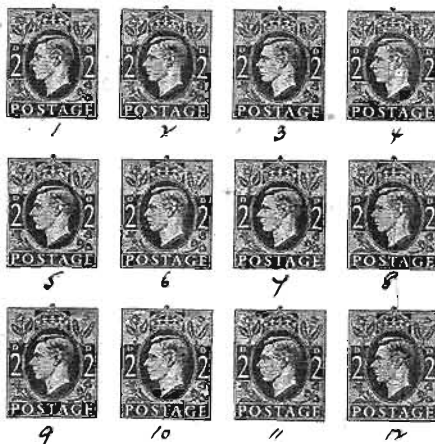




THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 14, No. 4 November 2006
(Serial number 40)



*These Postal Stationery steel dies
received by Royal Waterbury and
Sons. - sold.*

*ROYAL MINT
.. 6.3.70*

PD/A 294a.

A Recent Discovery of Essays and Proofs for the King George VI Letterpress Postal Stationery and Emergency Adhesive Stamps - See page 4

CONTENTS

Page	Page
2 The Management Committee	15-17 Perfins Through Postal Stationery - Postcards John Barker
2 Society Calendar	18-20 Minutes of the Society's AGM held at the British Philatelic Centre, London, on Saturday 28th October 2006
3 Chairman's Chat	20 Tony Chilton Competition
3 Editor's Comments	20 Society Auctions 2007
4 - 8 A Recent Discovery of Essays and Proofs for the King George VI Letterpress Postal Stationery and Emergency Adhesive Stamps Alan Huggins	20 Queries and Replies
9 -14 Estimating Survival rates of used GB Newspaper Wrappers: Two Methodological Approaches Professor John K. Curtis	21-22 Notes from the Editor's Desk

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.

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SOCIETY CALENDAR 2007

Saturday 17th March 2007

At the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1. 11.00 am to approx. 4.00 pm.
Details of an invited display will be given in the February issue of the Journal

The Society's One Sheet Competition will be held during the morning, with all members present being asked to vote before lunch for their choice of winner.

The session after lunch will be for members' displays. Members are asked to bring along a maximum of 30 sheets each on a postal stationery theme, and to give a display of not more than 10 minutes with a further 10 minutes for viewing.

We will arrange to eat in one of the restaurants close by, and all members are invited to join in. The cost is not likely to be more than £10-15 each, including wine. Members who would like to bring their own food to the centre can eat their lunch in the meeting room (but nowhere else). You are not allowed to bring in drinks purchased outside the building. Sorry, but these are the Centre's rules.

Saturday 9th June 2007

At **Swinpex**, St Joseph's Lower School, Queen's Drive, Swindon, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Swinpex will be held in the new school building and will be open from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm

Saturday 30th June 2007

MIDPEX at The Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill Coventry, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. The Society will have a six frame display and a table for the sale of publications. See page 22

Saturday 20th October 2007

At the Royal Philatelic Society's Headquarters. (Details to be announced in the February Issue of the Journal)
Society's AGM, Tony Chilton Competition,
The meeting is expected to close by about 4.30 pm

If you would like a map showing the location of the British Philatelic Centre in London, please contact the Editor (address above)

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

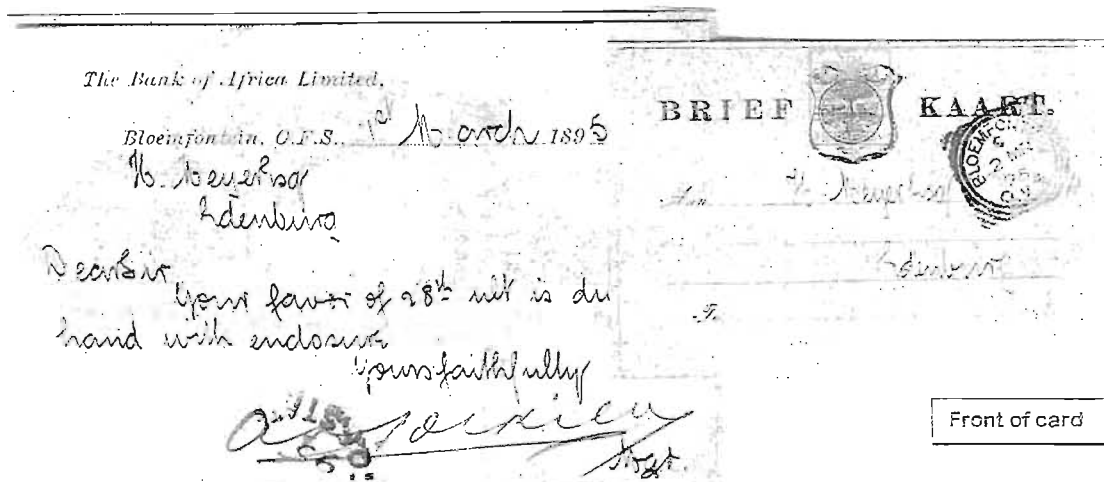
I am very pleased to be taking over from Peter O'Keeffe as Chairman of the Society. Under his stewardship and that of his predecessors, the Society has been become well established with an active membership, a vastly improved journal and regular auctions.

I would be pleased to hear from any member who has a view on how the Society should move forward during my period at the helm. My contact details can be found inside the front cover, together with those of the other Society Officers. One idea that has been suggested is an Annual Conference dedicated to Postal Stationery, taking place over a weekend. Your views on this would be greatly appreciated.

One tradition that I will be continuing with is the 'Chairman's Chat' column in which the Chairman describes an interesting item from his collection. For those

members who don't know, my main interest is the Postal Stationery of the Orange Free State and Orange River Colony. I also have a sideline collection of the newspaper wrappers of Southern Africa.

The first item that I have chosen is a locally printed OFS postal card, used by the Bank of Africa Ltd, in Bloemfontein in March 1895. The card is fairly unassuming when viewed from the front; the reverse however is somewhat more interesting. The card has been beautifully printed for the bank with a logo incorporating a map of Africa. For this reason, it has found a place on the introductory page to my OFS View Cards. Recently, I was looking through my collection and happened to notice that the signature of the Bank Manager was that of one Arthur Tolkein, the father of 'Lord of the Rings' author J.R.R. Tolkein.



Some subsequent research has revealed that J.R.R. Tolkein was born in Bloemfontein in 1892. His mother returned to England with her children in April 1895, just a month after this card was sent. Unfortunately, Arthur was

never to see his children again as he died from a severe haemorrhage after months of sickness with rheumatic fever in February 1896.

Michael Smith

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

(The views expressed here are those of the Editor and do not necessarily reflect those of the Committee)

It is some time since I included 'Editor's Comments' in the Journal. Since then items for publication have arrived either by post or more frequently by email. What has been included in the Journal has been determined mainly by what I have received together with some items which I have solicited.

In this issue the focus is on Postal Stationery of G.B. John Curtis's article "Estimating Survival Rates of Used GB Wrappers: Two Methodological Approaches" examines the meaning of *scarcity*, a topic which is of relevance to most collectors not only when buying or

selling, but also in writing up a collection, giving a display or entering a competitive event. I would welcome members' comments on this topic which is intended to open up discussion, so please let me have your views.

As usual please keep me supplied with articles, items of interest, queries and any other material which may be of interest to members. Don't forget our members' interests span all areas of the globe and all aspects of postal stationery.

Contributions should be sent to the Editor at the address given on p.2. Please note my email address has my middle initial 'h' between the john and barker. I believe some other 'john barker' may have received items intended for the Journal in the past!

A RECENT DISCOVERY OF ESSAYS AND PROOFS FOR THE KING GEORGE VI LETTERPRESS POSTAL STATIONERY AND EMERGENCY ADHESIVE STAMPS

Alan Huggins

This article records the remarkable survival and rediscovery of a series of cut down proofs of the King George VI letterpress dies covering the period 1938-1945 which is being offered by Grosvenor Auctions.

The book in which this material is mounted also contains both British revenue and Irish items. Although it is clear that the proofs must have originated from the Royal Mint it is unclear as to who actually assembled and annotated them, or for what particular purpose. However the presence of a number of progressive states of the 'Master Die Proof' stage strongly suggests close proximity to the point of manufacture.

The material present in this book adds significantly to our knowledge of the development of the design by Eric Gill for the King George letterpress stamp design used for postal stationery, and also in an adapted form for an emergency scheme for printing adhesive stamps by the letterpress process to avoid being dependent on Harrison's photogravure plant at High Wycombe.

Before listing the items it is relevant to indicate other sources of information on this area as follows:-

1. H. Dagnall - 'King George VI Stamp design and the making of the dies' in *The Evolution of British Stamped Postcards & Letter Cards*; pp. 163-177 (1985)
2. A. Gammons - *National Postal Museum Review*; pp. 6-8 (1990)
3. A.K. Huggins - 'Letterpress dies and instructions' in *British Postal Stationery*; Appendix V; pp. 179-180 (1970)
4. A.K. Huggins - 'Emergency Plates for Adhesive Postage Stamps' in *British Postal Stationery - Appendix III*; pp. 174-175 (1970) reprinted from M. Samuel in *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, Vol. 79 p.107 (1969)
5. A.K. Huggins - 'King George VI Emergency Stamps' in *GB Journal* Vol. 44 pp. 124- 138 (2006)

