

POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Inaugurated 1936

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BULLETIN No.16 - DECEMBER 1940

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All communications with reference to the Bulletin should be addressed to.  
The Hon. Editor, S. Graveson,  
Ravenhurst, 15 Queen's Road, Hertford.

Members are invited to send Notes and other contributions.

NOTES AND NEWS

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The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Oddenino's Hotel on September 25th, when the Hon. Secretary presented his Annual Report, the Hon. Treasurer his Statement of Accounts, and the Hon. Secretary of Congress Committee an interim Balance Sheet for the Congress held at Bournemouth last May. Copies of the Report and Statements are included in this Bulletin. The financial position of the Society was reviewed and steps taken to raise the necessary amounts to clear the liabilities of the Society to Congress Committee and to the printers of the "Penny Postage Centenary" volume. The Officers and Council were re-elected for another year.

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The Bulletin. Whilst the Annual Meeting endorsed the views expressed by the Hon. Secretary that it was not advisable to attempt a programme of meetings in London under the conditions then prevailing, it was unanimous that the circulation of the Bulletin should be continued. Many expressions of appreciation of the Bulletin have been received by the Editor. It is quite evident that it serves as a valuable link in the membership of the Society. The Editor thanks those who have contributed to its success in the past and invites others to send articles and notes for publication.

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Subscriptions for the current year, October 1940 to September 1941, are now due from those who have not already remitted them. A form is enclosed for this purpose. Will Members who have recently moved their place of residence give their new address on the subscription form.

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Donations and Loans are still needed to provide the Hon. Treasurer with sufficient funds to clear the Society's liabilities on account of Congress and the "Penny Postage Centenary" volume. From the Balance Sheets in this issue it will be seen that those who loan money are well covered by the stocks in hand of Congress labels, etc., and over 600 copies of the Centenary book. If you have not already obtained a copy of "Penny Postage Centenary" you may order it through your Bookseller, or, if you fill up the Order Form with your Subscription and post it direct to the Hon. Treasurer, a copy (or copies) will be sent you by return. As a gift book for Christmas there is nothing better on the market for all interested in Postal History.

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Bombed-out! So many of us have suffered loss and damage from the war that we can the better appreciate the inconvenience caused to those who have been "bombed out". When 96 Regent Street was shattered by a high-explosive bomb Mr. Robson Lowe's premises, where the Postal History Society's library has been housed, were rendered uninhabitable. As there was no prospect of restoration whilst the war lasted, Mr. Lowe moved his business to other premises at 50 Pall Mall and offered accommodation for the Library there. This we have accepted and express sincere thanks to Mr. Lowe.

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Centenary Medal. On November 6th the Editor of the Bulletin attended the opening meeting of the session of the Royal Society of Arts in Adelphi to receive a silver medal that had been awarded him by the Society for the paper read at the Centenary of Penny Postage Meeting in May. The substance of the paper appeared in the Journal of the Royal Society of Arts, and also, by permission of the Society, in the "Penny Postage Centenary" book published by the Postal History Society.

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Do you want Information on: Tristan da Cunha. A.J. Sefi.  
The First Adhesive Postage Stamp. Greek Adhesive of 1831. P.L. Pemberton.  
The Great Barrier Island Pigeon Post Services, 1897-1908. A.J. Sefi.  
Steamship Stamps of St. Thomas, La Guaira. Sir John Wilson Bart.  
South America Early Sea and Local Posts. Charles Jewell.  
A Short History of the Norwegian Post. A.J. Sefi.  
Stamps of the Private Byposts of Norway. H.R. Holmes.  
Stamps used Abroad in South Africa, 1899-1902.  
Early Postmarks of France. Carroll Chase.

Articles on above, from the "Philatelic Journal of Great Britain" may be borrowed from the Library of the Postal History Society, on application to S. Graveson, 15 Queen's Road, Hertford.

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"The Postmaster General Decide". The curious form of wording here, and "The Postmaster General are of opinion", occurs frequently in Parliamentary Reports in the 18th century. The explanation is that while there has never been more than one office styled Postmaster General, for a long period the office was held by two members of the House of Lords, each of whom was called Postmaster General. This practice of appointing two to the office started with the appointment of Sir Robert Cotton and Sir Thomas Frankland Bart. in 1690, but from 1787 to 1823 the office was held consistently by members of the House of Lords. The two P.M.G.'s divided the salary of £5,000, but when the Earl of Chichester received the appointment alone in 1823 he was paid, apparently quite illegally, £2,500 only.

As a matter of fact the office was more or less a sinecure for at least one of the two peers. It is true that history shows that Thomas Lord Walsingham, who shared the office from 1787 to 1794, collected volumes of official returns regarding the Post Office and carried on a critical correspondence with that great postal reformer, John Palmer, whilst he was in control of the Mail Coach service. Walsingham was however an exception, and those who followed after appear to have avoided controversy with the Secretary, who as time went on became more and more an autocrat at the Post Office, - witness the reign of Sir Francis Freeling.

Under the regulations the Post Office Board should have met regularly with one of the P.M.G.'s presiding. When however, a question was asked in Parliament as to how many times the Board had met, Sir Francis Freeling tried to get the question withdrawn on the ground that no enquiry could be made into the conduct of Peers, but his real reason was the fact that no Board had been held for twenty years! When it was necessary for papers to be signed they were sent to one of the Peers holding office as

P.M.G. wherever he might be. The House of Commons was not satisfied and passed a resolution that the P.M.G. should attend the office. The House was then informed that such an arrangement would not be convenient or in the interest of the Post Office!

(From notes supplied by G.H. Stuart-Bunning, O.B.E.)

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"Famous Stamps". Our versatile members, L.N. and M. Williams, have published through W.& R. Chambers Ltd. a well illustrated volume under the above title. As the publishers truly say, the book is "a veritable store-house of stamp lore". Once more the story is told of the 1 cent British Guiana of 1856, and of the equally famous Post Office Mauritius 1d. and 2d. of 1847. Other chapters tell of "Europe's Rarest Stamp", the Hawaiian "Missionaries", the inverted swan of Western Australia, the Canadian 12 pence black, the Brazilian "Bulls'-eyes", the "Lady McLeod", St. Louis "Bears", the Basle "Dove", the Austrian "Mercuries", and many other famous postage stamps. Few of us can ever expect to possess many, if any, of these famous stamps, but that is no reason why we should not read about them, and perhaps dream that one day we too shall make a find that will startle the philatelic world, and be recorded in a future edition of this most entertaining book, the price of which is 8/6 net.

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"Indian Stamps used Abroad". Mr. Robson Lowe has reprinted as a 24 pp. brochure the articles which have appeared in "The Philatelist" under the above title. Much of the information will be new to the general stamp collector, although specialists like Mr. E.E. Yates have collected and studied this interesting sideline of India for some years. Mr. Lowe also acknowledges his indebtedness to Mr. Renouf, who published a book on the subject nearly twenty years ago, and to Messrs. A.L. Hine-Haycock and H. Robertshaw, joint authors of a study of the hand-struck stamps and cancellations used in Aden, and to that indefatigable collector of Indian stamps, Colonel L.T. Rose-Hutchinson. There is a distinct thread of British history running through Mr. Lowe's book, and we are reminded of the many campaigns that British and Indian soldiers have taken part in from 1824 onwards. This is a useful addition to the philatelic bibliography of India. The price is 5s.

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"The British Post Office from its Beginnings to the end of 1925."

It has come to Mr. Dendy Marshall's notice that an impression has arisen that his book, entitled as above, is now out of print. This is quite incorrect, as copies are still obtainable at any bookseller's, on giving the correct title, the author's name and that of the publishers (The Oxford University Press).

For those who are unacquainted with the work, it may be mentioned that it contains practically all the details of British Postal History that are required by a collector; a minute description of the stamps and other postal issues; and the most authoritative list of obliterating numbers, compiled from a series of "proof books" in the Record Room, which had not been discovered when Hendy wrote.

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## HANDSTRUCK POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE EMPIRE.

Third Edition, 1940-41.

