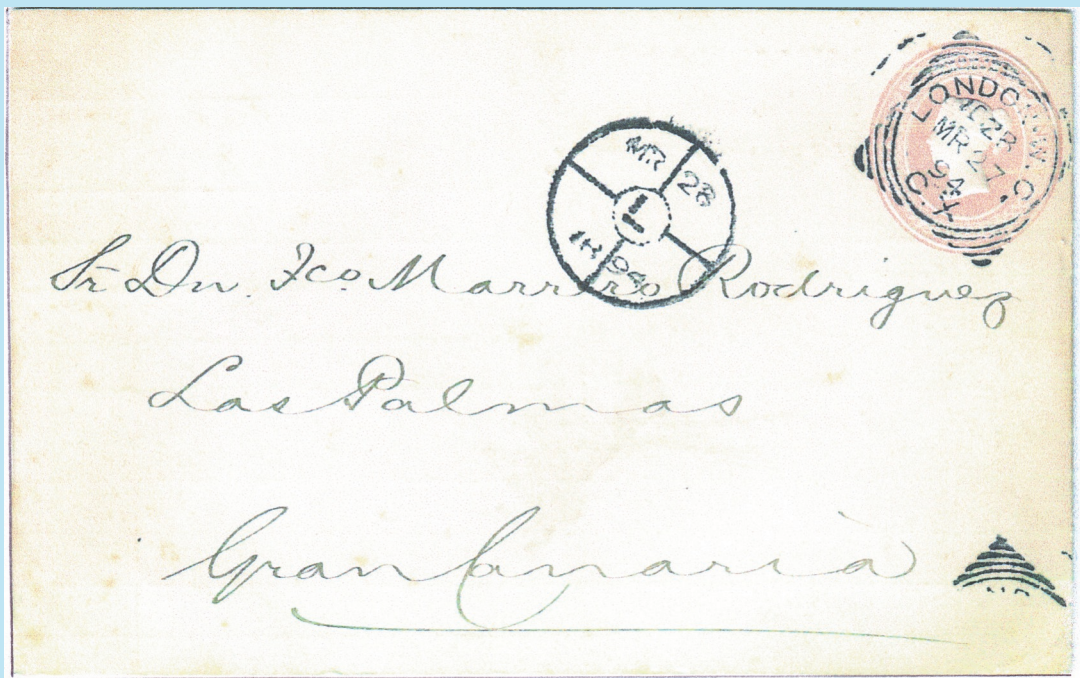




THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY

Journal Vol. 26, No.1
(Serial number 85)

February 2018



'Confirmation of the actual existence of CS9' - See page 13

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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

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

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Society Calendar

Saturday April 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, (Please see the August issue of the Journal for details of the address)

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

Auctions

Your copy of the **April Auction Catalogue** should be enclosed with this issue of the Journal. As usual there are some interesting lots, don't miss out, send your bids to the Auctioneer early. Bidding for the April Auction close at 5.00pm on **FRIDAY 27th APRIL 2018**

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

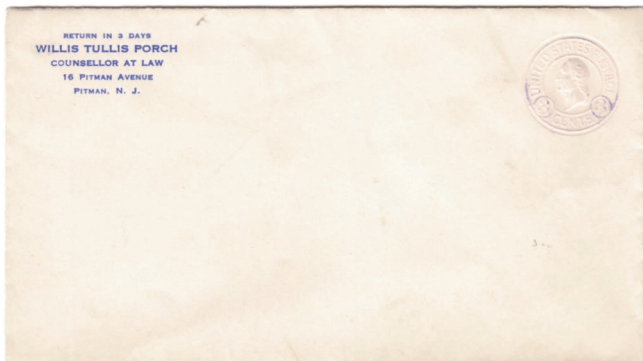
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2018 WERE DUE ON 1ST JANUARY 2018

If you have not renewed your subscription, please see the subscription renewal form enclosed with the November 2017 issue of the Journal.

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - FEBRUARY 2018

When looking for a topic for the introductory page of this journal, one that sets a suitable tone (i.e. once you get past this, things are bound to improve), I came across the small batch of US error items illustrated. To borrow Alan Huggins's phrase, it looks as if Murphy & Co held the stationery contracts here too, as they illustrate the principle "if something can go wrong, it will".

The first example is a 3c envelope with only traces of the violet ink in use. The embossing is correct, though, so this looks to be a simple case of under-inking – most likely somebody forgot to re-ink the die after the previous stamping, creating a "dry print".



This sort of thing can happen with adhesives too, of course, but postal stationery lets you go beyond that into new and ingenious ways of getting things wrong. Production of the envelope shown in the next two pictures started promisingly with the 2c die correctly inked, but unfortunately it was struck on the wrong side of the envelope blank. So once that was folded, it appeared on the inside.

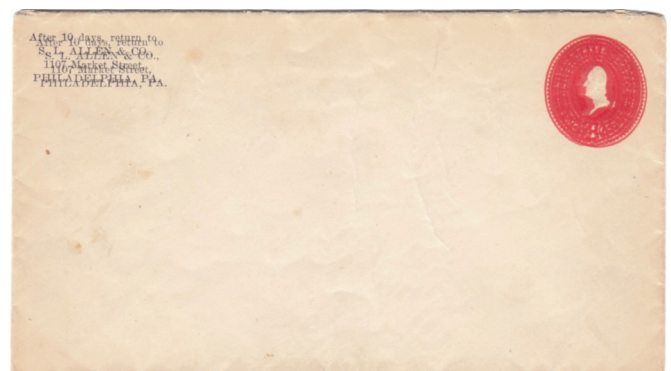


From the outside, all you can see is what appears to be a reversed blank die. That doesn't show all that well, so this scan has been suitably adjusted (lowered brightness, enhanced contrast) to make it clearer. The inside is shown as a photo taken with the envelope held open, since a scan would have required dismantling it first and that didn't seem to be an especially good idea.



Finally, this rather odd double print is a bit of a puzzle (well, it is to me, anyway). Both the 2c red embossed die *and* the black letterpress "corner card" are doubled, suggesting that either (1) they were printed together, or (2) the same printed envelope blank got stuck in the press during two separate printings. (2) seems unlikely, but (1) would be quite a sophisticated setup.

Inside the envelope is another, unprinted, envelope with what looks like a single blank embossing. It's not easy to tell, as the inner envelope seems to be glued in, suggesting that it got caught up like that when the blank was folded and sealed, which would fit with (1). I believe that the USPO contractors for the stamps on private order stationery sometimes or often did the private printing too – can anyone fill in the details of how they worked?



Maurice Buxton

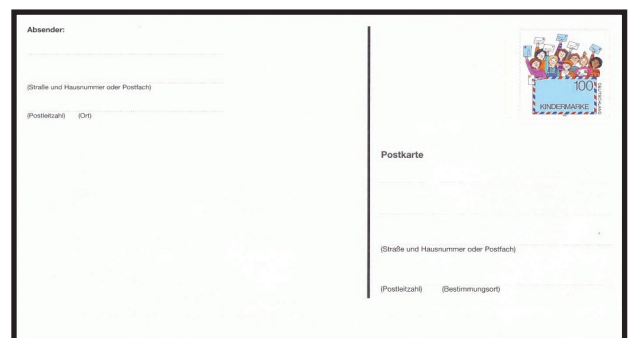
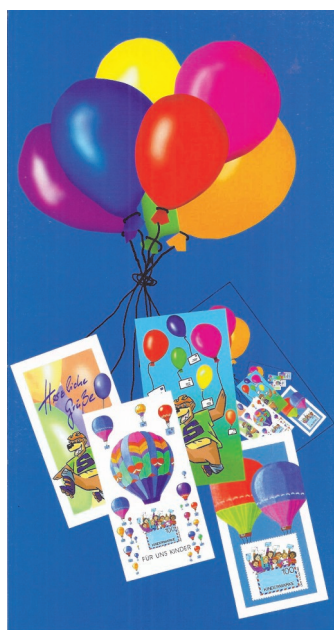
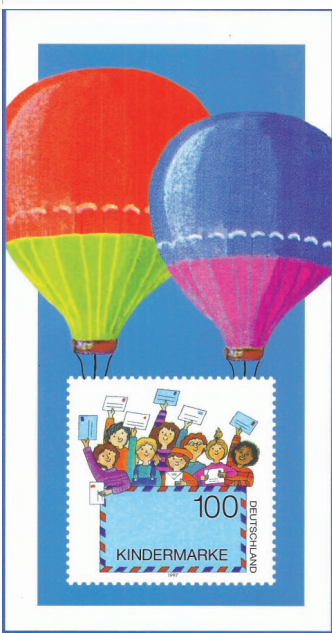
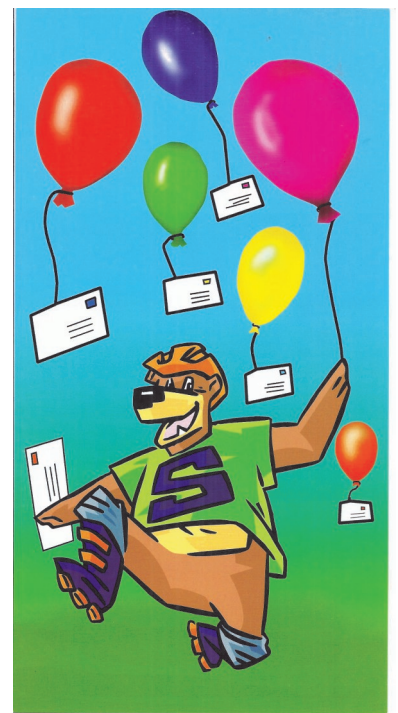
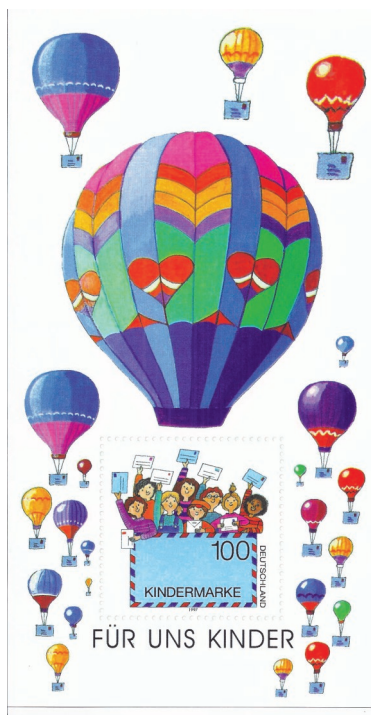
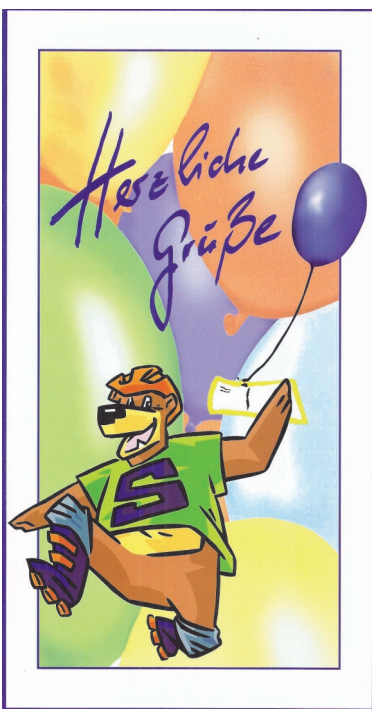
GERMAN OVERSIZE "KINDER" STATIONERY CARDS

Neil Sargent

On August bank holiday this year, I ventured a trip Holland with a friend for a few days to visit the 'Hertogpost' Hertogenbosch 2017 stamp fair. Not the most successful outing in terms of wonderful stationery purchased but I did buy a set of these Kinder cards which I thought were quite interesting and I hadn't seen before. They comprise a set of 5 oversize cards measuring 9¼ x 5¾ inches and are printed in full colour.

