

NOTEBOOK

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

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NOTE OUR NEW VENUE

Swedenborg House, 20-21 Bloomsbury Way,
London W.C. 1

EDITOR'S NOTES.....

There is a degree of Editorial self-indulgence in this issue. Readers have no doubt experienced long periods of very little acquired which merited comment; sometimes, but very rarely, an embarrassment of riches. This latter feature is closely associated with the well known phenomenon of the geometric reduction ratio of purchasing capacity with each new item. However, 1977 did yield a time when funds and material achieved a near unique combination, some of which provide contributions. What may appear significant to one collector arouses but polite interest in another: hopefully the range is sufficient to provide, at least, something worth reading.

This is ever a problem for Editors.

PROGRAMME FOR 1978

Meetings, except those marked *, are held on Saturday afternoons at Swedenborg House, 20-21 Bloomsbury Way, London WC1.

The room is available from 1 p.m. for members' bourse; displays start at 2.30 p.m. Nearest tube is Holborn (Central and Piccadilly lines) and buses 8, 19, 22, 25 38, 68, 77 pass close by - and sometimes stop!

Car parking spaces noted in surrounding area.

- 21st.January : London and the Railways: the development of mail handling by rail to from and through London. Invited guests are the T.P.O. Society.
- 18th.March * : Visit to BRUCE CASTLE, Tottenham. Film, talk, display and archive inspection. Full details in Notebook.
- 22nd.April : Charmouth House Hotel, Charmouth; three main displays and a bourse.
- 20th.May : Annual General Meeting, followed by the Country Sorting Offices and their Receiving Houses.
- 15th.July : Annual Auction
- 16th.September : London Machine Cancellations: a pre-publication session to provide the latest information.
- 4th.November*: Bristol: Joint meeting with GBPFS and Hong Kong Study Circle. A full day on Foreign Mails, with particular stress on Hong Kong. Details in Notebook.
- 18th.November: Late Fee, Too Late and the Inspectors' Stamps: which will no doubt further dispute on several markings.

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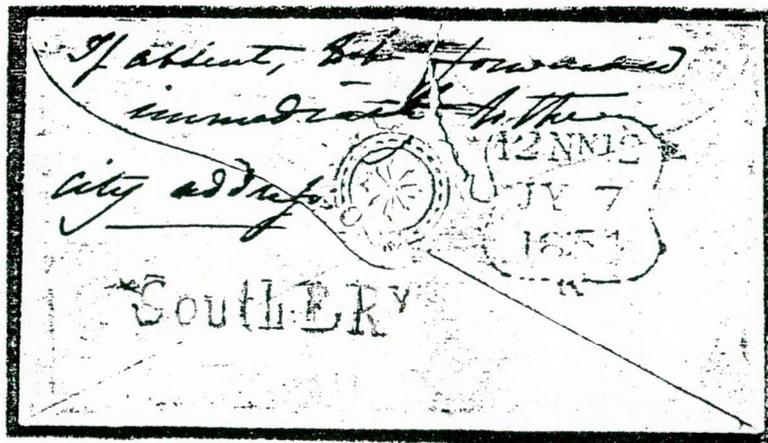
RECENT ADDITIONS.....

With two major shows in London in recent months and a number of interesting buys not a hundred miles from S.G. in the Strand, there seemed to be the basis for a number of ' Notebook ' pages. The Editor suggests he cannot be the only one to spend the odd copper or three.

MAIL GUARDS' HANDSTAMPS

A curious omission from the 1975 Railway Philatelic Group, Part 2 of T.P.O., is a reference to the Mail Guard hand stamp issued for use on the South East Railway. The type is shown for other lines and, several years before, Ward illustrates the one shown below.

South-ERY



Mail Guards' Handstamps, continued.....

Under the heading ' Staffing ' Ward quotes at length from Hendy and it is worth repeating the quote, and Ward's own remarks, in full.

Hendy:

In addition to the clerks in the T.P.O. a large number of Mail guards were also employed. The duties of the former were solely in connection with the sorting of the letters, whilst the latter took charge of all the bags and were held responsible for their despatch and receipt, both at Stations and by apparatus. It is necessary to explain the position held by these guards. Previous to railways, when employed on mail coaches, they received from the P.O. a weekly wage of 10/6d and were permitted to solicit fees or tips, from the passengers. When transferred to the railways there were no tips to receive, and it was then decided that they should be placed on the establishment with an improved scale of pay. The following are the classes as then formed: Under 3 years' service, £70, under 10 years, £100, under 15 years, £115 and above 15 years, £130. This necessary alteration in pay was a heavy charge on the Dept. The cost of the Mail guards' establishment in 1836 was only £10,513, whilst the cost for the year 1840 had risen to £24,598, and in the latter year, out of a total of 337 guards, only 67 were employed on railway duties, of whom several were engaged on apparatus and bag duties in the T.P.O. between London and Preston, and the remainder in conveying mails by ordinary trains. Whether employed in the T.P.O. or in charge of bags by ordinary trains, or even when compelled to keep two homes, the guards received no ' trip allowance ' what - ever. As the work of the T.P.O. extended, the duty performed by the guards grew in importance; all bag duty was performed by them, i.e., arranging, tying, sealing and strapping of bags; all apparatus duty; and in time assistance in the sorting of newspapers was made a portion of their regular work.

Ward:

In 1838 Parliament passed the first Conveyance of Mails Act under which the P.M.G. was given power to call on the Rly. Companies to convey his " Mails and guards " in all trains. Evidently, the P.M.G. considered it necessary for P.O. guards to accompany the mailbags and this knowledge helps in a solution of the use of the postmarks E6, 235, 264, 335 and 351.

(these are North-W-RV; South W RY; South-E-RV ;G† Northern Railway and Blackwall-RV respectively, all in the same format as that on the previous page)

A remarkable point about these marks in the large proportion (4 to 1) of red (morning) to black (night) and the fact that generally the letters are either in official railway envelopes, or emanate from railway Officials. Several seen were addressed to Kings Cross and all bear London despatch marks, and consequently I think the senders handed them to the Up T.P.O. guards who impressed them with the E6, &c. stamps and sent them to the Inland Office where the postage stamps were obliterated and the letters dealt with in ordinary course. Remembering that there were no pillar boxes in those days it would be natural for railway officials to post their letters on the trains, whether T.P.O.'s or not, than walk long distances to a Post Office. Hendy (p.71) says: " A few years later (1853) stamps were brought into use on the regular T.P.O.'s...to be impressed on mis-sent or mis - directed letters, " and E6 is one of them. The other he illustrated was E 182 (L & E - R.P.O.), and it is no coincidence that the latter bore the letters R.P.O. while the former did not, for on reading the histories of E 235, 264 and 335, it will be found that they were not then R.P.O.'s and the Blackwall Rly. (E.351) never was one! By " regular T.P.O.'s I think Hendy refers to those that ran on each night of the week as distinct from the Sunday Sorting Tenders. Earlier, the latter had been provided with distinctive stamps. Copies of E6 are known as early as October, 1852, but no doubt Hendy's date of 1853 was approximate.

