

London

Postal History Group

NOTEBOOK

In This Issue.....

Location of the London
Head Office & Post Houses
1526 - 1687

Number 13:
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EDITORIAL

Due to an extremely hectic spring, eight weeks of which were devoted to convincing local electors they could not do without me (they thought otherwise) plus two weeks holidays and other PH commitments, this edition is somewhat behind schedule. It does, however, contain a number of interesting items and import, not the least being a Postal History Society press release. Members will be able to judge the merits and attractions, or no, for themselves.

For our own affairs - Brian Smith, who has undertaken the task of organising an Exchange Packet, report - with concern - that material for sale has been very slow in coming in, but sufficient for one is now to hand and he hopes to arrange despatch early September. There must be a great many items of duplicated, lightly regarded or positively unwanted postal history held by every member. That pile of material lying, with a light cover of dust in a box having been used to prove a point could be just what another is in urgent need of for a collection, or for that matter to prove another point (or the same one if you fail to publish!). It may be worth but a few shillings, to use the old English still employed in the hobby, but unless offered on circuit it merely takes up valuable space. Resolve to make up one small parcel of, say, half a dozen items and send it off to Brian Smith - you may be delighted to buy another member's " rubbish ", but without yours the packet may have more than its fair share of problems.

On another tack entirely, those who have suitable material are reminded of forthcoming exhibitions wherein their researches bring not only the pleasure of recognition but will delight the eye of the many visitors. We note this year at BPE it will be possible to acquire a rather splendid proof (sic) of a GB high value; with postal history it is difficult to envisage an equivalent. Pity.

THE LONDON EXCHANGE

WANTED....Westley figs 72 and 75; most numbers
 83, 84, 88 & 89; all numbers
 73; No. 79
 78; No. 50 (on cover)
 82: No. 87, 97, 100 and 102
 90; No.85
 85; Nos. 39 to 41 (except 43)
 86; No. 37, 38
 87; No. 47, 49 - 52
 91; Letter A, D (on stamps)

I require these on dated pieces, or cover when noted, and have many duplicates of others to offer in exchange.

Dr. E. Wytttenbach, 59 Baumackerstrasse, Zurich XI, Switzerland.

WANTED...Xmas Special Scheme Manchester Postmark 1907, 1908 or 1909 (types 6 - 10)...M.R.Hewlett, The Hermitage, Box, Nr. Chippenham, Wilts
 SN14 9DT

WANTED...1844 numeral type postmarks, Chief Office, District Offices : on stamp, piece, entire. Offers to
 R. Garner, 11a Balfour Road, Southport, PR8 6LE

WANTED...London straight line Receivers marks; also a used envelope relating to the " Conversazione at the Guildhall " to celebrate the Jubilee of the Penny Post in 1890.
 W.V. Evans, 31 Balmoral Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT1 2TY

DISPOSING...by exchange of a varied collection of GB Postal History. Am now concentrating on items relating to Leicestershire and Hinckley in particular also re-addressed, cartoon and ' much travelled ' covers. Will exchange or buy based on Willcocks for Leicester items plus 50% in your favour for any Hinckley strikes. Let me know what you collect.
 Jon Baker, 13 Station Road, Hinckley, Leics.

WANTED...to buy (or exchange for German material, used or mint stamps) London Penny/Two-penny Post, Receiving House marks etc. In fact anything connected with London up to the 1890 period. Payment by UK cheque.
 E. Shaw, 2082 Uetersen/Holst.,Hafenstrasse 8, Germany.

WANTED...Penny Red Perf on cover from Chippenham (Wilts) to anywhere. Must be cancelled with Maltese Cross. Good price paid.
 M.R. Hewlett, The Hermitage, Box, Chippenham, Wilts. SN14 9DT

INFORMATION PLEASE..." Columbia London Machine Cancellation " any and all information welcome (have several for exchange).
 R.A. Keneally, 1/2 Middlegate, Penrith, Cumberland.

WANTED...Precancelled stamps and Postal Stationery especially A & H types 1583 to 1590 inclusive. Offers to
 R.D. Lee, 23 St. Andrews Road, Cranbrook, ILFORD, Essex.

WANTED...Material for the Group packet to
 B.T. Smith, 41 Cranleigh Drive, Swanley, Kent. BR8 8NZ

Members are invited to send in details of material they require, information required etc. etc. NO charge.

TRIBULATIONS OF A TWOPENNY POSTMAN, contributed by **S.W. Shelton**

From the Evening Mail dated October 26th. - 28th. 1801 comes this report:

' Clerkenwell Sessions, Oct. 26th

Thomas William Fletcher, was indicted for assaulting John Atlee, on the 8th of September last. From the evidence in this case, it appeared, that the Prosecutor was the twopenny postman delivering the letters within the district of Chancery Lane. The Defendant was an Attorney living in Quality Court. On the day stated in the indictment, the Prosecutor delivered a letter at the house of the Defendant, directed for Mrs. Fletcher, which was carried up stairs to the Defendant, who, after he had broken it open, returned it, and refused to pay the postage. The postman said that the reason for refusing payment must be indorsed on the back of the letter, according to their official forms, or he himself must be responsible to the Office. The Defendant then inclosed it in a cover with another direction; but the Prosecutor could not take it so, and broke off the cover: an altercation ensued, when Fletcher knocked him down.

The Jury returned a verdict of GUILTY.

Mr. Mainwaring observed that the Postman must be considered as an officer of the public, and if he were to be assaulted upon every dispute respecting postage, his business would never be done, and the public must be most material sufferers. Upon this consideration the Court therefore fined the Defendant 10£.

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NOTE ON THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE AND FREE STAMPS
contributed by Jim Lovegrove

Whilst overhauling my representative FREE FRANK collecting recently, I came across two items which amend information given in Martin Willcocks' catalogue.

1. A clean and very clear front from St. Asaph to London signed by Robyn Williams and bearing a first class impression of Willcocks Fig.38 (though with the small year figures used for the first issue). The date of the stamp is JUL 23 1800, which confirms it still in use in July and was not withdrawn in June as originally thought and mentioned in the text of the catalogue.
2. A similar clear impression of Willcocks Fig 39, though with a straight line LYNDHURST intruding on one side, on a front to London. The stamp is dated SEP 3 1800, which may be one of the earliest dates recorded so far. The main feature of interest is that the damage to the left of this stamp in the later impressions is in September scarcely discernable. Only a very slight flattening of the circular rim at about 10 o'clock, and at first glance nothing significant about it. Are there records of an impression earlier still?...perhaps before any damage befell the stamp?



38



39

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THE LOCATION OF THE LONDON HEAD OFFICE AND POST HOUSES 1526 - 1687
by Jeremy Greenwood

It is the intention of this article to dispel some of the myths that have arisen about the site of the General Letter Office, in part due to confusion between the terms " post house " and " post office " in the seventeenth century, as at first the post house was the post office and there was no separate or head office.

A post was established in the City of London in 1526 upon receipt of a warrant ordering a certain number of horses to be kept for the King's Post. The Court of Alderman viewed a site for a post house in Lombard Street but selected the Windmill in Old Jewry as a more convenient place and the City authorities decided to require the inn keepers to maintain 4 horses always in readiness and the hackney men, four more, to stand for hire for persons wishing or ordered to ride post, although the term at this stage does not necessarily have any connection with the carriage of letters.

