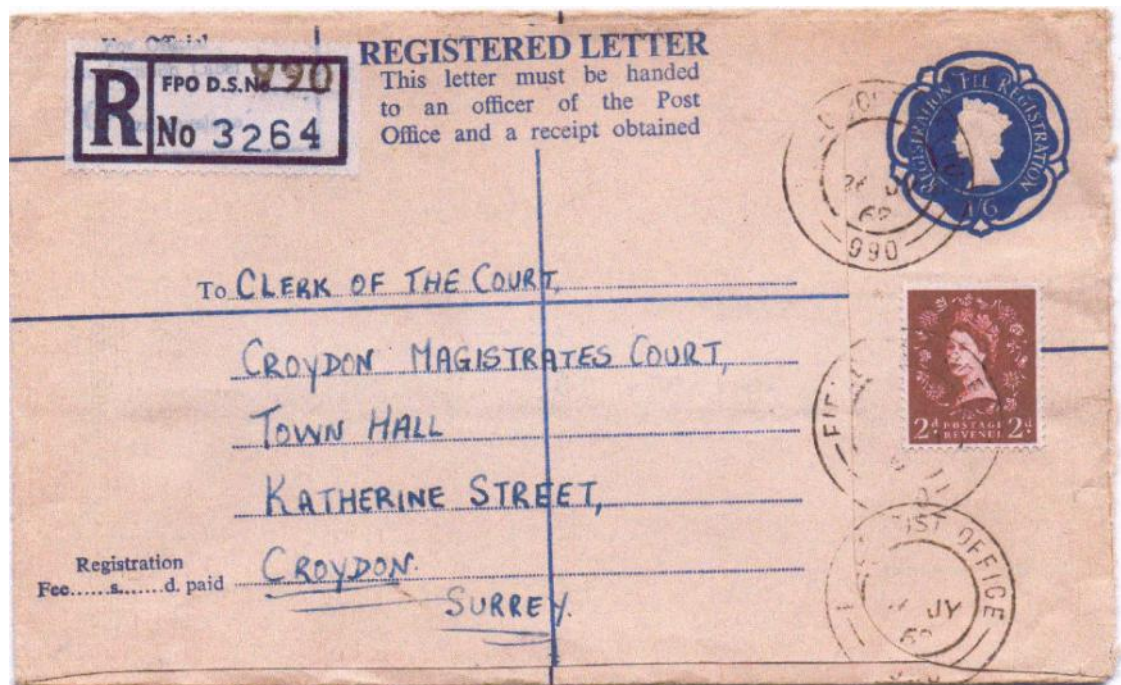




THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 18, No. 4 November 2010
(Serial number 56)



QEII 1s6d blue Forces Overseas registration envelope (RPF11)?
Take another look! - See page 13

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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:-

CHAIRMAN **Michael Lockton**
Email: michael.lockton@btinternet.com

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN **Neil Sargent**
Email: neil.sargent@btinternet.com

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COMMITTEE **John Barker**
 Neil Sargent
 Michael Smith

POST HOLDERS:-

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 Lars Engelbrecht
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SOCIETY CALENDAR 2011

Saturday April 9th 2011

At the meeting room in the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. In the morning Alan Huggins will give a display of the Postal Stationery of Mauritius. Full details will be included in the February issue of the Journal.

Saturday May 14th 2011

At **WORPEX**, Oldbury Park Primary School, Oldbury Road, St John's, Worcester WR2 6AA

Members are invited to display up to 32 sheets from their collection and to give a short explanation of about 10 minutes maximum. There will be about 30 dealers at this event covering all aspects of postal stationery, so apart from meeting other PS members and showing some of your material, you will also be able to add to your collection. There will also be a reasonably priced catering facility within the event and plenty of free parking.

Saturday 11th June 2011

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 July 2nd 2011

MIDPEX 2011 at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, The Fosse, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 1XN.

The Society will have a table at this biennial event which is to be held at a new larger venue with 50+ dealers and 40 Specialist Societies.

Saturday October 15th 2011

At the meeting room in the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. AGM, Auction & Tony Chilton Competition.

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

With this copy of the Journal you may have received a reminder that your subscription for 2011 is now due. Please see the note on page 6 for more detail.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - NOVEMBER 2010

As your new Chairman, may I introduce myself to those members of the Society who have not met me. I collect the Postal Stationery and Postal History of Great Britain in general but with specific interest in QV Penny Pink envelopes and West Country Postal History. I hope to illustrate a few exotic Penny Pinks in future letters.

Although I have much mint postal stationery, I do like to collect postally used items, serviced for the duty for which they were issued. Surprisingly more modern material is far more difficult to obtain commercially used (I exclude

"stamped-to-order" items from my collection) than some of the older items. I illustrate a case in point. It is the 1994 Airmail Postcard with the 35p. Giant's Causeway stamp, contained in the Northern Ireland booklet (CP 130). The 35p. Postcard Airmail rate was applicable to both Zone 1 and 2 (The rest of the world outside Europe) from date of issue until 7 July 1996. The illustrated card has been sent to Australia with a postmark (09/01/95) indicating its commercial use within that period. I hope you like it.



Michael Lockton

SECRETARY'S NOTES - NOVEMBER 2010

One Giant Leap

To misquote Neil Armstrong as he made the first footfall on the moon, "this is not one small step for postal stationery, but one giant leap forward for the Postal Stationery Society".

I was one of the few members who knew it was coming, but even so I was taken aback when it arrived. Of course I'm talking about the last issue of the society's Journal which was in full colour. What a difference it has made to our quarterly magazine. We can now see the illustrations as the authors intended we should see them and the whole reading experience has taken a huge step forward.

Our editor, John Barker, must be congratulated for this achievement. He has undertaken a great deal of extra work for the Journal to reach this stage, not just making sure that full colour scans are provided by the authors, but sourcing suitable printers who could produce the finished

product to an acceptable standard and at a very competitive price.

Yes full colour Journals will cost the society a little more (in fact surprisingly little extra) which will mean a rise in subscriptions, but I am sure you will all agree that this is going to be a very worthwhile reason for subs to be increased.

I know that everyone in the society will want to join me in applauding John's hard work, not just on the August 2010 Journal but for everything he has done to keep us informed about postal stationery over the last 15 years or so.

But that's not the end of the story. If we are to keep producing high quality Journals every three months then you, the members, must keep feeding John with articles, queries and new finds. Without this constant input, we will not have a Journal. So think about what you know and have discovered concerning your collection. Put some words on

paper (or better still on your computer) and scan in a few images. If scanning is not possible, then good quality colour copies will do fine. Please don't leave it to the few who have written articles so far. Let us know about your collection and the items that appeal to you.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Mr Halfdan Helgason from Iceland, who collects Iceland

Dr Ian Lasok-Smith from Cheshire, who collects Great Britain

Malcolm Sanders from Birmingham, who collects Great Britain - King George VI

I hope that these new members will enjoy their membership with us. If you have similar collecting interests and would like to get in touch with them, please send your letter or email via the secretary.

TONY CHILTON COMPETITION

Following the closure of the AGM (see report elsewhere) the Tony Chilton competition took place. There were eight entries this year as follows.

Michael Lockton - 3d Embossed Postal Stationery Die
1859 - 1902

Erica Genge - British Prisoner of War Post

Augusto Brosa - Great Britain - Foreign Rate Postcards
1875 - 1883

George King - Irish Valued Stamped to Order

George King - Queen Victoria 2d to 5d Embossed on
Envelopes

Neil Sargent - King George VI Lettercards

Iain Stevenson - QV Lettercards

Iain Stevenson - King George VI Wartime

Judging was carried out by **Alan Huggins** who commented on the high standard of entries again this year.



Alan Huggins comments on the Tony Chilton Competition entries

He said it had been a difficult competition to judge, but finally selected a winner. He told members he had used the criteria of a one frame exhibit which requires that an entry should be complete in itself; one that cannot be extended beyond the beginning or the end. He noted that one or two entries included very nice items, but that the

value of these to the entry had been offset by it being too wide ranging.

The competition winner was **Iain Stevenson** with his QV Lettercards, followed by **Michael Lockton** and **Neil Sargent**. Congratulations to all who entered.

OFFICERS NEEDED

As you will read in the AGM report, the society's treasurer is giving up in August next year (2011) and therefore we need a replacement for him, well before we reach that date. In addition, we still need a publicity officer, programme secretary and editor's assistant. All of these positions need to be filled, especially that of the treasurer. If you feel you are able to fill any of these posts or would like to know more about them then please get in touch with the secretary. The society cannot run itself and it's no good hoping that somebody else is bound to volunteer. Please try to help keep the society running smoothly. Get in touch now.

SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE

At the AGM in October it was proposed and agreed that the society's annual subscription should rise to £15 from January next year (2011). Unfortunately there was not enough time for this proposal to be included in the last Journal as our accounting year runs from September to August and the increase was not proposed until after the publication date of the last Journal.

The costs of running the society increases every year, but our current subscription rate has remained the same for the last five years. Meanwhile postage has increased by 30 - 40% and other costs have also risen, including printing and the hire of meeting rooms.

The committee hopes that members will accept the new rates, which were formally agreed at the AGM, particularly now that the Journal is being produced in colour.

The new rates are:

One year £15 or for overseas members €20 and \$25 ie no change.

An additional £2 (€2 or \$3) would be added for those who pay late.

The three year subscription rate is £42 (€56, \$70)

We have been able to keep the increase in subscriptions paid by overseas members to a minimum due to the value of the pound having dropped against the Euro and US Dollar since 2006.

If your subscriptions are now due you will receive a notice with this Journal showing these new rates. Note that these notices were prepared in October, so if you have paid recently please ignore the notice. Please pay promptly and send your payment to the treasurer (address on inside front cover) who can also advise you if you think our records are incorrect.

