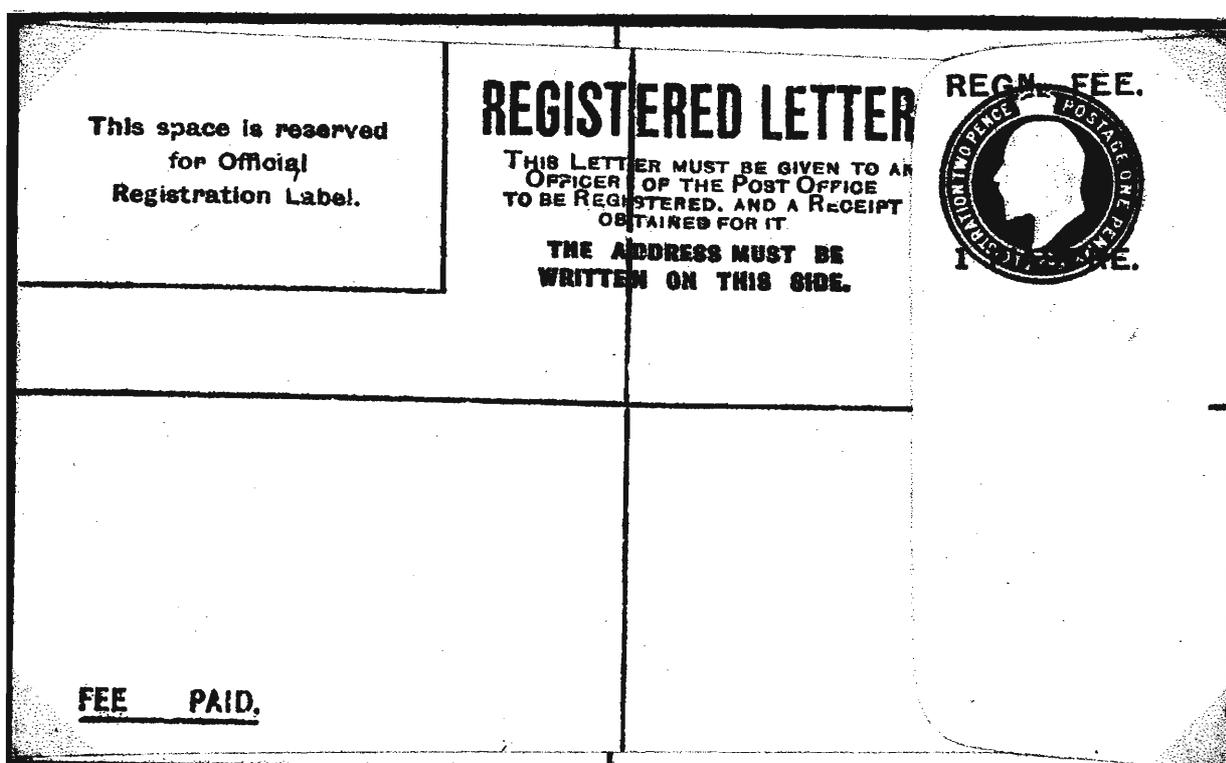




# THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 11, No. 2 June 2003  
(Serial number 26)



BRITISH LEVANT - King Edward VII 1 piastre/3d brown (die 18) registration envelope.  
Now you have seen this one, have you seen any others? See page 19

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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**

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Middlesex TW2 6JA

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Alan Huggins**  
**Iain Stevenson**

**The Postal Stationery Society Web site: [www.postalstationery.org.uk](http://www.postalstationery.org.uk)**

**SOCIETY CALENDAR 2003**◆ **Saturday 14th June 2003**

At **SWINPEX**, St Joseph's Lower School, Queen's Drive, Swindon. 2.00 - 4.00 pm. Members are invited to display up to 16 sheets from their collection and to give a short talk of about 10 minutes.

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2003**

**MIDPEX**. Tile Hill, Coventry, 10.00 am. to 4.00 pm. The Society will have a table with a static display to attract new members by promoting the collecting of postal stationery and the benefits of joining our Society.

◆ **Saturday 5th July 2003**

Christchurch Building, Tunbridge Wells. 2.30 - 5.30 pm. Display by David C Padgham of the India Study Circle "India and Indian States Postal Cards". Members are also invited to bring along and display up to 12 sheets from their own collections. The meeting will also include a quiz, Exchange Session and refreshments

**Saturday 25th October 2003**

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

10.30 am Auction lots to be set out for viewing.

11.00 am Society's AGM.

11.30 am Tony Chilton Competition.

1.00 pm Viewing auction lots.

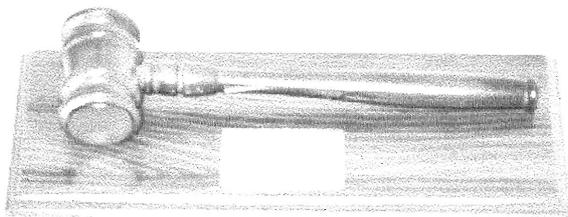
2.00 pm Society's annual "live" auction. The meeting is expected to close by about 4.30

◆ **UK members will find details of these meetings on the sheet enclosed with the February issue of the Journal.**

## SECRETARY'S NOTES - JUNE 2003

### The Chairman Hammers His Message Home.

Our chairman, Keith Hanman, is now able to keep us in order at meetings, thanks to his very kind gesture of buying the Society a gavel and stand. Keith said he felt it was no longer appropriate for officers of the Society to attract the meeting's attention by rapping the table with pencils, rocks, bits of old wood or whatever came to hand. Therefore he decided to present the Society with this new gavel. The base to the dark wooden gavel is inscribed "Presented by Keith Hanman 2003".



### Postal Stationery Society Literary Award.

It has been agreed by the Committee that the Society will implement an annual award for the best article or other work published by the Society each calendar year, starting this year, 2003. The award will be known as the "Postal Stationery Society Literary Award". A literary expert who is not a Society member will judge it, and he will follow the guidelines set out below. The winner will be announced as soon as possible in the following year, and will be able to choose between a £15 voucher to be spent at Vera Trinder, or two years' free subscription to the Society.

#### Literary Award Guidelines

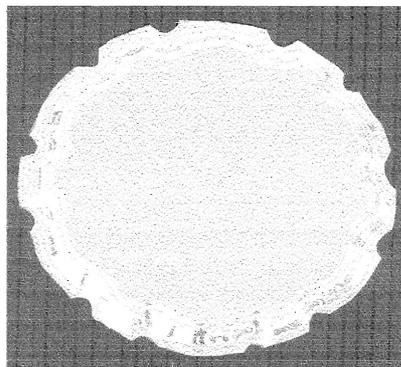
- General appeal of the subject.
- Originality.
- Depth and breadth of coverage, comprehensive coverage of subject.
- Research and resources used.
- Contribution of illustrations.
- Presentation of the subject (introduction/context/well structured article).
- Readability.
- Impact/stimulation

There will not be a minimum size of an article for consideration, but letters and short notes are unlikely to be considered suitable for this award.

So get those pens going, write about your favourite collecting interest and you may become a prize winner. If you need help then get in touch with the editor. Send your articles for the journal to John Barker, or manuscripts for monographs to Colin Baker.

### Tony Chilton Competition

The first annual Tony Chilton competition will be held after the Society's AGM on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2003. The competition is for 16 sheets on any postal stationery subject, and is open to all members of the Postal Stationery Society. Full rules were published in the February 2003 issue of the Journal. The Society has now purchased a suitable salver, and this will be presented to the winner when the competition has been judged.



**The silver salver is to be presented to the winner of the Tony Chilton Competition following the AGM in October this year. Because it is so highly polished it was very difficult to photograph, but although this does not show in the picture, it is inscribed "THE TONY CHILTON POSTAL STATIONERY SALVER".**

Overseas members (ie people who live outside the European Community) who think they may have difficulties with British customs regulations may submit full size colour copies of their entries and these will not be marked down because the original material is not on display.

### Society Auctions

Members will have received in March or April their copy of the Society's catalogue for the June 2003 Postal Only Auction. Enclosed with this copy of the Journal is the Society's October Auction catalogue, which is a postal

and room bidders auction to be held following the AGM in London on 25<sup>th</sup> October. However, material is now wanted for future Society auctions, that is those auctions we want to hold from 2004 onwards. It is up to you, the members, to provide sufficient material if we are to continue to hold at least one, or preferably two, auctions a year. So please look out all those unwanted stationery items that you have been meaning to sell, the duplicates, the stationery you bought as a job lot when you only wanted one item, collections you have never got around to sorting out, and so on. Send them to me, Mike Smith, at the address given on the inside of the front cover of the Journal.

Please place each lot inside its own see through envelope, mark the outside with your reference number (or write it on a loose piece of paper so that it can be seen from the outside) and give a description of each lot set against your reference number, with the price at which you want the auctioneer to start the bidding. Within reason, make the descriptions as full as possible, using Huggins, Higgins and Gage, Webb, Scott, etc, catalogue numbers for identification. Please set the starting price at a reasonable level to encourage bidding, too high a price may result in your lot not being sold. If you are unsure as to how much detail you need to provide, have a look at this year's auction catalogues to see other members descriptions

It would help me considerably if you would send your descriptions on disc or via e-mail, (as well as a hard copy) as this would cut down the amount of typing I have to do, and help to eliminate errors. Discs would be returned to you as soon as the information had been copied.

I hold a number of items which were included in previous auctions, but for whatever reason did not sell. Would those vendors please let me know if they would like their material re-offered for sale, and if so whether the starting price should be reduced to encourage bids from members. (I suggest a reduction of 10-20%). If vendors do not want their material included in future auctions it will be returned to them under the Society's auction rules.

The Society's auctions are always popular. To allow me to continue to provide

this valuable benefit to members, please gather together whatever it is you want to sell and send it to me.

Mike Smith.

### **Society's AGM.**

The AGM **this** year will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2003. If any member wishes to raise an item at the AGM it would be helpful if they would advise the secretary as soon as possible so that it can be notified in the Society's Journal and the item can be included in the meeting agenda.

### **New Date for the AGM 2004**

It has been necessary to amend the date of the AGM to be held **next** year to 30<sup>th</sup> October 2004. This is due to the British Philatelic Centre being a very popular venue with all the national societies in Britain and unfortunately we were not able to have our chosen date of the previous Saturday. However, all other dates given in the Journal remain firm.

