

# NOTEBOOK

Number 159 October, 2002

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## THE LONDON CATALOGUE

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EDITORIAL.....

We have just been reading the editorial of 'The Journal of the Somerset and Dorset Postal History Group', Volume 5, No. 10. Due to illness of the previous Editor, Bill Pipe stepped into the breach and reminded readers in the previous edition, 'this edition would be a Dorset edition unless Somerset articles were forthcoming in sufficient quantity. I am pleased to say that the "usual suspects" in the Somerset camp came through with a few articles and that yours truly provided a few Dorset items to "fill the gaps".'

To any Editor this has an all too familiar ring: with the publication of this section of the draft London Catalogue the remarks are most appropriate. The L.P.H.G. "usual suspects" produce items for the 'Feldman Update' but there has been little reaction to the previously published material for the London Catalogue, which is unfortunate since it means that when we go to final with the final version, it will lack your input.

No matter how slight your think your contribution might be, rest assured it is not. There are still postal markings to be discovered, colours unlisted, dates to be extended to close the gap between one series of marks and the next.

Do not be content to write up an item with 'Not recorded by Jay'

.....

## THE 1794 REFORMS OF THE LONDON PENNY POST

In 1788, Edward Johnson, a former Letter Carrier, was sent by John Palmer to make a Survey of the Penny Post. Johnson reported to the Postmasters General in July 1792, and they wrote to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury in September 1792 supporting most of Johnson's suggestions. These suggestions were finally put into effect in May 1794. The necessity for the reform of the London Penny Post can be realised from the first paragraph of the letter from the Postmasters General to the Treasury:

*'My Lords,*

*Of all the improvements that have at any time been wanting in the Post Office, a description of the inconveniences of the present Penny Post, would lead to an immense detail and is unnecessary, they are pointed out in Mr. Palmer's letter to the Commissioners dated May 2nd, 1783. They are shown by the enclosed Appendix F, stating the amount of that Revenue for twenty years back, which will prove that, notwithstanding the increased extent, wealth, population and trade of the Capital, though every branch of the Revenue is increased, this has borne no proportion to the rest.'*

The recommendations of the Postmasters General, based on Johnson's proposals, included:

1. The reduction in the number of Chief Offices from five to two.
2. Making the collections and deliveries, as well as the times at which they take place, the same.
3. Reducing the Walks in length, and each walk to have one Letter Carrier and an assistant, who will perform the duties alternately.
4. Instead of the Country Letter Carriers coming to Town to fetch the letters, the letters will be sent to them.
5. There will be six deliveries a day in Town, and three a day in the Country, two by the Penny Post and a third by the Mail Coaches. There will be two from the Country to the Town.
6. There will be seven Rides: to Woodford, Edmonton, Finchley, Brentford, Mitcham, Mortlake and Woolwich, each Ride (except Mortlake) to be about 18 to 20 miles.
7. The second penny paid at present to Country Letter Carriers for all Penny Post letters delivered beyond the general delivery, to go in future to the Revenue.
8. Penny Post letters from Country to Town to be charged twopence, the same as is charged on letters to the Country.
9. The Public given the option of paying the postage or not as they please, when the letter is put into the Post.

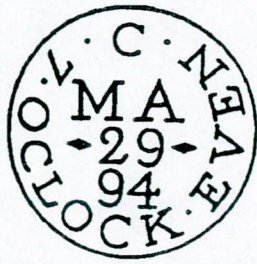
Further details of the 1794 reforms, including copies of the letters from Edward Johnson to the Postmasters General, and the letter from them to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, can be found in the 'Postal History Society Bulletin,' Nos 88-91, 1957. A more detailed account of the reforms will be found in *England's Postal History* by R M Willcocks.

The period from May to December 1794 was an intriguing one from the point of view of the handstamps used, and it would appear that many of the handstamps, particularly those on Paid letters, were experimental in nature.

Details of the reorganised Penny Post appeared in the newspapers in March and the new Penny Post started in May 1794.

## The Experimental Period

### Date Stamps

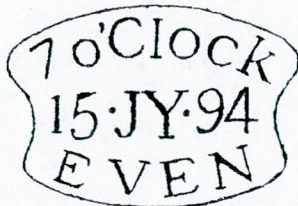


400



400a

Cat No	Description	known	Size	Colour	Dates	Rarity
L 400	Chief Office (CO)	May 6-May 29	32	Black	1794	J
400a	Westminster Office (WO)	May 14-May 31	31	Black	1794	J



402



404



404a

402	CO and WO	June & July	37x26	Black	1794	F
404	CO, month before day	August to November	34x25	Black	1794	D
404a	WO, day before month	August to December	34x25	Black	1794	D

The above datestamps are known with the following times:

8 o'Clock MORN      10 o'Clock MORN      12 o'Clock NOON      2 o'Clock AFN  
 4 o'Clock EVEN      7 o'Clock EVEN

### Paid Stamps



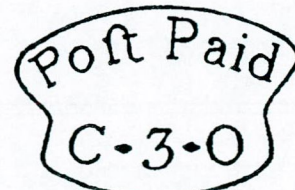
406



408



408a

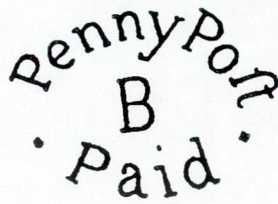


408b

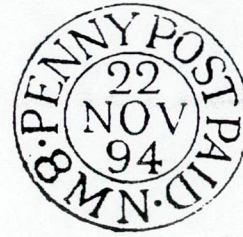
406	WO	May to October (frequently poor strikes)	25x23	Red & Purple	1794	G
408	CO	June to September	38x27	Black & Red	1794	J
408a	CO	June	38x27	Black	1794	J
408b	CO	August	38x27	Red	1794	J



410



412



414

410	CO	June to October	31	Purple & Black	1794	J
412	CO & WO	October to December	31x22	Purple	1794	J
B, G, M & N in centre (the significance of these letters is not known)						
412a	L412, M in centre, but			Black	1794	J
414	?CO only	21, 22, 28 NOV	32	Red	1794	J
414a	L414, but blank plugs in year and part of time, 21 NOV		32	Red	1794	K

### Receiving House Stamps

The following series of handstamps was introduced in 1794 but continued in some instances for several years. It is now believed that the number in these handstamps refers to the Receiving House in the specified area (see *Postal History*, No 277, pp14-15, March 1996).



