



THE JOURNAL OF THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

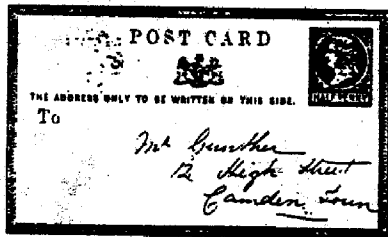
Edited by Peter van Gelder

Issue No. 6

October 1995

POST CARD

125th Anniversary of the Issue
of Great Britain's 1st Postal
Card on 1st October 1870



This card has been produced
for the POSTAL STATIONERY
SOCIETY - to join contact
Hon. Secretary, 23 Britannia
Road, Norwich, Norfolk.

Editor of "P.S.",
16 Front Avenue,
BEXHILL-ON-SEA,
Sussex.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

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

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

EDITOR/LIBRARIAN Peter van Gelder,
Somerhay, 16 Frant Avenue,
Little Common, Bexhill,
Sussex, ENGLAND.

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

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

Our PUBLICITY OFFICER is Colin Baker; & our A.B.P.S.
Representative is Michael Smith.

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COMMEMORATIVE & PROMOTIONAL CARD

Illustrated on the front cover of this issue of "P.S." is the Society's postcard produced to mark the 125th anniversary of Great Britain's first postal card and also to publicise our Society.

The card is printed on good quality board with blank reverse for correspondence. The front shows an example (reduced) of the first (1870) card, used to Mr Gunther, 12 High Street, Camden Town. The commemorative postcard is a collectable item but also a practical item for correspondence - especially for sending to potential members & those in a position to spread the word about our Society.

To obtain 8 of these cards simply make your 1996 subscription cheque for £6 instead of £5. (Overseas members who pay with a US \$10 banknote should add 3 international reply coupons.) At one and the same time you will be helping to boost Society funds.

A very small number (24) of 1st day cards was obtained (postmarked 1st October); also just 2 2nd day cards with "Please control your dog when the Postman calls" slogan. If you would prefer to receive 4 mint + one of these used cards (first come, first served) rather than 8 mint cards, please write the word "USED" clearly below your signature on your subscription slip. Please note that your cards will be sent to you along with the next (Feb. 1996) "P.S."

Peter van Gelder

(the card's designer!)

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Finlandia 95 - An Eye-witness Report

Since the last issue of "P.S." appeared, the major event for postal stationery enthusiasts has been the FINLANDIA 95 exhibition held in Helsinki from 10th to 15th May. This was projected to be an outstanding assemblage of postal history and stationery, and so it proved to be. No fewer than 129 postal stationery exhibits were on view in the competitive class, with a further 3 in the Court of Honour. For the very first time at any exhibition it was possible to appreciate what a worldwide representation of postal stationery would actually look like. Though only one large gold medal was awarded in the class ("The Mulready" by L. Grunin, U.S.A.), the overall standard was generally very high, demonstrating the continually progressive improvement in standards

FINLANDIA 95 was very professionally organised and achieved its objective of being a top class international exhibition limited to postal history & postal stationery, yet in many ways it was a re-run of the previous exhibition held in Helsinki in 1988. One innovation was to stage FINPOSTA 95 (the Finnish national exhibition) in parallel, and that provided an insight into the range of material collected and exhibited by Finnish collectors.

An outstanding feature of the show was the extensive publicity achieved not only in the press but also on television. Attendance was estimated around 30,000 - for a country with a population of about 10% of Britain's this represented a good result. Our Finnish friends are to be congratulated on giving a powerful boost to philately,

and in particular to postal stationery. Those who saw it will long remember the chance this show gave to view such an amazing range of material in the company of numerous fellow enthusiasts.

More Parochial Matters

The 1995-96 season is now upon us, and I should like to encourage our members, both new and old, to participate fully in the activities of the Society.... and to remind you of our aim of each member recruiting at least one new member in the coming year, so that we can grow to a fully viable size & improve our service to you.

Alan Huggins

EXHIBITION scene

Following straight on from the above FINLANDIA 95 report from Alan Huggins, here are details of our own members' exhibits in the show:-

Stjernhock F. - P.S. of El Salvador (large vermeil)

Totten A. - P.S. of Norway (vermeil)

Smith D. - P.S. of Jamaica (large silver)

Yen B.-S. - Straits Settlements (large silver)

Shrestha R. - Nepal P.S. (large silver)

Schumann S. - North Borneo P.S. (large silver)

Duberal R. - P.S. of Fiji to 1953 (large silver)

de Leeuw van Weenen P. - Hungarian Post Cards 1900-26
(silver)

McMahon I. - P.S. of Canada (silver bronze)

Well done to all nine of these exhibitors!

I have before me the detailed catalogue for POST X'95. This was held in Auckland, New Zealand early in February. Described as a postal history exhibition, it included a section for postal stationery exhibits. There were five entries, two of which related to New Zealand, and the other three to Fiji, Russia and New South Wales. The latter was submitted by one of our members, David I. Smith. There was also a "single frame" section, in which I note there were three postal stationery entries, which related to Great Britain, Liechtenstein and Jordan.

So it seems fair to conclude that on the exhibition front postal stationery is alive and kicking!

Peter van Golder

MIDPEX

Our Society was one of 47 national/specialist societies that took part in this new venture at Coventry on 10th June 1995. Collectors converged upon the spacious Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled from all over the British Isles. It turned out to be a first class event.

Each Society was allocated 6 non-competitive frames with 16 sheets per frame - a shop window for societies to display their particular fields of interest. For our Society 6 members contributed: John Barker (Postal Stationery "Regraded"), Alan Huggins (Early Cards of Sweden), John Ray (Fiji), Ian Stevenson (France), David Taylor Smith (Japan) & Peter Watkins (France).

