



# THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

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One of two postal stationery envelopes included in the "Santa Fun Pack" which was on sale at a restricted number of outlets between 6th November and 17th December 2001.  
See page 11 for details.

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**The Management Committee.**

The affairs of the Society are managed by four officers:- Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and a number of ordinary committee members from whom Post Holders are appointed.

**OFFICERS:-**

**CHAIRMAN - Iain Stevenson,**  
67 London Road,  
Bishop's Stortford,  
Hertfordshire. CM23 5NA

**VICE-CHAIRMAN - Keith Hanman**

**SECRETARY - Colin Baker,**  
4 Greenhill Gardens,  
Sutton Veny,  
Warminster,  
Wilts. BA12 7AY  
phone - 01985 840033

**TREASURER - Sam Barkley,**  
77 Rathmore Heights,  
Ballymena,  
Co. Antrim.  
Northern Ireland  
BT43 6NQ

**POST HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE:-**

**AUCTION ORGANISER - Tony Chilton,**  
56 Framfield Road,  
Mitcham,  
Surrey. CR4 2AL

**EDITOR - John Barker,**  
35 Portia Avenue,  
Shirley, Solihull,  
West Midlands. B90 2NW  
phone - 0121 744 2580

**LIBRARIAN - Peter van Gelder,**  
"Somerhay", 16 Frant Avenue,  
Little Common,  
Bexhill-on-Sea,  
Sussex. England

**PUBLICITY OFFICER - Michael Smith,**  
9 Rainham Close,  
Kempshott, Basingstoke,  
Hampshire. RG22 5HA  
e-mail: mike@philately.freemove.co.uk

**COMMITTEE MEMBER - Alan Huggins**

**EDITOR'S COMMENTS**

(The views expressed here are those of the Editor and do not necessarily reflect those of the Committee.)

Postal stationery, the subject matter of our common interest, spans a period of over 160 years and has been produced and issued to serve some quite diverse, yet specific purposes. In the early days Rowland Hill opened up the postal services to the masses, however it was the "adhesive labels" which triumphed over the Mulready stationery. The introduction of the post card and the formation of the Universal Postal Union saw a vast increase in the amount of postal stationery issued and in the number of countries producing such items. Postal stationery played a major role in business and personal communications. After World War I there was a rapid fall off in the issue of postal stationery other than view cards and items aimed at collectors. The advent of airmail and the aerogramme saw a return to stationery fulfilling a communication need. The onset of privatisation and the postal services being run on "business" lines rather than as a "service" has seen some interesting developments such as the German Notification Cards, the GB Christmas Envelope and the availability of GB postal stationery envelopes only via bulk order. Postal stationery such as this is fulfilling a business niche and is not aimed at collectors.

In this issue of the Journal, some of these aspects are embraced in several of the articles and notes.

John Barker.

## SECRETARY'S NOTES, FEBRUARY 2002

### Seasons Greetings

The committee appreciate the seasons greetings sent by so many members and for all their thanks and compliments given by members for the efforts of the committee and others running the Society. It is much appreciated by everyone, and it is nice to know that members continue to get a great deal of enjoyment from the Society and its activities.

### Organising a Philatelic Conference

The ABPS has recently published an excellent booklet giving details of how to organise a philatelic conference or similar event. It gives clear information on everything you need to know to run such an event, including details of the preparations required, how to organise things down to the last detail and the pitfalls to be avoided. Appendices contain draft budgets, programmes, booking forms, etc. If you are involved in the organising or running of any kind of philatelic event, not just a conference, then this booklet will help you run the affair as smoothly as possible.

Copies of the booklet can be obtained from the ABPS, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT, or the Society's Secretary (Colin Baker) has a copy which may be borrowed.

### The Mannheim Insurance Company

A German collector, Herr Burkhardt Beer, is studying the use of British postal stationery envelopes printed to private order for the Mannheim Insurance Company in the 19th century. This German insurance company had five offices in the United Kingdom and used these envelopes, which were pre-printed with the firm's address in Mannheim, to send daily reports to their head office in Germany. Herr Beer would like to hear from any member who has any such envelopes in his collection and would appreciate details and dates of the stamps impressed on the envelope, together with the date and place of posting.

You can either send any information to me and I will forward it to Herr Beer, or write direct to him at: Dachsbau 12, 40789 Monheim, Germany. I hope Herr Beer will let us know the results of his research in due course.

### The Use of Stationery

The committee recently agreed that they should try to use postal stationery for all communications wherever possible, and those members who have addresses in the United Kingdom will have seen already that the Society has started to use prepaid envelopes for mailing the Journal and other publications, as well as for general correspondence. However, as many of you will be aware, the British Post Office issues very little postal stationery and does not produce any envelopes or postcards for sale to the general public through post offices. Prepaid envelopes can be purchased in bulk (which are the ones we are using) but they are only valid for use within the UK. So I regret that all our members who live abroad have to make do with ordinary envelopes and adhesive stamps. Sorry.

