

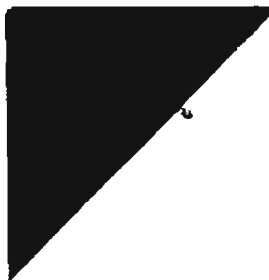


# THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

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Journal Vol. 16, No. 3 August 2008  
(Serial number 47)

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**Mauritius Mourning Envelope - see page 21**

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## CONTENTS

Page		Page	
2	The Management Committee	18	An Edwardian Postcard That is All Back to Front Colin Baker
2	Society Calendar	19	The First British Airmail Letter Card of May 1941 John Daynes
3	Chairman's Chat	20	Postal Stationery Cut-outs George King
3	Secretary's Notes	20	Advertising Square? Peter O'Keeffe
5	Evolution of the Early German View Cards - Part 2 John Barker	21	Mauritius Mourning Envelope Alan Huggins
10	G.B. Postal Stationery News Alan Huggins	21	Notes from the Editor's Desk
14	STO Certificate of Posting Phillip Purchas	22	Queries and Replies
15	Postage Due Colin Baker		

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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

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9 Rainham Close  
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Hampshire RG22 5HA

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**Peter O'Keeffe**  
**Alan Huggins**  
**Neil Sargent**

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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 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

### Regional Meetings 2009

#### Saturday 9th May 2009

At **WORPEX Saturday, 9th May 2009** Oldbury Park Primary School, Oldbury Road, St John's, Worcester. (details to be announced in the new year.)

#### Saturday 13th June 2009

At **SWINPEX** St Joseph's Catholic College, Octal Way, Swindon. SN3 2LR 2.00pm to 4.00 pm.

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## A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

What would you like to see in the Journal? Whatever it may be, it can only happen if someone is able to provide the material. Why not think about what you may be able to contribute. The interests of our members cover all aspects, areas and periods of postal stationery collecting. If you have a particular item of interest or an aspect of study please let me know, by sharing it with others you will be contributing to the pool of knowledge which is the foundation of our hobby.

John Barker

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - AUGUST 2008

Welcome to what is my last 'Chairman's Chat' before I hand over the reins of the society.

I have very much enjoyed my time as Chairman, which has seen a continued steady growth of the PSS. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the other officers for their efforts. All of them have contributed greatly to the society's success and supported me as Chairman.

For those who don't know, I have recently taken over from Alan Huggins as the U.K. Delegate to the F.I.P. Postal Stationery Commission. I am keen to ensure that in this role I act as the link between the P.S.S. and the Commission. Also, our Web Master Lars Engelbrecht has recently become the secretary of the Commission and is the author of an excellent newsletter that I have recently received. Find out more at [www.postalstationery.org](http://www.postalstationery.org)



Yet again, this issue's item of interest comes from my Orange Free State collection. In the May 2007 issue, I showed a recently acquired O.F.S. card uprated to 7½d to pay the letter rate to Germany in 1887. This had come my way after 20 years of searching. Earlier this year the card illustrated above also came my way and I could hardly believe my eyes! This card shows the 5d letter rate which came into effect early in 1891 and lasted to the introduction of a 1½d postcard rate in September 1892. This is a very difficult rate to find on a normal letter and is highly sought after by postal history collectors.

Unlike the 1887 card, the value of the 1d stamp on the card itself has not been used to make up the rate. This may be down to the interpretation of the 'non-acceptance' of postal cards to overseas destinations. I would be pleased to receive information regarding similar practices in other countries.

Lastly, I would like to wish my successor as Chairman every success in the role.

Michael Smith

## SECRETARY'S NOTES – AUGUST 2008

### NEW MEMBERS

The society welcomes the following new members whose interests are listed below. If you would like to get in touch with anyone, please send your stamped letter to the secretary who will forward it to the relevant member. Please add these details to the list of Members' Collecting Interests.

COUNTRY OR AREA COLLECTED	MEMBER	LOCATION
Great Britain (M)	Dr John Lea	Lancashire
India, Malaya, Germany (M)	Mr Duleep Shahani	India
Worldwide Aerogrammes, Norway (M)	M. Luc Jacquemin	France
Worldwide Wrapper (S)		
Southern Africa (M)	Ralph Myerson	USA
Great Britain, Specimen overprints (M)	David Manship	Leicestershire

Western Europe, N. America, New Zealand, Japan (M)	Alan Godfrey	Berkshire
Gibraltar, Basutoland (M)	Emil Minnaar	South Africa

If any member would like their details of collecting interests amended or added to the list, they should write to the secretary, giving him the relevant details.

### MEETING OF THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY AT THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

**Alan Huggins** will be giving a display to the Great Britain Philatelic Society on Saturday 1 November 2008 at the Royal Philatelic Society building, 14 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. This will be on British embossed stamps and will include both the embossed adhesive stamps of 1847-62 and stamps embossed on postal stationery. If you are not a member of the GBPS, but would like to attend, please get in touch with the secretary at least two weeks before the event.

### SOCIETY'S AGM 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2008

The society will hold its Annual General Meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2008, commencing at 11.00am. If you would like to raise an issue, or would like something raised on your behalf, please let the secretary know so that if possible an answer to the matter can be prepared or any response can be looked into prior to the meeting. This will avoid possible long delays in responding to members' queries.

If you would like to help run the society by taking over one of the roles, or wish to serve on the committee, please let the secretary know in advance so that this can be included in the agenda.

### TONY CHILTON COMPETITION

The society's annual 9 sheet competition will be held after the AGM. All members should have a copy of the rules, but if anyone has mislaid theirs the secretary will be happy to provide another copy. Entries are to be based on postal stationery, which can be from anywhere in the world. Overseas members can submit colour copies to avoid problems with customs and the post.

If you would like to enter the Tony Chilton Competition, it helps the society if you can let the secretary know, using the form attached to the sheet included with this issue of the Journal.

### SWINPEX REPORT

Swinpex 2008 was another success in the philatelic calendar. A good venue, a fine summer's day, plenty of dealers and an excellent meeting place being readily accessible for collectors from the West and the Midlands. Once again, many Specialist Societies, including the Postal Stationery Society put up displays in one of the halls.

The Society meeting was held from 2.00 to 4.00pm with 9 members attending. The displays were started off by **Michael Goodman** who put up some sheets of railway perfin through postal stationery. These included the Taff Vale Railway, the Great Western Railway and the Furness Railway. In the latter were two long STO envelopes one with ½d KEVII pale green imprint postmarked 14th August 1912 and the other with 1d KGV red postmarked 28th

February 1916. In each case the perfin was F with R superimposed. This particular die, for the Furness Railway, through postal stationery has not been reported previously.

**Eduard Caesley** showed advertising envelopes of Alfred Smith, stamp dealer from Bath. These were registered envelopes with a view of Bath printed in the upper right hand corner together with details of Alfred Smith's business. When he moved his business to London the envelopes were overprinted in red to obliterate the old address and put in the new one. Envelopes printed with the London address only are less seldom seen than those with the Bath address. Although many members had seen Alfred Smith envelopes, it was quite remarkable to see over two frames of these!

**Michael Smith** showed a number Orange Free State and Cape of Good Hope postcards used in each other's territory. Before a foreign postcard rate had been introduced, postcards had to be sent at letter rate. Michael showed examples of cards uprated to 7½d by the addition of various adhesives to make up the appropriate rate.

**George King** showed a range of Irish postcards including a St Patrick's Day card for 2006 which had been issued with the colours of the Irish flag reversed (making it the flag of the Ivory Coast). This was immediately corrected as could be seen on a second example. George went on to show many STO postcards from an auction house, the Cork Gas Company, the Irish Tourist Board and Hotels and the Electricity Supply Board. Many of the cards had been uprated with a second imprint.

**Vicki Archard** showed postal stationery from Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda post independence. Her display included airletters uprated as inflation took hold and a number of 'special event' letter sheets printed in the 1990's on coloured papers for internal use. There are 15 different types of these with messages such as 'Happy Birthday' and Valentines Day messages. Vicki suggested that these were probably little used.

**Eric Holmes** showed registered envelopes from Gibraltar including examples which had been overprinted locally when supplies of the F & G sizes ran out and the larger I and K sizes which were less often used.

**Arthur Roberts** showed a number of printing errors on airletters and the two different printings of the recently produced 'Tesco' packs of 1st class prepaid DL envelopes, one with the name 'BECKER' printed on the inside seam and the other with 'FOUKES'.

**George King** rounded off the meeting with a second display showing KEVII ½d imprinted postcards. This showed the various changes in the printings of the Post Office issues and STO cards.

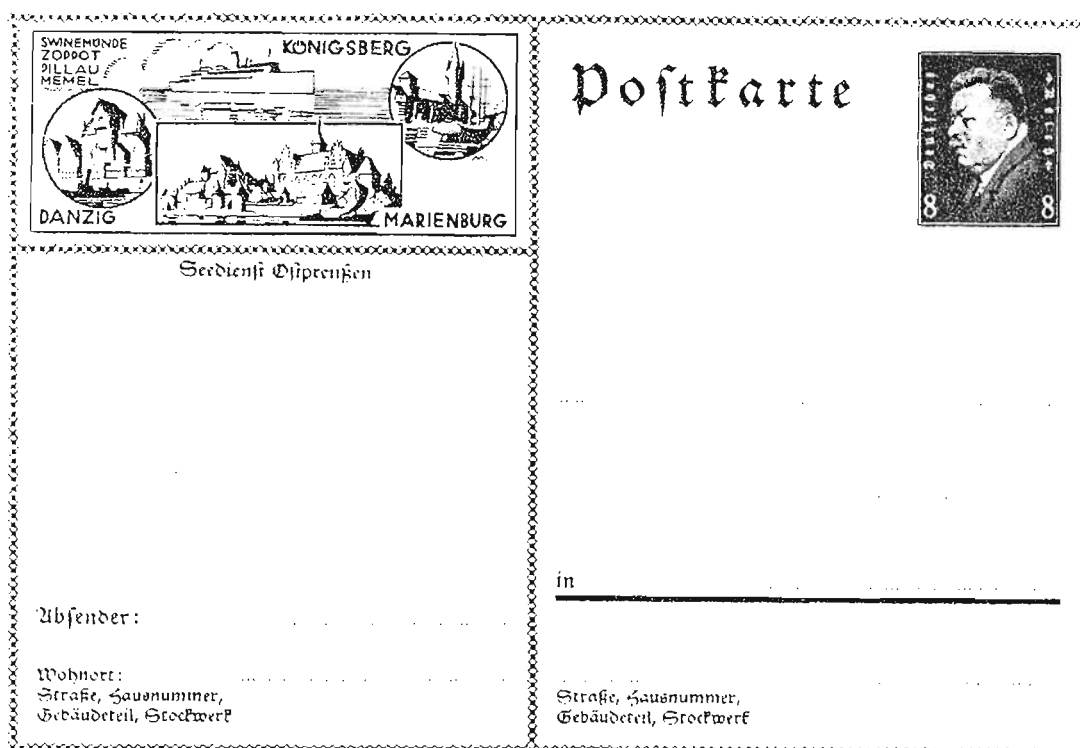
**Swinpex 2009** will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June at the same venue – St Joseph's Catholic College, Octal Way, Swindon SN3 2LR. Make a note in your diary.

