

NOTEBOOK

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EDITORIAL.....

The summer " holiday ", by firm request of Her Indoors was to be devoted, the first two weeks at most, to decorating the kitchen. After three weeks it was a pleasure to return to the office, not so much to recover, as to get a break. The reconstruction continued for three months, an hour or three on most evenings. Compounded by problems over kitchen units, this project has occupied most of what is amusing called " leisure time ". One result has been a total neglect of nearly all matters relating to postal history, including this journal. Apologies for this.

We are moving the meeting place in 1986 to the Union Jack Club, Sandell Street. This is just by Waterloo Station, with BR, Tubes and many bus routes close by. The full programme, with map, is enclosed with this issue.

The dating * of this issue is when, more or less, it would have been issued. With the continued support of the contributors, it is anticipated there will be a catching up on the publication of " Notebook " and the date plus * will serve to indicate the process.

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LONDON POSTAL SERVICE : CIRCULATION OFFICE : PARCEL SECTION

Following on the earlier publication on the Inland Section, a similar booklet on the working of the Parcel Section has come to hand. It dates from the same period, around the early 1930s, probably 1934.

MEMORANDUM ON THE WORKING OF THE PARCEL SECTION, MOUNT PLEASANT, LONDONThe Parcel Section

- (1) Collects parcels from Post Offices and firms in the Eastern Central, Western Central, North and North West Districts.
- (2) Delivers parcels in the E.C. and W.C. Districts.
- (3) Acts as a Distributing Centre for parcels passing between London and the Provinces and Provincial parcels circulating through London.
- (4) Acts as an Office of Exchange for parcels passing between this Country and Abroad.
- (5) Undertakes, in the case of Parcels entering this Country from Abroad, the function of addressee's agent in presenting parcels for Customs examination.

COLLECTIONS

There are four main collections in the E.C. and West Central Districts, the first commencing about noon and the last about 6.30. There are also partial collections to relieve the main collections. Three main collections are made in the North and North West Districts, the first commencing about 11.0 a.m. and the last about 6.0 p.m. About 70,000 parcels are collected daily and of these 27,000 come direct from the premises of firms. The collecting vans make about 260 journeys daily.

FIRMS' PARCELS

Parcels collected direct from firms are received with the postage stamps unobliterated and have to be passed through a stamping operation at the Primary Sorting table. Stamps on parcels handed in at Post Offices are obliterated at the time of acceptance.

FORWARD PARCELS

About 50,000 parcels are received daily from London District and Provincial Offices for onward transmission. In many cases the parcels are received partially sorted and so avoid at least one handling in the Parcel Section.

PRIMARY SORTING OUTWARD

Of the Inland parcels posted in the E.C. and West Central Districts nearly 90% are for delivery outside London. Fourteen "selections" are made at the first (Primary) sorting; one for London, one for Abroad, one each for Scotland and Ireland and ten for areas of England and Wales defined by the railway systems. For eight of these selections the parcels are sorted through hoppers on to under-floor conveyors which transport the parcels to their appropriate divisions for further sub-division and despatch. For the remaining six selections trolley baskets are used.

SECONDARY SORTING & DESPATCHING

In the Divisions parcels are sorted into bags for despatch. The bags are hung on frames in numbers varying from 16 to 50 according to the needs of particular Divisions. A proportion of the parcels (those for the smaller places) is handled a third time at Residue Roads. The total number of places in the Provinces

London Postal Section.....

for which selections are made is 770 and the number of mails made up is 2800 daily. About 10,000 bags are despatched daily.

DELIVERY

There are three deliveries of parcels in the E.C. and West Central Districts, one starting at 8.30 a.m., the second at 11.45 a.m. and the third at 2.45 p.m. About 17,000 parcels are delivered daily, of which about 15,000 are included in the first delivery. About 80 vans are used on this first delivery, on which 140 postmen are employed. The parcels for delivery are passed to the Inward Primary Sorting Point through chutes discharging on to a slow running conveyor band from which they are sorted into trolley baskets. Six selections are made, namely four for E.C. and two for West Central. Each of these six selections is further subdivided into walks or delivery areas. At the final stage of preparation the parcels are sorted by the delivering postmen into bags representing streets or individual business houses. The bags are then packed in the vans in the order of delivery route and are opened in succession in the vans as the latter approach the points in the route to which the bags refer.

REGISTERED PARCELS

Registered parcels collected loose or in sealed bags are taken direct to the Registered Enclosure by the collecting postman. Those from other offices are received in bags which bear a distinguishing mark on the label. These bags are opened specially and the registered parcels transferred to the Enclosure. The sorting of registered parcels for despatch and for delivery follows the same general lines as that of ordinary parcels and registered parcels either loose or in sealed enclosure bags are included in the ordinary despatches. About 4,000 registered parcels are dealt with daily.

IMPERIAL & FOREIGN DIVISION

Parcel mails are made up for all Dominions and Colonies and Foreign Countries excepting the West Coast of Africa and a number of countries in South America and the West Indian Islands for which Liverpool is the only Despatching Office of Exchange in this country.

Traffic averages about 40,000 parcels per week of which about 3,000 are insured. There is considerable variation on different days of the week, Wednesday and Thursday being the heaviest on account of the despatch of the India, Far East, etc. and South Africa mails respectively.

About 3,000 parcels are received daily from Abroad. After examination and release by Customs they are put into circulation in the ordinary way.

AIR PARCEL MAILS

Are prepared for various routes, the daily number of parcels despatched being about 70. The number of Air Mail parcels received daily is about 40.

CONVEYORS

The superficial area of the main Sorting Office is about two and a half acres. An extensive system of conveyors has been installed to reduce hand transport from one point to another. There are 19 conveyors and the total length of belting is approximately 2 miles. At the main arrival point on the East platform bags containing parcels collected from posting offices and ordinary parcels arriving from Provincial Offices are opened and their contents loaded on a conveyor band running the length of the platform. This band unloads at two points on to two rising bands running, at right angles, inside the Sorting Office. These bands terminate

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about 9' above floor level above the primary sorting table. This primary table is 113' long and has a slope 13'6" wide with a capacity of approximately 5,000 parcels. Along the length of the top of the slope there is a conveyor band on to which the rising conveyors from the platform discharge and from which the parcels are deflected down the slope of the table to the Sorters. Sets of hoppers in front of the primary sorting table lead to under-floor conveyors which, in turn, unload into further sets of conveyors which rise in the Divisions at various points on the floor. From these Divisions in turn a separate set of conveyors, also under the floor, carry the bags of parcels for despatch to the outgoing platforms. These conveyors have in several cases connection from the arrival platform so that transit bags can be transferred from the incoming to the out-going point without encumbering the main Sorting Office floor.

PERSONNEL

Work is carried on throughout the 24 hours and throughout the seven days of the week except for short periods at the weekend. The total personnel of all ranks is 1,664.

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The Following is reproduced from the House of Commons Official Report for 22 April, 1985, by permission.

