

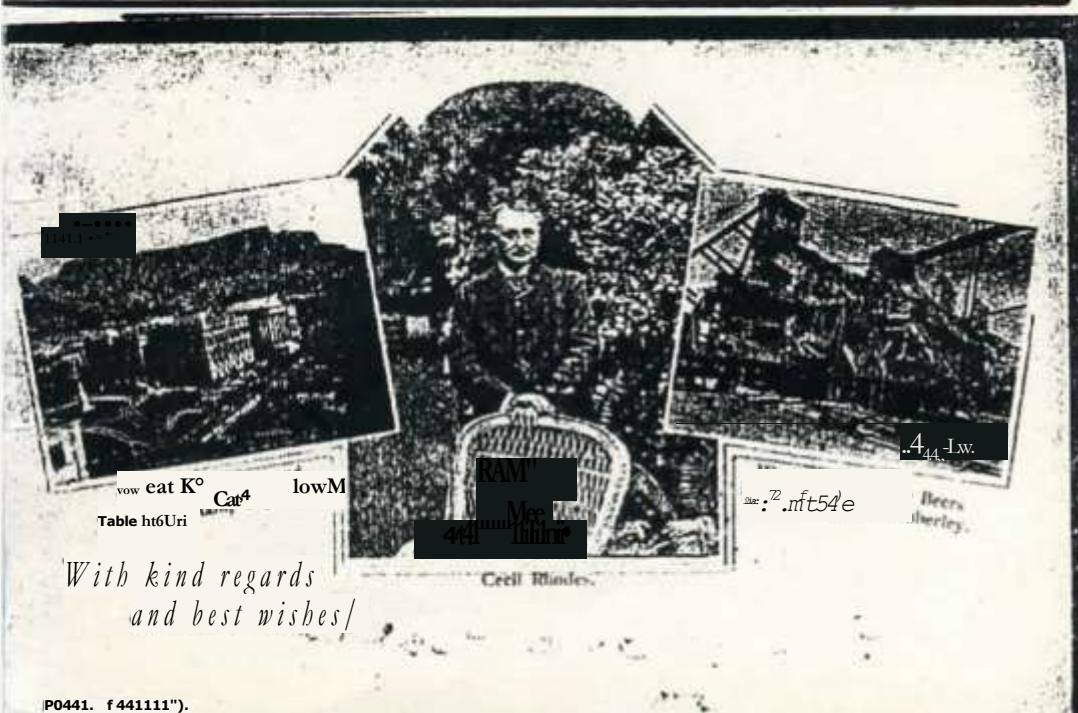


Edited for the Postal Stationery Society by

Peter van Gelder

Issue No. 17

JUNE 2000



*With kind regards
and best wishes!*

P0441. f 441111").

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE - BACK OF 1897 id POSTAL CARD SHOWING
CECIL RHODES, PARLIAMENT/TABLE MOUNTAIN, WASHING
PLANT AT DE BEERS' DIAMOND MINES, KIMBERLEY (SEE
PAGE 17)



THE POSTAL
STATIONERY
SOCIETY

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FROM THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

From Steve Salter the Editor recently received the following:- "I enclose a photocopy [see illustration] of a piece that came to me in an auction lot. Unfortunately it has been rather tightly trimmed .and is only the front of an envelope. The embossed stamp is without colour, and someone (in the Post Office?) has written 'Imperfect Stamp' and has, presumably because of that, charged 2d due. There is no date stamp, but the addressee looks interesting, and this is something slightly out of the ordinary. No die number or date plugs are discernible; the pendant curl is Brightmore type a. I cannot decipher the words) starting just below the "nley" of "Stanley", nor what is written in the bottom left corner".



Editor's comments - My first reaction is to wonder whether the recipient in Downing Street turned out his own pockets for the twopence, or was it charged to public funds! I too cannot get the word below "Stanley" - if it is not the completion of the addressee's name, that would leave "The Lord Stanley" as addressee. There was a Lord Stanley in the government 1841-46; on his father's death in 1851 he became Lord Derby (and subsequently Prime Minister).

[

The writing at bottom left I read as "W. Cantuar" which indicates that the letter was sent by an Archbishop of Canterbury ("Cantuar" being the abbreviated Latin form of Canterbury). The only such Archbishop in Victoria's reign with first name starting "W" was William Howley. He died in 1848,

and as Penny Pink envelopes first appeared in 1841, this dates our curiosity to the period 1841-48; and if Lord Stanley is the addressee, to 1841-46.

If anyone out there can cast some more light upon what remains dark, please write in to the Editor.



P.S. DISPLAYS AT LOCAL SOCIETIES

Following a general request in our last issue on page 25 ("From the Editor's Desk") this report has come from Peter Clarke:-

I

The topic for the Rugby Philatelic Society's meeting on 8/11/1999 was "Victorian Postal Stationery - Members". We are a small but very active society with only about 20 members but usually have 80% attendance at our meetings. On this occasion **most members** responded with some

items from their specialised one-country collections. We saw interesting stationery from Austria, Canada, Cyprus, Hong Kong and Singapore.