## EVOLUTION OF EARLY GERMAN VIEW CARDS – Part 2

John Barker

In 1929, with the issue of the sixth series of German view cards, a major innovation was to have a marked effect on their future evolution. The first five series had all been printed by letterpress, consequently the 'views' were derived from drawings. Photogravure printing (Rastertiefdruck abbreviated RaTdr in German catalogues) was to be used for the sixth and subsequent series. This method of printing had been introduced into stamp production by Bavaria in March 1914 with the Ludwig III issue. It was not used in Germany for printing of postage

stamps until September 1927 when a set of Nothilfe charity stamps (semi-postals) commemorating Hindenburg's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday were issued using this technique. Photogravure was later used to print the Zeppelin stamps (1928) and the set commemorating the opening of the Reichstag in 1933. Photogravure had been tried out for printing stationery in 1928 and 1929 when it was used to print the illustrations on the Nothilfe charity cards although the imprinted stamps on these cards were still printed by letterpress.



The sixth series – 10 different views. The entire card printed by photogravure

This sixth series of view cards issued in 1929 were the first post office issue German postal stationery cards to be printed entirely by photogravure (view, inscriptions, borders and stamp). From now on photographs could feature as 'views'. This gave new potential which was to have a marked effect on the popularity of view cards. This series had only 10 different views and not all were photographs. Was this a cautious approach to this 'new' technology or was it that some orders for view cards with drawings were still being implemented?

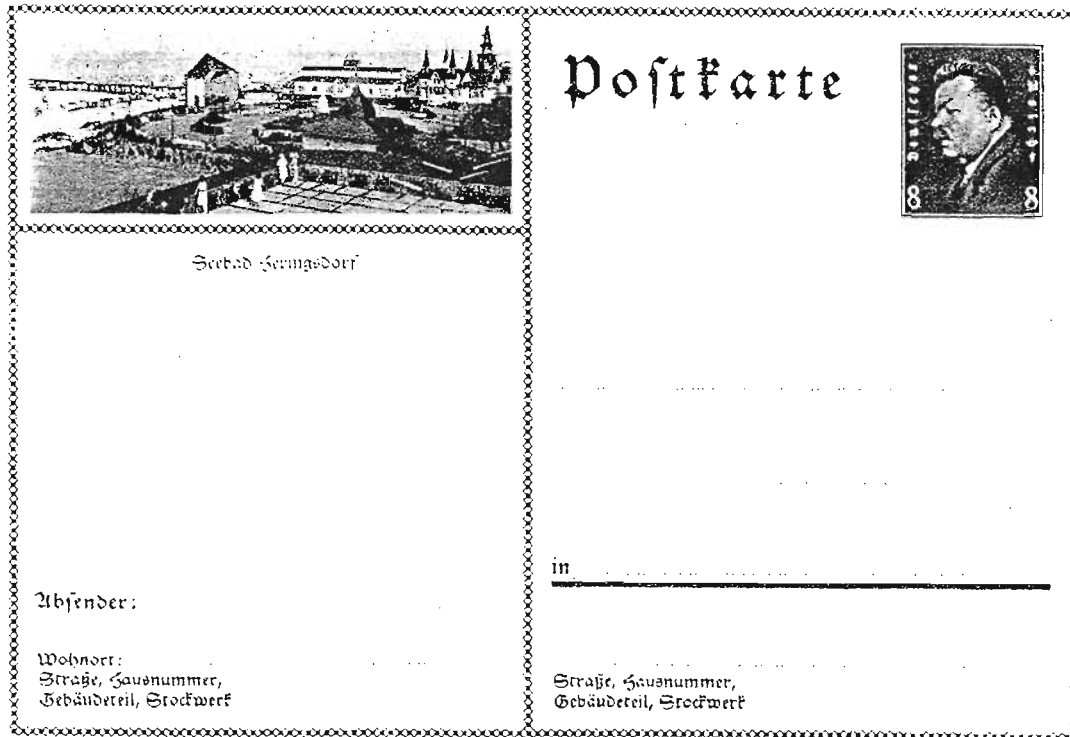
Perhaps more noticeable about this series to the casual observer is the presence of a patterned frame round the entire card. The same patterned lines as used for the frame are used to divide the face of the card into 3 panels. The right half of the card consists of the address panel with the imprinted stamp and the left half of the card has an upper panel containing the view. The panel below this has space for writing a message and at the bottom is the text and dotted lines for inserting the sender's details.

One minor point of difference on these cards with respect to the previous issues was the font used for the text. All postal stationery since the late 1880's had inscriptions and other text in 'Fraktur' script, a form of Gothic script widely used in Germany by public administrative bodies until the early 1940's. However there were many variations of this and the 'fashion' changed. The inscription 'Postkarte' differed from previous issues in that the final 'e' had a shorter 'tail'. There were also differences in some of the other characters in the address remarks.

Photogravure printing was used for the view cards up until 1972 when offset printing was introduced for the printing of the multi-coloured views. The border on the view cards remained almost unchanged until its final use for the series in July 1964. A standard format had now been achieved but nothing was static, changes continued to be made driven by a variety of forces.

The first such change occurred in the following year 1930 with the seventh series, containing 61 different views all taken from photographs, and continued on through five series until 1932. These were all printed on pale blue-green toned card. This made the view cards stand out instantly

from the regular issues and gave them a more 'classy' look thereby creating a greater appeal to the public, thus more sales and more publicity for those authorities participating in the scheme. Issue 7 differed from the previous issue only with respect to the colour of the card.



The seventh series – 61 different views. Printed on pale blue-green card

### Evolution of the Heading

Version of Fraktur Script Used for 'Postkarte'	Length of 'Postkarte'	Series of Views
	27mm	1 to 5
	37mm	6 & 7
	27mm	8 to 12

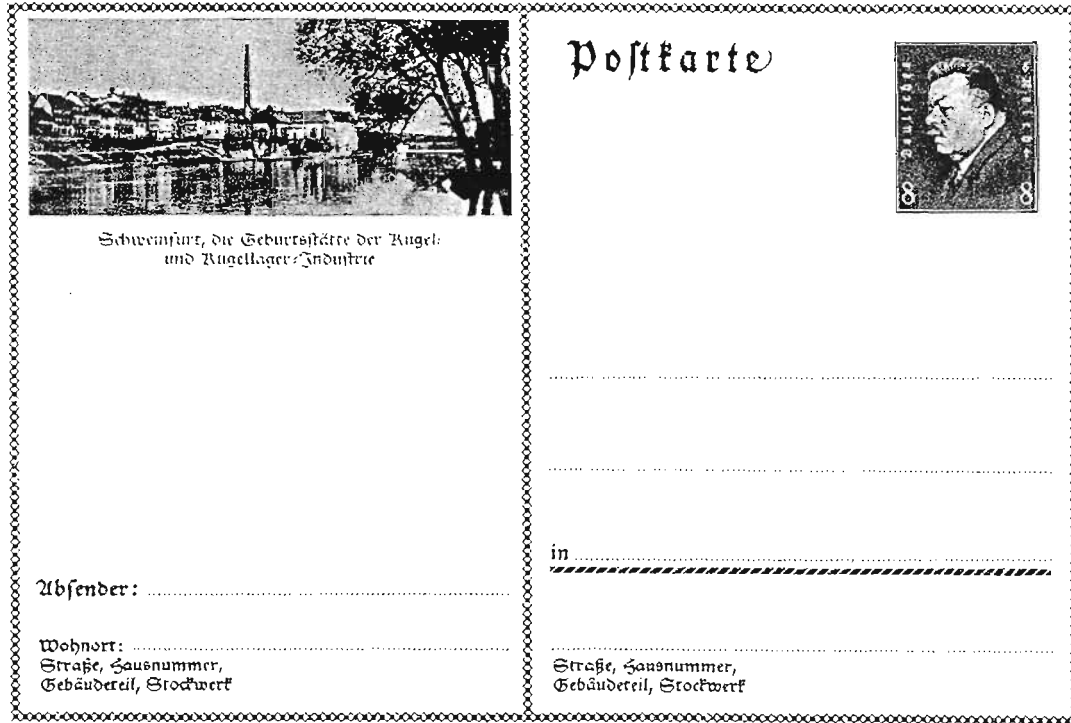
In the first version the letters are squashed together and the word is not very distinct.

In the second version the word is quite distinct but perhaps too intrusive occupying most of the space between the view and the imprinted stamp.

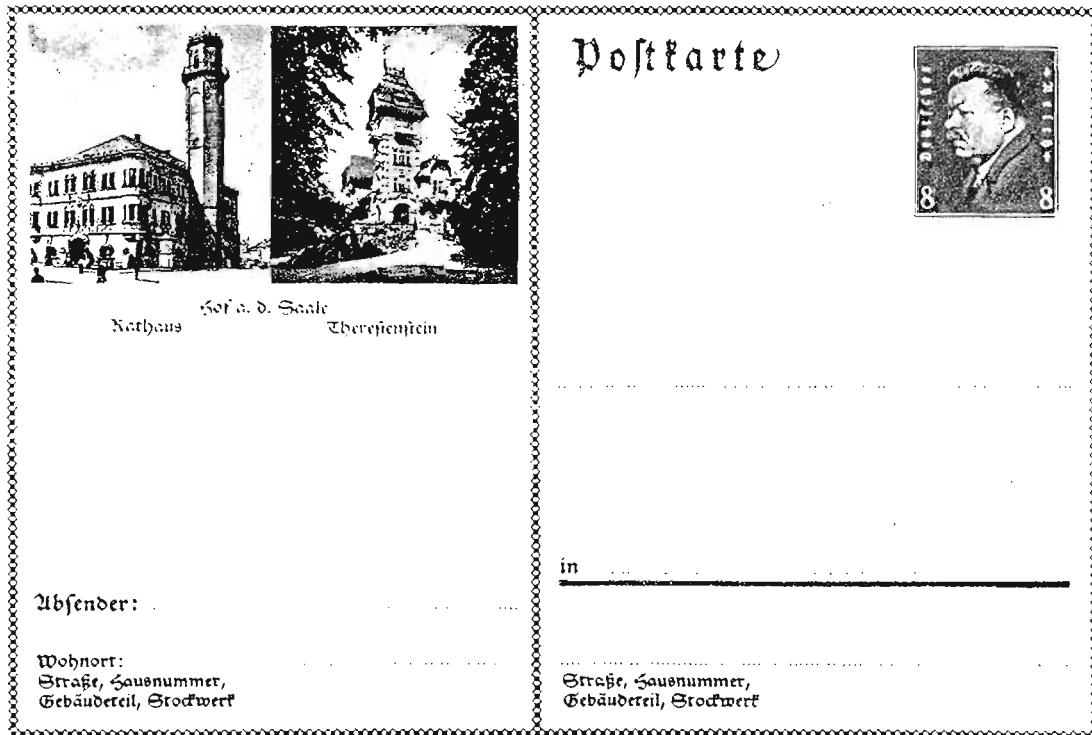
The third version seems a better balance between length, height and space. Although less intrusive its position on the card between the view and the imprinted stamp is perhaps not quite as aesthetically pleasing as it could be.

