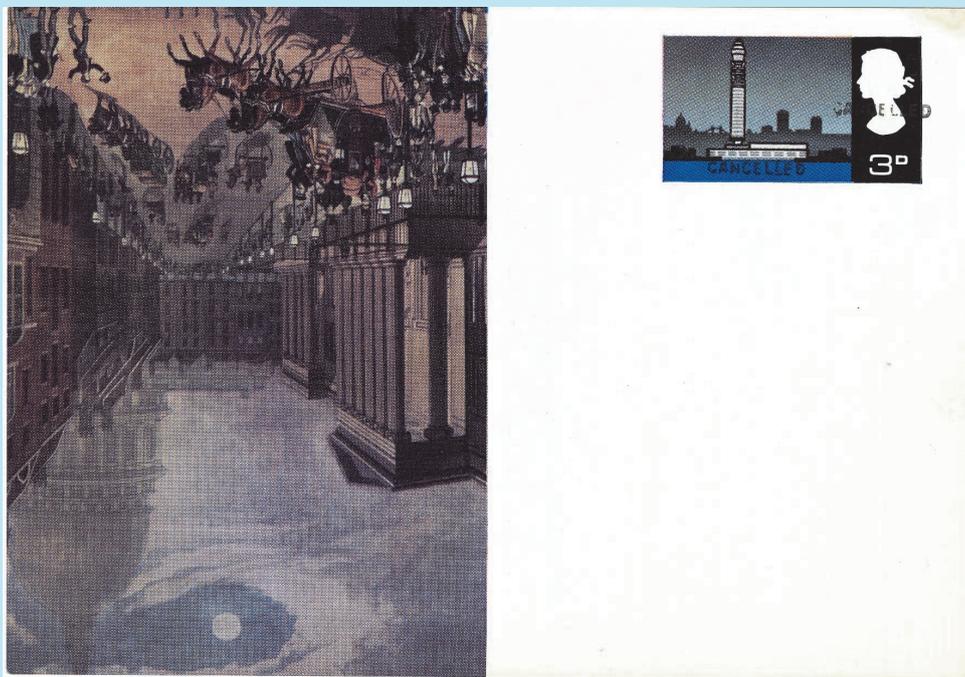




THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 22, No. 1 February 2014
(Serial number 69)



Tony Benn's Christmas Card - See page 14

CONTENTS

Page		Page	
2	Society Information and News	14	Tony Benn's Christmas Card Douglas N Muir
3	Chairman's Chat	16	A Survey of H. Edgar Weston/Victor Marsh
3	Secretary's Notes		Covers Colin Breddy
4	The Jubilee Envelope and the Alliance Assurance Company John Davies	18	There is no Such Thing as a Free Lunch Peter Williams
6	The Postal Stationery of East Africa - Part 3 Colin Baker	19	Imprints on H&B AP 11 George King
11	Great Britain Postal Stationery News Alan Huggins	20	Inland Revenue Official Embossed Envelopes Maurice Buxton
		22	Notes From The Editor's Desk



The Postal Stationery Society (Founded 1992)

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

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

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johnhbarker@btinternet.com

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 2014

Details of the Programme for 2014 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.**



Postal Stationery Commission Newsletter - January 2014 is available to download from the website: www.postalstationery.org

This is essential reading for any member entering competitions.

Congratulations to the following members on their success in the international competitions: Brasiliana 2013

Michael Smith	U.K.	The Postal Stationery of Orange Free State	96 LG SP
Alan Huggins	U.K.	Mauritius Postal Stationery - The Stamped envelopes and Registration envelopes	95 LG

Thailand 2013

Alan Wichelman	Thailand	Luxembourg's Coat of Arms Postal Stationery including the Precursors 1870-1882	95 LG
Emil Minnaar	S. Africa	Basutoland Postal Stationery	91 G
Ian McMahon	Australia	Postal Stationery of Canada Issued During The Reign of King George VI	90 G

Postal Auction

The next postal auction will be sent out with the May issue of the Journal.

The closing date will be in **June** so please make sure that when you receive it, you look through the list early and in plenty of time to get your bids to the Auctioneer before the closing date.

Postal Stationery Society Website

Did you know that there are links to 40 Top Class Postal Stationery Exhibits covering a wide range of subjects also the list of contents of the Postal Stationery Society Journals for the past 10 years. Visit the Society's website:-

www.postalstationery.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - FEBRUARY 2014

What makes an item of stationery desirable? Is it because it is rare or unrecorded, the one item you need to complete a country or issue, because it is colourful or just because it is appealing? This is the question often asked in the form of – what did you buy that for?.



This cropped up the other day when going through recent purchases with a friend. We were talking about a couple of GB QEII compound stationery cards that had just sold on ebay and which appeared to be unrecorded. They took the form of Wilding 2½d carmine + 1½d green imprints. The cards were sold one after each other and both made around £130 each. A mixed QEII Wilding 1½d green + KGVI ½d orange used advertising card made a £148. These were obviously desirable because they were either unrecorded or not known and also showed strength in early QEII material.



However, the card I was referring to was one I bought at the October Society auction for a tenner – a Sudan 4mil. Camel postcard used to Birmingham. I do not collect Sudan seriously but do like the Camel design and they have issued some interesting items. This card was sent by the Assistant Postmaster at Khartoum North to Rushbrook & Co, Hardware Merchants in Moor Street Birmingham. Cancelled with a neat Khartoum North cds it also bore two feint purple triangular censor markings and a Shellal Halfa No 1 TPO. The card is postmarked 16th May 1916 with the TPO cancel 4 days later. The postal routes of Sudan are a maze of detail; Khartoum North is a few miles outside Khartoum and was the original terminus for the railway. Halfa (where the British camped for the relief of General Gordon) is about 6

miles south of the northern Sudan border on the righthand side of the Nile. Halfa is also the northern terminus of the Sudan railway and the southern terminus of a steamboat service on the Nile, which runs to Shellal on the left side of the Nile where it connects with the Egyptian railways. Presumption is therefore that the card went by train to Halfa before crossing the Nile on a steamboat connecting with an Egyptian train and onwards to Birmingham!

This then became a desirable card for me and I was able to answer why I bought it because it told a story of travel, continental trade and commercial usage. Enjoy collecting what you like and desire!

Neil Sargent

SECRETARY'S NOTES - FEBRUARY 2014

The Great Train Robbery

Last year the Society was asked to give advice on British registration envelopes and postal stationery that would have been used at the time when the Great Train Robbery took place on Thursday 8th August 1963. This crime, probably the most famous of all robberies to take place in the UK, netted about £2.7M for the robbers, much of it in used bank notes that were untraceable. The money was being transferred from banks in Scotland to London on the night mail train (a regular procedure). The gang stopped the train in Buckinghamshire by making the green signals show red, and they then broke into the carriage carrying all the high value mail, transferred it to a waiting lorry and whisked it away to their farmhouse hideout.

The robbery was the subject of two new BBC films that were shown over the Christmas holiday. No doubt many of you saw them, but if not they are on DVD and will no doubt be shown again on BBC, as well as being sold to many overseas broadcasting companies.

In the end our advice on the type of mail that would have been carried on the mail train was not used and the films' producers decided that the all those bank notes would have been stuffed into mail bags without envelopes or addresses.

I'm sure it will come as no surprise to all of you that August, the month when the robbery took place, is in the middle of summer in the UK and one of the hottest months of the year. But in the outside scenes the film showed

frozen puddles, leafless trees and even a snow fall. I'm sure I spotted one or two other clangers later on. Needless to say we were not given any credit for our advice, but in view of how the mail robbery was represented perhaps this is just as well.

However, the films made good viewing. It's just a shame that some of the most important details were so badly wrong and our advice was ignored.

March Meeting

Included with this edition of the Society's Journal is a flyer for our meeting in London on Saturday 22nd March 2014. Would members please note that this is a joint meeting with the Great Britain Overprint Society. Their members are also being invited to give displays at this meeting and in view of their interest in British overprinted postal stationery, I would like you to try to bring some overprinted material along as well. However, if you would prefer to show something else, that's fine, as I'm sure everyone attending the meeting will be interested in whatever is on display.

Swinpex 2014

Would members please note that Swinpex will be held at St Joseph's Lower School in Swindon on **Saturday 14th June 2014**, and not as noted in the programme booklet issued to all members last November. To make sure you don't miss this event, grab hold of a pen now and please make a note against the programme entry.

The Postal Stationery Society of Great Britain

No sooner had I finished my notes for the November issue of our Journal than more information came to light courtesy **Brian Birch**. He tells me that the Philatelic Contact magazine was produced for the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies, Shoebury. There were only twelve issues published over a three year period, and eventually the magazine was discontinued owing to low sales figures. It was then incorporated into The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly, which as far as I know has also ceased publication.

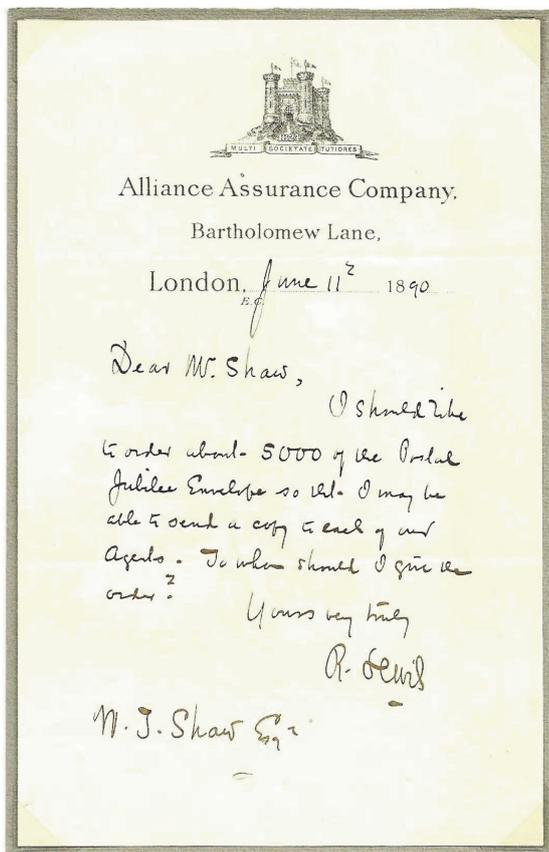
Post Office Stationery

Richard Malim has been studying non postal stationery envelopes inscribed "On His/Her Majesty's Service" or similar, and also the Post Office's own envelopes similarly inscribed and used in Great Britain and by British Post Offices abroad, especially in Constantinople up to 1923. He says that as far as he knows, no work has ever been done in making a catalogue of these items.

