



THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 19, No. 3 August 2011
(Serial number 59)



One of Weston's Philatelic Creations - see page 18

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The Postal Stationery Society (Founded 1992)

For collectors of postal stationery worldwide no matter what their area of interest.

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The Postal Stationery Society Journal **EDITOR: John H. Barker**

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Articles on any aspect of postal stationery are welcomed. Items for illustration should be good quality colour scans or photocopies or should be sent to the Editor for scanning.

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Society Calendar 2011

Saturday October 15th 2011

Royal Philatelic Society, London AGM, Auction & Tony Chilton Competition.

Full details of all events are included in the Programme which was enclosed with the February issue of the Journal.

DEFINITION OF POSTAL STATIONERY

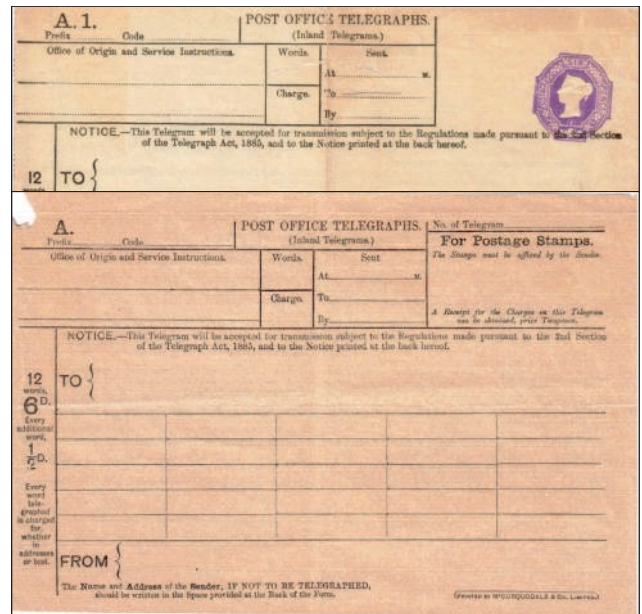
In response to Michael Lockton's "CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - MAY 2011" I have received the following comments.

David Hiscock writes:

'The Postal Stationery Society Journal arrived today and I was pleased to see that another collector has the same difficulty as I have in understanding the FIP definition of Postal Stationery!

I collect GB telegrams and as you are surely aware only the forms supplied by the Post Office which carried embossed stamps to receive a telegram sender's message, known as 'A1' forms are considered Postal Stationery. These forms were also available for senders without embossed stamps, known as 'A' forms and stamps were applied when the telegram was accepted. All used 'A' and 'A1' forms were retained by the Post Office and eventually destroyed. None of the various other forms used in the telegram service required stamps.

So what is Postal Stationery? My dictionary defines 'postal' as 'of or relating to the post' and 'stationery' as 'writing and other office materials'. Since the Post Office Telegraphs was 'of the post', and the telegram forms were 'writing and other office materials' the exclusion of unstamped stationery from the Postal Stationery classification seems madness. I attach a scan of two examples of forms which were both available concurrently to illustrate this anomaly.'



Lars Engelbrecht, Secretary, FIP Postal Stationery Commission writes:

'After reading our Chairman's Chat in the May issue, I would - as Secretary in the FIP Postal Stationery Commission - like to comment.

First of all, I hope that everybody collects the things they find interesting - and do not limit by any rules or regulations. It is definitely not the intention of the FIP Postal Stationery Commission to set any limits in anybody's collecting areas. Collect what you think is fun!

When you go from collecting to exhibiting there are regulations. Just as in sports, we need to have rules that we all play by in order to make a fair judgment. The FIP postal stationery regulations consist of a definition of postal stationery (what can be exhibited and what cannot), how an exhibit can be composed and how an exhibit is judged. Besides the regulations there are guidelines that give the exhibitors and jurors a deeper explanation of the regulations. I can suggest all postal stationery collectors

with an interest in exhibiting read the regulations and guidelines (see the Commission website: www.postalstationery.org).

And then back to the definition: Like all other classes the postal stationery class has a definition of what can be included in an exhibit. My experience is that in 99.5% of all exhibits this is not an issue because the exhibitor shows items that are clearly postal stationery. Only a few times I have experienced that exhibits entered in the postal stationery class show mainly items that are not regarded as postal stationery (most often postcards without an imprinted stamp). And it is the essence of the definition of postal stationery that there needs to be imprinted stamp. The FIP definition of postal stationery is: "Postal Stationery comprises postal matter which either bears an officially authorised pre-printed stamp or device or inscription indicating that a specific face value of postage or related service has been prepaid". And following this definition, postcards without an imprinted stamp are not postal stationery but postcards. Are they interesting and collectable? Yes! I collect them myself. Can they be exhibited?

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - AUGUST 2011

As stated in previous chats, I am interested in the use of Postal Stationery - to send letters, messages, valuables and telegrams from and to different destinations. The Queen Victorian Penny Pink envelopes are an excellent example. During its 60 years of use, over 50 different sizes and designs of envelope were issued, and to obtain a mint copy of every item is a difficult task. But if one looks at the development of the postal services, the postmarks, advertisements and overseas postal rates, the field is very exciting and almost limitless. Their use by the British Army in South Africa during the Anglo-Boer War is one such example.

Penny Pink envelopes were first available to troops through the British Army Postal Services in the 1885 Sudan

Campaign together with a sheet of notepaper, for the price of 1½d or 2½d for two. This facility was repeated in 1899/1902 during the Anglo-Boer War and was widely used by the troops. Envelopes from this war are common and make an interesting addition to any Postal Stationery collection.

I show below an example used from the British Army Base Post Office, established in the cellar of the Capetown Post Office, posted on 6 April 1900. It is slightly unusual in having an additional 1d Lilac adhesive stamp and also the postmark of the Capetown Post Office. How much more exciting is that compared with a mint copy of EP 30b.



Michael Lockton

Yes, but not in the postal stationery class, because they are not postal stationery.

But there are some items that are not strictly falling in under the definition that are mentioned as acceptable in exhibits:

Formula stationery: A number of countries issued so called "formula" items which were sold to the public bearing adhesive stamps, as fore-runners to the issue of postal stationery items with impressed stamps. These formula items can be included in postal stationery exhibits.

Non value indicators: More recently a growing number of Postal Administrations have introduced postal stationery which, while sold to the public at a specific price, merely indicates that a particular service/postage rate has been prepaid without indication of value - termed "non value indicators" (NVI). Such material is

appropriately included in exhibits of postal stationery.

And the regulations also say that the following items can be exhibited: Telegraph Forms, Money Orders/Postal Orders/Postal Notes and International Reply Coupons.

And then the guidelines mention the following items as not accepted in the postal stationery class: Unstamped formula items (others than those mentioned before), unstamped military stationery, unstamped postal administration stationery, official franks, meter post impressions and privately generated 'Postage Paid Impressions' are all considered outside the definition.

This is the official FIP definition of postal stationery. But again I hope that you will collect the items you find interesting, no matter the exhibiting definition.'

SECRETARY'S NOTES - MAY 2011

A while ago I made the plea that stamp dealers sending items through the post should try to use a little less sellotape. Well that's not quite true as I really wanted them to stop using it altogether. It is a real nuisance and I find there is always a danger of the item that is supposedly so well "protected" becoming damaged by knives or scissors that are used during the process of opening the package. Of course my request seems to have fallen on stony ground and I continue to receive packages that are bound with just as much sellotape as before.

Undaunted, I'm now going to have another grump about what dealers do with items of stationery in their stocks. This time it concerns pencil; that seemingly inoffensive writing medium that has been with us for hundreds of years, but that some dealers just cannot put down. They simply have to write on the front of a postcard, envelope or whatever else they can get their hands on (not on the back of course where it might not be such a problem). All sorts of information appears. The price, the catalogue number, the date of the stamp or the cancellation, who it is addressed to, where it has come from, and so on. The list is endless. Of course all this is "necessary" as none of us are capable of seeing any of this information for ourselves. Some dealers even seem unable to control their writing hands and draw large arrows to point out "important" markings or other features. I often cannot see what they think is so important.

As if all this graffiti is not bad enough, there are those who use a very hard pencil and manage to plough into the surface of the paper, leaving an indelible mark that even when the pencil mark is removed, the indentations are impossible to eliminate. It's there forever and for all to see.

All this is sacrilege to an item of postal history that might be well over 100 years old or more, and you, the philatelist and collector have the unenviable task of trying to remove all these and other marks before it can be mounted in your collection, or perhaps as part of a competition entry. No, you may not leave the price on the item if it's going to be part of a competition entry; such behaviour will certainly warrant a ticking off by the judges and probably result in a deduction of marks.

So you carefully take your soft rubber, try to hold the delicate cover firmly on a flat surface and gradually rub away to remove the offending marks. It takes time and great care not to tear or crease the cover that you have probably paid a great deal for. All too often I find that some minor disaster happens during this cleaning process and the cover ends up a little more damaged than when I bought it.

So now a plea to all those dealers who, in the past, have always had a pencil at their side. Please write on a separate piece of paper and slip it in the protective sleeve along with the cover or postcard. Don't write anything on your stock. Let's save all our postal history and postal stationery in as undamaged a condition as we possibly can. Let's pass on all our postal heritage in as good a condition as possible so that those who follow in our footsteps can be grateful to us and not wonder what we have been playing at. Yes I know it's quick and easy to write directly onto the

front of an envelope. I know that pieces of paper can get lost or mixed up with other items, but some dealers manage to avoid writing on the front of their stock, so I'm sure it cannot be that difficult. After all would you write on the front of a postage stamp? I think not, so please treat postal stationery in the same way.

Worpex - A Disaster

For the last three years we have arranged a society meeting at Worpex, the fair organised by the Worcester Philatelic and Postcard Society. Although not that many members had attended in previous years, we had hoped that it would become one of the favourite events in the society's calendar. After all there are plenty of members who live reasonably close. Unfortunately it was not to be. Last year there were only five members at the meeting. This year the meeting had to be abandoned as only two members attended; one was John Barker who organised the room and brought the display frames for us to use, the other was 'yours truly' who made a special effort to get there and take a 32 sheet display.

Worpex is a well organised event with about thirty dealers, many selling postal stationery from around the world. Entry is free, as is parking and there are refreshments at very reasonable prices. It's a shame that all this and the attraction of a society meeting failed to draw more than two members to the meeting.

Society's Annual General Meeting

The Society's AGM will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society's building, on Saturday 15th October 2011, to receive officers' reports, discuss any matters relevant to the running of the society and to elect officers for the next twelve months. If any member wishes to raise any matter, or would like me to raise something on their behalf, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. In addition, if anyone would like to help the society by taking on one of the important roles in the Society, or wishes to join the committee, please get in touch. There are several posts that still need to be filled. We need a Publicity Officer, a Programme Officer and an Advertising Assistant for John Barker. If you would like to help, please contact the secretary.

