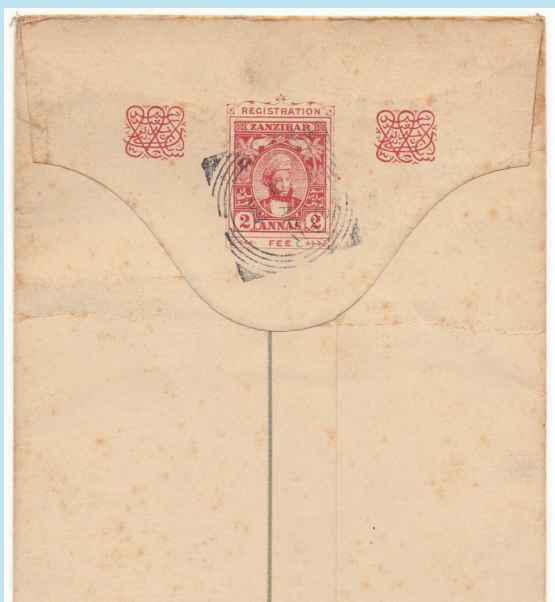




# THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 22, No. 2  
(Serial number 70)

May 2014



Back flap of a registration envelope issued  
in 1897 in the reign of  
Sultan Seyyid Hamed-bin-Thwaine.



Half and one anna Indian issue newspaper wrappers  
overprinted for use in Zanzibar

The Postal Stationery of East Africa - Part 4: See page 18

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## The Postal Stationery Society (Founded 1992)

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

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

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

**[johnhbarker@btinternet.com](mailto: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

**Saturday 14th June** - 2.00 - 4.00pm at SWINPEX. Members' Displays.

**Saturday 25 October** - 10.30am - 4.00pm at the Royal Philatelic Society, London. AGM, Tony Chilton Competition and Auction.

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.**

## Society Notes

Our Treasurer, **Alan Ginsberg**, has sent the following for all PSS members.

*Thank you to all members for the really special Get Well Card sent to me recently, when I first got ill.*

*I want to extend to everyone my sincere thanks for the really warm and encouraging words, as well as the individual messages from each of the people who signed the card. I have had four weeks treatment and so far managed with some mild side effects, so have to be grateful as others may have suffered worse than me.*

*I send my best to everyone.*

*Alan*

## Postal Auction

The June postal auction has been sent out with this issue of the Journal.

The closing date is **Wednesday 11th June** so please make sure that 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](http://www.postalstationery.org.uk)**

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - MAY 2014

I recently gave a club display on military stationery headed 'Airgraphs, Air Letters & Military Stationery'. The vast majority does not qualify as being classed as 'postal stationery' but I was thinking about the position of the early 'Official' air letter cards. Air Mail Lettercards were the invention of Dr Gumbley when he worked for the Iraqi Post & Telegraphs Dept in the early 1930s. Looking for a method to speed up delivery of mail throughout the country he designed a lightweight form with set dimensions that could be carried in bulk by small aircraft of the time. The same problem was faced at the start of the WW2, particularly in the Middle East for cheap airmail rates and use of letter cards was proposed in August 1940. By January 1941 it had been agreed to introduce them in the Middle East at a rate of 3d, to be prepaid by the use of British stamps sent from all countries including Egypt. The service was brought into use from the 1<sup>st</sup> March except for Egypt, who would not accept the use of British stamps. The service was started from Palestine, Cyprus, Cyrenaica, Greece, Crete and Sudan. No agreement had been reached

with the Egyptian Prime Minister by early April so to circumvent the problem, it was agreed to modify the AML by franking it 'OFFICIAL PAID'. These would then be sold to the troops at 3d each. On 28<sup>th</sup> April 220,000 of these were issued to FPOs, although by the 2<sup>nd</sup> May Egypt had agreed to permit GB stamps to be used.

This printing was therefore a very limited run, bearing in mind many printings of plain AML's ran into millions. The question is - can they qualify as official postal stationery? The cards had an additional line added to the standard heading "Price: THREE PENCE" Early cards came with GT. BRITAIN printed at the bottom and underlined with the front panel having a privacy colouring on the inside. These air mail letter cards are the forerunners of the QE11 sto AMLs which are seeing a recent surge in interest.

Have a good summer.

**Neil Sargent**



Pair of Official paid AMLs; used 14<sup>th</sup> May & 18<sup>th</sup> July 1941

## SECRETARY'S NOTES - MAY 2014

### SWINPEX MEETING.

WOULD ALL MEMBERS PLEASE MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THE CORRECT DATE FOR THE SWINPEX MEETING.

THE YELLOW PROGRAMME BOOKLET IS WRONG.

**THE MEETING IS ON SATURDAY  
14 JUNE 2014.**

SEE THE FLYER SENT OUT WITH THE FEBRUARY JOURNAL FOR MORE DETAILS, OR CONTACT THE SECRETARY.

### Neil Sargent

I'm very pleased to tell you that our Chairman, **Neil Sargent**, has been given the Award of Merit by the ABPS. This is only given to those people who have given their services to philately in an outstanding way and reflects the effort Neil has made in helping to run the Society.

Unfortunately the news came just too late for the March meeting, but we will make amends at our meeting at Swinpex in June.

### A Time to reflect

My sister, who lives in the USA, recently sent me a cutting from Time magazine dated 4<sup>th</sup> November 2013. The article is headed "Are Stamps Licked? - Not at the

Smithsonian's huge new stamp gallery". Oh how I hate these contrived headlines. One of my local papers is always doing the same and comes up with gems such as "Collector stamps his mark on philately" or "Popular postman given stamp of approval". I grimace every time I read one of these. (OK so the title of this piece is not much better)

But back to the Time article. It tells how the hobby in the US is suffering because collectors are getting older and older, but as they finally join the ultimate philatelic society, no new collectors are coming into the hobby. Many families want to sell their forebears' collections because sons and daughters are not interested in these tiny scraps of paper any more. The problem is that as soon as they approach a stamp dealer, they find that their collection is not worth a great deal of money. Even worse are collections of modern stamps and they are told that these are best used up as postage, since they will not be able to get a better return for their outlay. But despite these stories of gloom and doom in the US, the prices being achieved for

classic material continues to rise steadily and auction house receipts are increasing every year.

In Washington, the Smithsonian National Postal Museum has just built a 12,000 square feet (about 1,100m<sup>2</sup>) of additional exhibition space, which it is hoped will help attract youngsters to the hobby. Whether this will work or not remains to be seen.

The Time article reminded me of the similar state of our hobby on the European side of the Atlantic. What was said of the hobby in the US, is also true in Great Britain. Here prices being asked for good quality material continue to rise, but at local society level the number of members is falling and any society that can still boast a youth section is doing very well. I'm not sure how the hobby is doing in mainland Europe, but I would imagine it is a similar story.

So make the most of philately and collecting postal stationery. But don't rely on your collection for funding your old age or to give your children a giant step up in life. It might not be quite as valuable as you had thought.

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## MARCH 2014 MEETING REPORT

Twenty five members of the Great Britain Overprint and Postal Stationery Societies met on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014 at the Royal Philatelic Society in London. It is not possible to give individual society numbers as some attending are members of both societies.

**Neil Sargent** welcomed everyone and said how nice it was to see so many people at our meeting. Apologies were given by PSS members Edward Caesley, Paul Jones, Graham Barker, and by GBOS members Mike Sanders & Geoff Chivers.

**Colin Baker** told the meeting about two of our members. **David Taylor Smith**, our first secretary is now very old and frail. He is in a home and the manager has told us he is now suffering from dementia, and although he has his good days and his bad days, he appears to be happy. Our treasurer, **Alan Ginsberg**, is also in poor health at the moment and is starting a period of treatment and recuperation. He has said he wishes to continue in his post for the time being. A Get Well card was put out for members to sign, which has since been sent to Alan.

Members were then treated to a display of the Postal Stationery of British Levant by **Alan Huggins**. This was a superb display of British postal stationery used in the Levant both before and during the period when it was overprinted. Alan started off his display with postal stationery used from Crimea during the war 1853-56, showing us some very rare material. He continued his display through the years of un-overprinted material into the overprinted period, explaining how the drop in value of the piastre led the British Government to believe people would trade in postal stationery to make a profit. The 2½d envelopes were therefore overprinted 40 paras. Alan included forgeries for this issue.

Alan continued with postcards and registration envelopes, both plain and overprinted, leading up to the outbreak of the First World War when all the foreign post offices were closed. Some British offices were re-opened

following the peace treaty in 1919 using both plain and, later, overprinted stationery.

This was a comprehensive display giving the complete story of British postal stationery used in the Crimea and the Levant, and was given with a great deal of detail on the reasons for the various issues and the manner in which they were used. This was the last opportunity for us to see this display, as it is destined to be broken up and sold.

Alan has given our editor a full write up of that part of his display dealing with reply paid postcards, which will be found in this issue, page 14.

The vote of thanks was given by **Tony Stanford**, the GBOS secretary. He said it had been a wonderful display of British Levant postal stationery, excellently presented, with plenty of facts. It was one we would be unlikely to see again, such was the width and depth of material on display.

## THE ONE SHEET COMPETITION

There were 18 entries for the one sheet competition, including four sent in from abroad. As usual, judging was carried out by the members present, each giving 3 points for their first choice, 2 for their second and 1 for their third. After some rapid mental arithmetic by the Secretary, the winners were declared.

