

PHILATELIC QUARTERLY

FIGURE 1. Reproduction of G.P.O. Records Showing Lundy Postmarks.

To what Place	Date when sent	Stamps
<i>Cardiff</i>	<i>8.12.86</i>	 Volume 45, page 190
<i>Barustaple</i>	<i>4.8.93</i>	 Volume 47, page 248

THE G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" THIMBLE DATESTAMPS
 PRELIMINARY CENSUS OF DATES OF USE
 EVIDENCE FOR 1914 INTRODUCTION OF TYPE Ac CANCELLER
 (DETAILS IN FEATURE ARTICLE ON PAGES 10 - 19)

WINTER 1997-98

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LUNDY COLLECTORS CLUB

WINTER 1997-1998 LUNDY COLLECTORS CLUB PHILATELIC QUARTERLY

(Volume 19, Number 4 — Whole Number 76)

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L.C.C. PHILATELIC QUARTERLY

"THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE LUNDY COLLECTORS CLUB"

Volume 19, Number 4 (Whole No. 76) Winter 1997-1998

LUNDY COLLECTORS CLUB

*Affiliate Number 121 of the American Philatelic Society (APS)
Member Club of the Aerophilatelic Federation of the Americas (AFA)*

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Membership in the Lundy Collectors Club is open to any person interested in the collecting and study of Lundy stamps, covers, and postal history. Dues of US\$12.50 per year (U.S., Canada, and foreign surface rates) or US\$18.75/GB£12.50 (overseas airmail) include a subscription to the *Lundy Collectors Club Philatelic Quarterly*.

Letters to the Editor

An Inquiry and Information About the Date Style Formats Used For the First Lundy Datestamp and G.P.O. "Thimble" Postmarks

John Holman, writing in *The New Puffin Journal* (Summer 1997, pages 14-16), brought up several interesting points, one of which I would like to address. When did the dates in the first Lundy canceller (boxed puffin datestamp, *Chinchen/Newman* type Bb) go from **month day year** (American style) format to **day month year** (French style) format?

In going through my Lundy covers, I find the following:

Dates of Use (From - To)	Format	Example Date
February 10, 1930 - June 10, 1930	American Style	FE 10 30
25 July 1930 - 11 June 1936	French Style	25 JY 30
September 1, 1936 - November 30, 1938	American Style	SP 1 36

Can anyone narrow these dates of changes (from American style to French style and back to American style) and explain the reason for the changes?

While on the subject of format, I checked my British Post Office "LUNDY ISLAND" thimble postmarks and found:

June 24, 1904 to August 25, 1913 = American style

21 July 1922 to 13 August 1926 = French style

Again, when was the change made and why?

--George Fabian, Park Forest, Illinois (June 15, 1997)

Second question first: George's inquiry about the G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" thimble postmarks was the second inquiry I received in the past several months. The first from James Thomas, Assistant Editor of The New Puffin Journal, is more extensive and is presented along with some (but not all) answers and additional questions in my feature article appearing on pages 10-19 of this issue. This article includes a preliminary census of dates of recorded use for the "LUNDY ISLAND" thimbles, and better establishes the ranges of dates of use for the French and American style formats.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

Regarding George's first question about the subject of the date style format used in the first Lundy (type Bb) canceller, there may be exceptions to time periods in the table on page 1 as I have an inward cover from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada in which the date in the Lundy canceller is clearly "6 MR 38"! Readers who have additional information (dates or explanations) about either the G.P.O. thimbles or type Bb datestamp are urged to write the LCCPQ Editor. —RSC

July Bideford Meeting and a 1961 Helicopter Service Cover

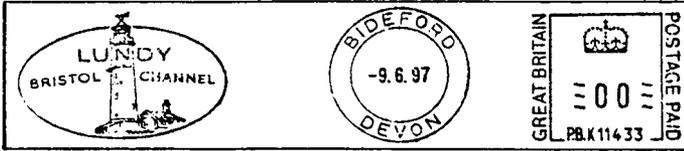
Getting out the Summer 1997 issue of *The New Puffin Journal*, together with the auction catalogue for the Club meeting, proved quite a mammoth task, but was well rewarded. Our meeting in Bideford on July 20 proved most successful, with nearly 40 members and guests turning up (over 25 of us taking lunch at the Hotel). Particularly welcome were the two daughters of Martin Coles Harman—Ruth Harman-Jones and Diana Keast—and also John Dyke. As you know, the meeting was arranged to coincide with the return of the L.C.C. "U.S.A." contingent from their visit to Lundy. I met them all off the *Oldenburg* on the Saturday afternoon, and we all stayed at the Royal Hotel, the venue of Sunday's meeting. On Saturday evening we all went to the pub opposite the Hotel, The Swan, and enjoyed a mighty pig-out together. George, Duane, Bubba, Jim, and Rich Drews all had a great time. The meeting itself was most successful and the auction went very well as over 70 percent of the lots sold, many of them to postal bidders.



One of my *Journal* correspondents sent me a photocopy of a most interesting cover from Berlin to Lundy (shown above). I was not aware there was a Helicopter Service in 1961 and assume that it must have been a specially chartered flight. By all means, use it in the LCCPQ if you want to put the question to readers. I suppose that you have already received news of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

the error on the first day covers for the Centenary of St. Helena's Church where a "00" value was placed in the meter franking (*inset*). Though the



rear of the cover has a meter mark with a "25" value, it is also wrong as the first class rate was 26p!

--Stanley Newman, Brighton, E. Sussex, England
(August 7, 1997)

Although regular commercial helicopter service to Lundy has been sporadic over the years, RAF Chivenor has a history of providing the Island with emergency-evacuation helicopter service in situations of severe illness or injury. RAF Chivenor has also provided occasional emergency mail service by helicopter to Lundy, particularly during bad winter weather. This occurred as recently as 1993 when the Lundy Christmas mails were flown out. Perhaps this also happened in 1961 and Felix Gade added the typewritten cachet and his signature to document the event. The cover's Lundy Christmas Day franking and "DELAYED BY STORM" marking suggest this as a plausible explanation. Readers who know of a regular helicopter service in 1961 or who can provide an alternative explanation for this cover are encouraged to write. A summary and further discussion of the L.C.C. U.K. Chapter's first auction, held July 20, 1997, are given in my "Lundy at Auction" column appearing elsewhere in this issue. —RSC

A Brief Account of a Wonderful Lundy Visit

The *Balmoral* trip and landing of Monday, August 11 went absolutely perfectly in glorious weather conditions which were some compensation for the spoiled fiascoes of last September. This good spell had been preceded by a veritable monsoon of four consecutive days' rain to which we woke on Sunday, August 3 and did not let up till the night of August 6. Then the sun got into its stride, and day after day since it has been blue skies and almost too much heat. We left Penarth at 9 a.m. with a good crowd on, many of them for Minehead where as many replaced them.

Then followed the run of which I never tire, close below the magnificent cliff line of North Devon, twixt Minehead and Ilfracombe, leaving there just before 1 p.m. with a small crowd, for once not due to an *Oldenburg* leftover. It was a real pleasure to drop anchor in Lundy's Landing Cove and find it not there, competing for launch traffic, and it was just a "White Funnel" as in the days of old! I was, naturally, first off and lost an ounce or two in sweat, toiling up the road, only a few passing me to gain precedence in the Tavern where I was headed for my mug of tea. The Shop had several new and really good picture postcards on sale and I made a good haul, including one of my beloved Battery, sea-pink powdered, as it is in May and June!

The Lighthouse Field was green and lush, masses of sheep appreciating what the monsoon had resulted in, as I'd heard the Island had been under the same cloud and I'm sorry for that week's guests...but good for the reservoirs. After my visit to the graveyard, I pushed on along the West Coast as far as time would allow, though not in sight of the Battery, turning back via High Street. I bought some more cards and penned one to Gordon Coward and posted it, descended via the Ugly, from which viewpoint *Balmoral* looked so "at home" in the Bay, and then via Millcombe, down the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

Beach Road so slowly and carefully, without one slip, safely to the jetty for a brief word with Reg Lo-vel who was overseeing re-embarkations.

I was in what should have been last launch for a punctual sailing time, but as always there were stragglers to fill it three times more, so we left at 45 minutes late of 6:15 and never have I wished more fervently to be staying over! If I don't make it for the last on September 17, I have my sprig of heather to sustain me till next time. We sailed back over a glassy sea, deliciously cool after the heat of exertion at 'Combe. All of the local anglers seemed to have had their fishing rights restored, with lines dangling from the so-called "perilous" pier. To cap it all, after a perfect day, my ticket drew first prize in that day's raffle, which always raises a good sum for the ship's refit funds. The prize couldn't have been more to my taste as it was a voucher worth £25 for a further sailing!

