

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON ALMANACK FOR 1876.

POST OFFICE REGULATIONS.

When complaint is made of letters or newspapers lost, miscarried or delayed, furnish information as precise as possible regarding all the facts of the case, and inclose whatever documents may throw light upon it. The day and hour at which the letter or newspaper was posted, as well as the office at which and the person by whom this was done, should always be stated; and, when possible, the cover or wrapper in an entire state should be sent.

RATES OF POSTAGE ON INLAND LETTERS.

The rates of postage to be prepaid are as follow, viz:—

For a letter not exceeding 1 oz.	1d.
Exceeding 1 oz., but not exceeding 2 oz.	1½d.
„ 2 oz., and less than 4 oz.	2d.
„ 4 oz., and less than 6 oz.	2½d.
„ 6 oz., and less than 8 oz.	3d.
„ 8 oz., and less than 10 oz.	3½d.
„ 10 oz., and less than 12 oz.	4d.

A letter exceeding the weight of 12 oz. is liable to a postage of 1d. for every ounce, beginning with the first ounce. A letter, for example, weighing between 14 oz. and 15 oz. must be prepaid 1s. 3d.

All inland letters must be prepaid in stamps. A letter posted unpaid is chargeable on delivery with double postage; and if insufficiently prepaid is chargeable with double the deficiency.

The following are the latest times for posting letters, &c., in London for the evening mails. Book packets must be posted the same time as newspapers:—

	Chief Office.		Branch Office, Lombard-st.		District Offices.		Receiving Houses.	
	Letters	Papers	Letters	Papers	Letters	Papers	Letters	Papers
For inland and foreign evening mails	6.0	5.30	6.0	5.30	6.0	5.30	5.30	4.45
For ditto, if prepaid by stamps, and bearing extra ld. stamp	6.45	...	3.45	...	6.15	...	6.0	...
By bearing an extra 2d. stamp	7.30	...	7.15	...	...	...	...	...
Newspapers, &c., by paying ½d. extra ... ..	...	6.45	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. by paying ½d. extra id. „ ... ..	...	7.15	...	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ „ 7.30 ... ..	...	7.30	...	...	...	...	...	...

The above times refer to the E.C. and W.C. districts only. In other districts the hours are earlier. Letters, &c., can also be posted at the following railway stations by affixing 2d. extra in stamps to each:—Great Western (Paddington), for day mail, 7 to 9 a.m.; night mail, 6 to 8.50 p.m. North Western (Euston), for day mail to Ireland, 6.45 to 7.5 a.m.; night mail, 6 to 8.15 p.m.; or for either day or night mails to North of England and Scotland, 15 minutes later. South-Eastern (Cannon-street), for night mail, 6 to 8.50 p.m. South-Western (Waterloo), for night mail, 6 to 8.50 p.m.

REGISTERED LETTERS.—For the night mails the latest time for registering inland and foreign letters at the chief office, St. Martin's-le-Grand, and at the head district and branch offices in London, on payment of the ordinary fee of 4d., is 5.30 p.m.; or on payment of a late fee of 4d. in addition to the registration-fee, the latest time is 6 p.m. At the town receiving-houses the latest time for registering letters for the night mails is 5 p.m. Registered letters are not forwarded by the midnight despatches. For the day mails to the provinces, Ireland, Scotland, France, and the Continent generally, and for the colonial and foreign mails via Southampton, letters can be registered at the chief office, and at the head district and branch offices, at the ordinary fee between 6 and 7.30 p.m., and at the town receiving-houses between 5.30 and 7.30 p.m. the previous evening.

OVERCHARGED LETTERS.—Overcharges are returned between the hours of 10 and 4, on presenting the overcharged letters at the office for the sale of stamps, &c., at the General Post Office. Or the letter may be sent to the office by the letter-carrier of the district, and the overcharge will be returned with the letter in two days.

POSTAGE STAMPS, &c.—Postage stamps and stamped envelopes are sold at the chief office and at Lombard-street between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.; at the Western district office between 7 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.; at the other district offices and the Charing-cross branch office between 8 a.m. and 7.30 p.m.; and at the receiving-houses between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays excepted.

LETTERS "TO BE CALLED FOR."

The Poste Restante being intended solely for the accommodation of strangers and travellers who have no permanent abode in London, letters for residents in London must not be addressed "Post Office till called for." Letters addressed to "Initials" or "Fictitious Names" at the Poste Restante, or any district or branch office, are returned to the writers. Letters may not be redirected from a private address to the Poste Restante.