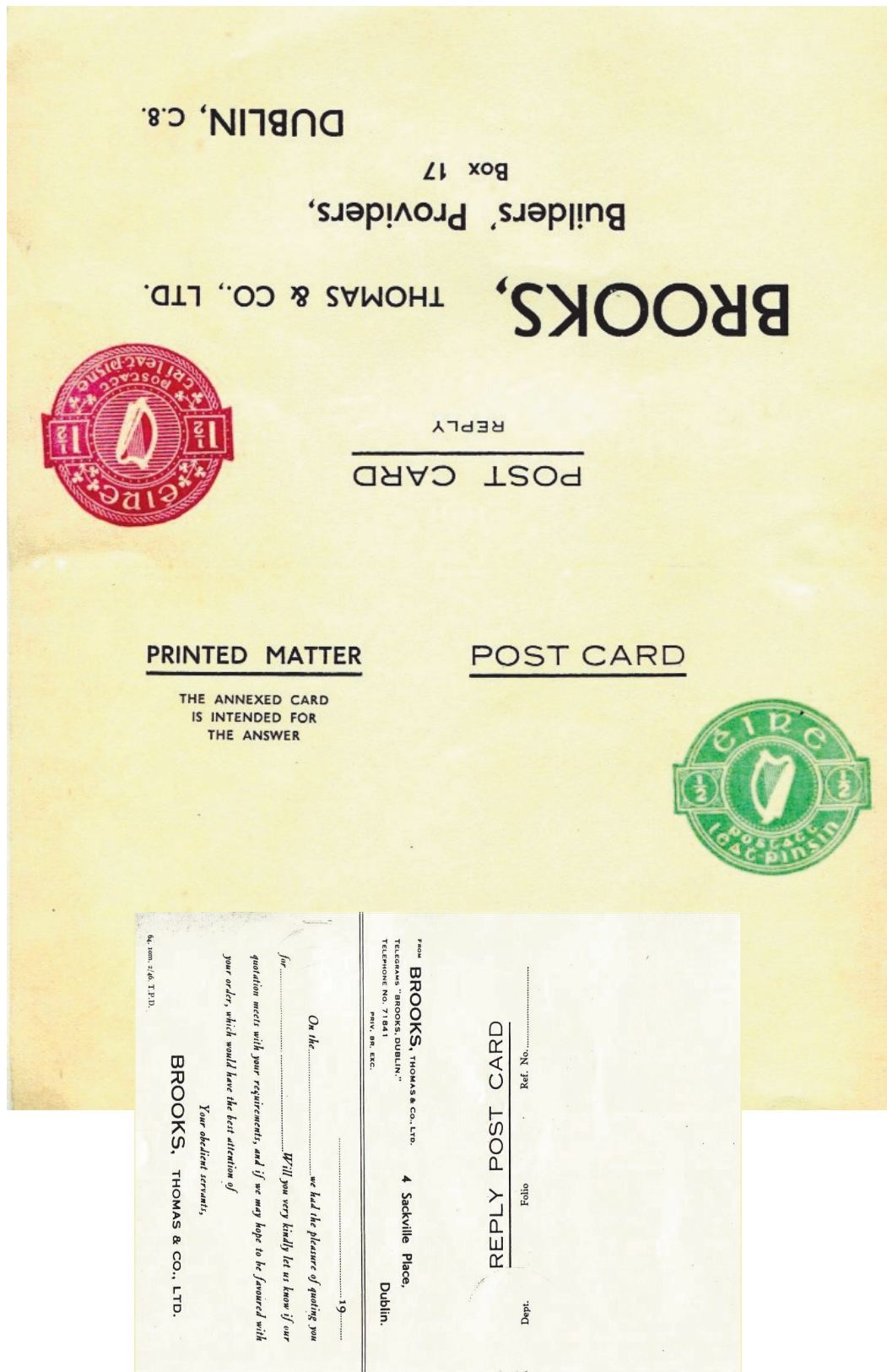
**George King** came first with his Irish entry *Printed Paper Out and Postcard Back* (27 points) (See opposite page)

**Sandeep Jaiswal** came second with *India and Ceylon Envelopes* (25 points)

**Michael Lockton** came third with *Boer War Hand Illustrated Penny Pink* (22 points)

One member had asked that we reported separately on the results for the GB and Overseas subjects, which we were happy to do. This year all three winners were based on foreign postal stationery, and the closest GB entry came 5<sup>th</sup> - **Peter Robinson's** *Major General Walter Chitty*.

## Printed Paper Out & Postcard Back



The Irish Post Office never issued reply cards. This is a Stamped to Order reply card, both stamps are embossed. Since everything but the address was pre-printed, it was sent out printed paper rate, but the return, probably handwritten text was postcard rate. This version is from 1946.

## MEMBERS' DISPLAYS

After lunch the Great Britain Overprint Society started off the displays.

**John Gledhill** showed four frames of overprinted air letters and took the opportunity to tell members about two new books that were being prepared by the Great Britain Overprint Society detailing all the overprinted British postal stationery that has been issued. He had draft copies of the books for members to view. It is intended these will be published later this year and details will be given in this Journal as soon as they are known.

**Tony Stanford** followed with 3 frames of Bechuanaland (both periods, British and the Protectorate), starting with the QV 2d envelopes re-valued to 4d and the special 4d envelopes produced for use in that country only.

**David Milstead** showed a lovely British Levant registration envelope with a set of KE VII stamps, philatelic, but still very attractive.

**Robin Davis** then went on to show 2 frames of Cyprus, including the variations in the registration envelopes.

**Tony Stanford** continued with a frame of Oil Rivers and Niger Coast Protectorate material.

**Ronald Watson** then showed a frame of Morocco Agencies, with discussions ensuing on why they are so rare, and how the 5 centimes postcard could only have been used for the printed paper rate, unless it was uprated.

**Barrie Cook** and **Philip Kaye** finished of the session with Tangier and Morocco Agencies respectively.

The last session was left to the PSS members to show their stuff. **Colin Baker** put up a frame of various overprinted stationery, followed by stationery reduced in rate in 1922 and "overprinted" with inspectors' marks, and postcards overprinted so they could be used at the ½d printed paper rate.

**Neil Sargent** showed 2 frames of the postal stationery of Nigeria, from Oil Rivers onwards.

**Michael Lockton** showed a selection of registration envelopes used by servicemen during the First and Second World Wars, and in later conflicts.

**Peter Robinson** rounded the day off with a lovely display of Ukraine postal stationery, some of which had overprints to cope with inflation of the period. This was a topical subject, bearing in mind all the problems in present-day Crimea and a nice reflection to the day's main display.

**Neil Sargent** thanked everyone for coming and especially those who had displayed.

## BOOK REVIEW

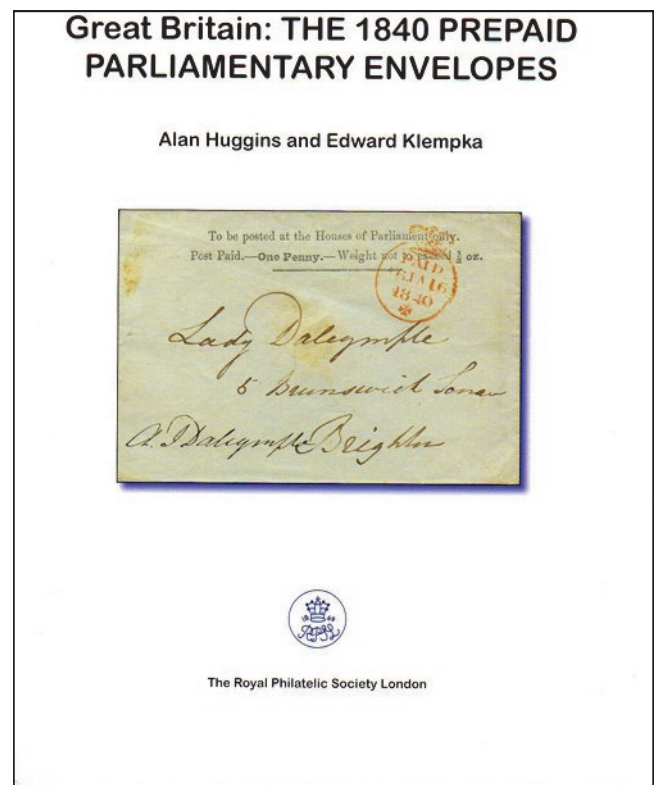
### GREAT BRITAIN: THE 1840 PREPAID PARLIAMENTARY ENVELOPES

- Alan Huggins and Edward Klempka (2013)  
Published by The Royal Philatelic Society,  
London.

This book is a detailed study of the Parliamentary Envelopes issued on the 16<sup>th</sup>. January 1840 for use by Members of Parliament shortly after the introduction of The Uniform Penny Post by Rowland Hill. These envelopes are rare and little information has been published on them in the past. Alan Huggins and Edward Klempka have done a great service to GB Philately in assembling all available information on these envelopes, much of which has never appeared in print previously. The book also lists all recorded envelopes that have appeared at auction over the last 40 years. In total, it identifies 260 individual envelopes.

As a forerunner of the Mulready envelopes and lettersheets, the envelopes are an important step in the evolution of GB Postal Stationery. It is a well researched book with over 70 coloured illustrations, and for all collectors of GB Stationery is a very necessary reference book.

Michael Lockton



# DISCOVERIES OF GB POST OFFICE WRAPPERS (WP15) WITHOUT CHAMFERING: EVIDENCE OF TWO USERS

Dr John K. Curtis FRPSL

In the November 2013 *Prestige Philately* postal stationery auction catalogue Gary Watson penned a short piece entitled *Postal Stationery: An Appreciation*. He wrote: "Because relatively few people collect postal stationery, it is a field where everyone can make new discoveries, often under the noses of professional philatelists. Even the impecunious newcomer can acquire items that nobody else has recorded, and sometimes for very modest sums" (page 11).

The author recently acquired a copy of the *Gloucester Journal*, 5-line wrapper on eBay. The wrapper in question is shown in the accompanying illustration. The size is 128x304mm which is almost identical to the standard PO size. The paper is post office buff stock; the wrapper is postmarked GLOUCESTER OC 10 84, and the indicium is Die II with horizontal shading on the hair ribbon.

Initially I thought the wrapper was the catalogued post office WP15 (Huggins & Baker) or equivalent E8 (H&G). The Huggins & Baker entry for this wrapper states: 1883, ½d brown stamp Die II, 5 lines of instruction, buff paper with two corners cut off, size 127x300mm. The private printing, *The Gloucester Journal* masthead and 4-address lines has been applied to post office stock with the lower black underlining extending 1.5mm over the indicium. **This wrapper does not have the upper corners chamfered.**

One can speculate why only two or four chamfered corner examples have been seen. Both chamfered types of wrappers are commonly encountered. It has been suggested that *The Gloucester Journal* ordered a large number of these wrappers from the Post Office and that they were supplied in uncut sheets and this requisition was then sent directly to the printers. It was then decided either by the newspaper or the printer that chamfered corners were unnecessary. However, exactly how these wrappers came to be unchamfered (new word?) needs further investigation. Faking chamfering is easy,

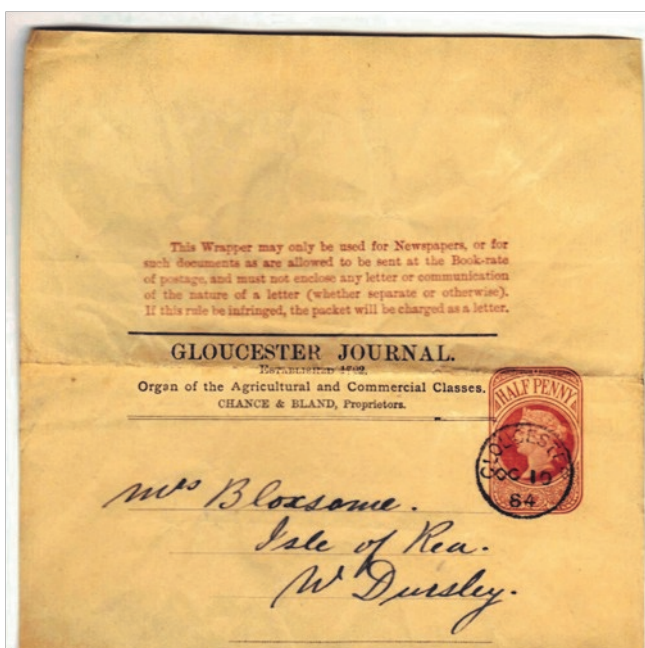
but faking straight corners is not.

