



THE JOURNAL OF THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Edited by Peter van Gelder

Issue No. 4

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NEW NEPAL ERROR (see page 10)

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am sure all members are looking forward to the new season - it starts with a meeting in London on 24th September, which will include the second auction organised by Tony Chilton.

The Society can now consider itself to be established, & we must consolidate & build upon our existing success. To achieve this requires the support of all the membership for Society activities which are organised for their benefit by the enthusiastic & unselfish efforts of the Officers.

Alan Huggins

EDITORIAL

My thanks go to all those members who have contributed to this issue. Be assured that if your contribution does not appear this time, it may well do so next time. In particular, several members have responded to the request for information about currently available catalogues - it is taking time to sort & arrange this, but I am hoping to feature it in one of the 1995 issues.

For 1995 three postings are planned: in February "P.S." no. 5; in June a newsletter together with an auction list; in October "P.S." no. 6. I hope these shorter gaps between postings will be especially welcome to members who are too distant to attend meetings.

Another planned development of the Society is the

formation of a library with borrowings through the post. Should any members have surplus p.s. books or catalogues that they are willing to donate or to offer at moderate prices, they are asked kindly to contact the Secretary with details.

Peter van Gelder

QUERY CORNER

The following 2 queries have been raised by David Taylor Smith; any member able to help solve these points should please write to the Editor.

- BURMA - 9 pie postal card in the colour of the civil admin. 1946-7 (i.e. dark green as against the yellow green of 1938). Overprinted "SERVICE". Am I correct in thinking this was never issued?
- JAPAN - 6 sen cherry envelopes of 1873/4. Both of these are known in the black-purple colour (unlike the adhesive, which is also known in orange). I have an envelope in orange with specimen dot (sumi ten). Is this an unissued trial?

SOCIETY CALENDAR

The Society's next meeting will be on Saturday, 24th September from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Swiss Parlour of the YWCA Central Club, 16/22 Great Russell Street, London W.C.1. The meeting will consist of A.G.M. (starting at 11.15 approx.); refreshment interval & lot viewing; auction (at 1.45 approx.); "Egypt" - talk/display by Ted Grey (at 3.45 approx.). The following Underground stations are within easy walking distance of this venue: Tottenham Court Rd., Russell Square and Holborn.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Unless you are one of those few who have paid for 1995 well in advance, you are asked to ensure that your 1995 subscription reaches the Treasurer by 31st December, 1994 at the latest. The address labels for the distribution of "P.S." no. 5 will be prepared during January, & the names of those whose subscriptions have not been received will be excluded. The amount is £5 in Sterling cheque or draft or banknote, or a \$10 (U.S.) banknote. Members in Australia may alternatively send a cheque for \$12 (Australian) to reach Darryl Fuller, 18 Ratcliffe Crescent, Florey, A.C.T. 2615, Australia by 16.12.94. (N.B. Late payers will, of course, receive the journal, etc.....but late!)

USEFUL ADDRESSES

SECRETARY

David Taylor Smith,
23 Britannia Road,
Norwich, Norfolk, ENGLAND.

TREASURER

Sam Barkley,
77 Rathmore Heights,
Ballymena, Co. Antrim,
NORTHERN IRELAND, BT436NQ.

EDITOR

Peter van Gelder,
Somerhay, 16 Frant Avenue,
Little Common, Bexhill,
Sussex, ENGLAND.

AUCTION ORGANISER

Tony Chilton,
56 Framfield Road,
Mitcham, Surrey, ENGLAND.

SOCIETY REPORT

The Society's Spring meeting was held at the YWCA Central Club, London on 5.3.94. Two talks/displays were given, as follows.

Australian Postal Stationery, by Roy Dowdeswell.

Rather than concentrating on only one aspect, this was a general display of all types of stationery issued by the Australian Post Office from 1911 to the present day. Both settings of the first letter cards and postal cards were shown, each bearing a line drawn portrait of King George V. There followed a representative selection of envelopes, wrappers, registered envelopes, postal cards (including the 1911 Coronation issue) & pictorial letter cards for the remainder of the reign. Examples were shown of the various provisional overprints resulting from the imposition of a war tax of $\frac{1}{2}$ d per article, & also changes in stamp imprint to reflect increases in postage rates.

The George VI period included all the above types but also saw the introduction in 1944 of the airletter. The pre-decimal period of the present reign contained a very similar range, whilst the decimal issues were characterised by increasing use of pictorial designs for pre-stamped envelopes, pre-paid postal cards & aerogrammes. The display ended with 2 examples of lettergram cards, which have since been discontinued by Australia Post.

Footnote:- Memembs will be saddened to learn of the sudden death of Roy Dowdeswell in Norwich on 14th April - less than 6 weeks after giving the above dis-

play.

Roy was a past President of the Norfolk & Norwich Philatelic Society and one of its most active members. At the time of his death he was that Society's Hon. Librarian and organiser of one of their exchange packet circuits. He often gave displays of his Australian postal stationery collection in Norwich and other parts of East Anglia. Roy, who was 49, worked as a computer manager in Norwich; he was a keen cyclist. He leaves a wife and son.

I had recently opened up a correspondence with Roy on the 1911 Coronation cards of Australia, a shared interest; and he had just promised to supply an article on that topic for "P.S.". He is undoubtedly a great loss to the Society.