The eighth series was issued in 1931 with 36 different views and showed some minor changes. The first being the patterned lines now divided the card into two panels only, the right and the left. The view was not separated from the text and space below. Secondly the

inscription 'Postkarte' was smaller, only 27mm long instead of 37mm. However the 'version' of Fraktur script used for the inscription 'Postkarte' was not that used for issues 6 & 7 but had reverted to that used for issues 1 to 5!



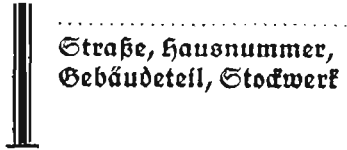
The eighth series – 36 different views



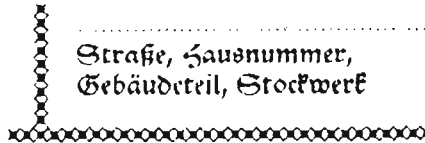
The ninth series – 35 different views

This step back did not apply to the rest of the text on the card as this was similar to that introduced on issue 6 and continued on issue 7.

By allowing the view to vary in height, a degree of flexibility had been introduced to accommodate photographs of different proportions. This niche was exploited in the ninth series issued later in 1931. This had 35 different views.



Series 3 to 5



Series 6 to 15

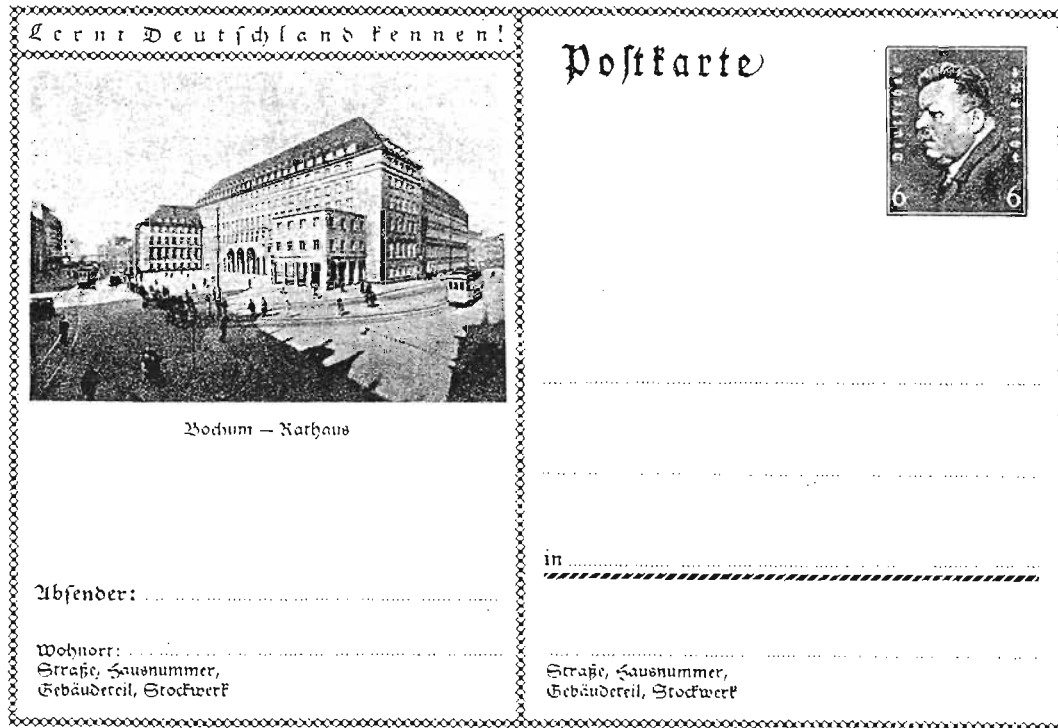
The only noticeable change in the ninth series is the thick horizontal line under the third address line has now been replaced with a patterned line of similar dimensions but 'rope like' in its appearance. This small change gives the whole card a more pleasing look as the line now is more in keeping with the frame.



Series 1 to 8



Series 9 to 29 (1964)



**The tenth series – Introduction of the Title ‘Lernt Deutschland Kennen!’ 9 different views**

With series 10 another major feature is evident and this is found on German view cards until 1965! The left hand side of the card is divided into two panels. However instead of the top panel containing the view as it had done in series 6 & 7, it contains the Title ‘Lernt Deutschland Kennen!’ or ‘Get to know Germany’. Over the years German view cards were often referred to by this title.

Perhaps more significant to the public at the time was the fact that the postage rates had gone down and the inland postcard rate was now only 6pf instead of 8pf. Thus the imprinted stamp was for 6pf but was still printed in the same green colour as had been used for the 8pf imprint. This series only contained 9 views.



Lern Deutschland kennen!

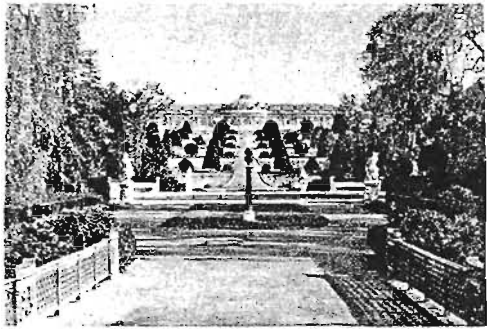
Title series 10 (1932) to series 16 (1941)  
Fraktur script

The final series, with the Ebert head imprinted stamp, number 11, had 81 different views and was issued through 1932 and 1933. With some improvements in the economy, better quality card was available and this series is printed on pale cream card. It is noticeable that there are more of the larger views in this series than in previous ones.

Lern Deutschland kennen!

Title series 17 (1941) to series 29 (1964)  
Antique script

Lern Deutschland kennen!



Potsdam - Schloss Sanssouci

Abfender: .....

Wohnort: .....

Straße, Hausnummer,  
Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk

Postkarte




in .....

Straße, Hausnummer,  
Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk

The eleventh series – 81 different views printed on pale cream card

Lern Deutschland kennen!




Potsdam - Schloss Sanssouci

Abfender: .....

Wohnort: .....

Straße, Hausnummer,  
Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk

Postkarte



in .....

Straße, Hausnummer,  
Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk

# GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

## NEW ISSUES

The circular\_Machin head design used for the Post Office and Stamped to Order envelopes (H&B E7 & E8) has remained unchanged, except for variations in size, since 1995. (Illustration below)

A recent report (courtesy Len Hage) appears to be the first sighting of a change whereby 'ROYAL MAIL' replaces 'POSTAGE PAID' to the right of the portrait. This

item a 1st class C5 envelope with 26mm diameter stamp and clear phosphor bands, was spotted in June. In discussion with John Holman, Editor of the Philatelic Bulletin, it appears that this design change took place around March 2008, so no doubt the other envelopes sold by Royal Mail will also change as will the corresponding STO products.



Postcode  
For use within the UK only - postage paid up to 100g and max depth 5mm

Name and address of sender



H&B E7

Postcode  
For use within the UK only

Name and address of sender



New Design

## NEW ITEMS REPORTED

Another surprise was that TESCO and W.H. SMITH are selling STO 1st class DL envelopes in packets of 5 in selected stores. The stamps are 25mm diameter type E7 with clear phosphor bands and customised insert cards (see illustrations).

**TESCO**

JUST WHAT I NEED...

**5 Postage Paid DL envelopes**

- Peel and seal
- Suitable for A4
- Postage paid up to 100g and max depth 5mm
- For use within UK only

5051622 643248

We are here to help:  
 Tesco Stores Ltd, Churchfields, Walsley, UK  
 Freephone 0900 50 55 55  
[www.tesco.com](http://www.tesco.com)  
 Product Code: E50174 21 36 v 013  
 © Tesco 2007 35 9995

Insert for the  
Tesco STO 1<sup>st</sup>  
Class Envelopes



Insert for the  
WHSmith STO 1<sup>st</sup>  
Class Envelopes



**WHSmith**

5 DL White Peel & Seal Postage Paid Envelopes

postage paid  
max thickness 5mm  
max weight 100g

peel and seal

DL  
fits A4 paper  
folded in thirds  
220 x 110mm

3328 3661

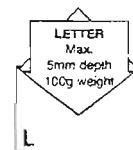
The imprints inside these envelopes seen to-date are BECKER and FUCHS for the TESCO envelopes and 'Deutrich' for W.H. SMITH. They can readily be distinguished from the corresponding Post Office envelopes by the absence of 'Name and address of sender'

and 'Postcode' on open flap, the typographic setting and the lack of shading on the open flap of the envelope symbol. Again we should be looking out for the introduction of the 'ROYAL MAIL' version in place of the 'POSTAGE PAID' design on STO items.



Tesco and WHSmith STO  
1<sup>st</sup> Class Envelope Text

For use within the UK only - postage paid up to 100g and max depth 5mm

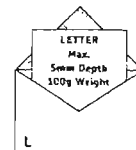


Post Office 1<sup>st</sup> Class  
Envelope Text

**Name and address of sender**

**Postcode**

For use within the UK only - postage paid up to 100g and max depth 5mm



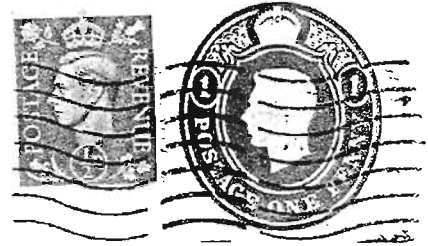
STO postcards continue to throw up new items and true to form the card illustrated (at the foot of the next page) has never to my knowledge been reported before. On 1 June 1951 the minimum printed matter rate was increased from 1d to 1½d and a number uprated STO envelopes (H&B ESC803, 804 and 817) and STO postcards (H&B CS122-126) were produced. Since the change of colour of the 1d embossed die from carmine to blue was not registered until 3 April 1951 its period of use at the 1d rate was extremely short, hence it is almost always found uprated by either additional adhesive stamps or postal stationery stamps (see illustrations of H&B ES67, ESC817 and ESC817S on the next page)

The only other individual use of the KGV1 1d blue die is on labels produced for the National Library for the Blind (see illustration of H&B ES67L), although the existence of the uprated letter-sheets used by Messrs. Child

& Co., in 1951 raises the possibility that these might have existed without the additional ½d orange embossed stamp (see illustration of H&B ECS817S).