Gordon Coward rang me in July to say he and his wife Louisa had been back to Foula, sponsored by Grampian (Scottish) television who filmed an interview afterwards about what changes they had found since their film in 1956 and 1957. The weather on the island in June was foul and wintry. They did find changes, but a few of the children, now middle-aged, remembered them and watching their film in which their parents, now dead, were featured. An air service saves hours of rough sailing, each croft is on the phone, and they can receive television programs, but a lot of the charm is gone, though there are still the birds.

--Gwyneth White, Penarth, South Glamorgan, Wales, U.K.
(August 20, 1997)

Honorary L.C.C. Member Gwyneth White has been a frequent visitor to Lundy starting in 1929 and is a staunch supporter of the "White Fumel" fleet, which presently is managed by the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society. The Foula film to which she refers was prominently mentioned in the Summer 1997 LCCPQ (pages 5-7) and is still available by mail order. —RSC

Offer

Latest Lundy List from Market Coins

Ian T. Arnold (L.C.C. #188) recently released another Market Coins list of Lundy items available. Titled *Occasional Lundy List No. 12*, it offers nine items: *m.s. Oldenburg* boarding pass (£3), mint postcard of John Dyke's "Some Birds to be seen on Lundy" (£0.50), mint postcard of John Dyke's "Lundy Certificate" (£0.50), full-color "Lure of Lundy" postcard (£0.50), two versions of Lundy-serviced "Lure of Lundy" postcard (£1.50 each), privately prepared first day of issue postcards for the Centenary of St. Helena's Church (£3.50), Christmas 1993 postally serviced "Stamps of Lundy" postcard flown by RAF Chivenor helicopter (£1.50), and "The Old Light, Lundy" postcard postally serviced on first day of normal use of the Lighthouse Centenary stamp (£1.50). Readers are urged to order as soon as possible (for all nine items, £14.50 postpaid to the U.K. or £15 post-paid to the U.S.) as most are limited-edition items with availability on a first-come, first-served basis. Readers are also encouraged to inquire if items from previous lists are still available.

Terms: Overseas payment in sterling or U.S. dollars; U.K. postage 50p, overseas £1. Please make cheques payable to I. T. Arnold. Order from: Market Coins, 11 Hillcrest Road, Bideford, Devon, EX39 4DQ, England. Telephone 01237-476056.

News of L.C.C. Members

LUNDY COLLECTORS CLUB MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Welcome to the following new members:

- 410 Bob Hanson — Kelso, Washington, U.S.A.
- 411 M. Winslow Lundy — Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.
- 412 Abraham Siegel — Long Island City, New York, U.S.A.
- 413 Chuck Wonneberger — Killingworth, Connecticut, U.S.A.
- 414 Charles Povey — Rockwood, Ontario, Canada
- 415 Karl Seligman — Solano Beach, California, U.S.A.
- 416 Wayne E. Holland — South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A.
- 417 Bill Eberhardt — Orange, California, U.S.A.
- 418 Arlid Magnussen — Papperhavn, Vesterøy, Norway
- 419 Jiu Bin Chen — Pei Tow District, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.
- 420 Victor Short — Ashwell, Oakham, Leicestershire, England
- 421 R. A. L. Sewall — Salisbury, Wiltshire, England
- 422 Daniel Thingvold — La Crosse, Wisconsin, U.S.A.
- 423 Dave Bennett — Van Nuys, California, U.S.A.
- 424 Nick Cerchio — Wilmington, Delaware, U.S.A.
- 425 Dr. Lewis E. Tauber — Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
- 426 Dennis Henrichs — Medical Lake, Washington, U.S.A.
- 427 Ed Cramer — Skokie, Illinois, U.S.A.
- 428 Harold Ford — Stone Mountain, Georgia, U.S.A.
- 429 Anne Cutler — Ashted, Surrey, England
- 430 J. N. Holland — Worsley, Manchester, England
- 431 Brian Drew — Pinner, Middlesex, England

Deceased:

- 011 William Rowcroft — South Ozone Park, New York, U.S.A.
- 342 Virgil A. Watson — Detroit Lakes, Minnesota, U.S.A.
- 382 Jacques Naayer — Groningen, Netherlands

Dropped from membership during 1997 for nonpayment of dues:

- 082 - Ken Gibson, 107 - Percy D. A. Lee, 116 - Christer Brunström,
- 123 - Kevin Knight, 129 - Thomas D. Green, 163 - Andrew M. Rundle,
- 176 - Peter M. Wilcox, 182 - Ted Handley, 184 - Ikuo Ikehara,
- 185 - Ian P. Hammerton, 197 - Charlene and Jeffrey B. Garfinkle,
- 203 - R. Emptage, 213 - Alan R. Pearce, 214 - Beaucage Pierre,
- 218 - A. W. H. Philpot, 225 - Aurthur Thompson, 228 - Collin Penny,
- 234 - Tony Philpott, 242 - E. M. Wicks, 251 - Evan Williams,
- 253 - Neil A. Goldwasser, 266 - William Earley, 277 - G. I. Hilton,
- 297 - Don Engle, 300 - Randy L. Neil, 309 - C. R. Michael Brooks,
- 311 - Jean Love, 316 - James P. Morgan, 318 - T. Upshall,
- 329 - Ian Knight, 337 - Tormod Hoisveen, 340 - Jason J. Wurst,
- 343 - Robert M. Jordan, 351 - David Saks, 353 - Jamie Selko,
- 355 - D. R. Hambly, 356 - Shirley A. Race, 361 - David A. Locke,
- 365 - Rev. Ralph Harpell, 366 - Michael Scarborough, 368 - George Brown,
- 370 - Bjorn Schoyen, 371 - Arthur C. Broom, 372 - James Richardson,
- 373 - Kenneth Munro, 374 - Robert D. Dolan, 376 - William R. Wallace,
- 377 - LeRoy J. Hahn, 381 - Barrie W. King, 387 - Kenneth A. Fritsch,
- 391 - Charles J. Dennis, 393 - Robert C. Hipes, 394 - JoAnne Plyler,
- 395 - Jim Hazen, 396 - Donald Loggins, 398 - Charles Wilhelm,
- 399 - Anne Westcott, 400 - Samantha Barnes-Evans, 402 - R. Groves,
- 403 - R. Fallows, 404 - David Watson, 406 - Ken Sultana,
- 408 - David Elliot

Upon payment of back dues, some of these members may have been reinstated since the L.C.C. Membership Secretary's report was submitted June 1, 1997.

NEWS OF L.C.C. MEMBERS (Continued)**LUNDY COLLECTORS CLUB MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

As of June 1, 1997, there were 150 members in good standing having the following geographical distribution: U.K. (68), U.S.A. (58), Canada (8), Germany (3), Netherlands (3), Australia (2), Sweden (2), and six others (one each from Belgium, Finland, Italy, Norway, Switzerland, and Taiwan).

NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF LUNDY COLLECTORS CLUB MEMBERS

- Cor van Zon (#216) presented a display of the stamps of Jethou at the April 18-20, 1997 meeting of the Channel Islands Specialists' Society held on the Isle of Wight. Mike Thompson and Julie Lester (#288) were responsible for organizing and running this successful weekend meeting attended by some 49 C.I.S.S. members, a record turnout for a C.I.S.S. provincial meeting.
- Lester E. Winick (#037) was named one of the three 1997 recipients of the **John N. Luff Awards**, the highest recognition accorded by the American Philatelic Society. Winick received the **Luff Award for Exceptional Contributions to Philately** on August 23 at STAMPSHOW 97 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Les is an award-winning exhibitor, an accredited national and international judge, and President of the Collectors Club of Chicago and the Arthur Salm Foundation. Winick, a prolific philatelic writer, is a regular columnist for and contributing editor to *Linn's Stamp News* and writes for philatelic publications in the U.S., G.B., and Australia. Congratulations, Les, for earning such a prestigious award!
- Roger Riga (#204) and his wife Bonnie are coauthors of a regular monthly column titled "Cinderellas" that appears in *Stamp Collector*, a U.S. weekly philatelic newspaper. The Rigas are a cinderella specialist dealer who trade under the name **Rigastamps**. If you are searching for some unusual cinderella items, worldwide revenues, or non-*Scott*-listed material, you might try sending the Rigas an inquiry: Rigastamps, P.O. Box 326, Eaton, Ohio 45320, U.S.A. Be sure to mention that you are an L.C.C. member.
- Richard E. Drews (#199) won the **Champion of Champions Award** at the World Series of Philately event sponsored by the American Philatelic Society at STAMPSHOW 97, held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, August 23. The honor was bestowed for Drews' "U.S. Issues of 1861-64," an exhibit that he has shown frequently and steadily improved. This exhibit won the Grand Award at the St. Louis Stamp Expo earlier in 1997, entitling it to compete against 29 other exhibits in the World Series of Philately. Congratulations, Rich, for receiving such a prestigious award against such high-powered company!
- John R. Holman (#097) is the Editor of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail's monthly magazine for stamp collectors. In the September 1997 issue appears John's retrospective feature article titled "A Great Hobby" in which he fondly looks back on his 40 years of stamp collecting. John began when he initially showed interest in a G.B. 1957 "Scouts" stamp and his Father bought him an album from Woolworth's. The rest is history as he progressed from a specialization in G.B. definitives to British Private Posts and Official Mail. John's other collections include British and Irish postal stationery, P.O. labels (airmail, registration, etc.), British postmarks (especially the Scottish islands), tourist cachets, cinderella labels, and exhibition souvenirs. Additionally, he maintains a general "all-world, used" collection which keeps him busy soaking stamps from kiloware. [The slick *British Philatelic Bulletin* at 85p single-issue price (available from British Collections, philatelic counters, and the National Postal Museum) is a bargain! Annual subscriptions (U.K./Europe

NEWS OF L.C.C. MEMBERS (Continued)

at \$9.50, rest of the world at £13.50) are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh, EH3 5TT, Scotland, U.K.]

