

## NOTEBOOK

### PUBLICATIONS

Readers will note from the Hon. Treasurer's Report the proposal not to increase the level of subscriptions during the coming year and the narrow margins upon which the Group must operate to justify this.

A major problem will be the funding of publications, which perforce falls outside the Group's immediate cash resources. Cash resources is the keynote here. The proposition has been made to invite all members to make a non-interest ( financial interest that is ) loan to a Publications Fund. This Fund will be used for the publication of both the Handbook and other Monographs by members; Notebook will be a charge against the subscription and other income.

We have been most fortunate, through the efforts of Maurice Bristow, in locating a printer who offers a low price and an interest in the finished product, a very useful combination. One result is that Notebook costs about 70% of the charge twelve months ago. Never-the-less, to set up, print, bind and sell a 100 page monograph requires a considerable outlay. Contributors have generously offered to provide funds from their own slim resources but one cannot expect this either in terms of the whole cost or even as a launching float. Other than the pleasure obtained from knowing one has contributed something to the pleasure and knowledge of others, plus a memorial in the British Library, and others who insist on getting in on the ( Copyright ) Act, there is no material reward.

You are, therefore, invited to make a loan, not to exceed £10, to the Publications Fund, thus providing the initial capital. It is hoped each production will yield a small profit, to be kept in the Publications Fund, which will enable the eventual repayment of these loans. This may sound like a Postal History version of a non-interest bearing War Loan stock, but the hope is to effect repayment from profits.

On the subscription form which goes out with this issue of Notebook, you will find details of publications available, space for the Publications Fund Loan and for the static subscription of £3. Feel free to send a cheque for rather more than the basic sum!

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### ENVELOPES

There is a convenient cut price store near Russell Square at which one can obtain stationery at reputedly cut prices. Unhappily this does not apply to large envelopes for ' Notebook '. One nightmare is the cost of the ' security clasp ' type for mail overseas at printed paper rates; with the high proportion of overseas members, this is not without significance.

Can a reader put the Editor in touch with a source of envelopes at a good discount. From his trading days in West Africa the term ' minimum wholesale quantity ' suggests it may be possible to buy a year's supply of both seal-easi type as well as P.P.R., given the correct introduction. Packing forms a goodly percentage of Notebook costs, making any saving worth while.

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THE INLAND BRANCH NUMBER ONE

Derek Holliday adds yet another twist to the saga of this stamp with the item below.



From the reverse it can be dated for 30th. October, 1871 but there is nothing else of particular moment. It is different to that shown in Notebook No.28 but serves to demonstrate there are still unexplained items to be recorded; and eventually explained ???



EXPRESSPOST AND NIGHTRIDER

For a number of years now, the Post Office staff newspaper "courier" has proved an interesting insight into the present day Post Office, plus letters and articles from many years ago.

The January 1978 issue contained an article on the London Postal Region's Expresspost and Nightrider services. This surely, was postal history and worth investigation? How much material from these services have been seen on offer by dealers, would you have recognised it? The answer, to both questions will probably be a slightly disinterested raised eyebrow, but why? In fifty years, or less, some bright eyed postal historian is quite likely to offer a theory - based on scanty surviving material, which is both inaccurate and, thanks to 'Notebook', not required.

On the basis of going to the 'man at the top' (person at the top!), a letter yielded a mass of information, clearly showing special labels, if not postal markings, were in use.

By the most fearful piece of plagiarism, tempered by admitting the fact, the 'courier' article provides a useful introduction, and is partly reprinted below:

Expresspost was launched in March, 1976 to capture some of the growing messenger despatch service in inner London; it has taken off in convincing style. At the time of writing (for January 78 issue), the best daily tally was 273 items, with the best weekly at 1,183 items. By using the existing telegraph service delivery network, the service had a good base from which to operate.

Speed and flexibility at low cost have all attracted the custom. The service details help to explain the what aspect.

Expresspost will carry packets or envelopes weighing up to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  kg and measuring 380 by 255 by 100 mm maximum - even larger and/or heavier by arrangement. It is a door-to-door service, operating in London Between the numbered postal districts and to Heathrow and some airport hotels. In February, 1977 the service was extended thru' British Rail Inter-City service to provide Expresspost links with Brighton, Croydon, Medway, Leeds, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool. It takes no more than half an hour to arrange for the item to be collected and started on its way. The standard times for delivery are up to two hours after pick-up in the Central London districts, within four hours in the other London Districts and same day Inter-City to other regional centres. The cost is £1 for service between many of the London Postal Districts, £4 out to Heathrow, and between £6 and £8 out to the regions.

Special arrangements with British Rail for use of the Red Star facilities plus the Post Office Railway are now part of the system. The linkage of the POR between the telegraph Offices is much improving efficient handling.

Customers include items for Buckingham Palace, Institute of Directors, newspapers and Travel Agents. Other users are record shops, hotels, oil companies and the B.M.A.

One case where speed was all important was the carriage of a special heart monitoring machine; it came from Brighton to London, door-to-door, in two and a half hours.

The satisfied customers have turned also to the Nightrider Service; tailored very much to the needs of individual customers it now handles over half a million parcels a year with some 250 regular customers. Rates are made very competitive and this, plus providing the service wanted, rather than the one imagined, is the way to make the facility expand.

The literature currently available from the Post Office on these two services is listed below; a copy of each should be in every London Postal Historian's files!

EXPRESSPOST.

PL(B)3250 Information, schedules and prices for Expresspost services from London  
PL(B)3250a Application for a Credit Account



Expresspost and Nightrider, continued.....

