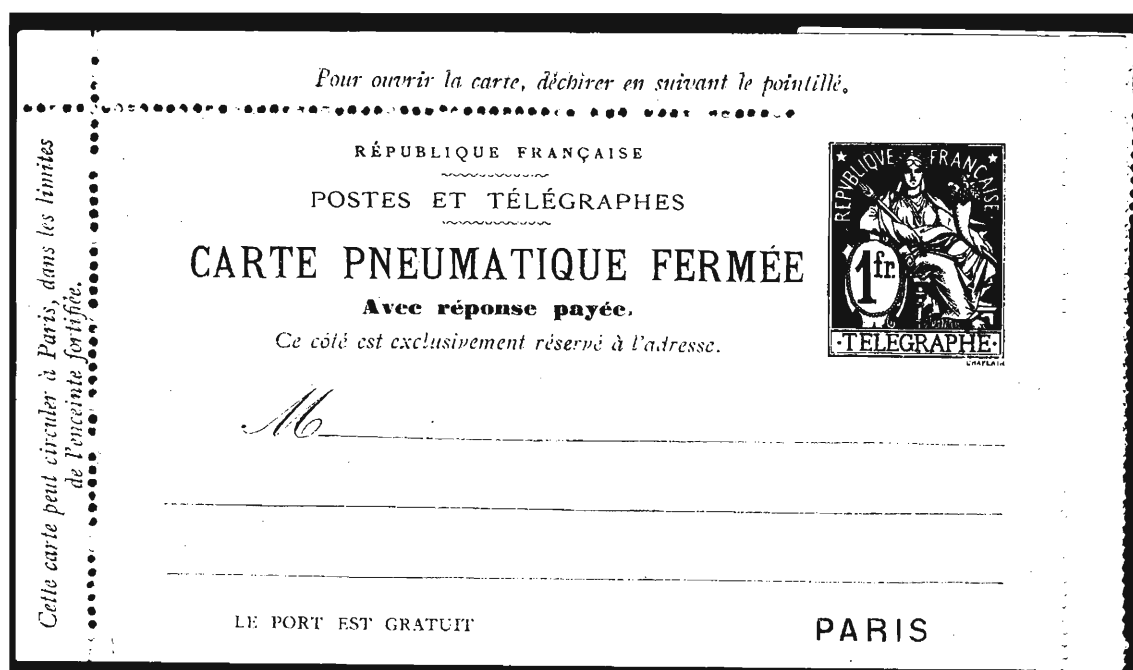




THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 12, No. 3 August 2004
(Serial number 31)



Open up and see what is inside! - Reply Paid Lettercards. See page 9.

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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.freeseve.co.uk
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POST HOLDERS AND COMMITTEE:-		
WEB SITE MANAGER - Lars Engelbrecht e-mail: le@postalstationery.dk		COMMITTEE MEMBERS Alan Huggins Iain Stevenson

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

SOCIETY CALENDAR 2004/5**Saturday 30th October 2004**

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

- 10.30 am Auction lots to be set out and viewing commences.
Entries for the Tony Chilton Competition accepted and set out on display boards.
- 11.00 am Society's AGM.
- 11.30 am Judging and viewing of the Tony Chilton competition entries.
- 12.30 pm Announcement of the competition winner and presentation of salver to the winner.
- 1.00 pm Lunch at a local restaurant or bring your own sandwiches.
Continued viewing of auction lots.
- 2.00 pm Auction commences.
- 4.30 pm Meeting closes.

Saturday 26th March 2005

At the British Philatelic Centre 107, Charterhouse Street, London EC1. 11.00 am to approx. 4.00 pm.

Lars Engelbrecht will give a display of "Danish Postal Stationery 1871-1905", which received a gold medal at the international FIP exhibition in Bangkok in 2003.

This will be followed after lunch by members' displays. Members are asked to bring along a maximum of 30 sheets each and to give a display of not more than 10 minutes with a further 10 minutes for viewing.

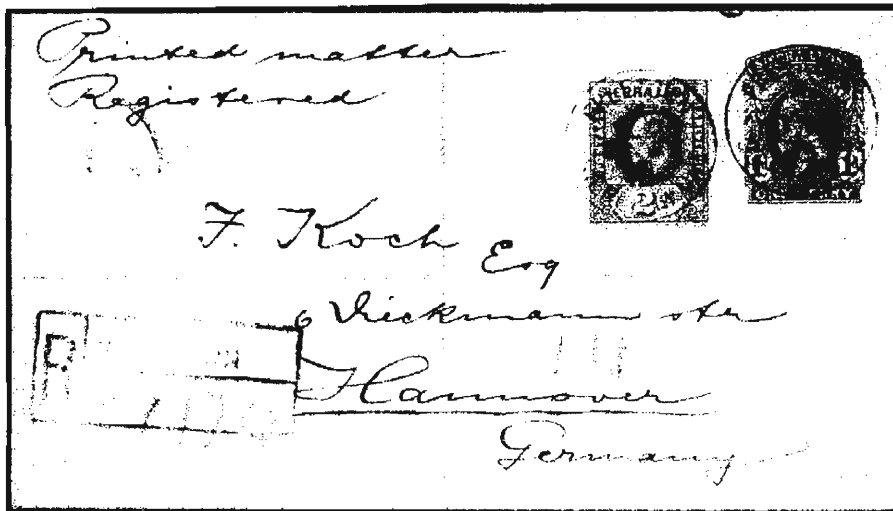
Due to the new Centre rules we are unable to repeat the Sandwich and Wine Lunch. But we will arrange to eat in one of the restaurants close by, and all members are invited to join in. The cost is not likely to be more than £10 each, including wine.

Saturday 11th June 2005. At Swinpex, St Joseph's Lower School, Queen's Drive, Swindon, 2.00 - 4.00pm.

Saturday 29th October 2005 At the British Philatelic Centre 107, Charterhouse Street, London EC1 11.00 am to approx. 4.00 pm. Auction and Tony Chilton Competition.

Details of the meetings for 2005 will be given in the November issue of the Journal.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - AUGUST 2004



This cover is slightly unusual in that it is a Sierra Leone George V 1d carmine envelope uprated with a 2d grey Edward VII but endorsed 'Printed matter Registered' from Freetown 21st July 1913 to Hannover, Germany. Backstamped with a hooded Registered London of 3rd August and Hannover strike just a day later.

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have received a positive response to our plea for a new Hon. Treasurer to replace Sam Barkley. His nomination will be made at the AGM on 30th October 2004 where I am sure he will be elected with acclaim. This is obviously a vital post in the Society and I am very grateful to him for offering his services.

Arrangements for the display entries for Stampex are gathering pace and I hope to set out in the next Journal further information regarding insurance, stewarding, handing-in of entries etc. As ever volunteers are always needed on the day(s) so if you can devote just a couple of hours or so it would aid enormously.

This is my last Chairman's Chat as at the AGM Peter O'Keeffe will take over, subject to any last minute problems, but thank you in advance for reading these few words.

Keith Hanman

SECRETARY'S NOTES - AUGUST 2004

THE SOCIETY'S AGM, 30TH OCTOBER 2004

The Society will be holding its Annual General Meeting this year at 11.00am on Saturday 30th October 2004 at 107 Charterhouse Street, London. If any member would like to raise a matter for discussion would they please notify the secretary so that it can be included in the meeting agenda, and if necessary a response prepared in order that it can be dealt with at the meeting rather than later in the year. This does not preclude members from raising matters under "Any Other Business".

PROPOSED NEW TREASURER

I am very happy to be able to report that one of our members, Martin Taylor, has offered to take over the role of Society Treasurer, if members elect him at the AGM this October. Martin has an accounting background and still runs his own philatelic business. Once again it

is good to know that we are able to find volunteers for the important tasks that are essential for the successful running of the Society. However, all matters relating to Society finances, membership subscriptions, etc, should be addressed to Sam Barkley until Martin has been formally voted into office. Members will be informed of details of the change in treasurer in the November Journal.

AEROGRAMME PLATING

One of our new members, Keith Griffiths, has sent me notes on the plating of some of the British aerogrammes that were issued between 1980 and 1985. I would be happy to provide copies of these (5 A4 pages) to any member at cost. Keith is a very well known and highly respected philatelist in New Zealand who has been studying British aerogrammes for many years. He is also the author of "New Zealand Airgraph Service 1942-1945".

REQUEST FOR LIBRARY MATERIAL

Our new librarian, Chris Howe, would like to improve the quality and quantity of library material available for members to borrow. If any member has unwanted or duplicate books or articles they would be happy to give to the library, please get it touch with him, his address is on the inside of the front cover.

TONY CHILTON COMPETITION

Don't forget to get your entries ready for the Tony Chilton Competition to be held immediately after the AGM on Saturday 30th October 2004 at the British Philatelic Centre in London. Full rules were published in the Journal last year and all new members should have received a copy on joining. If anyone would like another copy please send a SAE or reply coupon to the secretary.

MEETING REPORT

SWINPEX 2004

Swinpex has become one of the largest and most respected stamp fairs in the South of England, with more than 40 dealers from all over the country, and specialist societies such as ours jostling for use of the meeting rooms which are provided free of charge. There were so many dealers present that it was inevitable everyone would find a few items, whatever country they collected. Most people I spoke to were very happy with their purchases and everyone seemed to have found something special for their collections.

This year six of our members gathered together in the afternoon of 12th June for a successful regional meeting, having spent most of the morning going from one dealer's stand to another. I know I spent more money than I intended, so it's bread and water for the next few weeks!

All six of us displayed something of interest that sparked plenty of discussions, lots of questions and also some of the answers.

Colin Baker started things off with a display of Great Britain envelopes (both Post Office issues and stamped to order varieties) from the reign of King George V. These included both uprated and downrated items, advertising envelopes and those sent by airmail.

Geoffrey Richardson showed us plenty of examples of Austrian postcards from the period 1877 to 1906 that had been used in Trieste with Austrian cancellations. He explained that the Austrians had governed Trieste until it was taken from them in 1919 under the Treaty of Versailles. Geoff added that although these Austrian cards are very common, finding them with a Trieste cancellation is not very easy.

Arthur Roberts then put up a few Great Britain Swift Air Recorded Delivery envelopes that he told us were an experiment by the Post Office in one part of the country only, that was never repeated. He has been encouraged to write a note about these for the Journal, so watch this space!

George King had a large number of modern Great Britain stamped to order envelopes to show us, which he very rapidly displayed in two sessions. These are the sort of thing that we often find dropping on our doormats and then think no more about. George has studied these however, and has managed to identify several categories. This subject will also be published in a future issue of the Journal.

Alan Bailey showed us Polish postcards. He had a complete set of 60 cards, all with different illustrations and each printed in one of four different colours. He explained that the year and printing numbers were given on the cards (1962 and 25,000) that helped to make their identification much easier. Alan also included other Polish cards in his display.

John Barker finished off the meeting with a collection of Swiss postcards advising customers goods were awaiting collection. All of these were nicely illustrated with equipment used for handling packages, such as pallets, forklift trucks, hoists, etc, which John described as boring. (As a civil engineer I thought they were very informative, but that's the nice thing about collecting, we all have different views). John then went on to show us some German trial issues of envelopes with giant weight steps (300 grams against the British PO's 50 grams) and those that used size rather than weight to determine postage to be paid.

