

Great Britain Railway Station Cancellations from 1840



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The Royal Philatelic Society London

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Front cover

Euston Station/London & Holyhead T.P.O
T.P.O Connected Cancel see page 16

Back cover

Ludgate Hill Station
Circular Framed Telegraphic Numeral Cancel see page 16

Types of Postmark

Unframed obliterators: These marks were the first to be used at railway stations; they appear with or without serif lettering and were issued to thirteen stations. Gloucester station used no less than four different types and Milford Junction, two. Smaller format cancels were used at five stations and the undated versions were used at eight stations.

Numeral cancels: In 1844 most post offices were allocated a numeral cancel; the stations having different numerals allocated to those used at the “town” offices. A total of twenty-eight stations used these marks in England and Wales. In Ireland, just two stations used these cancels and in Scotland, six stations. These marks were used in conjunction with a dated cancel, usually a single ring, but are also found used with double arc unframed obliterators

Duplex cancels: The natural progression of linking the numeral cancel to the dated cancel resulted in the duplex cancel being introduced in the middle of the 1860’s. These marks can be found with either three or four horizontal bars above and below the numeral. Gloucester station used two different numerals; 312 and E94 for use on different railway company platforms and the stations at Hastings and St Leonard’s both used the same numeral; 342. In all, forty-two stations used these marks; many are quite scarce. Farnborough station used two different versions of the sideways duplex cancel between 1856 & 1859. Scotland used just one such mark at Craigellachie as did Ireland at Limerick Junction.

Squared circle cancels: These were initially an experimental cancel which fell out of favour with the general public who found that these marks damaged mail. Fourteen stations used these cancels; Chester using four different marks, Gloucester three, Swanley Junction three and two different cancels each for Chichester, Par, Rugby and Wellington College stations. Just one example has been recorded being used from Normanton Station.

Double ring cancels: While England and Wales used a similar style double ring cancel, Scotland used a version which incorporated the post office number. Scottish stations used twenty-four of these cancels, whilst over two hundred were issued to English and Welsh stations. Ireland had its own distinctive double ring cancel; only found used at Dundalk station. Double ring cancels also exist used at sub-offices of railway stations

Single ring cancels: By far the more common type of cancel, these marks come in many formats; just with the name of the station; with a town or county below; with initials of railway companies or complete wording around the ring. Again, these cancels can be found used at station sub-offices. Within this category falls the more modern self-inking date-stamps as used at post offices today.

Skeleton cancels: These temporary marks were nearly always in use for just a day or so; rarely being used for longer than a week. Freshwater station on the Isle of Wight used no fewer than seven different types; Swindon used five types with Swanley Junction, Micheldever, Broadstairs and Par stations all using three different cancels each. Rubber skeletons are those whose type runs across the ring of the cancel rather than follow the curves of the ring. These marks are particularly scarce with Broad Clyst and Martin Mill stations each having just one recorded example.

Rubber cancels: These marks are also considered in many cases to be a temporary mark although some small stations had a usage period of a few years; this would be because this would have been the only cancel issued to them. Stations such as Sheffield Park, Bekesbourne, Chollerton and High Peak Junction would fall into the latter category of use.

Hooded Circle or Scroll cancels: These marks were used primarily at the Parcel Post Depots of the London termini and at the Late Box facilities provided at Manchester, Leeds, Liverpool and Bradford stations.

Oval Registered cancels: Both metal and rubber versions of these marks exist. During WWII the employment of the undated rubber cancels was introduced in 1942 for the duration of the war for use in London only.

Returned Letter cancel: Brighton Station was the only station to have used the “R.L” designation of the Returned Letter in any of its postmarks. Although used for many other purposes other than Returned Letter business, this mark is mainly found on returned Inland Revenue communications of the 1890’s.

Machine cancels: Bedlington and Bridlington Stations both used versions of the Krag machine cancel; Bridlington also used the “Buy War Bonds” slogan cancel. Two stations used the meter franking machine cancel; Bedlington and Washington.

Parcel Post cancels: The whole range of these cancels include the dumb target and hatched parcel cancels, the facsimile parcel post label cancels and the metal "P.P" cancels. Sub-types do exist and date from 1892 at Paddington Station.

Undated Oval Telegraphic cancels: Issued to all railway stations, these cancels can be found on telegrams [both GPO and Railway] as well as cancelling stamps on cover and card; particularly railway letter stamps.

Straight-Line cancels: Used by just four stations; Athenry and Galway Stations [Ireland] and at Chester and Warrington Stations during the six year period 1849 to 1855.

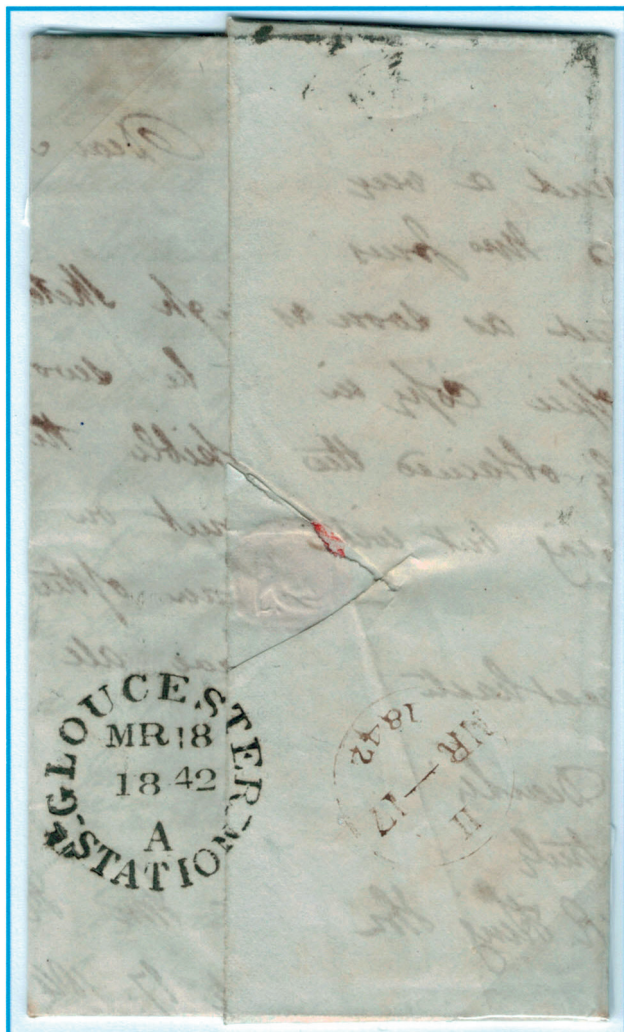
"R.W" within Oval cancel: Issued only to York Station which stands for Rail Way. Proofed on the 17th November 1845 and known used in four different colours.

