



# THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 18, No. 2  
(Serial number 54)

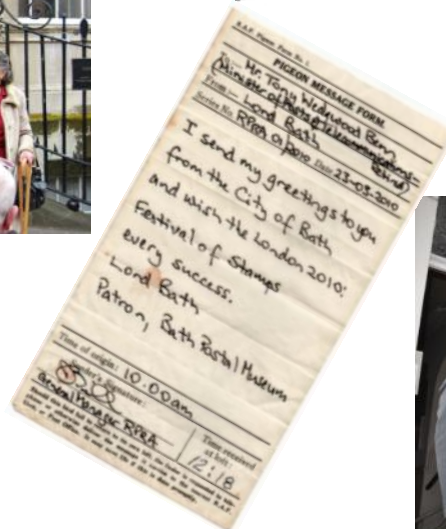
May 2010



(Photo: Bath Postal Museum)



FROM BATH  
TO  
LONDON



(Photo: Michael Pitt-Payne)

**Lord Bath Sends off a Carrier Pigeon with his Message to Mr Tony Benn.  
See p 19**

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## The Management Committee

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

### OFFICERS:-

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

## SOCIETY CALENDAR 2010

### Saturday 12th June 2010

At **Swinpex**, St Joseph's Lower School, Octal Way, Swindon SN3 2LR,

Members are invited to display up to 30 sheets from their collection and to give a short explanation of about 10 minutes maximum. There will be plenty of dealers at this event, (over 40) so there will be ample opportunity to add to your collection, and there is an excellent catering facility within the fair.

Swinpex will be open from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm with ample free parking.

### Saturday October 30th 2010

At the meeting room in the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London. AGM, Auction & Tony Chilton Competition.

Full details will be included in a later issue of the Journal.

## Sunday 9th May - London 2010

### at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH.

We will be having a meeting on the Sunday morning at this International Exhibition and we have booked a room within the Design Centre. The room will be available from 10.00am with the meeting starting at 10.30am. We have to finish by 1.45pm when it will be used by another society. We will have two displays.

#### Postal Stationery of Chile: Ross A Towle

**10.30am** Ross Towle, a member coming over from the United States of America, will give a display of the Postal Stationery of Chile. The presentation will include topics that cannot be covered in an exhibit, such as why does the first novelist of Chile play such an important role in Chilean postal stationery. It will also include work by De La Rue, the American Bank Note Co., Macdonald, and Mackenzie issues and focus on postal cards, envelopes, and parcel cards. If your collection contains material from the American Bank Note Co. you will find the ABNC portion of the presentation extremely useful. There will be a 'comfort' break at about 11.45am

#### The Introduction of Embossed Postal Stationery: Michael Lockton

**12.00 noon** Michael Lockton will give a presentation on the work of Wyon and Whiting, followed by the use of the Queen Victoria Penny Pinks during the Maltese Cross period. Michael has some wonderful material and this will be one of those very occasional opportunities to see some wonderful and rare material.

**PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THESE SPEAKERS AND SEE TWO FANTASTIC DISPLAYS**

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - May 2010

At long last the better weather seems to have arrived and it is that time of year when thoughts begin to focus on jobs in the garden etc.. I hope that you will attend the Societies meeting at the Business Design Centre on the morning of Sunday 9th May when we will no doubt be treated to two excellent displays. My offering this month is a reply card which was not used as a reply card. Issued in

1902 and finally used by Bridger & Kay Ltd. in 1929 to W.T. Wilson asking for a stock book to be returned the card was split and the reply half used as an ordinary card. It is interesting to note that nearly all the reply halves of reply cards in my collection are between stamp dealers!! See you all at the BDC.



Edward Caesley

## SECRETARY'S NOTES - MAY 2010

### LONDON 2010

By the time you receive your copy of the Journal, London 2010: International Stamp Exhibition will either be upon us, or may even be a thing of the past, depending on where you live and the efficiency of the Post Office in your area. But of course this year the International Exhibition in London is only a part of a nationwide celebration of stamps and stamp collecting called the London 2010: Festival of Stamps, designed to encourage more people to take up the hobby. I don't need to remind members that this is really important, if only to ensure we have a market for our collections when we decide to sell - or the executors of our estates decide for us.

Even though the International Exhibition will close its doors on 15th May, events will continue to take place around the UK and there's a list of all of them over the page. It has taken a lot of work not just to organise the International Exhibition and the Festival of Stamps events, but to promote them as well. Several PSS members were

involved in this, which really started on 19th February this year when the whole thing was launched from the Royal Philatelic Society's building in London, where we have our twice-yearly meetings.

PSS members present at the launch included **Brian Trotter**, who is the Chairman of the International Exhibition and **Alan Huggins**, Chairman of the Festival Advisory Board. They have worked very hard for a long time to bring the Festival of Stamps to fruition and it must have been a relief to both of them to see it launched so successfully. Your secretary **Colin Baker** was also there as a representative of the Bath Postal Museum, which has its own exhibition and has also played its part in launching the Festival. Finally, another PSS member, **Michael Pitt-Payne**, had his camera at the ready and as the official photographer for the London 2010 events, took some marvellous photos of the launch party at the Royal, as you can see from those illustrated over the page.



**Our secretary, Colin Baker, chatting to Brian Trotter about the London 2010: Festival of Stamps**



**Some of the people behind London 2010 posing on the staircase in the Royal Philatelic Society's building.**

**Festival of Stamps events still in progress**

**Aberdeen Maritime Museum** with the Aberdeen Philatelic Society, at Shiprow, Aberdeen AB11 5BY, until 14 November 2010

A display of maritime philately and further activities to mark the centenary of the Aberdeen Philatelic Society.

**Bath Postal Museum**, 27 Northgate Street, Bath BA1 1AJ, until 31 December 2010

An exhibition of King George V depicting the events that occurred during his reign. Items on display are of both a philatelic and general nature and will illustrate the changes to peoples' lives and their standard of living

**Bletchley Park**, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton

Keynes, MK3 6EB, until 30 August 2010  
Experience the Post Office at War and find out more about the fascinating world of stamps.

**British Library Philatelic Collections**, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, until 31 December 2010  
An exhibition of philatelic rarities.

**British Museum, Gallery 69a**, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, until February 2011  
Impressions of Africa: Money, medals and stamps

**Colne Valley Postal History Museum**, The Laurels, 109 Head Street, Halstead, Essex CO9 2AZ, Special Openings: 29 May, 10 July, 11/12 Sept 2010  
Display on the development of the Postal Service in the reign of King George V.

**Museum of London Docklands**, No 1 Warehouse, West Indian Quay, London E14 4AL, until 30 June 2010  
Commemorative stamps from around the world showing the abolition of slavery

**The British Postal Museum & Archive, The Museum Store**, Debden, Essex  
Tours of the Archive and Museum Store. Check with them for dates when the tours will take place.

**The British Postal Museum & Archive, BPMA, Freeling House** Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL  
Treasures from the Archive featuring unique pieces from their collections, including a sheet of penny black stamps and the original die.

**The British Postal Museum & Archive and the Royal Philatelic Collection**, Guildhall Art Gallery, Guildhall Yard, London EC2V 5AE, until 25 July 2010  
Empire Mail: George V and the GPO

**World Rugby Museum**, Twickenham Stadium, Rugby Road, Twickenham TW1 1DZ, until 31 October 2010  
Display of rugby stamps and postal history.

**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

From all the emails I receive over the year I know that there are many of our members who are connected to the web and who have email addresses. So this is a plea to you all to make sure the society has your email address. It helps the society to cut down on its postage costs if messages can be sent by email, rather than by post, particularly where correspondence has to cross country borders, or even continents. If the committee members did not use email their postage costs would rise significantly.

The society's constitution prohibits private information on its members from being passed to other PSS members or to an outside organisation. Personal information can only be used to communicate with members. In addition we do not send out 'round robin' emails to members so if we have your email address you won't be inundated with unwanted messages. However, we would use email to remind members they need to pay subs, or if there was an important last minute change to the programme.

So please let me know if you are on the internet. Simply send me an email (pss.secretary@virgin.net) and I will pick up your address from that.

### NEW MEMBERS

We have more postal stationery collectors who have decided to join our society and we are pleased to welcome the following.

**Mr Mark Samwell** from Bath who collects Great Britain and overprints on British postal stationery.

**Mr David Wilson** from Bedfordshire who collects all Great Britain halfpenny values.

**Mr Brian Jones** from London who collects Europe

**Mr John Foulger** from London who collects Great Britain and Colonies in the Victorian period and the United States of America

We also welcome **Mr Michael Briggs** and **Richard Harrison**.

I hope that all these new members will enjoy their membership with us and gain knowledge from the society's activities. Perhaps they can also be persuaded to share what they have learnt by writing for this Journal.

