



THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

25 YEARS

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

Journal Vol. 25, No.4
(Serial number 84)

November 2017



1879 Coat of Arms



1890 Coat of Arms

Revisiting British India Victorian Post Cards - See page 14

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The Postal Stationery Society (Founded 1992)

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

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The Postal Stationery Society Journal

EDITOR: John H. Barker

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

johnhbarker@btinternet.com

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 7th 2018 at the RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY.

11.00am Chris Howe will give a display of the **Postal Stationery of Belgium**. This display will be followed by the Society's 'One Sheet' Competition.

Lunch will be taken in a nearby restaurant. All members are invited to join in and the cost should be about £17 each, including wine.

The session after lunch will be for members' displays.

The meeting is expected to close by about 4.00pm.

Saturday 9th June 2018 Swinpex, Members Displays. St Joseph's Lower School, Octal Way, Swindon SN3 2LR, 2-4.00pm

Saturday October 6th 2018 at the RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY.

10.30am Viewing of the society's auction lots for the auction to be held in the afternoon.

11.00 am Society's Annual General Meeting.

12.00 Tony Chilton competition judging, followed by the presentation of the Tony Chilton salver.

12.30 pm Lunch in a nearby restaurant. All members are invited to join in and the cost should be about £17 each, including wine.

2.00 pm The society's "live" auction to be conducted by Neil Sargent.

The meeting is expected to close by about 4.00 pm
For full details see the programme card distributed with this issue of the Journal

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 2017

You may remember that the February issue included a somewhat left-field request from me for a used example of the 1894 San Marino 5 lire envelope shown here (Simon Burke happened to have one in stock and a deal was concluded). Why was I looking for this, you may wonder? Well, when I read the following, I realised I had stumbled across an item I really should try to find for my "Philatelic Mail" collection:

"... officials set forth that 'in order that collectors, speculators and merchants shall not make the issue rare or scarce,' they would supply collectors themselves ... This was the first national philatelic agency ... to every customer ordering a hundred dollars' worth, his stamps would be posted in a special five-lire envelope of which only 2,000 copies would be made"

(Alvin Harlow, *Paper Chase – The Amenities of Stamp Collecting*, 1940)



It's a handsome item, with an elaborate multicoloured design on the back constituting the stamp. Italian catalogues added the information that it was issued for the inauguration of the new Government Palace and used to send out the adhesive stamps and postcard issued on the same occasion, that the minimum order was L500, and they describe the 200x115mm stamp as *"still the biggest ever printed in the world"*. I certainly can't argue with that – can anyone think of a larger one? It apparently caused some problems abroad; as it wasn't on the address side and the gold print of the value wasn't clearly visible, it wasn't clear that it was a stamp.

This envelope, sent to Whitfield King in the UK, fortunately avoided that fate. However, it does present a couple of problems of its own. The catalogues give an issue date of 21st October, but the despatch postmark here is clearly the 5th – one to check. The other is probably unresolvable; while the stamp side is much the more striking, the address side is clearly the more significant for my topic!

Maurice Buxton

SECRETARY'S NOTES - NOVEMBER 2017

Minutes of the Meeting & AGM of the Postal Stationery Society 28th October 2017 Held at the Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY

Meeting was opened by the Chairman and members stood in a minutes silence in memory of **Colin Baker**.
Auction lots were set out for early viewing.

Apologies: Edward Caesley, Nick Harrison, Donald Fraser, Peter Wright. Members were advised that **Cyril Saunders** had recently passed away

Present: 16 members and 1 new potential member.

Annual General Meeting

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the AGM and Auction.

Officers Reports:

Chairman: Maurice Buxton considered that we had had a good year and thanked people for their support. He commented how sad it was that we had lost prominent members recently. He advised that **George King** had recently complete a compilation of GB Reply Coupons and members could download a copy of this excellent detailed work from the website of the GBPS – only 180 pages.

Secretary: Neil Sargent, as Temporary Secretary briefly reported on the meeting held at Swinpex with 5 members

present and recommended to the meeting they should try and visit Swinpex. He confirmed that we had an information stand at Midpex which produced a couple of new members and the sale of a few monographs. **John Barker** was thanked for his efforts in erecting and dismantling the stand.

Dates for the meetings in 2019 were advised as being the 7th April and the 19th October 2019. The latter meeting would be in the RPS new premises but there may need to be flexibility in the April meeting depending when the move took place.

Treasurer: Paul Jones presented members with the financial statements [A copy is to be found on page 21 of this Journal] printed on the backs of GB mint airletters – a useful way of using up excess stock!. Income for the year exceeded expenditure and there was no recommendation to increase subscription fees. A £100 donation had been made in memory of **Colin Baker**. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by **Mike Smith** and seconded by **Maurice Buxton** and approved. There was a discussion on the publication funds which would be needed next year for the printing of the new GB catalogue.

Auctioneer: Neil Sargent provided copies of his report together with the table of results for the last 5 years as comparison. It was noted that the total lots sold was steadily declining as was the number of buyers and vendors. It was disappointing given the quality of material offered and the auctions are one of the main benefits of society membership.

Auctioneers Report 2016/2017

	October 2016	Percentage	May 2017	Percentage
Total Lots	586		600	
	228	39%	187	31%
GB Lots	503	86%	544	91%
GB Sold	204	41%	167	31%
Non GB Lots	80	14%	56	9%
Non GB Sold	24	30%	22	39%
No Vendors	12		8	
No Purchasers	44		30	
Total Sales	£5,874		£4,177	

The above shows the results for this season's two auctions. The total sales for both auctions was significantly better than for the previous two auctions -there were some excellent lots entered. The percentage sold is affected by the inclusion of many low value more modern items for which there is a demand but thought to be currently fairly limited. Additionally, the continued repetition of more basic stationery items is producing lower overall sales rates.

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	Oct 2016	May 2017
Total Lots	589	398	637	624	520	512	570	530	586	600
Total Sold	332	260	354	273	255	222	241	212	228	187
% Sold	56%	65%	55%	44%	49%	43%	42%	40%	39%	31%
GB Sold	321	216	309	227	243	184	189	184	204	167
GB % Sold	77%	68%	57%	48%	51%	45%	42%	44%	41%	31%
Buyers	42	36	50	38	45	34	43	35	44	30
Vendors	14	13	19	12	14	10	13	8	12	8
Sales	£4,432	£2,751	£6,900	£3,505	£3,924	£3,022	£3,633	£2,730	£5,874	£4,177

The table on the previous page shows the principal results for the last 5 seasons (10 auctions). It shows that over the last 5 years the percentage sold has fallen steadily from 56% to 31% in May this year. The number of GB lots sold has also fallen from 77% to 31%. 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 38 over the last 3 years which means only about 20% 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 last journal invited people to participate in the auctions and I have tried to offer as much help as possible for members. It is also sad to mention that the demise of members does impact on auction sales.

The main key for the auctions is the overall sales and commission received by the society and the last 2 auctions produced good results. The latest catalogue contains many excellent items but I wait to see if this does convert into actual bids and sales this afternoon!

Journal: John Barker confirmed that he continues to send out four issues of the Journal each year thanks to those members who give their time to produce articles, notes, comments etc. for him to publish. In order to continue doing so, he needs more items for publication. He asked members to see what they could contribute, indicating that whatever it is they are interested in, as regards postal stationery, then other members may well share their interests. As usual, his thanks go to the advertisers who help to keep down the cost of publishing; their support is very much appreciated.

Membership: The membership of the Society at this time is 187 members, 142 members who pay the £18.00 membership fee, 8 non-members and 37 pdf members who pay £12.50. 10 new members with 8 joining via the website. At this time last year, the Society had 179 members which represents a welcome rise in membership. I would like to thank other members of the committee for their assistance during the last year and if required I am willing to continue as Membership Secretary of the Postal Stationery Society.

Librarian: Paul Jones advised he had had 4 enquiries for book loans from non-members. He recommended changing the rules a little so that potential borrowers paid the postage in both directions. **Neil Sargent** suggested that there should be a revised printed list of books and possibly journals held. Although available on the web site he thought a printed list – issued separately or as part of the Journal would increase awareness of books held. There was a lively discussion and the idea was then Proposed by **Neil Sargent**, Seconded by **Adrian Parker** and approved by the meeting.

