



THE JOURNAL OF THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Edited by Peter van Gelder

Issue No. **8**

October 1996



$\frac{1}{2}d + \frac{1}{2}d$ reply card with manuscript "SPECIMEN" (see p.10)

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COMING UP

Our next issue (February 1997) will include:-

- * A 78-year time lapse in usage I...from Sam Lawrence
- * Auction report: Zululand....from Brian Cartwright
- * MARSHIANS HAVE LANDED! ...from various contributors

C O N T E N T S

| Page | |
|-------|---|
| 4 | Society Calendar |
| 4/5 | From the Chairman |
| 5 | Query Corner |
| 6/7 | Letters to the Editor |
| 8/9 | Auction Action |
| 10/26 | Articles (Zululabd/Brian Cartwright; Siege of Paris Air Letters/Rene Lee; Danzig/Sam Barkley) |
| 27/28 | From the Editor's Desk |
| 29 | Err...Err... |
| 30 | Library |
| 31/32 | New Issues |
| 33/34 | Chamber of Horrors ! |
| 35/36 | Aerogramatics |
| 36 | Book Review |
| 37 | Wants |
| 38/39 | Membership List |

SOCIETY CALENDAR

There will be a REGIONAL MEETING of the Society on Sunday 27th October at Big Stamp, Metropole Hotel Exhibition Centre, Brighton. It will start at 11 a.m. for 11.30. Talks/displays will be given by: Tony Chilton (South African Postal Cards); John Norton (A G.B. Selection); & Peter van Gelder (Cowboys, Indians & the U.S. Fleet). Trading may take place before & after the talks. Non-members are welcome (in the hope of recruitment).

The date for next Spring's London meeting has been fixed as Saturday, 12th April.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is a very great pleasure to be able again to write a few words of welcome by way of introduction to this, the 8th issue of the Society's journal. The continued development of our Society is the result of much enthusiastic effort by the Officers. We now have a membership of about 160, including approximately one-third from overseas.

The success of any Society depends on the participation of its membership. I would, therefore, ask you to give us your full support so that we can develop still further the range of activities that you have indicated you would like to see. Next year will find the Society at MIDPEX, and in 1998 we plan to increase from 2 to 3 per annum, our London meetings.

Inevitably, however, for many members written com-

munication will be the primary means of contact within the Society, so the content of the journal will always be of great importance. We have been very fortunate in that Peter van Gelder has agreed to remain as Editor, and this present issue will, I know, be a source of information and interest to you all.

Finally, I wish everyone a healthy, happy & peaceful 1997.

Footnote - At CAPEX 96 the following of our members gained awards in the Postal Stationery Class: Finn Stjernhock (large vermeil), Jan Fristad (large vermeil), Ian Stevenson (large silver) & Ian McMahon (silver bronze). Well done !

Alan Huggins

QUERY CORNER

The following query has come from Philip Cockrill:-

Can any member supply information as to the source used by Higgins & Gage to form their listing of Great Britain aerogrammes used in Liberia?

If you can help with this, please send your reply to the Editor for future publication.

LETTERS

TO THE

Editor

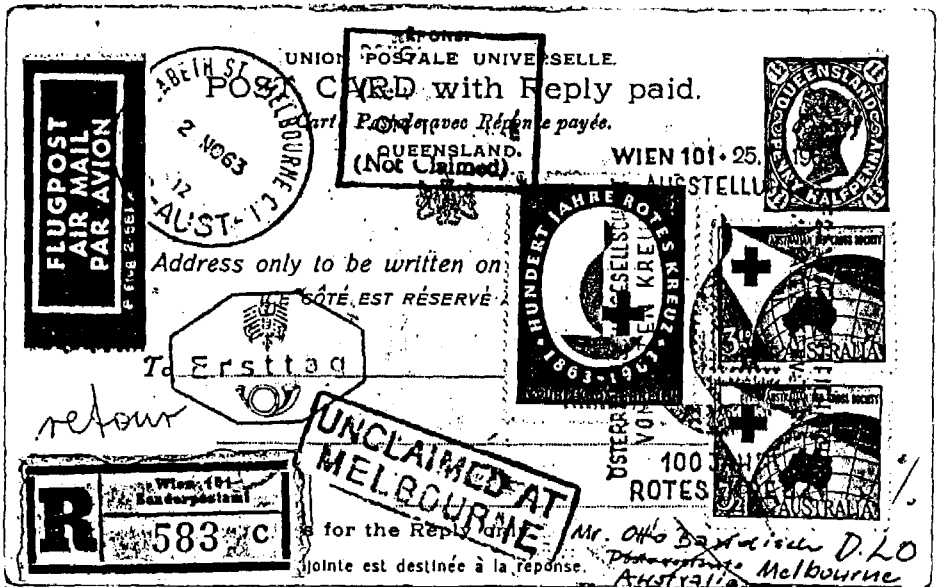
Two Rip Van Winkle Cards!

I refer to the Editor's question on page 31 of "P.S." no. 7, asking for a photocopy of any postal stationery used after a longer time lapse than 57 years. Here are two funny late usages:-

1. GIBRALTAR H&G14 reply card of 1889, used late 1963 from Gibraltar to Vienna (a 74-year gap). It is a 1st day card for the Austrian Red Cross Centenary stamp (25.10.63).
2. QUEENSLAND H&G21 (sender's half!) of 1911, used at the same time and with the same intention as (1) above (a mere 52-year gap).

Best greetings from Vienna.

Felix Albrecht



RESPONSE
UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
GIBRALTAR

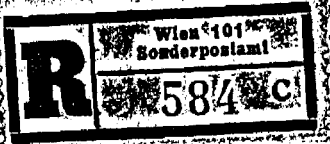


POST CARD WIEN 101 25 10 19
AUSSTELLUNG



THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

REPLY



P.T.O.

*100 JAHRE ROTES KREUZ
Otho B. ...
...*

Editor's note - I think the issue date of this Queens-land card might be earlier than 1911 - perhaps 1904, in which case the time lapse till its use was nearly 60 years.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T

POST BID POSTAL HISTORY SALES

**

WORLDWIDE AND G.B.

**

Catalogues are sent free to regular bidders & contain areas such as AERO, MARITIME, MILITARY, RAILWAY plus many other commercially used items, etc. Catalogues also list some POSTAL STATIONERY items, inc. mint; and so can be worth scanning.

