

**BARRED NUMERAL
CANCELLATIONS
OF
ENGLAND
AND
WALES**

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KEN SMITH

PROF. CEDRIC PRYS-ROBERTS (WALES)



HUNTINGDONSHIRE

BARRED NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS OF ENGLAND AND WALES

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WITH
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This download is from the six-volume edition published between 2011&2013 by
John Parmenter 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU.

It incorporates the following:

- 1/ Status of the Offices that used barred numeral cancellations.
- 2/ A list of the Sub Offices of major Offices that used barred numeral cancels.
- 3/ The later numeral allocations that were made after barred numerals ceased to be issued.

Dates, codes and times in red are new to the published volumes.

Dates of a change in status are derived largely from the Post Office Guide for January of each year, if a change occurs in say the 1865 edition, it actually took place sometime in 1864.

Status of the Offices

Head Post Offices / Post Town collected, sorted, cancelled and distributed mail from and to a series of Subordinate Offices.

The address of mail sent to a place with a Head Office would end just with the name of the town i.e. Bedford.

Independent Sub Offices evolved in the second half of the 19th Century having an address that was independent of the nearest Head Office, most of their mail could come straight to them.

Mail sent to these addresses ended with S.O. and the county name.

i.e. Shefford S.O. Beds. (from 1873 to 1886)

Railway Sub Offices (R.S.O.)

These were offices that received and sent their mail to a travelling railway post office rather than a conventional head office.

i.e. Shefford R.S.O. Beds. (from 1886 to 1905)

When the term "Railway Sub Office" was abolished in 1905, these became Independent Sub Offices; in 1909 they became Post Towns. Although the term R.S.O. was abolished in 1905 it remained in use in many cds's for several years afterwards.

Subordinate Offices The address of mail sent there had to include the name of the Head Office:-

i.e. Potton, Biggleswade. (1844 to 1854)

i.e. Potton, St Neots. (1854 to 1872)

i.e. Potton, Sandy. (1872 to present)

These normally received and sent most of their mail direct to a Head Office.

In the text the dates given are for the length of time that they were sub offices not the period of use of barred numerals.

A Sub Office in an urban environment, before 1892 was called a Town Receiving Office.

LETTER BOXES.

Pillar Boxes and Wall Boxes, did not normally have their own cancellation, exception were Late Fee Letter Boxes at Railway Stations. The cancellation was applied either in the Travelling Post Office, eg. Euston Square Station with its provincial style 964 cancellation, or in transit the Manchester/Liverpool/Leeds/Bradford Late Box cancellations which were cancelled in London.

THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE CANCELLATIONS:

1844 type for the single obliterators issued to all the offices in the lists to 1850.



1844

3HOS is a 3 Bar Horizontal Oval Single obliterator

The 3HOS replaced the 1844 type in the 1850's. They can sometimes be very similar in that the 1844's can have three bars at the top and base. The key characteristic to separate these from a subsequently issued 3HOS is the length of the uppermost and lowermost bars. These are long in the 1844 type and short and often convex in the 3HOS. The figure 4 almost always has a serif on the horizontal bar in 1844s and is always sans serif in the 3HOSs.



3HOS



3TH.HOS

4VOS is a 4 Bar Vertical Oval Single obliterator

3VOS is a 3 Bar Vertical Oval Single obliterator

Obliterators that were first issued as a 4VOS can through wear and local recutting become a 3VOS or indeed rarely a 2VOS. As these always derive from the original 4VOS they are placed in that category. The evidence is that the size of the figures and letters stay the same despite the reduction in the number of bars. True 3VOS's are separately proofed as such and frequently replace a 4VOS.



4VOS



3VOS



3CD

3 bar Circular oval Duplex



4VOD



3VOD

Spoon and sideways duplex are pre-existing categories that have been used

4 bar Vertical Oval Duplex 3 bar Vertical Oval Duplex

3VODX A distinctive pattern of 3VOD was sent to 21 towns on 10 MAY1873. In the Proof Books the cds and obliterator were separately entered, with the cds often at an angle and some distance from the obliterator. In use the cds and obliterator were also some distance apart, they were the first 3VOD cancels to be issued. They are often described as a 3VOS in the literature. Of the 21, three are common Birmingham, Manchester and Cheltenham, 11 are very rare, and 7 have never been seen. They might have been for use in an experimental new style of handstamp or cancelling machine. Whatever the nature of the experiment it appears to not to have been successful.

ILLUSTRATIONS

The majority of the illustrations are face different Proof Book entries. These have been photocopied from photocopies held in the Post Office archive.

There are very few examples of the 1844 type in the Proof Books, most examples in the catalogue have been traced from actual examples.