### Chicken Run

When I received an e-mail through the Society's web site headed "chicken stationery" I thought it must either be some sort of joke or else it was one of those Trojan Horse messages that carries a virus. But no, the message was genuine and the request real. It was from a group of philatelists based in Belgium and Holland who collect postal stationery with the theme of chickens. As they put it they collect anything featuring the gallinaceans rooster, chicken or chick. Maria Spitaels, who wrote to me, even included three examples of stationery from around the world (Botswana, Great Britain and China) each of which included an image of a chicken in the stamp or in other parts of the design. (Fig. 1)

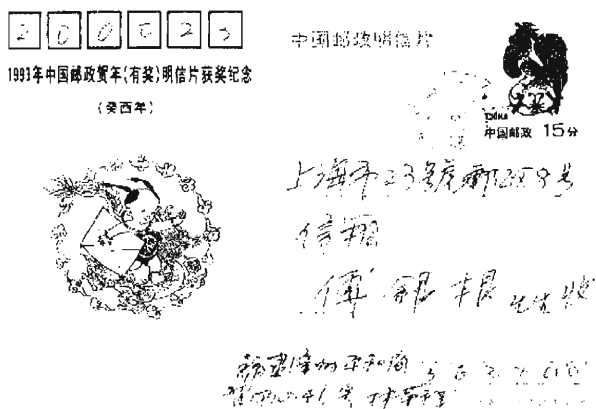


Fig. 1 "Chicken Stationery" from China

Maria has asked if we can help identify postal stationery from any country which includes pictures of chickens. So if any of you can help, or perhaps would like to know more about this subject and even join their group, please let me know and I will pass on your details, or alternatively you can e-mail direct to [maria.spitaels@pandora.be](mailto:maria.spitaels@pandora.be).

### Competitive Exhibiting

The Association of British Philatelic Societies has published a very useful booklet on "Competitive Exhibiting at Local and Federation Level", written by Dr Alan Huggins, one of the Society's founder members and, of course, our first chairman. It's full of interesting information on how to improve (and perhaps even win) philatelic competitions, no matter

whether you live in the UK or elsewhere. Anyone wanting a copy of this booklet can write to ABPS (107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT) or I will be happy to lend them the Society's copy.

### Art Deco on Stationery

Colin Bradshaw who helps to run and maintain the Stockport Plaza Supercinema / Theatre, a grade II listed building would like to use Art Deco from postal stationery envelopes for use in their general correspondence. Anyone who has examples of these (and I am told that German envelopes may provide good examples) who would like to help Colin should get in touch with him at [colinere@hotmail.com](mailto:colinere@hotmail.com) or through me.

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## SOCIETY CALENDAR 2002

### Saturday 23rd March 2002

At the British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC 1. 11.00 am.

11.15 am. Display of Postal Stationery of Canada by our Chairman, Iain Stevenson.

Break for lunch.

1.30 pm. Members are invited to bring along a maximum of 30 sheets each and to give a display of not more than 10 minutes for viewing.

The meeting is expected to close by about 4.30 pm.

This is a chance to show off your collection, ask advice and help make the meeting a success.

### Saturday 8th June 2002

Regional meeting at **Swinpex**, Swindon, 2.00 pm. to 4.00 pm. approximately.

Details of this event together with a map of how to get there are included as a separate sheet with your copy of this Journal (GB members only).

### Saturday 19th October 2002

At the British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC 1.

10.30 am. Auction lots set out for viewing.

11.00 am. Society's AGM

11.30 am. Display of postal stationery of Natal, by our Vice-Chairman, Keith Hanman.

1.00 pm. Viewing auction lots.

2.15 pm. Society's annual auction.

The meeting is expected to close by about 4.30 pm.

### CALENDAR FOR 2003

#### Saturday 22nd March 2003

At the British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC 1. 11.00 am.

Invited display of British South Africa by our Vice-Chairman Keith Hanman, followed by members displays. Members are invited to bring along a maximum of 30 sheets each and to give a display of not more than 10 minutes with a further 10 minutes for viewing.

#### Saturday 28th June 2003

**Midpex.** Tile Hill, Coventry, 10.00 am. to 4.00 pm.

The Society will have a table with a static display to promote the collecting of postal stationery and the benefits of joining our Society to attract new members.

#### Saturday 25th October 2003

At the British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC 1. 10.00 am to approx.

4.30 pm.

Society's AGM, display and auction.

## ROWLAND HILL, FATHER OF POSTAL STATIONERY

By Colin Baker

Although prestamped stationery might have been used in other parts of the world prior to 6 May 1840, (see Journal No 4 published in August 1994) it had never been provided by a Postal Authority or for use nationally. Indeed the whole idea of prepaying postal charges went against the traditions of most postal administrations. Thus the reforms proposed for Great Britain by Rowland Hill in 1839 were unique and had it not been for his tireless enthusiasm, the introduction of cheap postage and postal stationery would have been much delayed and who knows how the history books would have been written.

Not only did Rowland Hill give us the penny post, he also gave us postal stationery and in turn our hobby. So although this article on Hill's life does not deal directly with postal stationery, it is included in this month's Journal because without him and his efforts, instead of being philatelists we might all be collecting cheese labels or tram tickets!



Portrait of Rowland Hill

The world's first postage stamp, the now famous Penny Black, was first issued in May 1840. It heralded a new chapter in Victorian life, allowing the public to enjoy cheap postage and set standards that the rest of the world would follow. Rowland Hill is credited with bringing about this reform, and although there were many others supporting the change, it was he who had the courage to promote the idea and to see it through to reality. This was not an easy task in those days since there was tremendous opposition from the privileged few who, through their position in the Government, had the right to free post, as well as those who were set against change in any form. In addition the Government looked upon the income from high postal charges as an important source of revenue. It took a man of great strength and character to bring about this change. Rowland Hill was such a man.

Rowland Hill was born on 3 December 1795 at Kidderminster, the third son of Sarah and Thomas Wright Hill who had six sons altogether. Hill was a sickly child, suffering from scarlet fever when very young such that he was unable to embark on his formal education until he was seven years of age. Despite this late start he proved himself to be extremely intelligent and inventive, driving himself to work long days and nights in an effort to leave the world something he would be remembered by. Hill was to become extremely versatile and amongst his attributes can be listed mathematics, draughtsmanship, architecture, astronomy and teaching. He was also to become an exceptional reformer.