If any evidence were needed to prove the increasing interest in postal history it is forthcoming in the issue in this year of war of a third edition of this most valuable guide to the Post Office stamps of the Empire. The Postal History Society was inaugurated in 1936. In the following year Mr. Lowe published the first edition of his Handstruck Catalogue; a second edition was called for in 1938, and now we have the third. I am the proud possessor of all three editions. In 1937 the Catalogue finished on page 244; the new edition on page 330, thus showing over 80 pages of new material. Although the title page suggests that the period covered is from 1680-1900, this is not strictly correct, for the stamps of Henry Bishop, which are included, date from 1661, whilst many handstruck stamps brought into use in Great Britain, Canada and India, to mention only three countries, since 1840, are not even mentioned. It seems evident that when Mr. Lowe first projected his Catalogue he held at the back of his mind that there was a distinction between a handstruck stamp and a postmark. This led to a certain confusion and the ignoring of some date stamps. In this new edition the word postmark has been replaced by "Town and Date Stamps", a much more satisfactory description of these particular types.

Comparing the new edition with that of 1938-9 one notes a large number of additional illustrations, many being of stamps recorded for the first time. This is particularly noticeable in the section dealing with British Ship and Packet Letter stamps, which has been re-arranged. Corrections have also been made to other sections of Great Britain, fuller knowledge having shown that some types of stamps were under wrong headings. A new section has been included for Foreign Branch Office stamps, and another for Registereds and Rebates. In Appendix V. Mr. Lowe has shown his partiality for the interesting Handstruck stamps of 1840 by an extension of the list and additional illustrations. India has been added to considerably, whilst under Egypt new types of Waghorn stamps are illustrated.

The price valuations throughout appear to show little change. The editing has been done with care and understanding. The paper is good and the binding of lasting quality. The price 10/6 is reasonable for these times. Finally, there is one statement on page 160 which it affords me satisfaction to challenge and correct: I myself am the happy possessor of a December 5 Uniform Fourpenny Post letter with a handstruck 4 !

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THE REGENT STAMP CATALOGUE, 1941, has also been received from Robson Lowe Ltd. Volume I in cloth boards lists all the issues up to the end of 1930, whilst Volume II deals with issues from January 1931 to September 1940. The merit of this Catalogue is that it includes notes on Postal History, references to Gibbons and Scott, whilst the prices asked for particular stamps will compare favourably with all other standard catalogues. The published price for the two volumes is 8/6d.

SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 25th 1940.

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MEETINGS. The programme for the 1939/40 session was arranged as usual, and 14 meetings were fixed. With the outbreak of war, and before the prospectus had been printed, the Council decided that it was not possible to continue with the whole of the programme, chiefly owing to the uncertainty of activities likely to develop at any time. A "War Time" prospectus was printed and circulated to Members, in which it was stated that meetings would be arranged from time to time as circumstances permitted. It was decided that the Society's Bulletin should be continued as usual.

December 5th 1939 was the centenary of the introduction of Uniform Postage throughout the British Isles. The Postal History Society commemorated this event by holding a dinner at the Royal Empire Society House; 36 members and their guests were present. The President was in the chair, and speeches were made concerning the events of a hundred years ago; these have been reported in the Bulletin and in "The Philatelist", and in full in the "Philatelic Magazine". During the evening it was announced that the Society was not to abandon the Philatelic Congress for 1940, but that it was going to hold it in Bournemouth during the weekend of May 4th/6th. With the cancellation of the International Stamp Centenary Exhibition, this was the only intimation that there was to be an effort to commemorate the centenary of the adhesive postage stamp. Several members present spoke and expressed their satisfaction in knowing that this event was not to be entirely forgotten, and that the Postal History Society was doing its best to keep the "philatelic torch" lit in this time of "black-out". The evening of December 5th 1939, which had been called the "Fourpenny Night", was an undoubted success.

January 10th 1940 was the centenary of the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage throughout the British Isles, and the great postal reform of the late Sir Rowland Hill. It should be noted here, that although the Jubilee of this event had been extensively commemorated in 1890, the Postal History Society alone appeared to make any effort to commemorate the Centenary. With the help of the press, considerable publicity was given to the event. "The Times" devoted a leading article to the subject, and gave a letter to the editor, which announced the Society's dinner, the leading position. The philatelic press, on the other hand, with the exception of "The Philatelist" and "The Philatelic Magazine", showed little or no interest. The Society held a dinner at Oddenino's Hotel. The President, Captain Adrian Hopkins M.C. took the chair, and the guest of honor for the evening was Colonel H.W. Hill, C.M.G., D.S.O., grandson of Sir Rowland Hill. There were 99 members and guests, including press, present on this occasion; which without special permission under the emergency regulations was the maximum number possible. Colonel Hill was among the speakers, and he replied to the toast of Sir Rowland Hill, proposed by Charles R. Clear; and Miss Leah Chalmers replied to the toast of her grandfather, James Chalmers, postal reformer of Dundee, proposed by Samuel Graveson.

It was announced at the dinner that the efforts of the Society and its President had prevailed, and contrary to the previous decision, special stamps were to be issued in May to commemorate the centenary of the adhesive postage stamp.

During the evening the Congress souvenir labels were put on sale for the first time. Exhibits relative to the occasion had been loaned, and were exhibited in wall frames.

An account of the dinner and the speeches was reported in the press as well as in the Society's Bulletin and several philatelic journals. The evening was an undoubted success.

On February 20th 1940 a meeting was arranged at which Mr. E.F. Hurt gave a talk and display on "Foundations of Postal History". The meeting was announced in "The Philatelist", and cards were sent notifying London members. In spite of this and the general interest of the subject, only seven members turned up. Mr. Hurt spoke about and showed those present many items of varied interests. The small attendance made it apparent that the war time conditions, even in the absence of any air raid activities, made the arrangement of similar meetings seem hardly worth while.

During the early months of the year the Society was making extensive preparations for the 1940 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. The arrangements for Congress had been put in the hands of three of the Society's members, Captain Hopkins, Chairman, Mr. Robson Lowe, Secretary, Mr. Leslie R. Ray, Treasurer.

The arrangements for the Congress were well in hand, when the work of the committee was made more difficult by the attitude of the Royal Philatelic Society, who, appearing to have suddenly changed their intentions with regard to holding a Stamp Centenary Exhibition in May, demanded that the Postal History Society should cancel holding the Philatelic Congress during the weekend of May 4th/6th. It was impossible at this stage for the committee to alter all the arrangements and bookings; and the committee is to be congratulated in the way they handled the situation.

CONGRESS. All the necessary arrangements for holding the 1940 Philatelic Congress were made by the committee; and the programme arranged was carried out to the apparent satisfaction of all members and delegates.

There were a considerable number who could not be present owing to the war; and when the war time conditions are taken into account, the number attending Congress was extremely good. This may have been partly due to holding Congress during a weekend, thus enabling many to be away from business.

In connection with the Congress the Society organised an Exhibition in Commemoration of the Centenary of the Introduction of Adhesive Postage Stamps. The Exhibition was devoted entirely to postal history and the stamps of Great Britain. The proceeds of the Exhibition, which was held in the Pavilion, Bournemouth, were devoted to the Red Cross and Order of St. John. The Exhibition was opened on May 6th 1940 by Colonel H.W. Hill, C.M.G., D.S.O., and probably constituted the finest exhibition of Great Britain ever got together. It was formed from the contributions of 45 members of the Society, and 9 members of affiliated societies. The catalogue published by the Society and fully illustrated contains much information on postal history, besides being a record of the occasion.

The report on Congress was published in "The Philatelist". It must be recorded here that the Society is very appreciative of the great amount of work done by the Organising Secretary, Mr. Robson Lowe, who made the 1940 Congress an outstanding success. The valuable help given by others, including in particular members of Mr. Lowe's staff, has also received the gratitude of the Society ably expressed by the President at the centenary banquet. In recognition of his help,

members contributed to the presentation of a gold watch to Mr. Lowe. The Secretary has heard many very appreciative remarks on the 1940 Congress, and no adverse criticism.

MEMBERSHIP. During the 1939/40 session the membership has increased from 97 to 116. There have been two resignations.