All persons applying for letters at the Poste Restante must be prepared to give the necessary particulars to the clerk on duty, in order to prevent mistakes and to ensure the delivery of the letters to the persons to whom they properly belong.

Letters for passengers on board the Cunard and Inman packets for America touching at Queenstown, or on board the Mediterranean packets about to sail from Southampton with the mails for India, Australasia, China, &c., may be posted in any part of the United Kingdom up to the time at which ordinary registered letters to go by the same packets are received. They must be registered, and the postage and registration fee must be fully prepaid, and they must be addressed to the care of the commander of the packet.

Letters for passengers on board the Canadian packets touching at Londonderry may, under similar conditions, be posted up to the same time as ordinary registered letters for Canada. These must be addressed to the care of the officer in charge of the mails.

The letters should be addressed thus:—"Mr. —, on board the mail packet for —, at Queenstown [Londonderry or Southampton]. Care of the officer in charge of the mails," or "care of the commander of the packet;" as the case may be.

Letters directed to the care of the packet agent at Suez, and dispatched by the mail via Brindisi, will probably reach passengers for India, &c., who have sailed in the packet which left Southampton the previous week.

TOWN DELIVERIES.

The portion of each district within about three miles of the General Post Office is designated the town delivery, and the remainder the suburban delivery.

SUBURBAN DELIVERIES.

There are seven despatches daily to the suburban districts. The first is at 6.30 a.m. to all places within the London district limits; and includes the correspondence by the night mails from the provinces, and by any colonial or foreign mails arriving in sufficient time. This delivery is generally completed in the nearer suburbs by 9 a.m., and at the more distant places between 9 and 10 a.m. The second despatch is at 9.30 a.m. to the nearer suburban districts. The third is at 11.30 a.m., and comprises, with a few exceptions, every part of the London district. The fourth despatch, at 2.30 p.m., is to most of the suburban districts, isolated localities excepted. The fifth despatch, at 4.30 p.m., extends to the whole of the suburban districts, and, except in the remoter rural places, the letters are delivered the same evening. The sixth despatch, at 6 p.m. is also to the nearer suburbs. The seventh despatch is at 7 p.m. Letters for this despatch posted at the town receiving houses and pillar boxes by 6 p.m., or at the chief office of the district to which they are addressed by 7.30 p.m., are delivered the same evening at all the principal places within about six miles of the General Post Office. At the more distant places the letters are delivered early the following morning.

THE NEWSPAPER HALFPENNY POSTAGE

applies to any publication consisting wholly or in great part of political or other news, or of articles relating thereto, or to other current topics, with or without advertisements, and published at intervals of not more than seven days; and for each newspaper, whether posted singly or in a packet, the prepaid postage is one halfpenny. Every newspaper must be so folded as to admit of the title being read. No packet of newspapers must exceed 14 lb. weight nor 2 ft. in length.

In order that no failure may occur in the delivery of newspapers through the covers becoming detached, it is recommended that the addresses be written on exposed parts of the newspapers themselves as well as on the covers.

COLONIAL AND FOREIGN.—Under the powers given to the Postmaster-General by the Post Office Act, 1870, the regulations relating to the registration of publications for transmission abroad as Newspapers have been revised. The definition laid down in the Act, in regard to newspapers which may be registered for transmission through the post in the United Kingdom, is alike applicable to those which may be registered for transmission abroad, except that for foreign transmission a newspaper may be published at intervals of thirty-one days, and that it (but not its supplement) may be printed on sheets stitched together. Newspapers going abroad are also subject to the following regulations:—"Prices Current" and "Market Reports," but not private price-lists or trade catalogues, are admitted to the same privileges as newspapers for foreign transmission. Publications registered for transmission abroad must be posted within eight days from the date of publication, including the day of publication, otherwise they will be rejected. It is forbidden to introduce into Russia, through the post, political newspapers of any kind, and therefore they must be obtained through the agency of some established bookseller. Printed price-currents, in covers open at both ends, are not forbidden.

