

Great Britain: Postal Cancellation of Post Office Numbers of London Postal District and London (Sub Urban) District on Penny Red

1. Purpose and Scope: The purpose of this exhibit is to study postal cancellation numbers of different post offices of Great Britain on Penny Red. Show the post office numbers of London Districts and London Suburban districts. Duplex cancellations and an obliterator are isolated (extracted) from each cover and stamp and extracted obliterator are shown along with stamps and covers in the exhibit.

2. Background: Postmarks (Cancellation) first used by Henry Bishop in 1661 to date cancel letters, as the postage system developed to did postal marks. When the Penny Black and two Penny Blue were issued in 1840 it was all about cancelling the stamp to stop its re-use. This led to the development of postmarks as we know them today. Cancellations come in a huge variety of designs, shapes, sizes and colors. Initially, in 1840 Maltese cross remained in use, but this began to be replaced in 1844 by a numeral obliterator, known as the "1844 type". Then, from 1853 the plain numerals were replaced by a single hand stamp combining the numeral with the office name and date of posting – the "Duplex".

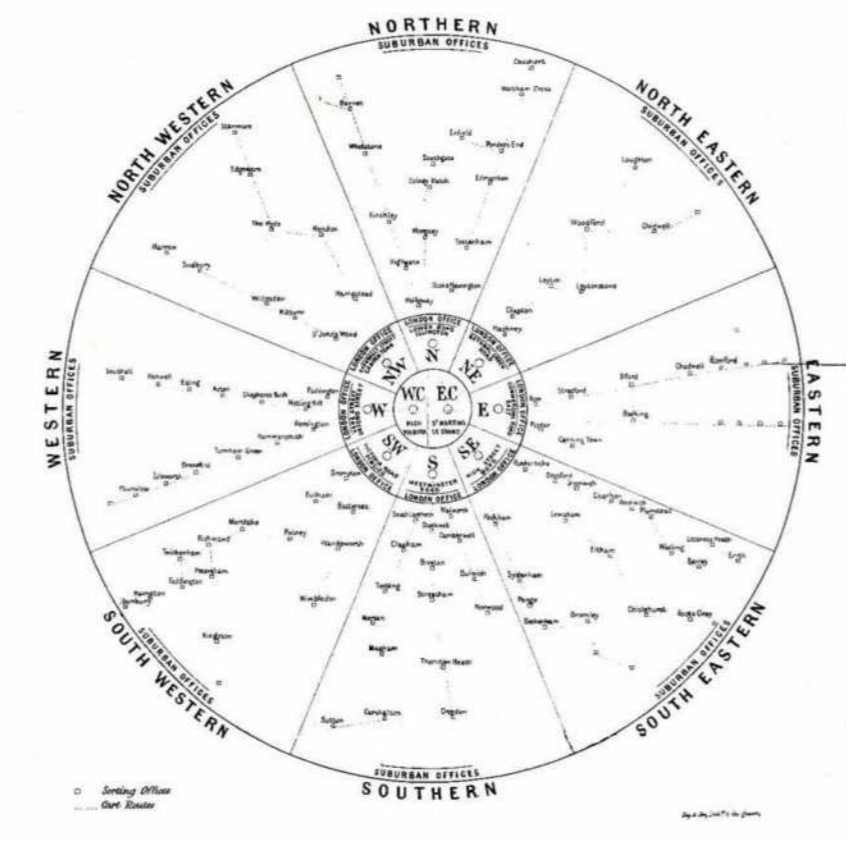
Numeral obliterator: From 1844, the Maltese cross obliterator were replaced by several series of barred numeral obliterator that gave a coded indication of the place of posting by means of the number allocated to the office. **Cancellation types were distinguished by their shape (scanned image) the number in the centre designated the post town (post office) of origin except for the London Chief Office where it is believed that numbers were allocated to different postal clerks.** The date of introduction varies, but is generally accepted is given below. The obliterator types were distinguished by their shape as follows:

- A. London Districts and London Suburban Districts – oval with number in circle (Introduced on 21 May 1844)**
- 3. Bibliography:**
1. Alcock, R.C. and F.C. Holland. British Postmarks: A Short History and Guide. Cheltenham: R. C. Alcock, 1960, 299p.
 2. George Brummell, British Post Office Numbers 1844 – 1906. R.C. Alcock Cheltenham 1946 and 1971.
 3. Great Britain Post Office Numbers <http://gbps.org.uk/information/po-numbers/>
 4. James A. Mackay, British Post Office Numbers 1924 – 1969. Published in 1981.
 5. John G. Hendy The Postmarks of the British Isles 1840-1876.
 6. Marshall, Dandy The British Post Office from its beginnings to the end of 1925. Oxford Press 1926
 7. Whitney, J.T. Collect British Postmarks. Benfleet, 1990.

S.No	Details	P.No
1	Purpose and Scope	1
2	Background	1
3	Bibliography	1
4	Cancellations of London Postal Districts	3
5	Cancellations of London (Suburban) Districts	10

DETAIL EXPLANATION: Cancellation No: Number used for particular post office. First Issue: First date of use of cancellation from post office. Last Use: Last date of use of cancellation from post office. **IMPORTANT MATERIAL WERE HIGHLIGHTED WITH RED CIRCLE**

4. London Postal District: To accelerate further the delivery of mail in London, Sir Rowland Hill proposed a solution which involved dividing the capital into 10 separate postal districts. The districts would be denoted by the compass points, and an office established for each district. The original 10 districts EC (Eastern Central), WC (Western Central), N (Northern), S (Southern), E (Eastern), NE (North Eastern), SE (South Eastern), W (Western), NW (North Western), SW (South Western) were contained within a circle of 12 miles' radius from central London. The obliterator type is oval with number in circle.



London Postal District Map: Showing the position of each London and Suburban Sorting Office with the Cart routes and circulation through the East and West Central Districts. Source: <https://www.postalmuseum.org/discover/collections/postcodes/>



GB 1872 October 19 cover posted from London to Kent with penny red stamp

4. London Postal District:



GB QV Penny Red Pair Cover Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, 10 April 1865 WC double obliterations of number WC13 and two duplex cancellation and back receiving stamp is round duplex cancellation of London dated April 10, 1865 and mark on wax seal and the words "8 Pens" on backside of cover



GB: QV-6 November 1868 Penny Red Cover Charing Cross, London, to Brighton, with circle cancellation chringcross WC branch of London Western Central district and Back round stamp receiving stamp Brighton

4. London Postal District:



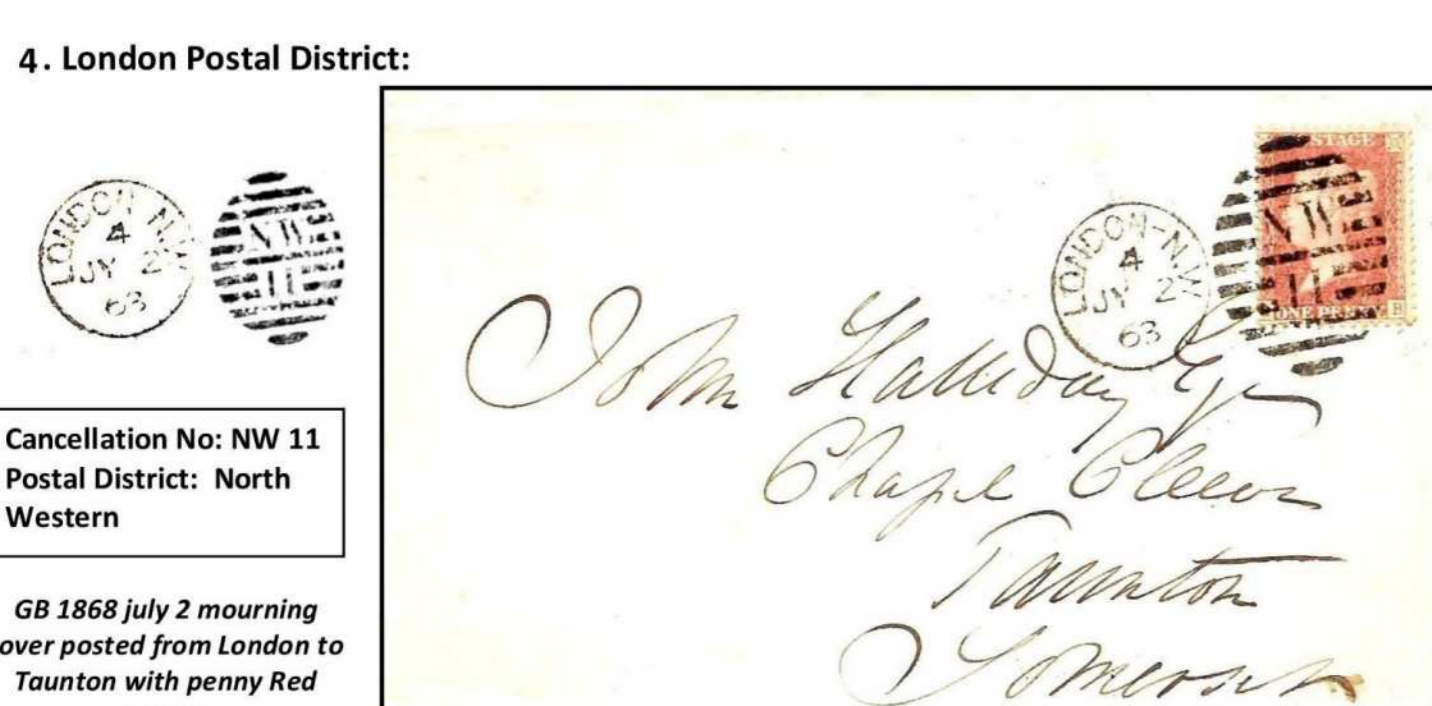
1862 May 29 cover from London west district to Derbyshire with two stamps of Penny Red stamp with full circle date cancellation



1868 July 17 cover from London North western district to London East Central with Penny Red stamp with full circle date cancellation. Red ink is used for date cancellation of London East Central