It is with very deep regret that the Society has, during the past session, had to record the deaths of two of its members; its Founder President, Fred J. Melville, who gave valuable help in forming the Society; and of Lt. Col. Samuel Anderson, who gave much support in the sphere of Irish Postal History.

BULLETIN. Since the last Annual General Meeting, five numbers of the Society's Bulletin have been circulated; and the Secretary has received many appreciations of the contents and the work of the Editor. "The Philatelist" has been circulated to members each month; but publication of the "Philatelic Adviser" has ceased.

On May 6th the Society published a book to commemorate the postal centenary; this was contributed to by several members, and edited by Samuel Graveson. The book has been very well reviewed, particularly in the "Times Literary Supplement", and in "The Philatelic Magazine"; and the Editor has received many congratulations on such an excellent production under difficult conditions prevailing at the time. The book was published at 10/6, and one copy made available to each member at 5/6.

Souvenir covers were specially printed and circulated to members on the occasions of the centenary of the Fourpenny Post, Uniform Penny Postage, and the introduction of Adhesive Postage Stamps.

Owing to the intensification of hostilities on May 10, it was decided not to hold the Annual General Meeting in June as usual, but to wait until September, when the possibility of any future arrangements might be more clearly foreseen.

During this year of war, it would appear that the Postal History Society has been the most active of all societies in this country associated with philately. At the time this report is being written, large scale activities have broken out, and it would seem that the Society will have to face many difficulties for a while; and that many members will be able to devote little or no time to their interest in postal history. But it is sincerely hoped that members will continue their membership and support, especially at this time to the Bulletin, and see the Society through whatever may lie ahead.

FOSTER W. BOND.

September, 1940.

HON. TREASURER'S STATEMENTS, November 20, 1940.

The account of Receipts and Expenditure, June 1939 to September 30, 1940, was presented and approved by the Annual Meeting of the Society, subject to audit. This has since been carried out by Mr. D.R. Hunt. It will be noted that it covers a period of 15 months. During that period the Society was responsible for the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain held at Bournemouth at the beginning of May; also for the Centenary Exhibition, held at the same time and place; and for the publication of the "Penny Postage Centenary" volume. In consequence of these financial commitments it is not possible at the present time to present a complete statement of account. I have therefore thought it best to include in this Bulletin the audited statement of receipts and expenditure made up to September 30, and the interim Balance Sheets of Congress and the Centenary Book.

At the Annual Meeting Mr. Robson Lowe, on behalf of Congress Committee, presented the following Balance Sheet, showing an estimated balance of assets over liabilities of £51.3.2. He pointed out that it would take time to realize the assets, which it will be seen consist of debts for goods supplied and stock in hand.

PHILATELIC CONGRESS INTERIM BALANCE SHEET

as presented to the Annual Meeting of Postal History Society, Sept. 1940.

<u>Assets</u>		<u>Liabilities</u>	
Labels: 1800 @ 2/6	-£225	Accounts not paid	
Year Books: 80 "	10	Red Cross and St. John	16 18 1
Stamps of London		Postal History Society	19 19 0
4000 @ 1/-	200	New Forest Tour	25 17 9
	£425	Photos	6 14 2
Estimated value 15%	65 5 0	Printers	10 0 0
U.S. Dollars being cleared	10 0 0	Bank overdraft	2 14 5
Sundry debtors, £100 @ 50%	50 0 0	Reconciliation	1 8 5
Congress Film	-		
Lantern Slides	-	Balance Assets over	
		Liabilities	51 3 2
	£125 5 0		£125 5 0

The figures for stock are conservative and allow for spoilages.

The position of the "Penny Postage Centenary" book account at the present time (November 20) is as below:

CENTENARY BOOK: INTERIM BALANCE SHEET.

<u>Assets</u>		<u>Liabilities</u>	
Due by sales and stock at		Owing on production	100 5 0
Wholesalers	64 0 0	Loans from Members	90 0 0
Stock in hand	162 0 0	Balance of Assets	35 15 0
	£226 0 0		£226 0 0



THE SOCIETY'S COLLECTION  
LONDON GENERAL POST RECEIVERS' STAMPS.

By George Brumell.

I have been asked to describe a number of covers, recently presented to the Postal History Society, bearing the initial stamps of London General Post Receivers, several of which have not been recorded before, so far as I know.

The Receiving Houses varied in number from time to time: a list of 1652 shows 21, but one of 1661 only 5, while by 1677 there were 8: it is probable that distinguishing stamps bearing the initials of the Receivers came into use about this time, as suggested by Hendy, and they continued to be used for a little over 100 years, till some time in the 1780s, when the number of Receiving Houses had increased to 44. It is obvious that during this period there must have been a very large number of Receivers in charge of these Houses, but we have little knowledge of their names, as only occasional lists have survived. I know of no records between the lists given by Hendy for 1677 and 1782, so that in very few cases is it possible to identify the Receivers by whom the various stamps were used.

Most of what is known as to the names of General Post Receivers has been collected by Miss F. Bagust and published in her interesting little book on the "Small Post Offices of London", in which also some of the initial stamps are illustrated. I should like to acknowledge my indebtedness to Miss Bagust for kindly allowing me to make use of this information, and of some unpublished notes by her containing records of initial stamps.

I will take the stamps on this series of covers in alphabetical order: some are uncertain, not being quite clear, and these are specified.

First we have J.A. on five letters written late in 1777. As in so many old letters these are headed from "London" only and no clue is given for the possible locality of posting. A John Abrahams is given in lists from 1788 to 1793 as having kept the office at the Temple, but it is mere speculation to assume that he was the user of this stamp.

Next comes J B on an undated letter: this may or may not have been used by John Barnet, Receiver at Vigo Lane about 1790 or earlier.

A letter from Albemarle Street in 1758 bears an indistinct stamp, probably E D, but possibly F D, R D or S D: I can say nothing more about it.

One of 1753 without sender's locality has a clear R D, but it is not the same stamp as that last mentioned.

A E appears on one of 1773 from the Chancery Office. Similar stamps are recorded on letters from that locality from 1754 to 1766, but the Receiver's name is not known.

LONDON GENERAL POST RECEIVERS' STAMPS. - 2

F is on a letter of 1769 from Enfield, which was presumably brought privately into Town to be posted at a G.P. Receiving House: also on one of 1772 from Grays Inn. Similar stamps are recorded on letters from 1768 to 1784, some headed Staple Inn. According to lists of 1788-1793 William Flexney was Receiver at Grays Inn, and he or some of his forbears may have been there at the earlier dates mentioned, and used this stamp.

W F appears on letters from Holborn of 1759 and 1760 and is probably an earlier stamp of the same Receiver. This stamp is recorded up to 1768, the first year for which the F stamp is known.

Three letters of 1769 and 1770 and one without date bear the stamp I G. One of them is from Cambridge, addressed to Bloomsbury Square, but was redirected and no doubt then received the initial stamp. Joshua Grocer was Receiver at Bolsover Street in 1782, and this may possibly have been his stamp.

A stamp 18 m.m. in diameter with M G appears on a letter of 1773 from Northumberland Street: this may be that of Matilda Griffin, Receiver at Round Court, Strand, according to lists of 1788-1793. A similar one of 21 m.m. on a letter of 1777 may belong to the same Receiver. It is possible that the letter in these two stamps may be C, not G.

M H on a letter of 1758 headed Mount Street cannot be identified by me, nor can T I, on letter of 1770 from James Street. T I is recorded on a letter of 1768 headed Grays Inn Lane, but the illustration I have seen of it appears to differ from the T I now described.

R J appears on two letters of 1744 from Fleet Street, in one case in a circle, in the other unframed: it is difficult to say whether these are from the same stamp, the circle having been removed or failing to print, or from different stamps. Richard Jones appears in the 1782 list as Receiver at the Temple, and specimens of R J stamps from that neighbourhood are recorded from 1743 to 1782: it may be that they all indicate Richard Jones, perhaps in successive generations.

A stamp that appears to be S J, though not perfectly clear, occurs on a letter of 1753 from South Audley Street: I can say no more about it.