Webmaster: Jan Kosniowski

As in previous years the society's website continues to be updated with the contents of the PSS Journal and details of forthcoming meetings.

The website continues to be well used. Including visits made by search engines the average has increased from about 400 per week to about 650 per week.

Trying to work out how many of these are real visitors is impossible from the statistics provided by the

webhost. Last year I concluded that 8% of the total were real visitors and at the same time reported that 14% of the total traffic was from mobile devices (the figure recorded by the webhost). That is impossible, the total real visitors had to be over 14%.

This year the figure for mobile devices is 10.3% of the total which is about 70 per week. The figure for visitors using desktops must be very much similar, so this means a total of perhaps as many as 140 visitors per week.

The newspaper wrapper catalogue project has continued to consume a lot of my time. Hopefully this will come to an end soon and allow me to spend more time on the website.

Election of Officers

The Chairman and deputy Chairman had been elected for a 2 year period last year. **Paul Jones** confirmed he would continue as Treasurer. **Neil Sargent** took over the role of secretary on a temporary basis until this meeting. A motion thanking him for stepping into the position was proposed by **Keith Harman** and seconded by **Alan Huggins**. The members voted unanimously that he should continue in that role and Paul re-elected as Treasurer.

Election of Committee Members

These roles are appointed by the Committee and all said they were happy to continue as follows:

Journal Editor	John Barker
Auctioneer	Neil Sargent
ABPS Rep	Mike Smith
Membership	Ed Caesley

Any Other Business:

Alan Huggins advised that he had now obtained all discs etc relating to the new catalogue and hoped that progress could now be made with possible publication towards the end of 2018. **Mike Smith** suggested that a trophy been given in memory of Colin Baker, possibly as an award at London 2020 for a specialised Stationery exhibit. There was a general discussion and the matter was referred to the committee for discussion.

The AGM was then closed and normal meeting continued:

Tony Chilton Trophy

There were 4 one frame exhibits entered for the competition;

George King 'From the Sublime to the Ridiculous' – George's potpourri exhibit contained the 2 sets of Ford Motor Co picture sto cards as well as other expensive and unrecorded items.

John Barker 'German Lettercards 1st Series 1897-1900' – an excellent entry showing the detail of the production of these lettercards in terms of perforation varieties, gumming differences, folding etc.

Keith Hanman 'Bahamas Postal Envelopes 1880 – 1892' comprehensive exhibit of this issue with die proofs, specimens, used envelopes etc

Neil Sargent 'GB KGV Registered Envelopes' – the exhibit showed nearly all the George V envelopes in sizes F & G in mint condition.

Mike Smith undertook the judging and awarded the Tony Chilton Shield to **John Barker** for his German Lettercard exhibit.

Members then retired for a convivial luncheon before returning for the auction.

Auction: The auction commenced at 2pm with 540 lots finishing at 3.40pm. Reasonable sales were achieved with the provisional sales total being £5,500.

The meeting closed around 4.15pm

N A Sargent Secretary



Neil Sargent, assisted by Mike Smith conduct the Society Auction

Calling All GB Reply Coupon Collectors

Maurice Buxton

International Reply Coupons were introduced by the 1906 UPU Congress in Rome, as a solution to the problem of prepaying for the reply to a letter sent abroad – a stamped addressed envelope being no good here, as a stamp of the foreign country would be needed. The sender purchases the coupon in their own country and sends it in the letter, and the recipient can exchange it locally for the necessary stamp. They are accepted in the Postal Stationery class by the relevant FIP Commission.

Quite a number of different types have been used in the subsequent century or so, keenly collected by some and thoroughly obscure to others! There were also separate cheaper Imperial (later Commonwealth) Reply Coupons from 1927-75, which were exchangeable for a stamp that paid the reduced rate to Empire/Commonwealth countries when that was in operation. There are general books listing Reply Coupons, but there has been no specific work concentrating on the ones issued in the UK.

However, **George King** has a collection of these coupons, including many different provisional uprated versions, and has put together a draft listing. In addition, he has gone through the copies of the Post Office Circular and its successor publications in The Postal Museum, and extracted the instructions that were given to postal staff for dealing with reply coupons. I agreed to format the listing for download.

The draft copy (PDF format) can be found at

gbps.org.uk/replycoupondraft

If you download it (please do) you will notice that there are a number of blank spaces for coupons that have been reported elsewhere, or which should exist given the instructions in the Circular, but which George has not yet managed to locate an example of. If you have any of these coupons, this is where you come in! I would like to receive scans of any that will fill in those spaces for the finished version of the listing (or indeed coupons not listed, should there be any – for example unrecorded values or methods of uprating, which was done locally). George would no doubt be interested if they are for sale, too ...

Comments and suggestions are of course invited.

EVOLUTION OF GERMAN VIEW CARDS – THE HITLER HEAD.

John Barker

Spanning a number of issues of the Postal Stationery Society Journal several years ago, I followed the evolution of the ‘view cards’ from the first series issued in 1925 up to the final series featuring the Hindenburg Medallion Head issued in 1941. This series was numbered 183 but contained only 7 cards instead of the usual 9. Cards ‘B4’ & ‘B5’ did not appear.

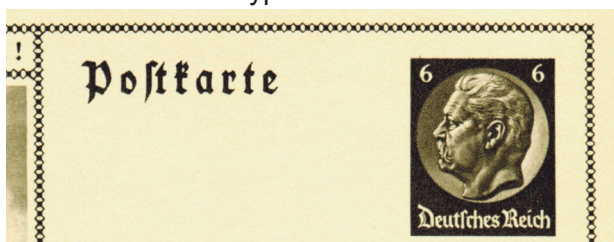
During the war years tourist publicity cards continued to be issued for some time. In August 1941 Series 184 carried the imprint of the 6pf. Hitler Head, the same as was used for the adhesive stamp. Just as with the later issues of the Hindenburg Head view cards, all the printing on the cards was in dark sepia. The other features of the design and layout of the latter issues of the Hindenburg Head view cards were retained.

Prior to 1941 Hitler regarded the heavy (Gothic) typeface known as Fraktur as a “German alphabet”. Fraktur had been widely used since the 1880s for official documents including postal forms. In the Third Reich propaganda publications were produced with this typeface.

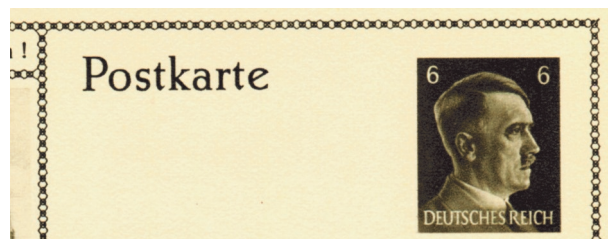


Fraktur Typeface

A Card from Series 183



A Card from Series 184



Antiqua (Latin) Typeface




From this series onwards, all view cards of Germany were issued with the text in the Antiqua typeface.

[The use of Fraktur typeface throughout the whole period from the 1880s up until the 1940s had been very ‘hit and miss’. Both typefaces may be seen to be used on a single stamp and even within a single word! For a detailed commentary on this, readers are referred to an excellent series of four articles by Philip Townshend in ‘Germania’ - the Journal of the German & Colonies Philatelic Society (UK) published between May 2015 & February 2016]

The reason for the change lies in this circular from Martin Bormann.

Translation below:

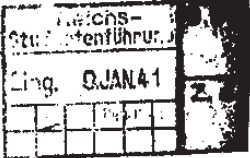


Nationalsozialistische Deutsche Arbeiterpartei

Der Stellvertreter des Führers **München 33, bei
Reichsleiter Amann**

Stabsleiter **s.Zt. Obersalzberg, den 1.3.1941**

Rundschreiben
(Nicht zur Veröffentlichung).



