





Edited for the Postal Stationery Society by
Peter van Gelder

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Dutch change-of-address card (verhuiskaart), 1930
(see page 13)

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LIBRARY For each member a copy of the up-to-date Library List is enclosed with this journal. Borrowing requests should be made to the Librarian at Somerhay, 16 Frant Avenue, Little Common, Bexhill, Sussex. Grateful thanks goes to 2 members who have recently donated items to the library: Hans-Georg Meissner for 49 issues of "Die Ganzsache" from the period 1976-92; & Martin Taylor for Section 15 (R) of the H&G catalogue.

Meetings The Society will hold a meeting at the Earls Court (London) Stamp Show 2000, on the morning of 28th May - full details are due to appear in the next "P.S."

Our next meeting, on 16th October, will include a display of Leeward Islands by Michael Oliver. The meeting is at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Str., London E.C.1. Our man-about-town Tony Chilton states that there are at least 6 pubs very close by, including the Sutton Arms, & also the Charterhouse Restaurant a very short walk away. The meeting starts at 11 a.m.

EDITORIAL

HAS FIP SLIPPED?

The International Philatelic Federation (known as FIP) has a Postal Stationery Commission with a membership that includes some half dozen of our own Society's members. The Commission has a definition of postal stationery that is quite widely quoted. Recently, for example, I have seen it quoted by Boudewijn Hellebrekers in the journal of our American sister society, and also in a report of a talk given by Alan Huggins in Australia.

Yet for some time I could make no sense of the definition. Its meaning, to say the least, seemed obscure. So now I have studied it closely & have 3 amendments to suggest.

"Postal stationery comprises postal matter which either bears an officially authorised pre-printed stamp or device or inscription indicating that a specific face value of postage or related service has been prepaid."

1. The obscurity arises from the use of "either" followed by a verb ("bears") which needs to link with "or" followed by a verb - but no "or" in this definition is followed by a verb. Solution: simply delete "either".
2. A definition should avoid including words from the phrase being defined. Let us omit the word "postal" before "matter"; it is redundant.
3. As some modern postal stationery lacks a face value (i.e. there is no monetary figure on the item's face), I suggest "rate of postage" should replace "face value of postage".

I am trying to put the cat amongst the pigeons here. So I am hoping the result will not be a deathly silence!

Peter van Gelder



JACQUES STIBBE (1920-99)

With greatest regret the death in May of our member Jacques Stibbe is here reported. He was the doyen of postal stationery collectors in Belgium, & when one considers our hobby worldwide over the last 50 years, he must surely be placed in the top echelon.

A citizen of Brussels and a physician by profession, he took to collecting postal stationery of the whole World in the 1940s - a time when interest in p.s. was at a very low ebb. He was Editor of "L'Entier Postal" from 1946 for 30 years, and President of the Belgian Society of Postal Stationery for 52 years! He prepared the catalogues "Les Entiers Postaux du Congo et du Ruanda-Urundi" (1986) and (with collaborators) "Les Entiers Postaux de Belgique" (latest edition, 1990). He was also the author (1969) of the Dictionary of Belgian Post Offices, and of many magazine articles on philately. At various times he held leading positions in both the Belgian & the International Philatelic Federation (FIP). He contributed to our own journal as recently as February this year. Perhaps above all, because probably unique, was his being appointed an officer of the Order of Leopold - for philatelic merit.

I think the best way to end this notice is to quote (in translation) the recent words of the President of the Belgian Society of Postal Stationery: Jacques Stibbe was "a fine organiser, a charming friend, humorous, and had knowledge in depth - he will be sadly missed".

MIDPEX '99 - A Report by John Barker

MIDPEX is a biennial stamp fair & exhibition where more than 60 special interest philatelic societies come together to present themselves to the wider philatelic public. The event is supported by the Association of British Philatelic Societies and the British Philatelic Trust.

This was the third such event, and our Society has been represented at all three. This year we were allocated a table in the large hall where natural lighting was excellent for the displays. As usual, each society had 6 frames, with each frame holding 16 sheets. Our frames covered G.B. (early STO & KEVII stationery); Belgian Sunday delivery stationery; & Japanese early cards, view cards, and money order cards/envelopes.

It was good to welcome many members to the Society's table; and also to meet Mr D. Avery, who was Secretary of the Postal Stationery Society of the 1950s referred to by the Editor in "P.S." no.13. More information about this will be appearing in the journal. Though we did not recruit many new members on the day, our displays aroused interest and several collectors took away our Society leaflet.

As at the previous MIDPEX, postal stationery was much in evidence amongst the displays of the other special interest societies. However, with over 360 frames to look at it was difficult to do justice to the exhibits and absorb the great wealth of philatelic knowledge which they represented. I am looking forward to MIDPEX 2001!

NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Members with specialist knowledge of a country or countries are invited to send in their book lists for possible future publication. In drawing up the list that follows I have had the advantage of consulting Paul Davey, Librarian of the China Philatelic Society of London.

Peter van Gelder

2. CHINA

Han Ho-Yun - Han's Illustrated Catalogue of Imperial & Republic of China Postal Stationery (2nd English edition, 1984)

Liu G.S. - Postal Stationery Catalogue of the People's Republic of China (1993)

Alexander D.R. & Kadull P.J. - Postal Stationery of China Imperial & Republic to 1949 (1994)

Alexander D.R. - Postal Stationery of Taiwan Republic of China (1993)

Textor W. - Die Gänzsachen der Volksrepublik China (1986)

Padget P.I. - Postal Stationery of the People's Republic of China 1949-1965 (1965)

Spaulding R.M. - Catalogue of the Postal Stationery Issues of the Japanese Occupation of China (Part 1 [Manchuria] 1952; Part 2 1954)

LETTERS

TO THE

E d i t o r

Do YOU Want some New G.B. STO PSEs?

