
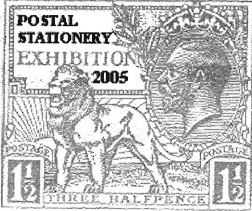




THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 13, No. 1 February 2005 (Serial number 33)

POST CARD  CARTE POSTALE
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
GREAT BRITAIN



24 PAGES DEVOTED TO POSTAL STATIONERY !

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STAMPEX

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(Turn to page 22 for more details)

CONTENTS

Page		Page	
2	The Management Committee	12 - 14	Reply Paid Lettercards, Part II
2	Society Calendar		Portugal and Possessions John Barker
3	Chairman's Chat	15 - 18	Is It Philatelic? Colin Baker
4	Secretary's Notes	19 - 20	Aerogramatics:
4	Editor's Comments		Aerogrammes and Folded Letter Sheets From
5 - 8	V - Mail Laurie Rennison		The Holy Land.
9 - 11	Classics at the BPM 5: Land Disaster Covers. Colin Baker	21 - 22	Notes from the Editor's Desk.
		22	STAMPEX Tony Goldstone

The Management Committee.

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

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Sam Barkley
Keith Hanman

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

SOCIETY CALENDAR 2005**STAMPEX****Wednesday 23rd to Sunday 27th February 2005**

The Society is putting on a joint display with the GBPS on the "Village Green". There will be a reception for members on Sunday 27th February.

Saturday 26th March 2005

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

In the morning 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 pm to 4.00 pm. Members are invited to display up to 30 sheets from their collection and

to give a short explanation of about 10 minutes maximum. There will be plenty of dealers at this event, so there will be ample opportunity to add to your collection, and there is an excellent catering facility run by Swindon Society.

Swinpex is open from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm

Saturday 25th June 2005

The Society will have a stand at Midpex to promote the Society and to attract new members. In addition there will be plenty of dealers at this event which is open 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Saturday 29th October 2005

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

12.00 Tony Chilton competition judging, followed by the presentation of the Tony Chilton salver

12.30 pm Lunch in a nearby restaurant, plus further viewing of auction lots

2.00 pm Society's annual "live" auction.

The meeting is expected to close by about 4.30 pm

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

My niece is an airline stewardess with British Airways, and back in 1991 she had an apartment in Orlando, Florida for use when she had a 'stopover' in the United States. At about that time the Royal Mail introduced their new Airmail service known as "SWIFTAIR EXPRESS" and so I arranged to send an envelope using the new service. I duly purchased the special envelope (I think it cost £1.35) added her address and mine, on the back as sender, and posted it at my nearby head Post Office. When I next saw my niece, she returned the envelope to me. It was in pristine condition, but alas the British Post Office had not post-marked it. There is a pinkish receiver handcancel on the back, dated November 12th but I am not sure whether this is a U.S.P.O. mark or possibly a 'private' mark of the apartment, perhaps applied at the reception desk?

The preprinted stamp "ILS1" is shown alongside, indicating that the "Swiftair Fee" was paid, (for an item weighing up to 60 grammes) and it includes the name "Great Britain" and also "Postage Paid"

So surely this is 'Post Office' issued 'Postal Stationery' and deserves to be included in any lists of GB stationery? What is the 'Official' thinking on this type of mail? Perhaps a member might like to comment: I do not think that it can be classified as a P.P.I. as such items are paid for on delivery, not when purchased.

Best Wishes to all our members for the New Year, and if you have not managed to keep all your New Year resolutions, do try to attend at least one of our meetings in 2005.

I hope to meet many of our members at "SPRING STAMPEX 2005" and trust that all will find something of interest in our joint display with the G.B. Philatelic Society which will be on show in "The Village Green" Area. Do drop in and say hello.

Peter O'Keeffe



SECRETARY'S NOTES

AUCTIONEER

You will have read in the November 2004 Journal that at the AGM Mike Smith was elected as the Society's vice chairman for the two years 2004/5/6. This means that if all goes well, Mike will become the Society's chairman in October 2006. Mike is currently the Society's auctioneer, but he will not be able to continue with this role once he becomes chairman. Therefore we need a new auctioneer. This is an important role in the Society, it gives us all the chance to sell our excess material at realistic prices or to buy items for our collections that can otherwise be a bit elusive.

Do you think you can take over from Mike? If so, please get in touch with him to have a chat about what's involved. If we cannot find a new auctioneer it means the Society will not be able to run its auctions and this will be to the detriment of all members.

ONE SHEET COMPETITION

Yes, you have read this heading correctly. The committee has agreed that we should hold an annual One Sheet Competition.

The competition will be held every March at our London spring meeting, starting with the first meeting of the year for 2005 on 26th March. The rules will be kept very simple. The competition will be open to all members and

will be held and judged at a suitable time during the day. Entries should be on a normal album sheet or similar and must display one or more items of postal stationery. In order to avoid customs duties and the possibility of loss or damage, overseas members may submit their entry as a colour photocopy and this will be treated as if it were an original. If you intend doing this please make sure the whole of the sheet is included in the copy area.

The members present at the meeting will judge the competition on the basis of 'one man, one vote'. In the event of a tie the current chairman (or in his absence the person chairing the meeting) will have the casting vote. Our outgoing chairman, Keith Hanman, has very kindly agreed to provide a suitable trophy that the winner will be proud to display on his/her living room mantelpiece. If the winner is UK based he/she will retain the trophy for 12 months at the end of which he/she must return it to the secretary. Overseas winners will receive a suitable certificate that they may frame for displaying on the wall.

As guidance for the first year of the competition, members should consider submitting a sheet that shows and describes a postal stationery item that is both attractive and interesting. Remember it is the members present who will judge this competition.



EDITOR'S COMMENTS

2005 promises to be a good year for collectors of postal stationery with many of our members contributing to the displays on the 'Village Green' at STAMPEX. Many more, hopefully, will be able to come along to see the 1600 sheets of postal stationery on display and look through the postal stationery stocks of the many dealers who will be there. Please turn to page 22 for more details.

For those who have been waiting for an up to date listing of British postal stationery, then you may not have to wait much longer. Alan Huggins and Colin Baker are soon to publish such a work. Members will be informed of the details through the columns of this Journal as soon as a publication date is announced.

With this copy of the Journal members should receive the June Auction List, this is the first of the two Postal Stationery Auctions for 2005.

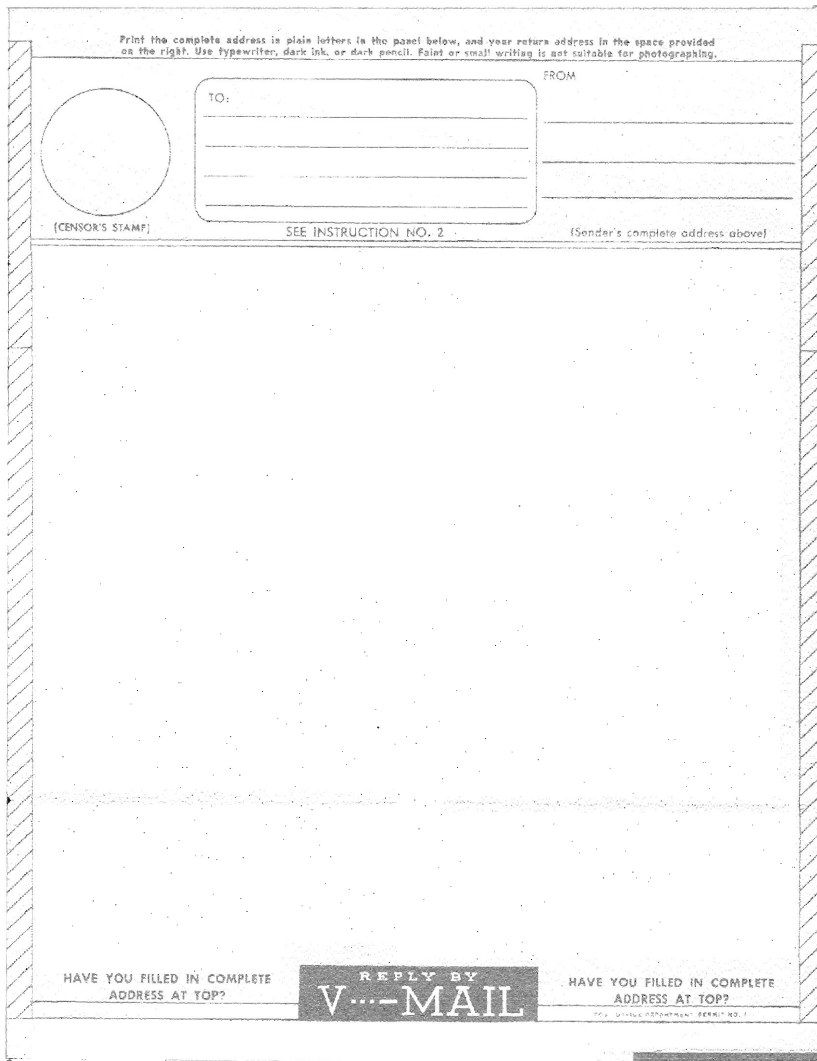
I would like to draw your attention to the meetings detailed on page 2 of this issue of the Journal. Please note that in addition to the advertised programme, at the March meeting we will be holding the first **ONE SHEET COMPETITION**. This meeting is on Saturday March 26th which happens to be Easter Saturday.

In this issue of the Journal you will find a mix of articles and notes amongst which I hope all members will find something of interest. Please keep me supplied with items for publication. I need articles, short and long on research or general interest, notes and queries, reports on new issues, items of interest, auction realisations or any other topic of interest relating to postal stationery.