• Les Winick (#037) and L.C.C. Vice President Jim Czyl (#002) compiled a list of names of labels purporting to be postage stamps (termed *fantasy* or *bogus stamps*) that forms the basis of *Report Number 4 of the Arthur Salm Foundation*, issued May 1997. Titled "Nonexistent Cities, States, Territories or Countries for Which 'Stamps' or Overprints Have Been Printed," this report consists of six pages measuring 8½ by 14 inches and has more than 400 entries ranging from Aayman Islands through Zulia. *Report Number 4 of the Salm Foundation* is available free to those who send an addressed No. 10 envelope franked with 32 cents in postage. [Readers living outside the U.S. may submit two International Reply Coupons (IRCs) in place of return postage.] Return envelopes will have a cinderella label affixed in the lower-left corner and canceled. In addition, the Salm Foundation's three previous reports (about stamp album pages, stamp hinges, and plastics used in philately) are available for a donation and a No. 10 envelope franked with 55 cents in postage (or IRCs). Send requests for the Salm Foundation reports to the Collectors Club of Chicago, 1029 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60610, U.S.A.

• David R. Bennett (#423) and his hand-drawn multicolored cacheted covers are the subject of an illustrated feature article in the third quarter issue of *Ålandsposten filатели*, the publication of the Åland Philatelic Service. [Write to Filateliservicen, PB 100, FIN-22101, Mariehamn, Åland, Finland (or email to filатели@posten.aland.fi) to get on the free mailing list!] Dave is a 44-year-old professional illustrator who has worked in a studio for animated cartoons for 20 years and also has been involved in the illustration of several comic books. Dave put his stamp collecting hobby to use when he first produced a FDC for a U.S.P.S. stamp issue in 1987, a sideline now done through his company named Bennett Cachetoon. Several years ago, Bennett branched out and began producing first day covers for other postal administrations, primarily the small islands in the north, such as Åland, Iceland, Greenland, Faroes, Guernsey, and Jersey—an activity he named "Puffin Cachets" (and, yes, our favorite Lundy bird is whimsically featured in the cachets of some of his covers!).

Dave's FDC for the U.S. "Red-Headed Woodpecker" 2-cent definitive stamp won a prize at AMERICOVER 97, a show specifically for FDC collectors, and was illustrated in the September 29, 1997 issue of *Linn's Stamp News*. Dave and his FDC activities also got a dose of publicity in the November 1997 issue of *Luren*, the monthly newsletter of the Scandinavian Philatelic Library of Southern California, Inc. [With all this publicity already on record, Dave should not mind this information appearing in the *LCCPQ* as well. For further information, contact David R. Bennett, c/o Puffin Cachets, 14418 Miranda St., Van Nuys, California 91401-4232, U.S.A.]

• Three L.C.C. members fared extremely well as exhibitors at two recent regional stamp shows. L.C.C. Secretary-Treasurer Duane Larson (#003) was awarded a Gold Medal for his exhibit of "Ireland: Postal Markings 1660 to 1840" at INDYPEX 97, held September 5-7 in Indianapolis, Indiana. In addition, Duane received a Vermeil Medal and the American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors' Award of Honor at INDYPEX 97 for his exhibit of "Pre-Elizabethan Lundy." L.C.C. President George Fabian (#001) received two Silver Awards at INDYPEX 97 for his exhibits of "Classic Lundy" and "Ireland 1922-1937." Richard Drews (#199) received a Gold Medal for his exhibit of "Lundy Island" at the Omaha Stamp Show, held August 29-30, 1997 in Omaha, Nebraska. Congratulations, Duane, George, and Rich, for your terrific showings and on receiving these well-deserved awards!

NEWS OF L.C.C. MEMBERS (Continued)

Editor's comments: Rich's "Lundy Island" is a traditional stamp exhibit (rather than a postal history exhibit), which up until now generally had been awarded vermeil medals at U.S. national philatelic shows. This is the first time I can recall any Lundy exhibit being awarded a gold medal at the national-show level in the U.S.—quite a recognition for cinderella philately in general and Lundy in particular! The award level for Duane's Lundy exhibit moved upwards as well, as this exhibit generally had been awarded Silver Medals at past regional shows. I believe George's Lundy exhibit was a first-time showing at a national show though it had received the Grand Award at a local area show (Parforex). It is really nice to see that Lundy is finally getting due recognition from accredited judges in the U.S. This would have been unheard of just a decade ago! —RSC

IN MEMORIAM – JILLY LO-VEL (April 17, 1950 - September 4, 1997)

A most moving tribute to Jilly was the scene of her funeral at Abbotsham on September 11. The church was full to overflowing with so many friends, some of whom had traveled long distances to contribute to this immensely sad farewell. I am sure there was a common wish to bear witness to the affection in which she was held, to console with her family, and to give expression to the loss we all felt.

It is a convention to find words of praise for the dead, but in Jilly's case, the tributes to her sweet, gentle, and kind character have been entirely spontaneous and sincere. One cannot remember ever hearing her say anything uncharitable, or hearing critical words about her. She loved her family, she loved Lundy, she loved the animals, especially her cat, Oscar (who, much to her amusement, turned out to be a lady), and the highly popular Guinness. And she genuinely cared that as far as she could help it, all should go as well as possible for both staff and visitors on the Island.

Jilly was born in Lancashire but at the age of three months moved to North Devon where the Dyke family lived in a delightful thatched cottage at Fairy Cross. She and David went first to the village school, and then transferred to Abbotsham. David says that she was a wonderful and long-suffering companion who joined in all his adventures, and Jilly herself said that she was so lucky to have had a very happy childhood in a loving family. In 1960, the family moved to Barnstaple. David and Jilly both went to the grammar school, and when she left, she went to work in John's studio where she learned screen printing and was initiated into the technicalities of Lundy stamps. Sometime later she worked on Lundy during the summer seasons, turning her hand to chamber-maiding and helping in the shop or wherever her help was needed. During this time she also helped Mr. Gade when he began to write his memoirs.

In 1970, John, Joan, and Jilly went to live on Lundy in Signals North, and there Jilly met her future when Reg Lo-vel came over to help with the building program. They were married at Ilfracombe in October 1974. After a time in Ilfracombe, Reg's home town, they went to live in Boscastle where Jenny and Lucy were born and where John and Joan had also settled in 1975. Jilly and Reg enjoyed village life—that is, until there was a vacancy for a couple to work on Lundy. It was a big step to take in many respects, but the call of the Island was not to be resisted. So the Lo-vel family moved to Lundy and had no regrets afterwards.

It was a shattering blow when Jilly was taken ill and was diagnosed in the Spring of 1996 as suffering from brain tumors. Everyone who saw her during the time of her illness was so deeply impressed with her courage, determination, and fortitude—she believed in fighting, not self-pity. When she recovered sufficiently to return to Lundy, she was so happy and made the most of every minute. I never heard her complain about her ill luck and learned that a sweet character can also show a resilience and an inner strength that all of us admired.

Lundy was part of Jilly's life from the time that she was old enough to understand the word. Her ashes are now part of the Island, and her memory will stay alive with all of us, so many Lundy friends who think of her with fond memories and as an inspiration in her courage.

—Myrtle Ternstrom

?...Questions and Answers...!

Favor-Cancelled Items With Type Ba and Bb Datestamps

William Benson inquired about four Lundy items he acquired about 25 to 30 years ago—pieces affixed with the following Lundy stamps tied by type Bb



FIGURE 1. Favor-Cancelled Stamps on Piece.

cancellations showing the stamps' dates of issue: 1929 $\frac{1}{2}$ p and 1p definitives (1 NOV 29), 1930 6p, 9p, and 12p definitives (1 JU 30), (Figure 1), "1929-1939" 6p, 9p, and 12p values (1 NOV 39), and 1939 2p, 3p, and 4p definitives (1 NOV 39).