It was good to see those members who called at our table on their way round the displays. It was also encouraging to see p.s. displayed amongst the exhibits of other

specialist societies. There is a good deal of interest in postal stationery among collectors at large, a trend we should foster by encouraging more of our fellow philatelists to join our ranks.

The MIDPEX organisers should be delighted with this first show; a second MIDPEX is planned for 1997.

John Barker

BOOK REVIEW

Andreas Birken. Handbook of Turkish Philately, Part 1 - Ottoman Empire, Postal Stationery. Published by Arbeitsgemeinschaft Osmanisches Reich/Turkei. Printed in Cyprus & available from James Bendon Ltd., P.O. Box 6484, 3307 Limassol, Cyprus for €10 or US \$ 17.50 (inc. postage & packing)

This 80-page softback work is in both English & German and is on good quality paper. The presentation is slightly unusual in that arrangement is by design of impressed stamp rather than by type of postal stationery. Coverage includes the only local item of p.s. and the various formular material. The listing is specialised but has no pricing or points system. There is an interesting article on quality control (which was non-existent) together with varieties. I can find few faults: as the work progresses the text is way in front of the illustrations; the name (Sultan) Abdul Hamid is rendered as one word. At the end of the work there is a comprehensive listing of numbers in other p.s. catalogues set against those found in this work; that is followed a very useful bibliography.

David Taylor Smith

QUERY CORNER

Telegraph Form Queries

One of our members, John Beard, wrote to me sending a photocopy of a short article that had appeared in the Bulletin of the Perfin Society; he commented that "from the imprint the form appears to be Huggins TP 16ad".


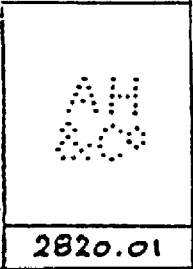
I then wrote to the Secretary of the Perfin Society for permission to reprint the article. (He is Dave Hill, Paardeberg, West End, Marazion, Cornwall.) His reply included the following points: "Perhaps your members could explain or provide further examples. We are always interested in identifying the uses of perfins, and it may be that your members have some identities we have not recorded. Perhaps you could mention this in your journal - and then if your members will tell me of identities & perfins, I will check whether they are known!"

Now here follows the article concerned, by Arthur Smith, from the Perfin Society's Bulletin:-
The articles headed "When is a Perfin not a Perfin" in our Society Bulletin during the past year have been of much interest. The telegrams with a punch through stamp and form reminded me of a rather unusual item in my own collection. This is a mint QV Post Office telegraph form with an embossed 6d stamp in the top righthand corner. The perfin through the stamp is A2820.01 AH/Co 10, 12/12, 8, 6 4½mm (IIIa). The identity in Tomkins is A. Handyside & Co. Ltd., Derby, but there is nothing on this item to indicate the user.

My thought, or queries, are as follows:-

- (1) Was the telegraph perfined on Post Office authority?
- (2) Was the telegraph perfined by A. Handyside & Co. Ltd.?
- (3) Was the telegraph perfined by McCorquodale & Co. Ltd., who printed the form?

Whatever the answer, it would appear that anyone could perfin a document or stamp if they obtained a perfin die-stamp. The illustration (below) of the telegraph form is reduced in size, but the perfin die is full size.

A. 1. Prefix..... Code.....		POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS. (Inland Telegrams)		
Office of Origin and Service Instructions.		Words.	Sent.	
		Charge.	At.....M. To..... By.....	
NOTICE.—This Telegram will be accepted for transmission subject to the Regulations made pursuant to the 2nd Section of the Telegraph Act, 1885, and to the Notice printed at the back hereof.				
12 words, 6 D. Every additional word 1 D.	TO {	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">  </div>		
Every word telegraphed is charged for, whether in addresses or text.	FROM {	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> 2820.01 </div>		
The Name and Address of the Sender, IF NOT TO BE TELEGRAPHED, should be written in the Space provided at the Back of the Form.				
PRINTED BY MCCORQUODALE & CO. LIMITED. 1,000,000—2/6. W. 2572.				

A Mystery Envelope

A letter recently came to me from Colin Baker, as follows:-

A short while ago I purchased a registered envelope & have been trying ever since, without success, to identify its origins. The 4d registration stamp, printed in purple, is not one that was used on British postal stationery and, in any case, following the introduction of Post Office

registered envelopes in Great Britain in 1878, the basic registration fee became 2d. The stamp is similar to that used on stationery for certain countries within the British Empire - but nowhere, on either the stamp or the envelope, is there a reference to any country (a courtesy reserved solely for the British Post Office since they were the first to issue adhesive stamps). The remainder of the printing is almost identical to that used for some of the 1878 issues of British registered envelopes.

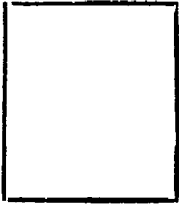
The envelope is made from a cream laid paper. The stamp was probably impressed prior to the envelope being made up (it just crosses the fold of the gummed flap), but the crossed lines & instructions, printed in red, were added later. This makes the envelope even more curious, since blue was always used for British registered envelopes.

There could be a number of reasons why an envelope such as this was produced. Was it a printer's trial or sample, or was it an error that slipped through the net? Can anyone help in identifying this envelope, its purpose & its country of origin?

Editor's note - A reduced illustration of this envelope is on the next page; its actual size being 78mm by 135mm. Coincidentally, at the Society's September meeting just held Clive Perkins showed registered envelopes of the Falkland Islands bearing no territorial name & (in some cases) printed in red. But in other respects they were quite unlike the envelope under query here.

