



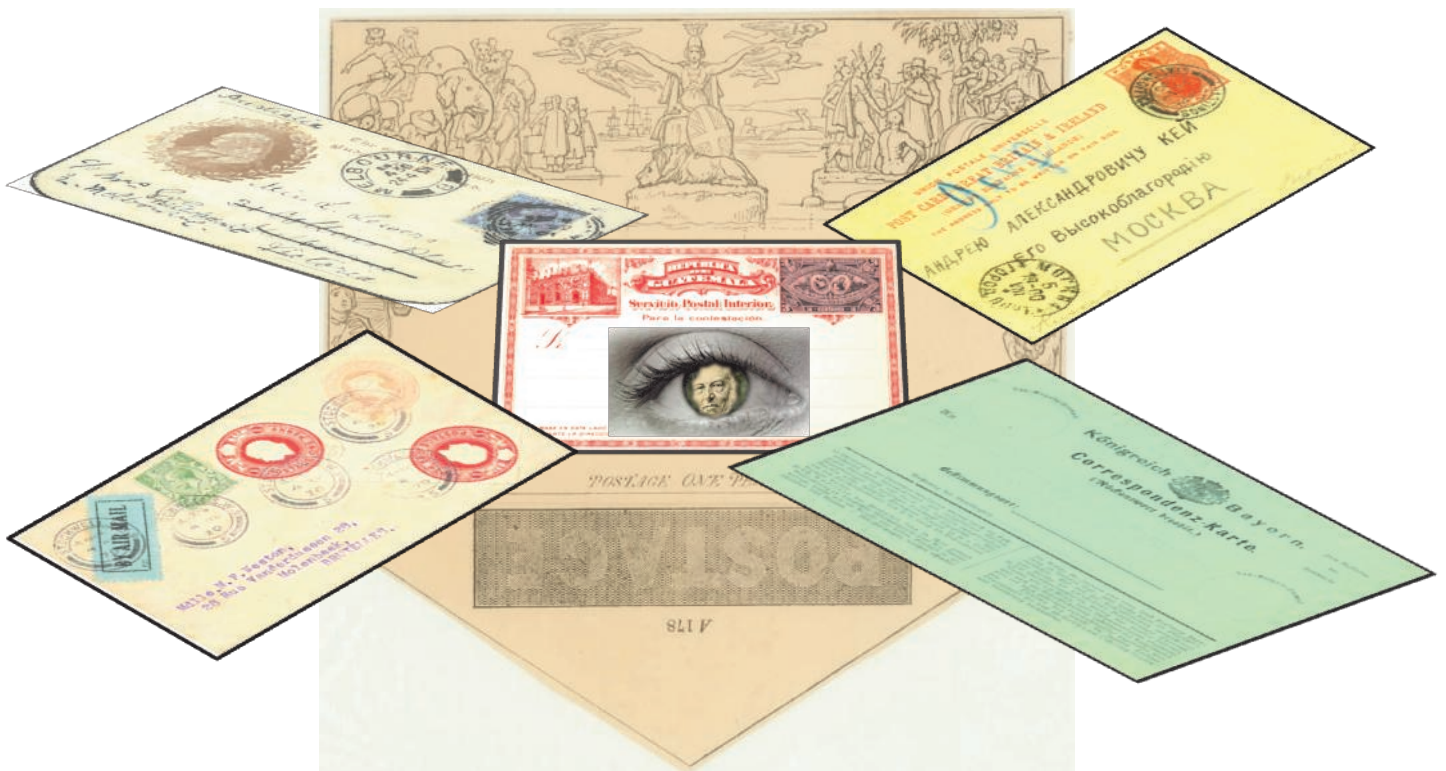
THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 21, No. 4 November 2013
(Serial number 68)

1992 The Postal Stationery Society 2013
21 YEARS

Joint Meeting with the Great Britain Philatelic Society

*On Saturday 16 November 2013
At the Royal Philatelic Society, London.*



16 Displays by Members of the Postal Stationery Society



**Thursday
5th December**



**The Seymour Banchik
Collection**

of

**GB, QV, Newspaper
Wrappers, Proofs, Essays,
Unusual Usages,
Destinations etc.**



For further information, please
contact James Grimwood-Taylor,
Bob Unwin or Joseph Iredale.

Consignments welcome for our
March and June 2014 auctions.



Ph: (44)01332 250970

Email: stamps@cavendish-auctions.com

Fax: (44)01332 294440

Cavendish House, 153 - 157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY.

www.cavendish-auctions.com

1992 *The Postal Stationery Society* 2013

21 YEARS

Joint Meeting with the Great Britain Philatelic Society

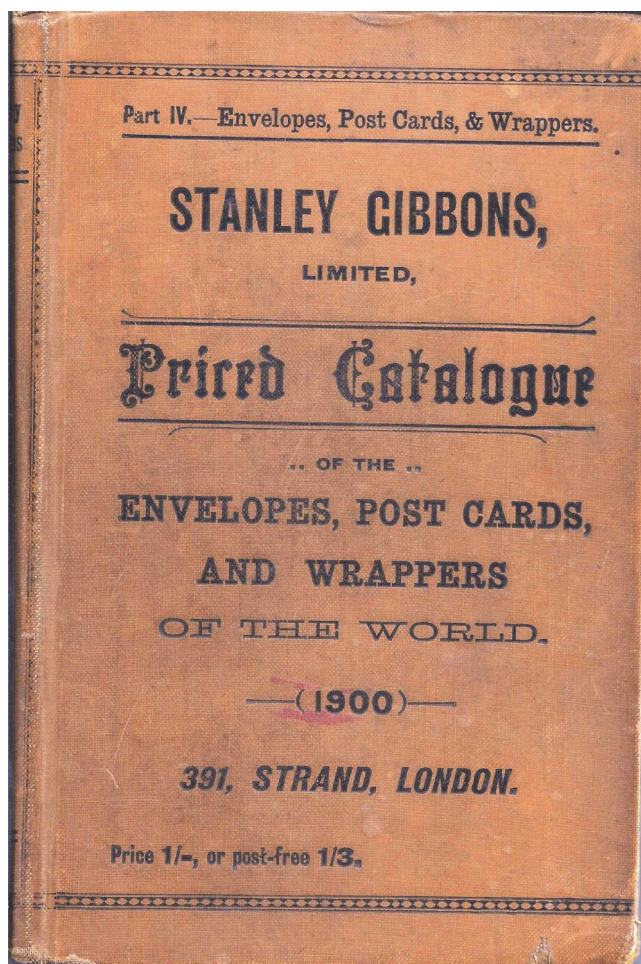
Words of Welcome

It is my privilege as the current Chairman of the Postal Stationery Society to welcome members of the Great Britain Philatelic Society and the PSS to today's meeting. The displays have been organised so as to try and show the full extent, variety and style of stationery issued throughout the world and not solely focused on Great Britain. In the Victorian era there was strong initial interest in postal stationery collecting, with new issues being included in Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal, although this waned in the late 19thC. There became a trend for pre-printed albums which only contained spaces for 'cut-out' squares of the stationery stamp and perhaps a major contribution to the loss of interest in stationery collecting occurred when Stanley Gibbons stopped producing their catalogues of world stationery. Their last separate 'Priced Catalogue of the Envelopes, Post Cards and Wrappers of the World' was issued in 1900 and after that date, British collectors had no significant point of reference.

Whilst some collecting of stationery continued, it was often considered as a 'cinderella' of philately. In some

countries, such as America, cut squares became the preferred method of collecting as they suited albums better. During the 20thC however, collectors began to understand better the potential of postal stationery collecting and the opportunities for both general and specialised collections. Collectors began to look at alternative forms of philately as opposed to an increasingly detailed study of stamps. More specialised catalogues became available (such as Kessler for aerogrammes) which helped promote the hobby. In Britain a great boost to collector awareness was achieved with the publication of the reference book *British Postal Stationery* by Dr Alan Huggins in 1970.

A stationery society was first formed in Great Britain in the 1950s which included a number of leading philatelists – including Robson Lowe - but failed to keep going and closed after a few years. However, a number of enthusiastic collectors met at the Union Jack Club in London in September 1992 and a new society was formed which has gone from strength to strength and we can now celebrate our 21st anniversary. Numerous specialised country catalogues of stationery have now been produced to guide and aid the collector; including a new *Simplified British Postal Stationery* catalogue published by Alan Huggins and Colin Baker in 2007.



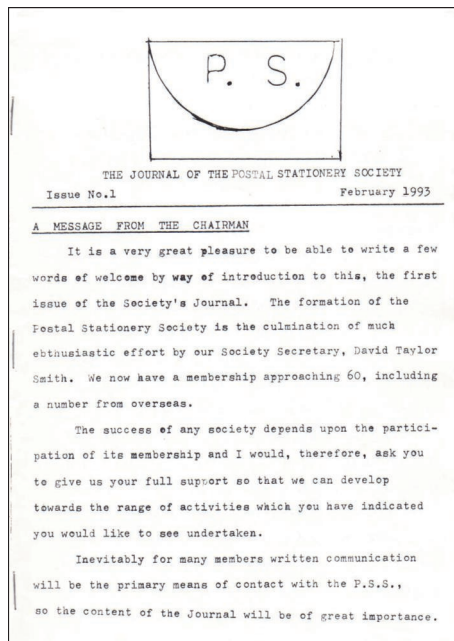
The Postal Stationery Society however is for collectors of worldwide postal stationery and encompasses and encourages collecting of all countries, eras and types. We hope that today's displays will show the breadth and potential of postal stationery and the enjoyment that can be obtained from its collecting.

Neil A Sargent

The Postal Stationery Society

The current Postal Stationery Society was formed in 1992, and although it shares the same name as the former Society of 1941, it is not connected with it in any way.

The inaugural meeting of the current Postal Stationery Society was held at the Union Jack Club in London on 26th September 1992 at which 9 members were present. It was agreed that two meetings would be held each year in London, in the spring and autumn. At this meeting, the Society's Chairman, Secretary and Editor were appointed, leaving the positions of Treasurer and Auctioneer to be filled later. By the end of 1992 the Society had nearly 60 members, based in the UK and overseas.



February 1993 The current Society's first issue of its Journal in 1993, showing how far we have developed since then.

In the following February the first Journal was distributed to members, with the title "P.S.", standing for Postal Stationery. It consisted of a 20 page typewritten A5 booklet and contained the names and collecting interests of all 57 paid up members, plus articles on Early South African Postal Stationery and Japanese Newspaper Wrappers.

In the beginning the Society's Journal was issued only twice a year. In 1995 the twice yearly Journals were supplemented with an annual summer newsletter giving details of the society's meetings and other relevant activities. In 1999 the newsletter was incorporated into a third issue of the Society's Journal which was distributed in the summer months. Two years later, in 2001, the format of the Journal was changed to A4 to allow illustrations to be shown full size and to avoid the necessity of rotating larger illustrations through 90^o.

A change of Editor took place in 2002 and the following year the number of Journals per year was increased to four, which is still the annual number issued today. Until the beginning of 2011 all Journals had been printed in a single colour, but with the February 2011 Journal, a decision was made to produce the Journal in full colour and this has continued ever since.

Ever since its first formal meeting in 1993, the Society has continued to hold two meetings a year in London. At each spring meeting, the morning has always been devoted to a display of postal stationery of an international standard, which has been followed in the afternoon by smaller displays from other members. The Society's AGM takes place at the autumn meeting, followed by an auction of postal stationery material from around the world.

Meetings are also held annually at Swinpex, the major one-day stamp fair and philatelic event in June, organised by the Swindon Philatelic Society. The first of these took place on 8th June 2002 and they have been a regular event in the Society's calendar ever since.

Auctions of postal stationery material run by the Society have been held every year. At first only one auction took place at the autumn meeting following the AGM, but later, with more material being offered for sale, two auctions a year were held. This is still the case, with the first auction being for postal bidders only, and the second auction being held at the autumn meeting in London, open to both room and postal bidders.

The Society also conducts two competitions a year. The first is a 16 page competition on any subject with a postal stationery theme and is intended to be a springboard for those wishing to enter competitions at a national and international level. It is known as the Tony Chilton Competition. Tony Chilton was the Society's auctioneer until his untimely death in 2002 and the 16 page competition was named in his memory. The second competition is a One Page competition held immediately after the Society's AGM in the autumn. This is a much more low key competition, intended to be fun rather than serious. It is restricted to one sheet on any postal stationery subject, and is judged by the members present at the meeting. Both competitions are supported with trophies that are kept by the winning member for 12 months.

The Society holds a library of books and catalogues on postal stationery which members may borrow, and in the past has issued a number of monographs on various postal stationery issues. It has also had two of H Edgar Weston's booklets reprinted on the use of stamps cut from British postal stationery and his run-ins with the Post Office. The Society was also the joint publisher with the Great Britain Philatelic Society of the catalogue 'Collect British Postal Stationery (2007)'.⁽¹⁾

⁽¹⁾ Foolscap and quarto are old fashioned paper sizes, replaced in the 1970s by the metric paper sizes in the A, B and C ranges. We are now used to using A4 (297 x 210mm), but in the 1940s foolscap was 330 x 203mm (13" x 8") and quarto was (11" x 8½")

CHRONOLOGY OF ISSUE OF PRESTAMPED STATIONERY UP TO 1879

ENVELOPES 1838 - 79	
1837	Proposal by Rowland Hill and Post Office Commissioners Report on London District Post
1838	NEW SOUTH WALES - SYDNEY (STO) + LETTER SHEETS - LOCAL USE
1840	GREAT BRITAIN (Houses of Parliament + Mulready) + LETTER SHEETS (Mulready)
1841	GREAT BRITAIN (Embossed)
1844	GREAT BRITAIN LETTER SHEETS (Embossed)
1845	FINLAND:
1845	RUSSIA (St. Petersburg) - LOCAL USE
1846	RUSSIA (Moscow): + LETTER SHEETS (St. Petersburg) - LOCAL USE
1846	SWITZERLAND (Geneva) - LOCAL USE
1847	THURN & TAXIS (Stuttgart) - LOCAL USE
1848	RUSSIA
1849	HANOVER: RUSSIA ZEMSTVO (Kazan, Kiev, Odessa) -LOCAL USE
1850	FINLAND LETTER SHEETS (STO)
1851	PRUSSIA
1853	BREMEN: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
1855	BRUNSWICK: GREAT BRITAIN (STO) + LETTER SHEETS (STO)
1856	MECKLENBURG - SCHWERIN
1857	CEYLON: HANOVER : INDIA
1858	BADEN
1859	POLAND (Warsaw) - LOCAL USE: SAXONY
1860	CANADA
1861	AUSTRIA: LOMBARDY- VENETIA: OLDENBURG: THURN & TAXIS
1862	MAURITIUS: WÜRTTEMBERG
1863	LUBECK
1864	MECKLENBURG - STRELITZ
1865	DENMARK:
1866	HAMBURG: URUGUAY
1867	BRAZIL: SWITZERLAND: TRANSVAAL
1868	GERMANY NORTH POSTAL DISTRICT
1869	BAVARIA: TURKEY: VICTORIA + (STO)
1870	NEW SOUTH WALES
1871	HUNGARY
1872	GERMANY + (STO): NORWAY: SWEDEN
1873	BELGIUM: CHILE: JAPAN
1874	BAVARIA (STO): MEXICO
1875	GUATEMALA: HELIGOLAND
1876	ARGENTINA: NETHERLANDS
1877	DANISH WEST INDIES: HYDERABAD: IRAN
1878	DUTCH EAST INDIES
1879	PORTUGAL

WRAPPERS 1838 - 1879	
1838	NEW SOUTH WALES - SYDNEY LOCAL USE
1860	UNITED STATES
1864	NEW SOUTH WALES
1868	GERMANY NORTH POSTAL DISTRICT
1869	VICTORIA
1870	CEYLON: GREAT BRITAIN + (STO): ROMANIA
1871	GERMANY: SWITZERLAND
1872	AUSTRIA: DENMARK: HUNGARY: WÜRTTEMBERG
1874	BAVARIA
1875	CANADA: GUATEMALA: JAPAN
1878	ARGENTINA: HELIGOLAND: NEW ZEALAND
1879	URUGUAY

