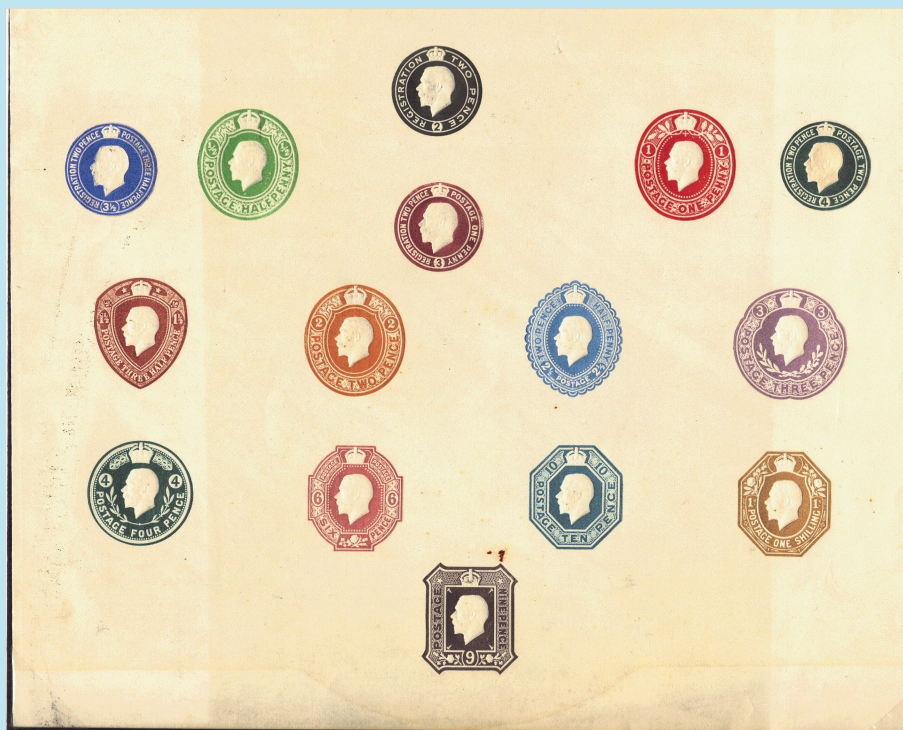




THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 24, No.4 November 2016
(Serial number 80)



Unrecorded Somerset House Colour Standard - See page 10

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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

Saturday April 1st 2017 at the RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London, 10.30 am. 4.00 pm.

Colin Baker will give a display of the Postal Stationery of East Africa followed by the Society's 'One Sheet Competition'. After lunch will be for members displays.

Saturday 10th June 2017 Swinpex, St Joseph's Lower School, Octal Way, Swindon SN3 2LR, 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Swinpex will be open from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm. Members are invited to give displays.

Saturday 8th July 2017 Midpex at the Warwickshire

Exhibition Centre, The Fosse, Fosse Way, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV31 1XN. No formal meeting, but the society will have a table to encourage collectors to join the society.

Saturday October 28th 2017 at the RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London. A.G.M. followed by the Tony Chilton Competition and Auction.

For full details see the programme card distributed with this issue of the Journal

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

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

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 - NOVEMBER 2016

Hello everyone – as the new Chairman, may I welcome you to another edition of the Journal. To anyone who hasn't met me, as far as stationery goes I collect mostly GB material, specifically postcards, registered envelopes, and anything from the George VI period. (As far as other material goes, I collect too many things for good sense.) I'd like to thank Jan for overseeing another successful couple of years for the Society, and hope that we can continue that for the next two years with me at the helm. Although to be fair, it's also possible that members reading this are shaking their heads mournfully and thinking "eh, this is where it all goes to the dogs then".

However, in keeping with tradition, and to encourage you to keep reading what occupies otherwise valuable space in the Newsletter, there follows a short discursion on some postal stationery from my collection. For this first effort I thought I might look back at the early days of collecting, when you could walk into a stamp shop, buy a mint Mulready and a packet of hinges and still have change from sixpence (allegedly).

In the early days postal stationery was quite

commonly collected along with the adhesive stamps. It rather fell out of fashion in this country in the first half of the twentieth century, possibly because Gibbons decided to drop listings from their catalogues in 1900. It wasn't until the last few decades that stationery collecting picked up again, except for a few hardy souls such as our very own Alan Huggins.

In the USA, however, there always seems to have been at least reasonable interest in postal stationery, even if only the US issues, and this shows up on advertising of the time. One 1891 envelope I have from an Ohio dealer claimed he was "the only dealer who makes a speciality of sending entire postals on approval" (Fig.1), though as he was dodgy (allegedly chucked out of the Canadian Philatelic Association for packet-substitution shenanigans a couple of years before), you might not want to take his word for that! Indeed, a rather better known name from those early days, E.B.Sterling of Boston, also advertised "Foreign Envelopes a speciality", and had the good sense to print this message on an actual stationery envelope (Fig.2)



Fig. 1

The previous year Sterling had sent out a mailshot printed on a collectable envelope (Fig.3), which offered a complete set of the US 1899 envelopes, totalling no less than 61 varieties! This seems to include all the possible paper combinations; I haven't checked the *Scott Specialised*

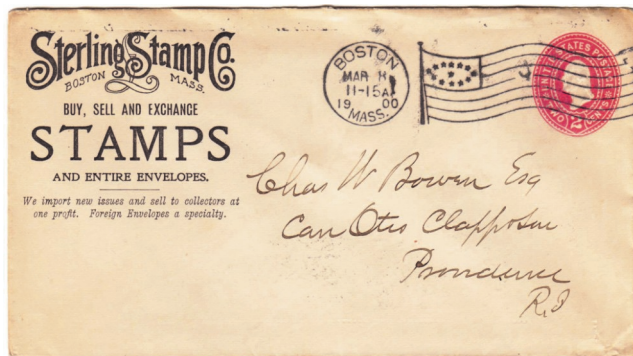


Fig. 2

to see if his numbers added up, but apparently neither had he, as another copy of the envelope sent out a few days later (Fig.4) had this total revised downwards in manuscript to a mere 59 varieties.

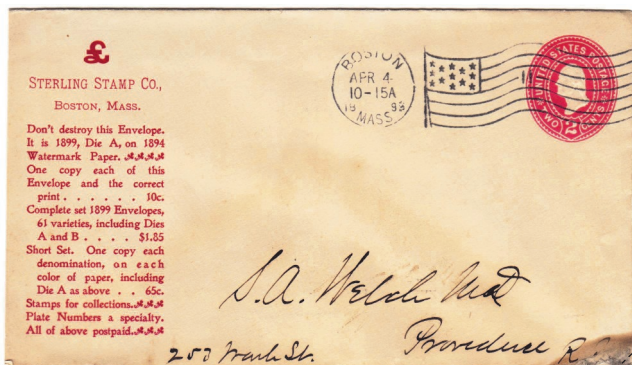


Fig. 3

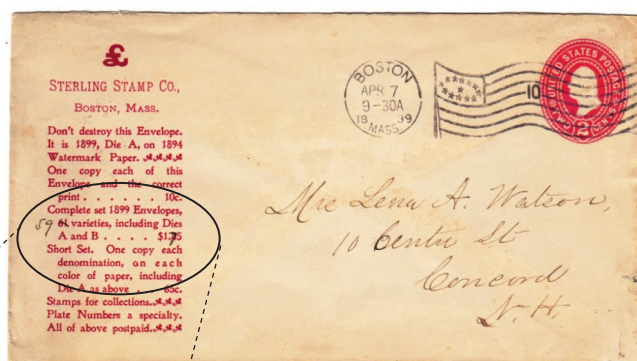
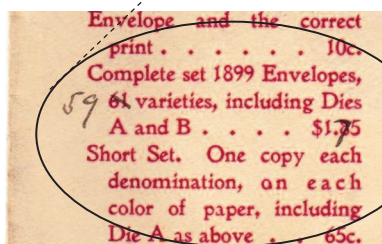


Fig. 4



Maurice Buxton

SECRETARY'S NOTES - NOVEMBER 2016

New Deputy Chairman

Following the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 22nd October 2016, one of our members, **Adrian Parker**, who regularly attends our meetings, offered to fill the role of Deputy Chairman that had remained vacant at the end of the AGM. This was subsequently put to the committee by email, and everyone has said what a good choice this would make. Therefore we are very pleased to inform members that Adrian has been appointed as the Deputy Chairman, and will stand for election by the members at the next AGM in 2017.

The August Journal

Those of you who still opt for a printed copy of the Society's Journal will have received two copies of the August issue and some of you have already queried this. The explanation is that the colour rendering of the first copy you received was not very good, and so our Editor, John Barker, persuaded the printer to produce a much better version which was despatched about 10 days later. The Society did not have to pay anything extra for this second printing, the costs being met by the printer himself.

Those of you who have already provided our Membership Secretary with an email address should have received an email in the middle of August explaining that a second copy of the Journal was going to be despatched. If you did not receive an email then it means that we do not hold an email address for you. So please email Edward Caesley at "caesley@btinternet.com" with a short

message including your name. Edward will then have your current address for use in the future.

The Tony Chilton Competition

The 16 page competition held immediately after the Society's AGM this year attracted six entries. We are very grateful that Micheal Lockton agreed to judge the competition at the last moment. Having completed the judging, he gave a short talk on each entry which he hoped would help everyone to achieve a higher standard next year. He then announced the winners as;

First: Neil Sargent - Registered envelopes of Turkey

Second: John Barker - Heligoland postal stationery

Other entrants included:

Keith Hanman - Bahamas air letters

Peter O'Keeffe - Foreign Section postmarks

George King - GB Key embossed STO stationery

George King - First recorded, only known copy or what?

Contacting the Secretary

I have recently changed the telephone in my home in an attempt to block all the unwanted nuisance calls that I have been getting. This means that when you ring me, you may be asked to speak your name and there will be a short delay while the phone plays it to me. I have added as many members numbers as possible to my OK list so they come straight through, and will add anyone else to the list when they ring me for the first time. So please bear with me and don't just hang up.

AGM REPORT

Seventeen members attended the Society's annual general meeting, held on Saturday 22nd October 2016 at the Royal Philatelic Society's meeting room in London.

Apologies for Absence were received from **Edward Caesley, Malcolm Lacey** and **Mike Smith**.