All in all Swinpex was a successful day for us all and I have booked a meeting room at this event for next year, so put a note in your diary for Saturday 11th June 2005.

Colin Baker

HOUSE OF COMMONS POSTAL STATIONERY.

Part III

George King

COLOURED EMBOSSED STO ENVELOPES

[Editor's note: Although this series of articles is concerned with 'HOUSE OF COMMONS POSTAL STATIONERY', I have included the references to 'coloured embossed STO envelopes' produced for the 'HOUSE OF LORDS' which the author has listed.]

Starting with those Embossed with the standard Stamped to Order Stamps of the reign. House of Commons (HoC) have a vertical oval seal on flap, with crown above garter arms [Fig. 1], while House of Lords (HOL) have a horizontal seal on flap, with lion and unicorn supporters to the garter arms [Fig. 2]. Reference numbers are from Alan Huggins *British Postal Stationery*.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Queen Victoria

1d pink	HoC	128 x 85	EP29b
1d pink	HoC	126x100	EP30b
1d pink	HoC	134x107	ES11

King Edward VII

1d carmine	HoC	120x95	
1d carmine	HoC	133x106	ES31
1d carmine	HoC	142x114	

King George V

1d red	HoC	143x115	
1½d brown	HoC	143x113	
1½d brown	HOL	143x115	

King George VI

1½d brown	HoC	143 x 115	ES62
2½d red	HoC	146x121	ES70
2½d red	HOL	146x118	
2½d blue	HoC	146x121	crest is printed in purple
2½d blue	HoC	142x120	ES64 embossed crest
2½d red	HoC		crest is printed in purple
2½d red	HoC	147x120	embossed crest
2½d blue	HOL	145x122	ES64 embossed crest

2½d blue	HoC	144x120	ES64 on buff paper, crest in purple
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Queen Elizabeth II, Tudor Rose Design, mainly with oval crest with 6mm embossed St. Edwards crown on flap.

Violet is in several shades, I haven't seen enough examples to know how constant this is across the varieties. For the House of Lords envelopes, the words in the oval are above the coat of arms until the 3d violet, when there are two versions, and thereafter the words are below.

2½d red	HoC	145x121	with GVI crown
2½d red	HoC	145x121	ES79 with St. Edward's crown
2½d red	HOL	146x120	
3d violet	HoC	145x121	7mm crown used
3d violet	HoC	145x121	ES80 6mm crown
3d violet	HoC	163x116	
3d violet	HoC	161x114	
3d violet	HOL	146x121	ES80 words above arms
3d violet	HOL	144x121	ES80 words below arms
3d violet	HOL	162x116	ES94 words below arms
4d blue	HoC	162x114	ES81
4d blue	HOL	162x114	ES81
4d sepia	HOL	162x114	ES89
4d sepia	HoC	162x114	ES89
4d scarlet	HoC	161x115	portcullis crest on flap
4d scarlet	HOL	116x115	ES94
5d dk blue	HOL	162x114	ES90
5d dk blue	HoC	162x114	ES90

QEII Head in octagon, crest embossed on flap

5d dark blue	HOL	162x115	
2.5p pink	HoC	163x116	(May 73) crown and portcullis crest
3p blue	HoC	162x115	(May 1973) oval crest
3p blue	HOL	162x114	oval crest
3p blue	HoC	163x116	crown and portcullis crest
0.5p Turquoise plus 3p blue	HOL	162x115	crown and portcullis

SPECIAL HOUSE OF COMMONS STATIONERY 1969

For some years, MPs had been able to send letters free of postage to Government Departments, Nationalised Industries, and to Officials of the House. In 1964, the Lawrence Committee

recommendation, that this facility should be extended to MP's correspondence to Local Authorities on behalf of their constituents, was implemented.

On Her Majesty's Service, with Official Paid and three dimensional crown in circle, "HOUSE OF COMMONS" at bottom left. Buff envelopes

126x103
215x 92 (used Oct. 1964)

On Her Majesty's Service, with crown and Official Paid in TV screen shaped outline, "HOUSE OF COMMONS" at bottom left. Buff envelopes

166x115 HoC 51 mm long used Jul 66
164x115 HoC 41 mm long
218x107 "ON HER ..." in upper case used Nov 66
210x110 with handstamp 1 in box used Nov 68
162x115 with 1 printed in box 14x22 mm used Nov 69
162x115 with 1 printed in box 14.5x22mm

When first and second class postage was introduced a large variety of uprates were applied to existing stocks across government departments.

New free envelopes were introduced on October 1st 1969, following the recommendation of the House of Commons Services committee. There were two distinct varieties, a temporary grey black, boxed 1 overprint measuring 15x20, and a later permanent issue with a more rectangular box 13x21, with a larger 1. Both were reported on white and buff envelopes in different sizes, with "HOUSE OF COMMONS" at the bottom left on the front, and with "OFFICIAL PAID" and the crown in a TV screen shaped outline, as the stamp impression. This all looks very much like the standard government mail of the period.

I haven't seen any of these early issues, but by the mid seventies, after decimalisation, the HOC used the portcullis with crown above as their crest on the flap, mainly on light cream paper, always with a 1 in a rectangular box, which varies by several mm in relation to the paid symbol. Print colour varies in shades of black. Many will consider it one issue per basic envelope, with a few varieties.

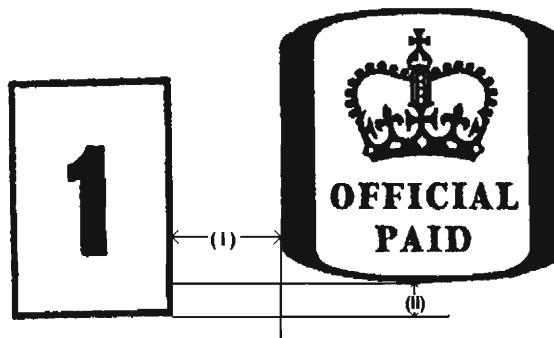
I have added the earliest date I have seen postmarked in brackets, or where the print date can be inferred from contents or other postal marks. The other dates are those printed between seams, or visible inside the envelope.

Crown over "OFFICIAL PAID" in TV screen shaped outline, and 1 in rectangle, initially on off white watermarked paper, (a gateway,

with "Gateway/ No1/ Envelope" on three lines underneath). From early 1979 the paper is unwatermarked.

The position of the rectangular box related to the TV screen shaped outline is measured:-

- i. at the base of the boxed 1, and the lowest point of gap between the 1 and the near edge of the TV screen shaped symbol.
- ii. the box position relative to the TV screen shaped symbol.



Many of the official paid symbols, listed '#', have a very small nick at the top left as shown above. Some have distinct off black colours to the print, grey or purplish black, which seems consistent enough not just to be sun fading. Paper varies in thickness, colour shades and smoothness.

Small 160x114, up to 162x115 envelope with portcullis crest 16mm wide, 65 mm pointed flap, with very thick 1 in the box and slightly embossed on watermarked paper.

INK COLOUR	BOXED 1	DATE	MEASUREMENTS	
			i	ii
black	13x20.5very thick	(Oct 69)	8	1 mm lower

DL size 219x109; 16mm crest on 53mm pointed flap, with very thick 1 in the box, and slightly embossed on watermarked paper.

black	13x21 very thick	(Jan 70)	9	
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DL size 219x109; 16mm crest on 70mm rounded flap, thinner 1 in box, and slightly embossed on watermarked paper.

black	15x21 thin	(Jul ??)	9	
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Small 160x114, up to 162x115 envelope with portcullis crest 16mm wide, 65 mm pointed flap.

black #	14x21 thick	(Nov 72)	3.5	2 low
grey	14.5x21 medium	(Jun 76)	7	in line

black # 14.5x21.5 thick	(Nov 76)	7	1 low
grey 14.5x21.5 thick	(Nov 86)	7	1 low
black 14.5x21 thin	(Dec 76)	7	2 low
grey # 14.5x21 thin	(Apr 76)	7.5	in Line
black 14x21 medium	(Apr 76)	7.5	3 low
grey # 14.5x21 medium	(Apr 76)	7.5	0.5 high
mauvish #14.5x21 thick	(Oct 77)	8	in line
black # 14x21 medium	(Oct 72)	8	in line
black # 14x21 medium	(Sep 72)	8	1 low
black # 14.5x21 medium	(Mar 77)	8	1.5 low
mauvish 14.5x21 thick	(May 77)	8	6 low
grey 14.5x21 medium	(Apr 78)	8.5	5 low
black 14.5x21 thin	(Mar 78)	8.5	6 low
grey # 14x21 thin	(Sep 74)	9	in line
black # 14.5x21.5 medium	(Oct 74)	9	3 low
mauvish 14.5x21 thick	(Oct 73)	9	3 low
black 14x21 thick	(Jan 74)	9	3 low
black # 14x21 thick	(May 72)	9.5	2 low
black # 14x21 thick	(Jun 70)	9.5	2.5 low
black 14x21 medium	(Oct 77)	9.5	3 low
grey # 14x21 medium	(Jun 72)	9.5	3 low
black 14.5x21 medium	(Jan 72)	10	2 high
black # 14.5x21 medium	(Jan 72)	10	2 high
grey # 14.5x21 thin	(Feb 72)	10	2 high
black # 14x21 medium	(Jul 74)	10	1 high
grey # 14.5x21 thin	(Nov 70)	10	in line
black # 14x21 thin	(Dec 70)	10	3 low
black 14.5x21 medium	(Jun 77)	10	4 low
grey # 14x21 medium	(Dec 72)	10.5	3 high
black # 14.5x21 medium	(Dec 72)	11	3 high
black # 14.5x21 medium	(Nov 71)	11	1 high
black # 14.5x21 thick	(Feb 82)	11	in line
grey # 14x21 thick	(Oct 70)	11	in line
grey # 14x21 thick	(Oct 70)	11	in line
black 14x21 medium	(Mar 75)	11	3 low

but with 15mm embossed crest on flap

grey # 14.5x21 medium	(May 72)	9	2 low
grey # 14.5x21 thick	(May 72)	9.5	2 low
black # 14.5x21 thick	(Aug 72)	10	2 high
grey 14x21 medium	(Dec 75)	11	4 low

but No watermark, crest 16mm

grey # 15x22 thick	(Apr 80)	8	in line
grey 14.5x21 medium	(Jan 80)	9	in line
grey 14x21.5 thin	(Jun 79)	9	2 low
mauvish 15x21 thick	(Jun 82)	9	3 low
black 15x21.5 thick	(Jun 82)	9	3 low
dk black 15x21.5 V thick	(Jan 83)	9	3 low
grey 15x21.5 thick	(Feb 80)	9.5	1 high
mauvish 15x21.5 thick	(Apr 81)	9.5	in line
black # 14.5x21 medium	(Apr 76)	9.5	2 low
black 15x21.5 thick	(Aug 83)	9.5	3 low
black 14.5x21 medium	(Feb 80)	10	1 high
mauvish 14x21 thick	(Mar 84)	10	1 low
black 14x21 thick	(Mar 84)	10	3 low
grey 14.5x21 medium	(Oct 79)	10	3 low
black 14.5x21.5 thick	(Feb 80)	10	4 low
grey 15x21 thick	(Nov 81)	10	9 low
black 15x21.5 thick	(Apr 82)	10	9 low

black 14.5x21 thick	(Nov 82)	10.5	9 low
black 15x21.5 thick	(Jan 81)	11	3 high
black 15x21.5 thick	(Nov 79)	12	4 low

