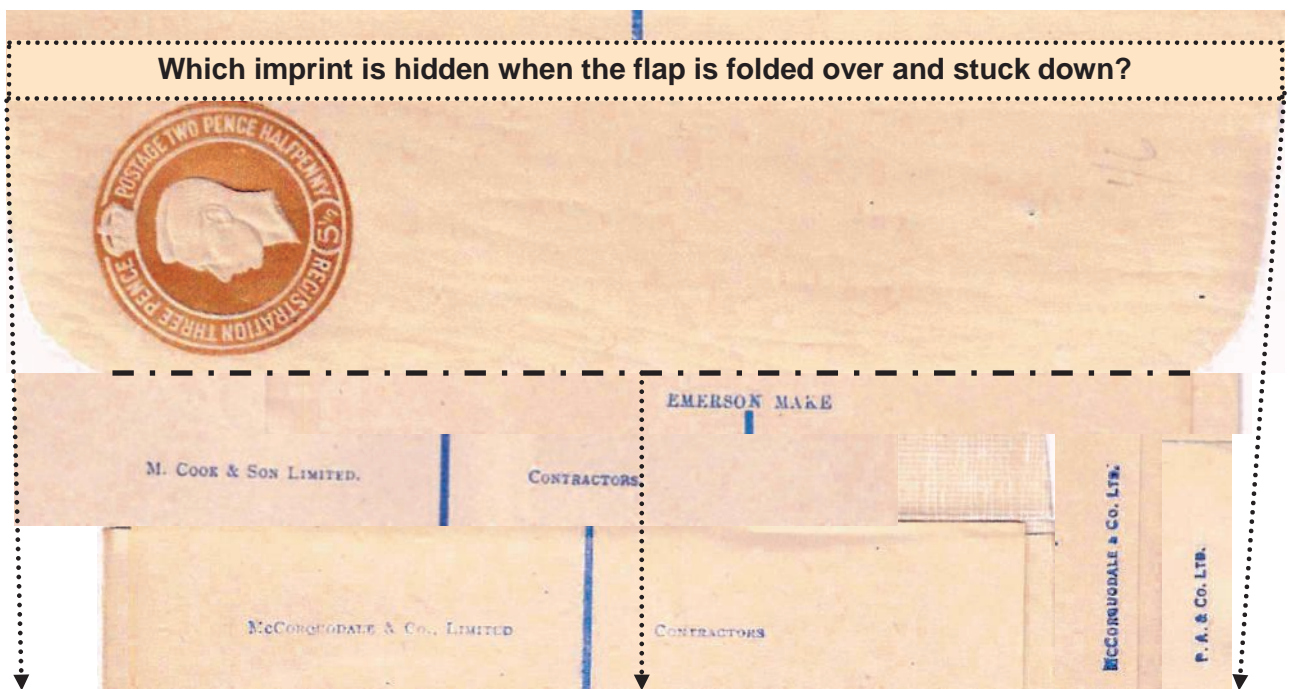




THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 20, No. 1 February 2012
(Serial number 61)



The 1943-46 Provisional Printings of the KGVI 5½d Brown Registration Envelopes
See page 13.

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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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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 2012

Details of the Programme for 2012 can be found in the Programme Card enclosed with the November issue of the Journal. If you do not have a programme card please contact the Editor.

INTERRUPTED MAIL

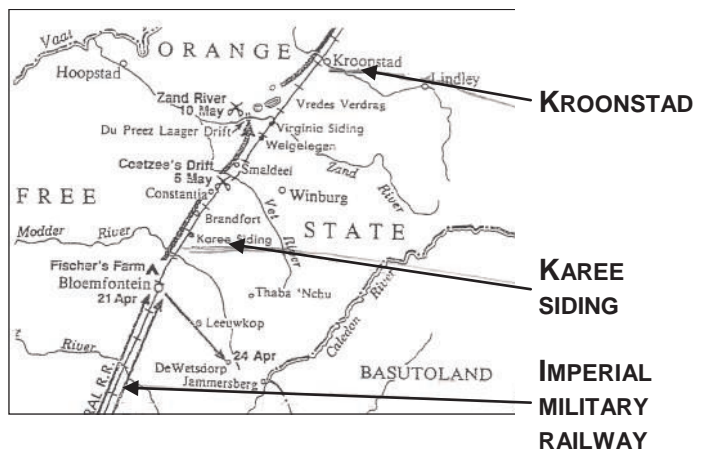
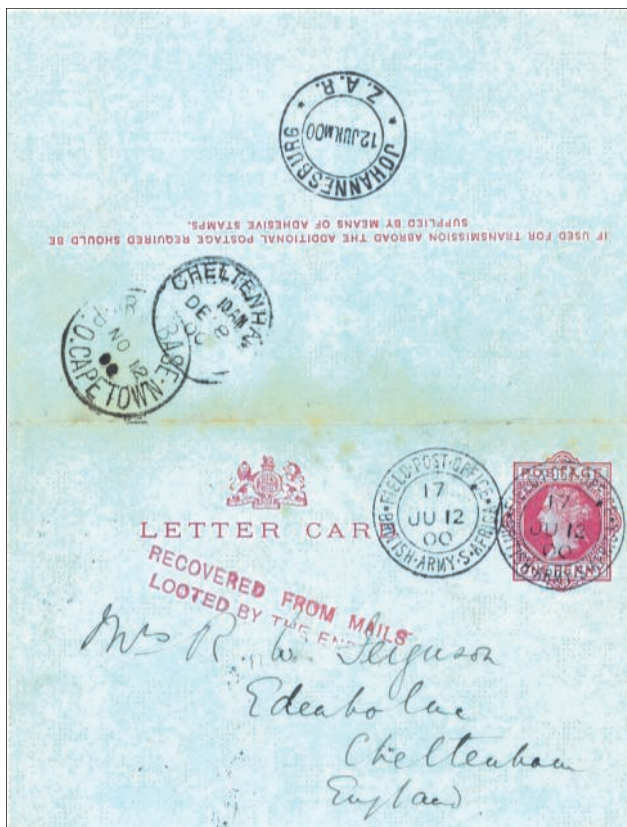
Tony Hitchcock

Following Michael Lockton's, Chairman's Chat in the August issue of the PSS Society Journal, relating to the 1d Pink Envelopes used in the Anglo-Boer War in 1900, I would like to note the following Letter Card **LCPI6**.

Lettercards are infrequently seen at this time in South Africa but this is most unusual insofar as it is handstamped in a two line red handstamp 542mm x 8mm:

RECOVERED FROM MAILED LOOTED BY THE ENEMY

The card started its journey in Johannesburg on 12 June 1900 and received both a military army cancel and the local Z.A.R. cancel. It proceeded down the Imperial Military Railway en route to Cape Town but some 30 km north of Bloemfontein the railway had been blown up at KAREE SIDING and the train was delayed while Lt.Col.Percy Girouard, who Kitchener had brought down from the Sudan, repaired the line. It was here that the mail was hijacked.



Arrival in Cape Town was on 12th November- some FIVE MONTHS LATER! The card finally reached Cheltenham on 8th December, 1900.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - FEBRUARY 2012

May I wish all Members a happy new year and good hunting. It is always amazing that every year, new previously unrecorded items of postal stationery come to light. This, of course, is one of the attractions of postal stationery and in nearly every edition of our Society Journal such finds are announced. I hope Members will continue to send details of their new finds (and queries) to the Editor of the Journal.

For my contribution to this edition, I illustrate the right-hand part of a long window envelope with a stamped-to-order GV 2d. orange embossed stamp (H&B. ES57). It is cancelled by a Hey-Dolphin machine cancellation postmark of London SW1, dated 8 September 1923, "BRITISH EMPIRE / EXHIBITION". (Used from October 1922 until June 1924). However it is the other two postal markings that are of particular interest.

Following World War I, the postal rate for letters within the UK, was increased from 1½ d. to 2d. on 1st. June 1920. By 1922 the Post Office finances had improved as its wage bill fell and so on 29th. May the letter rate for letters up to 1oz. was reduced to 1½ d. Post Office customers with stocks of "Stamped-to-order" envelopes bearing the 2d. value, were able to return them for refund of the extra ½d. Such envelopes were returned by the PO with a small inspectors' triangular handstamp applied to indicate the reduced value. The envelope illustrated bears such a handstamp but also has a framed instructional postmark "POSTAGE / HEREON / Value only / 1½ d." These envelopes are not uncommon but this is the only



example I have seen of this particular mark.

This, I consider, is where postal stationery and postal history meet.

Michael Lockton

SECRETARY'S NOTES - FEBRUARY 2012

In the current economic climate there are some rather strange prices being attached to postal stationery, and some even more dramatic amounts being paid for them. While desirable items have always attracted a premium. I get the impression that the birth of many internet auction sites over the last ten years has dramatically increased peoples desires and expectations; be they buyer or seller.

One item in particular came to my attention last summer. It was a sheet impressed with all the King Edward VII embossed stamps, possibly prepared and used as a printer's standard - a control sheet to check that the daily impressions were of the correct quality. It started off at £249. Two collectors were very keen to own this item and the successful bidder finally paid £1,750 for it.

A few days later a Queen Victoria STO 1½d newspaper wrapper appeared with a price tag of \$5,000 (over £3,000). It was used from Great Britain to the USA. There were no date stamps, but the Newspaper Branch cancellation suggest to me it had been sent towards the end of the 19th century. It did have a small logo printed on the front, although the wrapper was a bit tired. It was said to be

unlisted by Huggins even though it is clearly included in both the 1970 and 2007 catalogues.

On the other hand, there are numerous examples of postal stationery that have remained on sale for years. The vendors live in eternal hope that somebody will eventually pay the asking price, but I wonder how much the auction fees add up to and whether it would have been better all round to have set a lower price in the beginning.

Ebay is certainly the most well known auction site today and it has dominated the market place since its formation in 1995. But there are several other, less well known sites that collectors can use. So it's worth putting a few key words into one of the popular search engines (such as Google, Geeves, Ask, etc) and see what they comes up with.

Some collectors seem worried about security, and there is no harm in that, fearing that their purchases might not arrive or perhaps damaged items will be substituted for the one they saw on line and bid for. Over the last few years quite a few of my colleagues and I have bought many items on the internet with little trouble. In fact I've had

reason to return more items of postal stationery bought through old fashioned postal auction houses than through the internet. And so, far, touch wood, I have not felt cheated when buying on line.

So if you have not tried it already, why not have a go? If you are sensible you are unlikely to feel cheated and with a bit of perseverance you will likely find a bargain. And that's what adding to your collection is all about.

Paying By Paypal

The Society has recently set up a Paypal account for the use of all members, which can be used for both subscription payments and auction purchases. Any member that needs to send money to us via Paypal should drop the **Treasurer** an e-mail on grebsnig@hotmail.com. The only stipulation we make is that the fee charged by Paypal is paid by the member using this system. So you may be asked to send a little more money than you owe, but this is to make it fair on all members. Both our new **Treasurer Alan Ginsberg** and our **Website Manager Lars Engelbrecht** have worked very hard to make this happen and we are very grateful to them for this.

If you experience any problems using the new payment system get in touch with the Treasurer or Secretary and we will do our best to help. If you have any comments on this new facility, please let us know.

Society Meetings

Most members have already received their programme card setting out the Society's meetings for this year, with a provisional programme for next year as well. New members will find the card inside this Journal. Please try to get to these meetings if you can. The committee and their supporters work very hard to organise meetings in London and elsewhere, so it is very disappointing when attendances are low. It is for this reason that the Worpex meeting has been cancelled this year.

So come along to the next meeting you can attend, support your Society and have a good time. I know you will enjoy it once you get there.

