



# THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

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**Journal** Vol. 13, No. 2 **May 2005**  
(Serial number 34)

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**Cataloguing the Welsh Text STO Envelopes. Your help is needed!**  
See Page 19

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## CONTENTS

Page		Page	
2	The Management Committee Society Calendar	10 - 11	G.B. The Imperial Penny Postcard Rate Alan Huggins
3	Chairman's Chat	11	Book Review - Aerogrammes of the Union of South Africa 1942 - 1961
3 - 5	Secretary's Notes	12 - 14	The Luck of the Philatelist Colin Baker
6	One Sheet Competition Winner	15 - 18	Aerogramatics: Aerogrammes and Folded Letter Sheets From The Holy Land - Part 2 Tony Goldstone
7	A Trial 'Swiftair Plus Recorded' Prepaid Envelope Arthur Roberts	19 - 22	Notes from the Editor's Desk
8 - 9	G.B. KG VI Armed Forces Postal Stationery Post Cards - 1914 Peter O'Keeffe	22	Report on Spring Stampex
9	Obituary - Ben Furguson		

**The Management Committee.**

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

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Iain Stevenson  
Sam Barkley  
Keith Hanman

**The Postal Stationery Society Web site: [www.postalstationery.org.uk](http://www.postalstationery.org.uk)**

**SOCIETY CALENDAR 2005**

**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 which is being held at the Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill, Coventry. Our aim will be to promote the Society and to attract new members. In addition there

will be plenty of dealers at this event which is open from 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

**EDITOR'S NOTES**

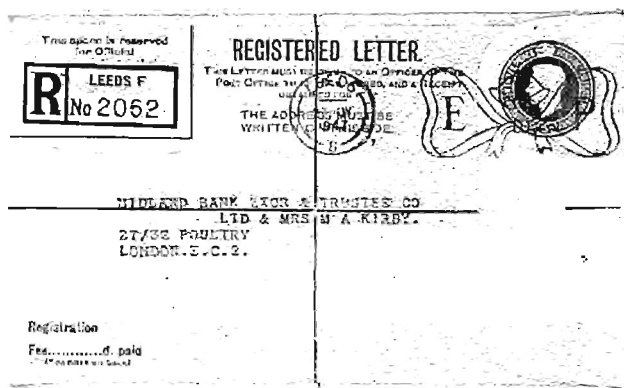
With this copy of the Journal, members will receive their copy of the Spring Stampex 2005 Booklet outlining the displays given by members of the G.B. Philatelic Society and the Postal Stationery Society, an update to the Library List (Published in August 2004) produced by our Librarian, Chris Howe, and a sample of the breakdown of the articles published in "L'Entire Postal (the Journal of the French, Belgian and Netherlands Postal Stationery Society) 1936 -1975". Chris has produced a full list of the articles published in this Journal (in French) which is available to members who may be interested. Please see the enclosed sample for details.

U.K. members will also receive their Association of British Philatelic Societies membership card.

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - MAY 2005

Amongst my accumulation of Registered Postal Stationery envelopes I have a KGVI 5½d used cover postmarked on the 27th November 1947 with a Leeds 'B' machine cancellation showing the special Royal Wedding 'E P' bow and bells mark. It is unusual to find registered items cancelled with slogan machine postmarks, and this was the last day of use of this mark.

There is no indication of who sent it, but as it has a 'Bradma' machine printed address of the Midland Bank Executor and Trustee Co. Ltd, at their head office in London, it might be from another Midland Bank branch or department. If so why was it not sent through their 'Head Office Bag' delivery service free? If it was of value, why has the sender not given his address? It is unlikely that the contents



would have been documents, as these would normally have been larger. The envelope has the imprint of McCorquodale & Co. Ltd, and is 'G' size; it appears that it might be a 'Huggins' type RP59a, (issued September 1945-1946) with five lines of instructions below the words "REGISTERED LETTER." on the front. It has three dotted lines, each offset, for the senders name and address on the back.

Congratulations to our members who submitted items for our joint display with the G.B. Philatelic Society at "Stampex" recently - I was delighted with the quality and diversity of the items shown, and it was nice to meet up with several members who called at our "Stand". My thanks also to 'the few' who volunteered to man the "stand" at some time over the five days; to those who helped put the displays in the frames, and on the Sunday take them down.

But it was somewhat disappointing that other members were unable to help celebrate this first major public display of our side of the hobby. Perhaps the weather was the downside, but I understand that we did acquire a few new members, and many admirers.

Regards to all

Peter O'Keeffe

## SECRETARY'S NOTES - MAY 2005

### MEMBERS COLLECTING INTERESTS

Following on from the list of Members' Collecting Interests issued with the February 2004 Journal, the following have also asked for their details to be included.

COUNTRY OR AREA COLLECTED	MEMBER	LOCATION
Airgraphs (S)	Mr W Linskey	London
Argentina (M)	Dr J Alexander	Surrey
British East Africa (M)	Mr W Linskey	London
Canada (M)	Dr J Alexander	Surrey
Cape of Good Hope (M)	Dr C Board	London
Ceylon (S)	Mr R Hale	Singapore
Chile	Mrs R Atkins	Bristol
Europe Central & Eastern	Prof. C Stirton	Avon
France (M)	Dr C Board	London
Germany (M)	Mr A Lane	Bucks
Gibraltar (M)	Mr E Holmes	Berkshire
Great Britain (M)	Mr C Scott	Cyprus
Great Britain (M)	Dr J Alexander	Surrey

COUNTRY OR AREA COLLECTED	MEMBER	LOCATION
Great Britain (S)	Mr C Haines	London
Great Britain Aerogrammes (M)	Mr B Feltham	Surrey
Great Britain Telegrams (S)	Mr B Feltham	Surrey
Great Britain, Aerogrammes	Mrs J Davis	Norfolk
Great Britain, Mulreadys, 1d pinks, 2d blues (M)	Mr J Bradley	Yorkshire
India (M)	Mr C Haines	London
Ireland (M)	Mr J Robertson	Hampshire
Malaya (M)	Mr J Robertson	Hampshire
Malayan States (M)	Mr R Hale	Singapore
Mauritius (S)	Mr R Hale	Singapore
Morocco Agencies (M)	Mr E Holmes	Berkshire
Morocco Agencies (S)	Mr C Scott	Cyprus
New South Wales (M)	Dr J Alexander	Surrey
Saar (M)	Mr A Lane	Bucks
Serbia (M)	Mr N Ljubicic	London
South Africa (M)	Dr C Board	London
Straits Settlements (S)	Mr R Hale	Singapore
Transvaal (M)	Dr C Board	London
Waterfalls (S)	Dr J Alexander	Surrey
World War II Occupations (S)	Mr A Lane	Bucks
Yugoslavia (M)	Mr N Ljubicic	London

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

#### WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

The Society gives a warm welcome to the following members whose details are not included in the list of members interests above.

Mr GA White, Kent  
Mr GA Miller, London  
Mr C Baggott, Sussex

#### STAMPEX DISPLAY

A report on the Society's display at Spring Stampex in London (23rd to 27th February) is given on page 22 of this issue of the Journal. The event went very smoothly thanks to some very hard work by a small group of people lead by our ex-chairman, Keith Hanman. When all goes well on these occasions it seems as if the organisers had little to do. The opposite is true of course, and if it was not for all the hard work and organisation before, during and after the event, it would have been chaotic. Well done to everyone who helped out and a special big thanks to Keith and a couple of other members who spent months organising the displays for the Society.

#### THE BRITISH LIBRARY

David Beech, Head of the Philatelic Collections at the British Library, has reminded me that this national institution houses some excellent collections of postal stationery, some of which are on permanent display, but all are available to researchers by appointment.

These include:- The Tapling Collection  
The Crown Agents Philatelic and Security Printing Archive  
The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Collection  
The Universal Postal Union Collection  
The Board of Inland Revenue Stamping Department Archive  
The Fletcher Collection  
The Langmead Collection [telegraph forms]  
The Sherbourn Collection  
The Burnett Collection  
The Foreign Office Collection  
The Row Collection

You can find out more information by writing to The British Library, Philatelic Collections, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, phone 020 7412 7635 or at their web site [bl.uk/collections/philatelic](http://bl.uk/collections/philatelic)

#### SWINPEX Saturday 11th June 2005

Don't forget the Society's meeting 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

#### MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 26th March 2005

The Society's Spring meeting, Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> March, was due to be held at the British Philatelic Trust, but because of emergency building works the venue had to be changed to a nearby hotel, the Malmaison. Eleven members attended the meeting

which commenced with Society business. Alan Huggins apologised on behalf of the Philatelic Trust for the change of venue, but said water had entered the Centre and they were waiting for some new plastering to dry out. He hoped it would not spoil the meeting for members. In the event, everyone had a very enjoyable Saturday and was very happy with the temporary arrangements.

Peter O'Keeffe in his new role as Chairman had the unpleasant task of telling members of the passing of Ben Ferguson just a week or two previously. In 2003 Ben had very generously donated much of his collection to be sold for the benefit of the Society and it was with regret that we were told of his death. Members stood for a moment's silence.

Keith Hanman gave a short report on the Society's display at Stampex in February and thanked everyone who had helped with the setting up of the displays and manning the Society table.

### MORNING DISPLAY

The display for the morning was given by our Web Master, Lars Englebrecht, who not only brought his Gold Medal collection along for us to see, but also gave a visual display with his laptop computer and projector, showing in detail all the major items in his collection, including the minor differences that are so important in recognising all the various issues. What a difference use of a visual display made to his talk. We could all see immediately what he meant without having to look closely at the sheets after the talk had ended. This must have been one of the best displays we have ever had at our Society meetings.

