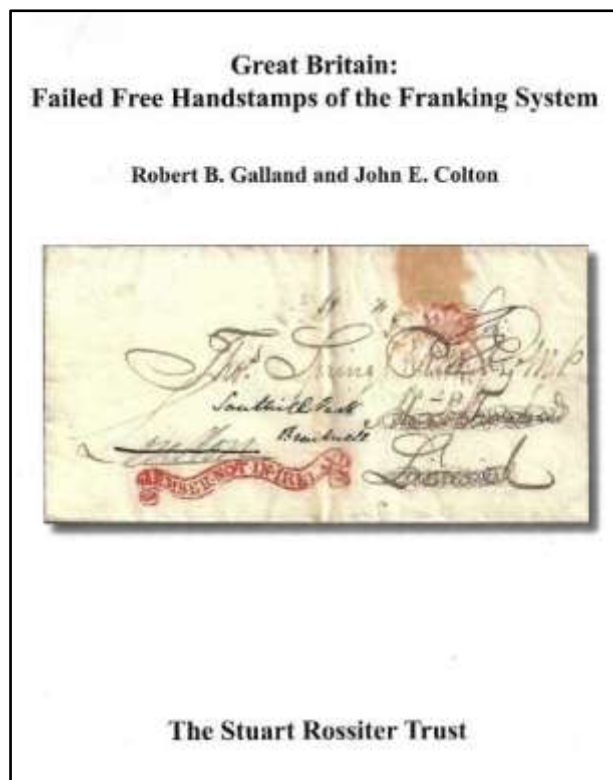


Great Britain: Failed Free Handstamps of the Franking System:

Supplement 2 - February 2023



This is the second (cumulative) supplement. When published in 2014 more than 250 wrappers, entires or fronts with Failed Free handstamps were described in detail. Since then, more than 70 new examples have been identified, 10 of which are in the Fletcher Collection in the British Library.

Further details have been obtained of 11 examples originally listed, including two Above Number handstamps (LN 3 and LN 8) which though described elsewhere in red ink had not been seen. No new type of handstamp has been found. There are two corrections: an LP 8 stamp incorrectly described as being in black ink rather than red and a date incorrectly recorded as 1743 instead of 1744 on a DCh 1 stamp.

To put the first part of this Supplement into context it needs to be read with the original book.

Chapter 1: Above Privilege Handstamps

Additions

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LP 2b*	24 December 1795	Rumsey	London	Wrapper	<i>Gomersall, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1046</i>
LP 4	10 June 1797	London	Alnwick	Part letter	<i>Gomersall, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1047; Spink, July 2017, Lot 2071</i>
LP 6	6 January 1802	London	Edinburgh	Entire	<i>Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, June 2021, ex Lot 1566; Stanley Gibbons List, Summer 2021, Lot 27</i>
LP 7 black	29 November 1803	London	Aberdeen	Front	<i>Gomersall, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1049</i>
	23 February 1804?	London	Weybridge, Surry	Front	Fletcher Collection, British Library
	1804	Bath	Whitehall Palace, London	Entire	
	18 August 1807	London	Durham	Front	<i>Gomersall, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1049</i>
	25 December 1809	London	Norwich	Entire	<i>Sussex V, Norwich Postal History 1561-1980s, bound volume, Library of Royal Philatelic Society</i>
	14 March 1811	London	Peterborough	Wrapper	<i>Gomersall, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1051</i>
LP 8 black	20 June 1814	London	Norwich	Wrapper	

Table S1. Additional LP handstamps. *LP 2b could be the slightly longer LP 2a, the handstamp is crossed out making measurement difficult.

Variations due to damage, repair or replacement 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 S1). Larger loops and round tops seem to be associated with early examples.



Figure S1. LP 7 varieties involving letter P (enlarged).

Correction

This example is in red ink, not black as originally reported (p18).

