



Edited for the Postal Stationery Society by
Peter van Gelder

Issue No. 16

FEBRUARY 2000



Postkirje
Postbrev
Lettre Postale



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Finland's EAGLE OWL lettersheet (see page 4)



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EDITORIAL

This time I have just 3 brief points. Good news: we have formed our first branch. It is in the West Midlands, at present the only region (other than the London area) where membership is sufficient to warrant the step. If you are a West Midlands member please help to make the branch a success.

I intended to include in this issue an article based on Michael Oliver's "Leeward Islands" display given to last October's meeting. Unfortunately I have run short of space - but the article will appear in the next "P.S.". Lastly - S.O.S. I need contributions to the series "Collecting Postal Stationery In _____" which was begun by Jacques Spijkerman in "P.S." 15, p.10. Please get thinking & typing!

Peter van Gelder



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"Nordia 99" philatelic exhibition postal card (see next page)

LETTERS

TO THE Editor

Finnish Recent Issues....and Appreciation

I enclose photocopies of some Finnish items that might be of interest. There is a set of "Owls" lettersheets issued 4.9.1998. (Note - see front of this journal for an example, showing an eagle owl.,)

There are also 2 postal cards, one issued 4.6.1998 to mark the centenary of Finnish narrow-gauge railways, the other issued 27.1.1999 for "Nordia 99" philatelic exhibition. I find them all to be quite attractively produced items.

Four "maximum postal stationery cards" featuring roads & bridges have also been issued, on 15.2.1999. These were an accompaniment to a book of stamps on the same theme - just as the "Owls" accompanied a miniature sheet of stamps on that topic.

While my own principal interest is still in stamps, the appeal to me of postal stationery is growing, and I greatly enjoy "P.S." - please keep up the good work!

Barry Richards

Catalogue of Treaty Ports Stationery

One item omitted from the bibliography for China ("P.S." 15, p.6) was the special catalogue on the Treaty Ports (a subject partly covered by Han). The better listing was provided by the American dealer L.F. Livingston. His original work was updated about 10 years ago by Wei-Liang Chow (sadly also no longer with us). The title is "Catalog of the Shanghai Postal System" - it covers both the adhesives & the stationery.

Geoff Rosamond

SOCIETY CALENDAR 2000

N.B. The TIMES shown here for the London meetings supersede those shown in the Newsletter report on p.17.

- Saturday 11th March West Midlands Branch, at Solihull. 2 p.m., "Members' Displays & Interests". Please see p.18 for full details.
- Saturday 25th March 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Str., London EC1. "Orange Free State", talk/display by Michael Smith. Also, members' talks/displays - you are invited to bring up to 30 pages of p.s. to show.
- Sunday, 28th May 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m., at Stamp Show 2000, Earls Court, London (in Wellington Room 2). Introductory talk by Alan Huggins; "South West Africa", talk/display by Jan Stolk from Holland; "Norwegian P.S.". talk/display by Paul Jensen from Norway.
- Saturday 21st October 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., at British Philatelic Centre. A.G.M.; talk/display "Mozambique Company 1892-1942" by Keith Hanman; auction (bidding to start at 2.15 approx.).

Note - At one of the above London meetings (most likely in May) a presentation will be made to David Taylor Smith in recognition of his work in setting up the Society.

NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Unlike the two previous lists in this series, each of which I compiled after consulting a specialist non-member, the following list is all my own work".

The following comments on this feature have come from Adrian Parker: "I welcome the appearance of 'National Bibliographies' but would suggest they should also include an indication of whether any of the books are in the Society's library. This good suggestion is being adopted; as regards Lists 1 & 2, the only book in our library is The Comprehensive India States Postal Stationery Listing" (Ed Deschl).

Peter van Gelder

3. CANADA

Arnold C.P. - Post Cards of Canada (1965)

Arnold C.P. - The Stamped Envelopes of Canada 1860-1962
(1963)

Bond N. - Postal Stationery of Canada (1953)

Howes C.A. - Canada: Its Postage Stamps & Postal
Stationery (1911)

Holmes L. S. - Specialized Catalogue of Canada and
British North America. In all there
were 11 editions of this catalogue, the
last being published in 1968.

Manley G.E. - Canadian Precancelled Postal Stationery
Handbook (1984)

Steinhart A.L. - Postal History of the Post Card in
Canada 1871-1911 (1986)

Walton W.C. &

Covert E.L. - Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of
Canada & Newfoundland (6th edition,
1993 - the 1st edition, by J.M. Webb,

was published in 1971). *There is a copy of the 6th edition in the Society's library.*

Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps - includes envelopes, cards, lettercards & wrappers. The 2000 edition has recently been published & is available in English or in French.