Although these are not strictly postal stationery under the FIP rules, they are an interesting sideline to postal stationery collecting. Do you have any of these envelopes that were used by Government Departments, or by the Post Office in their day to day running of the postal service? If so, Richard would like to hear from you. You can contact him direct on his email address malim@btinternet.com or via the secretary, Colin Baker, address details on the inside cover.

THE JUBILEE ENVELOPE AND THE ALLIANCE ASSURANCE COMPANY

John Davies



1890 saw the introduction of Great Britain's first commemorative postal stationery to celebrate the Jubilee of the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage. Following the success of the Guildhall letter card, the Post Office prepared a Jubilee envelope and correspondence card, to be sold in advance for 1/- (in aid of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund) and only available for one day. Approximately 250,000 of the envelopes were sold. Less well known is the fact that some of the envelopes were sold to commercial organisations, including the Alliance Assurance Company.

A letter from the De La Rue Archives shows that an enquiry was first made on 11th June 1890 (**Fig. 1**) attempting to obtain supplies of 5000 of the envelope. As a result enquiries were made by De La Rue to J S Prcell, Controller of Stamps, Inland Revenue. The internal notes dated 13th June 1890 from the archive show that the company was directed to obtain supplies from a principal London Post Office. It is believed that they wished to provide a copy to each of their agents and customers. They evidently did so, as insert cards are known, overprinted with

Fig. 1

The popularity of the Jubilee envelope led to a number of inquiries to the printers, De La Rue. One example of the interest created is an order for 5000 from the Alliance Assurance Company so that they could give one to each of their agents.

an advertising message. Examples of the card, overprinted with a "Bonus" message are seen (Fig 2).

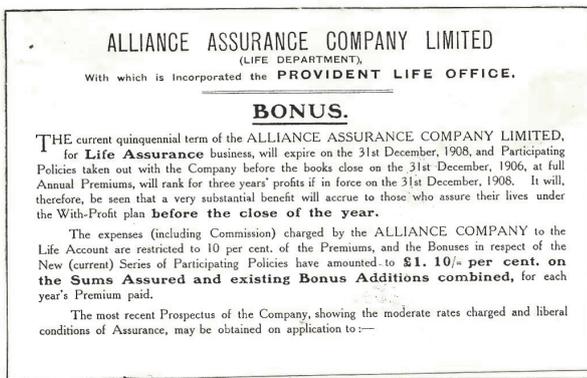
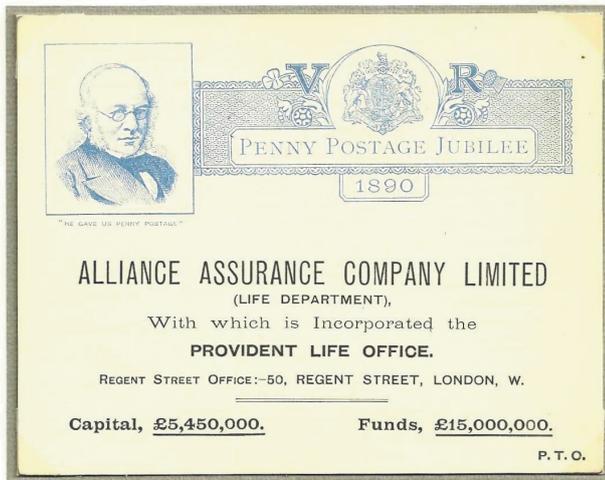


Fig 2 The Alliance Assurance Company card printed with a "Bonus" message

Further examples appeared in 1906 with different messages relating to the County Fire Office Limited (Fig 3) and the Westminster Fire Office (Fig 4).

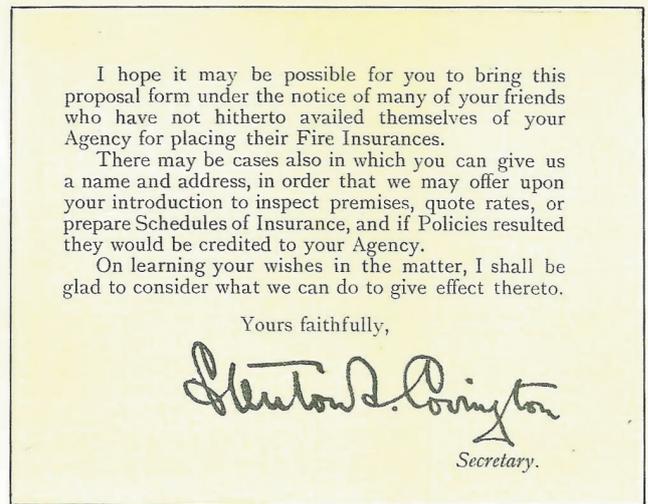
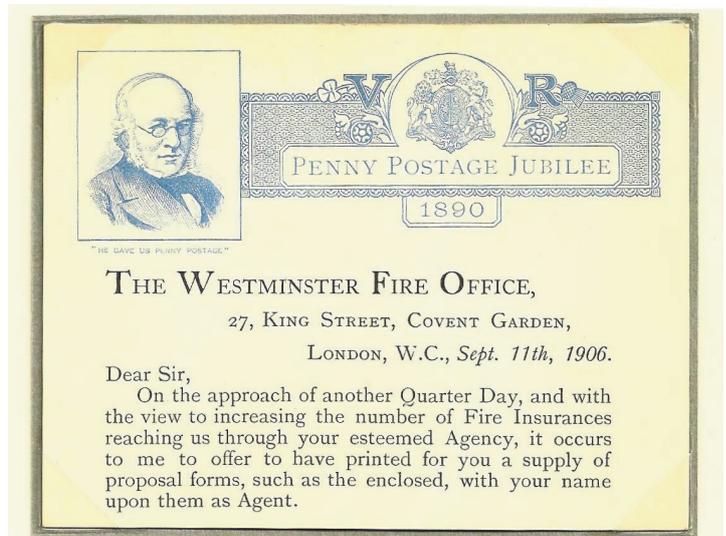


Fig 4 Use of the Insert Card overprinted by the Westminster Fire Office in 1906 to promote its services to policy holders. Is this one of the earliest examples of creative direct mail?

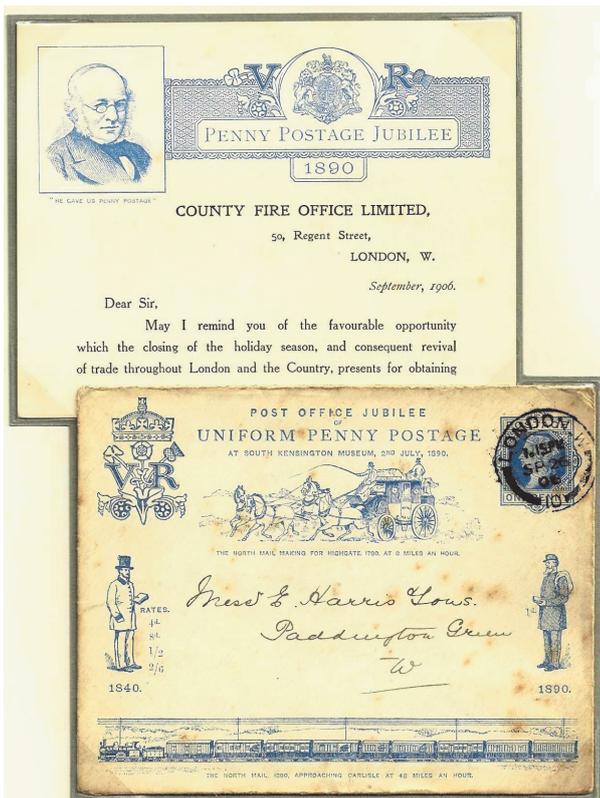


Fig 3 Insert card and envelope from the County Fire Service. Cancelled with London W cds of September 6 1906 with Paddington W handstamp on the reverse.

Are any other usages known for commercial purposes? Email: davies1890@btinternet.com

THE POSTAL STATIONERY OF EAST AFRICA -PART 3

Colin Baker

TANGANYIKA

The area of East Africa that had previously been administered by Germany, became known as Tanganyika when it was given to Great Britain under a mandate as part of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919. Postal stationery was produced specifically for use in that country, starting in 1923 with 15 cent single and reply postcards and 30 cent registration envelopes, followed by 15 cent envelopes in 1926. The first issue of these postcards carried the same design of stamp as that used in the adhesive set issued the previous year, but using only one colour (red) for both the stamp and the central design of the head of a giraffe. In the adhesive 15 cent stamp the frame had been printed in carmine and the giraffe's head in the centre in black. A small change had to be made to the design of the stamp for use on postal stationery. The adhesive stamps had the wording "Postage & Revenue" in a circular tablet beneath the head as they could be used for either purpose, but this was not the case with stationery stamps which practically could only be used in the post. Thus the wording was amended from "Postage & Revenue" to "Postage", but taking up the same space on the tablet within the design.



1927 Tanganyika 15 cent postcard with King George V stamp, uprated and used to Germany

not that easy to amend the design to eliminate the word "Revenue" unless "Postage" was included twice. In any case, it was hardly imperative that the stamp wording was absolutely correct. Of greater importance was the need to keep the cost of providing postal stationery to a minimum.



