

NOTEBOOK

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EDITORIAL

We have been most fortunate in having Alf Kirk contribute a further section on his study of the several parts of what we would today refer to as the South East District. By blending social and postal history a portrait of the area and those who lived and worked there, generating the material we all seek so avidly, Alf has provided an example for others in the Group. Many collect specific areas and must have much to contribute for the pleasure of us all.

As for publications, we have a number well advanced for production and, like many before us, suffer from what is nowadays called ' cash-flow ' difficulties. In short, those of you who have yet to pay the annual subscription of £5 are urged to do so as soon as you can pop cheque to post. Should there be a red cross in the circle, this might indicate some personal involvement.

The meeting in November has as its subject " General Post Receiving Houses " which covers a period full of interest. There should be many other marks to add lustre to the displays members will have. Do not forget there is usually an opportunity of browsing through material for purchase. In case you did not make a note, it is on the 17th.

By the time this is read, BPE, with its new venue at the Horticultural Halls, will have become part of history. No doubt a number of interesting items will have been purchased. Why not share your own pleasure by sending a photocopy and a few lines for inclusion in December ' Notebook ' ?

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE by A.J. Kirk

According to Domesday Book, Bermondsey, a Royal Manor, belonged to King William. It comprised some land for ploughing and growing corn, meadowland, cows and woods to provide nuts and acorns for the pigs. 'Ile nova et puchra ecclesia (" there is a new and beautiful church "). The name is thought to have derived from the island character of the area, with the name of a Saxon overlord " Beormund ". Another derivation of the name is said to be from " Bermond's Isle ", which would indicate an area standing alone above the level of the immediate low lying ground.

In 1545 John Leland wrote :-

" Thou happy, snowy swan, hast thy
serene abode, Where Barmsy (Bermondsey)
of her well known isles is proud "

A fair indication of the type of terrain that was Bermondsey.

I have seen a copy of a painting by Jons Hoefnagel, c.1590, entitled " A Marriage Fete in Rural Bermondsey ". This shows the very rural nature of the area. A church is seen through a screen of large trees, no doubt Bermondsey Church, there is a substantial farm house, with tables laid out for a large feast in an outbuilding and in the background can be seen the Tower of London, looking very much as it does today. A somewhat different view from that of the cholera ridden slum it became in the early Victorian period.

Bermondsey was, at one time, famous for its Abbey, which was first a small monastery founded about 700 AD. This early building disappeared but another monastery was founded in 1089 by monks from Le Charte, in the Loire. With the dissolution of the religious houses by King Henry VIII, Bermondsey Abbey going in 1538, the structure was dismantled and the stones used to build Bermondsey House.

Rotherhithe, right next door to Bermondsey, is also built on marshy land. From the map it will be seen that Rotherhithe Street, the main thoroughfare, follows the south bank of the Thames and is, in fact, built on the top of the wall erected to protect the area from floods. Floods have been frequent in the past, the most recent being the great inundations of 1928 and 1953, which took their toll of the area.

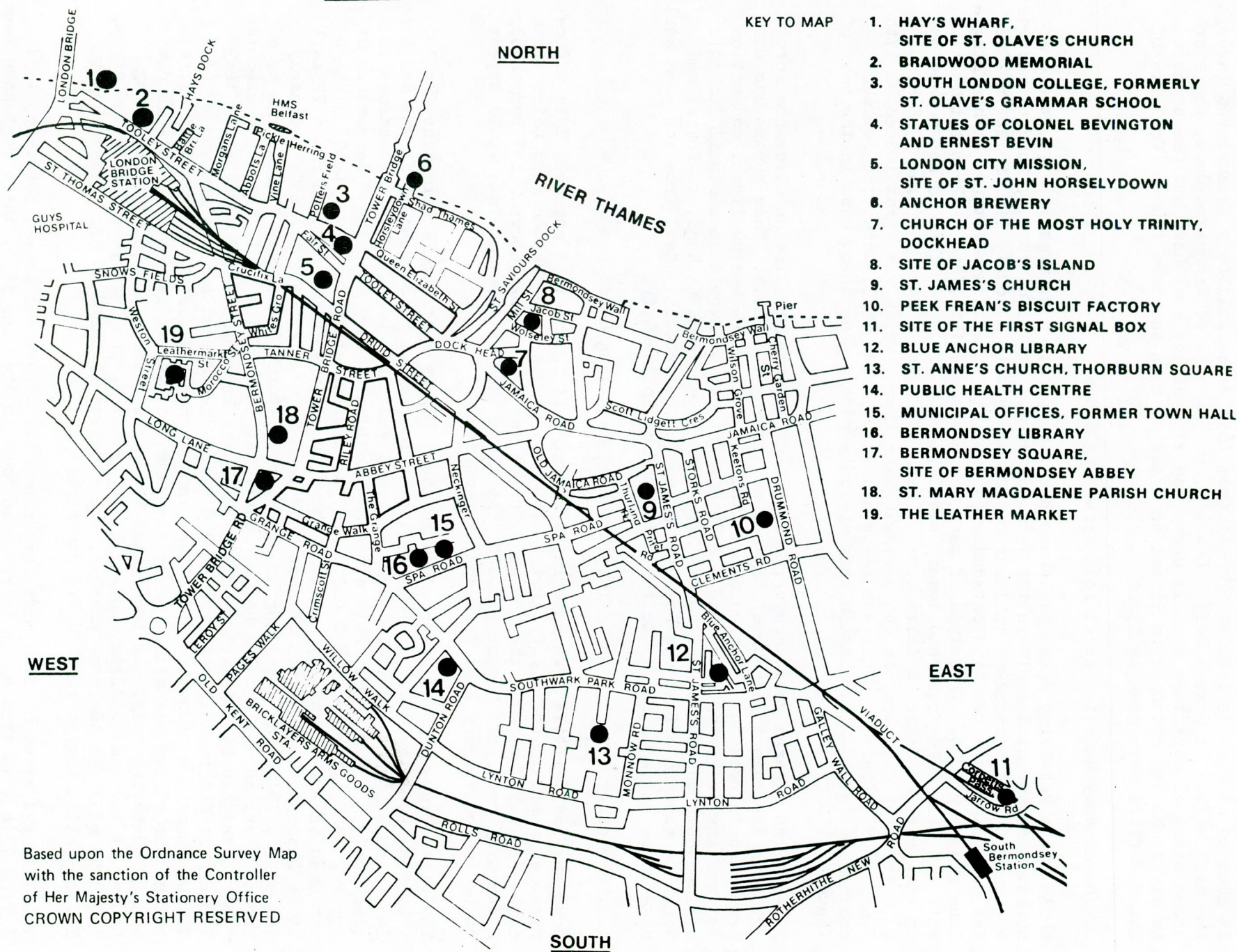
To give some idea of the marshy state of the area, it is recorded that when King Canute raided the Thames in 1016, instead of following the river up to London Bridge, which he knew would be defended, he used the natural streams and ditches of the area and built a ditch across the marshes, through which he dragged his boats, rejoining the river at Vauxall above the bridge.

In its most recent period Bermondsey had leather, textile, metal and chemical factories, whilst Rotherhithe was almost entirely associated with seafaring, ship building and repairing. As will be seen from the map, the whole of the central area of Rotherhithe was taken over by docks. The oldest of these was Howland Dock, later called Greenland Dock. This is the only one now left with water in it, being used as a water sports leisure centre. The rest of the docks are, or have been filled in, and slowly changing from dereliction to housing and parkland projects.

