



Edited for the Postal Stationery Society  
by Peter van Gelder

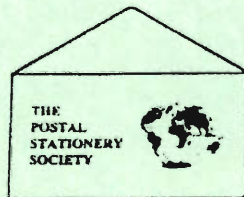
Issue No. 19

February 2001



Denmark - 1874 4 ore Crown & Sceptre PSE, ultramarine, with open figure "4".  
This is the only known entire example. See page 12.

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## EDITORIAL

It surprises me that Royal Mail, so fond of churning out new issues of adhesive stamps, has not got round to issuing picture postal cards of the kind apparently so successful in countries such as Australia and Canada. There must surely be a good market for these among tourists and holiday-makers - perhaps even saucy seaside cards in the style of Donald McGill might be included ! But on second thoughts, it is probably unwise to suggest anything that might lead to a flood of British p.s. new issues. So let me say that what I should really like to see is a new aerogramme on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2002, as dignified in design as the 1953 Coronation aerogramme, to mark the Golden Jubilee of the Queen's reign.

You cannot help to have noticed the new format for "P.S. ". If you particularly like or dislike it, do drop me a line to say so.

Peter van Gelder  
Sommerhay, 16 Frant Avenue,  
Little Common, Bexhill,  
Sussex, ENGLAND.

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## NAMES & ADDRESSES

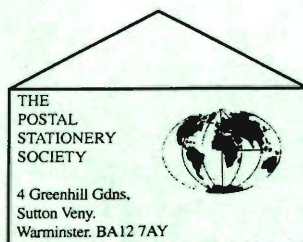
- I. Stevenson (Chairman)
- S. Barkley (Treasurer), 77 Rathmore Heights,  
Ballymena, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland  
BT43 6NQ.
- C. Baker (Secretary), 4 Greenhill Gardens,  
Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wilts, England  
BA12 7AY. (Telephone 01985 840033)
- A. Chilton (Auction Organiser), 56 Framfield  
Road, Mitcham, Surrey, England CR4 2AL.
- J. Barker (Newsletter Producer/Editor's Assistant),  
35 Portia Avenue, Shirley, Solihull, West  
Midlands, England B90 2NW.
- M. Smith (Publicity Officer/Representative to  
A.B.P.S.)

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## STAMPED-TO-ORDER ENVELOPE

In "Letters to the Editor" on page 7 of "P.S." no. 15 **Andrew Whitworth** proposed ordering an S.T.O. envelope from Royal Mail if he received enough support from members

for 1000 envelopes to be requested. Enough support was forthcoming and here is what the envelopes (issued May 2000) look like (upper front). The print colour is rose pink.



# FROM THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP

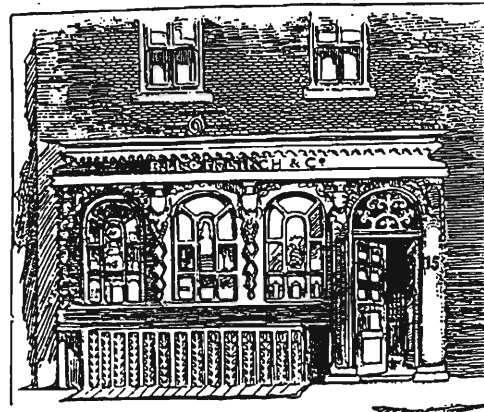
NOTE - All items in our stock are at least 50 years old.

## Someone's Slip is Showing, & a Dodge that Failed

These two oddments have come in from Keith Lloyd. The first, a G.B. Queen Victoria envelope, raises the doubt as to whether it is a 1d or a 2d PSE ! Are such slips rare, or do they turn up fairly often ? The second item is a G.B. KEVII postal card used in 1946. There are two snags: it is a 1d card, but the rate in 1946 was 2d; furthermore, KEVII stamps had been invalidated some 15 years before. Postal officials were wide awake to this, so Mr. Huxtable of The Laurels, Braunton, North Devon had to shell out 4d in postage due.

## A Mis-cut Put to Good use & Oswald Marsh Rides Again

Peter O'Keeffe has sent in a couple of suitably curious items (both G.B.). This mis-cut card has "POST CARD" & MAX. SIZE: 5½ x 3½" added in manuscript (red ink). The message on the back is non-philatelic, and the card was sent on 7<sup>th</sup> January 1925 from Mr. Webb in Suffolk to Mr. Taylor in Cornwall. Perhaps this strange card is the result of a sheet being placed "sideways on" in the cutting machine. The Oswald Marsh advertising envelope is the same type as that shown on the cover of "P.S." 9, but whereas that bore 3 postal card cut-outs, this has an envelope cut-out plus a 1d adhesive. It was posted from Norwood on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1940. My correspondent adds that the printing on the envelope is blue, and that there is also wording on the flap in 3 lines: "OSWALD MARSH/London/S.E.19".