### FREE POSTCARD FAIR

The Bloomsbury Postcard and Collectors Festival being held on Sunday 16th May at The Royal National Hotel, Galleon Suite, Bedford Way, London, WC1, will specially include Postal History, Stamps and related items. The fair is open from 10am to 4.30pm and admission is normally £1.50. But if you mention that you are a member of the Postal Stationery Society you can get in for free. You can get more details from Dave Smith, tel. 020 8202 9080

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## SINGLE SHEET COMPETITION MARCH 2010 - WINNING ENTRY

WINNING ENTRY WAS SUBMITTED BY GEORGE KING

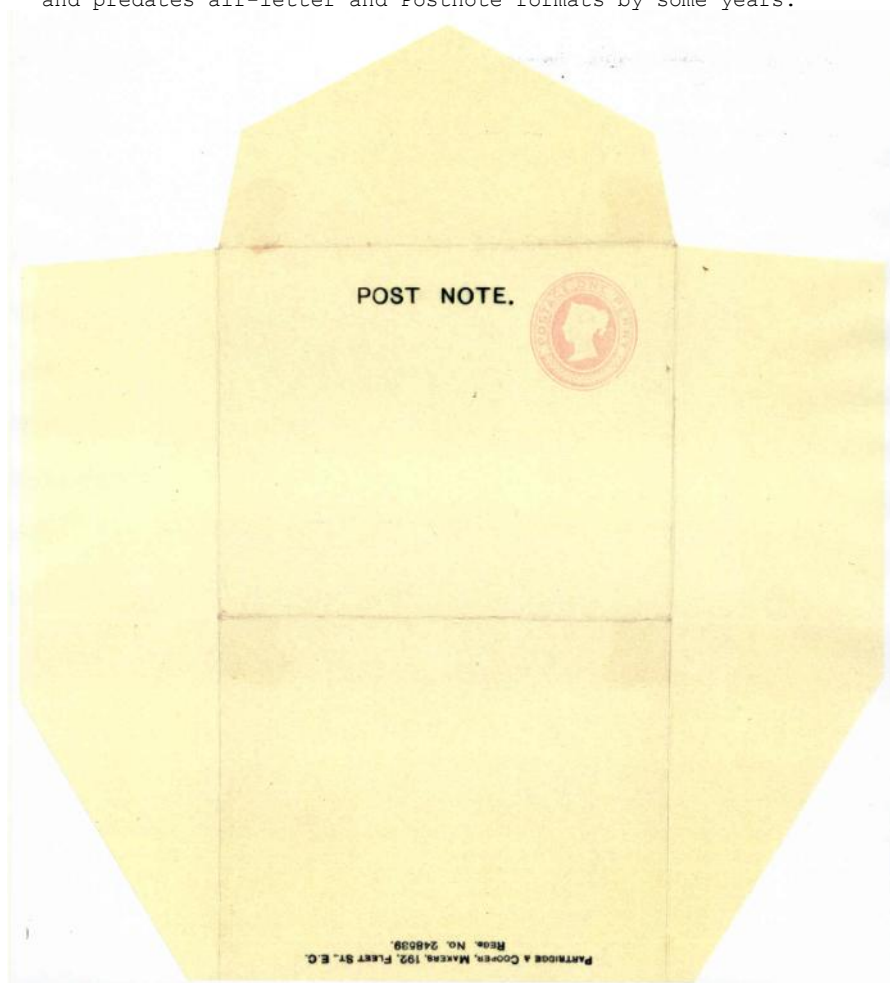
### A Victorian Postnote!

A sort of compromise between an envelope, and a letter sheet, this STO Victorian construction is rare. (Whatever that means). Or unusual.

The sheet is 211x225 mm and folds to 107x88 to seal and look like an envelope, and has a pre-gummed flap.

Thick paper without watermark

Undated Solid Bunch, and thus post 1883, this STO ES11 Letter sheet is prefolded to make up and look like an envelope, and predates air-letter and Postnote formats by some years.



## NATAL PRIVATE POSTAL CARDS

Keith Hanman

The information for this article is taken from the book **The Postal Stationery of Natal** by **John Dickson and Keith Hanman** and published by the Natal & Zululand Study Circle in 2001. Latterly the N&ZSC has been renamed the Cape & Natal Study Circle. The illustrations are from the owners own collection.

The Victorian postal cards of Natal were developed by De La Rue using the common colonial keyplate design with the letters 'NATAL' and the duty of the issue added. The first delivery of the DLR ½d card was made on 31st December 1884 when 97,920 cards were supplied. These were announced for sale in Natal on 21st February 1885. This issue was reprinted frequently during Queen Victoria's remaining years and up to the end of 1901 1,622,148 had been printed.

An understanding of the restrictions placed upon the public in relation to supplying and sending privately printed postal cards helps towards an understanding of the practices approved in connexion with the official use of postal cards in Natal. For a full resume see Chapter 3 of the above book. As long ago as 1889 it had been pointed out that cards, other than those officially issued by the Post Office were chargeable at letter rates. A Government Notice of 8th March 1893 confirmed that '*only such cards as are issued by the Post Office will be regarded as post cards*', all other cards being treated as letters. The **Natal Almanac** of 1898, published towards the end of 1897, mentioned that private cards had been authorised by the Governments in some UPU countries - but gave no hint that such cards were to be allowed to be posted in Natal.

The first stirrings locally occur towards the end on 1897 when various individuals made requests through the PMG that private cards should be allowed. Postmaster General

Chadwick on 4th December 1897 wrote to the Colonial Secretary '*...There is much objection to the admission of private cards, which I should not favour, except to gain a revenue which is possibly offering, and which, it is likely, official cards will not bring*'. On 26th January 1898 Chadwick wrote to the people who had been agitating for private post cards, '*the Natal Government is not prepared at present to agree to the introduction of private post-cards*'. This discussion was deferred for six months that grew to 12 months without further reference to the subject until on 15th December 1898 Acting Postmaster General Coleman responded to a request from Under Secretary Bird:

1. It seems to me there are practically only two points for consideration (1) whether the Government will authorise the use of private post-cards and (2) whether engravings, or advertisements, may be printed on the face of such cards.

2. I think myself that the public should be allowed to use private cards ... but the card should be of similar size and substance to the official post-cards issued by the Department... .

3. and 4. Have been left out.

5. With regard to point two: I think we should adopt the international regulation permitting engraving or advertisements to appear on the face of any card. The illustrated card would, from a general point of view, no doubt, prove of service in bringing the attractions of the Colony to the notice of people in England and elsewhere...

There was much correspondence during 1898 between the PMG and the Colonial Secretary: one of the main conclusions was that in Point 10 in an amended regulation to cover 'Official and Private Post Cards' said that '*Private Cards prepaid at the rate of postage applying to official cards may be used as post cards*' (15th December 1898).

These proposals (and others not listed) may have been forced on the Postmaster-General by the introduction from 25th December 1898 of the 'Imperial Penny Post'. In his report for the year ending 31st December 1898, the PMG noted that '*...private post cards... can now be sent to oversea countries which have adopted the Imperial postage rate of one penny, because the letter rate and the post card rate are the same*'.

It should be noted here that Natal did not join the UPU until 1902; it was scheduled to join earlier but the Anglo-Boer War intervened.

From 1st January 1902 private post cards could be addressed world-wide at the rate applicable to official post cards. There were regulations concerning correspondence that was not allowed on the address side.

From October 1904 private illustrated post cards with a space reserved on the address side for correspondence were accepted for delivery within southern Africa. The use of the address side for correspondence was not allowed otherwise. Finally on 8th March 1906 private illustrated post cards as above were allowed to be sent to a number of countries, later revised at the end of 1906 to state that they would be accepted addressed to any country, it being left to the postal authority in the country of delivery on how to charge them.

Although not private, but official, the One Penny Illustrated postcard of 1900 should be mentioned. It was the brainchild of Prime Minister Sir Albert Hine who recommended that with the war interest illustrated postal cards would be very popular. A set of five sepia on buff cards was prepared by DLR. This scheme was repeated in 1903 for Edward VII. Only 96,816 were again prepared by DLR as the market for illustrated postal cards, was, at that time, dominated by privately produced picture post cards.

This is a fascinating area of study and in this short article full justice cannot really be done to a fairly complicated section of Natal postal stationery.

**Dundee Coal Company, Ltd.**

The Output on.....1.....  
was as under :-

	SCREENED.		NUTS.		DROSS.	
	T	C	T	C	T	C
N.G. Railways						
Harbour						
Point Dept.						
Goodricke						
P.M.B. Agency						
Foss & Beardall						
Sales at Mine						
<b>TOTAL</b>						

Estimated Total Output.....  
" Point Output.....

Ladysmith, ..... 188

Dear Sir,

We beg to acknowledge with thanks receipt of your advices of....., which shall have our best attention. Awaiting further favors.

**KENT & CO.** Yours faithfully,  
FORWARDING AGENTS.

(a) These 1884 issue 1/2d unused cards were used by Agents/ Companies that privately overprinted the reverse for their own usage. Additional postage then had to be affixed to comply with Post Office Regulations

POST CARD  
NATAL  
THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

**THE STANDARD BANK OF SOUTH AFRICA, LIMITED,**  
Willowmore  
Cape Colony

Standard Bank of South Africa, Limited.  
DURBAN, 31 July 1888

Manager Willowmore Branch.

Dear Sir,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 21<sup>st</sup> inst with enclosure for file.

I confirm my letter of 15<sup>th</sup> inst.

Yours faithfully,  
Comp<sup>g</sup> J. H. ... Manager.

