

LONDON CANCELS Development during the Victorian Period – SYNOPSIS

This Exhibit has been modified to implement previous suggestions from Judges.

Treatment

There are 6 frames laid out in segments as listed below with the main focus on the markings used to obliterate stamps and deal with different mail situations.

Organization

A major challenge has been how to display and organize the obliterators. The order I have selected has been reached after trying numerous formats and I feel this is the most logical for viewing by the public and the judges. I have chosen to exhibit by date of issue of the cancel followed by date of use. For the Upright Duplex Oval obliterator, I have chosen to display more of the cancel types issued from the East Central District and limited numbers from the other districts in order to avoid duplication. The primary difference is the District initials. Secondary information provided is either rates or route or both. All facsimiles are either blown up or reduced in size. The period covered is from 1840 to the last use of the Queen Victoria Bickerdike cancel in 1901. A prologue shows covers as used in 1902 before the Postage stamp was issued.

Significance

This exhibit deals with the development of the London postal markings from the Maltese Cross to the Machine Applied Duplex and the combined Date and Obliterator cancels of the final decade of the nineteenth century and ancillary marks to cover certain situations such as Late Mail, etc. With the introduction of the adhesive postage stamp it was essential for some form of obliteration be introduced which would ensure that the stamp could not be used a second time.

All obliterators are dealt with in the exhibit except the Empire cancel of which there are only two copies and both are not available at time of printing. The other is the Malin, only 4 recorded copies, none available.

Limitation

Due to the vast number of variations to the obliterators issued I have tried to present a balanced cross section without repeating endlessly.

Philatelic Knowledge and Research

Most of my research involved the reading of the books listed under reference. I have also visited and used the British Postal Museum archives and as a member of the RPSL I have had access to their vast library. I have also relied on the assistance of many dealers and fellow collectors which I greatly appreciate. In doing my research I have been able to correct previous assumptions previously published concerning the Flag cancel tests of 1897. I have also been able to correct earliest and latest known dates for several items. I continue to learn.

Rarity and Condition

Finding clean and affordable material is difficult, common covers were generally not saved and the experimental covers are very elusive. Since starting the exhibit I have been able to secure some elusive material and by doing so have improved the exhibit. I consider this to be an ongoing process. None of the material has been repaired or altered and is in its original condition as found.

Below is a selection of what this exhibitor deems to be the most uncommon and interesting items displayed. Many more items could be substituted for those chosen. Items are highlighted by blue matting. Other significant items are described using *Blue Bold Print*

	Frame/Page	
Mulready cover with number 6 Maltese Cross	1/10	This combination is very elusive
Roller Type 3 and 4	2/27	Very few recorded examples
Pearson Hill 1 st machine on cover	2/28-29	One of 20+ recorded covers
Pearson Hill "M" Morning Duty	2/28	One of 7 recorded copies
Pearson Hill Opera Glass	2/29	Very few recorded examples
G. H. Cresswell Duplex	3/34	Only known use on Lady's Envelope and Earliest use
Charles Rideout reversed CR - RC	4/51	Example of the elusive reversal
Sloper Cross & Orb	4/54	One of two recorded examples issued after 1870
Hoster Covers for N.P.B. and Charing Cross	5/71	NPB only known 3 Star cancel
Etheridge Cover	5/75	Very hard to find
Hey & Dolphin	5/76	Earliest known use
Imperial Mail Marking Machine	5/78	One of three Proof examples
Bickerdike Jubilee Cancel (Imperial)	5/79	One of two known copies
Bickerdike 1 st Trial Machine	6/80	One of a few known copies that survived
Page from the notebook of John Brooks Young	6/80	Original
Bickerdike 2 nd Trial Machine	6/81	One of two recorded with wrong crown
Bickerdike 2 nd Trial Machine	6/82	Only known copy on 2½d
Boston 1 st Trial Machine	6/85	Latest known copy of Die 1
Boston 1 st Trial Machine	6/85	Latest known copy of Die 2
Returned Letter Office	6/95	One of two recorded covers in Buff

References

Postal Cancellations of London 1840 - 1890 by H.C. Westley.

Early Experimental & Inland Branch Cancellations by John Parmenter with Anthony Shine and John Hine.

The Bickerdike Machine Papers by Geoffrey R Newman

The original notebook of John Brooks Young regarding the Bickerdike

Numerous publications issued by the Great Britain Philatelic Society

UK Machine Marks by Jack Peach

Subject	Frame	Page
Chapter 1 Introduction of the Adhesive Postage Stamp		
Title Page	1	1
Prologue - Before the Postage Stamp	1	2
Maltese Cross	1	3 - 6
Numbers in the Maltese Cross	1	7 - 13
Chapter 2 Introduction of the Barred Cancel		
Horizontal Oval Inland Office	1/2	14 - 18
Horizontal Oval Inland Office Double Diamond	2	19 - 20
Horizontal Oval Inland Office Triple Diamond	2	21
Horizontal Oval Inland Branch Double Diamond	2	22
Horizontal Oval London District Post	2	23 - 25
Chapter 3 The need to speed up the process		
Early Hand Applies Double Stamps	2	26
Roller	2	27
Pearson Hill First Trial Machine	2	28/29
Pearson Hill Second Trial Machine	2	29
Pearson Hill Post Experimental	2	30
Pearson Hill Machine Applied Duplex	2/3	31 - 33
G. H. Cresswell Duplex	3	34
Chapter 4 The merging of the London Post and the District Post		
District Head Office Cancels Examples	3	35
South Eastern District Head Office	3	36
Western District Head Office	3	37 - 39
East-Central District Head Office	3	40 - 44
South West, South, North-West, North District Head Office	3	45
Suburban Branch Offices	3/4	46 - 48
Chapter 5 The need to find a more reliable method		
Charles Rideout First Trial	4	49 - 50
Charles Rideout Second Trial	4	51
Azemar First Trial	4	52
Azemar Second Trial	4	53
Sloper Evaluation Period Cross & Orb	4	54
Sloper Second Design Arrow Trial Period	4	55
Chapter 6 Experiments in getting all the information in one obliterator		
Squared Circle	4	56 - 59
Experimental Square & Octagon	4	60 - 61
Hooded (Scroll) Type	4	62 - 64
Hoster	5	65 - 71
Double Ring Dated Cancels with Divided Arc	5	72 - 73
Experimental Double Rim	5	74
Experimental Ethridge	5	75
Experimental Hey & Dolphin	5	76
Triangle	5	77
Chapter 7 Last of the Experimentals'		
Imperial Mail Marking	5	78
Bickerdike First Trial	5	79 - 80
Bickerdike Second Trial	6	81 - 82
Bickerdike Second Trial Two Digit Dater	6	83 - 84
Boston First Trial	6	85
Boston Second Trial	6	86 - 88
Boston Second Trial Two Digit Dater	6	89 - 90
Chapter 8		
Ancillary Marks	6	91 - 96
Epilogue		
"The Queen is Dead - Long Live the King"	6	96