Tony Chilton Competition

The Society's annual Tony Chilton Competition will be held on Saturday 15th October 2011, immediately after the Annual General Meeting which takes place at the Royal Philatelic Society's building. This is a 16 page competition open to all members, whether attending the meeting or not. The rules of the competition allow members living outside the United Kingdom to submit colour photocopies of their entries to avoid problems with the post and customs. Entries submitted in this way will not be penalised by the judges. But please make your copies clear and as close to the original as possible.

And Finally, On Line Shopping

I often see items of postal stationery on the Ebay auction site that are excessively priced. I know full well that I can buy these for much less elsewhere. But some dealers seem to live in eternal hope and have their

expensive lots listed for months, or even years, before finally giving up and removing them.

However, one lot that I saw this summer surprised even a hard critic like me. It was the Queen Victoria 2d registration stamp that had been roughly cut from a registration envelope (1882 to 1893 issues) and was described as a "Great Britain embossed issue (1847-1876) Rare Stamp Pre War Classic". Apart from the obviously wrong description, what shook me was the priced tag of £395. Now there was a bargain to be missed.

SWINPEX MEETING REPORT

The Society's meeting at Swinpex on the afternoon of 10th June attracted 9 members and one guest. **Michael Lockton** chaired the meeting, and welcomed everyone. As usual it was a relaxed and informal meeting with six of those present giving short displays.

Keith Lloyd started off with a frame of modern postcards from China, many printed with lottery numbers, so presumably you wouldn't want to use them until you'd found out you had not won a prize!

John Barker followed with a display based on his series of Journal articles, "Postal Stationery With a Purpose". These and his accompanying talk showed us all why much postal stationery is issued and used.

George King put up three frames of packet bands, those strips of paper that hold bundles of postal stationery together and indicate its selling price. He covered nearly everything from Penny Pink envelopes to King George V material. Fascinating stuff.



Part of George King's display of packet bands

Arthur Roberts brought along some speed. No, nothing to do with drugs, but postal stationery items that were delivered as quickly as possible. Included were a variety of air letters, followed by SwiftAir and Special Delivery envelopes. By contrast he finished with items that had been delayed in the post.

Michael Lockton followed by showing some more of his extensive Penny Pink collection; this time it was uprated envelopes for heavier weight letters and mail forwarded and prepaid.

Finally **Colin Baker** showed Victorian overseas postcards, showing how the rates for these changed over the 25 years, finally ending up at 1d to any place in the world.

All in all it was another successful meeting, which generated much discussion about the items on display. We will be back next year on 9th June 2012 so make a date in your diary and get something ready to show.

MIDPEX 2011

Midpex is the bi-annual event held near Coventry every other year, and we always have a stand to promote the Society. John Barker takes on the task of arranging this for us (as well as doing much of the organising for the event itself).

This year Midpex was held at the Warwick Exhibition Centre just outside Leamington Spa, south of Coventry. It was much better venue than that of previous occasions; light, cool and plenty of room to get around. Parking was easy and plentiful, and there was even a shuttle bus from the railway station for those coming by train.

Our stand was busy for much of the day, with members popping by and potential new members wanting details and asking questions about postal stationery. We managed to sign up one new member and had a rather late renewal from another, as well as selling a few of our publications. We also kept our name in the forefront of collector's minds. Postal stationery is being taken more and more seriously each year and is now an important part of many collections. All in all it was a good day for the society.

As well as many of the specialist societies being present at Midpex, there were nearly fifty dealers in attendance, some from overseas who had come over especially for the event. So apart from being able to meet up with old friends, there were many opportunities for us to spend our pocket money.

Our thanks for the success of our stand must go to John Barker who put a great deal of effort into setting it up and providing the display, while at the same time being heavily involved in organising the event. Although he had some help from PSS members during the day to man the stand, John had to spend a lot of time running it himself. It was a busy day for him and we are very grateful for all the work he put in.



John Barker meeting "King Edward VII" at the society's stand at Midpex.

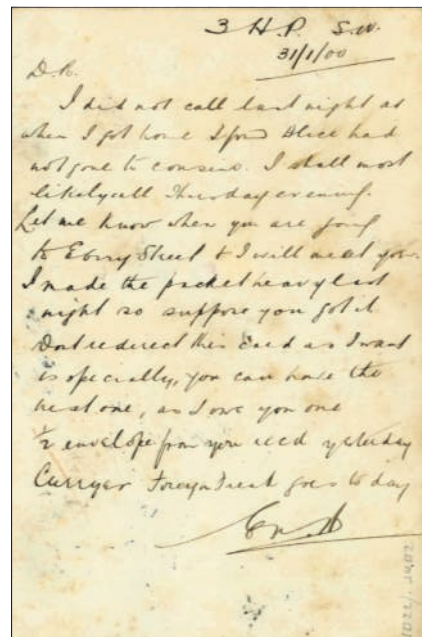
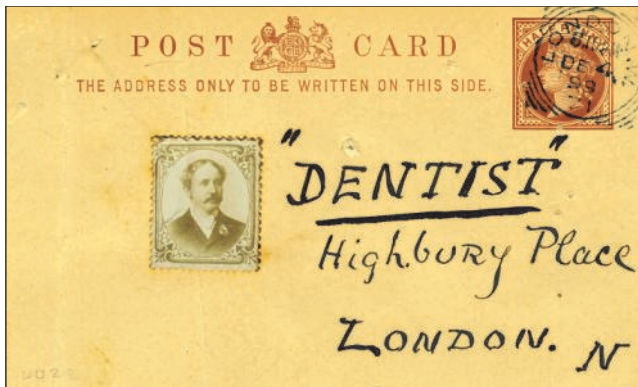
This year is the centenary of the Downey Heads, which were used on British inland and overseas postcards from 1911. Hence the appearance of the "King" himself.

THE ENGLISHMAN WHO POSTED HIMSELF

Michael Pitt-Payne

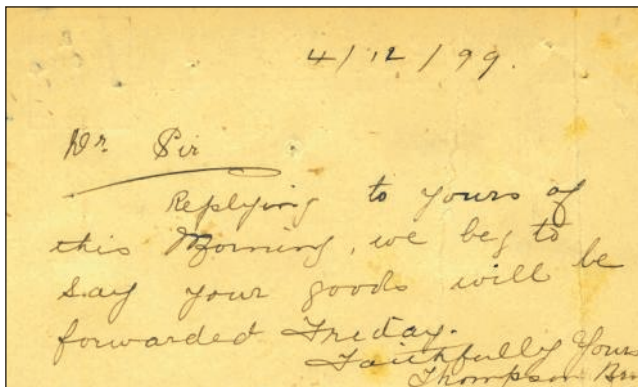
I was interested to read Colin Bakers review of "The Englishman who posted himself" as the book contains illustrations from a number of items in my collection and I wrote the review of the book which was published in the March edition of the London Philatelist. Colin said that there was only one item of postal stationery illustrated in the book, but I found one post card which is from my own collection and six letter cards.

The Post Card from my collection was posted on 4th December 1899 and is addressed to "Dentist" Highbury Place, London, N and has a picture of Dr G G Forster for whom it was intended stuck on the front for identification purposes: he was W Reginald Bray's cousin. This card contravened regulations as a label was attached to it, but the Post Office failed to notice this.

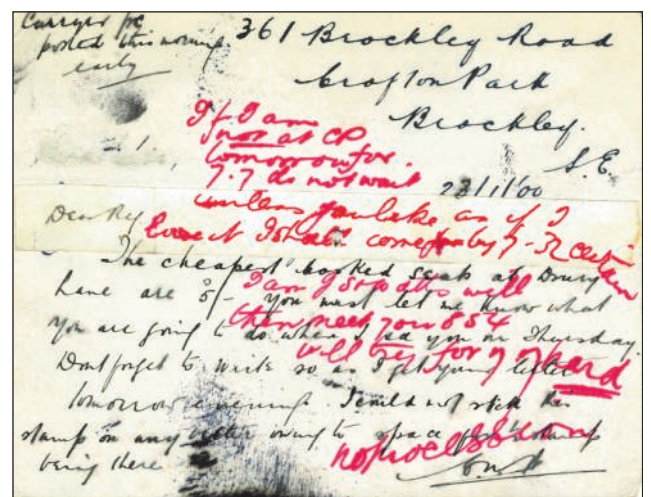


collaborated. On this card an embossed 1d stamp which has been cut from a cheque has been used in place of a postage stamp. This was identified as being contrary to regulations and it has been charged 1d as it was treated as an unpaid postcard.

The next item was posted in London by E W Arnold to W R Bray on 23rd January 1900 and a cut out 1 cent stamp of Canada has been used to pay the postage – the Post Office failed to notice this deception and the card was



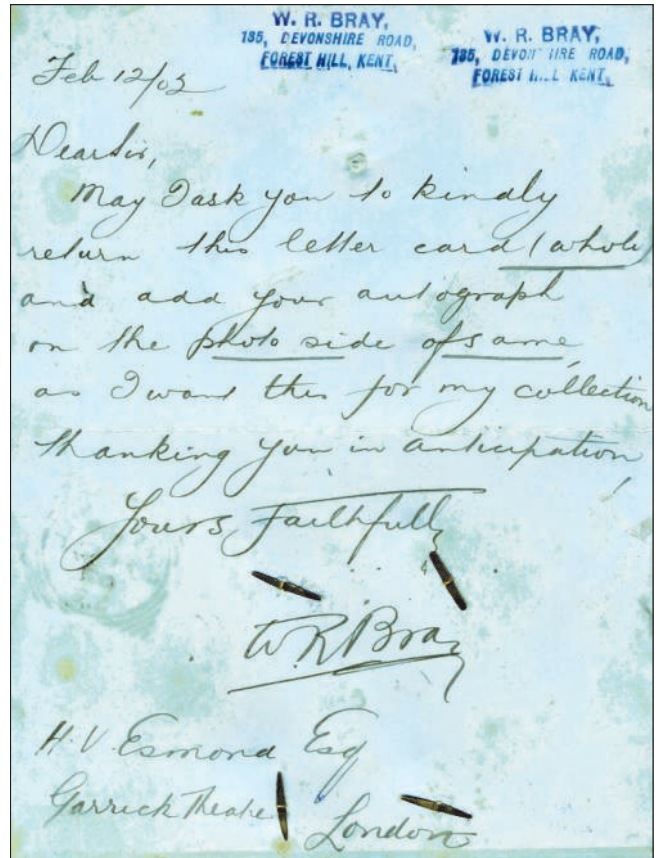
The next item was a card posted to W R Bray on 31st January 1900 by his friend E W Arnold with whom he



delivered without any surcharge being raised. Then some 22 months later on 14th November 1901 Reginald Bray posted the card back to his friend E W Arnold as if it was a redirected letter and the Post Office failed to notice the time which had elapsed since the card was first delivered.