Peter van Gelder

Belgian Postal Cards, by Iain Stevenson.

The Display began with the original postal card of 1871 with its beautifully engraved vignette featuring a railway locomotive. For the first year these were allowed to be used only within a single postal canton.

There followed a comprehensive display of definitive cards, to show the many settings, the introduction of cards for overseas, some research on printings of inland issues of the 1890s showing how the printing colours systematically changed, & the introduction of the "Do Not Deliver on Sunday" labels.

Illustrated cards are of great interest. The first commemorative card was for the Brussels Exhibition of

1897 - it has a beautiful multicolour vignette of the exhibition grounds. A particularly fascinating pictorial series was issued for use on the Dover-Ostend ferries. A range of the beautiful full colour 1st series (both mint, & used with paquebot postmarks) was shown, & a range of the later photographic cards for various steamers. Perhaps the most famous Belgian cards are the PUBLIBEL series bearing brightly coloured advertising. These vignettes began in 1933, and to date over 3,000 varieties have been issued.

Cards from the German occupation of 1914-18 were then shown, overprinted on contemporary German postal cards. The display ended with examples of cards issued for special services, including a genuinely used example of the Telegram card.

Regional Meeting at Stowmarket

This was organised by the Secretary, who gave advance notice to members living within reasonable travelling distance of the venue. The meeting lasted for 3 hours on the afternoon of Saturday 28th May, 7 members attending. Five short displays were given:-
Dutch illustrated & change-of-address cards (W. de Moor)
Italian envelopes & cards (G. Meredith)
Ceylon: pence envelopes & Victorian cards (W. Mansfield)
Falkland Is.: formular reg. envelopes (C. Perkins)
Occupation of Burma, East Indies, envelopes of French India, 1947 overprints of Pakistan (D. Taylor Smith)

(The above report is based on information supplied by the Secretary.)

LETTERS EDITOR

TO THE

Aerogramme Issue Date

In the last issue of "P.S.", under "Aerogrammatics", Tony Goldstone wondered why the 50th Anniversary G.B. aerogramme was issued on 1st December 1992 instead of the anniversary date of 7th December. I suggest a possible reason, namely that the Post Office nearly always makes new issues (stamps or aerogrammes) on a Tuesday, and moreover hardly ever makes them during the busy period before Christmas. Some years ago the Post Office explained that it preferred Tuesdays for new issues because that is a relatively quiet day at post offices. I presume that 1st December was the nearest Tuesday to 7th December on which the Post Office was prepared to risk the rush for the new aerogramme! I shall be interested to read other members' suggestions.

John Beard
(Gloucestershire)

Certificates of Pösting

I was interested in the article by Colin Baker on certificates of posting ("P.S." no. 3, p. 20) that have been stamped to order, and also in the example he provided as illustration. I too have the same format with letterpress 1p lake and $\frac{1}{2}$ p + $\frac{1}{2}$ p compound stamping. In a different format for parcels I have a 5p violet stamping.

I look forward to seeing the updated version of Alan Huggins' "British Postal Stationery", which was mentioned

in "P.S." no. 2 as being in the pipeline.

Tony Bowers
(Derbyshire)

Editor's note - My apologies to the above correspondent for inexplicably typing his name as "Bates" in the Editorial of "P.S." no. 2!

Colonial Formular Registered Envelopes

I seek the help of members about the above. These form a large & very collectable part of the postal history of the Falkland Islands - over 30 different types have been unearthed.

De La Rue printed what might be termed a standard type (of differing sizes) at the end of the QV period. Appearing in the Falklands in 1901, these can also be found to emanate from many other territories. However, subsequent types were printed at intervals until the 1940s so far as the Falklands are concerned, & I am very keen to ascertain whether these types were also issued to other colonies: I have not seen any and would welcome any observations from members of our Society. I shall of course be anxious to correspond with anyone who cares to respond to this plea, & all findings would be reported back to the Editor, for publication & the general information of members.

Clive Perkins (Suffolk)

Spectacular Nepal Error (see front cover for illustration)

This very unusual error with the stamp printed inside the flap is due to accidental overturning of the face. The envelopes were produced at the India Security Press, & this single spectacular error was recently discovered at the counter of Kathmandu G.P.O.

Ramesh Shrestha (Nepal)

WANTS

Entries under this heading are FREE; maximum length is normally 5 lines. Advertisers of WANTS should please reply promptly to every member who responds to their entry.

IRELAND I seek early aerogrammes & envelopes - will buy or exchange - M. Douglas, P.O. Box 546, Calumet, Michigan 49913, U.S.A.

TASMANIA 1894 Exhibition card + reply card 1½d + 1½d (H&G/ASC 6); N.S.W. Greater Jubilee cards, re-inscriptions of 1892 (H&G/ASC 10 & 11) - please reply to the Editor (address on page 5).

PALESTINE aerogrammes Kessler no. 1 (first day) and no. 2 (mint); G.B. - any mint OHMS/OHBMS aerogrammes; Israel - current issue aerogramme (stamp shows World map) - A. Goldstone, 45 Gainsborough Gardens, London N.W.11.

NETHERLANDS illustrated postal cards: 1926 black 10ct overprint on 1924 12½ct red postally used (Gen-zendam no. 173); also no. 178 10ct red two types used - W. de Moor, 1c Broad Green Wood, Bayford, Herts.