THIS LETTER MUST BE GIVEN TO AN OFFICER
TO BE REGISTERED, AND A RECEIPT

OF THE POST OFFICE,
OBTAINED FOR IT.



REGISTERED.



Two Island Mysteries

by Tony Goldstone

On 10th September 1973 the Jersey Post Office raised the postal rates and as a consequence the 5p aerogramme was from then on to be charged at 6p, and the 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p at 7p. No new airletters were available at that date, and an official 1p handstamp was to be applied to uprate the 5p aerogramme. The question is: when did this handstamp first come into operation?

At that time I had a standing order with the Jersey P.O. and received the 2 "new" aerogrammes C.T.O. from the bureau with datestamp 15 Sept 1973. I then wrote to Jersey about the date & received the following reply on 16th October 1973:-

The uprating stamp for our airletters was not received until 15th September 1973. For this reason the first day stamp for the airletters was 15/9/73. The airletters sent out on 10th September were uprated with postage stamps.

Some time later I received through a dealer examples of the 5p+1p uprated airletter & the 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ p+ $\frac{1}{2}$ p uprating, both cancelled with the official Jersey Philatelic Service handstamp dated 10 Sept 1973 (see illustrations). I again wrote to the Jersey Post Office, but they insisted that only the 15th September cancellation was authorised and the earlier use of 10th September was possibly illegal! So who serviced the 10th September aerogrammes?

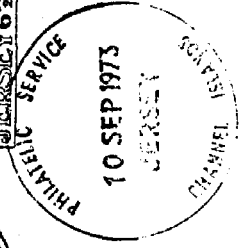
My second mystery concerns the Isle of Man 6½p aerogramme uprated in February 1974 with a ½p handstamp. According to my supplier at the time the new ½p uprate appeared without warning in Ramsey on 8th February and wasn't available in Douglas until it was finally issued to collectors backdated to 1st February! Yet Douglas has maintained that the uprated aerogramme was on sale there on 1st February 1974. Does any reader have a commercially used 1 Feb 1974 aerogramme postmarked Douglas?

Any further information on the above aerogrammes would be much appreciated.

Editorial follow-up - Noticing that the addressee on the Jersey aerogrammes was Andrew Whitworth (member of our Society), I wrote to him asking if he could throw any light on the Jersey mystery. The following reply came back:-

It is quite correct that 15/9/73 was the first day of issue of the 5p+1p and 6½p+½p uprated Jersey aerogrammes. However, the postal rate had gone up on 10/9/73. I have a standing order for Jersey mint and first day. On that occasion only the mint arrived, so I asked them for the first day items. These duly arrived postmarked 10/9/73. Doubtless they did not hold a stock of first day items and just postmarked them when ordered. They were probably getting orders at the time for the 5p uprated with 1d adhesive and the 6½p uprated with ½p adhesive (both issued 10/9/73) and my handstamped upratings got the same date applied in error.

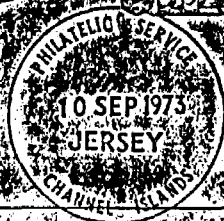
By air mail Air letter
Par avion Aérogramme



ANDREW A. MONTGOMERY
CHERRY HILLS, PA 19011
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME
STATES, UNITED

BY AIR MAIL
AIR LETTER

PAR AVION AEROGARME



ANDREW A. WHITWORTH

CHERRY TREES, NORTHWOOD LANE

NEWCASTLE, 10 SEP 1973

STAFFS, ST5 4DD

Japanese Earthquake

From David Taylor Smith has come the following:-
I am studying the philatelic effects of the 1923 earthquake in Japan. All stationery issued before that date is immediately recognisable by the presence of the printer's imprint, which after the disaster was omitted. The earthquake occurred around midday on 1st September. I have an example of the 1915 design of domestic card produced after the shock on decidedly poorer paper; this

domestic card was used in November 1923.

I should be pleased to hear from anyone with information on this topic, either directly or through the pages of "P.S."

TOPICS

MORE ON AUSTRALIAN 1911 CORONATION CARDS

In response to the notes on pages 10 & 11 of "P.S." no. 5, Wayne Menuz has written in as follows:-

A more complete reference to John Sinfield's article ("Date Stamp", May 1984) would show that he proved rather conclusively that the printing plate used for these cards held 32 subjects, typical for Australian cards & letter-cards at the time. There are (as stated in Roy Dowdeswell's "P.S." notes) 16 basic types - but Sinfield was able to describe the additional 16 by noting differences in the basic types. Taking the 8 types of frame & the 3 different portraits (King George V, Queen Mary, Prince Edward), he identified 19 major designs & 13 subtypes, amounting to the 32 subjects on each sheet.

<u>Frame Type</u>	<u>Portrait</u>		
	KG	QM	PE
1	1a,b	10a,b	16a,b
2	2a,b	11a,b	17a,b
3	3a,b	12	
4	4a,b	13	
	5a,n		
5			18a,b
6	6,7	14	
7	8a,b	15	
	9a,b		
8			19a,b

Below is a listing of the characteristics of those major types that do not differ in frame type:-

Frame type 4 - major type 4 has King's portrait 51½mm high with dark background; major type 5 has King's portrait 50½mm high with light background.

Frame type 6 Major type 6 has, at the top of the oval background, 2 circular cut-outs where wreath ribbons intrude; major type 7 has the top of the oval background unbroken & no wreath ribbons intrude.