If you decide not to renew your subscription we will be sorry to lose you, but please let us know you have decided not to remain a member so that we do not have to chase you for payment. A short email, phone call or letter to the treasurer or secretary is all that is needed. This helps to keep costs down and avoids the officers having to do unnecessary work.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 30th OCTOBER 2010

Held at 11.00am at the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY.

Before the meeting started the members present stood for a moment's silence in memory of one of our members, **Michael Goodman**, who passed away earlier in the year.

Apologies. There were 14 Members present. Apologies were received from **Tony Goldstone, Lars Engelbrecht, John Fowler, Chris Howe, Mike Smith, Ian Baker and Keith Hanman.**

Minutes of Previous AGM. The minutes of the previous AGM held on 24th October 2009 were accepted as a true record.

Secretary's Notes. The secretary mentioned three items, all of which are reported upon elsewhere in this issue of the Journal, concerning the publication of a new book on British India Postal Stationery and the request for information on the production of registration envelopes for use in New South Wales and air letters issued by Grenada.

Officers' Reports

Chairman. Edward Caesley said

This past year has been a busy one with well attended meetings. Members were treated to two exceptional displays at the meeting held during the London 2010 Exhibition. The year has also seen a major innovation with the Society Journal now printed in colour which is a great improvement. Looking forward to 2011 I would like to encourage members to attend MIDPEX as I am told that the new venue is a great improvement on the 2009 venue. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Management Committee for their help and I hope being successful in keeping me on the straight and narrow.

Secretary. Colin Baker reported

At the AGM last year we had 239 members. This year we have gained 18 new members, but have lost 15, making our current total 242.

As in previous years, recruitment has mainly been from visits to our website, which is a reflection of the fantastic job done by Lars Engelbrecht in keeping the site up to date. A few new members have picked up leaflets distributed at national events, local talks, etc, and I would urge you all to continue to leave a few leaflets whenever you can. Our presence at London 2010 and the publicity generated from that also gained a few new members. We have also attracted new members through advertising in the philatelic press, although this is not the most economical way of increasing our numbers.

We held five meetings during the year, two at the Royal meeting room and one at London 2010, plus one at Swinpex and one at Worpex. All were successful and we intend to continue with these in the future. Reports on all meetings have been published in the Society's journal.

Treasurer. John Fowler was not present but his report was read out by the secretary.

The accounts for the year ending 31st August show that the society has ended the year with a shortfall. Again I have identified that part of the subscription income which is attributable to this financial year, thus enabling us to see clearly the true income and expenditure.

Although this reveals a surplus of £7, we received another £628 share of the profit on the Huggins & Baker catalogue. It is not anticipated that there will be any further profit share (with the Great Britain Philatelic Society) in

2011. The supplement to the catalogue cost £290 to print and distribute, thus our net shortfall excluding the catalogue was £330.

Our expenses this year show an increase of £200, this includes £258 for the meeting room hire at the London 2010 International Exhibition, and the additional cost of £178 for the first Journal with colour, balanced by the £250 paid last year for the trophy.

The auction results show that this service to members made a small loss this year, showing how dependent this is on Neil receiving lots of sufficient value to enable us to cover the catalogue printing and postage costs.

Although advertising income is substantially down this year, as we received a fillip from a stationery company the previous year, I understand that the use of colour in the Journal is expected to enable us to increase this income.

In order to fund the four colour Journals planned for this next year we will need an additional £700, which equates to an increase in the subscription to £15. Personally, I feel that the benefit of colour for a postal stationery journal is well worth six pence a week, and I hope members will agree that John Barker produces a fine professional Journal, which can only benefit from the use of colour.

May I take this opportunity to thank Colin Baker and John Barker for their help through the year, John Barker and Neil Sargent for their efforts in obtaining advertising revenue and auction commission, and Alan Huggins and Colin Baker for enabling us to create a Publications Fund to help future authors put their researches into print.

Auctioneer. Neil Sargent told the meeting.

Two auctions were run during the season as usual, one postal only and one postal & room auction. Both auctions produced low total sales with the June 2010 auction having a relatively small catalogue and corresponding lower sales.

Total sales for the two auctions was £4,402 with commission for the society of £474 compared to £7,749 and £844 respectively for last season's two auctions.

Summary of results:

	Oct 2009		June 2010	
Total Lots	564		413	
Lots Sold	281	50%	239	58%
GB Lots	409		231	
GB Sold	200	49%	184	80%
Non GB	155		182	
Non GB Sold	81	52%	55	30%
Vendors	10		10	
Buyers	56		34	
Sales	£2,558		£1,844	
Commission	£272		£202	

Total percentage sales remains the same overall with GB lots still the most popular but dependant on the quality of material that is offered.

There have been issues over poor descriptions provided by vendors and there still appears to be different interpretations of what qualifies as being 'mint'! More material is of course welcome and an auction that was

smaller in number of lots but higher in quality and value would possibly be appreciated. However, there can be limited other sources of more modern material which has a following but is of low value.

I hope members remain happy with the service provided and the running of the auctions.

Following his report Neil said that the cost of running the auction was greater than the commission earned. A number of proposals were considered to correct this, and in the end the meeting unanimously agreed that the commission on sales would be increased to 12½% from the first auction in 2011. However, the minimum commission would remain unchanged at 50p per lot, and there would be no buyer's premium.

Neil also said he wanted to illustrate in colour some of the better lots or those difficult to describe, which may increase the cost of running the auction. However members felt this was a good move and agreed it should be implemented.

Journal Editor. John Barker told members

After much deliberation, I was able to produce the August issue of the Journal using colour throughout. Judging by the many favourable comments, this has been well received. The use of colour does more justice to items illustrated in the articles and hopefully will inspire more members to contribute over the coming year.

Once again I am indebted to all those members who have made the effort to provide me with articles. Please keep me supplied, I am particularly on the look out for articles, notes and items of interest from collections other than G.B.

I would like to extend my gratitude to those dealers and auction houses who take advertising space, thereby defraying the cost of the Journal to members. I would welcome further sponsorship of this sort.

I look forward to compiling the Journal in 2011

Librarian. Chris Howe was not present but his report was read out by the secretary.

Loans from the Library continue at the same pace as previous years. I have started to scan sections of H&G as people want them and save the scans on disc but increased in size to fit A4. Depending on the number of sections being requested I usually sent hard copies of the scans for the member to retain but ask for their return if the number is large. If members would prefer a disc that is OK by me. At Antwervia 2010 I bought some new, but now superseded. Michel catalogues and will put them on the Library List in the next few weeks. I also have the new Belgian Entiers and Maltese catalogues. As always any contributions to the library will be welcome.

Website Manager. Lars Engelbrecht was not present but his report was read out by the secretary.

The society website – www.postalstationery.org.uk - has had 6049 visits in the past year – slightly more than the previous year. The main task has been to update the website frequently with the list of content of the new issues of the PS Journal, information on the society meetings and results from postal stationery exhibits at international exhibitions. The society website continues to be sponsored by Eurooffice, who is paying the Society £100 a year to have small adverts on the website."

Election of Officers - The following officers were elected "en bloc", there being no other candidates. Proposed by Alan Huggins, seconded by Iain Stevenson.

Chairman -	Michael Lockton
Deputy Chairman -	Neil Sargent
Secretary -	Colin Baker
Treasurer -	John Fowler

The following officers are appointed by the committee and have indicated they are willing to continue to serve the society.

John Barker	(to act as Journal Editor)
Neil Sargent	(to act as Auctioneer)
Mike Smith	(to act as ABPS representative)
Edward Caesley	(to act as Membership Secretary)

The following vacancies exist and the secretary asked any member who felt he could fill one of these posts to come forward;

Assistant Journal Editor, Publicity Officer and Programme Secretary

The position of **Honorary Auditor** is to be arranged by the treasurer.

The secretary told the meeting that our treasurer will have to vacate his post at the end of the financial year (August 2011) and we therefore need a new treasurer to step in to fill the vacancy well before then. He asked members to consider filling this role as it was one of the vital positions in the society. We cannot operate without a treasurer.

Vote of thanks to retiring officers

Edward Caesley thanked all the officers who had served the society during the past 12 months and said that without them the society could not function. He added that they had all conducted their duties in a quiet and efficient manner.

Neil Sargent said he would like to thank Edward for his hard work over the last two years, including running the London 2010 meeting.

Subscription increase

There was a discussion on a proposal to increase subscriptions from £12 to £15. The subscription rate has remained the same for the last five years and was last increased in January 2006. It was emphasised that the increase was needed as the society was now beginning to spend more than it received, and the meeting agreed that this was a situation that could not be allowed to continue. The main reasons for this were the increase in general running expenses, including meeting venues, and higher printing and postal charges. It was noted that postage rates in the UK in 2006 were 32p first class and 23p second class. They are now 41p and 32p, increases of 28% and 39% respectively. The rate for paying 3 years in advance would be increased appropriately, but due to the uncertainty of future cost increases, the five year advance payment would no longer be offered.

Members present agreed to these changes unanimously, the change being formally proposed by Alan Huggins and seconded by Michael Lockton.

Programme for 2011

This was presented to the meeting - see details inside front cover.

Any Other Business

Edward Caesley said he was compiling a list of all the stamps embossed on envelopes, labels, etc (singly or in pairs) by Whitfield King and asked members to let him have details of any they had in their collections.

Edward Caesley offered his congratulations to three of our members who had done extremely well in Portugal recently. They were Neil Sargent, Mike Smith and Alan Huggins.

New Chairman

Micheal Lockton took over from Edward Caesley and thanked him for all his hard work over the last two years. He expressed his pleasure at seeing the Journal in colour, which he felt was a vast improvement. He also thanked the secretary for the work he has done over the last year.

POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Income & Expenditure Account for year ended 31st August 2010

INCOME

	2009/10	2008/9
Balance b/f from 2008/09	£ 9,463.79	£ 5,211.64
of which Publications Fund	(£4,230.50)	(£313.50)
of which General Fund	(£5,233.29)	(£4,898.14)
Subscriptions	£ 2,246.19	£ 2,864.00
October Auction (nett)	-£ 62.84	£ 65.68
June Auction (nett)	£ 1.20	£ 145.43
Advertising	£ 363.50	£ 602.00
Sale of monographs etc.	£ 23.64	£ 58.84
Profit share on catalogue	£ 628.50	£ 3,917.00
Personal	£ 18.75	£ 15.57
Bank Interest	£ 3.14	£ 28.59
	<u>£ 12,685.87</u>	<u>£ 12,908.75</u>

EXPENDITURE

	2009/10	2008/9
Journal printing	£1,411.70	£1,297.60
Journal postage	£587.03	£669.05
Journal envelopes	£80.23	£50.96
Catalogue suppt ptg	£256.99	
Catalogue suppt post	£34.01	
Room Hire	£884.88	£639.66
ABPS subscription	£184.00	£182.00
Website	£10.56	
Trophy purchase		£250.00
General stationery		£14.34
General postage	£19.50	£202.67
General printing	£62.42	£17.54
London 2010 frames	£50.00	£50.00
Book for library		£13.64
Advertising	£71.25	£57.50
Balance	<u>£9,033.30</u>	<u>£9,463.79</u>
	<u>£12,685.87</u>	<u>£12,908.75</u>

Total income	£ 3,222.08	Shortfall	£ 430.49
Subscriptions for 2010	£ 2,684.00		
Other income above	£ 975.89	Surplus	£ 7.32

Total expenses £3,652.57
 The surplus is based on the subscriptions attributable to 2010, whenever paid.

	Balance represented by:-		31/08/2010	31/08/2009
Publications Fund balance as at 31/8/2010 £4,568.00	Cash at Bank - Investment A/C		£7,383.23	£8,480.09
	Cash at Bank - Cheque A/C		£883.96	£198.25
	Cash in hand		£2.80	
	Editorial float		£100.00	£100.00
General Fund balance as at 31/8/2010 £4,465.30	Postage float for Journal		£1,018.77	£1,207.42
	Members' balances held		-£177.09	-£225.64
	Payments outstanding		-£178.37	-£296.33
			<u>£9,033.30</u>	<u>£9,463.79</u>

Notes from Treasurer: (1) Should the Society ever have to disband, those members who had paid for future years would have a right to a refund of the unused portion of their subscriptions. Currently we have 197 future payments for 2011 to 2014. Valuing these at an average of £11 gives a liability of £2,167, leaving nett assets of £6,866.30
 (2) In view of the regular rises in postal rates in April, the Society purchases a large stock of stamps at the old rate. Thus, additional to the cash assets, a balance of postage on hand of £1018.77 is held.

I have examined the records, receipts and bank statements of the Postal Stationery Society, and find the above Account to be a true and accurate reflection of the Society's financial position at 31 August 2010.


 John Fowler
 Hon Treasurer

AUCTION ACCOUNTS	Costs	Receipts	AUCTION A/C'S	Costs	Receipts
October 2009			June 2010		
Auction list printing	208.00		Auction list printing	153.52	
Auction list postage	87.71		Auction list postage	34.03	
Auction list stationery	11.73		Auction list stationery		
Auction lots postage	88.00	84.90	Auction lots postage	81.60	68.25
Auction lots receipts		2,556.00	Auction lots receipts		1,844.50
Auction insurance	23.00				
	Vendors			Vendors	
£2,558.00 - commission	2,285.30		£1,844.50 - commission	1,642.40	
Nett loss to main a/c	62.84		Nett profit to main a/c	1.20	

ILLUSTRATED AND ADVERTISING POSTAL STATIONERY in the period up to the First World War - QV Postcards part 2

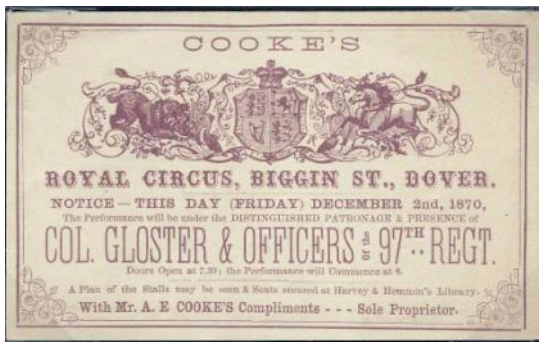
Following the publication of the first part of this article (August 2010), a number of additional items have been submitted. I would like to thank **Colin Baker** and **Tony Hitchcock** for permission to publish scans of items from their collections and in particular to **Barry Feltham** who provided scans of 12 items together with background information on the firms and organisations whose advert appear on the cards.



Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, in the Old Kent Road
Post Office postcard **CP3** soliciting votes for admission of a child into the Asylum.
Stamp ½d brown type L1
Earliest d/u: _____ Latest d/u: _____



Écarté
Post Office postcard **CP2** with a picture of a hand holding 5 playing cards beneath the word 'Écarté'
Stamp ½d lilac type L1
Earliest d/u: 21 November [year unclear]
Latest d/u: _____



Cooke's Royal Circus, Dover
STO postcard advertising a circus in Biggin Street, Dover on December 2nd 1870.
Stamp ½d lilac type L1
Earliest d/u: 1 December 1870 Latest d/u: _____



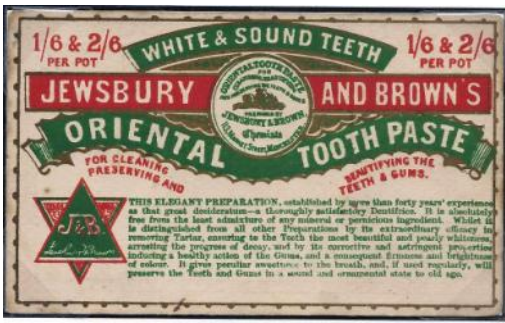
Henry Jocelyn Barber's
Post Office postcard **CP21a** sending Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.
Stamp ½d brown type L3 die II
Earliest d/u: 22 December 1890 Latest d/u: _____



Davies, Turner & Co.
Post Office postcard **CP15** with goods advice note printed in red with details of charges.
Stamp 1d brown type L4
Earliest d/u: 23 October 1891
Latest d/u: _____



J.C. & J. Field, Candle Works Lambeth, London
STO postcard with red and black ornate advert for candles.
Stamp ½d pink type 1a
Earliest d/u: _____ Latest d/u: _____



Jewsbury and Brown's Oriental Toothpaste

Post Office postcard CP2 with advert in red and green extolling the virtues of their oriental toothpaste.

Stamp 1/2 lilac type L1

Earliest d/u: Latest d/u:

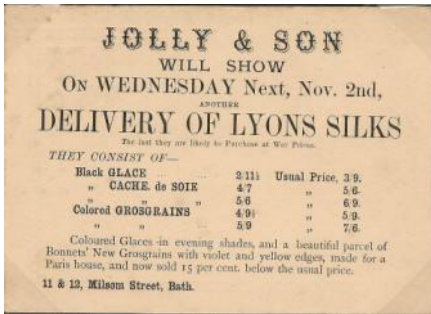


Messrs. Palmer & Co., LTD., Stratford, London, E.

Post Office Reply paid postcard CP23 requesting order for Gold medal Venus night lights.

Stamp 1/2 brown type L3

Earliest d/u: Latest d/u:

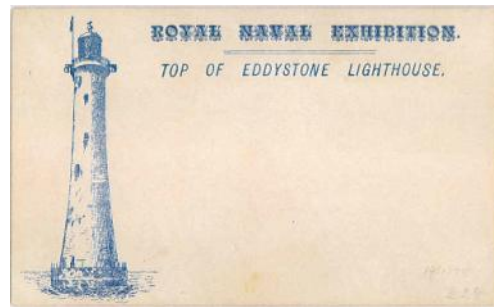


Jolly & Son, 11 & 12, Milsom Street, Bath

Post Office postcard CP1 advising the latest delivery of Lyons Silks, the last at 'War Prices'.

Stamp 1/2 lilac type L1

Earliest d/u: 30 October 1870 Latest d/u:



Royal Naval Exhibition

Post office postcards CP21a and CP21b, and STO postcard with representation of the lighthouse in blue (several types).

Stamp 1/2 brown type L3 die II

Earliest d/u: 29 May 1891 Latest d/u: 20 August 1891

Stamp 1/2 brown type L3 die III

Earliest d/u: 6 June 1891 Latest d/u: 5 September 1891

STO card

Earliest d/u: 9 September 1891 Latest d/u: 7 October 1891

David Hiscok wrote an informative article 'The Royal Naval Exhibition' listing the different types of cards and their use, published in the Postal Society Journal Vol 12 No.4 (November 2004)

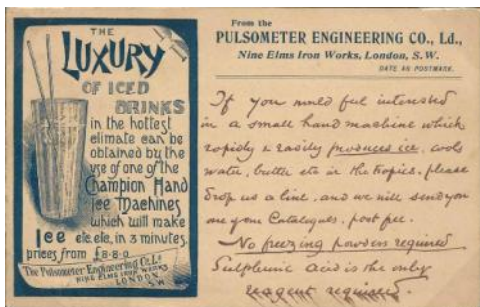


**J.S. Virtue & Co., Ltd
26, Ivy Lane, Paternoster Row.**

Post Office postcard CP15 advertising books including 'The Riviera' with quotes from four reviews.