Wiegand W. - Catalogue der Aerogramme von Canada, USA, UNO-New York (1994 - in German)

POSTAL STATIONERY OF

THE WORLD From the stock of Mike Sagar, with strength in Canada & the Commonwealth (& material from over 100 countries). Send for my complete list (or e-mail me).

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Auction Action

In the Brussels Bear-garden

The Jacques Stibbe sale, reported by Edgard Pockele

I attended this two-day sale held by the auction firm Willy Balasse on 8th & 9th December last. It was a massacre! The total sales came to 23 million Belgian francs or about £360,000 (plus 17% buyers' premium).

On the first day the room was crowded with 80 to 120 people at times and bidding was very fierce, particularly for the unusual items. That day was devoted to Belgium, Congo and Ruanda-Urundi. Belgium's first postal card used on the day of issue, 1.1.1871, far exceeded estimate and realised 120,000 francs. The advertising stationery fetched exceptional prices. Normal Belgian items (i.e. without additional postal history interest) sold at 80% to 100% of catalogue value with the odd exception. I did not stay for Congo, but I was told that here too exceptionally high prices were realised, with American, British and Belgian collectors and dealers fighting over the outstanding lots. Of course, with very careful viewing one could pick up an occasional bargain on that first day of the sale.

The second day was for all the non-Belgium related material - items from many countries, A for Afghanistan to Y for Yugoslavia. This time there were fewer people, mainly foreign dealers and some collectors. (50/50). From the outset there was violent bidding and that went on to the end, with some prices up to 4 or 5 times catalogue value. A good example is lot 1013 (Albania):-

*Occupation allemande 1943, 7 entiers
postaux neufs et 1 obl. "Expres", etc.*

This lot of 8 items was stated to be catalogued by Michel at DM5,000 (£1,750). The estimate was 1520,000 francs, but the hammer went down at 85,000 francs (with buyers' premium equal to about

£1,600). Such a price is striking. There were also some lots sold at what I call normal prices. I had prepared about 400 bids after 4 full days of viewing - I went home with only about 25 lots. Many of my collector friends said they were disgusted by the "battle of cash" among dealers. Many collectors left almost empty-handed. I found no bargains - single cards went for as much as £500, and even the boxed lots went for extremely high prices, e.g. lot 1928 was a box containing 1,048 used examples of 3 Japanese cards. This fetched £3,000 (plus premium)! To have an idea of the madness one had to be there.

It is over now, and we are left with a feeling of loss. The legendary collection is no more. Selling all at one sale prevented the collectors from having a real chance in their struggle against the dealers. At the start the auctioneer should have announced: Are the competitors at their battle stations and ready? Then let hostilities begin!".

(Note - Rough equivalence: 60 Belg. fr. = £1 = DM3.)

Our Next Society Auction

Members are invited to send in their lots for inclusion in the next sale. These need to reach Tony Chilton by 31st March at the latest - the address is 56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey, England (CR42AL), & his telephone no. is 0181 6485853. Please accompany your lots with a list (typed or in block capitals) clearly describing each lot; if possible include H&G or other catalogue numbers, & any necessary comments on condition. Also state reserves if any, but keep them reasonably low. Vendors are charged 10% commission on hammer price of lots sold. (Please also see the Auctioneer's Report on page 16.)

QUERY CORNER

That Rum Jamaican Card

It is good to report that there have been three helpful responses to the query raised by Edgard Pockele on p.22 of "P.S." no. 15.

First to respond was Frank Schofield, saying that the card is listed in H&G but unfortunately there is an error in the entry. H&G 33 should read 'ld + ld red on buff, c'. According to Study Paper no. 15 recently published by the KGVI Collectors' Society 6,000 cards were ordered and 6,270 were despatched on 30.9.38."

The second response came from Jacques Merot in France. He has two complete examples of this sender's card/reply card, one having a "SPECIMEN" overprint. Illustrated here is his unoverprinted reply card and a small portion of the sender's card to which it is joined.

The third reply came from a non-member. Bob Swarbrick, stating that the card queried is one half of the ld reply-paid card of KGVI. A very small reprinting was ordered and was despatched on 30.9.38. The total printing was 6,270 apart from the usual 392 specimens issued for distribution. It might be of interest to your enquiring member to know that this is the first recorded USED copy therefore it is of considerable interest (& value!) to collectors of Jamaica. There was a similar issue of the 1c1 value on 14.4.38, albeit in greater numbers (20,080) which also remains most elusive. A copy in my sale in 1995 sold for over £100. Though other values & types were produced by De La Rue, these are all ex De La Rue archives and were never issued. May I add that the H&G listing is inadequate and urgently in need of an update."

UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
JAMAICA (JAMAÏQUE)

POST CARD



CARTEPOSTALE

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

REPLY.



McClellan' Lettercard

Part of this query, raised on p.4 of "P.S." no. 14, was "how many of these lettercards remain in existence?". Adrian Parker has written in saying "I have a mint example of this with the stamp correctly placed". Are they so scarce that no other member has one?

TOPICS

G.B. Proxy Voting Stationery

This topic has been taken up by Tony Bowers, who writes as follows.

I have the following examples of proxy cards, all mint and stamped to order:-

George V 34-head Ic:1 green letterpress, Harrods Stores Ltd, date 6.3.18, revenue stamp JH 29.8.17.

George V 1d carmine embossed, Anglo General Exploration, date 21.9.20, revenue stamp MB 10.9.20. Also British North Borneo, date 8.12.25, revenue stamp KE 23.11.25.

George V 14d green embossed, Leeds Fire-clay Co., date 29.12.33, revenue stamp MO 18.4.33. Also R.E. Jones, date 5.2.31, revenue stamp ML 5.1.31.

George V side-face 14d green letterpress, Harrods Ltd, date 11.3.40, revenue stamp MP 25.1.40.

George VI 1d carmine embossed, Courtaulds Ltd, date 31.3.44, revenue stamp MU 3.3.44.

George VI 1d carmine letterpress, Great Universal Stores, date 6.1.49, revenue stamp MV 28.10.48.

Perhaps the reason for few examples being seen with date prior to 1914 is that they were stamped on paper in the form of a lettersheet. The earliest example I have has an Edward VII 14d blue-green stamp imprint and was used by the National Telephone Co with date 18.2.04 and revenue stamp BZ 2.2.04. Again, this item is unused.

District No. **20**



THE SECRETARY,
Hearts of Oak Benefit Society,
Euston Road,
London, N.W.1.

Mr.



On checking for proxy cards and lettersheets I found an unusual form of "Voting Paper" with text including "No proxies are valid", and hence no need for a revenue stamp. This item is in the form of a reply-paid stamped-to-order lettersheet, with GV green letterpress imprint. It was used in 1930 from London N.W.1. to Hale, Cheshire; as it was not returned, the unused half is still attached (see illustration). In the books available to me I am unable to find this item listed.

Editor's note - Having received the above and seeing that the last-mentioned item is headed "Hearts of Oak Benefit Society", my thoughts went immediately to the ballot paper cut-outs mentioned in my recent Victor Marsh article (see "P.S." 15, p.17). These were also for Hearts of Oak, and on deep rose paper. Tony Bowers' item is dated some 15 years later & he has confirmed to me that it is on WHITE paper.

Also worth mentioning here is that I have a proxy postal card with KGVI 1d red stamp imprint, for the HUNGASGERIA TEA COMPANY on 21st July 1949. The revenue stamp imprint on the back is dated 6.49. As the Finance Act 1949 ended the revenue stamping on these cards, this is a very late example. Has any member a later one?

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held at the British Philatelic Centre on Saturday 16th October 1999.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Sam Barkley, Bill Meridith, H. Smith and Iain Stevenson.
- 2.,. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting had been circulated to all members in the June 1999 Newsletter. These were approved by the meeting.
3. Matters Arising. No matters were raised.
4. Reports of the Officers:

Secretary's Report. The Secretary reported that he was now recovering from a bout of ill health. Membership of the Society was good with over 60 members from overseas. An attempt had been made to organise some local meetings but with limited success.

Treasurer's Report. Copies of the audited accounts were circulated at the meeting. These showed a balance of £2220-90. This was up slightly from last year. Finances were generally good. Expenditure on printing and postage had increased due mainly to the issue of a third edition of the Journal. Room hire had gone down as the British Philatelic Centre was cheaper than the YWCA. Purchase of the complete volumes of Higgins and Gage contributed to the increase in the expenditure of the Library. Membership was just on the 200 mark. The Treasurer recommended that there should not be an increase in the subscriptions for the year 2000 but the issue should be reviewed for the following year to take into account additional costs.

Tony Edwards proposed that the report be adopted. This was seconded by Graham Barker.

Editor's Report. Three issues of the Journal had been produced in the financial year ending 31st August 1999. The Newsletter had been incorporated into the June Edition. Two new features had been introduced: "National Bibliographies" and "Collecting Postal Stationery in....". Advertising took up 2¹/₂ pages in the October 1998 issue and 2 pages in the February 1999 issue. The Editor welcomed the contributions from overseas members. 74 out of the 75 copies of The Victor Marsh Booklet had been sold.