Mail Guards' Handstamps, continued.....

Under the heading of S.E.T.P.O., Postmarks Ward records only two specimens of E.264 (1) in black dated 1 JY-53, postmarked "34" in diamond (I.B.) addressed to Cheltenham, backstamped there JY 2-1853, and (2) in red dated OC 11-1856 postmarked "15" in diamond, addressed to Market Harborough with backstamp OC 12-1856. Both these dates were prior to the commencement of the S.E.T.P.O. (This was 1st. May, 1860, though not specified by Ward.)

Turning back to the item illustrated. The stamp is in red, and without drawing any conclusions, appears to be exactly the same ink as the London District Post back-stamp of 12N^N12 JY 7 1854 -K-. The endorsement reads " If absent \mathcal{L} (to ?) be forwarded immediately to the city address ". The obverse, bearing a 1d stars with LDP 76D4b cancelling is addressed to ' Edward Thalbandaime (???) , W.Hardy Esq. Albany Road, Camberwell, Surrey. ' and carries no suggestion of redirection. Mr. Hardy could evidently read the name even if I cannot! There is no suggestion of any link with the railways.

I cannot believe I am the proud owner of the third only recorded example of this stamp. It is in my ' London District Post ' collection in view of the cancellation and the matching shade of red, or rather red-orange, gives food for speculative thought. It was only in very recent years that Jeremy Greenwood proved that the so-called provincial Late Box stamps from various towns were in fact applied at the London EC office. It seems quite logical for there to be a precedent from the very early days. Could it be the issued to Mail Guards is another ' according to ' which diligent search in P.O. Records can positively clear ?

Acknowledgement is made to Messrs Alcock and Holland for the quotations from C.W. Ward " ENGLISH TPO's "

THE ACTON SKELETON

One of those happy buys which brighten a collector's days occurred during the final day at Stampex this year. The items shown below were spotted and, as this is the first record of the Country Sorting Office handstamp seen in the temporary/skelton format, seemed worth recording in ' Notebook '.

There can be little argument about the stamp on the entire being made up from loose type, exhibiting as it does the usual features. A ' normal ' alongside points this up rather well.

There is, as can be seen, no dating other than the year, and the contents give no help. In an attempt to draw a response, can it be called ' the only one known ' - with the severe qualification - to me at present!



' stamp on the entire '



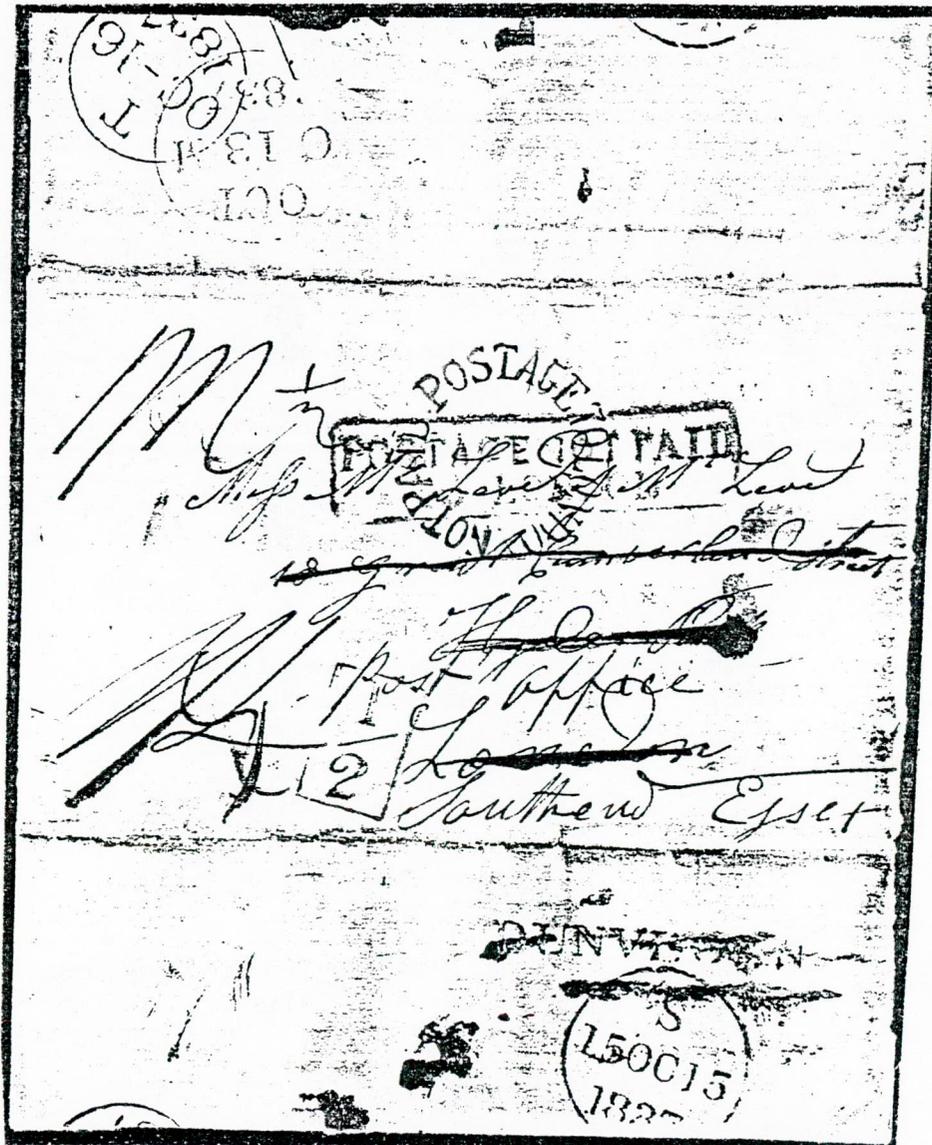
Normal

POSTAGE NOT PAID TO LONDON

A rather interesting example showing two types of the handstamp, an additional halfpenny, straightline Dunvegan plus a Sunday datestamp.

It started off from Dunvegan, a village on Loch Dunvegan, northwest on Skye Isl., Inverness-shire, getting datestamped October 13th 1837 en route to 18 Great Cumberland Street, Hyde Park, London. It took just two days to get to London, the earliest London datestamp being for 15th.October. By checking the perpetual calendar on page 158 of 'England's Postal History ', the ' S ' was proved to be for Sunday. Presumably at that point the framed RMW 265 was applied. Although not a true black, it does not seem to be oxidised red.

