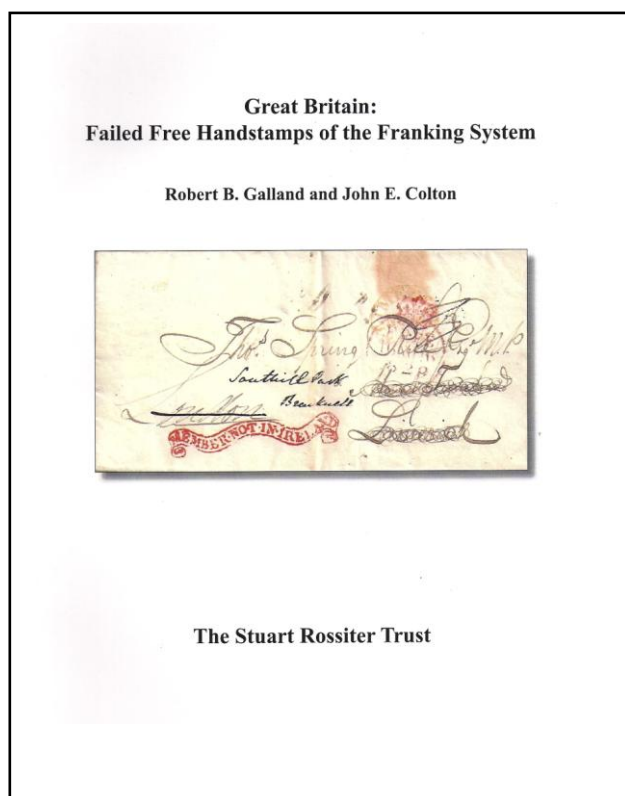


# Great Britain: Failed Free Handstamps of the Franking System

Supplement 1, March 2017

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When published in 2014 more than 250 wrappers, entires or fronts with Failed Free handstamps were described in detail. Since then more than 43 new examples have come to light. In addition, further details have been obtained of several examples originally listed. In addition two Above Number handstamps have been seen. These were mentioned but without details, as we had not seen them, in the First Edition. No new type of handstamp has been seen. As before, in all Tables where the 'Source' is shaded we have seen the item in a private collection but can provide no definitive reference.

The structure of this Supplement is the same as that in the original book. The check list has been revised to reflect the new findings.

## Chapter 1: Above Privilege Handstamps

### Additions

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LP 2b*	24 December 1795	Rumsey	London	Wrapper	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1046
LP 4	10 June 1797	London	Alnwick	Part letter	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1047
LP 7	29 November 1803	London	Aberdeen	Front	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1049
LP 7	18 August 1807	London	Durham	Front	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1049
LP 7	25 December 1809	London	Norwich	Entire	
LP 7	14 March 1811	London	Peterborough	Wrapper	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1051
LP 8 black	20 June 1814	London	Norwich	Wrapper	

\*could be the slightly longer LP 2a, handstamp is crossed out making measurement difficult.

Variants have been seen in the shape of the letter *P* in handstamp LP 7. The top can be round or flat and the loop large or small (Figure 2). Larger loops and round tops seem to be associated with early examples. As with all handstamps there are likely to be variations as they become damaged and repaired or replaced.

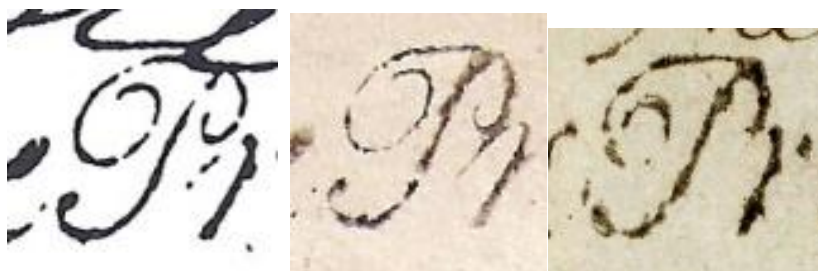


Figure 2 LP 7 *P* variants

### Included in original book without a source

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LP 5 purple*	14 November 1802	Hamilton	London	Front	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1046

\*described as purple in the book. Catalogue description is 'oxidised red'; a better description might be 'brownish with traces of red'.

