

NOTEBOOK

POSTAL HISTORY IS THE STUDY OF THE OPERATION OF POSTAL SERVICES
BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE AND THE PUBLICATION OF THE FRUITS OF
SUCH STUDY

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EDITORIAL

This is being written just before the start of " Showpex " with B.P.E. to follow shortly. No doubt there will be the usual first day hunt for elusive items, often missed in the rush to the benefit of the more thoughtful, browsing later visitor. The point of this is to remind readers not to keep their finds to themselves. A joy in a find is multiplied by the number allowed to enjoy the item with the owner and the pages of ' Notebook ' provide the vehicle necessary. Not only items to delight the eye but date extensions, color variations and all those minutia which round our knowledge of postal history.

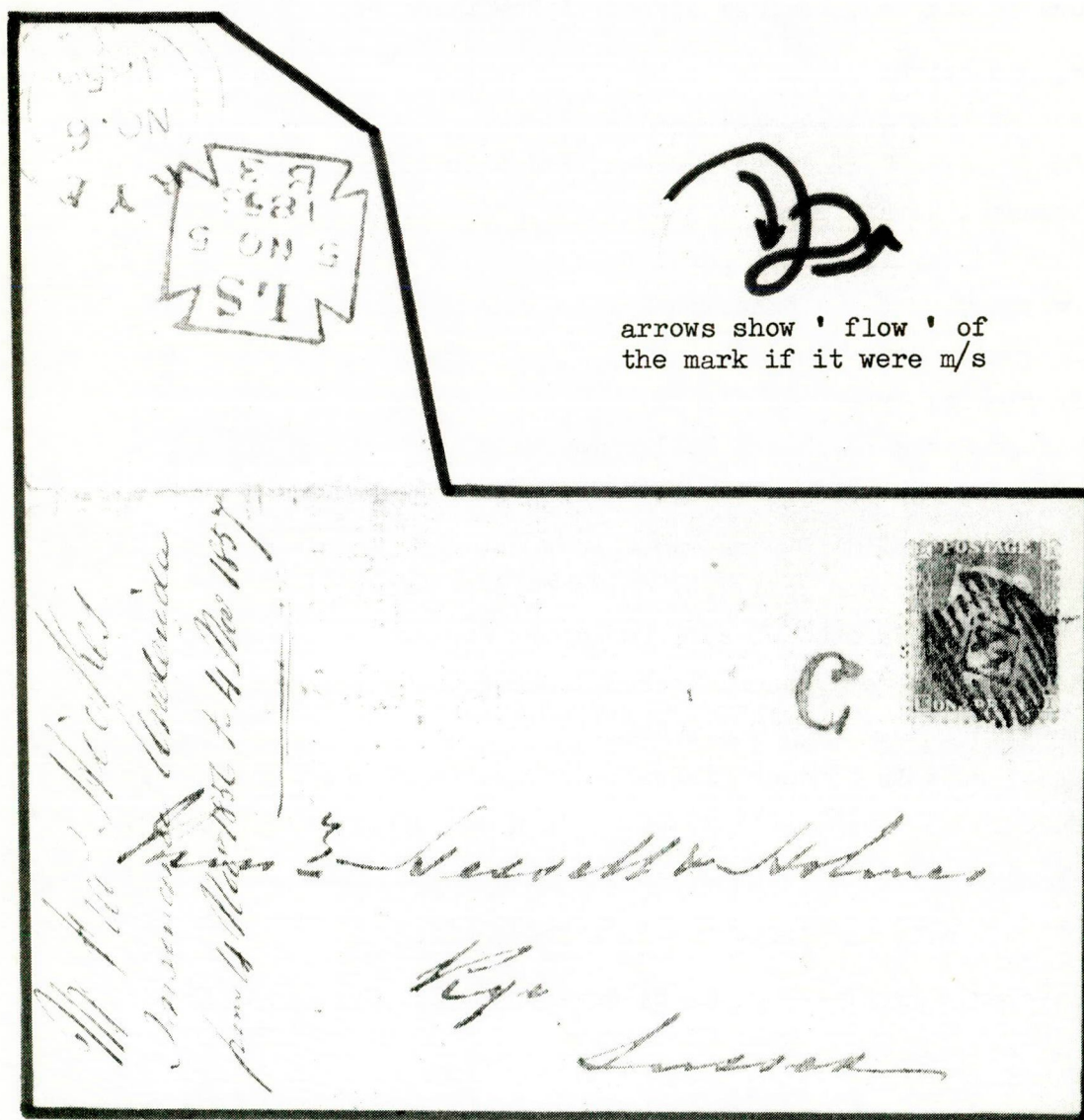
If there is a " season " for postal history, it might as well be deemed to start with " Showpex ": enjoy it.

BRANCH STAMPS : LOMBARD STREET A NEW DISCOVERY

The item we illustrate below was shown to the Editor recently, who - though not having John Sharp's work on Branch Offices to hand - was certain it was not one of the Post Office steel stamp impressions therein. The Lombard Street mark is described as a 'c' and indeed appears as such on another cover seen at the same time.

This, however, would seem to be a 'C' with a pronounced serif at the lower end, with a curious loop attached to the upper curve. Looking carefully at the original, struck in red by the way, it seems quite clear it was not caused by some foreign body attaching itself and can be more clearly be seen from the sketch shown alongside.

As it often the case, the ' B3 ' code (LS12) date stamp for 5th.November, 1856 was struck in the same color on the reverse.



For the record, the other ' normal ' 'c' mark was also accompanied by the LS12 stamp, this time for 23rd. September, 1857, which provides a small extension of use to note in the reader's copy of the ' Handbook '.

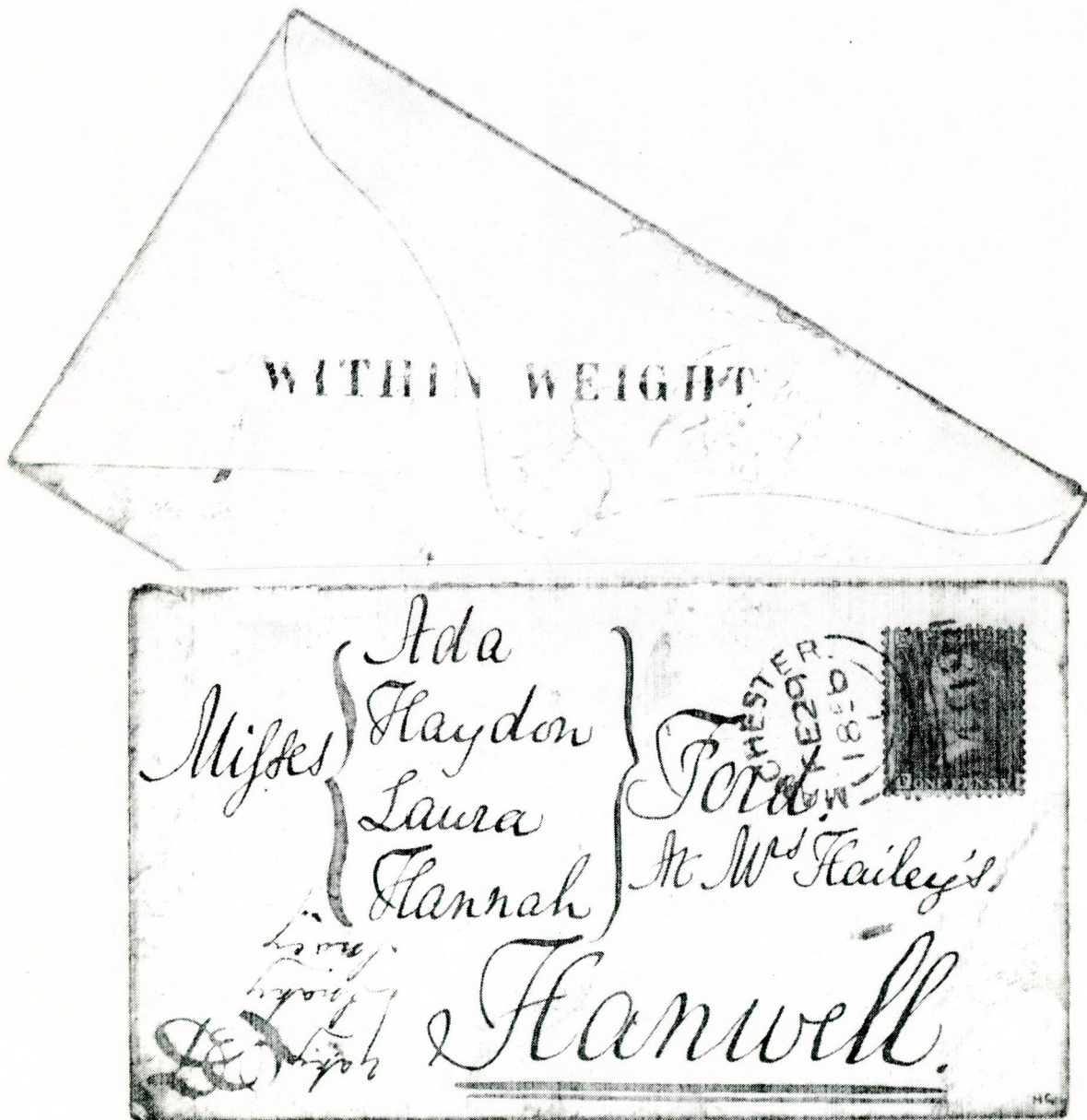
In both cases, the adhesive was cancelled with the Inalnd diamond 41 and there is no indication of the matter which attracted the Postal Clerk notice and resulted in the use of one of the ' A B C ' marks.