POSTCARDS 1869 - 1879	
1869	AUSTRIA: HUNGARY
1870	BADEN (F): BAVARIA (F): FRANCE (F): GERMANY NORTH POSTAL DISTRICT (F): GREAT BRITAIN: LUXEMBOURG (F): SWITZERLAND: TURKEY (F): WÜRTTEMBERG
1871	BELGIUM: CANADA: CHILE (F): DENMARK: FINLAND: HELIGOLAND (F): NETHERLANDS + (F)
1872	CEYLON: CHILE: GREAT BRITAIN (STO): NORWAY: RUSSIA + (F): SWEDEN: WÜRTTEMBERG (STO)
1873	AUSTRIAN LEVANT: BAVARIA: GERMANY + (STO): JAPAN: NEWFOUNDLAND: ROMANIA: SERBIA: SHANGHAI - LOCAL USE: SPAIN: UNITED STATES
1874	DUTCH EAST INDIES: ITALY: JAPAN: LUXEMBOURG: REUNION (F) 1875 GUATEMALA: HELIGOLAND: NEW SOUTH WALES: URUGUAY (F)
1876	BAVARIA (STO): CURACAO: FRANCE -COLONIES (F): GREECE: GUADELOUPE (F): NEW ZEALAND: SURINAM: VICTORIA
1877	DANISH WEST INDIES: HYDERABAD: JAMAICA + (F)*: NETHERLANDS ANTILLES + (F): IRAN: SOUTH AUSTRALIA: SURINAM (F): TURKEY
1878	ARGENTINA: AZORES: CAPE OF GOOD HOPE: CUBA: FRANCE: MADEIRA: NICARAGUA: PHILIPPINES: PORTUGAL: PUERTO RICO: URUGUAY
1879	BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA: BRITISH GUIANA: BRITISH HONDURAS: BULGARIA: DOMINICA: EGYPT: GOLD COAST: GRENADA: HONG KONG (F): INDIA: ICELAND: LAGOS: MAURITIUS + (F): MEXICO (F): MONTSERRAT: NEVIS: St CHRISTOPHER: STRAITS SETTLEMENTS: TRINIDAD + (F): WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ASSOCIATED SERVICES 1865 - 1879	
1865	BRUNSWICK - MONEY ORDERS; HANNOVER - MONEY ORDERS;
1866	HAMBURG - MONEY ORDERS; WÜRTTEMBERG - MONEY ORDER CARDS
1867	SWITZERLAND - MONEY ORDERS: WÜRTTEMBERG - MONEY ORDER ENVELOPES
1870	GREAT BRITAIN - TELEGRAPH FORMS: HUNGARY - MONEY COLLECTION FORMS
1871	AUSTRIA - MONEY COLLECTION CARDS: HUNGARY - MONEY ORDER CARDS
1872	GREAT BRITAIN - TELEGRAPH CARDS
1873	HAMBURG - MONEY ORDER ENVELOPES: HUNGARY - TELEGRAPH CARDS
1874	BAVARIA - MONEY ORDERS; WÜRTTEMBERG - PARCEL POST CARDS
1875	AUSTRIA - TELEGRAPH ENVELOPES: AUSTRIA - PRINTED MATTER POSTCARDS:
1877	GREAT BRITAIN - CERTIFICATES OF POSTING
1878	GREAT BRITAIN - REGISTRATION ENVELOPES
1879	JAMAICA - TELEGRAPH FORMS

*Joint Meeting of the Postal Stationery Society and the
Philatelic Society of Great Britain
16th November 2013*

Order of the Displays:

Morning

First session 11.00am

- Alan Huggins - The Early Development of Postal Stationery 1838 to 1880*
Keith Hanman - Sierra Leone
Sam Barkley - The Irish Question

Second session 12.00noon

- Iain Stevenson - Aspects of Canada*
Colin Breddy - GB Thinking Outside the Box
Colin Baker - GB Stationery used abroad

Afternoon

Third Session 2.00pm

- George King - 21st Century Irish Post Office Postcards*
John Barker - Reply Paid Stationery
Peter O'Keeffe - Penny Red Foreign Rate Postcards

Fourth Session 2.45pm

- Victoria Archard - East African Postal Stationery, Over 100 Years of Change*
Mike Smith - King Edward VII Orange River Colony

Fifth Session 3.30pm

- Neil Sargent - Ottoman Empire 1914 Round Stamp*
Michael Lockton - Great Britain Private Lettercards

Sixth Session 4.15pm

- Maurice Buxton - King George VI Stamped to Order*
Edward Caesley - Letters Received by Stamp Dealers
Alan Huggins - Mistakes in the Production of Postal Stationery "Murphy & Co." Stationery Contractors to the Post Office

THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL STATIONERY

Alan Huggins

Of the four proposals for prepaying postage put forward by Rowland Hill in his 1837 pamphlet, three, namely stamped covers, stamped envelopes and stamped paper, three were forms of postal stationery where the stamp image is printed directly onto the postal item.

Although Sydney in New South Wales had previously issued postal stationery for local use in November 1838. Great Britain was the first country in May 1840 to issue postal stationery for general use, the Mulready envelopes and letter sheets, The Mulready design proved unpopular and was progressively replaced in 1841 and 1844 by postal stationery with embossed stamps which subsequently served as the model for many other countries.

PRICES OF STAMPS.
At a **POST OFFICE**—Labels, 1d. and 2d. each. Covers, 1d. and 2d. each.
At a **STAMP DISTRIBUTOR**, as above, or as follows:—
Halfpenny, or 2d. Penny Covers, 1d. 2. 4.—Penny Envelopes, 1d. 1. 0.
Quarterpenny, or 1d. Twopenny Covers, 1d. 1. 4.—Twopenny Envelope, 1d. 1. 10.
As the **PAINT OFFICES** in London, Dublin, and Edinburgh, as above, or as follows:—
1 Penny, or 2d. Penny Covers, 1d. 7. 0.—Penny Envelopes, 1d. 6. 0.
1 Penny, or 2d. Twopenny Covers, 1d. 3. 6.—Twopenny Envelopes, 1d. 2. 6.

W. MULREADY, S.A. J. H. THOMPSON.

POSTAGE ONE PENNY.

POSTAGE

A 254

RATES OF POSTAGE.—INLAND LETTERS not exceeding half an ounce, are charged one penny.
Exceeding half an ounce, but not exceeding 1 ounce, twopenny.
1 ounce " " 3 ounces, fourpenny.
2 ounces " " 3 ounces, sixpenny.
And so on an additional twopenny for every additional ounce. With but few exceptions the weight is limited to 16 ounces. Unstamped Letters are charged double postage on delivery. These indistinctly stamped, double the amount of such insufficiency.

COLONIAL LETTERS. If sent by packet, twelve times; if by private ship, eight times, the preceding rates. **FOREIGN LETTERS.** The packet rates are two various to be understood here. The ship rates are the same for foreign as for Colonial Letters. As respects both Foreign and Colonial Letters, the weight is no restriction as to weight. All sent outwards with few exceptions in no instance are to exceed 16 ounces; and those sent by private ship must be marked "Ship Letter" stamp; It is **REQUIRED** that all Letters may be fully and locally addressed, and posted as early as convenient. Also that whatever kind of stamp may be used, it may invariably stand above the address and towards the right hand side of the Letter.

Mulready Letter-Sheet

1869 saw the issue by Austria of the first pre-stamped postcards an innovation which was rapidly adopted on a worldwide basis. Others types of postal stationery include pre-stamped wrappers, reply paid postcards and letter cards. In addition pre-stamped stationery was produced for a number of associated services such as registration, certificates of posting, money orders and telegraph forms and cards. Some countries have issued postal stationery specifically for use in pneumatic postal systems, for express delivery, for military use or for transmission by air mail. The last two developments led to the return of letter sheets, which had been almost entirely discontinued, in the form of air letters or aerogrammes.

Besides producing postal stationery for sale at post offices, a number of postal administrations provided a stamping to order service whereby paper and card supplied by the public could be submitted for stamping, and this provides a very interesting additional area of interest to collectors.



Envelopes with Embossed Imprints



Earliest Prestamped Postcard

Tables 1- 4 (on p6) show the chronology of the issue of postal stationery items up to 1879 the year of the formation of the Universal Postal Union, after which the use of postal stationery became progressively even more widespread. The items selected for illustration serve to provide a glimpse into the world of postal stationery which because the individual items are produced for a specific tariff or service they have strong cross links to postal history. As with adhesive stamps, in recent years the use of pre-stamped stationery has drastically declined because of competing methods which enable postage on mail to be privately pre-printed prior to entry into the postal system.



Formula Postcard 1879



Pneumatic Post



Wrappers

Certificate of Posting.


* Here insert Letter, Newspaper, or Book Packet.

A* _____ not Registered, addressed as under has been posted at this Office _____

Address in full: _____

Date Stamp: _____

G & S [404] 15,000 10/77 [See Instructions at back.]



Retour Recepisse för Finland

I dag emottagit ett _____ bref ifrån _____

innehållande _____

den _____ 18 _____

Postförvaltare åliger att efter erhållen underskrift af emottagaren, återsända receptiset till afsändningsorten med först afgående post, för att afsändaren tillställas.

Certificates of Posting

Abchnitt.
Vofu-Aufgabekampet.

Königreich  Bayern.

Post-Anweisung

auf die Summe von _____ Mark _____ Pfennig

Zu wiederholen (die Mark in Buchstaben)

_____ Mark _____ Pf.

An _____

eingezahlt von _____
(Name, Wohnort und Wohnung
Straße u. Hausnummer
des Abfenders)



Money Order Form

P. Tp. Ny. sz. 17. **Posta-takaréklap.**

A levéljegyek felragasztására szánt hely.

A postahivatal által töltendő ki:

A betétkönyvecske száma: _____

Kiállító hivatala: _____

Hely és kelti bélyegzője azon postahivatalnak, mely a takaréklapot betétül elfogadta.



Post Office Savings Card

KARTE
für ein telephonisches Gespräch im Wiener Lokalverkehr bis zur Dauer von drei Minuten

Verlangte Telephonnummer: _____

Benützt am: _____ Uhr _____ Min. _____ m. _____ mittag

Stempel der Sprechstelle

Unterschrift des Postbeamten: _____

Benützt am: _____ Uhr _____ Min. _____ m.

Telephon-Nr.: _____

Stempel der Sprechstelle

Nummer: _____



Telephone Card

SIERRA LEONE POSTAL STATIONERY

Keith Hanman

In common with many British Empire countries, Sierra Leone, via the Crown Agents, employed De La Rue for their printing of postal stationery. The country issued the full range of material available: postal cards, reply-paid postal cards, envelopes, wrappers, registered letters and air letters. The first British settlement was established in 1787. The Sierra Leone Company was created by an Act of Parliament but this was handed over in 1808 and the area became a Crown Colony. While a British Protectorate was established in August 1896, a Post Office had been in being since 1843, overseas mail was carried by transient shipping. Packet Mail was not carried until 1850 by British ships. The first adhesives were printed by De La Rue in September 1859. Independence came on 27th April 1961

Sierra Leone's first Victorian printing plates were prepared in December 1880 for the 1d (Coast and local use) and 1½d (International) postal cards although a notice in *The Gazette* indicated that they were not on sale until April 1881. Hand-painted essays for both were printed on full card. Reply-paid cards were ordered in 1883 and were issued in February. In October 1892 the rate for the 1½d international card was reduced to 1d with the corresponding internal rate dropping to ½d. Again hand-painted essays were prepared for the new rate and are dated 25.7.93. The colour of the cards varies: the 1d and 1½d reply cards being of a whitish shade while the single cards were printed on buff.

Here it should be pointed out that a good proportion of issued proofs, essays - both hand-drawn and hand-painted and specimens exist in the collections of individuals, with the British Library also maintaining an archive. The main type of specimen was 'Colonial' Type PSD1. Smaller Samuel SL2s were sometimes used to act as a 'sample' guide to Postmasters. Quantities printed of the PSD1 vary from issue to issue but generally they were 750, 727 or 110 up to George V when they changed to 404.

Envelopes showing a 21/k1 blue value tablet were ordered and issued in September 1898 with the 1d carmine value coming later in January 1899 as soon as the Commonwealth Penny Rate was confirmed. Essays are known.

A ½d wrapper was required and this was supplied in September 1898.

The final item in Queen Victoria's reign was the registered letter. These were produced in three sizes (F, G and H2) at the same time as the ½d card, in November 1893, but did not go on sale until March 1894. The registration fee was 2d.

Quantities produced by De La Rue were relatively small, bearing in mind the socio-economic factors then prevalent. The ½d postcard over five printings totalled just over 5,500 items; envelopes about 75,000; wrappers 26,000 and registered envelopes 30,500 in the three sizes.

For King Edward VII, and after the die for the new King's Head has been approved, De La Rue was asked to submit die designs for a new postcard, envelope, wrapper and a registered envelope. The first deliveries of the 1d envelope were despatched to the Colony in March 1902 but there was a considerable hiatus before the remainder of the requisition was sent - December 1902. Hand-painted country and value tablets are known, as are photographic essays. Quantities printed increased quite considerably over this King's reign; 35,000 wrappers and 91,000 registered envelopes of two sizes.

King George V postal stationery followed the established pattern as before, although as there was a considerable delay before the new King's Head was approved, the new items were not available until June 1912. Only one set of essay material has survived to date, three black and white photographic essays for postal cards, marked D1, D2 and D3, the first being endorsed 'Approved 22.11 11'. A rate change occurred after a request by the Governor to the Crown Agents to increase the registration fee on registered letters from 2d to 3d. A proof exists in orange dated 12th and 16th July 1923 but with the incorrect value being shown as 4d and not 3d. (**Fig. 1**) The only other rate change was for an International 1½d postal card; this order was placed in July 1923 and delivered on 1st October 1923

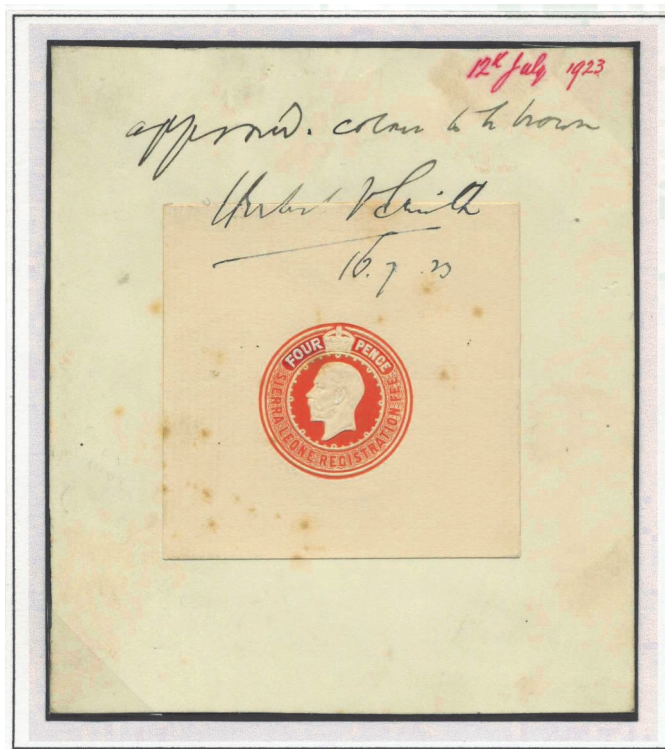
Numbers of items printed were: postal cards 17,000; wrappers 163,500; envelopes 287,000 and registered envelopes 522,000 although printings did run from 1912 to 1934.

Turning to the issues of King George VI there were a number of proofs submitted by De La Rue for a 3d registered envelope embossing die, including three for colour in August 1937. Several of these have appeared in sales over the years and some Crown Agent's proofs reside in the British Library. In September 1937 colour proofs for the 1d and 2d envelope embossing dies were sent to the Crown Agents for approval, *qv*. Later proofs were also submitted for a wrapper and postal cards which are particularly difficult to find.

Sixpenny air letters were first designed in 1950 and the British Library has three proofs on grey paper and one on white paper. Total numbers printed are about 906,000 although the style has changed up to 1955.

During World War II the use of postal stationery items declined with just 12,300 postal cards being printed, wrappers 11,700, envelopes 21,000 but registered envelopes held up with 516,000. Specimens in this period were 397.

