

THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

1955–2015



DIAMOND JUBILEE

CELEBRATED AT THE
ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY
LONDON

10 DECEMBER 2015

Great Britain Philatelic Society

Diamond Jubilee Display at the Royal Philatelic Society London

10 December 2015

The GBPS has always had close ties with the RPSL. Five of our 21 Presidents have also been President of the Royal. It is fitting then that this Jubilee display should take place at 41 Devonshire Place, the site of our first meeting. In November 1955 the following notice appeared in *Stamp Collecting* and 30 other journals in 16 countries:

. . . an inaugural meeting with a view to form a Great Britain Specialist Society will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society, London on Saturday, December 3rd 1955 at 2.30. p.m.

Major Beaumont, President of the 'Royal' and himself a specialist in certain British issues, has consented to act as Chairman of the meeting.

Arrangements are being made by Mr R. A. G. Lee . . . who extends an invitation to any interested collector to attend.

At that meeting were 48 prospective members (28 of whom enrolled that day) including Beaumont, Lee, Silkin, Willcocks, Stitt-Dibden and Jay. It is apparent that there was considerable discussion as to the proposed name of the society, which included GB Specialists Society, Society of British Philately, and the Great Britain Philatelic Society:

The chairman . . . said that the Royal P.S. was usually in favour of such bodies calling themselves 'Study Circles' although he did not feel that it would object to . . . (any) . . . title proposed.

An annual subscription fee of two guineas, with an initial entrance fee of one guinea, was established. On 14 January 1956, at the first Annual General Meeting, the Society's Constitution and administrative matters were agreed, with Major K. M. Beaumont elected President. Beaumont had originally declined the Presidency. As President of the Royal he had required sanction from the council of that society before being able to accept the post.

In December 1956 the Society first published the *GB Journal*. Concentrating on reports of research and studies in depth, the *GBJ* is issued six times a year. The *Newsletter* was launched in 1968 and carries Society news, wants, queries and the opinions of members on a variety of subjects. In addition, nearly 20 books have been published.

Today, our society has a world-wide membership of over 750 with interests spanning all aspects of GB philately. Monthly meetings are held both in London and around the country at regional meetings. Members have the benefit of being able to contact specialist Consultants who are willing to help within their particular area of interest. Nine Consultants deal with topics including postal history, Queen Victoria to Queen Elizabeth II, and 'Back of the Book'. The GBPS welcomes into membership all who have an interest in GB philately. More information is available at www.gbps.org.uk.

Finally, I would like to thank a number of people; the President and Council of the Royal Philatelic Society London for inviting us on this occasion; the Council of the GBPS, particularly Andy Donaldson and Howard Hughes; the staff of the Royal, for organising this event; and Alan Holyoake for sponsoring this book. I hope that they and all those attending will enjoy the displays on show.

BOB GALLAND FRPSL, President

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FRAMES 1/2

THE FIRST SURFACE PRINTED POSTAGE STAMPS: NO CORNER LETTERS

BOB GALLAND FRPSL

Low value postage stamps were produced by three methods during the Victorian era: line-engraving (intaglio) from 1840 to 1879, embossing from 1847 to 1855 and surface printing (letterpress) from 1855 to 1901. The decision to replace embossed stamps, which were cumbersome to produce and unsuited for perforating, was made in January 1855. There were two main reasons why surface printing was chosen over the line-engraved process. Firstly, De La Rue claimed that their special fugitive inks would reduce the risk of cancellations being removed. The second reason relates to problems experienced in perforating line-engraved stamps. These difficulties were largely due to the fact that paper was dampened for line-engraved printing, resulting in varying degrees of shrinking and difficulty in perforating the sheets. De La Rue did not need to dampen the paper before surface printing.

Stamps were designed, engraved and printed by Thomas De La Rue and Company. The Board of Inland Revenue instructed and supervised De La Rue and paid Jean Ferdinand Joubert de la Ferté 100 guineas for engraving the Queen's head used for surface printed stamps. The engraving was based on a drawing by Henry Corbould.

It is not clear why De La Rue did not include corner letters on the first stamps issued as the line-engraved stamps had them from their introduction in 1840. There were three values; 4d, 6d and 1s. They were printed on both blue and white paper. The 4d stamp was printed on three different watermarked papers and its colour was changed from carmine to rose. They were superseded by stamps with Small White Corner Letters from 1862.



Essay made for 6d Plate 2. Endorsed by Ormond Hill 'Approved by me as to design but color [sic] not full enough'. Signed and dated '12 Oct 1858'. This design differs from Plate 1 in having a hyphen, serifed letters and a larger head circle which extends into the top and bottom boxes. Plate 2 was never issued as it was superseded by Plate 3 with Small White Corner Letters before completion.

FRAME 3

SURFACE PRINTED STAMPS AND COVERS 1855–1901

PETER McCANN

This display aims to highlight some unusual aspects of the surface printed stamps of Queen Victoria 1855–1901. Where possible the earliest or latest known uses of the stamp have been shown. Multiples and combinations are also present, on and off cover. The covers often demonstrate the historical, political and economic concerns of the period.

The British Empire is represented by stamps and covers used abroad, a fascinating sub-speciality of the surface printed period.

Redirected covers have been included as these show the determination of the post to ensure delivery to the intended recipient, sometimes across continents.

Postal routes, rates and timings are also discussed — the nascent steamship routes provide another facet of this interesting time.

Finally, this display shows that there are so many new, exciting discoveries still to be made even after 115 years. It is an area that has generally been less well researched than some others and hopefully this display will reignite interest in this period. This must be one of the keys to the future of philately.



'The First of the Last' — 1s green and carmine issued 11 July 1900, the last Queen Victoria stamp to be issued. This example makes up the 1s 0½d rate from London to Altona (part of Hamburg). It is the earliest known use of this stamp on cover, 23 July 1900.

FRAME 4

GREAT BRITAIN 'PENNY STARS' USED IN MALTA WITH 'M' CANCELLATIONS

MARTIN LLOYD

British stamps cancelled with 'M' were used in Malta from early September 1857 until mid-February 1859. The date of posting was applied on the back of the item. The display begins with a table of 'Penny Stars' known to have been used or that could have been used there. The characteristics of the different variations of these stamps are listed, together with their *Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue, Volume 1*, numbers. These numbers are used for reference to specific stamps.

The most common of the 1d stamps used between the above dates and in the display are SG Spec. C10. Examples from most plates up to Plate 61 in this group are shown. Usages on some plates are well represented; others less so. In a few cases, no examples are recorded.

In September 1857 there was a 3d rate for sending a letter to Italy from Malta, but there was no British 3d stamp until 1862. There were two ways to pay this rate, one being to use a 1d and a 2d, the other to use three 1d stamps. The latter method was frequently used and many such strips are found and several are shown. For double 3d-rate letters, two strips of three were often used. Occasionally a strip of six was used and an example is shown. The 1d stamps were frequently used with other values, and a few such covers conclude the display.

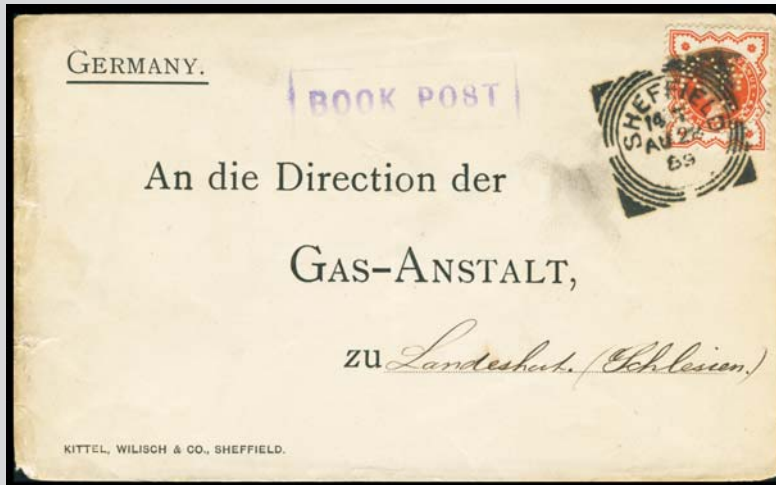


A strip of three 'Penny Stars', each cancelled with an 'M' in barred oval. They are Die 2 on white paper, Alphabet 3, Large Crown watermark, perf. 14, Plate 49 on a wrapper dated 12 February 1859 to pay the 3d rate from Malta to Napoli in Italy. Strips of three like this one were frequently used to pay the 3d rate from Malta to Italy.

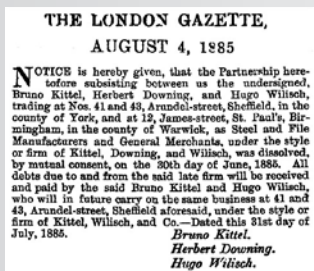
FRAME 5 **SHEFFIELD PERFINS ON QUEEN VICTORIA
AND KING EDWARD VII STAMPS**

FRANK WALTON RDP FRPSL

Perfins were used extensively throughout the country as a preventative measure against theft of mint stamps by employees. For many years, collectors have been seeking out covers with the name of commercial organisations prominently shown that tie a particular set of initials to a company. This nine-page display shows examples of such material from Sheffield-based companies.



28 August 1889. Envelope sent at the ½d book post rate to Germany. The ½d Vermilion adhesive is perforated with the initials KW / & Co (see detail, below), matching the pre-printed envelope stating the sender to be 'KITTEL, WILISCH & CO., SHEFFIELD.', a company of steel and file manufacturers in Arundel Street in Sheffield (see cutting, below). This particular perfin is classified as type K1850.02 by the Perfin Society.



FRAME 6 **'REXMARKS': MANUSCRIPT TOWN MARKS
OF SCOTLAND BEFORE 1738**

PETER CHADWICK FRPSL

The manuscript town marks of Scotland are the earliest known postal markings of that country: first introduced in 1677. Before then, postal charges were usually written on the front (address side) of the letter, but with no indication of the town of origin.

From 1677, the town of origin was sometimes shown on the reverse, in manuscript, usually with the charge shown alongside. By 1700, examples of this marking are known for four towns only. By 1725, when the marks moved to the front, this had become 21 towns, and by 1738, 39 towns. In 1738, the first town name handstamp was introduced. These came into general use almost immediately: only 11 examples of the manuscript marks are recorded after 1739.

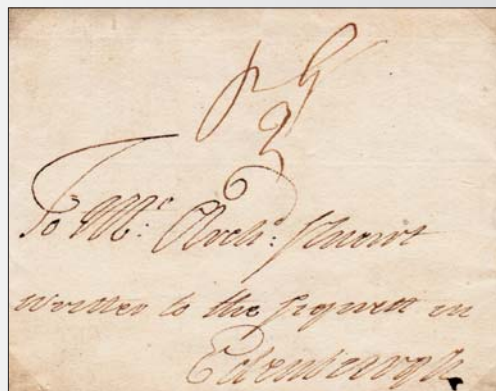
Nobody really understood these esoteric marks until Dr Rex Clark studied them, and wrote the definitive book on the subject: *Manuscript Town Markings on Early Scottish Mail* (Scottish Postal History Society, 2012). This is why they have been called 'Rexmarks'.