In 1538 following complaints by the hackney men that in addition to the four horses they had agreed to furnish, the horses they brought into the City for hire were frequently seized for the King's service, so it was arranged that all the horses required of the City for this purpose should be provided by one of their number - Gabriel Abraham - on their behalf and that he should receive payment both from his fellow hackney men and the inn keepers.

However, this did not resolve the problem entirely and in 1548 Abraham petitioned for relief of his grievances and once again the responsibility for providing horses for the King's service was shared between the hackney men and the inn keepers of the City.

On January 25 1574 the Privy Council instructed the person who kept the post horses in the City to have 6 horses ready at all times " for such as come with commissions ", so evidently the old system had been reverted to. There was also a Court post, who was Robert Gascoigne at this period, whose duty it was to arrange post stages between London and wherever the monarch happened to be staying. In addition William Gough was " Her Majesty's Post of London " by 1590 and by 1623 there were obviously several more as Matthew DeQuester wrote to Secretary of State Conway in that year, from Sarjeant's Inn (possibly the location of the Foreign Branch at that date) as follows, " Forwards a packet by special post; the City posts objecting to take packets to Court without a note under Conways hand ".

Separate post houses had already been established at the head of each post road, although only the Dover and North roads had any degree of permanence. A document of 1619 is a receipt from John King, Richard Gladwin and Francis Pitt of Southwark for money paid by the King for the surrender of their warrant " to take up post horses within 5 miles of Southwark and for his (Kings) good behaviour in his place as postmaster, his ill conduct therein having been complained of ".

There is also a certificate annexed to this by John King stating that " Paul Axhall, postmaster of Bishopsgate Street Within, receives a contribution from the inn keepers of London to spare their horses in provision of post horses for His Majesty's travels and that he has lost £200 by providing and that on the King's removing days he sends warrants for horses from Southwark ".

Further references to post houses occur in 1628, confirming the one for the North road being in Bishopsgate and adding that the one for the Plymouth road was at Charing Cross. This is almost the end of the era of a postal service for the Court only as Withering's plan for a public postal service began to

be implemented in 1635, but there is no record of the position of the London head office at this date, although Witherings himself refers to it as being in Sherborne Lane in one of his later petitions.

However, it is not clear whether he means the Inland or Foreign (or both) for the two appear to have had separate establishments almost from the start due to the fact that whilst Witherings was Postmaster for Foreign Parts out of His Majesty's Domain by Royal patent, he was only the Deputy Postmaster for England by assignment from the Secretaries of State. Thus when both offices were sequestered from him in 1640 and assigned to Burlamachi by the king, he fairly soon recovered control of the Foreign Branch as he had assigned part of his interest in it to the Earl of Warwick, but he had no further dealings with the Inland Office which Burlamachi in his turn had assigned to Prideaux although he continued to run it himself until his death in 1644.

A letter of October 1640 refers to the Letter Office being in Crutched Friars (near Tower Hill) but it is not known if this was the same location as Burlamachi's house from where the Inland Office was run under Prideaux's protection, as in 1635 Burlamachi's residence was in Putney although he had rooms at a Mr. Gould's house in Fenchurch Street for his business and it is just possible this was the actual location of the Letter Office.

Witherings continued to run the Foreign Office branch of the Letter Office from his own house - location also unknown - until 1642 when it was moved to the Earl of Warwick's house near the Royal Exchange in Threadneedle Street; reputedly in Bartholomew Lane.

As well as these Chief Offices there were a number of post houses as before, one at the start of each road, with a postmaster in charge (as opposed to the deputy postmasters in all other offices) including Thomas Barlow at the Dog and Bear in Southwark, John Castleton in the Barbican and Edward Hutchins at the White Hart in Charing Cross, according to petitions of 1642 and Barlow in particular was still there in 1666.

Although Witherings continued the operation of the foreign mails, Prideaux, the Attorney-General under the Commonwealth, was ordered to take charge of the inland mails in 1644 and to re-organise them, and he was given the use of " such rooms in the House late of the Alderman Freeman, where this Committee of the Accounts of the Kingdom now sits, as he shall conceive to be necessary for erecting his letter office ", but this statement proves to be a red herring as firstly, " house " can refer to a residence or to the House of Commons (almost certainly the latter) and secondly, the only record of an Alderman Freeman of the City of London shows that he had died some ten years previously, whilst there were no aldermen for the city of Westminster until much later.

In 1651 (the year in which he conveniently died) Witherings had a servant running his office in the post house in Bishopsgate Street whilst a letter of the following year refers to the post for Yarmouth departing from Grace - church Street, but as these two streets are continuations of one another, they probably refer to the same office in the light of other evidence.

As to the Inland Office, this is more fully documented at this time and the well known broadsheet of January 1653 refers to the " Old Post House at the lower end of Threadneedle street, by the Stocks " i.e.immediately opposite the Stocks market and this situation is also mentioned in Oxenbridge's petition relating to the events of the previous year when after it was decided to farm the Letter Office, Prideaux lost interest in its affairs and towards the end of 1652, Oxenbridge and others took over the running of the postal services for a short while, to all intents & purposes. When Manley, who had

been granted the farm of both Inland and Foreign offices, forcibly took over from Oxenbridge et al. in early 1653 he also invaded their premises in Wood Street and seized letters there.

Confusion has arisen as to the location of this chief office as it was at the junction of Poultry, Threadneedle St., Lombard St., and Cornhill ! However, it remained in this situation and is recorded in the Hearth Tax records as being rated at 33 hearths; it being a considerable building as many of the Post Office officials lived as well as worked there.

In addition to this, there were post houses at the beginning of each post road and the survey of 1666 shows these as being as follows:

Isaac Bennet in Red Cross St. for the Chester road.

Mr. Harrington in Whitechapel for the Yarmouth road.

Thomas Barlow in Southwark for the Dover and Rye roads.

Andrew Snap at Charing Cross for the Plymouth road.

Mr. Roberts in the Barbican for the North road.

The oft quoted entry in Pepys' Diary (and also Evelyn's) for October 5 1664 referring to a visit to a musical evening at a post house near Gresham College, probably means one of those just mentioned rather than the General Letter Office .

We now enter a period, namely around the fire of London in 1666, during which many " fictional " references have been made to the site of the G.L.O. including the " Black Swan in Bishopsgate " - not known ever to have existed - and Cloak Lane, Dowgate - for which there is also not the least evidence, as the Hearth Tax records, already mentioned, c. 1664, as well as Hollar's map of 1666 confirm it was still be the Stocks and was consequently engulfed by the fire causing that redoubtable Post Office veteran, James Hickes, to flee with the letters to the post house at the Golden Lion in Red Cross Street on September 3rd., and the next day he moved on to the postmasters at Barnet where he wrote to all the other deputy postmasters instructing them to send the letters there temporarily.

By September 10th. he had found interim accomodation at the Black Pillars in Bridge Street, over against the Fleece Tavern in Covent Garden and about a week later had moved again to more permanent premises at Sir Samuel Bernad - istone's house in Bishopsgate Street, opposite the junction with Threadneedle Street. The Kent and Sussex Post Office (i.e. the Foreign Office) was similarly burnt down and had to be temporarily removed from the Round House, Love Lane where it had been from at least 1661, to the house of John Dane in the passage to and from Tower Hill, near the pump in Crutched Friars.