### **MEETING REPORT: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2003.**

Exactly a dozen members gathered together at the Society's spring meeting this year. John Barker and Sam Barkley both gave their apologies for absence.

Before the main meeting started, the secretary issued copies of the Society's June auction catalogue and Monograph number 5 on Canadian Election Postal Stationery, which has been written by Iain Stevenson. These two publications have since been sent out to all members who were not able to attend the meeting.

Members agreed that the February issue of the Society's Journal was very good and congratulated John Barker on his efforts. It was felt that it would not be too long before it could be entered into a competition for philatelic publications.

The morning's display was given by our chairman, Keith Hanman, on the British South Africa Company, 1890 to 1918. Keith started by telling us that neither the Higgins and Gage, nor the Ascher catalogues covered all the stationery produced in this period. It had been necessary for him to undertake much research to establish the facts.

Cecil Rhodes started the British South Africa Company (BSAC) in 1889, having been granted a Royal Charter. Although they

produced many items of stationery, the literate population was small and it is now difficult to find used items. Keith therefore kept to mint items for this display.

Keith's first sheets showed Cape of Good Hope postcards overprinted "Mashonaland", which provoked an interesting discussion on how this was carried out. Because of the irregular printing of these, it was felt this heading was probably applied individually on each card.

Stationery specially produced for use by the BSAC was issued from 1893, with Bradbury Wilkinson, Perkins Bacon and Waterlow & Sons all producing items over the 25 year period.

BSAC joined the UPU in March 1901 which involved producing and issuing stationery to the agreed standard design, size and layout.

Keith showed the full range of stationery from postcards to registered envelopes, and finished with items of stationery which had been specially cancelled and were believed to have been printers samples.

Following light refreshments in the restaurant opposite the centre, it was the turn of the rest of the members present to show what they had brought along.

Colin Baker displayed GB Victorian postcards for use to foreign destinations, including specimens and a reply card essay.

Peter O'Keeffe followed this with an extensive range of GB King Edward VII stationery from envelopes to newspaper wrappers.

Sheila Marshall took us through the range of Channel Island definitive aerogrammes (or air letters as they are called once again) with three different types of layout and sizes, a variety of etiquettes, uprated postage rates and bilingual inscriptions. She started with the first 9d issue (1969) and ended up with the non-value indicator varieties which catered for frequent postage rate rises.

Peter Rolfe showed Sierra Leone official envelopes, for which he said there was no catalogue or listing. He finished with two air letters showing the rampant inflation suffered in that country.

George King displayed GB King George V lettercards, which included the elusive 2d orange stamped to order lettercard. He

followed this with a display of House of Commons envelopes from the early period to the present day.

Bob Avery put up Liechtenstein postcards from 1940 to date, including reply paid postcards.

Mike Smith showed Orange River Colony, starting with King Edward VII postcards, including a ½d wrapper band. He continued with De La Rue photos of essays which are believed to have been destroyed, die proofs, specimens, and a full range of other types of stationery. All of this stationery is very rare and some items may be the only examples of their type which now survive.

Alan Huggins showed British Levant, with examples of stationery overprinted for use in Constantinople and not overprinted but used in Smyrna. These included postcards, registered and plain envelopes.

Keith Hanman thanked everybody for bringing material along and noted that the displays had provoked much discussion. He thought that there had been a predominance of GB during the afternoon, although not all the items on show had been from the nineteenth century. He was pleased that some members had brought along material from foreign countries and encouraged others to do so at future Society meetings.

### FEPA News

I have been sent a copy of FEPA News dated November 2002, which includes reports on various philatelic functions recently held in Europe, plus the FEPA constitution, list of FEPA jurors and exhibition regulations (not to be confused with competition rules). If anyone would like more information on any of these matters, please contact the secretary.

### REGIONAL MEETINGS

Don't forget the two regional meetings the Society has organised this summer and the Society's stand at **Midpex**:

**Swindon (Swinpex)** - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> June

**Midpex** - Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June

**Tunbridge Wells** - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Full details of these events were given with the February Journal.

Please support all these events, meet other members and enjoy your hobby.

Colin Baker

**AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2002.**

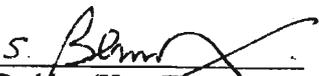
In the treasurer's report to the AGM held on 19th October 2002 (contained in the Newsletter of November 2002), reference was made to the audited accounts. These are presented below -

**POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY****Income & Expenditure Account for Year ended 31 August 2002**

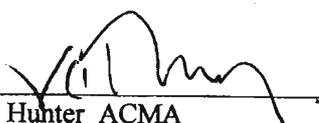
<b>INCOME</b>	<b>£</b>		<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£</b>	
Balance b/f from 2001 statement	3257.93	(2588)	Journal/Newsletter Printing	635.10	(453)
Subscriptions	2040.25	(1245)	Journal etc. postage	400.77	(287)
Auction commission	674.20	(728)	Room Hire	258.35	(140)
Bank Interest	11.08	(40)	ABPS	88.20	(89)
Advertising	65.00	(140)	Exhibitions (Midpex)	0.00	(40)
Monograph etc. sales	66.37	(46)	Postage /general exp.	194.91	(101)
Donations	4.43	( 8)	Auction printing / exp	94.01	(69)
			Library purchases	78.60	(14)
			Monograph printing / postage	462.50	(89)
			Stationery envelopes	445.91	(144)
			Website Production	0.00	(18)
			General expenses	54.23	(0)
			Compensation	13.00	(0)
			<b>Total</b>	<b>2725.58</b>	<b>(1537)</b>
			<b>Balance</b>	<b>3393.68</b>	<b>(3258)</b>
	<b>6119.26</b>	<b>(4795)</b>		<b>6119.26</b>	<b>(4795)</b>

## Balance represented by:-

Cash at Bank (Investment A/C)	£2453.94
----do----- (Cheque A/C)	£ 786.48
Cash in hand	£ 153.26 (Ed. Lib. / float)
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3393.68</b>

  
S. Barkley (Hon. Treasurer)

I have examined the records, receipts and bank statements of the Postal Stationery Society, and find the above Account to be a true and accurate reflection of the Society's financial position as it would have appeared at 31 August 2002, had all accounts been complete at that date. I have received satisfactory explanations relating to the matter.

  
I C Hunter ACMA

# BARANYA POSTAL STATIONERY

David Williams

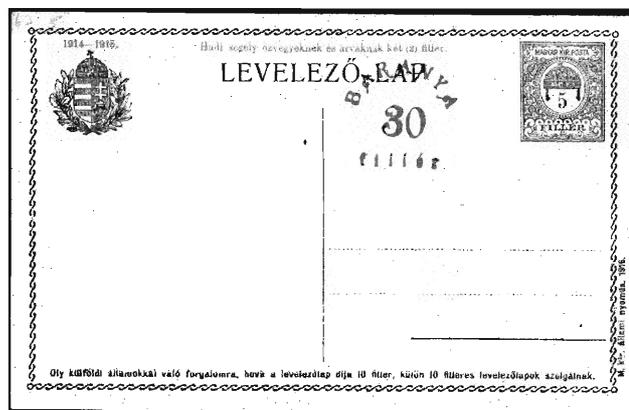
The city of Pécs in the County (Megye) of Baranya was occupied by Serbian troops on 15 November 1918 until 20 August 1920, when they returned it to Hungary. The Headquarters of the occupation army was in Pécs, which was not only the capital of the region, but also housed the local Hungarian postal directorate.

In early 1919 the Communist Government took over in Hungary with the result that there was growing inflation and the old money became almost valueless. To counteract this the Serbians decided to issue overprinted Hungarian notes for use in the region. As a result a black market sprang up in Baranya where Hungarian stamps smuggled from the unoccupied part could be bought for a fraction of their value.

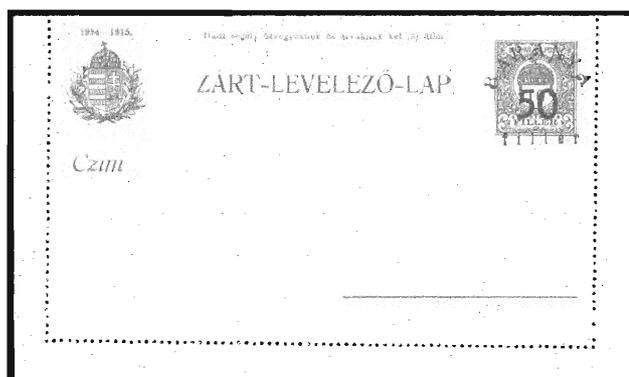
Consequently the sale of stamps from the official sources dried up, and as the authorities needed this income to pay for the postal service, they decided to overprint all the Hungarian stamps in stock with 'BARANYA 1919', so that these had to be used in the region. The first overprint was on stamps only.

Eleven months later Admiral Horthy ousted the Communist Government but Baranya was still occupied and they were told to continue paying the postal staff costs out of income. For this reason it was decided to increase the postal rates in the occupied territory and this automatically meant the need for new overprinted stamps with the new denominations. At the same time all Hungarian Postal Stationery in stock was similarly overprinted.

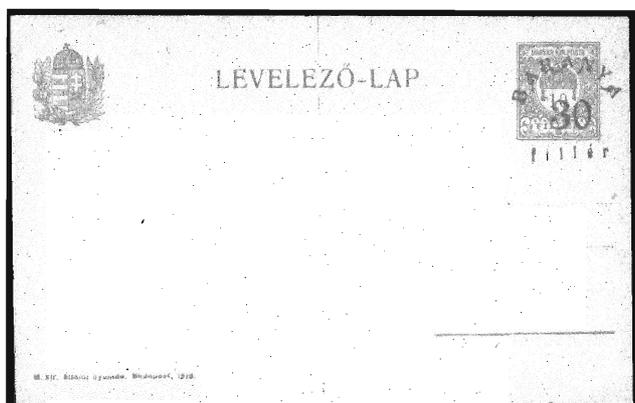
The overprinting is similar to the type used for the second printing but it is in RED together with the new denomination also in RED. The overprint is either on or besides the old Hungarian imprinted indicum. Some items which have the overprint to the left also have the indicum 'cancelled' with an oval handstamp from the Cashier's Office at Pécs Head Post Office to invalidate the original value.