After Reginald Bray had exhausted most of his ideas for testing the Post Office regulations he started collecting autographs connected to pictures of famous people

illustrated on cigarette cards. As it was contrary to regulations to attach anything to a Post Card he decided to attach the pictorial cigarette cards to Postal Stationery Letter Cards using paper clips. The letter card I am illustrating was sent on 12th February 1902 to Henry Vernon Esmond who was a very popular English actor and playwright at the time.

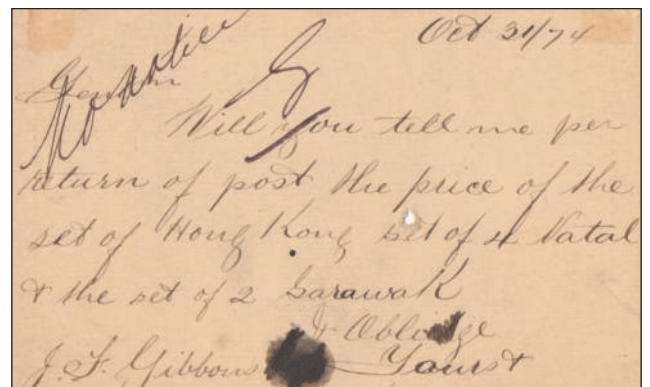


AN ALFRED SMITH POSTCARD

Colin Baker

The November 2010 issue of the Journal contained details of a postcard sent by Alfred Smith & Co from Bath in 1875. I recently saw a similar postcard and thought it worth reporting for those collectors who are interested in stamp dealers' mail.

The card is the 1870 Post Office issue addressed to Alfred Smith & Co, requesting his prices for three sets of stamps (Hong Kong, Natal and Sarawak). It was posted from Manchester on 31 October 1874. However the writer, J F Gibbons, (any relation I wonder) has omitted his address. I cannot quite make out the manuscript note in the top left corner; perhaps it says 'no notice'. So it's doubtful if Mr Gibbons did receive a reply. Of course if you know better then please let us know through the editor.



A STRANGE USE FOR A POSTCARD

Colin Baker

Two new postcard rates were introduced in Great Britain on 1st January 1889, and for the first time postcards could be sent from Great Britain to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji (known as Australasia) at special rates. The cheaper of the two options (2d) was for postcards sent by the long sea route through the English Channel, across the Bay of Biscay, down the west coast of Africa, round the Cape of Good Hope and across the Indian Ocean to Australia and beyond. The more expensive of the two rates (3d) paid for the quick, part overland route across France and Italy to Brindisi (on the east coast of Italy), down the Adriatic Sea to Egypt, then down the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, into the Indian Ocean and on to Australasia.

There was already a 2d postcard that had been introduced in 1879 for the quick route via Brindisi to India and other countries in the region. But there had never been a 3d postcard.

The new 3d rate was catered for with a new postcard issued on 1st September 1889, with the heading "British Empire Post Card". It was unique for two reasons. Firstly the stamp showed a full length engraving of Queen Victoria, based on the 1885 painting by von Angeli, the Imperial Portrait Painter to the Kaiser.



The 3d British Empire postcard used from Gosport, Hampshire, to Melbourne, Australia on 30th August 1890 during the 3d rate period.

Although this same design would be used for other foreign rate postcards issued by Great Britain in Queen Victoria's reign, all the other stamps issued in this country (both adhesive and incorporated into postal stationery) featured her as she was at the beginning of her reign, based on the 1837 City of London Medal by William Wyon.

The second unique feature of the 3d British Empire postcard concerned the coat of arms that was printed in the centre of the heading. The design chosen for these was that normally used for stamped to order postcards, with a section of chain removed from around the neck of the Unicorn. Why this design of coat of arms was selected has not been explained, but possibly as the postcard had to be hurriedly introduced (it was 8 months late when it was finally released) the lack of time prevented detailed scrutiny.

The new postcard rates did not last for that long. On 1st October 1891, less than three years after the 3d rate first appeared, the postcard rate was reduced to 1d to all countries that accepted postcards. There was already a 1d postcard that could be used for this purpose, but on 1st April 1892 a new 1d postcard was issued, similar in appearance to the 3d postcard, but with a new heading and no coat of arms.

The reduction in the postcard rate must have been a bit of a surprise for some people and they found they still had some of the old 3d postcards that had not been used. The question that faced them was how to use them up. The use of stamps cut from postal stationery was not permitted at this time, and it would be more than 13 years before the regulations were changed. So some of the old postcards were simply sent to friends abroad as a souvenir, while others were sent registered to use up the excess postage.

Alfred Smith, the stamp dealer who originated in Bath and then moved to London, must have had quite a stock of the old 3d postcards that he found he could not sell, for at the turn of the century he had some overprinted with his name and London address and "Per Parcel Post", thus turning them into prepaid parcel post labels.



A 3d British Empire postcard used by the stamp dealer Alfred Smith, as a prepaid parcel post label on 4th September 1901

The Post Office seemed to have been quite happy to accept this change of use, even though at the time postal stationery cut-outs were banned. In his book "The Evolution of British Stamped Postcards and Letter Cards" Harry Dagnall illustrates the use of two of these postcards to pay the postage on a registered parcel in 1903, (4d postage + 2d registration fee) sent from Norwood, London SE, although they are not overprinted as parcel post labels. They were probably sent by Oswald Marsh (or possibly one of the other stamp dealers that operated in that area of London). I also have in my own collection two envelopes used by Whitfield King, Ipswich, used as parcel post labels in 1900 (see PS Journal August 2010 page 7).

So perhaps the 3d postcard used as a prepaid parcel post label is not so strange after all.



Two envelopes used by Whitfield King as prepaid parcel post labels.



A 3d British Empire postcard used on 13th September 1890 to Antwerp during the 3d Australasia rate period.

It is a commercial usage by Ehrmann & Bahlsen, Hatton Garden, London, so was it a mistake and should the one penny postcard have been used instead?



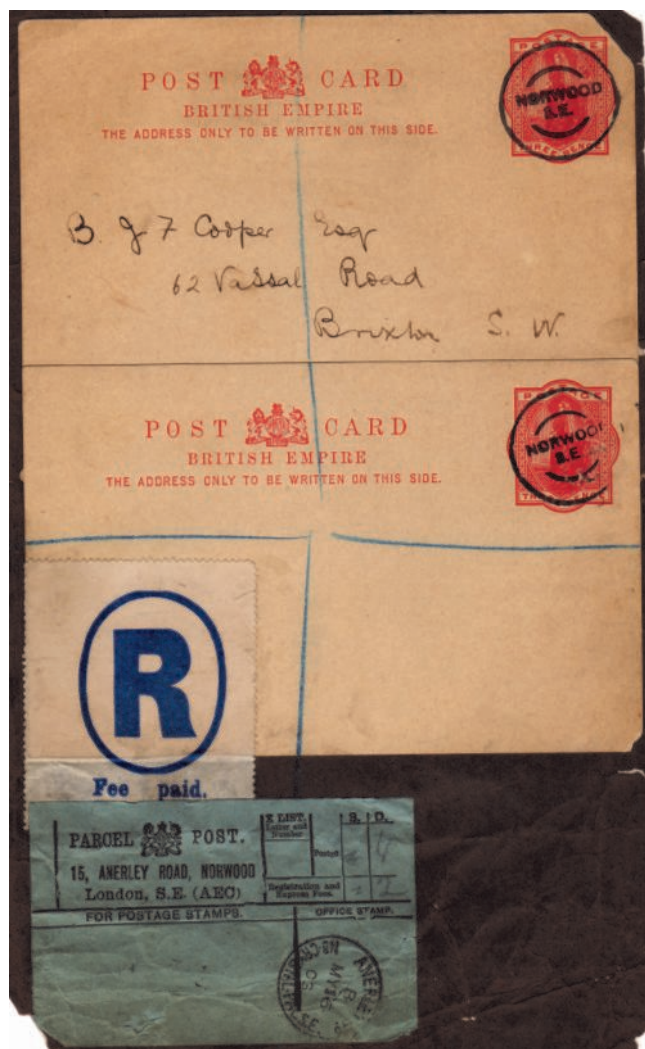
A postcard used by an English stamp dealer, A Hart, sent registered to Germany on 23rd September 1889 less than a month after it was first issued.

The ½d adhesive presumably paid a late fee, as the rate to Germany at the time was 1d.



A 3d Empire postcard used on 18th October 1891 to France.

The writer starts his message “This card is no longer in use, so I hope Mr Tishill will think it worthy of a place in his collection.”



Two 3d Empire postcards used to pay the postage on a parcel from Norwood, South London, and sent on 16th May 1903.

(Illustration courtesy Edward Caesley.)

GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

NEW ITEMS REPORTED

Envelopes - Stamped to Order Issues

ES163b 1st class slate blue NVI stamp E7 with pale blue phosphor (courtesy **Alan Vaughan**).

ES 165 1st class bright green NVI stamp E7 pale yellow green phosphor

2004 Machin 1st class NVI stamp E7a (25mm) with 2 line text 'For use in the UK only/ Postage paid up to 100g' under stamp impression and 'Northern Ireland Assembly' at top left, size C5

ES168 violet stamp 25mm (PY) NR **** (illustration courtesy **George King**).



Machin 2nd class NVI stamp E12 with 'POSTAGE PAID ROYAL MAIL' with and without* envelope symbol on flap.

ES195 black stamp 25mm (C)* NR ****

ES196 bright blue stamp 25mm (PYG) NR ****

ES197 green stamp 25mm (PYG) NR ****

* With House of Commons printed on front; add **ES195** to list on page 22 (courtesy **George King**)

ESC828Wo KGV1 1½d green + 1s brown (68+75) has now been recorded used, change **** NR to **** (courtesy **Jan Kosniowski**).



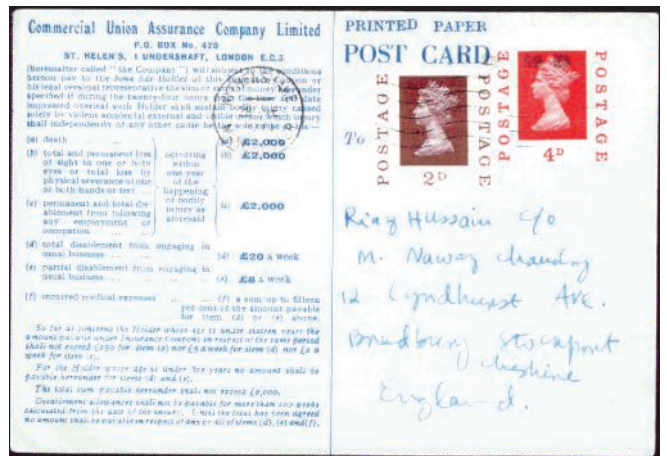
Amend numbering of stamps for **ESCP953** to 4d + 9d (94+92) - thanks to a query from **Peter Bamert**.

