

## HOODS, KILLERS and SKELETONS by Jim Wigmore

How many of these are you hiding?

Relax this is not part of a police investigation just a philatelic question on a subject that perhaps you have not really considered or perhaps where totally unaware of.



**SKELETONS** are the type of cancel/cachet used on pre-stamp entire's to denote acceptance, transit and arrival on material handled by the mail service prior to the introduction of stamps. See examples produced left. There are a vast number of hand stamps of this form.

**KILLERS** - Once stamps were introduced the post office were very concerned about the fact that stamps need to be obliterated to prevent them being fraudulently re-used. The type of cancel introduced was the duplex form shown right that produced an obliteration over the stamp with a place and date stamp alongside. This became known as a killer since it effectively prevented the stamp being removed and re-used. Many examples exist.



**HOODS** - So named because the office name was placed in a separate band over the main circular cancel, see left. Like all the other types of cancel, there use was extensive. The letter as with all cancels denoted the period of the day that the cancel was applied, not a very accurate record as sometimes these letters were not altered during the press of sort.

All these cancel types were extensively used around the UK and are well worth looking for and collecting. So returning to my original question how many HOODS, KILLERS and SKELETONS are in your cupboard?