Seven letters from Bedford Row in 1777.8 show a stamp that may be T L or T I: if the latter it is a different stamp from that mentioned above.

C R occurs on a letter without date or address heading.

I R is on one of 1774 without place of posting: the letter is addressed to Totteridge and bears the Penny Post time stamp for delivery from the Temple sorting office. This letter also bears a stamp showing W L in an oval: it could not have been handled by two Receivers and I think W L cannot be a Receiver's stamp: it occurs on another letter to the same addressee, William Lee, and it seems possible that that gentleman may have provided

LONDON GENERAL POST RECEIVERS' STAMPS. - 3.

himself with a stamp for some purpose connected with filing his letters. That however is pure supposition: a better explanation may lie behind the fact that the charges on both these letters have been crossed out. Another mystery!

W R, on a letter of 1773 from Harley Street, is probably the stamp of William Rouse, Receiver at Wigmore Street according to the 1782 list. William Randall was Receiver at Pall Mall at that time, but that is further from the place of writing, so the chance is in favour of Rouse.

A letter of 1775 headed Hendon was no doubt carried into Town to be posted and was stamped D W: these initials do not show a Receiver mentioned in any of the available lists.

The illustrations are from tracings from the originals, and where there is no uncertainty they show the letters as they would originally be, omitting blots and smudges: in letters that are uncertain the defective parts are omitted.

In the present state of our knowledge the identity of the users of most of these initial stamps remains undisclosed: it is possible that other lists of Receivers may be discovered in due course and so enable us to identify many more of these interesting stamps.

[The collection described above is part of a gift received from the British Records Association, See last Bulletin.]

Hertford County Records  
Notes for the writer  
Christopher Greene against the defendants for highway robbery.

(It seems that the case is the robbery having been committed by the defendants)

**LONDON GENERAL POST RECEIVER STAMPS.**

Extracts (See article by George Brumell.)

The plaintiff concerning Robberies and...  
that certayne Malefactor...  
26th Day of September in  
Hertford with...  
for...  
and...  
pair of shoes...  
£10 there lately found...  
the price of £10 there...  
tiff immediately after...  
with...  
not...  
ing...  
Edward Gardiner esquire

J·A    JB    F·D    RD    AE    F

WF    I·G    MC    M·C    MH    T·I

To this the defendant...  
(The plaintiff has delayed six months in bringing his action)  
The plaintiff is a Common Letter Carrier and makes it his business to...  
Carriage...  
Cambridge...  
some...  
date and since the supposed...  
which is his way to Cambridge he was sett upon by thieves...  
without it.

RJ    SJ    TI    CR    IR    W·R

(Notes follow of...  
robbery was committed by...  
Besides there is...  
Hertford Goals that hath Con-  
fessed that hee was one of...  
was long before said

DW    WL

There is one Robert Hedge outler att the Inn where the plaintiff lays  
that will swear that before the plaintiff would goe forth of his Inn hee told  
him that hee hadd a charge of way to carrie with him and therefore desired  
him to goe and see whither or noe it was daye and accordingly the outler did  
goe forth and brought word it was daye... besides this Outler hath bene  
strongly mistrusted to be guiltye of the robbery for when the plaintiff came  
back to his Inn and gave notice that hee was robbed severall people that were  
then upp went presently to the place and there found this Outlers hatt lying  
on the ground.

A LETTER-CARRIER ROBBED AT STANDON, 1661.

Hertford County Records no. 41328.

Notes for the brief for the Defendants in an action brought by Christopher Greene against the Inhabitants of the Hundred of Braughing for highway robbery.

(It seems that the case did not come before the Quarter Sessions owing to the robbery having been committed at night so that the Hundred was not chargeable.)

Extracts (abbreviated words extended, latin sections translated).

The plaintiff declares upon the Statute made att Wynchester 13 Edward I concerning Roberies and setts forth the statute att lardge and further shewes that certeyne Malefactors namely two men to the same plaintiff unknown on the 26th day of September in the 13th year of Charles the Second at Standon in the county of Hertford within the hundred of Braughing in the highway there with force and arms etc. assaulted the same plaintiff and feloniously despoiled the same plaintiff and took and carried away £80 in money of the same plaintiff and certain goods and chattels namely one portmanteau one new cloth cloak one pair of shoes and two pairs of galoshes of the same plaintiff to the value of £10 there lately found and also killed the gelding of the same plaintiff of the price of £10 there lately found against the peace etc. And the same plaintiff immediately after the committing of the felony and robbery aforesaid to wit on the 26th September in the thirteenth year abovesaid at Standon aforesaid made a hue and cry concerning the robbery aforesaid and then and there gave notice to the inhabitants of the same town of Standon. And after the committing of the robbery...the aforesaid plaintiff was examined upon his oath before Edward Gardiner esquire ...

To this the defendants have pleaded not guiltie.

(The plaintiff has delayed six months in bringing his action)

The plaintiff is a Comon letter Carrier and makes it his busines to Carie letters and monie betweene London and Cambridge and is payd poundaige for carrying the same, but Comonly doeth staie soe long att London and Cambridge before his setting forth of his Inn that it is late in the night before hee comes to his Journies ende and most Comonly travells as much by night as by daie and since the supposed roborie in the night comeing from London to Ware which is his waie to Cambridge he was sett upon by thieves soe likely to be robbed that his hatt was struck from his heade and hee forced to ride onward without itt.

(Notes follow of testimonies that could be given to prove that the robbery was committed by night)

Besides there is one Burbolt a felon in Hertford Goale that hath Confessed that hee was one of them that robbed the plaintiff and that the roborie was long before daie

There is one Robert Hadon ostler att the Inn where the plaintiff laye that will sweare that before the plaintiff would goe forth of his Inn hee told him that hee hadd a chardge of mony to carrie with him and therefore desired him to goe and see whither or noe it was daie and accordingly the ostler did goe forth and brought word it was daie,...besides this Ostler hath beene strongly mistrusted to be guiltie of the roborie for when the plaintiff came back to his Inn and gave notice that hee was robbed severall people that were then upp went presently to the place and there found this Ostlers hatt lying on the ground.

## F R A N K S

Notes by George Brumell

In the earlier part of the last century a favourite pursuit amongst the elegant and cultivated members of the leisured class was the collection of the autographs of more or less prominent personages. A prolific source of such autographs lay in the franked letters which could then be sent by every member of either House of Parliament, for these letters had to bear on the outside the signature of the member, and all that was wanted by collectors was the addressed front of the missive, with the sender's signature. Letters by the thousand were cut up for the sake of the "front", and collectors were catered for by dealers in autographs, who appear to have done a considerable business. Many of these collections, intact or broken up, have survived to the present time.

Few people nowadays are interested in the autographs of persons, often of no special note, who have long since passed into oblivion, but the "fronts" are now in demand for another reason, for those of us who are interested in Postal History find that some of them bear postmarks worth studying. From this point of view many fronts are useless through having had the stamps cut off in whole or in part, and of course any mark that was on the back of a letter is lost to us: but we must be thankful that amongst the thousands of these fronts still in existence a good many may be found showing stamps of more or less interest.

I have been asked by our Editor to examine and report upon a small bundle of these fronts. They lie between 1820 and 1838 and, with a few unimportant exceptions, the only postmarks they show are the London Free stamps of the regular series. In my book on "The Franking System" I have described these stamps, but as there may be Postal Historians who have not yet read that book I will repeat here some of the points.

From 1815 four stamps were in use daily: one with a single containing circle for use on morning duty, and a similar stamp with a cross under the year for use when it was necessary to employ an extra hand: one with a double containing circle for use on evening duty, and again a similar stamp with cross under the year for use as required by pressure of work. These four stamps were renewed on January 1st and July 1st of each year, so that eight varieties may be found for every year, and the specialist who sets out to collect a complete set of good impressions for the whole period will not have too easy a task. By far the scarcest variety is the single circle with cross, and in the bundle under review I have not found a single specimen: the stamps without cross are about equally common in the single and double circle varieties, while the double circle with cross is fairly common, though much less so than that without.