For the second part of the evening I gave a display of Great Britain Queen Victorian postal stationery varieties, which look very attractive when arranged on album pages. There was much interest in my collection of multiple cut-outs on piece, and those with advertising rings. I think this has sparked off a good deal of interest amongst some members. I would add that I had no hand in choosing the topic for the evening!

Postal stationery interest is alive and well in Rugby.

Activity in Sussex

The Worthing Society of Postal Historians has invited Peter van Gelder to reveal "The Secret World of Postal Stationery" in a talk/display on 8th September 2000, John Norton has also been flying our flag in Sussex! his entry in the Traditional Class at the Federation Convention in April was called "G.B. Victorian PSEs" and gained top (gold) award.

If you have attended, given or are booked to give a p.s ta;k/display at a local Society, please send in details to the Editor.

NEWS ITEM

The outstanding Canadian p.s. collection of one of our members, Horace Harrison (U.S.A.), is to be sold by auction in four stages. It is hoped to include a report-cum-preview of these sales in our next issue.

NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES

I have prepared the following list but at the same time I cordially invite any member with specialist knowledge to send in a national book list of the country which he/she particularly collects.

Peter van Gelder

4, AUSTRALIAN COLONIES/STATES

Houison A. - History of the Post Office...in New South Wales (1890, & reprinted 1983)

Hull A.F.B. - Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards & Telegraph Stamps of New South Wales (1911)

Hull A.F.B. Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards & Telegraph Forms of Queensland (1930)

Collas P. - Queensland Postal Stationery (1979)
there is a copy of this book in the Society's library

Hull A.F.B. - Postage Stamps, Envelopes. Post Cards, Adhesive & Impressed Revenue & Excise Stamps of Tasmania (1890)

Stieg C. - Letter Cards of Victoria (1984)

Pope B. & Thomas P. - Western Australia Postal Stationery to 1914 (1982)

Buhl M. - Postal Stationery from Western Australia (1984)
- there is a copy of this book in the Society's library

Lowe R. - Encyclopaedia of British Empire Stamps, Vol. IV, Australasia (1962)

BOOK REVIEWS

Danmarks Højsager. By O. Pedersen & J. Bendix.
Published (1999) by Skilling Printing House, Nyvej
17, DK 4050 Skibby, Denmark. ISBN 87-87832-58-5.
Price DKR 325 (approx. £27).

The last edition of this catalogue came out in 1986. This new edition now incorporates the private postal stationery of Denmark printed by the postal authorities. It is a general catalogue comprising cards, double cards, envelopes, letter-cards, wrappers and aerogrammes, including service postal stationery issued by the Danish postal authorities. The prices have been revised by a group of philatelic dealers, auction houses & collectors, & for some items the prices are raised remarkably.

Besides listing all issued postal stationery of Denmark, the catalogue contains a lot of extra information about rates, usages, printing methods, perfins and cut-outs, etc., and it also has a lot of illustrations of scarce items. It is a must for every collector of Danish postal stationery.

Erik Hansen

Cyprus Postal Stationery 1878-2000.
By A. Ioannides & C. Podger. 258pp. Published
(2000) by the authors (2nd edition). ISBN 096-
385547-1-2. Price £45.

This new edition incorporates a number of additions and improvements and now gives a truly superb treatment of the subject, which has been greatly enhanced by the inclusion of a significant number of coloured illustrations. The usage of British postal stationery in the period 1878-80 is now documented and reveals the true rarity of these forerunners of the items overprinted for use in Cyprus, which are themselves of considerable rarity in used condition.

Naturally, a considerable amount of additional information has emerged since the publication of the 1st edition, and this has been integrated into the appropriate sections, necessitating the re-arrangement of the numbering system. A table of postal rates for the British period is now included and the authors have provided additional chapters on both the history and the postal history of Cyprus, giving a broader perspective to the origins and usage of the items described.

This book will doubtless generate even greater interest in the postal stationery of Cyprus, & the authors are to be congratulated on producing such a valuable source of reference and enjoyment for their fellow collectors.

Alan Huggins

LIBRARY

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

57 Netherlands East Indies - Printing Varieties on Postal Stationery Cards. An article by Richard Wheatley from "The London Philatelist" November 1999 (donated by the author).

Re. item 9, 2 further issues of "L'Intero Postale" (Sept. 1999 & Jan. 2000) have been received from Italy.

Re. item 40, a further issue of "Postal Stationery" (Nov. 1999) has been received from the U.S.A.

Re. items 10 & 43 it is regretted that no further issues of "Die Ganzsache" and "AerogrammeR" were received in the 8 months starting mid-August 1999.

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2000

Edited h ▶ John Barker.

MIDLANDS REGIONAL MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2000 AT THE SOLIHULL CRICKET AND TENNIS CLUB, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS.

The first meeting to be held in the Midlands was attended by three members. However, apologies were received from Vicki Archard, Bill Meredith, Michael Whittaker and David Williams. Although few in numbers, an enjoyable afternoon was spent looking at the displays.

