

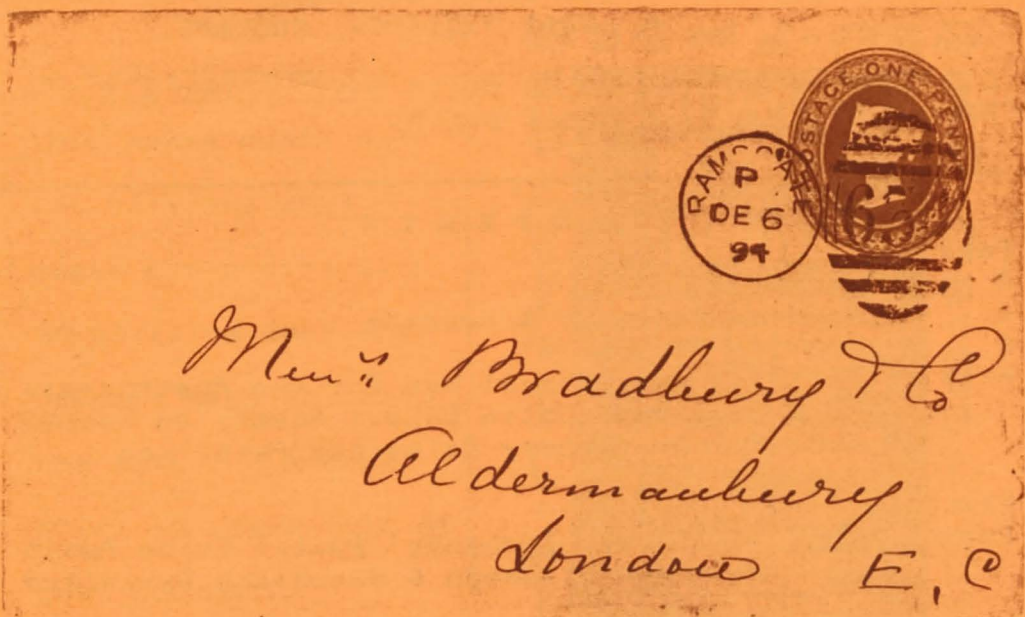


THE JOURNAL OF THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Edited by Peter van Gelder

Issue No. **11**

February 1998



Pink turns to hazel - is sewage to blame? (See p.15)

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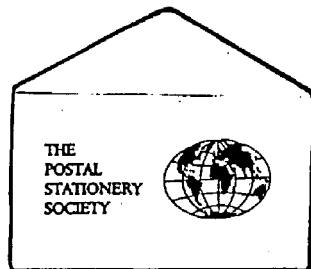
Our Publicity Officer is Colin Baker. Our A.B.P.S.
Representative is Michael Smith.

C O N T E N T S

Page	
3	Editorial
4	Society Calendar & Reports
5	Auction Action
6/11	Articles (An Unusual Use for the Australasia 3d Postal Card/Colin Baker; Siegfried Ascher - Postal Stationery Celebrity/Peter van Gelder)
12/18	Query Corner
19/20	Topics... "Royal Exchange" Postal Cards Again Cut-out Usage & Marshians Revisited Ton Up!
21	Letters to the Editor

Continued on page 5

Editorial



Have you yet contributed an article that has appeared in "P.S."? If so, thank you - and your further writings are invited. But if you have not yet taken the plunge, how about making 1998 the year that you do? No topic is barred, as long as it is well and truly related to postal stationery. Editorial consideration will be given to any article received so long as it generally conforms to the following guidelines.

Normally maximum length should be 1,250 words - longer articles would need to be split by author or Editor into parts. All submitted texts MUST be TYPED or written in BLOCK CAPITALS. Whenever possible, please include illustrations (actual stationery or good photocopies).

In the hope that this will stimulate someone to start writing, I shall now introduce a subject that has recently come to my attention and seems interesting. A member of the Revenue Society recently showed me two cards which he had bought at a stamp fair (total cost £5). One is illustrated here,* and it will be seen that it is a postal card for proxy voting at a company meeting (1925, Associated Portland Cement). On the front is a halfpenny imprinted postage stamp; on the back a penny revenue stamp. It would be interesting to know when such cards first appeared in G.B. and when they ceased. Are used examples known, or were they destroyed post-meeting? Ind Coope & Co. and Teja Malaya Tin Dredging Co. are addressees on other such cards I have seen - has anyone listed the companies known to have used such cards? "The truth is somewhere there", so how about putting it into "P.S."!

* see page 11

Peter van Gelder

SOCIETY CALENDAR

Our next meeting will be held on 14th March 1998 (N.B. not 7th March) at the Y.W.C.A. Central Club (Chapel Room), 16/22 Great Russell Street, London W.C.1., starting at 2 p.m. It will feature members' talks/displays, so you are invited to bring along p.s. for display (up to a maximum of 36 pages per person).

Our 6th June 1998 meeting will be held at the same venue as for March, but will be an all-day meeting starting at 11.30 a.m. During the morning session there will be a bring/buy/sell/exchange session plus the mini-auction. In the afternoon there will be a talk/display session, as follows:-

Dutch East Indies, 1940s to 1970s -
by David Taylor Smith.