If there are two identical copies of a cancel entered at the same in the Proof Books this can often be shown to be the issue of two different cancels. The official stamping the entry found it easier to make two impressions of the same cancel rather than one of each.

DATE OF ISSUE

The date attached to each illustration is the first date of entry in the Proof Books. Just the month and year are quoted because of the ambiguities in the various possible dates: -

1/ The date a cancellation was sent to a Head Office, this was not always the final destination.

2/ The date in the cds of the cancellation, this is not always the same as the date sent. It can indeed be almost a year out. Volume 15 of the Proof Books consists of cut outs of cancellations, these are often duplicate entries of cancels that are in other Proof Books - however the cds date in volume 15 can often be much earlier in the year than the date in the other Proof Books. The earlier date is certainly the correct one.

3/ The date a cancel was proofed – this is in a column marked “sent” in the Proof Books.

In the literature any of these three sources could have been used for the “date of issue”.

RARITY & PRICE

The rarity index ranges from A = abundant to H = very few recorded. H* has been used for proofed cancels that have only been recorded on loose stamp.

GPO means that the cancel has only been seen in the Proof Books.

Prices for coloured cancels have not been quoted, there is too much variation.

Prices have not been updated from those quoted in the six volume set issued 2011 to 2013 - i.e. they are at least 10 years old.

POST OFFICE LISTS

The list of numeral allocations comes from a combination of several sources:-

1/ The Official Lists held in various forms in the Post Office Archives and several that are privately held.

2/ Individual changes in allocation listed in the Post Office Circular, which was a set of weekly instructions to Postmasters.

The Official Lists that have been used:-

1844 – contained in Dendy Marshall’s book. Thus seen by Brumell.

1845 - 1847 - 1855 - 1856 - 1857 contained in the relevant Post Office Directory.

1874 - 1882 - 1887 - 1892 - currently available in the Post Office Archives, in their file Post 55. The 1882 list is new, it was not seen or mentioned by Brumell.

1899 - Brumell mentions a list that he had not seen that was quoted by Whitworth (Southport 1905) as the “1899” list. Post Office Archives have an 1887 list with manuscript additions up to about 1900. This is certainly Whitworth’s “1899” list.

1902 - seen and listed by Brumell, but there is no longer a copy in the Post Office Archives.

1906 - currently available in the Post Office Archives, in Post 55. This was the last list used by Brumell.

1924, 1929 and 1949 - these have recently become available in the Post Office Archives, in Post 55, called Post Office Form 1013. They were not available to Mackay.

1954, 1959 - listed by George Pearson in his 1959 publication. The lists are not in the Post Office Archives.

1962 - an original list seen and quoted by Mackay. Given by him in 1990 to the Post Office Archives, but no longer available. A privately held copy has been downloaded from the GBPS website.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

George Brumell, *British Post Office Numbers 1844 – 1906*. R.C.Alcock Cheltenham 1946 and 1971. The collectors "bible", the first edition had a section on postmarks, which was unfortunately left out of the later 1971 edition. It also contained a good description of earlier books published on Post Office numbers.

George Pearson, *List of Index Numbers used in Surcharge Explanatory and other Stamps in Great Britain and Northern Ireland*. Privately printed 1959. The only source for the 1954 and 1959 lists. A rare publication.

James A. Mackay, *British Post Office Numbers 1924 to 1969*. Published by the author 1981.

A good summary of what information was available at that time.

Marshall, Dendy *The British Post Office from its beginnings to the end of 1925*. Oxford University Press 1926. An interesting collection of information on the history of stamp issues and an index of people, places and items associated with British Postal history. Contains a good annotated bibliography.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This has been a cooperative effort, with over two hundred and fifty correspondents over the last forty years. Their input varies from a making a few additions to complete editing of whole chapters.

Particular help has been provided over many years by Grahame Blackman and David Tolfrey.

Post Office Archives: Many thanks for all their help in the past, although under the current regime research is becoming increasingly difficult. This follows a general tendency amongst archivists to make preservation the all-pervading priority and making access secondary.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE INDEX 396

BUCKDEN 397
 HUNTINGDON 396
 KIMBOLTON 416
 RAMSEY 028 & J66 - 633

SOMERSHAM 681
 ST.IVES 680
 ST.NEOTS 686
 STILTON 731

396 HUNTINGDON

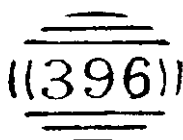
Head Post Office 1844 to ? Branch Office to Franchised Post Office in 1994.

Huntingdon was allocated number 396 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.

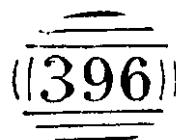
Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- 397 Buckden 1844 onwards. 028 & J68 Ramsey 1844 onwards.