As ever, a note of any of these marks seen should be sent to the Editor for the second Handbook supplement which will be issued later this year.

WITHIN WEIGHT

The Editor is rather cautious when presented with a mark for which there would seem to be no real or obvious need and which is the only recorded example. When shown the item below he was reassured to learn that another example had been seen at auction, attracted no great interest and was generally greeted with comments about ' John Bull ' printing sets.

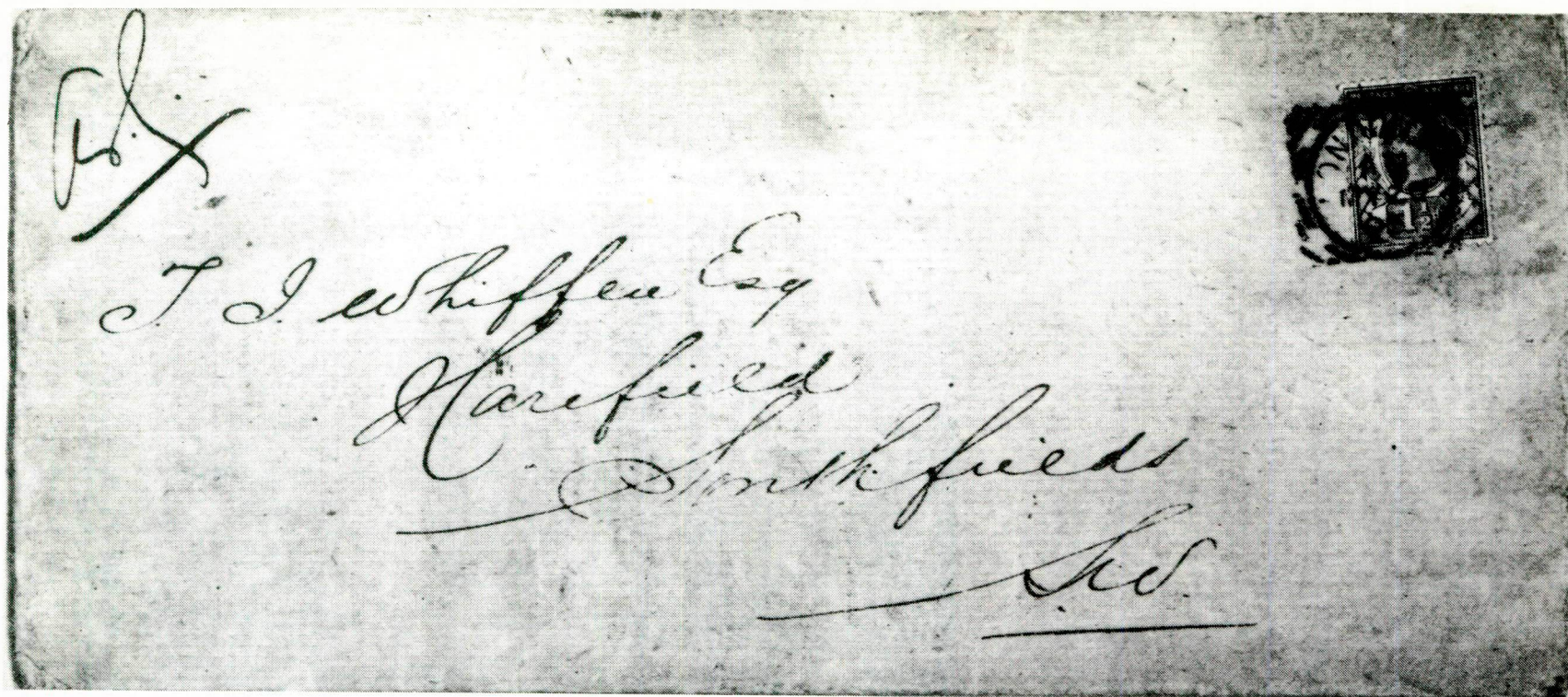
A few facts. Not reproducing well are two stamps on the reverse in addition to the WITHIN WEIGHT. There is an undated LOWER BROUGHTON in a pale greenish (?) black. The London arrival stamp for the 1st.March 1856 is in red. The adhesive is cancelled with a type II Manchester sideways duplex, code L, and interestingly dated Fe 29 / 1856. It is addressed to the four Misses Ford at Mrs Hailey's (a school ?) in Hanwell, By way of decoration red ink was used for the bracket on the left and the initials in the lower left and the underlining of Hanwell, black elsewhere.



There is no indication of anything which might cause a postal clerk to suspect it might be above half an ounce.

Can a reader produce another example or a note of one seen and just why such a stamp would be applied ?

AN EXPERIMENTAL SQUARED CIRCLE



In his book on Squared Circles, the late Stitt Dibden did not have a great deal to say on the experimental types, his figures 3 to 6 inclusive.

" The next four patterns (figures 3 to 6) were all supplied but never came into general use and examples, which may be found occasionally, are extremely rare. Little is known about any of these dies but I give below all the facts I have been able to find. "

Other than noting figure 6 (also two other types) was " still on the strength " of stamps held in the E.C. Office in 1895, he expressed doubt if any serious use was made after 1880. The illustration used by SD is LONDON E C / A 7 / SP 20 / 95: the one shown here, through the good offices of Mike Goodman, reads LONDON E C / A ZZ / MY 20 / 95. The (incomplete) backstamp is LONDON ? / 70 / MY 21 / 95. It is pleasure to record such a rarity.

ref: Squared Circle Postmarks, by W.G. Stitt Dibden.

First Edition 1964, British Postmark Society: Second Edition 1974, Harry Hayes.

THE MEUNIER COLLECTION : POSTAL BID SALE : 8TH. MAY, 1982 - RESULTS

The sale, our first postal only sale, attracted a good number of bids, with several lots hotly contested. The realisation was nearly £830.

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	27.50	2	5.50	3	10.00	4	10.00	5	5.50	6	6.60	7	8.80
10	27.50	11	15.00	12	27.50	13	13.20	14	44.00	15	36.30	16	40.00
17	27.50	18	66.00	19	66.00	20	9.00	21	9.00	26	24.20	27	11.50
28	17.60	29	13.50	31	44.20	33	9.00	34	6.60	35	8.25	36	4.40
38	5.00	40	3.00	41	6.00	43	4.00	44	8.25	45	3.40	46	8.80
47	9.40	48	7.25	54	4.00	56	7.70	57	6.00	58	2.50	60	6.60
61	7.00	62	6.60	63	5.00	64	3.00	66	3.00	67	2.50	71	6.00
81	3.00	89	3.00	91	1.00	93	2.00	94	1.10	95	.25	96	1.00
98	1.10	104	.25	108	.25	111	.25	116	3.00	119	1.00	120	2.40
125	.25	132	1.10	135	1.00	138	1.10	140	.25	144	3.00	149	2.00
150	2.00	153	.25	160	1.00	161	.50	164	.25	174	1.00	178	1.00
180	2.10	181	1.00	182	1.00	184	3.00	185	1.30	186	2.40	187	3.30
189	1.10	190	1.10	191	.55	192	.25	193	.50	195	.50	196	2.00
197	2.75	208	1.00	213	3.50	214	2.75	225	2.00	226	1.70	227	3.00
228	1.10	230	4.00	231	1.00	232	2.20	234	3.00	235	2.20	237	4.40
245	1.00	247	5.00	251	6.10	252	1.00	254	2.00	259	3.00	261	4.40

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DOCUMENT REPAIR TAPE

Norman Mounsden recently showed the Editor a 'hitherto unrecorded' tape for the repair of documents. It would appear to fit the bill very well for those items which we all have in our collections with rips, tears and other nasties. There are a number of advantages to this tape in that unlike others we would rather not mention, this type is claimed to be non-yellowing, neutral, reversible, transparent and pressure sensitive.

