



# THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

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Journal Vol. 20, No. 3 August 2012  
(Serial number 63)

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1930 Guatemala Lightweight Airmail Lettersheet—See page 19

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## CONTENTS

Page		Page	
2	Philatelic Research Now Much Easier	12	GB Postal Stationery News Alan Huggins
3	Chairman's Chat	14	Code Letters on GB Registered Envelopes George King
3	Secretary's Notes		
4	Swinpex Report	18	Book Review
5	Postage Paid Stationery Cut-outs Invalid for Postage	19	Postal Stationery for a Purpose - Air Mail John Barker
6	Use of 3d Empire Card (CP25) as cut-outs Tony Hitchcock	21	Notes from the Editor's Desk
7	Uprated Post Office Envelopes Colin Baker	21	Queries and Replies

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**SECRETARY**

## The Postal Stationery Society (Founded 1992)

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

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

The Journal is published four times a year and distributed free to members. Contributions for publication in the Journal should be sent to the Editor, John H Barker, 35, Portia Avenue, Shirley, Solihull. B90 2NW. or via email:

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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.**

### Summary of meetings:

Saturday 27th October 2012 At The Royal Philatelic Society 41, Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY  
10.30 - 4.30pm. AGM, Tony Chilton Competition and Auction.

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## Philatelic Research Now Much Easier

(Press Release 1st June from the Royal Philatelic Society of London)

The launch of the Global Philatelic Library website ([www.globalphilateliclibrary.org](http://www.globalphilateliclibrary.org)), a centralised information gateway to the world's greatest philatelic research, has been announced by the founding partners, including The Royal Philatelic Society London, The National Postal Museum and Smithsonian Libraries in Washington, DC, and The American Philatelic Research Library in Bellefonte, Pa.

It was 125 years ago that an idea for a Joint Index of Philatelic Literature was put forward, but on February 15, 1888 the President of the American Philatelic Association, John K. Tiffany, wrote to Edward Denny Bacon, Secretary of the (now 'Royal') Philatelic Society London, stating, '... I consider the project as utterly impossible of any practical execution ...': the project has become a reality.

This ambitious project has happened thanks to the inspiration and dedication of the founding partners. The website establishes a single destination – a responsive centralised gateway – by which philatelists around the world can search, locate and access philatelic research from partner libraries instantly, from any computer. Searchable listings of books and publications, as well as resource locations and access, are now instantly available, providing invaluable resources for those undertaking philatelic research. It provides:

- \* A world-class collection of printed, electronic and other media;
- \* Access and support for beginners, hobbyists, specialists, writers and postal historians;
- \* International collaboration and co-operation with philatelic libraries and museums around the world;
- \* An Anthology of fascinating, informative and sometimes even scandalous articles written throughout the past century about philately and some of the people involved in its history.

'A large part of the philatelic information I have acquired was discovered incidentally while searching for something else,' said Thomas Lera, Winton M. Blount Research Chair at the National Postal Museum. 'I hope other philatelists, scholars and researchers will push open the doors of the new global philatelic library to find the answers to their questions and uncover new ones in the process as well.'

Other contributing philatelic research libraries include the National Philatelic Society (UK), The Collectors Club in New York (USA), Greene Foundation (Canada), Oslo Filatelistklubb Bibliotek (Norway), Philatelistische Bibliothek Hamburg (Germany), Postal History Foundation (USA), Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library (US) and Western Philatelic Library (USA).

The Chairman of the FIP Literature Commission, Tony Virvilis, added, 'The Global Philatelic Library is an excellent idea which I fully support.'

The Royal Philatelic Society London is proud to be playing such an active and vital role in this initiative, its own library being the most significant and comprehensive in the world. The full range of services available from the Society can be seen by visiting [www.rpsl.org.uk](http://www.rpsl.org.uk).

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - AUGUST 2012

This Journal is the last one prior to the AGM on 27 October when I shall relinquish the title of Chairman to Neil Sargent. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the Committee Members for their support during the last two years, especially that of Colin Baker, our Secretary, and also John Barker, our Journal Editor. Both these gentlemen spend a lot of time in ensuring the smooth running of your Society and are key figures in the day to day work necessary to promote the Postal Stationery Society in the wider world. With each publication of the Journal, I have tried to illustrate the wider aspects of postal stationery, especially their usage and hope the topics have given some of you new ideas.

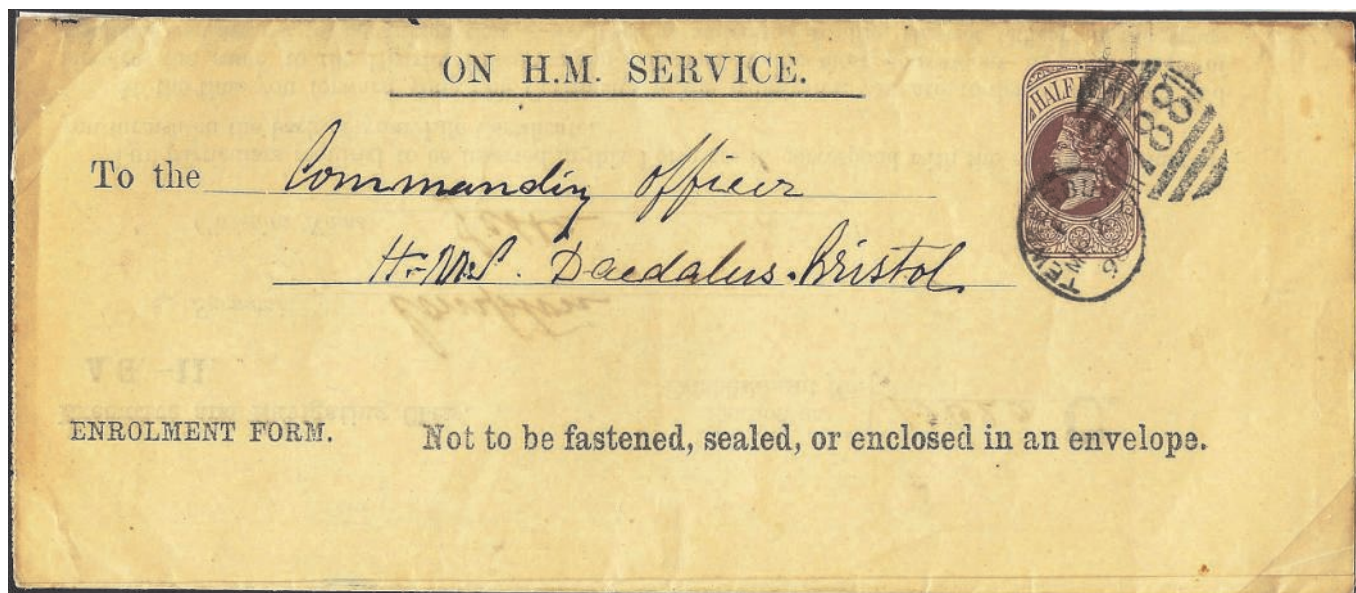
For my last "Chairman's Chat", I would like to touch on Official Letter Sheets. They were used in Britain between 1866 and 1904 with embossed or letterpress stamps by various Government Departments. They are a difficult area to collect as they are generally large sheets and therefore difficult to mount and display - not the type of material suitable for exhibitions. The other problem is that they were normally returned to Government Departments and destroyed. The Admiralty was one of the Government Departments that had such forms - "ENROLEMENT FORMS" - printed on different coloured paper

for different occupations e.g. Engine Room, Sick Berth, Coast Guard etc. Few complete forms have survived but a relatively large number of cut down pieces cut from used forms appear on the market from time to time. These cut-outs can be found in six different colours. I illustrate a complete used copy of the form used for Executive and Navigating applicants. It was posted in Tewksbury on 2 March 1896 to The Commanding Officer, H.M.S. Dædalus, Bristol.

In 1904, the Post Office introduced the familiar OFFICIAL PAID Crown Circle logo that was to be used by Government Departments for the next sixty years. These were in effect the start of the PPI, but as such fall outside the philatelic definition of Postal Stationery. However Official Letter Sheets are an interesting field of study and I am sure there are items to be found as yet unrecorded.

I have endeavoured to make my "Chairman's Chat" thought provoking and has at least given some of you ideas concerning different areas of Postal Stationery. It is an intriguing area of collecting and study, and I wish you all well in your own particular subject.

Michael Lockton



## SECRETARY'S NOTES - AUGUST 2012

### 21st BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The society had its inaugural meeting on 26th September 1992 at the Union Jack Club in London. This means that next year the Society will be 21 years old and it is a milestone that we will be celebrating.

Two events are currently planned, but more could be organised if members can suggest suitable ideas. We have already agreed with Hugh Jefferies, the editor of Gibbons Stamp Monthly, that one issue in 2013 will be given over to Postal Stationery, and some of our members have been invited to write articles for this. Not only will it promote collecting postal stationery as part of philately in general, but it will also be good publicity for the Society.

On 16th November 2013 (that's next year in case you missed it) the Society has been invited to give a display to the Great Britain Philatelic Society at the Royal Philatelic Society's headquarters in London (our usual meeting place).

We will not just show them postal stationery issued in Great Britain, but also gems from other countries around the world. The intention is to entertain them and to show them that collecting postal stationery can be just as rewarding as collecting stamps and postal history and (dare I say it to such an august body) that material from countries other than GB can be interesting as well.

We are planning to hold an informal dinner after the displays on 16th November, to which all PSS members and their guests would be invited. For those living a fair distance from London, we hope to be able to arrange accommodation at the same place as the dinner, so that we can all make a great evening of the occasion. We are not anticipating any displays being shown at or after the dinner (I'm sure we will have had enough by the time the evening comes), and although it is to be an informal dinner, the dress code will be jackets and ties for the gentlemen.

We currently envisage the cost of the meal would be about £25 per head excluding wine. The hotel we have in mind serves excellent house wines at about £20 to £25 a bottle. Overnight accommodation would be in the region of £180.00 for those who may not be able to make it home and want to avoid using a park bench.

In order for us to gauge how many people would like to be included in the dinner, if you intend coming, could you please let the secretary have your name and whether you would bring a guest. This is not a commitment but simply to let us know what we need to plan for.

Finally, if you have any other ideas as to how we could celebrate next year, please get in touch with the Secretary.

**GB POSTAL STATIONERY CATALOGUES FOR SALE**

British Postal Stationery 1970 (Dr AK Huggins) £20 - postage inland £4.30  
 Collect British Postal Stationery 2007 (Huggins & Baker) £25 - postage inland £6.50

Both books are second hand but in good condition.  
 Buy both books together for £40 -- postage inland £10.30  
 Overseas buyers should ask for postage costs before buying.

