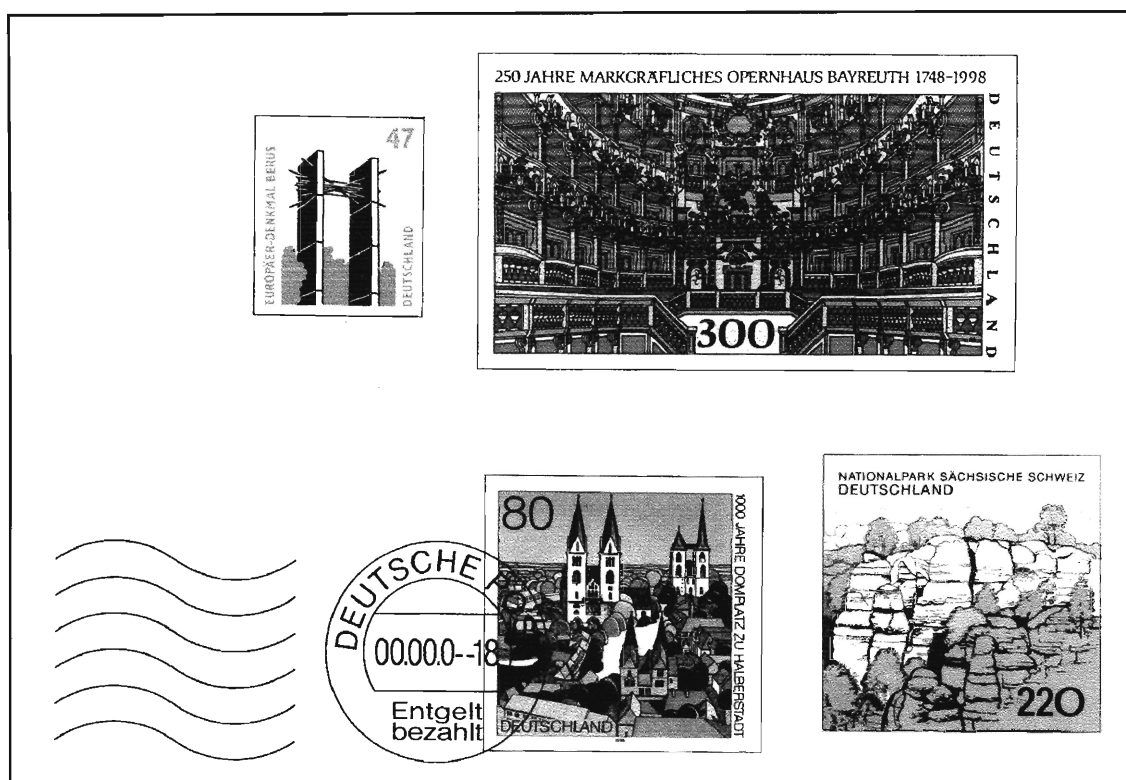




THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 11, No. 3 October 2003
(Serial number 27)



THE GERMAN POST OFFICE MEANS BUSINESS FOR POSTAL STATIONERY!
See page 12

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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.

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Iain Stevenson

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SOCIETY CALENDAR 2003/2004**Saturday 25th October 2003**

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

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 pm.

Saturday 20th March 2004

At the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1.

11.00 am. to approximately 4.30 pm.

Invited display (details to be announced later) 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 12th June 2004.

Swinpex, St Joseph's Lower School, Queens Drive, Swindon, 2.00 pm. to 4.00 pm. Members are invited to display up to 30 sheets from their collection and to give a short explanation of 10 minutes maximum.

Saturday 30th October 2004.

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

11.00 am. Society's AGM followed by the Tony Chilton Competition and presentation of the Tony Chilton Salver, Chairman's sandwich and wine lunch, viewing of auction lots and the Society's annual 'live' auction. The meeting is expected to close by about 4.30 pm.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT- OCTOBER 2003

I visited Swinplex for the first time ever in June as it is now recognised as one of the major philatelic shows in the country. Certainly the venue at St. Joseph's School was easy to find just a short way off the M4 and parking was very easy for once. The halls were very busy and it was good to see some dealers that don't normally come to Philatex/Stampex or the Royal National Hotel in Russell Square. Even better was the turn out for the PSS meeting in an upstairs room. Thanks to hard-working Colin for organising this. Material shown was diverse which is as it should be considering that our interests range world-wide.

Arrangements for our joint display with the GB Philatelic Society on the Village Green at Spring Stampex 2005 have now commenced. In all we intend to fill 160-180 faces which means that the PSS will need to supply half with probably just two frames of 16 sheets each for those who wish to display. There will be a lunch-time reception and a common area where promotional material will be available. Manning the Green will be necessary by PSS members but of course the GBPS will be supplying people as well. Updates will be advised when known.

Here is a cover from my collection that members may not have seen.



CTO material normally rates a poor second when compared to commercially used but this is different. A normal Natal ½d red-brown on buff card issued by De La Rue in December 1884, it has been cancelled with two single circle, code B, Cape Colony Ocean Post Office strikes dated AP 15 85. Some postal cards were set up in advance for the arrival of the Cape Town steamer - in this case the S.S. *Dunnotar Castle*.

Keith Hanman

SECRETARY'S NOTES - OCTOBER 2003

Annual General Meeting

The Postal Stationery Society's annual general meeting will be held at 11.00 am. on Saturday 25th October 2003 at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. The meeting will follow the agenda below.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting, which were circulated to all members with the November 2002 newsletter, to be agreed.
3. Secretary's notes and other business.
4. Reports from the Society's officers.
5. Election of Officers for the coming year,
 - i) Chairman – Keith Hanman
 - ii) Deputy Chairman - Peter O'Keeffe
 - iii) Secretary – Colin Baker
 - iv) Treasurer – Sam Barkley
6. Election of Committee Members for the coming year,
 - i) John Barker
 - ii) Alan Huggins
 - iii) Mike Smith

Members should note that the positions of Journal Editor, Assistant Editor, Auctioneer, Publicity Officer, Librarian and ABPS Representative are to be set by the committee.

7. The Honorary Auditor is currently Mr I Hunter ACMA; his continued appointment to be agreed.
 8. Vote of thanks to retiring officers.
 9. Proposal to increase the annual subscription rate
 10. Programme for 2004.
 11. Any Other Business.
- 11.30 am. The AGM will be followed by the Tony Chilton Competition judging and viewing, with the announcement of the winner and presentation of the salver at 12.30 pm.
- 1.00 pm. The Chairman's sandwich and wine lunch and further viewing of the auction lots.
- 2.00 pm. Auction commences.
- 4.30 pm. Meeting closes.

Chairman's Sandwich and Wine Lunch

It is proposed that the Society hold a sandwich and wine lunch during the October meeting this year, for those members who would like to participate. But if you would prefer to bring your own lunch then please do so. Cups of coffee and tea are available all day in the basement kitchen at no charge. The cost of the Chairman's lunch will be £5.00 per head. If you would like to participate in the lunch, please advise the secretary by returning the reply slip on the meeting notice enclosed with the Journal together with your cheque for £5.00 made payable to the Postal Stationery Society.

Tony Chilton Competition

The Tony Chilton Competition will be judged at 11.30 am on Saturday 25th October, following the Society's AGM. Please make sure that you hand in your entry (or give it to another member to hand over) before the AGM commences at 11.00 am. The full rules of the competition were published in the February edition of the Society's Journal. As notified in the June Journal, members living outside the European Community may submit colour copies of their entries to avoid problems with customs duty, and these will not be penalised for not being originals.

This is the first year for this competition, which has been specially created to honour the name of our first auctioneer. Please make the effort to submit an entry and make the competition something the Society can be proud of.

Annual Subscriptions

When the Society was formed in 1992 the subscription was set at £5.00 a year. This was increased to £6.00 from 1st January 1997, and has remained constant for the last seven years. During this period the cost of running the Society has increased considerably, including several rises in postage rates and printing costs. In addition, the number and quality of publications issued to members has greatly improved, including the use of colour in the last two monographs published by the Society. It is also John Barker's intention in the future to try to include some colour pages in the Journal.

The committee keeps the cost of running the Society to a minimum, tries to improve the high standards that we all now expect, and

works very hard to swell the funds with revenue from the auctions and other sources. Last year our reserves fell and are expected to be lower once again at the end of this financial year. The time has arrived for an increase in the subscription rate, to be considered and voted upon at the AGM.

The committee has concluded that they should recommend a rise in the annual subscription to £10.00. This increase of £4, or \$6 is a small sum when compared with the cost of buying stationery or albums.

The proposed rise would still make us one of the cheapest specialist societies around and would permit us not only to maintain the high standard of service we currently provide, but also to continue to improve the benefits offered to members.

If any member who does not expect to be present at the Annual General Meeting wishes to comment on this proposal, please write to the secretary who will convey their thoughts to those members present at the AGM.

Advertising Manager

The committee recently agreed that an advertising manager should be appointed to help the Journal editor, John Barker, sell as much advertising space in the Journal as possible. The revenue from advertising helps keep our subscriptions as low as possible, while at the same time keeping us all up to date with details of those dealers who specialise in postal stationery. This is an important role within the Society and we would like to see it filled as soon as possible. If any member wishes to help, please get in touch with John Barker for more details, or alternatively, write to the secretary, Colin Baker.

Publicity Manager

We are still looking to appoint a publicity manager for the Society. This is not an onerous task and would take up little time, involving only writing to philatelic magazines and organisations to publicise the Society and to encourage collectors to join. The higher the profile we can give to postal stationery, the better for us all. If you feel you could help out with this task, please contact the secretary, Colin Baker.

Web Site Manager

Following the request in the November 2002 newsletter for a volunteer to take over the

Society's web site, Lars Engelbrecht has very kindly offer to undertake this task. Lars has previously acted as web-manager for the web site for the International Exhibition Hafnia 2001, which was held in Copenhagen in that year, and also looks after the Danish Postal Stationery site, postalstationery.dk. Lars lives in Denmark, but with electronic communication now well established, this is not a problem.

