



THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 23, No. 3
(Serial number 75)

August 2015



Mauritius Wrapper Production Error - See page 20

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

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Articles on any aspect of postal stationery are welcomed. Items for illustration should be good quality colour scans or photocopies or should be sent to the Editor for scanning.

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Society Calendar 2015

The programme of meetings for 2015 is included in the 2015 programme booklet sent to you with the February 2015 issue of the Journal. The booklet also contains the provisional programme for 2016

Postal Stationery Society Journal Index

Members wishing to locate articles in past issues of the Journal will find these on the RPSL web site: **<http://www.rpsl.org.uk/home.asp>** Click on the tab 'Catalogue', in the left box enter 'Postal Stationery Society Journal' as a search term; in the middle box select 'Cumulative Indexes' and in the right box click on 'search'. In the new window click on the word 'Indexes' on the blue bar. In the next window click 'Click here to show articles'. The contents of all PSS Journals up to 2009 should appear!

On the PSS website (**postalstationery.org.uk**) you can browse through the indexes to all Journal from 2003 to date.

Past issues of the Journal are available from the Editor: See page 23 for details

Auctions

The October 2015 Auction list has been sent to members with this August 2015 issue of the Journal.

Could members keep lots coming in for future Society auctions. If possible put each lot in a plastic protector with a brief description and a reserve. Post to the Auctioneer, Neil Sargent, 24, Wheal Regent Park, Carlyon Bay, Cornwall PL25 3SP

Library

The Society Library holds over 200 items on many areas and aspects of Postal Stationery, see the latest list on the Society Website

Postal Stationery Society Website

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

www.postalstationery.org.uk

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - AUGUST 2015

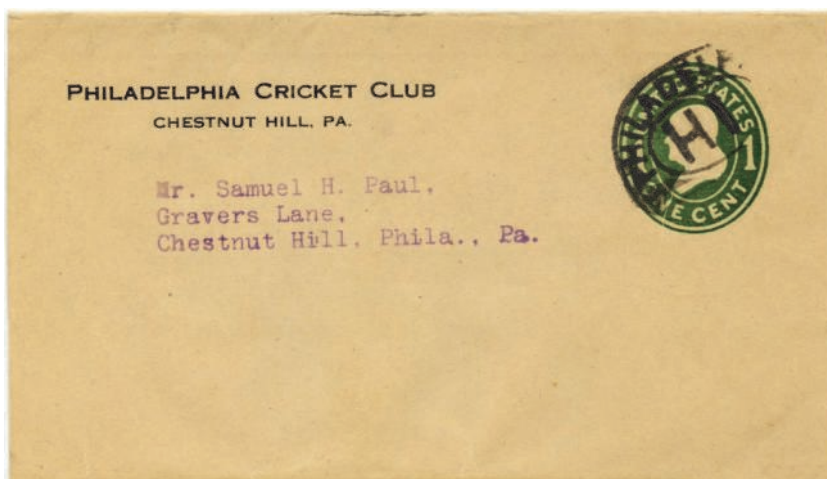
Private overprints on postal stationery wrapper can be found on wrappers from a number of different countries. The country with the most numerous different private overprints is GB. As I write this article the total stands at 2,186; this figure is still continuing to increase at an average rate of 5 or 6 a month. For the USA I have managed to record just 148 different wrappers with overprints in the same period of time.



One of these USA wrappers is for "The Pike's Peak News". This wrapper was posted on 30 June 1893 from Manitou to Gottenberg in Sweden. At 14,115 feet Pikes Peak is the highest summit of the southern Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. It is located in Pike National Forest, Colorado and is named after the American explorer Zebulon Pike; who failed to reach its summit in November 1806. Today it is the best known mountain in the United States, ascended by more than half a million tourists annually. The mountain was at the centre of a gold rush in 1859, a cog railway was installed to the peak in 1891 and in that same year there was a gold strike at Cripple Creek, on its south slopes. In 1893, when this

wrapper was posted, the area would have been swarming with thousands of workers and visitors. This newspaper, published in Manitou Springs on the north-east slope and sold at "the summit of Pike's Peak" would have found many buyers. Cripple Creek had a population of 29,000 in 1900, today it is less than a 1,000.

"It is not the mountain we conquer but ourselves." ~ Edmund Hillary



When I was offered the above wrapper at Stampex earlier this year I hesitated for a while before paying for it. In my mind cricket and USA did not seem go together and there was no instance of any wrapper from a cricket club in my records. Philadelphia Cricket Club did indeed exist and still exists to this day as a country club. Originally founded by a group of young men of English ancestry in 1854. For the first 30 years they played on any ground available. In 1883, through the generosity of a benefactor, they acquired their own ground and country club in Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. Golf, tennis, swimming, squash and other sports facilities were added. In 1907 and 1910 the US Open Golf Championships were held on their golf course. In 1924 the cricket team

was disbanded but the name was retained. This particular design was in use during the period 1907 to 1916.

"A cricket ground is a flat piece of earth with some buildings around it." ~ Richie Benaud (1930-2015), Australian cricketer.

Jan Kośniowski

SECRETARY'S NOTES - AUGUST 2015

Europhilex - The Society's Award

The big London Stamp Exhibition held in May at the Business Design Centre, Europhilex, seems to have been successful. As many of you are aware, the Society had a meeting there on the Thursday (see the separate report on page 4) with two wonderful displays by our members.

The Society provided an award at this event for the best postal stationery exhibit in the Postal Stationery Class,

and this went to **Henrik Mouritsen** of Denmark for his display 'The Classic Postal Stationery of Denmark 1865-1905'. His display was also awarded a Large Gold Medal.

Unfortunately, Henrik was unable to attend the awards ceremony, and so Alan Huggins presented the award to the Danish Commissioner who stood in for Henrik. The photo of Henrik alongside his exhibit was taken the following day.



Henrik Mouritsen of Denmark beside his display
'The Classic Postal Stationery of Denmark
1865-1905'



Alan Huggins presents the award to the Danish
Commissioner on behalf of Henrik

Society's AGM

The Society will hold its AGM on Saturday 24th October at the Royal Philatelic Society's building in London. If you wish to raise any matters relating to the Society, please let the Secretary know beforehand so that answers can be sought prior to the meeting taking place, resulting in meaningful discussions on the day, rather than leaving something to be sorted out later.

In addition, if you would like to be put forward for one of the posts on the committee then please inform the secretary so that the agenda can be arranged to take account of this.

We still need a Publicity Officer, an Assistant Journal Editor and a Programme Secretary. If you feel you may be able to help in any of these positions, please contact the secretary for more details, including what would be involved, etc.

See the enclosed flyer for the meeting but **PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER START TIME OF 10.30am FOR THE AGM.**

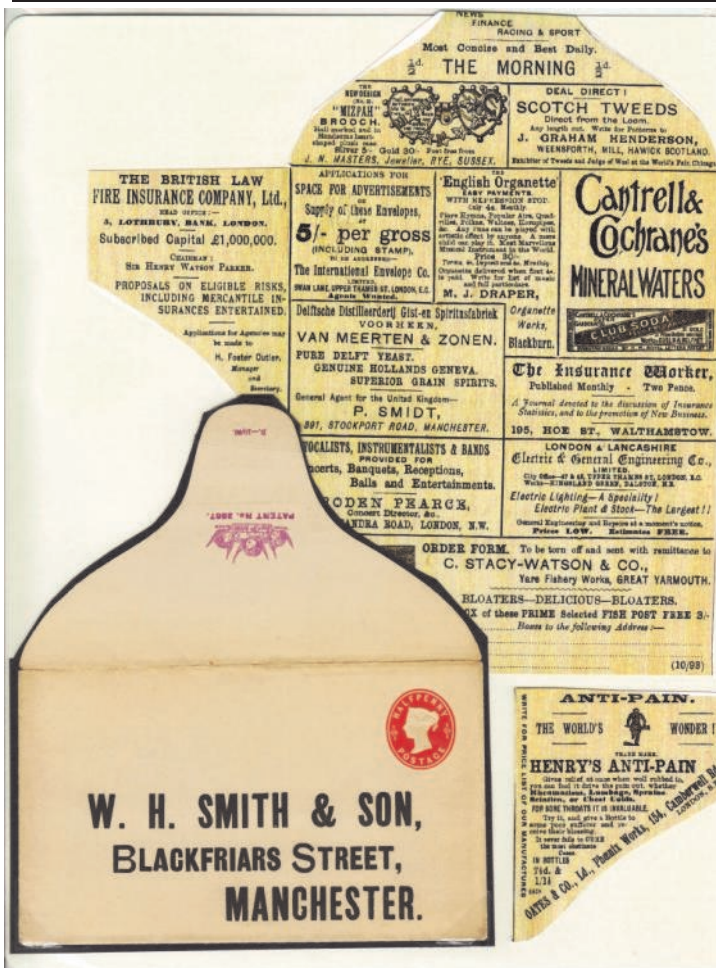
MEETING REPORTS

EUROPHILEX MAY 2015

The Society's meeting in London in May, held at the Europhilex exhibition, was a great success. Approximately 20 members and guests attended, with quite a few overseas members in attendance.