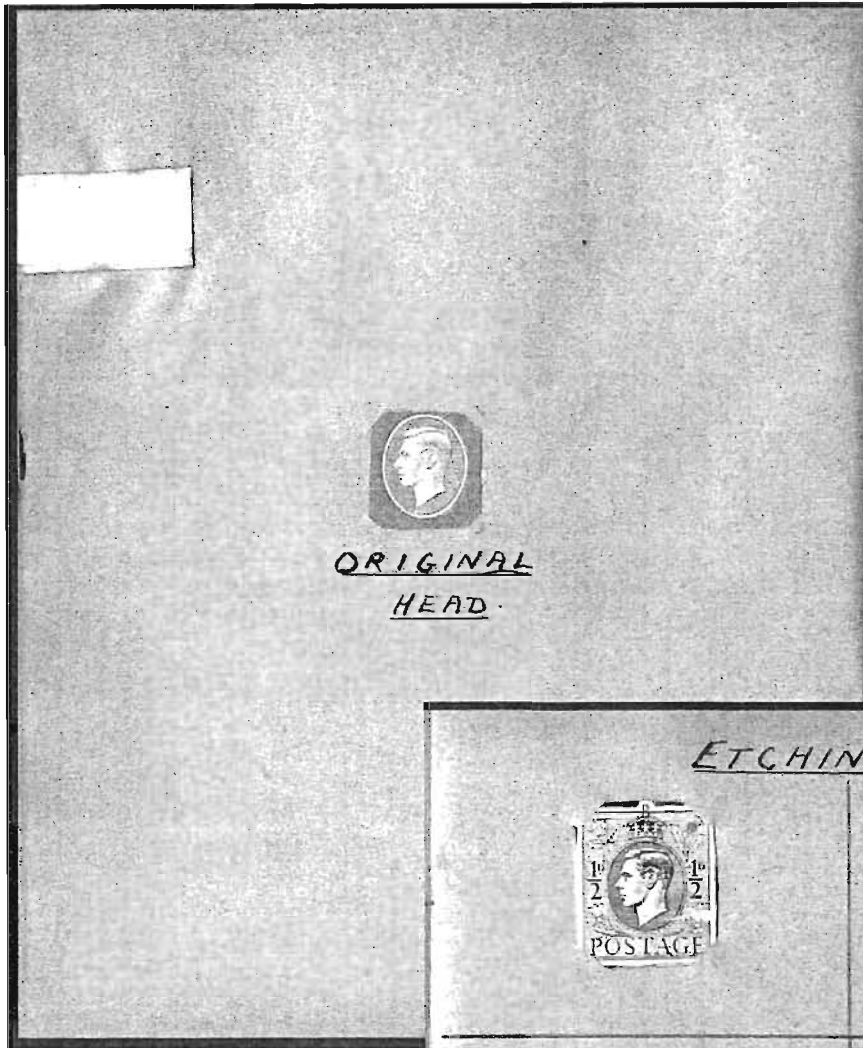


Dagnall (1985) records in some detail the progressive development of the Eric Gill frame design in which was incorporated the portrait of King George VI by Edmund Dulac engraved by J.A.C. Harrison. The design underwent a number of modifications by J.E. Storey, and engraver at the Royal Mint and it is possible that the book being described could be his personal record of the work he carried out.

In the listing which follows the page numbers quoted are arbitrary and merely represent the order in which the items are arranged in the book.

Page 1

Various stages of the Head engraved by J.A.C. Harrison for use on Postal Orders. This head was used in a modified form for the postal stationery dies and also for the Emergency letterpress adhesive dies.



Page 2

Original Head die engraved by J.A.C. Harrison



Page 3

- TL Etching of Gill design 'A' with Harrison Head (14.25mm high)
- TR Etching of Gill design 'B' as modified by J.E. Storey (Head 14.25 mm)
- ML Etching of Gill design 'D' with larger head (15.25 mm)
- MR Etching of modified design suggested by J.E. Storey - 'POSTAGE' on solid panel; background tint of frame graduated in tone
- BL Etching of another modification suggested by J.E. Storey - background to portrait strengthened being solid at left and lined at right
- BR Etching of design as modified by Gill with solid background to portrait dated 9.3.38.



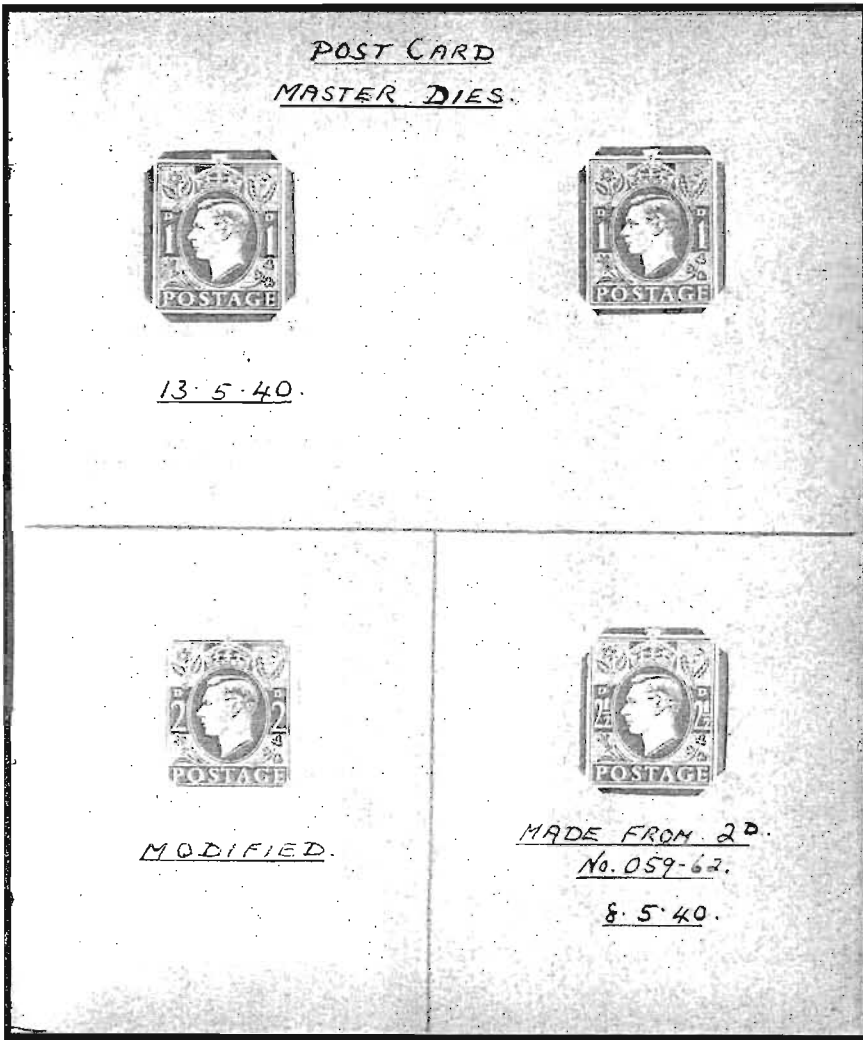
Page 4 Uncleared die proofs
 2 x 1d & 2 x 1½d and
 'POSTCARD' & Garter Arms
 - not annotated [not
 illustrated here - Editor]

Page 5

- TL Uncleared ½d die proof annotated 'ORIGINAL / FINISHED 9.5.38'
- TM Uncleared ½d die proof annotated 'MASTER / WITH BLACK AT BACK OF CROWN. 23.11.38'
- TR Uncleared ½d die proof annotated 'MASTER / MODIFIED'
- ML Uncleared 1d die proof annotated 18.11.38 'NEW MASTER. / WITH SHORT & THICK 1^D / APPROVED'
- MM Partly cleared 1d die proof with thinner '1D' annotated 'CANCELLED / 18.11.38'
- MR Cleared 1d die proof annotated 'MASTER / MODIFIED'
- BL Partly cleared 1½d die proof annotated 'NEW MASTER / WITH 1½^D ON LEFT / SIDE NEAR BORDER / APPROVED / 18.11.38'
- BM Cleared 1½d die proof annotated 'ORIGINAL / AFTER ALTS: TO 50 PLACES / 30.6.39'
- BR Cleared 1½d die proof annotated 'MODIFIED'

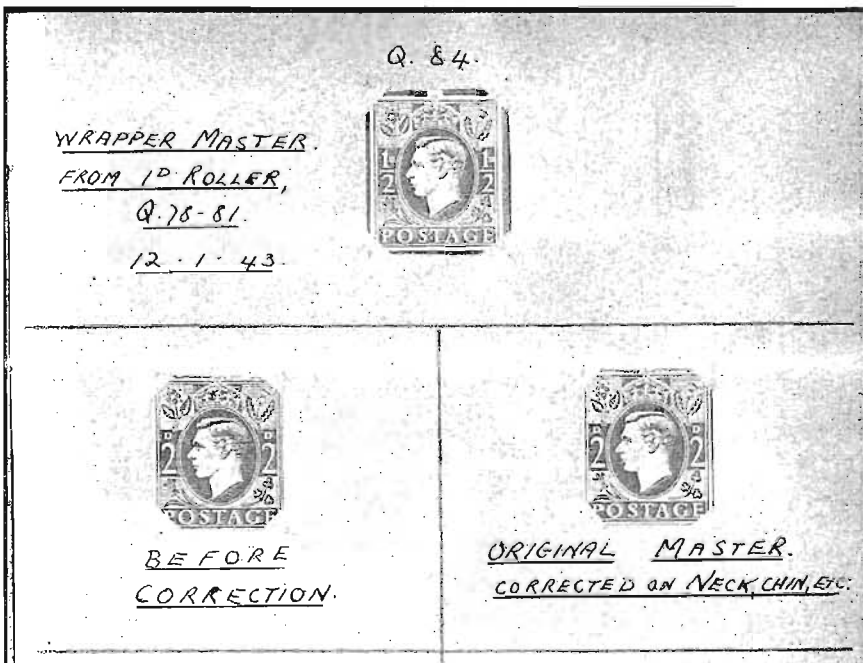
Page 6

- TL Partly cleared. 2d die proof annotated '18.11.38'
- TM Cleared 2d die proof annotated 'CHEEK & NECK / MODIFIED'
- TR Cleared 2d die proof annotated 'MODIFIED'
- BL Partly cleared postcard 1d. Working die proof annotated '3.7.40.'
- BM Partly cleared postcard 1½d working die proof annotated '18.6.40.'
- BR Partly cleared postcard 2d working die proof annotated '8.3.40.'



Page 7

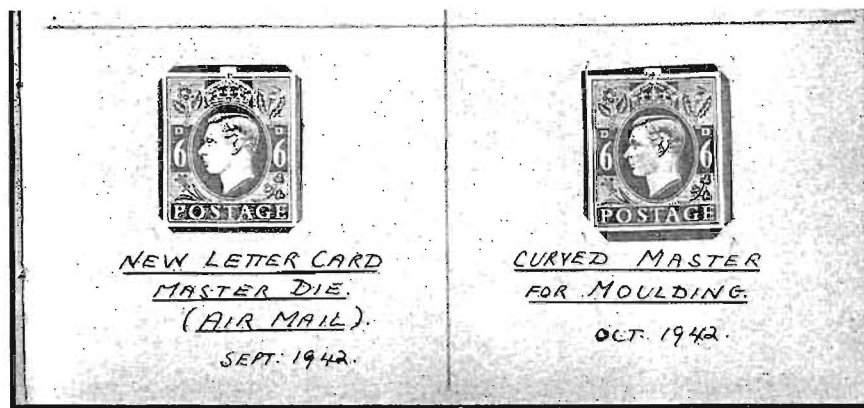
- TL Partly cleared postcard 1d master die proof annotated '13.5.40.'
- TR Partly cleared postcard 1d master die proof not annotated
- BL Cleared postcard 2d master die proof annotated 'MODIFIED'
- BR Partly cleared 2½d master die proof annotated 'MADE FROM 2^D / No. 059-62 / 8.5.40'



Page 8

- TC Partly cleared wrapper ½d master die proof annotated 'Q.84. / WRAPPER MASTER / FROM 1^D ROLLER, / Q.78-81 / 12.1.43.'
- ML Partly cleared 2d master die proof annotated 'BEFORE CORRECTION'
- MR Partly cleared 2d master die proof annotated 'ORIGINAL MASTER / CORRECTED ON NECK, CHIN, ETC.'