Please contact the secretary if you are interested in buying these books; contact details are in the Society's programme booklet or on the inside cover of this Journal.

**THE GOLDEN RATIO**

I have been sent the following query by a member of another society and although I cannot answer this directly, I promised I would put it to our members. He writes:

"Pondering (as one does) on why British registered envelopes were particular sizes, it suddenly occurred to me that the three smallest sizes F, G, H are almost exactly in the artistic "Golden Ratio" (or "divine proportion") of horizontal/vertical, i.e. that ratio which for some reason is deemed the most aesthetically pleasing (and used in a great many paintings).

The Golden Ratio is (to 8 significant figures) 1.61803399

The registration letter sizes are:

Size letter	Size in mm	Golden Ratio
F	83 x 134mm	1:1.6
G	93 x 154mm	1:1.65
H	127 x 204mm	1:1.6

Above that, I assume they were particular widths & lengths to meet particular folded paper sizes (foolscap, folio etc).

Has there been any comment on this use of the "golden ratio" in the postal stationery society? Other than aesthetics I can't see any particular reason why registration envelopes should be these sizes because G is longer it also needed to be wider. I've not looked at postcards & envelope sizes."

So if you can answer this question, please let me know.

**THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Postal Stationery Society will take place at the Royal Philatelic Society's meeting room, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY at 11.00am on Saturday 27th October 2012. A notice of this meeting is included in the Journal, together with details of the Society's 16 sheet competition and live auction.

We are still looking for volunteers to take over the roles of Advertising Manager and Programme Secretary, currently undertaken by John Barker and Colin Baker respectively. Their workloads are heavy enough without these extra duties, so if you can help in any way, please let the secretary know before the AGM so that your name can be put forward.

If you have any matters you would like raised, please contact the secretary before the meeting takes place, but of course this does not prevent any member from raising a subject during the meeting.

**TONY CHILTON COMPETITION**

The annual Tony Chilton Competition will be held after the Society's AGM on 27th October 2012. This is a 16 sheet competition on any postal stationery subject. To allow overseas members to enter, they may submit their entry(ies) as colour photocopies and they will not be penalised for this. If you are planning to enter in this way, please make sure your entry is received by the Secretary in plenty of time. If you need a copy of the rules please get in touch with the Secretary.

**POSTAL STATIONERY DISPLAYS**

Do you know of any displays of postal stationery that are planned in the next 18 months which members of our Society could attend? Perhaps you have been invited to give a display yourself or you know of a society that has one on its calendar. If so, please let the Secretary have the details so that these can be added into the Postal Stationery Society's programme card.

**SWINPEX REPORT**

It was very pleasing to see thirteen members at the Society's meeting at Swinpex on 9th June, and an indication of the success of our Society, drawing members from afar a field as Manchester, Cornwall and London. Our meetings at Swinpex are normally very informal, but occasionally there is something more serious that demands our attention. This year, the first and most pleasing task was to introduce **John Baron**, the Chairman of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) and to ask him to present our newsletter editor, **John Barker**, with his certificate for his Award of Merit from the ABPS, awarded to him earlier this year. Once again our congratulations to John for a well deserved award.

Following this, members were invited to display material from their collections, and we had a wonderful mix of material on show.

**George King** kicked off the afternoon with a near complete collection of International Reply Coupons issued by Commonwealth countries.

**Arthur Roberts**, not to be outdone, showed a near complete collection of British postnotes, those A4 size



John Barker receives his award of Merit from John Baron - Chairman of ABPS



Members of the Society at the meeting in Swindon

papers with the brown first class printed NVI stamp. Arthur included the rare Cardiff overprints in his display.

**Mike Smith** put up an Orange Free State postcard which had been demonetised and then used with a 1d lilac adhesive. The reverse showed three views - all in all a rare card.

**Jean Alexander** showed Argentinean postal orders and special service postcards. Something we had not seen before.

**Neil Sargent** then displayed QV British Post Office issue newspaper wrappers, including die proofs and contract samples, plus a few official envelopes.

**Rosemary Atkins** gave us the next display, asking is mint postal stationery dull? She then went on to show it was most certainly not, with some striking Swedish illustrated material, followed by Iceland, Chile and GB.

**Vicki Archard** then showed Ugandan air letters for internal use issued in 2000. She posed the question "how many Ugandans needed these" adding that they were very rare and were only obtained by a colleague buying them locally. She then went on to display some older East African material including registration envelopes overprinted GEA for use in German East Africa/Tanganyika.

**John Barker** put up German STO and Post Office issue lettercards, with various coloured paper, perforations etc. Finally **George King** completed the afternoon with more International Reply coupons issued by the Channel Islands, Eire and other countries not covered in his first display.

**Colin Baker** thanked everyone for coming and for showing material that was both interesting and unusual. He said he looked forward to another successful meeting next year.

## Postage Paid Stationery cut-outs invalid for Postage

**Maurice Buxton** has drawn the Editor's attention to the following (posted Tuesday, 15 May 2012) on the Norvic Philatelic blog : <http://norphil.blogspot.co.uk/2012/05/postage-paid-stationery-cut-outs.html>

### ***Royal Mail have made the following announcement regarding PPI postal stationery***

#### ***Postage Paid Stationery - Symbol Policy and Procedure***

*"PPI designs which are used on official stationery are not valid if cut out or detached from the cover, label or form on which they are printed. Similarly any post paid design, without a monetary value if cut out or detached from the stationery for which it is intended, is not valid for postage."*

*"Any item found to have been posted in this manner from 1 August 2012 will be subject to our revenue protection process and will be pulled from the mail stream and a fee assigned to the item for collection at the local Delivery Office in the form of a surcharge."*

When I originally drafted this blog entry I decided that there was a certain ambiguity in the announcement. So I checked with Royal Mail and have been told that:

**"No Cut-outs are valid for postage, Revenue Protection teams are instructed to take such items aside and surcharge as appropriate"**.

Which isn't anything like the same thing. The original statement says "without a monetary value"; the 'clarification' says something quite different.

We all make mistakes, but if you are going to make what amounts to a definitive policy change statement, it makes sense to double-check that it says what you mean it to say, and to get it right!

We will, of course, be interested to see any surcharged - or indeed unsurcharged - mail which bears cut-outs.

Posted by **Ian - Norvic** at 12.15

## USE OF 3d EMPIRE CARD (CP25) AS CUT-OUTS Tony Hitchcock

Further to recent notes last year in Vol 19, on this 1889 postcard (CP25) and its use, it would appear to have been seldom used for its correct purpose and large stocks remained unused.

The use of postage stamps cut from postcards or any other stationery was prohibited under a Post Office act of 1870 as follows :-

“It shall not be lawful for any person to affix to a letter, newspaper, supplement, publication, packet or card sent by post or the cover thereof (if any), by way of payment of postage thereon, an embossed or impressed stamp cut-out or otherwise separated from the cover or other paper, card or thing on which such stamp was embossed or impressed, although such stamp has not been before sent by post or used.” ( The Evolution of British Stamped Postcards & Letter Cards; H. Dagnall. M.A.1985; pp 115-116).

The prohibition lasted until the end of December, 1904, when the practice was permitted under ‘Statutory Rules and Orders 1904 No.1746’. This warrant was published in The London Gazette on 9th December,

“In pursuance of the Rules Publication Act, 1893, the Postmaster-General gives notice that a warrant, dated December 7,1904, has been made, on his representation, by

the Commissioners of the Treasury, under which, on and after January 1,1905, embossed or impressed stamps cut out of, or otherwise detached from an envelope, cover, post-card, or other postal form, may be used in payment of postage.”

On 3 June the Secretary of the Inland Revenue wrote to De La Rue:

“In view of the fact that printed stamps on Post Cards, Letter Cards and Wrappers can now be cut from the material and used for postal purposes, it is desirable that the material spoiled at the different stages of manufacture at your factory, should in future be burnt.”

“The Board understand that you have arranged with their inspector of Stamping for its destruction in this manner under the supervision of his officers in the furnace at your factory.” (The Evolution of British Stamped Post Cards and Letter Cards; H.Dagnall, M.A. 1985; pp 115 -116))

The illustrated item shows two 3d postcard stamps and 1d lilac adhesive sent ‘Registered’ to Johannesburg, Transvaal on 12th August, 1905. Circular cancels are from NORWOOD S.E.

Could this have been a sending of our friend Marsh, about whom so much has been written?



### GB Postal Stationery News

GB Postal Stationery News has been a feature of the Postal Stationery Society Journal since May 2007 (Issue No. 42), reporting additions and new items to ‘Collect British Postal Stationery’ by Alan Huggins and Colin Baker. Since then many new items have been listed and illustrated in these columns. These were collated in a supplement “Amendments and Additions to Collect British Postal Stationery” published in Feb. 2010.

Back issues of the Journal, containing the reports issued after the publication of the Supplement, can be obtained from the Editor at cost price plus postage:  
 B/W issue May 2010 (No.54) £1.00      Colour issues from August 2010 (No. 55) £1.80  
 Please contact the Editor for details

# UPDATED POST OFFICE ENVELOPES

Colin Baker

With few exceptions the British Post Office has only sold prepaid envelopes to cater for the basic letter and printed paper rates, which 40 years ago changed to first and second class letters. The exceptions are the 2d blue envelopes of 1841 for double weight inland letters and the 2½d foreign letter rate envelopes of 1892.

Of course the basic letter rate was used by the public far more often than any other rate. Sales of the 2d embossed envelopes in the 1840s were low by comparison with the 1d envelopes. Stocks of the 2d envelopes sat on Post Office shelves for a long time. The Post Office quickly took the decision that since sales of these higher rate envelopes to pay for letters above the basic weight were sluggish, the public would have to use the Penny Pink envelopes and add adhesive stamps to make the postage up to the correct amount.

Collecting these uprated envelopes, from whatever period, can add another dimension to a collection. The envelopes have a visual appeal that they would probably not otherwise display, and they can add a postal history flavour to a collection. The need to uprate envelopes can occur for several reasons and can take different forms, from adding adhesive stamps to using cut-outs and franked impressions. This article is intended to give an insight into this field of postal stationery collecting and to encourage collectors to widen their outlook when searching dealers' stocks for material.