"FOR THE UNUSUAL AND THE PHILATELIC"
SIDNEY FENEMORE, 4A Dalton Rd., Wallasey, L45 1HL.

Auction Action



A philatelic postal auction held in August by Malcolm Lacey included several interesting postal stationery items, from which I am picking 4 examples:-

Lot 268 was a HONG KONG postal card "one cent on 3 cents brown....H&G7, Yang P7....unrecorded double surcharge....fine unused....rare". Estimated at £500, this realised £480.

Lot 419 was a complete set of 16 NEW ZEALAND Boer War 1d brown postal cards, H&G11, unused. With an estimate of £400, they were sold for £460. But as recently as November 1994 a similar set was sold at Phillips in London for £180 + commission! How can stationery prices be so volatile? For stamps there are widely known catalogue values that interact with market prices. For stationery there is little by way of recognised catalogue values, and so market prices are left to dance around with much freedom.

Lot 614 was a postal card of VICTORIA (H&G9a), two pence violet on grey, fine unused, catalogue rating RRRR. This realised £160, as against the estimate of £175.

Lot 627 was a ½d brown on pink postal card of WESTERN AUSTRALIA (H&G1), handstamped "SPECIMEN" in red - "one recorded....extremely rare". This had an estimate of £250 and was bought for £200.

A sale at Harmers in July included a postal card

from CANADA tucked away among numerous non-stationery items. This was a 2c card (H&G32) used in 1912 from Montreal to Paris and described as rare. It was estimated at £170 but did not sell. Why? Is it that demand for Canadian stationery is not strong, or did the rather high estimate frighten bidders off? Another Harmers sale, late in September, featured ZULULAND, including much stationery: it is hoped to include a report on this from Brian Cartwright in our next issue.

A record price for a postal stationery card?

I have received an interesting note from a non-member (David Padgham):-

"In a recent Malay Study Circle auction a Perak "On Government Service" postal card (no. 01 in the I.S.C. specialist Malayan catalogue) used from Taiping in 1892 was sold for £700. Is this a record for a postal card, particularly one without an imprinted stamp? The value was enhanced by its having a message signed by W.H. Treacher, then Secretary to the State Governor, and afterwards, as Sir William Treacher K.C.M.G., Resident General of the Federated Malay States. It is understood that one of the two competing bidders was willing to go up to 4 figures if necessary!"

Can anyone cap this price for a postal card?

Peter van Gelder

ARTICLES

ZULULAND POSTAL STATIONERY

by Brian Cartwright

Philatelically Zululand had a very short life-span, commencing with stamps of Great Britain overprinted (1888-1893), followed by the keyplate issue (1894-1896). Zululand was annexed to Natal on 31st December 1897, & its stamps were withdrawn from sale on 30th June 1898.

During this short period of existence only one issue of postal stationery was made, in 1893, consisting entirely of postal cards and reply cards of ½d & 1d values. The ½d card was produced with slight variations in the width of the white band in the arch just above the figure of value - known as type A (thin band) & type B (wide band). Two main variations in colour occur: chocolate & red-brown. Combinations of type A & B are found together on the reply cards.

The 1d value is found just in brick red on buff card.

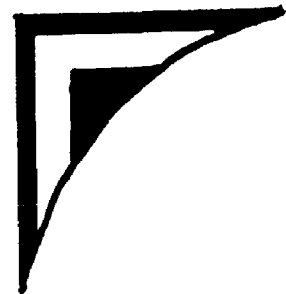
The stationery is found with "SPECIMEN" overprints in various types: (a) in mauve (Samuel type NA1); (b) in black (Samuel type D1a is similar); (c) in manuscript. The accompanying table lists the combination types in the reply cards, & the various "SPECIMEN" overprints that I have recorded.

An unusual item of Zululand postal stationery usage is to be found long after Zululand ceased to use its own stationery. A Peruvian stamp dealer, Mr Julio Rachitoff, used the 1d reply card, handstamped "SPECIMEN" in mauve, to correspond with stamp collectors throughout the world. The cards had no postal validity, and he therefore had to affix Peru stamps to cover the postal charge.

| VALUE | TYPE | RECORDED? | "SPECIMEN" | | |
|-----------------------|------|-----------|------------|-------|----------|
| | | | MAUVE | BLACK | MANUSCR. |
| ½d chocolate on white | A | Yes | Yes | | |
| | B | | | | |
| ½d red-brown on white | A | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| | B | Yes | | | |
| ½d+½d choc. on white | A+A | Yes | Yes | | |
| | A+B | | | | |
| | B+A | | | | |
| | B+B | | | | |
| ½d+½d red-br on white | A+A | Yes | | | |
| | A+B | | | | |
| | B+A | | | | |
| | B+B | | | | |
| 1d brick-red on buff | | Yes | Yes | Yes | |
| 1d+1d brick-red/buff | | Yes | Yes | Yes | |



TYPE A



TYPE B

The two bands, thin (type A) and thick (type B).

POST  CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.
ZULULAND



POST  CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.
ZULULAND



POST  CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.
ZULULAND



$\frac{1}{2}$ d postal cards with mauve, black & manuscript "SPECIMEN"
(respectively)

~~UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE~~
POST CARD ~~GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND~~
(GRAND ~~BRITANNIE ET IRLANDE~~)
ZULULAND

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



1d postal card with black "SPECIMEN"

~~UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE~~
POST CARD ~~GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND~~
(GRAND ~~BRITANNIE ET IRLANDE~~)
ZULULAND

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.



THE ANNEXED CARD IS INTENDED
FOR THE ANSWER.
(LA CARTE CI-JOINTE EST DESTINÉE
À LA RÉPONSE.)

1d+1d reply card with black "SPECIMEN"

POST  CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

ZULULAND



THE ANNEXED CARD
IS INTENDED FOR
THE ANSWER.

$\frac{1}{2}d + \frac{1}{2}d$ reply card with mauve "SPECIMEN"

POST  CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.

ZULULAND



THE ANNEXED CARD
IS INTENDED FOR
THE ANSWER.

$\frac{1}{2}d + \frac{1}{2}d$ reply card with black "SPECIMEN"

(See front cover for manuscript type.)

~~UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE~~

POST CARD ~~GREAT BRITAIN & IRELAND~~

(GRANDE BRITAGNE ET IRLANDE)
ZULULAND

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

REPLY.



*Mr. E. Coffe,
Raid Club,
Johannesburg
South Africa.*



Lima, Peru. November 8, 1918

Dear Sir: *

If you send me 100-500 mixed stamps of your country and others, I will send you 100-500 mixed stamps of Peru.

