



THE JOURNAL OF THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Edited by Peter van Gelder

Issue No. 5

February 1995

RP25(G)a ALBINC



POST CARD.



2d ORANGE S.T.O.



COMPOUND 1½d+3d Envelope

G.B. FINDINGS - see pages 27 & 28

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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

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

EDITOR Peter van Gelder,
& Acting Somerhay, 16 Frant Avenue,
Librarian Little Common, Bexhill, Sussex,
ENGLAND.

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

NEWSLETTER PRODUCER John Barker,
35 Portia Avenue,
Shirley, Solihull, West Midlands,
ENGLAND.

WANTS

THE GAMBIA Aerogrammes, commercially used, first
day, or mint. Wanted by J.R. Hill,
2015 Lake Bonavista Drive S.E.,
Calgary, Alberta T2J2Z8, CANADA.

PALESTINE Aerogramme first issue (K1) mint &/or
first day. Also stampless private
Palestine issues. A. Goldstone, 45
Gainsborough Gdns, London NW11 9BJ.

N.S.W. One Hundred Years items, especially 1d env.
OS overprint, & 2d env. with OS incorporated.
Please reply to the Editor.

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Society has now reached its second birthday with the second A.G.M. having been held on 24.9.94. This was followed by an auction admirably conducted again by Tony Chilton, and then a fine display of forces air letter sheets and associated items by Ted Grey.

Now that the initial wave of recruitment of members has subsided, it is most important to regain the momentum by spreading the word about the Society. I would ask every member to set him/herself the target in 1995 of bringing an additional member into the Society. This would greatly strengthen our financial base and enable us to go forward with confidence that we can improve the range and quality of the benefits of membership.

Meanwhile I should like to thank all those whose efforts keep the Society operational, and to wish you all a peaceful, healthy and philatelically enjoyable 1995.

Alan Huggins

EDITORIAL

In support of the Chairman's call above for each member to recruit a new member in 1995 you should find enclosed with this journal an APPLICATION FORM. Please do your level best to find an interested collector to fill in your blank form and return it (with subscription!) to the Secretary. At the same time the Secretary is hoping to find, or hear from, a member who is willing to act as the Society's Publicity Officer in spreading awareness of postal stationery and of our Society among

the general philatelic public. My stop-press news is that Colin Baker is taking on this task.

To my mind the single most important step towards achieving a major breakthrough for our hobby would be the re-instatement of postal stationery within popular stamp catalogues. True, postal stationery of some countries can be found listed in certain Scott and Michel catalogues, but to stamp collectors in Britain and many other parts of the World the catalogues are those of Stanley Gibbons. Recently I took the opportunity in the pages of "Gibbons Stamp Monthly" to hint that each of the S.G. "Concise" catalogues (for G.B., Australia, N.Z.) could usefully be expanded to include p.s. listings. I wonder if this seed will take root! Certainly S.G. catalogue status has recently done a power of good to the OS/OHMS perfin stamps of Australia & Canada. I am convinced that a similar move for p.s. would lift its popularity to levels not known in the last 80 years or more.

Peter van Gelder

SOCIETY CALENDAR

The Society's next meeting will be on Saturday, 8th April at 2 p.m. in the Holborn Room of the YWCA Central Club, 16/22 Great Russell Street, London W.C.1. It will consist of members' talks/displays: you are invited to bring along p.s. items for display (up to a maximum of 36 pages per person).

Reports on the above meeting & on last September's A.G.M./auction/display will appear in the newsletter, which is due to be posted off to members in June.

VIEWS

DEFINING POSTAL STATIONERY

On page 26 of "P.S." no. 3 (Feb. 1994) our Editor asked for members' views on whether all air letter sheets should be regarded as postal stationery or only those with imprinted stamps.

What goes for air letters must surely go for other forms of stationery issued by the Post Office: airgraph forms, telegram forms and certificates of posting come immediately to mind, each of which has been issued with and without imprinted stamps. Colin Baker has already written ("P.S." no. 3) on the G.B. stamped certificates of posting of 1877-81. The Christmas airgraph forms for 1944 were issued with an imprinted 3d stamp, while the whole range of others was supplied free without stamps.

Does the answer not rest upon having 2 grades: (i) stamped P.O. stationery and (ii) unstamped P.O. stationery?

I have deliberately replaced "postal" by "P.O." here in order to distinguish this from "stamped to order" material. If we use the term "stamped postal stationery" it begs the question "P.O. or S.T.O.?"

If this solves one question, it creates another. Within the Post Office a multitude of different envelopes, cards & labels - for internal use and correspondence with the public - has existed and exists. How better can such be described than as "P.O. station-

ery? To what extent will this term become confused with that suggested in a previous paragraph, i.e. "unstamped P.O. stationery" for items available free to the public? Lengthening the term "P.O. stationery" to "official P.O. stationery" might help.

I am intensely interested in collecting stationery with the OFFICIAL PAID emblem, preferably in circular form. While a lot of G.B. Post Office stationery has borne this emblem during its 80-odd years of existence, there is as much or more without it. I fear the term "official P.O. stationery" suggested above would become associated with stationery bearing the OFFICIAL PAID emblem to the exclusion of items without it.

Can one ever win?

Bill Meredith (Northamptonshire)

Editor's note - for a further consideration of this important question of DEFINITION, please see the first letter in "Letters to the Editor".

POSTAL STATIONERY

**incl. TOPICALS
Worldwide**

Enquiries invited.

**Dr. PETER STEINKAMP
P.O. Box 65 06 27, 22366 Hamburg, Germany**

WORLD COVERS & POSTAL STATIONERY

WE WILL BE AT THE FOLLOWING FAIRS IN 1995.