DL 220x112 envelope with portcullis crest on 53 mm pointed flap, watermarked

black # 14.5x21 medium	(Feb 70)	9.5	2 low
black # 14.5x21 medium	(Jul 72)	9.5	2 low
black # 14.5x21 medium	(Jan 70)	10	2 low

DL 220x112 with portcullis crest on 49mm curved flap, with watermark, crest is 16mm

black 14.5x21 medium	(Feb 77)	7	2 low
grey # 14.5x21 medium	(Jan 78)	7	4 low
grey 14.5x21 thin	(Aug 78)	7.5	3 low
mauvish 14.5x21 medium	(Mar 75)	8	2 low
grey # 14.5x21 medium	(Oct 76)	8	2 low
grey # 14.5x21 medium	(Apr 74)	8	3 low
black # 14.5x21 medium	(May 74)	8	3 low
black 14.5x21 medium	(Oct 73)	8.5	1 low
purple 14.5x21 thin	(Apr 78)	8.5	3 low
black # 14.5x21 medium	(Jul 73)	9	2 low
grey # 14.5x21 medium	(Jul 76)	9	3 low
black 14.5x21 medium	(J?n 77)	9	3 low
black # 14.5x21 medium	(Jun 75)	9	4 low
black # 14.5x21 medium	(Oct 73)	9.5	2 low
grey # 14.5x21 medium	(Aug 71)	9.5	3 low
black 15 x21 thick	(Aug 79)	9.5	4 low
black 14.5x21 medium	(Nov 78)	10.5	3 low
black 14.5x21 medium	(Nov 77)	10.5	4 low
grey # 14.5x21 medium	(Nov 73)	18	2 low
grey # 14.5x21 medium	(May 74)	18	3 low

DL 220x110 with 16mm portcullis crest, 52-54 mm pointed flap, No watermark

grey # 14 x21 thin	(Jul 72)	6	3 low
grey # 14 x21 thin	(Aug 72)	7	2 low
black # 14.5x21 thick	(Sep 72)	7	4 low
black # 14 x21 thin	(Aug 72)	8	3 low
black # 14 x21 medium	(Dec 72)	8	4 low

The third of these is postmarked with the HoL CDS!

DL 220x110, with 16mm crest on 49mm curved flap, No watermark [Fig. 3]

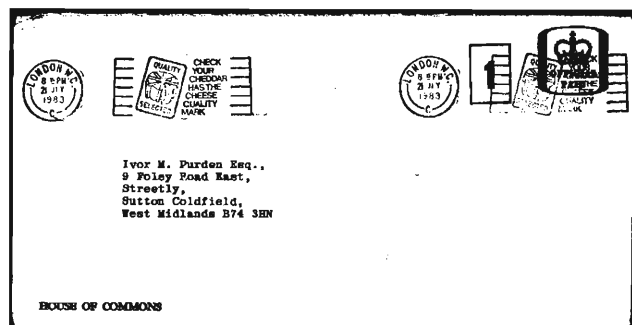


Fig. 3

black	15x21 medium	(Nov 82)	8	1 low
grey	14.5x21.5 thick	(Jul 79)	9	3 low
black	15x22 V thick	(Apr 81)	9	4 low
black	15x22 V thick	(Dec 80)	9	5 low
purple#	14.5x21.5 medium	(Jan 83)	9.5	2 low
black	14.5x21.5 medium	(Feb 80)	9.5	3 low
black	15x21.5 thick	(Feb 81)	9.5	4 low
black	15x21.5 thick	(Dec 80)	9.5	5 low
black	15x22 medium	(Oct 82)	10	1 low
black	15x21.5 thick	(Feb 80)	10	3 low
black	15x21.5 thick	(Dec 80)	11	2 low
grey	15x21.5 thick	(Jul 79)	11	3 low
grey	15x21.5 thick	(Apr 82)	11	4 low
purple	15x21.5 medium	(Jan 83)	11.5	1 low

large size 265x303, inscribed A.2. in seam, no watermark

black	14.5x22	(Oct 71)	9	2.5 low
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I believe there are other large sizes!

I'm still not entirely happy about the classification of these envelopes. They look as if they have been uprated, with the 1 in a box, not quite orientated with the official paid symbol. I know that government departments used them prior to first and second class mail, and then uprated with handstamps, paper stickers, and the uprate was then printed on the envelopes. I've not seen many HoC envelopes from this period, and it seems unlikely that only HoC envelopes were still being printed in two passes more than 10 years after first class mail was introduced, and when they were all first class.

WRAPPERS

I have seen Queen Victoria wrappers with ½d green newspaper stamp, transverse lines in the hair printed "Parliamentary Proceedings" and addressed to "The Mayor", "Town Clerk" and "Clerk to the Local Board of Health"

AIRLETTER

6d red/purple parliament stamp, layout B, (address and flaps at top right) and setting 1C (fold line points to "FO" in "FOLD", which has the HoC crest printed on the reverse at top left, House of Commons/London SW1 on 2 lines at the top right, and has the senders address filled in House of Commons/London SW1, so it has been overprinted on both sides in black.

My personal preference is for mint items, which are available, but in much smaller numbers than used. Some of the bigger mint items are often found folded, when sent out for use as post paid reply envelopes.

There is of course other stationery available for use by officers and servants of the Houses,

much with standard crown official paid in circle, and later in the TV screen shape. These are excluded from these lists.

Both HoC and HoL stationery also exist with no pre-paid stationery marks, often used with stamps and Official Paid marks, and with various seals on the flap, in green, red, blue, clear, and often embossed.

The standard envelopes with coloured STO impressions vary in price from £1 (really) upwards, while the more modern items with black symbols can still be obtained for a £1 or less. However, some are more, as those who deal in post paid marks can charge around £5 for those with special marks for the Speaker, and occasionally up to £10 for the scarcer marks. These marks are listed in English Postmarks originally by Dr Whitney, edition 7 1997, although recently, there are some new official paid marks in circles for both first and second class.

Special Thanks to :-

John Barker who sent me his collection, John Rouse who lent me his stock and who had noted some varieties; Arthur Roberts who listed his collection, Bill Pipe for access to his display; Ian Taylor M. P. for Esher. Fred Upcraft, David Bradbury and Alan Huggins, who all responded to the Journal article.

References:

British Postal Stationery, Alan Huggins
Higgins and Gage, Postal Stationery Catalogue
Article 19/12/69 by Coverman in the Philatelic Magazine

Editor's Note:

Part I of this article listed envelopes imprinted with 'QE II Head in an octagon' (used between 1984 and 1995) and was published in the November 2003 issue of the Journal (No. 28).

Part II listed envelopes imprinted with 'QE II Head in Repeated Postage Paid Circle' (used between 1996 and 2002) and Postcards (used between 1897 and 2001) and was published in the February 2004 issue of the Journal (No. 29).

The author would be interested to hear of any items which are not included in this series of articles.

George King can be contacted at:
45, Rectory Lane,
Long Ditton,
SURREY. KT6 5HP
U.K.

REPLY PAID LETTERCARDS.

The introduction of reply paid lettercards may be seen as a logical development from the introduction of reply paid post cards (first issued by Württemberg in February 1872).

However the issuing of reply paid post cards became a requirement of the U.P.U., whereas the issuing of reply paid lettercards was a matter of choice for postal authorities and was driven more by demand, and occasionally by prestige, rather than by decree. This article looks at the relatively few attempts by a small number of postal authorities to produce these items.

When the 'Postcard' was introduced by the Austrian Postal authorities in 1869, although immensely popular, it was widely criticised. Anyone who came into contact with the postcard during its transmission could read the message which it carried. The 'lettercard' was designed to address this issue by having the message concealed on the inside by folding the card over and sealing the edges. However it still retained the advantage of the postcard over paper and envelope in being a single ready to post item of standard size.

It was another 10 years before the first pre paid lettercard was issued¹. This was for use in the Paris Pneumatic Post System which was opened to the public by the French Post and Telegraph Service on 1st May 1879. The Paris Pneumatic System had commenced operation in 1866 as an experiment for the rapid conveyance of written messages between the telegraph offices at the Grand Hotel and the Stock Exchange. Written messages were rolled up and placed into small cylindrical canisters which were inserted into a tube running between these two places. The canisters were propelled by differences in air pressure. (ie. they were either sucked or blown along) A year later the system was extended to incorporate a number of other telegraph offices.

John Barker

When it became open to the public, two forms were available for use in the system. An 'open' form at 50 centimes and a 'closed' one at 75 centimes (these being a card and a lettercard respectively). The main use of the system was to carry information between merchants at the stock exchange and the nearby Telegraph Offices. There was a need for confidentiality of business dealings which was catered for by use of the 'closed' form or 'lettercard'.

LETTERCARDS WITH A COUPON FOR A PREPAID LETTERCARD FOR A REPLY.

To ensure that a reply could be sent as soon as possible, when one was required, a mechanism for ensuring that the recipient of a lettercard could have a prepaid card at hand for a reply was developed and put into service in December 1884². This involved the production of a lettercard the same size as the normal pneumatic post lettercard, but on rose pink coloured card instead of blue.

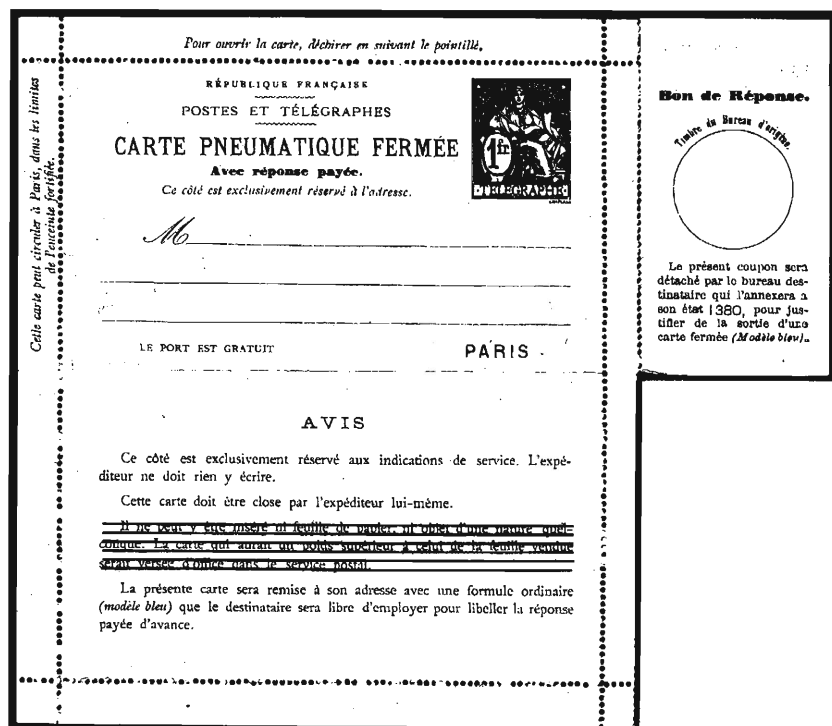


Fig. 1 Lettercard with coupon attached to provide the addressee with a prepaid lettercard for a reply. Paris Pneumatic System 1898.

