

THE JOURNAL OF THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Edited by Peter van Gelder

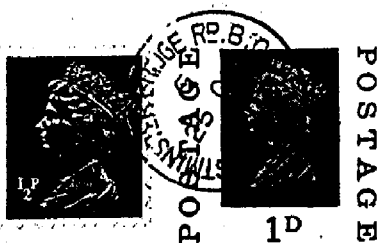
Issue No.3

February 1994

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

Unregistered Postal Packets (except Parcels)

Sender to enter below the name and address as written on the letter or packet. (See also OVERLEAF).



POSTAGE

Bowmaker Limited
Dept CCP
Bowmaker House
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A postage stamp or stamps to the value of 1d. to be affixed in the space above by the sender.

A letter, not for registration or recorded delivery, addressed as above, has been posted here this day.

Accepting Officer's Initials

Above: front of certificate)
Below: bottom line of back) see page 20

SUBSCRIPTIONS - Final Request !

If you have not yet paid your 1994 subscription, please do so now ! We do not want to take you off the membership list, so you are asked to ensure that your sub reaches the Treasurer by 28.2.94 (if you live in the United Kingdom) or by 28.3.94 (if you reside elsewhere). The sum is £5 in Sterling cheque or draft, or \$ 10 (U.S.) in CASH.

N.B. If you live in Australia, you have the alternative of sending a cheque for \$ 12 (Australian) to Darryl Fuller, 18 Ratcliffe Crescent, Florey, A.C.T. 2615, Australia - deadline for receipt there is 18.3.94.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

SECRETARY	David Taylor Smith, 23 Britannia Road, Norwich, Norfolk, ENGLAND.
TREASURER	Sam Barkley, 77 Rathmore Heights, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, NORTHERN IRELAND, BT436NQ.
EDITOR	Peter van Gelder, Somerhay, 16 Frant Avenue, Little Common, Bexhill, Sussex, ENGLAND.
AUCTION ORGANISER	Tony Chilton, 56 Framfield Road, Mitcham, Surrey, ENGLAND.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Society held its first Annual General Meeting on 25th September 1993, which was followed by a very successful auction and then a fine display "Aspects of Southern Africa", both provided by Tony Chilton.

This enjoyable meeting brought the first full year of the Society's activities to a close. Without doubt a successful start had been made and there is no reason why the Society should not continue to grow and develop its activities. I should like to thank all those whose efforts have contributed to this success, and I wish all members a happy, healthy and peaceful 1994.

Alan Huggins

EDITORIAL

How very heartening it has been for me to have such a great response to my plea in last Summer's issue for your articles, news, letters, wants and so forth! The appreciative comments on the first two issues of "P.S." that I have received from several members are very encouraging. Writing articles, as I well know, takes a good deal of time and care, so I want to thank by name those who have taken that trouble: Colin Baker, John Barker, Darryl Fuller, Tony Goldstone, Brian Harwood, Derek Pocock and Michael Shaw.

But please do not conclude that we are replete. Keep the written contributions rolling in! Please TYPE (or write in block capitals). Deadline for my receipt of items for inclusion in issue no. 4 is 31st May. Two new

areas are now being opened up for which your help is invited: details of NEW ISSUES, and CATALOGUES currently available. I feel sure that information on these two topics will prove very useful to many members.

Peter van Gelder

VIEWS

EXHIBITING POSTAL STATIONERY

Our class has several problems at exhibitions. Many of these factors have been considered by authorities - for example the F.I.P. Guidelines, Alan Huggins, etc. - but some issues may need further comment. These issues include, inter alia: "importance", "treatment" and also "rarity", problems of overlapping, windowing and the use or otherwise of cut-outs. Before I deal with the more subjective issues above (importance, etc.), perhaps some specifics can be settled.

Overlapping - surely this must be an essential allowance to be used without penalty and indeed encouraged if a page is otherwise bare of features apart from one stamp impression. Large areas of empty card or envelope (or addressed but irrelevant) should be discouraged and write-up may be acceptable over areas which are hidden by "windowing".

This introduces the next policy decision, i.e. windowing. Here again, the technique of blanking out empty stationery space by allowing the page to overlap

the item must be acceptable to the extent even of attracting bonus points if neatly done.