Missent Marks: Perhaps the scarcest of marks and the hardest to obtain; these marks were issued to just four stations; Bristol who used two different marks; Crewe, Southampton and the Railway Office Derby. An example of the Derby mark is recorded as being the Worlds earliest recorded, undated railway station mark.

Instructional Marks: These include the framed Gone Away, Inadmissible at.....Rate, Gone no Address and other similar statements. Introduced in 1890, these marks as used at stations are considered to be scarce.

Postage Due Marks: Again, these are a fairly modern addition to the story of postal markings, being introduced in the 1890's; firstly as a rubber monetary indication of mainly 1d or 2d; later incorporating the post office number of the station office in its design.

Telegraph Codes and Numerals: The codes can be found on parcel post labels and the numerals can be only very rarely found on a receipt of a telegraphic message such as the one used at Ludgate Hill Station in 1876.



Travelling Post Office Connected cancels:

Hen's Teeth spring to mind when looking for these cancels. They tend to be just one-offs; with the exception of the single ring cancel of the North Eastern TPO with the index TPO as used at Whitley Bay Station in the 1912-15 period.

Gloucester Station Unframed Obliterator

Currently the Worlds earliest recorded dated railway station cancel used as a receiving mark on an entire from London addressed to Gloucester on the 18th March 1842. This mark was entered into the proof books on the 27th January 1842



Swindon Station Unframed Obliterator

A printed Great Western Railway entire addressed to Birmingham with the 1d red tied by the 1844 type numeral cancel 766 of Swindon Town office. On the back flap is the undated and unframed obliterator SWINDON STATION in black ink, struck on the 22nd November 1846 as evidenced by the dated Swindon cancel alongside

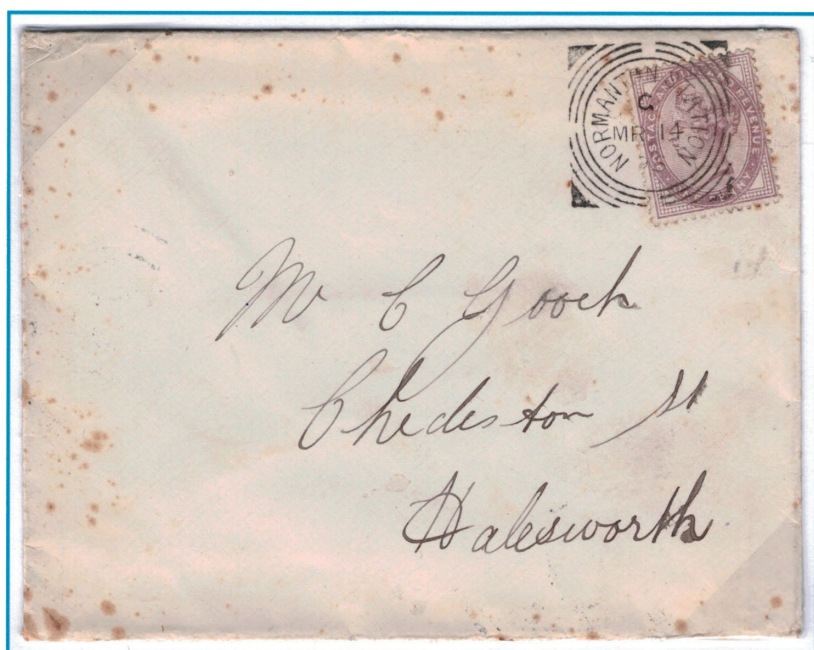
Bickley Station Numeral Cancel

QV ½d brown postal stationery newspaper wrapper addressed locally with the three-bar vertical oval numeral cancel B12 of Bickley Station cancelling the stamp impression. Undated, but is Ca.1882



**Maidstone Station
Duplex Cancel**

Cover addressed to Canterbury with a pair of QV ½d vermillion stamps tied by a single strike of the three-bar duplex cancel MAIDSTONE/STATION OFFICE-493 dated 11th May 1899 with time 2.45pm



**Normanton Station Squared
Circle Cancel**

The only known or recorded example of the Normanton Station squared circle cancel tying a 1d lilac to a cover addressed to Halesworth, Suffolk on the 14th March 1895

Flaxton Station Undated Thimble Cancel

Paid Late Fee mourning cover addressed to Lowthorpe, Hull with the 2 x 1d stamps tied by the York circular duplex cancels dated 14th April 1859. On the side flap is the undated thimble cancel FLAXTON STATION in blue ink, struck on the same day





Warlingham Station Single Ring Cancel

QV 1d pink postal stationery envelope addressed to Lucerne, Switzerland up-rated by 3 x 1d lilacs and a ½d vermilion to make the 4½d registered rate to the continent. The added stamps and stamp impression are cancelled by the single ring cancels WARLINGHAM STATION dated the 3rd June 1891 with index B

Crowthorne Station Single Ring Cancel

Item of Express mail addressed locally within Crowthorne with the 1948 Silver Wedding issue tied by a single strike of the single ring cancel CROWTHORNE STATION/CROWTHORNE/BERKS dated 30th April 1948



Euston Station Irish Mail Single Ring Cancel

The latest recorded example of the single ring cancel EUSTON STATION/IRISH MAIL dated 23rd December 1876 with inverted E index cancelling stamps on an entire addressed to New York. The 2d pays the Late Fee for posting into the train at Euston and the 2 x 2½d values pay the double letter rate to the USA. This is also the only recorded example where this cancel is used to cancel the stamps; normally this is found as a back stamp

Gillingham Station Self-Inking Datestamp

A certificate of posting of an ordinary letter to Pershore, Worcestershire cancelled by the self-inking datestamp GILLINGHAM STATION KENT/POST/OFFICE dated 20th April 2004

Certificate of Posting *closed 21-4-04*

This is a receipt for 1st and 2nd Class inland letters and ordinary overseas items sent by Air or Surface mail. Keep it safe – if you need to make a compensation claim you will need to produce this certificate.
1st or 2nd Class post should not be used for sending money or valuable items – use Special Delivery.
 If sending money or valuables overseas, please ask at your local Post OfficeTM branch for advice on the best service to use.