BOOK POST.—A Book-Packet may contain not only books, paper, or other substance in ordinary use for writing or printing, whether plain or written or printed upon (to the exclusion of any written letter or communication of the nature of a letter); photographs, when not on glass or in frames containing glass or any like substance, and anything usually appertaining to such articles in the way of binding and mounting, or necessary for their safe transmission by post, but also Circulars, when these are wholly or in great part printed, engraved, or lithographed. The postage is one halfpenny for every 2 oz., or fraction of that weight. A packet posted wholly unpaid will be charged with double the book-postage; and, if posted partially prepaid, with double the deficiency. Every book-packet must be posted either without a cover or in a cover open at both ends, and in such a manner as to admit of the contents being easily withdrawn for examination; otherwise it will be treated as a letter. No book-packet may contain anything sealed or otherwise closed against inspection; nor must there be any letter, nor any communication of the nature of a letter, whether separate or otherwise, unless the whole of such letter or communication be printed. It must not exceed 5 lb. in weight and 18 in. in length.

With regard to the newspaper post, it is necessary to draw attention to the rules of the inland newspaper post, which appear to be imperfectly understood. First, packets containing two or more newspapers, and exceeding 2 oz. in weight, are frequently posted with only a halfpenny stamp affixed to them; secondly, newspapers are frequently found to have inclosures, other than supplements, in them—these inclosures being sometimes actual letters. The rules upon these points are clearly laid down in the "British Postal Guide." In regard to the first point, it is distinctly stated that the postage on inland newspapers is a halfpenny for each newspaper, whether posted singly or in a packet, unless the newspapers contained in a packet are severally so light that the entire packet can be more cheaply transmitted at the book-rate of a halfpenny for every 2 oz., in which case book-postage only, according to weight, is chargeable. In regard to the second point, it is laid down that a newspaper, or a packet of newspapers, sent as such, and not as a book-packet, must not have any inclosure whatever, except supplements—letters or communications of the nature of a letter being expressly prohibited. Some of the other rules of the inland newspaper post are also not unfrequently disregarded. It is the duty of postmasters to use all possible vigilance in this matter, and the instructions to them have now been renewed." 2. "There is reason to think that newspapers and packets of newspapers which have been posted unpaid or insufficiently paid are often not correctly charged according to the rule applicable to such cases, and that the revenue sustains loss from this cause. The attention of postmasters is therefore called to the fifth clause of the newspaper regulations, on p. 7 of the 'British Postal Guide,' under which a newspaper or a packet of newspapers posted unpaid or insufficiently paid is chargeable with postage at the same rate as an unpaid or insufficiently-paid book packet of the same weight. For instance, a newspaper or a packet of newspapers posted unpaid is liable to a charge of 1d. if its weight be not above 2 oz.; if it weighs between 4 oz. and 2 oz. the charge should be 2d.; if between 4 oz. and 6 oz., 3d.; and so on. A packet of newspapers posted insufficiently paid, if it weighs between 4 oz. and 6 oz., and is prepaid with a halfpenny stamp only, should be surcharged 2d.; if it bear a penny stamp, the surcharge should be 1d.; and so on, according to the value of the stamp or stamps affixed and the weight of the packet. If

's requested that particular attention may be given to this matter, so that the revenue may be protected from loss.'

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

The charge for telegrams throughout the United Kingdom, including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, but excepting the Scilly, Orkney, and Shetland Islands, is 1s. for the first twenty words, and 3d. for every additional five words—i.e., for every additional group of not more than five words; the names and addresses of the sender and receiver not being counted.

If the addressee resides at a greater distance than three miles from the terminal telegraph office, portage is charged for delivery by mounted messengers at the rate of 1s. per double mile, except in the case of telegrams for Ireland, where the charge is only 8d. per double mile.

If the sender requires his telegram to be forwarded by post or by train from the terminal telegraph office he must write the words "by post" or "by train" in the space provided for that purpose at the foot of the message.

Telegrams written on the proper forms and properly prepaid may be handed to rural messengers who are proceeding to post telegraph-offices for transmission therefrom.

Telegrams written in any European language are charged for according to the number of words they contain; but all unintelligible words not forming part of any European language are charged for as if each syllable were one word. Should the word not be composed of syllables, then five letters are considered as equal to one word.

Telegrams may be repeated at the request of the sender, if he desires to adopt this extra security against risk of error, by being resigalled from each office at which they are received to the office from which they are forwarded. The charge for repetition is one half the ordinary tariff; fractions of threepence being reckoned as twopence.

The cost of a reply to a telegram may be prepaid; and prepaid reply pass will then be delivered to the addressee, who will be at liberty to send his reply, from any postal telegraph station, at any time within two months after the date of the original telegram.

Numbers expressed in figures in an inland telegram are counted as so many words, according to the number of figures employed. For example—"7" counts as one word, "12" as two words, "385" as three words.