Minutes of the Previous AGM held on 24th October 2015 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

The Chairman **Jan Kosniowski** welcomed everyone.

Copies of the book by Alan Huggins and Alan Holyoake, "The Mulready Postal Stationery", were available for members to buy.

Chairman's Report.

My two year term as Chairman is now ended, time has passed very quickly, it only seems a few months since I took over. I now hand over the job into the very capable hands of Maurice, with the Society continuing in a very flourishing condition. The meetings over the last two years were all enjoyable.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped throughout the year. Colin Baker for his work as secretary, John Barker for his work as editor, Neil Sargent for his work as auctioneer, Edward Caesley as membership secretary, Paul Jones as treasurer and Mike Smith for his work judging Society competitions.

The Tony Chilton and the one sheet competition were, as always, well supported.

From the point of view of attendance Swinpex in 2016 was a little disappointing, only six members attended. Five members gave displays which in the end resulted in an enjoyable afternoon for all. **Jan Kosniowski.**

Secretary's Report

The Secretary said he had nothing to report that would not be repeated by other officers, but thanked everyone in the Society for their help during the year. **Colin Baker.**

Treasurer's Report

The Accounts [see page 21] show the Society to be in a comfortable financial situation. The major changes over the year have been, firstly the change in the Printer and distribution of the Journal which will produce long-term savings and secondly, the generous donation of copies of "The Mulready Postal Stationery : Its Genesis, Production and Usage" for the Society to sell to raise monies for future Society publications.

While the income is not anticipated to be so strong in the 2016-2017 year there is no recommendation to alter the Subscription rates. **Dr Paul Jones.**

Auctioneer's Report

	Oct 2015	%	May 2016	%
Total Lots	570		530	
Total Sold	241	42.3%	212	40%
GB Lots	445	78%	421	79.5%
GB Sold	189	42.5%	184	43.7%
Non GB Lots	125	22%	109	20.5%
Non GB Sold	52	41.6%	28	25.7%
No. Vendors	13		8	
No. Purchasers	43		35	
Total Sales	£3,633		£2,730	

The table above shows the results for this seasons two auctions. Although I thought both were interesting catalogues, sales were relatively poor and the total sales for May auction particularly disappointing. This total amount is

of course affected by the number of low value lots included. There is clearly a demand for the more modern material and which probably doesn't appear in other auctions, but it is a limited market. Commission rate charged remains at 12½% of sales and no buyer's premium is charged.

	Oct 2012	May 2013	Oct 2013	May 2014	Oct 2014	May 2015	Oct 2015	May 2016
Total Lots	589	398	637	624	520	512	570	530
Total Sold	332	260	354	273	255	222	241	212
% Sold	56%	65%	55%	44%	49%	43%	42%	40%
GB Sold	321	216	309	227	243	184	189	184
GB % Sold	77%	68%	57%	48%	51%	45%	42%	44%
Buyers	42	36	50	38	45	34	43	35
Vendors	14	13	19	12	14	10	13	8
Sales	£4,432	£2,751	£6,900	£3,505	£3,924	£3,022	£3,633	£2,730

The table above shows the principal results for the last 8 auctions. It shows overall percentage of lots selling reducing as well as a reducing number of GB lots sold. It maybe that without increasing overall society membership and increasing the number of participating members, that sales will continue to decline as buying members already have the common and less common material. We have approx. 190 members with an average number of buyers of 36 which means only about 19% of existing members are buying at our society auction. I think this is a disappointing number given that the two auctions are considered one of the main benefits of the society. The new colour illustrations in the catalogues should encourage more members to bid and there are very few bidders who do not buy something.

Neil A Sargent,

Journal Editor's Report

Towards the end of last year, as our stock of postage stamps was being used up, it was decided to employ the services of a different print company who would also distribute the Journals, auction lists and other matter at a discounted rate of postage. This has led to a reduction in costs to the Society and a saving in time for the Editor. A further saving has come from the introduction of 'electronic' membership, an option taken up by a small number of members. Several members have requested to receive 'electronic' copies in addition to their paper copy, the only problem has been with some members who have requested this service, but have not supplied a valid email address!

I am very grateful to all those members who have contributed to the Journal throughout the year whether their contributions have been main articles or simply notes and comments. Please keep the contributions coming in. As usual, my thanks go to our advertisers who help to keep down the cost of publishing; their support is very much appreciated.

John Barker

Membership Secretary's Report

The membership of the Society at this time is 179 members with 8 new members joining via the website. At this time last year the Society had 198 members which represents a considerable drop in the membership. I would ask members who give displays to other Societies to try to promote The Postal Stationery Society as if this trend

continues the Society is on a very slippery slope which will be hard to correct. I have membership application forms which I can post to a member giving a display very easily. If I receive an e-mail with a request I will send the forms by return of post. It is up to all of the members to promote the Society otherwise there will be no "Postal Stationery Society".

Edward Caesley.

Librarians's Report

The library was transferred from Chris Howe to myself earlier in the year, and on behalf of the Society I would like to thank Chris for maintaining the library service for Members.

The Library is neatly ordered along a shelf into UK postal stationery, British Empire / Commonwealth postal stationery and Foreign postal stationery. There remain a number of boxes of Russian language catalogues and runs of Journal to be sorted.

It is planned to update the list of books on the website to reflect the three main categories and write a brief summary about each book relating to content, depth of information and how up to date it is.

If any Member, would like to submit their own review of a book then, I would be delighted to accept it. Please send either by email or post, ideally less than 40 words.

Dr Paul Jones.

Webmaster's Report

As in previous years the society's website continues to be updated with the contents of the PSS Journal and details of forthcoming meetings. My newspaper wrapper catalogue project has continued to consume a lot of my time. It looks very much as I will finish in a few months and this will give me more spare time in the future.

The website continues to attract a similar number of visitors as in previous years. Including visits made by search engines the average is about 400 per week. Almost 92% of the visits are less than 1 minute, these are presumed to be search engines. This means the real figure is about 40 visitors per week. One new interesting figure is that 14% of the total traffic is from mobile devices such as iPhones and iPads.

Jan Kosniowski

Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following were elected *en bloc* to serve the Society for a further year.

Chairman – Maurice Buxton

Secretary – Colin Baker

Treasurer – Paul Jones

John Barker (to act as Journal Editor)

Neil Sargent (to act as Auctioneer)

Mike Smith (to act as ABPS representative)

Edward Caesley (to act as Membership Secretary)

Michael Lockton

The post of Deputy Chairman is currently vacant

Society Programme for 2017

Colin Baker confirmed that the Society programme for 2017 would be as printed in the current programme booklet. He asked that members attending Midpex next year spend some time manning the Society's table, to give a break to John Barker who will be organising the table.

The programme for 2018 will include a display of the postal stationery of Belgium by Chris Howe.

Any Other Business

Alan Huggins stated that he hoped the new edition of the catalogue of British postal stationery would be completed and published sometime next year.

There being no other business, the AGM closed at 11.30am.

BULGARIA: THE 1896 CARDS COMMEMORATING THE CONFIRMATION OF CROWN PRINCE BORIS

Mike Whittaker

In presenting a study of this postal stationery issue, a little background information may be helpful. From 1887 until his enforced abdication in 1918, Bulgaria was ruled by Prince (later Tsar) Ferdinand, a foreign aristocrat of mixed French and Austro-Hungarian descent and a Catholic, who by fate became ruler of a Slav nation which was largely Eastern Orthodox in religion. His son Boris Tarnovski, Crown Prince of Bulgaria, was born on 30th January, 1894 (18th January Old Style). At the age of two, Boris was confirmed in the Orthodox Church, a move by Prince Ferdinand to increase his standing among his Orthodox subjects.

To mark the occasion, the Bulgarian Post Office issued its first commemorative stamps as well as two postal stationery cards: a 5 stotinki card for Inland use and a 10 stotinki card for Foreign use. The Gibbons catalogue always describes the stamps as marking the Baptism of Boris: he had in fact been baptised as a Catholic in infancy and since the Orthodox Church recognises Catholic baptism, the ceremony conducted in Sofia on 2nd February, 1896 (Old Style) was his Confirmation. This is made clear in the Bulgarian Postal Stationery catalogue "Bulphila" - of which more later.

The 5 stotinki cards are wholly inscribed in an antique Cyrillic script with - in translation - "POSTAL CARD / FOR INLAND CORRESPONDENCE / WRITE THE ADDRESS ON THIS SIDE". This text - and the value imprint in the design of the contemporary Small Lion definitive stamps - is in green. Below a portrait of Boris in either blue or rose is the date "2nd FEBRUARY 1896 YEAR", this also in green. As the Julian or Old Style calendar was twelve days behind the Gregorian or New Style calendar, this corresponds to 14th February. Below are three

address lines in green.

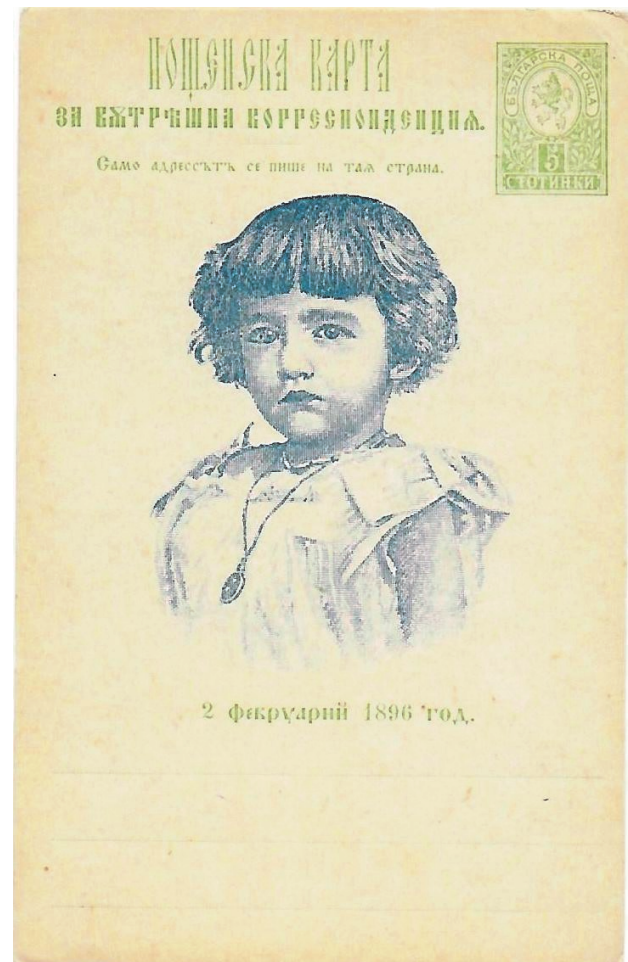
The 10 stotinki cards have an additional line of heading "Union Postale Universelle. - Bulgarie." above the same Cyrillic inscription as the 5st cards but without the line referring to Inland Correspondence. This text and the value imprint are in red. The portrait of Boris is in brown or lilac, the date is given as "2/14 Février 1896" and there are three dotted address lines in red beneath.