Zu allgemeiner Beachtung teile ich im Auftrage des Führers mit:

Die sogenannte gotische Schrift als eine deutsche Schrift anzusehen oder zu bezeichnen ist falsch. In Wirklichkeit besteht die sogenannte gotische Schrift aus Schwabacher Judenlettern. Genau wie sie sich später in den Besitz der Zeitungen setzten, setzten sich die in Deutschland ansässigen Juden bei Einführung des Buchdrucks in den Besitz der Buchdruckereien und dadurch kam es in Deutschland zur starken Einführung der Schwabacher Judenlettern.

Am heutigen Tage hat der Führer in einer Besprechung mit Herrn Reichsleiter Amann und Herrn Buchdruckereibesitzer Adolf Müller entschieden, dass die Antiqua-Schrift künftig als Normal-Schrift zu bezeichnen sei. Nach und nach sollen sämtliche Druckerzeugnisse auf diese Normal-Schrift umgestellt werden. Sobald dies schulbuchmässig möglich ist, wird in den Dorfschulen und Volksschulen nur mehr die Normal-Schrift gelehrt werden.

Die Verwendung der Schwabacher Judenlettern durch Behörden wird künftig unterbleiben; Ernennungsurkunden für Beamte, Strassenschilder u. dergl. werden künftig nur mehr in Normal-Schrift gefertigt werden.

Im Auftrage des Führers wird Herr Reichsleiter Amann zunächst jene Zeitungen und Zeitschriften, die bereits eine Auslandsverbreitung haben, oder deren Auslandsverbreitung erwünscht ist, auf Normal-Schrift umstellen.

gez. M. Bormann.

National Socialist German Worker's Party

The Deputy of the Führer Munich 33

Chief of Staff currently Obersalzberg, 1.3.1941

Circular
(not for publication)

For general information I communicate the following in the name of the Führer:

To regard and designate the so-called Gothic writing as a German script is wrong. In reality the so-called Gothic writing consists of Schwabacher-Jew Letters. Just as they later possessed themselves of the newspapers, the Jews in Germany appropriated the printing shops upon the invention of printing, wherefrom resulted the intense use of the Schwabacher-Jew Letters.

Today, the Führer decided, in a conference with Reichsleiter Amann and the press owner, Mr. Adolf Müller that the Antiqua-Type is henceforth designated as Standard Type. By and by, all printed materials shall be converted to this type.

As soon as it is possible with regards to school book production, Standard Script will be taught exclusively in rural and elementary schools

All officials will henceforth refrain from using the Schwabacher-Jew Letters; Commissions for officials, street signs, etc. will only be produced in Standard Type.

On the authority of the Führer, Reichsleiter Amann will first convert all those newspapers and magazines to Standard Type, which already have a foreign distribution, or where one is desired.

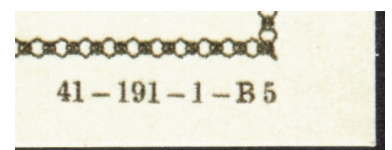
signed: M. Bormann

Considering the context of the circular, it is interesting to note that it is printed on 'old style' headed note paper. (Still in Fraktur!)

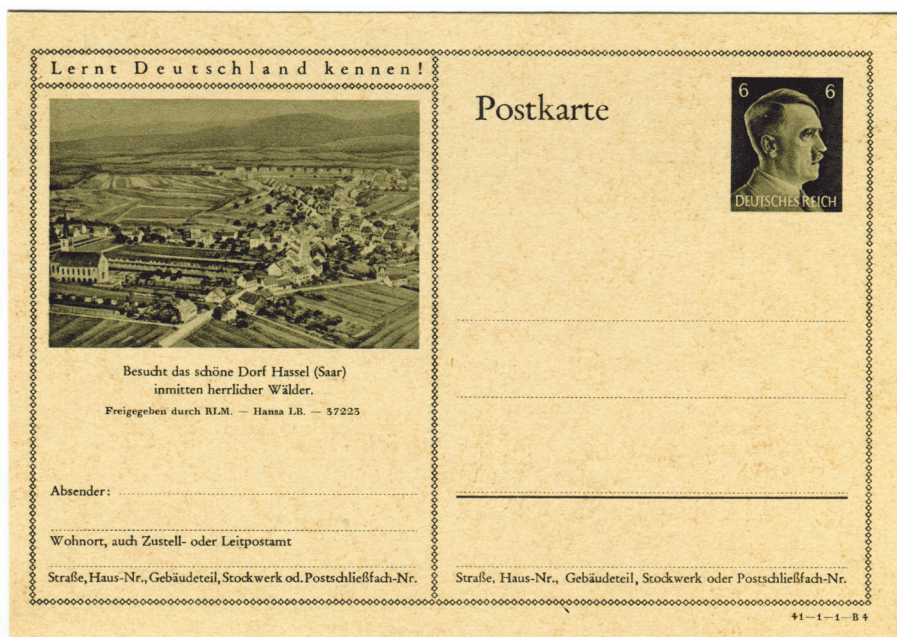
A further 7 series of view cards were produced during 1941, all printed at the State Printing Works, Berlin. As had been the custom, since series 49 issued in 1934, all cards had a reference number printed in the lower right hand corner signifying:

year - series number - printing plate - picture number [B(ild) = Picture]

Eg. **41 - 191 - 1 - 5**



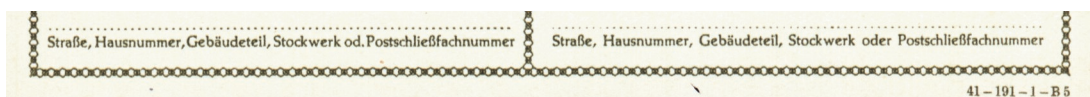
Later on in the year, printing was moved to Vienna and the series numbering started again at '1'. From now on, each series contained 27 cards as opposed to the 9 cards in each of the Berlin printings. However each 'view' appeared on at least three consecutively numbered cards. Another difference can be seen in the quality of the card. The Berlin printings are on relatively smooth, cream card of uniform composition. The Vienna printings are on more coarse card varying from pale buff to dark brown.



A Card from New Series 1

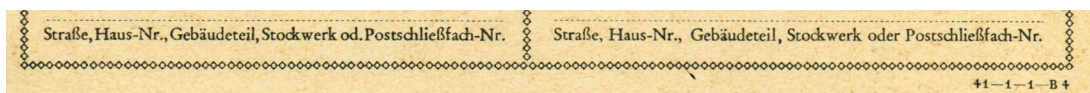
This card from the first series of the Vienna printings (41-1-1-B4) can be seen to be printed on noticeably different card stock from the Berlin printings.

These Vienna printings had one other small difference compared to the previous Berlin printings. The bottom line of text on both sides of the dividing line contains abbreviations for 'Hausnummer' ('Haus-Nr.') and 'Postschließfachnummer' ('Postschließfach-Nr.')



Berlin printing

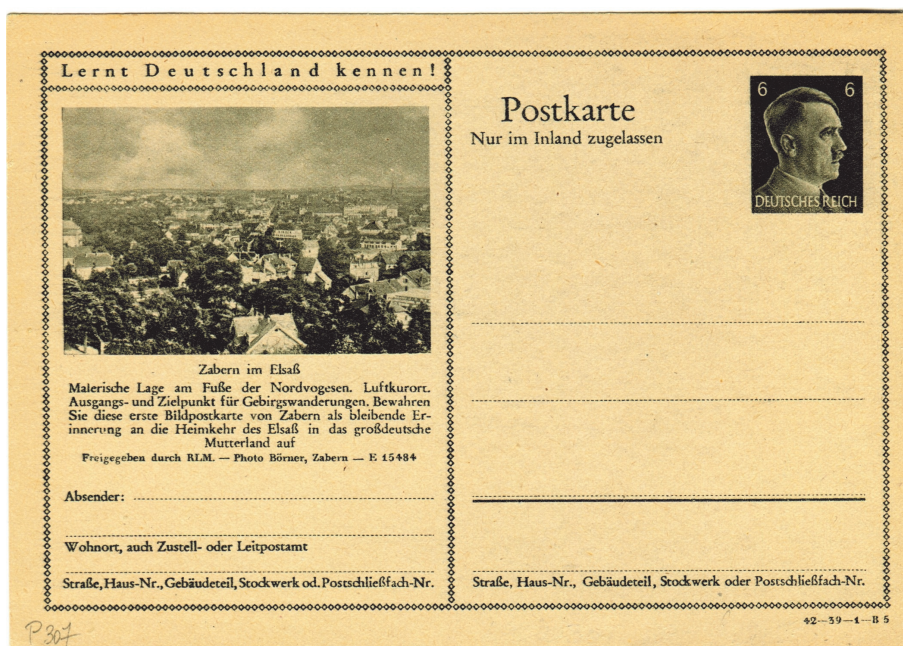
Hausnummer, Postschließfachnummer Hausnummer Postschließfachnummer



Vienna printing

Haus-Nr., Postschließfach-Nr. Haus-Nr., Postschließfach-Nr.