The Royal Mail are now prepared to accept orders for as few as 1,000 STO envelopes; the price for C6 is about 14½p in white & about 14p in brown plus the postage rate. These are gummed envelopes, and the price allows for any printing provided it is in the same colour as the stamp - which can be in ANY strong colour. If enough members are interested, we could put in a joint order. I should be happy to take 250 each 1st & 2nd class on white with the printing in a nice jolly colour and perhaps with the Society's logo in the top left corner. (If we order more than 1,000 of each, the price will be less.)

Andrew Whitworth

Editor's note - If you are interested in taking some, just write, stating how many, to me or to Andrew Whitworth, 1 Prizet House, Helsington, Kendal, Cumbria LA88AB, England.

WANTS

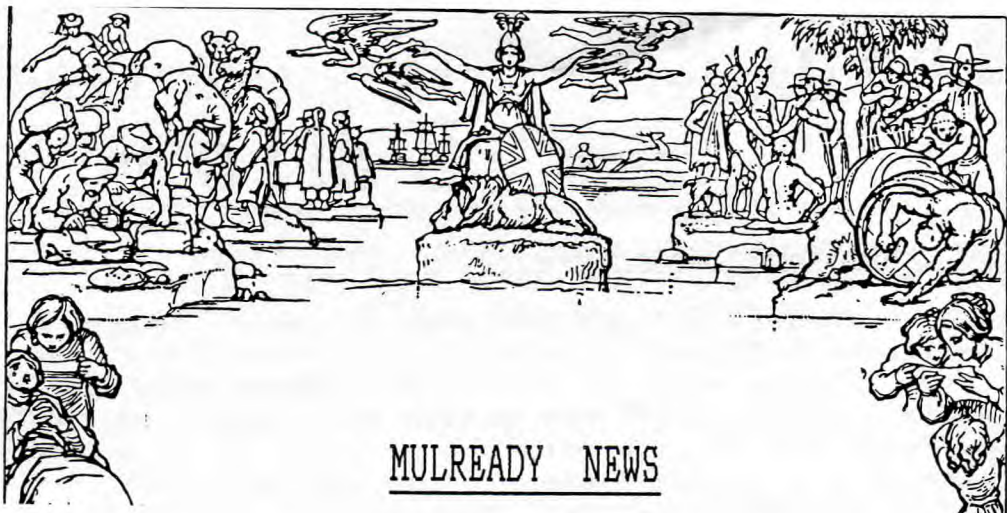
Inclusion in this feature is FREE to members. Maximum length is normally 5 lines. Advertisers of WANTS should please reply promptly to every member who responds to their request.

INDIA used in
PERSIA

P.s. cards/envelopes with very clear postmarks of Bushire, Linga, Henjam, Mohammerah, Chahbar, Jask, Abadan, etc. B. Sohrne, Torkel Knutsonsgatan 27, 118 25 Stockholm, Sweden.

EAST AFRICA

Used p.s., especially Ugandan post-independence cards & Deutsch Ost-Afrika privately printed cards. Archard, 33 Mount Crescent, Hereford.



MULREADY NEWS

A sale held by GROSVENOR in London on 29th June included several interesting items of postal stationery. In the Mulready section there were ten lots, & one particularly caught my eye. It was posted from London to Ramsgate on 4th May 1840, & it is illustrated here. Immediately I turned to an early issue of "P.S." (no.2) in which Alan Huggins gave details of all 13 examples then known of pre-6.5.1840 usages of Mulreadies. This letter sheet in the Grosvenor sale - was it listed in that "P.S." article? No!

When the day of the sale came, the estimate of £8,000 to £10,000 was not reached. The item was sold for £6,000 (with buyer's premium added, rather over £7,000 in total). My next step was to write to Alan Huggins to ask for comments on this item that had not shown up in his "P.S." listing. After I had read his reply you could, as they say, "have knocked me down with a feather" - so much have things progressed since I first raised the question (in 1993) of pre-1st day usage! Here is Alan Huggins' latest report:-

The situation with pre-6th May Mulreadies is that over 30 have now been documented, and a full list should be published by the end of this year as part of a survey of May 1840 usages of Penny Blacks, Twopenny Blues and Mulreadies.

ARTICLES

COLLECTING POSTAL STATIONERY IN.....

Editor's Note: I have invited one of our Dutch members to write the first in what I hope will become a series of interesting articles. So here is my open invitation: write about collecting p.s. in YOUR country, and then post it off to me.

No.1 - The Netherlands by Jacques Spijkerman

If you were to walk into a Dutch post office wanting to buy a copy of each available item of postal stationery, then with a bit of luck the desk clerk would hand you two different postal cards; three special cards, to announce a change of home address, postal address or telephone number; two different aerogrammes; a set of four priority aerogrammes; & an international reply coupon. Not a bad score really: twelve items for a mere 14 guilders and 30 cents (little more than £4)!

Most likely, however, you first have to explain what you mean by "postal stationery" (in Dutch *postwaardestukken*). Very few people, even employees of the post office, have ever heard of the word!

If you were to admit to buying these items just to put them into a box or album and make them part of your collection, a curious glance would appear on the clerk's face. Almost everyone has a neighbour or an uncle who is a stamp-collector...but whoever has heard of people collecting postal stationery?

If you are a specialist collector and are not frightened by large sized items with prices to match, there is more to be found at the post office. Just ask for a sealbag or for all the different worldwide prepaid express envelopes (they never bothered to think of Dutch names for these items!). The clerk will gladly sell them to you and probably be polite enough not to question your sanity while you pay several hundreds of guilders.....

Societies

It is not only at the post office that postal stationery collectors are looked upon as a strange breed. Within the ranks of organised philatelists in the Netherlands they form a small minority. The only society in this field, the *Nederlandse Vereniging van Poststukken-en-Poststempel-verzamelaars* (better known as PO & PO) has about 750 members - not all of them collectors of p.s.; whereas the national association of stamp collectors' societies has 45,000.