The book recorded 174 examples of these marks, probably 60–65% of the world population. The figures are these:

<i>Probable world population of Rexmarks</i>	260–270
<i>Number in Rex's study</i>	174
<i>Number used before 1739</i>	163
<i>Number of separate towns before 1739</i>	39

All of this happened before Bonnie Prince Charlie's rebellion in 1745!

This exhibit is extracted from my collection of more than 30 of these marks.



Manuscript town mark of Port Glasgow (PG), 1730. '2' is the correct rate to Edinburgh, where the manuscript mark was applied. This is the only known manuscript town mark of Port Glasgow.

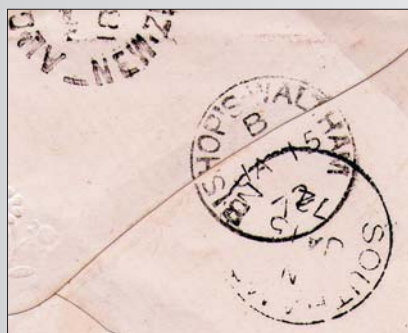
FRAMES 7/8

POSTAL HISTORY OF BISHOP'S WALTHAM

MIKE BATTY

A range of mail from and to Bishop's Waltham, selected to show part of the local postal history, spanning the reigns of six monarchs, before, during and after the reign of Queen Victoria. The selection of dated items shows examples of various cancellations and markings throughout this period; many of the items are associated with the Gunner family who were local solicitors and bankers.

This Hampshire town lies between Winchester and Fareham and was initially the No. 3 receiving house for the Fareham post office. By 1821 the Bishop's Waltham post office had opened, with its own receiving houses located in the surrounding villages and hamlets. In 1844, Bishop's Waltham was allocated the obliterator No. 85. In later years, the receiving houses would become sub-post offices under Bishop's Waltham.



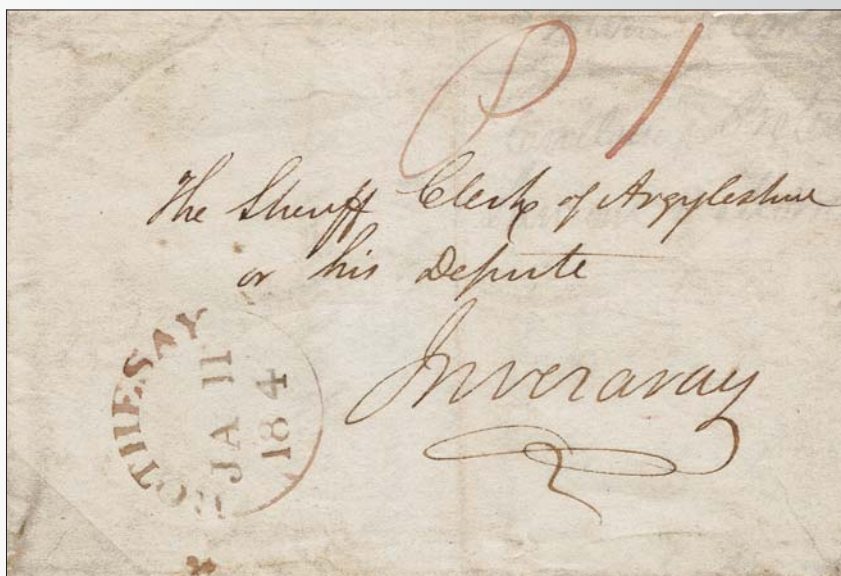
A letter cancelled with an 85 4VOS obliterator at Bishop's Waltham post office on 15 January 1872, which arrived at Auckland, New Zealand on the evening of Saturday 6 April 1872, 5½ weeks late, 'delayed by snow in the United States'.

FRAMES 9/10

THE IMPACT OF THE 1839–40 POSTAL REFORMS IN SCOTLAND

IAIN STEVENSON FRPSL

Scotland, with its far-flung thinly-spread rural population, its burgeoning cities and industries and thriving ports, greatly benefited from the reduction in postal rates and uniform distance charges introduced by the postal reforms of 1839–40. Letters which hitherto had cost two or even three shillings to send could now be despatched for one penny per half-ounce to the furthest Hebridean island or remotest Highland croft. This display documents this great social and postal history revolution. It begins with the end of the hated halfpenny wheel tax applied only to Scottish letters. It then shows the introduction of the Uniform Fourpenny Post in December 1839, the arrival of the Uniform Penny Post in January 1840 (including a 'virtual' first day usage and the introduction of postage stamps and the Mulready stationery). A particular feature is the use of penny blacks and twopenny blues on cover, including an early example from the Isle of Jura, probably the earliest stamped item from the Western Isles.



A 'virtual' first day cover of the Uniform Penny Post from Rothesay on the Isle of Bute. Written on 10 January 1840, the first day, and endorsed 'P1' in red ink, by the time it was deposited in the post office the mail boat had left so it was postmarked the following day and sent to Inverary. Probably the earliest Uniform Penny Post cover from a Scottish island.

FRAME 11

UK MAIL TO THE EAST COAST OF THE USA 1840-1867

KENNETH BURR

Transatlantic mail between Great Britain and the USA in this period was of immense importance, largely because of the level of trade between the two countries. The share of the fees for postage was ultimately set out in postal treaties which determined a fair share between them using American markings and British rates. The exhibit begins with the 8-pence-per-oz ship letter rate current in 1845 and then moves on through the brief 'Retaliatory Rate' period, the 'Restored Rate' period, to the rates and markings arising from the Postal Convention of 1848, when the 1s-per-half-oz rate was agreed. Accountancy marks relating to mail carried on American and British packets are covered showing the datestamps, which also identified the packet's nationality, and the accountancy marks identifying entitlement to the share of the postage. Both countries received their inland postage but the shipping fee was paid to the USA if the packet was American and to Britain if the packet was British. The nationality of the packet was determined by which administration had chartered it; both countries chartered each other's ships. Payment of late fees is illustrated, including the Liverpool floating dock fee of 1s as well as the treatment of insufficiently paid letters and payment for registration. The 1848 Convention ended in 1867 when a new treaty came into effect in June.



Letter dated 10 November 1855, Liverpool to Philadelphia. Double rated at 2s plus 1s Liverpool Floating Receiving House late fee. Handstamped 48 cents (2s) double rate; 10 cents for US double rate inland postage. Via British packet Canada, so 32 cents sea post plus 6 cents inland post due to British Post Office.

FRAME 12

THE ½d 'BANTAM' USED IN LEEDS**RICHARD WHEATLEY FRPSL**

These ½d 'bantam' stamps were issued against the background of the movement for 'Reading for the Masses' and the Act of Parliament commonly known as Forster's Education Act of 1870. To fulfil the objects of this worthy Act, and to make the dissemination of reading matter as cheap as possible, new rates of postage were introduced on 1 October 1870:

- Printed matter up to 2 ounces ½d
- Each newspaper ½d
- Postcards ½d

In anticipation of these new services/rates, Perkins Bacon commenced printing the stamps in June 1870. This display shows the ½d bantam stamp used only on items from LEEDS, with:

- Used on printed matter
- Using two stamps to make up the inland letter rate
- Only placing one on a letter and thus being caught for postage due!
- Being used to make up the 2½d foreign letter rate
- Uprating inland postcards for foreign destinations

The final item is a bit of an oddity. A ½d bantam stamp used on a commercial picture postcard, BUT clearly dated 1911 — 10 years after these bantam stamps were invalidated!



A pair of ½d bantam stamps from Plate 9, used to frank this letter from Leeds dated 22 March 1872. Plate 9 was put to press on 9 October 1871 and then held as a reserve plate, consequently it is by far the scarcest of the 15 printing plates.

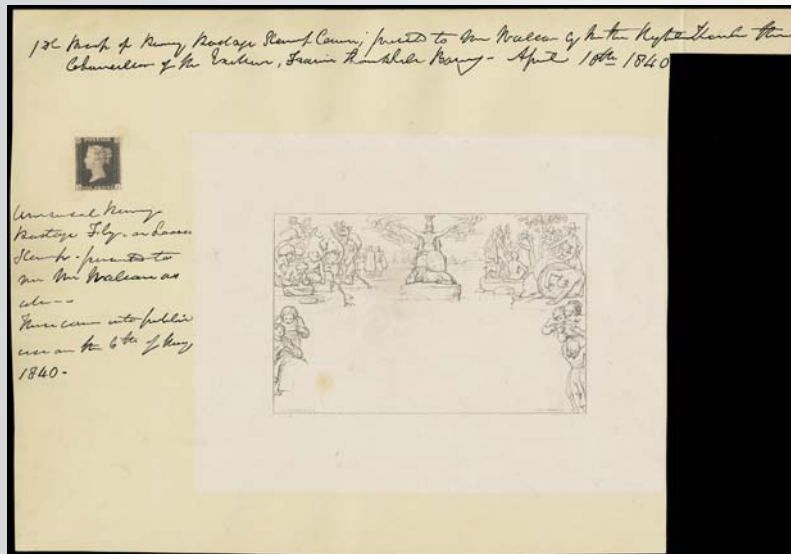
FRAMES 13/14

THE DAWN OF PHILATELY**ALAN HOLYOAKE FRPSL**

For me, one of the most significant events of the Victorian era was the introduction of 'cheap postage', and with it the Mulready stationery and adhesive postage stamp, or 'Fly' as it was originally called; communication being the lifeblood of commerce and industry as well as for the public at large. The formation of the Mercantile Committee headed by Robert Wallace demonstrates the difficulty in persuading Parliament of the need for reform.

The display opens with the famous 'Great Weight and No Price — Little Weight and All Price' propaganda cartoon and postally used 'Post Office Permit' campaign letter sheet. The Treasury Competition is represented by the hand-painted letter sheet found in Francis Baring's personal file. Both the postage stamp and Mulready then feature in proof format displayed either side of the 'Wallace Document' which was only relatively recently discovered in the archive of Robert Wallace. This unique document is dated 10 April 1840, and was presented to Wallace by Francis Baring, Chancellor of the Exchequer. It provides a copy of the Mulready design and the earliest known 1d Black postage stamp, dated three days before the printing tender was awarded to Perkins, Bacon & Petch. The issued stamp is shown by the unique unused corner marginal strip showing Plate No. '1'.