We had two wonderful displays. **Professor Iain Stevenson** (right) went first and showed an extremely comprehensive display of the Queen Victoria ½d pink embossed stamp used for stamped to order work from 1872. He included the only known copy of a ½d envelope printed internally with advertising material (Illustrated on the next page). Iain then went on to show the ½d vermilion used on Post Office and STO issues (the same design





but in a different colour ink), including the rare 1/2d vermilion STO postcard. Iain showed plenty of specially designed and patented envelopes that claimed to be more secure in the post, as well as a large number of advertising envelopes where the

designs were printed on the outside. Having shown his display in two halves, Iain finished with a few 1/2d green stamps, saying that he could give an equally long and interesting display on this issue. Now there's another Society display in the pipeline!

Dr Jean Alexander (below) took over the second half of the meeting. She showed illustrated postal stationery from around the world, mainly in the form of postcards and lettercards, on the theme of waterfalls and similar subjects. Some of her material was in used condition and some mint, and she duplicated items where both front and back needed to be shown. Jean also included in her display copies of some of the original photographs which the artists had used to draw up the illustrations. This was a superb display and Jean showed how postal stationery can be used effectively in both formal and thematic displays.

Both displays generated much discussion among members present, once again making it a lively meeting for the Society. Our Chairman **Jan Kosniowski** thanked both Iain and Jean for their displays and presented them with the Society's thank you cards.



SWINPEX 13th JUNE 2015

Ten members and one guest attended the meeting at Swinpex this year and saw a nice mix of postal stationery. The Chairman, **Jan Kosniowski**, welcomed everyone. This was a very

informal meeting for members to show some of their material and to encourage discussion, questions and answers.

Colin Baker started the ball rolling with a display of postal stationery cut-outs used to pay postage. These were not officially



allowed until 1845, and then were banned from 1st October 1870 until 1 January 1905. Despite this, Colin showed examples used in that period and one that had been disallowed later in the 20th century.

George King followed with a display of various newspapers pre 1870 having the ½d newspaper tax stamp. He followed this with examples of pre-cancelled newspaper wrappers for the Stamford Mercury and other newspapers, explaining that when the newspaper tax was abolished in 1870 (previously this had given newspapers free postage) the publishers were allowed to have their wrappers pre-cancelled so that there would be no delay at the sorting office and the mail would catch the train, boat, etc., just as it had prior to 1870.

Jean Alexander then put up a display of Argentinean letter sheets illustrated with various scenes including one waterfall. There was surprisingly little space for correspondence on these items, although Jean did show used examples.

Eric Holmes then showed some British postal stationery used in Gibraltar, one at least having been taken there by a traveller on his world tour.

Mike Smith displayed a K size Queen Victoria registration envelope sent to Transvaal, a rare destination for a difficult to find piece of postal stationery.

John Gledhill followed with some GB registered envelopes overprinted EAF intended for use in East Africa, and a GB postal order overprinted for Cape Colony, an item only recently discovered.

John Barker finished up the displays with some early German lettercards, explaining why the colour of the card was changed, why the perforation layout and the size were amended, why watermarks were added, etc.

Each of the displays generated discussion and ideas, sometimes prompted by questions posed by those displaying. All in all it was a friendly and informative meeting.

MIDPEX 2015

Midpex is a biannual event held in the Midlands, which has become a Mecca for stamp collectors from all over the country, and even further afield. It is organised by the Midland Philatelic Federation and this year had over 70 dealers and 40 national societies attending, including the Postal Stationery Society.

Our stand was busy for much of the day. It was set up by our editor, **John Barker**, and manned by him for most of the day.



Your Editor by the Display Boards at MIDPEX 2015

It became a magnet for members and non-members alike. There was a great deal of discussion taking place and

views exchanged. John sold a number of our monographs and back numbers of the Society's Journal, plus he signed up one new member and gave out forms and information to a number of collectors who made enquiries of the Society.



Part of our display to encourage collectors to include postal stationery in their collections

Altogether it was a busy day for everyone and we should be grateful for the effort John put into organising and running the Society's stand. It is a great shame that more members who attended the show did not take a stint at looking after the stand. The Society cannot, nor should it, rely on just one member to run a stand at an event such as Midpex. Next time please make sure you give a little of your time. I know we all like to trawl through the dealers boxes, but an hour sitting down in the middle of a hectic day can be relaxing.

Postal Stationery Commission Newsletter

The July 2015 issue includes:

- Judging "Importance" of a Postal Stationery Exhibit
- The History of the PS Commission
- The Swiss PS Society

Book Reviews:

- "*Neuer Ganzsachen-Katalog: Aerogramme - Amerika, 2014*"
- "*Postal Stationery of Ireland*"

- Future International Exhibitions
- Postal Stationery Exhibit Results

This Newsletter will appear on the Postal Stationery Commission web site: www.postalstationery.org in the near future.

POSTCARD PETITION: The Story of James Arthur Chubb

Colin Baker

I've had the postcard illustrated here (figures 1 & 2) for a number of years. The front is a standard 1872 ½d stamped to order postcard (CS1) used on 28th May 1883, but it is the back that has always intrigued me. Who was James Arthur Chubb? Why was there an asylum for orphans and why had there to be an election to send children there? With a few moments to spare I decided it needed looking into, although in the end it took much more than a few moments to unravel the story.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2

The postcard petitioning the British Orphan Asylum on behalf of James Chubb

The first thing I realised was that in the 19th century the word asylum meant a place of refuge and safety, rather like we use the word "asylum" today when referring to political refugees. I was used to the expression common in my childhood, to describe a place where people with mental health issues were sent for treatment. Of course, this definition is still used in a similar way today.

It was from here that I started on my journey into the history of the British Orphan Asylum in Slough, Buckinghamshire. The orphanage (I prefer that name to "asylum" so I will continue to use it) was founded in 1827 by the Reverend Andrew Reed. It was one of his many philanthropic works that he undertook in his lifetime. It was originally situated at Kingston Green in London, but in 1834 it moved to Clapham. In 1863 Major Edward Mackenzie of Fawley Court, Henley, made a donation to the orphanage of £14,000, a huge sum in those days, which

allowed it to move to Mackenzie Park in Slough. This sum was sufficient for the trustees to purchase the old Royal Hotel in Slough, which had remained closed for ten years, and to have it converted into a new home for the children. It was in Slough that the orphanage became known as the "Royal British Orphan School", although it was also still referred to as the British Orphan Asylum. The new building could house up to 170 children.

Despite the large donations given to the orphanage and its other fund raising activities, by 1920 it was suffering severe financial problems. The cost of running the orphanage far exceeded its income and in that year it was forced to close. It amalgamated with the London Orphan School, Watford where many of the children went.

The building at Mackenzie Park, which had served the orphanage for so many years, was taken over by the Licensed Victuallers Association and was used by them as a school. But the building proved to be unsuitable. They had a purpose built school erected in another part of Mackenzie Park and after a long and varied history, the original building was finally demolished in 1938.

Well that is a potted history of the British Orphan Asylum, but what was the reason for the postcard?

The orphanage was established for the children of middle income families, usually successful business men, professional people, etc., who had lost their father, or both parents, and would have suffered hardship if they were not taken into the care of the orphanage. Children had to be nominated by patrons of the orphanage. This meant that either the Church or other charitable persons had to identify worthy cases and arrange for the children to be nominated. The children were accepted through the votes of the orphanage's subscribers and it was these votes that the mothers or guardians had to canvass.

The postcard in my possession was a means of canvassing for these votes and could carry much information about the child in question. It was not as attractive perhaps as a handwritten letter to each subscriber, but it was certainly much easier on the widowed mother.

So what of the candidate, James Chubb?

James Arthur Chubb was born on 13th December 1871 in London (just missing the ten year census) to Agnes Jane Chubb and James Carpenter Chubb, a chemist. He was baptised on 17th March 1872 at St Silas Church, Pentonville, Islington.

James grew up in a fairly wealthy middle class family, that owned a chemist shop in Islington and were able to afford two domestic servants. James was the second of five children. The eldest was his sister Mary. After James came brother Francis and two more sisters, Evelyn and Ethel. The latter was born shortly before her father's death in 1882. For the first ten years of his life James enjoyed a privileged lifestyle. But at some time between January and March 1882 his father died. Needless to say, his widow Agnes was unable to run the family's chemist shop. With five children to look after, money became tight and the eldest son's education needed to be attended to. The British Orphan Asylum seemed to be the ideal solution.



The orphanage at the beginning of the 20th century.



A detail from the postcard showing the pupils in their school dress.

At about this time, Mrs Agnes Chubb moved back to her birth town of Devizes in Wiltshire.

