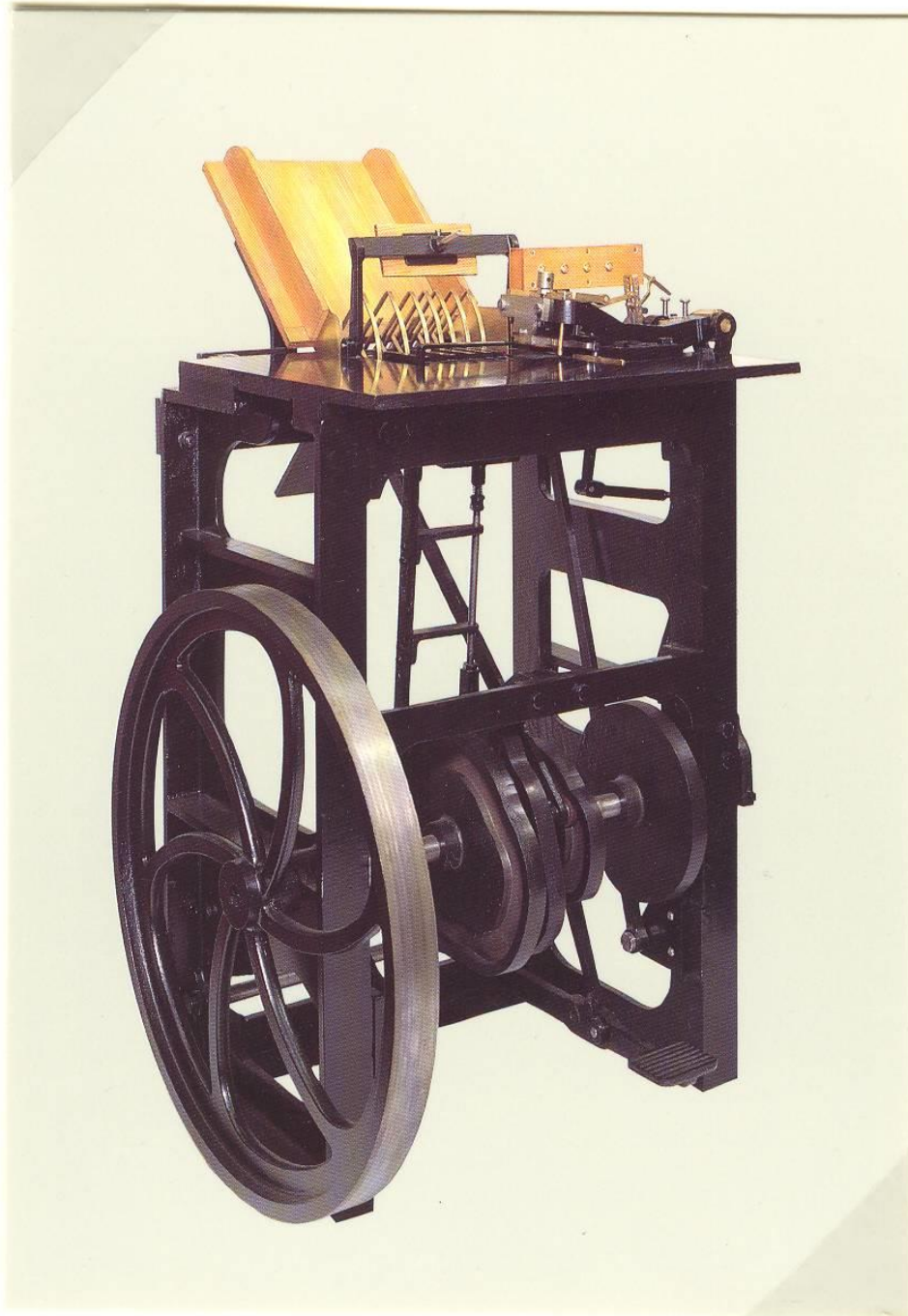


**'FROM HILL TO WILKINSON'...
THE EXPERIMENTAL & EARLY MACHINE
POSTMARKS OF ENGLAND .. 1857-1912**

by
JERRY H. MILLER

'FROM HILL TO WILKINSON' ...
THE EXPERIMENTAL & EARLY MACHINE POSTMARKS OF ENGLAND .. 1857-1912



SEPTEMBER 1857

ILLUSTRATION OF THE TREADLE-OPERATED
FIRST (MODEL 'A') 'PEARSON HILL'
POSTMARKING MACHINE, WHICH COULD
POSTMARK ABOUT ONE HUNDRED LETTERS/
MINUTE.

'FROM HILL TO WILKINSON' ...

THE EXPERIMENTAL & EARLY MACHINE POSTMARKS OF ENGLAND .. 1857-1912

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

SOON AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF PREPAID POSTAGE AND USE OF THE FIRST POSTAGE STAMP IN ENGLAND IN 1840, THE POSTAL AUTHORITIES RECOGNIZED A NEED FOR CLEAR AND LEGIBLE POSTMARKS AS WELL AS AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE HANDLING OF THE EVER-INCREASING VOLUME OF MAIL.

IN 1853, PEARSON HILL, SON OF ROWLAND HILL (SOCALLED 'FATHER' OF THE PREPAID POSTAGE STAMP) BECAME INVOLVED WITH THOSE PROBLEMS, AND BY 1857 HE HAD DEVELOPED AND PATENTED THE FIRST RAPID POSTMARKING MACHINE!

BETWEEN 1857-1912, THE LONDON GENERAL POST OFFICE TESTED AND/OR EVALUATED NO LESS THAN EIGHTEEN MACHINES, MOST OF WHICH WERE OF NON-BRITISH MANUFACTURE.

EXHIBIT

THIS EXHIBIT OFFERS AN OVERVIEW THROUGH POSTAL HISTORY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OR EVOLUTION OF TRIAL AND EARLY POSTMARKS APPLIED BY THE EARLY POSTMARKING MACHINES TESTED AND/OR EVALUATED BY THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AT LONDON BETWEEN THE YEARS 1857 AND 1912.

	<u>POSTMARKING MACHINE</u>	<u>APPROXIMATE TRIAL OR EARLY FIELD-USE PERIOD</u>
I.	<u>PEARSON HILL</u>	
	MACHINE 'A'	SEPTEMBER 1857 - FEBRUARY 1858
	MACHINE 'B'	MARCH - APRIL 1858
	MACHINE 'C'	MARCH 1858
	PARALLEL-MOTION	MARCH 1858 ...
II.	<u>CHARLES RIDEOUT</u>	
	TRIAL ONE	1858 - 1859
	TRAIL TWO	1866 - 1867
III.	<u>AZEMAR (HINRICHSEN)</u>	
	TRIAL ONE	1869
	TRIAL TWO	1871
	TRIAL THREE	1872
IV.	<u>SLOPER</u>	1870 - 1875
V.	<u>VAILLE</u>	APRIL 1878
VI.	<u>HALLER-/HOSTER</u>	1882 - 1883
VII.	<u>ETHRIDGE</u>	SEPTEMBER 1886 - APRIL 1887
VIII.	<u>MALIN</u>	1890 - 1891
IX.	<u>INTERNATIONAL (HEY - DOLPHIN)</u>	
	TRIAL ONE	1893
	TRIAL TWO	1902 - 1903
	TRIAL THREE	1911
X.	<u>IMPERIAL</u>	1897
XI.	<u>EMPIRE</u>	MARCH 1898
XII.	<u>BICKERDIKE</u>	1897 - 1907
XIII.	<u>BOSTON</u>	1898 - 1907
XIV.	<u>COLUMBIA</u>	1901.....
XV.	<u>KRAG</u>	1905.....
XVI.	<u>SYLBE</u>	1907 - 1908
XVII.	<u>UNIVERSAL</u>	1911.....
XVIII.	<u>WILKINSON</u>	JANUARY - AUGUST 1912

PEARSON HILL ...

MACHINE 'A'

21 SEPTEMBER 1857 -

17 FEBRUARY 1858

POSTMARK FROM FIRST FIELD-TESTED POSTMARKING MACHINE ..
POSTMARK CODE 'A' & MACHINE CODE 'A'



TYPICAL POSTMARK-
OFFSET ON REVERSE
SIDE OF COVER

POST OFFICE LOCATION
INDICATION 'LONDON'
AND MACHINE CODE 'A'

25 SEPTEMBER 1857

FIRST DAY OF REGULAR DAILY & EVENING OPERATION OF
POSTMARKING MACHINE.

ONLY REPORTED COVER FROM THIS DATE!

PEARSON HILL ...

MACHINE 'A'

21 SEPTEMBER 1857 -
17 FEBRUARY 1858

POSTMARK DIE CODES

FIVE DIFFERENT POSTMARK DIE CODES WERE USED IN THE TRIAL INVOLVING MACHINE 'A' ... 'A', 'M', '2', '3', & '4'. IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE CODES REFERRED TO THE TIME OF DAY.



21 SEPTEMBER 1857
FIRST DAY OF FIELD
TRIAL

8 FEBRUARY 1858
LATE DATE USAGE



'A'

'M'

'2'

'3'

'4'

RECORDED
NUMBER OF
DAYS USED:

25+

6

4

3

3



14 JANUARY 1858 'M' DIE CODE ON COVER

EARLIEST KNOWN DATE EXAMPLE OF THE 'M' DIE CODE. ONE OF TWO ONLY RECORDED 'M' DIE CODE COVERS.

PEARSON HILL ...

MACHINE 'A'

21 SEPTEMBER 1857 -

17 FEBRUARY 1858

COVER EXAMPLES OF 1857 & 1858 DOMESTIC USAGES



FRANKING: 1 PENCE

DOMESTIC SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE

PEARSON HILL ...

MACHINE 'A'

21 SEPTEMBER 1857 -

17 FEBRUARY 1858

FOREIGN-DESTINATION COMMERCIAL MAIL



16 DECEMBER 1857

4-PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO FRANCE.

ONLY RECORDED FOREIGN-DESTINATION COMMERCIAL MAIL EXAMPLE!

PEARSON HILL ...

MACHINE 'B'

21 MARCH 1858 -

23 APRIL 1858

IN MARCH, 1858, PEARSON HILL INTRODUCED A MODIFIED VERSION OF HIS MACHINE 'A' WHICH NOW PLACED AN INKED LINEN RIBBON BETWEEN THE METAL DIE AND THE LETTER/ENVELOPE COVER ... ELIMINATING THE HERETOFORE 'GLUE AND TREACLE INKING ROLLERS'.



POSTMARK-OFFSET
ON REVERSE-SIDE
OF COVER

ORIGIN POSTMARK
ON FRONT-SIDE OF
COVER

24 MARCH 1858

BECAUSE OF ITS UNUSUAL DESIGN, THIS POSTMARK HAS
BECOME KNOWN AS THE 'OPERA GLASS' ...

ONE OF FOUR COVER EXAMPLES RECORDED!

PEARSON HILL ...

MACHINE 'C'

8 MARCH 1858 -
18 MARCH 1858

FORERUNNER MACHINE ...

WITH LIMITED SUCCESS WITH HIS BULKY 'A' & 'B' MACHINES, PEARSON HILL DEVELOPED A NEW STATIONARY STAMPER-TYPE, WHICH WAS INEXPENSIVE AND COMPETITIVE TO THE MACHINE DEVELOPED BY CHARLES RIDEOUT, WHICH WAS INTRODUCED IN FEBRUARY, 1858. MACHINE 'C' IS CONSIDERED TO BE A FORERUNNER TO HILL'S 'PARALLEL MOTION' MACHINE FROM WHICH THE LATTER EVOLVED.

THE FIRST POSTMARK OF HILL'S 'C' MACHINE CONSISTED OF DOUBLE 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIALS HAVING CODES 'CA', 'CB' OR 'CC' WITH THE WORD 'LONDON' 14mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH INDICATION OF MONTH, DAY & YEAR.



COVER EXAMPLE DATED 11 MARCH 1858 FROM LONDON TO PLYMOUTH.
ONE OF FOUR COVERS REPORTED!

PEARSON HILL ...

MACHINE 'C'

8 MARCH 1858 -
18 MARCH 1858

POSTMARK FORGERY



THIS EXAMPLE OF THE RARE POSTMARK FROM THE PEARSON HILL MACHINE 'C' IS A FORGERY!

- * THE POSTMARK DATE OF 14 MARCH 1858 WAS A SUNDAY WHEN NO MAIL WAS PROCESSED. HOWEVER, HAD MAIL BEEN PROCESSED, THEN THE DATER DIAL DIE-CODE WOULD HAVE BEEN 'CA'.
- * THE POSTAGE STAMP, ILLUSTRATING QUEEN VICTORIA, HAS SMALL LETTERS IN THE SQUARES ADJACENT TO THE WORD "POSTAGE". STAMPS IN THAT DESIGN WERE FIRST ISSUED IN 1864 AND WOULD NOT, OF COURSE, BE AVAILABLE FOR USE AND POSTMARKING BY MACHINE 'C' IN 1858.

RECEIVAL MARKING ... INCOMING MAIL

BY MARCH, 1858, THE GENERAL POST OFFICE ADOPTED THE DUPLEX-STYLE OF POSTMARK AS 'STANDARD' FOR ORIGIN (OUTGOING-MAIL) MARKINGS, WHILE SIMPLE DATER DIAL IMPRESSIONS REMAINED FOR RECEIVAL OR DELIVERY MARKINGS.

THE HERETOFORE DOUBLE-DIAL MACHINE 'C' POSTMARK DIE WAS SEPARATED .. WITH ONE DIAL BEING USED FOR APPLYING RECEIVAL MARKINGS ...



COVER EXAMPLE (REVERSE SIDE) ILLUSTRATING A 'CC'-CODE SINGLE DATER-DIAL RECEIVAL MARKING, DATED 20 MARCH 1858.

EARLIEST RECORDED USAGE! ONE OF TWO RECORDED EXAMPLES!

ORIGIN MARKING ... OUTGOING MAIL

THE SECOND DATER-DIAL OF THE HERETOFORE MACHINE 'C' DOUBLE-DIAL POSTMARK WAS COMBINED WITH AN OBLITERATOR ... '3' (THIRD MACHINE) BETWEEN 5-11-11-5 COMBINATION HORIZONTAL LINES TO FORM A DUPLEX-TYPE ORIGIN-OUTGOING MAIL POSTMARK.

DIAL CODES:

THE FIRST CODE LETTER REPRESENTED THE MACHINE TESTED. HERE THE LETTER 'C' REFLECTED THE 'THIRD MACHINE SERIES' (i.e. AFTER 'A' AND 'B' OF EARLIER MACHINES). THE SECOND LETTER OF THE CODE REPRESENTED THE DAY: MONDAY 'A', TUESDAY 'B', WEDNESDAY 'C', THURSDAY 'A', FRIDAY 'B', SATURDAY 'C'. NO CODE FOR SUNDAY.



FOREIGN-BOUND COVER EXAMPLE, DATED 23. MARCH 1858, TO THE GERMAN STATE OF HAMBURG ILLUSTRATING THE NEW ORIGIN-OUTGOING MAIL POSTMARK .. CODE 'CB' (A TUESDAY-MAILING MACHINE 'C').

ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE!

14 MAY 1858

OFFICIALLY FIRST DEMONSTRATED OR TRIED ON 13 MAY 1858, HILL'S 'PARALLEL MOTION STAMPING MACHINE' WAS A MODIFIED, MORE ROBUST, 'MACHINE C' HAVING A PARALLEL-MOTION LINKAGE AND HAVING A DOUBLE-ROLLER INKING FEATURE TO ELIMINATE OFFSET INKING.

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON' 14mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH A DUPLEX OBLITERATOR 2.5mm FROM DIAL ... '3' IN OBLITERATOR BETWEEN 19 (4-11-11-4) THIN LINES.

POSTMARK CODE 'A' ... DAY CODE 'B'



14 MAY 1858

SINGLE-WEIGHT COMMERCIAL COVER FROM LONDON TO ASHBURTON.

SECOND DAY OF OFFICIAL USE OF THE 'PARALLEL-MOTION POSTMARKING MACHINE.

ONLY KNOWN EXAMPLE FROM TRIAL!

PARALLEL MOTION MACHINE

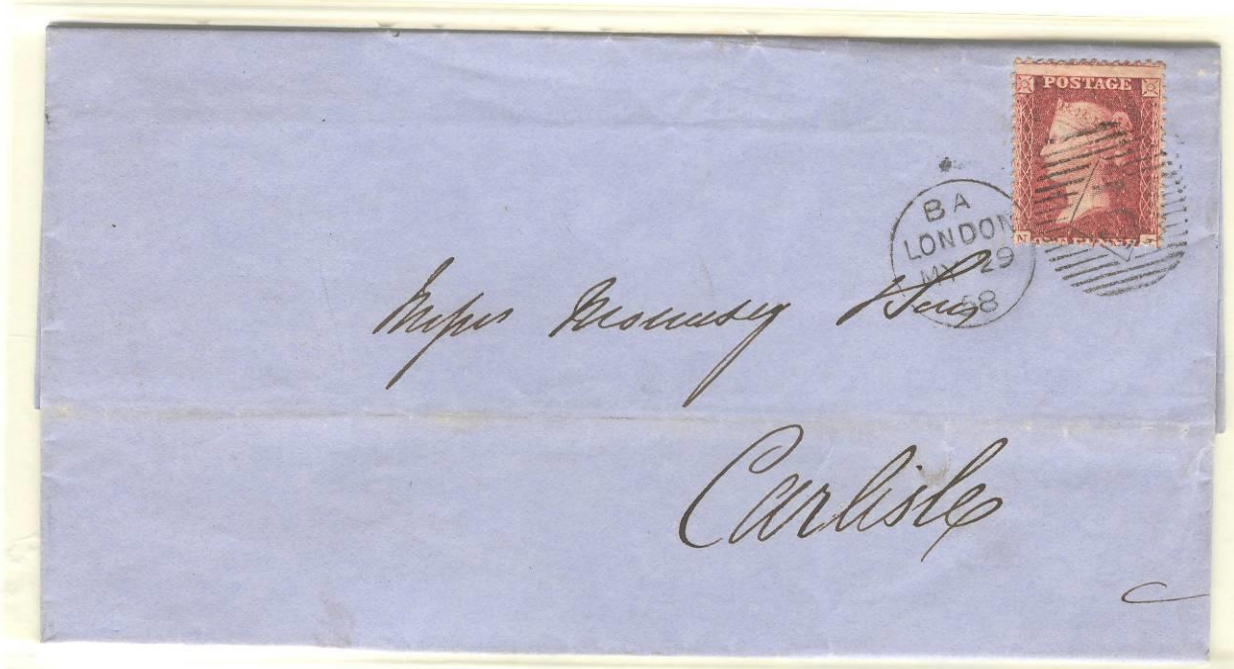
FIRST POSTMARK..TYPE II:

15 MAY 1858 - DEC., 1858

ONE DAY AFTER COMMENCING A NEW TRIAL (MAY 13-14),
THE DATER CODE & OBLITERATOR WERE MODIFIED.

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON'
14mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH A DUPLEX
OBLITERATOR '3' BETWEEN 17 (3-11-11-3)
THIN LINES.

POSTMARK CODE NOW 'B' .. DAY CODE 'A'



29 MAY 1858

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE ..
LONDON TO CARLISLE



5 JULY 1858

TWO PENCE DOUBLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE ..
LONDON TO KELLS, IRELAND

PEARSON HILL ...

PARALLEL MOTION MACHINE

FIRST POSTMARK..TYPE III:

24 JANUARY - 25 MARCH 1859

SEVEN MONTHS AFTER INTRODUCING A MODIFIED POSTMARK,
ANOTHER MODIFIED MARK WAS INTRODUCED, WHICH LASTED
ONLY TWO MONTHS BEFORE BEING MODIFIED AGAIN!

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON'
14mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH AN OBLITERATOR
HAVING A '3' BETWEEN 17 (3-11-11-3) THIN LINES.

POSTMARK CODE NOW AGAIN 'A' .. DAY CODE 'B'



14 FEBRUARY 1859

8-PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO
NEW ZEALAND.

ARRIVAL MARKING: "23 MAY 1859
WELLINGTON, NEW ZEALAND"

PARALLEL MOTION MACHINE

FIRST POSTMARK..
RECEIVAL MARKINGS

1858 - 1859

BY REMOVING THE DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR, THE GENERAL POST OFFICE CONVERTED THE HERETOFORE ORIGIN POSTMARK FOR OUTGOING MAIL TO A RECEIVAL MARKING FOR INCOMING MAIL.

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON' 14mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH THE MONTH, DAY AND YEAR. USAGE IN 1858 HAS BEEN FOUND ONLY IN BLACK-INK WHEREAS USAGE IN 1859 IS ORANGE-RED COLOR.

POSTMARK CODE 'A' or 'B' ...
DAY CODES 'A', 'B' or 'C'



13. AUGUST 1858

(BLACK-INK) RECEIVAL MARKING ON A LETTER FROM LIVERPOOL TO FRANCE .. TRANSIT MARKING USAGE.



24. JANUARY 1859

(ORANGE-RED INK) RECEIVAL MARKING ON A INNER-CITY LONDON LETTER.

PARALLEL MOTION MACHINE

SECOND POSTMARK

25 MARCH 1859

20 MAY 1859

BETWEEN 1858-1860, THE GENERAL POST OFFICE
EXPERIMENTED WITH DIFFERENT POSTMARK VARIETIES OF
THE BASIC DUPLEX POSTMARK.

POSTMARK: 19.0mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON'
14mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH A DUPLEX
OBLITERATOR 1.00mm FROM DIAL ... '3'
IN OBLITERATOR BETWEEN 14 (2-5-5-2) THIN/
THICK WIDELY SPACED HORIZONTAL LINES.

POSTMARK CODE 'A' .. DAY CODE 'B'



8 APRIL 1859

COLLECT (POSTAGE DUE) STAMPLESS ENTIRE COMMERCIAL MAIL SENT FROM
LONDON TO NEW YORK. "19 CENTS" POSTAGE DUE MARKING COVERING
3¢ 'BRITISH INLAND' + 16¢ 'BRITISH PACKET' RATES VIA EXCHANGE OFFICE



19 MAY 1859

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE/DOMESTIC MAIL
'L.C.R.' RAILWAY MARKING/ROUTE MARKING

PEARSON HILL ...

PARALLEL MOTION MACHINE

THIRD POSTMARK...

12 MAY 1859 -

19 DECEMBER 1859

THE THIRD POSTMARK FROM THIS MACHINE WAS SIMILAR TO THE SECOND, EXCEPT THAT THE WORD 'LONDON' IN THE DATER-DIAL IS NOW 16mm IN LENGTH.

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON'
16mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH DUPLEX
OBLITERATOR 1.00mm FROM DIAL ... '3' IN
OBLITERATOR BETWEEN 14 (2-5-5-2) THIN/THICK
WIDELY SPACED HORIZONTAL LINES.

POSTMARK CODE 'A' .. DAY CODE 'B'



16 MAY 1859

8 PENCE LETTER-RATE TO GERMANY .. LONDON TO DRESDEN

'PREPAID' AS WELL AS RAILWAY-ROUTING POSTMARKS IN RED-INK...
'17. MAY .. FROM ENGLAND BY WAY OF AACHEN PREPAID'.

OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL



10 AUGUST 1859

9 PENCE COMMERCIAL MAIL (PRINTED-CIRCULAR) SINGLE WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO SHANGHAI, CHINA. (REVERSE SIDE) 'HONG KONG' RECEIVAL POSTMARK .. 20 SEPTEMBER 1859.



19 DECEMBER 1859

1 SHILLING LETTER-RATE TO GUILDFORD, WESTERN AUSTRALIA ... 'VIA MARSEILLES' (FRANCE).

LATEST KNOWN DATE USAGE FOR THIS POSTMARK!

PEARSON HILL ...

PARALLEL MOTION MACHINE

THIRD POSTMARK..
RECEIVAL MARKINGS

1859

BY REMOVING THE DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR, THE GENERAL POST OFFICE CONVERTED THE ORIGIN-POSTMARK FOR OUTGOING MAIL TO A RECEIVAL MARKING APPLIED TO INCOMING MAIL.

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON'
16mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH THE MONTH,
DAY AND YEAR. ORANGE-RED INK COLOR.

POSTMARK CODE 'A' .. DAY CODE 'B'



18 MAY 1859

(ORANGE-RED) RECEIVAL MARKING ON A LETTER FROM
EVERTON VIA LYMINGTON TO LONDON.

PARALLEL MOTION MACHINE

FOURTH POSTMARK...

24 SEPTEMBER 1859 -

4 FEBRUARY 1860

WITH THIS POSTMARK THE HERETOFORE DAY CODE ALTERED FROM 'A' to 'Z' LESS 'Q'. THE POSTMARK CODE BECAME 'B'.

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON' 17mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH DUPLEX OBLITERATOR 1.00mm FROM DIAL ... '4' (4th MACHINE) IN OBLITERATOR BETWEEN 11 (3-5-5-3) THICKER WIDELY SPACED HORIZONTAL LINES.

POSTMARK CODE 'B'.. DAY CODE 'A-Z' LESS 'Q'

29 OCTOBER 1859

1 SHILLING LETTER-RATE TO PARIS, FRANCE.



7. JANUARY 1860

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FROM LONDON TO BASINGSTOKE

PEARSON HILL ...

PARALLEL MOTION MACHINE

SEVENTH POSTMARK...

3 FEBRUARY 1860 -
6 FEBRUARY 1860

THIS POSTMARK HAS BEEN RECORDED ON TWO STAMPS ONLY!
NO COVERS ARE KNOWN.

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON'
17mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH DUPLEX
OBLITERATOR 1.00mm FROM DIAL ... '4'
IN OBLITERATOR BETWEEN 10 (2-6-6-2) THICK
HORIZONTAL BARS.

POSTMARK CODE 'B' ... DAY CODE 'A-Z' LESS 'Q'



THIS POSTMARK IS THE ONLY '4' IN PARALLEL-MOTION MACHINE
SERIES WITH 6 BARS AT EACH SIDE OF THE OBLITERATOR.

PEARSON HILL ...

PARALLEL MOTION MACHINE

EIGHTH POSTMARK...

23 JANUARY 1860 -

22 OCTOBER 1860

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON'
17mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH DUPLEX
OBLITERATOR 1.00mm FROM DIAL ... '3'
IN OBLITERATOR BETWEEN 9 (2-5-5-2)
HEAVY HORIZONTAL BARS.

POSTMARK CODE 'A' ... DAY CODE 'A-Z' LESS 'Q'

23 APRIL 1860

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE ...
LONDON TO CHELTENHAM



17 AUGUST 1860

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE ...
LONDON TO RYE

PEARSON HILL ...

PARALLEL MOTION MACHINE

NINTH POSTMARK...

17 FEBRUARY 1860 -

25 OCTOBER 1860

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON'
17mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH DUPLEX
OBLITERATOR 1.00mm FROM DIAL ... '4'
IN OBLITERATOR BETWEEN 11 (3-5-5-3)
HEAVY HORIZONTAL BARS.

POSTMARK CODE 'B' ... DAY CODE 'A-Z' LESS 'Q'

10 MARCH 1860

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE ...
LONDON TO GLASGOW



18 SEPTEMBER 60

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE ...
LONDON TO LIVERPOOL

1860

IN A REPORT ISSUED BY THE GENERAL POST OFFICE,
IT WAS REPORTED THAT MR. HILL'S PARALLEL-MOTION
MACHINE WAS FOUND TO BE SUPERIOR TO THAT OF MR.
RIDEOUT AND A LARGE NUMBER OF THOSE WERE RECOMMENDED
FOR PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION TO FIELD POST OFFICES.

INITIALLY THE FIRST MACHINES DISTRIBUTED HAD POSTMARK
CODES AS WELL AS OBLITERATOR DESIGNATIONS ALTERED.

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON'
16mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH DUPLEX
OBLITERATOR BETWEEN 9 (2-5-5-2) HEAVY
HORIZONTAL BARS.

POSTMARK CODES VARY AS DO DAY CODES.

4. AUGUST 1860

OBLITERATOR CODE: '87'

JULY 1860 -
OCTOBER 1860

POSTMARK CODE: 'C'



25. AUGUST 1860

OBLITERATOR CODE: '89'

JUNE 1860 -
SEPTEMBER 1860

POSTMARK CODE: 'E'

IN OCTOBER, 1860, THE OBLITERATOR MARKINGS WERE ALTERED TO AGAIN COMMENCE WITH 1, 2, 3, ETC. WITH THOSE THE POSTMARK CODES WERE CHANGED TO REFLECT THE FOLLOWING SEQUENCING... A1, B2, C3, D4, E5, F6, G87, H88, ETC. DAY CODES VARIED.

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON' 16mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH THE MONTH, DAY AND YEAR... DUPLEX OBLITERATOR BETWEEN 9 (2-5-5-2) HEAVY HORIZONTAL BARS.



10. DECEMBER 1863

'2'.. 'BX' DATER

JANUARY 1861 -
DECEMBER 1863



22 OCTOBER 1862

'4'.. 'DR' DATER

9 MARCH 1861 -
JUNE 1863



18 MARCH 1862

'6'.. 'FE' DATER

NOVEMBER 1860 -
JULY 1863

1860-1863

BY REMOVING THE DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR, THE POST OFFICE CONVERTED THE ORIGIN POSTMARK FOR OUTGOING MAIL TO A RECEIVAL MARKING FOR INCOMING MAIL.

THE EXAMPLES BELOW ILLUSTRATE A 'BEFORE & AFTER' COMPARISON USING THE ORIGINAL '5'-OBLITERATOR POSTMARK.

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON' 16mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH A DUPLEX OBLITERATOR '5' BETWEEN 9 (2-5-5-2) HEAVY HORIZONTAL LINES.

POSTMARK CODE 'E' IS APPLICABLE FOR OBLITERATOR '5' BUT THE DAY CODES VARY.

29 NOVEMBER 1860

'5' OBLITERATOR POSTMARK...

NOVEMBER 1860 -
JUNE 1863

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE ... MOURNING
COVER

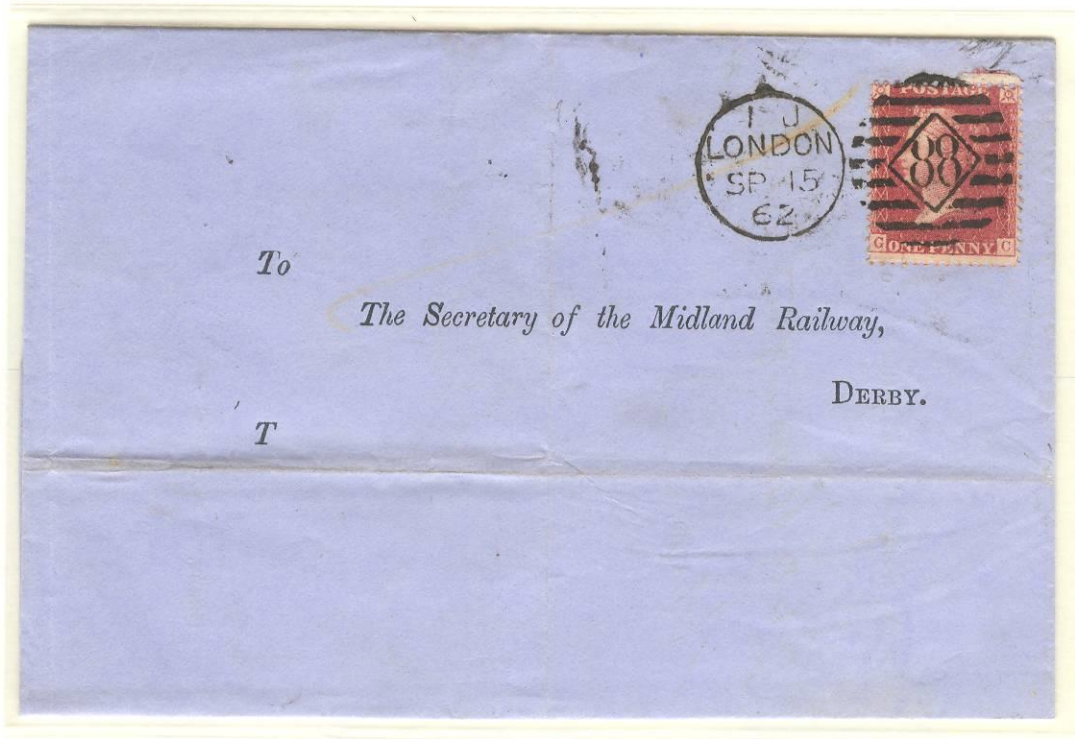


2 AUGUST 1861

(ORANGE-RED INK) RECEIVAL
MARKING ON A MOURNING COVER
FROM BIRKENHEAD TO LONDON.

A DETERMINATION OF THE PERIOD
WHEN THE DUPLEX POSTMARK WAS
CONVERTED FOR USE TO POSTMARK
INCOMING MAIL IS NOT POSSIBLE.

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH 'LONDON'
16mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH THE MONTH,
DAY AND YEAR ... DUPLEX OBLITERATOR
NUMBERED IN THE CENTER BETWEEN 9
(2-5-5-2) HEAVY HORIZONTAL BARS.



15 SEPTEMBER 1862
'88' .. 'HJ' DATER (DEFECTIVE 'H')
NOVEMBER 1860 - OCTOBER 1862



15 MARCH 1861
'90' .. 'JO' DATER
NOVEMBER 1860 - JANUARY 1862

CHARLES RIDEOUT MACHINE ...

FIRST TRIAL

MACHINE '1' .. TYPE I

5 FEBRUARY 1858 -

14 OCTOBER 1858

IN JANUARY 1858, CHARLES RIDEOUT, A FORMER SURVEYOR, OFFERED THE LONDON POST OFFICE A NEW POSTMARKING MACHINE, WHICH HAD BEEN PATENTED IN OCTOBER 1857 BY RIDEOUT'S SON-IN-LAW, GEORGE BEARD. TWO MACHINES WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE TESTED BY THE POST OFFICE BETWEEN 1858-1859.

POSTMARK: 19mm DATER DIAL WITH 'HS', MONTH, DAY & YEAR ALONG WITH DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR WITH '1' BETWEEN 12 (2-8-7-2) VERTICAL BARS.

16 AUGUST 1858

MOURNING COVER FROM LONDON
TO GIBRALTAR

6 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT OVERSEAS
RATE TO GIBRALTAR



2 SEPTEMBER 1858

LETTER FROM LONDON TO
TO EXETER

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE

5 FEBRUARY 1858 -
14 OCTOBER 1858

POSTMARK: 19mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL WITH 'HS', MONTH, DAY & YEAR ALONG WITH DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR WITH '1' BETWEEN 12 (2-8-7-2) VERTICAL BARS.

INBOUND OVERSEAS-MAIL - REDIRECTED IN ENGLAND



EX CHASE, WARD

12 MAY 1858

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA, USA, TO LONDON, ENGLAND. 24¢ RATE TO ENGLAND.

5 JUNE 1858

UPON RECEIPT, COVER AFFIXED WITH ONE PENNY FRANKING (DOMESTIC SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE) AND REDIRECTED TO 'CHESTER' WITH THREE STRIKES OF A RIDEOUT-MACHINE POSTMARK TYING THE EXISTING-POSTAGE AS WELL AS THE ADDED FRANKING.

6 JUNE 1858

BACKSTAMP RECEIVAL HANDSTAMP AT 'CHESTER'.

CHARLES RIDEOUT MACHINE ...

FIRST TRIAL

MACHINE '1' .. TYPE II

22 OCTOBER 1858 -

DECEMBER 1859

POSTMARK: 19mm DATER DIAL WITH 'HS', MONTH, DAY & YEAR ALONG WITH DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR WITH '1' BETWEEN 11 (2-7-7-2) VERTICAL THIN BARS.

15 FEBRUARY 1859

'EASTERN COUNTIES RAILWAY'
LETTER-COVER FROM LONDON
TO KINGS CROSS .. 'GREAT
NORTHERN RAILWAY'!

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC
MAIL



2 MAY 1859

FOLDED LETTER FROM LONDON TO MACCLESFIELD

2 PENCE DOUBLE-WEIGHT DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE

CHARLES RIDEOUT MACHINE ...

FIRST TRIAL

MACHINE '1' .. TYPE II

22 OCTOBER 1858 -
DECEMBER 1859

POSTMARK: 19mm DATER DIAL WITH 'LONDON' 15mm IN
LENGTH ALONG WITH 'HS', MONTH, DAY &
YEAR ALONG WITH DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR WITH
'1' BETWEEN 11 (2-7-7-2) THIN VERTICAL BARS.

OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL ... REDIRECTED MAIL



3 MARCH 1859

SMALL SOCALLED 'LADY'S ENVELOPE' MAILED AT LONDON
TO CAPTAIN GRIFFETHS OF "HER MAJESTY'S 19th REGIMENT"
IN INDIA .. VIA MARSEILLES, FRANCE. MULTIPLE TRANSIT
AND REDIRECTION MARKINGS WITH RECEIVAL ON 13 APRIL
1859.