A great difficulty in collecting these stamps is to get perfect impressions: this bundle contains an unusually large proportion of fairly good ones and some really fine. It may be thought by some that it covers the

least interesting part of the time during which Free stamps were in use, but the varieties then in use were more numerous and more clearly distinguished than those of earlier times: the fact that some are very common surely does not make them less interesting.

It is rather surprising that the group of Free stamps is not one of the most popular with collectors: it is well defined, not very large, and contains few varieties that cannot be found with moderate ease: the few more elusive ones are just enough to provide excitement in the chase. In my book I have described these stamps and their purpose as well as I could, but several points are raised that still require elucidation, and I have been a little surprised that so few collectors or students appear to be interested in this section: my own correspondence on the subject has been small and one rarely sees any reference to it in articles on postmarks or postal history.

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FIRST POST OFFICE FREE STAMP.

With reference to Mr. Rock's query about the date of the earliest Frank stamps, on page 2 of the October P.H.S. Bulletin, I have three covers of 1764 bearing the type shown as Fig.827 in Alcock's book. These are as follows:-

- (1) Dated 14th May 1764, from Audley to London and bearing the following postmarks:-  
FREE as Fig.827 in circle 20 mm. in diameter in red ink on front, and NEWCASTLE and Bishopmark 16/MA in black on reverse side.  
UR LYNE
- (2) Dated 8th October 1764, from Audley to Amersham with the following marks:  
FREE as Fig.827, 20 mm. circle in red on front, and NEWCASTLE UR LYNE and Bishopmark 20/OC in black on reverse.
- (3) Dated 20th October 1764, from Sudbury (Derbyshire) to Aylesbury with the following marks:-  
FREE as Fig.827 but 18 mm. in diameter only, in red on front, UTTOX  
ETER  
and Bishopmark 22/OC in black on reverse.

Alcock mentions both the 18 mm. and 20 mm. sizes of this mark in his book, and records that Mr. Elwell has a 20 mm. specimen on a letter of 2nd October 1764.

One wonders whether the 18 mm. size succeeded, or was used concurrently with, the 20 mm. If the former was the case, the change must have taken place between 10th October and 22nd October 1764, judging from my covers. Perhaps replies from other members to Mr. Rock's query will clear this point up.

GUY R. CROUCH.

## THE LONDON DISTRICT SERIES.

### 2. With Initial in Obliterator.

According to Hendy the London District Post was amalgamated with the General Post in 1854. There was a re-arrangement of the letter carrier's walks. London and its suburbs were, to a circle of 12 miles from St Martins le Grand, divided into ten districts, which sorted their own letters, and distributed them, instead of all letters going to the Chief Office. These districts were: E., E.C., N., N.E., N.W., S., S.E., S.W., W and W.C. The former Borough Branch Office became the S.E. Office. Old Cavendish Street Branch Office became the W. Office, while Lombard Street and Charing Cross remained Branch Offices.

The sites of the District Offices appear to have been as follows:

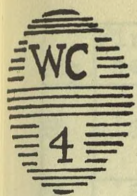
E.C.	St Martins le Grand
W.C.	High Holbourn
N.	Essex Rd Islington
N.E.	Church St Bethnal Green
N.W.	Eversholt St Camden Town
S.	York Place Lambeth
S.E.	Blackman St Borough
S.W.	Buckingham Gate Pimlico
E.	Nassau Place Commercial Rd
W.	Vere St.

These Head District Offices do not appear to have been opened for some time after 1854. The earliest stamp with district initials we have seen is 1857. Mr Brumell thinks the offices were opened in 1856. He has supplied the further information:

The first London Street list with district initials was published in December 1856. The S. district was abolished in 1868 and its sub-districts absorbed as follows:

- into S.W.: Brixton Hill, Clapham, Merton, S.Lambeth, Stockwell, Streatham and Tooting.
- into S.E.: Camberwell, Dulwich, Norwood, S.Norwood.
- into the Provincial System: Carshalton, Mitcham, Sutton and Thornton Heath.

The N.E. District was absorbed into the E. District in 1869. The use of the initials N.E. instead of E. appears to have been optional as regards the original N.E. sub-districts after the suppression of the N.E. District, also with regard to Homerton which was established in 1870: this alternative use went on as late as 1914, 45 years after the district was abolished.



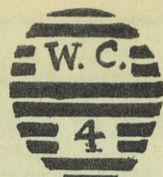
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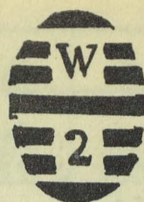
54



55



56



57



58



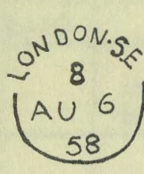
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60



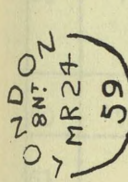
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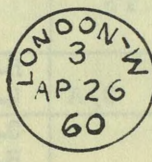
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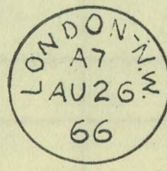
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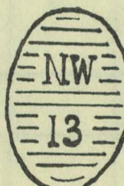
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65



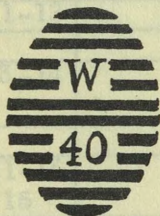
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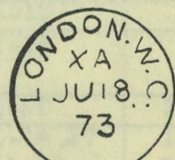
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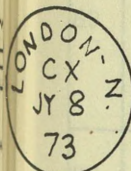
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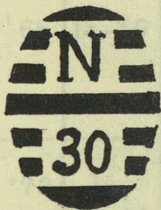
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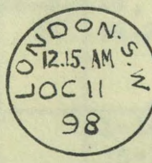
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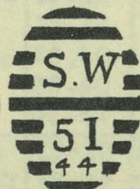
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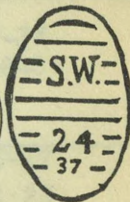
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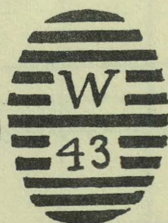
73



74



75



The London District Series. - 3

Fig.	First seen	E.	E.C.	N.	N.E.	N.W.	S.	S.E.	S.W.	W.	W.C.
53	'57	1-8		1-14	1-3 5	1-7	2-5 7-8	1,3,6	1-8 10-14	1-10 15-20	1-8
54	'57							1-6		1-10	
55	'61										1-8, 10 18-19
56	'62	2-10		1,3,5, 9	2-4	2-8	1-4,6 8-10	1,3-6		1-10,12 15-20	1-10 18-20
57	'72	1-4 5-6 10		2,4,8 10-12				1-3 5-6	1-2,8, 9,13,31	1-8,10,12 16-20,23 32,36	2,6-14 19-20
58	'72									3,8-14,17 21-28, 31-39	
59	'73			1,4-5 8-10 21		14		8,10	17	2-4,6-14 17-18, 21-26 28-31	11,13,16, 21-22,36-37 39,40
60	'70		A-H J-N	A,C				A		A,C,D	A-F, R, V
61			A-C F-H J-N								
62	'58					9		10			9-10
63	'58	11-12							15-22		8
64	'58							7-9		11-12	
65	'58	13-14		15-20	15-20	10- 12	15-20	11-14		12-14	9
66	'59				20	13-17				21-30	11-15
67	'60	11-13 15		19-21	18-20	16-17	16-18 21-22	7-10 13-17	15-16 23-32	12-14,27 31-38	16-17 19-24
68	'62			22-23	13-14			15	29,33 36	9-14 39-40	25-27 34
69	'65	13-39	59-60 71-82 90,93	11-13 15-28	15-19	1-15 18- 24	15 18-20 23	7,10- 16, 18-25	14-15 17-22 26,30 33-40 42-51	1-38 41-44 46-59	1-23 28-37
70	'72	14 26-41	53-70 84-88 91-92	10,12- 13 15-20 22,24, 26,27,29		1-19 22		1-14 16-17 21-22 26	11-22 27-32 34-39 41-46 48 50-60	1-17,19-32 34-35,38 42-48 54,56	1-17 21-23 27, 30
71	'73			30						44	
72	'79		60-65								
73	'98								19-20 34-39 50-54 57-59		
74									24,26		
75	'68	22				18	24	19,20	40	42,43	

Notes on Types.