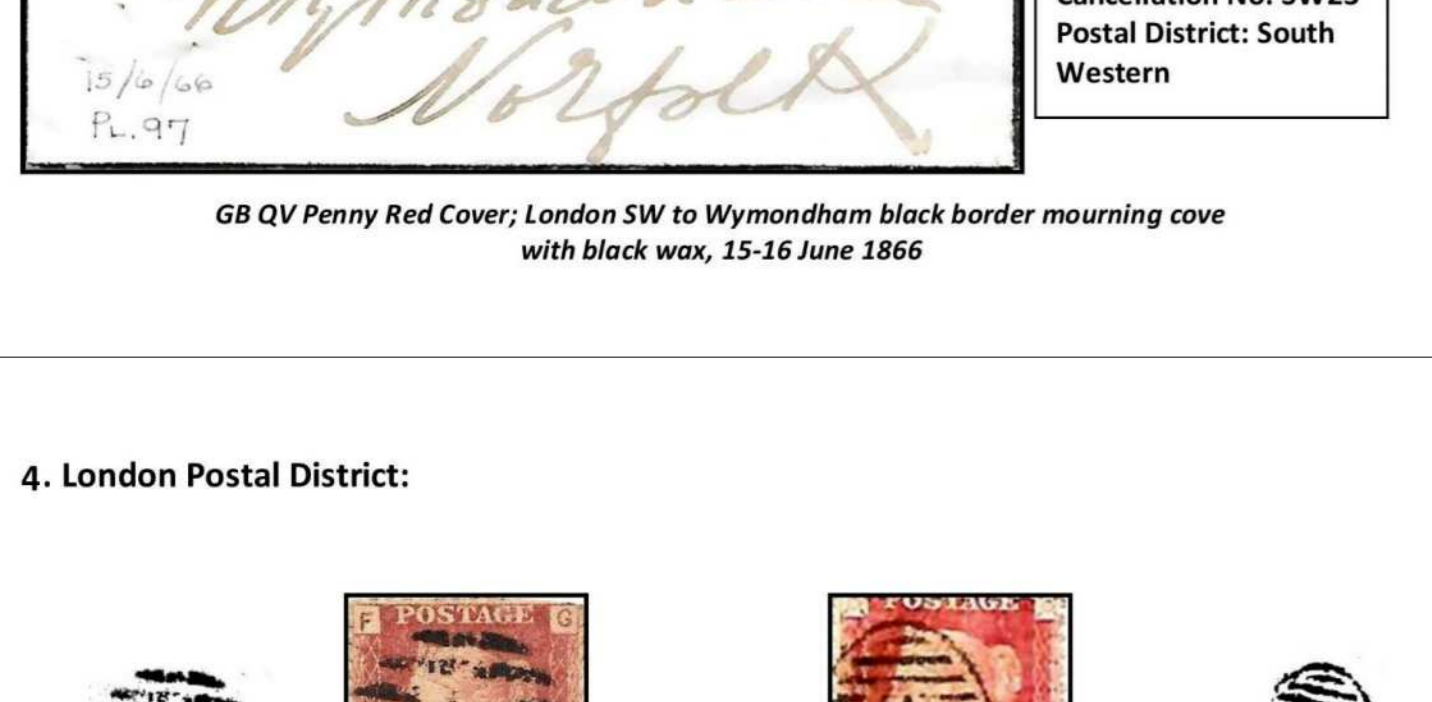
GB 1872 April 5 mourning cover posted from London to London with penny red stamp



GB 1868 July 2 mourning cover posted from London to Taunton with penny red stamp



GB 1868 Dec 8 mourning cover posted from London to Abergele North Wales with penny red stamp



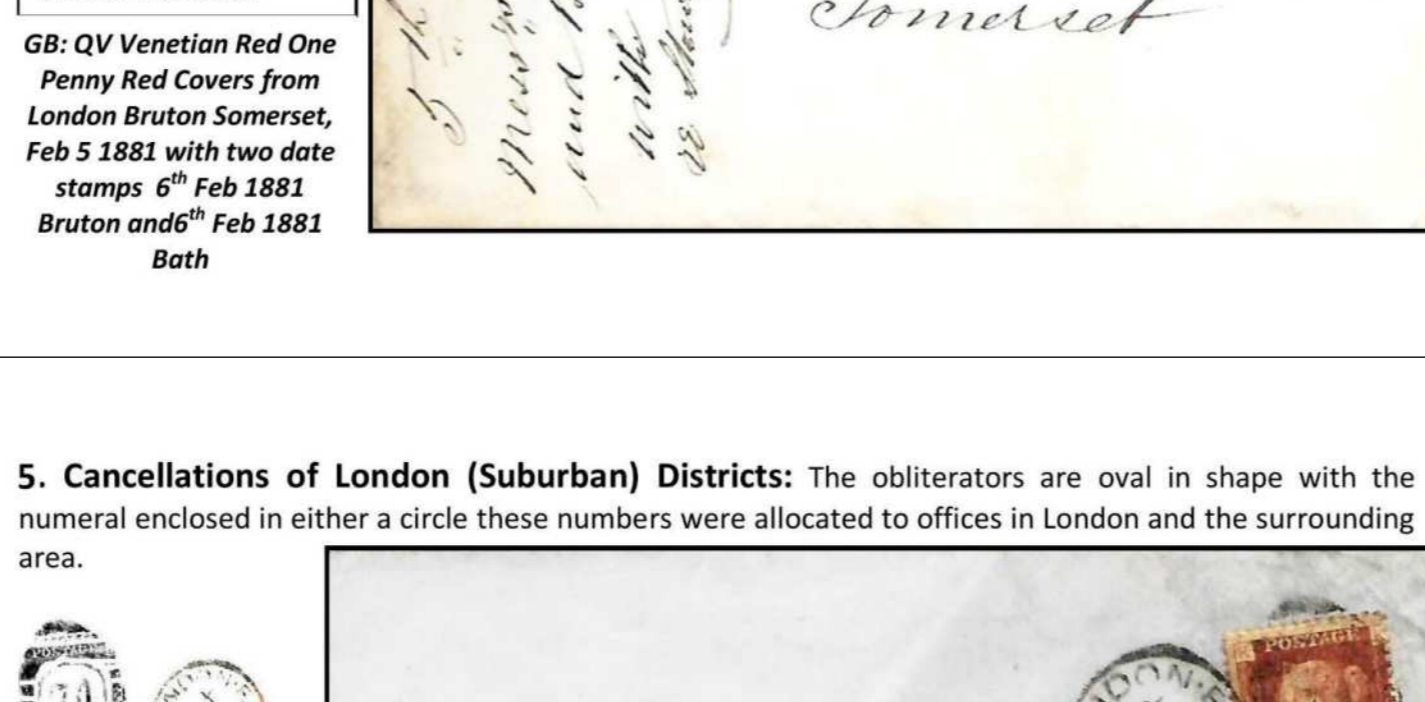
GB QV Penny Red Cover, London SW to Wymondham black border mourning cover with black wax, 15-16 June 1866



1865 4d & 1d Penny Red on cover to France from London SW 27, April 27 Duplex with Calais France time stamp and "PD" full used in wholly pre-paid letters with red ink. RARE cover



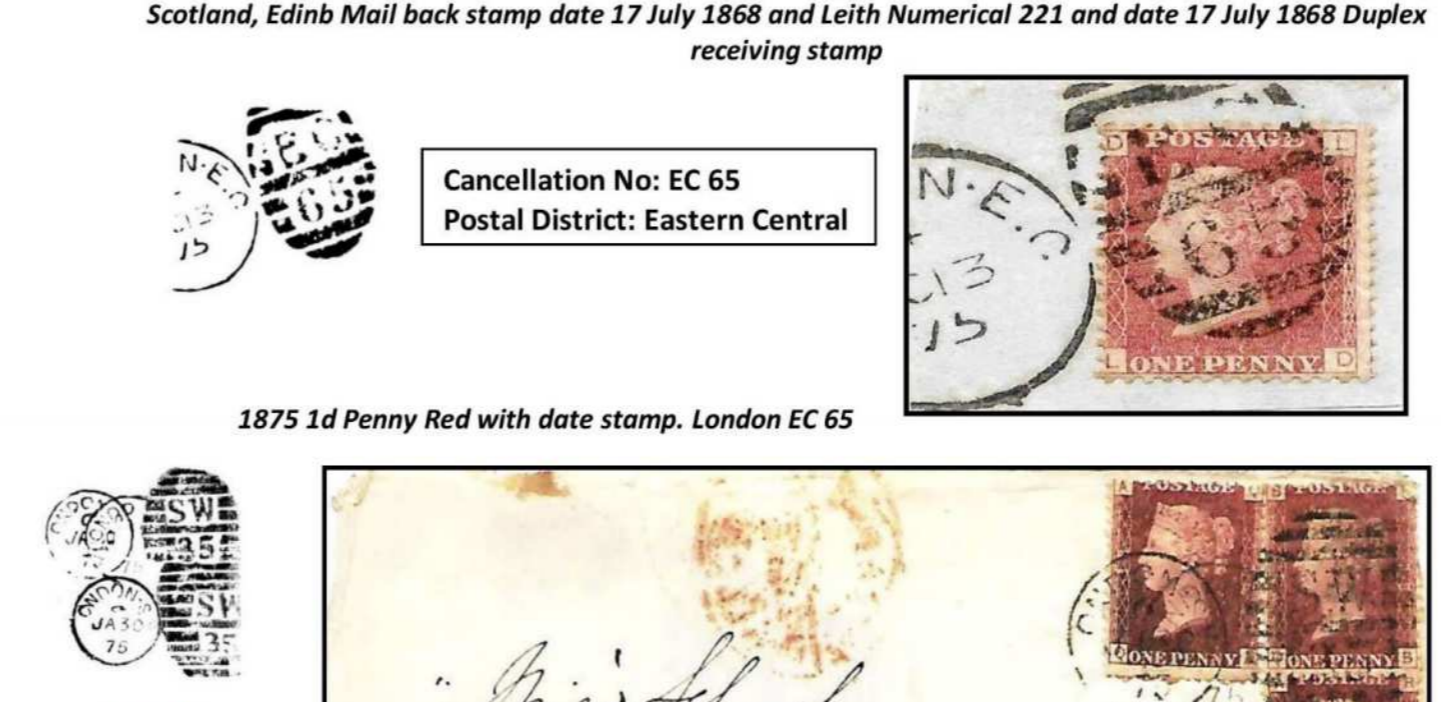
GB 1870 December 31 RAIL MAIL from London W to Leith Penny Red Cover with Edinrm Travel Post Office (TPO) Scotland, Edinb Mail back stamp date 1 January 1871