CAMEROONS (i) German postal cards H&G 3u, 5m, 6m, 7u, 8m, 10m, 12m/u, 13m, 15m, 16u, 17m/u, 18-21 & private order cards; (ii) French envelopes H&G 1m/u, 2u, 3m, 4u, 5m/u; (iii) British CEF overprints any u - B. Lythgoe, 8 Holland Close, Belgrave Park, Chester.

NEPAL I seek postal cards, envelopes, reg. envelopes & aerogrammes m & u. Also essays, proofs, varieties, etc. R. Shrestha, P.O. Box 2060, Kathmandu, Nepal.

FROM THE

EDITOR'S DESK

I have been sent a list of aerogramme catalogues from Germany, with the offer of discounts if certain quantities are ordered. Language & pricing are German. There are 8 catalogues, as follows:-

- Part 1, Africa A to Le, pub. 1985, estimated price (inc. postage) £4.
- Part 2, Africa Li to Z, 1987, £4.
- Part 3, South Africa & S.W.A., 1988, £4.
- Part 4, Central & South America, 1990, £6.60.
- Part 5, Asia, 1991, £8.80.
- Part 6, Australia & Oceania, 1992, £5.
- Part 7, Europe, 1993, £16.
- Part 8, Canada, U.S.A., U.N.O., 1994, £4.

If you would like one or more of these handy catalogues, please write to me straightaway, enclosing the indicated sum; any money adjustment, up or down, is to be made upon delivery.

One of our members, Edgard Pockele, has been suffering from poor smudged postmarks on current G.B. p.s. If you too are wanting, but not getting, clear postal markings on "non-philatelic" G.B. mail, the person to write and complain to is: Mr K. Menon, Handstamps & Postmarks Manager, Royal Mail National, 22-25 Finsbury Sq., London EC2.

The result of our referendum on whether or not the Society should affiliate to the A.B.P.S. was 5 in favour, 2 against. What a poor turn-out - about 51%!

I should like to commend to you our 3 advertisers,

John Rouse, Robin Linke & Michael Goodman. All are members of our Society and of the P.T.S. John Rouse sends apologies for any delays with his postal business; this has been caused by his recent illness. By the way, our rates for advertising are £10 per half page and pro rata for full and quarter pages.

Exhibitions coming up soon are in Burgdorf, Switzerland from 23rd to 25th September (devoted to p.s.); & in Melbourne in October (where p.s. will play a significant part), from 27th to 30th.

Articles noticed in the philatelic press are:-

- Sloper Experimental Cancels (R. Smith), Stamp Lover, April 1994 - punched cancels on early G.B. postal cards.
- 1993 Postal Stationery (G. Sor-Reime), Gibbons Stamp Monthly, April & May 1994 - very useful listing of recent issues.
- A Pioneering Postcard (K. Chapman), Gibbons Stamp Monthly, April 1994 - first G.B. postal card, 1st October 1870.
- Gumbley & the Australian Airmail Letter Card (P. Jennings) - Gibbons Stamp Monthly, June 1994.
- Postal Stationery Matters (Peter van Gelder), Gibbons Stamp Monthly, March & June 1994 - Mulready p.s. & 1890 Guildhall card - 1890 Kensington, Elliot & Furniss envelopes.

NEW ISSUES

The following list of issues for the period January to July 1994 makes no claim to be complete. Accuracy cannot be guaranteed, though every effort has been made to get the facts correct.

AUSTRALIA

- 13th January - envelope - 45c face/55c cost - World
Gymnastic Championships
- 3rd February - envelope - 45c face/55c cost - Winter
Olympics and Paralympics
- envelope - 45c face/55c cost - World
Veterans Table Tennis Championships
- 14th April - envelope - 45c face/55c cost - Women's
World Basketball Championships
- 12th May - envelope - 45c face/55c cost - Opening
of Parliament House, Darwin

CANADA

- 7th January - envelope - 43c face/46c cost - Regina
Cityscape (size no. 8)
- envelope - 43c face/47c cost - Halifax
Cityscape (size no. 10)
- 25th February - aerogramme - 88c - soaring kite

GREAT BRITAIN

- 22nd March - aerogramme (Scotland) - 45p - Centenary
of the death of Robert Louis Stevenson
- 14th June - aerogramme - 45p - 75th Anniversary of
Alcock & Brown's transatlantic flight
- 19th July - aerogramme (Scotland) - 45p - 200th
Anniversary of the Gordon Highlanders
- aerogrammes - £2.50p per pack of 6 dif-
ferent designs - birds (18 different
birds, 3 on each aerogramme)

HONDURAS

- 14th February - aerogramme - 1.50l - St. Valentine's
Day

NEPAL

- 27th January - aerogramme - 10r - stamp shows Mount
Dhaulagiri

Editor's note: my thanks to Luk Gybels & Ramesh
Shrestha for adding to the details I had assembled.

ARTICLES

CONTROL MARKS ON GERMAN POSTAL STATIONERY

by John Barker

A number of different control markings are to be found on German postal stationery items issued between 1876 and 1914. These convey information on the manufacturer or supplier of the card, and the month and year of printing.