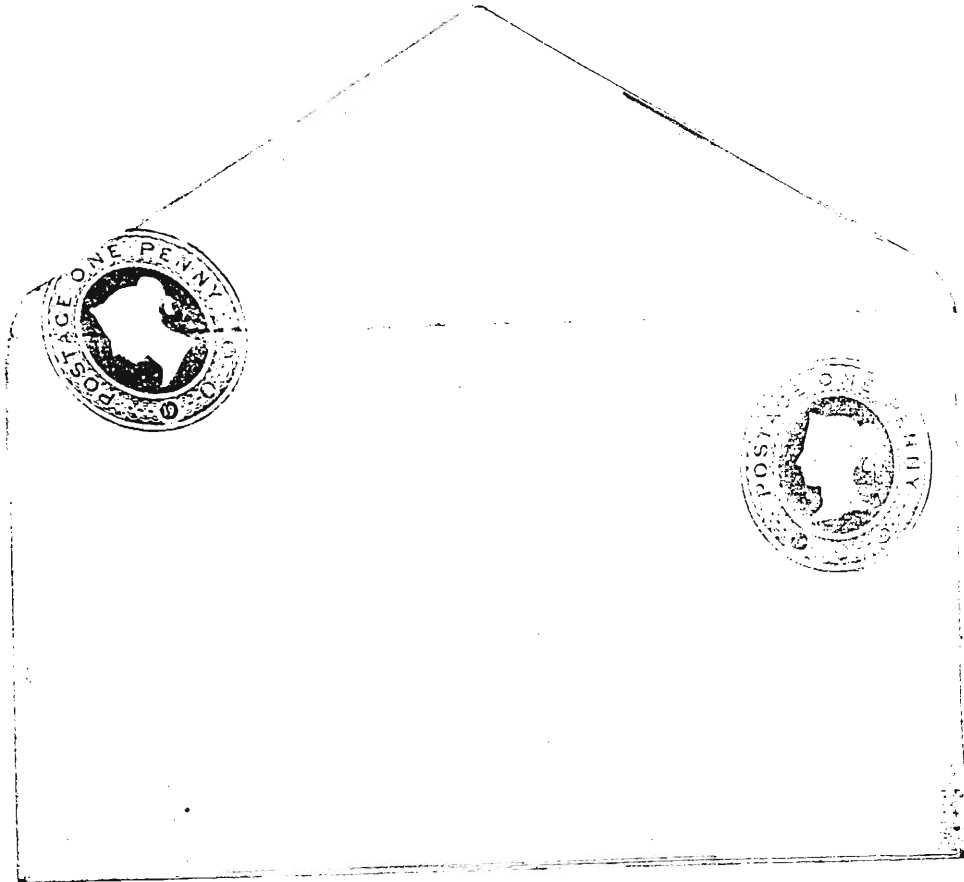
## King & Queen Stationery

Is this the nearest that King Umberto of Italy and Queen Victoria came to a meeting ? Vittorio Coscia has sent in a photocopy of an 1885 Italian postal card mailed from Ipswich (England) to Bordighera (Italy) on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1900. As the Italian card was designed with imprinted stamp at upper left, the upper right spot was vacant for a Queen Victoria 1d lilac (rather faint in the photocopy) to be added.

## East African Overprint Mis-spelling

A few months ago I attended a display by Graham Barker that included an overprinted PSE OF British East Africa. The imprinted stamp is Indian, overprinted "Birtish East Africa" (very faint in our illustration). This envelope (with correct overprint) is H&G3. Graham Barker's error envelope is addressed to F. W. Bangram, Mombasa, and its squared circle postmark is dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 1897. The owner's description of it to me was "philatelic but scarce".

Seeking further light on this unusual envelope, I referred it to Vicki Archard, who specialises in East Africa. It turned out that she has an identical envelope - same error, same addressee, same postmark! She believes that Messrs. Bangram, Powter and Grierson were keen local collectors - perhaps over-keen? She suggests up to £50 as the value of her envelope - but if commercially used examples exist, they would be worth much more.



POSTCARD.

MAX:  
SIZE:  
5 1/2 x 3 1/2"



J. C. Taylor Esq.  
1. West Place  
St. Ives  
Cornwall



For the finest service and workmanship



J. C. S. MUMFERY ESQ., 53161  
ARLEY,  
12, LEAMINGTON ROAD,  
BOURNEMOUTH,  
HANTS.

OSWALD MARSH.  
BRITISH EMPIRE NEW ISSUES.  
PHILATELIC ACCESSORIES.  
GREAT BRITAIN CONTROLS A SPECIALITY.