The display then provides extensive examples of 6 May, first day, usages of both the Mulready and 1d Black Plate 1a and Plate 2, including uprated and twopence-rate covers, examples of which are rare. The two centrepiece items are the Henry Cole first day postal test Mulready envelopes and the very ornate first known 'Legal Contract' to be posted bearing the only known pair of postage stamps used on 6 May.



The 'Wallace Document' [the pencil inscription has been digitally enhanced for readability]

FRAME 15

STAMPS OVERPRINTED 'SPECIMEN' OR 'CANCELLED'

DAVID LEATHART

Definition of a Specimen stamp: *'A stamp or stamp proof which has been provided or preserved as a sample, for which no payment has been made to the revenue, and which has been defaced to prevent its postal (or fiscal) use' — Marcus Samuel, writing in James Bendon's 1988 book UPU Specimen Stamps.*

Of course, in this display, all the stamps have been overprinted 'SPECIMEN' or 'CANCELLED'. The display opens with a sheet of Military Telegraphs and this is followed by three sheets of stamps used by Government departments such as the Inland Revenue and Office of Works. The use of 'official' overprints was introduced in the United Kingdom in 1882, largely to help the government accountants work out the postage costs and to recompense the GPO. For a while, possession of mint official stamps was even deemed a criminal offence!

Fiscal stamps used by the Inland Revenue, for example for receipts and paying taxes, are shown on one sheet, followed by two sheets of general purpose embossed stamps which could, for example, be used by Customs to collect their duties. On 1 June 1881 some revenue stamps were authorised for use for normal postage; this was because with the issue of the combined 'postage and revenue' stamps (such as the 1d lilac issued in July 1881) there was no longer any need for specific revenue stamps.

Three sheets show the 'Unappropriated Dies' which were used in order to gain revenue for Government. Finally 'CANCELLED' stamps were used by De La Rue for their own purposes.



Military Telegraphs stamps overprinted 'SPECIMEN' Type 6 (1d) and Type 9.

It is thought that Military Telegraphs stamps were first used in Egypt and Sudan in 1884. These stamps were for the prepayment of non-official messages sent via the army telegraph system. They were used for private army communications and newspaper reporters. Unappropriated die stamps overprinted 'MILITARY TELEGRAPHS' were used.

FRAME 16

DIE 2 ALPHABET 3: 'MY FAVOURITE SHEETS'

PETER AVEYARD

The following 12 sheets are selected from my 150-sheet collection: **Sheet 1** Introduction. **Sheets 2–3** In the beginning; Wyon medal + engine-turned background = Die Proof. **Sheet 4** Range of imprimaturs, showing changes of colours and watermarks, including Plate 23 (Plum), with inverted Small Crown watermark. **Sheet 5** 1872 South Kensington Exhibition 'Black' on card, plus Red and Black so-called 'Royal reprints' with upright and inverted watermarks along with a pair of Mr Neale's Steam Press Experimental printing of Plate 22. **Sheets 7–8** Corner blocks of 24 (Plate 55) and 42 (Plate 62) with plate numbers, illustrating Dr David Leivers' article in the *GB Journal*, Volume 37, No. 1, 1999. **Sheet 8** Small Crown watermark on early Die 2 Alphabet 3 plates (SG Spec. C7) using the residue of the 'old' paper — a mint single and strip of three, also used on cover. **Sheet 9** Cover to Scutari (Florence Nightingale) to a soldier in my old Regiment (4th of Foot), along with a London local to Grays Inn with MS 'Mij'sent to Chelsea', neither office cancelling the stamp — unusual, especially for this era. **Sheets 10–11** (a) Three complete rows (36 stamps); (b) five complete rows (60 stamps), both Plate 55. (a) is from Volume 5 of Wiggins & Tonna's book on plating Alphabet 3; (b) is from a GBPS sale, and shows constant varieties and re-entries. **Sheet 12** All from Plate 55: Specimen Types 7 and 10 (shortest and longest); TA-TL error of watermark; a matched trio (HG): imprimatur, imperforate, issued perforated 14 (only the perforation 16 is missing — any offers please!); finishing with late usage of the Maltese Cross obliteration from a village known for such late usages.



Ormond Hill's February 1871 reprint die proof in the issued colour on thin white paper with 'New' and '3' uninked (SG Spec. DP29a). Also known on yellowish white wove paper in black, Prussian blue, cobalt, orange-vermilion, pale carmine, sage-green, emerald-green, deep carmine and violet (DP29b).

FRAME 17

THE OFFICIAL PROTECTIVE UNDERPRINTS SERVICE

ANDY DONALDSON FRPSL

Protective overprints (on the face) and underprints (on the back of stamps) were the little-known forerunner to perforated initials (perfins) applied as a security device to prevent stamps being stolen from firms and organisations and exchanged for cash at the Post Office.

As early as 1858 firms had taken to privately overprinting or underprinting their stocks of stamps in this way and in all some 50 firms eventually took to this practice.

The Inland Revenue introduced an official underprints service in 1866, which ran for about 16 years. However, in all that time only five firms took up the service and it formally ceased in 1882.

This display covers the official underprints service carried out, for the most part, by Perkins Bacon & Co. under the auspices of the Stamping Department of the Inland Revenue.

Following the introductory page the display shows the underprints used by the five firms or organisations that took up the service, as follows:

Sheets

1	Introduction
2-3	J. & C. Boyd & Co.
4-5	W. H. Smith & Co.
6-9	Copestake, Moore, Crampton & Co.
10-11	Oxford Union Society
12	Great Eastern Railway



1870 first 1½d stamp with error of lettering OP-PC for CP-PC and 'COPESTAKE, MOORE, CRAMPTON, & CO., London.' official underprint in red.

FRAME 18

1883–84 LILACS & GREENS**JOHN ROE**

Ten values of six designs were issued in the set known as 'Lilacs and Greens', and mint copies of these including two ½d shades and a 9d plug flaw are shown on the first sheet in this display. The set was issued on 1 April 1884 as unifying stamps for both postal and fiscal use, although the 9d had been issued earlier on 1 August 1883.

The second sheet presents a proof of the unissued Die 1 5d (cracked plate) and a proof of the Die 2 issued 5d showing the differences between the dies. Imprimaturs are shown for seven values, with illustrations of the sheet locations of the 22–25 stamps removed from the sheets. Horizontal format imprimaturs have sideways-inverted watermarks.

All values were issued with 'SPECIMEN' overprints for sending to postmasters for identification purposes and these are shown on two sheets with the two imperforate values. The sixth sheet shows seven values with line perforation gauge 12.

Blocks of four are shown on the next sheet, followed by two single forgeries. Inverted watermark examples are shown on the next sheet for both upright and horizontal formats. Colour trials for the future Jubilee issue were then carried out on the Lilac values and a selection is shown, plus two values used in a cancellation trial from the GPO Confidential Enquiry Branch.

Examples used abroad are shown from the Levant, Sudan and Gibraltar.

Two sheets show 118 copies of the 6d value from the left-hand pane (of 120) fiscally used.



Die proof of the unissued Die 1 of the 5d compared with a proof of Die 2 and an imprimatur of the stamp in dull green as issued.

FRAME 19

THE 2d JUBILEE 1887**PHIL WAUD**

These stamps were issued in the same year as the celebration of the 1887 Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria and the stamp series became known as the Queen Victoria Jubilees. These were the first bicoloured stamps and required the introduction of accurate registration of two colours. The stamps were produced by Thomas De La Rue & Co. using the surface-printing (letterpress) method.

The display presents the variety of utilisation of the 2d Jubilee. Starting with the stamp's development through the imprimatur, specimens and technical information, followed by examples of the issued stamp showing a range of shades, scarcer printings and varieties. Examples of usage are shown on covers and parcel post, and some large blocks. The stamps were also overprinted for use in certain Crown Colonies. An unusual printing was made by using the 2d head and duty plates for official colour trials in the development of the bicoloured 1900 shilling stamp, with a selection of different colours shown.



This block is from the first printing issued in January 1887, being without the marginal rules which were included on all later printings. These scarce 'setting 1' printings are seldom seen with the sheet margins. Printed in grey-green and carmine on Large Crown watermark paper.

GB OFFICIAL OVERPRINTS 1896–1904**DAVID MILSTED FRPSL**

The Post Office and the Treasury agreed to the overprinting of postage stamps for Government departments to provide convenience and post-room security. The public were denied over-the-counter purchases although the Treasury sanctioned periodic sales of departmental issues from Somerset House in London. GB 'official' stamps became prized pieces in the hands of collectors, with premium prices being paid.

I.R. OFFICIAL issues were fully financed by the Treasury with annual settlement to the Post Office. Two reigns are featured on piece. A cover to Joshua Tetley and Son Ltd is shown, paid with a KEVII 1d.

O.W. OFFICIAL issues are shown with the six settings of the overprint and a cover from HM Office of Works, Edinburgh. An OHMS mourning cover is shown with QV issues paying the rate to Switzerland. Press reports of the 1903 Richards & Creeke case are shown.

ARMY OFFICIAL ½d vermilion issue on cover with Ladysmith Siege Post Office and Natal handstamp of 23 February 1900. The siege was lifted when General Redvers Buller, commanding the British forces, crossed the Tugela River to outflank the Boers.

GOVERNMENT PARCELS with OHMS parcel label from Basingstoke with a pair of KEVII 2d Yellowish green and Carmine-red stamps applied.

BOARD OF EDUCATION cover with a KEVII 1d Scarlet paying the rate from Kensington SW. A 1902 ½d Blue-green pair is shown on piece from Liverpool.

R.H. OFFICIAL 1903 cover is shown, bearing a KEVII ½d Blue-green issue paying the unsealed letter rate from East Cowes in the Isle of Wight.

ADMIRALTY OFFICIAL 1902 1d Scarlet pair uprating a 2d Brown registered envelope, sent to HMS *Crescent* in the Cape of Good Hope; Portsmouth Naval Barracks BO postmarks of 4 May 1904.



1902 OHMS parcel label from Basingstoke to the Royal Engineers in Kingston upon Thames.

FRAME 21

THE ADVERTISER VOUCHER BOOK OF STAMPS – 1909–1940

IAN HARVEY FRPSL

In 1908, the Post Office decided to solicit commercial advertising to be printed on the interleaves in booklets; this started with the use of paper interleaves in 1909. From 1911, the Post Office appointed its own advertising contractor, Sells Ltd, to organise commercial advertising on its behalf and to liaise with business customers and Harrison & Sons, the printers of the stamps and all components of the booklets.

As the Post Office needed examples of this work, it used issued booklets with all the panes cancelled to invalidate the stamps. Such booklets are called 'Advertiser Voucher Copies' or AVCs. However, their use was wider than the issue to an advertiser as acknowledgement of insertion of their advertisement into a particular booklet. Sells used AVCs for promotion to customers, their own records, and planning with the Post Office with a view to maximising advertising revenue.

