

NOTEBOOK

Number 158 August, 2004

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EDITORIAL.....

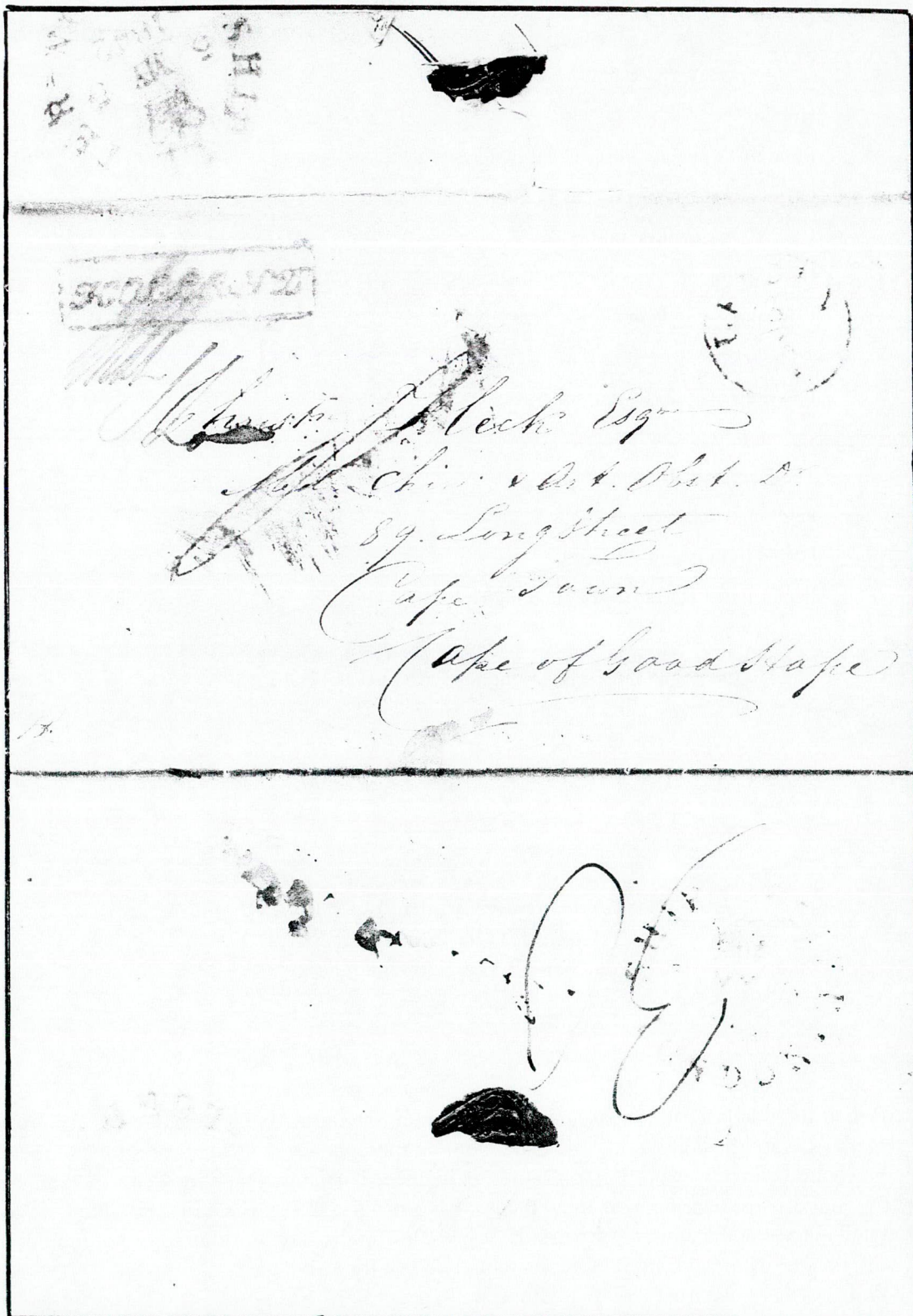
We half intended to date this issue, April, the month it should have appeared but suffering from a nasty streak of honesty the correct date appears. Not that there has been an acute shortage of material, though contributions are always required. Rather, perhaps because of advancing years and an infinite capacity for total disorganisation, somehow the issue has progressed by fits and starts. Now we look back on past years and marvel at the amount of work dealt with during the day. For those not yet retired, be advised - you too will wonder where you found time to actually work for a living.

With your help, we trust the next edition will appear before too long.

HOLLAND

A Recent Discovery from Patrick Frost

The item illustrated here was sent by Patrick Frost, again disproving the nonsensical claim when the LPHG was founded 'There is nothing new to find about London'.



In his note Patrick remarks the Holland mark was not listed by Jay and does not seem to have been recorded before, although it was included amongst the proof impressions of Foreign Branch handstamps on a page in the Bruce Castle Museum. This is shown on page 157 in the London Catalogue.

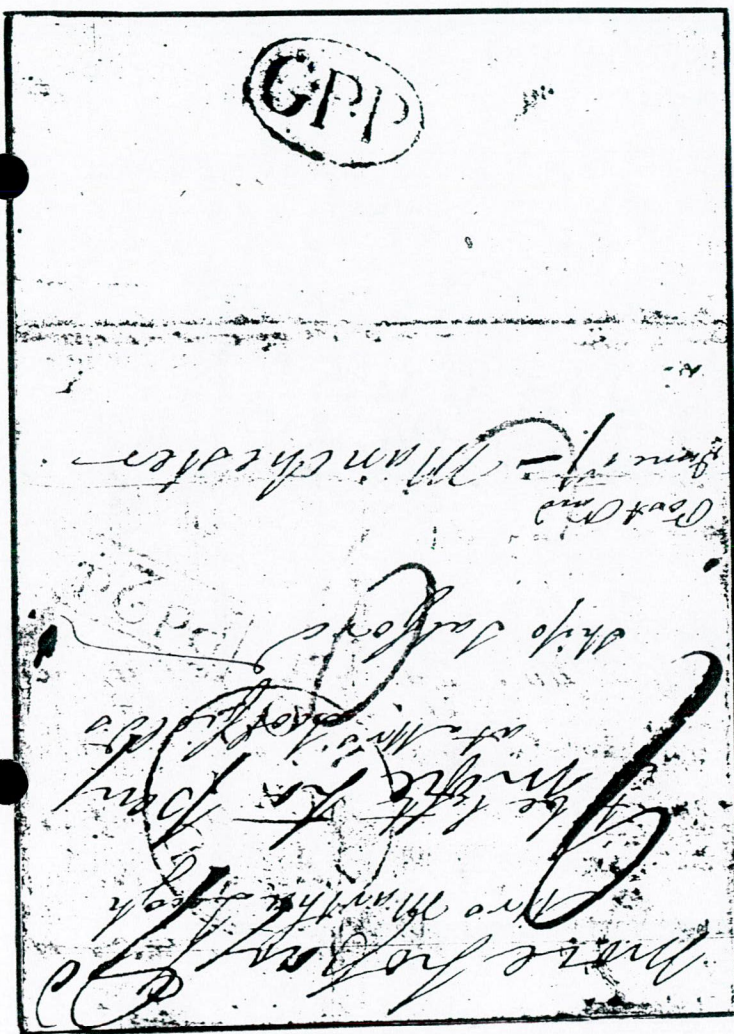
The illustrated abstract is titled 'Stamps used in the Foreign Department G.P.O.' and 'Foreign Post Office. 17 July 1838'. This item, dated at Leiden for May 3, carries the London Ship Letter date stamp for May 5 but shows no other postal markings to or at its destination, the Cape of Good Hope.

The Ship Letter stamps and the framed Holland mark appear to be in a very similar, slightly oily, red-brown but one should not read too much into this, the colour being in common use in the Post Office.

LONDON TWOPENNY POST - CHARGE MARKS

Although included by Jay, under 'Charge Stamps', this paid mark L 643, has much in common with the three paid and unpaid stamps listed under 'Instructional'.

Attributed to Islington, by virtue of the place given by the writer, it is thought to be the only recorded example.



The letter is addressed to :-

Mrs Martha Leigh
at Mrs Scotfields
Ship Salford
Manchester

Post Paid / June 1st

It is not known whether 'Ship' is the name of a tavern or 'Ship Salford' refers to a ship.

Manchester, with Salford as one of its Penny Post Receiving Houses (stamps known from 1806), at some 186 miles from London was rated at 9^d, this being the amount, entered in red alongside the framed P^d 2^d

The oval framed G-P-P applied to signal a prepaid letter being transferred from the Twopenny Post to the General Post.

The London PAID date stamp for JUN 1 / 1802. The charge of 9^d was, nevertheless, applied twice, in black ink, in different hands.

From the text it is clear the letter contained an enclosure.

There are no arrival marks.

The recipient drafted the reply at the foot of the letter.

'Sir,

We rec^d your letter of the 31st May with the rec^d inclosed & herein send you Jones & C^o Draft for 9.8.6 - We had post to pay for your letter. The letter was so small that they must suspect it being double and by it's being sealed at the edge for the seals at the edge were loose so that for they might see very plain that there was another paper inclosed.

Postage is 0 - 0 - 9 (Presumably the recovery of the postage due.)