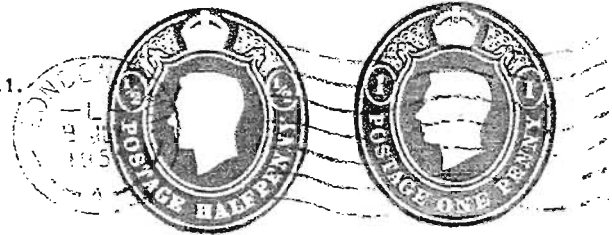
In the case of uprated KGV1 STO postcards all those seen previously have had letterpress stamps so the appearance of an uprated card with embossed stamps is more than surprising in view of the very limited use of embossed dies on postcards. As can be seen this size d card was sent on 8 June 1954 from the London Office of J. Hewit & Sons of Edinburgh, the additional ½d orange embossed stamp having to be struck below the 1d die to avoid being overstruck on the printed text. Again the existence of this item obviously raises the possibility of the 1d blue embossed die having been used on its own or with an additional adhesive.

THE RENOLD AND COVENTRY CHAIN COMPANY LIMITED  
RENOLD WORKS DIDSBURY  
MANCHESTER 20

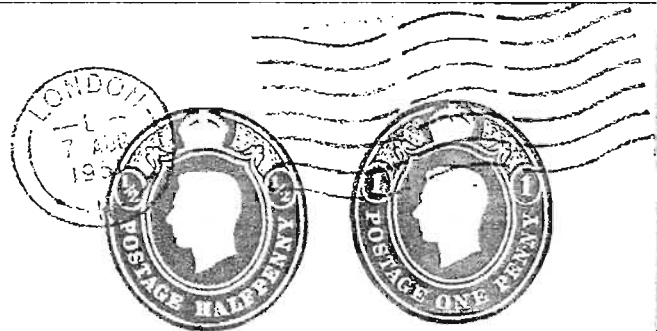


ES67 STO envelope uprated by  
1/2d adhesive – early use of 1 1/2d  
printed matter rate on 18.6.51

IN CASE OF NON-DELIVERY RETURN TO—  
**STEMCO LTD.,**  
128/132, ALBERT ST., CAMDEN TOWN, N.W.1.



ESC817 STO envelope uprated by  
1/2d orange embossed used on  
9.7.51



ESC 817S STO letter sheet  
uprated by 1/2d orange embossed  
used on 7.8.51

*river*  
*East Road*

**PRINTED MATTER.**



Messrs. N.J.Hill & Co.

Plément Works,

65/67, Belmont Street,

London.

N.F.I.

KGVI 1d blue embossed die on  
size d postcard uprated by 1/2d  
orange embossed used on 8.6.54



Telegraphic Address—  
"HEWIT, EDINBURGH."  
DIRECTORS  
T. D. HEWIT LAWSON,  
G. RUSSELL LAWSON,  
G. RUSSELL BALLANTINE  
B.Sc., F.R.I.C.,  
JAMES A. WALKER, C.A.

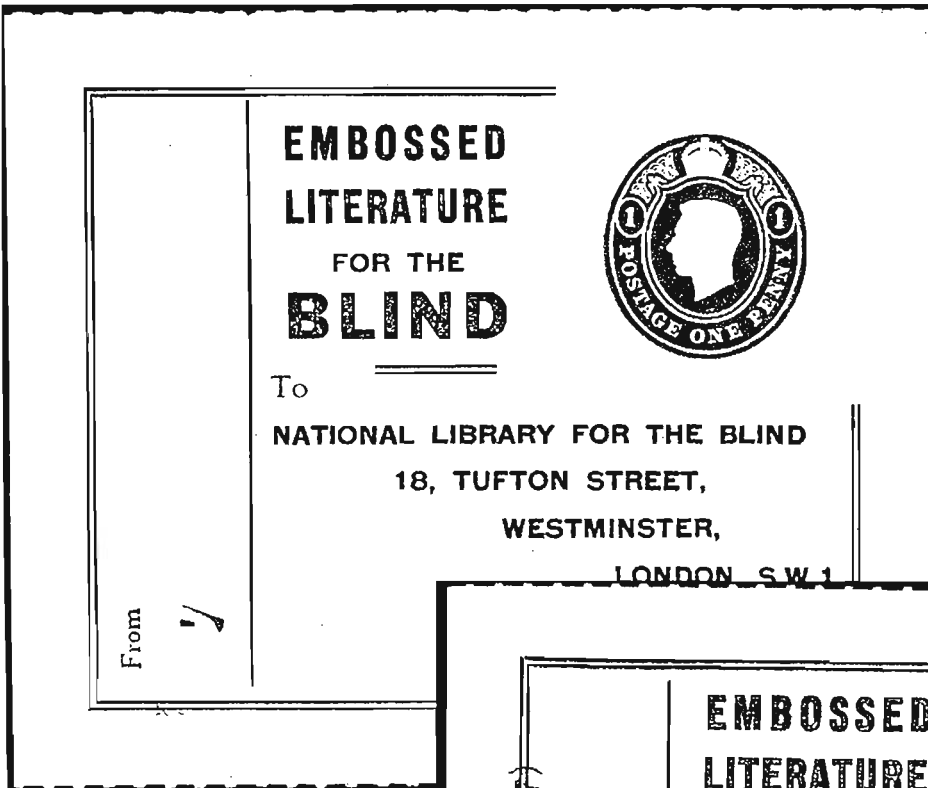
50, St. John Street,  
London. E.C.1.  
CITY TAY WORKS.  
EDINBURGH, 8th June 1954

Dear Sir,

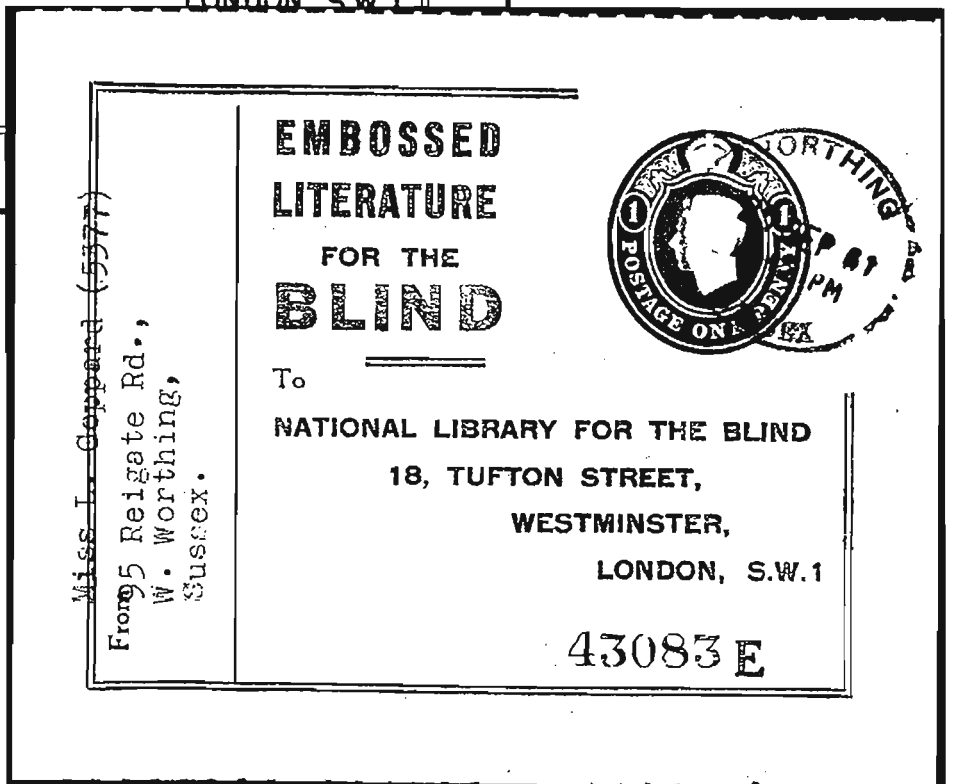
We beg to acknowledge your  
order of 8th inst., No. 2094.  
Same shall have our best attention.

Reverse of the KGVI 1d blue embossed size d  
postcard uprated with 1/2d orange embossed die.  
(Reduced to 75%)

Yours truly,  
J. HEWIT & SONS, LTD.

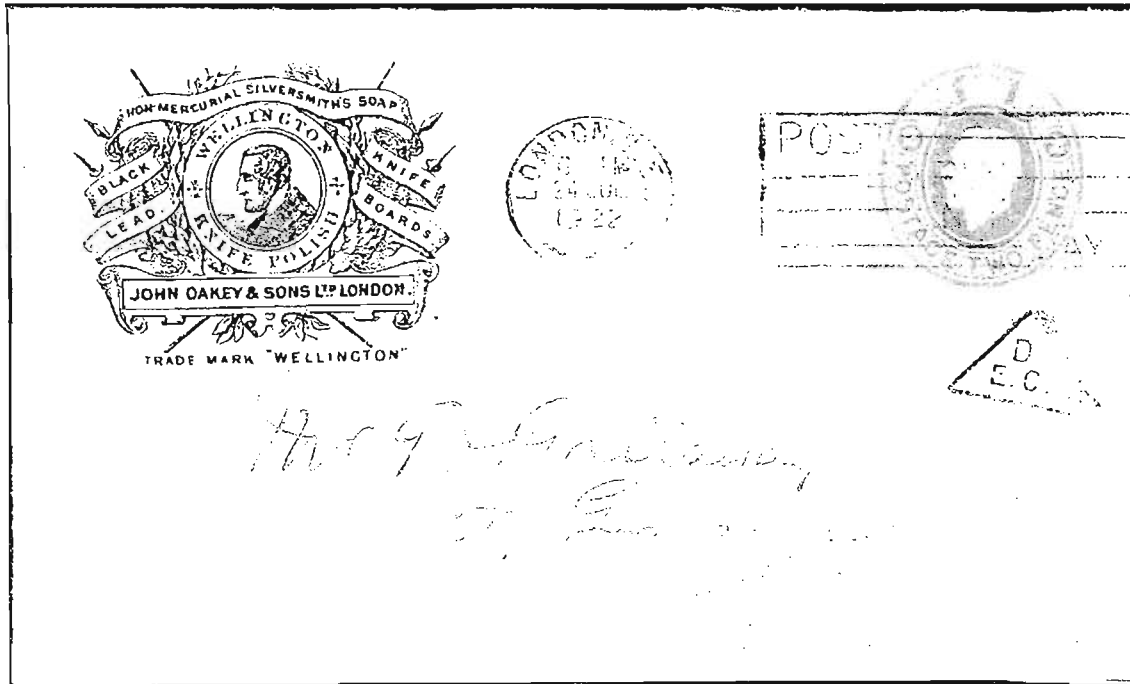


H&B ES67L  
Individual use of KGVI 1d  
embossed blue die



Moving on to QEII STO material I have now seen scans of two further philatelically inspired mixed currency compound envelopes with four embossed stamps. They are as follows:- 1d+2½d+½d+½p (77+79+76+102) and 2½d+3d+½d+½p (79+80+76+102)