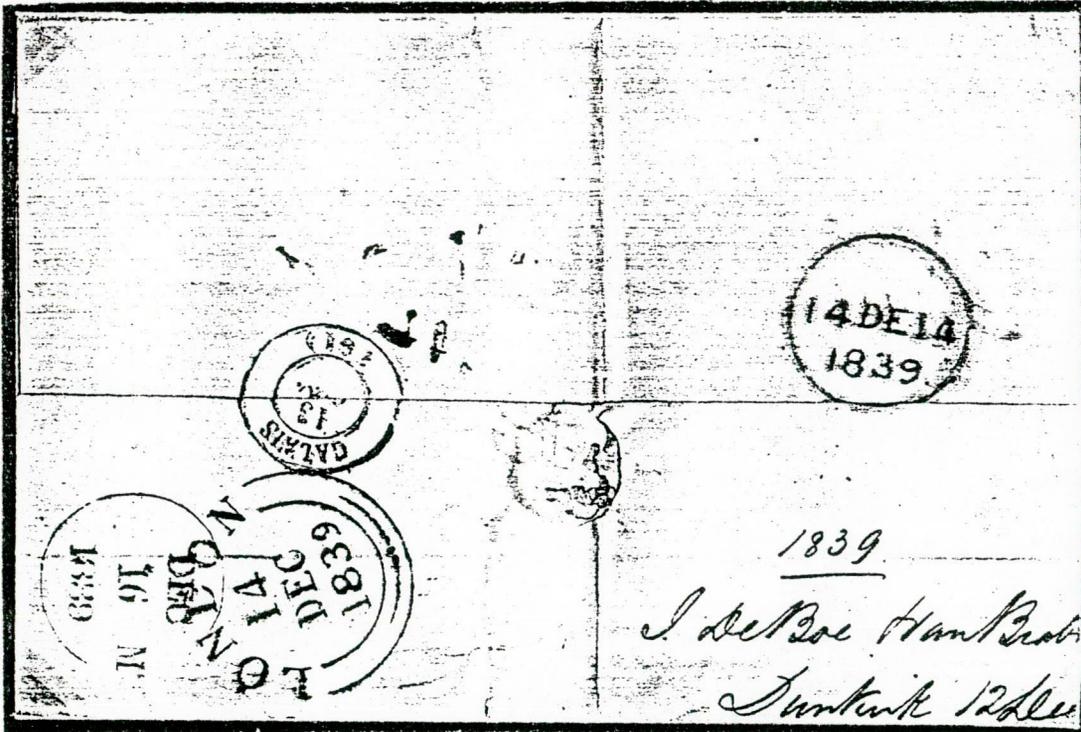
The following day, 16th.October, the letter was redirected to Southend Post Office. and seemingly RMW 264 was struck over the framed type. The date places this as slighter later than shown in the catalogue, but why it should have been applied is not clear. It may be simply that the postage was not collected on the first attempted delivery. The m/s postage rates never were written neatly for the convenience of the lazy postal historian , who must perforce consult some guide books to get mileages. Whilst not a true bill for events on the road of the early 19th.century, the AA book does get one in the right scale. From Dunvegan, through Portree, Broadford, Kyleakin, across the water down to Fort William and on to London via either Glasgow or Edinburgh gives a modern mileage of 627 or 639 respectively. To take the 600 to 700 rate range at 1/4 in 1837 proves the first charge, deleted upon redirection. Southend was a further 49 miles and it would seem that instead of making a total mileage, which would remain within the 700 miles, a further 7d has been charged. The 1/11½ is just to the left of the two handstamps, perhaps by way of stressing the point.



THE Ex - EX STAMP

Collectors of London material will no doubt be familiar with the backstamp with coding EX (RMW 20a; AH fig.33). Introduced in January 1834 and, according to A & H, survived as late as October 1843. Greenish black is the most usual color, but now and again red. After December 1839, with the introduction of the Uniform 4d Post - at least the dating fits - the greenish black ceased and red became the usual color. In common with other stamps, sans serif lettering featured towards the end of its life.

What may be regarded as a temporary stamp is the use illustrated. In the greenish black, and dated during the 4d period, from Dunkirk to Kirkaldy and with a m/s 2/3 on the obverse, BUT WITHOUT THE EX. As far as is recorded this is the only one - upon which several more will be reported - and very close examination suggests it is an ex-EX and not a poorly struck example.

WANTED.....

Covers; Wimbledon Tennis, Chelsea Flower Show, also Postage Due labels on covers (not current design), London SW3; SW7; SW12 endorsements.....

W.W. Foster, 98 Riverside Drive, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED.....

Postmarks of Middlesex, pre-stamp to date.

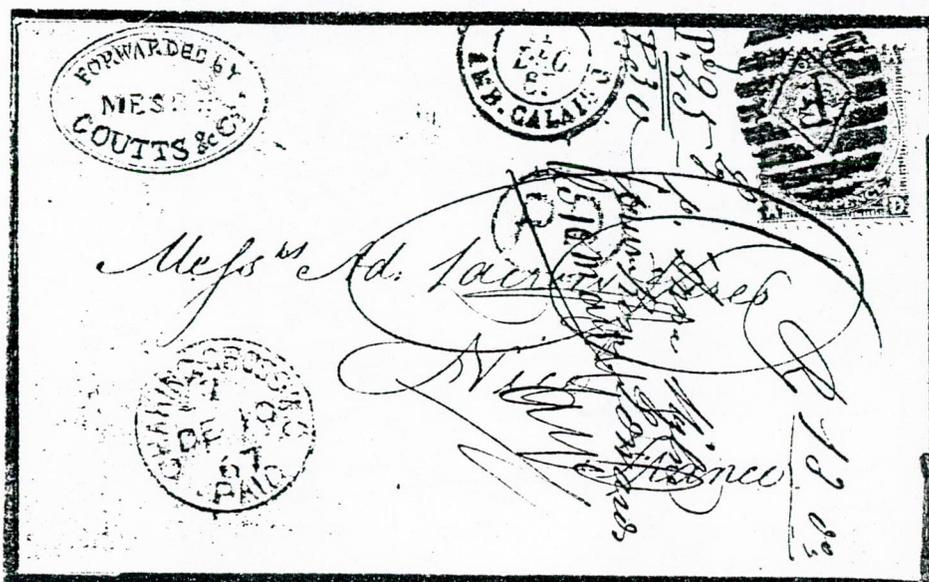
Also require London to 1860 covers with markings indicating dispatch from Middlesex area NOW in London Postal Districts but NOT Cities of London or Westminster.

Michael Goodman, 111 Green Lane, Edgware, Middx.

FOREIGN BRANCH CANCELLATION

Westley records the issue of four obliterators to the Foreign Branch on 20th. September 1865. The letters were B, F, H and P and he quotes the Hendy theory of Bristol, Falmouth, Hull and Plymouth mail being cancelled on arrival from these four ports, though shortly they were used ' indiscriminately on both Inward and Outward Mails '.

Alan Robertson also quotes Westley, but is not prepared to allow a precise function. He records them cancelling both adhesives and other handstamps or separately on the cover to the U.K. from a foreign country. He is firm they indicate a Foreign Branch handling; the majority he notes have been on incoming mail and are of un - common occurrence.