Rotherhithe shipwrights were given a Royal Charter, granted to the " Master Wardens and Community of the Art or Mystery of Shipwrights of Redrith ", **this in 1612** . The Mayflower left Rotherhithe bound for America in 1620 and its master, Christopher Jones, and first mate, John Clarke, were both Rotherhithe men. It is quite possible many of the crew also came from this area. The master eventually returned to Rotherhithe and is buried in the Parish church of St.Mary's.

Coming to the postal period we find Bermondsey had both General and Penny Post Receiving Houses, whilst Rotherhithe, on the three mile boundary line - and served by the Town Letter Carriers, had only Penny Post Receiving Houses. In a list of Receiving Houses published in " New Remarks of London ", dated 1732, we find three deliveries of mail are made to Grange Bermondsey and Greenland Dock each day, from

BERMONDSEY



Based upon the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office
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The Postal History of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe..

the Southwark Office. In respect of Grange Bermondsey, times of departure of mail are not shown because, as it says, it is an office that " have no Receiving Houses". It must be assumed deliveries of mail from this area could only be achieved through the main office in Grange Road. However, in the case of Greenland Dock, there are three times of departure of mail shown, so this office must have had one or more Receiving Houses attached to it but no trace of them has been found. No marks of these offices have come to light.

....Bermondsey Street General Post Receiving House

Whilst this Receiving House must have been in operation from early days, there are no known marks until early in the 19th. century. Postal History 3, London, records a straight line Bermondsey in lower case letters with a double line frame in 1808. The next mark is a two line Bermondsey/Street, in upper case letters, with a single line frame in 1824. This type of mark was re-issued 10th.June, 1826 but this time with a double line frame and lower case letters (fig.3). This is known used only in the year of issue. A third type of mark is known, a straight line " BERMONDSEY ST " in upper case letters and a single line frame, which was first issued on 17th June, 1835 (fig.1). This was re-issued 15th.March, 1837, this time somewhat smaller (fig.2). Once again they are only recorded as being used in the year of issue.

In 1837 the General Post Receiver was paid £10 per annum, plus an allowance for bringing the bags to the Chief Office, or meeting the carts. This phrase has been mentioned in previous articles and it would appear there was no direct connection between the Receiving House and the Chief Office. One would assume mail for this office would be routed over London Bridge and down the Kent Road, to Dover, and would be dropped off at the Borough office for collection. Mail from the area would have to be carted directly to the Chief Office in the City.

....Bermondsey Street Penny / Twopenny Post Receiving House

Here we find a little more material but, again, it is not that common. This office first appeared in the G.P.O. list of 1824 but it was in operation long before this date. It may have been the " Grange Bermondsey " mentioned above. A " Bermondsey St/Unpaid/Penny Post " mark (L.448) is known used in 1799 but this would appear to be the only Penny Post mark so far recorded.

The first Twopenny Post stamp noted is the " Two Py Post/Unpaid/Bermondsey St " (L.501) used in 1818. In 1823/24 the office was at 87 Bermondsey Street and this is, no doubt, where the T.P. mark (fig.8) was first used. This is recorded in black only, 1826 - 1836. This address would also have seen the " Bermondsey St/1py P Paid " (fig.5), 1840 only, and the similar stamp for 2py (L.507) which was used in 1829. Whilst, so far, there is no known use of the unframed TP mark it is reasonable to assume it must have been in use in the late 1830s and early 1840s. By 1842, the Receiving House had moved to 80 Bermondsey Street, run by a Thomas Drew, an oil and leather merchant. At this office would have been used the " Bermondsey/1D PAID " mark (fig.6) which is known used 1843 - 1845. By 1849 the office had been transferred to 203 Bermondsey Street and was now run by a Thomas Bunday, a grocer. In 1857 we find another address, 171 Bermondsey Street but as the office was still run by the same Receiver it is possible this change was in numbering only, not location. Two years later, in 1859, the Receiving House, at the same address was being run by Mrs Selina Bunday; possibly the widow. In 1866, still at the same address, the receiver is named as Mr. Richard Henry Tiltoe, still a grocer. Did Mrs Bundy remarry ?

The unframed straight line mark for Bermondsey Street was issued 30th.May, 1854 (fig. 7) but as this stamp is reported used in 1848 and 1853, there must have been a re-issue. The next mark to appear was the 1D-PAID on 8th.March, 1857. As the catalogue does not distinguish between the ' dot ' and ' line ' stamps, there is no way of telling if this has been reported used. A smaller edition of the straight

BERMONDSEY STREET 1828

Church and houses in Bermondsey Street, Surrey.

Wash drawing by J.C. Buckler, 1828.

St. Mary Magdalene, the parish church of Bermondsey, was built originally for tenants and servants of Bermondsey Abbey and stood close to the abbey rather as St. Margaret's stands by Westminster. It was largely rebuilt, in renaissance style, in 1680, but the lower parts of the tower and west window remain from the medieval church and the list of rectors goes back to 1291. The columned porch and the room above it, used for the parish school for girls, were removed in 1830 when the west front of the church and the tower were repaired and altered. The girls' school moved at that time to Grange Walk. The church was beautifully restored in recent years, but unfortunately the interior was badly damaged by fire in 1971. The churchyard, by Tower Bridge Road, is laid out as a garden, but some old tombstones remain.

Bermondsey Street, leading from Bermondsey Square to Old London Bridge, was the main street of Bermondsey before the building of Tower Bridge Road. Although the houses shown in this print do not survive it still has a number of old buildings, notably no. 78, of a similar type to these houses, which dates from the 17th. century. The names of the streets on either side of Bermondsey Street, Tanner Street, Morocco Street, Leathermarket Street, serve as reminders of the leather industry for which Bermondsey for many centuries was justly famed.

The original wash drawing is in the Southwark Collection.