(b) 1d letter rate card of 1888 used from Durban

POST CARD  
NATAL  
THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

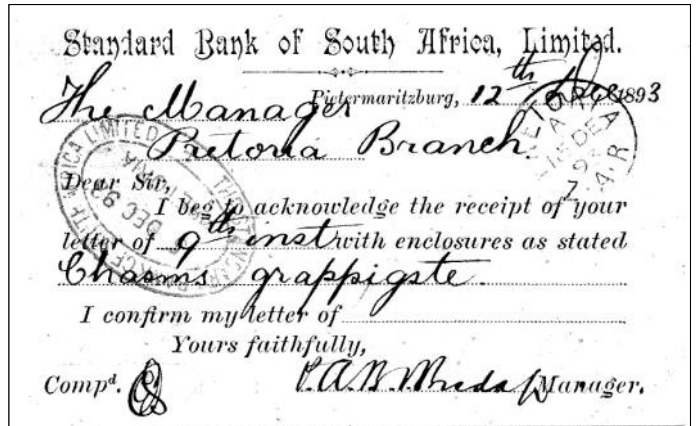
Miss L Bergstedt  
Wienburg

**B. SPARKS.**  
Current Rates of Transport from Ladysmith

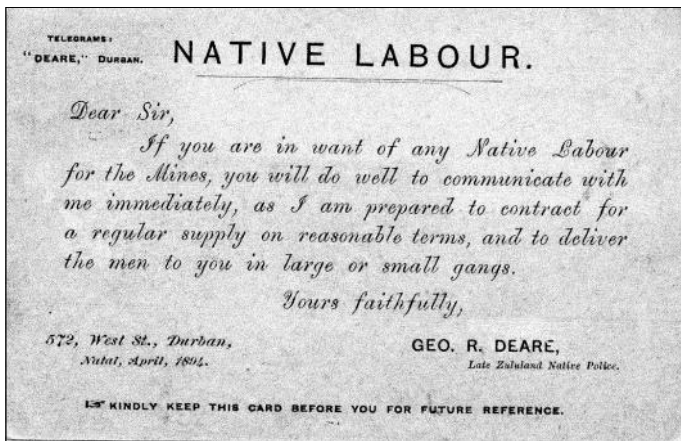
TO	Rate
Barberton ...	1/-
Bethlehem ...	12/- 13/-
Bloemfontein ...	14/- 15/-
Coldstream ...	14/- 15/-
Clerksdorp ...	10/-
Cronstadt ...	14/- 15/-
Derby ...	7/-
Dundee ...	2/-
Emelo ...	7/6
Ficksburg ...	7/6
Frankfort ...	7/6
Harlemouth ...	3/6
Heidelberg ...	7/6
Hoedsig ...	7/6
Koosfontein ...	7/6
Matieland ...	7/6
Lindley ...	6/6
Ladybrand ...	15/-
Lydenburg ...	15/-
Lake Chrissie ...	15/-
Wakkerstroom ...	7/6
Winnburg ...	7/6
Zuring Krantz ...	7/6

Central Office : LADYSMITH, NATAL.  
Wagons *Seven*  
Date *5-5-89*

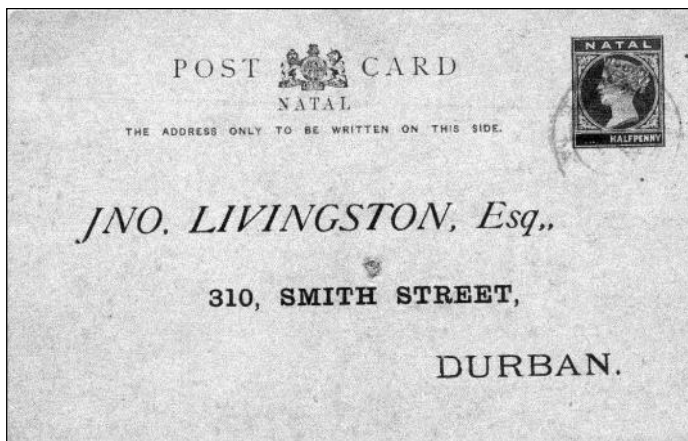
(c) 1d letter rate from Ladysmith in 1889



(d) 1d letter rate from GPO Natal in 1893



(e) Two unused examples of the 1894 'blocked' 1½d card giving a value of ½d. Also used card from Durban



DURBAN NATAL

Dundee (Natal) Coal Coy., LIMITED.

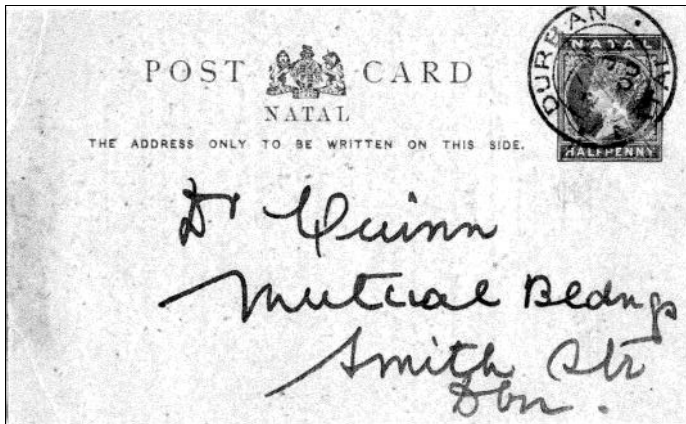
The Output on 22/3 1894 was as under :-

	SCREENED		NETS		DRESS	
	T.	C.	T.	C.	T.	C.
N. G. Railways	99	5	.	.	.	.
D'rb'n Agency, Point	105	8	61	6	.	.
" " General	35	.	.	.	.	.
P. M. B. Agency	.	.	.	.	.	.
Sales at Mine	6	14	.	.	.	.
TOTAL	246	10	61	6	.	.

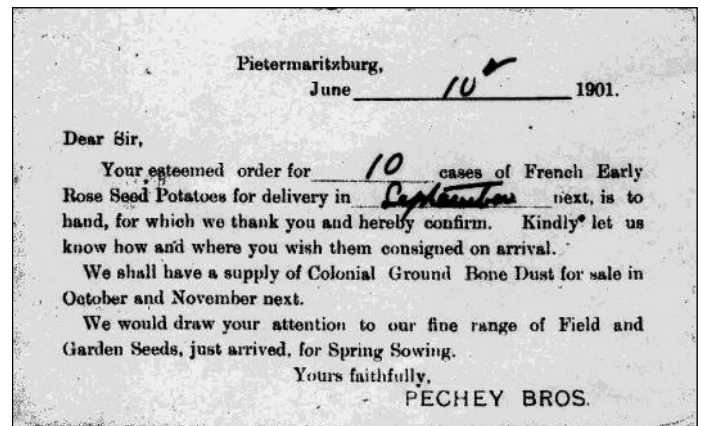
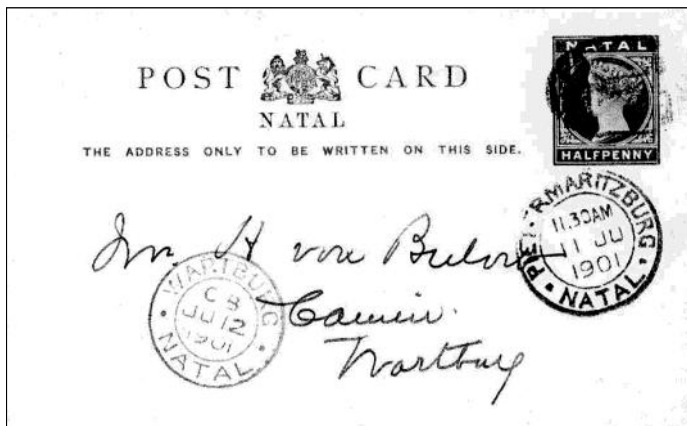
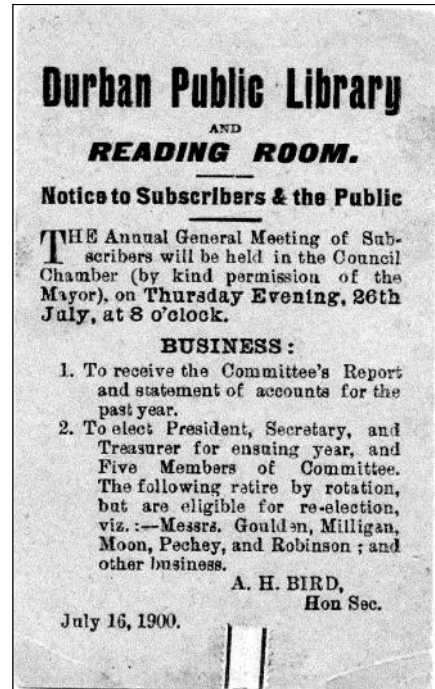
Estimated Output: 185 tons