Telegraph Forms - Post Office Issues

TP21c KGV 9d - amend description to 'Without 9d at left, size c' and also captions to illustrations of 9d and 1s forms on page 48 from **TP21A** to **TP21a** and from **TP21B** to **TP21c** -thanks to a query from **Alan Vaughan**.

Postcards - Stamped to Order Issues

Arthur Roberts has sent in a 4d scarlet Machin Commercial Union Assurance postcard uprated to 6d where the 2d stamp has had to be printed diagonally downwards to avoid the printed text. This card is size g and will be listed as **CS284C** (see illustration)



CS289 1st class black NVI stamp E4a with House of Commons printed on front has now been recorded unused, change NR **** to **** (courtesy **George King**)

Wrappers - Post Office Issues

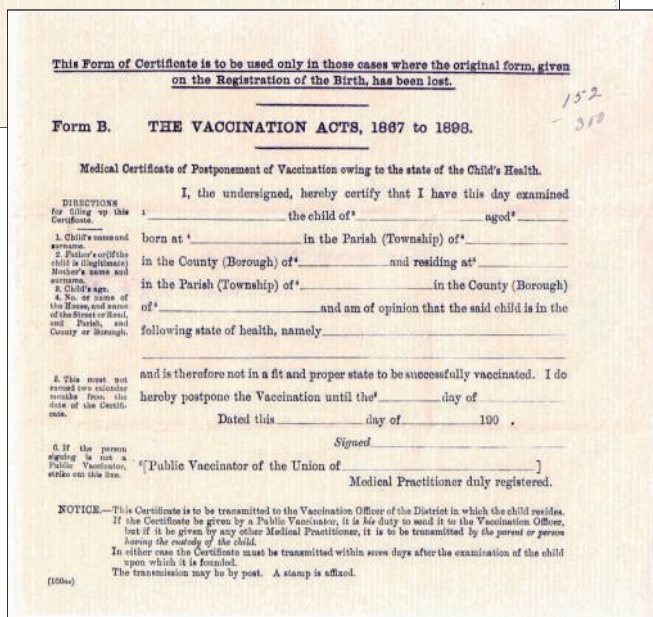
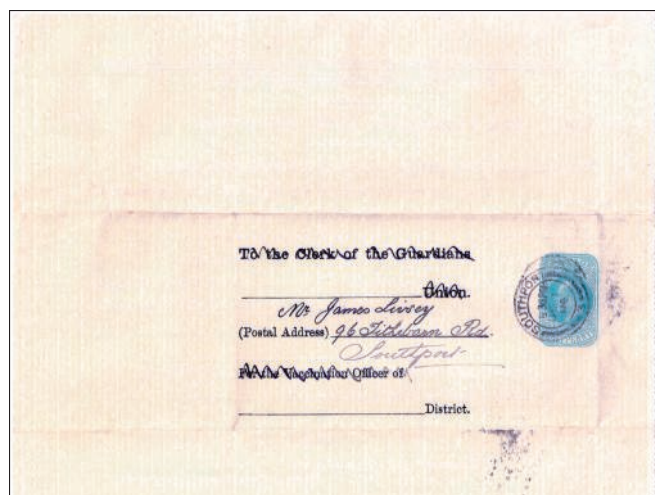
Alan Vaughan has found an unused example of the KGV ½d Downey head wrapper with a 'die' III stamp where the horizontal lines of shading around the head do not touch the surrounding oval frame, so we should all check our collections to see whether any other examples are around. Amend description and numbering as follows:-

WP5c stamp 'die' III and **WP5d** stamp 'die' IV



Letter Sheets - Official Issues

Vaccination Acts The listing of the 1902-04 1/2d blue green KEVII separate B,C and D Vaccination forms has ? marks against **LO83, 84 & 85** because no examples had been recorded. This can now be amended in relation to form B (**LO83**) where an example has turned up (illustration courtesy **George King**).

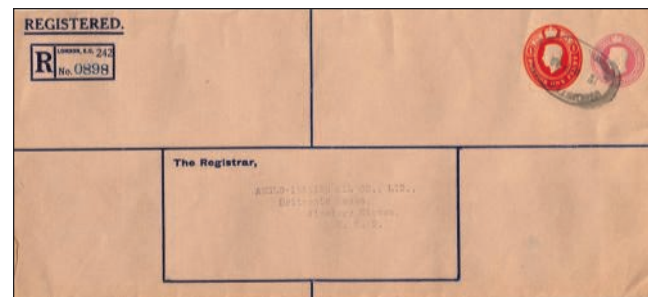
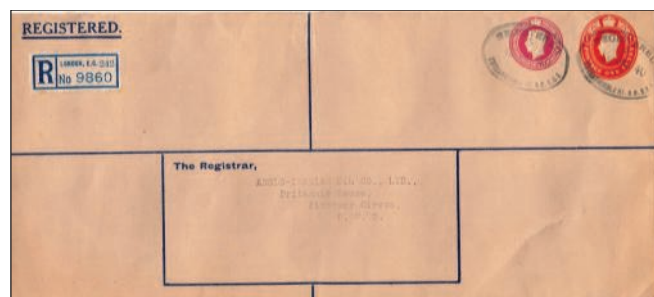


Since form E has been known already it strongly suggests that forms C and D were produced and that ? marks should also be deleted against **LO84** and **LO85**.

Registration Envelopes - Stamped to Order Issues

The content of a recent auction lot at Cavendish has markedly increased the number of recorded examples* of the KGVI compound stamping **RS2** 1d + 4 1/2d and also included a previously unrecorded compound item where the 4 1/2d registration die is on the right and the 1d envelope die is on the left. The latter item is almost certainly an uprating of the 4 1/2d combined registration and postage rate to 5 1/2d, whereas the former are presumably meeting the requirement for a 5 1/2d rate prior to the availability of the 5 1/2d registration die. It also raises the possibility that the KGVI

4 1/2d registration die may have been stamped to order on its own (illustrations courtesy **Maurice Buxton**).



Amend listing as follows:-

- RS2A** 1940 4 1/2d puce + 1d carmine stamps R12+43 NR ****
- RS2B** 1940 1d carmine + 4 1/2d puce stamps 43 + R12 NR ****

* Prior to the appearance of this lot **RS2** was only known from a single recorded example.

UNUSUAL PROOF

This unusual proof was recently sold at Grosvenor. **LCP3** with an additional impression in trial colour number '3'



From the Membership Secretary.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

- Mahesh Aggarwala** New Delhi British India Postal Stationery (Mint)
- Jacky Beauchamp** Aylesbeare
- Phil Gee** Wolverhampton All World, Cinderellas, World Locals, Scandanavia
- Paul Jones** Hull GB modern QE2 Postal Stationery
- William Sells** Burgess Hill GB, France Germany pre 1940.

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.

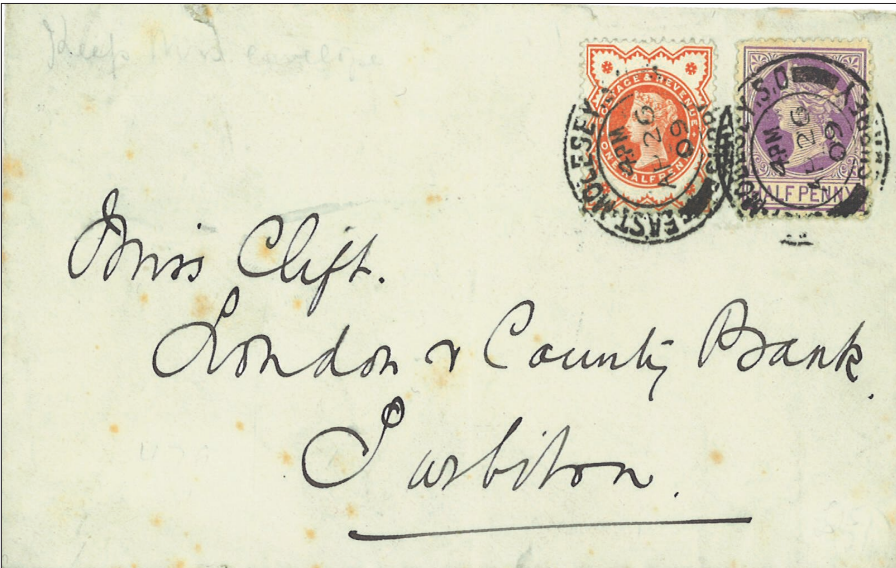
A PERFORATED CUT-OUT

Colin Baker

As I reported in the last Journal, I sometimes get requests for information on some very strange items of postal stationery, and the one illustrated here is no exception. It was sent in by a non-member who had found our Society through our website. The envelope has been franked with a ½d cut-out from an 1870/75 thin postcard, plus a ½d vermilion adhesive to make up the 1d rate applicable at the time of posting, 26 April 1909. However the ½d cut-out is very strange indeed, being perforated on all four sides.

of these would have been simple as it only requires the postcard to be slipped into the machine, lined up and the treadle depressed to create a string of holes. Do this four times and you have a perforated cut-out, something that could be created in just a few seconds by an experienced operator used to using the machine.⁽¹⁾

I believe the envelope is a commercial one. It is addressed to the London and County Bank, Surbiton, so it is unlikely that the sender wanted it returned for his collection. So why perforate a stamp in this way?



The use of stamps cut from postal stationery was banned between 1870 and 1904, restarting on 1 January 1905. Perhaps the person using this stamp was not aware of this relaxation of the Post Office regulations. Or possibly he wanted to try to make the stamp appear as normal as possible. Maybe he was just having fun and wanting to create a different philatelic oddity for one of the bank's employees, so popular at the beginning of the 20th century. Whatever the reason, we will never know of course, but this person has certainly given us an interesting item.

My final thought is that if one perforated cut-out has been discovered, it is almost certain that others exist. It's difficult to believe that whoever created this cut-out did not produce more. So have you got one in your collection? If so, please let the editor know about it.