SOCIETY REPORTS

A regional meeting was held on 13th September 1997 at Upton, Poole, Dorset in conjunction with Poole & District Philatelic Society's Stamp Fair. Six members attended and the following are details of the talks/displays given:-

Early development of G.B. postal cards from 1870 and of picture postcards 25 years later (Geoff Hood).
G.B. KEVII privately printed PSEs, also mourning envelopes, reg. envelopes, etc. (Colin Baker).
Mint French colonial p.s. of 1920s & 1930s, and a range of Estonian & Lithuanian p.s. 1930-40 (Alan Bailey).

A report on the London meeting held on 27th September 1997 is due to appear in the June Newsletter.

A regional meeting was held in Winchester at HAMPEX '97 on 25th October, but I understand that, most disappointingly, only two members attended.

Auction Action



by Tony Chilton

Our Society's annual auction goes from strength to strength. Sales last September totalled over £2,850, which - given the very highly priced lots in the previous year's sale - compares very well with the record 1996 realisations. Material for 1997 was supplied by 27 members, and bids were received from 49 members. It is very pleasing to see such a large proportion of the membership involved. 64% of the lots were sold, the most fought over being Lot 63 (a rare Australian combination envelope); and Lot 388 (early G.B. used abroad) - estimated for £1.50p and sold for £44!

Last year I was sent more material than I could deal with in one sale, and so I had to ration the individual input. As an experiment we are holding a mini-auction at our June 1998 meeting - the list is enclosed with this journal. This will clear a self-contained batch of 100 lots. All the remaining material in hand will be offered in our main auction in September, after which I shall be seeking more material!

Note - A full list of realisations for last September's sale will be sent out in June with next September's auction list.

CONTENTS (cOntinued)

22/24	From the Editor's Desk
25	Book Review
26/28	Aerogramatics
29	Wants; Library
30	Membership List; Stop Press!

ARTICLES

TALES OF G.B. STATIONERY (no.3)

by Colin Baker

An Unusual Use for the Australasia 3d Postal Card

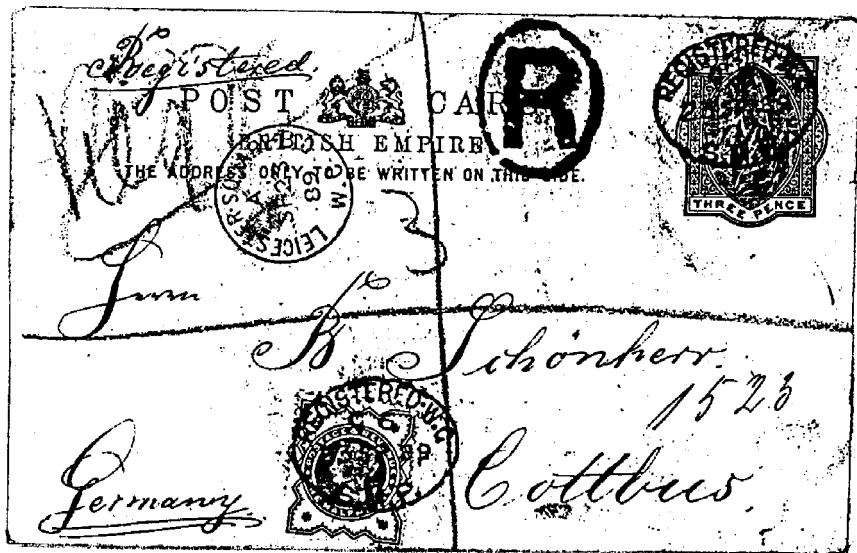
The "overland" rate for postcards to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji (that is via France and Italy rather than via the long sea journey around the Cape to the Indian Ocean) in the period 1889 to 1891 was fixed at 3d. The Post Office issued a postal card specifically intended for this route on 1st September 1889, but its use was short-lived, for the rate was soon reduced to 1d in 1891.

Following this rate reduction many of these postal cards were used up by the general public on routes for which the postal rate was less than 3d (a number of these uses being philatelic), & these cards can sometimes be found in dealers' stocks. However, in some cases the whole of the 3d postage ingeniously prepaid a genuine postal service. One such item which was used shortly after the introduction of this card in September 1889 is illustrated here, being a *registered* card to Germany with an additional ½d adhesive to pay for the then post-card rate to Europe of 1½d and the registration fee of 2d.

Postcards are not items which are normally registered since their value is so small as to make the cost of registration ridiculous, but we must assume in this case that the sender felt the delivery of the message was important enough to warrant the expense and trouble of sending it in such a secure way.

The reverse of the card, the original of which is written in old German (equivalent to Chaucer's English!) gives us a clue to the reason for this caution. As can be seen from the translation shown

here, the text is from one stamp dealer to another offering for sale his stock of Baden stamps (a Grand Duchy, now part of Germany). Even in 1889 the trade value of these stamps was high, and so the British dealer's motive in registering this card becomes clear.