Lars explained that Danish postal stationery cards from 1871 were known as bi-coloured issues even though they were only printed in one colour. This was because the equivalent adhesive stamps were also known by this name being printed from two separate plates in two different colours. Much of the stationery was also printed using two clichés for the stamp that often resulted in inverted frames. Spotting the differences in these was not that easy.

Some of the stamps in the formes used for printing postcards had their values added individually by hand, which Lars thought had been done to make up printing plates of the correct size for the printing machines of the period. There were also variations in the borders around the cards, with different patterns being used, resulting in some elementary mistakes by the printers.

Many of the postcards on display had been used as parcel notifications (an internal Post Office accounting procedure) and carried all the postage stamps to pay the parcel post fee. These added considerable interest to the display.

Lars continued his display with underpaid postcards, reply postcards, lettercards, wrappers and cards carrying advertisements that were sold to

the public at a discount. Although Lars had spoken to us for an hour, he had maintained our interest throughout and had shown in great detail how Danish postcards had been created and used in the last part of the 19th century. There were many questions from the audience throughout the talk, often stimulating lively debates.

Lars gave us some notes on his display, and anyone who would like a copy of these should send a large stamped addressed envelope to the secretary.

### ONE SHEET COMPETITION

After lunch members put up their One Sheet Competition entries to be judged by all present. We had 9 entries with the top three being,

- First, GB Victorian Illustrated Postal Stationery – John Jennison
- Second, GB Registered Newspaper Wrappers – Peter O'Keeffe
- Third, NEI Reply Cards – Richard Wheatley.

Unfortunately, as John Jennison lives abroad, he could not be given the trophy donated by Keith Hanman, but a suitable certificate has been sent to him.

### AFTERNOON DISPLAY

Four members had brought material to show.

Alan Huggins went first with advertising on British postal stationery, including temperance and fund raising labels on the reverse of postal stationery envelopes. He continued with a host of stationery carrying logos adverts and the like on all types of stationery. It made a very colourful display and attracted much interest.

George King continued to entertain us with modern parliamentary envelopes. These included various printed devices to indicate prepayment of postage, with all manner of shapes and sizes of envelopes, in paper and plastic. He showed how first class post had always been used until recently, when second class impressions began to appear. He ended the displays with House of Lords envelopes (not at all common) and House of Commons postcards.

Colin Baker displayed GB King George V postcards, starting with the ½d and 1d cards produced at the start of the new King's reign, continuing through the period of postage rate increases and ending with 2d postcards produced during the reign of King George VI. He also showed a variety of reply cards and illustrated postcards.

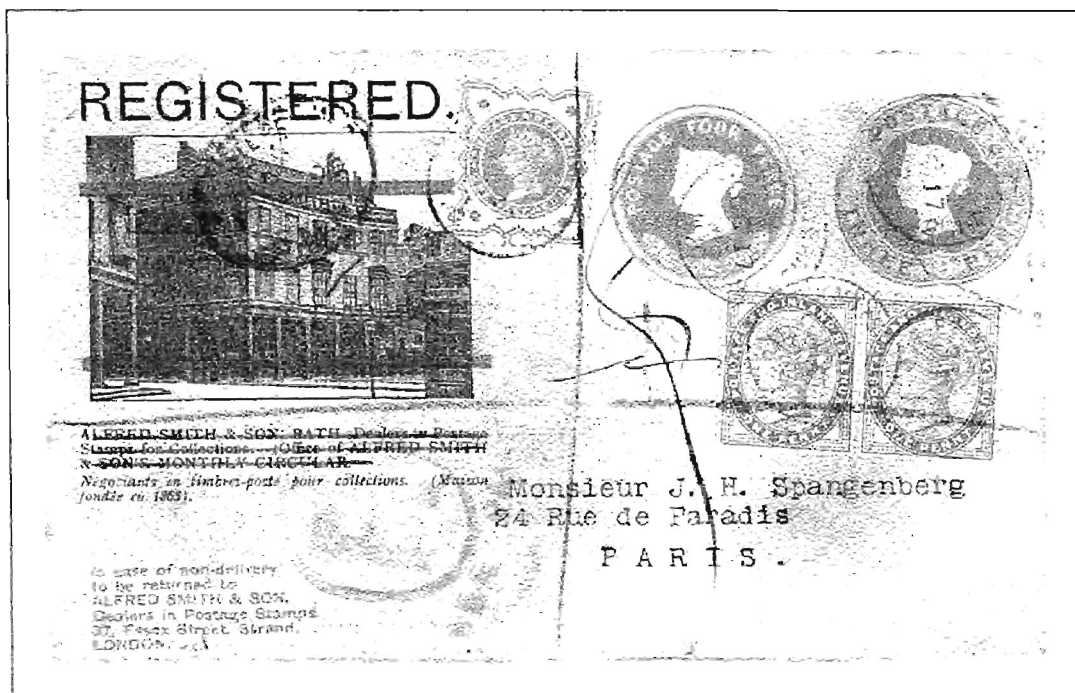
Peter O'Keeffe ended the afternoon session with GB King Edward VII postal stationery covering envelopes, registered envelopes, postcards and wrappers, and including compound stampings. All of these had been used to a variety of destinations both within the UK and overseas.

The meeting ended with Peter O'Keeffe thanking everyone for coming along and showing parts of their collections.

ONE SHEET COMPETITION - WINNER: JOHN JENNISON

GREAT BRITAIN

VICTORIAN ILLUSTRATED POSTAL STATIONERY



Private printed to order illustrated registered stationery (Higgins & Gage KB311A – indicia florets with 9 dots) posted from the Strand, London on 17th October 1896 to Paris; arrival in Paris on 20th October.

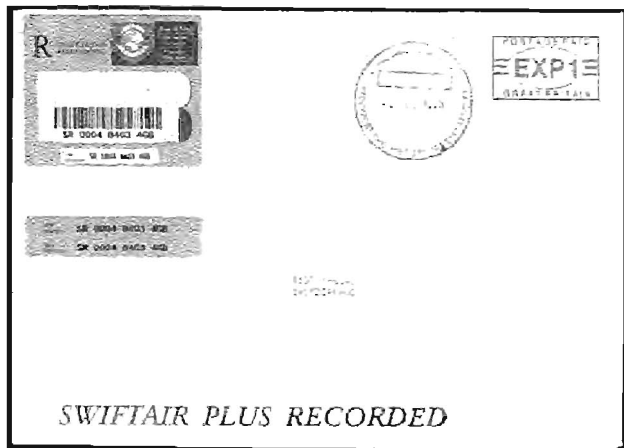
The illustration depicts the premises of Alfred Smith, stamp dealer, in Bath. He together with his brother, Henry, published a priced catalogue of British Colonial and Foreign Postage Stamps in 1866. This led to several editions and he also published a regular stamp circular. Although he and his brother parted company shortly thereafter, Alfred maintained his business and must have moved later to Essex St. off the Strand in London. Hence the very interesting red **CHANGE OF ADDRESS** overprint on the stationery illustration. He must have had considerable business with France as this overprint was also in French. Alfred Smith died in 1888 but the business continued with his son

## A TRIAL 'SWIFT AIR PLUS RECORDED' PREPAID ENVELOPE?

Arthur Roberts

At 'Address 95', a business trade fair held at Birmingham NEC from 31st October to 2nd November 1995 there was, in addition to a Royal Mail product and services stand, a counter service provided by Royal Mail Midland Sales Centre at Coventry where exhibition visitors could leave their full carrier bags of catalogues, with an address label, to be mailed back to their office free of charge. I was told that for offices in the UK the packages would be despatched from Coventry in prepaid Special Delivery envelopes and for overseas visitors in Swiftair prepaid envelopes. I asked if an unused Swiftair prepaid envelope could be supplied with the customer reference number of the package I handed in for a Switzerland address and on receipt it appeared to be a trial envelope, white cartridge with opaque multi-print design with word 'Crusade' and a Maltese cross, printed 'SWIFT AIR PLUS RECORDED' and a Postage Paid imprint the same as that used on the Swiftair prepaid envelope issued in 1991. The barcoded reference label was from a roll as issued to business users, affixed to the envelope. (see illustration below).

As the envelope sent to my friend in Switzerland (returned to me) had not been datestamped I recorded a 1995 usage by mailing the unused sample on 2nd December with a Stockport Retail Centre postmark. It received a Thalwil arrival datestamp of 4.12.95. I have since acquired two more unused examples. What is not known is whether the prepaid envelope was a trial product sold over Post Office counters in the West Midlands or if it was an envelope printed for Royal Mail's own use for overseas despatches.



## K.G.V. ARMED FORCES POSTAL STATIONERY CARDS - 1914 THE FIRST 'FIELD SERVICE CARDS'

Peter O'Keeffe



Late in 1912, the War Office proposed a special postcard with a pre-printed 'stamp' for use by troops on "Active Service" abroad and wishing to write home. It was thought that if the cards were issued without a 'stamp' they might be subjected to a surcharge on arrival in the UK, which they did not want. They also thought that an addressee might assume that stamps were not required on mail going to the troops. The Post Office did not wish to have more "OFFICIAL PAID" items and so a Postal Stationery card was chosen.

This was eventually produced just prior to the outbreak of the first World War in 1914, when the British Post Office produced a 'One Off' one penny stamped post card with pre-printed messages on the back. These cards differed from the first KGV 'civilian' 1d value post cards using the 'Downey' head design, in that they had a full stop after the word 'penny'.