1844
APR1844



3HOS
APR1854



3HOS
NOV1857

1844 Used from 8 OCT1844 to 18 JUN1850 Price G £40

3HOS Used from 6 OCT1863 to 31 JAN1856 Price H £50



3VOS
NOV1875



SDWYSII
MAY1856

3VOS No dated copies recorded Price H* £60 (Price if found on dated cover)

SDWYS II Used from 20 OCT1856 to 27 MAR1857 Codes: A B BinV Price F £80



3CD
JAN1858



4VODA
AUG1867



4VODA
OCT1871



3CD Used from 2 AUG1859 to 30 JUL1867 Codes: B 8 Price C £4

4VODA (Round top three) Used from 1 SEP1867 to 3 OCT1880 Codes: A B C Price A £3

HUNTINGDONSHIRE 396-416



4VODB
AUG1876

4VODB (Flat top three) Used from 25 JUN1878 to 24 OCT1879 Codes: A C Price F £15



3VOD
MAR1881



3VOD
DEC1882

3VOD Time in code Used from 13 APR1883 to 7 OCT1910

Codes: A B F I J N O P R X 2C 2H 2J 2L 2M 2S 2T 8 Price A £3

3VOD Time in full Used from 1 JUL1902 to 23 DEC1904

Times: 2PM 8PM 9PM Price F £6

Squared Circles in use: JAN1886 to FEB1906

397 BUCKDEN

Sub Office of Huntingdon 1844 onwards.

Buckden was allocated number 397 in the lists from 1844 to 1857.

Number 397 was later allocated to Crayford (Kent) 1882 to 1906 and Huyton (Lancs) 1924 to 1962.

1844 21 FEB1845 to 9 MAR1857 Price H £100+

Occurs with a Buckden straight line mark and Huntingdon cds

1844 in blue Used from FEB1852 to 9MAR1857

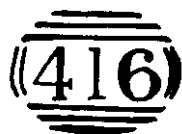


1844
APR1844

416 KIMBOLTON

Head Post Office 1844 to 1855, Sub Office of St.Neots 1855 to 1907, Sub Office of Huntingdon 1907 to present.

Kimbolton was allocated number 416 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.



1844
APR1844



3VOS
NOV1875

HUNTINGDONSHIRE 416-680

1844 Used from 24 FEB1851 to 28 DEC1871 Price F £15

3VOS Used from 22 AUG1876 to 17 MAY1881 Price F £15



3VOD Used from 12 SEP1888 to 26 AUG1929 Codes: A B C Price A £4

633 Ramsey

Ramsey was allocated number 633 in the lists from 1924 to 1962.

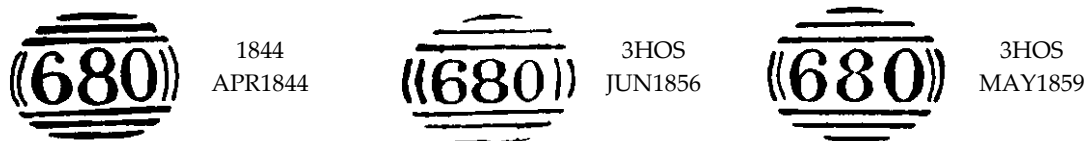
680 ST.IVES

Head Post Office 1844 to 1916, Salaried Scale Post Office 1916 to 1942,

Sub Office of Huntingdon 1942 to present.

St Ives was allocated number 680 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.

Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- 681 Somersham 1844 to 1935.



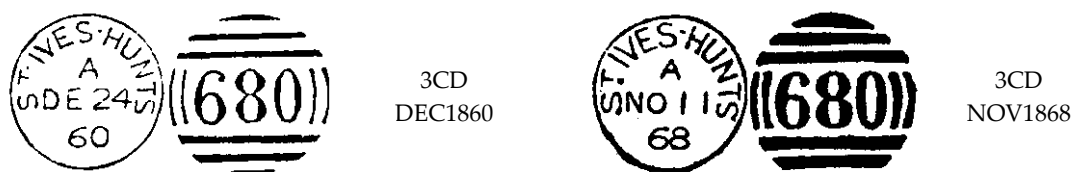
1844 Used from 8 MAY1844 to 4 APR1856 Price E £10