Being perplexed at this finding I sent **Jan Kosniowski** a scan of the wrapper in question and he made contact with **Alan Huggins** for comment. Alan said he had not seen WP15 before without cut corners and would add it to his catalogue. Jan, in the meantime, went through his collection of this WP15 wrapper, as did I, looking for more examples. We each found more examples of *The Gloucester Journal* wrappers without chamfering, and these four cases are shown as Illustration 1a.

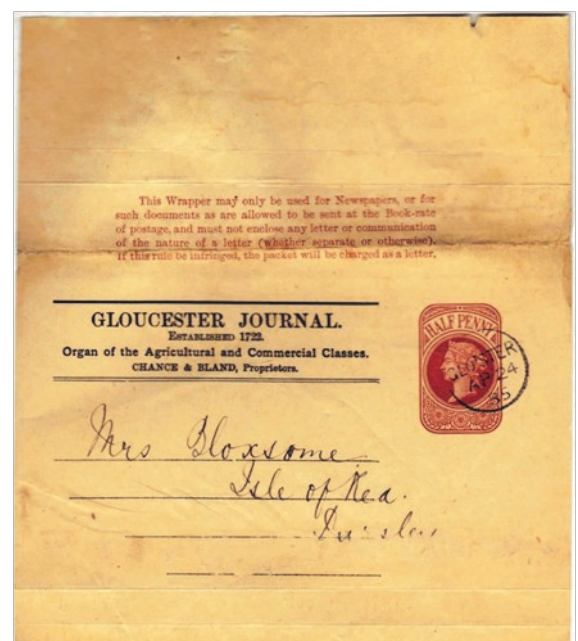
The author examined his database of 32,000 images collected from eBay over the past decade and identified another four cases. All eight examples are addressed to Mrs. Bloxsome, Isle of Rea, Nr. Dursley. Without getting too deeply into the genealogy of the Bloxsome family, it appears as though they have had a presence in the Isle of Rea since the mid-1700s and that four of the family carried the Bloxsome name during the period of the wrappers. No non-Bloxsome cases of the *Gloucester Journal* are found in the database. It is not unusual to find clusters of extant wrappers to the same addressee from estates and archival files that are being dissipated. In chronological order the eight postmark dates are: SP 13 84, SP 26 84, OC 18 84, AP 24 85, DE 1 85, FE 11 87, MY 27 87 and JY 21 87. The window covered is September 1884 to July 1887, i.e., a 34 month period.

Does knowledge of the *Gloucester Journal* help to explain the straight edges? This newspaper was established in 1722 by Robert Raikes and William Dicey and was intended as the Organ of the Agricultural and Commercial classes. As was the custom, the first page was devoted to advertising and the paper was sold for ½d a copy. The paper celebrated its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1972. There is nothing intuitively obvious about this newspaper that explains the lack of chamfering although it is noteworthy that the position of the masthead and other details is located differently in each case.

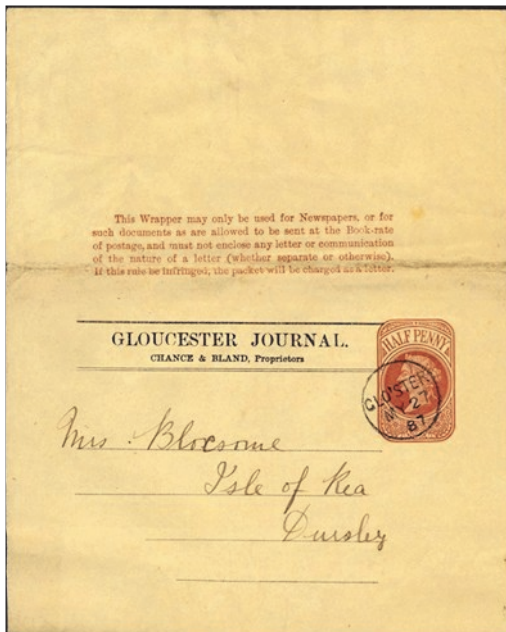
## Illustration 1a: *Gloucester Journal* Post Office Postal Stationery Wrapper



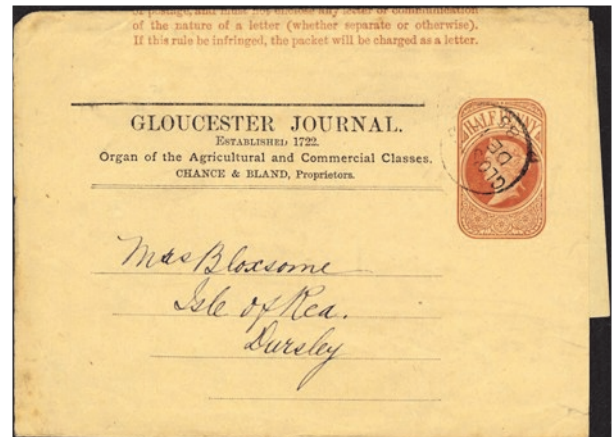
OC 18 84 (Curtis collection)



AP 24 85 (Curtis collection)

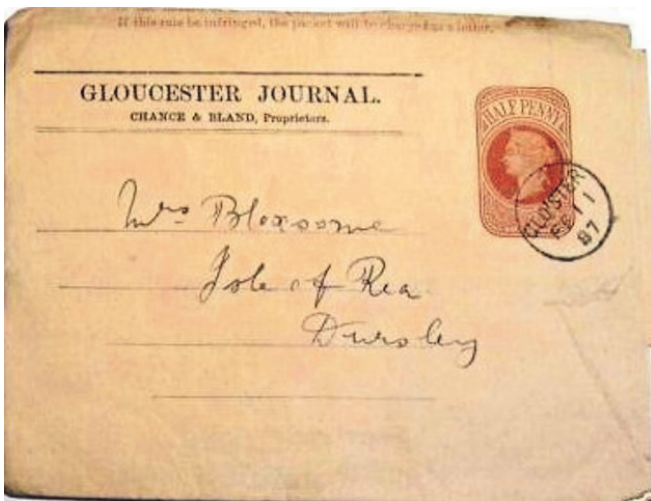


MY 27 87 (Kosniowski collection)



DE 1 85 (Kosniowski collection)

Illustration 1b: Gloucester Journal Examples in Author's eBay Database



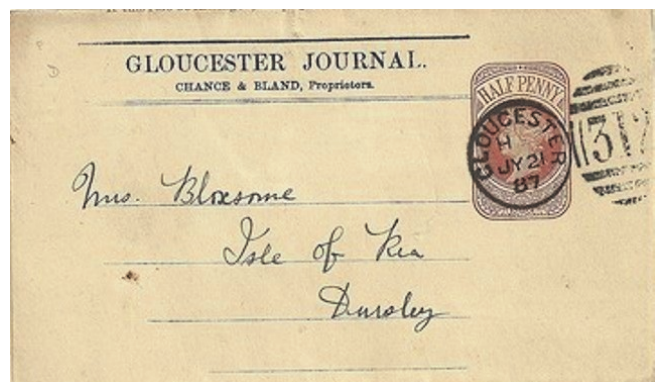
FE 11 87



SP 13 84



SP 26 84



JY 21 87





Although the Boxsome story could be developed further, the purpose of the paper is to identify a new variety of **WP15** without chamfering. Jan went through his collection a second time and found a **WP15** wrapper with private overprinting for *The Royal Insurance Office, Liverpool* and this is illustrated to the left.

There is no chamfering on this 5-line post office stock wrapper and it is therefore a second user of this variety. One peculiar feature is that the edging of the flap is not clean cut but appears to be slightly ragged as if a ream of paper had not passed through the guillotine. This kind of edging can sometimes be found on pages of bound books insinuating the paper of an earlier period. The size of the wrapper is 126x307mm; the additional 7mm in length may be attributed to the ream of paper not having been guillotined. The author's database has another example of this user but as the reverse side of the wrapper is not shown there is no evidence from the eBay image to support or refute the example shown in Illustration 2.

**Conclusion**

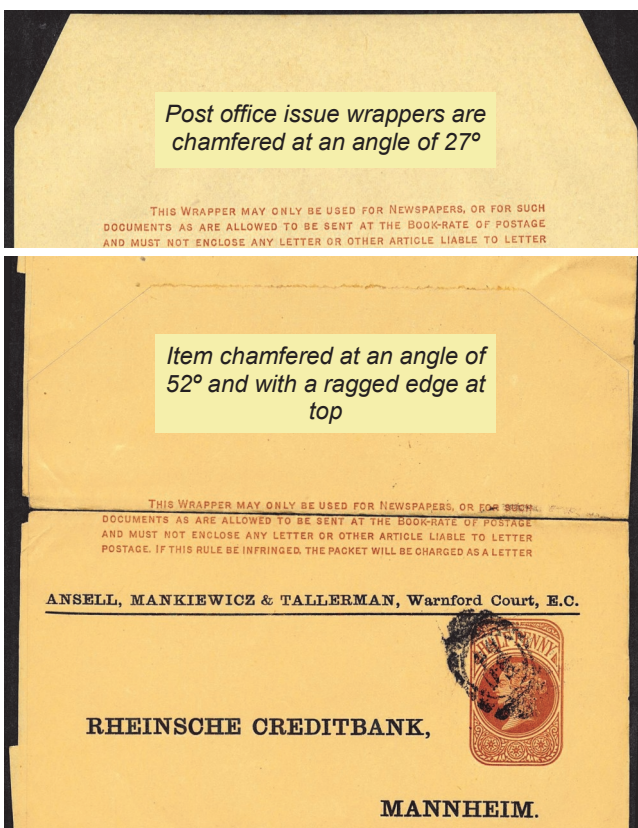
It appears that we have a new find some 130 years after the issue date. There are at least two users of this **WP15** wrapper without chamfering. Exactly how they came about needs fuller exploration. Collectors are asked to examine their own holdings to see if further examples of this **WP15** wrapper exist without chamfering. Gary Watson is correct: postal stationery is a field where everyone can make new discoveries.

**Acknowledgements**

My thanks are given to Allan Gory for reading and commenting on an earlier draft and to **Jan Kosniowski** for contributing scans from his own collection and commenting on an earlier draft.

**GB POST OFFICE NEWSPAPER WRAPPER (WP16) WITH PRIVATE CHAMFERING**

Jan Kośniowski (jan@stampdomian.com)



Checking through my collection I found a group of five wrappers with chamfering that is not the same as the standard post office issue. The five items were all **WP16** wrappers with a private overprint for *Ansell, Mankiewicz & Tallerman*.