9 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO INDIA.

CHARLES RIDEOUT MACHINE ...

FIRST TRIAL

MACHINE '1' ..
RECEIVAL MARKINGS

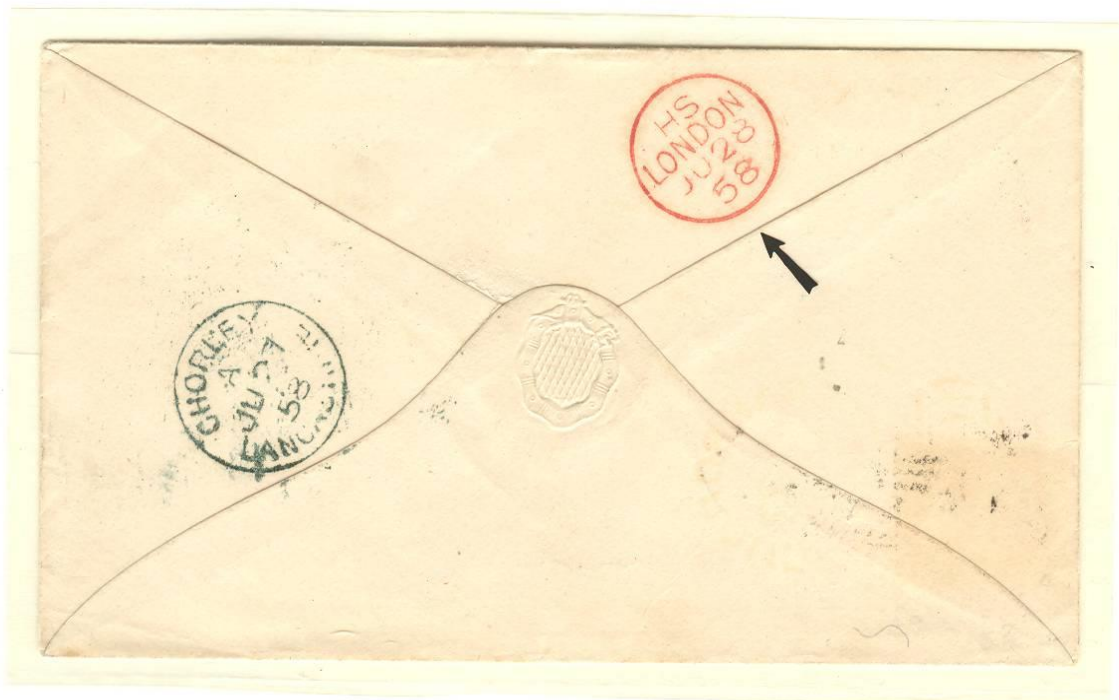
1858

BY REMOVING THE DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR, THE GENERAL POST OFFICE CONVERTED THE HERETOFORE ORIGIN POSTMARK FOR OUTGOING MAIL TO A RECEIVAL MARKING FOR INCOMING MAIL.

POSTMARK: 19mm DATER DIAL WITH 'HS', MONTH, DAY & YEAR .. ORANGE-RED INK COLOR.



20 DECEMBER 1858



28 JUNE 1858

27 DECEMBER 1858 -

3 DECEMBER 1859

POSTMARK: 19mm DATER DIAL WITH 'CR', MONTH, DAY & YEAR ALONG WITH DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR WITH '2' BETWEEN 9 (2-5-5-2) THICK VERTICAL BARS.

18 JUNE 1859

MOURNING COVER FROM LONDON
TO THE SECRETARY OF THE
'GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY'
AT KINGS CROSS

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE



26 FEBRUARY 1859

FOLDED LETTER FROM LONDON TO HULL

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE

CHARLES RIDEOUT MACHINE ...

FIRST TRIAL

MACHINE '2' .. TYPE II

9 FEBRUARY 1859 -

5 JUNE 1859

POSTMARK: 19mm DATER DIAL WITH 'RC', MONTH, DAY &
YEAR ALONG WITH DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR WITH
'2' BETWEEN 9 (2-5-5-2) THICK VERTICAL BARS.



4 JUNE 1859

COMMERCIAL FOLDED LETTER FROM LONDON TO
EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND

2 PENCE (HORIZONTAL PAIR OF 1 PENCE RED)
DOUBLE-WEIGHT DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE

CHARLES RIDEOUT MACHINE ...

FIRST TRIAL

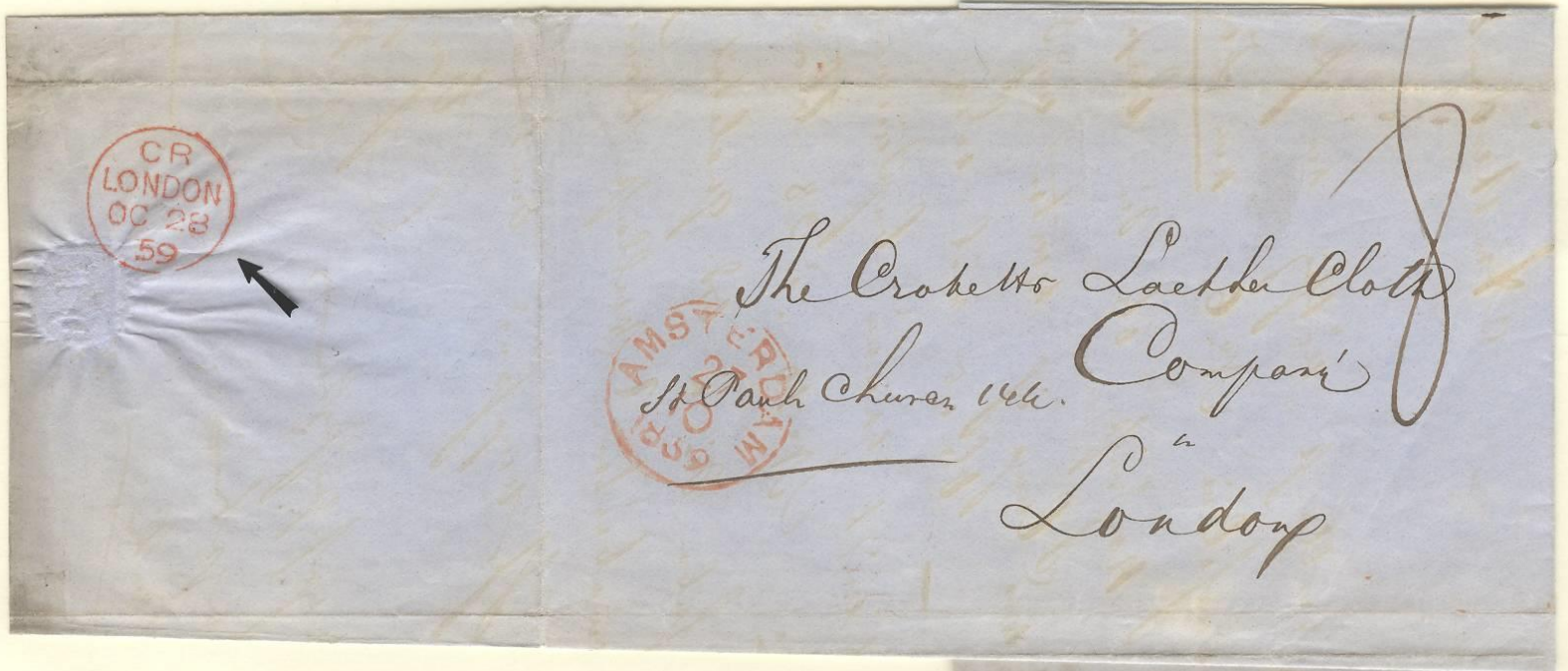
MACHINE '2' ..
RECEIVAL MARKINGS

1859

BY REMOVING THE DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR, THE GENERAL POST OFFICE CONVERTED THE HERETOFORE ORIGIN POSTMARK FOR OUTGOING MAIL TO A RECEIVAL MARKING FOR INCOMING MAIL.

POSTMARK: 19mm DATER DIAL WITH 'LONDON' 15mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH 'CR', MONTH, DAY & YEAR ... ORANGE-RED INK COLOR.

22 NOVEMBER 1859
RECEIVAL MARKING ON
DOMESTIC LETTER TO LONDON



28 OCTOBER 1859
RECEIVAL MARKING ON PREPAID FOLDED LETTER FROM
AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS, TO LONDON

CHARLES RIDEOUT MACHINE ...

SECOND TRIAL

MACHINE '1' .. TYPE 11

10 OCTOBER 1866 -

12 OCTOBER 1866

ALTHOUGH PEARSON HILL'S 'PARALLEL MOTION' MACHINE HAD BEEN SELECTED IN 1859 AS THE ONE TO BE PURCHASED BY THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR FIELD USE, RIDEOUT PRESSED FOR ADDITIONAL TRIALS, AND IN 1866 A SECOND TRIAL WAS CONDUCTED WHICH ENDED IN FAILURE FOR RIDEOUT.

POSTMARK: 19mm DATER DIAL WITH 'LONDON' 15mm IN LENGTH ALONG WITH 'HS', MONTH, DAY & YEAR AND DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR WITH '1' BETWEEN 11 (2-7-7-2) THIN VERTICAL BARS.



12 OCTOBER 1866

LOCAL CITY COVER HAVING SAME DATE BACK-STAMP

ONE OF TWO REPORTED COVERS .. THIS ONE ILLUSTRATING LATEST KNOWN DATE USAGE!

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE

CHARLES RIDEOUT MACHINE ...

SECOND TRIAL

MACHINE '2' .. TYPE I

23 OCTOBER 1866 -

10 JULY 1867

POSTMARK: 19mm DATER DIAL WITH 'LONDON' 15mm
IN LENGTH ALONG WITH 'CR', MONTH,
DAY & YEAR AND DUPLEX-OBLITERATOR
WITH '2' BETWEEN 9 (2-5-5-2) THICK
VERTICAL BARS.



23 OCTOBER 1866

LOCAL CITY COVER HAVING SAME DATE BACK-STAMP

EARLIEST KNOWN USAGE DATE!

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE

HINRICHSEN (AZEMAR) MACHINE ...

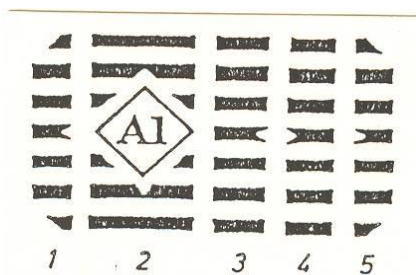
FIRST TRIAL

31 MARCH 1869 -
24 JUNE 1869

IN 1865, TWO GERMAN INVENTORS, CARL FISCHER & J.C.W. MAAS, APPLIED IN ENGLAND FOR A PATENT ON THEIR NEW POSTMARKING MACHINE. INITIALLY UNSUCCESSFUL, THEY RECEIVED A PATENT IN AUGUST, 1867.

ROBERT HINRICHSEN WOULD BECOME MANUFACTURER, AND J.C. AZEMAR OF LONDON WOULD BE THEIR ENGLISH SALES REPRESENTATIVE.

THE 'AZEMAR' MACHINE HAD THREE DIE HEADS. EACH CONSISTED OF A 20mm Ø DATER DIAL WITH THE CODE 'YI', 'LONDON' 14mm IN LENGTH AND THE MONTH, DAY & YEAR DATE. THE OBLITERATOR USED VARIED AND VARIOUS COMBINATIONS OF BAR-CONFIGURATIONS WERE POSSIBLE.



7 APRIL 1869

1 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR LONDON-TO-LIVERPOOL LETTER .. BACKSTAMP 8 APRIL 1869.

NOTE POSITION OF DATER-DIAL...EARLY DAYS OF TRIAL HAD DATER-DIAL PARALLEL WITH UPPER BAR OF THE OBLITERATOR.

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION: 1-2-3-2-5

FOR UNKNOWN REASONS TODAY, THE DATER-DIALS' POSITIONS DURING THE FIRST TRIAL FLOATED DOWNWARD AS ILLUSTRATED WITH THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES....

8 APRIL 1869

NOTE MID-LEVEL POSITION OF DATER-DIAL, AS WELL AS THE 'MISSING' OBLITERATOR SECTION. IT IS SUSPECTED THAT THE POSTAL AUTHORITIES PURPOSELY OMITTED THE BAR-STRIP.

ONLY KNOWN EXAMPLE.

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION:

1-2/ 12-5
3



28 APRIL 1869

TWO NON-ALIGNED DATER DIALS ... IMPROPER MACHINE TRACKING... AND LOCATION OF DIALS

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION:

1-3-2-4-5

HINRICHSSEN (AZEMAR) MACHINE ...

FIRST TRIAL

31 MARCH 1869 -

24 JUNE 1869

BETWEEN MAY-JUNE OF THE 1869 TRIALS THE POSITION OF THE DATER DIAL WAS APPROXIMATELY EVEN WITH THE THIRD-BAR SERIES AND ABOUT 15mm TO THE LEFT OF THE OBLITERATOR.

3 JUNE 1869

NOTE POSITION OF THE DATE DIAL ... AND THAT OBLITERATOR HAS SIX BAR SECTIONS ...

1-3-4-2-4-5



24 JUNE 1869

Exp.: RPS

LATEST KNOWN USAGE FROM TRIAL ONE!

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION: 1-2-3-2-5

HINRICHSSEN (AZEMAR) MACHINE ...

FIRST TRIAL

31 MARCH 1869 -

24 JUNE 1869

FOREIGN DESTINATION MAIL



22 MAY 1869

3 + 4 = 7 PENCE FRANKING OF A FOLDED
LETTER FROM LONDON TO ST. CATHARINES,
ONTARIO, CANADA

ONLY RECORDED COVER TO A NON-EUROPEAN
OVERSEAS DESTINATION!

BACKSTAMPS: 2 JULY 1869 ..
HAMILTON, ONTARIO &
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION: 1-3-4-2-4-5

HINRICHSEN (AZEMAR) MACHINE ...

SECOND TRIAL

4 JANUARY 1871 -
4 FEBRUARY 1871

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT-ISSUED POSTAL CARD IN OCTOBER, 1870, A NEED TO QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY POSTMARK LARGE NUMBERS OF SIMILARLY-SIZED MAIL DEVELOPED. THE HINRICHSEN/AZEMAR MACHINE WAS TESTED FOR A BRIEF PERIOD IN 1871 FOR HANDLING POSTAL CARDS.

SIMILAR TO A RECEIVAL POSTMARK APPLIED AT BERLIN & HAMBURG (GERMANY) BETWEEN 1867-1870, THE RECTANGULAR DATER 19mm x 14mm WAS PAIRED WITH AN OVAL OBLITERATOR HAVING '89' IN THE CENTER SURROUNDED BY VERTICAL DASHES.



9 JANUARY 1871

INCOMPLETE POSTMARK IMPRESSIONS ARE TYPICAL OF THOSE APPLIED ONTO POSTAL CARDS DURING THIS TRIAL PERIOD.

LESS THAN TEN EXAMPLES REPORTED!

WHEREAS THE FIRST PART OF THE SECOND TRIAL DEALT WITH POSTAL CARDS, THE SECOND PART DEALT WITH OUTGOING LETTER-MAIL.

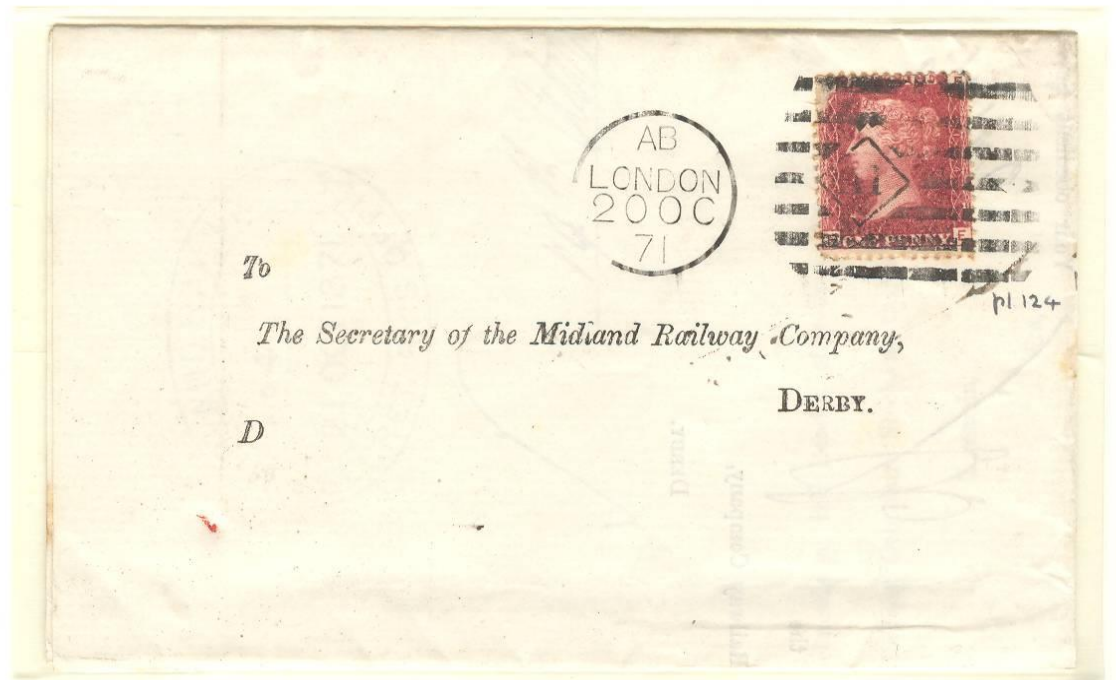
WITH THE FIRST TRIAL, THE DATER DIAL WAS NOT CODED TO REFLECT THE DIE-HEAD NUMBER OF WHICH THERE WERE THREE. COMMENCING WITH THIS TRIAL THE DATER HEADS WERE CODED .. 'AB', 'BB' & 'CB'.

DATER DIE-HEAD 'AB' .. NUMBER ONE

20 OCTOBER 1871

RAILWAY COMMERCIAL MAIL

OBLITERATOR
COMBINATION: 1-2-3-5



22 NOVEMBER 1871

COMMERCIAL MAIL FOLDED LETTER

OBLITERATOR
COMBINATION: 1-2-4-5



DATER DIE-HEAD 'BB' .. NUMBER TWO



19 JULY 1871

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION: 1-2-3-4-5



24 OCTOBER 1871

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION: 1-2-3-5

AS IS VERIFIED BY THE EXAMPLES FOR EACH DIE-HEAD, THERE IS NO PATTERN AS TO THE COMBINATIONS OF THE OBLITERATOR OF THE POSTMARK.

DATER DIE-HEAD 'CB' .. NUMBER THREE



31 MAY 1871

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION: 1-2-4-3



23 AUGUST 1871

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION: 1-2-4-3-5

HINRICHSEN (AZEMAR) MACHINE ...

SECOND TRIAL

18 MAY 1871 -

DECEMBER 1871

FOREIGN DESTINATION MAIL



4 NOVEMBER 1871

3 PENCE COMMERCIAL FOLDED LETTER FROM LONDON TO
PARIS .. SINGLE WEIGHT.

ROUTING: LONDON VIA CALAIS.. ARRIVAL STAMP..
5 NOVEMBER (1871)

DATER-DIE CODE: 'AP' ...
ONLY KNOWN EXAMPLE!

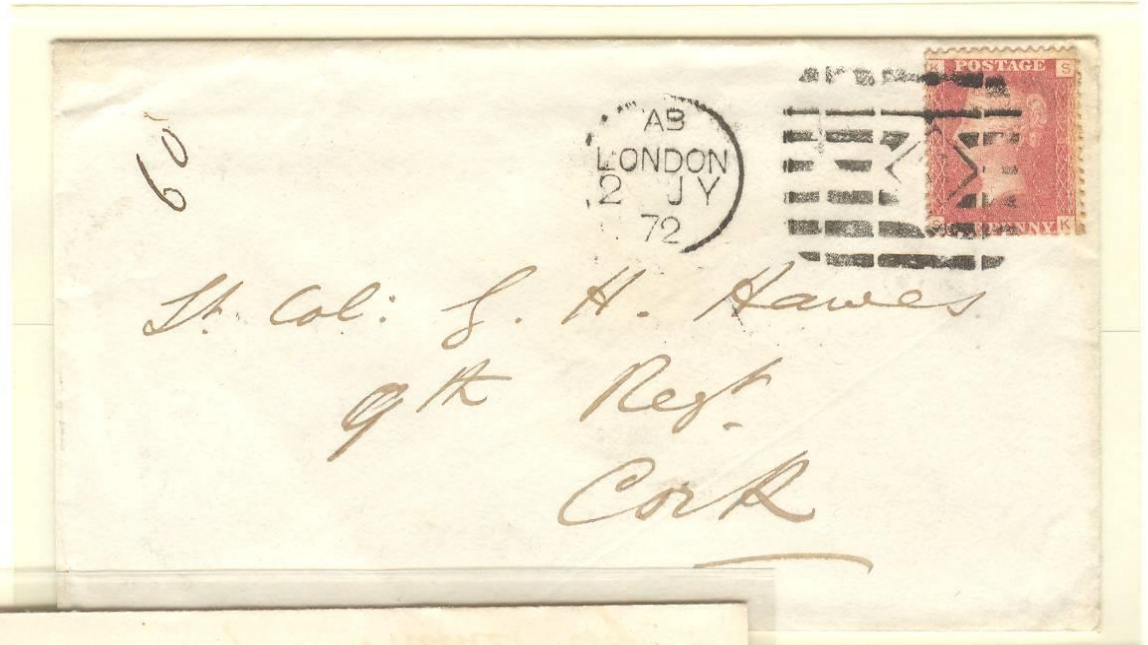
OBLITERATOR COMBINATION: 1-2-4-5

SIMILAR TO THE YEAR EARLIER 'SECOND TRIAL', THE THIRD TRIAL HAD EACH OF THE DIE-HEADS CODED. HOWEVER, ABNORMALITIES HAVE BEEN VERIFIED.

2 JULY 1872

'AB' DIE CODE

OBLITERATOR
COMBINATION: 1-3-2-5



14 AUGUST 1872

'BB' DIE CODE

OBLITERATOR
COMBINATION: 1-2-3-3

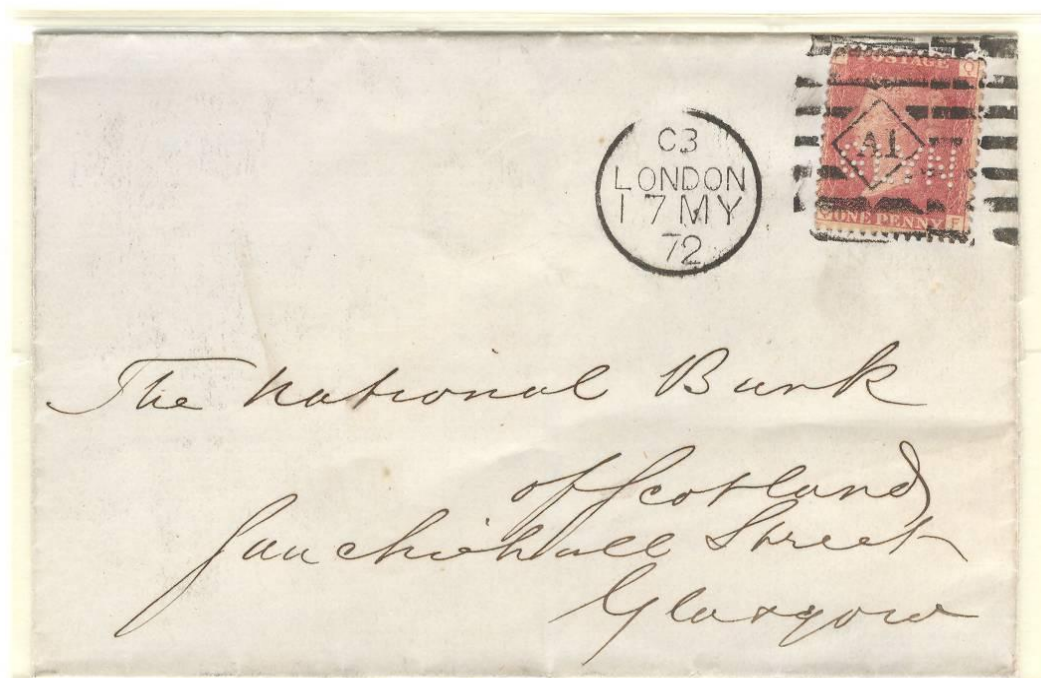
29 MAY 1872

'CB' DIE CODE

OBLITERATOR
COMBINATION: 1-2-3-3



FIRST DAY & LATE USAGE IN THE TRIAL



17 MAY 1872

FIRST DAY OF TRIAL USAGE ON COMMERCIAL MAIL FOLDED LETTER WITH PERFIN 'GLYN' POSTAGE STAMP.

NOTE INCOMPLETE DATE DIAL RIM AND 'C3' INDICATING INADEQUATE INKING OR DAMAGED DIE DEVELOPMENT.

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION: 1-2-3-3



4 NOVEMBER 1872

LATE USAGE IN TRIAL.

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION: 1-2-4-5

DESPITE THREE TRIALS OVER A PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS, THE LONDON GENERAL POST OFFICE DID NOT SELECT THE HINRICHSEN/AZEMAR MACHINE FOR FIELD DISTRIBUTION BECAUSE OF ITS HIGH MAINTENANCE AND SERVICE REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS ITS INEFFICIENCY IN HANDLING VOLUME MAIL EFFECTIVELY.

THE MACHINE'S DESIGN USING NEEDLES TO TRANSPORT THE MAIL THROUGH THE MACHINE FOR POSTMARKING WAS INEFFECTIVE AS WELL AS ITS FREQUENT NEED TO RESET DATER DIAL DIES, ETC.



16 JULY 1872

NOTE DISINTEGRATION OF DATER-DIAL RIM ON 'CB' DIE HEAD AS AN EXAMPLE OF ONE OF THE MACHINE'S PROBLEMS.

OBLITERATOR COMBINATION: 1-2-3-4

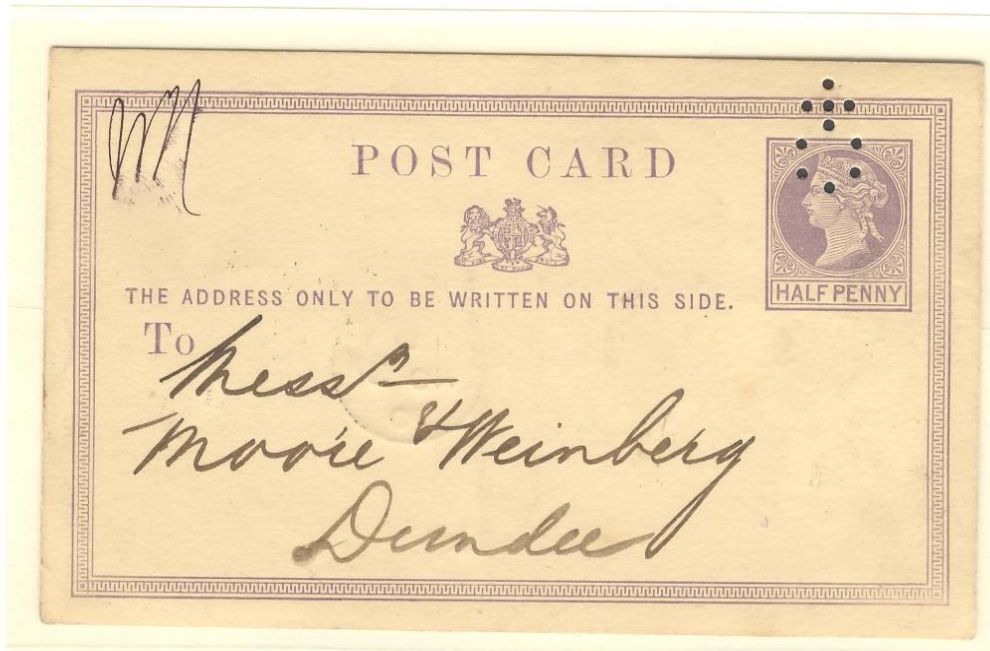
SLOPER MACHINE

LONDON .. 'CROSS + ORB' ...

STANDING .. 2-3 NOVEMBER 1870
INVERTED .. 9-21 NOVEMBER 1870

WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT-ISSUED POSTAL CARD IN OCTOBER, 1870, THE GENERAL POST OFFICE SOUGHT A DEVICE FOR EFFECTIVE POSTMARKING OF SUCH CARDS IN QUANTITY. THE 'SLOPER' PERFORATING MACHINE, HERETOFORE USED FOR BUSINESS DOCUMENTS, WAS INITIALLY TRIED IN THE CITIES OF LONDON, LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, EDINBURGH & BRADFORD.

SEVERAL PERFORATION DESIGNS WERE USED DURING THE FIVE-YEAR TRIAL DURATION PERIOD. THE 'CROSS + ORB' DESIGN USED IN LONDON WAS THE FIRST DESIGN TRIED.



2 NOVEMBER 1870
STANDING 'CROSS + ORB'
EARLIEST KNOWN DATE &
ONE OF TWO RECORDED
'STANDING' TYPE EXAMPLES!



17 NOVEMBER 1870
INVERTED 'CROSS + ORB'
ONE OF SEVEN RECORDED
EXAMPLES!

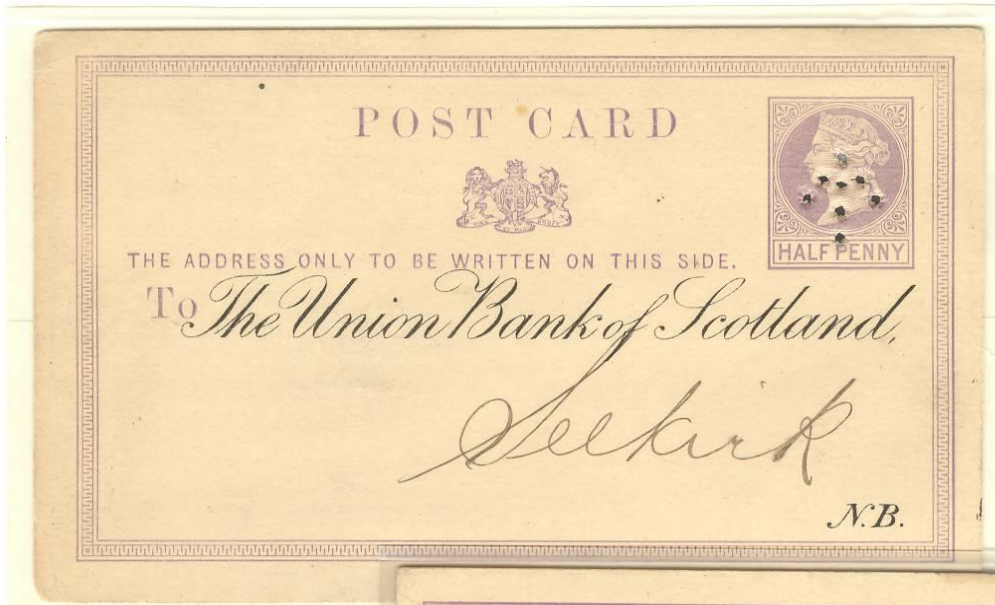
SLOPER MACHINE

LONDON .. 'ARROW' ...

15 NOVEMBER 1870 -

10 OCTOBER 1873

THE SLOPER MACHINE REQUIRED THE CLERK TO PLACE A STACK OF CARDS INTO THE MACHINE FOR PERFORATION. POSTAL CARDS NEAR THE TOP OF THE STACK HAD CLEAR, DEFINED HOLES, WHILE THOSE NEAR THE BOTTOM HAD ROUGHLY PERFORATED ONES DEPENDING UPON THE CONDITION OF THE PERFORATION-NEEDLES. THE LATTER SOMETIMES APPEARED SMALLER IN SIZE.



22 JANUARY 1872

ROUGH PERFORATION ...
POSSIBLY NEAR THE BOTTOM
OF THE STACK BEING INVALIDATED

16 FEBRUARY 1873

CLEAR DEFINED
PERFORATION .. PROBABLY
NEAR THE TOP OF THE
STACK BEING INVALIDATED



10 OCTOBER 1873

LATEST RECORDED DATE OF
USAGE

SLOPER MACHINE

LIVERPOOL .. 'ARROW' ...

8 AUGUST 1871 -

21 JANUARY 1875

AT LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND, A SLOPER MACHINE WAS TRIED HAVING
NEEDLES ENABLING 1mm AND 2mm DIAMETER PERFORATIONS.



31 OCTOBER 1871

1mm PERFORATION HOLES



4 NOVEMBER 1874

2mm PERFORATION HOLES

SLOPER MACHINE

LIVERPOOL .. 'ARROW' ... PERFORATION VARIETIES

8 AUGUST 1871 -

21 JANUARY 1875

THE STANDARD 'LIVERPOOL ARROW' PERFORATION CONSISTED OF EIGHT PERFORATION HOLES, i.e. USE OF EIGHT PERFORATION NEEDLES. OVER THE TIME OF USE, SOME OF THOSE NEEDLES WERE BROKEN RESULTING IN PERFORATION VARIETIES TO OCCUR.



21 SEPTEMBER 1871

ALTHOUGH NO NEEDLES WERE MISSING, EXAMPLE OF A POSTAL CARD WHERE IT WAS INCORRECTLY FED INTO THE SLOPER MACHINE .. RESULTING IN AN INCORRECT 'ARROW' LOCATION

13 MAY 1874

6 PERFORATION HOLES ...
TWO BROKEN NEEDLES

13-16 MAY 1874



25 AUGUST 1874

5 PERFORATION HOLES ...
THREE BROKEN NEEDLES

25 AUGUST 1874 -
19 SEPTEMBER 1874

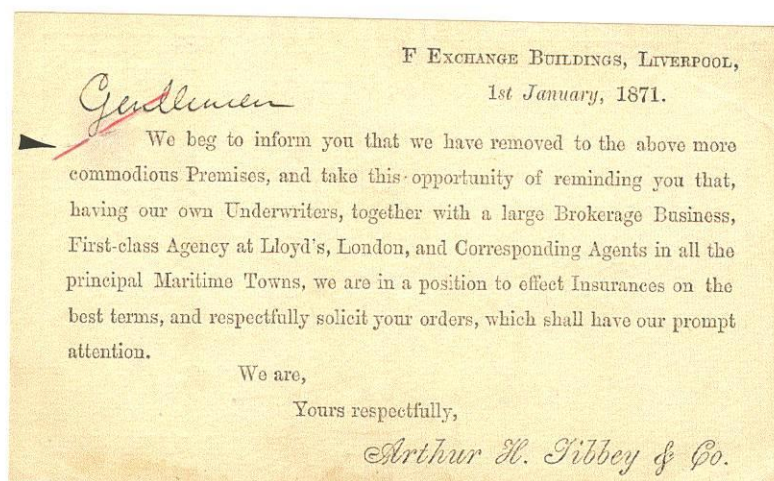
1 JANUARY 1871

IN JANUARY, 1871, A TRIAL USING SOME TYPE OF CUTTING DEVICE TO INVALIDATE POSTAL CARDS TOOK PLACE AT LIVERPOOL. SUCH DEVICE WAS NOT A 'SLOPER' MACHINE, SINCE THE LATTER WERE FIRST DELIVERED FOR TRIALS AT LIVERPOOL IN AUGUST, 1871.



1 JANUARY 1871

ONE OF TWO POSTAL CARDS REPORTED.



REVERSE-SIDE

UNKNOWN MACHINE OR DEVICE

MANCHESTER 'CLIP' .. TYPE I 'HALF ROUND'

11 NOVEMBER 1870 -

24 JANUARY 1872

AT THE CITY OF MANCHESTER, ENGLAND, A SERIES OF TRIALS WERE CONDUCTED BETWEEN 1870-1875 USING SOME TYPE OF HAND-OPERATED MACHINE OR DEVICE TO INVALIDATE POSTAL CARDS BY CLIPPING A PIECE FROM THE CARD. SUCH 'CLIPPING' IS TODAY REFERRED TO AS THE 'MANCHESTER CLIP' MARKING AND IS USUALLY FOUND ON THE RIGHT-SIDE POSTAL-CARD MARGIN. CLIPS VARY IN SIZE AND FORMAT.