### Originally omitted from one section though included in another

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LP 8 in red (omitted) plus LW 1 in black (included)	1815	Belfast	London	Entire	Spink, May 2014, Lot 41; Grosvenor Auctions, April 2015, Lot 1110

## Chapter 2: Above Number Handstamps

### Additions

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LN 2	1798	Truro	London	Entire	Samwells June 2015
LN 2	19 August 1798	Abingdon	Andover	Entire	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1048
LN 3	2 February 1808	London	Wymondham	Entire	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1050
LN 4	17 October 1817	London	Suffolk	Front	Bill Barrell, list 141, December 2015
LN 7 red	12 March 1824	Chorley	London	Wrapper	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1054
LN 7 red	17 March 1826	Winchester	London	Wrapper	Grosvenor Auctions, November 2016, ex Lot 156

LN 7 black	24 June 1831	London	Hastings	Front	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1054
LN 7 faded red/orange	17 May 1832		London	Wrapper	
LN 7 black	28 March 1833	London	Canterbury	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2016, ex Lot 1216
LN 7 black	28 February 1834	London	Leamington	Front	Grosvenor Auctions, November 2016, ex Lot 156
LN 8 brown	29 March 1837	London	Ware	Front	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1054
LN 8 black	30 June 1838	London	Bath	Circular	Reference 1, p36; SG Monthly, Feb 2015, p50-55
DN 3 red	28 July 1828	Dublin	Cork	Front plus part flap	Argyll Etkin Auction, October 2014, ex Lot 1147
DN 3 red	5 April 1830	Dublin	Castle Connell	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2016, ex Lot 1216
DN 4	22 March 1823	Dublin	London	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2016, ex Lot 1216

**Included in original book without a source**

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LN 8 brown	12 August 1839	London	Elstree	Envelope	Argyll Etkin Auction, October 2014, ex Lot 1609

Included in original book without details

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LN 4 red	3 November 1815	Brighton	London	Entire	Gomersall, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1052. Figure 3
LN 8 red	5 April 1835	Newmarket	London	Entire	Clark, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2015, Lot 1081. Figure 4

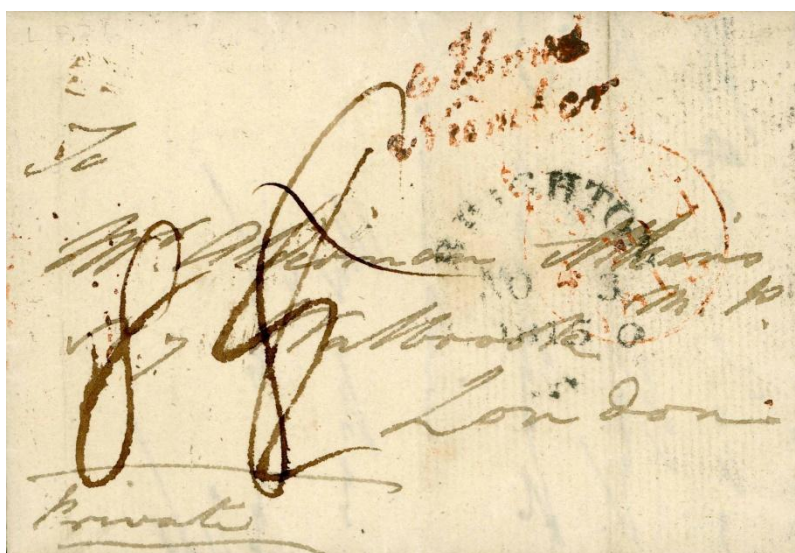


Figure 3. Entire dated 3 November 1815 with LN 4 handstamp in red



Figure 4. Entire dated 5 April 1835 with LN 8 handstamp in red

## Chapter 3: Above Weight Handstamps

### Additions

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LW 1 red	13 May 1817	London	Scotland	Front	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1015
LW 2 red	13 September 1819	London	Cullompton	Wrapper	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1053
LW 2 black x 2	2 July 1834	London	Brighton	Front	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1053
LW 3 black	28 June 1823	London	Diss, Norfolk	Front	
LW 4 red	12 August 1824	London	Cardiff	Wrapper	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2015, ex lot 1468
LW 4 black	23 April 1833	Ottery St Mary	London	Entire	
LW 4 black	21 May 1833	London	Oxford	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, June 2015, ex lot 324
LW 4 black	17 March 1825	London	Cambridge	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, June 2015, ex lot 324
LW 4 x2 red	26 April 1827	Cheltenham	Norwich	Entire	
LW 4 black	30 July 1831	London	Cowes, Isle of Wight	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2016, ex Lot 1216
LW 4 black	11 June 1832	Shrewsbury	London	Entire	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2015, ex Lot