PO & PO may not be a large society but it is an active one. Eight to nine meetings per year are held, where lots of items change hands. The exchange packet and the auctions (3 times a year) give ample opportunity to members to enlarge their collections. In addition to that, the Society's magazine *De Postzak* and the publications in the series *Posthistorische Studies* serve to spread knowledge of postal history, postmarks & postal stationery.

Magazines and catalogues

In our most important philatelic magazine, *Nederlandisch Maandblad voor Philatelie*, there is a regular feature on p.s., presenting new items from all over the World.

Like most collectors, the Dutch prefer the issues of their own country and its former colonies (in our case, mainly the Dutch East Indies). Our guide to collecting is *Geuzendam's Catalogus van de Postwaardstukken van Nederland en Overzeese Rijksdelen* - a work that was conceived by the eminent philatelist and dealer A.W. ten Geuzendam, and which since its 7th edition has been published by PO & PO. [Editor's note = the 7th edition, 1997, can be borrowed from the P.S. Society's library.] Collectors of more than one country use in addition the German *Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog Europa West*.

Categories of p.s. in the Netherlands

Pre-stamped envelopes (*enveloppen*) were first issued in 1876. They bore the portrait of King William III, exactly matching the adhesives of that time: 5 cents blue & 12½ cents grey. All envelopes of later dates also bear imprints of definitives, except for the last one (1950), a pre-war envelope that was first designed for use in Curacao, but owing to the paper shortage was overprinted to serve in the Netherlands.

Letter cards (*postbladen*), originally very similar to the ones used in Britain, were never very popular with us. Some of the older types were issued in two sizes so that the smaller ones could be enclosed in the larger ones and thus serve as a means of paid reply. In the 1970s and 1980s they were re-introduced as a convenient means of inland correspondence, but even though they cost less than an inland letter, they were seldom used.

The first Dutch aerogrammes (*luchtpostbladen*) were introduced in 1947. They could be used only to send messages to the forces overseas (the Dutch East Indies, where the state of Indonesia was emerging). In later years several aerogrammes for civilian use became available. Last year a series of four illustrated priority-aerogrammes was issued on the theme "Holland Promotion".

Over 300 postal cards (*briefkarten*) are listed in the Geuzendam catalogue. This is one of the reasons why cards are favoured among Dutch collectors. These cards have been in use since 1871, but whereas we used to have different cards for local, national and international correspondence, today only the inland cards remain. Remarkable items were produced during the years 1916-1921, when postal rates changed so rapidly that cards were overprinted again & again, culminating in cards such as "7½ cents on 5 cents on 3 cents on 2½ cents".

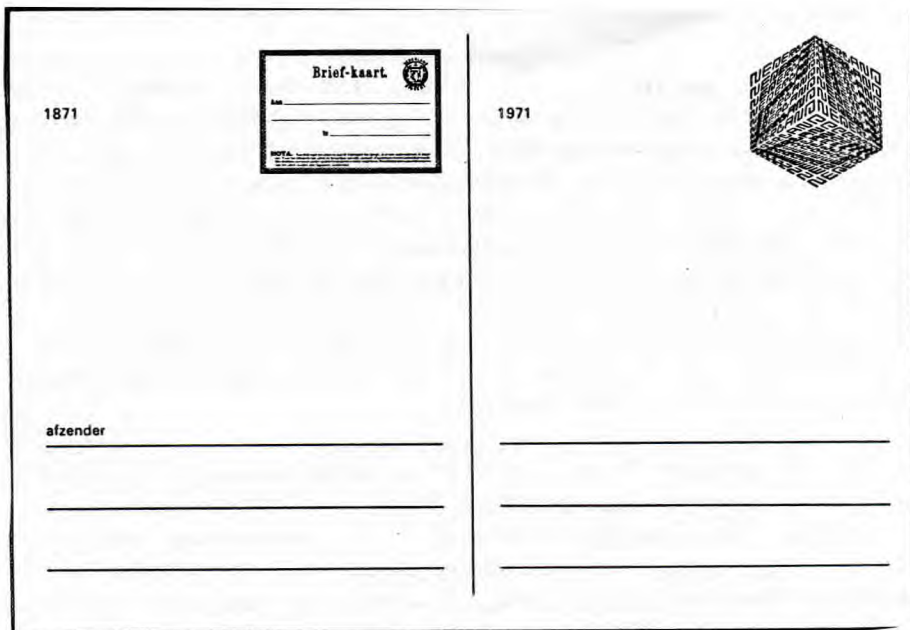
Unknown in Great Britain, but very commonly used in the Netherlands is what we call the *verhuiskaart* (change of address card). Since 1919 over sixty different cards have been issued, some of them especially for foreign destinations. Relatively new are two cards that I mentioned before: the change of postal address card (*wijziging postadres*) and the change of telephone number card (*telecomkaart*). The Post Office and the National Phone Company offer these cards (both with an 80c stamp imprint) free of charge to people concerned.

There are several other categories of postal stationery, such as postal forms with stamp imprints, and large envelopes for express and registered mail. There are also the prepaid boxes designed to mail bottles, books, cosmetics & other products. A 1996 experiment of the Mars company was pre-stamped boxes of M&M chocolates, but that was not a great success.

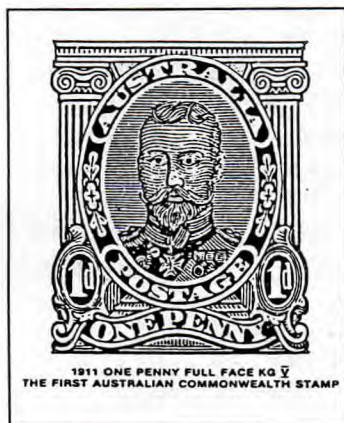
How to collect

Collectors can buy most new issues at the post office, or subscribe for them. Fine used items are much harder to find. There are a few specialised dealers, and auction houses sometimes offer older material, but to build up a good collection of modern used items requires a lot of work from the collector himself. Well, that is one of the charms of our hobby!