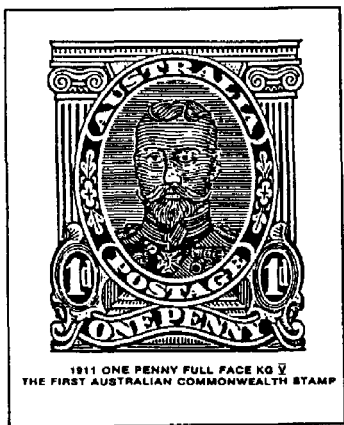
'THE STRAND FAIR', now at the ROYAL NATIONAL HOTEL,
Bedford Way, Russell Square, London, WC1. (10-6pm)
11 Jan., 8 Feb., 15 Mar., 12 Apl., 24 May., 28 Jne.,
19 Jly., 16 Aug., 13 Sep., 4 Oct., 8 Nov., 13 Dec.,

SPRING STAMPEX...28th Feb - 5th March.

AUTUMN STAMPEX...10th - 15th October.

At most fairs we are limited in the amount of stock we can carry, so if you think you may be attending one of the above fairs, **PLEASE PHONE US A FEW DAYS BEFORE**, to ensure we bring your particular interest with us. There is **NO OBLIGATION** to buy, and we won't have to say to you "sorry, we didn't bring that today."

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An almost complete listing in
Australian dollars.

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(We accept payment by Cheque in £Stg/US\$, Visa and
Mastercard)

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Selling? I am a keen buyer.

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MEMBER:

ASDA (New York),

PTS (London),

APHV (Koin)

TOPICS

This new feature covers matters arising from articles or comments in previous issues of the journal, and also other subjects aired for the first time. Members are invited to develop these topics by sending their written contributions to the Editor (typed or in BLOCK capitals, please) - ideally just a paragraph or two (not article length), & photocopy illustrations are most welcome.

PRIVATE CERTIFICATES OF POSTING

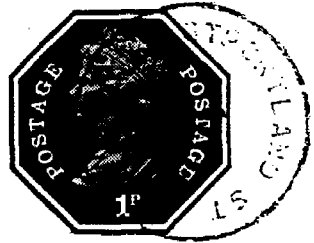
Following the article by Colin Baker on page 20 of "P.S." no. 3, Michael Goodman has sent in photocopies of 2 private certificates of posting that differ from each other and from that described in the article. He states that these were ~~made~~ around 1970 for the British Postmark Society in order to obtain examples of "skel-eton" postmarks. The fronts of these certificates are shown on the next page. The back of the 1d certificate carries 14 lines of conditions/instructions followed by - (Privately produced form in lieu of P 326B, approved by the G.P.O., No. 12950/65.). The $\frac{1}{2}$ d + $\frac{1}{2}$ d certificate has a blank back.

LITHUANIAN POSTAL STATIONERY ENVELOPES

Lithuanian PSEs have featured in "Query Corner" in "P.S." nos. 2 & 3. Now Ian MacInnes writes from Skye to say that between the 1990-91 issues listed by Reikfil & the NVI (i.e. no value indicated) issues of May 1993 a wide selection of provisional overprints has appeared.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING
Unregistered Postal Packets (except Parcels)

Sender to enter below the name and address as written on the letter or packet. (See also OVERLEAF).



Merriden Mail Order Co Ltd
PO Box 47 Newbold Lane
PRESTON PRI SP7
Lancs

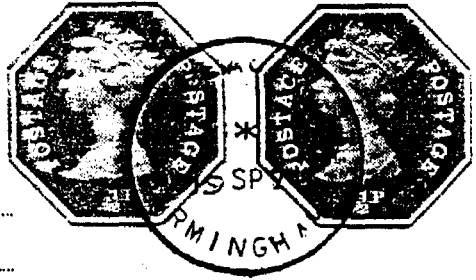
A postage stamp or stamps to the value of 1d. to be affixed in the space above by the sender.

A letter, not for registration or recorded delivery, addressed as above, has been posted here this day.

Accepting Officer's Initials [Signature]

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING
Unregistered letters and ordinary parcels only

Postage stamps to the value of 1p to be affixed by the sender, who should copy the address in full below.



Mr N D Ratford
Post Legend Hamptons
54 KOBLENZ
GERMANY

The item entered above has been posted here today. Accepting Officer's Initials _____

Conditions:—

- (1) In the event of loss, damage or delay, this certificate will confer no title to compensation.
- (2) Any item in respect of which this certificate is issued will not be checked in the post or afforded special treatment.

(Privately produced form in lieu of P326B, approved by the Post Office. No. 12950/65-Rev 4/73)

These have been listed in a supplement to the Reikfil catalogue and are extremely numerous - the list shows approx. 50 distinct overprintings within a 2-year span. The reason behind this was very rapid inflation, and therefore frequent changes in postal rates. Also, this overprinting was a way of using up large stocks of old Soviet PSEs ! Likewise, quite a range of overprints has been produced by the Estonian and Latvian postal authorities.

AUSTRALIAN 1911 CORONATION CARDS

Reference to the Editor's interest in these was made on p. 7 of "P.S." no. 4. Shortly before his sudden death last April Roy Dowdeswell sent me a letter outlining the basic facts:-

There are 3 portraits - King George (KG), Queen Mary (QM) & Prince Edward (PE). There are 8 frame types, but not all 3 portraits exist with each frame type. The combinations are -

	Frame Type	Portrait
1.	Diffused oval	KG QM PE
2.	Unframed rectangle	KG QM PE
3.	Rectangle with crown	KG QM
4.	Rectangle with monogram	KG QM
5.	Rectangle with oak wreath	PE
6.	Oval, laurel wreath & ribbons	KG QM
7.	Oval, oak wreath & monogram	KG QM
8.	Circle with oak wreath	PE

This gives a total of 16 different types, though I believe John Sinfield in an article in "Date Stamp" (May 1984) describes 32 different types. This difference in numbers is due to detailed variations in the portraits, the stamps, etc.