Royal Mail
 The Real NetworkTM

Please write the name, address and postcode for each item you're sending in the box below (in ink).

number of items: 1 staff initials: jt date stamp: GILLINGHAM STATION KENT 20. APR 04 Post Office

name: MR K. J. SMITH, address and postcode: 3. ST. AGATHA'S CLOSE. PERSHORE. WORCS WR10 1DQ

please continue on the back (if necessary) P326 PAD November 02

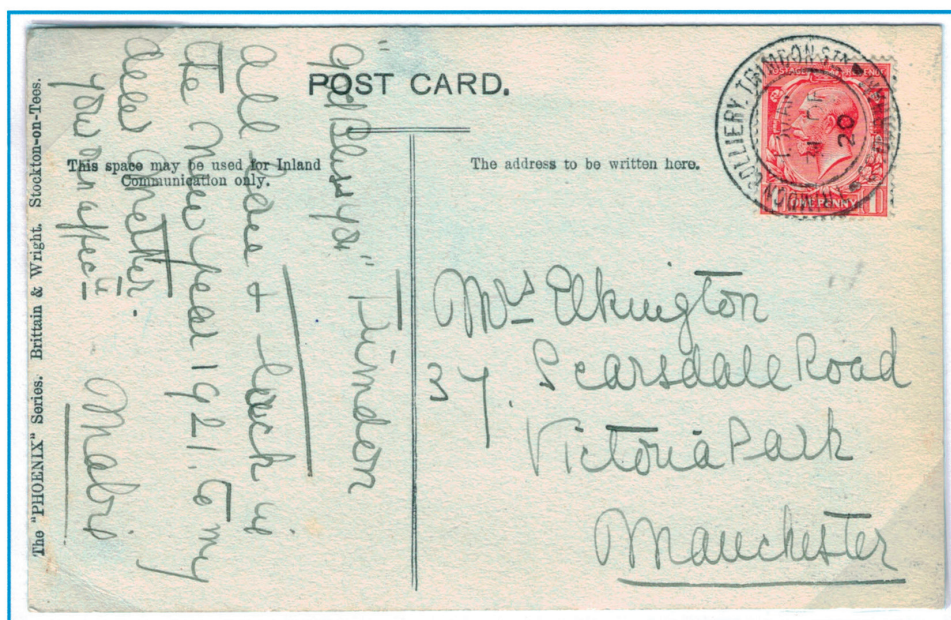


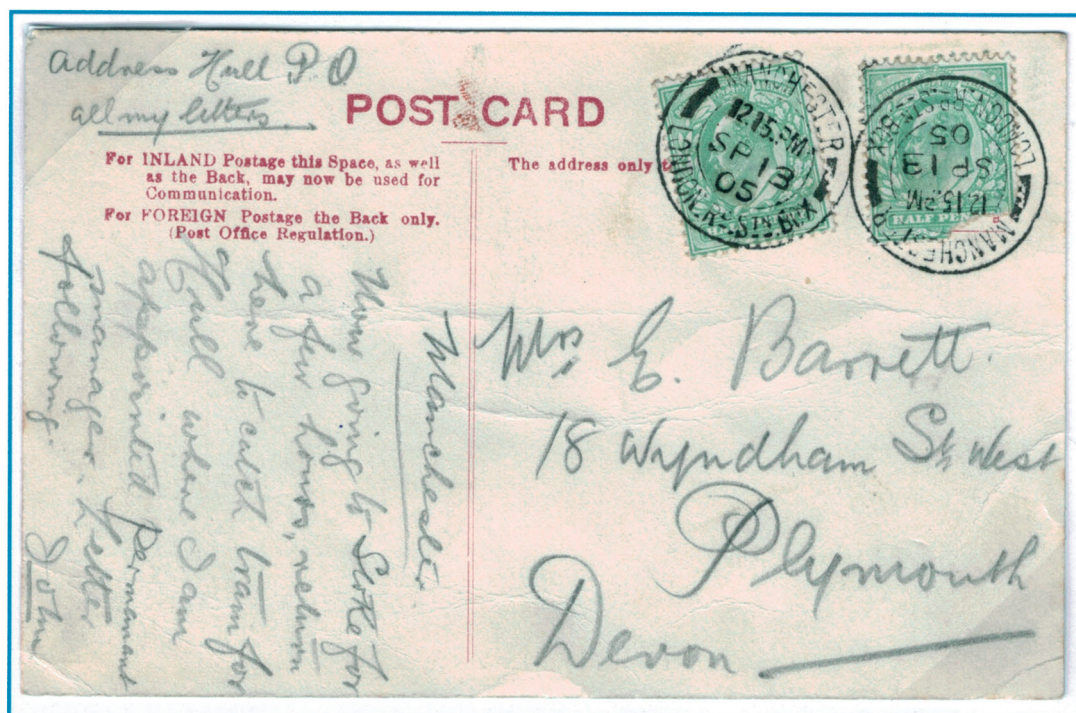
Pevensey Station Double Ring Cancel

Postcard addressed to Southbourne, Bournemouth with the GEO V 1d tied by the elusive double ring cancel PEVENSEY STN OFFICE/SUSSEX dated 15th October 1930

Trimdon Station Sub-Office Double Ring Cancel

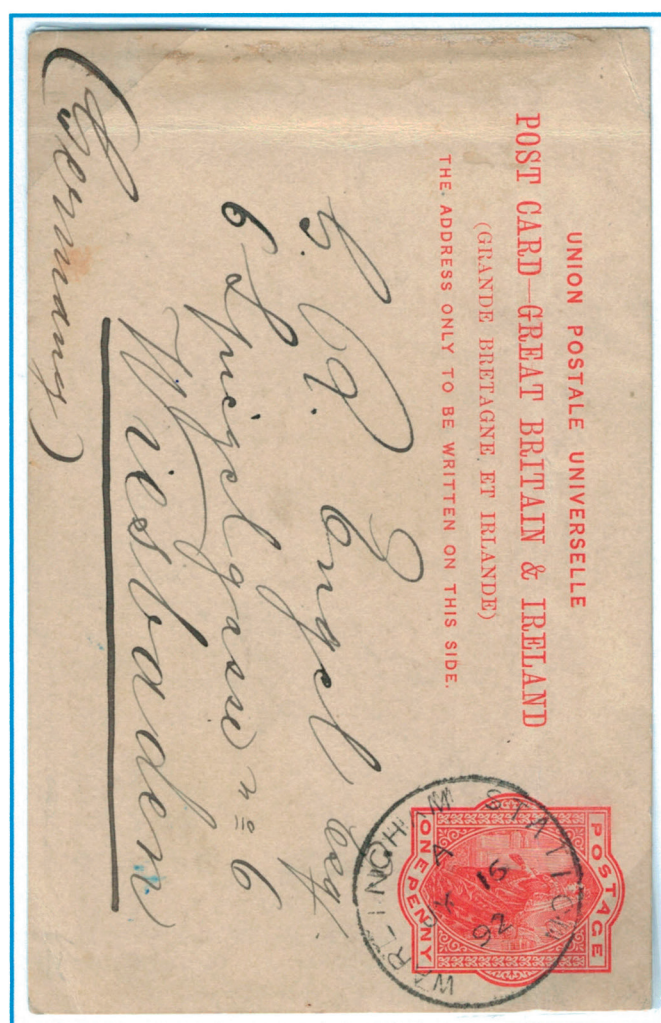
Postcard of the "Old Pit, Trimdon Colliery" addressed to Manchester with the GEO V 1d tied by the double ring sub-office cancel TRIMDON COLLIERY TRIMDON STN/Co. DURHAM dated 31st December 1920; the only recorded date of use