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LP 8	18 December 1815	Belfast	London	Entire	Spink, May 2014, Lot 41; Fryer G, British Printed Papers by Post 1836 to 1876, The Stuart Rossiter Trust 2018, p23

Table S2. Corrected LP handstamp.

Originally included 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

Table S3. Additional source for LP handstamp. *described as purple in the book. Catalogue description is 'oxidised red'; a better description might be 'brownish with traces of red'.

Originally included with incomplete details

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LP 5 red	12 March 1799	London	Biddenden, Kent	Wrapper	Grosvenor Auctions, October 2017, ex Lot 397
LP 6 red	13 September 1800	Noth Allerton	London	Entire	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, June 2021, ex Lot 1566
LP 7 black	3 November 1803		Aberfeldie	Entire	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, June 2021, ex Lot 1566

Table S4. Additional details for LP handstamps.

Originally omitted from this 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

Table S5. Additional LP handstamp, LW stamp having been included previously.

Chapter 2: Above Number Handstamps

Additions

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LN 2	6 October 1795		London	Entire	Fletcher Collection, British Library
	1798	Truro	London	Entire	Samwells June 2015
	19 August 1798	Abingdon	Andover	Entire	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1048
LN 3	19 April 1806	London	Bucks	Entire	Fletcher Collection, British Library
	2 February 1808	London	Wymondham	Entire	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1050
	13 May 1809	Derby	London	Entire	
LN 4 black	31 January 1816	London	Staines	Front	Fletcher Collection, British Library, vol 131/132
	17 October 1817	London	Suffolk	Front	Bill Barrell, list 141, December 2015
LN 5 red	15 December 1818	London	Basildon, Berkshire	Front	Fletcher Collection, British Library, vol 131/132
LN 6 red	16 April 1823	Sevenoaks	London	Wrapper	Bill Barrell list 161, July 2021
LN 7 red	12 March 1824	Chorley	London	Wrapper	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1054
	20 February 1826	London	Southampton	Wrapper	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, June 2021, ex Lot 1571
	17 March 1826	Winchester	London	Wrapper	Grosvenor Auctions, November 2016, ex Lot 156
LN 7 faded red/orange	17 May 1832		London	Wrapper	
LN 7 black	21 June 1831	London	Cheltenham	Wrapper	
	24 June 1831	London	Hastings	Front	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1054
	28 March 1833	London	Canterbury	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2016, ex Lot 1216
	28 February 1834	London	Leamington	Front	Grosvenor Auctions, November 2016, ex Lot 156

LN 8 black	30 June 1838	London	Bath	Circular	Muir DN, Postal Reform and the Penny Black. A New Appreciation, National Postal Museum, London, 1990, p36; Muir DN, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, February 2015, p50-55
LN 8 brown	29 March 1837	London	Ware	Front	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1054
	22 September 1837	London	Newark	Wrapper	Fletcher Collection, British Library, vol 131/132
DN 3 red	11 December 1826	Dublin	Cappoquin	Front	Fletcher Collection, British Library, vol 137
	20 April 1828	Dublin	Welty	Front	Fletcher Collection, British Library, vol 137
	29 May 1828	Tuan	Dublin	Entire	Fletcher Collection, British Library, vol 137
	28 July 1828	Dublin	Cork	Front plus part flap	Argyll Etkin Auction, October 2014, ex Lot 1147
	2 September 1828	Thomastown	Dublin	Entire	
	27 September 1828	Caherciveen	Dublin	Entire	Heinrich Kohler, September 2019, Lot 138
	November 1828	Kinnelty	Liverpool	Front	Argyll Etkin, October 2021, ex Lot 484
	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
	17 July 1823	Dublin	Darlington	Front	Fletcher Collection, British Library
	25 January 1826	Dublin	Bath	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2021, ex Lot 1760

Table S6. Additional LN and DN handstamps.

Originally included 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

Table S7. Additional source for LN handstamp.