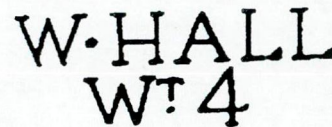
418

419

420



420d



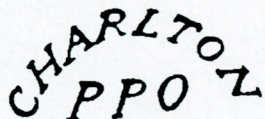
421

418	Receiving House/1		various	Black	1794-01	F
418a	as L418, but		various	Red	1795-97	G
419	Receiving House/2		various	Black	1794-98	F
419a	as L419, but			Red	1794-96	G
419b	Receiving House 2	(handstamp in one line)	various	Black	1797-98	G
420	Receiving House/3		various	Black	1794-00	F
420a	as L420, but			Red	1794-98	G
420b	Receiving House 3	(handstamp in one line)	various	Black	1794-95	G
420c	as L420b, but			Red	1798	G
420d	DEW/BLACKMOOR S <sup>T</sup> 3		65x17	Black	1795-96	H
421	W-HALL/W <sup>T</sup> 4		45x18	Black	1795	H

The various Receiving Houses from which these handstamps are known are listed in Appendix 5 of Hugh Feldman's *Letter Receivers of London, 1652 to 1857* (Postal History Society, 1998).

One or two Receivers, who were previously with the Government Penny Post, continued for a few years to use the handstamp with his surname (L375). Martin, a Chelsea Receiver, is one which is occasionally seen.

At least two (presumably) Penny Post Receiving Houses had unusual handstamps, different from those listed above.

A handstamp consisting of the word "CHARLTON" in an upward-curving arc above the letters "PPO" in a straight line.

424



426

424	CHARLTON/PPO	35x15	Black	1795	H
426	WOODFORD BRIDGE/PPO	21	Black	1799	H

# THE REORGANISED LONDON PENNY POST 1794-1801

The experimental (1794) handstamps of the reorganised London Penny Post can be found at L400-L426.

## Date Stamps of the Chief Office (month before day)



430



431



432

Cat No	Description	Size	Colour	Dates	Rarity
L 430	Dec 1 1794 – Dec 31 1795	35x26	Red	1794-95	B
430a	as L430, but year twice – FE 18 95/95	35x26	Red	1795	D
431	Jan 1 1796 – Dec 31 1799	36x26	Red	1796-99	B
431a	as L431, but month & day inverted – MR 18	36x26	Red	1797	C
431b	as L431, but year twice – FE 21 97/97 EVEN	36x26	Red	1797	D

The above date stamps are known with the following times:

8 o'Clock MORN	10 o'Clock F.NOON	12 o'Clock NOON	2 o'Clock Af.Noon
4 o'Clock EVEN	7 o'Clock EVEN	7 o'Clock NIGHT	

432	Jan 1 1800 – April 4 1801*	36x25	Red	1800-01	C
432a	as L432, but on letters posted in the London General Post for delivery in London and transferred to the Twopenny Post, and on returned and redirected letters		Black	1800-01	D

\*For L432 used from April 5 1801 to December 31 1822 see L455

The above date stamps are known with the following times:

8 o'Clock M <sup>n</sup>	10 o'Clock F.N <sup>n</sup>	12 o'Clock N <sup>n</sup>	2 o'Clock A.N <sup>n</sup>
4 o'Clock EV	7 o'Clock N <sup>t</sup>		

## Date Stamps of the Westminster Office (day before month)



434



435

434	1 Jan 1795 – 31 Dec 1799	33x25	Red	1795-99	B	
434a	as L434, but black	8 Jan – 12 Feb 1795	33x25	Black	1795	D
434b	as L434, but year twice	18 FE 95/95 EVEN, 4 JY 98/98 F.NOON	33x25	Red	1795-99	C
		29 MR 99/99 F.NOON				

The above date stamps are known with the following times:

8 o'Clock MORN	10 o'Clock F-NOON	12 o'Clock ?	2 o'Clock Af-Noon
4 o'Clock AFN	7 o'Clock EVEN	7 o'Clock NIGHT	

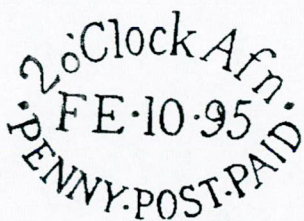
435	1 Jan 1800 – 4 April 1801*	32x25	Red	1800-01	C
435a	as L435, on returned letters, but		Black	1800-01	D

\*For L435 used between 5 April 1801 and 31 December 1822, see L463

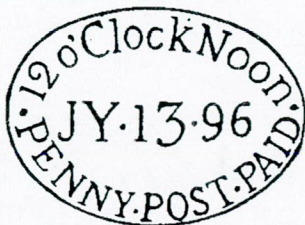
The above date stamps are known with the following times:

8 o'Clock M <sup>n</sup>	10 o'Clock FN <sup>n</sup>	12 o'Clock ?	2 o'Clock A-N <sup>n</sup>
4 o'Clock EV	7 o'Clock N <sup>T</sup>		

### Paid Stamps of the London Penny Post – Chief Office



438



439



440

438	Dec 1794 – 1796	41x30	Red	1794-96	C
438a	as L438, but no date in centre (FE 18)	41x30	Red	1795	E
439	as L438, but on oval frame	41x31	Red	1796-99	B
440	as L439, but year in 4 figures and under date	41x31	Red	1800-01*	C

\*L440 should have ceased to have been used on 3 April 1801; it is occasionally found up to September 1801

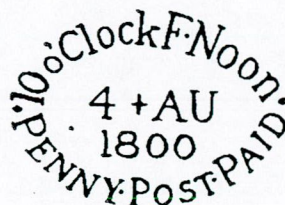
The above Paid stamps are known with the following times:

8 o'Clock Morn	10 o'Clock FNoon	12 o'Clock Noon	2 o'Clock ?
4 o'Clock Even	7 o'Clock Night		

### Paid stamps of the London Penny Post – Westminster Office



443



444

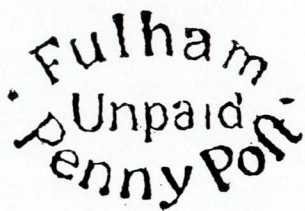
443	December 1794 – January 1795	40x29	Mauve	1794-95	E
443a	as L443, but		Red	1795-99	B
443b	as L443, but month in numerals 13 11 99	40x29	Red	1799	D
444	as L443, but year in 4 figures and under date	38x28	Red	1800-01	C
444a	as L444, but no year – 15 + SP (1800)	38x28	Red	1800	D