The postcard petition that Mrs Chubb had printed was supported by a number of clergy. Whether it was successful or not I have been unable to determine. The 1881 census had already taken place, so if James had been accepted into the school, it would not have been recorded. In addition, many of the British Orphan Asylum records have been destroyed and the few that have survived now reside in various archives, and some are not even listed in their catalogues. I have not been able to locate the school records for 1883

Children were only allowed to stay at the orphanage until they reached the age of 15; unfortunately James Chubb attained that age before the next ten year census in 1891. If he did stay at the orphanage it was in the middle of the ten year period and thus was not recorded in the English census. In 1891 he is recorded as living with his mother in Devizes along with his sisters Mary, Evelyn and Ethel. His brother Francis was not with them as he had remained in London.

At the turn of the century (according to the 1901 census) James Chubb had moved back to London and was living in Clapham with his mother and youngest sister. He was now 29 years of age and working as an Architect/Surveyor. The family income was now sufficient to support two domestic servants.

Ten years later he is recorded still living in Clapham, but this time without his family. He now describes himself as a Building Surveyor.

James Chubb was 44 years old at the outbreak of the First World War in 1914, too old to join the army and serve his country. But as the war progressed over the next four years it demanded that more and more men took up arms. James enlisted in the army in April 1918 and joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in July of that year as a private.

He was posted to Russia, arriving in Archangel in October 1918. He was promoted to Corporal a few days later. He was repatriated in June 1919, sailing back to Britain from Archangel and was discharged from the army in August 1919.

James never married and on his return to the UK he continued to work as a Building Surveyor. He died at Lower Agbrigg, Wakefield, Yorkshire at the beginning of 1939, aged 68 years.

Tailpiece.

By strange coincidence I recently picked up another postcard, similar to this one, seeking election for a young girl who lived in Manchester in 1872, Fanny Moore. (See **figures 3 and 4**). However, I can find no record of her in the English census for 1871, or records of the Protestant Dissenting Charity School, so her election remains even more of a mystery than that of James Chubb.



Fig. 3

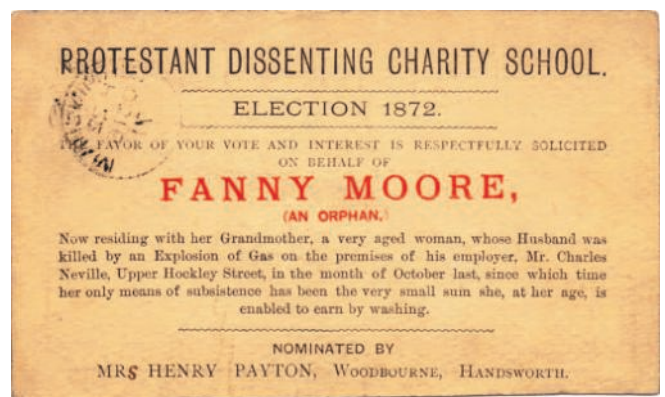


Fig. 4

The second postcard seeking the election of Fanny Moore.

STAMP DEALERS MAIL - WHITFIELD KING Part 1

Edward Caesley

Part of a display given to the Royal Philatelic Society of London on 18 th December 2014

THE STAMPED TO ORDER REGISTERED ENVELOPES USED BY "WHITFIELD KING & COMPANY" BETWEEN 1892 AND 1903

CHARLES WHITFIELD KING 1855-1930. Began as a dealer in Ipswich in 1869 whilst employed as a clerk in the Customs House. He carried on his business from Lacey Street, Ipswich from premises opposite his home, Morpeth House, a large house in the centre of Ipswich. His philatelic business was very successful and at this time was one of the largest stamp dealing businesses in the country, if not the world. The business employed 17 people which included sorters of stamps, addressers, cleaners and an engineer, to keep the building in good condition. Whitfield King & Co. published the 'Standard' 'Paragon' and 'Acme' Postage Stamp Albums. The first edition of his Universal Standard Catalogue of the Postage Stamps of the World was issued in 1899. It was in a simplified form, intended to assist young collectors.

Whitfield King and Co. had a wide range of registered envelopes embossed at Somerset House using all the registered envelope dies in use at the time, the largest denomination used for postage was 1/-. The embossed envelopes were produced in five sizes, 79mm x 141mm, 90mm x 142mm, 95mm x 170mm, 114mm x 184 and 120mm x 184mm. The envelope paper would have had the printing applied before being embossed and then the paper would have been machine folded to form the envelope.

In my opinion a large number of these envelopes would have been produced, it could be thousands. The envelope paper should have been embossed with a valid postage rate at the time of embossing but this was not always the case as on a number of occasions adhesive stamps had to be affixed to make the correct postage for the item.

As can be seen from the following pages a large number of differently embossed envelopes were produced but these only represent a small number of the embossed registered envelopes used by Whitfield King & Co. After Queen Victoria died in 1901 Whitfield King & Co ceased having registered envelopes embossed with the postage dies for King Edward VII. However they did have their parcel post labels embossed with the postage dies for the new king.



1d pink (1883) embossed at Somerset House (undated)

Envelope: 79mm x 141mm

6d purple (1894) embossed at Somerset House (modified design without date plugs, undated)

7d postage pays 5d for a 1oz foreign surface letter and 2d registration fee.

Envelope: 79mm x 141mm

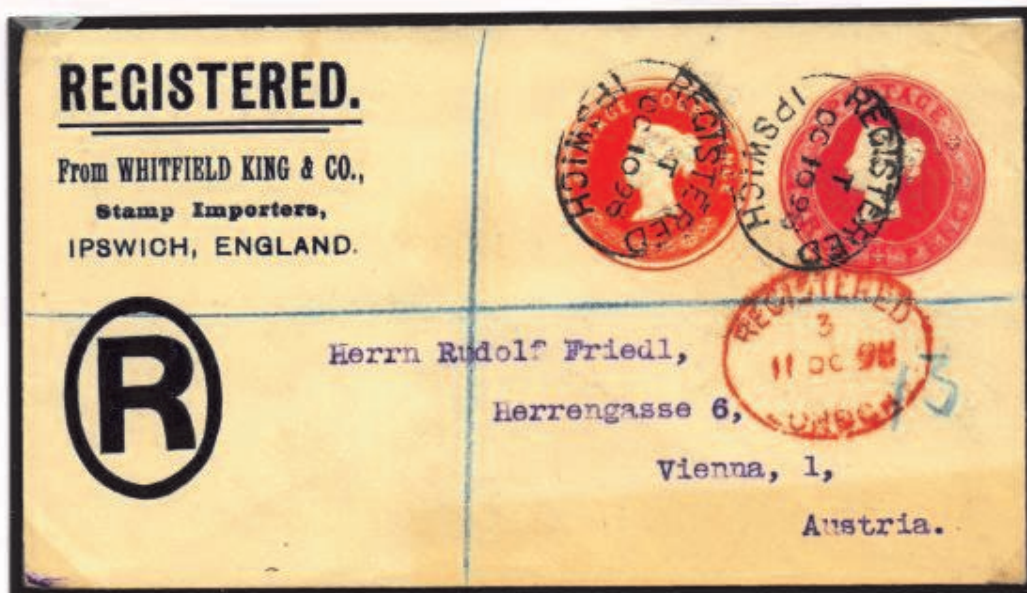


2d lake (May 1892) embossed at Somerset House 11.9.92

2½d grey-blue (March 1892) embossed at Somerset House 11.9.92

4½d postage pays 2½d for a ½oz foreign surface letter and 2d registration fee

-----XXXX-----



3d carmine (February 1894) (5 dot florets) embossed at Somerset House

4d vermilion (February 1894) (9 dot florets) embossed at Somerset House

7d postage pays 5d for a 1oz foreign surface letter and 2d registration fee

Envelope size 90mm x 142mm



1/2d vermilion (September 1892) embossed at Somerset House (undated)
3d pale rose carmine-deep carmine (1859) embossed at Somerset House 13.11.92
6d pale-deep purple – bright violet (October 1855) embossed at Somerset House 16.11.92
 9 1/2d postage pays 7 1/2d for a 1 1/2oz foreign surface letter and 2d registration fee

-----XXXX-----



1 1/2d pale-deep yellow (April 1892) embossed at Somerset House 14.11.92
2d pale-deep lake (May 1892) embossed at Somerset House 15.11.92
 3 1/2d postage pays 1 1/2d for a letter up to 2oz inland surface letter and 2d registration fee

GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

NEW ITEMS REPORTED

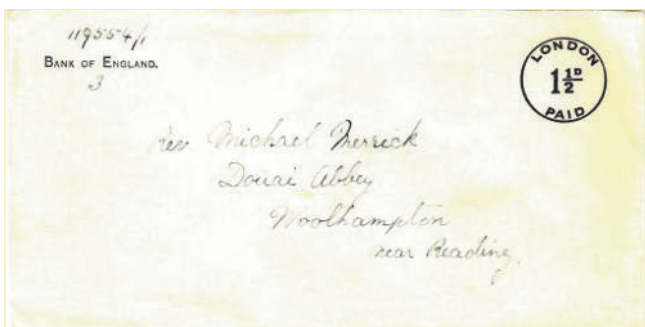
Envelopes — Stamped to Order Issues

George King reports a variety of the 1½d black letterpress stamp used for **ES59** by the Bank of England, which has 'LONDON' in thicker lettering and in a slightly longer arc (21 mm instead of 20.5mm). Robson Lowe in Volume One page 232 of 'The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, Great Britain and The Empire in Europe' (1952) indicated a date of 30 April 1932 for this item, but 15 impressions designated 1-15 were registered at Somerset House on 23.9.1924. Since these envelopes were sent through the post uncanceled the surprising gap between the registration date and the purported date of usage currently remains unresolved. Does anyone have an example with a dated postal marking?