The chamfering on post office issue **WP16** wrappers is at an angle of 27° to the vertical edge. The chamfering on this group is different on each wrapper. The angle of the cut varies from 25° to 52° to the vertical. The width of this entire group is 125mm, the same as the post office issue. The height varies from 301mm to 305mm. Four of the newspaper wrappers have a ragged edge at the top of the wrapper; the fifth one has a guillotined edge.

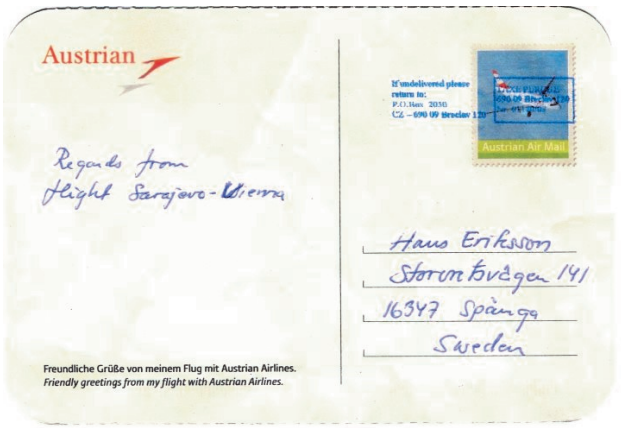
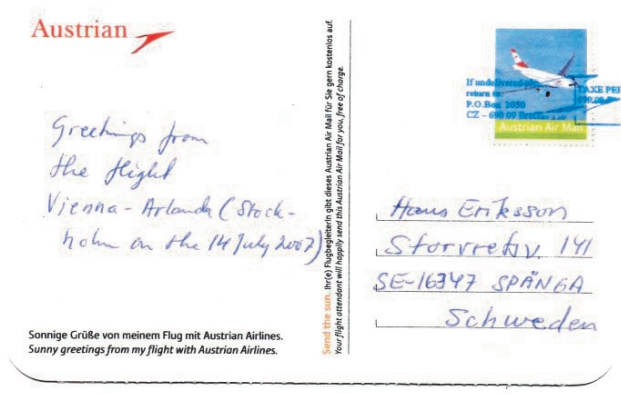
It would appear that large users were able to get supplies of complete uncut sheets of newspaper wrappers to make the task of overprinting easier and less expensive.

# THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A FREE LUNCH (Second Course!)

Hans Eriksson

Hans Eriksson writes: I read Peter Williams interesting article (Volume 22, no 1, February 2014) about the Austrian postal card issued by Austrian Airlines.

I was flying with the airline from Sarajevo (Bosnia) to Vienna the 14 July 2007 and then further the same day from Vienna to Stockholm (Sweden) with the same airline. On both flights I got such a card at any meal (breakfast or lunch). I asked for an extra card and received it and therefore I have both mint and used ones. The used ones I



mailed to myself via the staff of the aircraft. Some days later I received them in my mailbox in Sweden via the Swedish Post. The cards were cancelled in the same place Breclav in the Czech Republic as was said in the article. However it is not the same picture on my cards. My cards do not have the "Do & Co" mark and are different sizes 174 mm x 120 mm and 165 x 105 mm, respectively.

There are a lot of questions we collectors can put regarding these cards for example

- 1) During which period have these cards been used?
- 2) Is it the same view only connected on a certain flight line?
- 3) How many views? How many of each view?
- 4) How shall we consider these cards? - as private postal cards?
- 5) Should these cards be considered as Austrian or Czech cards? Are there any with Austrian postmark?
- 6) Was the card used on the flight Vienna - Stockholm taken back to Breclav for entry into the postal system and then returned to Sweden?

I hope the readers can give some answers of the questions.

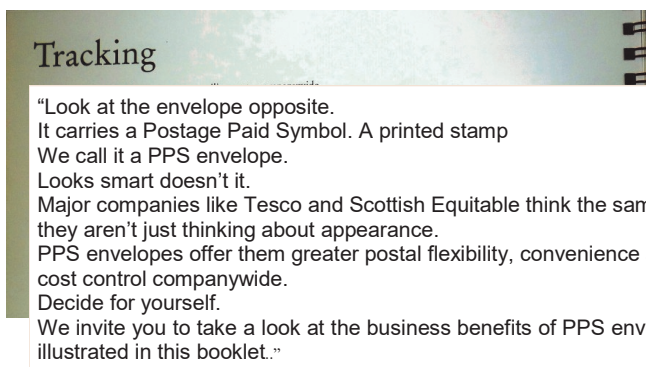
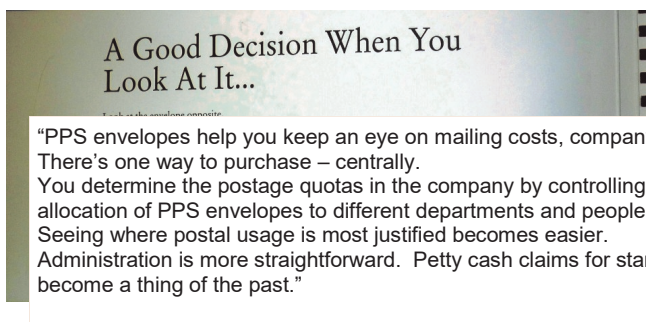
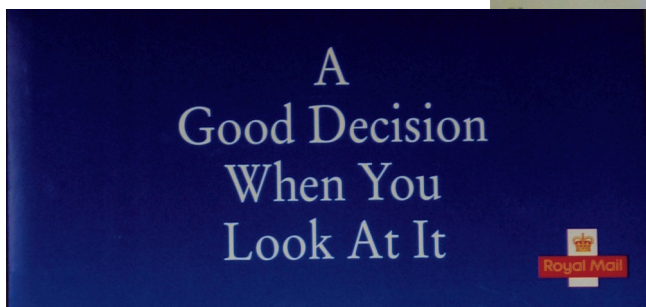
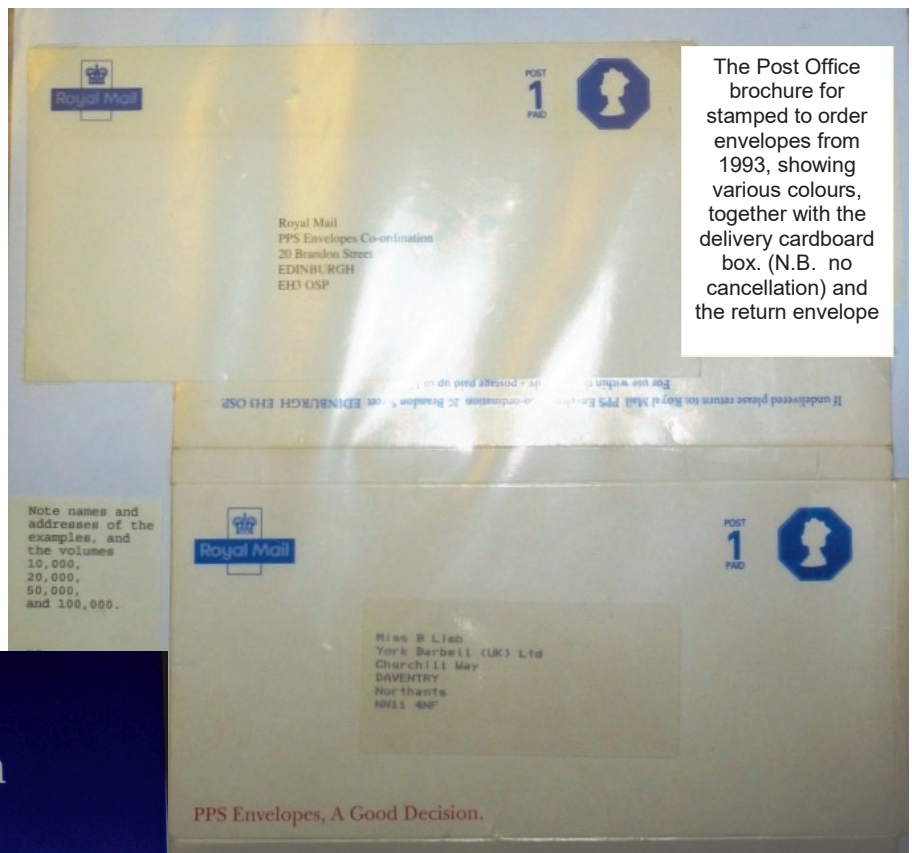
[Editor: It would appear that postage was only paid when these cards were put into the post in Breclav; therefore as postage was not pre-paid, they fall outside the accepted definition of 'Postal Stationery'. However, it would be interesting to hear from any member who can provide more information.]

# PPS ENVELOPES. A GOOD DECISION

Amongst the many interesting items on display in the One Sheet Competition was this brochure submitted by **George King**. As usual, George devised an ingenious way of fitting all of this onto 'one sheet', or at least the area occupied by one standard sheet.

I have reproduced some of the pages from the brochure together with extracts of the text. Do any members have other Post Office items promoting the use of postal stationery? If so I would be interested to hear from you with a view to publishing such information in the Journal.

Cover of the spiral bound booklet containing samples of PPS envelopes (to fictitious addresses) and the text of pages promoting the use of PPS envelopes



# GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

## NEW ITEMS REPORTED

### Mail Packs - Post Office Issues Queen Elizabeth II

An apparently unrecorded feature is that these have 'a best before date' printed on the reverse. Dates seen so far are: envelope size MM2 August 1995 (in red) and December 1996, January 1997 in black; envelope size MM5 October 1991 & June 1992 in black.

### Envelopes - Stamped to Order Issues Queen Victoria

A new compound stamping has been recorded (courtesy David Huggins)

ESC435A 1d pink + 6d purple (undated) + 1s green (9 dots) stamps (11+26+25b) NR \*\*\*\*

### Telegraph Form - Post Office Issue Queen Victoria

George King has reported a variety of the wording on the reverse of 6d undated single form TP15ab where the last line of paragraph four has the additional text 'The Pass must be produced'.