Ed Desch] from the U.S.A. paid tribute to the journal emphasising that this was his only contact with the Society. The Chairman welcomed Ed to the meeting and his presence was acknowledged by the other members.

Librarian's Report. Three books had been donated to the Library including a listing of Postal Stationery of the Indian States by Ed Deschl. The complete set of Higgins and Gage catalogues had been purchased. 13 borrowings had been made during the year.

Auctioneer's Report. Once again there had been two auctions during the year. The Postal Auction had achieved better results than in the previous year. Over 1/4 of members had sent in postal bids for the second Auction. The descriptions given by members when submitting lots are important as the Auctioneer cannot be expected to know details of all areas of such a wide field. Material is always welcome and should be submitted by 31st March for the Auctions in 2000. Please could all lots be enclosed in plastic protectors.

Newsletter Editor's Report. With the introduction of a third edition of the Journal in June it was decided to incorporate the Newsletter as part of the Journal. What was 4 sides of A4 has now become 8 sides of A5. Comments on the content of the Newsletter and the new format would be most welcome.

Chairman's Report. The Chairman reflected on the inauguration of the Society and the issue of the first Journal in February 1993. Since then membership had grown to a considerable strength. Postal Stationery collecting was being promoted world wide. The increasing interest in Postal Stationery was apparent through the Chairman's work with the FIP and through judging of competitions.

5. Election of Officers.

The committee had recommended that as the Society had grown considerably since its inception, some changes to its structure would be beneficial. The Chairman should be elected to serve for no more than two years, this would give an opportunity for members to serve and to step back. There should also be a Vice-Chairman, to provide for continuity and the Editorial side should be strengthened by appointing an Assistant Editor.

The following were elected:

Chairman.	Dr Iain Stevenson.
Vice-Chairman.	Peter van Gelder.
Secretary.	Colin Baker.
Publicity Officer.	Michael Smith.

The following were re-elected:

Editor.	Peter van Gelder.
Treasurer.	Sam Barkley.
Auctioneer.	Tony Chilton.
Hon Auditor.	I.Hunter. ACMA.

The Newsletter Editor, John Barker, was appointed as Assistant Editor and the role of the Publicity Officer was to include that of the ABPS Representative.

6. Vote of Thanks to the Retiring Officers. John Barker proposed a vote of thanks to the three retiring Officers.

In his address he indicated how the three Officers had made outstanding contributions to the growth of the Society.

The Chairman, Alan Huggins had done much to revitalise interest in Postal Stationery through his talks, displays, exhibits and publications. These gave collectors a base from which to work. His support and leadership in organised philately both Nationally and Internationally had promoted Postal Stationery collecting world-wide. As Chairman he had led the Society from its inception and inspired its growth.

The Secretary, David Taylor Smith was an enthusiastic collector of Postal Stationery who had the courage to sound out other collectors to see if it would be possible to launch a Postal Stationery Society. Despite some collectors having doubts about the likelihood of such a group being viable, he proceeded with determination to establish the Society. Through much hard work, the news of the proposal to launch the Society had spread far and wide. The Society was founded and through David's efforts and commitment, it is now a large and successful Society.

The Publicity Officer, Colin Baker has also promoted Postal Stationery collecting through his talks, displays and published articles. He has spread the news of the Society through the Philatelic Press, Associations and Federations drawing it to the attention of a wide field of collectors. By introducing Monographs he has made the Society real value for money particularly for those members who cannot attend the meetings. Colin will continue to serve the Society as our new Secretary.

John Barker asked the meeting to show their appreciation to the three retiring officers for their contributions to the Society.

7. Programme for year 2000.

Saturday 25th March.	Meeting at the British Philatelic Centre 2.00 pm.
<u>Sunday</u> 28th May.	Meeting at "Stamp 2000" Earls Court. 10.30 am 1.30 pm.
Saturday 21st October.	AGM and Auction at the British Philatelic Centre. 11.00 am.

The Society had the option of taking two tables for a display at the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies on Saturday 29th April 2000. The Secretary would *see* if we could find volunteers to set this up.

Peter van Gelder suggested that the programme for the year should be published in the journal with full details of times, subject and speakers.

8. Any Other Business. Keith Hallman asked if the Society could provide a Trophy for a Postal Stationery class at Stampex. The Chairman made some comments and suggested that the matter be considered by the new committee.