HOUSE OF COMMONS**Post Paid Envelopes**

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Lord Privy Seal how many official House of Commons post paid envelopes are estimated to be sent out in the post on any one sitting day.

Mr. Biffen: Correspondence in House of Commons post paid envelopes is sent by Members and their staffs through Post Offices throughout the United Kingdom. These envelopes are not separately identified. I am advised, however, that an average of 7,500 items are posted daily from the House of Commons on sitting days, virtually all of which are House of Commons post paid envelopes.

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Lord Privy Seal exactly how much money was paid out in 1984 to the Post Office for the provision of post paid envelopes; and how this compares with each of the past five years.

Mr. Biffen: The total cost to the House of Commons Vote—Class XIII A, Vote 1—for post paid stationery in the year 1984 was £376,748·81. The cost in the previous five years was as follows:

	£
1983	351,385·36
1982	359,124·22
1981	296,229·76
1980	188,370·68
1979	81,418·53

Note: The steep rise in charges for paid stationery during 1980, by comparison with 1979, is due to a combination of rising prices and an increase in demand.

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Lord Privy Seal whether he will consider providing second class post paid House of Commons stationery to complement existing stationery; and whether he is able to estimate the likely savings.

Mr. Biffen: No. I refer my hon. Friend to the First Report from the Select Committee on House of Commons (Services), Session 1982-83.

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Lord Privy Seal what information he has showing the amount of House of Commons post paid mail that actually arrived the next day; what percentage is involved; how much arrived on a later day; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Biffen: No figures are available for mail posted from the House of Commons since this goes into the ordinary postal system and is not specially checked at the point of delivery.

Sorting Office

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Lord Privy Seal if he will estimate the number of letters received at the House of Commons Sorting Office on any one sitting day.

Mr. Biffen: I am advised that an average of 14,500 letters are received daily at the House of Commons Sorting Office on sitting days.

Mr. Peter Bruinvels asked the Lord Privy Seal how much mail is estimated to have been handled by the House of Commons Sorting Office in 1984.

Mr. Biffen: The Post Office do not keep records of the total amount of mail passing through the House of Commons Sorting Office, but it is estimated that approximately 6·5 million items were handled in 1984.

TWOPENNY POST BUDGET, from Reg Sanders

As a follow up to the note on page 72/2 of " Notebook ", referring to the extension of the Twopenny Post in 1801, an extract from Pitt's Budget speech on the 18th. February may be of interest. As well as stating his intention the raise the penny to twopence for London's local post, he has interesting comments on the establishment of Cross Posts. The extract is verbatim from Parliamentary records.

The Bill was read a second time on February 21st and the only speech recorded as against it was from a Mr Allardice. He spoke at length against the raising the rates of postage. In his speech he commented "...all letters should pay an equal tax irrespective of distance, except in the sum expended in conducting the Post Office ". The suggestion pre-dates the agitation of Robert Wallace, Rowland Hill and others by many years but I have not seen his name in any of the histories of Postal reform.

Budget Extract.....

POSTAGE OF LETTERS

It is not my intention to propose an increase of postage upon letters that shall be sent within the distance of 100 miles ; but for distances beyond that, there shall be an increased rate of postage, and that the rates shall be in proportion to the distances, and be more numerous than they now are. This will produce the sum of 80,000 £. I shall also submit to the house the laying a duty on the packets which convey letters to and from Ireland : I also mean to propose a tax on all inclosure in foreign letters, which, together with the last duty, will yield 17,000 £. It is also my intention to submit to the house the adoption of a new institution, which will not only add to the revenue, but which will be productive of the greatest convenience to people residing in different parts of the country. This is the establishment of cross posts, by which letters can be conveyed from one town to another without being sent in the circuitous manner they are at present. There is another branch of the post-office establishment, from which I propose an addition of revenue - I mean those letters sent by merchant ships, which, according to a regulation lately adopted, are subject to a certain rate of postage, which I wish should be increased. There is but one other branch of postage which I have to submit to the house, I mean the Penny Post, for all letters sent by which a rate of one penny is now paid; and this rate I shall propose to raise to two-pence, which will cause an increase of 17,000£ in that department. The whole sum therefore which I expect to be derived from the increase of postage, will amount to 150,000£.

Recapitulation

Tea, 10£ per cent on all above 2s 6d per lb	£ 300,000
Paper, double the present duty, with a few exceptions, and an allowance for news papers	135,000
Printed Goods, additional duty of 1½d on all paying 3½d	140,000
Sugars, 1s 10d per cwt. the convoy duty made proportional and the temporary one to cease	123,000
Timber, 1s 3d on the present duties	100,000
Peppers, 3d per lb. for home consumption	8,000
Ditto exported, 6d per lb	92,000
Lead, 20s per ton exported	12,000
Train Oil, 20s a ton	12,000
Raisins, 1s 6d per cwt	12,000
Post Office	150,000
Stamps	340,000
Horses for pleasure, where only one, 10s.	63,000
On all above one, 20s	73,000
Ditto for husbandry, 4s	170,000
	<hr/>
	£1,730,000

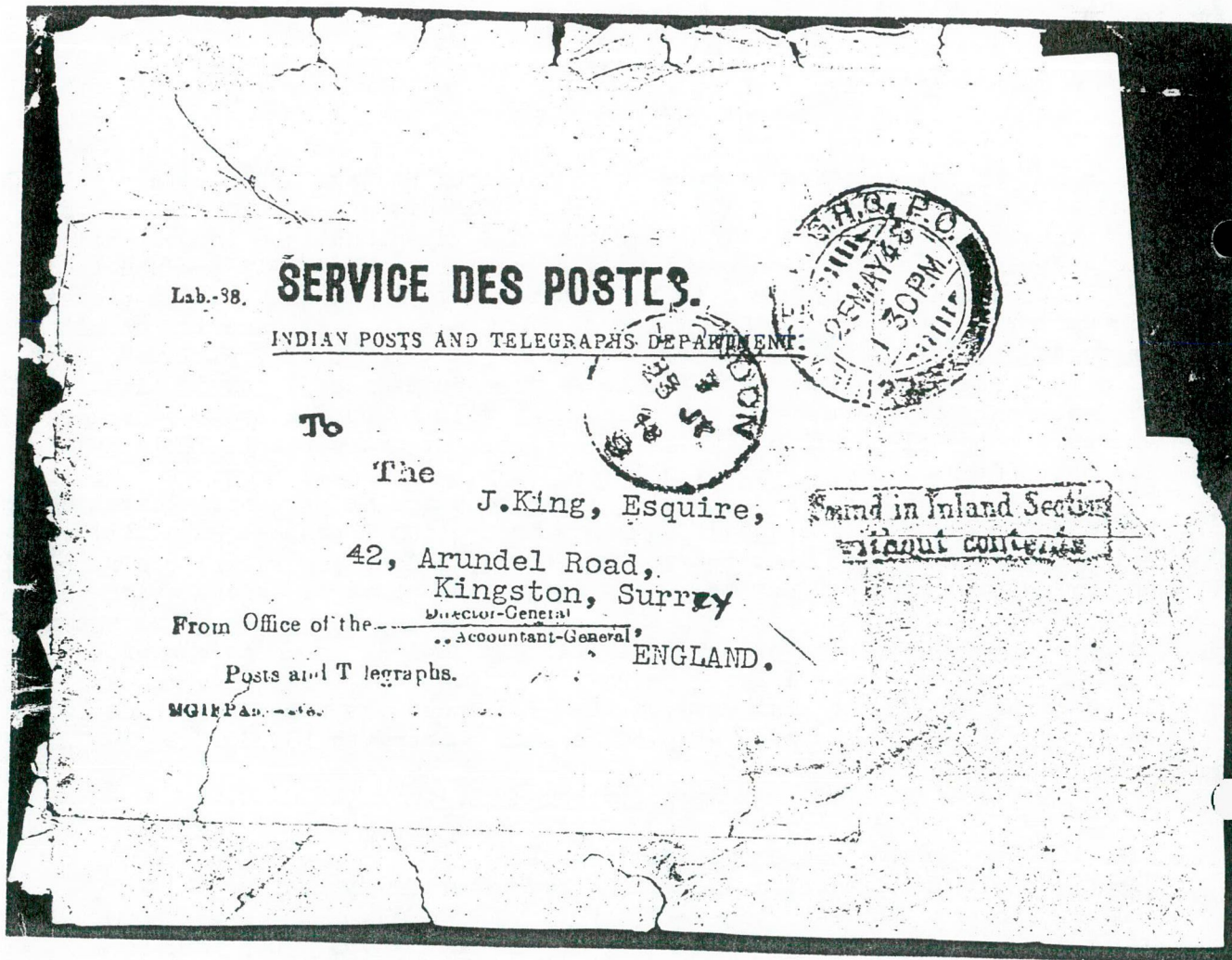
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FOUND IN INLAND SECTION WITHOUT CONTENTS, from Simon Harris