1923 Tanganyika 15 cent postcard with the Giraffe stamp. Philatelic use.

In 1927 the design of the stamp for use on postcards was changed. This new design used the head of King George V in a larger oval frame, with the name of the country being changed from the previous "Tanganyika" to the "Mandated Territory of Tanganyika". Once again the design of the stamp was similar to that used for the adhesive stamps, but this time the word "Revenue" was not removed so that in theory the postcard stamps could be used for both postage and revenue purposes. Although this seems a little strange at first sight, studying the design shows that it was



Detail showing the 1927 issue postal stationery stamp that was 'valid' for both postage and revenue purposes

The earlier issue of postcards with the giraffe stamp had been produced and printed by Bradbury Wilkinson, but De La Rue had been responsible for this new issue. I have not been able to establish exactly why one stamp design was changed and another was not. Perhaps costs and potential delays came into the equation. A new stamp die with just the word "postage" would have been needed, which may have involved De La Rue submitting proofs for approval. This would have taken time, bearing in mind the distances involved. Or perhaps nobody thought about it and the standard stamp design was simply "picked off the shelf". Both single and reply postcards in the new design were printed in a similar red to that of the previous issue.

It is interesting to note here that De La Rue was also responsible for manufacturing and printing all the registration envelopes used in the region. On a number of occasions they failed to change the wording in the box on the front of some of the envelopes indicating where the additional adhesive stamps were to be placed. Was this also to keep costs down or was it a sloppy approach to producing postal stationery for a developing region a long way from its administrative overseers and the British Government? I can find nothing to substantiate this idea and I leave the reader to speculate on why De La Rue failed to ensure some of its postal stationery issues did not meet expected standards.

only the basic registration fee, with postage always having to be paid by means of adhesive stamps. But from the start of the new King George V issues in 1913, both the registration fee and basic postage was included. This arrangement did not change in Kenya and Uganda until after the end of the Second World War, when once again registration envelopes with King George VI stamps paid only the basic registration fee. The final change came about with the accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth II in 1952, when none of the registration envelopes sold in East Africa carried impressed stamps. From then on the specially strengthened envelopes could be bought from the post office, but both the registration fee and postage had to be paid with adhesive stamps.



1927 registration envelope with a 30 cent embossed stamp incorporating the head of King George V

In 1923 new registration envelopes were issued with a 50 cent registration stamp headed "Tanganyika" with a stylised giraffe head design, complementing the set of adhesive stamps issued the previous year, which also used the head of a giraffe. The stamp paid both the 30 cent registration fee and the 20 cent basic inland postage. This was followed two years later in 1925 by a similar issue, but with a 30 cent design which only covered the basic inland or British Empire postage rate. However, just like the postcards, this design was superseded in 1927 by a circular stamp featuring the head of King George V surrounded by the revised name for the territory and the stamp's value - 30 cents for the registration fee. As with other East African registration envelopes, a box was printed on the front telling users that stamps to pay the postage, or the additional postage as appropriate, should be placed over the box. The actual wording of this instruction varied from time to time, and this helps us today to identify and date similar envelopes - providing the box is not covered in adhesive stamps of course.

However, the arrangements in Tanganyika were different. As we have seen above, the first issue of registration envelopes in 1923 covered both the registration fee and basic inland postage. But two years later, this was changed so that the new envelopes paid only the registration fee. This situation did not change until 1935 when the stamps and postal stationery of all three countries in East Africa became unified and were valid throughout the region. No doubt there were valid reasons for these differences, but I have not been able to discover why this was so.

Despite the link up with the East African Postal Union in 1927, Tanganyika continued to issue and use its own stamps and postal stationery until new designs were produced in 1935 incorporating the names of all three countries. These were then placed on sale and were valid throughout East Africa. The remaining stocks of postal stationery specific to Tanganyika were quickly used up.



15 cent envelope uprated and sent air mail to Britain.

KENYA AND UGANDA

In 1920 British East Africa became a Crown Colony and it changed its name to Kenya⁽⁴⁾, taken from the tribal name for the snow capped mountain included within the territory. New postal stationery had to be issued reflecting the new name. But just as happened previously in 1895, producing new stamps and postal stationery was a slow process. There was little urgency to the work. In addition, plans were in place to create a new currency for the region based on a unit of one shilling divided into 100 cents. Eventually in 1923/4 the new postal stationery was ready, with postage set in the new currency.



15 cent postcard 1923 issue. This was the rate to all destinations from 1922 until the rate was reduced to 10 cents in 1930

Envelopes were produced for both inland and the British Empire surface mail rates, (15 cents and 20 cents respectively) together with postcards and registration envelopes. However, by the beginning of the 1920s the number of newspaper wrappers being used had dropped so much that it was decided not to issue these in the new currency.



1924 issue 15 cent envelope uprated to the correct British Empire rate of 20 cents in 1934

The new East African shilling was put on a par with the British shilling, although the pound was never officially adopted as part of the East African currency. Nevertheless, when numbers became unmanageable, 20 East African shillings were often referred to as a pound. The shilling was worth about half a rupee, which must have caused some headaches at the post office counters following this changeover with the new cents being half the value of the old ones.

In 1930 a new design of the coat of arms was introduced for the postcards. It was set on a black rectangular background and first appeared on the 10 cent postcard that came about as a result of a reduction in the postage rate for postcards addressed to inland and British Empire destinations. No reply postcards were offered for this issue. It was short-lived as the postcard rate for all destinations increased to 15 cents again in 1932.

In 1930 the rate for letters to inland and British Empire addresses was also reduced in a similar fashion to that for postcards, resulting in a 15 cent envelope being issued, still using an embossed stamp with the profile head of King George V set in an oval frame with "Kenya & Uganda" around the lower half and the value around the top half of the frame. But just like the postcards of the same period, the reduction in this rate lasted less than two years and in 1932 the minimum inland and British Empire postage rates rose again to 20 cents. The rate for letters posted to all other addresses remained at 30 cents throughout this period of change, but no special postal stationery envelopes were issued in this value.



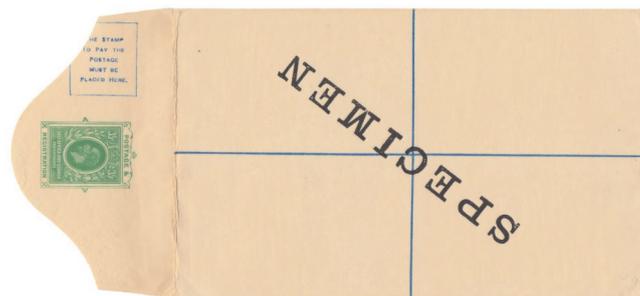
1924 issue 20 cent envelope correctly used to the UK in 1927

Yet again in this period, the wording on registration envelopes regarding the addition of stamps to pay the postage was out of sync with the registration stamp. The box on the front of registration envelopes produced for Kenya and Uganda stated that stamps to pay the postage are to be placed there. However, the stamp showed that both the basic registration fee and postage were paid. Is this yet another case of De La Rue failing to take due care, or was it simply to avoid having to produce new envelope blanks?

⁽⁴⁾ With the clear air across Africa, Mount Kenya can be seen from far away. The Kikuyu tribe's people called it *Kirinyaga*, the Embu tribe called it *Kirinyaa*, while the Kamba tribe's people called it *Kiinyaa*. It was from these tribal names for the famous snow capped mountain that the new name for British East Africa was born, *Kenya*. Old timers living in East Africa pronounced the "e" as in "bean" but following independence, the pronunciation of the "e" was softened becoming more like the "e" in "tent".



One of William Tunstall's first flight covers using the 20 cent postal stationery envelope,



35 cent registration envelope showing the incorrect wording in the postage stamp box.

KENYA, UGANDA AND TANGANYIKA



15c King George V postcard for use to all foreign destinations.



King George VI 15c envelope for internal destinations; this example used to Dar Es Salaam.

In 1935 postal stationery that was valid in all three countries of East Africa was finally put on sale, including

postcards, envelopes and registration envelopes. The postcard and registration envelope stamps were redesigned, (if you could call it that) squeezing the name "Tanganyika" between the oval frame holding the portrait of King George V and the names of the two other countries "Kenya" and "Uganda". The size of the lettering of all three names had to be reduced in the centre owing to a lack of space.

The envelope stamps were easier to redesign. The value in words was changed to figures and placed in circular tablets either side of the King's head. This left sufficient room to include the short names of "Kenya" and "Uganda" in the top half of the border on either side of the crown, with the longer name of Tanganyika around the bottom half of the border.

Meanwhile the prepaid registration envelopes continued to be sold, using the rectangular letterpress stamp design printed on the flap. However, when King George VI came to the throne at the end of 1936 it was decided that the printed stamp would once again only pay the basic registration fee and that adhesive stamps would have to be added in every case to cover postage costs. Why this change was adopted is unclear. It is highly unlikely that these envelopes would have been sent without any extra postage being added, since all registration envelopes had to be handed over the post office counter and a receipt obtained, and not simply put into a collecting box. Thus they would automatically be checked by the counter clerk for the correct prepayment of postage. So why was the cost of basic postage now omitted? Had something failed to work in the past?

One other change took place to the layout of the registration envelopes in the King George VI period. In all issues up to 1951 the printed stamp had always been printed vertically on the envelope flap (as seen when the envelope was stood on its short side). However when these envelopes were sealed the stamp was not positioned where one would normally expect it to be, but laid sideways in the centre of the right hand side. In Britain this peculiarity had been corrected when King Edward VII succeeded the throne in 1901, but in East Africa it came in the last couple of years of King George VI's reign.

When King George VI came to the throne at the end of 1936, new postcards were needed as part of the range of

postal stationery that was made available to the public. Two values were issued in 1938 carrying stamps of the new King; 10 cents for inland and British Empire destinations



1948 registration envelopes showing the stamp positioned half way down the right hand side, and with the stamp in the top right hand corner.

and 15 cents for use to all other countries. The 15 cent postcard was only issued in carmine, but there were a number of different colours used for the 10 cent postcard, some of which are incredibly difficult to find in either mint or used condition. The heading of one of these postcards, printed in black, was also changed from the standard heading, to include only the countries Kenya and Uganda, although I have not seen an example of this to verify its existence. The colour of the other 10 cent postcards was changed to match the colour of the border of the 10 cent value adhesive stamp. In 1938 both the 10 cent King George VI stamp border and postcard were red/brown, which was later changed to green in 1949 and then to grey in 1952.