Stamp 0 - 1 - 0 9.10.6

Bill 9 - 8 - 6

Writing letter 0 - 0 - 3'

Pd 2d

OFFICE INITIAL STAMPS OF THE LONDON DISTRICT POSTS

A note from Michael Champness on these marks prompted a scan through the *Notebook* index, which revealed an error perpetuated ever since the first article in *Notebook* 16.

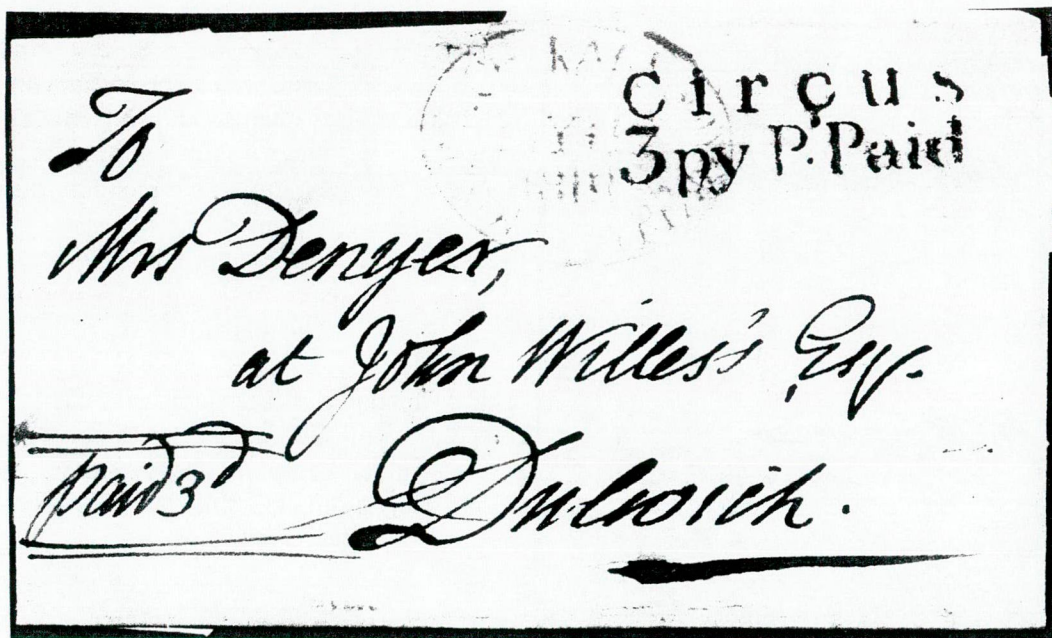
BRN has been faithfully reported as BRIXTON. However, Michael points out BR^N is BRompton, whereas BXN is BriXtoN. This challenge to extant listings needs to be dealt with. Would readers provide copies of all examples they have for these two sets of initials, front and back for preference. If possible, someone please verify, from the Proof Impression Books for 1856 and 1857, to which office they were issued, or intended as the office of use. According to Michael's notes BR^N was issued 8th July, 1856 (see Proud, volume 6, page 117) and BXN issued 8th October, 1857 (Proud volume 14).

Pursuing needs, has a reader ever seen the 'M' of Marylebone or the 'GS' for Park Street, Grosvenor Square, no record of use. Also, an illustration of PT, Park Terrace would be welcome. It has been recorded 13th March to 10th April, 1855 only, possible just those two dates.

CIRCUS :A NEW RECORDING

John M. Roberts

The newly discovered handstamp has been sent in by John M. Roberts. It carries a very fine strike of L 508, the 3py P. Paid of Circus, recorded by neither Jay nor Feldman. As can be seen, the date is a little unclear but appears to be MY 6 1816.



The office has but three marks listed by Feldman, L507 'recorded but not illustrated'. Although shown by Cary on his map of 1800 as having a Penny Post Office, no Penny Posts marks known thus far.

INTRODUCTION OF LONDON POSTAL DISTRICT NUMBERS 1917

The reproduction of the letter distributed to all households in 1917 with the introduction of postal district numbers reflects the second step, as it were, towards modern post codes. The print run of 1,216,000 is not without interest but may reflect just the total in more than a single printing.



NOTICE FROM
His Majesty's Postmaster-General.

LETTERS FOR THE LONDON POSTAL AREA.
NEW METHOD OF ADDRESS.

I wish to appeal to the public in London and to their correspondents in the Provinces to adopt a simple system which will improve the Postal service at the cost of very little trouble to themselves. By so doing they will be helping to save labour and money, which the country requires for War purposes.

Many people suppose that a letter to London is correctly and sufficiently addressed if it bears the District initials—S.W., E.C., &c.—after the name of the street. Sometimes this is so, but more often it is not. London, owing to its large area and vast postal traffic, requires 112 separate Delivery Offices. In the S.E. District, for example, there are 27 Delivery Offices, and the Post Office sorter can only determine from memory or by reference to street lists to which of these 27 offices a letter, addressed simply S.E. after the name of the street, should be sent.

Before the War the Post Office staff from long experience were able to sort the greater number of letters correctly even when they were wrongly or insufficiently addressed. But the majority of these officers are now serving in the Army, and the same skill or memory cannot be expected of their temporary substitutes.

I propose, therefore, to introduce forthwith a new system of address under which a **number** placed after the District initials will indicate the proper Office of Delivery. Thus **N.W. 1** will indicate the area served from the North-Western District Office, **N.W. 3** the area served from Hampstead. If the correct number as well as the District initials of the address

to which it is directed are placed upon a letter, it can easily and accurately be sorted to the proper office. It will be immaterial whether the name of the sub-district—e.g., Hampstead, Blackheath, Kensington—is inserted, omitted or wrongly stated, because it will be ignored.

A small book has been prepared, showing the proper District initials and number for each of the principal streets in London, which will be obtainable free of charge at any Post Office in London or through any of the larger Offices in the Provinces.

I appeal especially to every resident in London to help by putting the new form of address on his stationery, and by drawing the attention of his correspondents to the change, and I would urge everyone, whether resident in London or not, to put the correct district initials and number on any letter, parcel, postcard or other postal communication sent to a London address.

You will thereby save labour in the Post Office, and you will reduce the risk of delay to your own correspondence. Letters which bear the new District numbers will not be delayed for those which do not bear them.

(Signed) ALBERT H. ILLINGWORTH,
His Majesty's Postmaster-General.

GENERAL POST OFFICE.

1st March, 1917.

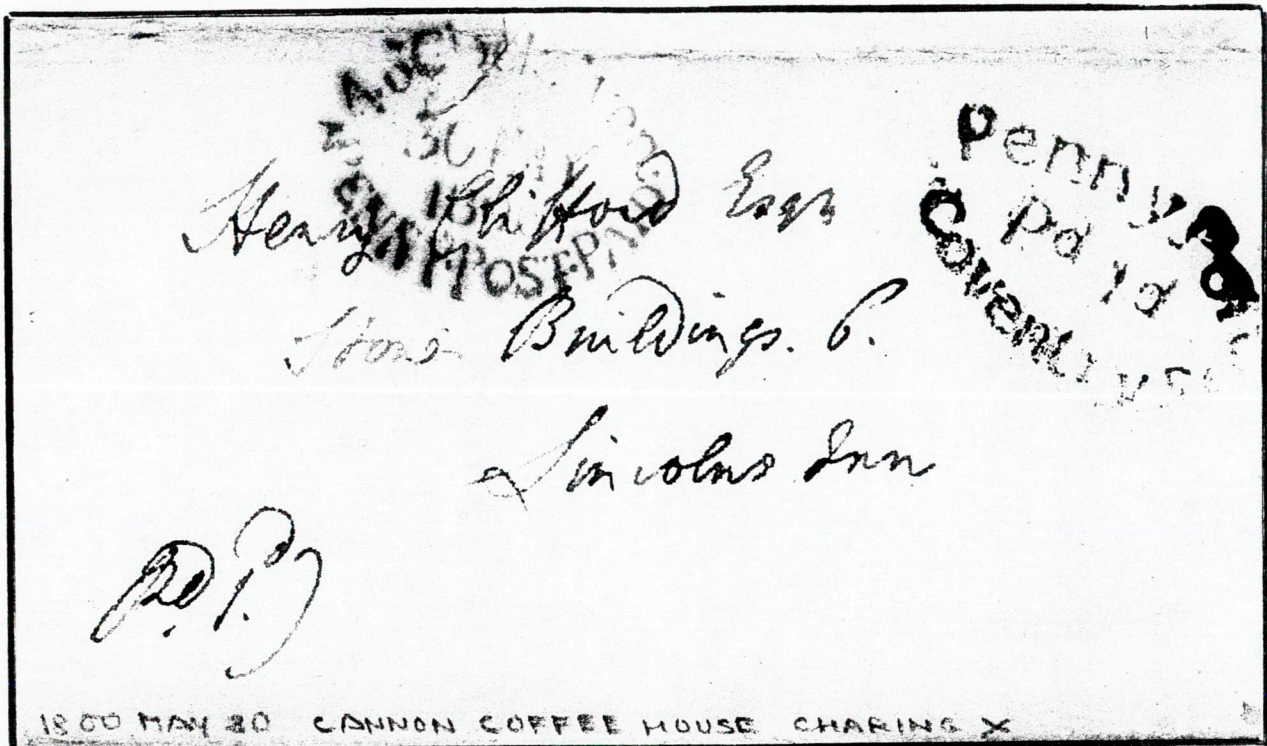
The correct District Initial and Number for your
House are:—

S.E. 18.