Bermondsey Street 1828

BERMONDSEY ST

Fig.1

BERMONDSEY ST

Fig.2

Bermondsey
Street

Fig.3



Fig.4

Bermondsey St
1 py P. Paid

Fig.5

Bermondsey St
1 P PAID

Fig.6

Bermondsey St

Fig.7

T.P.
Bermondsey St

Fig.8

Grange Rd
1 py P Paid

Fig.9

Grange Rd
2 py P Paid

Fig.10

Grange-Road
1 P - PAID

Fig.11

TP
Grange Rd

Fig.12



Fig.13

Horsleydown

Fig.14



Fig.15



Fig.16

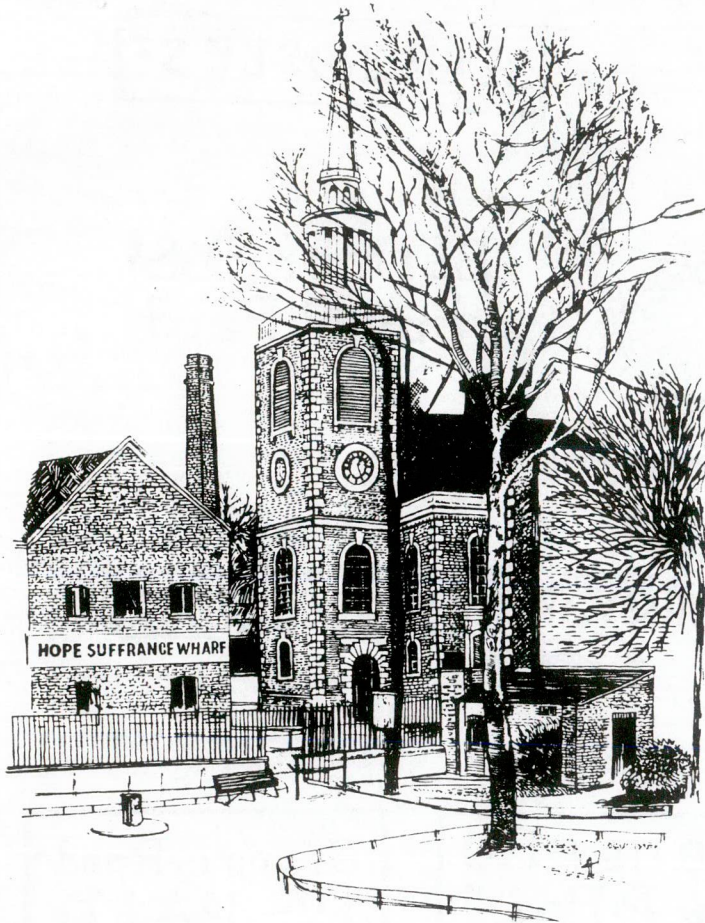


Fig.17



Fig.18





St. Mary Rotherhithe Church

Contains a communication
of the nature of a Letter

21.B

Contrary to regulations

21.B

Of the nature
of a Letter

21.B

Closed contrary
to regulations

21.B

More to pay

above oz

21.B

$\frac{1}{2}$ D

21.B

$\frac{1}{2}$ D

21.B

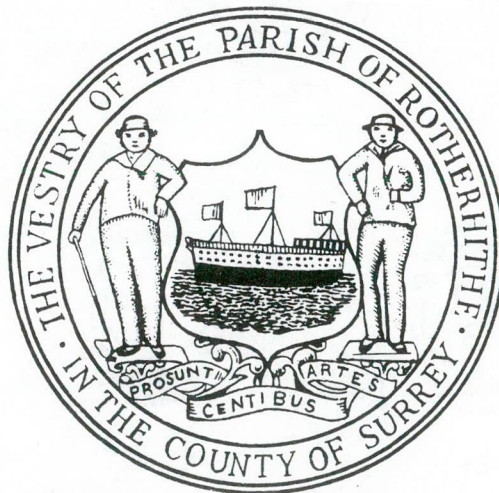
$\frac{1}{2}$ D

21.B

2 D

21.B

Fig.19



Rotherhithe Coat of Arms, 19th century

line mark was issued 8th.March, 1857 but once again this has not, so far, been reported used. All these marks would have been used at 171 Bermondsey Street. The interesting small undated circular backstamp (fig.4) was issued about 1858, again yet to be recorded in use. The area was poor and most of the population was no doubt illiterate but with a large amount of industry in the area one would have thought there would have been more material to be found. In 1837 it is reported this office handled 1490 letters in a four week period, the Receiver was paid £9 per annum. The last stamp issued to this office was the normal counter stamp which came out on the 15th.December,1892.

When the London Districts were formed in 1856, Bermondsey was attached to the South Eastern District Office but does not appear to have been issued with the usual single and duplex marks. From the evidence I have it would seem the cancelling of Bermondsey mail, at this time, was done by the Rotherhithe Office, as there is no Bermondsey Sorting Office, whilst there is a Rotherhithe Sorting Office. To this day the area does seem to be postally curious. Whilst the Rotherhithe Sorting Office is at Spa Road, Bermondsey, there is no main office for Rotherhithe but there is a Bermondsey Main Office in the Old Kent Road, Southwark.

....Grange Road, Penny/Two penny Receiving House

As we have seen Grange Road was known as a Penny Post Receiving House in 1732 but no marks are known from that period. The name first appeared in the Post Office List in 1837, when it was at 4 Salmon Place, Grange Road, run by Miss Ann Maria B. Crook, a tallow chandler. It stayed at this address until 1857 when a move was made to 32 Grange Road, the Receiver now being John Thomas Pickrell, a grocer.

Once again, this was only a small office dealing with 1,145 letters in a four week period in 1837, the Receiver being paid £5 per annum for his troubles. No doubt by 1866 Mr. Pickrell was being paid more as he would appear to have prospered because his address was now shown as 31-32 Grange Road.

The earliest mark known for this office is the unframed TP stamp (fig.12) known used 1839 - 1841. The 1py P Paid mark is known used in 1842 (fig. 9) whilst the 2py P Paid mark (fig.10) occurs in 1838. The " Grange Rd/1D PAID " stamp with the dot between 1D and PAID was issued 4th.August, 1843 and with the line (fig.11) 22nd.June, 1847. The undifferentiated listing in the London catalogue shows 1845 - 1849 as recorded period of use. On the 22nd.June,1847 the straight line stamp was issued but, so far, it is only known used in blue in 1854. The small undated circular back stamp for Bermondsey, Grange Rd was issued 4th.February, 1858, yet to be reported in use.

....Horsley Down Penny/Two penny Post Receiving House

This is something of a mystery. Brumell says it was open in 1793 and it is mentioned in Carey's Pocket Map of London 1791 but no marks from this period have been seen. Indeed, it is not until 1846 marks with the name of this office appear. It could be it did not re-open until the 1840s.

Horsely Down Lane runs between Tooley Street and the river, parallel to and near what is now Tower Bridge Road. It is still there today but I have been unable to find any reference to the address of the Receiving House in contemporary directories. I thought it might have been on the corner of some other street but looking at such junctions I have been unable to locate it.

There are two marks only known for this office. " Horsley Down/1D PAID is known used in 1846 and the straight line stamp (fig.14) was used 1848 - 1854 in black, 1853 in blue and 1858 in green.

....Dockhead Twopenny Post Receiving House

Dockhead, as its name implies, crosses the end of St. Saviours Dock and, as will be seen from the map, is still there to this day. It was quite a small street with only about twelve houses but it did contain The Convent of Mercy, founded in 1839 by an Irish nun named Catherine McAuley. It is recorded the Sisters went from this Convent to help Florence Nightingale nurse the wounded during the Crimean War. A modern Roman Catholic church now stands in Dockhead. The Most Holy Trinity church was consecrated in 1960 and replaced a much older building destroyed during the last war. The design of the church is unusual in that it is based on an equilateral triangle, to represent the Holy Trinity.

Brumell lists a Receiving House in Dockhead in 1793 but according to the British County Catalogue Part 3 no Penny Post markings have so far been seen.