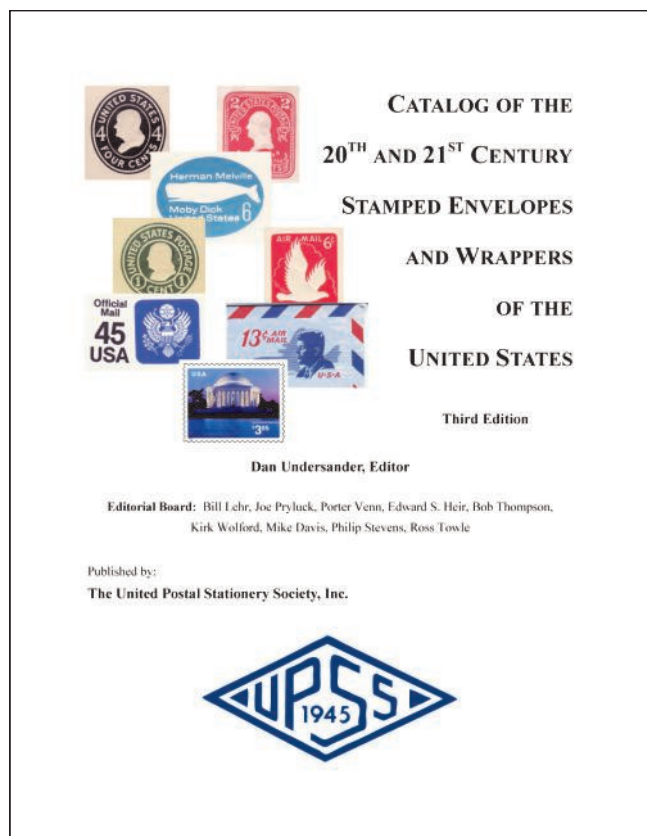


Looking at the scan of the cut-out I am sure the ½d postcard stamp is genuine. It has been perforated 14 (the number of holes in 2 centimetres of length), and the owner tells me that by viewing the original item you can see traces of glue where the stamp has been fixed to the envelope. The perforations are even and straight, indicating this has not been done at home with a sewing machine or some similar device, but on a purpose made perforating machine.

I asked two of our members, Neil Sargent and Edward Caesley if they had seen anything like this before, and neither had. We concluded that the stamp had been perforated on a commercial perforating machine by someone who was a printer or had access to a printer's premises. In the Edwardian period straight line perforating machines would have sat in many printers workshops ready to perforate all sorts of forms and other matter. Using one

(1) If you want to see a straight line perforating machine from the Victorian/Edwardian period visit the Bath Postal Museum, where you can also perforate your own sheet of labels.

UPSS RELEASES 2011 EDITION OF UNITED STATES 20th AND 21st CENTURY STAMPED ENVELOPES AND WRAPPERS CATALOG



The 2011 edition of the Catalogue of the 20th and 21st Century Stamped Envelopes and Wrappers of the United States has been released. The 390 -page edition, by Editor Dan Undersander and supported by a nine-member editorial board, brings about a number of major changes from previous editions of the catalogue:

- The first colour catalogue for U.S. envelopes by UPSS;
- Much better descriptions of how paper and envelopes are made and changes in envelope manufacture over the years;
- Much more detailed definitions of terms and explanations to facilitate understanding UPSS number listings;
- Inclusion of a colour sheet to help differentiate paper types;
- New images of all dies and better descriptions of die types;
- Much better procedure for identifying Mercantile, circular and oval dies;
- Improved information on revaluation types;
- Improved listings of first day covers.

As an added bonus, included are over 25 images of postal history usages of Hartford, Mercantile and circular die issues.

Hard cover version is \$55.20 for UPSS members or \$69.00 for non-members; loose leaf \$47.20 members or \$59.00 non-members. The loose leaf pages are 8½ x 11 size, punched for a standard 3-ring binder (not included).

These new publications are available from the UPSS Publications Office, P.O. Box 3982, Chester, VA 23831 or from the UPSS web site (www.upss.org). There are no shipping charges to U.S. addresses but Virginia residents are to add 5.0% sales tax. International orders add \$12 per individual book – contact Publications Office for specific rates for two or more publications.

Many additional references on United States and foreign postal stationery may be viewed on the Web site www.upss.org with option for ordering through the Publications Office or by PayPal .

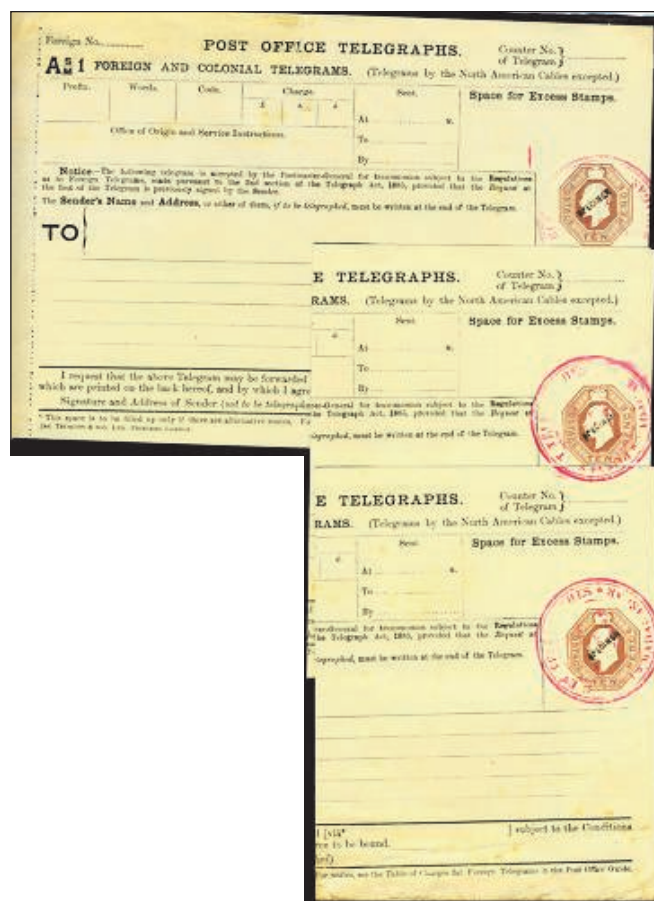
GREAT BRITAIN UPU SPECIMEN POSTAL STATIONERY

James Bendon has recently come across some more examples of G.B. UPU specimen postal stationery and has sent the following information to supplement his article which appeared in the May issue of the Postal Stationery Society Journal (p18 - 19).

“In addition to the specimen example of the 10d telegraph form handstamped ULTRAMAR described and illustrated in the May 2011 issue, examples of this form from the Madagascar UPU specimen archive have now come to light. These are illustrated on the right and consist of three overlapping copies of the form each cancelled “POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES / MADAGASCAR / COLLECTION DE BERNE ” in red ink.”

Relating to the note on p2 of the May issue of the Journal, James would still like to hear from members who may be able to fill in any gaps in the detailed listings of UPU Specimen Postal Stationery which appears on the website:

www.jamesbendon.com



HELIGOLAND POSTAL STATIONERY

Rob Lynn-Smith

The following article concerns the postal stationery and stamped stationery of Heligoland a British possession from 1807 to 1890. From 1826 this small island became a popular bathing resort with guest houses, hotels and a casino.

The unification of Germany, the introduction of a standard currency and the advent of the Universal Postal Union all within a short period of time has led to scarcity of many items of stationery.

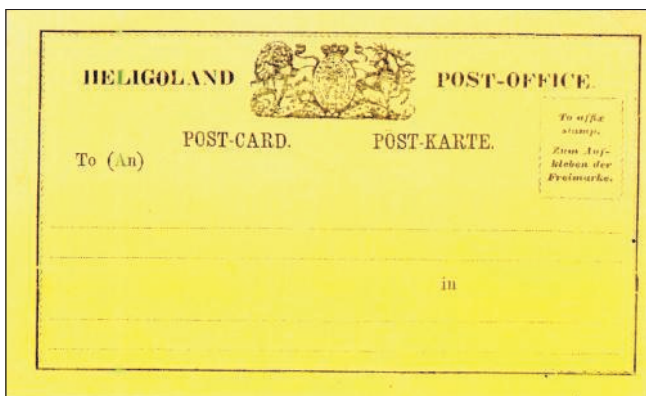
I have given dates of issue and invalidation of embossed and typographed stationery so used items can be compared to a correct time frame postmark



1873 July 1st onwards, various cards printed locally and ordered as and when required. The first card has a round shield in the Royal Arms and six address lines. In November a second similar card was produced with only four address lines. They were sold from the post office pre-stamped or without an adhesive.

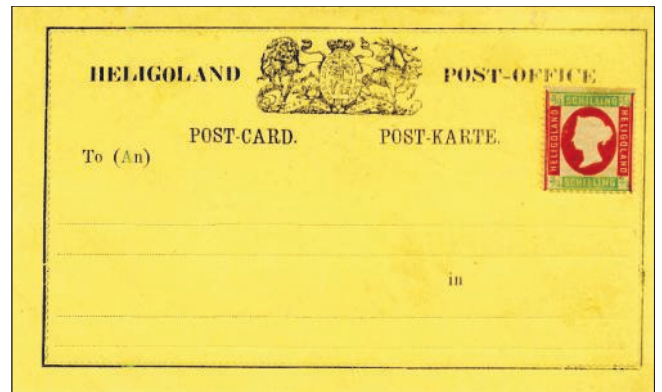


1st January 1874 saw the issuing of a new style card similar to those illustrated below with the double border but having the round shield in the Royal Arms.

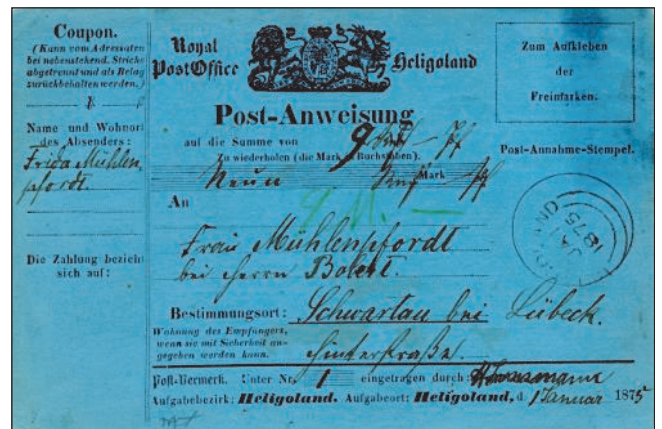


1874 November a better quality card with a double border but having an oval shield in the Arms.

Illustrated are an unused and a stamped card with the N.E. corner of the stamp box under the second F of



OFFICE. A second type has the N.E. corner of the stamp box under the first F of OFFICE.