I have received your letter, may I be so bold as to offer you my whole stock of Baden, for sale by letter at 30.00 post paid

46	stamps on letter	9 Kr
3	pieces shaded background	6 Kr
2	" " "	9 Red/pink
43	" " "	9 brown and light brown
3	" white background	6 Kr
56	" " "	9 Kr brown and light brown

Best regards, A. Hart

SIEGFRIED ASCHER - POSTAL STATIONERY CELEBRITY

by Peter van Gelder

(Note - In preparing this article I am much indebted to Hans-Georg Meissner for supplying me with an English translation of an article that appeared in "Die Ganzsache" in 1952.)

The years between 1914 (the outbreak of World War One) and 1964 (the publication of the first section of the Higgins & Gage catalogue) were a doldrums period for postal stationery collecting. New catalogues, those essential signposts for collectors, were few and far between. The biggest exception to that trend was the "Grosser Ganzsachen Katalog", and its compiler and driving force can now be recognised as the most notable figure in postal stationery circles of those days. He was almost as a voice crying in the wilderness! He was Siegfried Ascher.

Siegfried Ascher was born on 23rd September 1877, in Berlin. He took up collecting early in life but did not get enough pleasure from stamps. The years passed by and he completed his education. Though often referred to as "Doctor", he was not a medical man but an architect. One day by chance - I suppose in the opening years of the 20th century - he was offered a collection of G.B. and U.S.A. postal stationery envelopes. Having bought this, he found his interest strongly aroused, and he began a careful study of this and other postal stationery. His next important step was taken in 1909, when he joined the Berliner Ganzsachen-Sammler-Verein (i.e. Berlin P.S. Collectors' Club). He was member no. 46 of this Society, which was founded in 1901 and still thrives today. Next he acquired the "Marbes" postal stationery stock, and that led to his first significant writing about postal stationery: "The History of the Austrian Postcards, 1869-1875", which appeared in Philipp Kosack's publication "Ganzsachen-Sammler". Austria had, of course, been the first country to issue

postal cards (October 1869). His next articles were about the postal cards of Iceland and (in collaboration with Dr Berendsen) on the history of U.S.A. and Mexican Wells Fargo envelopes. He also penned other postal stationery articles on, for example, Great Britain, Baden and Brunswick.

Though he was on active service during the 1914-18 War, he remained devoted to philately and took opportunities to study the postmarks and formular stationery of the German Field Post.

Now we come to Ascher's work as a cataloguer of postal stationery. Already before the War he had helped with the 1913/14 edition of the Senf catalogue by co-operating with its editor, Lindenberg. (Louis and Richard Senf of Leipzig had been among the first cataloguers of postal stationery, to be mentioned in the same breath as J.B. Moens of Brussels, G.H. Watson of New York and suchlike.) To supplement the pre-War Senf catalogue Ascher decided to list the issues of 1913 to 1920. He also combined with Robert Noske, a printer and philatelist, in publishing a periodical on postal stationery - he edited it for seven years. Also in the 1920s he set to work on his major project - a World postal stationery catalogue. This "Grosser Ganssachen Katalog" appeared in serial parts between 1923 and 1928.

Another of his interests was organised philately. He helped to unify German philatelic societies into a single national federation and to get full recognition for postal stationery collecting within that federation (and also within the international organisation, F.I.P.). In and after 1926 he was awarded honorary membership of the postal stationery societies of Berlin, Munich, Vienna and Switzerland. Then in 1932 he was honoured with the Lindenberg Medal.

But the political world was changing, especially in Germany. In 1939, with both war and his 62nd birthday approaching, he emigrated from

Germany to Palestine (later to be renamed Israel). After a few years in the shadows, he re-emerged as jury president for the "Philas 1945" exhibition. From there he went on to unite the fifteen philatelic societies in Israel into a national federation (new wine but in an old kind of bottle!), of which he became honorary president. He has been described as an unassuming and friendly man, always ready to give advice and information if asked. He remained active in philately through the 1950s, being honorary chairman of the editorial board that worked to produce the "Neuer Ganzsachen Katalog", which began publication in 1955 as the successor to his "Grosser Ganzsachen Katalog" of the 1920s that has become widely known simply as "Ascher". "Ascher" was again to be of great help when the Higgins & Gage catalogue was being prepared in the U.S.A. during the 1960s and 1970s.

Siegfried Ascher died on 22nd February 1962 just 36 years ago and aged 84. Below I list those of his briefer writings I have traced, the last three being from his Israel days. We should indeed recognise him as a true celebrity in the history of postal stationery collecting.

Detailed description of British Stamped to Order Envelopes ("Die Ganzsache" journal, volumes 1 & 2).

Postal Certificates of German States prior to 1871.

German Colonies & Protectorates inc. Precursors
(1935).

Fouré Envelope Falsifications of German States.

Mexico & Salvador.

Die Deutschen Ganzsachen 1850-1930 (with Theo Junker, 1930).

Entires of the British Field Post in Palestine (Holy Land Philatelist, 1956/57).

The "Pre-runners" of the Registered Letters of Israel (H.L.P., 1959/60).

Entires of Israel and their Forerunners (H.L.P., series of articles between 1954 & 1957).

PROXY VOTING POSTAL CARD (see EDITORIAL, page 3)

PRINTED MATTER.



The Secretary,
The Associated Portland Cement Manufacturers, Ltd.,
Portland House,
Tothill Street,
Westminster,
LONDON, S.W. 1.