The department is not liable for losses incurred through the incorrect transmission, delay, or non-delivery of telegrams.

Telegraph offices are, as a rule, open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on week days, and from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Sunday. There are, however, offices in several of the larger towns which are open for longer periods; and at certain offices in London and in the country there is attendance continuously during the day and night, both on week days and Sundays.

MONEY ORDERS

are issued at the chief district offices and at the branch offices Lombard-street and Charing-cross, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.; on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.; at other branch offices and receiving-houses in the town districts between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.; at branch offices in the suburban districts between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.; and at receiving-houses in the suburban districts between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. On Saturdays savings bank deposits are received at all receiving-offices until 8 p.m. The commission on inland money orders is:—For sums under 10s., 1d.; of 10s. and under £1, 2d.; and for every additional pound or fraction of a pound, 1d. No order is allowed to contain a fractional part of a penny, and the printed forms only should be used which are supplied gratuitously.

INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS BETWEEN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES.—Offices have been selected in all the States and territories. No single order will be issued for more than 50 dol., but persons desiring to remit larger sums can obtain additional money orders. The rates of commission on these money orders will range from 0.25 on orders not exceeding 10 dol., to 1 dol. 25c. for over 40 dol. and not exceeding 50 dol.

The scale of commission for orders payable abroad is as follows:—

For sums not exceeding	£2	£5	£7	£10
If payable in Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Egypt, or at Malta, Gibraltar, or Constantinople ...	0 9	1 6	2 3	3 0
If payable in any other place abroad (including most of the colonies) authorised to transact money-order business with this country ...	1 0	2 0	3 0	4 0

Money Orders are issued in the United Kingdom on the following colonies, British agencies, and foreign countries:—

Alexandria.	Gold Coast.	St. Helena.
Berbee (New Amsterdam).	Holland.	Seychelle Islands.
Belgium.	Honduras.	Shanghai.
British Columbia.	Hong-Kong.	Smyrna.
Cape of Good Hope.	India.	South Australia.
Canada.	Italy.	Straits Settlements.
Ceylon (Colombo).	Malta.	Suez.
Constantinople.	Mauritius.	Switzerland.
Coquimbo.	Natal.	Tasmania.
Demerara (Georgetown).	New Brunswick.	United States.
Denmark.	Newfoundland.	Valparaiso.
Falkland Islands.	New South Wales.	Victoria.
France (Paris only).	New Zealand.	West Coast of Africa.
The German Empire.	Nova Scotia.	West Indies.
Gibraltar.	Prince Edward Island.	Western Australia.
	Queensland.	Yokohama.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Deposits of One Shilling, or of any number of shillings, or of pounds and shillings, may be made by any person at the Post-Office Savings Banks, provided that such depositor shall not make deposits amounting to more than £30 in any year ending Dec. 31, or make any further deposit when the amount standing in his name exceeds £150, exclusive of interest. When any depositor's principal and interest amount together to £200, all interest will cease so long as the balance of the account continues to amount to the said sum of £200.

Interest calculated yearly at the rate of £2 10s. per cent per annum will be allowed on every complete pound deposited, reckoned from the first day of the calendar month next following the day on which a complete pound shall have been deposited or completed, up to the first day of the calendar month in which the moneys are withdrawn.

GENERAL POSTAL UNION.

In accordance with the provisions of an international treaty concluded at Berne on Oct. 9 last, the whole of the States of Europe, the United States of America, and Egypt formed themselves into a General Postal Union for the reciprocal exchange of correspondence, and agree to adopt low and uniform rates of correspondence dispatched from one State of the Union to another. These provisions, which extend to letters, post cards, newspapers and other printed papers, patterns of merchandise, and legal and commercial documents, takes effect at once; but in the case of France no change will be made before Jan. 1, 1876.

The following are the charges to the undermentioned places (otherwise than via France):—Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Egypt, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Heligoland, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Roumania, Russia, Servia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States, Malta, Turkey, Canary Islands—Letters, per ½ oz., 2½d.; post cards, each, 1½d.; newspapers, per 4 oz., 1d.; printed papers, &c., per 2 oz., 1d. Upon letters posted unpaid double the above rates will be charged on delivery.

REGISTRATION.—Letters, post cards, newspapers and other printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents addressed to any of the above countries may be registered. The registration fee will be 4d. in all cases, which, in addition to the postage, must be prepaid. The transmission of letters containing gold or silver money, jewels or valuable articles, or anything liable to Customs duties, through the post to any of the countries and places named in the table is prohibited.