A rather attractive revalued KGV 2d STO envelope (ES57) has been sent in by Eric Lewis (see illustration) and should be added to the previous listings (see PSS Journal Vol.16 p.5 (2008))



Revalued ES57 envelope with advertising for John Oakey & Sons Ltd showing their logo and trade mark "Wellington" which bears a portrait of the Duke of Wellington

**2d STAMPED TO ORDER ISSUE ENVELOPES (ES57)**

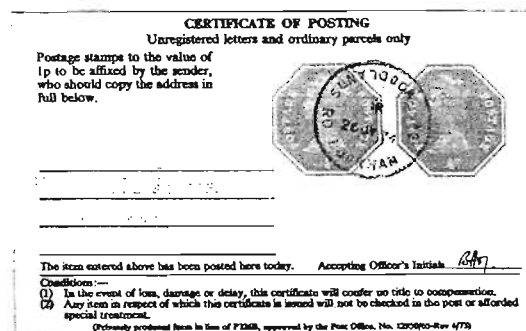
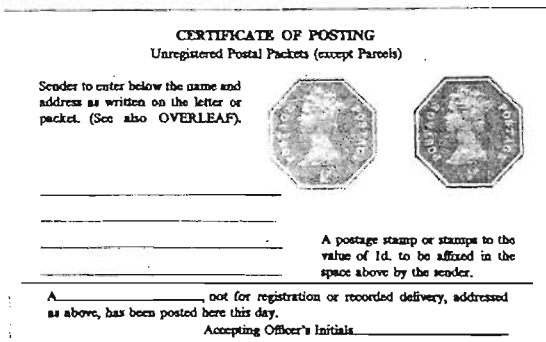
LONDON D/E.C. Black John Oakey & Sons Ltd London (courtesy Eric Lewis)

Finally a correction to the date of issue of the Houses of Parliament envelopes (see PSS Journal Vol.16 p.20 (2008)). This should be 16 January 1840 and not 14 January 1840. (spotted by Michael Lockton - mea culpa)

**STO ½p + ½p Certificate of Posting**

Phillip Purchas reports a 'new find' Stamped to Order ½p+ ½p Certificate of Posting. The first type illustrated is CPSP2 as per the catalogue and the second type is of a smaller size with no instructions on the reverse and a different format to the front. (Both illustrations reduced to 50%)

I do not know if there are variations to these types of certificate and if, because of the change in format, they will be classed under the same catalogue number.



CPSP2 Size 144x90mm instructions on the reverse.

New find Size 138x85 no instructions on reverse. Different format to CPSP2 Postmarked 26<sup>th</sup> July 1974

# POSTAGE DUE

Colin Baker

In Great Britain prior to 1840 letters were generally sent unpaid, being marked in black with the amount of postage the recipient would have to pay. But on 10<sup>th</sup> January 1840 all that changed with the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post, and from that date on it was normal practice to prepay letters and packets, although it was still permitted to send letters through the post unpaid. However, because it had been shown that it cost much more to collect postage on delivery rather than on posting a letter, mail sent unpaid was charged double postage and marked in black. This could be considered the forerunner of the postage due system.

The amount to be collected on unpaid letters was normally written on the front of the envelope and was paid by cash to the postman who would have to account for this on his return to the office. Postage stamps only prepaid postage and were never used to pay postage due on unpaid or underpaid letters. It was

not until 1914 that the first postage due stamps were introduced in Great Britain and these made it much easier to administer the system of payment for unpaid letters.

Postage dues and other markings make postal stationery items so much more interesting. Under normal circumstances the four items of British postal stationery illustrated here would be plain and uninteresting. Some would even say 'dull'. Only the 1/2d Sun Insurance envelope is in any way attractive with its fancy logo and printed return address on the front. Yet because of the way that each of these envelopes has been used they have become interesting and attractive items, and each has a story to tell.

The first postal stationery item I want to share with you is the Sun Insurance envelope, with its front and back shown as **illustrations 1 and 2**.

Illustration 1

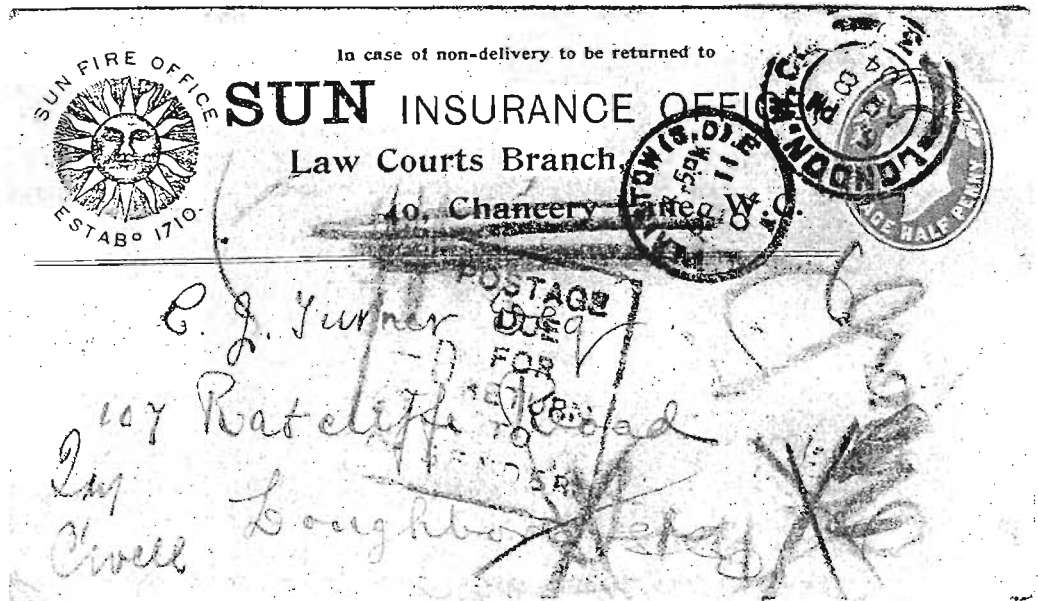
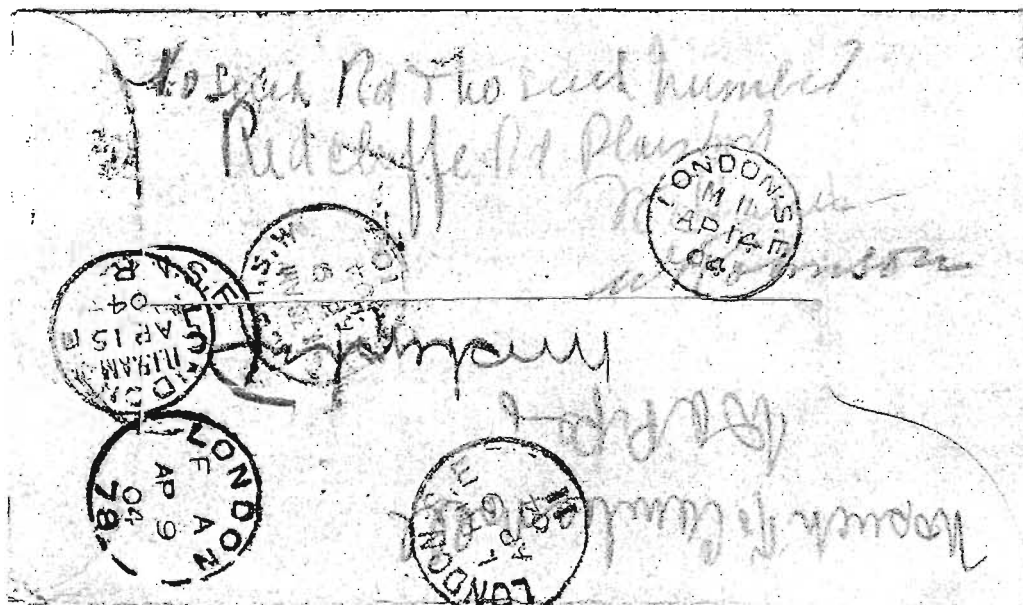


Illustration 2



It is a stamped to order envelope impressed with the blue/green ½d King Edward VII embossed die. It was sent by the Sun Insurance Company from London to Loughborough on April 8<sup>th</sup> 1904 and is printed on the inside, under the tuck-in flap, with the expression "With the District Manager's Compliments". However, the Post Office in its wisdom has tried to deliver this envelope within the London area rather than to a town in the East Midlands. Perhaps they were confused by the last line of the address which looks a little like "Loughboro SG" but I think is really the town name

"Loughborough". However, from the backstamps applied by the various sorting offices it would seem every Loughborough Road/Street/Park in London was tried in an attempt to deliver the letter instead of sending off to its rightful destination. There are two manuscript notes stating no such number exists and suggesting other areas of London should be tried. Finally the well travelled item was stamped with a postage due mark of ½d for returning it to the sender. We can only wonder what the insurance company thought of all this.

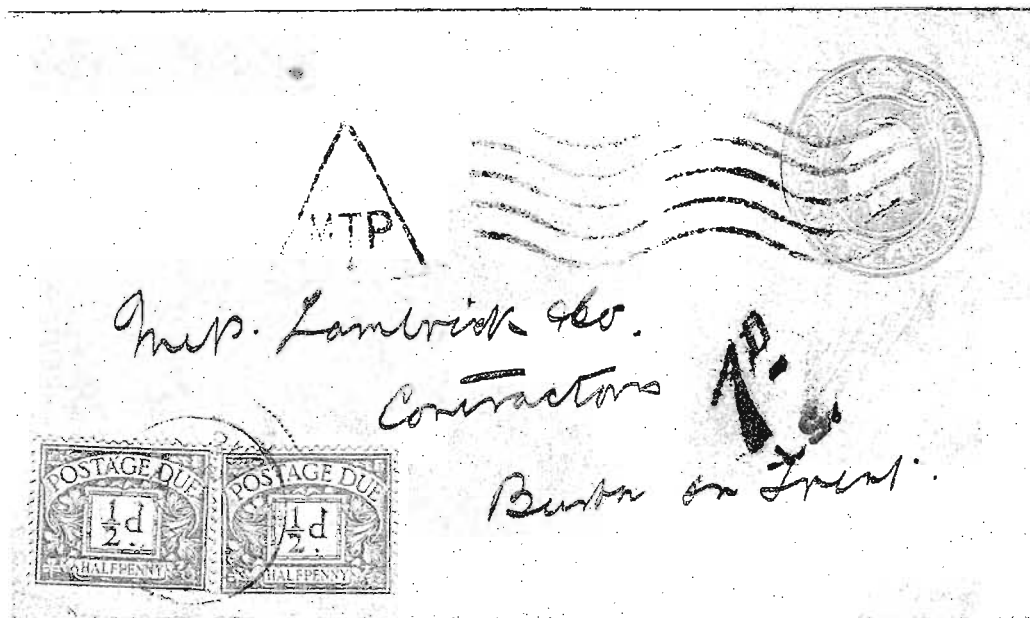


Illustration 3

The second item that I found at a recent stamp fair was a Post Office issue King George V ½d bag envelope, which according to the single backstamp was posted on 18 June 1921, **illustration 3**. The printed paper rate that this letter was posted under had risen from ½d to 1d on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1921, just 5 days earlier. It should have been uprated by ½d to 1d, but

because the sender has failed to do so, an eagle eyed postman has charged a postage due of double the deficiency. However it was not so much the postage due that interested me with this cover as the machine cancellation with its MTP in a triangle. Does this mean "More to Pay" or is it a weird coincidence?

