

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica May 1778

Entire letter from Henry Grove to London rated '4' with 'DOMINICO' handstamp type RL HS1 with 'FAL / MOUTH' and arrival Bishop Mark '5 AV'.

This is one of the only two known examples of this, the first Dominica handstamp, the other from the same correspondence, and used in August 1778.

The British Government Packet Service operated in the West Indies from 1755, and shortly afterwards the Packet Agencies there were issued with handstamps showing names of the Colonies.



The '4' rate mark on the front infers that this was not a Packet letter, as it would have been rated 1/-, therefore this letter was accepted by the Dominican Post Office for carriage by private ship as was frequently done in Jamaica at this time. The '4' doubtless applied at Falmouth to cover the inland rate to London.

The letter includes: 'We expect every moment to hear of a Declaration of war with France.'

*Provenance: Felix Nabarro
Stephen Sugarman*

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica 31st Aug. 1778

Entire letter from Henry Grove to London, sent by the 'Anna Terresa' packet rated '2N' with straight-line 'DOMONICO' (RL HS1), London Bishop Mark '30/NO' on reverse.

This is one of the only two known examples of this, the first Dominica handstamp, the other from the same correspondence, and used in May 1778.



The letter states; 'Every thing is well here as yet and we expect every moment our fleet will make its appearance in these seas. However, after brief resistance the garrison was forced to surrender to a French invasion force on September 7th.'

Provenance: Felix Nabarro
'Beaver Creek'

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica 4th Apr. 1789

Entire to James Neave in London, with no postal markings.



Ms. B. 1. 1. 1.

To
James Neave Esq
London

Open
Apr 4 1789
Anno 4 Nov 89

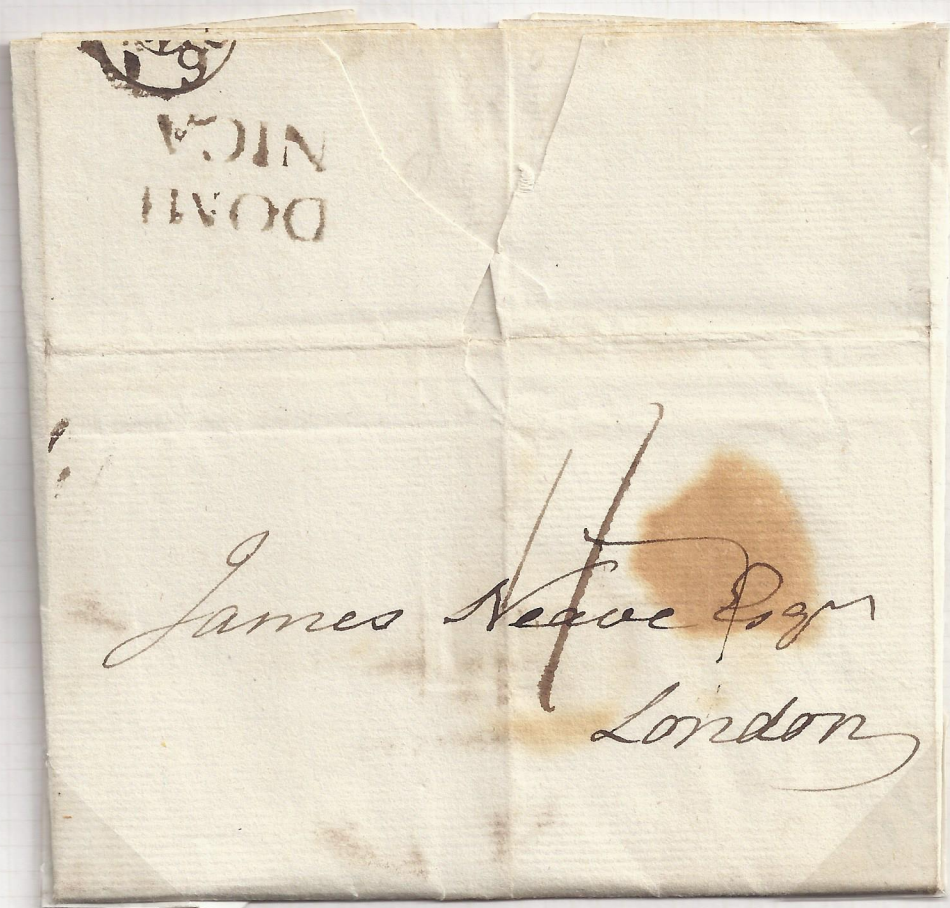
The letter includes details of the last hurricane to have hit the island, and the damage that it has caused, particularly to the 'Mill Machinery'.

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica 14th Jun. 1790

Entire letter to London rated '4' with two-line 'DOMI / NICA' handstamp type RL HS2
with London Bishop Mark.

There are four recorded examples of this handstamp, of which this is the earliest



The letter includes: 'Capt. Dean, when he sails, he will pay me his first bond, no money in these islands.'

DOMINICA

The dateline is Antigua 6th Aug. 1793

Entire letter to London rated '1/-' packet rate, with two-line 'DOMI / NICA' handstamp type RL HS2, via Dominica with London Bishop Mark '28 OCT' receiving on reverse.

There are four recorded examples of this handstamp, of which this is the unique letter from Antigua.