**5f War Charity 1914/16 overprint on 1916 5f definitive, overprinted 30 filler to left without control cancellation.**



**2f War Charity 1914/15 overprint on 10f Letter Card (Zárt-Levelező-Lap) overprinted 50 filler on indicum.**



**10f definitive Hungarian postal stationery card in red on buff card dated 1918 overprinted 30 filler.**

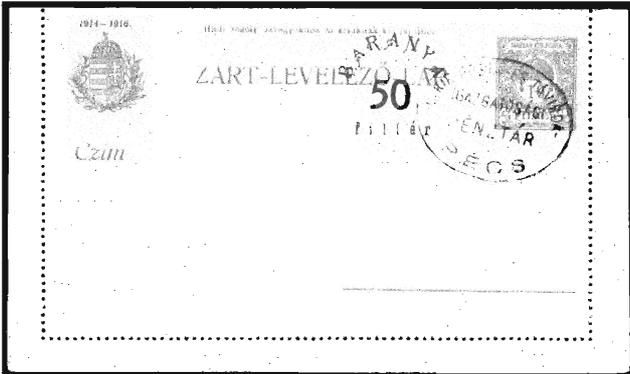
Thus there were twelve current Hungarian items so overprinted:-

1. Definitive postcard 30f on 10f
2. War Charity 1914/5 30f on 5f + 2f
3. War Charity 1914/16 30f on 5f + 2f
4. Reply postcard War Charity 1914/15 30f on 5f + 2f
5. Letter Cards definitive 50f on 20f

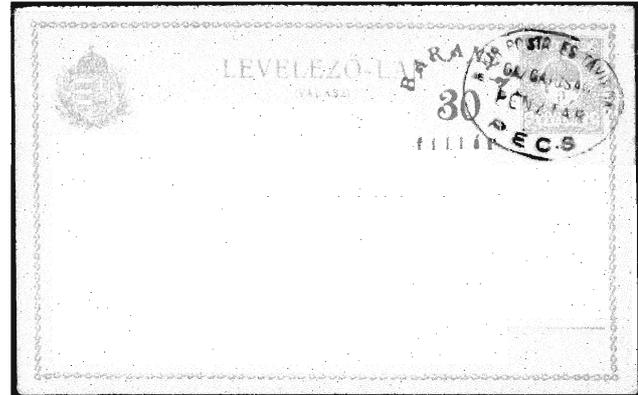
- 6. War Charity 1914/15 50f on 6f + 2f
- 7. War Charity 1914/16 50f on 6f + 2f
- 8. War Charity 1914/15 50f on 10f + 2f
- 9. War Charity 1914/16 50f on 10f + 2f
- 10. Envelope small size 150f on 15f
- 11. Envelope large size 150f on 16f
- 12. Envelope large size 150f on 35f.

**NOTES**

The overprint on the reply paid cards was done singly so that they had to be detached first and were thus sold individually.

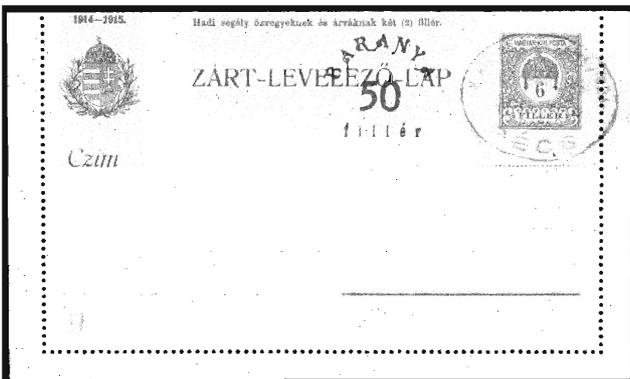


**2f War Charity 1914/16 overprint on 10f Letter Card overprinted 50 filler to left plus control cancel.**

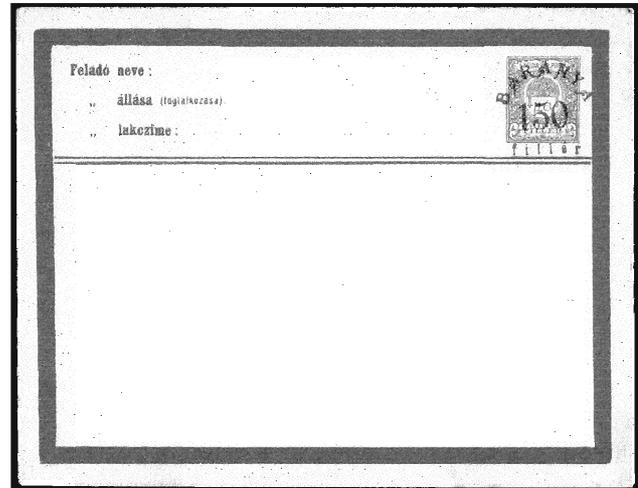


**5f reply paid card showing both halves overprinted 30 filler to left with control cancel.**

The Hungarian Post Office had originally issued the envelopes to be used for registered mail, but this was not universally popular with the populace who preferred to use Insured Mail for valuables.

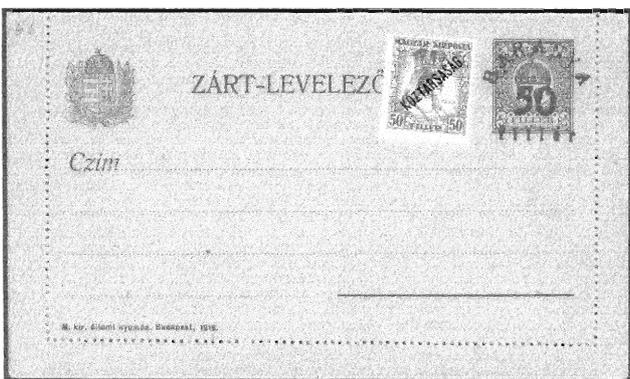


**2f War Charity 1914/15 overprint on 6f Letter Card overprinted 50 filler to left plus control cancel.**



**16 filler large size (dark red with indicum in green) envelope for registration overprinted 150 filler**

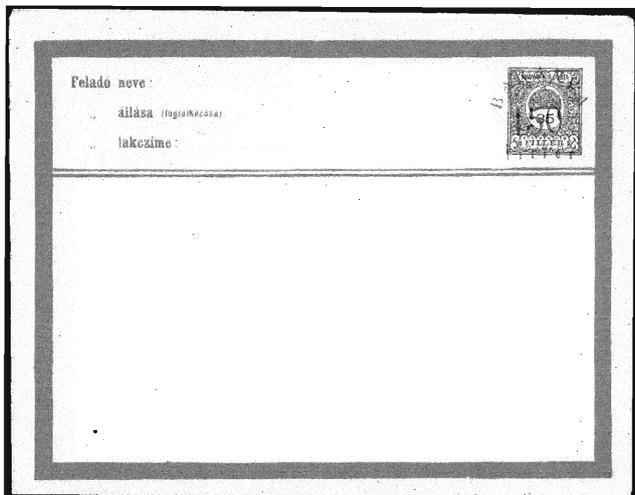
The overprinted amounts were the 'new' postal rates i.e. 30f for cards, 50f for letters and 150f for a registered letter.



**20f Letter Card dated 1918 overprinted 50 filler (Note additional stamp which is not overprinted)**

**USAGE**

This is not a 'local' issue. Covers and used postal stationery are known used internationally without incurring postage due. However the majority of known items would appear to have been philatelically contrived.



35 filler large size (orange red with indium in purple) envelope for registration overprinted 150 filler.

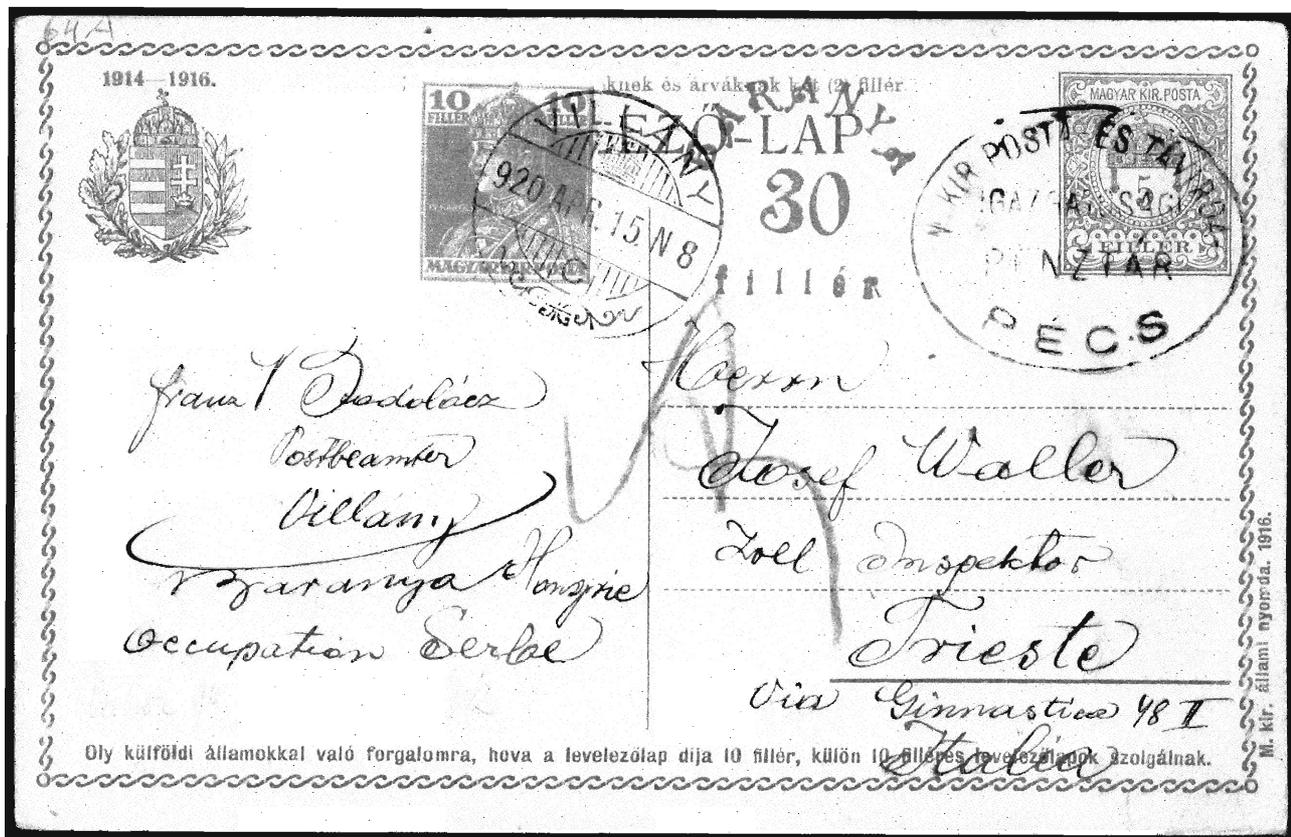
Commercial mail during this period is also franked with unoverprinted Hungarian stamps, which of course were perfectly valid. Needless to say this type of use is hard to find.