Although relatively modern, being dated 1948, this is a label new to me, the cause being the very low survival rate, depending on rescue work around waste baskets to a large extent.

Immediately below is the front of the item and the reverse on the next page. By a comparison of the ragged edges one can see how the label on the back of the cover is positioned. What is odd is that the details they request is not "below" as the text reads but on the reverse - which must make the fixing a tricky matter.

It is not unusual to find labels advising damage or indeed the missing contents but has a reader seen a listing of these very collectable items ?



PENNY POST IN 1683

In the London Gazette Monday May 21 to Thursday May 24, 1683 appeared the following notice :

The Officers of the Penny-Post, Established by Authority, do give Notice, That whereas the former Practice of keeping Holy-days at Whitfontide, &c. has been found to be prejudicial to Correspondence, (for the advantage of the Publick) they are willing to give their Attendance on those days as at other times: But by reason many of the Letter-Receiver are Tradefmen, whose Shops are shut up, such Persons who write Letters (in the Holy-days) are desired to leave them (where Shops are not open) as such Coffee-Houses known to be appointed by the Office, that they may be Collected and delivered in due time.

Found in Inland Section Without Contents.....



The article which has become separated from the attached cover/label cannot at present be traced. No further search can be made for a newspaper or an ordinary printed paper, but if any other article is concerned which has not reached you or the sender, please furnish the information asked for below and post this form, with the cover/label, to the Divisional Controller, Returned Letter Section, Mount Pleasant, London, E.C.1. If you have reason to think that the missing article is perishable or if it has been sent from abroad, please complete this form as far as possible and post it at once (without waiting to hear from the sender), but see above as regards printed papers.

Date Stamp.

Continued overleaf.

M 45

To the right is the reverse of the label above, slightly cut down.

Name and address
of sender

(a) Place,
(b) date, and
(c) time of posting

Full description of
the missing article

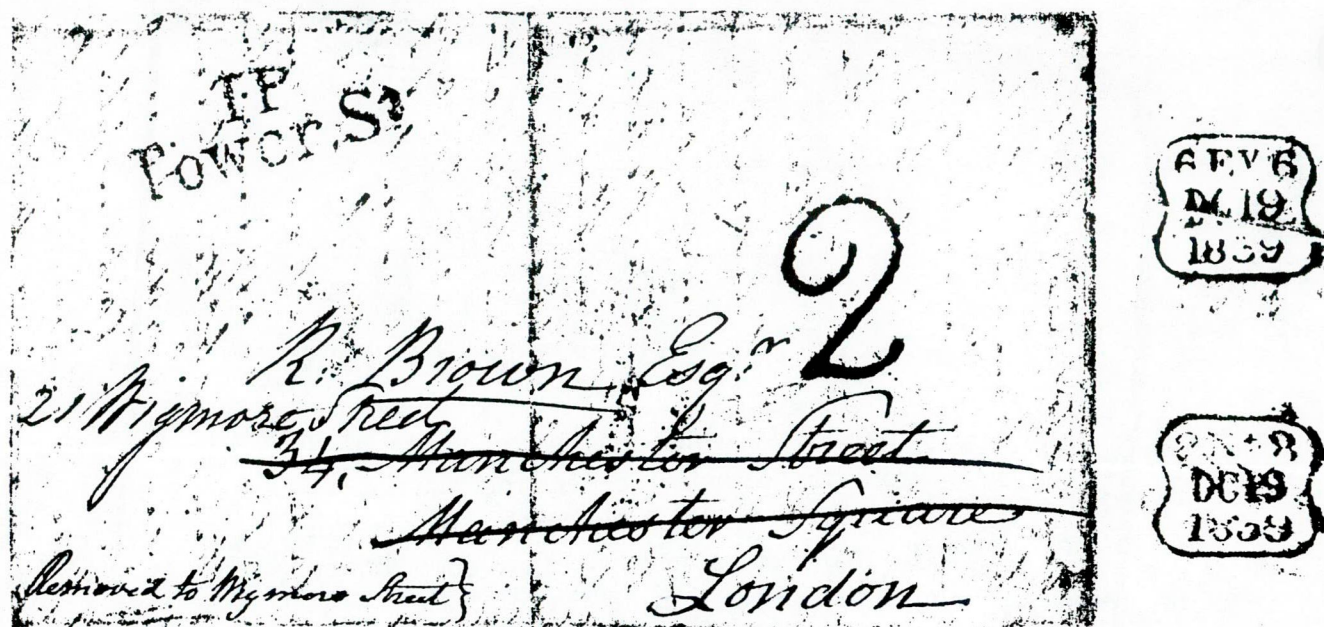
Should the article,
if found, be sent to
you or to the sender?

Your name and
address

Date

M 45

UNIFORM PENNY POST IN LONDON, a cover from J. Beveridge



The cover shown above bought at the auction this year comes, as can be seen from the date stamps alongside, that interesting period when London reverted to a penny post, though only in the case of pre-paid letters. For un-paid, the charge remained at 2d for Town and 3d for Country. Martin Willcocks noted that the 5th. December, 1839 showed an increase of fifty per cent in letters from London. Paid letters in the London post rose from 9,000 to 23,000 although the unpaid were the same at some 32,000 (England's Postal History, page 130).