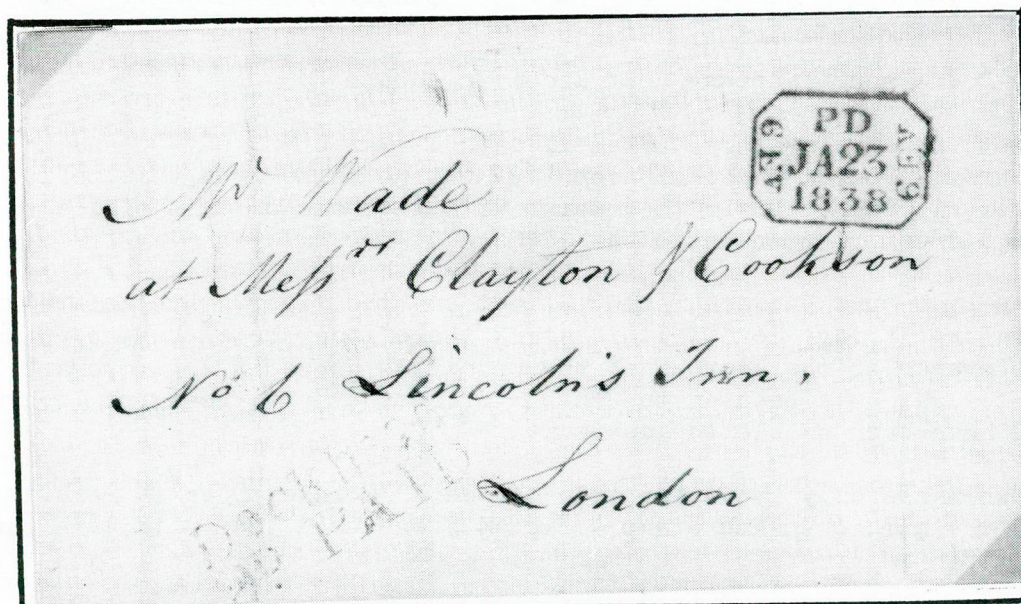
St. Saviour's Dock 1937

The first mark known is the Two-Penny/POST mark (L499) which has been seen for 1802. No other mark is known until 1815 when the Two Py Post / Unpaid (L501), this mark is known used until 1818. At this time the address of the Receiving House was 12 Dockhead.

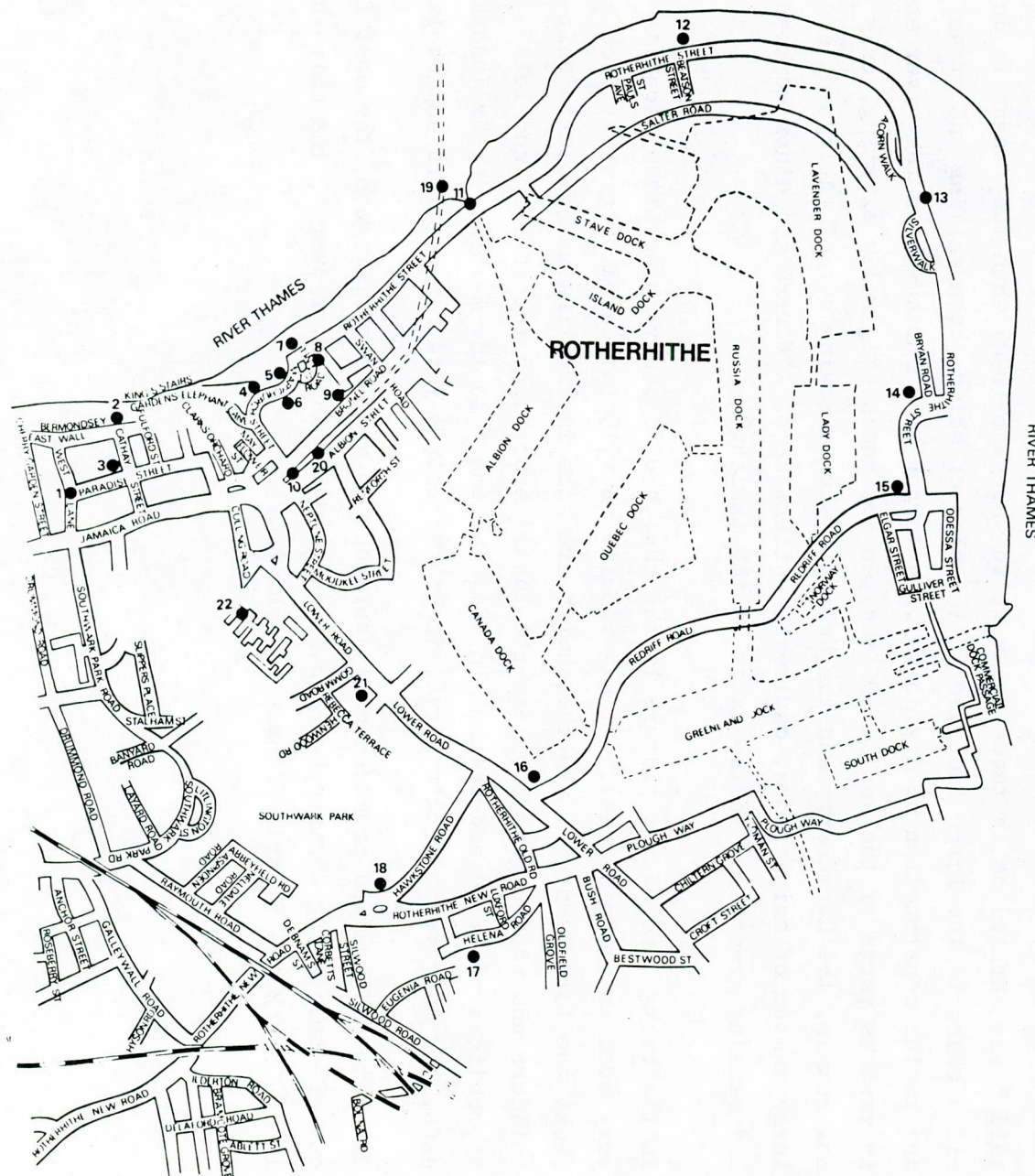
A very rare mark, the 3 Py.P.Paid mark (L508) is recorded in 1810 with the 2py P.Paid (L507) known 1828 to 1830. In 1831 the step type framed T.P./Dockhead is known used, the unframed version seen in 1838 only. Also used in 1838 was the Dockhead / 2^DPAID (L511), whilst the 1^D PAID is not known used until 1851 (L509)

In 1841 the Receiving House was at 11 Dockhead, run by Edward Stone, a wholesale and retail grocer, no doubt serving the vessels

in St. Saviour's Dock. It remained at this address until about 1852, by which date it had moved to 9 Dockhead with another grocer, Edward William Rogers, in charge. The straightline Dockhead (L514) is recorded, in blue, from 1852 to 1856 at which time the Receiving House would appear to have closed, as I have been unable to find any reference to it in directories for 1856 and 1857.



We now come to the Receiving Offices in Rotherhithe. According to Brumell, Rotherhithe was described in the Post Office Lists of 1794 and 1811 as being a Country Office but served by the Town Letter carriers. It was, in fact, right on the boundary line between Town and Country. As we have seen already, Greenland Dock, Roth-



KEY TO MAP

1. Site of Millpond Bridge
2. The Angel
3. Former Police Station, Paradise Street
4. Hope Sufferance Wharf
5. St. Mary Rotherhithe, Parish Church
6. Former Peter Hills' School
7. The Mayflower Inn
8. Thames Tunnel Engine House
9. Rotherhithe Underground Station
10. Norwegian Church
11. Surrey Lock Bridge
12. Castrol Limited
13. Nelson Dock House
14. Holy Trinity Church
15. Docklands Settlement
16. Former Dockers' "Call-on" Shelter
17. Site of St. Helena Gardens
18. Southwark Social Services, formerly Lady Gomm Hospital
19. Rotherhithe Tunnel
20. Rotherhithe Civic Centre and Library
21. Rotherhithe Baths
22. St. Olave's Hospital

Based upon the
Ordnance Survey Map
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FLOATING DOCK AT ROTHERHITHE 1815