From an early age he helped his father and brother run the family owned school in Birmingham. Like everything else in Hill's life, the manner in which school was run was progressive. There was no corporal punishment, pupils were encouraged to help organise and run the school and they all had half a day's PE a week. The school moved to new premises in 1819 (Hazelwood School), specially designed by Rowland Hill to include separate classrooms, a library, handicraft rooms and a gymnasium, almost unheard of in those days. Eventually Hill more or less took

over from his father and ran the school with his eldest brother Matthew.

In 1827 the family opened a second school in North London in an old mansion called Bruce Castle. However, by this time Hill was looking for an alternative direction for his energies. He tried inventing a variety of machines, from a device designed to check the speed of stage coaches to a rotary printing press. For various reasons none of these were successful and he gradually turned his attention to the spread of knowledge and postal reform.

In the 1830s there was a growing swell of discontent about expensive postal charges which were based on mileage and the number of sheets of paper sent. For example, a simple letter from London to Edinburgh cost over one shilling. Because letters were paid for on delivery rather than at the time of posting, some of these charges were "lost" or stolen. Business was being stifled and the system was abused in every way possible.

Robert Wallace, newly elected in 1833 as the MP for Greenock, campaigned for postal reform and there followed a Commission of Inquiry in 1835 which also reported that the postal system needed a major overhaul.

Hill produced a pamphlet in 1837 in which he showed that it should only cost a farthing to handle and deliver a letter. Shortly after this he went before the Commission of Inquiry which was still gathering evidence and reporting on the need for reform. As part of his suggested reforms he proposed not only the use of postage stamps, but also of prestamped envelopes and lettersheets. In 1839 this exhaustive and detailed work brought him a two year position at the Treasury to oversee the introduction of the Penny Post.

Postal reform was by now on its way and there followed the Postal Reform Act in 1839 coupled with a Treasury competition to find the best way of implementing the new system of prepayment. In December 1839 postal charges were reduced to 4d (local posts to 1d) to be followed in January 1840 by the Uniform Penny Post and the start of a scale of charges by weight alone, which we still use today.

In 1840 Hill became intensely involved in the design and production of the Penny Black, while at the same time both he and his brother Edwin (also employed by the Inland Revenue)

strove hard to produce postage stamps and prepaid stationery so that they could be ready for public use by 6 May 1840, a short 4 month period.

Despite all the hard work Hill had put into the preparation of this essential postal reform, his two year appointment was not extended by the Treasury and in 1841 Hill joined the London and Brighton Railway Company for three years, improving both its service and efficiency. It was he who introduced Sunday cheap day tickets to the coast, the start of the seaside excursion, which would once again set standards that everyone would follow.

In 1846 Hill rejoined the Treasury as Secretary to the Postmaster General introducing the book post (the forerunner to the printed paper rate, now second class post) and persuaded the public to have letter boxes cut into their doors to speed the delivery of mail. In 1854 at the age of 60 he eventually took up the position he had always wanted, Secretary to the Post Office. In his new office he continued to introduce improvements to the postal service and to the well-being of its employees.

Ill health forced him to retire from this position ten years later and he spent much of his remaining years writing his memoirs and compiling a history of the Uniform Penny Post. He died at his home in Hampstead in 1879 aged 84. He was given a state funeral and is buried in Westminster Abbey.

During his life he was given the freedom of both the Cities of Aberdeen and London, was made a Fellow of the Royal Society, was granted an honorary degree by Oxford University and was knighted for his services to the nation.

### Postscript

The Hill family was intelligent, inventive and keen on reform. Of the surviving children, apart from Rowland Hill, the eldest son Matthew became a barrister, Edwin a mechanic and in 1840 Supervisor of Stamps at the Inland Revenue, while Arthur was a scholar. Frederick became another barrister and an early Inspector of Prisons. He also joined the Post Office to assist his brother Rowland.

Of the next generation, Rowland Hill's only son Pearson also joined the Post Office inventing and developing a machine for cancelling mail which previously had been a laborious task carried out by hand.

## Recent Developments in German Postal Stationery

### Postfach-Benachrichtigungskarte: Notification Cards for New Post-Office Box Holders

By Ransom Bradford

Absender

.....

Helfen Sie mit, daß wir Ihre Post früher bekommen: Nehmen Sie die Abkürzung über unser Postfach.

Postfach .....

Postfach-PLZ/Ort

Unsere Hausanschrift für Paketsendungen und Besucher:

.....  
Straße und Hausnummer

.....  
PLZ/Ort

Mat.Nr. 675-510-021



Postfach-Nummer oder Straße und Hausnummer

Postfach-PLZ      Ort  
bzw. PLZ

Fig. 1 Notification card for New Post-Office Box Holders (DPB 3)

These postcards have never been sold over the counter at post offices. They are included free of charge in a Service Kit given to customers who open a new post-office box. They are part of a Post Office attempt to encourage customers to collect their mail from a post-office box rather than receive it by delivery to their house. The argument is that post-box delivery is quicker for the customer and cheaper for the Post Office. The cards are designed to allow new customers to notify correspondents of their post-office box address. These notification cards were printed with an impression of (to date) one definitive stamp issue (Goethe-Schiller Monument) and two commemorative stamp issues (Eifel and Fuchs). The purpose of the imprint is to facilitate postal processing and to avoid the danger of recipients having to pay a postage-due surcharge on an unfranked postcard.

In the latest edition of the Michel Postal Stationery Catalogue, these cards are listed as:- **Dienstpostkarten der Deutschen Post AG: Official Mail Postcards of the German**

**Post Office.** They are given the catalogue abbreviation **DPB**. They are not "Official Mail" in the traditional definition of this term. The Michel description has been questioned by postal stationery experts because the term "Official Mail" has up till now been used exclusively for correspondence carried out between or by government departments. The last official mail stamps and postal stationery were issued by the Third Reich. As there hasn't been any official postal stationery of this kind since 1945 and as these cards are not really official mail in the traditional sense, the term *Dienstpostkarte* (Official Postcard) is seen by some as a misnomer. The German Post Office uses the term **Postkarten zur Benachrichtigung über ein neues Postfach**, roughly translated **Postcards to Notify Correspondents of your New Post-office Box Number**. I will use the term "Notification Card" in order to avoid any confusion. The numbers used eg. "DPB 1" refer to the listing in the Michel "**Ganzsachen-Katalog Deutschland 2002**".