Material from 1909 to 1940 is shown, starting with panes from the first King Edward VII booklets invalidated with a dumb London E.C. canceller and ending with panes from the King George VI 'dark colours'. Between these dates, the stamp panes received obliterations (dated from 1912 to 1926) or 'CANCELLED' handstamps.

This brief display shows some of the obliterations and handstamps from the numerous varieties. The catalogue lists the obliterations alphabetically, A to K, and the 'CANCELLED' handstamps, Types 28 and 33, the latter also with ticket-punched holes. In addition, 'SPECIMEN' Type 23 was used on 30 June and 12 July 1926 and 'CANCELLED' Type 24 was used on 14 and 27 February 1928, both probably in error on those four booklet editions only.



1½d pane, watermark Block Cypher, overprinted 'CANCELLED' Type 24.

The 'CANCELLED' overprint was used in error to invalidate panes for Advertiser Voucher Booklets 2s Edition 73, issued 27 February 1928; and 3s Edition 137, issued 14 February 1928.

FRAME 22

EXTRACTS FROM A SPECIALISED COLLECTION OF THE 1912 1½d

ALLAN JONES FRPSL

This one-frame display comprises a selection of rarely seen and, in some cases, unique items from a specialised collection of the 1912 1½d printed by letterpress.

Sheet 1. Henschel essay second proof in black. Colour essay in brown.

Sheet 2. Engraver's sketch die proof in grey-black and proofs in maroon and orange.

Sheet 3. Coinage head die proof Stage 1a in red.

Sheet 4. Coinage head die proof Stages 1f in green and 1g in black. Stage 1g in green on gummed paper with Imperial Crown watermark.

Sheet 5. Proof of Mackennal's hand-drawn pen-and-ink frame.

Sheet 6. Bromide of the frame with the value added. Finished die proof. Imprimatur.

Sheet 7. Examples of the Somerset House A.12 (wide) and A.12 (close) printings with perforated margins — i.e. right-fed perforation.

Sheet 8. M18 control block of four without watermark. Top marginal vertical strip of nine, the upper stamps with gradually fading watermarks leaving the lower stamp completely without.

Sheet 9. 'PENCF' variety with watermark inverted and reversed; 'PENCF' corrected without watermark.

Sheet 10. Control blocks showing the missing 'K' in K18 and the possible reason for it.

Sheet 11. Control strip showing the missing 'M' in M19.

Sheet 12. Examples of the very scarce (on this value) 'SPECIMEN' Type 23 overprint from both sheet and booklet printings, together with examples of the 'SPECIMEN' Type 26 and similarly scarce 'CANCELLED' Type 24 overprint.



Very few examples of Control A.12 (close setting) are known with a right fed perforator.

PHOTOGRAVURE ISSUE 1934–1936**PETER TANNER**

In 1934, Harrison regained the contract for printing the low value definitives. The basis under which this contract was placed was that the stamps would be printed by the photogravure process. This printing method had first been used for stamps in Bavaria in 1914 and Harrison had limited experience having printed stamps only for Egypt by this method at the time the contract was placed. The choice of this method of production was dictated not only by the price — the quoted figure was not the lowest that the Post Office received — but by the greatly increased rate of production which was required to meet the rapid growth in the volume of mail carried.

However, when the contract was placed, Harrison was not capable of printing the numbers required. The Waterlow plates were transferred to Harrison and printing continued by letterpress until the new stamps were ready for release. By 1936, all values had changed to the new production method, except the 6d, which Harrison printed by letterpress until the end of 1938.

The Mackennal head, developed for the lower values of the definitive series, continued to be used, as did the same frame designs. Trials were prepared using these frames with the same dimensions, and the photogravure head. These were printed in a number of colours using a solid background to the head in order to simulate the effect of photogravure. It was at this stage that the first problems with the doubly fugitive ink for the 6d were experienced.

The first photogravure stamps were issued in September 1934. These were the 1d and the 1½d values which were released in the Large Format (18·7 x 22·5 mm). It was soon found that this size did not leave sufficient room for the perforations and, in 1935, an Intermediate Format (18·4 x 22·2 mm) was issued for the ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2d. Finally, in late 1935, the size was reduced again to the Small Format (17·9 x 22·7 mm) and this was used for all values. Slight variations also exist in the size of the booklet and coil stamps. As the King had died on 20 January 1936, the 5d, 10d and 1s were all issued posthumously.



Large Format imperforate colour trial on gummed watermarked paper, overprinted 'CANCELLED' Type 33. This block comes from the only known piece of this proof: a corner block of 12 from Cylinder 16. No issued stamps were printed from this cylinder.

FRAME 24

THE 5d MACHIN DEFINITIVE OF 1967–1971

TONY WALKER FRPSL

The current decimal Machin series receives widespread acclaim for its longevity and the timeless nature of the design. People forget that this stamp first appeared in 1967 in the £sd currency and lasted until decimalisation in 1971. If you are building a decimal Machin collection, don't forget the foundations!

The 5d value was a pioneer stamp, first issued on 1 July 1968 and used for the first class rate of the new 'two-tier' postal system introduced on 16 September 1968. Low inflation at the time meant the postal rates remained unchanged until decimalisation, and some 5 billion (5,000,000,000) copies of this stamp were printed — a number probably unsurpassed by any other Machin value due to the subsequent rapidly rising postage rates.

Material has been selected from coils, sheets and booklets to illustrate the sources of this value, together with a selection of the major rarities. The block shown in Row 2 of Sheet 1 is interesting. The Post Office had been experimenting with phosphor bands since their introduction in the Wilding definitives, and trialled a phosphor-coated paper (PCP) on the 5d value towards the end of the £sd series. The experiment was short-lived and PCP stamps are not common. This particular block also has an erroneous overprinting of the two phosphor bands found normally on this issue, not of course readily visible in the display.

Other rarities are described in the write-up on the individual sheets



This tête-bêche block, the largest recorded I believe, comes from part of the complex arrangement of sheet-printed stamps required to produce booklet panes, and comprises four panes of six stamps destined for the 5s or 10s booklets. It was purchased over the counter at Richmond Way Post Office in London on 26 August 1970.

FRAME 25

WHY COLLECT COUNTY POSTAL HISTORY?

TOM SLEMONS FRPSL

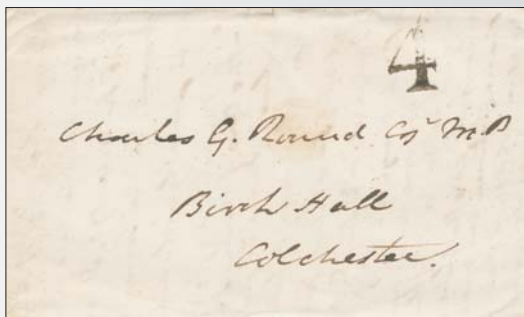
SEVERAL GREAT REASONS

Any county, collected and researched, will provide many wonderful philatelic delights. Forty years of collecting Suffolk validates that sentence. Important pieces of postal history; some very rare and perhaps unique, are from Suffolk. Amazing, important, and delightful highlights are presented. They are representative of what might exist in other counties; some are unique to Suffolk.

Each of Suffolk's four ports had Ship Letter markings; two are shown. Early Mileage Marks showing the evolution in computing distance are displayed here. A unique trio of letters showing rate computation during the Postal Reform period is without equal. The Uniform Fourpenny Post and Uniform Penny Post periods in Suffolk produced several wonderful items. The same can be said of other counties, but what is here from Suffolk, I believe, cannot be equaled.

The short lives of the Penny Black, Twopenny Blue, and Mulready produced many delights; a few are here. The only surviving Maltese Cross obliterator was found in the town of Wangford and the only recorded Penny Black cover with a 'Wangford Cross' illustrates it. Soon after stamp collecting became a hobby, Charles Whitfield King started a stamp business in Ipswich. For many years his was the largest stamp dealership in the world and it continued into the 1960s. The array of covers and stationery he produced is without parallel.

The display closes with the MacRobertson Air Race, from RAF Mildenhall to Melbourne. The event was of such importance that King George V, Queen Mary, and Edward, Prince of Wales, all travelled to Mildenhall to see the planes and pilots. The race revolutionised commercial aviation and opened Australia to commercial air travel.



THE WOODBRIDGE '4', 22 DECEMBER 1845 — Prepared for the Uniform Fourpenny Post period, the Woodbridge '4' lay dormant for five years. An unpaid double-rate letter was presented and charged twice the double rate (a very rare rate), thus 4d was due from the addressee. The Woodbridge '4' was brought out of 'retirement' and applied. The only known cover.

FRAME 26

THE EDINBURGH PENNY POST

TIM LEDIARD

My 12-page exhibit is very much a potted version of the Edinburgh Penny Post starting with the very rare and elusive Portobello Penny Post 'Snail' and moving on to the unofficial Peter Williamson Penny Post marks, timed delivery marks, and an Edinburgh City Centre mark 'Hanover Street' used additionally as a Scots Local mark and then as a backstamp on an Edinburgh Turned 1d black cover.



The Portobello 'Snail' is probably the most elusive of all the Edinburgh Penny Post marks along with the Peter Williamson straight-line 'Edinburgh' mark. The 'Snail' was in use for only a very short period. The mark is only recorded in red and is nicknamed because of its close resemblance to a snail!



FRAME 27

MAIL EXEMPT FROM SCOTTISH TAX 1813–1839

JANET BYGATE FRPSL

By Act of Parliament in July 1785 all mail-carrying vehicles of any description were exempt from paying tolls for 'their passage through any Turnpike, Tollgate or Bar'. As much of the revenue from the tolls needed for the upkeep of the roads, particularly in remote places, was derived from this source, there was much dissatisfaction amongst the Turnpike Trustees who began a campaign to have the Act repealed.

After a series of protestations and discussions, on 3 July 1813 Parliament finally passed '*An Act to repeal the exemption from Toll granted for, and in respect of, Carriages with more than two wheels, carrying mails in Scotland; and for granting a Rate of Postage, as an indemnity for the loss which arises to the Revenue of the Post Office from the Payment of such Tolls*'.

Thus the Post Office was allowed to recoup some of its losses by making an extra charge on mail carried by a vehicle with more than two wheels over a toll road in Scotland. The Act was applied on 8 July 1813 and remained in force until 5 December 1839.

There were exceptions to payment of the additional ½d tax and this brief display shows examples.



MAIL CARRIED BY SEA Pre-paid entire posted at Inverness in March 1820, carried by sea to London and transferred there for carriage as a ship letter to India.

FRAME 28

PHILATELIC ORIGAMI**DON DAVIES FRPSL**

The peculiar folding of letters into a triangular shape was originally thought to convey some sort of message to the recipient . . . or possibly a form of 'humility' letter since the content of these letters often seemed to be of an apologetic nature.