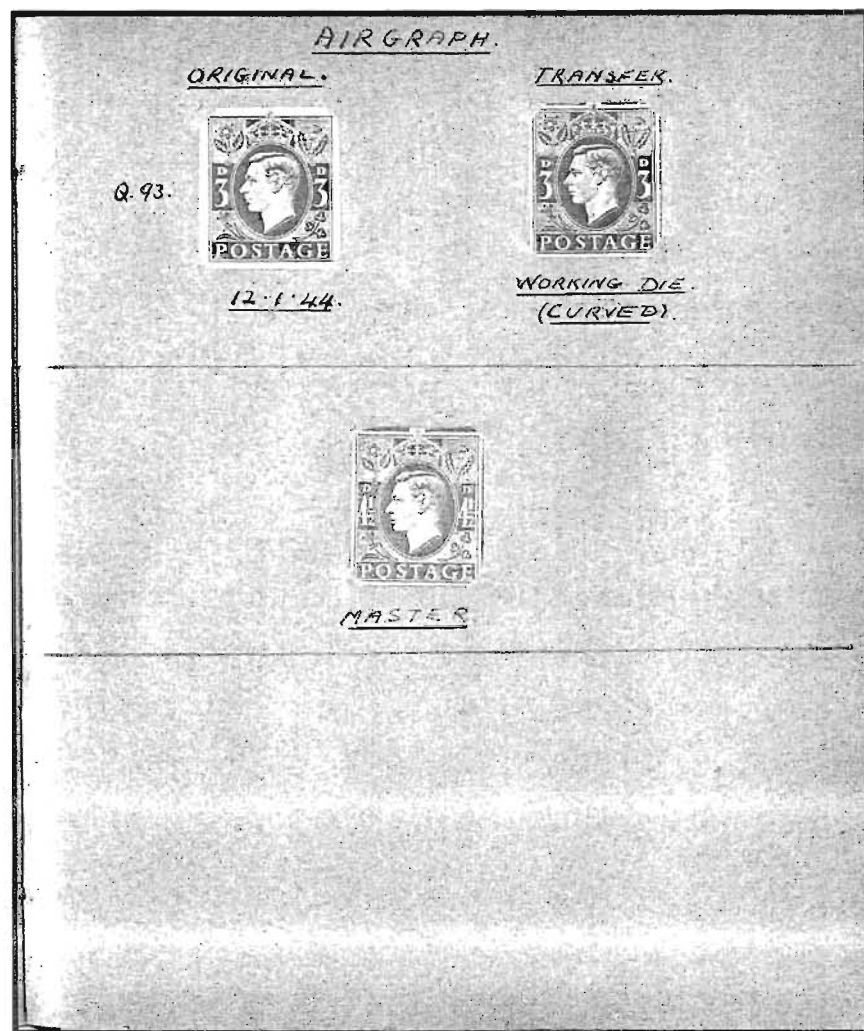
[Top Half of Page 8]



[Bottom Half of Page 8]

Page 8

- BL Partly cleared 6d master die proof annotated 'NEW LETTER CARD / MASTER DIE. / (AIR MAIL) / SEPT: 1942.'
- BR Partly cleared 6d curved master die proof annotated 'CURVED MASTER / FOR MOULDING. / OCT: 1942'



Page 9

- TL Cleared airgraph 3d die proof annotated 'ORIGINAL / Q.93 / 12.1.44.'
- TR Partly cleared airgraph 3d curved working die annotated 'TRANSFER. / WORKING DIE / (CURVED)'
- BC Partly cleared 4½d master die proof annotated 'MASTER'

Pages 10 and 11 have die proofs of the modified versions of the postal stationery letterpress dies prepared for the production of emergency supplies of adhesive stamps and are described and illustrated in reference 5.

Also included in the find were some separate uncut sheets with letterpress die proofs as follows:-

- 1d dies W20, W69, W33, W35 / W39, W44, W19, W24 / W27, W56, W50, W31 - annotated 'W'
- 2d dies 1, 2, 3, 4 / 5, 6, 7, 8 / 9, 10, 11, 12 - 'Twelve Postal Stationery steel dies/ machined by Messrs. Waterlow and / Sons. - soft'; 'PD/A 294a. & 'ROYAL MINT. / 6.3.40' [Illustrated on the Front Cover - Editor]
- 2d dies S0 35-54 in 4 rows of 5 annotated 'Proof No. PD/A 314c / Royal Mint. / 22.7.40.'
- 3d dies W 1-40 in 8 rows of 5 annotated 'Royal Mint Proof No. 504a. 3.2.44' and at bottom 'Chromed R27 3.2.44'

The present article extends the previously published information and the Author is extremely grateful to Andrew Claridge of Grosvenor Auctions for access to this material and providing the illustrations used.

ESTIMATING SURVIVAL RATES OF USED GB NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS: TWO METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES

Professor John K. Courtis acapajc@cityu.edu.hk

Awareness of Survival Rates

There are many reasons why knowledge of philatelic survival rates is important. Survival rates are a proxy of rarity. When only a few copies are known extant the degree of difficulty in their acquisition is much greater vis-à-vis when many copies of an item are available. Hence, the higher the degree of rarity ascribed to an item, then *ceteris paribus* the higher the premium it should command in the collector market. Naturally this assumes that there is a sound collector base for the item. For exhibitors, the higher the rarity of an item the greater the likelihood of its philatelic significance and the more the jurors should take notice and score accordingly. Knowledge of survival rates adds credence to philatelic assertions about relative scarcity.

With regard to estimating survival rates of philatelic items, the approach typically adopted is to start with known numbers printed and numbers "known" to exist. In some cases numbers known to exist is well defined, but in most cases it is an estimate based on a study of auction catalogues, exhibits, and perhaps a census. The numerator 'numbers known to exist' is expressed as a percentage of the denominator 'known numbers printed' to provide a survival rate. This approach uses two variables in the calculation and is intuitively appealing to most collectors because it is perceived to be a reliable estimation technique. Quite a few interesting studies have been carried out regarding particular classic stamps, covers, postmarks and perfins in calculating survival rates and relative scarcity (see Courtis 2004 for a review of ten methodologies published in philatelic literature; the question of mint survival rates is not addressed in this study).

The difficulty is that for many philatelic items one or both of these variables are unknown. Published statistics about quantities printed and distributed have for the most part either been lost or still await discovery in postal or printers' records. An additional complication is that quantities known to exist have been determined in special cases only. For postal stationery items, and newspaper wrappers in particular, it is usual that there are no figures available for either the numerator and/or the denominator. Hence, the question is whether new approaches should be explored to estimate a survival rate.

John Barker, editor of *Postal Stationery*, encouraged me to proceed with this exploratory exercise with his comment, "an article of this sort should generate a lot of discussion as it throws a new light on scarcity, the concept of which has been dominated by 'catalogue value' and numbers issued for far too long" (personal correspondence, August 2006).

The challenge of how to tackle the problem when two key variables are unknown is to seek methodologies that use sample estimates or proxies. Before these new approaches are introduced, the matter of the reliability of the survival rate calculation needs to be raised. A cogent remark by Cohen in his book on British squared circle postmarks (1987) stated that after estimating the relative scarcity of one

postmark where only four strikes were known to exist, suddenly another 30 examples came to light, possibly as a result of the basic rarity factor scale listed in the book. The former estimate of relative scarcity became nonsense in light of the new discoveries. With the exception of a few well documented, mostly classic philatelic items, there is always a possibility that more copies of an item exist and that they will become known in the fullness of time. The point is that the factor "the quantity known to exist", while verifiable in light of contemporaneous evidence, cannot be proven to be an absolute because more copies could be extant in collections, postal museums and elsewhere. In other words, scarcity can be found to be more common, but not less common!

Moreover, the variable 'printed numbers known' also raises questions of precision. Numbers printed is not inevitably the same as numbers issued to post offices, nor is it necessarily numbers used by the public. Philatelic literature mentions many instances of remainders and their destruction. A more reliable figure would be to use the quantity sold to the public. However, without evidence to the contrary, the quantity printed is used as a proxy of the quantity used by the public. It is an empirical question as to whether these are one and the same on a case by case basis.

Even when quantities exist for printing totals and numbers known extant, the calculation of survival rates is an estimate rather than an absolute. For example, if ten items are known to exist and the quantity printed was 100, the survival rate calculation is 10/100 or 10%. However, suppose the real extant quantity is eleven (one item exists but not yet brought to light) and the quantity sold to the public was 90, the calculation is 11/90 or 12%. These small shifts in the numerator and denominator demonstrate that there should be no fixation on the precision of 10% or 12%, but rather the likely survival rate is $\geq 10\%$. Collectors need to be reminded that survival rate calculations, except in exceptional circumstances, are normally estimates and not absolutes.

The focus of the paper is used GB newspaper letterpress wrappers sold to the public at the post office between 1870 and circa 1938. Stamped-to-order letterpress wrappers and embossed-to-order wrappers will be the subject of separate analyses in due course. Two methodological approaches to the estimation of survival rates will be discussed. It will be useful if these approaches stimulate collector discussion and debate. This is not a trivial philatelic matter for reliable estimates of survival rates should have an impact on catalogue values, auction realised prices, collectors' write-up descriptions, and exhibit judging.

A Macro Methodology

The total number of items passing through the GB postal system at the ½d rate between 1870 and 1910 can be estimated at just a little over six billion based on figures published in Stitt Dibden (1971). Not all of these newspapers, circulars, patterns, books and other printed

matter were enclosed in a prepaid open wrapper obtained from post office sources. Embossed-to-order and plain wrappers with adhesive stamps would have absorbed a considerable portion of this traffic. The figures published in Stitt Dibden show that the average annual quantity of ½d mail requiring cancelling was 323 million for 1882-87, with a threefold increase to 697 million annually for 1892-97. The use of the prepaid ½d post office wrapper over this time may have been several billions.