Most certainly an item treated with this tape was greatly improved and although we cannot go so far as to claim it was actually invisible, it came very near that state and seemed to 'blend' into the original document very well indeed.

The snag, as ever, is the cost, namely in the order of £4 for a modest roll and dispenser pack, plus the minimum commercial order of ten units. We doubt if even the most battered collection merits such a stock but no doubt if enough members express interest, a suitable purchase can be made and individual rolls forwarded.

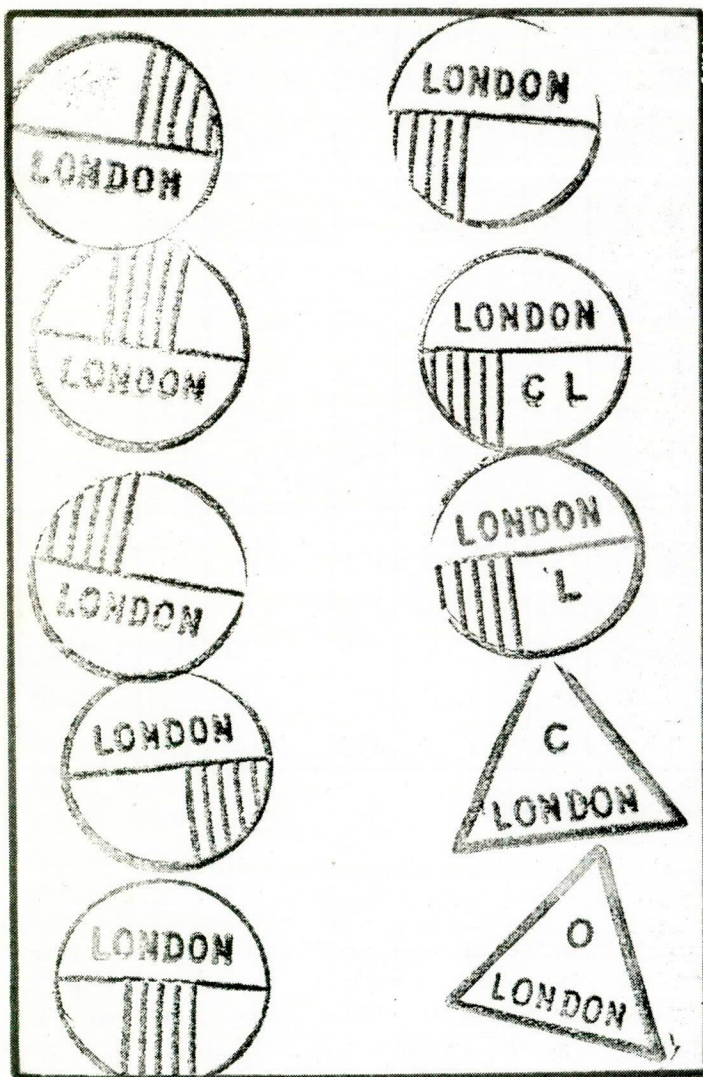
In case any reader wishes to order the minimum quantity, the product is called, aptly enough 'Archival Aids, Document Repair Tape' and is supplied by Ademo Ltd., Lincolns Road, High Wycombe, Bucks.

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TIME CODES from David Druett

The item illustrated is on the message side of a plain post card, addressed to someone in Nunhead, London SE. From what is left of the postmarks, an attempt having been made to remove the three halfpenny adhesives, the card seems to date from 1st. July, 1934.

In a series of articles on Newspaper Branch Cancellations *, the late Stitt Dibden deals with both the cancellations shown. In the section on Newspaper Branch Killers S.D. dealt with the circular type under his London Chief Office Time Coded Stamps. He suggests "possibly 1933" for the introduction of these, which gives pause for thought when recalling the date on the card.



He gives the following timings:

Bars above horizontal line -

Right	12.0 M.N	4.0 A.M.
Centre	4.0 A.M	8.0 A.M.
Left	8.0 A.M	12.0 M.D.

Bars below horizontal line -

Right	12.0 M.D	4.0 P.M.
Centre	4.0 P.M.	8.0 P.M.
Left	8.0 P.M.	12.0 M.N.

C denotes in time for Day Mail trains

CL denotes in time for Night " "

L denotes too late " " " "

The triangular stamps, which are the subject of another article, were introduced to meet the need to deal with the 1892 halfpenny printed circular rate. The code letter interpretation is given by SD, thus -

- C in time for the night mail
- O bulk postings 5000 plus circulars
- U bulk postings 5000 minus circulars
- L too late for night mail
- CL bulk mail collected from certain firms and too late for night mail

It is interesting to note exactly the same meaning is not given to the same code letter an example being 'CL'. This may be a matter of stress rather than real difference.

* Newspapers Branch Cancellations
by W.G. Stitt Dibden
PHS 1971 Special Series No.27

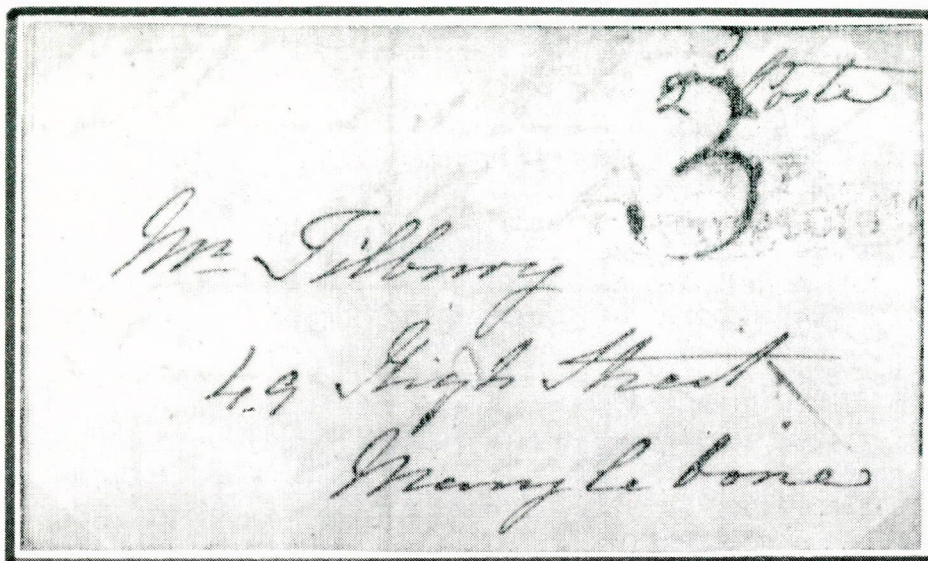
-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

WANTED : ANY KEW MATERIAL PRIOR TO 1800 and between 1840 and 1870 by
P.J. Elkins, 31 Poplar Avenue, Windlesham GU20 6PN Surrey

Nothing to do with London but readers may have some material from BISHOP'S STORTFORD between 1850 to 1870, including the surrounding villages in both Hertfordshire and Essex - it could well be the obverse of that spare London backstamp you have !
The Editor will be very pleased to hear from anyone.

TWOPENNY POST: A HANDSTRUCK 1

A recent purchase has produced a fine addition to the Editor's London Local Post collection and poses a question to which he has no answer, though hopefully some reader can assist, either with an explanation or further examples of this, or similar, marks.



It was written by a Miss Bury, and is addressed from Hastings, though would seem to have been posted in London some two days afterwards on November 22nd., 1830 as evidenced by the 12 noon time stamp for that date on the reverse.