The above Paid stamps are known with the following times:

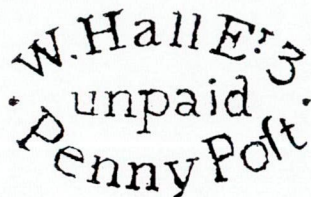
8 o'Clock Morn	10 o'Clock Morn	10 o'Clock FNoon	12 o'Clock Noon	2 o'Clock Af-Noon
4 o'Clock Afn	4 o'Clock Even	7 o'Clock Even	7 o'Clock Night	

### London Penny Post Receiving House Stamps

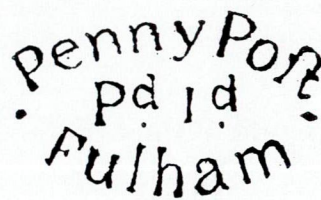
For early Receiving House stamps of the London Penny Post see L418-421.



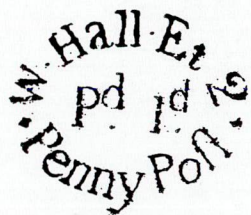
447



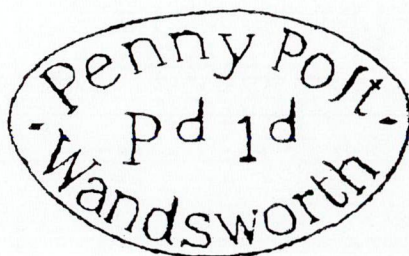
448



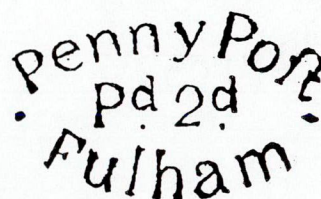
449



449c



449e



450

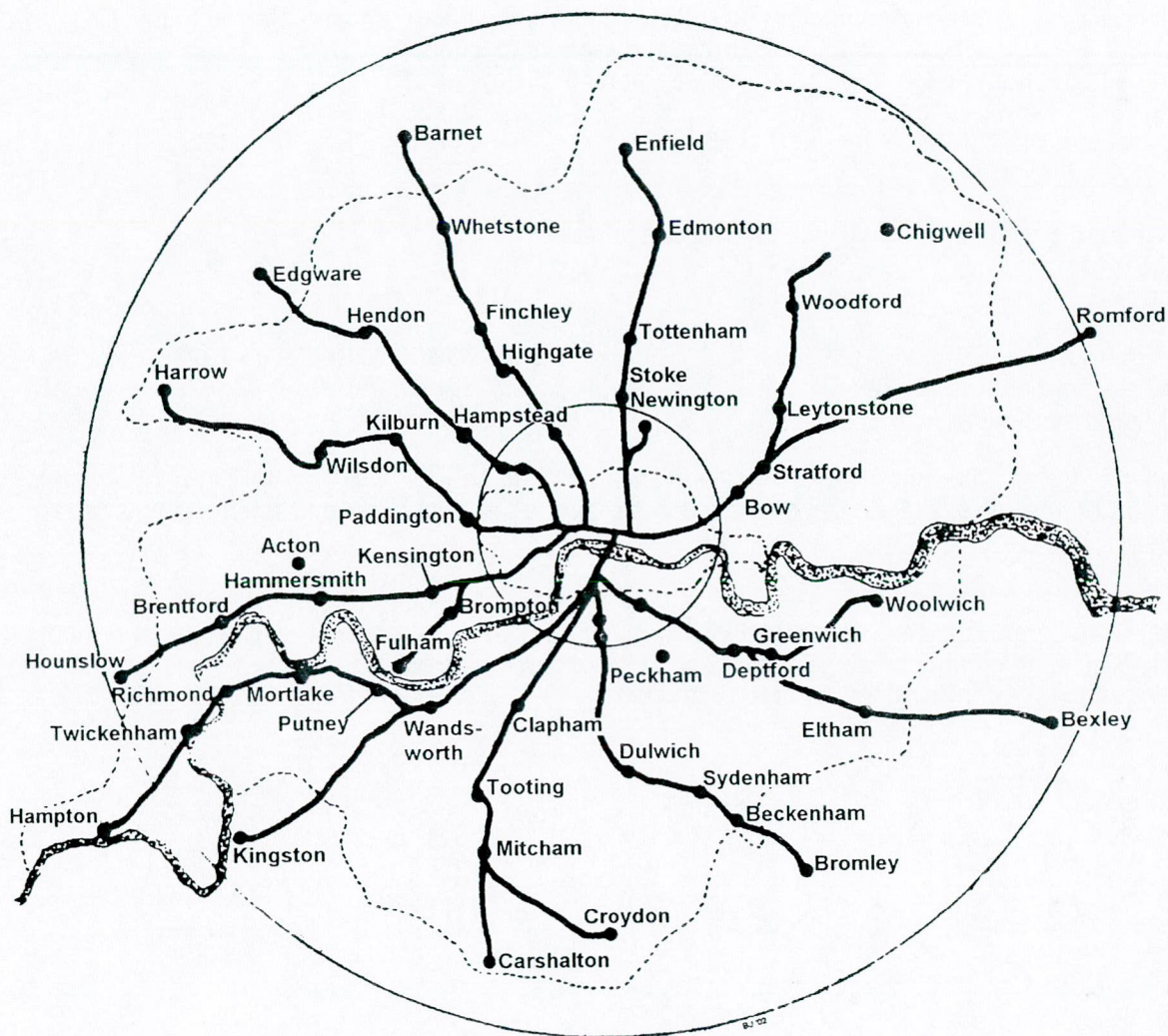
447	Capital 'U' in 'Unpaid'	various	Black	1795-07	C
447a	as L447, but		Red	1796-01	D
447b	as L447, but		Blue	1800	E
448	Lower case 'u' in 'unpaid'	various	Black	1795-29	C
448a	as L448, but		Red	1795-01	D
448b	as L448, but		Blue	1798	E
448c	Penny Post/unpaid/Blackwall		Black	1795	E
449	Penny Post/P <sup>d</sup> 1 <sup>d</sup> /Receiving House	various	Black	1795-01	C
449a	as L449, but		Red	1795-01	D
449b	as L449, but		Green	1798	E
449bi	as L449, but		Blue	1800	E
449bii	as L449, but		Mauve	1795	E
449c	W. Hall Et 2/ P <sup>d</sup> 1 <sup>d</sup> /Penny Post	31x27	Black	1795-96	E
449d	as L449, but value in manuscript	various	Black	1794-99	E
449e	Clapham Com, Ealing Town, Eltham (not all), Ham, Loughton (no value), Shooters Hill Wandsworth – in oval frame	43x28	Red	1799	F
450	Penny Post/P <sup>d</sup> 2 <sup>d</sup> /Receiving House	various	Black	1795-03	E
450a	as L450, but		Red	1795-03	F
450b	as L450, but		Blue	1800-01	F

The various Receiving Houses from which these handstamps are known are listed in Appendix 5 of Hugh Feldman's *Letter Receivers of London, 1652 to 1857* (Postal History Society, 1998).