Footnote ¹ The first lettercard for use in a conventional postal system was issued by Belgium in 1882.
² The first reply paid postcard for use in the Paris Pneumatic System was issued in 1880.

The configuration of the card was type AA [for details see the appendix] and imprinted on it was a 1fr. stamp of the 'Chaplain' design. (The rate for a lettercard had been reduced to 50 centimes in May 1880) The lettercard was headed:

SERVICE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE
TÉLÉGRAMME

Attached to this card, but separated by perforation, was a coupon entitled "Bon de Réponse". This would be detached on arrival at the addressee's post office and exchanged for a standard 50 centimes (blue) lettercard. This blue lettercard, for a reply, would be delivered to the addressee together with the message in the original, rose pink coloured, lettercard.

For the Paris pneumatic system, further issues of lettercards with a coupon attached (exchangeable for a lettercard to use as a reply) were made in 1886, 1897, 1898 & 1900.

The 1886 issue was similar to the previous one but configuration type DD. In 1896 this issue carried a coded printing date³ (620 or 636)

The heading on the 1897 lettercard was changed to:

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES
CARTE PNEUMATIQUE FERMÉE

The configuration was type AA and the lettercards were issued without a coded printing date. These lettercards were overprinted the following year (1898) [Fig. 1] when it became permissible to make an enclosure within a lettercard. The three lines of instructions on the back of the lettercard which prohibited any enclosure were crossed through with six horizontal lines.

On the 1900 issue, the stamp was inscribed 1F rather than 1fr, as previously, and on the back of the card there were only 5 lines of inscription. Some of these printings were made on watermarked paper and some had no perforation between the lettercard and the coupon. Again the configuration was type AA.

On 1st January 1902 the rates were reduced and the reply lettercard became 60c.

Footnote³ In the French 'date code' system, the first digit represents the year and the second two digits the number of the week, thus '620' in this case represents the 20th week of 1896'.

Remaining stocks of all the previous issues were overprinted diagonally, either by hand or by printing press with a variety of overprints inscribed:

TAXE RÉDUITE

60 c.

In 1903 'double' lettercards were issued consisting of a smaller reply lettercard attached to the base of a larger outward lettercard into which the former could be folded and sealed. Details of these are given later.

THE FIRST 'DOUBLE' LETTERCARDS:-

- a small lettercard enclosed and stapled within a larger lettercard.

The first lettercard with an attached prepaid card for a reply was issued by Argentina in 1888. This consisted of a standard sized lettercard (127mm x 84mm when folded) with a smaller lettercard (113mm x 73mm when folded) stapled inside [Fig. 2].

Both cards were line perforated (Configuration type AA).



Fig. 2 Argentina 1888

The distance between the two rows of perforation up the sides of the larger ('outward lettercard') varies from 110mm to 114mm. This invariably means that the 'reply lettercard' often would not fit completely within the perforations of the outward lettercard. Consequently the double lettercards were sometimes difficult to open, a situation that was made worse by misalignment of the card when it was folded,

and misalignment of the reply card when it was stapled onto the message side of the 'outward lettercard' during assembly.

The single lettercards were issued in two denominations: 2 Centavos for the inland rate and 4 Centavos for the foreign rate. However the double lettercards were at a discounted rate of 1½ + 1½ Centavos for the inland rate and 3 + 3 Centavos for the foreign rate. The imprinted stamps portrayed a bust of Miguel Juarez Celman in an oval frame. Both the single and the double lettercards had an overlay of diagonal lines printed in the same colour as the text and stamp. These were spaced 24 lines to 10mm. A second printing of the single lettercards and the 1½ + 1½ Centavos double lettercard was made with the overlay lines spaced 20 lines to 10mm.

New designs for single inland rate lettercards were issued in 1889 and for single foreign rate lettercards in 1892. However Argentina did not produce any further issues of reply paid lettercards.

Argentina was the only country to issue double lettercards with the reply lettercard stapled within the outward card, although the concept of a lettercard with a smaller version enclosed within, for a reply, was taken up by the Netherlands:

- **small lettercards which fit inside larger lettercards.**

In 1896 Netherlands issued 3c. lettercards and 5c. lettercards (Configuration type C) in two sizes: 140mm. x 85mm. and 118mm. x 70mm. (measurements of the card when folded). The smaller lettercard [Fig. 3] would fit within the larger lettercard and could therefore be enclosed within the larger card to provide a prepaid lettercard for a reply.

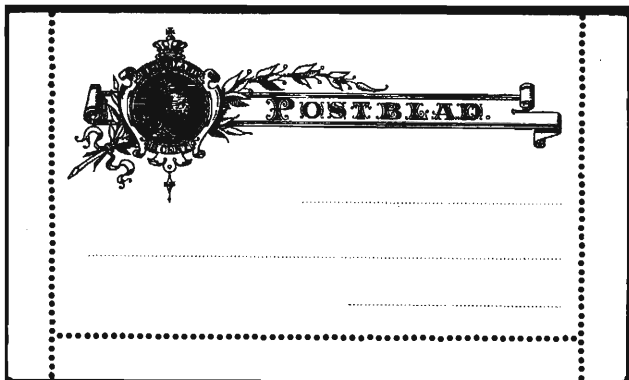


Fig. 3 Netherlands 1896 Small Lettercard

Although there were further issues of the larger lettercards, no further issues of the smaller lettercard were made.

LETTERCARDS WITH A TEAR-OFF REPLY PORTION FOLDED WITHIN THE OUTWARD CARD.

In 1894 France produced the first reply paid lettercard made up of a single sheet of card folded so that the reply portion was attached to the outward portion but enclosed within it. The size of the reply portion was reduced by guillotining the vertical edges, of that part, so that it was enclosed within the rows of perforation defining the tear-off margins of the outward card. The cards were configuration type D and carried the inscription:

CARTE - LETTRE

They were imprinted with the 15 centimes 'Sage' design stamp valid for the inland rate. Further issues of this type of double lettercard were made in 1896 but with the additional inscription:

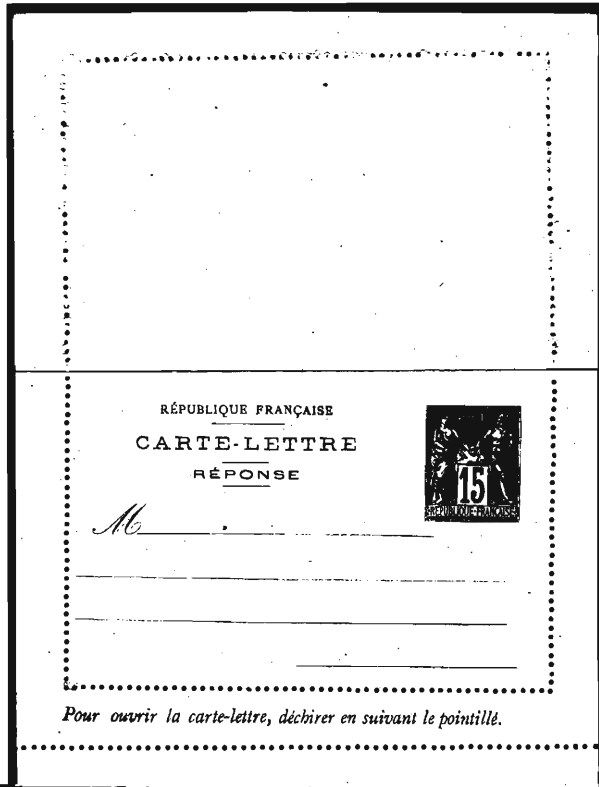
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

In 1899 the coded date '926' was printed on the cards. [Fig. 4]

In 1901 and 1902 further issues were made but imprinted with the 15 centimes 'Mouchon' design. These were without coded dates. The 1902 issue being the modified Mouchon design with the value in a 'shield' shaped tablet rather than a rectangular one. Also printed diagonally in the top left hand corner of the 1902 lettercards were instructions for the sender to insert their address.

In 1903 similar double lettercards were produced for use in the Paris pneumatic system with further issues, differing with respect to the information printed on the back, in 1907, 1908, 1910 and 1911. The 1903 and 1907 issues were imprinted with the 30 centimes 'Chaplain' design, whilst the later ones carried the 'Sower' design

A pneumatic system, on a much smaller scale than the one in Paris, was set up and operating in Marseilles between 1910 and 29th February 1964. A 30c + 30c reply paid lettercard, with the 'Sower' design was issued for this service in 1910.

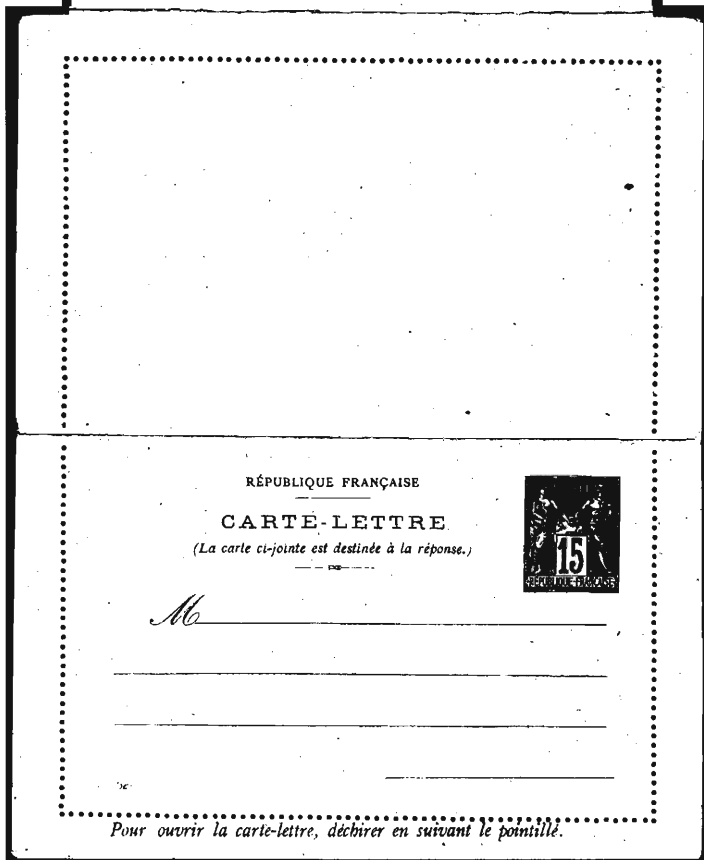


Although most of the French Colonies and possessions issued lettercards, only two of them issued reply paid lettercards, namely French Guinea in 1906 and Gabon in 1917. The French Guinea reply lettercard had a horizontal oblong imprinted stamp featuring the head of General Faidherbe [Fig. 5] whereas the Gabon reply lettercard had a vertical oblong imprinted stamp featuring the head of a native. The overall format of these reply lettercards was similar to those issued by France, configuration being type D.