1869 – 1880. Postal Order on stout white or thinner blue card with oval shield in the arms. The top order is for 7 Marks (Kurant) and 8 Schillinge. The poundage would have been 3 Sch and received by two 1½ Sch stamps (removed). These cards are normally signed by a post office official and in these illustrations by the Heligolander Detlev J Hornsmann who later in 1890 became the first German Imperial Postmaster. The bottom card was written out on the first day of the new currency in Reichmarks. (Rms and Pfs inked over the old currency symbols)

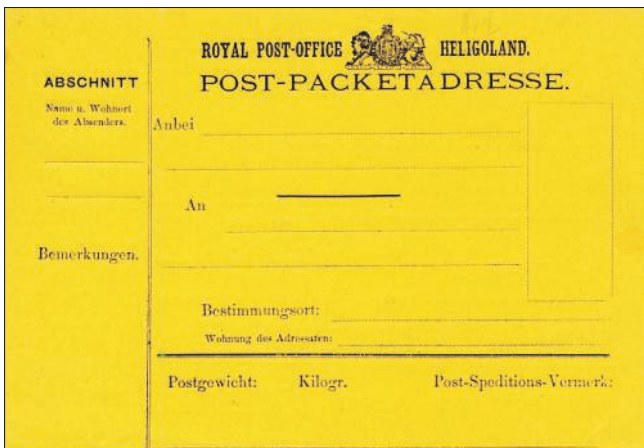
Later cards in the new currency come in several different colours. 1880 saw the introduction of an International card with the round shield in the coat of arms



1872 to mid June 1873 Post Mandate from in green or white. The card illustrated shows the tariff for consigning the shipment as 4 schill. Later cards give the amounts in Pfennigs.

Issued 13th April 1875 and valid until September 1876. The curved flap has brown gum, consistent in its application and a 16 mm diameter colourless embossed rosette.

The smooth pale buff paper has many inclusions (bits) and not being acid free is subject to toning. They were banded in bundles of 100; and of the 100,000 printed 18,304 were sold.



Parcel Cards come in white or yellow. In later issues the word 'Coupon' was replaced with the German 'Abschnitt'. The bulk of their use would have been on catches of lobster sent to the mainland. A few survive used with stamps.

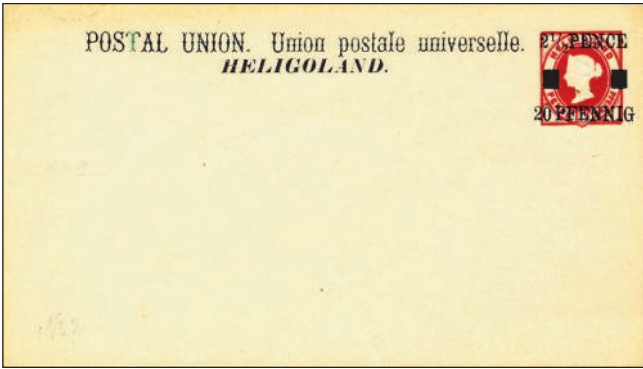
Early date and used to the outskirts of Hamburg.

Envelopes



1½d / 10 pf carmine with embossed head of Queen Victoria and no die number. Size 147 x 84mm.

Some of the remaining stock was used after 1879 and a valid stamp had to be attached.



Issued 10th July 1879 to comply with UPU postal rates. Overprinted on the already made up remaining stock of envelopes in two printings, of 10,000 and 3,000 respectively. Illustrated is the first printing with a heading length of 99mm.

21st June saw a second printing which has a smaller serif I from the wrong font in PFENNIG. The heading "Postal Union Union Postale Universelle" measures 100mm. Nearly all these were sold amounting to 12,998 envelopes.



Cut square in dull carmine/rose are Hamburg reprints of 1879; 1893; 1895.

Dr Lemberger mentions two sizes of white envelopes; 150 x 80 and 250 x 125 overprinted 'On Her Majesties Service, Post Office Heligoland.'

Postcards

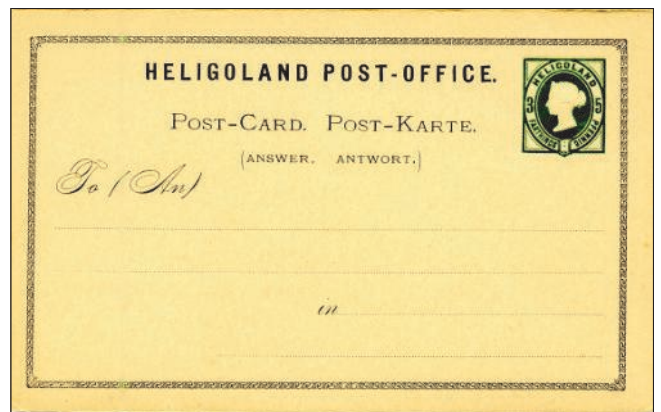
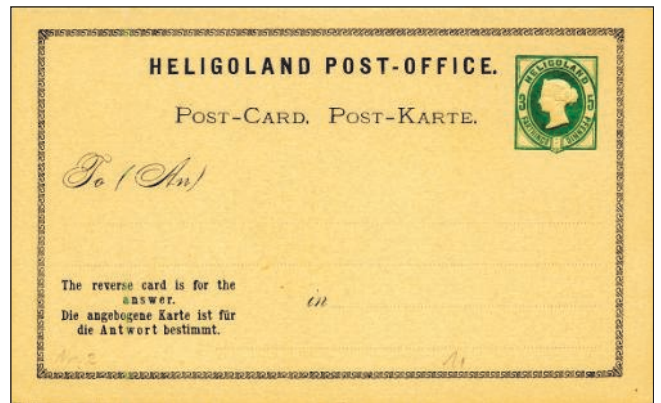


Issued 13 April 1875 and valid until 6 September 1879 on buff card, size 141 x 91 mm 3 farthings / 5 pfennig green with embossed head of Queen Victoria. Of the 100,000 printed 53,000 were sold.

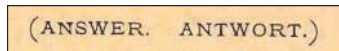
Below a used card cancelled in Hamburg by the straight line HELIGOLAND without a full stop, because the card was posted in the steamship's mail box uncanceled.



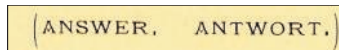
3 farthings / 5 pfennig + 3 farthings / 5 pfennig. Top card genuine bottom card a reprint.



Folded reply card now with a distinctive black border issued 1 September 1876 and valid until 6 July 1879. A single printing of 5,000 was made and 2725 were sold. The card is of a coarser quality than the reprints and the bilingual instructions (Answer. Antwort.) has small tightly curved brackets, and horizontal bars to the letter As.



Genuine



Reprint which is also longer than the original



Line (b) 34 mm

Issued 10 July 1879 to comply with membership of the UPU both the foregoing cards overprinted with a new title and value. The single card was produced in two printings of 5000 and 5300 copies respectively. There are three types distinguished by the length of the line under the UPU heading:-

- (a) line measures 25.5mm.
- (b) line measures 34 mm.
- (c) line measures 25.5mm. with larger black value obliterators.



Line (b) 34 mm.

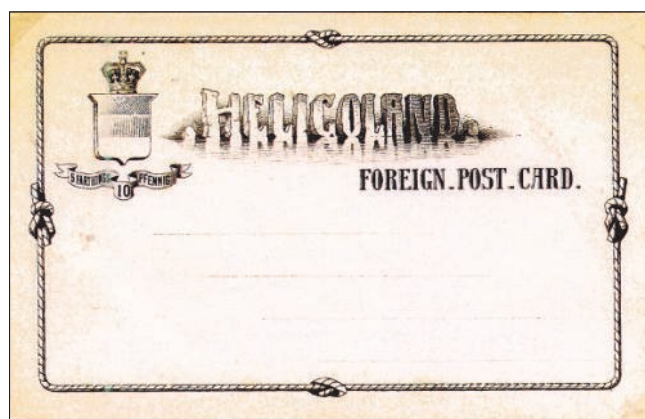


Line (a) 25.5 mm.

Folded Reply Card: 1½d/10pf + 1½d/10pf 3mm. Gap
 Issued 7 August 1879 with a print run of 700 in two types:

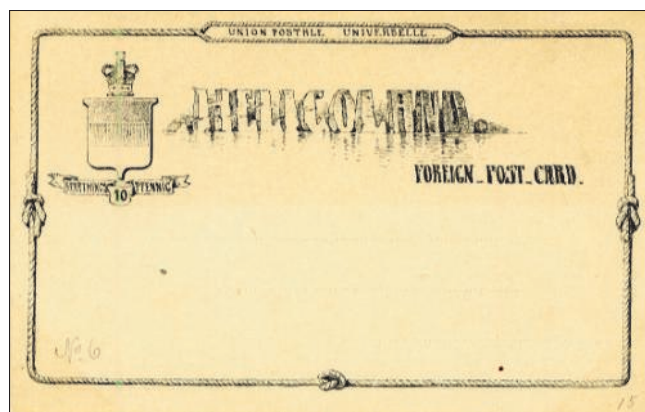
- (a) there is a gap of 1mm. between the UPU heading and the line under it.

(b) the gap is 3 mm., as illustrated.
 A spurious card has 'Reserve' instead of 'Reverse' in the instructions.



Issued 1 April 1878 a new style of card with the arms of Heligoland and denoted 'Foreign -Post Card.' A clear quality printing with the possibility of distinguishing 4 printing plates used in its production, namely the four knot rope border varies in length and width.

Altogether 5000 cards were printed and all sold. It can be found used until 1882 with additional stamp.



August 1879 to 29th May 1890 saw a second coat of arms issue with a print run of 320,000 cards from 13 printings. Close to 300,000 were sold. The UPU heading is now contained by the divided rope. Most cards measure 140 x 91 mm.

This article will be continued in the next issue of the Postal Stationery Society Journal.

THE MAN WHO NEVER WAS - The Story of the Stamp Dealer Who Never Existed

Colin Baker

This is the story of a stamp dealer who conducted his business during the first half of the 20th century, dealt in philatelic literature, placed advertisements in stamp magazines, posted numerous letters to himself, sold stamps and postal history and wrote of his experiences in having sheets of embossed stamps printed at Somerset House. And yet despite all this, there is no evidence to show that he actually existed. His name was Victor Marsh.

There are three main characters in this story, Herbert Edgar Weston, Oswald Marsh and Victor Marsh. In the past some authors have confused both the business and family relationships between these three men although they were not related in any way. Both H Edgar Weston and Oswald Marsh were stamp dealers and there is clear documentary evidence to show that both men lived in the South London area from the early 1900s onwards. Almost

certainly the first two men knew each other, while the third was an imaginary figure.



Photograph of H. Edgar Weston taken from the Philatelic Journal January 1956.