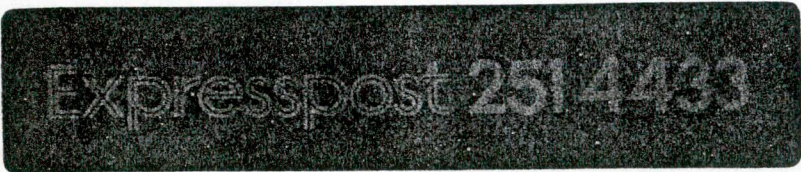
PL(B)3250b Regular Expresspost Service quotation request card  
( these two are inserts to PL(B)3250 )

NIGHTRIDER

PL(B)3246 The overnight contract parcels collection and delivery service for the  
Greater London Area.

The Regional Marketing Manager, Mr. R.M. Dixon, advises that the leaflet information  
is varied from time to time. Apart from actually locating examples of material from  
these two services, a selection of the literature would not come amiss.

The current labels are reproduced below, though not in their full color glory.



P 3371 XPL

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WANTED.....

Material relating to Middlesex, anything a bit out the ordinary, particular  
interest in Edgware.

Michael Goodman, 111 Green Lane, Edgware, Middx.

London Ship Letts in very \*\*\* condition; also mail with Packet ship names endorsed, any  
port of arrival if London final destination.

Peter A Forrestier Smith, 24 Dovercourt Road, Dulwich, SE22 8ST.

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London Postal History GroupRevenue Account: Year to 31 January 1978

	<u>1977/78</u>	<u>1976/77</u>
INCOME		
Subscriptions	362.38	315
"Notebook" - sale of back numbers	8.22	19
Publications sales	23.13	250
Less: Production costs and stock write-down	<u>47.40</u> ( 24.27)	<u>184</u> 66
Sale of magazine binders	67.58	
Less: Cost	<u>50.58</u> 17.00	-
Packet Commission, less expenses	36.79	60
Auction Commission, less expenses	13.25	5
Share of Joint Auction with EAPHSC	12.05	10
Donations and other income	-	3
Interest, Building Society account	<u>9.39</u>	<u>8</u>
TOTAL INCOME	434.81 -----	486 -----
EXPENDITURE		
Room hire	35.00	25
"Notebook" production and distribution	363.99	286
Subscription BPA	-	4
Printing	29.39	20
Postage, stationery and officers' expenses	36.46	29
Giro charges	<u>5.18</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	470.02 -----	370 -----
DEFICIT for the year (1976/77 - Surplus)	( 35.21)	116
	=====	=====



London Postal History GroupBalance Sheet as at 31 January 1978

## ASSETS

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>
Deposit, Nationwide Building Society	121.64	262
In hand, National Giro Account	120.70	158
Prepays: Room hire	20.00	30
Packet insurance	10.00	10
Cost of February "Notebook"	-	51
	<u>30.00</u>	<u>91</u>
Library, at nominal value	1.00	1
Stock of books at cost or valuation	20.00	87
Stock of binders for "Notebook"	201.60	-
Stock of "Notebook" back numbers	20.00	1
Printing deposit	40.00	40
	<u>554.94</u>	<u>640</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		

## Less LIABILITIES

Subscriptions received in advance	18.00	27
Receipts from Packets, not yet dealt with	62.95	86
Creditors	6.38	24
	<u>87.33</u>	<u>137</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS	<u>467.61</u>	<u>503</u>

Represented by:-

## ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance 1 February 1977	502.82	387
Less: Deficit	( 35.21)	+ 116
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>467.61</u>	<u>503</u>

P A Forrestier Smith Chairman

John A Grimmer FCA Hon. Treasurer



London Postal History GroupTreasurer's Report - Year to 31 January 1978

We have sustained our first loss - £35. This is despite the good increase in subscription income due to an influx of new members while retaining all but a few existing members. The "Income" section of the Revenue Account also shows that Publications have this year shown a loss of £24, as against a profit last year of £66 - an adverse change of £90. Packet income has also declined. Unfortunately, lower income has been aggravated by higher costs, and the "Expenditure" section shows that "Notebook" costs have risen by £78.

The balance sheet shows a reduction in liquid funds (bank and Building Society accounts) of £157. This is only partly due to the deficit on Revenue Account - it is mainly caused by the purchase of Binders which have proved to be slow-moving. The Total Funds show a reduction equal to the year's deficit.

It has been decided not to increase the rate of subscription for 1978/79 despite the result for 1977/78. It is believed that "Notebook" costs can be held to £300 and it is hoped that Publications will show a surplus, while Subscriptions and other revenue will be maintained. This is a courageous decision and the Group deserves your support. This is how YOU can help:-

1. Pay your subscription promptly! - and consider whether you can add a donation.
2. Buy a binder for your "Notebooks" - only about one quarter of the membership has yet done so.
3. Buy L P H G publications as they become available.
4. Support the packet, both as vendor and as purchaser.
5. Resolve to introduce at least one new member this year.
6. Support the Chairman's call for loans to fund future publications.

Due to other pressures, I am having to withdraw now from the position of Treasurer. I have enjoyed holding this office, as it has brought me into contact with some very knowledgeable Postal Historians, both collector and dealer, and I have been able to make many very good friends. The circularised appeal last year for a replacement produced that rare animal, a volunteer, Reg Sanders. I am sure all members will give him the fullest support, thereby assisting our Chairman and Founder, Peter Forrestier Smith, to devote all his energy and intellect to the furtherance of London's Postal History.

John A Grimmer FCA  
Honorary Treasurer



KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON

Some time since, an entire came my way with a poor, but identifiable is the R.H. stamp of Cha<sup>s</sup>. St Wedt<sup>m</sup> /3 py P Paid in black with the Westminster date stamp for 1st. March, 1830; the former in black, the latter red. It is addressed to Alfred Davis Esq., Broadway, Deptford but the printed letter inside is most intriguing. Printed in red, it reads as follows:

King's College, London

.....