Both these issues may be seen as aspects of presentation, yet the acknowledged 5 points for that part of the marking schedule are low. Even the unwritten code that marks in other areas are enhanced if presentation is good fails fully to reward the skill of good presentation. Could we lobby for 10 points for this aspect of the postal stationery judging schedule?

The use of cut-outs may be more controversial. No one would dispute the preference for the intact item, but this habit from olden times very much reflects collecting in those days. For a study of design flaws, colours, papers used, etc. such material should be acceptable for exhibit - if not almost preferable.

The above thoughts may stimulate some opinions from members. I leave the major subjective issues for a later article or two,

Derek Pocock

QUERY CORNER

My query item in "P.S." no. 2 was a LITHUANIAN postal stationery envelope, and I asked for any information about Lithuania's stationery issues in and after 1990.

David Kerr responded to this with a very helpful reply. He enclosed a photocopy of a catalogue listing

issues of 1990 and 1991. This catalogue is produced by REIKFIL, which describes itself as Lithuania's first private philatelic firm! The firm "offers collectors a great variety of help in their noble passion"! The envelope which I queried last time is detailed as follows:-

1990, May 17. The first stamped envelope issued in commemoration of the re-establishment of the independence of Lithuanian Republic. On the left side of the cover an oak tree is depicted (an oak is considered the national tree of Lithuania). "Gedimainai" - the traditional pillars of Gediminas (the Grand Duke of Lithuania) are pictured in the middle of the tree. The pillars are the state symbol of Lithuania from the 14th century. On the back of the cover there is an inscription meaning "Send in Lithuania" (SIUNCIAMA LIETUVOJE). Design by artist V. Skabcikiene.

The Reikfil list shows that 18 distinct PSE issues were made in Lithuania between May 1990 and July 1991. The only stationery issues David Kerr knows of since then are: a provisional surcharge of 3 talone on otherwise blank envelopes - this appeared in 1992 when the currency was changed from the ruble; and two NVI (i.e. no value indicated) envelopes issued on 1st May 1993. Incidentally, David Kerr can supply most of this Lithuanian postal stationery.

My thanks also go to Edgard Pockele, who responded by sending me several examples of recent Lithuanian PSEs.

Peter van Gelder

SOCIETY REPORT

The A.G.M. was held at the YWCA Central Club, London on 25.9.93. 14 members were present & there were two apologies for absence. The CHAIRMAN welcomed members to the Society's first A.G.M. and was very pleased there had been such a fine response to the attempt to start the Society - previous attempts, in 1942 and 1947, had come to nothing. The SECRETARY reported membership to have reached 106, 45 of whom resided abroad. The largest group of overseas members were in Australia and the U.S.A. As for interests, these were mainly G.B. & Commonwealth, followed by Asia & Western Europe. As for type of material, the aerogramme was by far the most popular. One-fifth of members collected the whole World. The Secretary ended by expressing the hope that the Society would go from strength to strength with younger members being given every encouragement. The EDITOR said the first 2 issues of "P.S." had cost about £80 each - about 90% of this being for photocopying & postage. Production had been 92 copies of no. 1 and 110 copies of no. 2. The TREASURER submitted the following audited accounts, which were duly adopted by the Meeting:-

Period ended 31.8.93

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Members' subs	530.60	Journal printing/post	144.65
Advertising rrts	10.00	General postage	106.82
		Stationery	53.91
		Room hire	44.50
		Misc. expenses	36.02
		Total	<u>385.90</u>
	<u>540.60</u>	Balance	154.70
			<u>540.60</u>

Balance represented by:-

Cash at Bank	£149.75
Cash in hand	
(Editorial float)	4.95
	<hr/>
	£154.70

(signed) S. Barkley
Hon. Treasurer

In OTHER BUSINESS the main discussion concerned the A.B.P.S., and it was decided to invite all members to vote on this issue, as follows:-

A couple of years ago the British Philatelic Federation folded for financial reasons. Since then efforts have been going on to set up a new body, the Association of British Philatelic Societies, to represent and co-ordinate British philately. Affiliated specialist societies are to pay 50p p.a. per member resident in the United Kingdom. Based on present membership, this would cost our Society £35 p.a. SHOULD WE AFFILIATE?