John Barker

THE V-MAIL SERVICE. 1942 - 1945

Laurie Rennison

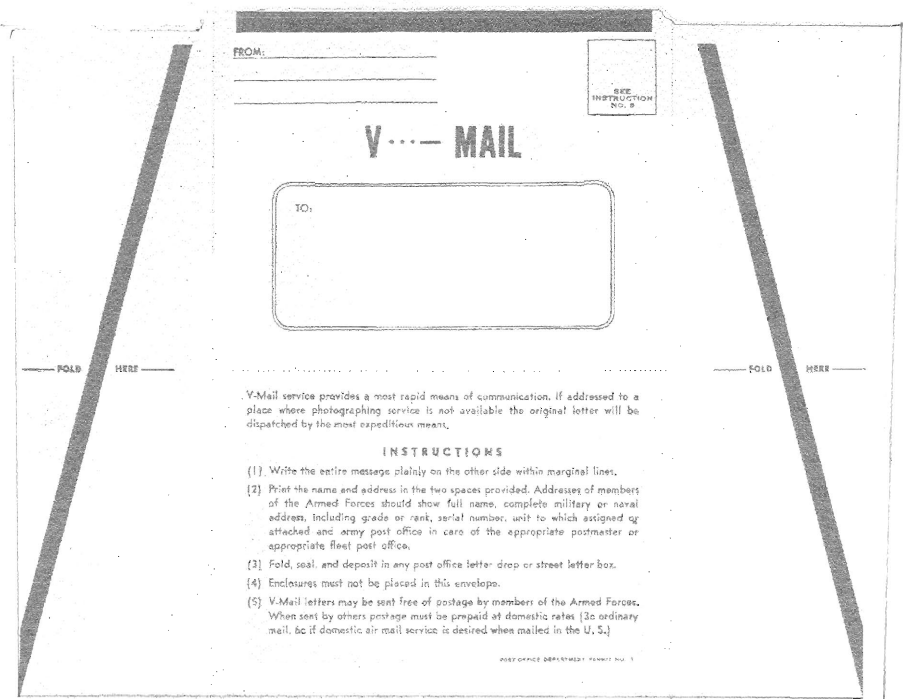


The V-Mail service was a system of microfilming, on 16mm film, the contents of a special one-page letter that includes spaces for the sender's name and address and the recipient's name and address. The single sheet of paper, illustrated on the left (Fig. 1), measured 8 inches by 11 inches and was so constructed as to be folded and sealed as a 4 inch by 5 inch envelope.

An average of 1500 letters could be reproduced on one reel of film, which reduced the original letters to approximately 3.15% of the original volume and weight.

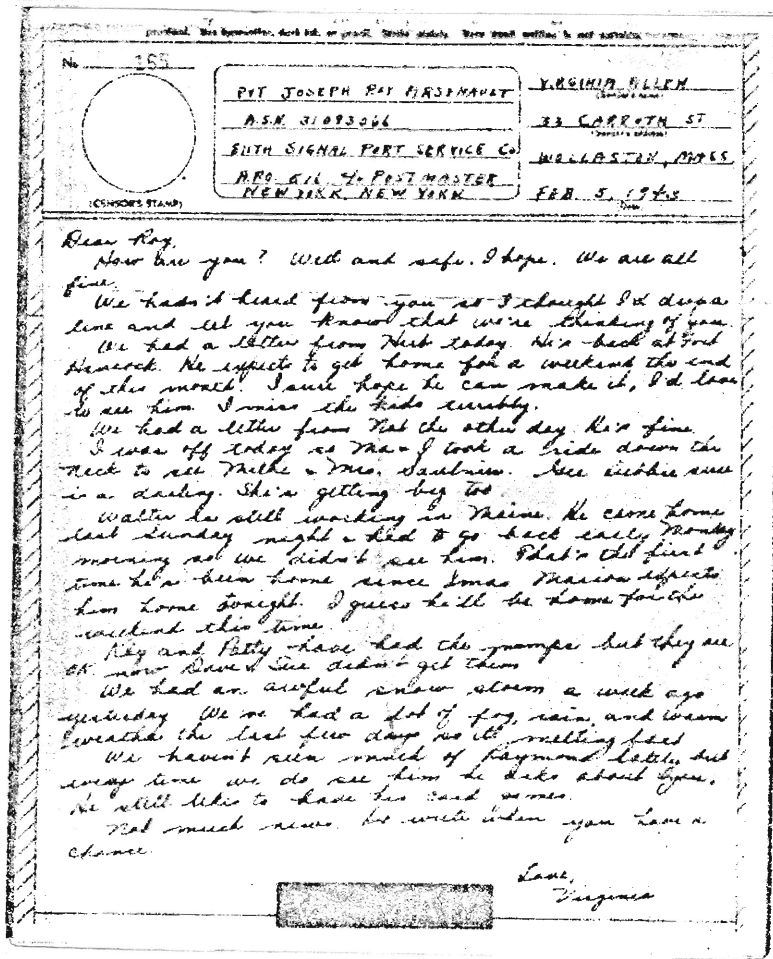
Fig. 1 (Left)
Message side of a V-mail lettersheet

Fig. 2 (Below)
Reverse side of a V-mail lettersheet showing general instructions.



One hundred thousand V-mail letters, when microfilmed on reels, weighed only 30 pounds.

The V-mail system was installed in 1942 when large numbers of troops were being concentrated at overseas bases. The V-mail system was similar to the Airgraphs used by the British military postal system. The reels of microfilmed letters were given high priority for air transportation between the continental U.S. and overseas areas.

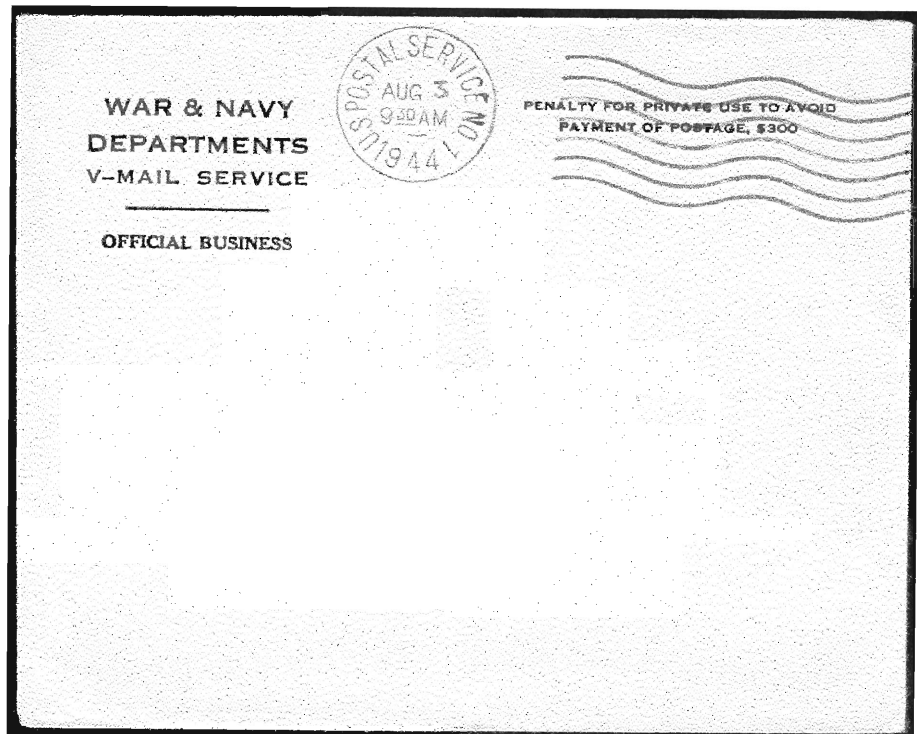


When a V-Mail letter was mailed in the U.S. and addressed to a serviceman based overseas, the one page letter folded as a special envelope, was delivered to one of the following processing stations:- New York for serving areas Europe, North and South America, and some of Asia; San Francisco serving Asia and the Pacific theatre of war and Chicago serving Alaska and Western Canada. The letter was microfilmed and the microfilmed images were on a long piece of film coiled into a reel which held 1500 images. The reels were sent overseas to a V-mail processing station where the negatives were reproduced on photographic paper (Fig. 3).

Fig. 3 V-mail image on photographic paper measuring 5 x 4 inches.

The V-mail was folded and placed in a window envelope exposing the name, unit and Army Post Office (APO) or Navy address, and then placed in the military postal system for delivery (Fig. 4)

Fig. 4 Window envelope measuring 4¾ x 3¾ inches



Important V-Mail dates.

- June 4th 1942 V-mail service established from U.S. Forces in Great Britain to the United States.
- June 12th 1942 First letters received in the United States from England.
- June 15th 1942 Service established to U. S. Forces in Great Britain.
- July 9th 1942 Service extended from Great Britain to Cairo and Australia.
- July 10th 1942 Service established from U.S. Forces in Australia to the United States.
- July 14th 1942 First V-mail sent from San Francisco.
- July 21st 1942 First V-mail arrived in San Francisco from Australia.
- Aug 1st 1942 Admiral C. W. Nimitz sent first V-mail letter from Pacific Fleet to the Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox.
- Oct 15th 1945 Last V-mail sent from the United States.
- Oct 31st 1945 Last V-mail sent from overseas processed in the United States.

Misapprehensions about privacy slowed V-mail use initially. There were stories that GI recipients would have to read their letters projected on a big screen in some hanger or warehouse where mushy sentiments would be seen by scoffing buddies, and that all V-mail would go into a permanent archive. Such stories were untrue, although all overseas mail was censored for security.

V-mail served all occasions - birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas and Easter greetings - sometimes with do-it-yourself art reflecting the far away places in which GIs found themselves. After June 1943 a mother could send baby's first picture, as long as she limited the photo to the upper left third of the V-mail page; and Valentine's Day usually brought a rash of lipstick kisses.