Like all Bulgarian stationery cards up to 1925, the cards measure 90mm x 140mm but are unusual in being in portrait format rather than landscape.

In addition to the two colours of portrait for each value, the State Printing Works in Sofia used two colours of stock in printing the cards: the first printing is described as Cream by Bulphila and the second as Ivory. (Note that confusion is likely to occur if the Higgins and Gage catalogue is used: they describe the first printing as Yellowish and the second as Cream - throughout this article I use the Bulphila descriptions).

Further varieties exist due to the third line of Cyrillic script on the 5st cards being either 49 mm or 51 mm long (the line is 49 mm long on all 10st cards).

Finally, the portrait of Boris is described in both Bulphila and Higgins and Gage as being printed in two types. The original Type I shows a gap of around 2 - 2.5 mm between the point of the sleeve at left and the face. In Type II this is only 1 mm. This is probably a retouched version of the original die: cards occur in which the point of the sleeve has worn away until the gap is 3 to 4 mm wide, possibly due to damage to the plate being gradually made worse by wear during printing.



The varieties found can be summarised as follows:

First printing: On cream stock and comprising 5 stotinki blue, 5 stotinki rose and 10 stotinki brown cards. All have the portrait type in which the right sleeve ends in a point 2 – 2.5 mm from the face. All three occur with the third line of printed text measuring 49 mm: the two 5 stotinki cards also occur with the third line measuring 51mm, a total of five cards.

Second printing: On ivory stock and comprising 5 stotinki blue and 5 stotinki rose cards as before but the 10 stotinki card has the portrait changed to lilac. All three cards have the point of the right sleeve ending 2 – 2.5 mm from the face as above and all three occur with the third line of text measuring 49 mm: again, both 5 stotinki cards also occur with the variant setting of 51 mm, a total of five cards.

At some point during the second printing, the Type II portrait appeared. Cards printed from this are 5 stotinki blue, 5 stotinki rose and 10 stotinki lilac. As in the first printing, the 5 stotinki cards occur with the third line of text in both settings while the 10 stotinki card is only found with the 49 mm setting - a total of five cards.

So of 32 possible permutations (of denomination, stock colour, portrait colour, sleeve point and text) only 15 exist according to the list in the Bulphila catalogue. Strangely, Higgins and Gage only list 14 cards, omitting the 5 stotinki rose on ivory stock with portrait Type 1 and third line of text 49 mm: this does exist as I have three copies in my collection.

A recent opportunity to examine a stock of around 300 of the cards allowed me to investigate the comparative frequency with which variations occur of stock type, portrait colour, third line text length and portrait type.

Cards on cream stock made up 56% of the total while those on ivory stock made up 44%. The portraits on the 5 stotinki cards were 43% blue and 57% rose. The portraits on the 10

stotinki cards were 63% brown and 37% lilac.

The third line of text was measured on 190 of the 5 stotinki cards from both printings – 58% were 49 mm setting and 42% were 51 mm setting. The percentages when colour of stock, colour of portrait and die type were compared showed similar splits.

The figures for the two types of portrait were :

5 stotinki card, blue portrait - Type I : 84%, Type II : 16%

5 stotinki card, rose portrait - Type I : 11%, Type II : 89%

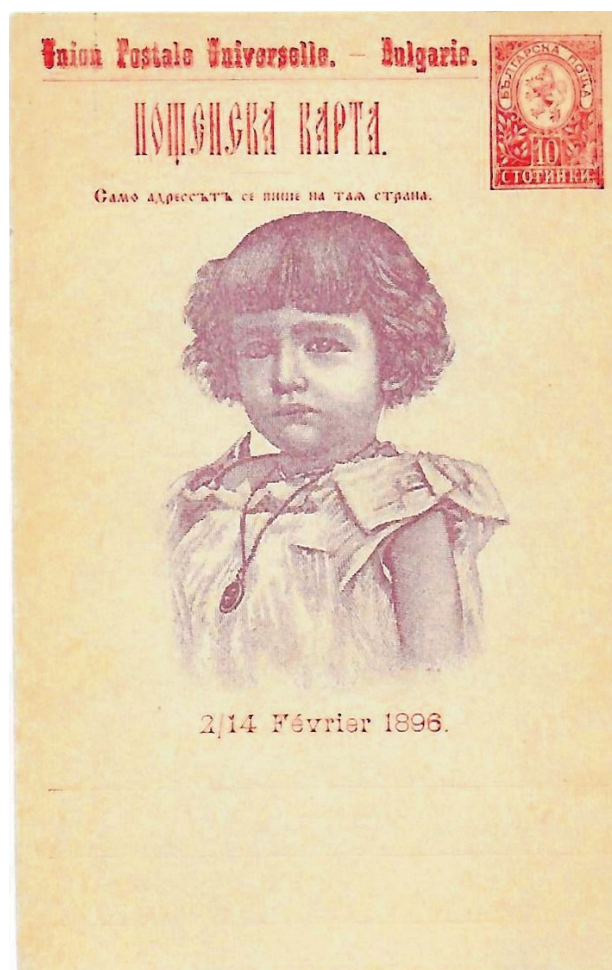
10 stotinki card, lilac portrait - Type I : 3.3%, Type II : 96.7%

(Note that the 10 stotinki cards with brown picture are from the first printing on cream stock and only show Type I portrait).

In fact the last figures are responsible for the only interesting discovery made by this exercise: 31 of the 10 stotinki cards with lilac portrait were examined of which 30 were Type II portrait while only one was Type I: if this is typical of the whole printing it must be a scarce variety. This is **PC 16 I** in the Bulphila catalogue and **16** in the Higgins and Gage catalogue.

Usage of the cards was widespread: about half the cards examined were either postally used or sometimes cancelled to order, frequently with the postmark of Sofia No 1 Office. 10 stotinki cards (as well as uprated 5 stotinki cards) are found used to addresses in France, Germany, Russia and Turkey and frequently to or from dealers whose cachets often appear, showing that 120 years ago in a remote corner of Europe there were collectors taking an interest in postal stationery. I have never, incidentally, found one used to Britain.

Note regarding the Bulphila catalogue. This is "Bulgarian Postal Stationeries Catalogue. Part 1. Postcards 1879 - 2007" edited by Dimiter Monev and published in Sofia in 2007 by Bulphila Ltd, PO Box 960, Sofia BG-1000. Price 17.95 euros. This is a detailed handbook on the subject, fully illustrated in colour and highly recommended as a guide to the postal stationery of this philatelically neglected country.



GREAT BRITAIN REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

Maurice Buxton and Colin Baker

Change of design in 1907 to take registration labels.

A request for information from a member of the Society regarding the date of the change in the design of registration envelopes to accommodate the new registration labels in 1907, has prompted us to ask if any member can throw more light on this.

The date of the introduction of the new style envelopes given by Alan Huggins in his 1970 catalogue is May - June 1907. Documents in the Post Office archive suggests that the go-ahead to produce these was given by 16th March 1907 by the GPO, but it would have taken some time for the new envelopes to be prepared and issued. In addition the old style envelopes would have been used up first, with the new labels fixed in the top left hand corner over the R in oval.

Do you have any of the new design registration envelopes used in 1907? If so, please send details to the Editor, and in particular the date of posting, so that we can try to pin down the first known date of use of these new style envelopes.

The Design of Registration Envelopes and Identification Numbers.

The "number system" of advising registered letters seems to have originated in the German area, with numbered registration labels seen as early as the 1860s. Although the method spread to other countries, it did not become a UPU requirement until the end of the 19th century, and even then it took several years for the British Post Office to implement it.

The international rules developed in stages. The regulations for the execution of the 1878 Paris GPU Convention stated:

Registered articles must carry a label or the imprint of a mark prominently displaying the capital letter 'R' in roman characters; leaving to each Administration the authority to add to the letter R any special mark (indication of the name of the post office or country of origin, or the serial number etc) that will prove convenient.

The capital 'R' had the advantage of standing for a suitable word in many major languages – French recommandé, English registered, German recommandirte, Spanish registrado, Italian registrato and so on.

As far as British registered envelopes were concerned, the design was changed in 1881 to incorporate a prominent R (**RP8/9/11/12**, format RF5 with a plain R), Handstamps were also a popular solution worldwide, and the UK introduced ® handstamps for this purpose on 28th November 1882. The registered envelopes were altered to match this from 1883 (**RP13** to **RP24**, formats RF6/7/8 with a R in oval), Finally, labels (not numbered) with the same ® motif were introduced on 1st June 1891 for use at the smaller offices that did not have a handstamp.

Handstamps and labels were unnecessary if a

registered envelope was used, but they are occasionally seen with handstamps, presumably because the clerk was working through a pile of letters and it was quicker to stamp the registered envelopes than to make an exception. I can't recall seeing a registered envelope with a ® label as well, but doubtless this happened from time to time and an example would be of interest (although preferably tied – there are a fair few unused and/or unmarked labels around).

Numbered labels or handstamps came into use in many countries, and were often added to letters received without them, which is the reason that foreign registration labels are sometimes found on British registered envelopes. The Belgian ones are the most commonly seen, but I also have examples from Sweden, Uruguay, and the USA (on transit mail to Latin America). Doubtless others exist.

