



# THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

25 YEARS

Supporting Collectors of Postal Stationery Worldwide  
No Matter What Their Area of Interest.

Journal Vol. 25, No.1  
(Serial number 81)

February 2017



“By superimposing an image of the revised version on top of the original version .....”  
**See: 4d Blue Lettercard (LCP25) - ‘The Miss McLaren’s Revised Version’ page 16**

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## The Postal Stationery Society (Founded 1992)

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

### ACTING SECRETARY

Neil Sargent, 24, Wheal Regent Park, Carlyon Bay, Cornwall PL25 3SP

Email: [pss.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:pss.secretary@gmail.com)

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** Edward Caesley, Trepheane House, 5 Tenderah Court, Church Hill, Helston, Cornwall TR13 8NP

Email: [caesley@btinternet.com](mailto:caesley@btinternet.com)

**TREASURER** Paul Jones, 10 Cedarwood Drive, Springhead Grange, HULL, East Yorkshire.

HU5 5YA

Email: [gbpopos@gmail.com](mailto:gbpopos@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.postalstationery.org.uk](http://www.postalstationery.org.uk)

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

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

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

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

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## Society Calendar

**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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 the November 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](http://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](http://www.postalstationery.org.uk)

# CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - FEBRUARY 2017

I really have too many collections already, so recently I decided to ... um, start another one. (Well, that didn't come out quite the way it was supposed to, did it?)

The latest is loosely dubbed "National Airmail Stationery of the World" and was sparked by noticing some airmail covers with the standard "lozenge" borders, but not in the usual red and blue. This pattern was invented by one Benjamin Dahlke, proprietor of a stationery manufacturing company; approved by the USPO for airmail purposes in 1928, it rapidly spread worldwide. The covers in question patriotically used national colours instead, which got me wondering how many different countries such items could be found for. The answer turns out to be "quite a lot".

Most are regular commercial envelopes, which fall into that grey area of "stationery for use in the post" rather than "postal stationery" as defined by the collecting world.

However, there are also a fair few stamped aerogrammes of this type. Shown at the bottom of the previous page, is a Vietnamese \$3.50 aerogramme used in 1956 (Fig. 2), clearly intended to evoke the flag of South Vietnam with its three central red stripes on a yellow background). Below is an Ethiopian 40c on 30c surcharged type used in 1974 with the lozenges in the national (and subsequently pan-African) red, green, and gold (Fig. 3),



Fig. 1

One example is illustrated here, in the orange and green of the Ivory Coast (Fig. 1).

I include it because although this type with "star" logo was used in various colours in a number of Francophone countries, I have not been able to find out who manufactured it and would appreciate information if anyone knows!



Fig. 3

Another example is an updated Greek 4dr aerogramme from the original 1967 printing on greenish-blue paper, used in 1977. After the abolition of the monarchy in 1973, instructions were sent out to postal staff to obliterate the crown on stocks of all printed items, done here in biro (Fig. 4).



Fig. 2



Fig. 4

So now you know who might be interested in any odd aerogrammes that come to hand ...

Maurice Buxton

## SECRETARY'S NOTES - FEBRUARY 2017

### London Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017

The next Postal Stationery Society meeting will be on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April at the Royal Philatelic Society's headquarters in London, as usual. See the leaflet on the meeting included with this Journal. In the morning Colin Baker will show the postal stationery of East Africa, and after lunch you will all be invited to show up to 32 sheets of postal stationery from around the world.

### Swindon Philatelic 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017

This year we will be having our normal annual meeting at Swinplex on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, and everyone is invited to come along and show some interesting bits of their collections. This is always a casual

meeting and apart from signing the attendance register, we all simply sit down and enjoy the displays.

### Midpex Exhibition 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The following month we will be having a stand at the Midpex event, which will be held at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July, from 10.00am to 5.00pm. There will be over 50 dealers present, with lots of society stands as well. John Barker will be in charge of the Society's stand, but he obviously needs some help in running it. Please can you spend at least half an hour, preferably longer, to tell visitors about the Society and sell them any items they may wish to buy.

**ACTING SECRETARY:** Please note that **Neil Sargent** has taken over the role of Secretary of the Postal Stationery Society for the immediate future. Contact details can be found on page 2 of this issue of the Journal

## SWINPEX and MIDPEX



Both these events are popular venues which provide meeting points for philatelists other than in London. Those members in particular who are unable to attend meetings in London will be most welcome at these events. At SWINPEX (in Swindon) come along to our meeting, at MIDPEX (Near Leamington Spa) come along to our stand where many members will be calling in during the day. If you require more details please get in touch with your Editor.

Amongst our membership we have several Dealers who have a wide range of postal stationery together with other philatelic material. Most of these Dealers attend either or both of these events on a regular basis.

In the May PSSJ, I will list those Dealers attending SWINPEX and/or MIDPEX so that you have some idea of what material you may expect to find.



## A Request from the Editor of 'Irish Philately' - the Journal of the Irish Philatelic Circle

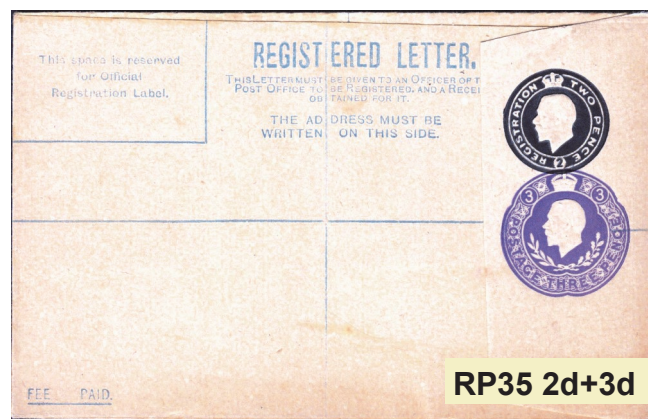
'Has anyone ever seen any of the British 1921 provisional uprated registered envelopes (RP35 2d+3d, RP36 3d+2d and RP37 4d+1d) used in Ireland'?

These envelopes were certainly valid in Ireland but were they ever issued to Irish offices? I believe all are 'difficult' used in England/Wales/Scotland.

The three earlier envelopes (RP 31 2d+2d, RP 32 3d+1d and RP 33 3.5d+.5d) are all known used in Ireland, although relatively scarce with perhaps c20 of each likely to have survived.

Stan Challis - Editor, Irish Philately  
[stan@roskelly.co.uk](mailto:stan@roskelly.co.uk)

If any member can provide any useful information, please get in touch with Stan, or if you do not have access to emails, please get in touch with your Editor, John Barker, contact details on page 2 of this Journal.



### The Postal Stationery Society 25 Years

As Editor of your Journal, I am always pleased to be able to help any collector acquire more information to enhance their collecting experience. Sharing of knowledge is the basis of any editor's role. For this reason, I am happy to publish requests like the one above, and promote the Society. However, I am no fount of all knowledge; this is where you, the members can join in and make your contributions.

Participation in the activities of any society is not only the essence for the success of that society, but also most rewarding for the participating member. My role as editor is to enable members to share their knowledge and to seek out information.

Each and every one of us have our own collecting interests and experiences. Our Society motto is

**For Collectors of Postal Stationery Worldwide  
No Matter What Their Area of Interest.**

What can you do to share your knowledge? Over the past 25 years my predecessor and I have published many articles, notes, news items, queries etc. which have been well received by members and for which I am extremely grateful. Have you got something which may be of interest to members? As a collector of postal stationery, I presume that what you have is of interest to you; in that case it is likely to be of interest to others! Please contact me and make your contribution, I will be happy to offer any help you may need to prepare your contribution for publication.

John Barker

# ILLUSTRATED AND ADVERTISING POSTAL STATIONERY - KGV.

It is a few years since I published the last article in this series: *ILLUSTRATED AND ADVERTISING POSTAL STATIONERY in the period up to the First World War* which commenced with the first part in PSSJ May 2009. Over a number of years members have sent photocopies/scans of items for illustration in this series. When **Colin Baker** first introduced this series in May 2009, he suggested that the time span be limited to the period up to the time of the first world war in order to make the task more manageable. As a number of members have sent in items beyond this period (KGV & KGVII advertising stationery), I have decided to include them here. Other criteria which still apply are repeated here:

### Excluded From This List

Many illustrated and advertising envelopes were produced unstamped and those prepared during the reign of Queen Victoria have been the subject of a work by Bodily, Jarvis and Hahn (*British Pictorial Envelopes of the 19th Century*; 1984). It is not intended to duplicate or expand on this excellent book but to list all those items of **postal stationery** that have been printed with advertisements and were issued by the Post Office or were stamped to order. These include envelopes, lettercards, postcards and newspaper wrappers.

Many postal stationery items do not fall into our definition of advertising material and are thus excluded from the list, particularly those that have pre-printed delivery addresses, or have been printed with return addresses on the front or back, have acknowledgements for the receipt of correspondence or money (usually on the reverse or inside the back flap), or carry simple monographs and logos on the back flap.

### Postal Cards



**Taylor's Typewriter Co. Ltd, 74, Chancery Lane, London.**  
Post Office card CP73 with addresses of premises and list of services.