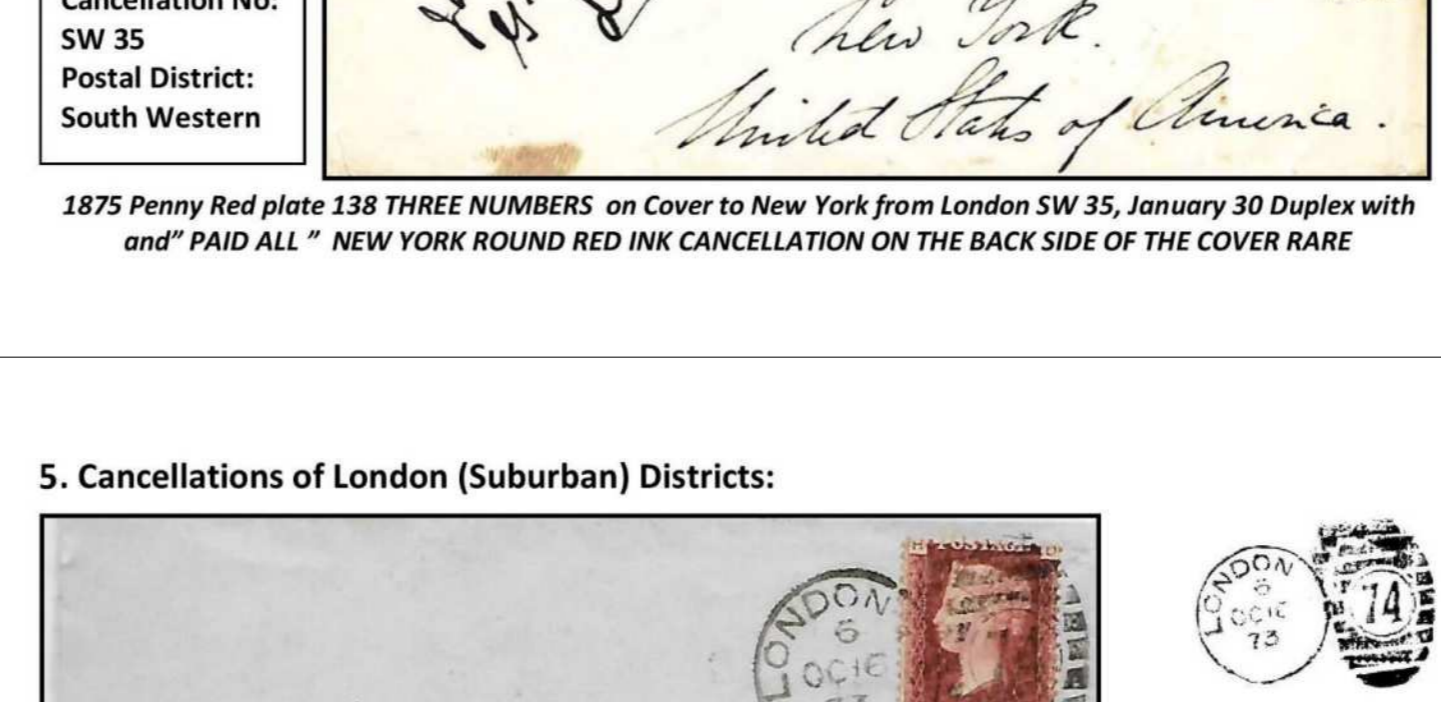
GB: QV Venetian Red One Penny Red Covers from London Straton Somerset, Feb 5 1881 with two date stamps 6 Feb 1881 Bruton and 6 Feb 1881 Bruton



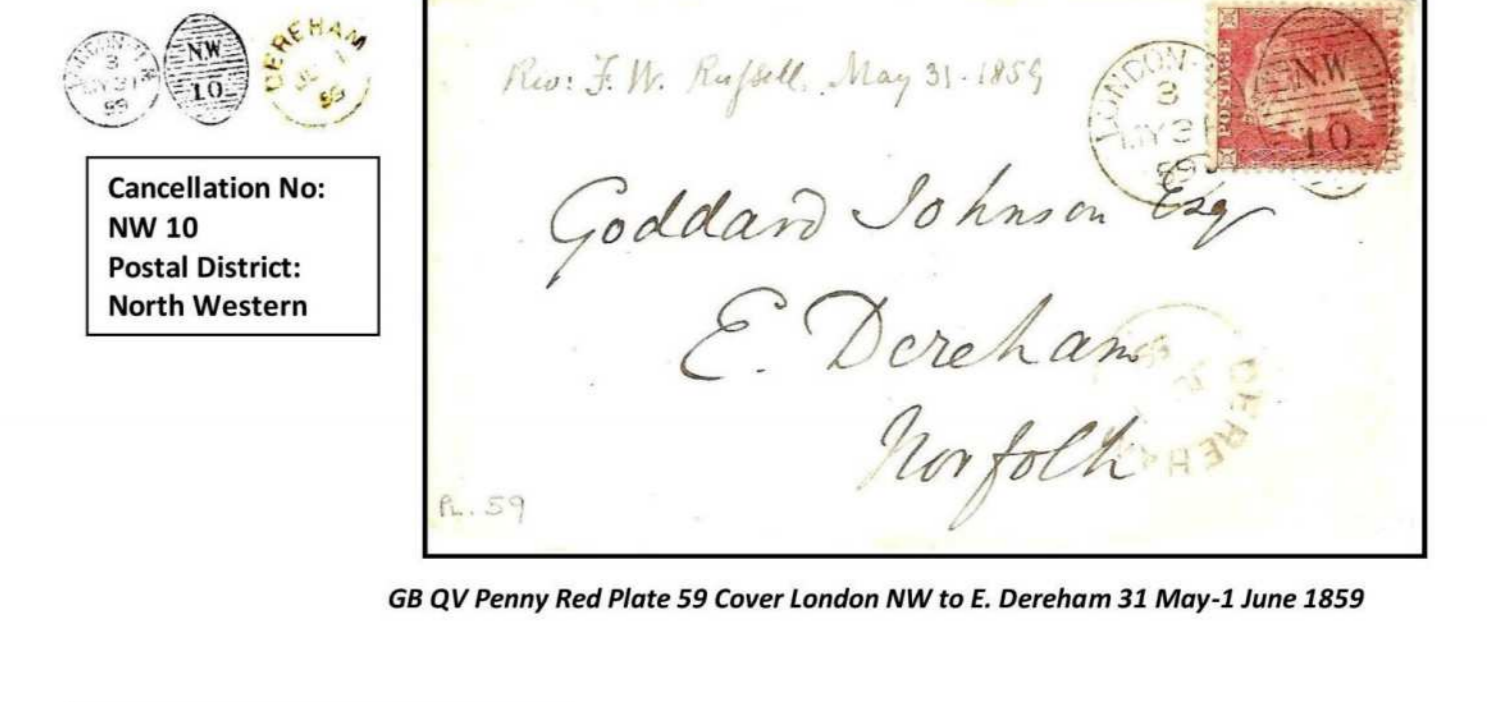
GB 1868 July 17 RAIL MAIL from London EC to Leith Penny Red Cover with Edinrm Travel Post Office (TPO) Scotland, Edinb Mail back stamp date 17 July 1868 and Leith Numerical 221 and date 17 July 1868 Duplex receiving stamp



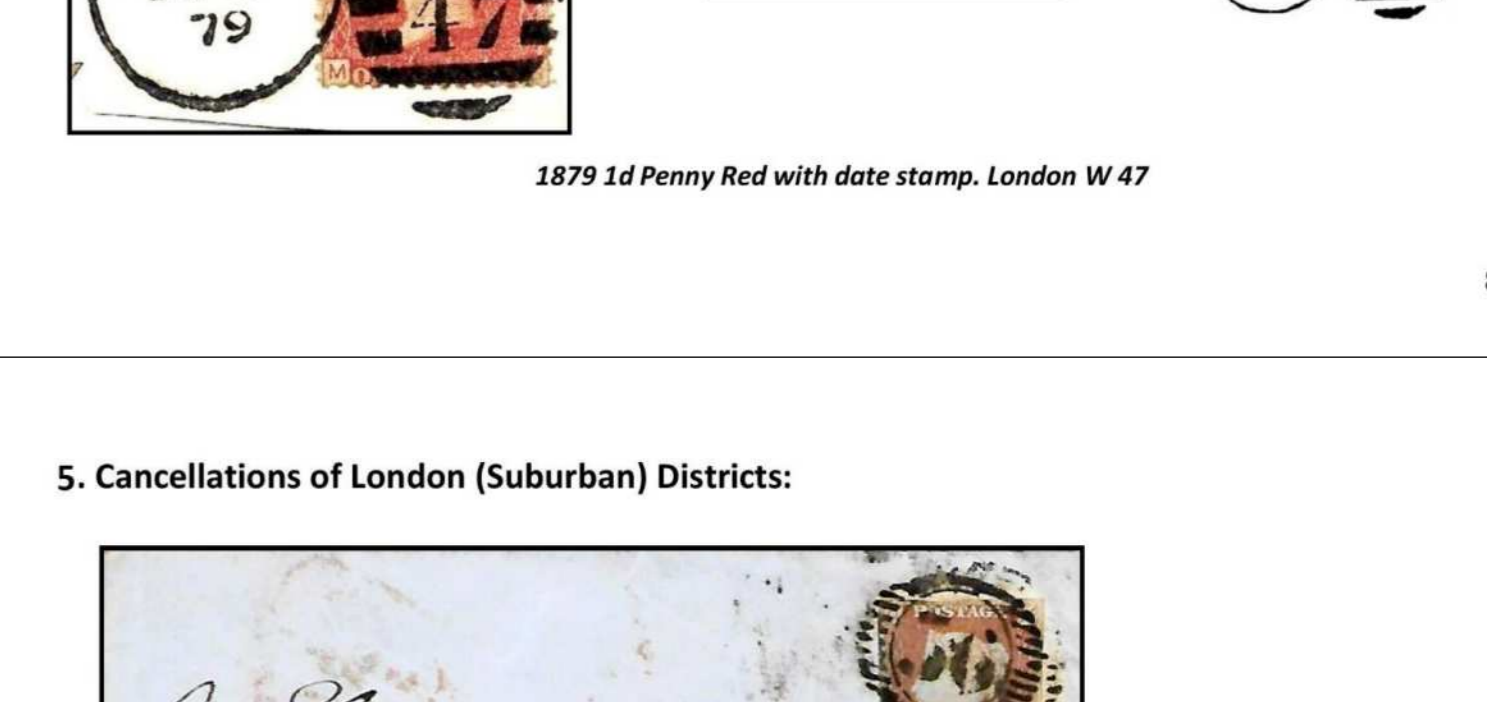
1875 1d Penny Red with date stamp, London EC 65



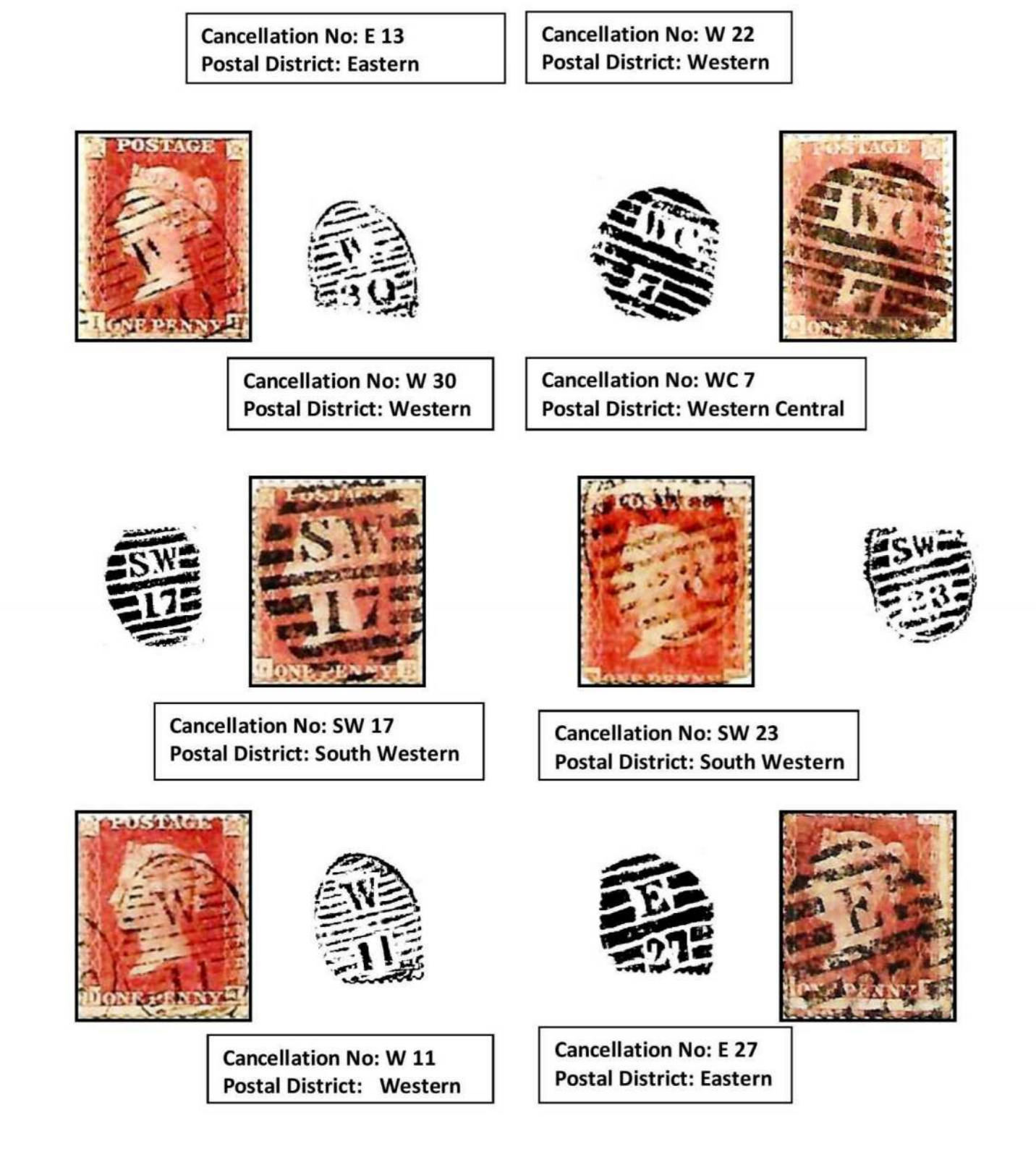
1875 Penny Red plate 38 THREE NUMBERS on cover to New York from London SW 35, January 30 Duplex with and "PAID ALL" NEW YORK ROUND RED INK CANCELLATION ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE COVER RARE