Originally included without details

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LN 4 red	3 November 1815	Brighton	London	Entire	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1052. Figure S2
LN 8 red	5 April 1835	Newmarket	London	Entire	<i>Clark</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2015, Lot 1081. Figure S3

Table S8. Additional details for LN handstamps.



Figure S2. Entire dated 3 November 1815 with LN 4 handstamp in red ink.



Figure S3. Entire dated 5 April 1835 with LN 8 handstamp in red ink.

Originally included as *Colour not stated*

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
LN 7 red	10 January 1827	London	Shrewsbury	Entire	The International Gold Medal Traudl collection of London Postal History, London Postal History Group, 1999, p40
LN 7 black	20 June 1831		London	Wrapper	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, June 2021, ex Lot 1573

Table S9. Additional ink colour details for LN handstamp.

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	25 April 1818	London	Swainswick	Front	Bill Barrell list 161, July 2021
	13 September 1819	London	Cullompton	Wrapper	<i>Gomersall</i> , Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1053
	6 June 1820	Aberfeldy	London	Wrapper	Grosvenor Auctions, October 2017, ex Lot 397

	9 June 1820	Aberfeldy	London	Wrapper	
	19 July 1823	London	Edinburgh	Entire	
LW 2 black x 2	2 July 1834 (could be 1832, not clear)	London	Brighton	Front	<i>Gomersall, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1053</i>
LW 3 black	28 June 1823	London	Diss, Norfolk	Front	
LW 4 red	24 March 1824	London	Lichfield	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, September 2017, ex Lot 4072
	12 August 1824	London	Cardiff	Wrapper	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2015, ex lot 1468
	26 April 1827	Cheltenham	Norwich	Entire	
LW 4 black	23 April 1833	Ottery St Mary	London	Entire	
	21 May 1833	London	Oxford	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, June 2015, ex lot 324
	17 March 1825	London	Cambridge	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, June 2015, ex lot 324
	30 July 1831	London	Cowes, Isle of Wight	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2016, ex Lot 1216
	11 June 1832	Shrewsbury	London	Entire	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2015, ex Lot 1080
	20 July 1833	London	Aberystwyth	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2016, ex Lot 1216
LW 4 green	20 April 1832	Petworth	London	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, June 2021, ex Lot 1569
LW 5 brown	20 March 1835	London	Lancaster	Wrapper	
	17 October 1835	Kingussie	East Sheen	Entire	Argyll Etkin, October 2021, ex Lot 484
	18 March 1837	Mauchlin	London	Wrapper	Grosvenor Auctions, October 2017, ex Lot 397
	9 August 1839	London	Settle, Yorkshire	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2016, ex Lot 1216

LW 5 light brown	14 May 1838	London	Alnwick	Entire	<i>Gomersall, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, ex Lot 1055</i>
LW 5 brown, blackish	9 July 1839	London	Isle of Wight	Front	Magpie Auction, December 2014, lot 120
LW 5 greenish black	14 October 1835	Kingussie	London	Wrapper	<i>Gomersall, Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2017, Lot 1056</i>
	14 January 1836	London	Edinburgh	Entire	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, March 2015, ex Lot 1080
LW 5 colour not stated	1839		Norwich	?wrapper	Sussex V, Norwich Postal History 1561-1980s, bound volume, Library of Royal Philatelic Society

Table S10. Additional LW handstamps.

Chapter 4: Miscellaneous Handstamps

To emphasize the point that although the London Office did not have Counterfeit handstamps, they did take Breaches 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, but he also 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
	19 July 1746	Carrick	Dublin	Entire	Muir DN, Just Large Enough.... , The Postal Museum 2022, page 35
DC 2	8 August 1746	Dublin	Clonmell	Entire	MacDonnell Whyte, January 2016, Lot 164
	13 June 1750	Birr	Dublin	Entire	
	1 April 1752	Waterford	Dublin	Entire	MacDonnell Whyte, August 2016, Lot 202

DWD 2	17 April 1828	Naas	Dublin	Front	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2021, Lot ex 1761
DCh 3	September 1829	Dublin	Dublin	Entire	Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, December 2021, Lot 1762

Table S11. Additional Miscellaneous handstamps.