**Manchester London
Road Station Box
Double Ring Cancel**

Picture postcard of Manchester addressed to Plymouth with the 2 x ½d EDW VII values tied by the double ring cancels MANCHESTER/LONDON RD STN BOX dated 13th September 1905. For an extra ½d for postcards, the item of mail could be posted into the Station Box at the Manchester London Road station

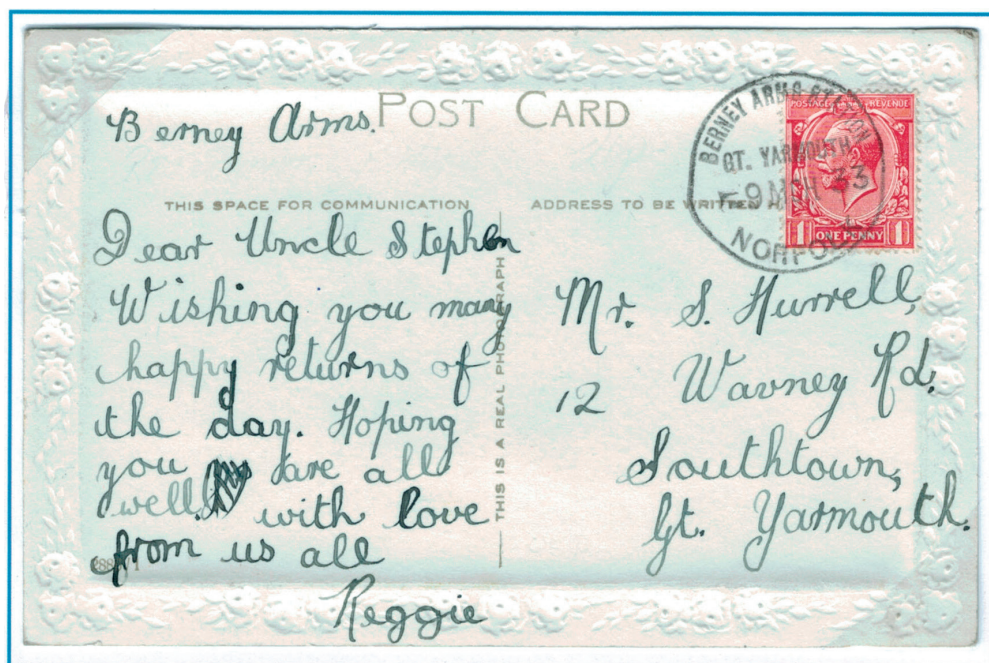


**Warlingham Station
Skeleton Cancel**

QV 1d vermilion postal stationery postcard addressed to Germany with the stamp impression cancelled by the skeleton cancel WARLINGHAM STATION dated 16th July 1892. To date, no further examples of this mark have been recorded

Berney Arms Station Rubber Cancel

A greetings postcard addressed to Great Yarmouth with the GEO V 1d tied by the rubber cancel BERNEY ARMS STATION/ GT YARMOUTH/NORFOLK dated 9th March 1933. If it sounds like a pub, it probably is. This station is situated at the local pub, The Berney Arms



Straffan Station Sub-Office Rubber Cancel

Postcard of "The Barracks, Naas" addressed to Northumberland with the GEO V 1d tied by the rubber sub-office cancel KILL/ STRAFFAN STN/Co. KILDARE dated 10th February 1921. Alongside is the head office cancel of Straffan Station dated the same day

Broad Clyst Station Rubber Skeleton Cancel

A postcard addressed locally to Poltimore with the EDW VII ½d tied by the unique skeleton cancel BROAD CLYST/STATION/ EXETER dated 15th July 1909





**Manchester Station
Late Box Hooded Circle Cancel**

A cover addressed to London with the 1d lilac tied by the hooded circle or Scroll cancel MANCHESTER STN/LATE BOX dated 18th June 1900. This cover should have been taxed as only the postage has been covered by the 1d stamp

**Dover Station
Registered Cancel**

QV 2d registered postal stationery envelope size F addressed to Shipston-on-Stour which has been "Posted out of Course" and taxed 2d. The stamp and stamp impression is cancelled by the oval REGISTERED/DOVER STATION OFFICE dated 12th September 1900



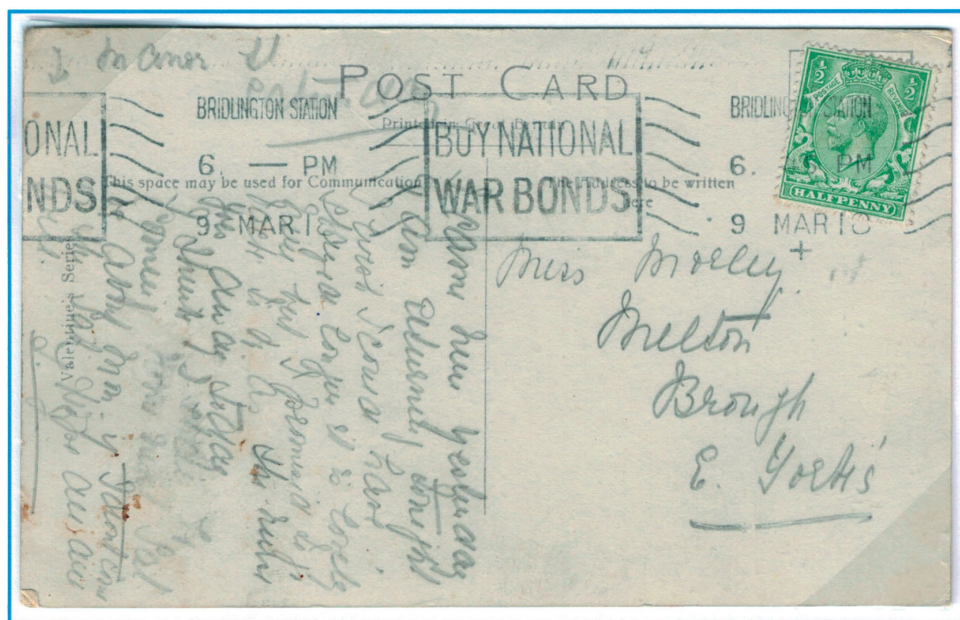
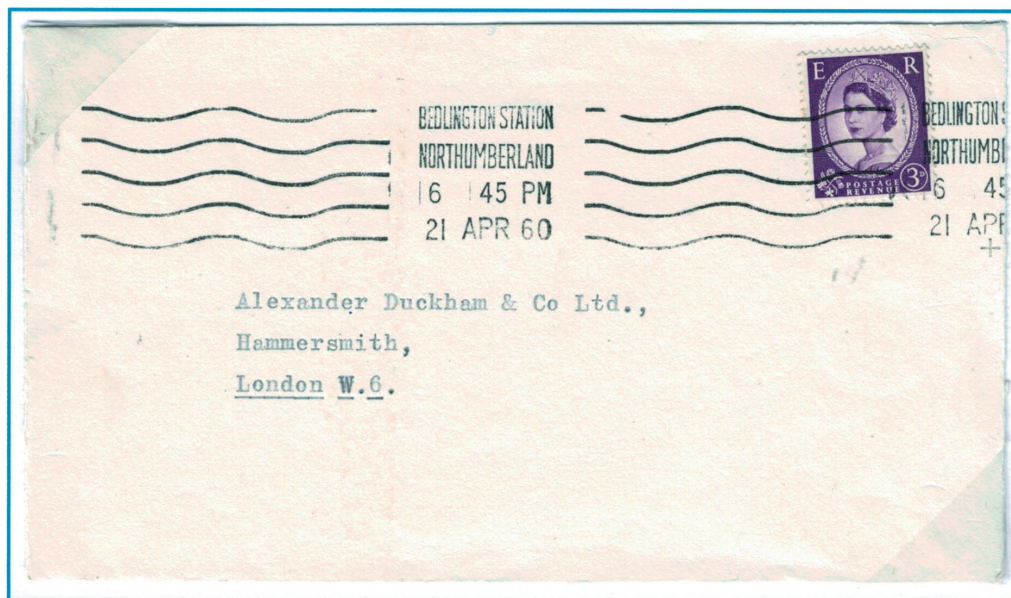
**Brighton Station
Returned Letter Cancel**

