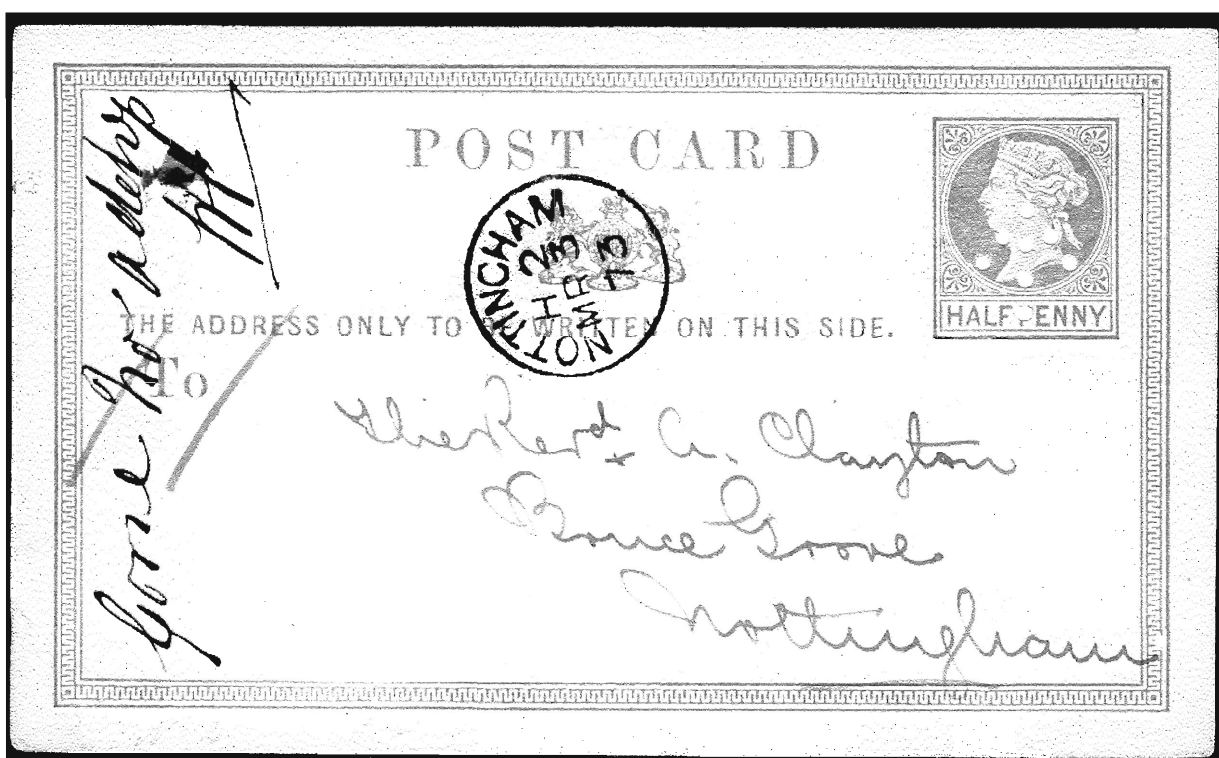




THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 12, No. 2 **May 2004**
(Serial number 30)



A 'PERFIN' or Not? See page 19

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The Management Committee.

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

OFFICERS:-

CHAIRMAN	Keith Hanman 55 Jubilee Avenue Whitton Middlesex TW2 6JA	AUCTION ORGANISER & PUBLICITY OFFICER	Michael Smith, 9 Rainham Close, Kempshott, Basingstoke, Hampshire. RG22 5HA e-mail: mike@philately.freemove.co.uk
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Peter O'Keefe	EDITOR	John Barker, 35 Portia Avenue, Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands. B90 2NW phone - 0121 744 2580 e-mail: johnhbarker@btinternet.com
SECRETARY	Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veny, Warminster, Wilts. BA12 7AY phone - 01985 840033 e-mail - bakercsandcr@lineone.net	LIBRARIAN	Chris Howe, 14, Sandringham Gardens Fishtoft, Boston, Lincolnshire PE21 9QA
TREASURER	Sam Barkley, 77 Rathmore Heights, Ballymena, Co. Antrim. Northern Ireland BT43 6NQ	COMMITTEE MEMBERS	Alan Huggins Iain Stevenson
POST HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE:-			
WEB SITE MANAGER - Lars Engelbrecht e-mail: le@postalstationery.dk			

The Postal Stationery Society Web site: www.postalstationery.org.uk

SOCIETY CALENDAR 2004

Saturday 12th June 2004

At Swinpex, St Joseph's Lower School, Queen's Drive, Swindon, 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Members are invited to display up to 30 sheets from their collection and to give a short explanation of about 10 minutes max. There will be plenty of dealers at this event, so there will be ample opportunity to add to your collection.

Saturday 30th October 2004

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

- 10.30 am Auction lots to be set out for viewing
- 11.00 am Society's AGM
- 11.30 am Tony Chilton competition judging
- 12.00 noon Presentation of the Tony Chilton Salver
- 12.30 pm Lunch plus further viewing of auction lots. More details with the August issue of the Journal.
- 1.30 pm Society's annual "live" auction.

The meeting is expected to close by about 4.00 pm

EDITOR'S NOTES

With this issue of the Journal you should receive the Society's July Postal Auction list which contains over 600 lots.. Please note the closing date - Noon Saturday 17th July 2004.

The third part of The House of Commons Stationery article will appear in the next issue of the Journal (August 2004)

Articles, notes, news items, queries and replies and anything else which may be of interest to members will be most welcome by your Editor. Please keep me supplied with material for publication or contact me if you have any ideas or suggestions for future articles.

John Barker

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - MAY 2004

This month's cover is an air letter from Salisbury in May 1970 to England.



Although it has 7½c in adhesives to cover the rate, the British authorities have deemed the stamps to be invalid and have imposed 1/9d in postage dues. Note the red and white sticker that still states 'Southern Rhodesian Stamps' although the name of the country changed to Rhodesia in November 1965. British Post Offices were given no guidelines on how to surcharge these items with the result that some escaped postage dues, some were processed

at 1/9d, others were charged 3/6d and more. A total shambles.

Thank you to all those who have completed the tear-off slip concerning display entries for Stampex next year. It all looks very promising with some overseas entries being received. We still need more as the number of frames now available have increased to 100. This we can fill with your help. Over the period people to assist with setting-up and knocking-down the frames will be required as will assistance with stewarding. More news on that later but please volunteer! A small sub-committee will be formed to take this forward and as events progress you will be kept informed via our Journal.

As you are aware 107 Charteuse Street has been undergoing drastic changes internally. While our meeting was held there on 20th March (we were the first Society to be granted entry to the new rooms) there will be changes to the overall system of coffee, biscuits, food etc. We will advise you when information comes to us.

Keith Hanman

SECRETARY'S NOTES - MAY 2004

BEN FERGUSON DONATION

One of our members whose eyesight is failing him has made a very generous donation to the Society of boxes of worldwide postal stationery. Mike Smith collected these from Ben at the end of last year and together with Colin Baker is sorting and lotting the items. The intention is to auction some or all of these lots in October. Full details will be sent to members nearer the time, but meanwhile members should know that the Chairman has written a personal letter of thanks to Ben for his generosity.

SOCIETY'S WEB SITE

The Philatelic Bulletin, the British Post Office's magazine for philatelists and collectors of British stamps and stationery, run a regular column, "Philately on-line", in which they feature web sites with a philatelic connection. Our own web site was chosen for the February

2004 edition of this magazine and was given a glowing report by the author Ron Negus, which he ended with the sentence "I commend it to other societies to use as an excellent model."

Our thanks go to Lars Engelbrecht, our web master, for all the hard work he has put into improving the site over the last year. The praise is well deserved.

You can visit our web site at any time at postalstationery.org.uk Have a look if you have not already done so and spread the word.

MARSH STAMP BOOKLET

Peter van Gelder has discovered a second booklet written by H. Edgar Weston, titled *A British "Georgian" Stamp Banned By The Postmaster General*. This has been reprinted by the Society, with a forward written by Peter, (A5 size 20 pages). I have a few copies available on a first come first served basis, price £1.30 for UK members and £1.70 overseas members.

MEMBERS COLLECTING INTERESTS

Following on from the list of Members' Collecting Interests issued with the February Journal, the following have also asked for their details to be included.

If any member would like their details amended or included in this list, they should write to the secretary, giving him the relevant details.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

A warm welcome is extended to those members who have recently joined the Society. Their names are included in the Members' Collecting Interests List below. A # by the side of the name of a member indicates that they have recently joined the Society.

COUNTRY OR AREA COLLECTED	MEMBER	LOCATION
Australian States (M)	Mr E Klempka #	Yorkshire
Belgium (M)	Mr N Martin #	Lincolnshire
Canada (M)	Mr M Sagar	Canada
Colonies (S)	Dr A Sewell	Germany
Europe (M)	Mr A Bailey	Dorset
Germany (S)	Mr R W Riseborough #	West Midlands
Great Britain - 19 th Century (M)	Mr J Emery	Hampshire
Great Britain - George V	Dr D G Harries #	Leicestershire
Great Britain (M)	Dr A Sewell	Germany
Great Britain (M)	Lady M Bury	Co. Down
Great Britain (M)	Mr J Hewson #	Lincolnshire
Great Britain (M)	Mr C J Jones	Gloucestershire
Great Britain (M)	Mr D Mackay #	Lincolnshire
Great Britain (M)	Mr E Klempka	Yorkshire
Great Britain (M)	Mr R W Riseborough	West Midlands
Great Britain air letters (M)	Mr R D Brown #	Gloucestershire
Great Britain air letters (M)	Mr M R Hyde #	Liverpool
Great Britain officials (S)	Mr D Parsons	Essex
Great Britain overprints	Great Britain #	Co Down N.I.
Great Britain, STO	Great Britain	Co Down N.I.
Great Britain, used (M)	Mr D Parsons	Essex
India (M)	Mr D Mackay	Lincolnshire
Iraq British Occupation	Dr D Harries #	Leicestershire
Israel (M)	Mr S Morginstin #	USA
Newfoundland (S)	Mr M Sagar	Canada
New Zealand (M)	Mr J Hewson	Lincolnshire
Norway	Dr D G Harries	Leicestershire
Russia (M)	Mr E Klempka	Yorkshire
Spain (M)	Mr E Klempka	Yorkshire
United Nations	Mr M R Hyde	Liverpool
USA (S)	Mr C J Jones	Gloucestershire
USA	Dr D Harries	Leicestershire
Worldwide (M)	Mr J M Grist	London

SANDWICH AND WINE LUNCH

The Chairman's Sandwich and Wine Lunch held between the AGM and the Society's auction in October last year was a great success. It had been intended to repeat this with a name change to Butty and Booze Buffet, during the Society's Spring meeting in March.