In 1942 the cards were confined to inland use and this was signified by inserting the text 'Nur im Inland zugelassen' beneath the heading 'Postkarte'.









Card 42-39-1-B5 taken from the last series before the end of the war

These cards run from series number 15 to 39.

A large proportion of the cards from series 27 and 32 were destroyed by enemy action.

The number of different cards issued (including variations in the printer's reference numbers) for each stamp design are:

Imprinted Stamp	Date	Michel* Numbers	Number of cards
	1925	P 205	6
	1925	P 164	26
	1926	P 174	10
	1927	P 178	27
	1928 - 1933	P 185 188 189 191 192 201 202	242
		Series No.	
	1933 - 1941	P 221 231 232 233 236 238	49 - 52 53 - 183 1485
	1941 - 1942	P 304 305 307	184 - 191 1 - 14 15 - 39
			TOTAL
			<u>1098</u> 2894

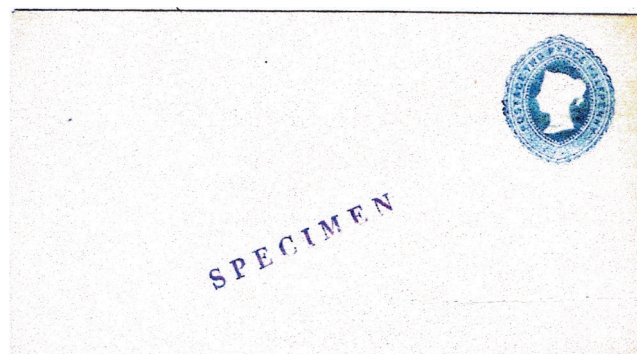
* Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog Deutschland

GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

NEW ITEMS REPORTED

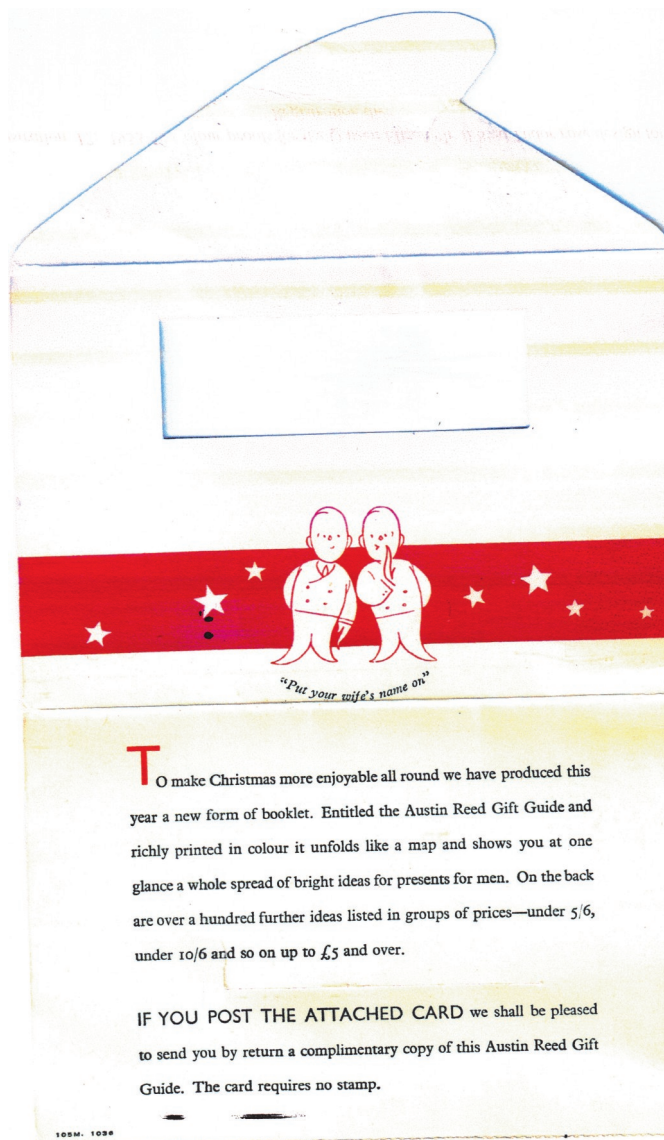
Envelopes - Post Office Issues The example of the QV 2 envelopes (EP34) illustrated has a violet serif capital 'SPECIMEN' overprint which I have not seen before and was in the collection of **Iain Stevenson**. Its provenance is unknown, has anyone seen another example of this overprint on this or other items?



Envelopes - Official Issues **George King** has reported a larger size of the QEII Official envelope with octagonal Machin NVI E3b on buff paper. This envelope which measures 229 x 372mm and has two clear phosphor bands will be allocated the number **E072**.

Postcards - Stamped to Order Issues

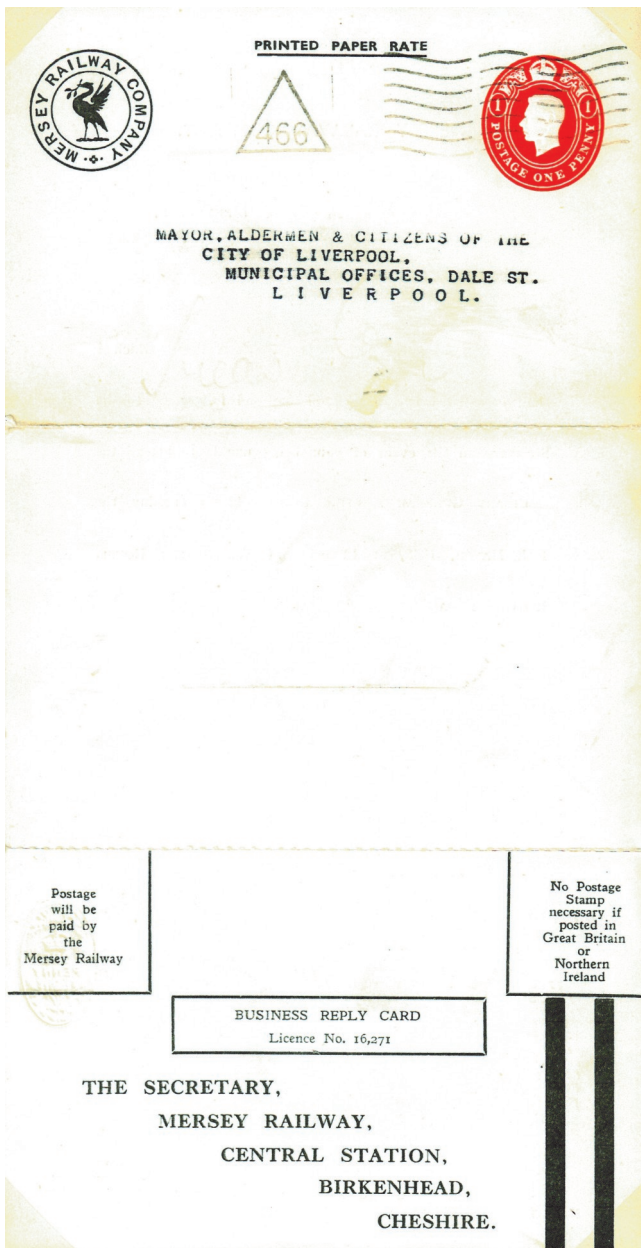
Two items of a somewhat similar nature are illustrated. In essence they are forms of reply-paid card which incorporate a combined postal stationery outward half and a 'Business reply card'. The first is a variant of 1/2d KGV card (CS63) made up in folded 'letter sheet' format' with ('Business Reply' half?) missing produced for Austin Reed.