GB QV Penny Red Entire Bedford Row London to USK 10 Feb 1860 (ERROR WRONG YEAR IN DUPLEX USK cancellation it is 1869 instead of 1860 on back receiving stamp on the back side of the cover)



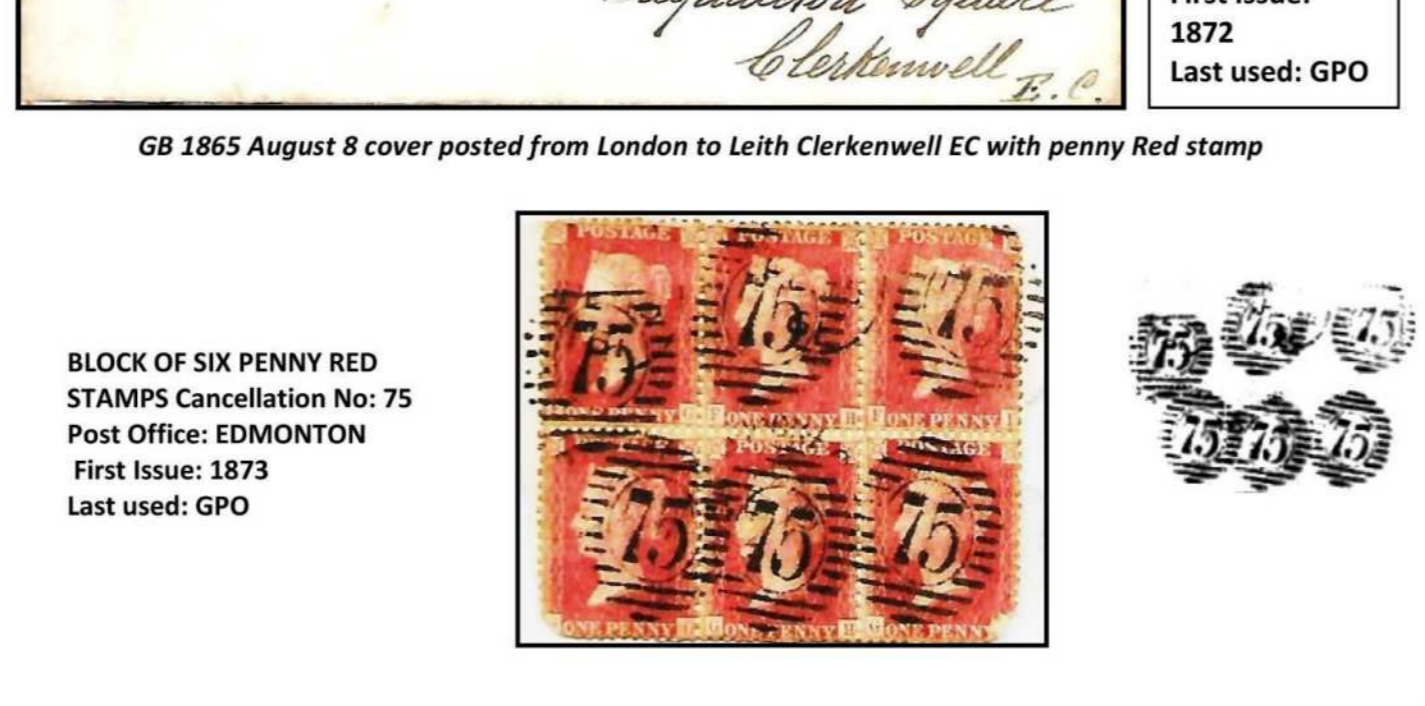
1879 1d Penny Red with date stamp, London W 47



Collection of various cancellation marks from London postal districts.



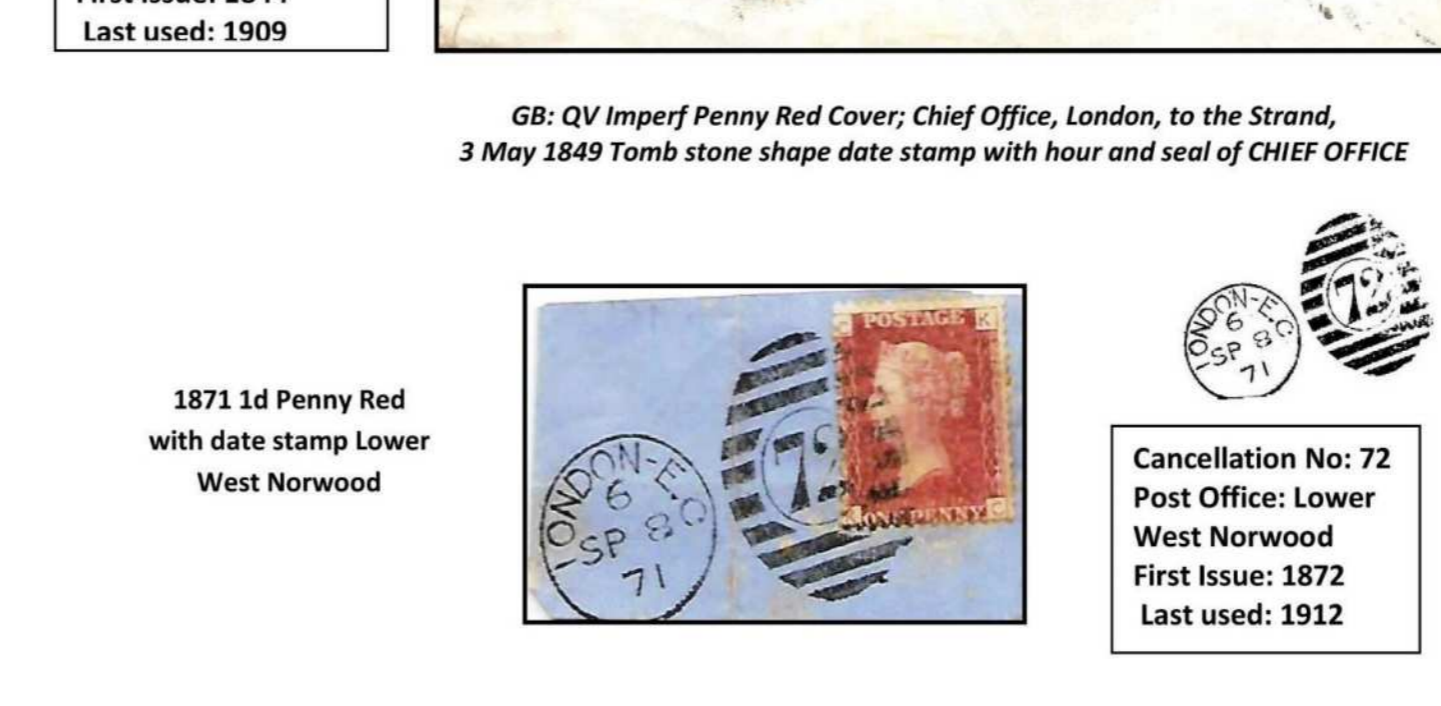
GB: 1974 November 10 Cover posted from London to Maidstone



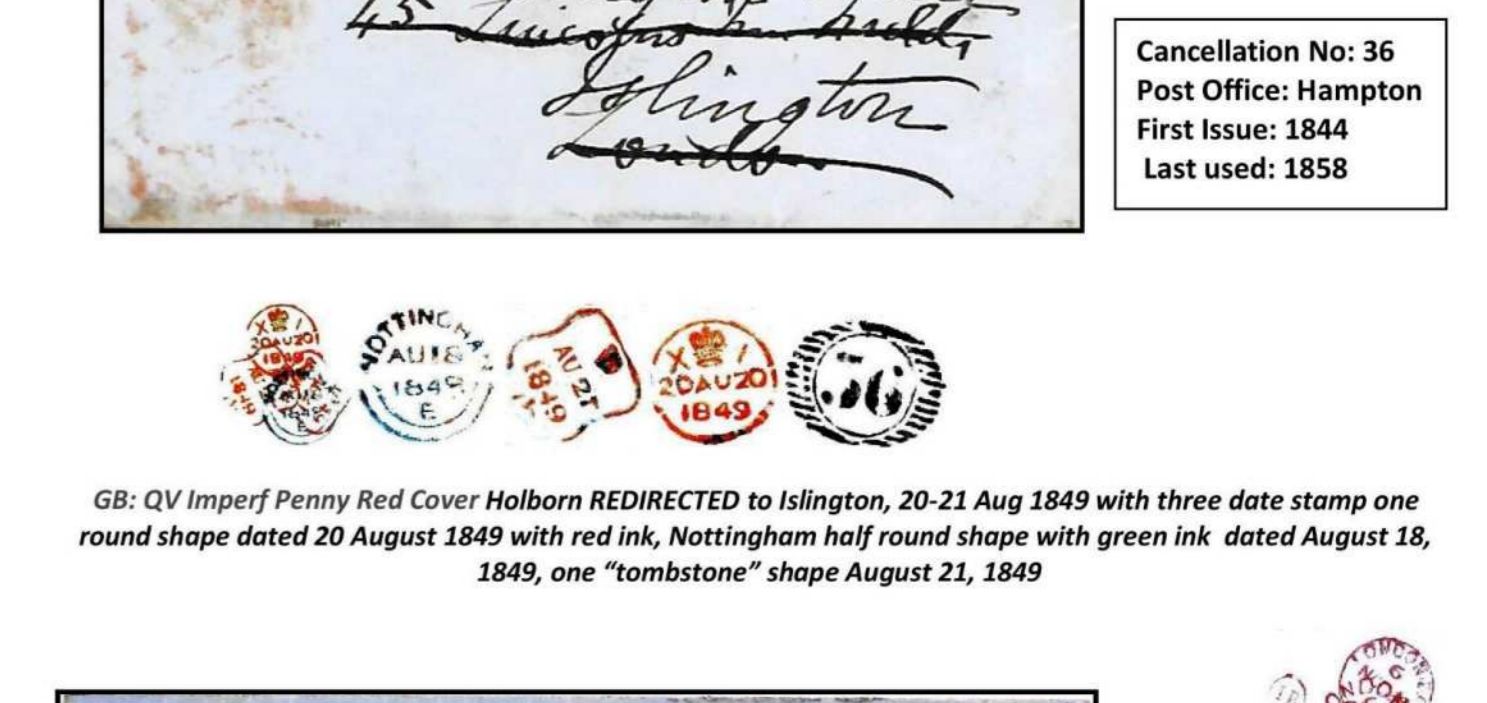
GB 1865 August 8 cover posted from London to Leith Clerkenwell EC with penny red stamp