As to colour, most references to these cards state that they were printed in 6 colours. But this is

very subjective as there is a large range of shades, especially of the browns & blacks. These I have seen variously described as red-brown, grey-brown, black-brown, brown-black & so on! Whether every combination of frame type and portrait was printed in all six alternative colours I do not know, but if so then the total number of combinations would be 96 (i.e. 6 times the 16 design types I have listed), or 192 if the minor variations exist in all 6 colours (which I very much doubt).

Roy Dowdeswell wished to acknowledge that some of his information had been culled from past auction catalogues of Robin Linke. Your Editor therefore contacted the latter, who is hoping to find time to write us an article on this subject - meanwhile he has sent in a copy of an article on the Coronation cards from "Capital Philately" and penned by Ian McMahon, with whom your Editor is now in touch with a view to extracting more on the subject from him for inclusion in a future "P.S.". Lastly, Mrs Val Roberts has also chipped in, as follows:-

I was very interested to note from "P.S." your interest in Australian 1911 Coronation cards. I too collect them, though over the past year I have found them much harder to locate - and much more expensive! I collect mint examples.

As to colours I am always wary of Australian shades, as when I lived there I found the Queensland sun could fade/alter almost anything! I have found that some Coronation cards have a different 'finish' on the back as compared with the front. The front looks whiter & of a finer quality finish, whereas with some cards the back almost resembles strawboard. Are there any known forgeries of these cards?

Editor's note - For an example of a Coronation card, please see illustration on page 26. Further contributions to any of these TOPICS will be welcome.

BIBLIO- GRAPHY

Compiled by Peter van Gelder

This is the long-promised list of postal stationery catalogues and books. It is of recent publications, i.e. only those books dated 1983 & after are included. My hope is that it will cause reactions: so please write in with your corrections and additions. I gratefully acknowledge information received already from several members, in particular Luk Gybels, Michael Sagar, Ian McMahon and E.W. Amos. Prices are tricky, not only because they change but also because here we are dealing with several different currencies. So to give you a practical price guide, I am assigning code letters to each book on the following scale:-

a	£10 & under	e	£40+ up to £50
b	£10+ up to £20	f	£50+ up to £60
c	£20+ up to £30		and so on till
d	£30+ up to £40	k	over £100

WORLD	World Postal Stationery Catalog, Higgins & Gage	k
	The following have been published in or after 1983:-	
	Australasia Special Section (1984)	b
	B Section (1986) - price revisions	a
	CG Section (1986) - " " "	a
	I Section (1990) - " " "	a
	U Section (1984) - " " "	a
	V-Z Section (1984) " " "	a

AUSTRALIA	Seven Seas Australasian Stamp Catalogue	b
	Postal Stationery of Western Australia to 1914, Pope	b
	Queensland Postal Stationery, Collas	a
	Postal Stationery of the Commonwealth of Australia - Wrappers, Darke	a
	Collecting Australian Postcards - A Guide to Values, Vukovic	a
BELGIUM & B. CONGO	Les Entiers Postaux de Belgique (1990, in French)	b
	Les Entiers Postaux du Congo et du Ruanda-Urundi, Stibbe (1986, in French)	a
BRITISH EAST AFRICA	British East Africa - The Stamps & Postal Stationery, Minns (1982 but with 1990 supplement)	d
CANADA	Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps (includes Canadian & Newfoundland postal stationery)	a
	Webb's Postal Stationery Catalogue of Canada & Newfoundland, Walton & Covert (6th edition, 1993)	a
CHINA	Postal Stationery of the People's Republic of China 1949-1965, Padget	a
CYPRUS	Cyprus Postal Stationery, Frangoudis	a
	Cyprus Postal Stationery 1880-1992, Ioannides & Podger	c/d
DOMINICA	Dominica, the Postal History & Postal Stationery to 1935, Toeg	e
FRANCE	Les Entiers Postaux de France et de Monaco, Storch & Francon (in French)	c

GERMANY & COLONIES	Michel Postal Stationery (Ganzsachen) Catalogue of Germany (in German)	b
	Michel Catalogue of Private German Postal Stationery (in German)	
	Die Ganzsachen der Deutschen Postanstalten in Ausland und in den Kolonien, Einfeldt (1992, in German)	c
GREAT BRITAIN	The Mulready Advertisements, M. Lowe	c/d
	Specimen Stamps & Stationery of Great Britain, Huggins & M. Samuel	c
	Postal Stationery of Great Britain, Brightmore (1985, prices for mint only)	ca
	The Evolution of the British Stamped Postcards & Lettercards, Dagnall	b
	Notes on Victorian Embossed Postal Stationery, Dagnall	a
	Parcel Postage Paid by Impressed Stamps, Dagnall	a
GREECE	Greek Postal Stationery Catalogue, Stratoukadis (1985)	b
HONG KONG	Hong Kong Postal Stationery, Schoenfeld	a
ICELAND	Island Ganzsachen 1879-1941 Schilling (1994, in German)	b
INDIA	Guide to Postal Stationery of India - Volume 4 Aerogrammes, Lang	a
IRELAND	Postal Stationery of Ireland Cata- logue & Handbook (1994, in English & German)	b