John Parmenter has a Post Office information sheet reading *In March 1917 as a war time measure to assist the new inexperienced women sorters who were regarded as needing help with the task of sorting mail correctly for the several District Offices.*

COVENTRY STREET PENNY POST

John M. Roberts



Letters written from or directed to Coffee Houses are keenly sort. It gives added pleasure to have found one written from the Cannon Coffee House, Charing Cross, which carries an example of the Pd 1^d for Coventry Street, recorded by neither Jay nor Feldman. Jay does note a 1798 record for an unpaid stamp for the Penny Post. Curiously, although the stamps for the Twopenny Post appeared promptly in 1801 with the advent of the Twopenny Post, there is but the single recording for a Penny Post mark, until this new find. Is it over inking or wear which accounts for the quality of the strike?

THE PACKET

We have been very fortunate with the Auction each year with good support from a number of vendors, albeit fewer this year than hitherto. Sadly, this is not the case with the Packet, run by Brian Smith for many a year. Apart from his own efforts in securing material, it appears there is but one other offering material, a fact no doubt realised by those on the Packet list.

A small quantity of covers, say as few as half a dozen, culled from any you no longer require, prices 'to sell' and sent to Brian will be most welcome by everyone, not the least yourself with the proceeds towards a further purchase.

If you have anything to sell or want advice please contact him,
Brian Smith, Stoneybank, Church Lane, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, WALLINGFORD OX10 0SD

POSTAL HERITAGE TRUST

A slightly edited version of the May/June Newsletter.

The Postal Heritage Trust took over from Heritage Royal Mail on the 29th March, 2004. They will maintain all the services already provided and begin to develop long term plans for the future.

The Postal Heritage Trust web site is based on the old Heritage Royal Mail site but with improved navigation and more information on what they do and the material held. Over the coming months it will be developed to provide as much information as possible for users. (Enter POSTAL HERITAGE TRUST and let Google, or whoever, do the rest.)

The Search Room at Freeling House was reopened on the 13th April, 2004. It has fully renovated with a new exhibition area, computer bank, separate refreshment area, with greatly improved facilities and better opening hours, these now being:-

Monday to Friday 10 am to 5 p.m.
Thursday open till 7 p.m.

In addition, it will open on six Saturdays in 2004/5, this to assess the demand for a permanent, regular Saturday service.

From 10 am to 5 p.m. on

2004: 18th September, 13th November
2005: 8th January, 26th February

(Editor: - if you do not use it, you will lose it!)

There are three new guides to the Archive covering the archive overall, family history research and reports & minutes. It is hoped these will enable visitors to find their way into and around the holdings more easily. The guides will show where to find information within the search room, how to access on line the National Archive Catalogue PROCAT, which lists a large part of the POST classes, whether records are stored here, available on microfilm or, in the case of telecommunications, material at the BT Archives

All the guides may be downloaded from the web site.

There will be a series of lectures this autumn starting on the September 7th, when Dr Ian Aitken's subject will be 'The GPO and its films in the 1930s'.

October 5th. Tony Benn's with 'The Future of Britain's Oldest Public Service'.,
Reflections of an old Postmaster General.

November 9th, Douglas Muir on 'The Machin Design'. and concluding on

December 7th, Barry Robinson, 'The A to Z of Special Stamps'.

Already started this month, the new philatelic exhibition area at Freeling House began a series of exhibits, including Rowland Hill and the Penny Black. Material from the Phillips Collections will also be on display. Full details of the web site, www.royalmail.com/heritage.

In September the launch of the Postal Heritage Museum Store at Debden, where all the large object collection had been brought together for the first time. This includes vehicles, letter boxes, postal mechanisation material and much more. The Store will open up for booked tours with a member of staff on allocated days.

Editorial Footnote:-

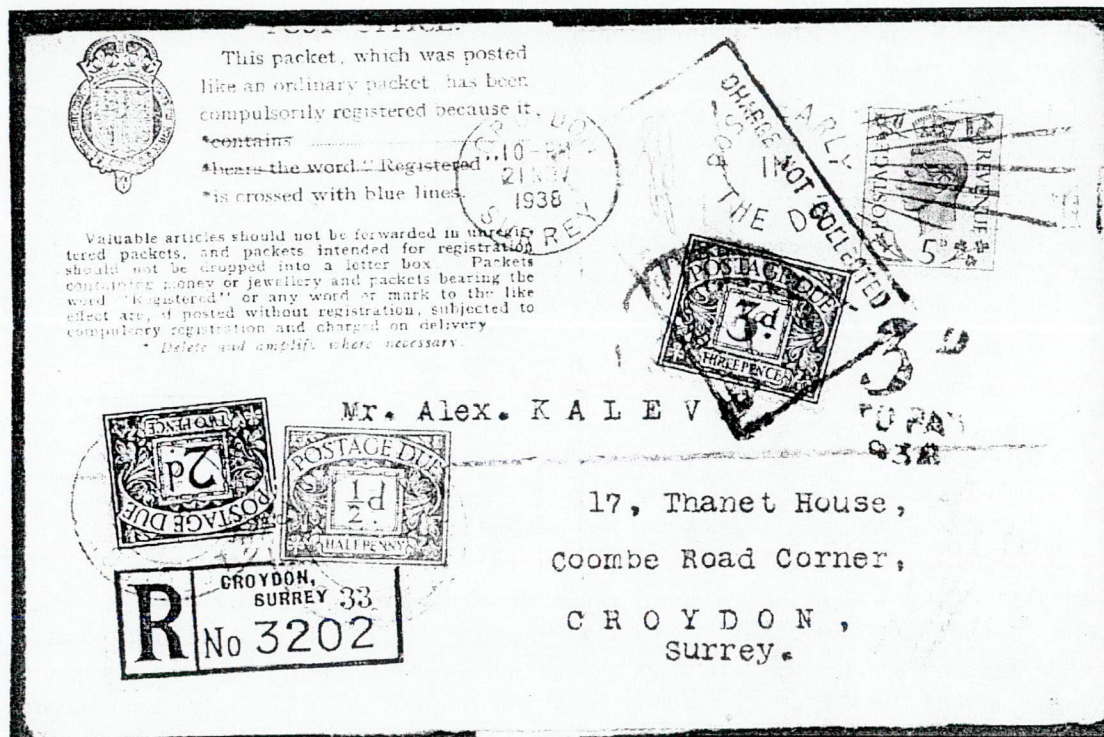
As you will appreciate, a great effort has been made to provide good facilities for visitors but unless readers make the effort to pay a visit from time to time, any short comings will go unremarked and uncorrected.

When you do go, please let the Heritage Trust have your reactions, good and bad.

CROYDON REGISTERED

Arthur Moyles

At a meeting of LPHG, one cover attracted some comment and discussion and it seemed worth while to write it up for everyone's interest, especially as more was discovered during the exercise.



It is a registered letter dated 21st November, 1938: first day of issue of the 5^d adhesive. The letter is self addressed to Mr Alex Kalev of Croydon, whose hand stamp is on the back of the envelope: the hand stamp describes him as 'interpreter and philatelist'. A compulsory registration label has been applied because the envelope is crossed with blue lines and a Croydon 33 etiquette has been affixed. (33 appears from this and other covers to have been the sorting office number.) a 3d/TO PAY/938 hand stamp has been used (938 being for Croydon), a 3^d violet postage due label applied and cancelled by a **CHARGE NOT COLLECTED / FRESH LABEL REQUIRED** hand stamp. 'Refused' noted at the bottom left, this in pencil. Then the 2^d black and 1/2^d green labels were substituted and these cancelled on the 25th November, 1938 with the Croydon, Surrey double ring hand stamp.

At this time postage was 1 1/2^d and the registration fee 3^d. Fee for compulsory registration was 6^d less any amount paid in excess of postage. In this case 6^d - 3 1/2^d = 2 1/2^d. Either somebody at the post office did not get it right first time or, maybe, there was some collusion to produce an interesting cover demonstrating a clear understanding of the regulations by Mr Kalev: at this date we will never know.

THE DEMISE OF D23 AND J63

Andrew Ford

Originally Sutton was identified on Post Office hand stamps as D23 and Wallington as J63. According to Brumell, this identification ceased about 1920. Mackay is more specific and states the numbers were discontinued in 1924 and the new numbers assigned were as follows:

Sutton	759	issued 6 th May 1925
Wallington	759A	-
Banstead	759B	issued 15 th June 1938
Morden	759C	-

The latest recorded date for the use of J63 is on a 4^d postage due cancellation, dated the 25th May 1922, in the same style of the Banstead example illustrated in Figure (ii).