In August 1667 the Kentish office was moved to the " Grand Office in Bishopsgate Street " from the Round House so amalgamating both offices for the first time. The post house at the Swan near Charing Cross was moved to the Red Lyon near the Meuse (or newest) gate in February 1668, whilst the White Hart in the Barbican is referred to as the Post house for the Chester in 1670 still.

Finally in March 1678 the G.P.O. was removed to Sir Robert Viner's house in Lombard Street which they rented from him, where it remained for many years whilst an extension was made from it into Sherborne Lane in 1687 with an entrance there.

References: Apart from those listed in PHS Bulletins 7, 57, 76 and 119 and the Hearth Tax records note, which I owe to Martin Willcocks, these are the London Gazette 1666 - 87, H.M.C. Portland I, 582; Cowper II; Cal. Treasury Books 1685 - 9, p. 1651; C.S.P.D. 1652 and Hendy MSS in P.O. Records.

EXPERIMENTAL HANDSTAMPS

The results from the short piece in Notebook No.12 were something of a surprise, for although many readers contributed their findings and the Editor was fortunate in purchasing a study on this type of mark, not only for London but other towns also, the total number recorded reached the staggering total of 34 !

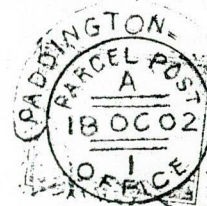
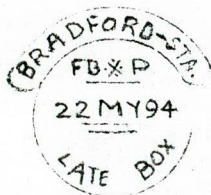


An analysis of this low figure yielded the undernoted:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Dates: Earliest | 2nd November 1888 |
| Latest | 10th May 1895 |
| Code Letters, Top | A (no other reported) |
| Centre | N (set both to left and to right) |
| | R2; R3; R5; R12; X; ZZ; |
| | 1; 4; 5; |
| | 4.30 pm; 7.45 am |
| Location: | mainly on single adhesives ½d; 1d; 1½; 2d; 2½d; 2/6; 5/- |
| Covers reported | 26. 7.1882 Bank of England Printed Letter with 1d embossed stamp, with a Colchester cds backstamp. |
| | 10. 2.1891 Pair of 3d to Barcelona |
| | 15. 6.1891 1½d to Penrith |
| | 16. 4.1892 1d. plus 2½d. to Barcelona |

The 4.30 p.m. is on a 1d. lilac, but the date is off the adhesive.
 The 7.45 a.m. was reported in the GB Journal of July 1968. No year given.
 The adhesive was a 2d. bearing a blue crayon mark, suggesting registration.

A number of items bearing a 6d. rate for Barcelona were reported, these being cancelled with the L1 of Gracechurch Street and Lombard Street. The rate at the time was 2½d. The example above gives a total of 3½d. Could this support the Late Fee usage theory ? There appeared no further evidence from London, but the material from places such as Liverpool, Manchester and Bradford lends credence, although of slightly different design and bearing in bold type the legend of Late Fee or Late Box. The three lines above and below appear to be a constant factor, although such types are well known in London on ordinary mail and, as parcel post stamps, are recorded in the Proof Impression Books.

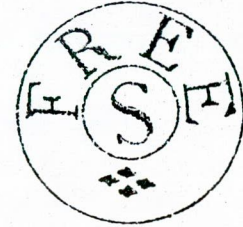


One is forced, albeit reluctantly, to render a verdict of ' Not Proven ' with the evidence thus far uncovered. It may yet be confirmed by researches in the archives of the Post Office Records.

CHARLIE COULSON OF THE FRANKING OFFICE, by Jim Lovegrove

The establishment of the Franking Office in the late eighteenth century, according to Lewins, was one Inspector and three or four Clerks. Later on this was made up to several Inspectors of whom one was the Chief, but I am concerned here with how things were under Charlie Coulson in the 1780's and 1790's.

About two years ago I was advised that Brumell's type 5 was known in RED, but only with the initial C, with dates later than could be reconciled to the introduction of later types unless the Inspector had his own personal stamp and was exercising a special privilege to go on using it. This seemed reasonable in view of the other evidence. Stafford had used his type 4 until his departure some time after the 7 November 1789. Palmer is known to have used type 4 on the 6 December but by the 17th was using a type 5. Mr A...began 1790 with a type 5 (or at least had one before April that year). None of these gentlemen reverted to the former type 4 and one supposes the stamps were withdrawn.



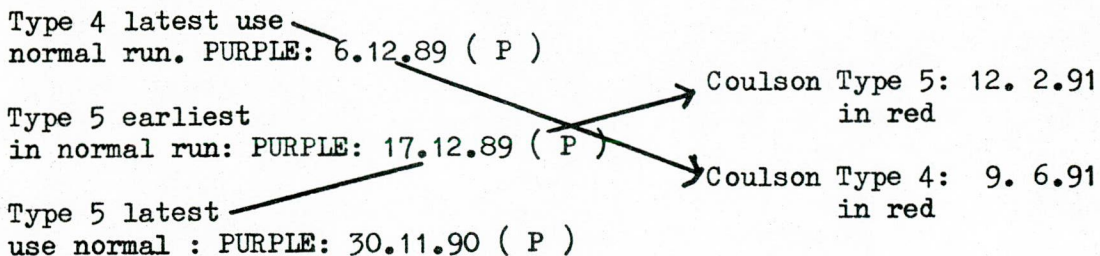
type 4

Two details ought to be stressed here : within the periods of normal use, all impressions so far recorded are in shades of brown or black-purple, such as one would associate with an ink from a vegetable source like the crushed acorns and gum arabic in common use at that time. Secondly, subsequent to the publication of the RMW catalogue, and reflecting his printed surmise on page 4 - " (A probably exists) " - examples of type 4 being this initial were demonstrated by Frank Bottomly. But agin none later than October 1789.



type 5

Now, in one lucky strike, I have across confirmatory evidence not only of Martin's original conclusions about Mr. Coulson's individuality in regard to type 4 but a repetitious tendency with type 5. Furthermore, the dates of use are back to front, like this :



It will not escape readers that the little table implies yet another sub - division in Martin's next edition - a 65a or similar to make room for a ' C ' only use of Type 5 in RED, just as his number 64 accomodates a similar use of type 4.

The inks used in these reds are worth a second glance. The type 5 is followed in 1791 by the first of quite a run of three ring date stamps which use a runny ink on the whole, smudging many impressions, darker in basic hue than the earth colours of the earlier type of FREE stamp in a circle but watered down considerably. Now the red ink used in the above examples by Mr. Coulson is of this later kind, only thick in body. In such a raw state

it is almost blood red, even perhaps darker still and far more powerful a colour than the early reds.

Does anyone know if the inks were solid and water added to a block and if at any time in, say 1790, there is known to have been a change ?

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THE SECRET OFFICE AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE

The report and comment contained in the Illustrated London News of 22 June 1844 reprinted in Notebook No.12. In the issue for the following week, which alas is not as complete as one might wish, comes further detail of the operation of the letter openers.

