



# THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

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Journal Vol. 15, No. 4 November 2007  
(Serial number 44)

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Revealing the Watermark - Watermarks on GB Wrapper & Lettersheet Papers  
See page 11

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## The Management Committee

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

### OFFICERS:-

**CHAIRMAN**                    **Michael Smith**  
9 Rainham Close  
Basingstoke  
Hampshire        RG22 5HA

### VICE-CHAIRMAN

**SECRETARY**                **Colin Baker,**  
4 Greenhill Gardens,  
Sutton Veny,  
WARMINSTER,  
Wilts.            BA12 7AY  
phone - 01985 840033  
e-mail - colin.baker2@virgin.net

**TREASURER**                **John Fowler**  
6 George Street,  
BRIDLINGTON,  
East Yorks. YO15 3PG

**COMMITTEE:-**                **John Barker**  
**Peter O'Keeffe**  
**Alan Huggins**  
**Neil Sargent**

### POST HOLDERS

**WEB SITE MANAGER - Lars Engelbrecht**  
e-mail: le@postalstationery.dk

### AUCTION ORGANISER & PUBLICITY OFFICER

**Neil Sargent**  
26, Marlborough Avenue,  
FALMOUTH  
Cornwall TR11 2RW  
e-mail: neil.sargent@btinternet.com

**EDITOR**                    **John Barker,**  
35 Portia Avenue,  
Shirley, SOLIHULL,  
West Midlands. B90 2NW  
phone - 0121 744 2580  
e-mail: johnhbarker@btinternet.com

**LIBRARIAN**                **Chris Howe,**  
14, Sandringham Gardens  
Fishtoft, BOSTON,  
Lincolnshire PE21 9QA  
phone 01205 353982  
e-mail chrishowe@skanderbeg.fsnet.co.uk

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

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## SOCIETY CALENDAR 2008

### Saturday 5th April 2008

At the meeting room in the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, starting at 10.30 am and finishing at approx. 4.00 pm. Members who would like details of how to get to this location should contact the secretary.

Peter Rolfe is going to show us "the other half" of his collection of Sierra Leone. Some of you will remember that on Saturday 20th October 2001, following the AGM of that year, Peter gave us a display of Sierra Leone aerogrammes. Now he will complete the story of all the postal stationery that Sierra Leone has issued.

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 32 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.

### Saturday 14th June 2008

At **Swinpex**, St Joseph's Lower School, Octal Way, Swindon, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Members are invited to display up to 32 sheets from their collection and to give a short explanation of about 10 minutes maximum. There will be plenty of dealers at this event, so there will be ample opportunity to add to your collection, and there is an excellent catering facility run by the Swindon Society.

Swinpex will be open from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm

### Saturday October 25th 2008

At the meeting room in the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Members who would like details of how to get to this location should contact the secretary.

10.30 am        Coffee and biscuits  
11.00 am        Society's AGM  
12.00 noon     Tony Chilton competition judging, followed by the presentation of the Tony Chilton salver  
12.30 pm.     Viewing of the society's auction lots for the auction to be held in the afternoon..  
1.00 pm        Lunch in a nearby restaurant.  
2.00 pm        The society's "live" auction to be conducted by Neil Sargent.

The meeting is expected to close by about 4.00

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - NOVEMBER 2007

As Christmas approaches, the philatelic world really seems to come to life. Despite a hectic worklife, over the last couple of months I have managed to find time to judge the Huston Memorial Trophy for the Midland Philatelic Federation and give a day long Postal Stationery seminar to the Kent Federation. Each year, a different competitive class is selected for the Huston Trophy competition. This year, it was Postal Stationery and I was privileged to judge a dozen high quality exhibits. This filled me with confidence for the future of our particular passion. The Kent Seminar was very well received and will hopefully form the model for similar events around the country, leading to some new members for the society.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the recent AGM, held at 'The Royal' in London as my daughter was taken ill at University and admitted to Hospital in Cardiff. Fortunately, she is now fully recovered. I understand that the meeting went well and would like to thank Keith Hanman for stepping into the 'hot seat' in my absence.

This issue's interesting item comes from my collection of the Orange River Colony. Just like the item in the last Chairman's Chat, at first sight the item appears to be a rather ordinary looking One Penny ORC postal card (H&G 36) used interprovincially in the Transvaal in September 1912. The reality is however somewhat different.



The card is in fact completely bogus – the entire design, postmarks and address all being printed on to the card. I have now managed to find four identical cards. It would appear that these cards were produced as an advertising gimmick by the Lindeboom Biscuit factory in Mijdrecht, Holland. The reverse is also printed with a message which I assume extolls the virtue of the company's biscuits! The bogus cards can be readily identified as they are printed in a very bright red and that

'UNION POSTAL UNIVERSELLE' measures 56mm as opposed to the normal 55mm.

I would be very interested to hear from any member who has a similar card from another country.

It just leaves me to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Michael Smith**

## SECRETARY'S NOTES - NOVEMBER 2007

### More GB cut-outs

The society has been given a bundle of cut-outs by a non-member. They are all ½d GB Victorian issues cut from postcards and newspaper wrappers. There is much duplication and the condition is fine to mediocre. If anyone would like them, please get in touch with the secretary and they will be yours for the cost of postage and packing, which is 30p inland, or £1.50 overseas.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The dates for meetings in 2008 are listed on p2. The Society has booked the following meeting rooms for 2009, so make a note in your diaries. Further details will be available nearer the time.

#### Saturday March 21st 2009

At the meeting room in the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, from 10.30 am to approx. 4.00 pm. Invited display by our auctioneer, Neil Sargent who will show us the postal stationery of Barbados. The One Sheet Competition will also be held and members are invited to bring along displays of up to 32 sheets.

### MEMBERS COLLECTING INTERESTS

The following details should be added to the list of Members' Collecting Interests.

COUNTRY OR AREA COLLECTED	MEMBER	LOCATION
Great Britain, Middle East, India, Australia	Peter Jennings, FRPSL, FRGS	Birmingham
Great Britain, Victorian PS (M)	Terry Gazzard	Middlesex
Great Britain, Penny Postage Jubilee (S)	Terry Gazzard	Middlesex
Great Britain	Robert Kitson	USA
Worldwide	Roy Hollis	Wales
Great Britain, Post Office Issues	Mr W L Brierley	Derbyshire

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

## Minutes of the Society's AGM held at the Royal Philatelic Society's premises, 41 Devonshire Place, London, on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2007

The meeting was attended by a total of 14 members. Apologies for absence were received from Mike Smith, Graham Barker, John Fowler, Chris Howe, Lars Engelbrecht and Tony Goldstone. Alan Huggins welcomed everyone to this first meeting in a new venue and gave a short safety talk.

Due to a family illness, our chairman Mike Smith could not be at the meeting, and in the absence of a deputy chairman Keith Hanman agreed to chair the meeting.

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the AGM 2006 were published in the November 2006 Journal and were agreed as a true record of that meeting.

### Chairman's Report

I would like to think that my first year in the post of Chairman has been a success. We are continuing to grow as a society, both in terms of membership and our status within the

### Saturday 12th June 2009 (Provisional)

At Swinpex, St Joseph's Lower School, Octal Way, Swindon, 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Members' displays. Swinpex will be open from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm

### Saturday October 23rd 2009

At the meeting room in the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, from 10.30 am to approx. 4.00 pm.. Society's AGM, Tony Chilton competition and live auction.

### SUBSCRIPTION PAYMENTS

If you receive a yellow reminder slip with this Journal please make your payment to the treasurer as soon as you can. It saves all the Society's officers a lot of trouble. Why not make it a three or five year payment in advance and then you will be saved having to remember to renew for a while.

If you decide not to renew your membership PLEASE let the secretary know so that reminders do not have to be sent out.

One area of concern is that I move into my second year as Chairman without a Vice-Chairman in place. I am very keen that we should have somebody in post before the end of the year to ensure continuity and the future of the society. Please take a few moments to consider whether you could undertake this role – If you would like to discuss this with me, my contact details can be found inside the front cover of the journal

#### Secretary's Report

Colin Baker said the Society's total membership had slipped back this year with 34 members not renewing in January, but we had gained 18 new members in the year making the final total 235. This is 16 less than at the end of 2006. It can only be hoped that the publication of the new catalogue, *Collect British Postal Stationery*, will help swell numbers in 2008. Flyers for this were now available for members to use to order the book at a pre-publication discount.

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

Peter O'Keeffe asked if the society had been able to provide a speaker for a meeting in Southend next November. Colin Baker replied that we appeared to have no members close enough to give a display, but had asked the Southend society to propose a date more towards the summer when travelling would be easier and a speaker could be made available.

#### Treasurer's Report

This was read out on John Fowler's behalf.

The unaudited accounts for the year ending 31st August show that the society has ended the year with a surplus. This year I have identified that part of the subscription income which is attributable to this financial year, thus enabling us to see clearly the true income and expenditure. This reveals a small surplus of £50, which shows that the decision taken by the Committee last year to make a small increase in the subscription rates was justified. I do not feel that we need to make a further increase this year.

The auction results show that this service to members broke even. The June auction shows sales double those of October, and this level of sales is necessary to enable the commission to cover the catalogue costs.

Arrangements have been put in place which mean we are not required to lay out the full costs of the new Stationery Catalogue, so our funds will be more than sufficient to cover any additional expenditure in the coming year, which will include a substantially increased subscription to the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

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

A copy of the unaudited accounts tabled at the meeting appear on p 20 of the November Journal. These were adopted, subject to final audit; proposed by Iain Stevenson and seconded by Peter O'Keeffe.

#### Auctioneer's Report

Neil Sargent said that two auctions had been held during the year - the public auction at the end of October 2006 at the AGM and a postal auction closing on the 1st June 2007. Results were generally just satisfactory with the June auction being boosted by a marvellous collection of GB Telegraph forms. The overall results for the postal auction were: number of lots on offer 503, number of sold 236 (47%), highest price

£190 (GB QV Telegraph specimen form), number of vendors 16, number buyers 38, total sales £3,306.50, society commission £333.05. Number of GB lots on offer 220, number of GB lots sold 143 (65%), number of non-GB lots on offer 283, number of non-GB lots sold 93 (33%).

The auction had an excellent 41 lot collection of telegraph forms which generally sold well with prices to £160 & £190. A strong selection of India surprisingly sold poorly (30%), British Guiana items sold well again, there was little interest in France, Germany, Ireland and no interest in Russia. USA with 29 lots sold 13 items.

Overall results for the 2 auctions for the year gave the following results: number of lots on offer 885, number of lots sold 456 (51.5%), total Sales £4,963.

The auction at the AGM this year is a public & postal auction, again with 503 lots.

I have adopted a general policy that all unsold lots, unless decided otherwise, will be returned to vendors after the auction. This is for 3 reasons, a) I won't get confused with old auction lots hanging around and lose them, b) the catalogue will not be full of un-saleable items, c) will encourage vendors to send in new material.

I am anxious to maintain the variety of items and countries but to particularly increase the quality and scarcity of lots. As a specialist society we should be trying to achieve recognition of our auctions as a means of selling quality stationery at good prices. I see no problem in encouraging non-members or members of other specialist societies to be allowed to submit their material for sale.