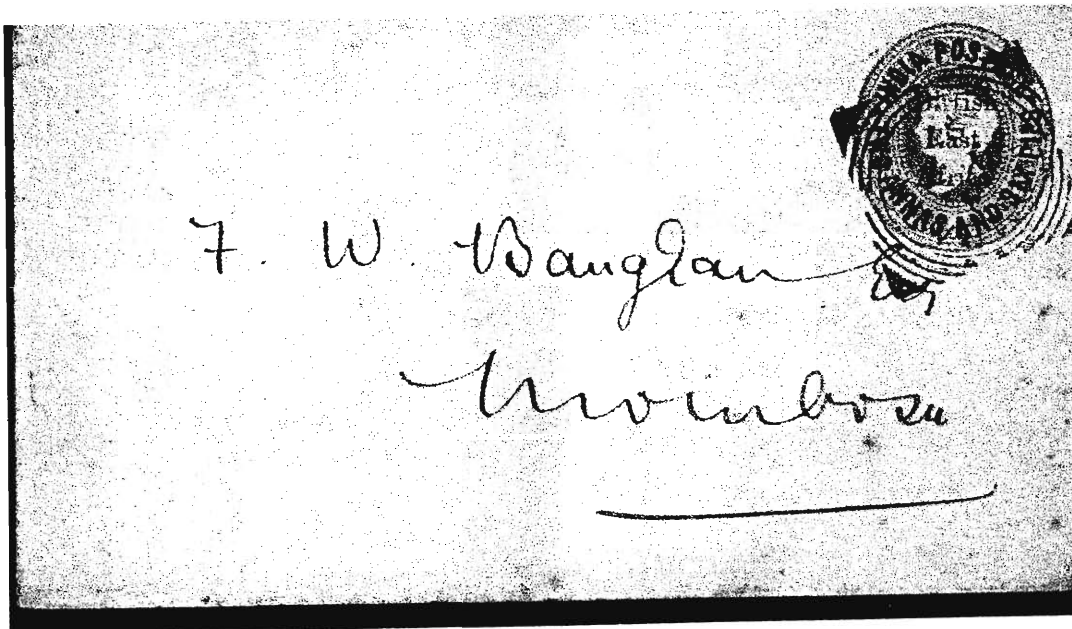
CARTOLINA POSTALE  
DIECI CENTESIMI



65

Admiral P...  
La Z...  
P...

NB. Su questo lato non deve  
scriversi che il solo indirizzo.



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## SOCIETY CALENDAR 2001 & NOTES

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March - 11 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London E.C.1. "British Guiana", talk/display by Derek Nathan (morning). Also (afternoon), members' talks/displays - you are invited to bring up to 30 pages of p.s. to display, and to talk for up to 5 minutes about it.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June - MIDPEX at the Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled, 1 Cromwell Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry, 10 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. We shall have a table and 6 display frames, to promote p.s. and our Society, to attract new members and to act as a meeting point for all members attending.

Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October - 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London E.C.1. A.G.M. will be held first, followed by a talk/display by Hans Smith on "Austrian Postal Stationery & Pneumatic Posts", then in the afternoon the auction, with bidding starting at 2.15 approx.

### **Eurocheques**

Please note that from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2001 U.K. banks have pulled out of the Eurocheque system, so the Treasurer will no longer be able to accept payments in that form.

### **Revised Constitution**

Revisions to the Society's constitution were agreed at the October 2000 A.G.M. If you require a copy of the latest version, you should contact the Secretary and a copy will be sent to you with the June journal - or, by enclosing an SAE, you can obtain the new constitution straightaway.

### **New Publicity Leaflet**

The Society's publicity leaflet has been revised, and it now includes the web site address. Any member who would like some of these leaflets for giving out at meetings, conventions, etc. should write to the Secretary stating how many copies are needed and by what date.



## EXHIBITION SCENE

### ESPAÑA 2000

This World Philatelic Exhibition was held in Madrid between 6 and 14 October. On all but one of these days the sun shone from clear blue skies, giving a feeling of well-being. All was not well though. For whilst it was obvious that a great deal of planning and hard work had gone into organising the exhibition, certain things did go wrong. For instance, the catalogues did not arrive until the second day and there was no catering in the hall - for that one had to go outside and cross the road into another hall. A temporary canvas awning formed the entrance to the exhibition halls. One day a wind sprang up, found its way under the canvas and destroyed it, unfortunately killing the man in the ticket office.

All the display frames were in one hall on the same level, well laid out, with individual strip lights. Sadly there was no seating or catering. Maybe because of this, the displays were only looked at by the exhibitors themselves and the jurors.

For the youngsters there was always something going on, indeed there needed to be for 500 were bussed in each day, flooding the halls with their excited chatter. A separate hall was devoted to youth exhibits and on a regular schedule there was a "play on stamps" enacted. A feature was made of the Spanish Carthusian thoroughbred horses, which performed their routine in the adjacent arena.

Besides the special stamps that were issued prior to *España 2000*, 11 miniature sheets were issued during the exhibition. This may seem excessive, however the entrance fee included one sheet.

By Richard Wheatley

The dealers and postal administrations were housed on the upper floor along with the Court of Honour. There seemed to be a fair bit of trade being carried out and the "passport" racket appeared to be a popular activity.

On the final Saturday evening, the Palmares took place in the basement of our 1000 room hotel. The meal was enjoyable, the company first class and the two-hour-long floor show outstanding. So *España 2000* came to an end on a high note, the memory of which will far outlast the other unfortunate happenings.

### Postal Stationery Exhibits

There were 47 exhibits in this class from all over the world. The standard was high with one Large Gold, nine Gold and twelve Large Vermeil awards. In this class there were six entries by Postal Stationery Society members:-

|                   |   |               |
|-------------------|---|---------------|
| Hansen, Erik      | - | Gold          |
| Huggins, Alan     | - | Gold          |
| Schumann, Stephen | - | Gold          |
| Wheatley, Richard | - | Large Vermeil |
| Gonzalez, Albert  | - | Vermeil       |
| Klaus, Rudolf     | - | Vermeil       |

# TOPICS

(conducted by the Editor)

## A Proxy Letter Sheet from Two Centuries back!

I had never seen any Queen Victoria proxy voting p.s. until a few months ago when, at a stamp fair, I stumbled upon the letter sheet illustrated here. I suggested to a revenue stamp collecting friend that he should buy it (at £8) and reward me (for pointing it out) with a photocopy. As will be seen, this item relates to a meeting in July 1897 of the Coolgardie Gold Syndicate Ltd. It bears a 1d embossed revenue stamp and a 1d postage stamp imprint of a type used on some envelopes from 1893.