2, Parliament Street,  
1st March, 1830

SIR,

The Council of this Institution having directed a Third call of TWENTY POUNDS per share to be made upon the Subscribers, in respect of their several shares, you will be pleased, on or before the 15th day of April next, to pay to the account of King's College, London, at either of the undermentioned Bankers, the sum of £ 20 being the amount of the said call upon the one share held by you, for which the Bankers are empowered to deliver a receipt.

I have the honor to be,  
SIR,  
Your most obedient Servant,

H. SMITH,  
Secretary

Messrs. Drummonds, 49, Charing Cross;  
----- Coutts and Co. 59, Strand;  
----- Hoares', 37, Fleet Street;

Messrs. Barclay and Co. 54, Lombard Street; and  
----- Glyn, Mills, and Co., 67, Lombard Street.

Alfred Davis Esq.

£ 20      London 13 of April 1830.

*Received of Alfred Davis Esq the Sum of*  
*Twenty Pounds, being the amount of the 2<sup>d</sup> Instalment*  
*due on 1<sup>st</sup> Share in King's College, London.*

*For Glyn Mills and Co*  
*W. Glyn*



King's College, London, continued.....

Greatly intrigued by the notion of shares in a University I wrote to the Secretary and received the following information.

" When the College was founded, the funds necessary for its establishment were to be raised partly by donations and partly by subscriptions in the form of £100 shares carrying a dividend not exceeding 4%. The documents enclosed with your letter relate to these shares which were called in as follows:

£ 5	June	1828
£25	May	1829
£20	February	1830
£25	October	1830
£25	January	1831

The money came in slowly, however, and the official College history records that " as the work of preparing the site and erecting the College proceeded the bills poured in...Meanwhile, the flow of donations and subscriptions had almost entirely ceased; indeed, for various reasons, many of those who had originally promised to make gifts or take shares were trying to evade their obligations.." We must hope Mr. Alfred Davies was not among the latter!

As regards the fate of the shares, the following paragraph from the College history, referring to the year 1851, summarises the outcome of this fund-raising venture:-

" There was some trouble during this period from a number of shareholders who persisted in asking when they were going to receive dividends on their investments. The secretary was compelled in a series of soothing circumlocutions to convey to their minds the meaning of the word ' never ' . The majority of the shareholders, however, making a virtue of necessity, began to convert their shares into donations. The movement - cordially welcomed and fostered by the council - began on a large scale in June 1846, and at the annual court of 1847 it was announced that £12,000 had been so commuted. This movement foreshadowed the ultimate abolition of nominations, the extinction of the court of proprietors, and the elevation of the institution from a joint-stock company into a university college. "

My sincere thanks to Mr. H.F. Patterson, the Secretary, for this interesting response to a query. The original letter and receipt, with this reply, now enhance the 2d Post collection, albeit as social, not postal, history.

Peter A. Forrestier Smith.

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FOR SALE.....

Entire ( a private family letter ) with framed TP Ratcliff ( scarce ), h/s 3 cancelled by RED pointed corner spiral and h/s 2 applied. Black transfer stamp and red TP date stamp for JY 13 1826. Faint double rim GP datestamp. Spiral, 3 and TP imposed but very clear. Offers around £8 to Editor.

Smudged but acceptable TEMPLE GPO, part across join on entire dated July 14 1792; must be worth at least £10 ( RMW 31 from £20 - in 1972! ). Please offers to Editor.

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The following list has been provided by Martin Willcocks, who tells me it was originally compiled in 1949, with items added to it from time to time over the intervening years. It will be noted the first recorded is for 16th. January, 1787. This mark, seemingly, was only used on letters coming INTO London; letters OUT of London have been seen with only a Bishop mark.

I should like to hear from all readers who have copies of this mark, especially if they can add further to the list. It would be helpful to record if the letters are to or from London and whether, or not, they show a Bishop mark.

[illegible]



The 1787 Experimental Postmark, continued.....

Mar 28	Wed	B. G. H. L.	Apr 14	Sat	G. H.
29	Thurs	B. G. H. L.	15	Sun	
30	Fri	E. M.	16	Mon	B.
31	Sat	K.	17	Tues	F. K.
Apr 1	Sun		18	Wed	A. B. G. H. M.
2	Mon	A. C. H.	19	Thurs	
3	Tues	E.	20	Fri	D. H.
4	Wed	E. G.	21	Sat	F.
5	Thurs	E.	22	Sun	
6	Fri	J. K. L.	23	Mon	
7	Sat	F.	24	Tues	
8	Sun		25	Wed	
9	Mon	L.	26	Thurs	A. G. J.
10	Tues	D. F.	27	Fri	D.
11	Wed	A.	28	Sat	B. G. H.
12	Thurs	J.	29	Sun	
13	Fri		30	Mon	A.

Of no small interest will be to learn of any items coming INTO London during this period which do not carry this mark.

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THE LONDON BISHOP MARKS, by A.J. Kirk.

It seems strange that whilst the Bishop Mark was the first, and only, official post mark for 126 years, so little has been written about it and, as far as I know, hardly anyone appears to have done any recent ( published ) research into this interesting stamp.

There was a twenty page booklet published, by Robson Lowe, in 1937. Has a reader a copy, or know where one can see this publication? What of other written matter on the mark? Any information would be welcome. Photocopies of any articles would be of considerable help.

Apart from that already written, I am suggesting I look further into the matter. Here details of Bishops readers have in their collections please. I would like the following information:-

1. Date of mark ( year from letter contents etc )
2. Diameter of mark, both along the line and at right angles, i.e. both horizontal and vertical.
3. Position of day and month.
4. Letters serif/sans-serif ( in the last issue, FE, SE and DE were serified )
5. Unusual characteristics ( joined letters, inverted etc ).
6. Color.