Earlier this year the British Philatelic Trust were told that the fire escape from the mezzanine floor in their London headquarters was unacceptable and changes had to be made straight away. The trustees decided to move the meeting room to the ground floor and turn the mezzanine floor into a library. This work has now been completed.

In January we were told the Centre could not cater for a buffet lunch because they had no fridge in which to keep food delivered by Marks & Spencer (who do not deliver on a Saturday). It was my intention to take food from home to the Centre for the lunch, but only two days before our meeting I was informed that the Centre would not allow lunches to be served from then on. So not only was our March meeting scuppered, but it is unlikely that we will be able to repeat the Chairman's Sandwich and Wine Lunch in the future.

I'm sorry that I was not able to let anyone know about this last minute change, but I was given almost no notice myself.

However, on 20th March everyone enjoyed the break at a nearby restaurant. More money was collected for the lunch than was needed to pay the bill, and so £10 has been given to the treasurer to help towards the cost of drinks provided by the BPT.

PETER van GELDER

Peter van Gelder was one of the founder members of the Society and was the editor of the Journal up to October 2001. He was also

the Society's librarian until the end of last year. Peter has decided not to continue his membership of the Society and recently wrote to the treasurer advising him of his resignation.

We would like to thank Peter for all the hard work he has put into the Society over the years, and to wish him well in the future.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS MEETING

As Peter van Gelder has resigned from the Society, there will not be a meeting in the South East region this year.

SOCIETY MEETINGS 2005

Please make a note in your diaries that the Society will be holding two meetings in London in 2005 on the following dates:

Saturday 26th March 2005, with an invited display followed by members' own displays
Saturday 29th October 2005, for the AGM, Tony Chilton competition and auction.

We are also hoping to arrange another meeting at Swinpex in June 2005.

More details on all these meetings later this year.

GREAT BRITAIN - CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION: Receipts of the Pre-compensation Period: 1841 - 1878.

Based on a talk and display given by the late Mr W.H. Grant.

[Editor's note: some while ago I received the manuscript of a talk and display given by the late W.H. Grant bearing the above title. The article which follows is based upon the information in the manuscript and has been illustrated with examples supplied by Alan Huggins.]

On 6th January, 1841, the Post Office introduced the first form of receipt to the public in respect of letters submitted for registration. The practice of registration of letters had in fact been long followed as an internal arrangement to control the mails and prevent abuses, and the money letter system had been established in 1792 whereby letters so marked and paid at double rate received special security treatment in transit. No receipt was given to the sender and no compensation was offered. Under the new arrangements the sender obtained a formal acknowledgement of the receipt of his

letter by the Post Office. The charge was one shilling payable in money in addition to the normal postal fee, and though there was no offer of compensation the letter travelled, until the year 1856, under cover of a special form printed on green paper which the addressee was required to sign as evidence of delivery. In 1848 the charge was reduced to sixpence which from 1854, was payable by means of postage stamps affixed to the cover.

The basic form of receipt from 1841 was printed on whitish paper now often yellowed by age. At the top is the heading

"REGISTERED LETTER"

to the left of which is "No." followed by a printed serial number. Below is the inscription -

"RECEIVED this day of 18 ",
space being left for the insertion of the relevant details, and in a second line

"a Letter addressed". Towards the left lower corner are the words **"Office Stamp."**

printed vertically with a bracket to its right. In the opposite lower corner is a similar bracket pointing the other way and the insertion in two lines "Postmaster, or Letter Receiver's / Signature." The forms have no printing on the back and were bound in order of the serial numbers, from which they were cut along a border indicated by an engine-turned pattern of whorls.

On the 1841 issue the word "RECEIVED" is set in seriffed capitals and "REGISTERED LETTER" measures 79 mm to the stop. (Fig 1)

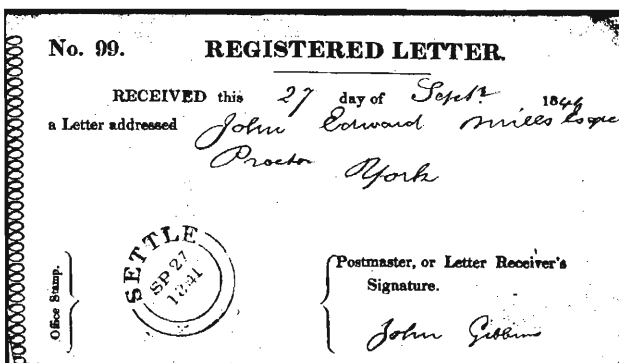


Fig. 1

On later forms the heading "REGISTERED LETTER", measures 62 mm, the serial numbers are smaller with no dot following the figures, the inscription opposite the right-hand bracket is in a single line and there are other minor differences (Fig 2).

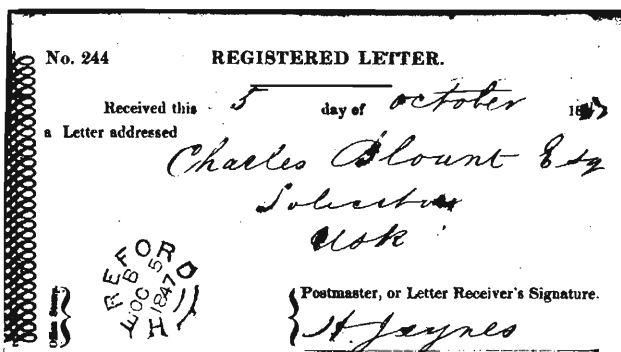


Fig. 2

On later forms "REGISTERED LETTER" measures 55 mm (Fig 3). Later still the forms show the figures "185" instead of only '18' printed in for the year (Fig 4).

The length of the heading varies from 56 to 58 mm and in the later issues the paper shows a bluish tinge.

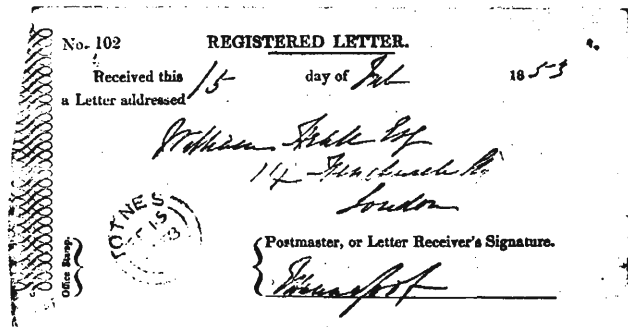


Fig. 3

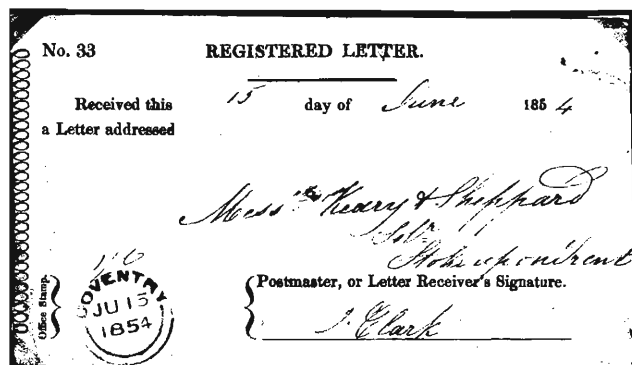


Fig. 4

In 1856 an entirely new group of forms had appeared. The common feature of these is that they are printed on a deep blue paper. Bold decorative type is used for the word "Received".

The heading "REGISTERED LETTER" measures about 71 mm. (Fig. 5)

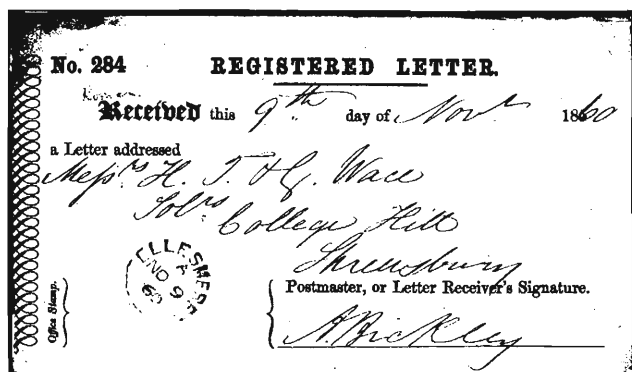


Fig. 5

Later printings have shorter headings (about 58 mm.) The earlier printings of this type have 28 loops to the marginal scrolls and show heavily printed brackets of different shapes. (Fig. 6). Later printings have 26 or 27 loops.

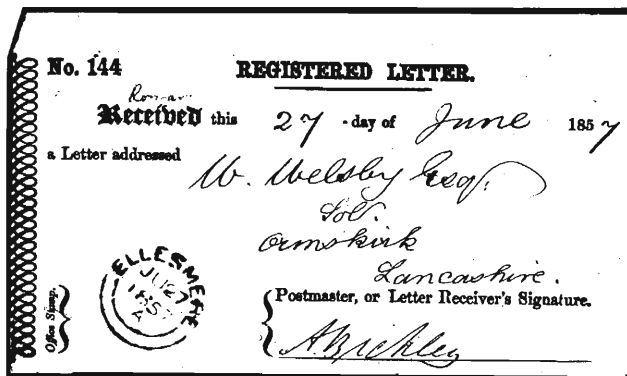


Fig. 6

By 1863 forms with "186" printed in were in use with an entirely new variety of marginal scrollwork. The charge for registration had now been reduced to fourpence.