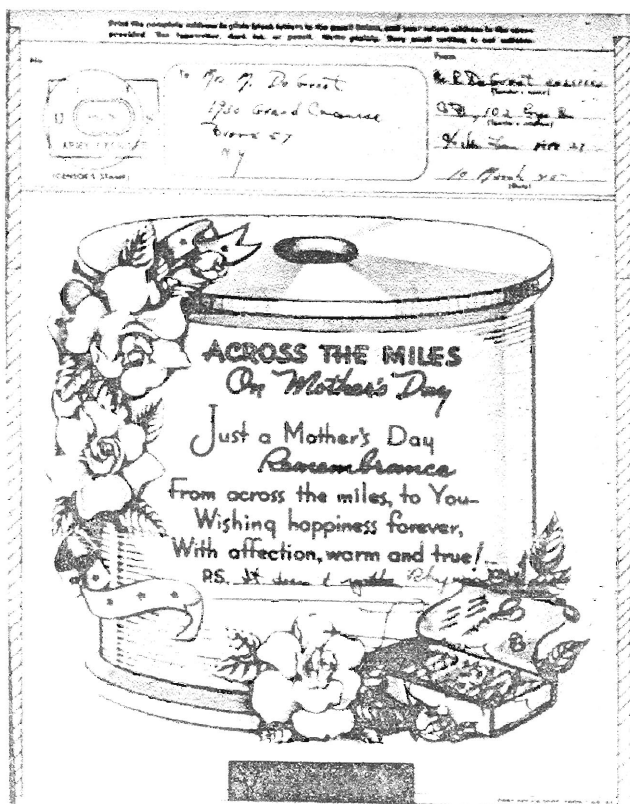


Fig. 5

From Ryukyus Islands. A.P.O. 27 Okinawa.
to
The Bronx in New York

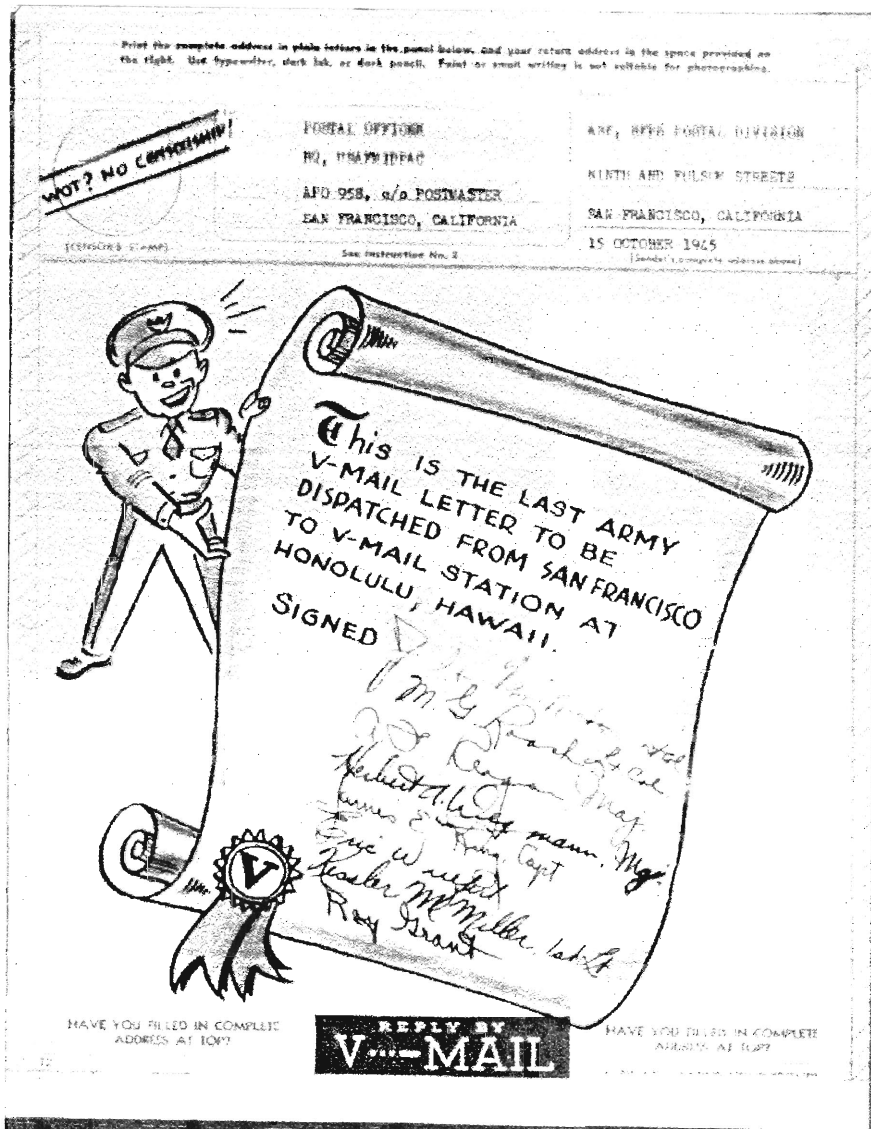


Fig. 6

V mail sent from Naval Transient Centre,
Hawaii to
Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The (Christmas) V mail (Fig. 6) arrived in Chicago before December 1st and it was delayed as shown by the cachet that was applied to the back, illustrated below. The envelope was postmarked 12pm Dec 21 1944

"Received at Chicago prior to December 1st and held for appropriate Christmas delivery."



By October 1945 it was over, signified by V-mail message No.338,824,081, from Maj. Gen. Clarence Kells, of the New York Port of Embarkation, to General Eisenhower (Fig. 7).

In a brief ceremony Kells praised V -mail and the entire mail moving corps of World War II. His audience included 300 WACs, who then returned to processing Christmas parcels for the young Americans who would spends the first postwar Christmas overseas.

Fig. 7

This V-mail was sent from the V Mail processing station at San Francisco to A.P.O. 958 which was at H.Q. U.S. Armed Forces Pacific; H.Q. Centre, Base command, Fort Shafter, Oahu, Hawaii.

CLASSICS AT THE BPM No 5. LAND DISASTER COVERS

Colin Baker

One of the significant collections of postal history held by the Bath Postal Museum is the Adrian Hopkins collection of mail damaged in accidents on land, in the air and at sea. I having studied the collection of land crashes fairly thoroughly, and although there are numerous examples of mail involved in these incidents, I could only find three items of postal stationery, all of which were from the United States and all involving railway accidents that occurred in that country. I am not for a moment suggesting that postal stationery leads a charmed life, but rather that it shows how popular adhesive stamps have always been over pre-stamped stationery.

Mail that became involved in wrecks and crashes was often delayed. It would have taken time to recover the mailbags, with the wellbeing and safety of passengers naturally being given top priority, followed by attempts to reopen the line as quickly as possible. When the mail was recovered it would have been dried and sorted. Some items may have been too badly damaged and fragile to continue their

journey and these would have been forwarded in ambulance covers, or in cases where the address was unreadable, would have been returned to the sender if this was possible. Nearly all mail that was delayed in this way was given an explanatory handstamp, except in times of war when handstamps were not always used. Some of these handstamps look as if they were created from something akin to a children's printing outfit, and it is not unknown for individual letters in these handstamps to become misplace, or even fall out.

The first item of postal stationery in the Hopkins collection that became involved in a crash [Fig. 1] is a 2 cent envelope from Nocana, Texas, to Muscatine, Iowa, carried on a train in 1906. The envelope is in poor condition and is badly mudstained. The cancellation on the front of the envelope appears to be 14 September 1906, with a back stamp of 23 September. Thus it was delayed by more than a week while the US Post Office sorted the recovered mail and prepared it for forwarding to its final destination.

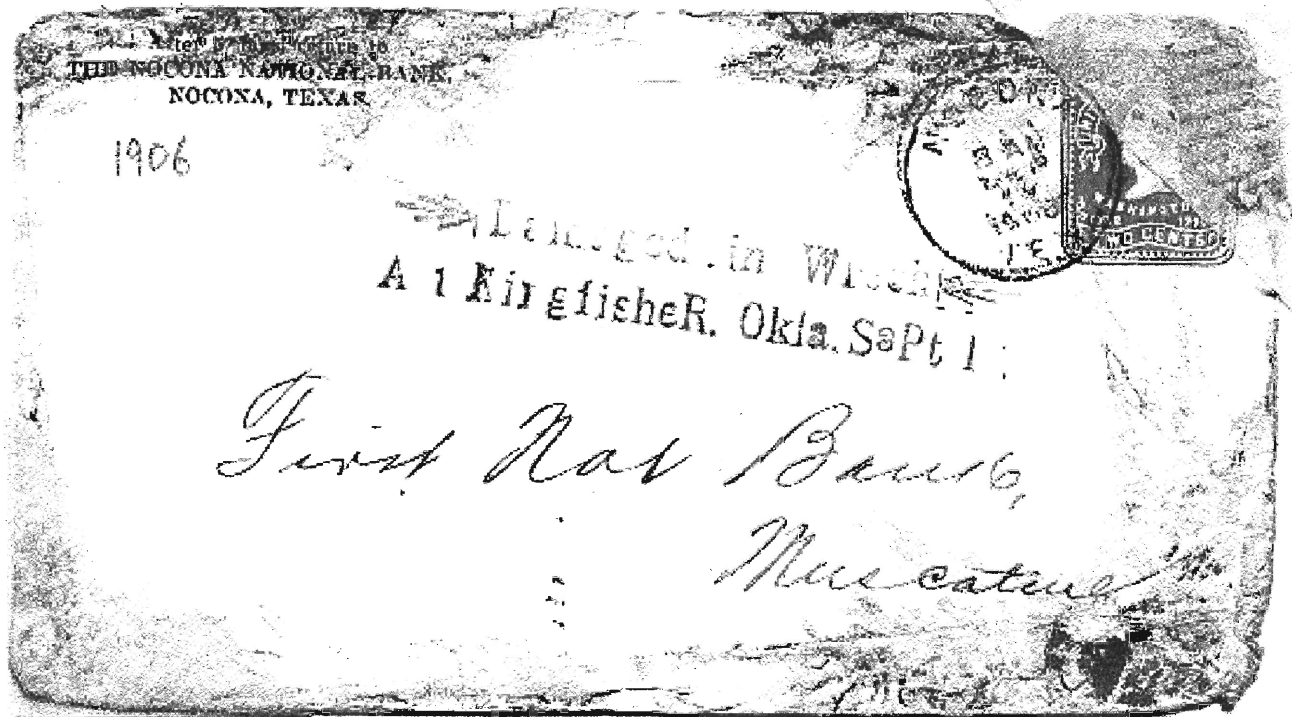


Fig. 1 2 cent envelope from Nocana, Texas, to Muscatine Iowa 1906.

The next item of crash mail is another 2 cent envelope [Fig. 2], this one having been involved in a fire in a mail car at Columbus, Wisconsin on 20 January 1920. Although fires on mail trains were not common, they did occur from time to time, and there were plenty of opportunities for them to start. The carriages and mail vans in those days were all built from varnished or painted wood and there were

numerous way these could catch fire, ranging from sparks blown from the engine to oil lamps being knocked over or damaged. Whatever the cause of this mail car fire, the envelope illustrated here seems to have got off lightly, with only the minimal amount of discoloration showing. However, the item was still delayed by about 10 days.