I am also willing to exchange stamps on a catalogue basis, Scott, Ivert or S. Gibbons.

I prefer the unused stamps with gum, and if possible in blocks of 4, but I also accept used stamps in perfect condition.

Please send me some philatelic papers with addresses of collectors.

If you do not care to exchange with me, please give my name to your friend collectors.

JULIO L. RACHITOFF
Apartado 1083,
Lima, Peru,
South America.

*I have seen your name in
"Who's Who in Philately."*

Obverse and reverse of "RACHITOFF" cards used in 1918

THE BIRTH OF THE AEROGRANNE (AIR LETTER)

by Rene Lee

We must agree with Peter Jennings when he says in the first chapter of his book "Aerogrammes" that the World's first air letters were privately printed in Paris during the siege of 1870-71. They were the only means of getting mail out of the city by manned (Monte) or unmanned (Ballon Libre or Non Monte) balloons. The unmanned balloons have their own stationery and do not really qualify as aerogrammes because they were not part of a reliable air service and were really like throwing an envelope out of a window and calling it airmail. The manned flights by night had an aeronaut who was charged with delivering his mail into the postal services after landing.

Enquiries to the Postal Museum in Paris have resulted in the following information being gained. Yvert & Tellier published in 1947 a catalogue of Ballons Monte (& also including Ballons Non Monte) by Le Pileur & De Beaufond, which has for long been out of print. This is in two parts, the first of which is the usual postal history aspect, but the second part covers the stationery aspect. From the first part figure 1 is a selection of used items showing more types of form than are illustrated in the second part.

At the present time there are some unused forms on the market, but Le Pileur & De Beaufond say the items on paper which is green, pink, azure or lilac are reprints of the original printers' forms and of no interest to collectors. They say only white or blue papers were used officially. I have two of these reprints, and they are the same texts having minor variations in the alignment of the print, and two different type faces for the word "centimes". Jennings illustrates a used form with the printers' imprint (Orlandi et Cie, 2 St. Denis), which is Le Pileur & De Beaufond's sheet 1.

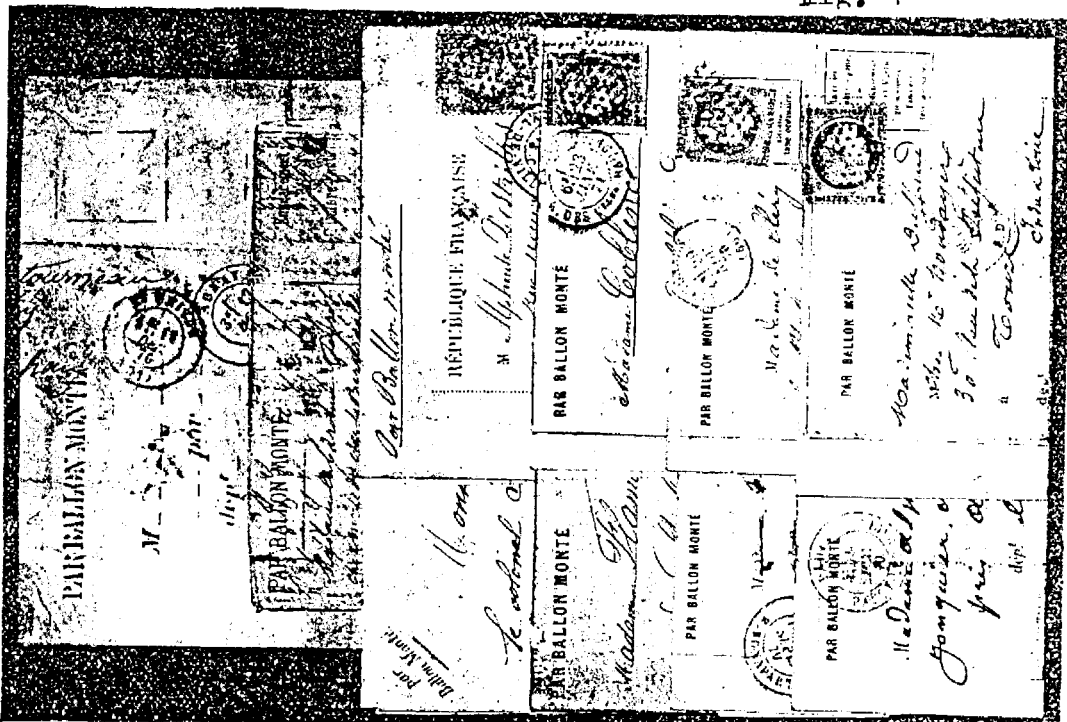
Reproduced here is a photocopy of their item 8 to supplement the poor quality illustrations from the Museum. It also indicates the propaganda phrases of Victor Hugo, who was in Paris during the siege. The remaining photocopies of figure 3 speak for themselves - except sheet 9, which in not having a stamp rectangle is the first example of an Official Paid form originating from the Ministry of Finance.

On 26th September 1870, the Government of National Defence in Paris issued the following two decrees:-

(1) The Postal Administration is authorised to send by means of manned balloons letters destined for France, Algeria & foreign countries. The weight of letters must not exceed 4 grammes. The rate of postage is 20 centimes and stamps must be affixed.

(2) The postal administration is authorised to send by free balloons, not manned, postcards having the address of the recipient on one side and correspondence on the other side. The postcards are on thin cardboard weighing 3 grammes maximum. Stamps must be affixed at the rate of 10 centimes for France & Algeria, and at normal letter rates for foreign destinations.

Fig. 1



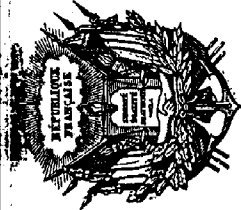
Thörichte Völker, werden wir uns immer erwürgen für das Vergnügen und den Stolz der Könige?

Frevel und Eroberung ist Verbrechen, Niederlage bringt Hass und Rachsucht.

Nur ein Krieg ist gerecht und heilig : das Unabhöngige!

Paris trotzt den Feind! ganz Frankreich erhebt sich, Tod den Eindringlingen!

Affranchissement
OBLIGATOIRE
FRANCE-ALGÉRIE
20 CENTIMES
ÉTRANGER
Taxe ordinaire



PAR BALLON

MONTE

Décret du 26 septembre 1870

M

Art. 2. Le poids des lettres expédiées par les aérostats ne devra pas dépasser 4 grammes.