For new issue subscriptions the address is: PTT Post Filatelie, Verzamelerservice, Postbus 30051, NL-9700RN Groningen, The Netherlands.
For information on PO & PO membership, please write to Mr A.P. de Goede, Prinses Christinalaan 6, NL-7437XZ Bathmen, The Netherlands.



1971 Card to mark the Centenary of the first Dutch postal card



Australia 1911-1998

An almost complete listing in
Australian dollars.

FREE ON REQUEST

(We accept payment by Cheque in £Stg/US\$, Visa and
Mastercard)

ALSO AUCTIONS & MAIL BID SALES

Selling? I am a keen buyer.

Please contact me without obligation.

Robin Linke

181 Jersey Street, Wembley WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6014

Tel: 61-9-387-5327

Fax: 61-9-387-1646

MEMBER:

ASDA (New York),

PTS (London),

APHV (Köln)

A CASE OF IDENTITY

by Peter van Gelder

(For earlier pieces on this theme see "Topics" in "P.S." nos 7 & 9.)

This is not so much a matter of tracking across the great Grimpen Mire as picking a way through the Marshes. Certainly there is a bit of a Sherlock Holmes flavour to it all!

A good deal of mystery still surrounds the identity & career of Victor Marsh, whose "Great Britain: Abnormal Embossed Postage Stamps of KEVII & KGV" I have recently re-issued in a 75th anniversary edition for the Postal Stationery Society. Interest in the booklet has proved considerable, all 65 copies of the initial printing being sold within the six months September 1998 to March 1999. It might incidentally interest members who have obtained the booklet to know the identity of "D,B.A.", who wrote the original Preface of 1923. He was Douglas B. Armstrong, a philatelic author and for many years Editor of "Stamp Collecting".

A rather tangled web

Victor Marsh seems to have lived something of a double life, and I have been taking a look at some of the resulting web. Two other names in this web are Oswald Marsh (a relative, perhaps Victor's father?) and H. Edgar Weston (Victor's real name?).

An early reference I have come upon, dated 1905, is in the Preface to H. L'Estrange Ewen's "Priced Catalogue of the Unadhesive Postage Stamps of the U.K. 1840-1905". By "unadhesive" the book's author means cut-out postal stationery, and he states: "I have also to express my thanks to Mr Oswald Marsh". A few years on we have Fred J. Melville's "G.B. Embossed Adhesive Stamps", which includes a notice of Victor Marsh's business as being located

at 389 Brixton Road, London S.W. The same book contains an advert in which Oswald Marsh offers philatelic literature from his address at 3 Belvedere Road, Norwood, London S.E.; while a 1st day cover of 18.10.12 shows Oswald was then at 18 Hamlet Road, Norwood. (Brixton & Norwood are adjoining areas of south London.) Oswald's addresses square with a much later publication, "Who's Who in Philately" (1935), which lists him as a "stamp dealer of Norwood, S.E.19". (Sherlock Holmes had "The Norwood Builder" & now we have "The Norwood Stamp Dealer"!)

The Third Man

What about H. Edgar Weston, the third man in this web? In 1915 his address (as on a cover illustrated in the P,S.S. Marrsh booklet, p.29) is given as 385 Brixton Road, London S.W. - at a time when Victor Marsh was at 389 Brixton Road! Another card sent in 1917, shows Weston at 386. I am inclined to think this is either a case of careless typewriting or, more likely, that there were large premises from 385 to 389 Brixton Road, and that the two men (Edgar and Victor) were working at the same address; or, going one step further, that we have here just ONE man who operated under two different names.

The 1935 "Who's Who in Philately" is helpful about Weston: "retired accountant, born 1874, 279 Sandycombe Road, Richmond, Surrey". But 14 years later, a listing in "Stamp Collectors' Annual" shows him to be living at 13 Sion Road, Twickenham, Middlesex - the very same address used in 1935 and in 1958 by Victor Marsh!

I have also seen an envelope to Miss Marsh at this same Twickenham address. This lady (according to information that has reached me via Colin Baker attended the Strand Stamp Bourse from 1969 for some years (reportedly with her brother); and at one time she was offering for sale there some unfolded envelopes each with a KGV 4d blue stamp imprint. It is said she explained these by saying her father

(Victor?) had them created in the 1950s for overseas sendings; as the postal authorities had no KGVI 4d die at that time, they used the KGV 4d die with the blue colour that was correct for 4d stamps in the 1950s. A very recent encounter with Miss Marsh has been related to me by Frank Schofield - at the Wembley "Stamp '99" show where, I am told, she denied that her father ever traded under the name "Weston". That claim seems fair enough, as the Marshes were traders, whereas Weston could best be described as a "gentleman collector"!

A Study in.....Deep Rose

This is something of a mystery story, so I have kept my best bit till the end. I have recently come across details of a booklet published by the British Guiana Philatelic Society in 1920 (i.e. just 3 years prior to Victor Marsh's booklet). Entitled "A British 'Georgian' Stamp Banned by the Postmaster-General", it is by none other than...H. Edgar Weston! It contains copies of correspondence between its author and two other gentlemen, namely A.R. Kidner (Secretary to the P.M.G.) and the Lord High Treasurer. These letters were sent in the period 1915-17.

The affair centres around a ballot paper sent out by the Hearts of Oak Benefit Society that bore an imprinted ½d stamp, the paper colour being deep rose. Since 1st January 1905 it had been legal in Britain to use postal stationery cut-outs as adhesives. Some of these cut-outs were on coloured paper, such as green, yellow or blue. A specific example quoted by Weston is the 10d Foreign & Colonial telegraph form using yellow paper (H&G H127 presumably). As STO stationery could be obtained by members of the public supplying their own paper to Somerset House, it is clear that stamped papers ranged over several colours.