Leslie Mould, who started collecting postal stationery as an extension to his George VI collection of G.B. and India, gave the first display: Amongst his G.B. items, Leslie showed a small printed to private order envelope with an imprinted 1d red up-rated with a $\frac{1}{2}$ d meter mark together with another envelope from the same firm posted a few days later which had a $\frac{1}{2}$ d green imprinted stamp for the new postal rate. Items from India included up-rated cards, local overprints for use in Pakistan, Japanese occupation of Burma and Air letters from Ceylon with multiple imprints to make up the air mail rates.

John Clark was introduced to postal stationery when he inherited a collection of postal stationery cut outs. He showed a most attractive range of G.B. Queen Victoria postal stationery cut outs including many with two values imprinted side by side. The embossing of the Queens head on these was very sharp making the head stand out from the rich colours of the backgrounds. The display continued with a range of "advertising rings" and a comprehensive collection of cut outs from 1 d pink envelopes and later issues with different die numbers on the base of the embossed heads. Although collectors today would be unlikely to cut out the imprinted stamps from postal stationery to make a collection, nevertheless, these old collections can make a very stunning display

John Barker showed a range of postal stationery produced for specific purposes. These included envelopes for the river boat services and railway services in Columbia and cards and envelopes for pneumatic posts in Berlin, Paris, Vienna and Prague. Other items displayed were postal cards for the local posts of Germany (Stadtposts) which operated towards the end of the nineteenth century, and tourist publicity cards from several countries together with some of their forerunners.

The three of us who attended the meeting would be happy to meet again on a future occasion, so if you would like to join us please let me know.

JOHN BARKER

MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2000 AT THE BRITISH PHILATELIC CENTRE, CHARTERHOUSE STREET, LONDON.

Only eight members attended the Society's first meeting of the new millennium, which in the absence of Iain Stevenson was chaired by the past Chairman, Alan Huggins. Apologies were received from Iain Stevenson, Tony Chilton, Peter van Gelder, David Taylor Smith and Peter O'Keeffe.

The Secretary gave out notices concerning forthcoming events, including the meeting to be held at the Stamp Show 2000 on Sunday 28th May, and the AGM to be held on Saturday 21st October.

Although the number of members attending was disappointingly low, in contrast the standard of displays was extremely high. The Chairman welcomed those present and introduced the main speaker of the day, Mike Smith (our new publicity officer).

Mike used the morning session to show postal cards from the Orange Free State, which included his entry for The Stamp Show 2000. The first postal cards (1d). printed by De La Rue in London, were issued in 1884. Initial usage was very small, as it took five years before the first print order of 30,000 had been spent. From 1889 locally produced cards were produced. The quality of local printing facilities was not good enough to produce a printed stamp and so adhesive postage stamps were fixed

with glue to the centre top of the card, rather than moistening the gum on the reverse. These were then overprinted with the State's coat of arms set between the words **BRIEF** and **KAART** to signify that the item was an official postal stationery card. Errors occurred of course, including "adhesive inverted". These local cards were issued in ½d, 1d and 1½d values. Used copies of the 1d "Bordered" cards are rare.



Threehalfpence card with adhesive stamp inverted

When the British Army invaded the Orange Free State and took control in March 1900, all stamps and stationery were quickly overprinted with the letters VRI (Victoria Regina Imperatrix). This produced numerous variations and errors; of which Mike showed a large number.

After a pleasant lunch in a nearby restaurant, the afternoon session consisted of the following three short displays by members.

John Barker started the afternoon off with German Lettercards 1900 to 1920 and German Money Order Cards 1865 to 1904 The money order cards that John showed carried a stationery postage stamp in two values depending on the sum of money being transferred. But this only covered

postage and money order Fee, the actual value of the order having to be added to the card in manuscript. Later versions of the card included tear-off receipts for both the sender and the recipient.



1922 Money order card with receipts for sender and recipient

Keith Hanman showed Nicaragua Postcards and Envelopes 1890 to 1899. The plates for these items of stationery were prepared free of charge by an American entrepreneur by the name of Seebeck, on the proviso that after a year they were exchanged for a new design and he could then print as many envelopes and postcards as he saw fit from the returned plates for sale to philatelists. This arrangement was undertaken until the end of the 19th century and this mint stationery from this period is common, but useful stationery is difficult to find. The printing plates were produced by the Hamilton Banknote Company and thus the quality of the engraving is superb.

Finally Alan Huggins showed Swedish postcards and envelopes from the period 1871 to 1900. Rather strangely, the first issue of Swedish postcards were charged the same rate of postage as envelopes. Therefore there was no incentive for people to use postcards and so once again useful cards are difficult to find.

Alan Huggins thanked everybody for coming to the meeting, especially those who had displayed material. The meeting closed at about 3:30pm.

COLIN BAKER

THE STAMP SHOW 2000

JOINT MEETING WITH THE FIP COMMISSION HELD ON SUNDAY 28 MAY 2000 AT THE STAMP SHOW 2000 AT EARLS COURT, LONDON.

This extra meeting in the Society's calendar, held to coincide with London's International Exhibition (held once every decade), was a hugely successful event. Not only did it attract Society members from around the world but it was also a joint meeting with the FIP Commission.