During the earlier De La Rue sales, proof and essay material of the Queen Elizabeth II era did not appear in the catalogues, presumably because none existed and therefore are not seen in private collections. There were no wrappers in this period which started with a registered envelope with a 4d fee in February 1954, changing its lettering in July 1955 and then increasing the fee to 6d in May 1958. This was followed by the 1d and 2d postal card in August 1955, air letters in January



George V incorrect 4d Registration Die Proof in orange, The value was changed to 3d before approval.



**George VI Registered Envelope Die Proof.
3d. Blue on thick laid light brown paper.**



Circa 1925 International Reply Coupon imperforate block of four.

1956, a 3d envelope with an embossed head for which three proofs exist, in November 1958 and finally a special 3d internal air letter in May 1960. Printings were quite low for the postal cards and envelopes being 6,000 and 36,000 respectively. Registered envelopes fared better - of all types to 1961 some 485,000 were issued with the 6d air letter deliveries of 2.5 million and perhaps surprisingly 549,000 of the 3d internal. There were no specimens. Post-Independence, postal stationery is still being produced with envelopes, registered envelopes and air letters being at the forefront.

Collecting postal stationery of Sierra Leone is most rewarding as there are many unusual items to collect and research. Leaving aside proofs, dies etc most of the material printed is available at reasonable cost and one can build up a representative collection quite easily. Looking at used material, a postmark study can throw up much of interest and new dates/types are still being found. It is estimated that 90% to 92% of all postmarks emanate from Freetown and its derivatives, so acquiring good 'Village' cancels can be a most absorbing study

Acknowledgements to Philip Beale FRPSL and Frank Walton FPRSL.

THE IRISH QUESTION

Sam Barkley

Philatelic material offered for sale, normally under the factually invalid title 'GB used in Ireland', generally attracts a premium over material from other parts of the country, and as a student of population and demography, I have long wondered whether the quantum of such a premium is a true reflection of the availability of material from Ireland.

In 1840, the first adhesive stamps & postal stationery were issued, and the following year the first census of Ireland was held, in combination with a census in the rest of the UK, a 10 year cycle begun in 1801.

The census of 1841 showed a UK population of 26.9 million, of which 8.2 million (30%) were resident in Ireland so it could be argued that a x3 premium on Irish material is justifiable. Interestingly the population of Scotland in 1841 was 2.6 million (just under 10%), so perhaps a x10 premium on Scottish material is called for!

Of perhaps more relevance is the literacy rate in the various parts of the UK. I have no separate literacy rate for Scotland, but it is stated that in Great Britain '67-75% of the working class had basic literacy' i.e. they could sign their name and recognise letters and numbers, whilst 40%+ could 'read & write adequately'.

In Ireland the literacy figures of the time (1845) are much lower. Only Dublin had more than 50% basic literacy, the province of Leinster had an average of just over 30%, declining to just under 20% in Connaught, with Mayo the lowest county at just 13%. The national average was 28% or little more than one third of that for the rest of the UK.

When the Irish born Royal Academician, William Mulready, reflected on the often maligned and lampooned postal stationery envelopes and lettersheets which he had designed, could he ever have imagined that today they would be one of the most sought after pieces of stationery issued in the United Kingdom and that examples from his home country would add even more value, although not perhaps the x8-9 multiplier the statistics might reflect? **(Fig. 1)**



Fig. 1

That said, the most uncommon piece of UK postal stationery I have ever encountered used from Ireland is the sole example in over 10 years of searching of the QV 1875 1¼d rate Foreign Postcard sent from Portrush in 1878 by an American tourist on a visit to the Giant's Causeway, back to the USA. **(Fig. 2)**

The political developments of the 1910s and early 1920s resulted in the separation of the 26 counties of the Irish Free State from the UK. A registered stationery envelope used on the last day of British Post Office control, 31 March 1922, uprated with an overprinted definitive signalled the beginning of the end of stationery in much of Ireland, albeit usage continued in the Free State officially until late 1924, and unofficially for at least a year thereafter. **(Fig. 3)**

Perhaps ultimately Ireland's historic status as 'the land of saints & scholars' is more appropriate than any material considerations of its philatelic output.



Fig. 2 QV 1875 1½d rate Foreign Postcard sent from Portrush to Kentucky USA

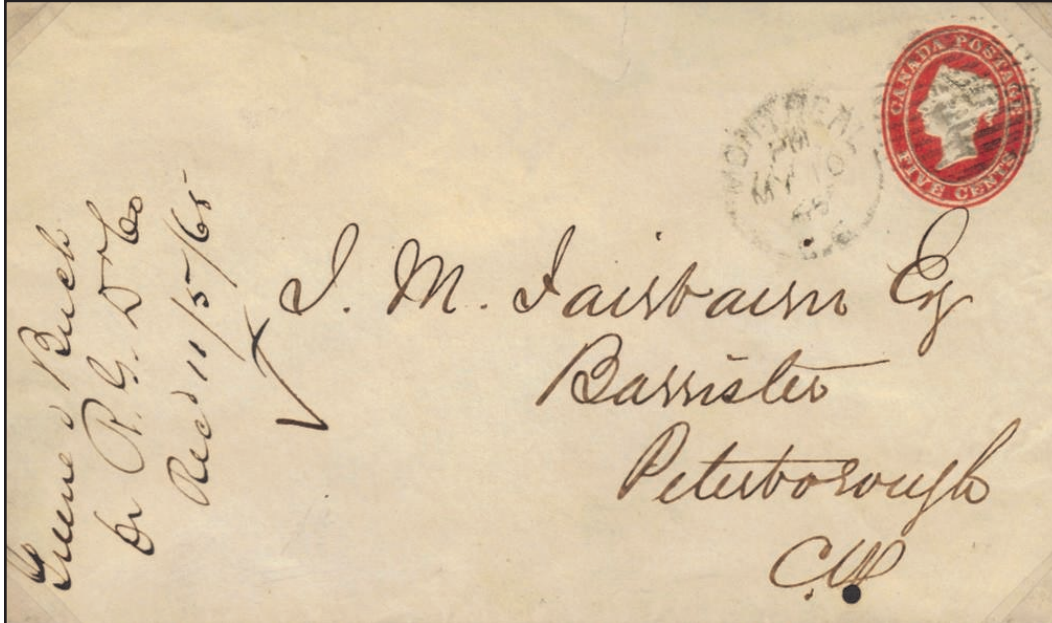


Fig. 3 Registered Stationery Envelope used on the last day of British Post Office Control, 31 March 1922

CANADIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

Professor Iain Stevenson

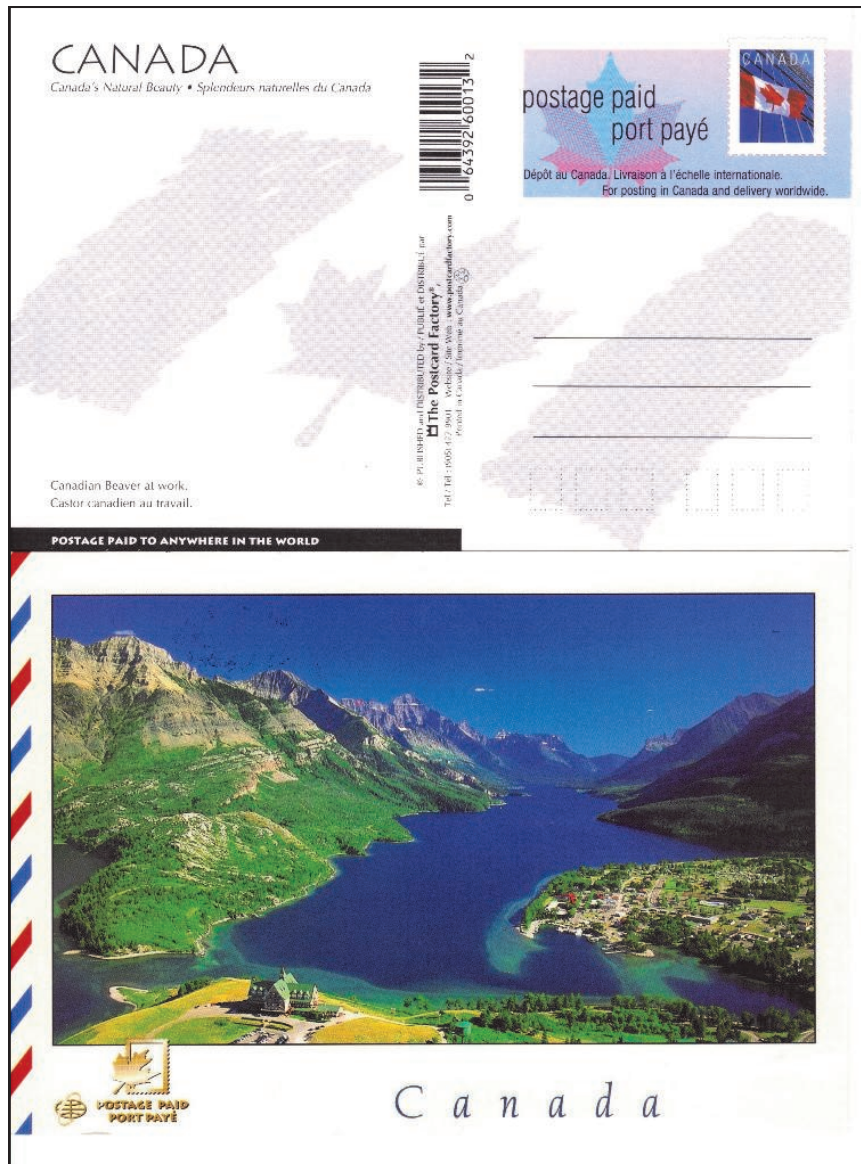
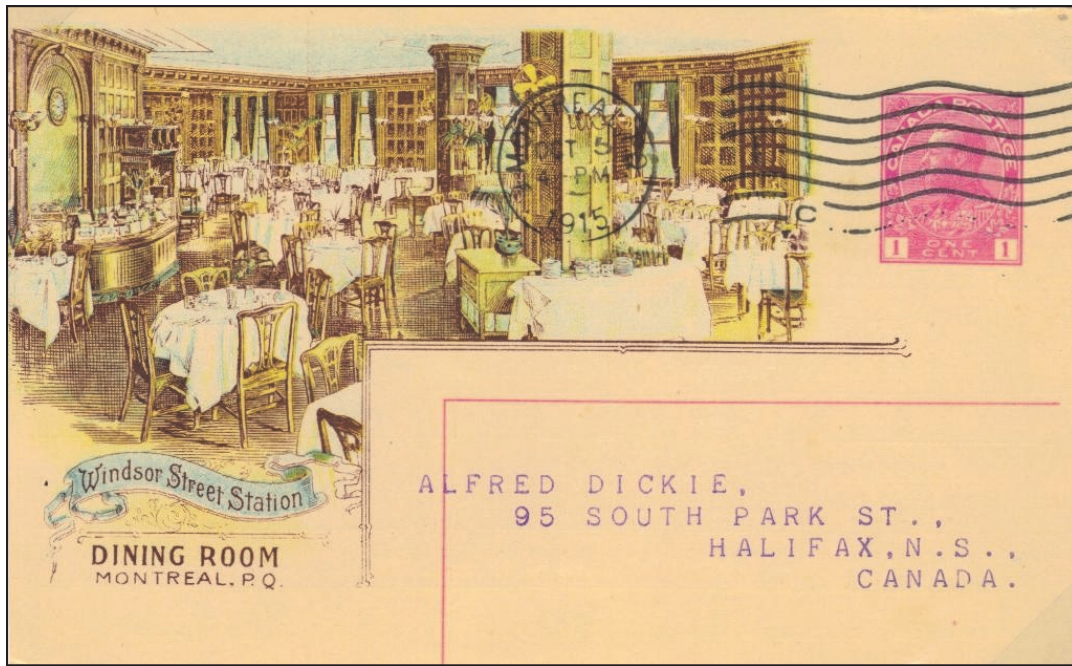
The postal stationery of Canada is diverse and full of interest. It comprises familiar items like postcards, envelopes and lettercards, but also many items unique to the country like election envelopes, railway publicity cards, multi-form advice cards, and reply cards with two different rates. It provides a particularly wide range of advertising cards and envelopes (which are featured here). Many of the early items are more or less uniquely line-engraved, and so are beautiful examples of printing.



This display provides a wide sampling of the range of material available and includes mint and used examples, some of the latter with scarce routings, rates and usages and even a few items from pre-confederation Newfoundland.



Even today, Canada is adding to its fascinating repertoire of postal stationery, with many thousands of the pre-stamped 'Postcard Factory' postcards being issued, so many that not even Canada Post is sure how many there are or where they are issued (or how many are printed). They are apparently very popular with visiting Japanese tourists who have been known to buy up an entire stock of a retail outlet and affix pre-printed sticky labels to send them home. That is apparently where most of the used examples are!



THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX

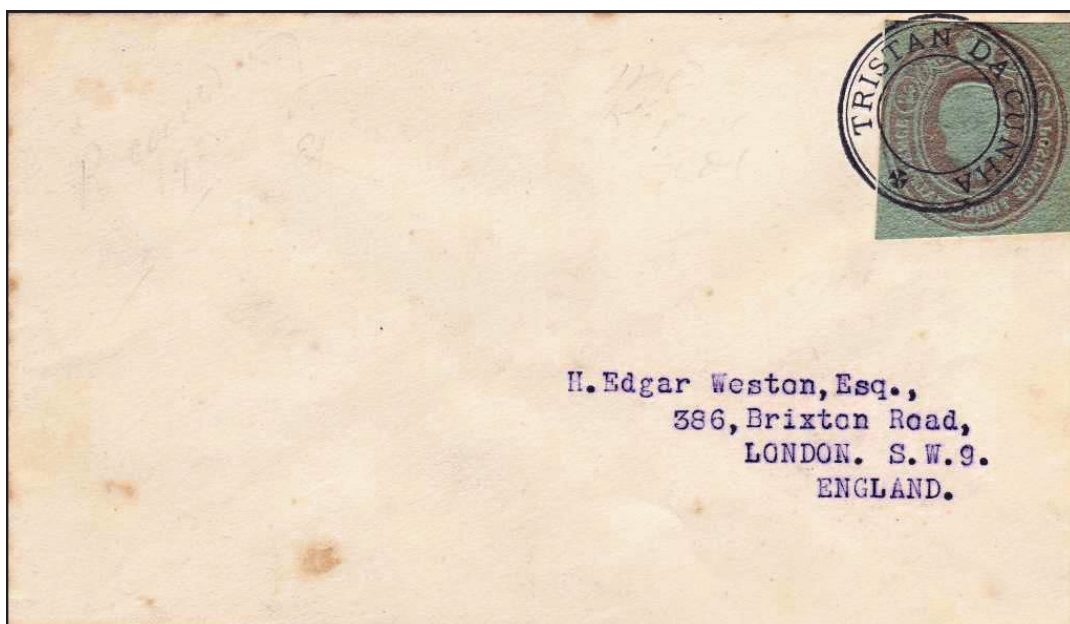
Colin Breddy

Thinking outside the box (*TOTB*) is a metaphor meaning to think differently, unconventionally, or from a new perspective. This phrase, often applied to novel or creative thinking, originated in the USA in the late 1960's but it could certainly have been applied to a number of the innovations that form the basis of the British postal system – without Rowland Hill's *TOTB* moment the whole concept of a prepaid universal penny post with a printed 'receipt' label might never have been born. Would Postal Stationery collectors exist if the embossed stamped material, both official, and more important to this display, stamped to order, hadn't been developed as an extension of this?