The system of control markings is complex. As the production of postal stationery developed and expanded, so the system of control markings evolved. Towards the end of the 19th century the 5pf inland postal cards were being produced in ever increasing numbers, using card from several different sources. The system which had evolved became unsuitable for these cards by 1894 and was replaced by a different one.

The three mechanisms used as control markings are described here, together with the information which they convey and their period of use. One or more of the systems was used at some time during the period on postal cards, letter cards and money order cards (Postanweisungen).

Punkt-lücken (gaps in the rows of dots of the address lines)

The first markings appear on the 5pfe violet cards of 1876 (Michel number P5). At first the system was rather casual. When a new supply of card was used for printing, one or two dots were removed from the third line of the rows of dots for the address lines. Later, dots were removed from the fourth address line, and by 1879 a more systematic approach was taken. This involved the removal

of a dot from a specific position in the fourth row. A gap in the row of dots (missing dot or "punktlücke") may be found at one or other of the following positions:-

Starting from the left end, 5th dot = l 5,
10th dot = l 10, and so on up to 30th dot
= l 30; or at equivalent positions starting
from the right end of the same row, r 5,
r 10, etc. up to r 30.

This system continued to be used until 1894. First of all it was used on the 5pf cards of 1880 (Michel number P10) and then on the 5pf green cards of 1889 (Michel number P20). Though in 1894 the gap in the rows of dots ceased to be used to indicate the supplier, it was used on the 5pf cards after 1894 and until 1900 to indicate the date (month) of printing.

Control numbers and letters

In January 1882 an additional system of marking was used - to indicate the month and year of printing. This consisted of small numbers printed at the bottom right hand corner of the cards: e.g. 5 83 indicating May 1883 (fig. 1). In March 1884 the month and year were printed without a space between the numbers: 384. The system of missing dots continued to be used to indicate the card supply as before, thus these cards bear two systems of control markings.

In June 1889 a new design of imprinted card was introduced, 5pf green (Michel number P20). The systems of missing dots in the third line of the address and the numbers in the bottom right hand corner continued to be used until August 1890. From then on a lower case letter

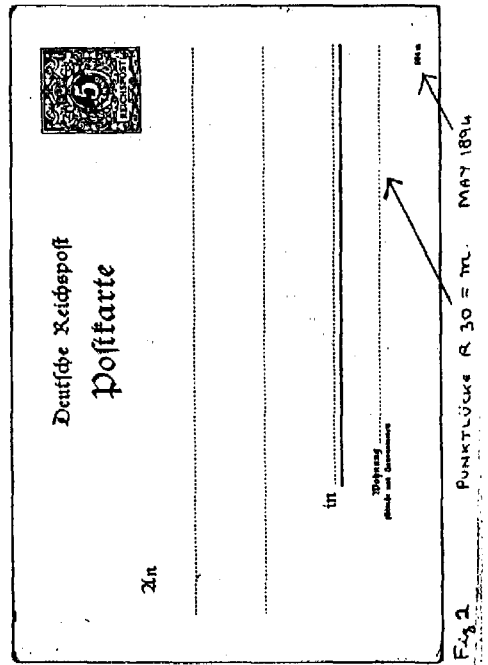
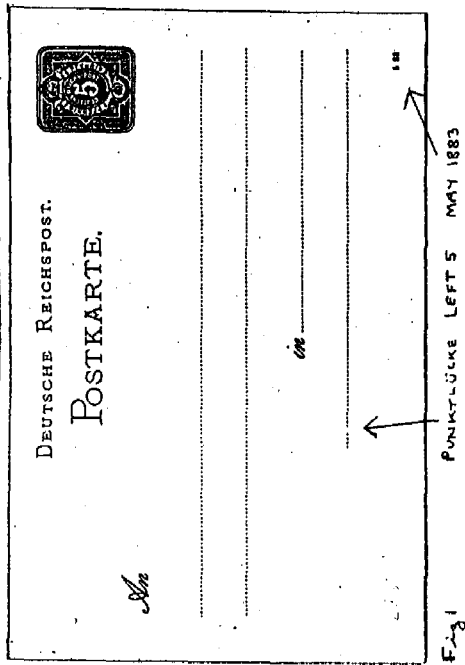
was added after the date: e.g. 594 m (fig. 2). The letter indicated the supplier of the card, thereby duplicating the information provided by the missing dots. The code was as follows: a gap at position 5 from the left, l 5 = a, l 10 = b, etc. up to l 30 = f. From the right end, r 5 = g, etc. up to r 30 = m.

In July of 1894 the 5pf cards were printed on a rotary machine and the control marking system was revised. For this printing (Michel number P32), there was no imprint in the lower right-hand corner. For technical reasons relating to the printing process, it was not easy to use the system of missing dots as before. Instead some cards were printed without missing dots, and others with one or more dots missing from lines one, two or four. Other printings made in July and August 1894 (Mi P33) had control dates in the lower right-hand corners.

A system of control numbers indicating the date of printing continued in use until 1900. On the 2pf numeral cards and some of the 2pf Germania cards of 1900 the paper supply was indicated by the symbols: - or -- (either after the control date or in place of it). This system of dashes had been used on postanweisungen cards since 1884.