I would apologise for the minor glitches that occurred in the June auction, I think there were only 3 this time, a vast improvement on the previous sale! The public auction will test us at 500 lots in a short time but hopefully will work well. For the first time, a few illustrations have been included in the catalogue and we will seek to improve the quality of these next time.

Alan Huggins raised the matter of minimum lot values, but Neil Sargent said lots of low value often sold and he did not want to discourage their inclusion. However the minimum commission fee per lot was now 25p which would help offset the cost of including low value lots.

#### Journal Editor's Report

John Barker said Volume 15 of the Journal had contained a good mix of articles in terms of length, detail and topics covered although the emphasis has been on GB Postal Stationery reflecting the main area of interest of our members. The introduction of a regular feature "GB Postal Stationery News" by Alan Huggins has attracted much interest and response from many of our members. 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. For those collectors whose interests lie elsewhere please don't be put off; I welcome contributions relating to any area of the world. Please let me know what you can contribute or what areas you would like to see covered and I will do my best.

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 your collection. Please contact me if you feel that you have something which may interest other members. All comments and contributions will be gratefully received.

Collectors can not only benefit from membership of the Society by participating in the Auctions and use of the Library but also by making use of the Queries and Replies and the classified advertisements sections of the Journal including the free 'wants' facility.

Once again we have been supported by our four regular advertisers and a number of others 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 and compensate for the increasing costs of postage.

Alan Huggins paid testimony to John Barker's efforts as editor, noting how good the Journal had been during his time as editor.

#### **Librarian's Report**

Chris Howe could not be with us but his report was read out.

Loans from the library could best be described as steady. Higgins and Gage remains the most popular item. We have had only a few new titles added this year and I would urge members to look in their cupboards to see if they have anything that could be of use. Old catalogues could be especially useful. We do not even have anywhere near a complete set of our own journals. I am continuing to list articles to be found in the journals that we hold but this is a slow process.

#### **Website Manager's Report**

Lars Englebrecth's report was read on his behalf.

The society website – [www.postalstationery.org.uk](http://www.postalstationery.org.uk) - has had 2567 visits in the past year – twice as many as the previous year! It has been updated 7 times during the last year with the content of the new issues of the PS Journal, the society auctions, links to postal stationery exhibits on the internet and results from postal stationery exhibits at international exhibitions. It is the intention to continue to develop the website so it will attract even more visitors - and new members. Suggestions for new activities on the website are most welcome.

Colin Baker noted how much work Lars undertook on the website. He said it was easy to forget that as it runs so smoothly how much work is involved and thanked Lars for all that he did.

#### **Election of Officers**

All officers and committee members were prepared to stand again and in the absence of any other candidates were elected unanimously. Proposer was Edward Caesley, seconded by John Norton. Colin Baker asked any member who wanted to join the committee or serve the society in any way to make themselves known to him.

There were no candidates for the role of deputy chairman, but Colin Baker said two members had been approached. He asked the meeting to give approval to appoint a deputy chairman which could be ratified at the next AGM. This was agreed.

Alan Huggins noted that it was important that new members took over the society roles to give new ideas, impetuous and enthusiasm to these tasks.

#### **Vote of Thanks**

Keith Hanman thanked all the officers and committee members for their hard work during the year in maintaining the

high standards now expected of a society such as ours. This was echoed by the meeting.

#### **Society's Future Programme**

Colin Baker said the RPS meeting room had been booked for two meetings in 2008 and two in 2009. A full list of meetings would be published in the Journal.

#### **Publication of the new Postal Stationery Catalogue**

Alan Huggins said this would be a quality book, stitched, bound and with a dust jacket, printed on 150gsm paper. The listing was complete up to the end of 2007. However it was not as detailed as the 1970 book, so members should not throw it away. Some sections had simply been extended, but others were completely revised and new sections had been created for special issue air letters and forces airletters. Altogether 1250 copies were being printed.

Although all orders were being directed through the GBPS, all profits were being split equally between the PSS and GBPS. It has been agreed that the society's profit from the book will be kept in a separate account for supporting publications and not to keep subscriptions artificially low.

#### **Any Other Business**

**London 2010.** Societies are being offered the opportunity to sponsor display frames at this event at £10 per frame. The meeting agreed we would sponsor 5 frames for a total cost of £50. It was proposed that we book a meeting room at the event and the secretary will put this in hand.

**Museums.** Colin Baker told the meeting that the Bath Postal Museum in its new premises beneath the main post office in Bath was well worth a visit by collectors and they should take their children or grandchildren as there was lots for them to do. Keith Hanman said that the British Postal Museum and Archive are hoping to be able to move their collection of large objects to the Science Museum's proposed new building at Wroughton, near Swindon. However this was subject to them winning an ITV phone in programme due to be broadcast in November. He urged all members to vote for this.

**Catalogues.** Mr Hellebrekkers suggested that we should use the Michel catalogue numbers when describing European auction lots as this was the catalogue used by most European collectors (Higgins and Gage is mainly unheard of on the Continent), but Neil Sargent said he only repeated vendors' descriptions, he did not check or change them. It was also said that the Michel catalogue could be confusing as it is in a date order rather than by category.

The meeting closed at 12.05pm.

#### **Tony Chilton Competition.**

There were 5 entries for this year's annual 16 page competition, although regrettably none from overseas countries. The entries and results were:

FIRST **John Norton** - Albanian Postal Stationery 1900-1939  
 SECOND **Neil Sargent** - The 1892 1d UPU Postcard.  
 THIRD **George King** - QV Smallpox Vaccination Letter Sheets  
**Keith Hanman** - The First Postal Cards, Europe from 1869  
**George King** - The 2½d Pink

Iain Stevenson who carried out the judging said that the standard of entries was very high this year and gave encouraging appraisals to all the entrants, hoping that they would adjust and improve their entries for future.

# GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

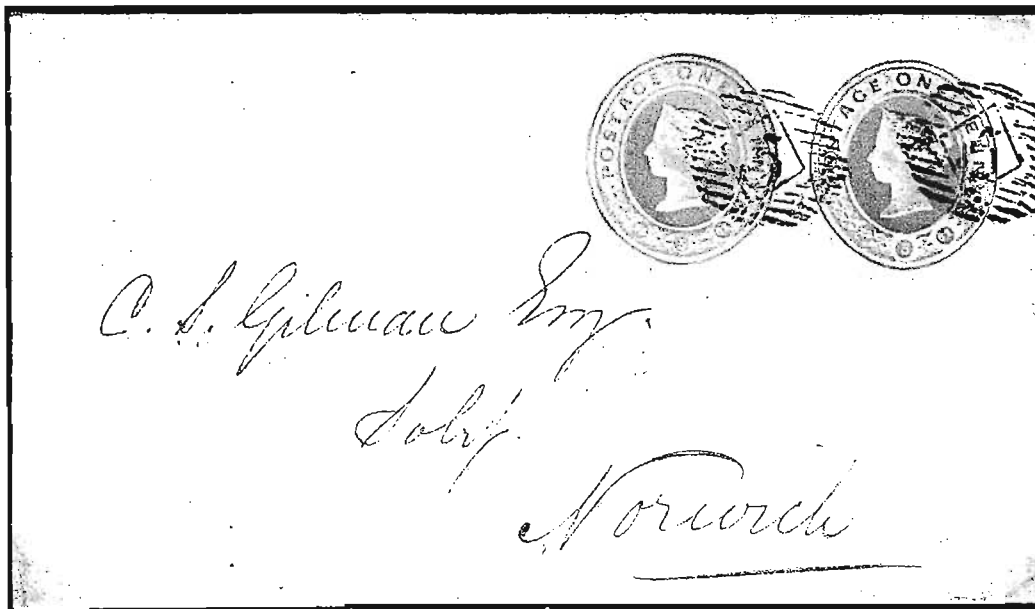
With postal stationery the annotation 'one example recorded' can sometimes remain apposite for many years but since the previous column published in August this annotation has been rendered obsolete for several items.

The first of these is a QV compound STO envelope sent from London to Norwich on 11 April 1861 with two penny pink embossed dies of the first type with the pendant curl in the form of a sinuous lock (H&B ESC1A). Both impressions are of die 95w.w., the first being dated 23.3.61, the second 25.3.61. On the reverse is the users name and address in an oval in colourless relief reading 'I & I.H. LINKLATER & HACKWOOD' with '7/WALBROOK/LONDON' in the centre. Clearly this is a commercially produced STO item and prior to the appearance of this example, the only one that had been recorded was, and still is, in the collection of Michael Lockton. However his example has an earlier date of printing being 6.4.58 and the 1d die is 101W.W.

These compound STO envelopes are the earliest recorded to date and the puzzle is why on each occasion two

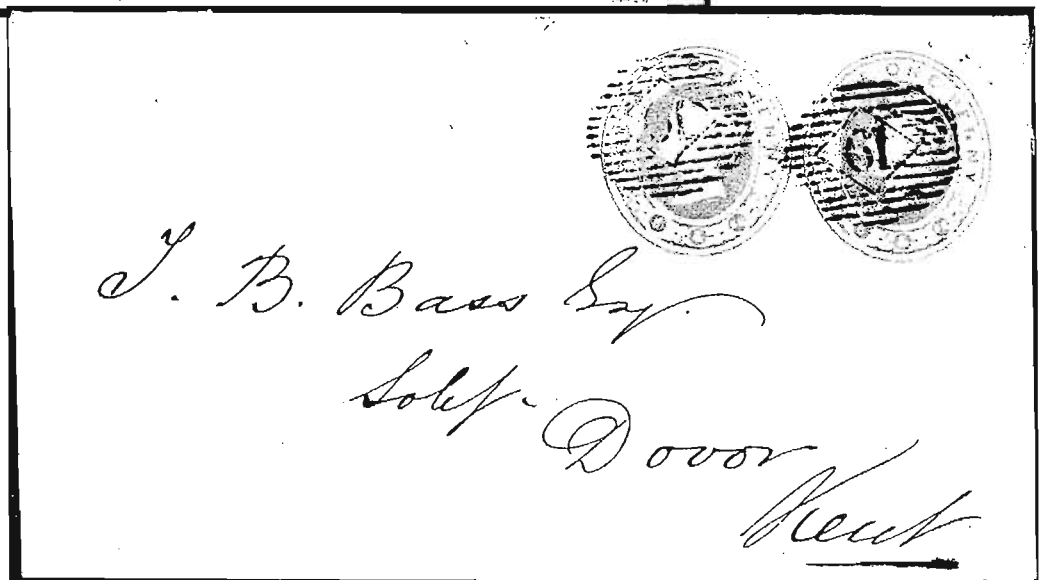
1d stamps were embossed rather than one 2d stamp. The 2d embossed die 2 was re-registered having been drilled to take date plugs on 9.10.1855 and an essay for a W.H. Smith advertising ring is known dated 17.2.57. However apart from Ewen (1905) who cites 25.10.55 as the earliest date seen of die 2, the earliest impressions I have seen are 3.12.59; 9.5.60; 24.7.60; 9.7.61 (Smith-Elder advertising ring); 24.7.61 (Letter sheet); 29.4.62; and 7.6.62. The last also happens to be a Linklater-Hackwood envelope. Thus clearly the 2d die was in use so why it was not used on 6.4.58 and 23-25.3.61 will doubtless remain a mystery.