" The sensation produced by the recent cases of letters being opened at the General Post-office, by the authority of the Secretary of State for the Home Department, has induced us to engrave, for the gratification of our readers, the identical apartment in which this extraordinary power is exercised. It is also used as the Money-Order Office, and is situated on the right of the principal entrance, facing into the great area. A portion of the room is partitioned off, along with the window, for the payment and granting of Post-office orders. The ordinary business transacted in the room, is the keeping of the accounts connected with the order department, and the franking, &c., of official communications. From one corner of the room is an elegant spiral staircase, which leads to the other offices connected with this division; and beneath the staircase, is a door which communicates by a flight of steps, with vaults beneath. A door at the side of the room opens into the private office of the principal, Mr. Barth, whose name is signed to all the official documents passing through the office.

Few persons are aware how letters are opened and re-sealed by the Post-office. Wafers are opened by the application of moisture, and sealed letters are opened thus:- The letter is laid on an anvil with the seal up, upon the seal is laid a square piece of pure lead, and upon this lead descends a hammer with considerable velocity. The sudden impact converts the lead into a seal as faithful as an electrotpe, and accordingly is used to reseal the letter, which is now opened by destroying the wax bit by bit. For all letters similarly sealed the lead seal will do. A blunderer in the management must have recently lead to suspicion. In small country towns, curious postmistresses keep by them as assortment of seals, with impressions of hearts, darts &c., for the purpose of enabling them to get at little secrets. "

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LONDON TWOPENNY POST.....

Would members who have aquired further Twopenny post items (dated between Ap. 5 1801 & Jan 10th 1840) since last reporting their material to me, please let me have the usual details of these items. Balnk recording sheets indicating data required can be sent on request.

C.J. Adams, The Lowe, Worfield, Bridgnorth, Salop.

WHAT THE AUCTIONS TELL.....

Some results from Postal History Auctions conducted by Robson Lowe Ltd.

13th. December, 1972

Lot	Description	Valuation	Result
238	London Receiving Houses: 1671 E.L. from London " For my Worthy Cosen William Helyer Esq. at Coker in Somersetshire. To be left with the postmaster at Sherborne.post is payd " with London Bishop Mark and scarce " 7 Off ". The contents refer to the purchase of 4000 acres in Jamaica although " the times are troublesome and that country open to Invasion ". A little soiled.	£ 50	£ 75
247	14.1.1707 E.L. with London Bishop IA/16 and fine dotted heart shaped time stamp F/AFT***	£ 60	£170
248	14.2.1707 E.L. with indistinct town-stamp, London Bishop FE/16** and heart shaped time-stamp M/AFT*** but smudged.	£ 40	£ 72.50
258	1797 - 1845 E. and E.L. showing a variety of Receiving House marks of the London Penny and Twopenny post including the scarce boxed "T-P/Shaklewell", many show h.s. "2" and "3", others show time marks, mostly ** to ***(90)	£ 30	£ 82.50

29th. March, 1973

1177	1824 E. showing boxed " Postage Not Paid / To London " ** to *** and on reverse " HARTFORD BRIDGE/38 *** to ***. 1837 boxed POSTAGE NOT PAID/TO LONDON * to ** and 1824 circular " To be delivered/Sund/MORN/ by 10 " in red, almost *** (3)	£ 15	£ 52.50
1184	1664 E.L. to London, rated "3" and showing, on reverse a very *** ' IY/4 ' Bishop mark	£ 30	£ 54
1213	1788 E. to Essex showing " PENNY/POST/PAID " for General Office, and manuscript " Moore " Receivers mark, almost ***	£ 18	£ 35
1334	1814 E.L. to New York showing across join, cds "POST PAID WITHDRAWN SHIP LETTER/LONDON"(PPW 1) almost superb.	£ 50	£ 85
1335	1814 E. from London to Cap of Good Hope showing on reverse a superb strike of the crowned " EXEMPT SHIP LR ", the strike is slightly ragged due to its being struck across the seal. This is thought to be the earliest type of exempt ship letter and is believed to be unique	£150	£240

Members are invited to submit any auction results they consider of interest or quotes from dealers lists. Apart from illustration (those for some of the above appear on p.17) the prices are of no small interest, and concern , even if the purchase is for many of us rather an academic exercise.

INLAND OFFICE

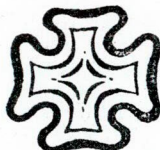
We tend to think of the Diamond cancellations when mentioning the Inland Branch or Office, but this was not the first cancelling device employed by that department. The most obvious Maltese Cross led the field and a recent purchase caused a gentle nose around the bookshelf. R.C. Alcock Ltd. published, in 1959, "The Maltese Cross Postmarks", being a revised version of the relevant section of their 1940 opus. This coupled with information from Leon Dubus "London Cancellations" and notes in various journals provided some further information.

The description, given by Alcocks, of the main London cross runs thus:

"In this mark the outer cross is normal, and the inner cross has its curved sides strongly tapered from the centre of each curve to where it ends in the bar that closes each arm. The arms are not much splayed, and the bar at the end of each arm is usually thin. The centre diamond is large and also has its sides curved and tapered, so that the points are long and sharp, often with a slight break at or near the extreme point."

The London variety of 1841 is described in these terms:

"The central diamond in this variety is extended to end in four fine points. These are separated by small gaps from the rest of the diamond, this itself being in four parts with a gap at each point."



*

Dubus produces another variety* with dates of 20.2.41; 28.2.42 and 10.2.43.

Alcocks discuss the small number 1 and illustrate a cover dated 14th. April 1841 showing a clear small one in the inner diamond - this inner diamond not being present in the recognised 1 to 12 series. Dubus dismisses the suggestion of a series of small numbers with firmness.. "a later distinctive Maltese Cross has a small diagonal line in the diamond; this can be considered an accidental mark or the head of a nail and therefore cannot be recorded as a figure 1 "....." we must point out that a number of these crosses bear lines which look like figures 1, 2 or 3, but we consider these fortuitous or the result of repairs to the handstamps, and not essays for the numbers in cross series as might be supposed "..... which takes us neatly to the ' number in cross ' series.

This article does not illustrate these, but notes of dates of us and other comment are given. Westley in "Postal Cancellations of London 1840 - 90" gives 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6 issued on 23rd. March, 1843 and others on 1st. April, but this does not appear to be correct, despite these being the dates entered in Proof Impression Books.

(continued on next page)

Westley (a) 23.3.1843; (b) 1.4.1843

<u>No.</u>		<u>Earliest Date</u>	<u>Latest Date</u>
1	(a)	22. 3.1843	11. 5.1844
2	(a)	21. 3.1843	7. 5.1844
3	(b)	16. 3.1843	

No cross at top of stamp. Remade ? or series prototype ? A Fred ?
Not shown in Proof Impression Books.

4 (a) 21. 3.1843

This is scarce on the one penny imperf. Why ?

5 (a) Alcocks give the note ' late March dates '

6 (a) - do -

7 (b)

Alcocks record number 7 as supposed to exist with a clearly defined serif and also without serif on a figure where the upright stroke is of equal thickness from top to bottom. They are very doubtful of this having noted examples which, due to inking variation, give the appearance of equal thickness but with plainly visible serifs; others display the merest trace of serifs and further, a cover of 1st. January 1844 showed a perfectly normal 7 with no overinking and no serifs, but the normal upright stroke, i.e. tapering thin towards the top.