Name and Address of Sender (FOR REFERENCE ONLY)

#### NOTICE TO THE SENDER OF THIS TELEGRAM.

- The charge for transmission will cover the cost of delivery:—
  - (a) If the address is within one mile from the Terminal Telegraph Office or within the limits of the Town Postal delivery of that Office when it is a Head Post Office.
  - (b) If the Sender desires it to be forwarded by Post from the Terminal Telegraph Office and shall write the words "By Post" at the end of the address of the person to whom it is to be delivered.
- The following are the charges for the delivery of this Telegram in case the address be not within the above described limits and the Sender does not write the words "By Post" at the end of such address:—
  - (a) For delivery by Special Foot Messenger, at a distance less than three miles from the Terminal Telegraph Office, 6d. for each mile or part of a mile, reckoned from the boundary of the district of free delivery to the address of delivery.
  - (b) For delivery by Mounted Messenger, at a distance more than three miles from the Terminal Telegraph Office, 1s. for each mile or part of a mile, reckoned from the Terminal Telegraph Office to the address of delivery (except in some parts of Ireland, where the charge is at the rate of 8d. per mile).
- If the Sender desires this Telegram to be forwarded by Train from the Terminal Telegraph Office, he must write the words "By Train" at the end of the address, and must pay the actual cost of the conveyance, if such cost be known, or must deposit 1s.
- The Sender may prepay a reply not exceeding in length 48 words. In such case a Form of Pass will be handed to the Addressee. The Pass will, within two months from its date, frank any Telegram not exceeding in length the number of words stated on such Pass. If the Pass be not used the sum will be paid to any person forwarding such Pass, within two months from its date, to the Secretary, General Post Office, London.
- A Telegram can be repeated if the Sender desires to adopt this security against the risk of error. The charge for repetition is one-half the charge for transmission, any fraction of 1d. less than ½d. being reckoned as ½d. If containing mercantile quotations or code words a Telegram ought always to be repeated.
- The Postmaster General will not be liable for any loss or damage which may be incurred or sustained by reason or on account of any mistake or default in the transmission or delivery of a Telegram.
- All applications respecting this Telegram should be made within three months from the date of its transmission, after which period it will not be kept.

4. The Sender may prepay a reply not exceeding 48 words. The Pass will, within two months from its date, frank any Telegram not exceeding in length the number of words stated on such Pass. If the Pass be not used the sum will be paid to any person forwarding such Pass, within two months from its date, to the Secretary, General Post Office, London.

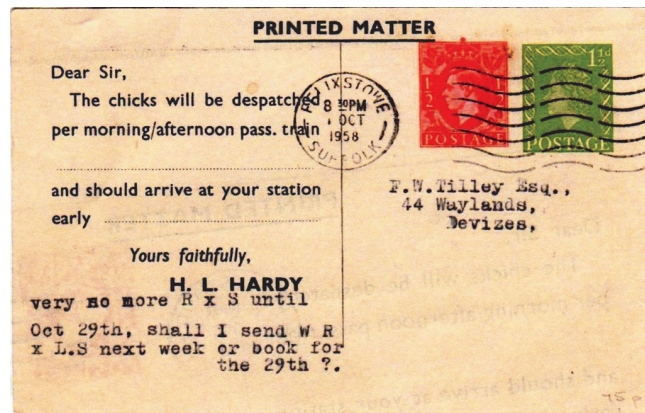
Variety of TP15ab  
4. The Sender may prepay a reply not exceeding 48 words. The Pass will, within two months from its date, frank any Telegram not exceeding in length the number of words stated on such Pass. If the Pass be not used its value will be paid to the Sender of the Telegram. The Pass must be produced.  
5. A Telegram can be repeated if the Sender desires to do so.

He has also acquired the booklet cover for the 6d Stock Exchange form with 5 dot florets TP40A which has the following imprint :- G & S 4995 [9377] 25,000 10/93.

Postcards Post Office Issues - King George V - John Foster has reported the existence of a previously unrecorded revalued 1½d Post Office postcard CP83 used by the Burgh Engineer's Office in Edinburgh with EH in black triangle handstamp.

Postcards - Stamped to Order Issues Queen Elizabeth II - A very interesting item appeared recently on ebay where a QEII 1½d green size f postcard produced to advise the delivery of chicks from a hatchery in Felixstowe had been uprated to 2d with a ½d orange KGVI die. This mixed reigns combination has been known for NTS reply paid

appointment cards (CS 145) but this item used on 1.10.1958 is the first reported use on a single card (illustration courtesy Maurice Buxton)



Wrappers - Stamped to Order Issues Queen Elizabeth II - 1961 2½d carmine stamp L33 on a reply paid letter sheet for Water Engineer's Handbook WS52A 2½d + ½d carmine stamps L33 + L33(So) courtesy Paul Jones

## Registration Envelopes & Special Delivery Envelopes -

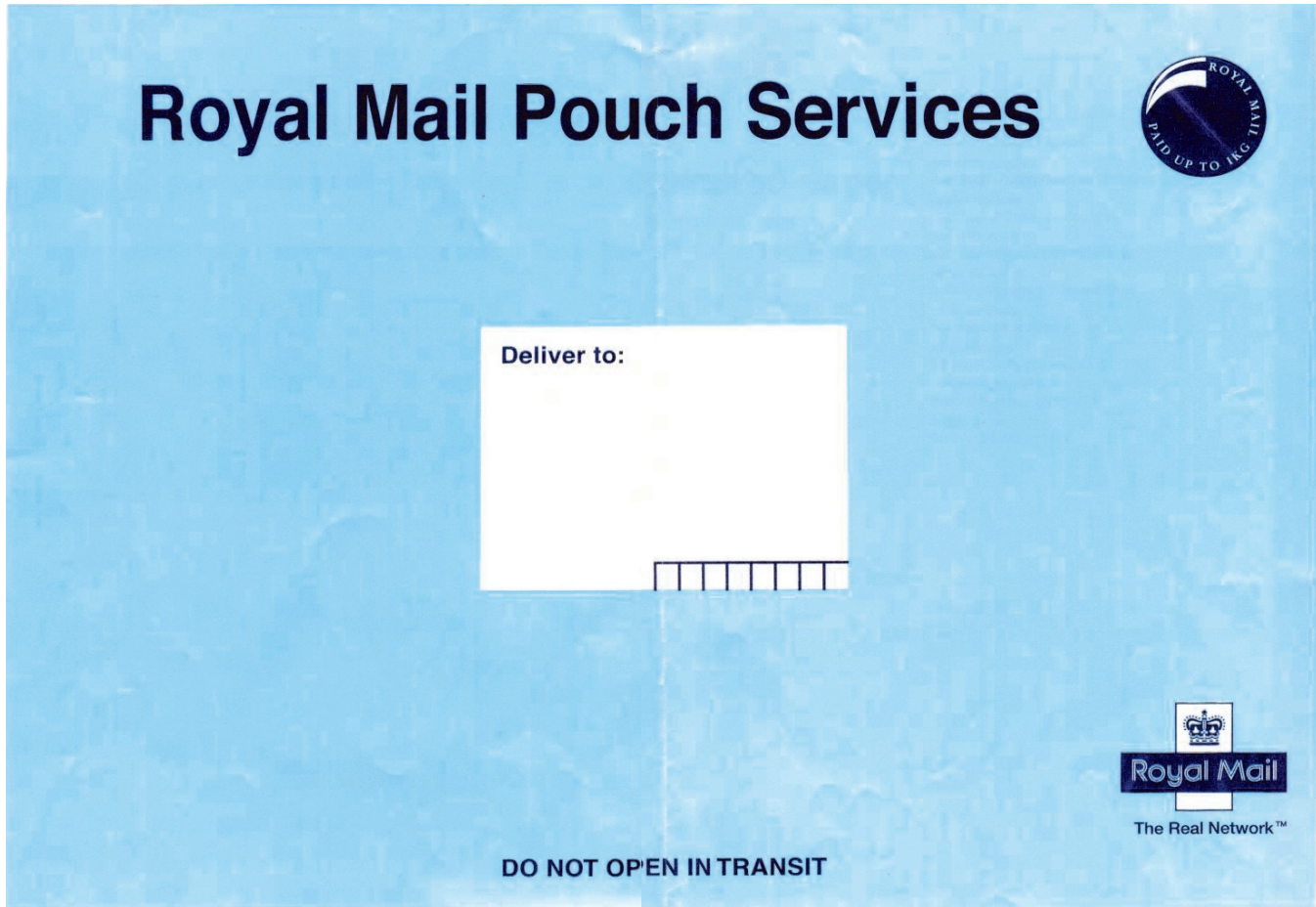


**Post Office Issues King George VI.**

**George King** has recently found a previously unknown **RP51** 4½d size H registration envelope with 'Compensation' on the back - a remarkable discovery 74 years after issue. (See bottom of p12)

Queen Elizabeth II - It has recently been brought to my notice (courtesy **Douglas Muir**), that Royal Mail, as

part of their services to business, had offered 'Pouch Services<sup>TM</sup>'. This special delivery service, which still operates, enables organisations who need to send internal mail from one branch or office to another to enclose their mail in pouches which have postage prepaid up to a specified weight, thus avoiding the requirement to pay postage for each individual item.



Actual size: 412mm. X 288 mm.

The weigh steps and the current corresponding charges are as follows:

Weight per pouch	Price per pouch ex VAT
350g - 500g	£2.44
501g - 1000g	£2.44
1001g - 2000g	£4.24
2001g - 5000g	£8.34
5001g - 10000g	£14.42

There is also a charge related for the number of separate delivery sites involved which ranges from £127 per site for up to 50 sites to £21 per site for up to 1001-1500 sites.

In c2000 the pouches were plastic with an imprinted circular (41mm) NVI SD 1 dark blue stamp inscribed 'ROYAL MAIL' & 'PAID UP TO 500E / 1 KG / 2 KGS / 5 KGS / 10 KGs'. Like the stamp the text and Royal Mail logo was printed in dark blue on a pale blue background with a white border. Of the items seen all except the 500G envelope have the strap line 'The Real Network' underneath the cruciform Royal Mail logo. The sizes of the envelopes were C4 for 500G, 1 KG & 2 KGS; C3 for 5 KGS and C2 for 10 KGS.

There were also C4 and C2 size envelopes with stamps which did not indicate a specific weight limit and which had 'AVERAGE WEIGHT CONTRACT' printed along the left hand edge of the pale blue background.

# BRITISH LEVANT - THE USAGE OF REPLY PAID POSTCARDS

Alan Huggins

The first reply paid Foreign postcards issued for use in Great Britain were available from 1 January 1883. Three denominations were produced to match the different rates then applicable to postcards sent to particular destinations (see Dagnall<sup>1</sup>) for details. Whilst unoverprinted British postal stationery postcards are known to have been used from 1877 onwards, the earliest use of reply paid postcards appears to have been from the mid 1880s as shown by the list below.

Although the postal rates charged by the British Post Offices in the Levant followed the same tariff as those in Great Britain, the use of reply paid postcards would subsequently lead to an anomaly in that from 1899 the reply half carried the text:

‘THIS HALF IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR TRANSMISSION / TO THE UNITED KINGDOM’.

Thus whilst in general the usage and survival of the reply halves of reply paid postcards is markedly lower than of the outward halves, it is not entirely surprising that reply halves used back to the Levant are extremely rare to say the least. However it is clear from surviving examples that notwithstanding this apparent constraint on usage, unoverprinted and overprinted reply paid postcards were

accepted for transmission by the British Post Offices in Constantinople, Beyrout, Smyrna and Salonica. In the case of Stamboul I have not been able to locate any examples but it is assumed similar custom and practice would apply.

Naturally the question arises as to whether some of the unoverprinted items recorded were actually available from the post offices or were brought or sent out independently. In addressing this point it is useful to compare the usages of the corresponding single Foreign rate postcards from the various post offices and further comment will be made later in this article.