I realise I am pushing my luck, but if I could have photocopies - at least of anything that appears ' different ' - it would prove invaluable. Please identify whether Inland or Foreign.

This exercise might provide a start to section ' B ' of ' London's Postal History '.

All information, please, to

A.J. Kirk, 123 Benhill Road, LONDON, SE5 7LZ.



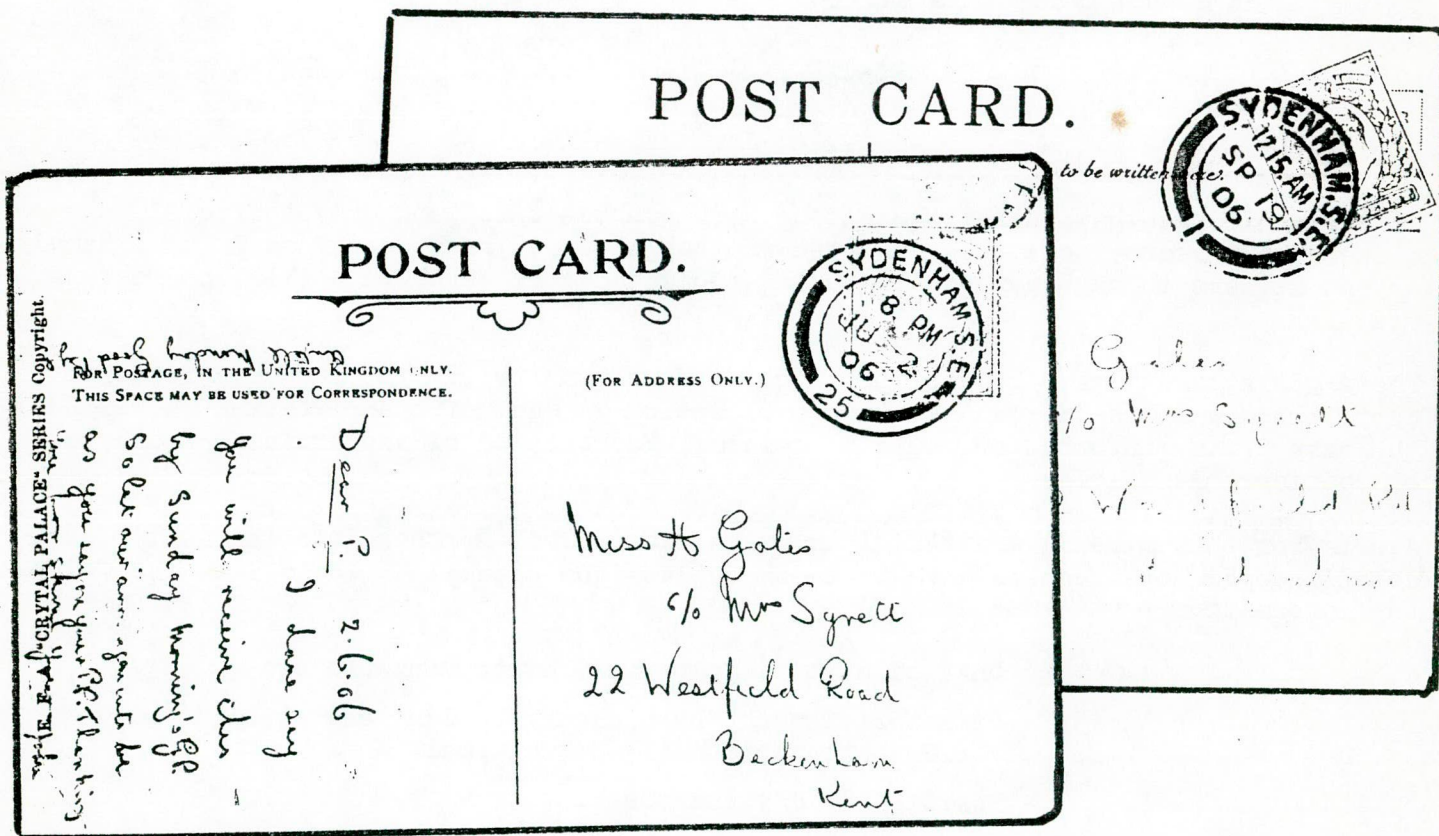
**" DULWICH " TYPE HANDSTAMP CODES**, by Peter Bathe

Before the main part of the article, it must be explained, for those unaware of the background to the description of the handstamp, that the " Dulwich " type derives its name from the simple cause of East Dulwich being the first office issued with the type on 23rd. June, 1894.

Until recently I was under the impression there was an inconsistency in the 'Dulwich' type handstamps of Sydenham for the late nineteenth/early twentieth century ( prior to 1917 ). I had a large number of postcards with Sydenham handstamps - the courtship notes of my grandfather ( a Sydenham postman ) and my grandmother, then in service in Beckenham as a Nanny.