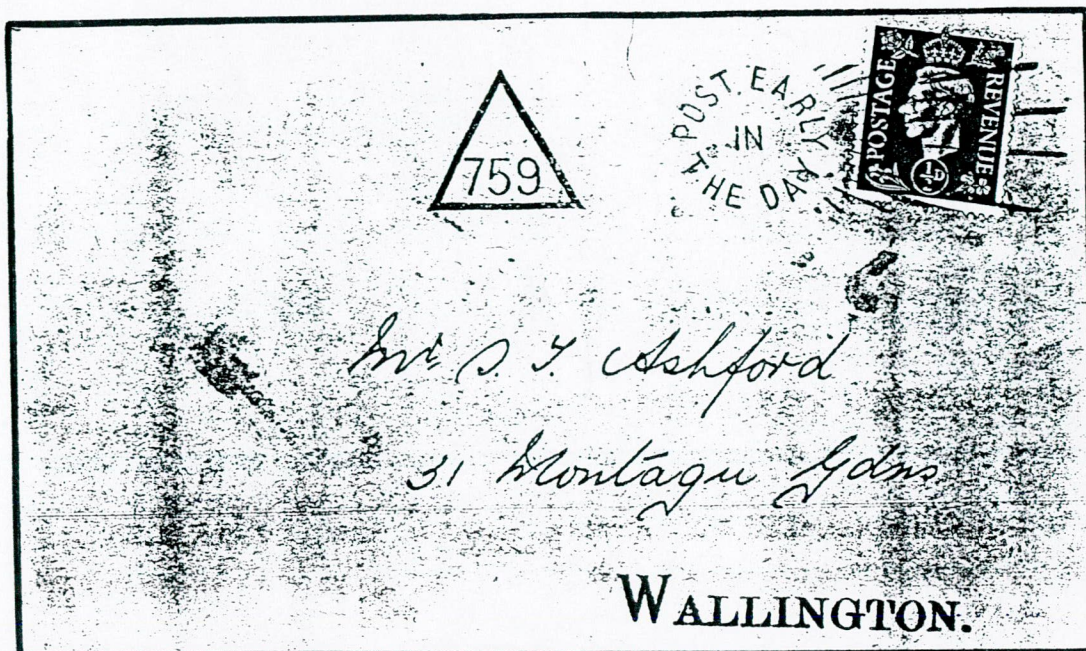


Figure (i)

Figure (i) shows the Sutton triangle in use on their Universal machine, in conjunction with the 'Post Early in the Day' slogan. It is on a pre-printed post card from Beddington and Wallington Urban District Council regarding the payment of allotment rents. The text indicates the card was posted in early October 1937. These triangular machine cancellations were used frequently in bulk mailing.

BEDDINGTON AND WALLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CROYDON ROAD ALLOTMENTS.

A. E. JOHNSON, Town Hall, Wallington.

The Collector will attend at the above Office on
12 OCT. 1937 from 6.30 to 8 p.m., for the purpose
of receiving Allotment Rents now due as below:

To Mr. *P. J. Ashford*

No. *51* Amount due £ *5* : *5* =

Notice is hereby given that the Collector is not bound to make more than one application for the amount of this demand.

106. 500. 16.1.36.

Figure (i) Reverse

Figure (ii) is a local delivery item in Banstead, found to be over two ounces and, therefore, underpaid. The 1^d postage due cancellation incorporating the new number has been applied at 9.00 am on the 6th July 1937. This predates the issue date postulated by Mackay, though there is a suspicion he is quoting dates from surviving examples rather than entries in a duty book. The postage dues were cancelled 12.20 p.m. the same day. (See following page.)

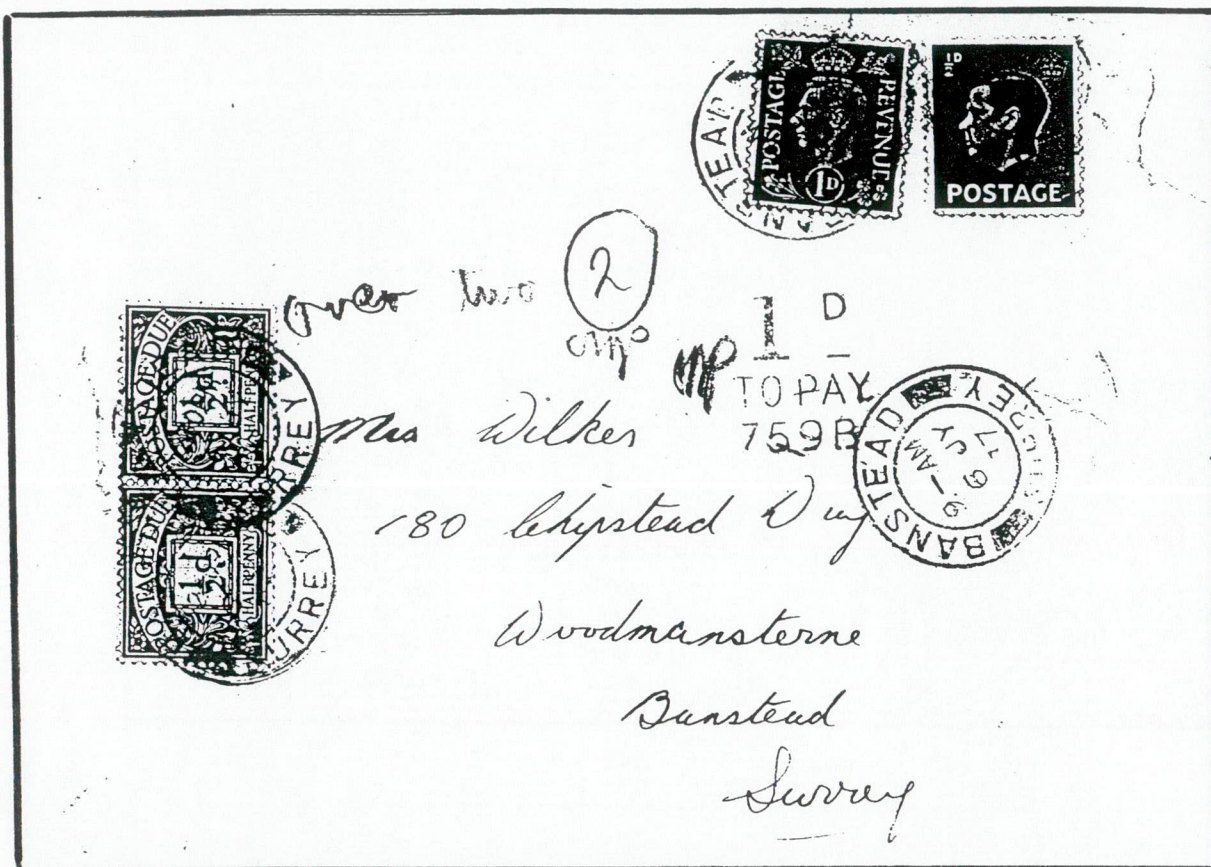


Figure (ii)

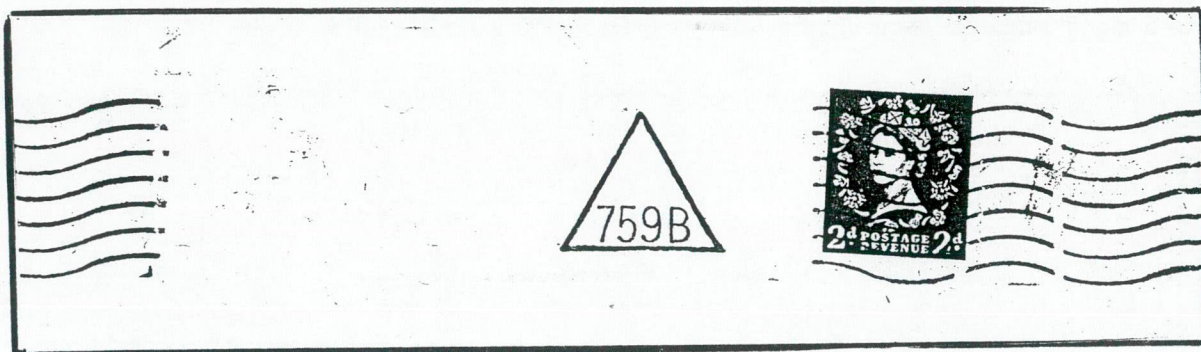


Figure (iii)

Figure (iii) displays the Banstead triangle in use on the Sutton Universal machine, using wavy lines. This is a large cut down envelope; the value of the adhesive would seem to indicate it was a Printed Paper Rate item, posted some time between the 1st June 1956 and the 30th September 1961.

The author would be interested to know of any other surviving examples of this new series of numbers for each office and to obtain Wallington examples for his collection.

FELDMAN UPDATE No. 3

Islington South Office :

On 28th September 1804 the Receiver, *H Jones* had his annual salary increased to £14 from £10, which amount he states "*when my present Salary was first allowed*".
(PMG Reports Vol.. 24 No. 99S)

Coventry Street Penny Post Stamp

Not recorded as an office by Feldman L449/COV3 (provisional number) 30th May, 1800
(See illustration on page 6)

Circus Twopenny Office

An example in black ink of Circus / 3py P Paid L598/CIR9 (provisional number) dated May 6th 1816 (to be confirmed) (See illustration on page 4)

Turnham Green Receiver:

on 25 October 1804 the Receiver *Henry Wood* had his initial £5 salary increased to £6. Wood states "*I am a person Employed in the post office line & that so far only a few months*" I.e. newly appointed.

Beckenham Receiver

w.e.f. 5 July 1804 identified only as "*Mr Wiiliams*" had his salary of £3..3s. increased to £6 pr. annum due to great increase of letters handled.

Watling Street

2 January 1805: Mrs Inman, who "suffered [the letters] to lie about mixed with the goods of the Shop" dismissed as the Receiver and the office was not replaced.

Little Knight Rider Street

January 2 1805: this place is in Feldman under *Knightrider Street*: the Receiver at the *Fleece Public House* was dismissed for leaving letters "exposed on the Tap Room Table among persons who are drinking....". A Mr Holderness, a Law Stationer, was appointed the Letter Receiver "for that quarter" [the street not being more closely identified].