Weston obtained a small supply of Hearts of Oak

ballot papers. He then stuck six cut-outs from these on to an envelope to be sent registered from Brixton post office. But the post office refused to accept this letter, and the matter was referred to the P.M.G. He supported the refusal, as the cut-outs "were likely to cause embarrassment to officials of the post office, being of such unusual appearance! Weston was therefore invited to trade in his cut-outs for reimbursement. Not surprisingly he declined this offer and challenged the P.M.G.'s right to prohibit on such flimsy grounds an item otherwise permitted under the statutory order that had been effective since 1.1.1905. Weston addressed his arguments to the Lord High Treasurer. But in time-honoured and unhelpful fashion, the letter was simply passed over to the P.M.G.'s Secretary for reply - a reply which threatened prosecution if Weston persisted in trying to use cut-outs of that type!

The persistence and the style of written campaign waged by Weston are strongly reminiscent of Victor Marsh's verbal struggles with the postal authorities in 1916. But then my suggestion is that the two men - Edgar Weston & Victor Marsh - were in fact one. I just wonder if the postal authorities of 1916-18 reached the same conclusion as I have!

GREAT BRITAIN

GEORGE VI surface-printed imperf.
inscribed "POSTAGE."
Five values (½d.-2½d.) mint 12/6, tete-
beches 25/- (\$3.50).
Approval against cash.

VICTOR MARSH

(JPS 804)
13 Sion Rd., Twickenham, Middx.
England

ADVERT BY VICTOR MARSH IN 1958 WHEN EDGAR WESTON'S
AGE WOULD HAVE BEEN 84

QUERY CORNER

G.B. QEII Registered Envelopes

The following queries have come from Mike Mood:--

- 1, Why did QEII registered envelopes stick for so long with a grey head when there had been no previous history of this?
- 2, Why the switch to blue, and then why did they stay with that for so long?
3. What caused the split between Inland and Overseas registration?
4. What happened to the Forces concession on registered envelopes?

Response from Derek Tonkinson - These are my suggestions. (1) They kept the grey head because there were so many & frequent changes in postal and registration rates that there were always considerable stocks of the old envelopes available (& used up by adding extra postage stamps) to be exhausted as an emergency measure. (2) The switch to blue is almost certainly explained by the decision (again for economical reasons?) to discontinue the embossing of the stamp on registered envelopes. The printing by letterpress, of both stamp and envelope simultaneously, would lead to the stamp being printed in blue, because this was the customary colour for the printing of the text. (3) I suggest the rapid changes in postal & registration rates in the U.K. at a time of rapid political changes and independence abroad left the U.P.U. regulators way behind. Many countries dropped out of the Registration Compensation Scheme, & it was therefore no longer appropriate to sell registered envelopes with U.K. postal & compensation rates on them for external use at a time when the whole system of registration compensation rates, or even the service itself, was under rapid change. The introduction of the Overseas reg. envelope could emphasise the importance of checking rates & service availability with a counter clerk. (4) The Forces envelope I believe became doomed after the first one to be

issued at £1 was worded in error "Postage and Registration", whereas on previous envelopes and on a subsequent re-issue of the £1 envelope the text read "Fee Paid for Registration". This was a crucial point, because the different airmail postage rates (& 2 rates within the BAOR) had made it essential to add the appropriate postal element in adhesive stamps. If one was always having to add adhesive stamps to every registered envelope, what was the point in having a £1 imprinted stamp? The last Forces reg. envelope was issued in September 1984 with a £1.10p imprinted stamp.

The above are Derek Tonkinson's personal views, & he adds that it would be very interesting if someone could come up with definite official explanations.

G.B. Envelopes - the Penny Pinks that Turned Brown

For the origin of this query please see "P.S." no.11 (p.15). More recently Stan Oman has commented as follows:-

I have such an envelope - a nice white envelope, so no bleaching etc. to the stamp. On first getting it I consulted all the books I had on hand, which included an 1890 listing. This gave the 1d pink 1841 (with silk threads and without), followed by 1½d three-sided pink and 1½d three-sided brown. [These 1½d envelopes are presumably the STO issues of the 1870s - Editor.] Under the listing a note states that *it is known that by mistake the 1d pink was printed in the 1½d brown colour.* I then got out my 1½d brown envelopes & cut-outs and found their colour matched the brown of my 1d "pink". I would describe the colour I have as light brown.

Non-standard Recent G.B. Envelopes

For this query please see "P.S." no.13 (pp.16/17). Response has come from **Andrew Whitworth**, and the following is quoted from his February 1999 price list of G.B. postal stationery:-

STO Business Envelopes: the service was introduced in 1987 under the title Postage Paid Symbol. 1st or 2nd class stamps were printed with an uncoloured Queen's head in a black or coloured octogon, as used on the business envelopes sold by Royal Mail by the 100 from 1991. Phosphor bars were applied and for items prepaid for more than 60g an inscription was printed, usually on the flap, denoting maximum weight. Initially, the minimum quantity that could be ordered was 100,000, but this was later relaxed.

In July 1995 the stamp design was changed to a coloured Queen's head in a circle of lettering "POSTAGE PAID POSTAGE PAID", as used for the business envelopes sold by Royal Mail from 3.7.95. The STO service still provided for stamping in the customer's choice of colour, but most of the material seen is in the standard bright blue for 1st class and in green for 2nd class, in the standard size of approx. 26mm diameter. Some envelopes were stamped with a smaller head in a circle of approx. 21mm diameter.

1st Registered Envelope with Imprinted Postage Stamp

This query was raised by the Editor in "P.S." no.13 (p.16). Response came from Hans-Georg Meissner in Germany giving details of several early issues, and resulting in an exchange of letters with the Editor. The upshot was agreement that New South Wales issued the first reg. envelope with an imprinted stamp for pre-payment of postage. This is the 6d violet (H&G DC2) issued on 24th October 1888. Hans-Georg Meissner has reported that he has an example in his collection used on 26.9.89 and another used on 29.4.90. Has any member an example with earlier postmark?