The first issue was available from the 15th August 1914, and was immediately issued to the Army Postal Authorities. It had a 1d 'stamp' coloured scarlet on a buff card.

However, after the card format had been agreed, the Government had second thoughts and decided that troops "On Active Service" abroad could have 'FREE POSTAGE' (up to 4 ounces) and this became effective on the 28th August 1914. A second printing of the 1d card was already in the pipeline, and this was released on the 28th September 1914. This was on a greyish/buff card and was also 'stamped' at 1d. A third printing was released on the 15th October 1914, but this had all the

lettering, and the 1d stamp, printed in red on buff coloured card. All three printings were size 'F', (140 x 89 mm) and they had the same imprint, or Army stock number on the front - A.F.A. 2042, and below this 114/Gen.No./5248.

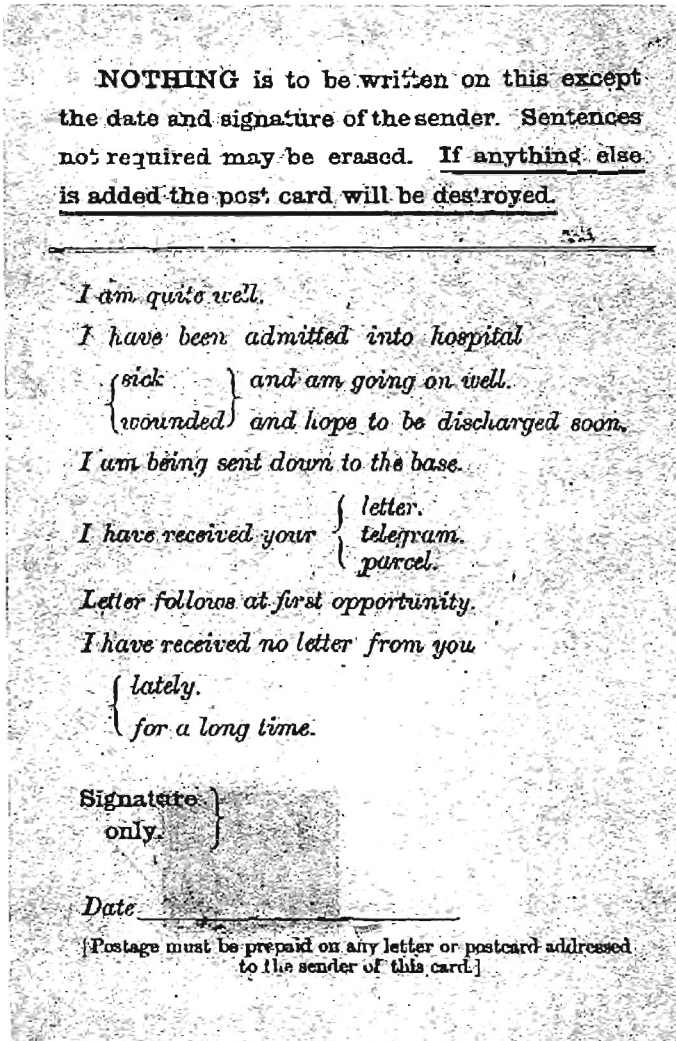
Any of these cards used prior to the 28th August 1914, must be quite rare, and one wonders how widely circulated they were. Many letters from the B.E.F. in the early months of W.W.I. are marked "No Stamps Available", and it seems that they were accepted by the Postal Authorities without any surcharge. It is assumed that any troops who used the cards had to pay for them, but as 'stamped' cards continued to be issued well after the 28th August, without any indication of 'free' postage, again it must be assumed that no charge was made. I have a number of envelopes used after the 28th August, including one sent by an officer and dated 10th November 1914, with a manuscript 'No Stamps Available', which might indicate that many of the troops or their officers did not know of the change, so one wonders how the news was advised to those in the trenches.

After the war - in 1921, a British Sergeant sent 321 unused 1d 'stamped' cards, to the Post Office and requested a refund of the postage for the 'unused' stamps, claiming that he had purchased them from other soldiers. After much correspondence with the War Office, threats of action by the Sergeant, and reference to the Army Council to see if they might take legal action against him, his request was refused. It appears that the cards were confiscated and that he did not receive any



payment. Whether they came from unissued Army Post Office stocks, or from several individual soldiers is not known although all

stocks were supposed to have been issued to troops, usually one per man, per week.



When the 1d 'stamped' cards ran out, they were replaced by similar cards, without the 'stamp', which were issued from the end of October 1914, which surprisingly was also the time that the regulation advising 'free' postage to the troops was published.

The 'unstamped' Field Service cards had all the printing in black ink and had a 'Coat of Arms' logo. They were printed by various printers, had extra wording added and the printers imprint was added at the bottom on the back.

All of these cards had a series of pre-printed messages on the back, and the sender could delete whichever were inappropriate; no other message was to be added, except that at Christmas, when the sender could add a brief Christmas greeting.

The numbers of the three issues of 'stamped' cards produced is apparently unrecorded.

The three different 'stamped' cards are listed as Huggins types FCP1, FCP2 and FCP3.

**OBITUARY: BEN FERGUSON**

It is with regret that we learnt of the recent death of one of our members, Ben Ferguson. A Scotsman, with a broad Glaswegian accent, he was not very tall and had served with the Army in Trieste and Austria, and later with the Army Post Office for several years from the end of WWII. He was a keen collector of anything Philatelic, with a Military connection.

Ben had been suffering from failing eyesight for some years, hence his decision to dispose of parts of his collection, and it was he who donated a large part of his Postal Stationery collection to our Society last year. This was included in our auctions. Although living in London, Ben did not attend our meetings, due mainly to his eyesight problems. Unfortunately, not a lot is known about Ben, but we have written to his brother who lives in Scotland, offering our condolences.

P J O'Keeffe.

## GREAT BRITAIN - THE IMPERIAL PENNY POSTCARD RATE.

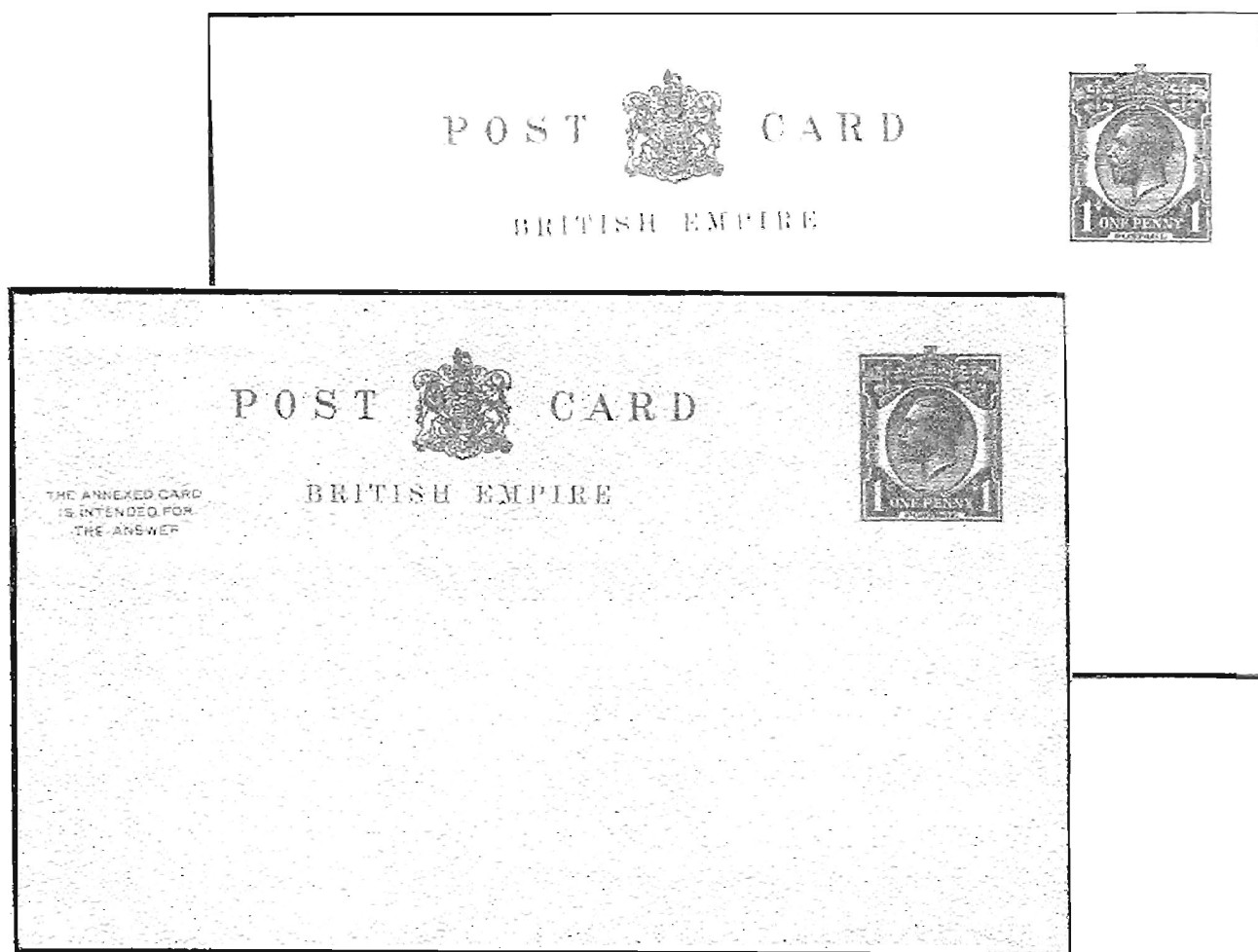
Alan Huggins

Harry Dagnall in his book 'The Evolution of British Stamped Postcards and Letter Cards (1985) pages 155-156 sets out the background to the introduction of the 1d postcard rate to Empire destinations on 15th June 1935 to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George Vth. It was not thought necessary to issue a specific stamped postcard, the normal inland 1d cards (CP90 and CP91) being considered adequate in spite of not having any indication of the country of origin. In this context the

corresponding inland 1d+1d reply paid postcards (CP93) were modified by separately printing the words 'GREAT BRITAIN' on the reply halves (CP94).