Peuples insensés, nous égorgerons-nous toujours pour le plaisir et l'orgueil des rois?

Gloire et conquêtes signifient crimes; défaite signifie haine et désir de vengeance.

Une seule guerre est juste et sainte : celle de l'Indépendance.

Paris défie l'ennemi, France précipite toi toute entière, Mort aux envahisseurs!

Figure 2.

THE LETTER SHEETS

(approx. half size)

PAR BALLON MONTE

M

A

dep

1

PAR BALLON MONTE

M

dep

2

Sheet no.1. Orlando et.cie.2 St.Denis having 3,4 or 5 lines.

Sheet no.2. Bouquillard.Nos 1 and 2 were on white or azure paper.

PAR BALLON MONTE

M

A

dep

3

PAR BALLON MONTE

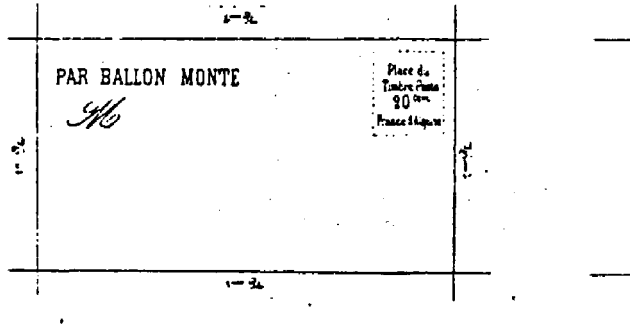
M

A

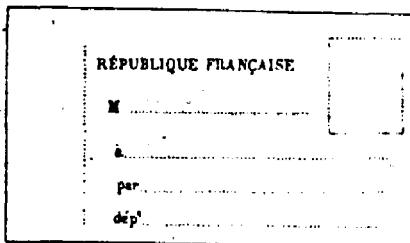
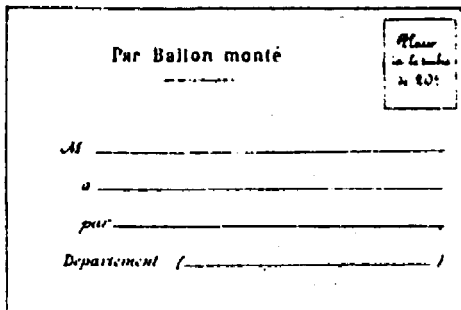
dep

Sheets 3 and 4.

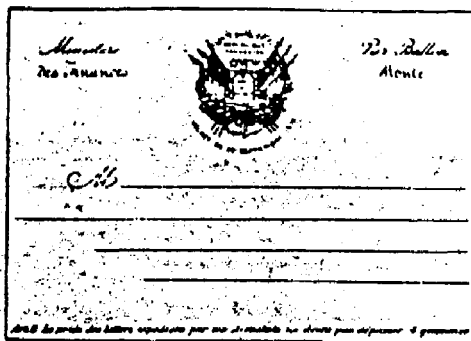
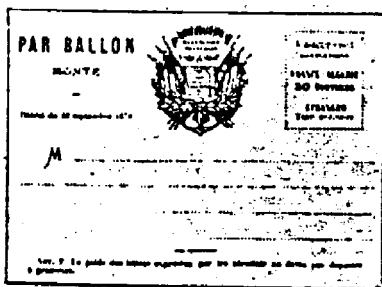
Figure 3. Half size.



Sheet 5 with guide lines for folding.



Sheets 6 and 7.No.7 may not be a Ballon Monte..



Sheets 8 and 9 with flags and propaganda slogans.

Figure 3. Half size.

by Sam Barkley (Continued from last issue, p.23)

By December 1922 the rate to Germany had increased to 25 Marks and the foreign rate to 60 Marks. The Danzig authorities gave up at this point and did not attempt to issue any further stationery during the inflation period. By 25th October 1923, with hyperinflation rampant, postcard rates had increased to 200 million Marks for the local rate, 400 million Marks for the distant/German rate, and 1,800 million Marks for the foreign rate. Many post offices ran out of stationery stock during this period, and people had to resort to "making up" their own cards. This and the use of official cards uprated with stamps or with the original value ignored as it had become meaningless make an interesting inflation period study.

With the introduction of the new revalued Mark in Germany on 1st November 1923, Danzig took the opportunity to divorce itself from the German currency & introduce a new currency unit, the Gulden, divided into 100 pfennigs. In comparison to what

had preceded it, the period was one of great stability in postage rates. The November 1923 stationery rates for local and distant/German cards, 5pf & 10pf respectively, never changed until the Free State was absorbed back into Germany on 1st September 1939. The rate for foreign cards, set at 25pf in November 1923, was reduced to 20pf between February 1925 and June 1936, from when it reverted to 25pf.

Postal stationery in the new currency was not issued until March 1924, when 5pf orange local rate, 10pf light green distant/German rate and 25pf blue foreign rate cards appeared. 10pf & 25pf reply cards were also issued. The cards were printed on buff or ivory board measuring 140 x 90mm. One small variety occurs on the 5pf where the distance between the printed address lines changes from 8mm to 10.5.

The value imprint remained the Coat of Arms, with a changed design to distinguish it from the pre-currency reform issues. The Crosses & Crown were placed in a shield, surrounded by an oval frame in white, enclosing the name "Freie Stadt Danzig". Values continued to appear in all 4 corners (fig.6).

The previously mentioned foreign rate reduction led to the only overprint of the post-inflation period. The previous 25pf values were blocked out by an almost circular ornamental design in each corner & the value "20" in the centre, the overprint being in black (fig.6a).