## THE LONDON TWOPENNY POST 1801-1839

For 120 years local letters had been passing between places within the Town area of the London post for 1d, although an additional 1d was charged on delivery in the Country area, this additional 1d going to the Letter Carrier prior to the 1794 reorganisation, and to the Revenue subsequently. The charge for all letters carried by the London post was raised to 2d in April 1801, as a result of inflation largely brought about by the War with France, and without any change in organisation. The charge for letters between Town and Country areas was further raised to 3d in 1805.



The Town area of the London Twopenny Post is shown on this map (published in 1837) by the inner broken line prior to 1831, and by the inner continuous line from that date (The inner continuous line is 3 miles from the GPO). The outer limit of the Country area is indicated by the outer broken line prior to November 1833, and by the outer continuous line from that date (The outer continuous line is twelve and a third miles from the GPO). Note that Hampton and Romford, although outside the twelve and a third mile line, were within the London Country area.

In all the following date and paid stamps up to July 1834, the date in the stamps of the Chief Office had the month before the day, while those of the Westminster Office had the day before the month.

**Date Stamps of the Chief Office (month before day)**



455



456



456a



457

L 455	April 5 1801 – Dec 31 1822	36x25	Red	1801-22	A
455a	as L455, but		Black	1801-22	B
	on letters posted in the London General Post for delivery in London and transferred to the TP, and on returned and redirected letters				
455b	as L455, but cross instead of dot between month & day, SPx13				
		36x25	Red	1816	C
455c	second 'N' of 'A.N.N' reversed, AU 26	36x25	Red	1822	C
455d	OC 12 inverted	36x25	Red	1803	C

The above date stamps are known with the following times:

8 o'Clock M<sup>n</sup>                      10 o'Clock F.N<sup>N</sup>                      12 o'Clock N<sup>n</sup>                      2 o'Clock A.N<sup>n</sup>, A.N<sup>N</sup>  
 4 o'Clock EV                      7 o'Clock N<sup>T</sup>

456	Jan 1 1823 – Dec 31 1823	33x25	Red	1823	B
456a	reversed hour (2, 4, 7)	33x25	Red	1823	D
456b	large second '7'	36x25	Red	1823	D

In L456a the figure after the time of day indicating the hour was wrongly cut. In the various handstamps of 1823 this and similar errors, such as inverted and inverted and reversed figures, are found.

457	Jan 1 1824 – Dec 31 1833	various	Red	1824-33	A
The size of L457 varies: 1824-25 36x25, 1826 34x28, 1828 35x24, 1829 35x24. Other measurements occur. (L457a in the original catalogue has been absorbed in the above.)					
457b	as L457, but on reversed and redirected letters	various	Black	1826-32	B



458



459



459d



460

458	Jan 1 1834 – Dec 31 1835	32x21	Red	1834-35	B
458a	as L458, but on returned and redirected letters	32x21	Black	1834	C

The above date stamps (L456-458) are known with the following times:

8 MORN                      10 F.NOON                      12 NOON                      2 A.NOON                      4 EVEN                      7 NIGHT

459	Jan 1 1836 – 1843	20x17	Red	1836-43	A
459a	as L459, but on returned letters		Black	1836-43	B
459b	DC for DE (DC 12 1839)	20x17	Red	1839	B
459c	year omitted (MR 25)	20x17	Red	1836	B
459d	top and bottom lines transposed (8Mg)	20x17	Red	1838-43	A
460	as L459d, but letter in lower frame	23x27	Black & Red	1843-58	A

The above date stamps (L459-460) are known with the following times:

8 M<sup>g</sup> 10 F<sup>N</sup>, F<sup>n</sup> 12 N<sup>N</sup>, N<sup>n</sup> 2 A<sup>N</sup>, A<sup>n</sup> 4 E<sup>g</sup> 6E<sup>V</sup> 7 N<sup>T</sup>, N<sup>t</sup> 8 N<sup>T</sup>, N<sup>t</sup>

7 NT ceased to be used at about the end of November 1837 and was replaced by 6 EV and 8 NT.

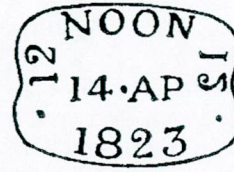
### Date Stamps of the Westminster Office (day before month)



463



464



464a



465



466

463	5 April 1801 – 31 Dec 1822	32x25	Red	1801-22	A
463a	as L463, but on returned letters		Black	1807-22	B

The above date stamp is known with the following times:

8 o'Clock M<sup>n</sup> 10 o'Clock F·N<sup>n</sup> 12 o'Clock N<sup>n</sup> 2 o'Clock A·N<sup>N</sup>  
 2 o'Clock A·N<sup>n</sup> 4 o'Clock E<sup>V</sup> 7 o'Clock N<sup>T</sup>

464	1 January 1823 – 31 December 1823	31x23	Red	1823	B
464a	as L464, but reversed hours (12, 2, 4, 7)		Red	1823	D
464b	as L464, but inverted day & month (20 FE) (see note after L456a)	31x23	Red	1823	D
465	1 January 1824 – 1827	32x24	Red	1824-27	A
465a	as L465, on returned letters, but		Black	1824-27	B
465b	as L465, but smaller. 1827 – 31 December 1833	31x20	Red	1827-33	A
465c	as L465b, on returned letters, but		Black	1827-33	B
466	dots on each side of year	31x20	Red	1834	B

The above date stamps are known with the following times:

8 MORN 10 F·NOON 12 NOON 2 A·NOON 4 EVEN 7 NIGHT

The Westminster Office closed in July 1834.