Other specimens have the traditional form of margin (36 loops) and a very long heading (roughly 78 mm) made up of narrow letters widely spaced, "Received" is in italics and there is a dot after the serial number. The name of the office is written in, and authority for the practice is expressly printed on a later form (Fig. 7) which has a heading 80 mm long.

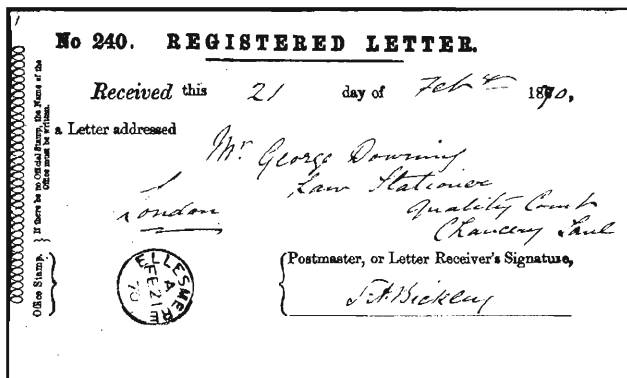


Fig. 7

Issues with the printed date "187" are still on the blue paper with italic "Received", but there is no dot after the serial number. There is, however an entirely new feature, the particulars of the printer, in this instance Waterlow and Sons. The margin shows 37 loops and the heading is 80 mm long but made up of slightly wider letters .

Some totally different types of form appeared towards the end of the 1850s. These forms were of a similar size to the previous ones but were separated by rouletting at the left side. There was no need for the scrollwork normally found on the forms at this period, and

no space is provided for an office handstamp. The heading is either

"REGISTERED LETTERS" or "REGISTERED LETTER", the first with "Postmaster's Signature" and the second with "Receiver's Signature".

Another group of forms are based on a totally different layout with the stamp compartment to the left and marked off by a vertical line. An example used at the end of 1866 is perforated on three sides and printed on pelure paper. The space for the address is divided by three horizontal lines. Before the end of the decade the form had been redesigned with

"REGISTERED LETTER" much larger (66 mm instead of 55 mm). Another conspicuous change is the addition of "DATE STAMP" at the top of the stamp compartment and the form is printed on thick white paper. (Fig 8)

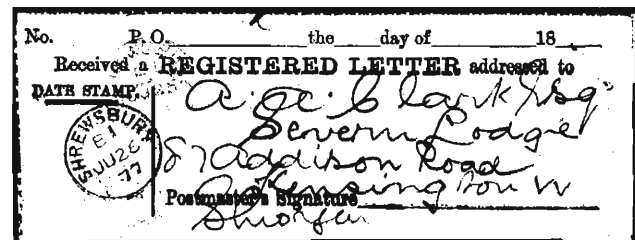


Fig. 8

This brings us to the end of the period of the uncompensated registered post. None of the receipt forms has any printing on the back though they cover an era of nearly 40 years but with the introduction of compensation in 1878 the Post office were not slow in utilising the reverse side of the forms to inform the public about some of the relevant regulations.

The Editor would like to thank Dereck Tonkinson who provided the manuscript for this article.

Many of the illustrations which accompanied Mr Grants original manuscript (but which are not illustrated here) may be found in the following publication which includes a comprehensive account of the subject.

James A Mackay - Registered Mail of the British Isles 1982.

CLASSICS AT THE BPM

2. EARLY PICTORIAL POSTCARDS

Colin Baker

This second look at some of the postal stationery held in the archives of the Bath Postal Museum (BPM) deals with British picture postcards, the official centenary of which was celebrated in 1994. The Post Office even issued a set of stamps in honour of this event.

A hundred years earlier on the 1st September 1894 the Post Office finally gave way to public pressure and allowed privately produced non-stationery postcards to pass at the postcard rate of ½ d, prepaid by means of an adhesive stamp. Prior to this date only postal stationery cards had been accepted as postcards.

Despite the concession granted by the Post Office, little more than the address could be written on the front of a postcard in 1894, with the message having to be written on the back. The Post Office was quick to penalise anyone contravening this part of the postcard regulations and the 1d charge mark was swiftly struck on any offending items that broke these rules. Although some types of communication were permitted on the fronts of postcards from 1892 onwards, (such as the sender's name and address, or printed advertisements) divided fronts were not allowed until 1st October 1907. Thus in this nine year period there had to be sufficient blank space on the reverse of picture postcards to allow a message to be written.

However, even though 1894 is claimed to be the start of the picture postcard era, a number of picture postcards had been available well before then. It had always been acceptable to print the backs of postal stationery cards, whether Post Office issues or private printings, with more or less anything that a producer wished. Some of these printings fall into the category of picture postcards, and three such items are illustrated here.

The first postcard (figures 1 & 2) was produced for the Royal Naval Exhibition and shows a drawing of the Eddystone Lighthouse on the reverse.

The Royal Naval Exhibition was held in the grounds of the Chelsea Hospital from 2nd May to 24th October 1891, with the profits from the exhibition, amounting to £47,000, used to

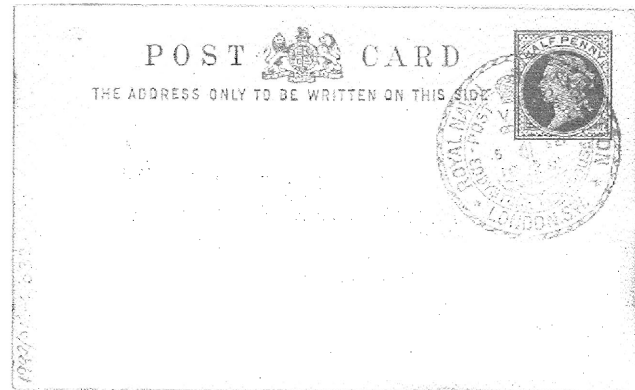


Figure 1.



Figure 2.

establish a fund to help dependants of non commissioned naval servicemen who had lost their lives while serving their country. The exhibition attracted more than 2¼ million visitors in the six months that it was open, with the most spectacular exhibit being a full size replica of the Eddystone lighthouse built and owned by a Mr Charteris of Earl Street, London. The real lighthouse was situated 14 miles off the Plymouth coastline and had been rebuilt between 1878 and 1882. The replica in the grounds of Chelsea Hospital was built from a grid of iron girders over which an expanded metal mesh was stretched, this being covered with a cement mixture to resemble Portland stone.

Visitors could ride to the top of the replica lighthouse (which was 170 feet high) in hydraulic lifts. A pair of lifts was operated together by filling a tank in the upper lift with water so that it was slightly heavier than the bottom lift. This allowed the upper lift to fall down the shaft, pulling the bottom lift up to the top. The water tank (now at the bottom) was emptied and the process repeated, this time by

filling the water tank in the other lift, now at the top. The water was collected at the bottom of the lighthouse and pumped up to the top for re-use.

Visitors paid 6d for the ride and could buy a commemorative postcard from the post office at the top of the lighthouse, this was then cancelled with a special handstamp.

The second postcard (figures 3 & 4) was sold at the Gardening and Forestry Exhibition held at Earl's Court, London, between 13th May and 14th October 1893. This exhibition also included the same replica of the Eddystone lighthouse, having been removed from the grounds of the Chelsea Hospital and rebuilt at Earl's Court. Once again visitors could ride to the top of the lighthouse in hydraulic lifts and purchase a commemorative postcard specially prepared for sale at the exhibition. The postcards were given a Gardening and Forestry Exhibition cancellation.

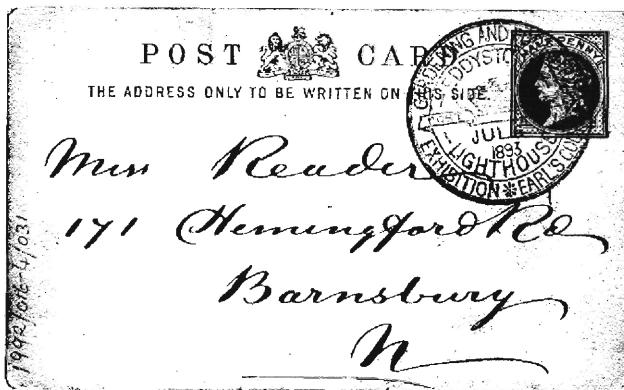


Figure 3.

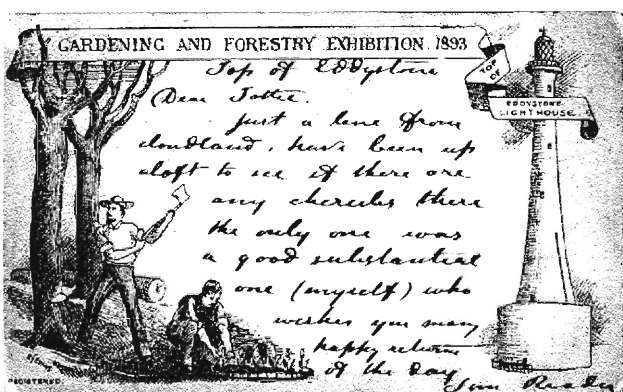


Figure 4.

The trip to the top of the lighthouse at Earl's Court does not seem to have been quite so popular as it had been at Chelsea, and copies of the commemorative postcard for this event are more difficult to find.

The last of the three early picture postcards (figure 5) is an early Christmas greeting card. It has been addressed but carries no postal markings. It was printed on the reverse of the first issue postal stationery postcard in use during the period 1870 to 1875.

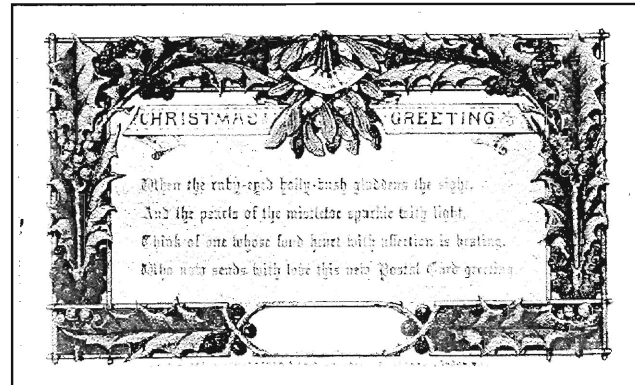


Figure 5.