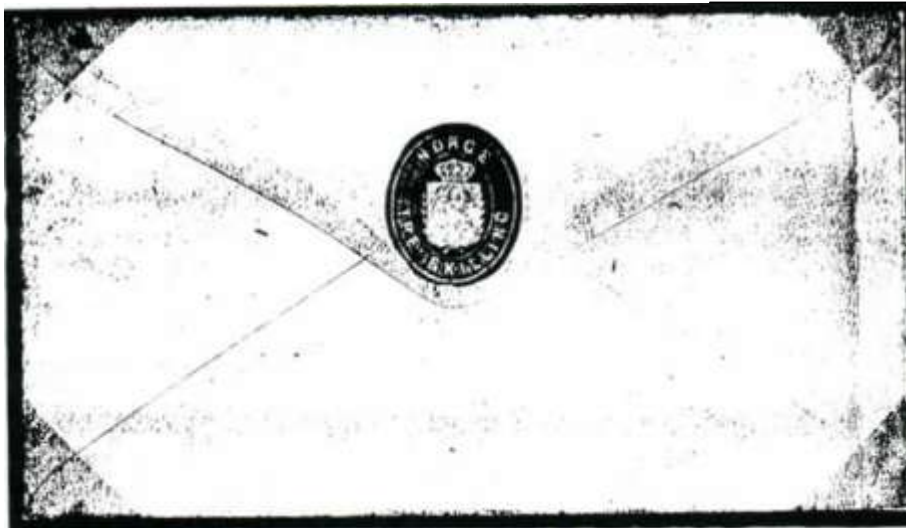
Thirty three people attended the meeting, 21 being Society members with the remaining 12 being PIP delegates and guests. Steve Schumann gave everyone a parcel of mint United States postal stationery, while Enrique Bialikamien handed out postcards from Costa Rica carrying exhibition handstamps. This was a very generous gesture by both members and was greatly appreciated.

The meeting was chaired by Iain Stevenson who welcomed everybody, and listed apologies from Sam Barkley, Mike Smith, Allan Cotton, C_ Rutter and S. Boom.

The past chairman, Alan Huggins, started the meeting with a display charting the development and progress of British postal stationery from its introduction in 1840 up to about 1845. He listed some of the local issues of prepaid lettersheets that had preceded the British stationery, including reference to lettersheets used within Paris in 1653 (although no examples are known to exist today) and the New South Wales stationery of 1838 for use in Sydney (although once again no examples are known to exist used in that first year). The display continued with some of the British Treasury competition entries and proofs of both the Mulready and penny pink stationery, ending with specimens and used examples of stationery from that period.

After members had viewed this display a presentation was made to David Taylor Smith in recognition of his efforts in setting up the Society in 1992.

Paul Jensen from Norway was the first of our overseas members to display and he showed part of his Norwegian collection starting with essays for skilling envelopes of 1871 and the finally issued version put on sale in 1872. Plenty of used examples were included in the display, some uprated with adhesive stamps. Owing to their low usage, the production of envelopes for sale to the public ceased in the 1880's, although the printing to private order facility continued until recent times.

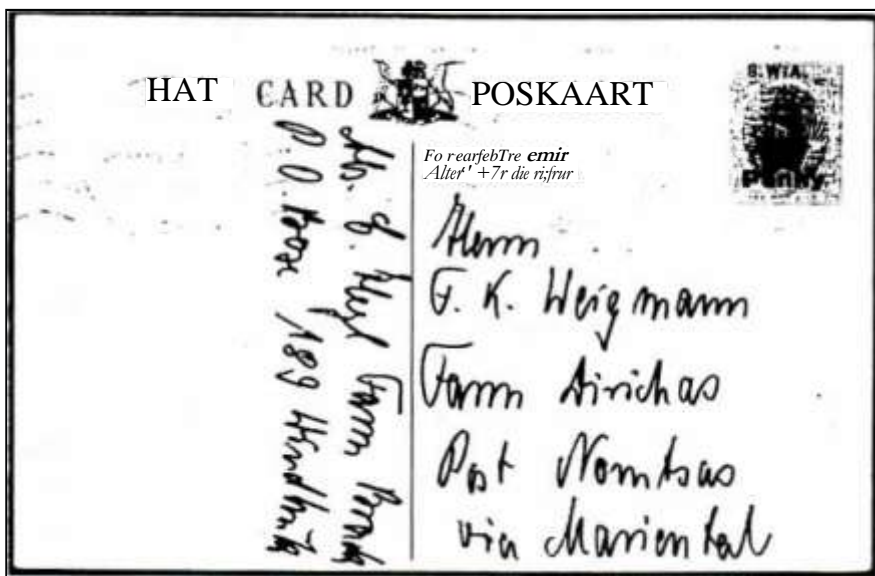


1871. Essay with embossing on the flap.

Paul also included plenty of examples of postcards from their introduction in 1872 and lettercards from 1898, some overprinted for revised postag rates. His display ended with some lovely examples of modern postcard! lettercards and money order cards.