**Stamp 1d carmine type L14**

Earliest d/u: 4 February 1925 Latest d/u:

### Envelopes

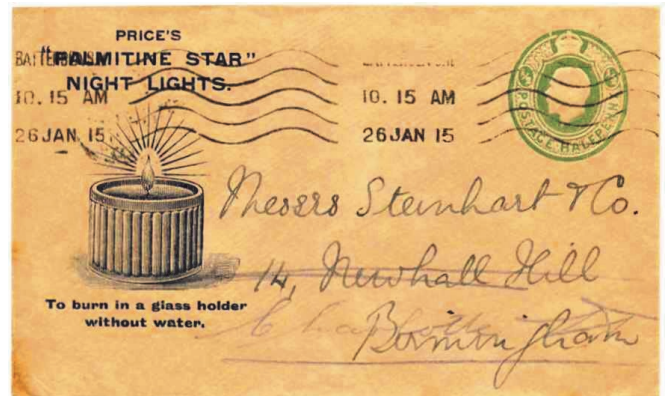


### Price's Toilet Soaps.

STO envelope advertising 'Regina' toilet soaps.

**Stamp 1/2d green type 29**

Earliest d/u: 10th March 1917 Latest d/u:



### Price's "Palmitine Star" Night Lights.

STO envelope with illustration of a burning night light.

**Stamp 1/2d green type 29**

Earliest d/u: 25th January 1915 Latest d/u:

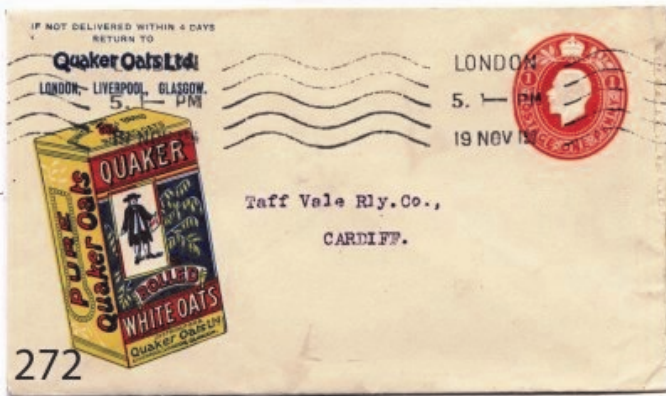


### Price's "Palmitine Star" Night Lights.

STO envelope with illustration of a burning night light in front of a box of night lights.

**Stamp 1/2d green type 29**

Earliest d/u: 20th January 1915 Latest d/u:

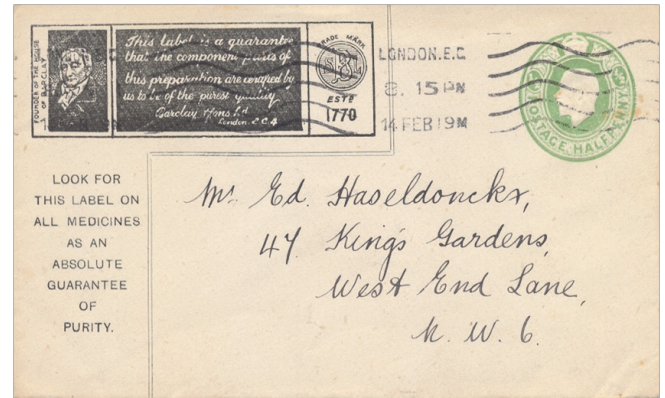


**Quaker Oats Ltd.**

Envelope with illustration of a box of 'Quaker Rolled White Oats'.

**Stamp 1d carmine type 30**

Earliest d/u: 19th November 1919 Latest d/u:



**Barclay House, London E.C.4**

Envelope with a picture of the Founder of Barclay House and the Company logo either side of a 'certification of quality'

**Stamp 1/2d green type 29**

Earliest d/u: 14th February 1919 Latest d/u:



**John Oakey & Sons Ltd. London.**

Envelope with ornate emblem for 'Wellington Knife Polish'

**Stamp 1 1/2d brown type 32**

Earliest d/u: 5th March 1919 Latest d/u: 24th February 1938



**Barclay House, London E.C.4**

Envelope with a picture of the Founder of Barclay House and the Company logo either side of a 'certification of quality'

**Stamp 1 1/2d brown type 32**

Earliest d/u: Latest d/u:



**John Oakey & Sons Ltd. London.**

Envelope with ornate emblem for 'Wellington Knife Polish'

**Stamp 2d orange type 33**

Earliest d/u: 15th October 1920 Latest d/u:



**Lovell & Christmas Ltd, West Smithfield. London E.C. 1**

Window envelope with illustration of a maid in a blue cap within a blue circle.

**Stamp 1/2d green type 29**

Earliest d/u: 2nd March 1937 Latest d/u:

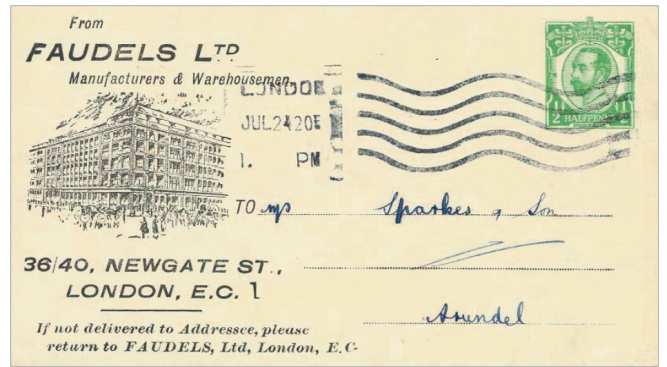


**Prices Motor Lubricants.**

Envelope with an illustration of a can of Price's Motor Lubricant at the left hand side.

**Stamp 2d orange type 33**

Earliest d/u: 2nd September 1920 Latest d/u:



**Faudels Ltd, 36/40, Newgate St. London, E.C. 1**

Newspaper Wrapper WS13 with illustration of premises.

**Stamp 1/2d green type L11a**

Earliest d/u: 24th July 1920 Latest d/u:



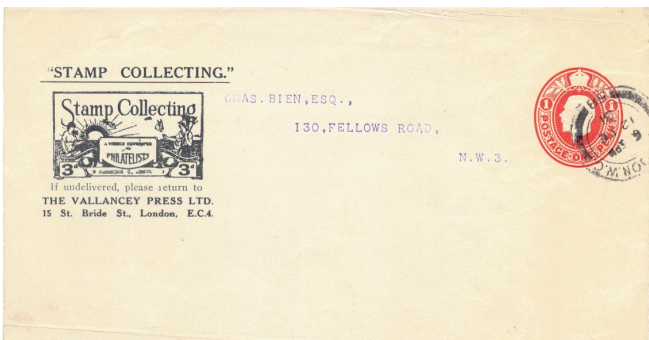
**Mabie, Todd & Co., Ltd. Swan House, London, W.1**

Envelope with illustration of fountain pen and Swan Logo.

**Stamp 1 1/2d brown type 32**

Earliest d/u: 12th September 1930 Latest d/u:

**Newspaper Wrappers**



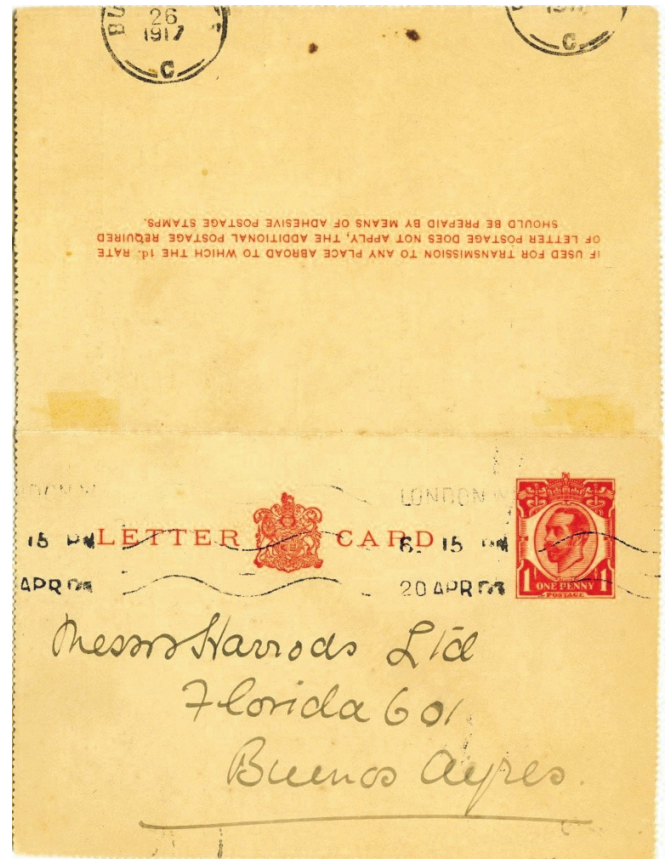
**Stamp Collecting, The Vallancey Press Ltd, 15 St. Bride St. London E.C. 4**

STO Wrapper with a 'stamp-like' advert for 'Stamp Collecting - A Weekly newspaper for Philatelists'. A number of variations of this occur (See "Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrapper Catalogue" - Jan Kościowski)

**Stamp 1d red type 30**

Earliest d/u: 12th February 1931 Latest d/u:

**Letter Cards**



**Madame Cuthbert, Wholesale Costumière, 50 Margaret Street, London W.1.**

Post Office Lettercard LCP6 with the whole of the inside (Illustrated at the top of the next page) taken up with an advert for Madame Cuthbert's gowns displayed by three models.