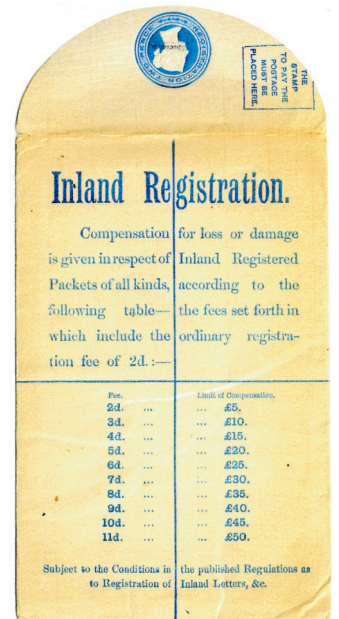
TO make Christmas more enjoyable all round we have produced this year a new form of booklet. Entitled the Austin Reed Gift Guide and richly printed in colour it unfolds like a map and shows you at one glance a whole spread of bright ideas for presents for men. On the back are over a hundred further ideas listed in groups of prices—under 5/6, under 10/6 and so on up to £5 and over.

IF YOU POST THE ATTACHED CARD we shall be pleased to send you by return a complimentary copy of this Austin Reed Gift Guide. The card requires no stamp.

The second item is a KGVI 1d embossed folded postcard produced for the Mersey Railway Company which is complete with the Business Reply Card attached and is variant of CS98.



has anyone seen another example of this overprint on this or other items ?



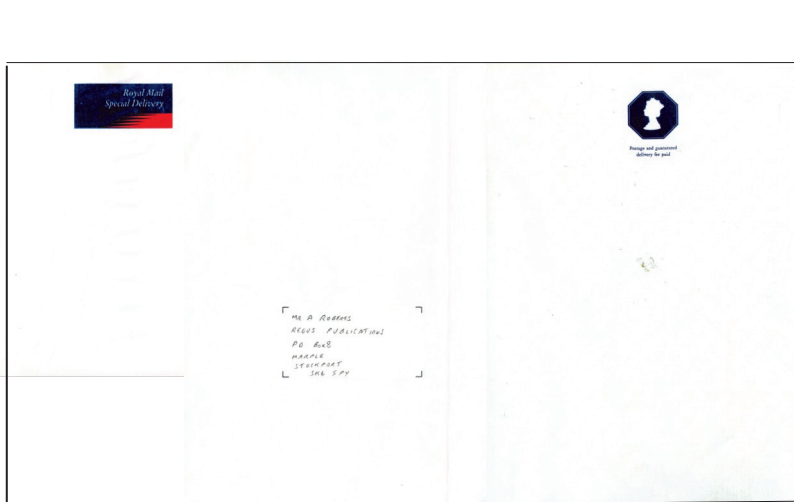
Letter Cards - Stamped to Order Issues The Richard & Constance KEVII STO letter card (LCS2) illustrated appears not to have been recorded before (Courtesy **George King**)



Registration Envelopes The small capital & lower case (10.00 x 1.75/1.00mm.) sloping italic 'Specimen' overprint on the QV 2d registration envelope (RP20G) illustrated is new to me. Its provenance is unknown,

Special Delivery Envelopes - Stamped to Order? The following plastic item (see illustration), which is very similar to the Post Office Special Delivery envelopes listed as EPD1 and EPD2, appears to be adapted for specific use by MBO RCF of Basildon, Essex. The overall size is 300 x 415mm and the octagonal dark blue Machin stamp which measures 27 x 27mm, is within a rectangular frame over the text 'Postage and fee paid up to 1000g'. It is unclear at present whether this should be classified as a STO or previously unknown Post Office product.

A second even larger plastic item has a dark blue octagonal Machin NVI measuring 38 x 37mm with the text 'Postage and guaranteed delivery fee paid' below and a 'Royal Mail/Special Delivery' logo at top left, but is otherwise without printed text. The reverse is blank except for a printed Royal Mail bar code panel with instruction 'Affix the label here' (see illustration). Both these items are addressed to Arthur Roberts and emanated from Royal Mail and appear to have been created for their own use.



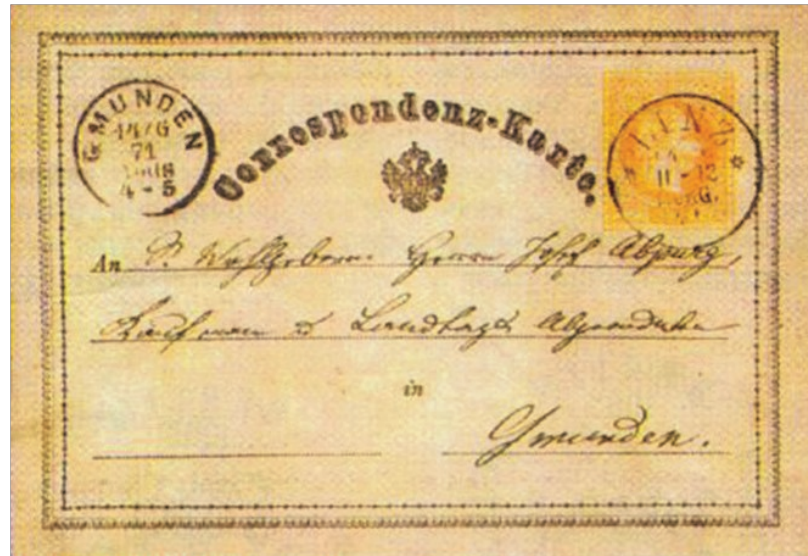
The back of the envelope is blank except for 'Affix the label here'

REVISITING BRITISH INDIA VICTORIAN POST CARDS

Col Jayanta Dutta & Dr Anjali Dutta

Introduction

Dr. Emanuel Hermann of Vienna (an economics professor), proposed the postcard, which greatly impressed the Austrian Post Office. On October 1, 1869, the world's first government postal card was born. Austria sold these postal cards, with imprinted stamp, that were called Correspondenz Karte. During the first three months after being issued, nearly 3 million cards were sold.



Dr. Emanuel Hermann and the world's first post card

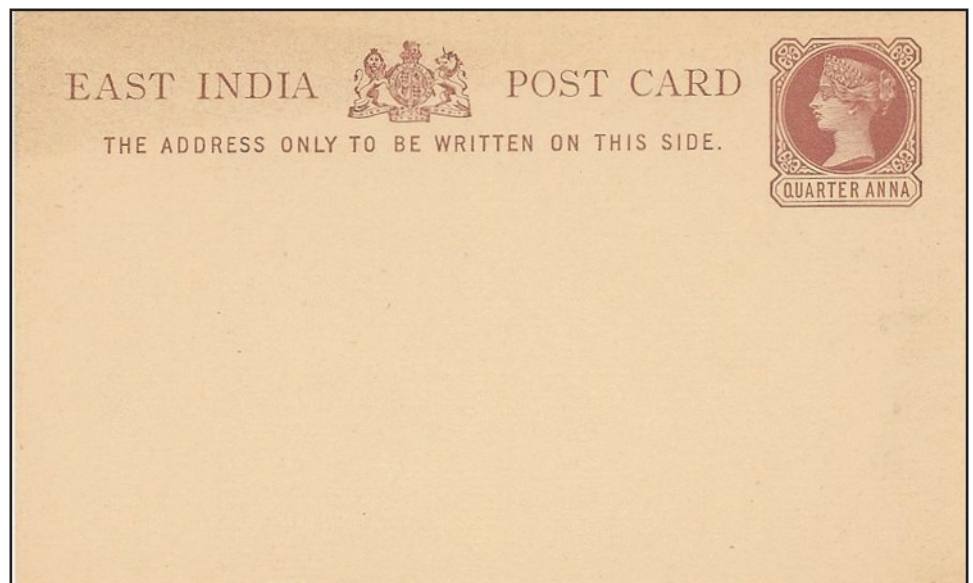
Though Austria became the first country to publish the postcard, it not the first to conceive of the idea. A few years earlier, German postal official Dr. Heinrich von Stephan submitted a proposal for such an object, which was then fiercely debated and not executed in North Germany until July 1870, a year after Austria introduced the postcard to their country. Many other countries in Europe and Canada introduced official postal cards between 1871 and 1873. The United States postal service embraced the postal card on 8 June 1872. However, it wasn't until an agreement was reached at the first Postal Congress that postal cards were allowed to be sent internationally, which took effect 1 July 1875.