Frame type 7 Major type 8 has King's portrait 54mm high with dark background; major type 9 has King's portrait 50½mm high with lighter background.

As to the a & b differences, these are slight but there is no difficulty in distinguishing them, especially when they differ in the arrangement of the photographer's name (W. Barnett or Russell) under some of the portraits. As an example, 3a has "Barnett" in all upper case letters & 5½mm long, while on 3b the name is in upper & lower case letters and 6½mm long.

The paper stock is of 2 types:-

A - white enamelled (coated) card with reverse in off-white uncoated paper.

B - cream card with buff reverse.

The major colour groups are:-

A - black range

B - green range

C - brown to orange range

D - blue range

The same types of ranges exist with the Australian lettercards of that period. Cooke, the printer, was instructed to make the cards & lettercards "interesting"

and did so by adding new ink in a different colour to the pot of previous ink that was not yet empty. This is why it is difficult for collectors to find 2 cards with exactly the same colour. Of course, each sheet of 32 would have been a single colour; but as printing went on, each sheet would migrate in hue from the old ink colour to the new!

MODERN LITHUANIAN PSEs

On this topic a letter has come from a recently joined member, David Williams:-

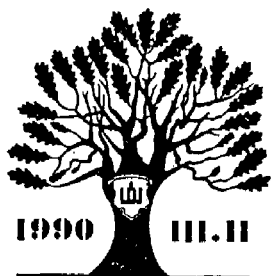
I have only just had the opportunity of reading all the back issues of "P.S.", & I have noticed the Editor's original query about an item of modern Lithuanian postal stationery and the subsequent responses.

Modern Lithuanian postal stationery is very clearly listed in the 1990-94 Catalogue (published by the Lithuanian Post Publishing Centre). This is in English, & although it does not give a reliable guide to prices, it does include all the details of printing and reasons for commemorative issues. (It also includes all the stamps of the period, special cancels & FDCs.)

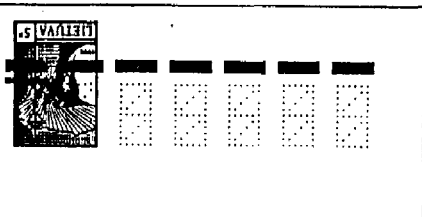
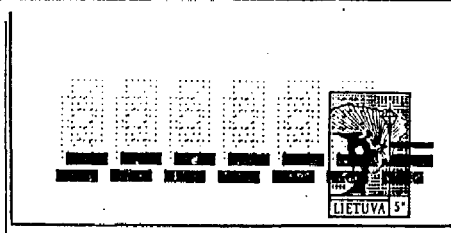
The newly independent Republic of Lithuania started off by attempting to sell stamps & postal stationery that would appeal to collectors & also fulfil the needs of the public. Thus early stamps (apart from the definitives) were designed with collectors in mind, with themes such as birds & sports, whereas the postal stationery reflected Lithuanian nationalism. But as rampant inflation grew, it became uneconomical to keep printing new envelopes with

rates which were soon out of date. They therefore stopped printing them in mid-1991, and instead they up-rated the huge old stock of Russian stationery with new rates as necessary. Then on 1st May 1993 non-value-indicator envelopes were issued: those inscribed "A" are for internal use, and the "B" envelopes are for European airmail (first weight step).

It would appear that these envelopes are still being printed, because those used in 1995 show a distinctly different shade of blue on the airmail etiquette and a subtle difference of shade in the imprinted stamp. Members may be interested to see the following illustration of either very bad printing control or deliberate leaking of printer's waste! (The imprinted stamp appears in the bottom left corner (& upsidedown) instead of the upper right corner.)



ATKURTA NEPRIKLAUSOMA
LIETUVOS RESPUBLIKA



VIEWS

DEFINING POSTAL STATIONERY - 1

by John Rouse

In a previous issue of "P.S." the meaning of the words "postal stationery" was questioned by raising the query whether ALL airletter sheets should be regarded as postal stationery or only those with imprinted stamps.

My answer is that unstamped airletter sheets are postal stationery - and so are blank unstamped envelopes, postcards, etc. But there has never been any common acceptance of one meaning of "postal stationery" throughout philately. Any definitions by organisations or authors have nearly all differed, but all are correct as they are always qualified by "for the purposes of this book" or "for the purposes of this competition", etc.!

As there is no commonly accepted meaning, the best way to a definition is via the dictionary (I have used the "Concise Oxford Dictionary"):-

POSTAL: of the post

STATIONERY: writing materials

From this, "postal" stationery means any stationery sent or able to be sent through the post, and any stationery connected with sending items (money or messages, etc.) through the post - such as certificates of posting (all types), money order cards, telegram forms/cards, envelopes, cards, lettercards, airletters, newspaper wrappers, international reply coupons, etc., etc.

I suggest that the Society should adopt and state

formally a definition of "postal stationery" based on the foregoing, further stating that to have any narrower meaning the words "postal stationery" must be qualified:-

Imprinted p.s. (i.e. with imprinted stamp)

Unstamped p.s.

Official p.s. (to include unstamped items & those with
OHMS-type logo)

Post Office p.s. (items after the GPO ceased to be a
government department)

Military p.s.

Regular Issue p.s.

Stamped-to-order p.s.

What we each decide to collect is based on personal preference, but we should not (even by implication) dictate to others what they should collect. As a dealer over the past 20 years I have come across people who collect most types of unstamped stationery - including headed writing paper and all types of postal receipts.

