

NOTEBOOK

In This Issue

- page 2 **Creswell's Rotary Stamping Apparatus**
3 Newspaper Branch Killer, A Response, Tony Potter
5 Postal rates to Norway, Roger Horton
6 Brigadier G.A. Viner OBE
Silver medal for Roger Horton
SH - A New Rideout Find, John Hine
8 Response and Recent Acquisitions, David Eastman
10 **The H.G. Fletcher Collection - Transfer to British Library**
11 London WC Paid Traveller, Michael Goodman
12 **East District Boxed L1, Michael Goodman**
The Unrecorded FP of London
13 Contrary to Regulations
14 **Historic Letters to Gratiouse Street**
16 **The Old Home of the Post Office, A.M. Ogilvie**
20 Members Wants

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EDITORIAL

Readers will be aware of the reason for the long delay in the production of the final issue for 1988, hence the curious dating at the top. Please continue to submit material and hopefully the December 1989 issue will be on time.

At the risk of creating a furore, this issue contains comment of the unrecorded "FP of London". The reason for this is to stimulate discussion and to remind us all of two things, namely, there are still many new stamps to be recorded and one has to be careful with classification. The "London " [volume 3] catalogue properly contains a section of unclassified and controversial stamps - a brief pause in this slot for the "FP" is may not be a bad idea.

CRESWELL'S "ROTARY STAMPING APPARATUS"

In the *Handbook* John Parmenter has this to say : " This cancellation has previously been attributed to Creswell. There is no evidence for this.



G. H. Creswell's "Rotary Stamping Apparatus".

[For the record: the illustration is that of a Woods of Perth "sample" given away many years ago at BPE.]

The code is in two parts. The first C is the stamp code and the second is the day code. This is the precursor to the full A - Z less Q code of later cancellations. The codes recorded are :

8th.	CA
10th.	CC
12th.	CB
13th.	CC

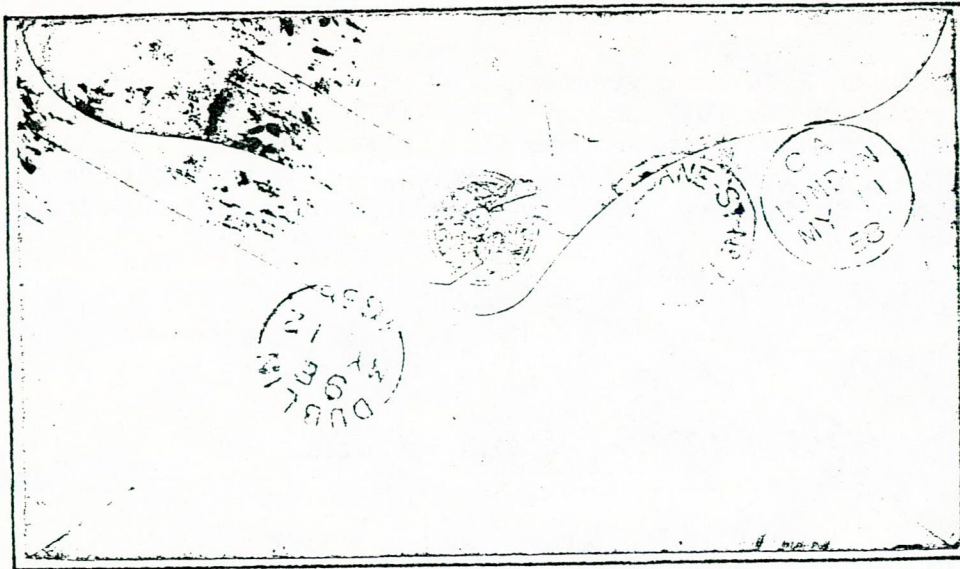
This gives an ABC daily sequence of codes.

Single examples are known as backstamps. "

An example of this use as a backstamp, not particularly common [though this may be due, in part, to a failure to recognise the usage] recently came to hand. It is on the reverse of a 1d. postal stationery envelope, cancelled by the 27 diamond, addressed to Dublin, and posted on 11th. May, 1858.

Two suggestions : readers to have another look at the backstamps, just in case they have something rather better than they realise and, then, to drop the Editor a note of what they have. The continuation of the ABC coding and the period of usage can be recorded in *Notebook*.

The cover appears on the next page.



NEWSPAPER BRANCH KILLER
a response from Tony Potter

Colin Weaving's example has prompted this submission of two items which may be interest to readers, possibly from the social history rather than postal history: but to deal with the latter first.

Leon Dubus denotes this cancellation as type 31 in Volume 2 of his "London Cancellations" and describes them as "Obliterations for post cards". Number 1 is shown on an undated advertising card, very lightly struck, unless a reader is a devotee of drink prices in the second half of the nineteenth century. It is worth noting the supplier describes himself as "MANUFACTURER TO H.M. GOVERNMENT": at the prices cited, the picture of Civil Service girations in Whitehall present an interesting possibility.

POST CARD

BOTTLE ENVELOPES AND WINE CASES.

		Per Gross.*			To nail down.	With hinges to tie down.
Wine or Spirit	Quarts, 4/6	One doz. Cases,	0/9	1/0		
"	" Pints, 4/6	Two "	1/8	2/0		
Hock	Quarts, 5/6	Three "	2/3	2/10		
Champagne	" 5/6	Four "	2/8	3/9		
"	Pints, 4/6					

* Orders of less than Ten Gross, 6d. per Gross Extra.

IS SIDE.

Handwritten signature: *Handwritten*

JOHN PUTLEY,

MANUFACTURER TO H. M. GOVERNMENT.

27, SEETHING LANE, GT. TOWER STREET, E.C.,

71, RUSSELL STREET, ^{AND} BERMONDSEY, S.E.

Bin Cases, Sample Boxes, Wine Laths, &c., in Stock.

NEWSPAPER BRANCH KILLER
a response from Tony Potter[continued]

The Number 2 is on a wrapper dated 1st. July, 1871 and cancels a plate 6 [put to press 19.7.70 for those who collect sticky labels] and presumably was sent to Housekeeper "D" in response to an application for the post of housekeeper at the hotel, which some 118 years ago charged "up to 2½ Guineas" must have been a substantial enterprise.

1/7/71

D
Housekeeper 60 Mark Lane & Co

The above advertiser in the Daily Telegraph of this day can be accommodated at Mrs. Deport's house, 67, Portdown Gardens (Portdown Road) Maida Vale, W.

The house is large, handsome, and well furnished; contains (at the disposal of the Boarders) Reception Room, Bath room with hot and cold water, Smoking room, spacious Croquet lawn, &c. and is with near access to the City by Rail or Omnibus.

Liberal Table.

Meal hours.— Breakfast 8 O'clock, A.M.

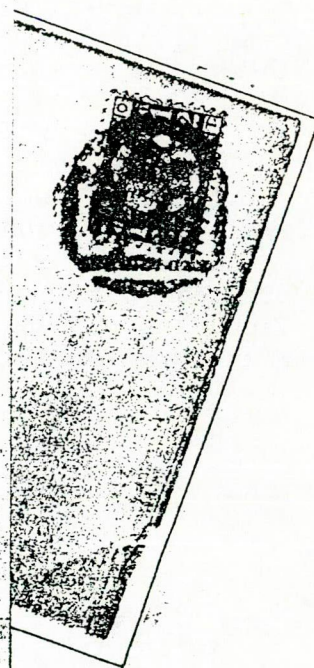
Luncheon 1 " p.M.