The 1897 Washington UPU Convention, which came into force on 1st January 1899, made the "number system" compulsory:

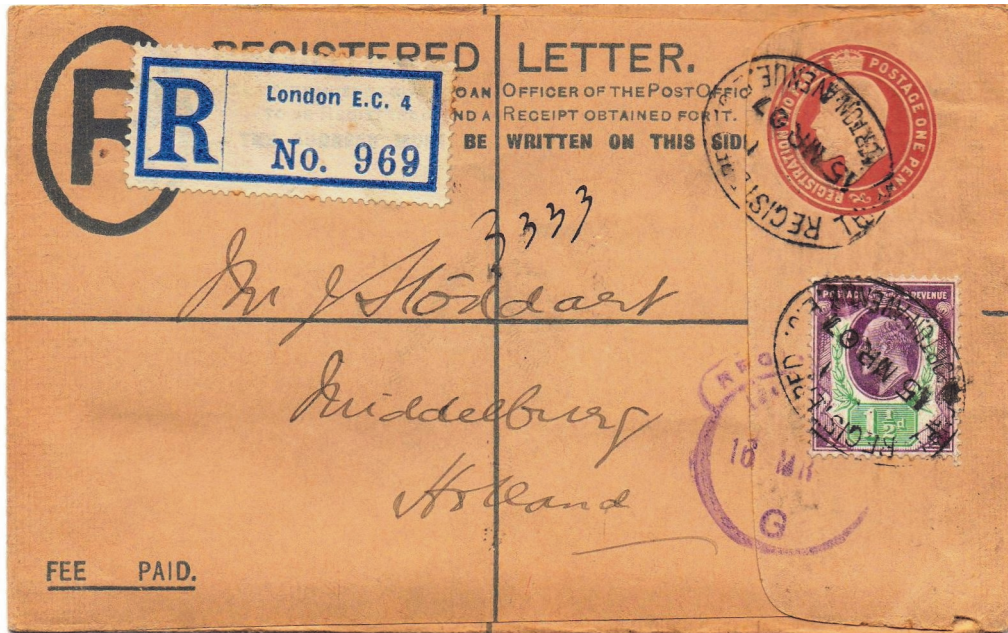
"Registered articles should bear labels in conformity with or analogous to the pattern A annexed to the present Regulations, indicating the name of the Office of origin and the number under which the article is entered in the records of that Office. Nevertheless, Administrations whose inland regulations do not at present admit the use of labels may postpone the introduction of this arrangement, and continue the use of [hand]stamps to distinguish registered articles. It is, however, necessary to designate each registered article by a number."

Note that while this stated that it was "necessary" for all registered articles to have a number, they only "should" have a label, as administrations that did not currently use them were allowed to "postpone" their introduction. The British Post Office certainly postponed the introduction of numbering – indeed, appear to have formulated no concrete plans for it until receiving a complaint from the US Post Office in 1905. (Ironically, the USPO made very little use of labels, preferring to use numbered handstamps; US labels are generally seen only on transit mail and their use petered out in about 1914.) This complaint kicked the machinery into gear, however, and the numbered label system was finally introduced in the UK (and British post offices abroad, e.g. in the Levant) on 18th February 1907.

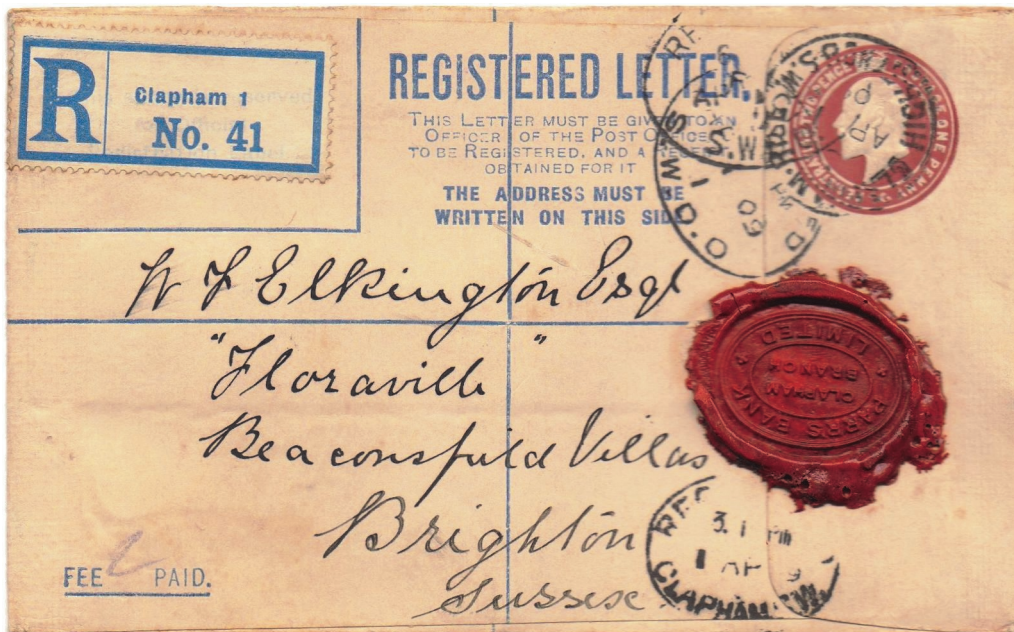
Steps to modify the design of the registered envelopes to accommodate the new system appear to have proceeded on an equally leisurely basis, almost as an afterthought. In the short archive file POST 30/1384 "Registered letter envelopes: design and issue, registration labels introduced" the first note on the subject is dated 28th January 1907, and the formal request to the Controller of Stamps is dated 5th February. The final note, referring to the attached proofs in the file (all sizes except G, for some reason) is from 16th March, nearly a month after the change of system. There is no indication in the file of when the new envelopes were ready, nor is there an announcement of their issue in the Post Office Circular. There may be files in the Archive which have this information (perhaps from the PO

Supplies Department), but until then the best available method for estimating this is the time-honoured one of checking used examples to find the earliest known use.

As far as the original query goes, I am not aware of any UPU regulations for the design of registered envelopes that would have required this change – indeed, not all countries had them, and the ® design continued in use well into the 20th century on various colonial envelopes. So it appears that the change to British registered envelopes was simply the way the UK Post Office chose to implement this – they could have kept the ® design and left postmasters to stick the label anywhere convenient, as was done on letters in ordinary envelopes (and indeed on the legacy stock with the ® design), but preferred to have a clear place for the label to go.



1902 ISSUE



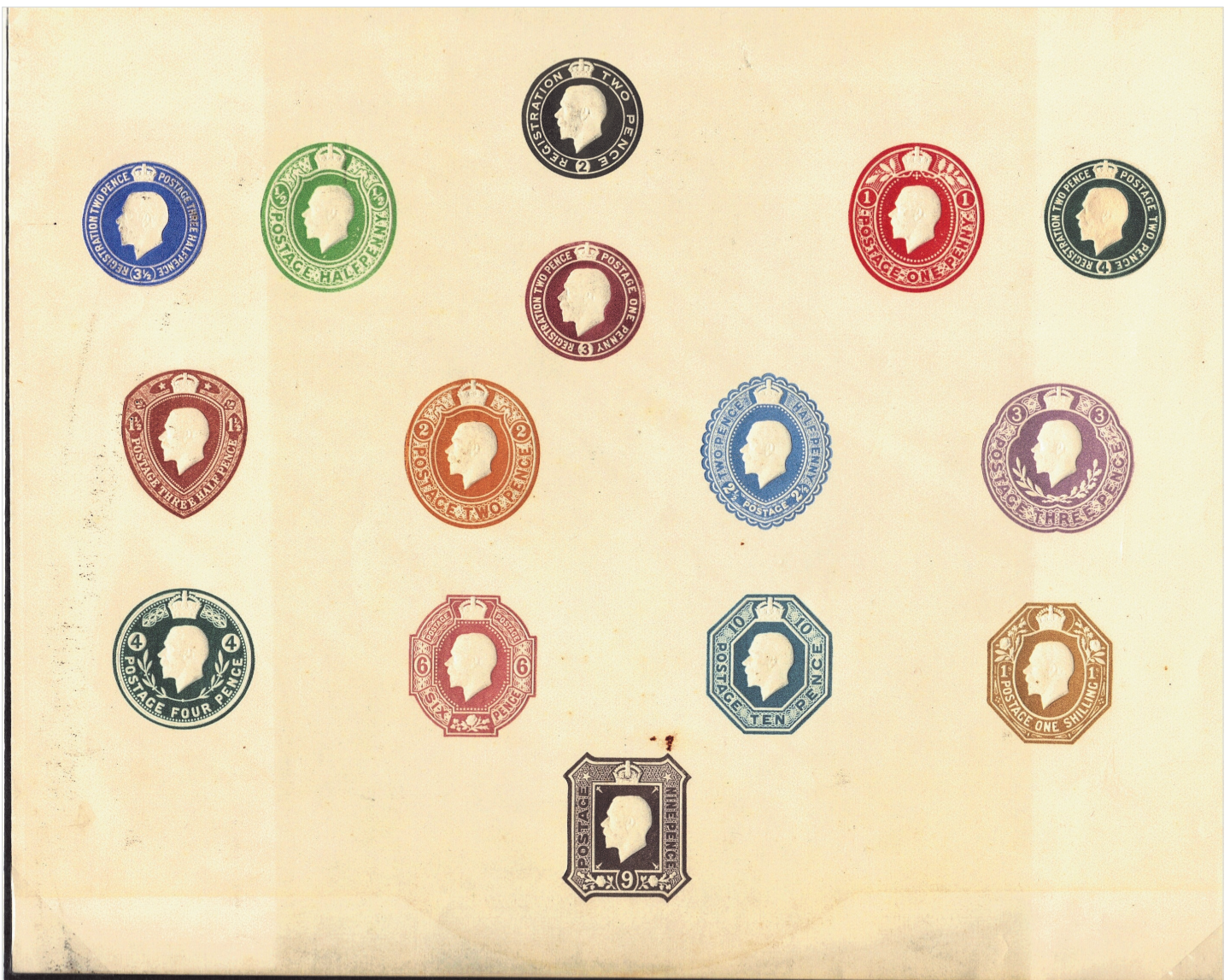
1908 ISSUE

UNRECORDED SOMERSET HOUSE COLOUR STANDARD

Professor Iain Stevenson

Illustrated below is a previously unrecorded Somerset House colour standard of the postal stationery dies from Great Britain King George V. It bears strikes of all the available embossed dies from half penny to one shilling and FOUR registration dies, all in the correct colours. These were kept in the print room at Somerset House to check against stamped to order impressions on envelopes and paper submitted by customers. Colour standards from the reigns of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII are recorded but this one is apparently new. Particularly interesting is

that while the postage and the 2d and 3d registration dies are struck directly on the paper the 3½d and 4d registration dies are very carefully cut round and stuck to the sheet. Presumably when the new dies were introduced it was decided not to discard the colour standard but to update it by attaching the new dies. The impressions are not overprinted SPECIMEN unlike the examples illustrated by Alan Huggins in the PSS Journal of February 2014.(p.11). This presumably superseded the lower example shown there and probably dates from circa 1918.



GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

NEW ITEMS REPORTED

Envelopes - Post Office Issues

King Edward VII: I recently became aware of a variety of the 1d size H McCorquodale envelope (**EP51**) which I do not remember having seen noted before. There are two different varieties of the positioning of the side flaps in that the central overlap involves either the left hand or the right hand side flap being uppermost **as viewed from the back**. The former version appears to be more plentiful than the latter.

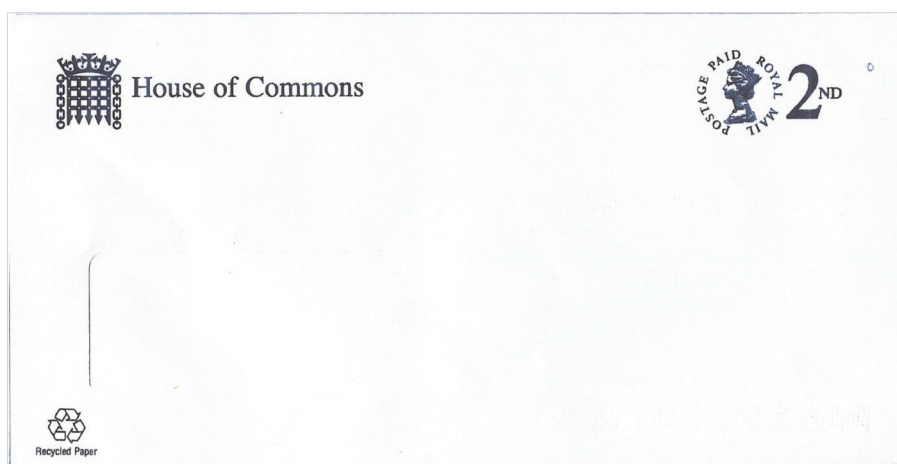
Envelopes - Stamped to Order Issues

Queen Victoria: Compound envelope **ESC483** with 1½d + 4d + 10d + 1s is very rare and the cut out example illustrated recently appeared on ebay.

Queen Elizabeth II: **George King** has recorded a further variety of the use of the NVI stamp inscribed



‘POSTAGE PAID ROYAL MAIL’. This is illustrated and shows a House of Commons DL window envelope with second class service symbol and a 21mm NVI in black with clear phosphor.



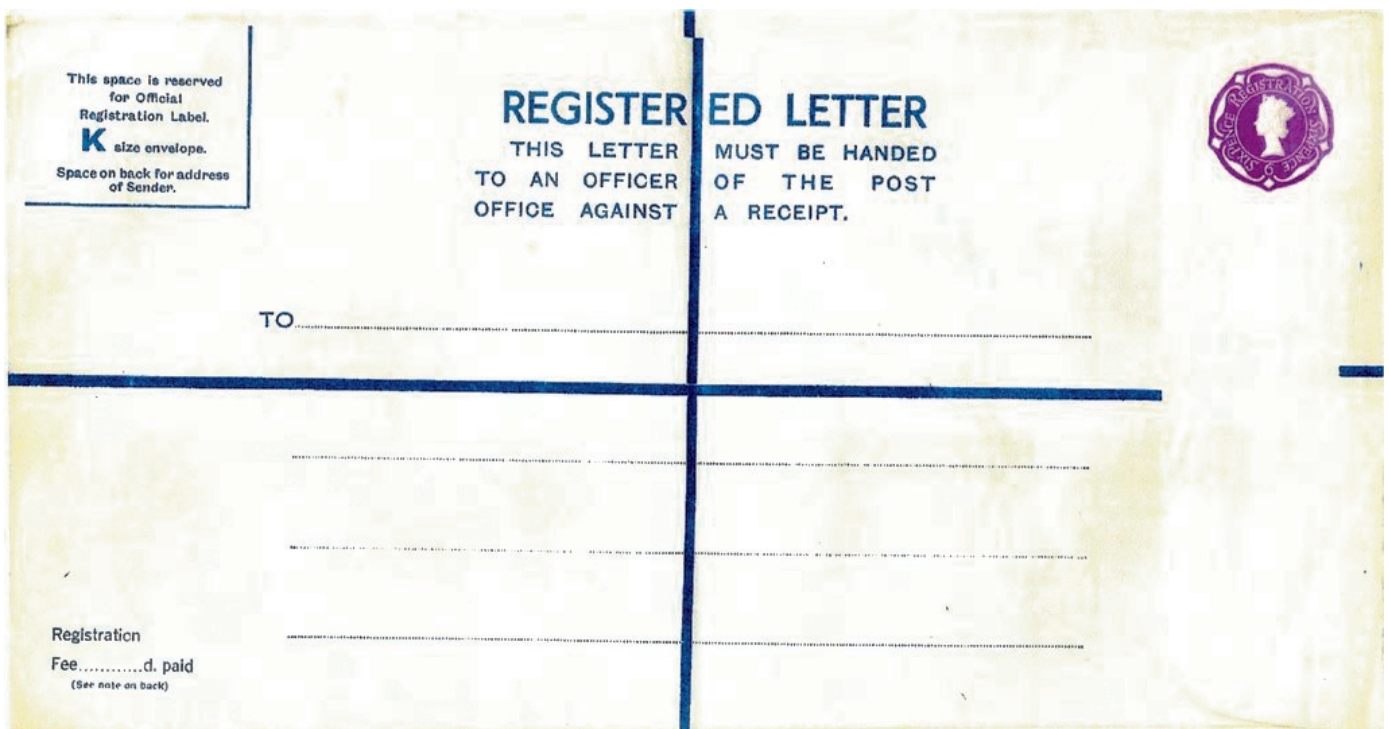
Letter Sheets - Post Office Issues

Queen Victoria: Unused examples of the 1d pink on azure paper are not often seen but this is the first to my knowledge, with ‘Nash Mill, Hemel Hempstead’ the address of John Dickinson, the paper manufacturer, printed on the reverse.



Registration Envelopes - Post Office Issues

Queen Elizabeth II: During 1956 the inland registration fee was doubled from 6d to 1s and provisionally the existing 8½d registration envelopes were uprated by means of a blue double ring device inscribed 'MINIMUM REGISTRATION 6D EXTRA', and new 6d overseas registration envelopes issued in size G2 and K2. In both cases some pre-existing size K pre-printed but unstamped envelopes were stamped at the new rates, giving rise to the 8½d + 6d envelope **RP74** with heading 'REGISTERED LETTER' and uncorrected registration fee of 6d on reverse, and the 6d envelope **RP76** with heading 'REGISTERED LETTER' instead of 'OVERSEAS REGISTERED LETTER'. **RP74K** is rarely seen, but very few collectors will ever have seen **RP76K**. I have only seen two unused examples, which were recorded at the time, no further examples have surfaced and no one appears to have seen a used example. For this reason I thought it seemed appropriate to illustrate the example in my collection so as to formally demonstrate it was issued.



Letter Cards - Post Office Issues

Queen Elizabeth II: During a recent visit to the Postal Museum when viewing some material transferred to the Museum from the Post Office Supplies Department, the explanation for previously recorded variations¹, in the text printed on the front of the 4d blue letter card (**LCP25**) came to light. Originally issued in June 1965, the Supplies Department record indicates that later in the same year a re-alignment of the Royal coat of arms and the stamp took place, the revised version being issued on the 10th of October. The illustrations (courtesy Douglas Muir, © Royal Mail Group), indicate the different horizontal spacing between the right edge of the stamps and the 'N' of 'PERFORATION', this being 7mm in the original printings and 10mm in the revised format. The length of the text along the bottom selvedge is also reduced from 93.5mm to 90.5mm.

¹Huggins: British Postal Stationery (1970)

[Editor: 'Spot the difference!' - Why did the Post Office Supplies Department make this change? Does such a small cosmetic difference make the revised version more pleasing to the eye? Or is the revised version more user friendly? Or could it be that the revised version was cheaper to produce? Or was it just a random change made by the printers? Or was it for some other reason?]

All will be revealed in the February issue of the Journal - Renew your subscription now!]



© Royal Mail Group

7 mm



© Royal Mail Group

10 mm

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2017 ARE NOW DUE

Subscriptions for 2017 are due on 1st January. If you have not already paid your subs for next year do not delay payment; details of how to pay your subscription are to be found on your renewal notice enclosed with this copy of the Journal. Would members please note that these reminders were prepared at the beginning of October, so if you have paid your subs since then please ignore the notice.

Please pay on time to avoid the Membership Secretary having to send a reminder to you.

POSTMEN'S MARKS IN GREAT BRITAIN

Colin Baker

Colin Baker reveals some of the handstamps and other marks made by postmen on items of postal stationery going through the post that fell foul of Post Office regulations.

This is an opportunity for members to read a full account of one of the excellent displays and presentations shown at our June meeting at Swinpex.

The postal service in Great Britain has always been fully regulated. Some of these rules are necessary for the service to run efficiently, some seem to have no good reason and often annoy the public, while others are simply there to maximise Post Office profits. Although there appears to be a relaxed attitude today in applying these regulations, in the past postmen were encouraged, and often had to, enforce them. In the 19th and early 20th centuries all sorting offices had an array of handstamps to make it easier and quicker to put marks on the mail.

Whenever the regulations were broken, postmen up and down the country would reach for one or more of these handstamps and apply them to the offending item, which often meant an extra charge being applied. Of course handstamps were struck on all kinds of mail and most of the handstamps that were in use can be found on items of postal stationery, while at least one can only be found on postal stationery as it applied to no other types of mail.

Confusion Over Postage Rates

It is just as true today, as it was in the past, that people will sometimes send out overweight mail, either because they had not bothered to weigh an item, or because they hoped postmen would not notice that it fell into the next weight band. But postmen quickly became used to how much a letter should weigh, and in any case they had set of scales next to their sorting bench to check if they were right - and they probably still have a set of scales there today.