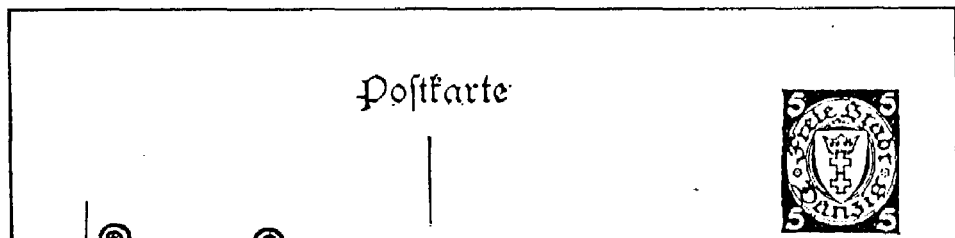


Fig. 6

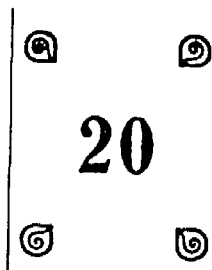


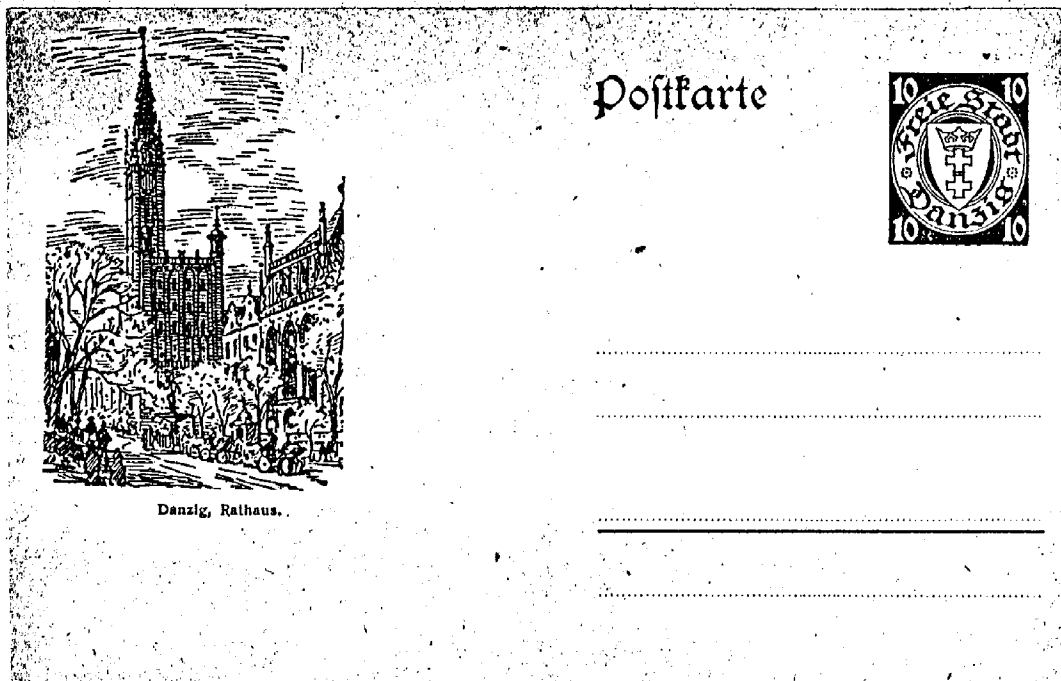
Fig. 6a

In 1925 new printings of the 5pf & 10pf cards were issued in a larger size - 147 x 104mm, & a new 20pf foreign rate card was introduced. 10pf & 20pf reply cards were also issued in the larger format.

In 1928 a further printing, again in the larger format on a buff card stock, allowed for some changes in the print format. The word "Postkarte", previously above the centre line on the address side, moved to the right side, closer to the value imprint. The centre line was extended, & at top left two lines allowed for the sender's name and address.

In 1935 reversion of the postcard foreign rate to 25pf led to the issue of a card of that value in red, otherwise in the same format as the 1928 cards. A reprint in 1936, on a greyish white board, is distinguishable from the 1928 issues by the shape of the "P" of "Postkarte" and the extension of the sender's name & address area to three lines.

In 1925 & 1928 Danzig issued 2 series of special stationery cards with illustrations, at top left of



Danzig, Rathaus.

the address side, of sights of the Free State. These are similar in format to the much more frequently "Get to Know Germany" cards, though the board and print quality are inferior.

The views are in a vertical format on the 1925 issue and horizontal on the 1928 issue. The printing was on a poorish buff/brown card, the pictures being of the same colour as the value indicator - pale green & red respectively for the 10pf & 20pf 1925 issue, & light green for the 10pf 1928 issue (fig.7).

Official special postal cards were also issued for the 19th Esperanto Congress, held in Danzig 28th July-4th August 1927; & for the 1929 Danzig International Stamp Exhibition (fig.8).

Commemorative cards in November 1934 honoured famous citizens of Danzig, including Arthur Schopenhauer (fig.9). These & a subsequent issue (in August 1935) featuring the beach at the seaside resort of Zoppot, had a fancy "Gothic Italic" style of printing of "Postkarte".

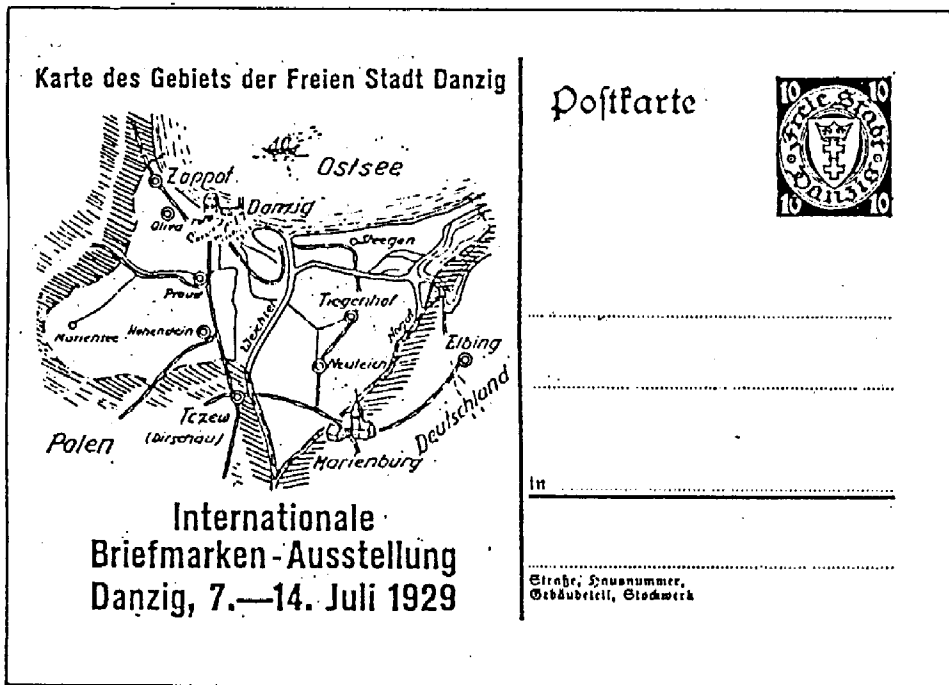


Fig. 8

The last postal stationery issue of the Free State was a set of 3 (issued April 1939) in conjunction with a commemorative stamp issue for the scientists George Mendel, Robert Koch & Wilhelm Roentgen. All the cards were denominated 10pf.