This example was written in France, in English, and brought to London privately where in was posted, unpaid, in Tower St Receiving House. The time stamp for 6 pm was applied and it went to Manchester Street, where the letter carrier would have to knock to collect the 2d. It was immediately redirected to Wigmore Street, less than half a mile distant. The second time stamp for 8 pm suggests it went via the main office but since there was no redirection charge it could be this was not the way of things. Sometimes a cover comes with more than one time stamp which was merely delayed at the main office and a second time stamp was applied to show there had been a delay. In such a reading, the twopence charge would be applied, the letter carrier, in his attempt to collect, would be given the letter immediately as it was then delivered by him as it was on the same walk. A third explanation would be that the occupier of 34 Manchester Street paid the 2d and made arrangements for delivery himself. This seems unlikely and the second explanation would at least account for there being no re-direction charge.

An interesting item since although the number of un-paid items remained constant, the paid material appears to have survived in greater quantity. Can another reader produce re-directed unpaid items ? The Editor has paid material, with re-direction paid and unpaid but this item poses some interesting questions.

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THE UNFRAMED ' L ' OF LONDON

While looking through the material sent on this (Notebbok 71) it was interesting to note all items were to destinations outside the U.K. The stamp was supplied to the Inland Branch and their use was due, one presumes, to being the first office actually handling the mail and signalling the Foreign Branch the cause of any apparent delay.

Can a reader supply examples of either size being used on inland mail ?

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RUBBING ON THE CANCELLATION, from Jack Peach

A little while ago whilst searching for other documents in the Patents Library, my wife (who had somewhat reluctantly accompanied me on the basis of if you cannot beat them, join them !) came across Patent 30663 of 28th. December, 1897. This patent was taken out by a Mr. Alfred Edwin Whitehead of Brooklyn, New York, USA - a salesman.

The patent concerns a machine for cancelling adhesive postage stamps by abrading lines across them as the envelope passes through the machine. The abrading discs were preferably coated with emery " of sufficient fineness that the abrading or tearing action upon the stamp to be cancelled will not tend to destroy the wrapper enclosing the mail matter ".

The patent does not preclude cancelling by the more conventional ink marking and even suggests the possibility of adding ink marks into the grooves left by the abrading device ! Stamps thus treated would be very difficult to clean up and use again !

The machine as described embraces a device for separating the mail pieces from one another and passing them under a marking or embossing die for the application of a dater mark. From this marker, envelopes were transferred by rollers to the abrading roller (which rotated at a higher speed than the transfer rolls), after cancelling the envelopes passed to a discharge chute.

There is a vague recollection at the back of my mind that this method of stamp cancelling was drawn to my attention some years ago but the circumstances and other details escape me.

Can any reader help with further information ? Was the Whitehead machine tested by the British Post Office ? If so, are there any examples extant ? Any details, no matter how small, would be most welcome.

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JUBILEE STAMPS (LEEDS) - Paul D. Hanson / K.J. Wood have available on request an 18/20 page list of London Postal History with Postal History of other areas of Great Britain. Please write to 12 Malvern Grove, Bradford BD9 6BU

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DR. J. T. WHITNEY of 75 Church Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 2DR writes to say he can send selections regularly or on request, tailor-made to individual requirements. The only obligations are to deal with selections promptly and to cover the postage both ways. My stock includes rare and elusive items but I am also happy to send inexpensive material many dealers may not trouble to stock. If readers care to write, enclosing SAE to register their interests, prompt attention is assured.

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DONCASTER, NOTTINGHAM AND LINCOLN GAZETTE, 23 FEBRUARY, 1838

Postage Extraordinary : the Devonport mail bought yesterday morning a " ship letter " in the shape of a bale of linen, to the General Post Office, London, addressed to the French Ambassador. The postage was £318. 13s. 4d.

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KINGS BENCH PRISON LETTERS by R.M. Willcocks

A letter from a debtor in 1784 is the earliest from this prison known the Jean Farrugia, Alf Kirk and myself, and raises points of interest. Can anyone produce another before 1795? There were both General Post and 2d Post Receiving Houses within its walls, later using handstamps Belvidere Place / Southwark : a debtors prison would probably have more letters than a criminal prison, but others may well have had them, particularly Marshalsea, which was nearby. In his interesting study of the Postal History of Southwark (Notebook 57, May 1982) Alf Kirk says that whilst the inmates petition for a R.H. in 1820 and it appears first in the 1824 list, he has both GP and 2d Post stamps in 1818 on prisoners' letters. He records a Turnkey absconded or died in 1685 owing money received to the Post Office. It follows some arrangement must have existed from early days. Brumell records stamps from 1801-06, with St. Georges Fields, which he thinks was the earlier prison postmark.

This letter is addressed to 8 Upper Harley St. and has no charge endorsed but has the ' Penny Post Not Paid ' of Westminster office. On the reverse are Bishops Marks of 4th. and 5th. May and a Westminster time stamp ' J ' (probably for 1 p.m.). The writer, Henry Creswicke, hopes to be freed in a fortnight. Thus, it was put into the General Post on the 4th. May, 1784, transferred from Chief Office to the Westminster office of the Penny Post for delivery and 1d was paid by the recipient.

General Post Receiving Houses were only for letters addressed to the Provinces and those posted in the wrong R.H. usually have a large red ' W ' in circle (L558 in Barrie Jay's London catalogue) and a 2d charge, thought to be 1d postage + 1d fine. However, this ' W ' is not recorded before 1795 and I have not seen an earlier letter before this one to see how letters posted in the wrong RH were treated. The ' Penny Post Not Paid ' stamp always comes on letters from the Provinces to emphasise 1d is due for local London delivery in addition to the charge shown if unpaid (L 390-4).

From the 31st. August, 1784 the charge for 1 stage in the General Post was increased from 1d to 2d, so in May this would have been 1d in both the General and Penny Post - is this why no extra 1d was charged and the 2d later is just the minimum G.P. rate? Prepayment was compulsory in the Penny Post, optional in the General Post, so I assumed it was a special dispensation if the Penny Post RH had not been opened in 1784, as prisoners would not have any money with them. However, it now seemed that as the charge was the same in either post there was no reason to charge 1d extra until August 31st.

Until we find more letters put into the wrong Receiving House, preferably not from prisons, which would remove one complication, we cannot be certain what happened. I think it is correct to say General Post RH's had a slot through which an unpaid letter could be posted: Penny Post RH's had not, to enforce prepayment of the 1d. Points which require answering are :-

- I) Before 31st. August, 1784, were 1d Post letters (not from prisons) posted unpaid in a General Post RH charged 1d or 2d on delivery ?
- II) Did the 2d charge come into effect in September, 1784, with the 1794 re - organisation or when ?
- III) Is the 2d a penny postage and a penny fine, or did the Post Office say, in effect, " if you post a Penny Post letter in a General Post Receiving House, you must be willing to pay the G.P. rate of Postage ".