The listing which follows is divided into unoverprinted, overprinted and surcharged cards in chronological order of usage of each card. Besides specifying the postal stationery card, descriptions include the date of use, details of the cancellation applied by the originating post office, the destination, and the Huggins & Baker<sup>2</sup> catalogue number. Provenance in collections and or recording is as follows:- AF = Arthur Furst; AKH = Alan Huggins; SK = Salih Kuyas; IM = Ian McQueen; RM = Richard Malim; AP = Alexios Papadopoulos; TS = Tony Stanford.

## UNOVERPRINTED REPLY PAID POSTCARDS

### Queen Victoria 1883 Issue CP18 1d + 1d brown, white card size f, perforation 12/2 or 14/3

- 1) **23.8.1884: CP18d** perforation 14/3; reply half used as outward half with 9mm ‘C’ in horizontal barred oval Constantinople cds (code C) in red, to Ipswich (AP)

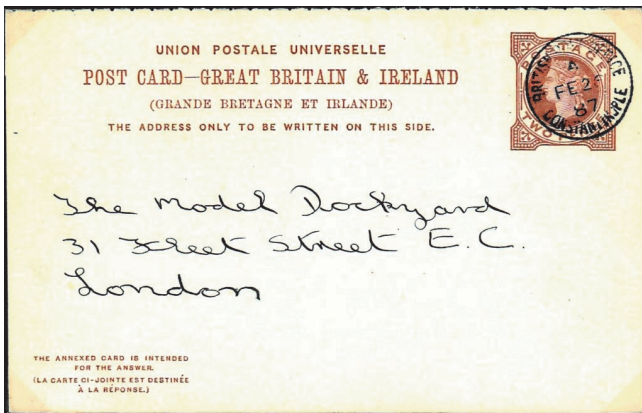


- 2) **23.3.1892: CP18a** perforation 12/2; outward half with ‘C’ in vertical barred oval and Constantinople (cds code C) to Darnum, Germany (AKH)
- 3) **4.10.1895: CP18a** perforation 12/2; outward half with Smyrna (cds code A) to Leipzig (RM)
- 4) **10.10.1898: CP18d** perforation 14/3; outward half with Constantinople cds (code B?) Neheim am Ruhr, Germany (AP)



**Queen Victoria 1883 Issue CP20 2d + 2d brown, white card size f, perforation 12/2 or 14/3**

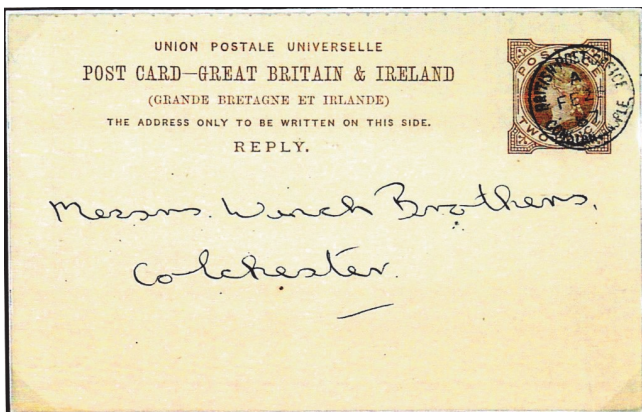
- 5) **26.2.1887: CP20b** perforation 14/3; outward half with Constantinople (cde code A) to London (AKH)



- 7) **13.5.1887: CP20a** perforation 12/3; outward half with 9mm 'C' in horizontal barred oval and Constantinople (cde code A) to Odessa, Russia (AKH)



- 6) **26.2.1887: CP20b** perforation 14/3; reply half with Constantinople (cde code A) to Colchester (SK)



**Queen Victoria 1892 Issue CP28 1d + 1d red, buff card size b, perforation 14/3**

- 8) **19.4.1893: CP28** outward half with Constantinople (cde code A) to London (AKH)



- 9) **9.8.1894: CP28** reply half used as 'outward' half with Constantinople cds (code A) to Suderode, Germany (TS)



- 10) **1.10.1894: CP28** outward half with Constantinople (cds code A) to Gorz, Austria (SK)
- 11) **30.1.1895: CP28** outward half with Constantinople (cds code C) to Leipzig (AKH)
- 12) **11.11.1895: CP28** outward half with Constantinople (cds code C) to Bath (SK)
- 13) **21.10.1895: CP28** outward half with Constantinople cds (code A) to Frankfurt (TS)



- 16) **2.4.1897: CP28** outward half with Constantinople (cds code A) to Bath (RM)
- 17) **22.11.1901: CP28** outward half with Smyrna (cds code B) to Calbe, Germany (AKH)

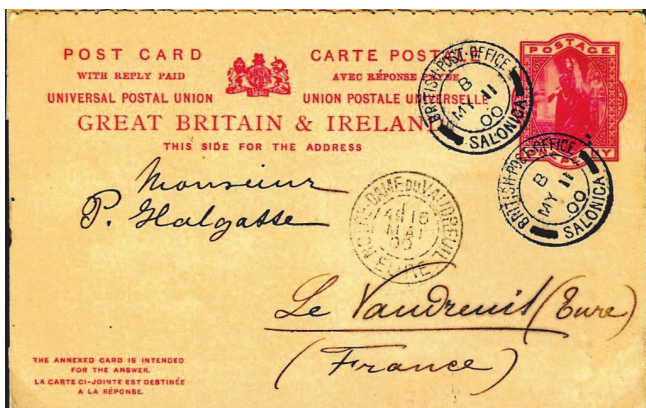


- 14) **2.1.1896: CP28** outward half with Constantinople (cds code B) to Ealing (RM)
- 15) **19.8.1896: CP28** outward half with Constantinople (cds code C) to Ealing (TS)

- 18) **25.3.1903 CP28:** outward half with Smyrna (cds code A) to Dresden (RM)

**Queen Victoria 1899 Issue CP37 1d + 1d red, buff card size f, perforation 14/3**

- 19) **8.3.1900: CP37** outward half with Constantinople (cds code C) to Colln, Elbe (RM)
- 20) **26.4.1900: CP37** outward half with Constantinople (cds code B) to Nurnberg, Germany (SK)
- 21) **11.5.1900: CP37** outward half with Salonica (cds code B) to Le Vaudreuil, France (AKH)
- 22) **7.11.1901: CP37** outward half with Constantinople cds (code B) to Wolfersdorf, Austria (AKH)
- 23) **27.12.1902: CP37** reply half with Salonica cds (code A) and Smyrna cds 3.1.1903 (code C) to Smyrna (AP)
- 24) **18.2.1903: CP36/37?** outward half with Constantinople (cds code A) to Plauen, Germany (TS)





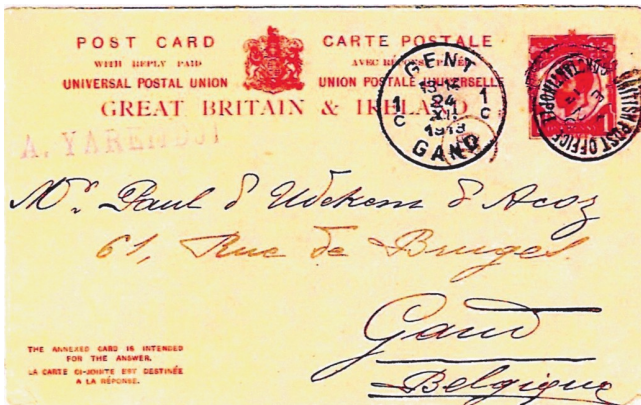
**King Edward VII 1902 Issue CP47 1d + 1d carmine, buff card size f, no perforations**

- 25) **10.8.1904: CP47** outward half with Constantinople (cds code A) to Michlhausen, Germany (RM)
- 26) **13.10.1904: CP47** reply half used as 'outward' half with Constantinople (cds code B) to Anvers, Belgium (TS Ex IM)
- 27) **3.1.1905: CP47** reply half used as 'outward' half with Constantinople (cds code D) to St. Louis, USA (TS)



**King George V 1913 Issue CP63 1d + 1d scarlet, buff card size f, no perforations**

- 28) **20.12.1913: CP63** outward half with Constantinople (cds code ?) to Gand, Belgium (RM 4)



- 31) **8.3.1920: CP63** outward half with Smyrna (cds code A) to London (RM 4)

- 32) **20.8.1920: CP63** outward half with Smyrna (cds code B) to Huddersfield (AP 7)

- 33) **3.12.1921: CP63** outward half with Smyrna (cds code A) to Constantinople (SK, AKH)



- 29) **14.10.1919: CP63** reply half used as outward half with Smyrna (cds code A) to Georgetown, British Guiana (AKH)



- 30) **14.1.1920: CP63** reply half used as outward half with Smyrna (cds code A) to Leeds (TS Ex IM 4)



The information given by the listing on the previous pages enables a number of inferences to be drawn in relation to the availability and usage of UNOVERPRINTED BRITISH REPLY PAID POSTCARDS in the British Post Offices in the Levant .

- 1) Prior to 1890 only a very few usages of unoverprinted British reply paid postcards have so far been recorded (cards 1-7). These are from the 1883 issue of 1d and 2d reply paid cards and although the single 1d cards (CP15) were available it appears very probable that these reply paid cards were brought to Constantinople independently of the British Post Office situated there.
- 2) There are however a greater number of usages of the 1892 Agnelli design 1d reply paid cards (CP28) recorded used from Constantinople in 1893 to 1897 ( cards 8-17), and only two examples used from Smyrna in 1901-1903 (cards 16 & 17). Rather surprisingly only one reply half is included in the listing (card 9) which is a philatelic usage. Since usages of the single 1d cards (CP27) are well known from all the British Post Offices it appears that the reply paid cards were possibly only available in Constantinople.
- 3) Since only six usages of the 1899 issue reply paid cards are listed (cards 18-23), four being from Constantinople and two from Salonica, it is very difficult to come to view as to their possible availability via the other British post offices.
- 4) A similar problem of interpretation arises with the

King Edward VII reply paid cards (CP47), only three usages all from Constantinople being recorded to-date (cards 25-27).

- 5) Only one example of the pre-war usage from Constantinople of the King George V 1d reply paid (CP63) has been recorded to-date (card 28). However a number of post-war usages from Smyrna between 1919-1921 are known (cards 29-33) suggesting that supplies were available since not all appear to be philatelic

Obviously further examples of reply paid postcard usage from the Levant are likely to come to light and readers are urged to send in details (preferably with an illustration) so that a fuller record can be established. Finally I should like to express my thanks to Tony Stanford, Alexios Papadopoulos and Richard Malim for their enthusiastic assistance with this study and making material available for illustration.