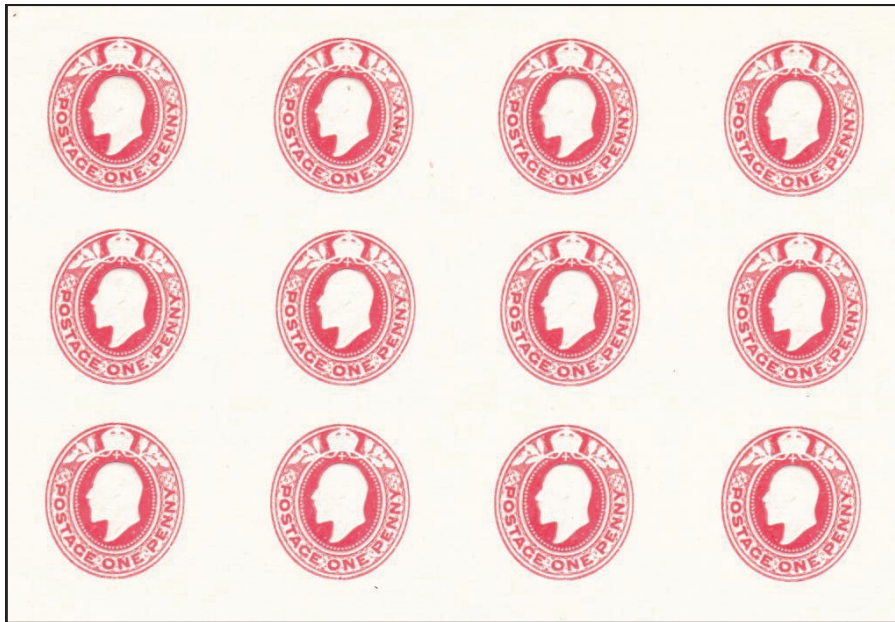
The arrival of postal stationery then gave rise to the problem of what to do with an item if it was spoiled before being posted – I wonder whose *TOTB* moment brought about the first usage of a postal stationery cut-out to pay for postage. At first the Post Office frowned on this – early covers were penalised – but in 1845 a Post Office notice was issued confirming the acceptance of this practice. This was rescinded in 1870 with the arrival of the first pre-paid postcards – a serious loss of revenue being envisaged if large numbers of these were not cancelled properly.



However, crucially to this display, the Post Office Act of August 15th 1904 said, in effect, "The Treasury will allow the use of *embossed* or impressed stamps, *cut out* or otherwise separated from the cover or *other paper, card or thing*, on which the stamp was embossed or impressed, and the Act prohibiting use of such stamps, shall be repealed." (*The paraphrasing and italics are mine*). Maybe for the authorities this was another great *TOTB* moment although I don't think they actually anticipated some of the results. This new regulation once again allowing "cut-outs" to be used for postage, came into force on January 1st 1905.

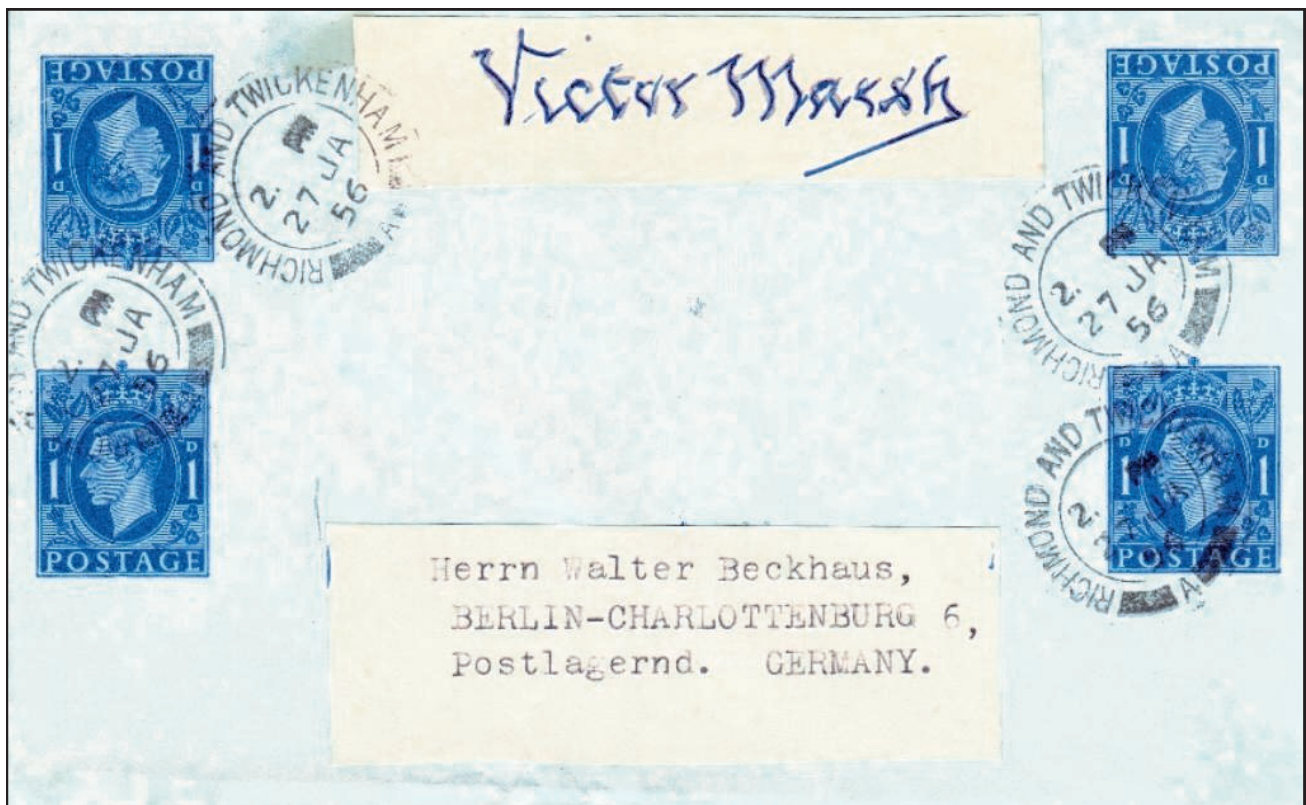


This in turn led to one individual having his great philatelic *TOTB* moment in 1910 – why not have the Post Office produce sheets of embossed stamps which could then be cut up and stuck on envelopes to pay for the postage. Bizarre perhaps but quite within the postal regulations and eventually sheets were printed of all of the embossed KEVII and KGV values to 1/-..



This man was H. Edgar Weston (a.k.a. Victor Marsh). The production of these stamps, which was eventually stopped in late 1915, and their use on envelopes with military as well as local cancellations, and their further use in Tristan da Cunha has always been frowned upon by 'serious' philatelists and they are only listed as a footnote in catalogues. Later KGV letter sheets, printed to his specific layout, are also unlisted.

I hope that this display which traces both the history of these issues and examples of their usage together with a look at both H. Edgar Weston and his alter ego Victor Marsh and their activities will encourage others to join me in 'Thinking outside the box' and agree that this is a 'serious' philatelic subject.



BRITISH POSTAL STATIONERY USED ABROAD

Colin Baker

Although under normal circumstances British postal stationery was not valid in other countries, under certain conditions it could legitimately be used abroad. Probably the most well known item used in this way is the reply paid postcard, which under UPU agreement could be sent back to the UK from any member country, without incurring any additional charges. But there were also other ways in which postal stationery could be properly used in other countries.

In the past, and with the agreement of the local administration, Britain opened its own post offices in foreign countries to handle various types of mail. This was mainly sent outside the host country, but occasionally included mail that was delivered locally as well. In addition, British postal stationery has also been issued or sold to service personnel and used in foreign countries, either internally or to other places.

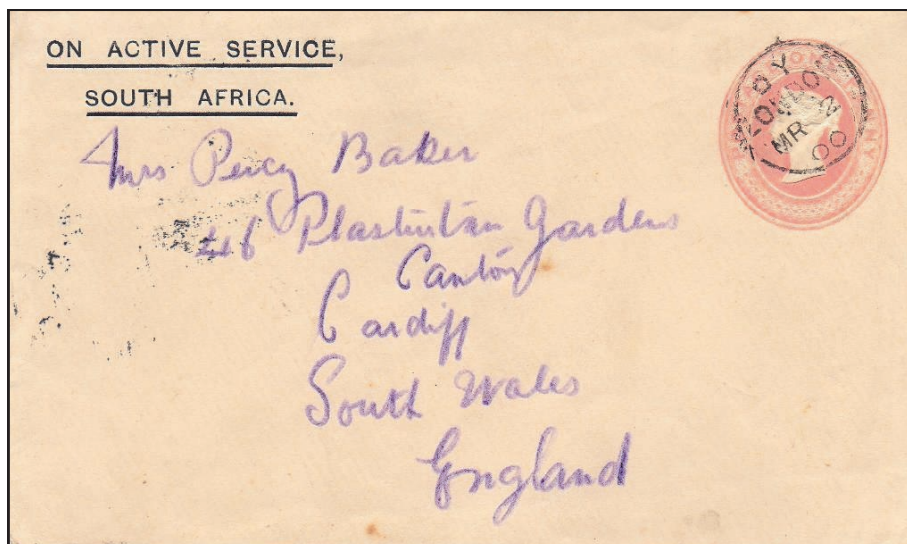


Fig 1 Queen Victoria Penny Pink, used from South Africa, but cancelled in London.

But perhaps the most widespread use of British postal stationery has been the items that were overprinted for use overseas. In some cases this was to show that it was not a British item of postal stationery, but that of another country, since by UPU agreement, the country of issue had to be shown on all stamps and postal stationery that was sent to another country. Thus a British postcard was not valid for use in one of its colonies unless it clearly showed the name of that colony.

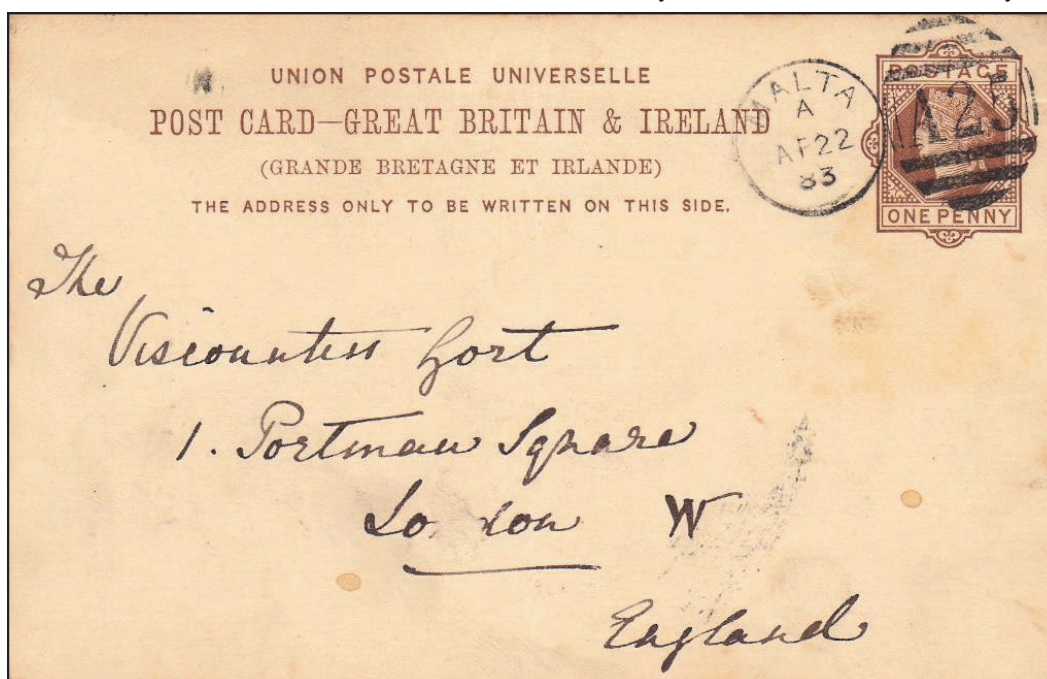


Fig 2 1d foreign rate single postcard used from Malta back to Great Britain.

Postal stationery overprinted in this way was prepared for British Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland Protectorate, Cyprus, Gold Coast, Oil Rivers and Niger Coast, and Zululand.



Fig 3 1923 4½d registration envelope overprinted for use in Bechuanaland Protectorate. Sent to Mafeking at the 2½d international rate.

The other reason for overprinting British postal stationery was to change the currency of stamps and stationery from sterling to that used locally. This was sometimes in addition to the need to include the name of the country in which the stationery was to be used. Prime examples are those items intended for use in British Levant (where currency fluctuations could have allowed stamps and stationery to be bought at a lower price and then exchanged for cash in the UK), or where sterling was not the currency in use, such as in Morocco and the Arabian Gulf.



Fig 4 1½d inland postcard overprinted 4½ piastres for use from the British Post Office, Levant

Overprinting British postal stationery was used as a means of avoiding the unnecessary expense of creating expensive dies and printing plates where only a few hundred items might be needed, or where only the currency was to be changed from Sterling to that used locally.

21st CENTURY IRISH POST OFFICE POSTCARDS

George King

When in 1922 the Irish Free State was created, those parts of the Great Britain General Post Office in Ireland were taken over by the new Government. For a short while they had no option but to carry on using British Stamps and Postal Stationery, and quickly overprinted the stamps. But as soon as possible new stamps and stationery dies were created, by The Royal Mint, and the artwork, progressive proofs etc (for the first Irish stamps, revenues as well as the stationery) from the Royal Mint Archive are now in the British Library. The first, plain, Irish Postcard was issued on 13 September 1924, and for the next 60 years the Irish had a succession of plain postcards, and moved on to NVI cards in 1988.

Suddenly in 1984 the Irish Post Office issued a set of illustrated postcards for St Patrick's Day, and the series continued until 2006, when the Irish press went ballistic: One of the cards had the Ivory Coast flag (actually an upside down Irish flag), instead of the Irish Flag. The card was abruptly withdrawn, and re-issued, corrected within days, and the abrupt departure of a senior officer of An Post has been linked to this error. And that was the end of the annual St Patrick's day cards. In 2000, an extra series of similar St Patrick's Day cards could be ordered from the Internet, so they should only be available used, and can be considered Stamped To Order. The St Patrick's day cards of 2005 were issued in 2 sizes, the smaller ones for machine vending.



There have been other commemorative issues. Oxygene is the (much smaller) Irish version of Glastonbury, and the cards were only sold on site, although a few lucky individuals managed to buy spare cards from the Philatelic Bureau. Most of the Postcards have the year of issue on them. The 2002 set of GPO views were reprinted in 2009, without the 2001 Irish stamps card, but with a drawing of the GPO building. And nothing since.




In 2002, as part of the Irish government's futile campaign to get the British Government to shut down the Sellafield (Windscale) nuclear plant, a pre-written and pre-addressed card was delivered to every household in Ireland. Other similar cards to Prince Charles, and BNFL Chief Executive were also available. I don't know how many sacks of mail were delivered to Downing Street, but several years afterwards, the charity quoted on the cards said they had as yet received no donation.

This card is **your voice**. It is **your opportunity** to help shut down Sellafield, which is a danger to **your life** and the life of **your friends and family**. The postage is paid* All you have to do is sign it and **POST IT ON OR BY THE 19TH APRIL 2002**. All cards will be delivered to the UK together to coincide with the anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster.


NOTE
*The postage of this card for Tony Blair is paid, but **please do** come and buy the cards for Prince Charles & Norman Askew at your Post Office, or at shops or businesses participating in this campaign. All profits from the sale of these cards will go to the Chernobyl Children's Project.

Tony,
Look me in the eye and tell me I'm safe if there's a major incident in Sellafield.
Radiation does not respect borders. Depending on which way the wind blows large areas of my country would be made uninhabitable. Forever.
As it stands, BNFL dump millions of litres of radioactive waste into the Irish Sea everyday.
This is the sixteenth Anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. The world can't afford another, and neither can you. Don't be blind to the danger, Tony. The risks are too great.
Please shut down Sellafield. For all of us.
Signed

Citizen of Ireland.
DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE IRISH PEOPLE BY AN POST. All profits from the sale of this card go to the "Chernobyl Children's Project".



Rt Hon Tony Blair MP,
Prime Minister,
10, Downing Street,
London SW1A 2AA, England.



This postcard is part of a campaign targeting:

- Tony Blair
- Prince Charles
- Norman Askew (the head of British Nuclear Fuels)


asking them to shut down Sellafield.

Tear this postcard off and post it on or by the 19th April 2002.


Tony, Look me in the eye and tell me I'm safe.

Norman,
You know BNFL dump millions of litres of radioactive waste into the Irish Sea everyday.
You know the truth is that we are not safe if a major incident happens at Sellafield.
You know that radiation released into the atmosphere has no borders.
You know if this radiation is carried on the wind large areas of our country would be contaminated. Forever.
No country, no government and no company can afford this risk for profit.
Stop Sellafield now.
Signed

Citizen of Ireland.
DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE IRISH PEOPLE BY AN POST. All profits from the sale of this card go to the "Chernobyl Children's Project".