However, once I had acquired a number of triangular covers it soon became clear that both of these options were probably wishful thinking, perhaps the true explanation was simply that the shape was a means to an end . . . that is, an ingenious method of turning a piece of paper into its own wrapper or 'envelope' with the folds tucked in on the reverse to create an interlocking paper 'seal'.

My display features examples from the pre-stamp period (1827) though to the 1860s including two rare 1840 items franked by 1d Blacks.

From the mid-1840s purpose-made triangular envelopes can be found. These seem to be very scarce and two interesting examples are shown used in 1845 and 1863.

Also shown is an unusual undated group of six letters, evidently privately carried with no postal markings, from a single family correspondence believed to originate from the 1830s.

A variation on the triangular folded cover was the six-sided elongated hexagon. These are very much scarcer than the triangular type and would appear to be have served the same purpose . . . that is to create its own outer wrapper. Three examples are shown franked by imperf 1d Red adhesives dated 1845 (2) and 1850.

The display concludes with an unusual diamond shaped envelope used in 1876 and a 'Book Post' card from 1905.



FRAME 29

MAIL BY RAIL**PHIL KENTON FRPSL**

Early letters can be found, probably carried privately against Post Office regulations. At that time the Post Office did not have a parcel service, but the railways did. 'Letters' if sent as parcels with string tied around them were known as string letters and these could be sent by rail.

11 November 1830 was a momentous day in the history of the Royal Mail as the first bag of letters was carried the fifty miles between Liverpool and Manchester, at an average speed of 25 mph; twice the speed of a Mailcoach. Then in 1837 came a development when the Grand Junction Railway from Birmingham was joined to the Liverpool–Manchester line. This gave more than 70 miles of railway. On 3 July 1837 mail was conveyed to London by rail as far as Birmingham, then Mailcoach to London — taking 16½ hours Liverpool–London.

Over the next 10 years railways had taken over the carriage of mail in the United Kingdom, train speeds rising to 45 mph. In 1890 an agreement was drawn up between the Postmaster-General and the railways; it finally agreed for the conveyance of single post letters by railway would come into operation on 1 February 1891 for all signed-up rail companies, for letters addressed within the UK, not exceeding 1 oz, either to be called for at the station of address, or to be transferred to the nearest post box for delivery by postman, thus speeding up the mail. Initial cost was 2d on top of the GPO postage.



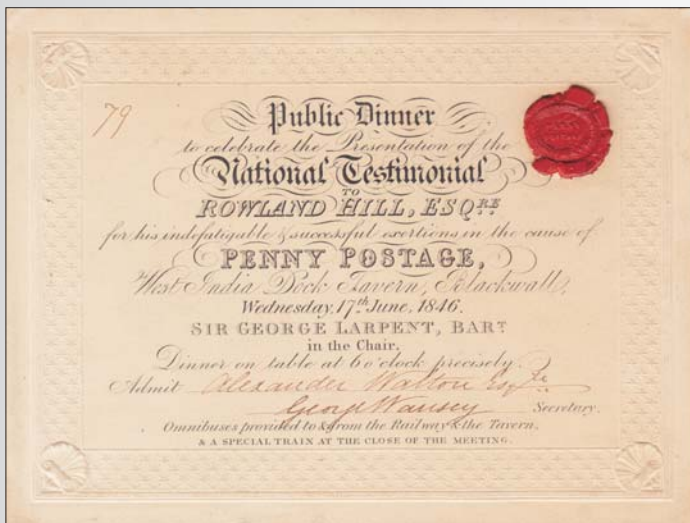
ILLUSTRATED ENVELOPE OF AN EXPRESS TRAIN — BIRMINGHAM TO RUGBY 11 MARCH 1878
'It is gratifying to know that coffins and stretchers are always ready at different stations and new regulations are in force by which every passenger on all lines will be supplied with a label, to be suspended around their necks, so that when the crash comes, their bones, heads, etc. may all be carefully collected and sent home to their expectant relations and friends, according to their ticket'. [A quotation from the Kentish Observer dated 28 May 1840]

FRAME 30

ROWLAND HILL — HIS POSTAL REFORM CAREER 1836–64

JAMES GRIMWOOD-TAYLOR FRPSL

This exhibit consists of 12 pages from a specialised Rowland Hill collection, selected to illustrate the most significant stages of his postal reform career from the 1830s through to the dawn of stamp dealing and his retirement in 1864. There are eight items written/inscribed by Rowland Hill himself and the most significant pro-postal reform pamphlets that he produced before and after 1840. Featuring a personal (partly hand-written) 1836 invitation (with printed description and ticket) to see Hill's new 'PATENT ROTATORY PRINTING MACHINE'; an autograph signed 6 January 1837 letter about his famous first edition 'POST OFFICE REFORM' pamphlet; the February 1837 first public edition of that pamphlet; the R. W. Hume March 1838 Caricature 'HURRAH FOR THE POSTMAN, THE GREAT ROLAND [sic] HILL' cartoon/ballad; the 4 May 1840 envelope from Hill himself with a presentation 'Proof' 1d Mulready; a 15 June 1840 Rowland Hill usage of the 'ENVELOPE SELECT ADVERTISER' multi-advertisement 1d Mulready; his 1841–44 'Results of the New Postage Arrangements' and 'State & Prospects of Penny Postage' pamphlets; the 1844 Testimonial Fund circular letter listing major subscribers to this 'Thank You' fund for Hill (which gave him a total of £13,360 19s 5d in 1845/6!); an 1846 dinner ticket for the event when Hill was handed the testimonial itself; an 1859 signed Hill letter sent 'to enclose the promised American Stamp'; the unique January 1864 O.H.M.S. front with 'R. Hill' handstamp (addressed to the Stamp Dealer 'E. L. Pemberton'); and a presentation copy of his final (March 1864) pamphlet 'THE RESULTS OF POSTAL REFORM'.



One of two extant tickets for the 1846 'Public Dinner to celebrate the Presentation of the National Testimonial TO ROWLAND HILL, ESQRE. for his indefatigable & successful exertions in the cause of PENNY POSTAGE' in London, printed on embossed 'DOBBS' card with red wax 'NATIONAL TESTIMONIAL TO ROWLAND HILL ESQRE./PENNY/POSTAGE' seal.

FRAME 31

THE MULREADY**CHRIS JARVIS FRPSL**

The display includes a first day, 6 May 1840, used to Cornwall, one of two known to the county. The sender has cross-written in different coloured inks to maximise the available space and avoid charges for an additional sheet of paper.

There follows the rarest of the May dates, Sunday the 10th, written on the interior is *'I am sorry to be sending you these engravings'* confirming their immediate unpopularity, encouraged by contemporary criticism in the newspapers.

This opprobrium rapidly led to the caricatures and the eventual withdrawal of the Mulreadys. Examples of two envelopes with satirical pen-and-ink additions are shown which can be considered to be the precursors of the caricatures.

The Mulready's surface regularity provides an excellent substrate for clear strikes of distinctive Maltese Crosses. Examples are shown of Plymouth, Norwich, Manchester, Coventry and London Numbers 2 and 4 in Cross. Other unusual cancellations are displayed — a straight-line TP used to cancel the figure of Britannia and a 'Wessex' datestamp from Bodmin.

Mulreadys which incurred additional postal charges are also exhibited; respectively 2d, 4d and 6d rates for weights between one and three ounces.

Further unusual usages are shown. These include a twopenny Mulready posted late in May 1855. Initially this was charged 4d postage due, but subsequently an inspector recognised that it remained postally valid and cancelled the charge.



The distinctive Maltese Crosses of Plymouth and Norwich were thought to be identical. However, research demonstrated contemporaneous use. Clear-cut strikes show Norwich's dimensions to be 17 x 16.5 mm, those of Plymouth 18 x 18 mm; more subtle differences are also apparent in the outer cross loops and concavities.

FRAME 32

COMBINATION COVERS: A PENNY FOR THEM

RAY SIMPSON FRPSL

This display traces the history of Penny Postage stamps and postal stationery in the Victorian era from the introduction of the Penny Black in 1840 to the end of the Queen's reign, and the issue of the first stamps bearing the head of Edward VII.

Simple enough, but not much of a challenge as the individual stamps are very common both off and on cover. But the chosen medium for this display is to show the progression from one issue to the next, or even next but one, on covers that combine the relevant stamps and stationery. Such covers provide a graphic illustration of the stories behind the technical and administrative changes that occurred during the reign of Queen Victoria.

It might be imagined that with such common stamps and stationery significant numbers of combination covers would exist. Nothing could be further from the truth. For most of the combinations shown, recorded numbers of such combination usages are reckoned in single figures. Other unrecorded examples doubtless exist, but there is a good reason for the scarcity of such covers. The postal authorities were careful to withhold supplies of new stamps until stocks of the old stamps had been exhausted. Accordingly, there were few opportunities for the public to acquire and use both old and new stamps together.



Local Taunton cover dated 13 March 1880 — 1d Venetian Red paying postage. Re-directed to Bath on 14 March — 1d Red Plate 218 paying re-direction fee. Transitional period usage. These stamps are among the commonest of the Victorian issues, but only nine similar combination covers are recorded, four of which are philatelically inspired.

FRAME 33

LATE USE OF THE MALTESE CROSS**HOWARD HUGHES FRPSL**

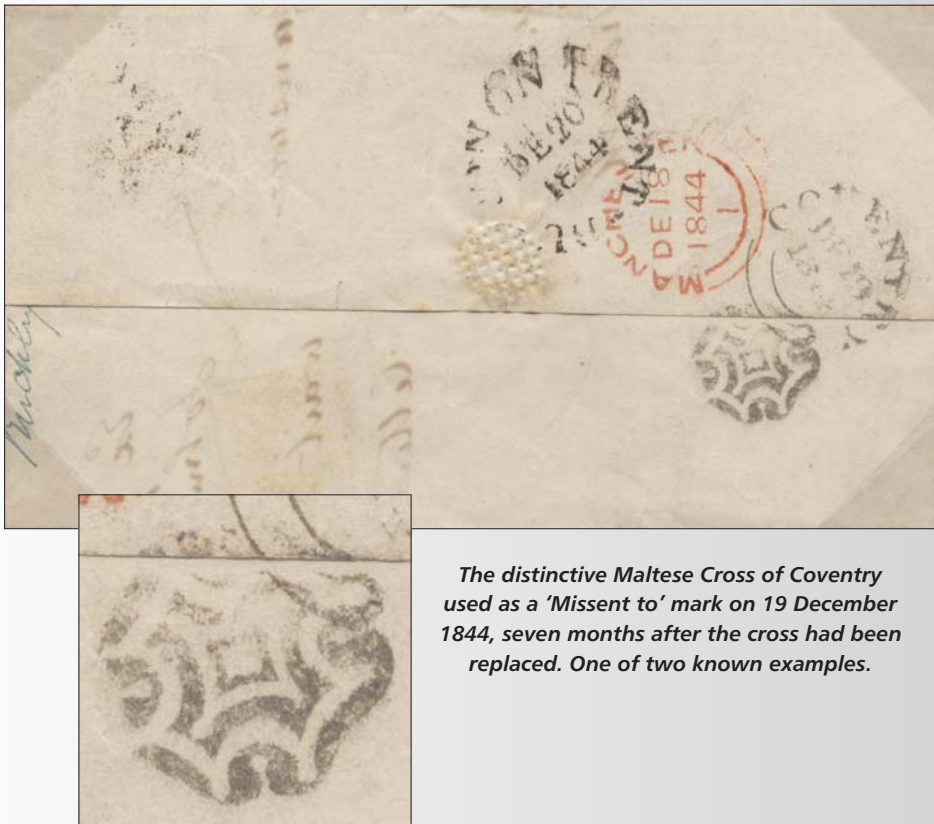
The Maltese Cross, the obliterator designed to cancel the first postage stamps and postal stationery, was deemed unsatisfactory after four years of use and replaced by five series of more functional numeral obliterators during May and June 1844.