All reply paid lettercards issued by France and possessions were printed on shades of either greyish or buff card stock.



Fig. 5 French Guinea 1906



The second country to issue reply paid lettercards of the folded type was Ceylon in 1895. This issue was a 5c + 5c denomination for inland use [Fig 6]. The imprinted stamp, printed in black, showed the head of Queen Victoria on a solid circular background. The card stock was a pale blue. The basic form of the lettercard was similar to that issued by France but the configuration was type B.

Unlike the French lettercards, the size of the reply portion was reduced to enable it to fit within the perforations of the outward lettercard by folding the reply portion inside the outward portion, perforating through the folded double card, and then removing the vertical edges of the reply portion by tearing along the outermost line of perforation. The outward portion having the perforated margins left intact. Three more rows of perforations were then applied to the reply portion:- down either side and along the bottom to create the tear-off margins for this smaller reply portion.

Fig. 4 France 1899 with the 'Sage' Design Imprinted Stamp and the Coded Date '926'

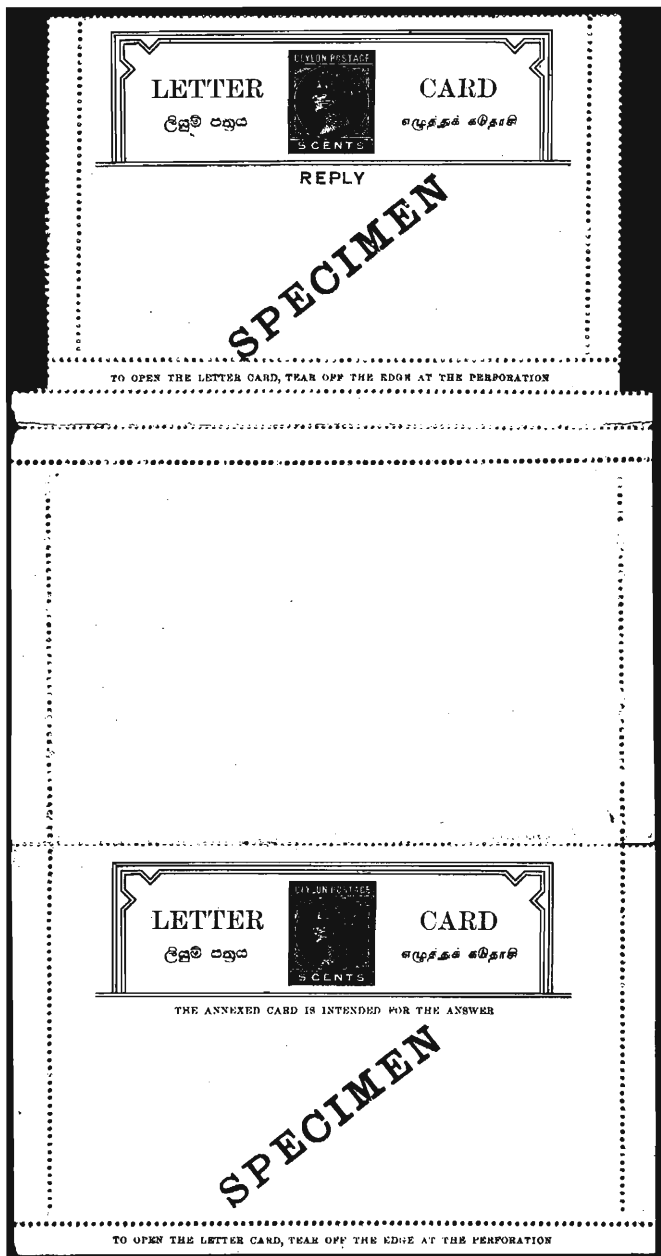


Fig. 6 Ceylon 1895 (The back portion of the reply card, like that of the outward card, is devoid of any printing and was folded beneath the front, when this scan was made, for economy of space!)

The Specimen lettercard illustrated above was also perforated along the folds. Had this been so for the issued lettercards, then they would have been liable to fall apart in use.

Ceylon is the only country to have produced pre paid double lettercards by reducing the size of the reply portion by perforation rather than guillotining. A further issue of similar style, but with 5c. King Edward VII imprinted stamp, was made in 1903.

Three more countries issued pre paid double lettercards before the turn of the Century: Salvador in 1895, Uruguay in 1897 and Mexico in 1899.

The Salvador reply lettercards of 1895 were all configuration type D and were issued in three denominations: 2c + 2c green on pale green card, 3c + 3c red on pink card and 5c + 5c blue on bluish card. The imprinted stamps depict the coat of arms of Salvador. On the back of each constituent card is a drawing of the Post Office in El Salvador [Fig. 7]

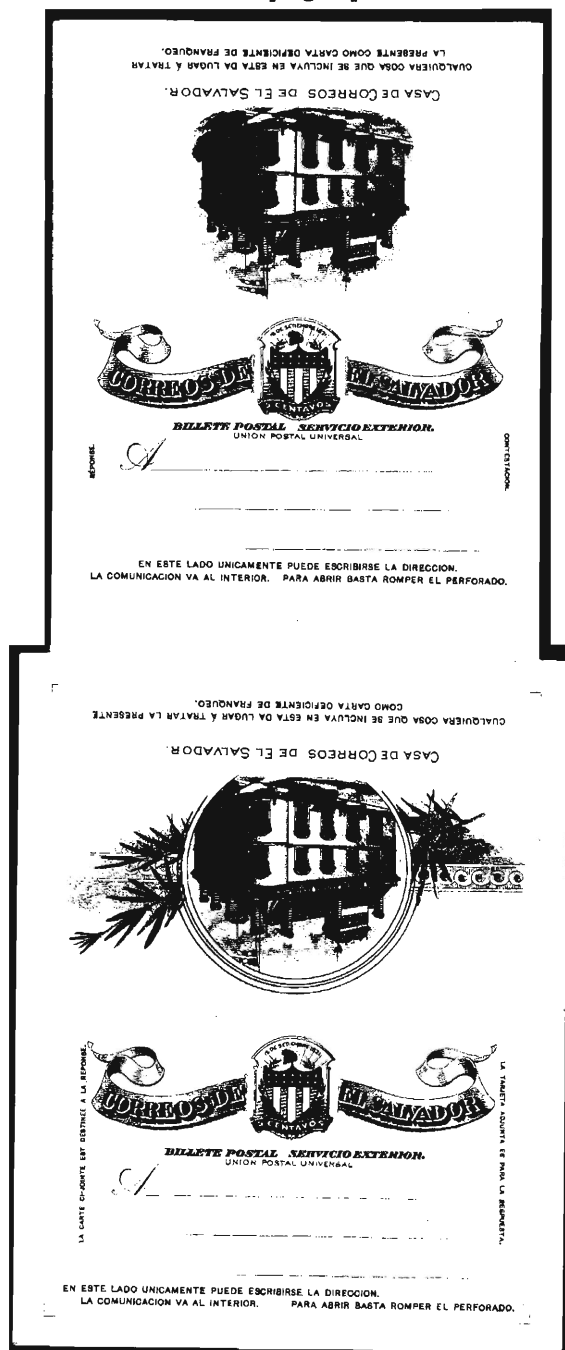


Fig. 7 Salvador 1895

The card illustrated [Fig. 7] is neither perforated nor gummed. Many of this issue were released in this state. Guidelines can be seen in the corners for alignment of the perforation.

Three more reply lettercards, also configuration type D, were issued in 1911 [Fig. 8]. These were all 2c + 2c denomination but printed on three differently coloured diagonally ribbed card: pink, yellow and pale green. The card is parchment like in texture and the printing is raised by embossing from the back.

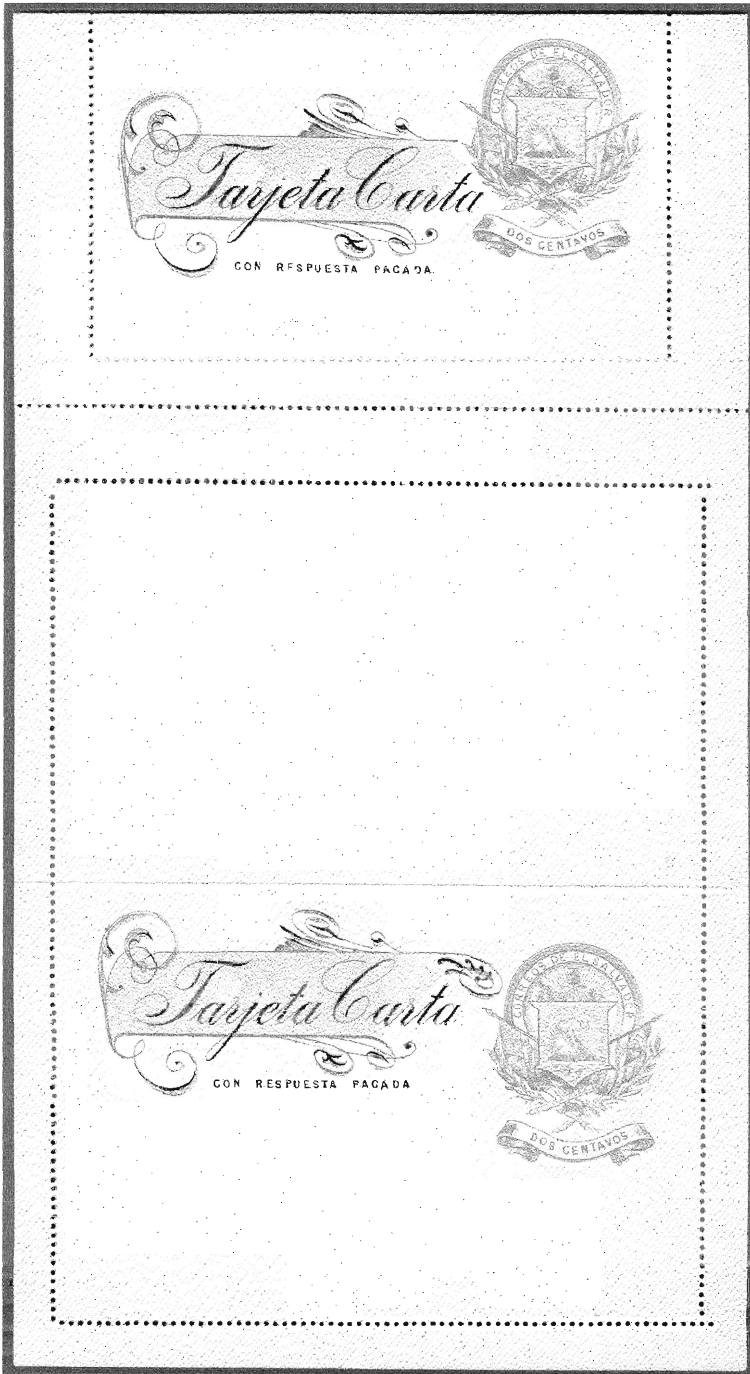


Fig. 8 Salvador 1911

The card illustrated is on pale green stock with the imprinted stamp in red and the heading and its ornamental background in black. I consider this to be a very fine quality piece of postal stationery. However, not very practicable, as the reply portion has not been reduced in width to fit inside the outward card!