### Exceeding the basic weight limit

Writers have always been optimistic about how little their letters would weigh. The system of weighing letters was introduced in 1840, replacing the simple but strange practice of counting the number of sheets of paper used. Since then writers have rarely been ready with the correctly stamped envelope. We are much the same today of course and often don't bother to weigh our correspondence until we have written the address and sealed the envelope. It is then that we discover it's overweight. So from the start in 1840, postal stationery has always had the potential of having to carry added adhesive stamps to make up the postage rate to the correct amount.



**Fig 1. Overweight**

One Penny pink envelope (1851) uprated to 2d for a letter weighing no more than 1 ounce.

In 1840 a one penny stamp paid for an inland letter weighing no more than half an ounce, just enough to pay for

an envelope and one sheet of paper. By the end of that century the same one penny paid for a letter weighing up to four ounces. So most letters that fall into the overweight category with additional stamps will be found closer to 1840 than 1900.

### Postage Rate Increases



**Fig 2a. 1d to 1½d rate**

A STO envelope with added ½d stamp to take it to the basic letter rate applicable from 3rd June 1918

Postage rates went down, rather than up, in Queen Victoria's reign, but in the 20th century the financial costs of both World Wars and the inflation in the 1970/80s forced postage rates to rise significantly. Many businesses and private individuals would have held a few outdated envelopes after one of these increases, and these would have had to be uprated. Post Office staff were also instructed to add the correct amount in stamps to their own stocks of outdated prepaid envelopes to bring them up to the new rate before they were sold to the public. This is why you sometimes see packs of unused modern envelopes, all with an extra stamp.

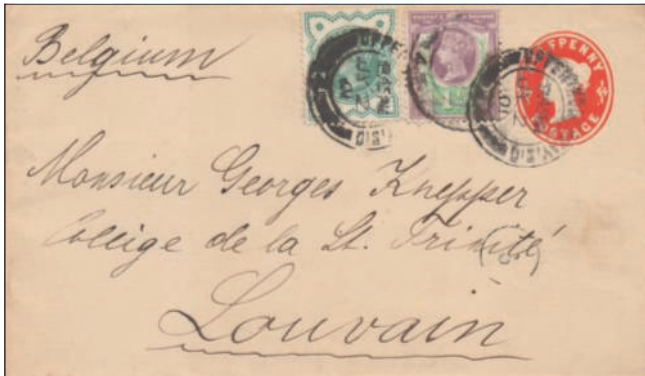


**Fig 2b. Added meter mark**

2d QEII envelope uprated with a meter mark on 12 March 1962, following the rise in postage rates in 1961.

**Changing the Class of Mail**

Sometimes correspondents would use the wrong envelope for their letters, selecting a printed paper rate envelope and then deciding the contents were important enough for it to be sealed. These can be elusive items to find, especially when they have been uprated for foreign use. But persevere, as the early Victorian envelopes with their vermilion embossed stamps and colourful Jubilee adhesive stamps can be very appealing.



**Fig 3. 1/2d to 2 1/2d to Belgium**

Printed paper rate envelope which could have been sent at the 1/2d rate, but which has been sealed and sent as letter

**Forwarded Mail**

Today we can forward mail without paying more in postage if the addressee has moved to new premises, either temporarily or on a permanent basis. The only requirement is that the item of mail has to be posted within a specific time limit of it having been first delivered. But this was not always the case. Until 1891 mail that was forwarded had to have the same postage paid again, in other words it was treated as if it was a new item of mail. The only concession given was that this second postal charge could either be paid in stamps prior to it being re-posted, or on delivery with no doubling of the charge as would normally be the case. However, mail redirected within the London area was exempt from this additional charge, and you will sometimes find penny pink envelopes redirected, without extra postage having been paid.



**Fig 4. Forwarded mail**

A Penny Pink envelope re-directed with the same postage paid again with an adhesive stamp

Of course if the second postage fee is prepaid, then it has to be by an adhesive stamp. These envelopes are not that common, most mail of course being delivered as addressed. Thus they often attract quite a premium in price.

**Registration Fees**

Special registration envelopes were first introduced in 1878 and carried a 2d stamp which only paid the basic registration fee. So all used Queen Victorian registration envelopes must have added stamps, the most common of which are the 1d and 2 1/2d for minimum inland and foreign postage rates. Finding envelopes with higher rates and different combinations of stamps can be difficult, but as usual in our hobby, the rewards can often outweigh the effort of searching for them.



**Fig 5. 6d registration fee**



**Fig 6. 2d registration fee**

Two Penny Pink envelopes sent registered at the 6d rate (1848 to 1862) and 2d rate (1878 to 1921) respectively.

Before 1878 the public had to use ordinary envelopes and the Penny Pink envelopes can sometimes be found sent by registered post. Registration fees were high in 1841 (there was no service offered in 1840) being one shilling per item. This was reduced to 6d in 1848 and 4d in 1862. The 2d fee was introduced in 1878 along with the specially made envelopes and lasted until 1921. From then on registration fees increased from time to time to the high rate of today.

**Foreign Destinations**

Probably the most commonly uprated envelope in the Victorian period is the Penny Pink with an added 1 1/2d, used to foreign destinations. From 1st July 1875 2 1/2d was the agreed rate for mail sent between member states of the General Postal Union, later renamed the Universal Postal Union. The Post Office did not issue its own 2 1/2d envelope until 1892, which probably explains why so many uprated penny pink envelopes were used.





**Fig 7. 5d double weight foreign**

A Penny Pink envelope to Germany paying the double UPU rate of 2½d for a letter weighing up to 1 ounce.



**Fig 10. Registered and foreign**

A Penny Pink envelope uprated for the registration fee (2d) and foreign letter rate (2½d).

However, before this universal rate came into being, the cost of sending letters overseas varied considerably. Finding Victorian penny pink envelopes used at this time can be very difficult; and sometimes expensive into the bargain. But if you keep looking, you will surely be rewarded.

**Express Mail**



**Fig 8. double UPU rate to India**

A double rate Penny Pink envelope to India made up to 5d (2 x 2½d)



**Fig 9a. 5d rate to USA**



**Fig 11. & Fig 12. Express mail**

Early Express Mail envelope paying the additional 3d fee for this service in 1901 and a much later envelope sent when the fee had doubled to 6d.



**Fig 9b. 5d rate to France**

Penny Pink envelopes to America and France dated February 1873 and August 1856, both sent at the 5d rate.

From 1891 writers could have letters sent “Express”, but had to pay an additional fee for the service. It started on 25th March 1891, initially only available in London, but by August of that year the service had been extended more or less nationwide. The fee in 1891 was 3d, but over the years this gradually increased to 3 shillings in 1965. Upon decimalisation in 1971 the fee went up again to 20p. Today the Express service seems to have been replaced by Special Delivery, combining registration with a guaranteed delivery time.

In the days of the Express service, letters were sorted and travelled by normal means, but were often specially delivered at the end of their journey. Initially these letters were identified by an oval handstamp, but later red labels were issued, similar in size and shape to airmail labels.

**Late Fees**

In the Victorian period and into the 20th century post offices would usually close their doors to customers at 6.00pm, (sometimes this occurred a little later) but would keep one window open to receive late mail. To stop too many people trying to catch the post after the post office had officially closed its doors, an additional fee was charged for accepting late letters for inclusion in that evening’s collection. At first fees were collected in cash and one can only tell if a letter was posted late by the handstamp used or a manuscript marking on the envelope.



**Fig 13. 2d late fee paid**

A registered letter additionally paying a late posting fee with two King Edward VII adhesives



**Fig 14. Late fee**

A 2½d envelope uprated to 3d with a late fee of ½d

It was not until the 20th century that it became

necessary to pay the fee using postage stamps. Nevertheless it is worth keeping an eye open for Victorian envelopes where the late fee has been paid in stamps. Firms would sometimes use this tactic to prevent their messengers from keeping the money they were given for the payment of late fees. Otherwise they could be tempted to pocket the money and to post the letters in the normal way so that they had to wait for the following day’s post.

**Air Mail Postage**

No sooner had the aeroplane developed sufficiently for it to carry mail, than people started to use postal stationery to send correspondence. Airmail rates varied considerably, being as low as the standard surface mail letter rate, but rising to become extremely expensive.



**Fig 15. Airmail to India**



**Fig 16. Airmail 1s3d to USA**

Generally airmail postage exceeded the value of stamps impressed on envelopes sold by the Post Office. Thus it was necessary therefore to have extra stamps added to bring these up to the correct rate.

Many of these early air mail envelopes were created specifically for collectors, but even so they still show the rates used and are often annotated with the route, being particularly colourful and attractive.



**Fig 17. Airmail 3s9d to Peru**

Envelopes uprated to pay the appropriate air mail rate.

**The Use of Cut-outs**

I think that one of the nicer ways of collecting uprated stationery is to look out for those envelopes that have extra cut-out stamps added to make up the postage to the correct rate. This was quite legal in the United Kingdom except for the period from 1870 to 1904. Better still is to find examples of envelopes uprated with an identical stamp to that already impressed on it. This is not always easy, but it makes collecting these types of envelopes fun (or is it frustrating, I'm not sure?).



**Fig 18. 1/2d + 1/2d envelope**

A nice example of a 1/2d printed paper rate envelope, uprated to 1d by the addition of another stationery stamp.

**Philatelic Creations**

We cannot leave this subject without mentioning items that have been posted by philatelic dealers and collectors simply to create something different or unusual. Of course there is no reason why these should not sit comfortably in a collection providing you are aware of exactly what you are including. If it was not for the work of many dealers towards the end of the 19th and into the 20th centuries we would not have so much material for our collections today. Many items such as first flight covers, odd uses and faraway destinations would be so expensive that they would be out of the reach of most of us.



**Fig 19. Philatelic creation**

A 2 1/2d King George VI envelope uprated to 2s 3/4d, an impossible postage rate. The explanation lies in the date of posting (6 July 1953) being the first day of issue of the higher value Wilding definitive stamps.

However, it's still a nice, colourful envelope.

It can sometimes be difficult to decide whether an envelope is a genuine commercial one, or is something that has been put together just to grace a collection, but usually by knowing postage rates and destinations a cover can be placed in its rightful category. But at the end of the day, it's your collection and it's up to you to decide what it includes.

There may be other charges that I have not listed in this article, where postal stationery had to have extra stamps to pay the correct rate. Possibly you have one or two in your own collections. If so, why not make a feature of these and entertain other members of the society with a short article or a display at a future meeting.

**THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY AUCTION.**

Following the Society's AGM and Tony Chilton Competition  
at the Royal Philatelic Society, 41, Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY  
Starting at 2.00pm Saturday 27th October 2012

**Postal Bidders**

Please send your bids to reach the Society's Auctioneer Neil Sargent  
by  
Wednesday 24th October 2012

# GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

The steady flow of previously unrecorded items continues and in this issue there are several really striking ones.