Stamp 1d brown type L4

Earliest d/u: 30 December 1891
Latest d/u:

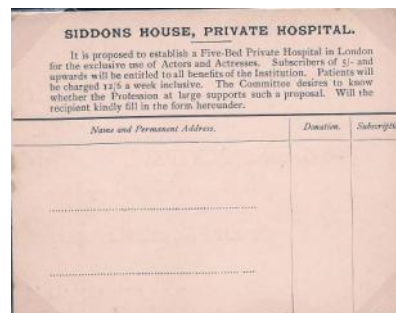


Pulsometer Engineering Co., Ltd

Post Office postcard CP27 advert for the Champion Hand Ice Machine. The written message states 'The only reagent needed is Sulphuric Acid'

Stamp 1d red type L8

Earliest d/u: 29 February 1896 Latest d/u:

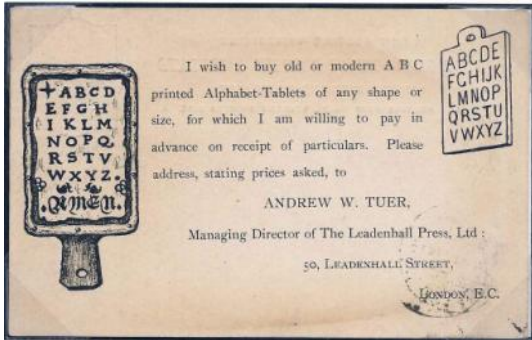


Siddons House, Private Hospital

Post Office postcard CP29a soliciting subscriptions to a Five Bed Private Hospital for Actors and Actresses.

Stamp 1/2 brown type L3 die II

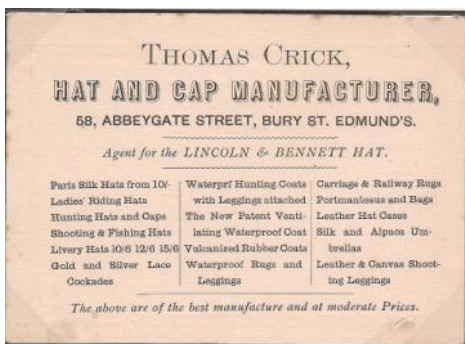
Earliest d/u: Latest d/u:



The Leadenhall Press Ltd, London, E.C.
 Post Office postcard CP27 offering to purchase ABC printed Alphabet-Tablets.
Stamp 1d red L8
 Earliest d/u: 11 May 1894 Latest d/u:



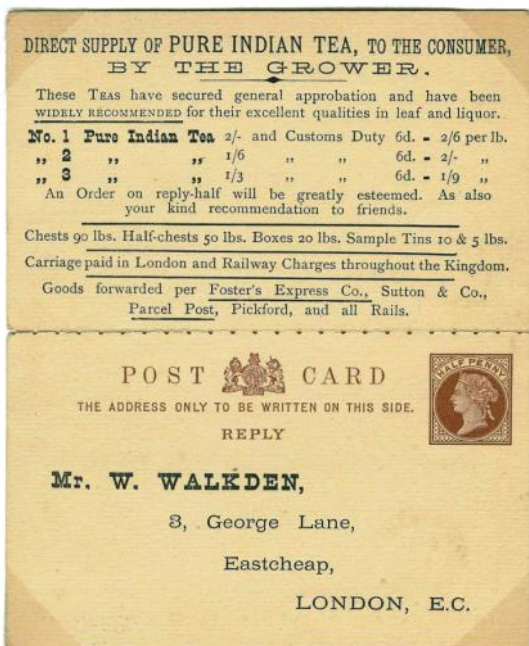
William Rowe & Compy., Naval & General Tailors & Yacht Outfitters
 ½d brown postcard
 Earliest d/u: 19 October 1896 Latest d/u:



Thomas Crick, Hat and Cap Manufacturer, Bury St Edmunds
 Post Office postcard CP1 advertising hats and other outdoor wear.
Stamp ½d lilac type L1
 Earliest d/u: Latest d/u:



William Whiteley, Bayswater, W.
 STO postcard announcing their Winter Clearance Sale.
Stamp ½d brown L3
 Earliest d/u: 30 December 1898 Latest d/u:



W Walkden, 3 George Lane, Eastcheap, London EC
 Post Office postcard CP14 offering the direct supply of pure Indian tea, with prices.
Stamp ½d brown type L3
 Earliest d/u: 3 March 1884 Latest d/u:



London & South Western Railway
 STO ½d inland postcard CS3 with photograph of 2nd Dragoons, Scots Greys published by Picture Postcard Co, Ltd, Drapers Gardens, London EC.
Stamp ½d brown L3
 Earliest d/u: Latest d/u:

Editor's Note:
 In this series I have covered advertising / illustrations on QV envelopes and postcards. Before moving onto lettercards and wrappers, I would like to publish details of any further envelopes and postcards of QV which have advertising or illustrations which have not been included in these articles so far.
 I am sure that there are many more of these in members' collections and also items included in these articles but used on earlier or later dates. Please send me details before the end of the year so that I can included these in the February issue of the Journal.
John Barker

INFORMATION WANTED

McCORQUODALE SUPPLIES TO AUSTRALIAN STATES

- **John Bell, Australia.** writes:

‘McCorquodale & Co supplied most of the Registered Envelopes used by New South Wales between late 1879 and late 1910. They also supplied the colony/state with paper for letter cards (commencing some time before 1900), and probably other items as well.

I am interested in obtaining any surviving information relating to the materials supplied by McCorquodale’s to NSW, particularly details of the numbers, dates etc of the shipments made to NSW, and also any available details of the supply of Registration Envelopes made to Queensland in 1879. However, I have no idea what of their records have survived, and where they are now held.

Researchers have been very much spoilt by the De La Rue records, particularly the Correspondence Books, which are now available on microfilm. Naturally one hopes that similar records have survived for other firms, including McCorquodales. I realize that this is almost certainly a pipe dream but any information could be of help - the more detailed the better of course.

If the information I am seeking is available, but would require considerable time and effort in transcribing and collating it, I would certainly consider providing some remuneration to the researcher.

Any assistance your member is able to supply will be very much appreciated’

{ Editor’s note: If any member can offer assistance, please contact the Editor, John Barker, whose contact details are on p2 }

AEROGRAMME PAPER WATERMARKS

-**Tim Pearce**, 3 Clarendon Court 9 Granville Road Sevenoaks TN131ES email: tim@timpearce1.wanadoo.co.uk Phone 01732465110 or 07736812654 writes;

‘I am at present compiling a handbook on the Stamps and Postal History of Grenada, BWI, with help from other members of the British West Indies Study Circle. We have been working recently on the whole under-recorded area of Postal Stationery and in particular the Air Letter sheets, aka Aerogrammes.

Following a long chat with Michael Orr, I now have a good grasp of the twentieth century history of Wiggins Teape, which I have followed up on several websites and I have also benefited from the website of the British Association of Paper Historians. There are, however, some problems which I hope you may be able to help us unravel.

Below * is my latest draft of an introduction to the Aerogrammes section of the Postal Stationery chapter. I would be most grateful if you would have a look at it and let me know of any obvious errors or howlers.

The outstanding questions arise mainly from the basic fact that until the mid-sixties, most aerogrammes seem to have no trace of the watermark.

Do you know what size the original sheets were and how many times the IMPERIAL AIR MAIL watermark, around the Gateway image, appeared? Are any complete sheets likely to have survived in any archive?

The next problem concerns the code letters. Although they started with A in 1949, apparently JNQRUW and X were not used, and Z was reached by 1966. Michael thinks that may be do to with the problem of picking and those letters do have, as it were, tails either at top or bottom, but then so do other letters which were used. Connected with this, why in some cases do the letters appear above AIR MAIL rather than the more normal position below it. I have seen that in the case of V. Do you know if any dandy roll engineers are still around?

The paper was made at Stonewood, but in 1970, the watermark changes to AIR CONQUEROR around the Gateway with code letter D. Does that mean that the production was shifted to Buckland and, if so, for how long?

Finally, the original printers of the Air Mail letter forms were McCorquodale at Wolverton. I have been in touch with them, but they sadly admit to having no archives. Might there be any Wiggins Teape archives recording the sales accounts, which might reveal who the buyers of the Air mail paper were?

I hope my questions are not too demanding and shall be most grateful for any illumination you can give.

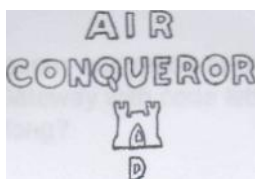
Draft of the Introduction referred to above. - {Editor’s note: this has been consolidated to fit the space available}



Air Letter Sheets (UPU adopted the term Aerogrammes in 1952)

The paper for the Air Letter Sheets was made by Wiggins Teape & Co Ltd at Stonewood Mill, near Aberdeen. The firm's headquarters in the nineteenth century had been at Aldgate and the gateway watermark is a stylised image of the old Gate. Each sheet was sufficient for eight aerogrammes and they used two watermarks.

The first read IMPERIAL in an arc above the gateway symbol of the firm, not very clearly impressed, with AIR MAIL below the gateway, above a code letter starting with A in 1948, recording the year of the paper’s manufacture. In Kessler’s Catalogue of Aerograms, updated by Jerome W Kasper, it is noted that the letters J N Q R U W and X were not used. Z was reached in 1966 and is used for the Grenada 1967 15c nutmeg. The watermarks must have been sparsely used on the sheets as many examples have no watermark. Sometimes the code letter appears between the gateway and AIR MAIL, sometimes it is missing and the watermark has been noted inverted and reversed.



The second watermark, introduced in 1970 read AIR above CONQUEROR above the gateway above the code letter and this appeared more frequently on the sheet, in alternating columns, with each watermark about 210mm above the next, so that all or parts of it may be seen up to three times. The paper used for the Grenada 1970 15c Air Letter Sheet has code letter D. A, B, C were used again for the first watermark and C can be found on the 1970 6c Air Letter sheet. Conqueror paper had been produced for many years from the Wiggins Teape Mill at Buckland Mill outside Dover, so perhaps the production was moved there from Aberdeen.