Dinner 4 " "

Tea 9 " "

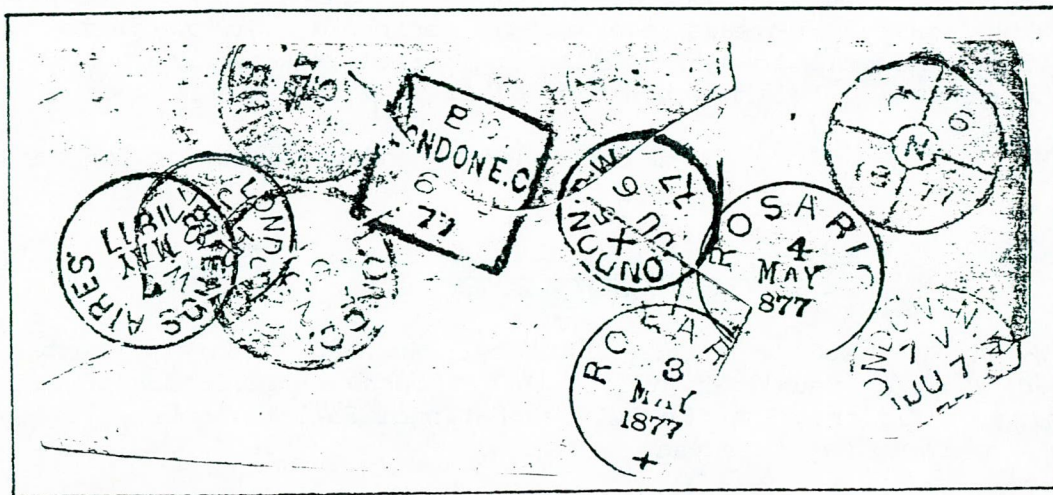
Terms according to Bed room wanted, from 3/6 to 2½ Guineas p. Week for full Board & from 25/ to 2/6 for partial Board

No extras of any kind.



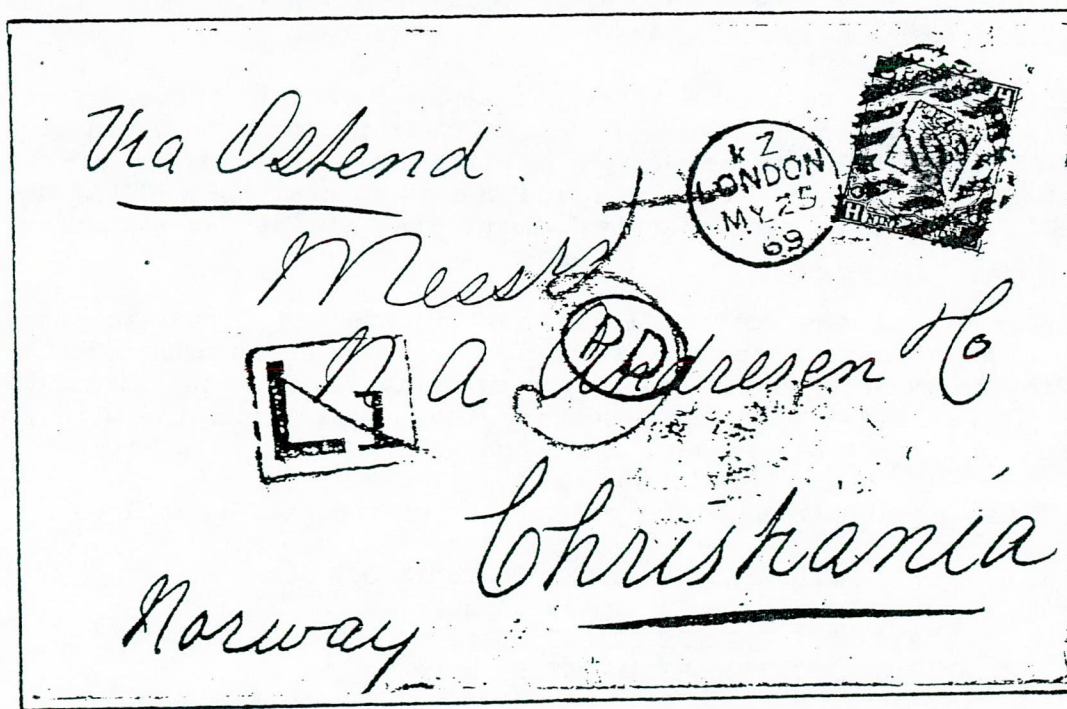
QUARTERED CIRCLE BAGGING STAMPS
a reminder to readers

The scrap of an envelope reverse may serve to remind readers to send in details of any Quartered circle Bagging stamps they have in their collections for incorporation in the summary to be published in the next issue.



POSTAL RATES TO NORWAY
from Roger Horton

The rates to Scandinavia have featured in the pages of *Notebook* from time to time and the item shown here adds to the list.



The 9d. plate 4 appears to cover the normal double rate and the 1d. late late fee. The boxed L1 has been cancelled [?] and the manuscript "5" presumably indicates the double 2½d accountancy charge. Can a reader who has more knowledge confirm and elaborate please?

Brigadier George Viner OBE

Now in his ninetieth year, although "fit, strong and active", Brigadier Viner has reluctantly resigned from the LPHG, having been a member for many years.

His slim monograph "*the Postal History of Chichester, 1635-1900*" was the first book on postal history in the Editor's library, [published nearly 25 years ago at the princely sum of 5/-] and provided the stimulus to start collecting postal markings, rather than just the adhesive labels which hitherto had been the sole interest.

We trust Brigadier Viner continues to enjoy collecting for many years.

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SILVER MEDAL FOR ROGER HORTON

We are pleased to record that Roger Horton, a Belgium member, received a silver medal for his exhibit "*London Cancellations During the Reign of Victoria*" at the Belgium National Philatelic Competition held at Couvin in May this year.

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HS or SH - A NEW RIDEOUT FIND

from John Hine

[John Hine works in the Netherlands and this involves many trips away from home, sometimes to the detriment of his collecting. However, as this article shows, it pays to look around wherever one finds oneself.]

During a recent visit to Turkey, I acquired the cover illustrated on the next page. It was sent from London to Manchester on AP 21 1858. The adhesive is cancelled by a fine strike of the Rideout No 1 machine for this date and the additional MORE TO PAY and 3X MANCHESTER double circle arrival marks make it into an attractive whole.