## Envelopes - Post Office Issues

**George King** reports a variant of the current QEII 2nd class WDL window envelope **EP216d** with a 41 mm deep top flap and pale blue phosphor, used in March 2012.

## Envelopes - Stamped to Order Issues

### Queen Victoria -

The following Queen Victoria compound stamped to order envelopes have now been recorded in used condition:

**ESC28** 1d + 3d (11 + 3) change \*\*\*\* NR to \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*  
**ESC78** 6d + 6d (5 + 5) change \*\*\*\* NR to \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*

### King George VI - Add new items:

Compound stamping (W. H. Smith wrappers)

**ESC816** ½d + 9d (66 + 74)Wo NR \*\*\*\*  
**ESC847A** 6d + 9d (73 + 74)Wo NR \*\*\*\*



(Illustrations courtesy of **Maurice Buxton**)

The following have now been recorded in used condition:

Compound stamping (W. H. Smith wrappers)

**ESC825** 1½d + 3d (68 + 71)Wo change \*\*\*\* NR to \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*  
**ESC841** 3d + 1s (71 + 75)Wo change \*\*\*\* NR to \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*  
**ESC980** 2½d QE + 9d KGVI (79 + 73)  
 change \*\*\*\* NR to \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*

### Queen Elizabeth II - Add new items:

1998 - 2000

to **ES166** grey 1st class NVI E7 20.5mm (PY) -  
 change number **ES166** to **ES166a** and add

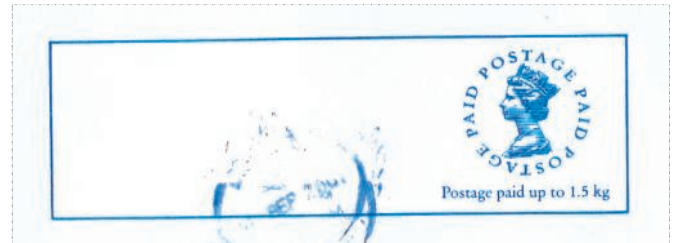
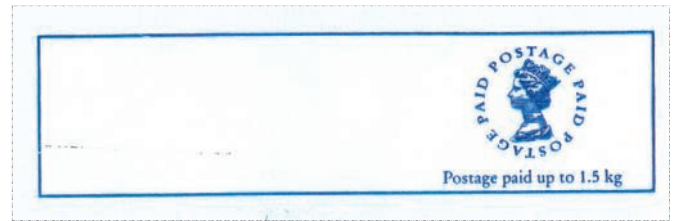
**ES166b** 25mm (PB) NR \*\*\*\*  
**ES166c** 26mm (Y) NR \*\*\*\*

Add:

**ES181** grey 2nd class NVI E8 25mm (PB,Y) NR \*\*\*\*  
 (Courtesy **George King**)

1999—2000?

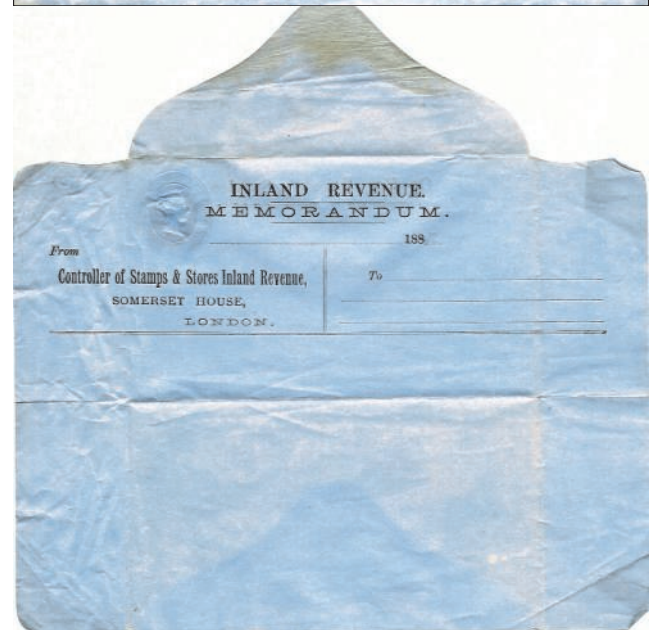
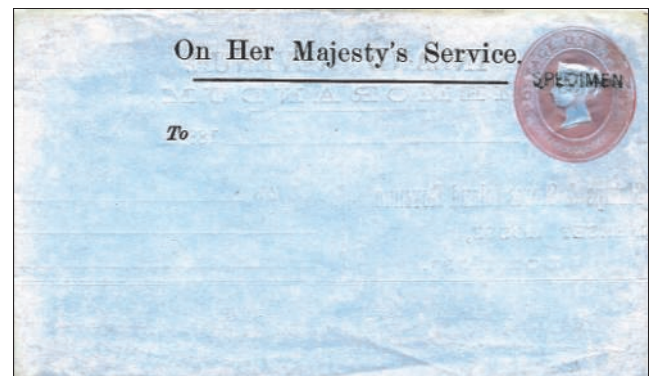
Large plastic bags (C3) with boxed imprint of QEII 'POSTAGE PAID' NVI in blue without Service Indicator 21mm or 25mm diameter without phosphor; but with 'Postage paid up to 1.5kg' underneath stamp (see illustrations). Produced for CGU of York. (Courtesy of **George King**).

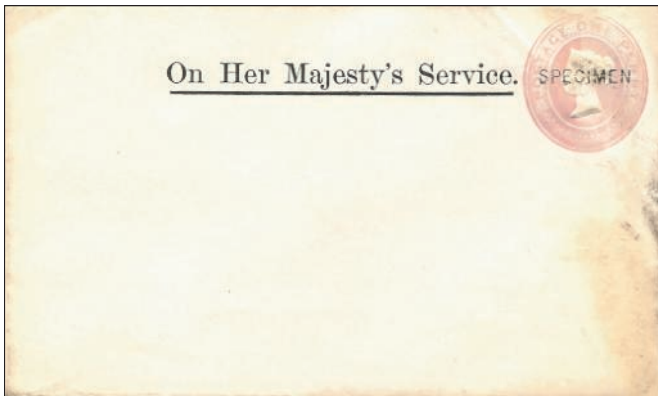
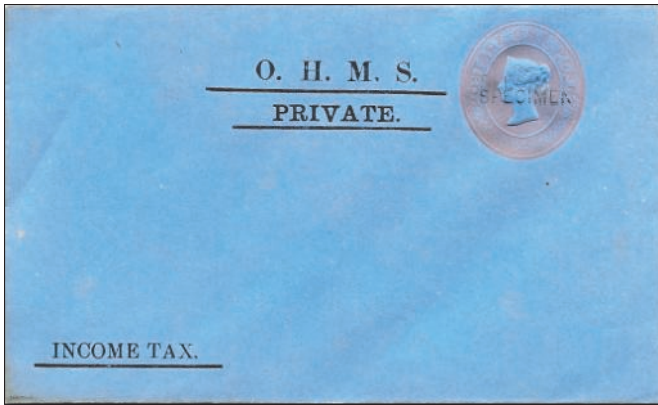


**ES159a** 2nd class NVI E6 with Welsh text now recorded in unused condition - change NR \*\*\*\* to \*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*

## Envelopes - Official Issues

**Neil Sargent** has recently acquired an amazing essay for an Inland Revenue Department 'Memorandum' plus two other envelopes which appear to be trial layouts for the type of envelopes subsequently issued in about 1900. All three have impressions of the dated 1d pink embossed stamp overprinted with SPECIMEN type 6 (see illustrations). Astonishingly although produced some 120 years ago they appear not to have been noted before.

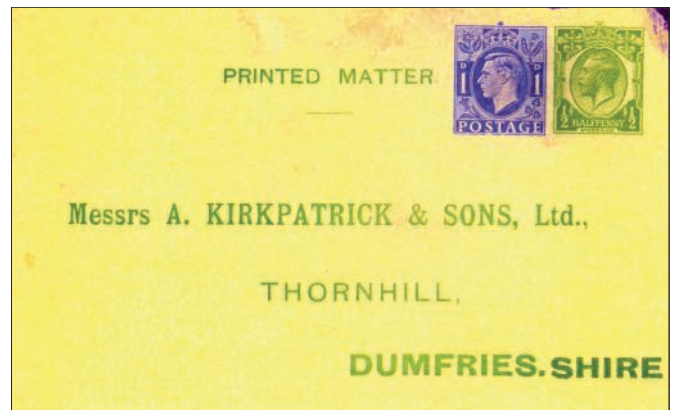




on reverse. Since printed matter postcard rate increased from 1d to 1½d on June 1951 the delay in using these cards is surprising to say the least.

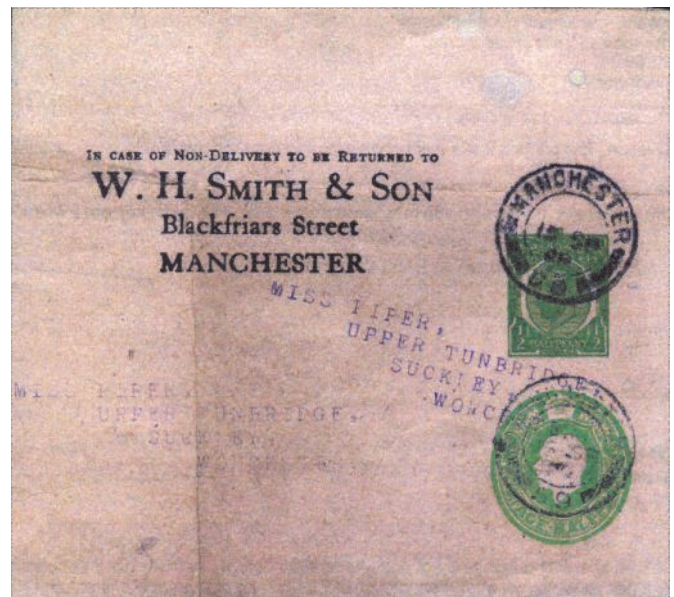
Add new item:

CS112A KGV ½d green (L13a) + KGVI 1d blue (L24) \*\*\*\* NR



### Newspaper Wrappers - Stamped to Order Issues

Jan Kosniowski has reported a most unusual uprated W. H. Smith wrapper (WS20) which has a Manchester return address instead of the usual London one (see illustration). Unfortunately it has not been possible to determine whether the additional ½d embossed stamp has a Manchester die number or not.