In East Africa, the aesthetics of stamp design was given priority over other factors when the stamps for use within the region were being created. No attempt was made to give equal precedence to any of the names of the countries in East Africa and they were always known as Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika (KUT) in that order. This order of the countries names was always used in the design of all the stamps and postal stationery for the region, and this policy remained unchanged up to the independence of the individual states. Following independence, the designers of the stamps valid throughout East Africa rotated the three names within the stamp design, so that all three

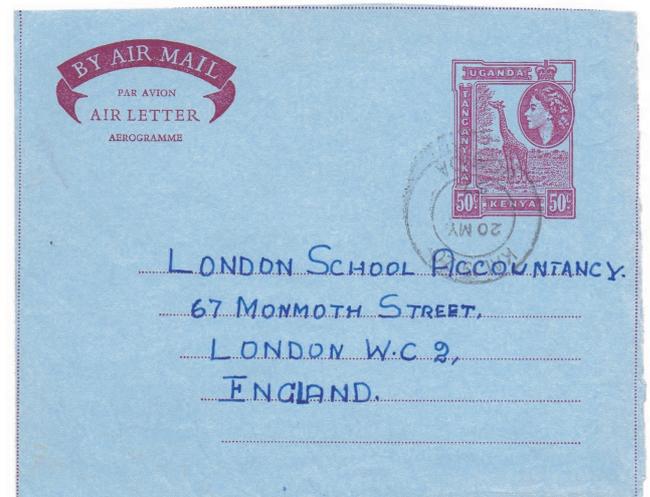


10c postcard intended for inland destinations, but this example uprated and used to South Africa.

countries were treated equally. But this did not apply to the stamps printed on post independence postal stationery. No items of postal stationery were jointly issued, only stationery intended for use in each individual country was put on sale.



The 15c postcard issued in 1962, with the stamp taken from the new Queen Elizabeth II definitive set.



The first 50c postal stationery air letter made available to the public.

- To be continued in the next issue

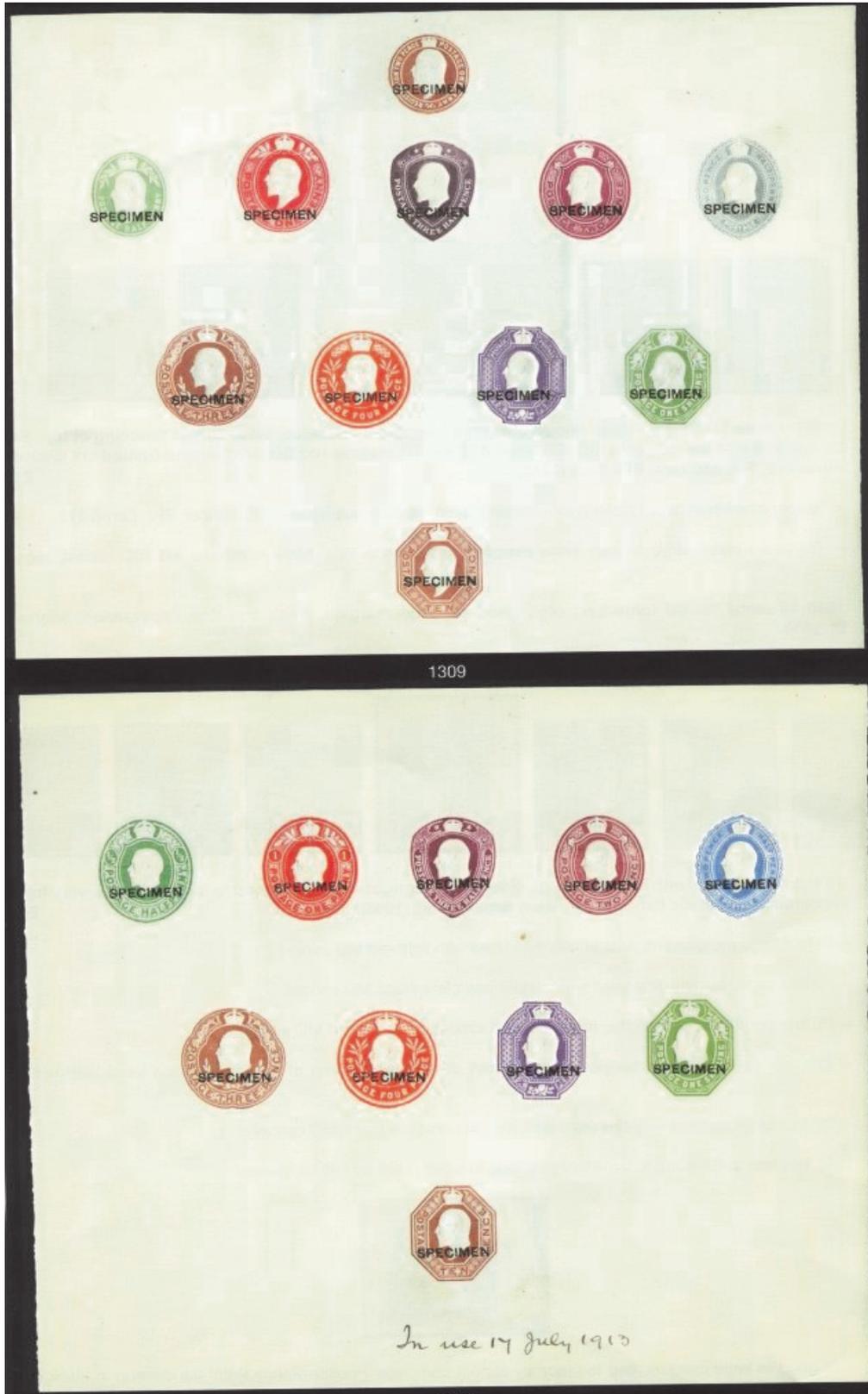
GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

NEW ITEMS REPORTED

Envelopes - Stamped to Order Issues

King Edward VII - Two colour standard sheets of embossed dies were offered at Stanley Gibbons auction on 3.10.13 as lots 1309 and 1310 of the ½d to 1s values including the 10d. Lot 1309 had KEVII ½d yellow green, 1d carmine, 1½d purple, 3d brown (registration die) & 2d to 1s dies while lot 1310 (not previously recorded) had KGV ½d green & 1d carmine dies, KEVII 1½d reddish lilac & 2d to 1s dies plus the manuscript inscription 'In use 17 July 1913'



Queen Elizabeth II - 1996-2005 2nd class grey NVI stamp
E8. Change listing to **ES181** as follows:-
ES181a grey stamp 20.5-2 1mm (C) NR xxxx
 bgrey stamp 25mm (PB,PY) NR xxxx
 Octagonal Machin embossed compound envelope. Insert
 new number **ESCP 1008B**, change listing to
ESCP1008 to **ESCP1008A**
ECSP1008B 2p + ½p (105 + 102) xxxx xx

Telegraph Form Post Office Issue

King George V - 9d AIS/E form sold in booklets
(TP46) with imprint **A15**. 9219. Wt.28744/1575.
 100,000. 12/19. S.O.,F.Rd. **Sch.44**. (courtesy
George King)

Postcards Post Office Issues

King George VI 1d + 1d card **(CP99)** spacing only 4mm
 between right hand and left hand stamp - not entirely clear
 whether stamp added or printed together (courtesy **George
 King**)



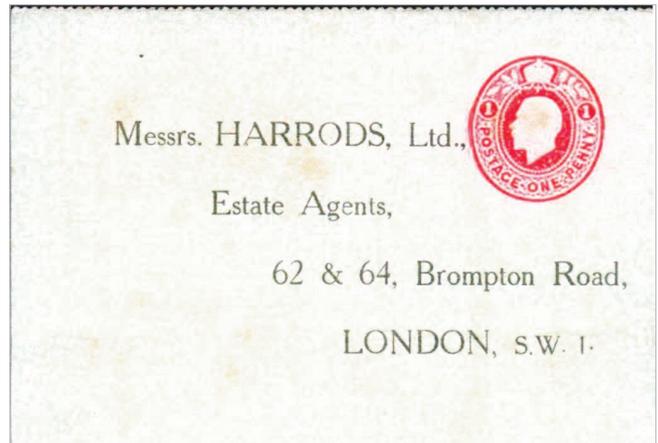
Queen Elizabeth II - 2½d + 2½d reply card **SP110a** with
 'SCHOOL/SPECIMEN' type SS2 (courtesy **George King**)

Postcards Stamped to Order Issues

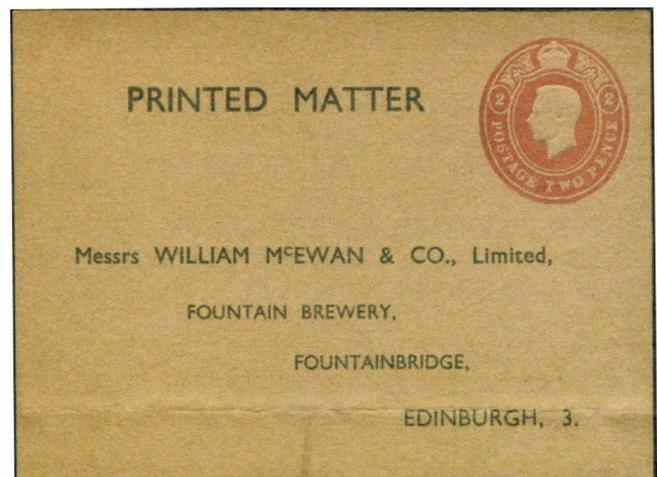
Queen Victoria -
 second variety of
 wrapper band for ½d
 brown without arms
(CS12) sold at face
 value by Army &
 Navy Co-Operative
 Society (courtesy
Robert Danzig).