Peter van Gelder had received a letter from Sam Barkley suggesting that the Society make a presentation to David Taylor Smith in recognition of his work in setting up the Society. This was acknowledged by the meeting and would be considered by the committee.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Following the AGM, Michael Oliver gave a talk and display of "Leeward Islands". A synopsis of this appears elsewhere in the Journal.

In the afternoon, Tony Chilton conducted the Auction with over 450 lots coming under the hammer. The top price paid was for lot 262, the collection of British Levant Postal Stationery. Prices realised ranged from 50 pence to £360-00, there was clearly something for almost everyone.

More than half of the membership took part in the sales, either as buyers or sellers, or both. Taking this auction together with the postal auction held earlier in the year, 403 out of the 587 lots were sold. That is a 69% success rate.

* * * * *

Midlands Regional Meeting.

A meeting has been arranged for 2.00 pm. on **Saturday 11th March 2000** to be held at the Solihull Tennis and Cricket Club, Marsh Lane, Solihull. This is less than 1 mile from junction 5 of the M42. If you would like to come to the meeting and have not received details please let me know and I will send you a map or, if requested, I will provide information on access by public transport. "Members' Displays" will be the main focus of the meeting so please feel free to bring items for display from your collection.

John Barker.

* * * * *

SECRETARY S NOTES

Enclosed with this journal is a copy of the Constitution approved in 1997 but not then distributed to members. Please read this and if you have any comments or would like to propose amendments, let me know. There are already some points that need addressing, such as when the A.G.M. is held and a revised list of Society officers. Full details of these & any other points will be given in the June Newsletter so that they can be put before the A.G.M. in October.

TREASURERSHIP - Sam Barkley has been Treasurer since the Society was formed in 1992. He has looked after the Society's funds and each year has arranged for the accounts to be prepared & audited in time for the A.G.M. But he has found the ever-increasing pressure of his professional work means that he reluctantly will have to give up this post, So we are needing to find another Treasurer. If you know of a member who would be willing to take over, please let me know (having first checked that the member is agreeable).

Editor's note - Our Secretary is now Colin Baker who was previously Publicity Officer for **4** years. His address is 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wilts, England (BA127AY). Telephone: 01985 840033.

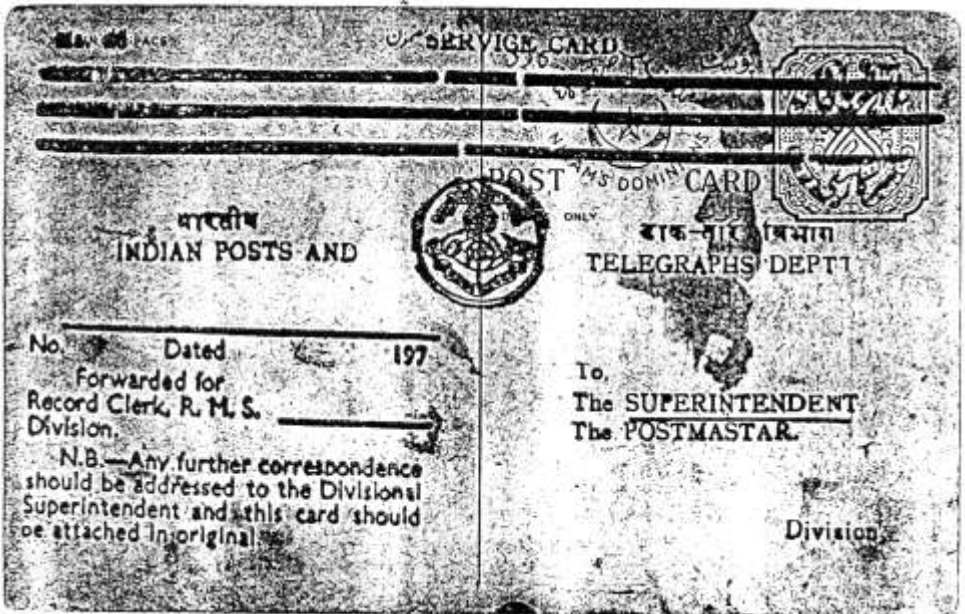
ARTICLES

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT (FROM INDIA) by

Tony Chilton

The illustrated card began life in 1937 as a Hyderabad 4 pies dull red (H&G 18). In 1940/41 it was surcharged in native script to increase the face value to 8 pies (H&G 23). It was then further overprinted "SARKARI" in Urdu script for use as an official card (official H&G 13). (These two overprintings were possibly in the reverse order. in which case the intermediate stage would have been official H&G 9.)