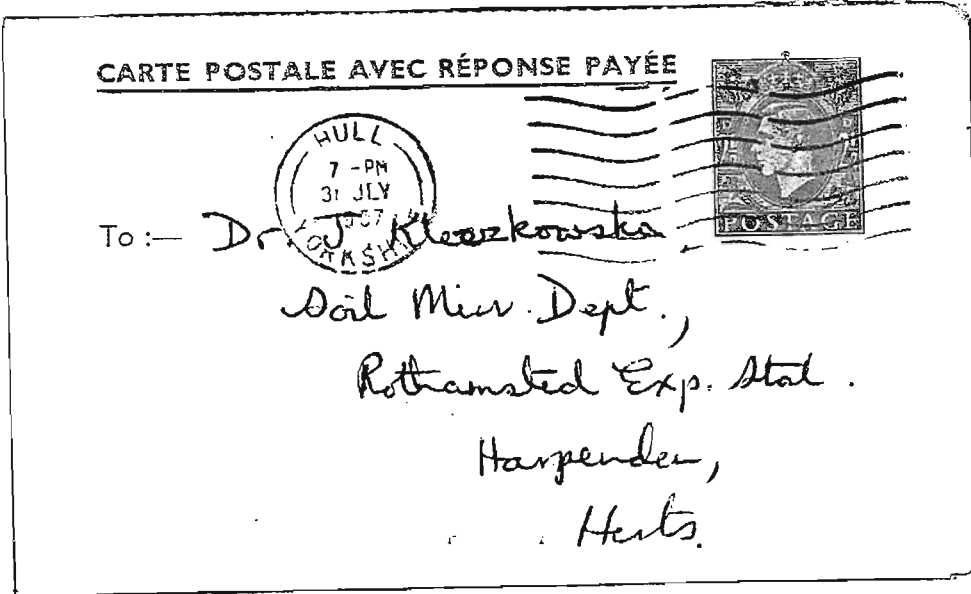
It is also worthy of note that of the five earliest used 2d STO envelopes that I have seen, three are Linklater-Hackwood envelopes addressed to other Solicitors in different towns. Of these, two dated 26.11.66 and 2.11.67 have the 2d die 1W.W. and the initials on the flap have changed to 'J & J.H. LINKLATER'. Does anyone have any other examples of 2d Linklater-Hackwood envelopes or 2d die 2 STO items dated earlier than the dates quoted above?



ESC1A

**Earliest recorded  
Compound Printed  
Envelope**





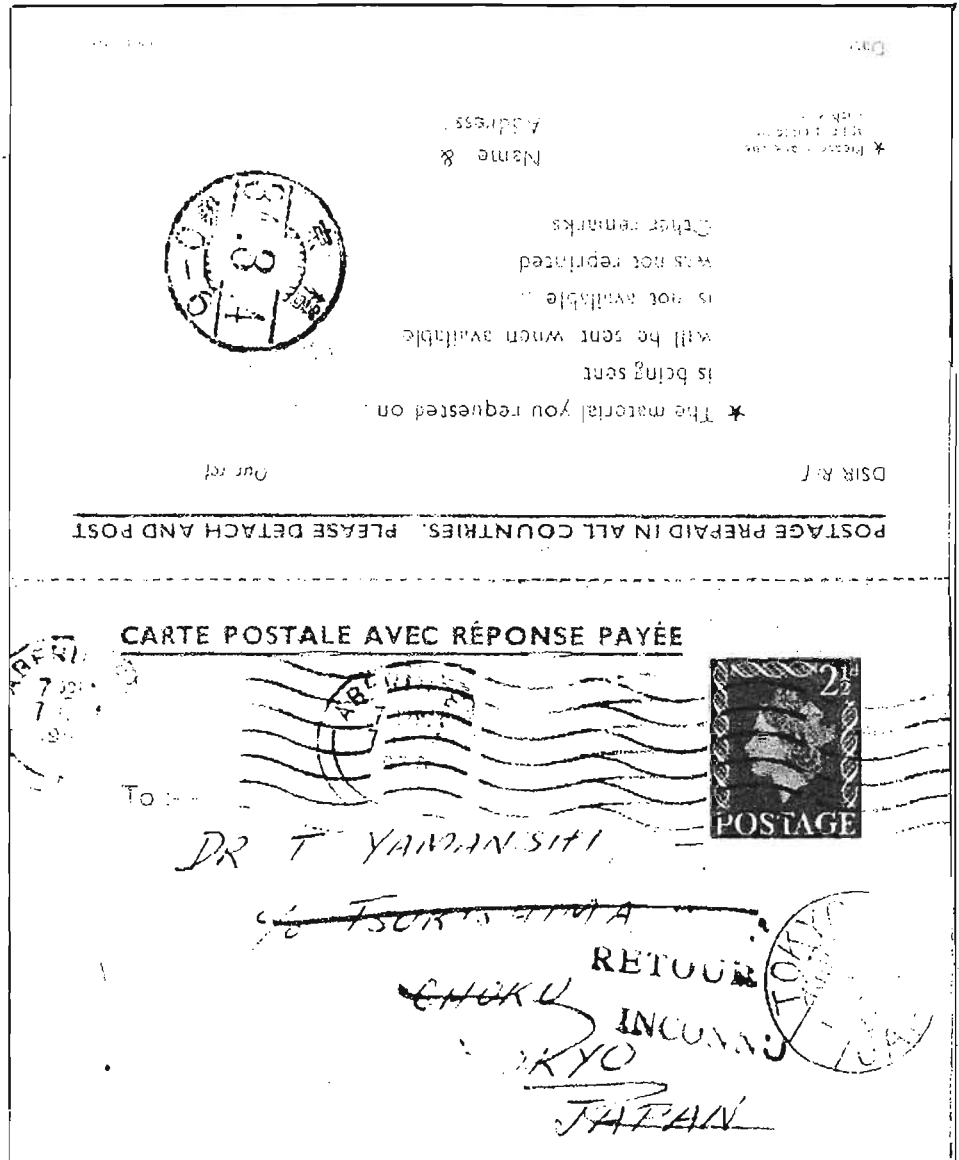
The next item was first reported in the PSS Journal Volume 13 page 22, namely a 2½d carmine KGVI STO reply card used by DSIR libraries for requesting reprints of scientific papers. I can now illustrate a second example sent from Hull to Harpenden, Hertfordshire on 31.7.57. (H&B CS130)

**CS130**

However John Fowler has just sent details of the equivalent card but with 2½d QEII stamps used to Japan from Aberdeen on 6.11.58 and returned to sender.

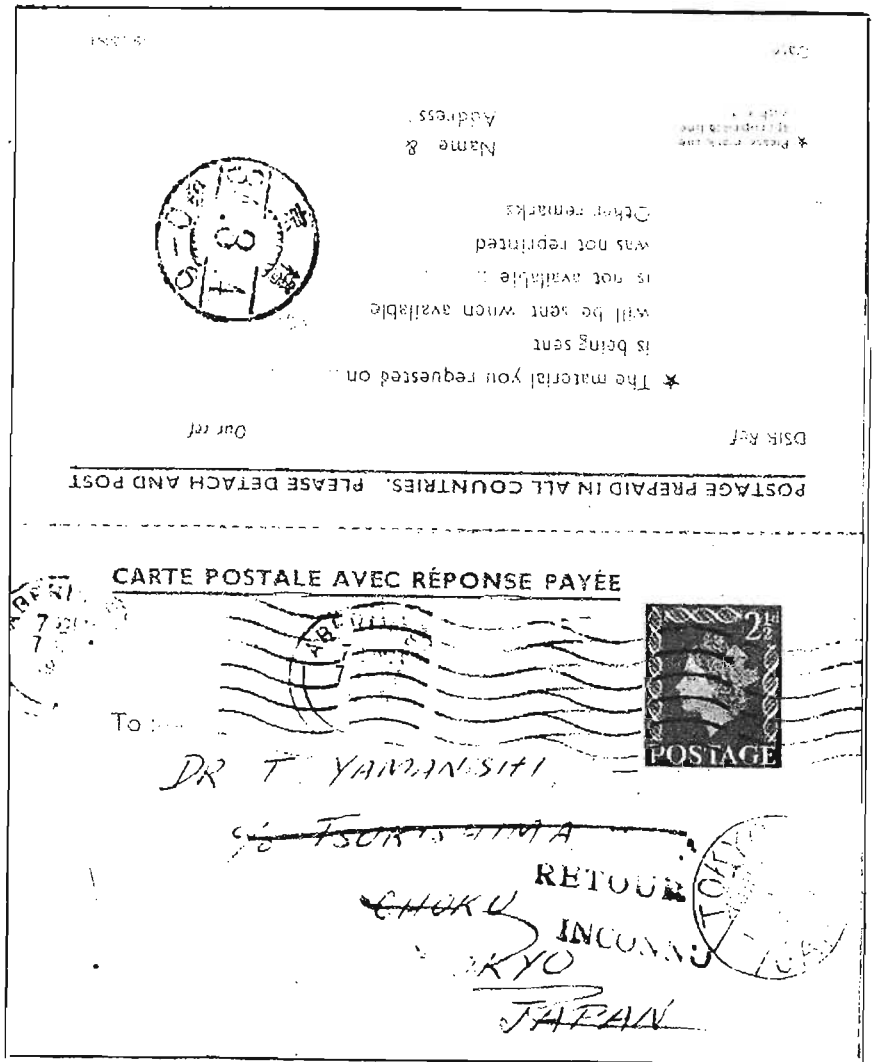
Like the KGVI card the QEII card is slightly larger (77 x 126mm -outward; 75 x 126mm -return) than size a, and thus differs from the previously known 2½d QEII NBTS reply cards which are size f (89 x 140mm). Cards have H&B numbers CS176A (size a) and CS176B (size f).