These are favor items with the datestamps applied posthumously years after the dates shown on the pieces. The ragged ("broken line") appearance of



FIGURE 2. Type Bb Strike Made in 1968.

the frame lines is a telltale giveaway. Initially, the type Bb canceller had continuous, smooth frame lines, but as it became increasingly worn with use, the frame lines got increasingly more distorted (ragged) in appearance. An impression of the type Bb canceller without dates that was made on Lundy during 1968 (Figure 2) is illustrated in *The Puffin* (Number 18, April 1969, page 12) and appears identical to the impressions on William Benson's items.

By the time the "1929-1939" overprint and second (1939) definitive issues were issued in 1939, the type Bb canceller was replaced by the type Fa two-part "LUNDY LIGHTS AND LEADS" canceller; consequently, the fact that these stamps are tied to piece by the type Bb cancellation is another indication they were cancelled by favor. Felix Gade kept this canceller on Lundy and was accommodating to collectors' requests for cancellations. He was known to occasionally backdate items on request for certain dates.

The Benson items do not have the value they would have had they been used on cover on the actual dates the datestamps indicate. As favor items, these are of **curiosity value** only, perhaps about the same or slightly more than the *Newman Catalogue* valuations for the used stamps. These items do not have any **postal history** significance except to show the canceller was available for use years after its retirement date.

On a somewhat related subject, Martin Coles Harman also was known to have used the type Ba canceller kept in his London office to prepare favor cancellations of stamps on piece. The late William Rowcroft wrote a controversial article that appeared in *The Puffin* (Number 16, January 1967, pages 3-5). Rowcroft's article pictured five pieces affixed with the first $\frac{1}{2}$ p and 1p definitives tied by type Ba datestamps showing dates (beginning in March 1929) that predated the issue dates of these stamps, and claimed these were Harman's "experimental cancellations" on the first lot of local stamps received "to try them out prior to the issue date and find out the best method of handling this new postal service"!

Felix Gade contradicted Rowcroft in a follow-up article in the next issue of *The Puffin* (Number 17, December 1967, page 13), indicating that he was astonished to read of such an experimental postal service:

I just cannot accept that Mr. Harman conducted an experimental postal service prior to the issuing of the two stamps on November 1, 1929. Surely, if he wanted to make an experiment, he would have had the letters sent from Lundy, and I can positively declare that none were sent from here prior to November 1, 1929.

Despite William Rowcroft's fanciful explanation for these predated type Ba-cancelled items, they are regarded as simple favor items (souvenirs) produced by Mr. Harman for some of his collector friends. —RSC

THE G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" THIMBLE DATESTAMPS

By Roger S. Cichorz

Introduction

James Thomas sent me an inquiry for the "Questions and Answers" feature; however, my "answer" became so involved and lengthy, I considered it best to present the information as this feature article. James wrote:

I acquired a Great Britain 1912 1½d Royal Cipher stamp canceled by a good, clear, centrally positioned upright "LUNDY ISLAND" thimble datestamp. Around the top half of the perimeter are the words "LUNDY ISLAND" and horizontally across the lower half is the date "13 FE" with "19" underneath. According to Newman, the type Ac canceller was used from 1920 until the closure of the G.P.O. in 1927, but this stamp is clearly canceled 1919. Do you know of other examples of this canceller having been used before 1920, and, if so, is there a date earlier than February 13, 1919?

James Thomas' query about the early (February 13, 1919) use of the type Ac thimble postmark set me scrambling for information. To begin with, Stanley Newman simply repeated in *Postal History, Postmarks & Cachets of Lundy Island* information about the types Aa through Ac postmarks that appears in Barry Chinchén's *A Catalogue of Lundy Stamps*. The dates of use of the types Aa and Ab cancellers were established from G.P.O. records (initially reported by Chinchén in *The Puffin, Newsletter of the Lundy Specialists' Society*, Number 20, Summer 1970, pages 3-22). No record of the third (type Ac) canceller has been found in G.P.O. archives and the date of its introduction is unknown. J. A. G. Watson (*Puffin - Lundy Specialist Society*, Number 22, 1971, page 22) suggested a date of between 1912 and 1917 with a possible 1915 use. Chinchén initially suggested this canceller was introduced sometime after 1915 (*op. cit.*, page 3), but, perhaps influenced by the lack of records in the G.P.P. archives for its introduction between 1915 and 1920, he subsequently settled on 1920 (*The Puffin*, Number 21, 1971, page 46). The evidence I present in this article suggests this canceller was introduced and in use by July 1914.

Preliminary Findings, Observations, and Conjecture

Newman's *Postal History, Postmarks & Cachets of Lundy Island* reports a gap of five years (1915 through 1919) between uses of the types Ab and Ac cancellers, but the Lundy suboffice was operating (albeit not too actively) during that period, so one or the other (or both) canceller types had to be in use during those years. I compiled a preliminary census of G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" postmarks on items offered in auction catalogues and dealers' price lists, items appearing in *The Puffin* and other literature, and from examples in the collections of L.C.C. members (Jim Mullett, George Fabian, Michael Bale, and me.)

The "American" date format ("month/day/year") was switched to the "French/English" date format ("day/month/year") sometime after May 4, 1914, with an earliest recorded "French/English" strike of July 20, 1914 ("20 JY/14"). This change in date arrangement appears to have occurred concurrently with the start of World War I (July 1914), which may be mere coincidence, and remained into effect until the cessation of the Lundy suboffice on December 31, 1927.

For purposes of the discussion, I assumed that the distinguishing characteristic between the types Ab and Ac cancellers is the date arrangement (i.e., "month/day" for type Ab and "day/month" for type Ac). If this is indeed the case, then the earliest recorded use of the type Ab canceller is July 20, 1914 ("20 JY/14"). However, readers are cautioned that the date arrangement may not be the distinguishing characteristic between the type Ab and Ac cancellers, as it may be the characteristics of the circle (which changed in time because of wear and deterioration through use) that distinguishes the two types.

Apparently, the date slugs (i.e., month and day) in the types Ab and Ac cancellers are interchangeable. For evidence, I offer a "31 MR/15" strike in the census that I attributed as type Ac, but it lacks the clean circle characteristic of the early strikes of type Ac, instead having a thickened bottom arc and noticeable wear at the top of the circle that is more characteristic of later strikes of the type Ab canceller. Readers are cautioned,

THE G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" THIMBLE DATESTAMPS (Continued)

however, that the amount of ink applied to the canceller, force (intensity) of the strike, and characteristics of the paper of the receiving item (softness, porosity, sizing, etc.) all influence the appearance of the postmark.

Arguably, the type Ac canceller may have been introduced at a later date after a possible change in the date arrangement occurred in the type Ab canceller. I also have a strike of the type Ac canceller with the date "SP 7" [the year slug was left out, but, fortunately, the postcard message is endorsed "5/9/27" (September 9, 1927), so the year presumably is 1927]. However, this is the only (thus far) recorded exception to the "day month" arrangement found after 1913, so it may be a posthumous favor strike of the type Ab canceller.

The "month day" slug arrangement may be fixed (noninterchangeable) in the type Aa canceller as the "American" format appears in the three recorded strikes. There are insufficient strikes recorded at present, however, to demonstrate this with any certainty.

Code Letters in G.P.O. Lundy Postmarks

Newman's and Chinchén's *Catalogues* and Chinchén's article in *The Puffin* Number 20 indicate the Lundy type Aa canceller has a code letter "C" and the type Ab canceller has a code letter "A" or "P" (representing "a.m." or "p.m."). However, Jim Mullet's type Aa strike from 1889 has the code letter "A", and the type Ab strikes with the code letters "A" and "P" are recorded only during 1907 and early 1908. Strikes of the type Ac canceller with a code letter are presently unrecorded.

Instow Transit Markings on Lundy Outward Mail

The application of Instow transit markings alongside the Lundy thimbles on G.P.O.-served mail from Lundy via Instow appears consistent from 1892 through 1911, with only nine exceptions among 76 applicable covers in the census. Sometime during 1912, the Instow post office appears to have discontinued its practice of applying transit markings to mail from Lundy. Of the 38 post-1911 covers in the census, only two confirmed exceptions* have Instow markings: a Lundy-postmarked "10 SP/20" postcard has an Instow circular datestamp of the same date, and a Lundy-postmarked "25 JY/24" postcard has an Instow circular datestamp of the following day. Interestingly, a second Lundy-postmarked "10 SP/20" postcard, which in all likelihood was placed in the same mail stream, lacks an Instow transit marking. Not all post-1911 Lundy mail went via Instow, however, and information about the other routes appears in the next section and later in this article.