Despite an extensive search of the literature, I have been unable to find any figures of quantities of wrappers printed annually commencing 1870. If the Stitt Dibden figures about ½d rate mail are reliable, several billion wrappers could have been printed by De La Rue. During

the 69 year period (1870 – 1938), Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V wrappers may have reached several billion copies. In the exposition of this macro methodology, the figure of one billion is chosen arbitrarily to demonstrate the process of estimation. Other collectors can recalculate the estimates if a larger or smaller figure is believed to be more apt. Of real interest is the extent to which the Stitt Dibden figures about the volume of ½d mail trade can be used as a basis for estimating the number of post office wrappers issued to the public. Some relationship must exist, and postal historians might be able to shed light on this question.

Sensitivity analysis of used wrapper quantities during this period is shown in Table 1. Intuitively the extremes can be eliminated from further consideration.

Table 1
Sensitivity Analysis of Estimates of Survivor Letterpress PO Wrappers

Based on the assumption of a survival quantity of:	Estimated extant copies based on 1 billion printed by De La Rue 1870-1910
1 per 1,000	1,000,000
1 per 10,000	100,000
1 per 100,000	10,000
1 per 1,000,000	1,000

The sparse literature that refers to pre-1900 postal stationery states that newspaper wrappers were routinely discarded, consequent on their rough treatment by recipients of newspapers and printed matter. A relatively small collector base for wrappers existed, and the major GB stamp catalogues removed wrappers from their listings at the turn of the 20th century to make space for the growth in adhesives. Also, at about this time evidence suggests that postal stationery, especially wrappers, were often reduced to indicia cut-outs. For all these reasons a realistic expectation is that survival rates could be small, perhaps as low as one per 100,000 printed.

The author's computer database of scans of worldwide used wrappers captured mostly from eBay listings over about 3½ years is approximately 7,000. GB is the largest component of this database with 1391 wrappers or about 20% of the total. Each of these wrappers is an empirical observation, with the scanned image captured permanently, classified and filed. However, these observations comprise only part of the population of extant wrappers. Other wrappers are held in collections and dealers' stock. The problem is: how to estimate the number of unobserved wrappers.

If the annual average internet appearance rate of about 350 is used as a base rate, and given that a constant annual flow of used GB wrappers coming forward to the internet market will continue, then over ten years 3500 different used GB wrapper should appear. Why should ten years be selected? Ten years is a comprehensive cross section of time to consider a substantive pool of different wrappers that will appear on the internet market. The actual choice of ten years is less important than the methodology itself. For

exposition purposes, if this ten year figure of 3500 is subjectively determined to represent only 10% of extant copies then the actual total would be estimated at 35,000, i.e., 3500 (10%) observed and 31,500 (90%) unobserved. If the figure of 3500 is subjectively determined to represent 50% of extant wrappers then the actual total would be estimated at 7,000, i.e., 3500 (50%) observed and 3500 (50%) unobserved.

Subjectively determined proportions can be modelled as "states of nature". There is no right or wrong answer as to the correct proportion, but rather the model allows the simultaneous consideration of several proportions and the likelihood of each proportion occurring. For example, one approach is to use ten possible outcomes based on deciles. The base of 3,500 then represents 10%, 20%, 30% and so on of the overall total. This approach is intuitively appealing because it allows for each collector's subjectively determined opinion as to what proportion the base figure is to the total figure.

Each of the ten possibilities is incorporated in the model in order to capture diverse opinions. In this example, each "state of nature" is assigned an equal probability of occurrence. Each state of nature is multiplied by its probability of occurrence to give a total per decile. The overall expected total is made up of all likely outcomes and the probability of each occurring and is the sum of the states of nature estimates. The expected total, based on all ten states of nature, adds to an estimate of 10,585 extant copies. This is equal to a survival rate of about one per 100,000 letterpress printed PO wrappers, or an overall survival rate of .00001. The calculation of the expected total is shown in Table 2.

Table 2
Estimating an Expected Total using Ten States of Nature

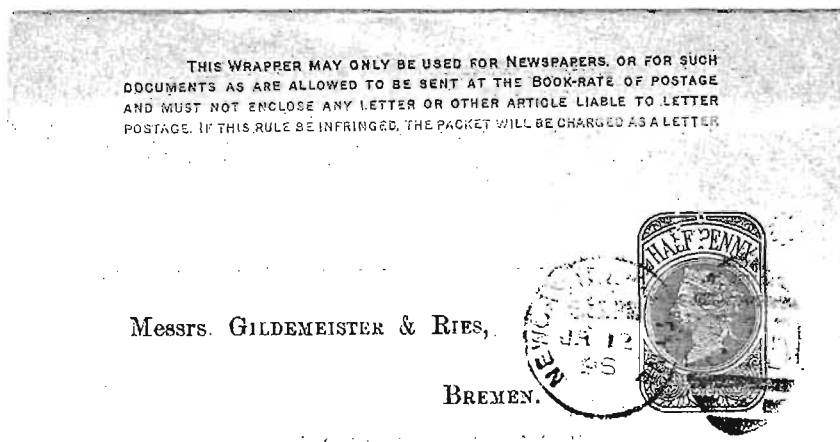
If X% = 3500 then	Probability times expected amount per "state of nature"	Overall total (rounded) per "state of nature"
10% =	35,000 x .1	3,500
20% =	17,500 x .1	1,750
30% =	15,000 x .1	1,500
40% =	8,750 x .1	875
50% =	7,000 x .1	700
60% =	5,800 x .1	580
70% =	5,000 x .1	500
80% =	4,500 x .1	450
90% =	3,800 x .1	380
100% =	3,500 x .1	350
Expected total	1.00	10,585

In this example each of the ten deciles was equally weighted. Collectors who believe the ten year base of 3500 represents only 10% of all extant wrappers is treated in the model exactly the same as those collectors who believe the 3500 is equal to 90% of extant wrappers. The model, however, is flexible enough to allow two important changes. First, there is nothing sacrosanct about ten states of nature. The model can be designed to have more or less divisions. Secondly, the weighting attached to each likely outcome or state of nature can be varied according to whatever subjectively determined probability the collector believes to be appropriate. There is no right or wrong number of states of nature and no right or wrong subjective probabilities attached to each outcome. A determination of these issues should be arrived at ideally through a consensus of knowledgeable collectors. For the sake of exposition, these variations to the model can be demonstrated in the figures incorporated in Table 3. The framework of the model remains intact, only the number of states of nature and the probability attached to each varies. These variations capture how strongly collectors feel about each of the states of nature and the extent to which each division reflects reality.

Suppose a "think tank" of knowledgeable postal

stationery collectors decided that four states of nature adequately depict what is happening, and that the probabilities of their occurrence should be weighted .20, .35, .30 and .15 respectively. The model now has four states of nature and the probability assigned to each is different. A valid question is where did these probabilities come from? The answer is that they were subjectively determined as a consensus viewpoint by the "think tank". The issue is not so much as to prove the correctness of these particular probabilities but rather to emphasise that thought and experience underlies their determination. They are the result of the best educated "guesstimates" that well-informed collectors and dealers can bring to bear on the exercise. At the end of the day, however, they are still subjectively determined.

The reader is invited to check the arithmetic and verify an expected total of 7175. Computer simulation techniques can be used to perform many calculations based on sensitivity analysis of the number of states of nature and different probabilities. In this way a map showing the range of expected totals can be graphed. This would then identify the upper and lower boundaries of survival rates.



**Queen Victoria ½d
 newspaper wrapper
 H&G 9a
 (Huggins WP16a)**

Appeared 4 times out of
 818 GB newspaper
 wrappers listed on eBay
 during a 42 month
 period. - See
Table 4

Table 3
Estimating an Expected Total using Four
States of Nature

If X% = 3500 then	Subjectively determined probability of occurrence	Probability times expected amount per state of nature	Overall total (rounded)
25% =	.20	14,000 x .20	2,800
50% =	.35	7,000 x .35	2,450
75% =	.30	4,667 x .30	1,400
100% =	.15	3,500 x .15	525
Expected total	1.00		7175

The point of the above exercise is not to advocate any particular survival rate but to present a generic model that allows flexibility in setting the number of states of nature and the probability that each will occur. The model introduces some rationality into the estimation process. The model is a framework; the numbers that are inserted into the model depends on the underlying assumptions chosen for their reasonableness by knowledgeable collectors and dealers.

A Micro Methodology

While a macro approach can be useful in clarifying the issues involved, the resulting survival rate is at best only an overall average that applies across the broad field of used letterpress newspaper wrappers. It would be naïve to believe that one survival rate applies to all wrapper types equally. For example, the first letterpress wrapper with the dated die plugs of 1 10 70 was sold to the public for little more than a month before it was replaced with a wrapper showing rose florets in the place of the date plugs. The appearance of the first wrapper in used condition has been noticed only once on eBay during a 42 month data-gathering period. On the other hand, over 300 copies of the brown QV issue of 1899 with four-line instructions have appeared over this period. The survival rates are obviously very different.

Collectors might find it more useful if a survival rate was estimated for each of the basic 28 different wrapper types issued between 1870 and 1938. The author's database of scans identifies the number of each type that has appeared on the internet market over the collection period. The frequency of appearance of each type can be related to both total GB wrappers and total worldwide wrappers. In this way two statistics can be computed: one showing the scarcity of a specific GB issue relative to the total number of GB wrappers appearing on the market, and another more rigorous measure showing the scarcity of a specific GB issue relative to the total number of worldwide wrappers. Table 4 profiles the frequency of each type of GB issue, identified by Higgins & Gage catalogue numbers and matched against Huggins numbers (insofar as scans allow differentiation of types). Wrappers bearing private printing (defined as stamped-to-order or printed-to-private order wrappers) have not been included in this analysis, but had

they been included, the total of GB would be increased by 373.

Wrapper type E7 (WP14) is used to explain the calculations and their meaning. E7 is the QV ½d brown with five lines of instruction above the indicium. A total of 59 used copies of this particular type appear in the database. The first calculation represents the proportion of its appearance relative to the total of 818 GB used newspaper wrappers, or a frequency of .0721. This can be interpreted to mean that the E7 wrapper has appeared on the market about seven times in every 100 GB wrappers. The more rigorous measure is its frequency of appearance relative to 6992 worldwide wrappers. This calculation is .0084 which means that E7 has appeared on the market about eight times in every thousand wrappers.