- Fig.53. There is much variation in the number of lines in the centre above, below, and at the sides. The main variation is 3 or 5 lines in the centre instead of 4.
- Fig.54. There is a similar variation in the number of lines.
- Fig.55. Seen with 4 short bars at sides of letters.
- Fig.59. W.C. 36,37,39,40 were used on registered letters (Egly).
- Fig.60. Proof Books of Record Room G.P.O. show A-F issued 1872, P and R-Z 1874.
- Fig.61. Seen with small subsidiary numbers 1-3.
- Fig.62. W.C.9 has London alone in date stamp, without district initials.
- Fig.63. S.E.9 occurs with London S.E. in the date stamp.
- Fig.70. S.E.12 occurs with London at top of date stamp and S.E. at foot.  
Later issues of Fig.70 had very short bars at sides, top and foot.
- Fig.72. Also seen with 3 lines in centre and fewer lines at sides, top and foot.
- Fig.73. Subsidiary numbers are:  
19 20 34 35 36 37 38 39 50 51 52 53 54 57 58 59  
40 39 49 51 50 52 54 53 43 44 45 46 38 47 42 48
- Fig.74. Subsidiary numbers are:  
24 26  
37 41

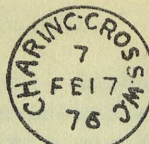
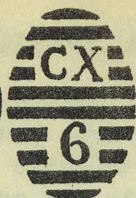
In above we get all the secondary numbers from 37-53 but not in the same order as the original numbers. One wonders what these secondary numbers were inserted for. ... G.B.



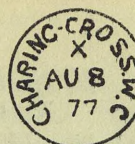
76



77



78



79



80



81



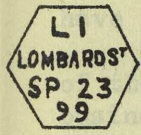
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83



84



85



86



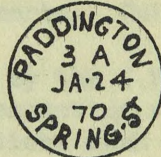
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88



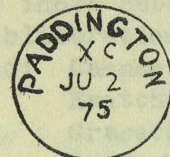
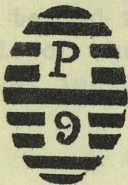
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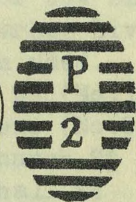
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91



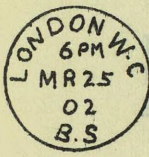
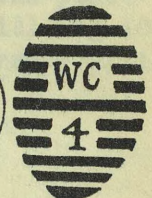
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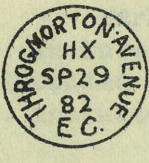
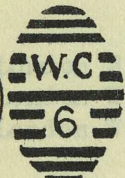
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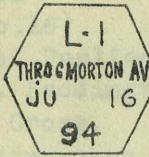
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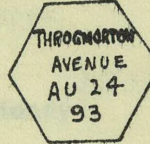
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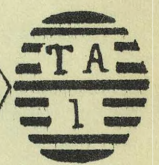
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97



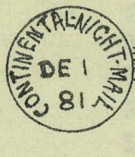
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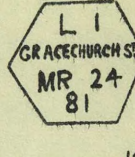
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100



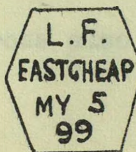
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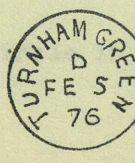
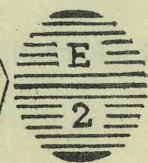
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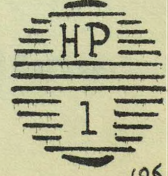
103



104



105



106

Branch Offices.

It appears that at Charing Cross, Lombard St Paddington, St Martins Place and Bedford St ordinary correspondence was dealt with: the stamps used on such correspondence had circular date portions; at Throgmorton Avenue also ordinary correspondence was stamped but not to the same extent as at other Branch Offices judging from the number of specimens seen. At the City Branch Offices Eastcheap, Fleet St, Gracechurch St, Leadenhall St, Ludgate Circus, Mark Lane and Threadneedle St., only stamps with hexagonal date portions were used, these offices stamping late fee letters only. Lombard St and Throgmorton Avenue also used hexagonal stamps for late fee letters. The stamps used at Cannon St had circular date portions, but I think they were used only on late fee letters; of this I am not sure. G.B.

Hendy says that when the ten London Districts were formed Lombard St and Charing Cross remained as Branch Offices using new marks. This seems to have been in 1857.

In 1869 when the Telegraph System was taken over by the G.P.O., many of the larger Receiving Houses became Branch Offices transacting all kinds of business; many such were opened in 1870 using obliterations such as Mark Lane fig.102, Paddington fig.91, and Throgmorton Avenue fig.96.... About 1873 with a view to giving an earlier morning delivery to the outlying London Districts, a large extension of the District Sorting Offices took place in what was termed the inner Suburban Division. He shows Maida Hill fig.105a as an example of the obliteration used.... In 1876 the list of Branch Offices of London E.C. included:

- Cannon St (No.101)
- Eastcheap (No.3)
- Gracechurch St
- Leadenhall St
- Lombard St
- Ludgate Circus
- Mark Lane (No.16)

London S.W. included Houses of Parliament

London W. included Spring St. Paddington

London W.C. included Charing Cross. Hendy.

Charing Cross.

Fig.76	Seen from 1866	28-35
77	1873	1 - 6
78	1875	7 - 8
79	1877	2, 7
80	1876	5, 6 ?1
81	1880	2, 4 ?6
82	1883	1

Charing Cross also used 43 in a circle in the Suburban Series.

The London District Series. - 7.

Lombard Street.

Fig.83	seen from 1869-77	1 - 4.	Seen also with larger date stamp.
84	1879-91	2	
85	1896	5 - 7.	For late fee letters.
86	1885	5, 7, 8	
87	1866		
88	1866		
89	date not known.		

Figs.87 and 88 have been seen only once each (Egly) and both are on registered covers. Fig.89 is on stamp only. Proof Books G.P.O. show fig.86, with note to the effect that it was sent 3 Oct.1871. Also figs.88 and 89 sent 4 Ap 1866.

Paddington.

Fig.90	seen from 1868-73	1 - 8	
91	1873	2 - 7, 9-20	
92	1874	1 - 8	
	1878	21-24 (Paddington W. in date stamp)	
93	?	1-3, 5-6, 10-11.	

Proof Books G.P.O. show fig.93 1-12 issued 1882.

Another type has been seen, date stamp like fig.91 but smaller and obliterator like fig.90, but with three cut bars at sides. Dated 1879.

Paddington W. also used 38B, 38C, and 42 in the Suburban Series.

St. Martins Place

Fig.94	seen from 1875-85	1 - 6	
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Mr. Egly also describes a type with only two bars top and bottom, seen 1 and 7. Dendy Marshall has 1, 7, and 8 in this type used 1880-4.

Bedford St.

Fig.95	seen from 1897	2, 6.	
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Throgmorton Avenue.

Fig.96	seen from 1882	1 - 8, 14	
97	1894	1 (Late fee letters only)	
98	1893	1	

City Branch Offices which stamped late fee letters only.

<u>Eastcheap:</u>	As fig.100	seen from 1885	1 - 2
	fig.104	1899	2
<u>Fleet St.:</u>	as fig.100	1885	1 - 2
<u>Gracechurch St.:</u>	fig.102	1880	1
<u>Leadenhall St.:</u>	fig.99	1897	1

The London District Series. - 8.

City Branch Offices which stamped late fee letters only, cont.

<u>Ludgate Circus:</u>	as fig.100	1878	1	
<u>Mark Lane:</u>	as fig.102	1879	1 - 2	
<u>Threadneedle St.:</u>	as fig.102	1897	1	
<u>Cannon St.</u>	fig.101	1894	2	

1 is also recorded, but one wonders if this is not the similar CX mark. Used on late fee letters only probably, though had circular date portion.

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Branch Offices which also had numbers in the Suburban or English Provincial Series.