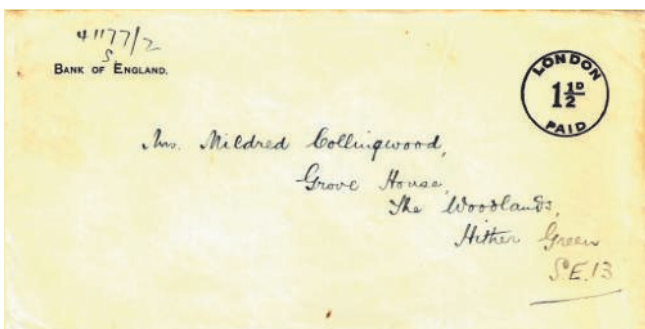


Proof impression from brass die with 20.5mm 'LONDON' in thinner lettering

Issued Items:

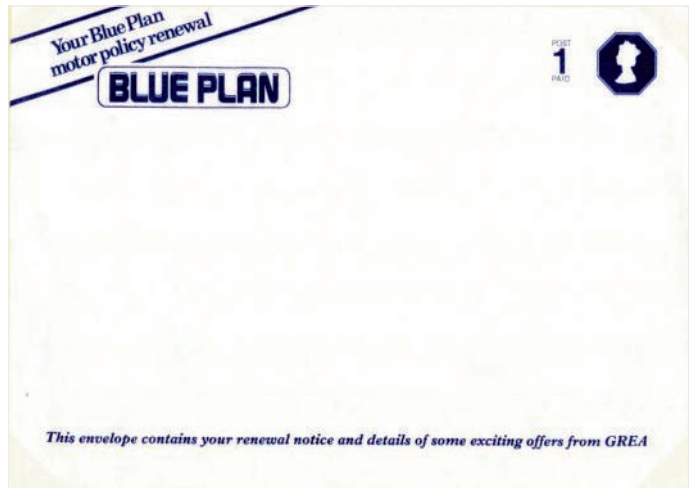


'LONDON' 20.5mm in thinner lettering

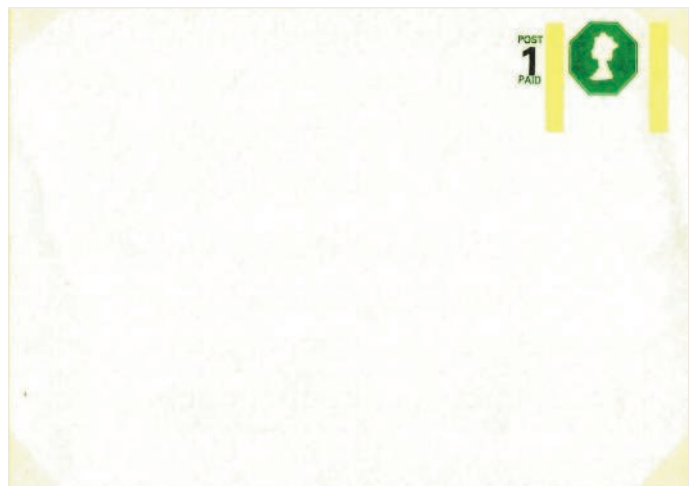


LONDON' 21mm in thicker lettering

The British Postal Museum & Archive collections include a number of examples of QEII stamped to order envelopes with NVI stamps. Included are two varieties of the use of NVI stamps which so far have not been recorded. These are 1st class NVI type 3a size 20 X 21 mm printed in dull blue with clear phosphor bands produced for the Guardian Royal Exchange and 1st class NVI 3b size 23 X 24.5mm in green with yellow phosphor bands produced for Jackson Property Services. These are illustrated by courtesy of **Douglas Muir**, Curator of Philately and are © Royal Mail Group.



NVI First Class type 3a dull blue with clear phosphor bands

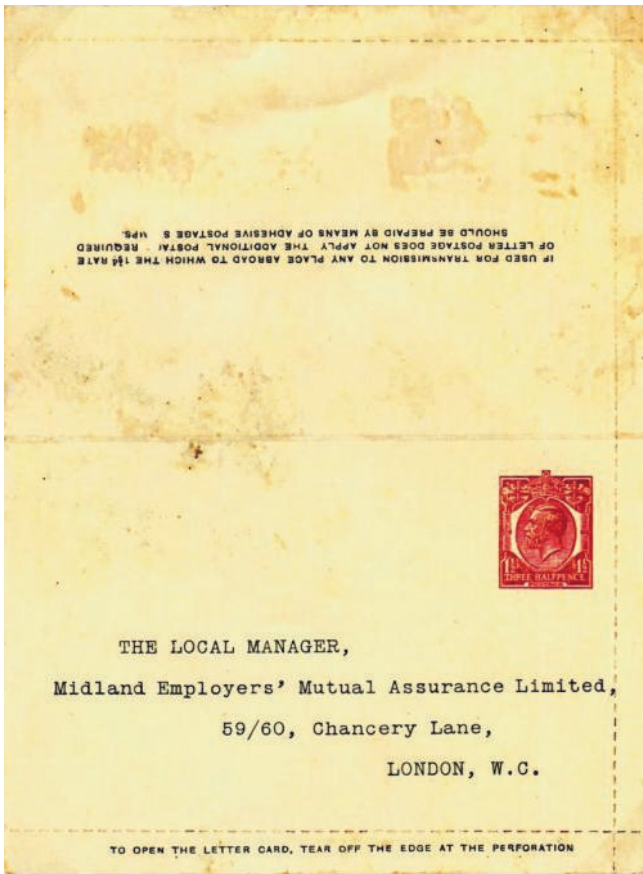


NVI First Class type 3b green with yellow phosphor bands

Letter Cards Stamped to Order Issues

George King also reports another unused example of **LCS6** produced for use by the 'Midland Employer's Mutual Assurance Limited'

(see illustration on the next page).



The inside reads:

WORKMENS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE.

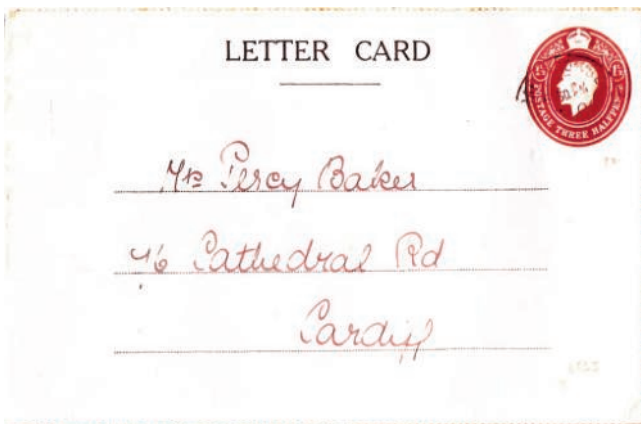
Name.....

Address.....

Business.....

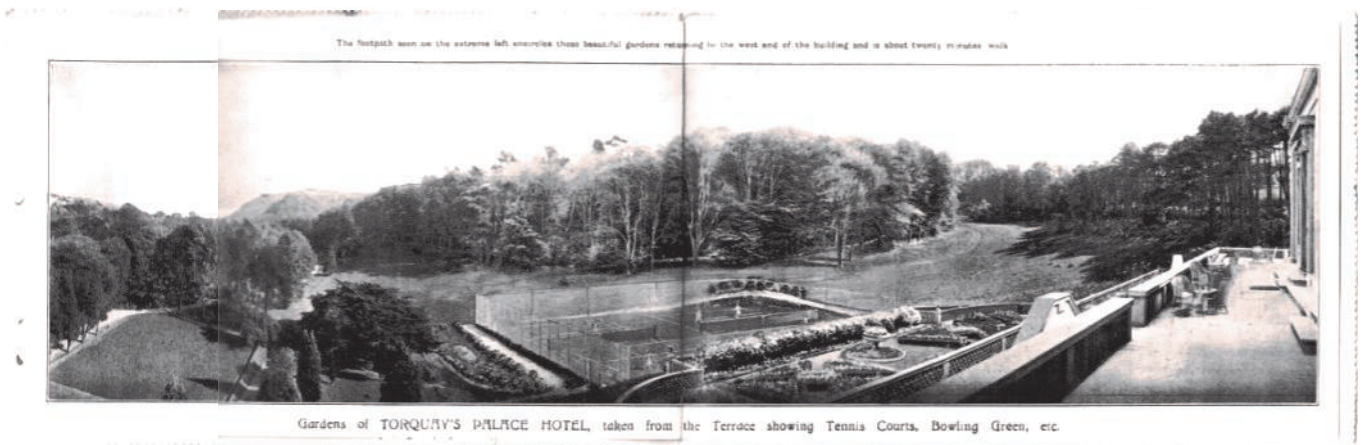
Estimated wage bill

Cost of claims



Another new item is a very unusual side opening variety of lettercard **LCS5** in an unregulated size (105 X 162mm with perforated margins removed on 3 sides).