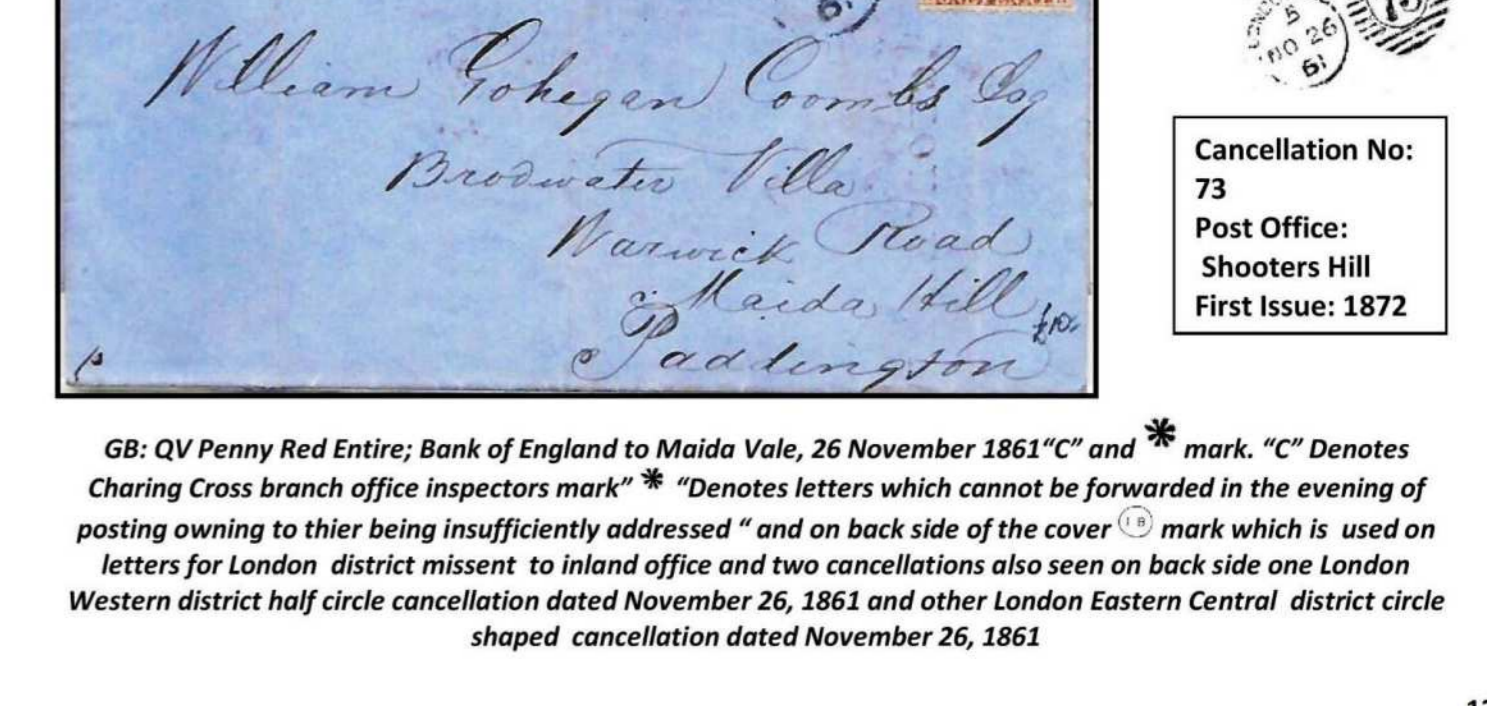
GB: QV Penny Red Entire A. Boursot (wax), Tottenham to Portsmouth 16 Oct 1873



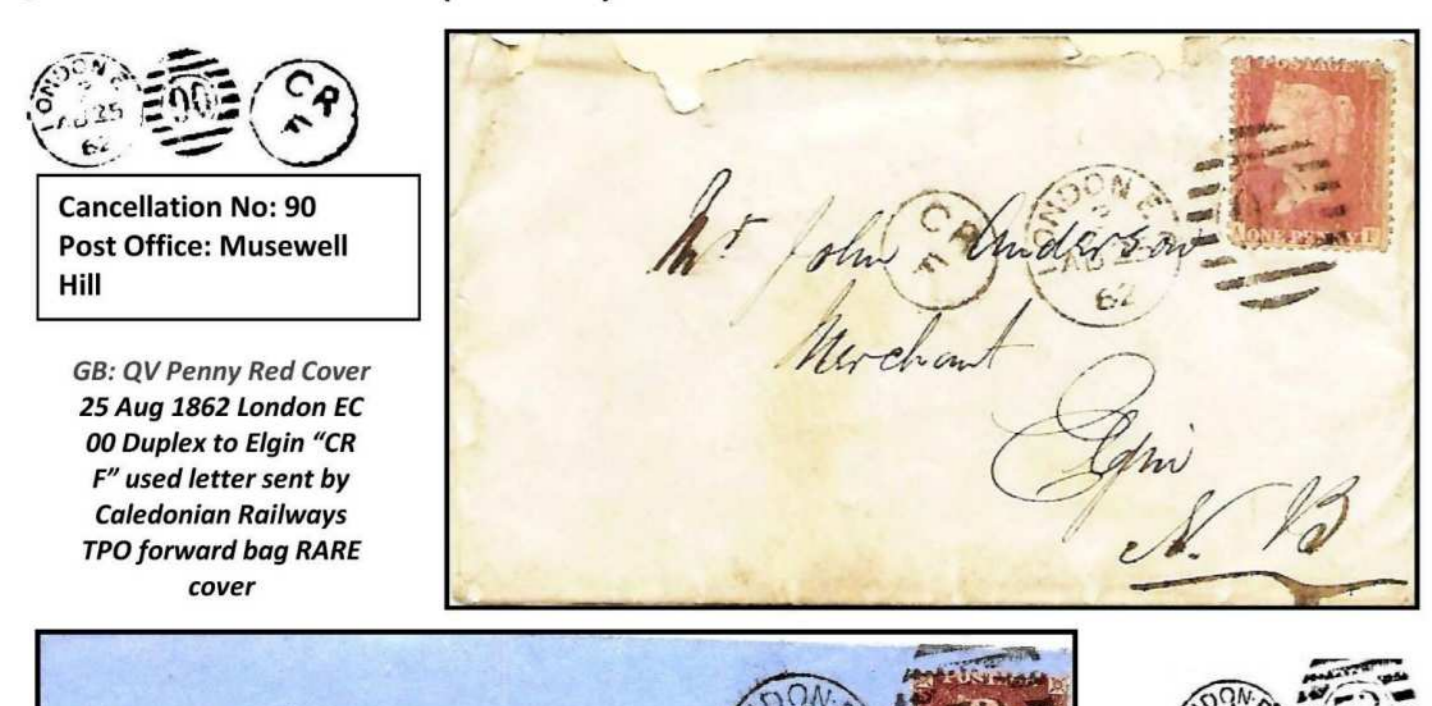
1871 1d Penny Red with date stamp Lower West Norwood



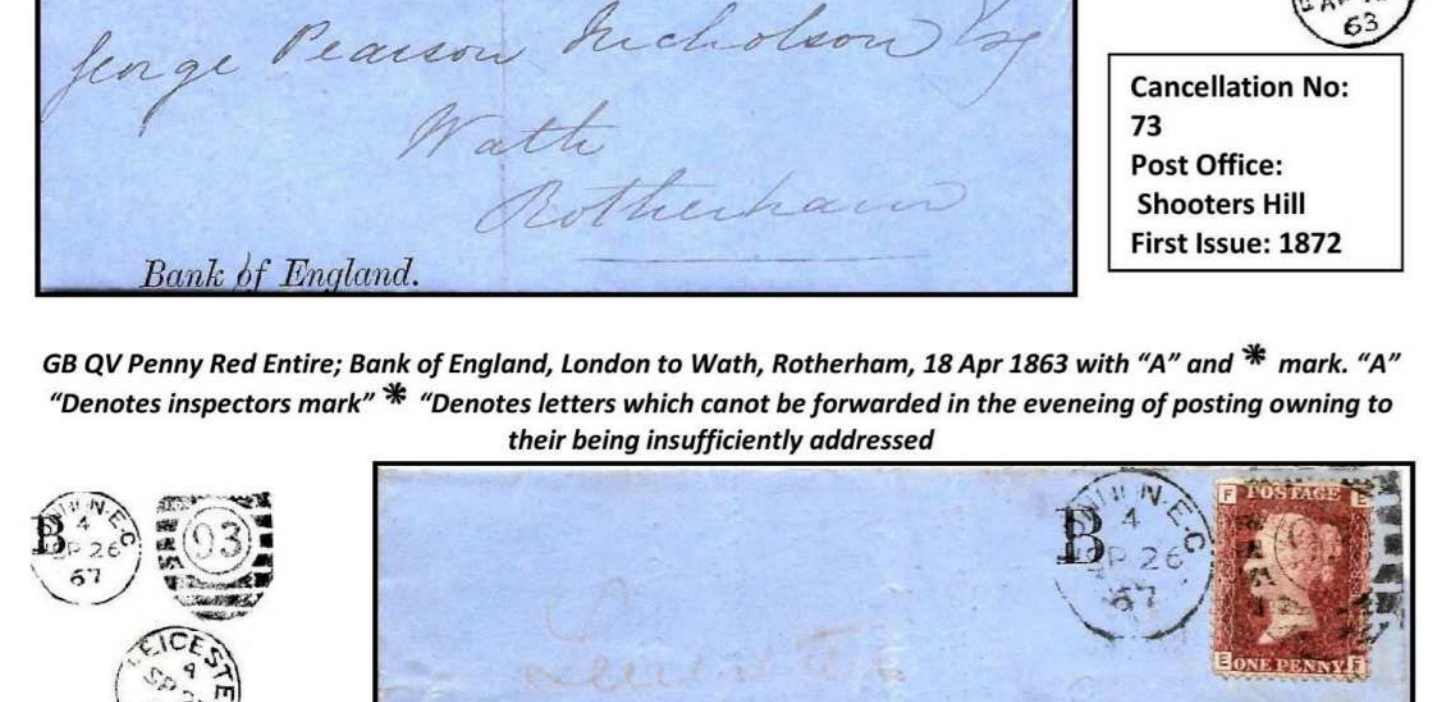
GB: QV Imperf Penny Red Cover: Holborn REDIRECTED to Ilington, 20-21 Aug 1849 with three date stamp one round shape dated 20 August 1849 with red ink, Nottingham half round shape with green ink dated August 18, 1849, one "tombstone" shape August 21, 1849