This is important, for the 1d post carried up to 4 oz. If my letter had been two sheets and four months later, would it have been charged 1d or 4d? Lets go further. If it was over 3 oz (not very much, the minimum now being just over 2 oz) would it have been 2d or 3d? It depends whether it was 1d + 1d fine or the GP charge for one post stage.

- IV) Was the Window Letter stamp introduced at the same time as the doubled charge - if so it could be found 15 years earlier than is known at present.
- V) Was the right to post a Penny Post letter unpaid by using a G.P.R.H. without penalty a special dispensation for prisons, or was it general? Alf Kirk

KINGS BENCH PRISON LETTERS.....

says many prisoners in the Kings Bench were actually boarded out in lodgings in the vicinity, so even if there was no Penny Post RH in the prison at this time these men could use a nearby one (if they had the penny)

Would readers please examine their material in the light of what is written here, in particular the early dating which is so important.

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Dr. J.

Kings Bench May 4th 84

Mr Jonds called on me about three weeks since told me that in a fortnight I should be discharged from this place and further of his intention of calling again in two or three days with you tho' I have not been so fortunate as either to see or hear from him, therefore my present sorrow is to request the favor of you to write to Mr Jonds to get me discharged, it being exceedingly disagreeable and full at this time, and people continually coming in in order to take the benefit of an Act we are already three beds in a room, I am well convinced that I can do little better with my simple creditors much better myself having no proper person to act for me in that particular your compliance will ender a great obligation upon I am much obliged H. Blackford
H. Blackford

TREASURY WARRANT.

WHEREAS by an Act, passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled "An Act for the regulation of the duties of postage," power is given to the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, from time to time, by Warrant under their hands, to alter and fix any of the rates of British or inland postage payable by law on the transmission by the post of foreign or colonial letters or newspapers, or any other printed papers, and to subject the same to the rates of postage according to the weight thereof and a scale of weight to be contained in such Warrant.

And whereas it is expedient that regulations should be made for the transmission by the post of the letters hereinafter mentioned.

Now we, the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, in exercise of the power or authority in us for such purpose vested in and by the said Act, and of all other powers enabling us in this behalf, do by this Warrant, under the hands of two of us the said Commissioners, by the authority of the Statute in that case made and provided, order and direct that on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, posted in the United Kingdom, addressed to any seaman employed in Turkey or the Black Sea, on board any transport or ship chartered or hired for Her Majesty's service, and on every letter not exceeding half an ounce in weight, sent by any such seaman from Turkey or the Black Sea to the United Kingdom (the conveyance of such respective letters between the United Kingdom and Turkey or the Black Sea being by packet-boat direct, or viâ Malta, and such respective letters being on the private concerns of any such seamen), there shall be charged and taken, in lieu of any rates of British postage now payable by law on such respective letters, an uniform rate of British postage of one penny. But we declare that the letters of Officers or Mates on board of any such transports or ships are not included in this provision.

And with respect to letters sent by any such seaman the following conditions shall be observed; that is to say: the postage of each letter shall be paid, by means of a postage stamp, on being put into a post-office established under the authority of the Postmaster-General; and upon such letter shall be superscribed the name of the writer, and his description as a seaman in the transport or vessel to which he shall belong, and upon every

such letter there shall be written, in the hand-writing of, and signed by, the officer having at the time the command of the transport or vessel to which the seaman belongs, the name of such officer, and the name of such vessel.

And with respect to letters received by the post by any such seaman the following conditions shall be observed: The postage of each letter, posted within the United Kingdom, shall be duly and properly paid upon putting it into a post office established under the authority of the Postmaster-General, and it shall be directed to such seaman, specifying on the superscription thereof the transport or vessel to which he shall belong, and such letter shall be delivered only to the seaman to whom it shall be directed, or to some person appointed to receive the same by writing under the hand of the officer in command, and whenever the letters sent by any such seaman shall be sent without the said postage of one penny being pre-paid, every such letter shall be charged to the party receiving the same in the United Kingdom with a rate of two pence, and any letters received by the post under this Warrant by any such seaman, which may have been redirected, shall not be charged any postage on or in respect of such redirection.

And we further declare, that the said privilege shall not extend to any letters sent through France or any other foreign country.

And we further direct, that the several terms and expressions used in this Warrant shall be construed to have the like meaning in all respects as they would have had if inserted in the said Act passed in the fourth year of the reign of Her present Majesty.

Provided lastly, and we hereby declare and direct, that it shall be lawful for the Commissioners for the time being of Her Majesty's Treasury, or any two of them, by Warrant under their hands, at any time hereafter, to alter or repeal any of the rates hereby altered, or the regulations hereby made, and to make and establish any new or other rates or regulations in lieu thereof, and from time to time to appoint at what time the rates that may be payable are to be paid.

Whitehall, Treasury Chambers, this ninth day of January, 1855.

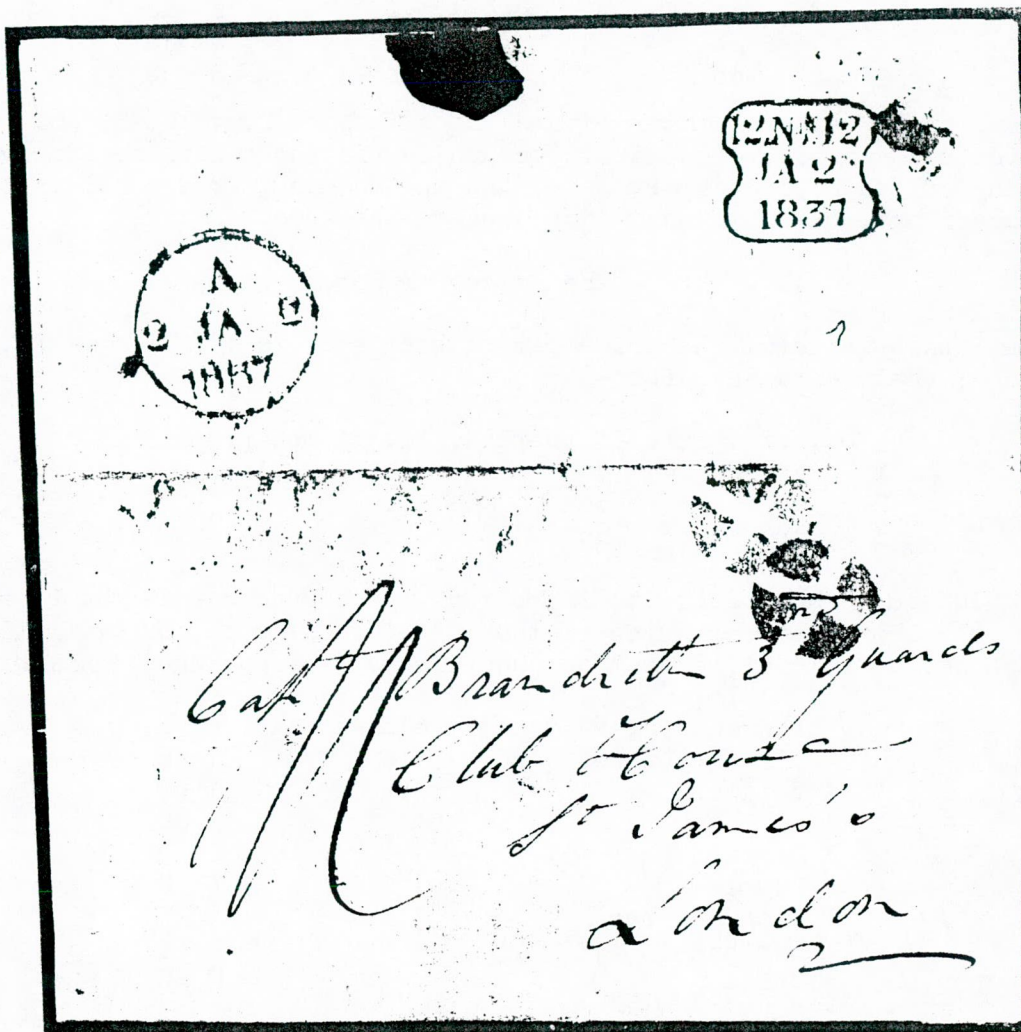
Aberdeen.
W. E. Gladstone.