Watermarks

In August 1894 further changes were made. The card manufacturers were obliged to put a watermark in the card. This appears on the left of the card as viewed from the front and consists of a large letter



indicating the card manufacturer above a number indicating the year. The first printing on card watermarked "D 94" (Mi P34) was issued in August and had the imprint 894a in the lower right-hand corner and dot gaps at r 5 and r 10 in both the first and the second address lines. This was the only card to bear all three control markings. From then on the imprint was discontinued on the 5pf cards, as the information was included in the watermark.

The issue which followed (Mi P36) had the same watermark system indicating the card manufacturer and the year of production (fig. 3) together with additional controls applied during printing. These once again consisted of a system of gaps in the rows of dots, but from now on these indicated the dates on which printings

95

D

Fig 3



Fig 4

were made from a particular cylinder. Dots were removed from the first two rows of the address lines, presumably by filing them off the printing cylinder by means of a vertical stroke of a file spanning these two lines. As there was no easy way of replacing these dots on the printing cylinder, the original dot gap was present when the cylinder was used again. This subsequent use was indicated by the creation of additional gaps in the rows of dots, e.g. l 5 + l 10 + r 30. The code was:-

l 5 = January, l 10 = February, up to l 30 = June;
then r 5 = July, up to r 30 = December.

The letters found in these watermarks (indicating the supplier of the card) are: B, C, D, E, K (from 1900), L, M, S, St (from 1902), W & Z. They were in use until 1905 and are also to be found on the 2pf Germania cards. From 1905 a different form of watermark was used. This is the lozenge watermark, which is illustrated in Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog and runs continuously down the left-hand side of the cards. In

this watermark a Roman numeral in one of the lozenges indicates the card manufacturer, and the letters D and R stand for Deutsche Reichpost. The Arabic numeral (e.g. 9) indicates the year (e.g. 1909) - see fig. 4. The use of a watermark in postal stationery was discontinued for issues of 1914 onwards.

A new system of control markings appeared in 1934 for the series of view cards and continues in use up till the present time.

I should be interested to hear of any control markings used by other countries on their postal stationery.

HOW RAYMOND BEAT THE MULREADY BY 18 MONTHS

by Peter van Gelder

Some have a knack of getting into the limelight at the expense of others more deserving. Hill (R.) stole the thunder from Chalmers (J.), as also did Darwin (C.) from Wallace (A.R.). But both those instances are small beer compared with the remarkable case of Mulready (W.) and Raymond (J.).

Any fairly knowledgeable stamp collector is likely, upon enquiry, to tell you that the first postal stationery appeared at the same time as the Penny Black, and if he/she mentions a name it will surely be that of the artist/designer, William Mulready. But we know the truth: postal stationery began neither in Britain nor in May 1840. It was born in Sydney, New South Wales a full 18 months earlier (November 1838) - and a mere 50

years after Captain Phillip's landing in Botany Bay and the founding of the colony.

It was James Raymond, Postmaster-General in Sydney, who first suggested the issue of pre-stamped envelopes. His postal stationery went on sale in November 1838 and bore a colourless impressed 1d stamp of the following design:-



The royal arms are those of King William IV (1830-37), with the royal motto "DIEU ET MON DROIT". This seems to indicate that the planning stage for this issue pre-dated the arrival in Sydney of the news of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne. King William died on 20th June 1837, and news of his death would have taken several months to reach Australia. By the time the news did arrive (perhaps at the end of 1837), it would seem the first stamp's design had already been settled.

The "wrapper-like" envelopes went on sale at 2d each (or a dozen at the discount price of 1/3d) in November 1838, and they were for use only in the area covered by the Sydney Penny Post. They were made of white or bluish white paper - but other paper types exist, because from 1841 facilities were provided for the public to bring

their own paper or envelopes into the post office for impressing with the stamps. This was a cheaper proposition, the charge being 1/8d for 25. In the same year (1841) the post office reduced the price of its own postal stationery envelopes to 1d each or 8/- for 100. The non-G.P.O. papers were of various colours - white, blue or yellow - and were sometimes folded before impressing took place. This led to double impressions, i.e. two impressions, one on either side of the same sheet.

By 1848 300 of the envelopes were being sold weekly, but it may be assumed that this number declined after the introduction of the first New South Wales adhesives (the Sydney Views) in 1850. But reprints of the envelopes continued to be made. The 1870 reprints are sharp, with two or three impressions on each envelope. In contrast, the final reprints (possibly made in 1890) are poor, indicating that the die had become considerably worn by then. In 1898 the dies were destroyed. An interesting oval form of the stamp (on a newspaper wrapper) is mentioned and illustrated in Robson Lowe's "Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps" (Volume IV).

From the outset cancellations were applied when this stationery was sent through the post. An oblong mark was applied across the stamp to show the hour of receipt at the post office. In addition, a circular mark of about one inch in diameter was applied - this bore the word "FREE" (i.e. no charge to be paid by the recipient), together with the month, day and year of posting. Post-

marks were usually black, occasionally red.

In Higgins & Gage there is useful information about these items, which are numbered MB 1, 2, 3 & 4. The notes include reference to an article "The Sydney Embossed Stamp of 1838" in the "Collectors' Club Philatelist" (Vol. XX, no. 2, April 1941). If any reader is able to supply me with a photocopy of that article, I should be very pleased to receive it!