					1080
LW 4 black	20 July 1833	London	Aberystwyth	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2016, ex Lot 1216
LW 5 greenish black	14 October 1835	Kingussie	London	Wrapper	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1056
LW 5 greenish black	14 January 1836	London	Edinburgh	Entire	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2015, ex Lot 1080
LW 5 light brown	14 May 1838	London	Alnwick	Entire	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1055
LW 5 brown, blackish	9 July 1839	London	Isle of Wight	Front	Magpie Auction, December 2014, lot 120
LW 5 brown	9 August 1839	London	Settle, Yorkshire	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2016, ex Lot 1216

## Chapter 4: Miscellaneous Handstamps

To emphasize the point that although the London Office did not have Counterfeit handstamps they did take that Breach of Regulations seriously, on page 62 we illustrated part of the Evening Mail for November 15, 1802. John Hatfield was accused of “*counterfeiting the Handwriting of a Member of Parliament in the Superscription of Letters to be sent by the Post.*” The punishment for this crime was deportation for seven years.

Thanks to the BBC website we now know that though apprehended Hatfield was never deported. A notorious con man, while visiting the Lake District he met Mary Robinson, the Maid of Buttermere. Impersonating the Honourable Alexander Augustus Hope, Hatfield not only forged Hope’s signature on letters, he married Mary in October 1802, committing bigamy! The deception was quickly realised and Hatfield ran. He was caught near Swansea in November and underwent trial in Carlisle. There he was sentenced to death and was duly hanged in September 1803.

## Additions

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
DC 2	8 August 1746	Dublin	Clonmell	Entire	MacDonnell Whyte, January 2016, Lot 164
DC 2	13 June 1750	Birr	Dublin	Entire	
DC 2	1 April 1752	Waterford	Dublin	Entire	MacDonnell Whyte, August 2016, Lot 202

It is apparent that several items with DC 1 and DC 2 handstamps have been obtained from the same archive. They cover the period 1743-1754 and are addressed to Thomas Dillon, a banker in Dublin, and have forged signatures of various MPs.

## Included in original book as *Colour not stated*

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
DWD 2 black	8 August 1836	Dublin	Southampton	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2015, Lot 1471; June 2016, Lot 2272

## Revised Check List

Type	Colour	Previously recorded as	Years recorded	Number known: Total (wrappers, envelopes or entires; fronts; unknown)	Comments
LP 1a	-	Brumell 50	-	Does not exist	'Generic' descriptions of LP 2-3, 5-6, 8
LP 1b	Purple/red/black	JL65, L820	-	Does not exist	
LP 2a	Red		1785-1795	2 (1; 1; 0)	Similar, could be same handstamp
LP 2b	Red		1796-1798	3 (2; 1; 0)	
LP 3	Red		1795	1 (1; 0; 0)	
LP 4	Red	L819	1796-(1798)	4 (3; 1; 0)	
LP 5	Red	JL65a	1799	2 (1; 0; 1)	
	Purple		1802	1 (0; 1; 0)	
LP 6	Red		1800-1801	3 (3; 0; 0)	
LP 7	Black		1803-1812	17 (9; 6; 2)	Colour not stated for four others, 1804-1809
	Red		1805	1 (1; 0; 0)	