W. ROWAN, Manager.

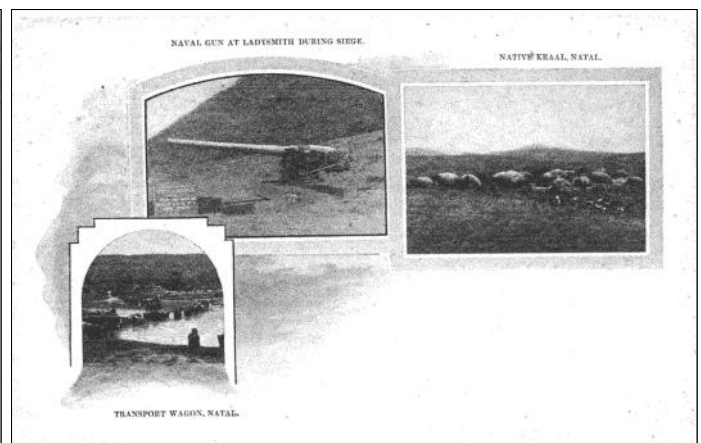
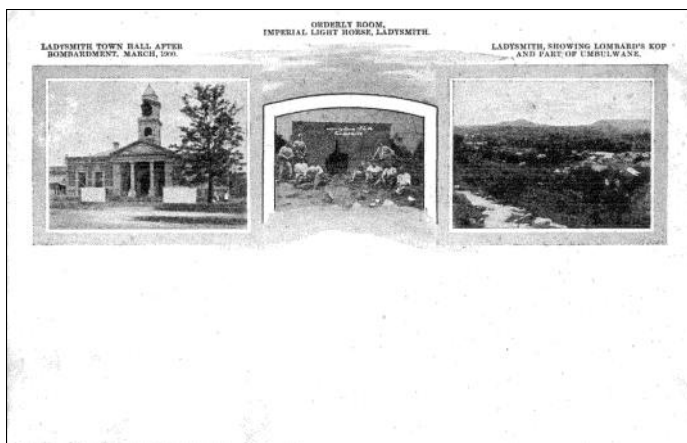




(f) Durban Public library at the 1/2d rate in 1900

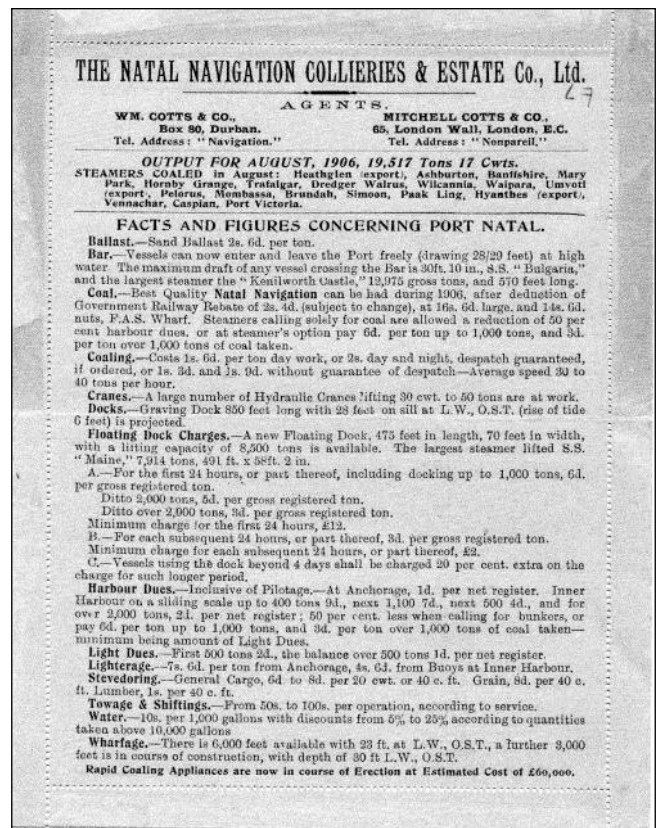
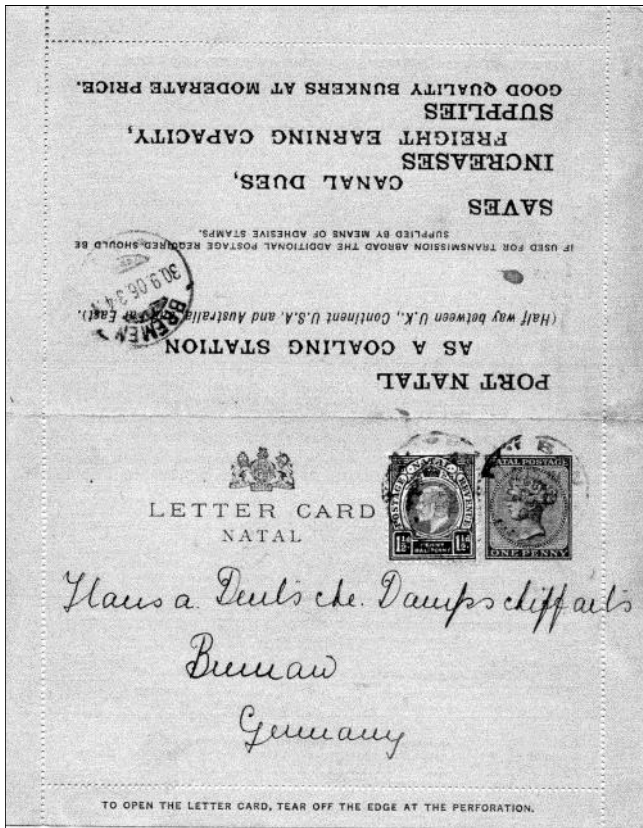


(g) An advertisement for potatoes at the 1/2d rate in 1901

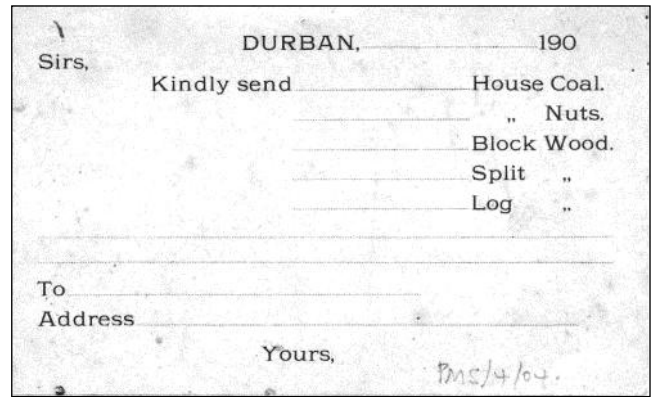
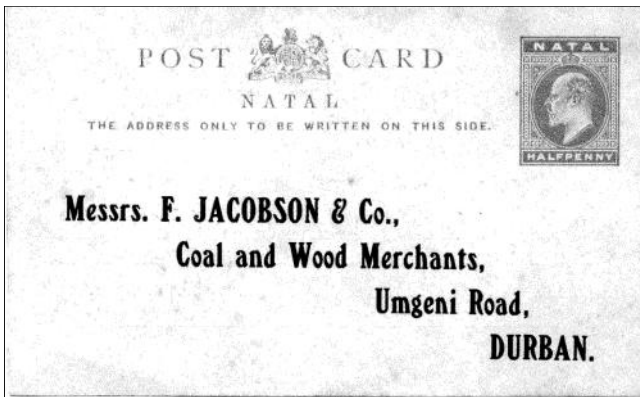


(h) Two examples of the official illustrated postal card 1900 at the 1d rate

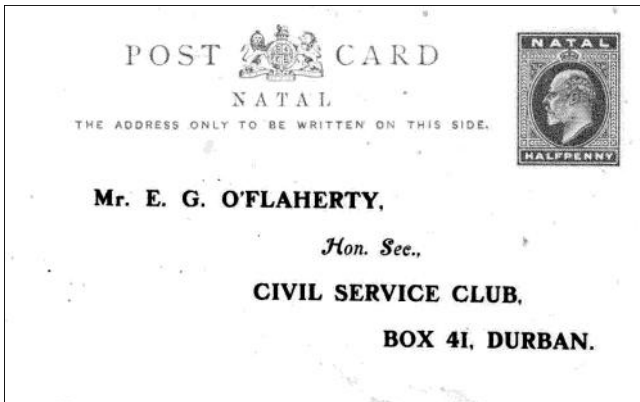




(k) A mixed franking Letter Card of 1906



(l) and (m) Two Edward VII 1/2d cards. These are scarcer than the Victoria equivalent



## GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

### NEW ISSUES

#### PostPaks - Post Office issues

A new series of PostPaks was released in February 2010.



Supposedly to test demand they were only supplied in small quantities to selected Post Offices for sale during a limited period to the end of March. Printed in red and deep reddish brown on white plastic they have various size 1st class NVI stamps and inscriptions as follows:-

2010 1st class deep reddish brown on white NVI stamp SD1 28/38/47mm in diameter with service indicator and 'PAID UP TO 250g/500g/1 Kg'; printed in red and reddish brown on white plastic self seal envelopes with 'PostPak' at top left.