ISRAEL	Bale Israel Stamp Catalogue	
ITALY	Il Nuovo Pertile (specialised catalogue of postal stationery), Sopracordevole - 1st volume (1993): Italy & States 2nd volume (1994): San Marino, Vatican, colonies & occupied territories	
JAPAN	Japanese Specialised Stamp Catalogue - includes p.s. (1990)	b
LITHUANIA	Reikfil Catalogue of 1990-94 Stationery	
NEPAL	Catalogue of the Postal Stationery 1887-1992, Weaver & van der Wateren (in English, with German currency)	
NEW ZEALAND	Kiwi Catalogue of N.Z. Postal Stationery (1983)	a
	New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogue, R. Samuel -	
	Part 1 Postcards (1988)	a
	Part 2 Lettercards (1989)	a
	Part 3 Reg. envelopes, aerogrammes, wrappers (1992)	a
	Part 4 Envelopes (1993)	a
	Part 5 Private envelopes (1993)	a
SIERRA LEONE	Postal Service of Sierra Leone, its History, Stamps & Stationery until 1961, Beale	c
SOUTHWEST AFRICA	The Postal Stationery of South West Africa 1888 to 1990, Quik & Stolk (1993, in Dutch & English)	b
SPAIN	Unificado Postal Stationery Catalogue	
UKRAINE	Postal History of Ukraine - Ukrainian Legion Feldpost Cards, Dubyniak & Cybaniak (1992)	b
Addendum: HUNGARY	Specialised Catalogue of Postal Stationery (English introduction, 1983 + 1986 & 1989 supplements)	a

U.S.A.	Scott U.S.A. Specialized Catalog Part 1	
	United States Postcard Catalog	
	Envelopes & Wrappers of the U.S.A. - Vol. 1 Catalog of the 19th Century Stamped Envelopes & Wrappers	
	Vol. 2 Catalog of the 20th Century Stamped Envelopes & Wrappers	
AIR (each relating to more than one country)	Aerogrammes of the Arabian Gulf, Jones (1994)	a
	British Forces Airmail Lettercards & Airletters, Lee	b
	World Aerogramme Catalogue, Wiegand & others (in 6 volumes, 1990-1995, in German)	d/f
OTHERS	Michel Postal Stationery Catalogue of Europe (excluding West Germany; in German)	d
	The Watson Postcards, Robson Lowe (re. an 1859/91 p.s. catalogue)	a
	Wartime Postal Stationery, Daynes	c

OUR SOCIETY'S

LIBRARY

I am sorry to say that only one member responded to my call in the Editorial of "P.S." no. 4 for members to donate, or offer at moderate prices, any surplus p.s. books or catalogues to form the foundation of a Postal Stationery Society library. But I am delighted that the one member to respond, Edgard Pockele, did so most helpfully & generously. The items at present in our library are listed on the next page. It is our aim to add a complete set of Higgins & Gage as soon as one can be

obtained at reasonable expense. Meanwhile please think again, & if you have any spare p.s. book or catalogue, just contact me.

1. Les Entiers Postaux du Congo et du Ruanda-Urundi, 1986 (p.s. catalogue in French donated by Edgard Pockele).
2. Les Entiers Postaux de Belgique, 1990 (p.s. catalogue in French donated by Edgard Pockele).
3. Il Nuovo Pertile, 1994 (p.s. catalogue in Italian covering San Marino, Vatican, colonies & occupied territories of Italy, donated through the publishers).
4. Katalog der Aerogramme von Afrika, 1995 (catalogue in German, purchased).
5. Introducing Postal History, 1988 (booklet donated by British Philatelic Trust).
6. Introducing Thematic Collecting, 1990 (as 5 above).
7. Guidelines for Successful Exhibiting, 1991 reprint (as 5 above).
8. L'Entier Postal, the run of issues 1936-1975 (Belgian Society's p.s. journal, in French, donated by Edgard Pockele).
9. L'Intero Postale, 4 issues from 1992/3 (Italian Society's p.s. journal, in Italian, donated).
10. Die Ganzsache, 6 issues from 1993/4 (German Society's p.s. journal, in German, donated via N. Sehler).

Borrowing: members may borrow one Catalogue/booklet or up to 4 journals at a time. Return date will be indicated, allowing approx. 8 weeks' use. Outward postage will be borne by the Society, except in the case of heavy items (nos. 2, 3 & 4 above) sent outside Europe, for

which the Society & the borrower will each bear half the outward postage costs. Return postage is to be borne by the borrower. Do not necessarily expect any book applied for to arrive quickly - it might already be out on loan to another member.

Circumstances have cast me in the role of Acting Librarian. My address can be found on page 2.

Peter van Gelder

NEW ISSUES

Thanks are extended to Duff Malkin and Luk Gybels for adding to the list assembled by the Editor. The period covered is June 1994 to February 1995, but for G.B. aerogrammes issued in June/July 1994, please see p. 14 of "P.S." no. 4.

AUSTRALIA

- 11th August - 75th Anniversary of Save the Children Fund - envelope, 45c face/55c cost
World Masters' Games - envelope, 45c face/55c cost
- 18th August Aviation Feats - aerogrammes, set of 5, each 75c
Thinking of You - aerogramme, 70c
Aviation Feats - prepaid envelopes, \$ 1.35c (DL size), \$ 3.35c (C5), \$ 6 (B4)
- 29th August Centenary of International Olympic Committee - envelope, 45c face/55c cost
- 8th September Hockey World Cup - envelope, 45c face/55c cost

16th September "Anzac" frigate launch- envelope,
45c face/55c cost

28th September Zoos - set of 4 envelopes, each 45c
face/55c cost

31st October Christmas - aerogramme, 70c

3rd November Mary MacKillop beatification - envel-
ope, 45c face/55c cost

18th November Aeropex 94 - aerogramme, 70c

12th January Lunar New Year - prepaid envelopes,
domestic 55c, international \$ 1.35c

9th February World Congress on TV & Children -
envelope 45c face/55c cost

23rd February Centenary of arrival of Sisters of
St John of God - overprinted prepaid
envelope 55c

CANADA

5th July Fredericton townscape - envelope size
no. 10, 43c face/47c cost
Whitehorse townscape - envelope size
no. 8, 43c face/46c cost

DENMARK

9th June Copenhagen trolleybus - postal card,
3.75k

GREAT BRITAIN

26th July Northern Ireland - Giant's Causeway -
postal card, 35p

23rd August 4 Garden Birds - large size aerogramme,
50p

4th October Christmas - aerogramme, 45p

RUMANIA

June Mushrooms - 3 different envelopes,
each 60 lei

VATICAN

27th September 9th Centenary of Dedication of St
Mark's Basilica, Venice - set of 5
postal cards, each 700 lire

U.S.A.