**CS176A**

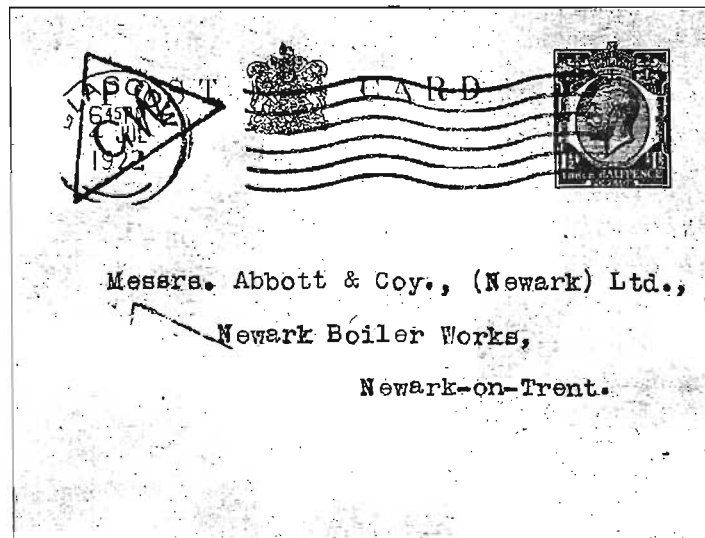




CS176B



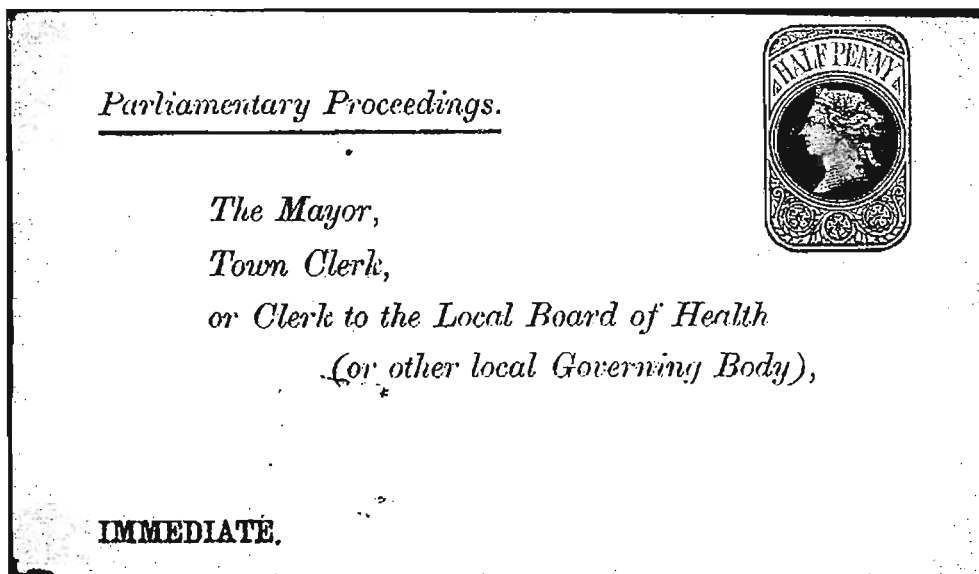
Those readers who are also members of UPSS will have seen a report on page 148 of the Journal of the UPSS (Volume 49, 2007) concerning a revalued KGV 1½d Post Office postcard (CP83) with GW in a triangle, used from Glasgow on 4.7.1922. This item is thus an addition to the listing published in the PSS Journal Volume 15, page 12 (2007).



CP83

Illustration courtesy of Journal of United States Postal Stationery Society

The final item, illustrated by courtesy of Colin Baker, is a Post Office newspaper wrapper (WP6) adapted for the distribution of Parliamentary Proceedings. Although wrappers with 'Par Pro' as a heading and paid handstamps are relatively well documented this is the first example I have seen of a stamped postal stationery item being used for this purpose. Does anyone know of any others?

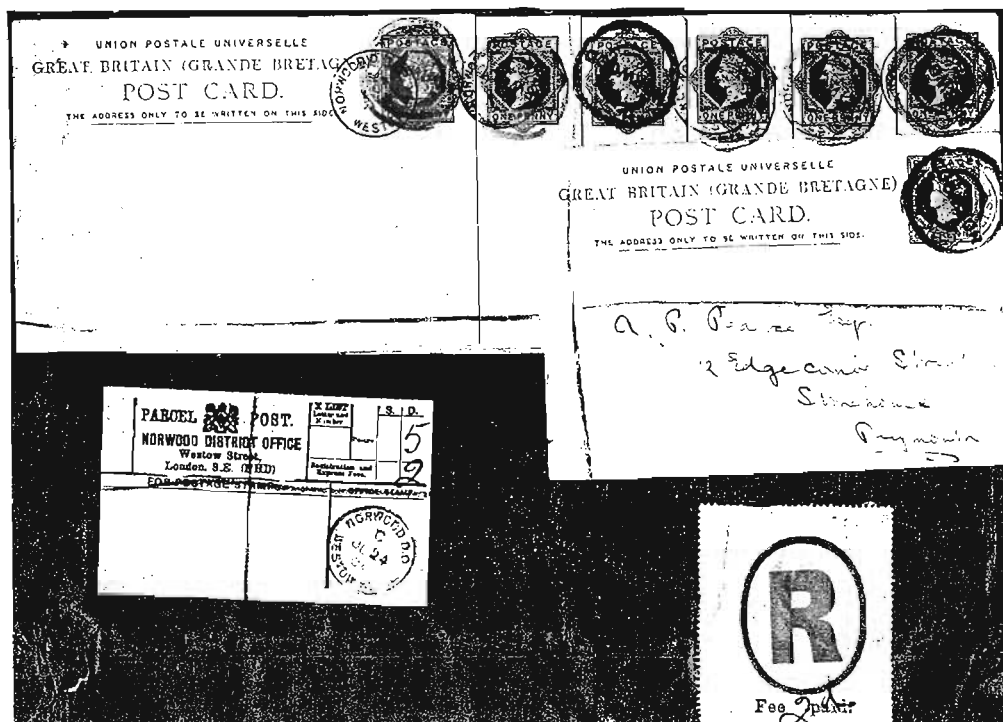


WP6

EWEN, H.E. Priced Catalogue of the Un-adhesive Postage Stamps of the United Kingdom. Ewen, H.E. (1905)

## PARCEL POST

John Forbes-Nixon has sent this photocopy (reduced 50%) of 7 complete obsolete QV 1d UPU stationery postcards used to pay 5d parcel post and 2d registration fee on a parcel from Norwood to Plymouth sent 24<sup>th</sup> June 1904. A bizarre use but accepted by the Post Office as payment.



[Editor- It is interesting to note that this item was posted at NORWOOD D.O. London. This Post Office was frequently used by 'Oswald Marsh' the stamp dealer who contrived many interesting postal stationery items in the first half of the twentieth century.]

## WATERMARKS ON G.B. WRAPPER & LETTERSHEET PAPERS

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

The worldwide web reveals the existence of an archive of watermarks and papers. Produced by Professor Robert W. Allison of Bates College, Lewiston, Maine, the introduction reads: "The watermark images in this archive consist of tracings or watermark prints from papers occurring in Greek manuscripts. The introduction proceeds to explain that:

*In this database papers are described by 10 elements of description (including watermarks, countermarks, and physical traits of the paper). The paper description is supported by a partial description of the manuscript, including searchable information on scribes and provenance. Together with the archive of watermark images, its primary purpose is to enable researchers to locate papers matching those found in manuscripts which they are studying. ...*

The Search Form identifies a number of standard watermark and paper descriptors used to classify watermarks. These include dimension and position of the watermark, and paper thickness, colour and texture. The listed bibliography of watermark catalogues and scholarly papers contains very fruitful ideas for research. For example, journals such as the *Alkaline Paper Advocate* and the *American Journal of Conservation* contain articles about watermarks. Furthermore, musicology is one of the major fields for the study of watermarks (so as to authenticate manuscripts of music allegedly written by early composers).

While the purpose of the Allison watermark archive is geared towards collaborative research into Greek manuscripts, the idea of pooling knowledge about watermarks on early postal stationery would help collectors to identify items and varieties in their collection, assist in write-up and display, and help popularise watermark detection and measurement.

Intriguingly, the watermark archive does provide a description of the technique used to make a professional print of a watermark from a sheet of paper. The description is technical but is repeated here in the hope that it may stimulate some comment from members. Equipment and supplies needed and detailed procedure are also listed on this web page.

*Watermark prints are made by shining light from a blue daylight fluorescent tube through the watermark bearing paper onto a sheet of light-sensitive Dylux® proofing paper. This paper is coated with a yellow light-sensitive pigment which turns deep blue when exposed to ultra-violet light, but which is deactivated by exposure to the blue daylight. The light passes more quickly through the watermark and the grid of chain and wire lines, which are thin spots in the paper, than it does through the rest of the paper. The light is removed when it has had time to penetrate the thin areas, but before it has been able to penetrate the thicker areas in the paper. Where it penetrates, the blue daylight neutralizes the dyes in the Dylux® proofing paper. Thus, an image of the watermark and the grid of chain and wire lines are produced on the underlying sheet of light sensitive paper.*

*This image, at first invisible, is brought out by exposing the light-sensitive paper to ultra-violet light. This second exposure turns the dyes in the light sensitive paper from yellow to blue, except for the areas where the dyes were neutralized by the first exposure. Thus, the watermark now appears as a light yellow design against a darker blue background. Finally, the image is fixed by a repeat exposure to blue daylight from a fluorescent tube, which neutralizes all remaining active dyes in the Dylux® paper.*

This detail indicates that a professional technique to accurate watermark copying does exist. If any postal stationery collector has experienced this method I am sure a number of others would be interested in learning about the specifics, time involved, cost, and results.

### Capturing Watermarks Digitally

An on-going problem experienced by this author is how to capture a watermark image on a wrapper or lettersheet such that it can be scanned and included on a page of write-up. Watermark fluid on stamps can reveal images and enable scanning (how to do this specifically can be found by Googling "scanning"). However, I have not been able to use watermark detection fluid successfully to retain a large image with adequate definition and for an adequate period to enable the scanner to perform its operations. Clarity of definition issues aside, the fluid simply evaporates too quickly from the heat of the scanner bulb.

The wisdom in the philatelic literature is that a light box be used and that the watermark be traced with the light shining through the wrapper or lettersheet. The tracing outline can then be darkened, photocopied if necessary, and then scanned. I tried this with a makeshift light box, with mixed results. A certain skill is needed in tracing, especially on glass, and where the light box is higher than a normal writing level. Tracing serifs accurately in double-lined watermarks, for example, needs experience. The final tracing needs to be crisp and clean in order to have any credibility for inclusion in a write-up, especially for exhibiting. Illustration 2 shows my not very good effort in this regard.

Instead of a light box it is possible to use modern technology in the form of a digital camera. The wrapper is fixed to a window behind which is bright sunlight to accentuate the watermark. It is then a matter of taking photos of the image with the digital camera held close enough to the paper to capture the watermark image in its entirety. By-and-large the results have been satisfactory but depend to some extent on the nature of the paper. Some heavier papers result in a darker image than can be used successfully in scanning.

Photos downloaded into the computer as jpg images can be then be edited for sharpness, and rotated and cropped as required and then copied to the write-up page. The end result may or may not be acceptable for album or display purposes depending on the clarity and sharpness of the image.

As a first step in bringing this topic to the notice of postal stationery collectors, the paper develops seven examples. The first compares the light box and camera approaches, the other six focus on the digital camera approach with more or less acceptable results. Images that appear clear on the computer screen often do not translate well into final printed format.

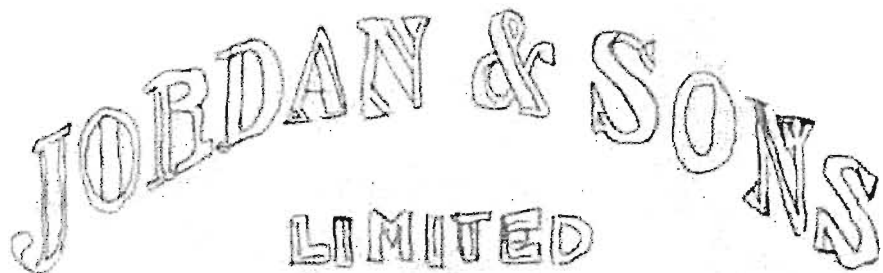
**Jordan & Sons Limited**



**Illustration 1: Jordan & Sons Parcel Post wrapper**

The double-lined vertical reading upward watermark from the Jordan & Sons Limited Parcel Post wrapper is located on the right-hand-side of the wrapper and is repeated vertically every 70mm. The double-lined lettering of Jordan & Sons is 143x18mm and "Limited" is 50x8mm. The wrapper itself is 337x165mm and shows a 9-dot floret QV 3d 1894 dull-rose indicia (see Illustration 1).