### Bibliography

- 1) Dagnall H.: The Evolution of British Stamped Postcards & Letter Cards; page 46, Published by the Author, Edgware, Middlesex (1985)
- 2) Huggins A.K. & Baker C.: Collect British Postal Stationery; Published by GB Philatelic Publications & Postal Stationery Society (2007)
- 3) Malim R.: The Overprinter 2013/4 page 90
- 4) Malim R.: The Overprinter 2012/2 page 50-51
- 5) Malim R.: The Overprinter 2004/2 page 44
- 6) Huggins A.K.: The Overprinter 2004/1 page 11
- 7) Papadopoulos, A.:The Overprinter 2002/1 page 10-11

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## THE POSTAL STATIONERY OF EAST AFRICA - PART 4

Colin Baker

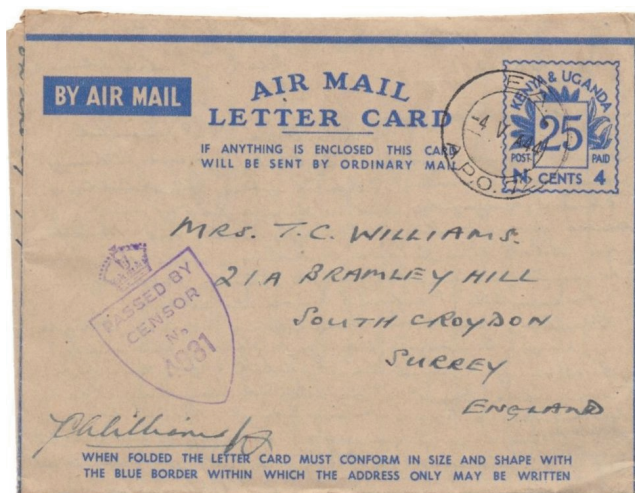
### A FEW ODD ITEMS OF STATIONERY

I suppose it is inevitable that whenever the history of a region gets as complicated as it does for East Africa, there are bound to be odd items of stationery that don't really fall into a particular category. So I have decided to collect them altogether in this section. I think that in most cases these were produced by postal authorities in the belief they would be a welcome addition to the range of postal stationery available to the public. But as it turned out, their sales were so low that they were not continued beyond their first issue. This can make them difficult to find, particularly in used condition.

**East Africa and Uganda Telegraph Form.** The first of these items is the telegraph form issued for use in East Africa and Uganda. The date of issue is not clear, but the currency used for this is the rupee divided into 100 cents, which only came into being in 1907. The form carries an embossed hexagonal King Edward VII one rupee stamp in black, paying for 10 words, with each additional word costing 10 cents. In Great Britain it was the custom to use prepaid forms for telegrams since this avoided servants and messengers handling cash and the temptation to run off with it. No doubt the authorities in East Africa thought forms like this would similarly be needed by individuals living in the country areas, or by firms in the larger towns who often used messengers to run errands. By using prepaid forms they would be able to send their messengers to the nearest post office without fear of the messenger stealing the telegraph fee. But these forms were not nearly as popular as they were in Britain and after the first printing, no further issues were made in East Africa.

**Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika Letter Card.** In 1935, when Tanganyika became part of the East African Postal Union, the authorities decided to issue a 20 cent letter card on cream stock. Zanzibar had issued letter cards between 1913 and 1926, but they were not that popular and it is difficult to find commercially used copies today. So why it was decided to issue a letter card for the mainland countries in 1935 is a bit of a mystery. Copies of this letter card seem to be even more scarce than those used in Zanzibar, despite the obvious difference in the size of the populations of the two areas.

**Kenya and Uganda Air Mail Letter Card.** A special air mail letter card was issued in the territory in 1943 for use by service personnel stationed in East Africa. It was printed in blue on a thin grey coloured paper and carried a 25 cent stamp printed in the same blue colour, which was the airmail rate for letter cards sent by British service personnel stationed in East Africa. Unlike the British Air Mail Letter Card which was nearly square when opened out and was sealed on two sides, this item was specially shaped with two fold in side flaps and just one sealing flap. It was printed in South Africa, which probably explains the different shape, sealing arrangement and the shade of blue used in the printing operation. Substantial stocks of this letter card were shipped to East Africa in the late summer of 1943 (probably in August). But there only seems to have been one printing and plain forms had to be used when stocks of the prepaid item became exhausted, postage being paid by means of adhesive stamps.



**The 25 cent East African air letter, printed in South Africa and shipped north in 1943**



**International Reply Coupon (London type XV), with the value uprated by use of a small handstamp.**

**International Reply Coupons.** The introduction of international reply coupons (IRC) was first agreed between member states at the Universal Postal Union congress held in Rome in 1906. They were intended to pay the basic foreign postage on a reply to a letter or enquiry sent from another country. It was not mandatory on countries to sell these coupons, but member states were obliged to honour them. Therefore, they could be exchanged at any post office in any UPU member country for a foreign rate postage stamp.

In the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, mail sent between Commonwealth countries enjoyed beneficial postage rates, which was about half that of mail sent to foreign countries. Thus anyone wanting to send an IRC to another Commonwealth country would only want to pay this lower rate and not the full international rate. For this reason, Commonwealth Reply Coupons (CRC) were introduced, and East Africa seems to have started issuing these in the 1920s, although I have not been able to confirm the exact date. The CRC coupons could only be exchanged at any Commonwealth country post office for a stamp to pay the much cheaper basic British Empire rate, whereas the IRC coupons could be exchanged worldwide for a foreign letter rate stamp.

The first issue of the Commonwealth Reply Coupon was priced at 20 cents, the British Empire rate, for mail sent by surface of course, and this was also the same as the inland letter rate. However, with ever rising costs, the rate for these IRCs was soon increased to 25 cents. Further increases to 35 and 50 cents were introduced, before Commonwealth IRCs were finally phased out when the concessionary British Empire rate was withdrawn following the end of the Second World War.



**International Reply Coupon (Lausanne type 23 - possibly late 1970s), with the value amended from 5/- to 7/-.**

After independence only International Reply Coupons were sold in East Africa, at first each country had their own issue overprinted with their country's name. However in later years they carried no identification and only the validating handstamp gives a clue where it was issued.

**ZANZIBAR**

In 1875 India opened an office in Zanzibar<sup>(5)</sup>. It was located within the British Consulate and handled some of the mail from the island. Running alongside this office were Post Offices set up by both the German and French governments. Initially the mail handled by the Indian post office was transferred to Aden where it was cancelled and despatched. Incoming mail was also handled by the Aden office. However, on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1878 the post office in Zanzibar was made an experimental post office, still being run by the Indian Post Office, and it became independent of the British Consulate. It was relocated to new premises. About a year later, in 1879, it was designated a sub-office of the Aden Post Office (at that time part of the Indian Postal Service). By the end of 1879 the Zanzibar sub-office had been up-graded to become a Head Office of the Indian Postal Service with its own postmaster,

directly handling all mail in and out of Zanzibar.

India had joined the General Postal Union (later to become the Universal Postal Union) in 1876, and thus Zanzibar became bound by their rules and agreements. One of these was the provision of prepaid stationery. To accomplish this it was decided to overprint Indian postal stationery with the name "Zanzibar". In 1895 the Indian ¼ anna brown single and reply postcards were issued with the Zanzibar overprint, this being the postage rate for postcards used within the island. The Indian 1½ anna blue single and reply postcards for posting to overseas destinations had already been re-valued to one anna for use in India. As the foreign postage rate was the same in Zanzibar, it was only a matter of overprinting these postcards with the name Zanzibar so that they could be used from there.

<sup>(5)</sup> The name Zanzibar comes from the Persian word "Zangibar" which means "Coast of Blacks", referring to the skin colour of the indigenous population.



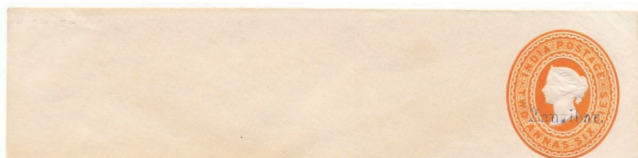
**India 1 1/4 anna postcard revalued to 1 anna, overprinted "Zanzibar" and used to German East Africa**

In addition, Indian envelopes with the value of a 1/2 anna were issued overprinted "Zanzibar" for local use, no change being needed to the stamp value as this was the internal postage rate for Zanzibar at that time.



**India 1/2 anna envelope overprinted "Zanzibar" in blue ink and used to Germany 3 November 1898**

The Indian 1 anna envelopes have also been reported similarly overprinted, but there does not appear to be any evidence of their existence as none are known either mint or used. The overseas rate for letters from Zanzibar was 2 1/2 annas (2 annas 6 pies) and this required 2 1/2 anna Indian envelopes to be overprinted "Zanzibar", no revaluation being necessary. But when stocks of these 2 1/2 anna envelopes ran low, the 4 1/2 anna (4 annas 6 pies) higher rate envelopes that had already been revalued to 2 1/2 annas for the basic foreign letter rate in India, were also overprinted "Zanzibar".



**India 2 anna 6 pies envelope overprinted "Zanzibar"**



**India 4 anna 6 pies envelope revalued to 2 1/2 anna and overprinted "Zanzibar"**

Sultan Seyyid Hamed bin Thwain came to power in 1893. Two years later he felt that the operation of the Post Office in Zanzibar should be controlled by his government and not by that of India. Negotiations followed and on 10 November 1895 the Government of Zanzibar became responsible for running the postal system in the islands. As a consequence, new adhesive stamps had to be designed by Thomas De La Rue featuring the portrait of the then current Sultan, Hamed bin Thwain, set within an oval frame surrounded by palm trees. This same design was used on envelopes, postcards and newspaper wrappers issued in 1897, and also on the flap of registration envelopes set within a simple frame, although as usual for British colonies at this time, the stamp paid only the registration fee.



**1897 envelope with the image of Seyyid Hamed bin Thwain**

The detail in the die that had been prepared for the adhesive stamps was too fine for printing on the slightly coarser, unsurfaced paper and card that was to be used for the postal stationery issues. This meant that a new die had to be engraved. Some of the detail in the adhesive die was amended from shading to hatching to help with the printing process. This included the two red flags on the stamp, at the top of the oval, either side of the portrait. There had been problems of colour registration with the printing of the adhesive stamps, and to simplify matters for the postal stationery issues, the red was replaced with shading in the form of rows of dots rather than solid lines. This allowed the postal stationery to be printed in one colour and in one simple operation.