Other people became confused over the correct postal rates to foreign countries. You cannot blame them for this. In the late 19th and well into the 20th century, the basic rate to countries within the British Empire was the same as the basic inland letter rate within the British Isles, although often the basic foreign rate paid only a fraction of the basic inland weight. The British Empire Rate also applied to some countries outside the Empire such as USA and to British post offices established in foreign countries. So people using a prepaid envelope might naturally assume that it was valid to any country in the world.

Neither the Post Office nor its postmen concerned themselves with people's confusion and postmen followed the regulations blindly. All underpaid mail was given a mark to indicate the item was underpaid. The system of charging double the postage deficiency developed from the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post in 1840 when inland letters could be sent unpaid, but twice the postage was charged on delivery to compensate for the extra work involved in collecting the post. However at this time, letters to foreign countries could be sent paid or unpaid, without incurring any penalty. With the introduction of the General

Postal Union in 1874, which became the Universal Postal Union in 1879, all member countries agreed that all letters to foreign countries should be prepaid and those that were not should be charged, or taxed, double the deficiency.

Because so many foreign currencies were involved, a standard currency was adopted based on the Swiss Franc. In the case of Great Britain, in 1875 and for many years following, the exchange rate was 1d Sterling equalled 10 Swiss cents. To save a great deal of work it was also agreed that all postage dues collected would be retained by the country of delivery and not the sending country, as the proportion of underpaid mail to that fully paid was roughly the same for all countries.



Fig 1a - Penny Pink envelope used in 1853 with a "More to Pay" handstamp and manuscript "2" showing the weight of the envelope was over ½ oz and should have been prepaid 2d. The 1d deficiency has been doubled to 2d.

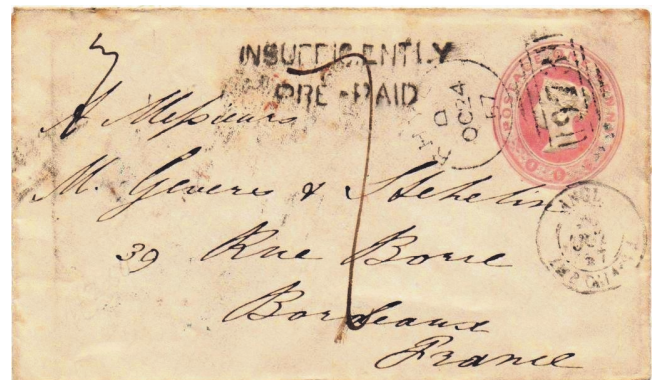


Fig 1b - A letter addressed to France in 1857 with an "Insufficiently Pre-Paid" handstamp. The postage was 8d, but as only 1d has been paid, a further 7d would have been charged on delivery. There was no double deficiency on foreign letters at the time as they could be sent paid or unpaid at the same rate.



Fig 1c - A Penny Pink envelope correctly sent to Oxford in 1902, but then forwarded to Germany without the additional 1½d in stamps to pay the foreign rate. An hexagonal tax mark has been applied showing it was 15 cents underpaid.

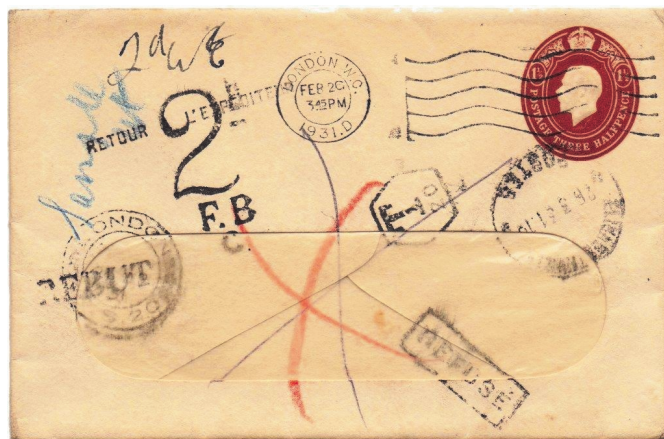


Fig 1f - A 1½d King George V window envelope sent to France in 1931. The postage should have been 2½d and it has been taxed 20 centimes in France which the receiver refused to pay. It has been returned to the sender and charged 2d, twice the 1d underpayment.

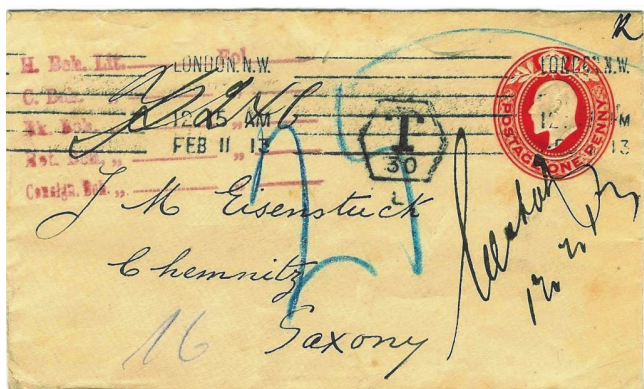


Fig 1d - An Edward VII envelope sent to Saxony in Germany without the extra 1½d in adhesive (rate was 2½d). It has been surcharged 30 cents, twice the 15c (1½d) deficiency.



Fig 1e - A ½d newspaper wrapper found to be overweight and surcharged double the additional ½d postage that should have been paid.

The Strictly Applied Postcard Regulations

Postcards were introduced into the United Kingdom in 1870, exactly a year after they were first issued in 1869 by Austria. They were treated completely differently to envelopes and letter sheets that had previously passed through the post without a problem. Envelopes could be any shape, size and colour, could be plain or embossed with stamps, or the postage could be paid with adhesive stamps.

The postal rate set for postcards was ½d each, although at first they could only be sent to addresses within the British Isles, and only postal stationery postcards could be used. The strict regulations allowed nothing but an address to be written on the front and nothing could be stuck to either the front or back of the postcard except for adhesive stamps paying additional postage. Any infringement of these rules meant that the postcard would be treated as a letter and surcharged accordingly.

In fact most people seemed to accept these rules and it is difficult to find postcards that have been surcharged. But it did not stop the public from complaining that the rules were ridiculous and trying to get the regulations amended. Eventually they were successful and at the end of the 19th century the postage on postcards could also be paid with adhesive stamps and carry advertisements and messages on one half of the front.

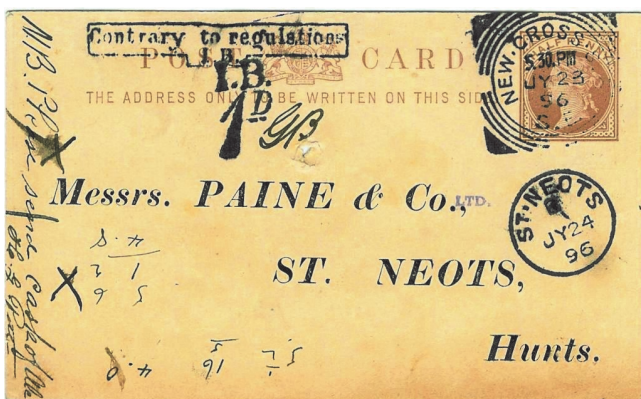


Fig 2a - An inland postcard sent in 1896 where the writer has run out of space and continued her message on the front. It has been treated as a letter, so 1/2d underpaid, doubled and surcharged 1d.

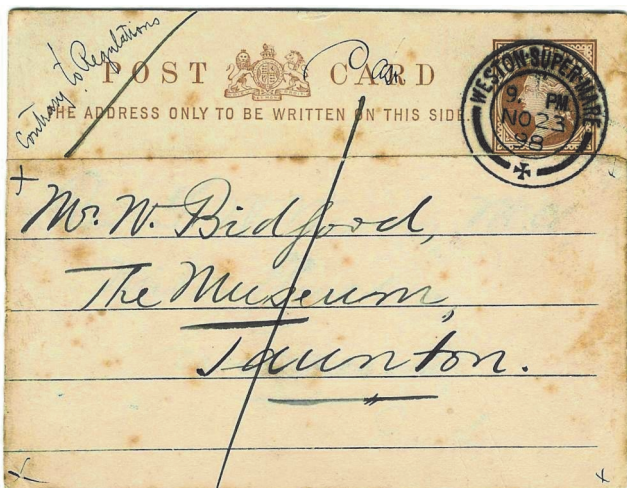
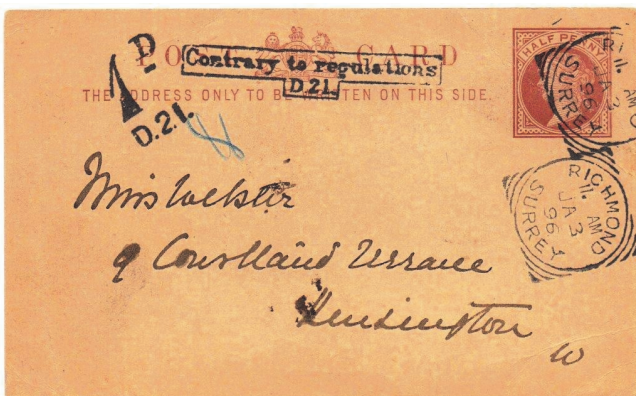
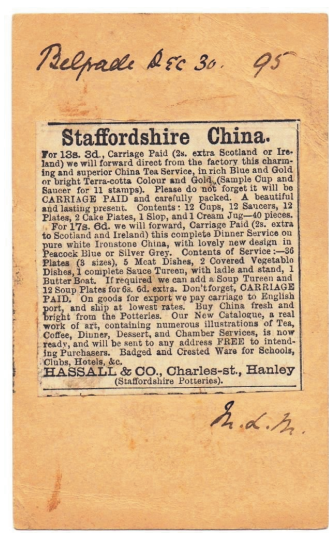


Fig 2b - Another inland postcard with a label over the address panel. This was against the regulations for postcards (but not letters) as the Post Office thought it could cover the address of a previously used postcard. Highly unlikely, but it was still surcharged 1d.



Figs 2c and 2d - From the front, there appears to be no reason why this postcard



has been surcharged, but turn it over and a newspaper cutting has been stuck to the back, contrary to the regulations.

Use of British Stationery From a Foreign Country

Under normal circumstances, and with one exception, the stamps of one country cannot normally be used in another, the exception being reply paid postcards. It was only the reply half of a pair of postcards that could be used posted back to the originating country, and if it was noticed that any other type of postcard was sent, it would automatically be treated as a letter and surcharged accordingly.