DEFINING POSTAL STATIONERY - 2

by Wayne Menuz

The word "stationery" includes the vast array of paper products used by or conveyed by post offices. Stampless covers are stationery. Military free mail is stationery. Picture postcards with adhesives are stationery. Postal stationery, however, historically includes only stationery that is government issued & that has an indication of some monetary value upon it, printed by or under the control of the postal service. The value represents the fee for some postal service. In use, the value is cancelled when the service is rendered. Normally the value is denoted by a printed "stamp" with a stated denomination, but any method qualifies. Without an explicit or implicit postal value

an item is NOT postal stationery.

In lieu of an imprinted stamp the value can be implicit - such as by means of the phrase "postage paid". Or sometimes the value can be an actual adhesive applied by the post office prior to the sale of the item. The adhesive may be just applied (e.g. first postal cards of Hong Kong & Bermuda), or it may be "tied" to the stationery by an overprint (e.g. Orange Free State postal cards).

The following are stationery and collectable, but NOT postal stationery:-

1. Post office forms - such paper as registration receipts, airmail labels, etc. are stationery but fail the test of having had a value.
2. Formular stationery - unstamped postcards, unstamped aerogrammes, etc. that are sold (or given free) by post offices and require the buyer to add the postal service value by means of an adhesive - these are not postal stationery. They are related, however, and are widely collected; but unless the adhesive was applied by the post office and sold as part of the item, they are in the same category as stationery sold by private stationers.
3. Stationery with privately applied designs & imprints, usually by bulk mailers. Such items are not postal stationery - nor are free franks, either government or military (very collectable though they are).

Editor's note - Two widely differing definitions above give us the outlook of two experienced members, one British & one American. It seems we all collect postal stationery but cannot agree as to what it is!

JAPANESE DISCOVERY

David Taylor Smith reports having made a discovery among Japanese postal stationery in the form of the new Koban envelope, western style, on LAID paper. He adds that the corresponding variety of the native style envelope has been known for some time, & of that he has a used copy dated 1893.

LETTERS EDITOR

TO THE

Appreciation - Definition - Suggestion

As a new member of the Society I was most pleased to receive my first issue of "P.S." (no. 5). It is a very interesting & informative read.

At the risk of entering the discussion at its mid-point, may I suggest that the definition of postal stationery should include all postal forms which have an impressed stamp, whether that stamp pays for postage or for some other postal fee. There are many postal forms which are generally considered postal stationery on which the "stamp" pays some fee other than postage. Further, this is not to say that unstamped forms should be excluded - the only problem I see is that cataloguing them is next to impossible. But most stationery collectors have at least a few "formular" items in their collections.

Finally, a suggestion concerning "P.S.", if I may. I would find it useful if a table of contents were included somewhere near the front of the journal. At some future date when I am searching for that particular article I remember from "P.S.", it would be much easier to find it if I did not have to search every page of every issue.

Thank you very much, especially for your efforts on behalf of the Society. I look forward to a long & interesting membership tenure, & after I have had an opportunity to get better acquainted, I am sure I shall produce an occasional article for you.

Jack Harwood
(Florida, U.S.A.)

Editor's note - You know the old saying that great minds think alike: just before the above letter came, I had come to deciding that a table of contents would improve "P.S."! So from this issue on it will be included.

Editor's note - The following letter from the Catalogue Editor at Stanley Gibbons came in response to suggestions I made that S.C. should consider resumption of cataloguing some postal stationery, possibly as supplementary pages in their "Concise" series of catalogues for G.B., Australia, and New Zealand:-

Thank you for your letter concerning the cataloguing of postal stationery. I did indeed read your article on the subject published in the December issue of "Gibbons Stamp Monthly". I believe that you have, to a certain extent, answered your own question in the historical review in the article concerning previous postal stat-

ionery listings. With some notable exceptions, such as Michel's catalogues on the various aspects of German postal stationery, there has been little else published since the Higgins & Gage project ceased publication. I agree that some one-country stamp catalogues do contain sections for postal stationery, but these tend to be somewhat superficial or are for areas where there is relatively little to record in any case. Michel has produced a Europe postal stationery catalogue in 2 volumes but I do not know how that has been received.

As you know, the Stanley Gibbons catalogues are still the priced lists for the stamp dealing side of the business and the Strand does not stock or supply postal stationery as a normal part of business. This means that the compilation, & more importantly the pricing of any proposed p.s. volumes could not be undertaken in-house, with a resulting considerable increase in the production costs. Like all commercial publishers Stanley Gibbons are unlikely to produce catalogues which are not an economic proposition. For historical reasons, of which I am sure you are well aware, the collector base for postal stationery is very low when compared with other aspects of the hobby, and this, as I suspect the publishers of Higgins & Gage found, seriously inhibits the economic viability of such projects.

I do not wish to give the impression that no postal stationery project would be considered. If no new edition of Alan Huggins' work is produced, there will clearly be a need in the future for a listing of G.B. issues, but any contemplation of a World p.s. catalogue

will need to await the often-promised, but not yet achieved, cheaper publishing systems.

David J. Aggersberg

FROM THE **EDITOR'S**
DESK.

From Ian McMahon I have received the March 1995 Newsletter of the Canberra Philatelic Society's P.S. Group; & then a little later on a copy of "Postal Stationery Collector" issue no. 1, May 1995, which is the organ of the newly formed P.S. Society of Australia. I wish their Society success & hope there will continue to be a good overlap of membership between them & us.

Articles recently seen in the philatelic press include:-
Development of Victorian Postal Stationery (Colin Baker) - British Philatelic Bulletin, Oct. & Nov. 1994 and Jan., March & April 1995 - post-Mulready envelopes, inland & overseas postal cards, wrappers, lettercards & registered envelopes.

