

Ballycastle Railway (Ireland)

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



17 January 1898 to the mails at Ballycastle, 1d postage
Ballycastle Railway 2d stamp, type 2, "B. Castle" manuscript arrival cancel with "3:20 PM" time
the Ballycastle Post Office datestamp includes a "3:30 PM" time slug
Collooney arrival backstamp of the next morning

Cover is addressed to Major (John G.) Adamson, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry.



sender's crest on reverse

Ballycastle Railway
(Ireland)

Wilson Covers

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



17 August 1919 Ballymoney to the mails at Ballycastle, 1½d postage
Ballycastle Railway 2d light blue with "Ballymoney" straight line cancel

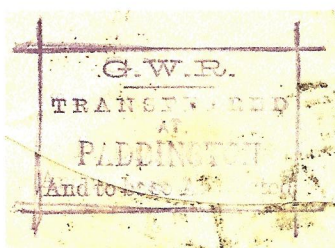
RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Triple Conjunctive Uses

Barry Dock and Railways / Barry Railway
+ Taff Vale Railway
+ Great Western Railway

The name "Barry Dock and Railways" was changed to "Barry Railway" in August 1891.

G.W.R.
TRANSFERRED
AT
PADDINGTON
And to be so Abstracted



(backstamp)



May 1891 Barry Dock and Railways to London, 2d railway stamp (control #63) and 1d postage passed to Taff Vale Railway at Cogan, then to Great Western Railway to Paddington only reported example of the 2d stamp in private hands (a mint strip is in British Museum)



6 May 1898 Barry Dock station to Birmingham, 2d Barry Railway stamp and 1d postage passed to Taff Vale Railway at Cogan, then to Great Western Railway to Birmingham

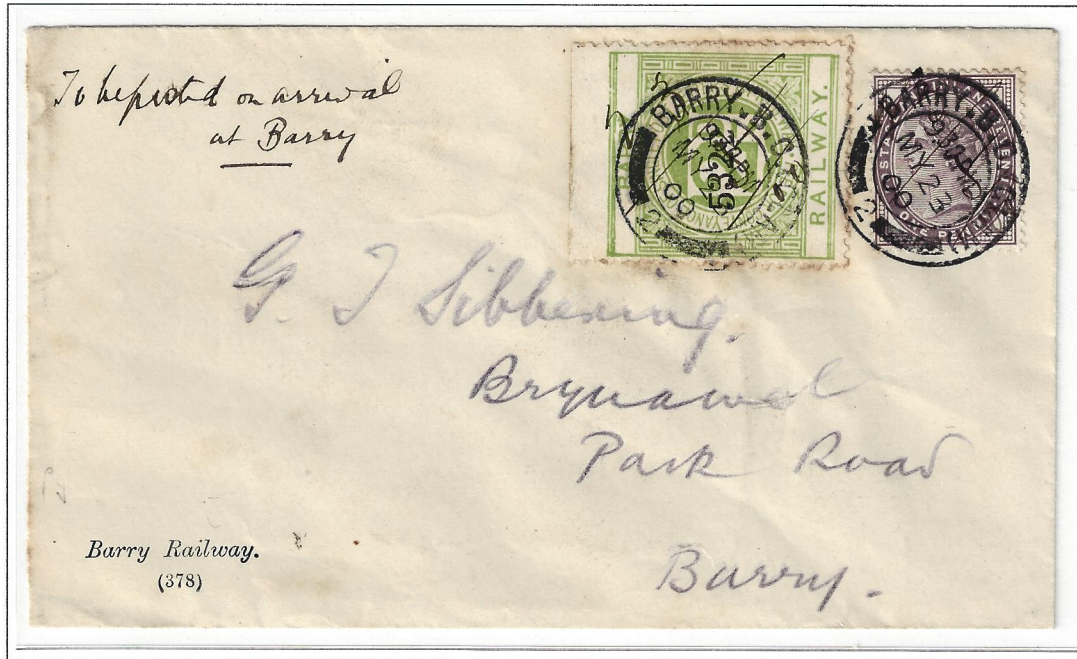
RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Barry Railway

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



23 May 1900 use to Barry where it entered the mails
prepaid Barry Railway 2d stamp with manuscript date plus 1d postage

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Brecon & Merthyr Railway

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



20 May 1899 Brecon to Tonbridge,
prepaid railway 2d plus 1d postage, entered the mails with Merthyr Tydfil postmark

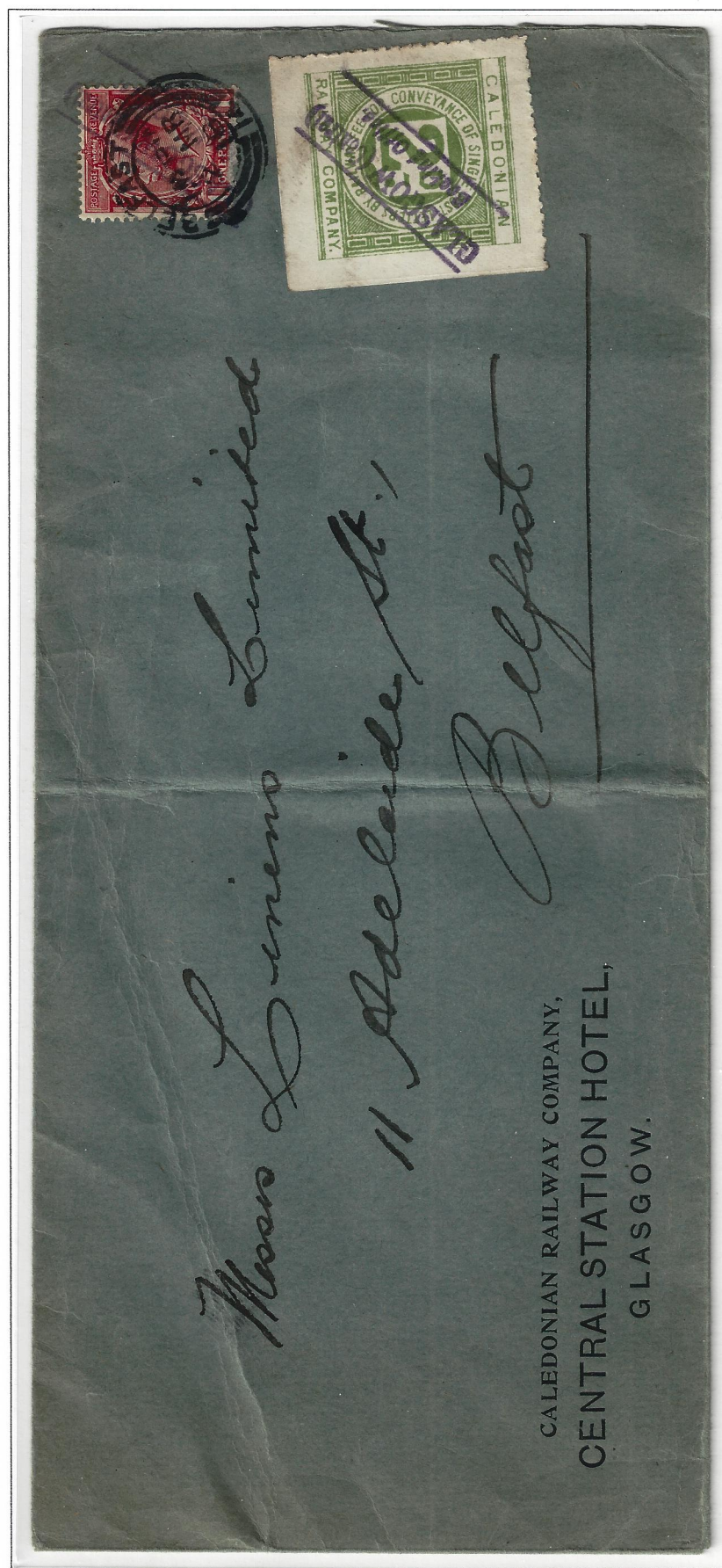


Partial Merthyr & Brecon
Railway / Brecon label on
verso of cover.

Caledonian Railway

Conjunctive Use by Rail and Steam

+ Caledonian Steam Packet Company



1 March 1918 Glasgow, via Ardrossan
and steamer to Belfast

prepaid 1d postage

Caledonian Railway 2d railway stamp
with "Glasgow (Central) /
Booking Office" cancel

1 March entered the mails at Belfast
for local delivery

Conjunctive Use: Carried by the
Caledonian Railway from Central
Station Hotel, Glasgow to Ardrossan
and by Caledonian Steam Packet
Company from their Montgomerie Pier
across the Firth of Clyde to Belfast.



RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Caledonian Railway Company

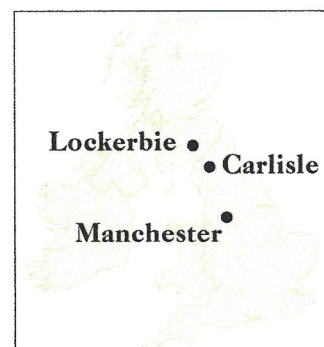
Conjunctive Use

+ London & North Western Railway



16 January 1907 Lockerbie Station, via Carlisle, to Manchester
Caledonian Railway Company 2d railway stamp and 1d postage, "LOCKERBIE" in diamond cancels transferred at Carlisle to L&NW Railway for carriage to Manchester where it was posted

The Caledonian Railway was a major Scottish railway company. It was formed with the objective of linking English railways and Glasgow. It reached Edinburgh and Aberdeen, with a dense network of branch lines in the area surrounding Glasgow. It was absorbed into the London, Midland and Scottish Railway in 1923.



RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Caledonian Railway Company

Scotland



19 September 1922 Leith, to Glasgow
prepaid 4d Caledonian Railway adhesive and 1½d postage
"Per 3.45 p.m. express (Caledonian) To be called for"

The cover above is an example of postage having to be prepaid even though no postal service was rendered. Covers addressed with the notation to be called for are somewhat scarcer than covers that entered the mail.

