

The General Post-office in London, was originally established in Cloak Lane, near Dowgate Hill, whence it was transferred to the Black Swan, in Bishopsgate Street. On occasion of the great fire of 1666, it was removed to Brydges Street, Covent Garden, and afterwards to Sir Robert Viner's mansion, in Lombard Street, where it continued until 1829, when it was transferred to St. Martin's-le-Grand. It now occupies the site of an ancient college and sanctuary. The building was commenced in 1825, from designs by R. Smirke Esq., and completed in 1829. The street letter-boxes were erected in March 1855, and the first one placed at the corner of Fleet Street and Farringdon Street.

The postage-stamp had its origin in England, and for ten years alone made use of it. France adopted it in 1849, the Tour and Taxis Office (Germany) in 1850, and it is now in use over the whole world. The distance over which Mails are at present conveyed within the United Kingdom by railways, mail-carts, steam-packets, &c., is about 150,000 miles *per day*, or more than six times round the earth; and the number of letters delivered annually 593 millions,