Instow applied a squared-circle postmark from 1892 through 1911 and a circular datestamp (thimble) postmark from 1906 through 1911. The two types of Instow transit markings apparently were applied with about equal frequency during 1906 through 1911 (26 squared-circle datestamps versus 26 circular datestamps for the 52 applicable covers in the census), and, with one possible exception, both types always contained a code letter during that period. The only recorded Instow marking that lacked a code letter is the late-use "10 SP/20" circular datestamp strike cited above.

* In addition, two postcards with respective Lundy "AU 14/12" and "24 DE/21" postmarks are reported in the J. A. G. Watson compilation in *Puffin*, Number 22 (February 1972, pages 23-29), but no details of the Instow markings are given although the text implies they are present.

Instow Versus Bristol Routings Revisited

It is known with certainty from G.P.O. records that between October 1911 and April 1920 some Lundy outward mail was routed through the Bristol post office (and post offices in other cities, particularly during WWI), but, unlike the mail via Instow, application of a transit marking was not a practice as there are no Lundy covers from this period with Bristol (or other) transit markings. Ian Wilkinson questioned if all mail from Lundy

THE G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" THIMBLE DATESTAMPS (Continued)

without Instow markings during this period was necessarily routed via Bristol (Spring 1983 *LCCPQ*, page 9), but this does not seem to be the case. Evidence of Bristol routing is given in the "Lundy" entry in the 1915 *Post Office Guide* (page 603): Mails from the Island are dispatched on Mondays to Bristol and on Wednesdays to Instow. But Ian cautioned that this G.P.O. *Guide* was for the WWI years when mail was most likely being carried by the Royal Navy and Trinity House vessels and that the situation may have been different the years before or after the war.

If the 1915 *Post Office Guide's* via Bristol mail routing was in effect during WWI (July 1914 through August 1918), covers with Lundy Tuesday postmarks for certain and possibly some with Monday (late) and Wednesday (early) postmarks were routed via Instow and had the potential to receive Instow transit markings. The one cover in the census in this category (postmarked "16 OC 17"—a Tuesday) lacks an Instow marking; however, all of the other WWI-era covers in the census lack an Instow marking as well, further evidence that the Instow post office's practice of routinely placing receiving marks on Lundy outward covers had ceased by then.

A sole 1912 Wednesday-postmarked item in the census was routed via Instow as indicated by an Instow transit marking, but two 1913 items with postmarks corresponding to Tuesdays (that according to schedule had to go via Instow) had no Instow markings. In fact, during 1913 through 1919, there are no Instow transit markings on any of the 14 items in the census.

In the census, four applicable covers without Instow markings have Lundy postmarks with three of the same dates ("JU 26 06," "JY 25 09," and "AU 17 11") as other covers with Instow markings. These items certainly entered into the same mail stream as their Instow-transit-marked counterparts, so I attribute their lack of markings to misses by the Instow post office rather than to alternate routing via Bristol or some other post office.

As pointed out earlier in this article, it is interesting to note that of the two post-1920 covers with Instow markings, one should have a same-date counterpart ("10 SP 20") without an Instow marking. I do not believe the 1920 cover lacking the Instow transit marking, or, for that matter, any of the other post-1920 covers without markings, experienced alternate routing via Bristol or some other post office and am certain most went via Instow.

Additional discussion of pre-WWI Instow and Bristol routings appears later in the section titled "Lundy Postmarks in Context with Contemporary G.P.O. Mail Services." It is known that the aforementioned steamship schedule for Bristol and Instow sailings was in effect by June 1912 when the Bideford and Bristol Steamship Company assumed the G.P.O. Lundy mail contract, but it is uncertain if this schedule was maintained during WWI. In summary, only from early 1912 and during WWI (July 1914 through August 1918) when the contemporary *Post Office Guides* indicate Lundy mails were dispatched to Bristol on Mondays, were Bristol routings routine for G.P.O. Lundy outward mail. After 1912 and into 1915 and perhaps throughout WWI (depending on which day of the week and the time it was taken to the Lundy suboffice) and then again after 1920, G.P.O. Lundy outward mail without Instow markings was just as likely to have gone through the Instow post office than the Bristol (or some other) post office for the reason that the Instow post office had already ceased the practice of routinely applying transit markings.

G.P.O. Lundy Postmarks by Day of Week

If the mail from Lundy during the G.P.O. suboffice existence was written and posted randomly, a normal distribution for Sunday through Saturday strikes in the Lundy datestamps would be expected. Furthermore, if one assumes that Lundy day-trippers arrived on a weekend day and left their mail (postcards) at the suboffice for servicing prior to their departure, one might expect the majority of the Lundy postmark strikes to be Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays. However, from the census, neither of these conditions is the case as Thursday strikes predominated prior to 1912 and Friday strikes afterwards. Table 1 at the top of the following page shows the frequency distribution by day of week for the G.P.O. Lundy postmarks in the census.

THE G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" THIMBLE DATESTAMPS (Continued)

TABLE 1. G.P.O. Lundy Postmarks — Frequency Distribution by Days of Week.

By Postmark Type	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Type Ab (1899 - May 1914)	3	4	4	4	56	10	3 (84)
Type Ac (July 1914 - 1927)	0	3	2	6	4	15	2 (32)
By Contract Periods	Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Dark Contract (1899 - 1911)	3	1	1	2	55	10	3 (75)
1912 through May 1914	0	3	3	2	1	0	0 (9)
WWI (July 1914-1918)	0	2	1	3	1	0	0 (7)
1919 through 1927	0	1	1	3	3	15	2 (25)

In fact, the majority of the 75 items prior to 1912 in the census (55 or 73.3%) had dates that corresponded to Thursdays, but only one item each had dates that corresponded to Mondays and Tuesdays, and only two items had dates that corresponded to Wednesdays. The dominance of date strikes corresponding to Thursdays before 1912 is attributed to the fact that Captain P. W. M. Dark, the G.P.O.'s contract Lundy mail carrier during that time, made his weekly round trips (Instow to Lundy to Instow) on the m.v. *Lerina* on Thursdays. Details are given later in the section titled "Lundy Postmarks in Context with Contemporary G.P.O. Mail Services."

After Captain Dark's contract was rescinded, a plurality of the 41 post-1911 items in the census (15 or 36.6%) have dates that corresponded to Fridays. Interestingly, there are no WWI-period items with dates that corresponded to Fridays as all 15 of the Friday strikes occurred during the 1920s when the service was being conducted by the m.v. *Lerina*. Friday strikes account for 15 of 25 (60%) of the post-1918 items in the census.

After 1911, strikes of dates corresponding to Mondays through Wednesdays appear with more frequency (19 of 41 or 46.3%) than the Mondays through Wednesdays strikes during Captain Dark's service (only 4 of 75 or 5.3%). This is attributed to the sailing schedule of the Bristol Channel steamship contract service that was in place at the time. Also, one might surmise that the Lundy suboffice was closed on Sundays from 1910 onwards because the only three recorded Sunday postmarks occurred in 1904 (one) and 1909 (two on the same date).

Census of G.P.O. "Lundy Island" Circular Datestamps ("Thimble" Postmarks)

Lundy Date (Day)	Instow Postmark	Reference/Comments
Type Aa Strikes		
DE 7 86/C (Tu)	---	G.P.O. records reference strike (canceller distributed to Cardiff post office)/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 20, p. 4
SP 23 89/A (M)	---	type Aa strike on small stampless piece Mullett Collection/ex-CiLA #13 (11/27/89)
SP 8 92/A (Th)	SP 9 92/B	card to London via Instow/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 22, p. 25
Type Ab Strikes		
AU 3 93/A (Th)	---	G.P.O. records reference strike (canceller distributed to Barnstaple post office)/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 20, p. 4
AP 15 99 (Sa)	AP 16 99/A s/c	Bale Collection/ex-Ulrich/ex-Tumpenny/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 18, p. 8
JY 2 03 (Th)	JY 3 03/A s/c	registered cover/Mullett Collection
SP 24 03 (Th)	SP 25 03/A s/c	CiLA #9 (11/27/86)
JU 30 04 (Th)	JU 20 04/C s/c	CiLA #13 (11/27/89)/probably erroneous Instow date
JU 30 04 (Th)	JU 20 04/C s/c	card message endorsed "24 th June" so Instow postmark "20" date is erroneous/RSC Collection/ex-CiLA #25 (3/20/96)
JY 21 04 (Th)	JY 22 04/B s/c	Mullett Collection
JY 24 04 (Su)	JY 24 04/C s/c	Fabian Collection
FE 9 05 (Th)	FE 10 05/A s/c	RSC Collection
JY 11 05 (Tu)	none	<i>Puffin</i> Stamps #3 (2/13/97)/three strikes of Ab present
JY 21 05 (F)	none	CiLA #15 (4/2/91)/three strikes of Ab present

THE G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" THIMBLE DATESTAMPS (Continued)

Census of G.P.O. "Lundy Island" Circular Datestamps ("Thimble" Postmarks)