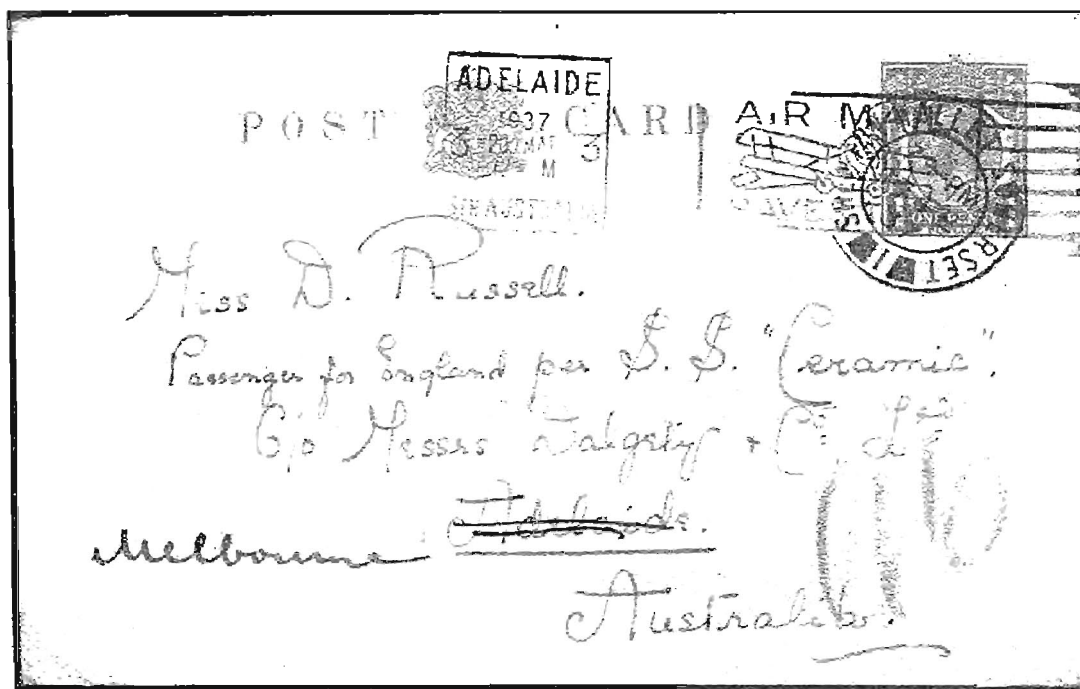
Subsequent printings incorporated this addition in larger type (CP95).

The advent of this rate inspired the private overprinting of both 1d Post Office cards (CP90, 91, 92) and 1d STO cards (CS40, 41, 42) with 'BRITISH EMPIRE' and examples of this on CP90 and 92 are illustrated.



Also illustrated, on the next page, is an example of the Imperial 1d postcard rate to Australia which on redirection from Adelaide to Melbourne received a machine slogan cancellation exhorting the advantages of Air Mail saving time. Although the Empire Air Mail Scheme commenced in June 1937 it was not extended to Australia until July 1938. Had this card been sent just over a year later it would

have qualified for air mail treatment and the need for redirection would have been avoided. (Incidentally the S.S. Ceramic was a liner of 18,500 tons, was launched in 1912 and in 1934 was transferred from the White Star Line to Shaw Savill & Albion. During World War Two she was sunk by the U-515 on 6th December 1942, only one person surviving out of 656 persons on board).



CP90 Shepton Mallet (17.2.37) to Adelaide redirected to Melbourne - 1d Imperial rate

## BOOK REVIEW

**Aerogrammes of the Union of South Africa 1942 - 1961** by Eddie Bridges. Published by the South African Collectors Society 2004

This slim volume (91 pages - A4 size) is essentially an update of earlier publications on the subject but with much added material (some originating in 1941) and, most importantly, a colour illustration of virtually every major item listed.

It starts with a short history of the origin of Air Mail Letter Cards (AMLC) and pays due tribute to Douglas Gumbley who featured so prominently in the recent display by Peter Jennings at no. 41.

It then goes on to cover, briefly, the stampless AMLCs produced for British Forces but used by SA Forces in the early years and quotes the Lee references where applicable. Then follow the Special AMLCs including the SA Unit issues, the SA Gifts and Comfort overprints, those for the Jewish New Year and the Christmas issues. The only 2 examples of the Springbok Letter card to be recorded are illustrated and the book then continues with its prime elements.

The author has persevered with the numbering system used in the 1979 Union Handbook/Catalogue so the main chapters are:

Military Air Letters (MAL), Civilian Air Letters, (CAL) and Inland Air Letters (IAL). Including the "Official" Christmas Air Letter Card and the Korean Free Forces AMLCs, there are a total of 19 main types of MAL shown, many with sub varieties.

Of the CAL, there are no fewer than 50 varieties and the book ends with the introduction of decimal currency in 1961 with one decimal overprinted on sterling and 2 newly printed decimal examples shown. Of the IAL AMLCs, there are 8 examples including decimal issues.

There is a comprehensive bibliography and, most usefully, a comparison table featuring the numbering systems of UHB, Quik, Kessler, KAA and H & G each with a brief description of each item listed.

Essential as a reference book for all SA air mail collectors and air letter collectors in general.

Reviewed by Keith Fitton, FRPS, L and published with permission of the editor of the London Philatelist.

Available for £25 postage paid from the Author.  
Eddie Bridges,

The Laurels, 2 Short Lane,  
Thorpe Malsor,  
Northamptonshire NN14 1JT  
U.K.

## THE LUCK OF THE PHILATELIST

Colin Baker

I suspect it's happened to all of us at some time or another, perhaps even more than once. You pay your 50p entrance fee to the stamp fair and wander in. The dealers with their displays of material for sale are arranged around the outside of the hall facing a central group of tables stacked high with even more albums, boxes of stamps, covers and of course, more dealers.

Do you start in a logical sequence and go around the outside seeing all the dealers in turn, then start on the central area, or do you head straight for the dealers you know, the ones you expect will have the type of material you hope to buy. It doesn't really matter. Sooner or later you'll visit all of them anyway.

You've now been to the expensive dealer, you know the one with all that really good material you wish could grace your collection. The only trouble is that not only is his material good, so are his prices. Well, good for him anyway, but not so good on your pocket. Still it's nice to see all those covers and to look on them with envy. One day you'll be able to afford them. One day.

You must be at least halfway round the circuit by now and you have looked at

hundreds of pieces of postal stationery. You have yet another bundle of plastic envelopes in your hands that are fighting to slip from your grasp and spread themselves all over the floor. Oops, there they go again. You only just managed to keep control of them this time, another embarrassing moment averted. Mustn't take so many at a time.

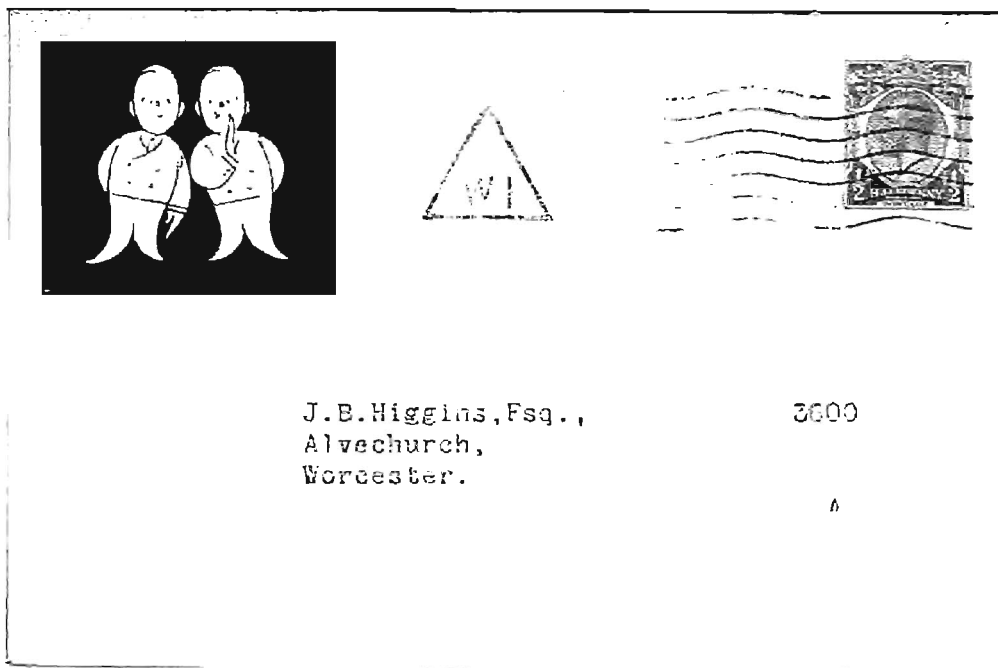
You keep flicking through the stack of stationery in your hand. Got that card; have dozens of those; that's looking very worn;

wouldn't have that in my collection if you paid me, and so on. Then it suddenly jumps out and screams at you. You stop still, your whole body is in a suspended state. You stare at the item in the plastic envelope before you, not really able to believe your eyes. This is something that doesn't come along more than once. You have heard about this type of postal stationery now in your hands, but you have never seen one.