This item also has an attached insert with a view of Torquay .



UBIQUITOUS POSTAL STATIONERY WRAPPERS of W. H. SMITH Ltd.

Dr John K. Curtis FRPSL acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk

In 1792 Henry Walton Smith opened a small news vendor in Little Grosvenor Street, London. In 1816 the business passed to his sons Henry Edward and William Henry Smith. In 1848 the first railway bookstore opened which was followed by other station bookstalls, taking advantage of "railway mania" in England. These bookstalls become outlets for cheap editions of other publications which were produced for railway travelers, the popular "yellowbacks". By 1850 W. H. Smith & Son, were recognised as the principal newspaper distributor in the country (Wikipedia).

What are not so well documented are the wide range of newspapers and magazines that were sold by W H Smith and the range of subscribers to these publications. W H Smith supplied by post many publications that were sold over-the-counter in the UK. The names of the contents were often typed on the gum. W H Smith wrappers are extant for the period February 1862 to circa 1981. Arundel (2000) lists the earliest dated die of advertising rings on W H Smith stamped-to-order ES1 as 27 February 1862. It is difficult to identify actual postal dates as most of the early wrappers passed through the Foreign Section, renamed Foreign Branch and the obliterations were undated FS or FB. The argument at the time was that postmark dating was not necessary because the date was shown on the newspaper.

There has been 123 different stamped-to-order wrapper types bearing the masthead and printing W H Smith Ltd. listed on eBay in the past decade or so. More specifically, 853 different used wrappers of W H Smith have been listed for sale on the internet auction market site eBay since September 2003. The author has hand-collected daily all the listings of used post office

postal stationery wrappers on this site over the past 140 months. The overall size of the database is 37,500 used wrappers worldwide of which 853 are of W H Smith. The purposes of the paper are to show the quantity listed of each type and their addressee destinations and to examine the several indicia-combinations that have appeared on these wrappers. For exposition in the paper three groupings are used: stamped-to-order by the post office, stamped-to-order "ES" Huggins and Baker catalogue numbers and stamped-to-order "ESC" combination indicia as listed also in Huggins and Baker.

Supply on eBay

Table 1 lists the frequency of listings of Post Office stamped-to-order wrappers bearing W H Smith private printing. Reams of uncut sheets were delivered to the post office for stamping and then delivered to the printer. Kosniowski's draft catalogue shows that W H Smith used at least 37 different mastheads on its wrappers. Many of these mastheads are differentiated by subtle juxtapositional variations in printing. Table 1 categorises listing frequencies by monarch: three issues of Queen Victoria, four issues of King Edward VII, six issues of King George V, ten issues of King George VI and eight issues of Queen Elizabeth II. The dominant post office STO type is WS3 (KE3 in Higgins & Gage "KE" catalogue numbers) with 81 copies. The Queen Victoria issues are slightly higher in total listings than King Edward VII and the others. There were 19 issues with listing quantities of less than ten. After 1951 extant issues overprinted W H Smith falls away markedly. There are seven issues with single examples, making them elusive.

Table 1: Listing Frequency of W H Smith PO STO Wrappers on eBay (140 months)

PO #	Quantity	PO #	Quantity	PO #	Quantity	PO #	Quantity
Queen Victoria		King George V		King George VI		Queen Elizabeth II	
WS3	81	WS13	2	WS29	14	WS51	6
WS5	20	WS14	9	WS30	15	WS52	7
WS7	6	WS15	15	WS31	9	WS54	1
Total	107	WS21	4	WS32	12	WS58	1
King Edward VII		WS23	24	WS34	6	WS62	1
WS8	13	WS25	4	WS38	24	WS63	2
WS9b	49	Total	58	WS39	11	WS65	1
WS9a	36			WS40	1	WS96	1
WS11	3			WS44	3	Total	20
Total	101			WS46	1	Overall Total 382	
				Total	96		

Table 2 is a listing of embossed and letterpress stamped-to-order issues. W H Smith supplied the paper to Somerset House and elsewhere for specified indicia to be stamped. The basic concessional postage rate for newspapers and printed material approved for this class of mail for overseas was ½d per 2 oz. up to a maximum of 32 oz. for wrappers mailed to U.P.U. member countries. For internal mailings the rate was ½d initially without regard to weight. The contents within the wrappers included a large range of magazines and newspapers with varying weights, and on occasions more than one enclosure was included. While this firm had a legitimate need for different indicia to pay a range of weights, all things being equal, it could have simplified matters with a lot less indicia-combinations than the 92 varieties shown in Table 2.

There are other combinations that have not yet appeared on the eBay market. The Kosniowski draft catalogue lists no less than 338 entries for W H Smith categorized by masthead and listed by indicia catalogue number. The proportion of extant types as per eBay listings vis-à-vis the Kosniowski listing is 36%. The number of different W H Smith combinations exceeds any other user of wrappers bearing private printing in the world. That the W H Smith wrapper is ubiquitous is aptly named.

There are 76 stamped-to-order and compound-indicia with quantities listed at less than ten. Only one of the 44 ESC numbers has appeared with ten cases. There are 25 ESC numbers with a single appearance and another seven ESC numbers with two only cases that were listed in 140 months. Each of the wrappers listed in Tables 1 and 2 were properly used. One observation of the 853 wrappers in the database is that only one was taxed postage due sent to Kiukiang China. This unique example is shown as **Illustration 1**.

There are 60 uprated PO STO wrappers and 64 uprated STO SH (and elsewhere) wrappers which are about 15% of the total. Given that the annual volume of W H Smith wrappers over a 100+ year period would have been in the tens of millions, 15%



Illustration 1: Unique Example of Postage Due Charge

would result in many millions of wrappers requiring the time-consuming addition of adhesives. One explanation for the diversity of stamped-to-order indicia found on W H Smith wrappers may have been to reduce the need for the extra labour and time of adding adhesives.

Table 2: Listing Frequency on eBay of Stamped-to-Order ES/ESC Issues of W. H. Smith

ES #	Quantity	ES #	Quantity	ESC #	Quantity
1	22	44	6	383	1
2	18	45	20	621	1
3	6	46a	3	635	1
4	1	46b	3	650	6
5	3	47	8	743	4
9	22	48	6	744	1
11	34	49	4	753	2
13	1	53	5	760	1
14	11	64	1	768	1
15	4	71	6	769	1
16	1	72	12	776	1
18	4	73	3	801	1
19	18	74	3	807	2
20a	4	75	1	814	1
20b	14	81	1	815	1
21a	2	83	1	818	4
21b	4	Total	362	824	2
22a	8	ESC #	Quantity	826	1
22b	13	51	1	834	1
23	3	55	1	837	1
26	7	57	2	839	1
29	18	99B	1	844	2
31	3	107	1	845	1
32	15	115	1	860	2
33	1	123	5	870	8
34a	3	191	4	873	1
35	3	192	6	892	7
36	2	213	2	893	10
41a	17	216	1	977	5
41b	16	217	3	979	7
43	1	234	1	984	1
		299	1	Total	109
				Overall Total	471

Advertising Rings

Before the ESC indicia combinations appeared, a number of W H Smith wrappers were issued with the addition of an advertising ring or collar. For ES1 all W H Smith extant copies in the database have collars. For ES2, 16 of the 18 examples have collars, and for ES3 one copy of the six cases. For ES9 there were two collars (of the 22 cases), for ES11 there were 32 of 34 cases, and for ES13 the sole example has a collar. In all there were 74 wrappers with collars. There are other extant indicia-combinations with collars and these have appeared as cutouts or on unused copies of wrappers. Examples are shown as **Illustration 2**.



Illustration 2: Advertising Rings around ES2-ES5 Indicum of W H Smith Wrappers

Destinations

An analysis was made of the addresses that appeared on these 853 wrappers. A simplified counting revealed 58 countries were named and these are listed alphabetically in Table 3. The frequency of appearance of destinations is analysed by WS, ES and ESC catalogue categories. The post office STO group of WS (or “KE” numbers in Higgins & Gage) was addressed to 38 countries; the ES group had 44 countries and the ESC group had 18 countries. This is not to suggest that these are the only countries to which W H Smith mailed newspapers and magazines – they are the destinations shown on the extant eBay sample.