I believe they were issued during 1997 in conjunction with a miniature sheet entitled 'For Us Children'!

The cards are attractively designed presumably with an eye to appealing to children. 2 of the cards bear impressions of the stamp on the front while the backs of the cards have the 100pf stamp impression and lines for the senders' and recipient's addresses.



Colourful and different but wonder if any actually got used for genuine postal purposes by children; can't knock them for trying!!

THE EXPERIMENTAL GB CERTIFICATES OF POSTING, 1877-82

Maurice Buxton

The section for “Certificates of Posting” in *Collect British Postal Stationery* is one of the shortest in the book. Four experimental Victorian Post Office types are listed in a period of as many years, but that’s the lot until a handful of philatelic stamped to order certificates in the 1970s.

The question of the precise dates of the Victorian experiments was raised recently in the online Mulready group¹, in connection with the relevant page of the GBPS postal rates site that I maintain². Since I’d never been sure and had simply followed the cautious notes in the catalogue, I tried the online Postal Museum archive search to see what that might produce, and struck gold. A report prepared in 1911,³ when the matter was again under consideration, contains such details of the earlier experiments as could be found at the time. As that included information that seems not to have been previously published, an article seemed indicated.

Forerunner Proposals

Certificates of posting show that a letter with a particular address was posted at a particular office on a particular date. The types under discussion here were intended for ordinary unregistered letters, treated henceforth as if posted in the usual way and receiving no further special handling. All the counter clerk had to do was check the addresses matched, stamp the receipt, and hand it back.

Suggestions for letter “receipts” first arose in connection with registration, however. An ad hoc system of registering “Money Letters” free of charge (no receipts were given) was abandoned when the Penny Post began in 1840, due to concerns over excessive workload – as was a previously planned replacement system of registration of any letter for a fee, with a receipt included. Rowland Hill took up the subject that year and proposed receipts for ordinary letters as “the best substitute for registration which appeared to me at that time to have any chance of being reduced to practice”⁴. This proposal was not followed, and registration was eventually introduced on 6th January 1841 at an initial fee of 1s, using the receipts prepared for 1839.

Legal authorisation for receipts in general was given in the Post Office (Duties) Act 1847 (10 & 11 Vict c.85):

VIII. And be it enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Postmaster General (if he shall think fit) to direct, that in case a Receipt for any Letters brought to the Post Office to be forwarded by the Post shall be required, a printed or written Receipt shall be given for the same, in such Form as the Postmaster General shall appoint, at the Expence of the Person requiring the same; and the Charge for such Receipt shall be fixed at such Amount, and shall be collected or paid at such Time and in such Manner, whether in Stamps or in Money, as the Postmaster General, with the Consent of the Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, shall from Time to Time direct; and the Letters for which such Receipts may be required shall be delivered to the Post Office, and shall also be delivered by the Post Office, under and subject to all such Regulations in every respect as the Postmaster General shall from Time to Time appoint; but the giving of such Receipts shall not render the Postmaster General or any Officer of the Post Office or the Post Office Revenue liable for the Loss of any such Letters or the Contents thereof.

Hill continued to press for improvements in letter security when he returned to the Post Office, and in 1847 again proposed the use of receipts for unregistered letters, along with a reduction in the registration fee. While the latter was agreed (at 6d), the idea of receipts did not find favour among the other officers of the Department, and there the matter rested. Hill referred to the concept once more in a minute of 25th June 1857, but does not appear to have raised it again before his retirement in 1864.

The main postal stationery point of interest in Hill’s 1847 proposal is that he clearly envisaged the use of pre-stamped receipts: “I propose that the charge for such receipt should be a halfpenny, and that as a means of collecting the same, it should be required that the copy of the superscription should be made on a printed form, to be provided by the Stamp Office, and to be in effect a stamp as a security against counterfeit; the same to be sold to the public either singly or in books, as may be required.” He included a sketch (illustrated top of next page), with the note: “To be surrounded by an ornamental border, constituting the Stamp, and stating the price to be a halfpenny”⁵.

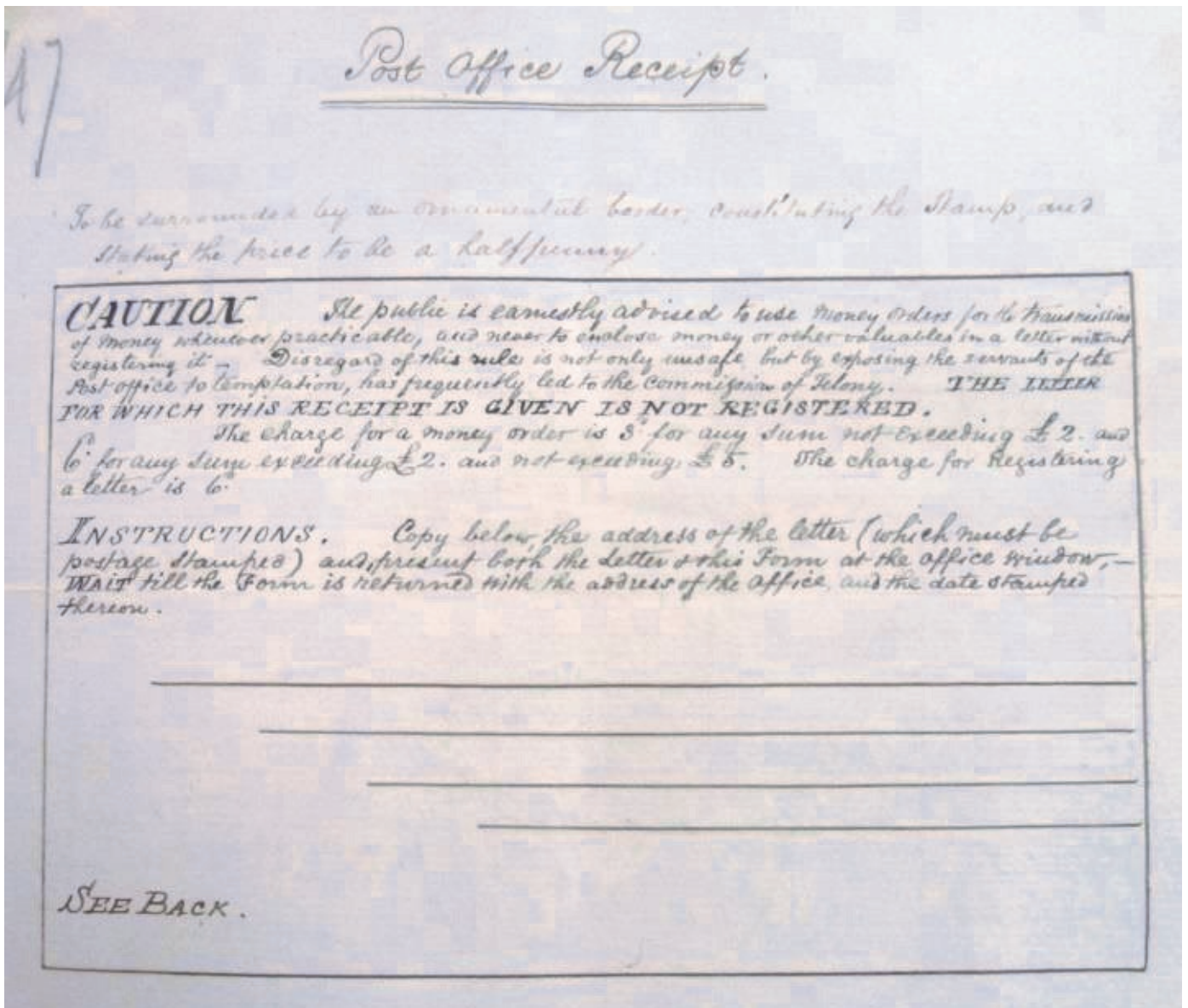
¹ <https://groups.yahoo.com/groups/mulready>

² <http://www.gbps.org.uk/rates/inland/certificates-of-posting.php>

³ POST 122/2197: “Certificates of Posting of Unregistered Postal Packets other than Parcels: Suggested issue of at a fee of ½d each. Scheme proposed by Sir Rowland Hill in 1839. Memorandum stating the history of the case 1839 -1911”

⁴ Further Report on the Registration of Letters, Rowland Hill, 24th November 1841: Appendix 4 of the Report from the Select Committee on Postage, 1843.

⁵ Minute by Rowland Hill to the Postmaster-General, 10th November 1847, in POST 26/2: “Reduction of the Registered Letter Fee from 1/- to 6d and from 6d to 4d”



The Post Office received similar suggestions from Acton S. Ayrton MP, then Chief Commissioner of Works, in 1871 (he pointed out – as Hill had in 1847 – that receipts were found useful in India), and from “several persons during the year 1875”, but leading merchants and bankers in the City showed little interest in the idea when canvassed and no action was taken. The experiments that produced the certificates of posting we know today as **CPP1-3** were the result of one persistent (not to say obsessive!) London gentleman.

The 1877-78 Experiment

On 6th November 1876 a Mr Clifford Eskell of 8 Grosvenor Street wrote to the Post Office to say he had written in 1865 (though no record of this could be found in 1911) regarding a plan for stamped letter receipts at a farthing each, supplied in books containing multiples of 120. He claimed that this would show a letter was not “lost, mislaid, or purloined before it reached the Post Office and might even be the means of showing that the letter was wrongly directed”.

Eskell was granted an interview in February 1877 to explain his scheme to the Postmaster General Lord John Manners, who afterwards commented:

“Considering the divergence of opinion shown in the reports of the practical officers of the Department consulted in this matter and bearing in mind that we have adopted a similar plan with respect to telegrams, I think Messrs Ayrton’s and Eskell’s suggestions should be tried experimentally. It will probably be well to appoint a small Committee to decide upon the limits of the experiment and the modus operandi.”

This committee consisted of Mr Benthall (an Assistant Secretary), Mr Mellersh (Sub-Controller, Inland Office, Circulation Department) and Mr Rich (Postmaster of Liverpool). Their report, submitted to the PMG on 26th June,