Uruguay only issued one reply lettercard. This was a 3c + 3c denomination for inland use made in 1897. The imprinted stamp shows the coat of arms. The configuration was type AA and the printing was by Waterlow.

Mexico issued two reply lettercards in 1899. A 2c + 2c for inland use [Fig. 9] and a 5c + 5c for use to foreign destinations. They were both configuration type D. In 1904 they were both reissued in new colours whilst in 1910 similar cards were issued with a new imprinted stamp, the head of Hidalgo, replacing the eagle design which had been used on the first two issues.

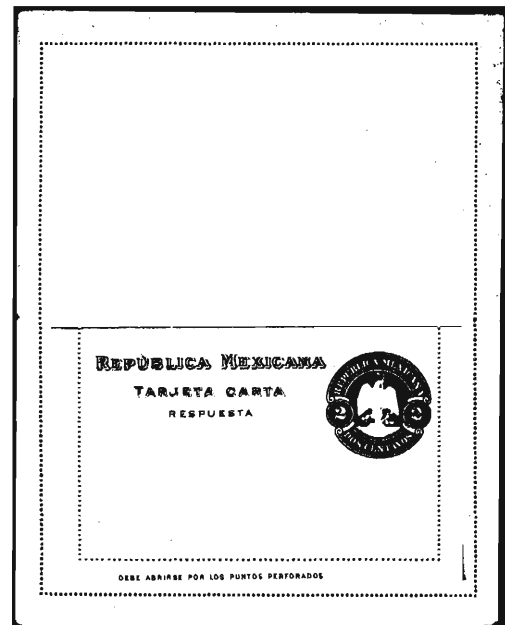


Fig. 9 Mexico 1899 Specimen. Outward lettercard opened to show the reply lettercard folded and enclosed within.

In 1914, as a result of a revolution, existing stocks of postal stationery were overprinted with various monograms or other printing. The 2c + 2c issue of 1899, the 5c + 5c issue of 1904 and both

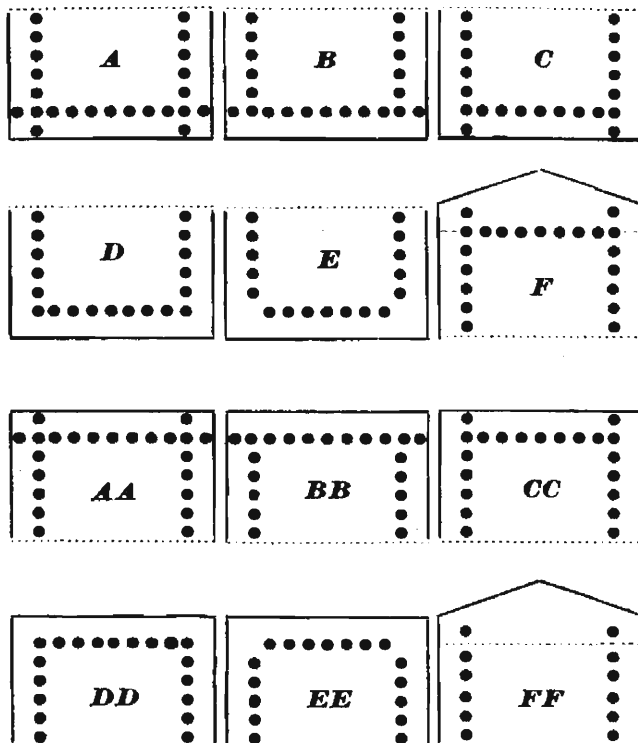
denominations of the 1910 issue are all

reported (by *Ascher*) to have been overprinted in this way and frequently separated and sold as single lettercards.

The second part of this article will focus on the reply paid lettercards of the postal administrations which first issued them in the 20th century.

APPENDIX

Configuration of the perforations and closure of lettercards as described by *Ascher* and adopted by *Higgins* and *Gage*.



The illustrations show the address side of the folded lettercard with the perforated/rouletted margins used to seal the card. The imprinted stamp would normally appear in the top right hand corner of the face as seen.

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.

All entries for GB members have their location listed by town or county, all others by country only. Members whose names are followed by '#' have recently joined the Society.

COUNTRY OR AREA COLLECTED	MEMBER	LOCATION
Great Britain	Mr J O'Shaughnessy #	Lancashire
Great Britain, early QV only (M)	Mr J Forbes-Nixon #	Bristol
Great Britain, air letters (M)	Mr K A Griffiths #	New Zealand
Great Britain, air letters (M)	Mr C Dazeley #	Buckinghamshire
Great Britain overprints	Mr J Perrott #	Co Down N.I.
Great Britain, STO	Mr J Perrott	Co Down N.I.
Great Britain, Registered mail	Mr E J Caesley #	Cornwall
Great Britain, Registration receipts and AR forms (S)	Mr D Fraser #	Surrey
Great Britain QV post cards (M)	Mr D Fraser	Surrey
Great Britain, QE II Machin issues	M. B Lemmer #	France
New Zealand, air lettercards and aerogrammes (S)	Mr K A Griffiths	New Zealand
W Europe, especially Switzerland	Mr R Haynes #	Avon

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

IRISH CHARITY/PROPAGANDA CARDS

John Barker

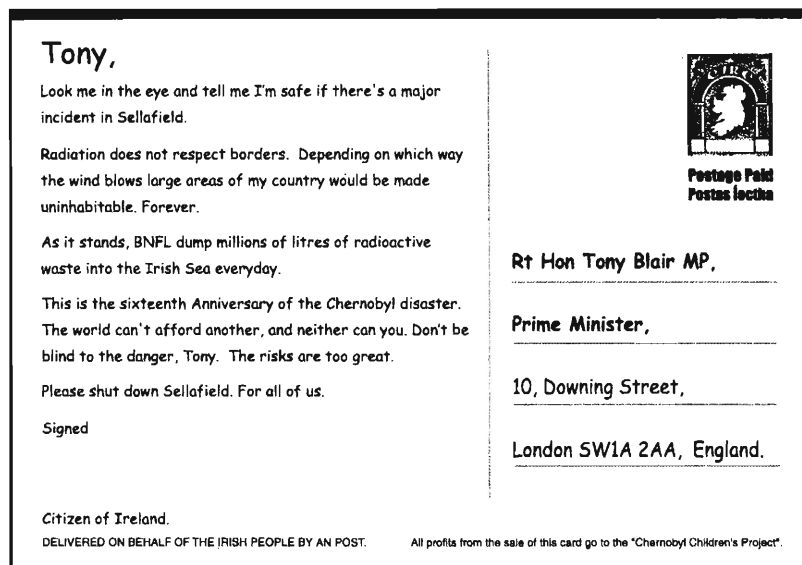
At our meeting in Swindon in June 2003, George King showed a set of three cards issued by the Irish Post Office in 2002. As these raised considerable interest, I will give some of the story of this issue.

In the early part of 2002 the Philatelic Bureau of 'An Post', the Irish Postal Service, publicised a set of three post cards (Product Codes 02CCF1-3) in their 'Collectors News'. The item was headed "Chernobyl Children's Project Team - Sellafield Postcards" and read:

"Set of three postcards sold by An Post on behalf of the Chernobyl Children's Project, which produced the postcards and will receive the proceeds of sales.

The set of three postcards is part of a campaign to have the nuclear power station at Sellafield, England closed down because of the potential environmental danger it poses to the Irish Sea and the island of Ireland. The three cards are pre-stamped and pre-addressed to the British Prime Minister, Prince Charles and the Chief Executive of British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. This is the first time a project like this has been supported by An Post. These postcards will make a somewhat poignant addition to your collection!"

Beneath were illustrated the 'picture' sides of the three cards.



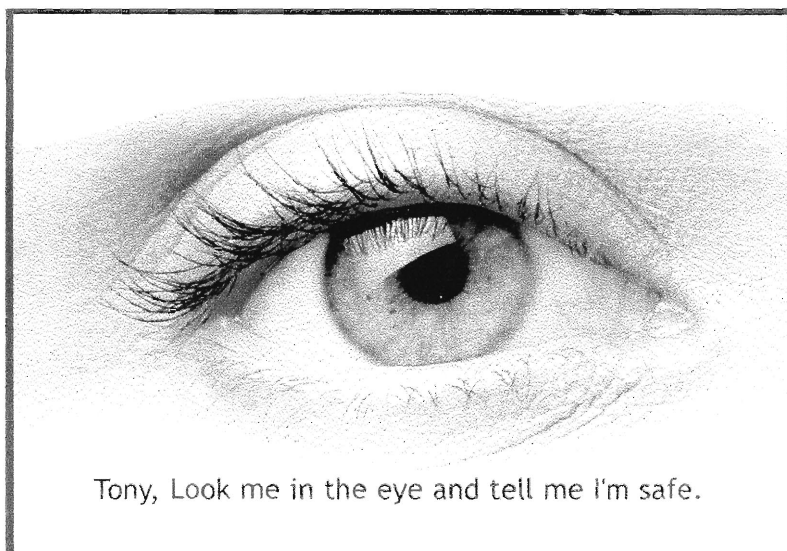
All three cards are reproduced here together with the messages, printed on the address side, which make the case for the closure of Sellafield.

However this was not just another issue aimed solely at collectors. All households in the Republic of Ireland received a larger version of the card which was addressed to Tony Blair together with a tear-off portion giving instructions on how to use the card. An order form for the three cards was also included.

The idea to produce these postcards was put forward by the

'Shut Sellafield' Campaign, an organisation led by Ali Hewson, the wife of Bono the lead singer of the Irish Band U2. The instructions for using the cards was to post them by 19th April at the latest. All despatching offices around the country prepared separate labelled bags for each of the three recipients which were forwarded on to a central location in Dublin, when the bags reached a certain weight. The postcards were kept separate from the ordinary mail.

The consignment of postcards was sent to the UK in a separate



Charles - wish you were here?

This is how my country could look if there's a major incident at Sellafield.

Depending on which way the wind blows, Dublin, Dundalk, Drogheda and much more could be uninhabitable. Radiation does not respect borders.

Don't wait to find out Charles, please call on your Government to shut down Sellafield.

The risks are too great. As it stands, Sellafield is responsible for dumping millions of litres of radioactive waste into the Irish Sea everyday.

Signed

Citizen of Ireland.
DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE IRISH PEOPLE BY AN POST. All profits from the sale of this card go to the Irish Red Cross Society.



Postage Paid
Postas loclta

HRH The Prince of Wales,

despatch using a third party who then injected the postcards into Royal Mail's postal system for onward delivery to the three individual addresses.

The Irish Post Office liaised closely with Royal Mail to ensure that the cards were delivered on the



16th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster on 26th April 2002.

Any postcards which were received after that date were despatched to the UK on an ad-hoc basis for onward delivery to the three addresses.