The final illustration (figure 6) is the reverse of an 1899 postal stationery postcard overprinted with a painting of two boys, one washing the other. The postcard was used from Newquay, Cardiganshire to Montgomery on 8 August 1900, six years after the accepted inception of the picture postcard, but well before divided fronts were allowed. I have not been able to find out the significance of the picture on this card.



Figure 6.

For more information on the Royal Naval Exhibition and the Gardening and Forestry Exhibition, have a look at the web site.

The Bath Postal Museum is open six days a week, 11.00am to 5.00pm (less in winter) and includes displays on many aspects of the postal service in Great Britain over the last few hundred years. For more information or to find out more about material held by the museum, ring 01225 460333 or visit their web site bathpostalmuseum.org.

GREAT BRITAIN POSTAGE RATES PREPAID BY POSTAL STATIONERY 1840 – 2003.

Part III

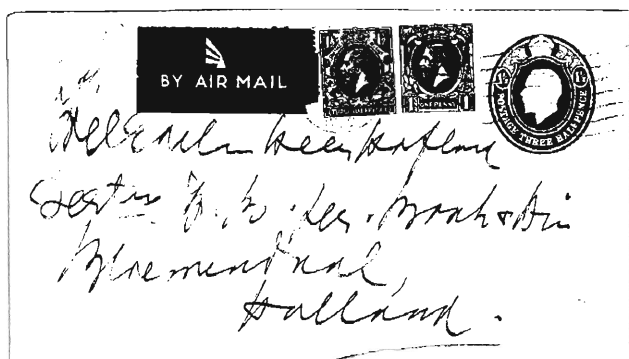
Compiled by Colin Baker

Airmail

The airmail rates in operation during the early years of the development of this means of carrying mail were very complex, and are beyond the scope of this article. The rates given below should be taken as a guide, as they may vary for individual countries.

2nd June 1930 - 4d per oz plus 3d for each additional oz to European destinations.

17th March 1936 - 2½d per oz to Scandinavia gradually extended to all European destinations (ie. the same rate as surface mail).



“all up” rate of 4d for a 2oz letter to Holland

- This “all up” rate became available to the following countries:-
- 29 June 1937 - Egypt, Sudan, East and South Africa
 - 23 February 1938 - Palestine, The Gulf, India, Burma, Ceylon and Malaya
 - 24 July 1938 - Australia, New Zealand and South Pacific
 - 2 September 1938 - Hong Kong
 - 15 May 1939 - Iraq and Kuwait

The “all up” rate was abandoned on the outbreak of war on 3rd September 1939 when the rates reverted to 1/3d per ½ ounce.

Following the end of the Second World War, the “all-up” rate to Europe was re-established to most countries on 1 July 1948, with the exception of Germany, Iceland and Poland which were included later.

From October 1986 the all up rate was abandoned in favour of the following “European” rates:

European Rates

	EEC	Non EEC	Europe
	20 g	20 g	40 g
20 th October 1986	18p		
5 th September 1988	19p		
2 nd October 1989	20p		
17 th September 1990	22p		
7 th January 1991	22p	26p	44p*
16 th September 1991	24p	28p	39p
1 st November 1993	25p	30p	42p
8 th July 1996	26p	31p	44p
Rates for the whole of Europe standardised			
	20 g		40 g
6 th April 1998	30p		44p
25 th October 1999	34p		48p
27 th April 2000	36p		50p
8 th May 2003	38p		53p
1 st April 2004	40p		57p

* This was the 60 grams rate, as there was no step for 40 grams in January 1991. This was amended to allow a 40 gram step when the next rate rise was introduced later that year.

European Newspaper Rates

This commenced in 1966 and was intended only for newspapers, not other printed papers

	1 oz	Each extra oz	
3 rd October 1966	6d	4d	
15 th February 1971	2½p	1½p	
Change in weight steps	1 oz	2 oz	4 oz
1 st July 1971	3p	5p	7½p
24 th June 1974	4p	6p	9p
17 th March 1975	6p	9p	14p
Change to metric weights	20 g	50 g	100 g
29 th September 1975	6p	9p	14p
20 th August 1979	8p	11½p	18p
4 th February 1980	9p	14p	20p
Change in weight steps	20 g	60 g	100 g
16 th January 1981	12p	18p	26p
1 st February 1982	13½p	20p	29p
5 th April 1983	14½p	21p	31p
3 rd September 1984	16p	23p	34p
4 th November 1985	18p	26p	37p
20 th October 1986	19p	28p	39p
5 th September 1988	20p	30p	42p
2 nd October 1989	20p	32p	45p
17 th September 1990	22p	35p	49p

Airmail Printed Paper Rate to Europe

This replaced the European Newspaper Rate

	20 g	60 g	100 g
7 th January 1991	22p	38p	53p

Change in weight steps	20 g	40 g	60 g	80 g	100 g	Extra 20 g
16 th September 1991	28p	34p	40p	46p	52p	6p
1 st November 1993					58p	6p
8 th July 1996					61p	6p or 7p
26 th April 1999					68p	7p
27 th April 2000					75p	8p
8 th May 2003					79p	8p or 9p
1 st April 2004					85p	8p or 9p

European Small Packet Service

For sending gifts, goods and samples, including a letter

	100 g	150 g	200 g
7 th January 1991	62p	82p	£1.02

Change in weight steps	100 g	120 g	140 g	Extra 20 g
16 th September 1991	72p	80p	88p	8p
1 st November 1993	72p	79p	86p	7p
8 th July 1996	75p	83p	90p	7p or 8p
25 th October 1999	82p	90p	98p	8p
27 th April 2000	87p	96p	105p	9p
8 th May 2003	92p	£1.02	£1.12	9p or 10p
1 st April 2004	98p	£1.08	£1.18	10p

Foreign Rates

As a general guide, worldwide airmail rates from 1947 onwards were as given in the table below.

The destination Zones were:

- (A) Middle East and North Africa
- (B) Middle and Southern Africa and America
- (C) Australasia and the Far East

	Letters (per ½ oz)			Postcards		
	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C	Zone A	Zone B	Zone C
17 th January 1947	6d	1/-	1/3d	3d	6d	7d
1 st May 1952	9d	1/3d	1/6d	5d	8d	9d
3 rd October 1966	1/-	1/6d	1/9d	6d	9d	10d
Start of decimal currency						
15 th February 1971	5p	7½p	9p	2½p	4p	4p
1 st July 1971	5p	7½p	9p	3p	4p	5p

Change in the rate for heavier weight letters

	Letters						Postcards		
	Zone A		Zone B		Zone C		Zone A	Zone B	Zone C
	½ oz	1 oz	½ oz	1 oz	½ oz	1 oz			
10 th September 1973	6p	11p	8p	15p	10p	19p	4p	5p	6p
17 th March 1975	8½p	15½p	10p	19p	12p	23p	6½p	7½p	9p
Change to metric weights									
	15 g	30 g	15 g	30 g	15 g	30 g			
29 th September 1975	10½p	31½p	11p	33p	13p	39p	8p	9p	10p
Change in weight steps									
	10 g	20 g	10 g	20 g	10 g	20 g			
13 th June 1977	10½p	16½p	11p	18½p	13p	21p	9p	10p	11p
20 th August 1979	12p	19½p	13p	22½p	15p	25p	11p	12p	13p
4 th February 1980	14p	23p	15p	26p	17½p	29p	13p	14p	15p
Postcard rate standardised									
26 th January 1981	20p	31p	22p	36p	25p	40p	20p		
1 st February 1982	24p	35p	26p	40p	29p	44p	24p		
5 th April 1983	26p	37p	28p	42p	31p	46p	26p		
3 rd September 1984	29p	40p	31p	45p	34p	49p	26p		
5 th September 1988	30p	42p	32p	47p	35p	51p	27p		
2 nd October 1989	32p	46p	34p	50p	37p	55p	29p		

Zones A and B were combined to give Zone 1, and Zone C was renamed Zone 2. However, the rates were the same for both Zones up to the 10 gram weight limit, and from 16th September 1991 up to the 20 gram weight limit when differential rates applied

	Both Zones	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 1	Zone 2	Postcards
	10 g	20 g	20 g	40 g	40 g	
17 th September 1990	37p	53p	57p	70p	78p	31p
	Both Zones		Zone 1	Zone 2		
	10 g	20 g	40 g	40 g		
16 th September 1991	39p	57p	89p	99p		33p
1 st November 1993	41p	60p	92p	£1.02		35p
8 th July 1996	43p	63p	96p	£1.07		37p
26 th April 1999	44p	64p	99p	£1.06		38p
27 th April 2000	45p	65p	£1.00	£1.07		40p
8 th May 2003	47p	68p	£1.05	£1.12		42p
1 st April 2004	47p	68p	68p	£1.05	£1.12	43p

There were also cheaper airmail rates for printed papers and small packets.

Air Letter Rates

AIRLETTERS (Aerogrammes) etc

2nd April 1941 - Air postcard service introduced at a rate of 3d, but no special card made available. Intended for members of HM forces (army and RAF) in Middle East, East Africa, Malta and HM ships in the Mediterranean.

21st July 1941 - Prisoner of War airletter issued with 2½d stationery stamp, but only valid for use to prisoners held by the German forces and the Axis powers.

December 1941 - Air postcard service detailed above extended to Malaya and Naval personnel serving in the China Station.

7th December 1942 - Printed airletter forms were sold, but a 6d adhesive stamp had to be affixed.

18th June 1943 - The stationery version of the 6d airletter was issued with an imprinted stamp.

27th March 1944 - Prisoner of war card with 3d letterpress stamp issued for use to prisoners in Japan and Japanese held territories. Cards were sold at 3d each.

2nd April 1945 - Prisoner of war cards reduced to 1½d and sold at 1½d each.