That Generous Donation

Last year the Society received a very generous donation of £1000 which was given to promote both the Society and the collecting of postal stationery.

The committee thought long and hard on ways to spend this money, not wanting to waste the gift in ways that would have netted little in results. Neither did they want the money to sit in our bank account where it would have gained little interest. Following on from discussions at our AGM last October, the committee has agreed that this money should cover two types of expense.

We have asked the Association of British Philatelic Societies to publish a leaflet "What is Postal Stationery" as part of their new range of publicity leaflets designed to attract new collectors to philately and to help those who already collect stamps and postal history to expand their field. We have agreed that we should make a contribution to the ABPS of £100 to help cover production costs.

We have also decided to place advertisements in Gibbons Stamp Monthly every other month, for a year. The Great Britain Philatelic Society already does this and they have told us they find it attracts new members and helps promote their society. Limited advertising by ourselves in the past has also proved successful, but it is expensive, which is why we have not continued to do so until now.

These two ways of promoting the Society and postal stationery collecting will use about half of £1000 given to us. We are looking at ways of using the remainder of the money, and if you have an alternative suggestion, please get in touch with the secretary or one of the committee members.

March Meeting at the Royal Philatelic Society Building

Included with this copy of the Journal is a flyer for the Society's next meeting on Saturday 24th March 2012. As part of this meeting we will be holding our annual One Sheet Competition. There is no need to notify the Secretary of your entry(ies) - just bring it/them along on the day.

A synopsis of the rules is printed on the flyer, but if you would like a full set, please get in touch with the Secretary.

THE H. EDGAR WESTON SAGA CONTINUES

Colin Baker

No sooner had the first part of my article on Victor Marsh and the philatelic creations of H Edgar Weston been published, (see Journals Numbers 59 and 60, August and November 2011) than more covers and associated information came to light.

In one of those rare moments last year, I went to a small stamp fair that was quite a distance from my home. Although it opens its doors nearly every month of the year, it was the first time I had been to it. I was going to a Federation AGM, and frankly I did not expect to find much in the way of postal stationery. My first glance around the dealers there confirmed this. But with time on my hands I persisted in looking through every box of covers and postal history I could find. My reward was the two covers illustrated (**Figs 1 & 2**). In his booklet on a "Georgian Stamp Banned by the Postmaster General" Weston never



Fig. 1

mentions that he retained some of the Hearts of Oak Benefit

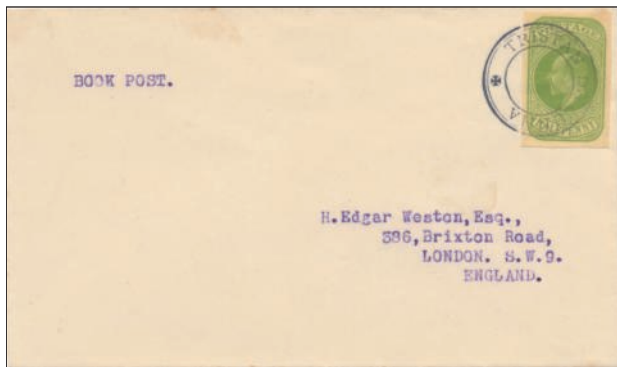


Fig. 2

Society voting forms, or that he used these as cut-outs to send back to himself from the island of Tristan da Cunha. But obviously he did, using them up quite legitimately outside the United Kingdom, where the postal authorities were not so officious.

Yet more items appear every so often that expand our knowledge of the extent of Weston's philatelic creations. I also came across this cover (Fig. 3) sent by one of Weston's clients, Lieut.-Commander Ralph Clayton, from the World War One battleship HMS Queen Mary. The strange thing is that this item does not match any other Weston cover that I have seen, and it is not mentioned in his booklet on the use of postal stationery cut-outs as stamps. But then Weston could not have had sheets of Victorian stamps produced in the early part of the 20th century, as he did with both the King Edward VII and King George V issues, since the Victorian dies would have been put out of use as soon as those for the new monarch were ready.

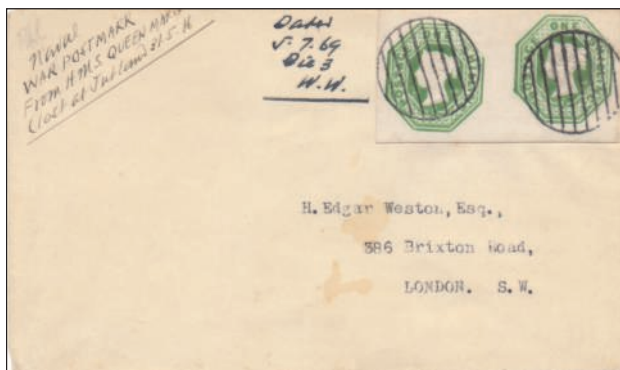


Fig. 3

The envelope carries a pair of one shilling Victorian stamps, which are both dated 5th July 1869 and were thus impressed 5 years before Weston was born.

I have studied the cover carefully and I am sure that it is genuine. The cut-out is sufficiently tied to the envelope for me to be certain that it has not been added at a later date, and the cancellation matches other covers cancelled on board HMS Queen Mary. Since the ship went down at the Battle of Jutland in 1916, the cancelling handstamp would have been lost with her. In addition I am sure that the manuscript note in the centre of the envelope front matches other examples of Weston's handwriting. Even the handwriting in the note on the left hand side seems familiar.

The only explanation I can think of for this item is that Queen Victorian stamps were due to be demonetised in July 1915 and perhaps Weston, like many dealers of the day, had too many mint envelopes that they thought they were unlikely to be able to sell or use up sending letters to clients. As Weston was very keen to use cut-out stamps, he probably felt he could use up the old Victorian stamps and at the same time produce covers to sell to collectors. But was this envelope a one-off, or did he produce more than one of these? If you have a similar Victorian cover by Weston (using any value stamps), or can offer a better explanation of why this would have been produced, please let me know.

One collector who has been extremely helpful in putting this story together is **Colin Breddy**. Recently he provided images of three more envelopes (Fig. 4) sent back from the Western Front during the First World War.



Fig. 4

They show that Weston was using more than just stamps cut from his 'special' sheets. The first cover bears two KGV 1/2d green cut outs, type L11 or L11a either from thin cards or from wrappers – both obliterated by black ink. It is signed by Bates and bears a hexagonal censor mark, No. 2034 – hand stamped on the reverse 25 Sept 1916. The second has a KEVII 1d carmine cut out, type LW6, mainly found on Post Office wrappers – again with the stamp obliterated by black ink. However this cover has been

cancelled by an Army Post Office date stamp S.58, dated 8 Dec 17 and bears a rectangular censor mark No. 4267. There is faint pencil notation 'rec 22 12 17'. The third cover is franked with a KGV 1½d brown cut out type L15 – presumably from the Post Office letter card issued in June 1918 – again with stamp obliterated by black ink. Unfortunately this also obscures the greater part of the Army Post Office date stamp.

Our membership secretary, **Edward Caesley**, collects stamp dealer mail and has provided me with an

intriguing postcard written in 1907 (**Figs 5a and 5b**) apparently signed in pen on the reverse by Victor Marsh. It is an ordinary ½d King Edward VII card, sent on 22nd March 1907 to W T Wilson, a stamp dealer based in Birmingham. The address on the reverse is 389 Brixton Road, the address also quoted in contemporary advertisements for philatelic literature sold by Victor Marsh. But despite this latest discovery, we are still no nearer the truth, or whether this man really did exist.



Fig. 5a

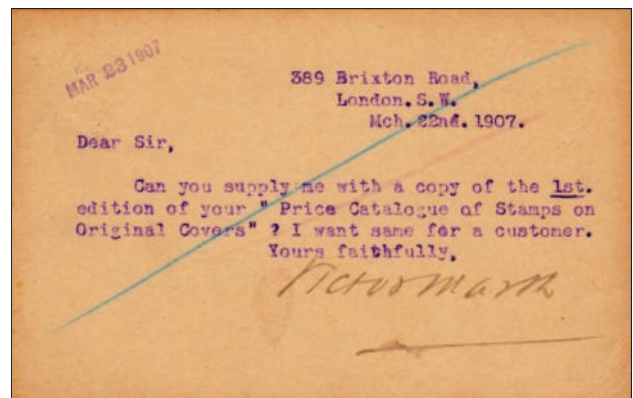


Fig. 5b

POSTAL STATIONERY COMMISSION NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2012

The latest Newsletter from the Postal Stationery Commission has recently been issued and should appear on their website (www.postalstationery.org) in the near future.

Included in this issue are:-

- ◆ results for the Postal Stationery classes for the 2011 International Exhibitions.
- ◆ Promotional Class for Modern Philately.
- ◆ Statistics from the Postal Stationery Exhibit Results Database.
- ◆ List of Future International Exhibitions (up to May 2016).
- ◆ **Current and Suggested Guidelines for Judging Postal Stationery Exhibits.**

POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY JOURNAL

The Journal is published four times per year. Items for inclusion should be with the Editor by the 'copy date':

Issue	Distribution date	Copy date
No. 1 February	13 February 2012	1st January
No. 2 May	14 May 2012	1st April
No. 3 August	13 August 2012	1st July
No. 4 November	12 November 2012	1st October

Display Advertisements are welcome at the following rates:

A4	full page	£60
	half page	£30
	quarter page	£15

Classified Advertisements:-

'For Sale' adverts can be placed at 10p per word, subject to available space, with a minimum of £2-00 per insertion. Please let me have your advert with remittance by the copy date.

'Wanted' adverts can be placed free of charge, subject to available space.

Please contact the Editor (Details on p2)

“EDINBURGH POSTAL TRAINING SCHOOL” FANTASY ITEMS

Maurice Buxton

This article is reproduced with kind permission from the Great Britain Philatelic Society Newsletter - September/October 2011.

Over the last year or so I have seen a large number of curious items, including postal stationery, purporting to be postal training material used to instruct new staff in Edinburgh. I say “purporting”, because generally even a casual glance from someone as delightfully oblivious as myself should be enough to provoke scepticism. Indeed, many of them have considerable comedy value, as it seems extremely unlikely that they could ever have taught new postal staff anything of use.

They come in a variety of formats – most usually a parcel tag, envelope, or card, with a bewildering variety of things affixed to these bases. For a start, there’s a wide range of lower value GB stamps from 1936 onwards – issues of Edward VIII and George VI, Wildings, and Machins, often in blocks or with controls attached. Some of them are regionals, although ironically Scottish ones seem to be thin on the ground. More surreal are the ones with overprints for the likes of Tangier or the Morocco Agencies. Then there are items with postage dues, testing stamps, or (a particularly nice touch) the labels used in 1971 to train staff to reckon in decimal currency. There are even a few with actual training school stamps (or at any rate, stamps with black bars overprinted on them). Add to that the random postal labels that appear on some – often several types at once – and I think you’ll see why I use the term “fantasy items”.

If they’re that obvious, why am I bothering to comment then? Well, they may be obvious when you encounter some bizarre combination such as a block of Wildings on the back of a 1981 PHQ card, or when a large selection appear all at once on eBay. However, among the joke items are some that could be taken as real if seen in isolation, and they seem to be percolating into general dealers’ stocks.

The parcel tags especially can look plausible – even the ones with an Edward VIII stamp and a green special delivery label, if you didn’t recognise the latter as being from the 1960s (I had to stop and think about it).

There are three handstamps which appear on practically all of them, in either black or red:

1. a boxed straight-line “EDINBURGH POSTAL TRAINING SCHOOL”,



2. a circular “ROYAL MAIL / POST OPENING EH7”
3. a circular “PHG / TRAINING CENTRE”.