**EPM9** size C5, 28mm NVI with '250g' and with 'LARGE LETTER' at bottom right

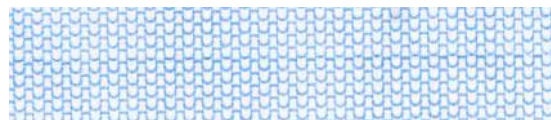
**EPM10** size C4, 38mm NVI with '500g' and with 'PACKET' at bottom right

**EPM11** size C3, 47mm NVI with '1 Kg' and with 'PACKET' at bottom right

### NEW ITEMS REPORTED

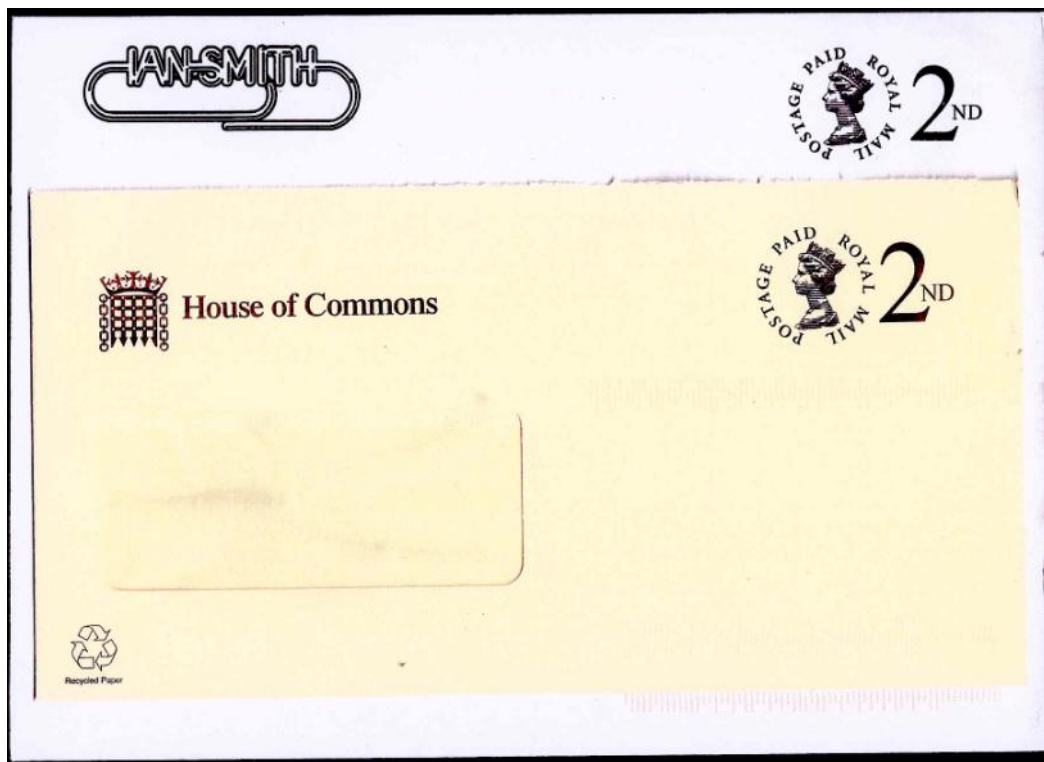
#### Envelopes - Post Office issues

**Arthur Roberts** has sent in an amendment to the description of item **EPP129C** in his earlier lists. This C4 envelope was described as having an opaque 'honeycomb' print inside and was included within the listing of **EP194** in Collect British Postal Stationery. In fact it has now been realised that it has a blue 'arched pattern' (see illustration) which has only previously been recorded in grey on later issues (**EP204**). This item will now be listed as **EP194c**.



**Envelopes - Stamped to Order issues**

Two examples of 2nd class stamped to order envelopes with NVI with 'POSTAGE PAID ROYAL MAIL' can now be recorded



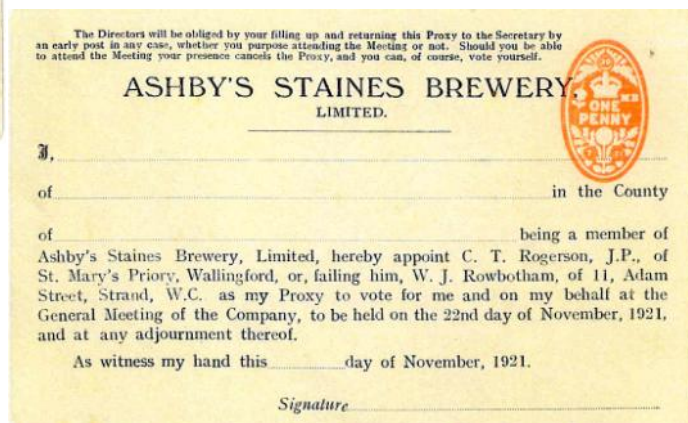
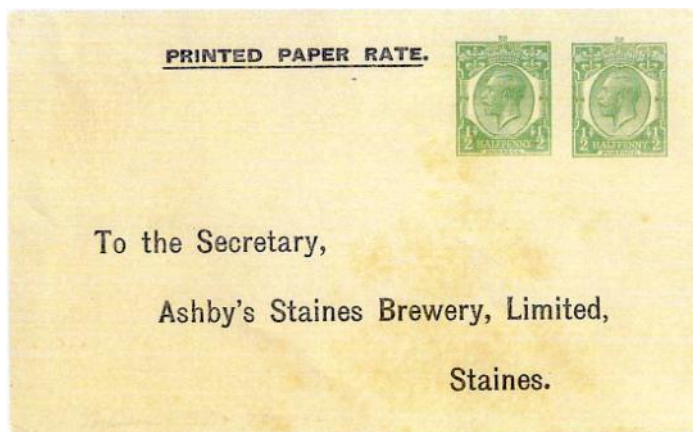
2009-10 2nd class NVI stamp E12 with and without envelope symbol on flap

- ES195a black stamp 25mm (C) 18.25mm envelope symbol
- ES195b black stamp 26mm (C) without envelope symbol\*

\* This a House of Commons DLW envelope

**Postcards - Stamped to Order issues**

Tony Hitchcock reports an example of the King George V ½d + ½d postcard (CS65) with a proxy voting form on reverse.



**David Wilson** reports a previously unrecorded uprating of the 2½d Post Office postcard **CP119** with an additional 2½d STO Machin stamp with coarser screen (see illustration). This will be listed as **CSP283A**



**Air Mail Letter Sheets - Post Office issues**

**Arthur Roberts** reports a previously unrecorded printing of **AP53** - white paper with star - MSE 164/09 (13 June).

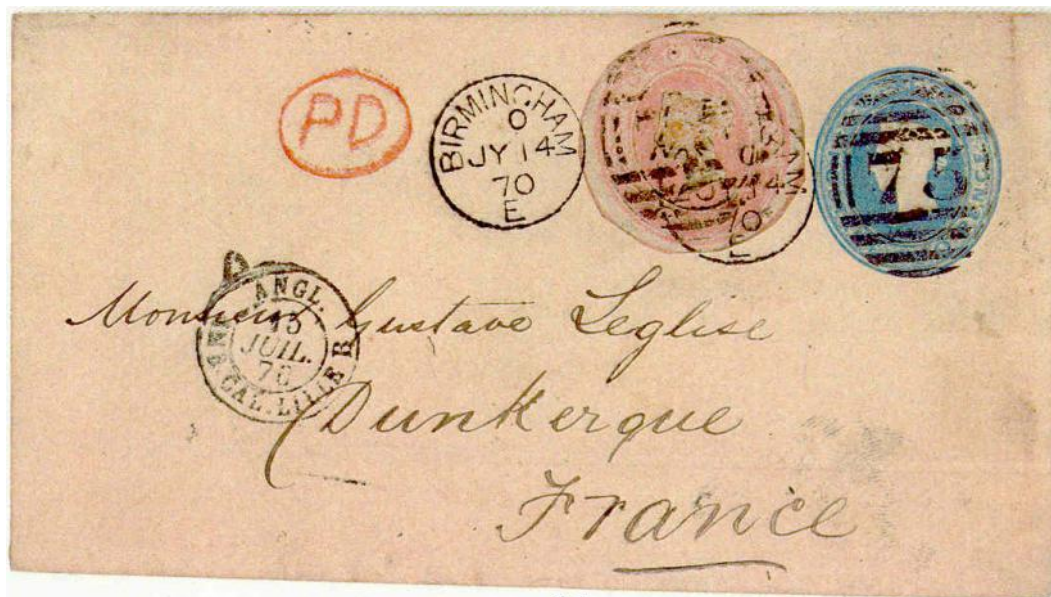
**UNUSUAL EARLY USAGES OF STAMPED TO ORDER EMBOSSED DIES AS ADHESIVES**

Alan Huggins



Whilst later philatelic concoctions using postal stationery embossed dies as adhesive stamps are not uncommon and are of very limited philatelic or postal historical significance, early usages to overseas destinations are much more unusual.

The first of those illustrated is a 4d vermilion embossed STO die dated 12.10.69 used from London to France on 30 November 1869 is a completely commercial usage paying the correct 4d rate for ¼ oz letter.



The second item illustrated is a 2d blue STO embossed envelope used on 14 July 1870 with a cut out 1d pink embossed die dated 28.3.65 added to make up the reduced (from 1 July 1870) 3d rate to France. This item is highly likely to be philatelic since there are traces of an advertising ring around the 1 d die. The date of stamping enables this to be identified as that of Young & Stockall, Liverpool (courtesy **Malcolm Richardson**).