The third item of postal stationery, **illustration 4**, is a stamped to order window envelope prepared for the Borough Treasurer in Halifax. It was used on 1 December 1937 but it could not be delivered and has been marked "gone away". It also has the postage due handstamp of ½d for returning an undeliverable item to the sender and yet it has 5d in postage due stamps fixed to the envelope. At first sight this seems rather

bizarre for a printed paper rate window envelope. However, the explanation is quite straightforward. There were 9 other envelopes returned to the Treasurer's department that day, each being charged ½d, making a total of 5d due to the Post Office. This envelope was at the top of the bundle and so received all the postage due stamps for the ten envelopes.



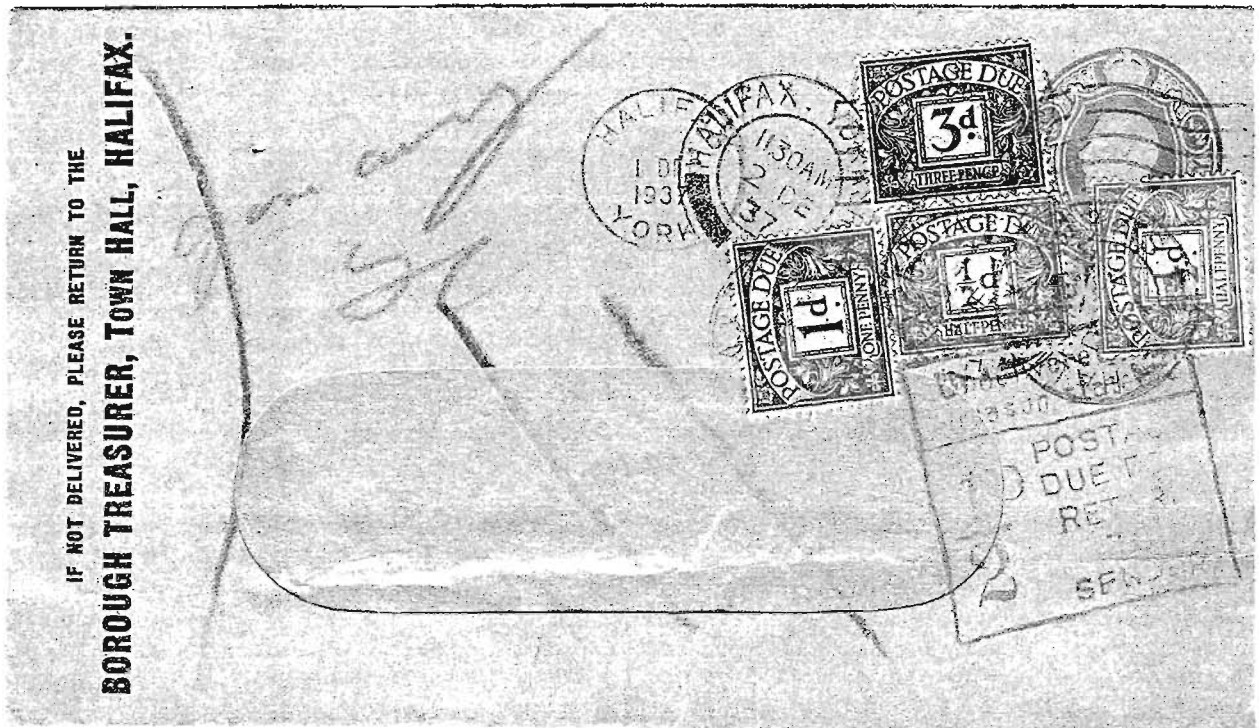


Illustration 4

The final envelope I have selected for this article, **illustration 5**, is a stamped to order King George V one penny envelope prepared for the Morgan Crucible Co. Ltd, complete with their printed London address so

that it could be posted back to their offices. The envelope has an added 1/2d adhesive that has been perforated MC/Co, although some of the perforating pins appear to have been broken as not all of the holes

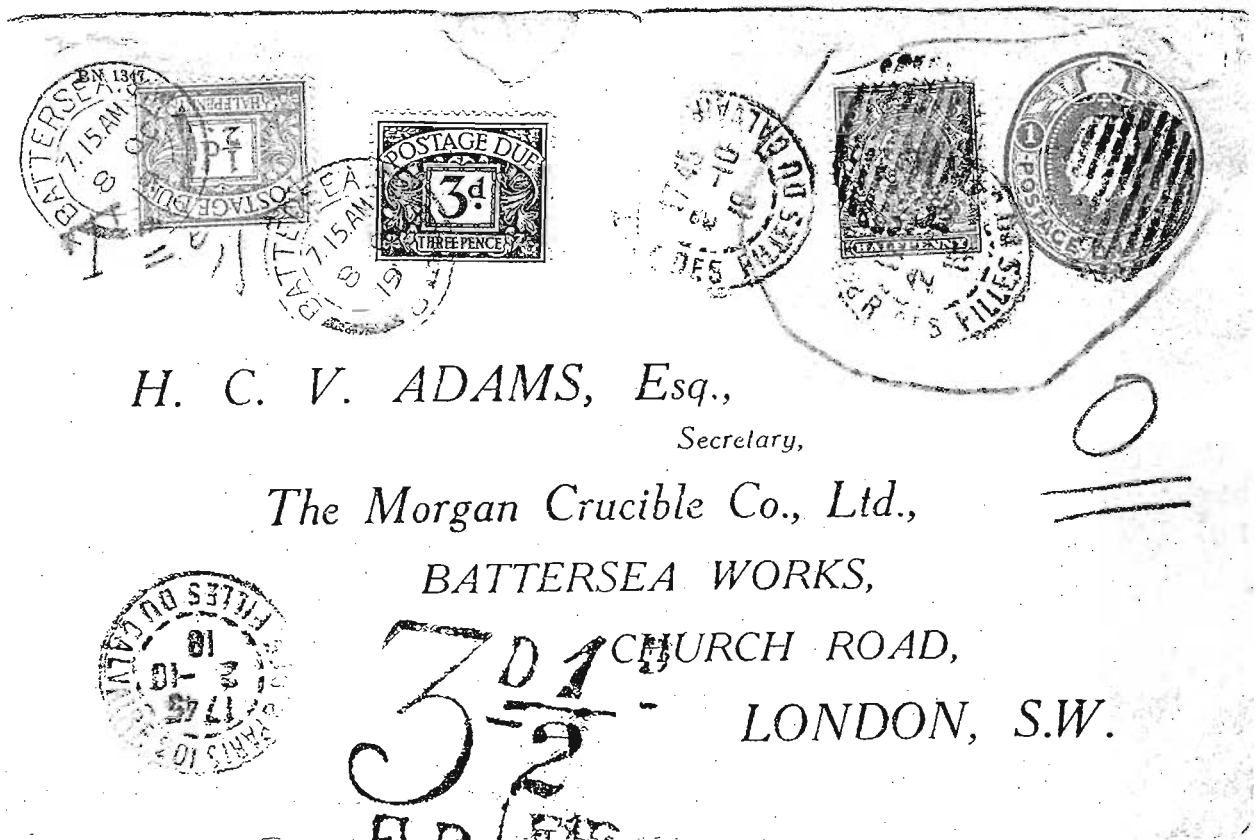


Illustration 5

have been punched. However, the interesting thing about this envelope is that it was posted back to Britain from France. The French Post Office in Paris has not recognised the two British stamps and has marked the envelope in pencil with a tax charge (partly hidden under the ½d postage due stamp). The two British stamps have been struck with a barred canceller and have also been franked by the French Post Office with their dated double circle handstamp. This is unusual

as stamps from another country that are deemed to be unacceptable are not normally cancelled. On arrival in the UK the postage due has been assessed as twice the foreign letter rate of 2½d (i.e. 5d), but because there is already 1½d in stamps on the envelope these have been allowed against the charge, bringing the postage due down to 3½d. A corresponding handstamp has been applied and postage due stamps fixed to the envelope.

I was told recently by a retired postman, later confirmed by a second retired postman, that when he joined the Post Office in the late 1940s he was given two shillings and sixpence (2/6d). This was not his to spend but was a sum of money to be used when collecting payment from the public, particularly that for charges on underpaid mail.

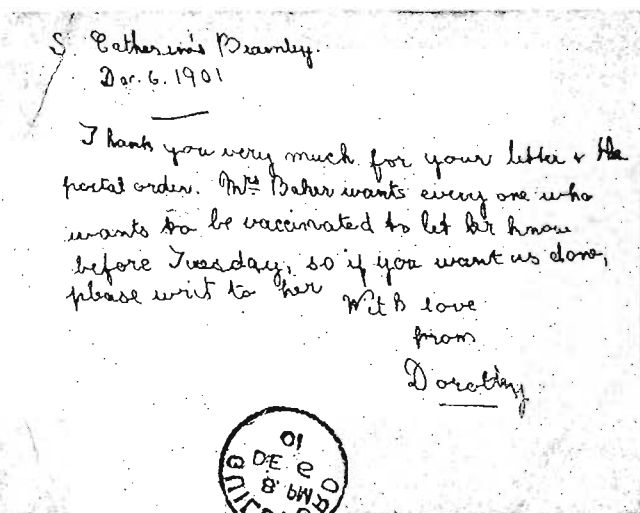
At the start of their shift, postmen would be given a docket for any letters and packets on their round that had postage due or other charges on them. They would take the docket to a locked cage in the sorting office where they would be given the appropriate mail by the supervisor, but they would have to pay him the postage due from the money given to them when they first started work. It was up to the postmen to make sure they collected the same amount of postage due from the addressee on the envelope or return the item to the sorting office and reclaim the money from their supervisor. Apparently in the 1950s and 1960s the sum of 2/6d given to postmen was doubled to 5/-d, but the system is no longer in existence today.

## AN EDWARDIAN POSTCARD THAT IS ALL BACK TO FRONT

Colin Baker

A couple of months ago I was browsing around a local antiques fair in a town near me. They hold one at the end of every month and there are always one or two of the tables that are taken up by postcard dealers. Early picture postcards are now over 100 years old, so I suppose they just about fall into the generally accepted definition of being antiques. Not that the 100 year rule worries many of the dealers at these fairs as they seem to be happy to sell anything, new, old or very old, so long as there is money to be made.

But back to the postcard dealers. As I walked up to one of the stands, I could see that there was the usual array of boxes of picture postcards, neatly sorted into countries, counties and categories. However one of the dealers also has box of postal history at one end of his table. I always enjoy rummaging through this sort of thing; you never know what might turn up.