Despite this, a number of offices continued to use the original obliterator.

This display illustrates such late use, initially by showing adhesives not issued until after the Maltese Cross had been generally replaced.

The rest of the display shows late use of the Maltese Cross on cover and includes examples of coloured and distinctive crosses, the use of the cross as an instructional mark, combinations of crosses and numerals on the same adhesive and multiple rates.

The display concludes with an example of an envelope addressed to Queen Victoria, bearing a gypsy-type curse on anyone delaying its delivery.



The distinctive Maltese Cross of Coventry used as a 'Missent to' mark on 19 December 1844, seven months after the cross had been replaced. One of two known examples.

FRAME 34

MAIL TO THE ITALIAN STATES AND ITALY IN THE PRE-UPU PERIOD

BEN PALMER FRPSL FRSPC APR

The exhibit explains and explores the letter and printed matter rates set by the British Post Office. Supplementing the normal rates, registration and late fees are highlighted throughout. Significant marcophily and other concepts relative to postal history are also identified. Special attention is paid to multiple weight examples of mail and rare combinations of services.

The subject is frequently complex due to the various currencies in use in different areas which were often unrelated in terms of their value. Mail to some of the smaller Italian States is often very scarce due to low populations or lack of business transactions and communications. Mail was the main means of communication for both trade and individuals and is therefore an important reflection of the contemporary social and commercial arrangements.

There were no postal treaties with any of the Italian States until 1857 (with Sardinia and with effect the following year) and most mail was necessarily routed via France (Calais or Marseilles) although a less commonly used route was via Ostend (Belgium) and Aachen or Hamburg or Rotterdam, the latter made possible by a treaty with Prussia in 1847.

A treaty between France and Sardinia in 1851 had benefits for Great Britain including allowing mail to be sent either fully paid or entirely unpaid and further treaties between France and Great Britain in 1855 and 1857 also impacted on postal rates to the Italian States.



24 April 1852 entire to Venice franked with a strip of three of the 10d Embossed and tied by London numerals, believed the only example of the 2s 6d double rate via Aachen. Addressed to John Ruskin (1819–1900) English art critic; the contents include small pen and ink sketches.

FRAME 35

SPOON CANCELLATIONS OF PROVINCIAL IRELAND

GRAHAM BOOTH FRPSL

Spoon cancels, along with sideways duplex cancels, were the first duplex cancels anywhere in the world. They were part of an experiment to speed up the mail by eliminating the process of using an obliterator on the obverse of a letter and a datestamp on the reverse. It determined the design of cancellers in England, Wales and Ireland for the next 25 years and was probably the first large scale industrial work study ever conducted. Twenty-eight towns in England, one in Wales and thirty-two towns in Ireland were involved. A total of 90 Irish spoons were issued but only 82 are known. The experiment started later than in England, but finished at the same time so that Irish spoons are less common than English spoons and through poor cleaning often have inferior impressions. As a consequence Arundel's guide contains many errors.

New spoons were issued to provincial towns in accordance with the following dates (Dublin had its own unique pattern of development).

- (1) **March 1855–May 1856** **English Type 1, oval spoons with vertical sidebars.**
- (2) **October 1855–March 1856** **English Type 2, oval spoons with horizontal sidebars.**
- (3) **March 1857–October 1857** **Irish Type, with the obliterator in a diamond frame.**

As far as we know no Irish spoon was ever recut. A few towns continued to use their spoon cancellers in the sixties, and in two cases — Enniskillen and Newry — into the seventies; but for the majority no spoon cancels are known after 1859.



A 2d Blue Mulready which was cancelled against regulations off Britannia by an Irish Type Ballinasloe spoon, Code C, on 30 September 1858. Addressed to Great Malvern in England it was posted and backstamped in Ballycar on the 30th, went through Dublin on 1 October and arrived on the 2nd. This spoon was fairly heavily used over a period of eight years; but the late use of the Mulready with a spoon cancel is very scarce.

FRAME 36

INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID MAIL TO OVERSEAS DESTINATIONS UNTIL 1875

MARTIN STRACK

This display aims to show the treatment of insufficiently prepaid mail from the United Kingdom to overseas destinations before the establishment of the General Postal Union in 1875. The basis for the (sometimes different) treatment was always the relevant bilateral postal convention and its detailed regulations. For a long time, underpaid letters were either treated as unpaid or — if this form of dispatch was not provided in the postal convention — returned to the sender. It was not until the 1850s that rules were gradually introduced which took into account the already affixed stamps.

If an underpayment was noticed the 'PD' handstamp (if already struck) was cancelled. Additionally, an 'Insufficiently . . .' handstamp was struck which established the letter as underpaid. Furthermore, in most cases the weight step and the fee which had to be paid by the recipient was noted in manuscript. This was later converted by the postal administration of the country of destination into the respective currency.

The cancellation of the 'PD' mark was first done with the numeral obliterator '50' of the London Chief Office (different types), which was stamped in red or black. Later, mainly dumb obliterators in black were used, but also manuscript cancellations appear. In exceptional cases the cancellations were done with completely different handstamps. The 'Insufficiently . . .' handstamps exist in many different types, which differ from each other in text and size, and in different colours.

The system of bilateral postal conventions and thus the bilateral treatment of underpaid mail ended with the General Postal Union, which introduced uniform rules for all member countries.



Double-rate letter (¼ to ½ oz inclusive) from Middlesborough (8 May 1862) to Saint-Martin-de-Connée in France. Postage was paid by a 6d Lilac and 2d Blue. The letter was first regarded as fully prepaid but later the London Chief Office changed this to insufficiently prepaid. Upon arrival in France the French Post Office regarded the letter again as fully prepaid (rectangular 'PD' mark). An unusual cover with the postage rate corrected by the British and French Post Offices!

FRAME 37

COMPULSORY REGISTRATION

MICHAEL LOCKTON FRPSL

The problem of letters of value posted unregistered led to the periodic reduction in the charges for registered mail in an attempt to encourage people to register them — to 6d on 28 March 1848, to 4d on 1 August 1862, and finally to 2d on 1 January 1878.

In 1862, when Rowland Hill was Secretary to the Post Office, the Law Officers of the Crown were consulted as to the legality of the **compulsory registration** of letters known to contain coin, whole bank notes, watches or jewelry. They gave the opinion that the course suggested might be legally adopted. On 1 August 1862 it was decided that all letters obviously containing coin passing through the London Office should be registered compulsorily and charged a double fee of 8d. This fee was reduced to 4d on 1 February 1897. The double fee surcharge remained in place until after the Second World War although in the modern era compulsorily registered items have generally been charged only a single fee.

To explain the surcharge to recipients of letters, the Post Office issued a series of **labels** which were attached to the compulsorily registered letter.

This display shows examples of compulsorily registered letters (often referred to as ‘**coin letters**’) with their associated Post Office labels.



Penny Pink envelope, posted in a letter box on 28 March 1863 in Sunderland, endorsed 'Registered Letter'. Compulsorily registered with a surcharge of 9d (8d fee + 1d postage). Earliest recorded compulsorily registered letter used outside London.

FRAME 38

GB QV POSTAL STATIONERY USED IN BRITISH LEVANT

TONY STANFORD FRPSL

The term 'British Levant' refers to those British post offices opened along the Ottoman seaboard during the second half of the 19th century to provide a reliable mail service for British administrators and merchants which used overprinted British stamps and stationery. This display illustrates the Victorian postal stationery used initially at Constantinople, Smyrna and Beyrout, and later at the Salonica office which opened in 1900.

Featured in the display are unoverprinted postal stationery cards used from 1878 and registration envelopes used from 1892. Also included is an example of the only QV postal stationery item overprinted for use in British Levant, the 1892 Size L envelope with 2½d grey-blue embossed stamp surcharged '40 PARAS'. From 1 August 1885 all stamps sold from the British Levant post offices with a value of 1 piastre or more were surcharged, as by 1885 inflation had reduced the value of the Turkish piastre (or 40 paras) from 2½d to 2d and officials feared that unoverprinted stamps purchased in piales were returned to the Post Office for their sterling value.



A 1902 usage of the British postal stationery envelope from Salonica to Cairo with the oval embossed 2½d blue-grey stamp, surcharged '40 PARAS' to pay the half ounce letter rate cancelled with Salonica double-ring Code A c.d.s. dated 6 October 1902 with Code B dispatch c.d.s. of the same date at lower left. On the reverse are an Alexandria transit mark and a Cairo receiving mark both dated 11 October. This is a scarce use of this postal stationery envelope from the Salonica office, which opened in May 1900.

FRAMES 39/40

THE BRITISH TRANSATLANTIC POST OFFICE

MICHAEL SEFI LVO RDP FRPSL FRPSC

In 1904 agreement was reached between the British and US authorities for the establishment of 'joint' post offices on board ships of the White Star and American lines voyaging between the UK and New York and return. The primary purpose of the scheme was to enable sorting of bagged mail loaded on the ships rather than have unsorted mail lying 'idle' for up to eight days. A by-product of the scheme, though, was the provision of posting facilities for passengers and crew on board the ships involved.

Staffing was usually two GPO and two US Post staff on board, with responsibility for the mails to be the GPO's on the westbound transits as far as US territorial waters, US staff taking responsibility from that point, and vice versa.

The service commenced in 1905 and finished in 1914, not because of the advent of the First World War but because the agreement was for ten years and the GPO decided not to renew it.

Initially White Star Line ships involved operated from Liverpool with calls at Queenstown (now Cobh) in Ireland, but moved some of its New York sailings to Southampton in 1907. American Line ships operated from Southampton, with calls at Cherbourg, throughout the contract.