Lars has recently redesigned the web site so that it now has a more modern feel about it and it is easier to navigate through all the pages. He has also introduced a number of improvements to the site, including updating all the information and putting the current auction list on one of the pages. Only members can bid in our auctions of course, but advertising our services in this way should help to increase our membership. If you have access to the Internet, have a look at our web site. Any suggestions or comments would be very welcome.

I would like to thank Mike Smith for all the effort he and a non philatelic colleague of his put into producing the web site in the beginning. Mike knows that non of the above comments are intended to be disrespectful to him and he welcomed the idea of having a new manager for the site.

Library Donation

One of our newest members, Professor Alexander Ilyushin, has very kindly given to the Society's library three catalogues of Russian postal stationery. These are "Stamped Postal Cards of the USSR 1923 to 1979", "Stamped Pictorial Envelopes of the USSR 1977 to 1979"

and "Pictorial Postal Cards 1971 to 1988". All catalogues are in Russian, but unfortunately neither has an English translation.

Professor Ilyushin has also donated the three bulletins issued for Mockba '97, the World Philatelic Exhibition held in Moscow in 1997. Included is an article on "The First Stationery of Russia During the Pre-stamp Period". This and other information in the bulletins is given in both Russian and English text.

(Editor's note - these additions to the Library are listed on page 22)

MEMBERSHIP LIST

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

David Bradbury (Bristol UK)	£sd Machins
John Davies (Banbury UK)	1890 Penny Postage Jubilee
Ron Faith (Leamington Spa UK)	Germany
Michael Lockton (Woking UK)	GB penny pinks, etc
Nazir Malik (Birmingham UK)	Pakistan
Jeff Modesitt (Colorado USA)	GB & Danish stationery, US PCs, NZ universals
Philip Newey (London UK)	19th century stationery worldwide
I Pittway (Halstead, Essex UK)	worldwide
Neil Polser (Cheshire UK)	C & S America, GB and Egypt

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

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

Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the Journal, both current and previous issues. By having some material in hand, I have been able to publish **this** issue of the Journal a little earlier than usual, so with your assistance I will be publishing a **fourth** issue in November which will incorporate the Annual Newsletter. I see a minimum of four issues per year as the norm from now on.

My aim is to provide a link with all of our membership, keeping you informed of the Society's affairs and services and providing a medium for promoting your interests in postal stationery. I hope to do this by publishing articles on any aspect, country or period of postal stationery, ranging from those of general interest to those entailing specific research on postal stationery issues. I am keen to receive queries and replies, notes on interesting items from your collections, information on the current issues of postal stationery from across the world etc. I am also keen to receive details of auction realisations, articles published, news items, interesting finds, members 'wants', new publications and book and catalogue reviews. Are there any other ways by which a society journal can serve the needs of its members? **What would you like to see in the pages of the Journal? What could you contribute to the Journal?** Please let me know, contact me by phone, e-mail or by post, let me have your ideas so that I can produce a Journal that will fulfil your needs.

John Barker

THE JUBILEE OF THE UNIFORM PENNY POST PART 3

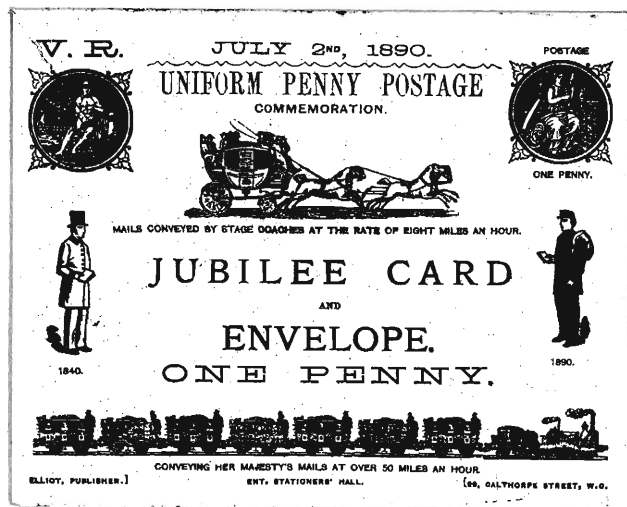
Colin Baker

PRIVATELY PRODUCED COMMEMORATIVE ENVELOPES

There were two copies made of the Post Office envelopes and correspondence cards produced for the Kensington Exhibition, the first of which was put on sale on 5th July 1890, 3 days after the Kensington Exhibition took place. The idea of doing this was dreamt up by William Henry Elliot, a businessman, who had seen the public's clamour for the Guildhall postcard and simply wanted to make a quick profit, having realised that the Kensington envelope and card were issued at one shilling each, a sum not everyone could afford.

instruments of the arts and sciences on either side. The words "POSTAGE - ONE PENNY" were set above and below the design. The authorities were upset at Elliot copying their design and were extremely concerned that the image in the top right-hand corner of the envelope would be taken by both the public and postal workers alike as a genuine stamp with consequent loss of revenue to the Post Office.

This is in fact what did happen only a few months later when a few of Elliot's envelopes were posted in the Liverpool area without stamps and passed through the postal system without any charges being raised.



The Elliot envelope.

His envelope and insert card were not designed as a caricature of the original, but rather as an inexpensive copy. They were well prepared, but were printed on cheap quality, rather thin paper. The envelopes and cards were sold in the street markets of London for 1d each, an enormous reduction on the 1/- being charged for the real thing. His envelopes and cards were aimed at those people who wanted to celebrate the Jubilee of the Penny Post, but whose pockets would not stretch to the price of the official item.

Elliot made one terrible mistake in designing his envelope. Instead of leaving a space where a penny stamp could be added, he included a design of industry showing a lady with a distaff (a rod on which wool, flax etc is wound for spinning) surrounded with

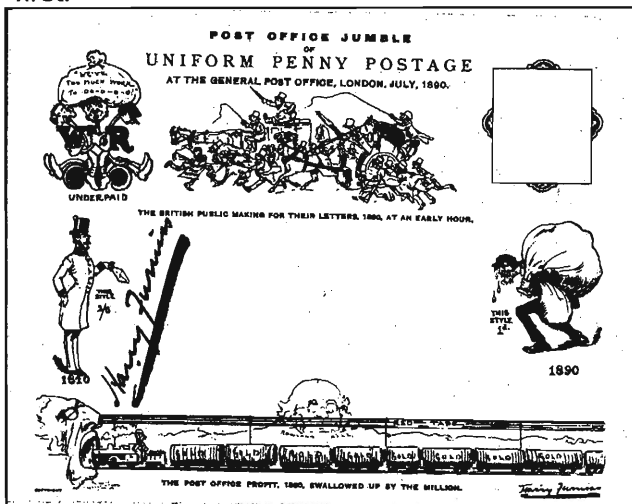
Elliot envelopes were sold at one penny each, but were withdrawn at the insistence of the Post Office because the design in the top right-hand corner could have been mistaken for a stamp, as has this example.

It would appear that Elliot had a very close shave with the Post Office who could have prosecuted him for copying their original design which might have resulted in him receiving a custodial sentence. In the end, Elliot escaped formal punishment by collecting and destroying all the unsold envelopes he could find and writing a letter of apology to the Postal Authorities. (See Appendix) The fact that he had registered his design at Stationers Hall probably helped his case, for they too were reprimanded for failing to check with the Post Office before accepting the envelope and

insert card for registration. In the end only about 500 of Elliot's envelopes were sold to the public and could not be retrieved.

It may have been a time for the Post Office officials and Postmasters from around the country to celebrate, but some of the postal workers were campaigning for better pay and conditions, and were threatening to go on strike. The hand bill given out to crowds attending the exhibition claimed postal workers in London received less than 20/- a week and that because their working hours were stretched over a 14 or 16 hour day, they could not get other employment, in other words a second job, to supplement their income.

To finance their campaign a caricature of the original Jubilee envelope and card was created by a well known political cartoonist of the period, Harry Furniss, who at the time was employed by the magazine Punch. The envelope was issued on 23rd July, three weeks after the one day exhibition at South Kensington was staged. Although this was the second envelope and insert card to be privately produced (many were distributed to Post Office officials), it was much more successful than the first.

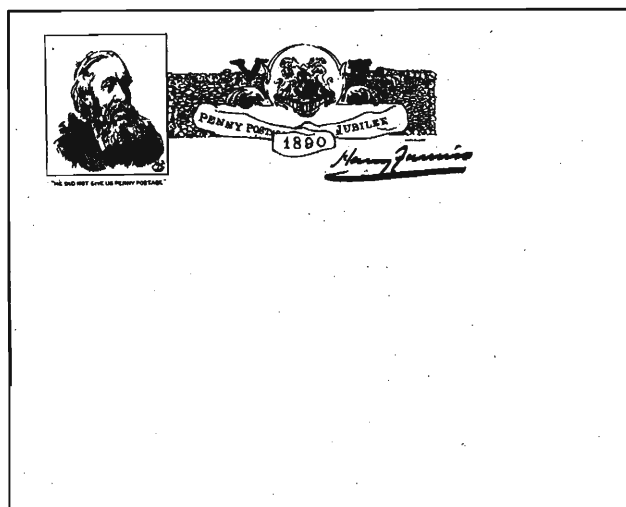


The caricature of the official Jubilee stationery, cleverly turning the original design into a criticism of the Post Office and its greed for profit. This proof example has been signed by the artist, Harry Furniss. All these items were sold in aid of the postal workers who were striking for better working conditions and pay.

The design of the Post Office envelope showed two postmen, one of 1840 and one of

1890, with the North Mail speeding towards Carlisle at 48 mph. The Furniss caricature transformed this to show the contemporary postman overloaded with mail, while the train rushed profits from the Post Office into the open mouth of the Treasury.

The correspondence card was also skilfully changed to show the Postmaster General, below which is a statement "He did not give us the penny post". Not surprising really, as Cecil Raikes was just one year old in 1840 when the Uniform Penny Post was introduced.



The correspondence card insert

Altogether, 9800 of the Harry Furniss caricature envelopes and correspondence cards are believed to have been produced, together with 100 proofs in black, signed by the artist himself which were sold at half a guinea each (ten shillings and sixpence) to boost the postmen's fund.