OHMS Inland Revenue envelope addressed within Brighton with the ½d vermilion I.R./OFFICIAL stamp tied by the Brighton HPO squared circle cancel dated 25th June 1893. The cover has the manuscript "Deceased" on the back; and as such has the single ring cancel BRIGHTON STATION/R.L struck on the front the following day



**Bedlington Station
Krag Machine Cancel**

Commercial cover addressed to London with the QE II 3d Wilding stamp tied by the Krag machine cancel BEDLINGTON STATION/NORTHUMBERLAND dated 21st April 1960



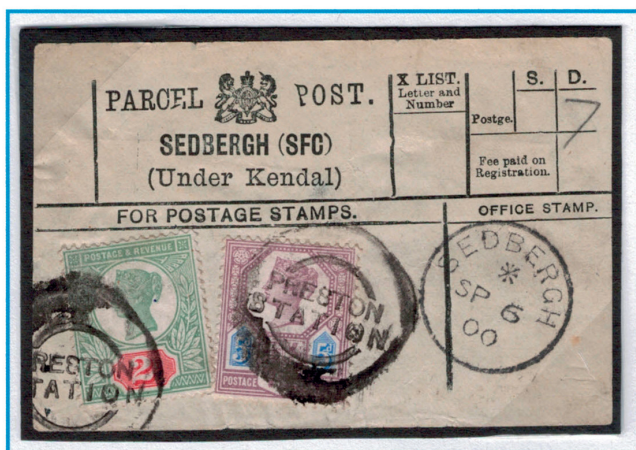
**Bridlington Station
Krag Slogan Cancel**

A picture postcard addressed to Brough, Yorkshire with the GEO V 1/2d tied by the continuous Krag machine war Bonds slogan cancel on the 9th March 1918

**Bedlington Station
Meter Mail cancel**

Printed window envelope from the Welwyn Electrical laboratories of Bedlington cancelled by the 1d + 1d EIIR meter cancel of BEDLINGTON STATION dated 25th April 1958



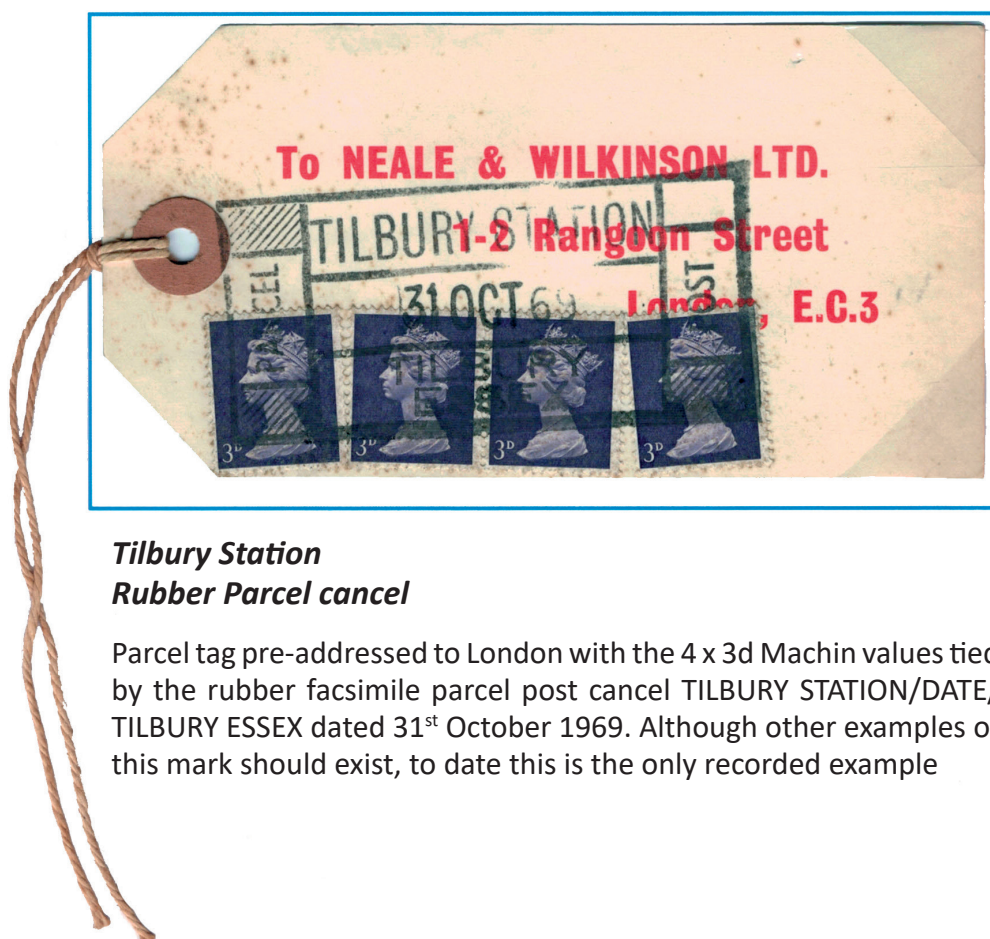
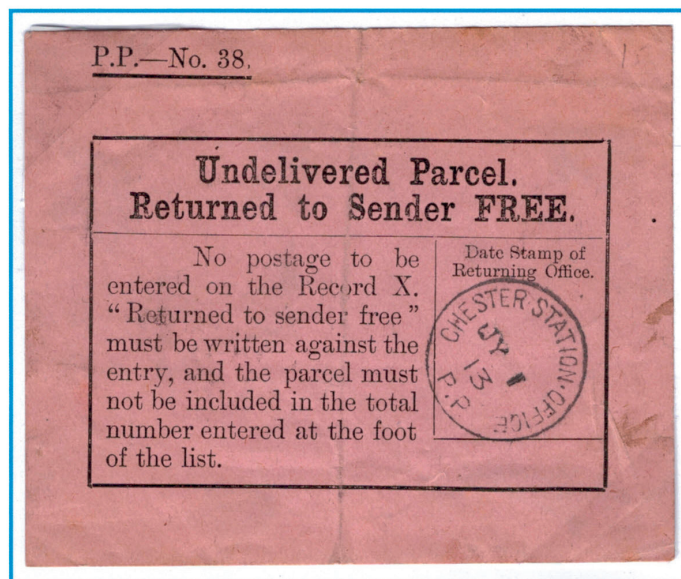