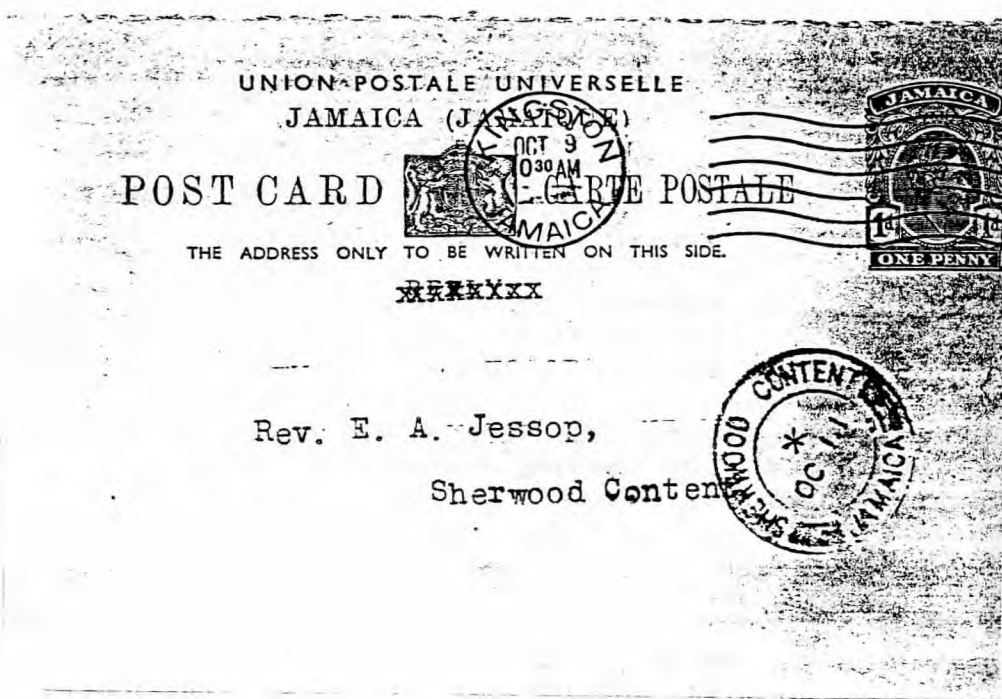
The same correspondent noted that G.B. issued the first P.O. registration envelopes on 1.1.1878 - each bore an embossed 2d stamp of the 1855 "POSTAGE" design for STO stationery, but with a cartouche "FOR REGISTRATION" added (i.e. no pre-payment of postage).

Something Rum from Jamaica

From Edgard Pockele in Belgium has come a query about an odd-looking Jamaican card. He writes:-

"It looks as if this card [see illustration] is not mentioned in the H&G catalogue. I do not know if it has been reported since H&G was published, so I am now presenting it as a new find. The H&G listing for GVI cards looks a bit confused. The board is buff brown, and on the back of the card is a domestic message of thanks and a report on a "ver wonderful golden jubilee gathering...hundreds faile to get admission", etc. The message was written from Kingston on 8.10.1943. Can any member shed more light on this item? Has a more recent listing than H&G been published?"

Note - This was an inland usage, taking 2 days from Kingston to Sherwood Content. The row of Xs at the card's centre obliterates the word "REPLY", and H&G does not list a GVI reply card.



EDITOR'S DESK

An aim of our Society is "to encourage new collectors", which surely includes inspiring stamp collectors to take or develop an interest in postal stationery. That is perhaps best done by a talks & displays at local philatelic societies. What you can do to help is persuade your local society to include a p.s. speaker in next season's programme - so here is a list of some of our members willing to give visiting talks/displays.

NAME	SUBJECT(S)	LOCATION
Cotton A.	G.B.	Glastonbury
Hanman K.	British South Africa	Lightwater, will travel 20 miles
Jones C.	World, especially G.B. & Commonwealth, Germany	Wotton-under- Edge, Gloucs, 25 miles
Norton J.	G.B.	Hayling Is. - will travel
Oliver M.	Leeward Is.	Salkeld, Cumbria
Smith H.	Austria - pneumatic posts & field issues	London N.W.
Smith M.	Orange Free State	Basingstoke, 50 miles
Stammers R.	Intro. to P.S., G.B., World postal cards	Mansfield, 60 miles
Totten A.	Norway	Northwich, 80 miles
Williams D.	Hungary	Cheltenham
Baker C.	G.B.	Warminster, will travel
van Gelder P.	Secret World of P.S., New Zealand	Bexhill, 35 miles

Full addresses of any of these members can be obtained from our Society's Secretary.

Two fairly recently published books have come to my attention. One is "Costa Rica Postal Stationery 1883-1953" by H.D. Mitchell (40pp, illustrated). The other is "The Postal Stationery of Israel" by S. Morginstin (103pp).

The following are articles noticed recently in the philatelic press:-

U.S. Postal Cards & Extra-fee Services (R.B. Graham Linn's Stamp News, 7/6/99).

A Swiss Enigma: The International Reply-paid Postal Card (H.F. Stone, Scott Stamp Monthly, June 1999).

U.S. Postal Cards & Postcards Sent Abroad (R.B. Graham, Linn's Stamp News, 26/7/99).

1998 Postal Stationery (G. Sor-Reime, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, April/May/June 1999).

Postal Stationery Matters (Peter van Gelder, Gibbons Stamp Monthly - March 1999, early Canadian cards and

G.B. 1891 R.N. Exhibition card; June 1999 - N.S.W. Centennial cards; September 1999 - postal stationery seen at the British Library).

My thanks go to Duff Malkin & to John Beard for supplying some of the above information. I have heard again from John Beard on the subject of Czech Republic postal cards with anti-counterfeiting holograms (see pp16/17 of "P.S." no.14 for previous note). He has sent me an article from "Linn's Stamp News" for 11/1/99 that gives details of the recent forging of Czech cards & stamps. I have also learnt that in the first half of this year there have been 8 issues of Czech hologrammed cards - including one to mark the 60th anniversary of the Society for Czechoslovak Philately.