LP 8	Black	L819b	1813-1825	6 (5; 1; 0)	
	Red	L819a	1815	1 (1; 0; 0)	
EP 1	Red	ED168, L821	1821-1824	4 (3; 1; 0)	
	Black		1825-1837	3 (1; 2; 0)	
EP 2	Black	JL65b	1826	1 (1; 0; 0)	
LN 1	Red/black	Brumell 42, JL66, L822a	-	Does not exist	Original description incorrect
LN 2	Red		1795-1802	13 (13; 0; 0)	Two others recorded with specific dates, 1799 and 1809
LN 3	Black	Brumell 43, JL67, L824	1804-1812	13 (9; 3; 1)	
LN 4	Black	Brumell 44, JL68, L826	1816-1817	3 (1; 1; 1)	Another recorded with specific date 23 April 1815
	Red	L826a	1815	1 (1; 0; 0)	
LN 5	Red		1818-1828	9 (3; 5; 1)	LN 5-7 have previously been grouped together
LN 6	Red		1819-1823	7 (4; 3; 0)	
	Black		1823	1 (1; 0; 0)	
LN 7	Red	JL69, L827	1824-1832	24 (17; 7; 0)	Colour not stated for 7 others, 1823-1833
	Black	JL70, L827a	1830-1833	14 (6; 8; 0)	
LN 8	Black	JL72, L828	1836-1837	4 (3; 1; 0)	Recorded in black with specific date, 1833. Colour not stated for 1 other, 1836
	Red	JL71, L828a	1835	1 (1; 0; 0)	
	Brown (shades)	JL72var	1836-1839	11 (5; 5; 1)	
DN 1	Purple		1799	1 (1; 0; 0)	
DN 2	Red		1812	2 (2; 0; 0)	
DN 3	Red	JL116, FK133	1820-1831	21 (6; 15; 0)	Colour not stated for 3 others, 1826 -1836
	Black	JL116, FK133	1824	1 (0; 1; 0)	
DN 4	Red	JL117, FK135	1822-1836	20 (16; 4; 0)	Colour not stated for 2 others, 1823 and 1829
DN 4var(i)	Red (probably)	JL117a			Recorded with specific date: not seen
DN 4var(ii)	Red		1822	1 (0; 0; 1)	
LW 1	Purple	JL73, L830	1814-1817	3 (1; 1; 1)	
	Black/brown		1814-1816	4 (2; 1; 1)	
	Red	JL74, L830a	1817-(1825)	3 (1; 2; 0)	
LW 2	Red	JL75, L832	1818-1827	13 (9; 4; 0)	Colour not stated for 1 other, 1821
	Black	J832ba	1822-1834	3 (0; 3; 0)	

LW3	Red		1819	1 (1; 0; 0)	
	Black		1823	1 (0; 1; 0)	
LW 4	Red	(L208), (JL77a, L832ca)	1824-29	15 (6; 5; 2)	LW 2-4 have previously been grouped together. Colour not stated for 1 other, 1821
	Black	(JL79, L832d)	1825-1833	16 (7; 8; 1)	
	Green	(JL80, L832e)	1832	2 (1; 1; 0)	Recorded with specific date: not seen
	Brown	(JL76, L832a)			
	Purple	(JL78, L832c)			
LW 5	Brown (shades)	JL81, L834	1833-1839	16 (8; 7; 1)	Colour not stated for 3 others, 1833-1838
	Green (shades)	JL82, L834a	1835-1838	5 (3; 1; 1)	
DW 1	Red		1812	1 (0; 1; 0)	
DW 2	Black	JL120, FK136	1816	1 (0; 1; 0)	Colour not stated for 1 other, 1833
	Red	JL120, FK136	1820-1835	3 (3; 0; 0)	
DC 1	Black		1743-1746	7 (6; 0; 1)	
DC 1 var(i)	Black	JL124a	1745-1746	2 (possibly only 1).	
DC2	Black	JL124, FK141	1746-1754	12 (9; 1; 2)	
DC3	Black		1819	1 (0; 1; 0)	
	Red		1830	1 (0; 1; 0)	
DMII	Red	JL118, L836	1830	1 (1; 0; 0)	
DMNII	Red	JL119, FK139	1826-1830	5 (4; 1; 0)	
DMNID	Red		1828	1 (1; 0; 0)	
DNP	Red	JL115	1816-1820	2 (0; 2; 0)	
DDA	Red	JL123, FK140	1827	1 (0; 1; 0)	
DWD 1	Claret	JL122(?)	1793	1 (1; 0; 0)	
DWD 2	Red	JL122(?)	1825-1838	8 (2; 6; 0)	Colour not stated for 4 others, 1826-1837
	Black	JL122(?)	1836	1 (0; 1; 0)	
DCh 1	Black	JL126	1743-1746	8 (4; 0; 4)	
DCh 2	Purple	JL125, FK235 (and 236)	1785-1799	5 (3; 1; 1)	
DCh 3	Red	JL126 (same as DCh 1)	1822-1826	5 or 6 (5; 0; 0) or (5; 0; 1)	

Purple shaded boxes indicate handstamps not recorded before original book was published in 2014. When reference numbers are included it indicates that these handstamps may have been described by those numbers. Green shaded boxes indicate changes from original book.

## New Items

Details of any handstamps not recorded would be appreciated. Please contact [rbgalland@gmail.com](mailto:rbgalland@gmail.com).

## Reference

Muir, Douglas N *Postal Reform & the Penny Black, A new appreciation* 1990