Kennington Cross

February 1805: Receiver Wm. Wilkinson salary increased from £5 to £10.

New Brentford

February 1805: Receiver P Newbury had a salary increase from £12 to £22. In his letter states "...not having any addition since the Alteration took place...". Does he allude to those of 1794?

Petersham

17 April 1805 : Mr William Chapman appointed Receiver in place of Mr Blizard, the office staying at a *Public House*, rather to the dismay of the Postmasters General.

Enfield Highway

17 April 1805 : Mr William Frost, a Shopkeeper, appointed Receiver in place of Mr Wandale[?] - unclear].

Blandford Street

1 May 1805 : Mrs Roberts [Grocer], Widow of late Receiver, confirmed as Receiver in his place.

Carshalton

L501/CARS3 Earlier date: 12 April 1808

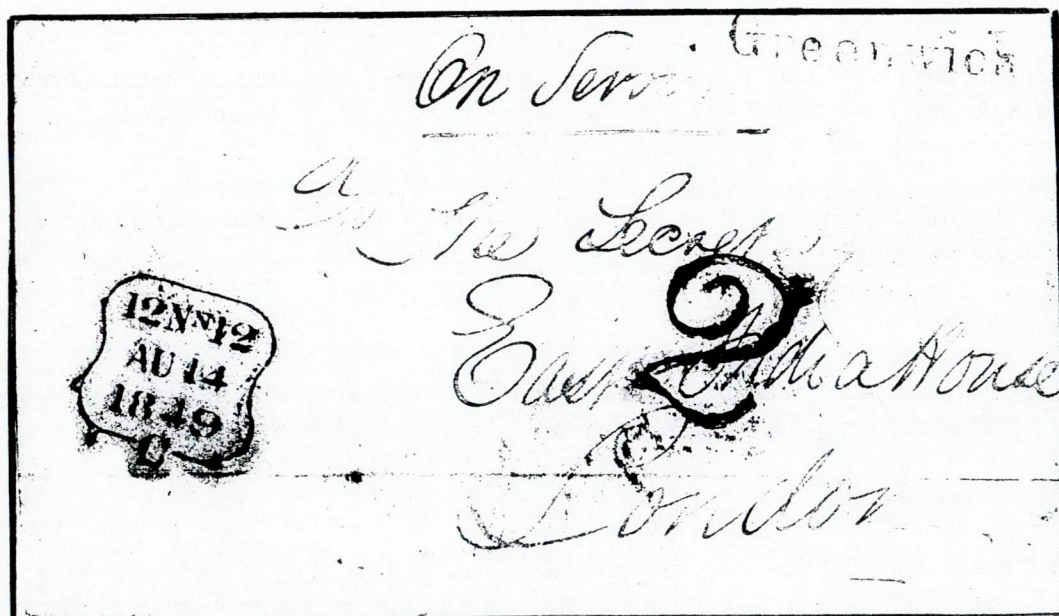
West Smithfield

L418 W - SMITH / F^D 1 the first report of a Penny Post stamp for this office (see under Smithfield Bars)

Greenwich

L.514/GREW 21 : The date of this letter (see below) extends the recorded period by a year

Written from Greenwich the writer endorsed the letter *On Service* to no avail
the handstruck '2' indicating postage due being applied.



To the Secretary, East India House

Sir,

I have the honor to report my arrival in England per ship 'Sutley' from Calcutta on Sick Certificate on the 11th of August 1849. I obtained leave from the Supreme Government on the 6th of March 1849. An Extract from G.O I delivered at the India House to-day & also the Paper containing my leave. My Pay Certificate I have not yet received, but I expect it in a few days from Scotland (where I ordered my Agents to remit it) when I shall send it to the East India House.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your most Obedt. Servant

A Robertson Bremner, Lieut

41st Regt. M.I.L.

The regulations regarding special rates of pay for soldiers and seamen, whilst employed in the armed forces, applied to those serving in India, including E. Indies, Mauritius and the Cape. They did not, obviously apply to the writer, despite endorsing the letter *On Service*.

POSTED IN FINCHLEY

The operation of the Post Office provides a constant source of puzzlement to contemporaries: what the problems will be for future researchers in, say, thirty years time, beggars belief.

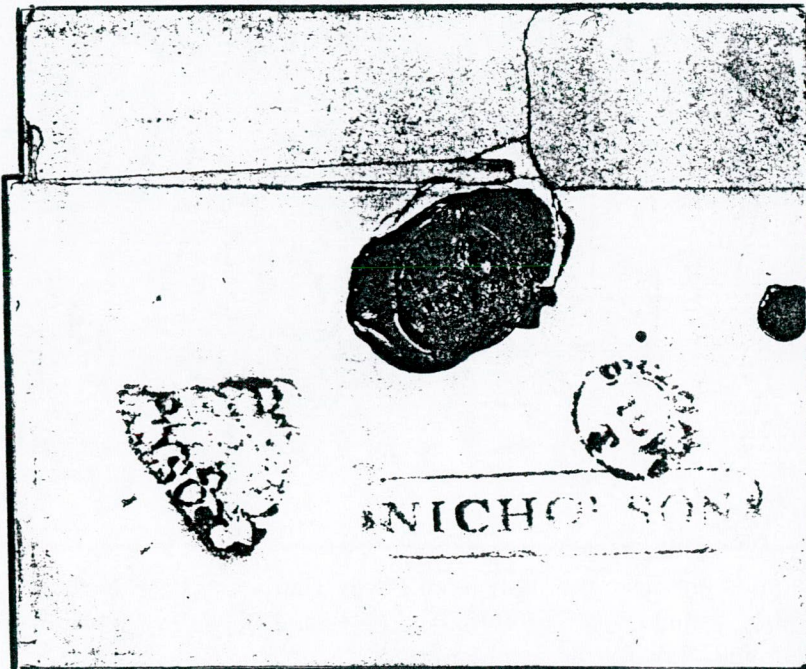


The late Tony Potter had sent in one such curiosity just over a year ago. The letter was addressed to him at Tring and posted from Finchley, no doubt about that. The adhesive is very clearly cancelled with the GREENFORD MAIL CENTRE hand stamp, code 80 on 28 MAR 2003. Quite how it went from Finchley, N3, to Greenford, UB6 (Uxbridge?) or why is a matter of speculation.

It is not unknown for the Post Office to ship huge consignments of mail from the London area to Scotland for cancelling, sorting and, eventual, delivery but this, surely, must be a classic 'Fred'?

PENNY POST LETTER TO THE FOUNDLING HOSPITAL

Posted at the Temple Office bearing the date for 8 May, 1776 with a fine framed example of the Nicholson handstamp, (L.375), the Receiver's location is given by Feldman as 39 Coleman Street, with 'Factor' as his occupation. The stamp is recorded from 1769 to 1776



Addressed:-

For The over seers of
The Fondlin Hospitle

The letter is unsigned.

Temple Office
time stamp of Dockwra

The letter reads:

Gentle Men

please your oners Throw Charitty

I make Bold to inform you that there has Been a Child taken out of your Scoole as an a prentis But Used as a Neagor -

un known to you I suppose as it lies out of your Way to Call or perhaps Dus Not Suspect them of ther Bar Barity to hur. If you Did Charitty would Compell you to See her Wright a field.

I maid Bold to write to you before But I seen no Change for the Better in the Child I Suppose it has not come to hand But I hope this will Meet with sucksefs for the Benafit of the Child and if you Dont take the trouble I shall find out the Reason if possable why you Dont Round Court

May ye 8..76

p.s.

Gentle men if you take the rouble you Will find this Unhappy Child at M^r Adcocks Silver Smiths in Church Lane Strand London.

Endorsements:

'Anonymous in regards to Martha Langley'

'Martha Langley N^o 7629 recd Mar 9 1758. Appd Sept 8 1773 to Thomas Adcock of Church Lane in the Parish of St. Martins in the fields, Silversmith.

Jonathan Pool, N^o 8292 April 28 1798 to Thos Adcock ye 3 May 1769'

'Mr Adcock says the Author of this Letter was lately a Lodger in his house who he discharged on his attempting to be rude with Martha Langley; therefore he has taken this method of revenge;- which has not a word of truth in it, as the Girl affirms.'