Our Society's 75th anniversary edition of Victor Marsh's "G.B.: Abnormal Embossed Postage Stamps of KEVII & KGV" was a rapid sell-out. But a few extra copies were printed for showing at MIDPEX in July. *A very few of these remain* - to get one send £1.70p (£2 if you live outside U.K.) to the Editor, or to the Treasurer when paying your annual subscription.

AEROGRAMMATICS

avi IA

BOTSWANA - DATES & RATES.....by Duff Malkin

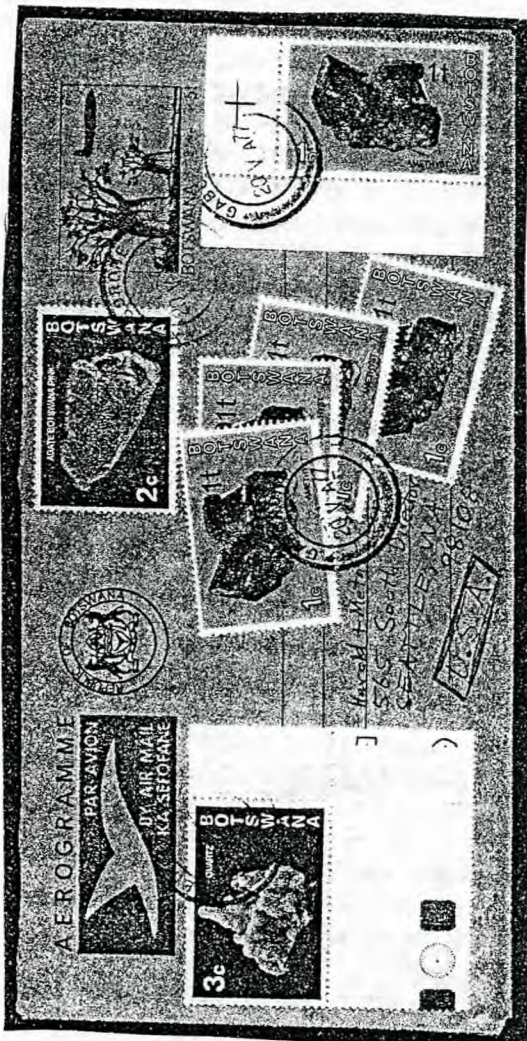
Both aerogrammes illustrated here are of 5 thebe face value, and one was posted on 20th May 1977 - a full year & more before the issue date stated in the Wiegand catalogue! It was posted from Gaborone, the country's capital. The natives had already settled there for ages when a township was established in 1884. The place was just a railway stop near water (a rather crucial item for railways then). The capital is named after a chief who lived there in the 1880s.

The pula (composed of 100 thebe) is the strongest currency in southern Africa and has maintained or increased its value since it was first introduced. "Pula" is the Setswana word for "water" and "thebe" means "raindrop". Water is a rather scarce and valuable commodity in Botswana. Thus the connection between the liquid and their monetary unit; and, of course, many raindrops make water in the form of lakes, ponds, etc. - so they should be saved up!

I am rather curious as to why the postage paid to the U.S.A. was 15 thebe. Wiegand lists the first Botswana aerogrammes (1978) as 5 thebe & 10 thebe. Perhaps 5 thebe was the southern Africa aerogramme rate, 10 thebe the aerogramme rate to Europe, and 15 thebe the rate to the Americas. Other possible explanations are that the rate might have been higher in 1977 than in 1978, or perhaps something was enclosed when these two aerogrammes were sent.

The trees shown on the postage indicum are baobabs, which can be seen in much of southern Africa & can be 4,000 years old. The aeroplane on the indicum is of the type used by Air Botswana on its southern Africa routes. You might say the old is combined with the new in the indicum design.

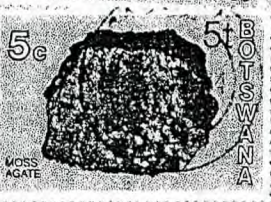
Upon checking for differences I found that the aerogramme posted in 1977 has a postage indicum with much thinner border lines and thinner lettering for "5t" & "BOTSWANA" than has the aerogramme posted in 1978. It could well be that the postal authorities decided that the former indicum needed strengthening - perhaps the Wiegand date refers to the date of release for the "strengthened" issue. Also the aeroplane on the 1978 example is stronger in that there is more gold to it and one cannot see small spots on it.



POSYRD IN 1977.....Gaborone to Seattle

27

AEROGRAMME



Handwritten scribbles

TO *Harold + Meta Sleeper*
565 South Director St.
Seattle, WA
98108

U.S.A.

POSTED IN 1978.....Gaborone to Seattle

KGVI AIR LETTER - KESSLER'S K1eBy Rene Lee

K1e is listed by Kessler but not by Higgins & Gage. Andrew Whitwoeth has it as his Offer 5 and says it was issued 7/44 on greyish paper (quoting Kessler's equivalent as K1e). Kessler identifies it by the width of the stamp window as being 24½-25mm and says that it was issued August 1944. My earliest dated postmarked copy is 16 June 1944.

I have looked very hard for over 25 years and have never found a stamp window over 24.4mm wide, & I conclude that this must be one of Kessler's few errors. I now have 25 items with window widths of 24.3 or 24.4mm (measured at the mid-height of the stamp). I designate these as K1e. As well as the window, the overlay carries the flap cut-outs; these appear on the back panel of the form as posted. From the left-hand side of the overlay to the left of the cut-out vertical (*see diagram*) is 114½mm, the smallest such dimension of any of the K1 items.

Towards the end of 1944 the first of five Timson rotary printing lines was installed at the Wolverton works of McCorquodale Ltd., who held the sole contract for printing stamped stationery for the Post Office. It was probably because of the use of these new machines that the stamp window was widened in 1944 to take care of possible excessive wandering of the paper reel during printing at successive stations.