If you want to vote, simply send a sheet of paper headed A.B.P.S. and with your name in block capitals and thereunder either YES or NO plus your signature, to reach David Taylor Smith by 30th June 1994 at the latest.

The A.G.M. was followed by an auction (reported elsewhere in this issue) and a talk/display "Aspects of Southern Africa", a report or article on which it is hoped can be included in the next issue of "P.S."

SOCIETY CALENDAR

The Society's next meeting will be held on 5th March 1994 (STAMPEX Saturday) in the Hampstead Room, YWCA Central Club, 16/22 Great Russell Street, London W.C.1., starting at 2 p.m. There will be 2 talks/displays: one on "Belgium" by I. Stevenson, and the other on "Australia" by R. Dowdeswell.

From the Editor's Desk

So successful has our Secretary been in publicising the Society & so building up membership that I had begun to quaver at the thought of hand-addressing all the "P.S." envelopes! So my great thanks are due to Chris Miller, who responded to my appeal last time & is now producing self-adhesive addressed labels for the entire "P.S." distribution. So your name & address will be stored on his computer, but not for passing to outside agencies. However, under the DATA PROTECTION ACT you are entitled to have your name removed from the computer listing, in which case please inform me in writing.

On the display front, last September David Taylor Smith showed Japanese postal stationery to a meeting of the International Society for Japanese Philately; and on 12th November 1994 Alan Huggins will be showing British postal stationery to the National Philatelic Society in London. Members willing to give displays to local societies are: Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wilts, who can show "Pre-decimal G.B." on Mondays to Fridays in the Derby area; and your Editor (see page 2 for address), who can show "An Introduction to Postal Stationery" in East Sussex & parts of Kent.

"Gibbons Stamp Monthly" is continuing to give good coverage to p.s. "British Offshore Islands Postal Stationery" was featured in July & November, with a 3rd part yet to come. Then the December issue carried an article on "The Mulready to Overseas Destinations"; & a further article in my own series of "Postal Stationery Matters".

A U C T I O N A C T I O N

Our Society's 1st Sale

Held on 25th September 1993, this was a very successful auction - so reports Tony Chilton (Auction Organiser). 99 (=71%) of the 140 lots were sold, 60 to postal bidders and 39 to room bidders. With total sales of over £1,400 the 10% commission represents a very useful source of income to the Society and will help to maintain the subscription at its present modest level. The Organiser's thanks go to all those who participated.

Another auction is to be held at the September 1994 meeting, so if you have suitable material, please send it to Tony Chilton (address on page 2) to arrive by 28th May at the latest. Please enclose a list of your lots (either typed or in block capitals) describing each lot clearly yet concisely; include if possible H&G or other catalogue numbers, and any necessary comments on condition. If you want to put a reserve on any lots, please state clearly but keep reasonably low. Vendors will be charged 10% commission on hammer price of lots sold. If enough lots arrive by, say, early March, I might be able to run a postal sale in addition to (but earlier in the year than) the main auction. So sort out your duplicates and send them in!

There follow the prices realised in the September 1993 sale (lots not listed were unsold). The highest number of individual bids was for lot 140, and the top bid for some of the collections was into 3 figures!

Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£	Lot	£
1	25	30	13	80	18	111	1
2	35	31	22	81	4½	112	1
3	31	36	3	82	11	113	1
4	15	38	5	83	8	115	½
5	10	40	3½	84	4	116	1
6	16	43	4	85	6	117	2½
7	10	44	4½	86	3	118	1
8	20	59	2½	87	18	119	4
9	13	60	5	88	8	124	3
10	23	61	4½	89	17	125	½
11	20	62	15	91	5	127	56
12	12	64	1½	94	3	128	5
13	12	66	3	96	17	129	51
14	11	67	2	97	11	130	8
15	10	68	9	98	10	131	29
16	31	69	6	99	21	132	44
17	15	70	6	100	21	133	28
18	12	71	16	101	12	134	30
19	34	72	9	102	12	135	30
22	16	73	2½	103	14	136	9
23	25	75	4½	104	11	137	61
24	12	76	4	105	9	138	21
25	33	77	2½	108	4½	139	42
26	14	78	4	109	5	140	32
27	7	79	6	110	2		
29	14						

2 additional
lots were sold
(for club funds)
@ £2 and £1½

Suggestion: a member has suggested that in future vendors of used items (especially pre-1925 G.B.) could help by specifying TOWNS OF POSTING in their lot descriptions.