An examination of the frequency of appearance of each of these 57 country destinations (other than the “local” category) shows that 78% were mailed to countries with less than ten examples each. There are 22 single-instance countries and while these wrapper destinations may not be unique they are elusive if not scarce. W H Smith wrappers found their way to such areas as the Hawaiian Islands, Philippine Islands, Iceland, Newfoundland, Iraq, Sicily, Colombia and Uruguay. Another example is of three wrappers addressed to the Straits of Magellan (attributed to Chile). There was some evidence of “clustering” (Courtis 2014): most of the wrappers addressed to Australia were to a specific person in Mount Isa (Queensland) and another cluster to a hotel manager in Singapore (Straits Settlements).

These 57 destinations will be of interest to postal historians in routing studies but also to postal stationery collectors looking to include exotic or distant destination wrappers in their collections. The largest quantity addressed to any one country is Germany (175 or 20%) but this survival amount has more to do with avid collectors residing in that country retaining anything philatelic.

Indicia Combinations

A question of interest is whether the variety of indicia on W H Smith wrappers was necessary? A careful examination of the 341 listings of W H Smith wrappers in the Kosniowski catalogue reveals 57 extant straightforward combinations. A straightforward combination selects the lower denomination first. For example, the normal description of combination indicia is to express the right side first and then the left side, such that a combination 3d + ½d means ½d is the left indicia and 3d is the right indicium. For the purpose of this analysis this combination is referred to as ½d + 3d and for establishing absolute postage amounts is treated as identical to a combination which reads 3d + ½d.

Table 3: Destinations of W H Smith Wrappers by Category of PO and STO Types

Country	WS	ES	ESC	Total	Country	WS	ES	ESC	Total
Aden	0	1	0	1	India	6	15	5	26
Algeria	1	1	0	2	Indonesia	2	2	1	5
Argentina	5	2	0	7	Iraq	1	0	0	1
Australia	4	0	19	23	Iceland	0	2	0	2
Austria	5	6	3	14	Italy	11	10	2	23
Belgium	14	6	0	20	Jamaica	0	0	1	1
Bermuda	1	0	0	1	Local (GB/Forces)*	139	66	40	245
Brazil	1	1	0	2	Luxembourg	0	1	0	1
Bulgaria	0	0	1	1	Malta	0	1	0	1
Canada	0	3	0	3	Martinique	0	1	0	1
Canary Islands					Monaco	0	2	1	3
Cape Colony	0	3	0	3	Natal	0	5	4	9
Ceylon	1	0	0	1	New Zealand	3	1	0	4
Chile	4	1	0	5	Newfoundland	0	0	1	1
China	3	6	2	11	Norway	1	2	0	3
Colombia	1	0	0	1	Panama	1	0	0	1
Curacao	0	1	0	1	Philippine Islands	0	1	0	1
Czechoslovakia	0	1	0	1	Romania	1	0	0	1
Denmark	1	2	0	3	Russia	2	4	0	6
Egypt	4	4	0	8	Sicily	0	1	0	1
Finland	1	1	0	2	South Africa	3	6	0	9
France	5	31	1	37	Spain (Canary Is)	3	5	3	11
Germany	76	86	13	175	Straits Settlements	4	10	0	14
Gibraltar	1	1	2	4	Sweden	1	0	0	1
Greece	0	1	0	1	Switzerland	46	31	6	83
Guatemala	1	1	0	2	Transvaal	0	1	0	1
Hawaiian Island	0	1	0	1	Turkey	1	2	0	3
Holland	9	12	0	21	Uruguay	0	1	0	1
Hungary	2	0	0	2	USA	16	20	4	40
Iceland	1	0	0	1		382	362	109	853

* The Local category included wrappers addressed to England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland plus wrappers addressed to the Armed Forces (in the Channel, Mediterranean and elsewhere).

W H Smith included more than one enclosure in some of its wrappers as corroborated by the occasional list of titles typed or written on the gum. Five examples of how these titles appeared are shown in **Illustration 3**: triple titles: The Times, The Daily News and The Standard; double titles Daily Telegraph and Daily Graphic to Salisbury, Mashonaland, and Punch and Sketch to the Officer's Mess, Peshawar, India; single titles are shown for Tit Bits and Everywoman. Another in the author's collection is for the Daily Mail.

**Illustration 3: Named Magazine Typed/ Written on Gum**

The concessionary postal rate for newspapers and registered other printed matter which was established 1 October 1870 was ½d each without regard to weight until the first rate change on 1 November 1915. As a war time measure rates were then changed to weight scales in multiples of 6 oz. to a maximum of 2 lbs. after which the parcel rate applied. W H Smith was a sophisticated newsagent and would have known postal rates as well or even better than the post office itself.

Table 4 lists all the 57 straightforward combinations and ignores monarch differences for simplicity of exposition. However, monarch differences may well be a clue as to why there are so many indicia-combinations. When there was a change in monarch new postal stationery bearing the image of that monarch

was ordered. If dies for certain denominations were not yet ready, an existing die of an earlier monarch could have been used as a temporary measure. Another reason for compounds occurring is when wrappers were sent back to the Post Office for uprating when postage rates changed.

For this analysis, the indicia denominations are added to determine what the stamping is paying. The frequency of each combination within the total Kosniowski listing of 341 is shown. The only W H Smith indicium that is inexplicably absent is 3½d. This denomination does not appear on its own in any of the 57 indicia combinations. This absence does not mean that it does not exist; only that at this point in time an example has not shown up and therefore not been included in the Kosniowski listings.

Table 4: Indicia Combinations on Extant W H Smith Wrappers Listed in Kosniowski

Combination	Sum	Freq.	Combination	Sum	Freq.	Combination	Sum	Freq.
Basics: ½d		19	½d + 9d	9½d	2	2½d + 6d	8½d	1
1d		32	1d + 2½d	3½d	6	2½d + 9d	11½d	1
1½d		38	1d + 3d	4d	2	2½d + 1/-	1/2½	1
2d		25	1d + 6d	7d	1	3d + 4d	7d	6
2½d		16	1½d + 2d	3½d	10	3d + 4½d	7½d	1
3d		18	1½d + 3d	4½d	12	3d + 5d	8d	8
4d		12	1½d + 4d	5½d	1	3d + 1/-	1/3	2
4½d		1	1½d + 6d	7½d	2	4d + 4d	8d	5
5d		2	1½d + 1/-	1/1½	1	4d + 6d	10d	2
6d		16	2d + 2½d	4½d	12	4d + 9d	1/1	2
9d		5	2d + 3d	5d	3	4d + 1/-	1/4	3
Combination			2d + 4½d	6½d	1	4½d + 5d	9½d	1
½d + ½d	1d	2	2d + 6d	8d	1	5d + 5d	10d	1
½d + 1d	1½d	2	2d + 9d	11d	2	5d + 9d	1/2	1
½d + 1½d	2d	5	2 + 1/-	1/2	4	6d + 9d	1/3	2
½d + 2d	2½d	2	2½d + 2½d	5d	10	½d + ½d + 3d	4d	1
½d + 2½d	3d	1	2½d + 3d	5½d	6	½d + ½d + 4d	5d	1
½d + 3d	3½d	12	2½d + 4d	6½d	3	½d + 1½d + 6d	8d	1
½d + 4d	4½d	9	2½d + 4½d	7d	1			
½d + 6d	6½d	3	2½d + 5d	7½d	1			
						Total		341

The information in Table 4 can be further aggregated by summarizing the sum of the denominations to reveal that only 26 different postage amounts were paid – the basics: ½d (19), 1d (34), 1½d (40), 2d (30), 2½d (18), 3d (19), 3½d (28) and 4d (3). For overseas mail, above the 8th weight scale: 4½d (33), 5d (14), 5½d (7), 6½d (7), 7d (8), 7½d (4), 8d (15), 8½d (1), 9½d (3), 10d (3), 11d (2), 11½d (1), 1/1 (2), 1/1½ (1), 1/2 (5), 1/2½ (1), 1/3 (3), 1/4 (3). The basic newspaper rates up to 1 lb. have been paid by 47% of the total indicia combinations. The remaining 53% of indicia combinations have paid for other weight scales.

The Great Britain Philatelic Society has published on its website newspaper and printed matter rates, as well as rates for parcels and letters, etc. (www.gbpps.org.uk/information/rates). Using the information on this site two late usage W H Smith wrappers are examined for marrying indicia denominations and published postal rates.

