Post, whichever was the cheaper or most convenient.

The reference in Pigot to mail going to Bexleyheath via Blackheath (in 1845) seems extraordinary. It was a relatively short walk from Bexleyheath to Bexley, this demonstrated by the residents of the Heath going to Bexley for church services prior to a Heath church being built. It seems clear mails came to Bexleyheath from Dartford via the Dover mail and that letters at Bexleyheath Receiving House were fed into the Bexley Ride at Bexley.

This, it is hoped, provides some background information, albeit failing to answer the mystery of Mr Partridge's piece of paper.

LONDON UNDATED RECEIVING HOUSE NAME STAMPS

1856 - 1860

The Hugh Feldman work on the Receiving House stamps embraces the period up to the late 1850s but will not include those illustrated below other than B1; B2; F1, all of which originate well before the period 1856 - 1860. This leaves a gap in the story of the undated stamps, which is to be filled by a separate *Handbook* section.

A preliminary listing of stamps included in the Proof Impression Books held by Post Office Archives has been prepared and a copy of this sent to Michael Champness, who has included these stamps in his research programme for many years. He reports, already, there are a number not in the P.I.B.s and will be working his way through his own-accumulated recordings to amend this preliminary list.

From members who have any - even the solitary example kept for quite a different purpose - it is so important we have a note of these and a pro-forma record sheet is enclosed with this issue of *Notebook*.

Please do not leave it to someone else to report what you might think to be "ordinary" - there is no such stamp in Postal History in the working papers for a publication.

GROUP B Characteristic : Straight line upright sans serif capitals.

B1 One straight line DALSTON
(to be covered by Hugh Feldman)

B2 Two straight lines TOTTENHAM
(to be covered by Hugh Feldman) CT-RP-103

B3 Two straight lines, BLOOMSBURY
the second being W.C.
District Initials

GROUP C Characteristic: Unframed circular types with serif or sans serif capitals, usually with one or two arcs below.

C1 Sans serif capitals,
two arcs below



C4 Small sans serif capitals,
one arc below



C4A

Small sans serif capitals,
name in two segments,
one arc separating each segment



C4B

Small sans serif capitals,
name in two segments,
dot separating beginning
and end



C4C

Small sans serif capitals,
name in two segments,
dots separating each segment



C6

Sans serif capitals,
name in two segments,
two arcs separating
each segment



GROUP D

Characteristic : Framed circular types with serif or sans serif capitals.

D1A

Small sans serif capitals
round perimeter
with name in one segment
(20 mm diameter)



D1B

Small sans serif capitals
round perimeter,
with name in two segments
(20 mm diameter)



D2A

Small sans serif capital letters
round perimeter,
with name in two segments
and across diameter



D2B

Small sans serif capital letters
round perimeter,
with name in two segments and
London District initial(s)
across diameter



D4

Sans serif capital letters across
diameter in one line



GROUP F

Characteristic : Upright lower case lettering in straight line

F1 One straight line
(to be covered by Hugh Feldman)

Deptford

THE HONAN MACHINE

Michael Goodman

Alistair Kennedy spotted the true identity of this piece (on brown paper and difficult to copy decently). Originally identified as "possibly ALMA", which only shows how wrong one can be.

Details of the machine appear in "Daily Records and Orders" *Notebook 118-120*.



In year 1914, entry 401 from original page 78 :
"16 Jun : The Stamp Room Officers / The new "Honan Revolving Stamp" should be brought into use on and from today...correspo....brought in with the following collec... etc. etc."

This very rare example of the Honan is dated the 18th June 1914.

FREE AT LONDON

Trevor Davis

As was established in *Notebook 129*, the stamp is not "AT", rather "A" is fixed with the "T" representing the variable date coding; the example here shows "AI".

The letter originated on the 11th June 1860 in Bathurst, New South Wales. It was routed through Sydney (14th June), from thence per "Malta" to Suez. A change of ships there, being carried on the "Vectis" from Alexandria to Marseilles, with a dating there of the 4th August. The London stamp is dated two days later on the sixth. The rate, prepaid, was 9^d per half ounce, via Marseilles.