22 NOVEMBER 1870

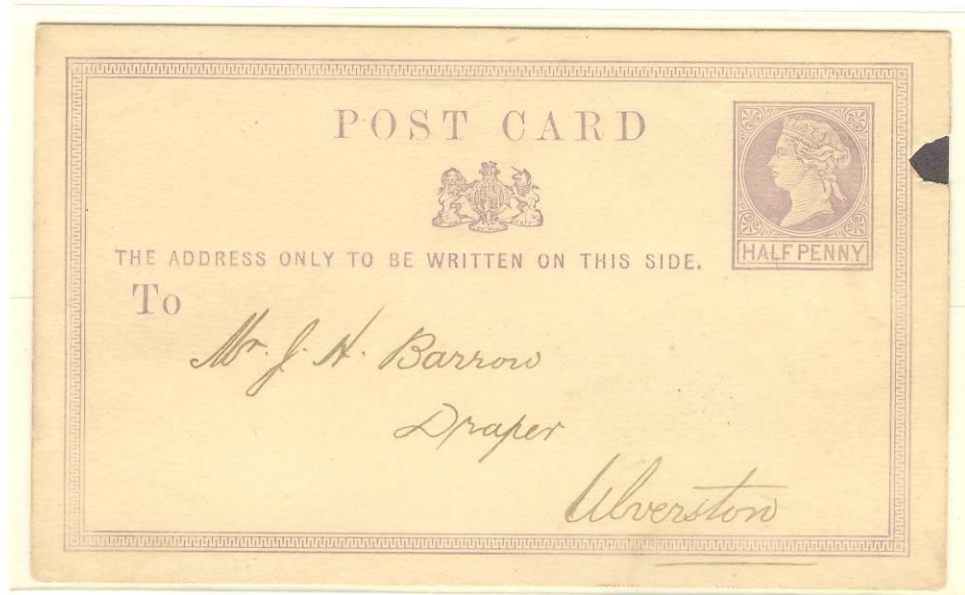
THE FIRST TYPE OF 'MANCHESTER CLIP'
MARKING IS THE 'HALF-ROUND' CLIP.

UNKNOWN MACHINE OR DEVICE

MANCHESTER 'CLIP' .. TYPE II 'SPEAR-CUT' CLIP

3 DECEMBER 1870 -
15 DECEMBER 1874

THE 'SPEAR-CUT' IS SIMILAR TO THE 'WEDGE-CUT'
CLIP (TYPE III) EXCEPT THAT THE FORMER IS
USUALLY SOMEWHAT DEEPER AND IS LESS ANGULAR.



12 MAY 1871



7 JUNE 1871

UNKNOWN MACHINE OR DEVICE

MANCHESTER 'CLIP' .. TYPE III 'WEDGE-CUT' CLIP

29 JUNE 1871 -

22 JANUARY 1875



25 JUNE 1873



11 SEPTEMBER 1874

(ORANGE-RED) RECEIVAL MARKING:
'LONDON EC .. 12 SEPTEMBER 1874'

POSTAL RECEIVAL MARKINGS ON
BRITISH POSTAL CARDS WERE SELDOM
APPLIED... ON THE FRONT.



11 SEPTEMBER 1874

NOTE LEFT-SIDE POSITION OF CLIP
... AS A RESULT OF PLACING UPSIDE
DOWN INTO THE MACHINE.



4 DECEMBER 1874

NOTE 'CLIPS' APPLIED ON BOTH POSTAL
CARD SIDES AS A RESULT OF PLACING THE
CARD TWICE THROUGH THE MACHINE.

A SINGLE-HOLE PUNCH WAS ANOTHER METHOD USED TO INVALIDATE POSTAL CARDS WITH TRIALS IN THE CITIES OF BIRMINGHAM, BRADFORD, EDINBURGH & LIVERPOOL. THE MACHINE OR DEVICE USED MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN A 'SLOPER'. TWO SINGLE-HOLE DIAMETERS WERE USED... 3mm & 4mm.



BRADFORD - 15 SEPTEMBER 1871

4mm PUNCH

6 JULY 1871 -

21 SEPTEMBER 1872



EDINBURGH - 22 AUGUST 1871

3mm PUNCH

31 MARCH 1871 -

12 OCTOBER 1874

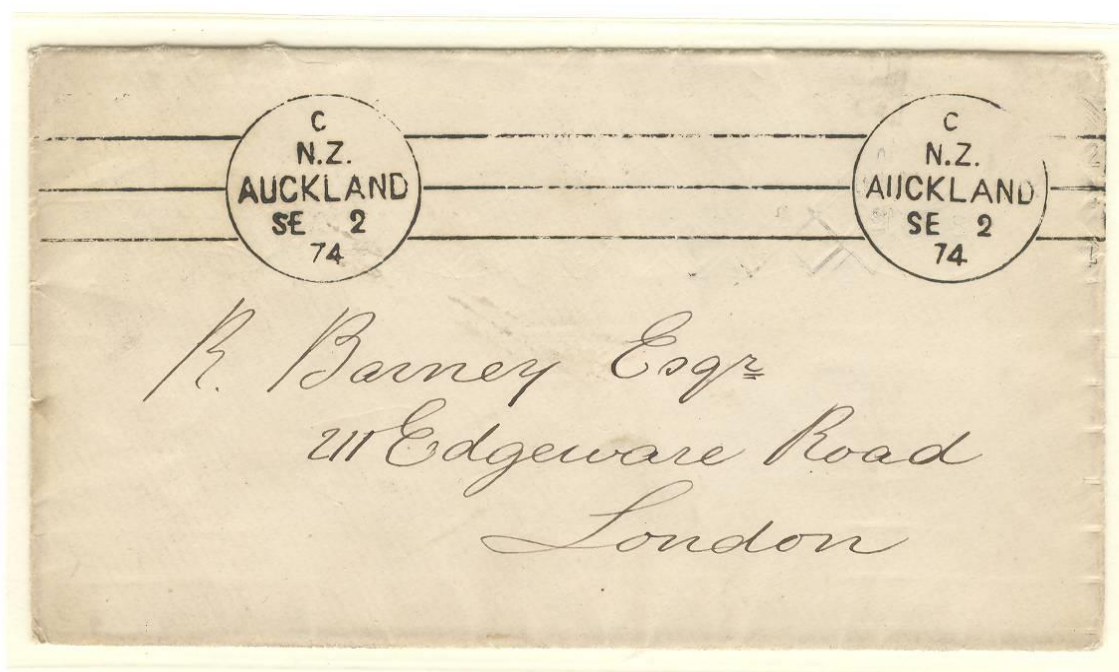
HAVING BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN 1874 IN SELLING HIS NEW POSTMARKING MACHINE TO THE NEW ZEALAND POST OFFICE, ROBERT VAILE OF AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, PATENTED HIS MACHINE IN ENGLAND IN JANUARY, 1877. WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF HIGH-PLACED INDIVIDUALS IN BRITISH SOCIETY, MR. VAILE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN DEMONSTRATING HIS MACHINE TO THE BRITISH POST OFFICE AT LONDON SOMETIME IN APRIL, 1878.

FOR THE DEMONSTRATION, 'DUMMY' LETTERS OR POSTAL STATIONERY CARDS WERE PREPARED OR USED ON WHICH THREE DIFFERENT POSTMARKS WERE TRIED ...

1. A THREE-LINE CONTINUOUS BAR OBLITERATOR HAVING TWO DATER DIALS (EXAMPLE BELOW);
2. A TWO-LINE CONTINUOUS BAR OBLITERATOR HAVING TWO DATER DIALS;
3. A ZIG-ZAG CONTINUOUS-PATTERN OBLITERATOR HAVING TWO DATER DIALS.

DESPITE THE TRIAL HAVING TAKEN PLACE AT LONDON IN 1878, ALL DATER DIALS INDICATED "C. N.Z. AUCKLAND, SE 2, 74". NO MAIL, HOWEVER, WAS PROCESSED FOR ACTUAL DELIVERY. ONLY SEVEN EXAMPLES FROM THIS DEMONSTRATION HAVE SURVIVED ... TWO OF WHICH ARE IN THE BRITISH POSTAL ARCHIVES!

FOR REASONS UNKNOWN, REJECTION OF THE MACHINE WAS REPORTED ON 17 MAY 1878.



ONE OF FIVE REPORTED SURVIVING EXAMPLES IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS FROM THE VAILE POSTMARKING MACHINE TRIAL OF APRIL 1878, AND THE ONLY KNOWN EXAMPLE HAVING THIS DESIGN!

EXAMPLE ILLUSTRATES THE 'SHADOW' OFFSET OF THE ZIG-ZAG PATTERN OBLITERATOR FROM THE TRIAL.

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE III ...

* 14 THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH NO OBLITERATOR-CORNERS LEFT OF DATER DIAL.

28 APRIL 1884 - 2 MARCH 1887

IN 1883, ALBERT HOSTER ACQUIRED THE ASSETS OF HALLER & COMPANY, AND, THEREUPON, ESTABLISHED THE 'POSTAL STAMPING & PATENT MACHINERY COMPANY LIMITED' IN LONDON, ENGLAND. BETWEEN 1883-1886, THE LATTER COMPANY SOLD THE LONDON GENERAL POST OFFICE EIGHT 'HOSTER' POSTMARKING MACHINES.

THE 'HOSTER' MACHINE WAS HAND-OPERATED HAVING TWO POSTMARKING DIES ABLE TO POSTMARK TWO PIECES OF MAIL WITH EACH ROTATION OF THE CRANK. DURING THE FIELD-TRIAL & USAGE YEARS 1883-1893, HOSTER MACHINES APPLIED A NUMBER OF SERIES OF ORIGIN AND RECEIVAL POSTMARKS.



25 JULY 1884

BETWEEN JULY-AUGUST 1884, THE WORD 'LONDON' IS WITH SMALLER SIZE TYPE THAN OTHER PERIODS.

DATER DIALS ARE FOUND WITH/ WITHOUT STARS ... PROBABLY TO DESIGNATE POSTMARK DIE '1' AND '2'.

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.

23 SEPTEMBER 1884

FOUR PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO ARGENTINA.

ONLY RECORDED 1884-USAGE TO ARGENTINA AND A FOREIGN DESTINATION!



HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE IV ...

* 14 THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT.
OBLITERATOR MARKINGS NOW FOUND LEFT OF DATER DIAL.
15 JANUARY 1885 - 3 JUNE 1887



15 JANUARY 1885

EARLIEST RECORDED USAGE OF THIS POSTMARK TYPE.

'ZZ' IN POSTMARK DENOTES 'LATE DELIVERY' TO
POST OFFICE.

ONE-HALF PENCE POSTAL CARD RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.



6 JANUARY 1886

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC
MAIL.

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE IV ...

* 14 THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT.
OBLITERATOR MARKINGS NOW FOUND LEFT OF DATER DIAL.

15 JANUARY 1885 - 3 JUNE 1887

OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL

21 OCTOBER 1886

MOURNING COVER TO GERMANY.

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE.

BACKSTAMP:

'STADE, 22 OCTOBER 1886'



16 MAY 1885

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-
WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO
FRANCE.

BACKSTAMP:

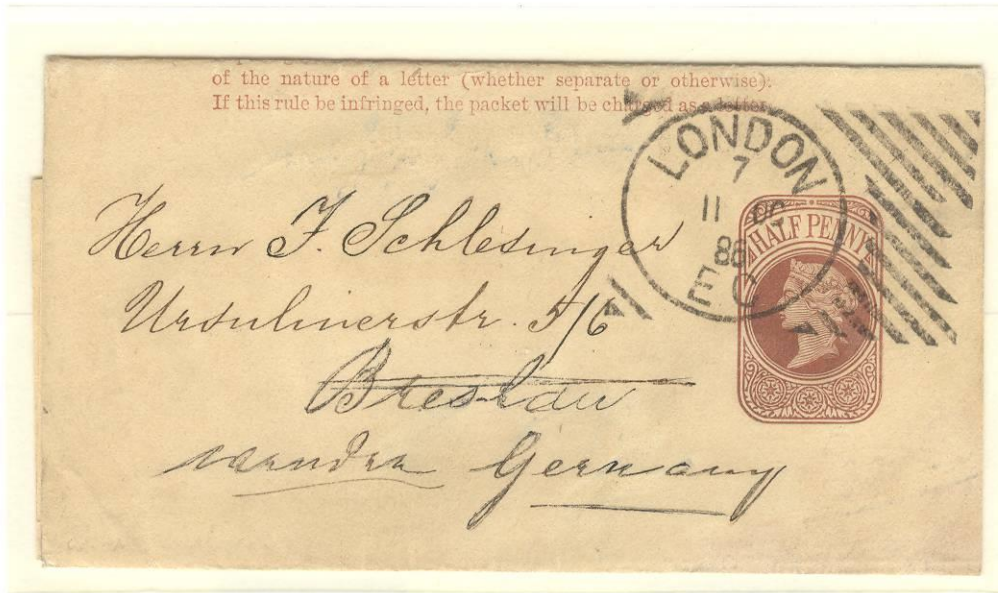
'PARIS, 17 MAY 1885'

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE IV ...

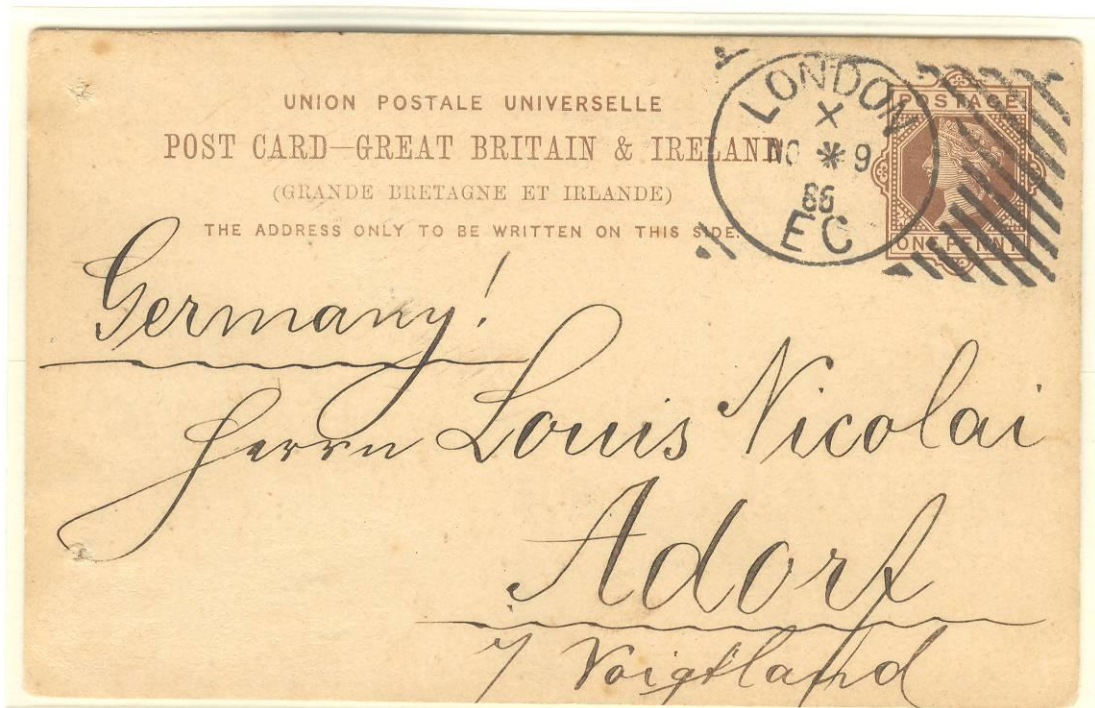
* 14 THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT.
OBLITERATOR MARKINGS NOW FOUND LEFT OF DATER DIAL.
15 JANUARY 1885 - 3 JUNE 1887

OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL ... TO GERMANY



11 OCTOBER 1886

ONE-HALF PENCE NEWSPAPER-RATE TO GERMANY.



9 NOVEMBER 1886

ONE PENCE POSTAL-CARD RATE TO GERMANY.

DATER DIALS ARE FOUND WITH/WITHOUT STARS (TWO STYLES)
... PROBABLY TO DESIGNATE POSTMARK DIE '1' AND '2'.

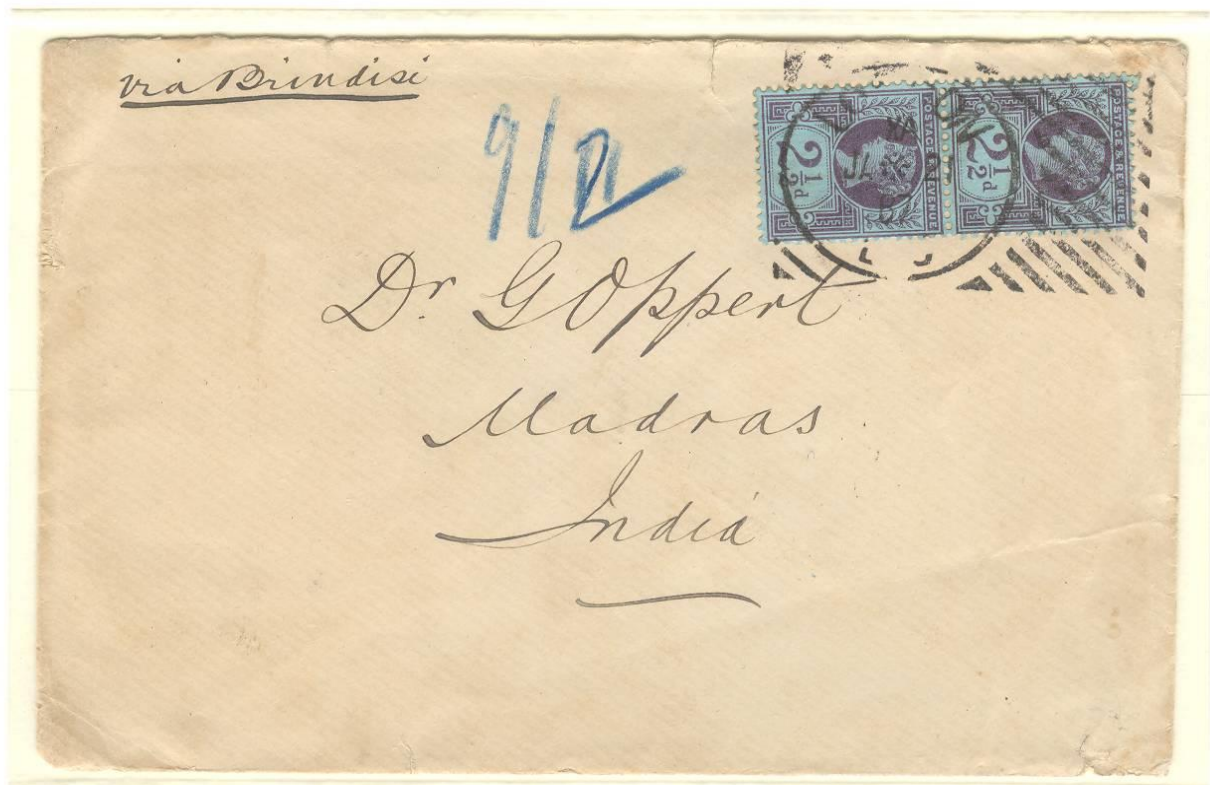
HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE IV ...

* 14 THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT.
OBLITERATOR MARKINGS NOW FOUND LEFT OF DATER DIAL.

15 JANUARY 1885 - 3 JUNE 1887

OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL ... TO INDIA



21 JANUARY 1887

COMMERCIAL COVER TO MADRAS, INDIA.

FIVE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE.

BACKSTAMPS...

'27 JANUARY 1887 .. SEA POST OFFICE'

' 9 FEBRUARY 1887 .. NUNGUMRAUKUM'

' 9 FEBRUARY 1887 .. MADRAS'

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE IV ...

- * 14 THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT.
OBLITERATOR MARKINGS NOW FOUND LEFT OF DATER DIAL.
15 JANUARY 1885 - 3 JUNE 1887

HOSTER MARKING ..
PICTORIAL-ARTWORK ON COVER



27 MARCH 1886

WATERCOLOR PAINTING OF 'ST. GEORGE'S HILL' IN SURREY, ENGLAND. ARTIST UNKNOWN.

SINCE COVER WAS PROPERLY FED INTO THE HOSTER MACHINE BUT PAINTING IS ON THE SIDE, THE HOSTER POSTMARK DID NOT POSTMARK THE POSTAGE REQUIRING ... A HANDSTAMP (HOODED LONDON DATER).

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE V ...

* 14 THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH OBLITERATOR MARKINGS ALSO FOUND LEFT OF DATER DIAL. SIMILAR TO 'TYPE IV' EXCEPT WITH THE FIGURES '11' '22' IN RIGHT OBLITERATOR-FOOT.

22 DECEMBER 1884 - 3 JANUARY 1887

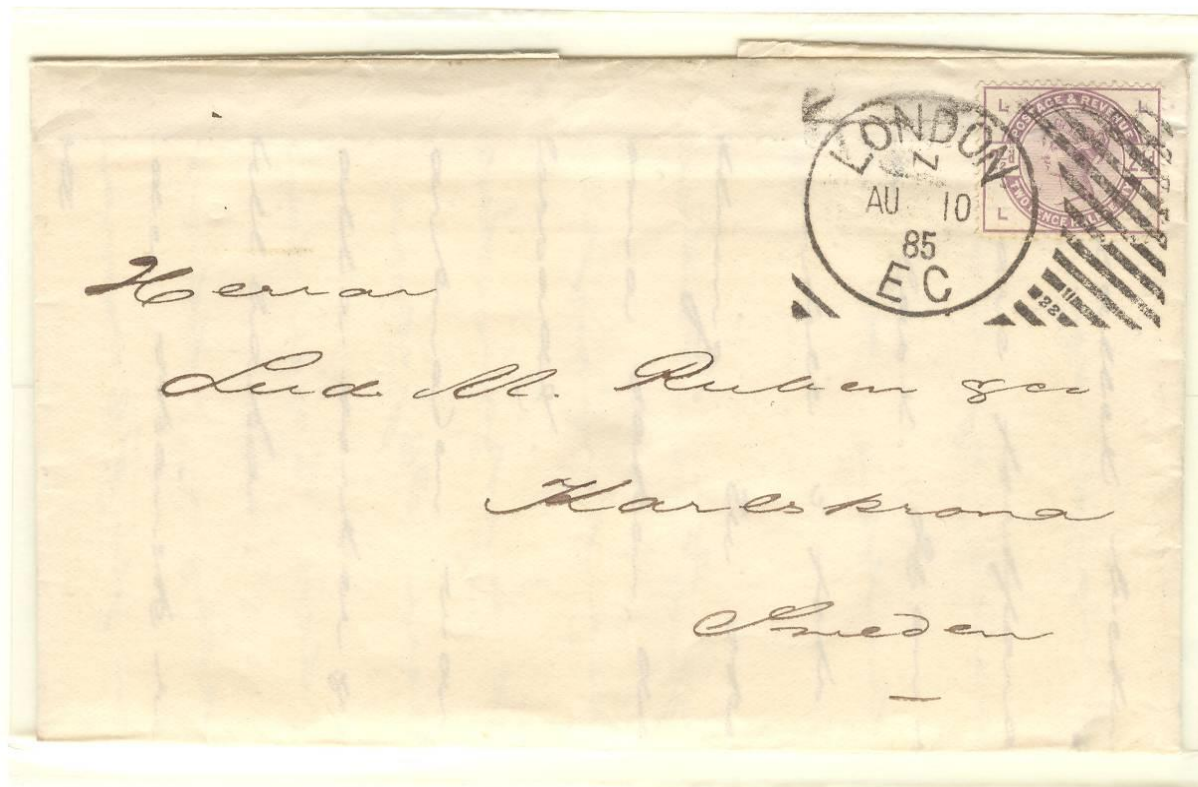
OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL

29 OCTOBER 1885

MOURNING COVER TO AUSTRALIA.

SIX PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO AUSTRALIA.

BACKSTAMP: 'MELBOURNE, 7 DECEMBER 1885'.



10 AUGUST 1885

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO SWEDEN.



HOSTER MACHINE

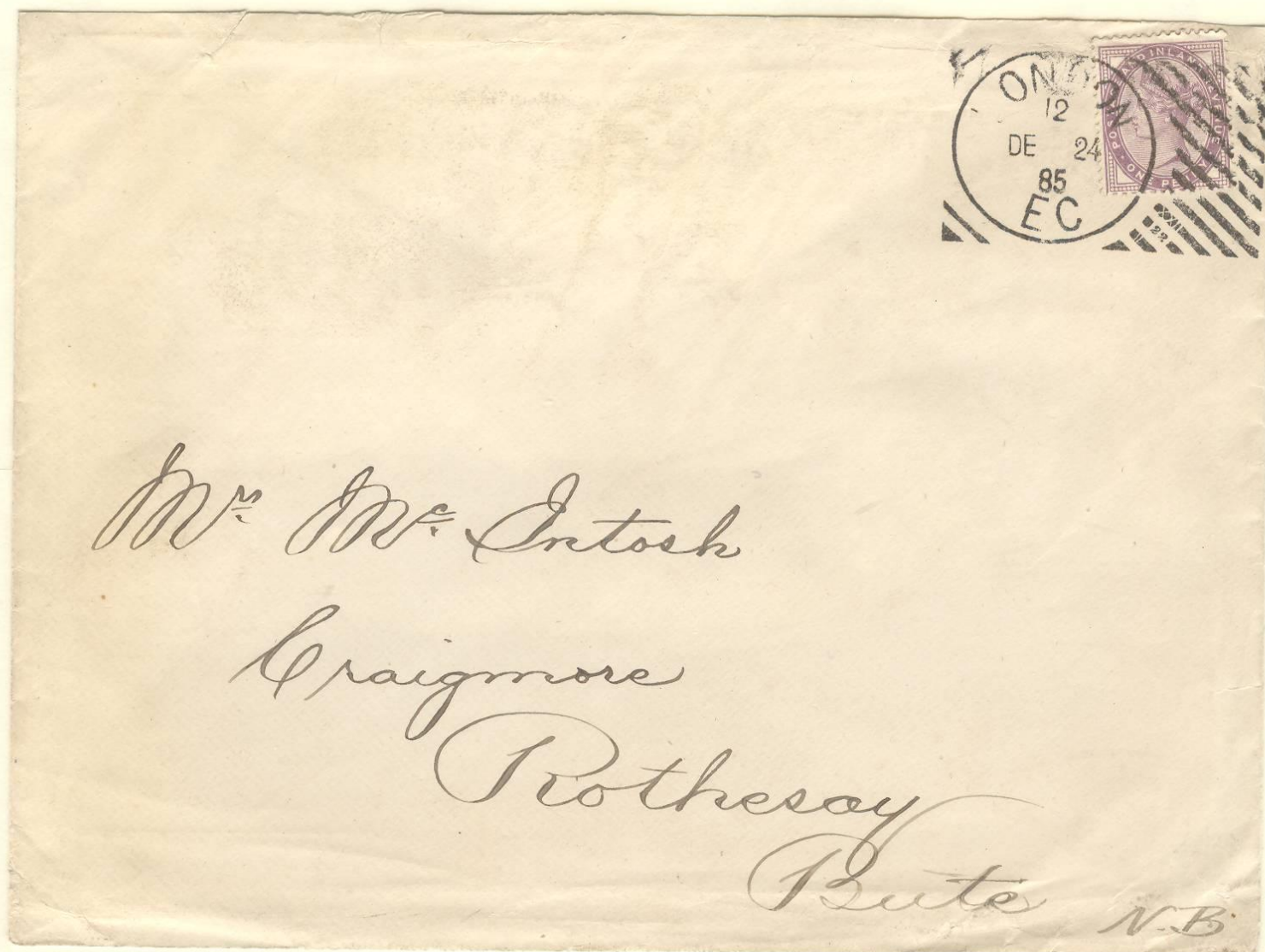
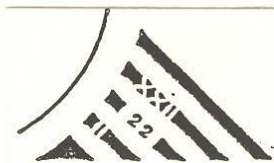
POSTMARK TYPE VI ...

* 14 THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH OBLITERATOR MARKINGS FOUND LEFT OF DATER DIAL. SIMILAR TO 'TYPE V' EXCEPT WITH ROMAN-NUMERAL 'XXII', '22' AND NOW ALSO '1' IN RIGHT OBLITERATOR-FOOT.

23 DECEMBER 1884 - 14 JULY 1886

LARGE-SIZE MAIL

H = 141mm W = 187mm



24 DECEMBER 1885

DOMESTIC CHRISTMAS CARD.

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.

Christmas Card 1885



HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE VI ...

* 14 THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH OBLITERATOR MARKINGS FOUND LEFT OF DATER DIAL. SIMILAR TO 'TYPE-V' EXCEPT WITH ROMAN-NUMERAL 'XXII', '22' AND NOW ALSO '1' IN RIGHT OBLITERATOR FOOT.

23 DECEMBER 1884 - 14 JULY 1886

OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL

2 FEBRUARY 1885

COMMERCIAL SINGLE-WEIGHT COVER TO BORDEAUX, FRANCE.

"ZZ" IN DATER DIAL DENOTES LATE ARRIVAL OR SUBMISSION AT THE POST OFFICE.

BACKSTAMPS:

Transit:

"CALAIS, 3 FEBRUARY 1885"

Arrival:

"BORDEAUX, 6 FEBRUARY 1885"

FRANKING:

2-1/2 PENCE ...

SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO FRANCE.



12 AUGUST 1885

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING MAIL TO GUELPH, ONTARIO, CANADA...CLOSED ENVELOPE.

'T' AND '6' MARKINGS APPLIED AT LONDON.

SENDER UNDERFRANKED THE COVER BY THREE PENCE RESULTING IN POSTAGE DUE BY THE RECIPIENT OF THE EQUIVALENT OF SIX PENCE (3 PENCE MISSING POSTAGE + 3 PENCE PENALTY).

BACKSTAMP:

"GUELPH, ONTARIO, 24 AUGUST 1885"

FRANKING:

ONE PENCE APPLIED BUT SHOULD HAVE BEEN FOUR PENCE FOR THE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO CANADA.

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE VII ...

* 14 THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH OBLITERATOR MARKINGS ALSO FOUND LEFT OF DATER DIAL. SIMILAR TO 'TYPE V' EXCEPT WITH THE FIGURES '23' (MACHINE SERIAL NUMBER) AND '1' OR '2' (DIE NUMBERS) IN RIGHT OBLITERATOR-FOOT.

2 APRIL 1885 - 28 OCTOBER 1885

27 JULY 1885

THIS POSTMARK TYPE IS THE FIRST TO DESIGNATE EACH DIE OF THE HOSTER MACHINE.. NOTE '1' IN LOWER RIGHT OBLITERATOR-FOOT.

ONE-PENCE POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE .. COVERING SINGLE-WEIGHT (1-OZ) LETTER-RATE.



8 SEPTEMBER 1885

NOTE '2' IN LOWER RIGHT OBLITERATOR-FOOT.

ONE-HALF PENCE POSTAL CARD FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE VIII ...

* 17 THIN BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH POSTMARK DIE MARKINGS '1' OR '2' LOWER LEFT OF THE DOUBLE-CIRCLE DATER DIAL & MACHINE SERIAL NUMBER (OFTEN UNREADABLE) '29' IN UPPER LEFT OF DATER DIAL. YEAR DATE BETWEEN 'EC' IN DATER DIAL WITH & WITHOUT CENTER STAR.

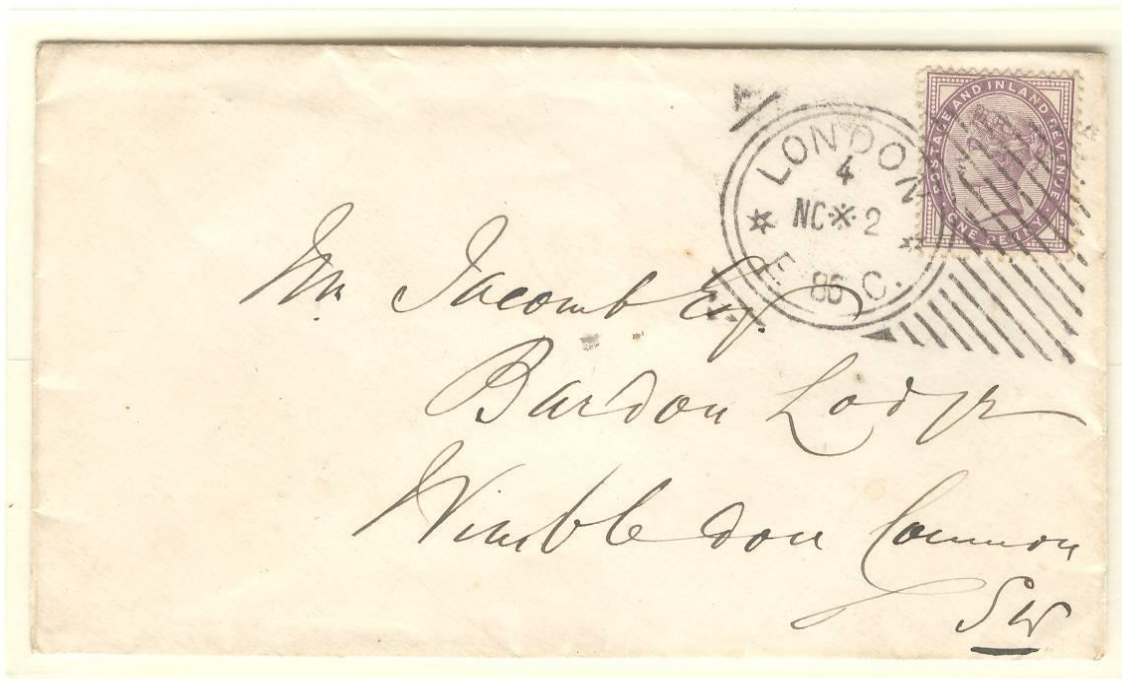
23 NOVEMBER 1885 - 25 DECEMBER 1887

POSTMARK DIE '1' WITH 'STAR' IN DATER DIAL CENTER

10 AUGUST 1886

COMMERCIAL COVER TO NORWAY.

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO NORWAY.



2 NOVEMBER 1886

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL COVER.

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE.

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE VIII ...

* 17 THIN BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH POSTMARK DIE MARKINGS '1' OR '2' LOWER LEFT OF THE DOUBLE-CIRCLE DATER DIAL & MACHINE SERIAL NUMBER (OFTEN UNREADABLE) '29' IN UPPER LEFT OF DATER DIAL. YEAR DATE BETWEEN 'EC' IN DATER DIAL WITH & WITHOUT CENTER STAR.

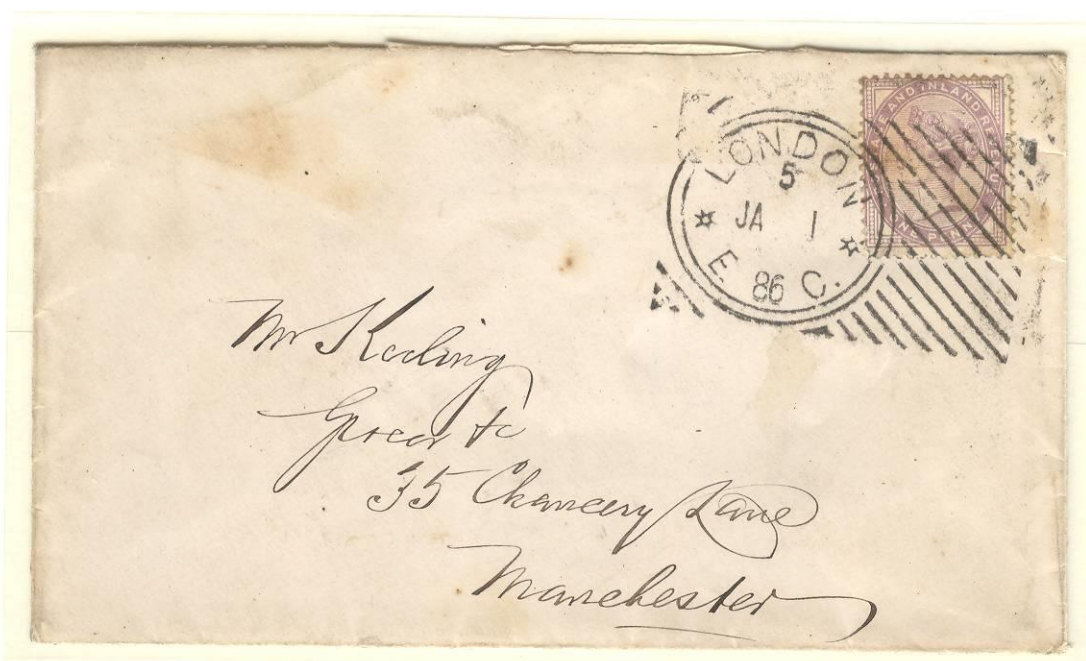
23 NOVEMBER 1885 - 25 DECEMBER 1887

POSTMARK DIE '2' WITHOUT 'STAR' IN DATER DIAL CENTER

15 APRIL 1886

COMMERCIAL COVER TO SCOTLAND.

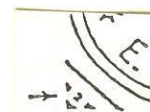
ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE.



1 JANUARY 1886

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL COVER.

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE.



HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE IX ...

* 16-19 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. MONTH & DAY INDICATION PARALLEL WITH A PAIR OF STARS IN DATER DIAL.

19 APRIL 1887 - 16 DECEMBER 1891

THIS PARTICULAR HOSTER POSTMARK TYPE HAS ONLY BEEN FOUND ON OVERSEAS-DESTINATION MAIL .. CAUSING THE BELIEF THAT THE MACHINE WAS DEDICATED TO PROCESS SUCH MAIL ONLY.