## More Speakers' Ovals

I illustrate here an envelope shown to me at last October's meeting by Maurice Brown. The postmark is "OFFICIAL PAID LONDON S.W.", the date 12<sup>th</sup> October 1908, and the "HOUSE OF COMMONS SPEAKER" oval mark is at bottom left. The Speaker at that time was James Lowther (1855 - 1949), who held the post through the turbulent years 1905 to 1921.

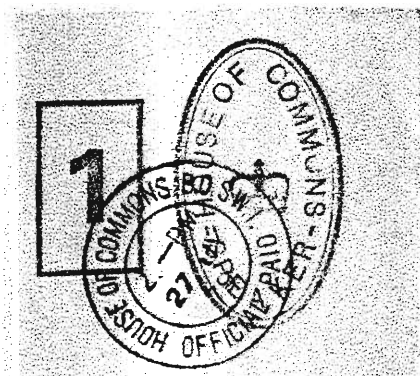
On the same topic an interesting letter has reached me from Nigel Lutwyche. He mentions recalling that a philatelic friend he regularly visits had shown him a couple of House of Commons covers, each with a Speaker mark. Therefore (he goes on) "I took 'P.S.' no 18 with me and asked my friend to dig out the two covers. Both had similar ovals, but one was double rimmed while the other was single rimmed. Both had a boxed '1' to the left; one was dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 1980, the other 6<sup>th</sup> April 1984. My friend then showed me a book by James Mackay 'Official Mail of the British Isles' with (on p.59) illustrations of 14 different marks of the Speakers office. They are all upright ovals, and they are properly known as 'certifying stamps'.

Back at home (Nigel continues) I looked through my 'odds and ends' boxes and found that I have two Speaker covers, one indistinctly dated 1979, and the other (see

illustration) with a date-stamp 27<sup>th</sup> July 1979. All four of the covers I have mentioned have on the flap (in green) an embossed crown over portcullis and the words 'House of Commons'. The certifying stamps on my two covers (both 1979) differ in size, in gaps between words, and in the shape of figure '1'. I think the certifying stamps are probably made of rubber and that the boxed '1' is attached to the certifying stamp, as the relationship between them seems constant. The book mentioned above states that the Speaker's office was first authorised to have its own certifying stamp in 1893".



1897



1979





The SECRETARY

COOLGARDIE GOLD SYNDICATE, Limited,

Broad Street, Avenue,

LONDON, E.C

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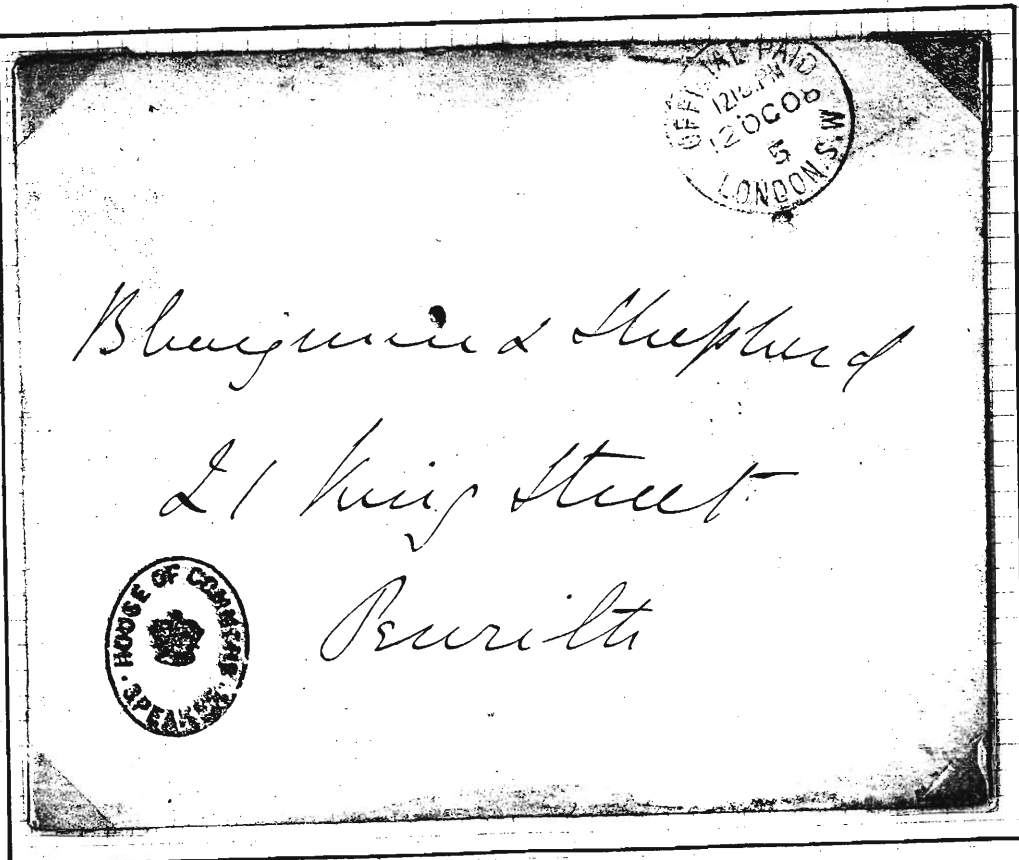
**NOTE:—**