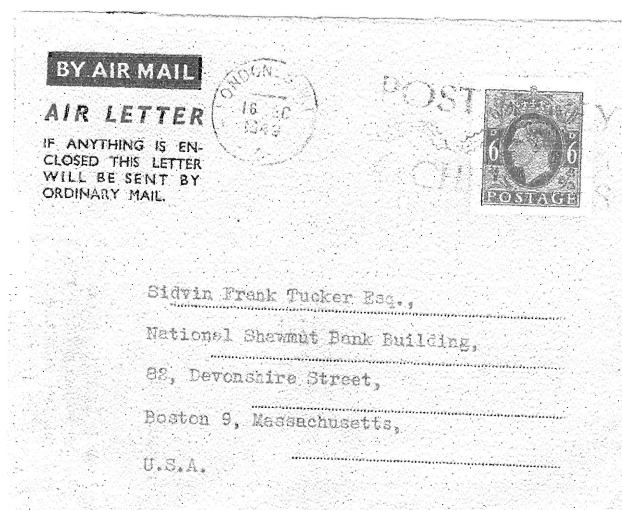
28th July 1948 - First commemorative 6d stationery airletter for the Olympic Games which were held in London that year.

3rd October 1966 - Postage rate for airletters increase to 9d.

From their first introduction in 1943 until 1972 only one size of air letter was sold by the Post Office. Between 1972 until 1980 two sizes of standard air letters were available, but from 1981 onwards only the large size was sold.

Standard air letters have always been sold at their face value (or less in the case of packs of standard air letters). However, the retail price of all commemorative airletters sold from 1963 onwards included a premium over the face value of the postage stamp.

Postage on stamped to order forms (ie those produced or sold by private stationers) was the same as the cost of a standard air letter. Postage for the Forces, known as "bluies", was the standard inland letter rate.



Air letter stamped and sold for 6d between 18th June 1943 and 3rd October 1966

Postage paid for standard air letters

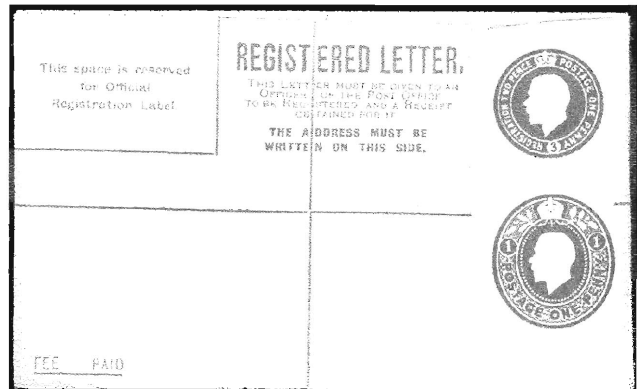
Date	Size	Price
3 rd October 1966	Small	9d
Change to decimal currency		
15 th February 1971	Small	5p
1 st July 1971	Small	5p
26 th April 1972	Small	5p
	Large	6½p
10 th September 1973	Small	6p
	Large	7p
17 th March 1975	Small	8½p
	Large	9p
29 th September 1975	Small	10½p
	Large	11p
20 th August 1979	Small	12p
	Large	12½p
4 th February 1980	Small	14p
	Large	14½p
26 th January 1981	Large	20p
1 st February 1982	Large	24p
5 th April 1983	Large	26p
5 th September 1988	Large	27p
2 nd October 1989	Large	30p
17 th September 1990	Large	32p
16 th September 1991	Large	34p
1 st November 1993	Large	36p
26 th April 1999	Large	37p
27 th April 2000	Large	40p
8 th May 2003	Large	42p
1 st April 2004	Large	

Registration Fees

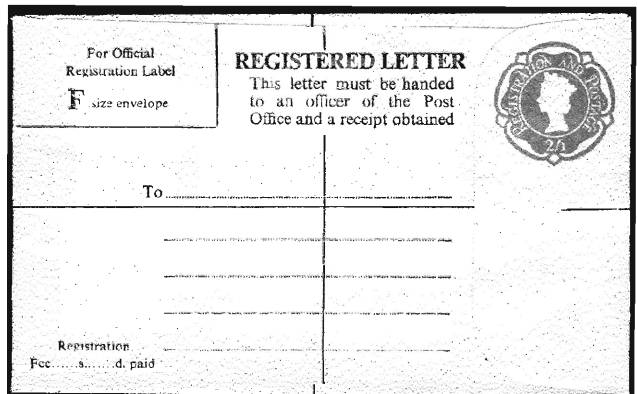
The following inland registration fees were the minimum that could be paid for this service, giving compensation up to the limits shown. Higher fees providing higher levels of compensation were available, but were not generally paid for by stationery stamps and have not been included in this list. Registration for letters addressed to foreign countries was available, sometimes at a higher fee than that for inland mail, with lower levels of compensation.

Date	Minimum fee	Maximum compensation payable
1841	1/-d	
1848	6d	
1856	1/-d	
1862	4d	
1 st January 1878	2d	£2
13 th June 1921	3d	£5
1 st May 1949	4d	£5
1 st May 1952	6d	£5

Date	Minimum fee	Maximum compensation payable
1 st June 1956	1/-d	£10
1 st February 1961	1/6d	£20
27 th April 1963	1/9d	£20
3 rd October 1966	3/-d	£100
Change to decimal currency		
15 th February 1971	20p	£150
24 th June 1974	25p	£150
17 th March 1975	35p	£150
29 th September 1975	45p	£200
13 th June 1977	60p	£200
20 th August 1979	65p	£250
4 th February 1980	75p	£300
26 th January 1981	90p	£500
1 st February 1982	£1.00	£500
3 rd September 1984	£1.10	£600
20 th October 1986	£1.20	£650
5 th September 1988	£1.40	£750
2 nd October 1989	£1.55	£850
17 th September 1990	£1.75	£950
16 th September 1991	£1.90	£950



Registration rate 2d , postage 1d. Up-rated with an additional 1d imprint to meet the increase in the minimum inland postage rate from 1st June 1920.



July 1965 "Registration and Postage 2/1" (Made up of registration fee of 1/9d plus minimum inland postage rate of 4d)

From 28th June 1993 the registration service was changed to give only three levels of compensation called

	Special Delivery		Registered		Registered Plus	
	Fee	Compensation	Fee	Compensation	Fee	Compensation
28 th June 1993	£2.70	Nil	£3.00	£500	£3.30	£1500
27 th January 1997	£3.20	£50	£3.50	£500	£4.10	£1500

From 12th October 1998 the service was renamed Special Delivery

Date	Minimum fee	Maximum compensation payable
12 th October 1998	£3.20	£250
26 th April 1999	£3.35	£250
27 th April 2000	£3.50	£250
8 th May 2003	£3.75	£250

OTHER SERVICES

Blind Literature/Articles for the Blind

Reduced postage rates for this service (given in the table below) were introduced on 1st September 1906, but were gradually reduced and eventually abolished altogether on 17th May 1965, when the service was made free

BLIND LITERATURE/ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND									
Date	2oz	1lb	2lb	5lb	6lb	6½lb	8lb	11lb	15lb
1 st Sept 1906	½d		1d	1½d					
1 st Feb 1907	½d		1d	1½d	2½d				
1 st Jan 1915	½d			1d	2d				
13 th June 1921		½d		1d		1½d			
17 th Feb 1926			½d	1d		1½d			
3 rd July 1936			½d	1d			1½d	2d	
1 st July 1940			½d	1d			1½d	2d	2½d
17 th May 1965	The service was made free								

Express Service (Inland)

Started on 25th May 1891. Charges were made per mile for mail specially carried by Post Office messenger (or special messenger from 1934) all the way.

Special Delivery (Inland)

Additional fee for special delivery by Post Office messenger from the delivery office after normal transmission through the post.

1st January 1934 6d

1st January 1956 1/-d

17th May 1965 3/-d

Higher charges were made for special deliveries on Sundays.

Late Posting Fees

These allowed letters and packets to catch the mail even though the post office had closed, with charges varying from ½d upwards.

Inland Pattern and Sample Post

Date	4 oz	8 oz	16 oz	24 oz
1st October 1863	3d	6d	1/-d	1/6d
1864	2d	4d	8d	1/-d
1870	½d per ½ oz			

(Higher weights were as per the letter rate)

This service was abolished on 16th August 1871 when all the letter rates became the same as the pattern and sample post. But it was re-established in 1887 at the following rates

4oz - 1d

6oz - 1½d

8oz - 2d (maximum weight permitted)

The service was again abolished in 1897 when the letter rates were reduced to the same level as the pattern and sample post, but was again re-established in November 1915

4oz - 1d

6oz - 1½d

8oz - 2d (maximum weight permitted)

The service was again abolished on 3rd June 1918 when the sample rates were brought into line with the letter rates. But once again the sample post was re-established on 23rd May 1932

4oz - 1d

6oz - 1½d

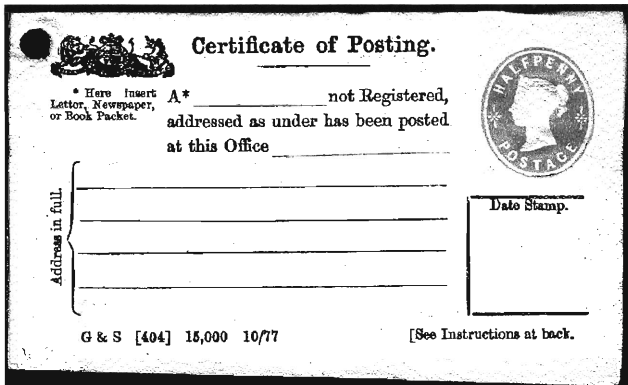
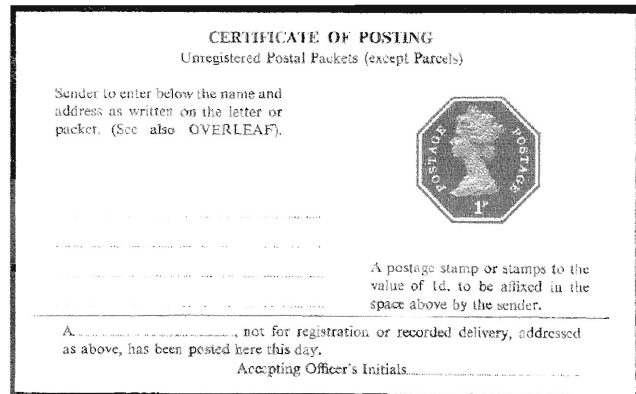
8oz - 2d (maximum weight permitted)

The service was finally abolished in the late 1980s.