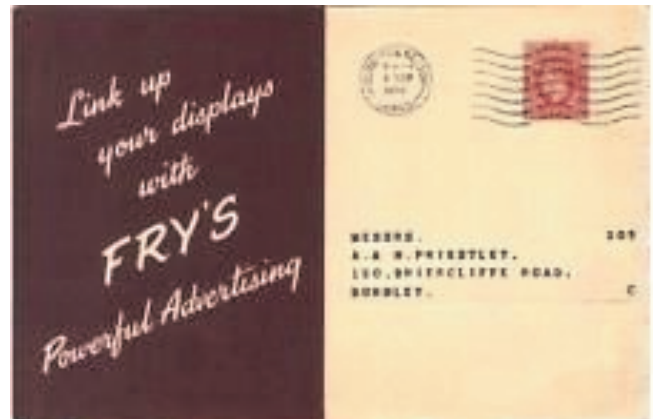
**Stamp 1d carmine L12**

Earliest d/u: 20th April 1917 Latest d/u:



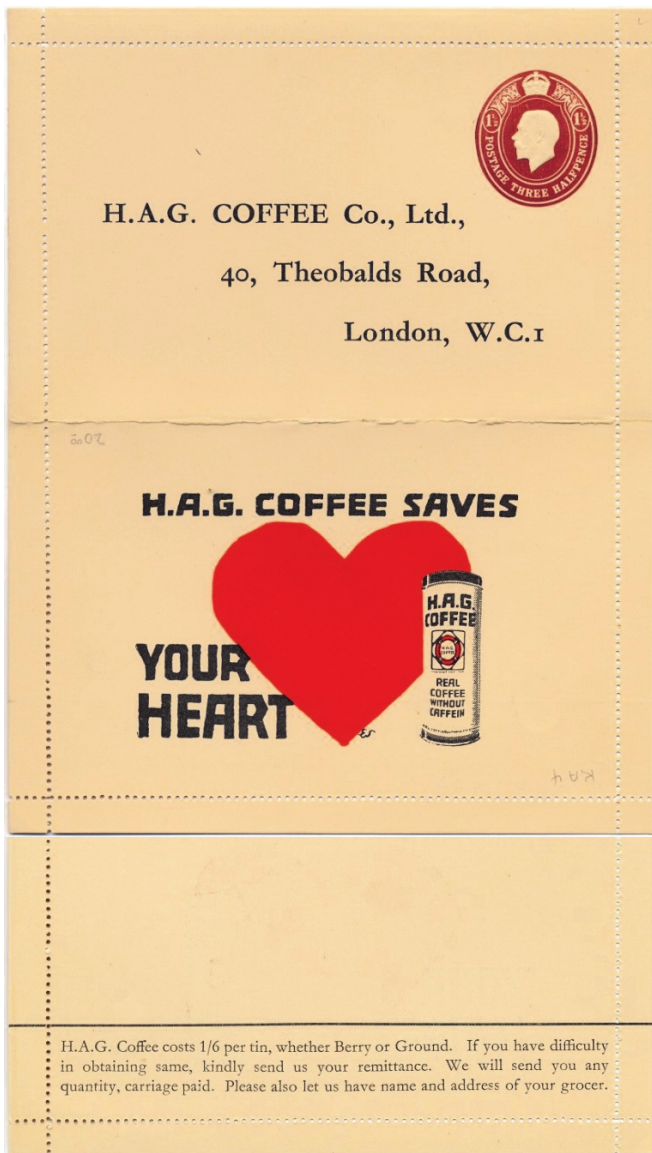


**KGVI**  
Postal Cards



**J.S. Fry & Sons.**

Postcard with message re Fry's advertising for shop displays on the left hand side  
**Stamp 1½d brown type L25**  
 Earliest d/u: \_\_\_\_\_ Latest d/u: \_\_\_\_\_



**H.A.G. Coffee Co. Ltd**

STO Lettercard with large red heart on back and 'H.A.G. Coffee saves your heart'. Short note at the base of the inside.  
**Stamp 1½d brown type 32**  
 Earliest d/u: \_\_\_\_\_ Latest d/u: \_\_\_\_\_



**Cadbury Bros. Ltd, Bournville**

Postcard with advert for Cadbury's Dairy Milk and other products with heading: 'It Pays to Advertise Lines'  
**Stamp 1½d brown type L25**  
 Earliest d/u: \_\_\_\_\_ Latest d/u: \_\_\_\_\_

Many thanks to all those members who have contributed to this series of articles. This latest article contains items sent in by:  
 Colin Baker, Peter Bamert, Alan Cotton, Jan Kościowski Bill Pipe & Edy Pockele.

*If you have any additions to the list or can add to the dates of usage of those listed, please contact the editor with details and if possible a scan/photocopy of the item concerned.*

# GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

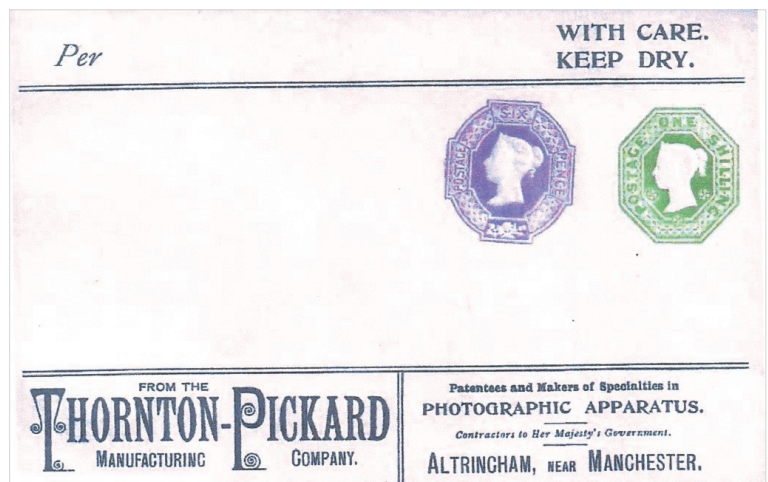
Alan Huggins

## NEW ITEMS REPORTED

### Envelopes and Paper - Stamped to Order Issues

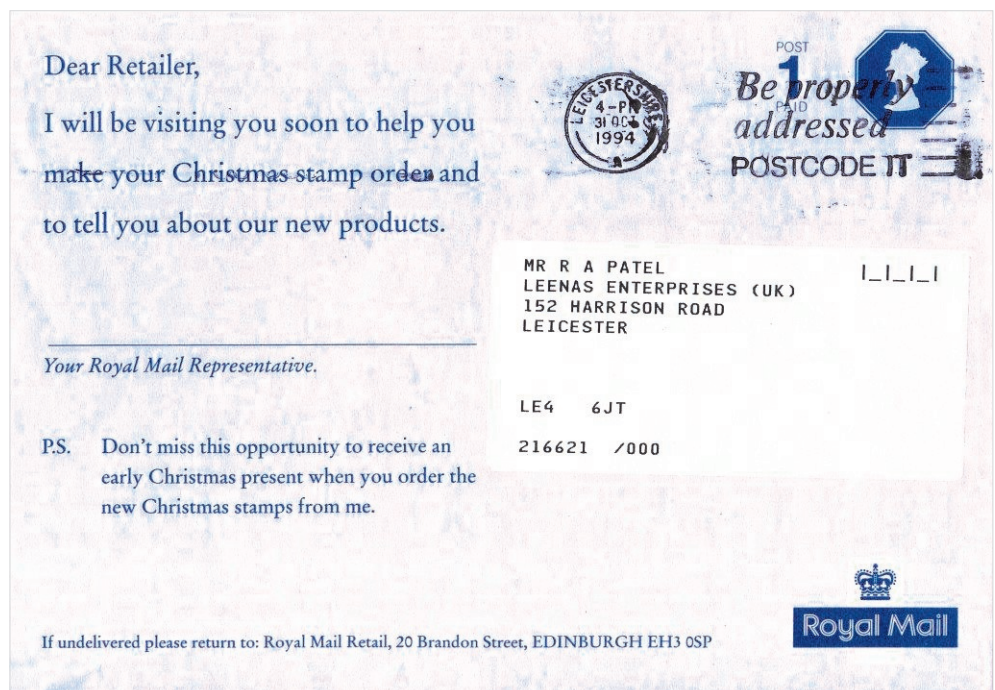
In the August 2016 (vol.24 No.3) issue of the PSS Journal a number of STO parcel labels used by the Thornton - Pickard Manufacturing Company based at Altrincham were described. Two other compound stampings can now be illustrated. Both are of the paper type label, the first being **ESC 369Lo** with 1s. 9 dot florets + 6d undated (Courtesy of **John Lea**); the second a previously unrecorded triple compound with 1s. 9 dot florets + 6d undated + 1d undated (Courtesy **Peter Robinson**), the number will be **ESC 476L**. In addition a group of labels which recently appeared on eBay included a further three unrecorded card type Thornton - Pickard labels. These were 9 dot floret 2½d + 2½d (**ESC 259L**) and 4d + 4d (**ESC 301L**); and 10d + 1d undated (**ESC 164L**), the latter being the first recorded instance of the 10d die on a Thornton - Pickard label.