The sequel to all this was the issue on 1st January 1889 of 2d and 3d New South Wales postal cards to mark the 50th anniversary of the issue of postage stamps in 1838. Now, after 156 years, greater recognition is surely appropriate for James Raymond, postal pioneer!

Some Aspects of Collecting Southern African Postal Stationery by Tony Chilton

The following is based on the display I gave to the Society's September 1993 meeting.

Collecting the early postal stationery of what are now the Republic of South Africa and its neighbouring territories encompasses a wide range of types of stationery, of methods of production and also of countries of origin. The local administrations sometimes had items printed locally, or in Europe, or they had to press other countries' issues into use to meet provisional need.

The earliest stationery issued anywhere in this

area was, rather surprisingly, by Transvaal, which was then one of the least developed and most sparsely populated areas. There remain doubts as to the authenticity of the envelopes of 1869/70, which were no more than handstamped with the postal canceller and endorsed "6d". But in 1872 the die used to make the printing plates for the 6d adhesives was put to use to provide stationery envelopes. An inverted impression is shown in fig. 1 (perhaps more accurately described as an inverted envelope, as the inverted stamp impression is in the lower left corner!). Forgeries of the 1872 issue unfortunately abound. For the 1874 issue the 3d stamp die was amended to a 6d value to provide more envelopes. Both these issues of envelopes were produced in Natal, but for the remainder of the republican period Transvaal stationery was printed in the Netherlands.

Stationery proofs are rarely found, but the 1895 1d card provided four examples of proofs or essays. The wording on the 1896 newspaper wrappers is a direct translation into Dutch of the wording to be found on all de la Rue-printed colonial wrappers. The final republican issue was the locally produced 1900 1d postal card printed on board a train by the retreating Boer government and inscribed (in Dutch) "State Printing Works in the Field". An essay of the King Edward head was shown in my display to introduce the postal cards, wrappers and letter cards of the London produced Edwardian stationery.

The first Cape of Good Hope stationery issue was a 1d card printed in Cape Town by Saul Solomon & Co. (who also produced the Cape "Woodblock" triangulars). The stamp design is an exact copy of the then current de la Rue "Hope Seated" adhesives. This was soon superseded by the London printed de la Rue issues: a full range of inland & overseas, definitive and provisional postal cards, including various uses of the 1½d grey card. Pictorial cards were first produced privately and then by the post office in response to public demand. My display included one of these latter cards with an "Ultramar" overprint by the Portuguese authorities (they were never overprinted "specimen" ~~as were the adhesives~~). Other Cape items displayed included the 1½d grey wrapper cancelled by the "Cape Argus" spoked wheel.

Cape of Good Hope single and reply-paid cards were overprinted "Mashonaland via" for use in that part of what is now Zimbabwe. Perhaps not unique, these are certainly unusual examples of a routing instruction being printed on a postal card. Cape cards, wrappers and registered envelopes were also overprinted for British Bechuanaland & the Bechuanaland Protectorate, & use was also made in those territories of G.B. overprinted stationery. It is surprising to find such a variety of overprints being employed for a large number of very restricted printings. This was very much a feature of an area which, with few Europeans and thus low postal revenues, was unable to afford to hold reasonable reserve stocks.

In Natal, on the other hand, de la Rue could be sure of receiving repeat orders for the stationery they were

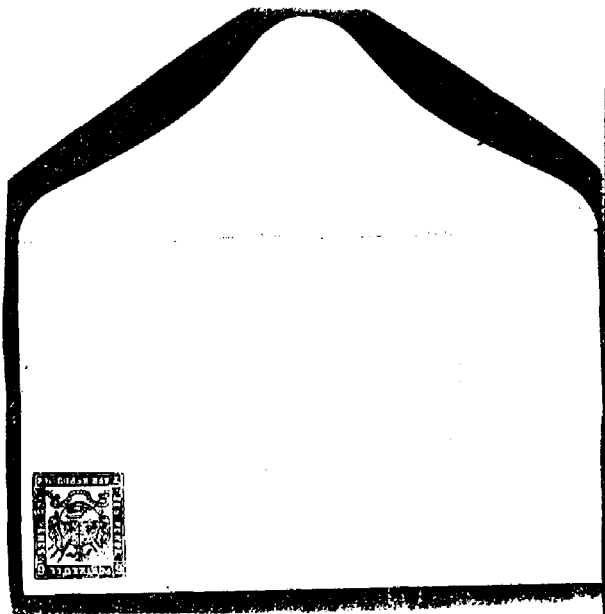


Fig. 1

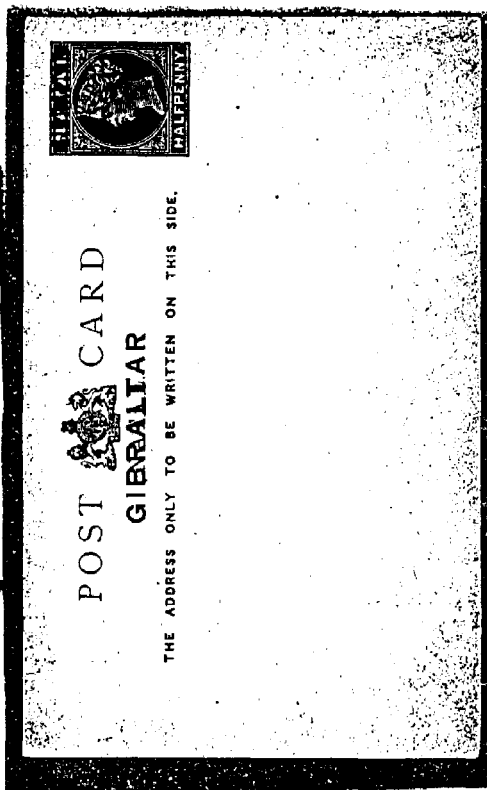


Fig. 2

providing for that colony. A Natal card was shown in the display overprinted "Gibraltar" (fig. 2). This was done to deal with a rush order by taking cards from stock which had been deliberately overproduced by de la Rue in the certain expectation of receiving new orders. (In similar circumstances, St Vincent wrappers were overprinted for Gibraltar.)