POSTMASTERS BREAKFAST

The Jubilee celebrations finally came to an end on the morning of 3 July 1890 with a Postmaster's Breakfast held at the Exeter Hall. The Postmaster General, Cecil Raikes MP, was the guest of honour at this event, which was attended by Postmasters from many areas of the country. In a speech following the meal, Raikes praised their efforts and told them how proud he was of the progress that had been made in the services provided by the Post Office and the good work performed by all the employees, often working under very difficult conditions.

THE JUBILEE CHRISTMAS CARD

The last stage in the celebration proceedings for the Jubilee of 1890 came about with the issue of a Christmas card, which included portraits of Rowland Hill, Queen Victoria and the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, along with illustrations of the stationery issued and some of the handstamps which had been available at the two exhibitions. The Christmas card consisted of a single unfolded sheet which measured 6½" x 9½" (163mm x 242mm) and was printed in colour on a thick soft card.



The 1890 Christmas Card, which was sold to raise money for the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund, to assist postmen and their families with one-off payments, rather than providing a regular supplementary income.

The idea of issuing Christmas cards was not new to the Post Office which had sent out about 500 cards a year since 1883, and 1890 was no exception. However, in that year a further 1500 cards were ordered from the printers, De La Rue & Co, to be sold for the benefit of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund. By all accounts they were expensive items to

purchase, probably being sold at about 8 schillings each, well over half a week's wages for a rural agricultural worker of the period.

This was the second Jubilee item to be forged. In 1979 approximately 1000 forgeries were printed using a printing plate produced from an original card, and these were put on sale to the public. Fortunately the crime was detected by a member of the Philatelic Traders Society. This eventually resulted in the prosecution of the forger, together with the destruction of the printing plates and over three quarters of the total stock of cards. However it is believed there are still about 200 forged Christmas cards in collectors' hands.

THE ROWLAND HILL BENEVOLENT FUND

The fund to help Post Office employees and their families who had fallen on hard times had stood at about £17,000 at the beginning of 1890. By the end of that year it had been more than doubled thanks to the two exhibitions and the generosity of both the public and Post Office employees, not to mention the effort given by many employees in making all the celebrations a success.

This enlarged benevolent fund allowed the Trustees to extend the allotment of monies to postal workers and their dependants. Gifts were nearly always made as one-off payments to meet special financial needs, as the fund had insufficient resources to make regular payments to any one particular beneficiary.

LOOKING FORWARD

The work of Rowland Hill, and others, in bringing about "*this great benefit to mankind*" had been celebrated in style, and at least in the Jubilee Year of 1890 it was clearly acknowledged how much the contribution of the Uniform Penny Post had made to world development and the increased prosperity enjoyed by many.

The Jubilee celebrations themselves had been a great success, with the public showing a keen interest in the workings of the Post Office, past, present and future. Some people wondered, even looked forward to celebrating the centenary of the Uniform Penny Post in 50 years time (1940). Little could they imagine that before the centenary year would be reached, the world would have entered into conflict twice and postal costs would have more than doubled.

APPENDIX

William Elliot's letter to the Post Office.

29 Calthorpe Street
Gray's Inn Road, W.C.
July 8th 1890

Re - Jubilee Postage Commemoration
Sir,

With astonishment and regret I received your communication last night, and early this morning I called at your department to offer an explanation, and was instructed to write to you, which I now do. My explanation is this:-

In issuing the Card and Envelope, to sell at 1d. the two, I had not the slightest idea that I was doing wrong. I understood that the Shilling Card and Envelope was issued as a public recognition of the services of Sir Rowland Hill and the 50 years progress of the Penny Post - the profits arising therefrom to be given to the Charities connected with the Post Office employees; I looked upon it as a semi-official concession for the joint purpose named, and only so far, it had any connection with the Post Office proper. The Shilling Envelope being on sale for one day only, many - not knowing of their issue till too late - were disappointed at not being able to obtain them, hence my idea of issuing a cheap substitute, as a 'Memento', of the 50 years progress of a national achievement benefiting the Nation at large. Had the Shilling Card, &c. remained on sale I should never have thought - considering its object - of interfering with it.

My Card was only issued Mid-day on Saturday, and from the bad weather very few have been sold, I have not and will not sell a copy from receipt of your letter, and will gather in any few I may find in the trade and destroy or deliver up all I have on hand, I need hardly say I am a looser by this error.

Having acted in ignorance and made every reparation in my power, I trust this explanation, with my sincere regrets may be accepted. The printer, a struggling man, in difficulties, is far less to blame than I am, having had less business experience than I have had, you will, I sincerely hope, excuse me from naming. ⁽⁶⁾

I am, Sir,
Your Obedient Servant,
Wm. Hy. Elliot.

The Solicitor,
Solicitor's Depart.,
General Post Office, E.C.

Henry Cecil Raikes (Postmaster General 1886 to 1891) was born on 25th November 1838 at the Deanery, Chester. His father was Henry Raikes, a barrister and his mother Lucy Charlotte Wrangham, daughter of Archdeacon Wrangham.

Raikes attended Shrewsbury School, eventually becoming head of the school and captain of both the boats and football team. He went on to Trinity College, Cambridge where he graduated at the age of 21 with a B.A. in classics, a subject that remained a favourite with him for the rest of his life. While at university he became president of the Cambridge Union where his interest in politics developed.

In pursuit of this vocation, he stood as the conservative candidate in Chester in 1865, but was unsuccessful, and stood again in 1866 at Devonport, once more failing to be elected. But in 1868, standing once again in Chester, he finally succeeded in getting into Parliament. However, he lost this seat in 1880, but managed to be elected as the member for Preston two years later. He held this seat for less than a year, resigning and being re-elected as a Member of Parliament for his old university a short while later.

Raikes became the Postmaster General in August 1886 when a Conservative government was returned to power. During his term of office he instigated the uniform postage rate to the colonies at 2½d per ½ ounce, and in 1891 established a telephone connection with Paris. Although Raikes gave the impression of being very stern, he was recognised for being considerate to those under him, and he is recorded as having dealt fairly with the postmen in their dispute of 1890.

Raikes was a devout Christian and used his position in Parliament to defend the Church in Wales. He became chancellor of the Diocese of St Asaph where he lived, and was also made the Deputy Lieutenant of Flintshire from 1864 onwards. In 1888 he was made an honorary Doctor of Laws by his old college.

Henry Raikes died suddenly on 24th August 1891 at his home in Llwynegrin, Flintshire, said to have been caused by overwork. He is buried at St Mary's Church, Mold, Flintshire.

⁶⁾ It may have been that "*the printer, a struggling man*" was one of Elliot's sons. Both Henry and William Elliot, who would have been 41 and 35 years of age respectively at the time, had followed in their father's footsteps as printers, and this may have been the reason why Elliot had not wanted to name the printer of his jubilee envelope.

Frederick Ebenezer Baines, CB, was born in Chipping Barnet in 1832 and worked for the Post Office for forty years. When he was the Inspector General of Mails he was given the responsibility for developing the inland, foreign and colonial parcel post service, and was also responsible for accelerating the inland mail service. Upon becoming the Surveyor-General of Telegraphs he oversaw the introduction of a new system of postal telegraphy.

He was over 50 years of age when he married Laura Baily, daughter of Walter Baily MA, in 1887. He died on 4th July 1911.

Thomas Churchill. It is Churchill whom we have to thank for amassing all the souvenirs of the two exhibitions celebrating the Jubilee of the Uniform Penny Post, which has encouraged me to research and write this article. Thomas Churchill was born 7 October 1826 in Llanfaglan, Caernavon, Wales, the son of Thomas and Emma Churchill.

Together with his wife Margaret they raised a family of two boys and five girls, (Richard, Thomas, Emma, Edith, Margaret, Mary, Florence) carrying on the tradition of naming one of the male offspring with the father's Christian name, and one of the girls with the mothers Christian name.

Thomas Churchill worked for the General Post Office for many years as an accountant, eventually becoming a certified accountant by the time the Penny Post Jubilee was celebrated. His hard work earned him an invitation to each of the Jubilee exhibitions. At this point in his career Thomas Churchill lived at 10 Louvaine Road, Battersea with his wife and their 7 children. But at the age of 63 he was nearing retirement. When he finally left the Post Office a year or two later he moved to 5 Deronda Road, Norwood, South London, near to the site of Crystal Palace, to live out the remainder of his days. I have not found a record of his death, but he was still alive and well in 1901 at the age of 75.

William Henry Elliot was born at 30 White Hart Yard, off Drury Lane, in Westminster, London on 18th November 1820, and in the following year, on 29 July, at St Mary-le-Strand church, he was christened by the Reverend J J Ellis. Elliot's mother was Sarah (nee Coates), his father, Peter Elliot, was a Waterman. A Waterman was someone who hired out his

services as a "taxi driver" rowing passengers along and across the River Thames before most of the cross-river bridges were built. In the 18th century only London Bridge linked both halves of the capital, but gradually as more bridges were constructed water taxis were no longer required. From the beginning of the 19th century Watermen were being put out of business.

Because of this development, it is probable that William was placed with his Uncle Edward to work in his printing shop, a fact that would stand William in good stead later in life when he established his own printing business. Within a few years of William's birth his father gave up his Waterman's trade and started a bookbinding business.

At sometime in the late 1840s Elliot married Mary Heather (formerly Mary Hall), a widow ⁽⁷⁾, and daughter of William Hall, a shoemaker ⁽⁸⁾. William and Mary Elliot are recorded as having eleven children - Alice, Sarah, Henry, Jane, Ellen. William, Eliza, Emily, Elizabeth,

Edward (also referred to as Earnest – although this could simply be an error in the records) and the baby of the family Amy Rose.

By all accounts, Elliot was a very particular man and insisted on using his full name on every possible occasion, something that he had grown used to from an early age. He insisted that the spelling the family name was made with only one "t", rather than the more usual two, and it was not unknown for him to have documents altered if officials spelt his name incorrectly.

⁽⁷⁾ Mary Hall was born in St Pancras in 1820 (I have not been able to find a birth record for her) and she married John Heather on 5 May 1839 at St Pancras Old Church. They had two children, Mary born in 1839 and John William born on 5 November 1841. Mary's husband died of consumption (a disease we now call TB) on 29 April 1843. I have not found any other records relating to the two children.