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.

Correction

This example is dated 1744 not 1743.

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
DCh 1	13 September 1744	Clonmel	Dublin	Entire	MacDonnell Whyte, May 2001, Lot 10, Lot 202

Table S12 Corrected DCh 1 handstamp.

Originally included 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

Table S13. Additional ink colour details for DWD 2 handstamp.

Originally included with incomplete details

Type	Date	From	To	Status	Source
DC 1 and DCh 1*	21 January 1744	France	Dublin	Entire	Spink, October 2018, Lot 1555
DCh 2	1 May 1795	Dublin	Limerick	Entire	Phillips, December 1994, Lot 28; Spink, October 2018, Lot 1562
DCh 3	27 February 1822	Colchester	Dublin	Entire	Spink, March 2005, Lot 1988
	20 (or 22) January 1824	London	Dublin	Entire	Spink, June 2001, Lot 152; Spink, October 2018, Lot 1571

Table S14. Additional details for Miscellaneous handstamps. *included at bottom of Tables on p 63 and 76, with several question marks.

Revised Check List

Type	Colour	Previously recorded as	Years recorded	Number known: Total (entires; wrappers or envelopes; 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; 0; 1; 0)	Similar, could be same handstamp
LP 2b	Red		1795?-1798	3 (0; 2; 1; 0)	
LP 3	Red		1795	1 (1; 0; 0; 0)	
LP 4	Red	L819	1796-(1798)	4 (1; 2; 1; 0)	
LP 5	Red	JL65a	1799	2 (1; 0; 0; 1)	
	Purple		1802	1 (0; 0; 1; 0)	
LP 6	Red		1800-1801	4 (4; 0; 0; 0)	
LP 7	Black		1803-1812	19 (6; 4; 7; 2)	Colour not stated for four others, 1804-1809
	Red		1805	1 (1; 0; 0; 0)	
LP 8	Black	L819b	1813-1825	5 (2; 2; 1; 0)	
	Red	L819a	1815	2 (2; 0; 0; 0)	
EP 1	Red	ED168, L821	1821-1824	4 (3; 1; 0; 0)	
	Black		1825-1837	3 (1; 2; 0; 0)	
EP 2	Black	JL65b	1826	1 (1; 0; 0; 0)	
LN 1	Red/black	Brumell 42, JL66, L822a	-	Does not exist	Original description incorrect
LN 2	Red		1795-1802	14 (13; 1; 0; 0)	Two others recorded with specific dates, 1799 and 1809
LN 3	Black	Brumell 43, JL67, L824	1804-1812	15 (8; 3; 3; 1)	
LN 4	Black	Brumell 44, JL68, L826	1816-1817	4 (0; 1; 2; 1)	
	Red	L826a	1815	1 (1; 0; 0; 0)	Another recorded with specific date 23 April 1815
LN 5	Red		1818-1828	10 (1; 2; 6; 1)	LN 5-7 have previously been grouped together
LN 6	Red		1819-1823	7 (2; 2; 3; 0)	
	Black		1823	1 (1; 0; 0; 0)	
LN 7	Red	JL69, L827	1824-1832	26 (9; 10; 7; 0)	Colour not stated for 3others, 1823-1833
	Black	JL70, L827a	1830-1834	16 (2; 6; 8; 0)	
LN 8	Black	JL72, L828	1836-1837	4 (1; 2; 1; 0)	Recorded in black with specific date, 1833.
	Red	JL71, L828a	1835	1 (1; 0; 0; 0)	
	Brown (shades)	JL72var	1836-1839	12 (2; 4; 5; 1)	Colour not stated for 1 other, 1836