The letter includes: ' the 7 hgds. will follow by the first vessel loading for London after the sailing of the Fleet. Your nephew got safe to St. Kitts in 3 or 4 days.'

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica 13th May 1795

Entire to Andrew Steel, Edinburgh, rated '1/-' corrected to '1/7'
endorsed 'per Packet' with toe-line 'DOMI / NICA' handstamp
type RL HS2, with London Bishop Mark 'JY/1/B95' on reverse.

One of only 4 recorded examples of this handstamp.



Packet rate, as fixed from 1st June 1765, 1/-
Inland rate – London to Edinburgh raised from 6d. in 1784, 7d
Total charged therefore: '1/7'

Provenance: Felix Nabarro
Stephen Sugarman

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica 4th Oct. 1797

Entire letter to London rated '1/8' incorrectly and corrected to '3/4', the former mark overstruck by Inspector's Crown in red, with straight-line 'DOMINICA' handstamp type RL HS3, on reverse London Bishop Mark 'DE/12/A/97'.

This is the earliest of the three known examples of this handstamp recorded.



Provenance: Stephen Sugarman

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica 24th Oct. 1797

Entire letter to Edinburgh rated '2/2' with straight-line 'DOMINICA' handstamp type RL HS3, on reverse London Bishop Mark '23/4' and arrival '25/4' on reverse.

This are three examples of this handstamp recorded, of which this is the clearest.



'The Signet' in Edinburgh, is the association of Scottish lawyers and one of the oldest professional bodies in the world tracing its origins to the 15th century.

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica 11th Jul. 1798

Entire letter to Inverness rated '2/8' incorrectly and corrected to '2/4'
with straight-line 'DOMINICA' handstamp type Toeg D.3,
on reverse Bishop Mark 'E SE 8 98'



The letter includes: the three gents are over here from Guadaloupe.'

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominico 19th Dec. 1798

Entire letter to Edinburgh rated '2/2' with straight-line 'DOMINICA' handstamp type Toeg D.3, from Captain Campbell, Adjutant of the West India Regt. at Price Ruperts Bay, with Edinburgh Bishop Mark of arrival in red dated 'FE 16' (1799).

About 20 years after the first appearance of a straight-line handstamp, came the second, but now reading 'DOMINICA', the writer, however, still adopted the old form of 'DOMINICO'.



Packet rate Falmouth 1/-
Inland rate Falmouth-Berwick 8d.
Inland rate Berwick-Edinburgh 6d.
Total charged 2/2d. (inland rates from 1796)

Provenance: Stephen Sugarman

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica 1st Sep. 1800

Entire letter to Edinburgh with unlisted straight-line 'DOMINICA' handstamp with oval 'SHIP LRERE CROWN LIVERPOOL' and arrival Bishop Mark 'NO/11'

This strike with seriffed capitals 50mm x 4mm, showing a double impression, is the only recorded example.



Provenance: Stephen Sugarman

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica 1st Jun. 1801

Entire to Edinburgh, double rated '4/4' with two-line handstamp
'DOMINICA / JUN 1 1801' handstamp, type RL HS4, year date inverted,
Edinburgh Bishop Mark 'JY/31'.



The notation includes: With a bill of exchange for £1000 with a copy of the bill'.

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica 1st Aug. 1801

Entire Officer's letter from George Scott to Edinburgh, rated '2/2' with 'DOMINICA / AUG 5 1801' handstamp, type RL HS4, and Edinburgh Bishop Mark 'SE/26', total transit time 52 days.



The letter includes: In the first place the sickness and mortality in the Six Companies of the Regt. quartered on the Hill (Morne Bruce) far surpasses any thing of the kind I have ever seen before. I have buried nine officers since we arrived here, seven of them since the 20th July. Four others are at present sick and only three are left of which thank God I am one. The other two with eighty men who have not had the fever embarked yesterday for the Windward part of this island, and I am the only officer left on this truly miserable hill.

Provenance: Stephen Sugarman

DOMINICA

The dateline is Dominica 23rd Sep. 1804

Entire to London rated '3/8' from James Boland to Revd. Abbe Canon junior with 'DOMINICA / SEP 23 1804' handstamp, type RL HS5, backstamped in red on arrival 'E/NOV 17/ 1804' and London Twopenny Post paid handstamp '10 o'Clock No. 17 1804F.Nn.' on reverse.

This is the only recorded example of this handstamp where 'DOMINICA' measures 38mm x 4½ mm.



Provenance: Felix Nabarro
Stephen Sugarman

DOMINICA

The dateline is *Dominica 15th May 1805*

Entire to Edinburgh, rated '1/4' with unlisted straight-line 'DOMINICA' handstamp in seriffed capitals 47mm x 4mm, with the letters 'NICA' closer together and followed by a stop, oval 'SHIP LETTER/Crown/LIVERPOOL' and arrival Bishop Mark 'AUG/9'

This is the only recorded example of this handstamp.



In 1805, Admiral Villeneuve took a French fleet with 4000 troops led by General La Grange and took the capital, Roseau, destroying many buildings including the Post Office.

This handstamp may well have been the result of repaired type rescued from the wreckage of the Post Office.

Provenance: Stehpen Sugarman