**Biography**

'Book of Overprints on Hungarian Stamps' by David Miles.

Various issues of 'Stamps of Hungary' the quarterly magazine of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

Any member who has an interest in, or any queries on, collecting Hungarian Postal Stationery, can contact the author at 46 Collum End Rise Cheltenham Glos UK GL53 OPB.



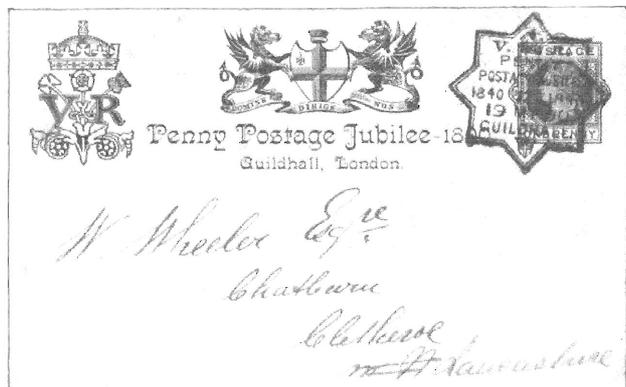
2f War Charity 1914/16 on 5f definitive postal card dated 1916 overprinted 30 filler to left and control cancel. Commercially used to Trieste in Italy from VILLÁNY (in Baranya county) on 20 April 1920, within Serbian occupation period, but with unoverprinted Hungarian stamp to make up the correct 40f international rate,

# THE JUBILEE OF THE UNIFORM PENNY POST

## Part 2

Colin Baker

### BRITAIN'S FIRST COMMEMORATIVE STATIONERY



**The Jubilee postcard which was sold out within hours of the Guildhall Exhibition opening**

A specially designed postcard had been prepared and was sold at the exhibition in celebration of the Jubilee event. Although it had all the appearance of being a postcard, it failed to meet the stringent regulations which applied to this type of postal stationery and had to carry a 1d stamp instead of the normal ½d stamp used on standard postcards of the day. The reason was simply that the postcards at that time had to carry the words "Post Card - Address Only To Be Written On This Side". Because this was not printed on the front of the Jubilee postcard, it simply did not conform to the postcard regulations, and therefore had to be treated as a letter and charged at letter post rates. Even so, Post Office Circular Number 792 of 13th May 1890 had to carry the following instruction to Postmasters to make sure the cards were properly forwarded:

**PENNY POSTAGE JUBILEE  
Exhibition and Conversazione at the  
Guildhall, London  
Issue of Special Postal Card**

A special card to commemorate this celebration will be sold in the Guildhall on the 16th, 17th and 19th inst. The card will be of a light drab colour. In the left hand corner will appear a crown, with the letters "V.R.," and a rose, shamrock and thistle beneath; in the centre the City Arms, with the words "Penny Postage Jubilee, 1890,

Guildhall, London," and in the right hand corner an impression of a penny stamp. The printing of the whole will be in red.

These cards will not be issued for use as inland *post cards*, but as inland *letters*. They must not, therefore, be subjected to the Post Card regulations, and special care must be taken not to surcharge under the Post Card rules any of these cards which may be seen in transmission through the post, either in the days named or subsequently.

The cards were sold at 6d each and after deducting the costs of the stamp and card, all money was given to the "Rowland Hill Memorial and Benevolent Fund for giving relief to Post-Office servants, before or after retirement, who, through no fault of their own, had fallen into necessitous circumstances, or to their widows and orphans". However, the Post Office also made a very useful profit of over £20 from charging 1d postage instead of the more normal ½d which was the usual postcard rate.

About ten thousand of these special cards were printed and it is clear that they were intended to be kept on sale over the whole three day period. However, so popular were they, that they were all sold within the first 3 hours of the exhibition opening.

Many people then bought normal prepaid stationery (or in some cases used envelopes and adhesive stamps) to obtain the special exhibition handstamp, paying 1d extra for this, the money raised also going to the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund.



**The Guildhall Exhibition handstamp applied to a newspaper wrapper**

According to the report on the exhibition, this handstamp fee was meant to be a voluntary payment, although there are no reports of members of the public not dipping into their purses. But of course all the guests were fairly wealthy members of the business community and none would wish to be accused of not being able to afford this small sum which was going to such a worthy cause.

The rush to buy the specially printed Jubilee postcards was so great that extra staff had to be brought to the post office counter to cope with the demand. Evidently not all of the clerks had been properly advised of the selling price, as some of the cards were sold for 1d instead of 6d. However, at the end of the day this loss was made up through the sale of single postcards and other stationery, the premium charged for a single item of stationery above its face value being higher than had the items been sold in unopened packs. The Post Office counter eventually making a profit of 2/4d (2 shillings and 4 pence) on the event. <sup>(3)</sup>

The Jubilee postcard was not only the first commemorative item of stationery to be issued by the Post Office, but was also the first of two Jubilee items to be forged in the 1940s and 1970s respectively, with the deliberate intention of defrauding collectors. The forged Jubilee postcard can be distinguished from the original by the colour of the card, which is slightly more yellow than the original, with the printing being a slightly different shade of scarlet. If there is any doubt about a Jubilee postcard, the best way of checking is to compare the item with one that has been cancelled with the Guildhall handstamp, as the forgeries are only known in mint condition.

Apart from the special Jubilee postcards which were sold at the Guildhall post office, over 20,000 inland and 1200 overseas

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<sup>(3)</sup> All stationery (except for foreign rate postcards) produced during this period was sold at a premium above its face value to cover both the cost of the stamp and the manufacturing of the item. For example ½d stout postcards were sold at 6d for a pack of 10, or alternatively at ¾d each (three farthings or three quarters of a penny), although the Jubilee Committee account states that postcards were sold at 1d each at the Guildhall post office. Thus by selling cards singly the post office counter revenue was increased, compensating for the loss of revenue when the special cards were sold for 1d each instead of 6d.

postcards were bought by the public, together with more than 400 embossed and registered envelopes. The vast majority of this stationery was also cancelled with the special Jubilee Exhibition handstamp.

In addition to the exhibition post office being in demand, the clerks sending and receiving telegrams were also kept busy. Contact was made with many towns and cities in the UK, and with a number of capital cities in Europe, including Paris and Berlin. In all, four hundred telegraph messages were sent, while 37 were received at the exhibition. The apparatus and wires which made all this possible were in turn served by a colossal 980 battery cells, all of which had to be assembled, connected and filled at the Guildhall.

The Guildhall exhibition was a tremendous success for both the City of London and the Post Office. Nearly 4,000 people attended the event on the first evening, followed by about 20,000 on the next two days that the exhibition was open.

#### THE KENSINGTON CELEBRATIONS

The first *conversazione* had been arranged by the Corporation of the City of London, with considerable help from the Post Office, but the second *conversazione* was staged entirely by the Post Office and included many additional features amongst which were predictions for both post offices and telecommunications in the future.

This second *conversazione* and exhibition celebrating the Jubilee event was held for one evening only at the South Kensington Museum on 2 July 1890 from 7pm to 12 midnight. Many of the exhibits that had been on show at the Guildhall in May were also displayed at this exhibition, supplemented by a variety of other items and events. Such was the number of exhibits that the detailed list given in the Jubilee Committee's account of the event runs to 31 pages. Entry to this *Conversazione* was once again by invitation only, except for Postmasters in uniform and their wives.

Guests arriving at the exhibition were met by a guard of honour, this duty being performed by the 24th Middlesex (Post Office) Rifle Volunteers, with catalogues of the evenings proceedings being distributed by six messenger boys from the Telegraph

Department. Twice during the evening a mail coach arrived outside the museum carrying both passengers and the mails, representing the mode of travel from years before.




**Post-Office Jubilee Conversazione**

AT THE

**SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM**

ON

*WEDNESDAY, the 2nd JULY, 1890.*

UNDER THE MOST GRACIOUS PATRONAGE OF

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.**

*Their Royal Highnesses the DUKE and DUCHESS OF EDINBURGH have graciously intimated their intention of being present.*

**President of the Conversazione—**  
HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, K.G.

**Vice-Presidents—**  
THE RIGHT HON. HENRY CECIL RAIKES, M.P., HER MAJESTY'S POSTMASTER-GENERAL,  
THE MOST HON. THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY, K.G.  
THE RIGHT HON. W. H. SMITH, M.P.  
THE RIGHT HON. G. J. GOSCHEN, M.P.

*And the following ex-Postmasters-General—*  
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ARGYLL, K.G., K.T.  
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF RUTLAND, G.C.B.  
THE RIGHT HON. LORD EMLY.  
THE RIGHT HON. THE MARQUIS OF HARTINGTON, M.P.  
THE RIGHT HON. G. J. SHAW-LEFEVRE, M.P.  
THE RIGHT HON. SIR LYON PLAYFAIR, K.C.B., M.P.

*Also*

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF ABERCORN, G.B.	THE EARL GREY, K.G.
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.	THE EARL OF JERSEY.
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF PORTLAND.	THE EARL SPENCER, K.G.
HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.	THE EARL STANHOPE.
THE MARQUIS OF RIPON, K.G.	THE EARL OF STRAFFORD.
THE MARQUIS OF BREADALBANE.	THE EARL WALDEGRAVE.
THE EARL OF ASHBURNHAM.	THE EARL OF WINCHELSEA AND
THE EARL OF BRADFORD.	NOTTINGHAM.
THE EARL OF CLARENDON.	SIR JAMES WHITEHEAD, BART., D.L.
THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G.	SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, K.C.B.
THE EARL OF GAINSBOROUGH.	PEARSON HILL, Esq.