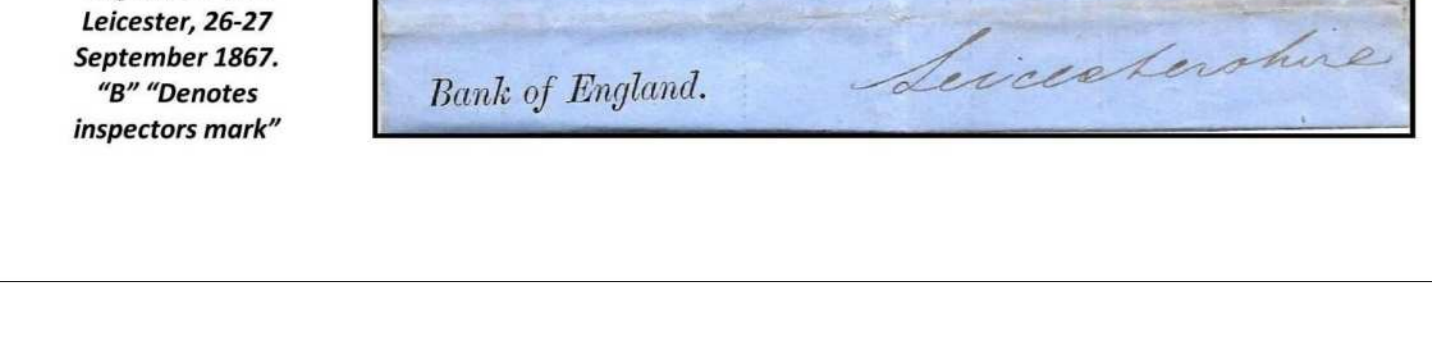
GB: QV Penny Red Entire: Bank of England to Malda Volo, 26 November 1851 'C' and 'mark. 'C' denotes Charing Cross branch office inspectors mark. 'Denotes letters which cannot be forwarded in the evening of posting owing to their being insufficiently addressed' and on back side of the cover 'mark which is used on letters for London district missive to inland office and two cancellations also seen on back side one London Western district half circle cancellation dated November 26, 1851 and other London Eastern Central district circle shaped cancellation dated November 26, 1851



GB: QV Penny Red Cover 25 Aug 1862 London EC 00 Duplex to Elgin "CR" F used letter sent by Caledonian Railways TPO forward bag RARE cover



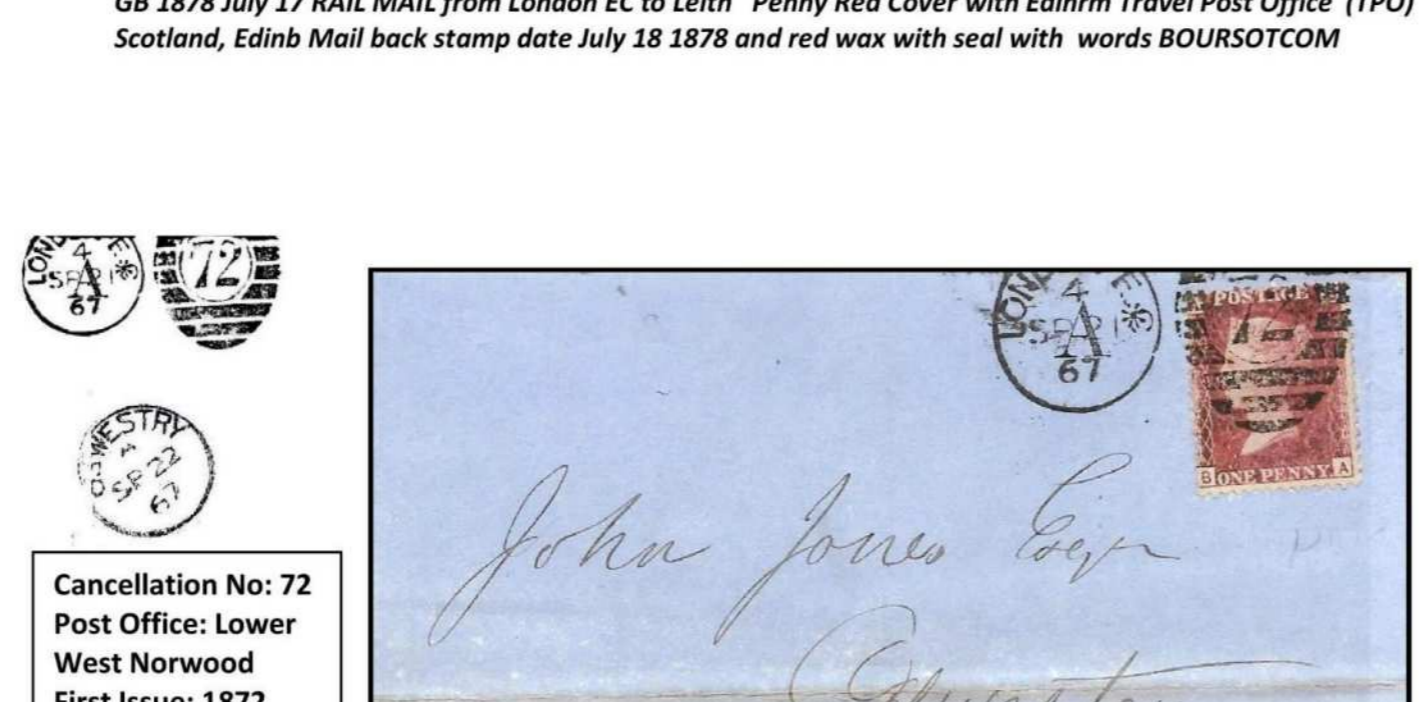
GB QV Penny Red Entire: Bank of England, London to Wath, Rotherham, 18 Apr 1863 with "A" and "mark. "A" denotes inspectors mark. "Denotes letters which cannot be forwarded in the evening of posting owing to their being insufficiently addressed"



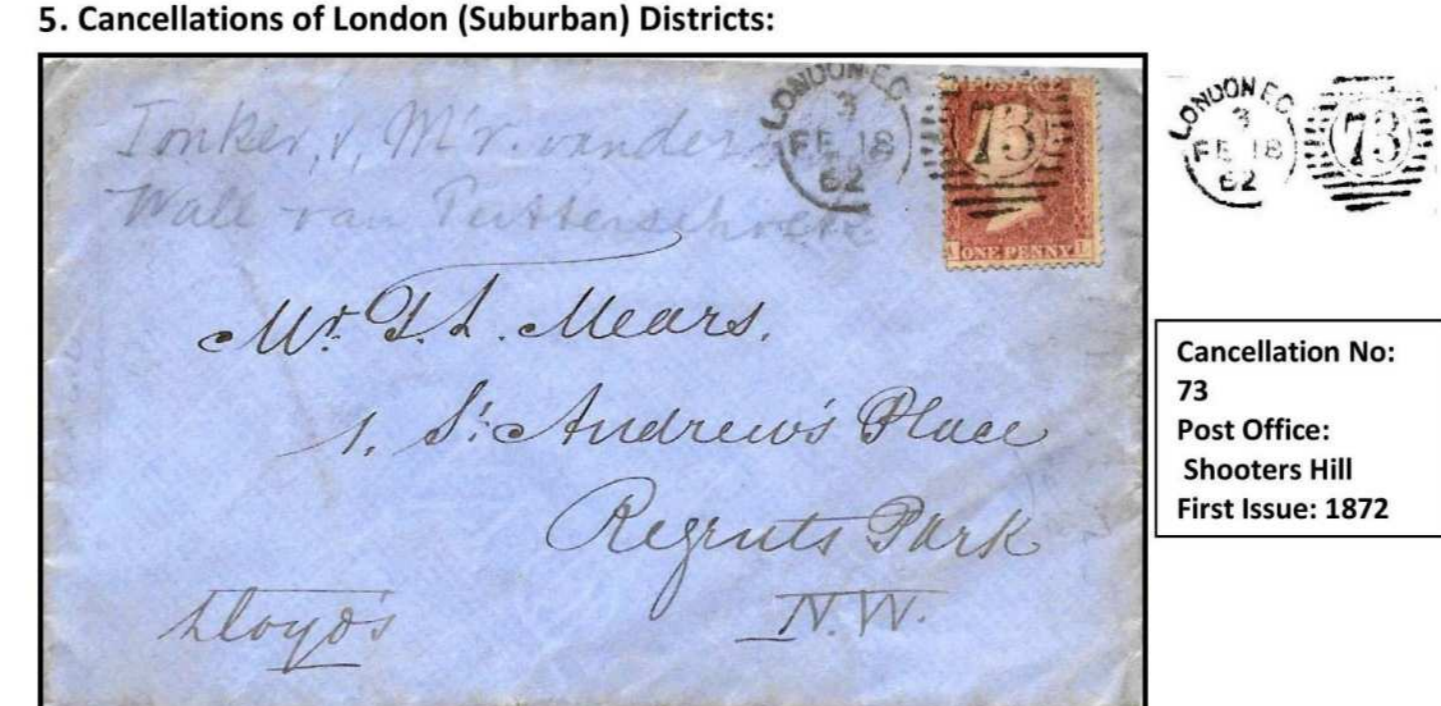
GB: QV Penny Red Entire: Bank of England, London, to Oswestry, 21-22 Sep 1867 with "A" and "mark. "A" denotes inspectors mark. "Denotes letters which cannot be forwarded in the evening of posting owing to their being insufficiently addressed"



GB 1878 July 17 RAIL MAIL from London EC to Leith Penny Red Cover with Edinrm Travel Post Office (TPO) Scotland, Edinb Mail back stamp date July 18 1878 and red wax seal with words BOURSCOTOM