The Notification Cards were produced in two sizes:

size 148 x 105 mm (standard postcard size) for **DPB 1** to **DPB 6** (Goethe-Schiller);  
size 162 x 114 mm (standard letter size) for **DPB 7** to **DPB 10** (Eifel and Fuchs).

The paper used in all cases is white, varying issue to issue from glossy to dull matt. and with varying paper thicknesses.

The value of the imprinted stamp is 100 Pfennige (1 Deutschmark), which is the current postcard rate for inland surface and Europe-wide airmail cards.

The first Notification Cards were issued from spring to autumn of 1998 as a pilot test only in the city of Herford (Westfalia). They were distributed free of charge to customers who applied for a new post-office box in Herford during the test period. Initially the cards were issued as single cards (**DPB 1 I**) but later (**DPB 1 II**) the cards issued were in pairs joined by their long edge and separated by a line of roulette,

On the obverse side of these cards are several lines of text and lines for the sender to fill in the details of their "old" and "new" address. Included in this text are "Help us receive your mail more quickly. Take a short cut by using our new post-office box" and "Our house address should be used for packages and visits".

On the reverse side is a picture of a large alarm clock with the three-lined caption "Here comes our address for Early Birds" above the alarm clock.

The first general issue (**DPB 2**) was in December 1998. The card being identical with the previous one with the exception of the addition of a vertical 20 mm printing order number (Materialnummer) alongside the thin vertical line separating the left and right hand sides of the obverse of the card.

Five pairs of cards were included in the Service Kit, and these kits were distributed between December 1998 and February 1999 to new post-office box holders throughout Germany.

When postal stationery collectors heard about these cards, there was a general uproar. Neither **DPB 1** nor **DPB 2** was included in philatelic agency standing orders or available as a single order from the agency, and as a result these two cards have been much sought

after by collectors. To satisfy collectors' demands, two of these cards which were subsequently issued (**DPB 3**) and (**DPB 4 II**), were made available by the German Post Office to collectors who already had standing orders for postal stationery at the Philatelic Agency (but not as single orders). As these cards differ in several important ways from the original two issues, collectors were not very happy about the way the Post Office solved the problem.

**DPB 3** (Fig 1) issued in 1999 for Philatelic Agency standing order customers is similar to **DPB 1 II** except for differences in the dimensions of the dividing line and printing order number. They were sold to Philatelic Agency standing order customers at face value. Michel does not make it clear whether these cards were produced solely for Philatelic Agency standing order customers and were thus not distributed to new box holders, or whether they were produced largely for new box holders with a consignment then distributed through the Philatelic Agency. I assume that they were produced exclusively for Philatelic Agency customers. This may mean that the number printed was smaller (or larger?) than that for the cards distributed to box holders.



Fig. 2 The small alarm clock with the GPO logo

A second general issue (Fig. 2) was made at the beginning of February 1999 (**DPB 4**). There are changes to the details of the text on the obverse side and the reverse side carries a picture of a smaller alarm clock with the caption below the clock. In the lower right hand corner of the card is the logo of the German Post Office.



There are five varieties of this issue differing in a number of aspects relating to printing, paper and roulette.

According to Michel **DPB 4 II** was sold at face value only to customers of the Philatelic Agency who had standing orders for postal stationery, which leads me to believe that the same holds true for **DPB 3** also.

In July 2000 there was a change in the format and text on the obverse side of the card (**DPB 5**). "07/00" appears after the Printing Order Number, indicating the date of issue. Only three pairs of these cards were supplied to new post-office box holders. However two pairs of a second type of notification card (**DPB 6**) were also supplied in the service kit. This second type of card is for individuals who subscribe to newspapers or magazines to notify their suppliers of their new post-office box number. On the obverse side the text includes "We want to receive your publication/newspapers early in the morning. Therefore please use the new post-office box address given above". On the reverse side the word "Please" appears in white on a black rectangle with "change our subscription address" in black beneath. The background of the card is bright yellow.



ändern Sie unsere Abo-Anschrift!

Deutsche Post   
BRIEF

Fig. 3 Obverse of the subscription card (DPB 6)

From 2001 the notification cards were produced in a larger size (162 x 114mm), and issued as single cards rather than as pairs separated by roulette. The first of these issues, **DPB 7**, carried an impression of a

commemorative stamp showing the Eifel region of Germany. This had originally been used for an adhesive stamp issued in 1996.

There are a number of changes on the obverse side of these cards including the omission of a printing order number. The word "PLUSKART" now appears above the thin black line separating the two sides of the card. The reverse side carries the picture of the smaller alarm clock but with a new Post Office logo "BRIEF KOMMUNIMATION".

Six of these cards were included in the Service kit together with four cards (**DPB 8**) for notification for newspaper and magazine subscriptions.

In November 2001, notification cards **DPB 9** and **DPB 10** were issued with an impression of the adhesive stamp commemorating Leonhart Fuchs. The obverse side of these cards is otherwise the same as for **DPB 7** and **DPB 8**. However the reverse side carries a picture of an open post-office box with letters inside. The Service Kit contained six **DPB 9** and two **DPB 10** cards. The latter being for notification for newspaper and magazine subscriptions.