ORMOND STREET

A brief recital of facts:-

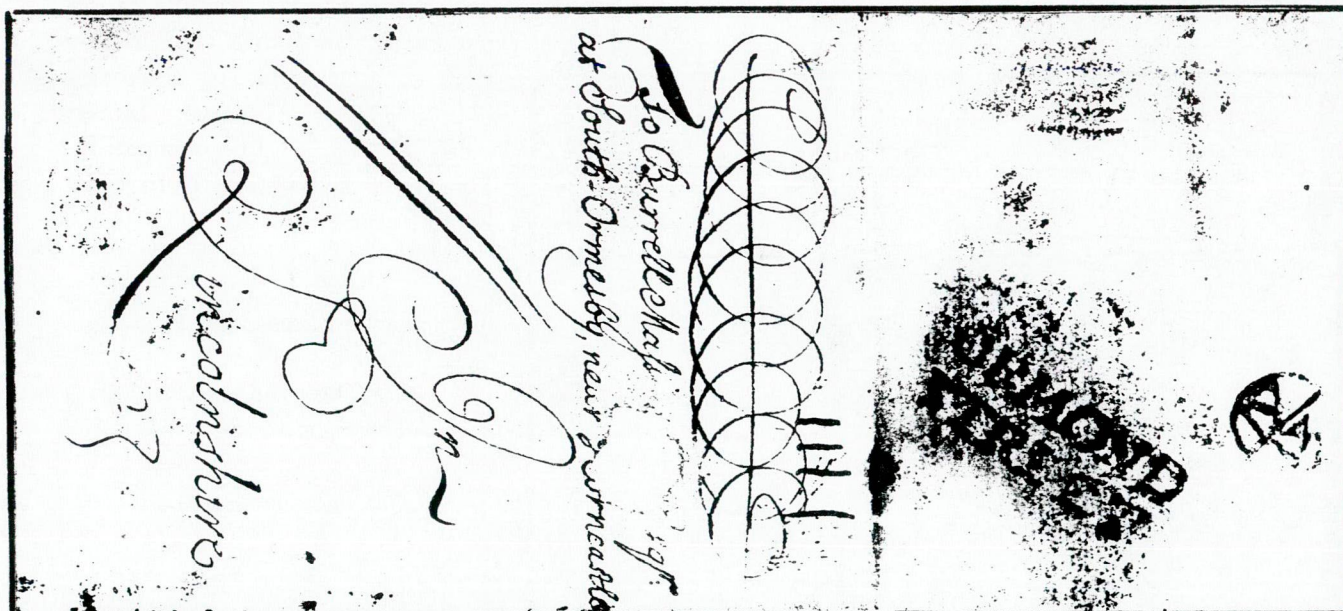
There are four of these office stamps known. All occur in 1708 / 1709.

It is believed three of the letters come from the 'Massingbard Correspondence' with the fourth to a 'W^m Archer at Cooper Sale, Essex', the letter endorsed 'By Epping Bag'

The format of the stamp was not used by the Post Office for Receiving Houses for many years.

Ormond Street appears on a map of 1720 with that name; later maps show Great Ormond Street.

In 1708 Ormond Street is reported as 'a street of fine new buildings, with one property of note, Powis



House, built in 1693. One theory is the stamp is one from the short lived Povey Halfpenny Post. However, Martin Willcocks records this service operating from October 1709 to May 1710. and Barrie Jay consigns it to the 'doubtful' section in the London Catalogue. Now for the speculations:

This letter, written from London July 13 1708, the earliest thus far recorded for the Ormond Street stamp, would have incurred three penny post charge, the addressee being over 80 miles from London. The significance of the four single lines suggests a charge of four pence was made on delivery; possibly a penny local charge?

The 'Spectator', No. 9, 10 March 1710-11, refers to some lodgings in the street and, in the same year, a handbill of Thomas Smith of King Street, Westminster, the self styled 'first Master Corn-cutter in England' advertises a daily call at a coffee house in 'Ormond Street' in the course of business.

Were letters left at the Coffee House for carriage to the General Post thus marked by way of advertising the service and this practice, with Charles Povey's ill fated 'Halfpenny Carriage', stopped by the Post Office at the same time?

FOREIGN OFFICE

Introduction

Before the middle of the 17th century most of the letters between Britain and the continent of Europe were from merchants and, prior to 1632, these were carried privately. The few official letters of this period were usually carried by messengers or soldiers, especially commissioned for the purpose.

In the 15th and 16th centuries there was a small but important community of Venetian merchants, mainly in London, and a number of letters of this period between London and Venice have survived. The Venetian merchants organised an extensive private network across Europe for the carriage of their letters, a network about which little is known. Some of these Venetian letters have attractive Merchants' Marks drawn on the front, and these marks indicated the identity of the sender; probably this was to show that his letters were eligible for carriage by the Merchant Post.

The British part of this system was called the Merchant Strangers' Post, and was suppressed by Queen Elizabeth in the 1580s, the carriage of letters overseas being continued by British merchants (the Merchant Venturers' Post). This in turn was officially stopped in 1627, although it may have continued unofficially at least until the end of the Civil War in the late 1640s.

In 1632 the overseas post was placed in the sole charge of William Frizell and Thomas Witherings, who were appointed the Postmasters for Forraigne Parts. Three letters from Calais dated August and September 1632, and addressed to Henry Brandreth in London are known; each has a charge for postage upon it, and these are thought to have been the earliest letters carried by Witherings' Post.

As with inland letters, there was probably no organised foreign post for ordinary people during the Civil War. Several letters of this period are, however, known from France to England, addressed by initial only and with manuscript charges of between 4d and 8d. These were Royalist letters smuggled into England.

Early letters between Britain and the continent of Europe can be roughly divided into the following groups:

15th century

L vi	Letters from London to Venice before 1450, without Merchants' Marks	K
via	as above, but with Merchants' Marks	K
vib	Letters from London to Venice between 1450 and 1499, without Merchants' Marks	H
vic	as above, but with Merchants' Marks	K

16th century

vii	Letters from or to London	J
viiia	Letters from London to Venice	H
viiib	Hast Post Hast letters	L-L*

17th century

viii	official letters before 1632	H
viiia	Private letters before 1632	G
viiib	Official letters between 1632 and 1649	G
viiic	Private letters between 1632 and 1649	F
viiid	Letters between 1632 and 1649 with charge marks	L
viiiie	Private letters during or after the Civil War smuggled into England (with charge marks)	K
viiiif	Letters between 1650 and 1661 carried privately	H
viiiig	Letters between 1650 and 1661 with charge marks	K

Inward Letters to the Foreign office from Abroad

From 1663, letters handled by the Foreign office from abroad received a Foreign Office Bishop mark. Until 1713, this was indistinguishable from the Inland Office Bishop mark, but from 1713 the Foreign Office continued to use a Bishop mark with the month above day while the Inland Office used a Bishop mark with the day above month. [It would appear that the Foreign Office did not use Bishop marks on incoming letters until early in 1663 – the earliest so far recorded is 6/16 February 1662/3.]



1000



1001



1002a

Cat No	Description	Size	Colour	Dates	Rarity
L1000	Serif letters, month above day 1663-65 rarity J. 1666-72 rarity G.	13	Black	1663-72	
1001	Sans-serif letters, month above day 1673-79 rarity F. 1680-99 rarity E-F. 1700-13 rarity E.	13-14	Black	1673-13	

In the 1680s and 1690s the Bishop mark is occasionally found stamped in yellowish-black, the result of too much oil and not enough pigment in the ink (see also after L2). It was not intended to be yellow or red.

1002	Sans-serif or serif letters, month above day 1713-19 rarity D. 1720-59 rarity C. 1760-97 rarity B.	14-20	Black	1713-97	
1002a	OC/23, but 23 inverted		Black	1756	



1003



1004



1005



1006

1003	FOREIGN-OFFICE	year in 2 figures, from March 1797	30	Black	1797-99	C
1004	FOREIGN-OFFICE	year in 4 figures	29-32	Black	1800-06	B
1004a	no inner circle - SP 29 1802, MA 3 1803			Black	1802-03	C
1005	FOREIGN OFFICE experimental mark used in January-February					
1005a	as L1005	but 'V' for '5' in JAN	33	Black	1803	H
			33	Black	1803	J
1006	FOREIGN	used until August 1816	24-26	Black	1806-16	C



1006a



1007



1008



1009

1006a No.1 1813	known FE 23 1813, MR 18 1813		Black	1813	H
1007 FPO	dotted frame, from Sept 1816	21-24	Black	1816-36	A
1008 FPO	solid frame - FE 15 22	24	Black	1822	G
1009 LONDON	double circle, Aug 36-Aug 37	28	Black	1836-37	C



1010



1010a



1010b



1010c

1010	Line between 'L' and 'N' of London passing between month and year	6/3/38-15/4/40	30	Black	1838-40	B
1010a	Line between 'L' and 'N' of London passing through month	2/2/38-12/12/39	30	Black	1838-39	B
1010b	Line between 'L' and 'N' of London passing between month and day	2/3/40	29½	Black	1839-40	C
1010c	Line between 'L' and 'N' of London passing through foot of day	1/7/39-8/1/40	28	Black	1839-40	C

Outward Letters from the Foreign Office Overseas

Until 1797, with the exception of the 'FRANCK' mark (1,1078), no handstamp appears to have been used in the Foreign Office on outward letters.

Any 'Bishop' mark on outward letters must, therefore, have been used in the Inland Office. The earliest recorded date for 1,1015 is 6 March 1797.



1015



1016



1017



1017a

1015 FOREIGN OFFICE	year in 2 figures	29	Red	1797-99	C
1016 FOREIGN OFFICE	year in 4 figures	29-32	Red	1800-05	B
1017 FOREIGN		25-26	Red	1806-14	B
1017a as L1017, but no circle round code number		25	Black	1814	D



1018



1021



1021a

1018 F year	January	21	Red	1815	D
1018a as L1018, but	Feb 1815-June 1836	21-23	Black	1815-36	A

The significance of the numbers (other than the year) in L1015-1018 is not known.