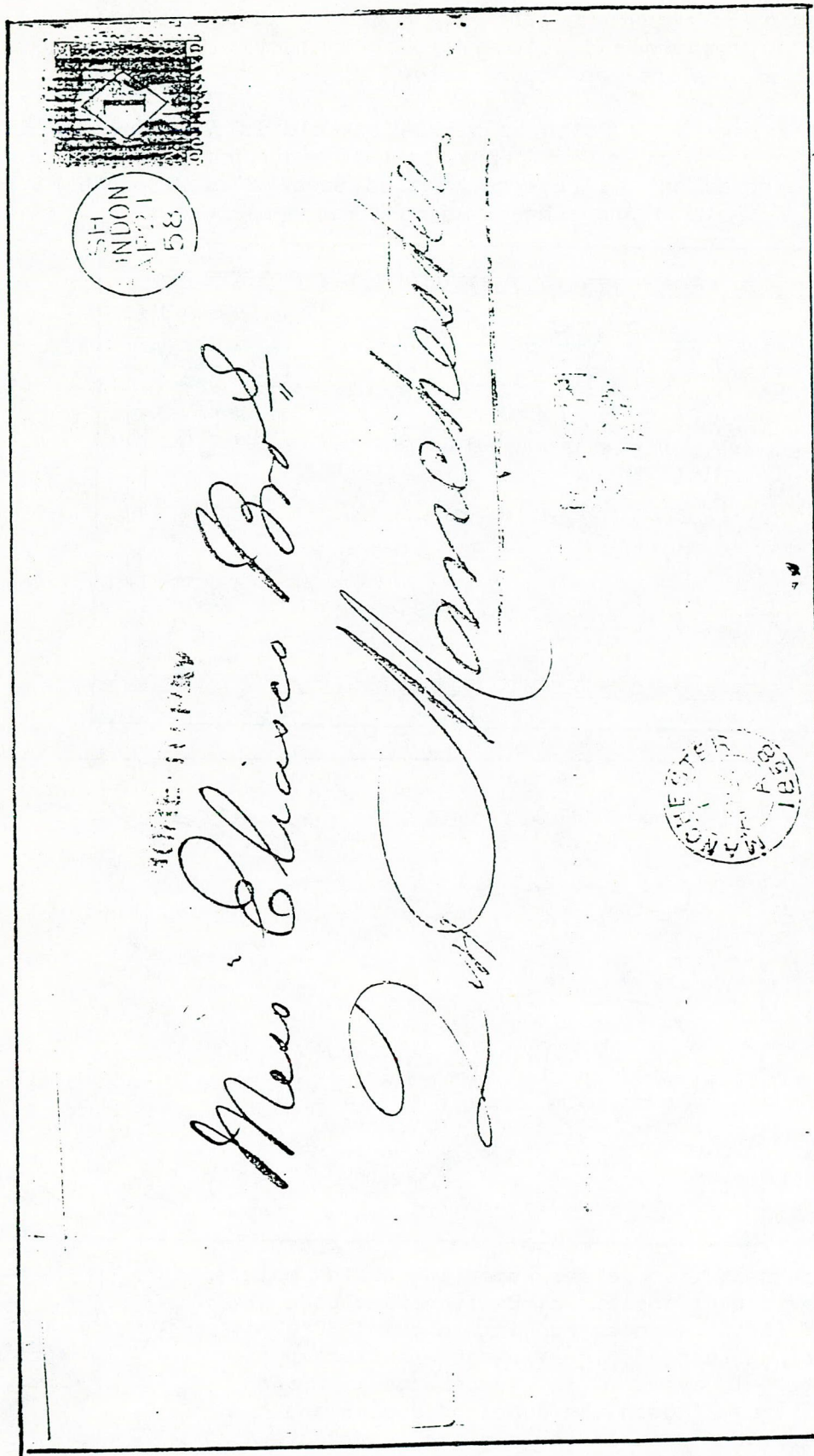
However, it was not until I returned home did I realise there was something unusual about the RIDEOUT. Yes, it is the code SH, according to my information an unreported deviation from the normal HS code. There is a similar reversal for the Number 2 machine with RC appears for CR but this is catalogued and well known.

This addition to my listing makes the record read as follows :

R1A	2.8.7.2.	HS	5 FEB 58 to 14 OCT 58
...	2.8.7.2	SH	21 APR 58 only
R1B	2.7.7.2	HS	22 OCT 58 to DEC 59
R1C	2.7.7.2	HS	10 OCT 66 only
R2A	2.5.5.2	CR	27 DEC 58 to 3 DEC 59
R2B	2.5.5.2	RC	9 FEB 59 to 5 JUN 59
R2C	2.5.5.2	CR	23 OCT 66 to 10 JUL 67

The SH discovery confirms that the codes in both machines were individual letters capable of removal. If CR stands for Charles Rideout, who was HS ? Date extensions and HS answers please.

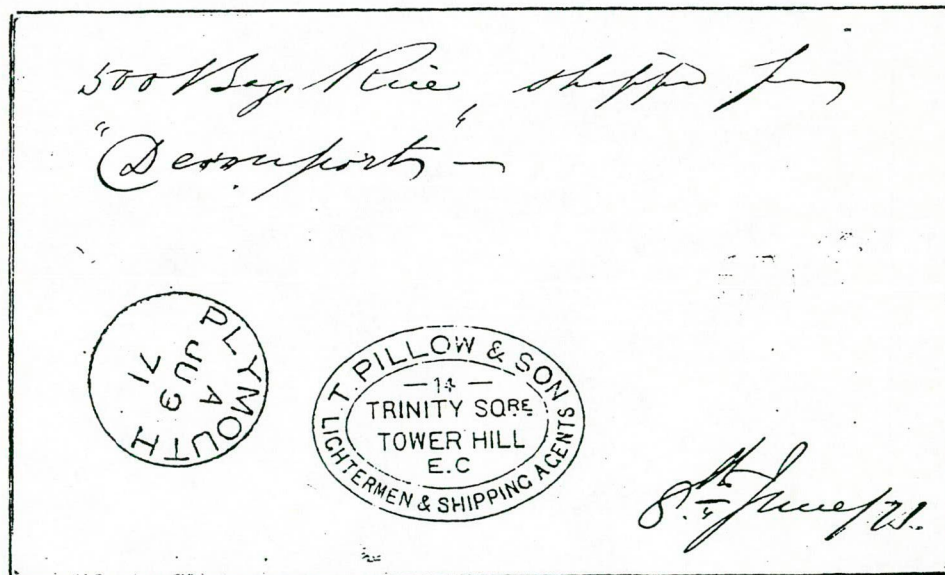
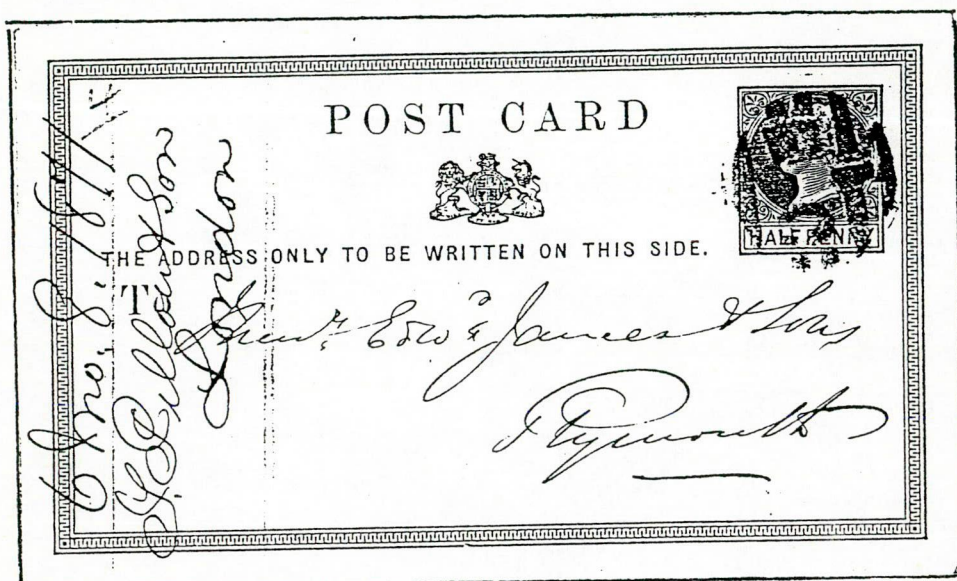
HS or SH - A NEW RIDEOUT FIND
from John Hine



RESPONSE AND RECENT ACQUISITIONS
from David Eastman

David Eastman has sent in a number of items which will of interest to readers and illustrations of these with his comments and Editorial asides are reproduced below.