The country bordering South Africa which is now known as Namibia began its postal stationery career with German cards overprinted for German South West Africa (first with two hyphens in the name, then with only one). Various printing dates are indicated on the cards, though these are in code, sometimes consisting of breaks at different

positions in the address lines. As with all German colonial stationery, there is a study to be made of which of the many German issues were overprinted for the various colonies. These provisional issues were in due course replaced by the "Yacht" key-type design, including scarce stamped-to-order cards and issues which were printed in Germany during the 1st World War but could never be issued in South West Africa.

A separate aspect of Namibia postal stationery is the cards printed in Germany during 1904-6 for families to write to troops fighting the Herero wars in South West Africa. Numerous differences in the style of the Gothic lettering indicate the locality which provided the cards to the soldiers' relatives.

THE H & G STORY

by Wayne Menuz

(Editor's note - Some famous names always go in pairs. Comedy has Laurel & Hardy, light music has Gilbert & Sullivan, murder has Burke & Hare. Mention Higgins to a postal stationery collector and he/she will surely add Gage! Believing the story behind the names of H & G should be of great interest to members, I made enquiries in the U.S.A. which resulted in the following inside story from one of our American members.)

Having collected worldwide postal stationery since 1959, I took an opportunity in 1971 to work for 3 months in the Higgins & Gage shop. I also gave some assistance

with the writing of the famous catalogue. But let us start the firm's story from the beginning.

In the 1930s Messrs Higgins and Gage formed an auction company in Pasadena, California - near Los Angeles, and then a wealthy area. Shortly after the business was incorporated Higgins died, but Alex Gage decided to continue business under the corporate double name. Alex had a personal collection of postal stationery which was extremely strong in Mexico. In the early 1960s he bought the duplicates from Dr Walton Mitchel's postal stationery collection; a few years later, when the latter had gone almost blind, Alex Gage purchased the collection itself. He also bought the George Slawson collection. The result was over a million items of postal stationery!

The back history of that stock is interesting. Much of it had originally been owned by George Watson and Adolf Lohmyer during the 1880s, until it was sold to the Scott Stamp & Coin Co. (possibly in the 1920s). Included were printers' remainders and Seebeck issues of Latin America. Meanwhile two individuals were forming large collections and duplicate stocks: George Slawson (mostly U.S.A. postal cards), and Walton Mitchel (worldwide, but especially postal cards and letter cards). Dr Mitchel proceeded to purchase the Scott stock. But in the 1940s he moved to Oakland, California and because of lack of space, he had to leave behind almost half a million items - these were considered to have no philatelic value and so were burned!

Returning to the 1960s, we find Alex Gage with an

enormous stock, but (except for the U.S.A.) without any up-to-date catalogue. So Alex Gage, stamp auctioneer, decided to become a publisher, and work was started on the first section of a worldwide catalogue with Norman Lurch of New York as editor. This first section ("A" countries) was hand-written by Mr Lurch and sent to Pasadena, where Alex Gage hired a type-setter to compose the pages. The first edition of the "A"s was published in 1964. It was in fact a poor job, being mostly an English translation of the German 1928 Ascher catalogue, but simplified and hardly illustrated. Alex Gage had been too busy organising stamp auctions to check the work carefully, and he was shortly to comment that the "A" section was "as full of holes as a Swiss cheese"! But he also commented that "everyone feels that this is something that has been needed for years". Luckily, he next found a man who was eminently suited to take over the role of editor.

That man was Ed Fladung (see picture below), a stamp, coin and picture postcard collector. He had earlier started a coin store in Pasadena with another person, who had fled town some time later with all the goods!



So he took a job with H & G working 3 days a week. He sorted the postal stationery stock into large cardboard boxes, one for each letter from A to Z. Though interested in postal stat-

ionery, he had absolutely no knowledge of it. However, he was fluent in German, and when he began sorting the "B" section and found various Bavarian postal cards with coloured views on the backs, his interest developed. Since Ed Fladung could translate the Ascher catalogue, Alex Gage decided to appoint him editor and put him on full-time work with the "B" section. At about the same time Lou Sisco died and, having no relatives, left his remarkable collection of British area postal stationery to Alex Gage - who promptly added it to the firm's stock.

The cataloguing system was rather simple. The box containing all the B items was first sorted into countries. Metal filing cabinets were purchased as needed, and they were filled up with the material sorted according to Ascher numbers, with a cardboard divider for each catalogue number. Up to ten examples of each number were kept in the metal files. If there were more than ten of a particular catalogue number (as some, such as Hyderabad no. 1, had perhaps a thousand copies!), they were stored in another part of the shop in cardboard boxes; then an X was placed on the cardboard divider in the metal files to indicate that overflow copies existed.