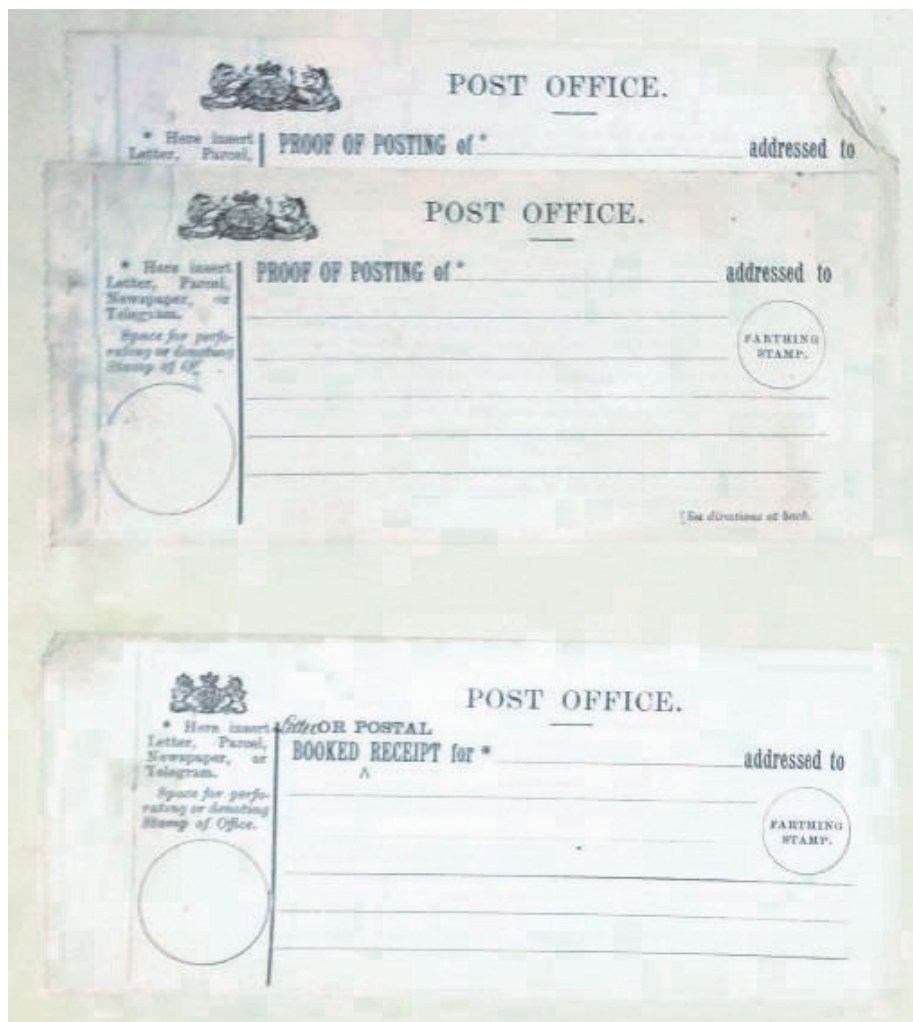
recommended a charge of ½d per item to include inland and foreign letters, newspapers, and book packets. For some unstated reason they objected to the name “Receipt” and proposed the wordier “Certificate of Posting” as an alternative – possibly they felt that the word “receipt” bore undesirable additional connotations. This was apparently the origin of the term. The report went on to say

“The charge for a Certificate of Posting should be levied by means of a halfpenny embossed stamp; and we have ascertained that the cost of this embossed stamp will be very trifling – not more than 3d. per 1000 ... The form of Certificate might be supplied to Postmasters in pads of a dozen; but they would, of course, be sold singly to the Public when required. The question of supplying the forms in books with perforated margins to merchants and other persons taking large quantities may well be postponed.

As regards the limits of the experiment we think it might be tried at first in the towns of Liverpool, Birmingham and Bath and in such of the Sub-Offices under such town as the District Surveyor may consider most expedient.

Although we are not instructed by the Postmaster General’s minute to offer an opinion as to the merits of the suggestion, we think that, after having given the subject careful consideration, our opinion respecting it may be desired. We beg, therefore, to state that we should not ourselves recommend it for adoption, as, to our minds, the plan seems calculated to mislead the Public by offering a mere specious security, while at the same time it may often give rise to unjust suspicion against the Officers of the Department.”

The Postmaster General nonetheless decided to go ahead, and the Treasury sanctioned a trial. 15,000 receipts were obtained and embossed at the Inland Revenue, supplied in batches of twelve joined by an “eyelet”. A supply was sent to the Head Branch and District offices in Liverpool (ten offices in total), the Head Office and fourteen other offices in Birmingham, and the Head Office and ten other offices in Bath.



Examples of receipts submitted by Mr Eskell, included in 1911 report. They resemble the description of the printed forms of obscure status headed “BOOKED LETTER RECEIPT” that are mentioned in the 1970 British Postal Stationery, and which therefore may also have been produced in connection with Eskell’s proposals. Unfortunately, Alan Huggins does not have examples, and the original correspondence that brought them to his attention has gone missing sometime in the last fifty years!

Public notices were exhibited at all these offices and at “*other places of public resort*” and sent to the local newspapers:

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

 CERTIFICATES OF POSTING OF UNREGISTERED LETTERS, ETC.

Persons desirous to have a certificate of a letter, newspaper, or book packet, having been posted at this Office, without registering it or obtaining for it any special security, may obtain such a certificate on payment of one half-penny for each letter, newspaper, or book-packet.

Forms of certificate are sold at the counter; and the Sender of the letter, newspaper, or book-packet, must write the address upon the certificate and present it with the letter, newspaper, or book-packet, to the clerk at the counter. After examining the address, the clerk will retain the letter, newspaper, or book-packet, and will give back to the Sender the certificate impressed with the dated stamp of the Office, as evidence of a letter, newspaper, or book-packet, bearing such an address, having been posted.

Attention is drawn to the following regulations:-

The address entered in the certificate must be exactly the same as that on the letter, newspaper, or book-packet, and it must be plainly written in ink.

The issue of the certificate is not to be regarded as effecting registration, and the letter, newspaper, or book-packet, to which it refers, will be treated precisely as if posted in a letter-box.

Letters containing Coin or Jewellery must be registered. Any letter for which a certificate of posting may have been given, and which may afterwards be found to contain Coin or Jewellery, will be compulsorily registered in accordance with the regulations.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,
 November, 1877.

BY COMMAND OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

The following instructions were given to the postal staff at the offices concerned:

CERTIFICATES OF POSTING OF UNREGISTERED
 LETTERS, ETC.

Representations having been made to the Postmaster General that persons frequently desire to have a certificate of a letter, newspaper, or book-packet, having been posted, without registering it or obtaining for it any special security, his Lordship has decided upon trying the experiment of issuing certificates of this description at Liverpool, Birmingham and Bath and at some of the principal offices subordinate to those places. The arrangement will include your Office.

Forms of certificate with an embossed half-penny stamp have been prepared, and will be sold to the public, singly when so required, at one half-penny each. A separate receipt must be used for each letter, newspaper, or book-packet.

You will be furnished with a supply of these certificates from the Receiver and Accountant General in the same way as ordinary postage stamps.

The conditions on which certificates will be issued to the public are printed on the back, and are also stated in the accompanying Notice to the Public. It is of great importance that the Public should not have any false impression that by means of these certificates they will obtain any increased security for their Letters, or that the persons to which they are addressed will be required to give a receipt on delivery as in the case of registered letters.

You will observe that the certificates are to be filled in by the sender of the letter, newspaper, or book-packet, and that your duty will be to compare the address (which must be in full entered on the certificate with the address of the letter, newspaper, or book-packet itself, and, if they agree, to affix your dated stamp to the certificate and return it to the sender. The letter, newspaper, or book-packet must not be given back, but must be placed in your box with your ordinary letters, &c., and treated in all respects as one of them.

The Notice to the Public sent herewith should be exhibited in a conspicuous part of your office until further instructions.

A marginal note in the 1911 report adds: “*There is nothing in the papers to show why an embossed stamp was recommended in preference to an adhesive stamp. Presumably it was in order that any sums derived from the sale of the form might be earmarked.*” Another obvious possibility is that this was recommended simply in order to follow Eskell’s plan as far as possible, as that involved pre-stamped certificates (as indeed had Hill’s plan before it). Neither was any comment made as to why the certificates were printed unstamped and then individually embossed with the ½d die used for STO postcards, instead of printed in one operation using a letterpress ½d die. No doubt this was because of the experimental nature of the certificates – asking De La Rue to make up a new plate for them would have required additional time, expense, and paperwork.

These certificates are catalogued as **CPP1a** (four lines for the address) and **CPP1b** (five lines).

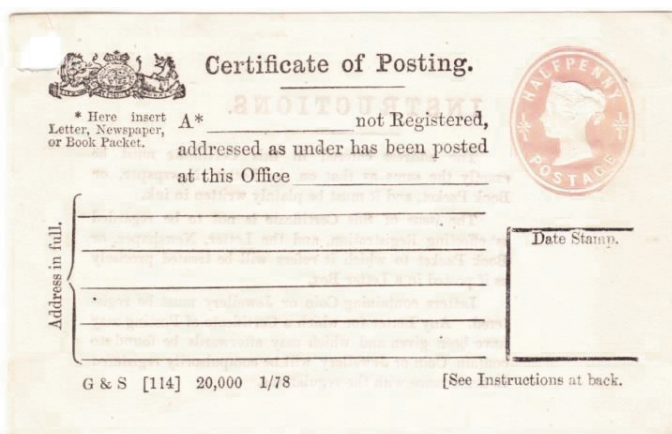


CPP1a

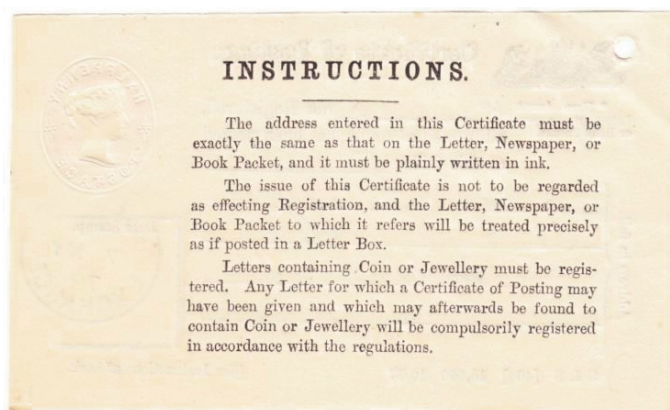


CPP1b

Both have the same printer's imprint "G & S [404] 15,000 10/77", indicating that 15,000 were printed in October 1877, under order number 404, by Griffith & Sons of London. Evidently a second batch of 20,000 was ordered in January 1878, as there are also certificates with the imprint "G & S [114] 20,000 1/78", which are catalogued as **CPP2**. All these have five lines. As 15,000 was the number initially ordered, **CPP1a** and **CPP1b** were presumably part of the same printing; either certain positions on the forme (before guillotining) had only four lines, or an adjustment was made part way through. Either way, subsequent printings had five lines.



CPP2



Reverse text for both types

The numbers actually sold and used were given in the 1911 report:

"The result of the trial at Liverpool from the 14th November 1877 to the 30th November 1878 showed that 6028 certificates were sold to and 4565 were used by the public. In the month of December 1877 the numbers were 762, and 674 respectively, diminishing to 527 and 231 in November 1878.

At Bath during the same period 3,140 certificates were sold, 1,720 of them being purchased on behalf of persons in London and 920 by a local stamp dealer. During the last three months of the trial 79 only of the forms were sold.

At Birmingham 3,412 certificates were sold and 1,119 used. Several batches of 240 were sold, probably to stamp dealers.

During the period 13th [sic] November 1877 to 30 November 1878 the total number of certificates sold was 12,580 and the revenue there from was £26. 4s. 2d. At Liverpool and Birmingham a return was kept of the numbers actually used by the public which were as follows:-

Liverpool 4565

Birmingham 1119

Total 5684 out of 9480 sold. A few were used after discontinuance of issue.

The issue of the certificates was discontinued on the 17th of January 1879."

In a marginal pencilled note relating to the London purchases, someone in 1911 guessed that this was Eskell, also commenting that "they could not be used in London", although this comment appears to be based on deduction rather than something specific in the archives. 1,720 bought for persons outside the area of the experiment is a large quantity, and it seems likely that many were also bought on behalf of the stamp trade.

From this it can be seen that the experiment was not especially successful. Only a third of the certificates printed were actually sold, and a high proportion of those appear to have been philatelic purchases (which explains why there are surviving examples of complete pads of 12 complete with eyelet). The "local stamp dealer" in Bath who purchased 920 certificates was doubtless Alfred Smith, he of the many types of STO advertising envelope.

The 1881-82 Experiment

Naturally, Eskell was not satisfied with this outcome. In February 1879 he once again pressed his scheme on the Post Office, arguing that it had not been properly advertised and that its real usefulness had not been made clear to the public. The PMG passed the buck to the Meeting of Surveyors for consideration; they reported back on 19th March, agreeing unanimously that the system was undesirable and appeared to lack any public demand. After a lengthy correspondence, Eskell was informed that the Department was not prepared to take any further steps in the matter.