With regard to Colin Weaving's article in *Notebook No. 89* this example appears on a halfpenny postal stationery post card which happily carries on the reverse a dated message, a Plymouth datestamp for 9th. June, 1871 and a neatly struck House mark.



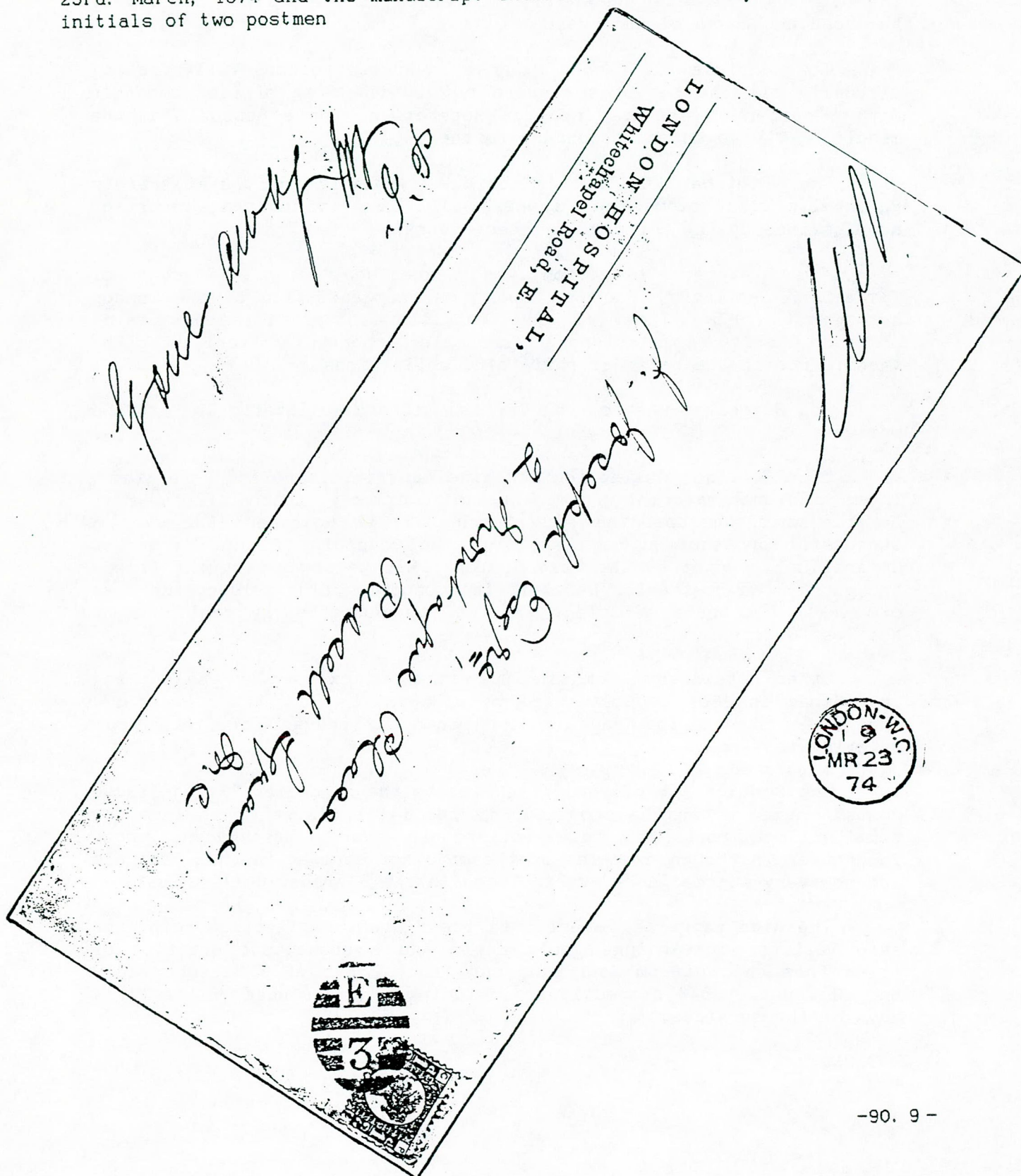
The next item raises some interesting points. The experimental duplex PHT6B with stamp code "B" and with the date codes running in the "ABC" sequence has turned up serving as a backstamp, or so it would appear. As can be seen from the illustrations of both the complete duplex and the backstamp, the resemblance is quite remarkable. However, the problem is that in 1858 a series of date stamps came into use, one of which very



RESPONSE AND RECENT ACQUISITIONS
from David Eastman, continued...

closely matches the type. Can we have some expert comment on this please?

An envelope from the London Hospital in Whitechapel to Russell Square has the halfpenny superbly cancelled with the third type of 3D8 [Handbook page J/E/7] with, on the reverse, a London WC datestamp for 23rd. March, 1874 and the manuscript endorsement "Gone away" with the initials of two postmen



THE H. G. FLETCHER COLLECTION
Transfer to the British Library

The following press release has been issued by the British Library.

Major Philatelic Collection Transferred to the British Library

A major collection of Britain's Philatelic heritage formed by the late H.G. Fletcher has been transferred to the British Library by the London Borough of Haringey.

It consists of around three hundred volumes illustrating virtually all the services carried out by the Post office, together with a number of private and local operations for a period from the middle of the seventeenth century to the 1960s.

The Fletcher Collection bridges a gap in the Library's Philatelic collections and is one of the largest and most important acquisitions by the Library in recent years.

The Fletcher Collection was bequeathed to the Borough of Tottenham, passing to Haringey upon the reorganisation of the London Boroughs in 1965. The Mayor and Councillors obtained the permission of the Charity Commissioners for this important material to be transferred to the national philatelic collections.

Bob Schoolley-West of the British Library Philatelic Collections writes :

"The Fletcher Collection contains many important and rare items. These include material from William Dockwra's London Penny Post Service which he operated from March 1680 to November 1682 when a successful prosecution for breaching the monopoly of the Postmaster General was brought by the Duke of York [Ed: we always thought it was brought by the Postmaster General, the monopoly being held by the Duke of York]. Dockwra's efficient service was subsequently continued by the Post Office.

Other noteworthy items include an early example of the marking introduced in 1661 by Colonel Henry Bishop, the Postmaster General : the marks showed the day of the month to prevent carriers from delaying letters.

The Postage Act of 1801 gave rise to the so-called "Fifth Clause posts", named after the provision in the fifth clause of the Act for some village posts to take letters to nearby post towns under guarantee. Although examples of the markings applied to these letters are now very scarce, some are included in the Fletcher Collection.