No, you do not do a war dance around the dealers' tables or anything like it. You sit there quietly, put the plastic envelope to one side and carry on searching through the rest of the box, heart pounding, you can't wait to finish, pay your money and depart.

You ask the dealer if that's his best price and he smiles knowingly, giving a small but welcome discount. That rare item is yours.

And so it happened to me the other week at our local society fair. Searching through a bundle of mixed stationery I came across a very nice King George V advertising postcard, or so I thought. The postcard had a delightful vignette on the front depicting two toffs, the trademark of Austin Reed, the gents' outfitters in London. The price being asked for the



postcard was reasonable, in fact very reasonable, and I thought it would go nicely with the other advertising postcards that I

already had. But as I took it from its plastic wallet and looked at it further I realised it was not a postcard in the true sense of the word, but a printed paper rate card, one that folded over with a flap to tuck in on the reverse. However, when I opened it up I realised what a gem it was. Hidden away inside the card and forming part of this piece of stationery was an early tear-off business reply card.

not to send a fully paid reply to customers. Very occasionally you might find a reply card which is only stamped on the outward half, the return half of the card requiring the addition of an adhesive stamp. But businesses that wanted to attract custom knew that the best way of wooing people was to make it as easy as possible for customers to reply, preferably paying the return postage themselves. The only problem with reply paid stationery was that when it was not used the stamped half was wasted – at least as far as the firm sending it out was concerned.

“now

or (as they will probably have to be dragged in sooner or later) *100 bright ideas for presents for men*” is the title of the Austin Reed booklet for Christmas, 1933. It contains a long thrilling Christmas story, conscientiously illustrated by Fougasse. This booklet will help you to solve all your masculine present problems with the utmost facility and distinction. If you would like a copy, just tear off the attached card and send it to us. It will cost you nothing not even a stamp on the card

Postage  
will be  
paid by  
Austin Reed  
Ltd.

BUSINESS REPLY CARD  
Licence No. 195

Austin Reed Ltd.  
103-113 Regent Street  
London, W1

No Postage  
Stamp  
necessary if  
posted in  
Great Britain  
or  
Northern  
Ireland.

### The Start of the Business Reply Service.

At the beginning of 1931 a report was prepared for the Post Office on the possibility of starting a Business Reply Service. It stated that a service was already in operation in the USA and Australia. In the USA the charges were double deficiency on postcards and 1½ deficiency on envelopes. In Australia there was a flat rate fee of an additional ½d on all items.

On 2nd February 1931 the Encyclopaedia Britannica Co Ltd, Regent Street, London W1, wrote to the Secretary of the Post Office stating they would welcome a Business Reply Service in Britain. However two other firms also wrote to the GPO at about the same time to say they thought the scheme would be of little benefit to them. They were Ryder & Son, the seed merchants based in St Albans and John Barker & Co, a mail order company with their main office in Kensington High Street, London. (Now where have I heard that name before?).

The Encyclopaedia

Now business reply cards coupled with postal stationery are very unusual, I would almost say rare. In the first part of the 20th century it seemed as if it was almost an insult

Britannica Co again wrote to the GPO on 9th March 1931 listing the names and addresses of 29 firms ‘engaged in the mail order business who would welcome this innovation’. In a

separate letter of the same date they confirmed that the details of the scheme which operated in the USA were an additional 2 cents charged on postcards and 2 cents charged per ounce (or part thereof) on envelopes with an extra 1 cent for each envelope.

Samples were obtained of the American postcards and envelopes used in their scheme. These were clearly marked as being posted under the Business Reply scheme, there was a note that they needed no stamp and they had hatched bands down their fronts on the right hand side to clearly indicate this.

The GPO were unhappy about using hatching, expressing concern that this could dazzle postmen sorting and delivering mail. However, they felt that a Business Reply Service should be implemented in a modified form and agreed to a trial period of 12 months.

A notice appeared in the Post Office Circular of 13th April 1932 stating that a service was to be inaugurated within Great Britain and Northern Ireland on the 18th April. This was also released to the press and was reported in some newspapers.

Although the scheme was intended mainly for businesses, it could also be used by private individuals. However the rules were quite strict. A licence had to be obtained from the Post Office. The licensee had to deposit a sum of money to cover the anticipated charges that might accrue over a week, month or other period (depending at what intervals the licensee wanted to be invoiced). Specimens of the card had to be sent for approval to their local Postmaster and the cards had to conform to the now familiar pattern with wording in accordance with the Post Office notice, including two black lines down the right side.

Licensees had to pay extra for the Business Reply Service. Although there was no charge for the license itself, all items delivered to them under the service would be charged an additional ½d on top of the normal postage.

In 1932 licence numbers started from 1 with Newton Chambers & Co. Ltd, near Sheffield, being the first firm to receive a license. They originally deposited £30 with the Post Office, but it was subsequently agreed that £10 was a more realistic figure to cover one month's liability. However, it was a while

before Newton Chambers received their refund.

All Postmasters and sorting offices were instructed not to surcharge Business Reply envelopes and cards as being unpaid mail, but this did not stop some of them doing so. On 4th May 1932 the Controller wrote to the Secretary of the GPO asking for another notice to be placed in the Post Office Circular, reminding all staff that only the delivery office could raise charges on this type of mail.

Two months after the start of the scheme the Post Office reported that by 14th June 1932 a total of 334 licences had been issued. By the end of the year this figure had increased to 1536 licences and about 7,000 items were being delivered every day. The report added that most of these items had been posted at ½d, the printed paper rate of the period.

The next year, on 9th January 1933, the Federation of Master Printers wrote to the GPO requesting that colours other than black be allowed for printing Business Reply cards and envelopes. The Post Office was again concerned about postmen being dazzled by bright colours and after looking into it, acceded to the request providing only dark colours were used such as green, brown or blue and providing it did not 'cause strain on the eyes of the officers of the Post Office'.

Well that was the start of this service in the early 1930s. But what about my "find"? Austin Reed's licence number 134 must have been issued at an early stage in late April or May, although I have no knowledge of the actual date. Unfortunately the detailed records relating to Business Reply licences are not available, and have more than likely been destroyed.

I wonder how many other items of postal stationery of this period also carried a Business Reply card. I suspect the numbers must be very low. However, if you know of any, please let me know or write to the editor. Details will be collated and published in a future issue of the Journal.

*[Editor's Note: Please let me know if you have seen any other examples of these cards or can add any more information on this topic. Have members seen similar examples from other Countries? ]*



## AEROGRAMMATICS

### AEROGRAMMES AND FOLDED LETTER SHEETS FROM THE HOLY LAND: Part 2 PALESTINE 1941 - 48

Tony Goldstone

In 1940 during the early part of WWII Col. R.E. Evans of the Royal Engineers was appointed ADAPS Middle East. His remit was to improve the forces mail situation, which due to enemy action could take several months to reach their destinations. As a result of his consultation with Major D. W. Gumbley the then Director of Civil Aviation a new form of forces lettersheet was devised. The Guernsey born Major Gumbley had plenty of experience in the field of lightweight airmail correspondence and "invented" the first airmail letter card service in 1933 when he was the Director of Posts and Telegraphs in Iraq. This significantly reduced the weight and cost of airmails. A fuller and fascinating account of Gumbley's contribution to the world of aerogrammes can be found the book "Aerogrammes" by Peter Jennings.

Gumbley suggested the adaptation of his Iraq airmail letter card and as a result the Australians were the first to produce and distribute the new lightweight lettersheet to their forces in Palestine. It appears that the Australian Forces in the Middle East had autogenous powers and experienced no delays in putting the new air letter into full production. Col. Evans on the other hand had to return to Cairo with samples of the Australian form for forwarding to London for approval by the Secretary of State for War, the then Sir Anthony Eden.

It was not until January 1941 that official permission was granted. The communiqué to the Commander-in-Chief Middle East read as follows "Your ADAPS may forthwith introduce an air mail letter card service for the Middle East. Use British stamps from all countries including Egypt." The postage rate was reduced to 3d. from the

existing rate of 11d. The requirement of British stamps being used in Egypt underlines an interesting political episode of the time but outside the remit of this article!

Although it is documented that Australian forces in Palestine issued their lettersheet in advance of G.B. I have received a photocopy of a "first day" of the Australian from which is dated in July 1941.



Cancellation reads "EGYPT 7/ 14-JL-41 / POSTAGE PREPAID"

The writer testifies that this is the first day!

*W.O. J.R. Wood  
Base Incl. Depot  
A. J. J.  
Hroad  
13/17/41*

*Dear Phil,*

*Will post this in morning to catch first day mail. The Tommies have had similar for months, ours commences officially on 14 July 41. I note in order last week ~~was~~ a caution against reusing stamps, I believe cucumber has been used to clean stamps, a new one on me, but it became rather a universal practice. Shows tricks? am keeping record. Good-bye and*

This is nearly four months after my own example of a G.B. form sent in April 1941.



FPO 201 22-AP-41

On 1st March (Peter Jennings fixes the date as 3rd April) 1941 the service finally commenced in various theatres of the Middle East, including Palestine, and allied forces could now mail these new forms directly to Great Britain and seemingly ONLY to Great Britain as the words "G.T. BRITAIN." were printed boldly at the base of the address panel.