Mail posted on board the ships was cancelled by special handstamps; the display shows examples of the different types used by the British staff, mainly on westbound services, but there are examples of the British handstamps being applied on eastbound voyages, contrary to the rules.



Described as 'Unique?' in the Roger Hosking sale last year, this Express cover was posted on board RMS Olympic on 18 February 1914, the day of departure from Southampton, landed in Cherbourg the same day, and arrived in Paris the following day.

FRAME 41

GREAT BRITAIN METER FRANKING**MIKE JACKSON FRPSL**

The worldwide introduction of meter franking was sanctioned at the 7th UPU Congress in Madrid on 30 November 1920: '*Impressions produced by stamping machines must include an indication of the country of origin. They must be bright red in color, whatever the value represented by them . . . The impressions of stamping machines must also be applied in that place [top right-hand corner]*'. (Window envelopes were also approved at this Congress.) The regulation came into force on 1 January 1922.

Frank designs were approved by the British Post Office on 9 June 1922, and on 1 August a warrant came into operation authorising the payment of postage '*by impressions of stamping machines working under the direction or by the permission of the P.M.G.*'.

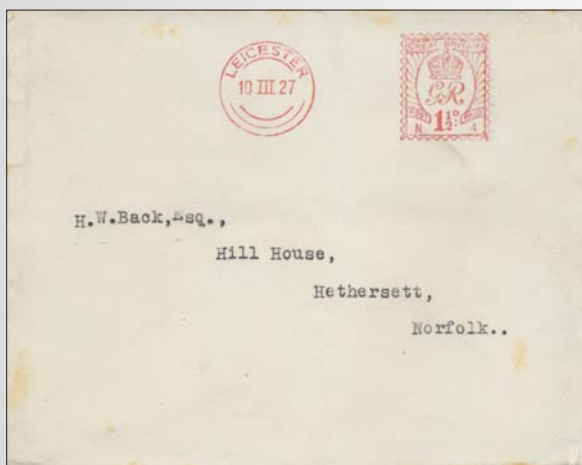
Initially, franking machines were supplied by two companies: Postage Meters & Machines Co. (who supplied Pitney-Bowes machines) and Universal Postal Frankers Ltd. Neopost followed in 1925.

The first commercial machine in the UK, made by Pitney-Bowes (Frank No. 2), came into operation on 5 September 1922 at the Prudential Assurance Company in Holborn.

The first Universal Postal Frankers licence was issued to the company itself on 11 October 1922, the first commercial use being on *Philatelic Magazine* wrappers on 18/19 October 1922, the machine being loaned to Harris Publications Ltd for the purpose.

The first Neopost user licences were granted on 22 July 1925.

The second frank design, named 'Design B' by collectors, was announced in the *Post Office Circular* dated 9 March 1927, the announcement stating that it would shortly be brought into use.



FIRST DAY COVER of Design B? Cover from Arthur Wheeler & Co. in Leicester (Frank No. N4) dated 10 March 1927, the day after the Post Office Circular announcement was published.

FRAME 42

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIR MAILS IN THE 1930s

PETER SHAW

Following various experimental flights the commercial use of air transport came increasingly into use. In the early 1930s there were various non-standardised air mail rates. As the conveyance of mail by air mail increased various standardised rates were introduced within the British Isles, the British Empire, and to foreign countries. The exhibit follows these developments, first with internal air mail within the British Isles both legally and illegally. This is followed by the introduction of the Empire flat rate scheme which started in 1934 and introduced three basic rates to various parts of the British Empire. The Empire Air Mail Rate scheme was gradually introduced from 1937, despite some opposition, with a basic rate of 1½d matching the basic inland rate. Following the development of aircraft, mail could be sent directly by air to Canada and the USA from 1939. The standard air mail rate to European destinations was 4d for letters weighing up to 1 oz, introduced on 2 June 1930. A European 'All-Up Service' was gradually introduced from 17 March 1936. Mail previously sent by surface mail at a standard charge of 2½d was now sent by air or surface transport, whichever provided the quicker service. Air mail labels were not required.



A cover conveyed on an experimental flight from England to Australia at Christmas 1931. The delayed flight left from Hamble on 7 January 1932 and was stamped on arrival in Melbourne on 22 January 1932. The plane was piloted by Officer G. U. Allen, who has signed this cover.

FRAME 43

KING GEORGE VI STAMPS USED IN MULTIPLES ON COVER

MAURICE BUXTON

This reign provides much of interest for the postal historian and stamp usage collector. Pre-war postal developments gave way to wartime improvisations and then the introduction of standardised foreign rates, all of which has resulted in a wide and challenging variety of rates and routes. This short display concentrates on a type of cover I find particularly appealing — the ones I refer to as ‘single value usages’, where the postage has been paid solely by multiple examples of the same stamp. (If you like, an extension of the ‘single stamp’ or ‘solo’ usage concept.) The ones shown here are in increasing order of number of stamps, starting with an item with a relatively modest three examples of a stamp seldom seen on cover — the £1 Royal Silver Wedding — and working up to covers with ten or more copies of the same stamp. The display covers a range of civilian and military usages of the KGVI stamps throughout the reign, both inland and overseas.



1943: airmail to USA from a member of Forces françaises libres in Britain, paid 9s 3d with 37 examples of the 3d pale violet (front and back). Probably 1d overpaid for 11-fold Forces airmail — 3d was the foreign surface rate, so this may have been the most readily available value.

FRAME 44

GERMAN OCCUPATION OF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

GERALD MARRINER FRPSL

The Channel Islands were occupied by German Forces on 1 July 1940. From that date onwards there was no direct mail service between the Islands and the English mainland. This display shows examples of mail from the early Occupation period where mail from both the Islands and from England failed to reach its destination.

The display begins with a telegram from Jersey to Cardiff stating that evacuation was taking place prior to the Occupation. The next six sheets show examples of unsuccessful attempts to send mail from the Channel Islands to England or Eire.

The inhabitants of Jersey wrongly believed that the German Forces would allow mail through to England on the first day of the Occupation. An example of such mail is shown, endorsed 'No Service'. It was then believed that mail to England could be sent via the Consuls in neutral countries. Examples are shown to America, Portugal and Eire. However, again mail was returned to sender.

The final five sheets show failed attempts at sending mail from England and India to the Channel Islands. The final mailship destined for the Channel Islands left England on the morning of 28 June. A cover is shown from Ipswich dated 29 June which missed this final sailing. This was destined for Alderney. Channel Island evacuees in England then believed that they could send mail to their relatives in the Channel Islands via the forwarding agents, Thomas Cook in Portugal. Such mail was held in France until the end of the war. Finally an item is shown from an insurance company in London addressed to Jersey which was returned by the sender.



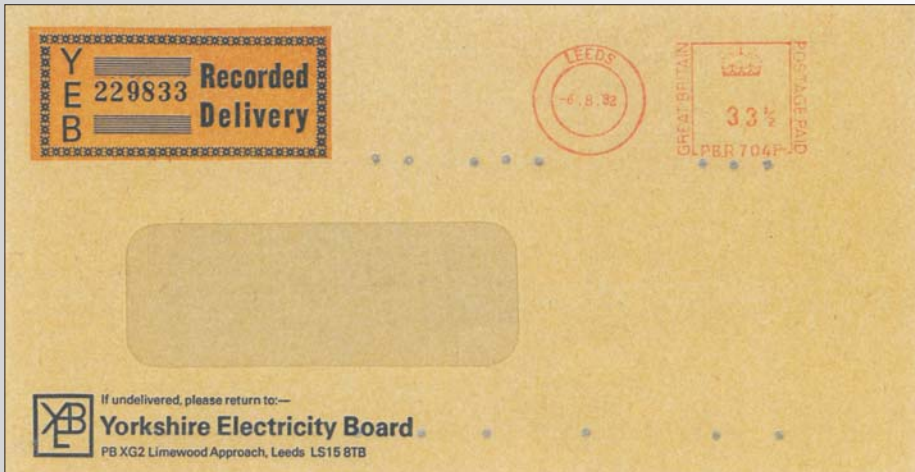
This cover was sent by Thomas Cook in Portugal addressed to Jersey. It was routed via Cologne where it was passed by the censor to Paris. However, it could not be forwarded and received an 'INADMIS' cachet and was held in Paris throughout the Occupation.

FRAME 45

PRIVATE RECORDED DELIVERY LABELS

JOHN SUSSEX RDP FRPSL

Private Recorded Delivery labels were allowed to be used by bulk users of the Recorded Delivery service. The labels were printed directly on to the envelopes. They were used by companies including Royal Mail who needed to know if a document had been delivered. Although this class of stationery was widely used from 1967 to 1990 used examples are scarce.



Window envelope sent on 6 August 1982 from the Yorkshire Electricity Board in Leeds with their private Recorded Delivery label printed on the front.



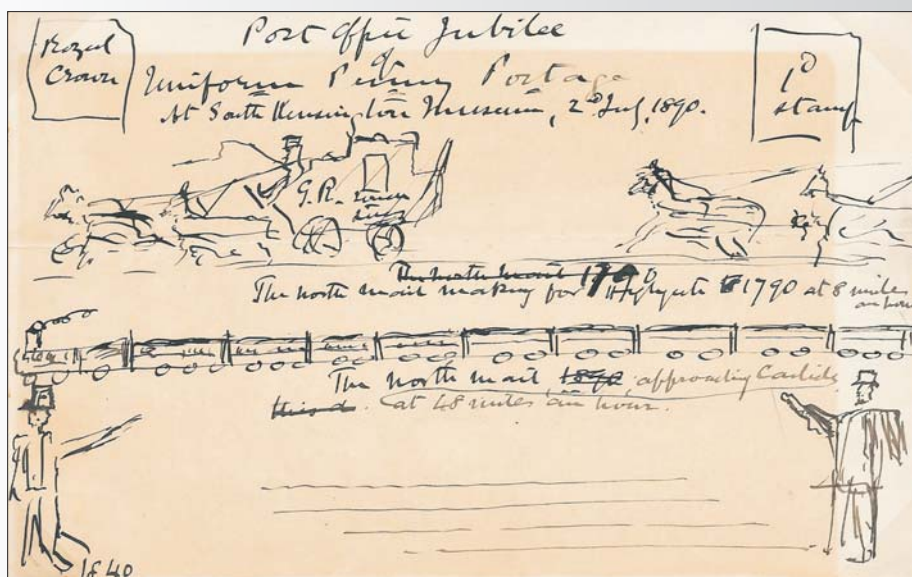
FRAME 46

THE GENESIS OF THE JUBILEE ENVELOPE

JOHN DAVIES FRPSL

1890 saw Great Britain's first commemorative postal stationery in celebration of the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage and the Penny Black fifty years earlier. After the success of the Jubilee letter card at the Guildhall, the Post Office moved quickly to produce some postal stationery of their own. Remarkably, the Committee records show that this decision was first taken at their tenth meeting on 19 May 1890: *'Eventually it was decided that it would be unwise to have another post card as it would probably offend the City Authorities . . . therefore a special envelope of novel design should be issued; that inside every envelope a correspondence card should be placed; that the charge combined should be one shilling . . . in aid of the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund'*.