Dubus states.." No.7 exists in two slightly different types which are difficult to tell apart ".

8 to 12 (b) early April

10 is noted as being scarce on the twopenny.

There has to be the difficult item in any series of postmarks and in this case it is the obvious one of the 6 (or 9) since this has been recorded without the outside cross on a cover dated 2nd. February 1844 from, or rather with, a Bishops Street Within handstamp alongside. It is illustrated in " The Great Britain Philatelist " of May 1964. A further example on cover dated the same appeared in " The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain " with the narration " As far as we know it is the first recorded example of this variety ", this in March 1967. Unhappily it was not and to make matters worse it is, upon closer inspection merely a truncated printing of the 1964 illustration!

A brief note on colours. The red cancellation was found to be unsatisfactory and at the end of August 1840 an experiment was made in London with dilute printers ink. Later in the year an improved black ink was employed in London. Alcocks, however, note the use of red cancellations on one penny stamps dealt with by the London Chief Office on 15th. February, 1841 and 11th. May, 1844.

The numbers in cross series is perhaps not as highly regarded as it should be for a stamp in use for little over a year, although the very appearance in contrast with the usual unnumbered cross no doubt ensured a number were kept by those happy folk who tuck away the curious.

Readers are invited to check through their collections for additional dates, with particular reference to any late or abnormal usages.

THE LONDON TWOPENNY POST AND REDIRECTED MAIL, by E.A. Quinn

With the advent of Uniform Penny Postage on the 10th. January, 1840, revised charges were levied on redirected mail.

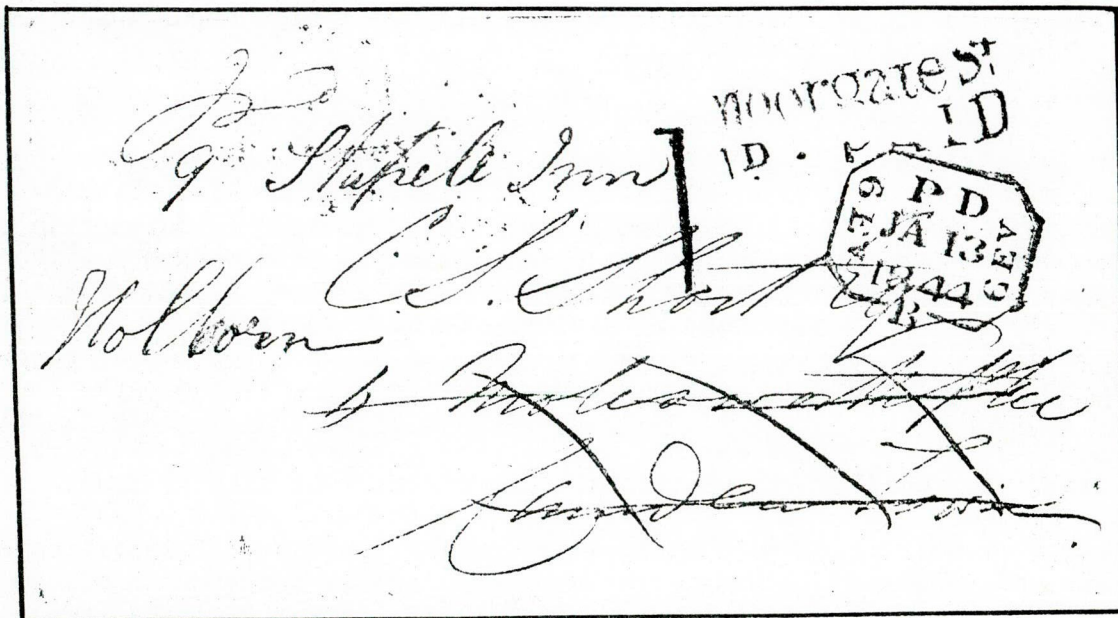
Hitherto, letters were liable to varying rates when re-directed, the postage applicable to the second journey was charged on them. Under the new arrangements only the fee at the ordinary rate was levied.

The London Twopenny Post retained its title with the introduction of U.P.P. but a number of its handstamps were no longer applicable.

I have three letters all put into Twopenny Post Receiving Houses in January 1844 and all show the red Chief Office paid stamp (A & H 150). The letters have been redirected within the confines of the Twopenny Post and all bear a handstruck black figure "1", indicating that a 1d. is due on delivery.

The mark is quite different from the General Post strikes and I should be glad to know whether other examples of this strike are in members collections and if so, the dates when it has been seen used.

The contents, which have absolutely nothing to do with postal history, will bring a wry smile to organisers of any club or society, are given on the following pages.



(CIRCULAR.)

RED LION SQUARE,

January 9, 1844.

SIR,

AN earnest desire to accelerate the progress of a Society, to the establishment and success of which I have hitherto devoted so much anxious attention, induces me to urge you to attend the next General Court of the Mutual Life Assurance Society, to be holden on the 17th instant, at the King's Head, Poultry, at 12 o'clock precisely.

I have observed with much regret, that the great body of our Members take so little interest in the welfare of our Association, that few of them will even trouble themselves to attend the General Courts. I regret this, because I fear that they are not properly impressed either with the excellence of the principles upon which the Association is founded, or with the results which have hitherto attended its progress, and that consequently they are in no condition to make known its merits or to proclaim its success.

Allow me to inquire how the Society (a purely Mutual Association) could have been founded, or its present stable position attained, without great individual exertion? and what there was (with the great majority) to induce that exertion, but an enthusiastic conviction of the soundness of the principles upon which the Society was based, and the certainty of its ultimate success?

With a Proprietary Association the case is different; the Proprietors are induced to form the Society in the hope of obtaining a large interest for their money, and to bestir themselves in its behalf by the knowledge that every individual assurance tends directly to increase the amount of that interest; every Proprietor in fact becomes a paid agent for the Company; but in a purely Mutual Society, the interest of each Member in a new assurance is so remote, as practically to amount to *no* inducement to exertion, and consequently, unless the Members individually can be inoculated with a proselyting conviction of the value and usefulness of the Society, there is little hope of their troubling themselves on its behalf.

I address you, then, in the belief that by attending the next General Court, you will be so far impressed with the soundness of the principles, and the stability of the position upon which the Society is *now* based, that you will be induced to become an active rather than a sleeping partner; and that having acquired, as I firmly believe you will acquire, a sincere conviction that the Mutual Life Assurance Society is, upon the whole, the *very best* Office at which your neighbour and friend could assure their lives, you will not hesitate, in kindness to them, to press it upon their attention. You will perhaps inquire why the wine, being so good, requires so much bush? or why the Society, having hitherto progressed so well, now needs so much exertion? To the

first, I answer, that the wine, to be pronounced good, must be tasted, *and to be tasted must be known*; and to the second, I say, that although the Society has without your exertion progressed from £70 to £70,000, and doubtless will, *without* your assistance, in process of time, progress to £700,000 and £7,000,000, yet it is obvious that *with* your active co-operation that progress will be materially accelerated. *Without* your exertions, the Society will probably in the next year advance from some 500 or 600 Members to 600 or 700 Members, and its accumulated capital to £80,000 or £90,000; whereas if every Member were to enforce its merits in his own particular circle, and so INDUCE ONE OR TWO NEW ASSURERS, the Members would, in the same time, be doubled or trebled, and the capital proportionably increased.