1019 LONDON - as L1009	Aug 1836-Nov 1837	28	Black	1836-37	C
1020 LONDON - as L1010	27/6/38-28/10/39	30	Black	1838-39	B
1020a - as L1010a	28/10/39	30	Black	1839	C
1020b - as L1010b	1/7/39-1/1/40	29½	Black	1839-40	B
1020c - as L1010c	10/12/39	29½	Black	1839	C
1021 LONDON F.B.O. - Line from 'L' to 'N' of London passing through bottom of month					
	2/7/38-15/12/38	30	Black	1838	C
1021a Line from 'L' to 'N' of London passing between day and month					
	20/4/39-6/6/44	30	Black	1839-44	B

Stamps on Letters Transferred to the London Penny & Twopenny Posts

Between 1763 and 1794 letters from abroad, addressed to London and transferred from the Foreign Office to the Government Penny Post for delivery by a Penny Post Letter Carrier, received one of the Penny Post Time stamps (L366-368) in addition to a Foreign Office Bishop mark.

P.P

1024



1025



1025e

1024 P.P.	12x7	Black	1794-95	J
1025 PP/1795	22	Black	1795	H
1025a PP/1796	26	Black	1796	H
1025b PP/1797	23½	Black	1797	H
1025c PP/1798	24½	Black	1798	H
1025d PP/1799	26	Black	1799	H
1025e PP/1800	23½	Black	1800	H
1025f PP/1801	24½	Black	1801	J



1026



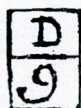
1027e

1026 TP/1803	24	Black	1803	K
1027 T/PP/1804	24	Red	1804	J
1027b T/PP/1806	24	Red	1806	J
1027c T/PP/1807	24	Black	1807	J
1027e T/PP/1809	24	Black	1809	J
1027f T/PP/1810	24	Black	1810	J
1027g T/PP/1811	24	Black	1811	J
1027h T/PP/1812	24	Black	1812	J

Good strikes of L1026-1027h are rare; other years must exist

Letters from abroad, addressed to London and transferred from the Foreign Office to the London Penny or Twopenny Post for delivery by a Penny or Twopenny Post Letter Carrier, received one of the above transfer stamps (L1024-1027).

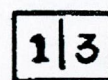
Charge Stamps



1030



1031



1032

1030 D/4	(and D/6, D/8, D/9)	'D' stands for 'Pence'	10x13	Black	1663-67	J
1031 S/1	(and S/2, S/3, S/4, S/6, S/10)	'S' stands for 'Shillings'	10x13	Black	1663-67	J
1032 1/3	(and 1/4, 1/6, 2/3, 2/8, 3/4, 3/9, 5/8)		13x10	Black	1663-67	J

L1032 was used when the charge was a multiple of shillings and pence.

L1030-1032 are found on letters from abroad.

Oz at $\frac{s}{d}{8}$ per Oz

1035

Oz at $\frac{s}{d}{8}$ per Oz

1036

1035 Oz.at $\frac{s}{d}{8}$ perOz - from France	40x10	Black	1815-29	G
1035a Oz.at $\frac{s}{d}{4}$ perOz - from Belgium & Holland	40x10	Black	1815-29	H
1035b Oz.at $\frac{s}{d}{6}$ perOz - from Germany, Scandinavia, Austria and Russia via Channel ports	41x10	Black	1818-28	E

1035c	Oz.at7/8perOz - from Italy and Switzerland via France	40x 9	Black	1817-28	H
1035d	Oz.at8/8perOz - from Spain via France	41x10	Black	1819-27	G
1035e	Oz.at10/-perOz - from Portugal	41x10	Black	1816-28	H
1035g	Oz.at11/4perOz - from Gibraltar	41x10	Black	1821-23	H
1035h	Oz.at12/-perOz - from Mexico and the Spanish Main	42x10	Black	1827-29	G
1035i	Oz.at12/8perOz - from Malta and the Mediterranean	41x10	Black	1819	H
1035j	Oz.at14/-perOz - from Brazil, Uruguay, Argentine, Chile and Peru	41x10	Black	1817-29	H
1036	Oz.at4/8perOz - framed	43x13	Black	1829-32	J
1036a	Oz.at5/4perOz - framed	43x12	Black	1829-32	J
1036b	Oz.at6/8perOz - framed	44x13	Black	1829-32	G
1036c	Oz.at7/8perOz - framed	43x12	Black	1829-31	J
1036d	Oz.at8/8perOz - framed	43x12	Black	1829-31	J
1036h	Oz.at12/-perOz - framed	46x13	Black	1829-32	J
1036j	Oz.at14/-perOz - framed	44x13	Black	1829-31	J

L1035 and 1036 are found on letters weighing 1 ounce or more. A 10/4d rate on letters from Madeira and the Canary Isles existed but no handstamp has yet been found. The same is true for the 8/8 rate on letters from British America and the West Indies.

The Rothschild Archives indicate that rate stamps came into use between 31 October and 13 November 1815. The use of 6/8d dotted handstamp (L1036b) ended between 16 and 30 April 1832.

Other Instructional Stamps of the Foreign Office



1040



1042



1043



1044



1045

1040	Crown	25x25	Red, Black or Purple	1797-44	C
1042	Inspector or erasure mark	20x20	Red	1799-02	C
1043	Inspector or erasure mark	17x17	Red	1804-06	C
1044	Cross with circle in centre	13	Red		

Identical to L182 used in the General Post, but also used in the Foreign Office

1045	A in circle	issued 14.8.30	21	Black	1830-33	J
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Issued to the West India Room



1049



1050



1051

1046	FB (script) in dotted circle				GPO
1049	F.O in dotted circle	33	Black	1826-32	J

L1049 is found on registered letters from abroad with no other British registration stamp. Most of the known copies are on letters from the continent to Edinburgh, one of 1832 is from Austria to Guildford.

1050	P in circle	16	Black	1718-35	J
1051	P in circle	23	Black	1795-98	K

The significance of L1050-1051 is not clear. Both handstamps occur on letters from Spain and Portugal to, or passing through, London. L1051 is particularly scarce; only a very few copies have been recorded.



1052



1054



1056

1052	P-D.	21x17	Red	1839-56	B
1054	P-F.	19x15	Red	1843	B
1056	P.	21x17½	Red	1844-57	E
1056a	as above, but	21x17½	Black	1847	F

Although they are not mentioned in the Anglo-French Conventions of 1836 and 1839, handstamps were used before 1840 to show how far the letter was prepaid between the two countries. The Convention of 1843 stated that all paid letters must be marked in the country of origin with 'PD' if paid to destination, 'P' if paid to the frontier of the originating country, and 'PF' if paid to the frontier of egress from the receiving country. L1052 and L1054 were issued to the Foreign office before 1840. Stamps without hyphen or stop, and without serifs, were used from 1845 and are too varied to list. Similar handstamps were used by continental countries.



1057



1057a



1057b

1057 S in circle 22 Black 1794-95 J
Found on a few letters from Spain to Germany and the Low Countries via London. All but one of the recorded covers have only been charged one packet rate – from London to northern Europe.

1057a SS in circle 12½ Black 1817-19
All known letters are from Switzerland to England via France. The handstamp appears to have been used in the Foreign Office and SS may indicate that the letter is rated via France (1/11d single) rather than via Germany (1/8d single).

1057b S.S 12x 5 Black 1829-30
The significance of this handstamp is not known. All covers seen are from France to Britain and none have French handstamps or charge marks.



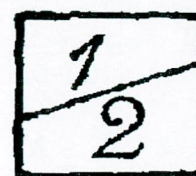
1057c



1058



1061



1067

1057c S T in double oval	27x15	Black	1799	H
1058 S T in oval	26x13	Black	1800-08	F
1061 STP in dotted oval	25x17	Black	1821-26	H

The significance of these ST and STP handstamps is not yet understood

1067 ½ framed GPO



1068



1068a

1068 Crown/ARMY-BAG	33	Black	1799	K
1068a POST-PAID/Crown/ARMY-BAG	43x32	Red	1799	L

In August 1799, a small British force landed in north Holland to create a diversion against Napoleon. Henry Darlot, one of the Clerks of the Foreign Letter Office, was chosen as the Army's Postmaster for this campaign, and his office was open between 14 September and 10 November 1799. Mail was identified by these rare handstamps.



1070



1071



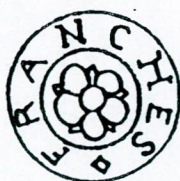
1073



1074

1070 BRITISH/FOREIGN framed	28x15	Black	1836-39	E
1070a as L1070, but	28x15	Red	1849	F
1071 BRITISH/FOREIGN unframed	24x11	Black	1839-73	C
1071a as L1071, but	23½x9	Red	1856-63	C
1073 FLEMISH/BRITISH	28x10	Black	1801	K
1074 FOREIGN PAID framed	43x 7	Red	1836-40	E
[1075 as 1074, but unframed	35x3½	Red	1843-44	F]

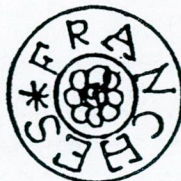
L1075 was used at Dover, Southampton and Brighton and was included in error in the London list.