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Cambrian Railways

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



23 November 1895 use to the mails at Oswestry, Cambrian Railway 2d plus 1d postage

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Cambrian Railways

Conjunctive Use

+ London, Brighton and South Coast



October 1900 Buttington, by Cambrian Railways via London, to Brighton
prepaid Cambrian Railways 2d stamp and 1d postage
"Transferred at 'VICTORIA' & to be abstracted" handstamp
London, Brighton and South Coast Railway from Victoria Station to Brighton
9 October 1900, entered the mails with 11:30 AM postmark



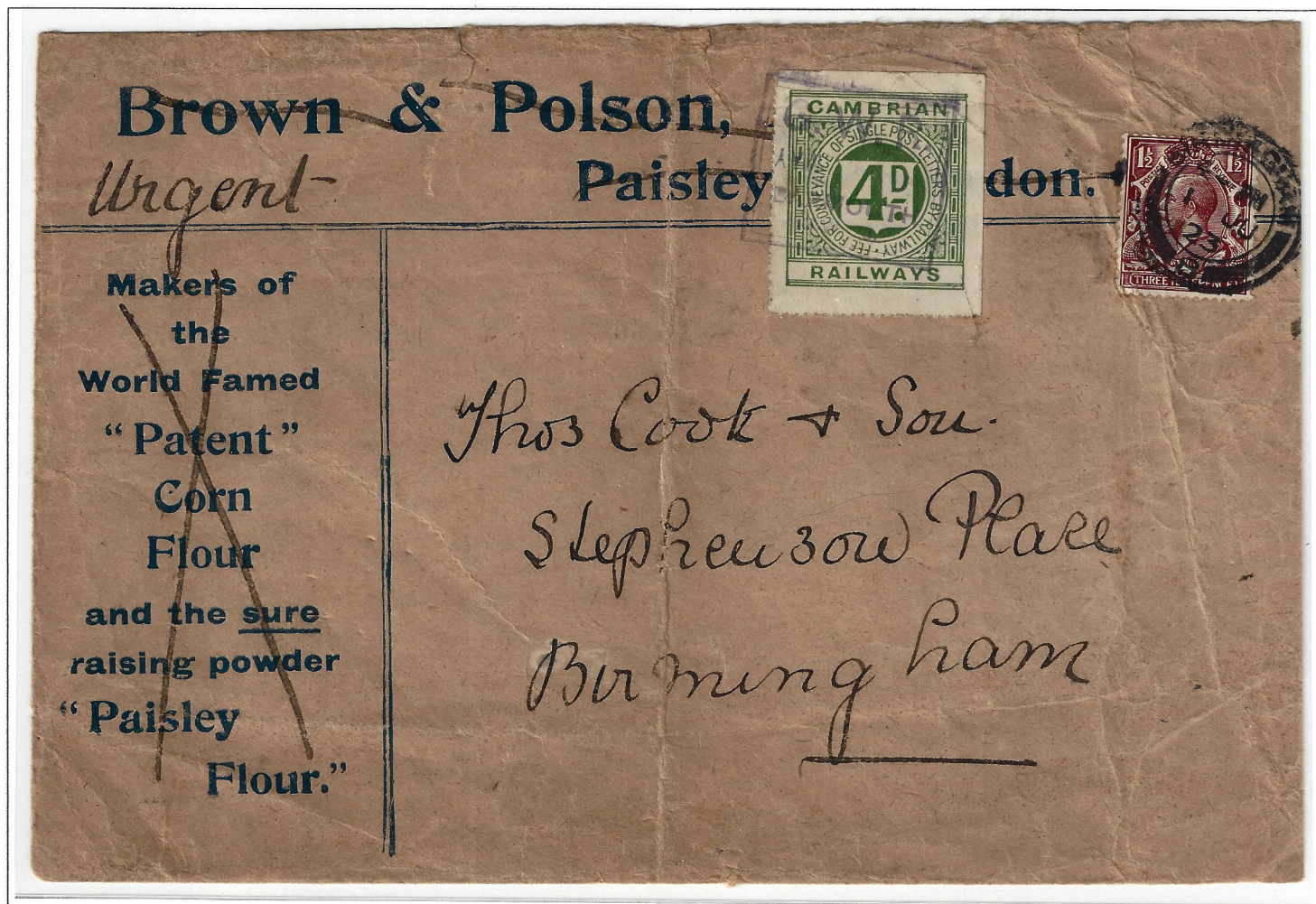
RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Cambrian Railways

Sixth Period

29 May 1922 - 31 Dec 1927

4d fee + 1½d postage



1 June 1923 Balmouth "G.W.R." to Birmingham, Cambrian 4d railway stamp and 1½ postage
used after 1 January 1923 amalgamation with Great Western Railway

Castlederg & Victoria Bridge Tramway Company (Ireland)

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)

2d railway fee, increased postal rate (Jun 3, 1918 to Jan 14, 1920)



21 September 1919 Castlederg Station to the mails at Victoria Bridge, 1½d postage
Castlederg & Victoria Bridge Tramway Company 2d stamp with straight line station cancels

Castlederg & Victoria Bridge Tramway Co.
(Ireland)

Wilson Covers

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



5 May 1926 Castlederg origin datestamp, to the mails at Victoria Bridge
Castlederg & Victoria Bridge Tramway Co. manuscript "4" on 3d stamp and 1½d postage

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



13 November 1919 Ballinamore, to the mails at Belturbet, 1½d postage
Cavan Leitrim Railway 2d stamp with company Ballinamore datestamp



16 November 1919 Ballinamore, to the mails at Belturbet, 1½d postage
Cavan Leitrim Railway 2d stamp with company Ballinamore datestamp

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Cheshire Lines Committee

Sixth Period

29 May 1922 - 31 Dec 1927

4d fee + 1½d postage



14 November 1927 use to Manchester where it entered the mails
prepaid railway 4d stamp with origin datestamp plus 1½d postage

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Cheshire Lines Committee

Conjunctive Use by Rail and Steam

+ Non Contract Steam Packet

Prior to 1910, letters to overseas destinations were not to be accepted for transmission as railway letters. This 1931 use below is the only reported example of a railway letter conjunctive use by railway and steam after 1910.



17 September 1931 Manchester, via Harwich and non contract steamer to Holland transferred at Harwich to a non contract steamer to Hook of Holland where it entered mails prepaid with Cheshire Lines Committee 3d and 2½d postage UPU rate to Holland

The Railways Act of 1921 grouped most of Britain's railways into the (Big Four). The Cheshire Lines Committee was not included in the grouping but the management of the railroad consisted of three directors of each of the following railways; London, Midland and Scottish Railways, the Great Central Railway and the London and North Eastern Railway (LNER). The above cover was carried from Manchester to London on the Midland Railway and from London to Harwich on the LNER.

Clogher Valley Railway Co. Ltd. (Ireland)

Conjunctive Use

+ Great Northern Railway (Ireland)

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



18 November 1905 Aughnacloy, via Tynan, to the mails at Dublin, 1d postage
obsolete "On Her Majesty's Service" imprint envelope
Clogher Valley Railway Co. Ltd. 2d stamp and postage with straight line station cancels
carried to Tynan Station and transferred to the Great Northern Railway to Dublin



Clogher Valley Railway Co. Ltd. (Ireland)

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



30 June 1910 Maguiresbridge to the mails with "Dublin & Belfast UP TPO" postmark, 1d postage
Clogher Valley Railway Co. Ltd. 2d stamp and postage with straight line station cancels
endorsed to be posted at Tynan, Ashbourne transit and Wetton arrival backstamps

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Cockermouth, Keswich & Penrith Railway

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



mourning cover to The Carlton Hotel, London (Belgrave Ave, room 143)
prepaid Cockermouth, Keswich & Penrith Railway 1896 issue 2d railway stamp and 1d postage
6 May 1900 entered the mails with Penrith postmark, hotel room 143 noted in blue crayon

Colne Valley Railway



21 February 1902 Earls Colne Station, entered the mails at Cambridge
unusual "RAILWAY CHARGE 2d" cancels in arc
2d railway stamp, 1891 issue, and 1d in postage, Newark arrival backstamp of next day



1910 issue

The railway stamps were printed by S. H. Cowell & Co. of Ipswich in sheets of 12 stamps with imperforate sheet margins. Two printings were made, the first in 1891 and a second printing, in a slightly different shade, in 1910 (shown to left).

The design of these stamps is a variation of the standard type with floral columns at each side.

Cork, Bandon & South Coast Railway (Ireland)

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee, increased postal rate



8 June 1901 to the mails at Cork, 1d postage
Cork, Bandon & South Coast Railway 2d and postage with red manuscript "8/6/01- DVB" cancels
Cork entry datestamps on both stamps

Cork & Macrom Direct Railway
(Ireland)

Wilson Covers

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



12 November 1919 Dooniske datestamp, to the mails at Cork
Cork & Macrom Railway 1898 issue 2d stamp (500 issued) and 1½d postage

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

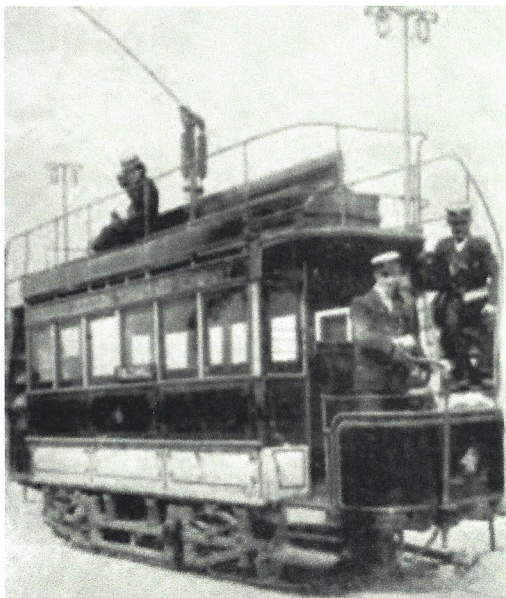
Coventry Electric Tramways Company

Parcel Stamp Use



9 March 1904 originated on the tramway line north of Coventry
prepaid Coventry Electric Tramway 2d parcel label plus 1d postage
transported from the tram station in Coventry to the post office

10 March 1904 entered the mails at Coventry for delivery to Whitley Villa (SE of Coventry)



The Coventry Electric Tramway was not party to the agreement between the General Post Office and the railway companies regarding railway letter mail fees.

The fullest extent of this electric tramway line was 13 miles, largely around the perimeter to the north and northeast of Coventry.

Dublin & South Eastern Railway
(Ireland)

Wilson Covers

Second Period (Jan 15, 1920 to Aug 31, 1920)
3d railway fee



2 April 1920 entered mails at Dublin, 1½d postage
Dublin & South Eastern Railway handstamped "3" surcharge on 2d stamp, manuscript cancel

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



4 September 1924 entered mails at Dun Laoghaire, 2d Ireland postage stamp
Dublin & South Eastern Railway 4d stamp, manuscript cancel

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Donegal Railway Company

Ireland



25 July 1903 cover from Donegal to the mails at Londonderry
Donegal Railway 1900 issue 2d railway stamp with manuscript "Dgal" cancel and 1d postage
Londonderry postmarks, transit and arrival backstamps of Nottingham and Newark

The Donegal Railway operated a 3 ft narrow gauge railway system serving County Donegal, Ireland, from 1902 until the name change in 1906 to County Donegal Railways Joint Committee. The committee authorised the joint purchase of the then Donegal Railway Company by the Great Northern Railway of Ireland and the Midland Railway Northern Counties Committee. At its peak the committee worked 125 miles of line - the longest narrow gauge system in the United Kingdom at the time.