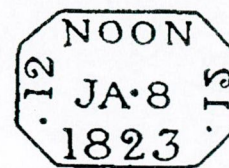
### Date Stamps on Letters transferred to the General Post



470



470a



471a

470	C.O. – month before day	35x25	Black	1817-22	B
470a	W.O. – day before month	35x25	Black	1817-22	B
470b	as L470a, but		Red	1819-21	B

The above date stamps are known with the following times:

8 o'Clock ?	10 o'Clock ?	12 o'Clock N <sup>n</sup>	2 o'Clock ?
4 o'Clock ?	7 o'Clock N <sup>t</sup>		

From 1823 three sizes of stamp were used at each of the main offices, L471-471d being used in the Chief Office and L472-472g in the Westminster Office.

471	C.O. – month before day	31x22	Black	1823, 1826	B
471a	as L471, but reversed hour	31x22	Black	1823	D
471b	C.O. – month before day	30x20	Black	1824-25	B
471c	C.O. – month before day	29x18	Black	1827-35	A
471d	as L471c, letters transferred from Town area to General Post, and other uses	29x18	Red	1831-35	B
472	W.O. – day before month	31x22	Black	1823-26	B
472a	as L472, but reversed hour	31x22	Black	1823	D
	(see note after L456a)				
472b	W.O. – day before month	30x20	Black	1824-25	B
472c	W.O. – day before month	29x18	Black	1827-34	B
472d	as L472c, ? use		Red	1827-33	C
472e	as L472c, but both '7's reversed	29x18	Black	1830	E
	6 Apr, 12 Apr, 8 Feb, 12 Feb, 22 June, 15 Oct				
472f	as L472e, 29 Oct, but		Red	1830	E
472g	as L472c, but letters transferred from Town area to General Post, and other uses	29x18	Red	1831-34	C

The above date stamps are known with the following times:

8 ?	10 ?	12 NOON	2 ?	4 ?	7 NIGHT
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473	C.O.	24x20	Black	1836-39	A
473a	as L473, but		Red	1840-42	A

the size of L473 varies

The above date stamp is known with the following times:

8	10	12 Nn	2	4	7NT, Nt	8NT
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474	as L473, but letter in lower frame	28x24	Red	1843-	A
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The above date stamp is known with the following times:

8 ?	10 ?	12 N <sup>N</sup>	2 ?	4 ?	8 ?
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### Paid Stamps of the London Twopenny Post – Chief Office



478



479



480



481

478	TWO.PENNY.P.PAID – single frame	40x32	Red	1801-18	B
478a	as L478, ? delayed, but		Black	1803	C

The above Paid stamps are known with the following times:

8 o'Clock Morn	10 o'Clock F-Noon	12 o'Clock Noon	2 o'Clock Af-noon
4 o'Clock ?	7 o'Clock Night		

480	T.P.PAID double frame	31x24	Red	1823-25	A
481	PAID double frame	32x21–32x24	Red	1823-35	A
481a	as L481, but single frame	30x20	Red	1835	A

The above Paid stamps are known with the following times:

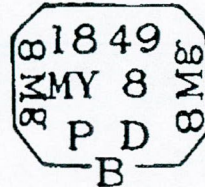
8 MORN	10 F-NOON	12 NOON	2 A-NOON	4 EVEN	7 NIGHT
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482



483



484

Chief Office  
PAID

485

482	PAID	24x17	Red	1836-37	A
483	PD	23x17	Red	1838-43	A

The above Paid stamps are known with the following times:

8 M <sup>G</sup> , M <sup>g</sup>	10 F <sup>N</sup> , F <sup>n</sup>	12 N <sup>N</sup> , N <sup>n</sup>	2 A <sup>N</sup> , A <sup>n</sup>	4 E <sup>g</sup>	6 E <sup>V</sup>	7 N <sup>T</sup> , N <sup>t</sup>	8 N <sup>T</sup> , N <sup>t</sup>
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484	letter in lower part frame July 1843–	25x23	Red	1843-	A
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The above Paid stamp is known with the following times:

8 ?	10 F <sup>N</sup>	12 N <sup>N</sup>	1 A <sup>N</sup>	2 A <sup>N</sup>	3 A <sup>N</sup>	6 E <sup>V</sup>	8 N <sup>T</sup>
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485	Chief Office/PAID – used for charges above 3d	38x13	Red	1841-44	H
486	as L478, but THREE PENNY P.PAID		Red	1807	J

### Paid Stamps of the London Twopenny Post – Westminster Office



490



491



492



492a



493

490	TWO.PENNY.P.PAID	unframed	37x30	Red	1801-18	B
491	TWO.PENNY.P.PAID	single frame	39x31	Red	1816-22	B

The above Paid stamps are known with the following times:

8 o'Clock Morn    10 o'Clock F-Noon    12 o'Clock Noon    2 o'Clock Af-noon  
 4 o'Clock Even    7 o'Clock Night

492	T.P-PAID		29x22	Red	1823-25	A
492a	with + on each side of T.P-PAID		29x22	Red	1825	B
493	PAID		29x18/29x22	Red	1826-34	A

The above Paid stamps are known with the following times:

8 MORN    10 F-NOON    12 NOON    2 A-NOON    4 EVEN    7 NIGHT

**London Twopenny Post Receiving House Stamps**

Lombard St.  
Two-py-Pt

498

TwoPyPost  
Unpaid  
Putney S.O.

499

Two-Penny  
POST  
Old Brentford.

500

Two-Penny  
Pt Paid  
Lothbury

501

498	Lombard S <sup>t</sup> /Two-py-P <sup>t</sup>	only known 10 April	44x18	Black	1801	H
499	TwoPenny/POST		various	Black	1801-18	C
499a	as L499, but			Red	1801-26	D
499b	as L499, but			Blue	1802-10	D
500	TwoPenny/P <sup>t</sup> Paid		45x26	Black	1801-16	E
500a	as L500, but			Red	1801-17	F
500b	as L500, but			Blue	1808	F
501	TwoPyPost/Unpaid		various	Black	1801-37	B
501a	as L501, but			Red	1802-30	C
501b	as L501, but			Blue	1802-19	D
501c	as L501, but			Magenta		D
501d	as L501, but			Green	1813-21	D
501e	as L501, but			Brown	1806	D

N-O Sloane St

502

Mill-Hill

503

T.P.  
St James's St

504

T.P  
Woolwich

505

Cary St  
1py P.Paid

506

Holloway Rd  
/py P.Paid

506e

Aldgate  
2py P.Paid

507

Queens Elm  
2py P.Paid

507d

Deptford Bge  
3py P.Paid

508

502 Receiving House, lower case, unframed 40x 5 Black 1819-20 D

L502 is only known from Sloane Street NO at this early date. A similar type of stamp was used from 1836 (L514).