The quarter-anna post card was introduced for the first time by the Indian Post Office on 1 July 1879. This was meant to provide postage from one place to another within British India. This was the cheapest form of post provided to the Indian people to date and proved a huge success.

All Indian domestic and foreign use post cards were designed and printed by De la Rue & Co, London. Detailed description is avoided as they are all illustrated.

1 July 1879 Issue

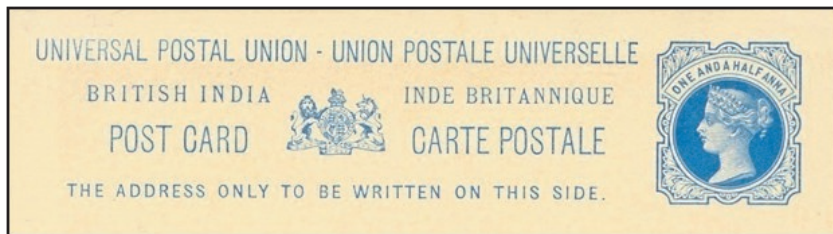
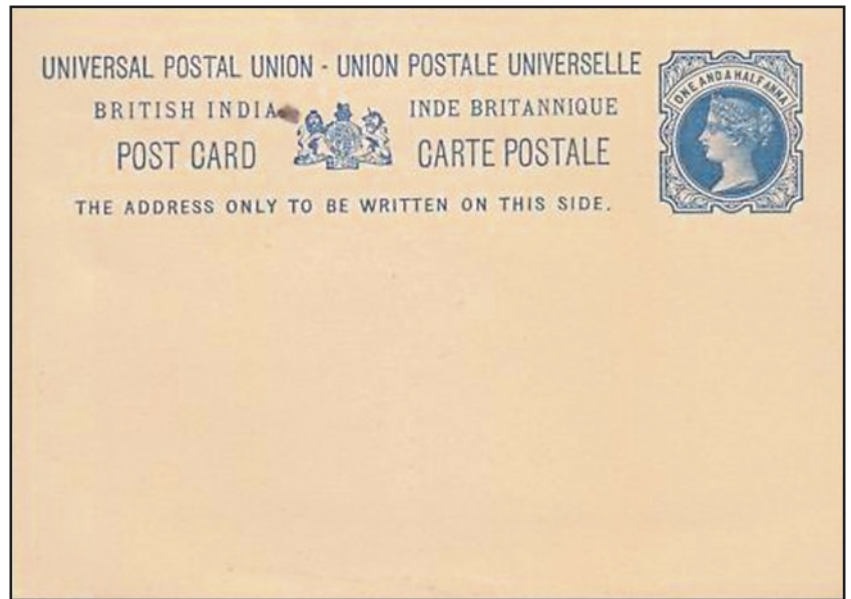
Quarter-anna post card was for domestic use and the 1½ anna post card (PC) was for foreign use. The ¼ anna PC was red-brown on buff/straw, of size 124 x 87 mm, while 1½ annas PC was blue on buff/cream, of size 122 x 87 mm. The tips of the tails of the lion and unicorn in coat-of-arms are straight down.



¼ anna postcard



1½ anna postcard



1 Feb 1884 Issue

These were same as previous issue but reply paid cards with facility for tearing at the top perforated 7, ¼+¼ anna PC was red-brown on buff/straw of size 122 x 87 mm and 1½ annas PC was blue on buff/cream of size 122 x 87 mm.



Outward portion

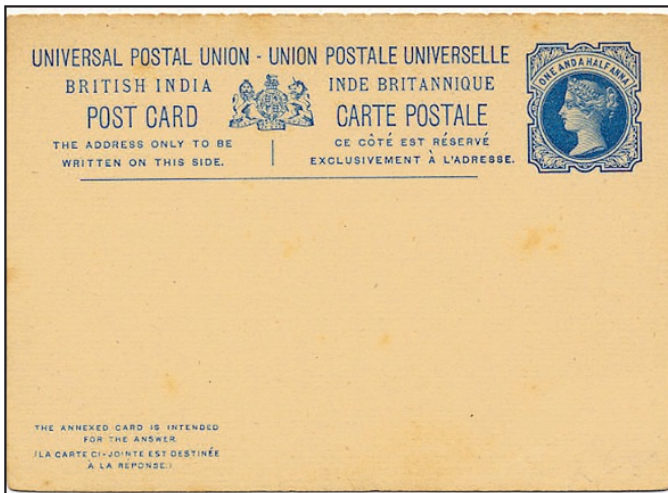


Reply portion

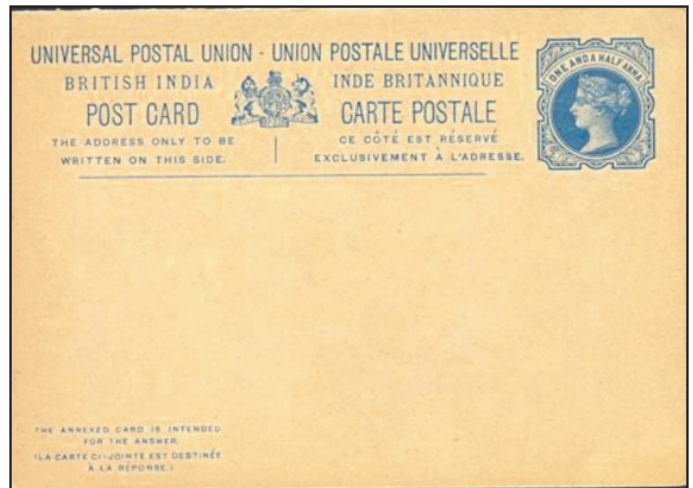
¼+¼ anna



1½ annas blue reply pair perf 7 overprinted SPECIMEN in red



1 Feb 1884 Issue



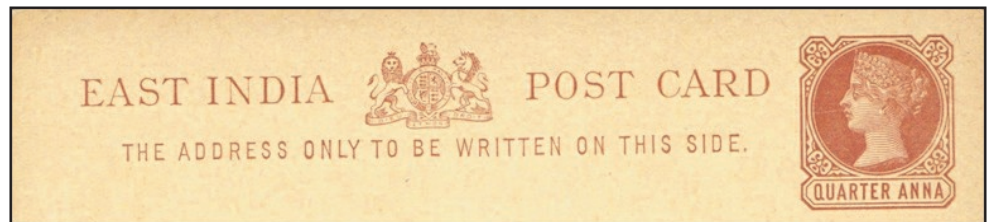
1884-91 Issue

The same as previous issue but with no perforation at top

1890-92 Issue

Similar to 1879 issue but with new coat of arms which is a little larger, with tip of the tail of lion is at an angle of 45 degrees. The ¼ anna PC was red-brown on buff/straw of size 124 x 87 mm, while the 1½ annas PC was blue on buff/cream, of size 122 x 87 mm. The ¼ + ¼ anna red brown on buff but with no perforation, were also 121 x 74 mm.