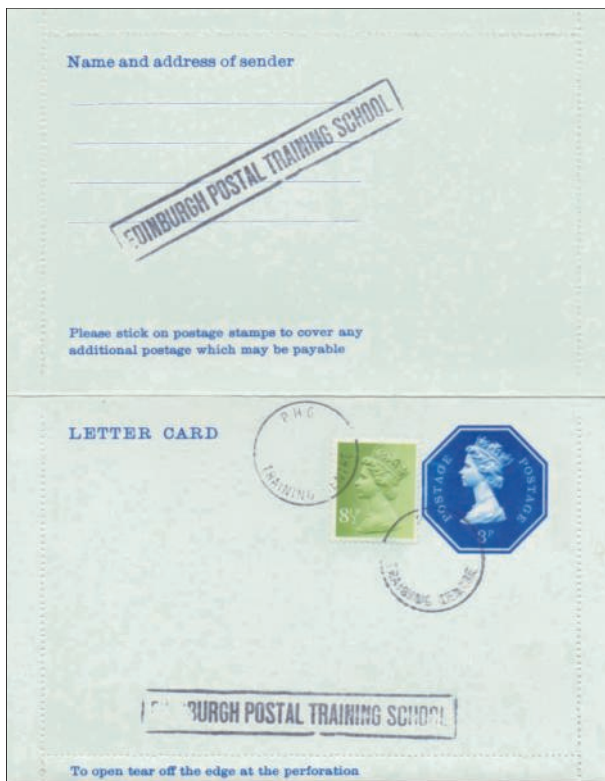


The circular ones are used *ad lib* either cancelling the stamps or just struck somewhere on the item, presumably according to the artistic judgement of the user. Added to this are a few more intriguing ones with boxed postage due handstamps of the kind normally seen on surcharged mail – and yes, those could look believable if not over-elaborated.

So when, where, and why were they produced, then? Frankly, I’ve no idea. But one can always speculate based on the evidence of the items themselves. A best guess for “when” would be the mid-1990s – that appears to be when the latest stamps and labels used date from, at least on the ones I’ve seen. As for “where” – well, it’s possible that whoever created them actually had a postal connection. The circular handstamps certainly look as if they *could* be real ones, albeit not used as intended; and a few of the “extras” appear to be internal types such as official parcel tags, 1st class Postal Service envelopes, or yellow postage due labels. Then again, items of this kind *do* leak out, and it’s not hard to get rubber stamps made up to look like whatever you want.

That leaves “why”. The charitable explanation is that someone was having a bit of fun producing joke items. If they were deliberately trying to be fraudulent they did a pretty poor job of it. If anyone *does* know the story behind these items – for all I know it may be common knowledge – then I’d be intrigued to hear it. Basically, though, there doesn’t seem much point in bothering with them except as curiosities.

The lettercard (2 bands version as far as I can tell?) is a clear example of their random nature - a 1971 first class rate postal stationery item with a 1975 first class rate stamp for a 1981 second class rate! (Assuming the actual total has any real significance -- probably it doesn't.)

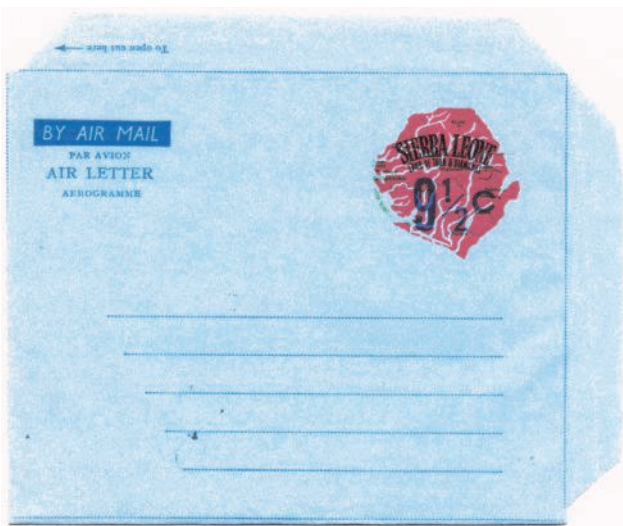
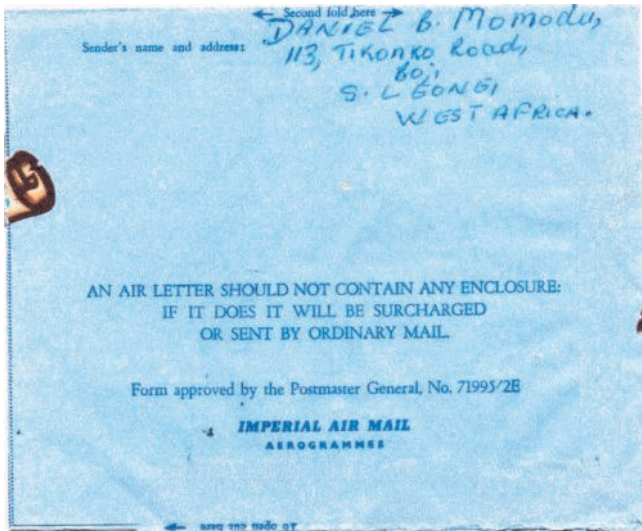


Illustration—courtesy Colin Baker

AEROGRAMMES - THEIR SIZE AND SHAPE

Peter Rolfe

During research into Aerogrammes used in Sierra Leone, it became clear that they were redesigned about 1967 and again in about 1990. In addition most of the Formular items had a number on the reverse attributed to the Postmaster General (e.g. "Form Approved by the Postmaster General No. 71995/2E").

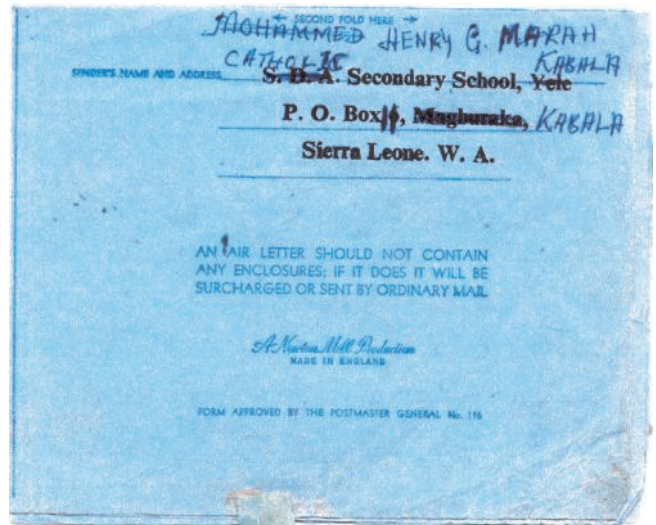


Quarter folded to 120 x 100mm with two flaps

The Postal Museum Archives at Mount Pleasant hold these records and I hoped to discover some answers there. The number was not recognised and no files could be found to clarify this, despite a careful search by the helpful staff. A series of files headed by 122/11304 provided a rather surprising story for the shape change. The story starts in about 1965 with a proposal by the Post Office to plan for mechanical mail handling. It was decided that the layout of Aerogrammes, among other items of postal stationery,

would have to be changed, and a new format was decided. This would produce a form, folded into thirds that measured 150 x 107mm, sealed with three flaps. It would replace the existing form that was quarter folded to 120 x 100mm with two flaps. It was important that there should be no unsealed edge.

On 4th August 1966, in response to a letter from John Dickinson requesting information about this proposed change. The GPO wrote to John Dickinson, Wiggins Teape, R.T.Tanner, Smith & Young and the manufacturers association (EMMSA) to advise them of the proposed changes and the date of change, 1 July 1968. John Dickinson promptly wrote back objecting to the time scale and requesting consultations. They pointed out that they had a substantial export market and the new size and shape would require new machinery, which would not be available in the time. It appears that the GPO had not previously discussed this with any of the printers other than McCorquodale, who printed Aerogrammes for the GPO. The others were producing Formular type Aerogrammes to a Licence from the Postmaster General, mainly for sale overseas or for their own use. It then became clear that the GPO had not consulted the Licence holders because there were no fewer than 135 of them.



Formular type Aerogrammes to a Licence from the Postmaster General



Further correspondence followed with some amendment to the end date, and at one stage the GPO became alarmed that Dickinson might not proceed leaving

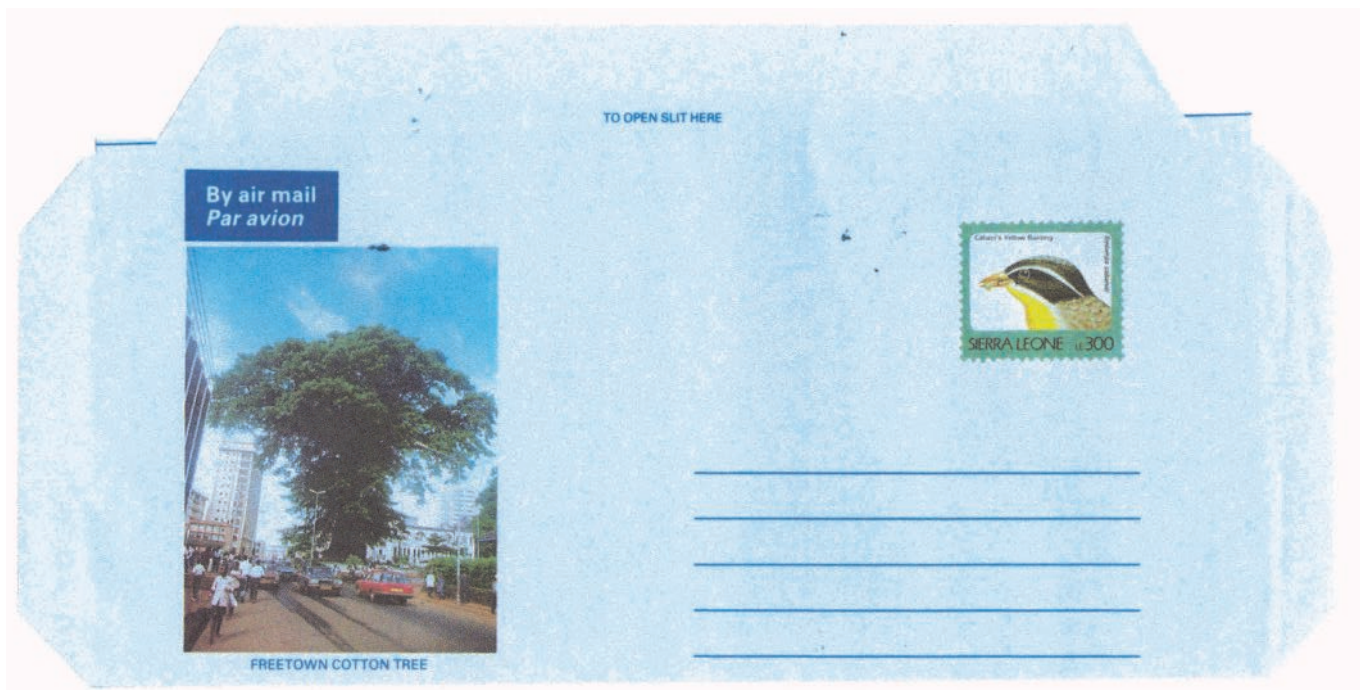


Form, folded into thirds that measures 150 x 107mm, sealed with three flaps

McCorquodale as monopoly supplier as all others had pulled out. It was finally decided to go ahead and allow the old forms to die away. A memo dated 20 March 1969 refers to the issue of new form Licences, but no file has been seen about this. The file includes a manuscript list of 135 firms to whom the GPO wrote confirming the final agreement and this may well be the list of Licence holders. It includes J .Dickinson & Co as No.1 and McCorquodale & Co as No.2. A copy of that list is in my possession and I would be happy to supply information to anyone interested.