Halfway through my search I came across the postcard illustrated here. It was hardly inspiring and I almost

passed it by. It's a Queen Victoria ½d stout postcard used on 6th December 1901, from Bramley, near Guildford, to Dunstable in Bedfordshire. It's a bit grubby and has a couple of minor corner creases. Just before discarding it and going onto the next item in the pile, I turned it over to see that it was written in a foreign language, one that I could not make out. I looked a bit harder. Why were the address, the salutations and date on the right when they should be on the left, as is usual with Roman script? And the signature too, that was on the wrong side. Gradually it dawned on me that this card had not been written by a foreign hand at all, but the whole message had been written back to front; a message in reverse.

Now I have occasionally heard that the Victorians used mirror writing, but I had never seen an example. I happily paid the £1 asking price. On my return home the bathroom mirror proved that I was right.

The writing on the postcard is extremely neat and easy to read (in a mirror of course). In fact if you look at the scan of the postcard illustrated here, reversed so that it can be read easily, you wouldn't think it was anything but normal handwriting. That is until you look at the postmark which is now reversed.

So why did the Victorians and Edwardians write backwards? Partly I suppose to have some secrecy from servants and other prying eyes. You would need to have a lot of practice to read something like this without the aid of a mirror. But partly I think people did this because it was possible and was an achievement. With no radio and television to amuse themselves, they would resort to this sort of thing to while away the time. After all, how many hand illustrated envelopes do you see these days, let alone neat handwriting, whether it is normal or reversed.

So next time you're rummaging through a pile of stationery, do take some time to look at the backs and well as the fronts.

# THE FIRST BRITISH AIR MAIL LETTER CARD OF MAY 1941

John Daynes

Following the fall of France and the closure of the Mediterranean to British shipping in June 1940 the importance of Egypt to the British cause became very important. British troops in Egypt had to pay postage on their mail home and special Egyptian Army postage stamps were used. The cost of sending a letter to the United Kingdom was 10 milliemes [for 20 grams] by surface mail and 40 milliemes by air mail.

The mail would often take two to three months for air mail to reach home as the air mail service was only across Africa - the mail being sent by surface mail from West Africa as the available space of the few aircraft was too limited to accommodate ordinary air mail letters [i.e. envelopes]

The British Army introduced Field Post Offices in Egypt and wanted to introduce free surface mail for British forces and to use British postage stamps to pay postage. The plan was also to introduce air mail letter cards which were much lighter than an envelope and would be flown all the way to the United Kingdom.

The proposed postage rates were:

- Surface letters - free up to 2 ounces
- Air Mail for ordinary envelopes - 10d per 10 grams [these letters would be flown to West Africa and then sent by sea to the United Kingdom]
- Air Mail Letter cards - 3d [these air letter forms would be flown all the way to the United Kingdom]

The aim was to introduce these changes from September 1940 onwards but the Egyptian Government was concerned about the loss of revenue if Egyptian postage stamps were no longer to be used.

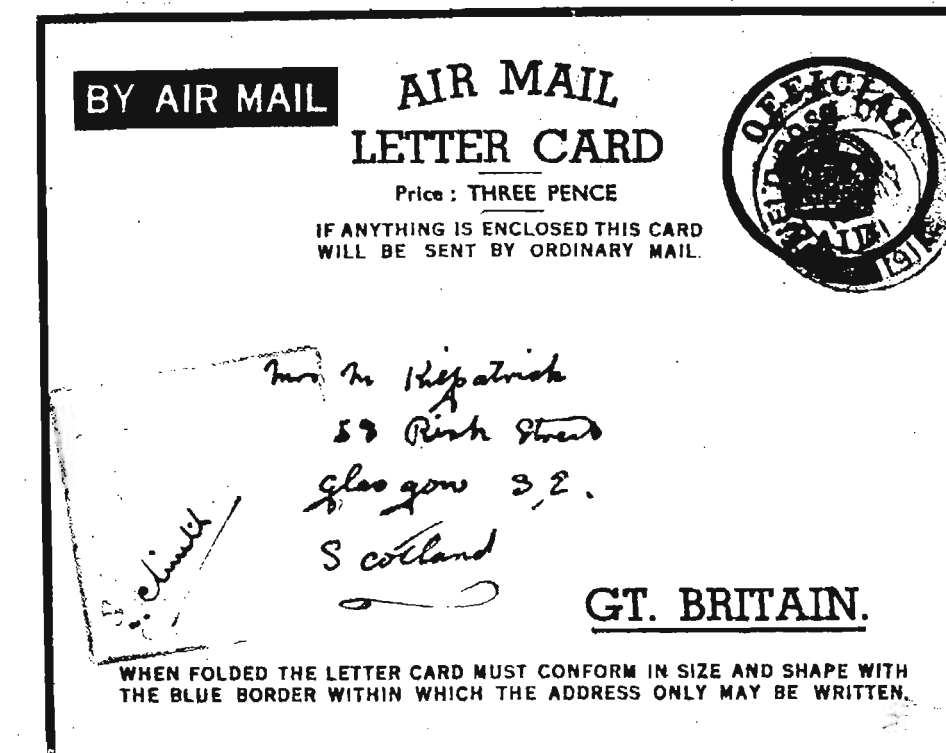
Talks dragged on and the Egyptians would not give way. The British Army Printing Service was already printing Air Mail Letter cards [which were to be used with postage being paid by a 3d British postage stamp] and which were issued in other countries which were British Colonies such as Palestine and Sudan.

The introduction of air mail letter cards, was considered very important for the moral of the forces in Egypt and in order to try and bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion the Army Printing service were ordered to print air mail letter cards with the British "Official Paid" insignia and a selling price of "Three Pence". The normal postal stationery postage paid designs which included the portrait of King George VI were not available in the middle east and the Official Paid insignia was the best that could be provided at short notice.

The British offered the Egyptian government compensation for the loss of revenue from the sale of the Egyptian Army postage stamps and they agreed to accept the British proposals including the use of British postage stamps including 3d postage stamps on air mail letter cards commencing on 1st May 1941.

The air mail letter cards with "Official Paid" insignia had already been printed and were introduced along side the unpaid air mail letter cards which required a 3d postage stamps. Service men bought these air letters for 3d, took the air letters back to their accommodation wrote them at their leisure and posted them in a post box in their camp for transmission home.

The example illustrated was sent by a gunner of 204 Coast Battery, Royal Artillery and was post-marked with Field Post Office 191 on 15th May 1941 at Geneifa in Egypt. I have one example posted at an F P O on 7 May 1941 and re-directed on arrival in UK on 20 May 1941 showing a real improvement in the two to three months of the previous service.



I consider these air mail letter cards to be the first British pre-paid air mail stationery and may be compared with format 41 [ES59] of the 1932 envelopes listed in the "Collect British Postal Stationery" book.

## CUT-OUTS

George King

In response to requests from a number of collectors, George King has sent the following extracts relating to the use of postal stationery cut-outs to pay postage by sticking them onto cards, envelopes, wrappers etc.

### Post Office Circular July 1845

By Command

Instructions to all Postmasters, Sub-Postmasters and Letter Receivers

GPO July 1845

The Lords of the Treasury having decided that a letter posted with a medallion head affixed to it, which has been cut from the envelope or paper upon which it was impressed (such stamp being of the proper value and not having been used before) is bona fide a Letter with a Stamp affixed thereon under the act, the Postmaster General directs that in future, Letters having these medallion stamps affixed to them, provided the said Stamps are equal in value to the proper Postage to which the Letters may be liable and have not been used before, shall not be subjected to any additional charge of postage, but shall be treated as Letters prepaid by Postage Stamps ordinarily used for that purpose.

W L MABERLY

### PO Act 1870

It shall not be lawful for any person to affix to a letter, newspaper, supplement, publication, packet or card sent by post on the cover thereof, by way of prepayment of postage thereon, an embossed or impressed letter stamp cut out or otherwise separated from the thing on which such stamp was embossed or impressed, although such stamp had not been before sent by post.

[This was so that Postcards which missed franking couldn't be used as cut outs. It coincides with first G.B. postcards.]

### Statutory Rules and Orders 1904 No.1746 London Gazette on 9 December 1904

In pursuance of the Rules publication Act, 1893, the Postmaster-General gives notice that a warrant, dated December 7, 1904, has been made, on his representation, by the Commissioners of the Treasury, under which, on and after January 1, 1905, embossed or impressed stamps cut out of, or otherwise detached from an envelope, cover, postcard, or other postal form, may be used in payment of postage.

(source **H. Dagnall** - The Evolution of British Stamped Postcards & Lettercards. 1985

## ADVERTISING SQUARE?

Peter O'Keefe

One reads about "Advertising Rings" around postal stationery stamps, but might this be classified as an "Advertising Square"?

I recently acquired this single KGV 1d postcard which has wording printed around the stamp impression: it has also got the words "Return Post Card" above the Coat of Arms, and the address appears to be printed rather than being handwritten.

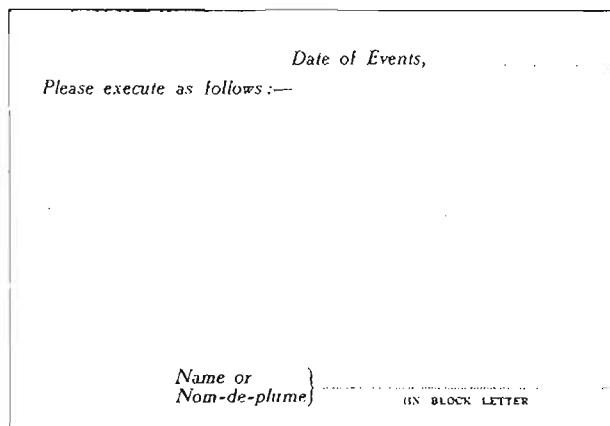
Could it be that Frank Stewart was a bookmaker, and this card was to have been for use by a regular well known punter to submit bets on specific events, perhaps horse racing, soccer matches or other sporting matters? Or

maybe to book seats for a show? Could it have been for the insertion of an advertisement in a local publication?

It appears that it was not intended that such cards be used for private or personal purposes. Does any member know of Frank Stewart?

It is obviously a 'Stamped to Order' printing, having a full stop after the word Penny and is printed on thin white card, size 'F', with arms type 'e'. It was never part of a 1d + 1d reply paid card. The card is undated, but it would seem to be H&B CS51 (1918?).

Unfortunately it has not been used.