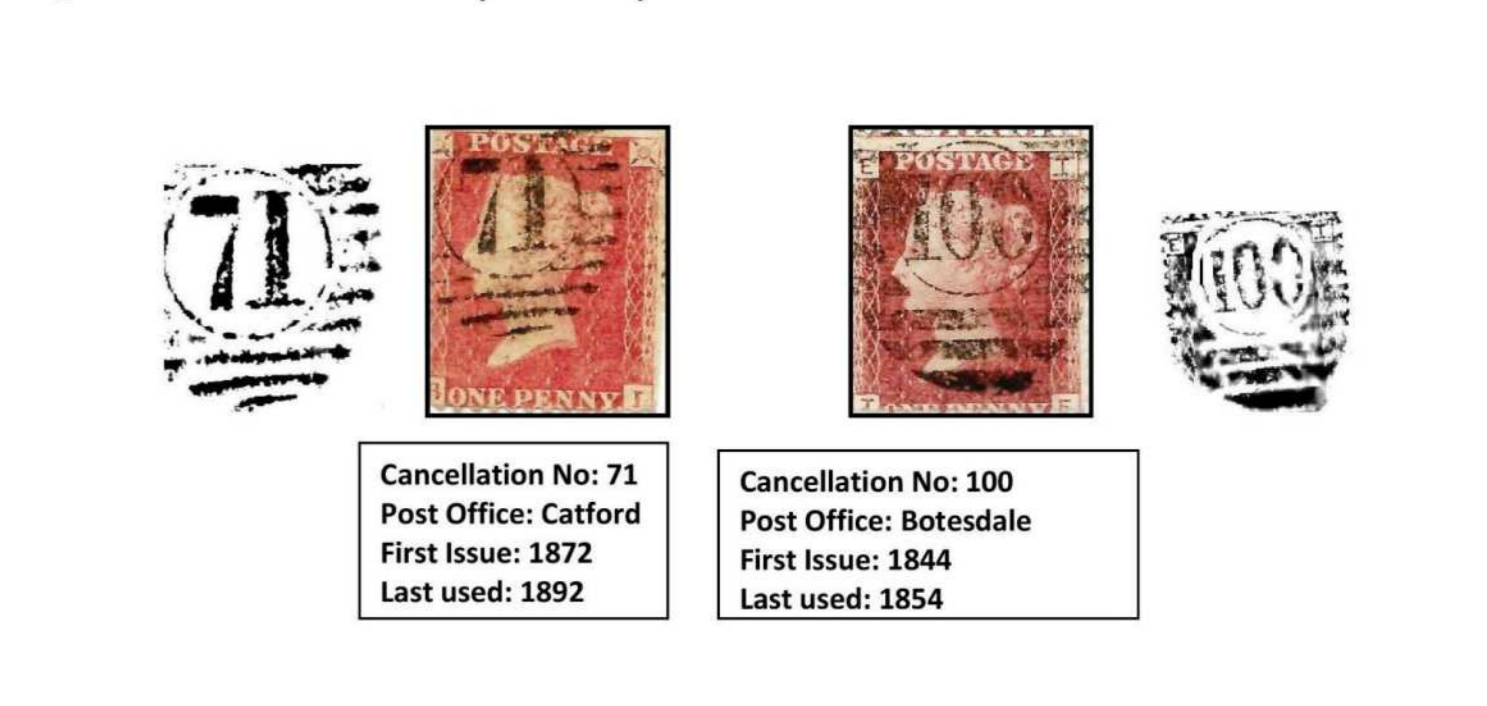
GB: QV Penny Red Cover: Bank of England, London, to Oswestry, 21-22 Sep 1867 with "A" and "mark. "A" denotes inspectors mark. "Denotes letters which cannot be forwarded in the evening of posting owing to their being insufficiently addressed"



GB QV 1962 February 18 Penny Red Stamp Used on Cover London to NW



GB QV Penny Red Plate 36 Entire London EC 91 to Swaffham 19-20 Mar 1862 round back stamp of Swaffham and mark on seal wax



Collection of various cancellation marks from London (Suburban) Districts.



Collection of various cancellation marks from London (Suburban) Districts.

Great Britain: Postal Cancellation of Post office Numbers of London Postal District and London (Sub Urban) District on Penny Red

1. Purpose and Scope: The purpose of this exhibit is to study postal cancellation numbers of different post offices of Great Britain on Penny Red. Show the post office numbers of London Districts and London Suburban districts. Duplex cancellations and an obliterator are isolated (extracted) from each cover and stamp and extracted obliterator are shown along with stamps and covers in the exhibit.

2. Background: Postmarks (Cancellation) first used by Henry Bishop in 1661 to date cancel letters, as the postage system developed so did postal marks. When the Penny Black and Two Penny Blue were issued in 1840 it was all about cancelling the stamp to stop its re-use. This led to the development of postmarks as we know them today. Cancellations come in a huge variety of designs, shapes, sizes and colors. Initially, in 1840 Maltese cross remained in use, but this began to be replaced in 1844 by a numeral obliterator, known as the '1844 type'. Then, from 1853 the plain numerals were replaced by a single hand stamp combining the numeral with the office name and date of posting – the 'Duplex'.

Numeral obliterations: From 1844, the Maltese cross obliterations were replaced by several series of barred numeral obliterations that gave a coded indication of the place of posting by means of the number allocated to the office. ***Cancellation types were distinguished by their shape (scanned image) the number in the centre designated the post town (post office) of origin except for the London Chief Office where it is believed that numbers were allocated to different postal clerks.***



London Suburban

The date of introduction varies, but is generally accepted is given below **The obliterator types were distinguished by their shape as follows:**

A. London Districts and London Suburban Districts -- oval with number in circle (Introduced from 21 May 1844)

3. Bibliography:

1. Alcock, R.C. and F.C. Holland. British Postmarks: A Short History and Guide. Cheltenham: R. C. Alcock, 1960, 299p.
2. George Brummell, British Post Office Numbers 1844 – 1906. R.C. Alcock Cheltenham 1946 and 1971.
3. Great Britain Post office numbers <http://gbps.org.uk/information/po-numbers/>
4. James A. Mackay, British Post Office Numbers 1924 - 1969. Published in 1981.
5. John G Hendy The Postmarks of the British Isles 1840-1876
6. Marshall, Dandy The British Post Office from its beginnings to the end of 1925. Oxford Press 1926
7. Whitney, J.T. Collect British Postmarks. Benfleet, 1990.

PLAN

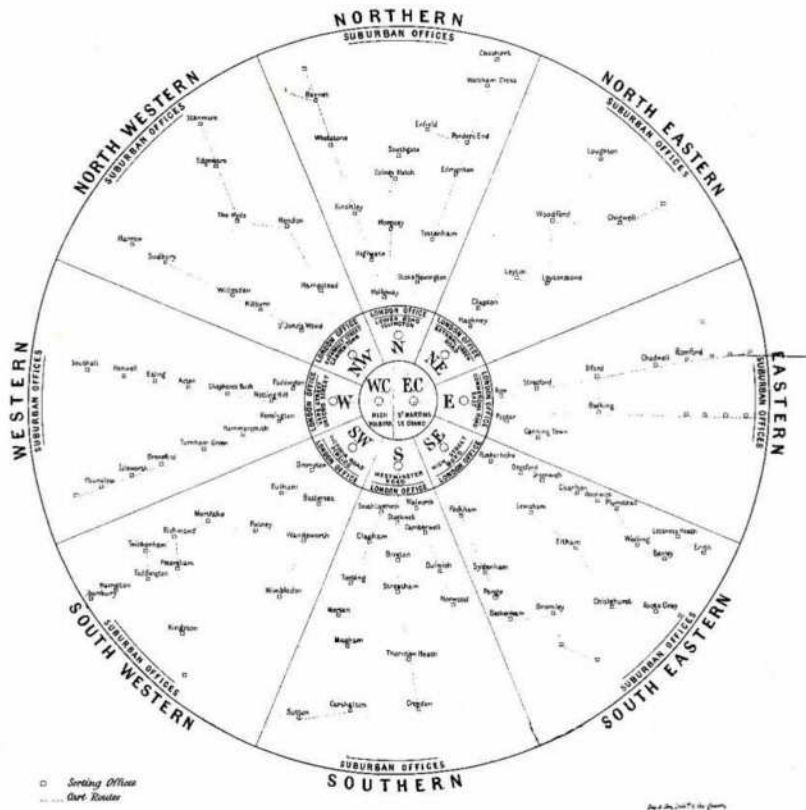
S.No	Details	P.No
1	Purpose and Scope	1
2	Background	1
3	Bibliography	1
4	Cancellations of London Postal Districts	3
5	Cancellations of London (Suburban) Districts	10

DETAIL EXPLANATION: Cancellation No: Number used for particular post office. First Issue: First Date of use of cancellation from post office. Last Use: Last date of use of cancellation from post office.

IMPORTANT MATERIAL WERE HIGHLIGHTED WITH RED CIRCLE

4.London Postal District: To accelerate further the delivery of mail in London, Sir Rowland Hill proposed a solution which involved dividing the capital into 10 separate postal districts. The districts would be denoted by the compass points, and an office established for each district. The original 10 districts EC (Eastern Central), WC (Western Central), N(Northern), S(Southern),E(Eastern), NE(North Eastern), SE(South-Eastern) ,W(Western), NW(North-Western), SW(South-Western) were contained within a circle of 12 miles' radius from central London. The obliterator type is oval with number in circle.

LONDON POSTAL DISTRICT MAP Showing the position of each LONDON and SUBURBAN SORTING OFFICE with the Cart Routes and circulation through the EAST and WEST CENTRAL DISTRICTS.



London Postal District Map: Showing the position of each London and Suburban Sorting Office with the Cart routes and circulation through the East and West Central Districts.

Source: <https://www.postalmuseum.org/discover/collections/postcodes/#>



Cancellation No:
WC 8
Postal District:
West Central

GB 1872 October 19 cover posted from London to Kent with penny Red stamp

4 . London Postal District:



Cancellation
No: WC 13
Postal District:
Western
Central



GB QV Penny Red Pair Cover Lincoln's Inn Fields London to Kensington, 10 April 1865 WC double obliterations of number WC13 and two duplex cancellation and back receiving stamp is round duplex cancellation of London dated April 10, 1865 and mark on wax seal and the words &Pens on backside of cover



Cancellation No:
WC 29
Postal District:
Western Central



GB: QV5-6 November 1868 Penny Red Cover Charing Cross, London, to Brighton, with circle cancellation chringcross WC branch of London Western Central district and Back round stamp receiving stamp Brighton

4. London Postal District:



Cancellation
No: W 38
Postal District:
Western

1862 May 29
cover from
London west
district to Derby
shire with two
stamps of Penny
Red stamp with
full circle date
cancellation



Cancellation
No: NW 1
Postal District:
North Western

1868 July 17 cover from London North western district to London East Central with of Penny Red stamp with full circle date cancellation. Red ink is used for date cancellation of London East Central



Cancellation No:
W 33
Postal District:
Western



GB 1872
April 5
mourning
cover posted
from London
to London
with penny
Red stamp

4. London Postal District:



Cancellation No: NW 11
Postal District: North
Western

GB 1868 July 2 mourning
cover posted from London to
Taunton with penny Red
stamp



Cancellation No: W 22
Postal District: Western

GB 1868 Dec 8 mourning
cover posted from London to
Abergele North Wales with
penny Red stamp



Cancellation No: SW23
Postal District: South
Western

GB QV Penny Red Cover; London SW to Wymondham black border mourning cover
with black wax, 15-16 June 1866

4. London Postal District:



Cancellation
No: SW 27
Postal District:
South Western



1865 4d & 1d Penny Red on Cover to France from London SW 27, April 27 Duplex with Calais France time stamp and "PD" hull used in wholly prepaid letters with red ink RARE cover



Cancellation No: W 37
Postal District: Western

GB 1870 December 31 RAIL
MAIL from London W to Leith
Penny Red Cover with
Edinrm Travel Post Office
(TPO) Scotland, Edinb Mail
back stamp
date 1 January 1871