Certificates of Posting

Certificates of posting were provided (for a fee) for mail which was not registered, insured or recorded. The Post Office issued stamped certificates of posting between 1877 and 1881. Judging by the numbers of both used and mint examples on the market today, it would appear these were not a popular item with the public and were never re-issued by the Post Office.

Date	Fee
1877	½d
1 st October 1957	1d
Change to decimal currency	
15 th February 1971	1p
1 st February 1982	Free



Certificate of Posting issued in 1877 with ½d pink embossed imprint

Stamped to order certificate of posting on a form approved by the G.P.O.
 The imprinted stamp is in decimal currency 1p, whereas the note beneath refers to "-- stamps to the value of 1d"

In the 1960s and 1970s privately produced certificate of posting forms approved by the Post Office were prepared and stamped with 1d or 1p. It is believed these were mainly (if not completely) produced in order for collectors to obtain individual post office handstamps.

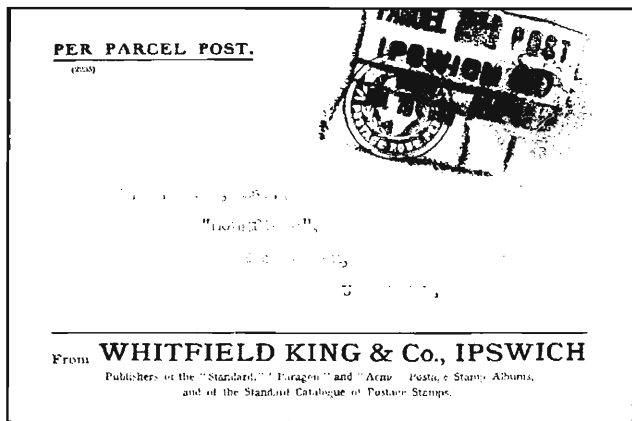
Inland Parcel Post

This was initially called the Parcels Post, but due to criticism from the public that no other post was known by its plural, the term was changed to Parcel Post in 1884.

Soon after the introduction of this service, stamped labels were used by firms sending out

large numbers of parcels every day, although it was a number of years before it became possible for the general public to use stamped labels for parcels post. From 1888 it was permitted to use whole postcards and envelopes to prepay the postage on parcels.

Date	Weight limit in pounds											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	15
1 st August 1883	3d	6d			9d		1/-					
1 st May 1886	3d	4½d	6d	7½d	9d	10½d	1/-	1/1½d	1/3d	1/4½d	1/6d	
1 st June 1897	3d	4d	5d	6d	7d	8d	9d	10d	11d		1/-	
2 nd July 1906	3d	4d	5d		6d		7d	8d	9d	10d	11d	
1 st November 1915	4d	5d	6d		7d		8d	9d	10d	11d	1/-	
3 rd June 1918			6d				9d				1/-	
1 st June 1920		9d			1/-			1/3d			1/6d	
14 th May 1923		6d			9d			1/-			1/3d	
1 st July 1935			6d	7d	8d	9d	10d	11d				1/-
1 st July 1940			7d	8d	9d	10d	11d	1/-				1/1d
6 th January 1947			8d	9d	10d	11d	1/-	1/1d				1/2d
29 th December 1947			9d	11d	1/-	1/1d	1/2d	1/3d				1/4d
31 st July 1950			10d	1/-	1/2d	1/3d	1/4d	1/5d				1/6d
1 st July 1951			11d	1/1d	1/3d	1/5d	1/6d	1/7d				1/8d
31 st March 1952		11d	1/1d	1/4d	1/5d	1/7d	1/9d	1/10d			1/11d	2/-



S.T.O. Parcel label with K.E. VII 4d imprinted stamp

Some Useful Dates and Other Information

- a) Victorian adhesive stamps and postal stationery were demonetised on 1st July 1915.
(There is some doubt about this date - Stanley Gibbons quote 1915, but others claim a much earlier date than this.)
Edward VII adhesive stamps and postal stationery were demonetised on 1st April 1930
George V, Edward VIII and George VI adhesive stamps and postal stationery were demonetised on 1st March 1972.
Elizabeth II adhesive stamps and postal stationery in £sd currency were demonetised on 1st March 1972.
- b) Stamped to order facilities were withdrawn on 31st October 1973.
- c) October 1914 - Free postage allowed for members of the armed forces on active duty.
- d) Redirected letters were charged on delivery for the single postage which would have been paid as if the letter had been posted at its point of redirection. (This charge was eventually abolished in 1891.)
- e) The selling prices for inland postal stationery postcards were originally fixed by the Post Office at the face value of the stamp (ie ½d), but from 1st October 1872 when the sale of privately produced cards was allowed, a premium was added to cover the manufacturing cost. Between 22nd June

1911 and 2nd July 1917 the selling price of inland postcards was again reduced to their face value of ½d each.

- f) **Overseas Postal Stationery Postcards.**
Postcards which were produced by the Post Office for use to foreign destinations were by agreement with the General Postal Union (and later the Universal Postal Union) sold to the public at their face value, with no extra charge being made for the card itself. This applied to both single cards and reply cards from their introduction in 1875 until a charge was eventually made from 2nd July 1917 onwards.
- g) **Forces Mail.** From 1915 forces on active service have generally been afforded free postage for letters and cards, but not for other services such as registration, express delivery and in the first years of its use, airmail postage. During peacetime operations mail to and from the armed forces has been transmitted at the current inland postage rates, irrespective of its destination. During the Second World War forces in the Middle East were given "air mail letter cards" (air letter sheets) free every two weeks. This service was gradually extended to other theatres of operations and on a more frequent basis. Additional forms, when available, could also be sent by air for 3d. Air letters for use to forces stationed abroad were sold for 1½d in 1945.

I would be grateful to receive comments from collectors about rates not included in this series of articles (or any other details). My intention is to compile this information into a revised version to be issued as a Booklet.

However, I regret that although I would be pleased to hear from members who may be able to expand on the information given in this booklet, I cannot attempt to unravel the postage paid on individual items of stationery.

Colin Baker

[Editor's Note: Part 1 of this article was published in the November 2003 issue of the Journal and Part 2 in the February 2004 issue.]

THE CENTENARY STAMPED TO ORDER WRAPPERS PRODUCED BY W.H.SMITH LTD IN 1948

Alan Huggins

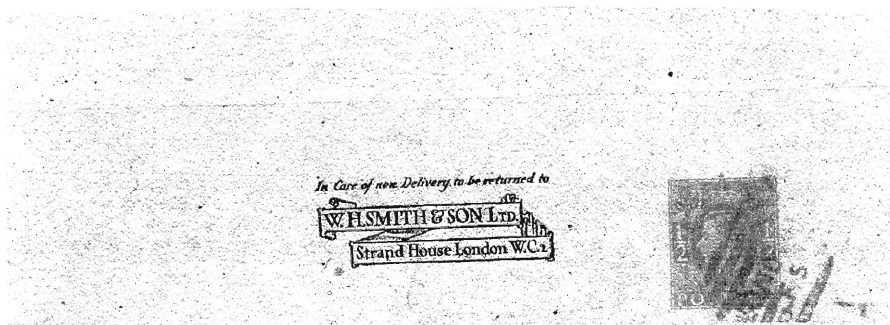
W.H. Smith Ltd marked a centenary of service in 1948 by overprinting stamped to order wrappers with "1848 A CENTURY OF BOOKSTALL SERVICE" in red. Two of these wrappers are of particular note in that they are compound stampings involving the King George VI 1/2d letterpress die struck in green. Single impressions of this stamp in green are rare having been found used only by the News

Chronicle newspaper in addition to W.H. Smith Ltd, but as far as I am aware the compound stampings have not previously been recorded. Only a single example of the 1/2d + 1/2d wrapper has been seen addressed to Lagos, Nigeria, and two examples of the 1/2d + 1d are known to-date. If anyone can add to these I should be very pleased to hear from them.

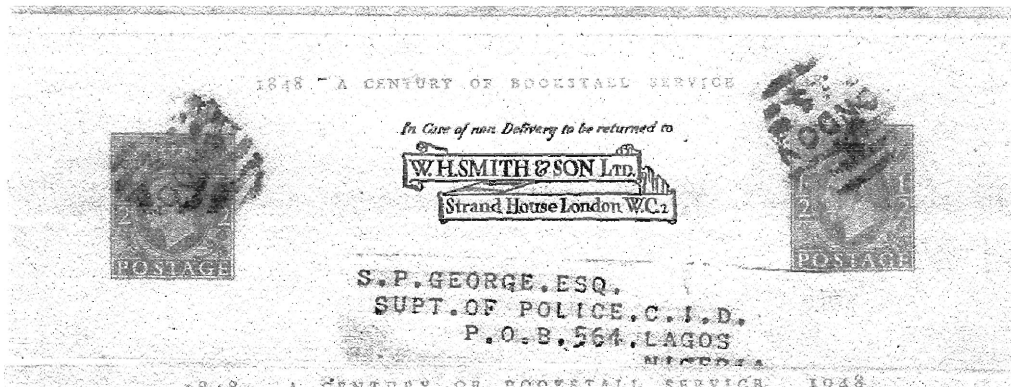
BOUYERIE STREET, BOSTON
 Mr. W. Wunderlich.
 24. Stade/Elbe
 Kleine Schmiedestr. 2.
 6Heschen Brit Zone Germany.