There the matter might have rested, but Eskell was nothing if not persistent. His response was to "set up a newspaper agitation", and having done so he wrote again on 8th October, arguing that the discussion in the newspapers had drawn attention to the advantages of the scheme, and the resulting public understanding meant there was every possibility of success if tried again.

Post Office Secretary Sir John Tilley, placing the matter before the PMG in November, once more pointed out the Department's objections: the receipt only proved that a letter bearing a certain address had been posted; it gave no evidence of the contents; it would not prove the posting of a particular letter in court; and would not even act as a check against dishonesty by persons entrusted to post a letter, as they might substitute one to the same address containing only some throwaway circular which would be forgotten by the time any inquiry was made. The Law Officers of the Crown, when consulted, replied:

"We are of the opinion that the Certificates of posting or letter receipts would be no evidence of the contents of the letter or packet which was posted and that if the proposed system were adopted it would continue necessary to prove the contents of the letter or packet in the usual way." [This also applied to registered letters, of course.]

On 21st November Eskell was again informed that no further action would be taken.

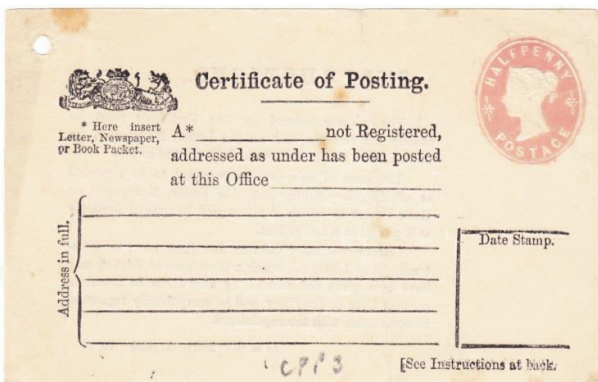
That was the end of the matter as far as Lord John Manners was concerned, but on 23rd April 1880 the Liberals were returned to power in the General Election, and Henry Fawcett became the new Postmaster General. On 29th April he received a deputation including an MP from each party, and promised them a further trial of the scheme at Glasgow.

The 1911 report goes into much less detail about the conduct of this trial, but notes that arrangements were made accordingly and the experiment started on 1st January 1881. Notices to the Public and instructions for the postal officers concerned, "similar to those issued in 1877", were printed and circulated. The notices were "exhibited at each post office in Glasgow, Govan and Patrick, at all the known clubs and reading-rooms, in every bank, exchange, and newspaper office, at public hotels and at each railway station", and were also sent to the newspapers. Despite the continued efforts of Mr Eskell, the second trial was no more successful than the first:

"On the 28th March the Postmaster reported that only 1536 forms had been sold up to the 8th of that month and stated that the Public took very little interest in the forms, that, in his opinion, they did not fill any public want, but that the arrangement involved little trouble and no expense in carrying out. During the period that the scheme was on trial Mr. Eskell wrote several letters pointing out that it was not being given a fair trial because it was not carried out exactly on the lines of his suggestion, that the charge was excessive for the amount of work entailed and should be ¼d. only, that the issue of the certificates in packets of twelve joined by an "eyelet" was not as convenient as his suggestion of book form, and that telegrams had been excluded from the arrangement.

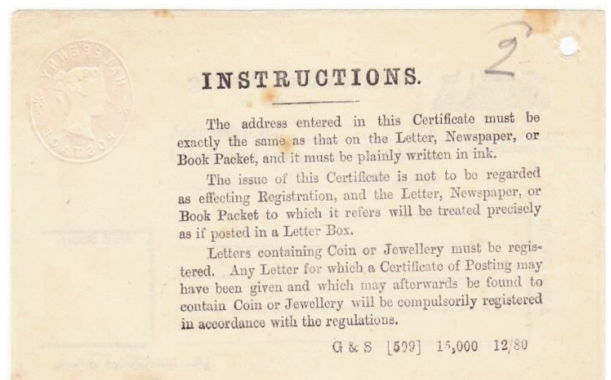
During the period from the 1st of January 1881, to January 1882, 7165 certificates were sold, one for every 6988 ordinary letters, and one for every 26 registered letters posted at Glasgow during the period. On the 8th February, Mr. Fawcett decided that the sale should be discontinued. (It is not stated how many certificates were actually used or whether any large quantities were sold to stamp dealers as on the former occasion). Mr. Eskell continued to press his scheme; but nothing further was done."

No mention is made of what happened to the 20,000+ certificates left at the end of the previous experiment, but it would appear they were destroyed; none of the earlier printings have been recorded used in the 1880s, and a new printing of 15,000 was made, this time with the imprint "G & S [599] 15,000 12/80" on the reverse. These are catalogued as **CPP3**



CPP3

Reverse text



As with the earlier types, unused examples are much easier to find than used, so presumably stamp dealers did indeed account for a significant proportion of the sales.

Used Examples

The table below lists all examples notified to me by members of the PSS and the Mulready group following recent requests. It is therefore *very* far from a comprehensive register, but does at least provide a starting point for further recording, and even these few examples offer some unexpected data points:

Date	Office of Posting	Type	Item type	Addressee	Notified by
7 Dec 1877	Parade Birmingham	CPP1a	Letter	Stubbs & Co, London	Alan Huggins
1 Mar 1878	Churton St BO, London SW	CPP1b	Letter	Mrs King, Barbados	Alan Huggins
15 Mar 1878	Doncaster	CPP1b	Left blank	Thos Smith & Co, London	ex Iain Stevenson
7 May 1878	Liverpool Exchange	CPP1a	Circular	Isaac Bragg, Birkenhead	Maurice Buxton
7 May 1878	Liverpool Exchange	CPP1a	Circular	William Camdon, Birkenhead	Frank Walton
7 May 1878	Liverpool Exchange	CPP1a	Circular	Lawrence Keiger, Birkenhead	Alan Huggins
7 May 1878	Liverpool Exchange	CPP1a	Circular	John French, Birkenhead	Phillip Purchas
7 May 1878	Liverpool Exchange	CPP1a	Circular	Trustees of Estate of J & W Jeffrey & Co, Liverpool	Martin Scroggs
7 May 1878	Liverpool Exchange	CPP1a	Circular	John Edwards, Birkenhead	Allen Cotton
26 Sep 1878	Liverpool	CPP2	Letter	Joslyne Clarke & Co, London	Frank Walton
13 Ju/Au 1881	Liverpool Seaforth	CPP3	Letter	Mrs Green, Donegal	Alan Huggins
1 Dec 1881	Glasgow	CPP3	Letter	P.J.Pickering, Leeds	Alan Huggins

In addition, the 1970 Huggins *British Postal Stationery* notes “a single [CPP3] example at Cambridge”.

The first thing that jumps out is the block of half a dozen examples used for circulars at the Liverpool Exchange branch office on 7th May 1878, all to local addresses. Given that one is to the trustees of an estate, it seems likely that this represents the certificates being used commercially for a batch of legal notices, such as a meeting of creditors – normally these would have been sent registered at a fee of 2d each. In other words, it was a cheap way to provide documentation to indicate (albeit not legally prove) that an item had in fact been posted, should it go astray – exactly the sort of purpose that the certificates of posting were intended for, and for which they became widely used in the 20th century.

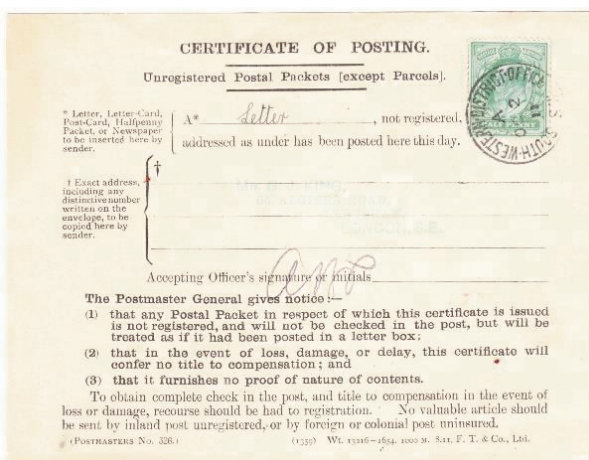
Four of the examples are curious in that they were used at the “wrong” offices. The **CPP1b** used in London was for an overseas letter (another good use case where proof of the date of posting might be useful), and thus possibly commercial. It could have been employed by Eskill, but the office of posting in Pimlico was some distance from his home address in Mayfair! The **CPP3** used in Liverpool again has a plausibly commercial address, but this was over two years after the experiment there had ended, and certificates of this type were clearly only supposed to be on sale in Glasgow. The examples from Doncaster and Cambridge are from towns with no obvious connection to the scheme.

Given the above, even though no instructions were given to postal staff in general in the *Post Office Circular* (as opposed to the specific instructions given directly to the staff at the trial offices), it does appear that the certificates were accepted and handled correctly at other places. Unfortunately, how this occurred is not clear: perhaps postmasters were aware of the general features of the scheme via the “grapevine” or the newspaper publicity, or persuasive local philatelists wanting a used example for their collection explained it to them. Then again, the instructions printed on the certificates may simply have been sufficiently plain as to need no further explanation.

This small selection includes only one example used in Birmingham and none used in Bath. Examples used in those places would be of particular interest should anyone have them.

Later Developments

While the certificates themselves were unsuccessful, the term “certificate of posting” that had been coined for them entered the postal lexicon. It soon found its way onto the receipts issued for registered letters (which had previously merely had “REGISTERED LETTER” as a heading), and later onto a variety of other postal receipts for various services.



First Day use of the 1911 certificate by the redoubtable **George King**, whose collection is the source of so many unusual postal usages and postal forms (but he is no known relation to the PSS stalwart of the same name!)

On three subsequent occasions in the 19th century the question of certificates of posting for *unregistered* letters was brought before the Postmaster General – in June 1885, on the application of a Mr Baloché, in October 1893 by an Alexander Atkinson, and in February 1894 by Henniker Heaton MP, the prominent postal reformer. In each of these cases, the PMG of the time declined to entertain the idea. The PMG’s authority to issue certificates of posting was however restated from time to time when new postal warrants were issued.

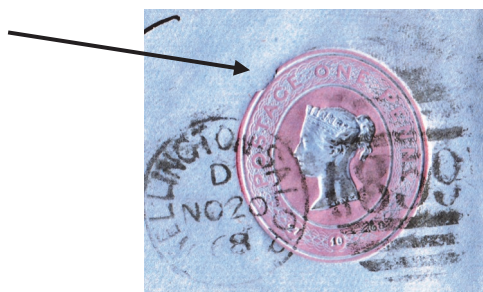
Although the 1911 document looking into the history of the matter stated “*At no time has any public demand arisen for such certificates; and the number of applications relating to the matter which are with the office files is very small*”, the proposal was tried again from 2nd October 1911, and this time it stuck. A simple proof of posting was of value for many letters even without special handling or proof of delivery, and there was a glaring inconsistency in that such certificates were already available for parcels free of charge. However, from 1911 onwards certificates were used on which the fee was paid with ½d adhesive stamps – so although they were certainly Post Office stationery, they were no longer “Postal Stationery”.