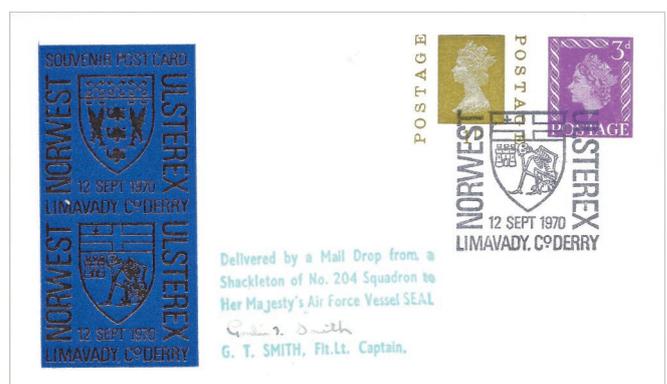
King George V - 1918-29? Reply half of 1d embossed
 printed matter reply card, stamp 30 (courtesy **Wayne
 Menuz**)
CS56A unregulated size (90 X 130mm) with perforated top
 edge xxxx NR



King George VI - 1956? new size with 2d brown embossed
 stamp 45, inland card without arms (courtesy **Wayne
 Menuz**). Change **CS 135** to **CS135B**, insert
CS135A
CS135A size d xxxx NR



Queen Elizabeth II - 1970 Compound stamping unregulated
 size for **NORWEST ULSTEREX 12.9.70** (courtesy **George
 King**). Change **CSP235** to **CSP233B**, insert **CSP233A**
CSP233A 3d violet+1d olive stamps L34+L41 NR xxxx



George King reports a number of additional types of phosphor bands on the STO postcards used by the House of Commons (CS289,297 & 298) as follows:-

C = clear; GY = grey; PY = pale yellow; Y yellow

CS289 1984 1st class black NVI stamp E3a (23 X 23mm), inland card size f (C,GY,PY,Y)

C295* 1988? 1st class black NVI stamp E7 (21mm), inland card size f (Y)

CS297* 1988? 2nd class black NVI stamp E8 (21mm), inland card size f(C,GY,PY)

NB. **CS295 & 297** were previously changed from **CS291 & 292** respectively.

Wrappers Stamped to Order Issues

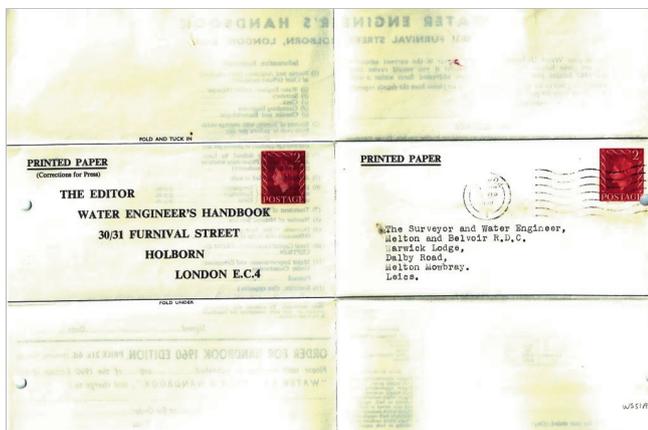
King George VI - 2½d blue stamp L27 on gummed label.

Amend description to

WS33 1944 2½d blue stamp L27 (L,S) xxxx 20.00



Queen Elizabeth II - 1959 2d brown stamp L32 on a reply paid letter sheet for Water Engineer's Handbook
WS51 A 2d brown stamp L32 (So)



Special Delivery Envelopes Stamped to Order Issues

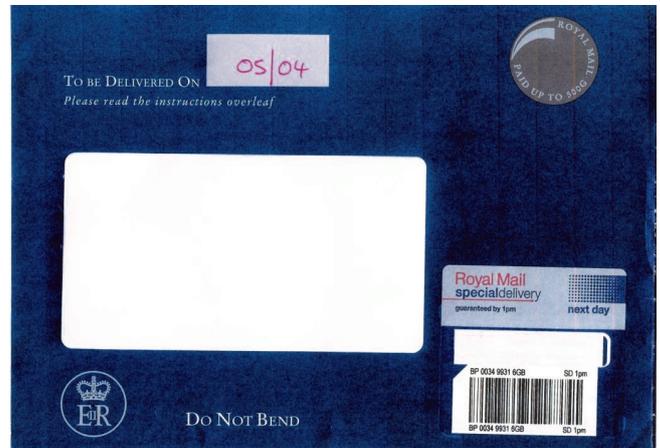
Queen Elizabeth II - a new type of these envelopes used to send congratulatory messages from Her Majesty The

Queen. Amend listing as follows:-

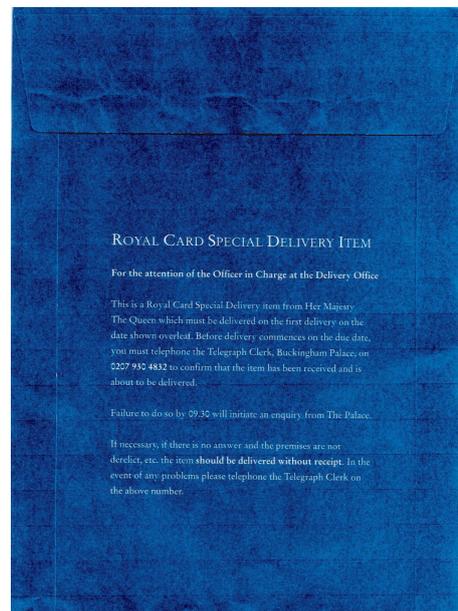
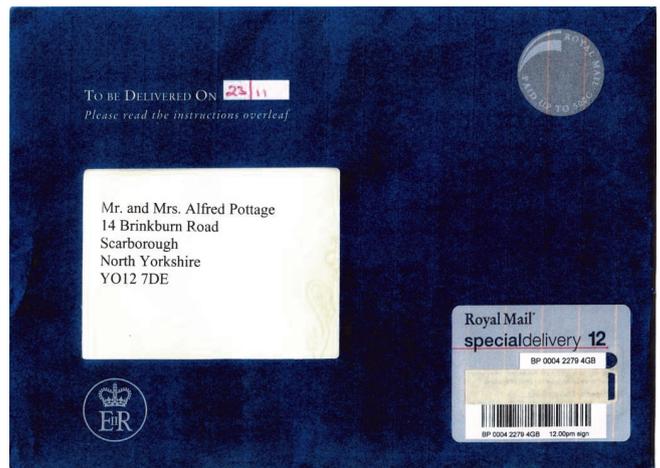
2003-10? Circular grey NVI stamp SDI with 'ROYAL MAIL PAID UP TO 500G' dark blue window envelope with circular 'Crown/EIIR' logo, size C5

ESD1 2003? No text on reverse;

'Royal Mail' in red & 'Special delivery next day' in blue at right on front xxxx xxxx

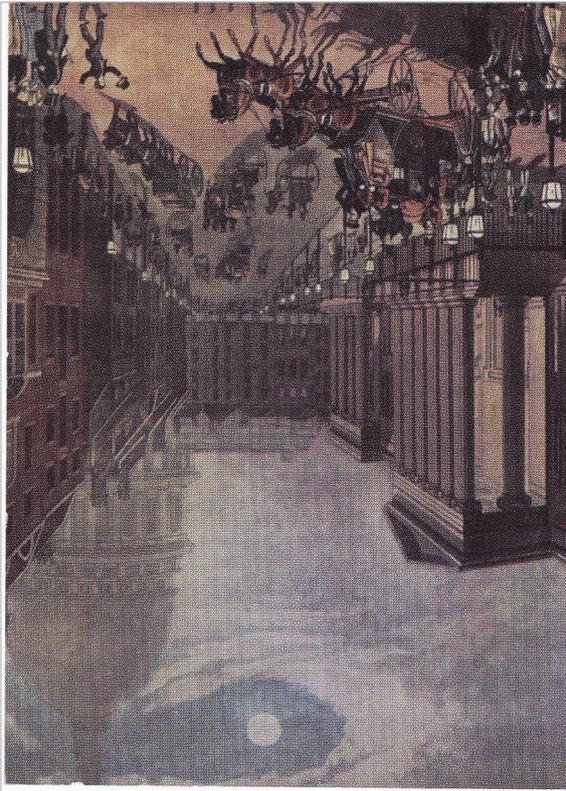


ESD2 2010? Text headed 'ROYAL CARD SPECIAL DELIVERY ITEM' on reverse; 'Royal Mail/special delivery 12' in blue at right on front NR xxxx



TONY BENN'S CHRISTMAS CARD

Douglas N. Muir



We all know of Tony Benn's revolutionary ideas and actions when he became Postmaster General in October 1964. One of his ideas, however, which did not come to fruition has only recently come to light, nearly 50 years later. The information was hidden in an obscure official file headed **Envelopes for automatic machines (POST 52/733)**. From that title no-one could guess the contents. It was a proposal for the Post Office to issue Christmas cards with imprinted stamps, possibly in connection with a charity. This was to go as far as designs being commissioned and essays printed though none were recognised for what they were until now.

In February 1966 McCorquodales were asked for costings for 500,000 pictorial postcards. This quantity required was later to rise. In April there is the first mention of design. There was to be no design competition but rather Benn had suggested Andrew Restall as the designer. Restall held Benn's Fellowship of Minuscule Design and was doing a lot of experimental work on stamps at this time. It was proposed that the card or cards could be printed in *multicolour* letterpress by McCorquodale's. This would be a first as the stamp could have been expected to have been printed in photogravure as on airletters or offset lithography.

There were to be six designs for the "seasonal" element and two designs for the stamp, the latter to be suitable for use with any of the "seasonal" designs. By this time Benn had come to the conclusion that it would be better to have non-specific designs so that the cards could be used in the New Year as well. The theme for the stamps and pictorial elements was to be of a festive nature. Up to three colours might be used (presumably other than black) and finished artwork was required by 2 May. The fee for the

complete brief was 500 guineas (£525).