*This proxy, duly signed, must reach the Office of the Company, Broad Street Avenue, London, E.C., not later than by the first postal delivery on the 27th July, 1897.*



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COOLGARDIE GOLD SYNDICATE, Limited.



## QUERY CORNER

### Green Diamonds

While scrutinising the "U.S. Postal Services Domestic Mailing Manual Issue 55", **Richard Berry** came across Exhibit CO10 6.3, which states that "an envelope or card bearing a green diamond border must be used only for First-Class mail". He telephoned the U.S. Postal Service for elaboration of the meaning of "green diamond" and was told that it is a traditional piece of postal stationery used to indicate that the envelope/card is to be sent by 1<sup>st</sup> class post - but that it is now falling into disuse. Richard wonders if any member can throw light on the origins of this stationery item, and on the availability of any examples (used or unused).

### A Double-stamped Certificate & Likewise a Label

An enquiry from **Peter Clarke** concerns two G.B. items he has recently acquired. The first is a certificate of posting, which is S.T.O. with two ½p QEII light turquoise blue octagonals. Printed at the foot of the certificate is "Privately produced form in lieu of P326B, approved by the Post Office 12950/65 - Rev 4/73". The queries are were these produced to save time at the post office counter; and why two ½p stamps rather than one 1p?

### Response (obtained from **Andrew Whitworth**):-

QEII S.T.O. certificates of posting were produced for use by postmark collectors to enable them to obtain post office counter date stamps. There were 3 issues: (1) 1970 1d olive Machin, listed by Alan Huggins in his 1971 amended edition as CPS1 - on decimalisation the rate went up to 1p and the existing certificates of posting could be used by adding a ½p adhesive (see front cover of "P.S." no. 3); (2) 1971 1p purple lake - too dark to show up postmarks well and so replaced by (3) ½p + ½ turquoise (issue date not known) - 2 types, one referring to "stamps to the value of 1d", the other to "stamps to the value of 1p".

Peter Clarke's other queried item is a privately produced gummed label with two 5d dark blue imprinted stamps and fixed to a small "Jiffy" bag. A note inside the bag states "Supplied for postage of miniature bottles of Chivas Regal whiskey". The request is for any information.

**Response** - Your Editor, who has a similar label + bag among his oddments, has obtained the following details from **Andrew Whitworth**:- The QEII 5d + 5d gummed label is listed by Alan Huggins as WS111 in his S.T.O. newspaper wrappers section, with the date 1969. I have not seen any used examples. The postage rate must have been 10d, for which there was no postal stationery stamp - hence the use of two 5d imprinted stamps. (Andrew also has a very similar label attached to a Jiffy bag, but somewhat taller and with a 9d Machin stamp imprint.)

### G.B. - A New Discovery?

Whilst checking my accumulation of G.B. KGVI registered postal stationery envelopes (writes **Peter O'Keefe**) and comparing what I have with the listings in Alan Huggins' 1970 book, I came across one item which is apparently not recorded. The item is a 4½d (puce) "G" size envelope uprated with two dark red 1d adhesives and sent to Latvia from London on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1940. It was sent by Martins Bank Ltd, Whitehall Branch, and has no postmarks on the back. It appears to have got there O.K., but does have a British PC66 "Opened by Censor" white label at the left. (At the time Russian forces had occupied Latvia - the Germans did not invade until July 1941.)

A more detailed examination shows that it is very similar to Huggins type RP49. However, the instructions, in the centre, on the front under "REGISTERED LETTER", are on five lines and not six lines. By holding it up to a strong light it is possible to confirm that it is format RF13A, being "G" size, price 5d, and has the word 'Compensation' horizontally across the back, with six lines referring to this.

Could this be a new find? Or am I too optimistic? If anyone can comment, it would put my mind at rest.

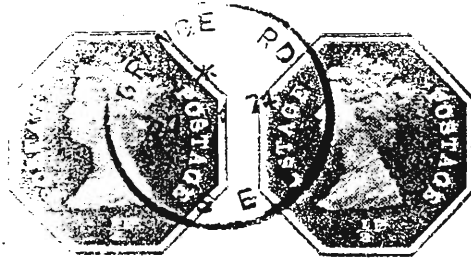
### In response **Andrew Whitworth** comments:-

This is RP49 - not a new find! On the G size there is room to get the central small type into 5 lines, whereas on the F size it will not fit, i.e. 6 lines are needed. Perhaps for his new edition Alan Huggins might consider expanding the last sentence near the bottom of page 104 so as to make matters clearer.

**CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

Unregistered letters and ordinary parcels only

Postage stamps to the value of 1p to be affixed by the sender, who should copy the address in full below.



.....  
 .....  
 .....

The item entered above has been posted here today.      Accepting Officer's Initials.....

Conditions:—

- (1) In the event of loss, damage or delay, this certificate will confer no title to compensation.
- (2) Any item in respect of which this certificate is issued will not be checked in the post or afforded special treatment.

(Privately produced form in lieu of P326B, approved by the Post Office, No. 12950/65-Rev 4/73)

POSTAGE

POSTAGE

POSTAGE

Name .....

Address .....

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>R</b> LONDON, W.C. 58<br/>                 No 9949</p>  | <p><b>REGISTERED LETTER.</b></p> <p>REVENUE<br/>                 POST OFFICE<br/>                 LONDON</p> | <p>POST OFFICE<br/>                 LONDON<br/>                 JUN 12 1948</p> |
| <p>.....<br/>                 e Manager,<br/>                 Latvijas Kreditbanka.<br/>                 Riga.<br/>                 Latvia.</p> | <p>.....<br/>                 9164</p>   | <p>.....<br/>                 PAID.</p>   |

**2086**

# ARTICLE

## Collecting Postal Stationery in ..... No.3. - Denmark

By Eric Hvidberg Hansen

The collecting and exhibiting of postal stationery has never been really popular in Denmark, despite the fact that Denmark was early on the map of countries issuing postal stationery, the first envelope being issued in 1865. Denmark has issued the following types of postal stationery:-

- envelopes (1865 - 1967)
- single postcards (1871 - 1984)
- double postcards (1883 - 1967)
- lettercards (1888 - 1967)
- wrappers (1872 - 1945)
- aerogrammes (1949 - 1985)
- service postcards (1871 - 1924)
- private ordered items (postcards, envelopes)

Most of the items have been issued with rates covering local mail, domestic mail and international mail (minus 3<sup>rd</sup> U.P.U. area), but as a speciality there are also issues with the special Inter-Scandinavian 6 øre rate. Besides that, many of the cities and towns in Denmark which had a local mail company in the 1880s issued some postal stationery items which are all very rare, even in unused condition. The Danish postal authorities ceased the issuing of postal stationery in 1984, since when only some postal cards printed on the occasion of stamp exhibitions, etc. have come out.

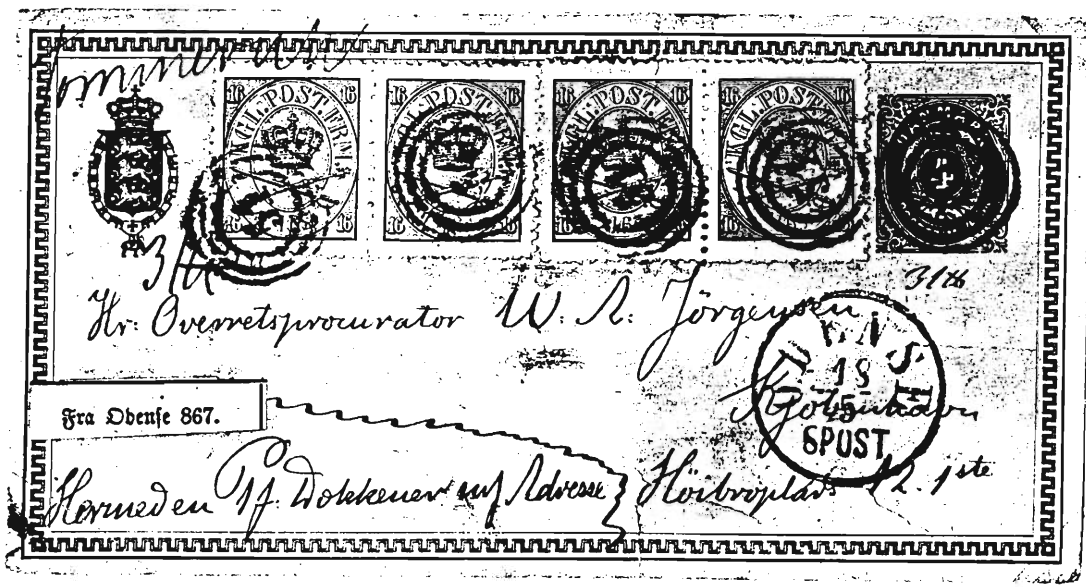
Though the area has not attracted that many collectors, the philatelic literature on Danish postal stationery is very rich - every little area has been researched and described in articles, monographs and catalogues. As late as in 1999 a new general catalogue was issued (reviewed in "PS" no. 17). The best specialised catalogue comprising the postal stationery of Denmark, Slesvig, Iceland and Danish West Indies, was issued in 1985 (last edition) by S. Ringstrom of Trelleborg, Sweden, and can still be obtained at some Danish stamp dealers.

There is no postal stationery society in Denmark. Within the last 50 years there have been attempts to establish a society 3- 4 times without any success. The last attempt was in the late '80s when a fraction of the Postal History Society tried to break away. In the last couple of years a small group has put the establishment of a society on the agenda again, using the Internet and some private home pages as the foundation for the work.