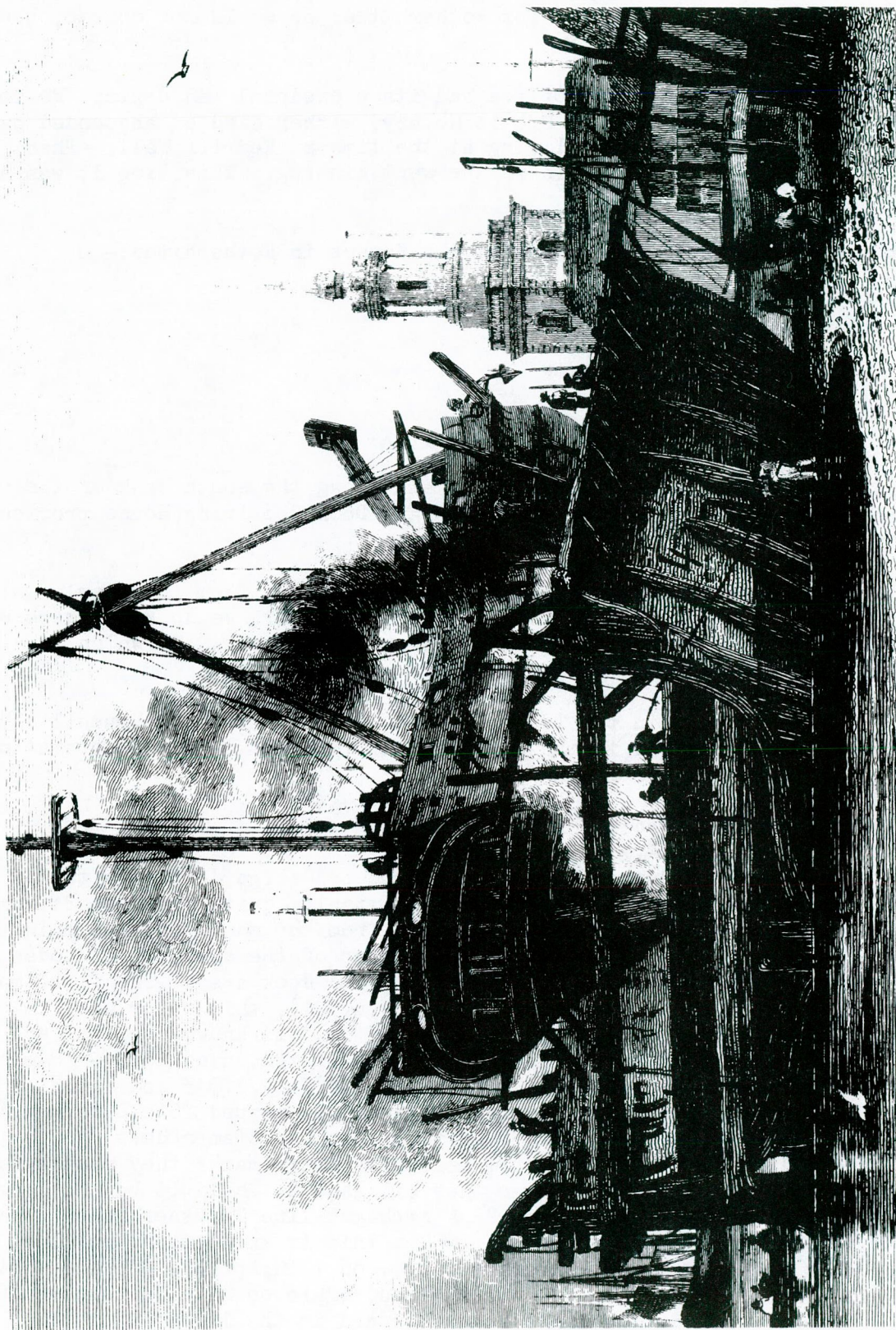
Engraving by J.C. Allen after a drawing by L. Francia.

Published by W.B. Cooke, 12 York Place, Pentonville, July 1st 1815

Shipbuilding and ship-repairing, illustrated in this print, were the traditional industries of Rotherhithe, and as early as 1612 the shipwrights of Rotherhithe received recognition by the grant of a charter. They remained of importance until eventually wood and sail gave way to iron and steam. According to the ' Parish of Rotherhithe ' by M.B. Pearson, a paper to the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society in 1912, Rotherhithe formerly had ten dry docks. " A large business ", he said " was carried on in these docks up to the year 1890, when they began to decline owing to the large increase in the size of ships, both sailing and steam and to the construction of dry docks of a larger size further down the river and in various parts of the world. Of the ten dry docks originally existing, only two now remain, the Horseferry and the Nelson - thus throwing out of employment a large number of shipwrights, caulkers, boilermakers, laborers and other workmen and causing great loss to the rates of the parish."

In the background of the picture is the church of St.Mary Rotherhithe, looking very much as it does today. It was rebuilt in 1715 but dated originally from at least the 13th. century. In the church are some interesting memorials to shipbuilders and woodcarvers, for example that ' erected by the workmen and late apprentices of Mr Edward Hawks ' in 1844 and one ' to the memorary of Mr Joseph Wade, for many years King's Carver in His Majesty's yards at Deptford and Woolwich.'

The waterside parish produced many seafarers as well as shipwrights, the most famous of these being Christopher Jones, captain of the ' Mayflower ', the ship which in 1620 took the Pilgrim Fathers to America.



Floating dock at Rotherhithe 1815

The Postal History of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe...

erhithe was treated as being on this boundary in 1732.

For this area we find information going much further back than for Bermondsey. The earliest report mentions, in a P.O. advertisement of 1652, a Thomas Simmes as a G.P.O. Receiver in Redriff, an old name for Rotherhithe: he would, of course, been a General Post Receiver.

As with all areas of London, the Post Office had its occasional bad debts. We read that in 1681/83 a certain Richensen, a Public Notary, either died or absconded owing money to the Post Office. He was living at the time at Redriff Wall. Then again in 1685 another inhabitant of Rotherhithe went missing. This time it was a Vintner named Tiles.

Carey's Pocket Map of London 1791 lists Receiving Houses in Rotherhithe:-

Near Queen's Street No.27

Near Globe Stairs

Corner of George Row

Redriff Wall

Horsely Down

With the exception of Redriff Wall, these were all along the south bank of the Thames. Redriff Wall could have been the Greenland Dock Receiving House previously mentioned, as it ran right beside Greenland Dock.

As far as I am aware no marks of these offices have been seen from this early date and probably there never were any such marks issued. However, we do know there was a General Post Receiver in Rotherhithe in 1777 using a handstamp R:M, which is thought to be that of R. Moberly.

Receiving Houses are not known in the Twopenny Post until the 1820s. Brumell says Rotherhithe Street first appeared in the P.O. List of 1828 but it was in operation before this date as postmarks are known from 1823.