503 Receiving House, lower case, framed various Black 1810-47 B  
503a as L503, but Red 1819-40 C  
503b as L503, but Blue 1819-52 D

L503 was only used in certain Receiving Houses of the Country Area north of the Thames, and in Kew and Tooting (south of the Thames).

504 TP framed various Black 1811-48 A  
504a as L504, but Red 1819-47 B  
504b as L504, but Blue 1820-42 B  
504c as L504, but Green 1823-41 B

505 TP unframed various Black 1835-57 A  
505a as L505, but Red 1836-48 A  
505b as L505, but Blue 1836-55 B  
505c as L505, but Green 1836-53 B  
505d as L505, but Mauve 1838-41 B  
505e as L505, but Brown 1841 B

506 1pyPPaid various Black 1808-47 A  
506a as L506, but Red 1808-48 A  
506b as L506, but Blue 1840-48 B  
506c as L506, but Green 1839-41 B  
506d as L506, but Mauve 1840-43 B  
506e '1' sloping - Holloway R<sup>d</sup> 45x16 Black 1840-42 C  
506f Lower line curved - Fenchurch St Black 1840 F

L 506 is rarely seen before December 1839 (rarity E), being found only on Soldiers' letters. The official regulations of the London Twopenny Post states:

### Soldiers and Sailors

Single letters From or To Soldiers and Sailors, under certain restrictions, pass throughout both this and the General Post, or either, for One Penny only, if paid at putting in.

507 2pyPPaid various Black 1802-47 B  
507a as L507, but Red 1803-46 B  
507b as L507, but Blue 1809-50 C  
507c as L507, but Green 1825-38 C  
507d Lower line curved - Queens Elm 46x19 Black 1822-36 F  
507e as L507, but Brown 1815 C

508	3pyPPaid	various	Black	1805-39	B
508a	as L508, but		Red	1807-38	C
508b	as L508, but		Blue	1828-40	D
508c	as L508, but		Green	1826-51	D
508d	Lower line curved – Albany Rd		?		F
508e	as L508, but		Mauve	1813	D

Hoxton  
1<sup>D</sup>·PAID

509

Earl S<sup>T</sup>.B.F.  
1<sup>D</sup>–PAID

510

Cable St  
2<sup>D</sup>·PAID

511

Cornhill  
3<sup>D</sup>·PAID

512

Hackney.S.O  
3<sup>D</sup> PAID

513

Devonshire St

514

509	1 <sup>D</sup> PAID	various	Black	1835-54	A
509a	as L509, but		Red	1839-53	A
509b	as L509, but		Blue	1838-54	A
509c	as L509, but		Green	1840-52	A
509d	'1' missing – Grays-Inn	37x15	Black	1840	D
509e	as L509d, but		Red	1840	C
509f	ISLINGTON SO – in capitals		Black	1844-48	C
509g	as L509, but		Mauve	1841-49	B
509h	as L509, but		Brown	1846-48	B
510	1 <sup>D</sup> –PAID	various	Black	1843-54	A
510a	as L510, but		Red	1843-52	A
510b	as L510, but		Blue	1846-57	A
510c	as L510, but		Green	1849-57	A
510d	as L510, but		Mauve	1847	B
511	2 <sup>D</sup> PAID	various	Black	1835-52	A
511a	as L511, but		Red	1836-49	B
511b	as L511, but		Blue	1837-53	B
511c	as L511, but		Green	1839-51	B
511d	as L511, but		Mauve	1839-47	C
512	3 <sup>D</sup> PAID – flat-topped '3'	various	Black	1836-39	D
512a	as L512, but		Red	1837-39	E
512b	as L512, but		Blue	1839	E
512c	as L512, but		Green	1838-39	E
512d	as L512, but		Mauve	1838-39	E
513	3 <sup>D</sup> PAID – round-topped '3'	various	Black	1838-39	E
513a	as L513, but		Red	1838-39	E
513b	as L513, but		Blue	1839	E
514	Receiving House unframed	various	Black	1836-57	A
514a	as L514, but		Red	1839-57	A
514b	as L514, but		Blue	1844-58	A
514c	as L514, but		Green	1850-58	A

For an earlier unframed Receiving House stamp, see L502

The various Receiving Houses from which these handstamps are known are listed in Appendix 6 of Hugh Feldman's *Letter Receivers of London, 1652 to 1857* (Postal History Society, 1998).



## COUNTRY SORTING OFFICES

In July 1809 the Sorting Offices in the Country area started to be issued with date stamps incorporating the name of the office. These were required so that bye-letters, which did not go to one of the Principal Offices of the Twopenny Post in London, could have a date stamp applied. These stamps were also used, in lieu of Receiving House stamps, on some letters passing to the Town area, as well as on Cross Post letters.

Country Sorting Offices on the Richmond Ride were issued with these date stamps in July 1809, those on the Brentford Ride in 1810, while the remainder of the Country Sorting Offices were issued with stamps in various months in 1811.

### NOTICE TO LETTER CARRIERS

Relative to the Bye Post Regulations

1. THE LETTER CARRIERS must carefully sort out from their Collections every Letter intended for Delivery within the Ride to which they belong, and deliver all such letters to the Sorting office where they attend. It is repeated they must be particularly careful that all such Letters be transferred to the office-Keeper, for delivery by the Bye Post, and that they be not sent up to London.

The above extract gives the instructions to Letter Carriers for the handling of letters passing from one part of a Ride to another, so that they do not have to pass to London.

Two Penny Post Office

April 6th 1811

### HIS MAJESTY'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL

Being desirous of extending the Benefit and Accommodation afforded to the Public by Means of the Two-Penny Post Office, have been pleased to order that on and after the above date, Letters passing from one to another of the following Places,

viz.