**Peter Robinson** has also enabled the confirmation of the existence of the STO compound envelope 1s. + 2d both 9 dot florets listed as **ESC 343†** which was published by Morley in 1897 but has not been noticed since. The † can now be deleted.



### Postcards - Stamped to Order Issues

The existence of unregulated size STO postcards (**CS 289B**), with 21 x 21 mm. blue 1st class NVI E3a (Thin frame line) stamps, which were used for marketing purposes in the 1990s by Royal Mail, has been known for some time. They have coloured scenes on the reverse with the caption 'I'm on my way.' and the Royal Mail logo. Two types of scene appear to have been used of which one relates to winter and 1994 orders for Christmas stamps (scene 1), the other (scene 2), being used for both 1993 Christmas stamps and for stamp books and other requirements in 1995-96 (Courtesy **George King**).

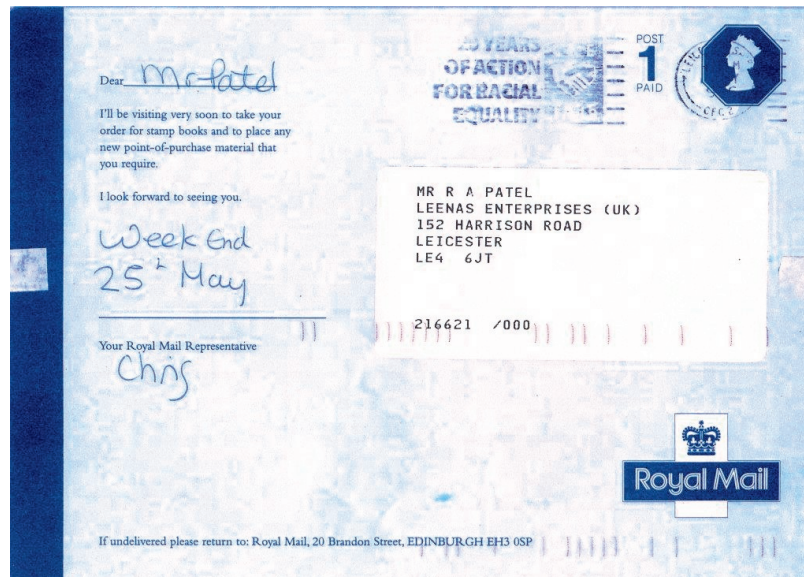


Scene 1 on reverse

Scene 1



Scene 2 on reverse



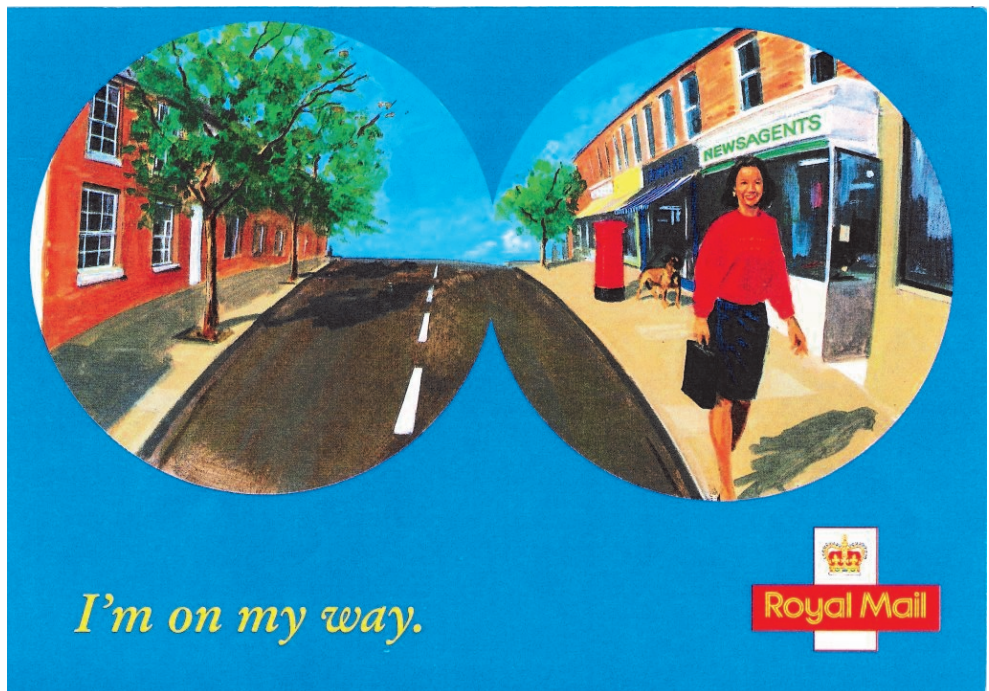
Scene 2 on reverse



Scene 2 on reverse



Scene 2



Postal Stationery Essays and Proofs in the British Postal Museum.