In addition to the official cards there were, as in Germany, large numbers of privately produced PS cards. The postal authorities stamped the pre-printed cards with a value indicum. These were exactly the same as on the official cards, the only exceptions being the privately produced issues for the 1932 Luposta International Airmail Exhibition, the indicum for that being as the current (1924) 10pf airmail issue, in a deeper shade of red; & the 1937 Daposta Stamp Exhibition (fig.10) - the imprint there is of the 10pf 1935 airmail stamp, again in red.

As the State was in existence for less than 20 years, a basic collection can be formed without great expense, particularly of mint cards, and without having to collect masses of material. Unlike some other areas, the vast majority of the stationery was issued for a proper postal purpose. Some of the overprints are now scarce, especially properly used, but they do appear occasionally and give "the thrill of the chase".

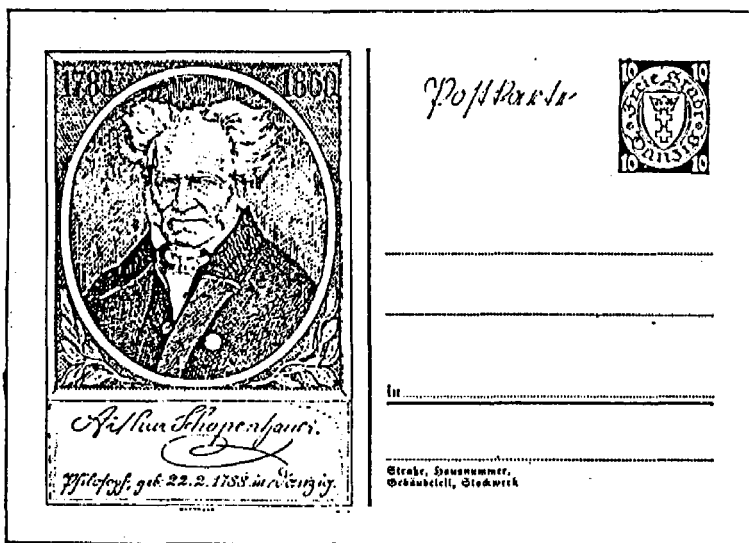


Fig. 9

References

1. Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog Deutschland (1994).
2. Kielnes Handbuch der Ganzsachen von Danzig - Curt Michaelis (1973).

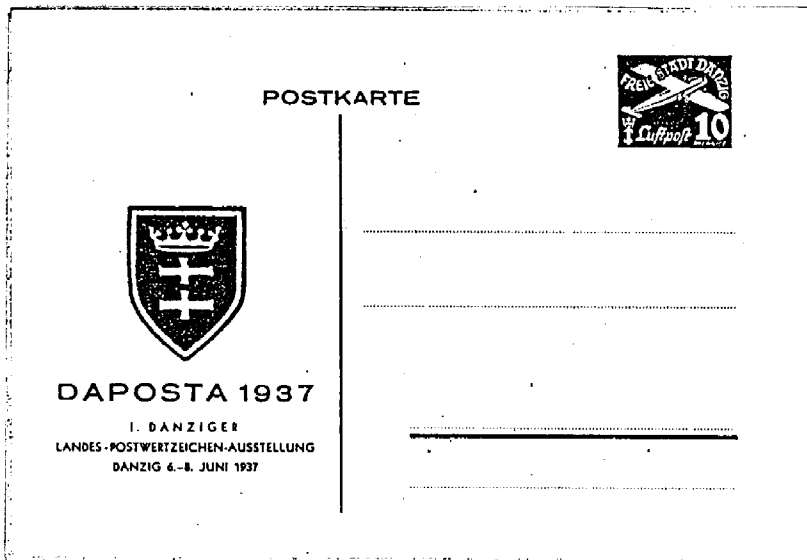
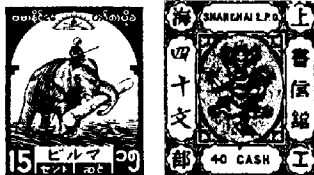


Fig. 10

STAMPS from OVERSEAS



YOU are invited to apply for a FREE mail auction catalogue

Our next sale is scheduled for November and it is expected to include about 100 postal stationery lots - all from the rest of the world, as we do not offer any Great Britain.

STAMPS from OVERSEAS

35 Church Hill Winchmore Hill London N21 1JN

FROM THE

EDITOR'S DESK

In a recent sale catalogue from Classic Philatelics (U.S.A.), the publishers of the Higgins & Gage "World Postal Stationery Catalog", I spotted the following interesting & encouraging statement: "We are compiling data for the long-awaited updating & pricing of the H&G catalogs". If you hear any news of how this is progressing, please let "P.S." know!

Since compiling "VIEWS" for pages 13 & 14 of our last issue, I have come across a totally distinct - and certainly concise - definition of postal stationery. Given by Mr S. Holder in a lecture to the 1995 Philatelic Congress of G.B., it is simply "stamps with large margins"!

Free tickets may be obtained from the British Philatelic Trust for a lecture by our Chairman, Alan Huggins. With the title "British Postal Stationery - Its Origins & Development in Relation to Adhesive Stamps & Postal History", it starts at 11 a.m. on 16th November in University College, London W.C.1.

Articles I have noticed in the philatelic press are:-
Costume Series Postal Stationery (H.G. White) - journal of Austrian Stamp Club of G.B., Autumn 1995.
Aerogrammes (Tony Edwards) - Hale Philatelic Society's 50th anniversary (1995) booklet.

1995 Postal Stationery (listing, by G. Sor-Reime) - Gibbons' Stamp Monthly, April, May & June 1996.

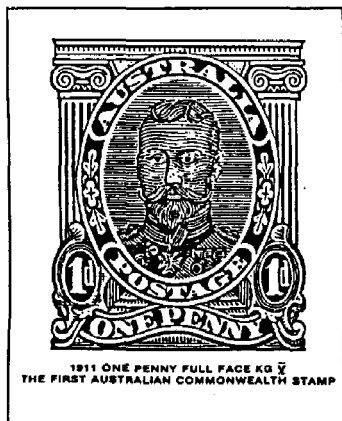
The Use of Registration Envelopes in Queensland (H.M. Campbell) - Gibbons' Stamp Monthly, July 1996.