The handstamps on the postcards were of four types:

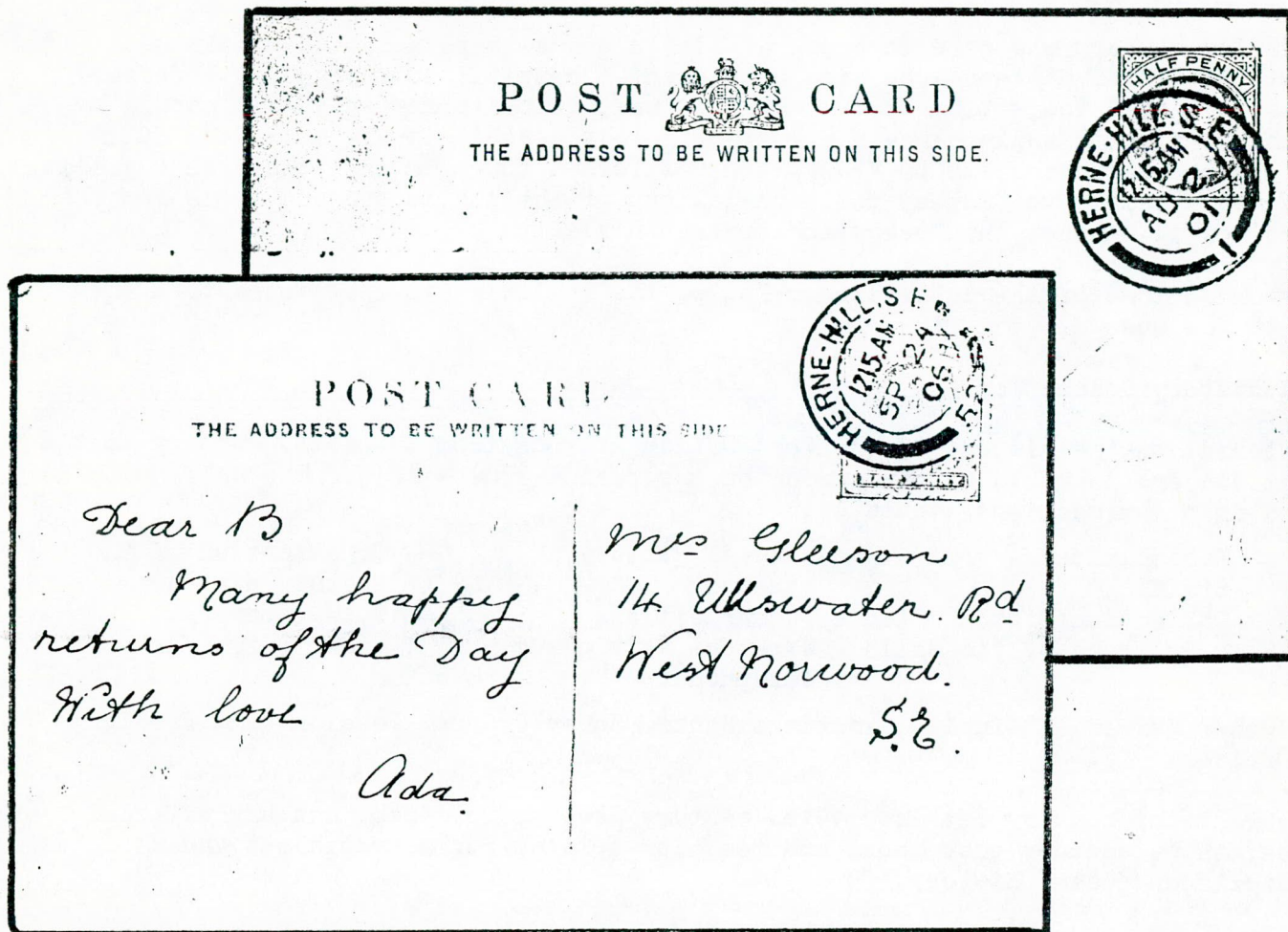
- 1) Sydenham Duplex
- 2) One example of a single circle handstamp, identical to the dated portion of the Duplex; presumably a ' behind-the-scenes ' misuse to cancel the odd adhesive.
- 3) Sydenham ' Dulwich ' type handstamp, code 1
- 4) Sydenham ' Dulwich ' type handstamp, code 25



There is no reason for Sydenham to have 25 of these handstamps, especially as the Duplex was still in active use. 25 is, of course, the Sydenham office number but from my accumulation ( hardly a collection ) of ' Dulwich ' types from other SE offices I could find no other example which included the office number.

Discounting offices now in SE London, then in Kent ( viz. Eltham, Woolwich, Charlton and Abbey Wood ) all the offices now in districts 2 to 18 used numerical codes in these handstamps. I have codes up to 10 for Camberwell, 8 for Peckham as well as lower code numbers for these and other offices.



"Dulwich" Type Handstamp Codes. continued...

For districts now in SE 19 to 27, that is those in the old Norwood District, a variety of symbols appear in the base of the handstamps. Some offices had one with SE in the lower segment. Examples seen are Anerley, East Dulwich, Forest Hill and South Norwood, others may exist. These offices also used handstamps with numerical codes. Exceptions appear to be Norwood, which had numerical codes and one, at least, with a maltese cross; West Norwood, which also used a maltese cross ( I have seen no other handstamps from SE 27 ); and the Sydenham 25.

My theory that this last item was a simple mistake in ordering was shattered when I acquired a Herne Hill 52 to go with a Herne Hill 1 already owned.

Do readers have other examples of office numbers used as codes in these handstamps ? As I have no interest outside the SE district, I have no examples from the rest of London. However, whilst looking for material, I cannot recall noting office numbers used for other districts. SW in the old Battersea District were noted. Clearly it is not possible to differentiate between numerical codes and office numbers for places such as Hampstead but if you do have any information, it will be most useful. I can find no reference in the standard reference books; A & H mention office numbers used in Scotland and Liverpool at an earlier date.

Your information, PLEASE, to :

33 Waverley Crescent, SE 18 7QU.



BRUCE CASTLE MUSEUM

For the few members who came to Bruce Castle in March there was a disappointment in that the Postal History Archivist had to enter hospital only two days before. The result was an inspection of the material on public display only. It should be said this was worth while since a number of rarely seen items are included, often next to something which, to be frank, one was forced to grade as 'research' quality. It was not possible to inspect the material out of the public eye and it is for the members now to contact the Museum and arrange a visit.

To give some idea of the material available, the following is abstracted from the Guide to the Museum.