18 MAY 1887

REDIRECTED MAIL IN
NEW ZEALAND!

SIX PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE TO NEW
ZEALAND WITH ADDED TWO
PENCE NEW ZEALAND-POSTAGE
FOR REDIRECTION.

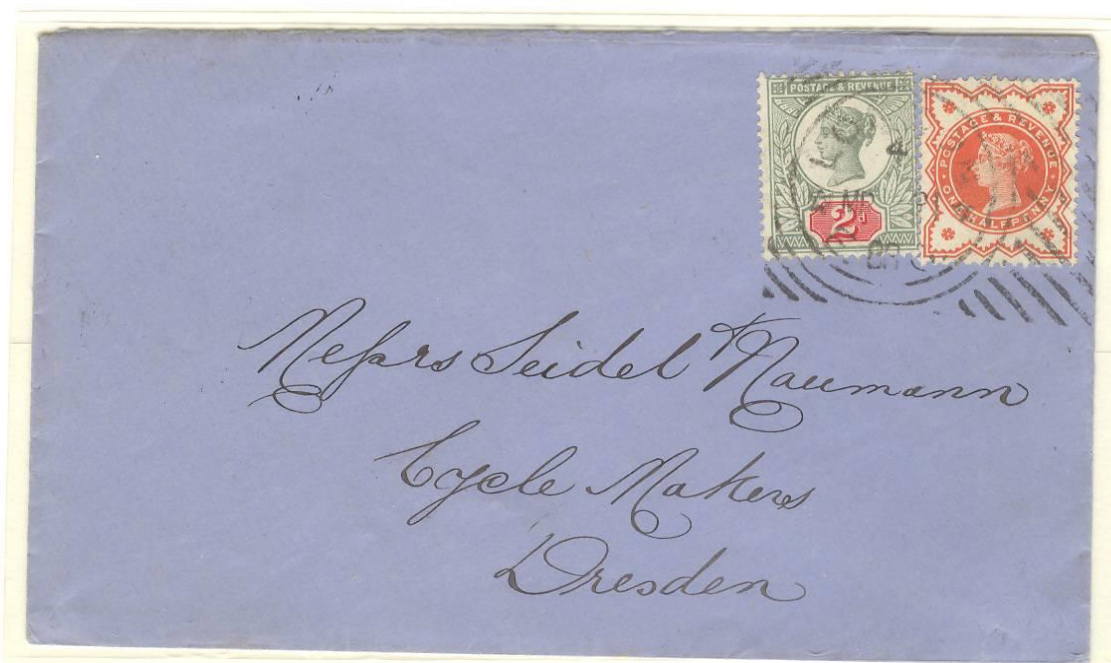
ONLY RECORDED REDIRECTED
MAIL EXAMPLE HAVING A
HOSTER MACHINE POSTMARK!



31 MARCH 1888

COMMERCIAL MAIL COVER TO
GERMANY.

2-1/2 PENCE (TWO COLOR)
SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE
TO GERMANY.



HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE IX ...

* 16-19 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. MONTH & DAY INDICATION PARALLEL WITH A PAIR OF STARS IN DATER DIAL.

19 APRIL 1887 - 16 DECEMBER 1891

POSTMARK EXAMPLES WITH & WITHOUT 'STAR' IN CENTER OF DIAL

23 JANUARY 1889

COMMERCIAL MAIL TO BELGIUM.

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO BELGIUM.

NOTE 'STAR' IN CENTER OF DATER DIAL.



28 JANUARY 1889

COMMERCIAL MAIL TO FRANCE.

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO FRANCE.

NOTE NO 'STAR' IN CENTER OF DATER DIAL.

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE IX ...

* 16-19 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. MONTH & DAY INDICATION PARALLEL WITH A PAIR OF STARS IN DATER DIAL.

19 APRIL 1887 - 16 DECEMBER 1891

OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL .. FRANCE

3 AUGUST 1887

COMMERCIAL COVER TO
PARIS.

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE TO FRANCE...
TWO COLOR FRANKING.



15 OCTOBER 1887

COMMERCIAL COVER TO
COGNAC.

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE TO FRANCE ...
SINGLE FRANKING.

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE IX ...

* 16-19 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. MONTH & DAY INDICATION PARALLEL WITH A STAR IN CENTER OF DATER DIAL.

19 APRIL 1887 - 16 DECEMBER 1891

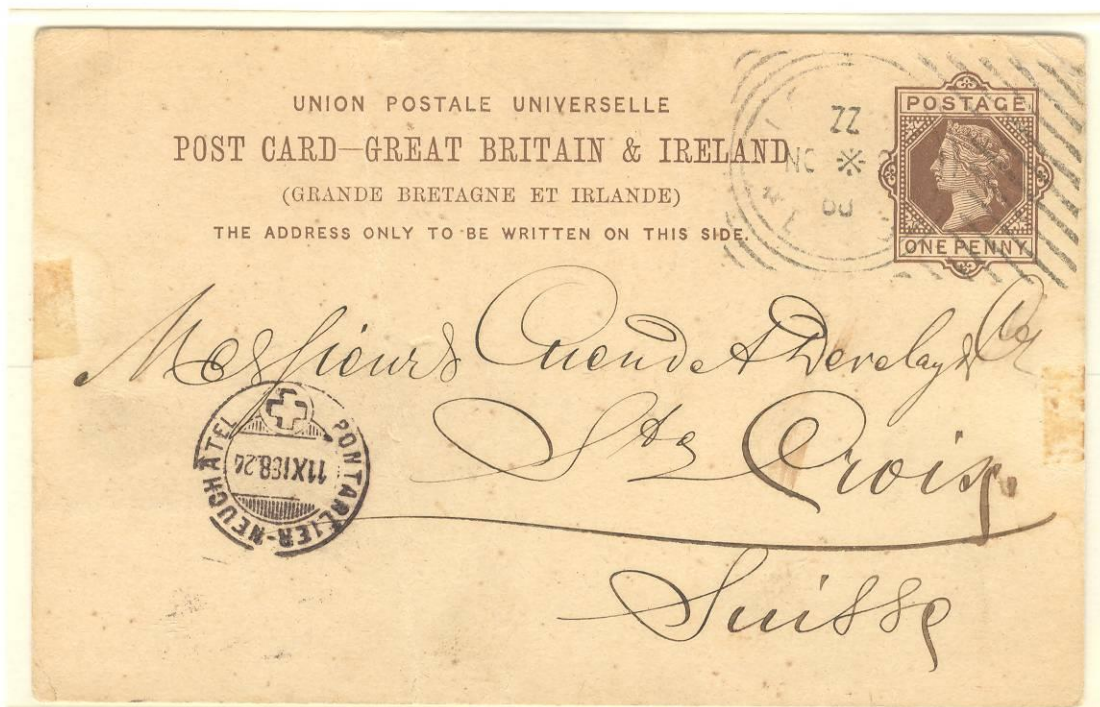
OVERSEAS POSTAL-CARD MAIL

5 JANUARY 1888

COMMERCIAL-MAIL
POSTAL CARD TO GERMANY.

RECEIVAL MARKING:
'DUSSELDORF - ANKUNFT,
6 JANUARY 1888'

ONE PENCE POSTAL CARD
RATE TO OVERSEAS
DESTINATIONS.



3 NOVEMBER 1888

'ZZ' IN DATER DIAL
INDICATING 'LATE DELIVERY'
TO POST OFFICE.

NON-COMMERCIAL POSTAL CARD
TO SWITZERLAND.

RECEIVAL MARKING:
'PONTARLIER-NEUCHÂTEL,
11 NOVEMBER 1888'

ONE PENCE POSTAL CARD-RATE
OVERSEAS.

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE IX ...

* 16-19 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. MONTH & DAY INDICATION PARALLEL WITH A STAR IN CENTER OF DATER DIAL.

19 APRIL 1887 - 16 DECEMBER 1891

SMALL-SIZE MAIL

H = 73mm W = 94mm



22 NOVEMBER 1890

SMALLEST-SIZE COVER POSTMARKED BY
A HOSTER MACHINE.

TWO & ONE-HALF PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE TO FRANCE.

BACKSTAMP:
'DUNIERES/LOIRE, 24 NOVEMBER 1890'

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE X ...

* 19 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. DOUBLE CIRCLE DATER DIAL HAVING DATE & YEAR IN ONE LINE, WITH CODE 'A' AT THE TOP, AND BOTTOM CODE LETTERS .. 'G', 'O', 'R', 'W' OR 'ZZ'.

12 JANUARY 1889 - 28 FEBRUARY 1891



10 FEBRUARY 1891

DOMESTIC MAIL COVER HAVE 'ZZ' IN DIAL ..
POSSIBLY INDICATING 'LATE MAIL DELIVERY TO
POST OFFICE'.

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR
DOMESTIC MAIL.

BACKSTAMP:
'BIRMINGHAM, 11 FEBRUARY 1891'

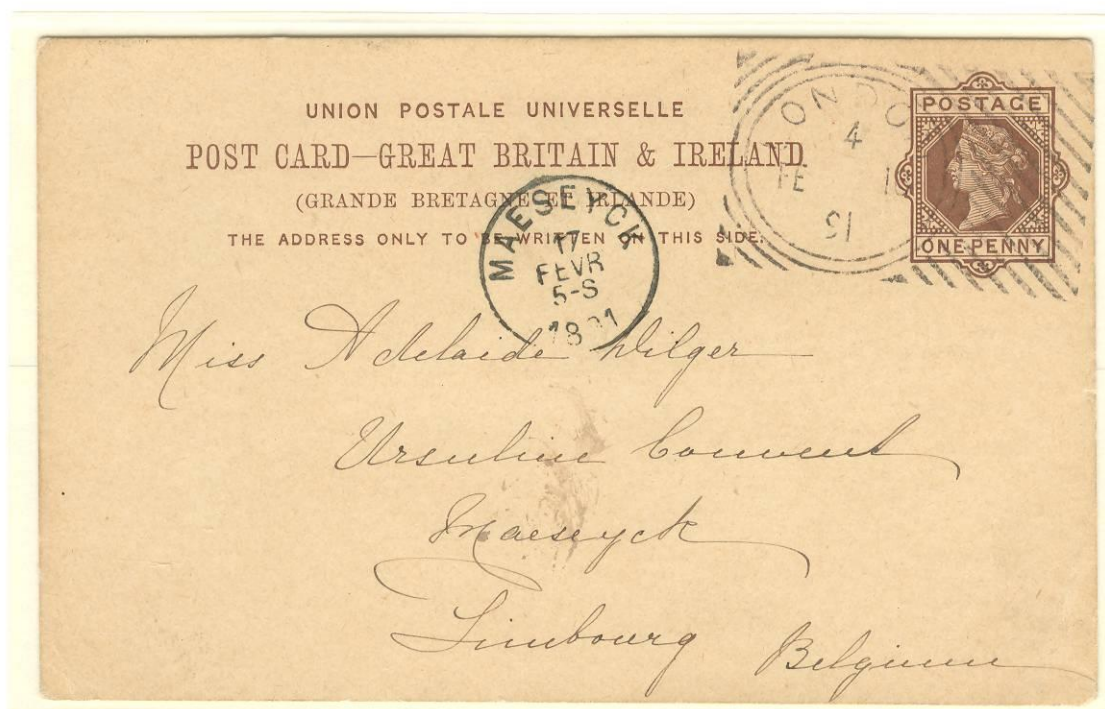
HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE XI ...

* 19 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. DOUBLE-CIRCLE DATER DIAL WITH CODE NUMBER AT TOP AND HAVING YEAR DATE AT BOTTOM OF DIAL WITHOUT ANY STARS OR 'EC'.

21 OCTOBER 1889 - 30 NOVEMBER 1891

OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL ... TO BELGIUM



16 FEBRUARY 1891

ONE PENCE POSTAL-CARD TO BELGIUM.

ARRIVAL POSTMARK:

'MAESEYCK, 17 FEBRUARY 1891'

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE XII ...

* 14 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. DOUBLE CIRCLE DATER DIAL WITH NUMBER CODE AT TOP, YEAR INDICATION BETWEEN 'EC' AT BOTTOM AND WITH OR WITHOUT STAR IN DIAL CENTER.

1 MARCH 1890 - 12 JUNE 1893

OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL

14 FEBRUARY 1891

COMMERCIAL COVER TO GERMANY.

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE .. POSTAL STATIONERY.

BACKSTAMP:

'HAMBURG,
16 FEBRUARY 1891'



20 FEBRUARY 1893

COMMERCIAL-MAIL POSTAL CARD TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

ONE PENCE POSTAL-CARD RATE.

BACKSTAMP:

'NEW YORK, MARCH 1, 1893'

NOTE: '1893' HOSTER MARKS WHICH ARE COMPLETE, CLEAR AND READABLE ARE VERY SCARCE.



HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE XII ...

* 14 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. DOUBLE CIRCLE DATER DIAL WITH NUMBER CODE AT TOP, YEAR INDICATION BETWEEN 'EC' AT BOTTOM AND WITH OR WITHOUT STAR IN DIAL CENTER.

1 MARCH 1890 - 12 JUNE 1893

ADVERTISING COVER MAIL



8 JANUARY 1891

EARLY USAGE OF ADVERTISING ON COVER...
FROM LONDON AGENCY OF 'NEW YORK HERALD'
NEWSPAPER.

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC
MAIL.

BACKSTAMP (RED INK):

'LONDON N.W. 8 JANUARY 1891'

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE XIII ...

* 16-18 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THIN BARS DESCENDING FROM RIGHT TO LEFT AND 3 BARS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (LEFT-SIDE OF DATER) WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. DOUBLE CIRCLE DATER DIAL HAVING NUMERICAL OR LETTER CODE AT TOP, WITH OR WITHOUT STAR IN DIAL CENTER, AND YEAR DATE BETWEEN 'EC' AT BOTTOM.

OCTOBER 1889 - 12 SEPTEMBER 1893

13 JUNE 1890

COMMERCIAL-MAIL COVER
TO SWITZERLAND.

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-
WEIGHT LETTER-RATE.

BACKSTAMP:
'GENEVE, 14 JUNE 1890'



15 MARCH 1892

POSTAL STATIONERY
USAGE.

ONE PENCE RATE FOR
DOMESTIC MAIL.

BACKSTAMP:
'ANERLEY, 16 MARCH
1892'

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE XIII ...

* 16-18 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THIN BARS DESCENDING FROM RIGHT TO LEFT AND 3 BARS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (LEFT-SIDE OF DATER) WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. DOUBLE CIRCLE DATER DIAL HAVING NUMERICAL OR LETTER CODE AT TOP, WITH OR WITHOUT STAR IN DIAL CENTER, AND YEAR DATE BETWEEN 'EC' AT BOTTOM.

OCTOBER 1889 - 12 SEPTEMBER 1893

12 APRIL 1890

DOMESTIC POSTAL STATIONERY
WITH ADDED POSTAGE ON
GERMAN-BOUND COVER.

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE TO GERMANY.

BACKSTAMP:
"BREMERHAVEN,
14. APRIL 1890, 1-2 AM"



6 MAY 1890

'ZZ' IN POSTMARK ...
INDICATION OF LATE
ARRIVAL AT POST OFFICE.

ONE PENCE UPU POSTAL CARD
TO GERMANY.

HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE XIII ...

* 16-18 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THIN BARS DESCENDING FROM RIGHT TO LEFT AND 3 BARS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (LEFT-SIDE OF DATER) WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. DOUBLE CIRCLE DATER DIAL HAVING NUMERICAL OR LETTER CODE AT TOP, WITH OR WITHOUT STAR IN DIAL CENTER, AND YEAR DATE BETWEEN 'EC' AT BOTTOM.

OCTOBER 1889 - 12 SEPTEMBER 1893

VARIETY MARKINGS .. TYPE XIII

27 JULY 1892

NOTE: HOSTER MARKING WITH 'BRIDGE' CONNECTION AT BOTTOM OF OBLITERATOR!

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.

BACKSTAMP:
'COUPAR ANGUS,
28 JULY 1892'



21 JUNE 1890

NOTE: '22' MACHINE SERIAL NUMBER IN UPPER-LEFT POSTMARK CORNER!

2-1/2 PENCE POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE TO GERMANY.

BACKSTAMP:
'HAMBURG, 28 JUNE
1890'



HOSTER MACHINE

POSTMARK TYPE XIII ...

* 16-18 (OFTEN UNDERINKED) THIN BARS DESCENDING FROM RIGHT TO LEFT AND 3 BARS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT (LEFT-SIDE OF DATER) WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS. DOUBLE CIRCLE DATER DIAL HAVING NUMERICAL OR LETTER CODE AT TOP, WITH OR WITHOUT STAR IN DIAL CENTER, AND YEAR DATE BETWEEN 'EC' AT BOTTOM.

OCTOBER 1889 - 12 SEPTEMBER 1893

1893.. END OF HOSTER MACHINE USAGE

8 FEBRUARY 1893

COMMERCIAL-MAIL
POSTAL CARD.

ONE-HALF PENCE POSTAL
CARD RATE FOR DOMESTIC
MAIL.



22 FEBRUARY 1893

DOMESTIC MAIL COVER.

ONE PENCE (2x 1/2 PENCE)
SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-
RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.

HOSTER MACHINE

NEWSPAPER BRANCH .. TRIAL

* 28mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL INDICATING 'NPB',
HAVING 4 OR 5 STARS IN DIAL AND HAVING A
14-BAR OBLITERATOR DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
... LOCATED TO THE RIGHT OF DATER DIAL ONLY.

17 AUGUST 1885 - 8 JULY 1887



DOMESTIC USAGE ..
NEWSPAPER WRAPPER FROM LONDON TO
WHITEHAVEN.

NOTE 'ZZ' CODE IN DIAL .. INDICATING
'LATE DELIVERY' TO POST OFFICE.

1/2 PENCE RATE FOR PRINTED-MATTER MAIL.

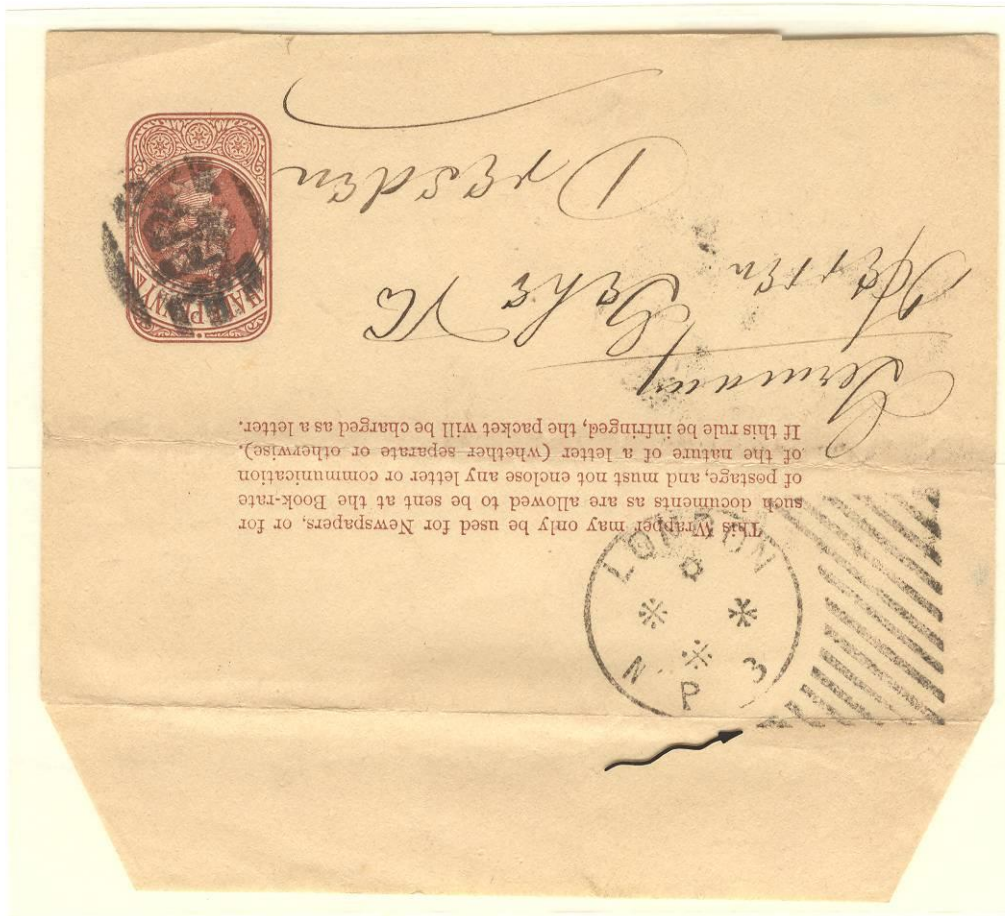
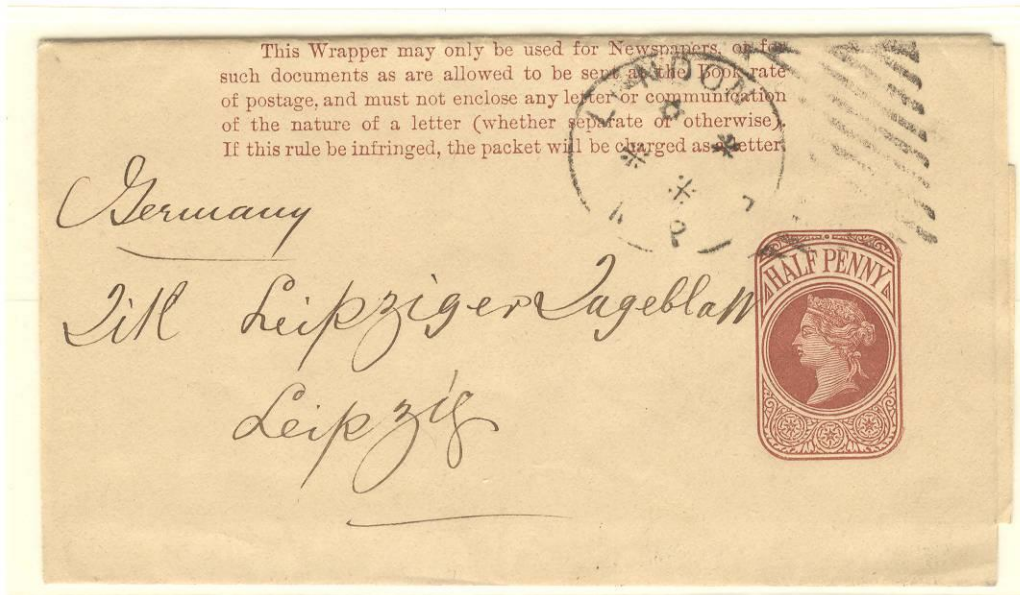
HOSTER MACHINE

NEWSPAPER BRANCH .. TRIAL

* 28mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL INDICATING 'NPB',
HAVING 4 OR 5 STARS IN DIAL AND HAVING A
14-BAR OBLITERATOR DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
... LOCATED TO THE RIGHT OF DATER DIAL ONLY.

17 AUGUST 1885 - 8 JULY 1887

NEWSPAPER MAIL TO GERMANY



NOTE PARTICULARLY CLEAR
POSTMARK AS WELL AS WRAPPER
FOLD .. INDICATING THAT
WRAPPERS WERE PRECANCELLED!

HOSTER MACHINE

DOT MATRIX OBLITERATOR TRIAL

* 30mm DIAMETER DOUBLE-CIRCLE DATER DIAL
HAVING A DOT MATRIX OBLITERATOR.

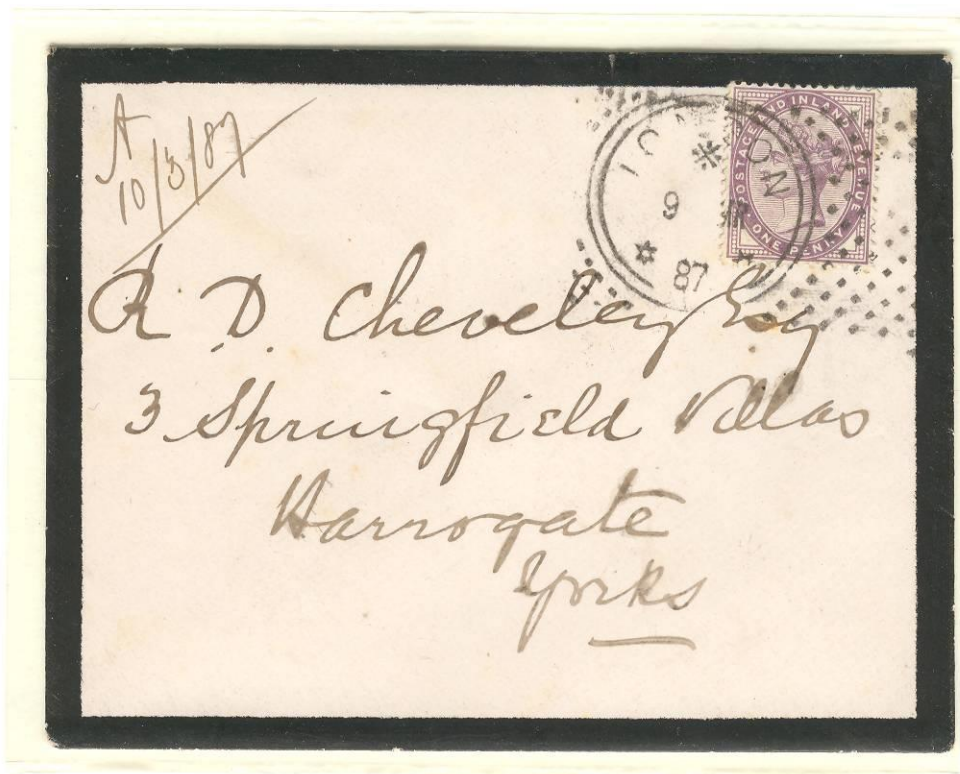
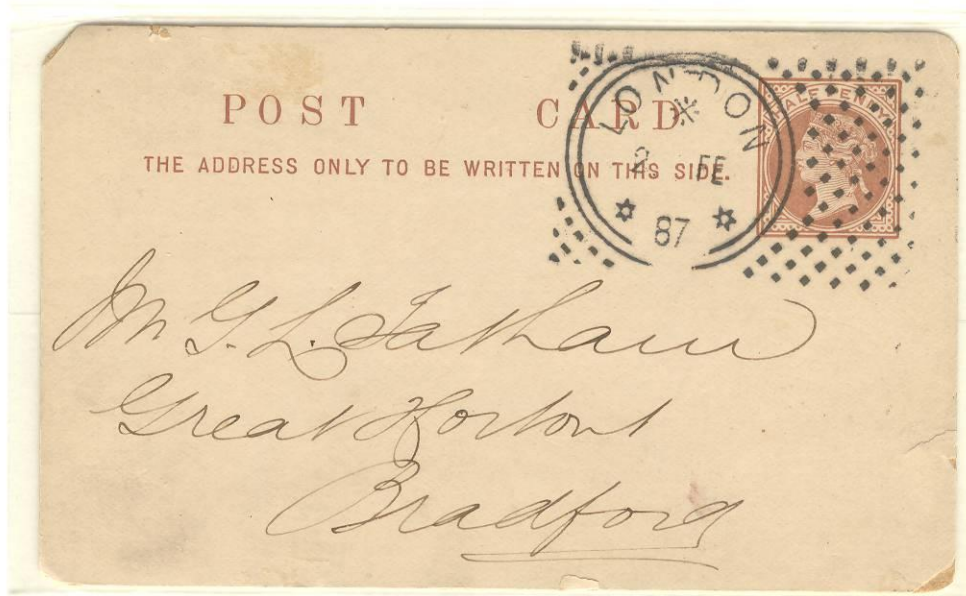
2 FEBRUARY - 21 MARCH 1887



2 FEBRUARY 1887

EARLIEST RECORDED USAGE
DATE!

1/2 PENCE POSTAL CARD
USED DOMESTICALLY.



9 MARCH 1887

MOURNING COVER TO HARROGATE.

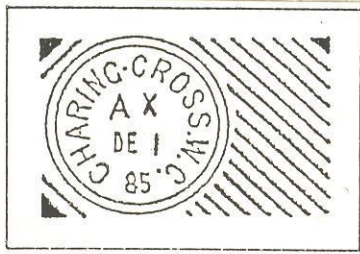
ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.

HOSTER MACHINE

CHARING CROSS POST OFFICE TRIAL

* 19 THICK BARS DESCENDING FROM LEFT TO RIGHT
WITH NO POSTMARK DIE OR MACHINE SERIAL NUMBERS.
29mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL WITH LETTER CODE AT TOP.

1 SEPTEMBER 1885 - 7 DECEMBER 1887



30 MARCH 1886

COMMERCIAL MAIL COVER
TO A BRITISH OFFICER
SERVING IN INDIA.

5 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE FOR MAIL TO
INDIA.

REDIRECTED FROM MEERKUT
TO CHAKRATA...

'SEA POST OFFICE,
9 APRIL 1886'

'MEERKUT, 22 APRIL 1886'

'CHAKRATA, 23 APRIL 1886'



1 DECEMBER 1885

FOLDED-LETTER TO PARIS.

2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE TO FRANCE.

ARRIVAL BACKSTAMP:
'PARIS, 2 DECEMBER 1885'

HOSTER MACHINE

RECEIVAL MARKINGS .. TYPE I

* 29mm DOUBLE-CIRCLE DATER DIAL INDICATING 'LONDON EC' AT TOP, WITH OR WITHOUT STARS IN DIAL AND YEAR DATE AT BOTTOM. ORANGE-RED POSTMARK INK.

1886 - 1890

15 MAY 1886

RECEIVAL MARK ON INBOUND COVER FROM 'LONDON S'.

EARLIEST KNOWN HOSTER RECEIVAL MARKING!



3 MARCH 1890

RECEIVAL MARKING ON INBOUND BANK COVER FROM KIRKOALDY.

HOSTER MACHINE

RECEIVAL MARKINGS .. TYPE II

* 30mm DOUBLE-CIRCLE DATER DIAL INDICATING 'LONDON EC' AT TOP, WITH OR WITHOUT STAR IN DIAL CENTER AND WITH INDICATION OF MACHINE SERIAL NUMBER '29' (SOMETIMES OVERINKED) NEAR YEAR DATE.

1887 - 1891

30 AUGUST 1887

RECEIVAL MARKING ON
INBOUND COMMERCIAL
MAIL FROM LIVERPOOL.

NOTE PARTICULARLY
CLEAR INDICATION OF
MACHINE SERIAL NUMBER
'29'.

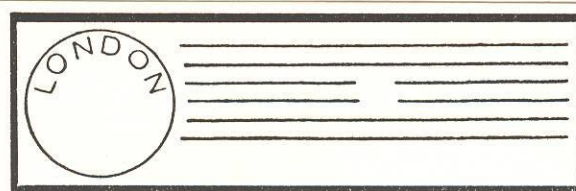


13 JANUARY 1891

RECEIVAL MARKING ON INBOUND
COMMERCIAL POSTAL CARD FROM
BOLTON.

BASED ON A DESIGN & PATENT HELD BY MARTIN V.B. ETHRIDGE,
THE 'AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINES COMPANY' OF BOSTON,
MASSACHUSETTS, FURNISHED THE BRITISH POST OFFICE IN
LONDON WITH ONE OF THEIR POSTMARKING MACHINES FOR
TESTING IN 1886. ALTHOUGH THE MACHINE-TRIALS WERE
CONDUCTED OVER A REASONABLE PERIOD, THE POSTAL
AUTHORITIES REJECTED THE MACHINE SINCE IT EFFECTIVELY
ONLY POSTMARKED NINETY LETTERS A MINUTE!

THE 'ETHRIDGE MACHINE', AS IT IS REFERRED TO IN BRITAIN
('AMERICAN MACHINE' REFERENCE IN NORTH AMERICA), WAS
THE FIRST POSTMARKING MACHINE TO APPLY A POSTMARK
HAVING HORIZONTAL OBLITERATOR LINES. THE FULL POSTMARK
CONSISTS OF A 25mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL WITH SIX
HORIZONTAL LINES.



6 DECEMBER 1886

ETHRIDGE POSTMARK APPLIED TO A GERMAN
POSTAL REPLY CARD...

ONLY RECORDED EXAMPLE!

RECEIVAL HANDSTAMP:
'BINGEN, 7 DECEMBER 1886'

ETHRIDGE MACHINE

INTERMITTENT TRIALS ...

SEPTEMBER 1886 - 20 APRIL 1887

23 OCTOBER 1886

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL
MAIL COVER.

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE.

BACKSTAMP:
'BURTON WESTMORELAND,
24 OCTOBER 1886'



14 MARCH 1887

DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL
MAIL COVER.

ONE PENCE SINGLE-
WEIGHT LETTER-RATE.

BACKSTAMP:
'WELLS, 15 MARCH
1887'

MALIN MACHINE

INTERMITTENT TRIALS ...

30 SEPTEMBER 1890 -

12 FEBRUARY 1891

INTERMITTENTLY, DURING A SIX-MONTH PERIOD IN 1890-1891, A TRIAL WAS HELD WITH THE SOCALLED 'MALIN MACHINE'. LITTLE IS TODAY FOUND IN BRITISH POSTAL ARCHIVES ABOUT THE MACHINE TRIAL, OR THE MACHINE ITSELF, OTHER THAN THAT THE MACHINE WAS REJECTED BECAUSE IT COULD ONLY POSTMARK A MAXIMUM OF 100 LETTERS/MINUTE...

IT, HOWEVER, APPEARS THAT THE MACHINE PRIMARILY WAS USED TO APPLY ORIGIN POSTMARKS ON OUTGOING-MAIL TO OVERSEAS DESTINATIONS .. MAINLY POSTAL CARDS.

ITS POSTMARK ...



30 JANUARY 1891

ONE PENCE POSTAL CARD TO HOLLAND.

ONE OF FOUR RECORDED MALIN MACHINE STRIKES!

IN AUGUST, 1893, G.W. HEY & M.J. DOLPHIN, FOUNDERS OF THE 'INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SUPPLY COMPANY' OF NEW YORK FURNISHED THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AT LONDON WITH A PAID POSTMARKING MACHINE FOR TESTING. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, THE ELECTICALLY-OPERATED MACHINE FUNCTIONED WELL, BUT THE POST AUTHORITIES REJECTED IT BECAUSE OF ITS HIGH RENTAL COST.

POSTMARK: 22.5mm DIAMETER SINGLE-CIRCLE DATER DIAL WITH A SEVEN-LINE (52mm LENGTH) OBLITERATOR HAVING THE NUMERAL '1' RIGHT-SIDE OF THE MARKING.



29 AUGUST 1893

COMMERCIAL PRINTED-MATTER NEWSPAPER WRAPPER SENT TO A DOMESTIC ADDRESS .. "BRIGHTHOLME".

1/2 PENCE PRINTED-MATTER RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.



14 SEPTEMBER 1893

LATEST RECORDED TRIAL USAGE & ONLY RECORDED LAST-DAY USAGE EXAMPLE!

1/2 PENCE PRINTED-MATTER RATE TO GERMANY!

G P O
SS 281

IN JULY, 1896, THE IMPERIAL MAIL MARKING MACHINE COMPANY OF CANADA OFFERED THE BRITISH POST OFFICE THEIR 'IMPERIAL' MACHINE FOR EVALUATION AND TRIALS. SIMILAR MACHINES WERE ALREADY IN FIELD USAGE IN CANADA. IT WOULD, HOWEVER, BE FIRST IN 1897 WHEN THE BRITISH POST OFFICE WOULD EVALUATE THE MACHINE, ALONG WITH A POSTMARKING DIE SIMILAR TO ONE USED IN CANADA FOR THE QUEEN'S JUBILEE YEAR.

NO MAIL WAS PROCESSED, BUT, RATHER, ONLY TRIAL PROOFS ARE KNOWN. THE MACHINE WAS NOT ACCEPTED, BUT LOST OUT TO THE MUCH MORE EFFICIENT 'BICKERDIKE' MACHINE BEING TESTED CONCURRENTLY.



PROOF EXAMPLES OF THE EMPIRE MACHINE POSTMARK (IN VIOLET INK) ON A BRITISH 'GENERAL POST OFFICE' UNWATERMARKED FILE PAGE. ONE OF TWO PROOF EXAMPLES RECORDED!

IN MARCH 1897, AN AGENT FOR THE CANADIAN POSTAL SUPPLY COMPANY OF MONTREAL, CANADA, APPROACHED THE BRITISH POST OFFICE TO OFFER FOUR OF THEIR 'BICKERDIKE' POST-MARKING MACHINES FOR TRIAL TO WHICH THE POST OFFICE AGREED.

IN SEPTEMBER 1897, FOUR MACHINES WERE DELIVERED TO THE LONDON POST OFFICE WITH TEST RUNS FOR THREE MONTHS. VERY LITTLE GENUINE MAIL WAS USED DURING THE TRIALS, AND THAT WHICH HAS SURVIVED IS VERY SCARCE.

TWO VARIETIES OF POSTMARKS WERE USED DURING THE TRIAL.