The example illustrated is the F cancelling the fourpenny rate adhesive to France. The Coutts Forwarding Cachet, although considerably earlier than the dates given in Kenneth Rowe's book is, however, not what it seems. The contents show clearly it has been used as a house mark only, the letter being from Coutts.

This example does not solve the question of a firm attribution, though the Foreign Branch use is clearly demonstrated.

WILL EXCHANGE....for LEICESTERSHIRE and HINCKLEY, in particular re-addressed, cartoon and much travelled covers—a wide selection of Postal History. Contact Jon Baker, 13 Station Road, Hinckley, Leics.

CAN YOU OFFER.....London District Post 26 (Beckenham) ? Also 2d Post material from Beckenham, Bromley, Chislehurst and West Wickham,to

R.N. Haffner, 91 Hazelwood Road, Oxted, Surrey.

WILL BUY, beg or borrow, pre 1900 material from Leyton, Leytonstone, Walthamstowe, Whipps Cross, Chingford.....

K. Romig, 236 Cross Flatts Grove, Leeds 11

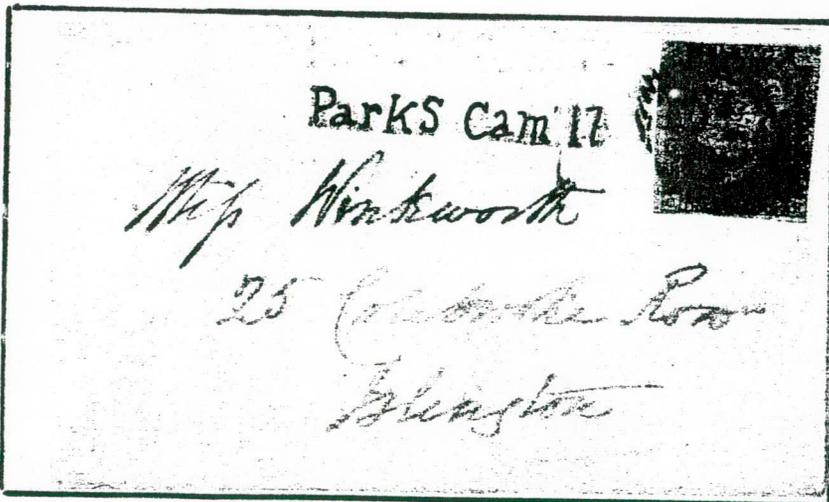
INSPECTORS' STAMP - IS IT LONDON ?

On a neat pictorial postcard showing Buckingham Palace is what may be assumed to be an Inspector's stamp, or something very similar. As can be seen the card went from London on 29th. December 1900 and came wandering back on 9th. January, 1901. The E.X in sans serif capitals is NOT in the same shade of red ink as the London arrival stamp, but this may well be a case of intensity rather than a different ink. The initials are not recorded in any of the reference books to hand, nor has an inspection of the Proof Books (no pun intended) yielded any results. This is a period when P.O. Records have some annoying gaps in the series, so the stamp may well be in what is now no longer extant.



PARK STREET, CAMBERWELL ??? A Query From A.J. Kirk

Some time ago I purchased an envelope, dated 21st. June, 1848, with a London District Receiving House mark, which I was assured was Park St. Camberwell. However, according to Brumell, the only Park Street Receiving Houses were in Camden Town and Grosvenor Square.



Whilst there was a Park St. in Camberwell in 1848, I have been unable to locate a Receiving House there. The mark does not look like the G.S. of Grosvenor Square, not does it resemble a shortened form of Camden Town. Can any member produce a good example of Park St. Camden Town, to make a comparison with the one I have

On the subject of Camberwell, I am interested in the marks

of the area; if a reader can offer any, I will be most pleased to hear from them.

HOODED CIRCLE : A RARE COVER

Although my personal collecting tends to items of interest, rather than attempting anything very thorough, after 1860, the hooded circle - which used to be both plentiful and inexpensive - is one later cancellation which has no small interest. This is due to a number of reasons, one being the mystery behind the use of the type often referred to as the ' England and Wales Centre ', that is with the centre of the circle containing markings very like the E & W numeral series.

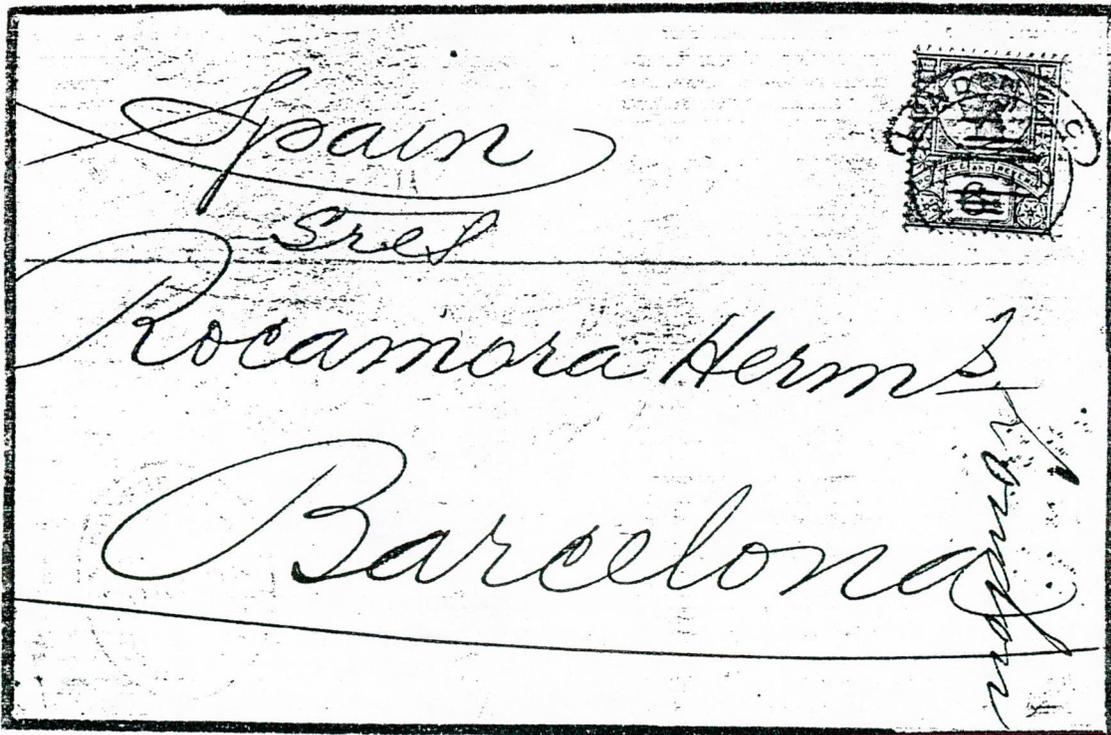
Although not a complete strike, the entire is dated 6th. August 1889. However, not content with this very scarce, not to say rare, mark on entire, there is a bonus. Many collectors will be familiar with the Ruffer correspondence; it is rather like a latter day ' Huth ' in quantity, though lacking the attractions of the markings of the earlier material. Ruffer mail to Spain is, in every case noted thus far, prepaid by means of the 2½d adhesive, the correct rate for Spain. As can be seen, here is an exception, a 6d being used. No business organisation operating in the days when cost awareness may not have been defined but was put into practical effect, would waste 3½d - with the Ruffer volume of mail the cost would be a matter of comment! Why then the 6d?