<u>Maida Hill:</u>	fig.105a	seen from 1871	1	S 30B
	(3 bars above and below)			
<u>Bethnal Green:</u>	103	1874	1	S 35
	as fig. 80		1	"
<u>Chiswick:</u>	105	1875-80	4	E 42
				S 57
<u>Turnham Green:</u>	105	1875-79	1-3	E 43
<u>Houses of Parliament:</u>	106	1859	1	S 40
	2 is shown by Hendy in same type.			
	S 40 is House of Commons.			

Mr. Brumell has supplied the following note:

Maida Hill and Bethnal Green both had numbers in the suburban series and I do not know why these special stamps were supplied. It may have been before the office numbers were allotted. Chiswick and Turnham Green had numbers in the English Series in 1874 and by 1892 Chiswick had number 57 in the London suburban series. The name of Turnham Green had by that time disappeared from the P.O. lists. I suggest that the stamps with numbers in the English Series were for use on letters going direct to the West, not passing through London, and that those with types 105 and later S 57 were for letters going through London. Several other offices had numbers in the English and Suburban Series apparently simultaneously and the same conditions probably applied. This however is only a suggestion, and the real need is the production of entires to confirm it.

Miscellaneous.

Registered Letter Branch.

Fig.107 Issued June 1857. In use up to 1864 at least. Note similar obliteration with R.L.O. (Returned Letter Office) in use 1869-77.

Fig.108 Used from 1862. Only numbers 15 and 16 in this type have been shown to be used for registered letters.

Figs. 109-110. These types appear to have been in use from 1868. They were apparently used at many offices in the central London area (Brumell). The office is supposed to have been indicated by the small number, these numbers being quite different from the London District Series. It appears however that there is much evidence against this. The following list consists of numbers located by the late J.H.Daniels, together with those located by members of the study circle, and notes from the Record Room proof books (for which I am indebted to Mr Dendy Marshall).

1	Throgmorton St.	16	Cornhill Lombard St
3	Lombard St Fenchurch St 1873	17	Lombard St
4	W.C.D.O.	18	Lombard St
5	King William St	20	Holbourn Viaduct Lombard St Sent to Hatton Garden 1878
6	43 Fleet St Sent to Fleet St 1881	24	Ludgate Circus Sent to Ludgate Circus 1878
7	N.W.D.O. Sent to Clerkenwell Green 1875	27	Threadneedle St
9	Lombard St 1870 Eastcheap B.O. 1870	28	Lombard St 1874
12	Mark Lane 1870	30	Lombard St
13	King William St. Lombard St 1872	31	Lombard St 1872
14	Lombard St Coleman St 1873	32	Throgmorton Avenue
15	Wood Green Bowes Park 1885 150 Leadenhall St.	33	Doctors Commons 1876
		34	Lombard St 1873

20 and 24, Holbourn Viaduct and Ludgate Circus were included by



107



108



109



110



111



112



113



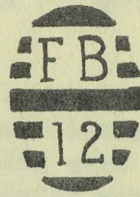
114



115



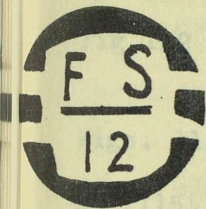
116



117



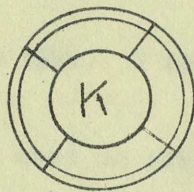
118



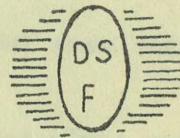
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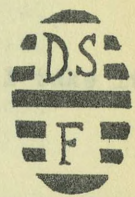
120



121



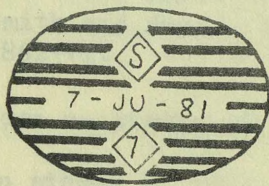
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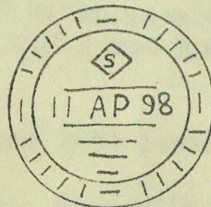
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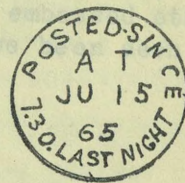
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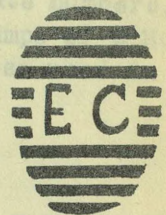
125



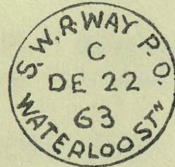
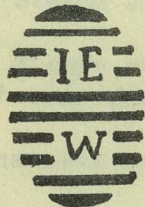
126



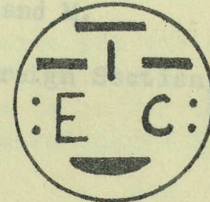
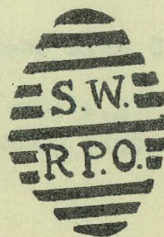
127



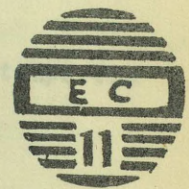
128



129



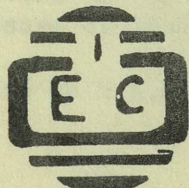
130



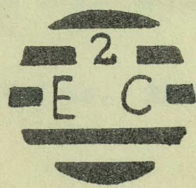
131



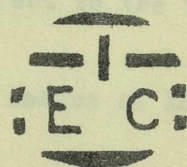
132



133



134



135

The London District Series.-11.

mistake in the 1887 list of offices numbers on the London District series (Brumell). Daniels in his manuscript notes records all numbers from 1 to 34 except 22 and 26, but does not give dates of use, locations or separate types. Of the two types 109 and 110 we have seen the following numbers:

Fig.109 1, 2, 5-21, 23-24

110 1, 3-7, 9, 11-14, 17-20, 30, 32

Fig.111 Recorded by Vallancey, who has it on issues of 1872-77.

Dr Armstrong also has it on 2d plate 14.

A very large R enclosed in a thick oval was sometimes used in the 80's and 90's to cancel stamps on registered letters. Such examples are not rare. This mark was introduced of course as a distinguishing mark to be applied elsewhere on the envelope, and its use as an obliterator was, I imagine, not encouraged by the authorities.

The Foreign Branch.

Fig.112 Supplied to the F.B. in 1859. I have not seen this, but I take it it was used on letters.

Figs. 113 and 114. I have these used on penny red plate numbers.

Fig.115. The Post Office Records show 1-6 in this type as supplied to the Foreign Branch in 1860. T.O.3 is known used on a naval officer's letter to Dublin in 1867. T.O.1 is not uncommon on plate numbers. But these marks are most often seen on the embossed stamps of W.H. Smith and Sons. T.O.1, T.O.2 and T.O.6 have been seen so used in 1862-72.

Fig.116 Seen on stamps of 1881 and 1887 issues.

Fig.117 On stamps of 1887 issues. Seen with numbers 8 and 12. F.B.12 in this type has been seen on covers of 1881 and 1892.

Fig.118 On stamps of 1887 issue. Seen with C D and M.

Fig.119 On stamps of 1881. Most of the F.S. (Foreign Section) stamps did not come into use till the 20th century.

Obliterations used by Private Firms

Fig.120 Smith Elder & Co were permitted in 1865 to use this special cancellation and to take their mails direct to the trains. It is seen on issues of 1868-76.

Fig.121 Used by H.S.King and Co. Seen on issues of 1869-75.

Obliterations used by private firms, contd.