Herbert Edgar Weston. Searches in the Family Records Archives reveal that H Edgar Weston, as he called himself, was born on

28th October 1874 above his father's grocery shop at 46 East Street, Chichester, Sussex. His father, Edward Weston was a master grocer and had married his mother, Sarah Clark Pearce, in 1871. H Edgar lived at 46 East Street, Chichester along with his parents, brother and three sisters, Edward Stanley Peter (born 1872), Mabel Florence (born 1873), Emmeline (born 1880) and Lilian Sarah (born 1882). Poor Emmeline died in 1883 and three years later tragedy struck the family once more when in 1886 their father died. We can only assume that the family could not continue the grocery business without their father at the helm, as they subsequently moved to 4 Gordon Villas, Whyke Lane, Chichester.

H Edgar did not follow in his father's footsteps as a grocer, but started to learn the hosier's trade, becoming an apprentice by the age of 16. However, there are no records that I have found which indicate that he completed this training. The 1901 census (when he was 26) lists him as a tailors' clerk living at 8 Valentia Road, Brixton, London. Valentia Road no longer exists, having been taken over by a large multi-storey car park built in the 1970s.

Towards the end of the 19th century Weston was showing a keen interest in stamps and he is mentioned in the London Philatelist relating to some surcharged issues of Egyptian stamps. Although he is listed living in London in 1901¹, his sister Mabel seems to have disappeared at the turn of the century, for I can find no reference to her. Most of the other family members are recorded in this census, even though they had left Chichester, including Weston's younger sister, Lilian, who was visiting him at Valentia Road at the time of the census².

Weston's sister Mabel may have crossed the channel at the end of the 19th century to live in Belgium, but that is pure speculation. Certainly H Edgar posted letters to her in 1920 to an address in Brussels, using embossed stamps cut from the sheets that he had made for him at Somerset House. These envelopes he would later sell to collectors. Weston is credited with being an expert linguist and spoke French fluently, as well as being able to converse in other languages. Did he perfect his French on the Continent, perhaps visiting his sister?

The next reference to H Edgar Weston comes in the 1907/8 edition of Kelly's Street Directory, which lists him as living at 386 Brixton Road. Victor Marsh's name appears in advertisements in the philatelic press from 1904 onwards with a similar Brixton address.

Weston is still recorded as living at the same address in the Kelly's Directory for 1923 and there are plenty of covers sent to this same address over the period, so it is reasonable to presume that Weston lived there for quite a few years. The Electoral Roles for the area for 1910, 1911 and 1912 also confirm that he lived at 386 Brixton Road. The street and trade directories that I have managed to locate from 1910 onwards list other people living at 386 Brixton Road, although in all probability there would have been a number of residents at this address, with only the main resident appearing in the street directory. Public registers show that Weston had moved to 13 Sion Road, Twickenham by 1934/35, as from then on he appears on the electoral role for that area.

Records in the 20th century show H Edgar Weston to be an accountant by profession, although according to Michael Peach (Gibbons Stamp Monthly September 2010) he was neither a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants nor The Society of Incorporated Accountants. So perhaps he was just a bookkeeper with rather high ideals.

Weston probably carried out his stamp business in his spare time. He seems to have been very active in the stamp trade for about ten years or so at the time of the First World War, producing all sorts of strange covers for collectors. But there is little reference to him from the 1920s onwards, and it is not until after the end of the Second World War that his stamp activities start to become

1. There is also a record in the 1901 census of a Herbert Edgar Weston living in Portsmouth, but this is purely coincidental; this is another man with exactly the same name, but of the wrong age and different parents.
2. There are two women called Lilian Weston listed in the 1901 census, both aged 19 and both born in Sussex. One is recorded as a servant to William H Gravely, a doctor who lived at 31 Horsham Road, Horsham, Sussex, the other as a milliner's saleswoman visiting H E Weston at Valentia Road, Brixton. It is likely that it is the latter who is Weston's younger sister.

more frequent again (by which time he would have retired from professional life). It was then that he started to create more philatelic oddities and managed to have stamps printed in peculiar positions on sheets of paper that he would later use to his advantage.

H Edgar Weston lived a long and successful life. His wife, Edith Flora, died on 17th May 1951, and H Edgar passed away on 21st November 1961 aged 87 and was buried at Twickenham Cemetery on 27th November alongside his wife.

Oswald Marsh was born on 26th October 1880 in Antrim Road, Belfast. His parents were Joseph Chandler and Arabella Sophia Walpole Marsh. As was common in that period, the couple raised quite a large family, consisting of at least five children³. At sometime before the turn of the century Oswald moved to Penge, initially living at 45 Palace Road, by which time he had already established himself as a stamp dealer, and latterly at 3 Belvedere Road. By 1911 he had moved again and was now running his stamp dealing business from 18 Hamlet Road, Norwood. Marsh was also into stamped to order stationery as shown by the 6d embossed parcel label illustrated, which shows his new address and some of the envelopes he used to send out orders and stock lists. The Post Office Directory for 1920 shows him living at 26 The Avenue, Norwood. He also published Marsh's Weekly Philatelist from 1 Exeter Street, Strand, London WC, although this was purely his business address.

Oswald Marsh died on 4th August 1951. The obituary in Gibbons' Stamp Monthly states he was the "most modest of men" with a "very wide knowledge of stamps". It continues that he was a "recognised expert in the issues of Great Britain" and "will be greatly missed". His son, Herbert, took over the business when his father died, but he did not have the same acumen for it as did his father, and the stamp business declined. Eventually even Herbert became too old to run the business, although his sister Mira was still trying to sell some of the stock at London events towards the end of the 20th century. Eventually all the Oswald Marsh stock, amounting to many boxes, was sold through various auction houses in the UK over the last ten years.

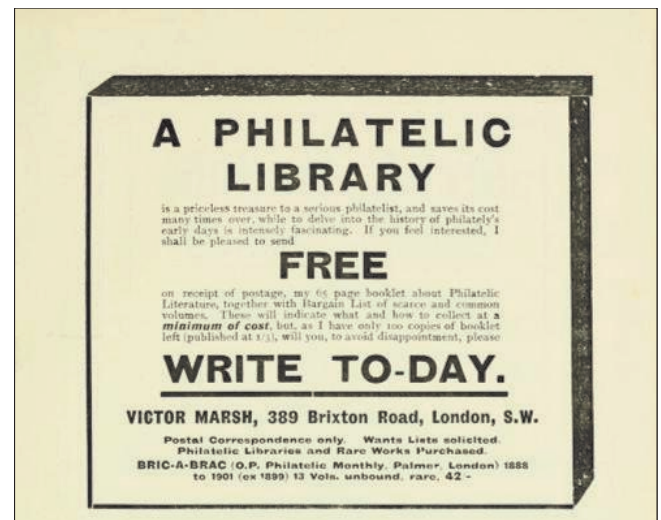
Victor Marsh. There is no doubt that Victor Marsh was the pseudonym of H Edgar Weston from 1917 onwards when Marsh (Weston) began sending covers to himself and later wrote his booklet "Great Britain: Abnormal Embossed Postage Stamps of King Edward VII and King George V". In addition, Weston and Marsh had the same postal addresses throughout their careers (with minor differences in the house number on Brixton Road) and towards the end of his life Weston was quite open about using the pseudonym of Victor Marsh.

But what about the very early years before we can link the two names together. Despite extensive searches, Victor Marsh does not appear in any official records for the Brixton area. He is not listed in any street or trade directory

where letters to him are addressed; neither does his name appear in the electoral role for those areas or in the 1911 census. Although he is credited with having written a booklet on abnormal embossed postage stamps, the British Library lists the author's name as the pseudonym of H E Weston. No covers appear to exist addressed to Victor Marsh at houses other than those where Weston lived. This only leads one to believe that Victor Marsh never existed.

There is more evidence that suggests Weston used the pseudonym of Victor Marsh from the very beginning of the 20th century. Weston was one of the founder members of the Philatelic Literature Society which was formed in 1907 in London. It was a prestigious society devoted to promoting important philatelic works and one of its main achievements was the creation of "The Catalogue of the Philatelic Library of the Earl of Crawford" that won a gold medal in 1911. There is no mention of Victor Marsh as a member of this organization, even though he supposedly purchased Jean-Baptiste Moens' library at the time for £570. The total weight of these books is said to have been two tons.

However, in contrast the British Philatelic Trust website lists Victor Marsh as a dealer in philatelic literature in 1902. In 1904 he is credited with publishing the International "Directory of Philatelic Literature, Collectors, Dealers and Publishers". In 1908 he placed an advertisement in The Philatelic World, giving his address as 389 Brixton Road, almost opposite the home of H Edgar Weston. However there are no records of a Victor Marsh living at this address; perhaps it was an error, a printer getting a 6 upside down to read 9 that was later perpetuated (unlikely, as printers were very careful not to make mistakes like this) or an accommodation address for Weston to collect his mail.



Advertisement for a 65 page Booklet about Philatelic Literature available from Victor Marsh at 389 Brixton Road.

3. Most of the census records for Ireland covering the years 1841 to 1891 have been lost, either due to deliberate destruction by the government of the day, or through fire. This makes it very difficult to track people who were born and brought up in Ireland - hence the incomplete record for Oswald Marsh and his family.

The Three Men. Brixton Road, within Brixton and Hamlet Road, Norwood are only three miles apart. H Edgar Weston and Oswald Marsh knew each through their business interests, although they were far from being good friends. Oswald Marsh was unhappy that Weston used "his" name as a pseudonym and complained about Weston creating all kinds of philatelic oddities using a variety of cut-outs, even though Oswald Marsh used many of these himself.

So those are the players, but how did it all begin?

The Use of Postal Stationery Cut-outs in the 20th Century. In 1840 stamps, or labels as they were then known, represented a receipt for the payment of postage. As the stamps passed through the post they were cancelled with an 'obliterator' to prevent re-use. The Post Office did not consider there was any difference between a stamp cut from a sheet of 240 or one cut from a prepaid envelope or letter sheet. In their opinion they served the equal purpose of paying postage and either stamp could be used to do so. There was some confusion amongst Postmasters in the first few years following the issue of the Penny Pink and Two Penny Blue envelopes in 1841, and the Postmaster General had to confirm that the use of stamps cut from these envelopes was permissible through the issue of a Post Office Circular dated July 1845

However, in 1870 it was intended that prepaid postcards and newspaper wrappers would be introduced. The Post Office expected these new items of stationery to be very popular. With the large increase in the number of items going through the post, they were convinced some stamps would not be cancelled at the sorting office. So from 1st October 1870 the use of postal stationery cut-outs was prohibited. This blanket ban on using cut-outs was to avoid a loss of revenue to the Treasury by the public cutting stamps from items that had already passed through the post without being cancelled.

Thirty five years later, with machines being used to cancel much of Britain's mail, it was finally accepted that the ban on the use of cut-outs could be relaxed. As far as the Post Office was concerned all mail that passed through the post was by then being cancelled and the stamps rendered invalid for re-use. From 1905 cut-outs could again be used on plain envelopes or in combination with adhesive stamps or in combination with pre-paid stationery to bring them up to the correct postal rate.