⁽⁸⁾ My searches have so far failed to locate a marriage certificate for the couple. It could be that they never went through a marriage ceremony, although I doubt this was the case, as a successful businessman such as Elliot would not want such a stigma attached to his name. However, at the time of their marriage there was no legal obligation on people to register these events with the state, and some couples were suspicious of doing so. Elliot strikes me as being this sort of person.

The strain of bearing eleven children and bringing up such a large family took its toll on Elliot's wife, who died of acute Hepatitis at the family home, 475 Oxford Street, London on 15 April 1868 at the relatively young age of 47. Mary's death must have been a deep shock to Elliot, for about a year later he left 475 Oxford Street where he had lived all his married life and had brought up such a large family. He moved to several different addresses in areas such as Islington and Hackney, before finally settling into his last address, 29 Calthorpe Street, where he would make the serious error of printing an envelope which included a design that could have been mistaken for a postage stamp.

Elliot variously described himself as "Printer and Stationer" (1851), "Printer, Publisher, Stationer" (1861), "Printer Master" (1866), "Late Newspaper Proprietor" (1881) and "Retired Publisher" (1891), although I have not been able to find anything published by him apart from his copy of the Penny Post Jubilee envelope.

Like their father, both Henry and William went into the printing business, and perhaps the youngest daughter as well, for Amy became a publishers assistant (perhaps helping out in her father's business). Of the other daughters, Emily became a pattern modeller, while Ellen who had been a stocking suspender maker, eventually stayed at home after her mother's death to look after her father and her younger brothers and sisters. Towards the end of his life, Elliot had recovered from the shock of his wife's death and his fortunes had obviously improved. He now had sufficient income to be able to afford a young servant girl, Florence Spratt. He also rented out on a permanent basis one of the rooms at 29 Calthorpe Street.

By the time Elliot published and sold his Jubilee envelope in 1890 he had already retired from business and had exceeded the life expectancy of the time. Finally, at the beginning of 1892 Elliot caught Bronchitis, which he suffered for 10 days, gradually weakening. Eventually on 24th January 1892 he passed away at the age of 71.

Harry Furniss was born on 26th March 1854 in Wexford, County Wexford, Ireland. He settled in London in 1873 and three years later became a staff artist for *The Illustrated London*

News. He was a self taught artist and cartoonist, creating political and social cartoons lampooning the establishment. His drawings were noted for emphasising the peculiarities of people's faces and dress. In 1884 he moved to the publication *Punch* where he contributed to the "Diary of Toby, MP". Outside the magazine he illustrated the works of Dickens and Thackeray, and wrote a number of books, including "Confessions of a Caricaturist" which he illustrated himself. In the early 20th century he entered the world of the cinema, producing the film "Our Lady Cinema" (1914).

SOME INTERESTING FACTS AND FIGURES

i) Although the Post Office had hired coaches and other horse drawn vehicles to carry mail around the country for many years, their first mail coach did not travel the roads until 1784.

ii) Mail was first carried by rail in 1830 and was first sorted on a train in 1837.

iii) The population of the United Kingdom in 1890 was approximately 36 million.

iv) In 1890 the Post Office employed 108,000 workers throughout the UK, of which 17,500 worked in London.

v) In 1890 if a Post Office employee reached the retirement age of 65 and had worked for the Post Office for less than 10 years, he received a gratuity of one month's salary for each full year of service. If he had worked for more than 10 years he received a pension equal to 1/60th of his salary for every year of service. However, the pension ceased on his death and was not transferable to his widow or children.

iv) At the time of the Jubilee celebrations, the Post Office delivered about 1,800 million letters every year.

References:

Account of the Celebration of the Jubilee of the Uniform Inland Penny Postage – Published by the Jubilee Celebration Committee 1891.

A Christmas Tale, Francis & Charles Kiddle – Stamp Magazine December 2000.

Post Office Circular Numbers 792 of 13th May 1890 and 795 of 27th May 1890

The Elliot Envelope, LN & M Williams

The 1890 Post Office Jubilee, Robson Lowe - Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, December 1977

The Genesis of the 1890 South Kensington Envelope, Alan Huggins - Philatelic Journal of Great Britain, March 1977

GERMANY - PLUS PRODUCTS.

Ransom Bradford

Between 1991 and 1998, it looked as if postal stationery was being phased out in Germany entirely, leading some commentators to say that the collection of modern German postal stationery was doomed to extinction. There were, in fact, two rather good reasons to fear that this would be the case. First of all, two of the three German postal administrations (those of West Berlin and the German Democratic Republic) ceased to exist when the two Germanies were united in 1990. Secondly, the one surviving postal administration the F.R.G. (now the united Germany) had begun to reduce its postal stationery services, leading to a drastic reduction of postal-stationery issued for commercial purposes (at the same time, it began issuing a flood of special covers and cards aimed solely at collectors and only available from the Philatelic Agency, and this in turn met with increasing criticism).

Soon after reunification, the only remaining postal administration, that of the FRG, discontinued two of the three remaining forms of postcards: the inland reply card (60 pf + 60 pf) and the foreign-rate surface postcard (80 pf.). The FRG issued inland reply cards (Postkarte mit anhängender Antwortkarte") for the last time with the August 1990 series

"Sehenswürdigkeiten" (Michel P 146). As the inland postcard rate was extended to all CEPT countries on 01.04.1989, the need for a foreign-rate card also came to an end. The last foreign-rate surface postcard was also issued as part of the August 1990 series (Michel P 145). With the disappearance of these two forms of postcards, we were left with the single inland-rate postcard (60 pf) and the "Discover Germany" set of postcards with illustrations of historic sites and tourist attractions (the Bildpostkarte). In July 1995 the GPO drastically reduced the number of different cards per series of Bildpostkarten and discontinued issuing them altogether in December 2000. The GPO also stopped the practice of allowing customers to order "printed-to-private-order" cards and envelopes at the end of 1999, a move which was warmly greeted by many, if not most, postal stationery collectors.

Plus-Products

In a pilot project beginning June 10, 1998, the GPO issued a set of envelopes (Fig. 1) with stamp impressions from previously issued commemorative stamps (rather than from the regular issue), a clear departure from practice because, up until then, the GPO had issued only postcards (but no envelopes) and these cards carried the impression of the regular issue being used at the time.

These products were clearly meant for commercial customers rather than collectors, thus providing a whole new field for "serious" postal stationery collectors. Neither the GPO nor postal stationery collectors expected these new products to be such a success. The GPO is apparently more than satisfied with the way the commercial market (and collectors) have greeted the issue of these new covers and cards (the

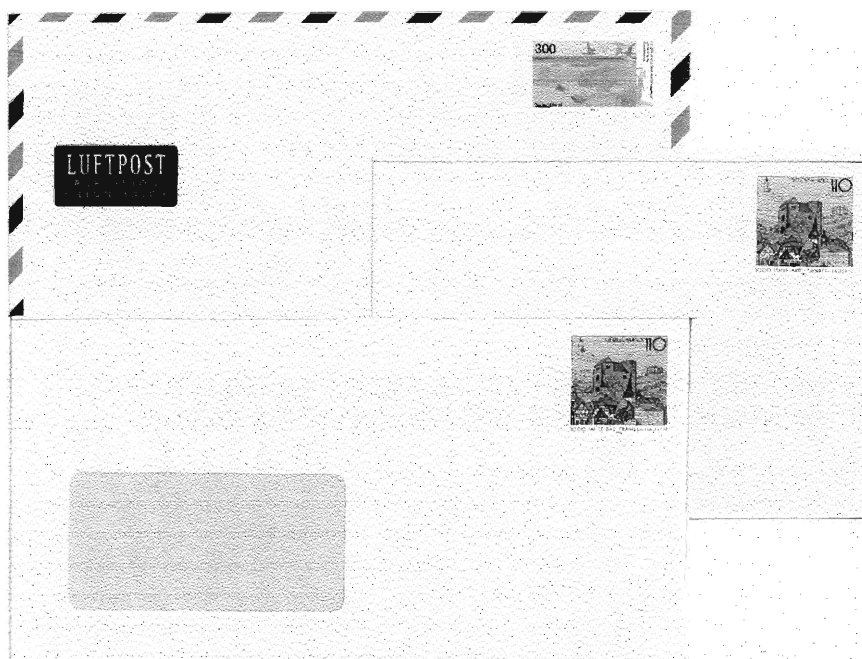


Fig. 1 First Plus-Brief Issue - Pilot Test Issue (Issued in DM): Michel USo 1, USo 2, and USo 3

Philatelic Agency has more than 20,000 standing-order customers for the Plus-Products). Thus, after experiencing a Cinderella existence for a number of years, postal stationery has been rediscovered by collectors, who had been increasingly critical of the flood of philatelically inspired PPO covers and postcards produced to commemorate philatelic events. The Plus-Products offer a wide range of collecting possibilities, especially as some of them have been reprinted to meet increased demand, thus producing a number of watermark, paper, and stamp impression varieties.

When they were first introduced, the number of different issues was small, but within three short years their number reached 26 covers and cards. The Plus-Products can be divided into three groups:

- issues in DM (up to 2001)
- issues with both DM and Euro currencies (2001-2002), and
- issues in Euro (beginning in January 2002).

With one or two exceptions, the 26 issues (not including, of course, some of the scarcer varieties) are still available from the Philatelic Agency or from dealers at reasonable prices. Collectors interested in watermark varieties and different printings (owing to the demand, they were sometimes printed by different commercial printers, thus producing collectable varieties) will have to pay higher prices.

The varieties are of three kinds:

1. watermark differences in paper used;
2. production differences (size and shape of the flap, the configuration of the grey inside of the covers);
3. variations in the size of (or the omission of) the blank white spaces behind the stamp impression and behind the post horn impression at the lower left-hand corner of the reverse side of the envelope (these are to be found on the inside of the covers).

These varieties are easily detectable even by an untrained eye, and they have added to the interest of the Plus-Products among collectors.

It is important to note that the stamp impressions used on the Plus-Brief covers derive from commemorative postage stamps which were (in some cases) issued in previous years. The stamp impressions on the covers

carry the same date of the commemorative stamp used for the cover, **not** the date when the postal stationery cover itself was issued. Thus the West Pommeranian stamp impression on the overseas covers (Michel USo 3 and USo 7) carries the date 1996, the year in which the stamp impression was issued.