## Postal History Collection

The material on the history of the Post Office extends from the 16th. century to the present day and is particularly strong on the period 1700 - 1840. The Collection is divided into ten sections, these being:

Miscellanea	General History	Organisation of the
Staff	Finance	Postal Service
Collection/Distribution	Communications	Telegraphs
& Delivery of the Mails	Wireless Services & Telephones	Other Services

The 'Other Services' includes Savings Banks, Money Orders, Pensions and Foreign Post Offices.

There are 16th. century letters, 17th. century newspapers, 18th. century official notices, 19th. century post horns and coaching prints, books, pamphlets and periodicals on postal history.

The first section, Miscellanea, includes verse and drama of postal interest, theatre and music hall performances and programmes, literature by and about postal officials, exhibitions, ceremonies and museums, writing materials and humour of the Post Office. An example of the latter is a song written and composed by E.W. Rogers entitled : "The Postman. Or I do like to be in the 'know' you know".

The second section, on General History, includes ancient times, medieval European postal history and British postal history from about 1450 to the present. Thus a newspaper cutting of 1770 refers to the death, in her 80th. year, of Mrs. Saunders 'who had been upwards of fifty years one of the Houskeepers of the General Post Office'.

The third section, on the Organisation of the Postal Services, includes the history and duties of the office of Postmaster General, the London and provincial services, the Scottish and Irish Post Offices. A petition from William Smith, Postmaster at Oxford, to Charles I refers to 'all sorts of discouragements and some threatening no less than his life' for his service to the King during the Civil War.

The fourth section, on Staff, includes Post Office history from the labour standpoint, hours of work, trade unions and other associations, the Post Office in war time and individual classes of postal employees. Mr. T.B. Cook, Inspector of Letter Carriers, reported in 1854 on the difficulties encountered by postmen delivering letters owing to the faulty numbering of houses. He refers to a house with brass number plate 95 in between houses numbered 14 and 16; on enquiry the householder said it was the number of the house where she formerly lived and the brass number plate 'being a very good one she thought it would do for her present residence as well as any other'.



Bruce Castle Museum, continued.....

The fifth section, on finance, extends from before 1635 to the present day. Included are rates of postage and methods of collection, that is postage stamps and postal stationery. With the introduction of uniform penny postage in 1840, it was possible to prepay postage either by using the penny black ( or twopenny ), or the Mulready cover. ( Cash also was allowed! ) The Mulready was the subject for a famous caricature by John Leech, cartoonist for Punch. The collection has a copy of this, with a pamphlet on the life of John Leech by Harry Thornber.

The sixth section, on the collection, distribution and delivery of mails, includes the opening of letters by the Post Office, collection and sorting of mails, carriage of material, loss of mail by robbery; army, navy, foreign and colonial mails are also covered. A newspaper of 1657 refers to three highwaymen who ' knocked down the Post Boy and carried away the Mail, supposing it to be a Gentleman's Cloake Bagg '; there is a bill of 1830 from a famous coaching inn, the Swan With Two Necks, Lad Lane, with a charge of £2.2s for dinner and £1.18s.6d. for port, which at that time was 5/- a bottle.

The seventh section, Communications, includes roads and road travelling, methods of travelling, modern petrol and electric vehicles, railways, underground communications and communication by water and air. ' The Present State of London; or, memorials comprehending A Full and Succinct Account of the Ancient and Modern State thereof ' by Tho. de Laune, 1681, refers to being able to travel ' with such velocity and speed .....for the stage-coaches, called Flying-Coaches, make forty or fifty miles in a day. '

The eighth section, on Telegraphs, Wireless Services and Telephones, includes the history and administration of these services, finance and technical aspects. An example of the material is ' Telegraph and Express Delivery Service. Instructions for Messengers in London and the Provinces ', 1908, which has, as rule 14, ' you are specially cautioned against sliding down the handrails of staircases, which is a most dangerous practice '.

The ninth section, Other Services, includes the Post Office Savings Bank, investment in Government Stocks, state insurance, money and postal orders and payment of pensions. Thus ' The Post Office and Aids to Thrift ' by Henry Fawcett, Postmaster General, 1881, describes the various means made available by the Post Office for the deposit of savings which it was hoped ' may prove useful to the industrial classes, and to those who are anxious to encourage the habits of thrift amongst the people '.

The tenth section, on Foreign Post Offices, includes material on European, African, American and Australian Post Offices. Examples are a newspaper cutting of August 3rd., 1723, on the robbery of a postboy travelling between Brussels and Paris, and ' Train and Bank Robbers of the West. A Romantic but Faithful Story of Bloodshed and Plunder, perpetrated by Missouri's daring outlaws.... ', 1882.

The Collection as a whole is available for study if there is a specific subject for enquiry. There is, in addition, an exhibition of material entitled ' Postboy to Penny Post '. This illustrates the carriage of mail by postboy, mail coach, railway and packet boat, with, amongst others, sections on the campaign for uniform penny postage, first postage stamps and Sir Rowland Hill, who lived at Bruce Castle between 1827 and 1833.

Other Collections.....

In additon to the Postal History is a Local History Collection and the Regimental Museum of the Middlesex Regiment, both well worth inspection

Should a reader wish to examine all the material available, please contact the curator in advance. The telephone number is (01) 808 8772



OXFORD STREET 3

Amongst a batch of covers and pieces recently drawn into the net came a ( very ) poor example of what was clearly a Twopenny Post stamp; far from clear was the actual office. What caught my attention - just as it was being consigned to the ' get rid of it ' pile - was the figure 3 at the end of the first line. Quite clear, no room for doubt. Turning to Brumell's ' Local Posts ', every entry on receiving house names was examined and no trace of one ending in a three. Intrigued by now, the rest of the stamp was further studied. By angling the item against a good light the ' x ' of ' Oxford ' could be seen ( or imagined! ). Brumell's notes on Oxford Street Receiving Houses are precise. Only one stamp has a number and that an 88. Following the golden rule of ' when in doubt ' - ask, I contacted John Adams and he replied in the following terms.