FOREIGN POST-CARDS.—The post-cards which have been manufactured for use in this country bear an impressed stamp of the value of 1½d. The additional postage, therefore, required in those cases where they will be forwarded via France must be prepaid by means of adhesive stamps to be affixed to the cards. On the front or stamped side of a post-card nothing must be written or printed except the address.

NEWSPAPERS.—The ordinary charge on a newspaper addressed to any country of the Union is 1d. per 4 oz. But, for the present, the charge on newspapers sent through France, except to Belgium, will be 2d. per 4 oz. In all cases the postage must be prepaid.

PRINTED PAPERS.—Under the term "Printed Papers" are comprehended stitched or bound books, pamphlets, music, visiting-cards, circulars, catalogues, prospectuses, announcements, and notices of various kinds, whether printed, engraved, or lithographed, as well as photographs. Printed papers must, as a rule, contain no writing, manuscript figure or mark whatever, beyond a simple stroke marking a particular passage of the text to which it is desired to call attention. But proofs of printing or of music may have corrections upon them made with a pen, and may have manuscripts not of the nature of a letter annexed to them, the corrections or manuscripts to relate exclusively to the text or the execution of the work. Circulars, notices, &c., may bear the signature of the sender, with his trade or profession, and may also indicate the place of origin and the date. In the case of books, a manuscript dedication or a complimentary inscription from the author will be allowed. Stock or share-lists, prices current, and market reports, printed or lithographed, may have the prices added in writing or by means of any impression whatever.

LEGAL AND COMMERCIAL DOCUMENTS.—Legal and commercial documents may be forwarded at the same charge as printed papers. Under the term "legal and commercial documents" are comprised Acts or deeds of all kinds drawn up by public functionaries and invoices, copies, or extracts.

PATTERNS OF MERCHANDISE.—Patterns or samples of merchandise may be forwarded at the same charges as printed papers to any part of the countries of the Union under the following conditions:—1. They must be placed in bags, or boxes, or in envelopes the fastenings of which are removable so as to admit of an easy examination. 2. The patterns and samples must not have any saleable value nor bear any MS. writing other than the name or the trade or profession of the sender, the address of the person for whom the packet is intended, a trade mark, numbers, and prices.

NEW STAMP OF THE VALUE OF TWOPENCE-HALFPENNY.—For the convenience of persons corresponding with the countries of the Union, a new adhesive postage-stamp of the value of 2½d. has been issued, and may be procured at all post-offices.

Consequent on the conclusion of the postal union treaty and the general reduction of postage which that treaty authorises, the postage of correspondence addressed to the undermentioned countries, and which is almost exclusively forwarded through a State of the Union, is reduced as follows:—Hawaiian Islands—letters, 4d. per ½ oz.; newspapers, 2d. per 4 oz.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. per 2 oz. Tunis, via Belgium and Italy—letters, 3½d.; newspapers, 1d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 1d.; via France and Italy—letters, 5d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Montenegro—letters, 3d.; newspapers, 1½d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 1½d. Morocco, via Southampton and Gibraltar—letters, 2½d.; newspapers, 1d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 1d.; via France and Gibraltar—letters, 6d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Further, all letters, &c., for the following countries and places, when specially addressed, to be forwarded via the United States, or via Russia, will be liable to the reduced rates of postage here specified in each case:—Via the United States. Colon—letters, 5d. per ½ oz.; newspapers, 2d. per 4 oz.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. per 2 oz. Panama—letters, 5d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Costa Rica—letters, 5d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Nicaragua—letters, 5d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Cuba—letters, 3½d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Guatemala—letters, 7½d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Mexico—letters, 6d.; newspapers, 1½d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 1½d. Japan—letters, 10d.; newspapers, 3d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 3d. China—letters, 6d.; newspapers, 2d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Via Russia.—China (Kalgau, Pekin, and Tien-Tsin)—letters, 1s. 2½d.; newspapers, 4d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 4d. (Patterns cannot be sent to China via Russia.) China (Urga)—Letters, 6½d.; newspapers, 2½d.; printed papers, patterns, and legal and commercial documents, 2d. Letters or other packets for Tunis, Montenegro, Colon, Panama, or Japan may be registered. On registered letters for Japan a fee of 9d. must be prepaid; on those for Colon or Panama a fee of 8d.; and on those for the other places mentioned a fee of 4d., in addition to the postage.