11th August

Canyon de Chelly - postal card, 19c

1st September

St Louis Union Station - postal card,
19c

EXHIBITION SCENE

Did you receive 2 glossy bulletins (beautifully illustrated in colour) from Helsinki last Spring? Your Editor arranged for the organisers of FINLANDIA 95 to send these free to all our members whose subs were in by mid-April. (It is not worth being a slow payer!) For us this is very much a major exhibition, for its focus is on postal stationery & postal history. The venue is the Helsinki Fair Centre, and the dates are 10th to 15th May 1995. Further details can be had from: Finlandia 95, PL 990, FIN-00101, Helsinki, Finland.

A month later there is MIDPEX - an "exhibition for national/specialist philatelic societies" in Britain. This will take place at the Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled, 1 Cromwell Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., admission free. It is the first show of its kind to be held in Britain; there will be specialist exhibits, society representatives, dealers, etc. David Taylor Smith intends to be there with at least 2 of our Midlands members to represent our Society & (we hope) to recruit some new members. More details can be had from: M. Benford, Cloudshell Cottage, High Street, Shutford, Banbury, Oxon.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

A welcome is extended to the following new members who joined the Society in the closing months of 1994.

Saunders V.	Scandinavia
Meissner H. (Germany)	G.B. & Commonwealth; World registered envelopes; France & Colonies international airmail postal cards
Hanman K.	Northern & Southern Rhodesia; Natal
Greenwood J.	Antigua; British East Africa; British Guiana; British Honduras

Corrections - Previously listed among lapsed members, Clancy B. (U.S.A.) has recently renewed membership. Since he was listed among lapsed members, it has been learned with regret that Mr W. Moseley died early last year. In "P.S." no. 3 Luk G. should have read Gybels L.

Total membership is 129 and geographically is as follows: England & Wales 66, Australia 19, U.S.A. 9, Netherlands 5, Belgium 5, N. Ireland 4, Scotland 4, Canada 4, Germany 4, France 2, & 1 each for Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Rep. of Ireland, Italy, Nepal & Israel.

If you wish to contact a fellow member, you can obtain his/her address from the Secretary. Please be sure to enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the Secretary's reply to you.

LETTERS EDITOR

TO THE

Airletters & Defining Postal Stationery

I received my first copy of "P.S." last February - many thanks - I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. In that issue you ask ("Aerogrammatic Oddments", p. 26) for members' views on whether all airletter sheets should be regarded as postal stationery, or only those with an imprinted stamp. I think that the answer lies somewhere in between, exactly where being a matter of personal preference. I don't know whether there is an "official" definition of postal stationery; if not, perhaps one can be devised which is unambiguous, and not so loose as to permit the inclusion of almost anything, nor so restrictive that it would exclude items which are already widely accepted as postal stationery. It should apply equally to all stationery, including envelopes, cards, wrappers, etc., and I propose the following:-

Postal stationery comprises airletters, cards, envelopes, wrappers and the like, with or without an impressed stamp or frank indicating that postage has been prepaid, which have either been issued by a government body for official use or have been offered for sale to the public at post offices.

This would include, for example, unstamped "OHMS" (or similar) airletter sheets, and it might also include formular registered envelopes (I don't know how the latter were issued to the public). It would exclude unfranked,

privately produced airletter sheets (such as those some hotels give to their guests) and those envelopes which are unfranked but have pre-printed boxes for the postal code (such as can be bought at any stationer's in France) - or which are marked "Post Office Preferred" or similar. The problem with this material is that it may be carried around by travellers and used anywhere. There is usually no indication of where it was printed, by whom, or when, and I cannot see any merit in including it.

I have an unfranked airletter sheet with the logo of a hotel in Singapore which has the printer's imprint and also the words: FORM APPROVED BY THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL SINGAPORE NO. AL-7; so it is somewhat more "official" than others of its type. However, under my above definition this would not be regarded as postal stationery. After all, this approval indicated only that it would be accepted at the local airletter rate - it did not confer any official status on it. I accept, therefore, that my definition might be regarded as too restrictive by some. I would be interested to know what other members think.

You also mention "air mail letter cards" which may not be printed on card. I enclose photostats of 2 different printings of an unfranked Fiji air mail letter card (see next page for one of these - Editor) - these were similar to, and from the same source as, New Zealand air mail letter cards, and were printed on lightweight paper. From 1944 & until stamped letter sheets were made available in 1947, these were

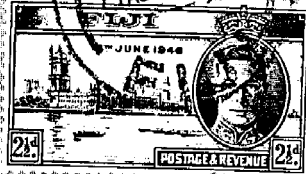
BY AIR MAIL

**FIJI AIR MAIL
LETTER CARD**

If anything is enclosed this card will
by ordinary mail.

*Francis Field Ltd
Sutton Coldfield
England*

When folded the letter card must conform in size as
within which the address only may be



sold at Fijian post offices at $\frac{1}{2}$ d each and would therefore qualify as postal stationery under my definition. A later version - a reproduction of the original but with the return address printed on the reverse - was produced by a local firm in the 1950s for its own use. (They had a postage meter, so I presume they did not want to have to buy pre-stamped aerogrammes.) Though collectable, this I would not regard as postal stationery, because of its unofficial nature.