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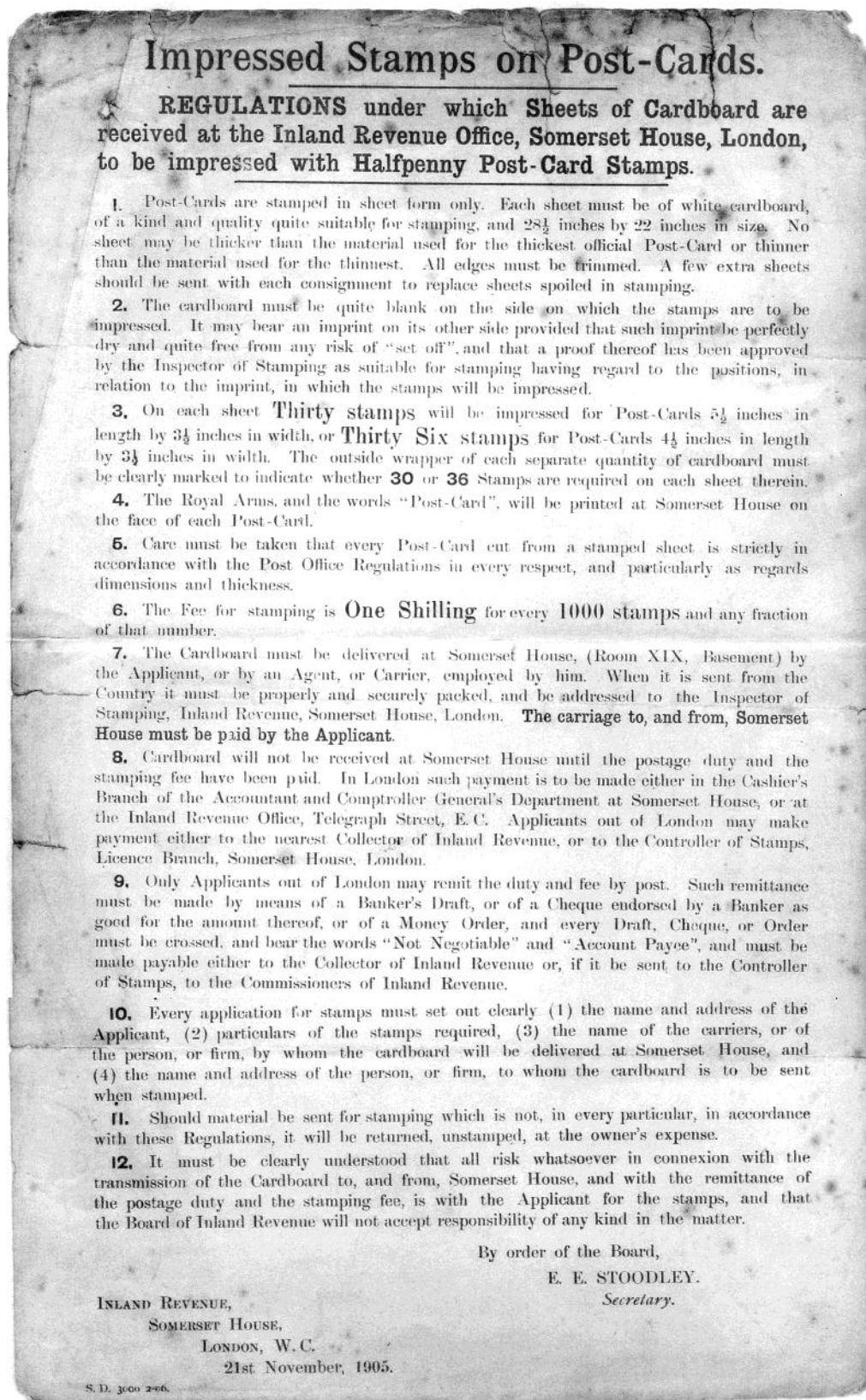
## London 2010 - Exhibits in the Postal Stationery Class on display from May 8-11

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Frames 2001-2005 Great Britain Queen Victoria Stamped-to-Order Envelopes            | Frames 2133-2140 First Issue of Postcards of the World                            |
| Frames 2006-2013 Great Britain Mulready Envelope & Letter Sheet Stationery          | Frames 2141-2145 Belgium King Leopold II Postal Stationery                        |
| Frames 2014-2021 Leeward Islands Postal Stationery                                  | Frames 2146-2150 Italy Postal Stationery  |
| Frames 2022-2026 Sweden Postal Stationery 1900-1930                                 | Frames 2151-2158 Netherlands East Indies King Willem III Postal Cards & Envelopes |
| Frames 2027-2034 Gold Coast Postal Stationery                                       | Frames 2159-2166 Czechoslovakia Double Postcards, 1918-1939                       |
| Frames 2035-2042 Egyptian Postal Stationery   | Frames 2167-2174 Russia Stamped Envelopes 1848-1863                               |
| Frames 2043-2050 Gibraltar Postal Stationery, until 1938                            | Frames 2175-2182 Serbia Postal Stationery 1873-1916                               |
| Frames 2051-2055 Nigeria Postal Stationery  | Frames 2183-2190 Mexican Express Companies Postal Stationery                      |
| Frames 2056-2063 Cyprus Postal Stationery, 1878-1901                                | Frames 2191-2198 USA Postal Cards 1873-1913                                       |
| Frames 2064-2071 British India Postal Stationery                                    | Frames 2199-2206 Hawaii Postal Cards & Envelopes                                  |
| Frames 2072-2079 British India Postal Stationery Overprinted for Pakistan 1947-1949 | Frames 2207-2211 Argentina Rivadavia-series Postal Stationery                     |
| Frames 2080-2087 Queensland Postal Stationery                                       | Frames 2212-2219 Brazil Postal Stationery, 19th Century                           |
| Frames 2088-2095 New South Wales Postal Stationery                                  | Frames 2220-2227 Brazil Postal Cards, 1880-1920                                   |
| Frames 2096-2103 Western Australia Postal Stationery                                | Frames 2228-2235 Japan Foreign Mail Postcards                                     |
| Frames 2104-2111 Spain Postal Stationery to Private and Official Order              | Frames 2236-2240 Japan Early International Postal Cards                           |
| Frames 2112-2119 Spain Official Postal Cards, 1873-1938                             | Frames 2241-2245 Korea Postal Cards 1900-1905                                     |
| Frames 2120-2124 Finland Postal Stationery Envelopes, 1845-1888                     | Frames 2246-2250 China Imperial Postal Stationery                                 |
| Frames 2125-2132 Austria Postcards in the Inflation Era, 1918-1925                  |   |
-

**REGULATIONS FOR IMPRESSING STAMPS ON POST CARDS, 1905**

Tony Hitchcock

The schedule, illustrated below, of 12 regulations required by the Inland Revenue for stamped-to-order postcards in 1905 is of considerable interest. Probably this sheet was on the notice board at Somerset house, London, and would appear to have had a print of 3,000 in February, 1906.





# SOUTH AFRICAN PICTORIAL AEROGRAMME

Tony Hitchcock

In January 1969 two pictorial aerogrammes were issued, one of which depicted the Union Buildings Pretoria designed by Herbert Baker who later designed the Government Buildings in Delhi India.

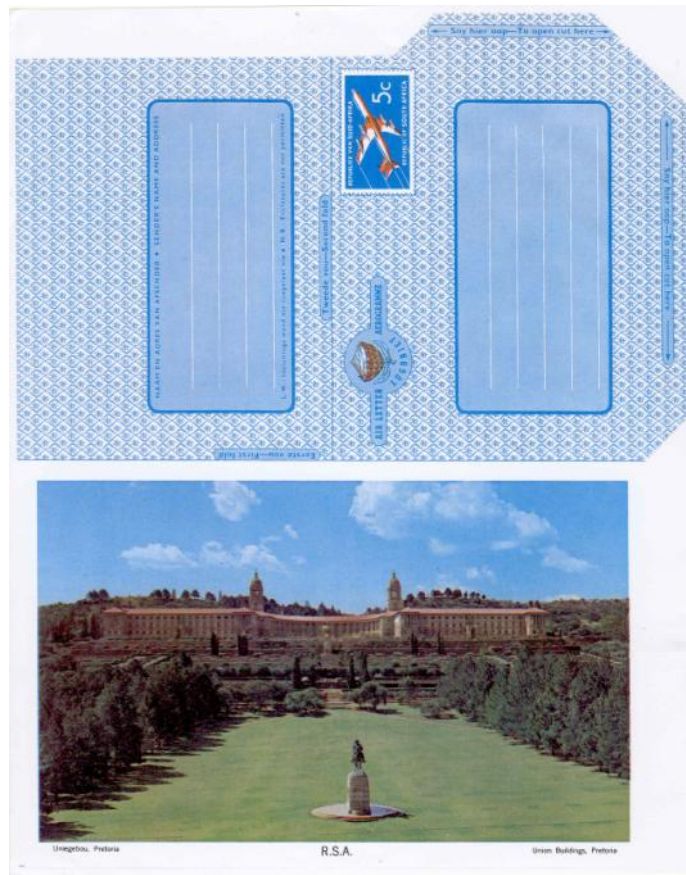
The issued sheet was printed on white paper, which had an overlay of small springbok heads (the antelope).

An illustration of the Union Buildings was struck on the existing 5c form (probably during 1968) which was printed on blue aerogramme paper.

This was not satisfactory because it made the Union Buildings very dull. The equestrian statue did not appear centrally on the lawn in the foreground.



Trial on uncut blue aerogramme paper.



Issued form - revised with centrally placed statue and cloud detail

## Are you making the most of your membership of the Society?

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## MARCH MEETING REPORT

Nineteen members attended the society's meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society's headquarters in London on 20th March. They were welcomed by the chairman, Edward Caesley, who said it was nice to see so many faces, new and old, attending the society's meetings.

Apologies were given by Peter O'Keeffe, Keith Hanman, Neil Sargent and Malcolm Lacey. Lars Engelbrecht sent his regards and said he looked forward to seeing everyone again at the May meeting at London 2010.