On 10.06.1998, the GPO issued the first three Plus-Brief at three post offices: Hamburg, Cologne, and those in the area of Kaufbeuren. The GPO prepared interesting special FDC cancellations in all three of the cities which are sought after by FDC collectors.

After a short delay, all three envelopes were available over the counter at all major post offices in Germany (USo 2, however, only in packs of 100).

A special pack of one set including USo 1, USo 2, and USo 3 was distributed to postal stationery collectors by the Philatelic Agency.

The three envelopes in this first set were produced to meet the major requirements of commerce:

(USo 1) Inland-Rate normal letter size envelope C6 (162 x 114 mm.) without a window, with dry gum on the flap. With 110 pf. impression of the commemorative stamp "1000 Year Jubilee of the City of Frankenhausen" (stamp first issued 12.03.1998).

On the reverse side of the envelope a two-line printed legend:

Diesen Brief können Sie bis zu einem Gewicht von 20 g innerhalb Deutschlands und Europas versenden, ohne ihn zusätzlich freizumachen. Ihre Deutsche Post.

"This letter can be sent anywhere within Germany and Europe without the necessity of affixing a stamp as long as the weight of the letter does not exceed 20 g. Your German Post Office."

Inside is grey with a blank white space behind the stamp impression

Watermark: two varieties: Wz I X (Fig. 2), falling wavy lines running from top left to bottom right; Wz 1 Y, rising wavy lines (in a later printing)



Fig. 2 **Watermark 1X**

USo 1 was issued in packs of 10 envelopes (DM 12.95)

USo 2) Inland-Rate long envelope with a window and with dry gum on the flap. Business letter size "DL" (220 x 110 mm.) envelope with 110 pf. impression of the Frankenhäusen stamp (as on USo 1).

The legend on the reverse side is the same as on USo 1

Inside is grey with a blank white space behind the stamp impression

Watermark same as USo 1: two varieties (Wz I X, falling wavy lines; Wz 1 Y, rising wavy lines) USo 2 was issued in packs of 100 envelopes (DM 119.95)

USo 3) Overseas Airmail Envelope in business letter format "DL" (220 x 110 mm), the same as USo 2, but without window. Envelope with 300 Pf impression of the commemorative stamp "Western Pommeranian National Park Landscape" (stamp issued as part of a block on 18.07.1996) Obverse side carries a large airmail label:

LUFTPOST / PAR AVION / PRIORITAIRE in red and white on a blue background alternating red and blue rhombuses are printed on all four sides of the envelope (obverse and reverse sides)

On the reverse side of the envelope a two-line printed legend: *"This letter can be sent anywhere in the world without the necessity of affixing a stamp as long as the weight of the letter does not exceed 20 g. Your German Post Office."*

Inside is grey with a blank white space behind the stamp impression. Watermark: same as USo 1 and USo 2

USo 3 was issued in packs of 5 envelopes (DM 15.95)

Encouraged by the reception of the six-month test phase of the pilot-project series issued June 10 1998, the GPO decided to re-issue the Plus Products on a regular basis with a slightly altered format. The three envelopes of this second series were issued on 2.11.1998 and distributed at intervals to post-offices throughout the country, but this issue did not have a special cancellation. For the first time a blind impression of a post horn appears in the lower left-hand corner of the

reverse side of the envelopes. This blind impression appears on all envelopes from USo 5 up to today.

The two-line legend on the reverse side of the pilot-project issue (USo 1 -USo 3) has been omitted in the definitive issue. USo 5 - 7 have self-sealing adhesive flaps,

These three envelopes (USo 5 to USo 7) were issued separately in packs of various sizes (varying from 3 envelopes to 100 envelopes per pack). This definitive issue was not sent to collectors with standing orders at the Philatelic Agency.

In December 1999, a new series was released:

DL sized envelopes (220 x 110 mm), with and without window carrying 110 pf Expo 2000 Hannover design imprint. Watermark 1Y.

Slightly larger **C5/C6** sized envelopes (229 x 114 mm), with and without window carrying 47 pf Berus Monument design imprint. (Fig. 3). Watermark "PLUSBRIEF" (Fig. 4)

C4 sized envelopes (324 x 229 mm), horizontal / landscape without window and the same sized envelope in vertical /portrait format with window carrying 300 pf Opera House, Bayreuth design imprint. (Fig. 5)

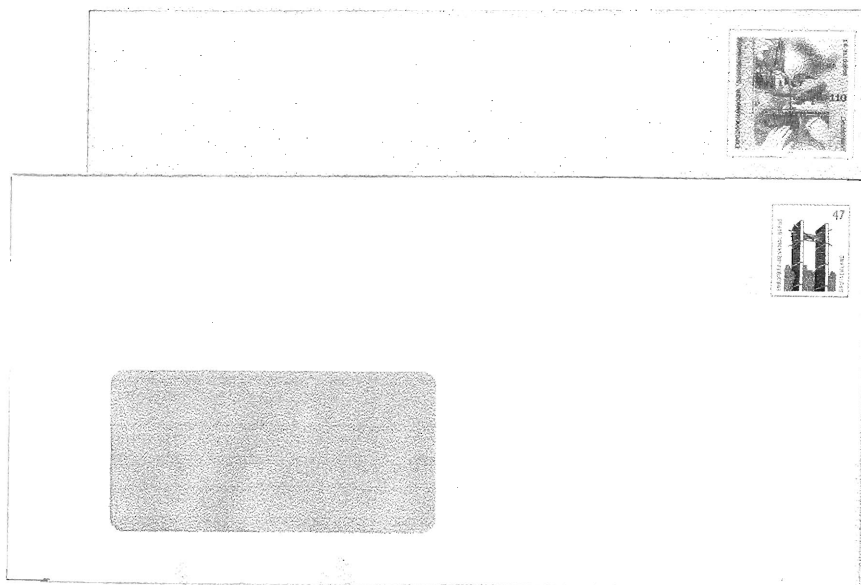


Fig. 3 110 pf. DL & 47 pf. C5/C6 envelopes

The DL envelopes were initially available from the Business Customer Services of the Deutschen Post AG in packs of 500 (DM 587.10 without window, and DM 588.86 with window). From the first of April 2000 they were available in packs of 100 and, without window, in packs of 10 from post-offices.

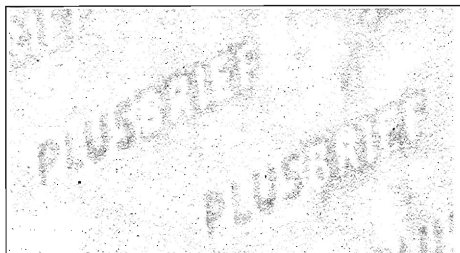


Fig. 4 **PLUSBRIEF** Watermark

The C5 / C6 envelopes were available from the Business Customer Services of the Deutschen Post AG in packs of 1000 at DM 551.46 without window and DM 553.49 with window. They were not available from post-offices.



Fig. 5 **Opera House Bayreuth** Imprint

The C4 envelopes with the Opera House, Bayreuth imprint were available from the Business Customer Services of the Deutschen Post AG in packs of 250 at DM 827.91 either with or without window. They were available from post-offices from the first of April 2000 in packs of 3 without window and packs of 25 with window.

In August 2000 size C5/C6 envelopes were issued both with and without window. These carried a 220 pf Sächsische Schweiz design imprint. (Fig. 6)



Fig. 6 **Sächsische Schweiz** Imprint

In October 2000, the final issue of the DM Plus-brief envelopes was a size DL envelope with window, watermark 1Y, carrying an 80 pf. Halberstadt imprint. This was available from the Business Customer Services of the Deutschen Post AG in packs of 500 pre-cancelled at DM 441.08. (Fig. 7)

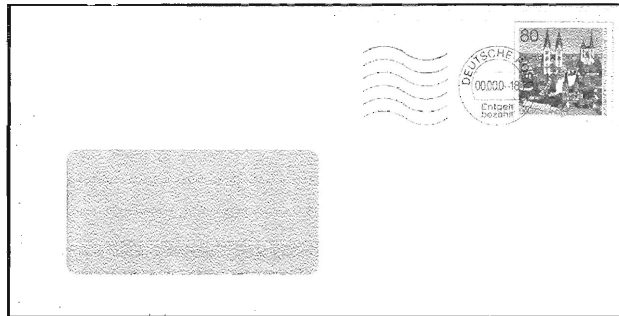


Fig. 7 **Pre-cancelled Envelope**

Postal Rates appertaining to Plus-Brief:

- 47pf** 'Infopost' rate (A minimum of 50 letters with identical contents and of identical weight sent to **local destinations**). The senders name must be the same on all envelopes.
- 80pf** 'Infobrief' rate (A minimum of 50 letters with identical contents and of identical weight sent to **any destination in Germany**). The senders name must be the same on all envelopes.
- 110pf** Rate for letters up to **20 gm** weight for destinations **within Germany**
- 220pf** Rate for letters of **21 - 50 gm** weight for destinations **within Germany**.
- 300pf** Rate:
 - (i) for standard sized letters by **airmail to overseas destinations**.
 - and (ii) for oversized letters of **51 - 500 gm** for destinations **within Germany**.

All Plus-brief issued in DM were valid until 30th June 2002.

In the Michel catalogue Plus-brief were not all listed together in one section, making it difficult to follow the chronology. Ralf Wommer has produced a detailed and more rational listing in "Plus Ganzsachenkatalog Deutschland - 1998 - 2002" published by Philacron - Verag, Hanau. (ISBN 3-935066-10-4). There is now a new and enlarged edition (2003)

Details of current issues of Plus Products are available on the Deutsche Post web-site <http://www.deutschepost.de>

GREAT BRITAIN LETTER CARDS - Stamped to Order Issues.

George King

At the March meeting, because of one item I had recently acquired, I showed most of the mint Great Britain: Letter Cards - Stamped to Order Issues

The ones I know of are:-

Queen Victoria

1d pink embossed

King Edward VII

1d carmine embossed (Fig. 1)
(Shades, one is red!)