There was a further change of size about 1990 to give third-folded Aerogramme measuring 210 x 104mm to give a sheet of A4 size and still with three sealing flaps, but the files for this are not currently available in the archives.

This account refers specifically to material used in Sierra Leone but is obviously also relevant for other territories and possibly also to UK as all the Licence holders are UK Companies. I would like to express my thanks to the staff at the Postal Museum Archives, who went to a lot of trouble to help me.



Change of size about 1990 to give third-folded Aerogramme measuring 210 x 104mm to give a sheet of A4 size and still with three sealing flaps

POSTAL AUCTION CLOSING DATE 4th MAY 2012

Don't miss out on items such as these.

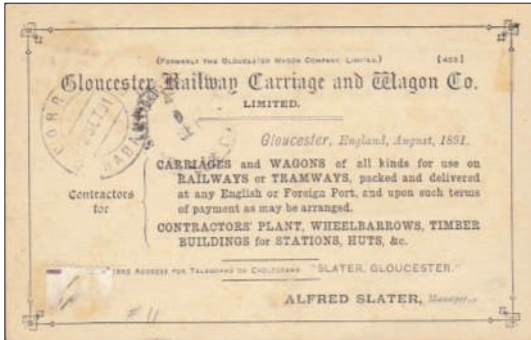
Post your bids early!



ILLUSTRATED AND ADVERTISING POSTAL STATIONERY in the period up to the First World War - QV Postcards part 4

Following on from the first three parts published in the PSSJ over the period August 2010 - February 2011, I have received a number of scans of further items from **Colin Baker, Keith Downing, Tony Hitchcock, Alan Huggins, John Lea, Roy Maltson and Bill Pipe**. Many thanks to these members for their contributions.

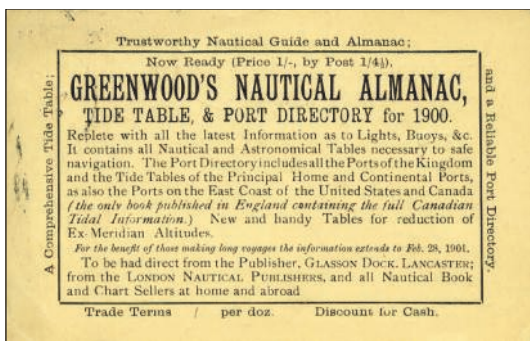
The next article in this series will be devoted to **Q.V. Wrappers** - Please send colour scans/photocopies together with the appropriate details to the Editor. (Contact details on p2 of this issue of the Journal)



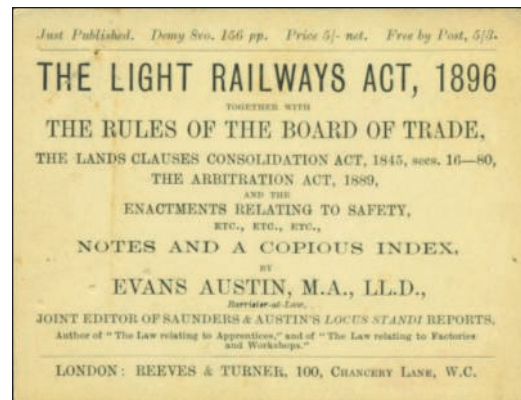
Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Co. Limited
 Post Office postcard CP16 with [455] in top right corner and dated August 1891. Advertising as 'Contractors for Carriages and Wagons'.
Stamp 1½d brown type L5
 Earliest d/u: 19 August 1891 Latest d/u:



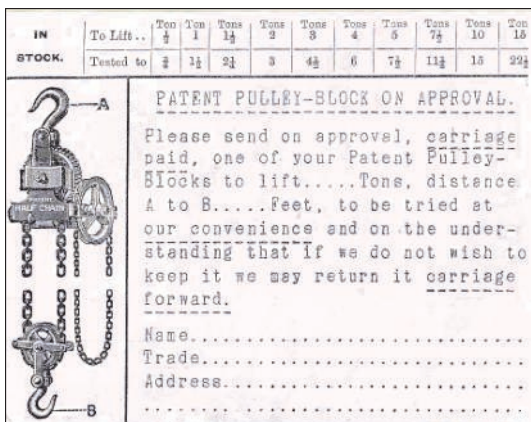
London & Provincial Horse & Carriage Insurance Company Limited.
 STO postcard with details of insurance premiums. Two illustrations of horse and carriage accidents.
Stamp ½d pink type 1a
 Earliest d/u: 16 May 1877 Latest d/u:



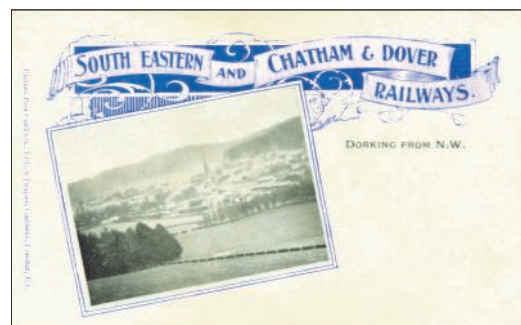
Greenwood's Nautical Almanac
 Post Office postcard CP27 advertising the 1900 edition of the Almanac.
Stamp 1d red type L8
 Earliest d/u: 9 December 1899 Latest d/u:



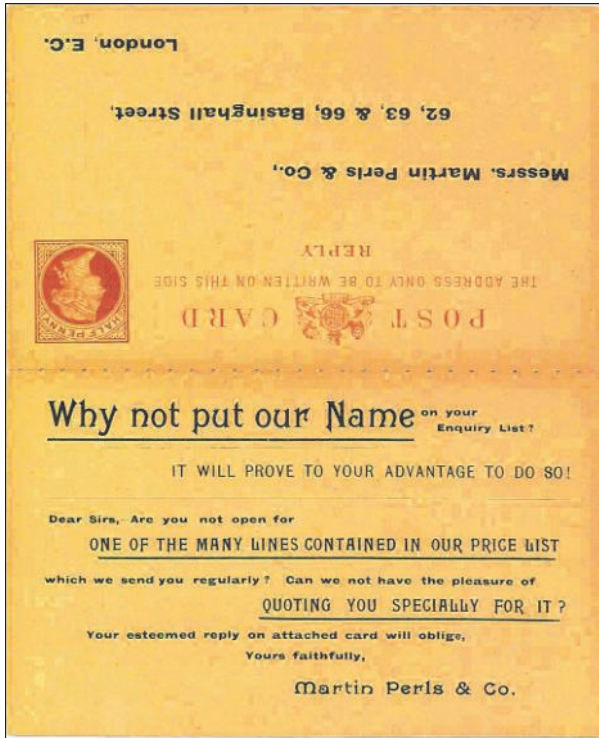
London: Reeves & Turner, 100, Chancery Lane, W.C.
 Post Office postcard CP29b notifying the publication of 'The Light Railways Act, 1896 ..'.
Stamp ½d brown type L3 die III
 Earliest d/u: 4 November 1896 Latest d/u:



Herbert Morris & Bastert Ltd, Engineers, Empress Works Loughborough
 Post office postcard ½d + ½d blue-green. Details of their patent pulley-block available on approval on the back of reply portion.
Stamp ½d type L3
 Earliest d/u: Latest d/u:



South Eastern and Chatham & Dover Railways.
 STO postcard with photograph of Dorking published by the Picture Post Card Co., Ltd, Drapers Gardens, London E.C.
Stamp ½d brown type L3
 Earliest d/u: Latest d/u:



Messer Martin Peris & Co, 62,63 & 66 Basinghall Street, London E.C.

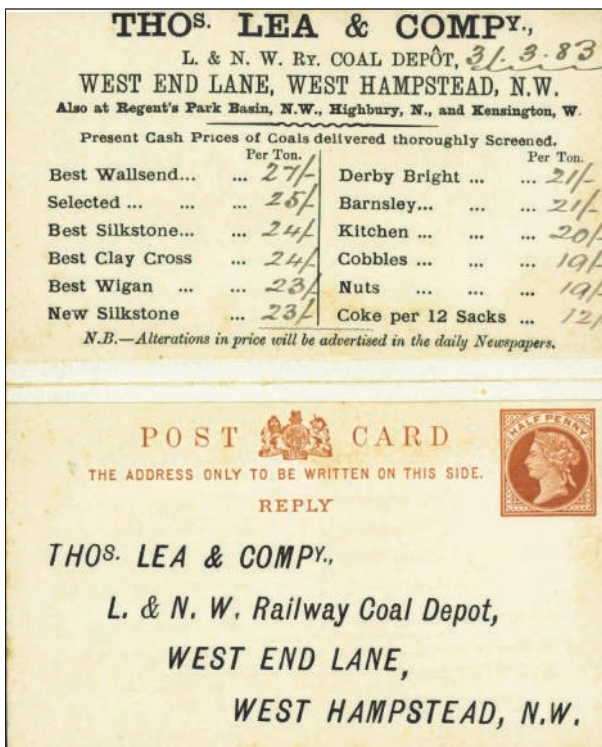
Post Office reply paid postcard canvassing for business.
 Stamp 1/2d brown type L3 die II
 Earliest d/u: Latest d/u:



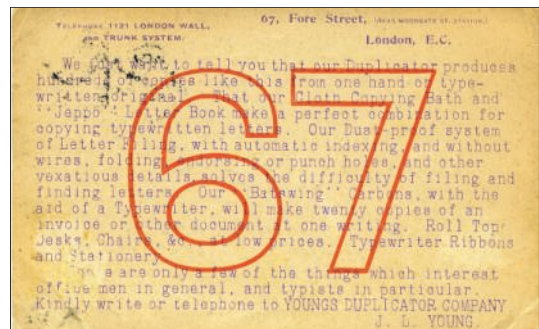
Thomas Wilson, Sons & Co., Owners, Hull.
 Post Office postcard CP1 notification of the sailing of "INO" the last steamer of the season between Hull and Riga.
 Stamp 1/2d lilac type L1
 Earliest d/u: 18 December 1871 Latest d/u:



Universal Fire Arm Works. Robert Hughes. Birmingham.
 Post Office Postcard CP17 advertising military and sporting rifles with illustrations. 50,000 rifles in stock.
 Stamp 2d brown type L6
 Earliest d/u: Latest d/u:



Thos. Lea & Compy., L. & N.W. Railway Coal Depot, West End Lane, West Hampstead, N.W.
 Post Office reply paid postcard CP13 with prices for a range of coals inserted in manuscript.
 Stamp 1/2d brown type L3 die I
 Earliest d/u: 31 March 1883 Latest d/u:



Youngs Duplicator Company. 67, Fore Street, London E.C.
 Post Office postcard CP31a die II advertising duplicators and other office equipment.
 Stamp 1/2d brown type L3
 Earliest d/u; 10 January 1900 Latest d/u:

Previous articles in this series were published:-
 QV envelopes - Journals No. 50 & 52
 QV post cards - Journals No. 55, 56, 57 & 60
 Back copies of Journals are available as follows:
 No. 20 - 54 (non - colour) £1.00 each + post & packing
 No. 55 - 59 (colour) £1.40 each + post & packing
 Please contact the Editor for details.

GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

Envelopes - stamped to Order Issues

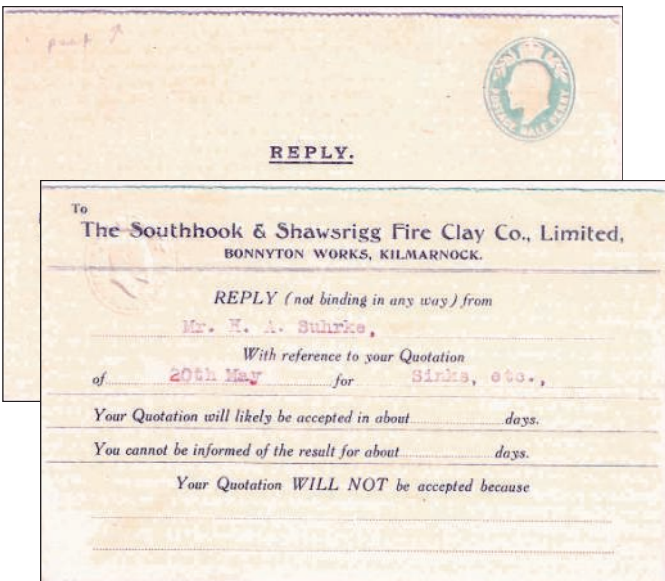
The following Queen Victoria compound stamped to order items have now been recorded used.

ESC72 6d + 1d (5 + 11) change 30.00 NR to 30.00 ****
 ESC449 2½d + 1d + 6d (21b + 11 + 26)
 change -- -- to NR



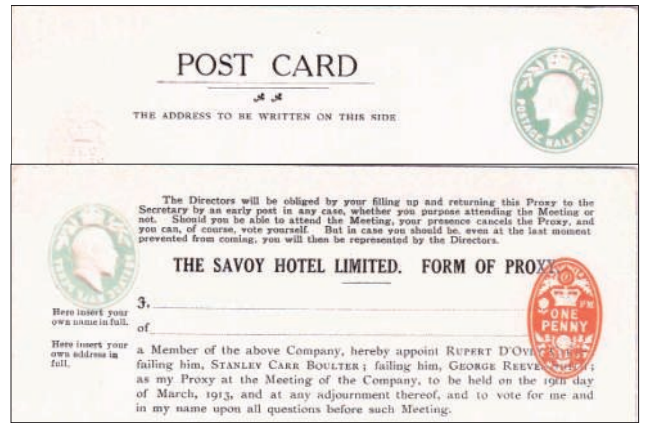
Postcards Stamped to Order Issues

King Edward VII stamped to order postcards with embossed stamps are uncommon and the following are worth recording. The first, courtesy of **George King**, is an intriguing item with a ½d yellow green embossed die 74, struck on a thin card size f without arms, and with a perforated top edge and 'REPLY' printed centrally on the front. Thus this could be the first recorded example of a STO KEVII reply paid card with an embossed ½d die or alternatively it might be the reply part of an

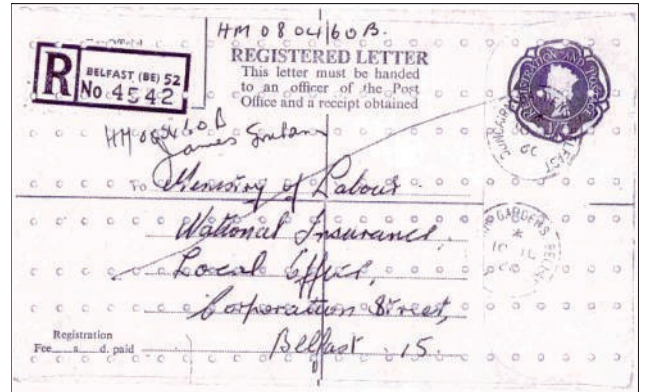


STO letter sheet. Has anyone seen an example of the other part?

The second item is a proxy voting card used by the Savoy Hotel with the KEVII ½d yellow green embossed die 57 (CS33) and is I think the first KEVII card of this type I have seen.



Registration Envelopes - Post Office Issues Colin Baker has drawn my attention to the existence of a QEII 1s3d registration envelope size G (RP81G) used from Belfast on 10.6.1966 which has been perforated with a regular pattern of holes, presumably carried out after processing the contents by the Ministry of Labour.



Again has anyone seen other examples?

Caveat Emptor - Forgeries and Bogus Postal Stationery

Overprints and surcharges have always attracted the attention of the darker side of philately, but in the past a number of technical difficulties in precisely matching the size and typography had to be overcome. With contemporary reprographic and digital techniques however this hurdle has been essentially removed and a constant stream of material is appearing on the market particularly via ebay.

Although much of this is openly marketed as being forgeries, space-fillers or curios to avoid any potential litigation, this practice represents a potentially serious threat not only to the collecting areas involved, but also the overall reputation and credibility of philately. None of these items are marked in any way to indicate their true nature, so that while the initial purchaser may be clear as to what they are buying, as the material progressively permeates the philatelic market the unwary may well be taken in, either adventitiously, or by the unscrupulous. This is now happening, and once collectors become aware of areas where forgeries are prevalent they tend to avoid them with potentially negative consequences for the level of interest and hence demand.

In relation to the current situation on ebay however it is somewhat ironic that in recent years there has been a progressively greater interest in, and appreciation, both philatelic and financial, of the earlier forgeries, facsimiles and bogus items. Many of the last two categories are either marked or their status is obvious so that they do not pose the same potential risks, or were not intended to deceive. Thus if the true intention of the current producers of forged items is really to enable collectors to use them as space-

fillers, then they should ensure that they are clearly and permanently marked to indicate this. Failure to do so will inevitably cast doubt on the true motive for their production and could place them in the position of potentially aiding and abetting fraud. It would of course be preferable that they stopped this activity altogether since genuine stamps and postal stationery are being used as the basis for the creation of these forged and bogus items.

At present relatively few items of postal stationery have been affected and the following is a list of those that have been noted.

Great Britain

Queen Victoria 1870 ½d lilac postcard (CP2) with ‘SPECIMEN’



overprint type 9
18791d brown foreign postcard (CP10) with ‘SPECIMEN’ overprint type 9.

King George V 1911 1d carmine Downey head letter card (LCP5) with ‘SPECIMEN / PROOF.’ overprint type PS22 in blue OVERPRINT.

Queen Elizabeth II 1963 3d violet (LCP24) with ‘CANCELLED’ overprint over 3d

letterpress stamp and additional 1d Wilding adhesive - overprint

type currently unlisted.

Tanganyika - Mafia Island

Great Britain stationery overprinted with ‘G. R. / Post /MAFIA’ in black. King George V 1913 ½d green Post Office envelope size e (EP54) 1918 1d carmine postcard size d. (CP73). 1921 1½d brown postcard size d (CP77) 1931 1d carmine postcard size f (CP90)



THE 1943 - 46 PROVISIONAL PRINTINGS OF THE KING GEORGE VI 5½d BROWN REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

Alan Huggins

During the period from 1943 to 1947 a number of different printers were involved in the production of the King George VI 5½d brown embossed registration envelopes. In a number of cases when the envelopes have been used the printers imprints are concealed under the flap, and for anyone not familiar with their specific layout characteristics, positive identification is not straightforward without raising the flap. The following guidance is published following a request from a Member, in the hope that it will assist others.

Illustrations 1 & 2 show the front and the reverse of the standard McCorquodale size H envelope (RP54H) which has ‘REGISTERED LETTER.’ at the top, and ‘FEE PAID.’ at lower left on the front, and more obvious ‘Compensation.’ in the centre on the reverse.

Illustrations 3 to 8 compare the measurements of the other printers which are as follows:-

PRINTER'S IMPRINT	‘REGISTERED LETTER.’	‘Compensation.’
MCCORQUODALE & CO., LIMITED CONTRACTORS	51 mm with stop	52mm with stop
M. COOK & SON LIMITED. CONTRACTORS.	51 mm with stop	70mm with stop
EMERSON MAKE	Bold type 59mm with stop	49mm without stop
B. E. & W. LTD. Serif type (Berry Ede & White)	49mm with stop	56mm with stop
B. E. & W. LTD San serif type	49mm with stop	56mm with stop

Illustrations 9 & 10 show the front and reverse of the standard McCorquodale size H envelope (RP59aH) which has ‘REGISTERED LETTER.’ at the top, and ‘Registration / Fee.....d. paid / (See note on back)’ in three lines at lower left on the front; while the reverse has ‘Compensation.’ in the centre and ‘Name and Address of Sender’ at the top left.

Illustrations 11 & 12 compare the measurements of the envelopes printed by Pirie Appleton & Co. Ltd.

PRINTER'S IMPRINT	‘REGISTERED LETTER.’	‘Compensation.’	‘Name and Address of Sender’
MCCORQUODALE & CO. LTD.	51 mm with stop	53mm with stop	53mm
P.A. & Co. LTD. (Pirie Appleton)	50mm with stop	52mm with stop	58mm

The above differences in the text settings should enable the identification of used examples without disturbing the flap. The later printings by De La Rue (RP6IFa & b) and Pirie Appleton (RP64F & 64G) are readily distinguished by the semi-circular shaped flap of the former (**Illustration 13**) and the blue coloured paper of the latter.