The forms were printed by McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd at their works at Wolverton in Buckinghamshire and then sent to the stamp printers for the stamp image to be applied by photogravure. From 1949-1970, the folded letter sheets measured approximately 123 x 100mm, but the 1970 15c Thunbergia measures 150 x 93mm and the 1986 40c Angel's Trumpet measures 70 x 105mm.

GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

NEW ISSUES

Air Mail Letter Sheets - Post Office issues

AP54 White paper without star with print code MSE 174/09 (23.6.09) - courtesy **Arthur Roberts**

NEW ITEMS REPORTED

Envelopes - Post Office issues

EP197d QEII 2nd class green NVI stamp E8; window envelope size Q/DL with grey arched pattern inside and green phosphor band (courtesy **George King**)

Envelopes - Stamped to Order issues

The following QV compound envelopes, previously unrecorded in used condition, are reported courtesy of **Peter Bamert**

- ESC110** QV ½d + 10d (18 + 17) used - change NR to ****
- ESC239** QV 2d + 4d (20b + 23) used - change NR to ****
- ESC248** QV 2d + 1s (20b + 25b) used - change NR to ****
- ESC254** QV 2½d + 1½d (21b + 19) used - change NR to ****
- ESC278** QV 3d + 2d (22b + 20b) used - change NR to ****
- ESC291B** QV 3d + 1s (22b + 25b) used label- change NR to ****
- ESC365** QV 4d + 6d (23 + 26) used - change NR to ****
- ESC376** QV 6d + 2½d (26 + 21b) used - change NR to ****
- ESC379** QV 6d + 4d (26 + 23) used - change NR to ****

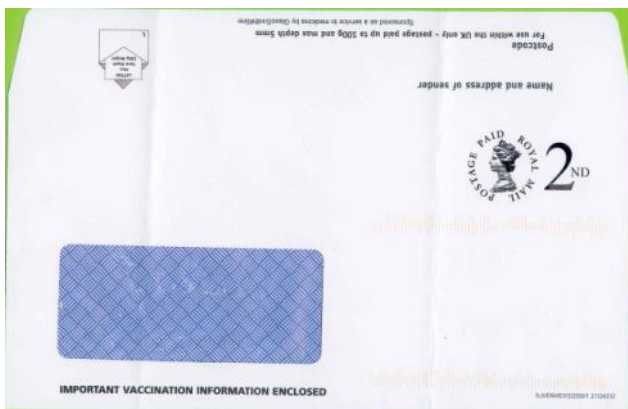
ES43 KGV 1d scarlet stamp 30 - larger size side opening envelope (92 X 225mm) with House of Commons seal embossed on open flap

ES57 KGV 2d orange stamp 33 reduced in value by ½d - used with red 'SW.' in triangle and printed return address 'The Commissioners of Church Temporalities, London, SW1' (courtesy **Bill Pipe**)

ES70 KGVII 2½d carmine stamp 47 with House of Lords coat of arms on open flap (courtesy **Colin Baker**)

ES161d QEII 1st class blue NVI 26mm stamp E7 with pale yellow phosphor - portrait format pocket envelope with 'POSTAGE PAID UP TO 1.5Kg' and 'GN 02094 5/2001' printed on flap

ES195a QEII 2nd class black NVI 24.5mm stamp E12 with clear phosphor and 17.5mm envelope symbol on flap - used by Glaxo-Smith Kline in 2010 (courtesy **Mike Mood**)



Postcards - Official issues

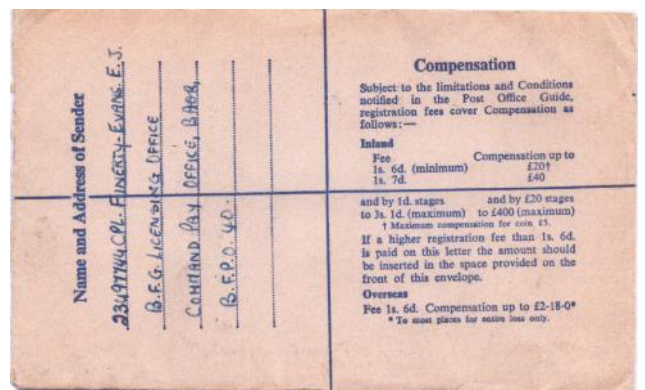
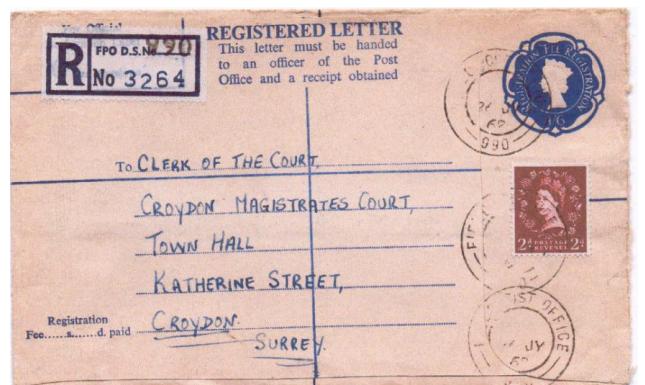
Colin Baker reports a QV ½d blue-green postcard (**CP38b**) used by the Irish Land Commission (see illustration) which

is obviously a successor to the QV ½d brown postcard (**CP7**) with 'On Her Majesty's Service' listed as **C01**



Registration Envelopes - Forces issues

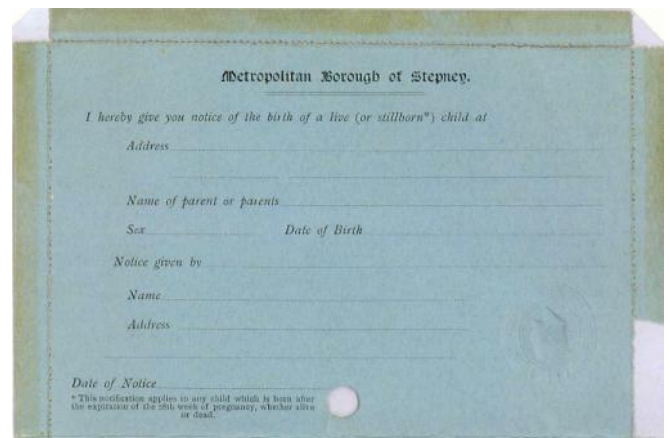
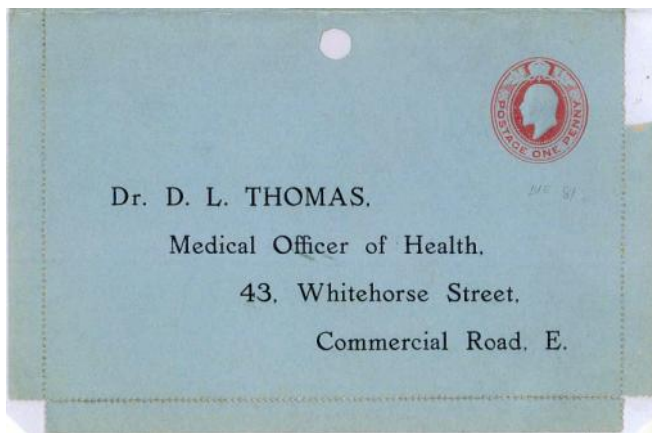
An astonishing item has been sent in by **Cyril Saunders**. At first sight (see illustration) it is a QEII 1s6d blue Forces Overseas registration envelope (**RPF11**), but the 1s6d blue stamp has been embossed on the flap of a registration envelope headed 'REGISTERED LETTER' instead of 'FORCES OVERSEAS REGISTERED LETTER' intended for stamping at the 1s9d rate which included 3d postage in addition to the 1s6d registration fee. Presumably this occurred in error, and compares with the use of size G instead of G2 Forces envelopes with the KGVII 3d green stamp (see **RPF2c**). This item will be allocated the number **RPF11b** and the existing **RPF11** becomes **RPF11a**.



Letter Cards - Stamped to Order issues

Tony Hitchcock reports the existence of a novel oversize KEVII 1d STO letter card used by the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Stepney in London (see

illustration). This item is printed on blue card size 113 x 173mm with KEVII 1d embossed stamp die 81. The reason for the circular hole on the front is unclear.



Newspaper Wrappers - Stamped to Order issues

WS9a KEVII 1d dull scarlet stamp LW6 has now been reported unused (courtesy **George King**) change NR to ****

A group of QEII STO wrappers has recently surfaced used by the Sunday Express in the 1960's and three of the most unusual are illustrated as follows:-

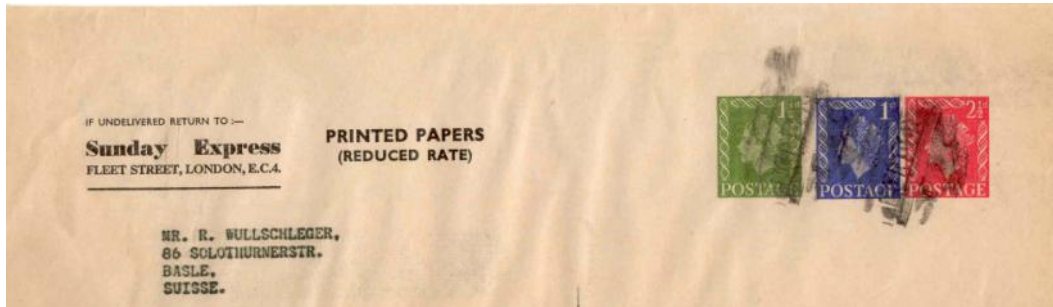
WS81B QEII 2½d + 1d + 1½d (stamps L33+L30+L31) previously reported but not illustrated

WS85 QEII 2½d + 4d (stamps L33+L35) previously listed by Palmer (1995) but not seen - change -- to NR ****

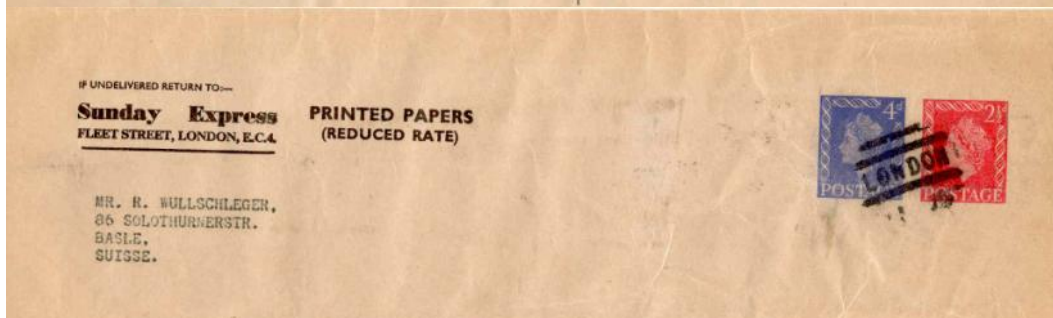
The third is a new compound stamped of the 5d and 1d dies and has been allocated the number **WS105A** and the existing **WS105** becomes **WS105B** viz.