Norman Askew,
Chief Executive,
BNFL, Hinton House,
Risley, Warrington,
Cheshire WA3 6AS, England.



Tell us the truth.

Charles - wish you were here?
This is how my country could look if there's a major incident at Sellafield.
Depending on which way the wind blows, Dublin, Dundalk, Drogheda and much more could be uninhabitable. Radiation does not respect borders.
Don't wait to find out Charles, please call on your Government to shut down Sellafield.
The risks are too great. As it stands, Sellafield is responsible for dumping millions of litres of radioactive waste into the Irish Sea everyday.
Signed

Citizen of Ireland.
DELIVERED ON BEHALF OF THE IRISH PEOPLE BY AN POST. All profits from the sale of this card go to the "Chernobyl Children's Project".



HRH The Prince of Wales,
St. James Palace, Pall Mall,
London SW1A 1BS,
England.



Greetings from Ireland

For many years, a special overprint of a current postcard, usually the St Patrick's set, has been used with a semi official overprint as a Stampa (The Irish National Stamp Show), advert to members, and an example of one of these is shown.

The display shows the Post Office Issued Postcards this century. There are also some Irish Stamped to Order Postcards, (not shown). I have displayed many of the sets so the stamp, and various designs can be seen. The best catalogue for Irish Postal Stationery is that of the FAI {ForsChungs-und Arbeitsgemeinschaft e V. im Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V.} (German Society of Irish Stamp Collectors).

For GB we only have 6 cards for the 100th anniversary of Scouting, not even available from Post Offices.

REPLY PAID STATIONERY

John Barker

Reply Paid Post Cards

In February 1872 the Württemberg postal authorities issued the first reply paid postcard with an imprinted stamp (Fig. 1). This was a double sized card folded in half with the message card on top and the reply card beneath. Within the same year Netherlands issued a reply paid card but this was folded so that the two halves were hinged along the short edge at the left of the message card (Fig. 2).



Fig. 1

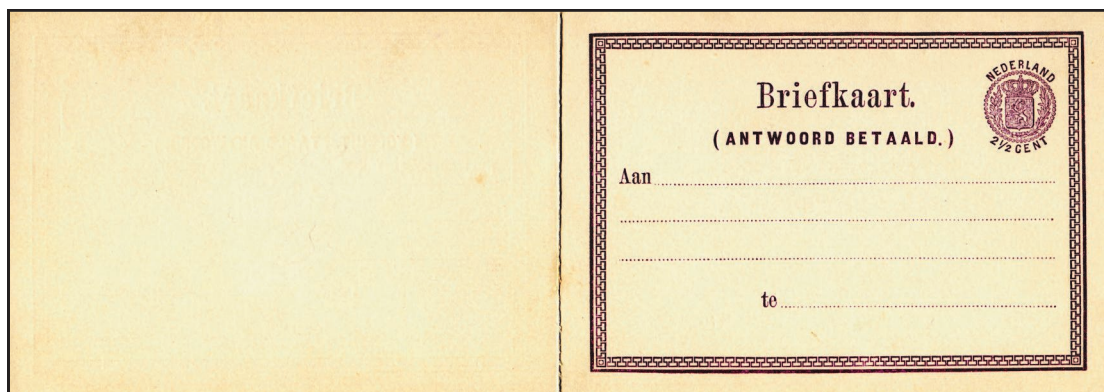
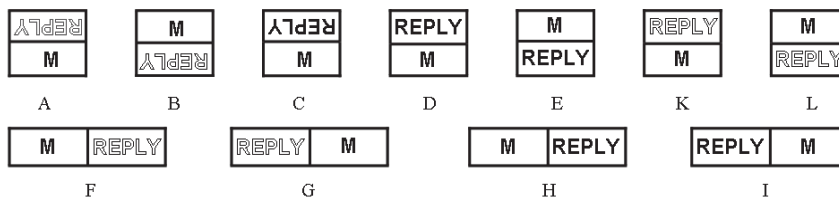


Fig. 2

Format

Many postal authorities commenced the issue reply paid post cards in the 1870s in other formats. Dr. Ascher, in his catalogue of World Postal Stationery, classifies reply paid post cards into 11 different formats (A to L).

Format of Reply Paid Cards as Classified by Dr. Ascher



M = message half

REPLY = reply half printed on the front face of the card.

REPLY = reply half printed on the reverse side of the card.

To aid separation of the two halves, the line of the fold was sometimes scored, perforated or rouletted. A linen strip was sometimes added to prevent accidental separation in the post.

Reply cards for international use

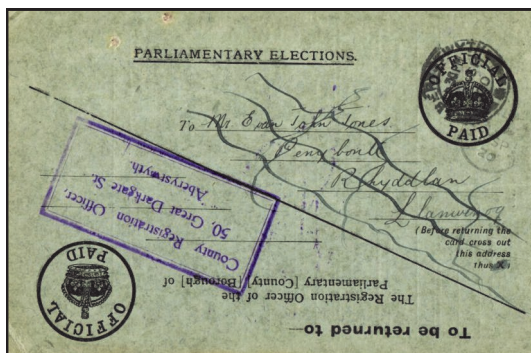
Initially, reply paid cards were only issued for internal use. International use required agreement between participating countries. This was reached in 1879 when 10 countries (Argentina, Belgium, German Empire, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania and Switzerland) agreed to return the reply halves of one another's double cards. In 1885 the U.P.U. in Lisbon passed a resolution requiring all member countries to accept reply paid cards issued by any other member country. The requirement lasted until the Tokyo Conference of 1971.

Symmetry

In a few cases both halves of the double card are identical. However asymmetry is the norm. The two halves of reply cards are generally different so as to distinguish the outgoing message card from the reply portion. The two halves may also differ in many other respects.



Reply Paid Card of Uruguay Format I printed by Waterlow & Sons in 1892



Official Reply Paid 'Single' Card with Diagonally Divided Front to Accommodate Both Message and Reply Address.

Non-postal stationery reply paid cards

Reply paid cards, even for international use, did not have to bear an imprinted stamp. Double cards using adhesive stamps may be found.

Other reply paid postal stationery

Although there was no U.P.U. requirement for any other form of reply paid stationery, such items were issued by some postal authorities:

Reply Paid Lettercards

In 1884 a 1Fr. Lettercard, with a 'reply coupon' attached, was introduced for use in the Paris pneumatic postal system. The first lettercard to include a reply card was issued by Argentina in 1888. This consisted of a normal sized card with a smaller card stapled inside. In 1896 Netherlands issued lettercards in two sizes, the smaller of the two could be enclosed within the larger card to serve as a reply paid card. The first double lettercard was issued by France in 1894. This consisted of a normal sized lettercard with a smaller lettercard attached and folded within. Similar models were adopted by a number of other countries, in particular Portugal and possessions.

Reply Paid Letter sheets

Although these do not exist as post office issues, some were produced for official use by government departments for collecting information such as agricultural returns and stamped to order issues for a variety of uses such as notification of blood donor sessions by the National Blood Transfusion Service.

Reply Paid Envelopes

Although reply paid envelopes as such were never issued, the Swedish Field post introduced envelopes for service personnel with an imprinted 'reply stamp' under the back flap for the recipient to place on the envelope when sending a reply. This was an entitlement to free postage rather than a prepayment of postage and as such not strictly 'postal stationery'. However, at the 1906 U.P.U. conference in Rome, delegates did discuss the possibility of introducing reply paid envelopes but rejected the essays presented at the conference together with the concept of a universal 'world' stamp in favour of the adoption of the British proposal for an **International Reply Coupon**. International Reply Coupons (IRCs) were introduced by all U.P.U. member countries on 1st October 1907 and could be purchased in one U.P.U. member country and enclosed with correspondence to any other member country where they could be exchanged for a single-rate, postage stamp for delivery to a foreign country. The GB post office withdrew IRCs from sale on 12th February 2012.

THE RED PENNY 'FOREIGN RATE' POSTCARDS

Peter O'Keeffe

Although my display is of Great Britain Postal Stationery, it might be called "A Penny All Over the World".



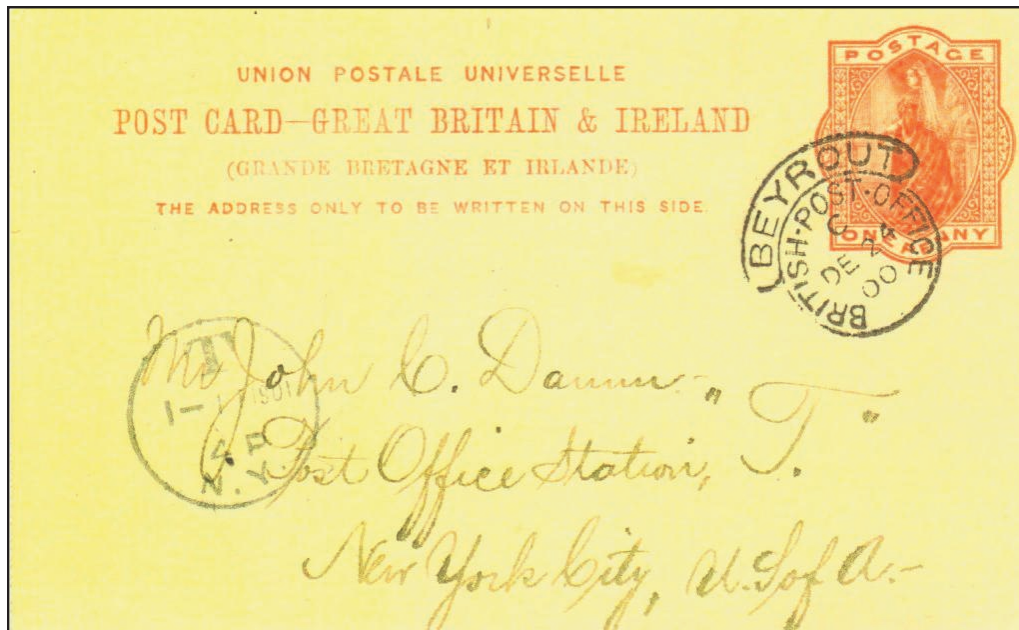
Postcard sent registered post from Manchester to Heidelberg, Germany in April 1898.

I have attempted to put together a collection of items sent to (and sometimes from) many destinations Worldwide. I am showing items from London, Edinburgh, Dublin and Belfast, (and many other towns), but none from Wales. I include used from all the main postal regions of the British Isles during the period 1892 to 1917, plus used from certain British Protectorates. There were two main types of these cards, firstly without and secondly with the Coat of Arms. There are single cards and reply paid cards, various colour shades and they were printed by two different firms over three different reigns. They were also used from Jersey, British Post Offices overseas, and Military Forces Post Offices. Strangely I have never seen any from Wales! I even have one sent by registered post. They have a variety of postmarks of various sizes, including hooded circle cancels, squared circles and time coded marks. I even have one postmarked with a Newspaper canceller, a couple of 'Late Fee' items, and two with 'Censored' marks.



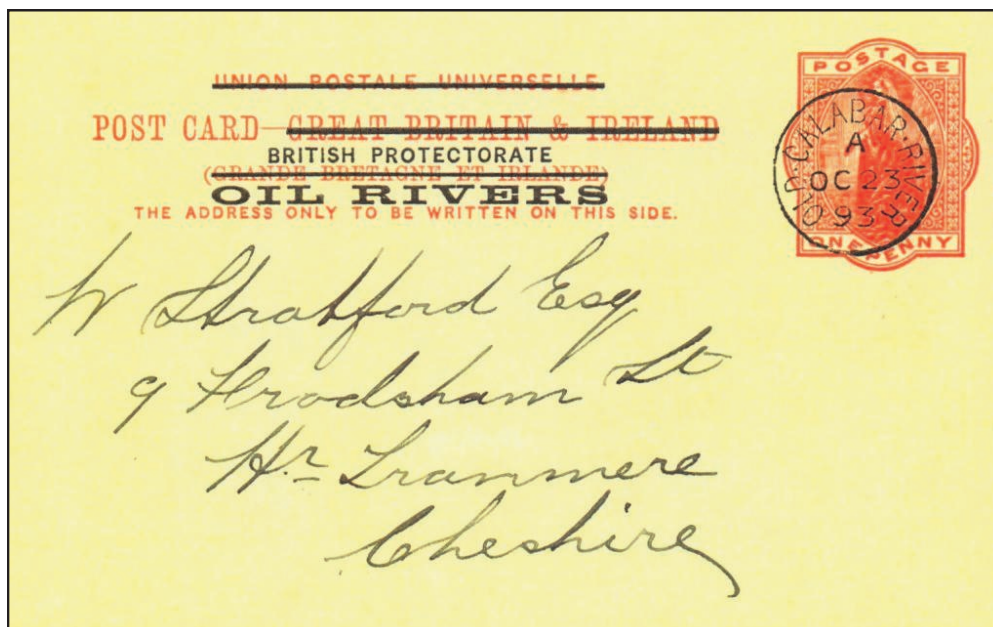
Postcard sent from Hastings (Station Office) to Moscow, Russia in August 1900. This is 'cross written' (in English).

Some business firms added adverts, some just their name & address; I have one printed for and used by the National Provincial Bank, a couple of the reply type cards used by Lloyds of London requesting details of ship's voyages or sinkings, and a couple with 'cross written' messages, thus getting a longer message on a card.



Postcard sent from the British Post Office, Beyrouth, Lebanon, to New York, U.S.A. in December 1900.

These 'Foreign Rate' red cards were only in use during the reigns of Queen Victoria, Edward VII and George V. They are mostly used by business houses, some between personal friends and one or two which are obviously philatelic. I believe they are all Post Office issues, as very few seem to have been printed to order. Some of the items on show were sent to such places as Brazil, Peru, British Guiana, Grenada, St Thomas (Danish West Indies), Guatemala, Mexico, Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Persia, Turkey, Greece, Mauritius, India, Ceylon, Java, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Newfoundland. They were also sent to virtually all European countries, including Latvia & Trieste prior to World War I, (remembering the border changes after that war). Also included are cards overprinted and used from the Niger Coast Protectorate, Oil Rivers and the Levant, plus unused cards prepared for use from British Bechuanaland and Zululand, plus cards sent to World War I Prisoners of War, and two postmarked from Field Post Offices during that war. I also have some cards used in the U.K., and reply cards used from Europe. A reasonable mixture from many parts of the world



Postcard postmarked Old Calabar River, overprinted OIL RIVERS and sent to Cheshire dated October 1893.

EAST AFRICAN POSTAL STATIONERY: OVER 100 YEARS OF CHANGE Victoria Archard

East Africa currently comprises Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania but, since the 1890s, the area has been known by a bewildering variety of names so any study of the postal stationery includes items from:

British East Africa, Uganda, East Africa and Uganda (EA&Ug), Deutsch-Ostafrika (DOA), German East Africa (GEA), Tanganyika, Zanzibar (including French Post Offices), Kenya and Uganda, KUT (Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika), Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Tanzania with the addition, during World War I, of Indian Expeditionary Force (IEF) and Belgian Occupation items.

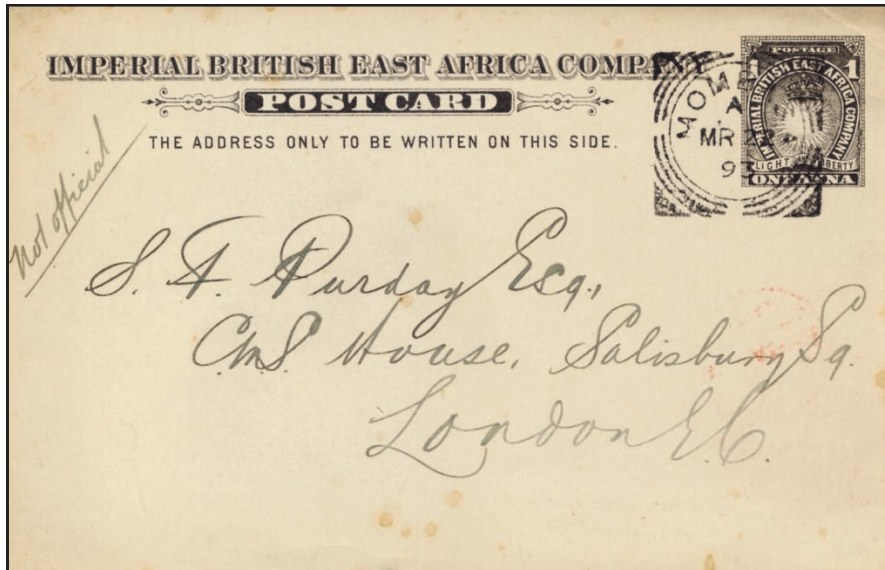


Fig. 1

Most types of stationery were issued at some time in East Africa but only envelopes, first issued in 1893, remained in use a century later when the Sh1/20 Kenya and Sh9/- Tanzania issues were in circulation. Single post cards, also first appearing in 1893 (Fig. 1), lasted nearly as long as a Kenyan 70c card was issued in the late 1980s.