The chairman told the meeting he had been informed that John Norton, who regularly attended the London meetings, had passed away in December. Members stood for a moment's silence in memory.

The minutes of the meeting in October were accepted, lunch announcements made, and members were reminded of the meetings still to come this year. Alan Huggins told members of the Festival of Stamps that was taking place this year, with events being held up and down the country. (See elsewhere in the Journal for details of these.)

### The Display

The morning was then given over to **Brian Trotter** to entertain us with his eight frame display of the King's Head Postal Stationery of South Africa, which achieved a large gold at an FIP international. Brian explained that the first postal stationery to be issued for the Union of South Africa was in 1913, three years after King George V came to the throne. His display started with postcards first issued in 1913 and included both ½d and 1d postcards for inland and overseas destinations. Brian told us that the stamps used for postal stationery did not include the word postage, adding that although adhesive stamps included the words 'Postage and Revenue', postal stationery stamps could only be used for postage and thus had no wording included in their design. Brian carried on by showing die proofs of the stationery stamps and mock ups of the cards, annotated with comments on the correct translation from English to Dutch of the various instructions.



**Brian Trotter explaining the history behind the King's Head stationery**



### Members viewing the morning's display

Brian gave similar treatment to lettercards and newspaper wrappers, both types of stationery being complemented by proofs, essays and used examples. He completed his display with registration envelopes, and showed some rare variations such as odd printings and wholly or partial albino impressions.

**Mike Smith** gave the vote of thanks, saying it had been a wonderful display that told the whole development of the postal stationery of this period. The display had been packed with some beautiful items and it had been a privilege to see it.

### The One Sheet Competition

There were 17 entries for the society's One Sheet Competition which was judged by the members present, each selecting their first three entries. Some quick mathematics by the secretary allowed the chairman to announce that the winner for the second year running was **George King** with his entry "A Victorian Postnote" (illustrated on p5). Second came **Simon Burke** with his "Oil Rivers ½d Postcard" and third **Michael Lockton** "Admiralty Official Letter Sheet".



**George King receiving the One Sheet Competition Cup from the Chairman Edward Caesley**

### Members Displays

After an excellent lunch in the usual nearby pub, it was the turn of members to entertain each other. Displays were given as follows.

**Michael Lockton** showed Penny Pink envelopes used in the Boer War, with plenty of field postmarks and censor marks.

**George King** showed a large range of King George V STO postcards from ½d to 2½d, including those with additional revenue stamps for proxy voting, phantom postcards, and those with two impressed stamps.

**Alan Huggins** gave a display of postcards sold below their face value by private firms, (The Farthing Letter Card Co, The Anglo-Colonial Letter Company and William Owen) the loss being compensated for by advertising revenue. Many of the cards were used to enter a competition run by the magazine Tit Bits. Alan then went on to show early QV penny pink envelopes, discussing the seals that were applied to the flaps.

**Simon Burke** collects the 1¼d foreign postcards and gave a display of these used to different destinations and with

additional stamps.

**Edward Caesley** showed early GB registration envelopes including albino and double impressions.

**Colin Baker** displayed GB stationery that had been overprinted for use in foreign countries, either with another country's name or with a new value.

**Jon Higgins** collects the postal stationery of North Borneo which only issued a few items. But he still managed to give an excellent display with trials, proofs, etc.

**Peter Saunders** completed the displays with GB decimal stationery, including postcards, air letters, registration envelopes, wrappers, etc.

The chairman rounded off the day by saying "all good things must come to an end". He added that it had been a very interesting meeting with a variety of lovely items. He thanked everyone for coming, especially those who had shown material. He said he looked forward to seeing everyone again at a future PSS meeting.

**Colin Baker**

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## LONDON 2010 - LORD BATH'S PIGEON POST

### Lord Bath, Mr Tony Benn and the Bath Postal Museum help to launch the London 2010 Festival of Stamps.

On 23rd March the Marquess of Bath, a patron of the Bath Postal Museum, despatched a message by carrier pigeon from outside the Guildhall in the centre of Bath to Tony Benn in London. Lord Bath's message wished the London 2010: Festival of Stamps every success. Tony Benn was the ideal receiver of this message, being the last Minister of Posts and Telecommunications in Britain. The message was written on an original pigeongramme form as used in World War Two, which is very lightweight paper that weighed only one gram.



**Lord Bath sends off a carrier pigeon with his message to Mr Tony Benn. Watching are the Mayor and Mayoress of Bath (left) with Audrey Swindells and Ivan Holliday of the Bath Postal Museum.**

**(Photo: Bath Postal Museum)**

It was more than a year ago that the Bath Postal Museum first suggested the idea of using a pigeon to send greetings to the organisers of the Festival of Stamps. The event was organised by the museum to complement their latest exhibition covering some of the major events in the reign of King George V. The exhibition will remain open to the public until the end of 2010.

Watching the release of the pigeons and making sure they were safely in the air were the Mayor and Mayoress of Bath, Councillor and Mrs Colin Barrett, with Trustees, Friends and volunteers of the Bath Postal Museum.

The three pigeons had been received by pigeon trainer Trevor Cocks of Bath, who with his son handed them to Lord Bath who launched each pigeon into the air. Three pigeons set off ensuring safe arrival. Lord Bath then waved off a 1930s Morris Minor Post Office vehicle owned and driven by Kevin Saville. There are only two of these period vehicles fully roadworthy and it was a privilege for the Bath Postal Museum to be able to use this one to carry some of its special commemorative envelopes. Audrey Swindells said "The use of this period postal van complements the Museum's display on the accession and life of King George V, the theme of the London 2010: Festival of Stamps. The vintage Post Office vehicle was followed by a modern Post Office van provided by Royal Mail, Bath section, both vehicles representing early and modern post office vehicles. After the event all present were entertained by the Mayor and Mayoress in the Guildhall and then given a guided tour of the beautiful Mayor's Parlour.

The pigeon carrying the message from Lord Bath flew to its home loft from where the message was taken and presented to Tony Benn by Ted Hendrie of the Royal Pigeon Racing Association. Tony Benn then passed the

message to Brian Trotter - Chairman of the International Stamp Exhibition. Alan Huggins - Chairman of the Festival Advisory Board and Colin Baker from the Bath Postal Museum was also present to witness the receipt of the message. Colin Baker said "The way this pigeon message has been sent will show people how communication always played an important role in our society. Although there was no internet in King George V's reign, the techniques used in his day were often faster than some of the methods we currently employ."



Tony Benn holding the pigeon that carried the message from Lord Bath. Watching from left to right, Brian Trotter & Alan Huggins (London 2010), Colin Baker (Bath Postal Museum) and Teddy Hendrie the pigeon's owner. (Photo: Michael Pitt-Payne)

Tony Benn was particularly interested in the pigeon and the message it carried. He told the story of his grandfather who was the first pilot to parachute a spy behind enemy lines during the First World War. Dropping the spy was easy he said, they simply cut a hole in the floor of the plane which he slid through before opening his parachute. The spy took carrier pigeons with him, which he released over the next few days, with messages concerning enemy activities and other important information.

It may seem strange to us today to use a pigeon to send a message, but homing pigeons were used extensively in the past. During the siege of Paris in 1870 they were flown out of the city by hot air balloons and flew back after a suitable rest period carrying strips of microfilm with messages for the besieged Parisians. During the two world wars pigeons were used to carry messages between the front line and headquarters.

All RAF bombers carried homing pigeons in the Second World War. For example a bird called 'White Vision' delivered a message bearing latitude and longitude details so that the RAF crew could be rescued. They were flying a Catalina Flying Boat which ditched over the Hebrides. This bird flew 60 miles in atrocious weather over heavy seas. It was awarded one of the 14 'Dickin Medals for Gallantry' awarded to homing pigeons. In all 32 bravery medals were awarded to pigeons in the last war.

## G.B. REGISTERED ENVELOPE SIZE I

H.G.

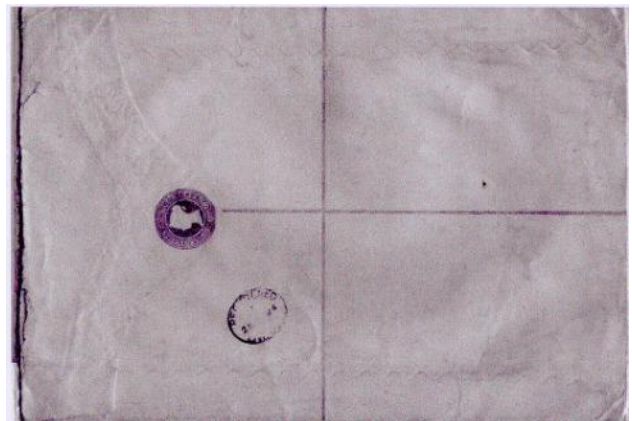
For the record I would like to report an I size registered envelope as **RP6** on the front, but the back is similar to **RP13Aaa** with the new 5 dot stamp instead of dated figures, except the flap is reversed to the left as in **RP6**.

Both the obscure envelope and **RP13Aaa** have the double serpentine edges on the back with the words '**Patent Registered Envelope**' in **BLACK** under the flap, at least both my m & u copies have. The listed **RP6** has '**McCorquodale & Co. Contractors**' in **BLUE** under the flap.