3HOS Used from 3 SEP1856 to 24 MAY1859 Price G £20



4VOS Used on 3 SEP1869 Price H £40

3VOS Used from 12 JUN1912 to 9 FEB1915 Price H £20



HUNTINGDONSHIRE 680-686

3CD Used from 23 MAR1863 to 8 FEB1871 Codes: B C D Price C £3



4VOD
FEB1871



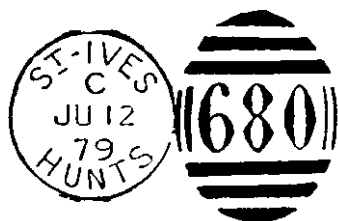
4VOD
MAY1877



4VOD
JAN1878

4VOD Used from 25 AUG1871 to 7 OCT1879 Codes: C D E Price D £6

4VOD in blue Used on 23 JUL1878



3VOD
JUN1879

3VOD Time in code Used from 14 APR1880 to 9 JUL1894 Codes: C D F G H I L M

Price C £3

3VOD Time in asterisk code Used on 21 JAN1895 Codes: FC*P GH*P Price H £25

3VOD Time in full Used from 26 MAR1895 to 8 SEP1904

Times: 3AM 615AM 830AM 930AM 11AM 1130AM 1215PM 230PM 330PM 430PM 5PM

6PM 7PM 715PM 745PM 830PM 530 Price A £3

Squared Circles in use: JAN1881 to OCT1883

681 SOMERSHAM

Sub Office of St.Ives 1844 to 1935, Sub Office of Huntingdon 1935 to present.

Somersham was allocated number 681 in the 1844 to 1857 lists.

Number 681 was later allocated to Dukinfield (Ches) 1882 to 1962.

1844 16 DEC1845 to 10 DEC1856 Price H £100+

Occurs with a Somersham cud and a St.Ives transit cds.



1844
APR1844

686 ST.NEOTS

Head Post Office 1844 to 1942, Sub Office of Huntingdon 1942 to present.

St Neots was allocated number 686 in all the lists from 1844 to 1962.

Sub Office (that used barred numerals):- Kimbolton(416) 1855 to 1907. Potton(D80) 1854 to 1872.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE 686



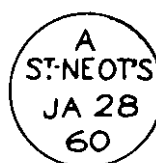
1844
APR1844



4VOS OC-
T1866

1844 Used from 2 JUN1844 to 28 FEB1865 Price B £5

4VOS Used from 2 APR1869 to 24 MAR1881 Price H £50



3CDA
JAN1860



3CDA
JAN1860

3CDA (St Neot's) Used from 9 FEB1860 to 3 AUG1861 Codes: B C Price F £20



3CDB
APR1862

3CDB (St Neots) Used from 30 OCT1863 to 1 DEC1868 Codes: B C D E Price B £3



4VODA
FEB1869



4VODB
AUG1872

4VODA (Straight St Neots) Used from 30 MAR1870 to 12 JUN1872

Codes: B E F Price G £30

4VODB (Curved St Neots) Used from 8 DEC1872 to 22 SEP1883

Codes: B D E F G Price D £3



3VOD
OCT1883

HUNTINGDONSHIRE 686-J66

3VOD Used from 28 JAN1884 to 2 JAN1897 Codes: G K J Price H £50
Squared Circles in use: OCT1886 to JAN1905

731 STILTON

Head Post Office 1844 to 1855, Sub Office of Peterborough 1855 to present.
Stilton was allocated number 731 in the lists from 1844 to 1857.
Number 731 was later allocated to Spelter Works (Glam) 1882 to 1887.
Caerau (Glam) 1906. Stanstead (Essex) 1924 to 1962.

1844 Used from 28 NOV1845 to 7 DEC1856 Price H £100+



1844
APR1844

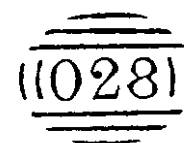
028 RAMSEY

Sub Office of Huntingdon 1844 onwards.

Ramsey was allocated 028 in the lists from 1855 to 1857 and then J66 from 1892 to 1906 and finally 633 from 1924 to 1962.

028 was later allocated to St Keyne (Cornwall) 1882 to 1924, Corfe Castle (Dorset) 1959 to 1962.

3HOS Used from 29 SEP1854 to 31 OCT1858 Price G £80+



3HOS
JUN1854

J66 RAMSEY

Sub Office of Huntingdon 1844 onwards.

Ramsey was allocated 028 in the lists from 1855 to 1857 and then J66 from 1892 to 1906 and finally 633 from 1924 to 1962.

3VOD Time in code Used from 21 MAR1894 to 10 MAY1904

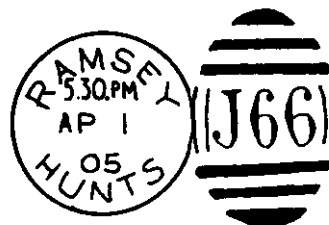
Codes: A B C E Price C £6

3VOD Time in full Used from 28 SEP1904 to 24 OCT1919

Times: 630AM 9AM 1215PM 5PM 515PM 530PM 545PM 630PM 745PM 8PM 815PM none (xmas) Price A £3



3VOD NOT ENTERED
IN THE PROOF BOOKS



3VOD NOT ENTERED
IN THE PROOF BOOKS