ADVERTISEMENT

Australia 1911-1993

An almost complete listing in
Australian dollars.

FREE ON REQUEST

(We accept payment by Cheque in £Stg/US\$, Visa and Mastercard)

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Selling? I am a keen buyer.

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Robin Linke

181 Jersey Street, Wembley WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6014

Tel: 61-9-387-5327

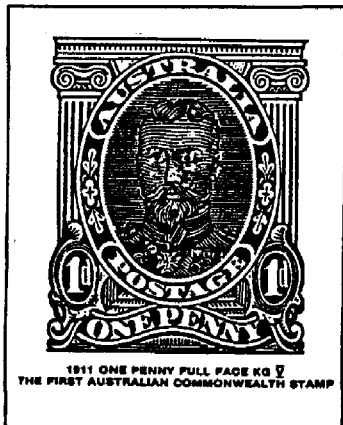
Fax: 61-9-387-1646

MEMBER:

ASDA (New York),

PTS (London),

APHV (Köln)



1911 ONE PENNY FULL FACE KG 7
THE FIRST AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH STAMP

Sale of Sarawak Postal Stationery International Gold Medal Collection by Darryl Fuller

There are not that many international gold medal collections of postal stationery, and the sale of one is worthy of report. I hope that other members of our Society will prepare similar reports on important sales of postal stationery when they come across them; not just gold medal collections but even individual items of note. I hope to report on an interesting sale of Falklands stationery in a future issue.

The Sarawak items were in Christie's 2nd-4th March 1993 sale of British Empire and G.B. Stamps & Postal History. The collection was in 113 lots, virtually all single items and comprising proofs, essays, specimens, mint and used. 36 of the lots were essays, proofs, specimens and perforated cancelled items, with the majority of the remainder being used items.

From a postal stationery point of view this sale was disappointing with only 70 of the lots selling. Sales totalled some £70,895 plus the 10% buyers' premium. However, of this amount £52,400 was for the first 8 lots, which were not Sarawak postal stationery as such, but forerunners, Straits Settlements postal cards used in Sarawak and one G.B. reply card half used in Sarawak. Their postal history value far outweighed their stationery value, with prices of £1,700 to £13,000 (the highest price in the collection). Of the remaining lots that sold, most proofs sold at or below their bottom estimate. The used material was more varied, with a few

lots selling well over their top estimate. However, it appeared that without postal history value the used did not sell all that well. There were one or two high prices realised among the registered envelopes, with the 1921 provisional TWELVE CENTS on 10c used - the only recorded example - selling for £1,700 and another unique ~~exam~~ple - the 1941 15c blue - selling for £2,400. These are good prices for postal stationery, but they were the exception rather than the rule.

It is difficult to know why this collection did not do better, but it may be because the owner dominated this collecting area for many years. Having talked to a leading Australian Sarawak collector, I think that because of this domination not many other collectors of Sarawak appear to have bothered to collect the stationery.

A Couple of Recent English Sales

by Peter van Gelder

I noticed 8 postal stationery lots scattered through the catalogue for a Phillips' sale last September. Lot 177 was an accumulation (1,000s+) in varied condition, unused & used, inc. G.B., Australian States, Germany, India, etc., ans estimated at £300-£400. This realised £1,850 (or £2,067 with commission & tax)! Next came a copy of "British Postal Stationery" by our Chairman, Alan Huggins, as lot 213 - estimated at £30-£40, this sold at £30 (£33). Lot 215 was a Higgins & Gage World P.S. catalogue; estimated at £50-£60, this sold at £120 (£134) - I believe it can be obtained NEW for £173.

A rarer and older book came up at lot 232: "Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards and Telegraph Stamps of New South Wales" by Basset Hull, parts I (spine a little damaged) & II. With an estimate of £200-£250 this fetched £260 (£290).