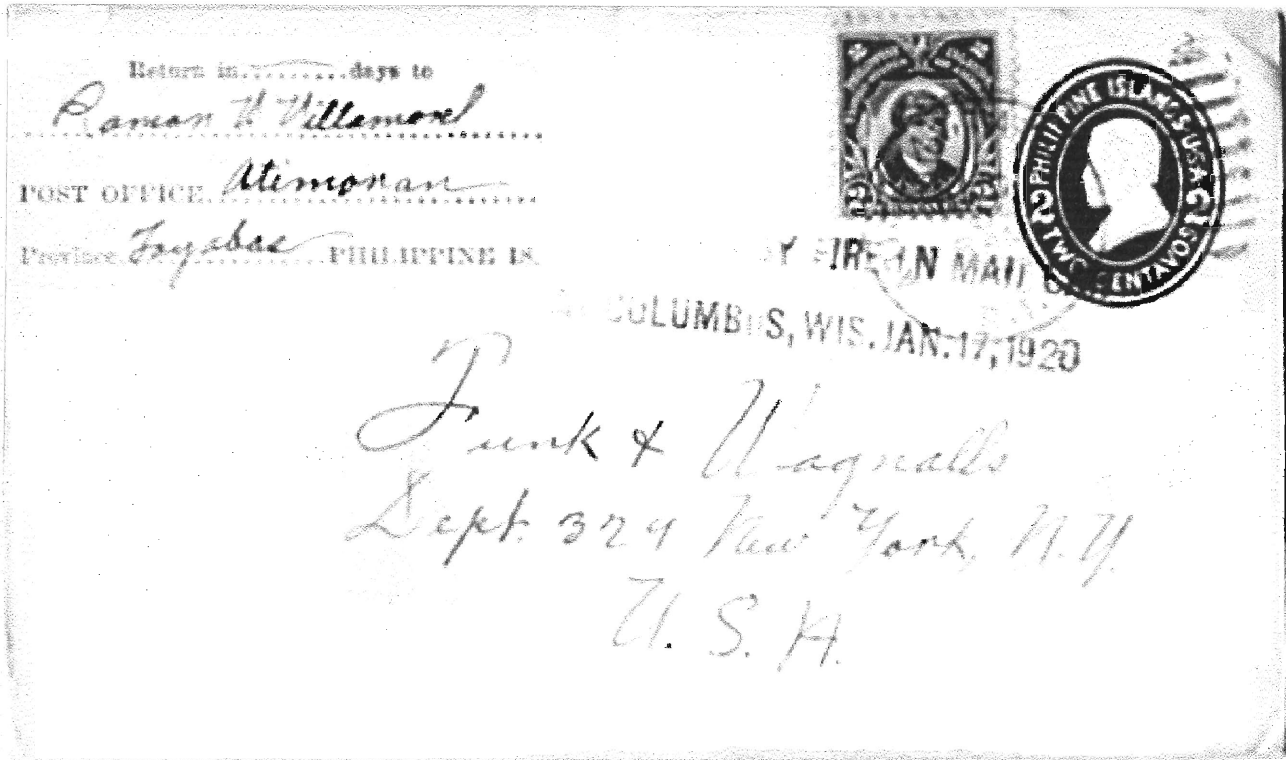


Fig. 2 2 cent Envelope Damaged by Fire at Columbus

The final piece of postal stationery in the collection that was caught up in a train disaster is a 4 cent envelope posted in May 1959 with the cachet "Run Over By Train/At Salem Ohio" [Fig. 3]. In this instance the mail was carried on a train that was not destined to stop at Salem. In these circumstances it was the usual practice for staff to throw out the mail bags as the train passed through the station. On this particular day they despatch the mailbags from the moving train too vigorously with the result that the mailbags hit the station platform with such force that they bounced back under the train. The wheels and undercarriage ripped the bags and mail within. When the train had gone passed staff salvaged as much mail as possible and all but

the badly mutilated items were then give this rather strange handstamp.

Major Hopkins who assembled this excellent collection of disaster mail won the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry on the Somme in the First World War and later lost his left arm in action at Ypres, also suffering severe stomach wounds. He was sent to India to recover from his injuries and it was there that his interest in stamps and postal history was kindled.

Years later he began to collect and study mail that had been damaged and delayed by all types of wrecks and crashes. As a young boy in 1907 he had seen the SS Jebba

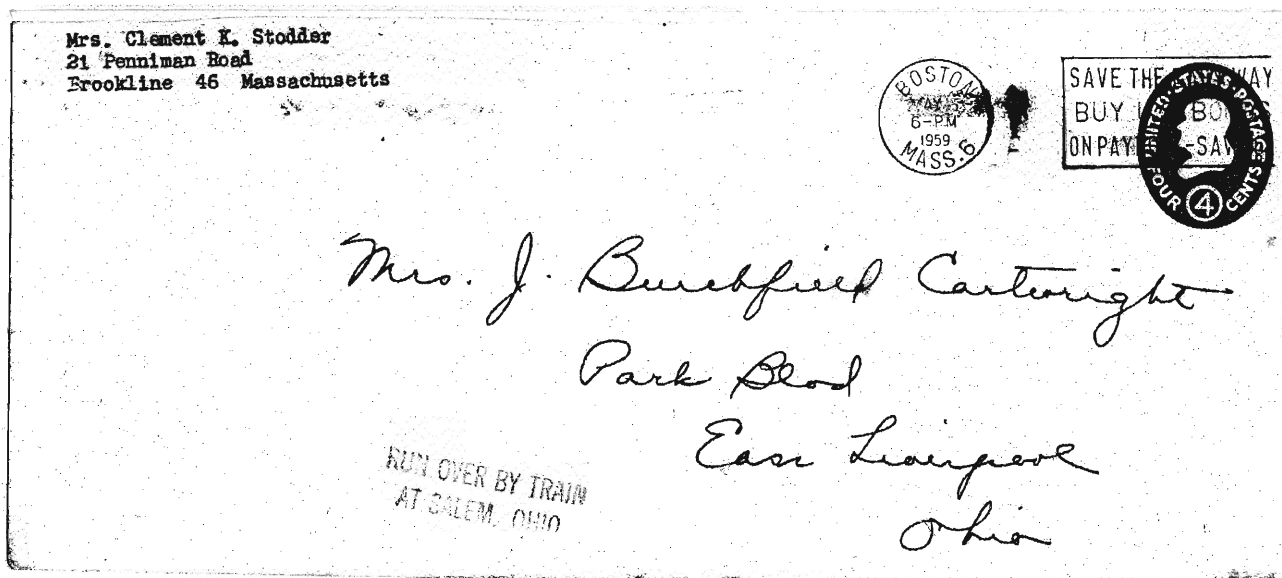


Fig. 3 4 cent Envelope - Run Over By Train at Salem Ohio

wrecked on Bolt Tail in South Devon (in Southwest England) and years later he had acquired a cover salvaged from that wreck. This started him collecting wreck mail. He wrote several articles and philatelic books, including two specifically devoted to worldwide wreck covers, "A History of Wreck Covers Originating at Sea & on Land" (1940) and the "History of Wreck Covers Originating at Sea, on Land and in the Air" (1966).

Adrian Hopkins served as a member of Bath City Council from 1930 and was three times mayor of Bath, including the Coronation Year of 1953. He died in 1967.

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. To view this collection of wreck mail or to find out more about material held by the museum, ring 01225 460333 or visit their web site bathpostalmuseum.org.

ADVERTISE IN THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY JOURNAL

CLASSIFIED '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.

DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS are welcome at the following rates:

A4	full page	£40
	half page	£20
	quarter page	£10

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

Please contact the Editor (Details on p2)

REPLY PAID LETTERCARDS. Part II - Portugal and Possessions

John Barker

Portugal issued its first reply paid lettercard in 1902 and within the next few years similar reply paid lettercards were produced for most of the Portuguese colonies and possessions. These lettercards carried the imprinted stamp at the top left hand side portraying the head of King Carlos (Fig. 1). After his assassination on 1st February 1908, stocks of the Carlos head stationery for Portugal and the Azores gradually ran low so new issues were made. These portrayed the head of the new King, King Manoel II imprinted at the top right hand side. They were released in Portugal on 1st January 1910 (Fig 2).