Illustration 2 is drawn by hand from a makeshift light-box, with a somewhat messy appearance.



**Illustration 2: tracing made using makeshift light box**

Illustration 3 is the same watermark captured via a digital camera.

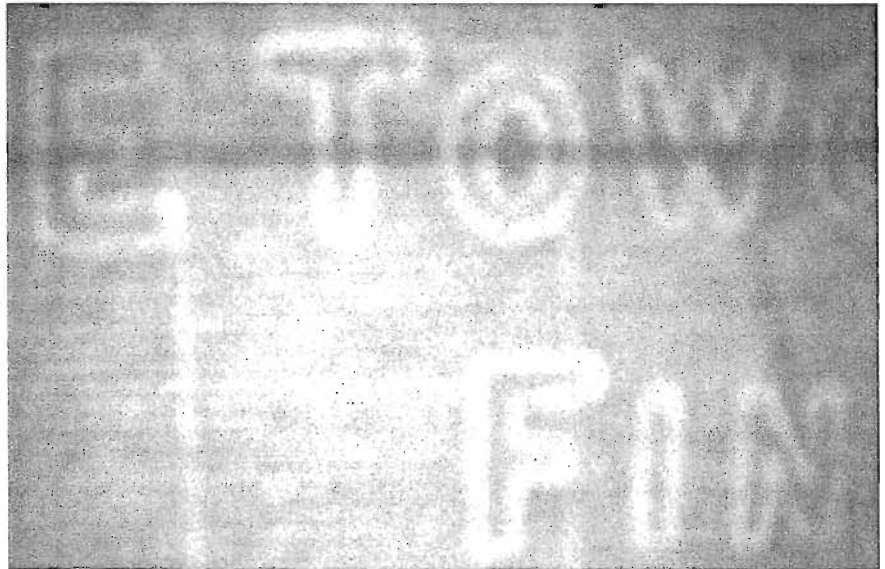


**Illustration 3: Jordan & Sons using digital camera**

**Nestle, Andrea & Co.'s Price Current**

A circa 1878 wrapper bearing a 1d reddish-brown QV dated die on horizontal weave white 202x125mm watermarked paper shows a double-lined inverted papermaker's watermark. Comprising 13-11x60mm letters, it shows only a partial watermark: E TOWC// FINE. This watermark is located 93mm below the top edge and 32mm from the left hand side. There are also four vertical wire lines throughout spaced 25mm apart.

A careful search of web sources did not reveal any further information about this watermark. The abbreviation may represent E. Towcester Mills. The partial watermark as per the digital camera method is shown as Illustration 4



**Illustration 4: E. Towc // Fine**

**OHMS Commander in Chief's Office**

This 209x333mm lettersheet with red double-ring 28.5/26mm crown over free AP 25 1837 shows an inverted vertical reading up double-lined watermark W. WARREN & 1836 beneath. W. Warren is 152mm in length; the Ws are 28x28mm, the remaining letters 96x14mm. Centered 10mm beneath is the date 1836 in 52x15mm numerals. The 3 in the year resembles the figure 5, but details within the lettersheet together with the cancel clearly tie it to the numeral 3.

The watermark is located exactly in the center of the wrapper being 146mm to left and right edges. There are eight horizontal wire lines throughout the wrapper spaced 25mm apart. This watermark is shown as Illustration 5.



**Illustration 5: W. Warren 1836**

Social history about William Warren of Bramshott Mill adds interest and background to this watermark. The following extract is copied (with mild editorial changes) from Crocker (2001):

*William Warren, who came from a family of papermakers in Devon, completed his papermaking apprenticeship in 1810, when the Original Society of Papermakers issued him the 'ticket' or 'Card of Freedom'. Admission to the Society cost 10 shillings for the son of a papermaker and the ticket showed that he had served as an apprentice with one patron for a period of seven years. It enabled him to work as a journeyman, tramping from mill to mill seeking work which often only lasted for a few days. The Society was active in the late 18th century but was not officially founded until 1800, so Warren's ticket is quite an early example. In 1811 Warren married Elizabeth Roe, both of Midhurst in Sussex, and in 1815 he was working at Bathford Mill in Somerset where, on leaving, he was given the certificate. Then in 1822 he took over Bramshott Mill.*

*At first Warren was in partnership with Eli Smitn a farmer but in 1838 became the occupier of Hammer and Hatch farms as well as the mill. In 1852 he took his sons George Roe and Andrew into partnership and the firm became known as Wm Warren & Sons. A member of the family still lives at Hatch Farm and holds many interesting records and artifacts of the mill. Until recently these included a mould for making two sheets of paper for 200,000 reis banknotes for the independent Empire of Brazil which was founded in 1822. The drawing of the elaborate watermark features a beehive and the date 1828. Brazil was well known for issuing large quantities of paper money and consequently suffered periodic bouts of inflation. Unfortunately this mould was taken in a burglary a few years ago and has not been recovered. A conventional "W WARREN 1827" watermark is identical, except for the date, to that shown as Illustration 5.*

*Also, Warren's portrait probably dates from this time. When the tithe map was prepared in 1846, Warren occupied over 30 acres of land surrounding Bramshott Mill including the 3 acre pond and Drying House Meadow; the owner was C J W Ellis. In 1851, the mill had three beating engines, worked 20 hours a day, manufactured 20 cwt of fine white paper a week and was valued at £1,995. It was damaged by fire in 1856, between £2,000 and £3,000 of property being destroyed.*

*Warren appears to have taken over Barford Lower Mill, excise number 122, in 1837. There are several records of him at this mill or what came to be known as Barford Paper Mill up to 1860. However from 1851, when one beating engine was working and*

*none idle, he was in partnership with his two sons George Roe and Andrew and by 1860 it had become a half-stuff mill. William Warren also acquired the lease of Standford Mill, excise number 120, in 1842. The tithe map of 1846-7 shows the site as being smaller than the others and the apportionment names Richard Knight senior as the owner and Warren as the occupier. In 1850 the freehold of the mill and the associated farms was offered for sale and Knight was said to be the tenant. In 1851, like Barford, Standford had one beating engine. Warren died on 1 March 1860 aged 73.*

### OHMS Inland Revenue, Edinburgh

A large watermark appears on this 418x257mm bluish letter sheet. Bearing a red 21mm Official Paid, Edinburgh 60 FE 17 (18)78 cancel the vertical 168x60mm watermark comprises a crown over crest & initials which might be IR (i.e., for Inland Revenue).

The initials, however, might be those of the paper manufacturer and could be IC or even the letter H. There are ten vertical lines shown spaced 25mm apart. The watermark is located more-or-less in the center of the lettersheet with 90mm from the left of the crest to the left edge and 110mm from the right of the crest to the right edge. There are 100mm from the top edge to the crown, and 140mm from the lower edge to the initials. The watermark is shown as Illustration 6.

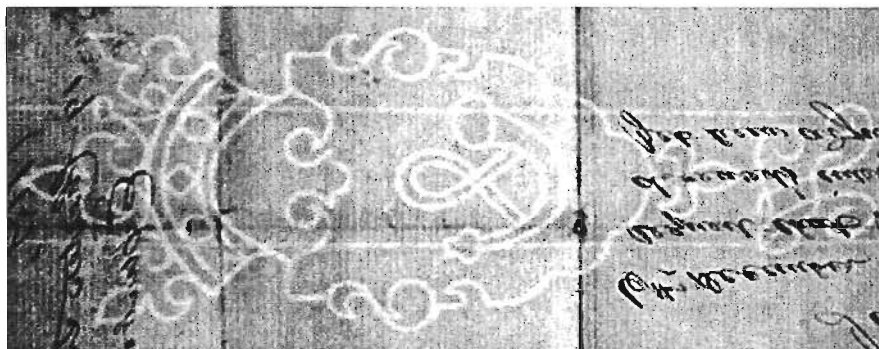


Illustration 6: Inland Revenue (turned left)

### Henry Glave, New Oxford Street, London

Another ornate watermark appears on the paper of a 1902 stamped-to-order wrapper illustrated with a well-dressed Victorian lady wearing long gloves, Henry Glave being a glove specialist with premises in New Oxford Street, London, and who operated a "Shilling a Week Club". This 366x166mm wrapper shows a 93x15mm double-lined watermark FLORIAN and crest above, and this is shown as illustration 7. FLORIAN is 93x15mm; the crest is 95x67mm and there is a 25mm gap between the crest and Florian. The complete watermark is located in the top right quadrant of the wrapper with the crest repeated 82mm beneath Florian.

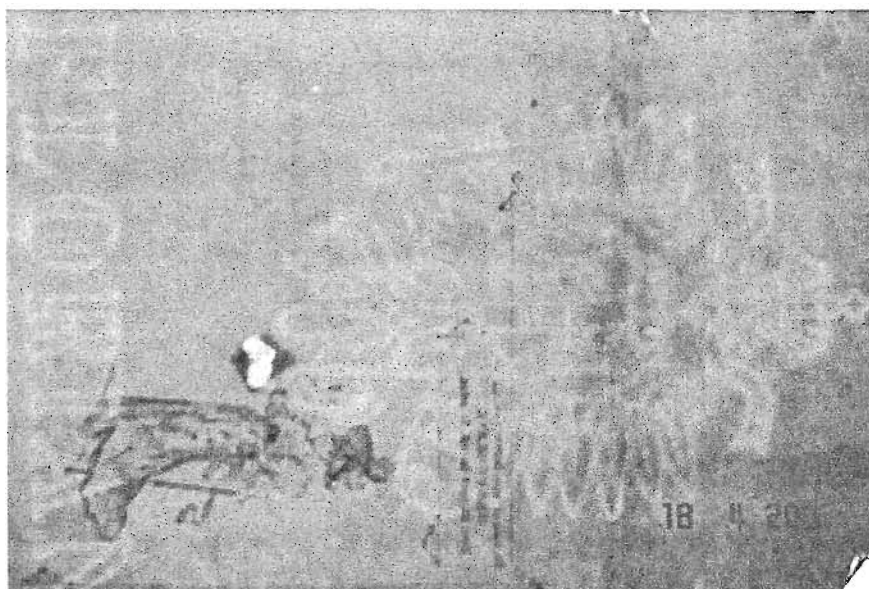


Illustration 7: Crest above Florian (turned left)

The internet did not reveal any further information about Florian but given the nature of the crest it might have some Belgium association, just possibly the Deraedemaker Co. The opportunity for research into Florian and other companies' watermarks is present for those interested and capable of studying and interpreting this field.

### Mourning Wrapper

An 1864 black bordered 231x188mm horizontal weave mourning wrapper shows a two line watermark APS (48x20mm) in script over double-lined Superfine (108x8mm) with 21mm horizontal lines between. The watermark is located more-or-less in the middle of the wrapper reading up with 'E' being 60mm from the top edge and 'S' being 64mm from the lower edge.; APS is 85mm from left edge and Superfine is 89mm from the right edge. In modern nomenclature APS could mean automatic paper selection (or American Philatelic Society) – but as this is an 1864 wrapper, APS might represent Associated Paper Supply. No information was obtained from an extensive internet search.