Most of the Danish stamp dealers have postal stationery in stock, as some items are very popular among collectors of traditional philately, postal history and thematics - mostly items used for another purpose than intended on the day of issue, i.e. address cards, express mail, registered and C.O.D. mail. Many of the dealers have web sites where you can see, and buy the items. Also at Danish (and Scandinavian) auction houses a lot of postal stationery is on offer, single lots and collections, both used and unused, often sold at fairly high prices.

On the exhibition front, Denmark has had only 5 international postal stationery exhibits within the last 15 years: 2 at Gold level, 2 at Large Vermeil level and one at Vermeil level (and only one comprising Danish postal stationery). However, light shines ahead - at the last national exhibition (I was chairman of the jury) 4 new exhibits (Denmark and Danish West Indies) were displayed, and 2 of them qualified for international participation in the future.

(See front cover and next page for illustrations.)



4 skilling card of the bi-coloured issue used as address card for a parcel weighing 31 lbs (parcel rate 6 skilling plus 2 skilling per lb, total 68 skilling). Additional franking is two pairs of 16 skilling Crown & Sceptre issue (print II, 1866).

Numeral cancellations "51" and "ODENSE 18.5 8 POST". Though Tommerup, from where the parcel was sent, had its own postmark in 1870, its name is hand-written in violet (upper left corner).

## WANTS

Great Britain Used and clearly dated areogrammes pre-1979, especially VC10 forms with PLEASE SHOW YOUR POSTCODE on back. O.R.J. Lee, Residence Beaulieu, 340 Rue du Mont Joly, 74170 St. Gervais les Bains, France.

World Illustrated p.s. sought in exchange for Chinese p.s. Wang Zhigang, PEP, 55 Sha Tan Hou Street, Beijing 100009, People's Republic of China.

World All types of p.s. of all periods sought in exchange for Indian and other Asian p.s. Mrs. P. Gangji, MIDC Bharatratna, Indiranagar 9, Solapur 413006, India.

Inclusion in this feature is FREE to members. Maximum length per entry is normally approx. 35 words (including address). Advertisers of WANTS should please reply promptly to any member who responds to their requests.

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

I am calling this an Edwardsian saga.

I recall a Society meeting (in 1994 I think) at which I was told by **Tony Edwards** that he was near to completing a book on aerogrammes for publication by the British Philatelic Trust. About 3 years went by, and then I read a notice in a booklet from the Hale Philatelic Society stating that the long-awaited book was soon to appear. A further 3 or more years have elapsed, and now a small bird has told me that the book is coming out shortly. Let us hope there is more substance in this news than in the report that a flock of pigs has been seen in full flight!

A publication of which I have recently heard tell (but have not seen) is "**Postal Stationery of Peru**" by H.H. Moll; the price is £10.

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

1860 Star Die Stamped Envelopes are Rare (Dan Undersander, re. U.S.A., Linn's Stamp News, 27/11/2000).

19<sup>th</sup> Century Syndicate Brokered Envelopes (Dan Undersander, re U.S.A., Linn's Stamp News, 1/1/2001).

Postal Stationery Matters (Peter van Gelder, Gibbons Stamp Monthly - October 2000, Stamp Show 2000 review, displays of South West Africa and Norway, letter sheet meaning; December 2000, U.S.A. Centennial envelopes, G.B. "foreign" card 1875, R.N. Exhibition 1891, Tasmania Fleet card, Canada's Year of the Dragon PSE).

When sending in **illustrations** for possible publication, members should please submit the very best photocopies they can - good contrast, not too dark, and not glossy photos. This all helps to improve the journal.

Contents of our next issue will include articles by Jan Stolk on South West Africa & by Ed Deschl on India; also reports on the October 2000 meeting - A.G.M., Annual Accounts and the Mozambique Company talk/display by Keith Hanman.

## LIBRARY

Borrowings have continued to be brisk. Please note that the Netherlands East Indies article should not have been listed in "P.S." 17 as item 57 but is correctly listed below as item 64. Recent additions are as follows:-

- 64 Netherlands East Indies - Printing Varieties on Postal Stationery Cards. An article by Richard Wheatley from "The London Philatelaist" November 1999 (donated by the author).
- 65 Stanley Gibbons Catalogue of Postage Stamps, Post Cards, Envelopes and Newsbands, 1895 - 96 (purchased).
- 66 Der Ganzsachensammler (i.e. Postal Stationery Collector) - The Swiss Society's p.s. journal (in German) - 4 issues, September 1999 to September 2000 inc.
- 67 Catalogue of Postal Stationery of China (People's Republic) - in two volumes, 1874 - 1974 and 1975 - 1998. In Chinese, but well illustrated in colour. Donated by Wang Zhigang.

Re: item 40, 2 further issues of "Postal Stationery" (May & July 2000) have been received from the U.S.A.

Peter van Gelder (Librarian)

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## MEMBERSHIP LIST

Space will be found in the June 2001 Journal for the listing of new members .