Dundee & Arbroath Joint Railway

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



26 July 1906 Carnoustie to the mails at Arbroath, 1d postage
station and date postmark across postage and Dundee & Arbroath Joint Railway 2d red

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Glasgow & South Western Railway

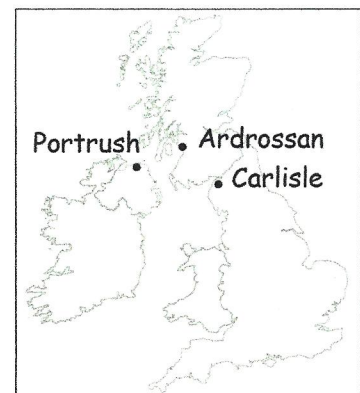
+ Laird Line of Steamers

Conjunctive Use by Rail
and Steam to Ireland



(Tuesday) 2 September 1902 Carlisle to Portrush (Ireland), Carlisle manuscript cancel on 2d Glasgow & South Western Railway 1897 issue 2d railway stamp and 1d postage carried from Carlisle to Ardrossan by rail and transferred to Laird Line steamer for Portrush after the 5½ hour ferry trip, entered the mails at Portrush with 3:30 PM postmarks

The Laird Line operated two "daylight" steamers in September 1902 between Portrush, Ireland and Ardrossan, Scotland. The steamers were advertised as departing Ardrossan every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 10 A.M. after connection with the **Glasgow & South Western Railway** trains to arrive in Portrush in 5½ hours. The steamers *Azalea* and *Cedar* were in use for the service at this date.

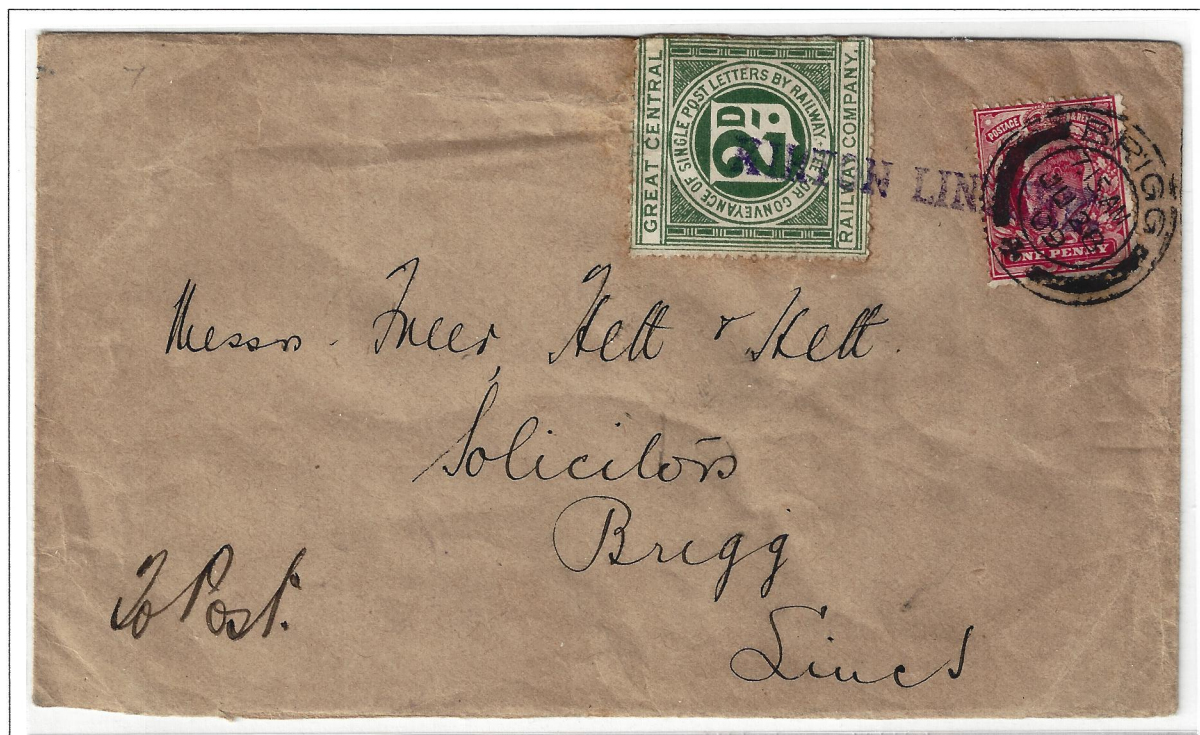


Great Central Railway Company

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



17 July 1901 Grange Lane to the mails at Meadow Hall & Wincobank Station, 1d postage
Great Central Railway Company 2d stamp



28 June 1909 Kirton Lindsey Station to the mails at Brigg, 1d postage
straight line cancel, Great Central Railway Company 2d stamp

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee

| Letter Postage Rates During 2d Railway Fee Period | |
|---|--|
| Feb 1, 1891 to Jun 21, 1897 | 1d to 1 ounce 1½d to 2 ounces 2d to 4 ounces |
| Jun 22, 1897 to Oct 31, 1915 | 1d to 4 ounces |
| Nov 1, 1915 to Jun 2, 1918 | 1d to 1 ounce 2d to 2 ounces 2½d to 4 ounces |
| Jun 3, 1918 to May 31 1920 | 1½d to 4 ounces 2d to 6 ounces |



21 May 1891 Wroxham Station to the mails at Norwich for Stockport, 2d postage
Great Eastern Railway 2d railway stamp and postage with manuscript dated cancels
prepaid postage of 2d for a letter under four ounces

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



12 January 1906 Felixstowe, via Liverpool St. Station (London) to Watford, 1d postage
endorsed "To be posted at Liverpool st on arrival"

Great Eastern Railway 2d stamp and postage with "Felixstowe Cancelled datestamps of 1905
to Liverpool Street Station, transferred to London & Northwestern Railway for Watford
12 January 1906 Watford datestamp on reverse



RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Great Eastern Railway

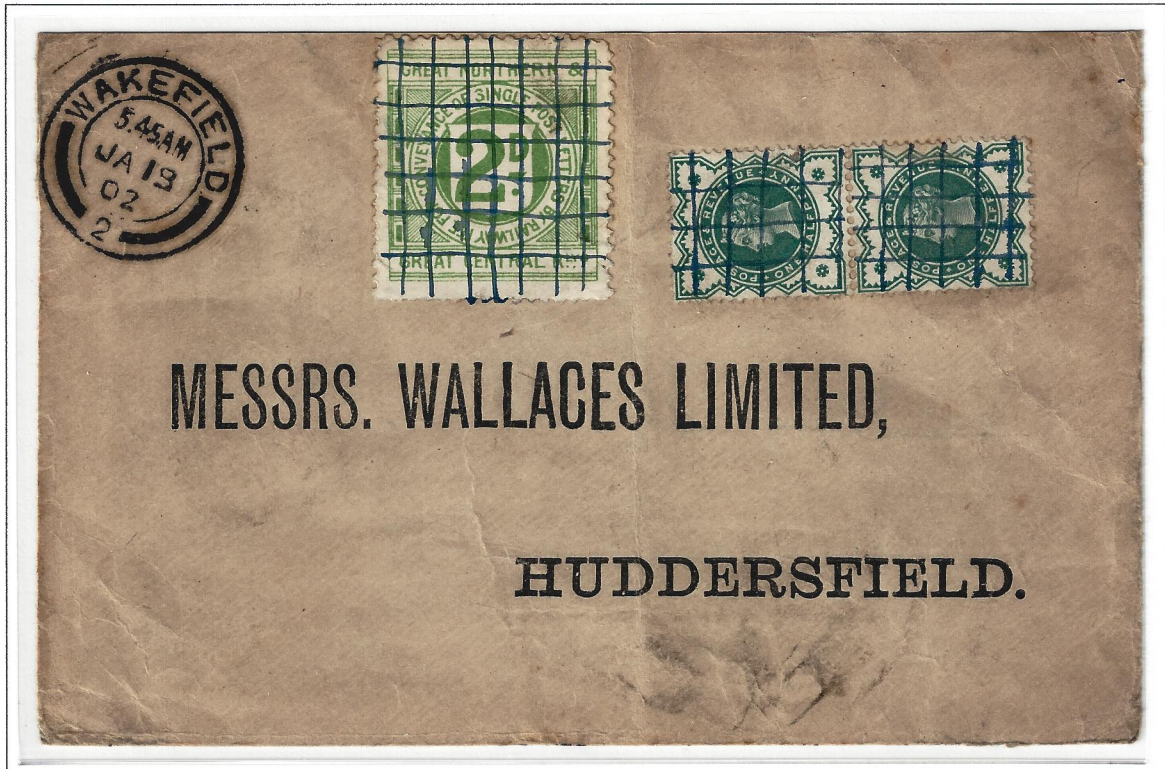
1920 4d Rate

The Great Eastern Railway never issued a 4d denomination railway stamp. Instead, they used two 2d stamps for payment of the 1920 4d rate. With the amalgamation of 1923, the Great Eastern Railway became part of the London & North Eastern Railway network. The Great Eastern Railway stamps continued to be valid.



29 July 1925 L.N.E.R. "CANCELLED" cancels on two copies Great Eastern Railway 2d stamp
30 July 1925 entered mails at London E.C., prepaid 1½d postage

Great Northern & Great Central Railways



13 January 1902, stamps neatly pre-cancelled in pen at the origin station before use entered the mails at Wakefield for Huddersfield, 2d railway stamp and 1d in postage



16 February 1903 from a station north of Durham where it entered the mails
"Railway letter Post / To be posted at "Edin(burgh)" corrected to "Durham"
2d railway stamp and 1d in postage

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Great Northern Railway Company

Sixth Period

29 May 1922 - 31 Dec 1927

4d fee + 1½d postage



23 September 1923 entered the mails with Leeds postmark

Great Northern Railway Company 1920 issue 3d plus 1d to make 4d railway fee plus 1½d postage

Great Northern Railway Company, (I) (Ireland)

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



circa 1902 mourning cover via Drogheda to the "Irish Times" at Dublin, 1d postage
manuscript "Important to be delivered tonight" and "2d" paid endorsements
Great Northern Railway Company, (I) 2d with "Transferred Drogheda Parcels" railway cancel
postage with straight line "Drogheda Parcels" station cancels

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Great Northern Railway Company

Ireland



16 November 1904 Ballyshannon to Dublin
Great Northern Railway 1902 issue 2d railway stamp and 1d in postage
"BALLYSHANNON PARCELS." cancels and Dublin arrival date stamps

The Enniskillen and Bundoran Railway had a station at Ballyshannon which was operated by the Great Northern Railway from 1876 and absorbed by the company in 1896.

The Great Northern Railway was an Irish gauge railway company in Ireland. It was formed in 1876 by a merger of the Irish North Western Railway, Northern Railway of Ireland, and the Ulster Railway. The main line between Dublin and Belfast was completed in 1852 to join the Ulster at Portadown. The other main lines were between Derry and Dundalk and between Omagh and Portadown. These lines provided connections between Derry and Dublin and supported the development of a branch network serving the southwest half of Ulster and northern counties of Leinster. This enabled the railway to become Ireland's most prosperous railway company and second largest railway network.