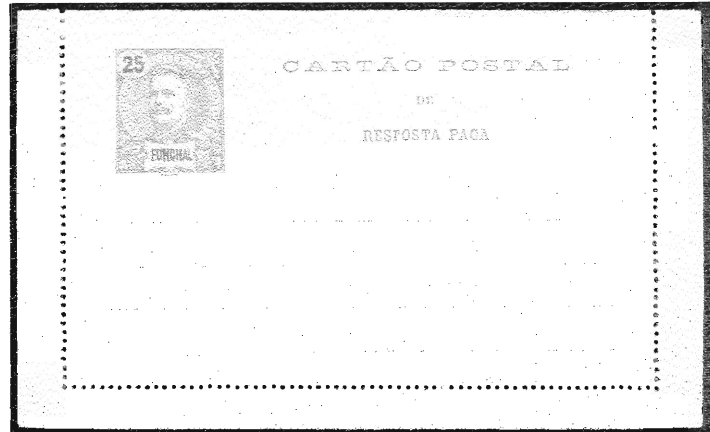


Fig. 1 Funchal 1902 25R Carlos Head

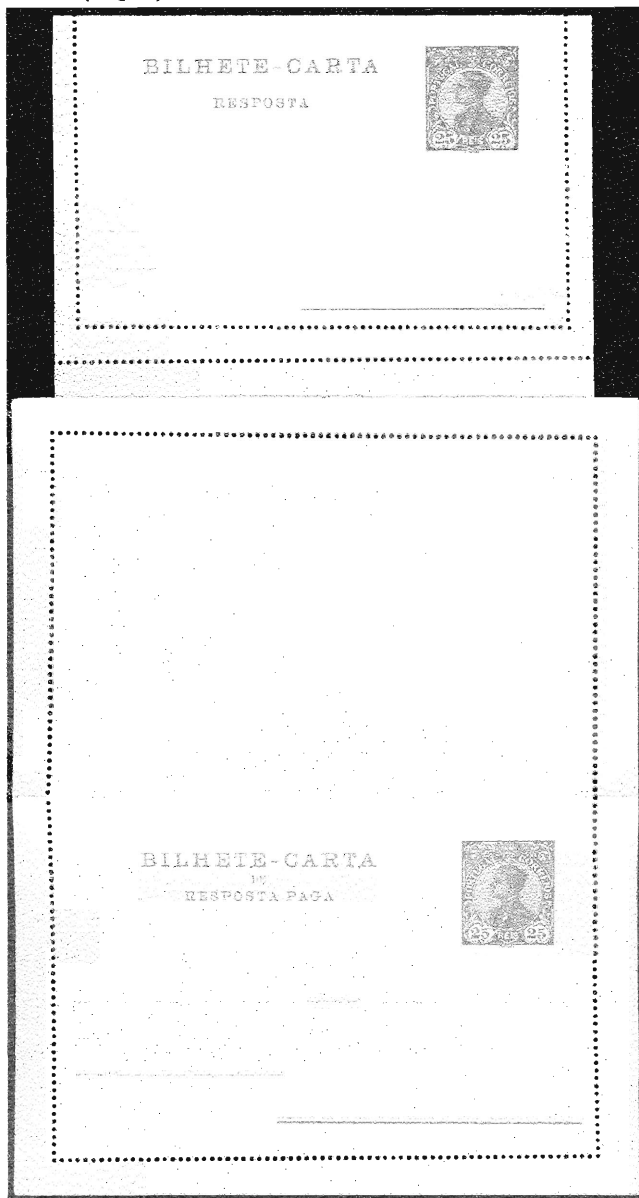


Fig. 2 Portugal 1910 25R Manoel Head

However King Manoel's reign was relatively short. He was deposed and a Republic established on 5th October 1910. During the next two years existing stocks of stationery (and stamps) were overprinted "REPUBLICA". As stocks of the Carlos head reply paid lettercards were still held for most territories, it was these that were overprinted "REPUBLICA". It was only in the case of Portugal and the Azores where reply paid lettercards of King Manoel II had been issued that they were later overprinted (Fig 3).



Fig. 3 1910 25R Portugal Manoel Head overprinted "REPUBLICA"

In April 1912 the currency in Portugal was changed from *REIS* to *CENTAVOS* and *ESCUDOS* consequently further issues of reply paid lettercards were made in the new currency. These depicted the head and torso of Ceres. For many of the possessions, reply paid lettercards with the Ceres imprint and in the new currency were not issued until 1914 (Fig 4).

All reply paid lettercards issued by Portugal and it's possessions are of the same size and layout and with very few exceptions have the same configuration (Type D).

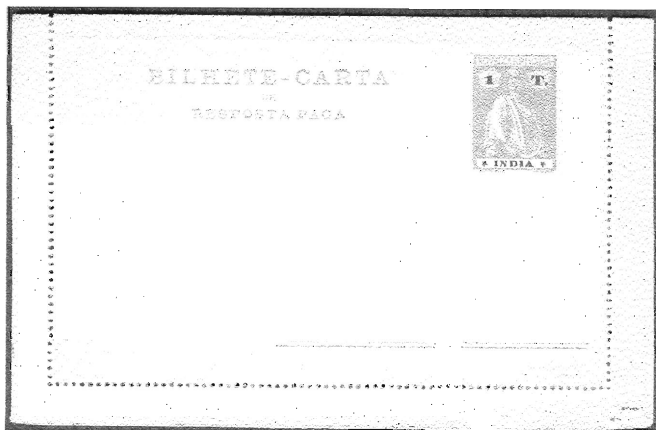


Fig. 4 1914 India 1T Ceres

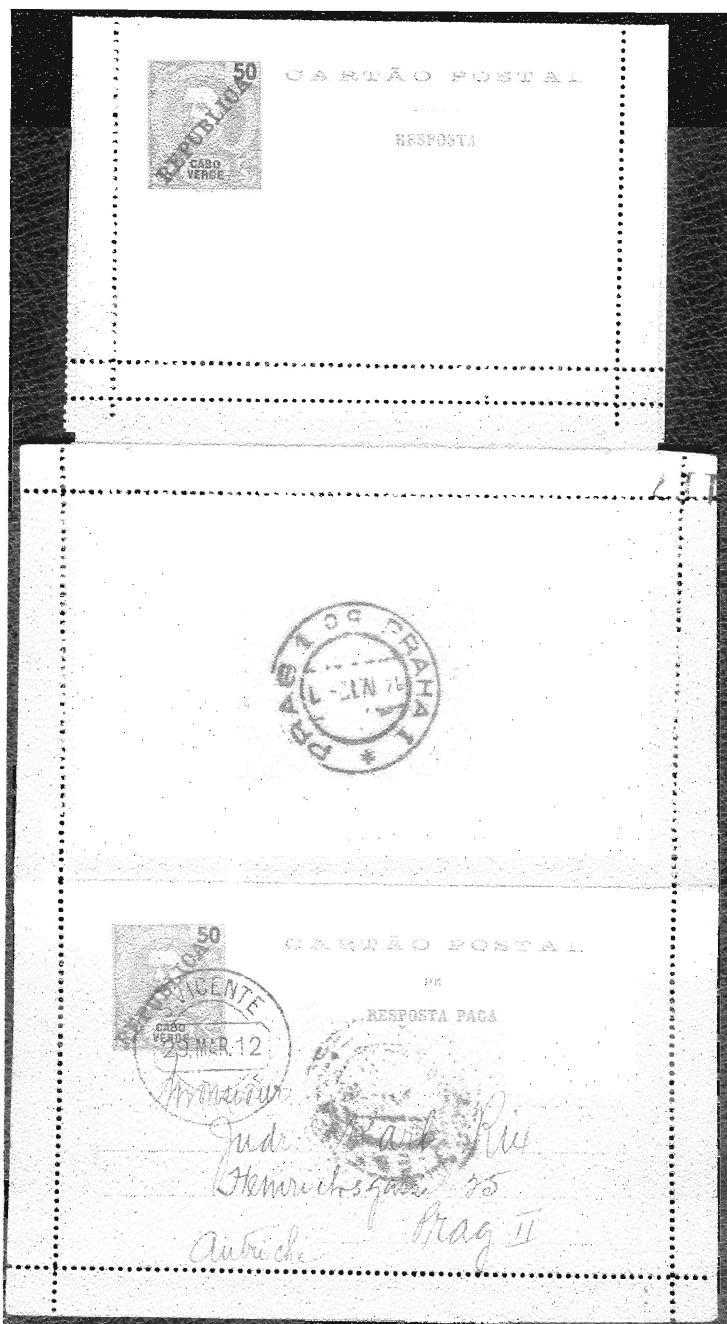


Fig. 5 Configuration Type A
1911 25R Cape Verde Carlos Head
overprinted "REPUBLICA"

The 25 Reis cards were printed on a pale yellow /buff surfaced card and, where issued, the 50 Reis cards were printed on a pale bluish grey surfaced card. For those possessions using other currencies both types of colour surfaced card featured.

The King Carlos 2 Avos and 4 Avos cards of **Macao** were printed on pale yellow /buff surfaced card and the 5 Avos and 10 Avos cards were printed on pale bluish grey surfaced card.

The King Carlos 6 Reis and 1 Tanga reply paid lettercards of **Portuguese India** were printed on pale yellow /buff surfaced card and the 2 Tanga on pale bluish grey card.

The 3 Avos and the 5 Avos cards of **Timor** were on pale yellow/buff surfaced card and the 10 Avos on pale bluish grey card.

Pale yellow surfaced card was used for all of the printings of the Ceres reply paid lettercards for Portugal and possessions. Variations exist in the thickness of the card and in the colour and luster of the surface.

As a consequence of the changes outlined above, the Portuguese group of reply paid lettercards outnumber all others. Rather than giving a listing country by country, I have summarised the issues in table form.

REPLY PAID LETTERCARDS OF PORTUGAL AND POSSESSIONS

COUNTRY	KING CARLOS			KING MANOEL II			KING CARLOS o/p REPUBLICA			KING MANOEL II o/p REPUBLICA			CERES		
	Date	Denomin- ation	Ascher No.	Date	Denomin- ation	Ascher No	Date	Denomin- ation	Ascher No	Date	Denomin- ation	Ascher No	Date	Denomin- ation	Ascher No
PORTUGAL	1902	25R	8	1910	25R ¹ 50R	12 13				1910	25R	16	1912	2½C	19
ANGOLA	1905	25R 50R	4 5				1911	25R 50R	8 9				1914	2½C	12
ANGRA *	1902	25R	6												
AZORES	1906	25R	5	1910	25R 50R ⁴	8 8I				1911	25R	11	1913	2½C	14
CAPE VERDE	1905	25R 50R	4 5				1911	25R 50R ²	8 9				1914	2½C	14
FUNCHAL *	1902	25R ³	6												
HORTA *	1902	25R ⁴	6												
MACAO	1905	2A 4A 5A 10A	5 6 7 8				1911	2A 4A 5A 10A	13 14 15 16				1914	2A 5A 6A	21 22 23
MOZAMBIQUE	1905	25R 50R	4 5				1912	25R 50R	8 9				1914	2½C	14
PONTA DELGADA *	1902	25R	6												
PORTUGUESE GUINEA	1903/ 1905	25R 50R	4 5				1911	25R 50R	8 9				1914	2½C	12
PORTUGUESE INDIA	1903/ 1905	6R 1T 2T	5 6 7				1912	6R 1T 2T	11 12 13				1914	6R 1T	17 18
St THOMAS & PRINCE	1903/ 1905	25R 50R	4 5				1912	25R 50R	8 9				1914	2½C	12
TIMOR	1905	3A 5A 10A	5 6 7				1912	3A 5A 10A	11 12 13				1914	3A 6A	22 23

Notes:

¹

This card exists with the outward lettercard configuration A (perforated through the corners) but with the reply lettercard configuration D [Ascher No. 12 I]

²

Exists with both parts configuration A [Ascher No. 9a] see Fig. 5.

³

Issued in Lisbon in 1902 but not issued in Funchal until 1910.

⁴

Prepared but not issued.

*

Angra, Funchal, Horta and Ponta Delgada used stamps and postal stationery of Azores from 1905 until 1931 when they used those of Portugal.