The wide range of material in the Fletcher collection comprises ship letters, forwarding Agents marks and a subsequent quantity of items from the Uniform Fourpenny and Penny Posts of 5 December 1839 and 10 January 1840 respectively including a number used on the first days of the services."

THE H. G. FLETCHER COLLECTION
Transfer to the British Library, continued..

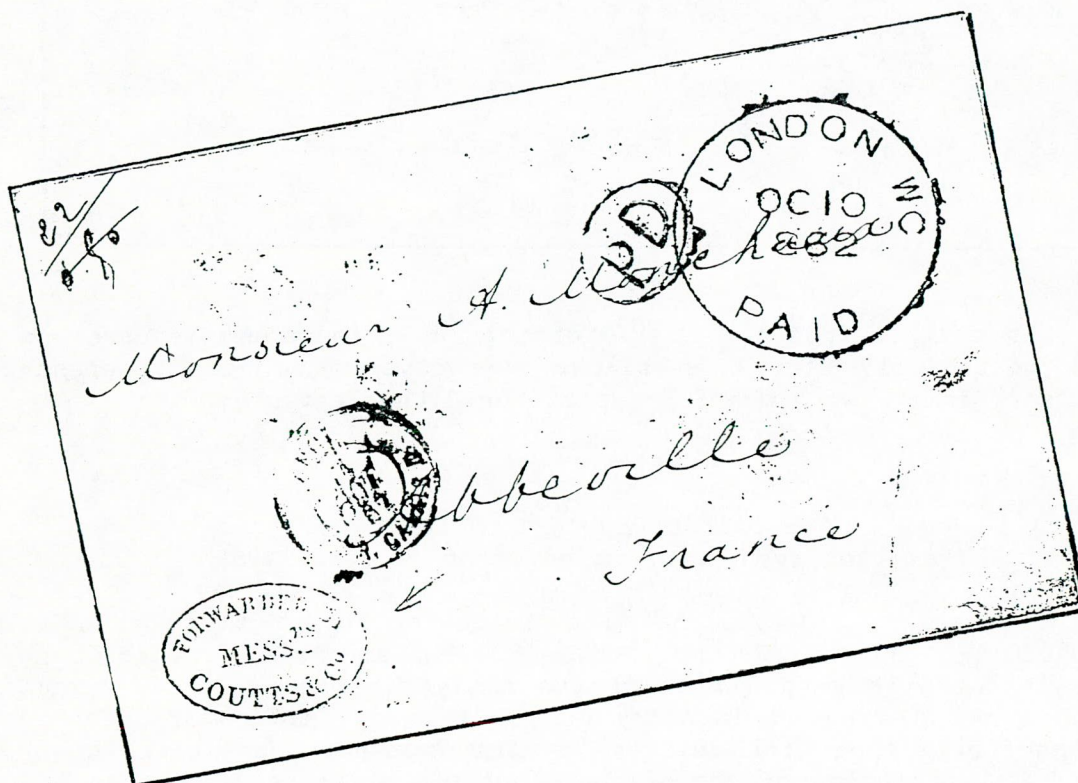
[The balance of the collection deals with adhesives and for those who have this material, the volumes appear to be well worth inspection.]

A leaflet containing information about the British Library's philatelic holdings may be obtained by writing to the *British Library Philatelic Collections, 14 Store Street, London WC1E 7DG*

The leaflet has a much reduced illustration of Jay L324 for May 4th., 1682. The Editor has written to ask for a full size copy to show *Notebook* readers but, thus far, there has been no response.

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LONDON WC PAID TRAVELLER
from Michael Goodman



Although the item carries on pencil mark to highlight to Forwarding Agents cachet used from 1842 to 1862, the traveller for London WC Paid for 10th. October, 1862 is most interesting and a very scarce item, falling as it does during in a period of comparatively slight use. The manuscript "4" is just visible on the photocopy.

[see *Notebook* 87/7 - more examples please]

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EAST DISTRICT BOXED LI

from Michael Goodman

Leon Dubus covers the use of the boxed L marks and *Notebook* has many references through its pages. It is worth remarking that although the marks are not generally uncommon, those from some of the Districts are not easy to find.



This example from the East District shows the almost square box and is beautifully struck in black on a cover with the threepenny cancelled, firmly, with the E26 duplex for 24th. September, 1873.

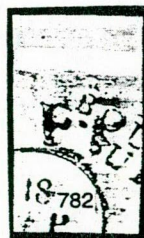
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THE UNRECORDED "FP" OF LONDON

from the Cavendish Auction of April 8th., 1989

The item at lot 782 had the following description : "LONDON, UNRECORDED "FP" hs. of TWOPENNY POST; 1830 EL, sm. hole, from Boulogne to Marylebone with good strike of the newly discovered FP of London, matching ink of the red Twopenny Post b.s., for letters transferred from the Foreign Post for delivery by the Twopenny Post (c.f. the GP marks). With photocopy of one of the other two examples discovered."

This item is preceded by an example of the 1795 PP of London's Foreign Branch, rightly described as very rare. The illustrations from the catalogue are reproduced below.



THE UNRECORDED "FP" OF LONDON
from the Cavendish Auction of April 8th., 1989 continued...

The Editor has had the opportunity of examining the two other examples to which the catalogue refers. Being of advancing years and having a healthy degree of cynicism he is struck by one disturbing feature. The "F" of the "FP" shows it to have a quite pronounced serif at the top up the upright. There is a dot between. However, look closely at that "F"....is it? It would take just the merest grain of ink to turn it into a "P" and it does not stretch the imagination to seriously consider the suggestion it is a damaged "P".

That there are three examples extant, all showing the same mark, rightly supports the claim that we have a new mark here but whether it should be recorded of "FP" or "PP" is something which might be debated. Perhaps the owners of the other two would respond. please?

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CONTRARY TO REGULATIONS

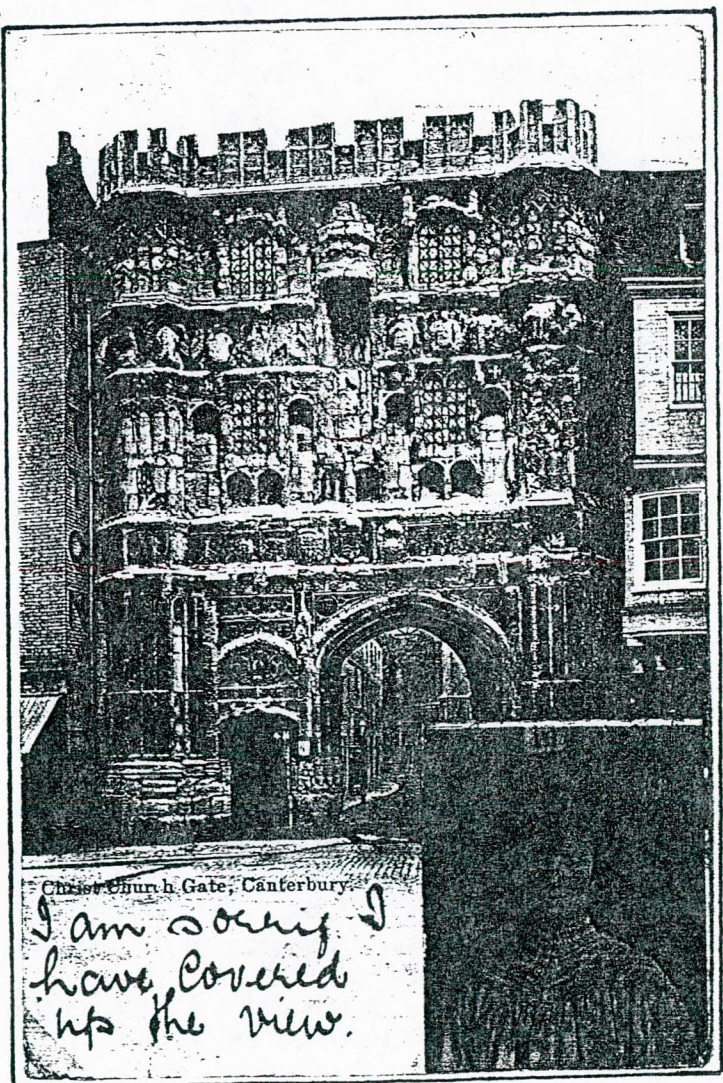
The Post office must have regulations to deal with the multitude of problems which are inevitable with any large organisation employing so many thousands handling the mails, all of whom must be able to correctly apply the regulations.