The front carries a very faint TP / Islington NO, overstruck by the 3. This also, in part, covers the " 2d Post " endorsement made by the writer (who clearly did not intend to post from Hastings! What is curious and a puzzlement is the handstruck ' 1 ' which can be seen on the lower right. It was described as being in blue but frankly looks black, though less intense than the " 3 ".

What possibly could be the point ? High Street Marylebone does not suggest any particular difficulties for the Post Office and nothing like it can be found in any reference books checked thus far. High Street, Marylebone is shown as having stamps recorded 1801 - 4 in the Town area. Islington NO is a small puzzle itself. The listing in " Local Posts " gives N.O. Islington with the note " Stamps known of 1819. Probably refers to office in Back Road ". It would seem there is an extension of the ' NO ' stampings also. Country to Town was rated at 3d., so the charge mark is correct.

Why, why, why ????????

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Make a Note.....

Saturday 17th.September: The subject matter is the markings applied in London to make specifically designated to go by land,sea or air, which should allow most to produce something.

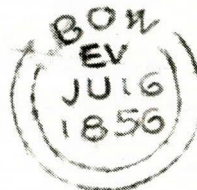
Saturday 20th.November: A double feature (older members can explain this now obsolete cinema term to later generations). For LPHG however it really is a double bill of " Foreign Branch " and " Newspapers and the Post ".

As mentioned elsewhere, there will also be viewing for a Postal Sale.

PROVINCIAL TYPE DATE STAMPS

The Editor has been given the task of compiling the Handbook section which will deal with the datestamps, used other than as cancellations, from 1857. As a gesture towards this, he had put together a few notes and examples, then allowed himself to be swamped by other calls on his time. However, this week his interest was again roused by getting an example of what he calls the 'Provincial type' date stamp for Bow. It is not the clearest mark on record and the illustration shown is what the auction catalogues politely call 'assisted'. It does contain some interesting features which are worth comment.

To state the obvious: it is not a format one would generally think of as being from a London office, though John Sharp does show the type as issued to the Branch Offices in 1845 and 1846 with the note in the Proof Impression Book 'For Money Orders'.



That such stamps were issued to offices other than the four Branch Offices has been known for some time to the Editor, though the frequency with which these marks appear is so limited as to suggest they are more of a rarity than might be thought from such an 'ordinary' stamp.

Another feature is the use of EV for evening, one presumes, which ties these stamps very neatly to the Country Sorting Office stamps which continued in use until the late 1840s. Readers may recall the reference to an example from Stoke Newington (No. 50) which showed MG. It would appear from these two 'swallows' one might construct the postal history 'summer' of claiming these stamps were indeed the direct line descendants of the CSO stamp in as far as they are date stamps used at other than the Chief Office. They appear, from this slight evidence, to be used on local London mail only, a theory to be demolished by readers producing examples used otherwise, no doubt.

From so limited a sample one can realistically deduce little. The Stoke Newington envelope had the adhesive cancelled by the Stoke Newington 7, the Bow had the London District Post duplex 77D for 8 N^T applied, both cancellations making sense with the address being to Tottenham and Regents Park respectively.

As remarked so often, there is much still to be recorded and explained in London Postal History and it would seem the Editor really must make time to get into those Proof Impression Books again. Meanwhile, this is very much a matter for the reader to look at any material from 1856 for these marks. The Handbook Section H will be much wider than just these stamps and for those who have the Alcock and Holland a re-reading of Section F of the 1940 edition and pp 122 et seq of the 1960 edition will show the full range of material under review. The undated stamps are the subject of a separate study, to which Section G of the Handbook is to be devoted.

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CHARGE MARKS.....

Over the years Robert Johnson has provided 'Notebook' readers with some very fine examples of charge mark illustrations from his extensive collection. He writes to say this collection will be coming up for sale in September this year through Robson Lowe.

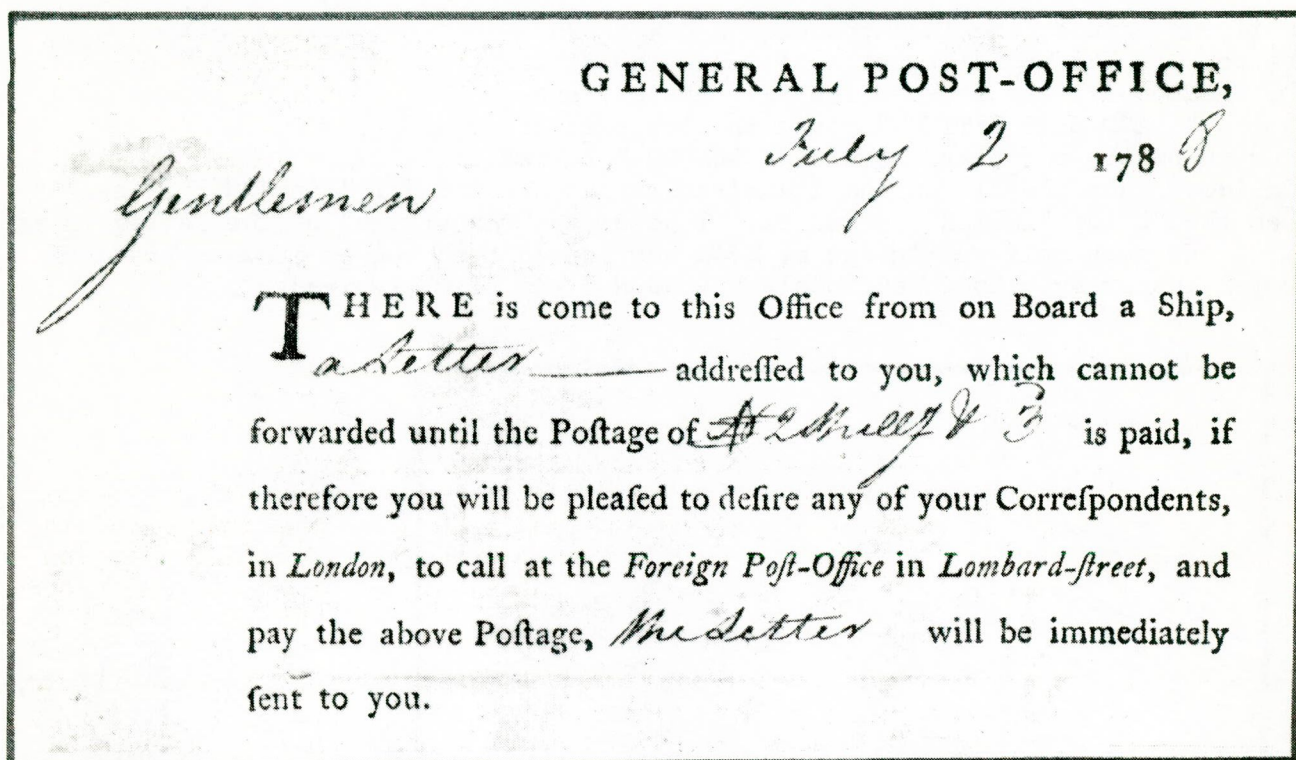
Given the usual standard of catalogue it should prove well worth while to get a copy let alone bid and possibly secure some of the gems. A line to RL at 50 Pall Mall, London SW1 should secure a copy if you are not already on their mailing list.

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DETAINED FOR POSTAGE : MAIL PASSING THROUGH LONDON

Prior to signing an agreement with a foreign country, there was no international system for the collection of postage due on unpaid foreign letters. When a letter written from one overseas country was routed through London and the postage on from London had not been paid, the letter was held in London pending receipt of the postage. The offending letter would be stamped 'Detained for Postage', the reference number.

A somewhat different method would seem to have obtained before 1839, which is the first date given in the Willcocks catalogue for these stamps. The letter reproduced below is dated July 2, 1788. As can be seen, it differs significantly in that there is no mention of any reference number, and mentions the "Foreign Post-Office in Lombard-street".



The addressing of the letter is not without interest. For a start it carries no postal markings whatsoever. The lower left is endorsed G.P. Office in manuscript, and across the top "To pay 1/" IN THE SAME HAND AS THE ADDRESS. A run of correspondence, also to Madeira, has been seen, again without postal markings and carrying varying rates of postage.