IS IT PHILATELIC? - A Personal View

Colin Baker

I was chatting recently with a fellow philatelist, and we were discussing some of the more common items of British stamped to order postal stationery that had been used in the past for business correspondence by some of the larger firms in Great Britain. He remarked that some of the managerial staff employed by those firms must have been stamp collectors, since many of the firms used a vast range of stamped stationery over a long period of time. This started me thinking about the whole aspect of philatelic material, and finally prompted me to write this article for the Journal.

As the title of this piece suggests, like many of you, I am not always sure what constitutes 'philatelic' postal stationery and what are 'commercially' used items, the dividing line between the two categories being very hazy and indistinct. In fact I sometimes wonder if any sort of differentiation really does matter, and if so, to what degree. However, I do not believe it is possible to set down strict rules on this subject.

Before I go on I should clarify that my definition of 'commercial' is not necessarily one where an item has been used by a firm or Limited Company, as I include all items that have been sent by both private individuals or commercial organisations, subject to the following notes.

There are some aspects of our hobby where philatelic material that has been deliberately created makes up much of someone's collection. Aircraft first flights and first day covers are examples that quickly spring to mind. Equally, there are other areas where only true commercial items will be found,

as it is almost impossible to create these artificially. In this instance I have in mind official government correspondence, as well as wreck or disaster mail. Of course some philatelic material, particularly that generated during Queen Victoria's reign, is now highly sought after. If you do not believe me, look in the auction catalogues at the estimated prices for the Penny Post Jubilee envelopes or special handstamps for events such as the Royal Naval Exhibition.

But to go back to where I started. I personally do not believe that the pre-stamped envelopes, postcards and wrappers prepared and used by such firms as WH Smith, The Army & Navy Stores, Prices Candles, Baader & Gerlach, John Oakey, Blundell Spence and many others were philatelic. However, they were certainly a means of preventing the stationery from being stolen for personal use by their staff. In the 19th and early 20th century, office workers were paid such a low

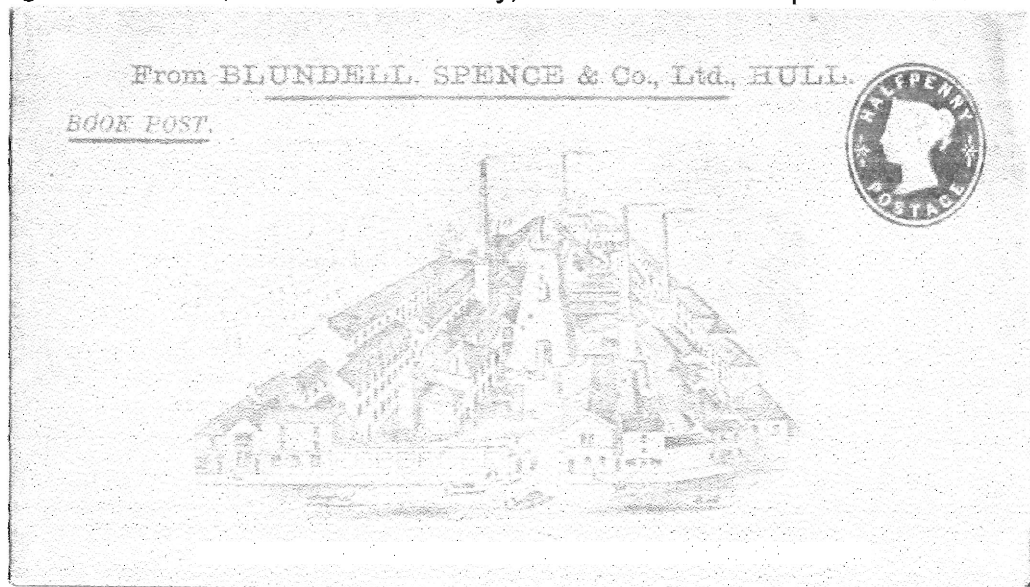


Fig. 1 Blundell Spence envelope with aerial view of their works, designed to show how large and well established the company was.

wage that there was a great temptation to take things from their employer to augment their meagre salaries. Who was to tell whether a stamp in someone's pocket had been bought from the Post Office or stolen from the office supply of postage stamps. All adhesive stamps were exactly the same having been

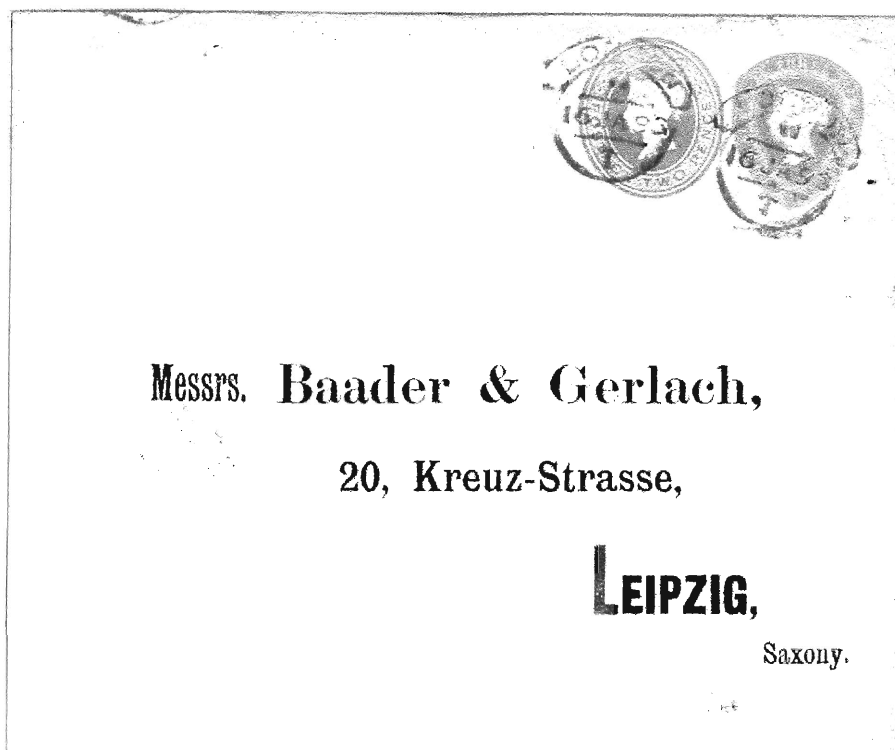


Fig. 2 One of a range of pre-addressed envelopes for Baader & Gerlach, impressed with different stamp values covering a variety of weights. with or without a registration fee.

over the post office counter.

One other anti-theft device used to great effect on adhesive stamps, but also to a limited degree on postal stationery, was to perforate the stamp with a series of punched holes to give the impression of a set of initials. This identified the item as belonging to a particular company and once again made the improper use of such stamps and stationery very difficult. This range of stationery with initials punched through the stamp impression has been given the term 'perfins' by collectors.

Finally there is the range of pre-cancelled stamps on stationery, such as that used by the publisher's of the Stamford

printed by the same process by the same printer. Which was why having easily identifiable envelopes printed with the firm's details and impressed with stamps embossed at Somerset House made it absolutely clear to whom they belonged.

The use of so called advertising rings was another way of identifying a firms stationery, even though the firm's name may have been printed in large letters alongside. Up to 1870, and again from 1905, stationery stamps could be cut from envelopes and letter sheets and stuck to unstamped items to pay the postage. So having an advertising ring printed around the stamp made it much easier to spot a stolen item from one genuinely purchased

Mercury in Essex. This had a two-fold purpose. The first was to make it impossible to re-use the stamps, either on whole wrappers or as cut-outs. Secondly it speeded up the despatch of mail at the sorting office since no further cancellation need be applied.

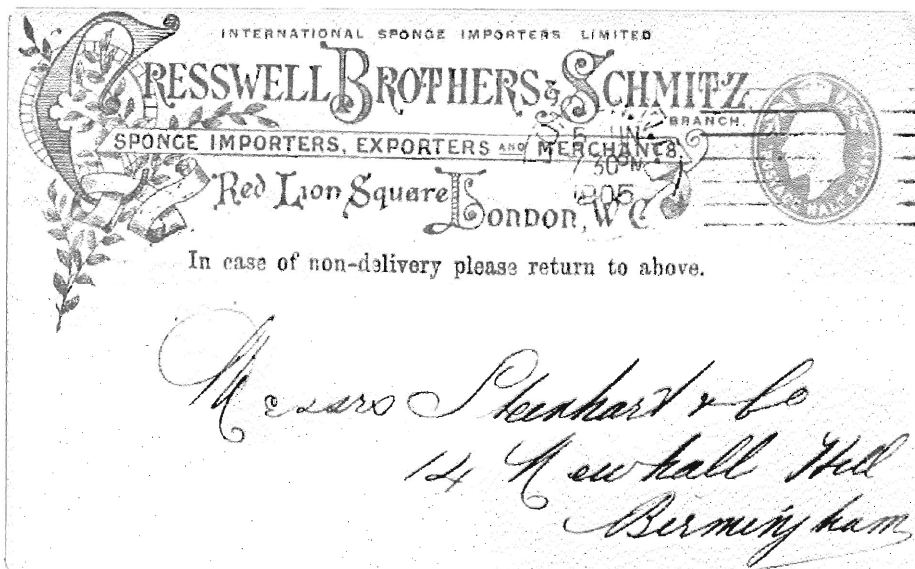


Fig. 3 A fine Edward VII advertising envelope printed in a similar colour to that of the embossed stamp (yellow-green), making it that much more striking and eye-catching.

Much of the private stationery used from the time of its first introduction in 1855 to its demise and eventual withdrawal in 1973 carried a variety of printing and other designs on the fronts, and sometimes on the backs as well. Much of this served to advertise firms' goods and services as well as to indicate a return address (or sometimes even the delivery address). All of this was prepared for truly commercial purposes.

Of course under the commercial banner I also include all the stationery used by private individuals, either for personal or business correspondence. I apply a similar set of rules to this group of stationery as I do to that prepared and used by businesses.

Some firms, particularly those in the philatelic trade, used postal stationery because they felt it pleased their clients. Two of the philatelic heavyweights, Stanley Gibbons and Whitfield King, certainly did so during Queen Victoria's reign, and there are other smaller firms that followed suite. But I suggest these types of covers should still be considered truly commercial items as they were used purely to pay the postage on letters, invoices, and parcels. As far as I am aware, there is no evidence that letters were posted in this period just to get a special cancellation.

cover be identified; what is the dividing line and does it matter?