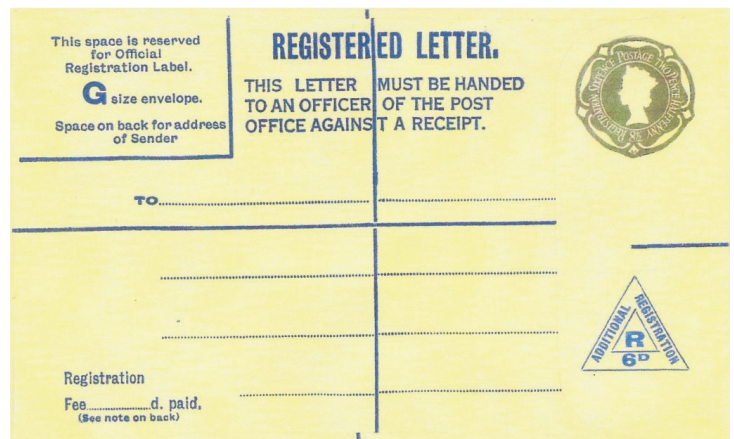
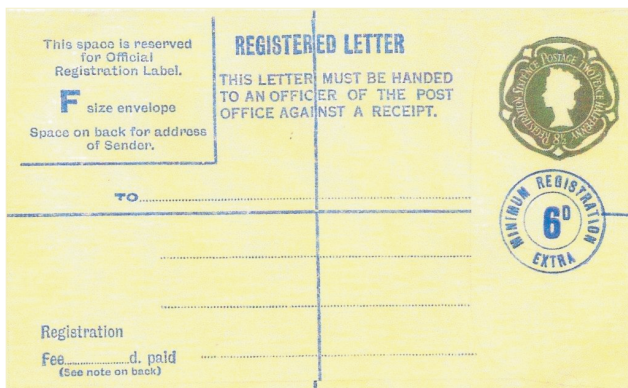
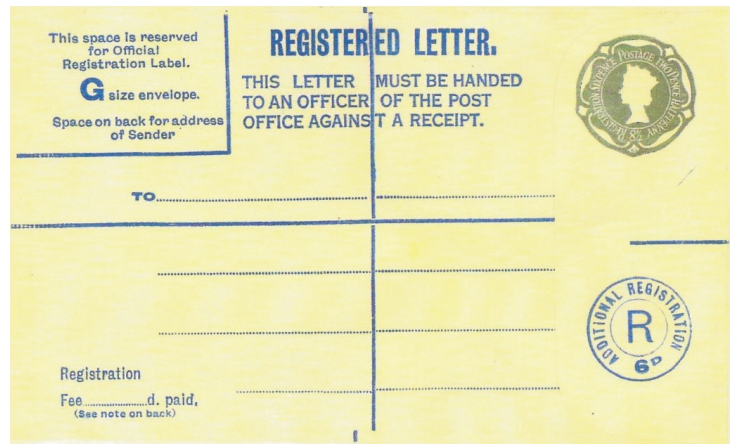
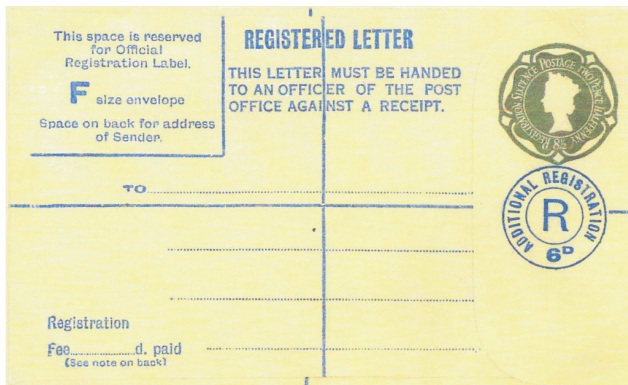
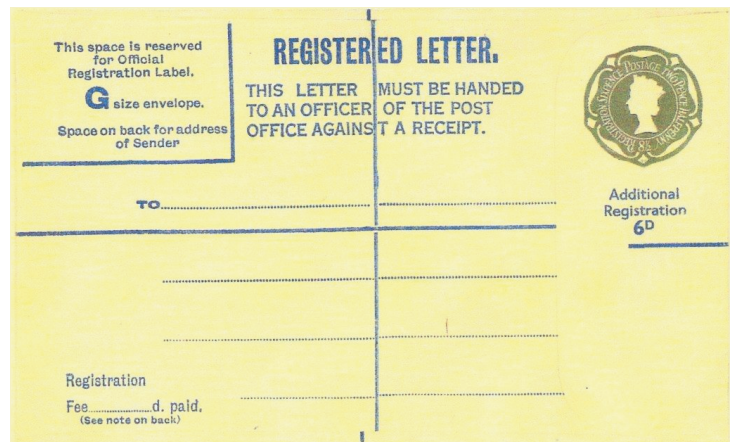
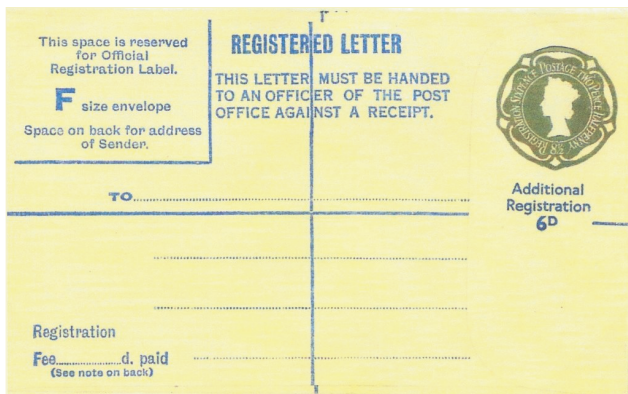
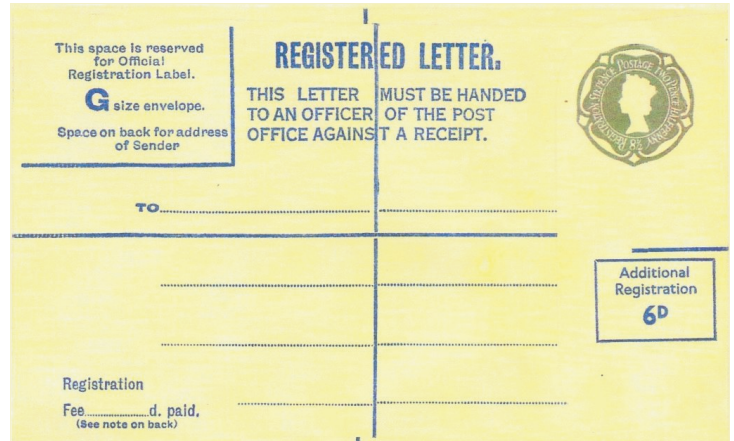
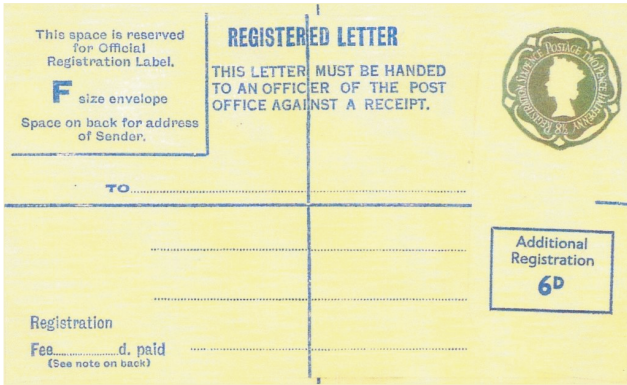
The following Queen Elizabeth II postal stationery essays and proofs are reported courtesy of Douglas Muir, Curator of Philately and the illustrations are Royal Mail Copyright.

Registration Envelopes - Post office Issues

Queen Elizabeth II: On 1st June 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. A series of eight essays involving five designs were produced for the 'REGISTRATION 6D EXTRA' device and are shown on the opposite page.

All Illustrations on this page © Royal Mail



Accepted Design

# POSTAL STATIONERY ISSUED FOR GERMAN AND ITALIAN P.O.Ws IN AUSTRALIA DURING WORLD WAR II.

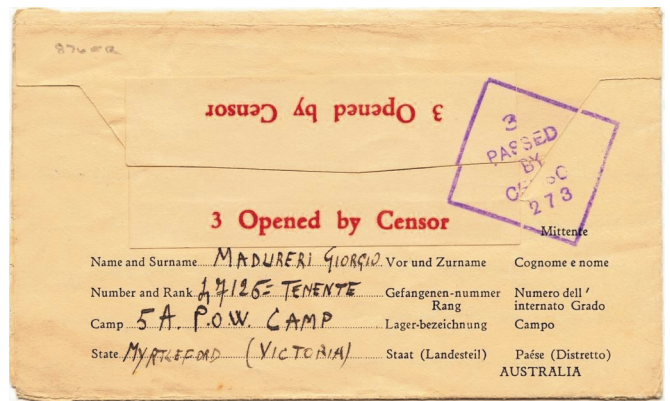
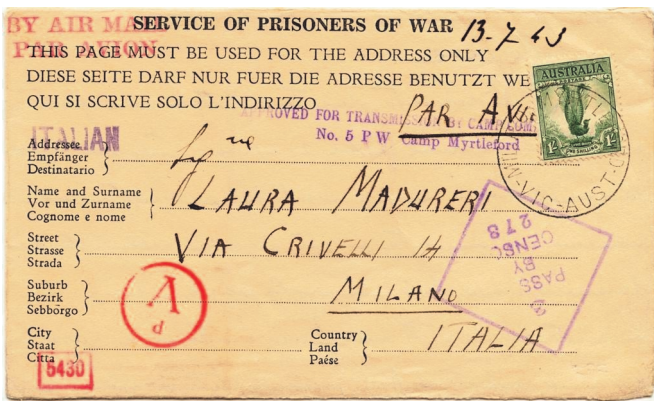
As part of a display given to the Solihull Philatelic Society entitled 'Australia and New Zealand War-time Airmails' Laurence Kimpton showed the following items sent home by German and Italian P.O.Ws. During WWII. As these are not well known to the general collector of Postal Stationery, I thought it may be useful to include a short note in the Journal.

Their existence is well documented by P. Collas in his book: 'The Postal History of Internee and Prisoners of War in Australia during World War II' Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria 1982. The following is an extract of relevant information taken from this work. It is reproduced here by kind permission of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

Illustrations are courtesy of Laurence Kimpton.

German and Italian internees and prisoners of war were permitted to send letters or postcards to their home countries by air mail as from about April 1943, or somewhat earlier. Regulations provided that both internees and prisoners of war were to use "Notelopes". These were a combination of notepaper and envelope – effectively letter sheets.

The air mail fee to Europe, on that basis, was fixed at 1s. per ½oz for letters and 6d. for postcards. As could be expected, the immediate result was a heavy demand for 6d. and 1s. adhesive postage stamps at the canteens, or pay offices, at the various camps. The precise selling arrangements have not been ascertained but it would seem that at first the internees and prisoners of war used camp tokens for purchases of stamps at canteens.



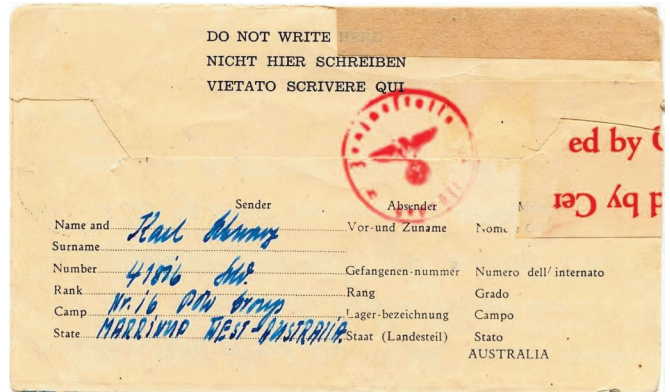
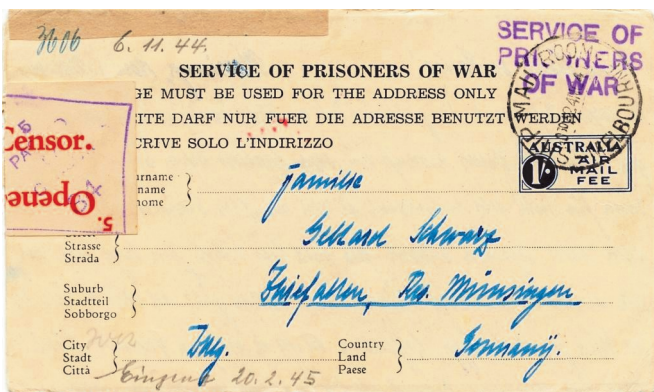
Notelope used by an Italian P.O.W. on 13th July 1943 franked with a one shilling adhesive

When it was seen that the heavy demand continued, the Directorate of Prisoners of War and Internees initiated discussions with the Australian Post Office with a view to simplifying and improving handling arrangements.