GB POSTAL STATIONERY NEWS

Alan Huggins

NEW ITEMS REPORTED

Envelopes - Post Office Issues EP19 1868-70 QV 1d pink dated stamp type 4 die 150 W.W.; bluish wove paper with pink seal on curved flap. This die became damaged showing as a crescent shaped indentation opposite 'G' of 'POSTAGE' and has previously been reported for envelopes **EP16-19** from 26.5.68 - 18.9.68. Examples have now been seen of **EP19** dated 27.10.68 and 4.8.70. (Courtesy of **David Huggins**)

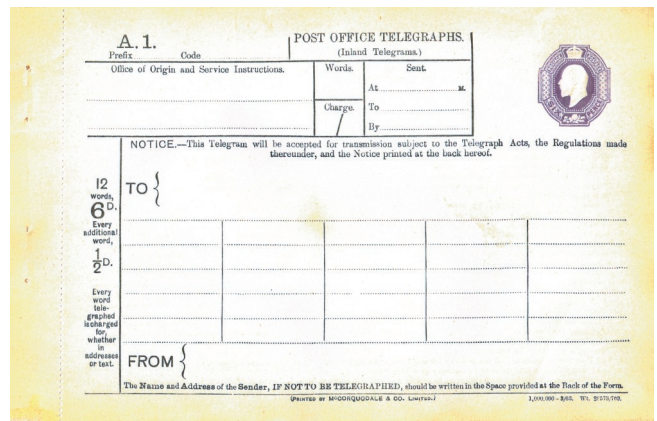


Envelopes and Paper - Stamped to Order Issues

ES179b 1999 QEII with 2nd Class 26mm magenta NVI stamp E8 with clear phosphor, size C5 (Courtesy **George King**)



Telegraph Forms - Post Office Issues TP17a KEVII 6d inland form, from booklets, printed by McCorquodale & Co., with imprint 1,000,000 - 3/03. Wt. 28573/709; Booklet cover with imprint M & S Ltd 7566 11283-50m 9/902 [400] (Courtesy **George King**)



space provided at the Back of the Form.

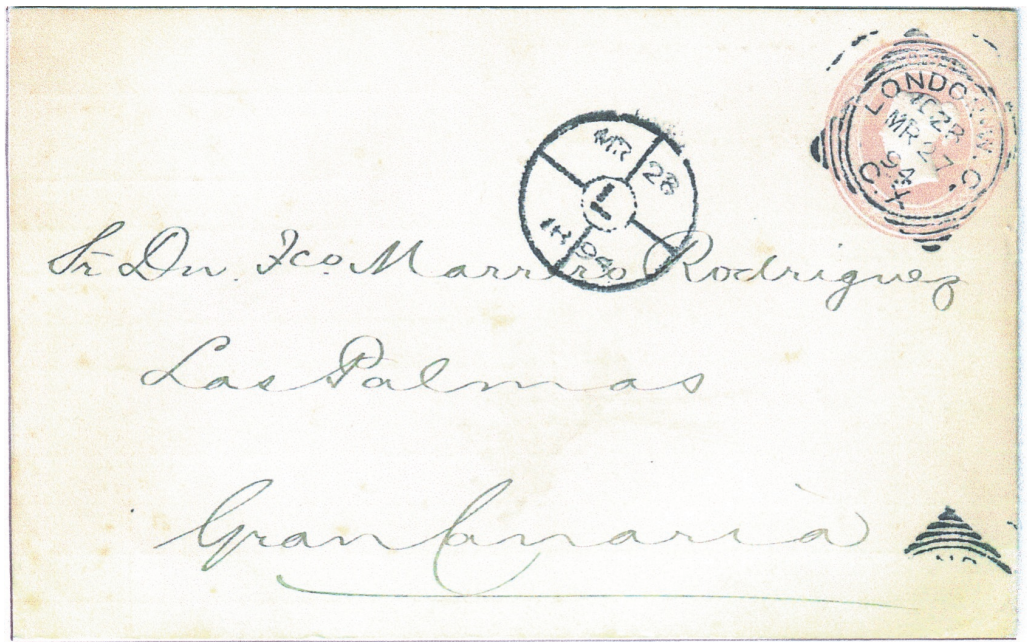
1,000,000 - 3/03. Wt. 28573/709.



M & S Ltd 7566 11283-50m 9/902 [400]

Postcards - Stamped to Order Issues

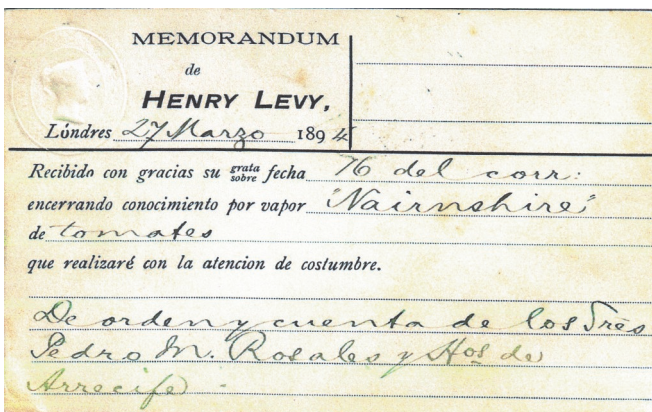
CS9 1894 QV 1d pink undated stamp type 5 on white card size 90 x 140mm (size f). Used from London to Las Palmas, Gran Canaria on 27.3.1894 with circular Foreign Branch Inspectors mark dated 28.3.1894. The card does not have the heading 'POST CARD' which is presumably the reason for the Inspector's marking confirming that it was eligible to be transmitted at the 1d foreign postcard rate. It is worth noting that QV 1d pink STO postcard was listed by Robson Lowe in 1952 with the comment that it was scarce! On this basis it was included in 'British Postal Stationery' in 1970 and 'Collect British Postal Stationery' in 2007, but with the footnote that it had not been seen. The example illustrated is thus the only one to have been recorded since the listing in 1952 and confirms the actual existence of CS9.



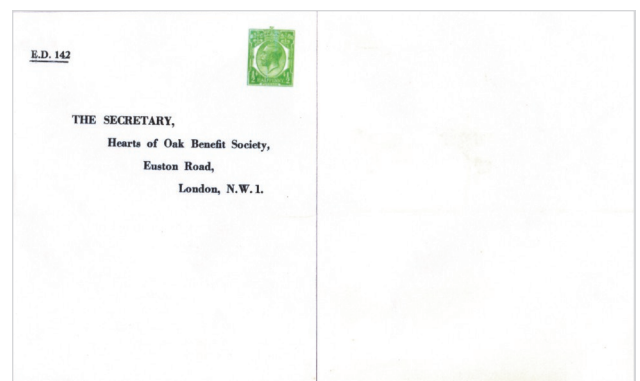
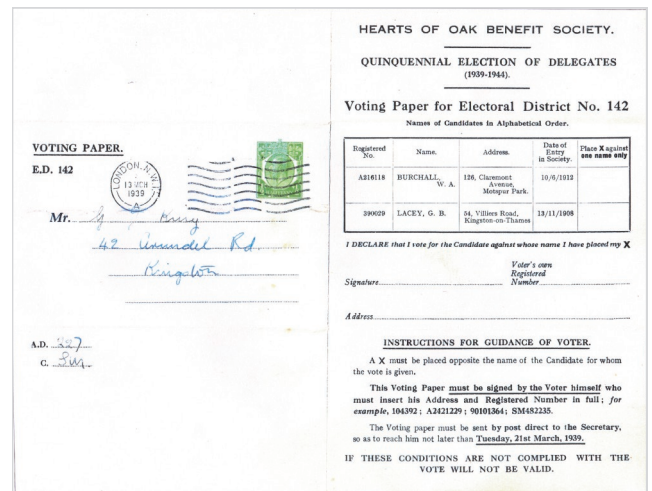
CS145A QEII 1½d green + KGVI ½d orange stamps L31 + L23 size f used 28.1.1957. Reply card currently listed as **CS145** becomes **CS145B**. (Not Illustrated)

Wrappers - Stamped to Order Issues

WS22S 1939 KGV ½d green reply paid letter sheet used 13.3.1939 by Hearts of Oak Benefit Society.



CS11 1896 QV ½d brown format CSF5 arms type d size d with embossed House of Commons seal at top left, used from London to Baldock Herts in 1896.



REVISITING BRITISH INDIA VICTORIAN POST CARDS. Part 2

Col Jayanta Dutta & Dr Anjali Dutta

Service Post Cards

1879 Issue

The 1879 issue was overprinted Service in black with S in serif and the rest in lower case with a stop at the end. "On Her Majesty's Service" 49 mm length in black at left. These are rare and no unused copies are known.

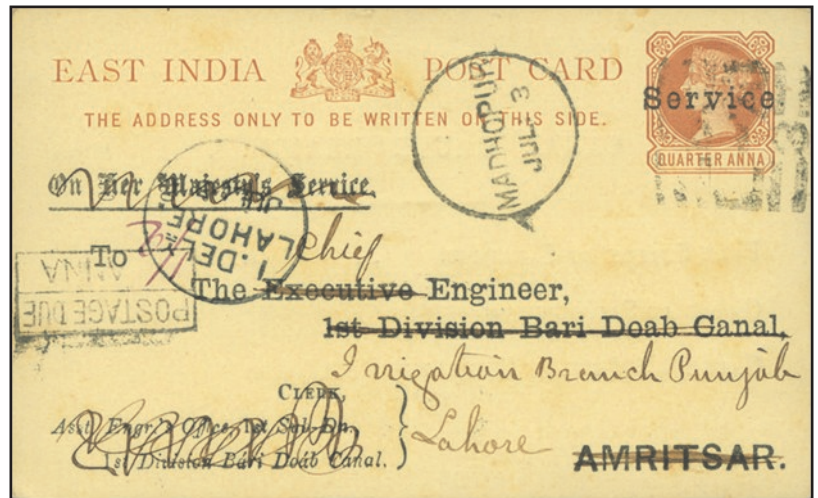
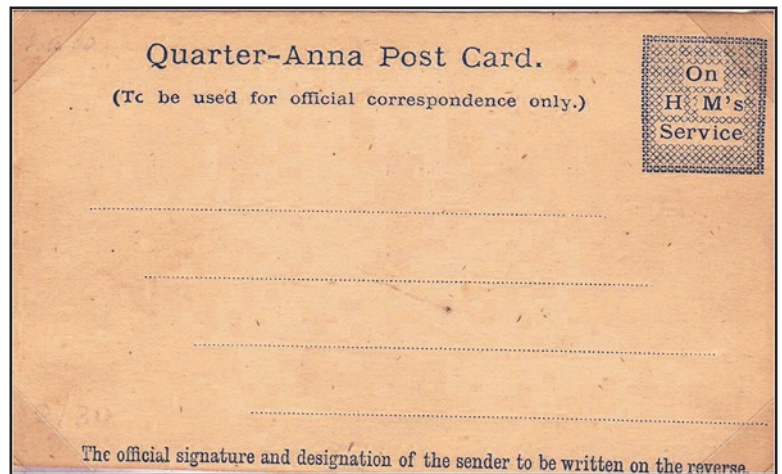


Image from Grosvenor Auctions, London

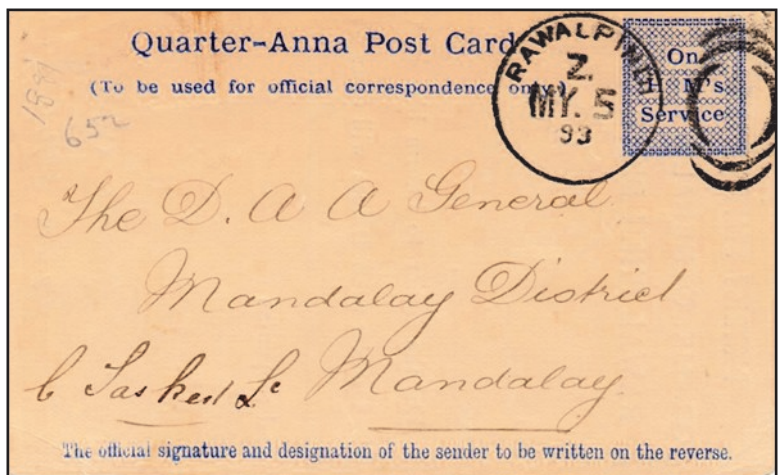
All service PCs thereafter were printed in India and were of the size 121x74 mm.