I have already touched upon those philatelic covers that show when first flights were made, or when other services were established. They are an important part of the postal history material in existence today, without which our knowledge of these services would be much more restricted. I think we should be grateful to the dealers and collectors who went to the trouble of preparing these items and ensuring they were returned and kept for our benefit today. However, these cannot be included under the heading of 'commercial', but equally, I do not think they should simply be called 'philatelic'. I believe the term "philatelically inspired" is probably the right way of describing them.

I think that true philatelic covers can easily be identified if they have been sent purely to give the receiver some postal oddity or rare item. For example, the Victorians are known to have sent items to their friends with messages that sometimes say the item is no longer on sale or that it is unusual and should be kept. These I believe should be regarded as philatelic since they usually have served no purpose other than to enhance someone's collection.

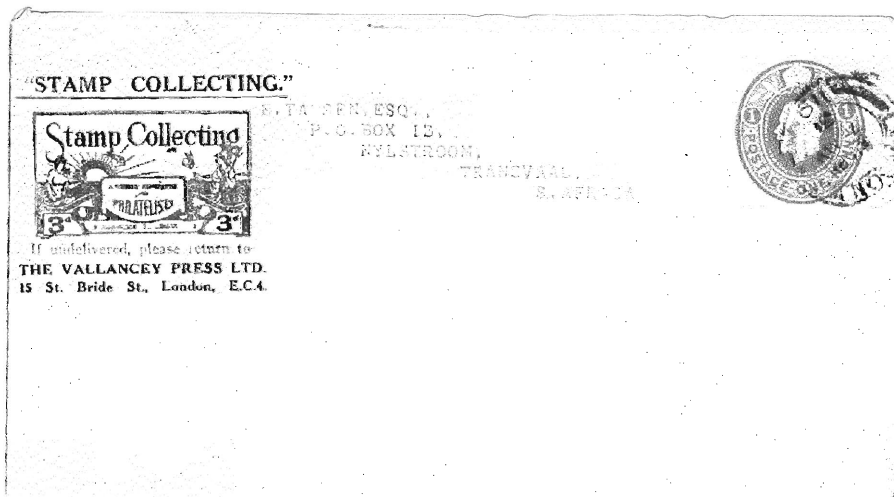


Fig. 4 A newspaper wrapper for the despatch of a philatelic magazine, which no doubt enhanced its appeal, although was produced purely for commercial reasons.

The Victorians were also very clever at creating postal stationery envelopes that carried more stamp impressions than were necessary. Somerset House readily accepted paper that had already been impressed with stamps for further stamp impressions to be applied. I get the feeling that they were more than happy to apply additional stamps providing the customer was prepared to pay for them. Thus it is possible today to find envelopes that have been impressed with up to 7 different stamps. It was

So having covered all these points, I now come to the question of what is a philatelic cover. If you agree that the extensive range of envelopes used by the major firms in Britain are commercial covers, how can a philatelic

not only the Victorians who made the most of the STO facility to create unusual items, a must for anyone's collection. In the last century one or two other stamp dealers also decided to

have similar envelopes and postcards prepared, eventually diversifying into labels and adhesive stamps.

H. Edgar Weston, or Oswald Marsh, or Victor Marsh (take your pick as nobody is quite sure which is his correct name)* was one such dealer who created all manner of weird and wonderful postal stationery covers. His "special" items could not be repeated by the average collector, who was forced into buying these if his collection was to be complete. From the time of King Edward VII to the reign of our present Queen, Weston (or Marsh) persuaded the powers-that-be at Somerset House, and later at the Government Printing Press at Harrow, to print groups of stationery stamps adjacent to each other and in all manner of positions. These sheets, when cut up to a predetermined pattern, were either used as letter sheets, or more usually as cut-outs, often enhanced with local stamps and cancellations from remote islands, or with Naval dumb cancellors. They were prepared purely to sell to collectors and can only be described as true philatelic creations.

Finally we come to that enormous group of postal stationery items, most of which have been prepared during the reign of our present Queen, and which have been engineered to be cancelled with special handstamps such as those used by mobile post offices, TPOs and so on. Many have no purpose other than to try to extract money from the pockets of us collectors on the basis that they are something special or even 'rare' and 'will definitely increase in value in the future'. Many of these covers and postcards either have no address on them (after all this only spoils the look of them!) or they have a tiny pre-printed easily peelable address label. You will find that the envelopes have not been opened and the lettercards have never had their perforated strips removed. Postcards have no messages on their backs, or any other evidence to show why they have been sent through the post other than to collect a particular mark or cancellation.

So should we dump philatelic material in the dustbin or continue to accumulate it? Well yes of course we should continue to collect

philatelic material. I am a great believer in a philatelist collecting whatever gives him or her the most pleasure. It does not matter if a collection is made up from the most rare or the most ordinary or the most mundane of items. They all keep us collectors happy, which in turn keeps the hobby alive. In all probability, if you collect postal stationery, whether it be Great Britain or any other country, you will have a proper philatelic cover lurking somewhere in your collection.



Fig. 5 A Marsh/Weston letter sheet with three King George VI 1/2d stamps, posted from the Isle of South Uist. This is one of a set of letter sheets carrying different value stamps, all set out in a similar fashion and posted from remote islands around the British Isles.

* See PS Journal June 2002 for more information on this dealer.



AEROGRAMMATICS

AEROGRAMMES AND FOLDED LETTER SHEETS FROM THE HOLY LAND

Tony Goldstone

Over 25 years ago I started a collection of Israeli aerogrammes to complement my existing collection of G.B. aerogrammes. I had no idea at that time how this new area would dominate my time and energy (as well as bank balance!) and result in my finally selling my G.B. collection and concentrating on what was to become a large and diverse collection from The Holy Land.

Initially collecting Israeli aerogrammes was straight forward. Aerogrammes were still popular and there were numerous dealers from whom I was able to acquire most of the regular issues both mint and F.D. The few elusive ones made the search all the more exciting as the gaps began to close. At some stage, a few years after I had begun, a dealer offered me a British Palestine aerogramme that had been current in the British Mandate days before the founding of the State of Israel. I was informed that only two types had been issued by the Mandate Authorities so I thought it would be a simple matter to include them. To my great surprise I discovered that the first issue of British Palestine was quite expensive and that a watermarked variety also existed and was being offered for a three-figure sum! It took many years of visits to Stamp Fairs and Exhibitions, bidding in auctions and corresponding with fellow collectors before I managed to acquire them at a reasonable price. Around this time I realised that British and Allied forces that were stationed in Palestine were issued with their own air letter sheets and having added a few of these to my collection it soon became a deluge as I came across dozens of different types ranging from regular forces issues to specialised "Honour" and "Privilege" ones and P.O.W. letter sheets. Many Units had their own issues, especially at Xmas time and even to this day new discoveries are being made as a different wartime aerogramme joins my collection. Unfortunately there is no catalogue of the different types of forces letter sheets issued in

Palestine although the Kessler catalogue is helpful in this area.

With a busy collection of Israel, British Palestine and W.W.2 Palestine Forces issues I felt I had most areas covered. What else could there be? The reality however was that I was still only scratching the surface! In quick succession I realised that the Kingdom of Jordan had been in possession of the West Bank of Israel till 1967 (including East Jerusalem) and they had issued aerogrammes from 1949 or 1950 for this region till it was occupied by Israel in 1967. So now Jordanian aerogrammes with West Bank postmarks were added to my collection. Quick to follow was the inclusion of United Nations Forces aerogrammes issued to their Peace Keeping units in Golan, South Lebanon, Gaza, Sinai and of course Israel. Each force had a different type of aerogramme and all became collectable.

In the meantime I had come across Israeli aerogrammes that had been issued by private enterprise with the approval of the Department of Post and Communications for tourists. These beautiful scenic issues were produced in large numbers and there are perhaps two hundred or more different types. All collectable! Unfortunately no catalogue exists recording them.

Next came the discovery of Israeli internal letter sheets both Official and private issues, although not aerogrammes for International flights I decided to include them as a sub-section that I call "folded letter sheets." Recently I acquired a privately produced British Palestine aerogramme so I am now searching to see if other types exist.

There also exists privately produced letter sheets for the Israeli military as early as 1949 and 1956 as well as P.O.W. letter sheets. The list goes on and on...

In summary, what started as a collection of Israel aerogrammes has now been changed into a Holy land collection and sub divided into the following sections:-

- Israel - regular post office issues
- - tourist
- - internal (regular post office and private issues)
- - military
- British Palestine
- - regular post office and private issues
- - W.W.2 forces and P.O.W.
- Jordan
- - West Bank (official and private)
- United Nations Forces stationed on Holy land borders

I am not a purist in my collecting habits and include both surface printed stamps or the equivalent indicia as well as those with adhesive stamps. The only criteria is that it is intended to be used as a folded letter sheet.

If this first article "finds favour in the eyes of the editor" then it is my hope that I will flesh it out with future articles dealing with the individual sub- sections in more detail and with illustrations.

Finally I am sure members would be interested to know that Israel was the first Country to produce the air letter sheet that had the word AEROGRAMME printed on it. Only Norway had produced one earlier with the spelling AEROGRAM. The spelling "aerogramme" was the official version of the Universal Postal Union and first used by Israel in 1951.

NEW PRINTINGS OF G.B. AIRLETTERS

Arthur Roberts reports the following printings of G.B. Airletters to supplement the list given in the May 2004 issue of the Postal Stationery Society Journal.