Then Ed Fladung began to compose the catalogue. He used an IBM Selectric typewriter on glossy paper that had been pre-printed with blue lines for alignment of the various columns - such as catalogue number, prices, etc. To prepare the listings he used the sorted stock, the Ascher catalogue and such other catalogues and information as existed. TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT ISSUE

TALES OF G.B. STATIONERY

by Colin Baker

2. Army & Navy Stores Fold-over Cards

The Army & Navy Stores, Victoria Street, London (or as they used to be known, the Army & Navy Co-operative Society Limited) was a frequent user of various types of stamped stationery. Many examples used by this store can be found dating from Victorian times onwards. In addition to the variety of postal cards and envelopes prepared for use by this store, they also developed a fold-over card which was a cross between a postal card & a printed-paper-rate envelope. These fold-over cards were printed on blue-green card, folded twice; they were provided with a tuck-in flap at the bottom which fitted into a slot at the back of the card to keep it closed.

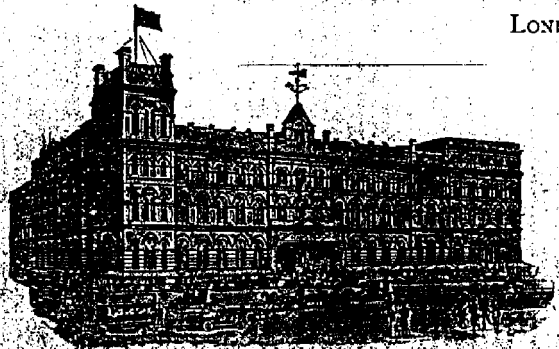
The fronts of the cards included the Army & Navy Stores logo at the top left, balanced on the right by a $\frac{1}{2}$ d imprinted stamp of the appropriate reign. No address lines were included on the front, nor any indication that the card was sent at the printed paper rate.

The insides of these cards were printed with an engraving of the front of the store in Victoria Street, beneath which was a pre-printed message with blanks to be filled in by the relevant clerk. At least two different views of the store were used on the cards; one of these, from a George V issue, is reproduced here.

A degree of privacy was achieved with this type of card, similar to that of a tuck-in envelope. Though

they would have been slightly more expensive to produce, they were more convenient to use & sufficiently different from normal postal cards to amount to an unwritten statement to the recipient about the quality of the store.

105, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W.



TELEGRAMS:
"ARMY, LONDON."

TELEPHONE:
GERRARD 800.

ARMY & NAVY STORES.

Date
17 NOV 1913

CASH REGISTER OFFICE. <u>10</u> <u>230</u>
--

The Secretary begs to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 15 INST. which will at once be attended to.

S 56-16985-25.7.13

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following list of additions & deletions, taken together with the membership lists in "P.S." nos 1, 2 & 3, gives the complete membership of the Society as at 10.7.94. The following list of recently joined members gives one initial, country of residence if not United Kingdom, & collecting interests in brief.

Keen R.	Poland (inc. Danzig, U. Silesia, W. Ukraine, Marienwerder, Allenstein); Austria (inc. Galician & General Govt. cards, & military items)
Meredith G.	Italy; Adriatic countries, Germany
Upcraft F.	G.B.
Cole J.	Australia inc. States; G.B.; Canada
Winchester R. (Australia)	Seychelles; Victoria
Breaden T. (Australia)	World, but especially Australia, G.B., U.S.A.
Boon-Swee Y. (Australia)	Malaysia; Dutch East Indies
McMillan D. (Mrs)	G.B. from KGVI (inc. World War II forces items)
Reid M.	G.B.; N.Z.; Malaysia
MacInnes I.	G.B.; Australia & Dependencies; N.Z.; Canada; overprinted & provisional issues of former U.S.S.R. countries
Bettinello S. (Italy)	G.B.; Italy; Vatican
Parks L. (U.S.A.)	G.B. & colonies; India & States; Germany & States; World to 1945
Hansen E. (Denmark)	Denmark; Danish W. Indies; Gibraltar; Ceylon; Cape of G.H.; Bavaria

Todd R. (Australia)	Chile; Sweden; Austria; Australia
Duberal R. (Australia)	Fiji; Honduras
Goodman M.	World, but especially G.B., N.Z., Australia, Canada
Marsland P.	India
Malkin D. (Canada)	Canada; Africa; S. Pacific; S.E. Asia; Caribbean - aero- grammes <u>only</u> (used) of all these

Addenda: the collecting interests of Diserio M. are Australia inc. States; and of Dorman R. are Australia, Fiji, N.Z., Papua New Guinea.

Deletions: the Society has lost Mr R. Dowdeswell (deceased) plus the following who have not renewed subs: Mrs F. Rapkin; Messrs Clancy, Davidson, Edmondson, Jhala, La Pietra, Lowe, Mansfield, Messenger, Moll, Moseley, Oldham, Patel, Rope, Stammers, van der Molen & Watson. Total membership, as before, is 124.

JOHN ROUSE,

PTS

ADPS

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9th Nov., 7th Dec. 1994

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Spring STAMPEX.....28th Feb. to 5th March 1995

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