**CONCLUSION:** Only **two** Notification cards have ever been distributed to postal stationery collectors through the Philatelic Agency: **DPB 3** and **DPB 4 II**. They are likely to have remained unused or cancelled to order without being used for their original purpose. For that reason, I suspect that the number of these cards genuinely used is rather small.

As all of the other cards were sent directly to new box holders, it is very likely that most of them were genuinely used to notify correspondents of a new post-office box address. However, most of them are likely to have landed in the wastepaper basket. Unused copies (especially joined pairs of cards) and used copies of these cards are both likely to be scarce. The German Post office have not released any figures on the numbers printed. Some of the cards demand as much as 35 to 40 Euros unused. The prices given in Michel are totally unreliable because they in no way reflect availability or the real market situation.

## SIERRA LEONE AEROGRAMMES.

By Peter Rolfe

(Notes on a Display given to The Postal Stationery Society in London on 20th October 2001.

If you look at the Higgins and Gage Catalogue, you will see that the first Sierra Leone Aerogrammes were issued in 1950. However, that is not really the beginning of the story.

Air Mail services started to and from the territory in the 1930s but came to an abrupt halt on the fall of France in mid-1940. All regular air services were suspended, but as Freetown was an important military base, there were irregular military flights, which carried mail for all three services (and apparently for civilians if they could get away with it). Freetown was important due to the large natural harbour and also became a vital link in air routes to the Middle East and Egypt.

The first few sheets showed examples of this military mail, with Forces Letter Card, Honour Envelopes, Army Form w.3077 and later Forces Air Letters. All these are of the "formular" type and not necessarily particular to Sierra Leone, so the examples shown were all used from the territory, mostly with G.B. stamps.

Regular air services were resumed in 1942 and in late 1944, it was announced that "lightweight Air Letters" would be accepted at a rate of 6d to UK or 1s to USA. In October, the Crown Agents invited tenders for Air Letter Forms without stamps for Nigeria. The subsequent order included for a delivery of 20,000 to Sierra Leone and examples shown mint and used in 1946 (Fig. 1) & 1950.

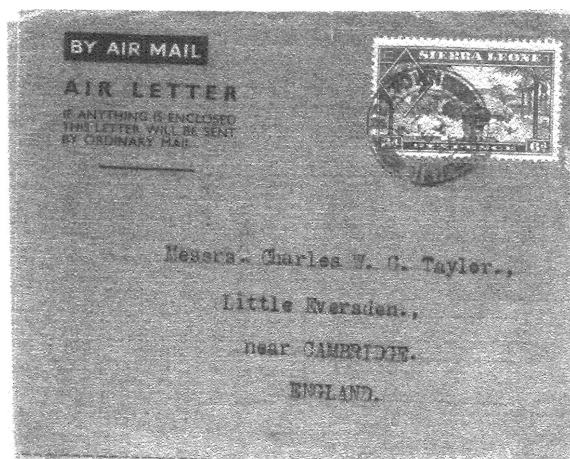


Fig. 1 1945 Formular Air Letter  
Postmarked 26 JU 46

The first Aerogramme proper, H & G F.1 was despatched from the printer on 8th June 1950. Sheet 10 showed an interesting example used to USA dated 14 July 1950. This item is probably philatelic but the writer seems to be unaware that the rate to USA was 1s, and the item has been handstamped "insufficiently prepaid for air transmission" and presumably travelled by surface routes. The next four sheets showed examples of this and various reprints, mint, used and cut-outs. A new issue F.6, for Queen Elizabeth's reign appeared in 1958 and remained valid after Independence in 1961, the next four sheets showed examples. An internal air service was started in 1958 and a 3d Aerogramme was issued in 1960 for this purpose. Examples are very rare used, however, they are easily found used overseas with additional postage added.

Post-Independence, a 6d issued in 1963 showed a flower design based on the newly issued definitives, as with all previous issues. However, in 1964, the currency was decimalised with 1 Leone being equal to 10s. The new rate was 7c (note the inflation!) and new Aerogrammes for 7c and 3c were issued in 1965 and the next six sheets showed examples of these mint and used. In 1967, a new issue of 7c value was based on the Self-adhesive map design, with at least two printings with a very marked shade difference. The next five sheets showed these, including an interesting registered example that appears to be non-philatelic. This was followed by a further issue to the same design but with face value of 9½ c. It should be noted that, from this period on, there is very little information available about rate revisions and all dates for issues and new rates are inferred and tentative.

A further 9½ c value appears in 1969, but showing the new definitive based Eagle design. There seem to be at least five reprints of these and the next nine sheets showed these and the differences between them. The same value was overprinted, probably locally, to 10c in 1973. All the previous reprints seem to be included but some of the overprinting is in very dark green, which is hard to distinguish

from the normal black. The next seven sheets showed examples.

A change of status and President in 1971 is reflected in postal issues and the new design of the 10c value in 1973 shows the head of President Siaka Stevens. There are at least two shade printings and possible shadow lines as shown, but these may be due to print irregularities. The same design was re-issued in 1976 with a 15c value (Fig. 2), and in 1977 with a 20c value, with examples displayed, including a spectacular "misplace bust" printing error on the 10c.