No other item of British postal stationery was allowed to be sent from a foreign country and any that were put in the post abroad were surcharged as if unpaid. The offending stamps were circled or marked, but not cancelled. However, the British Post Office treated these items very fairly on their return to the UK, far more reasonably than they did with postcards breaking the regulations. Although the correct postage for the item was doubled, the value of stamps on a letter or postcard was deducted from the amount due and a lower sum was charged on delivery.

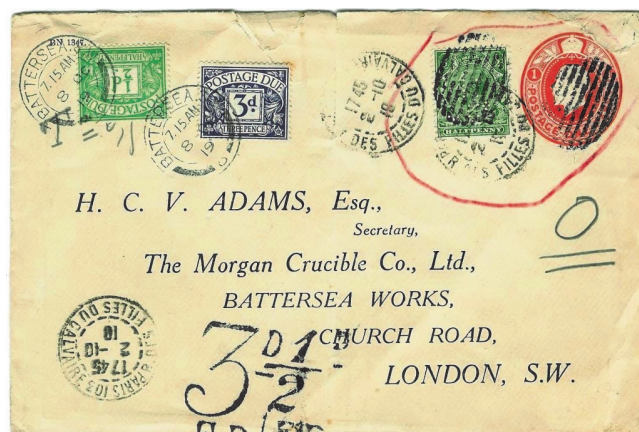


Fig 3a - A STO 1d King George V envelope uprated to 1 1/2d, which was the correct rate for use within the UK. But

somehow this has been posted in France and the offending stamps circled in red by the French Post Office. The 2x2½d postage due has been reduced by 1½d, the value of the stamps on the envelope, and the surcharge reduced to 3½d

undeliverable. So although it looks as if a single envelope has been charged a huge postage due fee, it actually covered a number of items. (My thanks to Maurice Buxton for information on this point)

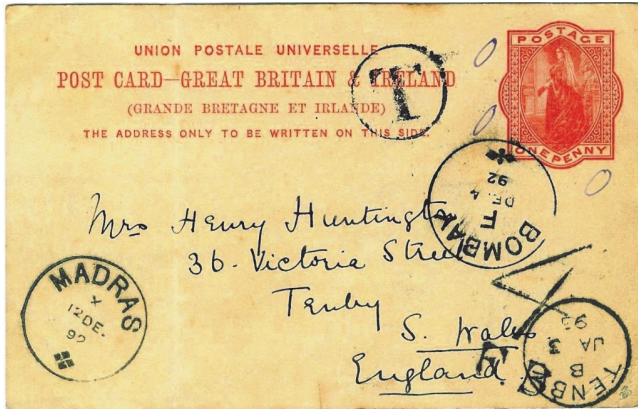


Fig 3b - A 1d Queen Victoria foreign rate postcard used back to the UK and not accepted by the Indian Post Office. The total postage due, 5d, has been reduced by the value of the postcard and set at 4d.

Mail Forwarded or Returned to Sender

Any item of mail forwarded to another address in the 19th century had to have the postage paid again, unless the redirection was local. This could either be paid on reposting, or the item could be sent "unpaid". In this latter case, if the fee was not prepaid the recipient would not be charged double the redirection fee as this was not considered to be an underpayment, but a fee for redirection. These charges for forwarding letters to a new address were withdrawn on 1st June 1892, and for postcards and other mail on 1st January 1895.

Most marks for this service were made in manuscript, but in Scotland some handstamps that had been used before 1840 for the ½d Scottish mail tax were taken back into service for marking the item with the redirection fee.

Charges equal to the original postage were applied to mail sent at the printed paper rate, as well as postcards and samples, which could not be delivered and were returned to the sender at his request, usually by him adding his return address on the item. Unlike the redirection charge for letters and postcards which was dropped at the end of the 19th century, these charges continued to be applied until the introduction of first and second class mail on 16th September 1968. Various handstamps can be found for this class of mail, and interestingly some envelopes carry high values of postage due stamps. Businesses and local government offices often sent out large numbers of invoices and payment requests in a single day. Some could not be delivered and were returned to the sorting office where they would be bundled together. The postmen would put the postage due stamps on the top envelope, sometimes adding more stamps as further envelopes were returned as



Fig 4a - A penny pink envelope redirected in 1850, but not prepaid. The "1" in black indicates this.



Fig 4b - A penny pink envelope of 1860 readdressed within central London and therefore redelivered without an additional charge. At the top left, the crowned R in a circle is an inspector's mark signifying this to be correct.



Fig 4c - A penny pink envelope sent within Hull in 1894 which could not be delivered. But no charge has been made for return to sender as this was considered to be a local redelivery.



Fig 4d - A Queen Victoria 1/2d postcard redirected from Glasgow to Milngavie with the 1/2d due marked in black with an old Mail Tax handstamp.

Sun Insurance Company, correctly addressed to Ratcliffe Road, Loughborough. The first postman to handle this letter read the address as London. Thereafter, it has gone through another half a dozen sorting offices, none of whom knew of a Ratcliffe Road in their area. Finally it was returned to Sun Insurance and they were charged 1/2d fee for this service. There is no indication that they objected to this, even though in this instance the Post Office was at fault.

Printed Paper Rate to Deliver Correspondence

In the 19th century the postage for printed papers was a half that of letters. As the 20th century progressed the difference between the two rates became much less until today there is no inland printed paper rate, just first and second class delivery. In those far off days people were sometimes tempted to send personal communications at the lower cost. The regulations prevented printed papers from being sealed, making it easy for postmen to check whether they contained any sort of correspondence. Once this was discovered, explanatory and postage due handstamps were applied.

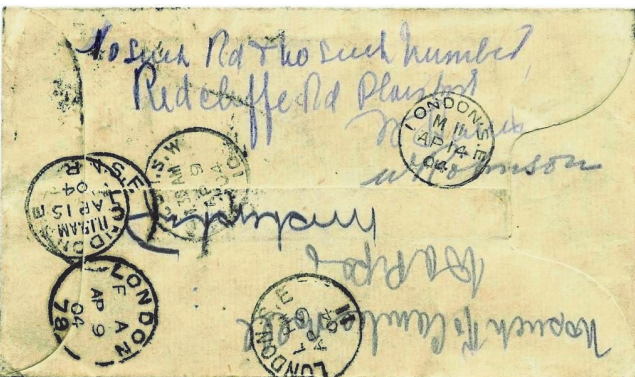
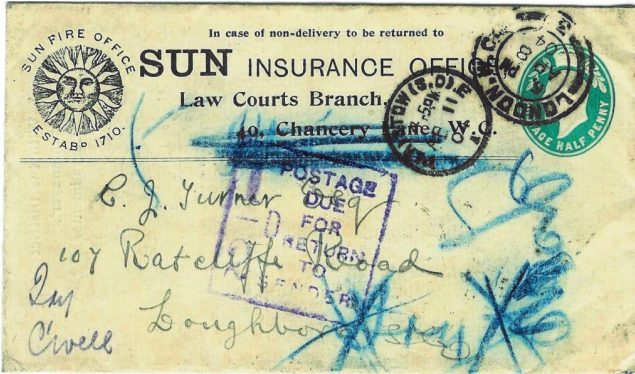


Fig 4e - A 1/2d King George V window envelope returned as the addressee had gone away, but with 5d postage due covering another 9 similar envelopes.

Another area where the public ignored regulations was in the registered post. Registration envelopes carried a clear message on their fronts that they had to be handed to an officer of the post and a receipt obtained. Occasionally, perhaps the post office was closed or too far away, and registration envelopes were put in a post box with the ordinary mail. Once spotted, the envelopes were applied with a "Posted out of Course" handstamp and an additional fee was applied.

I'm grateful to Maurice Buxton for the following information on how the posted out of course charges were applied.

The compulsory registration/posting out of course charge was introduced as a double fee (in effect rather as if it had been ordinary unpaid postage) on 1st November 1856 at 1s, less any amount already paid. For most of the time the "double rate" principle applied. However, when the registration fee was reduced from 4d to 2d on 1st January 1878, the previous 8d charge (two times the old 4d registration fee) remained in place with little or no discussion on the point – effectively a quadruple fee. On 1st February 1897 the fee was reduced to 4d (two times 2d registration fee). It was raised again to 6d (two times 3d registration fee) on 13th June 1921 when the basic registration fee also went up from 2d to 3d. On 1st January 1948 the charge was reduced to just the ordinary single registration fee (except on letters to Eire).



Figs 4f and 4g - A STO 1/2d envelope for the

What this meant for posted out of course letters in registered envelopes was that from 1878-97 they usually got surcharged 6d (i.e. 8d minus the 2d embossed stamp), then they were charged 2d until 1921, then 3d until the end of 1947. From 1948, they should have "posted out of course" markings but no surcharge, but apparently mistakes were made early on. The surcharge on any registration envelope

could be higher if the postage was underpaid as well (e.g. no stamp on a QV item, or an overweight item), or even lower if there was more postage paid in adhesives than necessary (typically philatelic usage, of course).

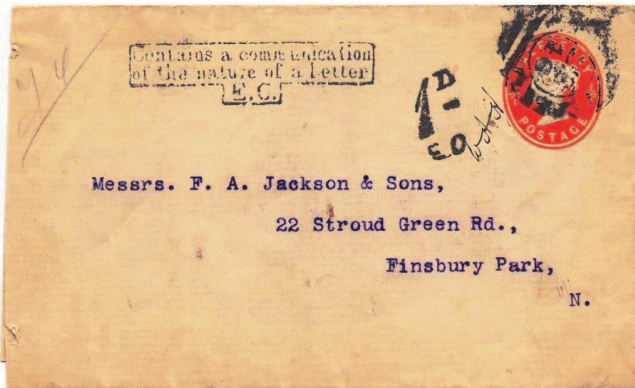


Fig 5a - The handstamp reads "Contains a communication of the nature of a letter", showing that the contents of the ½d envelope had been checked and found to be not just printed papers. The postage rate should therefore have been 1d, so a charge of 2x½d postage due has been made.



Fig 5b - A ½d newspaper wrapper where the contents had been removed for examination, found not to be just printed papers, replaced and a 1d charge added in manuscript.