For the purpose of this article, it is fortunate the post clerks handling post cards in 1905 did not exercise any discretion; perhaps they had no option.

As can be seen, the offence was to affix a small photograph of the writer to the face of the view card, with a note of apology for covering up the view.

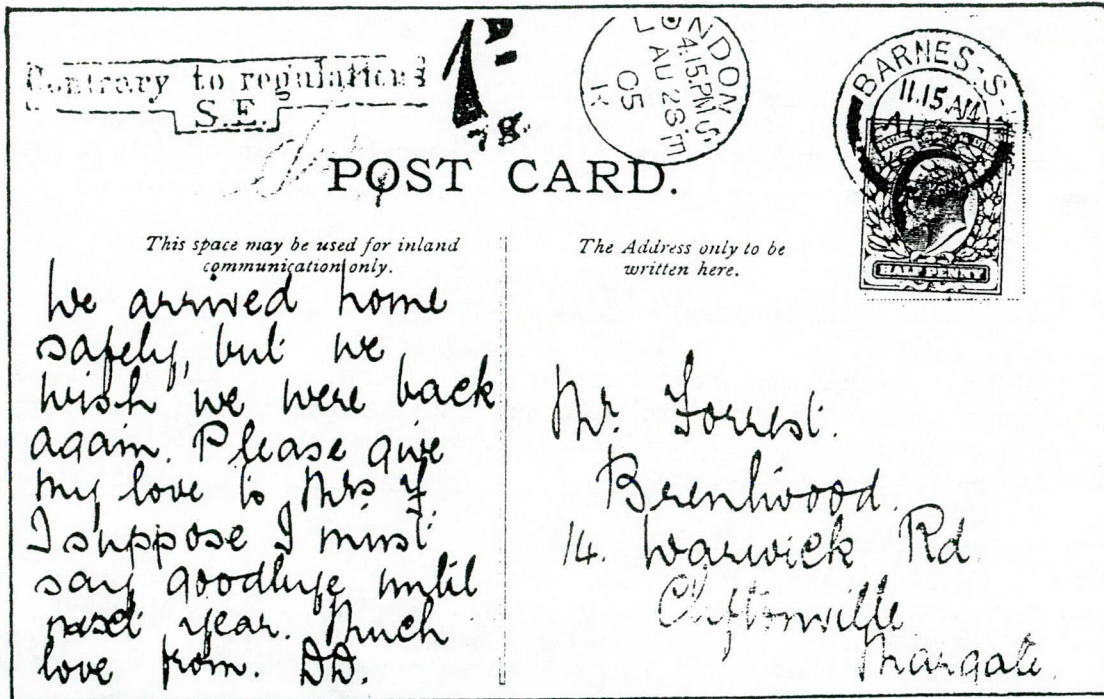
Outraged by this liberty, the post office in Southwark, a heartless group of men, unlike their colleagues in Barnes, applied their stamps with some vigour.

The London SE date stamp, with either a demented "K" or malstruck "R" in the base, to say nothing of the large dot in the first "O" of "LONDON" shows it was processed by the office but five hours after



CONTRARY TO REGULATIONS continued...

stamping in Barnes. The inverted step "Contrary to regulations / S.E." and the 1d charge mark of the SE Office being struck in black, duly initialed by the supervising officer to ensure the recipient would have some harsh words for the charmer [or possibly the Post office] when next meeting or writing to the young lady.



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HISTORICAL LETTERS TO GRATIOUS STREET
1570 - 1601

We are fortunate in having Robson Lowe still active in postal history, not the least his contribution to publishing material which otherwise might never be made available once dispersed through the market into various collections,

The Corsini correspondence has produced three separate parcels of material, the first two and second having been well illustrated and reported over a three year period in the pages of *The Philatelist & P.J.G.B.*. The third tranche has generated a finely printed, profusely illustrated and written up by *The Master* in a fortyfour page, soft bound volume published by *Christie's Robson Lowe*. The material originated from many

parts of Britain and Europe, including a number of items from London,.

This the story of the third part of the correspondence to the Corsini brothers who lived in Gracious Street [now Gracechurch Street] in the City. To the historian, this is the most interesting section with a copy of a letter from Queen Elizabeth, several from her Secretary of State, Sir Francis Walsyngham, passports for a ship signed by the Lord High Admiral, Howard of Effingham and letters signed by other admirals who served in the battle against the Spanish Armada. A host of other Elizabethan courtiers, merchants and civic dignitaries add to the picture,

The introduction gives the background to the Corsini family and is followed by a chapter on the letters written in *London*, with one in 1585 written by the Lord Mayor, Sir Wolstan Dixie. A letter from Bridewell Prison asks for financial help. Among the documents are a number of bills of lading including one for cargo carried on the famous ship, *The Mayflower*, which took part in the battle against the Armada, and in 1620 took the pilgrims from Plymouth to Massachusetts. Then follow letters from the Court at Otlands, Greenwich, St. Jaymes and Windsor, one being from the Lord Chancellor, Sir Christopher Hatton,

There are many letters from the West Country, one from Tewkesbury in 1587 is marked "the messenger is payde". A 1590 letter from Barnstable had the ship letter charge, 4d and the same rate comes on three letters from Exeter, from which town there are two letters with the 6d courier rate. Plymouth letters show 4d, 6d and 12d rates and Rye "six denares sterling". Postage from Dover was 4d or a groat and from Tilbury came the charming introduction "pay the bringer iid".

Scotland provided three letters, one from Gincarnaline [Kincardine] with "porte 2s", the Scots scheling equalling 2d. The Irish letters were written from Dublin, Cork and Waterford,

France provided a wide selection of rates charged by the French post, the Merchant Strangers Post and the private couriers. The Lowlands and the Netherlands Provinces provided nineteen different rates of the Merchant Strangers Post and a 4d of the Merchant Adventurers Post. From Germany came letters with the guild signs of the Merchants and those from Staden were carried part was by the Merchant Adventurers Post to Middleburg and then brought to London by the Merchant Strangers Post,

There are letters from Danzig, Sweden, Algeria [from an enslaved prisoner] and Majorca with postal rates,

The contents of many of the letters make fascinating reading. It gave the Editor much pleasure to range through the social, political and postal history provided by the writers during the last decades of the sixteenth century and he can warmly recommend the work at £5.50 from 39 Poole Hill, Bournemouth, BH2 5PX for the bookshelf of L.P.H.G. members.