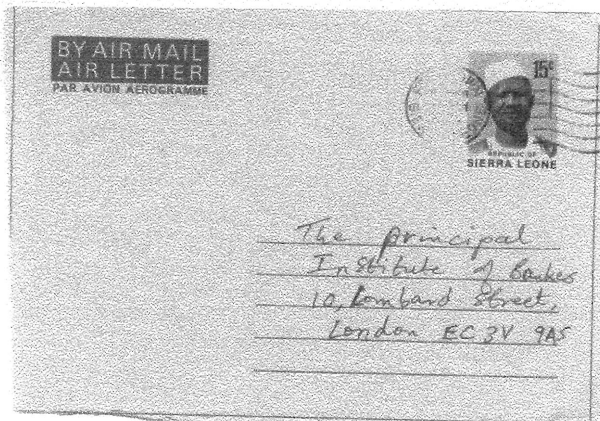


Fig. 2 1976 15c Siaka Stevens Aerogramme Postmarked 1 JU 76

In 1980 a new 20c value with a bird design appeared and in 1985, a 70c value with a ship design, both issues based on current definitive series and are shown mint and used. By now, inflation was beginning to take a hold, and the next issue to a new butterfly design had a face value of Le3 (3 Leones = £1 - 50 at the original rate). This became Le 9 in 1988 and in 1991, with a new design and pictorial format, Le 50 still with a butterfly design. Then, in 1993, the value became Le 150. All these were displayed over some twelve sheets.

Using the same pictorial format, a new bird design was issued in 1994 with a face value of Le300 and that is the latest issue seen so far. However, inflation continues, and the latest rate seen in April 2000 was Le 1000, with extra postage added. Examples were shown, including a series of three mint covers that seem to be a progressive colour trial for the issue.

During this period, various "formular" aerogrammes have been used from Sierra Leone and some have certainly been sold from Freetown Post Office. Some seventeen sheets showed a number of these, including Elder Dempster Line Forms, Fourah Bay College Forms, Imperial Air Mail, Aspley, Air Line and forms printed, possibly for Sierra Leone, by Walsall Security Printers and Mc Corquendale.

## Great Britain Issues a New Postal Stationery Envelope.

On 6th November last year, the British Post Office issued a new postal stationery envelope (illustrated on the front cover of this Journal). The envelope carried an imprint of the first class stamp (the basic inland letter rate in the UK) from the 2001 Christmas set. Collectors of modern GB stationery may have missed this issue, as it was put on sale for only a limited period, between 6th November and 17th December 2001. It was produced as part of a "Santa Fun Pack" aimed at young children, to encourage them to write letters. The pack cost £2.50 and was only available from Early Learning Centres (a chain of shops selling toys for the very young) and Crown Post Offices, that is official post offices, and not sub-post offices or those operated under a franchise in large stores, supermarkets, etc. Included in the pack was a pencil, two sheets of Santa writing paper, a memory game, dot to dot and colouring pictures, and details of how to make a snowflake paper-chain. Of course, to us stationery collectors the most important element of this pack was the two prepaid envelopes, one of which was pre-addressed to Santa with a topical postcode, and the second blank to be used as one wished.

It remains to be seen if the Post Office will continue with these packs next year, although I suspect that in view of the limited marketing these packs have been given, they will disappear into oblivion like so many other items produced by the British PO. We shall see.

Colin Baker

## BOOK REVIEWS

**NEW ZEALAND POSTAL STATIONERY CATALOGUE PART 2, LETTERCARDS 2001** by R.D. Samuel. Published by the author, P.O. Box 394, Christchurch, New Zealand.

This volume is an update of a 1989 publication which has been out of print for some time. As might be anticipated from the standing of the author, Robert Samuel, it represents the most authoritative listing available of the lettercards issued by the New Zealand Post Office from 1895 - 1990. The listing is easy to follow and is supplemented by explanatory notes which provide much interesting and useful background to the rationale for changes in tariff, layout, perforation etc. as well as guiding the reader through the intricacies of the different types and settings of the first 1895 lettercards and the 1932 provisional issues. In the latter context a section on the adhesive provisionals is also included which greatly clarifies the situation regarding these stamps which would not exist were it not for the procedures employed to re-rate postal stationery.

The catalogue is priced throughout and the figures indicated give an insight into the increasing appreciation of the true scarcity of many stationery items and the consequent effect on market values.

I am sure this publication will prove to be a worthy successor to New Zealand Postal Stationery Post Cards published in 1988 and is highly recommended to everyone with interests in New Zealand postal stationery or postal stationery generally.

Sadly since this review was written Robert Samuel's death was announced.

Alan Huggins

**CATALOGUE OF RUSSIAN POSTAL STATIONERY 1845 - 2000;** Moscow 2001. 68pp.

Alexander Ilushyin kindly sent me a copy of this new priced Catalogue of Russian Postal Stationery which covers the period 1845 - 2000.

Unfortunately since I am unable to read Russian any comments are obviously very constrained. However for those who can read

the text it should prove a very useful and compact listing of the various types of postal stationery that have been issued.

Alan Huggins

**SPECIALIZOVAY KATALOG 2001: SLOVENSKO 1939 - 1945 A 1993 - 2000;** Postove znamky a celiny; Union of Slovak Philatelists; Bratislava; 2001; 224pp. \$12 from Radlinskeho 9, SK-812 11 Bratislava 1 Slovak Republic.

Published in Bratislava by the union of Slovak Philatelists this specialised, priced listing of Slovak adhesive stamps and postal stationery is the combined work of a group of Slovak philatelists led by Lubomir Floch and Jozef Tekel. This is a splendid publication, the contents being very clearly and logically arranged and it is excellently produced with colour illustrations throughout.

Covering the periods 1939 - 1945 and 1993 - 2000, the postal stationery sections are really impressive, every item being illustrated, including the pictorial view cards. Although written in Slovak, an introductory section in English plus a Slovak:English:German:French vocabulary make this catalogue readily accessible to most postal stationery collectors around the world. The Union of Slovak Philatelists is to be congratulated on publishing this catalogue which sets a benchmark for others to match.

Alan Huggins

**THE POSTAL STATIONERY OF NATAL** by John Dickson & Keith Hanman. Published in 2001 by The Natal & Zululand Study Circle. ISBN 0-9540380-0-2. 222 pages A4 size, price £24 plus 5.25 postage. Available from John Dickson, Lismore House, Shepton Beauchamp, Ilminster TA19 0LJ or from Study Circle Representatives in USA and South Africa.