This micro methodology enables us to identify the relative scarcity of each type of wrapper in relations to the population of other GB wrappers in the database, and the relative scarcity in relation to the worldwide population. Although these GB and worldwide totals are constantly shifting as weekly scans are added to the database, the relative proportions show a basic stability. The caution is that if a hoard of any particular wrapper was to suddenly appear on the internet market, the relative frequency of its appearance would be altered. Hence, it must be remembered that the relative frequency calculation is an estimate of survivorship. The question is to what extent the relative frequency of appearance figures in Table 4 are a reliable proxy of survival rates, and an indicator of their relative availability on the market and fairness in pricing.

Limitations

The macro methodology commenced with a base figure of 3500 GB wrappers, as representative of what could be expected to appear on the internet market over a decade. The 3500 was based in turn on an annual appearance rate of 350. This is an empirically defensible figure because 1191 used and different GB wrappers (bearing post office indicia) have appeared on the internet market over the 42 month data-collection period. This represents a listing rate of 28 different wrappers per month or 340 per year. This was rounded up to 350 to allow for wrappers that could have been missed because the German and French eBay markets were examined only occasionally. However, the 350 does include De la Rue stamped-to-order letterpress wrappers and

Somerset House embossed-to-order wrappers. When these categories are removed the GB total becomes 881 (the figure used in methodology two) or a monthly listing rate of 21 or 250 annually. While methodology one used 350 as its base figures for the exposition, some might prefer 250 as a more appropriate figure. The consequence of using this smaller base is that the survival rate calculation will be lower.

The other limitation is the arbitrary choice of ten

years upon which to project the overall extant totals. There is no theoretical justification for the choice of a decade. The assumption of ten years as representative of what appears on the international internet market results in the computation of a survival rate in the vicinity of one per 100,000 wrappers. Given the rough treatment wrappers received in the hands of recipients, and other explanations offered earlier, perhaps this low survival rate is reasonable.

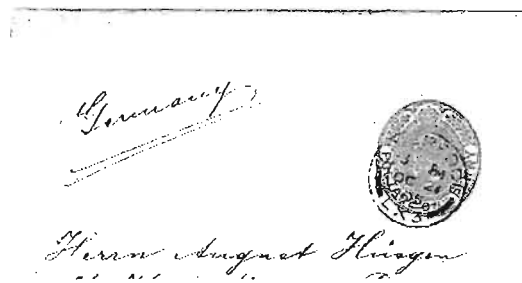
Table 4
Relative scarcity by issued Type

H&G #	Huggins #	Description of Type	Frequency of appearance	Proportions Relative to GB only & worldwide	
				818*	6992
1	WP1	QV gr date plugs 1 10 70	1	.0012	.0001
2/3 ¹	WP2	QV green florets	17	.0207	.0024
4*	WP6	QV grn, 3-line instructions	0	.0000	.0000
5	WP10	QV gr 5-line instructions	40	.0488	.0057
5a	WP11	5-line instruction on buff	1	.0012	.0001
6	WP12a	QV oval, pale buff	54	.0660	.0077
6a	WP12b	QV oval, deep buff	1	.0012	.0001
6b	WP12c	QV oval, straw coloured	1	.0012	.0001
7	WP14	QV brown 5-line text	59	.0721	.0084
8	WP15	QV br 5-line text, cut cnrs	5	.0061	.0007
9	WP16b	QV br 4-line text, buff	328	.4009	.0469
9a	WP16a	QV br 4-l text, yellowish	4	.0049	.0005
10	WP17	QV br 2 chamfered cnrs	32	.0391	.0046
11	WP18	QV blue-green, no text	22	.0269	.0031
12	WP19	KE blue-green	105	.1283	.0151
13	WP20	KE 1d carmine	12	.0147	.0001
14	WP21	KE yellow-green	67	.0819	.0096
15	WP22	KE bright green (McCorq)	15	.0183	.0021
16/7 ¹	WP23	KE 1d dull carmine (McC)	6	.0073	.0009
18	WP25 ²	KGV green different dies	6	.0073	.0009
19	WP26	KGV 1d carmine	1	.0012	.0001
20	WP27	KGV green sideface	30	.0366	.0043
21	WP28	KGV 1d carmine sideface	6	.0073	.0009
24	WP31	KGV large gap from gum	2	.0024	.0003
25	WP32	KGV 1c car. even shading	1	.0012	.0001
26	WP33	KGV green white paper	1	.0012	.0001
27	WP34	KGV 1d car. white paper	1	.0012	.0001

* 818 refer to letterpress post office issues, Postally used. Another 373 stamped-to-order letterpress wrappers are not included in this analysis. Notably absent from the list is E4, being QV green with 3-line instructions, arguably the scarcest of GB used wrappers.

1. Scans do not normally reveal chamfered corners; therefore some E2 could be E3, and some E16 could be E17.

2. Scans normally are not sharp enough to enable differentiation of the three dies.



King Edward VII 1d carmine newspaper wrapper H&G 13 (Huggins WP20)

Appeared 12 times out of 818 GB newspaper wrappers listed on eBay during a 42 month period. - See **Table 4**

With regard to methodology two, the key assumption is that a calculation of frequency of appearance of a wrapper type relative to other same-country wrappers is a suitable proxy of survivor rate. The database is a factual record of what has been listed, and the rates so calculated are based on actual observations. The problem of interpretation was brought out cogently by Robert Lemire, who helped me with a paper for *BNA Topics*. He pointed out that with regard to Canadian wrappers there is little worldwide collector interest. What appears on the international internet market might not reflect important activity that is taking place (see Courtis 2006). Robert pointed out that the more elusive and expensive wrappers are normally sold by dealers directly to collectors. In such cases the internet is a weaker proxy of extant wrappers. The possibility that these non-internet transactions could distort the real picture is an important caveat regarding the representativeness of the proportions shown in Table 4. For example, if a number of copies of E1 have been sold privately or via the more traditional auction houses, the fact that only one copy has appeared on eBay does not reflect the number of extant copies. Moreover, E4 might represent exactly the kind of situation to which Robert was referring. However, until evidence to the contrary is forthcoming, the figures in Table 4 are offered as proxies of per wrapper type survival rates.

Conclusion

The paper is based on the assumption that GB postal stationery collectors have a need to know likely survivor rates of used newspaper wrappers. Inter alia, they may want to know this for the fair pricing of issues on the collector market, and for credibility in album or exhibit write-ups and display. Jurors too can better assess the quality of material exhibited. The paper has developed two methodologies for determining such rates when quantities printed and quantities known to exist are not part of the public domain. The macro approach used the volume of newspaper and "printed matter" mail as indicative of the likely number of post office imprinted wrappers printed and sold. While this figure could have been as high as 6 billion, the paper advances the story using a conservative estimate of one billion wrappers. Using an observed rate of 350 wrappers listed for sale per year, and assuming that the internet marketplace is a reliable proxy for the broader international market, a projected decade of listings was used as a base figure. Using a flexible model to incorporate several states of nature and their associated subjective probability of occurrence, an overall expected survival quantity was obtained and expressed as an overall survivor rate.

The limitation of a macro approach is that it treats the different issues of wrappers equally in terms of survivorship, and this is unlikely to reflect reality. A micro

approach was then developed using actual observations of listed wrappers during a measured data gathering period. By expressing the appearance of each type of wrapper against the total of that country's listings, a relative proportion for each catalogued type was computed. The relative frequency of appearance of a wrapper type, based on actual observations, is a proxy for its survival rate. How well this holds for unobserved wrappers is the moot question, but without evidence to the contrary, the frequencies summarised in Table 4 are the de facto survival rates for each wrapper type.

It is expected that a paper of this kind will rankle more than a few who prefer to cut through all mumbo jumbo and use catalogue values as their official guide. Many philatelists would feel that catalogue values are notoriously unreliable, and in some cases very ill-informed and quite dangerous. In any event, the purpose of the exposition was not to "sell" a particular methodology but rather to provide some rationality and structure into the issues that need to be considered in deriving a survivor rate that is reasonable. Postal stationery philatelists can add to our understanding about extant GB wrappers by contributing their own knowledge and ideas. Together, and after fruitful debate, we should be able to advance an acceptable methodology for estimating likely survival rates overall and for the subsets of different types.

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Sincere thanks to Allan Gory and Maurice Mishkel for their constructive feedback on an earlier draft, and to John Barker for encouraging me to write the paper.

PERFINS THROUGH POSTAL STATIONERY ITEMS: Postcards

Compiled by John Barker

This is the fourth in a series of articles courtesy of **Rosemary Smith**, who has kindly agreed to let me publish a summary of the research conducted by herself with the help of members of the Perfin Society.

My aim is to inform Postal Stationery Society members of the use of perfins on (G.B) postal stationery **and to solicit help in adding to this information**. If you have any perforated postal stationery, could you be so kind enough to check it against these summaries. If you can provide any additional information, such as Huggins

numbers, or if you find anything not reported here, please let Rosemary Smith (address at the end of this article) have the information. It is her intention, after publishing her latest listing of known perfins on postal stationery in the Perfin Society Bulletins, to produce a booklet with all the known facts about 'Perforated Postal Stationery'. Items illustrated here are not their actual size.

Sources of information 'PSB' are from the Perfin Society Bulletins.