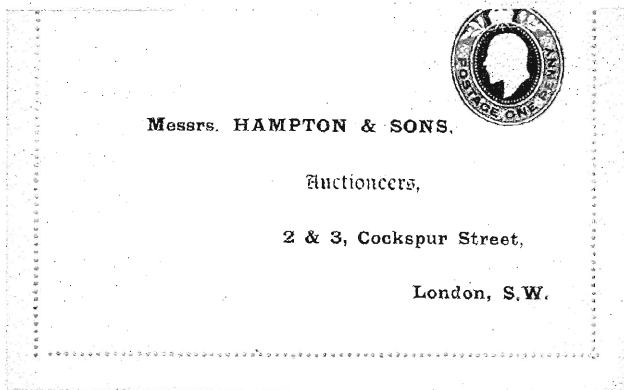


Fig. 1

King George V

- 1d carmine embossed (Fig. 2)
- 1½ d red-brown oval embossed (Figs 3 & 4) (shades)
- 1½ d red-brown oval embossed but folded not perforated (Fig. 5)
- 1½ d brown letterpress
- 2d orange embossed

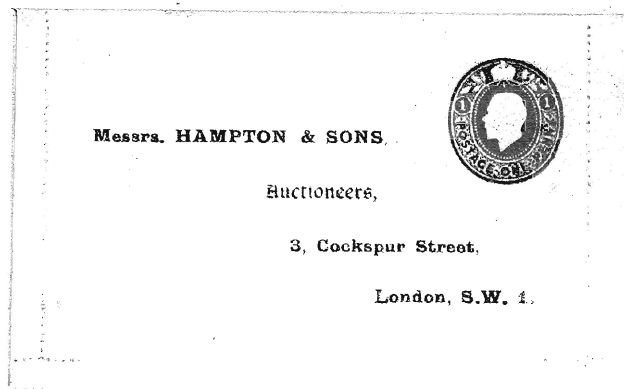


Fig. 2

King George VI

2½ d blue letterpress

Queen Elizabeth II (Fig. 6)

- 5d indigo octagonal embossed
- 2½ d rose pink embossed

- 3p blue letterpress
- 3.5p greenish-grey letterpress
- 3.5p " + 2p green letterpress

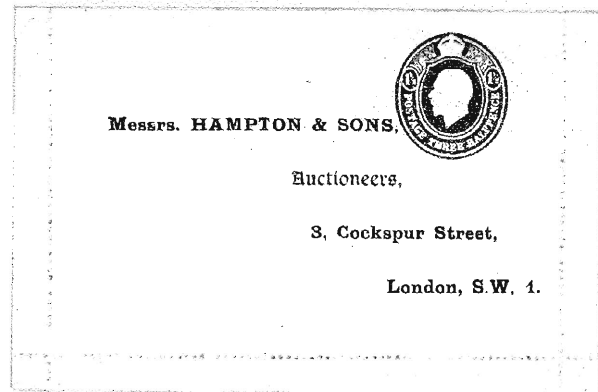


Fig. 3

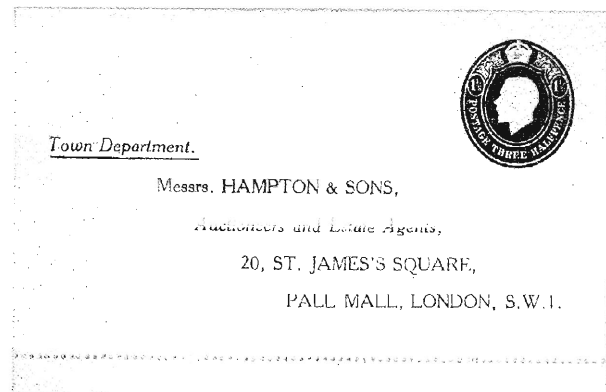


Fig. 4

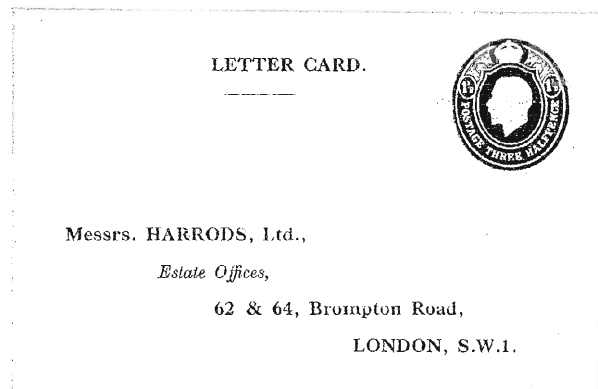


Fig. 5

QEII G.P.O. Decimal letter cards with additional STO impressions

- 2.5p + 0.5p
- 3p + 0.5p
- 3p + 2p
- 3p + 2.5p
- 3p + 0.5p + 2p
- 3p + 2p + 0.5p (Fig. 7)

Colours as QEII on previous page, plus 0.5p is turquoise.

The KGV 2d orange is very difficult to find, even Alan Huggins hadn't seen one until this display at the March meeting, "Don't assume", was his comment as he asked for a photocopy, and how long I'd had it?¹ (About a month!). Most KGV commercial examples I have are from the same auctioneers & estate agent, Hampton & Sons, of several London addresses. Most of these STO look like the Post Office issues, but there is a Hampton's version of the KGV 1½ d only perforated along the bottom (Fig. 4), and one entirely without perforations (Fig. 5) (Harrods), for slitting open.

For examples of the letterpress King George issues see Huggins "British Postal Stationery", which has rough dates for

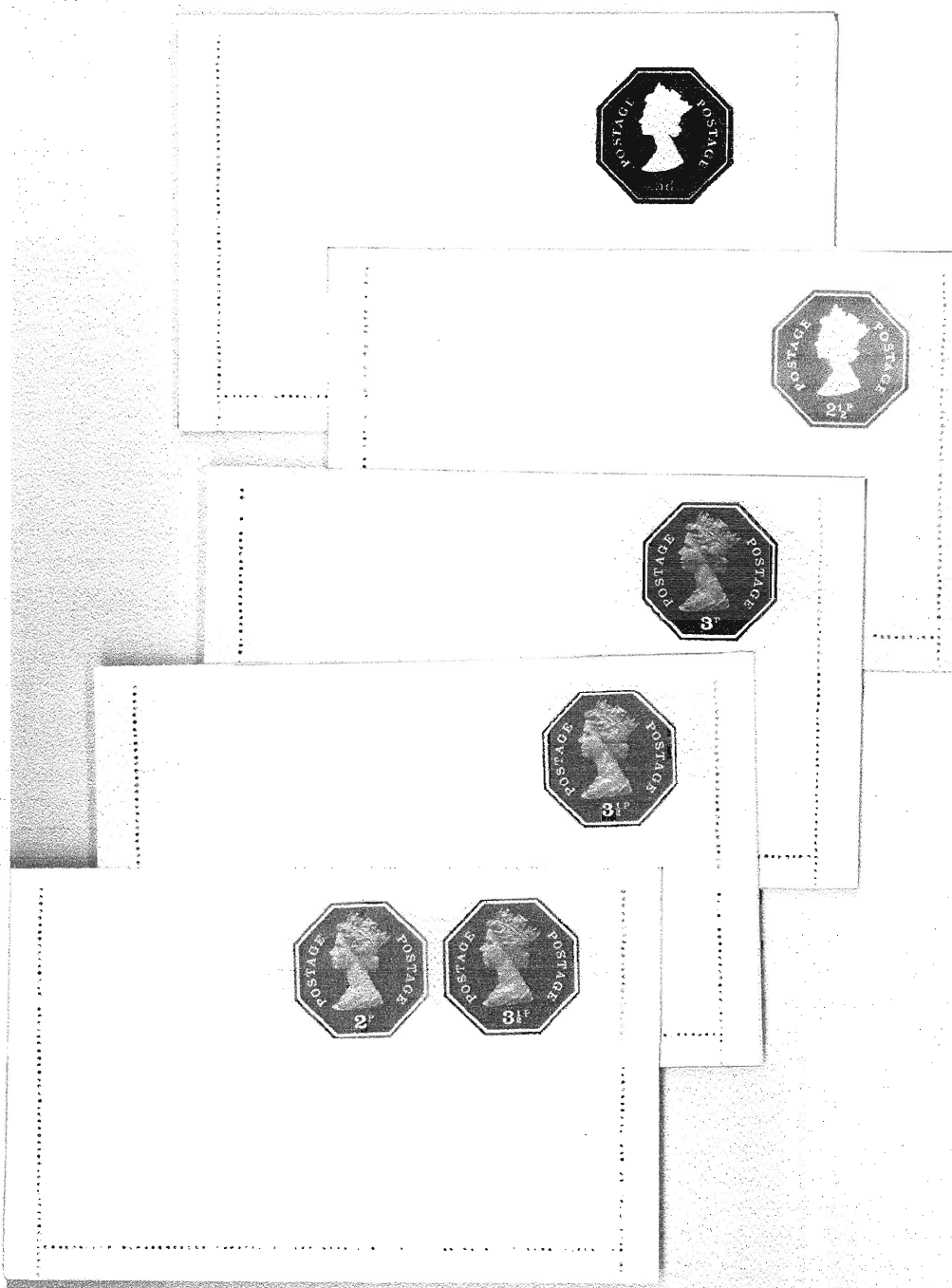


Fig. 6

the pre decimal issues it lists. My QEII are philatelic, and so is one KGV 1½ d quite dark brown. So what else exists out there?

Editor's Note:- In the June 2003 issue of the Journal (No. 26 p20), Arthur Roberts reported a letter card with the Queen's head in a circle "postage paid 2" printed in blue for "Wyeth Vaccines".

If any members can add to this listing of STO Letter cards, please contact the editor and I will publish updates as appropriate.

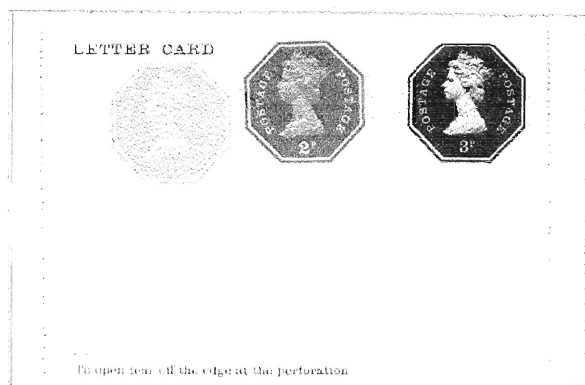


Fig. 7

⁽¹⁾ This GV 2d letter card was illustrated on p. 19 of the June 2003 issue of the Journal (No. 26).