### Postcards - Stamped to Order Issues

Wayne Menuz has sent in an illustration of the uprated card CS57 with two impressions of the KGV ½d green embossed stamp. This was originally listed with text implying that it was a reply card and thus duplicating CS48. Unfortunately the text in the February 2010 Supplement to Collect British postal stationery indicated in error that it should be deleted instead of just the columns in the text relating to outward and reply halves. My apologies for this oversight CS57 does exist but is a single card.

1924 CS83 KGV 1½d brown foreign card with format CF14, size f now has been reported without 'PRINTED MATTER' added privately. (Illustration courtesy George King).



The next item, which Maurice Buxton produced at a recent GBPS meeting, is probably the most unusual uprating of a postal card that I have seen. This apparently commercial uprating of a basic KGV ½d STO card CS61 to 1½d by the addition of a KGVI 1d blue stamp L24 also has '496 stamps 17 April 1956' in manuscript

### GB Catalogue of Newspaper Wrappers

As mentioned in the last issue, Jan Kosniowski is in the final stages of compiling a catalogue of newspaper wrappers. Recently, with help of Alan Huggins, 209 items were added to the section on GB wrappers with private overprints. The current total is 1535 different items.

Jan would welcome contact with anyone who may have such items to make this listing as complete as possible.

Email [jan@stampdomain.com](mailto:jan@stampdomain.com)

# CODE LETTERS ON G.B. REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

George King

I was interested to hear of a query on the subject of the date code letters on G.B. registered envelopes, and more recently an appeal for information about Morocco Agencies registered envelopes. The latter, like those for a number of other territories, were produced by overprinting contemporary G.B. registered envelopes.

I have collected Postal Stationery for many years, starting with G.B., and then branching out to that overprinted for Post Offices abroad. As such I start with the G.B. items and thus the **Huggins**, now **Huggins & Baker** number for the G.B. item.

From 1 January 1907 until 1927, blank British Registered letter envelopes had dating codes printed under the flap. The first letter stood for the month and the second



for the year.

In his book, British Postal Stationery, (BPS), Alan Huggins listed the known codes for G.B. envelopes in 1970/1. This was by way of updating existing listings. I have many, but nowhere near all of these, and a few more unknown to Alan Huggins at the time of this list.

The date codes are:-

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I/J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>
1907	1908	1909	1910	1911	1912	1913	1914	1915	1916	1817	1918

<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>V</b>
1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927

Adding those seen by me to those published in BPS, we can list for G.B. what might have been available for overprinting. I can demonstrate the existence of those that are underlined. There could/will be others to add to the listings, but note that when the production of G.B. envelopes changes value, it is only in exceptional cases or by some special arrangement (and I know of none) where old dated or old format stock could be used. That is, except for the Queen Victoria Gold Coast (as the text on back wasn't appropriate), or the 4d vermilion series of Bechuanaland envelopes, which were specially produced for 'overprinting'. I believe that the contemporary versions of G.B. envelopes would have been used, and that stock rotation applied, so envelopes would have been stamped in roughly the order they were printed, and then overprinted. Store men would have been instructed to use old stock first. Thus the Irish green envelopes, while reverting to

the 5d stamp die (and printing in shades of green), have printed stock and text (and print dates) relating to the then current G.B. (4½d puce envelopes), and thus bridge the inclusion of the size letter in the top left hand box.

I understand that for the whole of this period, the printer was McCorquodale, and the printing process took rolls of appropriately linen backed paper, printed the blue text, then guillotined, then folded, glued and stuck the envelopes together, then stamped them, (only after stamping them as controlled items as they now have the value attached), and then overprinted if necessary.

I have listed in full the codes under 'Exist' to give some visual idea of the comparative issue period, and how the overprints may relate to the possible numbers of G.B. varieties.

**RP24 KEVII** R in oval 3d brown 1902 - Other sizes exist but without code letters  
**F BPS** AA - CA

Exist	AA	<u>BA</u>	CA
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**G BPS** AA - CA

Exist	AA	BA	<u>CA</u>	All codes vertical
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<b>Morocco Agencies</b>			<u>CA</u>	No code
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**RP25 KEVII** 'Inland Registration' on back 3d brown 1907

**F BPS** DA - MA vertical. AB - IB horizontal

Exist	<u>CA</u>	DA	<u>EA</u>	FA	GA	<u>HA</u>	IA	<u>KA</u>	LA	MA	AB	BB	CB	DB	EB	FB	GB	HB	<u>JB</u>
<b>Bechuanaland</b>			<u>EA</u>	<u>FA</u>								BB	CB						
<b>Morocco Agencies</b>					GA														

**G BPS** DA - MA vertical. AB - IB horizontal

Exist		<u>DA</u>	EA	<u>FA</u>	GA	HA	<u>IA</u>	<u>KA</u>	LA	MA	AB	BB	CB	DB	<u>EB</u>	<u>FB</u>	GB	<u>HB</u>	JB
<b>Bechuanaland</b> sideways o/p			<u>EA</u>	<u>FA</u>									CB						
<b>Bechuanaland</b> vertical o/p			EA	FA															
<b>Levant</b>	<u>CA</u>	<u>DA</u>											<u>CB</u>						
<b>Morocco Agencies</b>							<u>IA</u>												

**H** BPS IA - MA vertical AB - HB horizontal

Exist	<u>DA</u>		IA	KA	LA	<u>MA</u>	AB	BB	CB	DB	<u>EB</u>	FB	GB	HB
<b>Levant</b>	<u>DA</u>													
<b>Morocco Agencies</b>	<u>DA</u>	<u>EA</u>												

**H2** BPS DA vertical BB - JB horizontal

Exist	<u>DA</u>	BB	CB	DB	EB	<u>FB</u>	GB	HB	<u>JB</u>
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**K** BPS DA - KA vertical BB - FB horizontal

Exist	<u>DA</u>	EA	FA	GA	HA	IA	<u>KA</u>	LA	MA	AB	BB	CB	DB	<u>EB</u>	FB	GB	HB	JB
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**RP26** KEVII 'Registration' on back 3d brown 1908

**F** BPS KB - GD

Exist	<u>IB</u>	KB	LB	<u>MB</u>	AC	<u>BC</u>	<u>CC</u>	<u>DC</u>	EC	FC	<u>GC</u>	HC	<u>IC</u>	KC	LC	<u>MC</u>
	<u>AD</u>	<u>BD</u>	CD	<u>DD</u>	ED	<u>FD</u>	GD	<u>JD</u>	<u>KD</u>	<u>AE</u>	<u>CE</u>					
<b>Levant</b>			<u>CD</u>													

**G** BPS IB - BE

Exist	IB	KB	LB	<u>MB</u>	AC	BC	<u>CC</u>	DC	<u>EC</u>	FC	<u>GC</u>	HC	<u>JC</u>	<u>KC</u>	<u>LC</u>	MC
	AD	BD	<u>CD</u>	<u>DD</u>	ED	FD	GD	<u>HD</u>	<u>JD</u>	<u>KD</u>	LD	MD	<u>AE</u>	<u>BE</u>		
<b>Levant</b>				<u>MB</u>	<u>AC</u>						<u>LC</u>					
	<u>AD</u>				<u>ED</u>								<u>AE</u>	<u>BE</u>		

**H** BPS MB - DE

Exist	MB*	AC	<u>BC</u>	CC	DC	EC	FC	GC	HC	IC	KC	<u>LC</u>	MC	AD	<u>BD</u>
	<u>CD</u>	DD	ED	FD	GD	<u>HD</u>	ID	KD	LD	MD	AE	BE	<u>CE</u>	<u>DE</u>	

\* inverted

**H2** BPS IB - BE

Exist	IB	KB	LB	MB	AC	<u>BC</u>	CC	DC	EC	FC	GC	HC	IC	KC	<u>LC</u>	MC
	AD	BD	CD	ED	FD	<u>GD</u>	HD	ID	KD	LD	<u>MD</u>	AE	<u>BE</u>	CE	<u>DE</u>	

**K** BPS KB - BE

Exist	KB	LB	MB	AC	BC	CC	DC	EC	<u>FC</u>	GC	HC	IC	KC	LC	MC
	<u>AD</u>	BD	<u>CD</u>	DD	ED	<u>FD</u>	GD	HD	ID	<u>KD</u>	LD	<u>MD</u>	AE	BE	

**RP27** KGV 3d brown with 'w' below head 1911

**F** BPS CE - CF

Exist	<u>CE</u>	<u>DE</u>	<u>EE</u>	<u>FE</u>	<u>GE</u>	HE	<u>JE</u>	KE	LE	ME	AF	BF	CF
-------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	-----------	----	-----------	----	----	----	----	----	----

**G** BPS EE - BF

Exist	<u>BE</u>	<u>EE</u>	<u>FE</u>	GE	HE	IE	<u>KE</u>	LE	ME	AF	BF
<b>Levant</b>								<u>LE</u>			

**H** BPS EE - HE

Exist	<u>EE</u>	FE	GE	HE	<u>LE</u>
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**H2** BPS DE - AF

Exist	<u>DE</u>	EE	FE	<u>GE</u>	HE	IE	KE	LE	ME	<u>AE</u>
-------	-----------	----	----	-----------	----	----	----	----	----	-----------