Cancellation No: WC 1
Postal District:
Western Central

GB: QV Venetian Red One
Penny Red Covers from
London Bruton Somerset,
Feb 5 1881 with two date
stamps 6th Feb 1881
Bruton and 6th Feb 1881
Bath



4. London Postal District:



Cancellation No:
EC 79
Postal District:
Eastern Central

GB 1868 July 17 RAIL MAIL from London EC to Leith Penny Red Cover with Edinrm Travel Post Office (TPO) Scotland, Edinb Mail back stamp date 17 July 1868 and Leith Numerical 221 and date 17 July 1868 Duplex receiving stamp



Cancellation No: EC 65
Postal District: Eastern Central



1875 1d Penny Red with date stamp. London EC 65



Cancellation No:
SW 35
Postal District:
South Western



1875 Penny Red plate 138 THREE NUMBERS on Cover to New York from London SW 35, January 30 Duplex with and " PAID ALL " NEW YORK ROUND RED INK CANCELLATION ON THE BACK SIDE OF THE COVER RARE

4. London Postal District:



Cancellation
No: WC 10
Postal District:
Western
Central

GBQV Penny Red Entire Bedford Row London to USK 10 Feb 1860 (ERROR WRONG YEAR IN DUPLEX USK cancellation it is 1869 instead of 1860 on back receiving stamp on the back side of the cover)



Cancellation No:
NW 10
Postal District:
North Western



GB QV Penny Red Plate 59 Cover London NW to E. Dereham 31 May-1 June 1859



Cancellation No: W47
Postal District: Western



1879 1d Penny Red with date stamp. London W 47

4. London Postal District:



Cancellation No: E 13
Postal District: Eastern



Cancellation No: W 22
Postal District: Western



Cancellation No: W 30
Postal District: Western



Cancellation No: WC 7
Postal District: Western Central



Cancellation No: SW 17
Postal District: South Western



Cancellation No: SW 23
Postal District: South Western



Cancellation No: W 11
Postal District: Western



Cancellation No: E 27
Postal District: Eastern

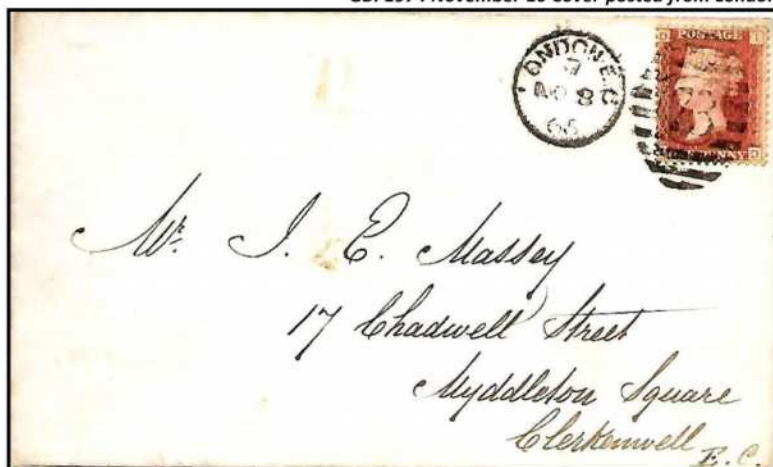
5. Cancellations of London (Suburban) Districts: The obliterations are oval in shape with the numeral enclosed in either a circle these numbers were allocated to offices in London and the surrounding area.



Cancellation No:
74
Post Office:
Tottenham
First Issue: 1873
Last used: 1873



GB: 1974 November 10 Cover posted from London to Maid stone



Cancellation No: 73
Post Office: Shooters Hill
First Issue: 1872
Last used: GPO

GB 1865 August 8 cover posted from London to Leith Clerkenwell EC with penny Red stamp

BLOCK OF SIX PENNY RED STAMPS Cancellation No: 75
Post Office: EDMONTON
First Issue: 1873
Last used: GPO

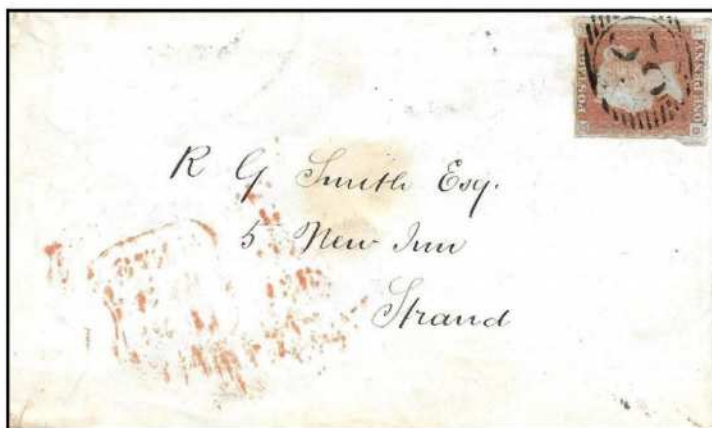


5. Cancellations of London (Suburban) Districts:



Cancellation No: 74
Post Office:
Tottenham
First Issue: 1873
Last used: 1873

GB: QV Penny Red Entire A. Boursot [wax], Tottenham to Portsmouth 16 Oct 1873



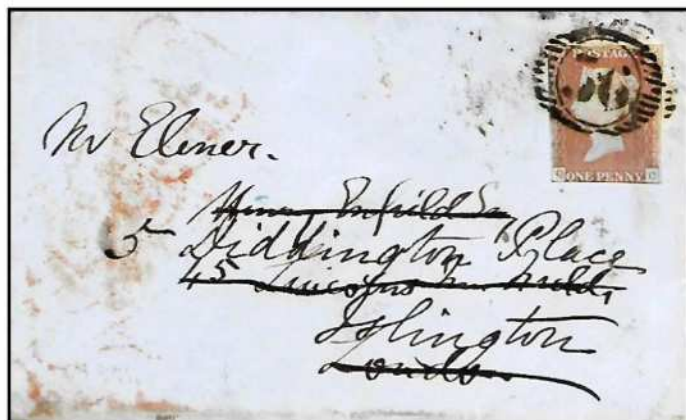
GB: QV Imperf Penny Red Cover; Chief Office, London, to the Strand, 3 May 1849 Tomb stone shape date stamp with hour and seal of CHIEF OFFICE

1871 1d Penny Red
 with date stamp Lower
 West Norwood



Cancellation No: 72
Post Office:
Lower West Norwood
First Issue: 1872
Last used: 1912

5. Cancellations of London (Suburban) Districts:



Cancellation No: 36
 Post Office: Hampton
 First Issue: 1844
 Last used: 1858



GB: QV Imperf Penny Red Cover Holborn REDIRECTED to Islington, 20-21 Aug 1849 with three date stamp one round shape dated 20 August 1849 with red ink, Nottingham half round shape with green ink dated August 18, 1849, one "tombstone" shape August 21, 1849



Cancellation No: 73
 Post Office: Shooters Hill
 First Issue: 1872

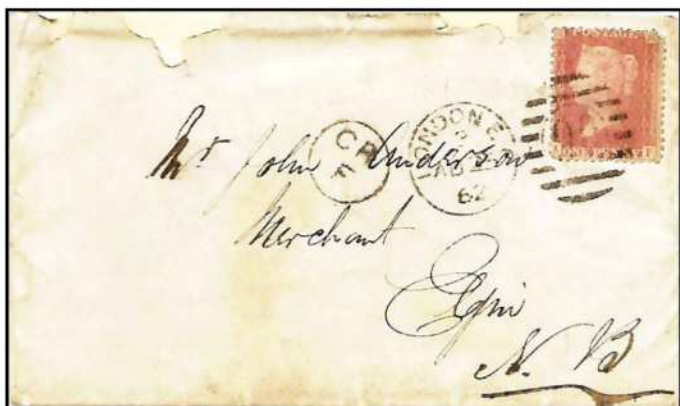
GB: QV Penny Red Entire; Bank of England to Maida Vale, 26 November 1861 "C" and * mark. "C" Denotes Charing Cross branch office inspectors mark * "Denotes letters which cannot be forwarded in the evening of posting owing to their being insufficiently addressed" and on back side of the cover (B) mark which is used on letters for London district missent to inland office and two cancellations also seen on back side one London Western district half circle cancellation dated November 26, 1861 and other London Eastern Central district circle shaped cancellation dated November 26, 1861

5. Cancellations of London (Suburban) Districts:



Cancellation No: 90
Post Office: Musewell Hill

GB: QV Penny Red Cover
25 Aug 1862 London EC
00 Duplex to Elgin "CR
F" used letter sent by
Caledonian Railways
TPO forward bag RARE
cover



Cancellation No:
73
Post Office:
Shooters Hill
First Issue: 1872

GB QV Penny Red Entire; Bank of England, London to Wath, Rotherham, 18 Apr 1863 with "A" and * mark. "A" "Denotes inspectors mark" * "Denotes letters which cannot be forwarded in the evening of posting owing to their being insufficiently addressed"



GB: QV Penny Red
Entire; Bank of
England, B", to
Leicester, 26-27
September 1867.
"B" "Denotes
inspectors mark"



5. Cancellations of London (Suburban) Districts:



Cancellation No: 71
Post Office: Catford
First Issue: 1872
Last used: 1892

GB 1878 July 17 RAIL MAIL from London EC to Leith Penny Red Cover with Edinrm Travel Post Office (TPO) Scotland, Edinb Mail back stamp date July 18 1878 and red wax with seal with words BOURSOTCOM



Cancellation No: 72
Post Office: Lower
West Norwood
First Issue: 1872
Last used: 1912



GB: QV Penny Red Cover; Bank of England, London, to Oswestry, 21-22 Sep 1867 with "A" and * mark. "A" "Denotes inspectors mark" * "Denotes letters which cannot be forwarded in the evening of posting owing to their being insufficiently addressed"

5. Cancellations of London (Suburban) Districts:



Cancellation No:
73
Post Office:
Shooters Hill
First Issue: 1872

GB QV 1962 February 18 Penny Red Stamp Used on Cover London to NW



Cancellation No: 91
Post Office:
Cricklewood



GB QV Penny Red Plate 36 Entire London EC 91 to Swaffham 19-20 Mar 1862 round back stamp of Swaffham and mark on seal wax



Cancellation No: 75
Post Office: Edmonton
First Issue: 1873
Last used: GPO



Cancellation No: 76
Post Office: New Cross
First Issue: 1873
Last used: 1904



5. Cancellations of London (Suburban) Districts:



Cancellation No: 71
Post Office: Catford
First Issue: 1872
Last used: 1892

Cancellation No: 100
Post Office: Botesdale
First Issue: 1844
Last used: 1854



Cancellation No: 87
Post Office: NORTH EASTERN
DISTRICT OFFICE
First Issue: NONE
Last used: NONE

Cancellation No: 81
Post Office: LOWER EDMONTON
First Issue: NONE
Last used: NONE



Cancellation No: 74
Post Office: BEDFORD STREET

Cancellation No: 73
Post Office: SHOOTERS HILL
First Issue: 1872
Last used: GPO