....Rotherhithe Twopenny Post Receiving House

By 1823 this office was at 27 Rotherhithe Street, run by George Jeffery a tallow chandler. This would have placed it in the village itself, quite close to St.Mary's, the Parish church. It is not difficult to imagine, from the map, that the main population resided in the village in the north west corner of the area. Even today the population is scattered in odd places around the old dock area. The first mark known is the " Two Py Poft/Unpaid/Rotherhithe St. " (L.501), this being used in black 1823 and blue 1824. The framed " T.P./Rotherhithe " is known used in red 1831 - 1832, followed by the unframed mark, once again in red, used 1838 - 1846. The " Rotherhithe/1D·PAID (dot between) was issued 8th.July, 1843 and again on 17th.April, 1845, whilst the type with the line between was issued 26th.December, 1845 and again 5th.March, 1852. Strange to say, neither of these stamps have, so far, been reported used. In view of the repeated issues of these marks they must have been used fairly extensively, so where have they all gone ? Could it be the Receivers were careless and lost the handstamps ? A straight line " Rotherhithe " was issued 1st.June, 1854 and again 3rd.November, 1855. This is known used, in blue, in 1855. A similar mark was issued for Rotherhithe E.O. on 17th.April, 1845 and another one for Rotherhithe Low^r Rd. on 3rd.December, 1852 and again on 28th.September, 1866. These last two offices were new Receiving Houses opened in the late 1840s. The Rotherhithe E.O. office was an office opened near to the entrance to the Surrey Docks, the address being 350 Rotherhithe Street, the owner one Benjamin Batt, a stationer and paper hanger, an unusual combination. The Rotherhithe Lower Road was at 1 Brunswick Terrace, run by Robert George Tonge, a grocer. As neither of these marks is mentioned in the London catalogue, it is fair to say they have not so far been recorded. In 1847 the Rotherhithe Receiving House was based at 12 Rotherhithe Street, run by Charles Edward Pritchard, a hatter. By 1849 it had moved again to 16 Rotherhithe Street, now run by Henry Ivimy, trade not known.

HOWLAND GREAT WET DOCK. c. 1700

Howland Great Wet Dock in the Parish of Rotherhithe, formerly belonging to Mrs Howland of Streatham.

Spottiswoode & Co. Lithographers, London.

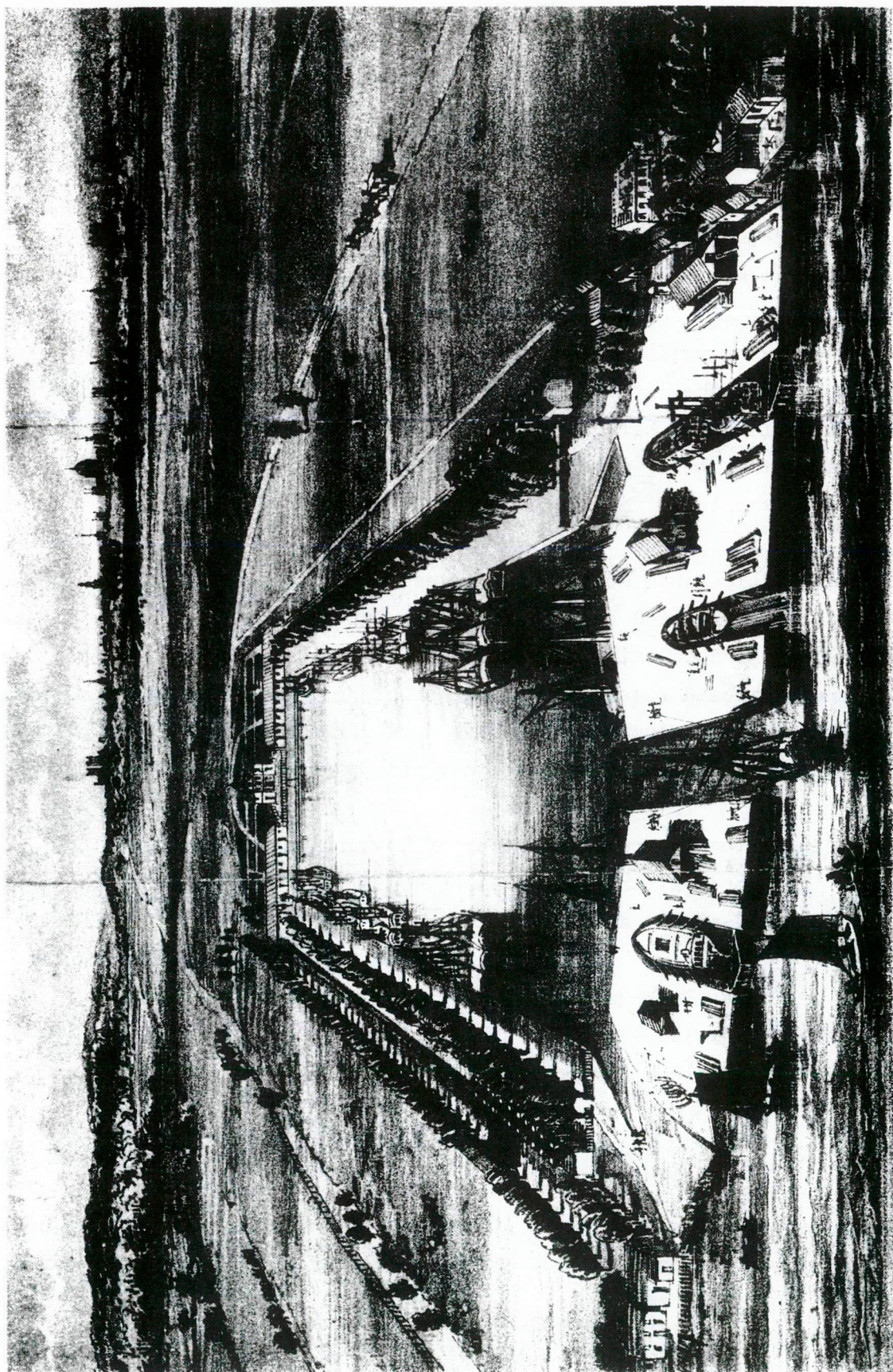
The Howland Great Wet Dock, later known as Greenland Dock, the first wet dock on the Thames (except for a small dock on the north bank) was the origin of that vast network of inland waters, the Surrey Commercial Docks, which, until recently, dominated the life of Rotherhithe. It was built on land belonging to Elizabeth Howland and her husband the heir to the Duke of Bedford, authority for its construction being given by Act of Parliament of 1696. The dock, completed in 1700, was 1,070 feet long, 500 feet wide and 17 feet deep.

The view is from Limehouse Reach looking west across Rotherhithe. It shows the Howland Dock surrounded by poplar trees, planted as a windscreen, the original purpose of the dock being to provide safe harbourage for ships previously forced to anchor in mid river and suffer buffeting by storms. One hundred and twenty ships could be accommodated in the dock for repair and refitting. The print also shows three dry docks on either side of the wet dock entrance.

The print illustrates the rural charcter of Rotherhithe before the other docks were built. The coach is travelling along Redriff Road, then known as Rogues Lane. In the far distance are St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey.

The Howland Great Wet Dock became known as the Greenland Dock after 1725 when the South Sea Company leased it for the Greenland whaling trade. The trees were replaced by buildings for boiling the blubber and extracting the oil.

In the 19th. century the other great docks were constructed. Timber was the main commodity and the Surrey Commercial Docks became the chief centre of the softwood trade, handling also large quantities of hardwood, grain and general cargo. They finally closed in 1970 and the whole area is being redeveloped.



Howland Great Wet Dock c.1700

On the 9th.March, 1858 two undated circular back stamps were issued, one for Rotherhithe and the other for Rotherhithe/Lr Queen St. This latter office, a new one, was at 51 Lower Queen Street, run by John James Moyce, a cheesemonger. So far neither of these marks has been seen.