Who Fathered the Postcard? (J. Mackay) - Stamp Magazine, Dec. 1994.

G.B. Postal Stationery 1939-70 (R. Palmer) - Gibbons Stamp Monthly, May, June, July & August 1995.

Postal Stationery Matters (Peter van Gelder) - Gibbons Stamp Monthly, March, June & Sept. 1995 - Lithuania, Finland, N.Z., Australian Fleet cards, QV's Diamond Jubilee, Coronation issues.

1994 Postal Stationery (listing, by G. Sor-Reime) - Gibbons Stamp Monthly, April, May & June 1995.

ARTICLES

G.B. ADDITIONS & REVISIONS

by Colin Baker

I was very pleased to read in a recent issue of "P.S." that Alan Huggins plans to publish a revised edition of his book "British Postal Stationery", which will be very much welcomed by all of us who collect G.B. stationery.

I am sure that the the author would welcome any additions & revisions to his original edition that Society members can offer. I have the following notes on items in my collection:-

Registered letters

- (i) The date of the first issue of George VI (4¹d) registered envelopes (RP47) is given as August 1939, but I have a copy size G which is very clearly postmarked 30/31 May 1939, used from Bath to Melksham in Wiltshire. It appears to be a standard commercial cover.
- (ii) Similarly the next issue of registered envelopes (RP48) is given as February 1940, but I have an example size G postmarked 9 January 1940, used from Kingston on Thames to Blackpool.
- (iii) The 1949 issue of registered envelopes (RP66) has no month quoted in the book, but I have 2 copies, the first being clearly dated 7 October 1948 and the second dated 15 September 1948 (though on the second example the year is not absolutely clear). Also, under the flap of both items is printed "See note on back about limits of compensation".

Private Certificates of Posting

See my short article "Tales of Postal Stationery" on page 20 of "P.S." no. 3.

Prisoner of War Air Mail

The issue date of the air letter headed "No Enclosures Allowed" (AP5) is given as July 1944, but I have one clearly written on 8/11/43 & postmarked 9 Nov 1943.

Official lettersheets

I have a copy of the reply paid lettersheet issued by the Board of Trade in 1866 (L01). The two 1d pink stamps are both dated 20.1.66 and have die no. 115 on the neck. The letter sheet is mainly printed in Welsh with some English translation.

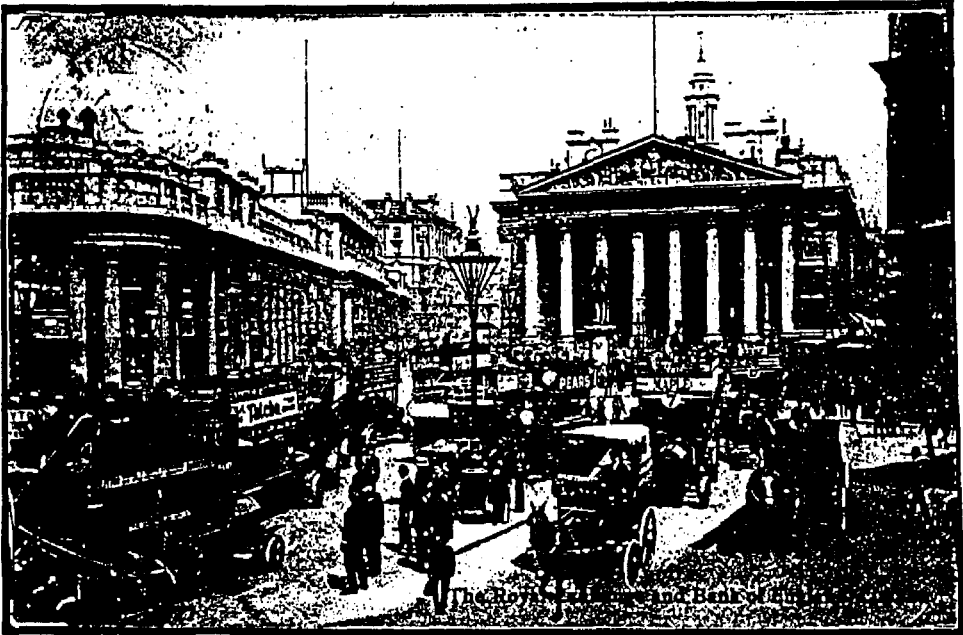
I hope that these few notes, together with any others offered by members, will help in the revision of "British Postal Stationery".

PREVIOUSLY UNRECORDED G.B. EVII STAMPED TO ORDER
CARDS - by Alan Huggins

One of the delights of collecting postal stationery is that it is still possible to find items which have previously escaped notice or appear not to have been recorded in the literature. Two such items have recently come to light (one at the September 1994 meeting of the Society).

From 1872 to 1882 British stamped to order cards were produced with a QV ½d pink embossed stamp (CS1). Subsequently letterpress stamps were used, though a few examples of cards stamped with the ½d embossed die struck

Photocopy of picture side



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44?

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in vermilion (CS5, 6, 8) are known. A QV 1d pink embossed STO card is also listed on the basis of the 1952 edition of "The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps 1661-1951" as CS7. However, even after a further 26 years since the publication of "British Postal Stationery" in 1969, I have yet to see an example - so if anyone has one, a photocopy of it would be greatly appreciated.

In the KEVII period, while STO cards with $\frac{1}{2}$ d yellow green embossed dies have been listed as CS27, these are rare; and though the existence of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d blue green embossed die & the 1d red embossed die has always been a theoretical possibility, only very recently have actual examples been seen.