But the card was not used, and in the early 1970s, long after Hyderabad had ceased to exist as an issuing entity, the card was overprinted with bars cancelling the value and Hyderabad inscriptions, and with text converting its use to an official service card of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. It was finally used from Surat on 4th October 1974, 37 years after first being issued!



ELECTRONIC POSTAL STATIONERY by

Sam Barkley

I suppose it was inevitable, at a time when E-mail is allegedly taking over the world of written communication, (if so, why does the number of letters sent keep rising expeditiously each year?), that postal stationery would not be left totally behind. It has not, at least as far as the French postal service, La Poste, is concerned.

It has recently launched a series of postal stationery cards - E-PAP - standing for Electronique Pret-a-Poster, and they can be obtained only via the Internet. For ten cents each. cards with printed messages can be sent anywhere in the World.

The most recent card (see illustration) comes from the Philexfrance 99 International Philatelic Exhibition, and it is a very attractive item. Printed on high quality glossy-fronted white card, its face shows an image of a computer circuit board in blue, with a "RAM" chip in the centre. The top of the chip has a good photographic colour representation of the 1849 twenty centimes Ceres stamp, the 150th anniversary of which the Exhibition celebrated.


The reverse has as postage indicum another example from the 1849 Ceres series, in red, alongside the wording "CERES 1849 1999". The indicum is surrounded by a line representing stamp perforations, and underneath is a "Postage Paid" statement in French, English and Spanish. To the left appears the emblem of the Exhibition and a message - one of three in this instance that the sender can pick from - with his/her "signature" below.

Obtaining these cards is very simple if you are on the Internet. Log into the Post Office site at www.lapt5ate.fr and select either the E-PAP box or the Boutique. A few simple steps will allow you to

select the cards and messages you wish, then you complete the boxes for the name and address of the recipient. Payment is by credit card on a secure site. The system will also allow you to set up a personal code with which you can access the site for future orders without having to complete all the tedious detail again.

A philatelic fancy perhaps, but it is an interesting new way to send messages. The only problem I found was that, having ordered electronically in a couple of minutes, I found the cards took ten days by post (snail mail in the jargon) to get to me!


LE TIMBRE-POSTE FRANÇAIS A 150 ANS
PARIS 2 AU 12 JUILLET 1999



Le Mondial du Timbre

Il n'y a pas que les chercheurs d'or qui découvrent des trésors...
Moi, j'ai découvert Philexfrance 99 !
Amitiés en direct du Mondial du timbre.

Samuel Barkley



CERES
1849
1999

RESULTAT FRANÇAIS

Samuel Barkley

77 Rathmore Heights

Ballymena

ROYAUME UNI

VALEUR AVOIR ENFERMÉ AU DÉPART DE LA FRANCE (LETTRE - International PROGRAMME)
 VALUE INDEPOSITED THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FROM FRANCE (International PROGRAMME)
 VALORE AVOIR ENFERMÉ AL PARTIRE DALLA FRANCIA (International PROGRAMME)
 ILLUSTRATION RECTO: M. BARKLEY - TIMBRE ET MONNETTE: YVESO - C. MICHOUX

LE MONDIAL DU TIMBRE

Phil & Postel électronique émis via internet www.laposte.fr

TALES OF G.B STATIONERY (No.6) by

Colin Baker

Overprinted Post Office Stationery

A postal stationery collection can often be enhanced with the addition of overprinted material, creating interest and variety, particularly if a display is being shown to collectors from other spheres of philately who might not appreciate the finer points relating to printing details or production. Overprinting of Post Office stationery was either officially sanctioned - for example, alternative country of validity, revised stamp value, government departments' use; or was carried out by private firms and individuals. This latter group had the choice of using Post Office produced stationery, or privately printed and stamped material.

Much of the privately stamped postal stationery produced in the 19th & early 20th centuries incorporated manufacturer's designs, logos and sale lists, these being printed prior to their submission to Sonerset House for stamping at the appropriate rate. Sheets which were spoiled, either by the original printer or by the stamping department, could be discarded at little extra expense to the producer.

However, it is surprising that an enormous amount of Post Office stationery was similarly overprinted in large quantities with the associated risk that any number could be spoiled with little chance of the unused postage being recovered, for it was not until 1905 that the Post Office allowed the use of stationery cut-outs as stamps on ordinary mail.

But despite this inherent risk, the practice of overprinting Post Office stationery started shortly after the introduction of the Mulready wrappers in May 1840 and has continued ever since. The range of commercially overprinted Post Office material is enormous, with all types of postally valid items being used, two examples of which are shown here.



1851 1d PINK ENVELOPE WITH PRINTED FLAP, part shown;
 KEVII NEWSPAPER WRAPPER PRIVATELY OVERPRINTED.