With the opening of the South Eastern District in 1856, Rotherhithe was allocated the number 21/B, and a number of single and duplex marks were issued in 1861 and 1900. There was a S.E.D.O. at Millpond Street Rotherhithe in 1862 and this may have been a subsidiary office to the main one in High Street, Borough. Figs 15, 16 and 17 show the three types of the single postmarks issued 1861, 1881 and 1884, only one of which has ever been recorded. I have always thought these marks were used on local letters which did not need to go to the main office to the postmarked. Duplex marks were issued from 1883 and these were, no doubt, used at the Branch Sorting Office that was opened at 35, Union Road, Rotherhithe in 1878. The first duplex, with coded time, was issued in March 1883 (fig.18) and is known used 1884 - 1893 with codes BX and CX. This mark was later re-issued with the time in clear. It is recorded used 1896 - 1904 with eleven different times ranging from 12.45 AM to 9 PM. Early in the 1900s another of these duplex marks was issued with a figure ' 3 ' let into the base of the obliterator. These are known used 1903 - 1908, with six different times ranging from 9.30 AM to 4.30 PM. There were the usual counter stamps issued for this office in 1893.

Strangely, there is no record of a ' squared circle ' being issued for either Bermondsey or Rotherhithe

The last type of handstamp to be issued was the ' Dulwich ' (fig.13). This was first issued in 1900 and is known with 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the base. There are two types of the mark with ' 4 ' in the base, one much larger than the other. Numbers 1 and 2 were issued 3rd.February, 1900. Number 4 was issued 17th.June, 1907 but I have not been able to find a date of issue for the number 3. The use of these stamps covers quite a long period. I have seen No.1 used 1900 - 1908, No.2 1902 - 1933, No.3 1909 - 1911, No.4 (small) 1910 - 1914 and No.4 (large) 1908 - 1912. These dates can, no doubt, be extended.

On the 6th.October, 1884 a series of Postage Due marks were issued and these are shown in fig. 19. The inverted step charge mark " Liable to Letter Rate / 21B " was issued on the 8th.November, 1899. You will not be surprised to hear none of these has been seen.

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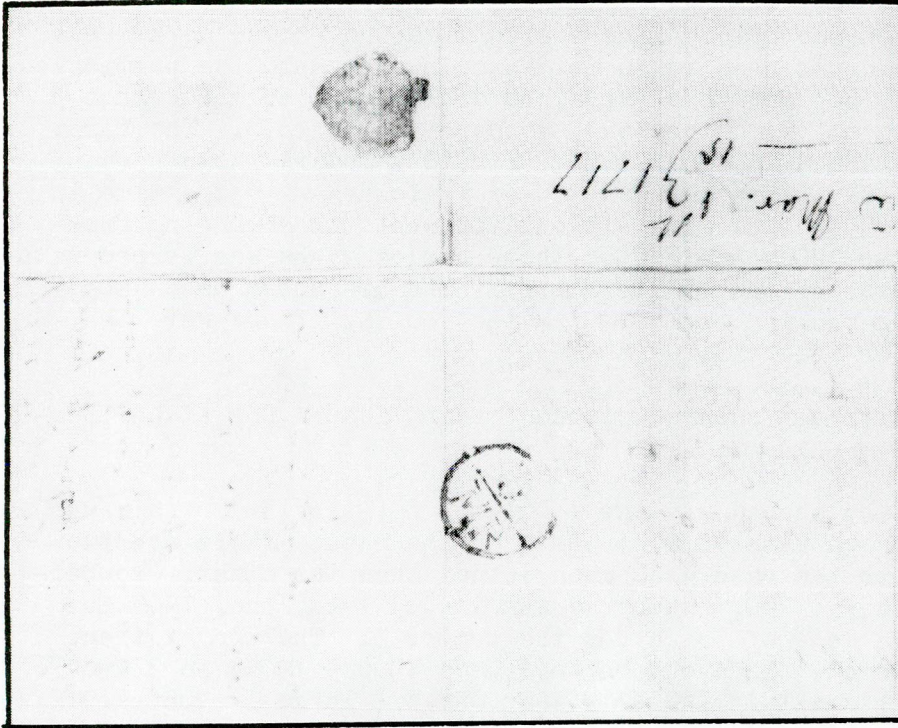
....Acknowledgements

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7 & 8 Collection of the late M.H. Bristow
15 - 18 South Eastern District S.O.
J. Parmenter. L.P.H.G.
Remainder Author's collection

J CODE OR NOT ?

One of our members sent the Editor a letter in which he claimed to have both a Bishop Mark and a Local Post time stamp with a ' J ' in place of the number. In a very erudite manner, the Editor opined this was merely an example of a curious cut figure, rather more ornate than normal.

Not satisfied, a few days later the mail contained these two items. The first is an entire addressed to South Ormsby near Alford, Lincolnshire written from London.



The only stamp is the Bishop, which appears to be J/MR. Written on the 1st. March, it is difficult to think what number it could be. Although not too clear, there also seems to be a horizontal bar on the ' J '

There must be readers who have examples or at least a note of what is something of a puzzle. We do not need to re-write the catalogue, just clear this ' J ' into the number it ought to be.

The second example of this curious numbering comes on an entire written from Huddersfield on the 6th. March, 1780 and carrying a Bishop for 8th. March. The time stamp

