

Our Postcard Column.

WILL readers hearing of any interesting item of News, kindly jot it down on a postcard and address to the Editor, "Ewen's Weekly Stamp News," Norwood, London. For every contribution we publish, we will send the author an interesting and newly issued stamp. (N.B.—Postcards preferred).

Mr. A. D. Moullin writes:—

"In going through some old letters I have come across one of the earliest post cards, posted on March 23th, 1872, the stamp of which is cancelled not by the usual mark but by eight clean cut circular holes in the form of a broad arrow. As I have never seen one like it, I think it may have been done by the G.P.O. experimentally."

[A detailed and fully illustrated article on the subject of these perforated cancellations of post cards appeared in the *English Specialists' Journal*, No. 11, 23rd January, 1897. The information was condensed in the following note taken from *Ewen's Priced Catalogue of the Stamps and Postmarks of the United Kingdom* (No. 6, 1898, page 88).—ED., E.W.S.N.]

Varieties.—Some curious methods of cancelling post cards were tried in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool from 1870 to 1874. In the first, a portion of the card was snipped out close to the stamp, the part cut out being of 3 designs, viz.—(1) in the shape of an inverted U; (2) like an inverted V with upper strokes continued perpendicularly; (3) like the neck and upper half of a bottle. In the second, the stamp itself was perforated, three designs being employed:—(1) a single hole; (2) small holes arranged in the shaped of an anchor; (3) in the shape of an inverted orb. The anchor design



No. 1.



No. 2.



No. 3.

may be found occasionally showing only three or four of the original holes. These cancellation varieties are only found on the violet $\frac{1}{4}$ d. post card and are of such a peculiar nature that we make an exception in describing them here, instead of under the post mark catalogue.