Although the final word can never be written with certainty on any subject, without doubt this excellent publication will be the definitive reference for information on Natal postal stationery for many years to come.

There has been an impressive amount of research carried out to provide the detailed information set out in the text which is

sub-divided into three sections. The first of these describes the issued items of postal stationery including the background information as to how and why they were produced. The next section is concerned with the postal rates and the corresponding usages of Natal postal stationery, while the third section comprises extracts from official documentation relevant to the issue and use of postal stationery in Natal.

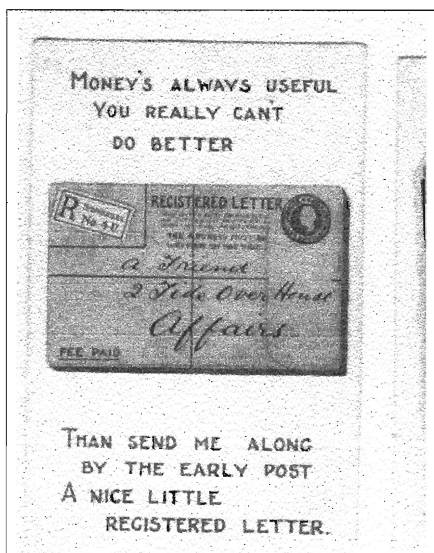
The text is very comprehensively illustrated throughout, both in colour and black and white, and includes proofs, essays and a detailed analysis of SPECIMEN overprints. All in all this book represents a benchmark against which other specialised monographs on British Colonial postal stationery will be measured.

Alan Huggins

### POSTAL STATIONERY ON POSTCARDS.

Conrad Graham has sent a photocopy of a card similar to that referred to by Arthur Roberts in the October 2001 issue of the Postal Society Journal (Issue No. 21). The copy sent in by Conrad was posted in 1936. In fact it shows a break in the frame line on the left hand side of the card opposite the base of the bathing tent. This is the same as on the card sent in by Colin Baker which has the same picture but bears the different inscription mentioned, and is illustrated on p 19 of the Journal issue No. 10.

Conrad has also sent another card, illustrated below, promoting the use of the registered post.



**Editor's note:** are there any more cards in this series? Please let me know if you come across similar items.

Illustrations of postal stationery have featured on picture postcards and on postal stationery cards from many countries. Conrad has sent me copies of a couple of such items.

### QUERIES

**Rachmaninoff on stationery.** From Colin Baker.

I have been asked if I know of any postal stationery which features the composer Rachmaninoff. If anyone knows of an item of stationery from anywhere in the world featuring this composer or his music, would they let me know so that I can pass the information on.

**UNTEA overprinted stamps and stationery.** (United Nations Temporary Executive Authority in West New Guinea) From J L Emmenegger P O Box 110 CH - 1009 Pully Switzerland requests information about the **UNTEA** overprinted stamps and stationery used in Dutch West Guinea 1962 - 63. Any article or copy of used stamps on envelopes interest him.. Please send any information to him at address given above.

### Postal Stationery - Insurance Cards.

From Peter O'Keeffe

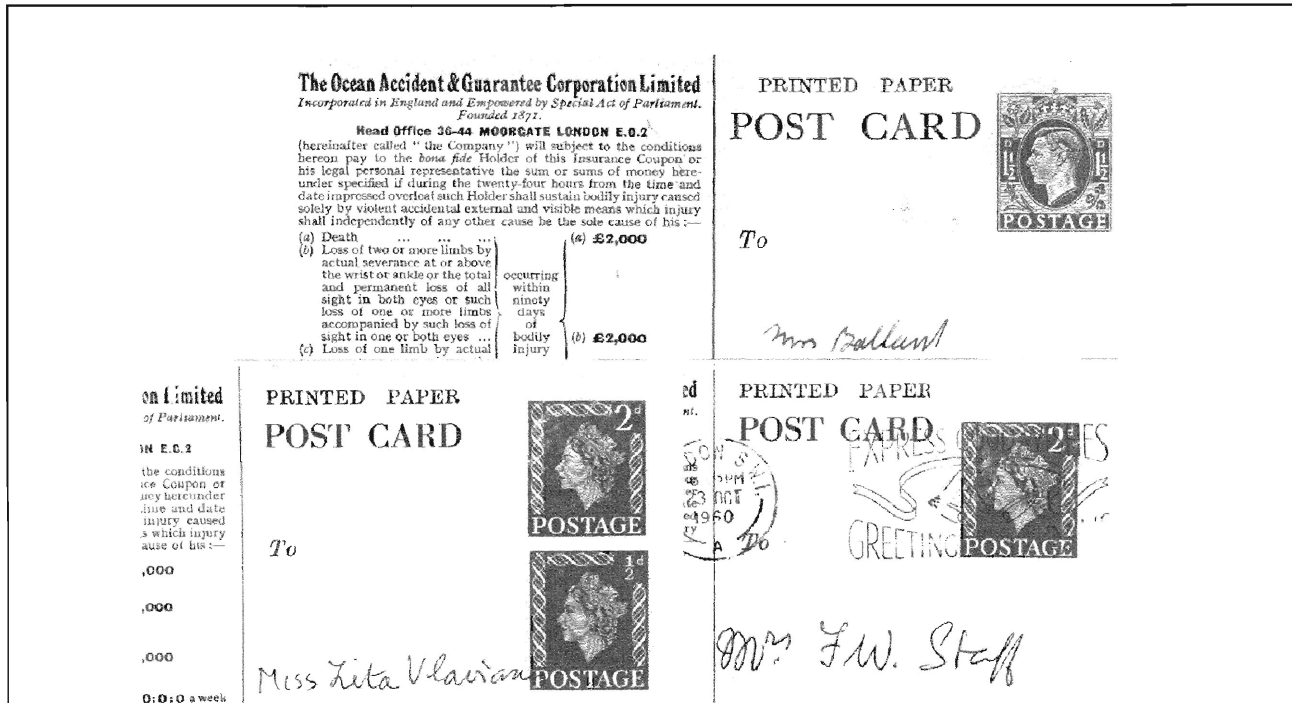
I have three Insurance Company post cards, with pre-printed, pre-decimal Postal Stationery type imprinted stamps. What I would like to know is the circumstances in which they were issued and used. They are, I assume classed as "Printed to Order", but I have been unable to find any direct reference to their type in Alan Huggins book.