<u>Lundy Date (Day)</u>	<u>Instow Postmark</u>	<u>Reference/Comments</u>
Type Ab Strikes (Continued)		
JY 22 05 (Sa)	JY 22 04/B s/c	Fabian Collection
AU 17 05 (Th)	AU 17 05/A s/c	IPPA #8 (3/11/86)
AU 24 05 (Th)	AU 25 05/A s/c	Negev #2 (3/20/91)
SP 7 05 (Th)	SP 8 05/A s/c	Fabian Collection/ex-Negev #3 (8/7/91)
SP 7 05 (Th)	SP 8 05/A s/c	Bale Collection
JU 7 06 (Th)	JU 8 06/C s/c	IPPA #7 (3/22/85)
JU 7 06 (Th)	JU 8 06/C s/c	LCC UK #2 (11/29/97)
JU 14 06 (Th)	JU 15 06/A cds	card to Swansea/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 17, p. 5/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 21, p. 48
JU 14 06 (Th)	JU 15 06/A cds	card to Penarth/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 20, p. 23
JU 14 06 (Th)	JU 15 06/A cds	card to Winscombe/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 22, p.26
JU 21 06 (Th)	JU 22 06/A cds	Negev #9 (10/5/94)
JY 5 06 (Th)	JY 6 06/A cds	RSC Collection
JY 19 06 (Th)	JY 20 06/A s/c	<i>Puff'n Co.</i> #2 (6/1/79)
JY 26 06 (Th)	JY 27 06/A cds	RSC Collection
JY 26 06 (Th)	none	Bale Collection
AU 2 06 (Th)	AU 3 06/A s/c	CILA #10 (9/11/87)
AU 9 06 (Th)	AU 10 06/A cds	Bale Collection/ex-IPPA #4 (1/28/83)
AU 17 06 (F)	AU 18 06/C cds	Mullett Collection
AU 22 06 (W)	AU 2? 06/A cds	<i>Puffin</i> , No. 17, p. 5/part date of Instow strike off card card message endorsed "22-8-06"
AU 23 06 (Th)	AU 24 06/A s/c	IPPA #6 (6/29/84)
AU 23 06 (Th)	AU 24 06/A s/c	CILA #12 (5/5/89)
AU 23 06 (Th)	AU 24 06/A s/c	CILA #14 (9/11/90)
SP 13 06 (Th)	SP 14 06/A s/c	Mullett Collection
SP 13 06 (Th)	SP 14 06/A s/c	card to Guildford/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 22, p.26
DE 20 06 (M)	DE 21 06/A cds	CILA #15 (4/2/91)/Negev #6 (5/27/93)
JY 11 07/P (Th)	JY 12 07/A s/c	IPPA #8 (3/11/86)
JY 18 07/P (Th)	JY 19 07/B cds	Holman Collection
JY 25 07/A (Th)	JY 26 07/A s/c	IPPA #7 (3/22/85)
AU 9 07/A (F)	AU 9 06/C s/c	<i>Puff'n Co.</i> #2 (6/1/79)
AU 23 07/P (F)	AU 24 07/A cds	<i>Puffin</i> , No. 19, p. 3
SP 05 07/P (Th)	—	on piece/Bale Collection
SP 12 07/P (Th)	*	card to Guildford via Instow/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 22, p.26
OC 18 07 (F)	OC 18 07/C s/c	IPPA #5 (9/20/83)
DE 12 07/P (Th)	DE 13 07/A s/c	Mullett Collection/ex-CILA #15 (4/2/91)
FE 6 08/P (Th)	FE 8 08/A s/c	CILA #10 (9/11/87)
JU 26 08 (F)	JU 26 08/C s/c	Aitchison List #1 (2/1/97)
JY 24 08 (F)	JY 24 08/B cds	RSC Collection
JY 30 08 (Th)	JY 31 08/A s/c	Negev #2 (3/20/91)
JY 30 08 (Th)	JY 31 08/A s/c	CILA #17 (1/21/92)
AU 13 08 (Th)	AU 14 08/A cds	Bale Collection
JU 10 09 (Th)	JU 11 09/A s/c	Negev #5 (11/19/92)
JY 23 09 (W)	none	CILA #12 (5/5/89)
JU 25 09 (F)	none	Negev #6 (5/27/93)
JY 25 09 (Su)	none	Negev #8 (4/27/94)
JY 25 09 (Su)	JY 26 09/A cds	Fabian Collection
AU 13 09 (F)	none	Bale Collection
AU 14 09 (Sa)	AU 14 09/A cds	Aitchison List #1 (2/1/97)
AU 26 09 (Th)	AU 27 09/B s/c	<i>Puffin Stamps</i> #4
AU 11 10 (Th)	AU 12 10/A cds	Negev #1 (3/17/89)
AU 11 10 (Th)	AU 12 10/A cds	RSC Collection
AU 11 10 (Th)	AU 12 10/A cds	RSC Collection
SP 15 10 (Th)	SP 16 10/C s/c	RSC Collection/ex- <i>Puffin Stamps</i> #1 (5/9/96)/ card message endorsed "12-12-10" (erroneously?)
SP 15 10 (Th)	SP 16 10/C s/c	IPPA #8 (3/11/86)
OC 6 10 (Th)	OC 6 10/C s/c	Negev #4 (2/3/92)
MR 3 11 (F)	MR 3 11/C s/c	Mullett Collection

THE G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" THIMBLE DATESTAMPS (Continued)

Census of G.P.O. "Lundy Island" Circular Datestamps ("Thimble" Postmarks)

Lundy Date (Day) Instow Postmark Reference/Comments

Type Ab Strikes (Continued)

AP 27 11	AP 29 11/A s/c	Negev #3 (8/7/91) stamp removed so only partial Lundy cds appears
JY 13 11 (Th)	JY 14 11/A cds	<i>Puffin</i> , No. 16, p. 27
JY 20 11 (Th)	JY 21 11/A cds	Negev #7 (11/11/93)
JY 20 11 (Th)	JY 21 11/A cds	Puff'n Co. #2 (6/1/79)/Negev #8 (4/27/94)
AU 17 11 (Th)	none	IPPA #6 (6/29/84)
AU 17 11 (Th)	none	Mullett Collection
AU 17 11 (Th)	AU 18 11/A cds	Puff'n Co. #2 (6/1/79)
AU 17 11 (Th)	AU 18 11/A cds	Negev #4 (2/3/92)/card message endorsed August 15
AU 24 (11) (Th)	AU 24 11/C s/c	no year "11" in Lundy postmark RSC Collection/ex-Puffin Stamps #3 (2/13/97)
AU 31 11 (Th)	SP 1 11/A cds	Mullett Collection
AU 31 11 (Th)	SP 1 11/A cds	Fabian Collection/ex-IPPA #5 (9/20/83)
JU 10 12 (M)	none	RSC Collection
AU 14 12 (W)	* AU 17/? 12 cds	card to Penarth/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 22, p.27 Instow cds only partially illustrated
SP 16 12 (M)	none	IPPA #7 (3/22/85)
MY 13 13 (Tu)	---	KEVII 4d stamp only/Mullett Collection/ex-Aitchison (Winter 1990-91 <i>LCCPQ</i>)/Puffin Stamps #3 (2/13/97)
JY 2 13 (W)	none	Fabian Collection
JY 28 13 (M)	none	Bale Collection
AU 5 13 (Tu)	none	card to Bristol/Negev #7 (11/11/93)
AU 26 13 (Tu)	none	Fabian Collection
MY 4 14 (Th)	none	Bale Collection

Type Ac Strikes

20 JY 14 (M)	none	Negev #3 (8/7/91)/Negev #9 (10/5/94)/Bale Collection
31 MR 15 (W)	none	RSC Collection
7 JU 15 (M)	none	1d rate to U.S.A./Bale Collection
15 JY 15 (Th)	none	letter to Bristol/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 22, p.27
28 JY 15 (W)	none	CILA #14 (9/11/90)
10 JA 17 (W)	none	<i>Puffin</i> , No. 22, p.27
16 OC 17 (Tu)	none	reply paid card/Mullett Collection
13 FE 19 (Th)	---	KGV 1½d stamp only/Thomas Collection
7 AU 19 (Th)	none	RSC Collection/ex-IPPA #8 (3/11/86)
7 AU 19 (Th)	none	Negev #1 (3/17/89)/Bale Collection
10 SP 20 (F)	none	<i>Puffin</i> , No. 21, p. 32
10 SP 20 (F)	10 SP 20 cds	<i>Puffin</i> , No. 21, p. 32
?? ?? 21	none	CILA #12 (5/5/89)/date not given in lot description and not decipherable in photo
8 JY 21 (F)	none	CILA #9 (11/27/86)
8 JY 21 (F)	---	CILA #11 (5/3/88)/KGV ½d stamp only
23 SP 21 (F)	none	<i>Puffin</i> , No. 22, p.27
24 DE 21 (Sa)	*	card to Neyland via Instow/ <i>Puffin</i> , No. 22, p.27
14 JY 22 (F)	none	IPPA #8 (3/11/86)
21 JY 22 (F)	none	Fabian Collection/ex-Negev #5 (11/19/92)
24 JY 22 (M)	none	<i>Puffin</i> , No. 22, p.28/two side-by-side strikes of Ac present
4 AU 22 (F)	none	Puff'n Co. #3 (9/5/80)
4 AU 22 (F)	none	RSC Collection/card message endorsed "Monday 24/7/22"
20 JY 23 (F)	none	Bale Collection
4 SP 23 (Tu)	none	Negev #10 (5/4/95)
14 SP 23 (F)	none	Negev #5 (11/19/92)
11 AP 24 (F)	none	RSC Collection
25 JY 24 (F)	26 JY 24/A cds	Bale Collection
1 AU 25 (Sa)	none	<i>Puffin</i> , No. 19, p. 3/two strikes of Ac present card message endorsed "31/7/25"