The entire is nowhere near ½ oz but probably contained a draft for £2,200, though Spanish not being a strong point, this is uncertain. Should there have been one, it could just have gone over the limit and made it subject to a 5d. rate. From the P.O. Guide of 1889 the information on Spain is that outward mails were made up in London both morning and evening and that, via France, the charges made:

Letters, not exceeding ½ oz 2½d; Ever Addl ½ oz 2½d; Registration 2d.

Mails for Foreign Countries with 1d Fee - 7 p.m. at Chief and District Offices.

Is the answer a Late Fee letter weighing over ½ oz - with the volume of Ruffer correspondence this seems a sound theory. It does not explain the use of the curious hooded circle, but at least it is another example which may eventually form part of the completed jigsaw.



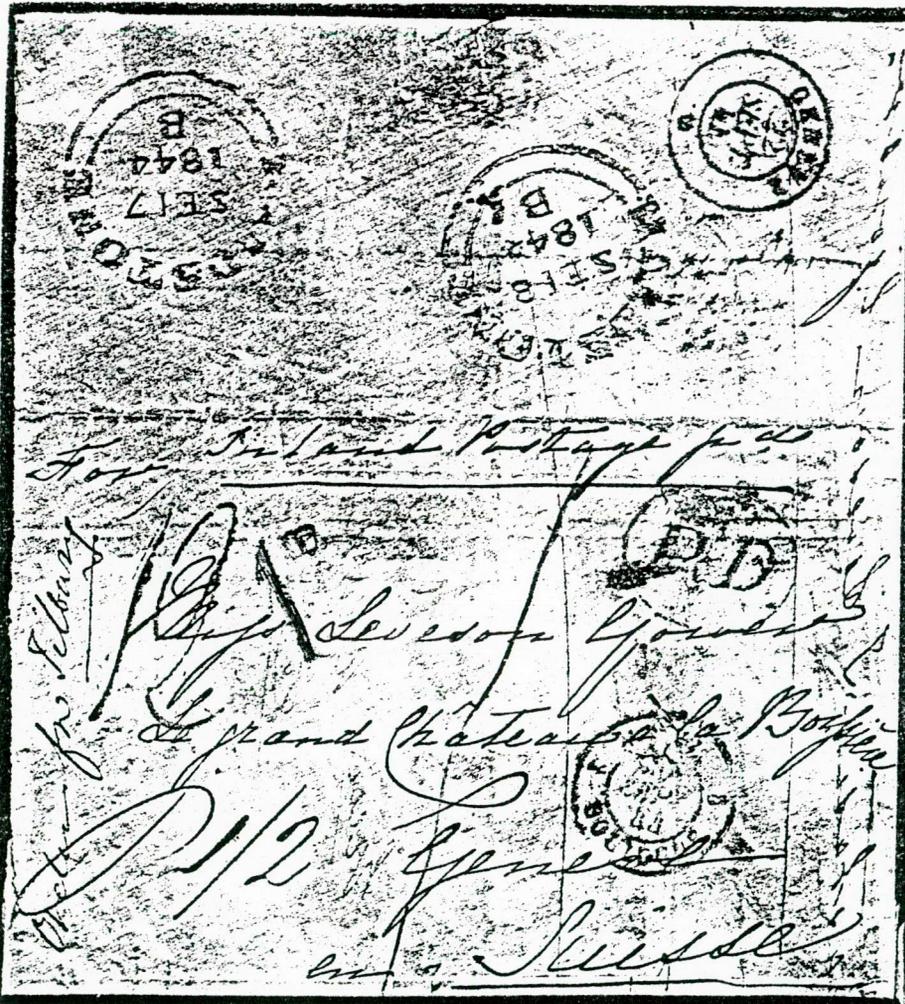
A LONDON PENNY

In the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia Part 1 (which is till available as Billig's Philatelic Handbook Volume 34) a penny stamp fig 175a (cat 469a). It is given a September 1839 dating and has a note " This probably indicated the fee due to the Ship's Captain."

An example of this stamp - the curious ' hook ' at the top is most distinctive - was recently offered as such, but with a later dating, 17th.September, 1844. There are other interesting features. It was apparently written from Maidstone, or at least posted there, for it carries the double arc Maidstone code B for SE 17 1844 ALSO FOR SE 18 1844. Why ?

Across the top of the obverse is " Inland Postage pd " and a m/s P 1/2 in red lower left. A wavy red line runs across the obverse,with handstruck 12, the oval framed PD and the Boulogne and Geneve date stamps.

It is not possible, therefore, to accept the " Ship's Captain " attribution,so what is the penny stamp for ? Had it been addressed to a British overseas territory a local delivery mark would be reasonable, but Switzerland ?



Allow the mind to wander/wonder freely.....a hitherto unrecorded UPP ? Some local village stamp from Kent ? The British share of the postage paid of 1/2; it is this explanation which seems to have some possibilities, though being no authority on rates and charges I cannot understand why such a mark is not on everycover to Europe - and there are a great many extant.

Expert solutions invited.

RETURNED LETTER

In ' Notebook ' 32 Robert Johnson provided one of his first class listings and illustrations. That these do turn up has been evidenced by the recent purchase of an example of fig.39.

Quite who a post card to France should be treated in such a fashion was quickly resolved by taking Robert's advice to consult the Post Office Guide for the appropriate year; an obvious - once pointed out - tip.



1875 was the year of the U.P.U., or rather General Postal Union, as the Guide more correctly titles a section at the front of the Guide.

General Postal Union

With the issue of this number of the " British Postal Guide " the stipulations of the Postal Union Treaty concluded at Berne on the 9th. October last will come into operation.

The countries which have formed themselves into a union are Austro-Hungary, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Servia (sic), Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United States; but, as regards France, the treaty will not take effect until the 1st. January, 1876.

Foreign Post Cards, bearing an impressed stamp of the value of one penny farthing, may also be obtained for transmission to any of the countries in the union.

.....and further on,

XI - FOREIGN CARD POST

Post Cards intended for transmission to foreign countries comprised within the General Postal Union are sold at the rate of 1^d each.

" France " does not carry the advice " P.C. denotes that Foreign Post Cards may be sent".

It does not require much effort to appreciate the stamp, as used on cards to France, had a very limited life. The first Guide for 1876 showed the change of status, with P.C. being entered in the appropriate column.