Thus at our September 1994 meeting Bill Meredith produced an example of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d blue green embossed on a size f card used to the U.S.A. in 1903; & I recently acquired a picture postcard size f with the 1d red embossed die used to the U.S.A. in 1911. I illustrate both items here, in reduced size.

POSTAL STATIONERY

incl. TOPICALS
Worldwide

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Dr. PETER STEINKAMP

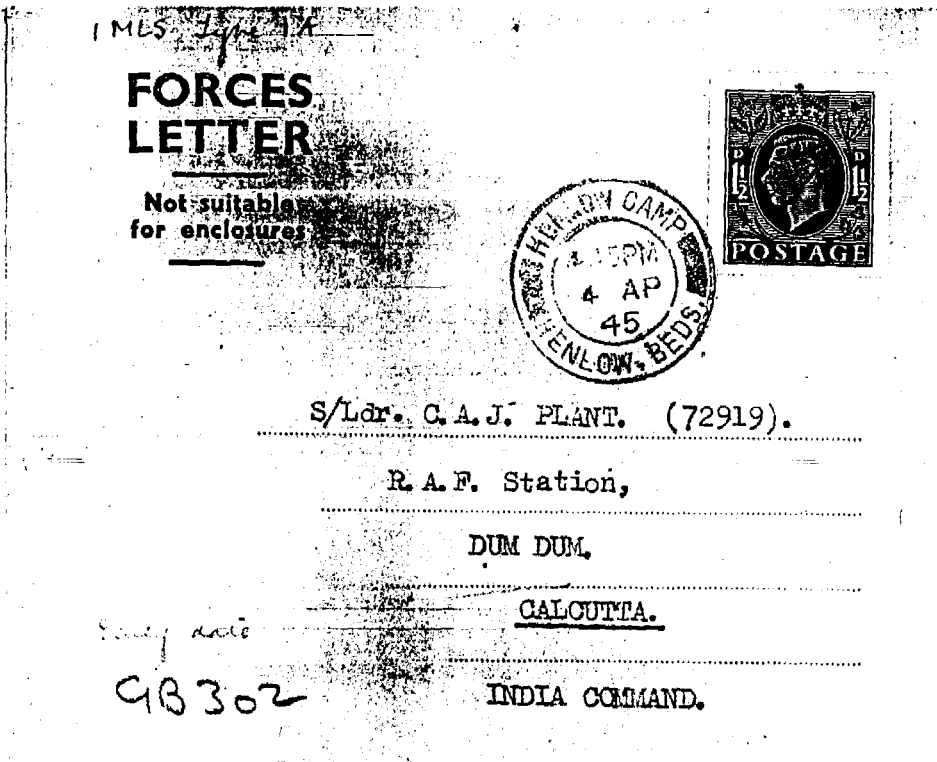
P.O. Box 65 06 27, 22366 Hamburg, Germany

AEROGRAMMATICS

R.A.F. Henlow Jumped the Gun!

by Tony Goldstone

The item illustrated below is of topical interest as this year has seen the 50th anniversary of the G.B. Forces Airletter with imprinted stamp. The official issue date was 7th April 1945, but it appears some were released early - and this one was used 3 days early by a sender who seems to have been a collector!



(See page 37 for the message inside)

Aerogrammatic Oddments

by Peter van Gelder

The promised railway theme G.B. aéogrammes have apparently caught the habit often displayed by British Rail trains - they are going to appear late on the scene ! Originally 7 aéogrammes (6 normal size, 1 large size) were due to be issued some time in September 1995. Now it seems the large size aéogramme has been cancelled (if you see what I mean !) and the other 6 are to be issued towards the end of 1995.

At the Society's meeting last month I had conversation with Brian Harwood during which he raised this dilemma: to fold or not to fold? Some would have us think that to preserve an aéogramme in perfect mint condition it must remain unfolded. On the other hand, exhibition rules limit the size of the sheets on which items may be mounted. These 2 demands seem incompatible. Your views on this are invited.

MEETINGS ELSEWHERE

Northern Irish Royal Mail Gathering - possible p.s. changes for G.B.

Earlier this year I attended a meeting at a Belfast hotel as one of a group of 8 from the Northern Ireland Philatelic Society. We had been invited by a marketing company employed by Royal Mail to get the views of "interested groups" on Royal Mail products, etc.

The meeting went through various aspects of Royal

Mail business, stamp bookletes (especially "window" & "prestige"), current issues, issuing policy (comments on this are almost unprintable!), ideas for future issues, etc.

The interesting part for stationery collectors came as the last item. We were shown imprinted envelopes each with an indicum to show payment of a variety of "value added" postage rates. These envelopes were of good quality pale blue wove paper with an indicum (top right, as always) showing the Queen's head (normal sideface) in a dark blue & red square surround. The values were 55p (recorded delivery charge), 80p (recorded delivery + 1st class basic rate postage charge) and £2.70p (special delivery charge); lastly, £3 (lowest value registered letter charge). At the top left on the envelopes there were imprinted etiquettes to show which service was paid for.

No indication was given that these envelopes would ever "hit the streets", but the general opinion was that the items were very far advanced in production/printing, so this was unlikely to be a mere "consumer test" by Royal Mail. Obviously these items may never come to fruition, but if they do, remember - "You read it here first!".

Sam Barkley

Association of British Philatelic Societies A.G.M.

I attended the above on behalf of our Society on 17th June at Drove Road School, Swindon.

The reports of council members were approved, the audited accounts were adopted and the existing auditor was re-appointed. The main business was a series of votes on

minor amendments to the constitution. A number of issues had been submitted under "any other business" & those were discussed at some length. The way in which the meeting was engineered meant that no votes were taken on any of these issues. It is difficult to see where issues should be raised in order to affect A.B.P.S. policy. Having said that, however, I should add that most issues raised arose from misunderstanding of the role of the A.B.P.S. and whether or not it provides financial support to certain activities (e.g. it does not financially support annual Congress).