The outcome was that advantage was taken of an existing postal rule which read, in part, "Subject to approval, firms and organisations may have stamped or printed on their envelopes or covers an imprint denoting

that postage had been paid". While the rule did not specify postcards, these were allowed to be treated each with a 6d. imprint and the separate envelopes with a 1s. imprint

It is understood that they were issued by the Department of the Army, with the approval of the Post Office. The type of the frank was the same on both notelopes and postcards, and impressed in blue colour.



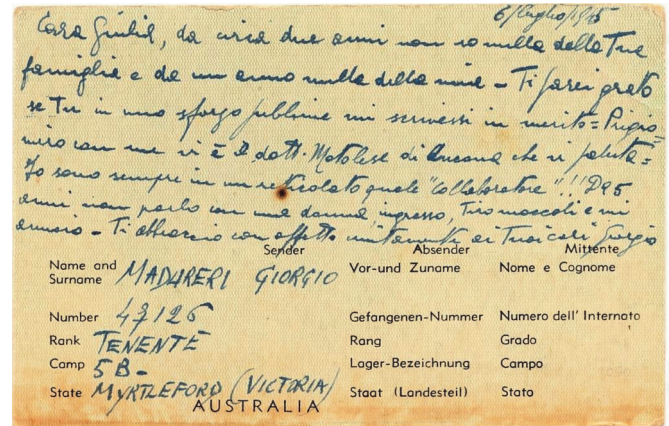
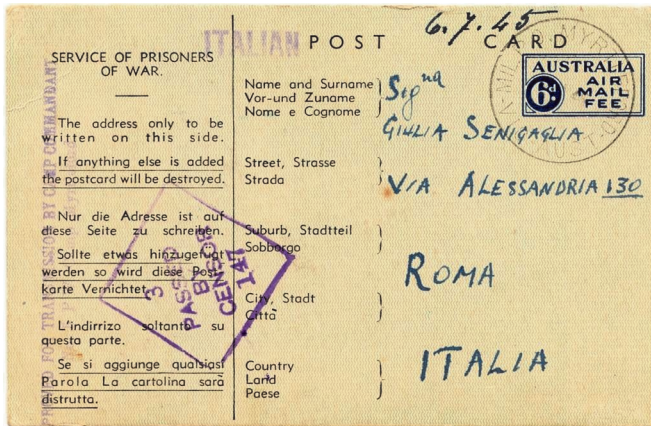
Notelope with '1/- AIR MAIL FEE' imprint used by a German P.O.W. on 6th November 1944



Indicium on the notelope



Indicium on the postal card



Postal card with '6d AIR MAIL FEE' imprint used by an Italian P.O.W. on 6th July 1945

There was also the notelope which bore a 5d. air mail fee imprint. This came into being much later, about the second half of 1944. This type of notelope derived originally from printings without printed instructions, and the only addition was the 5d. impression. It was provided to meet the 5d. per 1/2oz rate which became applicable to letters by air mail from Japanese internees and prisoners of war writing home. The 5d. notelope would have been

available only at camps which housed Japanese. Today, it is the rarest of all POW franked stationery items and only a few copies are known to exist.

The franked notelopes and postcard did not by any means displace those which did not bear franks and both categories continued to be available and were used to the end of the war period and subsequently until prisoners had been repatriated

## Postal Stationery Society Journal - Electronic Version

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**If you have already requested the electronic version and have not received it, then please contact the editor - it could be that we do not have your correct/up to date email address!**

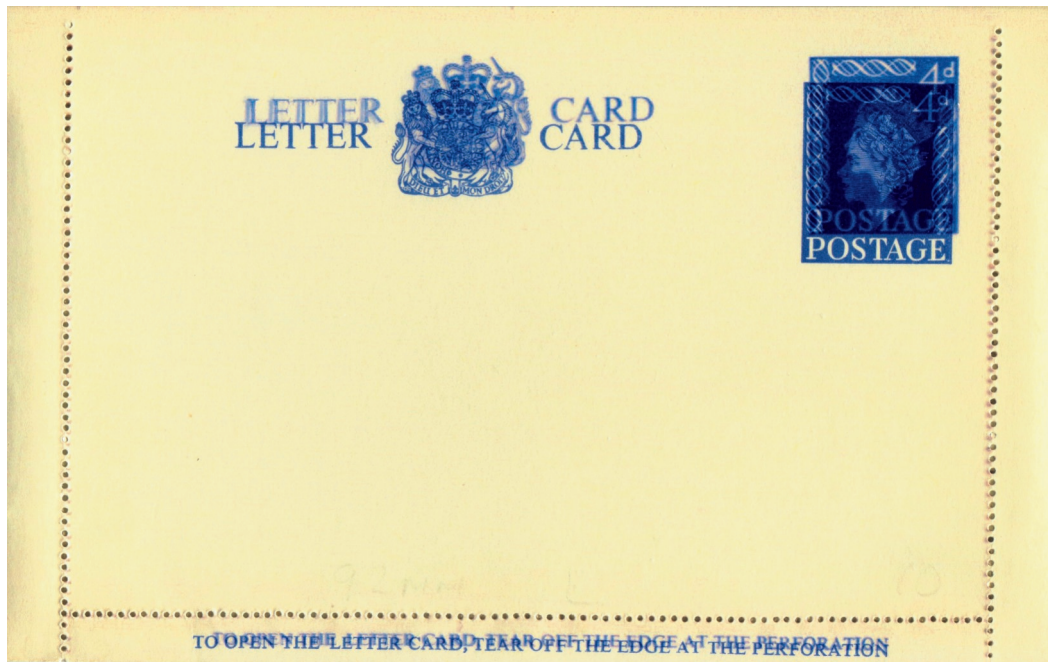
**Many thanks to those members who paid their SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2017 on time.**

This enables the printing and distribution of the Journal to go ahead on time and enables the officers of the Society to fulfil their voluntary roles for your benefit without unnecessary and unreasonable demands on their time and work load.

## 4d BLUE LETTERCARD (LCP25) - 'THE MISS McLAREN's REVISED VERSION'

As reported in GB Postal Stationery News (PSSJ November 2016) this letter card was originally issued in June 1965. The Post Office 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 10<sup>th</sup> of October.

By superimposing an image of the revised version on top of the original version, the relative 'insignificance' of this revision can be seen below -



*This is hardly a substantive change!*

*When a change to the layout of a postal stationery item is made, several reasons may spring to mind as to why the changes were made. Sometimes it may be that the revised version :*

*may be more pleasing to the eye,  
or is more user friendly,  
or is more suited to mechanized sorting,  
or may be cheaper to produce,  
or it could be just a random change made  
by the printers.*

*Why did the Post Office Supplies Department make this particular change?*

*Simple! - Miss McLaren of Guildford wrote to the Postmaster General with a complaint!*

*Harry Dagnall in his book "The Evolution of British Stamped Postcards & Letter Cards - Their History & Documentation. 1985" delved into the Post Office archives and gives a fascinating account of events leading up to the issue of this revised version of the 4d blue letter card. The following account is taken from this book.*

On 29 January 1965 a **Miss McLaren** of Guildford wrote to the Postmaster-General, using a stamped postcard [H&B LCP25]:

*"I have just read a letter in the Press pointing out that the cost of sending a postcard today is five-sixths that of sending a letter. The writer might also have stated the loss of space available on the address side, that due to the stamping machine and positioning of the stamp itself, one cannot write any important information liable to obliteration. And now we must pay more for this exclusion of space. Is this common sense?"*

Complaints about lack of space on the address side were raised from time to time, however on this occasion some action was taken.

Her query was forwarded to the Supplies Department with the query

*'Is the position of the printing on this postcard to specification please?'*

The **Supplies Department** replied on 10th February:

*"There is at present no precise specification for the position of the stamp, emblem or the letterpress on the postcard or, indeed, any of the stamped stationery items. All are produced in accordance with contract standard. The stamp on the current standard postcard is 1/2in. from the top and 15/32 in.*



from the right-hand edge of the card. The specimen enclosed in these papers has the stamp  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. from the top and  $\frac{17}{32}$  in. from the right-hand edge.

The only regulation known to the Supplies Department which could usefully serve as a guide to the correct position of the stamp - or any other part of the matter pre-printed on the item - is that in the Post Office Guide which demands that the address particulars shall '*leave a clear margin above not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. deep for the postage stamps and postmarks*'. So long as the stamp and letterpress lie within that margin, regulations are, it would appear, being satisfied. Indeed the nearer the bottom of the stamp approaches this  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. line, the better we safeguard ourselves against inadvertent infraction of this regulation by members of the public. At the same time we must give the printer a reasonable tolerance in these dimensions and something of the order of  $\pm \frac{1}{8}$  in. would not be considered unduly wide for an item of this nature. This would in effect mean, if the bottom edge of the stamp must never be more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. from the top of the card, that the top of the stamp would normally be  $\frac{5}{16}$  in. from the top of the card, would sometimes be  $\frac{3}{16}$  in. away and sometimes  $\frac{7}{16}$  in. away. Thus the specimen in these papers conforms to these criteria, whilst our current contract standard does not.