I am not unmindful of the old maxim, "leave well alone;" but ten years ago I predicted that an Association upon the principles of the Mutual must succeed, and ultimately, from the universality of its application, become the largest Assurance Office in the world. I have lived to see its success, and if I am spared yet a few years, and with a little personal exertion on your part, I am confident I shall also live to see it in the proud position which I anticipate; it is to that end that your assistance is sought; an accelerated progress may surely now be looked for; the influence of many Members exerted on behalf of an *established* Society, cannot fail to do infinitely more than the influence of a few Members exerted to establish and support an *infant* Society has done. In ten years, despite the difficulties of novelty and the weakness of infancy, and assisted only by the exertions of a *few* individuals, from nothing, £70,000 have been accumulated. In ten more years, with the confidence of success, and the strength of manhood, and supported by the exertions of a *large* body of Members, from £70,000, what may not be accumulated? I only hope that I, and every one whom I have now the honour to address, may live to see the result.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant and fellow Member,

WILLIAM BURCHELL.

INTERESTING CONTENTS....

Many collectors take a keen delight on reading the contents of an entire which bears a postal marking they have sought, sometimes to find that the meat is more enjoyable than the skin. More than one speaker has been led astray in this manner to the delight of many in the audience who, as members of the local society, may not be postal historians and who find the study of postmarks, dates and suchlike something of a mystery.

Perhaps you have such items and could share their interest with fellow members ?

INLAND BRANCH UPRIGHT DIAMONDS, by Keith Martin-Jones

Folio 1 has now been returned to me and quite a lot of new information has been added.

Folio 2 has been lost in the post !!

Folio 3 is still being circulated.

The further information is given below and the illustrations referred to may be found in Notebook No.11, page 13.

A. With Date Stamps

Series 15 (Westley 79)

I have received four reports of 71, five of 72, five of 73
BUT NONE OF 74

Series 20 (Westley 88)

19 has been reported on adhesive only.

B Without Date Stamps

Series 5

12, 18, 49 and 51 have been reported

Series 9

These seem quite scarce and although Dubus gave the numbers as 26 - 39 only 26 and 28 have turned up, apart from the ones already reported. Brigadier G.A. Viner has 26 (as well as 10 of series 4) used on letters from H.M.S. Euryalus from Suez and Columbo to Birmingham in the 1880's. He writes that these are ' Seaman Privelege' letters.

I wonder if any other numbers were used.

Series 16

36 and 39 have now been reported, so all the numbers 34 - 51 were used, although members have not reported 38, 45, 46 or 48.

Series 24

17 has appeared in this series but is without a diamond frame.

Would readers please check through any Upright Diamonds they have in their possession which may be in sections dealing with other marks and not yet inspected for the Inland Branch aspect. Needless to say, advice on new acquisitions is most welcome.

UNDATED NAMESTAMPS

Collectors of 19th. century material will be familiar with the straight line Receiving House handstamps employed during and immediately after the Two - penny Post period. Peter Curteis has undertaken the task of collating information on the use of four of these as they appear from the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post rate from 10th. January, 1840.

Although not uncommon during the post 2d. period, fig 100 is elusive to the point of total absence before then. It was introduced in 1805 for newspapers going from London to the country area, or at least that is thought to be the case as it was at that time mention is first made of the appropriate rate. Brumell advises ' I have however not come across an early specimen '.

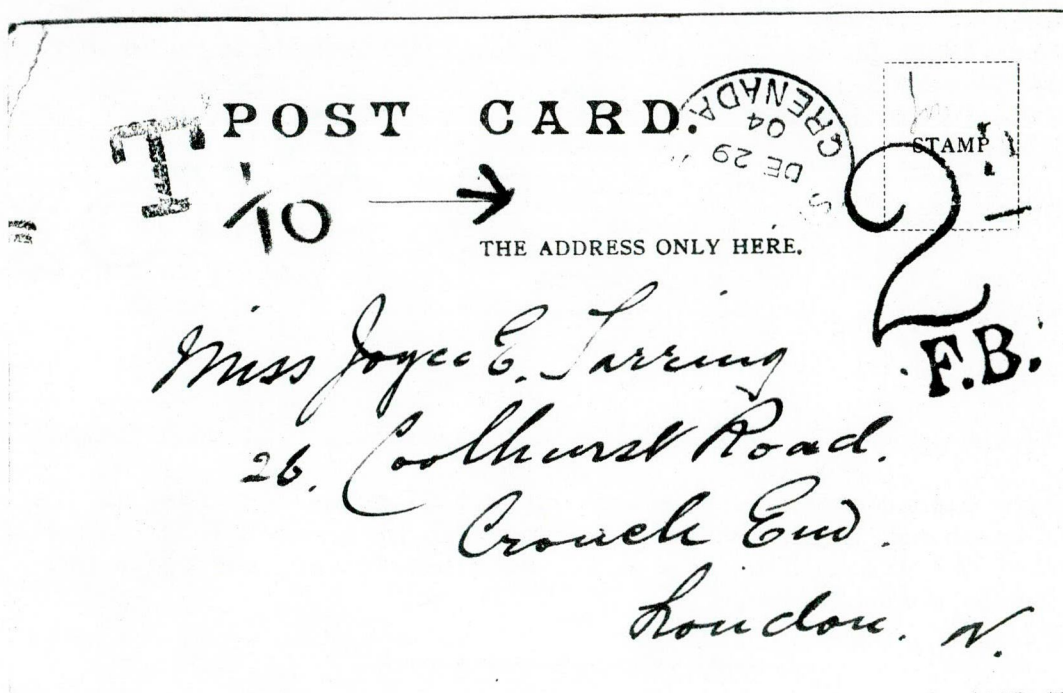
Figs 101 and 103 were introduced in 1836 (together with a 3d. rate handstamp but there was no call for this during the study period; it will be most interesting to learn if any reader does have one - or more - used out of its correct time). The main point of these stamps is they show no connection with the Twopenny Post.

A revised style with a dash in place of the dot was introduced in 1840, but only as replacement and not as a general issue. The first dates for each office will therefore vary.

An appropriate form is enclosed for readers to complete and sent to Peter Curteis and even just one copy in a box of odds and ends should be recorded, it may well be an unregarded treasure.