Great Northern Railway Company (Ireland)

Ewen Covers

+ London & North Western Railway (and steamer)

Conjunctive Use

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



2 June 1905 Castleblayney Station by Great Northern Railway to Dublin (Church Road)
conjunctive use with London & North Western Railway owned steamer to Birkenhead
and then by London & North Western Railway to the mails at London SE, 1d postage
Great Northern Railway Company 2d stamp and postage with crossed Castleblayney cancels



RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Great Southern and Western Railway

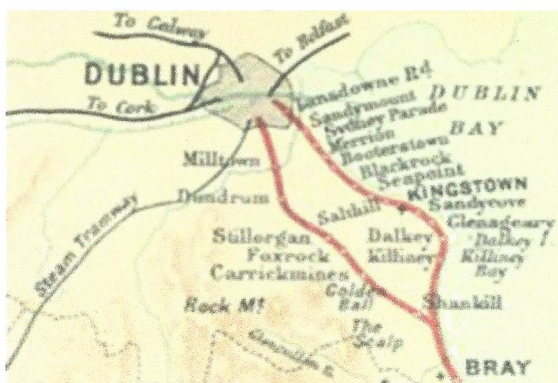
Triple Conjunctive Use

+ City of Dublin Junction Railway

+ Dublin and South Eastern Railway



6 February 1898 Cork addressed to London, SE, prepaid 1d postage
Great Southern and Western Railway to Amiens St. station (Dublin), prepaid 2d fee
City of Dublin Junction Railway from Amiens St. Station to Westland Row station
Dublin South Eastern Railway from Westland Row to Kingstown
6 February 1898, 8PM entered the mails for carriage on Holyhead & Kingstown steam packet



On the 1898 map the black line coming in from the west is the Great Southern and Western Railway line from Cork and the red line shows the route of the Dublin and South Eastern Railway to Kingstown.

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Great Southern & Western Railway

Ireland



24 November 1904 Newmarket, County Cork to Dublin

Great Southern & Western Railway 1899 issue 2d railway stamp and 1d postage

"NEWMARKET, Co. CORK" cancels and Dublin arrival date stamps

black on red label with "Paid. / Great Southern & Western Railway / From Newmarket" text

Great Southern & Western Railway was an Irish gauge (5 ft 3 in) railway in Ireland from 1844 until 1924. By the late 19th and early 20th centuries it was the largest of Ireland's "Big Four" railway networks with 1,100 miles of trackage. The core of the line was the Dublin Kingsbridge to Cork main line; Ireland's "Premier Line".

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Great Western Railway

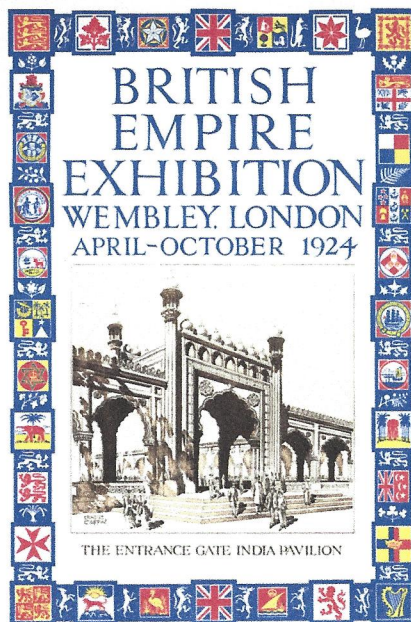
Sixth Period

29 May 1922 - 31 Dec 1927

4d fee + 1½d postage



9 September 1924 post card to Brighton, entered the mails at Paddington W2
Great Western Railway 4d plus 1924 British Empire Exhibition 1d postage



RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Triple Conjunctive Use

Highland Railway
+ North British Railway
+ Midland Railway



WAYBILL

from Kingussie
to Perth
to Carlisle
to Birmingham

3 June 1891 Kingussie Station (Scotland) to Birmingham

Highland Railway parcel label on reverse for delivery to the station rather than a post office
ms "Kingussie" origin station name on label, Highlands Railway 2d stamp and 1d postage
by Highlands Rly to Perth, North British Rly to Carlisle and Midland Rly to Birmingham

RAILWAY LETTER POSTAGE

Highland Railway

Scotland

+ North British Railway

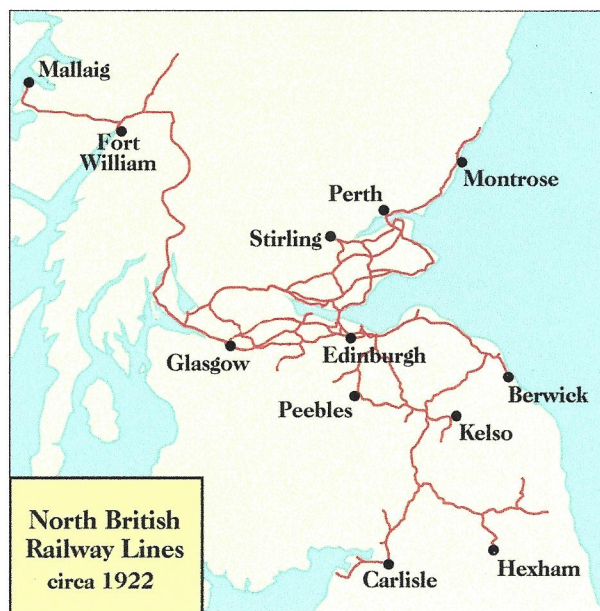
Conjunctive Use



16 April 1901 cover to Edinburgh, by Highland Railway to Perth and then North British Railway
The Highland Railway 2d stamp, crayon cross cancel and 1d postage with cross cancel
by Highlands Railway to Perth and North British Railway to Edinburgh, arrival date stamp

The Highland Railway was one of the smaller British railway operating north of Perth and serving the farthest north of Britain. It began as an amalgamation of smaller lines in 1865. By 1922 the railway had 484 miles of track.

The North British Railway map at right includes the route between Perth and Edinburgh.



RAILWAY LETTER POSTAGE

Knott End Railway

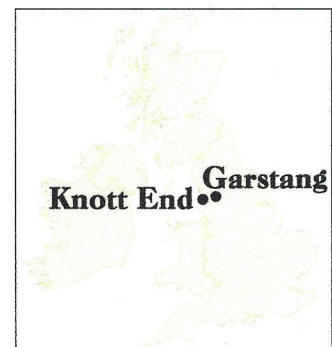
England



6 March 1909 Knott End to Preston for onward deliver to Timperley
2d railway stamp, control #14, and 1d postage, entered mails at Preston

an early use after Knott End Railway acquired Garstang & Knot End Railway
and issued stamps with the new name

Knott End Railway. The Garstang and Knot End Railway had been intended to continue to Knott End but ran only to Pilling when it opened in 1870. In 1898 the Knott End Railway (KER) was authorised to continue the 17 mile route to Knott End which was opened in 1908 after KER acquired the earlier company. The first stamps were issued in 1909.



RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



14 February 1898 used to Warrington where it entered the mails
Lancashire & Yorkshire RLY. 1898 issue 2d stamp, no control number plus 1d postage

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

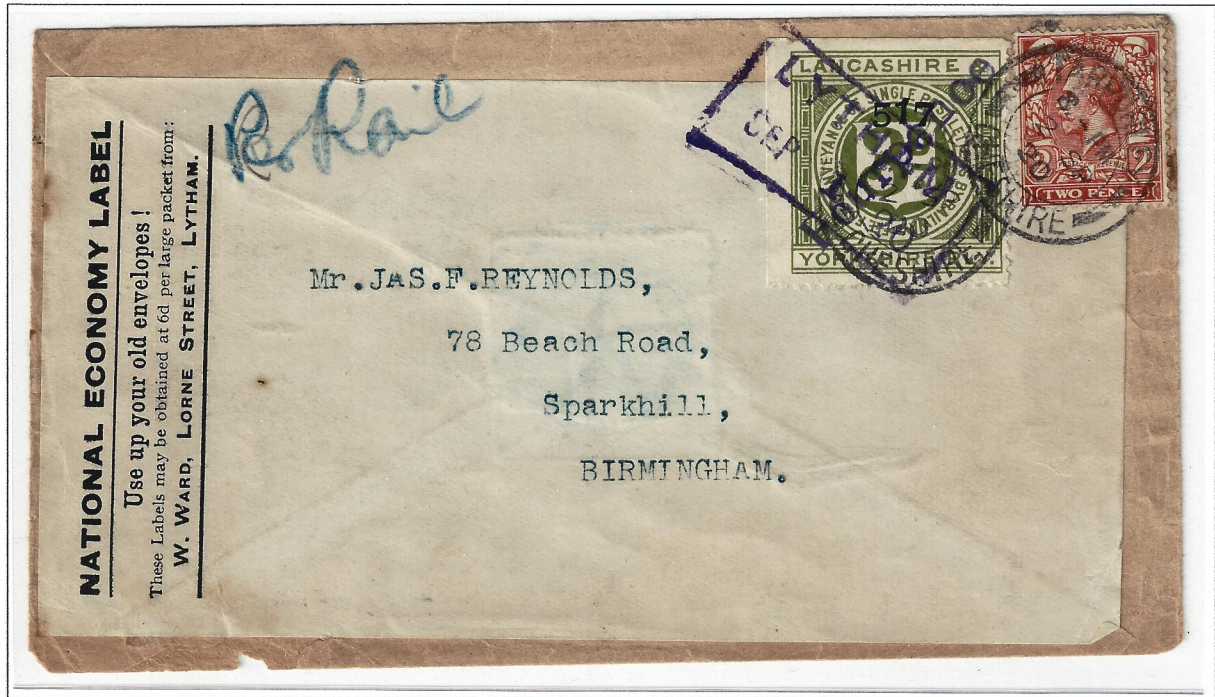
Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway

First Day 4d Fee

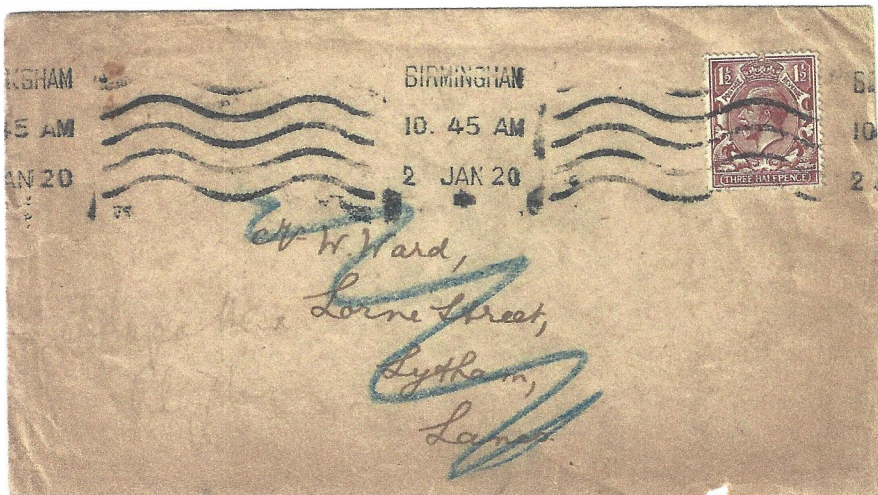
Fifth Period

1 Sep 1920 - 28 May 1922

4d fee + 2d postage



1 September 1920 Lytham to Birmingham, a paste-back with "National Economy Label" Lancashire and Yorkshire RLY. 1920 first day issue 3d surcharged "Fourpence" plus 2d postage entered the mails with Tarporley (Cheshire) 2 September 1920 postmark



This is the front of the paste-up as first used with 1½ postage on 2 January 1920 from Birmingham to Lytham. The cover was then labeled and used to Birmingham.