- Fig.122 William Dawson & Sons used this one. On stamps of 1881 and 1884 issues. F presumably means foreign.
- $\frac{ss}{F}$
- Similar stamps with  $\frac{ss}{F}$  were used by W.H. Smith & Sons. Such occur on their embossed stamps and on stamps of the 1887 issue.
- Fig.123 Seen on a 2/6 lilac stamp of 1884 perforated also D.S. (Egly). Dendy Marshall also has this. This appears to have been used by William Dawson & Sons.
- Fig.124 I have this on a stamp of the 1880 issue. The letter below the bar is not clear. Perhaps another of W.H. Smith & Sons.
- Fig.125 Vallancey has this on  $\frac{1}{2}$ d brown paper wrapper stamp of 1880. Ascribed by Alcock and Holland to W.H. Smith & Sons who were given permission to use special cancellations in 1876. The drawing for this figure is copied with the author's kind permission from their book.
- Daniels shows a variety of this in his "History of British Postmarks" with fewer lines and no enclosing circle, dated 16 Ap 90.
- Fig.126 Ascribed by Alcock and Holland to W.H. Smith & Sons also. Their illustration is dated 1891. I have it on stamps of 1894 and 1898. Vallancey has it on  $\frac{1}{2}$ d vermillion also.
- Fig.127 This mark is hard to find. It is a duplex mark and must have been in use for a short time only. We have seen two complete examples, that illustrated and one dated Ju 26, 66.
- Fig.128 This mark is also seen with three lines above and below, the date of this variety being July 7 62.
- Fig.129 The use of this is not known. Alcock and Holland illustrate an example dated Fe 21 64.
- Figs.130-5 These are all rare. Those seen on entire are on post cards of 1870-1. They are probably experimental types in connection with the introduction of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d rate.
- Fig.28 probably belongs to this group also.

MANCHESTER POSTAL HISTORY

With reference to Mr. Sidebottom's note on this subject in the September "Bulletin", I would refer those interested in the subject to a long article by C. Roeder entitled "Beginnings of the Manchester Post Office", which appeared in the "Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society", Vol. XXII, 1904. The writer gives the following chronology of Manchester Postmasters:--

1625-1648	Richard Halliwell.
1648-1660	Alexander Green
1660-1662	Richard Halliwell
1662-1667	Alexander Green
1667-1672	Jeffrey Aldcroft
1672-1678	Thomas Eccles
1678-1687	William Eccles
1687-1691	Edward Holland
1691-1697	Ann Holland (widow of last)
1697-1699	Richard Bloomly (second husband of last)
1699-1710	William Bowker
1710-1715	James Lightboun
1715-1721	James Guy
1721-1740	Thomas Illingworth
1740-1748	John Finch
1748-1768	Isaac Clegg
1768-1772	John Willatt (Not Willett as in last Bulletin)
1772-1793	Sarah Willatt
1793-1806	Joseph Harrop
1806-1828	Rev. Richard H. Whitelock (Not Whitehead as in last Bulletin)
1828-1860	Robert Peel Willock (a cousin of Sir Robert Peel)
1860-1887	John St. Lawrence Beaufort
?	Robert Wilson Johnston
?	Henry Osborne Harley
1901-	John Philips

G. R. CROUCH.

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ARTICLES IN THE BULLETIN, 1936-1940.

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- No.1. John Loudon and the Post Office. Paper read by C.R. Clear.  
Forming a Postal History Collection. Paper read by S. Graveson.  
The Postal History Collection at Tottenham Museum, Bruce Castle;  
Compiled by C.R. Rock.
- No.2. A Broadside laying down Letter-carrying Charges, 1652.  
The Record Room at the General Post Office. Paper read by R.W.Hatswell.  
The London Penny Post, 1680-1794: Books and Documents relating to;  
types of Stamps used; Offices and Receiving Houses and miscellaneous  
Notes concerning. Compiled by S.Graveson and Foster W.Bond. Illustrated.
- No.3. Postal Miscellany. Presidential Address by Fred. J. Melville.  
From Penny Black to Penny Red. Copy of Treasury Minute 17th Dec.1840.  
Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets relating to Postal History. By  
C.R. Rock.
- No.4. Note on "P.D." Marks. By C.F.Dendy Marshall. (Also referred to in No.5).  
The Walsingham Papers in the custody of the Royal Philatelic Society  
and at the Postal History Museum, Bruce Castle.  
Falmouth to Nova Scotia Packet Service, 1790.  
Franking of M.P.'s Letters: a G.P.O. Notice of 1790.
- No.5. The Post for All Kent, 1661, illustration of a unique stamp.  
Time Marks used in the London Penny Post before 1794. Illustrated.  
London Penny Post, 1794-1801. Notes of Study Circle. Illustrated.  
The Stamp Exhibition, October 1937. The Exhibit of the Postal History  
Society. By Foster W. Bond.  
Instructions to Guards of Parcel Coaches supplied with Arms, Aug.1887.  
The Development of British Air Mails. Paper read by Col. Guy W. Crouch.
- No.6. A Member's Criticism and Suggestions. By E. F. Hurt.  
The Essex Postmark of 1674 and the Heart Marks of 1667-1710. By Col.  
G.W. Crouch.  
Mr. Poppleford visits a Postal History Auction.  
Classified Bibliography of Books and Pamphlets at Bruce Castle  
Museum. By Cyril H. Rock.
- No.7. The Posts under the Tudors. By Sir Cyril Hurcomb. Illustrated.
- No.8. Ralph Allen's Appointment.  
Letter with Dockwra Stamp.  
Interesting Letter from Rowland Hill.  
Postal Routes of the Seventeenth Century. By Cyril H. Rock. With Map  
Study Circle on Stuart and Tudor Posts: Sixteenth Century. List of  
known Proclamations, Exchequer Warrants, etc.
- No.9. Post Office Personalities and Progress, 1888-1938. Presidential  
Address by R.W. Hatswell.  
A Postal Pilgrimage, being Report of Society's Visit to Bath.  
The General Post and the Penny Post in 1687.

- No.10. Milestones in British Postal History. Paper read by R.K. Wortley.  
Illustrated.  
Major Charles F. Head and the Overland Route. By the Editor.  
Ireland Study Circle. Report on Classification of Handstruck Stamps.  
By Colonel Samuel Anderson.
- No.11. An Outline of the Postal History of Russia. By Mrs.E.L.Morgan. Illus.  
The Overland Route. By R.W. Hatswell.  
Experimental Postmarks of 1794. By Colonel Guy W. Crouch. Illustrated.
- No.12. The War-time Stamp Club. By Robson Lowe.  
Ireland Study Circle: Bishopmarks and Ship Letters. Illustrated.  
Notes on the Receiving-House Marks of London, 1792-1800. By Col.G.W.  
Crouch. Illustrated.  
The Lister Letters at Shibden Hall, Halifax. By H.D. Helliwell.
- No.13. Experimental Postmarks of 1794. Note by Foster W. Bond.  
Rowland Hill. Cartoons from "Punch", 1843 and 1864.  
Postal History and the Uniform Postage Centenary: Dinner at the Royal  
Empire Society, December 5, 1939. By Foster W. Bond.  
The Treasury Warrant of November 22nd, 1839.  
The Uniform Fourpenny Post Office Stamps. By Col.Guy W.Crouch. Illus.  
The Paris Post of 1653. Prospectus of Count de Velaye.  
Ireland Study Circle: The Circular, Octagonal and Diamond Date Stamps  
used at the Chief Office, Dublin, 1796-1858. Illustrated.  
How the Press received Penny Postage in 1840: Contemporary Records.
- No.14. Centenary of Uniform Penny Post. Dinner on January 10, 1940. Speech  
by the President, Captain Adrian Hopkins.  
Dockwra's Penny Post, 1680-2. Notes on Pamphlets and Broad-sides by  
C.F.Dendy Marshall with Reproductions of the principal Broad-sides.  
Contemporary Press Notices of Dockwra's Post. By the Editor.  
Some Scottish Ship Letters. By Jean M. Campbell.  
A Modern Dockwra-type. By Foster W. Bond.  
The Prepayment of Uniform Fourpenny Postage. By Foster W. Bond.  
Frederick John Melville. Tributes by a few of his many Friends.  
Lieut.-Col. Samuel Anderson. Obituary Notice.
- No.15. The Centenary Congress and the Penny Postage Centenary Book.  
First General Post Office for Scotland: Act Anent the Post-office.  
A Journey to Ireland in 1806.  
The "Joys" of Travel in 1824.  
Receiving-House Marks of London, 1790-1800. By Col.Guy W.Crouch. Illus.  
The Postal History Society's Collection. Letters received from the  
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The Overland Mail to India: Chronological Data. By the Editor.  
"Penny Postage Centenary": Review by Captain Adrian Hopkins.  
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A Very Early Letter Box and Manchester and Liverpool Postal History.  
By J.K. Sidebottom.  
Postage at less than One Penny. Note by Foster W. Bond.