The display traces the development of the Jubilee card and envelope. The original artwork and proofs are from the archive of W. T. Shaw of printers, De La Rue, London, which was sold in the 1970s.



**Hand-drawn sketch of the design for the Jubilee Envelope
by F. E. Baines (sometime Surveyor-General for Telegraph Business,
Assistant Secretary; and Inspector-General of Mails).**

FRAMES 47/48

THE GENESIS OF THE 1892 2½d EMBOSSED ENVELOPE FOR FOREIGN USE

ALAN HUGGINS MBE RDP HonFRPSL

On 1 July 1875 the General Postal Union rate of 2½d for letters up to ½ ounce to foreign countries was introduced and adhesive stamps of this new denomination were issued on this date. However, no corresponding 2½d postal stationery envelope appeared, and due to demand for this denomination Thomas De La Rue was requested to produce a new 2½d embossed die.

The handpainted design with a Wyon embossed head of Queen Victoria affixed survives and is dated 10.12.75 (*Fig. 1*). Two uncleared die proofs in black with blank date plugs are known (*Fig. 2*), together with several finished die proofs in lake, the issued colour, dated 14 FEB 76 (*Fig. 3*). Four dies were registered on 28.3.76 and the earliest date of stamping recorded to date for an issued example is 1.12.76. Die 1 sustained damage in May 1878 but continued to be used until December 1890. Die 2 was printed in lake until February 1892 when the colour was changed to grey-blue. In February 1894 the use of date plugs was discontinued and the plug holes for the date figures filled with so-called florets or rosettes comprising five or nine white dots. Only Die 2 was used with the five-dot florets, the nine-dot variety being known from both Die 2 and Die 3.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2 (detail)



Fig. 3 (detail)

In 1891 it was decided by the Post Office to introduce 2½d embossed envelopes for sale to the public and a number of trials for colour, paper and envelope size were made. Two types of paper, thin wove and cream laid, with stamp impressions in bright rose, lake, vermilion, and yellow are known dated 23.2.91. The former paper, which was selected, has the watermark 'DE LA RUE EXTRA TOUGH' and trials in lake with only the figure '3' in the month date plug are also known on this paper as well as impressions in blue and grey-blue with date plugs blank. Three sizes were essayed: 95 x 121 mm, 77 x 140 mm and 110 x 140 mm, the last two being selected.

The embossed dies used for the Post Office envelopes were undated and three were registered on 3012.91 designated BR1, BR2, and BR3. An uncleared die proof in vermilion dated 30.11.91 and a cleared die proof in grey are known. Examples of both sizes of the issued envelopes were circulated via the UPU with 'SPECIMEN' Type 9, and are also found with Types 13 and 15. An essay for a reply-paid envelope also exists. Two King Edward VII embossed dies designated BR1 and BR2 were registered on 18.2.1902 but never used.

FRAME 49

DUTY ON BANKNOTES: THE CONGREVE DUTY MARKS 1821–1827

CHRIS HARMAN RDP HonFRPSL

A banknote was not defined in law until 17 & 18 Vict. c. 83 (1854) but may be summarised as being 'a promissory note issued by a banker payable to the bearer on demand without endorsement'. Inland bills of exchange and promissory notes (which included banknotes), were liable to stamp duty with effect from 1 August 1782.

The payment of duty was shown by the impressing of an embossed duty stamp until March 1821, when the first designs of Congreve bicoloured duty stamps (Patent No. 1820/4,521) were registered. These were stamped on the reverse of each banknote and were used by a number of (but by no means all) banks for notes valued at:

up to £1 1s 0d	— duty 5d
over £1 1s 0d but less than £5	— duty 10d
£5 but less than £10	— duty 1s 3d

The second type Congreve duty stamp included an embossed design (Patent No. 1824/4,898) and was used for the 5d duty and 1s 3d duties only. The banking crisis of 1825/26 saw 80 commissions of bankruptcy issued against country banks and caused The Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to prohibit the issue by any English country banks of banknotes with values below £5. This means that the second design Congreve 5d duty stamp saw very little use on English banknotes, although it continued to be used for certain Scottish ones.



10d Duty — Bristol Bullion banknote for £1 10s 0d with first type Congreve duty stamp on reverse. Very few notes were issued of this value and thus the use of this die is extremely rare.

The Congreve design was presented as being impossible to forge although, in practice, a good likeness was easy to obtain and it was extensively forged.

FRAME 50

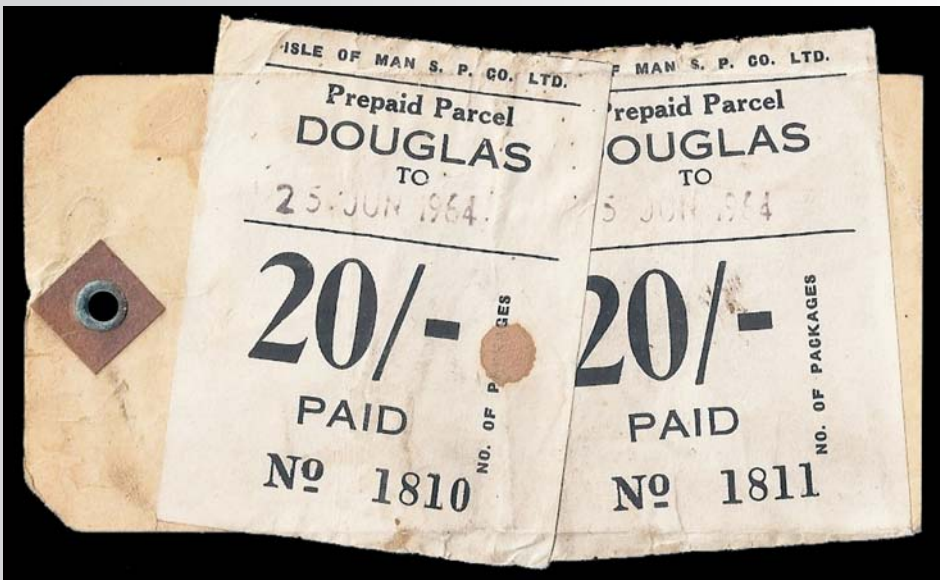
PRIVATE PARCEL CARRIER STAMPS OF THE ISLE OF MAN 1910–1974

JON AITCHISON FRPSL

Enthusiasm for collecting parcel carrier stamps waned in the early twentieth century and really did not recover until the boom in Cinderella collecting from the 1970s onwards. The relative isolation of the Isle of Man combined with the non-pictorial, utilitarian designs ensured that almost nobody collected these stamps at the time of issue. Those that have survived are largely by luck and a fair proportion of them are believed to be unique surviving examples. Although catalogues do exist, each new discovery often casts earlier assumptions in doubt, especially for pre-1960s material. Previously unrecorded information is present throughout this display.

The earliest carrier of stamped parcels in the Isle of Man is thought to have been the Isle of Man Railway Company from 1910, followed by stamped delivery of luggage from about 1912. The Manx Electric Railway carried stamped parcels and newspapers from the late 1960s until its demise in 1975. The Isle of Man Steam Packet (shipping) Company also carried stamped parcels and examples of their stamps are some of the rarest, with only one or two examples known even for issues from the 1960s. They also had stamps for delivery of luggage.

The most prolific producer of parcel stamps on the island was Isle of Man Road Services Limited for delivery by bus and train until 1965 and bus only thereafter. This display runs to 1974 and these early issues are elusive. The service finally ceased in May 2000.



Isle of Man Steam Packet Company. Two 20s values used on a parcel tag addressed to Dublin and cancelled 25 June 1964.

FRAME 51

THE ENDS OF THE WHISTL**GEORGE KING**

This display shows indica used by TNT & whistl for door-to-door delivery. In 2004, with the ending of the Royal Mail letter monopoly, TNT Post UK started providing UK postal services and rapidly became one of the biggest Downstream Access operators. Some of the designs used on such mail are shown as cut-outs.

In mid-April 2012 TNT Post UK announced the trial of an end-to-end mail delivery in west London, using its own staff. The Post Office response is shown. TNT used inkjets and labels to mark this mail with their License Code Identifier CL102 and eventually some customers had their mail printed with the TNT CL102 logo.

The TNT logo was to be removed from mail by 31 December 2014, as the parent company, Dutch Postal Operator postNL, had split into two, the Express part becoming TNT Express, and the postal business remaining PostNL. The UK company re-branded as 'whistl'. Labels were used to mark mail and some customers had stationery printed with the whistl logo.

11 May 2015: Postal business Whistl — formerly TNT Post — suspended its door-to-door delivery service in London, Liverpool and Manchester and started consulting 2000 workers on redundancy. The move followed a decision by potential investment partner IDC not to fund its expansion plans.

whistl continues to provide a service, but reverted to using Royal Mail for the 'final mile'. Shares in Royal Mail rose 3.3% after this was announced.



Examples of indica used by TNT & whistl.

FRAME 52 **THE POST MAGAZINE ADDRESS PANEL
AND ITS DECORATIVE BORDERS**

PHIL CHEETHAM

The *Post Magazine* first appeared on 25 July 1840, just seven months after the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage and two months after the introduction of the world's first postage stamp, the 1d Black. Taking advantage of the reduced rates of postage, it was a significant commercial innovation, and probably the first publication in the world designed to be sent by post — hence its name.

The *Post Magazine* was initially sold pre-franked with a 1d Black stamp ready for posting. At a later date it was sold without a stamp for mainly correspondence use. It was first sold to the public at 1½d and at 1d to the advertisers (limited to 24 copies). Later it was sold at 1d without a stamp. A minimum of 5,000 copies were printed each week.

With the help of Steve Walker (Windsor Philatelics) and Dr Richard J. M. Hobbs some 7,500 auction catalogues and dealers' lists have been examined and between us we have arrived at a database of 109 *Post Magazines*.

The exhibit describes and shows one or more examples or part-examples of the address panel's decorative border and the information printed on each side of it. Examples are shown bearing 1840 1d Blacks, 1841 1d Reds and one with a pair of 1841 2d Blues (unique). There is one unused copy without a stamp, as well as an example that was pre-paid in cash. There are three examples franked with 1841 1d Reds cancelled with London numbers-in-cross.



A Post Magazine with a Type 1 Decorative Border, posted from Chipping Norton to Worcester. The cover is franked with a 1d Black Plate 1b lettered SG cancelled by two black Maltese Crosses. The back of the cover has dispatch and arrival datestamps for 28 and 29 November 1841. This example is one of only seven recorded that were posted outside London.



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