RP54H McCORQUODALE & CO., LIMITED CONTRACTORS

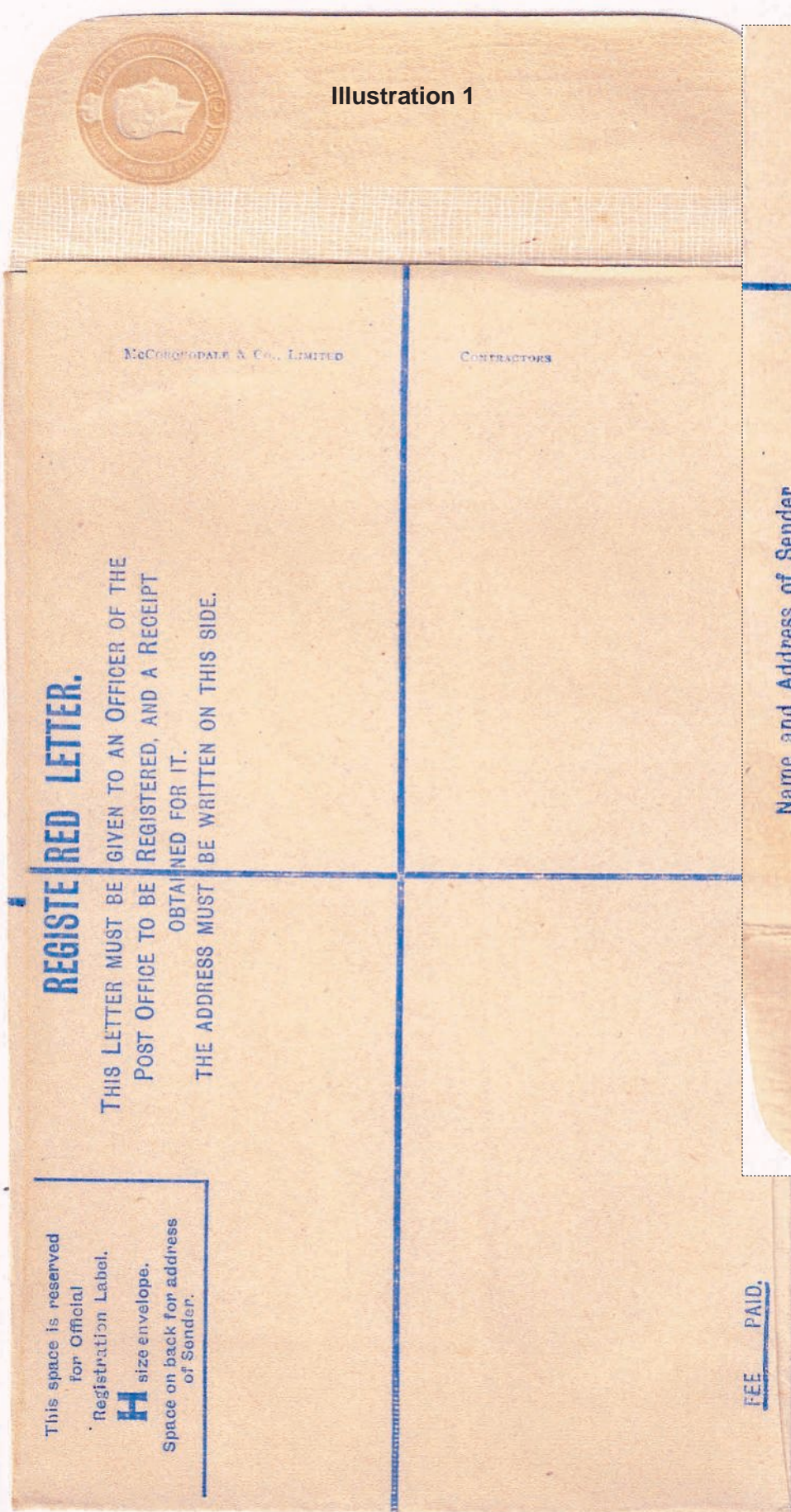


Illustration 1



Illustration 2

RP56H M. COOK & SON LIMITED. CONTRACTORS

Illustration 3

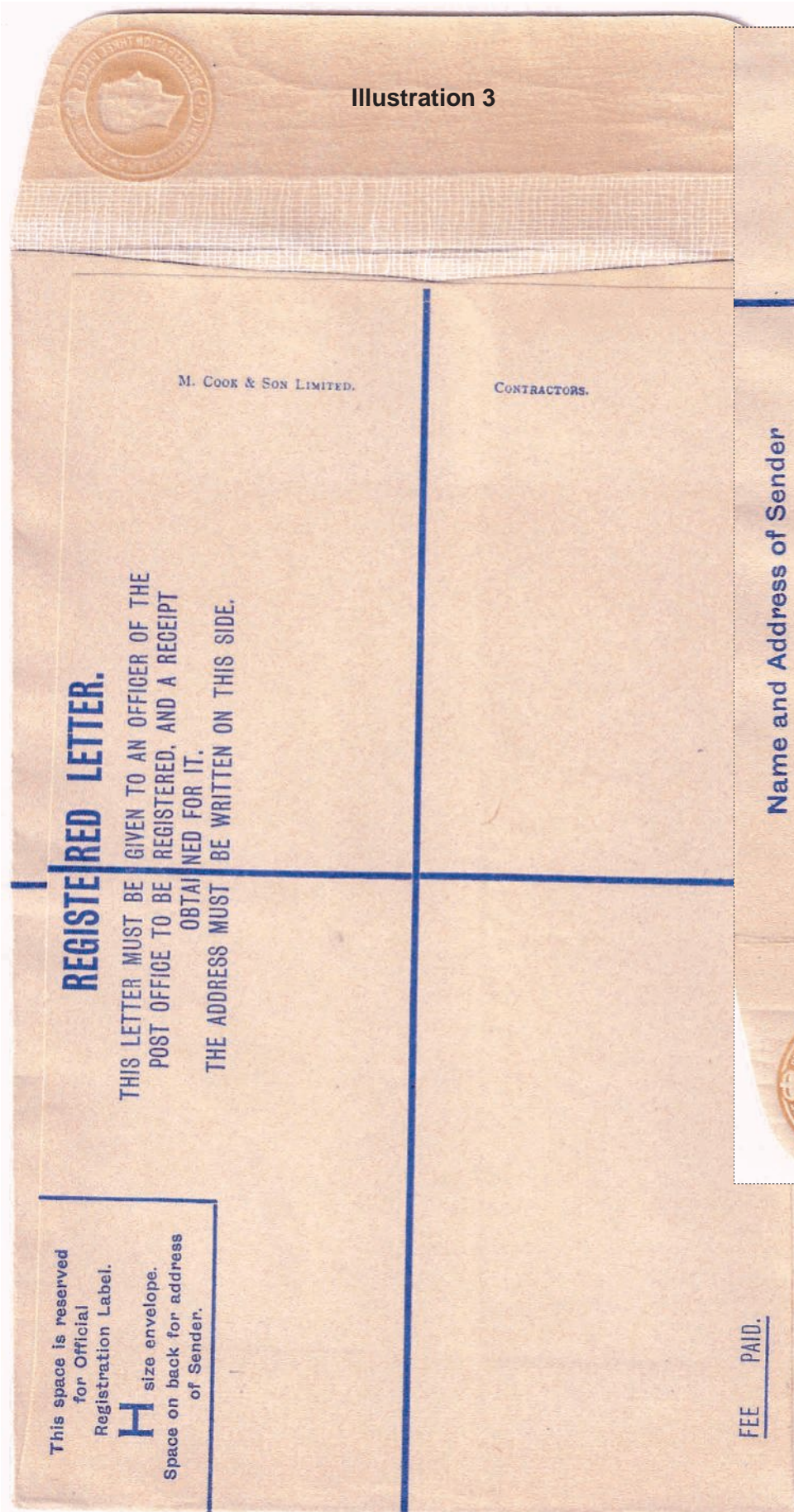


Illustration 4

RP57H EMERSON MAKE

Illustration 5

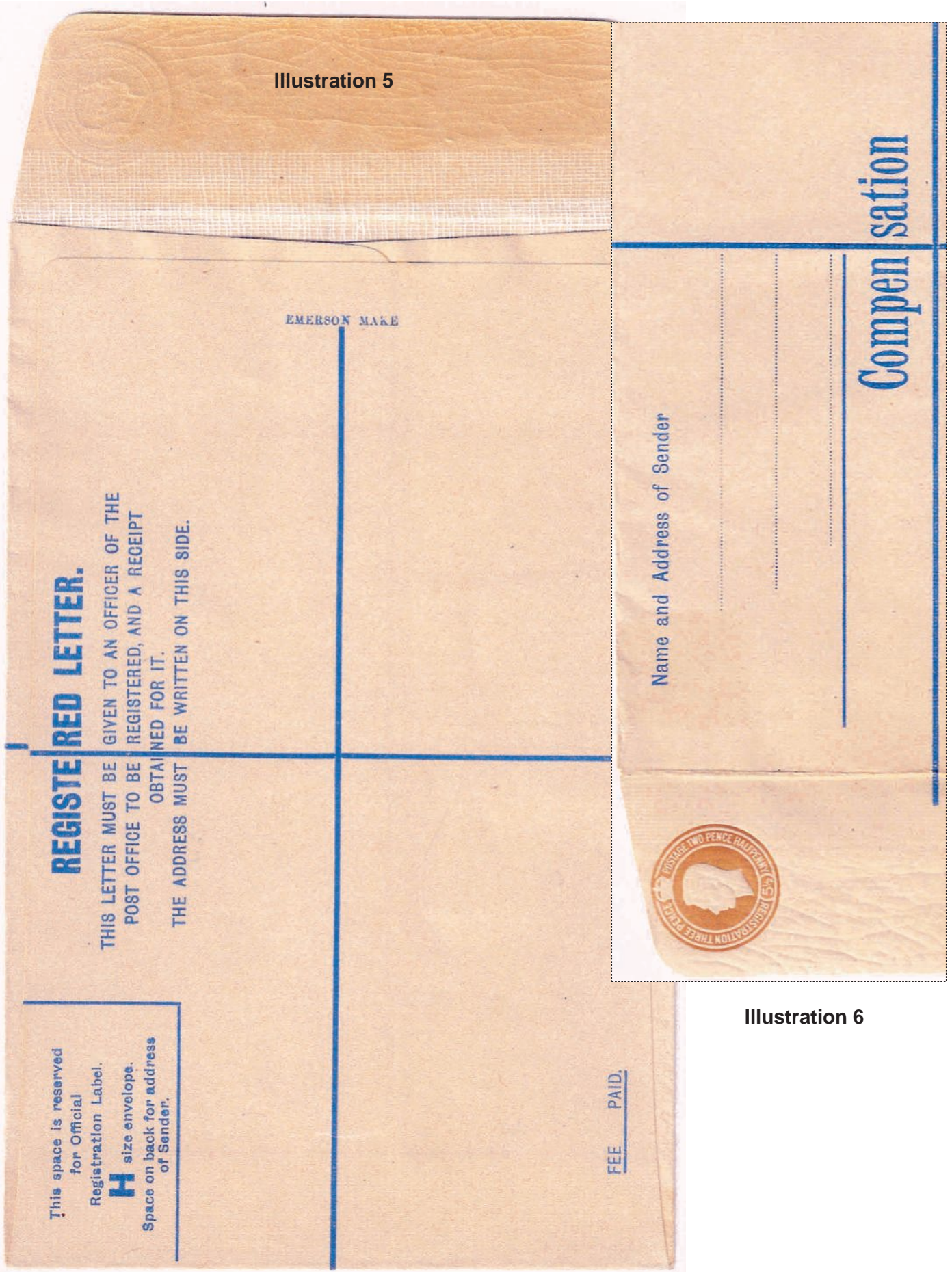


Illustration 6