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway

+ Midland Railway

+ Glasgow & South Western Railway

Triple Conjunctive Use

"To Be Posted" +

"Express Delivery" 3d rate

Express Delivery: In 1897 the rate remained at 3d but the distance from delivering post office to destination was increased to under four miles. The cover below skirted the letter of the regulations by accident or by design. The delivery messenger at Glasgow was happy.



2 July 1901 Clitheroe Station, posted via Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway to Glasgow
conflicted endorsements as "Express Delivery" required taking to post office at origin
prepaid Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway 1900 Issue 2d stamp and 1d postage
carried to Colne and transferred to Midland Railway for carriage to Carlisle
at Carlisle it was transferred to Glasgow & South Western Railway to Glasgow

2 July 1901 entered mails at Glasgow with "6:15PM" postmarks

"3d to pay" express delivery service performed from post office to address (within 4 miles)



RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway

+ Midland & Great Northern Joint Railway

Conjunctive Use

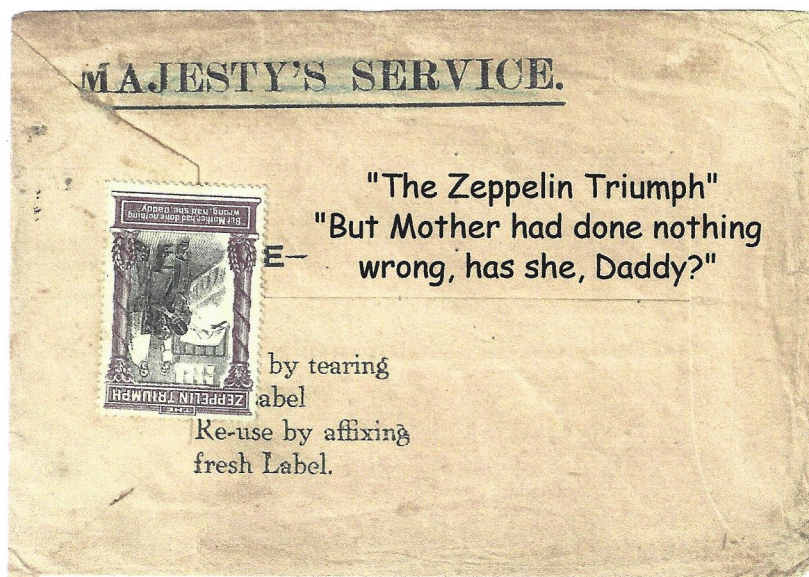
Fourth Period

1 Jun 1920 - 31 Aug 1920

3d fee + 2d postage



23 August 1920 Lytham to Sheringham where it entered the mails, OHMS imprinted cover Lancashire & Yorkshire RLY. prepaid "Threepence" on 2d railway stamp plus 2d postage L&Y Railway from Lytham to Crowle Central and Midland & Great Northern Joint Railway remailed 25 August 1920 from Sheringham to a hotel in North Devon



RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway

Seventh Period

1 Jan 1928 - 30 Apr 1940

3d fee + 1½d postage



13 January 1932 used to London, entered the mails at Manchester
prepaid Lancashire & Yorkshire RLY. 1920 issue 2d surcharged "Threepence" plus 1½d postage

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Liverpool, St. Helens & South Lancashire Railway

England



6 October 1904 Haydock Station to St. Helen's Station for posting to London
Liverpool, St. Helens & South Lancashire Railway 2d railway stamp and 1d postage
manuscript "Haydock" and "X" cancel, endorsed to be posted at St Helens
St Helens postmark and London arrival backstamp



The Liverpool, St Helens and South Lancashire Railway was formed in 1889, but no services ran until 1895 and passenger services did not start until 1900. It incorporated the St Helens and Wigan Junction Railway. It was worked by the Great Central Railway jointly with the Wigan Junction railway before being taken over by the Great Central Railway in August 1905. Total trackage was 18 miles.

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

London & North Western Railway

England

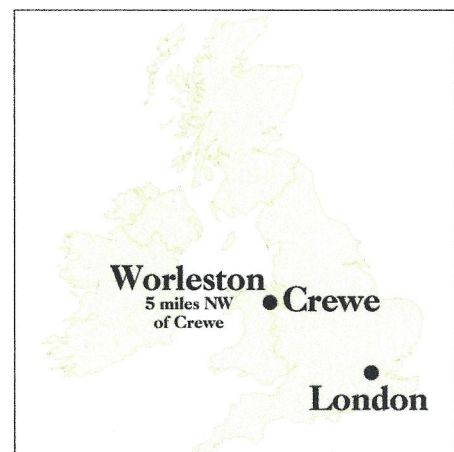


WORLESTON



23 November 1893 Worleston Station to Crewe Station, London for delivery to London SW
London & North Western Railway 2d railway stamp and 1d postage
Worleston straight line cancels obliterating both stamps
entered the mail with "Crewe-Station" duplex datestamp, London SW arrival backstamp

The London and North Western Railway operated in England from 1846 to 1922. In the late 19th century, the L&NWR was the largest joint stock company in the United Kingdom. The original route mileage eventually grew to over 2,100 miles. In 1923, it became a constituent of the London, Midland and Scottish railway.



London And South Western Railway

Boer War Related Uses

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920), 2d railway fee



Letter Mail to Foreign Countries and Colonies Prohibited: Prior to 1910, the Postal Guides stated that letters to overseas destinations were not to be accepted for transmission as railway letters. The disposition of any such letters was to be in a manner to be determined by the Postmaster General.

only reported example of a railway mail letter with the 1d soldier concession rate

Saturday, 18 November 1899 Moreton Station, via London, to Natal Field Force member
London & South Western Railway 2d railway stamp and 1d postage

"Moreton / * Station * / L. & S.W. RY" cancel, endorsed to be posted at Waterloo Station

London, Brighton & South Coast Railway

the only reported example of a railway letter mail stamp on inbound Boer War cover



18 March 1902 Barberton, S.A. (Field Post Office British Army S. Africa) to Turnbridge Wells
2d postage, forwarded to the mails at London with London, Brighton & South Coast Railway 2d
14 April London transit, arrival backstamp, 8p letter from (Capt.) William Russell Bowker

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

London and North Western Railway

Tolerated Parcel Stamp Use



15 August 1898 (London), cover from Lt. Col. George Napier to Oxford
prepaid North Western Railway 2d parcel stamp plus 1d postage, "To be posted at Oxford"
16 August 1898 entered mails at Oxford



26 March 1895 Colwyn Bay (Wales) to London, "To be posted at Euston" (Station)
prepaid North Western Railway 2d parcel stamp used on 1d postal entire
27 March 1899 entered mails at London NW

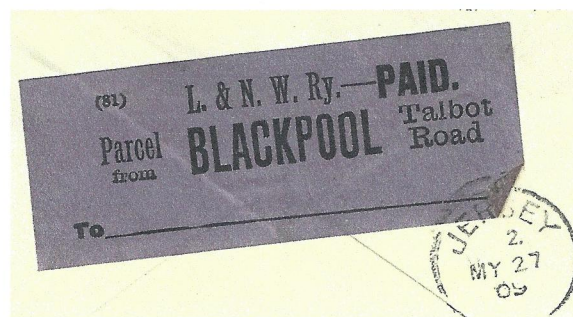
RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

London & North Western Railway

Parcel Stamp Use



26 May 1909 from Blackpool, Talbot Road Station, posted at Euston (London) to Jersey
London & North Western Railway 2d parcel stamp and 1d postage
oval Blackpool T.P.O. datestamp on 2d stamp and bars cancel on postage
L. & N.W. Ry Paid label on reverse, shown at 80% of original below, Jersey arrival backstamp



Parcel letter stamps were tolerated by the Post Office prior to October 1920 when they were officially authorized for use on letter mail. The London And North Western Railway's last issue of their standard design railway letter stamps was in June 1902. The issue of 30,000 seems to have been gradually replaced by the parcel stamps beginning in 1906. However, most railway companies continued to use the special railway stamps until at least ten to fifteen years later.

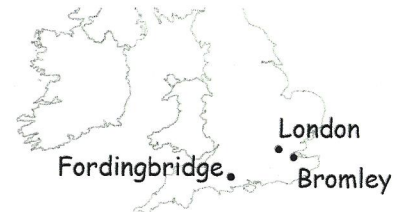
RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

London and South Western Railway

+ South Eastern Railway

Conjunctive Use
Second and Third Day Uses

These two covers were carried on consecutive days in opposite directions on the same combination route utilizing the London & South Western Railway and the South Eastern Railway. Top cover to Bromley (second day use) and lower cover to Fordingbridge (third day use).



2 February 1891
Fordingbridge Station, via
Waterloo Station and Waterloo
Junction to Bromley,
"546" telegraph office
Waterloo L. & S.W.R. UP Parcels
and Waterloo Junction Parcels
Office handstamps
Bromley / Kent 10 (PM)
2 February 1891 postmark



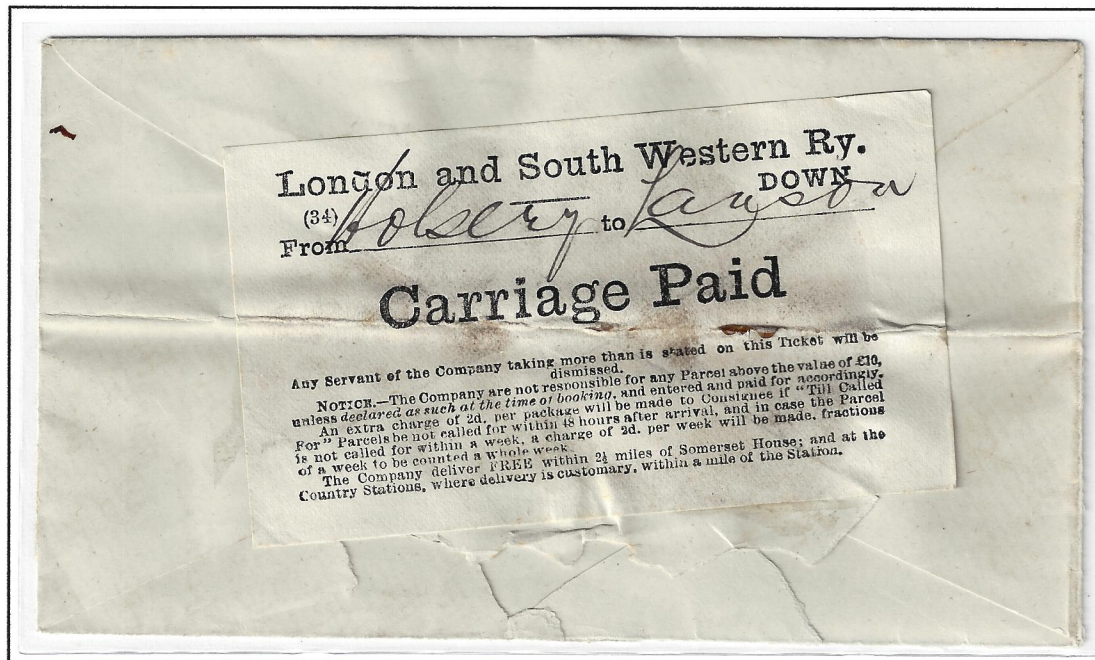
3 February 1891
Bromley Station, via Waterloo
Junction and Waterloo Station to
Fordingbridge
"BROMLEY SER" datestamp
Waterloo DOWN Parcels Office
and Waterloo Junction Parcels
Office handstamps
"FORDINGBRIDGE" station
arrival cancel