Jan Stolk from Holland completed the meeting with his display of Postcards of South West Africa 1915 to 1954 He explained that that

postcards of South Africa had been used throughout this period and showed how these can be divided into three categories, (1) postcards of South Africa without overprints, (2) postcards of South Africa with overprints in English or Dutch, (3) postcards of South Africa with overprints in English or Afrikaans (replacing the previous use of the Dutch language). Jan showed how South West Africa and Suid Wes Afrika can both be abbreviated to **SWA** to create a simple overprint covering both languages. The display finished with examples of registered envelopes similarly overprinted.



1934 Id postcard. Overprinted S.W.A. Half Penny

The chairman, Iain Stevenson, thanked the speakers for their excellent displays and presented appreciation cards to Jan and Paul. The meeting ended at 1.30pm.

EX PSS SECRETARY GETS LIFE!

One of our founder members, David Taylor Smith, was made a life member of the Postal Stationery Society at the meeting held at the Stamp Show 2000 on Sunday 28th May 2000.

The Postal Stationery Society was formed in 1992, largely through the efforts and determination of one man, David Taylor Smith, who was also its Secretary for the first seven years. David appreciated that there was a need for a Society dedicated to the collecting and study of postal stationery, and he was not put off by other collectors scorning postal stationery or claiming that this was not really stamp collecting.

In recognition of his hard work and perseverance, the Society made David a life member and presented him with a postal stationery album in which he can house a part of his collection. In his reply, David thanked the members and said he now had somewhere to keep his aerogrammes. He promised to show these to the Society in the near future.

POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY AUCTIONS 2000.

Once again our Auctioneer, Tony Chilton, has received a large number of lots from members which he has made up into two separate auctions. Although GB items predominate, over 100 other postal authorities are represented in the auctions, so hopefully you may find something of interest.

The first Auction is devoted entirely to GB registered envelopes and GB air letters and will be for postal bids only. Please note the closing date for this auction is 10th August 2000 The second Auction will be held at the meeting on 21st October 2000

The two auction catalogues enclosed with this copy of the Journal contain details of the bidding steps together with forms for postal bidding. if you have items surplus to your requirements, try selling them through the Society's Auction, details can be found in the auction catalogue.

EXHIBITS AND DISPLAYS BY MEMBERS.

W I NPEX 2000.

Following the award of a Gold Medal and the "Postmaster General's Shield" at **Jopex 99** in Johannesburg, **Michael Smith** has now been invited to display his exhibit at "**WINPEX**" - **the Winelands Rare Stamp Exhibition of Southern Africa 2000** in September. Exhibits are by invitation only, the aim being to show what the best South African collections have to offer.

PHILEXFRANCE 99.

Congratulations to **Bjorn Sohrne** who was awarded a Gold Medal for his exhibit of Persian Postal Stationery at PHILEXFRANCE 99.

Activity in Warwickshire.

Interest in Postal Stationery was stimulated at the Rugby Philatelic Society's members evening which was on the theme of "Victorian Postal Stationery". A report of the meeting appears on page 4. To stimulate interest further, John Barker will visit the Rugby Society on 4th December 2000 to show "**Postal Stationery for a Purpose**". John gave this talk and display to the Huntingdon Philatelic Society in April.

SOCIETY LIBRARY.

Any member who has recently joined the Society and who has not received a copy of the Library list can receive one by contacting the Librarian (address on page 2).

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

Annual General Meeting

The next meeting of the Postal Stationery Society will be the **AGM** to be held at the British Philatelic Centre at 105 Charterhouse Street, London EC I on **Saturday 21 October 2000**. Please note that this meeting will start at 10.30am to give time for business to be considered. Items for inclusion on the Agenda must be received by the Secretary (Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wilts. BA12 7AY) not later than 31 August

The nearest Underground station to the British Philatelic Centre is the Barbican on the Circle and Metropolitan Lines. Turn left out of the Station (there is only one exit) and first left into Charterhouse Street. The Centre is about 200 yards on the right hand side.

Following the AGM, one of our members, Keith Hanman, will give display of postal stationery of the Mozambique Company (1892 to 1942) The Society's auction will be held in the afternoon, starting at 2.00p, Members will be able to view all the auction lots over the lunch period, but if you cannot get to the meeting in person, don't forget you can lodge postal bid with the Auctioneer, Tony Chilton. Details of how to do that are given in the auction catalogue.

Members Displays

I am compiling a list of members willing to give postal stationery display to other societies for the ABPS directory. If you have not been sent letter, but feel you could give a display to another society, please send **n** the titles of your display(s), your name, address, telephone number and **t** distance you are prepared to travel. However, please note that the **ABPS** only wish to include people who can give a whole evening's display their own and who would be prepared to travel at least 50 miles.

Treasurer Vacancy

A new treasurer is needed to look after the Society's finances. Our present treasurer, Sam Barkley, would like to give up this year, I definitely will not continue beyond 2001 Anyone who would like to be considered for this post should contact the Secretary.

Other Matters

Details of proposed changes to the Society's constitution are given on the following page. These will be voted on at the AGM, but any member who wishes to comment on these prior to the meeting should write to the secretary with details. The Secretary's address appears at the bottom page 13

POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY'S CONSTITUTION.