WITHOUT SERIF ON 'VR'

5 OCTOBER - 25 NOVEMBER 1897



WITH SERIF ON 'VR'

6 OCTOBER - 26 NOVEMBER 1897

6 OCTOBER 1897

EXAMPLES OF BOTH TRIAL POSTMARKS WITH THE SAME DATE FROM THE EARLY TRIAL PERIOD WHEN GENUINE MAIL WAS POSTMARKED AND DISTRIBUTED.

22 OCTOBER 1897

WITHOUT SERIF ON 'VR'.

ONE PENCE DOMESTIC-RATE
POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE
... SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-
RATE.



24 NOVEMBER 1897

WITH SERIF ON 'VR'.

ONE PENCE DOMESTIC-RATE
POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE
... SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-
RATE.

OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL



6 OCTOBER 1897

COMMERCIAL-MAIL POSTAGE-DUE COVER TO SWITZERLAND.
EARLIEST RECORDED USAGE FOR THIS POSTMARK (WITH
SERIF ON 'VR') AND ONLY REPORTED OVERSEAS MAIL
EXAMPLE!

FIFTY-CENTIMES POSTAGE-DUE FRANKING COVERING
MISSING 2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO
SWITZERLAND... PLUS-PENALTY/2½ + 2½ PENCE = 50 CENTIMES.

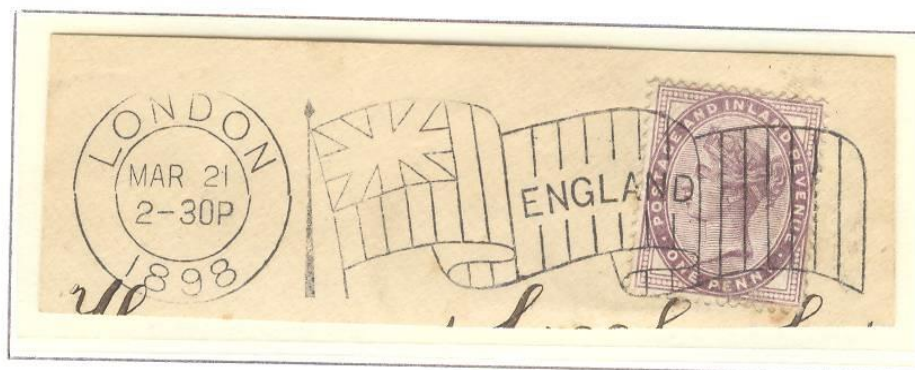
BACKSTAMP: "WINTERTHUR BRIEFPOST, 7 OCTOBER 1897"

EMPIRE MACHINE

15, 17, 18, 21 MARCH 1898

MR. MARTIN V.B. ETHRIDGE, PREVIOUSLY AFFILIATED WITH THE 'AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINES COMPANY', i.e. 'ETHRIDGE MACHINE TRIAL' (1886-1887), USING THE NAME 'EMPIRE CANCELLING MACHINE COMPANY' OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NOW ATTEMPTED TO SELL THE BRITISH POST OFFICE HIS 'EMPIRE MACHINE'.

TRIALS OF THAT MACHINE WERE HELD ON FOUR DAYS IN MARCH, 1898, FOR ONE HOUR EACH DAY. ALTHOUGH THE 'EMPIRE' LOOKED AND FUNCTIONED SIMILARLY TO THE 'BICKERDIKE' WHICH HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN TESTED, ITS PERFORMANCE WAS INFERIOR AND WAS REJECTED.



21 MARCH 1898

LAST DAY OF TRIAL.

ONE OF FIVE RECORDED POSTMARK
EXAMPLES!

SOON AFTER THE BICKERDIKE MACHINE FIRST TRIAL WAS COMPLETED IN NOVEMBER, 1897, DISAGREEMENT ON PURCHASE TERMS FOR THOSE MACHINES AROSE BETWEEN THE BRITISH POST OFFICE AND THE CANADIAN POSTAL SUPPLY COMPANY.

THAT IMPASSE, ALTHOUGH SHORT-LIVED, ENABLED THE 'AMERICAN POSTAL MACHINES COMPANY' OF BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS, TO SUBMIT THEIR 'BOSTON MACHINE' FOR TESTING, WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN AUGUST - SEPTEMBER, 1898.

POSTMARK: 22mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL WITH SEVEN WAVY-LINE OBLITERATOR WITH '1' IN THE CENTER.



31 AUGUST 1898

ONE-HALF PENCE DOMESTIC POSTAL CARD ..
COMMERCIAL MAIL USAGE.

TWELVE EXAMPLES RECORDED!

SOON AFTER THE INITIAL 'BOSTON MACHINE TRIAL' WAS DETERMINED TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE BRITISH POST OFFICE DECIDED TO EXTEND TESTING OF BOTH THE BICKERDIKE & BOSTON MACHINES BY LEASING SIX UNITS OF EACH FOR AN INITIAL TWELVE MONTH PERIOD.

POSTMARK: 22mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH '1899' IN FULL AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DATER DIAL AND A SEVEN-LINE OBLITERATOR ILLUSTRATING A 'VICTORIAN CROWN' BETWEEN 'VR' WITH MACHINE NUMBER (1 THRU 6) INDICATED BELOW THE CROWN.

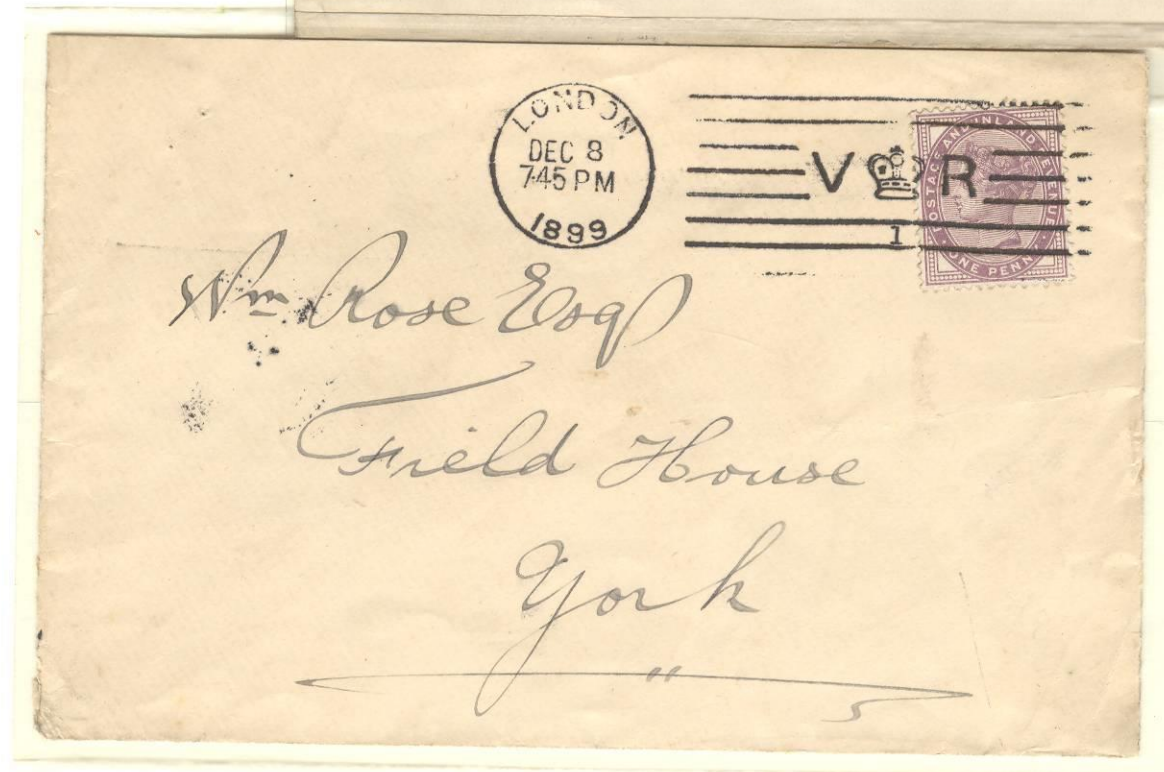
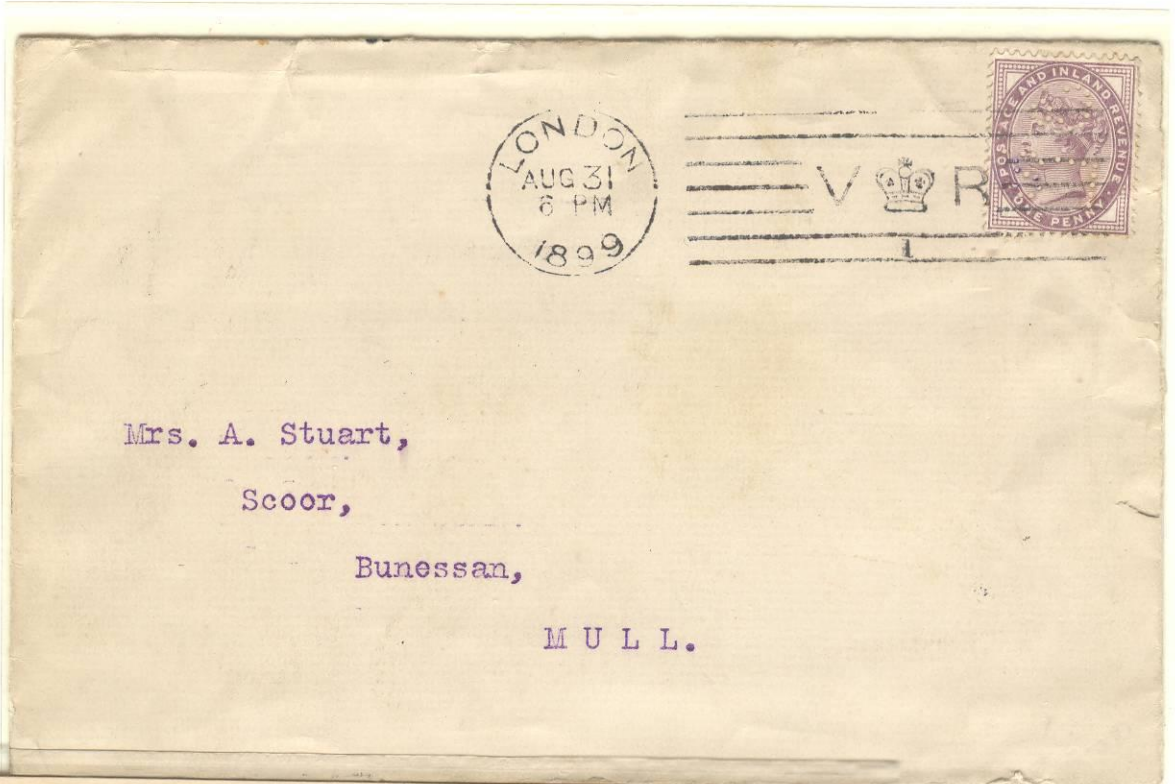
MACHINE '1'

31 AUGUST 1899

TYPE I:

LARGE TYPE-SIZE FOR 'LONDON' & '1899'.

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL MAIL ... PERFIN FRANKING.



8 DECEMBER 1899

TYPE II:

SMALL TYPE-SIZE FOR 'LONDON & 1899'.

MACHINE '3' ...

DATER DIAL WITH SMALL OR LARGE TYPE-SIZE
"LONDON" & "1899"

2 MAY 1899

TYPE I:

LARGE TYPE-SIZE FOR
"LONDON" & "1899"

HALF-PENCE PRINTED-MATTER
RATE TO GERMANY.



4 NOVEMBER 1899

TYPE I:

LARGE TYPE-SIZE FOR
"LONDON" & "1899"

MISREGISTRATION OF
POSTMARK RESULTING IN
HAND-CANCELLATION OF
FRANKING.

3 NOVEMBER 1899

TYPE II:

SMALL TYPE-SIZE FOR
"LONDON" & "1899".

DATER DIAL WITHOUT INDICATION
OF TIME. TRIPLE-PASS THROUGH
THE CANCELLING-MACHINE MAY
HAVE BEEN A SPECIAL TEST ...



MACHINES '2' & '6' ...

MIXED TYPE-SIZE FOR 'LONDON' & '1899'

22 NOVEMBER 1899

MACHINE '2'

LARGE TYPE-SIZE FOR
'LONDON' & '6' ..
SMALL TYPE-SIZE FOR '1899'!

ONE-PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE
POSTAL STATIONERY.



20 MAY 1899

MACHINE '6'

SMALL TYPE-SIZE FOR
'LONDON' AND WIDELY
POSITIONED '1899'!

ONE-PENCE SINGLE-
WEIGHT DOMESTIC
LETTER-RATE.

BICKERDIKE MACHINE ...

LONDON SECOND TRIAL

1899 - 1900

MACHINES '4' & '5' ...

MIXED TYPE-SIZE FOR 'LONDON' & '1899'

12 AUGUST 1899

MACHINE '4'

SMALL-TYPE SIZE FOR
'LONDON' AND LARGE
TYPE-SIZE FOR '1899'!

ONE-HALF PENCE DOMESTIC
POSTAL CARD .. COMMERCIAL
MAIL.



12 JUNE 1899

MACHINE '5'

LARGE TYPE-SIZE TYPE FOR
'LONDON' & '1899'.

ONE-HALF PENCE FRANKED POSTAL
CARD ... DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL
MAIL.

MACHINE '5' ...

DATER DIAL WITHOUT INDICATION OF TIME!



25 JULY 1899

LARGE TYPE-SIZE FOR "LONDON" & "1899".

STANDARD ONE-PENCE LETTER-RATE MAIL
WITH DATER-DIAL HAVING NO INDICATION
OF TIME!

FOREIGN DESTINATION MAIL

20 JANUARY 1900

TWO PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE TO CANADA..

RECEIVAL POSTMARK:
(REVERSE SIDE)
'MONTREAL, 5 FEBRUARY
1900' ... BICKERDIKE
MACHINE APPLICATION!



13 SEPTEMBER 1899

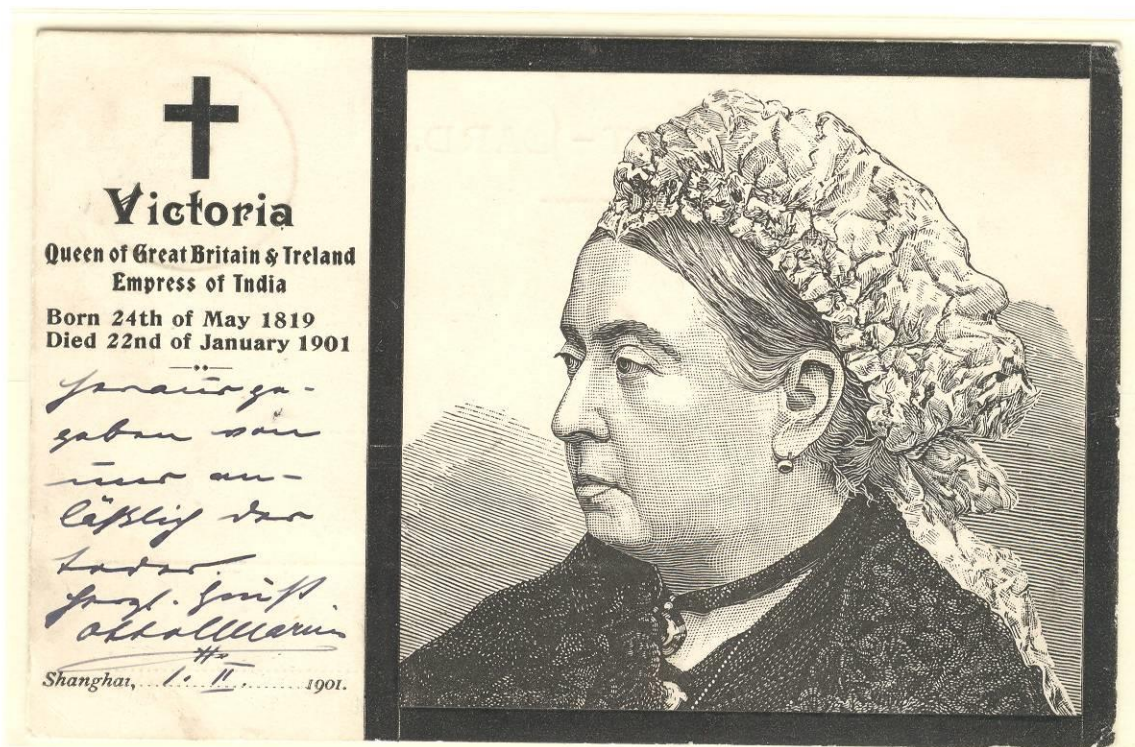
2-1/2 PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE TO GERMANY.

RECEIVAL POSTMARK:
'MANNHEIM, 14-SEPTEMBER
1899'

NOTE: COVER WAS IMPROPERLY
'FACED' FOR FEED INTO THE
POSTMARKING MACHINE ..
RESULTING IN THE POSTMARK
APPLICATION AS PER EXAMPLE.

END OR AN ERA ...

DEMISE OF QUEEN VICTORIA



1837-1897

EXAMPLE OF A CANADIAN 'BICKERDIKE' MACHINE
POSTMARK OF 1897 COMMEMORATING THE 60th
ANNIVERSARY OF QUEEN VICTORIA'S REIGN ...
1837-1897 ... POSTMARKING A 'JUBILEE' ISSUED
STAMP.

1901

FOUR YEARS LATER ... QUEEN VICTORIA'S DEMISE
ON 22 JANUARY 1901 ENDED A DYNAMIC ERA IN
BRITISH POSTAL HISTORY.

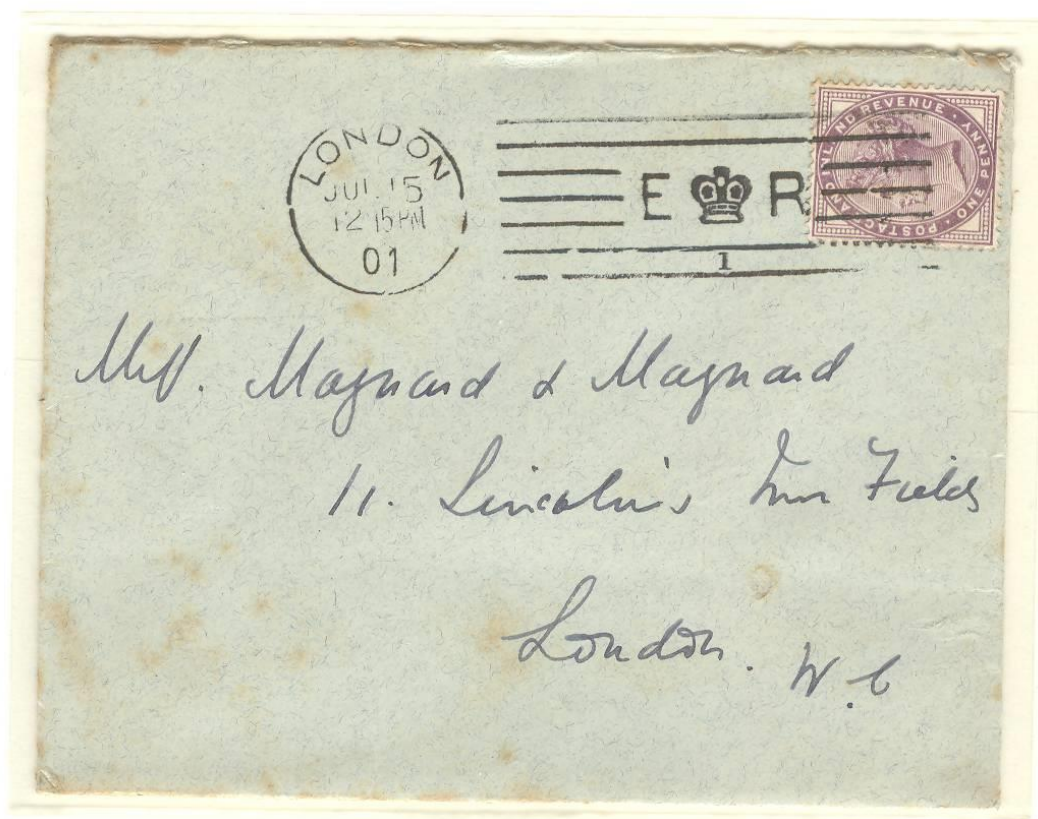
UPON THE DEMISE OF QUEEN VICTORIA ON 22 JANUARY 1901, THE BRITISH POST OFFICE ORDERED THE ALTERATION OF THE OBLITERATOR TYPE FROM 'VR' TO 'ER'. SUCH CHANGE TOOK PLACE MID-YEAR 1901. HOWEVER, THE 'VICTORIAN CROWN' REMAINED IN USE WITH 'ER' UNTIL IT ALSO WAS ALTERED BY SEPTEMBER 1901.

'ER' .. 'VICTORIAN CROWN VARIETY'

15 JULY 1901

ONE-PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE ..
COMMERCIAL MAIL.

MACHINE '1' USAGE.



4 JULY 1901

MACHINE '3' USAGE

ONE-HALF PENCE POSTAL
STATIONERY ENVELOPE
FOR DOMESTIC PRINTED-
MATTER MAIL ..
COMMERCIAL MAIL.

DURING THE 1899 FIRST TRIAL AT LONDON, THE BRITISH POST OFFICE DECIDED TO EXPAND TRIALS TO THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL, AND, ACCORDINGLY, TWO ADDITIONAL BICKERDIKE MACHINES WERE LEASED FOR TRIAL THERE.

POSTMARK: 22mm DIAMETER DATER-DIAL WITH TWO-DIGIT YEAR DATE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DATER-DIAL AND A SEVEN-LINE OBLITERATOR ILLUSTRATING A 'VICTORIAN CROWN' BETWEEN 'VR' WITH MACHINE NUMBERS '1' OR '2' INDICATED BELOW THE CROWN.

MACHINE '1'

24 DECEMBER 1900

ONE PENCE POSTAL CARD FOR OVERSEAS DESTINATIONS ... COMMERCIAL MAIL TO GERMANY.

RECEIVAL MARK:
'HAMBURG, 26 DECEMBER 1900'



19 JUNE 1901

ONE-HALF PENCE DOMESTIC RATE FOR PRINTED-MATTER.

RECEIVAL POSTMARK:
'HULL, 19 JUNE 1901'

UPON THE DEMISE OF QUEEN VICTORIA ON 22 JANUARY 1901, BY MID-YEAR THE OBLITERATORS OF THE 'LIVERPOOL BICKERDIKES' WERE ALTERED FROM 'VR' TO 'ER' MAINTAINING THE EXISTING CROWN DESIGN.

MACHINE '2'

2 JANUARY 1902

ONE-PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE
.. COMMERCIAL MAIL



24 FEBRUARY 1902

ONE-HALF PENCE
DOMESTIC POSTAL CARD

NOTE: INCOMPLETE 'E'
IN OBLITERATOR WAS
PROBABLY THE RESULT OF
BROKEN TYPE.

IN MAY 1900, THE BRITISH POST OFFICE DECIDED THAT THE HERETOFORE BICKERDIKE MACHINES (EIGHT MACHINES) ON TRIAL AND LEASED WOULD BE PURCHASED AND REMAIN IN FIELD USE.

WITH THE ADVENT OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE DATER DIALS WERE ALTERED TO REFLECT TWO-DIGIT YEAR DATES.

MACHINES '1' & '2'

31 JANUARY 1901

MACHINE '1'

ONE-PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
DOMESTIC POSTAL STATIONERY
ENVELOPE .. COMMERCIAL MAIL



28 NOVEMBER 1900

MACHINE '2'

ONE-PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE..

REDIRECTED MAIL TO
ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA.

MISREGISTRATION OF THE
MACHINE POSTMARK RESULTED
IN A PEN CANCEL TO THE
FRANKING AND SUBSEQUENT
HAND-CANCEL APPLIED AT
'CAMPDEN' FOR REDIRECTION
OF THE MAIL.

RECEIVAL POSTMARK:
(REVERSE SIDE)
'ST LEONARDS-ON-SEA,
30 NOVEMBER 1900'

NOTE: UNUSUAL DATE
ELEMENT IN 'CAMPDEN'
POSTMARK.. '28 29'

MACHINES '4', '5' & '6'



1 MAY 1901

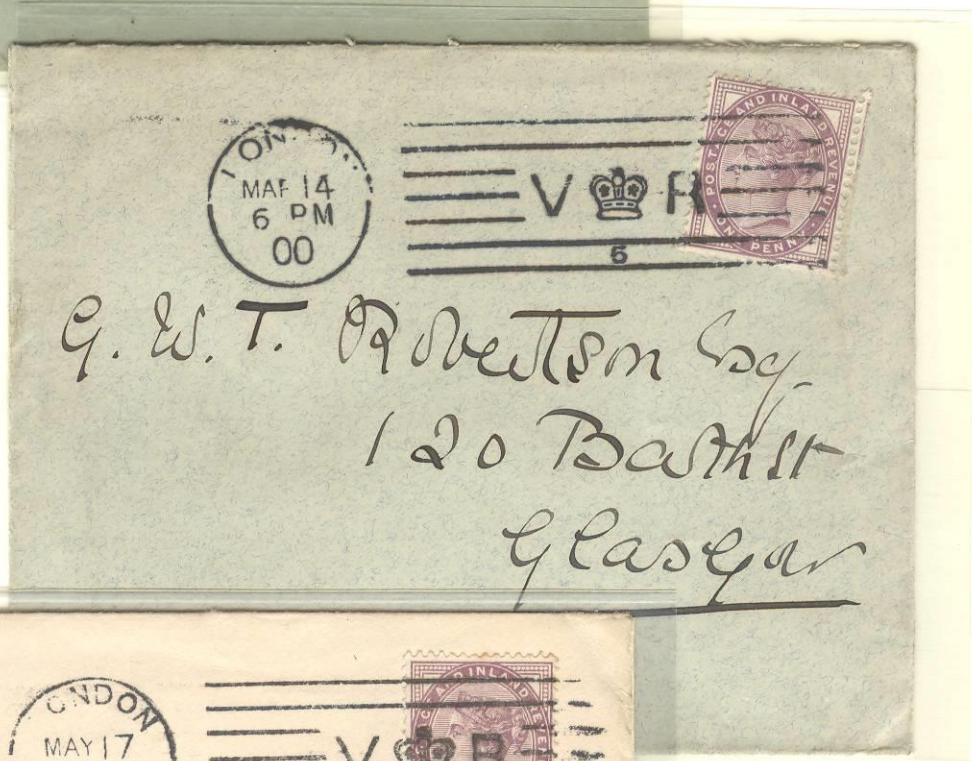
MACHINE '4'

DOMESTIC MAIL COVER TO
A RAILWAY OFFICE ..
LONDON TO SWANSEA, ENGLAND

14 MARCH 1900

MACHINE '5'

DOMESTIC MAIL COVER
FROM LONDON TO
GLASGOW, SCOTLAND



17 MAY 1900

GENERAL DELIVERY MAIL
COVER FROM LONDON TO
LLANDUDNO, WALES

ALL EXAMPLES...
ONE-PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE

AS NEW 'ER' & 'EDWARDIAN CROWN' DIES WERE RECEIVED BY THE POST OFFICE, THE POSTMARK DIES OF ALL SIX MACHINES WERE ALTERED TO THOSE.

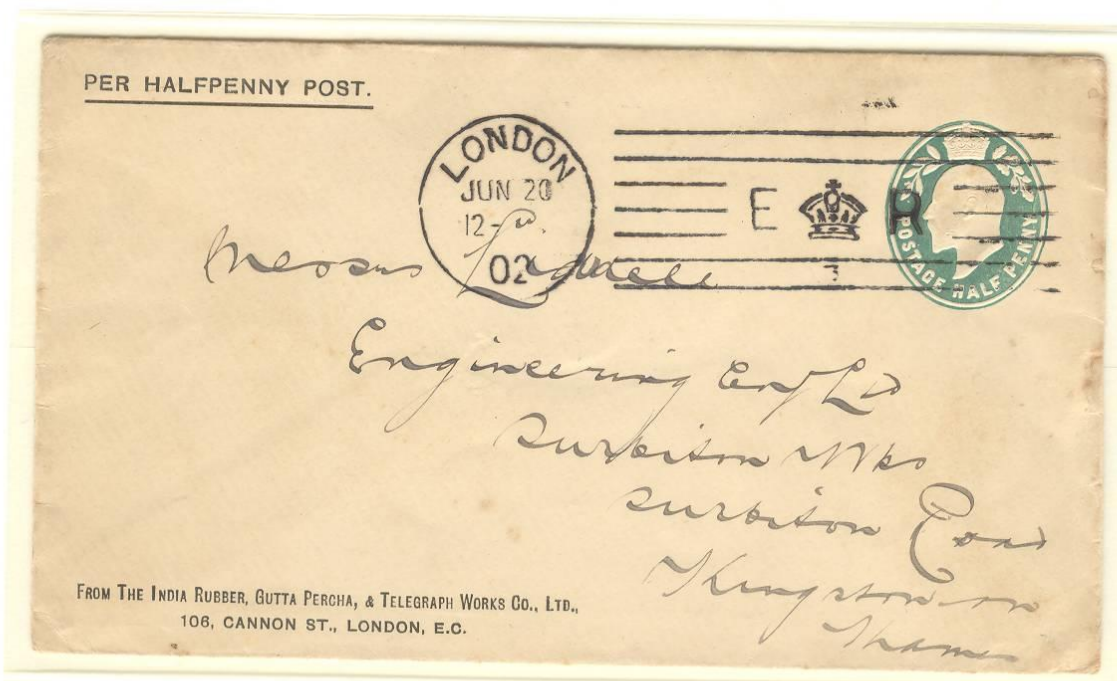
'ER' POSTMARK TYPE I: 24mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL WITH TWO-DIGIT YEAR DATE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DATER DIAL AND A SEVEN-LINE OBLITERATOR ILLUSTRATING AN EDWARDIAN CROWN BETWEEN 'ER' WITH THE MACHINE NUMBER (1 thru 6) INDICATED BELOW THE CROWN.

MACHINES '2' & '3'

13 SEPTEMBER 1901

MACHINE '2'

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE.. TO SCOTLAND.



20 JUNE 1902

MACHINE '3'

ONE-HALF PENCE POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE WITH PRINTED-MATTER .. DOMESTIC USAGE/COMMERCIAL MAIL.

MACHINES '4' & '5'

31 JULY 1901

MACHINE '4'

ONE PENCE POSTAL
STATIONERY FOLDED-LETTER
FOR DOMESTIC USAGE ..
COMMERCIAL MAIL.



28 AUGUST 1901

MACHINE '5'

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE.

AS THE 'TYPE I' DIES BEGAN TO SHOW WEAR, EACH OF THE SIX BICKERDIKE POSTMARKING MACHINES RECEIVED NEW AND SOMEWHAT ALTERED OBLITERATOR DIES, WHICH NOW NO LONGER INDICATED A MACHINE NUMBER. ALTHOUGH THE INITIALS 'ER' REMAINED, A DIFFERENT STYLE OF CROWN NOW APPEARED IN THE OBLITERATOR ... DESIGNATED HERE AS TYPES 'A' THRU 'F'.

CROWN TYPE 'A': STRAIGHT-SIDED CROWN

THIS IS SIMILAR TO EDWARDIAN 'TYPE I' CROWN BUT WITHOUT THE MACHINE NUMBER INDICATED IN THE OBLITERATOR.

1 NOVEMBER 1901

24mm DIAMETER
DATER DIAL.

ONE-HALF PENCE POSTAL
STATIONERY ENVELOPE
FOR DOMESTIC PRINTED-
MATTER (COMMERCIAL)
MAIL.



8 JULY 1903

24mm DIAMETER DATER
DIAL.

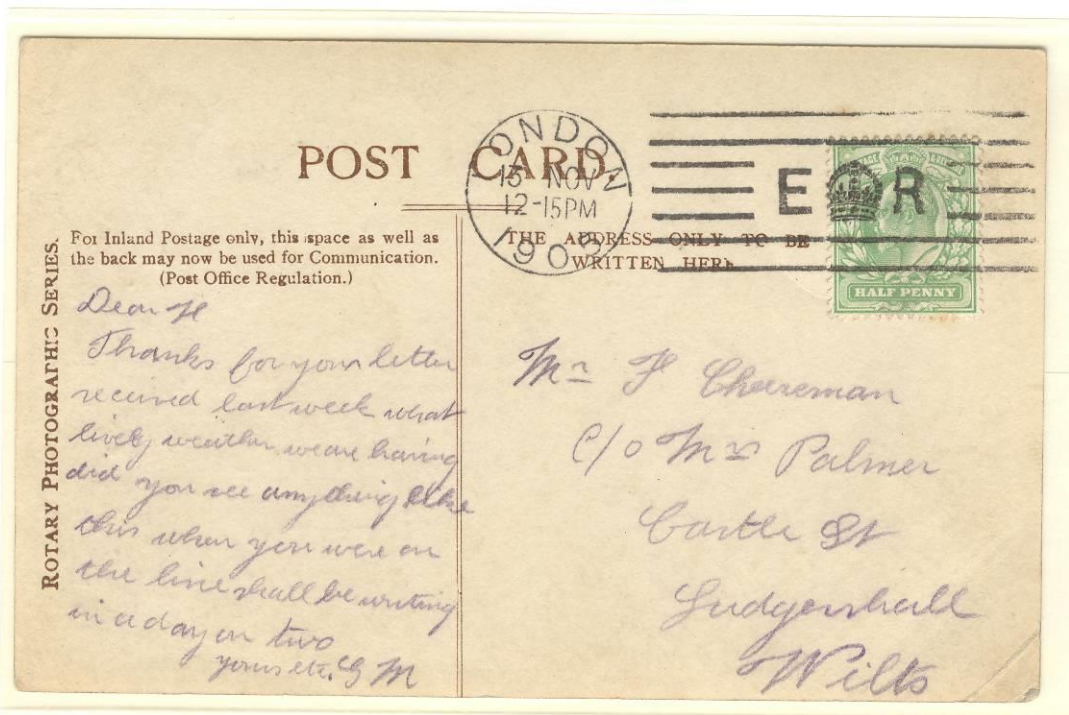
SINCE THE FRANKING
WAS NOT AFFIXED PRIOR
TO MAILING, ONE PENCE
POSTAGE DUE WAS COL-
LECTED ... ONE-HALF
PENCE POSTAGE PLUS
ONE-HALF PENCE COL-
LECTION FEE.

CROWN TYPE 'B' .. ROUNDED CROWN WITHOUT CROSS

10 NOVEMBER 1904

24mm DIAMETER DATER
DIAL.

ONE-HALF PENCE
FRANKING COVERING
DOMESTIC POST CARD
RATE.



15 NOVEMBER 1905

22mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL.

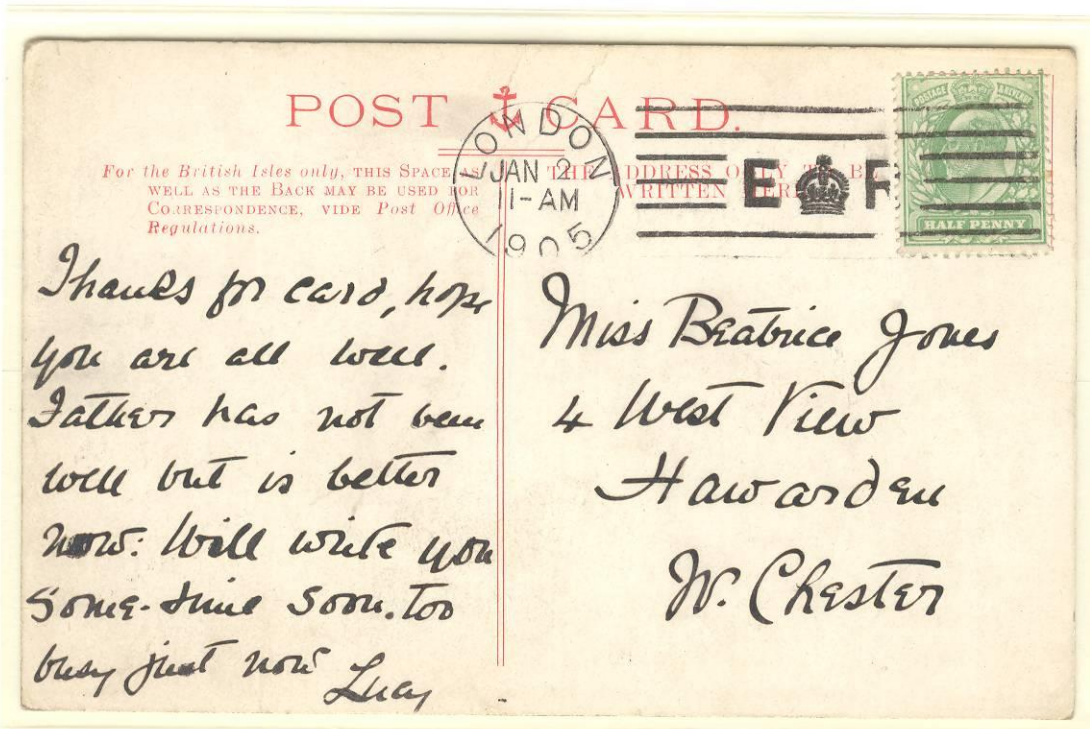
ONE-HALF PENCE FRANKING
COVERING DOMESTIC POST
CARD RATE.