# AEROGRAMMATICS

BY AIR MAIL  
*par avion*

Royal Mail

## What's in a name?

Shakespeare asked this question, and now your Editor asks it in relation to a G.B. issue of a few months ago. Royal Mail's new standard aerogramme is identical to its previous standard aerogramme, except that the word "AEROGRAMME" has been replaced with the word "AIRLETTER"! Having mentioned my bafflement with this arcane change to **Tony Goldstone**, I received his comments as follows:-

"It seems nonsensical. Royal Mail claim it will remove confusion. What possible confusion can there be with a term that has been used for nearly 50 years? Surely the word "airletter" is far more confusing. If I ask a counter clerk 'How much is an aerogramme to Australia?', the question and answer are clear. But if I ask 'How much is an airletter to Australia?', I shall be asked 'Do you mean in an envelope - then it depends on weight; but if you mean a letter sheet, then the cost is ...' All very confusing!"

## Strange doings in Guernsey

Last Summer in Guernsey was aerogramatically odd. The facts have been reported to me by **Tony Goldstone**, and the postmarks illustrated here show the steps in this strange story.

"During August 2000 (writes Tony Goldstone) I spent about 3 weeks in Guernsey and was amazed to find that the supply of Guernsey aerogrammes had been exhausted and that Royal Mail aerogrammes (code No 6/99) were widely on sale throughout the island. On 17<sup>th</sup> August I mailed a few examples of the Royal Mail aerogramme to myself. The 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Royal Mail issue in Guernsey was 9<sup>th</sup> June 2000, and I eventually managed to obtain a 1<sup>st</sup> day postmark. I also wrote to the Guernsey Postal Headquarters to enquire when the next Guernsey aerogramme would be issued, and I was told in a letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> September that a new aerogramme would be available in February 2001. So it was, to say the least, surprising when I received a new issue Guernsey aerogramme with 1st day postmark 11<sup>th</sup> August 2000!"

This "1<sup>st</sup> day" must surely be arbitrary, for I was on the island till 30<sup>th</sup> August and no new aerogrammes were yet on sale".

Figure 1 shows a 9<sup>th</sup> June 2000 (1<sup>st</sup> day) Guernsey postmark on the stamp area of a Royal Mail aerogramme. Figure 2 shows (reduced) a Royal Mail aerogramme bought in Guernsey and posted there on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2000. Figure 3 shows the stamp area of a new issue Guernsey aerogramme (unaddressed) postmarked 11<sup>th</sup> August 2000, which was purported to a 1<sup>st</sup> day, but which is in fact some 6 weeks or so prior to the new aerogramme going on sale to the public.

## Apology

The illustration on page 26 of our last issue came out too darkly for the words printed on the aerogramme to show up. But I can assure you those words really were "English and scientific name of the bird"!



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

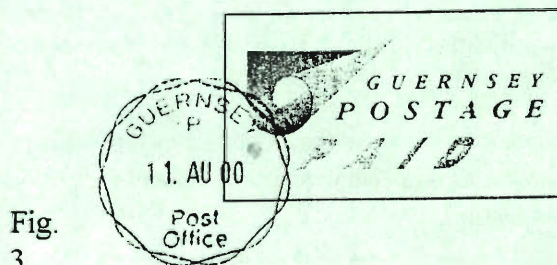


Fig. 3

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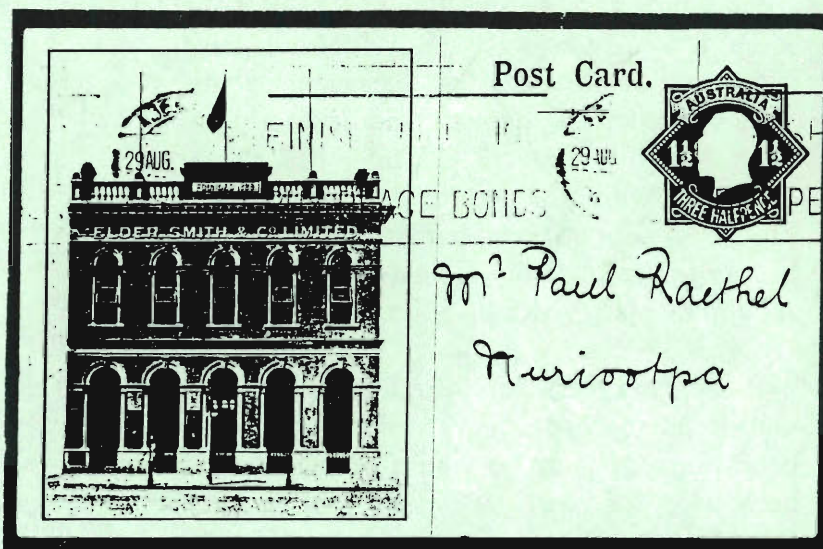
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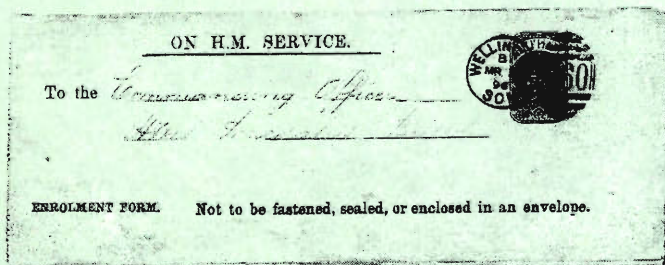
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