WS105A QEII 5d + 1d (stamps L37+L30) NR ****

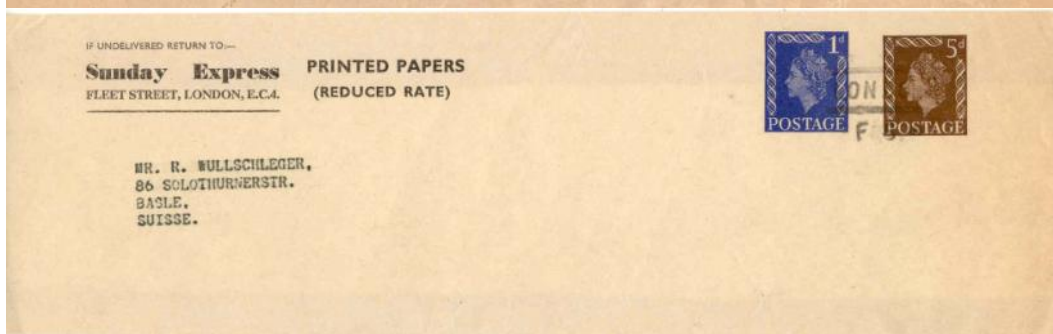
WS105B QEII 5d + 3d (stamps L37+L34) 25.00 NR



WS81B



WS85



WS105A

A BRITISH S.T.O. ENVELOPE DISCOVERY

Wayne Menuz

[This article first appeared in the "The Collectors Club Philatelist", the prestigious journal of the Collectors Club of New York and in the July/August Issue of "Postal Stationery", the bimonthly Journal of the United Postal Stationery Society (USA) and is reproduced here by kind permission of the Author.]

The successful introduction of adhesive stamps on May 1, 1840 was concurrent with the issuance of the "Mulready" postal stationery letter sheets and envelopes, which because of their design were quickly ridiculed out of existence. They were replaced by 1d pink and 2d blue embossed envelopes that were successful. The British were paranoid about forgery, and post office envelope and lettersheet paper contained as a security measure two or three parallel blue and red silk threads that were embedded into the paper during the papermaking process as a security measure.

However, commercial mailers insistently demanded the British post office provide a service that allowed privately supplied paper to be stamped ^[1]. The post office 1d & 2d envelopes were made in only a few sizes which did not meet commercial needs. Before the invention of the postage meter, such a Stamped to Order (STO, or sometimes termed Printed to Private Order, PTPO) service had many potential advantages:

- Any envelope, wrapper, letter sheet or label could be made in any grade, thickness and color of paper.
- Any size of stationery could be made.
- The labour to affix large quantities of postage stamps would be eliminated for big commercial mailers.
- Pilferage of stamps by employees would be almost eliminated, especially if the stationery was subsequently printed with the company's name by private printers.

Bowing to this pressure, Great Britain commenced this STO service in October 1855. However, the security afforded to post office envelopes by the silk threads would not exist on STO stationery as the paper was supplied by the user. The solution was to have each embossed stamp show the date it was embossed. This was achieved by having each working die drilled with three holes to accept numeral date plugs inserted into them.



Enlargement of lower portion of a 1d die showing date plug numerals at bottom for 26-6-65, and the die number 109ww at the bottom of Queen Victoria's neck.



The same illustration enhanced to show more detail of the embossing

Dating of dies was already in use with embossed revenue stamps, and the post office concluded they needed to do the same with these STO dies. Of course, revenue stamps could have values up to thousands of pounds ^[2], and dating for relatively low value postage dies was excessive to say the least.



Enlargement of a 4d die showing date plug numerals at the bottom for 20-5-84, showing this was printed on May 20, 1884.

All STO embossing was done at the government printing facilities, Somerset House, London. Working dies were made from the master die of each denomination, being replaced as they wore. The working dies were initially serially numbered at the base of the bust in colourless numbers but the small numbers are often impossible to read, especially if made from a worn die or on coarse paper. The practice of placing the serial number on each working die was discontinued in 1882. Each metal working die cylinder was drilled with three holes. Round metal plugs with numbers at one end for day-month-year were inserted into the holes each day prior to the die being used for embossing.

The dated dies were used until 1894 (1d until 1883). There are several different fonts of date plug numbers used during the 39 year life of dated dies, with or without serifs, different slightly different sizes and shapes, etc.

Initially, a fee of 1/- plus the postage was levied on each order of £10 or less, providing only one size of paper was submitted. Orders larger than £10 had no stamping fee charged. The service was introduced to “POSTMASTERS WHO OBLITERATE POSTAGE STAMPS” by a Postmaster General notice of October, 1855:

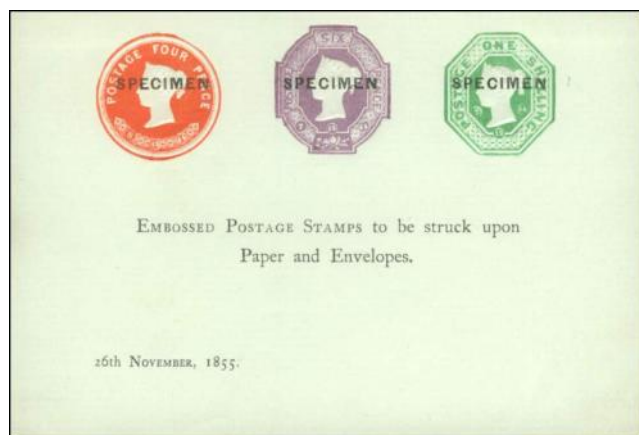
Under the provisions of the 4th Section of the Act 18 and 19 Vic., c78, Paper sent by the Public to the Inland Revenue Office will be impressed with Postage Stamps for denoting the several rates of Postage, and such Stamps will pass free of Postage.

The only difference between the stamps which will be impressed on Paper provided by the Public, and the stamps on the Threaded Paper issued by the Inland Revenue Office, will be, that the former will contain at the bottom of the Stamp, figures denoting the Day, Month, and Year on which they may be impressed.

When the Stamps are without those dates they will be on Threaded Paper.

Rowland Hill, Secretary

On hand when the service started in 1855 were the 6d and 1/- embossing dies, already in use for printing adhesive stamps, and the 1d and 2d dies, already in use for post office envelopes. Working dies were drilled to accept date plugs, and together with a newly engraved 4d die, were all made available for stamping private paper. In 1859 a 3d master die was engraved and included in the STO schedule, and prior to the end of the Victorian era in 1901, denominations of ½d, 1½d, 2½d, and 10d had been added to the schedule.



Advisory notice to alert post offices around the country that stationery with the above dies should be accepted. There was no post office stationery with these dies (only 1d and 2d), and there was a concern postmasters might not accept STO stationery with these dies as the 6d and 1/- had previously only been made as adhesive stamps, and the 4d was new.

Only unfolded sheets of paper were accepted for stamping, which after being returned could be made by the submitter into an envelope, a gummed parcel label, a letter sheet or a newspaper wrapper. White paper was initially only to be used, though this rule lapsed in the late 1870’s.

The popularity of STO stationery can be taken from

the Board of Inland Revenue records covering July 1 1862 to June 30 1863^[3].

1d	6,214,710	9d	45	2/6	226
2d	167,841	10d	11	2/8	292
3d	196,524	1/-	1,682	3/-	40
4d	8,038	1/4	7,426	3/4	575
6d	2,808	1/6	100	4/-	750
8d	17,112	2/-	850		

For this one year time period:

STO total orders	6,619,221
P. O. Issues 1d	12,998,880
2d	120

As can be seen, even at this early date and after only seven years of the service, about 1/3 of all stationery made was STO.

When orders arrived for rates for which there was no die available, it was decided to avoid the cost of engraving a new die for each odd denomination, and instead to stamp more than one die to make up the requested rate. The first such instance philatelically recorded is a “compound” envelope of 1863. However, only seven different combinations of compound stampings from 1863-1878 are known to exist today, each in a quantity of 3 or less. None are known dated 1879-1883. From 1884 onwards each year brings more and more combinations known to exist. Post office regulations mandated only one die be used if that value existed. Thus, compounds totaling 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d or 1/- for which dies existed are almost always the result of a stamped sheet of unfolded paper being subsequently returned to the government printer for a second value. For collectors or dealers trying to create unusual compounds, it was a relatively costly and laborious process, and few bothered. Besides, stamp albums of the day only had spaces for single dies, and few collected entires.

The table of the one-year STO orders 1862-1863 cited illustrates the point. The orders for the postage fees in bold were the only ones for which there were dies at this date, so the others would have to have been compound stampings. Some small portion of all but the 1d could also have consisted of compounds of lower denominations, such as a 4d order consisting of a 1d+3d or 2d +2d. However, by regulation they would have been only produced by a return of a previous STO item for up-rating.