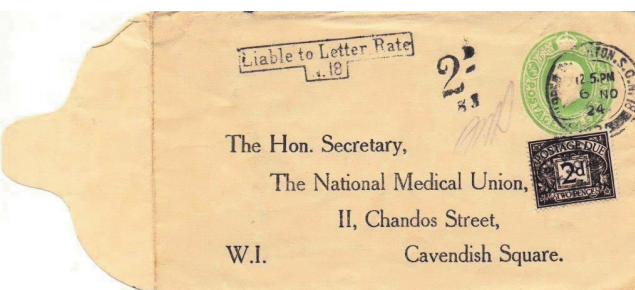


Fig 5c - A King George V ½d printed paper rate envelope that was found to contain a letter and has been treated as an underpaid letter.

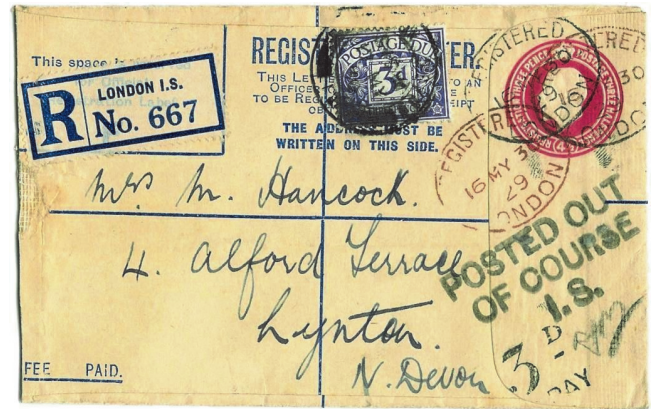


Fig 5d - A King George V 4½d registration envelope that has not been handed into a post office, and has been charged an additional 3d because of this.



Fig 5e - A QEII 6d overseas registration envelope with a UK address, put in a post box on 2nd June 1956 two days after the registration fee had risen from 6d to 1 shilling. It has been charged an additional 6d registration fee, but bizarrely only a single 2½d postage due rather than double. (Courtesy Bill Pipe)

Rises in Postage Rates

When postal rates go up, people are so used to using the old rates that they often forget there are new rates in place and continue with the old ones. The Post Office is usually tolerant for the first few days, but then the postage due handstamps come out and charges are applied to make the postage rate up to the correct amount.

One other way to attract postage due is to use stationery that is out of date and has been demonetised, as shown in Fig 6c.



Fig 6a - The postage for inland postcards increased from 1/2d to 1d on 3rd June 1918. This card was used more than a month later on 12th July and has been charge 1/2d to make up the correct rate of 1d, and doubled to 1d postage due.



Fig 6b - The printed paper rate rose from 1/2d to 1d on 13th June 1921. This envelope used five days later has incurred a 1d charge, double the deficiency of 1/2d.



Fig 6c - A Victorian penny pink envelope used in 1932. The penny pink has been ignored, but the King George V 1/2d stamp accepted, making 1d deficiency, times two, 2d to pay.

To be concluded - February 2017: "Instructional Marks That Don't Incur a Charge"

DOWNSTREAM ACCESS MAIL - Follow-up.

Following on from **George King's** article (p14 of the May 2016 Journal), other examples of mail carrying an imprint of the blue Machin 2nd class stamp bearing seven black wavy lines have been reported.

Iain Stevenson has sent a scan of an item from Laithwaites Wine



This has C9 licence number 10002.

The second item, from the Editor's post, has the same stamp like imprint but bears the code 'HQ 1306'



POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY Balance Sheet - Year Ending 31st August 2016

Cash Assets			2015-16	2014-15	INCOME			2015-16	2014-15
Bank - Current Account			£4,882.19	£2,760.21	Subscriptions		£3,444.27	£3,317.73	
Bank - Publication Funding A/C			£6,709.04	£5,266.37	Auctions (May+October)		£697.40	£1,066.52	
Cash in Hand			£0.00	£26.16	Advertising		£640.00	£560.00	
Editorial Float			£100.00	£100.00	Publications & Monographs		£1,714.36	£304.91	
Paypal A/C			£183.03	£193.26	Bank Interest		£7.67	£5.80	
Cash Balance			£11,874.26	£8,345.96	Uncleared Auction cheque		£0.00	£159.25	
					Total Income		£6,503.70	£5,414.21	
Liabilities	Members		-£237.50	-£59.86	EXPENDITURE				
	Auction		-£159.25	-£159.25	Journal Printing & Postage		£2,059.65	£2,925.52	
					Room Hire		£808.50	£806.20	
Debtors	Auction			£99.62	Professional fees		£0.00	£50.00	
					Bank charges		£0.00	£35.00	
Cash : Nett worth			£11,477.51	£8,226.47	ABPS Subscription		£172.50	£162.80	
					Trophy		£0.00	£250.00	
Postage Float			£364.08	£1,069.51	Misc		£79.98	£186.45	
					Total Expenditure		£3,120.63	£4,415.97	
Sum : Nett cash & Postage			£11,841.59	£9,295.98	Stock of Postage				
					Postage Used		£705.43	£1,257.07	

The Bank statements and Paypal statements have been inspected by Mr John Fowler.

I confirm that the balances shown in your accounts for the two bank accounts and the

Paypal accord with the figures shown on the bank statements at the year ends"

The abbreviated account can be inspected at the Annual General Meeting on 22nd October 2016*

Dr Paul Jones Hon. Treasurer. Postal Stationery Society

18th October 2016

Tony Chilton Competition

The Chairman, **Jan Kośniowski** presents **Neil Sargent**, the winner of the 2016 Tony Chilton Competition, with the silver salver for his sixteen sheet entry 'Registered Envelopes of Turkey'



WANTED: Postal Stationery Society Journal May 2006 (Vol 14 No.2) Please contact the Editor.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Recent Articles from the Philatelic Press

Gibbons Stamp Monthly (August 2016)

“The Humble Penny Pink” Edward Klempka

“2015 Foreign Postal Stationery Russia - Vatican City” Geir Sø-Reime

Gibbons Stamp Monthly (September 2016)

“Great Britain’s Queen Victoria Embossed Stamped-to-order Postal Stationery” Edward Klempka

“Postal Stationery Matters” Peter van Gelder

Gibbons Stamp Monthly (November 2016)

“Great Britain Postal Stationery: The impact of Changes in Postal Tariffs” Edward Klempka

“British Private Posts” John Holman

Postal Stationery July/August 2016 (USA)

“Unlisted - (USA revalued envelopes and cards 1920-25)”

Joe Pryluck

“Security Threads, Dates and Plugs (GB)” Wayne Menuz

“Perkins Bacon Issues of Columbia” Ross Towle

“The 1958 Recalued Envelope issue” William Geijsbeek

Postal Stationery September/October 2016 (USA)

“First issue Stamped Envelopes of Peru” Ross Towle

“Overprints and Surcharges on Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers” Dr John Courtis

“‘RF’ Overprints on U>S> Postal Stationery WWII” Lewis Bussey

Postal Stationery Collector November 2016 (Australia)

“100th Anniversary of the ‘Wilby’ Embossed Envelopes” Mark Diserio

“Queensland Specimen and CTO Postal Stationery” Ian McMahon

“Can Wrappers Add to a Thematic or Topical Collection” Dr John Courtis

Postal Stationery Notes [BNAPS] July 2016 (Canada)

“A New Dominion Express Illustrated Money Order Card” Chris Ellis

The Overprinter - Great Britain Overprint Society (Autumn 2016)

“Tangier philatelic Postal Stationery Usage”

“British Postal Order Issued in Smyra” Dr John Gledhill

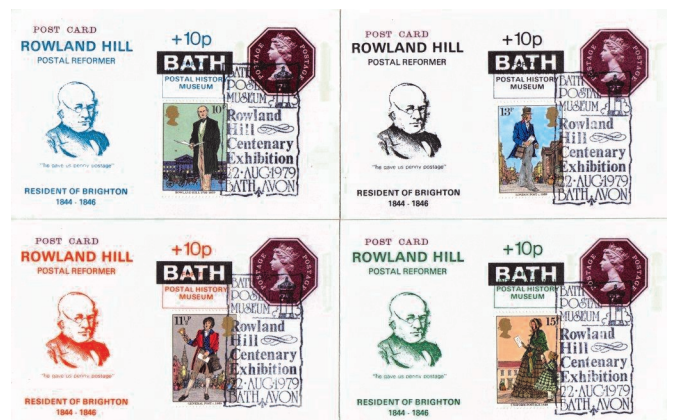
Iain Stevenson writes “the attached scan is of an unrecorded PSE culled from my mail. The House of Commons window envelope follows the pattern of previously recorded envelopes but is on brown paper and a POSTAGE PAID ROYAL MAIL 2nd indicium. Presumably available to MPs for bulk mailings.”



Roy Richardson writes

“Following your item on page 13 of this quarters Journal, I have attached a scan of a used set of Rowland

Hill postcards bearing the Rowland Hill issue and postmarked. These were available from the Museum in 1979.”



Paul Jones has also sent a scan of the card with the ‘orange red’ printing (similar to the one illustrated above). Unfortunately the cards illustrated in the August issue of the Journal were from a scan of a photocopy which resulted in some shift in the colour spectrum from that of the originals.

James Grimwood-Taylor writes “attached are scans of a used example of a NBTS lettersheet that I acquired recently for my Derbyshire Collection, and while I am no expert on KGVI material, a faint bell rang in my mind that these were unusual so I thought you might care to illustrate it in the Journal. I would like to know how many others exist and if any other Derbyshire usages are known.”



Editor: This is an example of a reply paid letter sheet issued by the National Blood Transfusion Service ‘NBTS 206’ first reported in the Postal Stationery Society Journal by **Peter O’Keefe** in his Chairman’s Chat of May 2006. Peter’s letter sheet likewise had GVI 1d red + ½d orange imprinted stamps. **Adrian Parker** reported a letter sheet with a KGVI 1½d green imprinted stamp as did the Editor who also reported one with KGVI 1d red only. Both of the Editor’s items are postmarked ‘Bakewell Derbyshire’. Peter’s item was addressed to a Southport Hospital. **Please let the Editor know of any other examples which may exist.**

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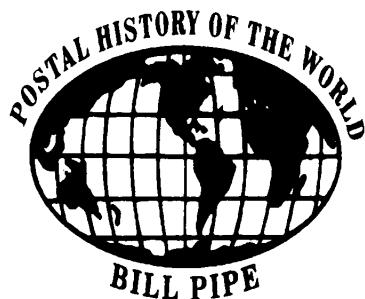
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