1 April 1880 Issue

The card was designed and printed in India on stout white paper of size 121x74 mm. They are of two types with and without address lines. The imprinted stamp is a rectangle with crossed hatched lines with inscription "On H M's Service"



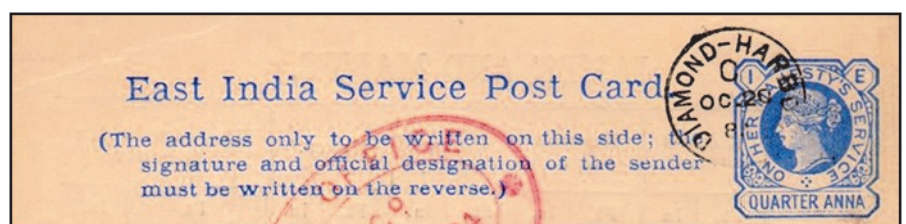
With address lines



Without address lines

1 January 1881 Issue

Under the heading instruction in three lines with third line "must be written on the reverse."



1887 Issue

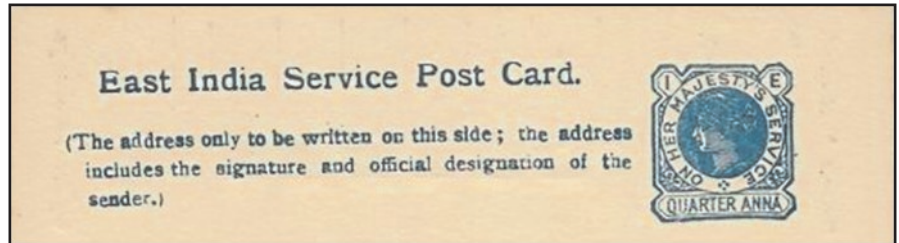
Same as before but the third line consists of two words "the reverse".

There is a variety with no dot after reverse.



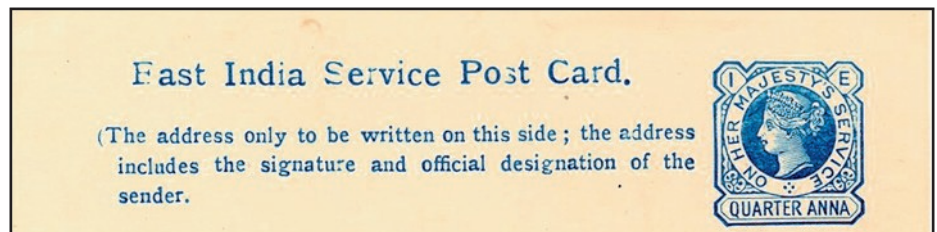
1894 Issue

Same as before but the third line consists of one word "sender".



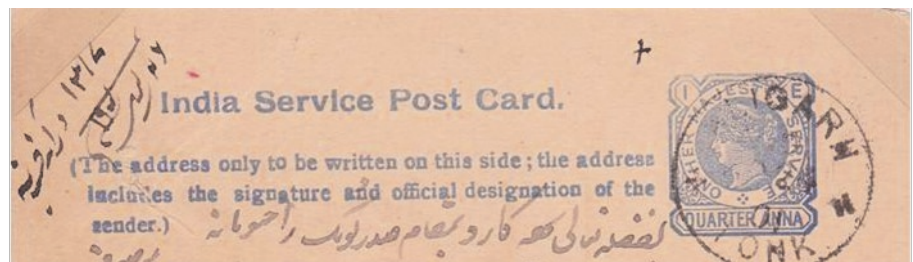
Variety

Closing parenthesis (bracket) at the end missing



1899 Issue

Similar to the previous issue but East removed from the heading. Last word "sender"



Variety

Last word "senders"



Military Post Cards

Regular issues were overprinted C.E.F. on the imprinted stamp for use by the China Expeditionary Force.

¼ anna EAST INDIA POST CARD



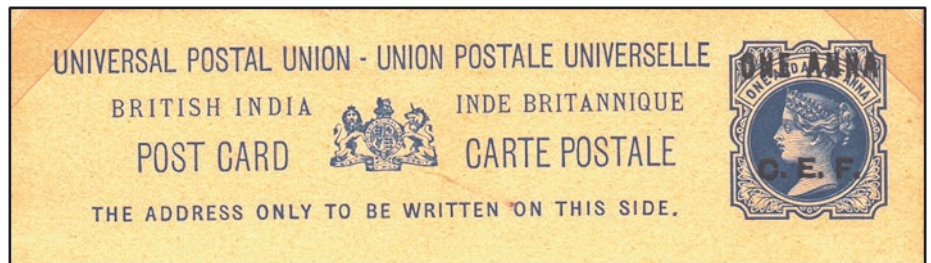
¼ anna INDIA POST CARD



**¼ anna INDIA POST CARD
reply pair**



**ONE ANNA ovpt on 1½ annas
Post Card, mint**



Postal Service Post Cards

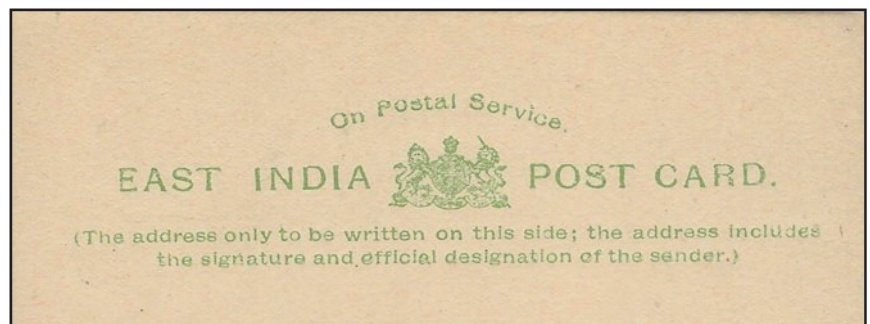
These cards were for inter-departmental use of the postal department. They were designed and printed in India. They were devoid of any imprinted stamp.

1881 issue



Yellow-green on stout yellow card/thinish yellowish white/buff card. 119-122 x 74-78 mm. These are of two types depending on the instructions below the coat of arms. This is a new discovery of our study.

1888 issue



Similar to last issue but inscription and coat-of-arms changed to a different type. 119 x 74 mm.

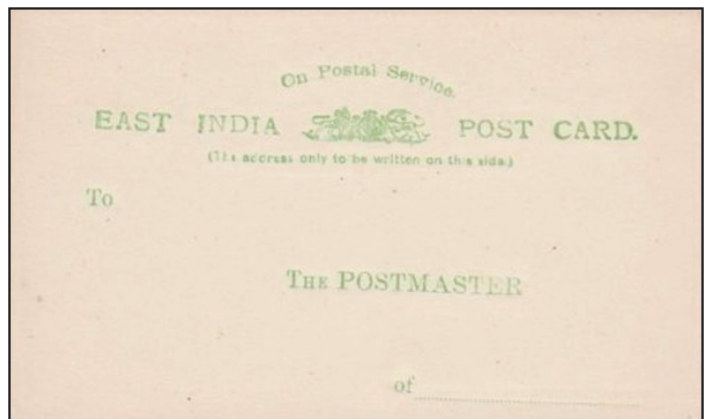


1888 issue (Previously thought to be 1890 issue)

Type 1. The word "TO" was added with two dotted horizontal lines for the address. On stout paper, size 119 x 74 mm. These were issued on buff and blue cards.



Type 2, similar to type 1 but first dotted line replaced by "The POSTMASTER" and second dotted line preceded by "of"



1889 issue (Previously thought to be 1892 issue)

Similar to last issue but coat-of-arms is different, and inscription is differently spaced



1894 issue

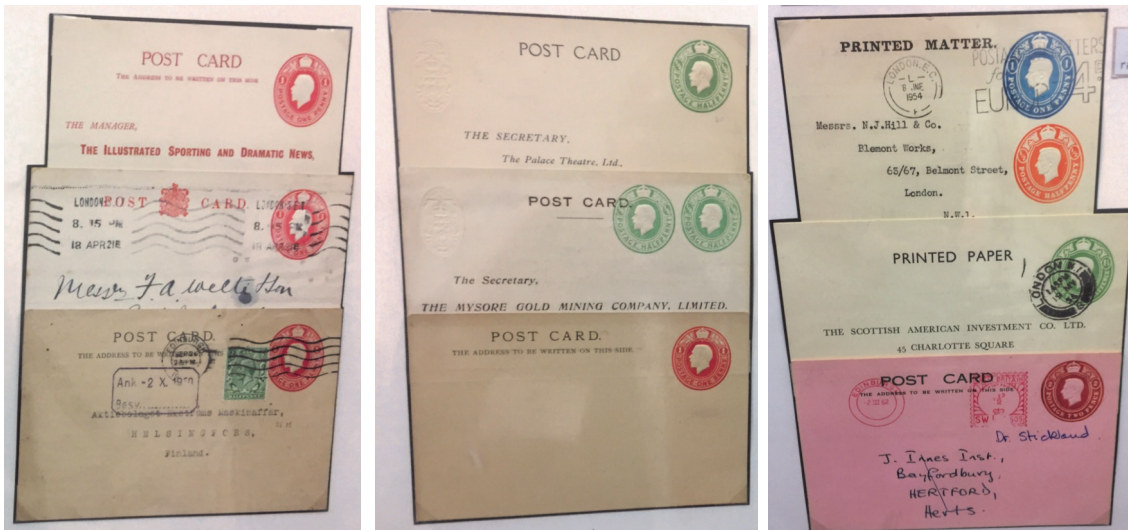
East is removed from the heading. The heading reads INDIA POSTAL SERVICE CARD.

THE EMBOSSED STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN 1841-1973

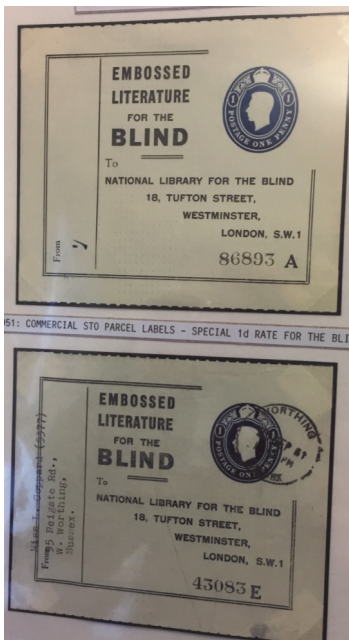
Display by Dr Alan Huggins at the RPSL 23 November 2017

Neil Sargent

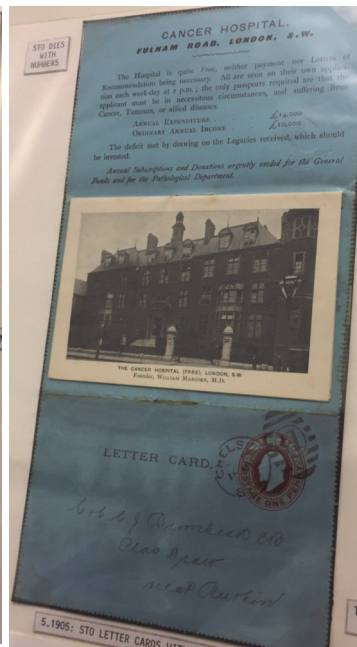
Back in November I was fortunately able to visit the Royal Philatelic Society premises in London to view an afternoon display by Alan Huggins. The display referred to the Embossed Stamps of GB and did include a fine selection of the embossed stamps issued in the 1850s as well as essays and die proof; however the vast majority of the 52 frames related to embossed stationery and stamped-to-order material. Ranging from Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth this, in my opinion, was probably the finest and most complete collection ever put on display at one time. Apart from a vast array of essays, die proofs, trial and colour sheets, it included many of the rare embossed sto material that generally you never get to see. I have illustrated just a very few of the special items that caught my eye to give you a flavour of the display



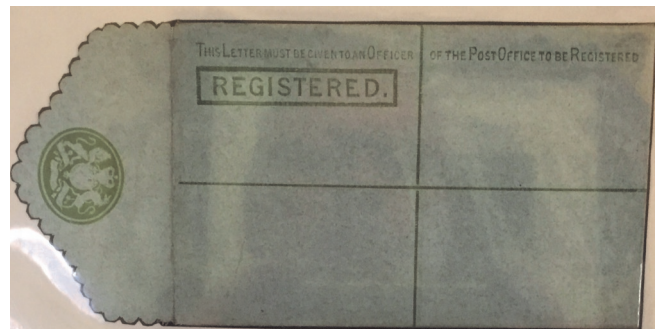
Selection of STO embossed postcards from KEVII, KGV & KGVII including mint & used examples.