CROWN TYPE 'C' .. SMALL CROWN WITH CROSS

1 JUNE 1904

24mm DIAMETER DATER
DIAL.

ONE-HALF PENCE
FRANKING COVERING
DOMESTIC POST CARD
RATE.



2 JANUARY 1905

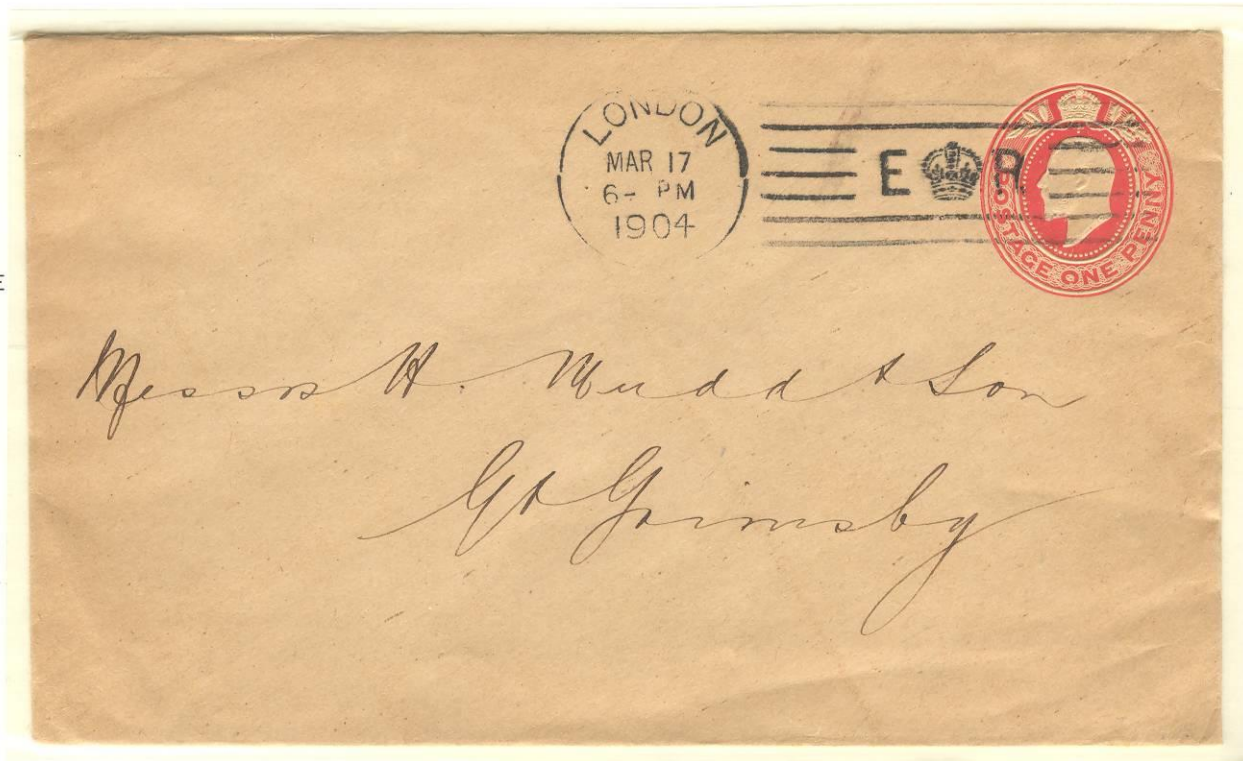
22mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL.

ONE-HALF PENCE FRANKING
COVERING DOMESTIC POST
CARD RATE.

CROWN TYPE 'D' .. MID-SIZE TAPERED CROWN WITHOUT CROSS

17 MARCH 1904

ONE PENCE POSTAL
STATIONERY ENVELOPE
FOR DOMESTIC
SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE MAIL.



Messrs H. Mudd & Son
Gt Gimsby



6 FEBRUARY 1905

IN 1905, DATER DIAL
SIZE ALTERED FROM
25mm TO 22mm DIAMETER.

ONE PENCE POSTAL CARD
RATE TO GERMANY.

Herrn
Max Terschick

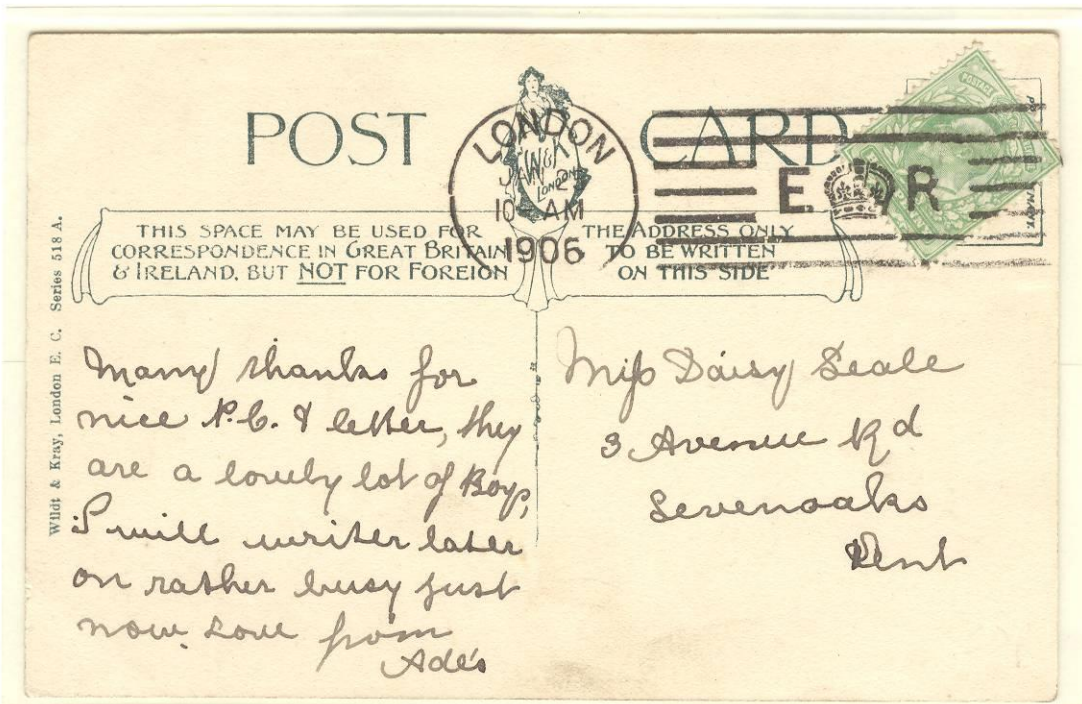
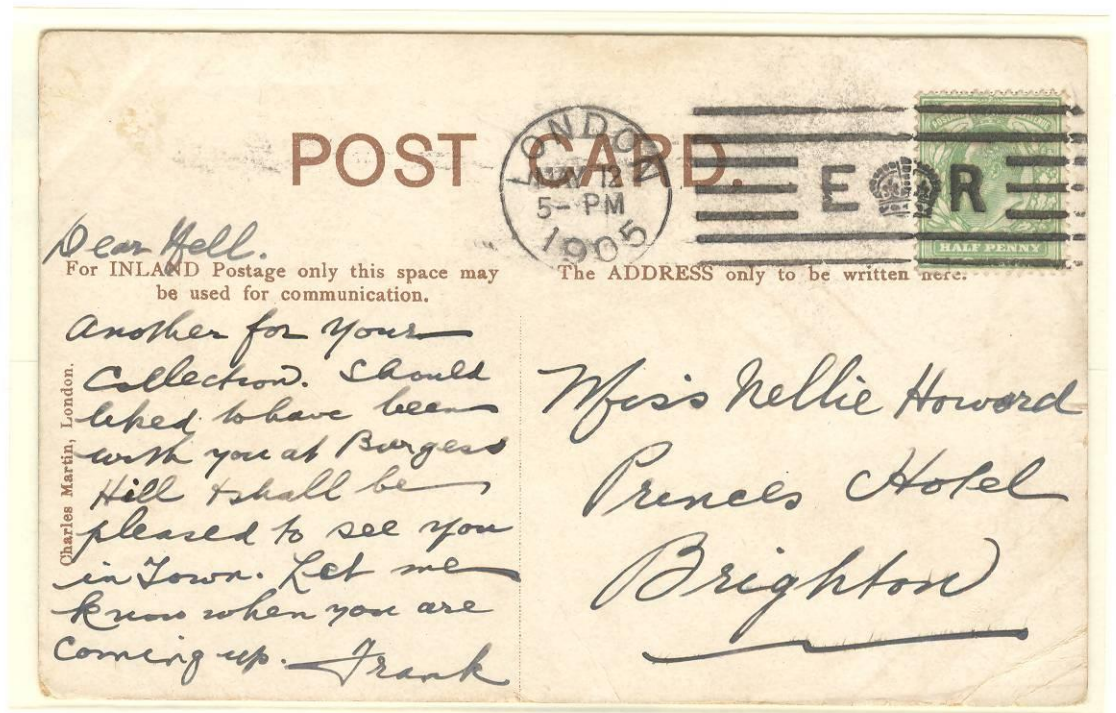
Wernigerode. a/b
Ruchdingen-St. S.I.

CROWN TYPE 'E' .. WIDE CROWN WITHOUT CROSS

12 MAY 1905

22mm DIAMETER DATER
DIAL.

ONE-HALF PENCE
FRANKING COVERING
DOMESTIC POST CARD
RATE.



23 JANUARY 1906

24mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL.

ONE-HALF PENCE FRANKING
COVERING DOMESTIC POST
CARD RATE.

BICKERDIKE MACHINE ...

FIELD USAGE

EDWARDIAN PERIOD -
DIE SERIES II - CROWN TYPE 'F'

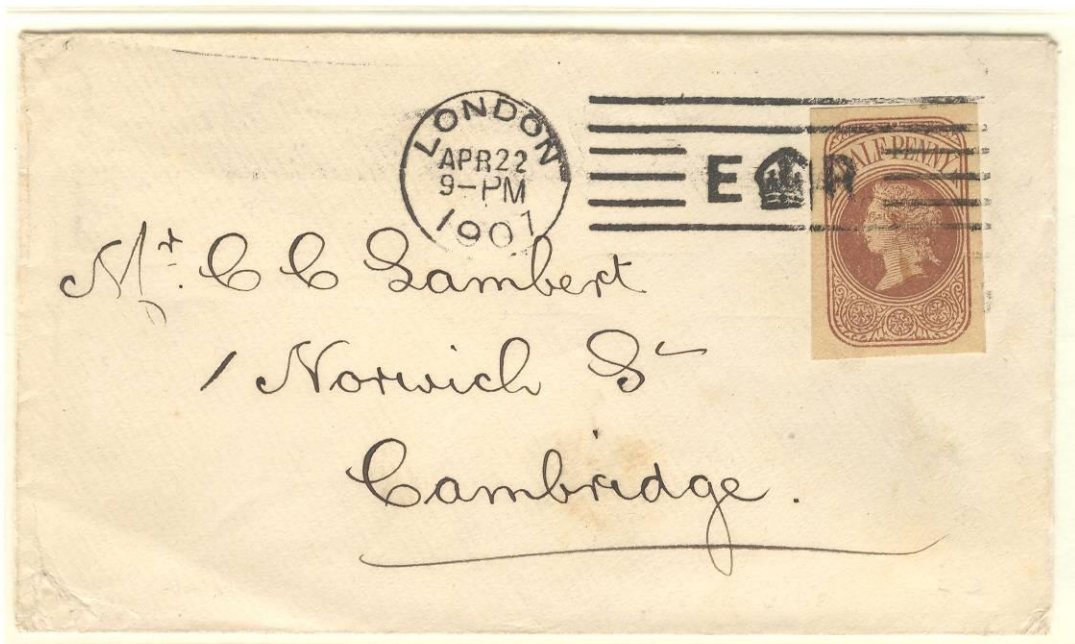
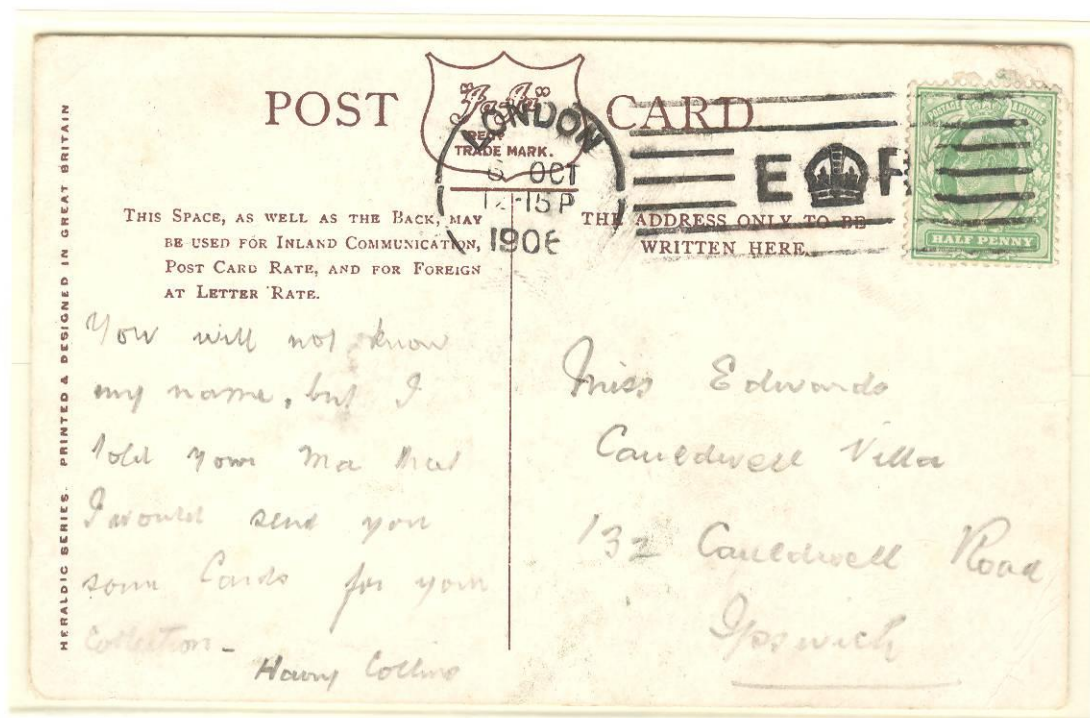
1904 - 1907

CROWN TYPE 'F' .. WIDE DOME-SHAPED CROWN
WITHOUT CROSS - BOLD 'ER'

6 OCTOBER 1906

24mm DIAMETER DATER
DIAL.

ONE-HALF PENCE FRANKING
COVERING DOMESTIC POST
CARD RATE.



22 APRIL 1907

22mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL.

ONE-HALF PENCE FRANKING
COVERING DOMESTIC PRINTED-
MATTER-RATE.

LONDON SECOND TRIAL

SOON AFTER THE INITIAL 'BICKERDIKE MACHINE TRIAL' WAS DETERMINED TO BE SUCCESSFUL, THE BRITISH POST OFFICE DECIDED TO EXTEND TESTING OF BOTH THE BOSTON & BICKERDIKE POSTMARKING MACHINES BY LEASING SIX UNITS OF EACH FOR AN INITIAL TWELVE MONTH PERIOD.

POSTMARK: 22mm DATER DIAL WITH FOUR-LINE (MACHINES '2' & '3' OR SIX-LINE (MACHINES '1', '4', '5' & '6') HORIZONTAL BARS SHAPED TO THE DATER DIAL .. WITH FOUR DIGIT YEAR DATE IN DATER AND MACHINE NUMBER IN CENTER OF OBLITERATOR.

26 JUNE 1899

MACHINE '1'

ONE PENCE FRANKING FOR SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.



22 SEPTEMBER 1899

MACHINE '6'

ONE PENCE FRANKING (PERFIN) FOR SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC (COMMERCIAL) MAIL.

BOSTON MACHINE ...

LONDON SECOND TRIAL

1899 - 1900

MACHINE '3' .. FOUR-LINE OBLITERATOR

21 DECEMBER 1899:

ONE PENCE UPU POSTAL
STATIONERY CARD ..
COMMERCIAL MAIL .. TO
GERMANY.

SIZE: 88 x 139mm



8 NOVEMBER 1899

ONE PENCE UPU POSTAL
STATIONERY CARD ..
COMMERCIAL MAIL ..
TO GERMANY.

SIZE: 82 x 130mm

NOTE THAT THE '3' IN
THE OBLITERATOR WAS
DEFECTIVE AND DID NOT
GIVE AN IMPRESSION!

MACHINES '1' THROUGH '6' EXAMPLES



IT IS BELIEVED THAT 'MACHINE 5' WAS OUTFITTED WITH A SEVEN WAVY-LINE OBLITERATOR IN SEPTEMBER 1899 FOR TRIALS. SUCH ASSUMPTION IS BASED ON THE FACT THAT 'MACHINE 5' POSTMARKS WITH SIX HORIZONTAL LINES ARE NOT FOUND FOR THE PERIOD INDICATED.

POSTMARK: 22mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL WITH YEAR DATE '1899' IN FULL WHEREAS SUBSEQUENT YEARS ARE TWO-DIGIT... WITH SEVEN WAVY-LINE OBLITERATOR WITHOUT INDICATION OF MACHINE NUMBER.

10 JUNE 1901

ONE-HALF PENCE DOMESTIC
PRINTED-MATTER RATE.

BACKSTAMP:
"SALISBURY, 1:15 AM,
JUNE 11 .. 1901"



POST CARD

(FOR INLAND USE ONLY)

This Space as well as the back may not be used for communication (Post Office Regulation)

LONDON
12-OCT 1904
04

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN HERE.



This is rather a frost, better back in the sackia

Mrs Ghinn
2 Sherborne Villas
Crowslip Rd.
South Woodford
E

19 OCTOBER 1904

ONE-HALF PENCE DOMESTIC
POSTAL CARD RATE.

FIELD USAGE

IN EARLY 1900, THE POST OFFICE AUTHORITIES DECIDED THAT THE HERETOFORE BOSTON MACHINES (EIGHT MACHINES) ON TRIAL AT LONDON & LIVERPOOL BEING LEASED WOULD BE PURCHASED AND REMAIN, AS REQUIRED, IN FIELD OPERATION.

WITH THE ADVENT OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE DATER DIALS WERE ALTERED INITIALLY TO TWO-DIGIT YEAR DATES. HORIZONTAL OBLITERATORS WOULD NOW BE USED .. WITH AND WITHOUT INDICATION OF MACHINE NUMBERS.

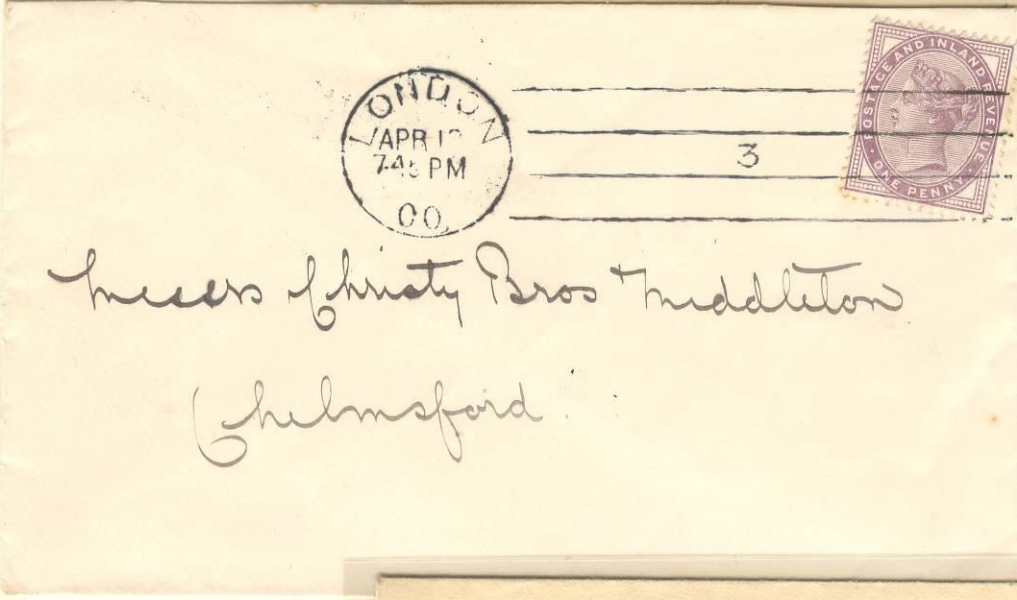
9 APRIL 1900

MACHINE '2'

ONE-HALF PENCE DOMESTIC PRINTED-MATTER RATE.

ARRIVAL BACKSTAMP:

"SALISBURY, 2:45 AM, APRIL 10.. 1900"



12 APRIL 1900

MACHINE '3'

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE.

ARRIVAL BACKSTAMP:

"CHELMSFORD, 12:15 AM, APRIL 13 .. 1900"

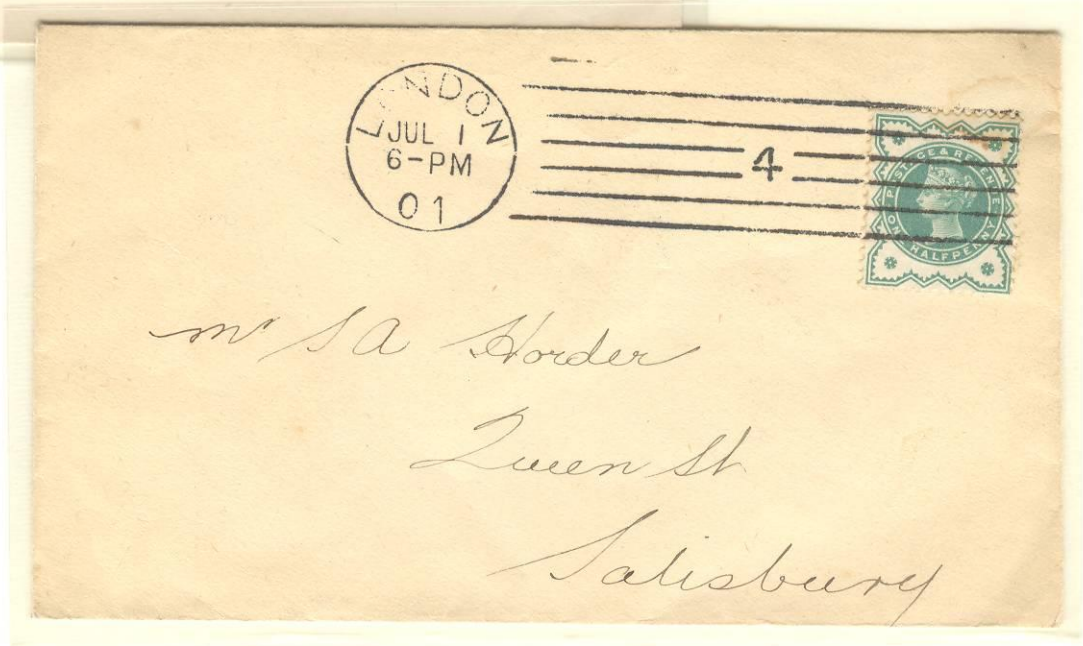
1 JULY 1901

MACHINE '4'

ONE-HALF PENCE DOMESTIC PRINTED-MATTER RATE.

ARRIVAL BACKSTAMP:

"SALISBURY, 1:15 AM, JULY 2 .. 1901"



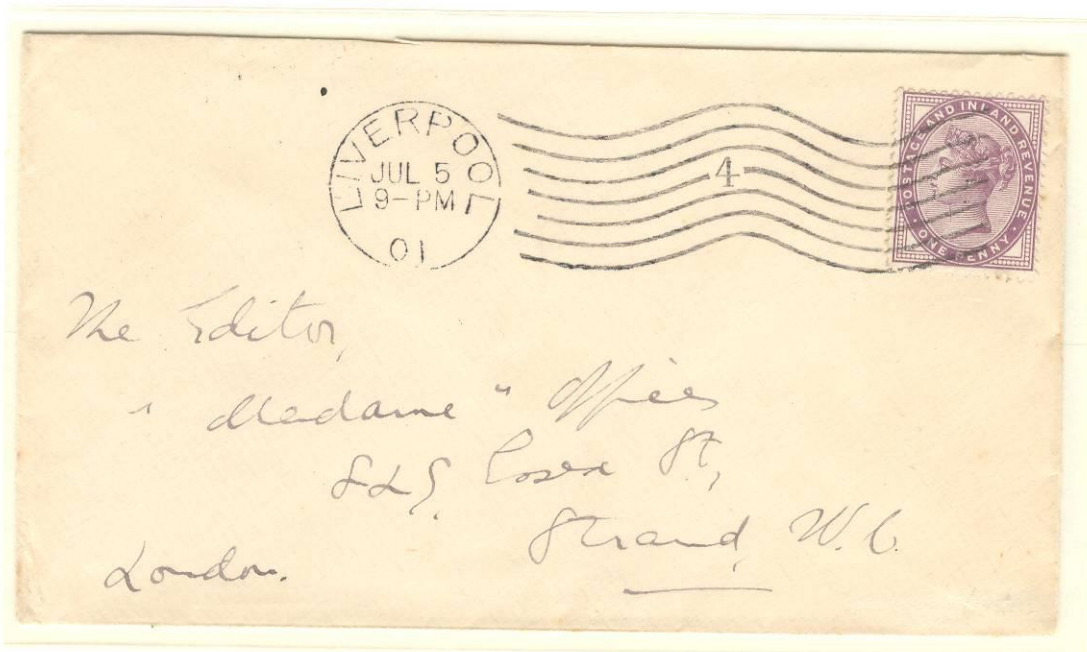
DURING THE 1899 SECOND TRIAL AT LONDON, THE BRITISH POST OFFICE DECIDED TO EXPAND TRIALS TO THE CITY OF LIVERPOOL, AND, ACCORDINGLY, TWO ADDITIONAL BOSTON MACHINES WERE LEASED FOR TRIAL THERE. THOSE MACHINES CARRIED MACHINE NUMBERS '3' & '4', SINCE NUMBERS '1' & '2' HAD ALREADY BEEN ALLOCATED TO THE BICKERDIKE MACHINES ALSO BEING TESTED CONCURRENTLY AT LIVERPOOL.

POSTMARK: 22mm DATER DIAL WITH TWO-DIGIT YEAR DATE AND SEVEN WAVY-LINE OBLITERATOR WITH MACHINE NUMBERS '3' (INVERTED) AND '4' IN CENTER.

14 FEBRUARY 1902

MACHINE '3' ..
NUMBER INVERTED.

ONE-HALF PENCE POSTAL
STATIONERY ENVELOPE FOR
SINGLE-WEIGHT PRINTED-MATTER
DOMESTIC (COMMERCIAL) MAIL.



5 JULY 1901

MACHINE '4'.

ONE PENCE FRANKING FOR
SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE
DOMESTIC (COMMERCIAL)
MAIL.

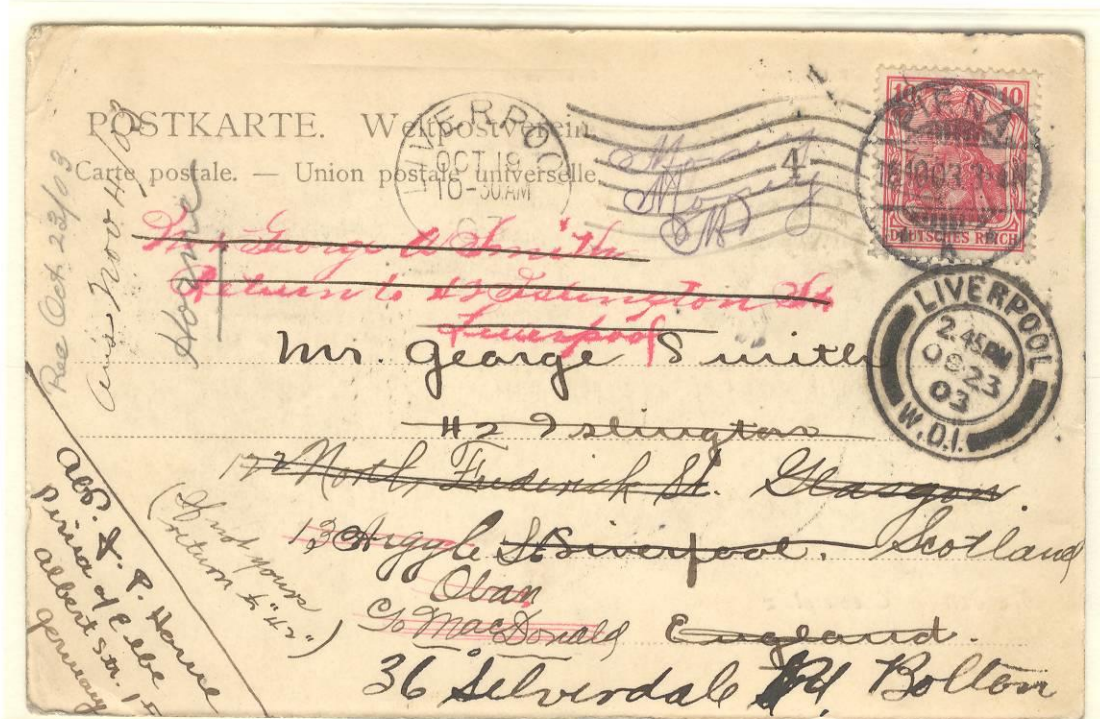
LIVERPOOL TRIAL & USAGE

OVERSEAS MAIL - USAGE

3 JUNE 1901

MACHINE '4'.

ONE PENCE POSTAL CARD FOR OVERSEAS DESTINATION USAGE .. TO THE UNITED STATES .. COMMERCIAL MAIL.



19 OCTOBER 1903...

GERMAN-ORIGIN VIEW CARD POSTMARKED 'PIRNA, 16 OCTOBER 1903' TO LIVERPOOL BUT REDIRECTED AFTER RECEIPT AND ATTEMPTED DELIVERY.

BOSTON MACHINE POSTMARK APPLIED UPON BEING RECEIVED FROM GERMAN MAIL.

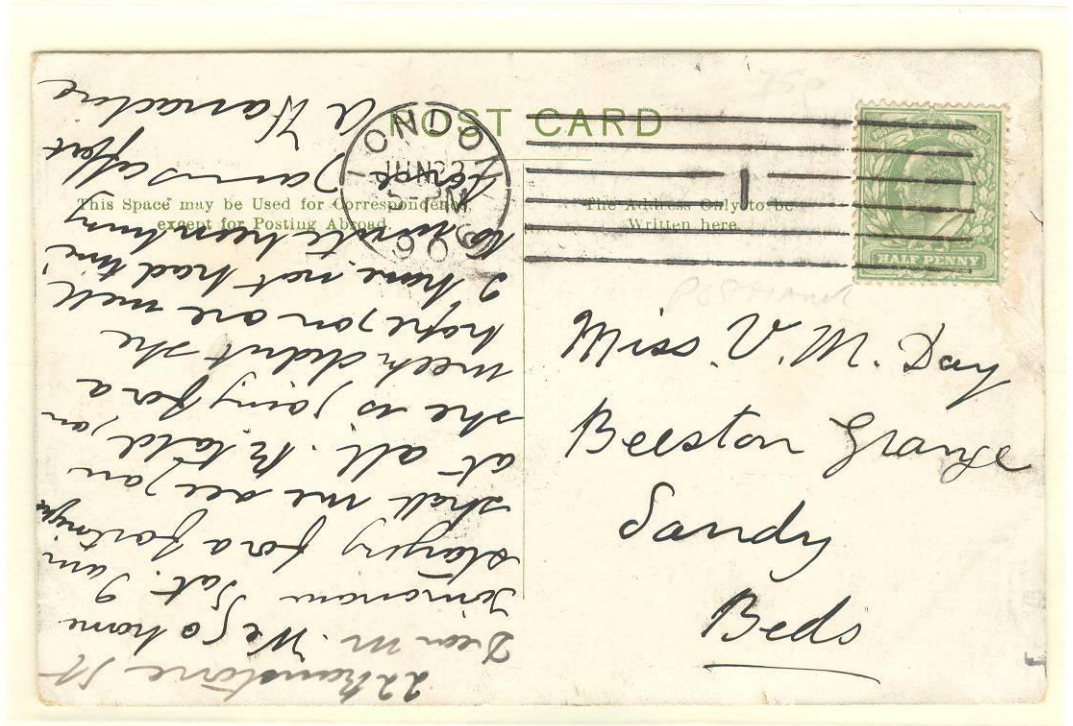
FROM 1905, THE POST OFFICE DECIDED TO USE A 'STANDARD' OBLITERATOR FOR THE BOSTON MACHINES, WHICH WAS USED FOR ALL SIX LONDON MACHINES.

POSTMARK: 22mm DATER DIAL WITH FOUR-DIGIT YEAR DATE AND SIX BLOCK HORIZONTAL BARS HAVING THE MACHINE NUMBER IN THE CENTER.

MACHINES '1' & '2'

22 JUNE 1906

MACHINE '1'



MACHINES '3' & '4'

4 OCTOBER 1905

MACHINE '3'



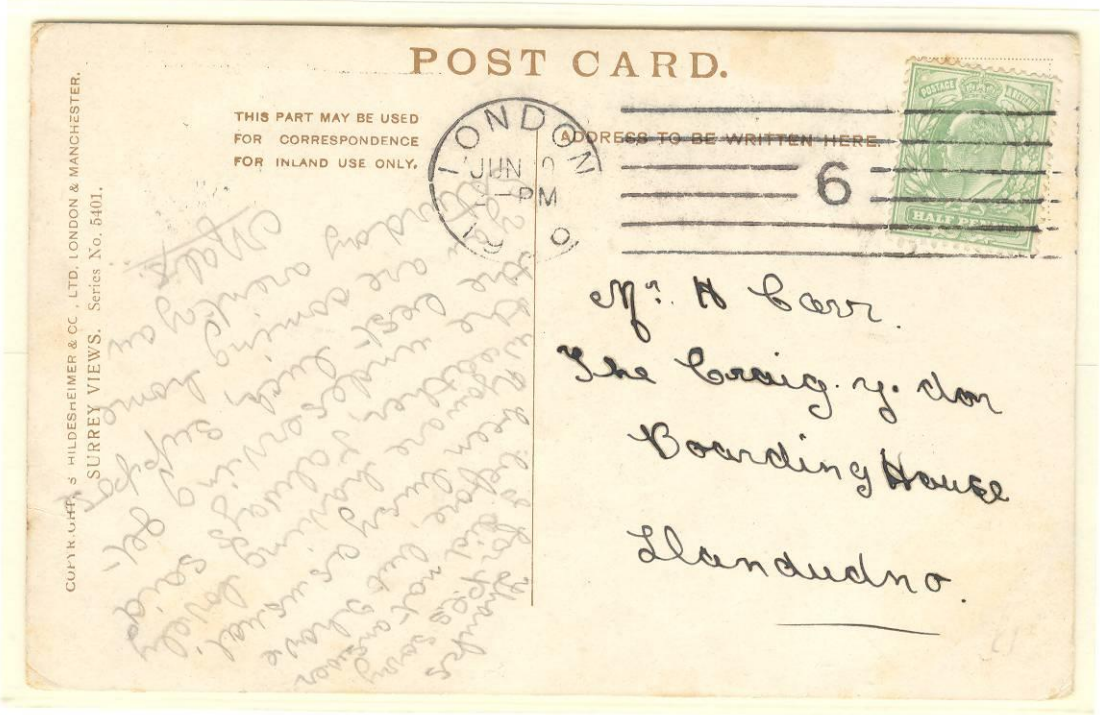
24 MARCH 1905

MACHINE '4'

MACHINES '5' & '6'

24 MARCH 1905

MACHINE '5'



10 JUNE 1906

MACHINE '6'

IN 1902, THE INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SUPPLY COMPANY OF NEW YORK APPROACHED THE BRITISH POST OFFICE FOR TRIAL OF THEIR 'HEY-DOLPHIN FLIER' POSTMARKING MACHINE. A TRIAL WAS HELD ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS IN DURATION. BECAUSE OF THE HIGH VOLUME OF MISSED POSTMARKS AND FOR COST REASONS, THE MACHINE WAS NOT ACCEPTED.

POSTMARK: 20mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL WITH SEVEN WAVY-LINE OBLITERATOR HAVING 'I' AND 'C' AT THE LEFT-SIDE.