From the table, compound stationery was less than 1/2 of 1% of all items produced. It is noteworthy that, based on this report, postage fees requiring thirteen different compound combinations were made, plus an uncertain number of combinations from returned items for uprating. Of these 13+, only 4 different combinations are known to exist today, all of the lower fees caused by uprating. Since virtually all of this mail was for business purposes, the survival rate was understandable miniscule.

Regulations also required the smaller value be stamped first (at right) then higher denominations added (at left). Any in reverse order almost always were stamped with a reorder, and most are scarce to rare.

The 2007 catalogue *Collect British Postal Stationery* by Alan Huggins and Colin Baker (“H&B”) lists 486 different catalogue numbers of Queen Victoria compound

items, grouping all envelopes, labels, sheets and wrappers with the same combination of dies under one catalogue number. Of these 486 compound stampings, they note that 50 of them are based on prior listings but have not been seen and verified, and may either no longer exist or were erroneously listed. Of the remaining 436, H&B note 88 as not seen mint, and 93 as not seen used.

After the introduction of the STO service with its dated dies, the contract manufacturer of envelopes for post office sale, Thomas de la Rue & Co, was told to cease using the paper with threads and to drill its 1d and 2d working dies to accept date plugs, which they did commencing in 1857. Because of the excessive labor and trouble to change date plugs each day, Thomas de la Rue & Co. frequently requested that the practice be discontinued. This was finally granted in 1881 for any new working dies. But, the expense of creating undrilled working dies just for that purpose and abandoning otherwise good drilled working dies was not sanctioned. This change of practice was carried over also to STO printing at Somerset House.

The most used denomination, the 1d value, had a constant stream of working dies made to replace those that wore out (almost 300 in total), and none after 1881 were drilled. By 1883 the first of the non-drilled 1d working dies came into production and stamp indicia with these are not dated. The working dies of the ½d (introduced 1892) and the 10d (introduced 1890) were never drilled, and they too are all undated. The 6d and 1/- dies were also heavily used in the production of telegraph forms, and the dozen or so working dies wore out, to be replaced by new, undrilled ones in 1894 (6d) and 1898 (1/-).

However, all working dies of the other denominations were already drilled. Rather than incur the expense of creating more working dies, these continued to be used with date plugs since these denominations were less frequently used. But, it was still onerous. In January 1894, J. A. Colls, the Inspector of Stamping at Somerset House wrote ^[4]:

The use of date plugs has been discontinued in the ½d, 1d and 10d Postage dies, but in regard to the other rates of duty it may be many years before an opportunity may arise by the renewal of the dies for extending the alteration.

In these circumstances it has occurred to me that in order to avoid the trouble of frequently changing the plugs as well as for economic and artistic purposes, that it would be an advantage to abolish the use of date plugs altogether and substitute for them "rosettes" similar to those now in use for Registration Envelopes.

Mr. Colls was correct in his assumption of "many years" before the others wore out – they all remained in use until replaced by King Edward dies in 1902. As an aside, the use of the same master dies to produce stationery for 61 years [the 1d and 2d from 1841 to 1902 and the others from various dates to 1902] must rank as a record.) His suggestion was approved, and beginning on February 7, 1894 each drilled working die had its three holes filled with plugs containing an ornamental rosette. Two distinct sets of plug rosette patterns were made, one type containing 5 Dots and the other 9 Dots. There is no known case of a STO working die containing a mixture of 9 and 5 Dot rosettes, nor why two types were made.



Enlargement of a 2d die showing the three date plug holes at the top filled with rosettes of 9 dots



Proof sheet of all drilled dies (1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 6d and 1/-). In the top row all dies are dated 21 1 94 and all of the dies in the bottom row have rosettes of 9 dots. They are dated prior to J. A. Collis' letter noted above, and likely constitute his trial to determine the visual effect prior to making his suggestion. (Courtesy of Dr. Alan Huggins).



Enlargement of a 3d die showing the three date plug holes filled with rosettes of 5 dots

From the introduction of the STO service in 1855 until this change in 1884, there were several color changes and/or master die (and consequently, working die) changes of many of the denominations. There are compound stampings representing the old die or color in combination with the new, all occasioned by users returning previously stamped paper to the printer for additional postage.

The H&B catalogue lists seven compound envelopes where each is a combination of dated dies with the rosette dies. They are all compounds of two dies, and the listing is based on one from 1897, but H&B note none has been verified as actually existing. It is suspected these seven items were chronicled in error. Dr. Siegfried Ascher was a keen collector of British STO envelopes, and in his famous (and almost always accurate) catalogue^[5] he listed no such mixed dated + rosette compound stationery.

But, this is very strange, since one would expect to see such mixed dies if the post office had continued to allow existing STO paper that had been stamped with dated dies to be returned for stamping for a higher postage rate after the changeover to rosette dies. They permitted such practice if adding the new rosette dies to rosette dies, and later, even adding dies of King Edward to Victorian dies. Collectors and dealers by the 1890's were "creating" combinations, and certainly would have attempted to create combinations of dated + rosette dies. But, none exist, and there had to be a rule established at Somerset House to forbid the acceptance of paper already stamped with a dated die for the purpose of obtaining an additional (and now, a rosette) die. We can find no official documentation on the subject, but the lack of even one mixed die example strongly suggests that it was enacted and diligently adhered to. But, could such a combination be created by accident? As I was preparing an exhibit of British compound stationery recently, imagine my surprise when I found such a combination which had been misidentified previously by me as a three-die combination envelope with all dies with rosettes (H&B ESC443). My mistake, in retrospect, was

easy to make since no mixed three-die combinations were known in catalogues, and the yellow of the 1½d indicium makes all details difficult to discern. (See the full size illustration adjacent.)

I obviously just glanced at the 1½d die. Since that denomination with 5 dots only exists in Specimen form, and all on issued stationery have 9 dots, I did not even have to determine the number of dots. I probably just checked the number of dots in the rosettes of the 4d dies to determine if there were either 9 or 5.



Unique mixed dated (1½d yellow) and 4d + 4d rosette combination

This envelope is the discovery copy of such a mixed use, and rather astonishingly, is one with three dies. The 1½d yellow die is dated, and the two added 4d dies have the date plugs replaced with rosettes of 9 Dots. The 1½d die is dated February 6, 1894 and so was stamped exactly the day before the changeover. It is therefore likely it was made late in the day, with the remaining dies (to make 9½d total postage) to be added the next day. But, on the next day the existing working dies had all their date plugs removed and replaced with the rosette plugs. It was then the two 4d dies were stamped to complete the order.

I shared my discovery with Dr. Alan Huggins, and he then made a check of his own collection, and to his surprise, he also found a mixed dated + rosette envelope! But, it is a different combination, namely the 1½d (also dated 6-2-94) with a 2d rosette die making the 3½d rate. It is used from Bath, England to Switzerland, and is certainly from the stamp dealer Alfred Smith & Son to send material to a collector. Alan then learned of the existence of another example of this same envelope but in mint condition.

It is likely that Alfred Smith & Son had placed a large order for STO stationery just prior to the changeover as they are known large users of that facility. They used STO stationery to send new issues of stamps to a large number of customers around the world. In this instance, the postage rates requiring more than one die and requiring a 1½d die were all stamped on February 6 with the lowest value (1½d) at right as per the regulations, and the remainder of the printing with the other dies was completed the next day. However, the next morning all the dies were

changed, having their date plugs removed and replaced with plugs with rosettes. Thus, both of these two combinations must have been inadvertently created by straddling the changeover date. And, perhaps, the yellow colour camouflaged the detection of such a dated + rosette combination which would have contravened a rule to avoid production of mixed dated and rosette stationery.



1½d dated 6 2 94 + 2d rosette dies, H&B **ESC179** listed as not previously seen (Courtesy Alan Huggins)

Of the seven mixed dated + rosette two-stamp compounds listed in H&B, four involve the yellow 1½d dated die. Now that it has been found in combination with the 2d die, mint and used, it is possible that other two-die combinations also exist, perhaps also lying misidentified in collections. Or, it may be that the 1897 listing was in error for the other six combinations, or that they have been lost through war or fire. The three-die item, previously unchronicled, has been given the catalog number **ESC422** by H&B, and so far at least, remains unique.

¹ Rowland Hill's proposal for the 1840 reform included this feature, but it was not adopted. He assumed most mail would be franked as STO, and he later was proven correct.

² The invention of changeable date plugs on embossed revenue stamps was made by Henry Bessemer in 1832, who suggested it to the government with the hope of a job. The idea was accepted but not Bessemer, who went on to invent the steel making process that bears his name.

³ "Notes on Victorian Embossed Postal Stationery", H. Dagnall, June 1987, pg 7.

⁴ Ibid, pg 15

⁵ Grosser Ganzsachen-Katalog, Published by Robert Noske, Germany, 1928.

BRITISH INDIA POSTAL STATIONERY by Derek Lang

The Trustees of the Stuart Rossiter Trust have informed us that they still have a few remaining copies of 'British India Postal Stationery' by Derek Lang. This is an illustrated history and listing of postal stationery issued in India up to Independence in 1947.

It is the seminal work with chapters covering postcards, envelopes, newspaper wrappers, Victorian letter sheets, air letter sheets, airgraphs, telegraph forms and a chapter on post-Independence. A final chapter covers collecting extensions including specimens, dies, punches, essays and proofs, bands, labels and parcel wrappers used abroad and by the states. The book is profusely illustrated and cross-indexed with the Higgins & Gage and Jain reference numbers.

222 pages B/W illustrations card covers ISBN 978 0 9527177 7 5

Price £25.00 + postage & packing: UK 1st class £4.25, Europe printed paper £6.00, Rest of world printed paper by air £10.00, World surface £5.50.