The following points have been raised by members and are to be voted upon at the AGM to be held on Saturday 21st October 2000, at the British Philatelic Trust, 105, Charterhouse Street, London_

PRESENT CLAUSE	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	REASON FOR CHANGE
<p>3a. A Management Committee (hereinafter referred to as "The Committee"), shall manage the affairs of the Society on behalf of the members and shall consist of the following Officers: The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Auction Organiser, Newsletter Producer and Publicity Officer. Four shall form a quorum. All members of the Committee shall be residents of the United Kingdom.</p>	<p>Add after "Chairman", "Vice-Chairman"</p>	<p>This position was created at the AGM in October 1999.</p>
<p>8a. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING An Annual General Meeting shall be held in September and be open to all members. items for inclusion on the Agenda must be received by the Secretary not later than 31 August. Date, time venue and an invitation to submit proposals shall be notified to members not later than the date of the June Newsletter.</p>	<p>Change the expression "in September" to "within three calendar months of the end of the financial year"</p>	<p>To allow greater flexibility in arranging the date of the AGM.</p>

FORTHCOMING PHILATELIC EVENTS.

Dates for your diary For this year and next.

Postal Stationery Society Meetings in 2001

London Meetings for 2001 are scheduled to take place on Saturday 24t March 2001 (11.00am to approx. 4.30pm) and Saturday 20th Octobe 2001 (10.30am to approx 4.30pm), both at the British Philatelic Center 105 Charterhouse Street, London.

Speakers for these meetings are still being finalised and details will be included in the next issue of the Journal.

GLASGOW 2000.

17th to 19th November 2000 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

The third ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition to be held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow.

Details from Margaret Morris, 81 Elton Way, Paisley. PA3 4BIN Scotland.

82nd PHILATELIC CONGRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

8th to 10th September 2000 (Friday, Saturday and Sunday)

Hosted by the Revenue Society of Great Britain, to be held at the British Library (8th September) and the Shaw Park Plaza Hotel, London (9th and 10th September).

Details from Tony Hall, 53a High Street, Whitwell, Hitchin Herts. SG SAJ, United Kingdom.

BEPHILA 2001.

The annual Exhibition of the Federation of Berlin Philatelic Societies. 81 to 11th February 2001 held as part of a Trade Fair called "Berliner Briefmarkentag"

BELGICA 2001.

9th to 15th June 2001 (Saturday to Friday).

M IDPEX, Tile Hill Coventry. 30th June 2001 (Saturday). The Exhibition for National and Specialist Philatelic Societies.



ARTICLES

100 YEARS AGO - POSTAL STATIONERY & THE ANGLO-BOER WAR by Paul van Zeyl

(This article, in slightly longer form, first appeared in "Setembe", an organ of the South African Post Office, in May/June 1999, as is hereby duly acknowledged.)

Times of conflict lend themselves to the use of illustrated postcards. This trend already commenced in the Zuid-Afrikanische Republiek (ZAR) soon after the infamous forerunner of the Anglo-Boer War, the Jameson Raid (December 1895). Six cards, known as the "Late Crisis" set, were privately printed through the initiative of Messrs Sallo Epstein & M.Z. Booleman in 1896, showing Johannesburg street scenes: Commissioner & Simmonds Streets, a Boer patrol and the opposition - an Australian Brigade plus the Auckland Park fortifications. For these Jameson Raid mementos the 1d "disselboom" postal stationery card issue of August 1895 was used.

The Jameson Raid was the result of an imperialist dream for Africa by Cape Colony Prime Minister Cecil John Rhodes. President Kruger's unexpectedly moderate reaction to this event led to some thaw in relations between the Johannesburg based foreign miners and the Boers. The significance of this "rapprochement" for the inhabitants of the mining town is signified on a 1d (local rate) card showing .. "John Bull" and a Boer shaking hands (see illustration), It was also inevitable that leaders Rhodes and Kruger would be the central figures on Cape postal stationery, namely the 1d (foreign rate) cards (see front cover for a Rhodes example).

Of course, the feelings of the "common man" were no match for the passions of the economically and politically powerful. In 1906 Jan Smuts reflected that "the Jameson Raid was the real declaration of war in the Great Anglo-Boer conflict ..the aggressors consolidated their alliance.... the defendera..grimly prepared for the inevitable".

In the latter regard, the Boers used the gold taxes to arm themselves, buying arms from other European states. Again, this aspect was reflected on a local (M) card, one showing the "Buren-Artillerie" (Boer artillery).

European military support

The Boers also believed that they would receive the benefit of European military support, but only lip service eventuated. This was accompanied by a high level of moralising, as a ZAR 1d rate card showing the Arms of France and German states clearly reflects. The irony is poignantly reflected in the card's words (here translated): "United for Freedom and Justice against Force and Tyranny".

The initial dazzling victories of the Boers, despite their heavy losses at Talana and Elandsplaagte, induced Sir George White to make a key strategic mistake, in allowing some 13,000 British soldiers to be besieged at Ladysmith for almost four months from 2nd November 1899.