The copy was kindly supplied by "Messengers", who have a good range of postal related material in many of their sales. If you would like to get their next catalogue drop a line to :

Barrie Evans, 8 Parkside Road, Pinhoe, Exeter, EX1 3TN

INSPECTORS MARKS IN THE TWOPENNY POST

The wide range of Inspectors' stamps which appear on covers provides many collectors with material of ineterest and no little puzzlement. Often it is far from clear just why the particular item aroused the attention of an Inspector. One such is



shown here. According to Alcock and Holland..." Beyond the fact that the only specimens we have seen have been in red on provincial or foreign letters to London, we can give no information about them".

This example was written from Dawlish on the 31st. December, 1836 and contains no reference to anything which might give rise to postal examination. One cannot use ink shades as too great a guide since both the GP and TP stamps are much of a muchness, though that for the TP seems closer to the quartered circle stamp.

Were these Inspectors based in the Twopenny Post or was all material routed through a central unit, irrespective of the particular section of the Post Office through which the mail was passing? Given the remark by A & H this would seem not unlikely.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

WANTED: Boundary Rides letters. I have ROTHERHITHE. Both the 2d and 3d charges required.
J. Beveridge, c/o Messrs Sharp, Harrison & Reeder,
4/5 Carlton Place, Southampton

POST OFFICE REGULATIONS,**an abstract from Lett's Diary or Bills Due Book and An Almanack for 1848**

Rates of Postage

Letters not ex.	$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	are regarded as	1 rate
do	1	do	2 do
do	2	do	4 do
do	3	do	6 do

and so on, there being no intermediate rates between 2, 4, 6, 8, &c. The limit of weight to be conveyed by Post is 16 oz. unless intended for the Foreign Delivery, or for any of the Public departments, and unless the packet consists of Parliamentary proceedings, or Petitions, Addresses to the Queen, &c.

The Price Per Rate

Upon all INLAND letters, the price per rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ oz is 1d. if prepaid, and 2d. otherwise : that is **to say**, for -

$\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	or 1 rate	if prepaid,	1d.	if not prepaid	2d.
1	do 2	do	2d.	do	4d.
2	do 4	do	4d.	do	8d.
3	do 6	do	6d.	do	1s.

Upon FOREIGN letters as follows, if posted at the Port whence the Packet sails, (shewn by a letter at beginning of the line, F. Falmouth, D. Dover, L. London), otherwise 2d. additional, except to such places as are marked * which do not vary:-

* Alexandria, by monthly closed Mail,	s. d.
via Marseilles, under $\frac{1}{4}$ oz	1 8
* Belgium $\frac{1}{4}$ oz	1 0
* Bermuda	1 0
F Brazils	2 7
* Bremen	0 8
F Buenos Ayres	2 5
* Carthagen	2 3
* Chili	2 0
* Cuba	2 3
* Cuxhaven	0 6
* Denmark	0 10
* France or Algeria, any part of	0 10
* Egypt, via Southampton	1 6
* Germany	1 4
* Germany, via France	1 3
* Gibraltar	1 0
* Greece, addressed by French Packet	1 5
* Greece, via Southampton	1 6
* Guadaloupe	1 5
* Hamburg	0 8
Hayti	1 5
* Heligoland	0 6
* Holland	1 0
* Honduras	1 0
* India, via Southampton	1 0
* By monthly closed Mail, via	
Marseilles, under $\frac{1}{4}$ oz	1 10
* Ionian Islands, via Southampton	1 0
* By monthly closed Mail, via	
Marseilles, under $\frac{1}{4}$ oz	1 8
* Italy, via France	0 5
* La Guayra	1 0
* Lisbon	1 9

Post Office Regulations....

	s.	d.
* Lubeck	0	9
* Madeira	1	10
* Malta, via Southampton	1	0
* By monthly closed Mail, via Marseilles, under a $\frac{1}{4}$ oz	1	3
* Martinique	1	5
* Mediterranean, addressed by French Packet, under a $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.	1	1
* Mexico	2	3
* New Brunswick	1	2
* Newfoundland	1	0
* Nova Scotia, except Halifax	1	2
* Oldenburg	0	6
* Peru	2	0
* Port of Halifax	1	0
* Portugal	1	9
* Prince Edward Island	1	2
* Russia	0	7
* Spain by Southampton	2	2
* Spain by France	0	10
L Sweden	1	8
* Switzerland	0	11
* St. Croix	1	5
* St. Martins	1	5
* St. Thomas	1	5
* Turkey, by France	1	11
* Turkey, by French Packet, under $\frac{1}{4}$ oz	1	3
* United States	1	0
* Upper and Lower Canada	1	2
* West Indies, British	1	0

Letters for any British Colony, or Foreign Country, except in the Mediterranean, may be forwarded from any port in France, at the rate (which must be prepaid) of 1s. 3d. under $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

The single uniform rate on Letters between the United Kingdom and places BEYOND SEA when conveyed by PRIVATE SHIP will be 8d., except to Bremen, Cuxhaven, Hamburg, Lubeck, and Oldenburg, to which places the Ship Postage is 6d. only, in whatever part of the United Kingdom they may be posted or delivered. This rate must be taken on Letters between the United Kingdom and the East Indies, &c. &c. when thus conveyed, the distinction between these and other Classes of Ship-Letters having been abolished.

The Ship rate to and from France, Belgium and Holland is now the same as the Packet. The principal object of the varied modes of address (as via France, via Southampton, &c.) is either to save time or expense, according to circumstances.

No person will be permitted hereafter to send or receive Letters free of Postage. Members, however, of either House of Parliament will be entitled to receive, free of charge, Petitions addressed to either House of Parliament, provided they are sent without Covers, or in Covers open at the sides, and do not exceed the weight of Thirty-two ounces. Addresses to Her Majesty will likewise go free of Postage.