By way of rounding off the sequence of events comes a letter dated 17th. November, 1788. This is addressed from the General Post Office to "---Gordon Esq", is endorsed lower left "Foreign/Post Office", again no postal markings. The letter reads.....

Mr Jackson Comptroller of the Foreign Office presents his Compliments to Mr. Gordon, & has the pleasure to acquaint (sic) him that the Letter he inquired after for Newton Gordon & Co at Madeira has been paid for & forwarded by Messrs Richd Butler & Co. of London.....

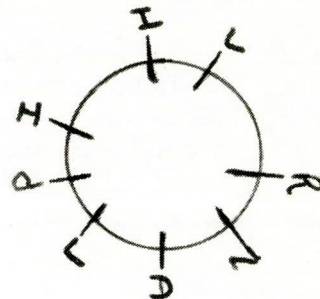
Which last line offers an explanation for the absence of postal markings, though not the "To Pay" endorsements. It seems reasonable to assume this was the charge made for the forwarding facility rather than any collection of a Post Office charge. Perhaps someone with knowledge of the period and forwarding agents can confirm the details.

Mr. Gordon, the non-paying letter sender, had his address in Percy Street, seemingly sufficient to find him when sending their advice of the despatch of the letter; was it necessary to write all the way to Madeira for their payment?

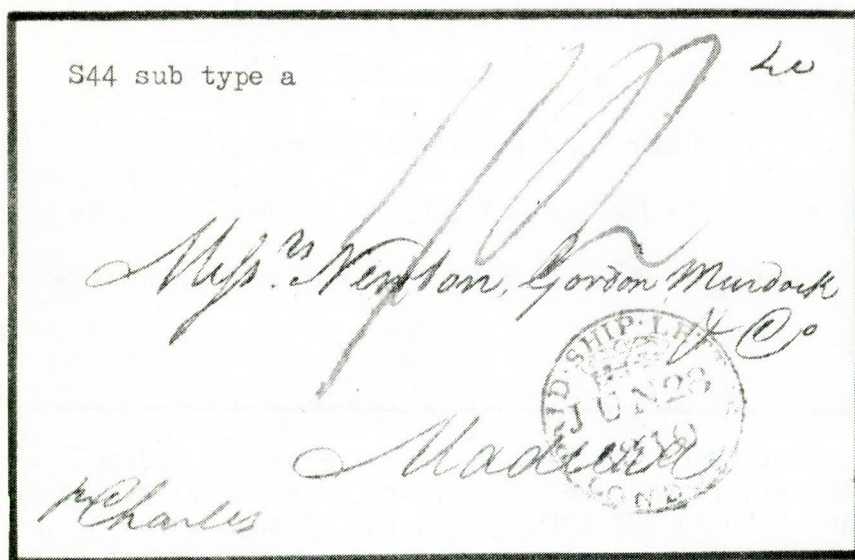
PAID SHIP LETTER LONDON S44

During the course of last year I managed to get an example of S44a, described by Alan Robertson as known only in 1810 " Slightly different crown and all words a little longer ". Not having S44 with which to compare it and not a little puzzled by the quite obvious difference between the illustration and my copy, in the words of the well known Chief Petty Officer, I was " not 'appy ". It was also dated 1814.

The situation was resolved, in part at least, by the sight of what was offered as S44, dated 1810. By applying a large glass, a mm. template and a certain amount of marking with a pencil (the template, not the cover), the " guide ", reproduced on the right, was constructed.

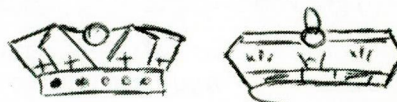


To avoid, or reduce, the incomprehension now shown by the reader, let me interpret a little. The actual stamp, the cover being shown below will assist, has the words " PAID SHIP LETTER " round the top part of the inside of the circular rim with " LONDON " below and inside. Thus the "I" on the illustration matches the " I " in "SHIP", the "L" matches the "L" of "LETTER" and so on. I have used the upright of the letter in each case. I was much relieved to see my S44a was indeed much longer in the spread of the upper lettering, though curiously " LONDON " was slightly less.



The stamp to the right of the cover is the illustration which appears in the book, "Maritime Postal History of London": as can be seen there are obvious differences.

One, which does not show to well, is in the crown. I have tried to show the two quite distinct types here, though my penmanship highlights the variation rather than purports to be an accurate representation.



Another difference is the dating: Month followed by day compared with the book which shows day, month, day. By way of adding further detail, Robson Lowe in the March 1979 issue of " PJGB " identified four sub-types of S44 from a fantastic run of material which " came " his way. The four types are :

- Centre of crown between " IP " of " SHIP ". 27mm circle. Day after Month.
- Centre of crown under " P " of " SHIP " well clear of the letters. Day after Month. 27mm circle.
- As b., but day before and after month.
- Large crown, centre of which touches the " P " of " SHIP ". Day before and

Paid Ship Letter London S44, continued

after month. 28mm. circle.

The dates he records are :

- a. 3. 3.1808 to 24. 4.1810
- b. 11. 3.1812 to 19.11.1814
- c. 24. 2.1815 to 9. 1.1816
- d. 24. 8.1816 to 20. 6.1818 (all in red)

In addition to the main types, Robson Lowe recorded some varieties discovered.

Sub-type b. for 18.11.1814 shows the year as 18 4 (i.e., second 1 omitted).

Sub-type c. for 29.7.1815 reads 2 JY 29 (i.e., the first 9 omitted).

for 14.9.1815 shows a slipped or misplaced crown

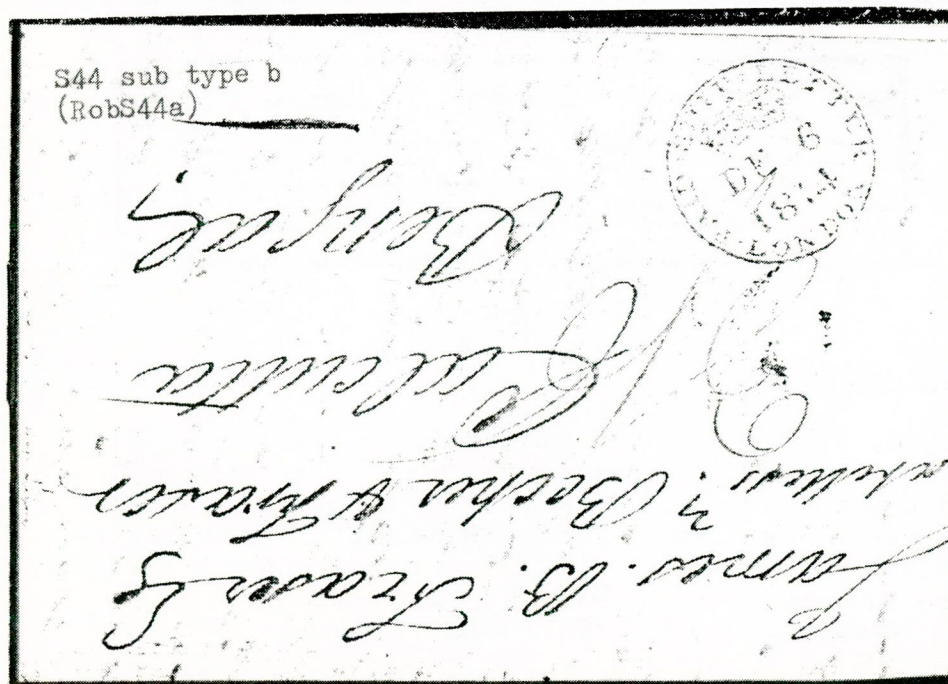
Sub-type d. for 20.6.1818 is struck in black.

The sting in this tail is something not said by R.L. When glancing through the article again I was struck by the positioning of the lettering. If you look at b. and c. below



it seems quite clear they match the description for S44a, recorded by A.W.R. for 1810 only. It would seem from this one could regard the findings as showing there are two sub-types of S44 and two of S44a or treat S44 as having four sub-types. Since there seems to be at least two types of crown involved, I am inclined to use sub-types of S.44 only and, subject to any constructive protests to the contrary, propose to use such a listing when the Handbook section on Maritime Mail is produced.

A final consolation. My S44a, with its 1814 dating, fits nicely into sub-type b, which is what the album page now shows.