Preston Station Target Parcel Cancel

Parcel post label issued at and used from Sedbergh with the QV 2d & 5d values cancelled by the dumb target parcel cancel PRESTON/STATION. Alongside is the single ring cancel Sedbergh dated 6th September 1900

Chester Station Single Ring Parcel Cancel

Parcel Post docket PP No.38 being an instruction to return an undelivered parcel to the sender, free of charge. The docket is cancelled by the single ring cancel CHESTER STATION OFFICE/P.P. on the 1st July 1913

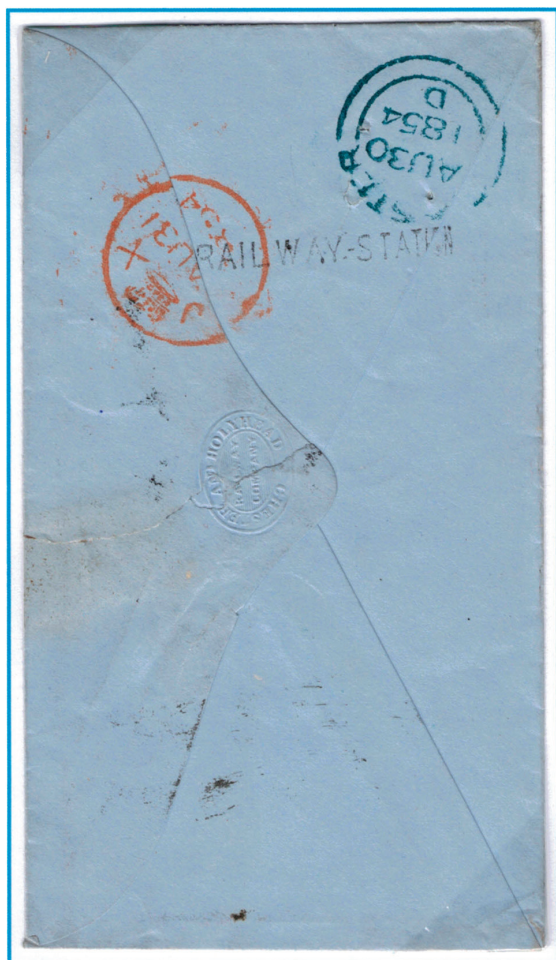


Tilbury Station Rubber Parcel cancel

Parcel tag pre-addressed to London with the 4 x 3d Machin values tied by the rubber facsimile parcel post cancel TILBURY STATION/DATE/ TILBURY ESSEX dated 31st October 1969. Although other examples of this mark should exist, to date this is the only recorded example

**West Grinstead Station
Oval Telegraphic Cancel**

EDW VII ½d postal stationery postcard addressed to Horsham with the 2d Railway Letter Stamp of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway and the stamp impression cancelled by the oval, undated telegraphic cancel WEST GRINSTEAD/STATION/L.B & S.C RY struck on the 2nd August 1909



**Chester Station
Straight-Line Mark**

Chester Station used two versions of the straight-line cancel RAILWAY STATION; this being the 38 x 3½mm version struck on the 30th August 1854

**York Station
Oval Framed R.W [Rail Way]**

Cover addressed to the Great Northern Railway offices at King's Cross Station with the 1d stamp tied by the York sideways duplex cancel on 1st July 1856. Struck at York Station is the oval framed R.W mark in black ink. R.W according to the proof books stands for "Rail Way"



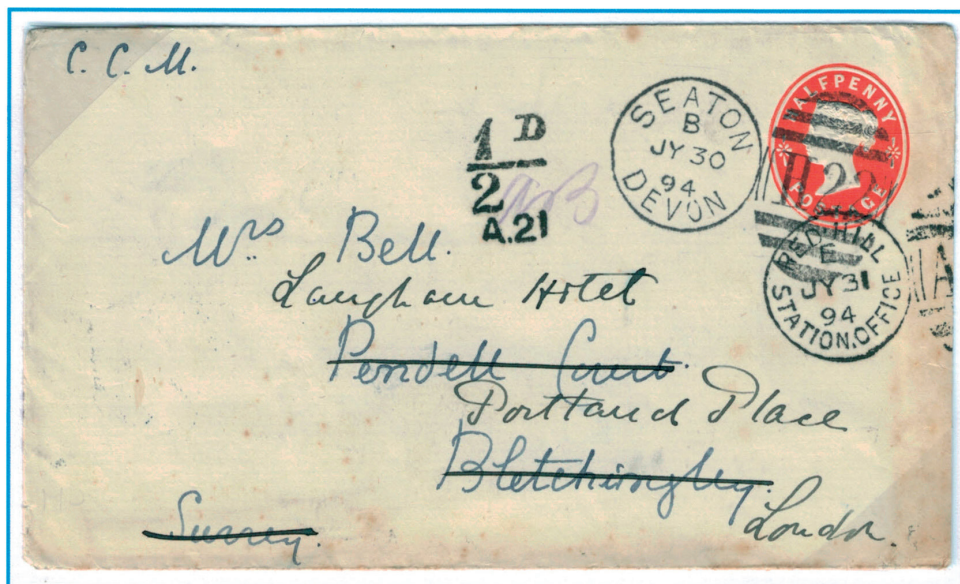


Southampton Station Missent Mark

Mourning cover addressed to Uppingham, Rutland from Ventnor on the Isle of Wight with the unframed MISSENT TO/ SOUTHAMPTON STATION struck in black ink on the 8th November 1862. This mark is also known used in blue ink

Swindon Station Instructional Mark

A greetings postcard addressed locally within Swindon with the 1d GEO V value tied by the elusive double ring cancel SWINDON STATION/+ dated 27th March 1922. Alongside is the 1d/881 tax mark and the framed INADMISSIBLE AT..... RATE/881 of Swindon Station



Red Hill Station Postage Due Mark

QV ½d vermilion postal stationery envelope addressed to Bletchingley, Surrey from Seaton, Devon before being redirected to a London Hotel. For redirection, a fee of ½d was required to secure delivery to the new address. The ½d A21 tax mark of Red Hill Station was applied on the 31st July 1894 as evidenced by the red Hill Station A21 duplex cancel at right

Ashford Station

Oval Framed Postage Due Mark

An envelope from London addressed to Tenterden and redirected to Benenden on the 17th January 1890. At left is the oval framed 1d/31 tax mark of Ashford Station and at right is the station single ring cancel with index M



For use at Railway Stations only.