Printed Votes and Proceedings in Parliament will be charged at the following rate between places in the United Kingdom and between the United Kingdom and the Colonies when conveyed by packet, but not through France nor to the East Indies.

For any weight not exc. four ounces 1d
 For any weight exceeding four oz.
 and not exceeding eight oz.....2d
 For any weight exceeding eight oz.
 and not exceeding twelve oz.....3d

Post Office Regulations.....

and so on in proportion. No Additional charge will be made upon them if the Postage is not paid in advance.

The rates on Newspapers are, to

Brunswick.....	1d
Hanover.....	1d
Spain.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ d
Portugal.....	2d
India and Mediterranean, by closed Mail.....	3d
Germany, via France.....	2d

Letters to Soldiers and Sailors will remain unaltered, with the exception, however, that the privilege now given them will be restricted to the cases in which they shall not exceed Half an Ounce in Weight.

MODE OF PAYMENT

Letters, &c. may be prepaid either by Cash, Labels, or Covers, &c. that is to say, there are 1d. and 2d. adhesive Labels, which being stuck on to the face of the letter, may be used to represent so much money ; there are also 1d. and 2d. envelopes and covers subject to the same regulation.

DELIVERIES

LONDON. - Letters from one part of the Town to another, if put into the

Rec.Offices	Chief Office	Will be sent Out
* at 8 a.m.	at 9 a.m.	at 10 a.m.
10	11	12
* 12	$\frac{1}{4}$ to 1 p.m.	1 p.m.
1 p.m.	$\frac{1}{4}$ to 2	2
* 2	$\frac{1}{4}$ to 3	3
3	$\frac{1}{4}$ to 4	4
4	$\frac{1}{4}$ to 5	5
5	$\frac{1}{4}$ to 6	6
* 6	7	8
8	9	8 a.m.

In the environs of London (within a circle of three miles from the General Post Office) there are six deliveries daily ; and in the country districts, which include a circle of about twelve miles from the General Post Office, there are at most places four deliveries daily.*

LETTERS TO PASS BY THE INLAND EVENING MAILS

Letters to pass by the Inland Evening Mails can be posted at the Receiving Houses till $5\frac{1}{2}$ p.m.; and with a fee paid by means of a Penny Stamp affixed to the Letters, until 6 p.m.; at the Branch Offices, at Charing Cross, Old Cavendish Street, and Stones'-end, Borough, till 6 p.m.; and with a fee of 1d. (which must be paid by a Stamp affixed to the Letter) until $6\frac{3}{4}$ p.m: at the Branch Office in Lombard Street, till 6 p.m.; and till 7 p.m., with a fee paid by means of a Penny Stamp affixed to the Letter; at the General Post Office, St.Martin's-le-Grand, until 6 p.m., and until 7 p.m. upon payment of a fee of one Penny (or an affixed Stamp) in addition to the Postage, which must then be paid in advance, and then from 7 till half-past 7, upon payment of a fee of 6d. with each.

FOREIGN. - Mails made up in London as follows :- France, daily: letters received

Post Office Regulations.....

on Tuesday on Tuesday and Friday till 10 p.m., and on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday till 7 p.m., and Tuesday, Friday, till 10 p.m. Holland and Netherlands, Germany and North of Europe, every Tuesday and Friday: letters received till 10 p.m. Sweden, Tuesday and Friday: letters received till 10 p.m. America, on 3rd December, January, February, March: on 3rd and 18th of all other months. Leeward Islands and Jamaica, morning of 2d and 17th. Monthly: if these days fall on a Sunday, then the Monday following. Brazils, first Tuesday, Monthly. Portugal, 7th. 17th. and 27th of each Month, (morning) if either of these dates fall on a Sunday, then on the Following morning. Buenos Ayres, the 4th of every month. Madeira, Venezuela and St. Domingo, mornings of 2d and 17th, Monthly. Letters for New Granada, the Isthmus of Panama, or to the Western Coast of the Pacific, will be forwarded by the Mail of the 17th only. Mexico, Honduras, Havana, Bahamas, Charges, and Panama, 1st Monthly. Bermuda and St. Jago de Cuba, morning of the 17th Monthly. Malta, Greece, Ionian Islands, Egypt, and the East Indies, via Marseilles, 7th and 24th, (evening) Monthly ; if either of these dates fall on a Sunday, then on the following day. Gibraltar, Malta, Mediterranean, and East Indies, via Southampton, 3rd and 20th, (morning) Monthly; if either of these dates fall on a Sunday, then on the previous evening. The French Post Office steam-packets sail from Marseilles to Leghorn, Civita Vecchia, Naples, Malta, Syria, Athens, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Alexandria, on the 1st, 11th, and 21st, Monthly.

Arrangements having been made for the conveyance from Aden direct to Bombay, of Letters, &c. for the latter place despatched from London by the Calcutta Packets on the 20th and 24th of each Month. Mails for Bombay will be made up in London, on those dates, and transmitted to Aden for conveyance thence to Bombay by Sailing Vessels, to be provided by the East India Company.

All Letters and Newspapers for Canada specially addressed " By the United States Mail" will be delivered up to the Post Office, Boston.

No British Postage will be chargeable in this country on Newspapers so forwarded, but the Letters will be subject to the same British rate as Letters for the United States: viz. One Shilling when not exceeding Half-an-Ounce, and so on, and this rate must be paid in advance, or the Letters cannot be sent under this regulation.

MONEY ORDERS

Money may be transmitted through the Post Office in the following manner :-

Orders for payment of small sums not exceeding £2 may be obtained for 3d. and £5 for 6d. of any Postmaster or Chief Deputy Postmaster throughout the kingdom.

Bank Notes, Post Bills, Drafts, &c. may be safely conveyed through the Post upon payment of a Registering Fee of 1s.

Any sum paid into a Country Bank or its Agent in London (see Lists of London and Country Bankers) on account of the individual to whom you desire to remit it, will be repaid to him upon his personal applications, of which you may advise him by Post.