AEROGRAMMATICS

New Forces "Air Letters"

Further to my own notes in the June 2003 Journal, Arthur Roberts has provided details of a second white version of the Revised 8/02 Air Letter which has the reverse 'Conditions of Use' print re-set with the first line ending 'Operations and'. The white version previously recorded had the first line ending 'Operations'. He acknowledges the help of John Daynes of the Forces Postal History Society in recording this version which appears only to have been

'MOD Form 674 (4/01)/www.bfpo.org.uk'

2001-02 printings with different gum lengths and reverse print with a gap of 26mm, 16mm, 12mm or 8mm between 'An aerogramme should not contain any enclosure' and 'Why not use the Electronic Bluey:'

Add:-

9. Litho. White paper, 'MOD Form 674(4/01)' closer to 'www.bfpo.org.uk', No phos. bands

Gum Length Reverse Print Gap

154 mm 8 mm

'DEFENCE/BFPO/AGENCY' on front + 'Operation/Exercise' etc. with '1 British Forces/ Postage Paid' in white on colour block. Top flap printed 'Why not try ebluey' etc. Reverse: 'Conditions of Use:' in four lines, Sender section with five lines and 'MOD Forces Air Letter/MOD Form 674 Rev (8/02)/www.bfpo.org.uk' lower left.

10. Litho. White wove paper. 1st line under 'Conditions of Use' ends 'Operations'. Print in blue. Gum length 154 mm. No phos. bands.
11. Litho. White wove paper, etc. as type 10 but 1st line under 'Conditions of Use' ends 'Operations and'. Gum length 150 mm.
12. Litho. Thick pale blue laid paper. print setting similar to type 11 above in three colours. Two phos. bands.

REPORT ON MEETINGS

Meeting at Swinpex 14th June 2003.

Swinpex was an all day event, with much to keep collectors occupied. There were over forty stands, displays from specialist societies (including ourselves) and meetings ongoing throughout the day. Eight members of the Postal Stationery Society met during the afternoon and displayed some wonderful material.

Michael Goodman showed the outer covers of returned letters, including some with charge marks and some that had been registered, either because the returned letter was a registered item, or there was some value in the contents. Michael continued with perfined postal stationery and registered envelopes that had been posted in pillar boxes rather than being handed to "an officer of the post" therefore attracting postage dues.

George King displayed modern postal stationery from Eire, including several

postcards which were pre-addressed to Tony Blair, Prince Charles and the Chairman of BNFL pointing out the dangers posed by Sellafield.

John Barker put up a group of German money order cards 1880 to 1920, showing different printings and changes in postal rates. He also showed later cards that had a section that the sender could keep as a receipt.

Arthur Roberts displayed the QEII lettercard printed to private order, which was illustrated in the June Journal. He followed this with other private order stationery and Forces airletters, or "Blueys"

Alan Bailey showed Belgian postcards overprinted for use in Eupen and Malmedy between 1920 and 1922, following the First World War.

Colin Baker displayed GB Victorian registered envelopes.

Mike Smith entertained the meeting with newspaper wrappers from Southern Africa that had been uprated or attracted postage dues.

Keith Hanman finished off the meeting by showing Sierra Leone postcards from 1880 to 1893. These included both mint and used examples, as well as specimens, essays and proofs of both single and reply cards.

Colin Baker

Display at Midpex 28th June 2003

This biennial event is the showcase for specialist societies like our own where society tables and displays provide philatelists with an opportunity to find out more about their particular areas of interest. Each participating society was allocated a table and six display frames each holding 16 sheets. With 60 specialist societies taking part, there was a wealth of material to look at.

Our displays were provided by:-

Colin Baker - GB QV Registered Envelopes
John Barker - Germany View Cards
Ken Flint - Canada QV and Admiral Post Cards
Alan Huggins - GB STO Advertising Stationery
Peter O'Keeffe - GB QV Post Cards
Michael Smith - Orange Free State - VRI Overprints.

Besides the postal stationery on show on our own frames, many other societies had displays with postal stationery items as the subject of one or more frames. In many cases these were displays by other members of the Postal Stationery Society who also belong to other specialist societies. In addition to the displays, there were 40 dealers with plenty of stock to look through.

During the day we signed up six new members, met many of our current members and had an enjoyable day promoting the collecting of postal stationery.

John Barker

Meeting at Tunbridge Wells 5th July 2003.

Thanks to Peter van Gelder and Graham Barker for arranging this get together - 6 members and 5 non members were present; the topic chosen being P.S. Cards. We opened with a buy and sell session, followed by Peter van Gelder's "10 question Quiz" - enough to really show you how little you know about Postal Stationery! We then enjoyed light refreshments provided by Graham Barker, before David Padgham, a Past President of the

Indian Study Circle gave what was for most of us a fairly unique display of Indian P.S. cards.

Few realised that there were up to 625 different Indian states prior to Independence in 1948: that the use of postal stationery cut-outs was banned in India; that some 'Service' postcards had illustrations on one side; that some postcards were paper thin, others were made of two flimsy pieces of paper glued together, and not always the same colour; that prisoners were sometimes used to produce/print the cards: and that a Registered Postal Stationery envelope issued during WWII exists - apparently not widely recorded, and with very few known. India is not a Country particularly popular with collectors here, probably due to the vast numbers of different printings, and the general lack of knowledge of the wording and hieroglyphics. Sometimes the condition leaves one hoping to see better quality, but David's material was virtually all in excellent condition. After a vote of thanks to David for his display, it was up to those in attendance to show P.S. Cards from their collections - nine mini displays with quite a variety - George King showed KGV GB cards, Graham Barker, a couple of Indian cards, Henry Hupfield, had a 1928 KGV GB Id card up-rated with two 3d adhesives and sent by registered airmail from London, via Munich to Vienna. Lionel Jones showed a selection of modern QEII illustrated GB PS cards issued in booklets or in packets, plus other items of Post Office stationery. Bob Avery had some illustrated Liechtenstein cards and a P.O. issue four page folder containing two souvenir sheets, but also showing a panoramic view of the whole of the Country. Michael Goodman produced numerous sheets of GB Queen Victorian PS cards all with various types of 'Sloper' cancellations - Orb, Arrow, Clip etc. with varieties used at Liverpool, Manchester, London, Edinburgh and Leeds! The latter is believed to be at least 100 years late use. James Latham had some Indian cards overprinted for use in China. Peter van Gelder had several cards of Canada, mainly for use by the railway companies, but having illustrations on the address side. Finally Peter O'Keeffe showed a selection of GB Queen Victoria cards, which he had also shown at Midpex, the previous week. All in all, an enjoyable afternoon in pleasant surroundings.

Peter O'Keeffe

QUERIES AND REPLIES

REPLY: - INSURANCE CARDS (February 2003). Peter O'Keeffe writes :-

Larry Parks, of California, sent some photostat copies of the cards in his possession, (March '02), one of which was a KGVI 1½ d Ocean Accident card, numbered MN 3656, sent to Madame Wery in Brussels, Belgium with a London S.E. postmark of 12.45pm on the 11th June 1954, sent by Aug Wery. I have recently obtained a similar card and was surprised to find that it is addressed to the same person, has the same timed and dated London postmark, and is also from Aug Wery. It is numbered MN 3659. Now this could mean that either the sender was somewhat insecure and wanted excess insurance cover, or there was a Postal History collector in the family. Larry also mentions that he has another card, MN 3655 which is mint! Does this mean the card was not used? i.e. neither addressed, signed or annotated with the date and time of issue, or perhaps it did not have a postmark? If it was not issued by a machine, this could mean that Aug Wery might have had access to the machine, either as an employee of Ocean Accident, or maybe he was a service engineer, who found it jammed in the machine, and that he removed it - in which case, it must indeed be a rarity. Due to its sequence number, the thought that the machine had jammed does not seem reasonable - so how come it is mint? Maybe Larry might care to offer his thoughts? Thanks also to Arthur Roberts for his article (PSS Journal no 25) and particularly the illustration of the 1904 'Ocean Accident' card, which is not machine annotated, nor does it have a 'Policy' number - obviously the cards and the system were improved as time went by. One might also assume that if the cards are in collectors hands, no claim would have been made on such policies, otherwise, no doubt the insurance company would have filed, and presumably have marked them 'Paid' in some way. I feel that there is still more information to be found regarding these cards, and when it comes to light; perhaps we can produced a monograph telling, hopefully the full story. It would however be interesting to obtain a photograph of one of the machines from which the cards were issued! Does anyone have one? or perhaps one is shown on an advertising poster, book illustration, for an Airport, a Harbour or a Rail terminus? They

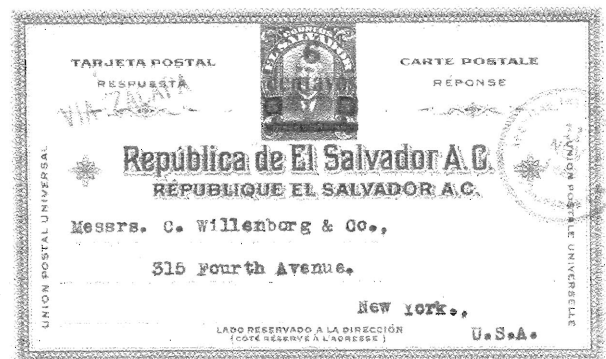
were still in use at least into the 1970's! Perhaps that old "Boys Adventure" book up in your loft might show one - do have a look, and drop the Editor a line if *you* find one.

REPLY: - G.B. P.O.W. Formular Card. (February 2003).