.....

FOR SALE.....Antique map dated 1808.....MAP OF THE COUNTRY SURROUNDING LONDON TO THE EXTENT OF THIRTY MILES.....overall size 19" x 16" with the actual map size 16" x 14"....shows the Country Boundary of the Two Penny Post.

Condition quite good - everything clearly legible, cost £35 in a Brighton map shop.....What about £25 ? Apply J. Beveridge c/o Packet Secretary
Brian Smith, Clwyd House, 54 Broad Lane, Wilmington, Dartford DA2 7AG

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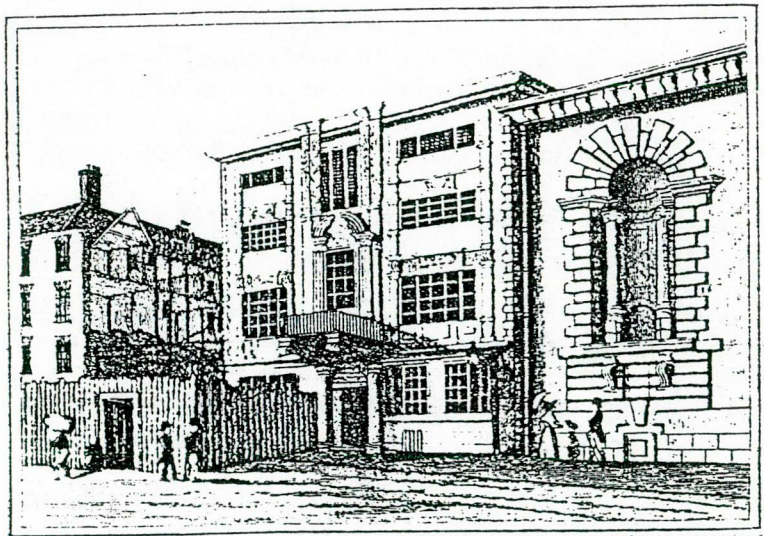
THE OLD HOME OF THE POST OFFICE

by A. M. Ogilvie

Taken from the pages of a postal magazine of 1890-91 supplied by Post Office Records, the article covers far more than just the local post of London and, as the writer concludes, there is more to tell. Never-the-less, there is much here to interest collectors of London material and many of the remarks are unlikely to appear in other journals.

.....

Until the close of Elizabeth's reign, the system of posts in this country was hardly used for any other purposes than the conveyance of Government despatches. The Master of the Posts was a Court Official and, although in exceptional cases, private letters were forwarded by post, there was no need for a Public Office in London. At the end of the sixteenth century, a new branch of business was undertaken, namely, a foreign post, which was largely used by the foreign merchants of London, and was mainly intended for that purpose, so as to give the Government a supervision and control over the extensive correspondence between this country and the Continent, for the conveyance of which special private posts had been organised earlier in the reign. Under these circumstances a Post Office became necessary in the City of London and, according to Stow's Survey, it was first established in Cloak Lane, near Dowgate Hill which, as probably many of our readers know, is this hill on which stands Cannon Street Railway Station and the site of the first Roman military town, the germ of London City. Of this Post Office, so far as I am aware, nothing is known but the fact of its existence.



From Dowgate Hill the office was removed some time in the first half of the seventeenth century to the sign of the Black Swan in Bishopsgate Street, where it was situated until the great fire of 1666 forced it to seek another home and a temporary office was opened in the neighbourhood of Covent Garden. But a permanent settlement so far from the centre of business was out of the question and, as soon as the City was rebuilt, the Post Office was brought back and settled in a house in Lombard Street, the nucleus of an office which remained in use as the General Post Office for nearly 150 years. It was somewhere

The Old Home of the Post Office, continued...

between 1670 and 1680 that the Lombard Street Office was established and it remained the centre of Post office business until the present General Post Office East, was opened in 1828. In the present paper I design to piece together a few bits of gossip about this old home of the Post Office, but in doing so one cannot escape a feeling, half of wonder and half of shame, that no worthier records should remain of the office where possibly Milton and certainly Dryden posted their letters and which yet survived to be the scene of Sir John Tilley's youthful labours.

The house chosen in Lombard Street is shown in the illustration which forms the frontispiece of this number and was rented, not bought, either from Sir Robert Viner, or from his son Mr. Thomas Viner. The accounts of incidental payments since 1688, which have been preserved in the archives of the Post Office, regularly contain entries of the payment of rent to members of the Viner family until late in the eighteenth century. The picture is taken from a reproduction, made about 1820, of an engraving of 1793, and shows the house, standing next to the Church of St. Mary Woolnoth, as it then existed, and probably not very unlike its appearance when first built in 1660. It was then the house of Sir Robert Viner, who in that year happened to be Lord Mayor of London. Sir Robert seems not to have continued to live in it and owes his fame chiefly to a story told by Steele in No. 462 of the *Spectator*, an illustration of the easy good nature of Charles the Second. "He delighted," says Steele, "though a mighty king, to give and take a jest, as they say. . . He more than once dined with his good citizens of London on their Lord Mayor's day and did so the year that Sir Robert Viner was Lord Mayor. Sir Robert was a very loyal man and, if you will allow the expression, very fond of his sovereign; but what with the joy he felt at heart for the honour done him by his prince and through the warmth he was in with continual toasting healths to the Royal Family, his lordship grew a little fond of his Majesty and entered into a familiarity not altogether too graceful in so public a place. The king understood very well how to extricate himself in all kinds of difficulties and, with a hint to the company to avoid ceremony, stole off and made towards his coach; but the Mayor liked his company, and was grown so intimate, that he pursued him hastily and catching him fast by the hand, cried out with a vehement oath and accent, *Sir, you shall stay and take t'other bottle*. The easy monarch looked kindly at him over his shoulder and with a smile and graceful air (for I saw him at the time and do now) repeated this line of the old song -

He that's drunk is as great as a king,

and immediately turned back and complied with his landlord."

The memory of that festive evening seems to have dwelt in the memory of the good Sir Robert, for in 1675 he erected near his house and on the site of the present Mansion House a statue of Charles the Second. On his travels in Italy he had bought a bargain at Leghorn in the shape of a statue of John Sobieski trampling on the Turk, which had been left on the sculptor's hands. a few small alterations converted Sobieski into Charles the Second and the Turk (still with a turban on his head) into Oliver Cromwell. The statue was put up in 1675. The site was then an open space known as the Stocks Market,

The Old Home of the Post Office, continued....

which received its name from a pair of stocks erected near it as early as 1281. (This is disputed by several modern authorities. Ed) The Mansion House was built on the same site in 1738 and Sir Robert's statue was then removed and lay as lumber in an inn yard, until in 1779 it was handed over to one of his descendants.