This is a complicated subject. However postal stationery is defined, I accept that people are free to collect whatever they want to!

John Ray (London S.E.)

Buying Postal Stationery in Korea

Foreign rate aerogrammes were issued by Korea Post

for the U.P.U. Congress & the PHILAKOREA Stamp Exhibition. In addition,, both local rate & foreign rate cards were issued for both events. The foreign rate cards had a very limited print run of 30,000 each, with only 1 million for the local rate printing. I tried to buy stationery - ANY stationery - at the Exhibition, but none was for sale. I finally picked up the stationery cards, but no aerogrammes, from a Korean dealer. Then I got a local rate W100 card in a vending machine at the city bus terminal; and the aerogramme on which I am writing to you, plus an added rate local aerogramme (110 + 10) at a suburban post office at Hung Nam. None of the major hotels sold stationery. Here at Suanbo (150km south of Seoul) all the U.P.U. stamps & booklets are available, but NO stationery!

Bernie Beston (Australia - but writing from Korea)

The First Postal Stationery

Thank you for "P.S." no. 4, which contained a great many interesting articles. Your own piece about the New South Wales 1838 envelopes reminded me of an item which could be regarded as pre-dating them as the earliest issue of postal stationery: the Sardinian "cavallini".

These were lettersheets issued by the Sardinian government on 17th November 1818 and remaining in use until 1836. They were in the form of single sheets of letter paper pre-stamped with one of three values (for use over different distances). The "stamp" design was of a mounted messenger within a frame; as proof of pre-payment, the lettersheet had to be folded so that the

design was visible. However, what was prepaid was not the postal charge itself - that was raised on delivery - but a tax on the privilege of sending a letter !

These sheets do seem to have quite a strong claim to fame as earliest postal stationery - I am certainly looking for examples. In "Collecting Postal History" by Kandaouvoff the "cavallini" & the N.S.W. 1838 envelopes are illustrated side by side (pp. 44-45).

Paul Watkins (Warwickshire)

Editor's note - Yes, opinions vary as to the earliest postal stationery. I think it all hinges on how you define p.s. - if we include only items with an impressed stamp indicating prepayment of postage, then the "cavallini" are ruled out. The earliest claimant I know of is the Venetian A-Q lettersheet of 1608. But there again the prepayment was a tax not a postal charge. So with my definition of p.s. priority remains with James Raymond and New South Wales, 1838 !

Coronation card - see page 11



ARTICLES

MOR FINDINGS AMONG G.B. POSTAL STATIONERY

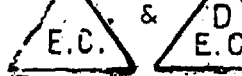
by Tony Bowers

The following list of items extends or varies the entries in "British Postal Stationery" by Alan Huggins.

Envelopes (Post Office issues)

- EP14 Stamp dated 7.8.62, die 90
- EP19 Variety - die 150 with flaw dent in outer frame line, dated stamp 18.5.70
- EP20b Stamp dated 19.11.77, die 194
- EP21b Stamp dated 16.1.76, (die ?)
- EP21b Stamp dated 20.6.73, (die ?)
- EP28 Variety - albino impression
- EP34/5 Proofs - colour trials in blue on De La Rue paper - S.T.O. die with date plugs blank - sizes D & L
- Ep34 Variety with misplaced second albino stamp

Envelopes (Stamped-to-order issues)

- ES57 2d orange with handstamps 
- ESCP ? Compound 1d pink (Victoria) + 2d lake (Edward VII) + 1d scarlet (George V) (11 + 33 + 43a)
- ESC ? Compound 1½d + 3d George V (53 + 47) *

Envelopes (Official issues)

- EO30? On buff paper with "53" at lower left & "On the 'Official' etc. at left

**On the Official Business of the
Board of Agriculture & Fisheries.**

Postal Cards (Stamped-to-order issues)

- CS65 ? 2d orange on plain white card with privately
 printed "POST CARD" *
- CS77 But in size F (used from the Education
 Officer, Manchester)

Registered Envelopes

- RP51 Size H (used 26.7.1940)
- RP25(G)a Buff paper varieties with second albino
 impression on the flap - with inverted
 single impression on the inside of the flap *
- RP28(F) Flap type 6, cream paper, without stop
 after "FEE PAID" (code letters F.J.)
- RP39(F)b Variety with second coloured stamp impress-
 ion on the flap
- RP63(F) Variety with printed blue text omitted
 (impression of text allows identification)
- RP65(F) Albino stamp variety
- RP71(H) With or without closing bracket after
 "(See note on back"

Lettersheets (Post Office issues)

- LP3 Variety with single blue silk thread (red
 thread omitted) - SPECIMEN type P2 in red

Lettersheets (Official issues)

- L018 Exists for the years 1898 & 1900

* indicates see illustration on front cover

THE H & G STORY (continued)

As told to the Editor by Wayne Menuz

Last time we left Ed Fladung as he began to compose the catalogue, preparing the listings from the sorted stock in Alex Gage's shop, from catalogues such as Ascher, and from other information he had to hand.

As each letter (A, B, etc.) was published, he would begin to sort the next cardboard box of stock; each of these boxes was huge - about one meter cubed. He would then get Alex Gage to buy more metal filing cabinets for filling up with items sorted according to Ascher numbers. He had no interest in die types, perforations or other such differences; he either followed the detailed Ascher (as for Argentina), or he just simplified it into basic numbers (as for Austria). He then cut slits into the typed page and inserted actual items of postal stationery into the slits as illustrations. The pages were then given to the printers (located nextdoor in the same building) to be photo offset printed. The printed pages were then brought back to the shop, where Alex's sister, Ed Fladung and others collated the catalogues by hand.