Single card



Outward portion



Reply portion



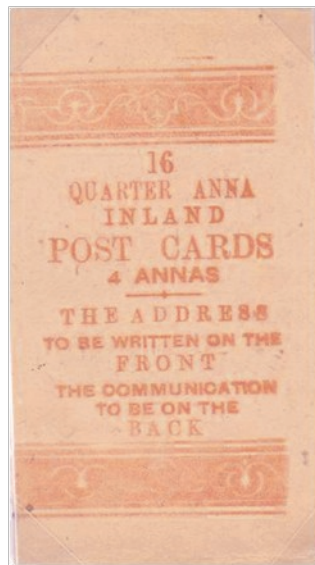
1879 Coat of Arms



1890 Coat of Arms



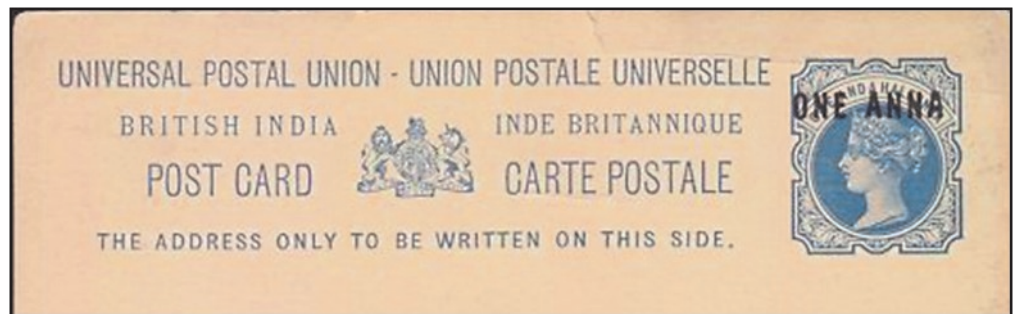
Wrapper for 1/4 anna post cards



1 Jan 1892 Issue

With the reduction of foreign postal rates from 1½ annas to one anna the previous issues, namely the single PC and the reply pair PC, both the perforated as well as the one without perforation, were surcharged ONE ANNA in black which were 3 mm in height and 18 mm in length.

Single postcard



Outward bound of reply pair postcard

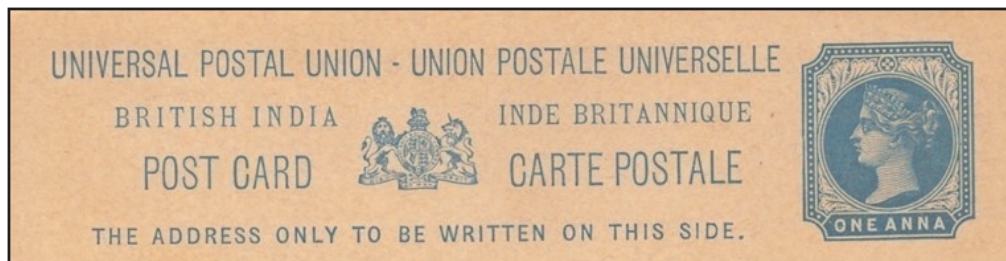


Reply pair postcard



1894 Issue

The new design of the imprinted stamp in octagonal frame with the value one anna in block capitals at the bottom of the stamp. Seen on buff cards with size 122 x 87 mm.



1899-1900 Issue

EAST was removed from heading of inland card, which now read INDIA POST CARD. The ¼ anna red-brown on buff single cards of size 121 x 74 mm and ¼ + ¼ anna red-brown on buff reply pair of size 121 x 74 mm.



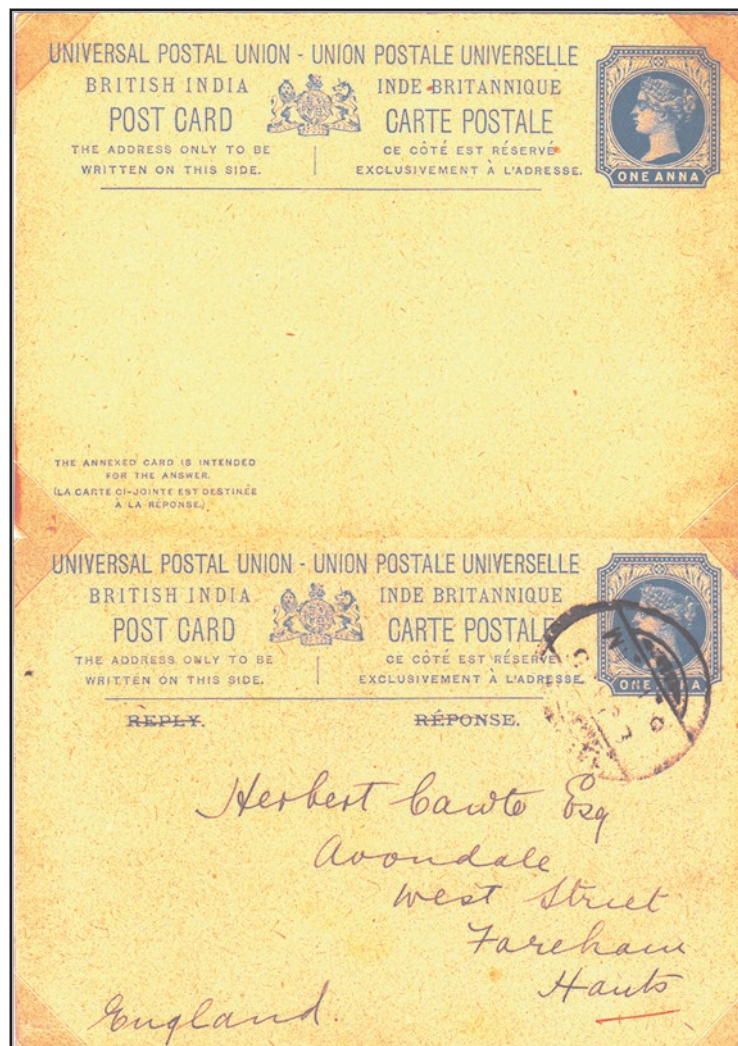
¼ anna red brown on buff single card



¼ anna red-brown reply pair

9 Aug 1902 Issue

This was issued during the reign of King Edward VII. These were the 1+1 anna blue on buff card with size 122 x 87 mm similar to the 1894 issue.



1 anna blue reply pair

The second part of this article to be published in the February 2018 issue of the Journal will cover Service postcards.

Ford Photocard: another version reported

Adrian Parker has sent in a scan of a card with the 'Discharging Slag' photo but with a slightly different back to the one illustrated in the article by **George King** in the August 2017 issue of the Journal

The differences, shown below, involve the length of the heading "POST CARD" and the characters preceding and following the line of text the centre of the card.

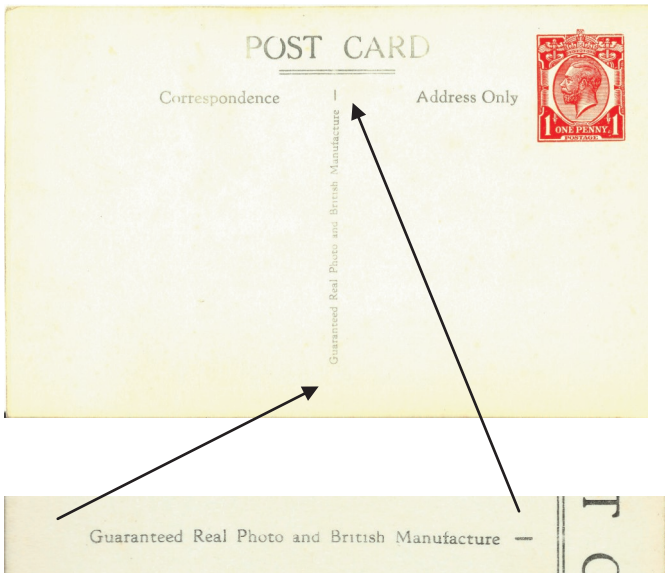


Card reported by Adrian Parker

POST CARD = 40 mm.