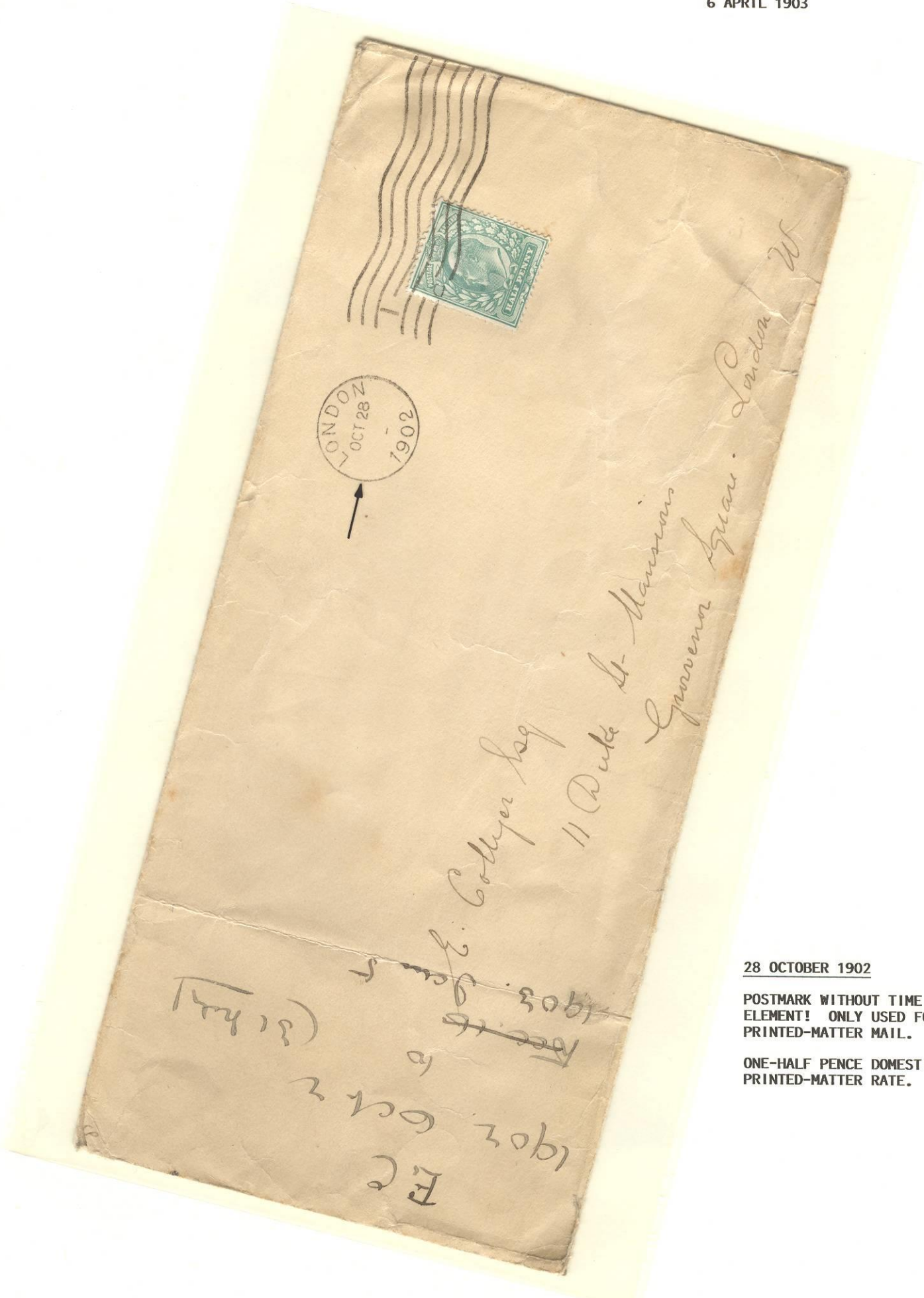
29 AUGUST 1902

ONE-HALF PENCE FRANKING COVERING THE DOMESTIC POST CARD RATE.



22 JANUARY 1903

ONE PENCE FRANKING COVERING THE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.



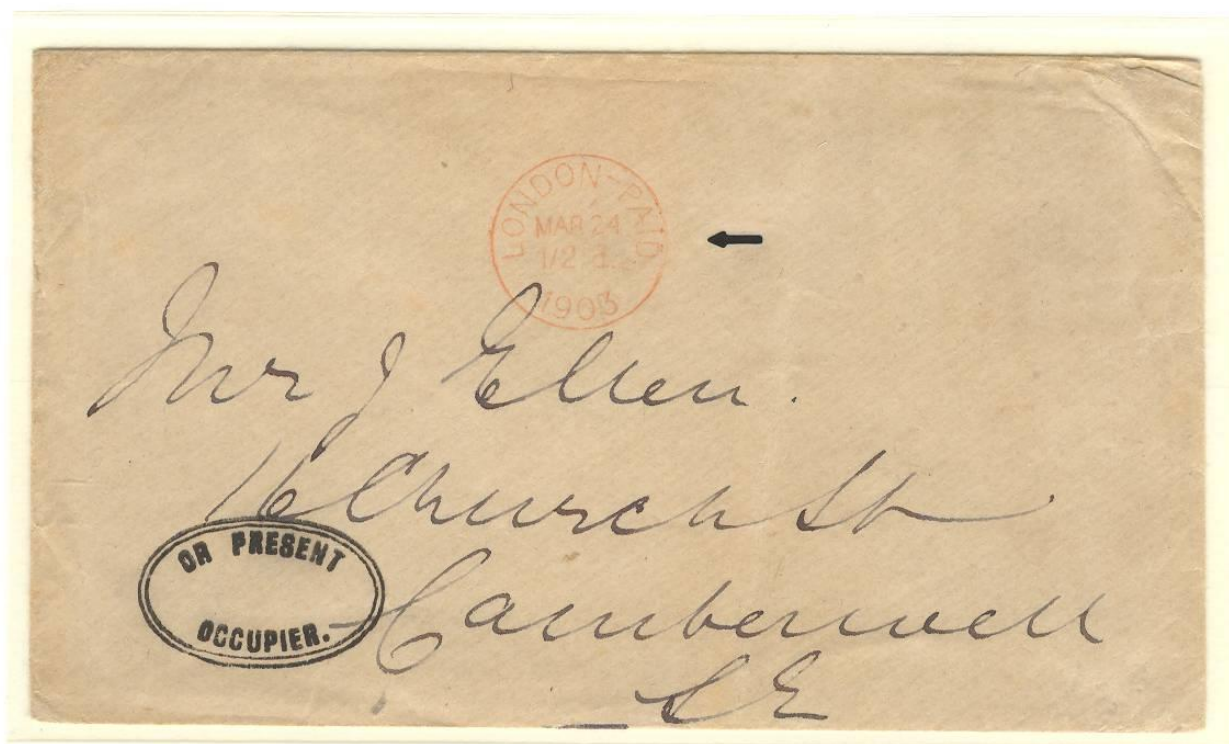
28 OCTOBER 1902

POSTMARK WITHOUT TIME
ELEMENT! ONLY USED FOR
PRINTED-MATTER MAIL.

ONE-HALF PENCE DOMESTIC-MAIL
PRINTED-MATTER RATE.

THE 'HEY-DOLPHIN FLIER' POSTMARKING MACHINE WAS ALSO TRIED FOR APPLICATION OF POSTPAID MARKINGS ON BULK MAILINGS.

POSTMARK: 20mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL IN ORANGE-RED INK INDICATING 'LONDON-PAID'.



24 MARCH 1903

POSTPAID BULK-MAIL MARKING ON A DOMESTIC COVER.

IN 1911, AN IMPROVED 'HEY-DOLPHIN FLIER' POSTMARKING MACHINE WAS SUBMITTED FOR A NEW TRIAL. ALTHOUGH THE MACHINE PERFORMED VERY WELL, ITS COST WAS FOUND TO BE PROHIBITIVE.

POSTMARK: 20mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL WITH SEVEN WAVY-LINE OBLITERATOR HAVING 'I' AND 'D' AT THE LEFT-SIDE.



16 NOVEMBER 1911

ONE PENCE FOREIGN-DESTINATION POSTAL CARD
... TO HOLLAND.

ONLY RECORDED FOREIGN-DESTINATION USAGE!

RECEIVAL POSTMARK: 'MIDDELBURG, 17 NOVEMBER
1911, 6-7 (AM)'

COLUMBIA MACHINE ...

TRIAL

16 NOVEMBER 1901

26 FEBRUARY 1902

ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT OVERSHADOWED BY THE 'BICKERDIKE' & 'BOSTON' MACHINES, THE 'COLUMBIA', A SINGLE-IMPRESSION POSTMARKING MACHINE, WAS INTRODUCED IN 1901 AND TESTED BETWEEN 1901-1902. THE POST OFFICE DETERMINED IT TO BE EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE AND JUSTIFIABLE IN PRICE.

ACCORDINGLY, TWELVE MACHINES WERE SUBSEQUENTLY PURCHASED FROM THE COLUMBIA POSTAL SUPPLY COMPANY OF SILVER CREEK, NEW YORK. THOSE INITIAL MACHINES WERE ONLY THE FIRST OF MANY TO BE SUPPLIED ... AND WHICH APPLIED A WIDE VARIETY OF POSTMARK & OBLITERATOR TYPES AND STYLES.

TRIAL POSTMARK: 22mm OPEN DATER DIAL WITH 'LONDON E.C.' AT THE TOP ALONG WITH A SEVEN-LINE OBLITERATOR.

22 NOVEMBER 1901

EARLIEST RECORDED FOREIGN-DESTINATION USAGE.

ONE PENNY UPU POSTAL CARD FOR OVERSEAS DESTINATION MAIL.

ARRIVAL POSTMARK:

"TIMMENRODA, 23 NOVEMBER 1901, 8-12 PM" .. GERMANY



30 DECEMBER 1901

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE.

BACKSTAMP:

"LONDON W.C., 6 PM, DECEMBER 30"

SOON AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE COLUMBIA MACHINE TRIAL, ADDITIONAL MACHINES WERE PURCHASED FOR VARIOUS LONDON POST OFFICES. IN ADDITION, THE HERETOFORE 'TRIAL POSTMARK' CONTINUED TO BE USED AT THE 'LONDON E.C.' POST OFFICE EXCEPT THAT THE DATER DIAL NOW HAD A CLOSED DIAL.

POSTMARK: 22mm CLOSED DATER DIAL WITH INDICATION OF THE POST OFFICE BRANCH (HERE 'LONDON E.C.' & 'LONDON M.P.') AT THE TOP ALONG WITH A SEVEN HORIZONTAL-LINE OBLITERATOR.

11 AUGUST 1902

ONE PENCE DOMESTIC POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE ALONG WITH ONE & ONE-HALF PENCE FRANKING = 2-1/2 PENCE... LETTER-RATE TO GERMANY.

BACKSTAMP: 'HANNOVER, 13. AUGUST 1902'



(Nº 19)

LONDON, M.P.
MAY 13
6 P M
1903



The
Sheffield & Hallamshire Bank, Ltd.
Sheffield

13 MAY 1903

ONE PENCE POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.

'LONDON M.P.' = LONDON MOUNT PLEASANT POST OFFICE.

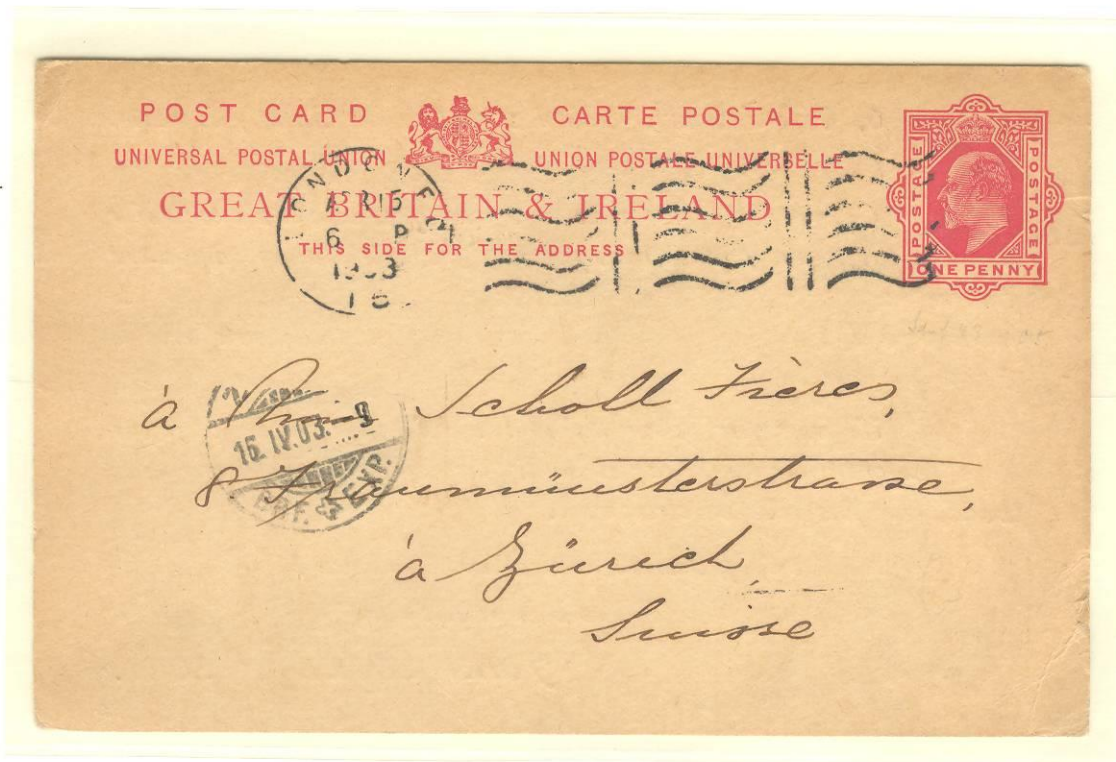
RECORDED USAGE AT MOUNT PLEASANT ... 5 MAY - 20 MAY 1903!

FIELD-USAGE

15 APRIL 1903

POSTMARK:
22mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL
WITH THREE GROUPS OF
SIX WAVY-LINES BETWEEN
TWO VERTICAL DOUBLE-BAR
LINES.

ONE PENCE UPU EDWARDIAN
POSTAL STATIONERY CARD
TO SWITZERLAND...
COMMERCIAL MAIL.



9 JANUARY 1904

POSTMARK:
23mm DIAMETER
DATER DIAL WITH
A SEVEN-LINE
OBLITERATOR.

TWO & ONE-HALF
PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE
(COMMERCIAL MAIL)
TO SWITZERLAND.

22 OCTOBER 1903

POSTMARK:
22mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL WITH
SEVEN-LINE OBLITERATOR WITH
INDICATION OF POST OFFICE
LOCATION .. 'WC'.

ONE-HALF PENCE PRINTED-MATTER
RATE TO GERMANY.



8 SEPTEMBER 1905

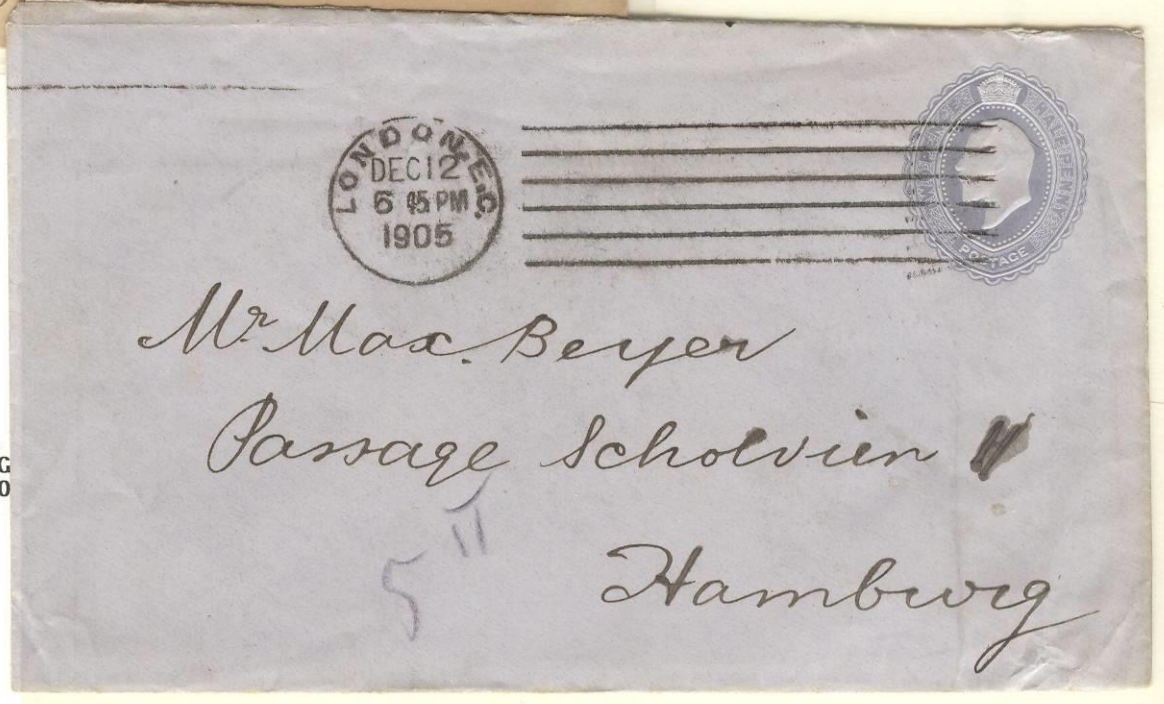
POSTMARK:
24mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL WITH
SEVEN-LINE OBLITERATOR WITHOUT
INDICATION OF POST OFFICE
LOCATION.

FRANKED TWO & ONE-HALF PENCE
SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

12 DECEMBER 1905

POSTMARK:
22mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL
WITH SIX-LINE OBLITERATOR.

TWO & ONE-HALF PENCE POSTAL
STATIONERY ENVELOPE COVERING
SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO
GERMANY.



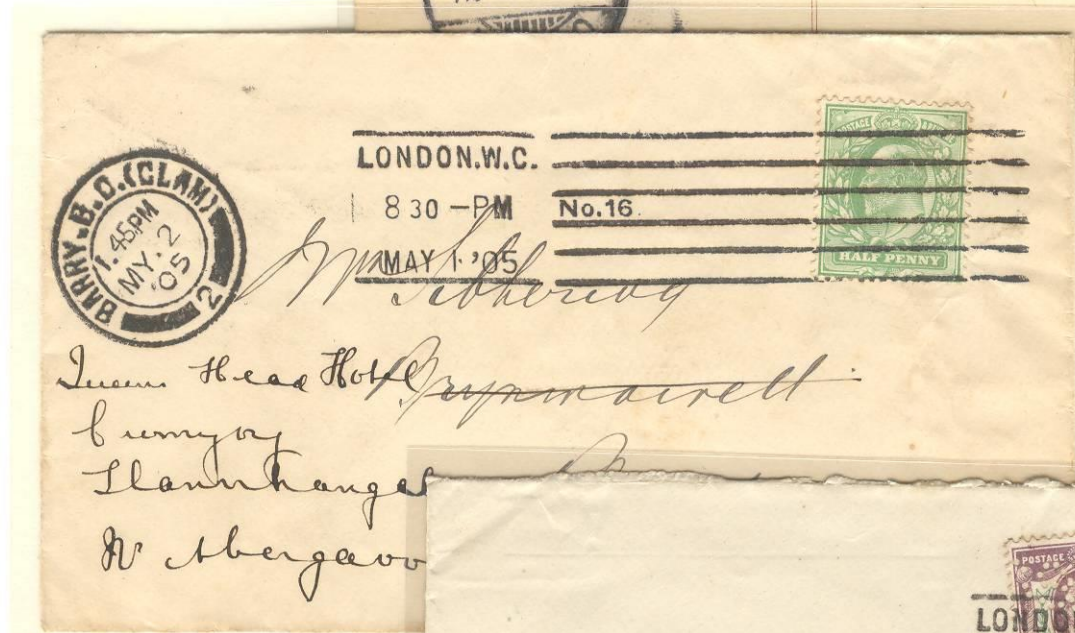
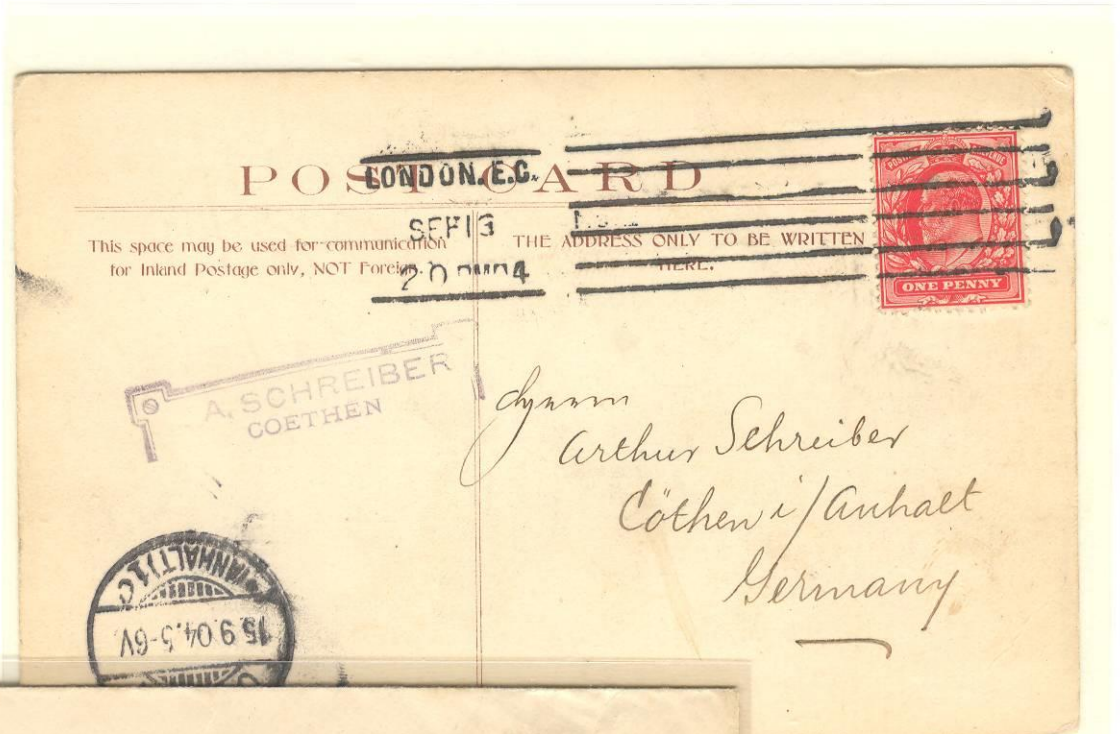
IN EARLY 1904 A NEW RECTANGULAR DATER WAS INTRODUCED WITH NEW COLUMBIA MACHINES PURCHASED.

POSTMARK: RECTANGULAR-DATER WITH TOP & BOTTOM BARS AND SIX-LINE OBLITERATOR WITH OR WITHOUT MACHINE NUMBER.

13 SEPTEMBER 1904

ONE PENCE POSTAL CARD RATE TO GERMANY.

ARRIVAL HANDSTAMP: 'COETHEN, 15. SEPTEMBER 1904'



1 MAY 1905

ONE-HALF PENCE DOMESTIC PRINTED-MATTER RATE.

REDIRECTED MAIL WITH TRANSIT AND ARRIVAL HANDSTAMPS...

'1:45 PM MAY 2 .. BARRY..'

'6:15 PM MAY 2 .. BERGAVEN..'

'9:15 PM MAY 2 .. NEWPORT..'

29 JUNE 1905

TWO & ONE-HALF PENCE (MIXED FRANKING) COVERING SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. PERFIN FRANKING!



COLUMBIA MACHINE ...
FIELD-USAGE

RECTANGULAR-DATER .. FROM 1905

IN MID-DECEMBER 1905 THE HERETOFORE RECTANGULAR-DATER HAVING TOP & BOTTOM BARS WAS ALTERED .. ELIMINATING THE LATTER. EARLY USAGE INDICATED THE MACHINE NUMBER WHILE LATER USAGE ELIMINATED THE NUMBER.

OVERSEAS DESTINATION .. BELGIUM

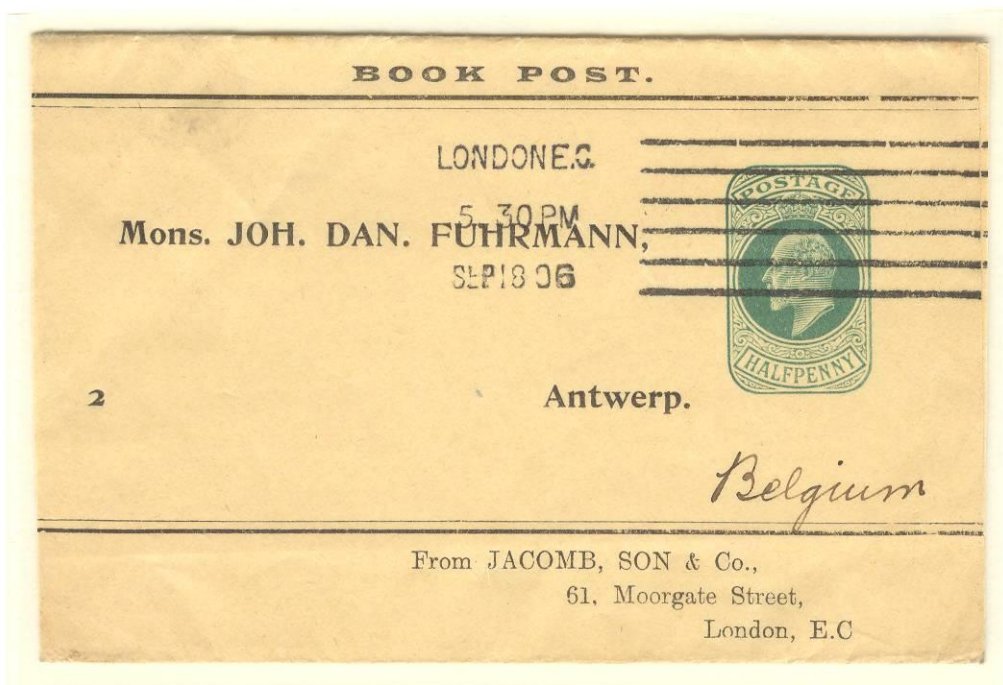
15 DECEMBER 1905

SECOND DAY OF USAGE!

NOTE: MACHINE NUMBER '21'
IN OBLITERATOR.. INCOMPLETE.

ONE-HALF PENCE (BUSINESS MAIL)
POSTCARD RATE TO BELGIUM.

ARRIVAL HANDSTAMP:
'ANVERS ARRIVEE, 16 DECEMBER 1905'



18 SEPTEMBER 1906

ONE-HALF PENCE NEWSPAPER
WRAPPER ('BOOK POST') TO
BELGIUM.

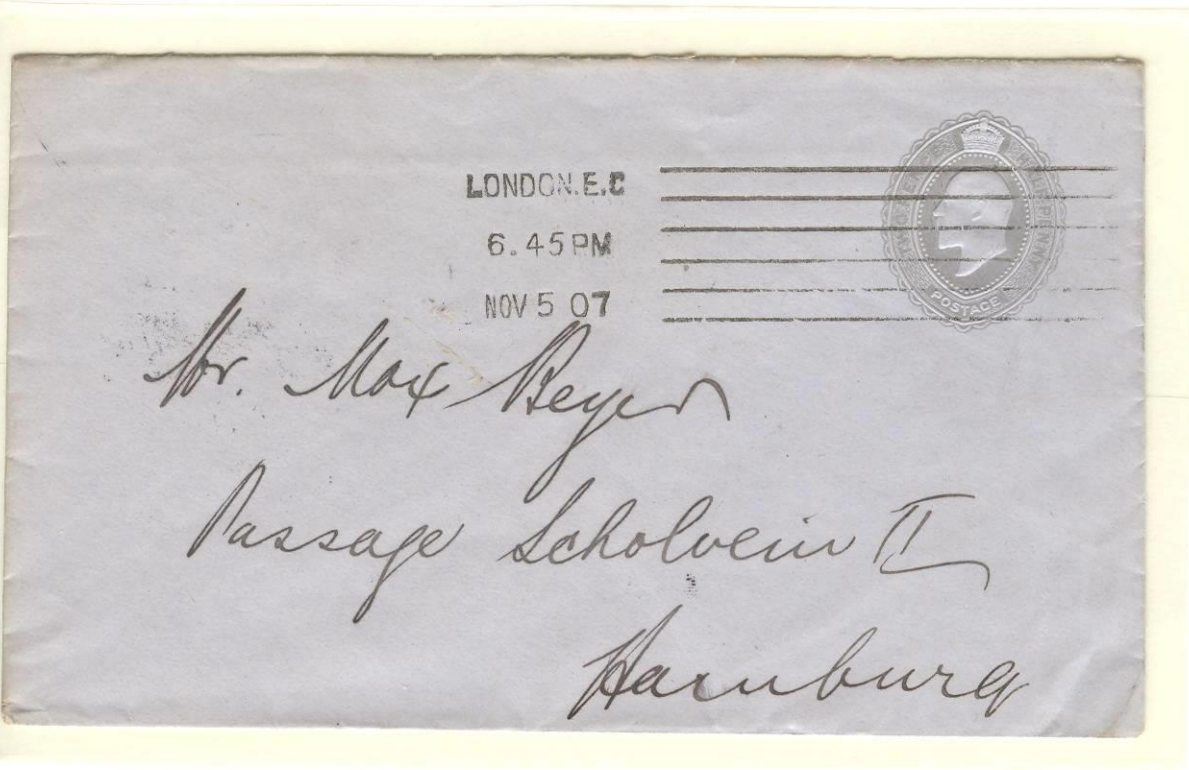
IN MID-DECEMBER 1905 THE HERETOFORE RECTANGULAR-DATER HAVING TOP & BOTTOM BARS WAS ALTERED .. ELIMINATING THE LATTER. EARLY USAGE INDICATED THE MACHINE NUMBER IN THE OBLITERATOR WHILE LATER USAGE ELIMINATED THE NUMBER.

OVERSEAS DESTINATION .. GERMANY

8 APRIL 1907

ONE-PENNY UPU POSTCARD STATIONERY FOR OVERSEAS MAIL.

ARRIVAL HANDSTAMP: 'BAD NAUHEIM, 9 APRIL 1907'



5 NOVEMBER 1907

TWO AND ONE-PENCE POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE COVERING THE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE TO EUROPE.

COLUMBIA MACHINE

POSTAGE PAID 'EARLY METER' POSTMARK

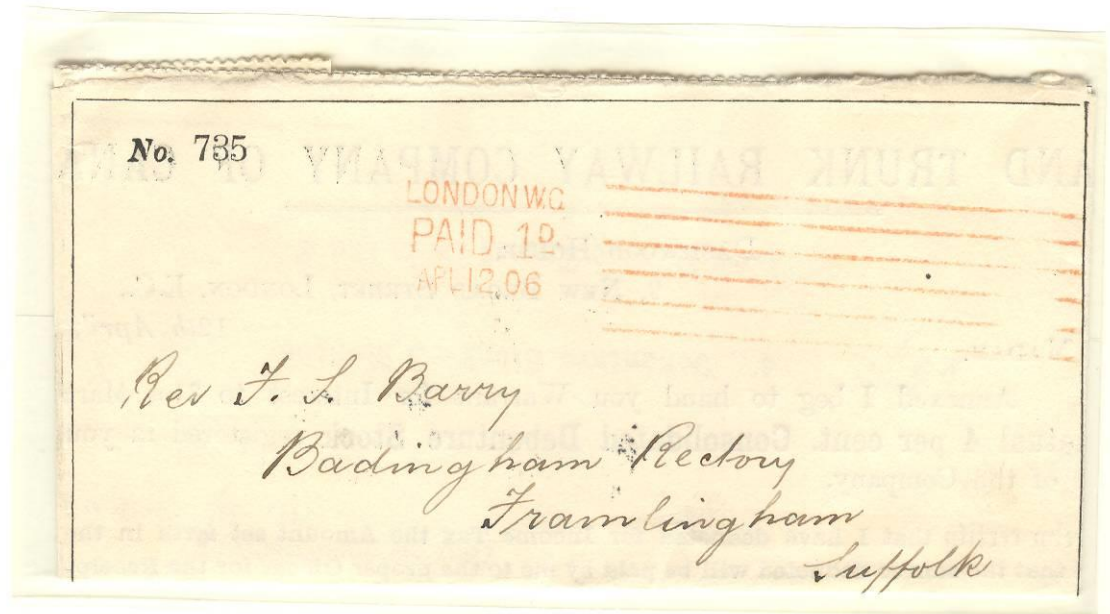
ONE OR MORE COLUMBIA MACHINES WERE UTILIZED TO APPLY 'PREPAID' POSTMARKS TO UNFRANKED BULK MAIL ... USING ORANGE-RED INK AND VARIOUS STYLES OF DATERS AND OBLITERATORS.

THESE EARLY MARKINGS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FORERUNNERS OF 'METER' MACHINES, ALBEIT APPLICATION BY THE POST OFFICE AND NOT THE MAILER.

'LONDON W.C.
PAID 1d
APRIL 12, 1906'

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE.

NOTE: NO DISCOUNT FOR
BULK MAILING &
BLOCK-STYLE
DATER..!



'LONDON W.C.
1d
PAID
JANUARY 13, 1906'

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT
DOMESTIC LETTER-RATE.

NOTE: 24mm DIAMETER
DATER DIAL.

COLUMBIA MACHINE ...

FIELD-USAGE

NON-LONDON MACHINE USAGE

WHEREAS THE PEARSON HILL PARALLEL-MOTION MACHINE WAS IN WIDE USAGE OUTSIDE OF THE LONDON POSTAL DISTRICT UNTIL CIRCA 1900, WITH THE PURCHASE OF MANY COLUMBIA MACHINES BY THE BRITISH POST OFFICE MANY MACHINES WERE ALLOCATED TO VARIOUS LARGER CITIES.

20 APRIL 1909

BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND, TO
BERLIN, GERMANY.

ONE PENNY UPU POSTCARD
RATE TO OVERSEAS DESTINATIONS.



8 JANUARY 1910

PAQUE--BOAT MAIL..
SPANISH-FRANKED BOAT MAIL
WITH POSTMARK 'PLYMOUTH,
ENGLAND'...!

COLUMBIA MACHINE

1906 - 1909

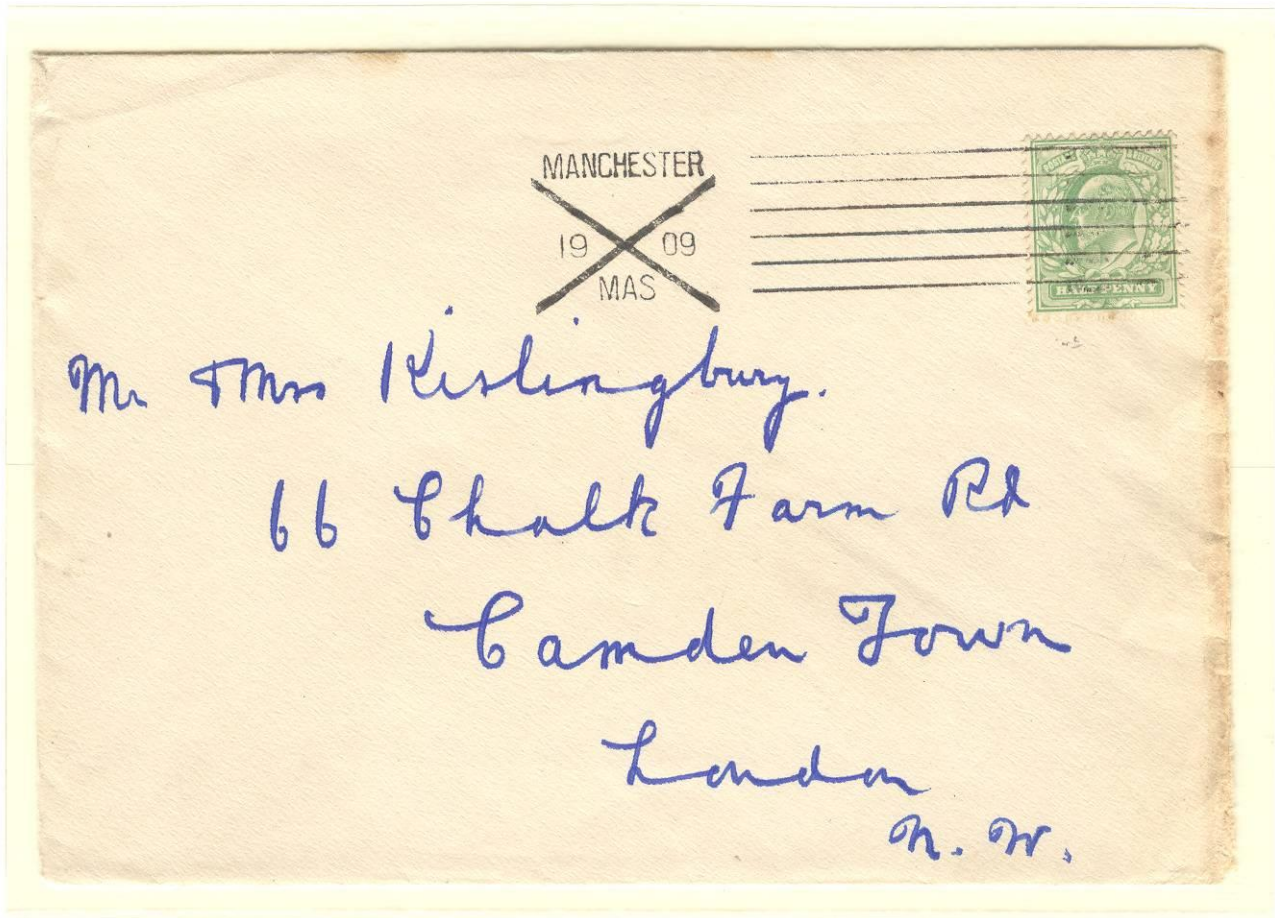
'CHRISTMAS POSTMARK' ('Xmas')

A COLUMBIA MACHINE WAS ALLOCATED TO THE MANCHESTER POST OFFICE WHERE, BETWEEN THE YEARS 1906-1909 IN ADVANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, IT APPLIED A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS POSTMARK.