Over the years, the countries in the area often had different needs for postal stationery. No newspaper wrappers were available in peacetime in DOA/GEA/Tanganyika but issues of up to 30,000 each were used in BEA and EA&Ug until about 1920. In Zanzibar, wrappers were issued regularly until 1936 with printing figures of between 30,000 and 57,000 in the 1920s and 30s. Letter cards, however, show the most obvious contrast. Zanzibar issued letter cards from the French Post Office in 1896 until 1904 and then, once again, from 1916 to 1927 when a total of over 80,000 cards of the 5 different values were supplied. On the mainland there was only ever one single example of a letter card which was issued in KUT in 1935. It is possible that letter cards lasted so long in Zanzibar because the last envelope, a scarce watermarked example, was issued in 1917. (Fig. 2)

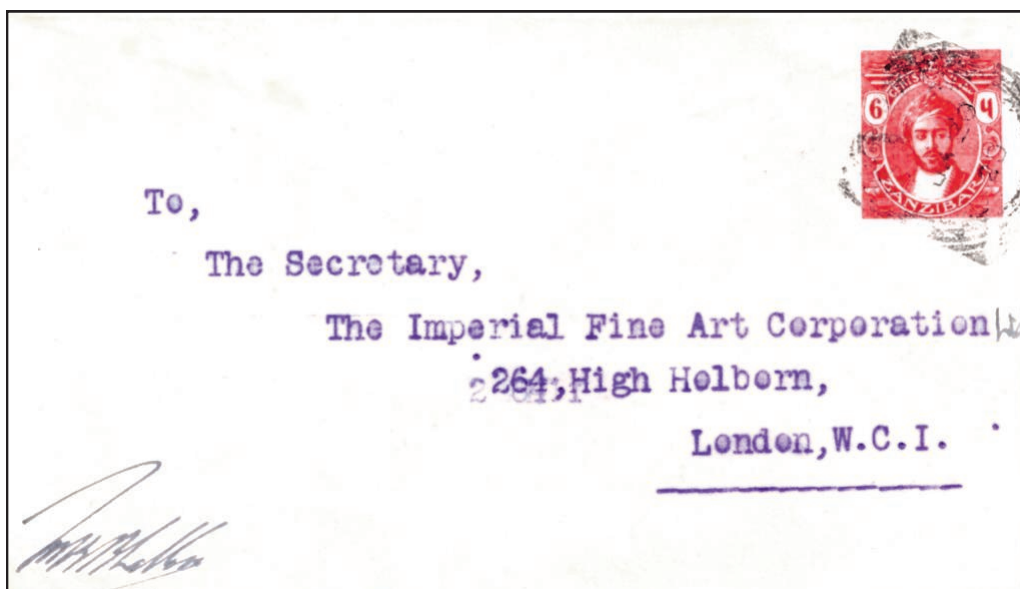


Fig. 2

Registered envelopes were the first items available in East Africa in 1891 and continued to be issued until 1952 in KUT and 1959 in Zanzibar when they were replaced with formula envelopes with no stamp imprint. Formula envelopes had, however, appeared previously in KUT during 1937/8 when special 'unembossed' envelopes (Fig. 3) were printed, apparently for KUT only, by De La Rue (G and H sizes) after the death of King George V. A similar shortage must have occurred during wartime because Indian formula envelopes with the imprint 'H. M. SECURITY PRESS NASIK ROAD' (size 145:89 and 190:113) were in circulation from 1942 to 1944.

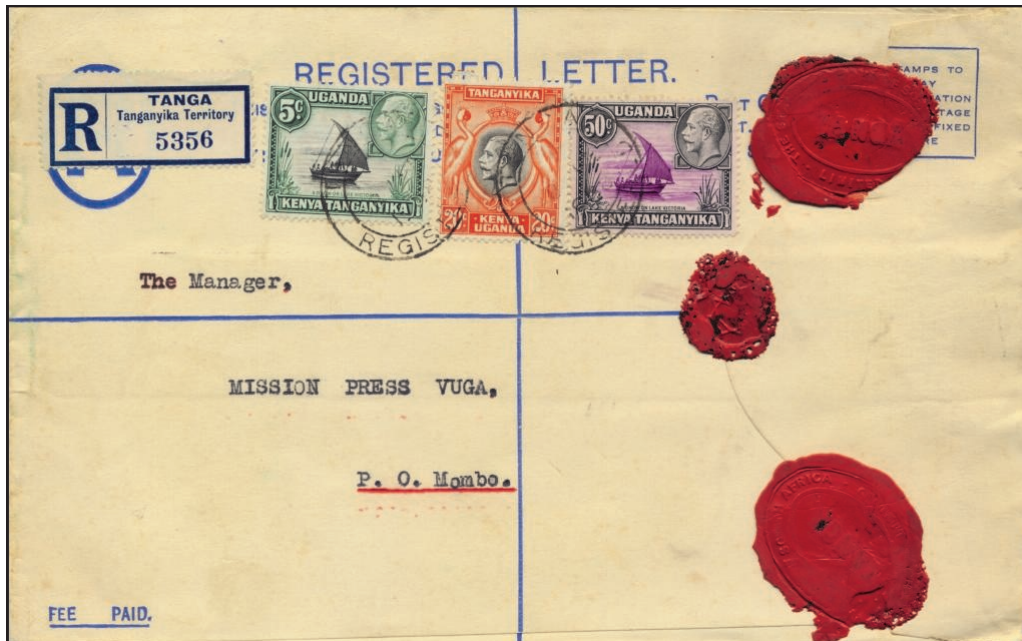


Fig. 3

This study of East African postal stationery ends on a colourful note with the issue c2000 in Uganda and Kenya of 4 illustrated international airmailers each and 5 (Uganda) or 15 (Kenya) highly decorated domestic prepaid letter sheets. (Fig. 4). At the present time no similar Tanzanian issues have been recorded but it seems likely that further items of East African postal stationery are still waiting to be discovered.



Fig. 4

THE EDWARDIAN POSTAL STATIONERY OF THE ORANGE RIVER COLONY

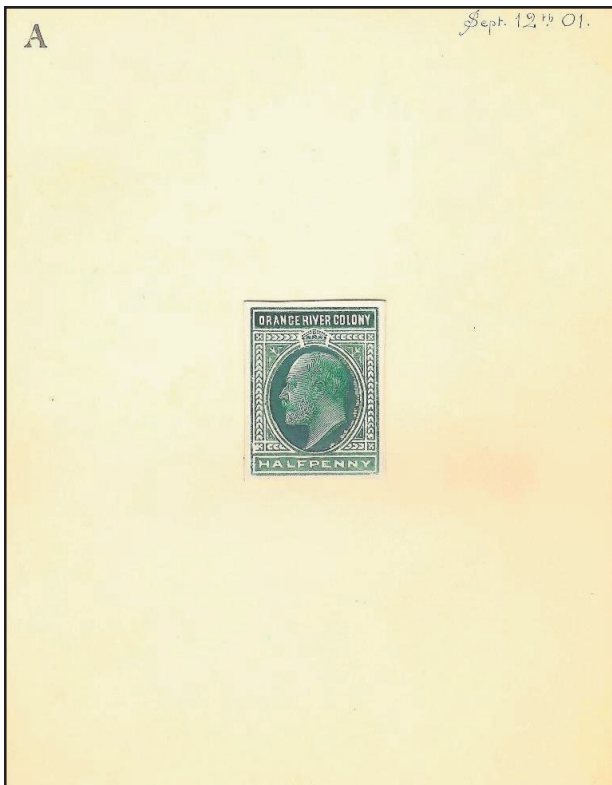
Michael Smith

The Anglo-Boer War began on 11 October 1899. On 13 March 1900 the British occupied Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State (O.F.S.). On 28 May 1900, the O.F.S. was annexed to the British Crown as the Orange River Colony (O.R.C.).

The Stationery issued by the O.R.C. can be divided into three distinct groups:

1. V.R.I. 'Block' Overprints on O.F.S. Issues (Curling & Co. in Bloemfontein)
2. O.R.C. Overprints on Cape of Good Hope Issues (W.A. Richards & Co. in Cape Town)
3. Edwardian Issues (De La Rue & Co. in London)

This display covers the Edwardian Issues only.



Essay 'A'

Although the O.R.C. ceased to exist after the Union of South Africa on the 31 May 1910, its stamps and stationery were valid throughout the Union. The use of postal stationery in the other former colonies is known as interprovincial use.

The Edwardian Issues

The Crown Agents contacted De La Rue in August 1901, setting out the stamps and stationery required by the O.R.C. and De La Rue responded with design proposals in September 1901.

1. Postal Cards (Single and Reply-Paid)

The display includes the original **Essay 'A'**, together with De La Rue's photographic copy. This was used for both the Postal Cards and Newspaper Wrappers. The initial order, was despatched in June 1902. Included are a 1d reply-half used back from the U.K. and a 'forgery' of the 1d single card 'used interprovincially'. In August 1909, the little used 1d single card was surcharged '½' by the Argus Printing Company in Bloemfontein.

1d Reply-half used from the U.K. back to the O.R.C. and officially redirected on arrival



2. Envelopes

It was not until December 1903 that the Crown Agents contacted De La Rue with a requisition for Envelopes. The display includes De La Rue's copies of the Essays for both the ½d and 1d values and the die proofs of both values. The initial order was despatched in February 1904.



Interprovincial usage of 1d Envelope at 'HLABISI / PROVINCE OF ZULULAND' in 1912

3. Registration Envelopes

The display includes De La Rue's copy of Essay 'B' and the only known die proof. The first printing was despatched in June 1902 in sizes F, G, H, I and K. The display includes all sizes in both mint and used condition. Included are a size I envelope overprinted 'CANCELLED', a De La Rue 'Sample', and the only known used size K envelope.



Die Proof for 4d Registration Envelopes

4. Wrappers

The wrappers, comprising ½d Green and 1d Red, were despatched in July 1902. This section of the display includes the complete 'File Sheet' from the MADAGASCAR UPU ARCHIVE.

5. Union Printings from O.R.C. Plates

The Government Printer in Pretoria had been printing Transvaal Postal Cards and Wrappers from De La Rue plates since 1908. These plates were coming to the end of their life, so in July 1911, the O.R.C. and Natal plates were despatched to Pretoria. Halfpenny Postal Cards were printed from re-constituted plates between 1911 and 1913, pending the issue of Union Postal Stationery.

THE 1914 ROUND STAMP IMPRESSION OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

Neil Sargent

This issue of stationery encapsulates for me everything that is great about postal stationery. It is very colourful and attractive; it offers the full range of the 7 different principle types of stationery and provides opportunity for study of postal rates.

Also known as the 'London Issue', the stationery was printed by Bradbury Wilkinson, items previously having been printed locally. In previous issues of postal stationery, the stamp imprint had followed the design and style of the issued postage stamp. However, when Turkey decided to issue a new set of 17 stamps showing pictorial views of Istanbul to be printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, a new design was required for stationery items.

This embossed design was 34mm in diameter and incorporated a 5 pointed star and crescent inside a large circle. The central design comprised a Tughra (signature) of Mohammed V. It bore an inscription in both French and Arabic "Ottoman Post". The stationery items comprised postcards, reply paid postcards, lettercards, reply paid lettercards, envelopes, registered envelopes and newspaper wrappers. Issued in January 1914, it was printed in 4 principle colours – red, blue, green & brown reflecting various postage rates. The stationery was used throughout the First World War period, creating interest in censor cancels, charity war tax stamps and changing postal rates.

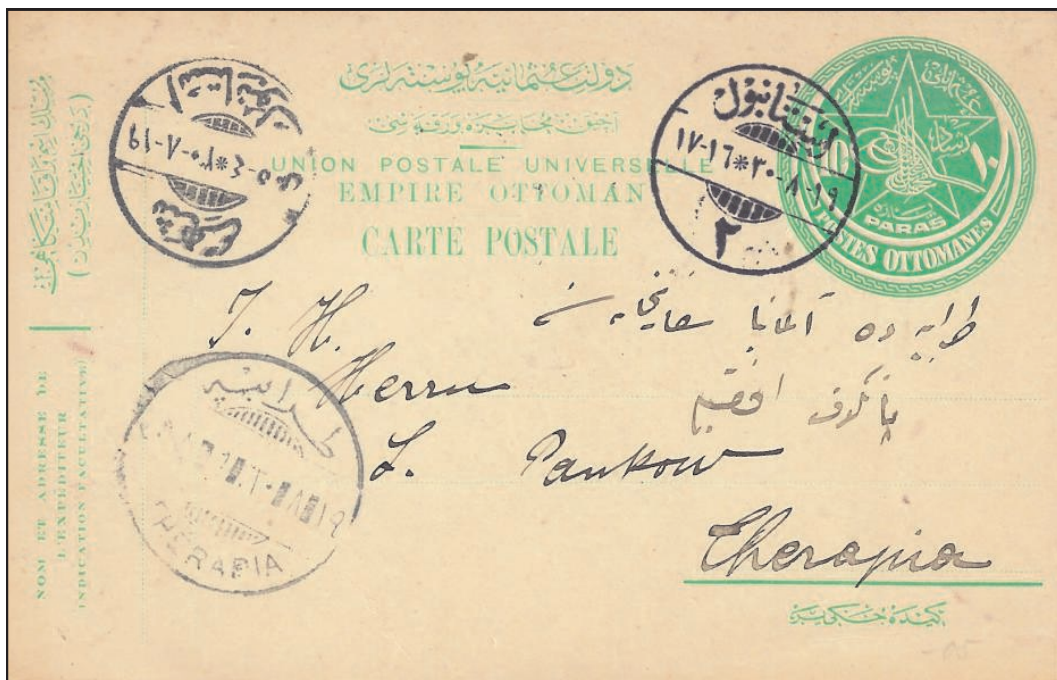
Although new designs of stationery were introduced from 1916 onwards, remainders of the 1914 issue were used after the end of the World War One in parts of the Empire occupied by Allied forces including Iraq, Syria and Cilicie.

The issue was the only time that registered envelopes, as usually identified, were issued by Turkey. The issue of reply paid lettercards was also unusual and perhaps there may have been a little opportunistic selling by Bradbury Wilkinson!

The Ottoman Empire at the time still covered large parts of Eastern Europe and the Near East and this means there is often significant demand for material with unusual postal markings, far above the normal value of a stationery item, which can make collecting this issue somewhat of a challenge!



20 para envelope used December 1915 within Constantinople, registered, charged at 2pi comprising 20 para local postage rate, 20 para surtax for orphans charity and 1 pi registration fee.