Later in the sale were some Japanese items. An 1873 $\frac{1}{2}$ s syllabic 1 postal card, used with minor imperfections, estimated at £120-£150, went for £220 (£245)! A 1s syllabic 2 postal card, used with minor imperfections, also did well at £210 (£234) on an estimate of £150-£200. Less successful were four $\frac{1}{2}$ s and twenty 1s postal cards of 1874, all used, varied condition: estimated at £150-£200, these sold at £110 (£122). The last of these Japanese lots was a selection of 32 used and unused p.s. items of the period 1875 to 1923 - the estimate was £250-£300 and the selling price £250 (£279).

Travelling 20 miles west along the coast from the editorial office, I had a private view of 2 postal stationery lots in a public stamp auction held at Seaford last October. The first of these lots was CANADIAN p.s., nearly all unused of the GV period - 51 items with a good deal of duplication - with an estimate of £24 this went for £28. The other p.s. lot was very interesting: an old printed Lincoln album produced especially for postal stationery with the necessary large oblong printed spaces. This contained over 160 items of G.B., Germany and several other nations, some crudely hinged - to look through it was to step back 80 years in time! The estimate was £24 - but it realised £90.

EXHIBITION

SCENE

International News

There have been 2 F.I.P. international exhibitions since POLSKA '93 held in May, these being BRASILIANA '93 in August and BANGKOK '93 in October. At these 2 exhibitions postal stationery was well represented with 22 & 25 exhibits respectively, for which the medals awarded were as follows:-

BRASILIANA: 1 large gold, 5 gold, 8 large vermeil,
2 vermeil, 3 large silver, 3 silver.

BANGKOK: 1 LG, 2 G, 9 LV, 6 V, 4 LS, 2 S, 1 silver bronze.

The Postal Stationery Commission held a meeting during the Bangkok exhibition and endorsed the updated version of the "Guidelines" for judging postal stationery exhibits at F.I.P. exhibitions. Projects in progress include the preparation of an introductory booklet on collecting postal stationery, creation of a visual guide to exhibiting and judging postal stationery, and of a bibliography of handbooks and articles on p.s.

In May 1995 there will be an exhibition in Helsinki specialising in postal history and postal stationery ONLY. The Commission will be arranging a series of seminars on collecting, exhibiting & judging p.s.

Alan Huggins

Here & There

I have heard from Ted Grey that he is a keen and

busy exhibitor, especially of air letter cards and aerogrammes. He has recently entered exhibits at THEMATICA, STAMPEX and BIPEX.

Ramesh Shrestha has written me a kind letter (from Nepal) expressing his appreciation of "P.S." - he tells me that at TAIPEI '93 he was National Commissioner for Nepal and was invited to exhibit his "Nepal Postal Stationery" - for which he received a souvenir gold medal.

A lot of information has reached me from Derek Pocock in Western Australia. He was himself successful at BRASILIANA '93, gaining a large vermeil medal for his Nicaraguan postal stationery. Then he has sent me an extract from the catalogue of TAIPEI '93, showing that the postal stationery class attracted 5 entries (all, it would seem, from local collectors). At BANGKOK '93 Derek was Australian Commissioner and also a juror, and the detailed results he has sent me for that show reveal that one of the two gold medals awarded for postal stationery went to an exhibit of KEVII G.B. by a certain Alan Huggins! In addition Derek has sent me the complete catalogue for WAPEX '93, held in Fremantle, Western Australia last September. As many as 5 of our members were prominent there - Derek Pocock was Jury Chairman and an exhibitor in the Picture Post Card section; Edric Druce was a jury member; Robin Linke was auctioneer and an exhibitor in the Literature section; then in the Postal Stationery section there were 11 entries, including North Borneo Postal Cards by Steve Schumann (large vermeil), and Canada Q.V. to KGV by Ian McMahon (vermeil).

Peter van Gelder

ARTICLES

FINDINGS AMONG G.B. POSTAL STATIONERY (2)

by Michael Shaw

Here is a list of items I possess which extend or vary entries in the current edition of "British Postal Stationery" by Alan K. Huggins.