Description of the item	Huggins No.	Perfin Cat No.	Perfin	Identified user	Date of use Earliest -Latest	Source of Information and notes
QV						
½d lilac		D5180.01	D/W	Mr W Davey, 3 Nene Villas, Wisbech, Cambridge	1876	PSB 284
		E0180.01	E.A./&W.G.	Edward Acraman & William Greenslade, Bristol	21.12.77	PSB 284, 343
		G4350.01	GR/W	Great Western Railway	3.4.77 - 31.10.78	PSB 284, 343
		S7490.01	STOTT & Co	W.H. Stott & Co. Liverpool	2.2.74 - 1.1.78	PSB284
		T5180.01	T.W.S./&Co	Thomas Wilson, Sons & Co., Hull	30.11.73 - 12.3.78	PSB284,343
		W0140.02	W&A/G	W & A Gilbey, Oxford	31.8.76 - 12.3.78	PSB 343
½d brown	CP 4	D4160.01	D/R&Co	D. Radford & Co. London	21.6.76	PSB 284
	CP 4	G0610.03	GB/&S		26.3.94	PSB 344 Pmk Ilford
	CP 4	S7490.01	STOTT /& Co	W.H. Stott & Co. Liverpool	6.11.76	PSB 284
	CP6		NER		2.3.86	To be confirmed
		A1540.01	ACT	A.C. Thomson, Mercantile Stationers & Printers, 113 Union Street. Glasgow	21.1.85	PSB 344
		A3570.04	AL/&Co	Arbuthnot Latham & Co London EC	27.8.00	PSB 344
		B1775.01	BCW/L		23.11.89	PSB 344
		B5060.01M	BN	Bridgewater Navigation	6.2.90	PSB 344 Pmk Runcorn
		C2563.01M	C&F/B	Constantine & Floyd, 20 Regent Street Birmingham	31.7.85	PSB 344
		C3160.01	CH/+/CCo	Copetake, Hughes, Crampton & Co, Warehousemen, 5 Bow Churchyard. EC	29.4.86	PSB 344
		C4320.01	eLc	London County Council		J. PSB 284
		C4956.01	C.M/&Co..	Messrs Mumby & Co, Soda Water Manufacturers, Gosport	6.83 - 6.85	PSB 344
		C6800.01a	C&S	Clayton Wagons Ltd, Titanic Works, Lincoln	Mint card	PSB284
		D3680.03	DOWN	R. Langdon-Down, Normansfield, Hampton Wick, Kingston-on-Thames	19.7.99	PSB 284
		F	F.S	Fred Sullivan, Salt Merchant, Grimsby		PSB 284
		G5610.10	GWR	Great Western Railway	12.1.86 - 15.9.86	PSB 284
		I2260.04M	IS (Monograph)	Joseph Sloper & Co, Engineers & Stamp Initiallers, 20 King William Street, London EC	11.3.93	PSB 344

Description of the item	Huggins No.	Perfin Cat No.	Perfin	Identified user	Date of use Earliest -Latest	Source of Information and notes
½d brown		L1040.01	L.C/C	London County Council		J. PSB 284
		P2910.01	PLAYER	John Player, Cigarette Mfr, Nottingham	14.10.98	'PSB 344
		R	R.B.	Robert Baker, Gray's Inn Rd, London WC		PSB 284
		R4650.02	RS/&Co.	Richardson, Spence & Co, Water Street, Liverpool	22.8.81 - 2.9.81	PSB 284, 343
		R5830.01	RW/&S	Richard Wheen & Sons, Deptford Creek	2.6.86 - 1893	PSB 284, 343
		S0010.37	S		28.4.92	PSB 344 Pmk Darlington
		S1210.09	SC	Salford Corporation	11.9.97 - 21.6.00	PSB 284, 343
		S4850.05	S&/McD	Stewart & McDonald Ltd, Warehousemen, Glasgow & Leeds	30.9.85	PSB 344
		T1420.01	TE/B	London County Council Technical Education Board	21.12.98	PSB 344
		T4820.01	TV/R	Taff Vale Railway	4.12.99 - 10.5.01	PSB 343
		T5180.01	T.W.S/&Co	Thomas Wilson, Sons & Co, Hull	25.7.81	PSB 284
		W0140.02	W&A/G	W & A Gilby, Oxford	2.2.86 - 22.5.88	PSB 284
		W4575.01	W.J/&Co..		28.3.85	PSB 344 Pmk London
½d green		G1730.01	G&F		Mint card	PSB 344
		T4820.01	TV/R	Taff Vale Railway	18.10.01	PSB 343
1d brown	CP15b		HR&Co		2.3.86	To be confirmed
		B0570.03	BB/CF	Burgoyne, Burbidges, Cyriax & Farries, 16 Coleman Street, London EC	11.12.82 - 11.1.83	PSB 344
		B7240.01	B.T/P	Barrett, Tagant & Pochin, Merchants, 79 mark Lane, London EC	17.1.91	PSB 344
		C0470.07	C.B	Castell Bros (Cabinets) 27 Warwick Lane, London EC	29.02.88 - 30.1.93	PSB 284, 344
		C7055.01	C.S/L	C. Shaw Lovell, Continental Carrier & Shipping Agents, 9 Fenchurch Street, London EC	23.6.80 - 13.5.81	PSB 344
		C7260.01M	C/S.S.Co.	Cunard Steamship Company Ld. Liverpool	23.7.90	PSB 344
		E0770.09	E&Co.	Ellinger & Co Manchester	25.10.89	PSB 344
		H1310.01	H/C&Co	H Clarkson & Co, 20 Billiter Court London EC	27.2.80 - 25.5.80	PSB 344
		H6150.02	H.R/&Co	Hayn Roman & Co London	19.1.78 - 14.4.88	PSB 284
		J0170.02	JAFFE	(Martin Jaffe & Co, 52 Lime Street, London)	1.11.80	PSB 344
		J0620.01?	JB/Co	James Booth & Co, Birmingham	5.2.89	PSB 284
		L0260.03	LB	Louis Behrens, Manchester	19.2.81	PSB 284
		M1280.01	Mcl	Malcolm McIntyre & Co, Liverpool		PSB 284
		M4800.01	MRM/&Co	M.R. Meyer & Co, Mincing Lane, London	31.3.86	PSB 284
		S7160.02	S.T/&B	(Spencer, Turner & Boldero Ltd, London NW1)	28.12.88	PSB 344
		T5180.01	T.W.S/&Co	Thomas Wilson, Sons	8.6.82	PSB 284
		V0160.01	V.B		2.1.92	PSB 343
1d red	CP 27	A0720.01	A.B/L	Ash Bros. Ltd, Leeds	1.4.95	PSB 344
	CP 27	B6730.03	B&S/Ld	Baches & Strauss, London EC	15.8.92	PSB 284
		C1290.02a	CC/&Co	Copestake, Crampton & Co, Warehousemen, 5 Bow Churchyard, London EC	3.2.02	PSB 344
		C2620.01	CFSU/&Co	C.F. Stahlecker & Co. EC		PSB 284
		E5000.01	EWC	E.W. Carling & Co EC3		PSB 284
		F3480.01	F & R	Frost & Reed, Clare St Bristol		PSB 284

Description of the item	Huggins No.	Perfin Cat No.	Perfin	Identified user	Date of use Earliest -Latest	Source of Information and notes
1d red	CP 27	G1730.01	G&F	Gallatly & Ferry, Timber merchants, 88 Bishopsgate Street, Within EC	29.6.98	PSB 344
	CP 27	H4990.01	HM&Co./B	Hills, Menke & Co. Gt Charles Street, Birmingham	14.2.94	PSB 284
	CP 27	H6150.02	H.R./&Co	Hayn Roman & Co London	27.12.92 - 19.8.96	PSB 343
	CP 27	J1607.01	JCo/Ld.	The Johannis Co Ltd, Regent Street, London	23.11.92	PSB 284
	CP 27	K0065.02	K.B.	Kuetgens Bros, Regent Street, London	29.4.94 - 29.8.94	PSB 284, 343
	CP 27	T2730.01	T.J.S.S/ &Co	T.J. Smith, Son & Downes, Q.Victoria Street, London EC	17.11.92 - 6.2.95	PSB 284, 343
	CP 27	T5190.01	TW&S/Ld.	Thomas Webb & Sons Ltd	17.5.98	PSB 344
	CP 27	V0160.01	V.B	Volkart Brothers, EC	3.8.92 - 13.12.94	PSB 284
1/4d brown	CP 5	A5690.01	AW/B	Altendorf & Wright, Birmingham	19.9.77	PSB 284
	CP 5	H6150.02	H.R./&Co	Hayn Roman & Co London	19.1.78	PSB 284, 343
	CP 5	S7490.01	STOTT/ &Co	W.H. Stott & Co. Liverpool	5.9.77	PSB 343
	CP 5	T5180.01	T.W.S/&Co	Thomas Wilson, Sons	26.7.76 - 15.3.80	PSB 284, 343
1/4d brown		A4205.02	A&N/C.S.L	Army & Navy Cooperative Society Ltd	Mint card	PSB 344
KE VII						
1/2d green		D3680.03	DOWN	R Langdon Down,	17.5.07	PSB 284
		S1210.09	SC	Salford Corporation	27.3.05	PSB 343
	CP43a	T4820.01	TV/R	Taff Vale Railway	6.6.02 - 11.6.08	PSB 284, 343
		T4820.02	TV/R	Taff Vale Railway	16.6.02 - 12.6.12	PSB 284, 343
1d red		C7260.01M	C/S.S.Co	Cunard Steamship Co.	19.8.07	PSB 344
		F3460.06v	FR	Furness Railway Company	c1909	PSB 344
		R4820.03	R&S/L	Rylands & Sons Ltd, Warehousemen, London	28.4.01	PSB 344
		W1130.03	WC/&Co	W Caudery & Co, Fenchurch Avenue, EC	13.6.04	PSB 284
KG V						
1/2d green (Downy Head)		L1150.01	Len	Leeds Corporation	28.8.15	PSB 344
		T4820.01	TV/R	Taff Vale Railway	26.4.19	PSB 343
1d red (Downy Head)		A0720.01	A.B/L	S & L Ash Brothers, Leeds	27.2.13	PSB 344
1d red (Side Face)		T4820.01	TV/R	Taff Vale Railway	7.8.19 - 9.4.26	PSB 343

A glance at the table shows a lack of information regarding *which items of postal stationery* were perfinned. I would like to collate such information to enable me to complete the table with the appropriate Huggins (or Higgins & Gage) numbers. If you can supply either of these reference numbers to any of the above, please let me know (address on page 2)

Due to a lack of space in this issue of the Journal, I am unable to include illustrations of the various perfins on post cards. However I will include these in the February issue.

In future issues I will cover Newspaper Wrappers. So far no one has reported a perfinned lettercard.

John Barker

If any member has evidence of other perfins on postcards, or has seen any of the perfins listed above on different postcards or have seen perfinned postcards used outside the range of dates given for a particular item, then please contact **Rosemary Smith** at:

17, Victoria Road,
Stocksbridge,
Sheffield
S36 1FW
U.K.

Minutes of the Society's AGM held at the British Philatelic Centre, London, on Saturday 28th October 2006.

The meeting was attended by a total of 14 members. Apologies for absence were received from Tony Goldstone, John Barker, Keith Hanman, Lars Englebrecht, John Fowler, Brian Trotter, Iain Stevenson and Vicky Archard.

Minutes of the AGM 2005 were published in the November 2005 Journal and were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Secretary's Notes

Colin Baker told the meeting that this was the last AGM that would be held at the British Philatelic Trust building, as it was being sold next year. We are still able to hold our spring meeting at this location, but we have had to make alternative arrangements for next year's AGM which is to be held at the Royal Philatelic Society's headquarters in London. Full details will be published in the society's Journal in due course.