RP58H a B. E. & W. LTD

b B. E. & W. LTD

Illustration 7

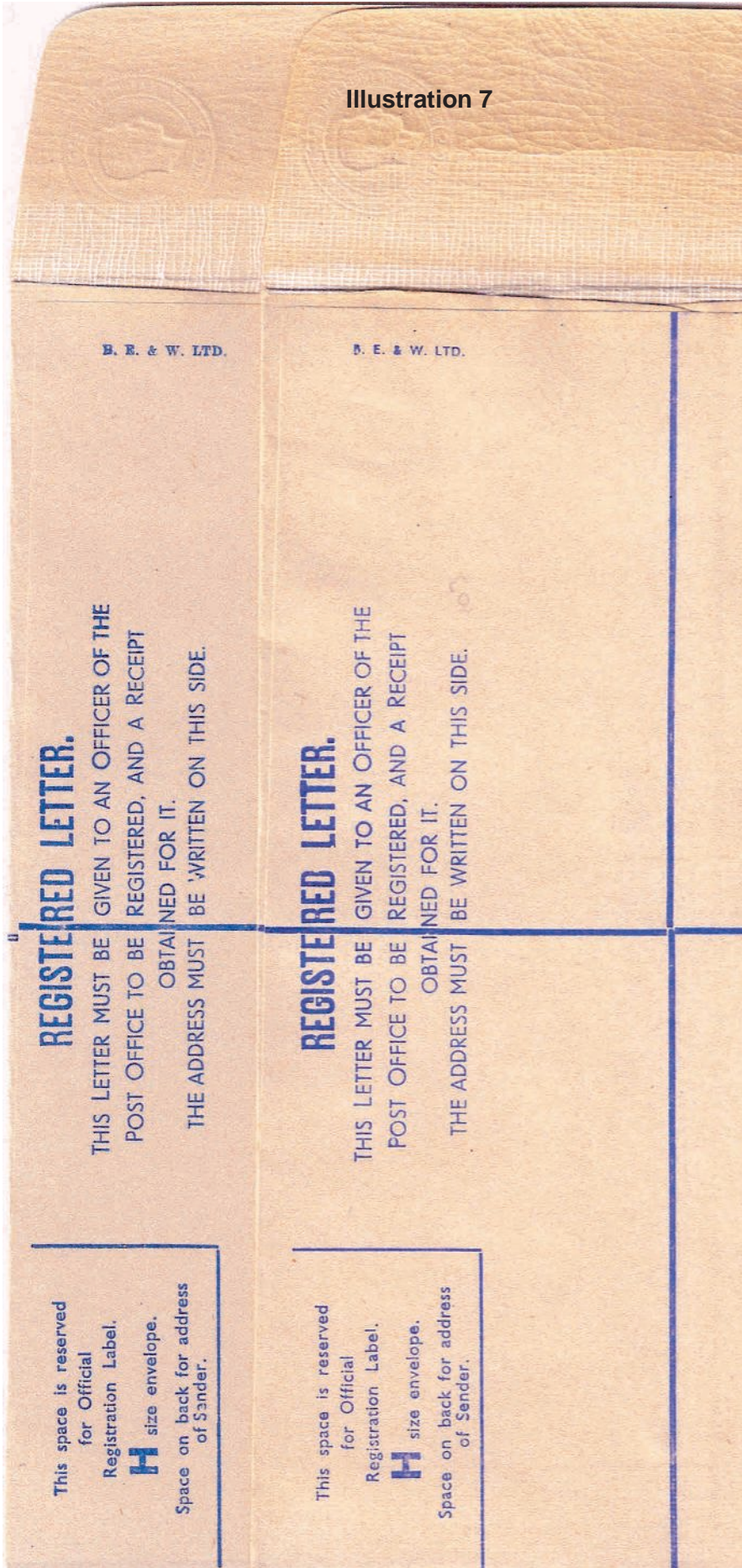
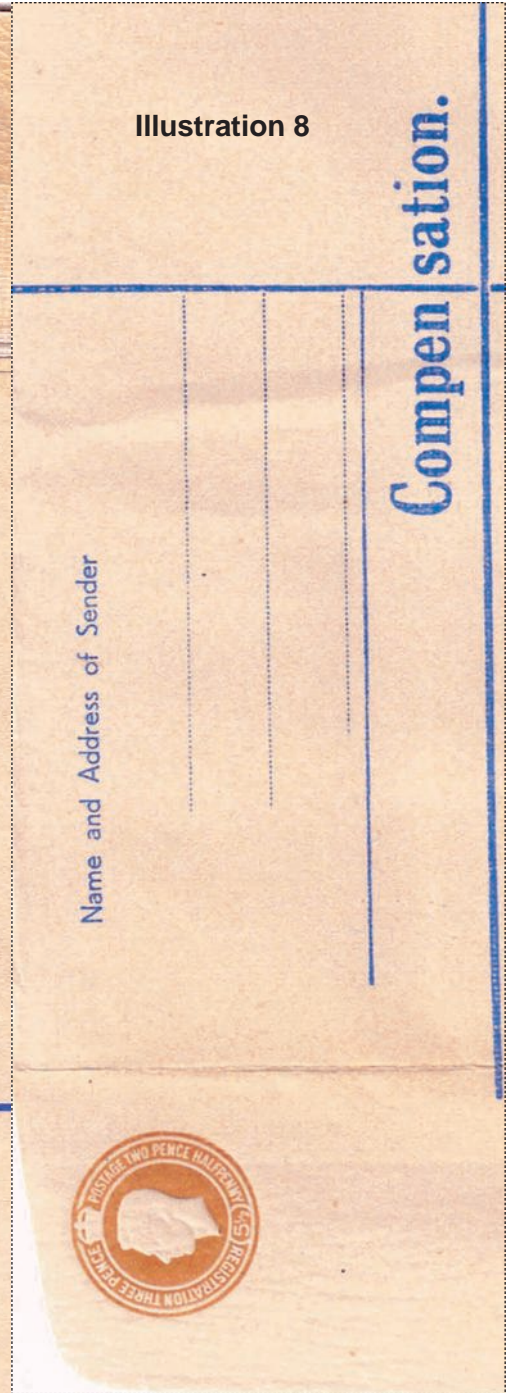


Illustration 8



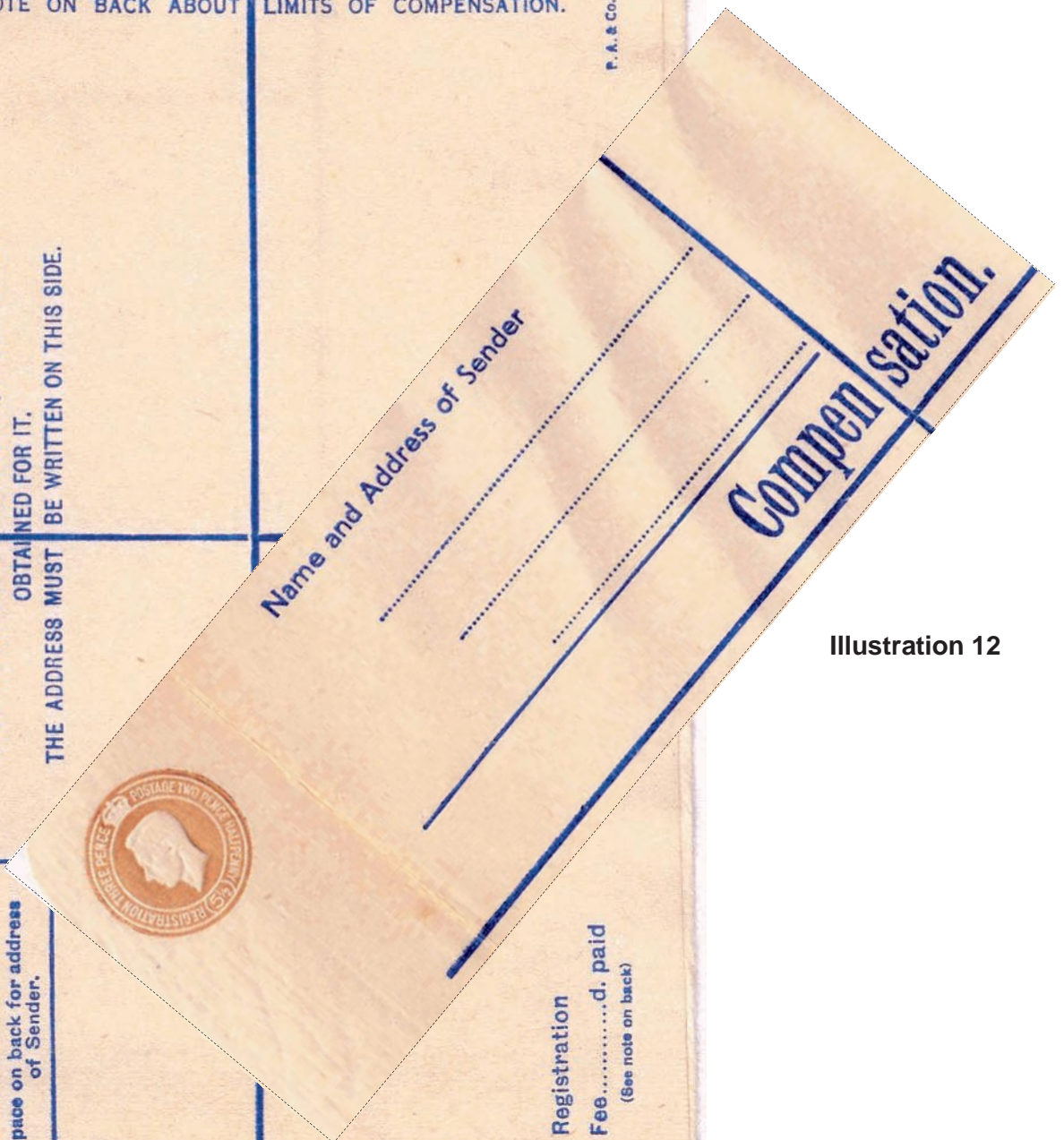
FEE PAID.

RP60H P.A. & Co. LTD.

Illustration 11



Illustration 12



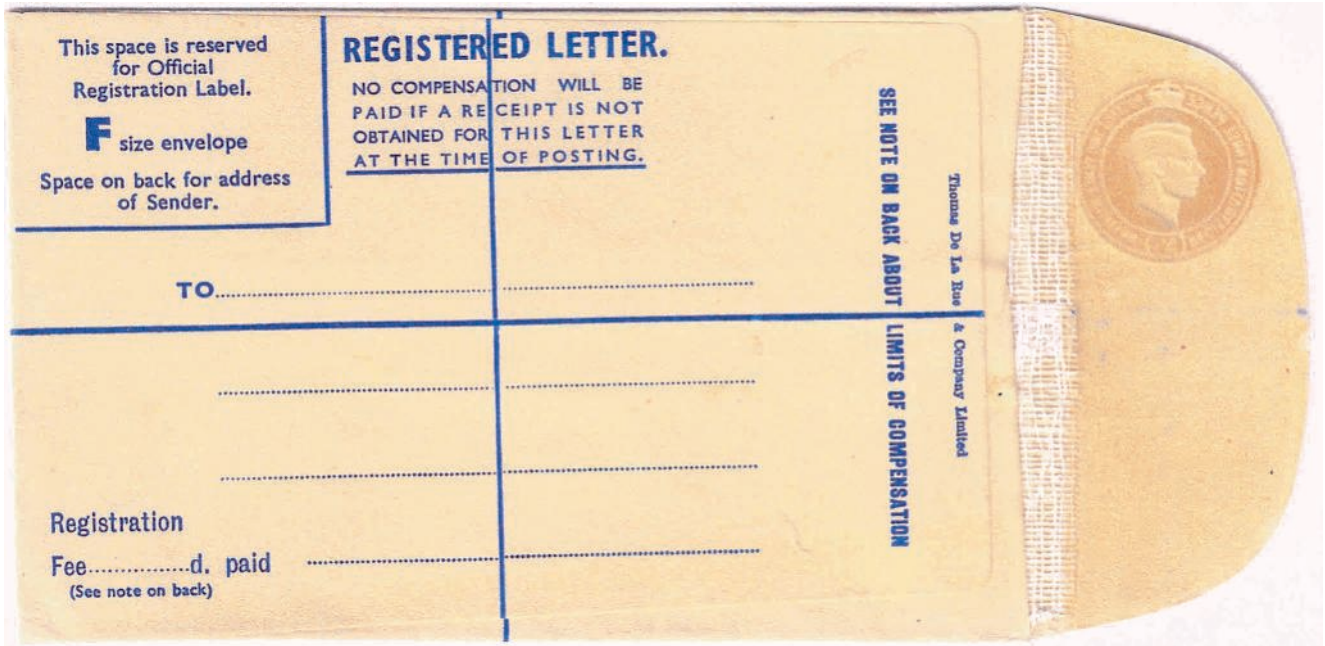
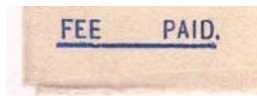