The Austin Walsh Postcard of 1892 (re. N.Z. postal card, by R. Samuel) - Stamp Lover, October 1996.

Twentieth Century Postal Stationery (re. G.B., by Colin Baker) - British Philatelic Bulletin, Sept. & Nov. 1995, Jan., March, May & August 1996.

Postal Stationery Matters (Peter van Gelder) - Gibbons' Stamp Monthly, June (transport thematics) & September (advertising thematics) 1996.

De Postwaardestukken Van Het Type-Machin (A. Bosman, Jacques Spijkerman & J. Diesveld) - in Dutch re. G.B. stationery - Philatelie, July/August 1996.



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ERR . . . ERR . . .

It is said that as only Allah is perfect, every Persian carpet has a fault or irregularity in its design. Not to be outdone by a rug, "P.S." no. 7 contained 2 slips:-

1. On page 2 the Auction Organiser's house number was shown as 36. It is in fact 56.
2. On page 5 only the back of the 1923 reply card was shown, instead of the intended back & front. The front is now shown below (reduced).

Also, in "P.S." no. 6 on page 37, the statement "Indian independence was only 6 weeks in the future" should have read "Indian independence was little more than 2 years in the future".

PRINTED PAPERS

For immediate orders or inquiries (if this space is used, an extra halfpenny stamp should be added).



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LIBRARY

The following are additions to the library over the last 8 months. For borrowing arrangements please see page 35 of "P.S." no. 7.

26. Norge Helsepostkatalog, 1996/97 edition. A catalogue of Norwegian postal stationery, donated by Paul Jensen, from whom the Librarian has obtained a Norwegian/English/German philatelic glossary (this catalogue being in Norwegian).
27. Collect Post Office Cards, 1996 edition. This contains a priced listing of G.B. aerogrammes, air-cards, postal cards, reply cards & lettercards; also aerogrammes of Guernsey, Jersey & Isle of Man. Purchased.
28. Postal Stationery Cards, Chr. Johnsen Printings 1881-1885, by Alan Totten. Concerns Norwegian p.s. and has been donated by the author.
29. The Petersen Postal Stationery Cards 1876 to 1879, by Alan Totten. Concerns Norwegian p.s.; donated by the author.
30. Norway - Centraltrykkeriet 3 ore Overprints on 6 ore Postal Stationery Cards, by Alan Totten. Donated by the author.
31. Twentieth Century Postal Stationery (G.B.) - a series of 6 articles by Colin Baker and published in the "British Philatelic Bulletin". Donated by the author.

Re. item 9: the April and July 1996 issues of "L'Intero Postale" have been received from the Italian P.S. Society.

Re. item 10: the first & second 1996 issues of "Die Ganzsache" have been received from Norbert Sehler.

Peter van Gelder

NEW ISSUES

The following is a small selection of new issues appearing between January & November 1996. My thanks goes to Duff Malkin for supplying some of the information. A member to take charge of this feature is still sought.

AUSTRALIA

- 11th April World Congress of Anaesthesiologists
(plenty of gassing there I expect !),
PSE 45c face, 55c cost
- 9th May Children's aerogramme, 75c
- 8th August UNICEF, PSE 45c face, 55c cost
- 7th November Banksias, set of 5 PSEs, 45c face each,
55c cost each

CANADA

- 9th January Harlequin duck aerogramme, 90c
- 9th January Pileated woodpecker, PSE size 8,
45c face, 48c cost
- 9th January Atlantic puffin, PSE size 10, 45c face,
49c cost
- 25th July Ruby-throated hummingbird, PSE size 8,
45c face, 48c cost
- 25th July American kestrel, PSE size 10, 45c
face, 49c cost

CZECH REPUBLIC

- 7th February Centenary of Czech philatelic press,
postal card, 3 koruna

GREAT BRITAIN

- 18th Juné Olympic & Paralympic Games, aerogramme 45p
- 2nd July 50th Edinburgh Festival, aerogramme 45p

MARSHALL ISLANDS

- 8th July Elvis Presley, postal card 20c

UNITED NATIONS

- 22nd March Surcharges on postal cards: 20c on 70c (Scott Geneva UX5); 30c on 80c (Scott Geneva UX10)

U.S.A.

- 2nd May Olympic Games, 20 postal cards, 20c each
- 9th May Paralympic Games, PSE 32c
- 20th September Alexander Hall (historic preservation series), postal card 20c
- 2nd October Endangered species, 15 postal cards, 20c each - issued in book form with 3 separable cards per page

Other information

Royal Mail have announced the subjects for two Scottish aerogrammes to be issued during 1997: Alexander Graham Bell (telephone inventor) and Scottish Nature.

Peter van Gelder

Chamber of Horrors!

In this new feature members are invited to submit a photocopy of, and commentary upon, the most maltreated & ugliest item in their postal stationery collection. The first contribution comes from Duff Malkin (Canada).

An Execrable Aerogramme from Exeter

Here undoubtedly is the worst writing I have seen on a piece of postal stationery - or anywhere! I cannot figure out whom it is addressed to, but the place to which it was posted is Victoria, B.C., Canada. The item bears no British cancel, but the letter date appears to be 24th August 1956 (or September!!). It was sent from Exeter (England). It arrived in Victoria, where the post office tried to make something of it. It picked up a total of 7 Victoria cancels on the front.

It is certainly not pretty, but it offers plenty of interest:-

1. A boxed "NOT CALLED FOR/OCT 20 1956/VICTORIA B.C." in red.
2. A hand + finger "RETURN TO SENDER" cancel of Victoria dated Oct 12 1956 (in red).
3. A "B VICTORIA B.C./SEP 27 OCT 12/GENERAL DELIVERY" boxed red cancel.
4. A "GENERAL DELIVERY" cancel placed over item 1 in this list...in red.
5. A "B (or A?) VICTORIA B.C./OCT 13 - OCT 23/GENERAL

AEROGRAMMATICS

Comments on G.B. "Forces Letter" & on an Unexhibitable
Aerogramme - by Rene Lee

I found much of interest in last October's "P.S." although I collect only G.B. aerogrammes. On page 32 of that issue Tony Goldstone gives only part of the story of the 1½d imprinted stamp Forces Letter. 7th April was not the day of issue of this item but the publicised first flight date for the 1½d postage rate to the Middle East (and, I think, to India). The forms were issued in advance of that date in order to be sent on the first slight. I have one sent from Gillingham written on 31st March and noted "Received 9.4.45" in SEAC. It would be interesting to learn the date on which Tony Goldstone's Henlow item was received in India in view of the sender's request to be informed of the date of receipt.