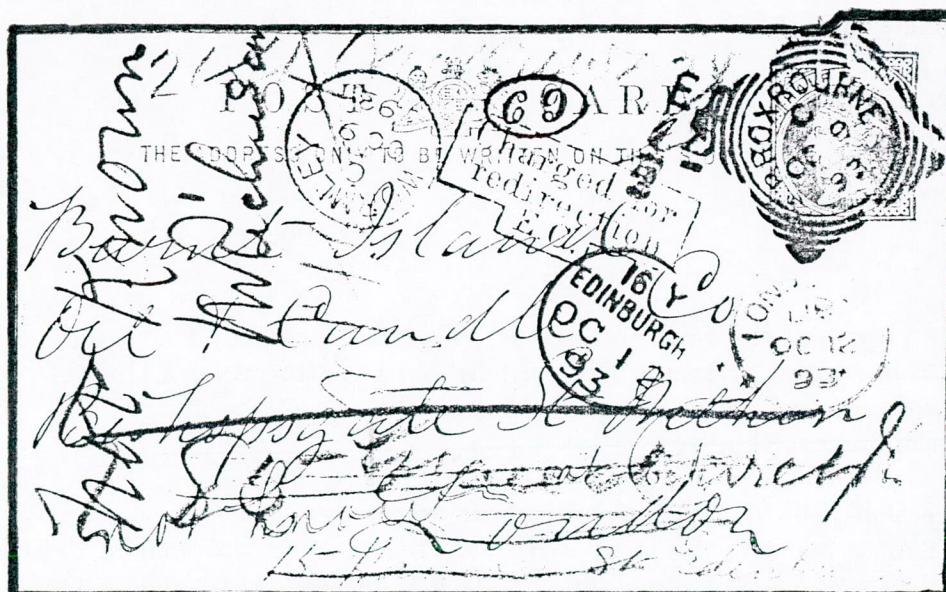
A possible explanation for the use of the "FREE" stamp is shown in the additional addressing. As can be seen the writer put "care of Mess^{rs} Sam^l Courtauld & Co London". Someone, presumably the Post Office, added "7 Love Lane". As this was not a re-addressing, which would have been chargeable, but only a better direction, the "FREE LONDON" date stamp was struck to ensure no charge would be demanded from the addressee.

FREE AT LONDON



CHARGED FOR REDIRECTION E.C.

It has to be admitted immediately : it is torn, repaired - not very well - and generally would not find space in any postal history collection. That is, unless you were really interested in postal history and rather less interested in displaying superb medal winning material.



The halfpenny postal stationery post card was posted in WORMLEY on the 9th October 1893. It went to the main office at BROXBORNE, where it can be cancelled by the squared circle, code C for the same date.

It was addressed, in the first place, the Bishopsgate St Within London but was redirected

to 85 Gracechurch St, this and the line through the original address being in a strong blue pencil.

However, Burnt Island Oil and Candle Co. were, seemingly, now in Scotland for a pencil redirection can be found at the base of the card "15 Hanover St Edinburgh". Being a mobile business, this was not their latest situation for, at the top of the card, is an undeleted "21 St Andrews St". Undeleted, so presumably the final, and successful, redirection.

There are two "Not known" endorsements, the one across the left hand side being signed by two postmen.

All this activity on the part of the Post Office has accompanying markings. Since the card was posted on the 9th October, a Monday, we may presume it arrived in London the following day, at the latest. The delivery postman found the business was no longer in Bishopsgate St Within. The order of stamps after that must be pure conjecture. The inverted step framed "Charged for..." mark is overstruck by the oval Blind Bag number and the EC/ ½^d charge, both in an intense black contrasting with the weaker explanatory mark. The blue pencil readdressing has an "official" feel to it, perhaps entered by the Blind Bag officer. This was also a failure, the signed "Not Known" being entered. Despite this, someone saw fit to redirect the card to Scotland, leaving London and arriving in Edinburgh on the 12th. It took two bites at that particular (city) cherry to get delivered. This may, it seems, be assumed. There are no other stamps indicating a return to sender or otherwise a final failure by the Post office to deliver.

It appears there was but one redirection charge signalled, despite three such efforts, thus costing both the sender and addressee just one halfpenny for what must have been a number of hours of effort by the Post Office.

The vital message which generated all this was "Please forward price List of Candles": at least Mr R. Riches of Wormley, Broxbourne, Herts at last knew the correct address for his order.

LETTER CARRIER AND RECEIVER DEBTORS

From the almost apologetic tone of his letter, in 1803 the size of the debts of Letter Carriers and Receivers in the Two Penny Post department had caught Freeling on the wrong foot. The letter and a summary of the file is reproduced here; the listings for the Chief Office is not.

POST 42 POST MASTERS GENERAL REPORTS

Vol. 23 Page 86

No. 39P

General Post Office

16th November 1803

My Lords,

In sending to your Lordships the Enclosed Papers from the Two Penny Post Office, being a list of Debts due from Letter Carriers & Receivers in that Department for a Quarter ended 10th October last, I am concerned to see that there is an Increase Of £100 compared with the corresponding Quarter of the preceding year.