I, the undersigned, being a member of the ASSOCIATED PORTLAND CEMENT MANUFACTURERS LIMITED, do hereby appoint PERCY MALCOLM STEWART, of Portland House, Tothill Street, Westminster, S.W. 1, or failing him PHILIP A. M. NASH, K.C.M.G., C.B., of the same address, or failing him, ALFRED STEVENS, of the same address (all members of the said Company) as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf at the ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Company, to be held at River Plate House, Finsbury Circus, in the City of London, on Wednesday, the 8th day of April, 1925, and at any adjournment thereof, or at any poll that may be taken in consequence thereof.



AS WITNESS my hand this..... day of April, 1925.

Signature.....

Address.....

QUERY CORNER

Speaker's Oval Imprint - Response

Further to the query raised by Tony Chilton in "P.S." no.9, **Michael Shaw** has written to say he has the following envelopes, all 220mm x 110mm pale cream wove paper, all carrying a rubber-stamped oval (& rectangular boxed class number):-

20.12.85....1st class, blue printing, uncoloured embossed portcullis on flap.

3.2.86 1st class, blue printing, green embossed portcullis & "House of Commons" on flap.

25.2.86 As previous example.

22.2.88
(probably) 2nd class, blue/black printing, uncoloured embossed portcullis on flap.

25.2.91 2nd class, red printing, uncoloured embossed portcullis on flap.

The first class envelopes are addressed to the Secretary of the District Planning Officers' Society; and the 2nd class envelopes to the Electoral Registration Officer.

Early Formular Registered Envelope

Rufus Barnes has written seeking help with a registered envelope he bought some years ago and which is illustrated here. He says: "The printing is a palish red. It has a cloth interior and is printed by McCorquodales. The join down the horizontal length of the back shows that the paper was cut with a serrated cutter. But for which COUNTRY was it produced?"

Response from Peter van Gelder - My immediate feeling was that this envelope is likely to date from the 1870s or 1880s, because its front appears identical in wording & format to the G.B. envelopes issued in August 1878. Its special features are the red printing (as against blue), the serrations on the back, & the absence of any registration stamp on the flap.

It turns out that this envelope was issued in 1879

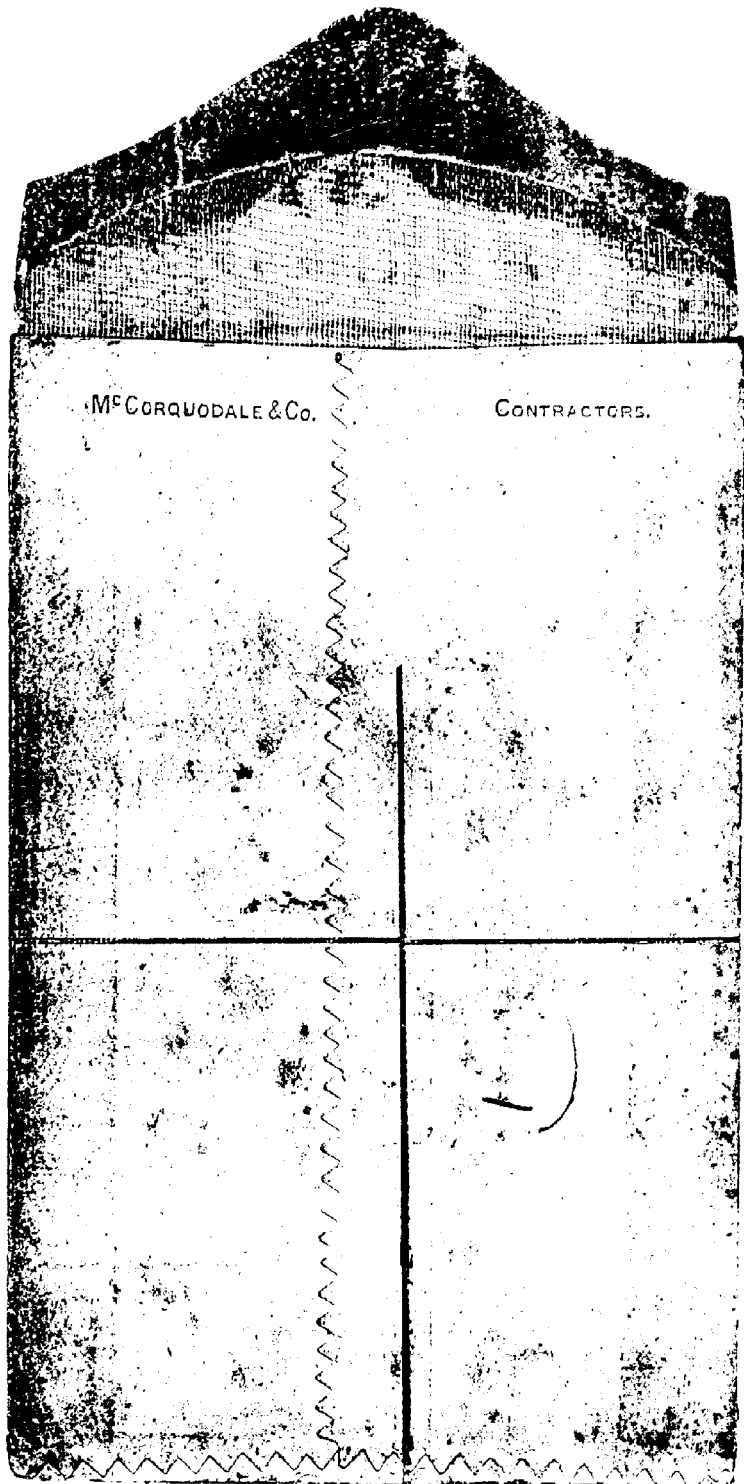
THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER
TO BE REGISTERED AND A RECEIPT

REGISTERED.