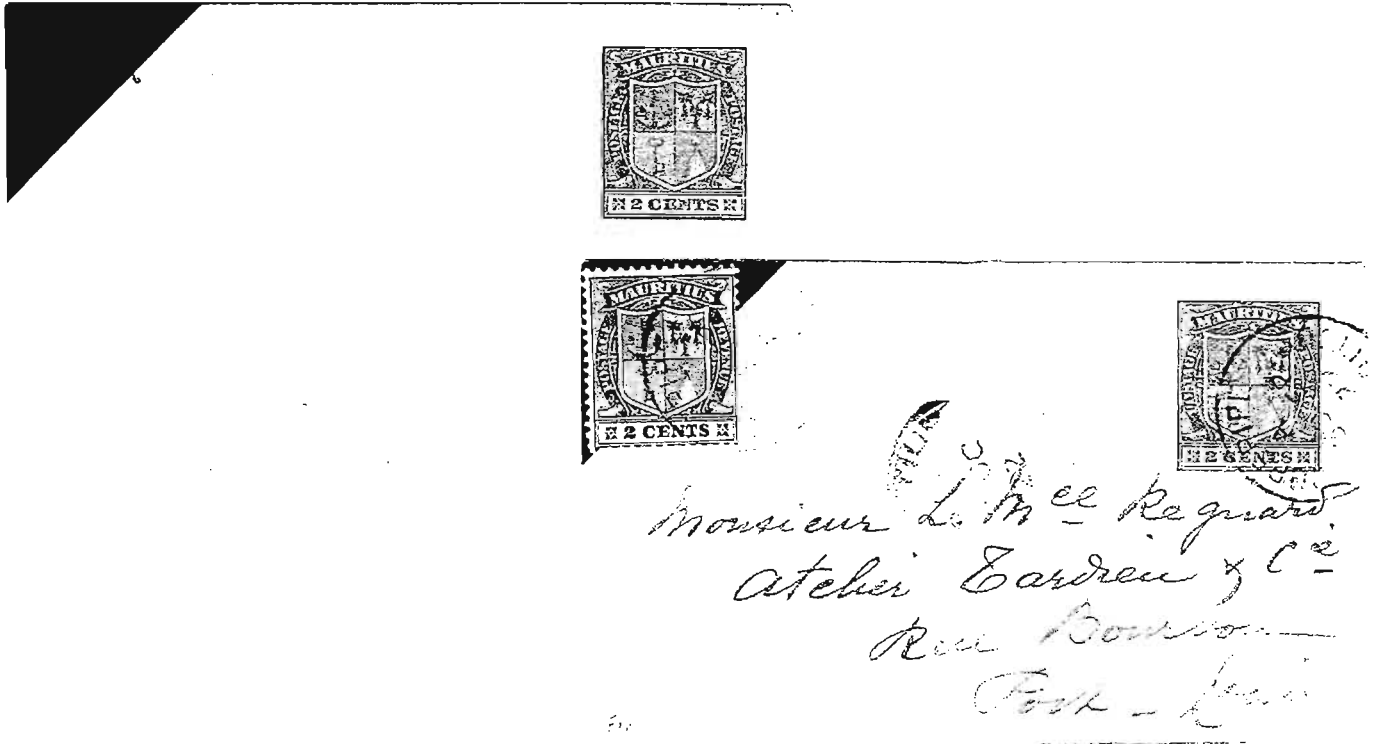
Illustrations reduced to 60%

## MAURITIUS MOURNING ENVELOPE

Alan Huggins

Considerable mystery surrounds the background to the invoice recorded in the De La Rue day book dated 2 May 1916 for 20,000 2c size 3 mourning envelopes. Peter Ibbotson refers to this on page 213 of his book *Mauritius Postal History and Stamps* (Royal Philatelic Society London, 1991) and indicated that although the availability of such envelopes was referred to in the 1917, 1918 and 1919 editions of the *Mauritius Almanac*, no examples had been seen. Subsequently an example used in 1922 was documented by André de Kervern and also illustrated in

*L'Entieriste* no. 11. No further examples are known to have been recorded until the recent appearance of an unused envelope which clearly shows the black triangular area in the top left corner - an unusual style for a mourning envelope which normally have black borders. By good fortune the previously recorded used example is also available for illustration so for the first time it is possible to show both together. Are there any others in readers' collections?



## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### G.B. AIRLETTERS

Arthur Roberts reports that further prints of white paper Airletter have been found - MSE338/07, 339/07 and 340/07. These numbers complete the record of the December 2007 print run over six days from Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December coded MSE337 to 342/07.

### Articles Noted Recently in the Philatelic Press

"Foreign Postal Stationery 2006-2007 A-E" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly June 2008)

"Foreign Postal Stationery 2006-2007 F-L" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly July 2008)

"Foreign Postal Stationery 2006-2007 M-R" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly August 2008)

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

*Postal Stationery* May/June 2008 (U.S.A.)

USA Wrappers: Analysis of Relative Scarcity, Sales Prices and Market Size.

Cinderella Airmail Postal Stationery.

Two Countries on one Card.

Foreign Postal Stationery Societies.

Pseudo Japanese Stationery.

Somali Coast's Only Stationery.

*Postal Stationery* July/August 2008 (U.S.A.)

Analysis of US Wrappers Bearing Private Printing.

Swiss Postal Envelope Production Errors.

S8 - An Interesting Plate Variety.

Pseudo Japanese Stationery.

Selected British Forces Aerograms from the Thomas A. Mathews Collection.

*Postal Stationery Collector* February 2008 (Australia)

1910 Queensland 1d Printer's Imprint Card

Flying Doctor Permit Mail Envelopes

More on the Centenary of the International Reply Coupon

Salvador Postcard with Exposition Overprint

A Typology of Warning Instructions on Wrappers

British Reply Card Used From Queensland

Listing of Australian non-Denominated Postal Stationery

**Postal Stationery Collector** May 2008 (Australia)  
 Australian Colonial Postal Stationery – Some Reminiscences

Airgraphs: The Beginning  
 Use of Postal Stationery Cut out Before Usage Invalidated  
 A Typology of Warning Instructions on Wrappers (Part II)  
 Follow-up Article on Schott and Gibraltar  
 Listing of Non-Denominated Postal Stationery

**Ganzsachensammler** June 2008 (Switzerland)  
 GS-Empfangsscheine von 1810 und 1816  
 Fête Nationale – Pro Patria: Une Carte Oubliée.  
 Als die OPD das Streifband Zu 24 durch das Streifband Zu 25 ablöste.

Die Einführung des Herstellungszuschlags von 1Rp. auf Streifbänder per 1 Juni 1919.

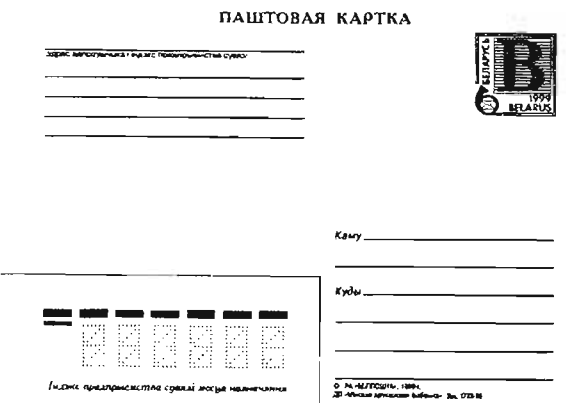
**L'Intero Postale** Spring 2008 (Italy)  
 Dentelli D'Italia.  
 Uno Pseudo Pseudo Intero.  
 Elementi Distintivi Nelle 10 + 10c. Leoni.  
 La Gondoletta Di Beethoven.  
 Porto Pagato, Port Paye, NVI Dubbi Risolti (per me).

**BELARUS MISCUT**

Keith Downing has sent this photocopy of a miscut postal card which his friend bought in Minsk. A 'normal' copy is shown for comparison.



**Mis-cut**



**Normal**

**QUERIES AND REPLIES**

**QUERY – Parcel Cards.**

I have had a query from a potential member who is searching for information on **parcel cards**. Although I included this request in the previous issue, I have had no response. Can any member help?

He would like to know something of the history of these cards - How do such cards 'work'? When they were first introduced? By whom (what country)? Do international cards differ from those used for internal mail etc? If any member can provide information on these, please contact the Editor.

**REPLY – South African Formular Air Letter (May 2008)**

**John Daynes** replies: "The airletter illustrated is a British one and any Empire (including UK) postage stamps could be used to pay postage to any Empire Country."

John explained that a "Python Scheme" was a scheme to get troops back home at the end of the war. Those who had spent less than six months in the UK during the preceding five years were to be posted for 6 months to England.

**QUERY-International Reply Coupons, Australasia.**

**Peter Robins** has expressed his interest in producing a listing of International Reply Coupons issued in Australia, New Zealand, PNG, Fiji, etc. which he hopes to have ready for publication some time in 2009. He has thus far circulated among his more senior collector friends a trial listing for New Zealand IRCs. and would be keen to make further contacts who may be able to provide information

He will be attempting to list all reported Coupons from the home countries and subsidiary issuers such as Christmas Island, Norfolk Island, Western Samoa and so on. As no general catalogue for International Reply Coupons exists, he is using the German FIAS System to identify separate **Types** and will provide illustrations of these **Types** to all interested collaborators who are not familiar with the System. He does not propose to establish a numbering system or pricing until enough time has passed to assume at least 90% completeness.

At present, he plans on using the same format that he has used in his "An Illustrated Guide to Imperial and Commonwealth Reply Coupons" which was published last year. Copies for those interested in acquiring one are available from Peter Robins at US\$15 plus postage or from Vera Trinder (price unknown) in London.

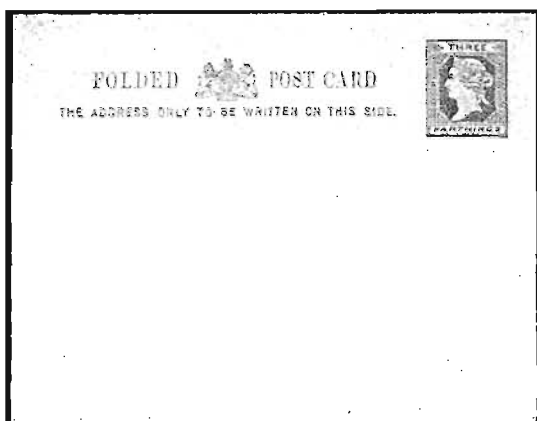
If you would like further information or clarification, please feel quite free to contact Peter at

Peter Robin  
 P.O. Box 353  
 Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004  
 Phone/Fax 610 664-8807  
 e-mail: [peterrobin@verizon.net](mailto:peterrobin@verizon.net)

# GROSVENOR

AUCTIONEERS AND VALUERS

## Postal Stationery at Auction



1883(c.) essay for a "THREE FARTHINGES" "FOLDED POST CARD", in blue on stiff pale blue paper cut in the shape of an envelope blank with gummed upper flap, the stamp superbly hand-painted and the inscription typographed.

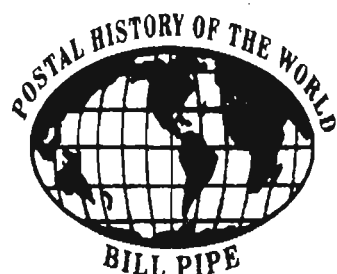
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