Natal postal stationery issues

Regular Natal postal stationery wartime issues occurred only on the 1d rate cards. But they were printed on both the Queen Victoria and King Edward VII cards. There were five cards in each issue. Each card had three vignettes, and it should be noted two of the five cards showed scenes from the Anglo-Boer War, more specifically the Ladysmith Siege.

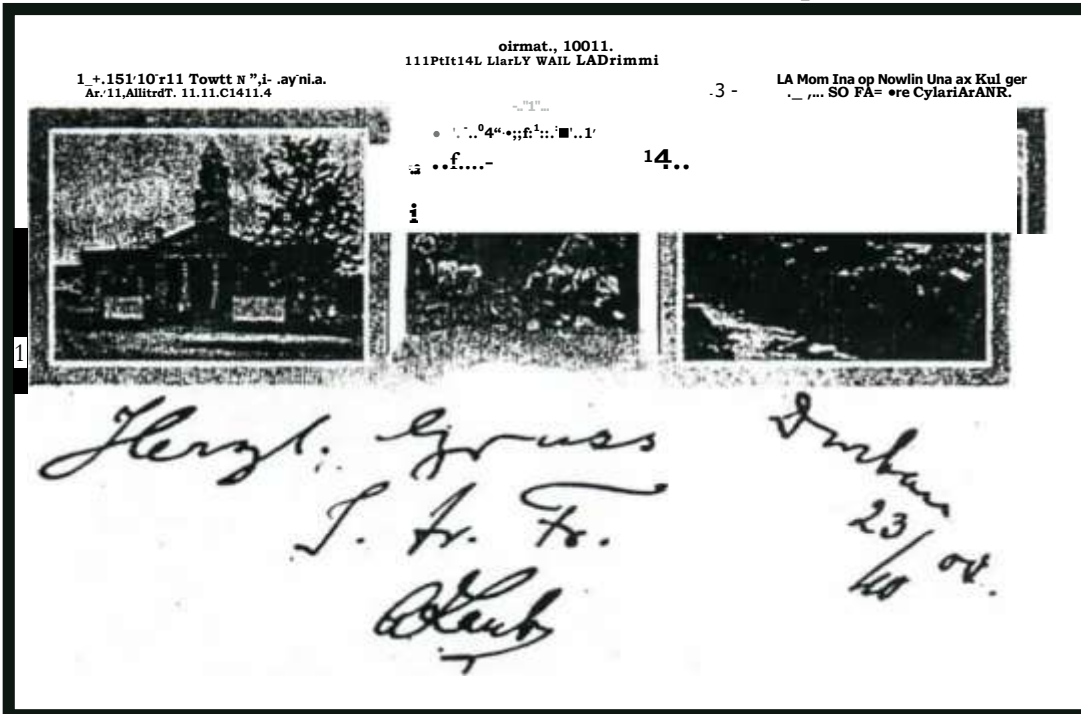
"Staatscourant"

Following the Boer evacuation of Pretoria on 4th June 1900, two important ZAR cards were issued. The first, namely the "Proclamation Card", was printed on a 1d card (used ones have a 15d adhesive added to make up the 1d foreign rate) by the "Staatsdrukkerij to velde" at Machadodorp proclaim

ing that the new seat of government of the ZAR was to be located at this town from 5/6/1900.

The other card was also printed there. The imprinted stamp is a neat adaptation of the "Staatscourant" (Government Gazette) Arms of the Boer Republic. Cancellations on these cards point to the retreating post office's divergent movements, namely one from Machadodorp on 24/8 to Lydenburg on 28/8; the other from Machadodorp on 10/8 to Nelspruit on 14/8 and Barberton on 1/9/1900.

Postal stationery issues of the Anglo-Boer War period were effective means of communicating important events and introducing personalities. Today they are an equally effective way of recalling the happenings as they were experienced by participants, allowing the "common man" finally to have his own views measured individually.



NATAL - BACK OF 1d POSTAL CARD SHOWING VIEWS IN & AROUND LADYSMITH



Z.A.R. - 1d POSTAL CARD ISSUED FROM MACHADODORP. STAMP IMPRINT ADAPTED FROM HEADING OF GOVT. GAZETTE

LEEWARD IS.
ARTIST(S ORIGINAL
DRAWING FOR THE
1890 1d ENVELOPE
(DATED 8th DEC.
1890)



LEEWARD ISLANDS - THE FEDERAL POSTAL STATIONERY

(This article relates to a talk & display given to the Society on 16th October last by Michael Oliver, and it is based on notes supplied by the speaker.)

The colcipy comprised 33 inhabited islands spread over 400 miles and separating the Atlantic Ocean from the Caribbean Sea. In 1900 it had 110,000 inhabitants (about the same as York today), of whom about 10% were literate - with the Europeans its prospective letter-writing population was about 15,000. It had six post offices.

Between 1890 and 1903 only federal stationery was in use; then the 1902 Stamp Act permitted the five Presidencies to issue their own concurrently until invalidated in 1927. Though the Presidencies were again permitted to issue their own stationery, only Antigua with registered envelopes and St Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla with airletters did so from 1952.