Chairman's Report – Peter O'Keeffe

Welcome to you all, and thank you for coming. It does not seem two years since someone had the idea that I could 'hold the fort' for a couple of years! Well nothing great has happened, no serious problems have arisen, and we are now back to square one.

Last year I was able to say how nice it was to return to the British Philatelic Centre for our meeting, this year I have to tell you that we meet here for the last time in March next year - it seems that the BP Trust are proposing to sell these premises and we have to find a new venue for our meetings thereafter.

One thing I have managed to do has been to find something to write about for the "Chairman's Chat" in each edition of the Journal - this does relieve the Editor of having to fill another page. Keith started this column and I do think that it "breaks the ice".

Thanks to all the Officers for another satisfactory year, with the Society running smoothly, thanks particularly to our Secretary, Colin Baker. I wish Michael Smith a happy two years as my successor.

I was not able to get to the Swindon meeting, but understand that it was very enjoyable and a successful get together, attended by several members we do not see in London.

Thanks to John Barker for continuing to produce an excellent Journal with a good balance of articles, to our Auctioneer Neil Sargent for arranging the auctions, to our Treasurer, John Fowler, our Librarian, Chris Howe, our web-site manager, Lars Engelbrecht, and the Committee.

The Tony Chilton 16 page Competition will be judged by Alan Huggins and Mike Smith, and hopefully we will have sufficient entries to keep them gainfully employed.

Finally, we do need volunteers to take on the various jobs that need doing, and it would no doubt be of benefit to the society if we were to have some new blood, new ideas, etc at regular intervals. This is not to say that

the members who have been doing the jobs are not good enough, they most certainly are, and now that the society is well established, we need to build for the future.

Secretary's Report

Colin Baker said the Society's membership had passed the 250 mark for the first time and now totalled 251, an increase of two on the previous year. Twenty-one members in total had either not renewed their subscription for 2006 or had passed away, but this was cancelled out by the 23 new members who had joined during the year. There had not been the same opportunities to hold recruiting drives as was the case last year, and therefore it is encouraging that we have managed to increase our numbers.

The Society held three meetings during year, two in London and one in Swindon. Reports on all meetings have been published in the Society's journal.

We have not been able to publish any further booklets this year. However, the Society is always willing to consider any long article for publication in the future. Anyone who would like to be considered as an author should contact either the Journal editor or the secretary in the first instance.

Treasurer's Report - John Fowler

In the absence of John Fowler the secretary read out his report as follows.

The unaudited accounts for year ending 31st August show that the society has ended the year with a deficit of £200. This can be attributed to the increased printing costs this year, £260, including the additional pages for the cumulative index. However, advertising income offset this by an additional £40.

The members' balances shown do not include advance subscription payments, which historically have been treated as income on receipt.

In view of the fact that we lose money on foreign subscriptions, and that our own costs are increasing, I recommend that we increase subscriptions to £12 for the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe, and £15 for the rest of the world.

We can assume that the cost of the new Postal Stationery Catalogue will fall in the current financial year, but as we are sharing the printing bill with the Great Britain Philatelic Society, our funds should be sufficient for our share, pending receipts from the sale of the book.

May I take this opportunity to thank Colin Baker and John Barker for their help through the year, and John Barker, Mike Smith and Neil Sargent for their efforts in obtaining advertising revenue and auction commission.

Note: A copy of the unaudited accounts are included in this Journal and were accepted by the meeting.

Auctioneer's Report – Neil Sargent

Neil's report was published in the August 2006 edition of the Journal.

Journal Editor's Report - John Barker

In the absence of John Barker the secretary read out his report as follows.

Volume 14 of the Journal has contained a good mix of articles in terms of length, detail and topics covered. As in previous years, longer articles have been published in a number of parts to ensure that each issue contains a range of topics and does not have too narrow a focus.

With the broad range of members' interests in mind I would like to include items on topics not covered so far. To do this I need to receive contributions from more of our members. Contributions may be short comments, queries, news items, interesting snippets relating to items in collections, research on any aspect of postal stationery or related matter which may be relevant or simply notes on an interesting item in their collections. At the present time I do not have a reserve of articles and rely on items coming in between one issue and the next. I am very willing to give any help and advice which may be needed to compile an article. Please contact me if you feel that you have something which may interest other members. All comments and contributions will be gratefully received.

I would like to remind members of the 'Classified Advertisement' facility and the (free) 'wants' facility. Details will be found on the back page of the Cumulative Index which was sent out with the February issue of the Journal.

Once again we have been supported by our four regular advertisers who have bought advertising space in the Journal. I would like to thank these sponsors and hope that members will take the opportunity to sample their services. I am always pleased to receive more advertising support as this will enable me to make improvements to the quality of the Journal. In particular I would like to see the inclusion of some coloured illustrations. Suggestions for any other improvements would be welcome.

This year the Postal Stationery Literary Award went to Tony Goldstone for his series of articles on the Postal Stationery of the Holy Land My congratulations go to Tony for all his hard work and efforts in compiling this.

John Hobbs suggested that if the editor was short of material, the Journal could reprint suitable articles from publications such as The Cornish. This is to be left to the editor to make a final decision on.

Librarian's Report - Chris Howe

The report from the librarian was not available.

Web Site Manager's Report - Lars Engelbrecht

The society website has been updated 11 times during the last year mainly with the content of the new issues of the PS Journal and the auctions (both the catalogues and realised prices). New additions on the website are links to 28 postal stationery exhibits which are available on the internet, and a listing of the results of postal stationery exhibits at international exhibitions. These efforts should hopefully attract even more visitors – and new members. The website has had 1260 visits in the past year - a number that has increased an impressive 30%

from 970 in the previous year. This increase is partly the result of an effort on getting a better listing on search engines like Google and Yahoo, making it easier to find the society, when you search for "postal stationery" on the internet. But also the websites detailed list of literature available in the society library and the auction lists attracts many visitors when they search for specific postal stationery items on the internet. It is the intention to continue to develop the website, and suggestions to new activities on the website are most welcome.

Mike Smith has received confirmation of the society's ownership of the domain name postalstationery.org.uk. He will send this letter to Lars, but will continue to handle future payments so that the name remains the society's property.

Election of Committee

The following officers were elected unopposed to serve the Society for the next twelve months.

Chairman – Mike Smith

Deputy Chairman – (This position was not filled and is to be appointed by the committee when a suitable candidate is identified)

Secretary – Colin Baker

Treasurer – John Fowler

Election of Committee Members

John Barker

Alan Huggins

Neil Sargent

Peter O'Keeffe

The positions of Journal Editor (John Barker), Auctioneer (Neil Sargent), Web Site Manager (Lars Engelbrecht) and Librarian (Chris Howe) were set by the committee following the AGM. The positions of Publicity Officer, Advertising Manager and ABPS Representative remain vacant. The Honorary Auditor is to be agreed at a later date.

Vote of Thanks to Retiring Officers

Peter O'Keeffe thanked all the society's officers for all their hard work throughout the year. John Hobbs suggested a letter of thanks be sent to them all from the society.

Proposed Increase in Subscription Rates

As the treasurer's report has shown, the accounts for last year show a deficit of £200. Postage, printing and other costs are rising and if action is not taken now the deficit will be even greater next year. Therefore an increase is necessary. Suggestions of raising the subscription to £15 was felt to be too much by the meeting, and it was agreed that subscriptions for 2007 should be £12 or €20 or \$25. Overseas members who want their Journals sent airmail should be asked to pay an additional £5 or €10 or \$10 to cover the additional cost of postage.

Auction Commission

The treasurer has indicated that the cost of running the society's auction is almost as much as the income received from the commission on the sale of the lots and

recommended some form of increase. The auctioneer reminded the meeting that the auction is for the benefit of members, and although it should not be run at a loss, it should not be used to make huge profits. The meeting was against increasing the commission, introducing a buyer's premium or charging for unsold lots. But after much discussion it was agreed that a minimum commission per lot of £0.25p is imposed. This would dissuade vendors from including 50p lots (which cost the society a great deal to handle and to enter into the auction), but not rule them out altogether.

Next Year's Programme

Several meetings and events are planned for next year (see elsewhere in this Journal for details).

Any Other Business

Since the British Philatelic Trust would not be able to host meetings after next March, various alternative venues were suggested, including the meeting room at Stanley Gibbons, now understood to be used by Grosvenor Auctions, and the Union Jack Club near Waterloo station. These will all be investigated by the committee.

Tony Chilton Competition

The competition was judged by Alan Huggins and Mike Smith. There were seven entries, the results being as follows:

Neil Sargent	Lettercards of the Pneumatic Post of Paris	First
John Norton	The "Marsh Family" Postal Stationery Cut-outs	Commended
George King	Great Britain Phosphor Colours	Commended
Neil Sargent	Early Postal Cards of the USA	
Colin Baker	The Victorian Inland Postcard	
George King	Great Britain Abstracts	
Peter O'Keefe	British Central Africa/Nyasaland 1894-1942	

Once again this year Alan Huggins said one or two entries really wanted more than 16 sheets to fully cover the subject and suggested they should be split down so that they were not too wide ranging.

Auction October 2006

The afternoon session of the meeting was taken up with the Society's second auction of 2005 run in a very rapid fashion by Neil Sargent. There was much interest by postal bidders, but also some lively bidding in the room. A full report will be given in the February Journal.

Auctions 2007

It is hoped to hold two auctions during the coming year, both of which will have to be postal only as auctions cannot be held at the Royal Philatelic Headquarters in London owing to the restrictions imposed by the lessor. Any member who wishes to sell material through the Society's auctions should send their material to Neil Sargent (address on the inside front cover). Please note that each lot must be contained in a separate see-through holder, with an identification number or letter clearly

marked on the outside. Lots must be accompanied by a list of vendor's identification numbers, one-line descriptions that will be used as the catalogue entry, and the vendor's reserve prices. The reserve is to be the lowest price at which vendors wish to sell their material, and will be the starting price at the auction.

The only charge made to vendors is 10% of the price realised, plus any postage costs for returning unsold lots, but vendors should note the minimum charge of 25 pence per lot and adjust the material included in their lots accordingly.