John Jennison has been able to answer his own query - "Very recently I have purchased a set of the New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogues by Robert Samuel. I was somewhat amazed to find this card depicted in Part 3 (1992), Registered Envelopes etc. It follows the stamped New Zealand P.O.W. aerogrammes and is described as a card for sending messages to New Zealand servicemen held prisoner by the Japanese. The postage rate for this card was sixpence, the same as for the P.O.W. stamped aerogramme of the same date, and was available from December 1944. As the first threepenny stamped GB P.O.W. card for the Far East was issued in March 1944 this is clearly not a forerunner! The card is catalogue number GB1a and according to R. Samuel is very rare used."

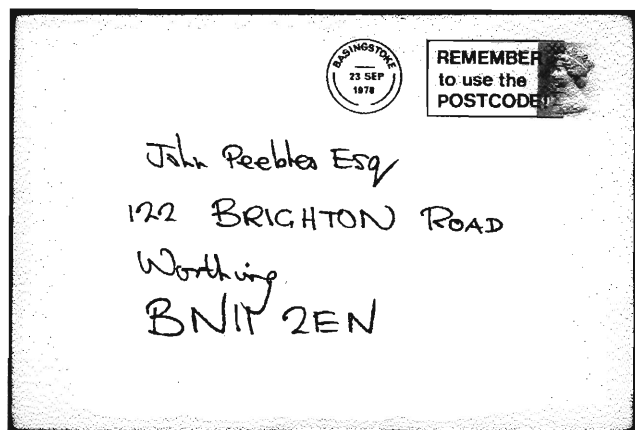
QUERY: - Salvador Reply Cards

From Edgard Pockelé
I was lucky enough to buy an overseas used postal card collection and sorting the Salvador postal cards I came across a couple of items I couldn't find in the Higgins and Gage Catalogue and wonder if our membership can help..



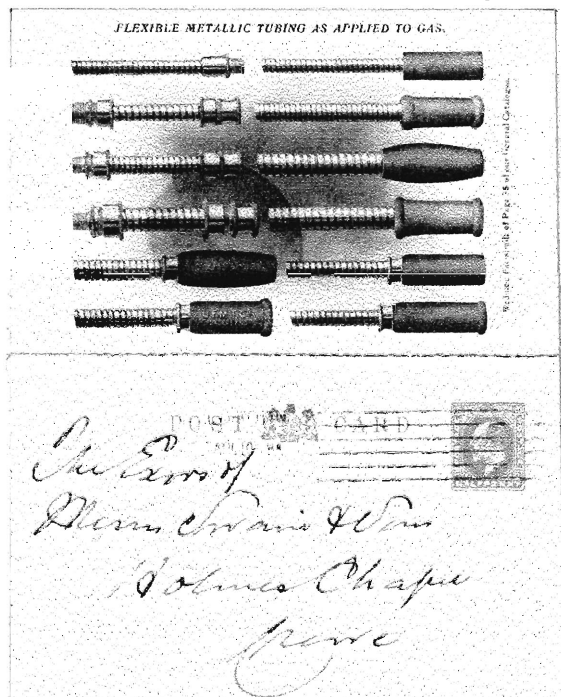
The cards are similar to H&G 103 and 104, but they do not have the overprint bars through "RESPUESTA" & "RÉPONSE" on the reply card nor through "CON RESPUESTA PAGADA" & "AVEC RÉPONSE PAYÉE" on the outward card.

QUERY:- A Plain Card Prepaid 9p With Printed Postmark. From Arthur Roberts

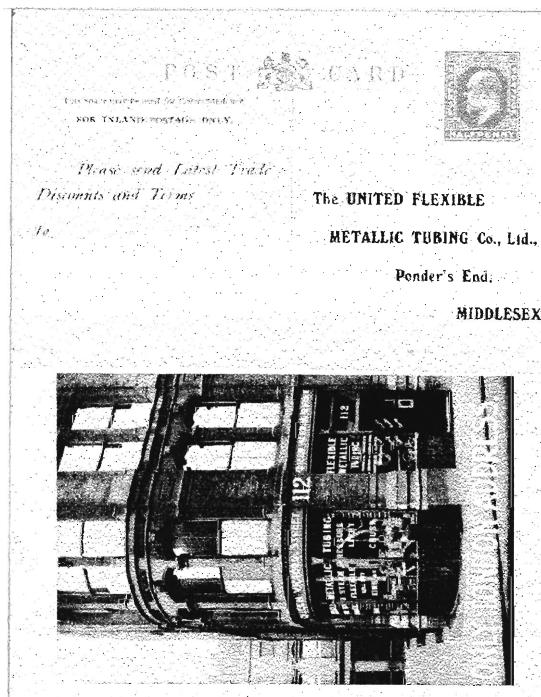


This plain white card 177 mm x 121 mm with Machin Head 9p litho printed impression is cancelled with a printed machine slogan 'BASINGSTOKE/23 SEP 1978 REMEMBER/to use the/POSTCODE' and has a Worthing address with Postcode BN11 2EN in black. Blank reverse. Although known to the British Postmark Society I do not believe it has been recorded as an item of postal stationery. I seek confirmation that it was issued by the Post Office in 1978 for a public exhibition to promote the use of the Postcode. The exhibition location is required or information if it was used at a Post Office training session in which case were other similar cards issued with different addresses?

QUERY:- GB KEVII STO Reply Card From Tony Bowers



The card illustrated at the foot of the previous column would appear to be similar to Huggins CS 21 but in reply format. The imprinted stamp is in yellow-green and the arms type d. The two cards are separated by perforation and the two halves secured with a paper strip. The other side of the card is shown below. Any comments would be most welcome



HELP NEEDED TO RESOLVE QUERIES!

Since the inception of the Postal Stationery Society Journal, your editors have received many queries, the majority of which have been included in the Journal. Most have been answered or have drawn useful information from members, others, such as the 'Proxy Voting Postal Cards' (Issue No.11 February 1998) and the 'Insurance Cards' (Issue No.22 February 2002) have developed into ongoing topics with several members reporting additional information over a period of several issues.

For those queries which have not drawn any response, I would like to present them again in future issues of the Journal in an attempt to resolve them. Perhaps members who have joined us more recently may be able to throw some light on one or other of these, or perhaps members who did not get round to replying first time round may like to share their knowledge. Whatever the case, your replies will be most welcome.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

MONOGRAPH No. 4, Great Britain: The Development of the Aerogramme.

Colin Baker has passed on to me the following note:

"I have received a letter from one of our members, Tony Goldstone, who has provided me with the following information regarding Monograph No 4, Great Britain: The Development of the Aerogramme. Tony tells me he reluctantly had to sell his vast collection of GB aerogrammes some years ago, and so his comments are made from memory. I'm sure they are all valid points.

Page 3. The Channel Islands are part of the British Isles - they were never part of Great Britain. Their change in postal independence did not change their status.

Page 5. Tony says he has seen a 1943 aerogramme postmarked 30th June 1943 although his own copy was sent by a dealer (Francis Field) as a first day and is dated 12 July 1943.

Page 6. In 1971 changes were made to the regulations regarding enclosures which made the weight of an aerogramme the critical point. As a result the instructions for the 1971 5p aerogramme were changed from "... should not contain any enclosures will be sent by ordinary mail" to " may be sent by ordinary mail".

Page 9 The GB value indicator stamp is totally odd. It shows a 1 for first class, which does not exist for airmail. Great Britain as a term does not legally include Northern Ireland. My comment is that as far as I know this is the only term to be used by the Post Office on value indicator stamps imprinted on stationery sent to foreign destinations. It has been in use for some 20 years so I suppose that if for no other reason, it has been accepted by default.

Tony finally adds that there could have been mention of OHMS aerogrammes in the monograph. I have asked Tony to expand on his comment, and as soon as I receive it I will pass his response to the editor."

POSTAL STATIONERY AT AUCTION

GB 1857 1d pink envelope up-rated with 7 x 2d blues sold for £2760 (Estimated at £240) - Cavendish 5th June 2003.

GB 'Fores' Mulready caricature used sold for £3800 (Estimated at £500) - Spink 10th July 2003.

ARTICLES NOTED RECENTLY IN THE PHILATELIC PRESS.

"British Postal Stationery Cut-outs" - Michael Peach. (The Canadian Philatelist, May/June 2003)

First U.S. Airmail Postal Card, 1949 - Doug Kelsey. (Linn's Stamp News 2nd June 2003)

"Salvaged Postal Card Symbol of Obsession" - Rob Haeseler. (Linn's Stamp News 16th June 2003)

"Postal Stationery Matters" - Peter van Gelder looks at postal stationery in the Bath Postal Museum and Airgraphs. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly July 2003)

"Travelling Light for 70 Years" - Paul Jennings recalls a 1972 interview with the inventor of the air letter form. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly August 2003)

"Postal Stationery Matters" - Peter van Gelder reviews some of the early cataloguing of postal stationery. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly September 2003)

LIBRARY NOTES

Borrowings and information enquiries continue to flow, and the following acquisitions have been made:-

- 81 The Watson Postcards - Robson Lowe (purchased)
- 82 Moscow 97, bulletins 1,2 & 3 (donated)
- 83 Catalogue of Russian PSEs 1977-79 in Russian. (donated)
- 84 Catalogue of Russian Postal Cards, 1923 - 79 in Russian (donated)
- 85 The Postal Stationery of Israel - S. Morginstin 1998. (donated)

Exchange Copies of the following journals have been received and added to the library:-
Swiss Postal Stationery Journal - March 2003 issue.

Italian "L'Intero Postale" - Summer 2003 issue.
U.S.A. "Postal Stationery" - May 2003
Australia "Postal Stationery Collector" - August 2003 issue.

DISPLAYS BY MEMBERS

Banbury Stamp Society (Oxfordshire)
21st October 2003. Postal Stationery with a Purpose - John Barker.

Dudley Philatelic Society (West Midlands)
25th November 2003. G.B. 20th Century Postal Stationery - Colin Baker.

Auction on Thursday 6th & Friday 7th November

The Grosvenor Autumn Auction of Great Britain and All World Postage Stamps and Postal History will be held at our new offices in the Strand.



Grosvenor is on the third floor at 399-401 Strand. Our large and comfortable auction room proved popular with the many room bidders at the Spring sale. We are a leading British auction house where all-day refreshments, comfort and service aimed at your convenience is the norm and is part of the commitment to buyer and seller.

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Copy date for the November Journal:-
1st November 2003

Please contact the Editor (Details on p2)

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