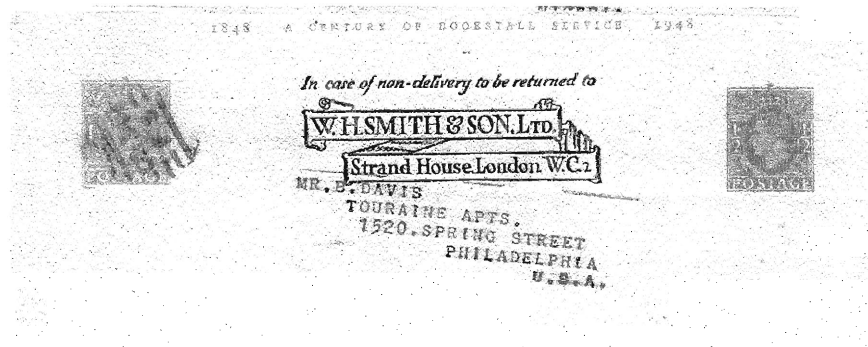
News Chronicle
 1/2d green
 (WS 27)



1/2d green
 (WS 27)



1/2d green +
 1/2d green



1/2d green
 + 1d red



AEROGRAMMATICS

New Printings of G.B. Airletters.

Arthur Roberts

I have now recorded Airletters printed by Mail Solutions (same company that printed the Christmas 2003 Airletter) as follows:-

Standard Airletter - Print references recorded MSE

176/03	188/03	261/03
184/03	259/03	262/03
185/03	260/03	

Discount 'Star' Airletter MSE

175/03	202/03	265/03	272/03
176/03	203/03	266/03	273/03
197/03	204/03	267/03	274/03
198/03	218/03	268/03	275/03
199/03	219/03	269/03	

The numbers represent the date of printing being the day in a 365 day year commencing 1st January. Thus day 175 is 24th June 2003. There appears to have been a change of typesetting from 259/03 in the standard sheet and 266/03 in the 'Star' sheet where the front address lines are 2mm over to the right of the Postage Paid block.

Duff Malkin has sent the following item from *Dot Print News* (15th January 2004)

"Mail Solutions has been awarded a three-year contract to manufacture International Pre-Paid Airletter products for the Royal Mail. The Royal Mail has granted the Telford company a license to use a specialised security printing technique to print the pre-paid indicator directly on to the envelopes. The Royal Mail sells more than 8 million a year."

Iraqi Formular Air Letter Sheets.

Duff Malkin

Although it might seem that Iraq gave up on the aerogramme idea in 1933 or 1934, if they did so, it was not for very long. Within 6-7 years the world was at war and being as there were British forces in Iraq for the duration of it and there was still a considerable British influence, it would be only natural for forces air letter cards and aerogrammes to be used and received in Iraq at that time.

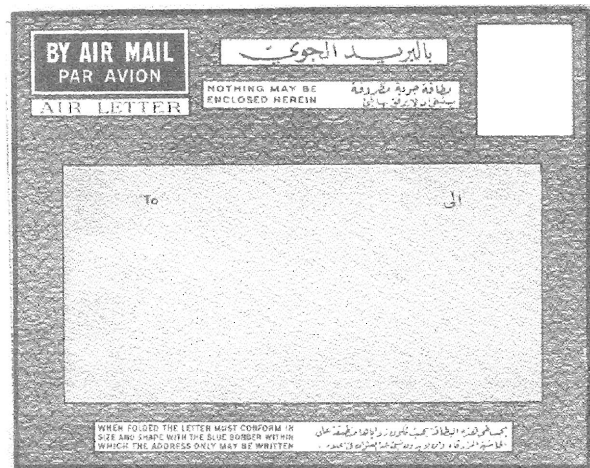
The used formular air letter sheets I have from Iraq date from the post war period to just before the fall of Faisal II. The 3-4 ones I have which were mailed in about 1948, bear some clear resemblance to the 1933 'aerogramme'. They both have a 'By Air Mail/ Par Avion' lozenge, instructions that nothing is to be put inside the form, and instructions about how the forms must be folded conforming to the size and shape of the border lines. The Iraqi formular air letter sheets are much more expressive of where they come from with Arabic

translations of the English message on the front and all Arabic text on the back. They also display a considerable Arabic influence in design, and are much more colourful being blue, white and pink (or a kind of salmon colour). The white colour is actually the colour of the paper. (See the illustrations below)

The latest item I have is an Aspley formular air letter sheet which, of course, was printed in England. It was mailed from Bagdad in about 1956.

The next specifically Iraqi aerogrammes were issued with postage stamps applied to them. The stamps were specifically printed to cover up the King Faisal stamps which had been applied to formular air letter sheets before the revolution and they could not be obtained separately over Iraqi post office counters for at least one or two years after they appeared on the aerogrammes.

Professor John Hobbs has sent in these copies of the post war air letter sheets.



They are printed on white paper, watermarked "Wrotham"/ Vellum Wove/ Kent. The address panel has a salmon-pink wavy line overlay. The used copy is postmarked "8 APR 48".

QUERIES AND REPLIES

QUERY:- "PERFIN" G.B. CARD.

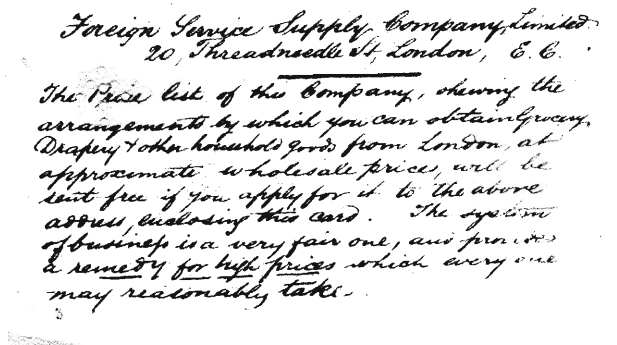
Eddy Pockele

"Recently I came across a rather unusual kind of perfin in a postal stationery postcard.



The perfin is situated through the stamp and looks 'genuinely made in 1873'. the stamp was not cancelled, the card seems to be returned to sender. (Manuscript "Left" appears in the bottom left hand corner)

The back of the card looks like a handwritten message, but was printed to look like handwriting, so is an advertising message.



I am not familiar with perfin, nor with the date these were permitted by the G.P.O., but 1873 looks early to me.

Has anyone seen such identical/similar perfin?

REPLY: Editor - This "Perfin" is actually an experimental form of cancellation introduced shortly after the introduction of the postcard in G.B. in 1870. To cope with the vast increase in the amount of mail being handled in the sorting offices, a number of cards would be cancelled in one go by punching holes through them. They are referred to as Sloper cancellations after the man who devised the hole punching devise. He also produced machines for

perforating initials etc. through stamps as a security devise, ie the 'perfin'.

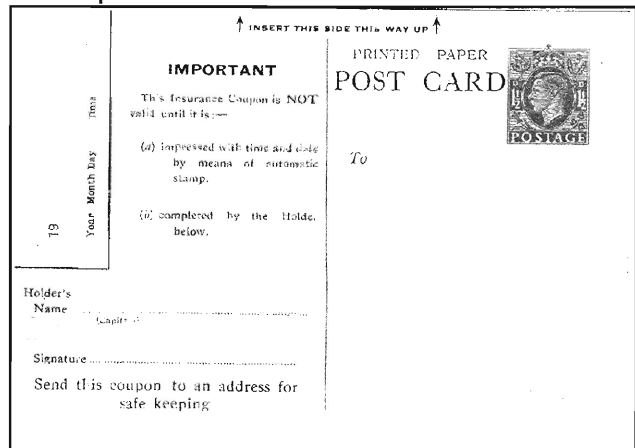
Sloper cancellations vary from a simple clip in the margin of the card to the right of the stamp, a punched hole through the stamp or a series of small holes in the shape of an orb or, as shown here, an arrow. They were in use for over four years, but were confined to a small number of Post Offices. On the front cover is another example from the same company, and like Eddy's card, has been returned to the sender. This one being posted one day earlier. (Thanks to the diligent clerk at the Foreign Service Supply Company who saw fit to save this 'return to sender' junk mail!). Usually there are no other postal markings on a Sloper card. That was the idea behind the experiment, to save time. The reason for the postmark is to show that it had been processed at the delivery office for return to the sender

No doubt some of our G.B. collectors could write more about the Sloper experiment. If so **please get in touch with the Editor**, I would be pleased to publish an article on these, but do contact me first so that I can co-ordinate any contributions.

REPLY:- INSURANCE CARDS.

(February 2002)

Larry Parks from California has sent copy of another two cards. The one illustrated below is overprinted "SPECIMEN" on the back.



This seems to differ from the other cards which have been reported in that the layout is different and it is designed to be inserted into the machine for time and date stamping sideways rather than end on.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Please make use of these columns, I am always pleased to receive your queries.

REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20TH MARCH 2004

The Society's Spring meeting, held at the British Philatelic Trust on Saturday 20th March, was attended by 14 members. The Centre had only just been refurbished and we were the first society to use the new meeting room. After a short talk about the building (some of the work was still being completed) the meeting commenced with the usual Society business.

Apologies were received from Sam Barkley and Michael Lockton.

Members were told that it had not been possible to get lunchtime food arranged within the centre, and therefore we would have to find a nearby restaurant at midday. Fortunately there are a number in the area that stay open on a Saturday.

Mike Smith told the meeting of the generous gift made by one of our members, Ben Ferguson, whose eyesight is failing such that he finds it very difficult to collect and study postal stationery. He decided at the end of last year to give much of his collection to the Society to be sold for the benefit of its funds. There are numerous boxes of worldwide material which Mike Smith and Colin Baker are sorting and lotting, ready for the auctions this year.

A copy of the new book "The Telegraph Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain 1851 – 1954", co-authored by Alan Huggins with Peter Langmead, was put out for members to see.

Keith Hanman then spoke about the display the Society is to make in association with the Great Britain Philatelic Society at the Spring Stampex meeting next year. Some members have already offered material for display, including one or two from overseas. It is hoped we will be able to produce a brochure on the material displayed by our members, perhaps done in conjunction with the GBPS. John Barker was asked if he would look into the possibilities of producing a brochure and more will be said about this nearer the time.