**K** BPS EE - IE

Exist	<u>EE</u>	FE	<u>GE</u>	HE	IE	<u>LE</u>	<u>BF</u>
<b>Levant</b>	<u>EE</u>						

<b>RP28</b> KGVI 3d brown without 'w' below head 1912													
F BPS Aai EE - HG Aaii BG - EM Ab DM - OM B HH - CM													
Exist	AF	BF	<u>CF</u>	DF	<u>EE</u>	<u>FE</u>	GE	HE	IE	KE	LE	ME	
	AG	BG	<u>CG</u>	DG	<u>EG</u>	<u>FG</u>	GG	HG	<u>JG</u>	<u>KG</u>	<u>LG</u>	<u>MG</u>	
	<u>AH</u>	<u>BH</u>	<u>CH</u>	<u>DH</u>	EH	FH	GH	HH	IH	KH	LH	<u>MH</u>	
	AJ	<u>BJ</u>	CJ	DJ	EJ	<u>FJ</u>	GJ	HJ	<u>JJ</u>	<u>KJ</u>	<u>LJ</u>	<u>MJ</u>	
	AK	<u>BK</u>	<u>CK</u>	DK	<u>EK</u>	FK	GK	HK	IK	KK	<u>LK</u>	MK	
	<u>AL</u>	BL	<u>CL</u>	<u>DL</u>	<u>EL</u>	<u>FL</u>	<u>GL</u>	<u>HL</u>	<u>JL</u>	<u>KL</u>	<u>LL</u>	<u>ML</u>	
	AM	<u>BM</u>	<u>CM</u>	<u>DM</u>	<u>EM</u>	FM	GM	HM	IM	KM	LM	<u>MM</u>	
			<u>CN</u> <sup>1</sup>										
<b>Bechuanaland</b>					EG	GF	<u>KE</u>						
<b>Morocco Agencies</b>													
AE													
G BPS Aa EE - ML Ab DM - LM Ba HJ - JL Bb CM, EM													
Exist	AF	BF	CF	<u>DF</u>	<u>EE</u>	<u>FE</u>	GE	HE	JE	KE	LE	ME	
	AG	<u>BG</u>	<u>CG</u>	DG	EG	FG	GG	HG	JG	<u>KG</u>	LG	<u>MG</u>	
	AH	BH	CH	DH	EH	<u>FH</u>	GH	HH	JH	<u>KH</u>	LH	MH	
	AJ	BJ	CJ	<u>DJ</u>	EJ	FJ	GJ	<u>HJ</u>	JJ	<u>KJ</u>	<u>LJ</u>	<u>MJ</u>	
	<u>AK</u>	<u>BK</u>	CK	DK	EK	<u>FK</u>	<u>GK</u>	<u>HK</u>	<u>JK</u>	KK	LK	MK	
	<u>AL</u>	BL	CL	DL	EL	<u>FL</u>	<u>GL</u>	<u>HL</u>	IL	KL	LL	ML	
	<u>AM</u>	<u>BM</u>	<u>CM</u>	<u>DM</u>	<u>EM</u>	FM	GM	HM	IM	KM	LM	MK	
<b>Bechuanaland</b>				DG	EG	EM <sup>2</sup>				KF	<u>LF</u>	<u>LK</u> <sup>2</sup>	MK
<b>Levant</b>		<u>BG</u>		<u>EF</u>		<u>GE</u>		<u>JE</u>		<u>KE</u>			
<b>Morocco Agencies</b>													
CK													
EH													
H BPS Cream AF - II Bluish FL, JL													
Exist	AF	BF	<u>CF</u>	<u>DF</u>	<u>EF</u>	FF	GF	HF	JF	KF	LF	MF	
	AG	BG	CG	<u>DG</u>	EG	<u>FG</u>	GG	<u>HG</u>	IG	KG	LG	MG	
	AH	BH	CH	DH	EH	FH	GH	HH	IH	KH	LH	MH	
	AJ	BJ	CJ	DJ	EJ	FJ	GJ	HJ	IJ				
					<u>EK</u>								
					FL		<u>JL</u>						
					<u>EM</u>								
<b>Levant</b>													
<u>JE</u>													
H2 BPS EF - GG													
Exist	<u>AG</u>	<u>BG</u>	<u>CG</u>	DG	EG	FG	GG	HF	IF	KF	<u>LE</u>	MF	
								<u>GK</u>					
K BPS Cream EF - LG Bluish AM													
Exist	AF	BF	CF	DF	EF	FF	GE	HE	IE	KE	LE	ME	
	AG	<u>BG</u>	CG	DG	EG	<u>FG</u>	GG	<u>HG</u>	IG	KG	LG		
	<u>AM</u>												
<b>Levant</b>													
<u>BG</u>													
<sup>1</sup> This code is correct, as registered letter envelopes (size F & G) bearing 3d stamp for letters to the fleet and to the Expeditionary Forces were listed in the P.O. Guide 1918; after the issue of 3½d blue envelope below: <sup>2</sup> LK and EM have typo and													
<b>RP29</b> KGV 3½d blue 1918													
F BPS Aa CM Abi EM - KN Abii LN - CO B EM, FM													
Exist			CM		<u>EM</u>	<u>FM</u>	<u>GM</u>	HM	<u>JM</u>	KM	<u>LM</u>	<u>MM</u>	
	<u>AN</u>	<u>BN</u>	<u>CN</u>	<u>DN</u>	<u>EN</u>	FN	GN	HN	<u>JN</u>	<u>KN</u>	<u>LN</u>	MN	
	<u>AO</u>	<u>BO</u>	<u>CO</u>	<u>DO</u>	No code								
<b>Bechuanaland</b>													
<u>CO</u>													
G BPS Aa DN - JN Ab EM - CO B EM - GM													
Exist			<u>CM</u>		<u>EM</u>	<u>FM</u>	GM	HM	IM	KM	<u>LM</u>	<u>MM</u>	
	<u>AN</u>	BN	CN	DN	EN	FN	GN	<u>HN</u>	IN	KN	<u>LN</u>	<u>MN</u>	
	AO	<u>BO</u>	<u>CO</u>	<u>DO</u>									
<b>Bechuanaland</b>													
EM													
H BPS FM - AN													
Exist					<u>EM</u>	<u>FM</u>	GM	HM	IM	KM	LM	MM	
	AN												
<u>AO</u>													
<u>DO</u>													
K BPS EM - CO													
Exist					<u>EM</u>	FM	GM	HM	<u>JM</u>	KM	LM	MM	
	AN	BN	CN	DN	EN	FN	GN	HN	IN	KN	LN	MN	
	AO	BO	CO										



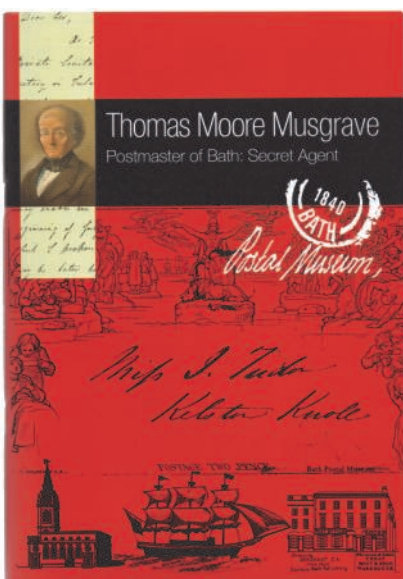
<b>RP30</b> KGV 4d green 1920												
F BPS a DO - FP b DP - FP												
Exist				<u>DO</u>	<u>EO</u>	<u>FO</u>	GO	<u>HO</u>	<u>JO</u>	<u>KO</u>	<u>LO</u>	MO
	<u>AP</u>	BP	<u>CP</u>	<u>DP</u>	<u>EP</u>							
<b>Bechuanaland</b>	<u>AP</u>	<u>BP</u>										
G BPS CO - DP												
Exist			<u>CO</u>	<u>DO</u>	<u>EO</u>	<u>FO</u>	<u>GO</u>	HO	IO	KO	LO	MO
	AP	BP	CP	DP								
<b>Bechuanaland</b>			CO	<u>DO</u>	EO							
H BPS DO - EP												
Exist				<u>DO</u>	<u>EO</u>	FO	GO	HO	IO	KO	<u>LO</u>	MO
	AP	BP	CP	DP	EP							
K BPS DO - AP												
Exist				<u>DO</u>	EO	FO	GO	HO	IO	KO	LO	MO
	AP											
<b>RP34</b> KGV 5d orange 1921												
F BPS EP - BQ												
Exist				<u>DP</u>	<u>EP</u>	<u>FP</u>	<u>GP</u>	<u>HP</u>	<u>JP</u>	<u>KP</u>	<u>LP</u>	<u>MP</u>
	<u>AQ</u>	BQ	<u>CQ</u>									
<b>Levant</b>									<u>JP</u>	<u>KP</u>		<u>MP</u>
G BPS a EP - FP b EP - BQ												
Exist				<u>DP</u>	<u>EP</u>	FP	GP	<u>HP</u>	JP	<u>KP</u>	<u>LP</u>	<u>MP</u>
	<u>AQ</u>	<u>BQ</u>	<u>CQ</u>									
<b>Bechuanaland</b>		<u>BQ</u>										
<b>Levant</b>								<u>HP</u>		<u>KP</u>		
H BPS EP, GP, MP												
Exist					<u>EP</u>		GP	<u>HP</u>				<u>MP</u>
<b>Levant</b>						<u>FP</u>	<u>GP</u>					<u>MP</u>
K BPS EP												
Exist					<u>EP</u>			<u>HP</u>			<u>LP</u>	<u>MP</u>
<b>Levant</b>					<u>EP</u>		<u>GP</u>				<u>LP</u>	
<b>RP38</b> KGV 4½d puce (without size letter) 1922												
F BPS CQ - ER												
Exist		<u>BQ</u>	CQ	<u>DQ</u>	<u>EQ</u>	<u>FQ</u>	<u>GQ</u>	HQ	<u>JQ</u>	<u>KQ</u>	LQ	<u>MQ</u>
	<u>AR</u>	<u>BR</u>	CR	<u>DR</u>	<u>ER</u>							
<b>Ireland</b> 5d green	<u>AQ</u>	<u>BQ</u>	CQ	DQ								
" " olive green			CR	DR	ER							
<b>Levant</b>	<u>AR</u>											
G BPS CQ - AR												
Exist			CQ	DQ	<u>EQ</u>	FQ	GQ	<u>HQ</u>	IQ	KQ	LQ	MQ
	<u>AR</u>	<u>BR</u>	CR									
<b>Ireland</b> 5d green				DQ	<u>EQ</u>	FQ						
" " olive green												MQ
	AR	BR	CR									
<b>Levant</b>												<u>MQ</u>
	<u>AR</u>											
H BPS CQ - ER												
Exist			<u>CQ</u>	DQ	<u>EQ</u>	FQ	GQ	<u>HQ</u>	IQ	KQ	LQ	<u>MQ</u>
	AR	BR	CR	DR	<u>ER</u>							
<b>Ireland</b> 5d green			<u>CQ</u>		EQ							
<b>Levant</b>	<u>AR</u>											<u>MQ</u>
K BPS FQ												
Exist						<u>FQ</u>						<u>MP</u>
<b>Ireland</b> 5d green						<u>FQ</u>						MP
<b>Levant</b>									<u>JQ</u>			