" With regard to your Oxford St 3 item, but two other examples of this decidedly unusual location have previously come to my notice. One a paid mark, Brumell fig.98 and the other an unpaid Brumell fig. 105.

Oxford St 3  
2 py P-Paid

T.P  
Oxford St 3

" When I first came across an example I was struck by the similarity to the London Penny Post transitional marks of 1794/6, in particular the type Brumell shows as fig. 50. A list of these marks ( including figs. 51 and 52 ) appeared in Notebook No.12.

## THAMES ST 3

" No proved explanation for the number part of these stamps has so far been produced but various theories have been put forward and each has its adherents. I have always inclined towards the notion these numbers must have represented actual Receiving Houses; it seems logical that during the radical reorganisation of 1794, serious thoughts must have been given to a method of identifying ( for obvious reasons ) the " putting in " place of letters, when they passed through the Principal Offices. A method of such identification was a " must " and had been previously catered for by the Receiver's personal stamp or m/s endorsement.

" The difficulty lies in allocation of the numbers to Receiving House locations and without some official record as proof, this is pure gueswork. It is, never-the-less, interesting ( though highly speculative ) to group into sets of 2, 3 & 4 the various Receiving Houses of 1794, tie them ( if recorded ) to the list of hand stamps referred to above and ring them on a map. The Town area sets a far more complicated problem where the R.H.s were located close to each other than in the Country area, where the allocations can be fairly obvious in a number of cases. For example, I would attribute Richmond 1, 2 and 3 to Richmond, Petersham and Ham, despite there being no record, of which I am aware, for Richmond 3. Another grouping would be Woolwich 1, 2 and 3 representing Woolwich East, Shooters Hill and Charlton - here it is Woolwich 1 to be sighted.

" Returning to the TP Oxford St 3, the three recorded examples are dated between 1820 and 1823. Receiving House lists in P.O. directories for most years between 1821 and 1840 have been examined; number 3, as an address, appears in none. During the 2d Post period the following appear as Oxford Street locations :

88, 98, 151, 152, 210 and 257.



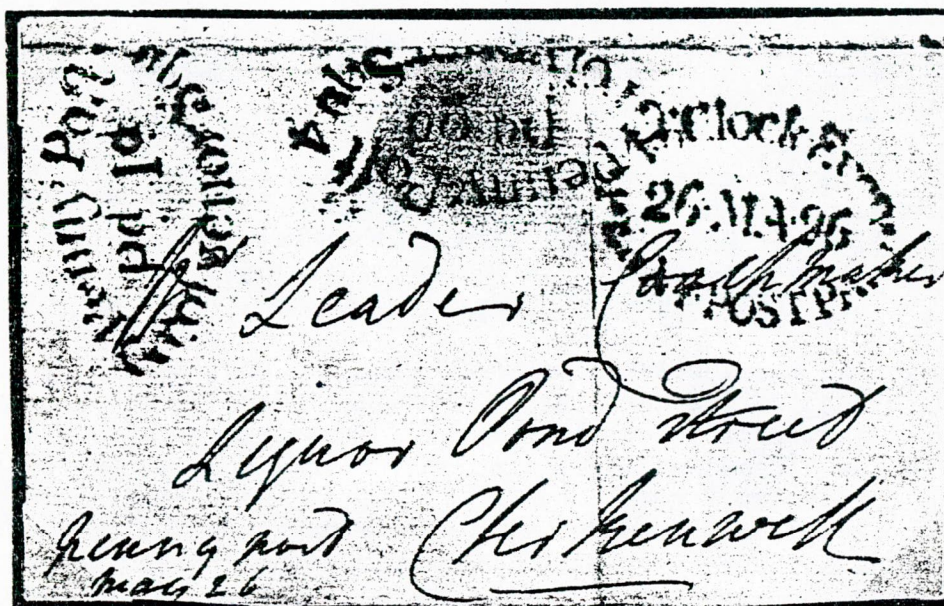
Oxford Street 3, continued.....

" For each year 1820, 21, 22, 23 and 24 locations are given as numbers 88, 152 and 210; this would seem to rule out the ' 3 ' being a street number.

" Oxford Street T.P. namestamps are fairly common; that so few with the ' 3 ' have come to light could, perhaps, indicate a short lived experiment involving a special format stamp.

" Whether there is any connection with the earlier types or their suggested function remains to be seen. I always have one eye on the lookout for TP covers carrying Oxford St 1 and Oxford St 2. "

Since John wrote, further evidence on the curious stamps - not Oxford Street - has been recorded. That badly read ' Local Posts '\* illustrates, on page 49, not only the fig. 50 to which John made reference, but a Grosvenor Square 4 ( fig.56 ). A most attractive item, illustrated below, shows this 4 on both the Pd 1d and Pd 2d, the date being 26th.May 1796. To confirm this, Maurice Bristow showed me a superb example of a Strand 4 and I have a poor example, dated 14th.July, 1797.



It would support the concept of a special numbering of stamps and the proposition for a link with the 1794 experimentals is most attractive.

Would readers carefully examine their local post material for any bearing low numbers and drop a note to John, who is busy with preparation of the 2d Post section of the Handbook.

C.J. Adams, ' The Lowe ', Worfield, Bridgnorth, Salop. WV15 5NS.

\*

The reason for this remark is the disregard of the flat topped 3 by most. It was only quite recently that collectors, and dealers, generally woke up to the import of the stamp and I recall pointing out the reference to several collectors who thought they had read the book!