I do know that, probably just after WWII, certain insurance companies installed machines at Railway Terminals from which travellers could purchase a short term travel insurance just prior to setting off on a journey. They would purchase such cover by obtaining a "Post Card Policy" authenticated by the machine with the time and date of purchase, add their name, sign the card and address it either to a friend or their next of kin, and post it

in a posting box adjacent to the machine. The card would be needed if a claim was to be made.

I believe that originally these machines were sited in a public area, but wonder if when the stamped Postal Stationery cards were introduced, whether the machines were placed in a more secure environment.

The three pre-decimal cards, illustrated below, are on white paper, and have KGV1 or QEII imprinted stamps and were issued by The Ocean Accident & Guarantee Corporation Limited and have been used, one in 1953, and two in 1960. These appear to be Huggins types CS93, CS109 and the same uprated with CS131. They are all properly "commercially" used.



In addition, I have a pink card issued by the Phoenix Assurance Company Limited, bearing a Postal Stationery pre-printed 4d red, Machin Head stamp, Huggins type CS164, uprated with a 1p adhesive to make a 2½ p rate, used after decimalisation, in September 1971. This incidentally was returned (presumably to the Phoenix) from the U.S.A., undelivered as the address was illegible.

the heading "All Accidents Insurance Ticket". This required an adhesive stamp before posting.

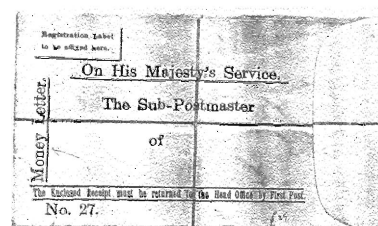
If any member has knowledge of any other values, or combinations of Postal Stationery Imprinted stamps, it would be interesting to learn about them, together with any further information about the use and availability of these items.



**Money Letter.** From Derek Tonkinson  
 Could anyone provide comments, history or any other information on the Money letter Envelope illustrated, or provide details of where to find such information? The envelope is blue with a white linen lining.

I can remember seeing, in my schooldays, one of these machines, I think at a Railway station, but it is a somewhat hazy recollection.

I also have an unstamped card, dated February 1960 issued by "The Railway Passengers Assurance Company" which has



## **The Aims of the Society.**

The Postal Stationery Society was formed to further the study of all areas of postal stationery and to encourage new collectors. It also aims to develop the collecting of postal stationery into a more regularly accepted branch of philately.

## **The Services of the Society.**

### **AUCTIONS**

Auctions are held twice a year. A postal only auction is held in August and the list for this is distributed with the June issue of the Journal. In October an auction is held after the AGM. This is for room bidders as well as for postal bidders. The list for this is also distributed with the June issue of the Journal.

### **JOURNAL**

The Journal is published three times a year:- February, June and October.

### **LIBRARY**

The Society Library contains a wide range of articles, books and catalogues which are available to borrow by post.

### **NEWSLETTER**

A Newsletter is produced in November and is accompanied by the prices realised from the auctions.

### **MEETINGS**

Meetings are held twice a year in London at the British Philatelic Trust Headquarters, 107 Chartreuse Street. EC1. Regional meetings are held on an ad hoc basis.

### **MONOGRAPHS**

The Society promotes the publication of detailed studies relating to postal stationery and encourages members to share their knowledge with others. Monographs are free to members in their year of publication.

### **WEB SITE**

The address of the Society's web site is:  
[www.postalstationery.org.uk](http://www.postalstationery.org.uk)

## **MEMBERSHIP LIST**

A warm welcome is extended to the following who have recently joined the Society. Collecting interests are given in brief.

Jonathan Topper (Houston, USA)	Latin America.
Edward Turnbull (Northumberland UK)	ex Yugoslavian countries, Scandinavia, Australasia, and Space Exploration.

## **WANTS**

Used postal stationery pictorial cards, reply coupons, postal orders. Paul Webb 31, Mountview Avenue, Dunstable Beds LU5 4DS.

## **LIBRARY**

An up-to-date Library List (4th Edition) is being sent to regular borrowers and new members. July and September 2001 issues "Postal Stationery" item 40 have been received from the U.S.A., as has the December 2001 issue of "Der Ganzsachensammler" (Item 66) from Switzerland. Also added, as item 71, is the catalogue of the Swiss Society's 2001 exhibition at Burgdorf, containing several illustrated articles (in German).

Peter van Gelder.

## **SOCIETY AUCTIONS 2002**

Items for the auctions may be handed in to the Auctioneer at the meeting on 23rd March or may be posted to him at the address given on P. 2 of this Journal and must reach him by this date at the latest.

## **EDITOR'S NOTES**

Many thanks to those of you who sent in items for the Journal. I am sorry that I have not been able to use all of these but I will hold them over for possible inclusion in a later issue. If you have anything to contribute by way of articles, notes, news items or any other items which you feel would be suitable for publication and of interest to other members, please send them to me at the address given on P. 2 of this Journal.

John Barker

**Copy date for the June issue of the  
Journal is 1st May 2002**