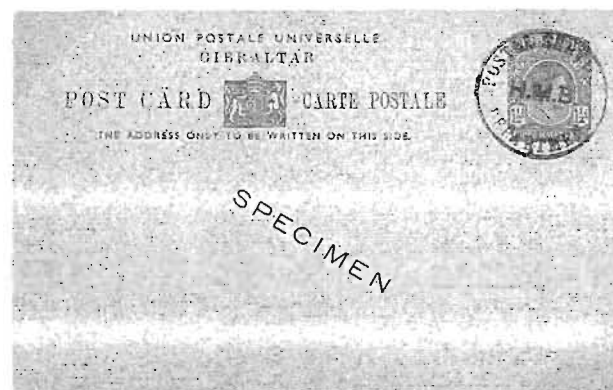
QUERIES AND REPLIES

QUERY - Gibraltar overprinted SPECIMEN

Eric Holmes enquires by email:

At the February Stampex 2005 I purchased two items of Postal Stationery, these were:

A KGV Letter Card and a KGV Postcard both from Gibraltar overprinted SPECIMEN but with a cancellation "POSTAL SERVICE/ H.M.B /DEPARTMENT" illustrated below.



The dealer did not have any information on them other than to say that he had seen other similar items of KGV Postal Stationery for other Commonwealth countries with the same cancellation on them.

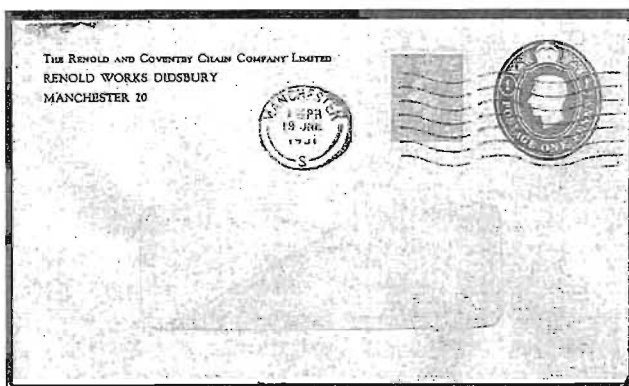
I enquired of the 3/4 members on the "Village Green" display that day if they knew anything about them, but with no success.

I showed them at the meeting at Swindon earlier this year and the dozen or so members there had no information on them, although a number of speculative suggestions were made. Could anybody help?

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

GB GVI 1d Blue Imprinted Envelope.

John Jennison writes - In response to the observations by Bill Meredith in the May issue of the Journal, concerning the Great Britain George VI privately printed one penny blue and one penny blue plus halfpenny orange embossed envelopes, I enclose a scan of a used one penny blue envelope. This was used by the Renold Works, Didsbury, and the date appears to be June 19th 1951. It is uprated by a halfpenny adhesive, and just misses the single penny rate by less than three weeks. I have both unused versions of the one penny, and the uprated private stationery with the impressed orange halfpenny – used seem scarcer. The used one penny red envelope with uprated halfpenny orange embossing is found more frequently.



AIR ORIENT 'AIR O GRAM'

Jean-Louis Emmenegger writes - In the Journal, Volume 13 No. 3 August 2005 p20 I found a small text "The First Aerogramme". Concerning the 'AIR-O-GRAM' which was illustrated, I send another copy. It is cancelled Bangkok 16th December 1932. In fact, this is NOT a Siam Aerogramme, but it was a privately printed stationery, without any stamp printed, distributed by the French Air Company "AIR ORIENT", in the years 1932 - 33. Each then had to be franked.



Siam "Air O Gram" postmarked at Bangkok 16th December, 1932.

8

G.B. AIRLETTERS

Further to the report in Journal Vol 14 No.3 on the white paper version of the standard airletter, which Tallents House Stock List now shows May '06 as date of

issue, **Arthur Roberts** reports a further print of the standard airletter - MSE 103/06 which like the 101/06 and 102/06 prints has been seen with a gap of 39mm and 56mm between the 5th (last) printed lines for the address and sender's panel wording 'An airletter should not contain any enclosure'. This would indicate that the white version is printed 'two up' but no printing detail has yet been forthcoming from the printers Mail Solutions Ltd.

Two printings of the 'Star' white paper airletter issued in packs of six have been seen - MSE 140/06 and MSE 147/06. This is offered in Tallents House August Stock List as a July '06 Discount White Airletter.

The Welsh version of the 'Star' discount airletter June 2004 design has been seen with print reference - MSE 269/05

New International Reply Coupons

International Reply Coupons were introduced in 1907 to enable the sender of a letter to provide a means for the recipient to obtain postage stamps for the reply without having to make any payment. The Coupon "...is exchangeable in any country of the Universal Postal Union for the minimum postage for an unregistered priority item or an unregistered letter sent by air to a foreign country." The A6 format International Reply Coupon (Beijing Type) which came into use in 2002 is only valid until 31st December 2006. It is being replaced with a new version (Beijing Type 2). This is valid until 31st December 2009. Reflecting the rising cost of 'the minimum postage', the new version costs 95p compared with 60p for the older version.

The design by the Ukrainian Graphic Artist Volodymyr Taran was the winning entry in a competition organised by the U.P.U.



Detail of the hologram

MIDPEX 2007

This biennial exhibition for Specialist Societies will be held on Saturday 30th June 2007 at the Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill Coventry from 10.00am - 4.00pm. More than 40 Specialist Societies, including the Postal Stationery Society will taking part. Each Society will have its own area with 6 frames to mount displays and a table for the sale of publications and other materials. The event will provide an opportunity for members to get together informally and to recruit new members. On previous occasions postal stationery has featured in the displays of many Societies. Over 40 dealers will be present. Further details will be announced in a future issue of this Journal. The MIDPEX 2007 website

John Jennison writes by email "It may be of interest for the Journal readers that the firm of Christoph Gärtner in Bietigheim-Bissingen (Germany) has purchased the stock and catalogue rights of Higgins & Gage in California, USA. According to the hand-out I received, some 13,780kg. of postal stationery was air freighted to Germany! Future auctions will include some of this material."

New Catalogue

A new part of the catalogue "Postal Stationery with Railway and Tramway Motives" has been issued. Part - Latin America.

This catalogue lists 550 different stationery items from 22 countries. It has more than 400 illustrations, printed in English on 140 pages in A4 size. Produced by the author Hans Eriksson. Price including postage £20 (Europe). A few copies of the catalogues Asia (£25 postpaid) , Africa (£15 postpaid) and Romania (£15 postpaid) are still available. Payment to Hans Eriksson Storvretsvägen 141 SE-16347 SPÅNGA Sweden Phone +46-8-7604549 hans_eriksson00@hotmail.com

Articles in the Journals of other Postal Stationery Societies from across the World**Postal Stationery Collector** August 2006 (Australia)

A Contribution to the Classification of the Queensland Post Office Newspaper Wrappers Issued in the Period 1891-1912.

NSW Postal Stationery Archival Records

Latvian Formular Cards

2½d Wrapper Dies

Forensic Philately Sequel

Listing of Australian Non-Denominated Postal Stationery

Postal Stationery May/June 2006 (USA)

A Non-existent 30c International UPU Surface Postal Card Rate

Seychelles, a Rediscovery

American Bank Note Company Archival Specimens for Hawaiian Postal Cards: A Beginning

G.B. Official Lettersheets, Addendum (to article in Jan/Feb 2006 Issue)

More About Advertising Specimen Envelope A-59 Markings

Watermark Orientations and Printing of Bechuanaland and Botswana Aerograms

Two S10 Postal Card Varieties

A Barbados Registration Envelope Error.

British North Borneo Proof Post Card

Postal Stationery July/August 2006 (USA)

The 10 + 10 Øre Red Double Postal Cards of Sweden 1890 - 1905

Afghanistan: Fakes and Unlisted

Finds and Comments on UX18/S22

Newly Discovered Wada Tourist Sheet for Forged Wrappers

Postal Stationery September/October 2006 (USA)

Bidder Sample Specimen Samples, Specimen Code and Contracts

Advertising on Wrappers - The Centennial of Syracuse

Watermarked Chilean Formular Cards

L'Intero Postale Summer 2006 (Italy)

1944: Dalla Sicilia A Roma

Quando La Posta Interpreta la Musica con gli Interi

Usi E Abusi (IV) - Testi filatelici e postali

Articles Noted Recently in the Philatelic Press

"Commonwealth Postal Stationery 2004-2005" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly April 2006)

"Foreign Postal Stationery 2005-2006 A-E" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly May 2006)

F-L June: M-R July and S-Z August

"Queensland Postal Stationery - A Review of Issues to 1901" - Alan J Griffiths (Gibbons Stamp Monthly October 2006)

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Annual subscriptions for 2007 are now due. Those members who have not already paid will have received a note with this Journal reminding them to pay their subs. Please pay your subscription promptly. Not only does this ensure you receive all the Society's publications and auction catalogues without delay, it also makes it easier for your overworked officers to keep finances under control.

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are welcome at the following rates:

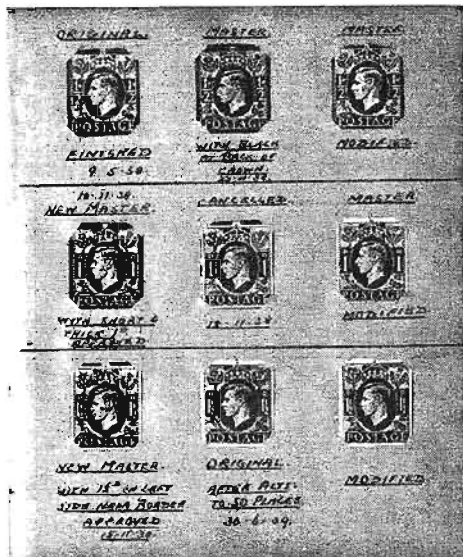
A4	full page	£50
	half page	£25
	quarter page	£13.50

Please contact the Editor (Details on p2)

The Journal is published four times per year:

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

Specialised Great Britain and All World



Our 7 & 8 December 2006 auctions will feature exceptional Falkland Islands including the collection of the late Geoff Moir with additional items from the collections of the late Philip Shepherd and others; the superb collection of Egypt and Sudan formed by the late Robin Bertram. Great Britain features exceptional line engraved; the Alan Sabey Gold medal Collection of the British Empire Exhibition, 1924-1925; the Keith Barritt collection of Jersey; and an outstanding find of King George VI proofs (also including Ireland).

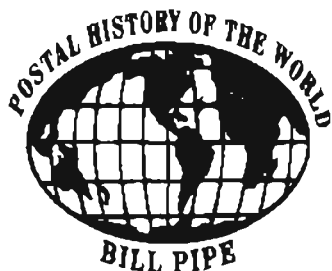
Great Britain King George VI Postal Stationery die proofs from the recent find of Royal Mint proofs.

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