The ten page programme of events for the South Kensington Conversazione on 2nd July 1890, which included a plan of the exhibition and gave details of the musical entertainment played during the evening

Throughout the evening guests were able to enjoy a wide selection of popular music of the day sung by well known concert artists. Other songs were played by the Band of the Grenadier Guards under Lt Dan Godfrey and the String Band of the Royal Artillery under Cavalier Zavertal. Also in attendance to entertain guests was the Post Office Choir, once again under the direction of Mr Sidney Beckley.

At about 10.30pm the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh<sup>(4)</sup> arrived at the exhibition and were escorted through the various halls where they admired the displays and listened to the music which was performed for them. When they reached the specially prepared dais they were presented with a letter signed by William Hill, son of Sir Rowland Hill. The Duchess was then asked to press a key to send a telegraph message to all Post Office officials throughout the British Isles inviting them to join their colleagues at Kensington in giving three cheers for her majesty Queen Victoria.

Post offices from 1790 and 1890 were once again included in the displays, the latter being a fully operational office selling all the Post Office services that were normally available at any permanent office of the day.

The furniture and fixtures for this temporary post office were certainly genuine, being borrowed for the evening from the nearly complete Wimbledon post office. The tables and counters were well made and very heavy, taking a considerable amount of effort to transport them the 7 miles to the exhibition and to thread them into position within the museum. Some of the museum's permanent display cases had to be moved to facilitate this operation.

The temporary sorting office in the Architectural Court was also furnished using items borrowed from the almost complete Wimbledon post office. This temporary sorting office handled over 23,000 Jubilee envelopes, 12,000 letters and postcards, and dealt with nearly 400 of the insert cards which had been posted unpaid in the belief that the one shilling charged for the special stationery included prepaying for the card, even though it carried no stamp.

A number of old letters with addition adhesive stamps to pay for the 1890 postage were also handled by the sorting office, having been re-posted to gain impressions of the special Jubilee handstamp. Some letters which were going through the post for the first time were prepaid with the country's first adhesive

<sup>(4)</sup> The Duke of Edinburgh was Alfred Ernest Albert (1844 to 1900), Queen Victoria's second son, and also the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. He married Grand Duchess Marie Alexandrovna, the only daughter of Alexander II, the Tsar of Russia, who became the Duchess of Edinburgh.

stamps, including 6 letters with Penny Black stamps and 2 Mulready envelopes.

Also on display was a post office of the future, 1990 to be precise. This was a stand "brightly lit" with the recently invented electric light, and staffed by women in evening gowns. The Post Office believed that women would be taking a greater role in commerce in the future. To send a letter from this futuristic post office of 1990 to the poste restante in the standard post office of the day (1890) cost the public 6d, which was the smallest coin of the Realm.<sup>(5)</sup> Although expensive by Victorian standards, the price did include the item receiving two special handstamps with the dates 2 July 1890 and 2 July 1990. Mail was said to be transmitted by "the New Patent Electrotubular Lightning Express", although in reality letters were carried to the 1890 post office by messenger.

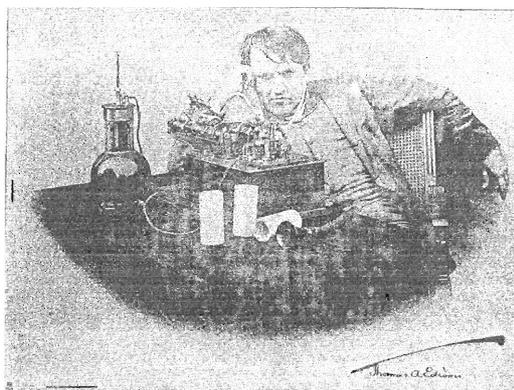
The 1990 post office predicted that in 100 years from 1890 sound and vision combined would be available for communicating around

the world, what we now call the videophone. A mock-up using voice tubes, mirrors and lenses allowed people to communicate between adjacent rooms, but the prediction was that in 1990 this would be available across the world, not bad for a forecast made 100 years ago that has come true today.

Telegrams could be sent free of charge between telegraph stations positioned in the Architectural Court and the Art Library, although a fee of one penny was applied for impressing the Jubilee handstamp to the message forms. Telegrams could also be sent and received to and from the rest of the country, and beyond, using the new Edison Quadruplex machine which could send 2 messages in each direction simultaneously along one wire. It had been intended to use the even better synchronous multiplex system which could send 6 messages at once, but due to the lack of available lines in the Kensington area, this instrument could not be connected.

**Souvenir of the Penny Postage Jubilee Celebration,**  
*Decorative flourish*  
**at the South Kensington Museum, July 2nd, 1890.**

Mr. EDISON, in America, receiving the first "Voice-Letter" from Colonel GOURAUD, in England.



Taken from a Photograph made in Mr. EDISON'S Laboratory, Llewellyn Park, Orange, New Jersey.

Text of the first "Voice-Letter" sent through the Mails at the Penny Postage Rates.

IN MY LABORATORY, ORANGE,  
 NEW JERSEY,  
 JULY 10th, 1888—3 o'clock p.m.

FRIEND GOURAUD,

Ahem! This is my first Mailing Phonogram. It will go to you in the regular United States Mail from New York, by Southampton, North German Lloyd Steamer. "Elder."

I send you by Mr. Hamilton, a new Phonogram, the first one of the new model that has left my hands. It has been put together very hurriedly, and is not finished as you will see.

I have sent you a quantity of experimental Phonogram Blanks, so you can talk back to me. I will send you Phonograms of Talk and Music by every Mail leaving here, until we get on to the right thing for the purpose of mailing.

Mrs. Edison and the baby are doing well. The baby's articulation is quite loud enough, but a trifle indistinct. It can be improved, but is not bad for a first experiment.

With kind regards,  
 Yours,  
 EDISON.

To COLONEL GEORGE EDWARD GOURAUD,  
 Little Meolo,  
 Upper Norwood, Surrey,  
 England.

Recd.

LITTLE MELO,  
 BEULAH HILL,  
 NORWOOD,  
 JUNE 10th, 1888.

Dear Edison,

Your "voice-letter" received and heard through the medium of the Phonograph, has just been—so to speak—unbottled in the music room of this house, and in the presence of all my family. Words fail me in attempting to convey to you any idea of our amazement and delight at this unprecedented and most historical experience.

Besides your "voice-letter" we have received, all in perfect condition, the various records of speech, song, vocal and instrumental music, as well as the familiar "voices of your laboratory." We have repeated them over and over all day long, making a very carnival of intellectual enjoyment.

I have just spoken into the Phonograph the story of this eventful and never-to-be-forgotten day, and from the repetition of the Phonograph, my story has been written out without mistake and will be sent tonight to the London papers, and it is safe to say that by this time to-morrow, through the medium of the telegraph and the press, millions of astonished readers in all parts of the world will shrug their shoulders in doubt at this very fairy-tale of modern science.

All ordinary congratulations on this latest triumph of your new historical genius would be out of place, so I will only say good bye, and God bless you.

Ever yours,  
 GOURAUD.



This is a Fac-Simile of the "PHONOGRAM" which carried the first "Voice-Letter" ever transmitted through the Mails, from England to America, for a single Penny Postage.

A souvenir of the Penny Post Exhibition held at South Kensington Museum and of the first voice letter to be sent through the post. Three of the exhibition's special handstamps have been applied to the bottom left hand side.

<sup>(5)</sup> The farthing (quarter of a penny) was the least valuable coin in circulation of course, but the 6d was minted in silver and was thus smaller in size.

A tube post was also on display at the exhibition, allowing cards and letters to be sent from one part of the museum to another by being placed in special containers which were drawn along the tubes by vacuum. The cost of sending a letter on a single journey was 1d, with a return costing 3d, which included a reply to all manner of enquiries posed by the sender. The task of responding to these questions was performed by Mr Powell from the Controller's Office, whose replies were either factually correct, funny or sometimes even facetious as he felt the question deserved. It seems that although the Victorians did not know who was making the replies, they enjoyed the repartee, and there is no record of any complaints being received as a result of Mr Powell's responses. Some of the public thought that 3d charged for the reply was excessive, but even so the tube post made over £10 from the delivery charges, all of which was donated to the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund.

In order to encourage as many postal workers and their families as possible to attend this second Jubilee celebration event, special half price return railway fares were negotiated with the railway companies. The postal workers could travel to London to arrive just before the exhibition opened and could stay for up to a week before returning to their home towns.

No. _____ GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON. Jubilee of Uniform Penny Postage, 1890. RAILWAY CERTIFICATE	No. _____ GENERAL POST OFFICE, LONDON. JUBILEE OF UNIFORM PENNY POSTAGE, 1890. I hereby certify that _____ of _____ entitled to the privilege of _____ Return Tickets to London at the special fare, for the purpose of attending the above Jubilee Celebration, to be held at the South Kensington Museum, London, on July 2nd, 1890. (See note on back hereof.) _____ 1890. * Insert "in" or "are." † Insert number of Tickets to be issued (Adults and Children).
Name _____ Address _____ Class _____ No. of Tickets _____	

The certificate which had to be completed and signed by Mr Baines prior to being exchanged by postal workers and their families for a reduced price train fare ticket for travel to London to attend the South Kensington Conversazione.

Contemporary accounts reveal that quite a few employees took advantage of this concession, coming from as far afield as Cornwall in the south-west of England and Lerwick in the Shetland Isles, north of

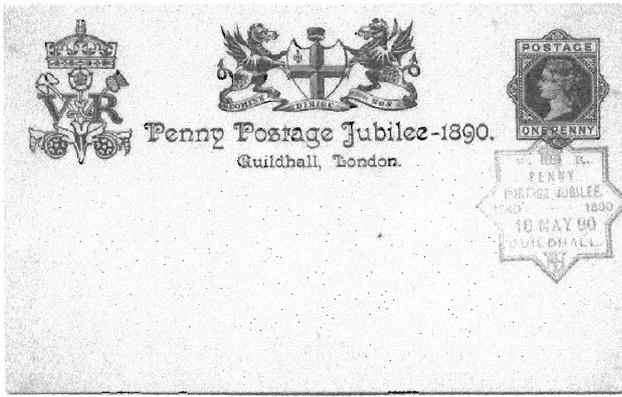
Scotland. In order to prevent abuse of the system, the applications for these reduced fares had to be made in advance on special vouchers, countersigned by Mr Baines, the chairman of the Post Office Committee for the Jubilee celebrations. However, it should be remembered that despite the considerable reduction in fares, they still amounted to a large proportion of a postmaster's salary, particularly for those travelling long distances. As far as possible the Post Office declared 2nd July a public holiday for postal workers, although for the remainder of the country it was a normal day and the mail still had to be dealt with. Arrangements were made for those working on 2nd July to have time off later.