Illustration 13 RP61bF Thomas De La Rue & Company Limited

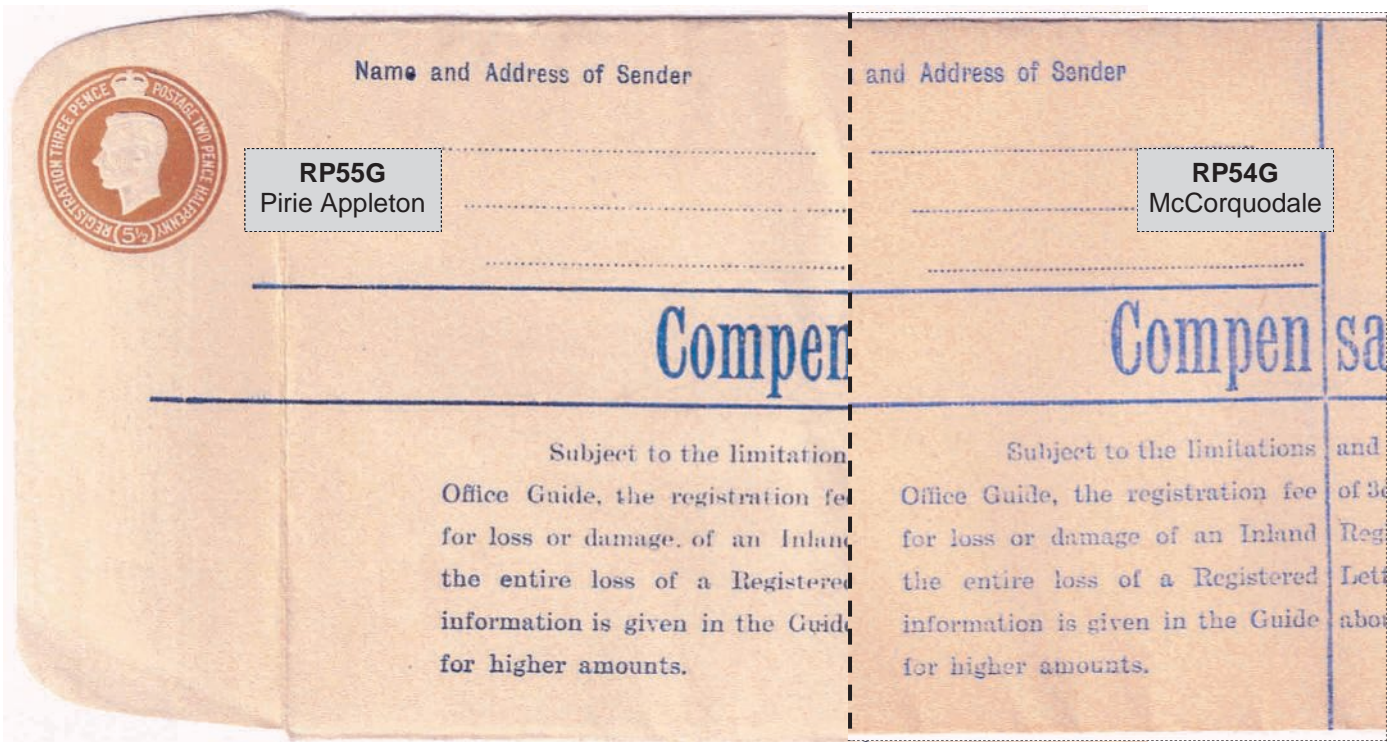
Potentially the most difficult to identify at a glance are the size G envelopes printed by Pirie Appleton (**RP55G**). The text matches the standard G size McCorquodale envelopes (**RP54G**) extremely closely in almost all respects, but one difference is the position of the stop after 'FEE PAID': On the McCorquodale envelopes the stop is underlined, whereas on the Pirie Appleton envelopes it is to the right of the end of the underlining, which also extends slightly to the left of the 'F' of 'FEE' (**Illustration 14**) below:-

RP55G
Pirie Appleton



RP54G
McCorquodale

Another guide is that the colour of the printed text on the Pirie Appleton envelopes is in a slightly deeper blue.



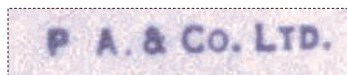
NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

TWO SIZES OF IMPRINTS ON KGVI 5½d REGISTERED ENVELOPE RP60.

Harold Barstow has sent the following information in the hope this may be of interest to collectors of registered envelopes:-

I have known for many years that the Imprint on **RP60** for P. A. & Co Ltd has two sizes and other varieties.

Although there is a slight difference in length, the most notable difference is the letter **P** and to a small extent the letter **A** which on the large **P** is always open.



The imprint with the small **P** has a stop after **LTD.** and a missing dot after the **P**

My copy with the small **P** is die 100 and the words 'REGISTERED LETTER.' measure 49½mm.

My used copy also measures 49½ mm but the die number cannot be read.

The small **P** also exists on envelopes where the words 'REGISTERED LETTER.' measure 51 mm.

The die number cannot be read on my used copy.



The imprint with the large **P** only appears on envelopes where the words 'REGISTERED LETTER.' measure 51 mm.

Amongst my copies, the only readable die is 108, the others are unreadable.

All my used copies confirm to the statistics above but no die numbers can be read with accuracy. The wording on the back also follows the two 49½ and 51 mm lengths in being two sizes.

A MYSTERY POSTCARD SOLVED? - Colin Baker

In the November issue of this Journal I asked for help in identifying why or how the first issue of Great Britain's first postcard came to be used in Brazil.

Harold Barstow wrote suggesting that the postcard had been sent from Britain where the **PD** and **PP** marks were applied, with the remainder being added in Brazil. He also solved the mystery of one of the markings, which reads "Depois da Paraiba" (after Paraiba). Paraiba is a town en route to Pernambuco.

I subsequently had an email from **Stephen Roche** who had the completely opposite view, saying:

"I read your write up of the GB ½d postal stationery card with the PERNAMBUCO markings. I believe that this card never went through the post despite the address to Pernambuco (which may have been added after the postmarks were struck). It seem more likely to me that the card was taken to the Pernambuco P.O. (or mailed undercover) where the original owner requested strikes of all of the postmarks. The reasons I believe this to be true are:

1. The strikes are arranged so that none overlap
2. The Registration oval – when the card has no other markings from any other country to indicate registration.
3. No message on the reverse.
4. The variation of the strikes including the small boxed 'DEPOIS DA PARTIDA' (after the departure) effectively a late fee type marking, markings to indicate payment received & the registration oval.
5. The only marking known as an arrival mark is the standard Pernambuco cds. All the other markings are meant for outgoing mail.

As such I think you have a curiosity rather than a genuine piece of mail."

So with these two opinions, there still seems to be a bit of a mystery about this card, which we may never solve. However if I manage to find out any more information, I will ask the editor to include it in a future edition of the Journal.

Editor's note: *Incomplete or lightly inked postal markings, particularly when they are superimposed on other marks or over manuscript are often difficult to read. However in this instance both the scan and the reproduction of the card in the Journal are very good, but even then it may not be easy to read the last word in the rectangle, however given the clue that the word may be either: - 'PARAIBA' or 'PARTIDA' then having a choice makes the task a little easier. The strikes would look*

a little like:



*To me the penultimate letter looks more like a **D** than a **B**.*

Those members who possess scanners may have experimented with scanning items to enhance the contrast between such a marking and the background colour of the paper or card and/or colour of overlapping markings. By means of appropriate adjustments (or failing that 'trial and error') you can 'fade' the background and/or overlapping markings so that the mark which you are trying to interpret becomes more distinct. I have used this technique in the Journal to reveal detail which may otherwise be missing (eg: No. 57 - Feb 2011 p13). I am sure that some members would welcome tips and advice on this so please send in your ideas and I will pass them on to others through the Journal.

Articles Noted Recently in the Philatelic Press

“**Postal Stationery Matters**” Peter van Gelder (Gibbons Stamp Monthly September & December 2011)

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

Postal Stationery November/December 2011 (USA)

Officially Sealed USA High Value Envelopes
Swiss Money Orders via Telegrams
Sultan Seyyid Hamid-bin-Thwain Stationery of Zanzibar 1896-1898
A Cache of Illustrated Wrappers of USA
New Type of 1891 Nicaragua 2c Cards.

Postal Stationery Collector November 2011 (Australia)

Control Numbers on Stationery Wrappers
Taxed but no Deficiency
Siam's First Postal Card
c1918 ½d + ½d 'Star' Envelope - a New Find
Handwritten Messages on GB Newspaper Wrappers

Ganzsachensammler December 2011 (Switzerland)

Les Aérogrammes de Suisse: quelques aspects
Wells Fargo erobert Mexico!
Die Privatumschläge des Berner Vereins für Aerztliche Mission
Acceptable Swiss Pre-UPU Printed Matter

L'Intero Postale No.112 (Italy)

Il Mod.23-L ei Suoi Pregiati Sostituti D'emergenza: Gli Interi Postali
La Busta Postale Del R.Esercito Italiano
Interi Postali Utilizzati Come Ricevuta Di Ritorno
Trieste Zona B: Gli "Altri" Interi Postali
Il Cinquantesimo Anniversario Della Costituzione Della Citta' Del Vaticano

Die Ganzsache 1/2011 (Germany)

Zum Beitrag "Ganzsachenausschnitte als Frankatur - oder Postbetrug?"
Philatelie und Mentalitätsgeschichte. Neue Fragen an Ganzsachen aus dem Dritten Reich
Die Wiederaufnahme des zivilen Postverkehrs in Schleswig-Holstein zum 14.6.1945
Neuheitenbericht

Die Ganzsache 2/2011 (Germany)

Bayern P112 mit gefälschtem Aufdruck - aber warum diese Fälschung?
Zur Katalogisierung der Ausschnitte altdeutscher Ganzsachen: Preussen und Norddeutscher Postbezirk
Ganzsachenphilatelie und Mentalitätsgeschichte. Neue Fragen an Ganzsachen aus dem Dritten Reich
Zwei unbekannte 100 Reis Kartenbrief-Essais (Brasil)
Neuheitenbericht

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Grosvenor Sale.

One of our long standing members is selling his GB postal stationery collection of over 5,000 items in the Grosvenor sale on 28th & 29th May 2012. There are likely to be a significant number of items of interest to members of the PSS.

BOOK REVIEWS**PRINTED TO PRIVATE ORDER STATIONERY - TASMANIA 1933 to 1974**

by A.E. Orchard; 90pp., Magpie Publications, P.O. Box 3427, Weston Creek, ACT 2611, Australia (1999)

The introductory section describes the embossing machine used in Hobart, the regulations and charges for stamping private items to order, identifying users, rarity and a bibliography.

This primary purpose of this publication is to provide a chronological listing, based on entries in a register housed at the Postal and Telecommunications Museum in Hobart, of the items stamped to order during the period 1933-1974. This details the date the order was paid, the name and address of the applicant, the type, quantity and denomination of stationery and the date of receipt from the printer.

A further listing groups the items ordered by each user and indicates whether or not examples have been seen, while a final section illustrates a number of the items listed.

A.K.H.

PRECANCELED POSTAL CARDS 1874 -1961, A Handbook and Album by Josh Furman, 180pp. Josh Furman 6214 Wynfield Ct., Orlando, Florida 32819, USA (2010)

As the title indicates this publication covers a more unusual aspect of US postal stationery, namely precancelled postal cards. Divided into four sections listing Classic, Non-philatelic Precancels; Permit Cancels not using the words "Mailer's Postmark"; Cards with Philatelic Origin; and Printer's Waste, Proofs, Look-Likes, Fakes, Maybes, Other, it contains many illustrations and provides an informative commentary on the background and usage of these items.

A.K.H.

Lettland Handbuch Philatelie und Post geschichte, Die Ganzsachen und postamtlichen Formulare 1918-1940..., Latvia Handbook of Philately and Postal History, Postal stationery and Official postal forms 1918-1940 by Harry von Hofmann.

This publication, which is a co-operative work, represents the first time that a systematic treatment of the subject has been made available. Although the main text is in German, there are sufficient translated headings and notes to make it readily understood. In fact, postal stationery takes up only a small part of this book, the majority of it being concerned with postal forms used for a variety of purposes. An absolute mine of information for collectors of this area.

A.K.H.

GROSVENOR

Postal Stationery at Auction

Among the important collections in the **British Empire & Foreign Countries** auction, to be held on March 7th & 8th, is the **Tony Farmer collection of Leward Islands**, which includes postal stationery.

This auction will be available to view, fully illustrated, on our website:

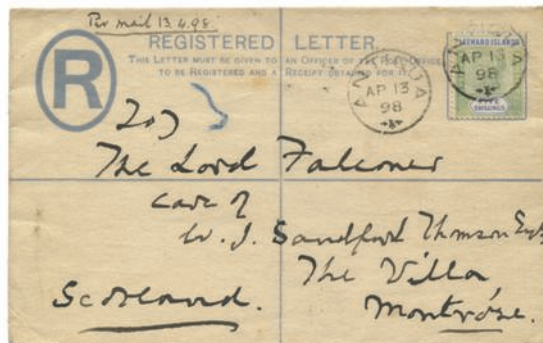
www.grosvenorauctions.com

Complimentary copies of the auction catalogue will be sent on request.

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