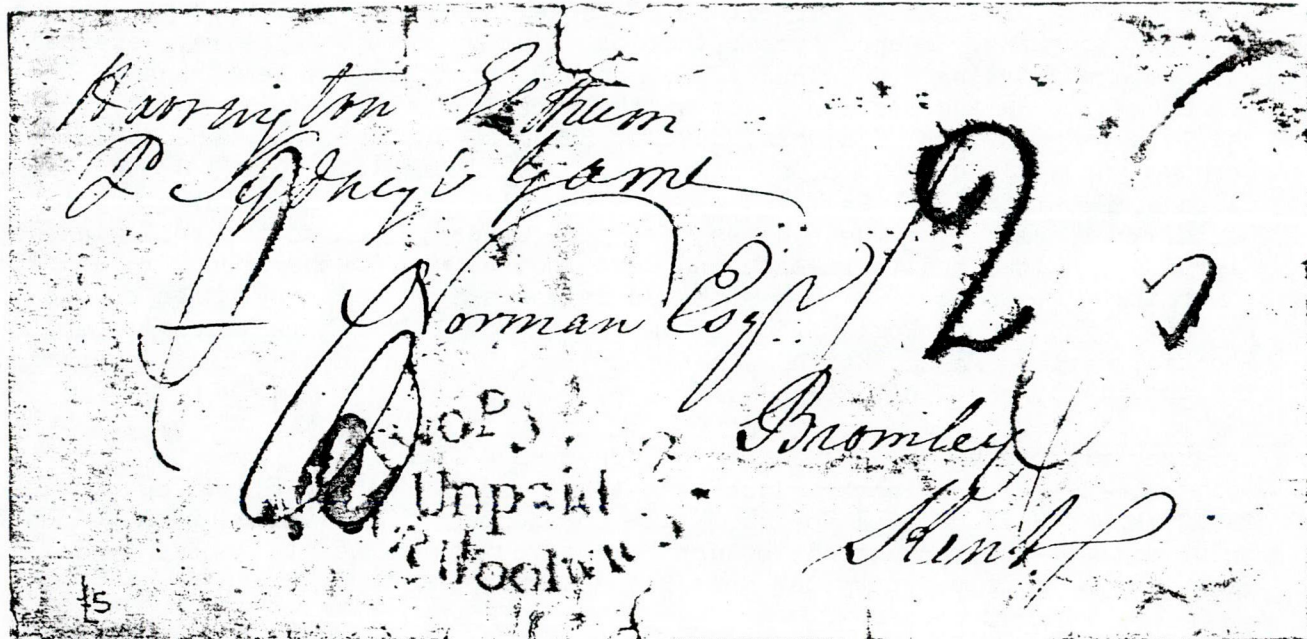
-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

WANTED : Reasonable strikes of London cat nos 404, 448 - 450, 478 or 479, 490, 620.
J. Beveridge, c/o Messrs Sharp, Harrison & Reeder,
4/5 Carlton Place, Southampton.

TWOPENNY POST : SOME NEW DISCOVERIES from Derek Holliday

Illustrated here are two apparently unrecorded Receiving House and Country Sorting Office stamps found at B.P.E. Neither are as clear as I could wish but there is enough to show they are new.

The first, addressed to Bromley, Kent, was handed in to a Woolwich Receiving House. I say " a " for it appears to be stamped with the unpaid for " ? R Woolwich ". The listing in Jay has only two Woolwich marks, CO and WO, which this clearly is not.



The Country Sorting Office for South Lambeth appears on the back of a letter posted at Vauxhall, the 3py P Paid stamp and the paid time stamp for 10 F.Noon for May 4 1833 stamped on the front. The address is Elliot Vale Cottage, Black - heath.

The C.S.O. must read " SOU-LAMBETH " and no such word-
ing appears in Jay.

Would members please examine their own material for both these offices and advise of any they have which confirm these two new listings.

-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-o-

HAMPSHIRE RECORDS OFFICE : MISSING MATERIAL

Members may have read in the philatelic press of a considerable amount of material which has been taken from the archives. Some of this has passed through the Group auction and was fortunately recognised by one purchaser, resulting in the recovery of several items. I am pleased to report the vendor was quite unaware of the origins of the material, purchased some time since from reputable dealers.

The Archivist has sent a list of items they know to be missing but it is far from complete. One of the problems is the descriptions used by the records office do not list in the way postal historians would describe, but anything with the names shown may well be part of the material the Records Office. Please have a look through your collections. Some items have been recovered since the list was issued.

Hampshire Record OfficeMissing documents (July 1985)

- 1M44 Banbury/Knollys collection
- 9/7,10 Letters to Mary Katherine, Viscountess Wallingford c.1739-44
7 may be from FG de Beelen, BRUSSELS, addressed to Mme la
Viscomtesse de Wallingford nee Law in Margaret Street,
London. 1743
- 26/3 Letter to Hon. Mrs. Knollis signed Wallingford probably
from LIMERICK. 1763
- 32/2,4,6,30 Letters from Col. Samuel Knollis
31 (cover) 2 : between 1762 and 1774
4 : between 1774 and 1775
6 : between 1775 and 1776
(probably all from abroad and addressed to Hon. Thomas Woods
Knollis or Hon. Mrs. Knollis)
- 30 : between 1786 and 1794, probably from WELLS and addressed
to Earl of Banbury or Viscount Wallingford
31 : 28 Feb. 1794, WELLS, to Viscount Wallingford (cover appears
to be missing, with end of letter)
- 37 Letters to William Porter of Winchester from Capt. William
Bulkeley, SOUTHAMPTON, March 1772
and W. Lomer, SOUTHAMPTON, Nov. 1783
- 39/7 Letter from Thomas Woods Knollis to his wife, 1762
(probably between Jan. and March, from ISLE OF WIGHT)
- 21M69 Knollys collection
- 1/11 John Caborn, LOUTH, to Viscount Wallingford, 23 June 1738
- 1/21 John Caborn, LOUTH, to Viscount Wallingford, 31 Jan. 1739
- 12/36 Telegram from Prince of Wales, R Y Osborne to Sir William Knollys
- 13/4 Sir John St. Aubyn to Lord Wallingford, 9 Sept. 1837
- 14/5 Emma St. Aubyn (probably DEVONPORT) to Lt. Col. Knollys
6 Aug. 1837
- 14/10 Edward St. Aubyn (probably DEVONPORT) to Lt. Col. Knollys
8 March 1837

Hampshire Record Office.....

- 10M55 Sloane Stanley collection
- 246 Joseph Jekyll to Lady Gertrude Sloane Stanley, Spring Gardens, LONDON, 7 Dec. 1829
- 265 Same to same, probably LONDON, 17 July 1830 (about funeral of George IV and behaviour of William IV)
- 311 Same to same, probably LONDON, 9 Dec. 1834 (about cabinet crisis)
- 28M57 Sloane Stanley collection
- 67/10 William Sloane to his father Hans Sloane, Sept. 1801
- 31M70 Tierney collection
- 82 Capt. Ramur to George Tierney, Lausanne, 9 April 1831

AZEMAR CANCELLING MACHINE. from Jack Peach

The drawing in Patent 75 638 indicates the Fischer and Maas (commonly known in the U.K. as the Azemar) machine was fitted with three separate die-heads. As is well known, each die-head held a dater die and a multi-segment canceller die.

In the simplified sketch the three die-heads, one being indicated by E, can be seen incorporated into roller B.

Given sufficient examples of marks applied during the same general period of use it should be possible to identify the separate die-heads.

Mr. R. Hewlett and I wish to undertake this small piece of research but are naturally limited by the relatively small number of examples in their possession.

As a first step it would be most helpful if readers could let us know the dates of all their complete impressions (dater plus canceller) falling within the period September - October 1871.

If there is sufficient response to enable a date of use to be selected for study we will get in touch with the owners concerned. In the first instance photocopies of examples might prove to be all that is needed to provide the necessary information.

The results of the investigation will of course be published in 'Notebook' in due course. Please do your best to help us by sending the required details to:

Jack Peach, 10 Ash Road, SHEPPERTON, Middlesex TW17 0DN