From THE **EDITOR'S** **DESK**

I have mentioned before the importance of "spreading the word" by giving "p.s. only" talks/displays to local philatelic societies. I am happy to report that John Norton will show "G.B. Postal Stationery" to Southampton Philatelic Society on 1st August 2000. Is he our ONLY preacher in the coming months? I hope to hear to the contrary!

My thanks to Duff Malkin for drawing to my notice a recently published catalogue: "Postal Stationery of Shanghai & Treaty Ports" by S. Kruger and D. Alexander, 66pp, available from the China Stamp Society, 4676 Kynnelworth Drive, Bettendorf, 1A52722, U.S.A. I have no details of the price.

All 85 copies of our 75th anniversary edition of the Victor Narsh "G.B. Abnormal Embossed Postage Stamps" have been sold, with some useful benefit to Society funds.

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

United States Postal Cards Mailed in Violation of Postal Regulations (H. Berthelot, La Posta, Sept. 1999).

Stamp-on-stamp Designs on Postal Stationery (G. Barrette, SOS Signal, Oct. 1999).

Postal Stationery Matters (Peter van Gelder, Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Dec. 1999 - topics G.B. 1891, N.Z. 1899, Australia 1908, U.S.A. picture card series, the late Jacques Stibbe)

AEROGRAMMATICS

BY AIR MAIL
par avion

俘虜郵便

PRISONER OF WAR POST
SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION



GEPROBT
123

FROM
Name: Pte. Richard Glew,
Address: Hq. Co.,
Henlow Camp, Henlow,
LEDS, U.K.

TO: Sapper Wilfred Green,
Service No. 1498
Name: No. 1563.
BRITISH PRISONER OF WAR
Camp: STALAG XVI (A) A(E)
(including No., if any) 1498 GW.
Country: Germany.

NOTE. The particulars inserted on the address side and the message in the space below, must be TYPED or written clearly in BLOCK LETTERS. MESSAGES MUST NOT BE LONGER THAN 25 WORDS.

Dear Will,
I hope this will find you in good spirits. Your sister got a card today. Glad all is alright where you are. Best of wishes.

Pte. Richard Glew

Shenanigans at Henlow Camp?

by Arthur Roberts

My earliest used thd postal card (see illustration) is cancelled with a Bedfordshire double-ring handstamp dated 3 AP 45. It would appear to be a genuine early date cancellation, but the card is addressed to a camp in Germany (whereas it was issued for Japanese-held war prisoners) & the boxed "GEPRUFT 123" has been added or improved by red crayon. When one looks at it against the early dated 11:1 Forces Letter in "P.S." 6, p.32 (reported by Tony Goldstone) which was cancelled with the same HENLOW CAMP handstamp the day AFTER my card, it begs the following questions.

Is it a coincidence that Private Richard Glew & E.J.D. Tomasons (the respective writers of card and airletter) were both philatelists who recognised the interest of early cancelled preppaid stationery? The card & airletter seem to have been addressed on different typewriters. By the message inside the airletter its writer was clearly aware that it was a new issue. Did the writer of the card also realise that it was a new item of postal stationery but only had the address of a P.O.W. in Germany and none in Japanese occupied territory?

Or was the card prepared as a philatelic item by Private Glew or by the camp postmaster, cancelled on 3rd April (or after the airletter had been cancelled but with the earlier date); addressed to a fictitious Sapper; a boxed "GEPRUFT" added, and the card retained by the sender? It might even have been cancelled at Henlow Camp P.O. without an address and message, the address & boxed "GEPRUFT" being added years later to make it look like a used postal card.

Do members have any other items with the Henlow Camp postmark of 1945 that would indicate if the camp postmaster was a philatelist = or have any views on whether my airmail card was carried in the post?

Addendum to "KGVI Air Letter (Kessler's Kle)"

by Rene Lee

(See also "P.S." 15, pp 28/29)

As a result of further work on identifying more of my items as Kle, I have now reclassified some of my DS items as DN. The reference in my last article to DS from 22.10.44 should therefore be deleted & be replaced by DX from 19,1.45. Also in the article the date of 16.1.45 for DW should be changed to 7.11.44.

The existence of Kle as a separate item worthy of inclusion in a catalogue in its own right now seems to me conclusive. The Aerogramme Society (Australia) is therefore to be congratulated on making it KGVI item 3 in their first instalment of a G.B. aerogramme cataloguing which appeared in the "AerogrammeR" no. 3 of May 1997 (even though this throws all their subsequent numbering one digit up from Kessler and Higgins & Gage.