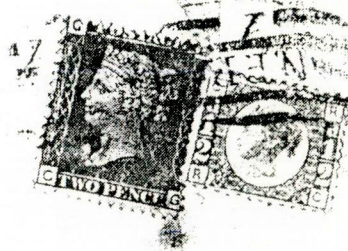


NEWSPAPER BRANCH ROLLER, from John Forbes-Nixon

Recently I came across a small group of covers in a local Bristol Solicitors office in which there was a group of about fifteen Book Post wrappers showing various rates from 1d. to 1/- during the 1865 - 1872 period.

The Book Wrapper below, with 2½d. postage paid, is cancelled by a N.P.B. serif roller obliterator with a small '1' at the bottom.

Does ~~this~~ allow there were other rollers with different numbers ? Is this a new discovery ? I can find no reference for such a N.P.B. roller, though Mackay does show a London I.S. roller (fig 2380.) and states it was used on wrappers between the 1930s and 1950s.



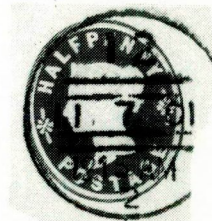
Messrs C. & J. H. Latcham
Solicitors
Bristol



-O-O-O-O-O-O-O-

HALPENNY BOOK POST RESEARCH

The Editor is quietly putting together information on the cancellations used in the Halfpenny Book Post. These stamps were in use over a considerable period and covered the transition from coded time to time in the clear. Of particular concern for the Handbook is the determination of the survival rate of what in its time was a frequently used cancellation. The suburban offices present a particular problem. Readers are asked to make a note of any they have or see.

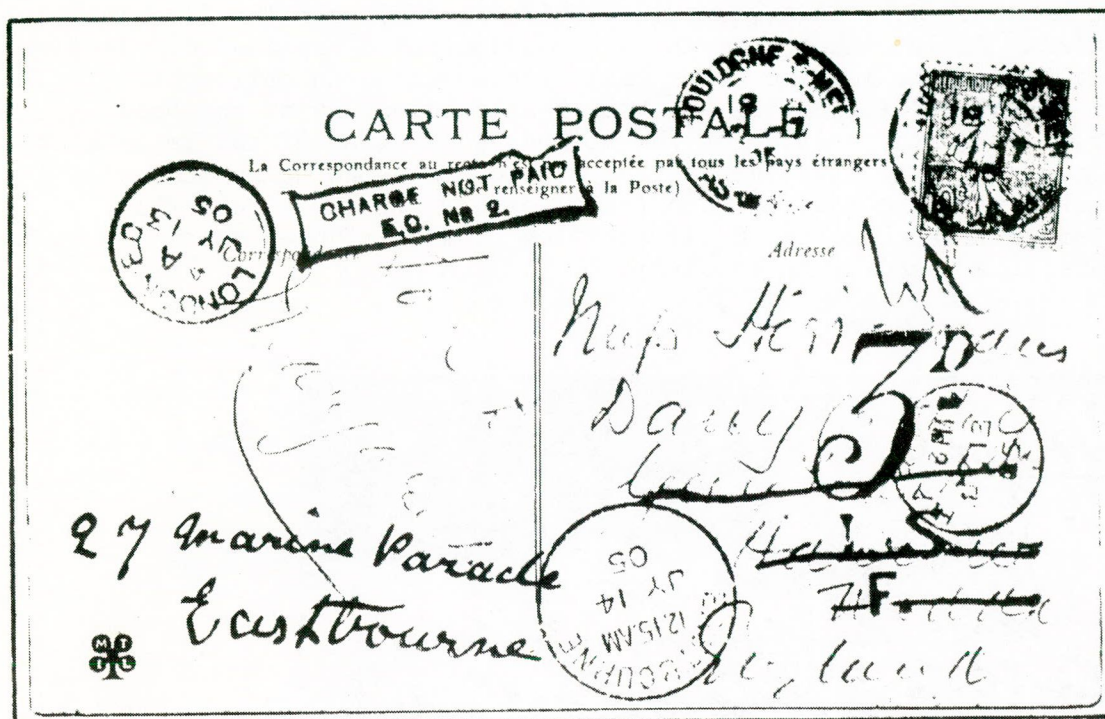


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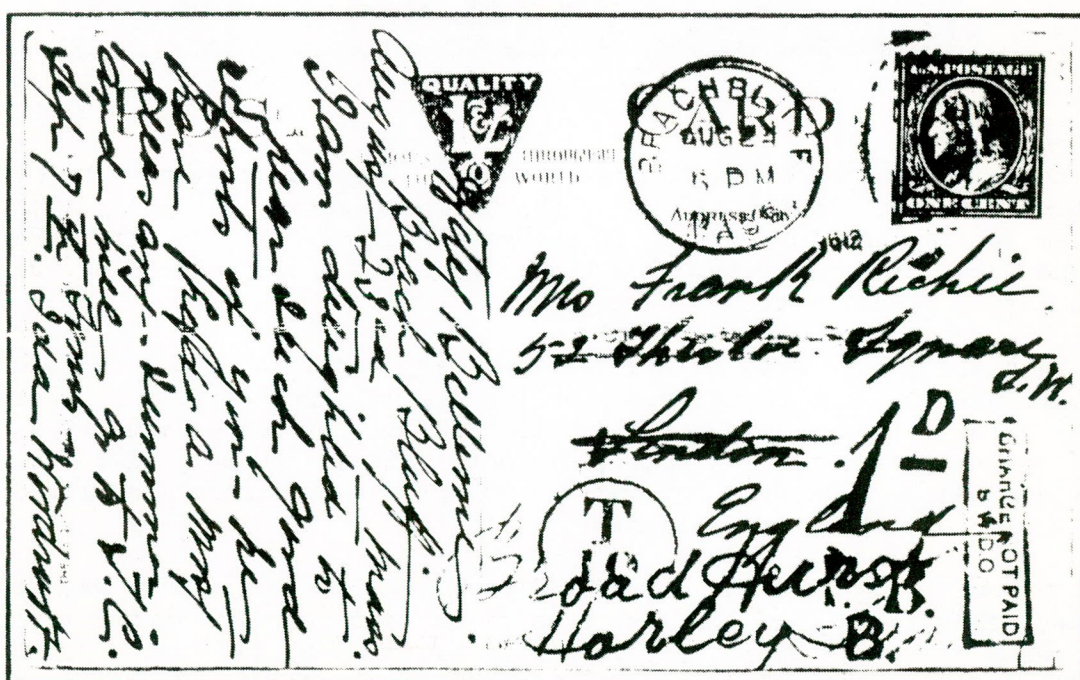
CHARGE NOT PAID EC No 2. from Robert Johnson

David Druett (p.4 Notebook 56) showed an example of the No.4 of this charge stamp and the item shown below with ' No 2 ' suggesting there is a run of these numbered marks.

The example of No 2 is on a card rather different in that the uncollected charge was a deficiency on a card from France, redirected to Eastbourne. That this stamp was not confined to the one office is shown by the second card from the South West District Office.



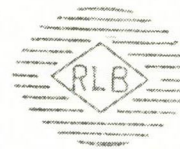
London E.C. No 2 July 1905



London SWD0 August 1912

RETURNED LETTER BRANCH, from R.J. Kroesen

Most collectors will know of the RLB in diamond stamp and many will have seen it cancelling adhesives. The number of times when it will be recalled cancelling an adhesive, tied to cover, with a clearly recognised purpose must be virtually zero.



If one refers to the several publications, Dubus, Westley et al, there seems to be doubt as to its use and, in the case of Dubus, the comment " it may be found cancelling adhesives " appears: there is no suggestion of a record on cover.