Kent Road, from the Bricklayers' Arms	Lee
New Cross	Eltham
Peckham	Charlton
Forest Hill	Woolwich
Deptford	Plumstead
Greenwich	and
Blackheath	Shooter's Hill
Lewisham	

or from one Part to another of either of the same Places, be delivered direct, by the Means of a Bye-Post, instead of being first sent to London.

The above is part of a Notice to the Public, informing them of the establishment of the bye-post on the **Woolwich Ride**. Similar notices were issued for other Rides, as follows:

**Woodford Ride** - May 4th 1811 - covering the following places:

Bow Ed]	Barking	Woodford	Bromley [by Bow -
Ilford	Chingford	Holloway Down	Sewardstone
Old Ford	Leytonstone	Loughton	Stratford
Wanstead	Woodford Bridge	West Ham	Leyton
Chigwell	Chigwell Row	Upton	Walthamstow
East Ham	Snaresbrook		

**Beckenham Ride** - July 27th 1811 - Camberwell South End - covering the following places:

Walworth	Camberwell	Dulwich	Norwood
Sydenham	South End	Beckenham	

**Enfield Ride** – August 10th 1811– covering the following places:

Kingsland	Ball's Pond	Dalston	Shacklewell
Hackney	Homerton	Clapton	Stoke Newington
Stamford Hill	Tottenham	Edmonton	Southgate
Winchmore Hill	EnfieldBull's Cross	Ponder's End	
Enfield Highway			

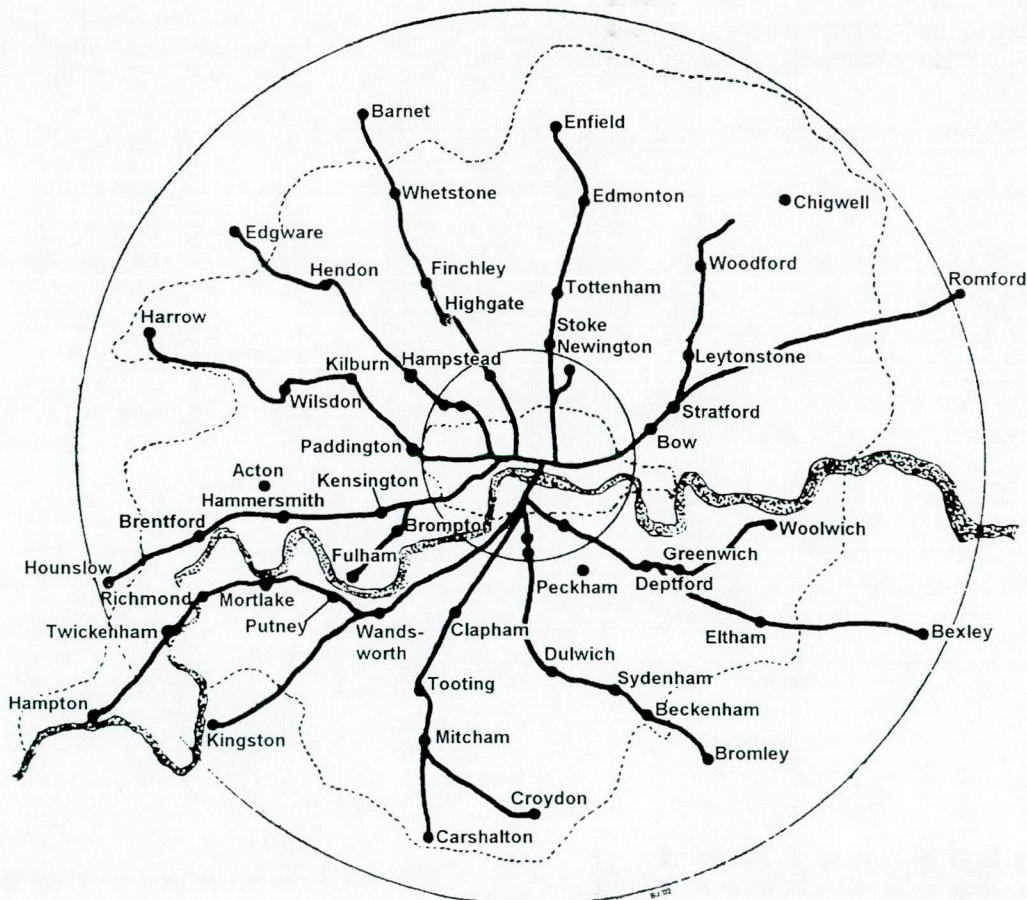
**Barnet Ride** – September 21st 1811 – covering the following places

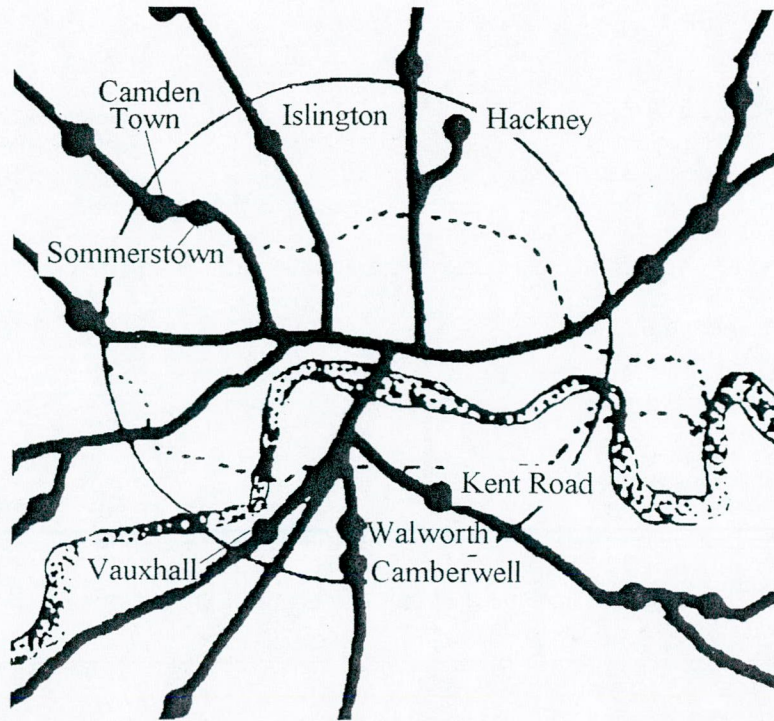
Islington	Pentonville	Highbury	Holloway
Battle Bridge	Pancrass	Sommers Town	Camden
Town			
Kentish Town	Hampstead	West End	North End
Highgate	Hornsey	Finchley	Colney
Hatch			
Fryern Barnet	East Barnet	Whetstone	Totteridge
Highwood Hill	Mill Hill	Hendon	

**Willadon Ride** – October 11th 1811 – covering the following places:

Paddington	Edgware-Road	Lisson-Green	Kilborn
The Hyde	Kingsbury	Willsdon	

The Country Sorting Offices are shown on the map below. Certain of these offices were transferred to the Town area when the Town boundary was extended to three miles from the General Post Office in April 1831, Islington having been transferred from the Country to Town area in 1829. These offices are shown on the map on the next page.