The quantity was now to be 5 million. With the much increased print figure the selling price was agreed at 6d each including the 3d stamp. No discount was to be allowed on any bulk sales. They were to be issued from Supplies Dept. in bands of 10 at 5s. 0d., packets of 100 at £2 10s. 0d. and parcels of 1,000 at £25 0s. 0d. At some point the number of designs had been reduced to one. By early June McCorquodales were working on proofs and these have now come to light. There are at least three extant, all the same, though two have the stamp overprinted CANCELLED (twice), the other has a SPECIMEN overprint. The stamp is very much of the 60s with a large Gentleman cameo head of the Queen to the right. The pictorial design features a skyline of London with the Post Office Tower prominent. The screen shows it very clearly to be printed in four-colour letterpress – a process which was never otherwise used on British stamps or postal stationery. This can now be recognised to be by Andrew Restall.

The left hand side of the proofs is taken up with an inverted image cropped from a famous Pollard mail coach print. The original print was entitled "The Royal Mail starting from the Central Post Office London" and this is a hand-coloured aquatint published by T. McLean, London 1830 by R.G. Reeves after James Pollard. It features the then new General Post Office building in St Martin's-le-Grand. Why is the illustration inverted? The answer may possibly be that it was not intended to be used on the final item. The rendering is rather dull for a festive card and the colours are gloomy.

On 4 July Benn was replaced as Postmaster General by Edward Short who was no friend of Benn's

revolutionary ideas. One of the first things he did (two days later) was to cancel the Christmas Card project. He was “not altogether pleased with the design and not at all sure that the concept of a single Christmas card, offering no choice to the public, was a good idea.” Postal officials gleefully pointed out the operational difficulties and their estimate of only £3,500 profit if they sold one million.

Later, the printers invoiced the Post Office for the expensive card which had already been cut and 4 cwt of letterpress ink (yellow, cyan, magenta and black) which was in paste form formulated specially for printing on art board.

Nothing was then heard of the experiment, or the novel printing method, until today.

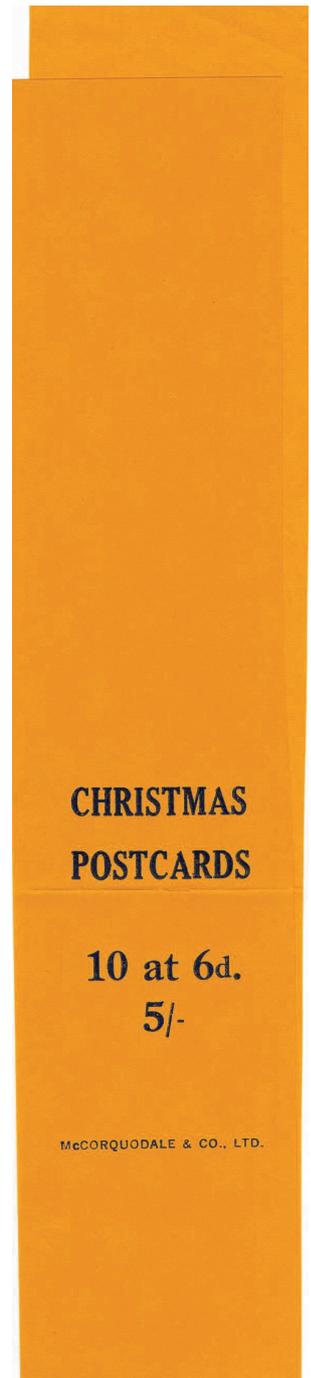
This is an abbreviated version of an article which appeared in the January 2014 issue of Stamp Magazine.



**CHRISTMAS
POSTCARDS**

10 PACKETS of 100

1000 — £25



**CHRISTMAS
POSTCARDS**

**10 at 6d.
5/-**

McCORQUODALE & CO., LTD.



CHRISTMAS POSTCARDS

6d

100 **£2 10s 0d**

McCORQUODALE & CO., LTD.

A SURVEY OF H. EDGAR WESTON/VICTOR MARSH COVERS

Colin Breddy

From recent articles published in the Journal most of our members will be familiar with the story of H. Edgar Weston and the covers he produced bearing singles, pairs and blocks of EVII and GV embossed stamps cut out from sheets of 48 impressions that he had embossed for himself at Somerset House. The format of the printing meant that there were 4 panes of 12 impressions each 4 wide by 3 deep, with the bottom two reversed in relation to the top two producing 8 pairs of 'neck to neck' or 'cou-beche' vertical pairs.

I gave a small display about this subject at the Society meeting in November 2013, entitled 'Thinking outside the Box' and here is a page from that :-

"This is probably an appropriate moment to indulge in a TOTB moment of my own - the thorny question of how many sheets of stamps did Victor/H. Edgar actually have printed.

I have made some tentative enquiries but it seems very unlikely that any paperwork relating to his printings still exists - but never say never !.

In the meantime bear with me while I try for an informed guess or possibly wild conjecture !.

The KEVII embossed issues in sheet form.

I know that there were at least two and possibly three printings of the KEVII 1d. scarlet, the first Die no. 78 was made in June 1910, let's suppose there were 10 of these for a minimum outlay of £2 - why would H.Edgar risk more until he had tested the system ?.

He was obviously satisfied and I believe he definitely had printings made of all of the Edwardian embossed values ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d., 2½d., 3d., 4d., 6d. and 1/-, by December 1910. Even if he had ordered only five sheets of each this would have entailed a minimum outlay of at least £32 10s. (equivalent to about £3200 today) - would he have risked that much on a purely speculative adventure ? - I think not. I think it more likely that he ordered, at the most, 5 each of the ½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2d.;

and 3 each of the 2½d., 3d.; 4d.; 6d. and 1/-; for a minimum outlay of £21 10/- (about £2100 today) - still a very major expense.

I have been unable to find any advertisements for the sale of these sheets or the cut-outs on cover until his 1923 advert in the Exhibition catalogue offering 'The finest existent collection of British Naval covers of the Great war, Price £50'. (£2,400 today).

The KGV embossed issues in sheet form.

These present a slightly different problem since the stamps themselves were issued piecemeal between September 1913 and November 1915. Did he order sheets of these as they appeared ?. Since there were eleven values altogether this might account for his statement in his letter to S.J.Bennet - 'From 1910 to 1915 twelve warrants were executed for me'.

He also claimed in this letter that the warrant that had been refused was for a total value of £50 4s. (£4350 in today's money) - an enormous sum - was he actually managing to sell his sheets and covers ?.

To reach this amount he was possibly trying to order 12 sheets each of the ½d., 1d., 1½d., 2d.; 6 sheets each of the 2½d., 3d.; 4d.; 6d.; and 3 sheets each of the 9d.; 10d.; and 1/- which would have entailed an outlay of approximately this amount.

It is probably fair to assume that his previous orders did not exceed these quantities.

Where did they go ?

280 covers were lost on HMS Queen Elizabeth - possibly 14 each of 20 different values - approximately 1 sheet of each value

400 covers to Lt.-Col. A.S. Bates - possibly 20 each of 20 different values - approximately 1½ sheets of each value.

The 1923 Exhibition entry - 1 mint sheet of each value plus say a ½ sheet of each value for the covers he exhibited.

(1 sheet = 8 plain blks of 4 plus 4 cou-beche blks of 4 or 16 plain pairs plus 8 cou-beche pairs)

Summary

KEVII ½d.	green	5 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	2 sheets remaining
KEVII 1d.	carmine	15 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	12 sheets remaining
KEVII 1½d.	purple	5 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	2 sheets remaining
KEVII 2d.	lake	5 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	2 sheets remaining
KEVII 2½d.	grey-blue	3 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	no sheets remaining
KEVII 3d.	brown	3 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	no sheets remaining
KEVII 4d.	vermilion	3 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	no sheets remaining
KEVII 6d.	violet	3 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	no sheets remaining
KEVII 1/-	green	3 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	no sheets remaining
KGV ½d.	green	12 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	9 sheets remaining
KGV 1d.	scarlet	12 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	9 sheets remaining
KGV 1½d.	brown	12 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	9 sheets remaining
KGV 2d.	orange	12 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	9 sheets remaining
KGV 2½d.	light blue	6 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	3 sheets remaining
KGV 3d.	violet	6 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	3 sheets remaining
KGV 4d.	grey-green	6 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	3 sheets remaining
KGV 6d.	purple	6 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	3 sheets remaining
KGV 9d.	dark brown	3 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	no sheets remaining
KGV 10d.	turquoise	3 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	no sheets remaining
KGV 1/-	olive-brown	3 sheets	3 sheets accounted for	no sheets remaining

No further sheets were printed since the Post Office cancelled his Warrant in early 1916”

Where next ?

I wonder what happened to all of these stamps? – I have not been able to find any adverts offering these items for sale before the end of the 2nd. World War other than the advert mentioned above in 1923 – was he more interested in keeping them for his own collection?.

In addition to these Weston also used QV cut-outs and later on he also had wrappers produced with GVI letterpress stamps arranged in “tete-beche” pairs and blocks of 4.

In order to try and establish the extent of the printings that were made I would be very grateful if members of the Society would report to me, by email, any Weston covers that they have, with details of the cut-outs

that they bear, the address they were sent to and the postmark on the cover / card. I am particularly interested in covers bearing cou-beche pairs or blocks as they will indicate more clearly the possible number of sheets printed. For the same reason I would also be very interested to hear about large blocks of unused stamps.

Of course if any member has any positive information about the number of sheets printed or can offer a better estimate, I would be delighted to hear about that also.

I look forward to being able to have more information on this subject, available to publish in the Journal, in the near future.

Colin Breddy

(email address colinbreddy001@btinternet.com)



Editor:

Other examples of ‘Weston’ covers may be seen on p 18 & 19 of the November 2013 issue of the Journal

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH, but there might be a free postcard with it!

Peter Williams

Our eagle-eyed Editor is always on the lookout for interesting articles. He was fascinated by part of one of my displays recently and asked me to share it with a wider audience.

Travelling back on an Austrian Airlines flight from Vienna to Frankfurt in 2007, I was surprised to see that the in-flight meal had a postcard attached to the top of the box.



I detached the card and saw that the flight attendant could send it, free of charge.



No philatelist could decline such an invitation, so I wrote a short message and handed it to a flight attendant as I left the plane.

Within a week, the postcard arrived with an interesting cancel.



A TAXE PERCUE cancel had been applied. This means "Postage Paid".