There still remains the question of the appropriate distance of the stamp from the right-hand edge of the card. It is presumed that this is a purely aesthetic function of the depth dimension. Perhaps it should always be the same dimension from the right as it is from the top. This, accepting the same manufacturing tolerances, would mean that the specimen in these papers and the contract standard are both slightly outside the admissible limits.

Finally there is the precise position of the letterpress. This, for best appearance, ought presumably to lie precisely half-way between the left edge of the card and the left side of the stamp, to which the specimen (within the tolerances suggested) conforms. The depth position of the letterpress is open to at least two suggested positions (a) that the centre horizontal axis should be in line with the centre axis of the stamp or (b) that the top of the coat of arms should be level with the top of the stamp. The specimen conforms to position (b) - and indeed always will because the two are geared together on the printing machine.

This investigation reveals that the stamps on our current standards for reply postcards and letter-cards lie in yet different positions from those of the postcard standard, and it is for consideration whether we should not now review them all and decide what the normal position should be in all cases.

Notwithstanding all of the foregoing, it is suggested that the correspondent in this case is really complaining that she cannot use the whole of the left half of the stamped side of the card for correspondence. This could never be done without abolishing or shifting the letterpress design and ignoring the fact that the stamp cancellation would

inevitably obscure some of the correspondence (as often happens with picture post cards."

Miss McLaren was thanked for writing and was informed:

"...the only effective way of ensuring that a message written on the address side of a postcard is not obscured by the cancellation is to leave a clear margin of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the top."

At the same time the **Postal Services Department** sent the following note to the Supplies Department:

"Using the  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch margin as a starting point I think that the ideal would be for the stamp to be positioned centrally in this margin 'and the same distance from the right hand side as it is from the top edge. We agree with you that the letter press should be equidistant from the left side of the card and the left side of the stamp and the top of the coat of arms should be level with the top of the stamp.

It would obviously be preferable to have a common standard for each item of stamped stationery which has a printed stamp but we would not regard this as of any urgency and perhaps could be dealt with on some future renewal of the contract.

The Supplies Department's reply to this on 23 April was:

"We have taken this matter up with the printer, and have specified a precise location for the stamps and Coat of Arms on Postcards, Postcards Reply, and letter-cards. As the alterations are of a negligible nature, no extra cost will be incurred. It is anticipated that the first supplies will be available by early July."

The alterations in the cards then current, Nos. 42, 83, 147 [CP111, CP112 & LCP25], arising from Miss McLaren's original postcard were:

**Postcard** Stamp raised 3 mm and moved 1 mm nearer the right-hand edge of the card. Royal Arms and inscription raised the same amount to keep the top of the crown level with the top of the stamp. Registered 13 December 1965 issued 7 November 1965.

**Reply postcard** Heading moved 3 mm to the left, away from the stamp. Registered 14 February 1966, issued 21 January 1966.

**Letter card** Stamp, Royal Arms & inscription raised 3 mm. Opening instruction in the bottom margin left where it was but reset to a slightly shorter length. Registered 13 December 1965, issued 10 October 1965.

In the case of the postcard and letter card it will be seen that there is an obvious increase in the space for the address - thanks to Miss McLaren, who was probably never aware of the outcome of her complaint.

*The Evolution of British Stamped Postcards & Letter Cards - Their History & Documentation. 1985"*  
Harry Dagnall

---

[Editor: For some time there had been mounting pressure to remove the Post Office from Government control. The Post Office Act of 1969 abolished the Office of the Post Master General and saw the Creation of a public corporation 'The Post Office'.

The efforts of the Post Master General and his staff to show their caring nature and good relations with the public failed to swing the mood of the day. Alas, their efforts to save the 'Status Quo' fell on stony ground; what had been a 'service' became a 'business'.]

# POSTMEN'S MARKS IN GREAT BRITAIN - Part 2

Colin Baker

## Instructional Marks That Don't Incur a Charge

Postmen's handstamps did not always incur additional charges, as sometimes they were struck to give information on a letter or postcard. The first example concerns the loss of the contents of an envelope. Printed paper envelopes could not be stuck down preventing postmen from checking that the contents did not include letters. But sometimes the flaps would get caught up with other mail, and would be pulled open, allowing the contents to slip out. This normally meant that the envelope would continue on its way, but the contents would end up in the bottom of a mail bag to be consigned to the waste paper basket.

Trying to catch the post at the last minute sometimes meant that a letter missed the last mail coach or train and had to wait until the next day before it could continue on its way. To show the delay was not the fault of the Post Office, a "Too Late" handstamp would be applied.

In the big towns and cities, the main post offices had a window which remained open after the rest of the office had been closed in the evening. This was to receive late mail, for which an additional fee had to be paid, usually in adhesive stamps. The item was then normally marked in some way, "Late fee paid", and put into the mail to catch the last coach or train. A late fee also had to be paid for mail posted directly onto a mail train, although not everyone realised this and some mail had to be surcharged on delivery.

Sometimes, despite trying, it was impossible to deliver mail and it had to be returned to the sender. This included mail that had to cross borders during periods of war. When the borders became closed, mail could not continue on its way, as was the case during the last few months of the Second World War when mail sent to Germany via Spain and Switzerland was halted due to the allies drive into France and Germany.

Sometimes a special type of service, such as air mail post became unavailable. Often during periods of hostilities, the air mail service was too great a burden as all available planes were needed for the war effort. Therefore mail was sent by land and sea. Not everyone realised this, but the Post Office refunded the extra postage paid in mint stamps, providing a return address was written on the item.

In the centre of London double post boxes were erected, usually as a single box with a double opening, so that the public performed the first sorting of mail by posting their letters in the appropriate slot for London delivery or for addresses throughout the rest of the country. Where mail was placed in the wrong part of the box a handstamp was applied to try to prevent mis-sorting by the public in the future.

Postmen made mistakes, just as easily as the rest of the public and sometimes mail got put into the wrong bag and went to the wrong town, delaying delivery. When this happened, a handstamp was applied by the sorting office before it was sent on its way to its correct destination.



Fig 7a - 1/2d printed paper rate envelope which has lost its contents.

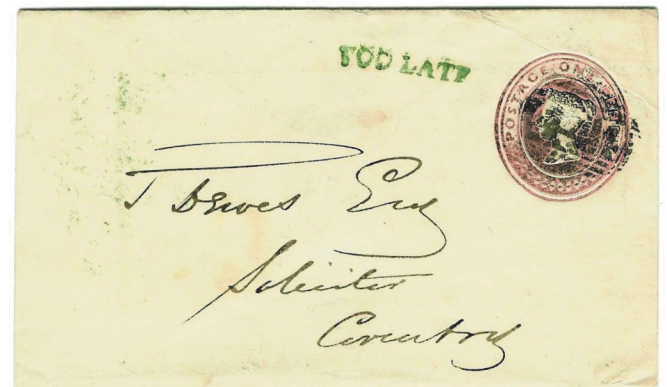


Fig 7b - A too late handstamp



Fig 7c - A Queen Victoria 1 1/4d postcard posted with a late fee of 1d, shown by the duplex cancellation with "L1" in the hexagonal box.



Fig 7d - A STO envelope addressed to Holland, with a late fee of 1d paid and handstamped accordingly



Fig 7g - A postcard that could not be delivered to a serving soldier as he was reported to be a prisoner of war.



Fig 7e - An air letter addressed within the UK and posted without additional stamps, possibly the writer thought that it was covered in the 6d stamp as the basic letter rate was 4d.



Fig 7h - A letter addressed to Yugoslavia in 1941 for which there was no service. Although the Axis powers did not invade the country until April that year, sending mail there was considered too risky

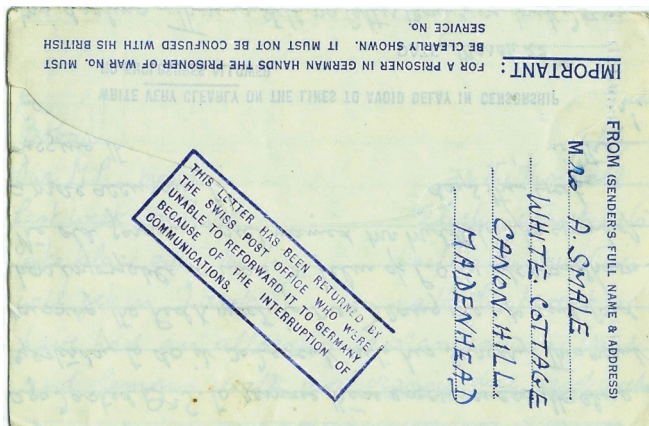


Fig 7f - Interruption of Communications. A prisoner of war air mail letter sheet returned to sender as it could not continue across Europe due to the allies advance in 1945.