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

CHARGE AND EXPLANATORY MARKINGS



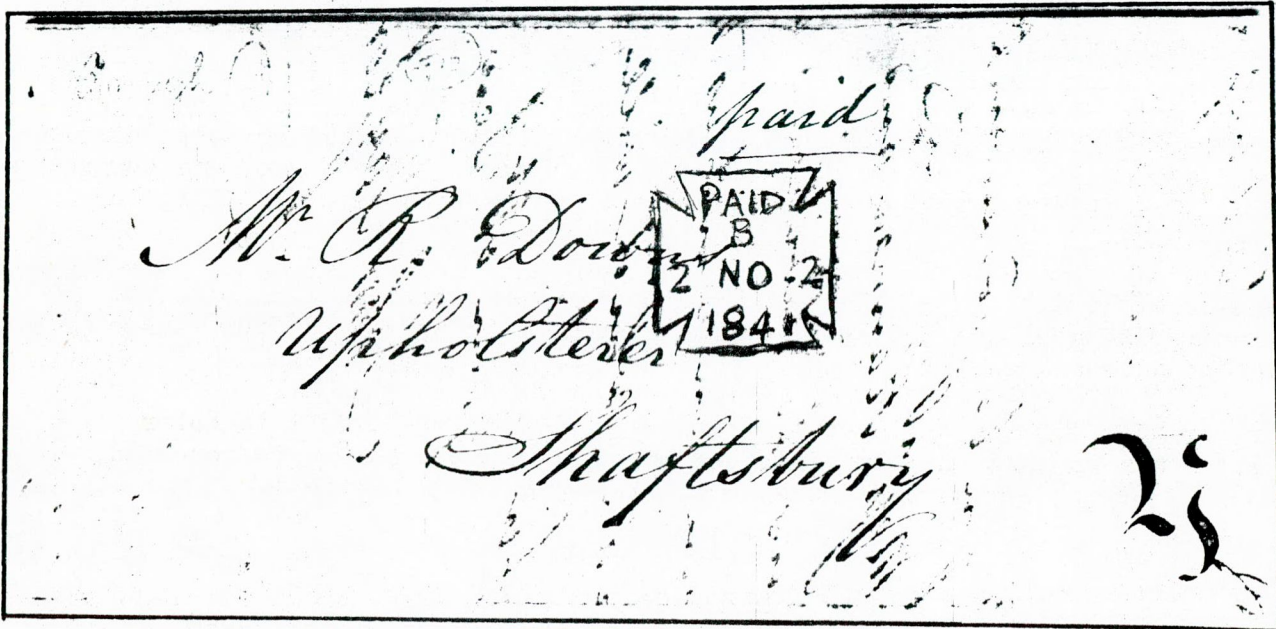
A Happy New Year card, which the sender failed to prepay, received the " T ", a " 1/10 " in blue pencil, a 2^D/F.B. and what is the puzzle, a short arrow, also in black as is the FB mark. Can any reader identify the mark ?

The card originated from Grenada.

THE ODD MARK, submitted by W.V. Evans.

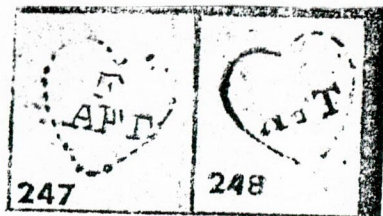
One of the delights of postal history is to puzzle over some strange mark and evolving ones theories and listening to those of friends similarly engaged. Illustrated below is one, or two (?), such marks(s). It appears to have been impressed on the reverse and has sufficient purposeful symmetry to suggest some specific function, though whether postal or no is to be established.

Any suggestions ?

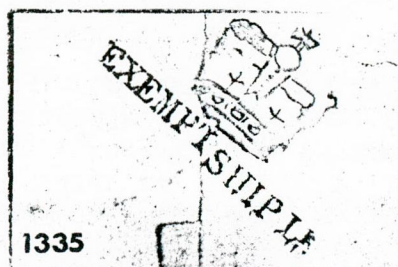


AUCTION REALISATIONS, some lots illustrated.

of 13.12.72



of 29.3.73



LONDON **GENERAL AND LOCAL POST RECEIVING HOUSES**, contributed by John Adams

From Cary's 1791 pocket map of London, Westminster & Southwark comes the following list of General Post and Local Penny Post (Town Area) Receiving Houses.

RECEIVING HOUSES

Appointed by the General Post Office in Lombard Street

Berkeley Sque. next Hay Hill No. 2	Oxford Street No. 62
Borough near Union Str.	Pall Mall No. 125
Bridge Street Westminster No. 3	Do. near North Audley Str. No. 259
Chancery Lane No. 27	Park Str. Upr. Grosvr. Squ.
Charing Cross No. 17	Piccadilly corner Sackville St.
Charles Street Soho	Round Court Strand No. 27
Coventry Street Piccadilly	Russel Court Drury Lane No. 28
Curzon Street No. 39	Saint Jame's Street No. 71
Drury Lane No. 162	St. John's Street No. 106
Duke Street Portland Place No. 13	St. Martin's Lane No. 96
Holborn Hill No. 58	South Audley Street No. 16
Holborn corner Southampn. Bu. No. 319	Strafford Street Old Bond Str. No. 2
Holborn oppose. Dean Str. No. 246	Strand near Exeter Change No. 133
Hart Str. Bloomsbury Square No. 10	Theobalds Row No. 21
Jermyn Street No. 52	Tothill Str. corner New Tothill Str.
King Street Covent Garden	Vigo Street Sackville Street No. 4
King Street oppe. Greek Str.	Wapping Dock near Connan. Str.
Knight rider Street No. 14	Wapping Dock near Cinnan. Str.
Ludgate Hill	White Horse Street Stepney
Little Tower Hill No. 13	Wigmore Str. Cavendish Squ. No. 3
Margaret Street Cavh. Sq. No. 54	Wych Street near the New Inn
Middle Temple Lane	White Chapel High Street No. 47
New Bond Street No. 27	Tottenham Court Road No. 91
	Gt. Marybone Street No. 6

PENNY POST HOUSES

Chief Office in Throgmorton Street

Aldersgate Street No. 49	Budge Row No. 32
Barnaby Street No. 216	Bunhill Row No. 68
Basinghall Street No. 52	Brompton Row
Beer Lane Tower Street No. 36	Carnaby Market No. 29
Beale St. No. 16	Cary Street
Bishopsgate Without No. 36 100	Castle Street Berners Str. No. 5—72
Blackmoore Street Clare Market	Cannon Str. No. 30
Bishopsgate Within No. 63	Chancery Lane No. 77
Blenheim Street No. 12	Charing Cross
Bloomsbury Market	Charles Str. Berkeley Square No. 3
Bowling Street No. 5	Do. Hatton Garden No. 1 Do. Soho 6
Brick Lane Spital Fields No. 180	Coventry Street Piccadilly
Bridge Street Lambeth No. 4	Chapel Street Audley Street No. 5
Broad Street Buildings No. 19	Chiswell Street No. 70
Broad Street Bloomsbury No. 46	Clerkenwell Green No. 38
Bridge Street Westminster	Cold bath Square No. 7
Bruton Street No. 4	Coleman Street No. 9

(continued on next page)

PROGRAMME

The printed programme for the Group is enclosed with this issue. Your suggestions for the next year's meetings would be much appreciated, even more so if you can act as the ' leader ' for the session. However, if like the Chairman, you find you are better placed to learn than advise, do not let this deter you from suggesting subjects for meetings.