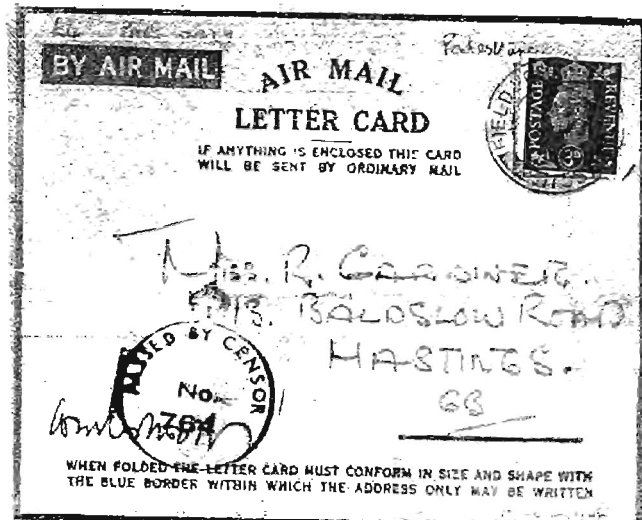


FPO 165 (Palestine) 1 JY 41

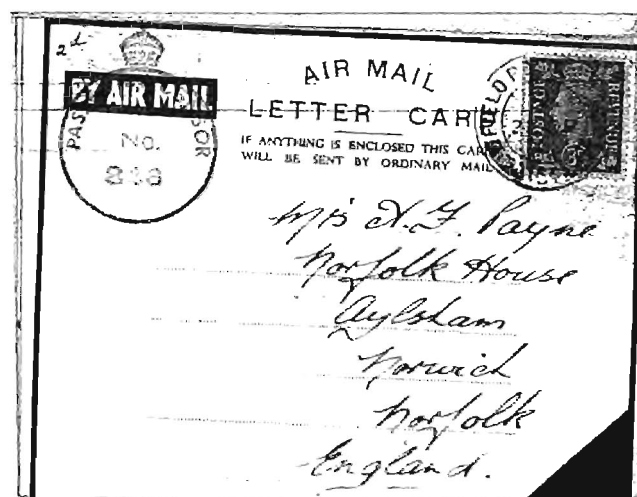
It was still to be some time before citizens of Great Britain could avail themselves of this service and use lightweight lettersheets. Air lettersheets were first issued in G.B. on 21st July 1941 for sending to P.O.W.s in Europe and had an imprinted 2½d. Geo. VI stamp. Air lettersheets for servicemen abroad did not appear until 7th December 1942 and required a 6d. adhesive stamp.

I must acknowledge the help I received in writing the above from an article "Col. RE.

Evans" that appeared in Stamp Collecting 11th June 1981 by A. Felmancent.



FPO 155 (Gaza) 13 MR 43



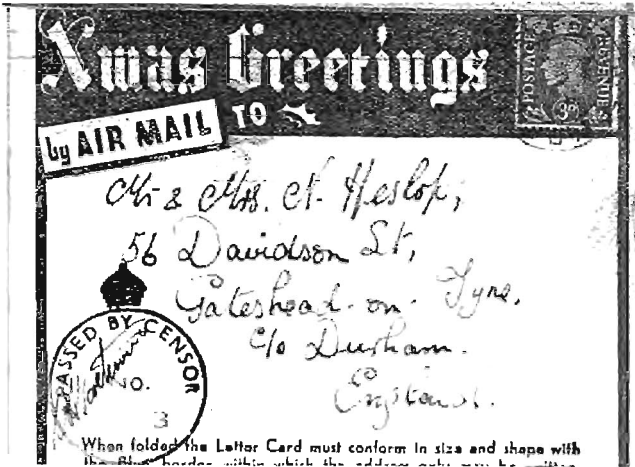
FPO 154 23 DE 43

During the war years a large number of different versions and printings of these forms appeared with great variations in the quality of paper, colour shades and printing instruction differences.

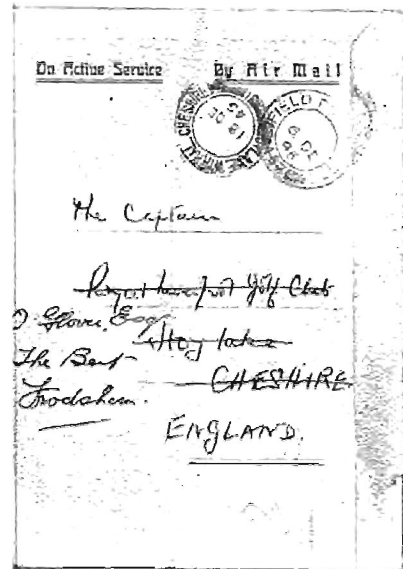
Many of them had codes indicating month and year of production printed on the back writer's panel at the base e.g. 4/44, 5/46. All collectable! Special types were printed for Xmas with illustrations and some units printed their own private issues. Illustrations of a wide selection of the types available between 1941 and Britain's departure in 1948 are shown on the following pages.

Palestine was also the home to a small number of prisoner of war camps, but I have found it difficult to locate P.O.W. lettersheets from there. My collection contains just one example, sent by an Italian prisoner in 1946.





FPO 550 7 NO 42



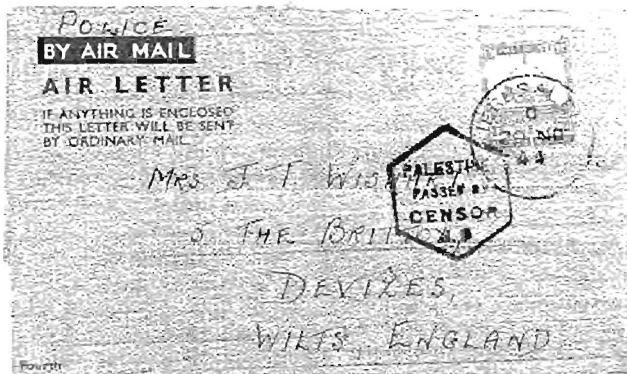
FPO 457 (3rd Parachute Brigade) 6 DE 45  
 (with Christmas illustration inside)



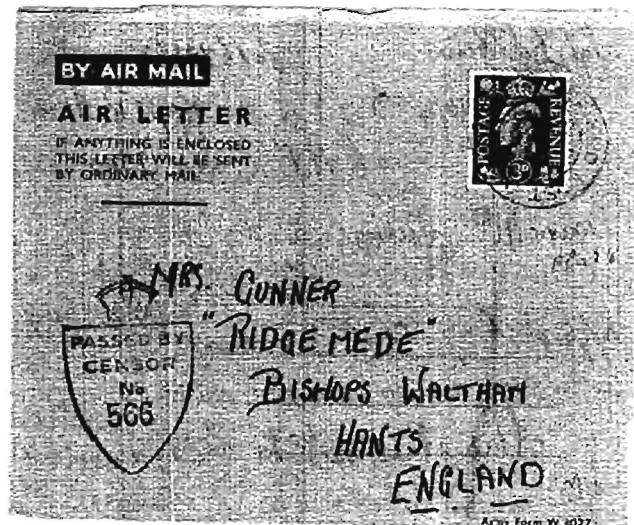
FPO 535 17 NO 44



FPO 731 10 NO 45



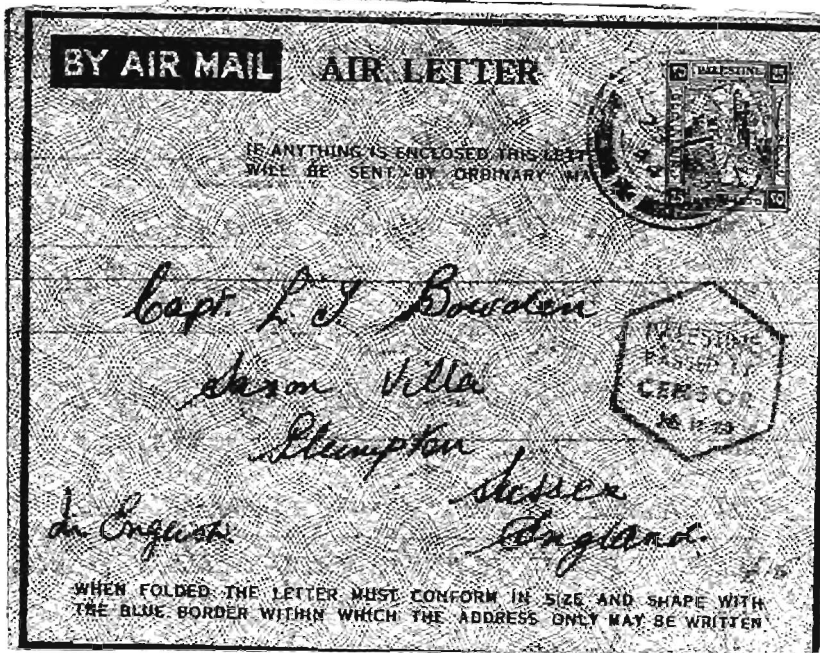
JERUSALEM 29 NO 44



FPO 28 24 NO 44

**BRITISH MANDATE PALESTINE**

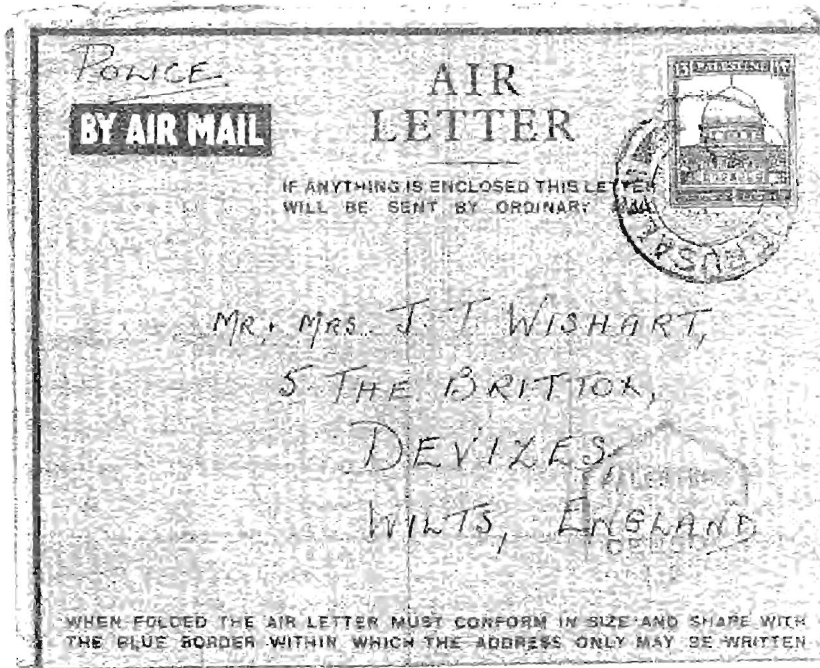
The Mandate Authorities issued only one regular air letter sheet for the general public and this was towards the end of the war in 1944 just four years before the mandate ended. There appears to be some uncertainty about the exact date of its release as 28th October and 1st November are both quoted by different catalogues.



