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Table of the Annual Assay Office Letters

Octavius Morgan

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TABLE
OF THE
ANNUAL ASSAY OFFICE LETTERS.

USED IN THE MARKING PLATE FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD OF THEIR USE
TO THE PRESENT TIME,

TOGETHER WITH A REFERENCE TO THE VARIOUS PIECES OF ANCIENT PLATE
WHICH HAVE BEEN ADOPTED AS AUTHORITIES FOR THE SAME.

THOSE Letters only are given which have actually been found on pieces of plate, or copied from the books of the Goldsmiths' Company ; the blanks being left to be supplied as fresh examples may occur—with impressions of which, in gutta percha, I should be glad to be furnished, in order to complete the Table, which will then be printed in a separate form. It is to be observed, that though the size of the letters varies with the size of the pieces of plate, the form of them remains the same ; small and slender pieces of plate not admitting the use of punches of a large size.

OCTAVIUS MORGAN.
























































ALPHABET I Lombardic.		ALPHABET II Character unknown.		ALPHABET III Lombardic letters cusped inwards and outwards.		ALPHABET IV Church text small letters, split tops, no lion passant.	
h	A 1438		A 1458		A 1478		A 1498
	B 1439		B 1459		B 1479	h	B 1499
	C 1440		C 1460		C 1480		C 1500
	D 1441		D 1461	D	D 1481		D 1501
	E 1442		E 1462		E 1482		E 1502
	F 1443		F 1463		F 1483		F 1503
	G 1444		G 1464		G 1484		G 1504
	H 1445		H 1465		H 1485		H 1505
	I 1446		I 1466		I 1486	i	I 1506
	K 1447		K 1467		K 1487	h	K 1507
	L 1448		L 1468		L 1488		L 1508
	M 1449		M 1469		M 1489		M 1509
	N 1450		N 1470		N 1490	n	N 1510
	O 1451		O 1471		O 1491		O 1511
	P 1452		P 1472		P 1492		P 1512
	Q 1453		Q 1473		Q 1493		Q 1513
	R 1454		R 1474		R 1494	r	R 1514
	S 1455		S 1475		S 1495	s	S 1515
	T 1456		T 1476		T 1496	t	T 1516
	V 1457		V 1477		V 1497		V 1517

The letters were changed annually on St. Dunstan's day, and therefore commencing on or about the 19th of May in the year given, were continued to the same time the following year.

ALPHABET V Lombardic letters cusped inwards.		ALPHABET VI Roman capitals, with lion passant.		ALPHABET VII Black letter, small letters in an escutcheon, lion passant.		ALPHABET VIII Roman capitals in Escutcheon, lion pas- sant.	
A	A 1518		A 1538		A 1558	A	A 1578
	B 1519		B 1539		B 1559	B	B 1579
C	C 1520		C 1540		C 1560		C 1580
	D 1521		D 1541		D 1561		D 1581
E	E 1522		E 1542		E 1562		E 1582
F	F 1523		F 1543	f	F 1563		F 1583
	G 1524		G 1544	g	G 1564	G	G 1584
H	H 1525		H 1545	h	H 1565		H 1585
	I 1526		I 1546	i	I 1566		I 1586
K	K 1527		K 1547	k	K 1567		K 1587
	L 1528		L 1548	l	L 1568		L 1588
M	M 1529		M 1549	m	M 1569	M	M 1589
	N 1530		N 1550	n	N 1570	N	N 1590
	O 1531		O 1551		O 1571		O 1591
	P 1532		P 1552	p	P 1572		P 1592
Q	Q 1533		Q 1553	q	Q 1573		Q 1593
	R 1534	R	R 1554	r	R 1574	R	R 1594
	S 1535		S 1555		S 1575	S	S 1595
	T 1536		T 1556	t	T 1576		T 1596
	V 1537		V 1557	u	V 1577	V	V 1597

Alphabet VI.—The Lion passant first appears in this alphabet.

Alphabet VII.—The letters of this, and all the subsequent alphabets, are stamped in a regularly formed escutcheon or shield, whereas the earlier alphabets are without it.