- EP10 dies 88, 91 & 95 used on this item
- EP24 die 205 is not recorded as having been registered
- ES1 die 84 undrilled on a white unfolded envelope, presumably a proof
- ES31 with unreadable die number and Royal Arms embossed in gold on flap
- CS1 a shade of pink which could almost be vermilion
- CS28 a two fold printed matter card with tuck-in flap, folding to 136mm by 80mm
- CS50 or 52 5d + 0 (15pf) reply card printed in German for return from Germany - size f
- TP25c imprint (35077) 29497 Hw. T. 9427
- LP1 printed inside for notifying taxes; from Collector of Taxes for Ayrshire, dated 22.4.1841 - see illustration. Does this make it an official?
- L02 imprint F&T 240,000 12-71
- L04 imprint F&T 500,000 1-74 J
- L06 imprint J&M 500,000 10-83 12(?)42
- L06 on buff, imprint WB&L-520,000-7-91
- L07 form D, imprint 27,141 9/88 HB & Co
10,609 2000 Bks. 9/88 27,141
- L037 ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE
To The Inland Revenue Officer
At
No 182

and so on to Stirling. All dates shown fall in the period 1841 to 1843. I claim no special knowledge of this subject and so would welcome an article about it from any member whose particular interest it is.

ILLUSTRATION - LP1 (Mulready) - the printing inside for notifying taxes.

To the Collector of Taxes for Ayrshire.

For amount of Assessed Taxes, 1840, ending			
Whitsunday 1841, payable at March last.	3	15	10
Land Tax,			

STAMPS AND TAXES,
Ayr, 22d April, 1841.

The above statement of Duties due by you, being now in arrear; payment of the same, at the undermentioned place, is earnestly requested, in terms of the General Notice of the 10th instant, inserted in all the newspapers published in this county.

I am,

Your most obedient Servant,

JR. HAMILTON

At the Stamp & Tax Office Ayr

TALES OF G.B. STATIONERY

BY Colin Baker

1. A Private Certificate of Posting

The issue by the British Post Office of prestamped certificates of posting was limited to a short period between 1877 and 1881. After that, plain forms were supplied to which adhesive stamps could be added as necessary. The limited number of QV prestamped certificates currently available indicates they were not a popular item; and their infrequent use, coupled with the need constantly to account for their value when checking stocks of stationery, led the Post Office to discontinue their use only 4 years after their original introduction.

However, it was possible for private companies to have forms privately printed and stamped at Somerset House - these were sanctioned by the Post Office, one such example being illustrated here: The wording on the reverse is identical to Post Office certificates of the same period, though printing details on the bottom line of this example show it to have been stamped to order.

There is no indication of the producer or user of these forms, and it would appear from the 1d non-imprinted stamp and date of use that even these modern types were not a frequently used item, which is once again confirmed by the small numbers that come on to the market.

* see front cover for illustration

AMENDMENT to "usages of Mulready Envelopes & Letter-sheets Prior to 6th May 1840" (see pp.17-20, "P.S." no.2

The Editor is to be commended for spotting an error in my description of item 2 in the list. There is indeed an illustration of the same item on p.245 of Robson Lowe's "Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps" vol. 1 (2nd edition, 1952) which I had overlooked. I was working from a photocopy which appeared to show "PALL MALL" handstruck wording but in fact shows "CORNHILL"; and the item is an envelope not a letter-sheet.

Alan Huggins

WANTS

- EGYPT: cards H&G 5b, 6a, 16, 30, 32 & 32a mint; 15, 19, 23, 26, 28a, 32 used. Also essays, proofs, varieties, etc. Please contact G. Jeyes, Flat 4, Meriden Close, Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset, U.K.
- G.B. A4 size O.H.M.S. aerogramme, preferably mint. Please contact A. Goldstone, 45 Gainsborough Gardens, London N.W.11.
- IRELAND (mint or used) & G.B. used in Ireland. Please send photocopy of front & (if necessary) back, & price in Sterling, to: B. Clancy, P.O. Box 76560, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. 20013.
- SOUTH AFRICA (colonies & Union) - will buy, or exchange for similar - E. Pockele, Ter Heidelann 104, B-2100 Deurne, Belgium.
- NEW SOUTH WALES H&G 20 or 22; also H&G B8 or B8a or B8b or B8c. Please contact the Editor (address can be found on page 2).
- FOR SALE - 124 Nicaraguan postal stationery items. Mostly mint & Seebeck, a few used, very little duplication. Contact Derek Pocock, 33 Hynes Rd., Dalkeith, Western Australia 6009.

AEROGRAMMATICS

(The above word has been specially invented by your Editor for this section of the journal! Its definition is "the collection and study of aerogrammes!")