As to my Gillingham item, it seems to me unlikely that SEAC could receive on 9th April mail flown from England on 7th April - so the first flight date might have been advanced. In addition to the Forces Letter forms ordinary letters of less than 1oz could be sent by air to servicemen in the Middle East and SEAC, and I have one postmarked 15 Feb 1946, backstamped Bombay 21 Feb 1946 (i.e. it took 6 days).

The Editor's "Aerogrammatic Oddments" on page 33 of "P.S." no. 6 illustrated the tribulations of poten-

tial exhibitors of aerogrammes. Of course, the more recent ones have been issued FOLDED, but I have a mint copy of Kessler 1c without cut-outs in the overlay where the flaps seal. Most dealers are aware of the real scarcity of this item, of which I know of only 12 in the hands of dealers and collectors. But mine is unfolded, and owing to its size I have never been able to exhibit it!

BOOK REVIEW

Norge Helpostkatalog, 1996/97 edition. Produced on behalf of the Oslo Philatelic Club and edited by Finn Aune. Published by Wennegren-Cappelen A.S., Oslo. Sterling price approx. £25 paperback, £35 hardback.

This is a priced catalogue of Norwegian postal stationery, covering the period 1872 to 1992. It is on 96 pages of high quality paper and is profusely and clearly illustrated in colour throughout. It is indeed a model of what such a catalogue should be. There are just two drawbacks, though minor I think. Norwegian is used throughout the catalogue, and for non-Norwegian-speaking collectors (i.e. most of us!) that might seem a problem. But the meanings of basic words such as "konvolutt" (envelope) and "brukt" (used) are quickly picked up - and the illustrations are helpful here too. Then there is the matter of the book's price. £25 might seem a lot to pay for a slim paperback, but this is a quality catalogue and essential for anyone wishing to collect Norwegian postal stationery at all seriously.

Peter van Gelder

WANTS

- WORLD** All World postal stationery, mint and commercially used, single items and collections. Non-European especially. E. Pockele, Ter Heidelaan 104, B-2100 Deurne, Belgium.
- PALESTINE** Aerogramme no.1 First Day (1 NOV 1944) & mint (inc. varieties).
- ISRAEL** Aerogramme A.S.55 First Day (30 May 1982).. A. Goldstone, 45 Gainsborough Gdns, London NW11 9BJ.
- PERSIA** Stationery up to about 1945, inc. India & Russia used in Persia. B. Sohrne, Torkel Knutsonsgatan 27, 118 25 Stockholm, Sweden.
- TRANSVAAL & elsewhere** Belgian Congo, Orange Free State, Transvaal, Mozambique Co., pre-1913 Bulgaria, Chile. Please send priced. R. Strawser, 19811 Brandon Oaks Way, Katy, Texas 77449, U.S.A.
- WORLD** Postal orders & postal notes, all countries. Will buy, or can offer worldwide stationery in exchange. J. Harwood, P.O. Box 32015 - Midtown Station, Sarasota, Florida 34239, USA.
- LIBERIA** Aerogrammes H&G nos.1 & 2, mint or used. Please send photocopy & price indication. P. Cockrill, Hampstead Norreys, Newbury, Berks.
- MAURITIUS & elsewhere** KGVI stationery, used & unused, of British Guiana, British Honduras, Mauritius, Leeward Islands & Grenada. E. Yendall, 1110 Second Avenue, Ottawa K1H8E1, Canada.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

A welcome is extended to the following new members. The list gives surname & one initial; country of residence if not the United Kingdom; & collecting interests in brief.

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Finder C. (U.S.A.) | U.S.A.; Canal Zone; Israel |
| Strawser R. (U.S.A.) | Belgian Congo; Transvaal; Orange Free State; Chile; Mozambique Co. |
| Edmonds W. | Australia; G.B.; U.S.A. |
| Spurio E. | Postal cards of Europe (especially Italian area); U.S.A.; U.N. |
| Nillson B. (Sweden) | Ceylon to 1930; Sweden |
| Powell K. | G.B.; India to KGV; early official postal cards of the World |
| Emery R. | Australia World War One; China to 1949 |
| Chalmers P. | G.B. |
| Sahasrabudhe D. (India) | India to 1941 (mint) |
| Richards B. | G.B. |
| Philpott W. | G.B.; South Africa inc. Provinces; British colonies |
| Hensher J. (Australia) | British East Africa; Zanzibar; K.U.T.; German East Africa |
| Spijkerman J. (Netherlands) | Europe (especially Netherlands) |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Hoyte W. | Angola; Portuguese Nyassa; Congo post-1960; Northern Rhodesia; Katanga |
| Hobbs J. | G.B. |
| Owens D. | G.B. |
| Dibble C. | G.B.; World War Two |
| Danzig R. | G.B. |
| Drewett S. | Commonwealth pre-1953; censor items |
| Lentin, Mrs H. | G.B. |
| Norman G. | Burma from 1948; G.B. |
| Emmeneger J. (Switzerland) | U.N. forces airletters (used, worldwide) |

Total membership is now a record 158, of whom geographical distribution is as follows: England and Wales 85, U.S.A. 13, Belgium/Australia/Netherlands 8 each, Sweden/Scotland 5 each, Canada/Germany 4 each, Northern Ireland, /Switzerland/Denmark/France/Italy/Austria 2 each, Norway/New Zealand/Republic of Ireland/Rumania/India/Indonesia 1 each.

It is noted with much regret that the death has occurred of Mr E. Amos (Kent), whose main collecting interest was New Zealand.

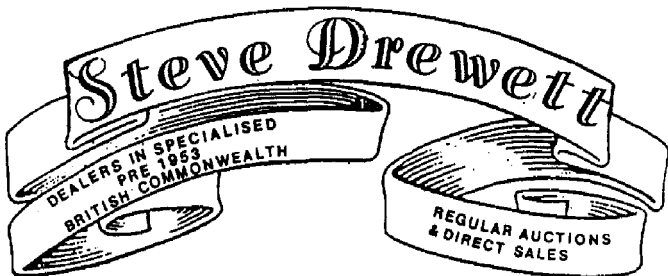
Correction: in "P.S." no.7 Michelman A. should have read Wichelman A.

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