Illustration 8: APS// Superfine

### Conclusion

Swimming with a face mask and snorkel in the ocean can reveal a fascinating and colourful undersea world of fish, coral, rocks, seaweed and sand. Use of a UV light can reveal phosphorus tagging that is undetectable on stamps in ordinary light. Much has been written about tagging and the many varieties of positions, bars and colour. In similar vein, watermark detection, measurement and discussion do not appear to have gained momentum in the postal stationery literature, and yet, like tagging, it is there to be discovered. While the philatelic literature covers the technique of watermarking, especially on stamps, there does not appear to be much written with regard to actual watermarks on larger sheets of paper such as wrappers and letter sheets. As a first step in creating our own "watermark archive" perhaps postal stationery collectors can examine their own collections and report on their findings.

### References:

Allison, Robert W., [www.bates.edu/Faculty/wmarchive/overview.html](http://www.bates.edu/Faculty/wmarchive/overview.html) for details of the Watermark Archive  
 Crocker, Alan (2001), Paper Mills in Headley and Bramshott, *Journal of the British Association of Paper Historians*, April, Vol. 38. (see also the article on website [www.johnowensmith.co.uk/headley/crocker.htm#williamwarren](http://www.johnowensmith.co.uk/headley/crocker.htm#williamwarren))

## SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Annual subscriptions for 2008 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.

# THE USE OF CIRCULAR OR OVAL GRILLES TO INVALIDATE EMBOSSED POSTAL STATIONERY DIES

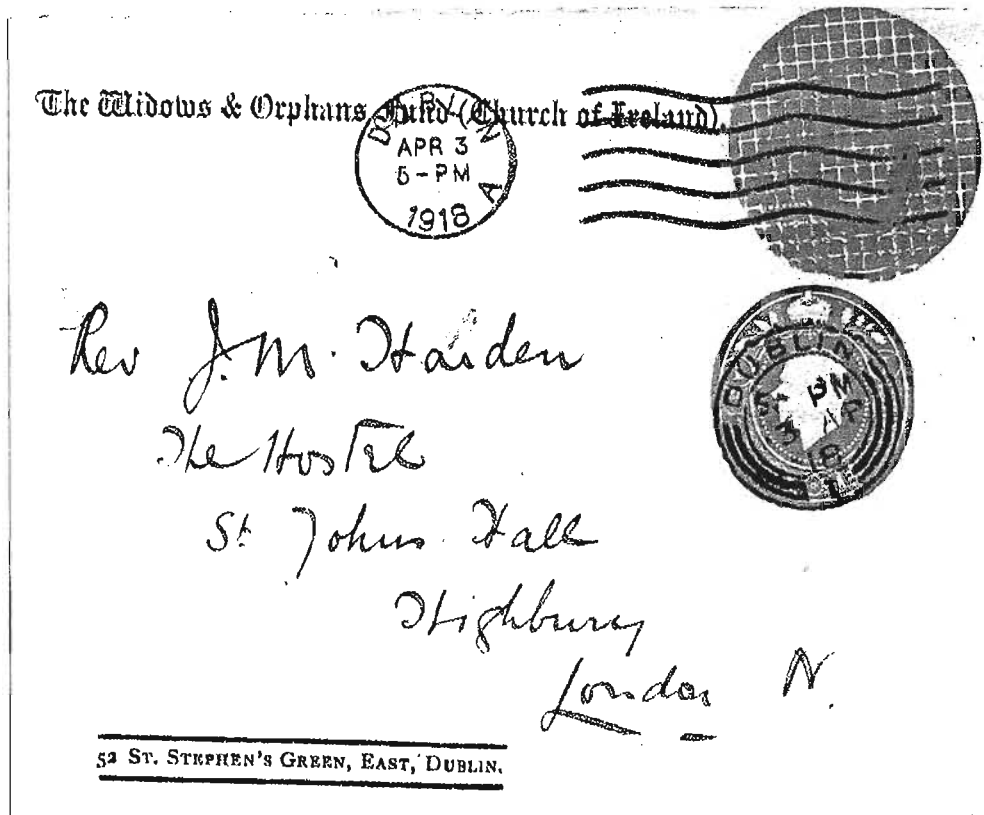
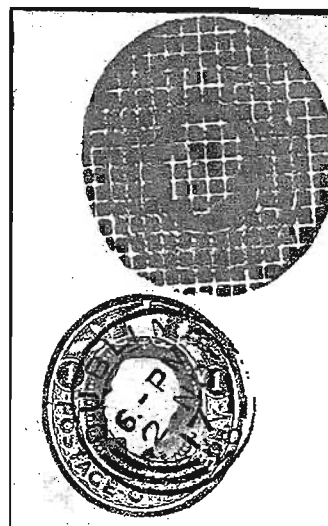
Alan Huggins

The recent report by Peter van Gelder in Gibbons Stamp Monthly (October 2007 p.89) of the discovery of another example of the STO envelope with the KGV embossed ½d die printed in red instead of green, then invalidated with an oval grille in red, and the 1d die printed underneath in the correct colour, prompts me to illustrate other examples of this fascinating and very rare item. The latest example was used from Dublin on 3 April 1918 which is between the earlier date of 2 November 1917 of the cut-down piece originally in the Hounsell-Dammers Collection, and the other example dated 26 June 1918, which was

originally reported many years ago and was illustrated in British Postal Stationery (Huggins 1970). I understand that another cut-down piece exists but I do not have an illustration of it. It would be interesting to be able to confirm whether this error occurred at the Dublin Stamp Office rather than the Inland Revenue Stamping Department at Somerset House but unfortunately the die numbers are not identifiable.

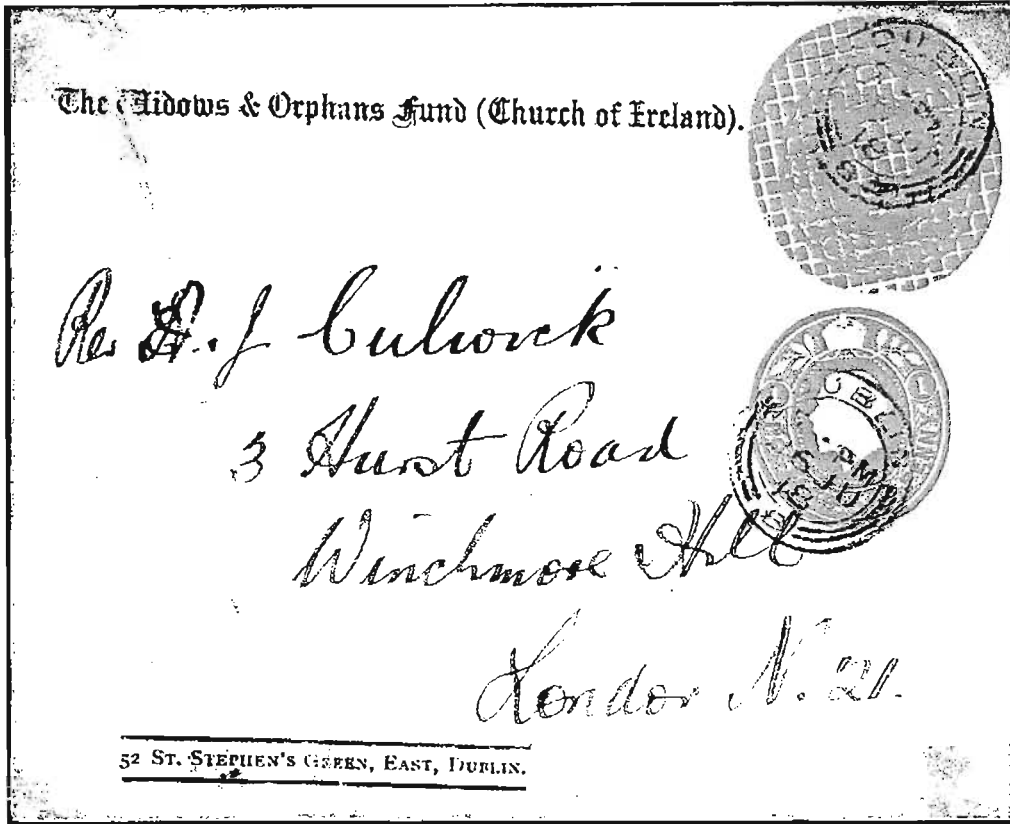
A few other examples of the use of grilles to invalidate embossed postal stationery stamps are known and these are illustrated. If anyone has any others I should appreciate details and an illustration.

**King George V ½d die invalidated after being struck in error in red. Used 2.11.1917 (Huggins Collection; ex. Hounsell-Dammers Collection)**

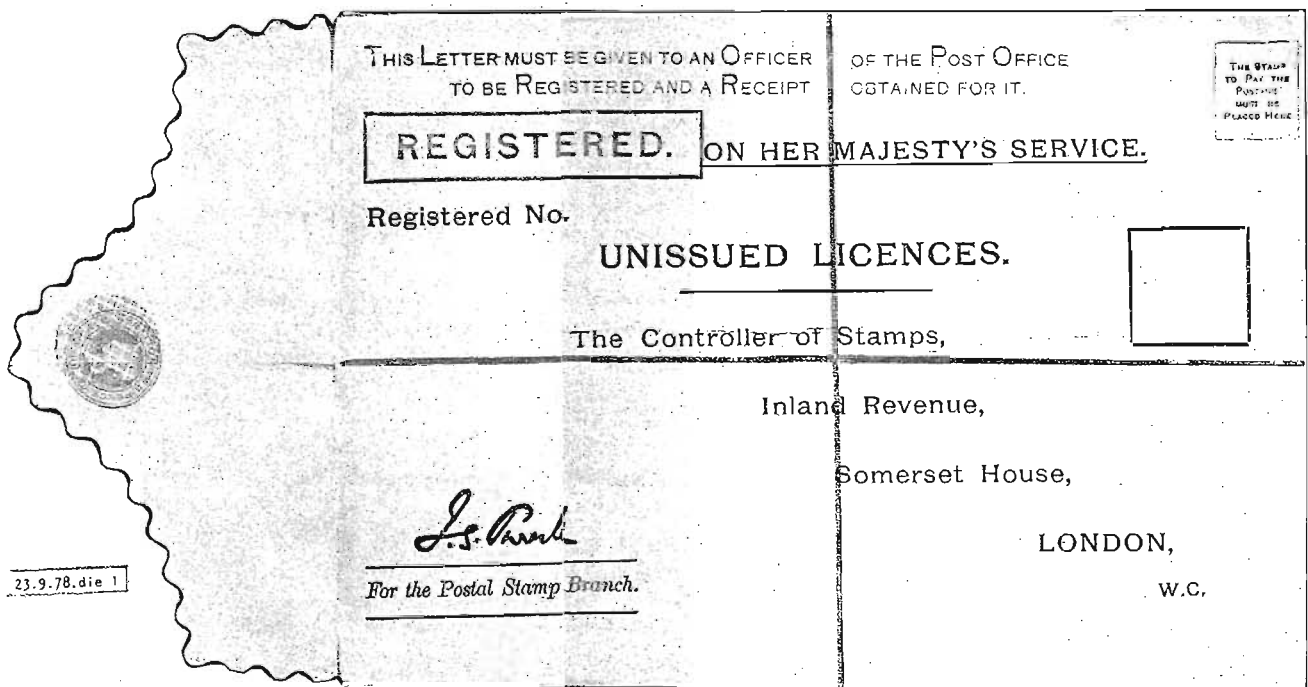


**Used 3.4.1918 (Illustration courtesy Gibbons Stamp Monthly)**



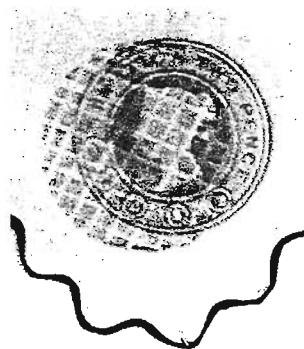


Used 26.6.1918 (Huggins Collection)