The 50th Anniversary of the First Airletter Sheet (G.B.)

by Tony Goldstone

Mention was made in the last issue of "P.S." of how good it was that the Post Office had issued a commemorative aerogramme to mark the 50th anniversary of the first British aerogramme. Just over two years ago I wrote to the postal authorities suggesting they should indeed commemorate the event. The Post Office was most interested and, after a short correspondence, they agreed to give the matter serious consideration. The result was the issue of the regular aerogramme with a prominent official cachet commemorating the 50th anniversary of the airletter sheet (later known as the aerogramme), 1943-1993. The first day of issue was 1st December 1992!

Why did the Post Office not wait until 1993? What prompted them to select December as the month of issue?

The truth is that 1943 was not the year that the first aerogramme went on sale to the public. As early as 21st July 1941 a Prisoner of War airletter sheet with printed 2½d stamp was available at post offices in Great Britain, but obviously this was intended only for sending to prisoners of war in enemy hands and not for general use. On 7th December 1942 a stampless airletter sheet (requiring a 6d adhesive stamp) was issued for

posting to servicemen in parts of East Africa - an issue with wider application than the 1941 sheet but still very restricted in use. It was not until June 1943 that another airletter sheet was provided, this time with a printed 6d stamp. It is this issue that the Post Office has recently commemorated.

Perhaps the authorities felt that the airletter sheet with a printed stamp was a more appropriate issue to be commemorated than the stampless one of 1942. However, perhaps in order to acknowledge the December 1942 issue, the new aerogramme was put on sale on 1st December 1992. If this is correct, one wonders why 7th December was not chosen as the most appropriate date for this issue. Do any readers have any suggestions about this?

I have been collecting British aerogrammes for over 25 years but have not yet seen an example of the 1943 issue postmarked on the first day: 18th June 1943. War conditions made it almost impossible for the P.O. to adhere to its "day of issue" instructions, and I wonder if any reader has an example of this "first day".

In conclusion, may I heartily recommend all members interested in G.B. aerogrammes to acquire the book "Aerogrammes" by Peter Jennings, published by Picton Press. It is an excellent means of learning more about these fascinating collectables. It is to be hoped that the author will up-date the book to include the more recent issues and their history, and that this new edition will become available in the not too distant future.



Can the camera lie? The above photograph appears on the stiffener for packets of six G.B. 1943-93 commemorative aerogrammes - Editor.

A Date Listing of Aerogrammes

by Brian Harwood

Over the years there have been many contradictory articles, statements & dates as to who issued what aerogrammes and when.

On the next page is a starting list of what I think are the correct dates. Unless somebody out there knows better, this can be used as a definitive list for

writing up displays and talks.

29	June	1930	Guatamala Air Letter sheet
??	?	1932	Siam A'O'R Letter sheet
15	July	1933	Iraq by Gumbley
??	Early	1941	Australian (adapted Iraq) with Australia in right hand corner
01	March	1941	G.B. Air Letter Card Middle East to UK - W3077
10	March	1941	Sudan to UK
??	May	1941	Egypt allowed British stamps
05	June	1941	Official paid Air Letter Cards Egypt to UK
16	June	1941	East Africa to UK
21	July	1941	2 1/2d P.O.W. flap at base
27	July	1941	South Africa to UK
??	Late	1941	West Africa/Piaforce/Southern Rhodesian to UK
??	June	1942	2 1/2d P.O.W. flap at top
07	December	1942	Unstamped Civilian Air Letter from UK to East Africa with 6d adhesive
??	Late	1942	India to UK - IAFF1083
	Xmas	1942	Christmas Forms "So Far, so Near"
09	April	1943	As 7 December 1942 extended to South Africa
18	June	1943	KGVI 6d
07	March	1944	P.O.W. Japanese Card 3d
??	November	1944	2 1/2d P.O.W. flap at top "No Enclosures Allowed"
01	April	1945	P.O.W. Japanese card 1 1/2d
07	April	1945	1 1/2d KGVI Forces Airletter
29	July	1948	Olympic Games
03	June	1953	6d Coronation
01	January	1954	6d Coronation Definitive
12	September	1957	6d 46th Parliamentary Conference
14	October	1957	6d House of Parliament Definitive