10 para postcard used September 1914 from Istanbul to Cherapia

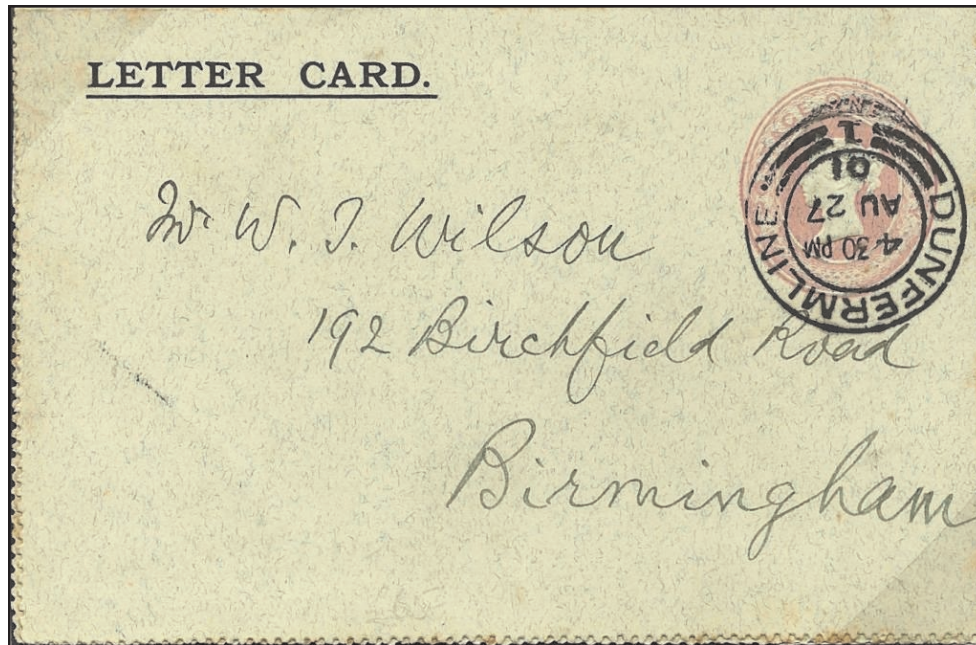


1 pi overseas lettercard, used June 1914 from Pera to Hanover, Germany

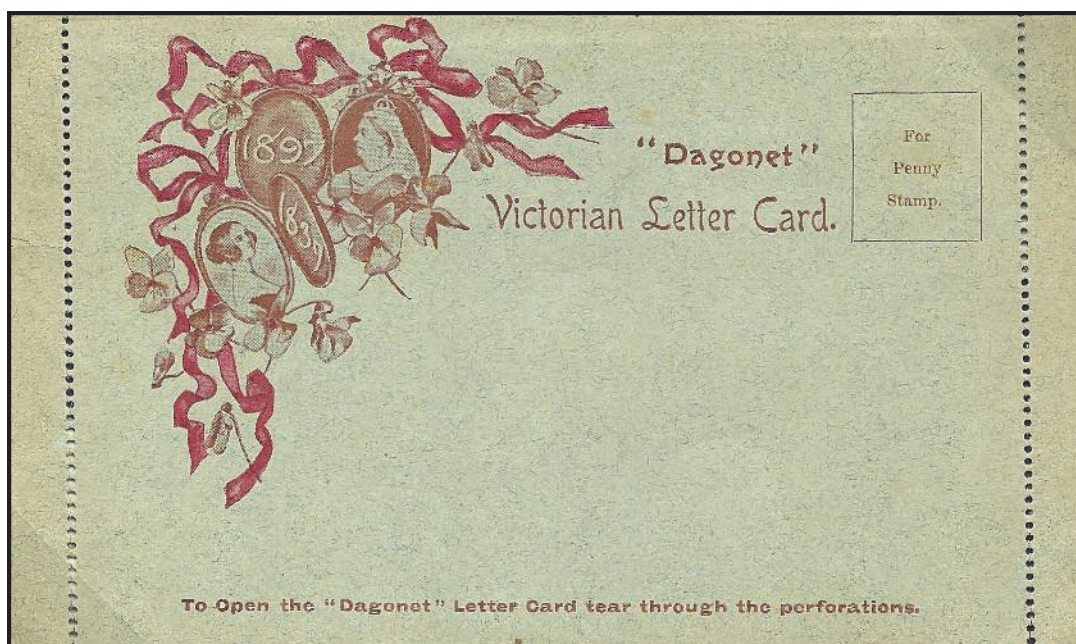
PRIVATE LETTER CARDS

Michael Lockton

Letter cards were first issued by the Post Office in 1892, based on continental designs but many other ideas were patented in the 1890s and privately published designs were extensively sold to the general public. These privately printed letter cards are known used in GB five years prior to the Post Office issue. A few were "stamped-to-order with a Penny Pink embossed stamp generally for commercial use, but the majority of the private letter cards available to the public required an adhesive stamp.



This display starts with a selection of Post Office Letter Cards from the 1892 first issue up to the QE2 decimal currency issues with the Machin head within an octagonal frame concluding with a couple of used copies of the 1997 Air Mail Pictorial Letter Cards. Of note is the 1965 issue postally used with the 4d. stamp omitted.



Following examples of prospective patents for letter cards, the display continues with a wide selection of commercial, privately printed later cards including early examples with Penny Pink stamps. The most prodigious producer, Langley & Son of Easton Works, London, is well represented with their "BUDGET" Letter Cards all of which are covered by their Patent No. 12595.

Probably the most attractive and eagerly sought after are those produced for the 1897 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Letter Cards were widely used by troops during the Anglo-Boer War and later during in the first WW.



The display concludes with later Edwardian Letter Cards which were sold for holiday makers with pictures of the locality enclosed within the letter card and its later exploitation before and after WW2.

Such cards form a very important part of the social history of communications prior to the current electronic age.

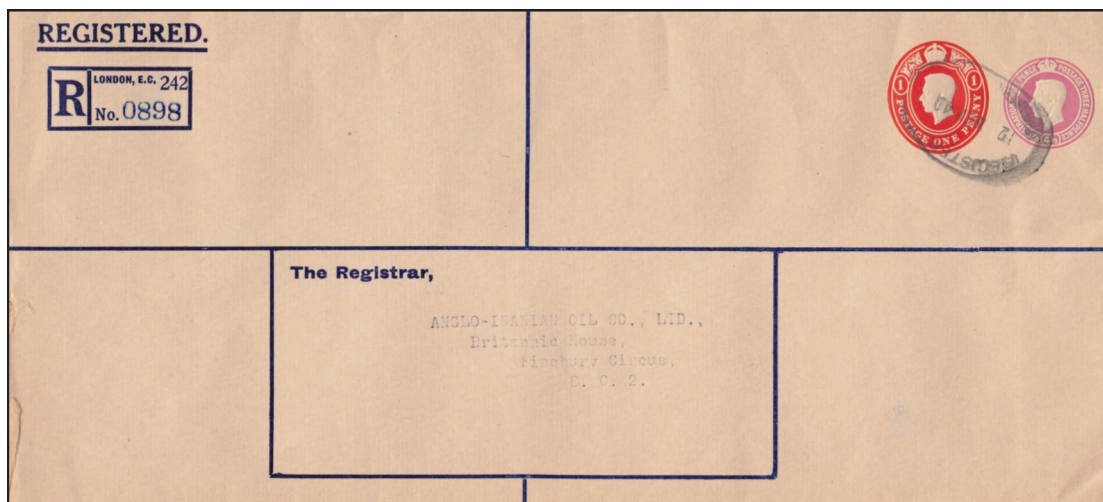
GB KING GEORGE VI STAMPED TO ORDER

Maurice Buxton

This display actually represents the intersection of a number of different strands that happen to meet here.

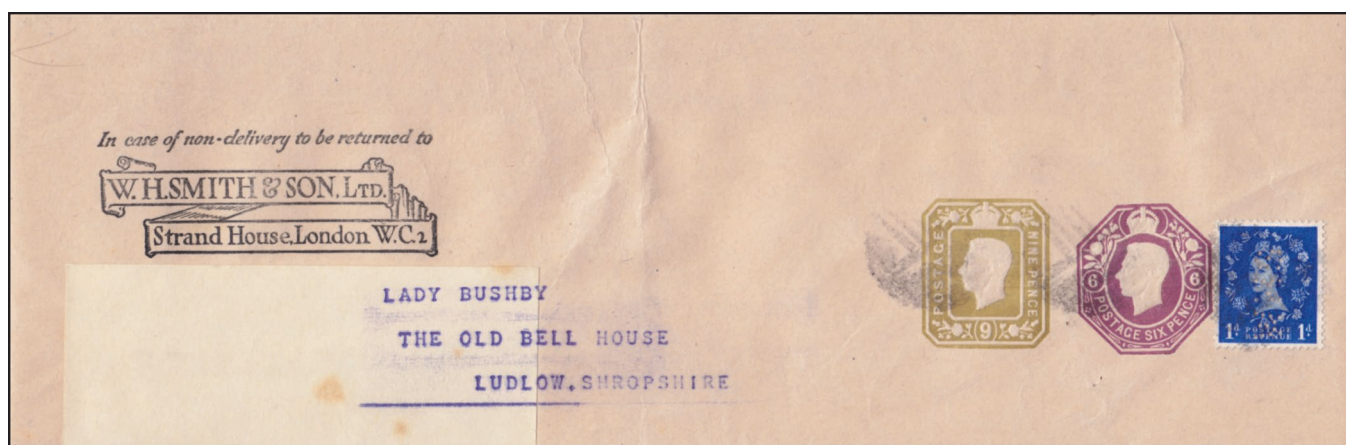
Among my collections is one on the use of George VI stamps on cover, so when I started to take an interest in postal stationery, it was a natural extension to collect the stationery of that reign as well. I also have a collection of registered mail, and one on the "Card Post", and of course these include sections of the registered envelopes and stamped cards.

Why stamped to order specifically here? Well, it has a number of attractive features for the usage-minded collector, most notably sheer variety. Although the use of stamped stationery was declining somewhat during the mid-20th century due to the availability of alternatives, it was still a popular choice for many businesses who needed stationery that was "ready to go". In particular there are a wide range of newspaper wrappers with odd combinations of values stamped on them, both embossed and letterpress dies.



Long STO registered envelope with printed "label", used by the Stock Exchange – apparently previously unrecorded. Must have been an uprate of a previous 4½d envelope as the 1d stamp is on the left, but an example of that envelope remains to be discovered!

Another appealing feature is that postal stationery in general, and stamped to order material in particular, is a field which still has enough unbroken ground to offer the chance of discovering items that have not previously been recorded. Even in the relatively short time that I've been collecting this material, I've been fortunate enough to make a number of "finds" that add to the listings, and which are naturally included here!



Another new discovery – a WH Smith 6d+9d wrapper (used in the QEII period before the corresponding QEII dies were available). One of a large number of combinations used by this firm.

I came to postal stationery via postal history, and so most (although not all) of the items in this display will be commercially used. And the boundaries at either end are somewhat elastic – George V dies were used well into the following reign, and likewise George VI dies were still in use in the Elizabeth II period. Examples of both will be shown.



During and after World War II, many organisations had “economy labels” for reusing envelopes, but very few ever had pre-stamped ones. This one bears the 2½d letterpress die for the letter rate.



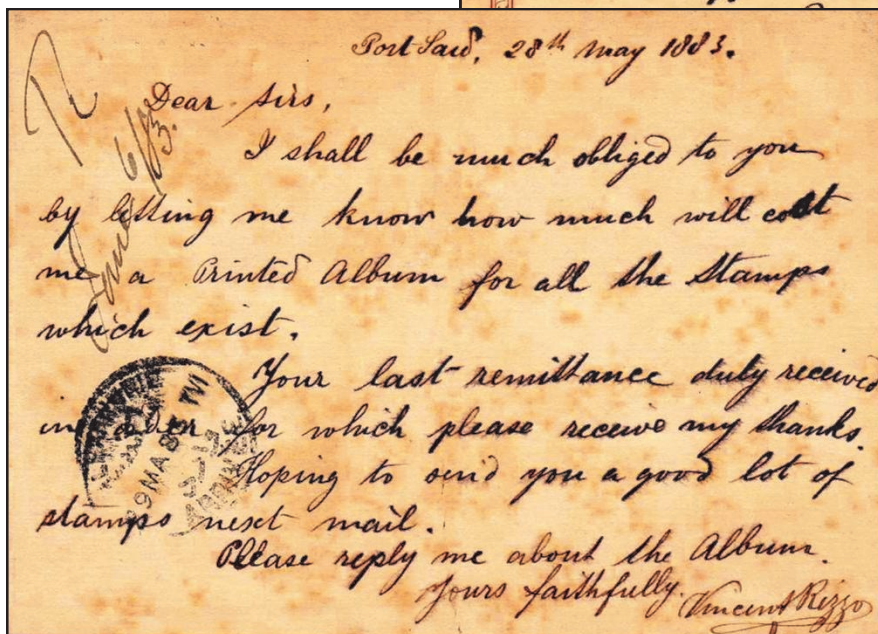
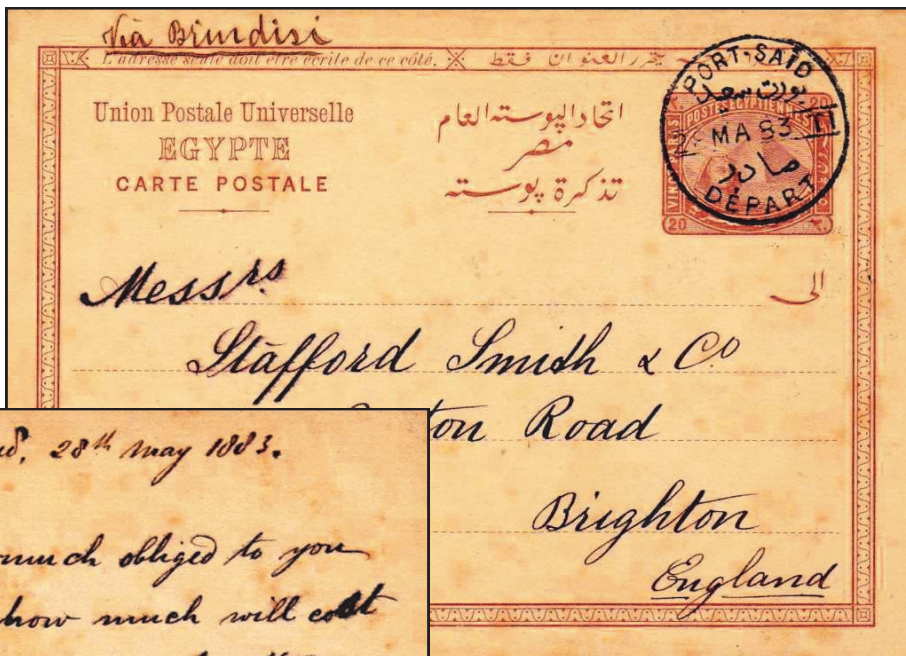
Although credit would be given for official stamping errors with STO material, this didn't help when the error was the user's fault! The text and logos that should have gone on the back of this order card were printed on the face instead, partly on top of the already-printed stamp.

POSTAL STATIONERY LETTERS & POSTCARDS SENT TO UNITED KINGDOM STAMP DEALERS & POSTAL STATIONERY USED BY STAMP DEALERS FOR ADVERTISING Etc.

Edward Caesley

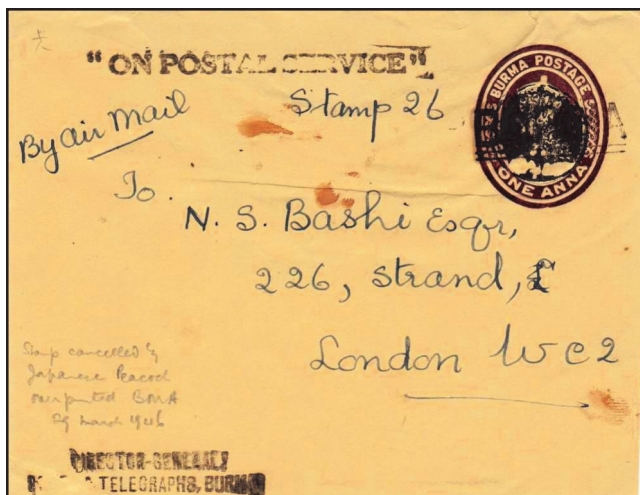
A number of United Kingdom stamp dealers received mail from abroad with regard to the running of their businesses. One would presume that the registered mail would have contained mint postage stamps from that particular country for them to sell. This display illustrates letters and postcards from customers enquiring about the items and services that they provided. The display also shows what happened to redundant postal stationery bought by various stamp dealers.

The sender of this card addressed to *Stafford Smith & Co* of Brighton is asking for a "printed album for all the stamps which exist". I wonder how many there were in 1883?