The original "A" section (published in 1964) had contained a plea for help with information. This brought good response from around the World, mainly from specialist philatelic societies. As a result of that, Ed Fladung made several trips through Europe to contact postal stationery experts. Working through the alpha-

bet, he eventually completed the 19th and last section "V-Z" in 1974. Particularly fruitful among the European sources of information had been Dr Zimmer of Germany; prior to the 2nd World War he had been regarded as having the most comprehensive of all postal stationery collections. His three-storey house was at that time crammed with postal stationery from top to bottom! But in the War his house was hit by a bomb, and every item there was destroyed by fire. After the War he started collecting again, and by the 1960s he had rebuilt the most complete collection of postal cards and lettercards, though this time he had only medium coverage of other types of stationery. He began to help Ed Fladung with information, and many of the post-1920s items illustrated in the catalogue belonged to him. He lived on till the mid-1980s, after which his collection passed into the hands of a German dealer.

Until 1972 the Higgins & Gage policy was never to sell their last copy filed under any particular catalogue number. Their auctions of postal stationery were usually held once or twice a year and consisted of material consigned by vendors. Alex Gage obtained many fine postal stationery items, including the Chapman collection of used South and Central America, and the Schutz German collection. There is an amusing side story from around this time of the early 1970s: it became necessary for H & G to make new arrangements for the printing of their catalogue - because the firm nextdoor had been caught printing U.S.A. currency at night!

Alexander Drysdale Gage, the instigator and publisher

of the "World Postal Stationery Catalog", died on 1st February 1986, aged 81. Ed Fladung, whose mammoth task was to create the catalogue, died on 3rd March 1980, aged 76. Four years earlier he had been presented with a gold medal on the 50th anniversary of the Swiss Postal Stationery Society during celebrations in Burgdorf, Switzerland; about the same time the United Postal Stationery Society (of the U.S.A.) awarded him honorary life membership.

In due course Alex Gage sold his business to Mel Feiner, who was a part-time stamp dealer selling high quality U.S.A. stamps at weekend stamp fairs. Initially he had known and cared little about postal stationery. But at one stamp fair in the 1970s his table was next to the H & G table, and during a quiet spell he browsed through the H & G table stock. He was interested and started buying; after a year or so Ed Fladung asked him why he was buying retail - rather than buying the business outright! So Mel Feiner approached Alex Gage, and a deal was struck. Alex then closed his Pasadena shop, though he still held auctions (infrequently) consisting mostly of unsold lots from his previous sales.

Having acquired the business, Mel Feiner gave up his engineering job and moved the shop stock to Huntington Beach; he proceeded to deal mainly at stamp fairs or shows, also offering postal stationery new issues. He has issued price updates for nearly all of the sections of the catalogue, and also some scattered updates &/or

corrections to the original listings. When he bought the stock & catalogue, his intention was to issue new editions, but in the event he has not managed to do so.

Editor's footnote - If my information is correct, the last new editions came out in 1977 (sections "A", "B" & "C") and the last price update (section "I") in 1990. As for poor section "S", it has had no additions or revisions since it first appeared in 1971! It seems to me that new work on this catalogue is now urgently needed, so as to bring its 5- to 24-year-old listings & prices up to date for the collectors (& prospective collectors) of the mid-1990s.

A U C T I O N A C T I O N

Tony Chilton reports that our 1994 auction resulted in 63% of the lots being sold for a total sum of £2,321-50p. There were 16 vendors & 38 bidders. The collections were much sought after, but the more usual G.B. items did not sell too well.

For the September 1995 sale please send your lots to reach Tony Chilton by Easter Saturday 15th April at the latest (the sooner the better). Please enclose a list of your lots (typed or in block capitals) clearly describing each lot; if possible include H & G or other catalogue numbers, & any necessary comments on condition. State your reserves, if any, but please keep them reasonably low. Vendors will be charged 10% commission on hammer price of any lot sold.

Coincidence upon coincidence

Stationery does not often loom large in public stamp auctions, so how remarkable that it did so in no fewer than 4 sales last Autumn!

In Australia a Robin Linke sale on 16th October & a Christies Melbourne sale less than 3 weeks later both featured large p.s. sections. In the former I spotted at least 250 p.s. lots, the highlight being a remarkable assemblage of Western Australia. This group contained 158 lots estimated at A\$ 14,000 - all but **one** of these sold, & the realisations totalled A\$ 15,400. The Christies sale was less successful. There were just over 100 Australian p.s. lots. 52 of these were Western Australia estimated at A\$ 12,400 in all - but 24 of these were unsold, & realisations totalled only A\$6,995.

The second pair of sales featured N.Z. stationery. A sale held by Stanley Gibbons N.Z. on 12th November included 91 such lots "from the collection of Mr Ray Herbison the noted postal stationery expert". The estimates seemed rather high to me, & my request for a list of prices **fealised** brought no response! In contrast the realisation list from Phillips for their 10th November auction reached me the day after the sale. In this auction there were 227 N.Z. stationery lots from the gold medal collection of Wally Jackson. About two-thirds of these were sold, showing clearly the relative popularity of different types of p.s.: all 15 aero-gramme lots went, but only one of the 17 lots in the SPECIMEN section found a buyer.

A differnet Phillips sale (3rd Nov.) contained the

following:-

1840 1d Mulready envelope stereo A141 used on 6th May 1840, the first day of issue, from London to Montrose, bearing 1840 1d plate 1b HG large margins 3 sides, just touched along top, tied by red M.C., a superb exhibition item of great rarity.

It fetched £40,000 excluding tax & commission.

FROM THE **EDITOR'S**
DESK.