ALPHABET IX		ALPHABET X		ALPHABET XI		ALPHABET XII	
Lombardic in Escutcheon, letters cusped outwards, lion passant.		Italic small letters in Escutcheon, lion passant.		Court hand in Escutcheon, leopard's head, lion passant.		Black letter capitals in Escutcheon, leopard's head, lion passant.	
	A 1598	<i>a</i>	A 1618		A 1638		A 1658
	B 1599	<i>b</i>	B 1619		B 1639		B 1659
	C 1600	<i>c</i>	C 1620		C 1640		C 1660
	D 1601	<i>d</i>	D 1621		D 1641		D 1661
	E 1602	<i>e</i>	E 1622		E 1642		E 1662
	F 1603	<i>f</i>	F 1623		F 1643		F 1663
	G 1604	<i>g</i>	G 1624		G 1644		G 1664
	H 1605	<i>h</i>	H 1625		H 1645		H 1665
	I 1606	<i>i</i>	I 1626		I 1646		I 1666
	K 1607		K 1627		K 1647		K 1667
	L 1608	<i>l</i>	L 1628		L 1648		L 1668
	M 1609	<i>m</i>	M 1629		M 1649		M 1669
	N 1610	<i>n</i>	N 1630		N 1650		N 1670
	O 1611	<i>o</i>	O 1631		O 1651		O 1671
	P 1612	<i>p</i>	P 1632		P 1652		P 1672
	Q 1613	<i>q</i>	Q 1633		Q 1653		Q 1673
	R 1614	<i>r</i>	R 1634		R 1654		R 1674
	S 1615	<i>s</i>	S 1635		S 1655		S 1675
	T 1616	<i>t</i>	T 1636		T 1656		T 1676
	V 1617	<i>v</i>	V 1637		V 1657		V 1677

The authority for Alphabet X, and those which follow, are the entries in the minutes of the Goldsmiths' Company, where many of the letters are given, and the verification of them by pieces of plate is also added.

ALPHABET XIII Black Letter, small in Escutcheon, Lion passant.		ALPHABET XIV Court hand in Escutcheon, with Britannia and Lion's head erased.		ALPHABET XV Roman Capitals in Escutcheon, leopard's head, Lion passant.		ALPHABET XVI Roman small letters, in Escutcheon, leopard's head, lion passant.	
a	A 1678	A	A 1696	A	A 1716	a	A 1736
	B 1679	B	B 1697	B	B 1717	b	B 1737
c	C 1680	C	C 1698	C	C 1718	c	C 1738
d	D 1681	D	D 1699	D	D 1719	d	D 1739
e	E 1682	E	E 1700	E	E 1720	e	E 1740
f	F 1683	F	F 1701	F	F 1721	f	F 1741
g	G 1684	G	G 1702	G	G 1722	g	G 1742
h	H 1685	H	H 1703	H	H 1723	h	H 1743
i	I 1686	I	I 1704	I	I 1724	i	I 1744
	K 1687	K	K 1705	K	K 1725	k	K 1745
	L 1688	L	L 1706	L	L 1726	l	L 1746
	M 1689	M	M 1707	M	M 1727	m	M 1747
	N 1690	N	N 1708	N	N 1728	n	N 1748
o	O 1691	O	O 1709	O	O 1729	o	O 1749
p	P 1692	P	P 1710	P	P 1730	p	P 1750
	Q 1693	Q	Q 1711	Q	Q 1731	q	Q 1751
r	R 1694	R	R 1712	R	R 1732	r	R 1752
	S 1695	S	S 1713	S	S 1733	s	S 1753
t	T 1696	T	T 1714	T	T 1734	t	T 1754
		V	V 1715	V	V 1735	u	V 1755

Alphabet XIV. and those which follow have long been published, and are well known and authenticated, but as many of the Court-hand letters of XIV. are ill-formed in the published table, I have thought it right to correct as far as possible from the actual marks.

ALPHABET XVII		ALPHABET XVIII		ALPHABET XIX		ALPHABET XX	
Old English capitals in Escutcheon, leopard's head, lion passant.		Roman small let- ters, after 1784 with Sovereign's head.		Roman capitals, Sove- reign's head.		Roman small, Sove- reign's head.	
A	A 1756	a	A 1776	A	A 1796	a	A 1816
B	B 1757	b	B 1777	B	B 1797	b	B 1817
C	c 1758	c	c 1778	C	c 1798	c	c 1818
D	D 1759	d	D 1779	D	D 1799	d	D 1819
E	E 1760	e	E 1780	E	E 1800	e	E 1820
F	F 1761	f	F 1781	F	F 1801	f	F 1821
G	G 1762	g	G 1782	G	G 1802	g	G 1822
H	H 1763	h	H 1783	H	H 1803	h	H 1823
I	I 1764	i	I 1784	I	I 1804	i	I 1824
K	K 1765	k	K 1785	K	K 1805	k	K 1825
L	L 1766	l	L 1786	L	L 1806	l	L 1826
M	M 1767	m	M 1787	M	M 1807	m	M 1827
N	N 1768	n	N 1788	N	N 1808	n	N 1828
O	o 1769	o	o 1789	O	o 1809	o	o 1829
P	P 1770	p	P 1790	P	P 1810	p	P 1830
Q	q 1771	q	q 1791	Q	q 1811	q	q 1831
R	R 1772	r	R 1792	R	R 1812	r	R 1832
S	s 1773	s	s 1793	S	s 1813	s	s 1833
T	T 1774	t	T 1794	T	T 1814	t	T 1834
U	v 1775	u	v 1795	U	v 1815	u	v 1835

After 1784, the profile head of the reigning Sovereign is added to the other marks.

The alphabet now in use is old English capitals.