DN 1	Purple		1799	1 (1; 0; 0; 0)	
DN 2	Red		1812	2 (1; 1; 0; 0)	
DN 3	Red	JL116, FK133	1820-1831	27 (9; 0; 18; 0)	Colour not stated for 3 others, 1826 -1836
	Black	JL116, FK133	1824	1 (0; 1; 0; 0)	
DN 4	Red	JL117, FK135	1822-1836	22 (4; 0; 18; 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 (0; 1; 1; 1)	
	Black/brown		1814-1816	4 (2; 0; 1; 1)	
	Red	JL74, L830a	1817-(1825)	3 (0; 2; 1; 0)	
LW 2	Red	JL75, L832	1818-1827	17 (6; 6; 5; 0)	Colour not stated for 1 other, 1821
	Black	J832ba	1822-1834 (or 1832)	3 (0; 0; 3; 0)	
LW3	Red		1819	1 (1; 0; 0; 0)	
	Black		1823	1 (0; 0; 1; 0)	
LW 4	Red	(L208), (JL77a, L832ca)	1824-29	16 (3; 4; 7; 2)	LW 2-4 have previously been grouped together. Colour not stated for 1 other, 1821
	Black	(JL79, L832d)	1825-1833	16 (4; 3; 8; 1)	
	Green	(JL80, L832e)	1832	3 (1; 0; 2; 0)	Recorded with specific date: not seen
	Brown	(JL76, L832a)			
	Purple	(JL78, L832c)			
LW 5	Brown (shades)	JL81, L834	1833-1839	19 (5; 6; 7; 1)	Colour not stated for 4 others, 1833-1838
	Green (shades)	JL82, L834a	1835-1838	5 (2; 1; 1; 1)	
DW 1	Red		1812	1 (0; 0; 1; 0)	
DW 2	Black	JL120, FK136	1816	1 (0; 0; 1; 0)	Colour not stated for 1 other, 1833
	Red	JL120, FK136	1820-1835	3 (1; 2; 0; 0)	
DC 1	Black		1743-1746	7 (5; 2; 0; 0)	
DC 1 var(i)	Black	JL124a	1745-1746	2 (possibly only 1).	
DC2	Black	JL124, FK141	1746-1754	13 (7; 3; 1; 2)	
DC3	Black		1819	1 (0; 0; 1; 0)	
	Red		1830	1 (0; 0; 1; 0)	
DMII	Red	JL118, L836	1830	1 (1; 0; 0; 0)	
DMNII	Red	JL119, FK139	1826-1830	5 (4; 0; 1; 0)	
DMNID	Red		1828	1 (1; 0; 0; 0)	
DNP	Red	JL115	1816-1820	2 (0; 0; 2; 0)	
DDA	Red	JL123, FK140	1827	1 (0; 0; 1; 0)	
DWD 1	Claret	JL122(?)	1793	1 (1; 0; 0; 0)	
DWD 2	Red	JL122(?)	1825-1838	9 (1; 1; 7; 0)	Colour not stated for 3 others, 1826-1837
	Black	JL122(?)	1836	1 (0; 0; 1; 0)	

DCh 1	Black	JL126	1744-1746	8 (4; 1; 0; 3)	
DCh 2	Purple	JL125, FK235 (and 236)	1785-1799	5 (4; 0; 1; 0)	
DCh 3	Red	JL126 (same as DCh 1)	1822-1826	6 or 7 (5; 1; 0; 0) or (5; 1; 0; 1)	

Table S15. Check list of Failed Free handstamps. When reference numbers are in brackets it indicates that these handstamps were probably described by those numbers. Pink shaded boxes indicate handstamps not recorded before the book was published in 2014. Green shaded boxes indicate changes that have been made since then.

New Items. Details of any handstamps not recorded would be appreciated. Please contact rbgalland@gmail.com.

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