The obscure registered envelope which is used and dated 27 March 1884 from Lower Norwood to Liverpool predates the **I** issue of **RP13** by up to a year, but has the same '**Patent Registered Envelope**' in black, although as stated beforehand under the left hand flap as **RP6**

As this registered envelope has been found used, there must have been a small issue, at least at Norwood and deserves to be recognised.

Comments would be welcome.



## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

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

#### Postal Stationery March/April 2010 (USA)

Postal Stationery Essays Presented to the 6th UPU Congress in Rome, or The Birth of the International Reply Coupon.

USA Card SA3 - Purple Lozenges and Reconstruction (Revised)

Switzerland's Domestic Money Order Forms

#### Postal Stationery Collector February 2010 (Australia)

A Major Australian Discovery!! A New Australian "Star" PTPO Envelope

New Discovery of Australian Fourpence Halfpenny Registration Envelope

Vision Australia Postage Paid Envelope

Errors, Freaks & Oddities as Applied to Newspaper Wrappers

Christmas Islands 12c and 14c Aerogrammes

New Issues (Australia Post)

#### Ganzsachensamler February 2010 (Switzerland)

Die Privatganzsachen der Wäschefabrik "J. Kihm-Keller's Söhne", Frauenfeld

Perfins in Ganzsachen

Ganzsache oder Formular?

#### L'Intero Postale Winter 2010 (Italy)

Ancora Sulle Cartoline Postali della FAO Non emessi o varietà

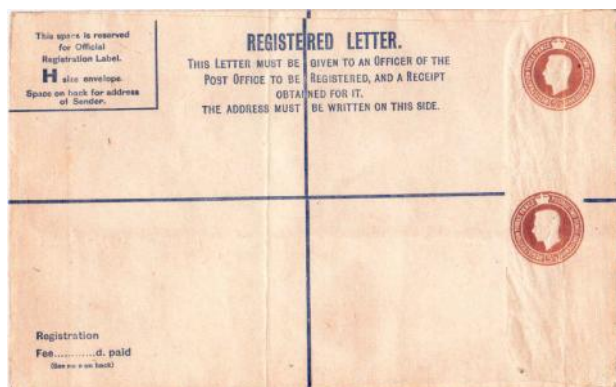
Il Nuovo Buono Riposta "Nairobi"

Interi Bizzarri In Cina Gli Interi si Vendono a Metro

### W.V.S. NEWSLETTER

**David Hiscock** has sent a scan of W.V.S. Newsletter No. 85 dated 11th September 1948. Have any other members examples of these?

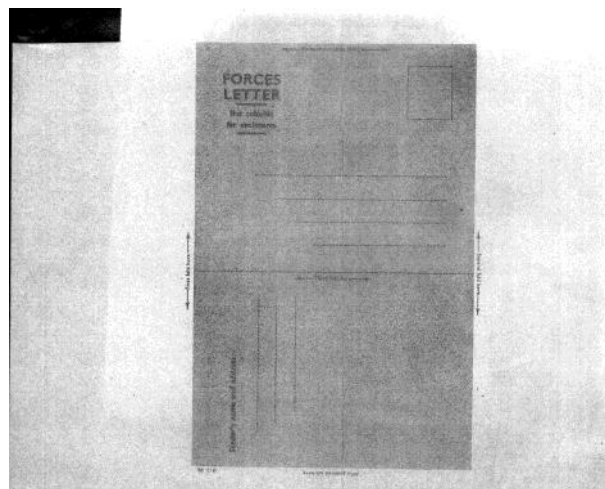
**Graham Barker** has sent the scan of a GVI registered envelope **RP60** illustrated below. This is a provisional printing by Pirie Appleton & Co. Ltd made after the McCorquodale works were bombed. It has an additional 5½d stamp printed in error. No doubt the printers who replaced McCorquodale were not as expert as them and errors were only to be expected.



### QUERIES

**Tony Goldstone** writes to ask if any member can advise

him if the Forces air letter illustrated here was issued by G.B. or another Country of the British Empire? It has the printing code 38.216



### STRANGE HOLES IN A REGISTRATION ENVELOPE

Reproduced below is an edited version of emails that passed between **John Lea**, **Edward Caesley** and **Colin Baker** at the end of last year. We think we might know the answer why the King George V registration envelope was punched with small holes, but perhaps you know something more about this, or even have one of these yourself. If so, please get in touch with the editor.

November 29, 2009 2:46 PM

Hello Colin

One item I have noticed this weekend when going through a pile of covers "I was going to get round to sometime" is a GV mint envelope (**RP33** - I think) with a hole punched through the additional ½d green stamp fixed to it and the envelope. It has come from an old time collection sheet and the write up states "this was done for security purposes". I am aware of adhesives being "cut down" and holes being punched for cancellations on postcards etc and I believe some Mulreadys were punched, but do you know of this being done to this registration envelope?

Hope this is of interest, John Lea



Tuesday 01 December 2009 08:52AM

Dear John,

I asked our chairman Edward Caesley, who collects GB registration envelopes, about your KGV envelope with the holes. He has replied "With regards to the Registered

envelope which I see is an RP29 from the second scan. I do not think that the punched hole is official but could have been made by an individual or organisation so that they could have ascertained if the envelope had any contents when it was used. Without wishing to be rude it could have been made by a book worm as they made very neat holes." I do wonder if the holes would have been large enough to see if there was anything in it. However, it confirms my feelings about the envelope that it is not an official punched hole. I wonder if it was to identify the item as the firm's own envelope to stop employees pinching them - rather like a crude perfin.

Best wishes, Colin.

Tuesday, December 01, 2009 9:25 AM

Dear Colin,

The bookworm solution was one idea that crossed my mind until I looked at the hole on the side on the reverse of the envelope. At the front, the hole is neat but at the back, it appeared to be a crater something similar to when an airgun pellet hits a glass pane, so unless the bookworm went through at some speed and force, I think it has been deliberately punched. Why? As you said, it seems unlikely to be for security purposes and the hole is so small it would be difficult to reliably see if the sealed letter had contents. The view it was done as a primitive type of perfin seems more likely.

Thanks again, John Lea

**George King** writes "Many readers will be aware of the GB Stamford Mercury pre-cancelled newspaper wrappers which run from QV to QE II. But I've just come across a French pre-cancel on a stationery envelope,. I know that the French use pre-cancels on official mail, but why, when this includes envelopes, don't we get a complete cancel, this one isn't even printed on the 'stamp' margin?"



**REPLIES - Australian KGV Coronation Cards**

**Judy Kennett** (Editor of Postal Stationery Collector) sends this comment from one of the Australian Postal Stationery Society members, **John Sinfield**. He writes: 'The Coronation cards pictured (PSSJ Vol. 18 No.1 p21 February 2010) are definitely not PTPO. They are merely Post Office cards privately printed on reverse after purchase, which was a very common practice both in Australia and in the Colonies. Unfortunately many collectors do not appreciate [nor recognise] the different status of the two entirely different situations'.

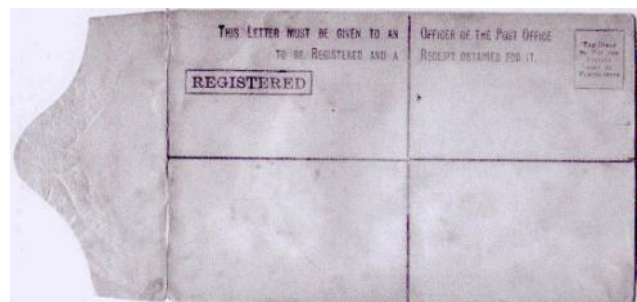
**Larry Parkes** re Journal Vol. 17 No. 3 p20 (August 2009) 'First British Airmail Letter Card' sends this scan of his air

mail lettercard sent from Egypt and very clearly dated 30 MA 41. The question is: is "MA" March of May? No clues inside.

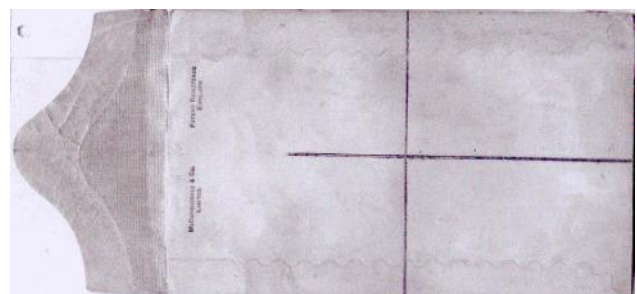


**G.B. First Registration Envelopes -**

**H. Barstow** writes: 'In reference to **Tony Hitchcock's** article in P.S.S. Journal. Vol. 18 No.1 p8, the photostat (Illustrated below) of the size H which has no embossed stamp placed on it, has again like Tony's first illustration the boxed REGISTERED serif capitals, but the instructions are in two lines with san serif capitals as in **RP5-6** with the plain flap of **RP6**. There is also a place to put the stamp.



The back is also similar to 5/6 with double sided serpentine edges. It also has the illustrated **McCorquodale & Co. Limited** and Patent Registered Envelope as seen on **RP13 Aaa size I**.



I have normal **RP5 K** first date issue both m & u for 1-5-78 that predates Tony's K size illustration in his article as above.

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1912 Uncleared die proofs of the embossed 1/2d in green (left) and scarlet (right). Sold in our April 2010 Specialised Great Britain auction.

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