In a press release issued on

Norman,

You know BNFL dump millions of litres of radioactive waste into the Irish Sea everyday.

You know the truth is that we are not safe if a major incident happens at Sellafield.

You know that radiation released into the atmosphere has no borders.

You know if this radiation is carried on the wind large areas of our country would be contaminated. Forever.

No country, no government and no company can afford this risk for profit.

Stop Sellafield now.

Signed

Citizen of Ireland.
DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE IRISH PEOPLE BY AN POST. All profits from the sale of this card go to the Irish Red Cross Society.

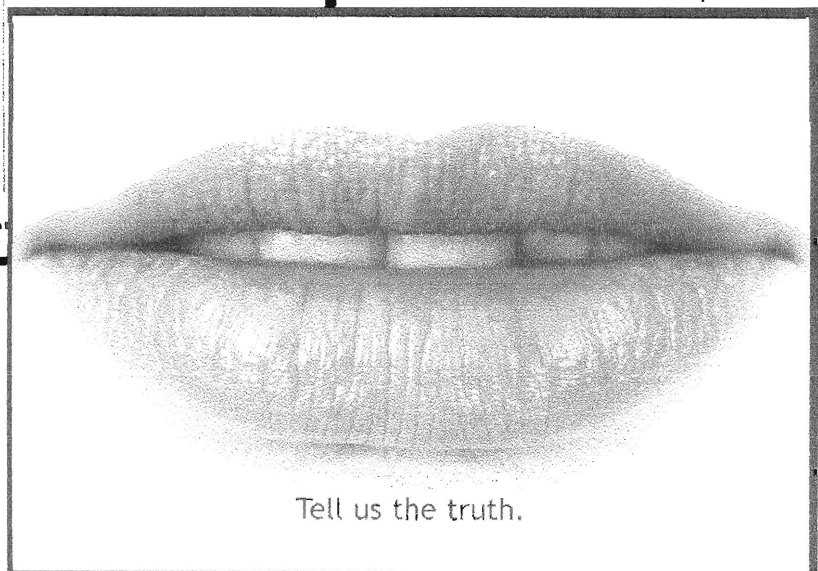


Postage Paid
Postas loclta

Norman Askew,

Chief Executive,

24th April 2002, Liam Sheehan, General Manager of Letterpost Sales and Marketing, stated that "Our final tallies indicate that on Thursday we will be dispatching in excess of 1.1 million postcards to the three addresses in the UK. This figure is a major endorsement of the effectiveness of the post as



a significant campaign vehicle."

The issue of these cards received some retrospective coverage in the philatelic press (Linn's Stamp News 10th June 2002, Geir Sør-Reime's annual survey of foreign postal stationery in Gibbons Stamp Monthly May 2003). According to Cheryl Lee,

Media Affairs Officer for British Nuclear Fuels plc, only one British Newspaper reported the story of these cards. Approximately 100,000 cards were delivered to BNFL over a two week period.

This figure possibly reflects the actual sale and use of these cards, whereas the '1.1 million' referred to in Liam Sheehan's press release would include those cards delivered free to the households in Ireland.

As these cards bear an impression which indicates that postage has been pre-paid, it would have been quite legitimate to have put a different address label over the one printed on the card and to have sent it post-paid to some other addressee. How many, if any, were used in this way is unknown.

The cards do not carry a value of the premium to be donated to the charity as has been the case with most other charity

(semi-postal) issues produced by other countries. For example the German Nothilfe and Winterhilfswerk postal stationery cards and stamps. Instead, at the bottom of each card is the statement '*All profits from the sale of this card go to the "Chernobyl Children's Project"*'. According to their Press Officer, the Project has not yet received any proceeds from the issue of these cards. Hopefully this will be resolved in a matter of time when the sales figures for the issue are complete.

Proposals to close Sellafield within the next ten years have been made on the basis of a number of factors, particularly the scaling down of the Nuclear Power Industry in the U.K.

SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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 p 2)

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.

The last cumulative index for the PSS Journal covers the period up to October 2001. A few copies of this are available at £1.00 postage paid. Where back copies of a particular issue are not available, I will photocopy relevant pages at 10p per page plus postage and packing

FUTURE ISSUES OF THE JOURNAL.

The Journal is issued four times a year, in February, May, August and November. It will normally be distributed during the second week of the month of issue. Copy dates, for submission of material for inclusion in the 'next' issue, are given on page 23.

What appears in the Journal depends on what material I have available for publication. Please think about how **you** could contribute. Articles, news, reviews, comments on items of interest, queries, or anything else relating to postal stationery will be most welcome.

With our current membership in excess of 230, the Society surely has, collectively, a wealth of knowledge and information. The Journal is **your** means of sharing this knowledge, expertise and enthusiasm. Even if your area of interest is relatively narrow or restricted to a single issue or period, writing an article can be rewarding. Other members may see the relevance or parallels to their own particular field of interest, thus providing a stimulus to their area of collecting.

Please submit your article(s) to the Editor. Each year, the contributors of articles which are published in the Journal are eligible for **The Postal Stationery Society Literary Award**.

If you have any queries about contributing to the Journal, please contact the Editor (details on page 2 of this Journal).

CLASSICS AT THE BPM

3. THE FARTHING POSTCARD

Colin Baker

Three British postcards from the Frank Staff collection form the basis for this third article on classic postal stationery held by the Bath Postal Museum.

The public's demand for cheaper post did not end in 1840, when the Uniform Penny Post commenced and the Mulready stationery was first put on sale. Later in the 19th century, when the ½d postcard was introduced in 1870, the public were still not satisfied. They felt that the Post Office was simply another Government department fleecing them of their hard-earned pennies. Many people wanted to see circulars and other mass-produced mail delivered for ¼d. However, the Post Office was quick to suppress any company trying to make private deliveries, especially the farthing delivery companies.

In 1840 many of the new 1d Mulready lettersheets had been overprinted with numerous "classified" advertisements and had been sold to the public for 8d or 9d a dozen. The Post Office may not have liked this, but were powerless to do anything about it since the full postage had been paid, the difference between that and the selling price of these cheap lettersheets being made up by advertising revenue. Later in the 19th century, stamped to order 1d lettersheets were prepared and sold at ½d, although the full cost of impressing the 1d stamp had to be paid to the Post Office. Once again the revenue raised from advertising made up the difference.

In an attempt to satisfy the public's demand for cheap postcards, a similar idea was tried out by a number of firms. Small advertisements were printed around the edge of the reverse sides of both Post Office issue and stamped to order postcards, and these

were sold to the public for less than the cost of the stamp, often at ¼d each.

The postcard in the first illustration [Fig. 1], called The Churchman's Farthing Post Card, was published by The Church Agency at 51, Threadneedle Street, London. It was sold at 2/6d per 100, and consisted entirely of advertisements with a religious theme. It was printed on the reverse of an 1889 stamped to order postcard.

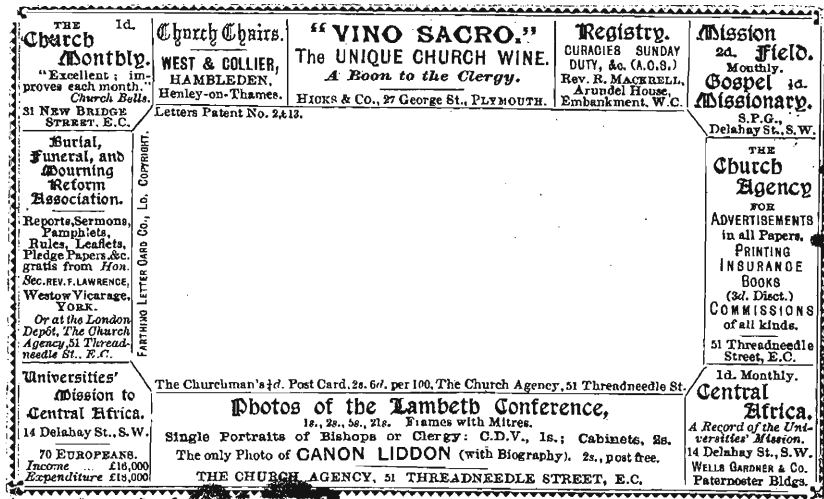


Fig. 1

The other two illustrations [Figs 2 & 3] are of postcards prepared by The Farthing Letter

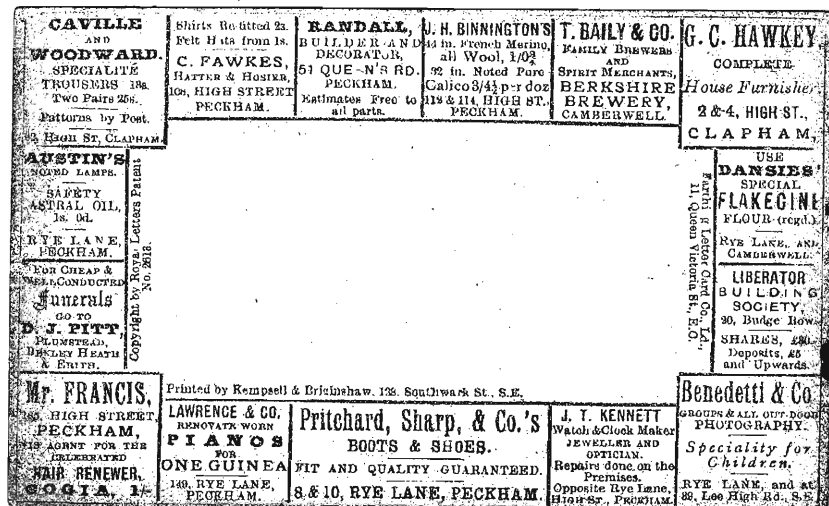


Fig. 2

Card Co. Ltd, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC, and carry a mix of commercial advertisements. They are also printed on the reverse of 1889 stamped to order postcards.

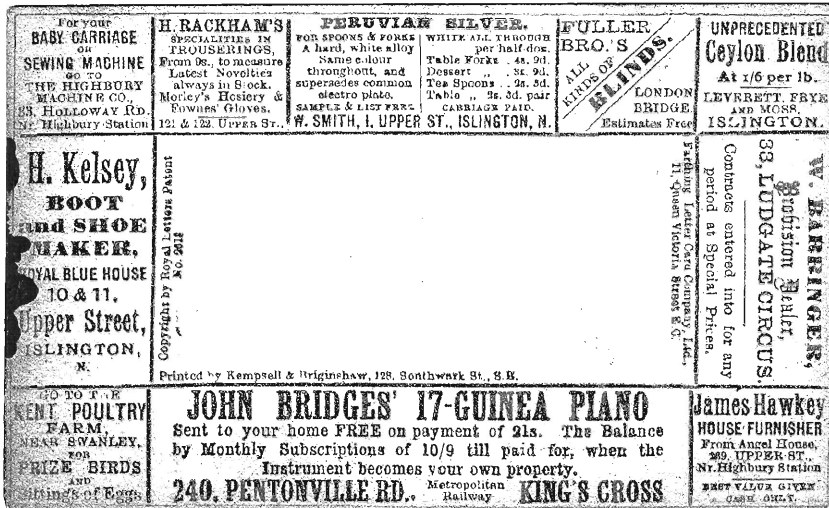


Fig. 3

None of the three postcards illustrated have been used, and so it is not possible to give actual dates of issue. However, it is known that The Farthing Letter Card Company was

set up in 1888, and since it had a relatively short existence it is likely that the latter two postcards were sold at about this time.