No. 1.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

This Certificate is not valid unless Telegraph Stamps of the value of Twopence be affixed to it, and cancelled by the numerical stamp of the issuing Railway Station.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I have this 10th day of Feb. 1876, received a Telegraph Message, No. _____, to be forwarded to* Frankfurt; and that the charges thereon, amounting to £ " 0 " 0, were duly paid.

Maylor
Station Agent.

* If the Message be for a Foreign Station, the name must be inserted above. This is not absolutely necessary in the case of an Inland Message. [SEE BACK.]

Ludgate Hill Station

Circular Framed Telegraphic Numeral Cancel

Post Office Telegraphs form for the receipt of a telegraphic message to Frankfurt with the 2 x 1d telegraph stamps cancelled by the circular framed numeral cancels 855 as issued to Ludgate Hill Station. At top right is struck the single ring cancel LUDGATE HILL E.C./RAILY- STAT^N dated 10th February 1876

Euston Station/London & Holyhead T.P.O

T.P.O Connected Cancel

Accelerated entire addressed to New York at the 1/6d rate with the postage stamps tied by the B34 numeral cancel of the London & Holyhead Travelling Post Office used in conjunction with the single ring cancel EUSTON STATION/IRISH MAIL dated 15th June 1861





**Paddington Station/
London & Exeter T.P.O
T.P.O Connected Cancel**

A wrapper addressed to Alcester with the Venetian red and 2d blue stamps tied by two strikes of the L & E T.P.O-P/S London style duplex cancel of the London & Exeter TPO Paddington Station [P.S] dated 6th February 1880

**Blantyre Station
Scots Local Cancel**

QV 1d pink postal stationery envelope addressed to Dundrum, Dublin with the stamp impression cancelled by the framed Scots local cancel BLANTYRE STATION in black ink. This is the only known example of this mark cancelling a 1d pink envelope



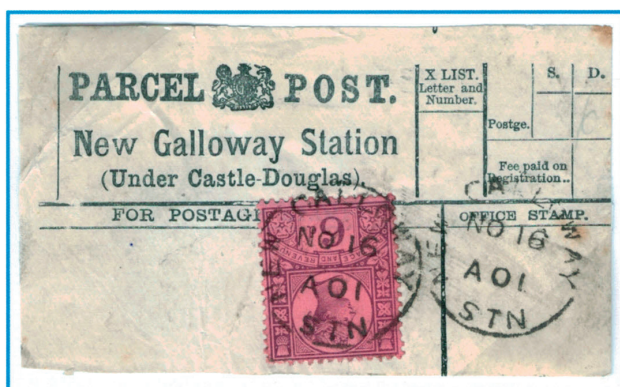
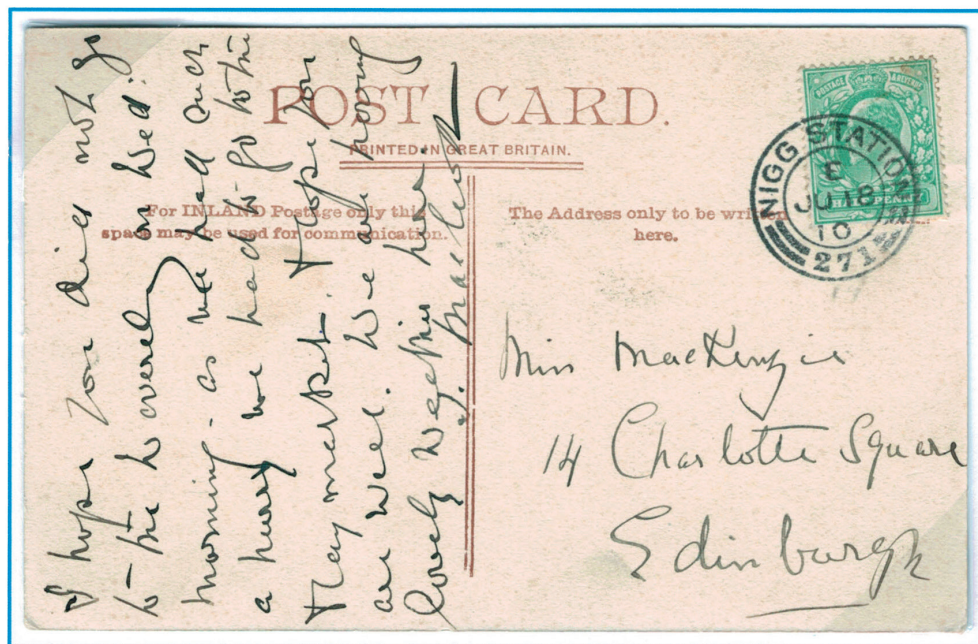
**Craigellachie Station
Scots Duplex Cancel**

QV ½d brown postal stationery postcard addressed to London, cancelled by the Scots duplex cancel CRAIGELLACHIE/STATION-86 dated 17th September 1883. This was the only Scottish station to use a duplex cancel



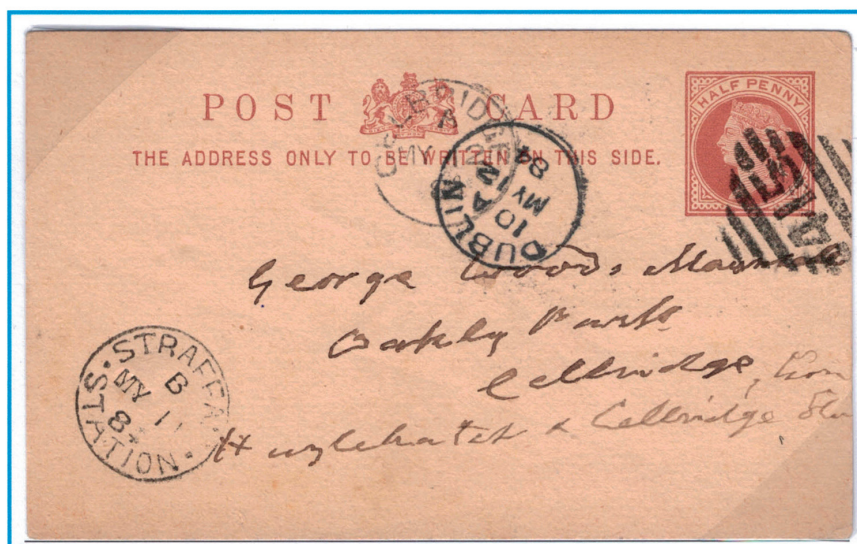
Nigg Station
Scots Double Ring Cancel

Postcard of the "United Free Church" at Nigg addressed to Edinburgh with the EDW VII ½d stamp tied by the Scots double ring cancel NIGG STATION/271 dated 18th June 1910