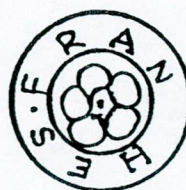
1078



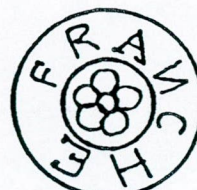
1078a



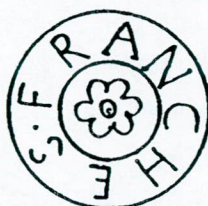
1078b



1078c



1078d



1078e



1078f



1078h



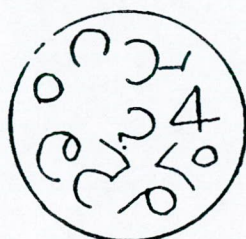
1078j



1078k

1078 FRANCHES in circle
1078f FRANCH DE GROS in circle
1078j FRANK

22-26	Black	1667-95	J
27	Black	1678-79	K
23-31	Black	1700-08	J



1079



1079a



1079b



1079c



1079d



1079e



1080

1079 Jumbled numbers in circle

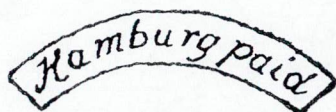
24-31	Black	1732-42	K
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1080 FROM LONDON

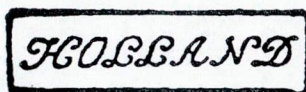
27	Black	1719-20	K
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Letters from the last part of the 17th and the first part of the 18th centuries, going to the continent of Europe, have the manuscript charge mark obliterated with L1078 or 1078a. These are often blurred so that it is sometimes impossible to distinguish the lettering (blurred examples have a lesser value).

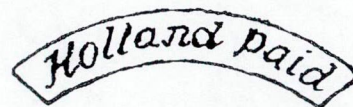
"For this end there is a stamp constantly applied to the part of the letter where the port is exprest to have been paid, to obscure the notice from the Forrain Postmasters abroad."
(A General Survey of the Post Office, Thomas Gardiner, 1677)



1081



1084



1087

1081 Hamburg paid

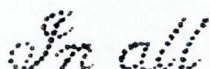
43x 6 Red 1822-23 K

1084 HOLLAND (fancy script capitals)

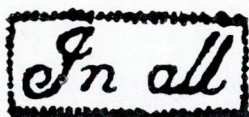
40x11 Red 1823 K

1087 as L1081, but Holland paid

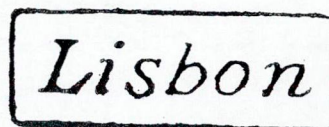
46x 6 Dark purple 1815 K



1089



1090



1092

1089 In all

27x10 Black 1821-26 H

1090 In all (in dotted frame)

GPO

1092 Lisbon

42x15 Black 1800 J

MISSENT TO ENGLAND

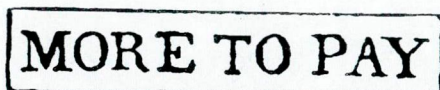
1096

1093 MISSENT

? Black 1828-32 E

1096 MISSENT/TO ENGLAND

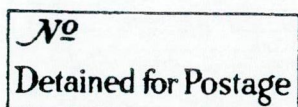
44x15 Red 1836-48 K
Black 1856



1098

MORE TO PAY

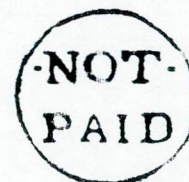
1098a



1102



1111



1112

1098 MORE TO PAY	55x12	Black & Red	1816-17	F
1098a as L1098, but unframed	54x5½	Black	1817	
1098b as L1098, but	57x10	Black	1832-	

Issued to the West India Room GPO 23.2.32

1099 MORE/TO/PAY in fancy circle				GPO
1102 No /Detained for Postage	40x14	Red	1839-55	D
1105 NOT ACCORDING/TO THE ACT				GPO
1108 NOT CALLED FOR				GPO
1111 NOT PAID	35x 8	Black	1808-38	D
1112 NOT/PAID	24	Red	1840	

Packet Letter.

1264

**PORT
BRITISH**

1117

*PUT IN AFTER 7 O'CLOCK
AT NIGHT.*

1120

1264 Packet Letter.	48x9½	Black	1836-43	E
		Red	1838-43	D

The Packet Letter handstamp is usually found on letters addressed to the Continent which have arrived in England by British Packet. This handstamp was used by the Ship Letter Office (see L1264), but was also apparently used by the Foreign office.

1117 PORT/BRITISH	28x12	Red	1800-01	J
1117a as L1117, but	28x12	Black	1815-16	J
Probably a British stamp, but might have been used in Portugal				

1120 PUT IN AFTER 7 OCLOCK/AT NIGHT	49x20	Black	1815-17	K
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REBATE
12 OC 12
18 39
F.B.O.

298c

REBATE
26 NO 26
1839
FOREIGN OFFICE

298d

298c REBATE/Crown/Date/F.B.O.	12 OC-8 NO	30x24	Black	1839	K
298d REBATE/Crown/Date/FOREIGN OFFICE					
16 NO - 28 NO 1839, 15 AP 1840		29x24	Red	1839-40	K

The Rebate stamps issued to the Foreign Office are listed with the other Rebate stamps (L298-298d).

Registration abroad was allowed at least by 1783, the fee of £1-1-0 for outward letters and 5/- inward continuing until 1836, when it became 2/6d each way. The earliest letter seen so far into Britain is dated 20 August 1795 from Dresden. In 1839 the French system of charging double postage was introduced, and continued in 1840 although the inland Money Letter system ceased. Inland registration commenced on 6 January 1841 at a fee of 1/-.



1127



1128

1127 REGISTERED/Crown
1127a as L1127, but
1127b as L1127, but

29x22	Red	1816-32	H
29x22	Black	1833-40	H
	Claret	1831	

1128 REGISTERED/Crown
1128a as L1128, but

27x24	Red	1805-19	H
27x24	Black	1822-35	H

A letter in PO Records is struck with L1128 in red dated MA 13 1805

L1127 & L1128 are usually struck on inward letters. One outward letter, to Paris, is known with L1128a dated 12 March 1822

L1128 has a taller crown than the previous type. It is not known why two types of handstamp (L1127 and 1128) were in use concurrently.



1131



1132



1133

1131 Crown/REGISTERED 6 August-26 July 1836
1131a as L1131, but

26x20	Black	1836	G
26x20	Red	1836-69	E

A number of similar Crown/Registered handstamps, differing only slightly in size, were issued to the Foreign branch in the 1850s and 1860s, and to London and to certain provincial towns for use by the Inland Branch.

[1132 Crown/REGISTERED
1132a as L1132, but
1132b as L1132, but

25x18	Black	1848-50	F
25x18	Red	1853-71	E
25x18	Mauve	1864	G]

L1132 was used on letters carried by the Coln-Verviers TPO, and is now thought to be a continental handstamp used on letters to Britain and America.

1133 Crown/REGISTERED sans-serif

25x17	Red	1860-65	D
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1136

1136 Returned/for Postage
1136a as L1136, but



1138

1138 Returned for/Postage

33x27	Black	1815-35	E
33x27	Red	1838-56	D
37x12	Red	1839-56	D

**RETURNED
For
POSTAGE**

1139

**RETURNED
FOR
POSTAGE**

1142

**RETURNED
For
POSTAGE**

1143

1139	RETURNED/For/POSTAGE	serif letters	32x16	Red	1840-46	E
1142	RETURNED/FOR/POSTAGE	sans-serif letters	31x17	Red	1855-57	D
1143	RETURNED/FOR/POSTAGE	sans-serif letters	32x17	Red	1853-57	D

RETURNED FROM

1147

RETURNED FROM

1148

Returned From

1151

RETURNED FROM

1154

RETURNED-FROM

1157

1147	RETURNED FROM	framed Possibly issued to Ship Letter Office	57x10	Black	1818	G
1148	RETURNED FROM		53x 6	Black	1832-33	D
1151	Returned from		47x 5	Black	1834	D
1154	RETURNED FROM	slanting letters	45x 7	Black	1835	D
1154a	as L1154, but		45x 7	Red	1841-42	D
1157	RETURNED-FROM	sans-serif	38x 4	Red	1847-49	C

ShipLetter.

1238

1238	Ship Letter.	42x 9	Black	1838-49	E
1238a	as L1238, but	42x 9	Red	1850	E
1238b	as L1238, but	42x 9	Blue	1850	G

The above handstamp was used by the Ship Letter Office (L1238), but was also apparently issued to the Foreign Office.

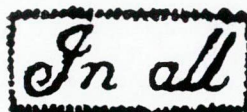
1162 TOO LATE GPO

1163 Wrong/Office. GPO

Stamps used in the Foreign Department. G. P. O.



*10
1.10 2 2 1/2*



TOO LATE



NOT PAID

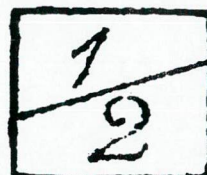
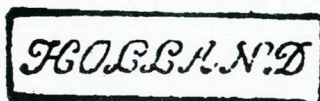
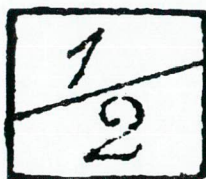


Packet Letter.



NOT CALLED FOR

Wrong Office



Foreign Post Office. 17 July 1838. H. B. B. B.

Stamps used in the Foreign Department GPO

Foreign Post Office, 17 July 1838

**ANDREW FORD RETIRED FROM THE POST OF
HON. TREASURER AT THE END OF THE
LAST FINANCIAL YEAR,
AFTER A LONG PERIOD OF MUCH APPRECIATED SERVICE.**

**PLEASE NOTE THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE
NEW HON. TREASURER**

**ANTONY M. SHINE
91 TYCEHURST HILL
LOUGHTON
ESSEX
IG10 1BZ**