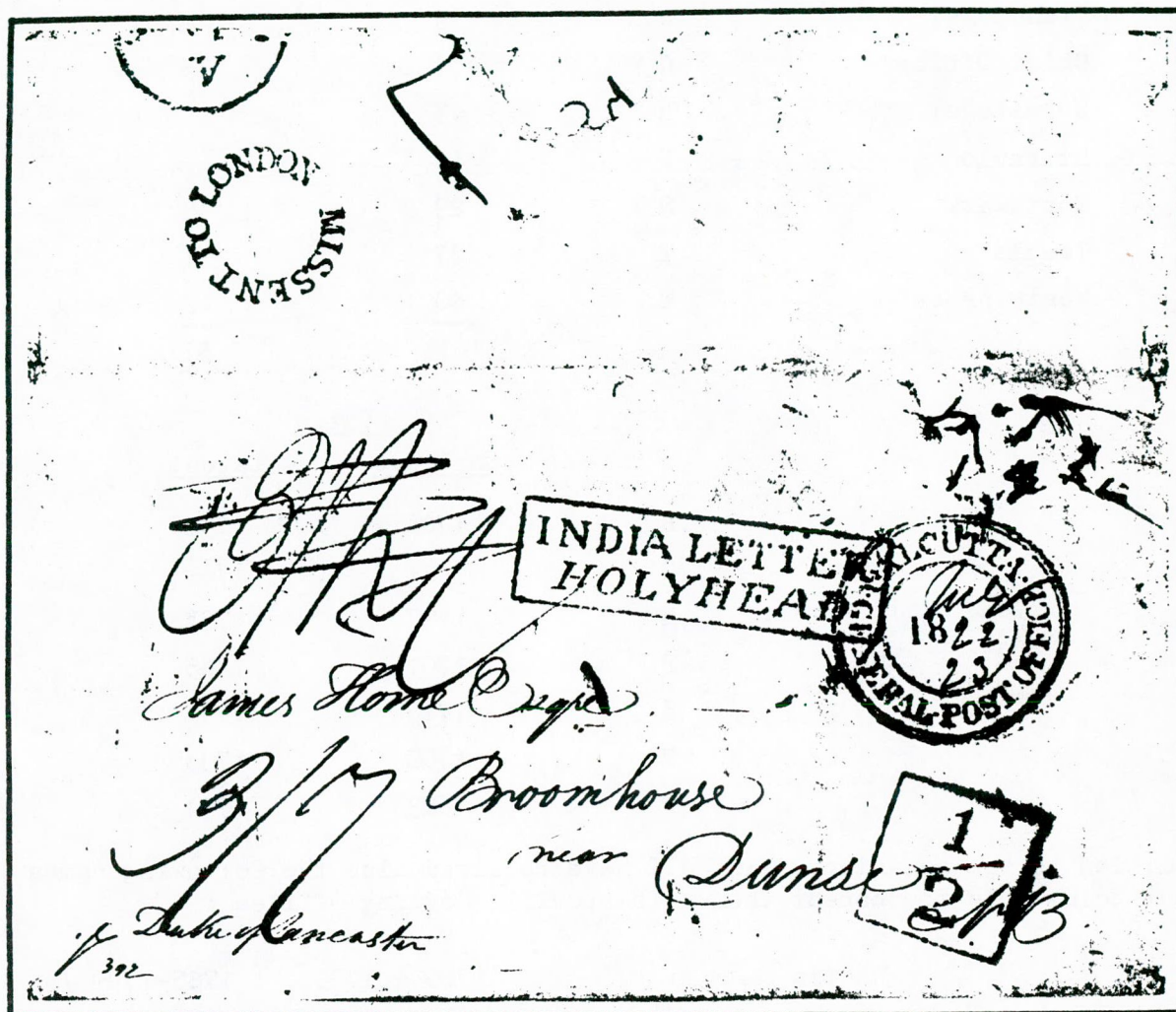


has every appearance of a ' J ', yet again. This, if anything, is clearer than the first example and makes one wonder if it really is just an ornate number ?

MISSENT TO LONDON

This illustration of a type not listed by Barrie Jay has been kindly provided by Michael Jackson. The dating falls between L232 (1815) and L232a (1830-33).

It is dated in Calcutta ' July / 1822 / 23 and showing the arrival in Holyhead by the appropriate handstamp. Misrouted to London, it was apparently charged for the 267 miles Holyhead to London (1/-) with the Ship and Master's Fees (8d) being doubled to make 3/4. However, this was deleted and the charge for London to Dunse (360 miles), the $\frac{1}{2}$ d toll with the 8d fees, all doubled and making 3/7 in all.



Should the addressee be unfamiliar with postal rates, this no doubt was collected, quite wrongly. In 1819 the sea postage for a letter not exceeding 3 ounces was 4d, irrespective of the number of sheets. Given it was a double letter, one might take the earlier calculations & correct them to read 2 times $(1/1 + \frac{1}{2}d) + 4d = 2/7$.

There is a significant further error here. The Additional Halfpenny was, according to Hodgson & Sedgewick, a single charge to be raised only once on a letter. No matter if the letter was charged double, treble or what, it was to be charged only one additional halfpenny. It follows the rate should have been 2/6 plus the $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

How often did postal clerks and postal historians make the same mistake ?

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THE MANUSCRIPT RECEIVERS' MARKS

A Preliminary Report from A.J. Kirk

Now I have received details of about 190 manuscript and hand stamped Receivers' names, I thought a preliminary report might be of interest. I start with two lists showing (a) the marks known in respect of the different Sorting Offices and (b) the earliest and latest dates so far reported :

		<u>Manu - Script</u>	<u>Hand Stamp.</u>
Bishopsgate	B	5	
Chief Office	G	31	3
Hermitage	H	13	
St.Pauls	P	16	
Southwark	S	29	5
Temple	T	27	11
Westminster	W	40	12
		<u>161</u>	<u>31</u>

	<u>Dates</u>	
	<u>Earliest</u>	<u>Latest</u>
B	1706	1732
G	1724	1789
H	1697	1793
P	1701	1765
S	1716	1793
T	1708	1793
W	1689	1794

In addition to the handstamps listed I have received also the following names without being able to connect them with specific Sorting Offices :

Martin	1785 & 1799	(1785-1799)
Mason	no date	(1786)
Morgan	1773	(1777)
Tanner	no date	(no date)
Walter	1782	(RMW only)

The dates in brackets are the dates recorded by Barrie Jay : Walter is in the general Willcocks listing but not shown in Jay.

If any member can provide examples of any of these providing hard linking to the Sorting Office it will be very much appreciated.

I have come across one or two items where the name of the village has been used instead of that of the Receiver. Thus Clapham 1766 (Southwark); Mortlake, no date (Southwark); Ealing 1734 and 1737 (Westminster) and the only one using a handstamp, Eltham 1775 (Southwark).

Amongst the names shown by Barrie Jay (Part 3 of the British Catalogue), I have been informed of three ' Grape, Stationer ' stamps. All of them are from Chobham,

Surrey and all have ' G ' Dockwra marks. The dates are 1769, 1770 & 1773. Jay states Grape was a Receiver in Surrey (?Worplesdon, ? Chobham).

The only unlisted handstamp to come to my attention is for ' Stacey ', dated 1772 with a Temple Dockwra, the letter being written in Bow Street.

From the evidence so far received, it would appear many letters were brought into London before being posted, thus saving postage. This, of course, makes it more difficult to locate the area in which the Receiver lived. Here are one or two examples. A letter written in Dewsbury and posted at a Receiver named Jenkins, with a Chief Office Dockwra. Again with Chief Office Dockwras, a number of letters headed Chobham. What about a ' missionary in Africa ' with a Temple Dockwra ? Another letter written in the Bahamas with again a Temple Dockwra. Obviously brought over by either a passenger, or a crew member. Finally, one written in Frimley, Surrey with, once more, a Temple Dockwra. Both these last letters have the handstamp for ' Nicholson '.

Another of my problems has, of course, been the handwriting. This at times is atrocious, quite indecipherable !! Sometimes just an initial.

It will be seen from the little information given there is still a long way to go. If any reader has information which they have, thus far, not sent, be it for just a single item, please do send the details. My sincere thanks to those who have already contributed to our store of postal history knowledge.

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PACKET SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1983/4

Sales from the packet are considerably lower this year and, unless there is a marked improvement in contributions, next year will not show any significant improvement. Only seven packets were circulated and returned during the year, with sales averaging just over £80 per packet. The general quality of material has been only fair, which has no doubt been the reason for several deletions from participating members. The number is down to twentyfour, whilst contributors amount to a mere half dozen.

Insurance of the packet is unavoidable* and the bank account is being moved to avoid bank charges as the cost this year is far too high in relation to the nett income.

Brian Smith

* The suggestion has been made that vendors should make their own arrangements for insuring material circulating in the packet. Some insurance companies provide automatic cover, others will have to quote. Please make enquiries and check if your policy provides the cover you believe it does!

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PROVINCIAL TYPE DATE STAMPS

It was inevitable we should find an error in preparing the typeface by the postal clerk. The first to be brought to our notice is an example wherein the Stamper transposed the day for the decade and inverts the incorrect decade number to boot. The item, which does not photocopy well, reads RICHMOND EV / MY 5 / 1821. The item was posted unpaid and carries on the obverse a handstruck ' 2 ' in black, the date stamp, in red, showing the correct MY 2 / 1851. The Richmond is in its usual blue.