PRECURSORS

London & South Western Railway

Carriage Paid Letter

The text on this Carriage Paid label includes, "not responsible for any parcel above the value of £10" which apparently was enough to allow it to pass as a parcel. Similar to the string letters, this served as a dodge to get around the Post Office monopoly to carry expedited letter mail.



ca. 1880 cover addressed to a Solicitor at Launceston

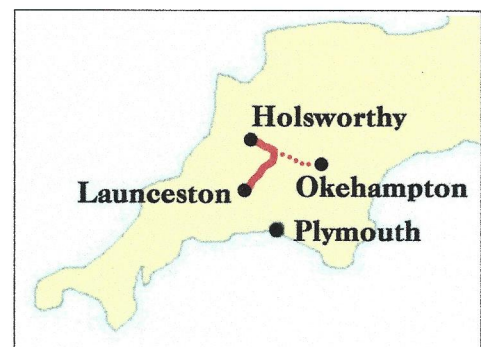
"Carriage Paid" label of the London and South Western Railway

manuscript "(From) "Holsworthy (to) Launceston

the last two lines of text mention FREE delivery from the Country Stations within a mile

The London & South Western Railway line to Holsworthy opened on 20 January 1879 as announced in the *Cornwall Advertiser* three days later:

The Opening of the Railway to Holsworthy. This line of railway from Okehampton to Holsworthy, was formally opened on Monday last. ... The promoters of the line were the Devon and Cornwall Railway Co., who now hand it over to the South Western...



The cover below was carried entirely outside the mails for the short distance between Morthoe and Ilfracombe (a ten minute trip according to train schedule of 1895). The enclosure was apparently a news report that should have been considered as regular railway letter mail and subject to a postage charge of 1d in addition the the railway fee of 2d even if no post office service was rendered.



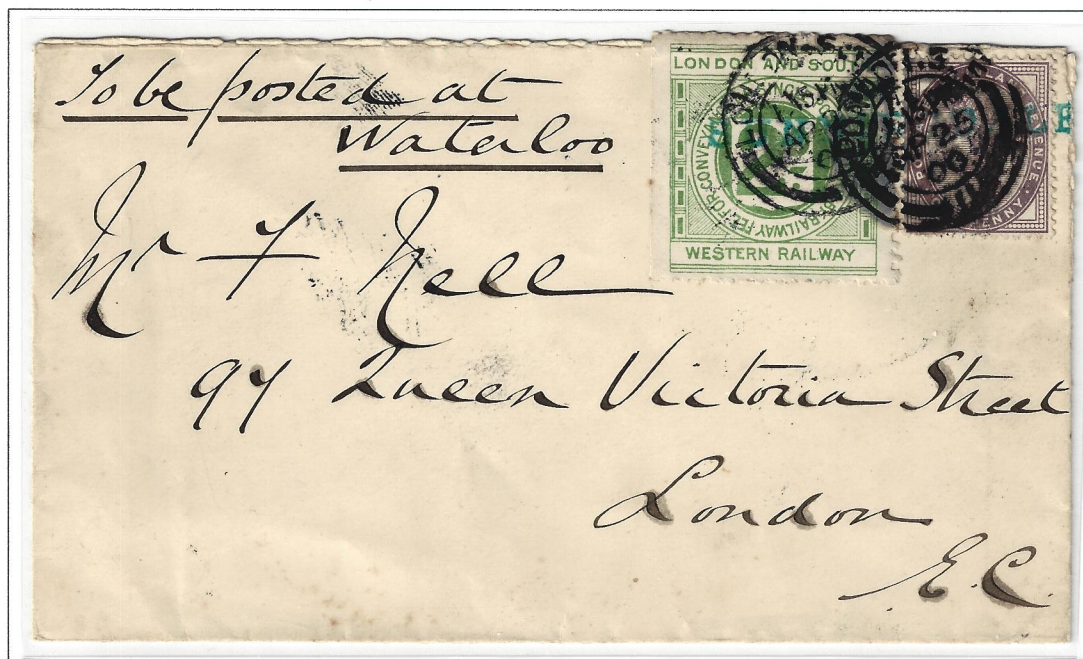
ca. 1895 to 1899, Morthoe to the office of *Ilfracombe Gazette & Observer* at Ilfracombe
London & South Western Railway 2d newspaper label, endorsed "News Immediate"
"MORTHOE, for Woolacombe & Lee" two line handstamp

The *Ilfracombe Gazette & Observer*, under F.H. Chown, flourished between 1895 and 1899.

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

London & South Western Railway

England



25 April 1900, Sunningdale Station to Waterloo Station, London, "SUNNINGDALE" cancel
London & South Western Railway 2d railway stamp and 1d postage, posted at London SE



5 November 1905, Swaythling Station to Waterloo Station, London, "SWAYTHLING" cancel
London & South Western Railway 2d railway stamp and 1d postage, posted at London SE

RAILWAY LETTER POSTAGE

London and South Western Railway

Saturday Mail

This cover, handed to the railway agent on a Saturday, was carried by rail only the short 11 mile distance between Richmond Station and Waterloo Station. However, by using the railway letter mails, the sender was able to have the letter delivered the same day instead of having it be delivered Monday as would have been the case if posted to the mails at Richmond.

RICHMOND



Saturday, 26 September 1891 Richmond Station (Surrey) to London, N.W.

endorsed by sender, "To be posted at Waterloo on Arrival"

London & South Western Railway 2d railway stamp and 1d postage

"RICHMOND" straight line station cancel (overstruck by London datestamp)

26 September 1891 London, SE postmark and same day London, NW arrival backstamp

RAILWAY LETTER POSTAGE

London Brighton and South Coast Railway

Parcel Stamp Use



7 February 1910 from Poynton Station to London Road Station in Manchester
London And North Western Railway 2d parcel stamp and 1d postage
oval Poynton railway station cancel, after a ten mile journey it entered the mails
Manchester 2:15 PM postmark and Patricroft arrival backstamp of 3:30 PM

Parcel letter stamps were tolerated by the Post Office prior to October 1920 when they were officially authorized for use on letter mail. The London And North Western Railway's last issue of their standard design railway letter stamps was in June 1902. The issue of 30,000 seems to have been gradually replaced by the parcel stamps beginning in 1906. Most all of the railway companies continued to use the special railway stamps until at least ten to fifteen years later.

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

London, Brighton & South Coast Railway

Second Period

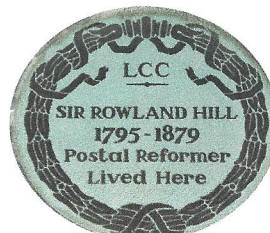
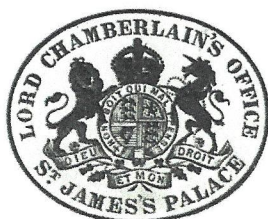
3 Jun 1918 - 14 Jan 1920

2d fee + 1½d postage



24 July 1919 Forest Row Station to "Orme Square, London"
prepaid with 2d railway stamp and 1½d postage, entered the mails at London

This cover bears the imprint of the "Lord Chamberlain" as well as the crest of his residence, "St. James Palace" (shown below) on flap. At this date the Lord Chamberlain was William Mansfield, 1st Viscount of Sandhurst. It is addressed to the house where Sir Rowland Hill lived in 1839-1842 (historical marker on the house at 1 Orme Square is shown below right).





6 October 1920 Victoria Station to the mails at Brighton, 2d postal entire
London Brighton & South Coast Railway "4" on 3d surcharge



1 July 1922 Victoria Station to the mails at Worthing, 1½d postage
London Brighton & South Coast Railway "4d." on 3d surcharge

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

London Brighton & South Coast Railway

3d Parcel Stamp Use

L. B. Peresford Esq
Town Offices
Littlehampton



| L.B. & S.C. RLY. | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------|
| PAID | | |
| PARCEL | 3 ^d | STAMP |
| 21 MAY 1930 | | |
| 86749 -10 | | |
| No. of PKGS. | WEIGHT. | RATE. |
| | | |

per Rail thence post

21 May 1930 Shoreham-By-Sea Station to Littlehampton
prepaid with L.B. & S.C. Rly. 3d parcel stamp (second issue) used to pay railway fee and 1½d postage
endorsed "per Rail thence post" and entered the mails at Littlehampton

Although parcel letter stamps were authorized by the Post Office to pay railway letter mail fees in October 1920, most railway companies continued to use the special railway stamps until for least the next ten to fifteen years.

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

London, Chatham, & Dover Railway

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



4 February 1891 Chatham "L.C.&D.R." to Sittingbourne Station, fourth day use
London, Chatham, & Dover Railway 2d imperforate, wide margins with manuscript initials
1d entire endorsed "To be posted on arrival"
February 1891 Sittingbourne postmark backstamp

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Macclesfield Committee

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



10 March 1906 use to Ollerton

Macclesfield Committee 1899 issue 2d railway stamp on a 1d entire
endorsed "Post on arrival at Manchester" where it entered the mails at 2:30
10 March 1906 Newark 7:30PM transit backstamp

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Manchester and Milford Railway

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



18 August 1899 use north east of Aberystwyth addressed to Worcestershire

Manchester and Milford Railway 1897 issue 2d stamp plus 1d postage

"To be posted on arrival at Aberystwyth" was ignored

entered the mails with "Shrewsbury & Aberystwyth S.G." traveling post office postmark

Manchester & Milford Railway



5 February 1906 Derry Ormond Station, endorsed to be posted at Carmarthen
1897 issue 2d railway stamp and 1d in postage, posted at Newark the next day

The Great Western Railway took over the Mansfield & Milford Railway from July 1, 1906



28 March 1908 "Cancelled Tregaron" to Lampeter, Great Western overprinted 2d railway stamp

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

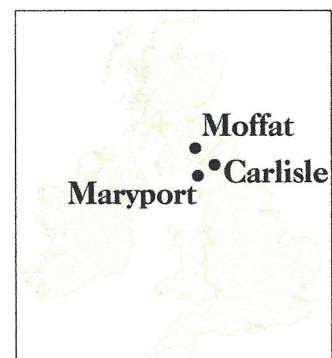
Maryport & Carlisle Railway
+ Caledonian Railway

Conjunctive Use



4 August 1896 by Maryport & Carlisle Railway to Carlisle and Caledonian Railway to Moffat
Maryport & Carlisle Railway 2d railway stamp, first printing, and 1d postage
endorsed "Railway Letter to be posted on arrival"
entered the mails at Moffat for local delivery

Maryport & Carlisle Railway was formed in 1836 and operated a small but profitable railway to connect Maryport and Carlisle in Cumbria, England. There were many small collieries in the area and efficient access to the harbor at Maryport was important. After 1918 the industries on which the line was dependent declined steeply, and the railway declined.



RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Metropolitan Railway.

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



15 March 1899 use to Wimbledon, London SW
Metropolitan Railway 2d stamp, control #18 and 1d postage
posted with London datestamp and London SW backstamp



13 March 1899 use to Wimbledon, entered the mails with London W (West) datestamp
Metropolitan Railway 2d stamp, control #4794 and 1d postage

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Midland Railway

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



24 May 1894 use to London "St. Pancras Parcels" handstamp
prepaid 2d railway stamp plus 1d postage



1 June 1899 use to Kettering where it entered the mails
Midland Railway 1899 issue 2d stamp plus 1d postage

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Midland Railway

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



10 June 1905 Cheltenham to London where it entered the mails
Midland Railway 1904 issue prepaid 2d stamp plus 1d postage

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Midland Railway

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



13 July 1911 $\frac{1}{2}$ d postal card use to Clitheroe with Carlisle handstamp
prepaid 2d stamp
manuscript endorsement "To be posted at Clitheroe" where it entered the mails



24 September 1904 1d entire use to Penge
prepaid 2d railway stamp, entered the mails in London

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

Midland Railway

Sixth Period

29 May 1922 - 31 Dec 1927

4d fee + 1½d postage



22 December 1922 Earby datestamp to "Post at Leeds" where it entered the mails
prepaid 4d Midland Railway parcel stamp plus 1½d postage

Midland Railway, Northern Counties Committee
(Ireland)

Wilson Covers

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



11 December 1924 entered the mails with "Larne Harbour S.O." postmark, 1½d postage
Midland Railway, Northern Counties Committee 4d railway stamp, ticket dater datestamps

RAILWAY LETTER POSTAGE

North British Railway

Scotland



29 November 1893 to Glasgow and by mail to St. Boswell's
North British Railway 2d stamp, cross cancel and 1d postage
Newtowne St. Boswells November 30 arrival backstamp



1922 North British Railway routes



Parcels Office
Berwick

The North British Railway was opened in 1846, and from the outset the company followed a policy of expanding its geographical area, and competing with the Caledonian Railway in particular. At the grouping of the railways in 1923, the North British Railway was the largest railway company in Scotland. In that year it became a constituent of the new London and North Eastern Railway.

North British Railway

Scotland



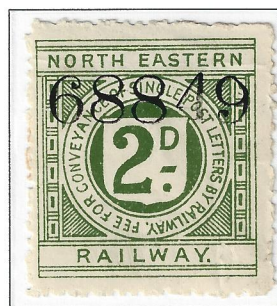
RAILWAY LETTER POSTAGE

North Eastern Railway

England



26 May 1891 by North Eastern Railway, posted at Darlington, to London
North Eastern Railway 2d railway stamp and 1d postage, London arrival backstamp



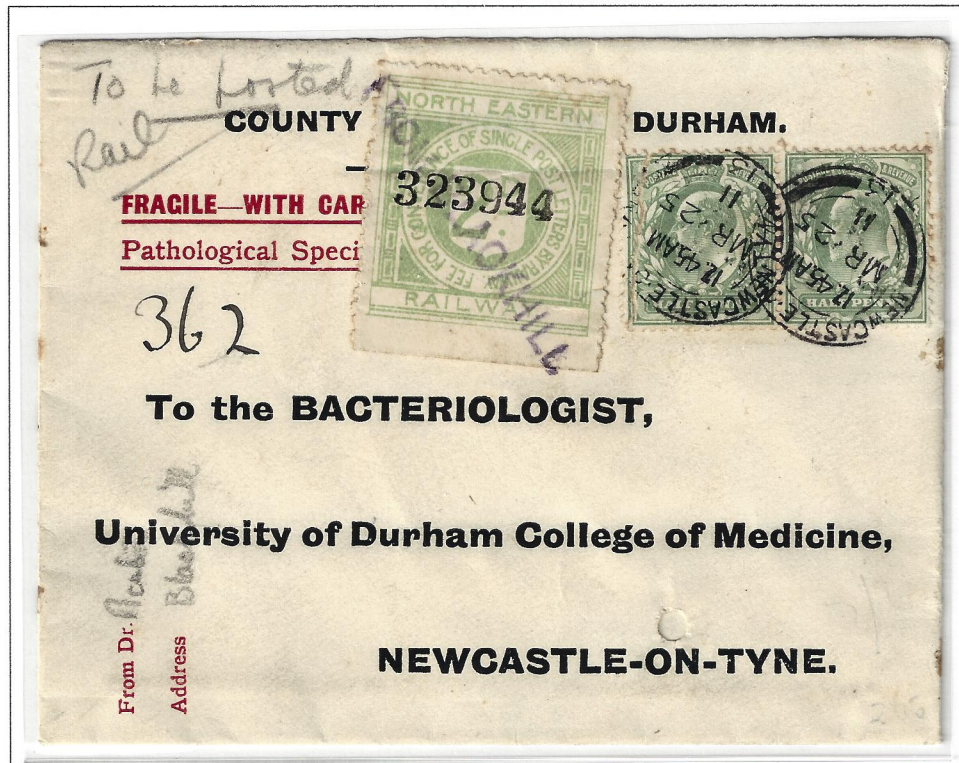
The North Eastern Railway's first 2d railway stamps, printed in red, included "Stamp to be used only for letters bearing a postage stamp" in central circle and "Railway Letter Post" in bottom tablet. After 17,460 stamps had been released, the issue was suppressed by the Post Office. A new revised design, in green, was issued with "Fee for conveyance of single post letters by railway" in circle and simply "Railway" at foot. All stamps were printed at Newcastle upon Tyne.

The North Eastern Railway (NER) was incorporated in 1854. In 1923, it was amalgamated with additional railways to form the London and North Eastern Railway. The NER main line provided the central link in the Anglo-Scottish "East Coast Main Line" between London and Edinburgh. The NER operated the section between the Great Northern Railway and the North British Railway.

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

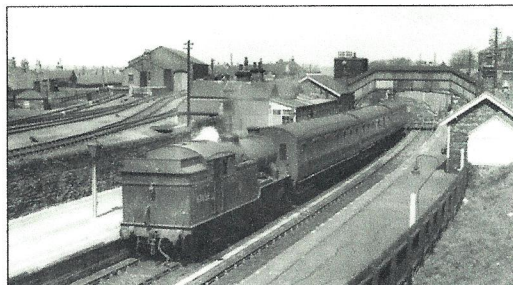
North Eastern Railway

England



25 March 1911 Blackhill Station to Newcastle-On-Tyne
North Eastern Railway 2d railway stamp and 1d postage
railway stamp with "FROM BLACKHILL" cancel
entered the mails at Newcastle-On-Tyne for local delivery

A preprinted "County Council of Durham" pathological specimen envelope
sent to the Bacteriologist at University of Durham College of Medicine.



Blackhill Station

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

North Staffordshire Railway

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



9 July 1891 use to London, entered the mails with Stoke-on-Trent postmark
prepaid 2d railway stamp on a 1d entire

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

North Staffordshire Railway

First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



14 October 1898 "BUXTON N.S.R.Y. STATION" handstamp to Hanley where it entered the mails
prepaid railway 2d stamp plus 1d postage

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

North Staffordshire Railway

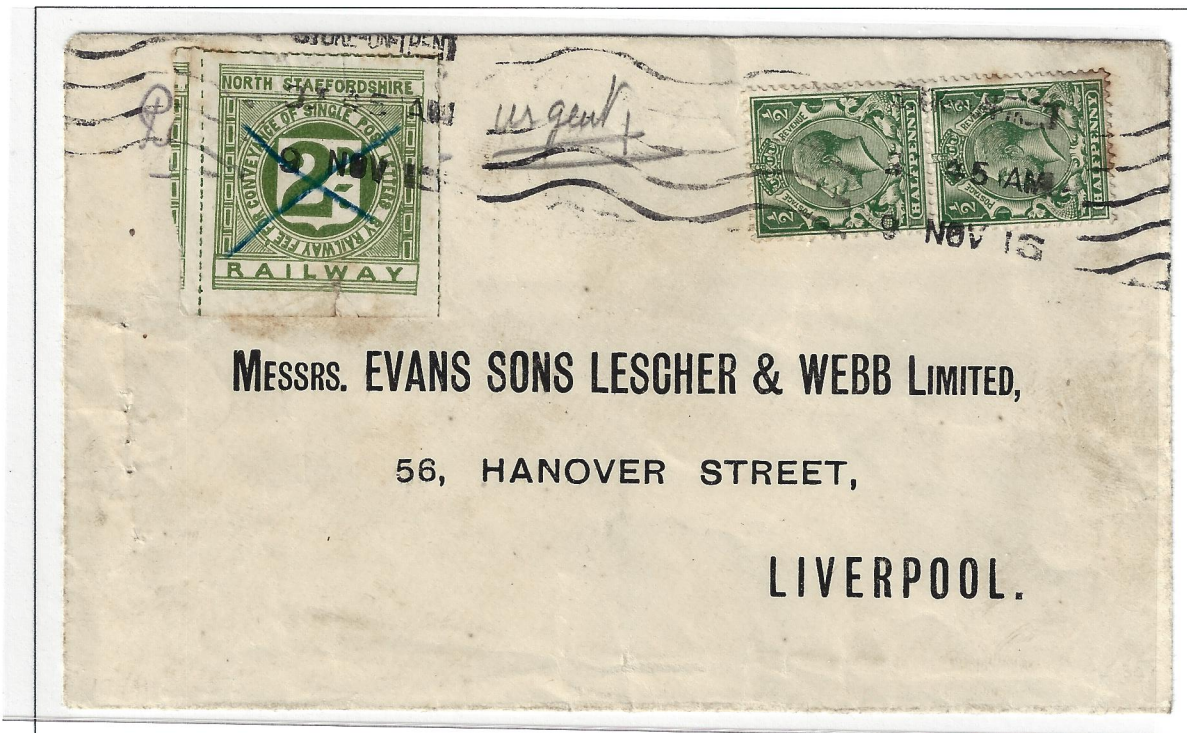
First Period

1 Feb 1891 - 2 Jun 1918

2d fee + 1d postage



4 April 1903 "Blythe Bridge N.S.RV. STATION" handstamp to Lichfield prepaid 1898 2d issue plus 1d postage, entered the mails at Stoke-on-Trent



9 November 1915 cover with preprinted address to Liverpool marked "Urgent" prepaid 2d 1908 issue (third bar from top cut in) plus 1d postage, posted at Stoke-on-Trent

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

North Wales and Liverpool Railway Committee — Last Day

North Wales and Liverpool Railway Committee route came under control of a Great Central Joint Committee when it was reformed by the Great Central Act of July 22, 1904, effective January 1, 1905.