### THE JUBILEE ENVELOPE

The second item of postal stationery to be created for the Jubilee of the Uniform Penny Post was issued at the Kensington exhibition and consisted of an envelope and insert card, sold at one shilling, all the profits after payment of the costs of producing the item going to the Rowland Hill Benevolent fund.

The envelope and card were broadly designed by Frederick Baines, the Assistant Secretary at the Post Office and chairman of the committee charged with organising the South Kensington event, with the actual detail of the design worked up and produced by artists employed by the printers De La Rue. Following the huge demand for the one penny Jubilee postcards at the Guildhall exhibition, it was decided that ample supplies of the special envelope and insert card would be made available at South Kensington, as well as being put on sale at all post offices around the country, but only on the one day, 2nd July 1890. Special forms were issued to all Postmasters for them to order sufficient supplies of the special stationery in advance of South Kensington event. A quarter of a million envelopes and cards were ordered from the printers De La Rue, although in the end it would seem that the numbers sold were somewhat less than this, despite the Post Office extending the period over which the envelopes were placed on sale.

The envelopes and correspondence cards were printed in blue on a thick cream wove paper and good quality card respectively during June 1890, with the printing plates

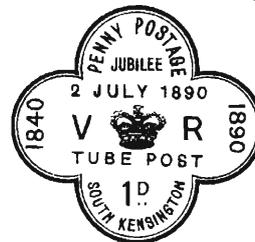
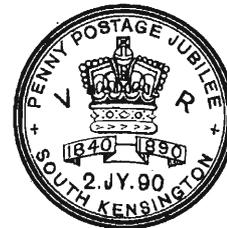
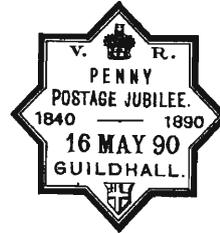


**Two items of stationery bought by Mr Churchill and stamped with the Guildhall and South Kensington Exhibition handstamps.**

being destroyed on 28th June, four days before the exhibition opened. The envelopes were arranged into packs of ten envelopes and cards, each bundle being bound with a special paper band as is usual for all stationery sold by the Post Office. For some reason these wrappers were sought after at the exhibition post office, almost more than the stationery itself.

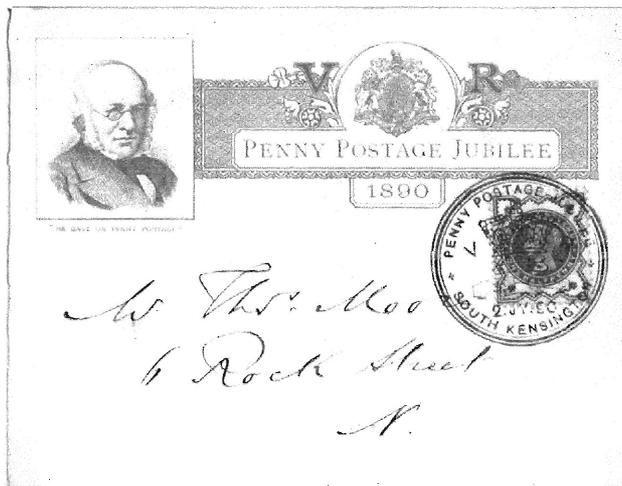
All the special Jubilee envelopes posted at the exhibition received the special South Kensington handstamp for which no additional charge was made. This was the exception to the rule, as this handstamp together with all other handstamps cost 1d (the tube post costing 3d for a reply) when applied to anything, whether it was an exhibition catalogue, another piece of stationery or a ladies handkerchief as apparently happened in one instance when the lady in question found she had no paper on her person. Special instructions were given in Post Office Notices

requiring postal workers to take extra care in applying the handstamps and when handling the envelopes in the post, including the requirement that they were to be placed inside bundles of mail rather than on the outsides, to protect them from damage.



**Handstamps available at the South Kensington Exhibition.**

There was obviously confusion in the minds of some of the public as to the status of the correspondence cards since some were posted at the ½d rate using an adhesive stamp, while others were posted with no stamps at all. At the time it was only permitted to send postal stationery postcards at the special ½d rate, the use of adhesive stamps being disallowed. It is recorded that many correspondence cards were surcharged either 1d or 2d, double the additional postage to bring the amount paid up to the standard letter rate of 1d, although not all the correspondence cards with ½d stamps were caught and surcharged by the Post Office. See the illustration on the next page.



An insert card incorrectly posted with a ½d adhesive stamp rather than 1d, but which has passed through the post without being surcharged.



A number of South Kensington envelopes were posted with extra adhesives, either as in this case to pay for special Post Office services, or to enhance the appearance of the items.

Conversely it is recorded that some of these correspondence cards were sent through the post with "stamps of excessive value affixed to them on the front or back".

*To be concluded in the next issue*

## OUR LINKS WITH OTHER POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETIES

Our Society has established links with five other Postal Stationery Societies across the World. The latest of these links is with **The Postal Stationery Society of Australia** which was formed in 1995 and has a membership of over 90 scattered world wide, but chiefly in Australia, New Zealand and the USA. Their quarterly Journal, 'The Postal Stationery Collector' has won awards in the literature classes at major Philatelic Exhibitions. In Issue No. 33 (May 2003), articles include "American Bank Note Company: Recent Finds From The Archives", "Guidelines on Exhibiting Wrappers" and "Queensland Postal Stationery Used in British New Guinea". Additional features of the Journal include regular updates on the issue of Postal Stationery by Australia Post. The Society's recent publication 'Listings of Australian Non-denominated Postal Stationery' consolidates the listings which have appeared in past issues of the Journal and includes prepaid envelopes, prepaid postcards, express post and courier post envelopes and satchels, prepaid parcel labels, boxes and satchels and prepaid EMS stationery. (Price \$10 - details available from the Editor)

The five Societies participating in the exchange Journals are:

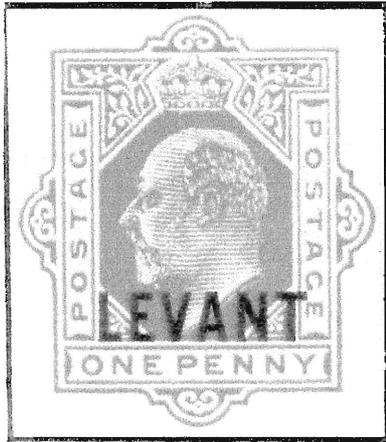
Australia	<b>The Postal Stationery Society of Australia</b>
Germany	<b>Berliner Ganssachen-Sammler-Vereins von 1901 e.V</b>
Italy	<b>Unione Filatelisti Interofili - Italia</b>
Switzerland	<b>Swiss Postal Stationery Collectors' Club</b>
United States of America	<b>United Postal Stationery Society</b>

Copies of the Journals which we have received from these Societies are listed in our Library Catalogue and are available for loan. In future I hope to include a synopsis of the contents of these Journals as an extension to the listing of 'Articles Noted'.

# BRITISH LEVANT POSTAL STATIONERY - The 'Bogus' Overprint of 1911?

Alan Huggins

Richard Malim in his admirable 'British Levant-Study Paper 5; Postal Stationery' published by the GB Overprints Society in 1985 differentiates three types of LEVANT overprints found on British King Edward VII 1d postcards as follows:-



Type I



Type II



Type III

'LEVANT overprint 13.75 X 3mm.' found on De La Rue 1d postcards (CP46 & 56a) and 1d + 1d reply-paid postcards (CP47). An additional feature is that the lettering is heavier and the crossbar of the 'A' is 2.25mm from the top of the 'A' creating a larger triangular area within the 'A'.

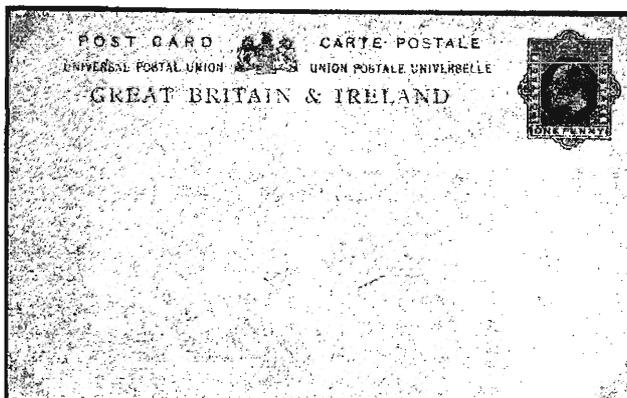
'LEVANT overprint 13.25mm. with slightly thinner lettering' found on McCorquodale 1d postcards (CP56b & 56c).

An additional feature in the lettering is that the crossbar of the 'A' is 2.0mm. from the top of the 'A' creating a smaller triangular area within the 'A'.

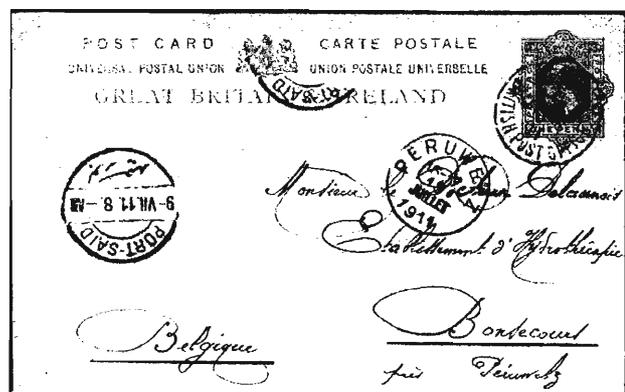
'LEVANT overprint 11.5 X 3mm., the 'T' in LEVANT is made up of 2 printers bars with a gap between the stalk and the horizontal bar'

Malim further comments that this third type of overprint is bogus and has been found philatelically in Beyrout. Bogus philatelic items are not unknown from this area, for example the bogus inverted surcharge 40paras on the Queen Victoria 2½ d envelope and I initially accepted this view. However having over a period of years acquired four examples of these very elusive cards I think a further evaluation of their status is merited. The examples in my collection (see illustrations) are all used in the period when McCorquodale cards were progressively replacing the De La Rue printed cards as follows:-

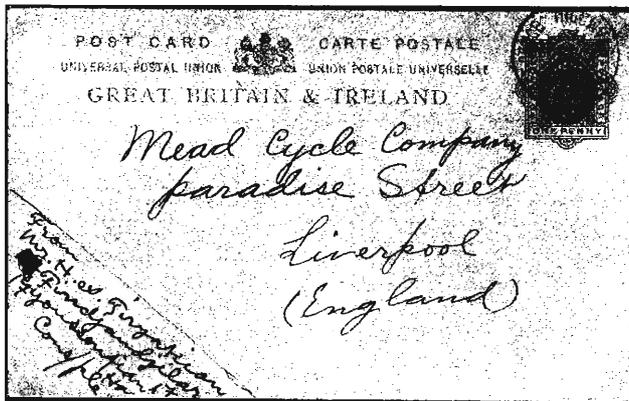
Place of posting	Date of posting	Destination.
Beyrout	6 July 1911	Belgium
Stamboul	9 August 1911	United Kingdom
Smyrna	17 November 1911	Constantinople



The Third Type of Overprint on 1d on deeper buff card



6.7.1911: Beyrout to Peruwelz, Belgium



9.8.1911: Stamboul to Liverpool, U.K.