Aerogrammatic Oddments

by Peter van Gelder

For a listing of G.B. aerogrammes I have found "Collect Post Office Cards" (1986, 5th edition, B.B.P. Publications) useful. Regrettably, after 1986 that catalogue ceased to include aerogrammes. Its listing diverges in two respects from Brian Harwood's (see previous page): the 1944 3d P.O.W. issue is dated 4th (as against 7th) March; and an extra issue is given - 1950 (25th January), Imperial Air Mail 6d. Another interesting point occurs in this catalogue's pricing: the 1943 6d airletter sheet, which Tony Goldstone in his article on a previous page assures us he has never seen with first day postmark, is valued more cheaply (£10) in this catalogue than is the mint version (£15)!

A question that occurs to me is whether ALL air-letter sheets should be regarded as postal stationery, or only those with imprinted stamp. Members' views on this question are invited.

Also, I have read that items from the 1940s headed "Air Mail Letter Card", "Forces Letter Card" and so on are not cards at all but are printed on thin paper. Perhaps a knowledgeable member can confirm or refute this for us.

Lastly, turning to the 1993 commemorative aerogrammes, I notice that some of these have a blue star in the centre of the top flap, and that others have no such star. I think those with a star come from packs of 6, while the others are those sold singly. Information on this point too is invited from members.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following list, taken together with the lists published in "P.S." issues no. 1 and no. 2, gives the complete membership of the Society as at 31.12.93/1.1.94. The list gives one initial, country of residence if not United Kingdom, and collecting interests in brief.

First, an addendum to last time's list:-

Collecting interests of Sagar M. (Canada) are Canada and Newfoundland.

Luc G. (Belgium)	Scandinavia; Oceanic Settlements; G.B.
Friedman B. (U.S.A.)	British West Indies, especially St Vincent
Cartwright B.	Barbados; Zululand; KGVI Cyprus
Roberts R.	World, especially G.B.
Hopwood A.	Australia; China
Fears C.	Germany; Olympic Games 1896-1948
Furst A. (Israel)	G.B.; G.B. overprints; G.B. used abroad
Piendl W. (Austria)	G.B.; Austria; Germany; Gibraltar; Malta; Sweden; Luxembourg
Philatelic Collections, British Library	World
Perkins C.	Falkland Islands
Corban-Lucas D. (Republic of Ireland)	World
Watkins P.	G.B.; Europe, especially France, Belgium, Austria, Scandinavia
Ellerton N. (U.S.A.)	G.B.; naritime mail

Hilbers J.	U.S.A.; Asia
Albrecht F. (Austria)	Middle Europe; G.B.; former colonies
Lutwyche N.	KGVI British Commonwealth
Lythgoe B.	German colonies; special Stamp Day cards; Seychelles; Sudan; Basutoland
Ray J.	Fiji
Sinnott C.	G.B.
Sohrne B. (Sweden)	Persia to 1940
Diserio M. (Australia)	(collecting interests not yet known to Editor)
Dorman R. (Australia)	(collecting interests not yet known to Editor)

Correction (to p.18 of "P.S." no.1): the collecting interests of P. de Leeuw van Weenen do not include Netherlands but are HUNGARY ONLY.

Membership by country of residence. In the last issue of "P.S." the number for England was understated by 1 & that for Canada was overstated by 1. The correct & up-to-date figures are now: England 65, Australia 15, U.S.A. 8, Netherlands 5, Belgium 5, Northern Ireland 3, Scotland 3, France 3, Germany 3, Canada 3, Austria 2, & 1 each for South Africa, Switzerland, Sweden, Italy, Israel, Republic of Ireland, India, Nepal & Peru.
Total: 124.

Tailpiece from the Editor

I need your CONTRIBUTIONS, please, to 2 new features starting in "P.S.N no.4: (1) NEW ISSUES - information on any 1994 p.s. issues; (2) CURRENTLY AVAILABLE CATALOGUES (solely p.s. or containing p.s.) - title, coverage, author, publisher, date, language & currency used, price. TYPED, please, or written in CAPITALS.

I also hope to feature next time "Control Marks on German P.S.", "The H&G Story", "How Raymond Beat the Mulready by 18 Months" & another "Tale of G.B. Stationery".