Superb pair of KGVII reduced rate envelopes specially produced for literature for the Blind.



KEVII 1d embossed STO lettercard with printed picture.



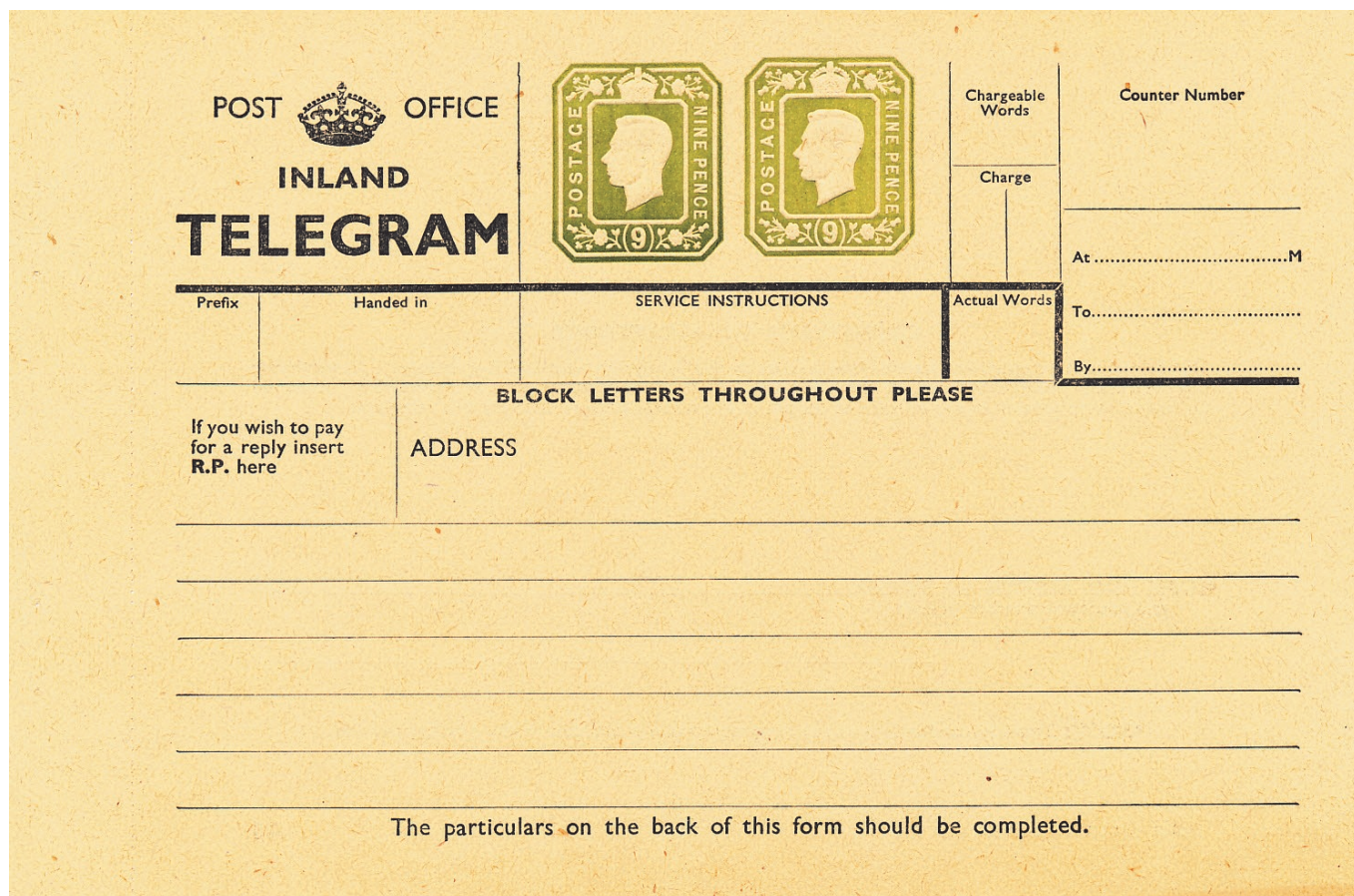
1878 trial registered envelope with the scalloped edge to flap in grey/blue.



Superb colour trial sheet with KGVII embossed dies & 2 QEII dies, Specimen overprints.

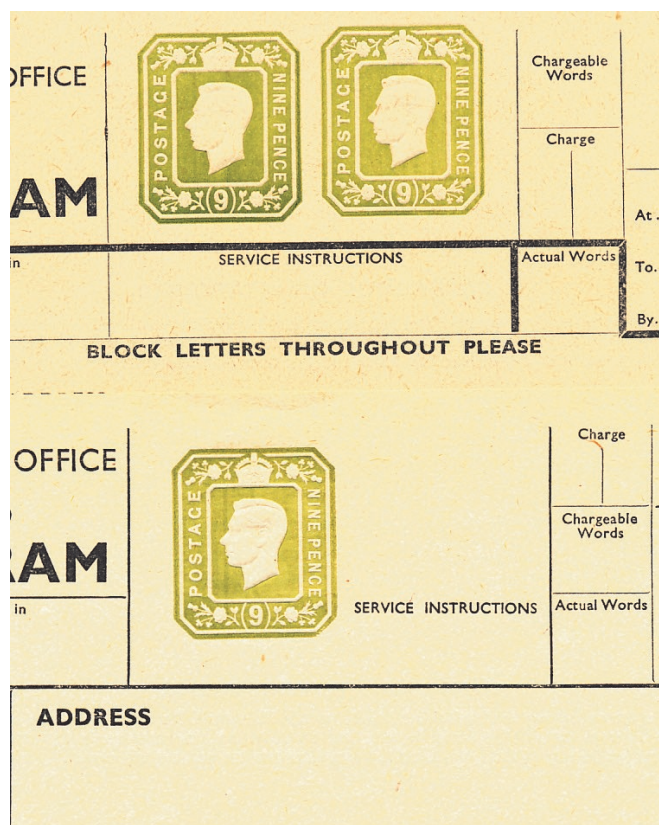
GREAT BRITAIN GEORGE VI TELEGRAPH FORMS: SOME OBSERVATIONS

John Jennison



I find the double impressed ninepence form above (Huggins & Baker TP30) to be one of the more iconic pieces of George VI postal stationery. Originally this was thought to be a further impressing of the nine pence form (H&B TP27) to use up old stock, but clearly from the illustration to the right, this is not the case. Although the forms are the same size the Charge / Chargeable Words slots in the upper right section of the form are interspersed; Chargeable Words now at the top in H&B TP30. In addition, BLOCK LETTERS THROUGHOUT PLEASE added to the ADDRESS instructions. Interestingly enough this change of format took place earlier during the various printings of the one shilling telegraph form, Figure 3 over the page, (H&B TP28). The earlier form with the Charge slot at the top is somewhat smaller than the form with the new layout. One can understand the request to write the address in block capitals but the other changes seem unnecessary.

Figure 4, over the page, shows the invoice which accompanied my example of TP30 when it was supplied as a new issue from Oswald Marsh. The invoice date of 27th July 1951 narrows down the issue date to sometime during 1951. Certainly this form has appreciated in value from the new issue price of half a crown, i.e. 12.5 pence!! I have other invoices from Marsh supplying H & B RP61F varieties in 1947 as part of a New Issue Service. It is amazing to think that there was a New Issue Service for GB postal stationery so soon after the war.