With this relaxation of the regulations there was a sudden flurry of mail bearing cut-outs as people found all manner of unused envelopes, postcards, newspaper wrappers and registration envelopes lying in cupboards and drawers from which to cut stamps to pay postage. In some cases the stamps were cut around so neatly that it needs careful scrutiny to decide whether they are cut-outs or not.

In other instances writers have hurriedly removed stamps from stationery and glued them onto their envelopes with little care.

With the postage on a host of envelopes, postcards and newspaper wrappers being paid for by cut-outs, it was not long before the philatelic trade took an interest in this. However there was a premium to be paid on many items of postal stationery sold by the Post Office, which covered the cost of providing the envelope, postcard, etc. Thus a penny envelope cost more than a penny to buy, as did a ½d postcard⁴. By agreement with the Universal Postal Union, foreign postcards had to be sold at their face value during this period. Despite these few items sold at just the price of the stamp, most postal stationery stamps cost more than their adhesive equivalents. One dealer in particular saw a niche in the market and decided to have his own stamps printed at Somerset House rather than cut them from postal stationery. His name was Herbert Edgar Weston, although he always referred to himself as H Edgar Weston. Over the next 50 or 60 years he would create all manner of philatelic items for stamp collectors.

Weston's Special Sheets of Stamps. Weston did more than just have stamped to order envelopes printed at Somerset House. In 1910 he somehow managed to persuade Mr Bennett, the then Inspector of Stamping at Somerset House, to print "all issues of King Edward and King George from ½d to 1s in sheets of 48 stamps – four panes of twelve, with the centre rows inverted" making them cou-bêche (ie. neck to neck). He used these stamps singly on envelopes, in pairs or in larger blocks and in different combinations.

When the war in Europe broke out Weston engaged the services of Lieut.-Commander Ralph Lyall Clayton⁵ to post some of his envelopes on board the battleship HMS Queen Mary on which he was serving, having them cancelled with an eight barred handstamp, which philatelists



refer to as dumb cancellers, since they carry no indication of the office of issue or date of use. These and other

4. Standard size thin inland ½d postcards were sold at their face value from 22nd June 1911 to 2nd July 1917, although not many postcard stamps were used as cut outs by stamp dealers. Some dealers took the stamps from prepaid telegraph forms (which carried no premium) where the postage charges were sufficiently high (normally the 6d forms were used as the 9d, 10d and 1s values were generally too high for postal purposes).
5. Ralph Lyall Clayton was born in the Paddington district of London in March 1885 to Edith and Francis Starkie Clayton (ref Paddington 1a 66). His father was a naval Captain on the Australia Station, commanding the Frigate Diamond. Ralph was educated at Eagle House, Sandhurst (a preparatory school) and then Marlborough School until he was 15 years of age. At this point in his life he joined the Naval Training Ship Britannia, which he seemed to enjoy very much. A year later saw him start his naval career in various ships, finally serving in HMS Queen Mary up to that fateful day in 1916. (From A Life Cut Short, Mary Jones)

cancellations were intended to enhance the appeal of his envelopes to collectors and so allow Weston to charge a higher price for them. The postal clerk on HMS Queen Mary did not query these envelopes despite the strange nature and high value of stamps they carried. Or perhaps he was simply carrying out the orders of his superior officer.



HMS Queen Mary

Weston had failures as well as successes in his ventures, and he lost some of his material when the ship on which Commander Clayton was serving, HMS Queen Mary, went down at the Battle of Jutland on 31st May 1916 with the loss of nearly all men on board. The ship also took all the remaining envelopes with her to the bottom of the sea. Commander Clayton lost his life in this battle, as did nearly all of the men serving on board the ship; only nine men survived out of a crew of 1,275.

Another of Weston's attempts to create philatelic oddities also ended in disaster. He sent some of his covers adorned with his cut-out stamps to the island of Tristan de Cunha, in the South Atlantic, in order to get its special cancellation. However, many of these were lost when the wooden post office on the island caught fire and there are few examples of these envelopes remaining today.

Weston's attempts to have covers posted from the Western Front in 1916 also ended in failure. He asked Lieut.-Colonel A S Bates⁶ (one of his many clients) if he would post some of the covers from a field post office near the Front. These were even more fancy and ambitious than anything Weston had previously attempted, some having blocks of 8 embossed stamps to pay the postage, nearly a quarter of each of his specially prepared sheets. Weston expected each envelope to be carefully cancelled by a Field Post Office cancellation. However the postal clerk in this case was not quite as co-operative as the one on HMS

Queen Mary. He did not recognise the stamps and queried if they were genuine, refusing to apply his canceller to them. In London the postal clerks were also dubious about the status of these stamps. They too would not cancel them in the normal manner but did so with a brush filled with ink or by the application of blue crayon. This is not what



Weston had hoped for and initially he was incensed by the ruination of his covers. But later he realised that even though it was not a handstamp cancellation, it was nevertheless official and was probably unique. Realising this, his attitude changed and he confidently offered them to his clients for purchase.

To be continued in the next issue of the Postal Stationery Society Journal.

6. Arthur Sydney Bates was born on 18th June 1879, the son of S E and Elizabeth Bates of Manydown Park, Basingstoke, Hampshire (ref Kensington 1a 58). He was educated at Winchester College. He served in the First World War from November 1914 commanding the London Rifle Brigade, but was invalided home on August 15th 1916. It is unclear if this was because he was wounded or contracted an illness. He returned to France on February 28th 1917, being promoted to the rank of Lieut.-Colonel on June 4th 1917. He was finally repatriated on January 7th 1918.

He was Mentioned in Dispatches four times, received the French Croix de Guerre with Palm and on June 3rd 1915 was created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order "For distinguished service in the field".

He was a keen sportsman, captaining the British Empire Shooting Team in 1919. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society in London.

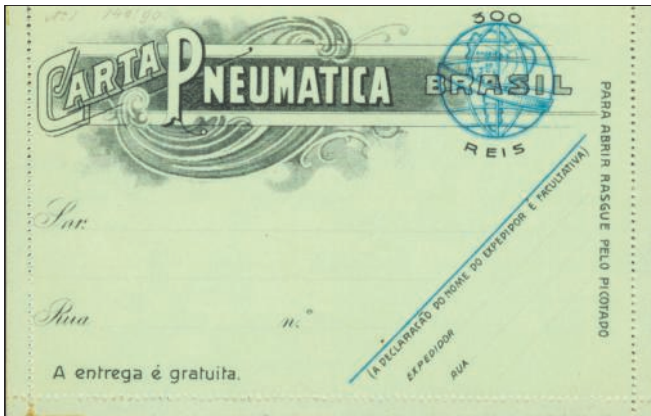
In 1905 Lieutenant Bates (as he then was) married Mary da Costa, daughter of Lt.-Col. Charles Robert Crosse, C.M.G, M.V.O., and Catherine, and they had one daughter.

(Courtesy the "The Long Long Trail" - www.1914-1918.net)

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Wayne Menz writes:

"John Barker's article about pneumatic mail is a nice overview. However, he omitted the Rio de Janeiro, Brazil system. They issued a number of lettercards, and enclosed are scans of two of them. They are catalogued in the H&G catalogue, as well as a number of very rare surcharges. (If need be, I can supply scans of those.)



The H&G catalogue lists the Argentine items shown in John's article as "Pneumatic", but they are not. The Ascher catalogue of 1928 correctly lists them as telegraph lettercards. These items were intended for a special "express" service in the capital, and connected the various Post & Telegraph Department's offices that had telegraph keys. John asks why the stamp is located in the inside. That is because the cards could be used in two ways:

1. They could be brought into an office with telegraphic capability, and would be handed over to the clerk unsealed. They were allowed twenty words per lettercard inclusive of the signature. The clerk would telegraph the message written on the inside to the station nearest the recipient's address. Special messengers then quickly delivered the telegram. Reply lettercards prepaid the recipient's message back to the sender. The special messenger was obligated to wait up to five minutes for a reply, which would be written on a special, unstamped form that recorded the serial number of the original telegram and also contained its own serial number. Or, if the reply was not prepaid, the recipient would buy a new lettercard from the messenger for his reply. In this usage, the lettercard was just a form showing prepayment, but did not travel anywhere. In function, they are exactly like the telegraph forms of Great Britain.

2. These lettercards could be dropped into any post box. In this case, they were sealed by the sender, and on the outside there was no address, just instructions. Their double blue diagonal lines meant they were to be immediately taken to the

nearest post office with a telegraph key, where the telegraph clerk would open the lettercard and send the message. Or, if more expedient, the lettercard could be carried by the special messenger to the address if nearby.

I have a copy of the initial proclamation, as well as the subsequent regulations (contained in 24 clauses.) If anyone is interested in a photocopy, let me know, but be forewarned that they are in Spanish. There are all types of rules for all types of circumstances.

Articles Noted Recently in the Philatelic Press

"Postal Stationery Matters" Peter van Gelder (Gibbons Stamp Monthly June 2010)

"The Great Britain Air Letter, 1941—2011 A Miscellany to Celebrate 70 Years" Peter Jennings (Gibbons Stamp Monthly August 2011)

"Foreign Postal Stationery 2009-2010" - Geir Sør-Reime. (Gibbons Stamp Monthly June, July & August 2011)

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

Postal Stationery March/April 2011 (USA)

Census of US Postal Cards Showing New York Exchange Office Postmarks Until 1879

Puerto Rico Overprinted Post Cards

Market Report: China, Hong Kong and related areas: Australia and States

Counterfeit and Bogus Stationery.

Postal Stationery May/June 2011 (USA)

"I'll Be Seeing You" – A Review of Salesman's Postal Cards
First US Bi-Coloured Postal Cards – The "Offset Double Errors" of 1956

Cards with New York Exchange Office Marks

South Australian P.O. Issued Cards

Postal Stationery Collector May 2011 (Australia)

Some Australian Post Office Issued Cards

...And the Penny Dropped! The Story of the Introduction of the First Australian Stamp Impression – The so-called KGV "Full Face" Design.

Leeward Islands Postal Stationery Rarity Guide (Part 2)

Is This Postal Stationery?

Postal Stationery Collector August 2011 (Australia)

Australia 1d George V Full-Face Stationery

Is It Postal Stationery?

The Other Side: Social History Through Postal Stationery

Non-denominational Numbers on Newspaper Wrappers: Control Marks, Weight Messages, Rate Tables, Dates Integral to the Design, & Other

L'InteroPostale 108/109 2010 (Italy)

Ganzsachensammler February 2011 (Switzerland)

Mandats de recouvrement ...la lists s'allonge

Automobil – Postkarte Nr 144 mit Zudruck "Kaufkraftinitiative"

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