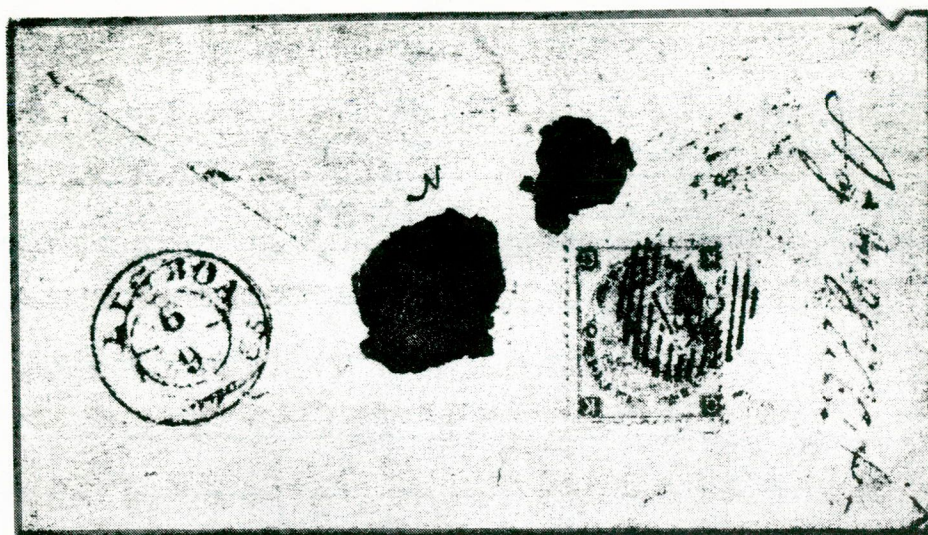
The Returned Letter Branch, as a title, came into being in 1857 when the Circulation Department was created. In June that year the stamp illustrated was issued. Westley remarks..." It is difficult to imagine under what circumstances an obliterating stamp could be used in this Office as, in his book " Half a Century at the Dead Letter Office ", Mr. G.R. Smith, writing of the method and routine of the Department states that it was the custom to open the letters to ascertain the names and addresses of the senders and return them in an official cover. In the " Philatelic Advertiser " of November 1949 there is an illustration of such a cover which shows " On Her Majesty's Service " and bears no stamp. " . *



The cover, which may serve to answer some of the problems noted by Westley, was posted in London on the 9th. August, 1865, the strip of three, one penny, adhesives being cancelled by the West 19 duplex. It is, however, addressed to Vizeu, Portugal, which called for a sixpenny rate. The letter was, therefore, detained, presumably by the Circulation Department.

Now, was the letter sent to the Returned Letter Branch ? The function, surely, was to deal with mail to be returned, not merely detained pending receipt of the correct postage rate, (there being no international facility for dealing with underpaid mail in the country of receipt: in short, overseas mail had to be paid). Perhaps a reader can provide chapter and verse but for the moment it would seem the R.L.B. was charged with collection of deficient postage.

In any event, the RETURNED FOR POSTAGE...THE AMOUNT DEFICIENT, was applied. Our old friend Hendy (his fig. 342) records it as used in red on insufficiently prepaid mail addressed to places where prepayment was required by the Foreign Branch of the Circulation Department. In the space between the ' roof ' and the lower lettering a 3d was inserted. To contact the sender, there being no address given on the flap, the letter was opened by the Post Office, the name and address discovered from the contents and in due time, August 31st., it would seem the extra 3d was paid. This pay-

Returned Letter Branch...

ment was recorded by the 3d adhesive on the reverse, being cancelled by the RLB diamond. The resealing of the letter, not clear from the illustration, was effected by use of the wax and the Post Office official seal impression. The 'N' alongside might well be the official's initial.

One thing to note, on the front, upper left, is the manuscript number '1902'. Since there would be a need to identify the letter with some reference, this could well be the register number.

In any event, upon payment, the deficiency stamp on the front was pen cancelled and duly initialed. The London PAID stamp, Foreign Branch?, was applied on the 31st. August and the letter went to Portugal, the Lisbon transit stamp for 6th. September did not signal the end of the postal markings for it would seem the 6d was enough only to get the letter to Portugal. The 40 reis stamp was applied to denote the inland rate for over 40 miles, Vizeu being about 200 away from Oporto.

Perhaps this has raised more questions than given answers. It seemed reasonable to speculate the RLB dealt with underpaid mail for overseas and the extreme rarity of examples on cover may well be due to the overseas destination giving a low survival rate for what were probably infrequent use, compared with the total number of letters going abroad.

With the advent of the various postal agreements and the greater degree of international organisation achieved in the second half of the 19th. century, such use would cease, though we have recorded in the pages of 'Notebook' the current happy practice of the Post Office forwarding mail and asking the sender to pay the deficiency after the event.

Prepared from information provided by Mr Kroesen to the Editor.

* Postal Cancellations of London 1840 - 1890
by H.C. Westley
published by H.F. Johnson MLM

AUCTION 17TH. JUL, 1982 : RESULTS

The auction this year attracted a large number of postal bids, more from the UK than normal, due in no small part to travel problems. Despite this, twenty five members actually attended, including one member from South Africa, who gave visiting relatives as her excuse !

Subject to any returns, the sale yielded over £2300 with brisk bidding from the book and the room. The number of times the book was followed up to the limit, wanting but one further room bid to secure, was distinctly embarrassing, especially as it is not Group practice to indicate the level of book bids to the room. This, plus very heavy book bids on a number of lots left the purchaser with a payment at or near the top bid. It is hoped they need no reassurance of the honesty in the results ; they can put it down to a very fair appreciation of where the bidding limit should be by their judgement was all too accurate!

The results :

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	55.00	2	12.00	5	5.00	6	3.00	7	4.50	9	3.00
11	4.00	13	3.00	14	4.00	16	3.00	20	5.00	21	3.00
22	5.00	23	22.00	26	4.00	27	6.00	28	8.50	29	5.50
30	4.50	31	4.50	32	14.00	35	6.00	36	4.00	37	4.50
43	8.80	44	3.50	45	6.00	46	10.00	50	5.00	51	4.40
52	5.25	56	4.00	57	5.00	58	5.00	59	4.00	60	5.00
63	5.00	66	8.00	67	4.00	70	6.00	71	5.50	72	3.00
73	4.00	74	30.00	77	11.00	78	4.75	79	4.75	80	4.75
81	4.75	82	4.50	84	4.00	87	3.00	90	4.00	93	4.25
97	7.00	98	7.00	99	4.00	103	4.00	105	3.00	106	4.00
111	4.00	112	4.50	113	4.50	114	5.50	116	3.00	117	3.00
118	7.70	120	10.00	121	7.50	126	6.75	127	6.00	128	7.50
129	10.00	130	4.00	131	11.00	132	4.00	134	4.00	135	4.00
137	6.00	138	20.00	139	18.00	140	13.50	141	3.00	142	8.00
144	3.00	145	5.00	146	3.00	147	4.00	148	4.50	150	7.00
151	6.00	152	6.00	153	8.00	154	4.25	155	3.00	157	9.50
161	3.00	163	50.00	165	16.50	166	45.00	167	4.25	171	5.00
178	2.00	180	5.50	181	18.00	188	8.50	189	8.00	193	4.50
195	2.00	196	4.00	197	10.00	200	27.00	201	10.00	202	10.00
203	10.00	206	35.00	209	32.00	210	17.00	211	24.00	212	8.00
213	22.00	214	10.00	215	6.00	218	5.00	222	2.00	226	4.25
229	5.00	230	5.00	232	5.50	237	8.00	238	7.00	240	2.00
241	4.25	247	5.00	248	6.00	250	5.00	252	5.00	253	4.00
254	4.50	255	11.00	257	1.50	262	16.00	264	38.00	265	7.00
266	7.00	267	7.70	271	4.50	273	8.00	274	4.00	275	4.00
277	8.00	278	11.00	280	10.00	281	8.00	282	8.00	283	7.00
284	13.50	287	3.00	288	4.40	289	4.00	290	2.00	291	31.00
293	2.00	295	12.00	296	4.00	297	5.00	298	5.00	299	5.50

AUCTION 17th July, 1982, results continued....

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
303	3.00	304	16.00	305	5.50	306	4.00	307	4.25	308	5.50
309	11.50	310	7.50	311	7.50	312	15.50	315	26.00	316	15.50
317	3.00	319	4.00	321	5.00	322	1.75	323	18.00	324	1.00
325	2.00	326	2.00	328	8.50	330	6.00	331	6.00	332	4.00
333	5.50	334	4.00	335	15.00	336	7.00	337	7.50	338	6.50
339	9.50	340	10.50	342	3.00	343	3.00	344	24.00	345	40.00
347	6.00	348	30.00	349	85.00	350	75.00	356	3.50	357	12.00
362	6.00	364	15.00	365	14.00	367	6.00	369	16.00	370	15.00
371	6.50	372	6.50	377	25.00	378	26.00	382	6.00	384	4.00
385	10.00	386	2.00	388	8.00	389	4.50	390	3.00	391	3.75
393	2.00	394	1.50	397	4.25	398	9.00	399	2.00	400	1.00
401	4.00	404	1.00	407	5.00	408	2.00	409	1.00	410	5.00
411	6.00	412	8.00	413	10.00	418	5.00	419	11.00	420	15.50
421	6.00	422	15.00	423	6.00	424	7.00	426	40.00	432	7.50
433	5.00	434	4.00	435	3.00	437	52.00				

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There is to be another POSTAL BID SALE in November. We are lucky in having enough material for this but if readers have material for sale this way and there is enough vending interest, there is no reason why there should not be another sale.