OF THE POST OFFICE
OBTAINED FOR IT

THE STAMP
TO PAY THE
POSTAGE
MUST BE
PLACED HERE

Queenstown



MFCORQUODALE & Co.

CONTRACTORS.

by QUEENSLAND. The price per envelope was a half-penny. There is a full description of this envelope on page 13 of Collas's "Queensland Postal Stationery". Only 5,000 of these envelopes were produced, and the issue was withdrawn in 1883. Collas comments: "Undoubtedly very few survived the years, and I have yet to hear of a used example".

G.B. Envelopes - 1d Pinks that are not Pink!

Daniele Carrer has written from Italy as follows:-
"I have some QV 1d 'pink' PSEs, which I thnk are all S.T.O. The colour of the embossed stamps is, in my opinion, light brown or hazel, not pink. I have other such covers on which the embossed stamp certainly is pink. I have previously consulted Andrew Whitworth about this, and he suggested exposure to sunlight might have altered the originally pink colour." *Please see the illustration on the front cover of this journal.*

Response from Colin Baker - I have occasionally (but exceptionally) seen envelopes with discoloured 1d pink stamps. Generally pink stamps are pink though the shade varies a little. The examples queried here show the rest of the envelope apparently unaffected by light - the ink is black and there are no areas of the envelope that are bleached more than any other. I therefore wonder if the printing ink might have been affected by a chemical. I know, for example, that the adhesive 1d Red can change to a grey if exposed to ammonia for a long period. Has the same thing happened in this case, & where would the ammonia come from? From sewage! Farm-yard animal, horse and even human waste can all create it, and in the last century there was much sewage lying about. Sewerage systems were not common, being used only in large towns, and even there they were few and far between.

Unrecorded Maxican Postal Card?

This query comes from **John Edwards**:-

This Mexican postal card (see illustration) appears to be unrecorded in H&G. It was used in May 1899 from VERA CRUZ to Germany via Laredo and New York. It has a picture of Chapultepec - the printing is green and the imprinted stamp is brown. It is similar to H&G 89b but with different printing. It is perhaps P.T.P.O. I should be most grateful to be advised whether this card is in fact unrecorded, and to have any other information about it.

Lawton's Patent Advertising Card

Michael Shaw writes to ask if anything's known about the above G.B. cards and their use - he has never seen an entire example but has two unused cut-outs.

Response from Peter van Gelder - An example of this unusual item is illustrated here. Lawton's cards appeared in Edward VII's reign, I think from 1904. The idea was for the card to be printed up to advertise a product, e.g. Power's Pure Pot Still Whiskey. At the top right corner of the card is a flap bearing a 1d imprinted stamp. Above this stamp is the statement "THIS STAMP IS VALUELESS IF DETACHED" (Michael Shaw's cut-outs!); and wording below the stamp reads "THE CO-AD SYNDICATE LTD - LAWTON'S PATENT". The idea was for the card to be enclosed in an envelope, and for the stamped flap to be inserted through a slit in that envelope so as to bring the stamp to the outside for cancelling.

Unlisted Aerogramme - Query from India Study Circle

Please see "AEROGRAMMATICS" pages.

219.



SERVICIO POSTAL MEXICANO

TARJETA POSTAL-CARTE POSTALE.



UNION POSTAL UNIVERSAL.

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE.

Mrs. Harold Newell

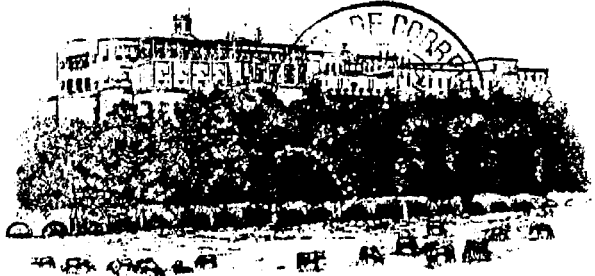


From Constantin Werle

*Wuerttemberg
Baden
Germany*

LADO QUE SE RESERVA PARA LA DIRECCION.
(CÔTÉ RÉSERVÉ À L'ADRESSE.)

160.
CHAPULTEPEC



Tajpan Hai 20/99

Hani jibun von Werle.

*Anglischer Dank für den 2. Brief
und Dank für die offeneren Briefe
mit guten Gefühls
Güte. Die Briefe sind nun in meine Hände
mit herzlichen Grüßen
H. J. J.*

CHAPULTEPEC

IRISH WHISKEY DISTILLERS



TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING

JOHN'S LANE DISTILLERY

DUBLIN.