JERUSALEM 29 DE 44

Imprinted Stamp Showing the Tower of David

The imprinted stamp shows The Tower of David in Jerusalem. Two distinct printings are recognisable to the collector as well as a wide diversity in the intensity of the burlage (security overlay), colour of the printing dies and differences in the colour of the gum on the flaps, as well as whether the commas are rounded or straight cut. A rare variety of the first printing is one with a watermark "EXTRA STRONG" and is most collectable.



JERUSALEM ?? FE 45

To the best of my knowledge only one privately produced air lettersheet was marketed to the public and required the addition of an adhesive stamp.

In my next article I hope to concentrate on the issues of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (West Bank) and also on the lettersheets distributed to the United Nations forces operating in the Holy Land and its borders.

**NEW PRINTINGS OF G.B. AIRLETTERS**

Arthur Roberts reports the following printings of G.B. Airletters to supplement the list given in the February 2005 issue of the Journal.

**Standard Airletter**

- 2004 design, code on side flap -
- MSE 099/04
- 177/04

**Discount 'Star' Airletter**

- 1st setting MSE 188/03
- 2004 design, code on side flap -
- MSE 155/04
- 156/04
- 159/04
- 161/04

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY LITERARY AWARD.

The following letter has been received from Robert Allison:

*Firstly, thank you for inviting me to judge the articles written by members in your Journal over the past year for the Postal Stationery Society Literary Award. It has been both a privilege and a great pleasure to do so.*

*The high standards set by all your authors have not given me an easy task! It must be very gratifying for you as editor to have such enthusiastic members who can not only write fine articles, with good illustrations, that are both informative and easily readable by a layman such as a new member or myself, but also can write to motivate readers to embark on their own research as a consequence of reading the articles. Most of the articles, both short and long, may be thus described. To enthuse members to join in the research is of course so important and I enclose, separately, my own small contribution\* as example.*

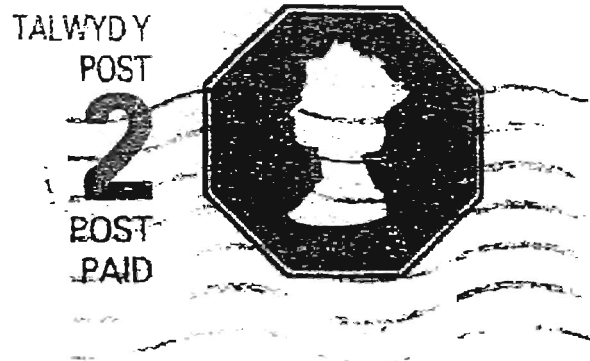
*Please extend my warm congratulations to all your member/writers. After very full consideration I consider the winner of the Award should be **George King** for his excellent three part article "**House of Commons Stationery**" which he modestly describes 'more as a draft'. The finished article should be very good indeed!*

Robert Allison

\* Robert has sent in some interesting correspondence and copies of two articles relating to the Sloper Experimental Cancels used on 1870 G.B. ½d. post cards. I hope to publish some of this in a future issue of the Journal.

### WELSH POSTAL STATIONERY.

George King is collecting information on envelopes which have Welsh text as part of the postal impression, both printed to private order and stamped to order. Examples are shown in the next column.



Characterised by a large 1 or 2, QE II Head in an octagon, or with "POSTAGE PAID TALWYD Y POST" in a circle round the Queen's Head. These are not Postage Paid Impressions, and do not have a PPI number.

George would like to find out what other Welsh Text postal stationery exists before publication of a new book. **This information is required urgently so that it can be collated for publication.**

Please send information to George King, 45 Rectory Lane, Long Ditton, Surrey. KT6 5HP or phone 020 8398 7624. George will reimburse reasonable costs.

**MIDPEX**

The Postal Stationery Society will have a table and present a six frame display at MIDPEX, the National Show for Specialist Societies on Saturday 25th June at the Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill Coventry. 50 specialist societies and 40 dealers are taking part in this biennial event which should prove to be an enjoyable day out. In previous years many other Society's displays have included postal stationery. If you do come to MIDPEX please make yourself known at the Society's table, it is always good to meet members at these events. If you would like to help out at the Society's table or would like directions to the event, please contact the Editor, John Barker, by phone, letter or e-mail, details of which can be found on p.2 of this Journal.

**POSTAL STATIONERY AT AUCTION**

Neil Sargent reports:- Mathew Bennetts held a large US sale on the 1st/2nd April including numerous stationery items and in particular some excellent essay cards. Bids were subject to 15% commission and the rate was \$1.88/£1.

**Postal Card, 1897, 1c black on buff double impression, one inverted (No UX14a), mint card, two very strong Impressions, Very fine and rare.** U.P.S.S. No. 17b Scott \$4,500. Estimate \$7,500-10,000. *Sold \$9,500*

**Paid Reply Postal Card, 1879, 1c Liberty essay (Brazer No. UYIE-NA var.), variety of the third type of the second design with backing paper perforated on all four sides, unlisted bluish green over orange red, Extremely Fine and rare essay.** *Sold \$110*

**Postal Card, 1875, 1c black on buff, watermarked (No. UX4), mint card with an exceedingly strong watermark, very fresh card stock, Extremely Fine.** U.P.S.S. No. S3. Scott \$2,500. Estimate \$2,000-3,000. *Sold \$3,500*

**G.B. Mulready envelope, A131 postmarked Lombard Street, 5th May 1840 (the day before the official 'first day of use' sold for £20,700 (estimated at £15-£18,000) - Spink's.**

**ARTICLES NOTED RECENTLY IN THE PHILATELIC PRESS.**

"GB Postal Stationery, Postal Labels and Postmarks" - John Holman. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly April 2005)

"Commonwealth Postal Stationery 2003-2004" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly April 2005)  
 "2003-2004 Postal Stationery - Foreign Countries A-F" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly May 2005)

*Des Cécogrammes Pour les Malvoyants. [Mail for the Blind] (Timbres Magazine January 2005) Copy of this article is available from J.L. Emmenegger P.O. Box 110, CH-1009 Pully Switzerland.*

**Articles in the Journals of other Postal Stationery Societies from across the world.****Ganzsachensammler** April 2005 (Switzerland)

Das Geheimnis des Halbmondes.  
 Neue Frühdaten bei Postkarten.  
 Empfangsscheine 1849-1889. Supplement 1.  
 Grober Unfug mit Ganzsachenausschnitten.  
 Die Schrullen des Postlehrlings Jules.  
 Das Obligatorische Anbringen des Absenders bei Privatganzsachen und GS-Freistempeln.  
 Statistische über Privatganzsachen.

**L'Intero Postale** Winter 2005 (Italy)

Cartoline Private In Franchigia E Oltre.  
 Ancora Dibattiti Sugli Interi.  
 Interi Pubblicitari: Nuovo Ritrovamento.

**Postal Stationery Collector** May 2005 (Australia)

China Postal Cards.  
 Early usage of the Typewriter On Newspaper Wrappers.  
 Security Devices on French Postal Stationery Envelopes.  
 Australian Parrots and Tropical Birds Stationery.  
 Australian PTPO Lettercards.  
 Listing of Australian Non-Denominated Stationery.

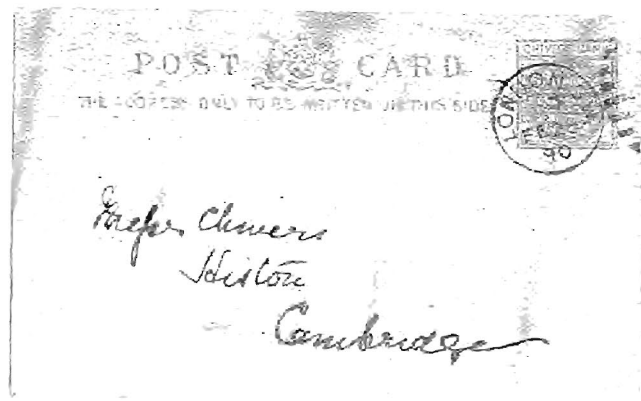
**Postal Stationery** January/February 2005 (USA)

Used Full-Face McKinley Cards.  
 Revalued Stamped Envelopes of Chile 1915-1929.  
 Thailand's Provisional Aerogramme.  
 Perkins Bacon Archive.  
 The Viewcards of Peru. Conclusions and Catalogue.