It hoped to put the material on view at the November meeting. Photocopies of items will be sent, if practicable, at 10 pence per photocopy in the stamped, addressed envelope those requiring the service send with their requests.

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LOCAL POST IN LONDON: ABSENCE OF OFFICE STAMP

This is really in the nature of casual comment/query rather than anything profound but why should a letter, posted in 1840, probably in Finchley, not have any sign of the office of posting?

The entire is dated by the writer for 3rd. February, 1840 and the obverse shows the 8NT PD time stamp for the same day. There is also a manuscript "P 1d" in red in the centre top of the obverse just clear of and above the address. There is no sign of any handstamp for the office of posting. The Receiver (presumably) is busy with him pen and red ink, so why not his office stamp? Finchley certainly had the usual range issued so perhaps a reader can confirm the use of a 1d Paid stamp from that office. Of course, it might not have been posted at Finchley but that is no reason for there being no office stamp.

It is just an idle comment/query but it would be nice to know if this occurs frequently at any offices of receipt and suggestions why there should be such a breach of regulations.

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LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP : TREASURER'S REPORT - YEAR to 30 th. APRIL, 1982

A DEFICIT : After two years producing very satisfactory surpluses our Revenue Account this year shows a deficiency. This in itself would not be a problem as our Accumulated Surpluses are still substantial. In the previous two years most of these resources were in cash and our running expenses and the deficit on " Notebook " could be met from the surplus arising from sales of publications. I pointed out last year stocks of these had almost doubled; this year the figure is three times that of 1979/80 and now equals the accumulated resources of previous years. Our building society balances have turned into stock and, to use current jargon, we have a considerable cash - flow problem.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH. APRIL, 1982

1980/81	<u>ACCUMULATED FUND</u>	£	£
1224	Balance at 1st.May,1981	1621.72	
	add arrears recovered	4.97	
		<u>1626.69</u>	
<u>398</u> (Surplus)	Less DEFICIT for year 1981/82	<u>217.46</u>	
1622			1409.23
<u>274</u>	<u>LOANS FOR PUBLICATIONS</u>		<u>276.03</u>
1896			<u>1685.26</u>
	<u>REPRESENTED BY -</u>		
174	Cash & Bank	71.79	
-	Stamp Float	13.87	
780	Deposit: Nationwide Building Soc.	95.58	
<u>37</u>	Publication Fund ANBS	<u>4.89</u>	
991	Cash Resources	<u>188.13</u>	
	Debtors & Prepayments - Packet	37.50	
	Meunier Auction	66.16	
	Publication Sales	39.20	
	Meetings Rent	36.00	
56	Others	<u>12.28</u>	191.14
1099	Stock - Binders & Publications	1720.50	
1	Library, nominal	1.00	1721.50
<u>21</u>	Subscriptions in arrears	<u>-</u>	
2168			2098.77
	<u>LESS: CREDITORS</u> - Loan for publications	150.00	
	Loan for Postage	67.50	
	Meunier Sale	48.68	
	Notebook 56	130.00	
<u>272</u>	Others	<u>17.33</u>	413.51
1896			<u>1685.26</u>

SALES : Publication income is also down as sales of previous years' output were very disappointing and the new publications came too late in the year to have much effect. It would seem less than half our members are purchasing " London's Postal History " as it is published - disconcerting and very surprising in view of the very reasonable pricing of the parts. The publications so far fill one of the special A4 binders and for 400 pages at £15.60 it must, by any reckoning, be a marvellous bargain.

PUBLICATION COSTS : We have a number of further parts of the Handbook in course of preparation but the financing of these can be met only from sales of the present stock.

SUBSCRIPTION 1982/83 : It will be observed from the Accounts that our Cash Resources and Debtors only just cover our cash commitments. The greatly increased costs of ' Notebook ' * are now over £4 a member. The running expenses are just below £1 a

L.P.H.G. Treasurer's Report....

member but are inevitably increasing. I am, therefore, recommending an increase in subscription to £6 **. This is still very much below that of similar societies, many of which have abandoned their London meetings and have a minimal publication programme.

PAYMENT OF SUBSCRIPTIONS IS NOW DUE FOR THE YEAR FROM 1ST. MAY, 1982

Those members with GIRO Accounts can pay by free transfer to our account 50 560 4000. Overseas members are asked to pay in Sterling Draft - the exchange charges of local currency cheques cost the Group about £20 a year. It would be appreciated if members who have paid in advance would make up the difference by sending £2.

Reg Sanders
Hon. Treasurer.

15th.May, 1982

* due in no small part to the Group contribution to the Post Office £m96 profit!!

**the A.G.M. proposed and agreed an increase in subscription to £5.

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ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 30TH. APRIL, 1982

1980/81	INCOME	£	£	£
	Subscriptions due	720.00		
	written off	<u>84.00</u>		
554	Actually Received	635.20	635.20	
	Packet, nett	87.50		
25	Less Insurance prepaid	<u>7.50</u>	80.00	
-	Donations		3.50	
95	Auction, nett		49.93	
	<u>Publications</u>			
1099	Sales	638.88		
669	Stock 1 May 1981	1099.00		
1230	Additions at cost	<u>1191.38</u>		
		2290.38		
1099	Stock 30 Ap 1982	<u>1720.50</u>		
392 800	Cost of Sales	<u>569.88</u>	69.00	
60	Building Society Interest		<u>37.41</u>	875.04
	EXPENSES			
67	Meetings		74.00	
587	Notebook		848.87	
53	Printing, post and sundries		158.62	
3	Bank Charges		3.51	
18	Printing programme		<u>7.50</u>	<u>1092.50</u>
<u>398</u>	Surplus		Deficit	<u>217.46</u>

L.P.H.G. Treasurer's Report.....

SUBSCRIPTIONS : The Accounts show Subscription Income, while increased, is almost £100 less than anticipated. This is because 42 members received all the benefits of membership during the year, including low price publications, but did not pay their subscriptions. They cost the Group about £200 this year, in addition to the loss of their subscriptions. In all 32 have been deleted from the mailing list and a further 10 will not receive ' Notebook ' until arrears have been cleared. All this despite two personal reminders (costing £30 +) as well as the general reminder in ' Notebook '. Postal reminders had to be sent to over half the members.

SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE DUE ON THE 1ST. MAY EACH YEAR

TWOPENNY POST MISCELLANEOUS STAMPS

In his " Local Posts ", Brumell illustrates (fig. 136) a small serif capital letter " M S " saying "... is sometimes seen and indicates, I think, that the letter bearing it had been missorted ". The Willcocks catalogue, with a span of use 1813-33 (the MS, not the catalogue!!), cites both framed and unframed with both red and black ink but is cautious with (?Missorted) for function.



The example shown here was written from Geneva dated 19 Aug 1821 and shows but two London postal markings on the reverse. One is the framed TP / Lombard St, the other the hour stamp for 7 o'clock / AU 30 / 1821 Nt, the former in black, the letter in red.

The writer admits he does not know Samuel Parkes' new address, so presumably the occupant was expected to forward it from 90 Goswell Street. However, it is suggested that if that were the intention, it must have first been delivered by hand at that address and did not pass through the post as it was required to do.

Why then the " MS " ? Samuel Parkes was a chemist of some repute in his day. It is possible the letter was correctly posted at Lombard Street en route to 90 Goswell St. A well informed sorter was aware of the correct address for Mr. Parkes, himself re-addressed the letter, re-sorted it into the correct delivery, in the course of which activity the " MS " was applied.

It would be interesting for readers to give details of any such marks they have in their collection and thereby possibly provide a more positive function identification.