<b>RP39</b> KGV 4½d puce (with size letter) 1923												
<b>F</b> BPS <b>A</b> FR - LU <b>Ba</b> MU - MV <b>Bb</b> no code. An error 'JA' appears for 'JU' on size <b>F</b> ; it was corrected as both 'JA' and 'JU' are known.												
Exist						<u>FR</u>	<u>GR</u>	HR	<u>JR</u>	<u>KR</u>	<u>LR</u>	<u>MR</u>
	AS	<u>BS</u>	<u>CS</u>	<u>DS</u>	ES	FS	GS	<u>HS</u>	IS	KS	LS	MS
	AT	BT	CT	<u>DT</u>	<u>ET</u>	<u>FT</u>	GT	HT	IT	<u>KT</u>	LT	<u>MT</u>
	AU	<u>BU</u>	CU	DU	EU	<u>FU</u>	GU	HU	JU	KU	LU	<u>MU</u>
	AV	BV	CV	DV	EV	FV	GV	HV	IV	KV	LV	MV
	No code								JA			
Ireland 5d olive green	<u>AS</u>							<u>HR</u>	JR			
<b>G</b> BPS <b>A</b> GR - BS <b>Ba</b> GS - KU BV <b>Bb</b> no code												
Exist						<u>FR</u>	GR	HR	IR	KR	LR	<u>MR</u>
	AS	BS					GS	HS	IS	KS	LS	MS
	AT	BT	CT	DT	ET	FT	GT	HT	IT	KT	LT	MT
	AU	BU	CU	DU	<u>EU</u>	FU	GU	HU	IU	<u>KU</u>		
		BV	no code									
Bechuanaland		BU	no code		<u>ET</u> EU			<u>HU</u>				
Ireland 5d olive green	AS						<u>GR</u>					
<b>H</b> BPS <b>a</b> FR <b>b</b> BS JS, JS JT <b>c</b> no code												
Exist		BS	<u>CV</u>			<u>FR</u> <u>FV</u>			JS IT	no code		
Ireland 5d olive green						FR	GR					
<b>K</b> BPS no code												
Exist		<u>BS</u>								<u>KS</u>	no code	
Ireland 5d olive green						FR					LR	

Data for Bechuanaland has been taken from 'The Postal Stationery of Bechuanaland and Botswana' by Peter Thy and John Ingelfield-Watson (Published by the Bechuanaland and Botswana Society). Similarly data for Ireland has been taken from 'The Postal Stationery of Ireland' by Bernard Clancy and Otto Jung (Published by FAI). **RP38** style envelopes, for Ireland, without corner letter, but printed in olive green size **H** and **K**, for which I do not know the date codes, have been reported but not seen by me.

## BOOK REVIEW

### THOMAS MOORE MUSGRAVE; POSTMASTER OF BATH AND SECRET AGENT



So goes the intriguing title of a new book published by the Bath Postal Museum. Philatelists are known for their study of stamps and postal history, and for their hunger for information on many things postal. They also collect and study postal memorabilia, including scales, handstamps, and a host of other items found in post offices up and down the country. But the men who run these offices are inevitably forgotten and their names become lost with the passing of time.

So to find a book that studies one such man is most unusual, particularly as he was a most unusual man himself. Thomas Moore Musgrave was at the end of his career when he was appointed postmaster of Bath, the most important city for high society outside London. It was he who was in charge of this post office when the postal reforms of 1840 were introduced, including the introduction of postage stamps and prepaid stationery carrying the ill-fated design by William Mulready.

The book tells us of Musgrave's rather secretive life in this country and abroad, his work as a secret agent for the government, and how he used a Penny Black stamp four days before it became valid. It also tells the story of one of only three known twopenny Mulready envelopes that were posted on 6th May 1840, this one also sent from the post office managed by Musgrave. The book is full of facts and much research has been undertaken into the life of Musgrave by members of the Bath Postal Museum. The forward by Sir Terry Pratchett puts Musgrave's life into perspective and leads the reader into the full story. The book is well presented in full colour, and although it has plenty of photographs and illustrations, more contemporary paintings and drawings of the characters involved in the story would have helped set the scene. But that said, it does not reduce the impact of the tale of a secretive and powerful man who took it upon himself

to disobey the Postmaster General's instructions that the new 1d black labels should not be used before their valid date of 6th May 1840.

Thomas Moore Musgrave, An Enigmatic Man by Audrey Swindells MBE. 40 pages in full colour. Available from the Bath Postal Museum cost £3.95 plus postage.

Colin Baker

## POSTAL STATIONERY FOR A PURPOSE - Airmail

John Barker

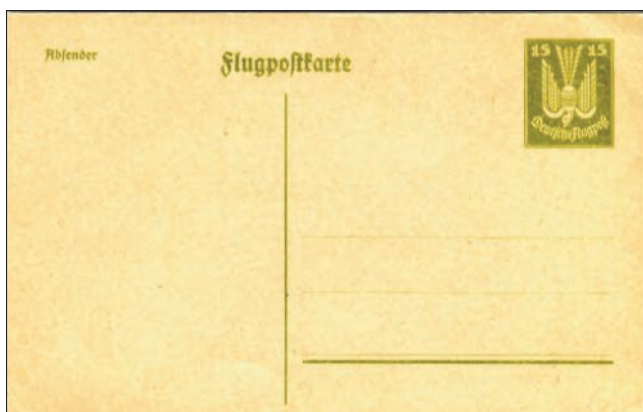
Although specially produced stationery had been used to send messages via balloon or pigeon in the nineteenth century; it was not until the 1920s that prepaid stationery was issued specifically for airmail transmission.

Amongst the earliest items were those produced for Sociedad Colombo-Alemana de Transportes Aereos (SCADTA) which had an exclusive contract in the 1920s for carrying mail by air in Colombia. SCADTA had its own offices throughout Colombia and issued its own pre paid stationery for their service. However the imprinted 'stamp' only paid for the air transport and mail had to be franked with Colombian post office postage stamps for the rest of the transmission. Of the stationery items produced for this service, the airmail postcard was the most used.



Airletter sheets and Airletter cards inscribed 'Aeromisiva' (Aerial message) were also produced as were envelopes.

Amongst the Post Offices which issued airmail stationery early on, were Germany - postcards 1924; Mexico - envelopes 1927, lettercards 1929 and postcards 1934; Argentina - envelopes 1928; Panama - envelopes 1929 and India - postcards and envelopes 1929.



As airmail services became more widely available, the increased use of this method of transporting the mail stimulated the need for the proliferation of the use of lightweight paper for messages. The use of lightweight paper for airmail was not a new innovation for reducing the weight and bulk of the mail. It had been used from 1875 for postal stationery lettersheets and envelopes issued for the Vienna pneumatic service and for envelopes in other pneumatic systems.



In 1933 Iraq issued a standardised form for airmail messages entitled 'Air Mail Letter Card', later to become known as an 'Aerogramme'. This consisted of a sheet of thin paper 124mm x 99mm, on which the message was to be written, folded vertically in half, and then horizontally into a quarter and secured with gummed flaps. The use of the term aerogramme was officially endorsed at the 1952 Universal Postal Union Congress in Brussels.



Often referred to as 'The First Aerogramme'; in principle, this Air Mail Letter Card is not much different from the SCADTA Air Mail Letter Sheet of 1923/4. However, the issuing of the Air Mail Letter Card by Iraq led to 'aerogramme' type forms being used universally, with variations in the dimensions and method of folding, up to the present day. In most cases the size of the form and the thickness of the paper has been targeted to maintain the overall weight at 5gm or less. With the widespread use of telecommunications and the internet, most postal authorities have discontinued issuing aerogrammes over the past ten years or so.

Three years before the issue of the 'Air Mail Letter Card' by Iraq, a light weight letter sheet was issued by the General Department of Posts of Guatemala and used by the Government to publicise the inauguration of the domestic air mail service. Two successive horizontal folds secured the printed message within, and a gummed flap, similar to that of a standard envelope folded over to seal the entire. Details of the air mail rates are given on the inside together

with a message which reads:

GENERAL DEPARTMENT OF POST OF GUATEMALA  
Guatemala, 1930

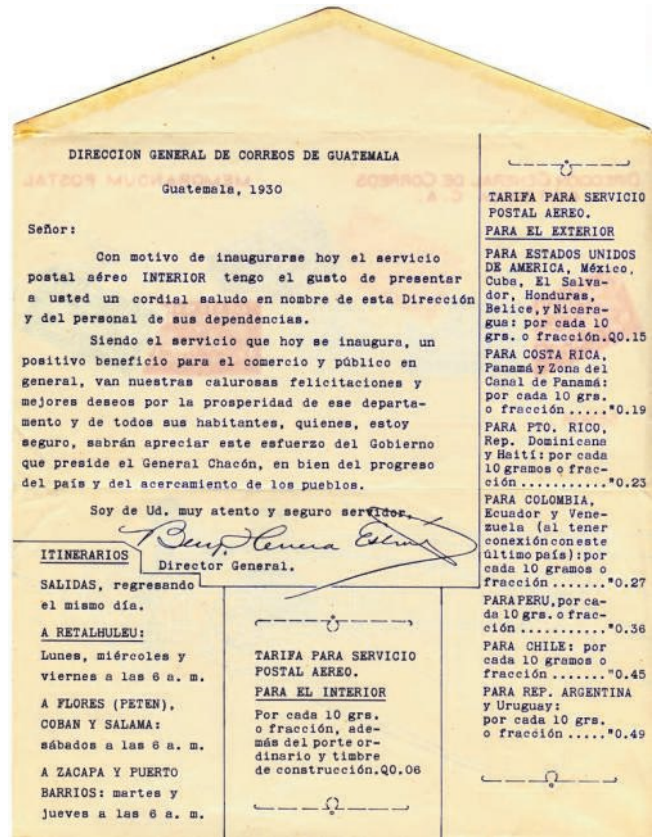
Senor:

On the occasion of the inauguration today of the domestic air mail service, it is my pleasure to present to you a cordial greeting on behalf of the management and staff of its units.



For this service which opens today, being a positive benefit for trade and public go our warmest congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity of that department and all its citizens who, I am sure, will appreciate this effort of the Government headed by General Chacon, the good progress of the country and bringing people together.

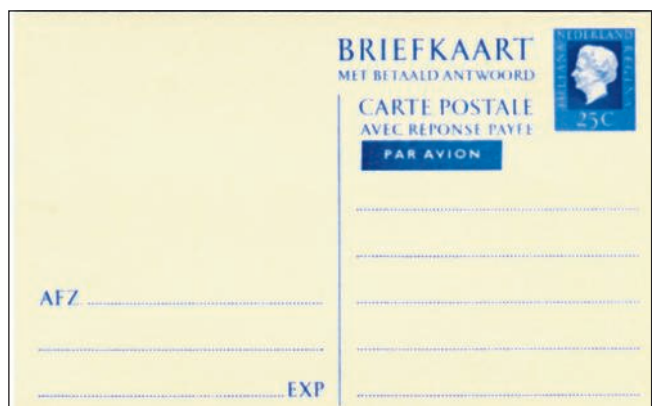
I'm your very obedient servant,



Besides air mail stationery for public use, some countries issued air mail stationery for official use.