THE G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" THIMBLE DATESTAMPS (Continued)

Census of G.P.O. "Lundy Island" Circular Datestamps ("Thimble" Postmarks)

Type Ac Strikes (Continued)

<u>Lundy cds Date</u>	<u>Instow Postmark</u>	<u>Reference/Comments</u>
11 AU 26 (W)	none	Fabian Collection
13 AU 26 (F)	---	IPPA #8 (3/11/86)/inverted "AU 13"/KGV 1d stamp only
13 AU 26 (F)	none	CILA #12 (5/5/89)
20 JY 27 (W)	none	Mullett Collection/ex-Negev #6 (5/27/93)
SP 7 (27) (W)	none	RSC Collection/no year slug "27" in Lundy cds, but card message is endorsed "5/9/27"

Notes:

/A, /C, or /P after a Lundy date indicates the code letter appears in the Lundy cds.

/A, /B, or /C after an Instow date indicates the code letter appears in the Instow cds or s/c.

[Absence of a "/letter" entry after a Lundy or Instow date indicates no code letter is in the postmark.]

Instow postmark types: s/c = squared-circle datestamp, cds = circular datestamp ("thimble").

[A "none" entry in the Instow Postmark column indicates there is no Instow marking on the item.]

Reference column notes the sale in which the item was initially offered.

[Unsold items were sometimes reoffered and sold in subsequent sales (but not indicated in notes).]

Duplicated entries with same dates are different items (verified through lot descriptions/photos).

* Two Lundy cds items in the J. A. G. Watson compilation (*Puffin*, No. 22, pages 23-29) are noted "via Instow" (implying an Instow transit marking is present) but no photos appear or details given.

IPPA #1-8 auctions were instead of CILA #1-8 (IPPA to CILA name change occurred with CILA #9).

More Lundy Thimble Postmark Information Needed for Follow-up Research

To help answer James Thomas's question, I included a preliminary census of known strikes of the G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" thimble postmarks (types Aa through Ac cancellers). The census is useful in demonstrating the post office trends such as the date arrangements in the cancellers (either "American" month/day or "French/English" day/month) and use of code letters in the Lundy cancellers. The census indicates that the frequency of Lundy postmark strikes by days of the week is not a normal distribution and that Thursday strikes predominate before 1912 and Friday strikes predominate after 1919. The census also shows the trends in the use of codes in the two types [circular datestamps (cds) or squared-circle (s/c) datestamps] of Instow transit markings when they are present.

The accompanying census list, though woefully incomplete, is a good beginning on this worthwhile project. Readers are encouraged to record the information on any Lundy thimble items in their collections (photocopies are welcome) and send the data to the LCCPQ Editor as soon as possible so a more complete listing and additional discussion can be published in the near future. It will be interesting to see if additional exceptions to the trends can be found. Readers' comments about distinguishing characteristics of the three types of cancellers and other information (historical or observed) regarding their use are also welcome.

-RSC

Barry Chinchin's Review of G.P.O. Records

Barry Chinchin conducted a review of the G.P.O. Records Department at St. Martin's-le-Grand in London during 1970 in an attempt to find out the date of issue of any other Lundy cancellers, particularly the one used in the 1920s ("The G.P.O. Cancellers of 1886 and 1893," *The Puffin*, Number 20, Summer 1970, pages 3-22). Barry indicated that the search of the 1915 to 1920 period proved fruitless and concluded that the G.P.O. gave up keeping the records of cancellers from 1920-1933 insofar as there was no trace of these in the Records Department. The Chinchin article illustrated impressions of the first two cancellers (types Aa and Ab) as they appeared in the G.P.O. records and established the dates they were sent to the local post offices (type Aa to Cardiff December 8, 1886 and type Ab to Barnstaple August 4, 1893) (*shown next page*). Chinchin's research of G.P.O. records uncovered additional information that is worth noting in context with the census listings. The relevant information is interspersed in the subsequent text of this article.

THE G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" THIMBLE DATESTAMPS (Continued)

FIGURE 1. Reproduction of G.P.O. Records Showing Lundy Postmarks.

To what Place	Date when sent	Stamps
<i>Cardiff</i>	<i>8. 12. 86</i>	 Volume 45, page 190
<i>Garrestaple</i>	<i>4. 8. 93</i>	 Volume 47, page 248

Introduction: Early G.P.O. Lundy Mail Service

By means of an introduction to the G.P.O.'s involvement with Lundy mail, the following information is excerpted from A. F. Langham's *The Island of Lundy* (pages 209-211). The G.P.O. suboffice on Lundy was opened March 4, 1887, on which day 87 pieces of mail were sent to the Cardiff post office. The first chartered ship was *Queen of the Bay*, but it was soon superseded by *Lord Derby*. The Lundy suboffice was established in the store (the present-day Marisco Tavern) and remained there until 1896. Prior to the G.P.O. involvement, Lundy mail was routed via the Instow post office, so when the Lundy suboffice opened and mail was routed via Cardiff, some confusion and delay occurred. The initial via Cardiff routing explains why the first G.P.O. (type Aa) canceller was issued to the Cardiff post office for use on Lundy.

Initially, under the new G.P.O. arrangement, mail for Lundy arrived at Instow, only to be forwarded to Cardiff where it might be stowed on a ship and could be further delayed before arriving at Lundy. The system became so unreliable that beginning April 20, 1888 a regular mail service from Instow to Lundy and back was contracted to Captain P. W. M. Dark of Instow using the *Gannet* supply boat. This round-trip service occurred every Thursday, and by May 1888 Lundy mail service via Cardiff was closed.

Lundy Postmarks in Context with Contemporary G.P.O. Mail Services

• Captain Dark had been responsible for transporting the mail to and from Lundy for greater than 23 years when in 1911 he decided that his then-annual compensation of £52 10s was insufficient for the weekly service provided. The G.P.O. accepted new tenders August 31, 1911, but Dark's bid for £150 per annum lost to a low bid of £57 from J. R. Hocking, and Dark's contract with the G.P.O. contract was terminated September 30, 1911. According to a contemporary newspaper account (October 4, 1911 edition of the *Bradford Daily Observer*, reproduced in the Chinchen article, page 6), Dark made his weekly trips to and from Lundy on Thursdays. This information was substantiated by the text of a contemporary G.P.O. "Instow and Lundy Island TIME BILL" (reproduced in Chinchen's article, page 11):

Sailing Vessel — Every Thursday Morning, or as soon after as wind and weather permit, The Contractor delivers the Bag to the Sub-Postmaster on the Beach, and waits two hours off the Island for the Return Mail, which is handed to him by the Sub-Postmaster on the Beach.

Captain Dark's Thursday sailings explain the dominance of Thursday dates for the 1892 through 1911 Lundy postmarks in the census (56 of 76 or 73.7% are Thursdays). Interestingly, a gap of greater than ten months appears in the census entries after the termination of Captain Dark's contract (no postmarks recorded after August 31, 1911 until July 10, 1912). After termination of Dark's contract, the frequency of Thursday dates on postmarks in the census is dramatically reduced as only 5 of 41 (12.2%) post-1912 entries correspond to Thursdays. As the various G.P.O. Lundy mail contract services over the ensuing periods are examined, some inferences can be made from the dates of the postmarks in the census.