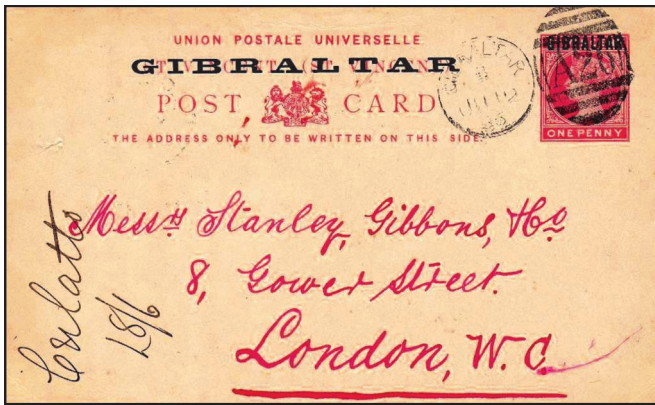


Many dealers such as *W.T. Wilson* of Birmingham sent and received correspondence written in the major European languages. The *British & Colonial Stamp Market* of Norwood was owned by *Herbert L'Estrange Ewen*. In this display is a registered letter to *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* accidentally sent to the printers of the magazine, *Pardy & Sons*, instead of to

the publisher *P.L. Pemberton & Co* of High Holborn, London. Jamaican stamp dealers evidently sell items outside the philatelic market! Stamp dealers were very good at providing philatelic items from special events such as Royal visits.



This cover addressed to *N.S. Bashi* from Burma has been overprinted twice by two different postal authorities the Japanese and the British. *N.S. Bashi* also produced a monthly magazine "Bashi's Stamp Mart".



This card addressed to Stanley Gibbons & Co. in 1886 asks for a “crest prospectus”. At this time crest collecting was very popular and special albums were produced for them.

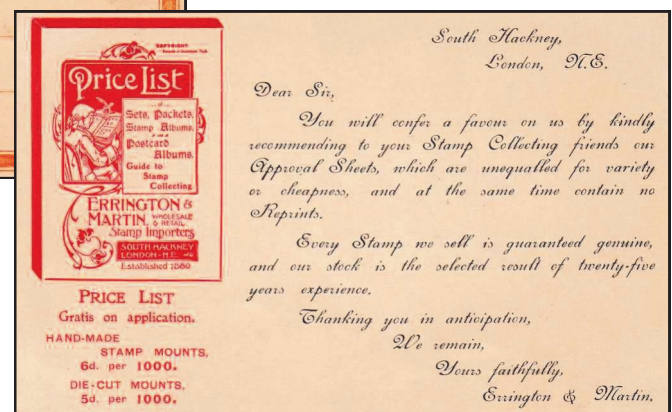
An air letter also sent to Stanly Gibbons Ltd., writes about a telegraphic transfer for £2,225 (£62,567 today) presumably for the purchase of stamps. Oswald Marsh a leading London dealer mainly noted for supplying the stamps and postal history of the United Kingdom at the beginning of the 20th century also had a considerable business in stamps of the world.



Also in the display is postal stationery of the world which has been de-monetized and then used using the postage stamps of the time. One of the best known dealers to use this stationery was Robson Lowe Ltd. who must have purchased large quantities for use after World War II when paper was in short supply. The last of these demonetized embossed envelopes is interesting as it has been cancelled and was embossed after the envelope was manufactured (normally done before manufacture) as there is a reversed albino embossing on the envelope back.



For some reason United Kingdom stamp dealers used out of date postal stationery as a type of business card. One of the dealers who seemed to use a number of these cards was Errington & Martin, owned by Edgar Frank Errington and Benjamin Ernest Martin until 1919 and then taken over by Martin. In the 1920's it was bought by Oswald Marsh and managed by his son Herbert Charles Elcock Marsh. They bought a large number of the Guatemalan cards printed for the “Central American Exhibition”, these cards were valid for postal use from January 1st 1897 until March 30th 1898.



A card used by H.C. Watkins shows old Japanese manuscript written on the card after the card was printed.

During World War II Airgraphs were used for commercial purposes as well as by members of the armed forces.

Lastly, in the display, a censored Cable and Wireless telegram and envelopes used by Cable and Wireless Ltd. and The Western Union Telegraph Company.

'MURPHY & Co' STATIONERY CONTRACTORS TO THE POST OFFICE

Alan Huggins

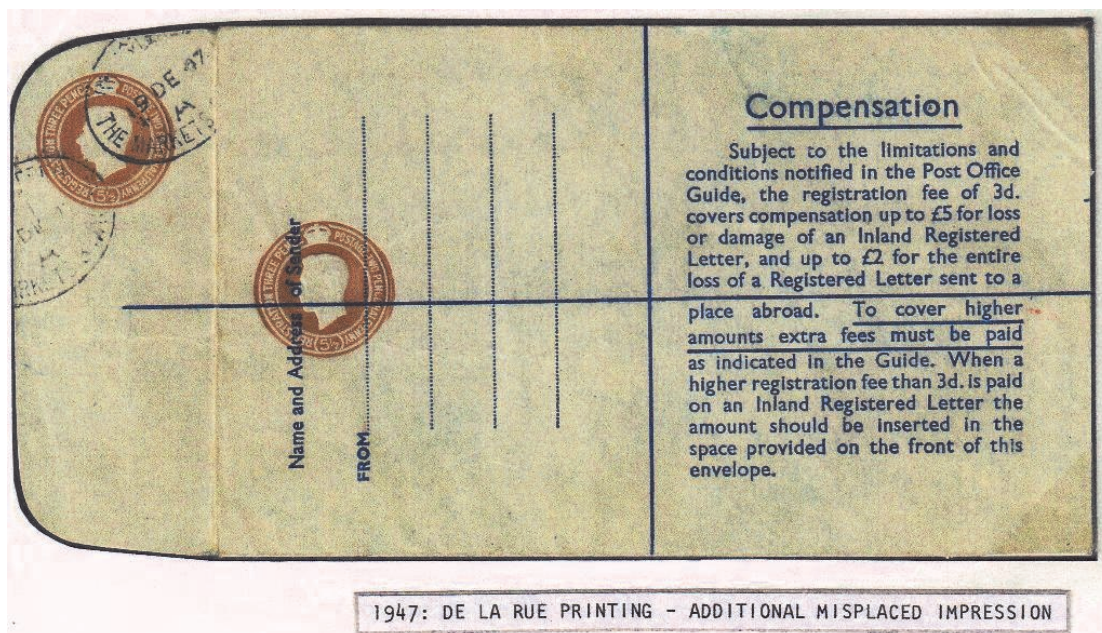
A number of different contactors have been responsible for the production of British postal stationery. In summary the main ones were Clowes & Son Printers (Mulready stationery only); The Stamping Department of the Inland Revenue (Post Office embossed envelopes, letter sheets and telegraph forms; Stamped to Order embossed envelopes, letter sheets, postcards, letter cards, registration envelopes and air letters; Stamped to Order letterpress postcards, wrappers and letter sheets); Thomas De La Rue & Company Ltd. (Post Office envelopes, postcards, letter cards, wrappers up to 1911); McCorquodale & Company Ltd. (Post Office registration envelopes from 1878; envelopes, postcards, letter cards and wrappers from 1911, and air letters from 1943); H.M.S.O. Press, Harrow (Stamped to Order letterpress postcards, letter cards, wrappers, letter sheets and air letters).

Although in this article the examples of mistakes in production are all of British postal stationery, in principle similar instances can be found with stationery from other countries. However in general they tend to be rather less numerous, possibly because of the extended period and level of use in the UK of both Post Office and Stamped to Order postal stationery.

Broadly speaking postal stationery stamps are embossed or printed by letterpress, lithography or gravure. Where additional printed text is present a combination of printing processes may occur. A further factor which affects the types of mistakes which can occur is whether the items are being produced singly or in multiple format. The following sections summarise the types of mistakes in production that can occur together with illustrations of a number of actual examples.

Embossed stamps: Since these are printed individually on paper being fed manually, or later mechanically, to the embossing press one of the commonest problems is two envelope blanks or sheets of paper passing through together, so that the one underneath receives an unlinked impression - usually termed an 'albino' impression. Albino impressions can be found on both Post Office and Stamped to Order postal stationery throughout the period that embossed stamps were used.

The second most common fault is where more than one impression is struck on the same envelope blank or letter sheet. The additional impressions may be partial or complete, be in colour or albino, and can occur on the face or the reverse of envelopes when they are made up into the finished product. Other problems can occur with under or over inking, or where the paper becomes folded or partially obscured. Offsets in colour on the reverse side of the embossed impression are not uncommon.



Registration envelopes which have additional printed text offer further possibilities in that the embossed stamps were struck separately on the open flap of preprinted envelopes, so that examples with albino impressions of the text can also be found.

On several occasions the wrong value has been stamped in error and then obliterated by an oval shaped grille of squares and the correct stamp added (see PSS Journal vol.15 No.4 p16 for more examples). On two occasions the stamp has been printed in the wrong colour, the KGV ½d in red and the 1d in green. The first error occurred in 1917 on stationery being prepared for 'The Widows & Orphans Fund (Church of Ireland)', the ½d stamp was obliterated and a 1d in the correct colour struck underneath.



The second error, of which the only entire is in the Royal Philatelic Collection, has an impression of the 1d KGV die struck in green which is quite different in appearance to a number of cut out impressions of the KGV 1d green which exist and which may actually be colour trials.

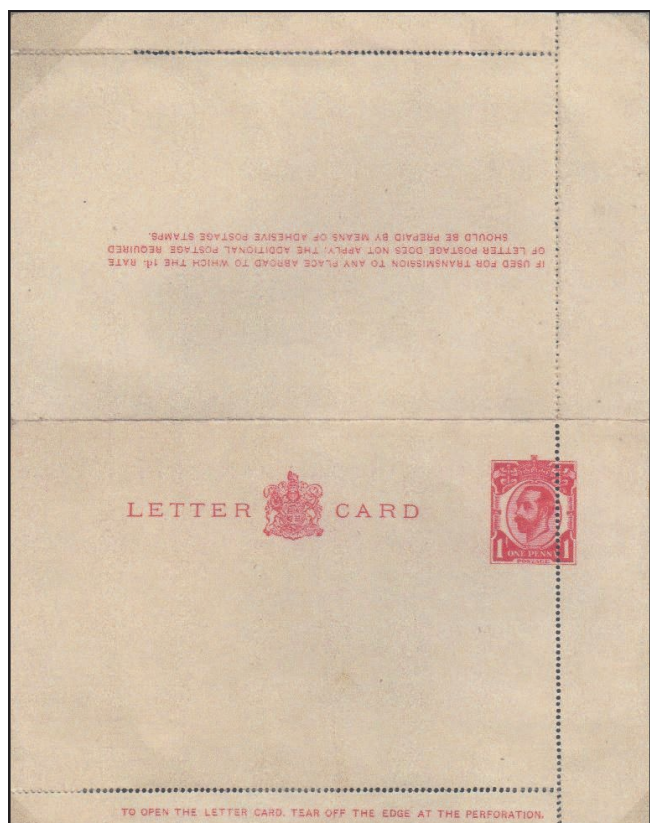


Letterpress stamps: Since postal stationery printed by letterpress is usually, but not always, printed in multiples, more than one example of certain types of printing anomalies can exist, for example double prints, misplaced stamp and text impressions caused by miscutting, misplaced perforations etc. In relation to misplaced stamp and text impressionist, it should be noted that those most frequently seen are artificially created items where sheets of STO QV and KGV postcards and wrappers have been deliberately miscut to create so-called 'errors' or 'proofs'.

Obviously varieties caused by paper folding, under or over inking, misplaced paper or card etc. can also be found on postal stationery with letterpress stamps. One instance of an error of colour is known where in 1971 a batch of QEII decimal Machin 4½p STO wrappers ordered by the Stamford Mercury newspaper was supplied with the ½p stamp printed in blue (the colour of the 3p value), instead of turquoise.



Lithography and Gravure: At various times air letters and other items were printed by letterpress, lithography or gravure, sometimes in combination. Where two printing processes are involved, such as for example the 1948 Olympic Games and the 1953 Coronation air letters, mistakes can occur which affect either the stamp or the other printed material or both. Thus examples are known of missing or misplaced stamps and miscut forms. With the introduction of multicoloured postal stationery the opportunity for missing colours to occur and these are known for a significant number of issues.



So far we have only considered mistakes caused in the printing process but there are a number of instances where other types of error occur. Most are the result of failing to update the printed text on registration envelopes when a rate change has occurred, but on other occasions obsolete envelopes have been stamped. Some examples are RP70 KGVI 8½d size F & H with 4d instead of 6d; RP74 QE 8½d + 6d size F & K with 6d instead of 1s; RP83 QE 1s 9d + 3d size F,G,H & K with 1s 6d instead of 1s 9d; RP96 QE 17½p + 5½p size G & H with 15p instead of 20p; RPF10 QE 1s size K2 with 6d instead of 1s; RPF13 QE 1s 9d with 1s 6d instead of 1s 9d.

A much more striking error is the production of the QE Machin £1 vermilion die for use on Forces registration envelopes RPF33 which was inscribed 'POSTAGE AND REGISTRATION' instead of 'FEE PAID FOR REGISTRATION'



Other types of error are the inverted month date slug on RP8 QV 2d size F for 1.2.82, 2.2.82 & 3.2.82 and the word 'TO' omitted from the second line of instructions on RP 13 size H.

This display attempts to present a general overview of the types of mistakes which can occur during the production of postal stationery and a selection of examples found on British postal stationery are shown by way of illustration.

GROSVENOR

Traditional Values

Postal Stationery from around the world appears regularly in our specialised public auctions. Complimentary copies of each catalogue are available on request

Our high-quality catalogues and extensive international mailing are backed by worldwide advertising and full exposure of lots on our website,

www.grosvenorauctions.com

Grosvenor vendors benefit from a friendly and flexible approach, coupled with fully inclusive commission charges offered at the lowest possible levels.

The 2014 programme of sales is currently in preparation.

Contact Glyn Page or Andrew Williams today for further information.

Privileged commission rates are available for society members.

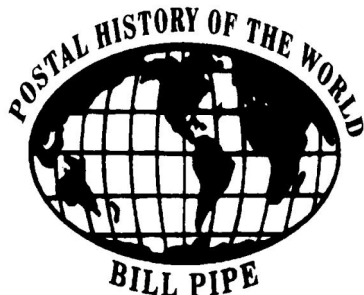
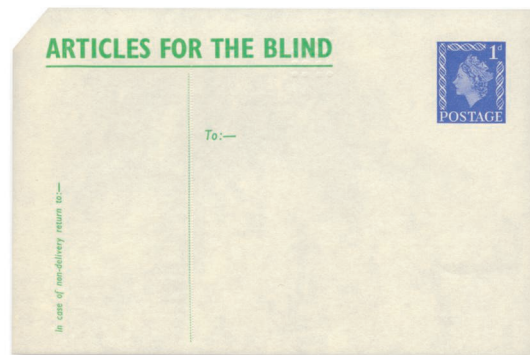
Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions Ltd
399-401 Strand
2nd & 3rd Floors
London WC2R 0LT

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7379 8789

Fax: +44 (0)20 7379 9737

Email: info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk

Website: www.grosvenorauctions.com



The Magpie

**POSTAL AUCTIONS & LISTS
POSTCARDS & EPHEMERA
PAPER COLLECTIONS
POSTAL HISTORY**

W. T. PIPE

7 Richard Close, Upton, Poole.
Dorset. BH16 5PY

tel: 01202 623300 fax: 01202 631149

web: www.magpiebillpipe.com

email: magpiebillpipe@freeuk.com

SOUTH WEST AFRICA - POSTAL STATIONERY/ POSTAL HISTORY WANTED

Keen collector of South West Africa, is looking to buy a variety of interesting postal stationery and postal history items,

MINT and USED
as well as **SPECIMENS.**

I am particularly keen on material that comes from the period **1900 - 1950**. Where possible, if you can scan your items, together with a price and description of condition, I would be happy to answer all offers.

I also collect **Bank notes** of South West Africa from 1931- 1958 (mainly of Standard Bank, Barclays Bank and Volkskas Bank)

Please e-mail ALAN at grebsnig@hotmail.com
or call 07950780791

Great Britain and British Commonwealth 1840-1952

STAMPS

POSTAL HISTORY

POSTAL STATIONERY

Queen Victoria to King George VI

No buyers premium and no additional charge for payment by credit card.
Suitable material is now being accepted for inclusion in future postal
auctions, please contact us for further details.

Request your FREE catalogue from

DeMontfort Stamp Co

PO Box 6, Thurnby, Leicester LE7 9ZU

Telephone & Facsimile 0116 2419796

Website: www.demontfortstamps.co.uk

E-mail: sales@demontfortstamps.co.uk