POSTMARKS FROM A PRISON

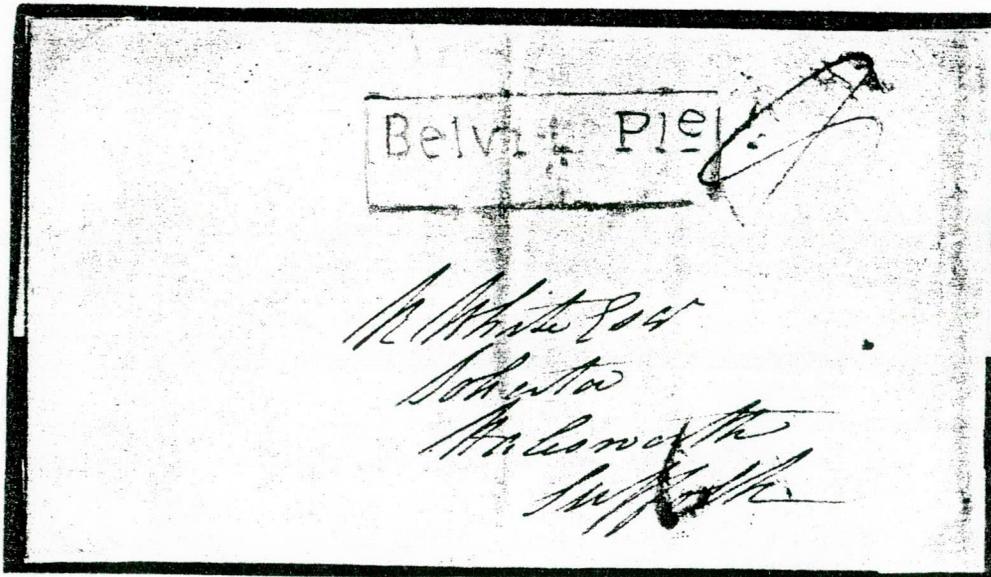
I had quite given up hoping to get hold of one of the General Post King's Bench Prison stamps when it came my way. Not a brilliant strike, but in red and very clearly dated 1st. September, 1818 by the double rim London date-stamp. It is not an entire. What there is of the letter does not suggest it was written by an inmate of that unhappy place, or does it?

..."If there is any more Copy hold Land in the
(....) will you inform me. should you be
able to do in either the Glebe or to Cover the Sum
mention but the latter I think most
preferable forward it as early as possible
as I am at a loss to know what I am to do
for Money

No 2 (.....)(.....) Westminster September 1st 1818

S. Permit me to ask you if you think
Mrs (...) would object to seeing me
as I may possible be
at Ipswich shortly to see my little (....) "

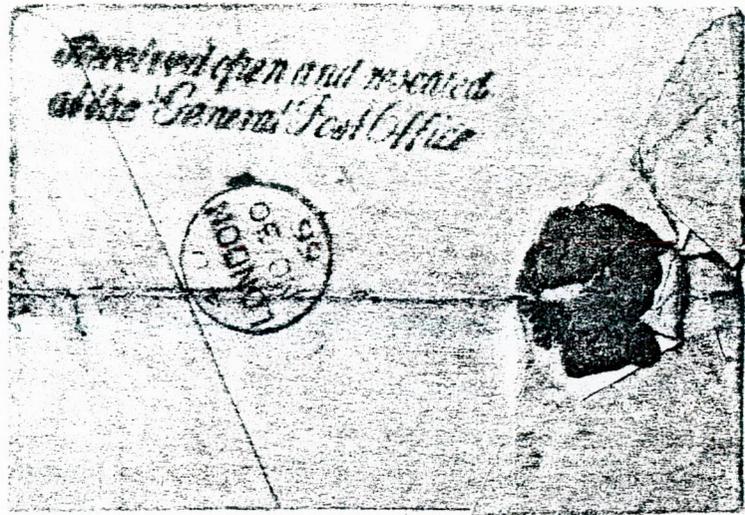
I have attempted to read the terrible script but the frequent (....) show the gaps; it is quite possible there are words to the left of that shown. The cover is endorsed " From Mrs Pylches 1st Sept 1818 " which tends to confirm the left hand part of the sheet has been removed.



All this caused me check the article in Notebook No.20, page 2 etc. One thing noted was a transposition of figure numbers, this on page 3, immediately above the illustrations. This should read: Two General Post stamps used are fig 4, R.M.W. dates 1819-38 and fig.3, R.M.W. dates 1823-30

RECEIVED OPEN.....

I must admit though this item came my way, I did not buy it, nor let me add quickly did I beg, borrow or steal it!



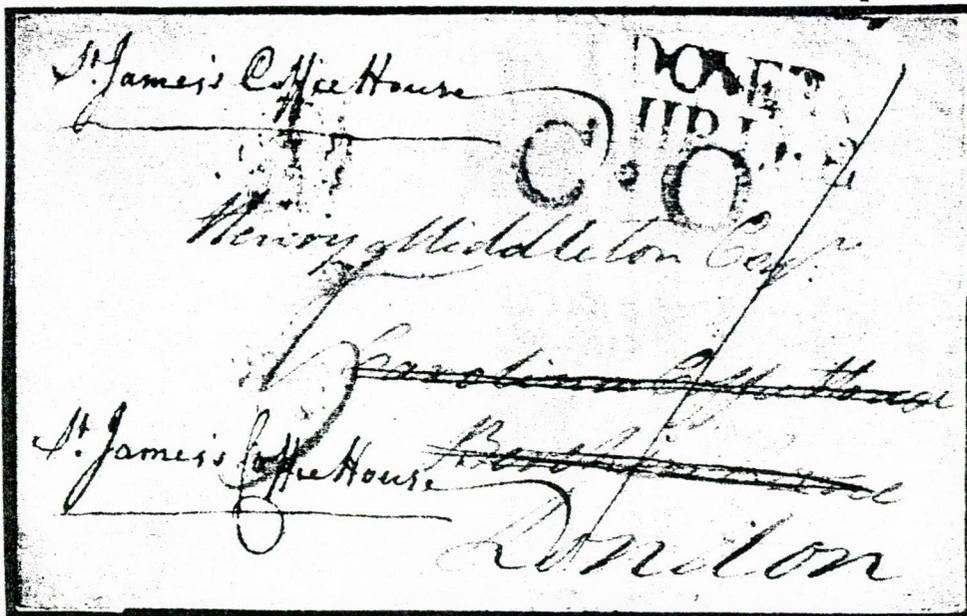
The current owner, offers it at £40, so to make clear what is on offer a brief description.

It is not an entire, but near half an envelope, showing on the obverse a Jersey duplex cancelling a sadly torn penny plate. The interest must, however, be on what has survived on the back. Both stamps are in red and although the illustration above does not do it justice, it must be agreed to be a very fine strike of a most elusive mark. My own, in black and dated 1852 is not so fine, nor for that matter the example struck (twice!!) in the Proof Impression Book.

Should you be interested, drop me a line.

INSTRUCTIONAL MARKS.