17.11.1911: Smyrna to Constantinople

Furthermore none of the usages appears philatelic, the messages of two are definitely not, I cannot read the third which is in Turkish. Whilst the appearance of the overprint is very consistent on all four cards its position is identical on two (those addressed to Belgium

and Constantinople), but varies on the other two. The colour of the card is slightly darker buff than most of the McCorquodale cards with the 13.25mm overprint but some come very close to it. The colour of the stamp impressions fit within the range found on McCorquodale cards.

Although the sample size is small the characteristics of these cards prompts a number of questions re their postulated bogus nature.

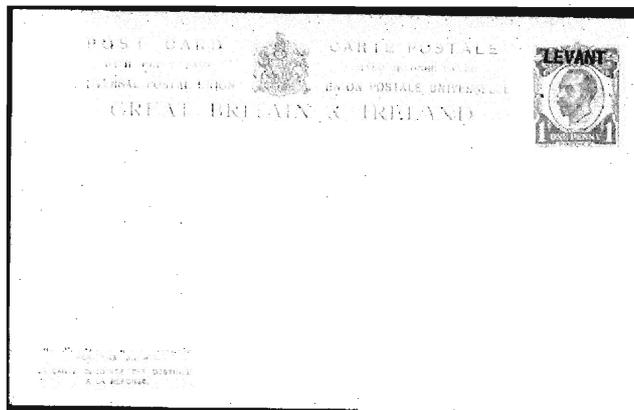
1. The motivation for creating cards with bogus overprints?
2. Is it coincidence that the period of usage spans the period during which McCorquodale cards were being introduced?
3. Are bogus cards likely to be used non-philatelically from three different locations?
4. How and where was the overprint applied, and by whom?
5. If the overprint is bogus and was philatelically inspired how does one equate the apparent relative scarcity of unused examples?

Clearly it is necessary to gather more data before coming to any conclusions and I would be very grateful to receive details of any other examples of these cards. I would also like to try to establish the period of use of the McCorquodale cards with the 13.25mm overprint, the earliest I have is used from Salonica on 10 October 1911.

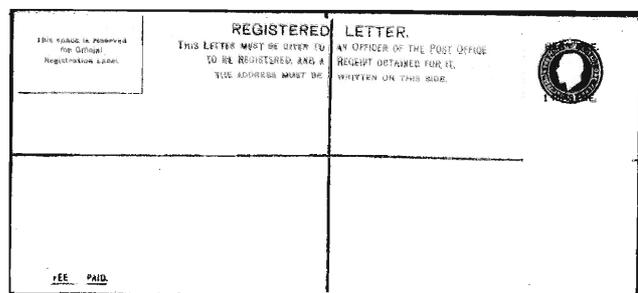
## BRITISH LEVANT POSTAL STATIONERY - Unrecorded items

Alan Huggins

One of the attractions of collecting postal stationery is the real possibility of finding previously unrecorded items. To my knowledge the following two items overprinted for use in the Levant have not been noted before and are missing from the previous listings of Ascher (1924) , Higgins and Gage (1967) and Malim (1985)



1913? King George V 1d + 1d scarlet reply-paid postcard (CP 63)



1913-14? King George V 3d brown (die 11 without W) registration envelope, size H2 code IF (RP 28H2)

The third item (**illustrated on the front cover**) has previously only been recorded in the former National Postal Museum Collection (Malim 1985), now the Royal Mail Heritage Collection. **1912-13? King Edward VII 1 piastre/3d brown (die 18) registration envelope size F, code CD (RP26F)**. At the present time I have only seen single examples of the above items I but I would greatly appreciate receiving information of any others.

#### References:

Ascher, S. Grosser Ganzsachen Katalog; Section 3, Berliner Ganzsachen-sammler Verein, Berlin, 1924.

Higgins & Gage Inc. Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World; Section 7, Edited by Fladung, E. 1st Edition, Higgins & Gage Inc., 1967.

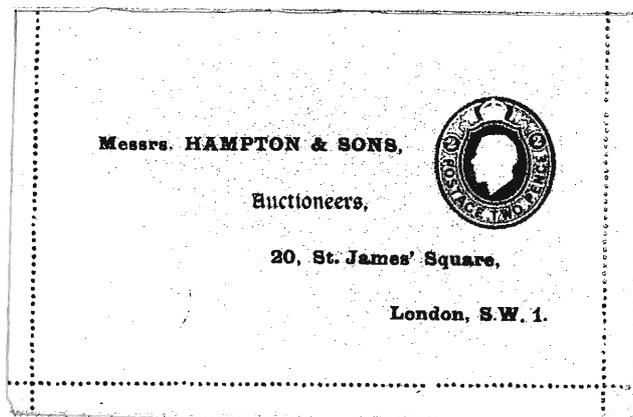
Malim, R.C.W. British Levant - Study Paper 5: Postal Stationery, The GB Overprints Society, Poole, 1985.

## GREAT BRITAIN POSTAL STATIONERY

Alan Huggins

### A long awaited confirmation

The sheer rarity of a number of items of postal stationery means that sometimes one has to wait a long time to see or acquire examples. Thus at the last PSS meeting I was delighted to be able to confirm the existence of the King George V 2d orange embossed, stamped to order, letter card (LGS 4).



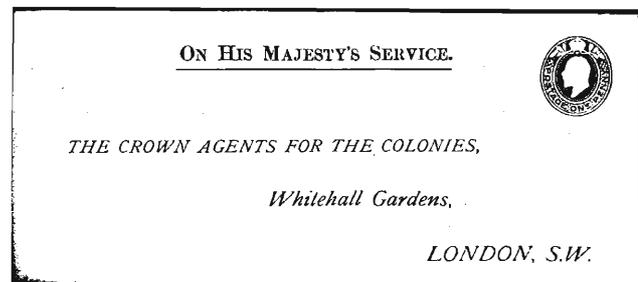
Although this item was included in the letter card listing published by the late Henry Morgan and John Harrison and myself in 1962, none of us actually possessed a copy, its inclusion rested on John Harrison's conviction that he had seen one. Thus imagine my surprise, and relief, when George King showed an example as part of his display of recent acquisitions. Although sheer speculation, but after a forty year wait, could this be the same example John Harrison saw? At least another \* can now be deleted in future listings!

#### Reference:

Morgan, H.G., Harrison, J. and Huggins, A.K. The Great Britain Philatelist, vol.2, p.10, 1962.

### A new discovery

About a year ago I was made aware of an item of Official postal stationery on offer and was extremely pleased to find that the tentative description given to me was indeed that of a previously unrecorded King Edward VII OHMS envelope used by the Crown Agents.



As can be seen from the illustration this envelope has the heading -

#### 'ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE'

with the return address for the Crown Agents for the Colonies. On whitish paper it measures 97 X 225mm ie. size I and the 1d embossed stamp is die 61.

Since the publication of the listing of Official Envelopes (Huggins 1970), a number of new items as well as this one have come to light and will necessitate a revision of the numbering. The fact that die 61 was not registered until 25th September 1903 along with dies 55-66 suggests that this item was unlikely to have been produced before 1904.

## QUERIES AND REPLIES

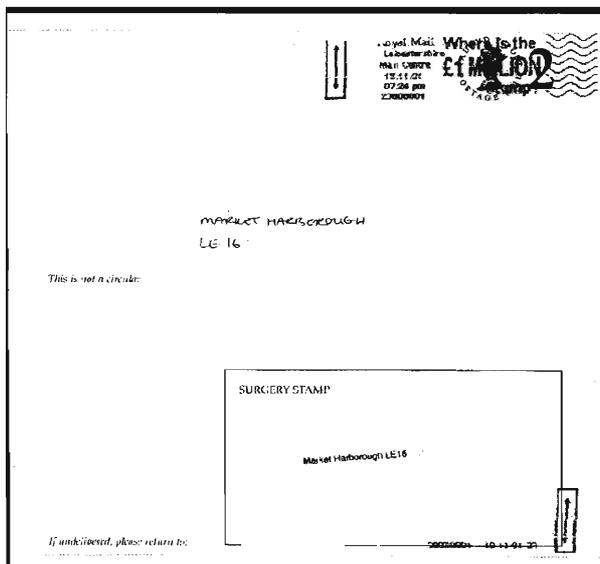
**REPLY: - INSURANCE CARDS** (February 2003).

Edy Pockelé has sent a copy of an Ocean Accident card dated 3rd November 1959, Serial Number PF 5324. This was posted to Bruxelles from South Kensington, London SW 7.