Almost a quarter million Thd newswrappers were sold prior to 1903; but 40% of the 95,000 envelopes and 6,000 reply cards were offered for sale as remainders. Numbers printed from 1903 were only about a quarter of the Queen Victoria issues, and it was not until 1927 that the next envelope was printed! By 1938 the use of stationery had declined to the extent that 14,000 envelopes and newswrappers and 5,000 cards were sufficient for the next 16 years.

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Co.'s subsidised scheduled mail services and routes were important, as virtually all mail till 1913 was carried on its inter-colonial services, with items posted on board occasionally pen-cancelled by the purser in the ship's name.

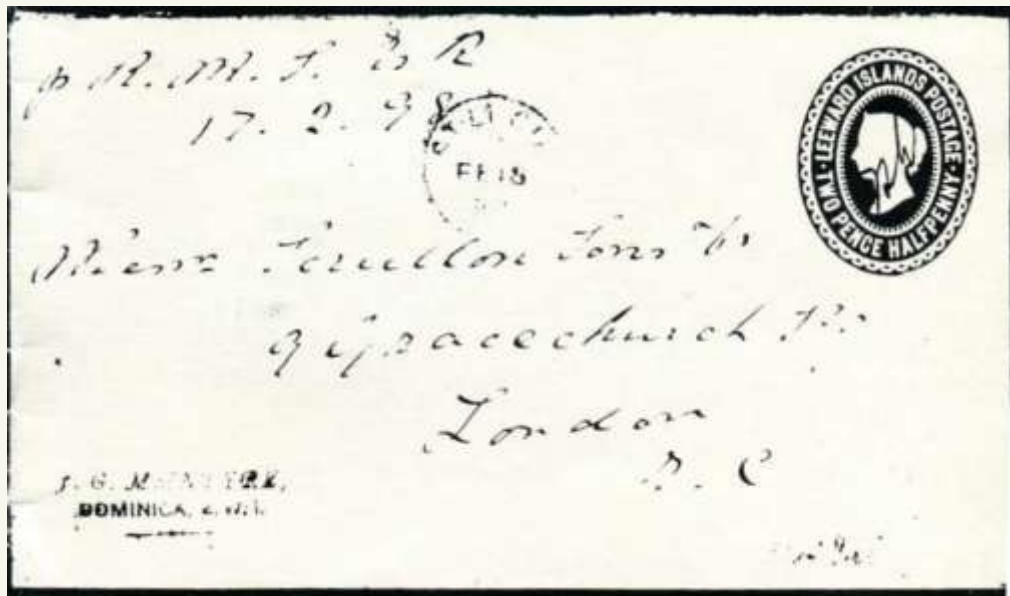
The display

The display was in 4 sections: cards & reply cards; envelopes; newswrappers; registered envelopes. With two exceptions (plus the large-sized registered envelopes) examples of *all 59 different items were shown privately or commercially used*. The cards & reply cards included the 1d & 115d of 1927 of which only 2,000 & 1,000 respectively were printed, and a proof of the 1d George VI card with "Appd. subject to removal of GVR in the coat of arms, H.S." (H. Stansfield, Colonial Inspector of Stamps). De La Rue had retained the George V die and had added the new King's profile.

The envelope section commenced with the artist's hand-painted design on tracing paper for the 1890 1d envelope, and a die proof in blue-green. There were photographic essays of the George V embossed design with hand-painted lettering (not adopted); and essays of the Universal type altered to Postage/Postage, which were used in 1927. Other items of interest included 1890 envelopes registered with the "St Kitts Post Office" wax seal, and one posted on board pen-cancelled "Esk" (an RMSP inter-colonial mail ship); and a 11A size F envelope used in 1928, of which only THREE are known used and NONE unused. Though there is no record of a requisition or invoice in the De La Rue archive, the minimum order was 5,000 charged - so here is a complete mystery! From 1928 airmail quality 1d and 11A envelopes were issued. That airmail envelopes were issued at these surface rates when the minimum air fees in 1939 were 2d to U.K. and 4s 51cd to Australia seems quite illogical.

Used examples of all 7 newswrappers were shown, the 15d of 1938 being one of only 2 known. Also on view were De La Rue's Appendix Sheets of a 14:1 in the Universal Postage design, dated 1899, for which the Crown Agents were invoiced £12 for a repeat plate, but which was not used and the King Edward and Id with hand-painted name.

The registered envelopes shown included examples up to H2 size. Size K, which De La Rue called "official pouch", are scarcely known used or unused, only 2,600 being printed between 1929 and 1941. The smallest number for any of the Leewards stationery items was 307 of the size F 2d reg. envelope sent to Virgin Islands in 1922 after the fee had been increased to 3d. A correctly rated example of this used from Road Town to India was shown. The display concluded with an airletter used on last day of issue.



ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO., R.M.S. "ESK". PSE SENT FEB. 1898, DOMINICA TO LONDON. POSTED ON BOARD; POSTMARKED ST LUCIA (NEXT PORT OF CALL), TRANSPORTED TO TRANSATLANTIC ROUTE AT BARBADOS; ARRIVED LONDON 4th MARCH. THERE ARE ONLY 3 ocrnftnEn PEN CANCELS IN BLACK - ALL "Esk