Michael Smith

Editor's note - We, as an affiliated Society, contribute £35+ per annum to A.B.P.S. Members' views on the desirability of this are welcomed - or on any particular policies we might try & persuade the A.B.P.S. to adopt.

LIBRARY

Many items have recently been added to the library, several items having been donated (particularly following contacts made at MIDPEX). Recently acquired books are listed below; journals/monographs/articles will be listed next time.

11. Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog Deutschland 1991 (donated by David Taylor Smith).
12. Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog Deutschland 1995 (donated by Norbert Sehler).
13. Handbook of Turkish Philately Part 1 - Ottoman Empire, Postal Stationery, A. Birken, 1995 (donated by James Bendon Ltd.).

14. Postal Stationery of Western Australia, M. Juhl, 1984 (purchased).

15. Queensland Postal Stationery, P. Collas, 1979 (purchased).

Please note that items 11 & 12 are in German; item 13 is bilingual (English/German). Also in German is item 4 "Katalog der Aerogramme von Afrika 1995", but for that Sam Barkley has very kindly prepared an excellent glossary to help those with limited German.

For borrowing system/rules please see pages 17 & 18 of "P.S." no. 5.

WHAT'S ON THE BACK?

What is written on the back of a postal card, or on the inside of a lettercard or aerogramme, can sometimes be of great interest - historically, socially, sadly, humorously & so forth. This new feature aims to encourage you to read those messages and to send copies of any you think worthy to the Editor, for possible publication. To start the ball rolling here is one from Duff Malkin in Canada:-

I have an Indian postal card (H&G 50) sent by airmail & postmarked 5 July 1945 with a machine cancel of Bombay (9 pies postal card + 1 rupee adhesive added). It was sent to the Applied Research Laboratories, Glendale, California, and it read as below.

H.M. Mint Bombay
4.7.45

Dear Sirs,

I am much obliged for your letter dated 2nd May 1945. Much to my regret the copy of "Modern Analysis Catalogue

no. 128" and two copies of "Spectrographics Newsletter" have not arrived. Possibly they may have been lost in transit. As I am anxious to know the recent developments in spectrographic technique, I would much appreciate your sending me further copies of these if you possibly could.

Yours truly,

A.N. Gosh (Deputy Chief
Assayer)

Comments - We believe "spectrographics" refers to colour photography & that the writer's interest in this may have been in connection with banknote production. It may seem strange for an official of His Majesty's Mint to seek such information from the U.S.A.. But the letter's date is a clue: Indian independence was only 6 weeks in the future, & no doubt many changes were afoot!

Here is another "on the back" (see page 32):-

R.A.F. Station,
HENLOW, Beds.

4th April, 1945.

Dear *Plant.*

This is the new type of air letter with imprinted stamp, for the Forces in areas to which the 1st air postage rate is applicable, and was received at our local Post Office today.

Would you write and sign on the back the date you receive it and return to me in due course.

Yours *truly*

R. J. D. [Signature]

MEMBERSHIP LIST

A welcome is extended to the following new members who have joined the Society during 1995.

Popovici S. (Rumania)	G.B.; South America; U.S.A.; Canada
Stjernhock F. (Denmark)	G.B.; Brazil; El Salvador; Denmark
Bailey A.	Most of Europe
Flack G. (South Africa)	South Africa; Mozambique; Angola; German South West Africa; German East Africa
Williams D.	Hungary; Australia; G.B.
Robinson M.	Indian States; Pakistan; Commonwealth KGVI (except G.B.)
Deschesne J.-L. (Belgium)	World
Woodhouse D.	G.B.; Ireland; Austria; Hungary; Czechoslovakia; Poland
Harris K.	G.B.
Harwood J. (U.S.A.)	G.B.; postal orders
Batty M.	Sweden; Denmark
Totten A.	Norway
Diesveld J. (Netherlands)	G.B. (Machin types); Rhodesia (postal cards)
van der Wateren D. (Netherlands)	Nepal
Fitzpatrick J. (New Zealand)	World, especially New Zealand
Downing K.	Railways theme
Clarke P.	G.B.; Commonwealth; cut-outs of the World
Lacey M.	World
Stok J. (Netherlands)	South Africa
Norton J.	G.B.; Albania

Henderson J.

Commonwealth (mint) but
excluding Australia, N.Z.,
Canada & India

Correction+ In "P.S" no. 4 Boon-Swee Y. should have read
Yen B.-S.

Total membership is 126, new members & lapsed members
having approximately balanced. Geographical distrib-
ution is now as follows: England 70, U.S.A. 9, Australia
8, Netherlands 7, Belgium 5, Canada 4, Germany 4,
Scotland 3, Austria/Denmark/France/Northern Ireland 2
each, Italy/Nepal/New Zealand/ Republic of Ireland/
Rumania/South Africa/Sweden/Switzerland 1 each.

WANTS

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

QV period - (i) proofs, essays, &
used postal cards & registered
envelopes; (ii) official cards,
mint & used. B.-S. Yen, 24 Gillian
Parade, West Pymble, N.S.W. 2073,
Australia.

EXPLANATION from the Editor

By the beginning of October I had completed about
75% of this issue when very suddenly my beloved mother
passed away. The shock and loss made me unable to put
my mind to such things as "P.S." for a full fortnight -
so if you receive this issue later than expected, or if
something you expected to see in it is omitted, please
do not think unkindly of me.

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