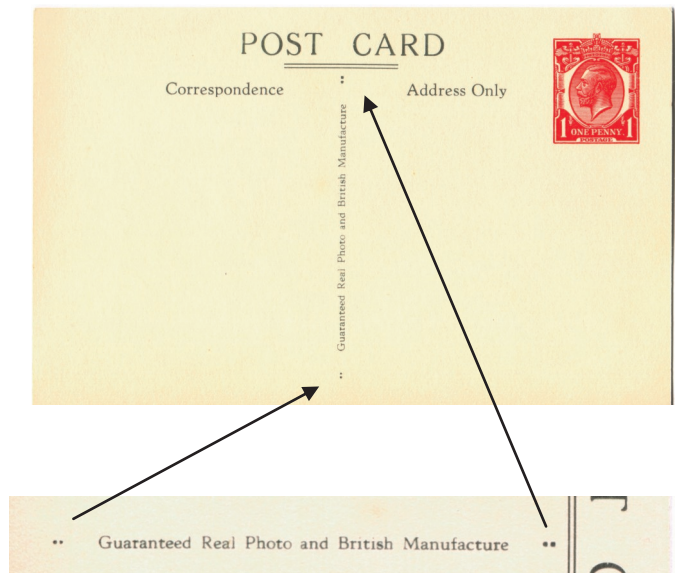
Card reported by George King

POST CARD = 44 mm.



No character

Dash



Two dots

Two dots

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2018 ARE NOW DUE

Subscriptions for 2018 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.

Postal Stationery Society Accounts: year end 31st August 2017

Cash Assets		2016-17	2015-16	INCOME	2016-17	2015-16
Bank – Current Account		£4,920.65	£4,882.19	Subscriptions	£3453.04	£3,444.27
Bank- Publication Fund		£6,796.75	£6,709.04	Auctions (October & May)	£829.33	£697.40
Cash in Hand		£0.00	£0.00	Advertising	£480.00	£640.00
Editorial Float		£110.50	£100.00	Publications	£447.97	£1,714.36
Paypal Account		£2,492.78	£183.03	Bank Interest	£4.96	£7.67
Uncleared cheques		£129.50	£0.00	Donations & Misc.	£25.00	£0.00
Cash Balance		£14,320.68	£11,874.26	TOTAL INCOME	£5,369.80	£6,503.70
Liabilities	Members	£127.50	£237.50	EXPENDITURE		
Auctions		£71.75	£159.25	Journal	£1,549.22	£2,059.65
Journal-Aug		£568.34	£0.00	Room Hire	£851.80	£808.50
				ABPS Subscription	£163.75	£172.50
				Donations & Misc.	£141.61	£79.98
				Liabilities paid	£217.00	
Cash : Nett worth		£13,536.09	£11,477.51	Total Expenditure	£2,923.38	£3,120.63
Postage Float		£267.29	£364.08	Postage stamps used	£96.79	£705.43
Sum : Nett cash & Postage		£13,803.38	£11,841.59			

The opening (1st Sept 2016) and closing (31st Aug 2017) balances of the two bank accounts and Paypal account have been verified by John Fowler.

The Accounts are available for inspection at the Annual General Meeting.

Paul Jones

Hon Treasurer PSS October 2017

Share your interest with other members!

I am always pleased to receive article, notes, comments etc on any aspect of postal stationery collecting or on any individual item of postal stationery.

*Please send copy for the February issue of the Journal to reach the Editor by
Tuesday 2nd January 2018*

The Editor's Contact details can be found on Page 2 of this issue of the Journal.

John Barker

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Recent Articles from the Philatelic Press

Gibbons Stamp Monthly August 2017

“2016 Foreign Postal Stationery Portugal - Vatican City”
Geir Sør-Reime
“Postal Stationery Matters” Peter van Gelder

Postal Stationery September - October 2017 (USA)

“Census Updates of US Postal Cards Showing New York Exchange Office Postmarks Until 1879” Alex Gundel
“Postal and Lettercard Issue Dates” Wayne Menuz
“Postal Card Origins” Lary Parks

Postal Stationery Collector August 2017 (Australia)

“Queensland 1904 1d Reply Card” Bernie Beston
“Australian War Memorial Acknowledgement of Order Postal card” David Colyer
“The Card Stock for Ecuador Second Issue 1884 Postal Cards” Bernie Beston
“ -- Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers with Extremely low Appearances” John Courtis

Postal Stationery Collector November 2017 (Australia)

“APO Mailing Course Information Kit Postal Stationery” Mark Diserio & John Sinfield
“Knowledge & Research” Bernie Beston
“Emoji Postal Stationery & Other Recent Swiss Postal Stationery” Gloria Bradley
“Mutilated Addressee Details on Post Office Newspaper Wrappers” Dr. John Courtis
Listing of Non-Denominated Postal Stationery

Postal Stationery Notes [BNAPS] August 2017 (Canada)

“More postage-prepaid cards from Canada Post”
“The printings of the King George VI Canadian National Express flimsy forms” Robert Lemire
“New PCF (Postcard Factory) Views (Die III) Robert Lemire
“More Canadian Pacific Railway Company proxy return envelopes”

The Overprinter - Great Britain Overprint Society (Autumn 2017)

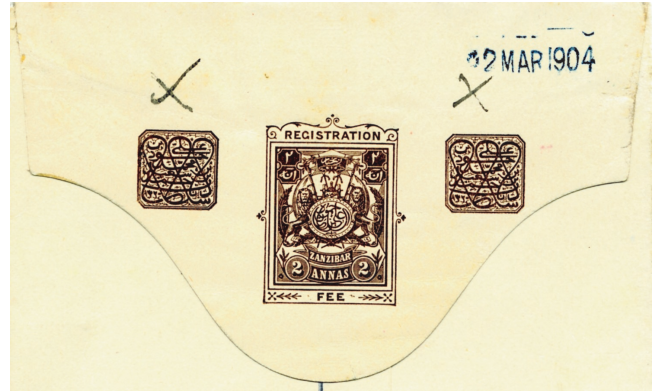
“Bahrain 30np airletter diagonal overprint” John Gledhill
“Eritrea and Palestine postal orders (The Overprinter, 2017/2 p.60-61)”

Queries & Replies

Victoria Archard writes:

“I purchased a Zanzibar registered envelope but I am struggling to remember where I have seen it before. It is from the 1904 Sultan Ali bin Hamoud issue which features his monogram (rather than his portrait as he was a minor). It is the large J envelope (**H&G4a**), mint and folded (unfortunately) but the query is about what is on the flap.

You will see from the attached scan that it has a handstamped date reading “?2MAR1904” and also has 2 manuscript crosses by the ‘tablets’ on each side of the indicium. I looked up my notes from the NPM and the invoice in the DLR Day book is dated 24 March 1904 so this looks as if it may have originated from the DLR or



Crown Agents records. I feel I have seen this cover before - or others very like it with these crosses but have no idea where - and what they may signify. My first thought was that the tablets had been rejected and would have been re-engraved but they look very similar to the issued item - but I can't check every twiddle!!

Any comments members can come up with or suggestions where to ask will be gratefully received. I feel this is a postal stationery query and not a Zanzibar query, as such. I think the handstamp will be recognised by those who own lots of this type of item.

If members can offer any help on this matter, please contact the editor [contact details on p2] Any suggestions will be gratefully received.

Reports:

Ebay:

This New Zealand ‘Austin Walsh & Co.’ card. Sold recently on ebay for ± £117



GROSVENOR

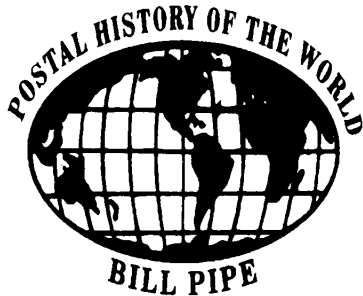
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Specialised items and collections of postal stationery feature regularly in our popular London auctions and our carefully crafted catalogues are enjoyed by collectors around the world. Each sale is available to view, fully illustrated, on our website, www.grosvenorauctions.com, together with advice on attendance and bidding options, including live participation online.

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4 issues of the PSS Journal in full colour: articles, news, features, updates. Write to the Editor with suggestions; contribute your own article or a short piece on some interesting item, send in your queries, advertise items for sale or let other members know what you are looking to buy.

Back copies most issues of the Journal are available from the Editor (Contact details on P2):

Up to No. 54 - May 2010 (b/w)	£1.00
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