A late usage readable postmark date of a stamped-to-order wrapper in the author’s database is 15 MR 60 and this ES75 KGVI wrapper is shown as **Illustration 4**. The indicium is 1/- brown issued in 1957. The last rate change occurred on 1 October 1957 for both newspaper and printed matter rates. The regulations stated that whether it was cheaper to send packets containing multiple newspapers as regular printed papers or not varied according to the weight. In this case the printed matter rate for 1/- was 1 lb. 4 oz. being the tenth weight scale.



Illustration 4:
Late usage of W H Smith
ES57 Wrapper

Another late usage readable postmark in the author's database is 10 NO 60 and this ESC979 wrapper bear combination-indicia of $2\frac{1}{2}d + 6d = 8\frac{1}{2}d$. This wrapper is shown as Illustration 5. It is addressed to The Librarian, Bradford Dyers Association, PO Box, Bradford, Yorks. and is one of a cluster of eight wrappers to this address each bearing the same indicia. Because of the postmarked date on the wrapper the regulations in effect on 1 October 1957 apply. The newspaper rate table gives us $8\frac{1}{2}d$ for 1 lb. 14 oz. being the fifth weight scale.

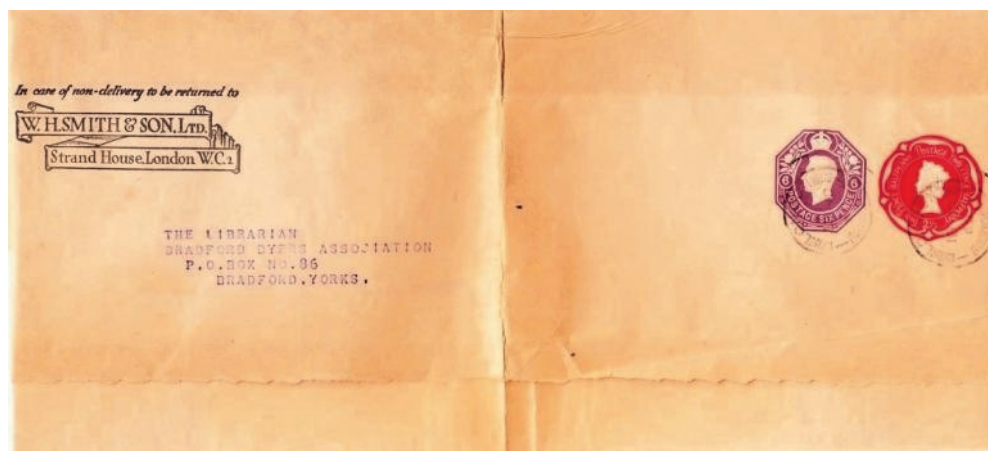


Illustration 5: Late
usage of W H Smith
ESC979 Wrapper

Conclusion

The author's database of 853 used examples of W H Smith wrappers were hand-collected daily from listings on eBay from September 2003 to the present. These wrappers were analysed to determine the frequency of listing of each stamped-to-order letterpress and embossed catalogue type. It was shown that there were 31 post office STO types comprising 382 examples. With regard to the EC stamped-to-order issues there were 47 types comprising 362 examples and 45 ESC combination-indicia types comprising 109 examples. The three categories total 123 types which represents 36% of Kosniowski's listing of known W H Smith extant wrapper types of 338. There is still much to be watched for on eBay and elsewhere.

A noticeable aspect of these wrappers is that they appear to reflect a strong knowledge in the mail room of rates per weight scale to different parts of the world. Only one wrapper of 853 incurred postage due and this was to Kiukiang, China. Wrappers inscribed Airmail exist but they are scarce (as it was an expensive option), no wrapper showed evidence of registration usage, there were no auxiliary markings and no named ships (other than wrappers sent to ships). The 124 uprated wrappers represent 15% of the total. Further analyses showed that 74 wrappers had advertising collars and there were 57 country destinations on the eBay sample. Some of the exotic and distant locations would surely gladden the heart of collectors seeking these examples.

An analysis of the indicia-combinations listed in the Kosniowski catalogue reveals that of the 341 separate W H Smith listings grouped according to 37 masthead varieties there were 57 straightforward indicia-combinations. When these are examined in terms of prepaid postage sums only 26 variations of absolute sums exist. Applying the GBPS website rate tables to extant late

usage wrappers enables reconciliation between published rates and indicia sums to be undertaken. Notwithstanding, more research is needed to explain why so many indicia-combinations came about.

The W H Smith archives held at the University of Reading required seven container loads to be transported. It will take some years to be catalogued fully but should contain interesting insights into many aspects of this firm's operations including the placing of stationery orders for stamping and the nature of rate instructions given to the mail room.

References

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Courtis John K. (2014), "Clustering": An Introduction to Incidences and Implications, Postal Stationery Collector, Vol. 20 No. 3, Issue No. 79, August, pp. 85-88.
Higgins and Gage (1964), Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World, California.
Kosniowski Jan (2015 forthcoming), Newspaper Wrappers: Catalogue of Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers of the Whole World.
 Postal rates for newspapers and Printed Matter can be found at www.gbps.org.uk/information/rates

Acknowledgements

Allan Gory helped in reading and commenting on an earlier draft and I thank him for his time and sound insights.
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GBPS Draft Advice of a New Publication.

‘THE MULREADY POSTAL STATIONERY, Its Genesis, Production and Usage’

Members are advised that a new book on the Mulready postal stationery by **Alan Huggins** and **Alan Holyoake**, to be published jointly by the Great Britain Philatelic Society and the Postal Stationery Society, is nearing completion.

Approximately 200 pages this publication comprises an overview of the origins of pre-stamped postal stationery; the proposals made during the period of reform of the British Post Office leading up to the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage in 1840; the development of the design by William Mulready; the production of the Mulready envelopes and letter sheets and their usage. This is followed by a presentation in full of an eight frame international award winning exhibit entitled ‘The Introduction and Usage of the Mulready Postal Stationery’.

This work, which is fully illustrated in colour, provides not only a source of reference to the subject, but brings together in one place images of many of its iconic items, illustrating their involvement in the initiation of such an important revolution, in postal communication. In addition it demonstrates how the story of this postal historically area can be shown in an exhibit.

All those who wish to receive further details are invited to advise Colin Baker of their interest. It is anticipated that the launch of this publication will take place at the December meeting of the GBPS at the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Book Review

ROMANIAN POSTAL STATIONERY - 1870-1927 by Emanoil Alexandru Săvoiu; published by AXA, Botoşani, Romania; 256pp. ISBN 978-973-660-521-5 (2014)

This catalogue provides for the first time an English language specialised listing of the postal stationery issued by Romania during the period 1870-1927. The content covers postcards; letter cards; wrappers; money orders; postal orders; telegraph forms; parcel forms; envelopes STO envelopes; and free-franked military postcards and has additional sections on the Romanian Post Office in Constantinople; German occupation of Romania; Romanian occupation of Procutia and Hungary; Timisoara local post and International Reply Coupons.

The listing, which is based on over fifty years of collecting and study, is extremely detailed and profusely illustrated in colour, the latter being crucial in order to clarify the great number of textual variations which are to be found on Romanian postal stationery. The results of an enormous amount of study and research are clearly set out, making a complex subject readily comprehensible to collectors, whether or not they have had any previous experience of this area. The items listed are priced in euros which gives a useful guide to their rarity, since as far as I am aware, much of this material does not often appear on the international marketplace. An exhaustive alphabetically arranged bibliography (mainly Romania books and periodicals) is included together with an index.

This is a very impressive addition to the literature on the postal stationery of Romania and the author is to be congratulated on producing such a fascinating insight into an area which has not previous been readily accessible to a worldwide readership.

Alan Huggins

MAURITIUS WRAPPER PRODUCTION ERROR

Alan Huggins



The 3 cent green wrapper (**H&G 1**) issued in 1896 was surcharged on two occasions when the printed matter rate was increased to 4 cents in 1898 (**H&G 2**), and then reduced to 3 cents again in 1899 (**H&G 3**), the second surcharge being in red. Very surprisingly an example with a 4 cent double surcharge was also subsequently surcharged 3 cents (see illustration to the left).