Or perhaps one should follow R.M.W. and say " Instructional Stamps ". In any event



RMW 253 in red. It slightly overstrikes a DOVER/SHIP LRE in black. The reverse carries both the General Post JY 1 95 bode B and Penny Post 7 o'Clock Even for the same date (RMW 12 and 167 respectively). There is a m/s endorsement " Recd & forwarded 1st July by yr most Obt' Servt JI "

The use of two Coffee Houses as the address for Henry Middleton is rather nice.

THE HAYMARKET EXPRESS OFFICE

The note on the formation of the Express Office at 43 Haymarket has not produced any items in members' collections giving clear evidence of express charges. It would seem, however, there is a lesson to be learned from events some 40 years later, namely be careful when complaining to the boss. From P.O. Records, Post 42, the following series of letters, one of which had been misfiled and had long ago been noted as missing from the files. Due to innate honesty, the finder duly reported the rediscovery to the Records Office staff. Perhaps that is what re-search really means ?

FREELING TO PMG
Number 165.

General Post Office,
17 July, 1817

My Lords,

I have the Honor to lay before your Lordships a Letter from Mr. Jeffcott (No.1) the Clerk employed to conduct the Express Office in the Haymarket, praying that he may be permitted to give Notice to quit, to the Landlord of the House where the Office is at present held, on account of that person's improper & insulting Conduct towards Mrs Jeffcott, & that other apartments may be procured for the purpose of carrying on the Business of his Office, & for his residence.

The receipt of this Letter has induced me to review all the Circumstances attending to the Establishment of the office in question, & to consider whether it is absolutely requisite for the good & furtherance of the public Service, and the general accommodation that such an establishment should be now continued.

Upon reference to the Office Books it appears that the Establishment in question was an Idea of the late L^d. Chesterfield in 1797, he being then joint PMG with my Lord Leicester & the Office was set up for the purpose of affording at that critical period every facility to the Conveyance of the Letters & Dispatches sent by express to & from the various Governm^t Offices at the West End (of) Town - it was at the same time an accommodation to private persons resident westward of Temple Bar who either sent or received Letters by Express.

The Measure certainly prevented the Delay to which Letters & Dispatches of importance intended for the Government Offices in the West End of the Town were subjected to being delivered in the first instance in Lombard Street & thence conveyed to their Destination - and the same with regard to such Letters or Dispatches as it might be necessary to forward by Express from those public offices to the various parts of the Country. And there can be no doubt but the object was fully answered.

At the period of the Establishment of this Office the Expenditure was:

For a Clerk	£ 70	per ann	
Allowance for coal & candles	10		80
Rent of Rooms & Sundries Estimated at			40
And a Messenger was allowed at			
One Guinea per Week			<u>54.12</u>
	Total		£ 174.12

In 1813 the Clerk received an Increase to his Salary of £20 per Ann. and it has from time to time been found necessary to increase the Sum paid for Rent &c. The Express Office in the Haymarket may now be calculated to stand at the following Expenditure:

The Haymarket Express Office, continued.....

	£	
Salary to the Clerk	90	
Allow ^{ce} for coal & candles	<u>10</u>	100
Messenger One Guinea p W ^k		54.12
Rent		63
Sundries including stationery		20
Oils and Lighting		<u>30</u>
		£ 267.12
Being an Increase of		<u>93</u>

per ann: beyond the original Establishment.

The question now seems to be whether the Circumstances have not so Altered as to render the Expense incurred for this Establishment unnecessary, and whether if the Government Offices have no wish for its continuance, it is expedient to let it remain as it is for the accommodation of the public.

(No 2) The enclosed Account of the No. of Expresses rec^d & dispatched from the Haymarket Office, distinguishing public from private for 2 years to 5 April 1817 will show Your Lordps at one view how seldom it is resorted to by the Government Offices or by private Individuals - In fact the number of Expresses public & private for the last 2 years averages little more than one per week & of these there are several which had they been recd or dispatched from the GPO would not have experienced any delay.

I am fully aware that the Convenience & importance of this Office for the purposes of H.M. Gov^t cannot be fairly estimated by the small number of Public Expresses going through it, but as we are now in a State of Peace, as it appears that the Governemnt but seldom resort to the Office in question for the Convey^{ce} of their Expresses, indeed frequently send them thru' their Offices, & as your Lordhsips are desirous of reducing the Expenditure under your Control, as much as possible, it will be for Your Lordships to judge on the propriety of consulting the various Government Departments at the West End of the the Town, on the expediency of cont continuing the Establishment in the Haymarket.

In the event of the abolition of the Office, the whole of the Sum at present expended upon it could not be saved to the Revenue as it would be necessary to make some Allowance to the Clerks; but I think about 100£ per ann: might be saved - the Messenger might be transferred to the general Services of this Department - But should it be thought essential to retain this Establishment, I presume the request of Mr. Jeffcott, to be permitted to give Notice to quit his Landlord under the peculiar Circumstances of the Case may be accorded to, & the Architect be directed to look out for fresh appartments.

All which is humbly submitted

F. Freeling

endorsed:

" Government should be consulted in this first instance and according to their answer Mr. Jeffcott's request should be attended to - "

Chichester

Salisbury

JEFFCOTT TO FREELING (reference number 1)

Express Office Hay Market
16th. June 1817

Sir,

I can assure you it is with much regret, I am under the necessity of troubling you

The Haymarket Express Office, continued.....

with complaint; but trust the nature of the case, will offer my excuse. -

For some length of time past, the Landlord of the house (an aged and decrepid Object) wherein we occupy Apartments for an Office, has thought fit to conduct himself in the most indelicate and unmanly manner possible, towards Mrs Jeffcott; and that, in a way, and at times, by taking advantage of my occasional adsence, so as to preclude the possibility of my personally detecting him. - By what motives he is influenced, I am entirely at a loss to conceive, without, - in offering these insults to my wife he wishes to provoke me to commit myself by chastising him in the manner which his infamous conduct so justly merits; but in which case, I have not the least doubt, (from his general character) he would immediately commence an Action and seek redress for damages by Law; - aware of this, I have avoided all communication with him whatever, - considering it decidedly, the most advisable plan to submit the whole case to your consideration and direction; as it is impossible longer to endure such treatment - In addition to the preceding cir - cumstance, I beg to observe, that since the adjoining house was pulled down for the purpose of rebuilding : - this house, which is very old and tottering, has sunk so much, and become otherwise so generally delapidated, that it will require a very heavy expense to repair it, so as to render it inhabitable :- consequently I most earnestly submit to you the propriety of giving six months notice to quit (which by the terms of our Agreement, we are bound to do) on or before noon of the 24th instant, during which period, other Apartments, I trust equally elligible, may be found in the Hay Market, without the probability of subjecting the Public Service to the least inconvenience or other impediment.

I have the Honor, to be,
Sir,
Your very Obedient, Humble Servant,
A Jeffcott

(Reference No.2 in Freeling letter above)

An Account of the Number of Expresses received and dispatched from the Express Office Haymarket for 2 years to 5 April 1817 distinguishing Public from Private Ones.