Here is something which surely indicates a growing popularity for postal stationery. Just a few months ago Stanley Gibbons launched a new album designed specifically for the p.s. collector. My guess is that it could well be 75 years since that famous firm last marketed an album with even a section for postal stationery! As I write, I have one of these S.G. Sterling Stationery Albums before me. It is large - just over 14 inches high & just over 12 inches deep - so check your shelf space! It has a 4-ring locking system; 25 pockets are supplied, but there seems room enough for adding several more if the collector wishes. I have submitted 2 small suggestions for improving what seems a fine album. One is that extra leaves (without pockets) should be available, so that collectors who wish can use 2 leaves per pocket, back to back - this makes use of BOTH faces of the pockets & so doubles capacity. My second idea is for self-adhesive labels worded "POSTAL STATIONERY" (in

gold) for placing, if wished, on the spine, where an indent or guideline would help in positioning it. For further details of this new album see the advert on our back cover.

From Ian McMahon I have had news of Canberra Philatelic Society's Postal Stationery Group. 6 members attended their August meeting, all giving displays. A further meeting was held in October, & a full programme is planned for 1985: 28th Feb. Latin America; 25th April Thematics; 27th June Caribbean; 29th August East & S.-E. Asia; 31st Oct. Officials. Also, I want to express my special thanks to Ian McMahon for sending me an example of the "Melbourne at Night" prepaid aircard which I queried on page 12 of "P.S." no. 2.

Articles recently noticed in the philatelic press are:-

Development of Victorian Postal Stationery (Colin Baker) - British Philatelic Bulletin, Sept. 1994 - mainly the Mulready issues.

How to Invent a Postcard (E.A. Jennings) - Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Oct. 1994 - the first postal cards (Austria & G.B.).

British Stamped-to-order Postal Stationery (R.B. Graham) - Linn's Stamp News, 26th Sept. 1994 - deals with the period 1855-1894.

Postal Stationery Matters (Peter van Gelder) - Gibbons Stamp Monthly, Sept. & Dec. 1994 - early U.S.A. commemoratives, Australian Fleet cards, p.s. catalogues, modern Lithuania.

AEROGRAMMATICS

Re. "A Date Listing of Aerogrammes"

The following amendments to Brian Harwood's article on pages 24 & 25 of "P.S." no. 3 have been submitted by Ted Grey:-

- 1932 - Siam A'O'R to read Siam AIR'O'GRAM
 - 1933 - Iraq to read Iraq Air Letter Card
 - 1947 - Insert 1947 Norway aerogram
 - 1951 - Insert 1951 Israel aerogramme
 - 1952 - Official U.P.U. sanction to use the term "aerograms".
-

Out of Africa

by Duff Malkin

The aerogramme in my illustration was postmarked from Kissy, Sierra Leone on 28th October, 1993. The then current 200 leone postage rate was paid by a 150 leone aerogramme plus 50 leones in postage stamps.

The postage indica on the aerogramme shows a Blue Salamis butterfly. Under the indica is the date "1990", possibly meaning the aerogramme was issued in that year. Sierra Leone issued a set of butterfly adhesive stamps of the same design type twice: once on 4th August, 1987, and again during 1990. The Blue Salamis design was featured once in each issue: on the 10 cent stamp in 1987 (Scott 859/ S.G. 1028), and the 50 leone stamp in 1990 (Scott 1332F).

The 20 leone & 30 leone adhesives are from a sub-

sequent issue of 21 definitives showing the heads of various birds and issued in September 1992. The 20 leone shows a Malachite Kingfisher, and the 30 leone a Fire-Crowned Bishop.

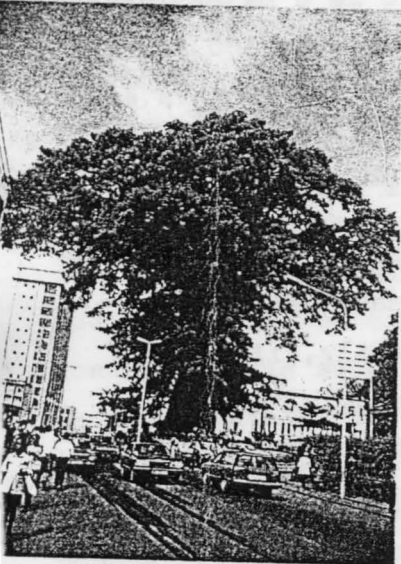
On the left of the aerogramme's front is a picture of Freetown's Cotton Tree. This tree is a major landmark of Sierra Leone's capital city. It is over 300 years old and, as can be seen, rather tall. Its use on this aerogramme is significant, though that significance might be lost on anyone who is not from Sierra Leone.

Trees are viewed by some Africans as having been invested with spirits and other "items". The cotton tree is no exception to this rule. Apparently, if one is equipped with the "four eyes", one is able to see witches' capes hanging by the hundreds in the branches. Possession of such a cape confers magical powers; but one cannot get rid of it, and if one shows it to someone else (invisible though it is), it will kill the person showing it. The main significance of the tree, however, is in the historical fact that slaves were sold under the trees' branches. So it is a living reminder of humiliation and the wrong that was done to Africa by slave trading.

Editor's note - With the benefit of the 1995 "Katalog der Aerogramme von Afrika", I can give 1993 as the issue date of this aerogramme, a very similar but 50 leone item having come out in 1991.

For ILLUSTRATION see next page.

By air mail
Par avion



FREETOWN COTTON TREE



MR. FRANK VON HAUSEN
102 - 340 CORDOVA STREET
VAN COUVER, B.C.
CANADA V6B 1E8

COMING NEXT TIME

Among the contents of issue no. 6 of "P.S." (October) it is hoped to include:-

Previously Unrecorded G.B. S.T.O. Postal Cards (Alan Huggins)

Eye-witness Report on Finlandia 95 (Alan Huggins)

Defining Postal Stationery (John Rouse)

G.B. Additions & Revisions (Colin Baker)

G.B. Telegraph Form with Perfin (reprint from Perfin Society Bulletin)

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Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____
Postcode: _____

Tel No: _____ P6396