THE G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" THIMBLE DATESTAMPS (Continued)

- After his tender was accepted by the G.P.O., J. R. Hocking began weekly service by his sailing boat, *Morning Star*, but he soon found that his duties were not as easy as he anticipated, and after five months he asked to be released from his contract. Note that the census contains no items from the period during Hocking's contract, so no inference can be made about which day the *Morning Star* sailings occurred.
- The Bideford and Bristol Steamship Company ran its 99-ton packet, s.s. *Devonia* (Captain Francis Beer), between Bristol Channel ports, and in a tender dated March 7, 1912, offered for a sum of £75 per annum to carry mail once a week from the Instow post office to Lundy on an outward voyage to Bristol on Mondays, and to carry the mail from Lundy to Instow on its return journey later in the week. Accordingly, as noted in the *Post Office Circular* for June 11, 1912, the postal address was altered from Lundy Island, Instow, North Devon to Lundy Island, Devon.
- Langham reported that within a few months of its service, the Bideford and Bristol Steamship Company agreed to alter the contract to allow the Monday trip from Instow not only to deliver incoming mail but also to collect the Islanders' mail and take it on to Bristol. Similarly, the return trips on Thursdays would bring mail from Bristol and collect mail from Lundy to take back to Instow. Langham further indicated this arrangement continued throughout WWI, augmented occasionally by Admiralty patrol vessels from Milford Haven or by the Admiralty trawler *Robert Davidson* from Ilfracombe, but Chinchén's information seems to be contradictory. Chinchén reported that in 1913 mail to Lundy was conveyed by steamer from Instow on Monday mornings, and to Lundy from Bristol on Tuesday nights or Wednesday mornings according to the tide. Mail from Lundy was dispatched on Mondays to Bristol and on Wednesdays to Instow (not Thursdays as Langham wrote). Chinchén mentioned that this information was intended for inclusion in the G.P.O. *Post Office Guide* but never placed there.

There are two Monday-postmarked items from 1912 in the census, and both lack Instow markings during a period when the Instow post office was still applying them (albeit inconsistently), indicating via Bristol routing. The sole 1912 Wednesday-postmarked item in the census was routed via Instow as indicated by an Instow transit marking. Two Tuesday-postmarked items from 1913, which by schedule had to be routed via Instow, also lack Instow transit markings. Interestingly, one of these items was addressed to Bristol. During 1913 through 1919, regardless of what day of the week the Lundy postmark corresponds to, there are no Instow transit markings on any of the 14 items in the census. Whether any of these items were routed via Instow is uncertain (although the two 1913 Tuesday-postmarked items should have been), but the fact that the application of Instow transit markings to Lundy mail was already becoming intermittent or inconsistent during the period of 1909 to 1912 when Lundy mail was almost exclusively transported via Instow leads me to believe that others of these 14 items (besides the two aforementioned 1913 Tuesday-postmarked ones) were also routed via Instow. Furthermore, by September 1920, when Lundy mail was known to be transported by means of the m.v. *Lerina* almost exclusively via Instow, the Instow post office's practice of applying transit markings had almost ceased altogether as there are only three with Instow markings among the 21 applicable covers in the census.

- Chinchén discovered there are no G.P.O. records of what went on with Lundy mail delivery during the 1914-1918 war. In his article on "Ships & the Lundy Post" (*The Puffin*, Number 21, 1971, page 46), he reported that Lundy was virtually uninhabited during WWI with only the farmer and Trinity House staff left on the island. Interestingly, Chinchén stated in this article, "I suspect at this time the G.P.O. Lundy canceller was lost or withdrawn as a new one appeared in 1920." This seems to contradict Chinchén's earlier article about his search of G.P.O. records in which he suggests the introduction of the type Ac canceller occurred sometime after 1915. Perhaps, the absence of a record of this canceller being introduced from 1916 to 1920 and the G.P.O.'s lack of records on any new Lundy cancellers introduced during 1920-1933 prompted Chinchén's conservative 1920 date. At any rate, I believe the evidence presented in this article supports the earlier date of mid-1914 for the introduction of the type Ac canceller.

THE G.P.O. "LUNDY ISLAND" THIMBLE DATESTAMPS (Continued)

• The G.P.O. records indicate that from January 21, 1919 mail was sent by way of Milford Haven Naval Base. That arrangement continued until April 20, 1920 when the trawler *Robert Davidson*, which had been used during WWI and up to this time, was withdrawn from service and mail was transported via Barnstaple. Chinchen reported that this may have been a sudden decision as this information appears on telegram form. It is probable that soon after April 20, 1920 the then-Lundy owner, Augustus L. Christie, assumed responsibility for the Lundy mail and allowed his boat, m.v. *Lerina*, to be used. Indeed, Langham indicated that in April 1920, Christie bought the North Sea drifter, m.v. *Lerina*, to serve as the Island's transport, and a contract was made with the Admiralty and G.P.O. under which mails and stores for the lighthouses and signal station were carried between Instow and Lundy once a week for £208 per annum. Langham reported that when Martin Coles Harman purchased Lundy in 1925 he took over the m.v. *Lerina* and with it the existing mail contract.

• Chinchen indicated that by 1926, Harman expressed dissatisfaction with the G.P.O. mail contract—primarily in the G.P.O. provisions for regular, dependable regular service, which was causing the m.v. *Lerina* a loss £1000 a year—but Harman agreed to continue the contract service on the present terms until April 1, 1927. Harman wanted the contract renegotiated for a higher rate, but the G.P.O. declined. Harman then made the suggestion that he was prepared to collect mail for Lundy at any port convenient to the G.P.O., to take them to Lundy without charge, and to deliver them therein free of charge provided mail posted from Lundy was forwarded to all parts of the United Kingdom without payment of postage. The G.P.O. would not agree to this, and as there was no alternative transport, the G.P.O. closed its suboffice on Lundy on December 31, 1927. Incidentally, according to Langham, at the time this contract ended, the G.P.O. had been paying Harman £104 per annum to carry the mail "once a week" although of course it was carried on every sailing.

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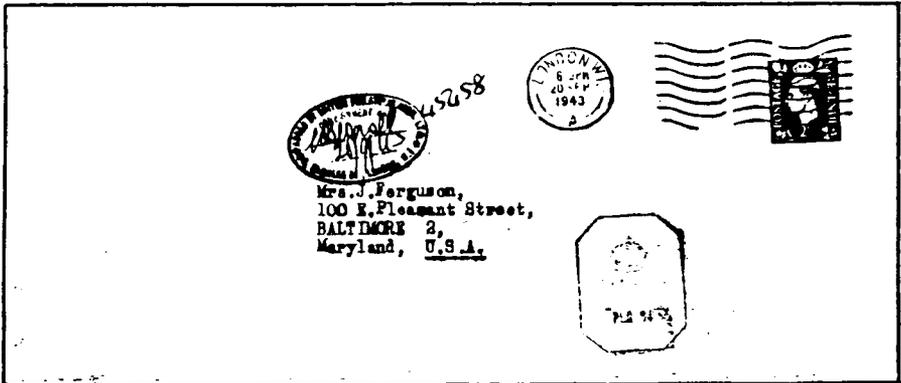
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Sometimes It Pays to Look!

By Roger S. Cichorz

I thought readers might be interested in the story of my Lundy cover *find* at an area stamp show. At ROMPEX 97 in Denver, Colorado last May, I had just about completed the rounds of dealers during the two days I attended the show, and my last stop was at the booth of a dealer from San Antonio, Texas, whom I knew stocked Mexico material. Almost as an afterthought when I had finished viewing his Mexico stock, I asked to see and began rummaging through his box of inexpensive Great Britain covers for Lundy items. I was wearing my "I LOVE LUNDY" pin at the time, so the dealer recalled me from the previous year's ROMPEX and mentioned that he still had only the one Lundy cover (an overpriced Millenary FDC) I had passed on previously. As I am not one to overlook an opportunity to go through any box of covers, I nodded with acknowledgment but indicated to him that I still enjoy looking at covers because who knows what I might find.

After going over about 85 percent of the covers in this particular box, I came across a relatively nondescript long manila envelope typewritten addressed to the U.S. (*shown below*) and having on its front a G.V. KGVI 2½d definitive tied by a London machine cancel, a fine strike in purple of the oval British Philatelic Association censor mark, and a weak strike in magenta of the common octagonal censor cachet. I thought to myself, "Wouldn't it be wonderful if this cover originated from the Lundy Philatelic Bureau and on its backside is a Lundy stamp tied by the wartime 'BUREAU MAIL' cachet." I closed my eyes and slowly turned it over.



When I opened my eyes, (eureka!) sure enough, there it was exactly as I had envisioned it! The Lundy stamp (*inset*) was an "IX Anniversary" ½p to boot, and the cover was priced at an incredibly modest \$10! As you can imagine, I couldn't pull the sawbuck out of my billfold fast enough. The dealer snatched the cover out of my hand to check the price he had penciled in on its backside, and I thought to myself, "oops—surely now he will recognize what this is, and no doubt the price will go up!" But, thank goodness, all he said to me was, "Oh, I see you found a Lundy cover after all—that'll be ten bucks." I downplayed this fortuitous acquisition and simply said to him, "Yeah, sometimes it pays to look!" However, most of you can probably imagine just how fast my heart was beating and my head was spinning at that moment. It's difficult to hide an ear-to-ear grin!



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