For further details of the London bye-posts, see the "London Postal History Group Notebook" No 23 (and other articles in this publication).

Bye letters received the Country Sorting Office date stamp (L521-523), usually on the back of the letter, and the 'flat-topped 3' (L620-621) on the front of unpaid letters and the '3PyPPaid'



520



520a



521



522



523

520	MORTLAKE – EV/SP 14, EV/OC 2	32	Red	1809	F
520a	RICHMOND – EV/JY 28	32	Black	1809	F
521	Year in curved line	31-35	Black	1810-37	B
521a	as L521, but		Red	1811-36	C
521b	as L521, but		Blue	1819-37	C
521c	as L521, but		Green		C

L521-521c started as 34-35 mm in diameter and gradually reduced in size over the years

522	Year in straight line, serif letters	28-29	Black	1837-47	B
522a	as L522, but		Red	1839-47	C
522b	as L522, but		Blue	1839-43	C
522c	as L522, but		Green		C
523	Year in straight line, sans-serif letters	28	Black	1846-49	B
523a	as L523, but		Red	1848-49	C
523b	as L523, but		Blue	1846-48	C

Several errors of L521-523 are found, including absent 'MG' and 'EV' and absent month. Some of these are quoted below:

DEPTFORD/1/28DE/1837	1 for Mg or EV
KENT-ROAD/EV/SP3/1825	EV inverted
PADDINGTON/ /DE4/1813	
PADDINGTON/MR/JY22/1830	MR FOR Mg
PADDINGTON/EV/FE7/1837	EV inverted
RICHMOND/MY/20MR/1820	MY for Mg
ROMFORD/ /MR11/1841	
STOKE NEWINGTON/ /JA3/1814	
WALWORTH/ / /1831	11 Jan 1831
WHETSTONE/EV/3 /1832	3 April 1832
WHETSTONE/EV/ 6/1832	6 April 1832

TABLE 7

Country Sorting Offices

Sorting Office	521 Year curved	522 Year straight serif	523 Year straight sans-serif
ACTON	1815-1836	1839-1840	
BARNET		1838-1846 R	1842-1848
BECKENHAM		1838	
BEXLEY		1845	
(BLACKHEATH - GREENWICH used here)			
BOW	1812 -1824 1813-1832 R	1835-1845 R	
BRENTFORD	1810-1836	1837-1839	
BROMLEY	1835	1839-1846	1846
BROMPTON	1813-1836 R	1836-1845 R	1848 R
CAMBERWELL	1812-1827 R		
CAMDEN TOWN	1815-1831		
CAMDEN T <sup>N</sup>	1826-1831		

CARSHALTON		1841-1844	
CHIGWELL	1817-1836	1840-1845	G
CLAPHAM	1820-1830 R	1838-1840	1848
	1830		
CROYDON	1816-1837	1842-1843	1846
DEPTFORD	1811-1836 R	1837-1839	
	1833-1837		
DULWICH	1822-1833 R	1841-1842	R 1848
(EAST SHEEN - MORTLAKE used here)			
EDGEWARE	1838-1847 R	1849	R
EDMONTON	1812-1833	1839-1848	
ELTHAM	1836 R	1838	R
ENFIELD			
FINCHLEY	1815-1828	1845	
	1831 R		
FULHAM			
GREENWICH	1812-1836	1837-1846	R 1842
HACKNEY	1820-1829		
HAMMERSMITH	1812-1837	1838-1845	
HAMPSTEAD			
HAMPTON	1812-1819	1839-1840	
HARROW			
HENDON	1829		
HIGHGATE	1815-1837	1838	
HOUNSLOW		1838-1845	1846-1848
ISLINGTON	1812-1833		
KENNINGTON	1828 B		
KENSINGTON	1811-1837 B	1846	
	1812 R		
	1815-1837		
KENT-ROAD	1811-1831		
	1835 B		
KILBURN			
KINGSTON		1839-1847	1848-1849
LEYTONSTONE	1817		
MITCHAM	1828-1836	1839-1847	1844-1848
	1834 R		
MORTLAKE	1815-1837	1838-1844	1846
(NEW CROSS - PECKHAM used here)			
NEWINGTON	1815-1818 R		
PADDINGTON	1813-1837 B,G,R	1839-1845 B,G	1846-1848
PECKHAM	1817-1830 R	1839-1843 R	
PUTNEY	1811-1836 B	1838 B	
RICHMOND	1810-1836	1837-1845	1846-1848
ROMFORD		1837-1847 R	1849 B
		1839	
SOMMERSTOWN	1811-1819		
SOUTH LAMBETH	1827-1829		
SOU-LAMBETH	1833		

STOKE NEWINGTON	1813-1837	1838-1843		
STRATFORD	1814-1837		1838-1842	R
SYDENHAM	1814-1826 R	1838-1845 R	1846	
	1825			
TOOTING	1818	1842		
TOTTENHAM	1822-1833 R	1839-1847 R	1849	B
	1822			
(TURNHAM GREEN - ACTON used here)		1842		
TWICKENHAM				
VAUXHALL	1811			
	1822 R			
WALWORTH	1811-1831 R	1838 R		
WANDSWORTH	1816-1837 R	1838 R		
WHETSTONE	1831-1836 R	1840-1844 R	1850	B
		1844		
WILLISDON				
WOODFORD	1814-1833			
(WOODFORD BRIDGE - CHIGWELL used here)				
WOOLWICH	1812-1836 R	1837-1844		
	1825-1837			

Black is the normal colour for the majority of the handstamps used in the Country Sorting Offices. When a particular handstamp is also known in another colour, this is noted after the date using the following code: B=Blue, G=Green, R=Red.