Each machine required its own printing cylinder which for the stamp had two printing surfaces per revolution; whereas the text, being larger, had only one impression per revolution. The two stamp impressions are known as A & B. It is likely that only four printing machines were installed during the printing of K1 texts, and I have identified the use of four dies on my K1e items. Die DN commenced on 16.6.44, DS from 22.10.44, DV from 20.11.44 and DW from 16.1.45. Identification of the stamp dies is a very demanding exercise, since it is normally by defects arising from wear & tear that they can be recognised.

BY AIR MAIL

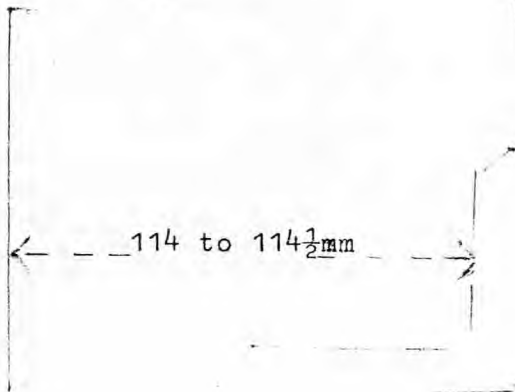
AIR LETTER

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



↑
2nd fold
↓

Diagram of
closed back



MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following have recently joined and are welcomed to the Society. Country of residence is shown if not the United Kingdom, & also collecting interests in brief.

de Jonghe Mrs E.	World, especially G.B. and Commonwealth
Matthew Miss E.	QV cards; Australia
Whale D.	British army WW1 & WW2 items
Twiner D.	G.B. STO cards
Tweed J.	G.B.
Howe C.	Belgium; Norway; Denmark; Spain; Albania
Boorn S.	(Interests yet to be notified to Editor)

The collecting interests of Harrison H. (U.S.A.) shown on p.30 of "P,S." no.13 should have additionally included Australian Commonwealth and N.Z.

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29 MAY 1998		AUSTRALIA	
559	PS C	Envelopes - Official: KGV Octagonal 2d violet for NSW 'Crown Lands Office', heavy vertical fold, other minor faults, used in 1917. Rare; the only copy known to us.	\$100
560	PS B1	- QE 5d light blue (unusual size 177x130mm) for NSW Police Dept used at Buronga (A1- cds).	\$15
561	PS A1	Envelopes - PTPO: KGV 3½d for Shire of Bannockburn addressed to famous cyclist Hubert Opperman.	\$10
562	PS A	- 1980 10c+10c for Sydrex '80, unused.	\$4
563	PS A	- 1980 20c for Sydrex '80, unused.	\$4
564	PS B	Letter Cards: 1911 1d+1d Reply LCard L4 "HOBART...(warship)/ VIADUCT...(steam train)" in purple, minor blemishes & reinforcing, unused.	\$40
565	PS A-	- 1913 1d Roo Die II L6a "MT LOFFY RANGES /SOUTH AUSTRALIA" (oblong; horse & buggy) in bright brown, stuck, unused.	\$50
566	PS B	- 1913 1d Roo Die II L6a "CATARACT GORGE/ LAUNCESTON" part-oval in purple-brown, small faults on address panel, used.	\$5
567	PS A-	- 1915 Sideface 1d Die I P12½ pink inside L9a "HMAS YARRA ON TRIAL - ON CLYDE" in black, small fault at base o'wise very fine used, Cat \$60.	\$30
568	PS A	- P12½ pink inside L9a "TROOPS on board TRANSPORT" (stem), used, Cat \$60.	\$40
569	PS B	- 1951 KGV 3½d L49, minor faults at back from opening, facially very fine used.	\$4
570	PS B	- 1953 (Oct) QE 3½d with "DO NOT NEGLECT..." on front & inside L51, unused, Cat \$30.	\$24
571	PS B	- 1954 QE 3½d Die II L53, unused, Cat \$32.	\$24
572	PS A	- 1957 4d claret with admonition inside in red L55, late use in 1960 with ½d pair added.	\$4
573	PS B	- 1960 5d blue L59, unused.	\$6
574	PS A	- 5d with "...FIRST/AUTOMATIC POST OFFICE/ SEPT '62..." opt L59a "POSTAL STATION NO 1/205661 /VIC-AUST" cds (A1-, date error!), Cat \$100.	\$60

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

697 PS B Postal Cards - Official: 1904 use of 1d HG 5 opt 'ON PUBLIC SERVICE ONLY.', printed Railways advice, some toning. Not recorded by H&G nor previously seen by us.

GUATEMALA

2183 PS A 1890 Postal Cards 3c blue HG 3 improper commercial overseas usage to Austria in 1898, undated 'GUATEMALA/ 1' cancel (C1) & octagonal d/ (B2) both in violet.

2184 PS A - 3c red HG 4 carmine shade commercial use to Germany in 1899, octag 'CORREOS/ GUATEMALA' d/s (A1) in violet, 'Via Puerto Barrios, /New Orleans & New York' h/s (A1) in rosine.

2185 PS A - 3c red HG 4 rose shade commercial usage to Germany in 1891, 'star' cancel (A1-) & d/circle 'CORREOS /COBAN' cds (B1).

2186 PS A 1897 Exhibition Postal Cards 3c black & orange HG 9 philatelic use to Germany, octag d/s (B2) of SET 14 1897, colourful.

2187 PS B - 3c black & blue commercial use to Germany, octag d/s (B1) of SET 25 1897 in violet, minor bends.

2188 PS A - 3c+3c black & grey Reply Card philatelic use to Germany, octag d/s of MAY 1 1897, intact.

ZANZIBAR

2973 PS A Pemba Island 1947 commercial use of formulaic aérogramme to WA, 50c with 'WETE' cds (B1-), letter headed 'West Hospital/Pemba/Zanzibar'. Very scarce.

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