If you would like to know more about these advertising postcards, a series of articles in the GBPS Journal volume 10/4 to 11/5 gives much more detail.

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.

QUERIES AND REPLIES

QUERY:- RELEASE DATE OF THE FIRST BRITISH PALESTINE AEROGRAMME.

Tony Goldstone

My query is regarding the official release date of the first British Palestine aerogramme in 1944.

Kessler lists 28th October 1944 as the 'first day' and this is followed by a German aerogramme catalogue I have seen. However Hochheiser's Postal History of Palestine Mandate lists 1st November 1944 and so does Dorfman's catalogue.

As 28th October 1944 was a Saturday it seems unlikely to be a release date as Saturday is the Jewish Sabbath when all Commercial and Business enterprises would be closed in the many Jewish areas of Palestine.

The earliest aerogramme I have seen and I have in my collection is late December 1944.

Could any member confirm the correct Release date?

REPLY:- INSURANCE CARDS.

(February 2002)

Peter O'Keeffe writes "Further to my article in the PSS Journal of October 2003

(Serial No. 27), Larry Parkes has again written from California and has sent a photocopy showing the unused Ocean Accident card, numbered 3655, on which I had raised a query. Larry confirms that this was not issued through a machine, but we have no information as to how it was obtained unused, ie. not authenticated by a machine timed date nor postally used.

Larry also sent a photostat copy of another 'Ocean Accident' card which was stamped "SPECIMEN" on the back. The front of which was illustrated on p 19, of PSS Journal No. 30. This might be unique as it is the first 'Specimen' so far reported by a member.

Despite my writing to the now retired former Archivist for the 'Ocean Accident Group', and speaking with him since, I have been unable to obtain any further new information regarding the issue of these cards and can still only speculate on the way they were issued. Unfortunately, no illustrations of the issuing machines have yet been seen. I wonder if any of the 'Railway' enthusiasts might have a photograph of any that might have been installed at a railway station?

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

DEFINITION OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Peter O'Keeffe

I write to enquire whether the PSS has ever published a full definition of what is "POSTAL STATIONERY"? If not, perhaps we should clarify what we consider fits the category.

In the last Edition of the PSS Journal, there are at least three articles which I understood might not qualify as "Postal Stationery". Are such things as 'postal' forms without prepayment of a postage rate actually within the category or should they only include those with either a printed, an imprinted or an embossed 'stamp'?

There are many non 'stamped' items of stationery issued by Postal Authorities which could be classed as true Postal Stationery, ie. various 'Official Paid' items, certificates of posting, registration receipts (see pages 5 - 7 of Journal No. 30), recorded delivery forms, and even P.P.I. envelopes, plus many other types of forms, or labels etc.

Besides the article about unstamped 'registration receipts', there is our 'Chairman's Chat' with him writing about an Air Letter, and the enquiry about a 'Perfin', even though it is on a Postal Stationery postcard. I could offer a fairly long article all about The Recorded Delivery Service, one of my 'side line' collections, but have been told that such a topic is not considered as proper Postal Stationery.

Perhaps we do need a clear 'Definition' before we get too far off our 'beaten track'?

Editor's comments:

In the early days of the Society we devoted a fair amount of space in the Journal to this central issue. In the second issue of the Journal (August 1993) Alan Huggins, our contemporary Chairman, raised this point in a short article "Postal Stationery - What Does the Future Hold". The intention was to stimulate discussion amongst members.

This he succeeded in doing: Bill Meredith and John Ray both made useful contributions to the debate in Issue No. 5 (February 1995) followed by other members in Issues 6, 7, 15 and 18.

In Issue No. 7 we printed the F.I.P. (Federation Internationale de Philatelie) definition of postal stationery (published in 1995):

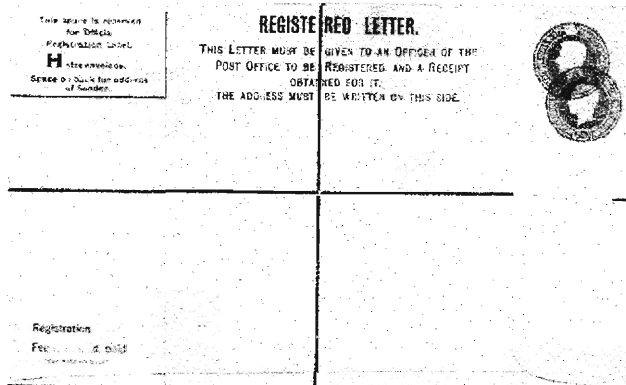
Postal stationery comprises postal matter which either bears an officially authorised pre-printed stamp or device or inscription indicating that a specific face value of postage or related service has been prepaid.

N.B. whilst traditionally the presence of a printed stamp impression has been fundamental to an item being generally accepted within the definition of postal stationery, a number of countries issued so-called "formula" items which were sold to the public bearing adhesive stamps, prior to the issue of postal stationery items with impressed stamps. More recently a growing number of Postal Administrations have introduced postal stationery which, while sold to the public at a specific price, merely indicates that a particular service/postage rate has been pre-paid without indication of value - termed "non value indicators" (NVI). Such material would of course be appropriately included in collections and exhibits of postal stationery. The position regarding items which are similar or identical in format to normal postal stationery but which do not bear either a stamp impression or an indication of value or service is more open to debate, and at the present time, exhibits consisting entirely of such unstamped items are probably best shown out of competition in FIP International Exhibitions. The situation is however a developing one and the Commission may well wish to produce further guidance on this aspect in due course.

In issue No. 18 (October 200), Peter van Gelder suggested a rewording of the F.I.P. definition:

"Postal stationery comprises matter which bears an officially authorised pre-printed stamp or device or inscription indicating that a specific rate of postage or related service has been paid"

As far as I can gather, no further comments on "A Definition of Postal Stationery" have been published in our Journal.

DOUBLE IMPRINT ON RP 59(H)

Tony Bowyers has e-mailed a copy of the 5½d GVI size H registered envelope (Huggins RP 59), illustrated above, with the stamp impression imprinted twice. He would like to know if anyone else has a similar item.

ARTICLES NOTED RECENTLY IN THE PHILATELIC PRESS.

"2002-2003 Postal Stationery, Foreign Countries G-R" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly June 2004)

"2002-2003 Postal Stationery, Foreign Countries S-Z" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly July 2004)

"Postal Stationery Matters" - Peter van Gelder. G.B. Coronation Aerogramme, Vienna's Pneumatic Postal System. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly July 2004)

Articles in the journals of other Postal Stationery Societies from across the world.**Postal Stationery Collector August 2004 (Australia)**

Differentiating Coat of Arms Types on South Australia Newspaper Wrappers.
Australian Postal Stationery Set.
Taiwan Thanksgiving Lottery Postal Cards

Postal Stationery Collector May 2004 (Australia)

Classifying Privately Overprinted, Stamped to Order and Printed to Private Order Victorian Colonial Newswrappers.
New Australian Pictorial Postcards and Envelopes.
Listing of Non-denominated Postal Stationery.

Postal Stationery Collector February 2004 (Australia)

South Africa via 'Pan American' Rate.
Taiwan - Chinese New Year 2004.
Retailing Postal Stationery in Australia.
USSR Postcards with Inscriptions in Non-Russian Languages.
Listing of Australian Non-Denominated P.S.

L'Intero Postale Summer 2004 (Italy)
1897 - Esposizione Internazionale D'Arte Della Città Di Venezia: La "Cartolina Postale Veneziana"
Una Cartolina Postale Con Riposta Prepagata "Artigianalmente"
Fratelli Sgaravatti - Saonara
La Cartolina Per Il XXV Anniversario Della Presa Di Roma In Uso Per L'Estero.

Postal Stationery March/April 2004 (USA)
The Story of the House of Nesbitt.
Joint Issue Postal Stationery.
US Postal Cards Auction Topics.

Postal Stationery May/June 2004 (USA).
When was the First USA Stamped Envelope Issued?

Canal Zone 1918 Registration Envelopes.
Ryukyu Postal Cards and the Pages to Mount them On.

USA Special Usage Envelopes and Mailers.
George H. Reay.

New and Rediscovered Great Britain Postal Stationery. *

Finland Post EasyMail Envelopes.

Plimpton and Morgan Issue (USA) of 1890

* [Editor's Note: The items reported in this article by Alan Huggins were the subject of a short article in our own Journal No. 26 - June 2003]

Ganzsachensammler April 2004 (Switzerland)
Die Streifbänder der Gärtnerei Ernst Meier in Rüti Zurich.
Ganzsachen Allerlei (Neuentdeckungen).
Die Frühdaten bei Postkarten und Streifbänder

POSTAL STATIONERY AT AUCTION

Hong Kong 1879 'THREE' on 5c. on 18c. unused postcard sold for HK\$ 38,000 (about £2,628) - John Bull Stamp Auctions.

Hong Kong 1900 3c. + 3c. outward card with double '4 CENTS' surcharge, one in red and the other in black (the only known copy) sold for HK\$ 40,000 (about £2,766) - John Bull Stamp Auctions.

Great Britain 1840 2d Mulready lettersheet stereo a105 cancelled with a red Maltese cross and dated in the contents of the letter, '12th May 1840' fetched £1,469 (estimated at between £800 and £900) at Bonhams sale on 19th May 2004.

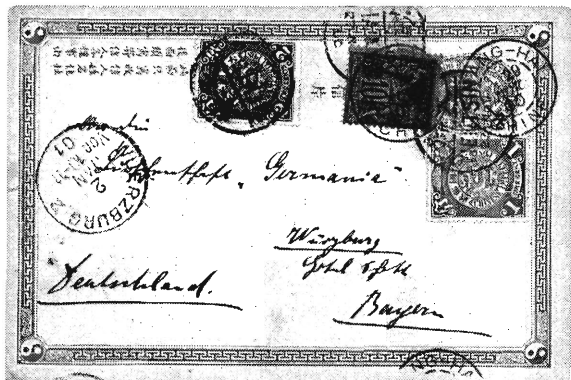
DISPLAYS BY MEMBERS

If you are giving a display of postal stationery, please could you let the Editor know so that the information can be given in the Journal.

Redditch Philatelic Society (Worcestershire)
21st October 'Postal Stationery with a Purpose' - John Barker.

Autumn 2004 Auction in preparation

Our May 2004 auction totalled over £1,013,940 with exceptional prices throughout. Superb Great Britain was joined by the outstanding collections of the Seychelles formed by the late Peter Morgan and of the Nigerias by the late Neville Jones,



contained in specialised sections of the stamps and postal history of the Indian Ocean and West Africa.

Our Autumn auction is in preparation and we are actively seeking collections and lots for inclusion in the sale. *Why not take advantage of the currently buoyant market and contact us today?*

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August	Copy date - 1st July
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