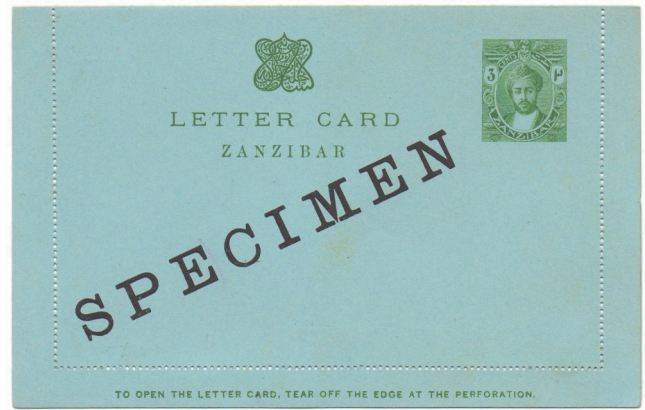
**The postal stationery stamp and adhesive stamp dies side by side.**

Bin Thwain's reign came to an end when he died in 1896 and there followed one of those strange events that go down in the record books for anything but their historical significance. The next Sultan to claim the throne was Khalid bin Barghash Al-Busaid. He reigned for the shortest time possible, just two days, and will be remembered for conducting the shortest war in history (or so it is claimed). He was suspected of poisoning the previous Sultan so that he could take control of the country. But Britain refused to accept his claim to the throne, preferring to back Sultan Hamoud bin Mohammed bin Said whom they felt was the rightful heir. They ordered Khalid bin Barghash Al-Busaid to leave the

palace by 9.00am on the morning of 27 August 1896. He refused to do so and orders were given for three cruisers and two gunboats to open fire on the palace, backed by 150 marines and 900 Zanzibaris. After about 40 minutes a white flag was seen fluttering from the ruins and the shelling ceased. The war was over and had lasted for just over half an hour. The exact duration of the war differs depending whether or not the delays at the start and end of the attack are taken into account. But whatever way it is measured, it was certainly did not last very long. This is hardly surprising considering the imbalance between the palace defenders and the opposing forces. Considerable damage was done to the palace and the ousted Sultan fled to the German Consulate. He was spirited away to German East Africa. For obvious reasons, no postal stationery was issued for this Sultan.

As soon as the ousted Sultan, Khalid bin Barghash Al-Busaid, had been banished, Sultan Seyyid Hamoud bin Mohammed bin Said, the British backed heir to the throne, was established as the new ruler of Zanzibar. He reigned for six years. The precedence set by the previous Sultan in running the postal system and issuing stamps carrying his portrait continued. A new range of stamps and postal stationery items were issued featuring the new Sultan. Once again, separate dies were needed for printing the adhesive stamps and the stamps on the range of postal stationery to be issued, as the dies for the adhesive stamps were still too fine.

Sayyid Hamoud bin Mohammed bin Said died in 1902 and the throne was then taken by Sayyid Ali bin Hamoud. At the beginning of his reign he was deemed to be too young to rule, and for the first three years Great Britain appointed a Regent to control the country, until the Sultan became 21 in 1905. Because he was under age, the stamps and stationery issued for him did not carry his portrait, but instead used his monogram (known as the Arms issue).



The first issue lettercard of 1913 (Sultan Khalifa bin Harub).

destinations, envelopes in several sizes, registration envelopes and newspaper wrappers. From the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century up to the time of the country's merger with Tanganyika there were seven Sultans (see list below).

The longest serving Sultan was Khalifa bin Harub, who ruled from 1911 to 1960. He was the only Sultan to have three different portraits of himself on items of postal stationery, showing him as a young ruler in 1911, a more mature man in 1926 and a much older Sultan in 1952. He was superseded by two more Sultans who ruled Zanzibar up to the time of the country's union with Tanganyika after which no more stamps or postal stationery were produced, the new stamps and postal stationery inscribed with the combined name of the two countries, Tanzania, being made available.

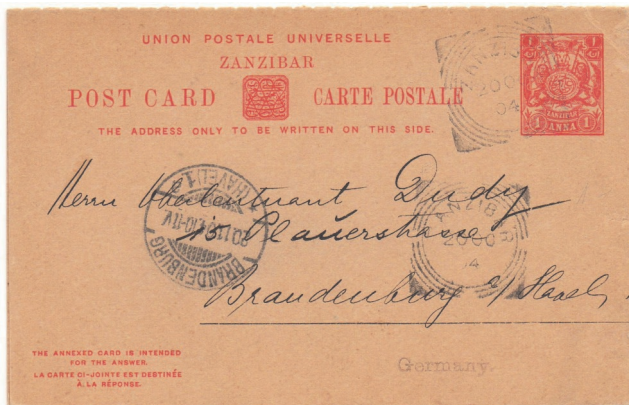
There was a wide variety of postal stationery issued in Zanzibar up to its merger with Tanganyika in 1964. It was created to cater for the many changes in postal rates, currencies and ruling Sultans. While this makes for a fascinating area to collect, it means that it can be very difficult find some of the material used in the island. Much of the material now available is either in mint condition, as specimen stationery or as philatelically inspired items.

**The Sultans of Zanzibar from 1893 to 1964**

Sultan	Ruled from	Ending	Notes
Sayyid Hamid bin Thwain	05/03/93	25/08/96	
Sayyid Khalid bin Barghash Al-Busaid	25/08/96	27/08/96	Ruled for only two days having seized power after Hamid bin Thwain's death, but was forced into exile by the British Government.
Sayyid Hamoud bin Mohammed bin Said	27/08/96	18/07/02	
Sayyid Ali bin Hamoud	20/07/02	09/12/11	Britain appointed a Regent until the Sultan became 21 on 7 June 1905
Sayyid Khalifa bin Harub	09/12/11	09/10/60	
Sayyid Abdullah bin Khalifa Al-Said	09/10/60	01/07/63	
Sayyid Jamshid bin Abdullah Al Said	01/07/63	12/01/64	

**Acknowledgements**

My thanks to Victoria Archard for providing me with a great deal of information concerning the modern issues of East Africa, and also to John Barker, Edward Caesley, Eric Coulton and George King for their help and advice on various elements included within this article.



Foreign reply postcard of 1904 with the monogram of Sultan Sayyid Ali bin Hamoud used in the stamp design

In keeping with the rest of East Africa, the currency used in Zanzibar changed in 1907 from Indian rupees (divided into 16 annas with each anna divided into 12 pies) to a rupee divided into 100 cents. Keeping the main unit as the rupee meant one anna equalled approximately 6 cents and so there was no great push to introduce revised postal stationery with values in the new currency. By this time the reigning Sultan had become of age and it was an opportunity to issue new stamps and postal stationery carrying his portrait, and at the same time introduce the new currency onto postal stationery items. Stationery in these new values featuring Sultan Ali bin Hamoud was introduced in 1908, finally replacing the "Arms" issue of 1904.

For three quarters of a century, almost every time that a new Sultan came to power, revised postal stationery had to be created carrying stamps showing the new ruler. This often included postcards and lettercards for both inland and overseas

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"Postal Stationery Matters" Peter van Gelder

**Gibbons Stamp Monthly** (February 2014)  
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"Please Turn Over" Colin Baker

**Gibbons Stamp Monthly** (May 2014)  
"2012-2013 Commonwealth Postal Stationery" Geir Sør-Reime  
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**Stamp Magazine** (January 2014)  
"The Ghost of Christmas Past" Douglas Muir FRPSL

**Postal Stationery** January/February 2014 (USA)  
"French Indochina's Cards of WWII" Wayne Menuz  
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"2MR25 - Diagonal Press Print Surcharge Errors" Lewis E Bussey  
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"Cuba - Recent Tourist Publicity cards" Lewis E Bussey

**Postal Stationery** March/April 2014 (USA)  
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"Indian Postal Stationery used in Pakistan" Jafar H Siddiqui  
"Demonitization of Stamps & Envelopes in 1861" Dan Undersander  
"Esperanto, English and French Text on Austrian View Cards" Prof. Dr. Michael Bockisch

**Postal Stationery Collector** (May 2014) Australia  
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**L'Entire Postal** (Decemer 2013) France  
"Le Père Noël a eu 50 ans en 2012" Jean-François Carde  
"Un essai qui n'en est pas un!!" Eric Panozzo et Jean-Pierre Somoneau  
"PAP sur mesure, PAP Réponse et autres: encore et toujours du nouveau" Jean-François Carde

**L'Entire Postal** (February 2014) France  
"Le timbrage sur commande des entires postaux de France"  
G. Ryker

### A Message in a Bottle

We occasionally hear of someone finding a bottle washed up on the sea shore with a message inside written some time ago and cast into the sea for the finder to read many years later.

In a recent news article, a message in a bottle believed to be the world's oldest was returned to the sender's 62-year-old granddaughter 101 years after it was thrown into the sea. The beer bottle which contained a postcard dated 1913 was discovered by a fisherman in March this year in the Baltic Sea off the coast of Kiel, Germany.

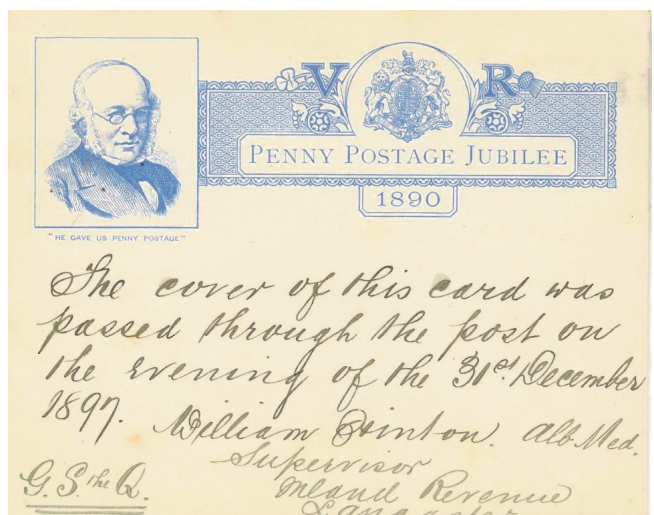
The message, which was written by Richard Platz on a contemporary Danish 5 øre postal stationery card ( Michel P139), asked the finder to return it to the writer's home address in Berlin.

The card had a pair of 5pf. Germania adhesives affixed to the bottom left hand corner, presumably to pay the postage should the bottle be washed up on the German coast and the finder posted the card in a German post box.

The strange thing is, whilst the card was addressed to Berlin, the 5 øre postal stationery card was only valid for the internal Danish post. Perhaps Herr Platz should have used a 5pf. German postal stationery card and affixed two 5 øre Danish adhesive stamps to pay the foreign rate, should the bottle be washed up on the Danish coast!

**The Jubilee Envelope** - PSSJ 69, Vol. 22 No1 February 2014

**David Duncan Turner** writes: Further to your article, whilst one realises the attached is not a commercial use, it is nevertheless a visually appealing registered use. (Pity SG1 and 2 are absent!)



# GROSVENOR

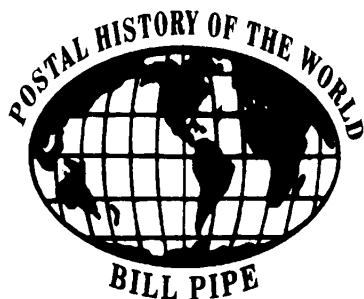
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