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Recent Articles from the Philatelic Press

- Gibbons Stamp Monthly** (December 2014)
"Postal Stationery Matters" Peter van Gelder
- Gibbons Stamp Monthly** (March 2015)
"Postal Stationery Matters" Peter van Gelder
- Gibbons Stamp Monthly** (April 2015)
"Victorian Postal Stationery Wrappers" Michael Peach
"Overprinted Stationery of the Imperial British East Africa Company, 1895" George T Krieger
- Gibbons Stamp Monthly** (May 2015)
"2013-14 Commonwealth Postal Stationery" Geir Sør-Reime
- Gibbons Stamp Monthly** (June 2015)
"Postal Stationery Matters" Peter van Gelder
"2013-14 Foreign Postal Stationery A - E" Geir Sør-Reime
"The Rise and Fall of the Mulready Stationery" Edward Klempla
- Gibbons Stamp Monthly** (July 2015)
"Cayman Islands: The King Edward VII Postal Stationery" James Podger
"2013-14 Foreign Postal Stationery F - K" Geir Sør-Reime
- Gibbons Stamp Monthly** (August 2015)
"Uses of Mulready Stationery" Edward Klempla
"Indian Postcards: Victorian Britain" Michael Peach
"Postal Cards of the Federated Malay States" Henry Ong
"2013-14 Foreign Postal Stationery L - V" Geir Sør-Reime
- Postal Stationery** November/December 2014 (USA)
"A New Classification of the Tax Notice Forms of Hungary" Paul de Leeuw van Weenen
"Letter Sheet or Letter Card?" Wayne Menuz
"Zanzibar Overprinted Indian Envelopes, an update" George T. Krieger
"Barbados Envelope Overprints" Ray Biemiller
"RPSL Founder's Stationery" Wayne Menuz
"Peruvian Postal Cards Authorised for New Denominations in 1902" German Baschwitz
- Postal Stationery** January/February 2015 (USA)
"World's First Air Mail Letter Card" Dr. Akthem Al-Manaseer
"The Return of USA Unmailable and Undeliverable Domestic Surface First-Class Postal Cards" Tony Wawrukiewicz
"The De La rue Stamped Envelopes of Uruguay 1866-1867" Ross Towle
"A New Classification of the Tax Notice Forms of Hungary - Part 2" Paul de Leeuw van Weenen
"The Case for Postage Due Stationery" Wayne Menuz
- Postal Stationery** March/April 2015 (USA)
"Mexico Hidalgo Express"
"1920 Postal Card Surcharge Fakes and Finds"
"Stamped Revenue Paper or Postal Stationery?"
- Postal Stationery** May/June 2015 (USA)
"The Norwegian Skilling Postcards 1872-77"
"Variations in Indicia of French View Cards"
"Provisional Stationery for the Lubin Postal Administration 1918-1919"
- Postal Stationery Collector** February 2015 (Australia)
"Australian Aerogramme, An Unrecorded Essay" Joan Orr
"Current Malaysian Postal Stationery" Ian McMahon
"Wrapper Hall of Fame: High Sales Realizations" John Courtis
"Christmas Card Pre-Paid Envelopes and Maximum Cards"
"New Regional Postcards"
"Listing of Australian Non-Denominated Postal Stationery" Ian McMahon
- Postal Stationery Collector** May 2015 (Australia)
"KGV 1d Die 2 Electros on Stationery"
"The 1910 1d Queensland Postal View Card"
"New 'Findings' of Postal Stationery Wrappers"
- Ganzsachensammler** December 2014 (Switzerland)
"Die Privatganzsachen der Firma A. Franke in Bern" U. Fehlmann
"Zweiländerfrankaturen? Korrespondenz von Vergesslichen" Von G. Schild
- Ganzsachensammler** March 2015 (Switzerland)
"Update zu den Ganzsachen-Empfangsscheinen und Bescheinigungsbüchern ab 1860"
"Ungewöhnliche Bildpostkarten mit dem Motiv Postauto"
- L'Entier Postal** December 2014 (France)
A series of articles on postal cards, letter cards and envelopes with printed Company and Society addresses: E.J. Merlateau; G. Bonjean; Engrais Chimiques; L. Favaron; Messieurs Sulzer Frères and Les Fils de A. Derome

- L'Entier Postal** March 2015 (France)
"Les Enveloppes Timbrées Sur Commande 'Sanden Electric' "
"La Carte Postale non émise du 'Service des Rapatriements' "
"Une Histoire Postal Venue de Chine"

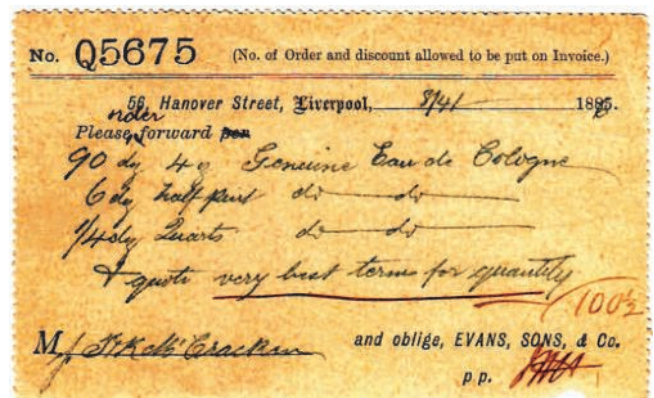
- Postal Stationery Notes [BNAPS]** February 2015 (Canada)
"French Dominion Express Form" Pierre Gautier
"Canadian Letter Cards Printed by the American Bank Note Company" Robert Lemire
New Issues [Canadian postal Stationery]
Postal Stationery Notes [BNAPS] June 2015 (Canada)
"Canadian Pacific earnings & Expenses Statements Part II"
"Meteorological Report Post Bands"

Query:

Perforated Card

Peter O'Keeffe writes:

I have a G.B. Queen Victoria halfpenny postal stationery post card, postmarked with a squared circle from Liverpool on 8th April 1886, and with a red London E.C. receiver mark of the 9th April. This seems to be a Post Officer inland card format printing, probably CP7. It has a printed 'business' order form on the back, but is perforated all round, which might indicate that it was in sheet format, at least two or three cards wide. Initially this led me to assume it was a Printed to Order issue, but these were not available until later. The card size is a little short on length, probably due to the perforations. Might this be a "New find" or did the Post Office issue uncut sheets of cards which the firms could print and perforate as they wished? This is the only one I have seen. Any comments would be appreciated.



Bushire Postal Stationery

Bob Combs asks if any members could supply him with scans/ photocopies of **Bushire** postal stationery as the only items he has seen are the ones illustrated in Higgins & Gage which are black and white and are not very clear. Please contact the Editor if you are able to help.

GVI 6d Forces Airletter

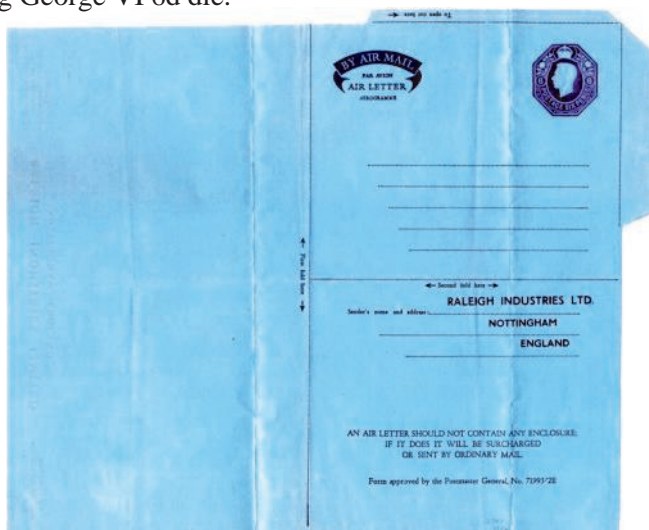
Tony Goldstone has sent photocopies of two different GVI Forces Aerogrammes with SOLID address lines: Kessler **K109** and **K109a**

The first example is printed on pale buff paper and is the more 'regular' of this rare Aerogramme. The second example (K109a) is extremely rare and is printed on grey-blue paper and the words 'FORCES LETTER' are printed in orange brown.



The First Recorded Commercial Stamped to Order Air Mail Letter Sheet with a King George V Embossed Die. (Illustrated on the cover of the May issue of the Journal)

Tony Edwards has sent in these scans of an air mail letter sheet from the same firm (Raleigh Industries) but with a King George VI 6d die.



G.B. STO Airletter Values

George King makes the following observations:

In the last few years, three large dealers stocks of G.B. STO airletters, those of John Rouse, Andrew Whitworth and Higgins & Gage, have changed hands, and been seen by other dealers and collectors. Each had large stocks of some items, and much fewer of others, and none of some. Broadly the Huggins and Baker catalogue values do seem to reflect the relative scarcity of the basic items. But some items can be found on different commercial stationery stock, [approved by the PostMaster General for use with postage stamps] Apsley, Dickenson, Imperial, Kenrick & Jefferson, McCorquodale, Messent & Bond, etc., with various PMG numbers.

It's as if several people each had 'X' hundred printed and then exchanged say, 10% with each other. After

which they priced their own stock based on the relative rarity within their own stock, not the total market. That is, those items scarce in one dealers stock, would be the common ones in another dealers stock. So it seems to me, that the price differential based on the original unstamped forms maintained by some dealers, can't be fully justified by the total existing STO Airletters.

Quite a few of the embossed issues have offsets, especially the tudor rose 4d red, rather more than many might suspect, probably a function of printing on the thin paper, and much more common than for the envelopes.

But as always, things are worth what you can get for them, or what you are prepared to pay at the time, or (where possible) what they cost to replace, or (but not in this case) what they cost to make.

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