	Received		Dispatched	
	Private	Public	Private	Public
In the Year ended 5 April 1816	11	10	21	13
In Ditto 5 April 1817	17	7	21	17
Total	28	17	42	30

The Campbell DAG

July 4th 1817

FREELING TO PMG

No.48

General Post Office
30th Jany 1818

My Lords,

In conformity to your Lordships Minute upon the enclosed Report No 165, respecting the Express Office in the Haymarket, I stated the principal points relating to that Establishment to the Treasury, requesting the Directions of that Board for your Lordships Guidance, as to the Expediency and Necessity, under the present Circum - stances of continuing that Office for the purposes of His Majesty's Government, &

The Haymarket Express Office, continued.....

for the public Convenience in general.

Your Lordships will see by the enclosed Letter (No.1) that the Lords of the Treasury " are pleased to approve of the immediate Discontinuance of the Establishment in Question " - and your Lordships will now have to decide upon the Steps to be taken for carrying this Measure into execution.

With respect to Mr. Jeffcott, who has been in the Management of the Express Office ever since its first Institution in 1797, and has consequently been upwards of 20 years in the Service, I presume your Lordships will think it but just and right to recommend to Treasury, to grant him an Allowance on the Abolition of his Office - In the Spirit of the recommendation of various Committees of Parliament it would be very desirable if some means could be adopted, of availing ourselves of the Services of this Officer, in some of the Departments of this Office, and thereby save to the Revenue of Expense of making him an Allowance ; - but I do not see any Mode of accomplishing this Object - Mr. Jeffcott's age and length of Services are strongly against his being placed at the bottom of any of the Departments here - I therefore submit to your Lordships, that the Recommendation to the Treasury should be, that he shall be allowed, in consideration of the abolition of his Office and long Services, the annual sum of £90 per Ann: being the Salary he at present receives, exclusive of his contingent Allowances.

I have stated to your Lordships in my former Report, that the " Messenger might be transferred to the general Purposes of this Department " - and my Letter to the Treasury was couched in similar Terms. I was in hope, by this Measure, of doing away with an Expense incurred for extra Persons, employed on Messages, equal to the Messenger's Salary - but as it appears by No.2 from the Superintending President, that the Extent of such saving may be estimated at from 7s/6d to 9s/- per Week only, an additional Messenger to the present number, would increase, instead of diminishing that Expense - the Wages of the Messenger being 21s/- per week or £54.12 per Ann. from the Revenue, made up £70 from the Fee Fund, while the charge for extra Assistance, as above stated, amounts to no more than £23.8 per Ann. when taken at the utmost. Under these Circumstances & with the view of keeping down the Expenditure as much as possible, the most economical Mode that presents itself to me, for providing for the Party in question, is to appoint him to the Vacancy in the Messengers Office, occasioned by the Superannuation of Thomas Humphreys, whose case has been recently before your Lordships - this, if your Lordships should approve, will be the means of affording a Provision for the Express Messenger, with an Increase to his present pay; and at the same time save to the Revenue what he now receives - viz - £54.12 per Ann.

As the Treasury approve of the " immediate discontinuance " of the Express Office, your Lordships will, I presume, be of Opinion, that the sooner this Object can be accomplished the better, as the Allowance for Coals, Lighting &c will thereby be saved - We are under Agreement to give Six Months Notice to quit the Apartments occupied by the Clerk & Messenger - but it may be good policy to endeavour to affect some Compromise with the Landlord, or at the worst to pay him the Rent for the whole 6 months, and thereby save the Allowances above mentioned, than to suffer the whole of this Expenditure to unnecessarily continue for that Period.

If your Lordships should be pleased to approve of the Propositions now submitted for your Decision, the ultimate Saving to the Revenue will be as follows : -

Present Establishment	£ 267.12 -
Saved by Messenger transferred to Vacancy in Messengers Office	£ 54.12
Allowance for Coals &c ---	10. 0
Rent -----	63. 0
Stationery Oil Lighting &c	50. 0
Total Saving	= £ 177.12

The Haymarket Express Office, continued.....

Of course it will be necessary to write a circular Notification of this Alteration to the various Government Offices, westward of Temple Bar, & to give Notice of the same to the Deputies in the Country, & to the Public.

All which &c &c &c

Endorsed apd. C and L

An Account of the Number of Expresses dispatched and received at the Express Office Haymarket from the 5 July 1817 to 26 November 1817.

	Dispatched		Received	
	Public	Private	Public	Private
From 5 July to 5 October 1817	-	3	-	2
From 5 October to 26 November 1817	1	3	4	1
	1	6	4	3

Thos Campbell DAG

Nov 29th 1817

(reference no.1 above)

23545

My Lords,

The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury having had under consideration your representation of the 1st Ult^o upon the subject of discounting the Express Office in the Hay Market. I have it in command to acquaint your Lordships that under the Circumstances represented My Lords are pleased to approve of the immediate discontinuance of the Establishment in question.

I am
My Lords
Your obedient Servant
Geo Harrison

Treasury Chambers
12 January 1818

(reference no. 2 above)

COPY

STOW TO FREELING

Inland Office
13 Jan'y 1818

Sir,

In answer to your letter directing me to state for the information of My Lords the Pos^t Gen^l what will be the probable reduction in the Bill for extra assistance in the Messengers Office provided an additional Messenger is placed at the bottom of the list of Messengers, I beg to acquaint you that on investigating the Subject with the two senior Messengers they are of Opinion that a saving of from 7/6 to 9/- pr week may fairly be reckoned upon, besides the importance of services to be derived from an additional regular Messenger.

I am/ Sir / Your Obedt Serv /
(signed) S. Stow

The Haymarket Express Office, continued.....

FREELING TO PMG

No. 64

General Post Office
10 February 1818

Mr. Lords,

In consequence of the Lords of the Treasury having directed the Discontinuance of the Express Office in the Haymarket, it has been notified to the Landlord of that Office, that the Apartments rented of him are no longer wanted and that they will be given up to him according to Agreement, by giving six Months Notice.

He considered that such Notice should end at Christmas next, being the time from which the Rent commenced - it was contended, that six Months Notice from Lady Day would be sufficient, to which he accorded.

A proposition was then made to him, that the Apartments should be vacated at Lady Day next - that he should be at liberty to let them from that time - and that the Office, in consideration of his foregoing the six Months Notice, should pay him three Months Rent up to Midsummer in Advance, to which terms he has agreed.

This arrangement will not only give the Express Clerk a few weeks to look out for other Apartments, but will be a saving of £15.15, or one quarters Rent to this Revenue.

I therefore presume your Lordships will approve of the Measure.

All which &c, &c

endorsed: Ap^d C L

(Notice)

To all Postmasters

GENERAL POST OFFICE
5th February, 1818

THE Haymarket Express Office having been abolished, I am to desire you will cancel so much of your Instruction No 8, " on Expresses ", as relates to that Office; and the whole of No.9, being " a List of Streets and Public Offices at the West End of the Town;" and send all Expresses intended for London to this Office.

I am
Your assured Friend
FRANCIS FREELING
Secretary

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