Keith then made it clear to members that we must have a treasurer, otherwise with no one to look after the Society's money we cannot operate and the Society would have to be closed. He asked members to see if they could find the time (about half a day a month) or to persuade other members to come forward.

The meeting proper got underway with a fine display of Rhodesia shown by our vice Chairman, Peter O'Keeffe. Peter explained that the area known as Rhodesia was originally administered by the British South Africa Company. At first Cape of Good Hope cards were overprinted "Mashonaland", but then the British South Africa Company produced their own stationery. The name Rhodesia appeared

on cards as early as 1896, but it was not until the 20th century that this became the official name of the country. It was later split into northern and southern Rhodesia, the northern territory later still being known as Nyasaland, and then Zambia on its independence in the 1960s. Southern Rhodesia became simply Rhodesia, then Zimbabwe.

Peter had examples of both mint and used stationery produced under all these names, including first flight covers and some stationery overprinted 'Specimen'.

Keith Hanman gave the vote of thanks and said he thought it had been a wonderful show with some rare items on display.

After lunch it was the turn of the rest of the members to put up short displays.

Alan Huggins started off with three frames of Great Britain penny pinks, including numerous trials, proofs and essays, finishing with examples of the finally issued envelopes and lettersheets.

John Norton showed Albania from 1905, plus other areas of the Balkans, and concluded with some Great Britain, including proof sheets of the handstamps used at the Penny Postage Jubilee exhibitions in 1890.

Sheila Marshall displayed more Great Britain airletters used in the Channel Island, including PoW lettersheets followed by George VI & QEII airletters.

George King entertained us with labels carrying stationery stamps. Most were QEII decimals, but he also put up some pre-decimal labels going back to Edward VII.

Mike Smith put up a display of Great Britain used in South Africa during the Boer War, mainly in the Orange Free State, including both Post Office issues and private stationery.

Colin Baker showed Great Britain Queen Victoria stamped to order envelopes, starting with Post Office notices of 1855 and including many illustrated and patent envelopes.

Chris Burrow showed USA 1 cent to 5 cent envelopes

Keith Hanman displayed Sierra Leone Edward VII to QEII postcards, with some QV and George VI wrappers. Many of these were mint or overprinted Specimen, and Keith explained how difficult it was to find used copies.

Finally John Norton put up more sheets of Great Britain, including items overprinted for use abroad.

Keith Hanman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their displays.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY LITERARY AWARD.

The following letter has been received from Michael Thompson:

It was a great honour to be invited by Keith Hanman on behalf of the Society to be the judge for this award in its first year. I would like to thank the Society for supplying the magazines and I was greatly interested in all the articles that I was asked to judge.

I did read them all on my way to Newcastle by train last week, as I was displaying to the Newcastle Society on Tuesday evening and then to the Sunderland Society on the Wednesday evening.

As I do have a little interest in Postal Stationery, with small collections of Great Britain, Germany and the U.S.A. I was hooked when reading the articles and found them very interesting indeed.

*On the way back to Kent I re-read the top two articles as two came very close, but one has to be picked as the winner and that one is:- **The Jubilee of the Penny Post.***

I also read the other parts of the magazines, which were also very interesting.

I would like to congratulate all your members who have had articles published in the magazine, for their research into their chosen subjects.

I thank the Society for inviting me to be the judge and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Michael R Thompson

ARTICLES NOTED RECENTLY IN THE PHILATELIC PRESS.

"Commonwealth Postal Stationery 2002-2003" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly April 2004)

"2002-2003 Postal Stationery, Foreign Countries A-F" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly May 2004)

"Canada Post Issued 37 Postal Cards in 2003" - Rick Miller. (Linn's Stamp News 29th March 2004)

THE CORNISH - Bulletin of the Cornwall Philatelic Federation. I was pleased to receive a copy of the March 2004 issue of this publication which is now edited by one of our members, Neil Sergent. Amongst the many snippets of philatelic interest in the Bulletin, Neil has included some items on postal stationery. It is good to see interest in postal stationery being generated in the wider philatelic arena.

COPIES OF PAST ISSUES OF THE JOURNAL.

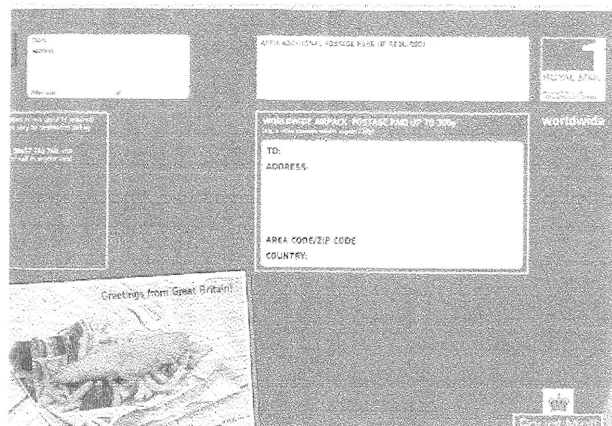
I have a few spare copies of past issues of the Journal: Serial number 20 (June 2001) and

serial numbers 23 (June 2002) to date. These are available from the Editor at £2.00 each, postage paid.

It is some time since the last cumulative index for the PSS Journal was issued (covering the period up to October 2001). A few copies of this are available at £1.00 postage paid. I hope to up-date this for distribution early in 2005. Where back copies of a particular issue are not available, I will photocopy relevant pages of an article at 10p per page plus postage and packing.

G.B. International Prepaid Stationery - Airpacks and Airsure packs.

Royal Mail's April 2004 booklet 'Reach easier' which covers International stamps and pre-paid stationery announced ten new designs for C4 and C3 size Airpacks with a 'small print' note that they would not be available until May. A new C4 Europe Airsure pack was also announced (previously only available as Worldwide). Our member Arthur Roberts discovered that the issue date for these new packs was to be brought forward to 27th April (A sale embargo date given in an April issue of 'Counter News') and was able to purchase these and service some first day covers on that date. The Airpacks, have a red background with pictorial designs which include 'Deck Chairs' and 'Fish and Chips' presumably to illustrate the 'British way of life!' The Airpacks and both Europe and Worldwide Airsure packs, also issued on 27th April, have the new Postage Paid symbol seen on Printed Postage Impression mail. No new 'International Signed For' packs with the new Postage Paid symbol were issued on that date but no doubt we shall see that symbol on the next reprint.



'Fish and Chips' on new Worldwide Airpack

FOR SALE
(proceeds to Society funds)

Approximately 250 items of GB stationery, mainly QV, KEVII, KGV, with some KGVl and QEII. Because of their condition these are unsuitable for including in the Society's auction of the Ben Ferguson Donation.

There are both mint and used items, and many have faults such as creases, stains, missing or bent corners, but this does not affect the stamps. Therefore these would be ideal for collectors of cut-outs or others who want to make a study of GB stationery.

Price £5. Postage within the UK (if necessary) £3. **Apply to the Secretary.**

SOCIETY MONOGRAPHS

Copies of the Society's Monographs are available to members at the reduced prices:-

1. Great Britain: Victorian Private Stationery Impressed With Embossed Stamps. £2.00
2. Great Britain: The Mulready Postal Stationery. £3.00
3. The Real Cost Of The Penny Post £1.75
4. Great Britain: The Development Of The Aerogramme £3.75

For Monographs, please add the cost of postage and **apply to the Secretary** (Address on page 2)

WANTED

A member of the Society who could spare a little of their time to help to keep the Society functioning.

Sam Barkley, who has served as our Treasurer since the Society was formed in 1992 is due to retire at the A.G.M. in October. We need a New Treasurer to take over this Office. If you could help please contact the Secretary, whose address is on page 2 of this issue of the Journal

Classified Advertisements

'For Sale' adverts can be placed at 10p per word, subject to available space, with a minimum of £2-00 per insertion. Please let me have your advert with remittance by the copy date.

ISRAEL & PALESTINE POSTAL STATIONERY - We carry a large stock of Israel (Airletter sheets, Inland letter sheets, postal cards, and entires) and some items from the Mandate Period. Sid Morginstin c/o NEGEV HOLYLAND POB 694 Bordentown NJ 08505. E-MAIL: LEADSTAMP@AOL.COM

The Journal is published four times per year:

February	Copy date - 1st January
May	Copy date - 1st April
August	Copy date - 1st July
November	Copy date - 1st October

Display Advertisements are welcome at the following rates:

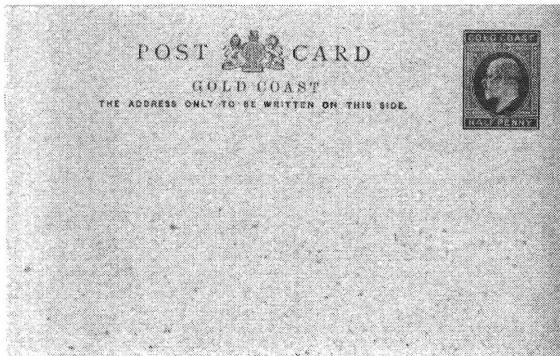
A4	full page	£40
	half page	£20
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Please contact the Editor (Details on p2)

Please mention the "Postal Stationery Society Journal" when replying to advertisers

Auction – 25 & 26 May 2004

The next Grosvenor Auction, which will be held in the Auction Room at the Grosvenor offices in the Strand on 25 and 26 May, will include the superb collection of Seychelles formed by the late Peter Morgan, including an outstanding range of "B64" covers and many rare proofs and essays.



Also featured will be the late Neville Jones, FRPSL, collection of stamps and postal history of the Nigerias; Grenada postal history from the collection of Tim Pearce; the 240 volume collection formed by the late Gordon Bittle-Britt of Hastings; and exceptional Great Britain from all periods. Exceptional Great Britain will include a most attractive Penny Black "first day cover", together with ranges of rarely offered material including part of the collection formed by Bob Champion.

Please contact us for further information and for details of our personal service and surprisingly competitive commission rates.

Postal Stationery from around the World features regularly in our specialised auctions.

Complimentary copies of the catalogue for this auction will be available to members on request.

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