POSTMARK: LARGE 'X'MAS, MANCHESTER INDICATOR .. YEAR & DATE AS WELL AS A SIX-LINE OBLITERATOR.

1909 = LAST YEAR OF USAGE

FRANKING: ONE-HALF PENCE POSTCARD RATE OR FOR PRINTED-MATTER FOR DOMESTIC USAGE



COLUMBIA MACHINES WERE ALSO UTILIZED TO APPLY RECEIVAL POSTMARKS TO INBOUND MAIL FROM DOMESTIC AND OVERSEAS ORIGIN-LOCATIONS.

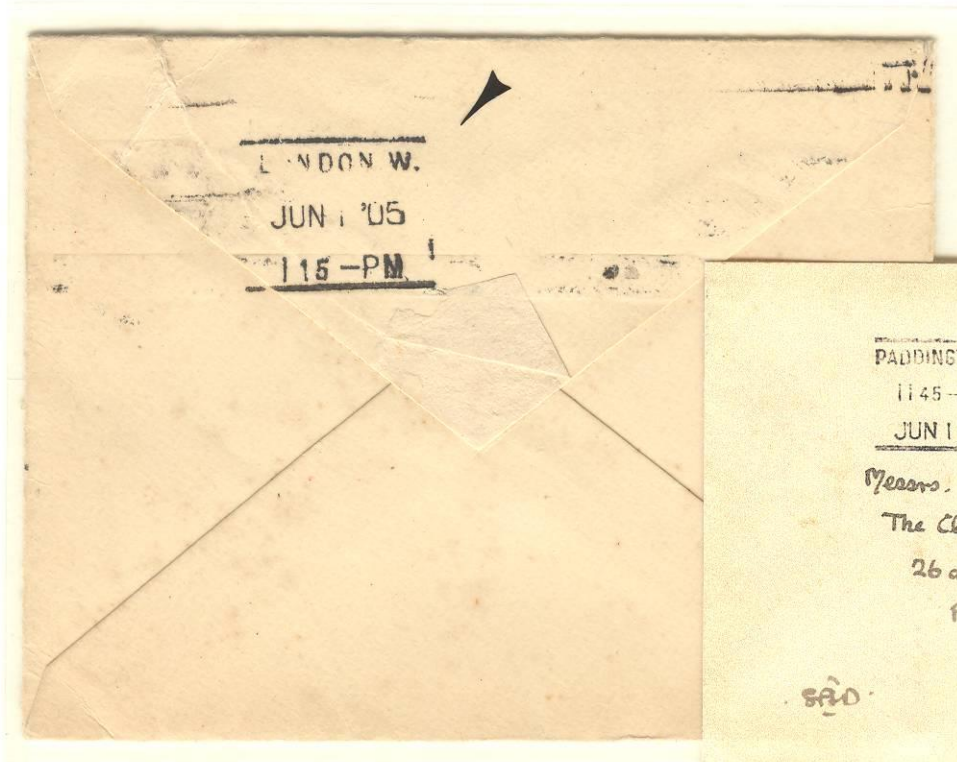


28 FEBRUARY 1905

24mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL
INBOUND MAIL FROM THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

1 JUNE 1905

RECTANGULAR-DATER WITH TOP &
BOTTOM BARS.
DOMESTIC LONDON-DISTRICT MAIL.



PADDINGTON W
1145-AM No. 21
JUN 1 '05

Messrs.
The Clarges Street Garage, Ltd.,
26 a Clarges Street,
Piccadilly,
W.

SAD

CONTINUOUS-IMPRESSION MACHINE TRIAL

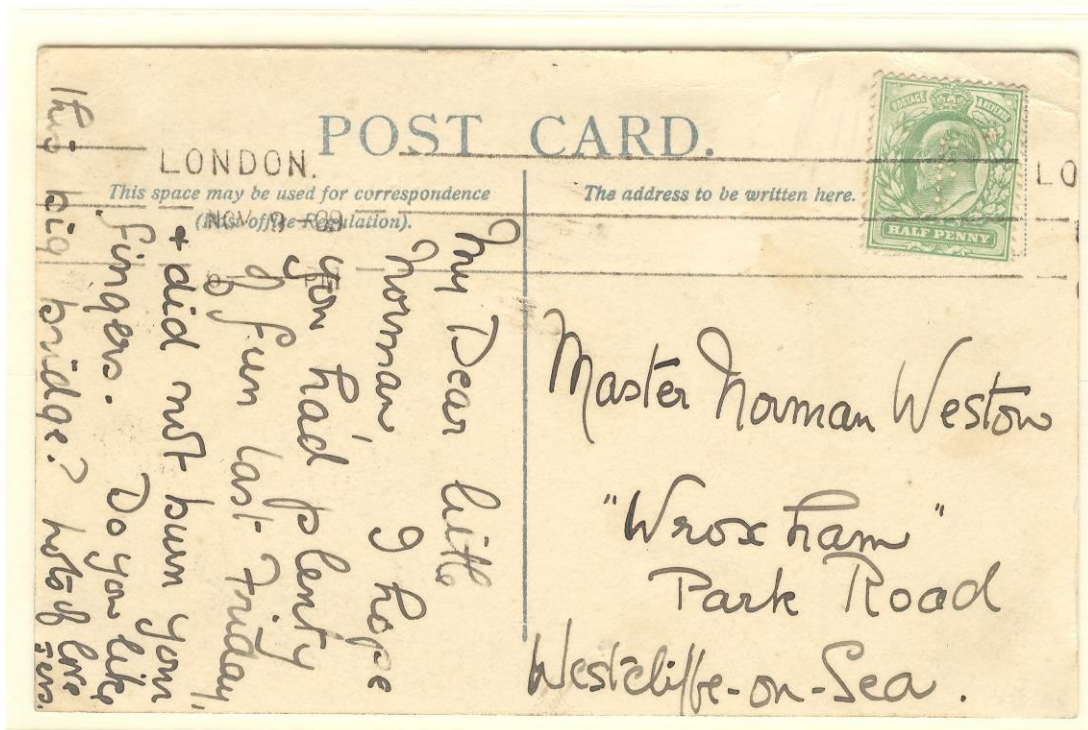
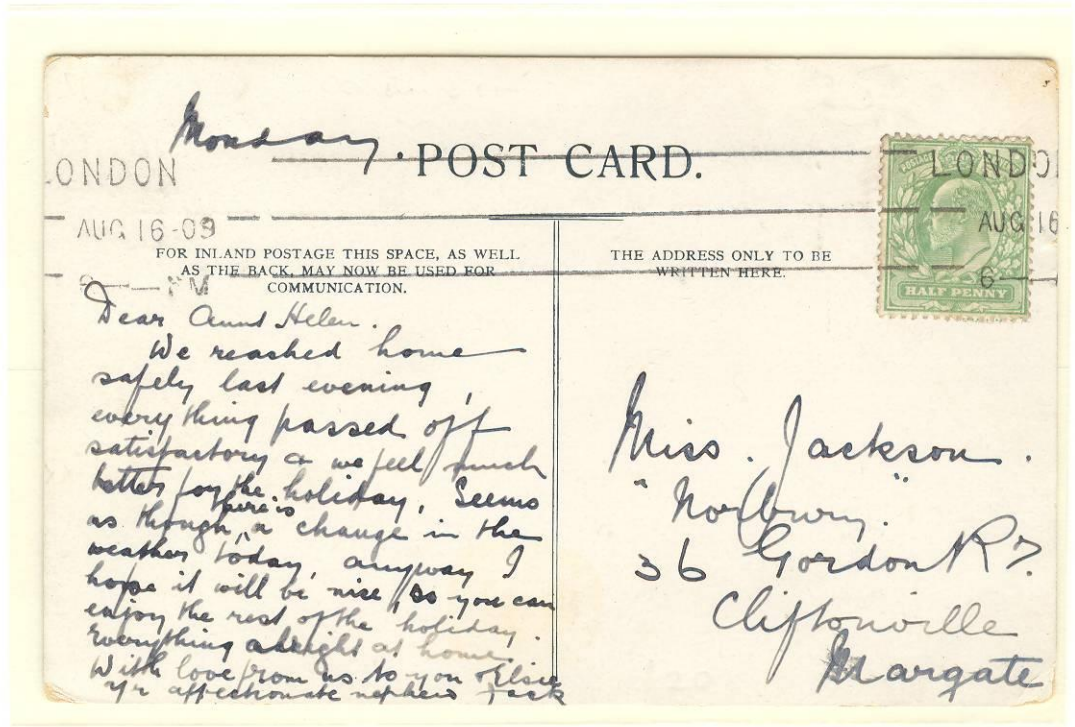
IN AN EFFORT TO COMPETE WITH THE HERETOFORE 'KRAG' MACHINE, THE COLUMBIA POSTAL SUPPLY COMPANY OF SILVER CREEK, NEW YORK, SUBMITTED A NEW TYPE OF 'COLUMBIA' MACHINE WHICH APPLIED CONTINUOUS POSTMARK IMPRESSIONS, SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE 'KRAG' MACHINE.

THE TRIAL, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT THE LONDON MOUNT PLEASANT POST OFFICE, WAS RELATIVELY SHORT-LIVED AND NOT SUCCESSFUL.

POSTMARK: NO ROUND DATER DIAL BUT 'LONDON', TIME & DATE INDICATED BETWEEN A THREE-LINE OBLITERATOR.

16 AUGUST 1909

ONE-HALF PENCE RATE
.. DOMESTIC POST CARD.



9 NOVEMBER 1909

ONE-HALF PENCE POST CARD
FRANKING WITH 'F' PERFIN!

KRAG MACHINE ...
TRIAL

18, 19 & 24 May 1905

IN 1905, THE NORWEGIAN COMPANY, KRAG-MASKINFABRIK A/S, OFFERED OFFERED THE BRITISH POST OFFICE THE WORLD'S FIRST CONTINUOUS-POSTMARK-IMPRESSION MACHINE, WHICH WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TESTED A SHORT-PERIOD DURING THREE DAYS IN MAY... AT THE LONDON W.C. DISTRICT POST OFFICE.

ALTHOUGH NOT AS RAPID AS THE 'COLUMBIA' MACHINE, THEN IN WIDE FIELD USE, THE 'KRAG' MACHINE WAS QUIETER. THE INITIAL TEST WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL, ALBEIT THE MANUFACTURER WAS GIVEN ANOTHER TEST OPPORTUNITY THE FOLLOWING YEAR USING A FASTER MACHINE.

POSTMARK: 25mm DIAMETER DOUBLE-CIRCLE DIAL WITH BRIDGE, INDICATION OF 'LONDON W.C.' AND A SEVEN HORIZONTAL-BAR OBLITERATOR BETWEEN 54mm DIAL SPACING.



18 MAY 1905

FIRST DAY OF TRIAL USAGE AT THE LONDON W.C. DISTRICT POST OFFICE.

EARLIEST RECORDED DATE. ONE OF LESS THAN FIVE EXAMPLES KNOWN!

ONE PENCE FRANKING (PERFIN) ... PROBABLY SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL MAIL.

BETWEEN 1906 & 1907 TWO SUBSEQUENT TRIALS WERE HELD AT THE 'LONDON E.C.' POST OFFICE USING ELECTRICALLY OPERATED FASTER-DESIGN 'KRAG' POSTMARKING MACHINES THAN THE TYPE USED IN THE 1905-TRIAL.

POSTMARK: 20.5mm OR 22.5mm DIAMETER DATER DIAL INDICATING 'LONDON E.C.' ALONG WITH A SEVEN-LINE OBLITERATOR SHAPED TO THE DIALS AT 55mm DIAL SPACING.

4 MARCH 1907

ONE PENCE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL .. HERE COMMERCIAL USAGE.



14 MARCH 1907

TWO & ONE-HALF PENCE LETTER-RATE (COMMERCIAL MAIL-USAGE) TO GERMANY.



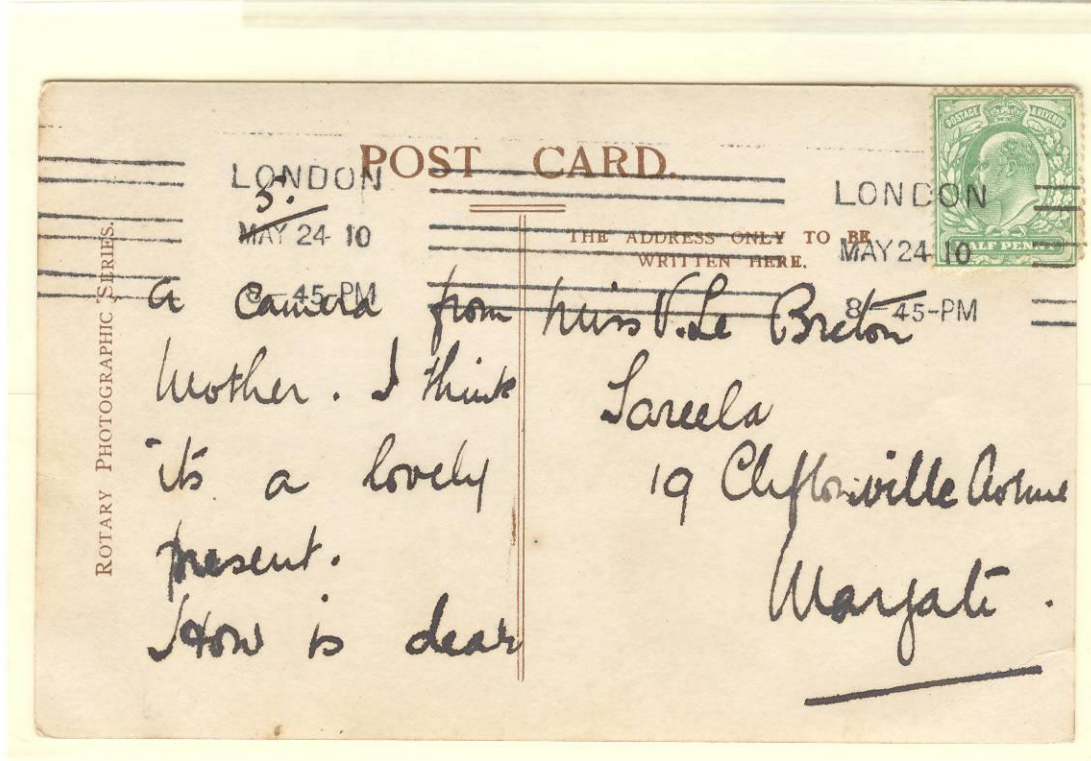
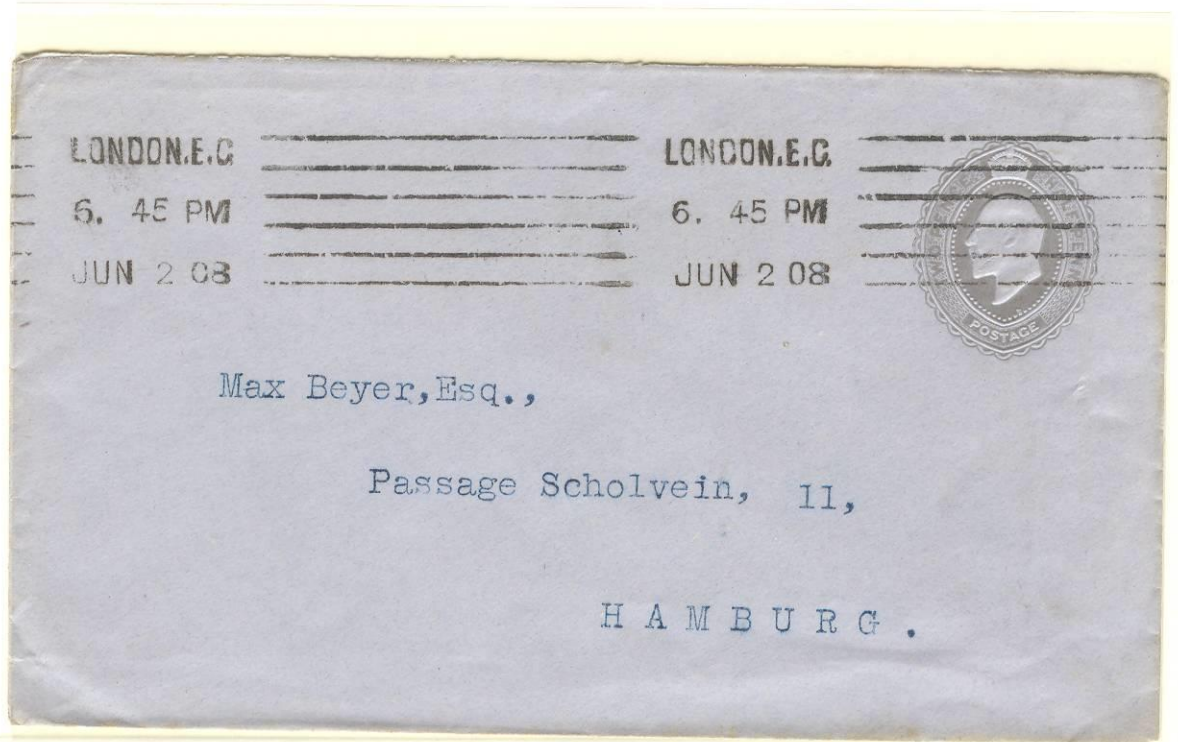
FIELD-USAGE

IN 1907, THE POST OFFICE ISSUED ORDERS THAT NEW MACHINES WOULD BE FITTED WITH RECTANGULAR-STYLE DATERS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED ON THE COLUMBIA MACHINES IN-SERVICE.

POSTMARK: RECTANGULAR-DATER BETWEEN 49mm LENGTH SIX-LINE OBLITERATOR .. CONTINUOUS IMPRESSION.

2 JUNE 1908

TWO & ONE-HALF PENCE POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPE FOR THE SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE (COMMERCIAL MAIL) TO GERMANY.



24 MAY 1910:

ONE-HALF PENCE DOMESTIC POSTCARD-RATE.

IN 1907, THE POST OFFICE ISSUED ORDERS THAT NEW MACHINES WOULD BE FITTED WITH RECTANGULAR-STYLE DATERS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED WITH THE COLUMBIA MACHINE.

POSTMARK: RECTANGULAR-DATER BETWEEN 49mm LENGTH SIX-LINE OBLITERATOR .. CONTINUOUS IMPRESSION..

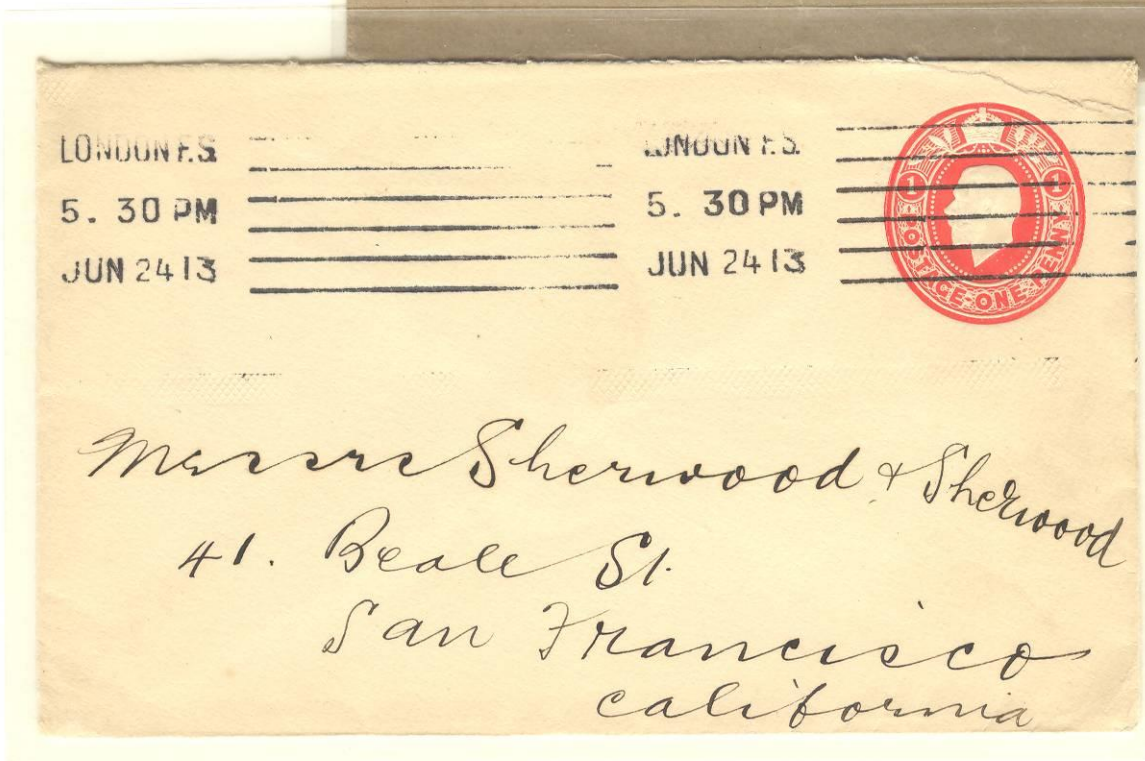
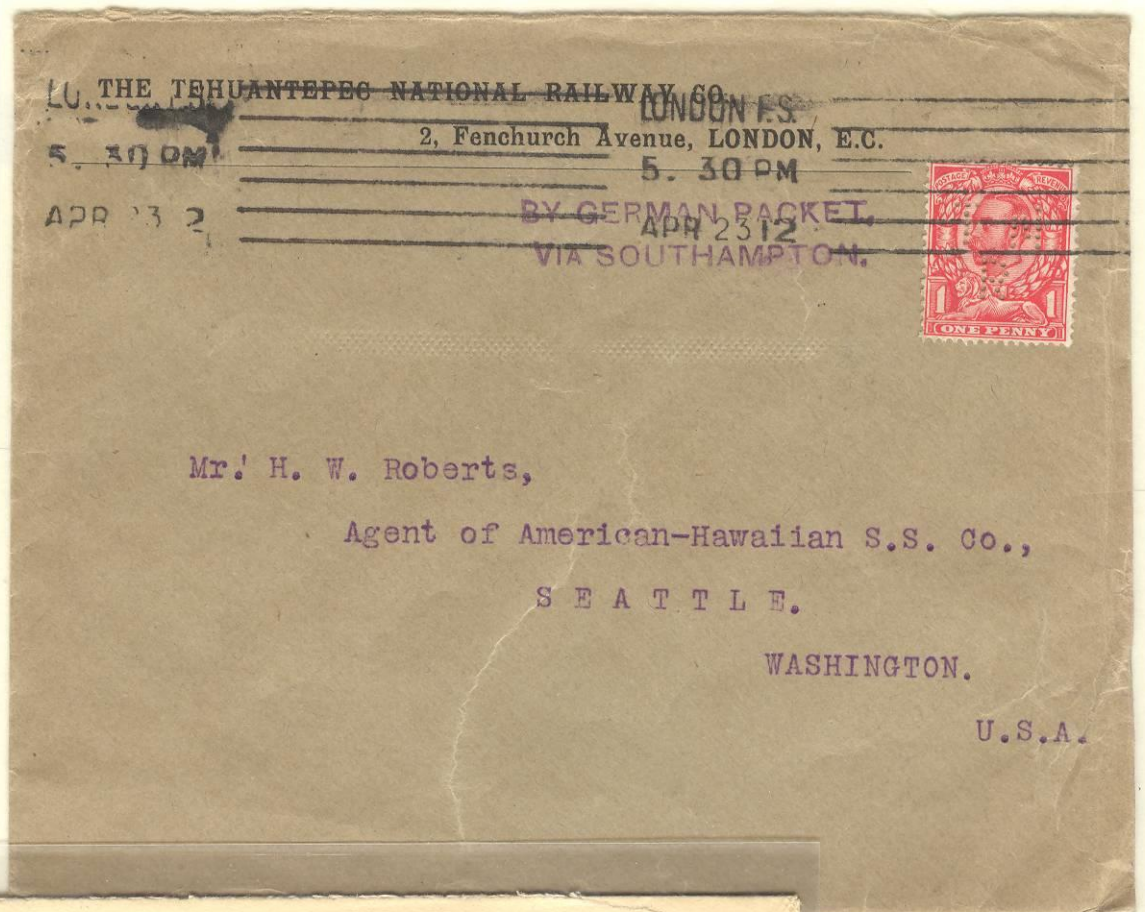
OVERSEAS DESTINATION .. UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

23 APRIL 1912

'BY GERMAN PACKET
VIA SOUTHAMPTON'

ONE PENNY SINGLE-WEIGHT
LETTER-RATE ...
PERFIN FRANKING/
COMMERCIAL MAIL ...

'THE TEHUANTEPEC
NATIONAL RAILWAY CO.'



24 JUNE 1913

ONE PENNY POSTAL
STATIONERY ENVELOPE
COVERING ONE PENNY
SINGLE-WEIGHT LETTER-RATE
TO THE UNITED STATES ..
COMMERCIAL MAIL.

SYLBE MACHINE ...

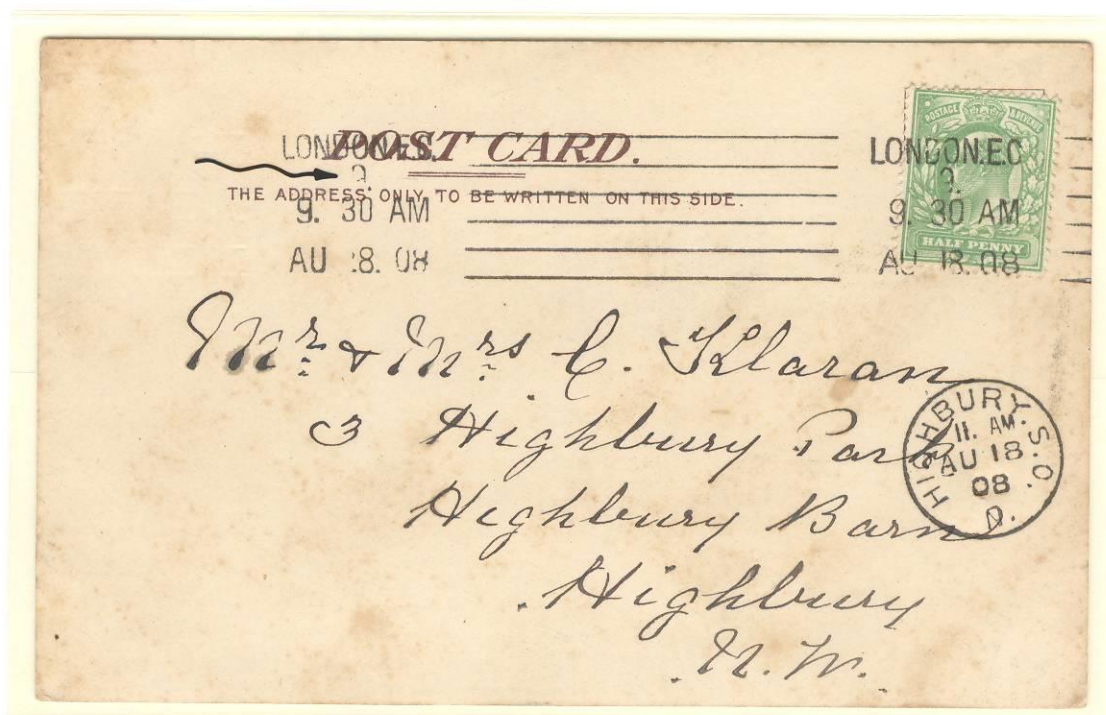
TRIAL USAGE

1907 - 1908

DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED BY THE GERMAN COMPANY, SYLBE & PONDORF OF SCHMÖLLN, GERMANY, AND INTRODUCED THERE IN 1907, THE 'SYLBE' WAS A RAPID CONTINUOUS-IMPRESSION POSTMARKING MACHINE CAPABLE OF ADJUSTMENT TO PERMIT SINGLE-IMPRESSION USAGE WHICH COULD POSTMARK 30-40% MORE MAIL THAN THE 'KRAG' MACHINE, WHICH WAS SIMILARLY BEING TESTED BY THE LONDON POST OFFICE.

ALTHOUGH IT WAS TRIED FOR OVER A YEAR BETWEEN 1907-1908, IT WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN ENGLAND, ALTHOUGH IT BECAME WIDELY USED IN GERMANY FOR MANY YEARS.

POSTMARK: RECTANGULAR-DATER BETWEEN SIX-LINE OBLITERATOR WITH '9' INDICATED BELOW 'LONDON E.C.' IN DATER.



18 AUGUST 1908

ONE-HALF PENCE POSTCARD RATE FOR DOMESTIC MAIL.

RECEIVAL MARKING:

'HIGHBURY S.O.,
AUGUST 18, 1908, 11 AM'

DESIGNED & MANUFACTURED BY THE UNIVERSAL MACHINE COMPANY OF NEW YORK BASED ON THE 'HEY-DOLPHIN' (USA) AND THE 'KRAG' (NORWAY) PATENTS. THE UNIVERSAL 'TYPE D' MACHINE WAS SUPPLIED TO THE LONDON POST OFFICE IN DECEMBER, 1910, FOR TRIALS IN 1911 WITH SUBSEQUENT WIDESPREAD USAGE RESULTING THEREAFTER.

POSTMARK: (FIRST)
22mm DATER DIAL (CODE 'C') WITH A SEVEN WAVY-LINE OBLITERATOR.

3 AUGUST 1911

LETTER/COVER POSTMARKED
'LONDON S.W. C' SENT
TO FREIBURG, GERMANY'

FOUR-PENCE LETTER-RATE
TO EUROPEAN DESTINATIONS.



11 AUGUST 1911

RECEIVAL MARKING APPLIED
BY A UNIVERSAL MACHINE
DURING THE TRIAL PERIOD
ON A DOMESTIC LETTER/
COVER.

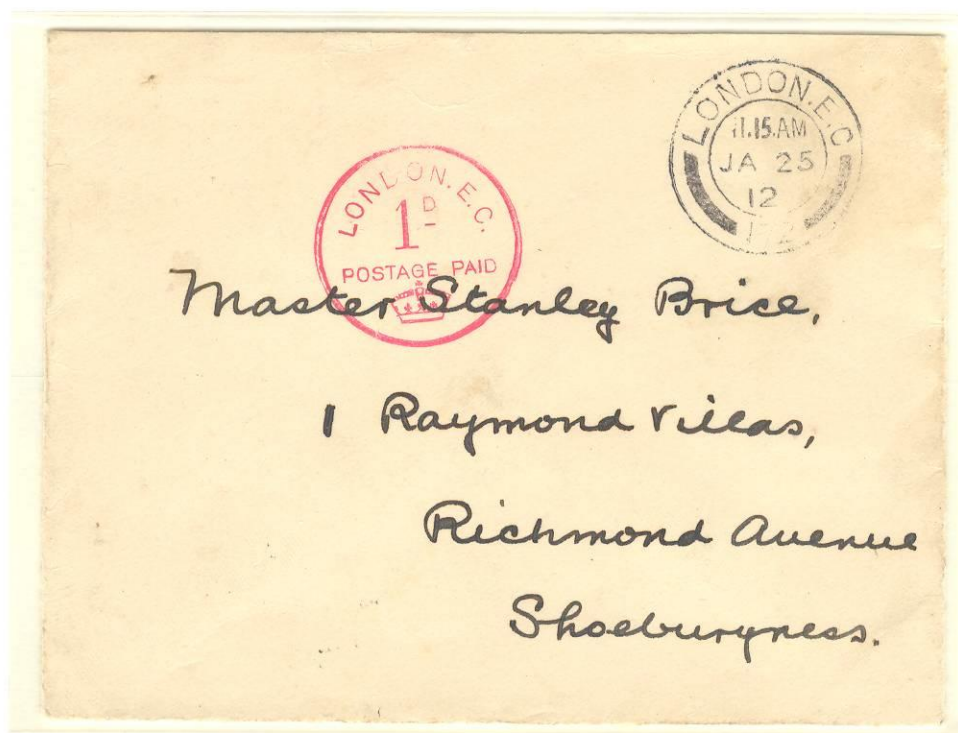


POSTAGE PAID 'EARLY METER' POSTMARK

BETWEEN 1909 - 1926, MR. F. WILKINSON OF BRAINTREE, ENGLAND, ATTEMPTED TO SELL THE BRITISH POST OFFICE HIS 'STAMPLESS POST MACHINE', WHICH WAS INFACT A SELF-POSTMARKING, COIN-OPERATED DEVICE...

THE MAILER INSERTED A PENCE-COIN AND HIS/HER LETTER/COVER INTO THE MACHINE. A HANDLE WAS TURNED TWICE WHEREUPON A POSTAGE PAID STAMP-MARKING WAS APPLIED TO THE COVER, WHICH WAS RETAINED IN THE MACHINE. A POSTAL CLERK WOULD RETRIEVE THE MAIL AT DAILY INTERVALS AND APPLY A TIME-DATED HANDSTAMP.

THE ONLY FORMAL TRIAL FOR THE MACHINE TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 25 JANUARY - 31 AUGUST 1912 AT THE LONDON E.C. POST OFFICE. HOWEVER, THE MACHINE WAS NOT ADOPTED BY THE POST OFFICE, ALBEIT THIS TRIAL COULD BE CONSIDERED A FORERUNNER FOR LATER POSTAGE METER MACHINES AND RELATED TRIALS.



25 JANUARY 1912

FIRST DAY OF USAGE...
ONE OF 1060 COVERS PROCESSED
ON THAT DAY.

A BLACK-INKED COLORED TIME-DATED
HANDSTAMP WAS ONLY USED ON THE
FIRST DAY. THE POSTAGE-PAID
MARKING WAS ALWAYS RED, VIOLET OR
PURPLE IN COLOR.

NOTE: THIS PARTICULAR COVER WAS
THE FIRST COVER OFFICIALLY MAILED ...
BY THE POSTMASTER OF THE LONDON
E.C. POST OFFICE TO HIS SON ..
AS VERIFIED BY THE ENCLOSURE.

WILKINSON MACHINE

ENCLOSURE DATED 25 JANUARY 1912 FROM THE POSTMASTER
OF THE LONDON E.C. POST OFFICE MAILED TO HIS SON
IN THE FIRST OFFICIALLY PROCESSED MAIL FROM THE
TRIAL 'WILKINSON'... 'PENNY-IN-THE-SLOT' MACHINE.

General Post office
25th January '12.

Dear Stanley,

The stamp on the
envelope is one of the first
to be issued, This is the
first day. You must
keep it until you are
116 years of age. It will
then be over 100 years old.
Tell mother I shall be home
before you receive this.

Dada.

WILKINSON MACHINE

TRIAL... 25 JANUARY - 31 AUGUST 1912

POSTAGE PAID 'EARLY METER' POSTMARK

AFTER THE 25 JANUARY 1912 FIRST-DAY-OF-USAGE, ALL SUBSEQUENT TIME-DATED HANDSTAMPS WERE ORANGE-RED IN COLOR.

13 MARCH 1912

COMMERCIAL MAIL/
ADVERTISING COVER ..
DOMESTIC USAGE.

BACKSTAMP:
'ROTHERH.. 13 MARCH
1912'



9 MAY 1912

COMMERCIAL MAIL COVER.

BACKSTAMP:
'RICKMANSWORTH, 9 MAY 1912'

WILKINSON MACHINE

TRIAL... 15 JANUARY - 31 AUGUST 1912

POSTAGE PAID 'EARLY METER' POSTMARK

ON 31 AUGUST 1912, THE TRIAL OF THE 'WILKINSON' OR 'PENNY IN THE SLOT' MACHINE CEASED. LESS THAN AN ESTIMATED 6000 COVERS IN TOTAL WERE PROCESSED THROUGH THE MACHINE. RELATIVELY FEW COVERS HAVE SURVIVED.



31 AUGUST 1912

LAST-DAY-OF-USAGE COVER!

WITH THE END OF THE WILKINSON MACHINE TRIAL, THE 'CLASSICAL' PERIOD OF BRITISH MACHINE POSTMARKING MACHINE TRIALS CAME TO AN END.