Copies of the book are available from Richard Wheatley, 7 Manor Croft, LEEDS LS15 9BW United Kingdom. Email: arewhyuu@talktalk.net. Payment should be made by sterling cheques drawn on a UK bank, made payable to Stuart Rossiter Trust, or \$US or Euro cheques payable to David Tett, or by PayPal to davidtett@aol.com

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THE JUBILEE OF THE UNIFORM PENNY POST An Update

In 2004 an account of the 1890 celebrations for the Jubilee of the Uniform Penny Post was published in four parts in the Society's Journal. At that time I had been unable to find all the information on the life of William Henry Elliott, the man who got himself into hot water for copying the official Jubilee envelope. In particular I was unable to find any record of Elliott's marriage.

Recently a friend very kindly looked through the records for me again and has been able to locate the marriage details. I am now able to report that Elliott married Mary Heather (nee Hall), a widow, on 22nd February 1857 in the Parish Church of St. Mary's, Lambeth. Elliott's father, Peter Elliot a bookbinder, was still alive at the time, although Mary Heather's father, William Hall a shoemaker, was already dead.

From this information I have also been able to establish that the early history of Elliott's life as set out in the article is the truth, a fact that I could not confirm with any certainty in 2004.

ALFRED SMITH - an early card.

Mr A Pinder has sent the scans illustrated below of a card used in 1875 by the Bath Stamp dealer Alfred Smith.



UPDATED POSTCARDS

Colin Baker

Before the signing of the Treaty of Berne and the formation of the General Postal Union (GPU) in October 1874, individual countries had to make their own arrangements between themselves for the handling and delivery of mail coming from a foreign country. But on 1st July 1875 this came to an end, at least as far as the GPU member countries were concerned. All those who had signed the Treaty of Berne agreed to charge the same rate of postage for mail sent to another country, each member retaining all the postage paid to them, and to give the same preference to both inland mail and that from other countries. The basic overseas rate for letters was set at 25 Swiss

centimes, or the local currency equivalent. In the case of Great Britain this was 2½d for letters weighing up to half an ounce, a rate that remained the same for nearly 50 years.

One other postage rate agreed by the GPU was that postcards sent to a foreign country would be charged half the basic letter rate, or 12½ Swiss centimes. For Great Britain this was 1¼d and new postcards were produced specifically for this purpose [Figure 1]. No premium was allowed on the cost of foreign rate postcards and they had to be sold for just 1¼d, unlike their inland counterparts which had cost more than the basic ½d soon after they were first introduced in 1870.



Figure 1. A 1¼d postcard used to Delft, Holland on 3rd July 1877.



Figure 2. The 1875 issue ½d inland postcard updated to 1¼d and used to Germany on 8th January 1877.

Although special postcards were produced for sending overseas, there were no restrictions on using inland postcards for this purpose providing they were printed with a prepaid stamp (ie were postal stationery postcards) and if necessary had additional adhesive stamps added to make up the correct postal rate. However, in the early years of the foreign postcard it was unusual for this to happen. There were never any stamps using the farthing coin issued in Great Britain (ie ¼d or ¾d stamps) and so it was impossible to make up an inland ½d postcard to exactly 1¼d to match the price of the stamp on the 1875 foreign postcard. Anyone trying to use an inland postcard to a foreign country was giving away a ¼d and also paying an unnecessary premium for the postcard itself.

The two postcards illustrated here [Figures 2 & 3] are nice examples of this happening. Did the writers not realise that they had to use a different value postcard on foreign mail to those they used within the UK. Then when they took them to the local post office they were told otherwise? Perhaps they did not have a 1¼d postcard and could not get to the post office to buy one. Thus they had to use an uprated inland postcard which they could pop into the nearest pillar box. We'll never know, but they have provided us with a couple of interesting items.

In 1878 the GPU became the UPU (the Universal Postal Union) and by this time many more countries had joined. The 1¼d rate set in 1875 only lasted four years and was replaced in April 1879 with new rates of 1d, 1½d and 2d which were agreed between UPU members, depending on the postcard's destination. Never again would the farthing feature in a British postal rate.

Notes on British currency: In Great Britain in the middle of the 19th century the penny (1d) was quite a valuable coin to many people who only earned about ten shillings a week (equal to 120 pennies). The penny was divided into two half pennies and these again were divided into two farthings, making four farthings equal to one penny.



Figure 3. An 1878 issue inland postcard uprated with a Penny Red and used to Italy on 20th April that year.

THE 1944 - 48 PALESTINE AIRLETTER SHEET

Tony Goldstone

Although it is well documented in the archives of the Crown Agents (BAPIP Issue 106 pages 186-188) that plans had been formulated to produce a stamped air letter card (as the aerogramme was then known) as far back as July 1937 nothing came to fruition until the 1940s.

A stampless Air Letter Card was issued to British Forces in Palestine in March 1941, requiring the fixing of an adhesive GB stamp [Fig. 1] and various designs and layouts were printed during the War years and up to 1948. However these airletters were not usually available to civilians, and cannot really be called the official aerogramme of British Palestine

announcement and also a manuscript annotation in the Crown Agents archives that 1st November 1944 was the date of issue to the public, ("Civilian Air Mail Letter Form printed in Palestine brought into use 1/11/44"). The Writer of this short article acquired such an airletter sheet mailed as a First Day cover, from Bat Yam, Palestine 1st Nov. 1944 to Cairo, Egypt. [Fig. 2].



Fig. 1



Fig 2

It was not until 1944 that the Mandate Authorities in Palestine printed their first airletter sheet for civilian use. Printing was done by typography by Pikovsky Printing House, Jerusalem. There has been some confusion amongst Palestine specialists as to the exact date when the lettersheet was issued, however in the same BAPIP issue mentioned above, these is a photocopy of an official Post Office

Interestingly the same BAPIP article makes reference to a stampless airletter sheet (requiring adhesives) that was to be distributed to all Post Offices in Palestine on Oct. 16th 1944 as a "holding operation" until the new printed and stamped airletter sheets were delivered ready for 1st November. No example of such a short lived letter sheet has been found to date to the best of my knowledge. Did they really exist?

Dr. A. Hochheiser in his Postal History of the

Palestine Mandate, describes the airletter sheet as rectangular with gummed flaps for sealing after folding. The unfolded sheet measured 192 x 240 (without flaps) but there are variations. The paper is of off-white colour. A watermark variety with the words EXTRA STRONG exists, but is very rare to find. At the time of printing a grey burelage (security overlay of a swirling pattern) was added to both the Address and Sender's panel area. Two printings were made during the lifetime of the airletter (1944-8) and are easily distinguishable by the extent of the burelage.



Fig 3

In the first issue [Fig. 3] the burelage extends about 4mm past the Sender's panel left vertical border line, whereas the burelage on the second printing (1947?) extends only about 1mm or less. There is no consistency to the burelage, and many examples exist of strong, weak or almost no noticeable overlay. (The Writer has seen examples of the watermark variety only in the first printing and would be delighted to hear from any reader who can submit an example of the watermark in the second printing). The stamp is printed in indigo, depicting the Tower of David on the Jerusalem Wall, with a price of 25 mils. The name Palestine is printed in English, Arabic and Hebrew; all instructions however are printed in English only. Cut-outs of the stamp were legal for regular postage.

For the serious collector, variations can be found in the cut of the flaps, the colour of the gum and colour shades of the stamp and printing ink, as well as the intensity of the burelage mentioned previously.

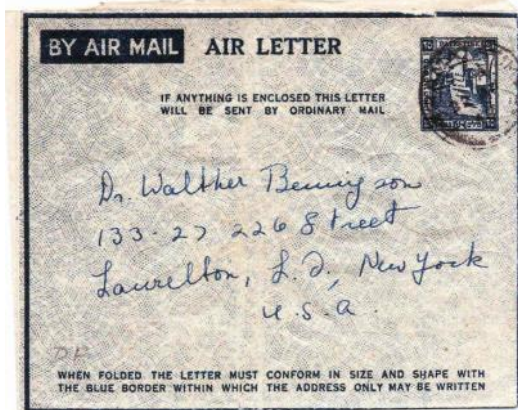


Fig 4

The British Mandate ended on 14th May 1948, however due to hostilities regular air service from Palestine ceased on 25th April that year. The airletter [Fig. 4] mailed on 22nd April from Ramatayim to U.S.A was possibly on the last flight out of Palestine, as it would have taken a few days under armed convoy to have reached the airport.

Although no air service existed in the early weeks of the State of Israel which declared its independence on 14th May 1948, an enterprising collector affixed a new Israel stamp on the first day of the Israel postal service (16 May 1948) to the now defunct Palestine aerogramme, creating the first (unofficial) Israel airletter sheet [Fig.5]!



Fig 5

At least one private company produced approved airletter sheets during the last years of the Mandate, and these required the addition of an adhesive stamp [Fig. 6]

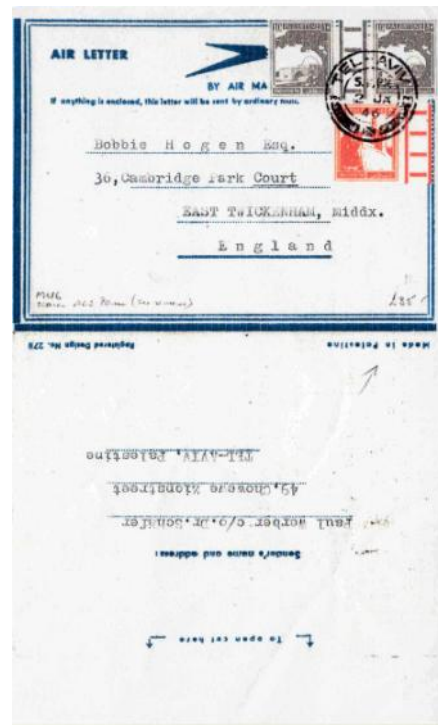


Fig 6

Readers are requested to submit any further information, details or corrections to the Writer, via the Editor, anything that will add to the above short history of the Palestine airletter sheet.

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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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