Code on reverse:

1st setting -	MSE	177/03
2nd setting -		61/04 and 62/04
2nd setting	*	61/04

2004 new design	code on side flap
	MSE 093/04
	096/04
	097/04
	098/04
*	103/04
*	104/04
*	105/04
*	106/04

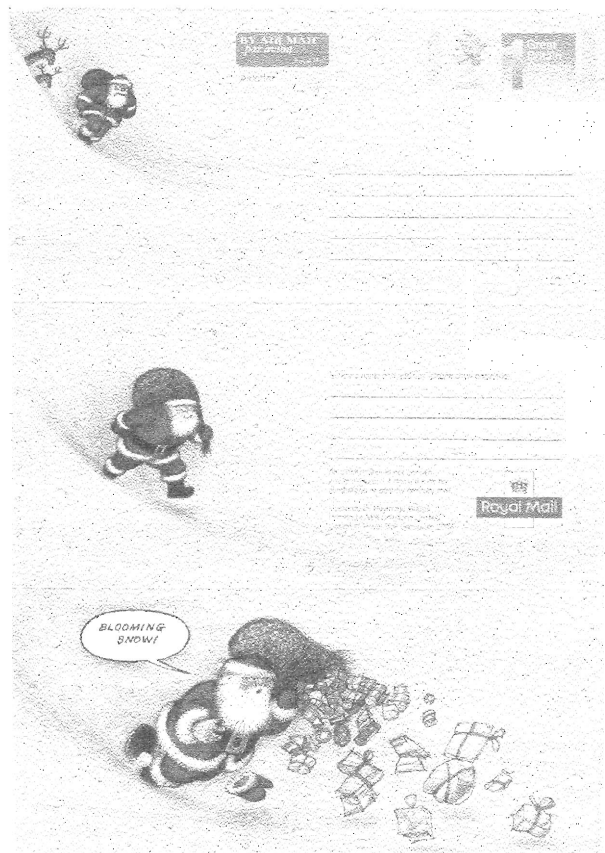
MSE 133/04, 134/04 & 160/04 have been reported but only 133/04 has been seen so far.

CHRISTMAS 2004 AIRLETTER

This was printed by Mail Solutions Limited and was released on 2nd November 2004. A Welsh language version was also printed.

This airletter was designed by Raymond Briggs. Raymond was born in London in 1934 and after serving in the army, he attended the

Slade School of Fine Art up until 1957. His concept of Father Christmas being a 'working class' character was created in the 1973 work "Father Christmas" and extended in his 1975 work "Father Christmas Goes On Holiday"



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

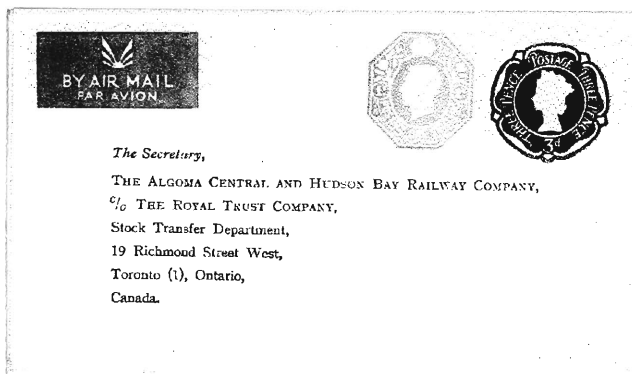
In the Queries and Replies column in the last issue a line of text was omitted in the first paragraph of the item on the registration envelope stamped "Racommenderas". In the reply the second sentence should read :

'In Queen Victoria's time the impressed stamp paid only for the registration fee and was put on the flap of the envelope so that when it was sealed it appeared *on the reverse of the envelope. It was not until 1893 that the stamp appeared* on the front of the envelope, still only paying the minimum registration fee. This changed with the beginning of King Edward VII's reign when the new stamp with his effigy paid for both the minimum registration fee and minimum inland letter post.'

Apologies to members for this error.

G.B. S.T.O. NEW FIND

George King recently bought the envelope illustrated below. It has a 3d QE.II violet plus a 1/- K.G.VI brown embossed stamp impression. Until now Huggins - British Postal Stationery listed these two impressions as ESC 986 but indicated that they were to be found only on wrappers. Alan Huggins has now seen it and amended his listing.



POSTAL STATIONERY AT AUCTION

The John Sinfield Gold Medal Collection of Australian postal stationery attracted much interest at Prestige Philately's sale in November. A die proof impression of the 1d red Die 1, from the master die, impressed on a concert ticket fetched \$4,370 Aus. A die proof of the 1½d black brown fetched \$9,488 Aus. The 'THREE/HALFPENCE' on 2d orange postal stationery envelope fetched \$9,200 Aus

which was almost twice the estimate and six times the catalogue valuation of the item.

DISPLAYS BY MEMBERS

Chichester & District Stamp Club.

11th July 2005 'Selected Aspects of British Postal Stationery' - Alan Huggins.

TONY CHILTON COMPETITION

The entry for the 2004 competition 'Great Britain Queen Victoria Postcards' was submitted by Peter O'Keefe and not George King as reported on p20 of the November issue of the Journal.

Articles in the Journals of other Postal Stationery Societies from across the world.

Ganzsachensammler December 2004

(Switzerland)

Korrekturen und Ergänzungen zum Ganzsachenkatalog 2002.

Neukatalogisierung der Postkarten ab P 220.

"Inoffizielle" Wertstempel bei Privatganzsachen.

Die Ganzsache 1/2004 (Germany)

Ganzsache oder nicht?

Eine klassische (Fouré-?) Fälschung: Württemberg U16 mit Klappenstempel "Hexennest" (K1).

Fouré - Fälschungen der Umschläge des Norddeutschen Postbezirks.

Umschlagformulare für die Reichstagsabgeordneten des Norddeutschen Bundes.

Kölleda - eine Verbrauchsganzsachen der Sowjetischen Besatzungszone Deutschlands.

Warnung vor nachträglich beschrifteten Ganzsachen SBZ P9 und P 16.

Neuheitenberichte 1/2004 - 6/2004.

Die Ganzsache 2/2004 (Germany)

Die Ganzsachen Persiens.

Karpaten - Ukraine.

Eine Neuinterpretation der Preußischen Ganzsachen mit Sternpatte.

Ein Gefälschtes "Essay" des Zehn-Neugroschen Wertstempels von Sachsen.

Zwei vermeintliche Proben von Umschlägen des Norddeutschen Postbezirks.

Des Prozess Fischer-Brill gegen Künast um Fälschungen überklebter Briefumschläge des Norddeutschen Postbezirks.

Ganzsachen aus der Sicht eines Krone/Adler Sammlers.

Ungewöhnliche Ganzsachen von Danzig und Memel.

Neuheitenberichte 6/2004 - 12/2004.

ANOTHER 'SLOPER'

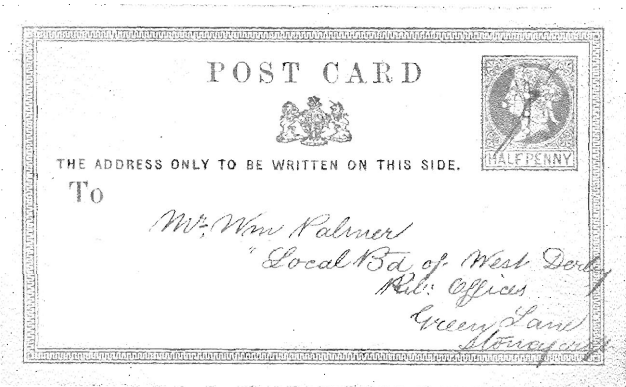
In the November 2004 issue of the Journal John Forbes Nixon reported on a G.B. postal stationery card which had received two Sloper cancellation arrows possibly due to having been placed 'upside down' when receiving the first cancellation.

Peter O'Keeffe has sent in another 'Sloper' item and writes:

"It is a well known fact that certain Royal mail staff seem to like to cancel unfranked stamps by hand, often scribbling across them with a ball point pen. Here is a violet half penny postal stationery card with the upward pointing arrow 'perfin' cancel which someone has decided also needed a pen and ink cancellation. The card, which is the first type issued by G.B., is undated and is believed to have been used in the Liverpool area, to a

Liverpool address. This is the first pen cancel I have encountered on a 'Sloper' cancelled stationery card.

Obviously this habit has been in use for some 130 odd years!"



SPRING STAMPEX

Business Design Centre, Islington Green, London

(Nearest tube station: ANGEL on the Northern Line)

WEDNESDAY 23rd - Sunday 27th FEBRUARY 2005

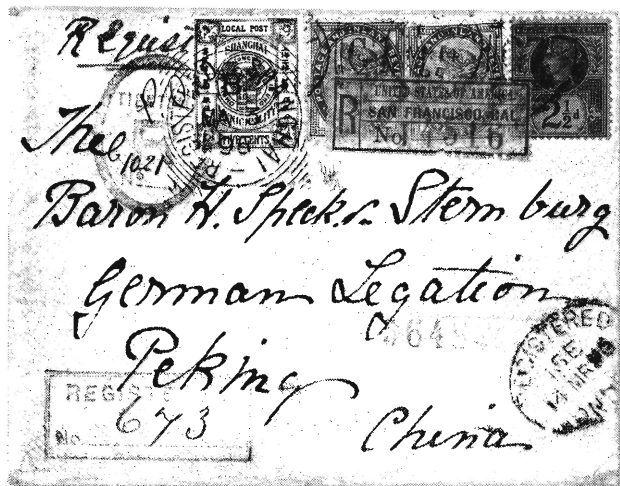
Our Society is putting on a display in the 'Village Green' area consisting of 100 frames of members' postal stationery material. This is an important landmark in the Society's history as it provides a showcase to promote the collecting of postal stationery and the Society in general.

Come along and have a look at the great variety of postal stationery on display which covers a wide sphere of our members' collecting interests. With in the region of 100 dealers from home and abroad, many bringing their stock of postal stationery especially for the occasion, you should be able to find some of the items you have been waiting for to add to your collection, or as is often the case with postal stationery, find some item which you never knew existed! Whatever your reasons for attending, it should be well worth while.

Please call at the Society's table and meet some of our members who will be manning the table for the duration of the exhibition.

We would very much value your help with this event, here is your chance to assist the Society. Please fill in the form enclosed with this issue of the Journal and return to Keith Hanman as soon as possible.

Auctions in March and May 2005



The first Grosvenor auction planned for the Spring is the sale of the Apollonia collection of Bermuda King George VI Key Plates on 10 March. This will be followed by a sale of British Empire and Foreign Countries on 11 March. A specialised Great Britain auction is planned for May.

Please ask us for additional information and for details of our personal service and surprisingly competitive commission rates.

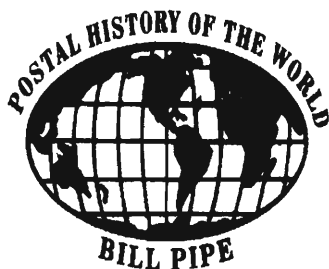
Postal Stationery from around the World features regularly in our specialised auctions.

Complimentary copies of the catalogues for these auctions will be available to members on request.

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