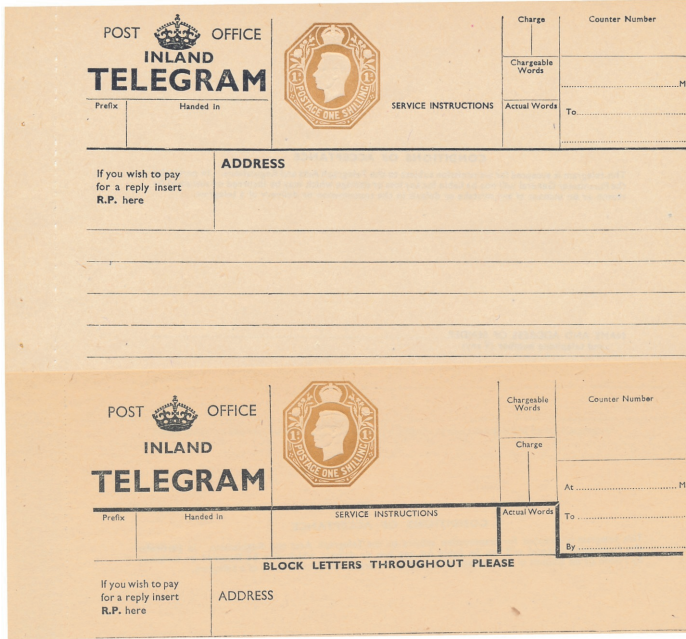


Figure 3

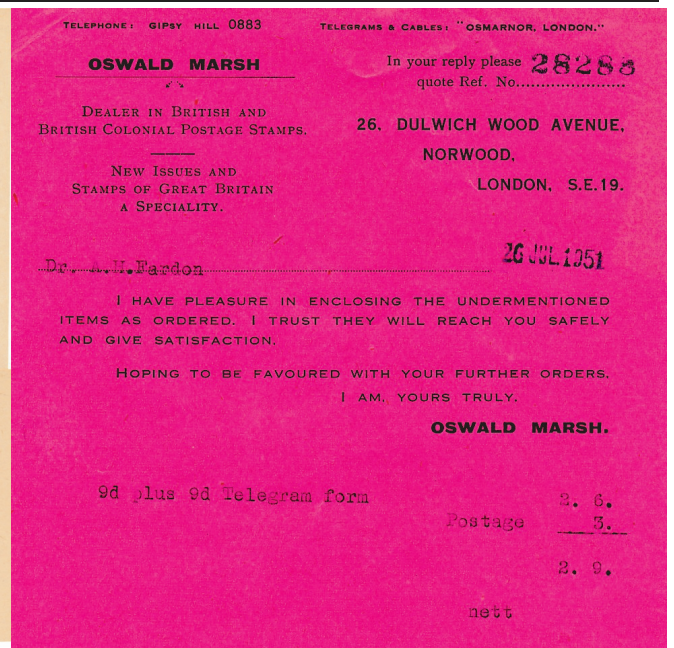
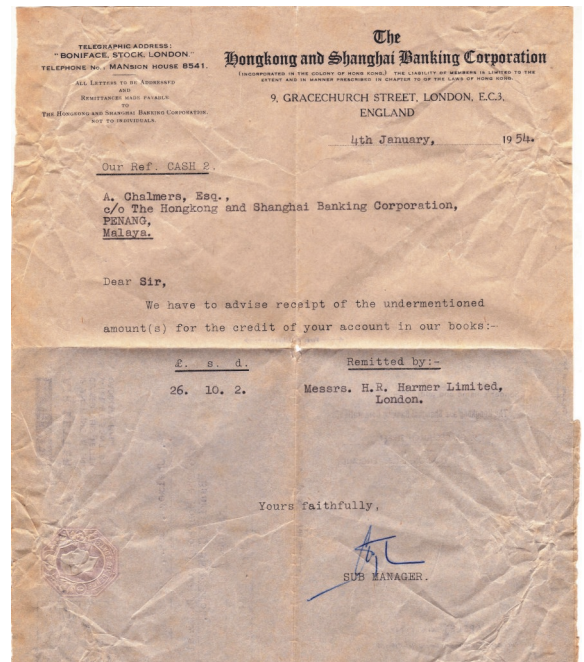
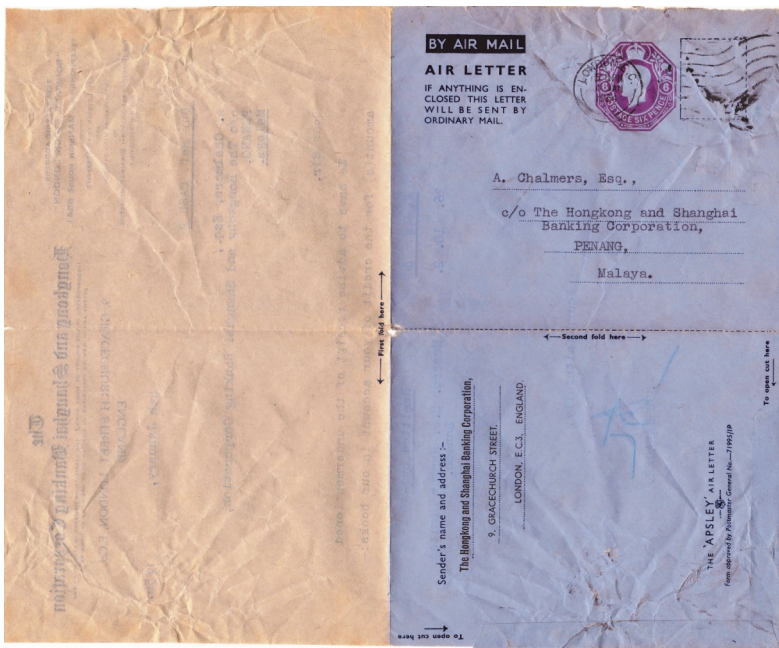


Figure 4

G.B. GVI S.T.O. Airletter

Charles Dazeley has sent this scan of a standard KGVI STO printing on an Apsley airletter commercially used by HSBC although with a setting of the "If anything is enclosed..." unknown to me on KGVI STO airletters.



**Many thanks to those members who paid their
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2018
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.

SAN MARINO 1894 ISSUES

Wayne Menez

The issue for November 2017, Vol. 25, No. 4, **Mr. Maurice Buxton** wrote in his column “Chairman’s Chat”, comments regarding a used San Marino envelope. He ended with

“This envelope, sent to Whitfield King in the UK, fortunately avoided that fate. The catalogues give an issue date of 21st October, but the despatch postmark here is clearly the 5th – one to check.”

The envelope, three adhesive stamps (Scott 29-31) and a post card (H&G 5, Filagrano C6 and Ineritalia 6) were the world’s first semi-postals, though they present no evidence of such. All proceeds from their sale were given to the Mercy Hospital of San Marino. They were intended to commemorate the inauguration of the new Government Palace, and the installation of new regents Pietro Tonhini and Francesco Marcucci. Unfortunately, Tonhini died before the issue was released.



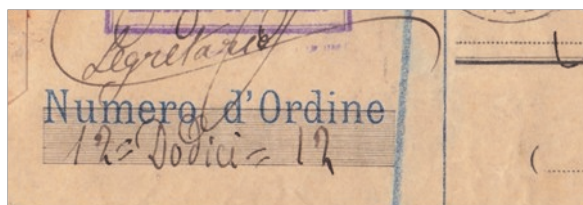
The 10c (“DIECI CENTESIMI”) cards had an issue of 100,000, serial numbered at bottom. The first half have the designer’s initials “VR” as shown by the red arrow. The last 50,000 are without the initials, and were sold after March 31, 1895, the last day of postal validity, and are not known used except as formulars with adhesive stamps applied.

The reverse of Mr. Buxton’s envelope used to the stamp dealers Whitfield King & co. of Ipswich, England is, as he notes, used October 5, 1894. He attributes the issue date as October 21, 1894, taken from the normally reliable Interitalia catalogue. However, the Filagrano catalogue, and others, have September 30th, 1894 as the date. This earlier date correlates with that of the post card and the adhesive stamps. So, this use is five days after the items were first put on sale.

The first few envelopes used by the post office to send orders have the raster lines for the registration numbers (“Numero d’Ordine”) unprinted, and the numbers were written in by hand. In this case, the “12=Dodici=12” (“Dodici” means twelve in Italian) means this was the twelfth item mailed. Printed serial numbers were soon instituted, as shown below, and it would be interesting to learn the lowest number known today.

Since there were only 200 envelopes used during their period of validity, used examples are quite scarce today. But, the true rarities are the few with unprinted raster lines. All known are used with manuscript serial numbers. This variety is listed in the Italian catalogues, and while a regularly used envelope is priced in the two Italian catalogues at €2,500.00 or €2,800.00, they both leave the manuscript version unpriced. This is a true gem!

To conclude the story, the mint remainders were sold to a British dealer in 1900, and they are the source of mint copies today, as none was sold individually when current. The face value of the envelopes, L 5, was equivalent to about \$0.88 in 1894, or about \$20.00 today, so they were also one of the highest denominated items of 19th century postal stationery.



[Editor’s Note: Flavio Pini sent an email to explain how the incorrect date came to appear in “Interitalia”. He also adds “...this special envelope was not sold on the basis of the sequence number (numero d’ordine).

I know an envelope with the postmark 30th September and the number 115 whilst that of Maurice Buxton has the number 12 with the postmark 5th October.

The envelope with the number 1 was sent to Giovanni Gussoni publisher of this envelope, only after the issue date, as a courtesy”]

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Recent Articles from the Philatelic Press

Gibbons Stamp Monthly November 2017

"The Birth of Great Britain's Registered Envelopes, 1878"
Edward Klempka

Gibbons Stamp Monthly December 2017

"Postal Stationery Matters" Peter van Gelder

Stamp Magazine November 2017

"Down the Tubes - Paris Pneumatic Post 1879-1901"
Graham Homer-Woolf

Postal Stationery November-December 2017 (USA)

"Esperanto on View Cards and Other Postal Stationery"
Michael Bockisch

"Postal Card Separation"

Postal Stationery January-February 2018 (USA)

"The Postal Stationery of Tuva" Richard Clever and Wayne Menuz

"The 1861 Letter Sheet" Dan Undersander

"British East Africa Military and POW Aerograms" Wayne Menuz

"Market Report" (Tongan Stationery)

"Tasmanian Multi-Ad Letter Sheet"

Postal Stationery Collector February 2018 (Australia)

"Terra Australis Postage Pre-paid Envelopes" Mark Diserio

"Aboriginal Art (TIWI) Designs PPES Further Information"
Mark Diserio

"Perfined Wrappers: A Worldwide Review" Dr John K Courtis

"Outstanding Results for Scandinavian Postal Stationery"

Moss Green Auctions - Gary Watson

"Listing of Non-Denominated Postal Stationery" Iain McMahon

Postal Stationery Notes [BNAPS] November 2017 (Canada)

"Another Fake Surcharge on Newfoundland P3" Robert Lemire

"PCF (Post Card Factory) Corner" Robert Lemire

"Illustrated cards #17: "Dominion Drug Co., Hamilton, Ontario" Chris Ellis

"More New Brunswick Telephone private order envelopes"
Earle Covert

The Overprinter - Great Britain Overprint Society (Winter 2017)

"Addenda to 'Overprinted British Postal Stationery'"

"Two Unusual Overprinted British Postal Orders"

Die Ganzsache 2/17 (Germany)

"Nachrichten aus den deutschen Kolonien" Winifred Leist

"Ein Streifzug durch die Welt der Bildpostkarten" Michael Bockisch

"Plusbriefe mit aktuellen Varianten - ein sehr spannendes
Betätigungsfeld" Linus Lange

New Issues Second half of 2016

British and Islands Postal Stationery Provisionals - John Gledhill has sent in the following **Update**:

P.172. Jersey EU15A, 40p+10p size H definitely exists, the comment in the book was added in error.

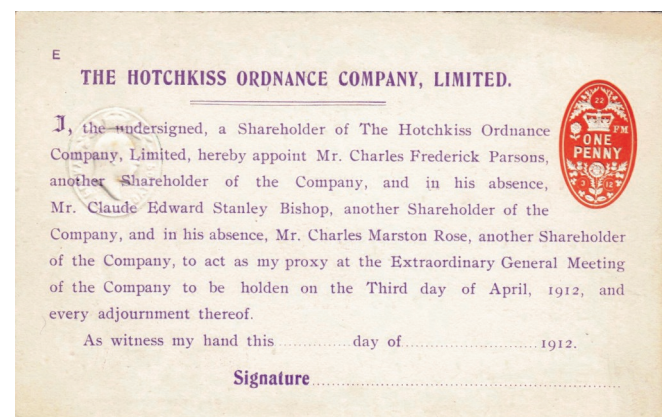
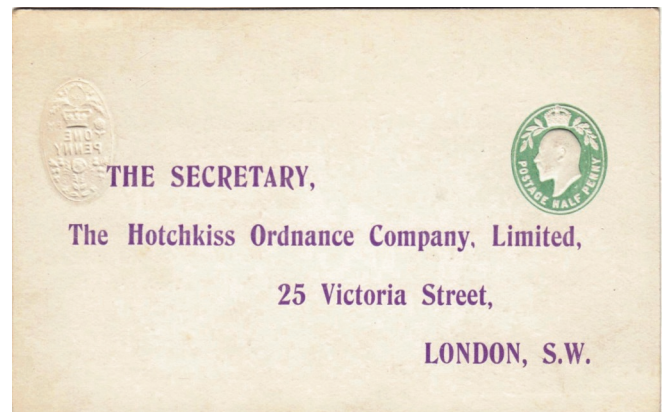
It has also been reported with the 10p uprating device omitted, leaving the instructions on the rear incorrect for the impressed 40p stamp (Magpie auction July 2017):

Reports:

John Jennison has sent in the following 'Sales Report':

Recently several used Great Britain double impressed Victorian stamped to order envelopes reached very high prices on ebay. H&B **ESC110** (NR) and **ESC245** (Ten penny compound stampings) fetched £225 and £251 respectively. All Alfred Smith illustrated envelopes were in big demand with surprisingly high prices being reached. Examples being H&B **ESC192** fetching £134 (£25) and **ESC357** fetching £125 (£40) with the H&B compound envelope prices in parentheses.

Maurice Buxton: has found a similar card to that reported by **George King** [GBPSN May 2016 (PSSJ 24.2)] The card was **CS34** with additional revenue stamp for a proxy form. Maurice's copy, illustrated below, is for a different company, and it doesn't have the "POST CARD" heading.



Editor's Note:

please keep sending in your queries, notes, comments etc and share your thoughts with other members.

Great Britain and British Commonwealth 1840 - Date

STAMPS

POSTAL HISTORY

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