New Galloway Station
Scots Skeleton cancel

Parcel post label issued at and used from New Galloway Station with the 6d stamp tied by the Scots skeleton cancel NEW GALLOWAY/STN dated 16th November 1901



Straffan Station
Irish Numeral Cancel

QV ½d brown postal stationery postcard addressed to Cellbridge, Dublin cancelled by the Irish numeral cancel 415 of Straffan Station. This mark is used in conjunction with the single ring cancel STRAFFAN/STATION dated 11th May 1884

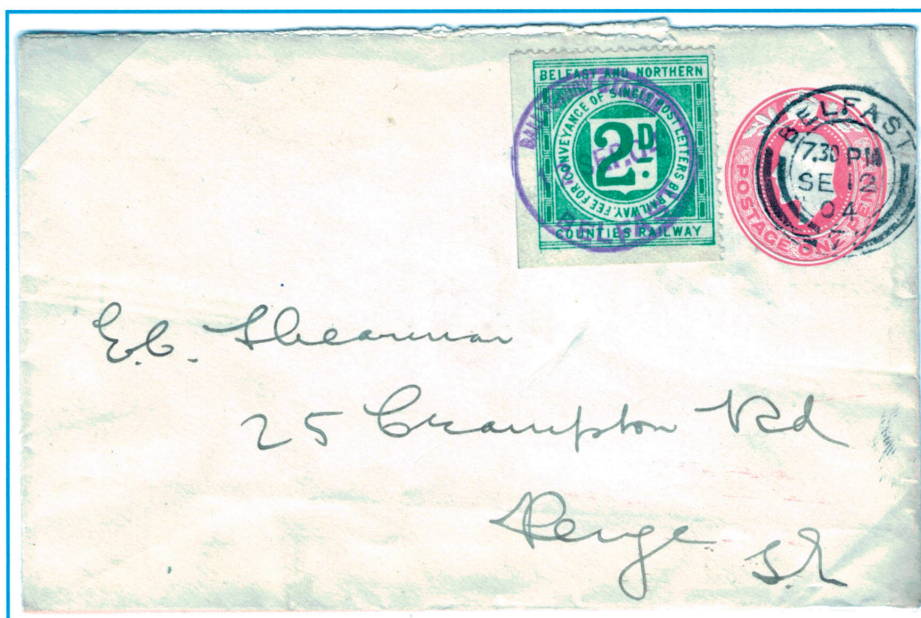
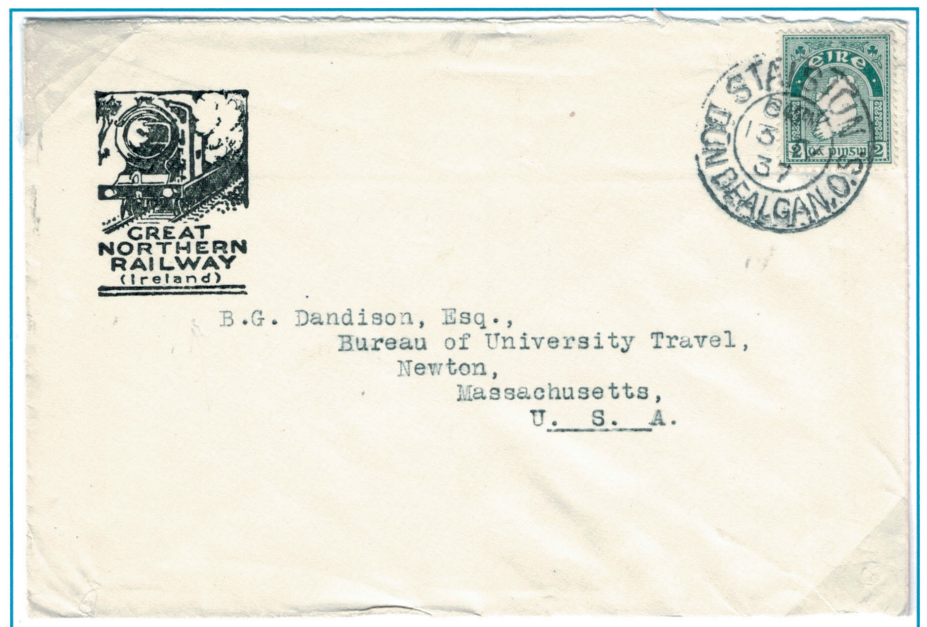


Gortatlea Station Oval Telegraphic Cancel

QV 2d registered postal stationery envelope size G addressed to Dublin with the unusual usage of the undated telegraphic cancel GORTATLEA/STATION/GT S & W RY as an adjunct to the manuscript "REG'D AT" placed before the cancel on 21st January 1895

Dundalk Station Irish Double Ring Cancel

Illustrated envelope of the Great Northern Railway of Ireland addressed to the USA with the 2d stamp tied by the double ring, Gaelic language cancel STASION/DUN DEALGAN O.S dated 13th April 1937



Ballycarry Station Railway Letter Stamp Use

Commercial EDW VII 1d postal stationery envelope addressed to London with the 2d Railway Letter Stamp cancelled by the violet inked rubber cancel BALLYCARRY STATION/BELFAST dated 12th September 1904. The stamp impression is cancelled by the double ring cancel of Belfast on the same day

For use at Railway Stations only.

G [177] 3000 Pads. 1/70



No. 1.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

This Certificate is not valid unless Telegraph Stamps of the value of Twopence be affixed to it, and cancelled by the numerical Stamp of the issuing Railway Station.

Telegraph Stamps of the value of Twopence to be affixed here, and cancelled by the numerical stamp of the issuing Railway Station.



THIS IS TO CERTIFY that I have this 10th day of Feb.
1877, received a Telegraph Message, No. 187, to be forwarded
to* Frankfort; and that the charges thereon, amounting
to £ 0 0, were duly paid.

W. Taylor
Station Agent.

* If the Message be for a Foreign Station, the name must be inserted above. This is not absolutely necessary in the case of an Inland Message.

[SEE BACK.]