Geoff Hood has sent a copy of a Phoenix Insurance card dated 5th April 1971, Serial Number 1 PAT 20587. This is postmarked Hounslow Middlesex which perhaps suggests that it came from Heathrow Airport. Curiously it is addressed to Phoenix Insurance in London rather than to the policy holder's home or office address. The card is similar to the one illustrated in the February 2002 Journal, however it is on white card rather than pink and is uprated with a 2d adhesive (still valid during the year following decimalisation) to make up the new rate of 2.5p (equivalent to 6d)

**QUERY: - A British 'Customised' Prepaid Lettercard.** Arthur Roberts

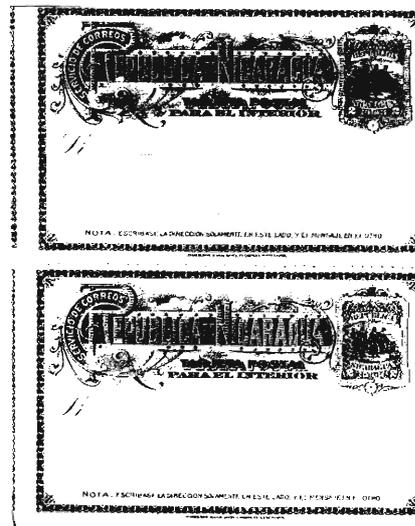
Colin Baker in his excellent article (PS Vol.10 No.2) indicated that we saw the demise of the British Lettercard in 1982. He believed that the majority of private lettercards known to have been produced in the present Queen's reign were philatelically inspired. I am pleased to report that the lettercard is not dead as evidenced by the illustration below of a second class prepaid commercial lettercard size 230mm x 219mm (unfolded) with a postage paid symbol in blue, issued by Wyeth Vaccines in 2001 for Gps to send to patients.



The inside printed message, in the same blue colour, invites patients to make an appointment to have a vaccination as a protection against pneumonia. By sending the printed communication in bulk to Gps in the form of a lettercard it enabled the doctor to mail it confidentially to patients without the need of an envelope or postage stamp. The print code is ZPNU 602/1000 which may indicate a print run of 1000. The one example I have seen was mailed at Market Harborough on 15th November 2001 but there must have been other mailings of this Wyeth Vaccines Lettercard by surgeries throughout the UK. Have other members seen this or similar customised lettercards?

**QUERY: - Nicaragua 1892 single cards cut as reply cards?** Edy Pockelé

The photocopy below would initially appear to be a pair of 1892 reply paid cards (H&G 18)



However, on examination this is not so as reply cards have the inscription "REPUSTA PAGADA" at the top of each card and the two parts are hinged by perforation between their tops ( Type C). This would seem to indicate that the cards illustrated are from a sheet of 'single' cards that was inserted into a machine set up for perforating the reply paid cards.

Has anyone else come across this error? Could members check there collections, including used single cards that may have a trace of perforations on top or bottom. Please let the Editor know if you have any examples of this.



## AEROGRAMMATICS

### New Forces "Air Letters"

Inspired by Arthur Robert's notes on p10 of the previous issue of the Journal (Vol 11 No.1 - February 2003) where he lists varieties of MOD Form 674 (4/01), I thought I would see which of these varieties were being issued by my local post offices.

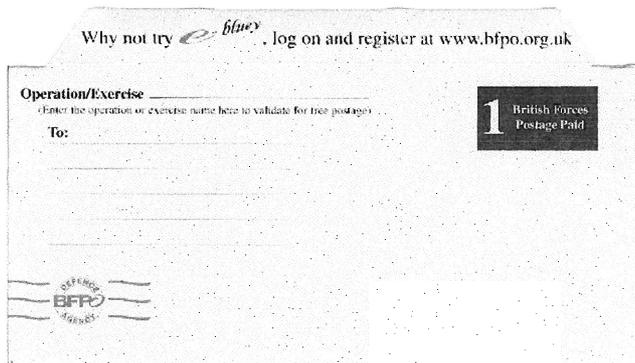
Surprisingly many post offices were using up supplies of the older versions without "(4/01) www.bfpo.org.uk" whilst others were issuing new "MOD Forces Air Letter" / "MOD Form 674 Rev (8/02)" as illustrated below. These come in two quite different versions. The one illustrated below is on quite thick pale blue laid paper and has a phosphor band at either side of the Postage Paid indicum which is printed in blue.

The BPF0 logo in the bottom left hand corner of the front and the "e" of "e- bluey" on the flap are in a reddish mauve colour whereas " - bluey" is in blue. The remainder of the printing is in black.

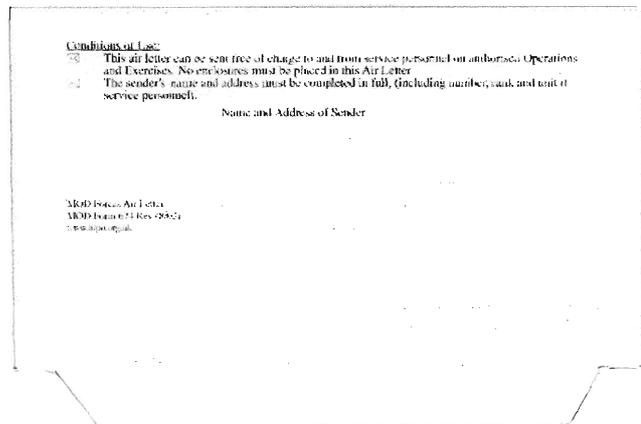
The second version is printed on thinner, smooth white wove paper. There are no phosphor bands and all the printing is in blue. On the front, the text and layout is similar to other version, but on the reverse the "Conditions of Use" text has been reset.

Obviously there has been a rapid turnover of these forms and any one post office may have issued the new forms one week but reverted to issuing the older versions in the following weeks.

John Barker



The front of the pale blue laid paper version



The back of the white wove paper version

### Forces Aerogrammes with "Non Military" Use.

Duff Malkin reports that he has a number of British Forces forms that were used for correspondence between non-military persons. It would seem that if a post office did not have the regular aerogrammes they made use of the military ones on hand and added the required postage.

Another possibility is that the customer could acquire military forms and then could use them for their own purposes provided the right amount of postage was applied. Of the examples seen, the lines indicating forces use have been crossed out. One example was addressed to South Surrey (near Vancouver) and posted in Avila Spain on 25th April 1985 with a 'Frama' type self-adhesive 70 ptas label

number 1060. The return address given on the back of the aerogramme however was Hendon, London (UK).

### 300 Leone Sierra Leone Aerogramme.

Duff Malkin reports that the 300 Leone aerogramme described in Gier Sør-Reime's list (Gibbons Stamp Monthly May 2002) as being issued in 2000 was actually issued some time in 1994. He has a copy postmarked 25th August 1994. The 300 Leone rate lasted until 8th December 1995 when it was increased to 400 Leone.

**If you have any news items for inclusion in "Aerogrammatics" then please send them to the editor with a view to publication.**

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### STORAGE OF POSTAL STATIONERY

The following e-mail has been received from one of our corporate members, Premier Philately of Australia.

*"We have recently become aware of a potential problem arising from storing items for long periods of time in black plastic-faced stockcards, such as we and many other firms routinely use for presentation of auction lots.*

*While preparing a collection of Australian Letter Cards for sale, we noted that many of them had light but obvious stripes of discolouration on the side that was in contact with the black card. (The stripes are coincident with the exposed black card, and not with the plastic strips.)*

*We have always believed - and been told by manufacturers and wholesalers - that these mounts are "inert", meaning that you can safely store material in them. However, we now know that this is not necessarily the case.*

*The affected material was mostly acquired between three and five years ago and has been stored in Queensland for that time. The humid Queensland weather is almost certainly the critical factor. However, the owner believed that his material was kept in relatively dry conditions.*

*If you are in the habit of keeping material in stockcards, we recommend that you check for this problem. If you live in a humid region, our strong recommendation is that you do not store material for any extended period in such mounts.*

*Yours philatelically, Gary Watson & the Team at Premier Philately"*

For more information see their web site at [www.premierphilately.com](http://www.premierphilately.com) or e-mail [info@premierphilately.com](mailto:info@premierphilately.com)

### ARTICLES NOTED RECENTLY IN THE PHILATELIC PRESS.

"First U.S. Printed-on-demand Postal Cards" - Doug Kelsey. (Linn's Stamp News 20th May 2002)

"United States Postal Service Issues Unannounced Bulk-mail Envelope" - Rob Haeseler. (Linn's Stamp News 16th September 2002)

"Commonwealth Postal Stationery 2001-2002" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly April 2003)

"2001-2002 Postal Stationery, Foreign Countries A - M" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly May 2003)

"2001-2002 Postal Stationery, Foreign Countries M - Z" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly June 2003)

The following three articles were written by one of our members, J. Emmenegger of Switzerland, and published in L'Écho De La Timbrologie:

"Avec un AR, s'il vous plaît!" [Advice of Delivery] (January 2003 No 1759)

"Envoie-moi une 'lettre sonore'!" [Cassette Envelopes] (February 2003 No 1760)

"La carte postale-réponse" [Reply Paid Postcards] (March 2003 No 1761)

### MEMBERSHIP LIST

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

John Fowler (E. Yorks UK)	G.B. Telegraph Forms & Registered Envelopes
Professor Alexander Ilyushin (Moscow)	Russian stationery 1845 - 1917
Abdulla Khoory (Dubai)	British Middle East
Charalambos Menelaou (Cyprus)	Barbados, Cyprus Gibraltar and Brazil
Matthew Toomey (Surrey UK)	G.B.

### Tony Chilton Competition.

Are you preparing your entry for the Tony Chilton Competition? This will be the first time the Society has organised a competition for postal stationery. Please make the effort to put in an entry so that this annual event gets off to a flying start.

### June Auction.

All bid forms for the June (postal only) auction must be with Mike Smith by 30<sup>th</sup> June. Some spare copies of the auction catalogue are available from either the auctioneer or secretary, but please include the cost of postage with your request.

### October Issue of the Journal.

I am looking for items for future issues of the Journal. Please send me your comments, queries, news items, general articles or research articles with a view to publication.

**Copy date** for the October issue is **1st September 2003**. Don't forget all articles published will be eligible for the Society Literary Award. (See p 3 for details)

## Our Autumn 2003 Auction

**is currently in preparation.** We are actively seeking collections and items for inclusion in this sale. *Why not take advantage of the current exciting market and contact us today?*



Korea 1900 1ch. blue postcard used in Shanghai with 3ch. orange. Price realised at May auction £241.

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Please contact the Editor (Details on p2)

**THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY  
Web-site.**

Could any member spare a little of their time to update our web-site?

Help in the form of information and material will be given to whoever takes on this role, but they would need to be able to amend what is displayed on the site perhaps three or four times a year.

To gain some idea of what may be involved, the site can be viewed at

[www.postalstationery.org.uk](http://www.postalstationery.org.uk)

If you think you can help then please get in contact with our Secretary as soon as possible (Contact details on p2)

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