Whilst the trend in the issue of air mail stationery was towards lightweight items, one particular item which bucked this trend was the issue of a reply paid air mail post card by the Netherlands in 1971! It seems inappropriate to double the weight of a message card to be sent by airmail by having a 'blank' reply card attached. Perhaps the principle of the use of reply paid cards was regarded as more important. The recipient would receive a card already franked for a rapid reply at no cost to themselves and no difficulty in obtaining a card, which may not be the easiest of things to do in remote areas.



# NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

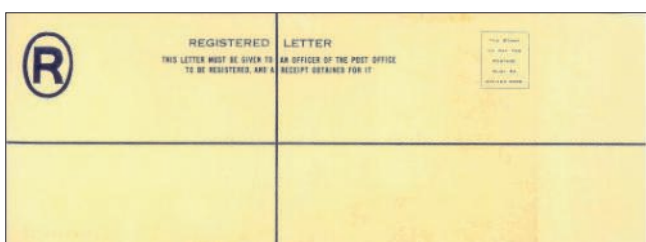
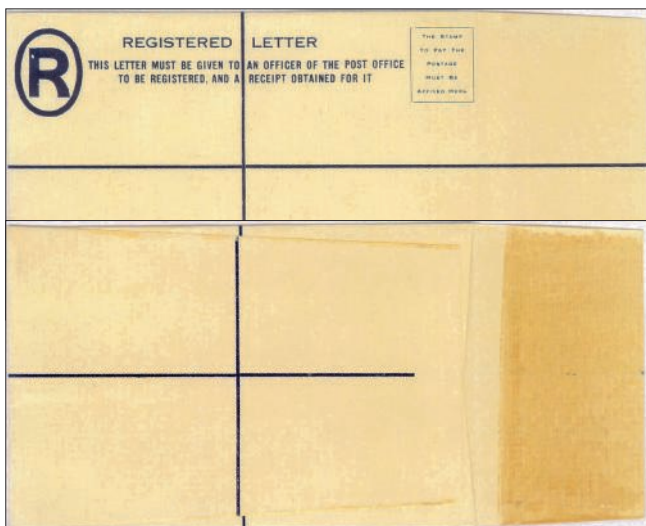
## St Helena Registration Envelope.

Tony Hitchcock writes:

In the Journal No. 60 p9 (November 2011), **Wilf Ververs** has a query about some formula envelopes from St Helena. I don't know if these few comments are of any help.

On my way from England to South Africa in July 1964, the Union Castle mail ship called at St Helena and I purchased registered envelopes from the Post Office in Jamestown. Two sizes were available, 145mm x 95mm and 220mm x 100mm and were in blue and in some respect similar to the last two envelopes illustrated.

These envelopes do not have a printer's imprint and are unlike those printed by De La Rue or any of the South African envelopes, which always have printer's imprint but do have a large R in oval. I suspect the envelopes were printed locally because of the cut, gum and flap, and the fact that they do not have a scrim lining but are made of a thick laid paper.



## QUERY: RP15 IIBx with "FEE PAID"

Harold Barstow writes:

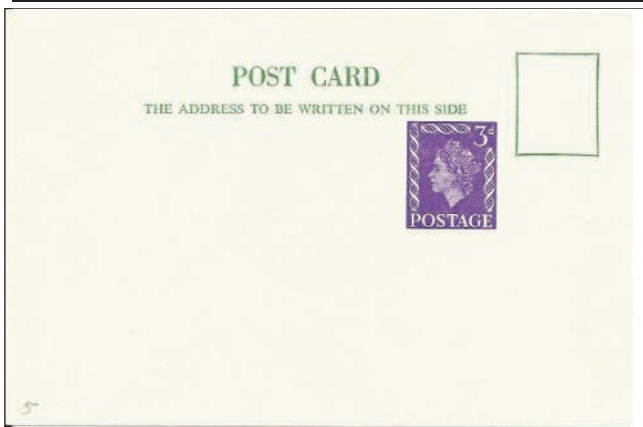
The illustration below is **RP15 IIBx** with "FEE PAID" added, taken from my collection. In British Postal Stationery 1970, Alan Huggins lists all four items with "FEE PAID" as Curl type I.

I can vouch for **RP15bx** being Curl type I but the illustration below is Curl III. I have it also in used condition that is also Curl III.

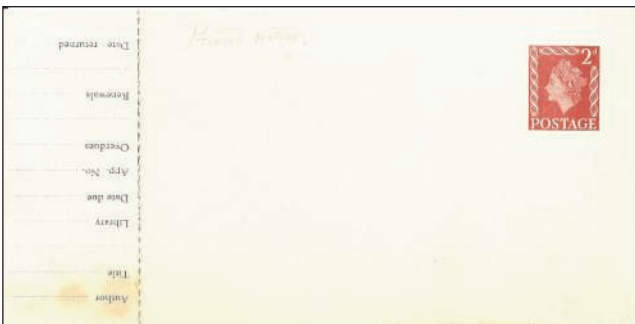
Perhaps other members who have copies of the other two listed items could check their copies to confirm the Curl types.



Neil Sargent writes: I was looking through a box of modern GB stationery that I hadn't opened for a few years and came across the following 2 items that I thought maybe of interest. The first is a bog standard plain postcard that you could buy from any stationers or newsagent which has then had a 3d letterpress stamp added offset from the corner. There is a printed (although looks typed) message on the back regarding Controlled Milk Records and earmarking of herds!



The 2nd card is a plain card with a 2d letterpress stamp but has a coupon attached to the left and perforated from the card. It is from Kensington Public Library regarding reserving a book for borrowing. The attached slip has space for the book details. I would have thought these may be common coming from Kensington but I have not come across one before.



### REPLIES: A Cape of Good Hope Postcard

Replies to **Tony Hitchcock** Query May 2012 p20

**Chris Board** writes: I am writing to comment on the illustration of a Cape Colony 1d post card in the PSS Journal received today.

The card he illustrates was a Cape Colony post card issued in 1878. My copy of Quik and Jonkers's Vol 1 of Postal Stationery of South Africa lists this as **P1**. I cannot find the reference to a proof as Tony Hitchcock implies by his statement.

The second official post card for the Cape of Good Hope was listed as **P2** and was impressed with an oval medallion Queen Victoria which was printed to the colony's order by De La Rue. It was issued on 1 July 1882. This card has the Royal coat of arms between the words POST and CARD, rather than the Cape Colony's coat of arms.

The two cards are similar in some respects, but the former is a local product, which was a Post Office issue. From the appearance of the card illustrated in your journal it is of a genuine, issued post card. Few were used to begin with, as the 1d rate was effectively confined to very local postage. They were often badly guillotined, but found used nevertheless.

There was an essay which was probably based on this locally produced card. It seems to have been produced at the behest of the Cape government by De La Rue as a replacement for the local post card. An example of this essay was auctioned by Spink in 2007 on 20 September as Lot 72. This was definitely based on the design of the 1878 post card, followed the colonial design, but in brown. The records do not include any reasons why this essay was prepared, but it seems that the Cape Colony asked De La Rue to quote for replacement for the local card.

In the event, the replacement was a recognisable colonial issue (Quik and Jonkers P2)

The illustration in the PSSJ is slightly smaller than the actual size. But it appears to be of one of the several mint copies in the market place.

**Derek Brennan** writes: I write about the item titled 'A Cape of Good Hope Post Card' by Tony Hitchcock.

My comments are that:

a. This item is the first Cape of Good Hope Post Card. It has the 'Colony' Coat of Arms, just as in the illustration.

b. I have in my collection, 1 mint, and 4 used copies. One is from a bank, two from private addresses, and another overseas to Madeira with correct Funchal cds on rear.

c. So their usage seems quite consistent with an issued card.

Just what are Quik/Jonkers listing? Unfortunately, I do NOT have their listing, and so would appreciate scan/s of any relevant items.

**Wayne Menuz** writes: The note on page 20 by Tony Hitchcock implies that the illustration shown is of the proof Cape of Good Hope post card. In fact, what he shows is the issued card. The confusion arises because the Quik/Jonkers catalogue does not picture the issued card, but only two proofs. Their number **PIP** is exactly like the issued card but it has a punch hole at upper left, and most importantly (as anyone can create a punch hole), the card is in vermilion rather than the red of the issued card. The other proof, catalogue number **PIPa**, is the De La Rue produced card that is similar but that has the coat of arms used on the contemporary Great Britain cards, that is, the arms of Britain rather than the arms of the Cape of Good Hope as on the issued cards. The DLR item is actually an essay, not a proof as stated in the catalogue, since a 'proof' by definition is a pre-production printing of all or part of an accepted design, and, of course, the DLR item was not accepted. The Cape decided to have their first post cards produced locally by Saul Solomon & Co. of Capetown.

### Bundespost card with postage due marks. Reply to

**Edy Pockel ** Query November 2011 p22

**Vicki Archard** writes: I feel the red cancelling handstamp for the postage refused reads "CHARGE NOT COLLECTED/X/FRESH LABEL REQUIRED". It certainly does on the examples I have seen/had from GB and EA. The latter are very rare, sort after and can be eye-watering if early and on a presentable cover. My examples are thus 1932 to 1951 but earlier and later are around.

### Articles Noted Recently in the Philatelic Press

"GB Postal Stationery, Postal Labels and Postmarks" John Holman (Gibbons Stamp Monthly May 2012)

"Commonwealth Postal Stationery 2010 - 2011" Geir S r-Reime (Gibbons Stamp Monthly May 2012)

"Foreign Postal Stationery  land - Finland 2010 - 2011" Geir S r-Reime (Gibbons Stamp Monthly June 2012)

"Postal Stationery Matters" Peter van Gelder (Gibbons Stamp Monthly June 2012)

"Private Letter Cards" Michael Lockton (Gibbons Stamp Monthly July 2012)

"Foreign Postal Stationery France - New Caledonia 2010 - 2011" Geir S r-Reime (Gibbons Stamp Monthly July 2012)

"GB Postal Stationery, Postal Labels and Postmarks" John Holman (Gibbons Stamp Monthly August 2012)

"The Great Britain 1948 Olympic Games Air Letter" Peter Jennings (Gibbons Stamp Monthly August 2012)

"Foreign Postal Stationery Norway - Vatican City 2010 - 2011" Geir S r-Reime (Gibbons Stamp Monthly August 2012)

"Like Clockwork - Switzerland Pro Patria Issues" David Hope (Stamp Magazine August 2012)

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