Fig 7i - A letter addressed to Egypt in 1943. The air mail etiquette has been deleted with red bars and an explanatory handstamp struck on the front

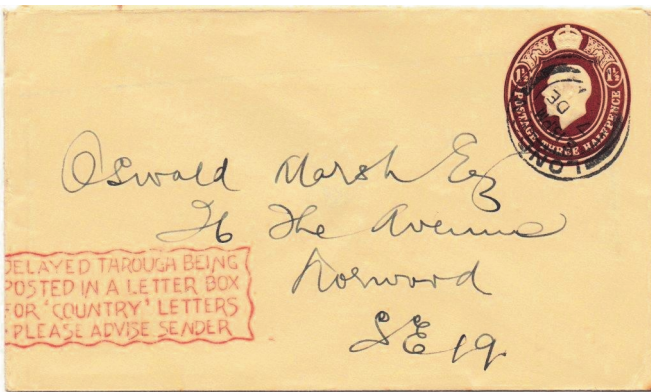


Fig 7j - A letter from a philatelic dealer addressed to himself and deliberately posted in the wrong post box in order to obtain the informative handstamp.



Fig 7k - A postcard with a preprinted message on the reverse, including the sender's address, but with no postal address on the front. It has been returned to the sender by the Post Office as shown by the address in red on the front



Fig 7i - Penny pink envelope posted in 1850 to Ludlow, Shropshire, but sent in error to Birmingham



Fig 7m - A penny pink envelope addressed to Sir Thomas Phillips, Worcester and forwarded to Chepstow. It has been marked "Missent to Worcester", although why this was so is unclear.

There are many more handstamps that were used by postmen throughout the postal stationery period, and of course there are a large number of variations of those illustrated here. If you have a mark that I have not covered in this article, let the Editor know about it so that it can be published in a future edition of the Journal.

More information on postage rates can be found in the Society's postage rates booklet available from the secretary, and from the Great Britain Philatelic Society's website [www.gbeps.org.uk](http://www.gbeps.org.uk)

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### Recent Articles from the Philatelic Press

#### Gibbons Stamp Monthly (December 2016)

"Britain's 1840 and 1841 Two Pence Issues" Edward Klempka

"Postal Stationery Matters" Peter van Gelder

#### Postal Stationery November/December 2016 (USA)

"The Lipman Postal Card" Bob Toal

"Full Face McKinley Cards"

"Europe between the First World War and the Turn of the Century" Political turmoil reflected by post office stationery view cards - Michael Bockisch

#### Postal Stationery Collector February 2017 (Australia)

"Rudolph Philipp Laubenheimer Engraver, Die Sinker and Medal Maker (1833-1905)" Glen Stafford

"100th Anniversary of the 'Wilby' Embossed Envelopes (Part 2)" Mark Diserio

"Marshall Islands Postal Stationery with Advertising" Steven Zirinsky

"National Park Series Postage Prepaid Envelopes (PPSE)" David Collyer

"Dominican Republic Post office Postal Stationery Wrappers" Dr. John Curtis

#### Postal Stationery Notes [BNAPS] November 2016 (Canada)

"Earliest reported Postmark project - KGV Oval Die Envelopes" Bill Walton

"New Brunswick Telephone Private Order Envelopes" Earle Covert

#### The Overprinter - Great Britain Overprint Society (Winter 2016)

"Bechuanaland Double Overprint - QV Registration Envelopes" Tony Stanford

#### L'Entire Postal (July 2016) France

"Un Mouchon Peut en Cacher un Autre" Jean-François Carde

Autriche: WIPA 1933" Jacques Hontebeyrie

"Dates d'Émission des Entires Français de la Seconde Guerre Mondiale" Laurent Bonnefoy

"Anticipation de l'Émission des Premières Cartes-Lettres Officielles du Service Postal Ordinaire de France en Juin 1886" Hervé Barbeln

"Autriche: Quelques 'Beau' Entiers Privés" Jacques Hontebeyrie

### Further Examples of 'Stamp-like' Impressions on Commercial Mail.

**Jean Alexander** received a Christmas card from Royal Mail in an envelope carrying an impression of the contemporary 1st class Christmas stamp (Illustrated at the foot of the previous page).

The Large Letter illustrated below is the first one which I have seen carrying an imprint of a Large Letter Stamp. Do any members have other examples?



### QUERIES & REPLIES

#### Reply:

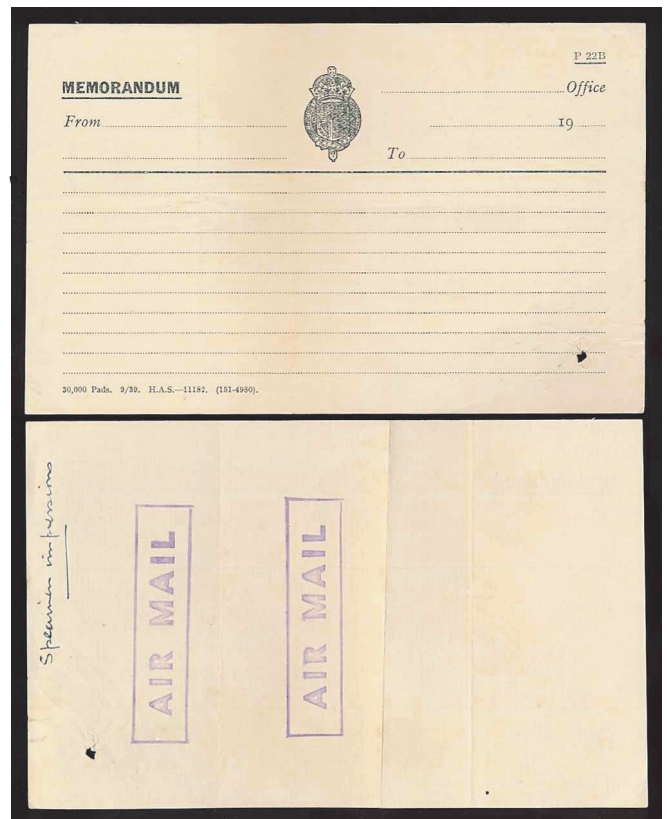
**Maurice Buxton** replies to **Edy Pockele's** query (February 2016) with regards to the envelope illustrated below. Edy asks for someone to shed some light into this campaign and eventually enable him to find out more of the story behind this expedition by GB forces.



Maurice writes “*Edy Pockele's query about his letter to a military force in Natal in 1879 (Feb 2016). This would have been to a member of the reinforcements taking part in the second invasion of Zululand in the Anglo-Zulu War (after the disaster at Isandwana, the defence of Rorke's Drift, and several other battles). See for example [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Zulu\\_War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Zulu_War) and the pages linked from it for more detail. (A quite outstanding and probably very rare item of both postal stationery and postal history, by the way.)*”

**Maurice Buxton** follows up the item reported in GB Postal Stationery News (May 2016) and in the Notes from the Editor's Desk (August 2016) relating to the boxed 'Air Mail' cachet:

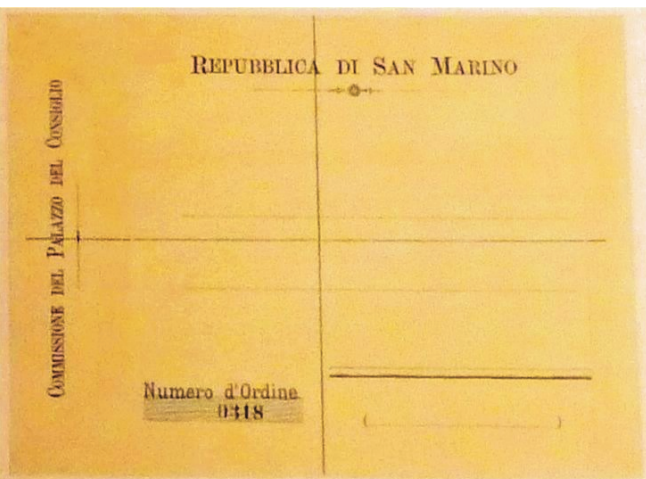
“*The image illustrated to the right, is also of an item for sale on eBay, and is of a Post Office memo form with a couple of strikes on the back and "Specimen impressions" in manuscript. So from this and the earlier information it looks as if the cachet was a Post Office one, although (a) possibly local? and (b) probably not intended specifically for use with postal stationery or the special 3d airmail postcard rate to certain theatres.*”



**Query:**

**Maurice Buxton** writes:

“*The two pictures here (taken from the Interitalia catalogue) are of an elaborate 5 lire San Marino envelope issued in 1894 upon the inauguration of the new Government Palace, and used to send out orders of the stamps and postcard issued on the same occasion. I would like to obtain a used example, but naturally it's a scarce item and not easy to find. So if anyone sees one on offer, I would appreciate being pointed in the right direction!*”  
 If any member can help, please contact Maurice through the Editor.



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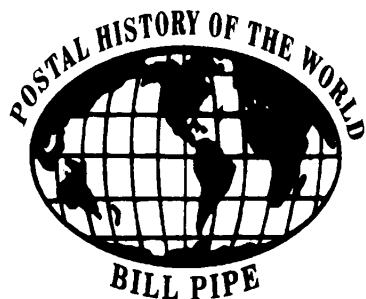
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