Peter A. Forrestier Smith.



THE CHARMOUTH MEETING

It is a long drive from Dulwich to Charmouth for ' just a postal history meeting ' but what a meeting and well worth the effort.

As Bernard Smith so rightly commented, the wealth of material and the scope tended to give one a surfeit rather than mere satisfaction. There were three main displays. The day started with John Parmenter on the London District Post Duplex and some of the more ' difficult ' items. Somehow, this post-adhesive period of London's Local Post does not receive the attention it merits and this display did much to correct the balance.

Robert Johnson split his session into two parts. The first he termed the 'easier ' marks, the second the 'more difficult'. The marks were the charge and explanatory for which he is rightly recognised as an authority. What distinguishes an authority from the avid collector is an understanding of the purpose behind the marks. Robert's display and comments demonstrated this very well.

Frank Staff rather put Maritime Mail collectors into something of a daze with some ' early ' ship letters, starting - if memory serves me - with one of 1380 to Venice. So, such material must have been Maritime, but with the ship's name on the entire ? There were a couple of letters, London to Venice ( 15th. Century ) and an interesting comment on the pen marks which are usually referred to as Merchants' Marks. It was suggested these related rather to the Courier Service, not the Merchants. Henry Bishop was shown to be rather slow off the mark with a SORTIS MEDIOLANI stamp of 1458. Also shown were British Consular Mails in Spain plus a very fine example of British Legion Mail dated 1836, Carlist Wars. Other material included a 1647 Post Paid letter and early franked mail dated 23rd October 1656. One must mention a little display of original Treasury Warrants!

Others displaying, and the shortness of the ' review ' should not detract from conveying the enjoyment to the members gathered, included Frank Embery and John Forbes-Nixon. The former proposed three theories/queries for our consideration. The L in a circle was a Transfer Stamp from the General Post to the 2d Post area and simply stood for London ( town area ). The unpaid date stamp from the late 1830's was also proposed as a transfer stamp for mail to be delivered in the afternoon. The third was a cleverly observed piece of detection relating to letters with a m/s number in the top left; here the theory was this related to a sorter who spotted an error following a change of address and who altered the address prior to the first attempt at delivery. Since he is ( hopefully ) going to write these three up for Notebook readers, no more will be said. John Forbes-Dixon produced what he described as his ' favourite ' items. Just to give a notion of the material mention is made of the rare HP 1, a superb Commons duplex ( 40 ) some very fine instructional markings and, noted from the previous issue of Notebook, a ' matched ' pair of redirected items, one with the crowned R, the other with an additional  $\frac{1}{2}$ d charge for redirection.

Quite a day.

A USEFUL GLASS

Noted, though not displayed, was a very useful magnifier with a 0.1mm scale to 1cm on the glass. The name was BECK KASSEL CBS GERMANY, a x8 power and priced at about £ 2.50. Well worth inspecting next time you get a chance to visit your local dealer.



A CHANGE OR TWO.....

When the Group started, in 1971, both myself and John Grimmer were appointed to Chairman and Hon. Treasurer respectively.

The 1980 London International is now looming large for John and, with an offer to take over by Reg Sanders, he is retiring from the post as Group Hon. Treasurer to deal with the thousand and one complexities of the 1980 'Do'. His service to the Group has been invaluable and all the concerns of collection and distribution of funds has fallen to him for seven years. My own personal thanks will be echoed by all members.

For my own part, seven years is probably several years too many as Chairman. I cannot complain that the duties have been arduous, for with very good Officers, the job for the Chair has been comparatively simple. The very informal method of operating has helped greatly. However, I am sure John Parmenter, the nominee for Chairman at the A.G.M. will give the Group a welcome battery recharge and enhanced purpose. His contribution to Postal History is well known and has added much to the Group's status.

My very sincere appreciation to all who have worked for the Group over these past years; my confidence in those who take over at the A.G.M. with Derek Holliday and Brian Smith as Secretaries of Group and Packet, in that order, providing a degree of continuity. I hope to continue to edit Notebook for some while yet, though here again, a fresh approach in the not too distant future will be of benefit to us all.

One final thought, to be repeated in the Chairman's Report to the A.G.M. The subscription will be kept to £3 for at least the next year; to retain it for a further year will depend very much on increasing the membership. Most of us meet fellow collectors of London material not yet in the Group. If we can get a new member for every two current members our position will be greatly strengthened for the following years. Think on.

Peter A. Forrestier Smith.

ANNUAL AUCTION

The auction this year, in July, requires lots - stating the obvious. Although the return to funds is slight, the help given to members in both disposing of and getting material is much appreciated. To cover costs and provide a decent return this year we are looking for 300 lots, not restricted to London, though the potential purchasers will be Group members(!), with each having £1 as the minimum price/estimate/valuation.\*

Single lots will have as much care as those able to contribute more. Brief descriptions should be sent WITH the material and your reserve price and valuation, if the latter is higher. It will be necessary to send out the auction list by mid June to allow time for members to post in their bids. Overseas members are advised by air - they will probably get the list before this issue in some cases - and are often good postal bidders.

Material, with the descriptions, should be sent in by the end of May. To trim the cost slightly you might prefer to deliver rather than post to:

24 Dovercourt Road,  
Dulwich, SE22 8ST or Room 125, 14 Russell Square,  
London WC1



# London Postal History Group

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Publications, other than " Notebook ".....

1. Classification of Types of Undated Namestamps of England, Wales and Ireland 1840 - 1860, by M.V.D. Champness ( 1973 ) 20 pence.
2. Horizontal Oval Cancellations of London, by John Parmenter ( 1974 )  
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3. District and Branch Cancellations of London 1857 - 1900, Part 1,  
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