Breclav is very close to the Austrian and Slovak borders. It is unclear why the post card has been sent from this location. A possible explanation is that the postage from the Czech Republic may have been cheaper at that time.



Looking on the internet for my display, I only found two references to "freshmania" and "Do & Co". (The food was prepared by Do & Co, the caterer for Austrian Airlines). There was nothing on eBay, which often has obscure philatelic items. One was on a Facebook page from a delighted customer and the other was a press release on the Austrian Airlines website.

This is reproduced below.

30th November 2006

The new meal service is served in a specially designed presentation box where the lid is actually an oversized postcard. So as you're tucking in and heading for the Alps just write a note to someone you want to make green with envy and pass the card to the cabin crew who will post it free of charge. It's a gift, you can say, "Wish you were here" before you actually arrive.

It's not just a gimmick. The food, designed by an award winning Austrian Chef, comes in an individual presentation box and by using your postcard you are already recycling. The meals are based on traditional Austrian dishes and vary by season and time of day. For breakfast you could get muesli with yogurt and a selection of cold cuts but later in the day you may be offered a special beef salad and strudel. A separate bread and soft drink service accompanies the 'Austrian Snack Box'.

So, travel with Austrian and you'll get a free lunch (or breakfast or dinner) and a free postal service, surely that's something to write home about?

From the date of my flight in 2007, it is clear that the service continued after the 2006 winter season. Do members have any further information?

IMPRINTS ON H&B APII

George King

I have recently acquired two 6d Houses of Parliament Air letters H&B **APII** with imprints on their sealing flaps. According to the late **Peter Jennings** in his book "Aerogrammes" (Picton Publishing 1973), I found the following information: [I have added text in { } assigning Huggins & Baker (H&B) numbers and additional information where appropriate]

"Experimental Gum

On 20th May 1965, a trial order of 4,000 each, 6d Houses of parliament Air letter { **H&B APII** } gummed with two kinds of P.V.A. adhesive { Poly Vinyl Acetate? } were supplied to the Post Office. Previously the adhesive used on all Air Letters produced by McCorquodales was Gum Arabic.

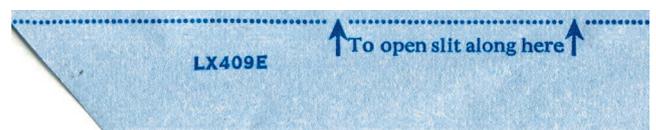
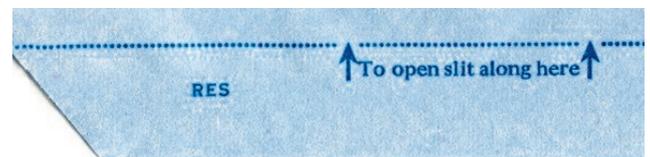
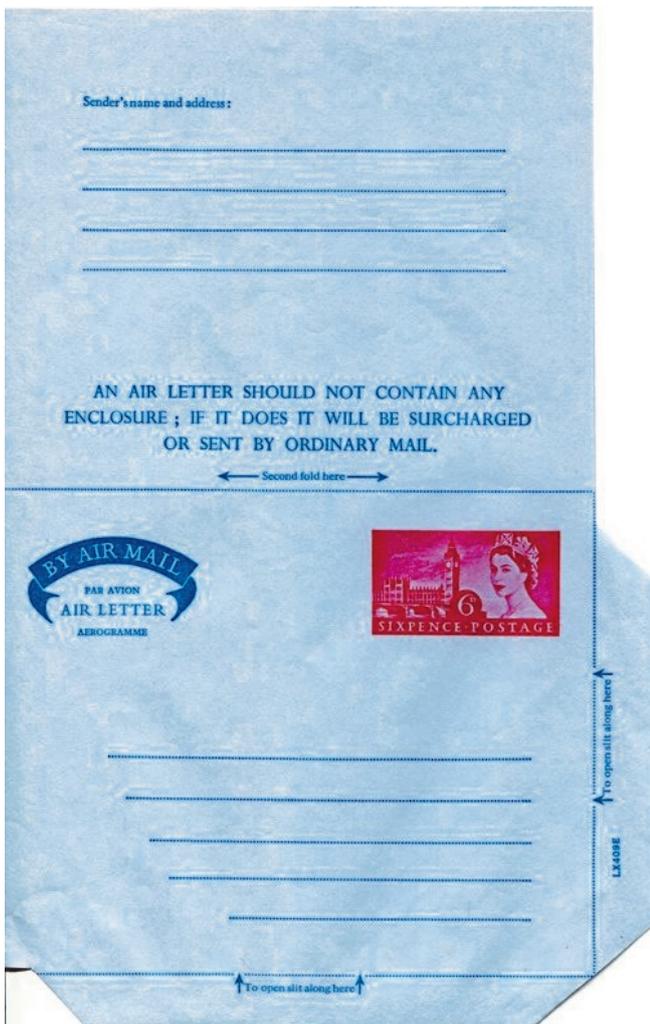
In this trial batch "**RES**" was printed on the sealing tab of those forms gummed with Samuel Jones Res and "**LX409E**" on those forms gummed with Sichel adhesive, produced by Brown & Poulson. This American firm is now

known as Corn Products Limited {later CPC(UK)Limited} and the name Sichel is no longer used.

These forms were put on sale at selected London Post Offices during the autumn of 1965. The Post Office selected Sichel LX409E and the first delivery was made by McCorquodales to the Post Office Supplies Department at Wolverton on 18th October 1965.

On 12th October 1965 McCorquodales received instructions from the Post Office to replace all dotted guide lines with continuous lines and to dispense with arrow heads. The new type air letters appeared in Post Offices as old supplies became exhausted. They were first seen in the middle of January 1966. {API2}

In the House of Commons on 20th June 1965, it was announced that as from 3rd October, there would be changes in some of the charges for Inland and Overseas Postal Services and this included the Air letter form which was increased from 6d. to 9d. {API3}



INLAND REVENUE OFFICIAL EMBOSSED ENVELOPES Maurice Buxton

Collect British Postal Stationery lists a number of rare Queen Victoria official envelopes for the Inland Revenue under the catalogue numbers **EO25-29**, **EO32-39**, and **EO41-44**, mostly with the issue date given speculatively as “1900?”. This turns out to be spot on. While looking something up in the *Post Office Circular*, I spotted the following announcement in the edition for 19th June, 1900:

**NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS AND OFFICERS
ENGAGED IN SORTING OFFICES.**

Issue of Official Embossed Envelopes with partially printed
addresses and marked “On Her Majesty’s Service” by
the Inland Revenue.

Postmasters and all Officers engaged in Sorting Offices should note that on and from the 1st July next the Inland Revenue Department will issue for use by Officers of that Department, official envelopes bearing embossed stamps for postage, with partially printed addresses and the printed heading “On Her Majesty’s Service.”

The following descriptions of covers will be brought into use:--

<i>No.</i>	<i>Size.</i>	<i>Printed Address.</i>	<i>Value of Stamp.</i>	H&B Cat No/Size
1.	Note*	The..... of Inland Revenue,	1d.	EO25 (78x133)
2.	Note	The Collector of Inland Revenue,	1d.	EO26 (78x133)
3.	Note	The Supervisor of Inland Revenue,	1d.	EO33 (78x131)
4.	Note	The Officer of Inland Revenue,	1d.	EO32 (78x131)
5.	Foolscap	The Collector of Inland Revenue,	1d.	EO27 (97x221)
6.	Foolscap	The Surveyor of Taxes,	1d.	EO28 (95x225)
7.	Cartridge	The Surveyor of Taxes,	1d.	EO34? (150x241)
8.	Cartridge	The Surveyor of Taxes,	1d.	EO35? (177x305)
9.	Cartridge	The Collector, Inland Revenue,	3d.	EO41 (189x245)
10.	Cartridge	The Supervisor, Inland Revenue,	3d.	EO42 (189x245)
11.	Cartridge	The Officer, Inland Revenue,	3d.	EO43 (189x245)

* For use only until the stock already provided shall be exhausted.

If any name be substituted for the designation of the Official, or the printed address be otherwise altered in manuscript, the letters must be surcharged at the unpaid rate of postage. The cover should, if possible, be obtained in these cases and submitted to the Secretary with a report.

This notice should be exhibited in all Sorting Offices and entered in the Order Book, so that it may be noted by all concerned.

With the exception of the rightmost column giving the catalogue number and size from CBPS, the formatting is as close to the original document as possible.

There are a number of points of note:

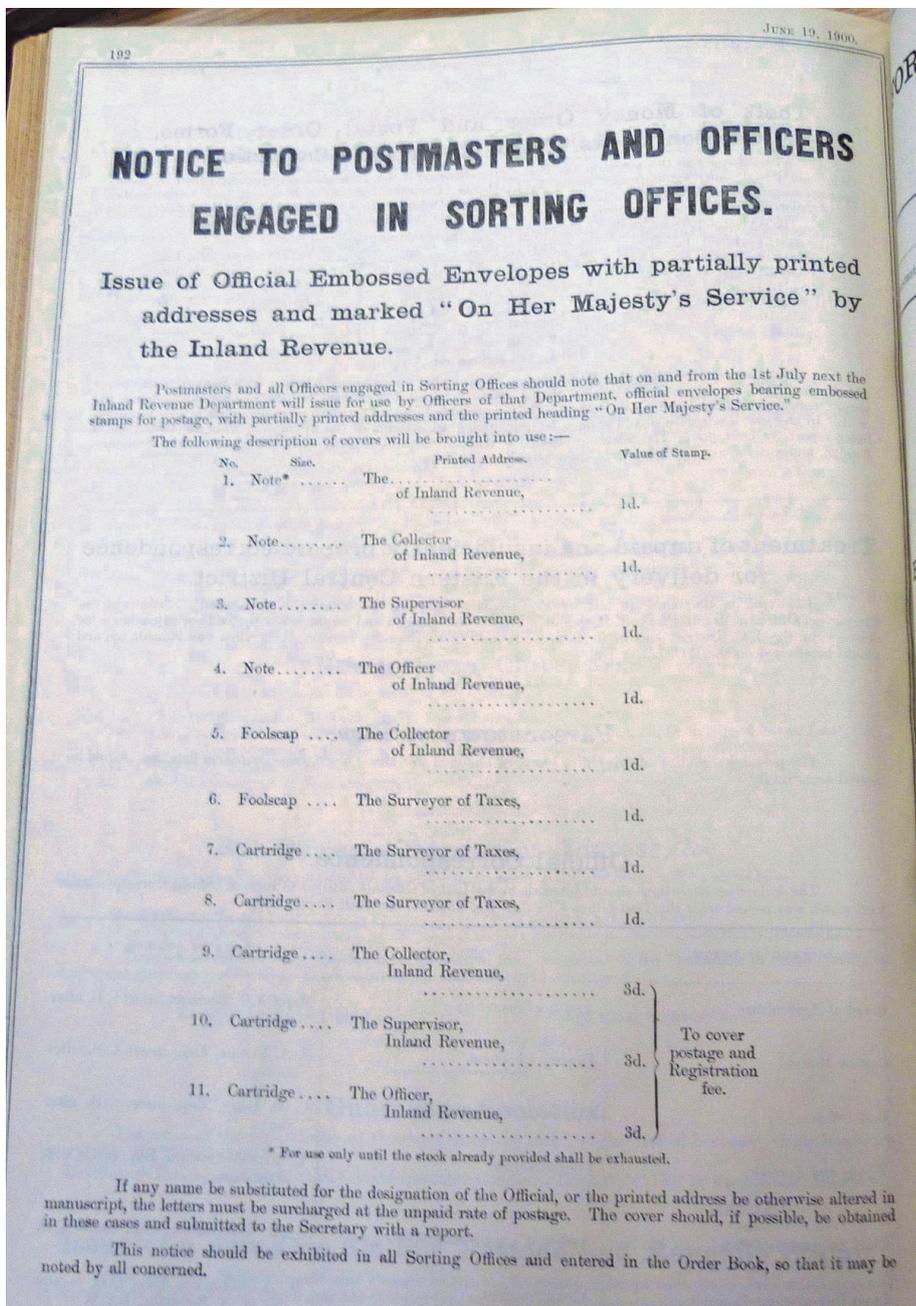
(1) While most of the envelopes can be matched with those listed in CBPS with reasonable confidence (the final column), on the face of it numbers 7 and 8 are identical. These appear to be **EO34-35** – presumably intended for cartridge size paper folded two different ways, as neither match the catalogued size of the 3d envelopes, also stated to be “Cartridge” size. Then again, doubtless the Post Office were only reprinting a list supplied by the Inland Revenue.

(2) There were no further such notices in the *Circular* until the introduction of the first envelopes with “Official Paid” imprints in 1905. Changes in the type of paper used (white or buff), or in the stamp and/or format for the new reign do not appear to have warranted another notice. One suspects, however, that the Revenue may simply not have considered the changes operationally significant enough to issue a separate notification. So for example **EO38-39** would just be later printings of **EO27-28** with “Her” replaced with “His”, and so on for the Edward VII issues.

(3) **EO29, EO36, EO37, and EO44** do not obviously correspond to anything in the notice. It seems likely that the first three, at least, are of proof status as the catalogue suggests, and possibly **EO44** also.

(4) The asterisked note against No 1 (**EO25**) is curious. It suggests an original intention to have general envelopes, one that ran into some kind of internal opposition in favour of specifying the officer – but only after sufficient numbers had been printed that it would have been too wasteful to scrap them before use.

(5) The stated sizes are unexpectedly confusing. “Foolscap” seems to map reasonably well to the once-familiar size of 8½”x13½” (216x343mm), assuming paper folded twice. But it’s not clear which sizes are being referred to by the terms “Note” and “Cartridge”, especially as the latter seems somewhat variable. Websites listing historic paper sizes do not tell a consistent tale, so if anyone has a contemporary reference that would be most helpful!



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Recent Articles from the Philatelic Press

Gibbons Stamp Monthly (January 2014)

"Postal Stationery Matters" Peter van Gelder

Stamp Magazine (January 2014)

"The Ghost of Christmas Past" Douglas Muir

Postal Stationery November/December 2013 (USA)

"Forged Used British Bechuanaland Newspaper Wrapper" Peter Thy

"Character Fonts on German View Cards - How Minor Things Led to Political Issues" Prof. Dr. Michael Bockish

"U.S.A. Postal Cards in the Spanish - American War Period" Lewis E. Bussey

"Changes in Printing Method for the Nepal 2 Paisa Postal card 1887 - 1922" Dr. Frank Vignola

"Official Use of Public Postal Cards" Cary Finder

"Indian Postal Stationery Envelopes Overprinted 'British East Africa'" George. T. Krieger

"Greece Mount Athos Parcel Post Cards"

Postal Stationery Collector February 2014 (Australia)

"The Last Word" Mark Diserio

Major Philatelic Auction of Australian Stationery Achieves Many Strong Results" Gary Watson

"5d QE II Envelope - Change of Colour from Dark to Light Blue" Mark Diserio

"An Exciting New Discovery" Gary Watson

"Brasiliana 2013 and EMS Stationery" Bernie Beston

"Privately issued Australian Airletters and Aerogrammes" Neil W. Cornish

"Queensland Government Proofs" Ian Mc Mahon

"The Hill Wrappers of Victoria: Reconstruction History. Dr John K. Courtis

"Current Postal Stationery from Brasil, Uruguay and Argentina" Ian McMahon

L'Entier Postal June 2013 (France)

Les Entiers de la Poste Pneumatique de Paris - Part 1 1879 - 1901

Ray Downing writes:

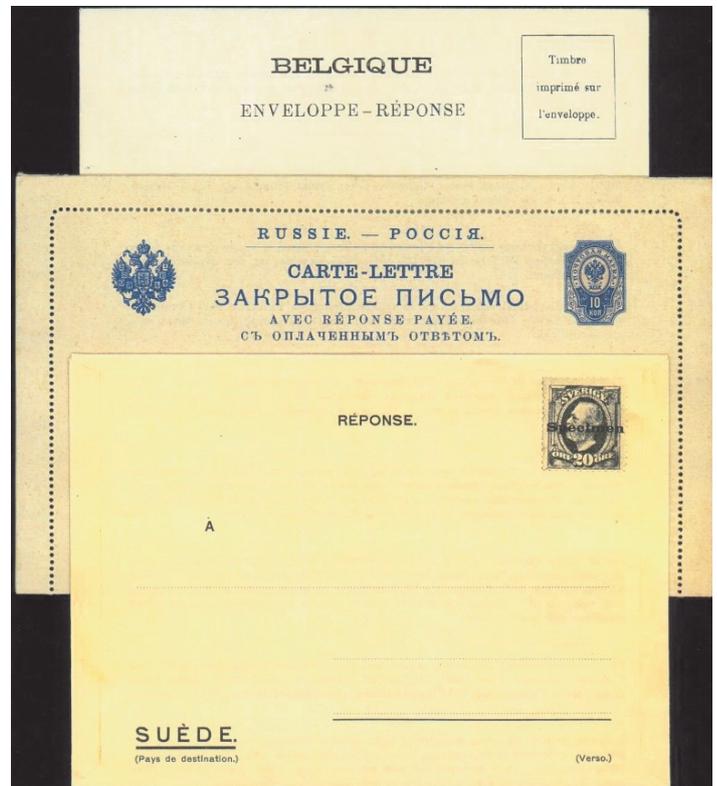
Regarding **George King's** article 'Special Delivery Plastic Envelopes' (PSSJ No. 67, August 2013) I can add a few print codes:

Bars design paid	C5	no crown	SD	no code
Bars design paid	C5	no crown	ND	4112
Bars design paid	C4	no crown	ND	2112
Free packaging	C5	crown		2009
Free packaging	C5	no crown	SD	2009; no code
Free packaging	C4	no crown	SD	1912; no code
Free packaging	C3	no crown	SD	1412
and one new item:				
Free packaging	C3	large '1'		no code

Postal Stationery at Auction

Spink, London November 2013. Lot 1610 Original red leather volume presented to delegates to the 1906 UPU Congress, Rome containing 3 reply paid essays.

Estimate £200-250. Realisation £1,600 (plus buyer's premium of 20%)



Peter Bamert wrote an interesting article on these and other essays presented to the 6th UPU Congress in Rome (1906) in the Journal of the USA Postal Stationery Society - 'Postal Stationery No. 371 March/April 2010' A copy of this is available from our Librarian - Chris Howe. Email: chrishowe@skanderbeg.fsnet.co.uk

FOR SALE

Collection of Post Office & STO envelopes, QV to KGV, 80 env, 1 front & 1 a/ring. Mint & Used. Condition fair to fine, some foxing and soiling & some duplication with common items.

Including; EP34, 38, 39, 53: ES2, 4, 20b, 25a, 35, 45, 53:

ESC19, 25, 34, 41, 46, 58, 195, 258, 357U

Reg, 443M, 661U Reg.+AR8 cut down etc. H&B Catalogue, app £865.00.

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Share your interest with other members!

I am always pleased to receive article, notes, comments etc on all aspects of postal stationery collecting and on individual items of postal stationery.

*Please send copy for the May issue of the Journal to reach the Editor before Tuesday 1st April 2014
Contact details on Page 2 of this issue of the Journal.*

John Barker

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www.grosvenorauctions.com and complimentary copies of each catalogue are available on request.

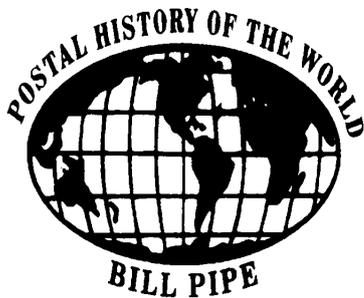
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I am particularly keen on material that comes from the period **1900 - 1950**. Where possible, if you can scan your items, together with a price and description of condition, I would be happy to answer all offers.

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

Great Britain and British Commonwealth 1840 - Date

STAMPS

POSTAL HISTORY

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