**QUERY:- CHIVERS "POSTCARD"**

Carlton Jones

This facsimile card advertising Chivers Table Jelly of Histon Cambridge seems to have passed through the post. Has anyone seen a similar card?

**ITEMS WANTED**

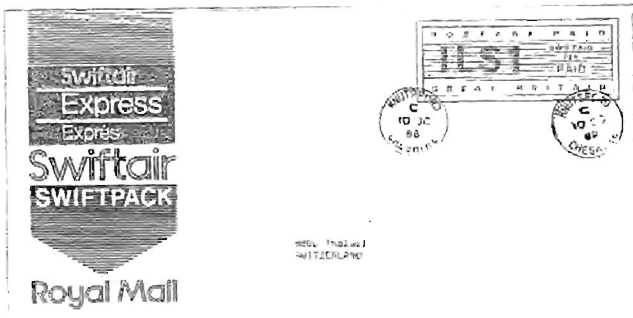
"INSURED/Valeur déclaré" red label of U.K. Post, as well as the green "EXPRESS" label of the Royal Mail. I'm also interested in "Insured", "Express" covers of other countries, if possible on stationery. Please contact J.L. Emmenegger, P.O. Box 110, CH-1009 Pully Switzerland

**“SWIFTAIR” POSTAGE PAID ENVELOPES**

Our member Arthur Roberts wrote in response to the questions raised in the 'Chairman's Chat' column of the Journal (Vol 13 No.1 February 2005 P3) regarding Swiftair Postage Paid envelopes as follows:

"Swiftair prepaid envelopes are true postal stationery as they were sold over Post Office counters for an operational service as are the current International prepaid products such as Airletters, Airpacks, Aisure and International Signed For packs, the availability of which are set out in Royal Mail's 'Reach easier/International stamps and pre-paid stationery' booklet ref. IS 255DL.

The pack that our chairman purchased in 1991 was the second printing, the first having been issued on 9th March 1987 for a trial period of three months. The envelopes were issued in three sizes: 221mm x 110mm, 230mm x 162mm and 325mm x 229mm although the large envelope was for demonstration purposes only. They were first made available to business customers with Airstream contracts in packs of ten. Collectors were able to purchase that first issue DL size from the National Postal Museum sales counter from April of that year. The first printing was without the words 'Royal Mail' and on the reverse was a list of countries not requiring an airmail sticker with Liechtenstein miss-spelt Lichtenstein. The second printing with the addition of 'Royal Mail' and the corrected country spelling was issued 10th October 1988. I was able to purchase the DL envelope that day at Knutsford and it was mailed to Switzerland with the Postage Paid imprint cancelled by the counter datestamp. (see illustration below). It was back-stamped on arrival



two days later at Thalwil, Switzerland. In the 1980s and 90s it was normal for such prepaid stationery to be datestamped at the counter of posting. The design of the third printing issued September 1991 included a circle to the left of the Postage Paid imprint and I have a similar fourth print DL envelope mailed to Switzerland 22nd December 1993 with the datestamp of Newton Street, Manchester Post Office counter placed in that circle. An arrival datestamp of 24.12.93 indicates the reliability of the service. By 31st October 2002 when 'Aisure' and 'International Signed for Delivery' services commenced, I had recorded twenty seven different prepaid envelopes issued for the Swiftair service



and there are probably more printings yet to discover."

**BRITISH LEVANT KING EDWARD VIIth POSTCARD WITH 11.5 X 3mm OVERPRINT.**

A further example of this card has been reported by Tony Stanford bringing the number recorded to eight. This latest example was used from Constantinople 2nd June 1911 and addressed to Bombay and further strengthens the case that this overprint variety was generally available for use. (see PSS Journal Vol 11 No.2 pp17-18 and Vol 12 No.4 p17 for previous reports.)



**1d KE VII BRITISH LEVANT Overprint type 3 11.5 x 3 mm used from Constantinople to Bombay on 2.6.1911.**

**GREAT BRITAIN STAMPED TO ORDER - COMMERCIAL USE OF THE KING GEORGE Vth FOURPENCE EMBOSSED DIE IN BLUE.**

Alan Huggins writes "Following the note in PSS Journal Vol.12 No.4 pp 13-14 I have received information from Dr. John Jennison of the existence of a further example of the 'Tea Planters and Importers Co' also used to Switzerland bringing the total recorded to four. He also sent details of the King George Vth 3d die used by the same company in 1950. Armando Lualdi sent details of similar envelopes with the 4d and 6d King George VIth dies used in 1952 and 1959 respectively to Switzerland and Germany. In addition he also has commercial examples of the same dies used in 1952 and 1961 by another, as yet unidentified company."

### SPRING STAMPEX 2005 - "THE BEST DISPLAY ON THE VILLAGE GREEN EVER"

The display jointly organised by the Postal Stationery Society and the Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS) on the 'Village Green' at Spring Stampex this year "was an overwhelming success". So said one notable philatelist who told the team manning the table that he thought it was the best display he had ever seen at Stampex. Many other visitors expressed similar sentiments.

This made all the hard work put in by Keith Hanman and his team very worth while. While everybody did their bit, I have been asked to mention two people in particular, Alan Huggins for PSS and Allan Jones for GBPS, who did an enormous amount of work behind the scenes and we are all very grateful to them for their efforts.

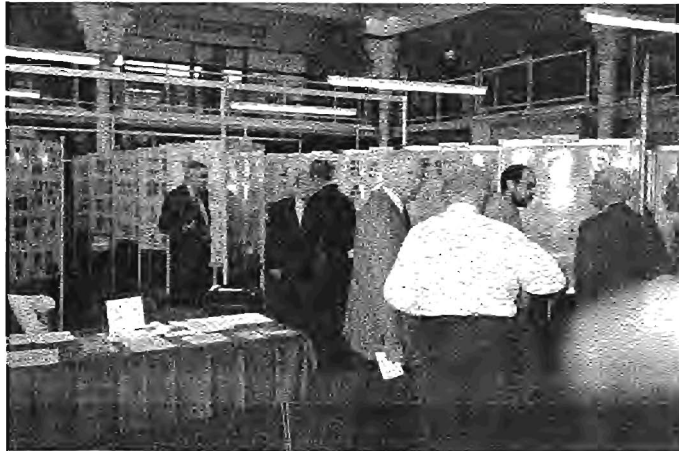
Much planning went into the displays with the two societies holding regular meetings for 18 months to make sure everything went smoothly. A great deal of publicity was given to the displays in the philatelic press, with full coverage in the Philatelic Bulletin and Gibbons Stamp Monthly. All this pre-planning showed off in February as there were few hitches, and those that did occur were only of a very minor nature.

A total of sixteen members from the Postal Stationery Society provided material to fill our 105 frames. This ranged from early Great Britain to World Compound Stampings and gave visitors an in-depth insight into the world of postal stationery. The measure of its success can be judged by the five new members we enrolled at the event and another shortly after by post. Who knows how many more will join at a later date, having been awoken to this side of philately.

Steve Schumann, the Chairman of the FIP Commission for Postal Stationery and one of our long term members sent his apology for non attendance (after all he does live across the 'pond'). He sent his good wishes for a successful event and added "I know it will spread the good word regarding the pleasures in collecting postal stationery".

But the display on the Village Green was not just a PSS affair. Not to be missed were many excellent displays from members of the GBPS, some of whom are also PSS members. Their displays started with the only known copy of the Proclamation by King Charles the First appointing Thomas Witherings as the first Postmaster of England in 1635. But apart from this spectacular piece of history, there were plenty more examples of postal stationery on the GBPS side of the Green, including some from our own members. All in all postal stationery had more than its share of the display frames.

There were so many visitors to the display that we handed out all the one thousand copies of the yellow booklets describing each group of frames. Both societies had extra copies made for their own



members so that those who were unable to attend Stampex would still get a flavour of the event. Your copy to read and keep is enclosed with this Journal.

A measure of the success of the event at Stampex can be judged by the ten new members who have joined as a result of seeing out stand and picking up a leaflet.

The Village Green display was hard work for those members who offered their services. It was disappointing that other members of our Society could not give an hour or so of their time to man the information stand, or help put up and take down the displays. This would have eased the burden on the nucleus of members who gave up much of their time and who would also have liked to spend a while visiting dealers stands.

### BATH POSTAL MUSEUM

The threat of closure facing the Bath Postal Museum reported in the Postal Stationery Society Journal (November 2003) has now been resolved as explained in their press release:- "The Bath Post Office site is to be redeveloped. The Trustees have been offered the basement under the new Post Office counters as a site for the new museum. The museum will be smaller than our present premises but this disadvantage seems to be outweighed by the positive aspects. We have been offered the security of a fifteen year lease at a rent that we can afford.

Our new premises will share an entrance in Green Street with the Main Post Office so that we should benefit from the "footfall" of Post Office customers.

Whilst we were reluctant to leave 8 Broad Street with its historical associations, there seemed to be no hope for our earlier plans to move to the higher floors of the building. We will, however, be allowed to remain in Broad Street until the new building is ready. The Bath & North East Somerset Council has promised that the site will be suitably commemorated.

Meanwhile we will continue at 8 Broad Street until the move, and look forward to meeting visitors old and new and to welcoming new volunteers."



## Great Britain at Auction on 26 May

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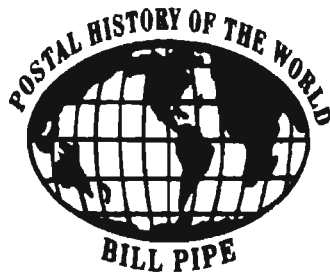
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