At its first establishment the New Post Office was very well accommodated and the building seems to have been an object of admiration. I am not aware, however, of any picture of the building or of the work done there than one of the date of about 1730, a copy of which used to hang in the Post Office Library at St. Martin's-le-Grand. It is a copperplate engraving, or rather etching, showing the Court Yard, as seen by a person entering from Lombard Street. Probably the street front was very much like in its arrangement that shown in the accompanying picture. The doorway in the centre appears to have been a public passage leading to a courtyard, round which the house ran. This passage is, I believe, now represented by the passage in which is the entrance to the present Lombard Street Branch Office. Along one side of the courtyard ran a gallery built above the ground floor rooms; and at the further end are seen two small windows occupied by two "Windowmen and Alphabet Keepers". Their ordinary duty was to distribute letters to callers. The alphabet keeping was, so far as I can make out, the indexing of official correspondence. It is difficult to see, however, why the two functions should have been united; possibly the "Alphabets" in these cases may have been merely indexes, giving the names of persons for whom letters had been received. There seems indeed no doubt that in the case of the Officers who were also "window men", the "Alphabet" was the lettered set of pigeon holes in which callers' letters were arranged. The term in this sense is known to have been familiarly used by some Senior Officers within the last ten years but I still think the term "Alphabet" was also used sometimes to mean an index. All through the eighteenth century it appears to have been to a great extent the custom for country and foreign letters to be fetched from the General Post Office. The other windows of the rooms overlooking the court were lofty and much in the same style as those of the newer parts of Hampton Court and Kensington Palaces, built about the same time, and exhibit an architecture in which is seen the descent from the ornate Renaissance style to the sombre squareness of red and brown bricks which prevailed in the reign of good Queen Anne and later.

It is difficult to recall in imagination the General Post Office of those days. There must have been a stateliness about all its proceedings which is very much missing now. Instead of huge bodies of clerks organised into branches, the administrative staff consisted of a Board composed of the two individuals, who together exercised the office of the Postmaster-General. There were never two Postmasters-General, although the office was a dual one. In the early part of the 18th. century the office was non-political and there can be no doubt its holders took a very large share in the actual work of the office, one attending chiefly to the inland branch of the business and the other to the foreign packet service. They appear to have met daily with the other members of the Board, the Receiver-General, the Accountant-General, the Controller of the Inland Office and the Controller of the Foreign Office. There was not, then, until the middle of the 18th. century, any Secretary of the Post Office but only

The Old Home of the Post Office, continued...

a Secretary to the Postmaster-General. The method of doing business appears to have been for the responsible officer to submit verbally to the Board the information contained in the letters of his subordinates. A decision was then arrived at and communicated in a letter to the officers charged with its execution. The correspondence appears to have been personal to the officers concerned and probably no papers or records were preserved except a hand copy in a letter book of the letter conveying the decision. The system of keeping and recording papers now practised was not initiated until about 1790 by the then Secretary Mr. (afterwards Sir Francis) Freeling.

At the beginning of the last century the Postmasters-General lived, or were entitled to live, at the general Post Office, also had free coals, candles and tin ware. Probably when the office became a political one, held always by noblemen, this system ceased. For the same reason their Secretary became gradually the chief administrative officer and succeeded them in the official residence. This system lasted on into the present century and even when the General Post Office East was opened in 1828 it included a residence for the Secretary, situated in the front corner near Cheapside. Besides the Secretary, the Clerks in the Foreign Office were lodged in the General Post Office in order that they might be ready to deal with foreign mails at whatever hour of the day or night they might arrive.

In 1702 the staff of the office consisted of the following officers, with the salaries mentioned ; A Receiver-General, Mr. Stephen Lilly, £150; and Accountant-General, Mr. George Searle, £200; a "Comptroller" of the Inland Office, Mr. Isaac Manley, £200; six Clerks of the Roads and six Assistants, one Clerk of the Chester Road receiving £100 and the others £60 or £50; Mr. Underhill Breese was Windowman and Alphabet Keeper at £60, another Windowman received £50; ten Sorters had £50 or £40 each; Mr. Benjamin Waterhouse, Secretary to the Postmaster-general, had £100 a year; and the Postmaster-General's "Clerke", Mr. Christopher Smelt, £60. There were also the Receiver's Clerk and the Accountant's Clerk with £50 each; "The Comptrowler of the Fooreigne Office", Mr. Ashburnham Frowde, £150; Mr. James Lawrence, his Alphabet Keeper, £100 and seven other Foreign Officers with £50 each. There were thirteen Letter receivers at Gray's Inn, Temple Bar, Westminster, St. James's, Covent Garden, East Smithfield, Ratcliffe Cross, Wapping, Strand, "Houlborn", Bloomsbury Market, Sherard's Street and the Fleet Ditch, who had salaries varying from £27 to £5. There was a "Mail-maker", i.e. a maker of leather bags for letters, who received £100 under a contract. Mrs. Francis Sheene, the house keeper, had £20. Three "Letter Bringers" from Westminster, "Pell Mell" and Gray's Inn received £16, £12 and £9 respectively and there were eight Foreign and 67 Inland Letter Carriers at 11s. a week, four Porters at 10s. a week and one Doorkeeper to the Postmaster-General, at 10s. a week. The whole establishment cost £5,437 a year, the expenditure of which was authorised by the Lord High Treasurer, Lord Godolphin, "to my very looeing (sic) freinds Sr. Robert Colton, Knt., and Sr. Tho. Frankland, Bart., her Ma. Postmaster-General".

The accounts of incidental expenditure of which records have been preserved illustrate a few curious points in the life of the office. In 1702 Mr. Isaac Manley received two amounts of £30 each, as the year's allowance for beer for Clerks and Sorters; once a year at

The Old Home of the Post Office, continued...

least £20 was allowed for "a feast" for the resident staff. One such feast always took place on the Queen's (or King's) birthday and many of our readers will remember, a song, published some time ago, in *Blackfriars*, written by Mr. Peter Motteux, one of "the Fooreigne Officers" to be sung at one of those feasts by "Mercury attired as a Postboy". Mr. William Hester used to receive £1 a year for his work as ratcatcher and Mr. Michael Wilson, scavenger, £3 6s. a year for services which drainage now renders unnecessary. The tallow chandler's bill for Christmas quarter, 1702, was £158 and the stationer's for the same time only £41. Mr. Thomas Wells received 7s. "for discovering of carriers" and Mr. Richard Barnaby £1 a week "being employed aboute lookeing after carriers", which shows that infringements of the letter monopoly were attracting a good deal of attention at the time. The carriage of money to the Exchequer and the purchase of "tallies" cost £63 in 1703 and Mr. Underwood Breese received £12 "for box money given to Post boys at Christmas, 1702".

[to be continued.....]

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MEMBERS' WANTS.....

KEW 1790 - 1850...anything from Kew between 1790 and 1850. Even if you would rather not dispose of the actual item, do at least let me have a photocopy with dates for my study of Kew markings.

*Many thanks....Jim Elkins, Poplar Avenue Cottage,
Windlesham, Surrey, GU20 6PN*

CARSHALTON...and the places nearby, including Beddington, Wallington, Sutton and Cheam for a number of members living in the area. In the first place any material for disposal or a note of something you may have for the records to :

*D. G. Franks,
107a Grosvenor Avenue,
Carshalton, Surrey,*

Many members seemingly missed the programme when it was published previously and the balance of the year is repeated below :

September 16th. Annual General Meeting followed by what the last AGM suggested, a "Bring and Buy", so root out all those bits and bobs you have not the time to put into the packet or the auction, pop on a price and see what happens.

November 18th. Postal Ephemera: we all must have material which relates to postal history without being mail. Posters, leaflets, weighing machines and, for the strong, post boxes! There must be so much of interest to many which each of us has.

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