POWER'S

PURE POT STILL

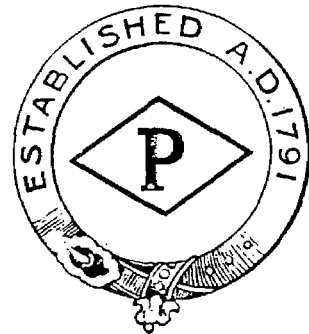
WHISKEY

IS VALUELESS IF
DETACHED.



THE CO-AD SYNDICATE LTD.

LAWTON'S PATENT



Lawton's Patent Advertising Card

TOPICS

"ROYAL EXCHANGE" POSTAL CARDS AGAIN

My piece on this topic in "P.S." no.10 ended with the question: "As these cards seem to have been produced specifically for sending to the U.S.A., might there not be several more examples still lurking 'over there'?". Now I have the answer from Larry Parks (U.S.A.), namely AT LEAST TWO. He comments: "Probably a lot more are lurking in collections over here, but these 2 from my collection are the only ones I have seen". Illustrated here is the front of one of these 2 examples. In both cases the stamp, "POST CARD", message, dividing line and typed address are all in red; but the heading "AGENTS...INSURANCE" is in turquoise blue.

Note - Through editorial error the date of Charles Fricke's article on this topic was given as 1966 - it is in fact 1996 ("P.S." no.10, p.17).

CUT-OUT USAGE & MARSHIANS REVISITED

Two members, John Norton and Carlton Jones, have sent me photocopies of Marshian envelopes which are as near as can be identical. The envelopes are the same in size; on both the 1d KGV stamps are neck to neck; both items bear 2 barred circle postmarks; & both have typed addresses "H. Edgar Weston, Esq., 386 Brixton Road, London S.W.". Veritable twins!

What about cut-out usages in other countries? I have recently had a letter from Edgard Pockele in an envelope bearing 3 cut-outs, so the practice appears to be legal in Belgium. In Italy, however, I understand it is NOT legal to do such things. Variety is the spice of life!

TON UP!

John Norton has kindly sent me a G.B. postal card of 1883 issue for "foreign use" which was posted in 1995 - a gap of 112 years. The sky seems to be the limit!

AGENTS WANTED FOR
 LIVE STOCK
 ON F.S. AND MOTOR-VEHICLE POST CARD
 30 MAIL INSURANCE.



LONDON F.S.
 5.30 PM
 THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE
 AUG 30 1911 HERE

Aug 30 1911 P.M.

The Royal Exchange is the centre of the world's financial business. It was first erected in 1570, opened by Queen Elizabeth, and destroyed by the Great London Fire in 1666; re-opened in 1669 by Charles II.; burned again in 1833, and the present building was erected in 1842, and opened by Queen Victoria in 1844. The home of Lloyd's, established in 1688, the World's Great Insurance Market.

Compliments of
Messrs. J. J. HARRIS & COMPANY,
 And at 3 Royal Exchange,
 29 South La Salle St., LONDON.
 CHICAGO, U.S.A.

LIVE STOCK INSURANCE.
 Sole Treaty, appointed United States General Agents for Live Stock Insurance.
 Under- (PROPERTY INSURANCE COMPANY, Limited, writers (ANIMALS & MOTOR CAR UNDERWRITERS.
 For HORSE INSURANCE Rates and applications, apply to Chicago Office.

M.K. Littleton, Esq.,

Wichita, Kans., U.S.A.
Overly

I bought my Ford 2/22/1911

LETTERS

TO THE

E d i t o r

Using Cut-outs as Adhesives

The present position about the use of G.B. cut-outs as adhesives is that they are acceptable if in decimal currency - but the N.V.I. items (i.e. 1st class or 2nd class post paid) are not valid for cut-out use. This information forms a useful follow-up to John Norton's article in "P.S." no.10. In my own article in that same issue there were figures misprinted in the list on page 10:-

CP64c II+II should read CP64c II+I
CP65b II+II should read CP65b II+I.

Congratulations on your continuing high standard for "P.S.".

Andrew Whitworth

Catalogue Pricing

I found "P.S." no.10 excellent and with very interesting articles. About catalogue pricing I have reservations. Often catalogue prices are pure fantasy, and one must keep an open & critical mind.

An example is on page 238 of the Michel 1992 West Europe catalogue. A British Levant 4½ piastre on 1½ piastre sender's + reply card is valued in joined state DM40 mint, DM120 used; & in separated state, sender's DM50 used, reply DM60 used. In the 1996/97 edition of the same catalogue, on page 259, these values have been upped to DM500, 500, 100 and 150 respectively. One such card (mint) was on sale in a German p.s. auction not so long ago and did not sell based on the OLD value! So why was the catalogue value increased so dramatically? Search me!

Edgard Pockele (Belgium)

FROM THE

EDITOR'S

DESK

I should like to thank Chris Miller for his continuing invaluable help as producer of the addressed labels used for postal distribution of "P.S."

My attention has been drawn by David Taylor Smith to a very recently published book: "The Postal Stationery of Burma & Myanmar 1948-97" by R. Warren. It is said to contain detailed listings and previously unpublished research. For full information contact the publisher: White Elephant Press, 43 Willenhall Road, Bilston, West Midlands.