Cornhill No. 89
 Chelsea, Jews Row
 Craven Buildings Hoxton
 Crispin Street No. 24
 Crutched Friars
 Cupers Bridge Borough No. 156
 Dartmouth Street No. 10
 Devonshire Street Holborn No. 31
 Drury Lane No. 147
 Duke Str. Manchester Squ. No. 16
 Execution Dock No. 141
 Falcon Stairs near Do. No. 14
 Fetter Lane No. 54-19
 Fish Street Hill No. 19
 Fishmonger Alley
 Fleet Street No. 185 Do. Lane No. 43
 Gosswell Street No. 117
 Grace Church Street No. 6
 Great Mary le Bone Str. No. 6-27
 Gutter Lane No. 24
 Great Portland Street
 Great Russell Str. Bloomsby. No. 6
 Horsley Down
 Hart Street Cripplegate No. 8
 Hay's Court Soho
 Houndsditch
 High Str. near Paddington No. 68
 Holborn Hill No. 60, Do. Bar No. 2
 Holborn No. 20, Do. High No. 223
 Hoxton
 Holywell Street Shoreditch
 Iron Gate
 Islington No. 13 Do. oppn. the Church
 James Str. Bedford Row No. 19
 James Street Westminster No. 34
 Jernyn Street No. 84
 Knightsbridge
 King Street Westminster
 Laystall Street Grays Inn La. No. 18
 Leadenhall Street No. 114
 Little East Cheap No. 36
 Little Knight Rider Street No. 3
 Lloyds Coffee House
 Lombard Street No. 17
 Lothbury No. 2
 Lower Grosvenor Street No. 77
 Lambeth Marsh Do. near the Chu.
 Ludgate Hill No. 24
 Maddox Street No. 17
 Maiden La. Covent Garden No. 8
 Mills Lane No. 130
 Mill Bank No. 30
 Minories No. 15
 Monmouth Street
 Mitre Court Fleet Street No. 7
 Mount Street No. 5
 Newgate Street No. 81
 New George Street No. 17
 New Street Covent Garden No. 13
 Newport Alley Newport Street
 North Audley Street No. 32
 Old Broad Street No. 56
 Old Street near the Cha.
 Oxford Street No. 88-126-257
 Paddington
 Prince's Street
 Palace Yard
 Pall Mall near George Str.
 Penton Street, Islington
 Piccadilly No. 65
 Portland Street No. 34
 Do.—Do. Soho No. 33
 Queen Hithe No. 60
 Queen Street Cheapside No. 69
 Radcliffe Highway No. 116
 Raven Row Spital fields No. 4
 Red Lion Str. Holborn No. 67
 Do.—Do. Spital Fields No. 12
 Redriff near Queen Str. No. 27, Do. near
 Globe Stairs, Do. cornr. Geo. Row,
 Do. Wall
 Shadewell Upper No. 115
 St. Albans Street No. 17
 St. Clements Church Yard Strand
 St. John Str. No. 108 204, Do. Square 13
 St. Martins Lane No. 121, Do. Court
 St. Martins le Grand No. 50
 St. Michaels Alley Cornhill
 St. Pauls Church Yard No. 52
 Shepherd's Market No. 30
 Shoreditch No. 5
 Smithfield Wst. No. 12, Do. Upper East
 Snow Hill No. 18
 Strand No. 472 opposite Craven St.
 Do. No. 46 near Buckingham Street
 Do. No. 61- opposite Bedford Str.
 Do. No. 107 near the Savoy
 Strand No. 235 near Temple Bar
 Do. No. 289 opposite Norfolk Str.
 Theobald Row No. 22
 Threadneedle Street
 Tooley Street No. 231
 Tottenham Court Road No. 2
 Tothill Street
 Tower Hill No. 32
 Treasury Coffee House
 Thames Street Lower No. 54
 Walnut Tree Walk Lambeth No. 14
 Wards Row Pimlico
 Watling Street No. 79
 Welbeck Street No. 3
 Wellclose Square No. 16
 White Chapel No. 41
 Wapping No. 340-184, Do. Wall No. 73,
 Do Stairs No. 84
 Winstead Street Sommers Town
 Wimpole Street No. 71
 Windmill Str. Tottenham Co. No. 30
 York Str. Oxford Street No. 18

Offices Omitted in Their Regular Order

Bethnal Green
 Borough Opposite St. Georges Church
 Broad Street Radcliffe Cross No. 45

Dockhead opposite Shad Thames
 Queen Street Tower Hill
 St. Saviors Church Yard Southwark

INDEX numbers 1 to 13 inclusive.....

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n.b. The Issue number is given first / then the page

LONDON POSTAL HISTORY GROUP

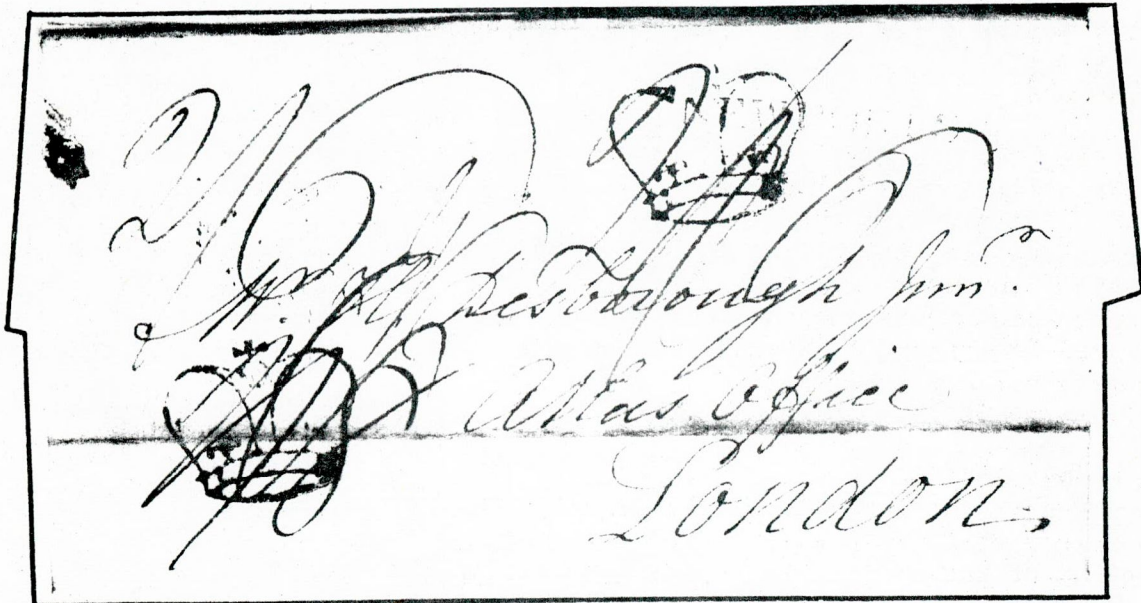
Chairman Peter A. Forrestier Smith.
Hon. Secretary Michael M. English,
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Orpington, Kent.
BR5 4HT
Hon. Treasurer John A. Grimmer.
Packet Secretary Brian T. Smith,
41 Cranleigh Drive,
Swanley, Kent.
BR8 8NZ

There are a number of Study Groups and readers are invited to contact the Hon. Secretary for details.

Back numbers of " Notebook " may be obtained from the Chairman.

One copy 35 pence; one year's issues £ 2.00 post paid.
Out of print issues may involve a special quotation.

c 1973 is vested in the contributor where named: otherwise in the Group.



Make Your Mind Up Time !!

This double use of the Inspector's Crown is unusual since it could be read as indicating that the rate of 2/6 was cancelled and 1/8 written on the entire. A pause for reflection and this is rejected with the original 2/6 re-instated.

The single rate for 120 miles to 170 miles in 1816 was 10d for a single letter. The writer states " Please to credit my account with the enclosed Eight pounds " but no reference to more than one enclosure. Why, therefore a treble rate ?