SNIPPETS

From Duff Malkin - I have found a curious G.B. regulation current in 1965 that an aerogramme which contained an enclosure would be sent on by air and charged postage due if the postage paid was 75% or more of the correct rate, but if the postage paid was less than 75% the item would go by sea mail. Does any member have any G.B. examples from 1965 (aerogrammes or formulars) to illustrate this rule?

From Peter van Gelder - New Zealand was slow to adopt aerogrammes (except for Prisoner of War items). In the 1950s/1960s period formulars by Croxley were available there. Recently I chanced on the information that the first formular airletters with the imprint "Issued by the New Zealand Post Office for posting in New Zealand to Overseas addresses" appeared in 1963. They were sold over post office counters at 12d each.

BOOK REVIEW

May Dates - A survey of Penny Blacks, Twopenny Blues, Mulreadys and Caricatures used during May 1840. By Michael Jackson. 334pp, ISBN 0-9528274-17, published 1999 by Michael Jackson Publications, 3 Cottesmore Avrnue, Melton Mowbray, Leics. Price £40 plus postage/packing.

As stated in the title this work is a survey of all the surviving recorded covers bearing adhesive stamps and the Mulready postal stationery which were used during May 1840. This book provides a groundbreaking archive of information which will be of lasting use to all students of this period.

From the postal stationery perspective all the documented examples of usages of 1d Mulready envelopes & lettersheets between 1st May & 10th May 1840 and the corresponding 2d items between 6th May & 30th May 1840 are listed and in many cases illustrated. The listings are arranged in ascending order of stereo number (where known) and give the location of posting and destination and the source of information - including auction lot numbers, estimated values and prices realised. Descriptions are also included if relevant to condition & postal markings. Separate sections cover Mulreadys uprated with adhesive stamps and Mulready caricatures, and there is an Appendix of contemporary comments. There is no doubt that the author has to be congratulated on producing a work of great value which should be in the library of everyone with an interest in G.B. philately of this period.

Alan Huggins

LIBRARY

The following items have recently been added to the Society's library:-

- *54 May Dates, by Michael Jackson, 1999. Kindly donated by the author. (* = heavy item)
- 55 Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada & Newfoundland, 6th edition, 1993. By W. Walton & E. Covert. Purchased.
- 56 United States Postal Cards Mailed in Violation of Postal Regulations, by H. Berthelot (article in "La Posta" Sept. 1999 & kindly donated by the author).

Re. item 40, 2 further issues of "Postal Stationery" (July & Sept. 1999) have been received from U.P.S.S. (U.S.A.).

I have been contacted by David Taylor Snith, who has several books in his own library which he is happy to lend to members who are willing to pay postage both ways (with recorded delivery unless the item is shown here with the sign #).

Dutch East Indies P.S. 1942-45, Pulterman, 1993.
Republik Indonesia 1945-49, Vrijdag, 1980 #.
Catalogul Marcilor Postale Romanesti, 1994 (in
Roumanian).

Les Timbres Poste de la Russie Imperiale, 1964 # The
Arms Issues of 1902-20 (Russia), Tann, 1980.
Catalogo de Enteros Postales de Espana, no date,

Turk Pullari Katalogu XII, Pulhan, 1973 (in
Turkish).

Bangladesh Stamp & Stationery Catalogue, 1977.
Han's Illustrated Catalogue of Imperial & Republic of China P.S., 1984.
Katalog Trangko Indonesia, 1998 (bilingual).

Specialised Catalogue of Japanese Hand-engraved
Stamps, 1981 (in Japanese)
Death's Railway (Japanese P.O.W. stationery),
no date, Herman.
P.S. of Pakistan 1947-95, Sundal & Kasbati. Pakistan
Overprints on Indian Stamps & Stationery 1947-
49, Doubleday & Isani #. Handbook of Ryukyu
Postage Stamps (& stationery
- in Japanese.

Apply to 23 Britannia Rd., Norwich, Norfolk, G.B.

For the Librarian's address please see page 2.
If you have yet to use the library, the following
note recently received from Barry Richards in
Scotland might urge you on - The library is a
great asset to a novice like myself. I'm grateful
to the various donors. Please find enclosed a
small cheque towards library funds."

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following new members are welcomed to the
Society. Country of residence is shown if not the
United Kingdom & also collecting interests in brief.

Rill A. (Hungary)	World cut-outs to 1920
Kiddie R.	Iceland
van Zeyl P. (South Africa)	Southern Africa
Isern A. (Spain)	Old p.s. of the World
Salter S.	G.B. to 1952; p.s. posted to G.B.

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