Among the products offered by one of our advertisers, Papersafe, I have noticed one that might be of especial interest to p.s. collectors. It is "Chloromine T", which is described as a fungicide & bleach for removing foxing spots.

An item I had not previously seen has been brought to my notice by Lionel Jones of the National Postal Museum. I include an illustration (reduced) of it here. Marks & Spencers have been selling packs containing one greetings card with PSE, the latter being of unusual dimensions and with a floral border. Is there a member who can tell us more about these STO items?

My other illustration (kindly supplied by Duff Malkin) is of a PSE issued 4.9.97 for "MOSCOW '97" World Philatelic Exhibition. This is just one of many Russian PSE issues in 1997. Clearly one thing that has not changed since the U.S.S.R. was dissolved is - unfortunately! - the proliferation of postal stationery issues.

The tail end of 1997 seems to have been a quiet time as regards articles noticed, so I am afraid all there is to mention this time is one of my own efforts:-

Postal Stationery Matters (Peter van Gelder, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, December 1997 - 100 years of Christmas p.s.; G.B. regional aerogrammes; legal history of using G.B. cut-outs as adhesives).

Information has reached me about p.s. entries at AUPEX '97, which was held in Auckland, New Zealand last November. It appears 3 of our Australian members gained awards: "Dingle" Smith (showing Canada, large silver), Ian McMahon (showing Belgium, silver) and Raymond Todd (showing Israel, silver).

<p>ВСЕМИРНАЯ ФИЛАТЕЛИСТИЧЕСКАЯ ВЫСТАВКА МОСКВА-97</p>		<p>ФИЛАТЕЛИСТИЧЕСКАЯ ВЫСТАВКА 650 руб. МОСКВА 97</p>										
		<p>Куда _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Кому _____</p>										
	<p>Пишите индекс предприятия связи места назначения</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Индекс предприятия связи</td> <td>и адрес отправителя</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>_____</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>	Индекс предприятия связи	и адрес отправителя	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
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Художник картонки А. Герасов
© Издательство «Связь»
Министерства связи РФ, 1997 г. 121270 ПИИЭГ Т. 004 мая 08. 12. 96

Marks &
Spencers item

 **1ST Class**
Postage Paid
Envelope

S. Michael
MARKS & SPENCER

£1.25

INSIDE MESSAGE: HAPPY BIRTHDAY



BOOK REVIEW

G.B. Collector's Database - Aerogrammes. By Paul R. Adby. Published 1997 by QB Software, 4 Haslewood Close, Smarden, Ashford, Kent. £12.50pp (but £10.50p to members of our Society ordering by post).

This 99-page priced catalogue covers all issues from the start in 1941 right up to October 1997 - for Great Britain (including Scottish and Welsh issues), Guernsey, Jersey, the Isle of Man and the Republic of Ireland. Apart from the normal aerogrammes it lists Prisoner of War issues, the early formular airletters, and (a large field in itself) the British Forces issues. I believe this catalogue amounts to the first attempt ever made and achieved to produce a specialised listing of the airletter forms and aerogrammes of the British Isles. Previous works have either included other types of British postal stationery; or, if they have confined themselves to aerogrammes, their scope has been much wider than just G.B.

The pricing system in this catalogue is by code letters, e.g. B = 10p to 20p....J = £50 to £100, & so forth. Illustrations are numerous. Altogether this is a handy yet detailed catalogue which fills a gap that very much needed filling. If G.T.B. aerogrammes are an important or a developing part of your collection, then I strongly recommend you to get this book.

Peter van Gelder

The next issue of "P.S." (no.12) is due out in

"O C T O B E R"

Meanwhile, the Newsletter & September auction list are due to reach you in June.

AEROGRAMMATICS



Current G.B. Definitive - Detailed Points

Last time I referred to the new-look imprinted blue "by air mail" label on G.B.'s latest definitive aerogramme. Now Andrew Whitworth has written detailing other respects in which the current issue differs from its predecessor:-

"The logo has been changed. The red & blue lozenge border to the vertical rectangle has been deleted, and the word 'International' has been omitted; the remaining pattern has been enlarged. Additionally, the month of printing now appears on the top right corner of the back panel - M03/97, M04/97, etc. I understand that these dates have been added at the request of Royal Mail because they have been receiving complaints of inadequate gum, which they think could be due to old age!"

I quite believe the "old age" possibility. A couple of weeks ago I asked for a few blue "by air mail" stickers at a local post office, and on inspecting the sheet margin I saw the date "8/87"!

Unlisted Item - Query from India Study Circle

Roy Saunders of the I.S.C. has found the front (see illustration) of an item unlisted both in the relevant I.S.C. catalogue and in the later book by our member Rene Lee. The finder suggests it was not printed in India. There is no apparent security overlay inside or out; no printing or box under the stamp; and the printed "etiquette" has "PAR AVION" under, as would be used on an airmail envelope. Except for some West Africa types and a few a P.O.W. items, all other known etiquettes include the word "BY". The heading "AIR MAIL" is irregularly typeset, and the second line "LETTER CARD" is in a different type (which is unusual). The next two lines are centred on the form rather than (as normally) on the heading. The sole remaining flap

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

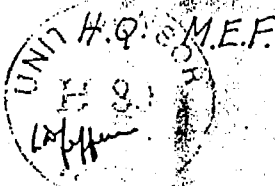
AIR MAIL

LETTER CARD



IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

NR1005783. SGT. CLARK. C.
145. SQUADRON. R.A.F.



WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH
THE BLUE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN

FRONT ONLY

NOT CATALOGUED BY LEE

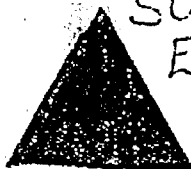
BY AIR MAIL

LETTER CARD

IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS CARD
WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL



SISTER LEBERTA
HOLY CROSS SANATORIUM
HASLEMERE
SURREY
ENGLAND



WHEN FOLDED THE LETTER CARD MUST CONFORM IN SIZE AND SHAPE WITH
THE BORDER WITHIN WHICH THE ADDRESS ONLY MAY BE WRITTEN

is very deep.

The letter was written at "Medical section, HQ Coy, India Command" on 6.4.43., and posted at No.21 Advance Base [Poonal] on 10th April.

The above is the information that reached me as Editor, and I passed the query to our member Rene Lee who is expert in this field - and here is his response:-

"I see no mystery why this air mail letter card front is unknown to me. It must be for the same reason that Roy Saunders has seen only a front - such items are unofficial and very scarce. The first official Indian air mail letter cards were printed in September 1942, and from then on the printers' initials and order code numbers were printed at the bottom left of the front panel. However, before then these air mail letter cards were issued in Ceylon and Paiforce and must have been printed either in India or in Palestine (but I do not know a printers' name). Illustrated here is a Paiforce item carrying a privilege triangle overprint - this is broadly similar to Roy Saunders' item but is printed in black. I have seen the "AIR MAIL PAR AVION" block somewhere but, having disposed of my Indian Forces collection, I cannot remember where that was. I recognise the "AIR MAIL" (heading) typeface as similar, but not identical, to Ceylon issues. The "LETTER CARD" typeface is similar to the East African issues - there was an East African unit in India at the time relevant here. The other print is similar to the Paiforce issues, with a frame of similar dimensions. The standard method of issue to the troops was at their weekly pay parade, and initially they were rationed to one per man per week to conserve precious aircraft space. It is not surprising if private efforts to short-circuit the rationing were made - but they would be heavily discouraged by the Forces Postal Services and might not have received air transmission."

I have passed these interesting comments by Rene Lee to the India Study Circle.

WANTS

Inclusion in this feature is FREE to members. Maximum length is normally 5 lines. Advertisers of WANTS should please reply promptly to every member who responds to their request.

Thematic Mint World p.s. (cards & envelopes) with birds/butterflies/music/minerals/navigation/railways/space. Exchange/buy. S. Popovici, P.O. Box 45-33, 70750 Bucharest, Roumania.

Research Information is sought to help research into history/origins of SAE (stamped addressed env.) & SASE (U.S. self-addressed stamped env.). R.Berry, 218 Grange Rd, London SE1.

New Zealand Any example wanted of 1901 1d brown view cards (Sam. type AA12). P, van Gelder (address p. 2).

LIBRARY

The following items have been added to the Library over the last four months. Borrowing procedure is explained in the "Library List" leaflet dated March 1997 that has been sent to all members.

45 G.B. Collector's Database - Aerogrammes, by Paul R. Adby. Donated by the author.

Further journal issues:-

Re. Item 9, a further issue (Sept. 1997) of "L'Intero Postale" has been received.

Re. Item 10, a further issue (1997 no.3) of "Die Ganzsache" has been received.

Re. Item 40, two further issues (April & October 1997) of "Postal Stationery" have been received.

Re. Item 43, two further issues (August & December 1997) of the "AerogrammeR" have been received.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Five new members are welcomed, bringing our total membership at the end of 1997 to 186. The list below gives surname & one initial; country of residence if not the United Kingdom; & collecting interests in brief.

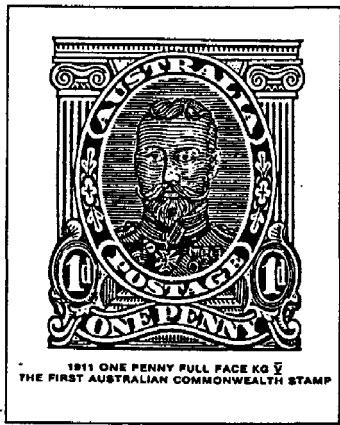
Edwards J.	British East Africa; Bermuda; Gibraltar; Hong Kong; Mexico
Palmer K.	Commonwealth reply cards
Deschl E. (U.S.A.)	World (especially Indian States)
Hermann D.	G.B.
Leader L.	G.B.

At the start of 1998 there have been five further joinings:-

Wood H. (Malta)	Malta
Klaus R. (Luxembourg)	Belgium; Saar; G.B.
Goodall A.	G.B.
Rose W.	G.B.
Barnes L.	Venezuela; Austria; Latin America; W. Europe

STOP PRESS!

For the first time ever a specifically ENGLISH (as against G.B.) aerogramme is to be issued. Its issue date is 24.3.98, and I understand it will be available only by mail order from the British Philatelic Bureau. There will be a Welsh and a Scottish aerogramme issued at the same time. The theme of all 3 will be lighthouses.



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