I have seen M^r Freeman upon the subject, and as far as relates to the Form of these Accounts I have settled, that as many of the Debts were incurred near ten years since, the Solicitor shall be required to give his opinion upon such as may be irrecoverable; that the Letter Carriers & Receivers shall be classed under their respective Heads; and that instead of an Alphabetical List of Names, the Insertion shall be in the point of order of time in which the Debts were contracted.

The Account by having the irrecoverable Debts abstracted from it, will be much more creditable than it now appears to be, and in other respects will be improved both in precision & use.

I beg your Lordships to be assured that this whole subject has from time to time received my attention, and Mr Parker has been called upon to render his best assistance in recovering from the Sureties the full amount of the Debts in all cases & where there was a possibility obtaining it. I shall again direct him to consider & report upon the best means of reducing so discreditable a Balance; and I have other means in contemplation, which when matured shall be laid before your Lordships, in the hope and expectation that they will effectually prevent any accumulation whatever to the Debt of the Two Penny Post hereafter.

Your Lordships well know that we have no such debts with the General Post Letter Carriers, not can there be any very good reason assigned why they should be suffered in the Two Penny Post Department for the future. Altho' I am aware that there have been many serious difficulties & obstacles to the prevention of it hitherto.

All which is humbly submitted / by F. Freeling

.....

notes on cover : All perfectly right in prospects ; & proper for further report at our next board
AD CL

Mr Parker will report upon such as are deemed to be irrecoverable (?)
AD CL

.....

The listing for the Chief Office is very long; it is not reproduced here but the following summary may be of interest.

There were 221 names listed yielding a total of £773 4 6 , thus :

Amount of Debts due from Letter Carriers & receivers to the	
10 th October 1803 from the 17 th May 1794	£ 773. 4. 6
Old Debts to 17 th May 1794	24. 10. 1

	£ 797. 14. 7

.....

The lack of control by the Two Penny Post Office management is quite surprising. As already remarked, the effect on Freeling is clear and this lapse on the part in the area of his responsibility would have caused some acid comment from the Post Masters General. With the loss of the Minutes of the Board meeting, we will never know exactly what was said but a little imagination will provide the probable scenario.

The Westminster listing is given on the following page.

THE WESTMINSTER OFFICE

The listing of debts due from Letter Carriers & Receivers at the Westminster Office the 10th October 1803 comprised some fifty seven names, with amounts ranging from as little as one shilling up to £ 27. 9^s .10^d

Armstrong	5 3 6	Bro ^t up	66 „ 4	Bro ^t up £ 205 „ 5	
Ashe	2 17 6	Green	2 6 2	½	
Abrea	. 19 3	Greening	„ 1 „	Teedman	2 19 6
B.....	1 1 5	Hathaway	13 3	Taylor	5 5
Best	1 9 8	Hodges	10 2 3	Walker	1 2
Biggoll	12 ...	Higgins	27 9 10	Williams	1 8 5
Buy	10 10	Hurley	9 16 3	Wilson G	6 5 3
Betts	17 6	Horn	6 5 3	Waldron	12 9 „
Brown	11 18 7	Hughes	7 13 2	Weaver	9 15 3
Bull	1 1 4	Lawrence	5 17 2	Watts / Ben/-	6 2 6
Bridgeland	10 6	Matthews	5 5 7	Watts / Tho ^s /-	8 „
Burrell	3 2	Mills	5 3 10	Wostley	1 5
Buckland	2 17 6	Pedder	10 7 4	11¼	
Caldicourt	3 19 8	Read	1 1 10	Pancoast	3 1 4
Calf	4 11 5	Rook	3 15 „	Stonhill	1 „
Chambers	1 3 10	Reynolds	3 6 1	Humphries	3 1?
C onway	10 3	Reynolds H ^F	10 12 3	?Neighbour	8 5
Cook	7 6 1	Saunders	14 5		
Dickie	6 11 6	Searl	20 16 „		
Flood	4 2 7	South	3 10 10½		£ 253 1 7 ¾
Filling (?)	7 12 3	Skinner	3 1 3		
		Shurcty	13 „		
		Smithson	8 4		

The exploration of the Reports continues. There ought to be a follow up to this demonstrating the action taken by Freeling and the management to prevent this loss of Revenue, a subject so dear to Freeling.

.....AND FINALLY

Michael English, after sterling work for several years as Hon. Treasurer, will not be continuing after 30th April. The accounts for the year will be prepared and audited for someone else to take over. Please do not leave this to someone else. If you spare some time, do contact Michael to find out what is involved in case you are concerned there is too much involved. His address is in the programme.