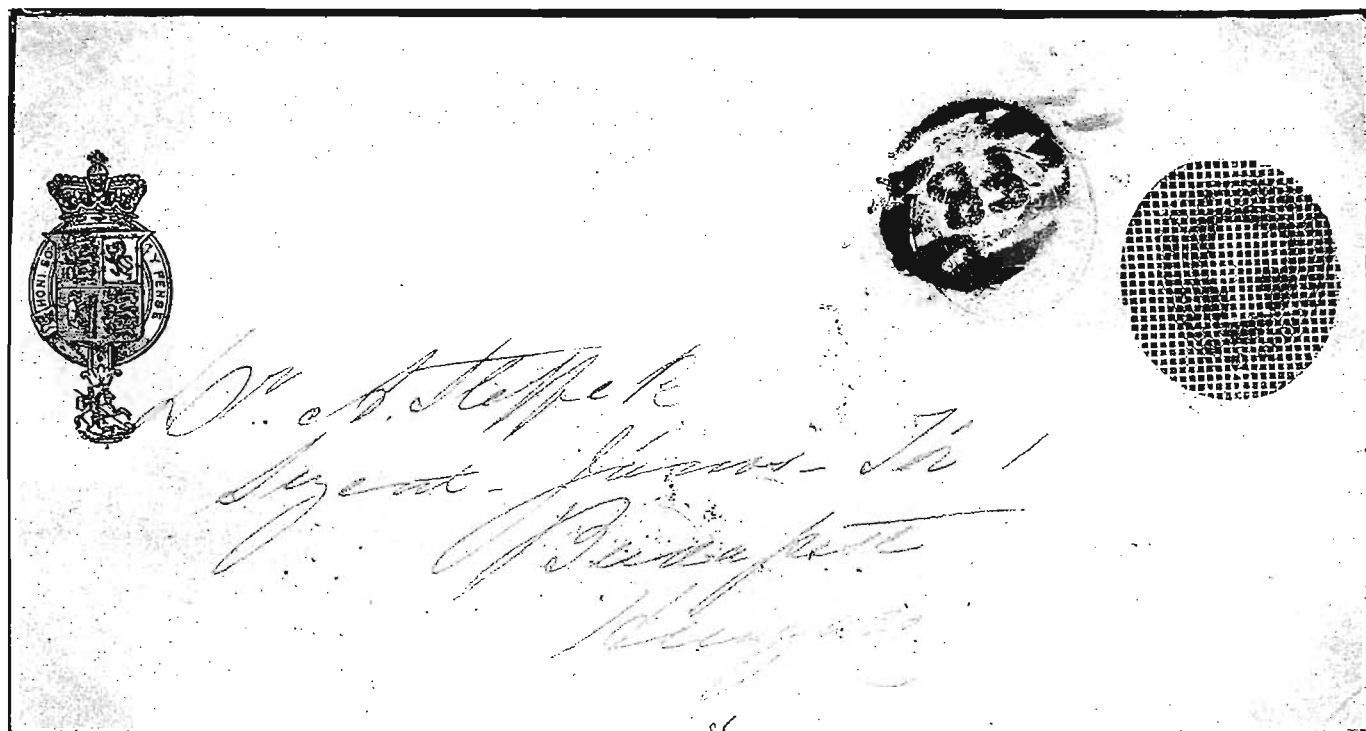


Queen Victoria 2d registration envelope size I (RP5) adapted for use by the Post Office and the Inland Revenue by overprinting the envelope in black and invalidating the stamp (dated 25.9.78) on the flap with a circular grille in violet. (Copied in two halves and reduced to 50% actual size)

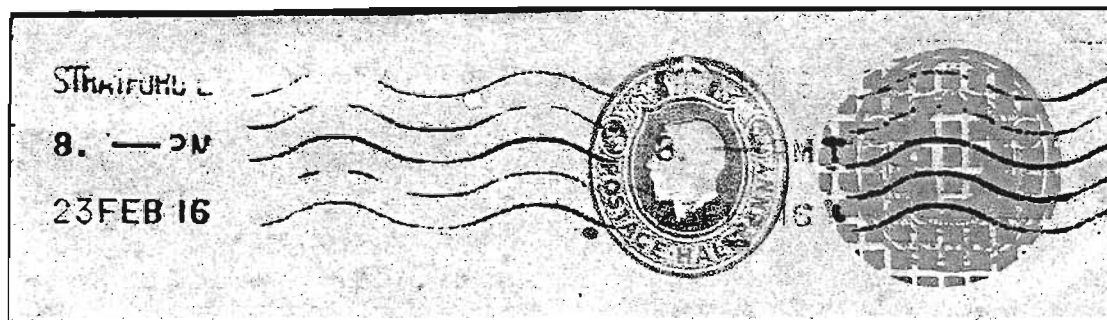
A piece with a blue grille and stamp dated 6.6.78. is also known.



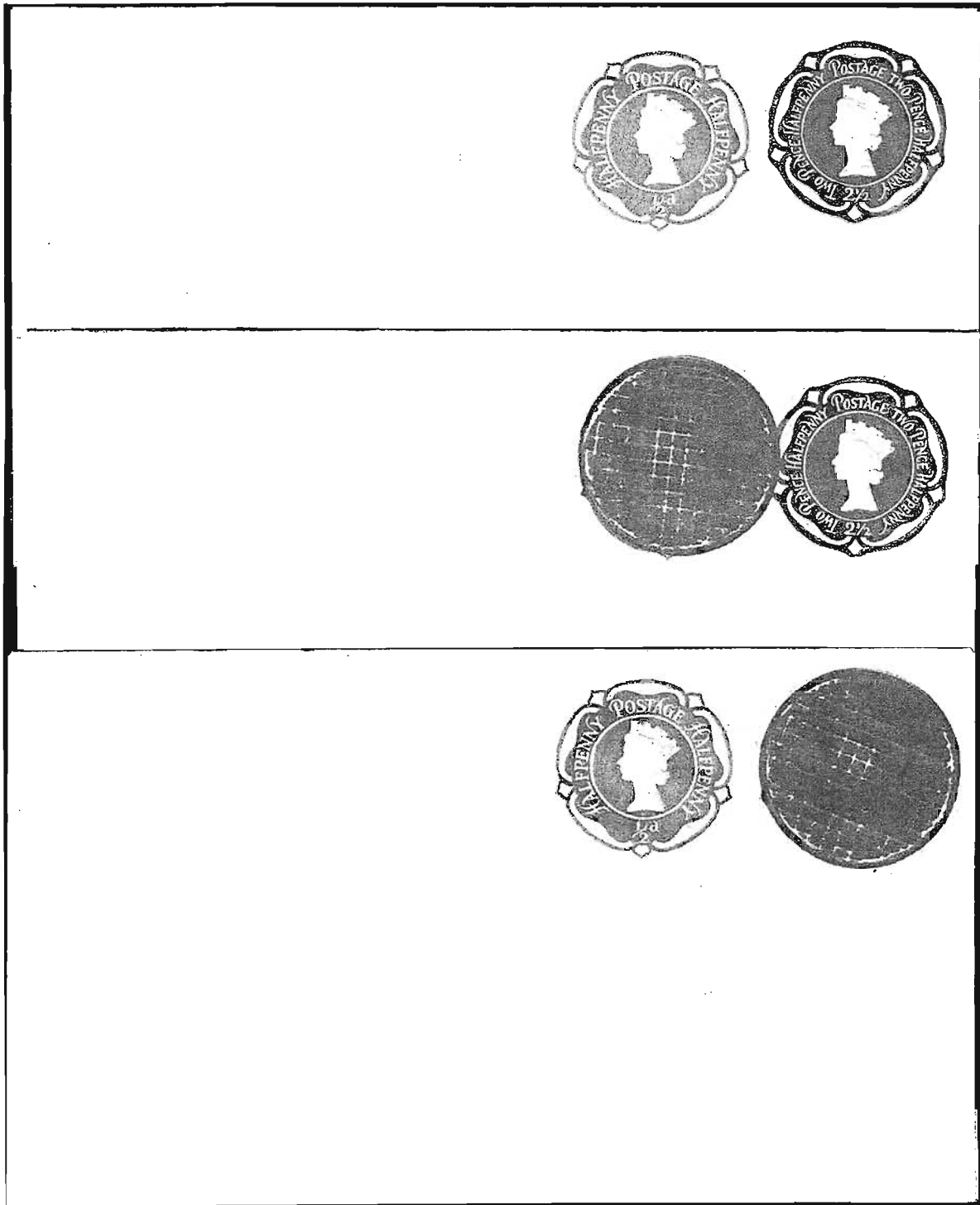
Part of the flap of RP5 showing the circular grill invalidating the stamp. (Actual size)



Queen Victoria STO wrapper with 1½d brown (ES13) dated 20.11.91, invalidated by an oval black grille and 1d pink (ES11) struck alongside. London FB cancel.



King George V 1d red die invalidated by a circular grille in red and ½d green (ES42) struck alongside. Used from Stratford, London on 23.2.1916.



Queen Elizabeth II STO compound envelopes 2 1/2d carmine + 1/2d orange (ESC891) with either the 2 1/2d die or the 1/2d die invalidated by a circular grille in red.

## POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

### DRAFT

#### Income & Expenditure Account for year ended 31st August 2007

INCOME	2006/7	2005/6	EXPENDITURE	2006/7	2005/6
Balance b/f from 2005/06	£ 2,870.99	£3,079.73	Journal printing	£1,224.44	£1,534.31
Subscriptions	£ 2,861.00	£1,868.50	Journal postage	£647.07	£676.15
October Auction (nett)	-£ 49.67	£ 167.14	Journal envelopes	£61.96	
June Auction (nett)	£ 54.59	£ 78.84	Room Hire	£410.00	£360.00
Advertising	£ 418.50	£320.00	ABPS subscription	£107.40	£97.80
Sale of monographs etc.	£ 40.50	£58.00	Insurance	£35.50	
			Website		9.99
Donations	£ 0.30	£27.41	Trophy engraving	£11.03	
Bank Interest	£ 68.08	£33.28	General stationery	£37.47	£59.96
			General postage	£105.50	£6.15
			General printing	£16.02	£17.55
			Balance	£3,607.90	£2,870.99
	<b>£6,264.29</b>	<b>£5,632.90</b>		<b>£6,264.29</b>	<b>£5,632.90</b>
Total income	£ 3,393.30	Surplus £ 736.91	Total expenses	£2,656.39	
Subscriptions for 2007	£ 2,174.00		The surplus is based on the subscriptions		
Other income above	£ 532.30	Surplus £ 49.91	attributable to 2007, whenever paid.		
			Balance represented by:-		
			Cash at Bank - Investment A/C	£3,194.19	
			Cash at Bank - Cheque A/C	£1,023.38	
			Cash in Hand (€145)	£100.00	
			Editorial float	£100.00	
			Members' balances held	-£461.67	
			Payments outstanding	-£348.00	
				<b>£3,607.90</b>	

*Note from Treasurer: This Society has traditionally taken all subscriptions received into the current year's accounts. However, should the Society ever have to disband, those members who had paid for future years would have a right to a refund of the unused portion of their subscriptions. Currently we have 126 future payments for 2008 to 2011. Valuing these at an average of £11 gives a liability of £1,386, leaving net assets of £2,128.26.*

I have examined the records, receipts and bank statements of the Postal Stationery Society, and find the above Account to be a true and accurate reflection of the Society's financial position at 31 August 2007.

John Fowler  
Hon Treasurer

AUCTION ACCOUNTS	Costs	Receipts	AUCTION A/C'S	Costs	Receipts
October 2006	Printing		June 2007	Printing	
Auction list	167.82		Auction list	214.82	
	Postage	Income		Postage	Income
Auction list	45.05	1,653.50	Auction list	55.30	3,306.50
Auction lots	59.60	60.60	Auction lots	90.64	84.30
	Vendors			Vendors	
£1,657 - 10% commission	1,491.30		£3,308.50 - 10%	2,975.45	
Nett loss to main a/c	- 49.67		Nett proceeds	54.59	

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### G.B. AIRLETTERS

Only one further white paper 2007 printing is reported by **Arthur Roberts** as follows:-

Star Type 1 print with gap of 56mm - MSE 34/07

### Articles in the Journals of other Postal Stationery Societies from across the World

**Postal Stationery Collector** August 2007 (Australia)

King George VI "Crowned-Circle" Embossed Design

International Reply Coupons: Next report

Juxtapositional and Textual Varieties of 1899 1d

Carmine/Vermillion Queensland Wrappers

Victoria 1885 ½d + ½d Doubleton Wrapper

Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company Limited printed to Private Order Envelopes

Guyana 8c Postal Stationery Envelopes

Panama 'Pseudo Stationery'

Listing of Australian Non-Denominated Postal Stationery

New postcards from Latvia and Estonia

**Postal Stationery Collector** November 2007 (Australia)

Christmas Aerogrammes

República Mayor De Centroamerica: Postal Stationery of Nicaragua and El Salvador During this Period

KG VI "Crowned Circle" Embossed Design: Update

Slogan Postmarks on Newspaper Wrappers

Some Interesting South Australian Postcards

Listing of Australian Non-Denominated Postal Stationery

**Postal Stationery** July/August 2007 (USA)

U.S.A. 20th/21st Century Column

U.S.A. 19th Century Column

U.S.A. Postal Stationery New Issues

Bechuanalands Postal Stationery in Public and Archival Collections

Postal Buddy Change of Address Card Essays

The Airmail Envelopes of the U.S. Envelope Company

Official Printed to Private Order Cards for Two Millers in Zurich

Pseudo Stationery Part 3

**Postal Stationery** September/October 2007 (USA)

The Specimen Code 1, 2, 3 & 4 Confusion

Switzerland's Postal Envelope Essays and Proofs

Togo Occupation - Postal Stationery, The One Penny "Error"

United States Postal Card Catalogue

First USA Postal Card Issue Topics

Pseudo Postal Stationery, Part 4

Zauzibar, an Overprint Error

**Ganzsachensammler** September 2007 (Switzerland)

Die Privatganzsachenumschläge des Joh. Stückelberger, Bern

Die Briefumschläge 2000-2006

Die waagrecht Gezähnten Bildpostkarten

Deutsche Bildpostkarten mit ausländischen Sujets

Die Postkarte P212 50Cts mit Sujet Volkskunst

Chavornay-Orbe - vielleicht ein Poststrouten-Stempel

**Die Ganzsache** 1/2007 (Germany)

Das Geheimnis der schwarzen Stempelfarbe

Hand-und Maschinensonderstempel für das WHW

Die geänderte Farbe der Berliner Ortspostkarte P35 grau / P42 orangefarben

Aus der Vereinsgeschichte

Neuheitenberichte 1/2007 - 7/2007

**L'Intero Postale** Spring/Summer 2007 (Italy)

Un Duplex D'Annata.

Replay - L'Eccezione Che Conferma la Regola Annuifi Numerali Su Cartoline E Biglietti Postali Italiana

Coupon-Reponse Dell' Afis Trovato Anchel Il "Londra" Tipo XVI.

Considerazioni Su Alcuni Bigliette Postali Repubblicani

Cartolina vaticane Con Varietà.

### Articles Noted Recently in the Philatelic Press

"Centenary of the International Reply Coupon" - Jean-Louis Emmenegger. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly October 2007)

"Postal Stationery Matters" - Peter van Gelder. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly October 2007)

**Congratulations to Jerry Kasper** whose new exhibit "Aerogrammes of Ethiopia" received a Vermeil at the just-finished APS Annual Stampshow.

### A Tale of Two Wrappers (Vol. 15 No.3) from Colin Baker

Following my article on two unusual newspaper wrappers published in the August Journal, two members have been in contact with me, Ray Downing and Alan Cotton. They both told me that in the 19th century people reported the time in a different manner to the way in which we do so today. Where we might use the "digital" clock (i.e. 8.40am or 08.40) they spoke of the time as minutes to or after the hour. Both Ray and Alan think "snb" is really "mnb" and is shorthand for "minutes before". Thus the sentence now reads "Friday 20 minutes before 9am 14 May 1875". On looking at the wrapper again I agree with them. Unfortunately this still does not explain what the sentence means, and I doubt if we will ever know.

### Copies of the Early PSS Journals

The Society Librarian, **Chris Howe** would be pleased to receive donations of copies of the early Postal Stationery Society Journals up to the year 2000. Failing this, Chris could photocopy or scan any that member's might have. Chris's contact details can be found on p2.

### WANTS

**Telegram formulas and telegram envelopes** from all countries of the world, all correctly used. If you have any duplicates please contact J.L. Emmenegger, PO Box 110, 1009 Pully, Switzerland. E-mail jem@hispeed.ch

### COLLECT BRITISH POSTAL STATIONERY -

A Simplified Listing of British Postal Stationery 1840 - 2007 by **Alan Huggins and Colin Baker**.

With this issue of the Journal you will find enclosed details of this book together with a pre-publication order form. Whenever I talk to collectors of G.B. about postal stationery, I am nearly always asked 'When will there be an up to date catalogue of G.B. postal stationery?' It is certainly the most frequently asked question of me as Editor of the Journal. In due course I will publish a review. Please note that to receive the pre-publication discount, orders MUST be received by Ian Harvey, 27 Landford Road, Putney, London SW15 1AQ before **31st December 2007**.

**BOOK REVIEW**

**THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND, VOLUME IX** by Robert Samuel FRPSNZ. Edited by B.G. Vincent FRPSNZ. 492 pages; Published by Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Incorporated, Wellington, New Zealand, 2006.

This the latest volume in the long running series of Handbooks published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand covers postal stationery. The author, the late Robert Samuel has created an absolutely superb account of the postal stationery of New Zealand which will be a truly lasting testimony to his enthusiasm and deep knowledge of the subject.

Lavishly illustrated throughout in colour, the Editor Brian Vincent is also to be congratulated on producing such an excellent volume which is certainly a benchmark for other postal stationery handbooks to aspire to.

The content is arranged by postal stationery type i.e. postcards; letter cards; envelopes; 1932 adhesive provisionals; registered envelopes; newspaper wrappers; the 6d King Edward VII telegraph form; impressed honey seal stamps; stamped adhesive labels; aerograms; Government Department printed franks; and postal notes.

Within each section the various sub-divisions are fully described and illustrated, while in addition there are sections detailing the postal stationery of Samoa, Cook Islands and Niue and another on undenominated

stationery, as well as appendices on illustrated postcards and advertisements on letter cards. Finally there is a 60 page check-list of the stamped postal stationery of New Zealand.

Whilst this book is quite expensive at £80 there is no doubt that it is an absolutely essential prerequisite for anyone aiming to form a specialised collection of New Zealand postal stationery.

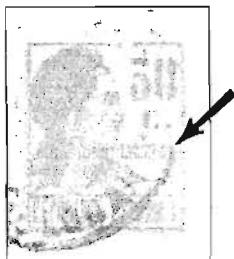
**Alan Huggins**

**QUERIES AND REPLIES****REPLY - Postnotes (Vol 15 No.3 p22)**

**Arthur Roberts writes** 'The Postnote illustrated is one of four designs commissioned by the Post Office relating to a dairy theme which appeared on four Postnotes issued by Royal Mail in September 1983 as a promotional pack of seven plus a recipe booklet in a plastic wrapper. They are known used with an appropriate Special Handstamp dated 5 October 1983 worded "MMB/1933-1983/ 50th Anniversary/ Newcastle/ Staffs". MMB stands for Milk Marketing Board. The die used for the Queen's Head has a flattish base which was not used for the general issue of Postnotes until March 1986.

The Welsh Postnote illustrated was issued by Royal Mail in July 1983 as a pack of five in plastic wrapper, in Wales for that year's Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod. It is believed to have been issued again for the 1984 festival with design unchanged.'

At the request of a client we are looking for a 1937 30c Matrona Postal Stationery Card of Spain with the variety showing the word "CORREOS" under the numerical value on the "stamp" as shown in the cut-out below



Our client is willing to pay up to Five Thousand pounds Sterling (£5,000) for a satisfactory copy. Please contact

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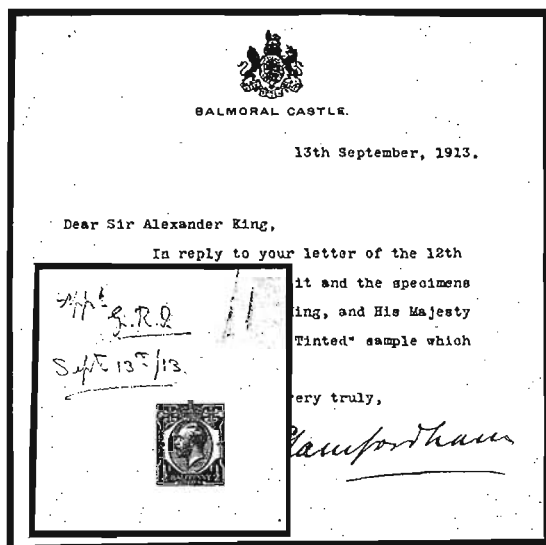
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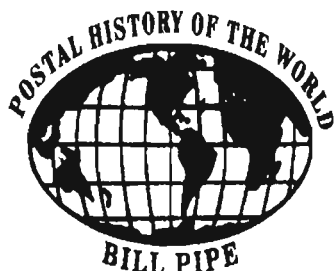
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