31 December 1904 entered the mails at Chester, addressed to Newark
prepaid North Wales and Liverpool Committee 2d 1898 issue plus 1d postage

cover was carried on the last day of existence of the NW&L committee

Pembroke & Tenby Railway

Conjunctive Use

+ Great Western Railway

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



7 June 1894 Narberth (Pembrokeshire), via Whitland, to the mails at London, 1d postage and Pembroke & Tenby Railway 2d stamp with "Narberth Station /P&TR/June 7 94" cancels carried to Whitland and transferred to the Great Western Railway to Paddington (London) boxed "G.W.R. /Transferred / At/ Paddington /And to be so Abstracted" handstamp

8 June 1894 entered the mails with Paddington postmark and London EC backstamp "Immediate" possibly added at London EC to indicate an addressee special delivery request on file

only reported example on cover (2 unused and 2 used stamps are also known)



PURE CONCENTRATED SOLUBLE MANURES

(PLANT FOODS).

Unprecedented results obtained by their use. Renders crops less liable to attacks by fungi, blight, and other plant pests.

Specially prepared for the cultivation of Sugar Cane, Cacao, Coffee, Tobacco, Tea, Fruit Trees, &c.

FOR PARTICULARS AND DESCRIPTIVE PAMPHLET APPLY TO

H. & E. ALBERT, 17 Gracechurch Street, London.

LARGEST MANUFACTURES OF ARTIFICIAL MANURES IN THE WORLD.

The addressee, H. & E. Albert, ran this advertisement in newspapers throughout Great Britain in June 1894.

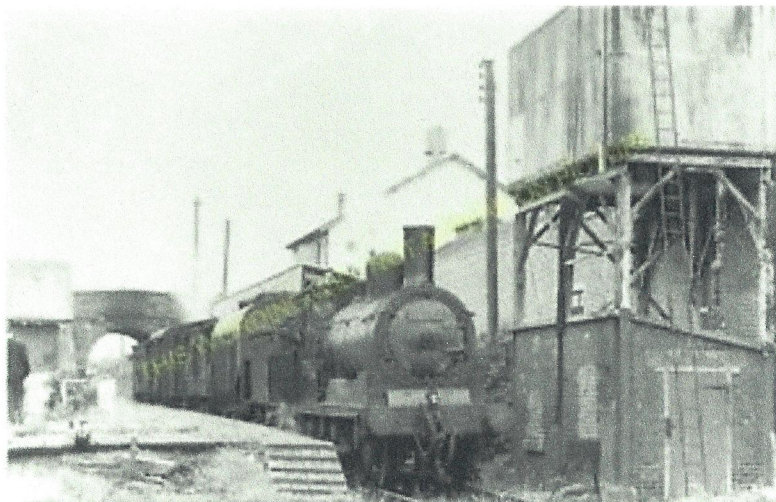
RAILWAY LETTER POSTAGE

Portpatrick & Wigtownshire Railways

Scotland



17 January 1921 Sorbie to Whithorn, carried and delivered outside the mails
Portpatrick & Wigtownshire Joint Railways 4d railway stamp and 2d postage
boxed "P.&W.J. Rlys. SORBIE" datestamps



Sorbie railway station

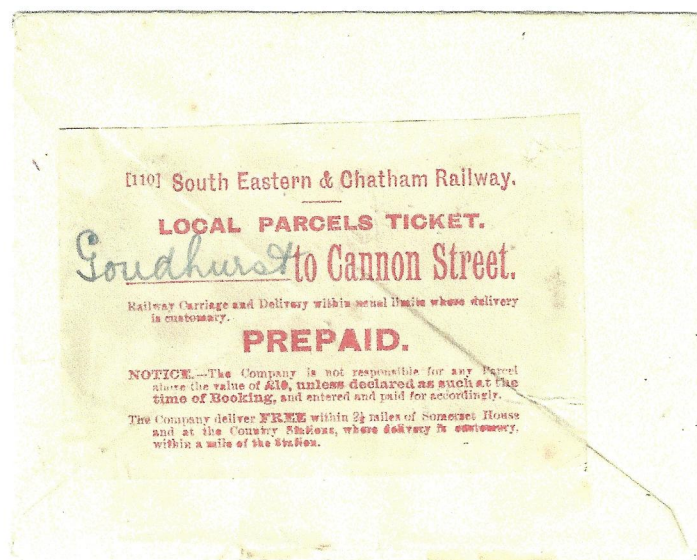
RAILWAY LETTER POSTAGE

South Eastern & Chatham Railway

Parcel Ticket Use



19 August 1905 Goudhurst Station to Cannon Street (45 miles distant) and to the mails South Eastern & Chatham Railway 2d railway stamp and 1d postage with oval station cancels prepaid local parcels "to Cannon Street" ticket affixed to reverse entered the mails to Charing Cross with London E.C. datestamp



Local Parcels Ticket "to Cannon Street" on reverse (shown above 80% of original) with pencil station of origin filled in. Unusual combination of postage, parcel and railway stamps.

RAILWAY LETTER MAIL

South Eastern & Chatham & Dover Railways

England



5 August 1899 Robertsbridge Station to the mails at London, W.C.

South Eastern & Chatham & Dover Railways 2d railway stamp and 1d postage both stamps with "ROBERTSBRIDGE * STATION * S.E. RY" cancels, London datestamp

South Eastern & Chatham Railway (successor company as of Act of 5 August 1899)



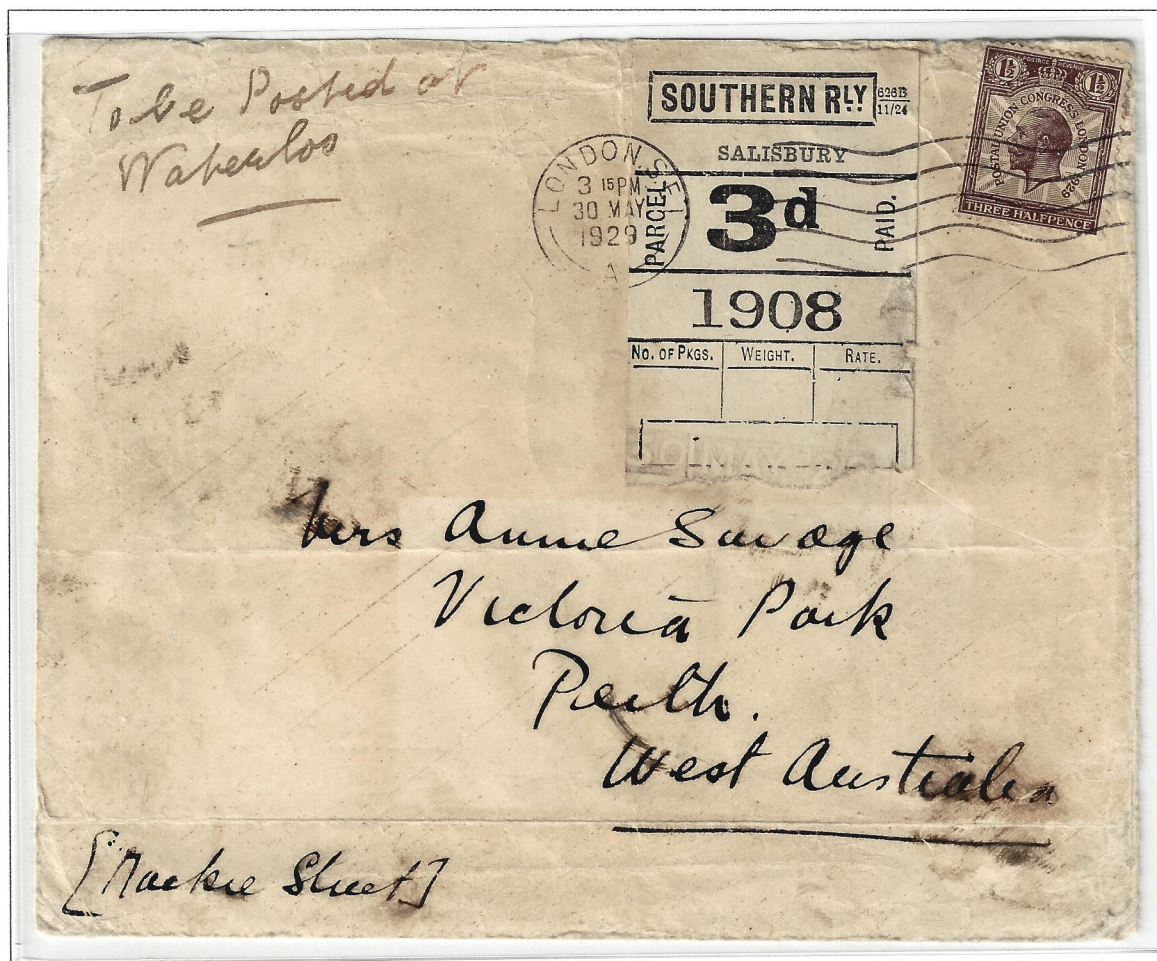
23 January 1908 Godston Station to London Bridge Station and into the London mails sender's "Train Express - to London Bridge" endorsement and re-addressed in same hand

South Eastern & Chatham Railway 2d railway stamp and 1d postage railway stamp with "GODSTON * STATION * S.E. Ry" cancel

RAILWAY LETTER POSTAGE

Southern Railway

Authorized Parcel Stamp Use



30 May 1929 from Salisbury Station, via London, to Perth, Australia
Southern Railway 3d parcel stamp and 1½d PUC postage stamp
endorsed to be posted at Waterloo Station and with London S.E. entry postmark

An authorized use of a parcel stamp. Although parcel stamps were tolerated by the Post Office prior to October 1920, they were first officially authorized for use on letter mail until that date.

The Furness Railways

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



22 January 1898 Corkickle Station to Warrington, 1d postage
The Furness Railways 1893 issue 2d railway stamp
"Corkickle Furness R^{LYS} Station" cancels, entered the mails at Warrington Station

The Furness Railways

First Period (Feb 1, 1891 to Jan 14, 1920)
2d railway fee



circa 1900 (Grange) to the Kents Bank Station "Till be called for," 1d postage
manuscript "RS" cancels on both the postage and The Furness Railway 2d 1893 issue stamp
address includes "O.H.M.S." notation across the top

Tralee & Dingle Light Railway & Tramway Company
(Ireland)

Wilson Covers

Third Period (Sep 1, 1920 to Dec 31, 1927)
4d railway fee



16 October 1920 Tralee Station datestamp, to the mails at Dingle, 2d postage
Tralee & Dingle Railway "4" surcharge on 2d stamp

the only example of any stamp used as 4d by this railway, unknown to de Lacy-Spencer